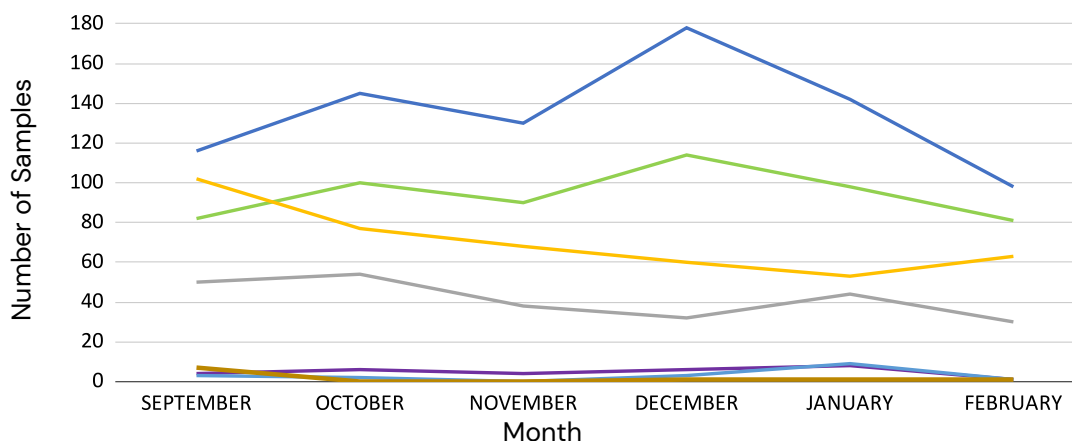




Key Findings

- In February, a total of 275 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (16 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip was increased to 66.3% (65 of 98 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 28.3% of unregulated opioids (26 of 92 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified (17 samples), followed by bromazolam (7 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR in unregulated opioids (47.8%; 44 of 92 samples), followed by fentanyl (28.3%; 26 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was found in 6.5% (6 samples).
- Xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer, was detected by FTIR in 6.5% of unregulated opioids (6 of 92 samples).
- To find drug checking services near you, please see our [site locator](#).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in Feb.

Opioid	98
Stimulant	81
Depressant	1
Psychedelic	63
Other	1
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	30

Total: 275

Number of drug checks at each site

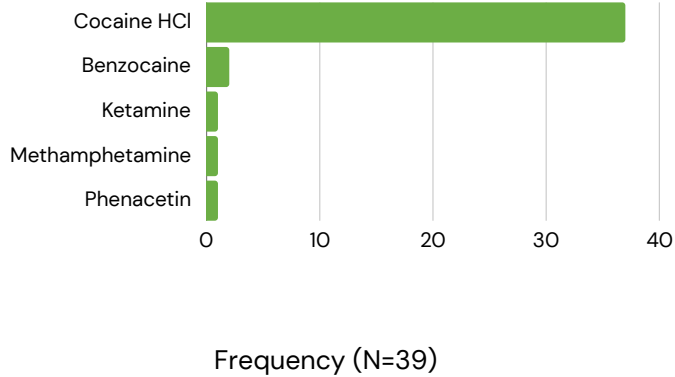
Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Castlegar)	5
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	40
ANKORS (Fernie)	14
ANKORS (Nelson)	43
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	28
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	42
ASK Wellness (Kelowna)	54
Interior Health (Kelowna)	7
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	35
Total	275

A small number of samples were tested at the following locations, which are included in the total:

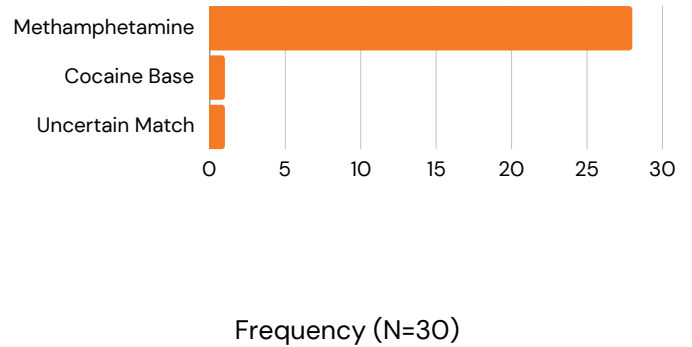
ANKORS (Grand Forks), ANKORS (Trail), ASK (Merritt).

Components found in drug samples in February

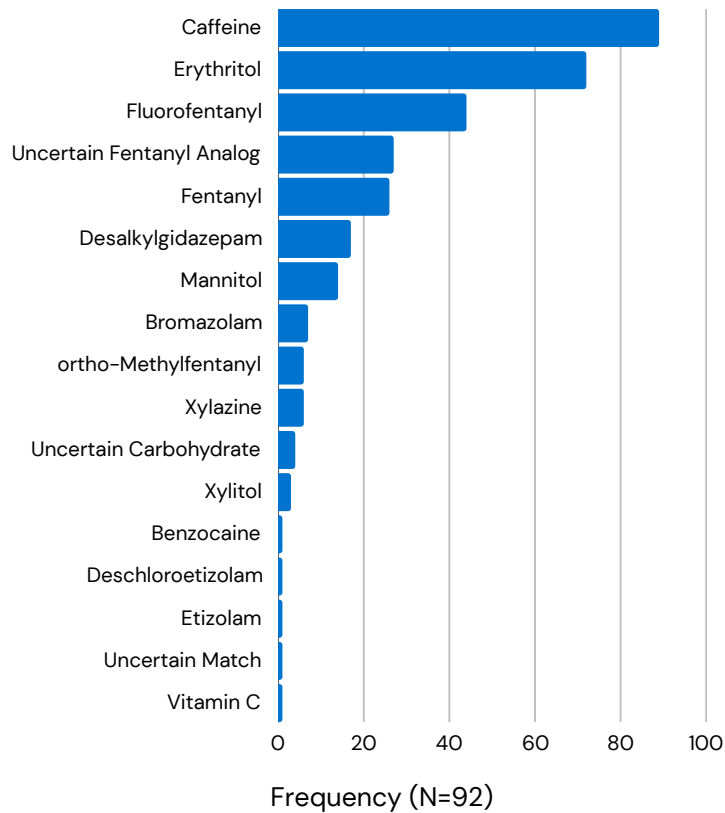
Components in cocaine



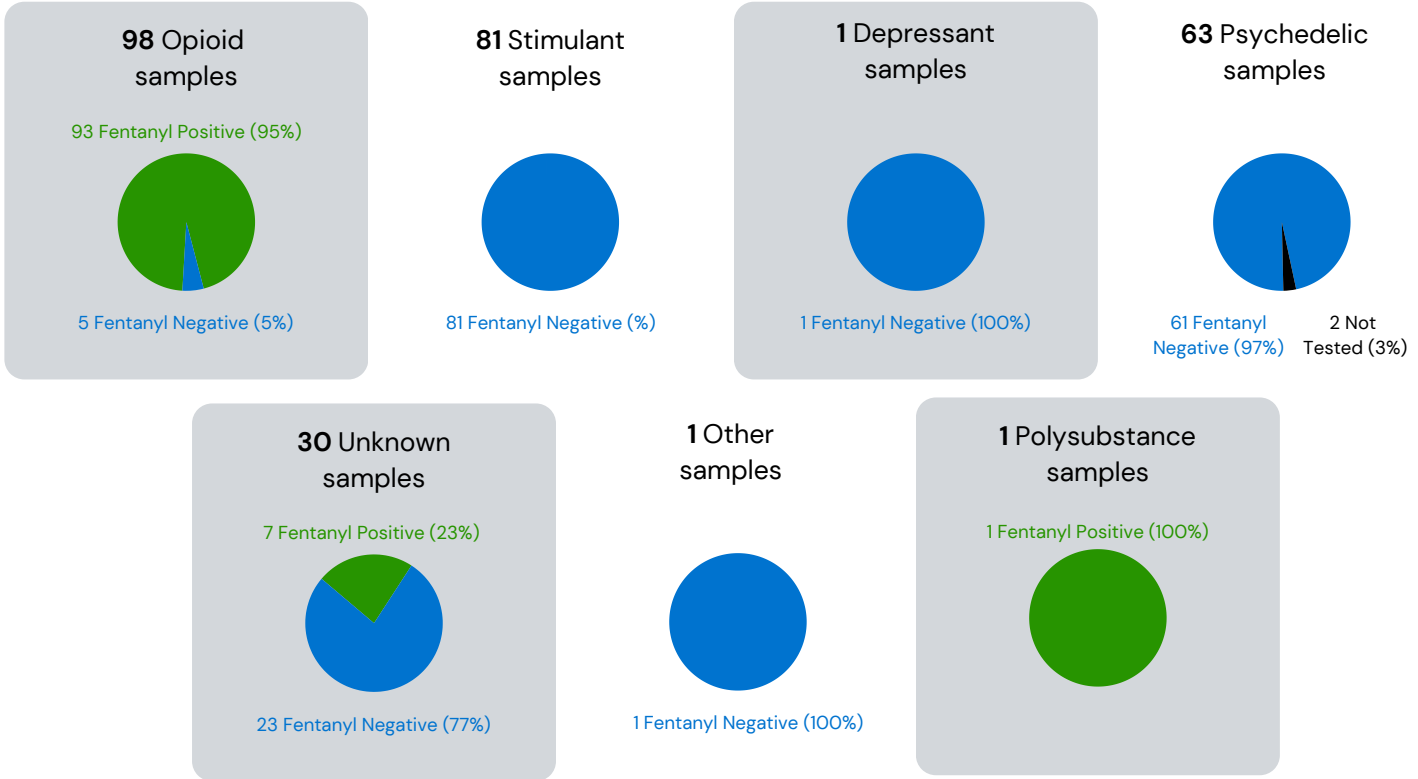
Components in methamphetamine



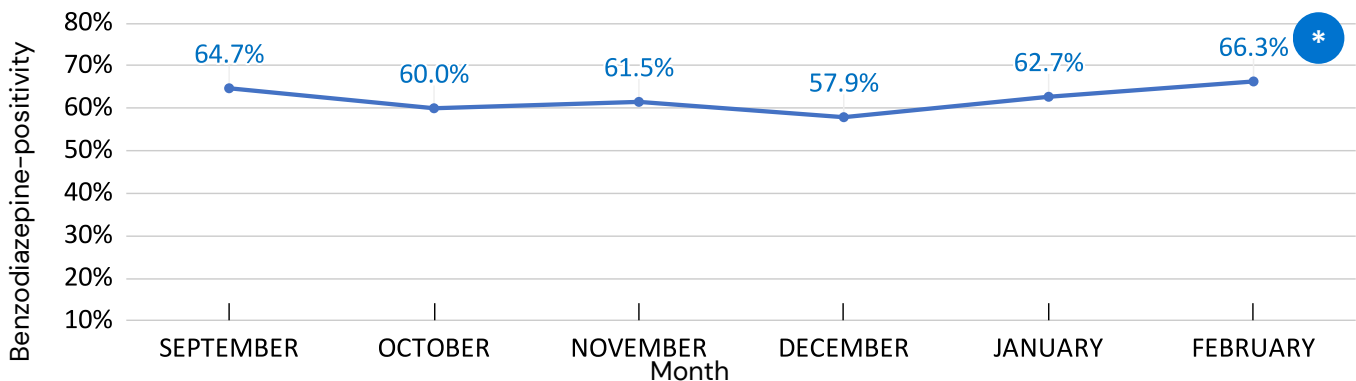
Components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the past 6 months



*During the month of February, **66.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**65 samples of 98 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid		93	3	2	98
Stimulant		77	3	1	81
Psychedelic		59	4	0	63
Unknown		0	0	30	30
Depressant		1	0	0	1
Other		1	0	0	1
Polysubstance		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		232	10	33	275

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.

Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Down		82	0	0	82
Fentanyl		10	0	0	10
Pharmaceutical		1	3	2	6
TOTAL		93	3	2	98

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents. 'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Depressant includes:
benzodiazepines,
etizolam, GHB, hypnotics

Opioid includes:
"down", heroin, fentanyl
(unregulated opioids), and
pharmaceutical opioids

Polysubstance includes:
cross-category mixtures

Psychedelic includes:
MDMA and related, 2C-family,
tryptamines, ketamine, LSD

Stimulant includes:
methamphetamine,
"speed," cocaine and
crack cocaine,
cathinones

Unknown includes:
samples where the individual
was unable to identify an
expected substance - this
includes found samples.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
February 11, 2025 Kamloops	Oxycodone (Percocet)	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Uncertain Fentanyl Analog	Positive	Negative	Percocet tablet sold as Percocet (oxycodone) tested positive for fentanyl in Kamloops.

Health authorities and community organizations issue further toxic drug alerts from sources other than drug checking. See their respective websites or social media accounts for more alerts.

To subscribe to the provincial drug alert and response system, text the word JOIN to 253787 (ALERTS).

Data represented in this report is collected from our partner sites across the province utilizing Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometry in combination with BTNX fentanyl test strips, as well as benzodiazepine test strips when applicable. We note the FTIR spectrometer has a detection limit of approximately 5% concentration (McCrae, 2019).

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners:

