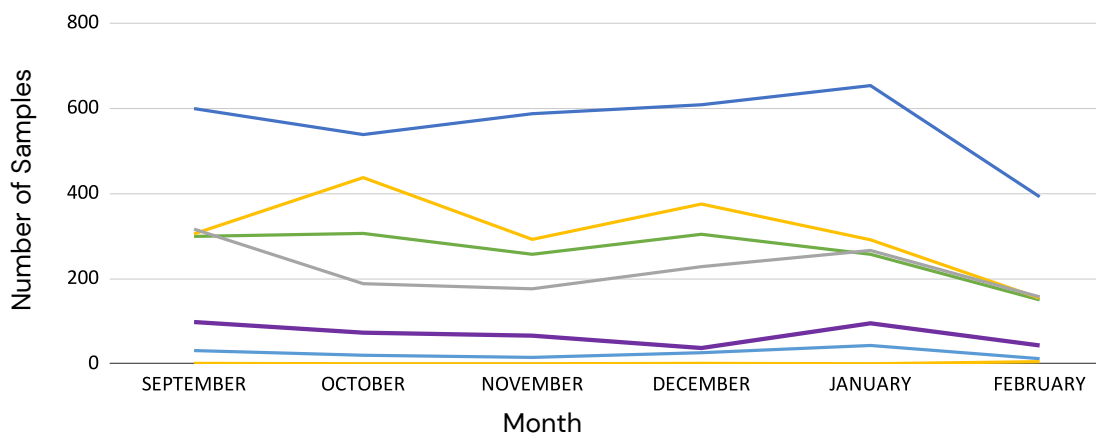




Key Findings

- In February, a total of 913 drug checks were performed across the Vancouver Coastal Health region (6 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased from the previous month to 39.3% (154 of 392 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 15.5% of unregulated opioids (57 of 368 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgizapam was most frequently identified (42 samples), followed by bromazolam (10 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR in unregulated opioids (32.1%; 118 of 368 samples), followed by fentanyl (27.2%; 100 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was found in 12.8% (47 samples).
- Tranquilizers were detected by FTIR in 1.9% of unregulated opioids. Of these, xylazine was most common (6 samples), followed by medetomidine (1 sample).
- 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.

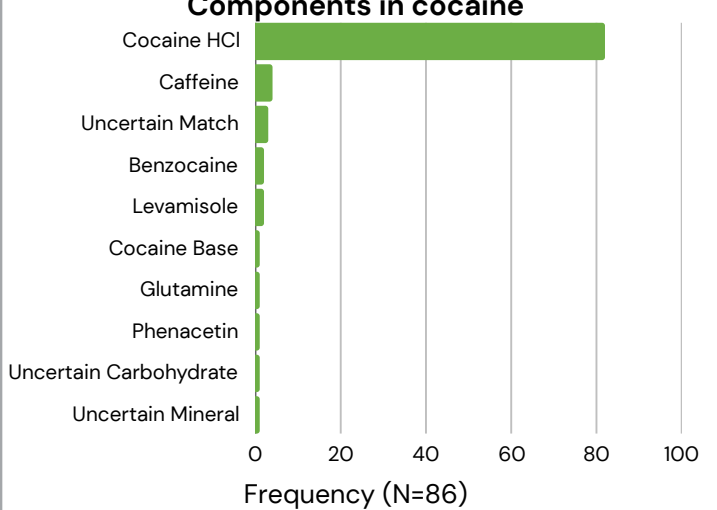
● Opioid	392
● Stimulant	150
● Depressant	43
● Psychedelic	154
● Other	12
● Polysubstance	5
● Unknown	157
Total:	913

Number of drug checks at each site

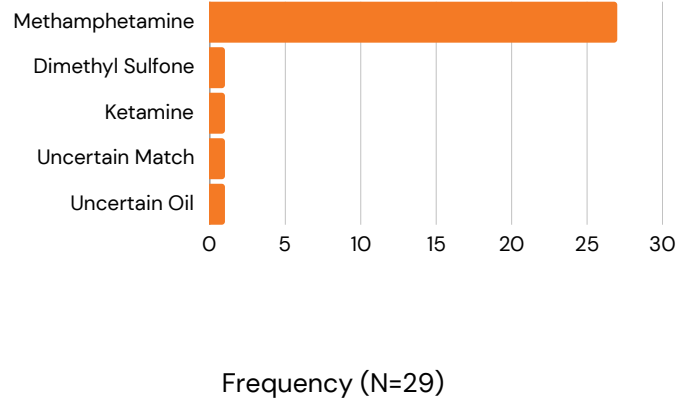
Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested (Vancouver)	535
Insite (Vancouver)	250
LIFT Community Services (Powell River)	92
WCSS (Squamish)	22
WCSS (Whistler)	14
Total:	913

Components found in drug samples in February

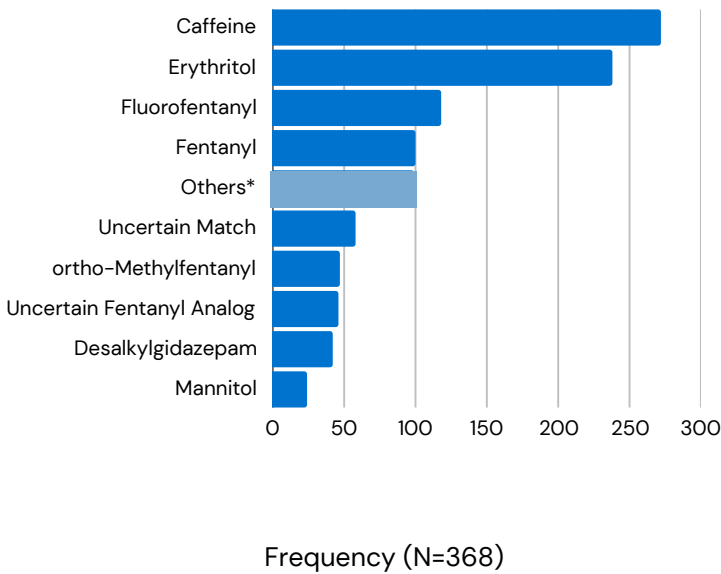
Components in cocaine



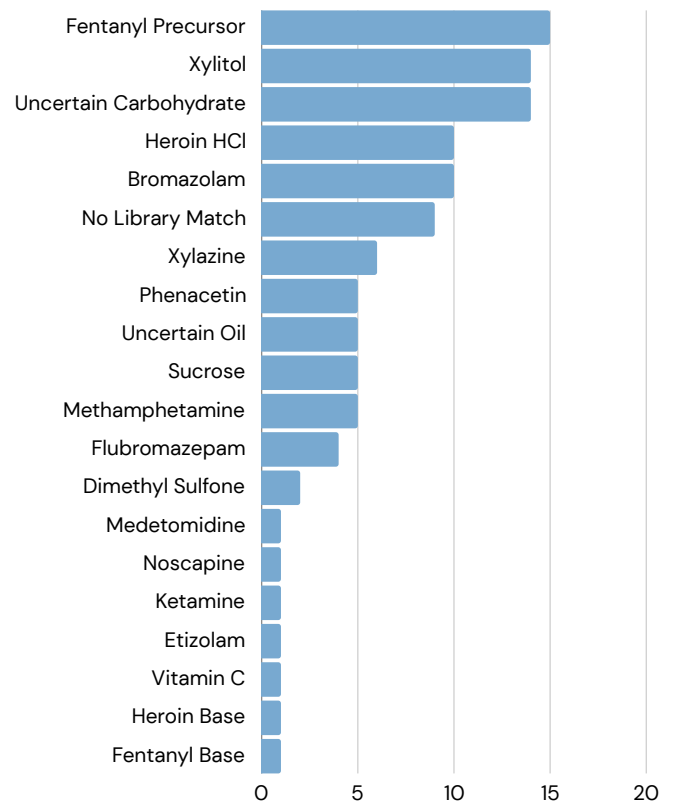
Components in methamphetamine



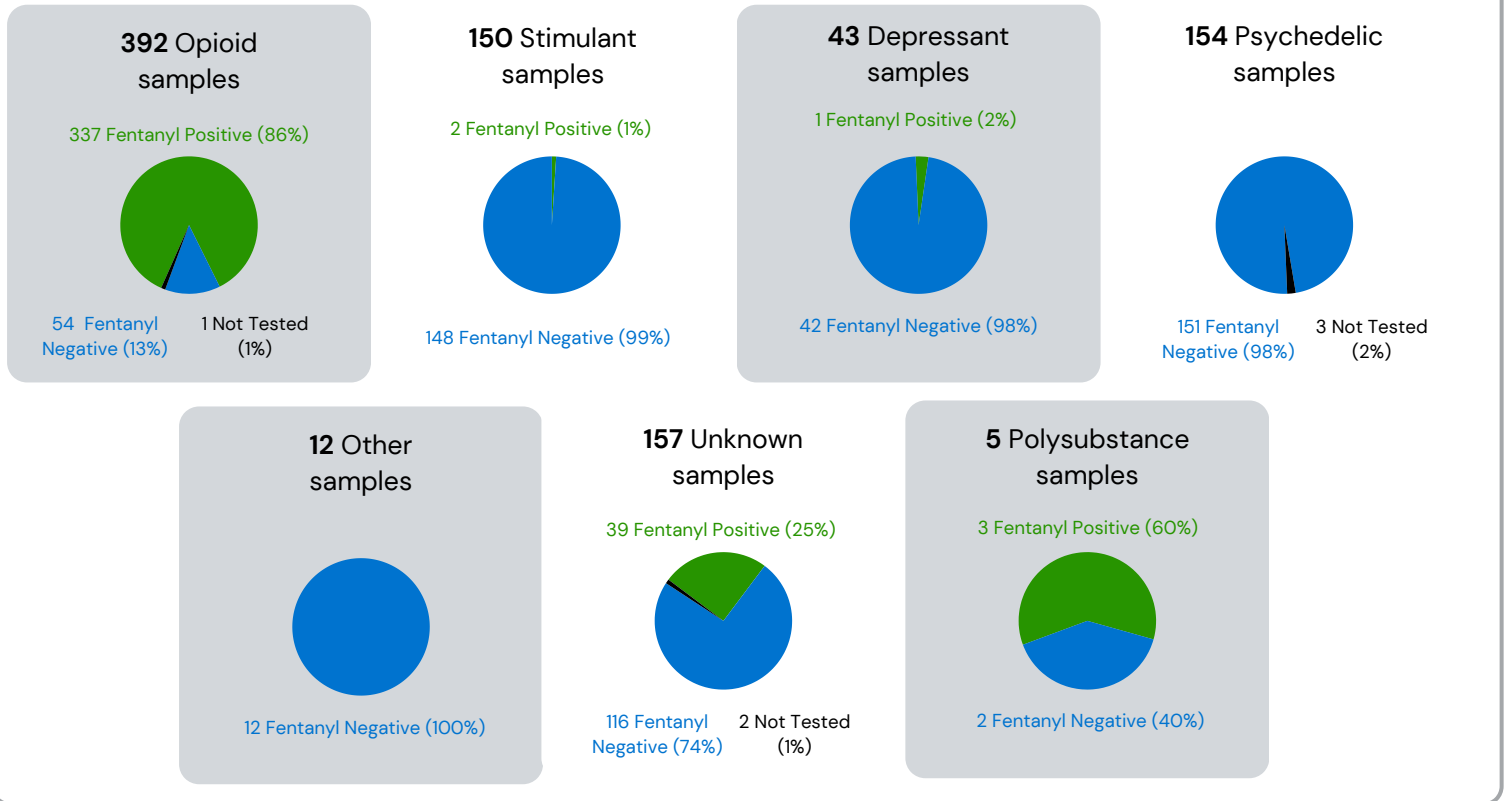
Components in unregulated opioids



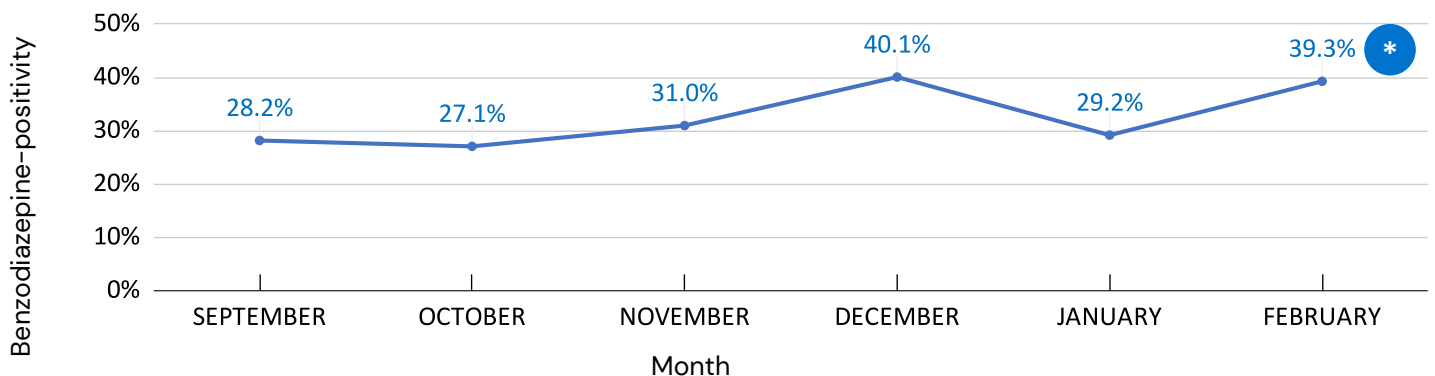
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present






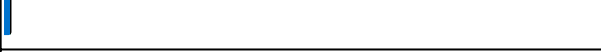
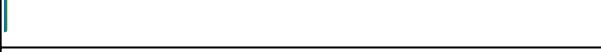



Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the past 6 months






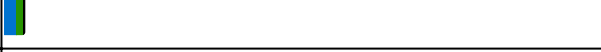
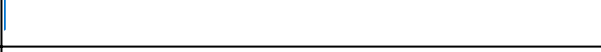

*During the month of February, 39.3% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (154 samples of 392 checked). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. 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		362	26	4	392
Unknown		0	0	157	157
Psychedelic		142	10	2	154
Stimulant		139	10	1	150
Depressant		34	8	1	43
Other		10	1	1	12
Polysubstance		3	2	0	5
TOTAL		690	57	166	913

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		288	17	0	305
Fentanyl		48	1	0	49
Pharmaceutical		17	3	3	23
Heroin		8	5	1	14
Opium		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		362	26	4	392

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.

<p>Depressant includes: benzodiazepines, etizolam, GHB, hypnotics</p>	<p>Opioid includes: "down", heroin, fentanyl (unregulated opioids), and pharmaceutical opioids</p>	<p>Polysubstance includes: cross-category mixtures</p>	<p>Psychedelic includes: MDMA and related, 2C-family, tryptamines, ketamine, LSD</p>	<p>Stimulant includes: methamphetamine, "speed," cocaine and crack cocaine, cathinones</p>	<p>Unknown includes: samples where the individual was unable to identify an expected substance - this includes found samples.</p>
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Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
February 13, 2025 Vancouver	Down	Caffeine, Fentanyl, Flubromazepam, Erythritol	Positive	Positive	Green chunks sold as down in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and the benzodiazepine flubromazepam.
February 18, 2025 Powell River	Down	Erythritol, Caffeine, Fentanyl, Flubromazepam	Positive	Positive	Orange granules sold as down in Powell River tested positive for fentanyl and flubromazepam. Substance has caused overdose.
February 18, 2025 Vancouver	Down	Erythritol, Caffeine, Fentanyl, Para-Fluorofentanyl, Xylazine, Uncertain Match	Positive	Negative	Pink pebbles sold as down in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl, para-fluorofentanyl, xylazine, and an uncertain match which shares similarities to multiple fentanyl precursors.
February 20, 2025 Vancouver	Oxycodone	Caffeine, Erythritol, Para-Fluorofentanyl	Positive	Positive	Green tablet with imprint OCD 80 sold as oxycodone in Vancouver tested positive for para-fluorofentanyl and benzos.

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:



PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE
Research Institute

