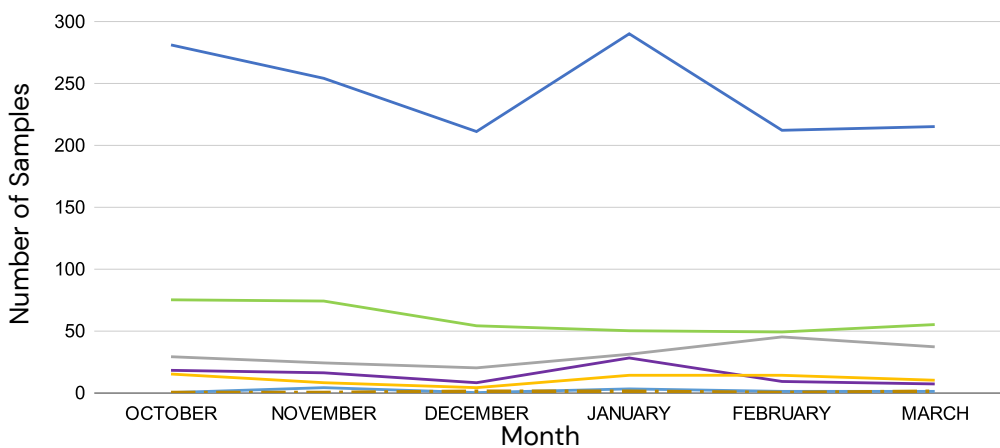




Key Findings

- In March, 326 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region (17 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased from the previous month to 56.3% (121 of 215 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 40.6% of unregulated opioids (84 of 207), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified.
- Fentanyl was the most common opioid detected by FTIR (50.2%; 104 of 207), followed by fluorofentanyl (16.4%; 34 samples). Notably, carfentanil was detected in 5 samples by FTIR this month.
- Veterinary tranquilizers were detected by FTIR in 6.8% of unregulated opioids (14 of 207). Of these, xylazine was most common.
- 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 Mar.

● Opioid	215
● Stimulant	55
● Depressant	7
● Psychedelic	10
● Other	1
● Polysubstance	1
● Unknown	37

Total: 326

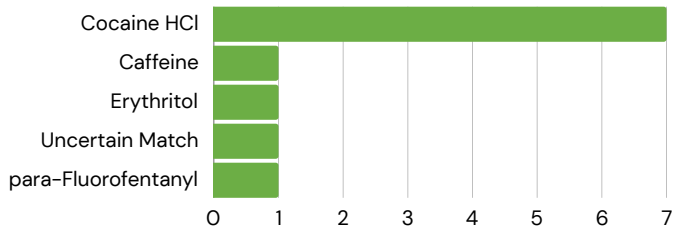
Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	63
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	78
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	74
Mountainside (Hope)	6
Mountainside (Langley)	24
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	5
Mountainside (Mission)	17
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	10
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	11
SafePoint (Surrey)	31
Total:	326

A small number of samples were tested at the following locations, which are included in the total:
Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam), SOURCES (White Rock).

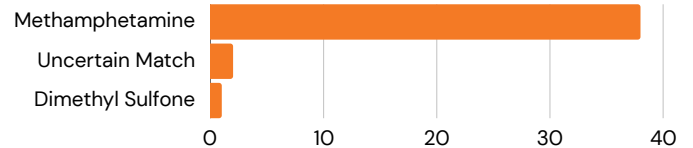
Components found in drug samples in March

Components in cocaine



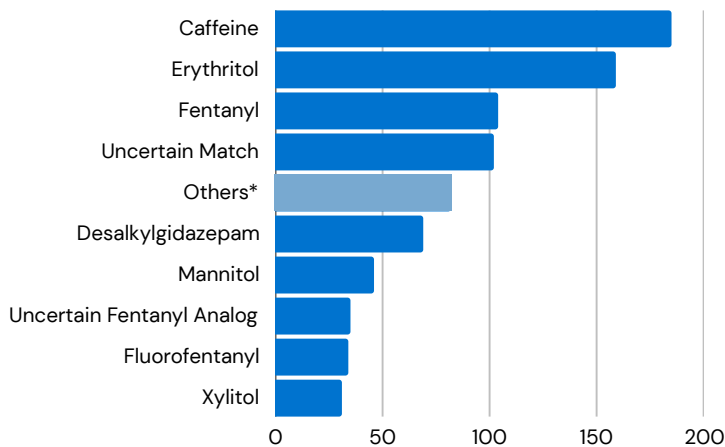
Frequency (N=8)

Components in methamphetamine



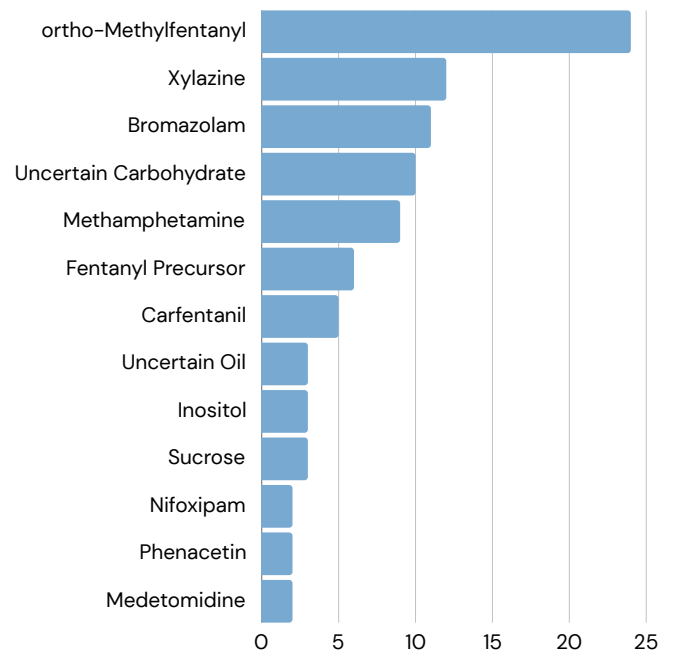
Frequency (N=38)

Components in unregulated opioids



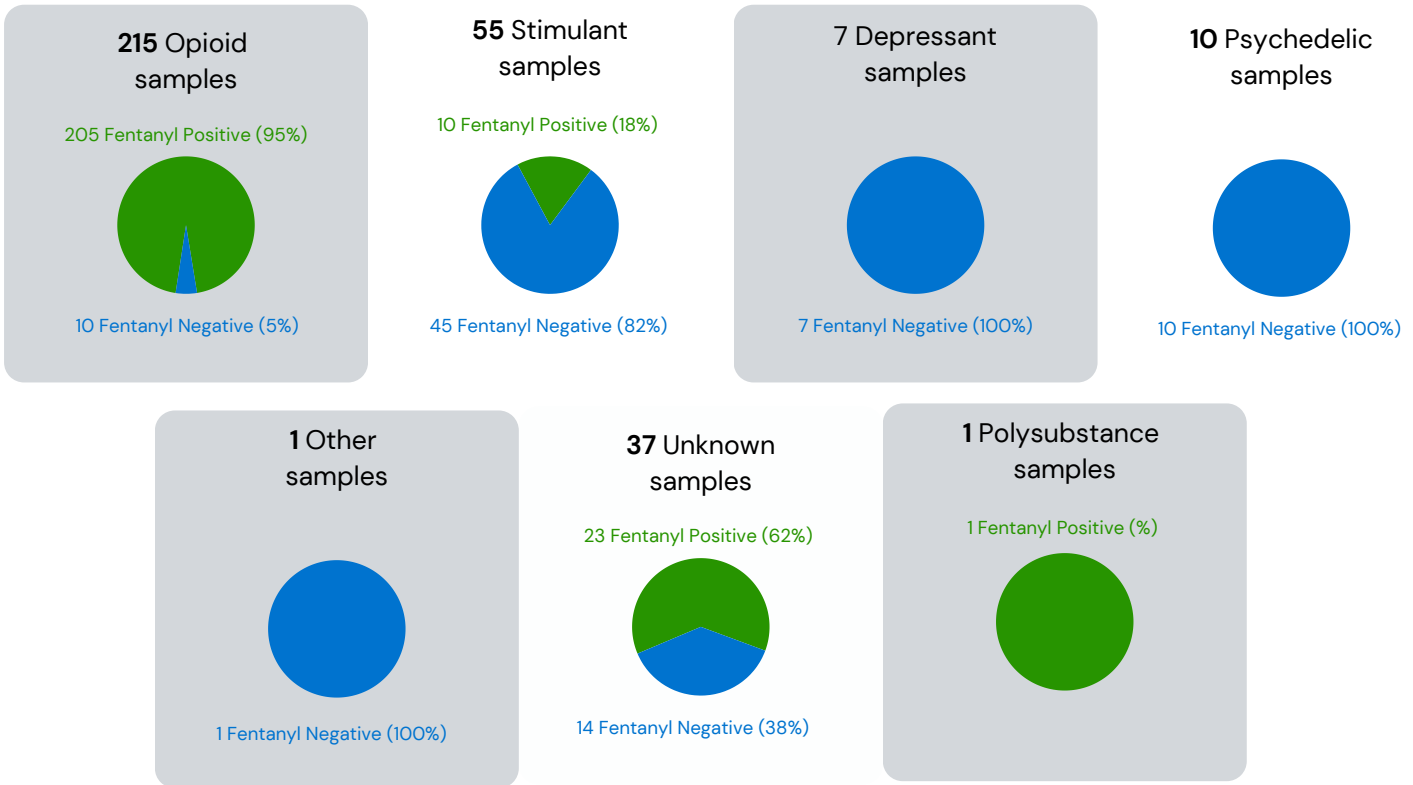
Frequency (N=207)

*Other components in unregulated opioids

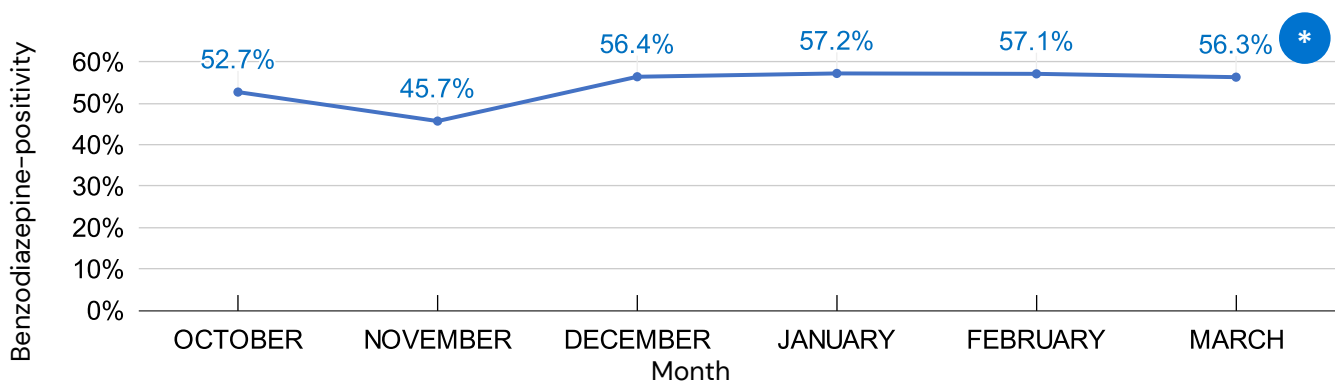


There were additional compounds detected a single time each: MD-MAPA, Ketamine, Flubromazepam, Uncertain Mineral, Etizolam, Cocaine Base, Acetaminophen.

Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



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



*During the month of March, **56.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**121 samples of 215 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		208	6	1	215
Stimulant		54	1	0	55
Unknown		0	0	37	37
Psychedelic		10	0	0	10
Depressant		3	4	0	7
Other		1	0	0	1
Polysubstance		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		277	11	38	326

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		188	3	0	191
Fentanyl		15	1	0	16
Pharmaceutical		2	2	1	5
Other Opioid		2	0	0	2
Opium		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		208	6	1	215

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
March 6, 2025 Fraser Health region	Fentanyl	Carfentanil*	N/A	N/A	Several samples sold as Fentanyl in the Fraser Health region tested positive for Carfentanil, a synthetic opioid 50–100 times more potent than fentanyl. These samples varies in colour and texture.

All spectrometry results are determined by FTIR, with the exception of the following:
 * Results provided by complementary testing partner [Substance](#) using Paper Spray Mass Spectrometry

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:

