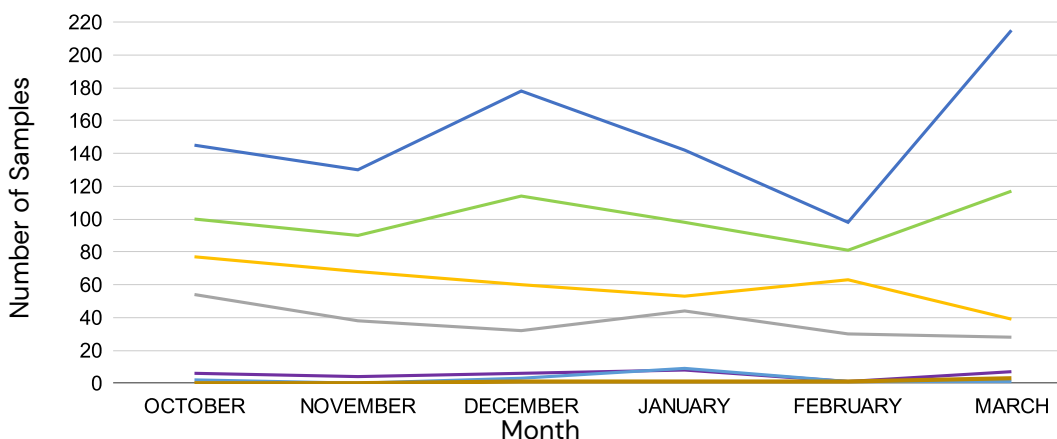




Key Findings

- In March, a total of 410 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (15 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip was decreased to 59.1% (127 of 215).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 21.5% of unregulated opioids (45 of 209), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified.
- Fluorofentanyl remained the most common opioid detected by FTIR (58.9%; 123 of 209), followed by fentanyl (21.1%; 44 samples).
- Xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer, was detected by FTIR in 7.7% of unregulated opioids (16 of 209).
- 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	117
● Depressant	7
● Psychedelic	39
● Other	1
● Polysubstance	3
● Unknown	28

Total: 410

Number of drug checks at each site

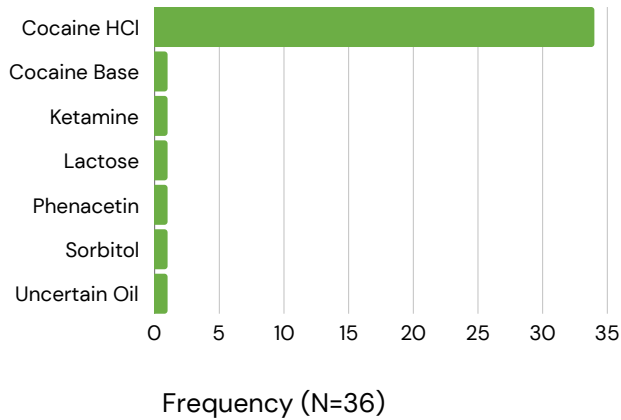
Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	85
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	6
ANKORS (Nelson)	29
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	51
ASK Wellness (Kelowna)	119
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	62
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	57
Total	410

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

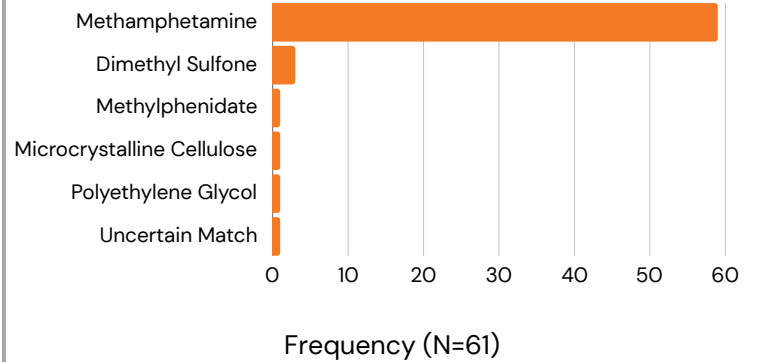
ANKORS (Trail).

Components found in drug samples in March

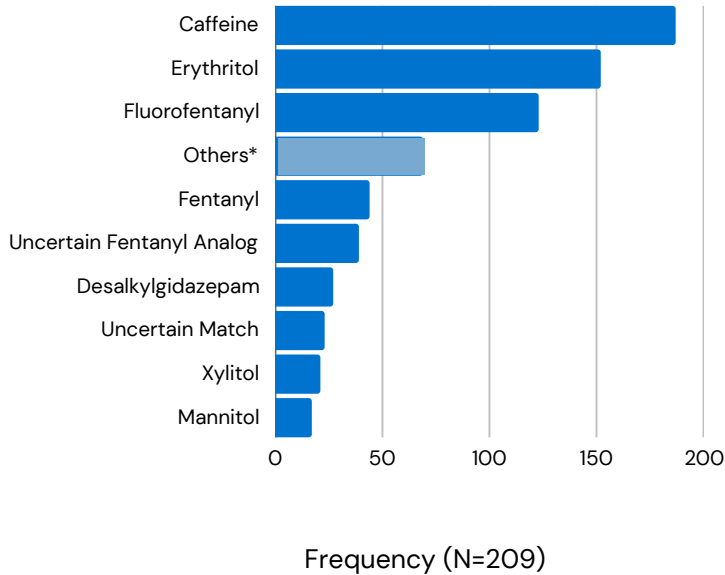
Components in cocaine



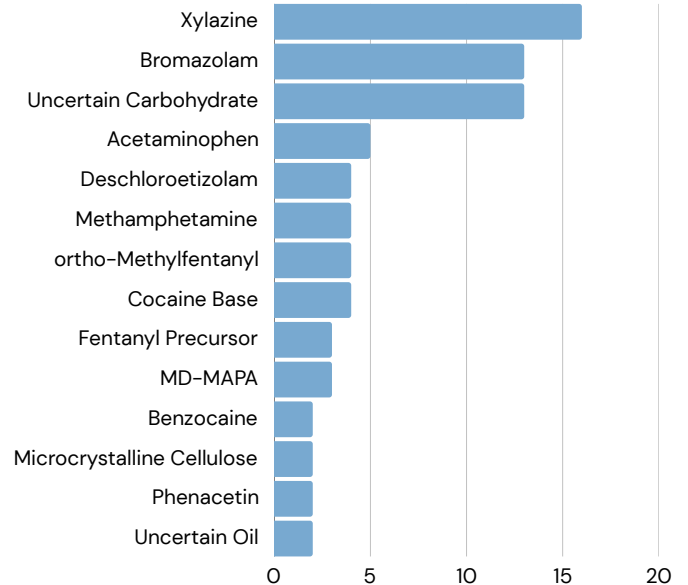
Components in methamphetamine



Components in unregulated opioids

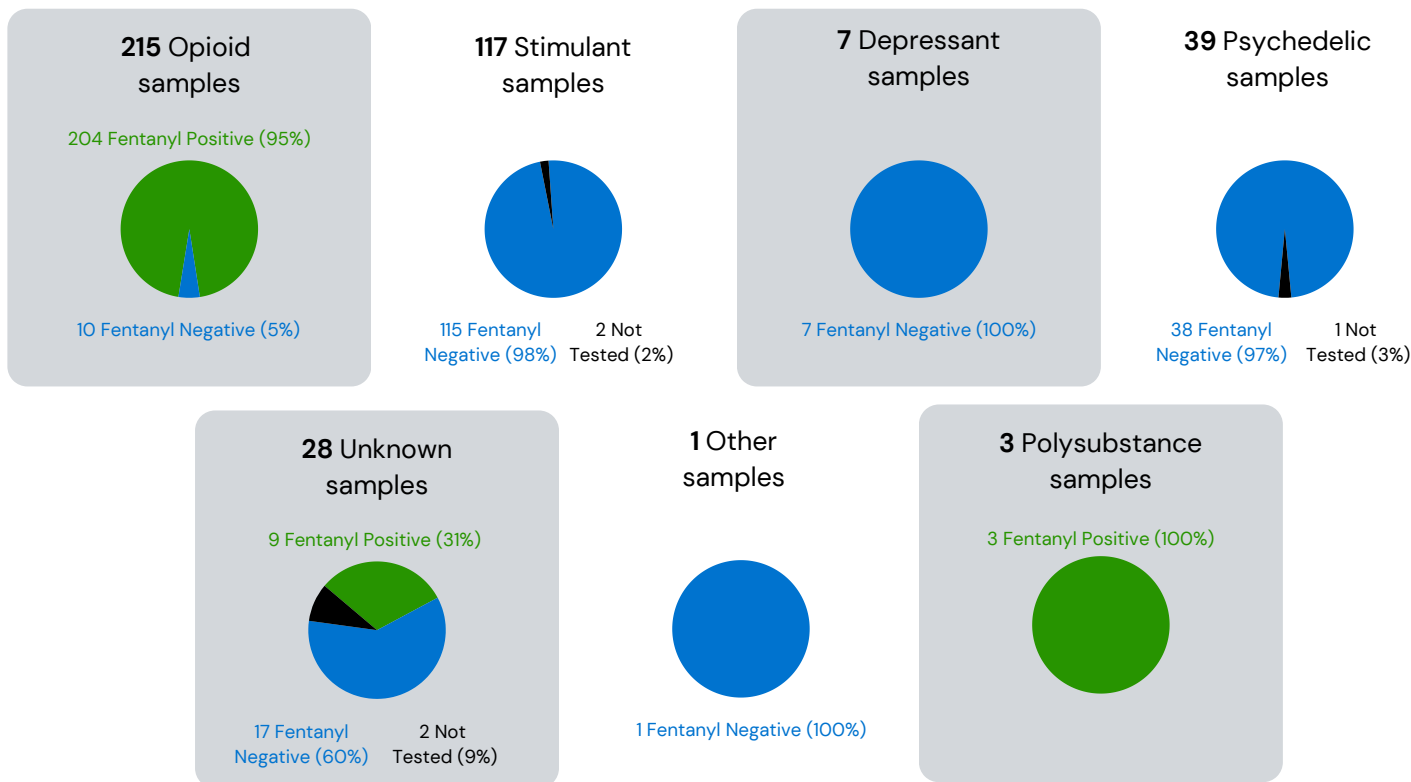


*Other components in unregulated opioids

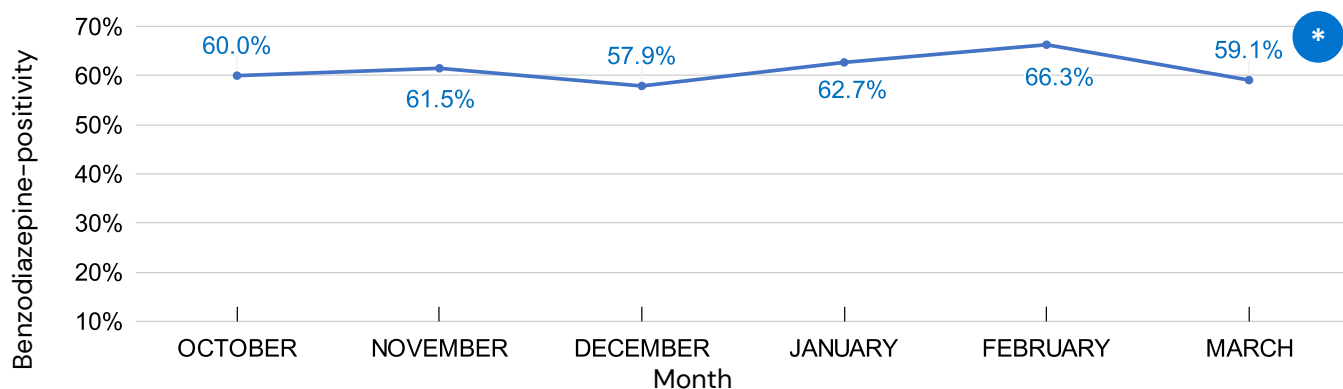


There were additional compounds detected a single time each: Dimethyl Sulfone, Flubromazepam, Heroin HCl, Cocaine HCl, Naproxen, Polypropylene, Sucrose, Calcium Carbonate, Levamisole.

Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



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



*During the month of March, 59.1% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (127 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		201	11	3	215
Stimulant		112	2	3	117
Psychedelic		36	3	0	39
Unknown		0	0	28	28
Depressant		1	5	1	7
Polysubstance		0	3	0	3
Other		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		351	24	35	410

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		175	1	0	176
Fentanyl		24	4	0	28
Pharmaceutical		1	2	3	6
Heroin		1	4	0	5
TOTAL		201	11	3	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.

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
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No alerts for Interior Health this month.

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:

