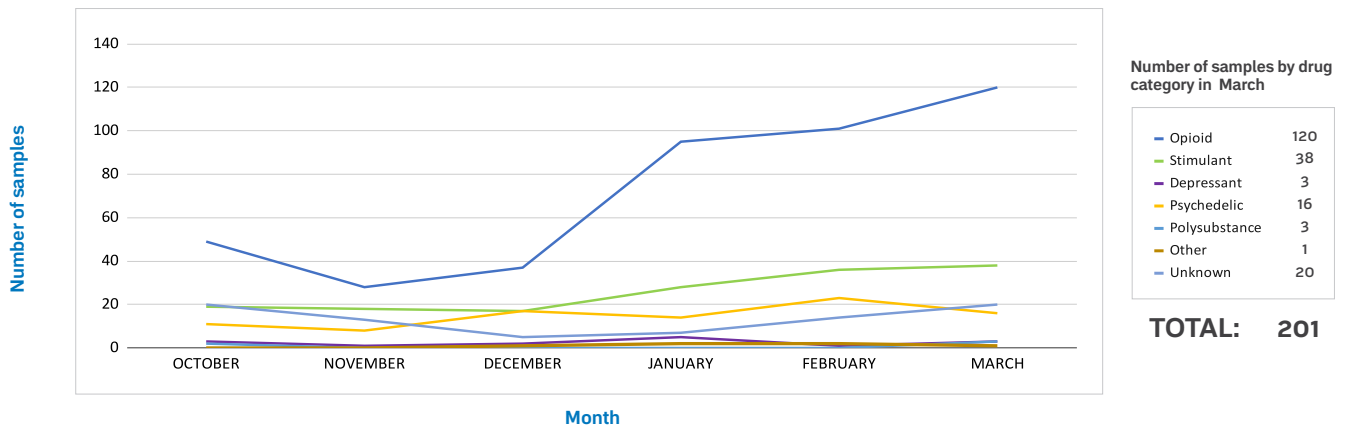


Key Findings

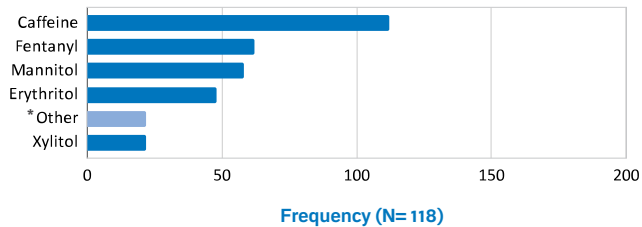
- The number of samples checked (201) was the highest ever for the Interior Health region. The increase is due to the addition of a new and growing service with the Harm Reduction Team (HaRT) at UBCO.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the Interior Health region (35%) has very slightly decreased, but overall is consistently on an upward trend since September (6%).
- One Xanax (alprazolam) tablet tested positive for fentanyl but the pill was stored in a container with down. Clean baggies are always available at harm reduction sites.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months

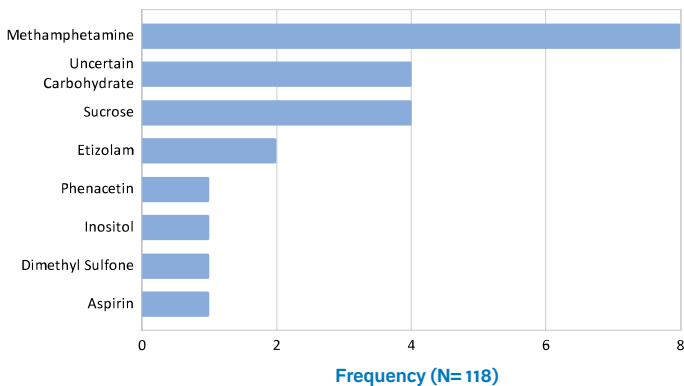


Components found in drug samples in March

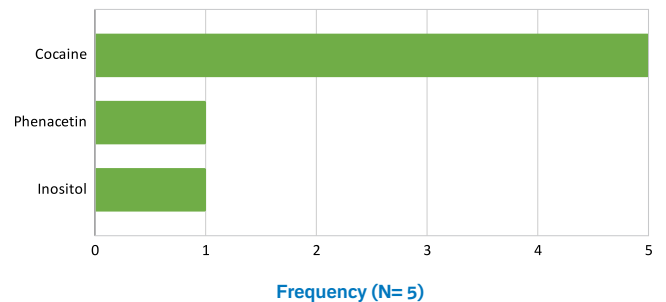
Components in opioids



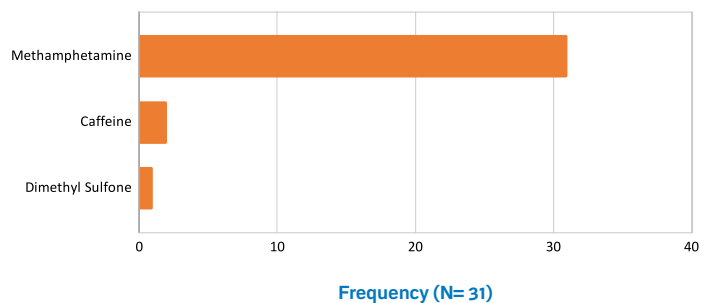
* Other components found in opioids



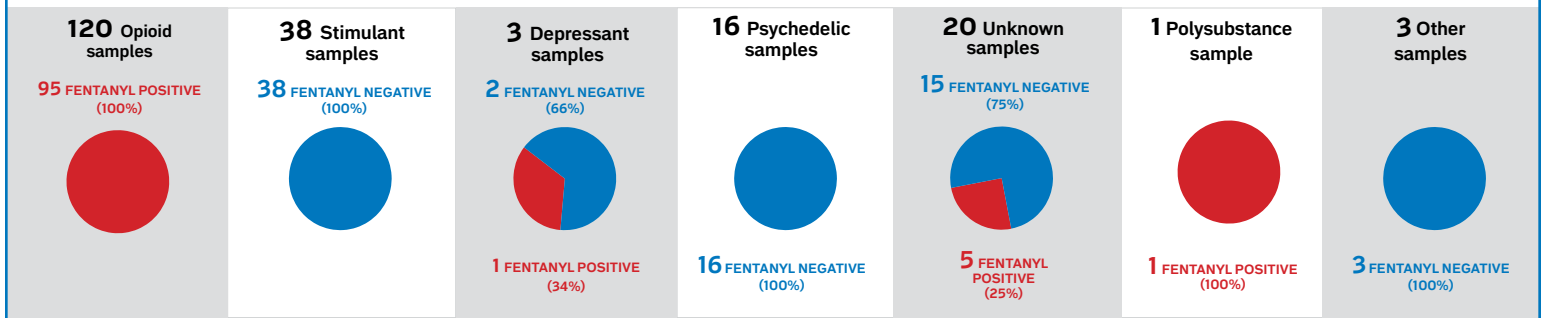
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

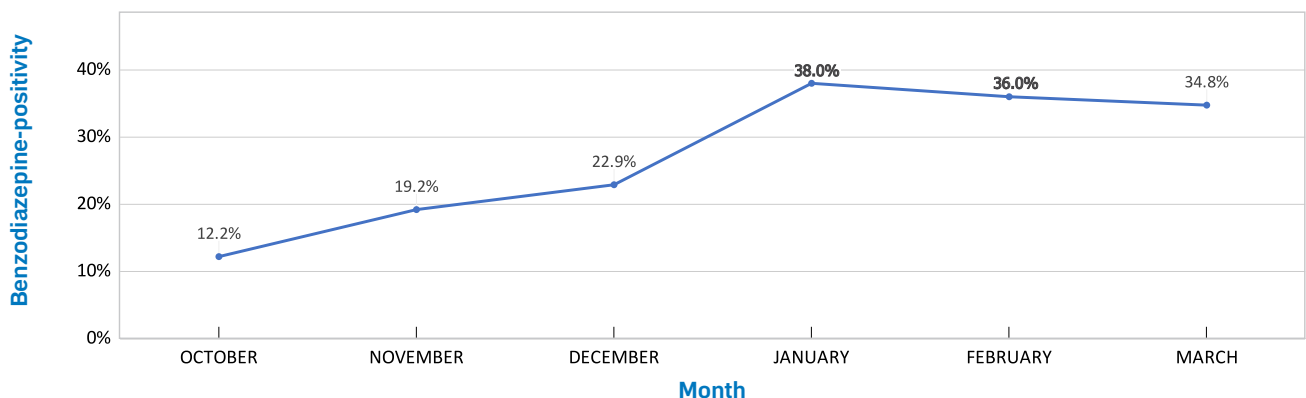


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
31 March 2021- Burdock House, Penticton	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine, fentanyl	Positive	N/A	Kamloops	Unexpected fentanyl presence can lead to overdose, even when smoking. Fentanyl test strips are effective for detecting fentanyl in stimulants.

For information about public health alerts in the Interior Health region, please visit:
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Leadership/MHQ/Pages/PHEmergency.aspx>

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



During the month of March, **34.8%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in the Interior Health region (**41 samples of 118 tested**).






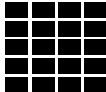

Opioid samples are tested for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips. The results presented above are presumptive and tentative until confirmed by a laboratory.

Number of drugs checks at each site

Organization	City/Town	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS	Cranbrook	13
	Nelson	52
ASK Wellness	Kamloops	23
	Merritt	8
	Mobile Bus	15
UBC Okanagan	Kelowna	35
	Penticton	29
	Vernon	26
Total		201

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Depressant 3 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 2 Did not match: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic 16 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 14 Did not match: 2</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant 38 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 37 Did not match: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Polysubstance 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid 120 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 112 Did not match: 7 Match not determined: 1</p>		<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown 20 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Match not determined: 20</p>	
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Other 3 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1 Did not match: 1 Match not determined: 1</p>			

Total

201 Samples Tested



Matched: 167

Did not match: 12

Match not determined: 22

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

Depressant may include:
benzodiazepines, etizolam,
GHB, hypnotics

Opioid may include:
"down," heroin, fentanyl,
pharmaceutical opioids

Polysubstance includes:
cross-category mixtures

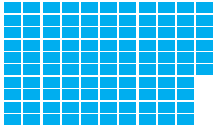




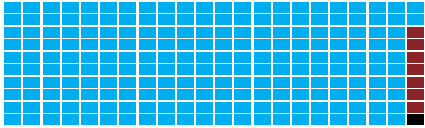
Psychedelic may include:
MDMA and related,
2C-family, tryptamines,
ketamine, LSD

Stimulant may include:
methamphetamine,
"speed," cocaine and crack
cocaine, cathinones

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

Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl 106 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 106</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Heroin 4 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 3 Match not determined: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Down 6 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 6</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl and Heroin 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 2</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Pharmaceutical 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 2</p>	
<p>Total 120</p>  <p>Matched: 112 Did not match: 7 Match not determined: 1</p>		

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.

Data represented here are collected from our partner sites across the province. Drug samples are tested using the Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometer in combination with fentanyl test strips and benzodiazepine test strips.

There is 5% fentanyl detection limit on the FTIR spectrometer (McCrae, 2019), and a drug check on any given sample consists of both the FTIR and BTNX fentanyl immunoassay test strip testing done in combination. When applicable, BTNX benzodiazepine immunoassay test strips are also used.

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners: