

Drug Checking in Interior Health January 2019

This report summarizes key indicators for Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR)/fentanyl test strip combination drug checking done in Interior Health in January 2019.

As the FT-IR spectrometer has a detection limit of 3-4% by weight (Sherman 2018), unless otherwise stated, a drug check on any given sample consists of **both** Bruker ALPHA Fourier-Transform Infrared (FT-IR) spectrometer **and** BTNX fentanyl immunoassay test strip testing done in combination. When applicable, BTNX benzodiazepine or lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) immunoassay test strips were also used.

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Please note that these data are not finalized and are subject to change.

- In January 2019, 34 drug checks were completed on samples in the Interior Health region
- The majority of samples tested were expected by clients to be either psychedelics (13 or 38.2%), stimulants (7 or 20.6%), or unknowns (6 or 17.6%).

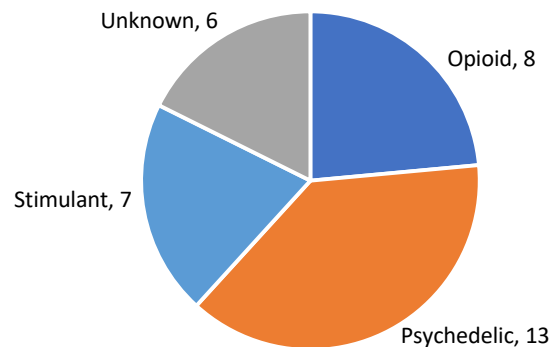


Figure 1. Number of drug checks performed in Interior Health in January 2019, by expected drug category

Depressant may include: benzodiazepines, GHB

Opioid may include: “down,” heroin, fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, pharmaceutical opioids

Polysubstance includes: cross-category mixtures

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

Stimulant may include: “speed”, crystal meth, cocaine, cathinones

Unknown includes: all samples in which the client could not identify the expected substance



Figure 2. Number of samples that matched client expectation using FTIR/test strip drug checking in Interior Health in January 2019, by expected drug category

	Opioid	Psychedelic	Stimulant	Unknown	Total
True	7	13	7	0	27
False	1	0	0	0	1
N/A	0	0	0	6	6
Total	8	13	7	6	34

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

Figure 3. Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation using FTIR/test strip drug checking in Interior Health in January 2019, by expected drug

	Fentanyl	Heroin	'Down'	Total
True	3	1	3	7
False	0	1	0	1
N/A	0	0	0	0
Total	3	2	3	8

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

- 7 opioid samples (87.5%) tested positive for fentanyl using the FT-IR spectrometer.
- **The total fentanyl positivity rate in opioid samples was 100%.**
- Of the 13 psychedelic samples and 7 stimulant samples, 1 tested positive for fentanyl using a test strip

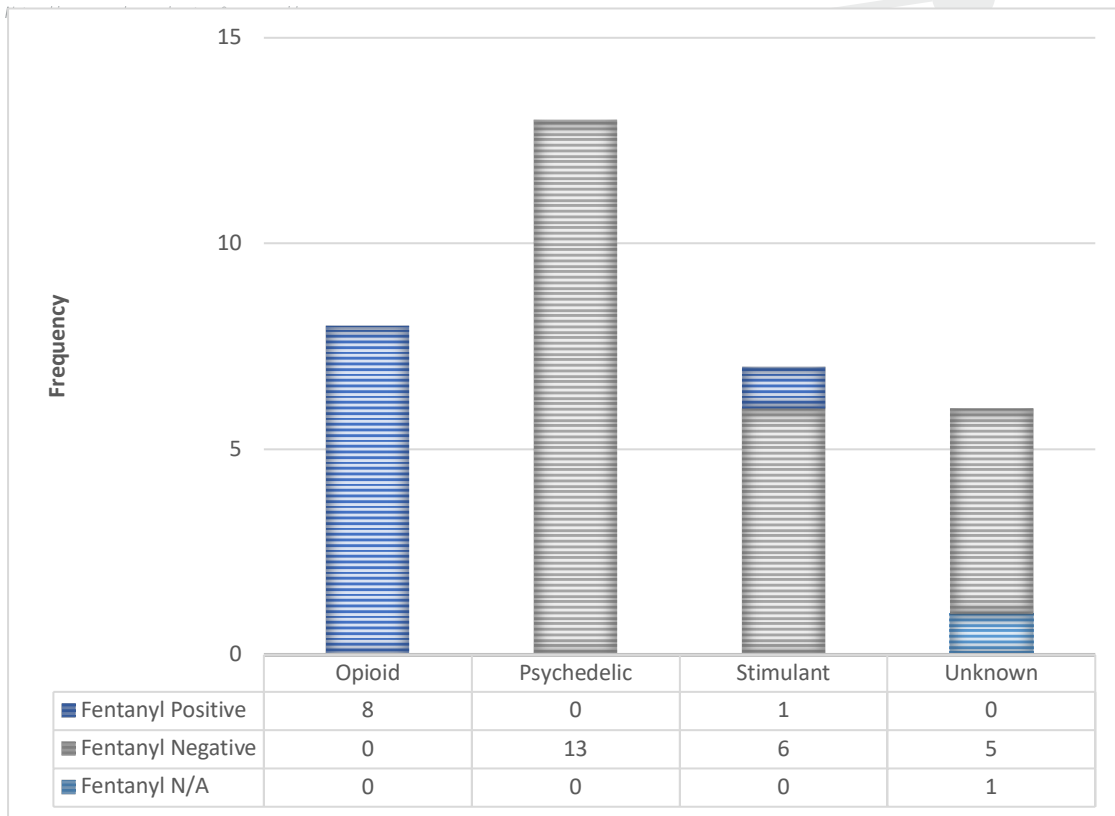


Figure 4. Number of samples that tested positive and negative for fentanyl in Interior Health in January 2019, by expected drug category