

Drug Checking in Interior Health

February 2019

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

As the FT-IR spectrometer has a detection limit of 3-4% by weight (Sherman et al., 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 are also used.

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

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of our partners: Interior Health, ANKORS, and ASK Wellness.

- In February 2019, 62 drug checks were completed for 36 clients on samples in Interior Health
- The majority of samples tested were expected by clients to be either psychedelics (24 or 38.7%), opioids (18 or 29.0%), or stimulants (15 or 24.2%).

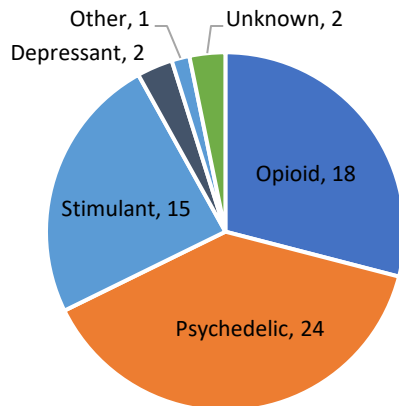


Figure 1. Number of drug checks performed in IHA in February 2019, by expected drug category

Depressant may include: benzodiazepines, GHB, zopiclone

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 February 2019, by expected drug category

	Depressant	Opioid	Psychedelic	Stimulant	Other	Unknown	Total
True	0	16	23	15	0	0	54
False	2	2	1	0	0	0	5
N/A	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Total	2	18	24	15	1	0	

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 February 2019, by expected drug

	Fentanyl	Heroin	Fentanyl & Heroin	Fentanyl analogue	Pharmaceutical	'Down'*	Total
True	12	2	0	0	0	2	16
False	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12	4	0	0	0	2	18

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*

- 6 opioid samples (33.3%) tested positive for fentanyl using the FT-IR spectrometer
- **The total fentanyl positivity rate in opioid samples was 94.4%**
- Of the 15 stimulant samples and 24 psychedelic sample, 0 (0.0%) tested positive for fentanyl using a test strip

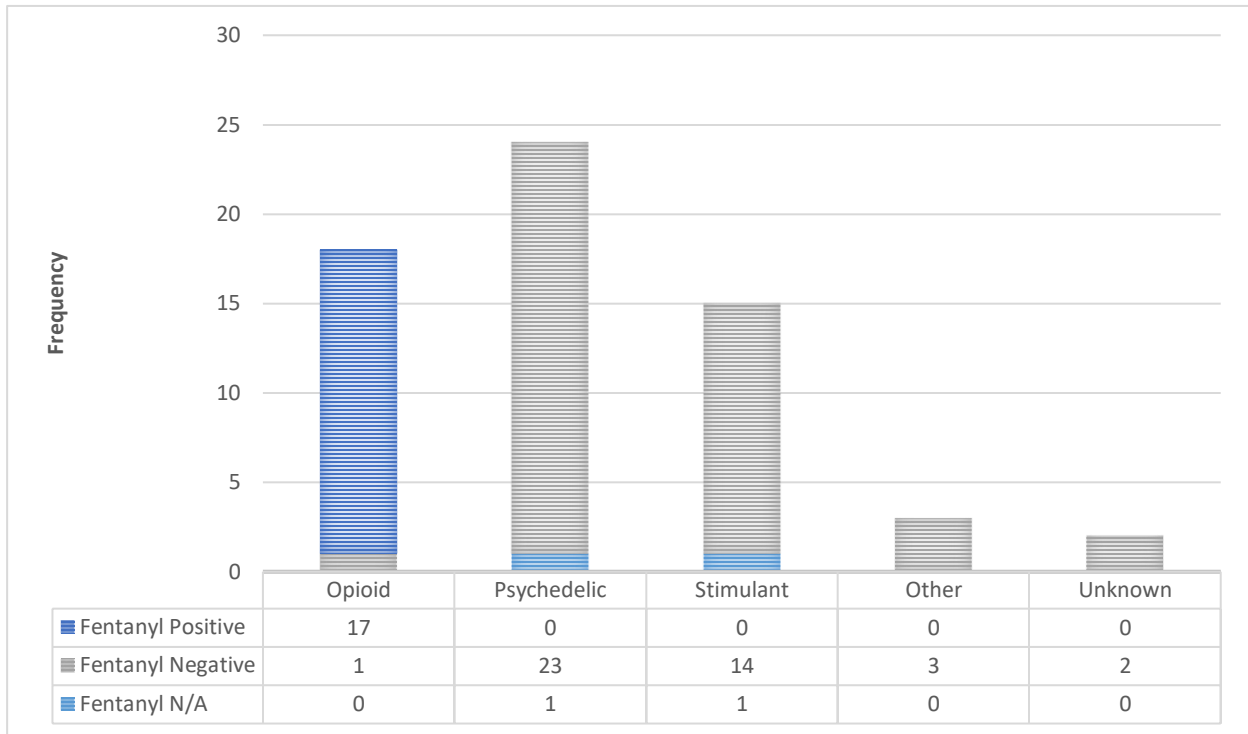


Figure 4. Number of drug checking samples that tested positive and negative for fentanyl in Interior Health, in February 2019, by expected drug category

