

Drug Checking in Fraser Health

March 2019

This report summarizes key indicators for Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR)/fentanyl test strip combination drug checking done in Fraser Health in March 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, Fraser Health and Lookout Society.

- In March 2019, 26 drug checks were completed for 19 clients on samples in Fraser Health
- The majority of samples tested were expected by clients to be either opioids (19 or 73.1%), stimulants (3 or 11.5%), or psychedelics (3 or 11.5%).

Table 1. Number of drugs checks and hours at each respective site

Location	Number of Drug Checks	Hours
SafePoint	49	26

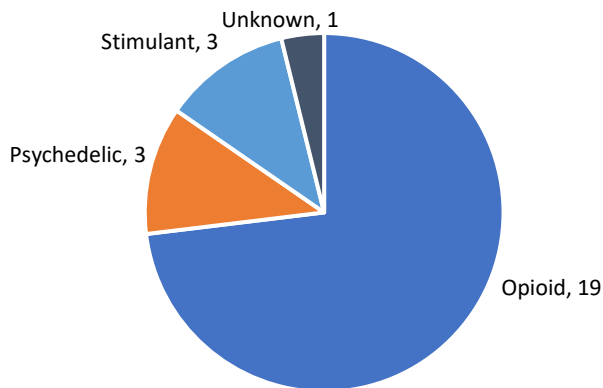


Figure 1. Number of drug checks performed in FHA in March 2019, by expected drug category

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

Table 2. Number of samples that matched client expectation using FTIR/test strip drug checking in Fraser Health in March 2019, by expected drug category

	Depressant	Opioid	Psychedelic	Stimulant	Other	Unknown	Total
True	0	15	3	3	0	0	21
False	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
N/A	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	0	19	3	3	0	1	26

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

Table 3. Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation using FTIR/test strip drug checking in Fraser Health in March 2019, by expected drug

	Fentanyl	Heroin	Fentanyl & Heroin	Fentanyl analogue	Pharmaceutical	'Down'*	Total
True	12	0	0	0	0	3	15
False	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	16	0	0	0	0	3	19

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

- 14 opioid samples (73.7%) tested positive for fentanyl using the FT-IR spectrometer
- **The total fentanyl positivity rate in opioid samples was 78.9%**
- Of the 3 stimulant samples and 3 psychedelic samples, 0 (0.0%) tested positive for fentanyl

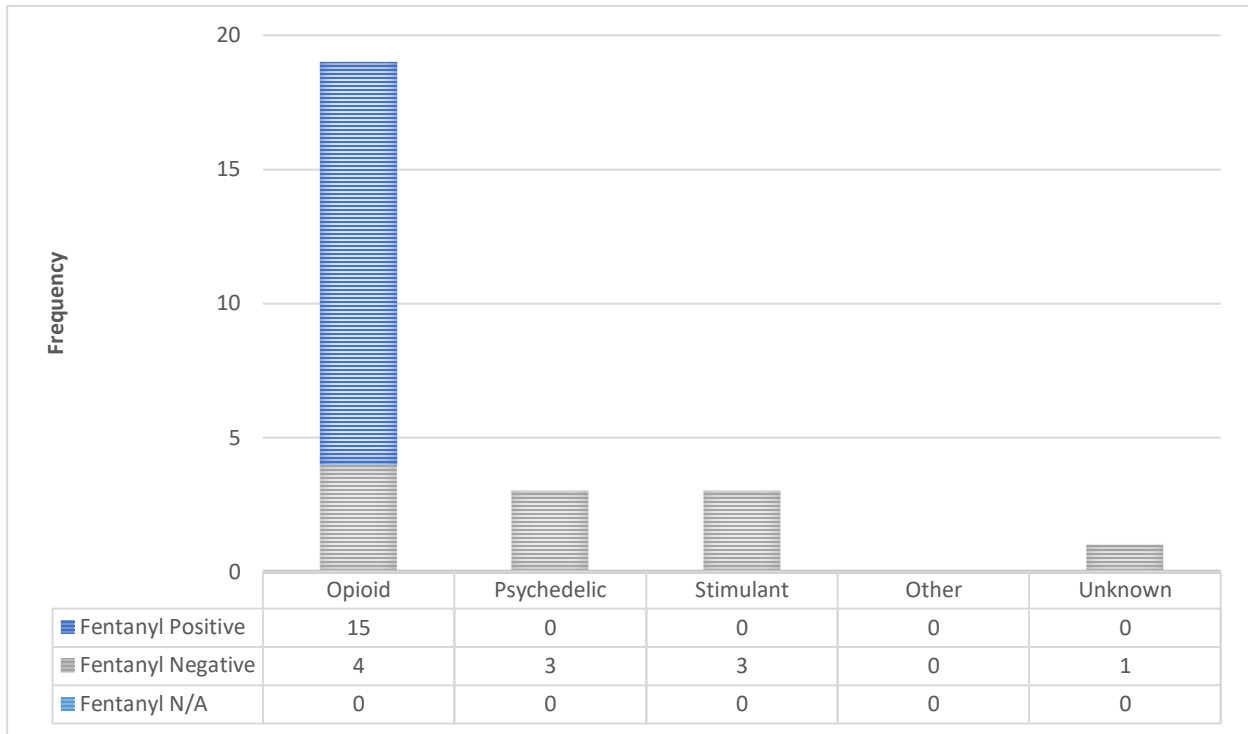


Figure 2. Number of drug checking samples that tested positive and negative for fentanyl in Fraser Health, in March 2019, by expected drug category

Table 4. Public health notifications of drug checking results in VCH in March 2019

Date & Location	Expected Drug	FT-IR Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Lab Analysis	Outcome
4-Mar 2019 SafePoint	“Down”	None (susp carfentanil)	Negative	TBD	RADAR alert
28-Mar 2019 SafePoint	“Down”	None (susp carfentanil and benzo)	Negative	TBD	RADAR alert