

1-30 June
2019

Drug Checking in British Columbia

of Samples Tested by Expected Drug Category:

334 Samples Tested

Opioid: 173 / Stimulant: 67 / Psychedelic: 56 / Unknown: 32 / Depressant: 5 / Other: 0 / Polysubstance: 1



Components, Cuts and Buffs

UP

- Benzocaine
- Caffeine
- Phenacetin (Superbuff)
- Creatine
- Cocaine HCl
- Procaine

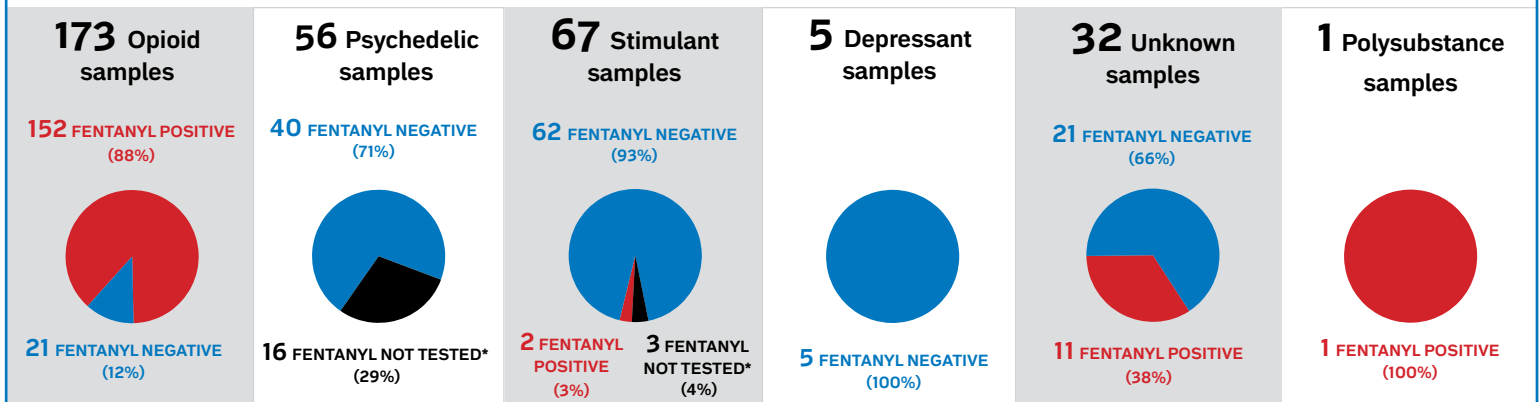
SIDE

- Dimethyl Sulfone (MSM)
- Methamphetamine HCl

DOWN

- Sweeteners
- Fentanyl
- Ascorbic Acid (vitamin C)
- Methamphetamine HCl
- Polyethylene Glycol
- Cocaine HCl
- Caffeine

of samples tested for fentanyl



Public health notifications

| Date & Location | Expected Drug | Drugs Detected | Fentanyl Strip | What does this mean? |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 12-June 2019 Insite, Vancouver | "Down" | Flubromazolam | Positive | Potent Benzo, may cause prolonged OD and severe drowsiness |
| 12-June 2019 SafePoint, Surrey | Alprazolam | Fentanyl, etizolam & Flubromazolam | Positive | Potent Benzo, may cause prolonged OD and severe drowsiness |
| 27-June 2019 OPS, Vancouver | "Down" | Benzo test strip positive | Positive | May cause OD and drowsiness |

To receive drug contamination alerts in the VCH region, text "alert" to (236) 999-DOPE (3673)

This report summarizes key indicators for Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR)/fentanyl test strip combination drug checking done in British Columbia in June 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 (FTIR) 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.

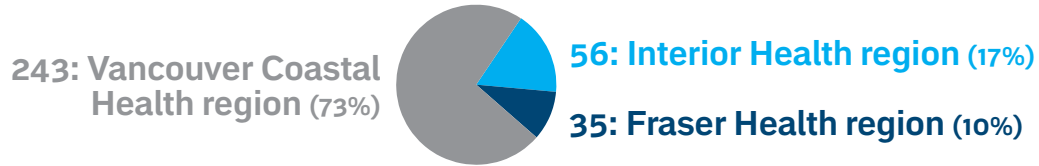
* "Fentanyl not tested" means that a fentanyl test strip wasn't done for the sample because the client declined to do the test, or they left before the test was able to be completed.

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of Samples Tested by Region:

Total #: 334



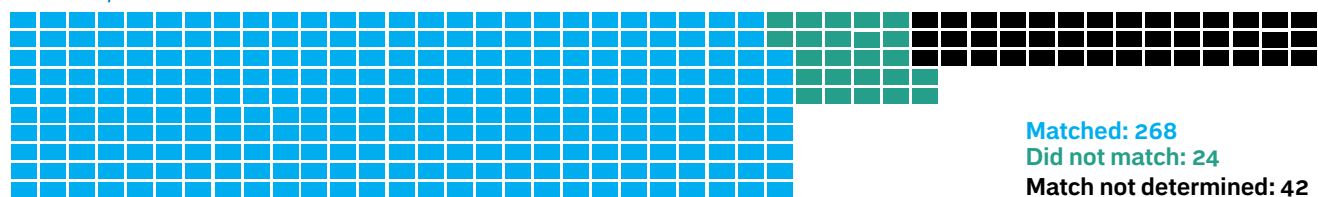
of samples that matched client expectation

**using FTIR/test strip drug checking*

| EXPECTED DRUG: | EXPECTED DRUG: | EXPECTED DRUG: | EXPECTED DRUG: |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| Depressant 5 Samples Tested | Psychedelic 56 Samples Tested | Stimulant 67 Samples Tested | Polysubstance 1 Sample Tested |
| Matched: 5 | Matched: 47 Did not match: 2 Match not determined: 7 | Matched: 64 Did not match: 3 | Matched: 1 |
| Unknown 32 Samples Tested | Opioid 173 Samples Tested | | |
| Match not determined: 32 | Matched: 151 Did not match: 19 Match not determined: 3 | | |

Total







334 Samples Tested



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

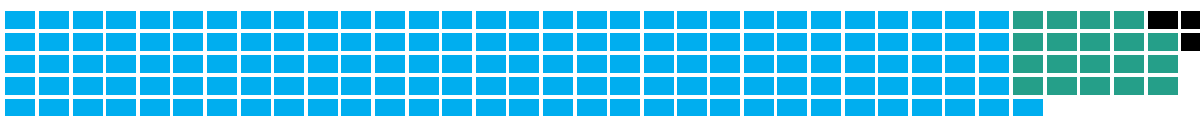
of opioid samples that matched client expectation

**using FTIR/test strip drug checking*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl & Heroin 9 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 4 Did not match: 5</p> | <p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl Analogue 1 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 1</p> | <p>EXPECTED DRUG: Down 17 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 14 Did not match: 3</p> |
| <p>EXPECTED DRUG: Heroin 11 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 7 Did not match: 4</p> | <p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl 132 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 126 Did not match: 6</p> | <p>EXPECTED DRUG: Pharmaceutical 3 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Match not determined: 3</p> |

Total

173 Samples Tested



Matched: 151
Did not match: 19
Match not determined : 3

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 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

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners:

Portland Hotel Society | Insite | Molson Overdose Prevention Site | SisterSpace | Overdose Prevention Society | SafePoint
The Abbotsford Community Hub | ANKORS | ASK Wellness | St. Paul’s Overdose Prevention Site | Powell Street Getaway

