

1-31 August
2019

Drug Checking in British Columbia

of Samples Tested by Expected Drug Category:

265 Samples Tested

Opioid: 145 / Stimulant: 48 / Psychedelic: 57 / Unknown: 11 / Depressant: 3 / Other: 0 / Polysubstance: 1



Components, Cuts and Buffs

UP

- Dimethyl sulfone
- Caffeine
- Phenacetin (Superbuff)
- Sweeteners
- Cocaine
- Procaine

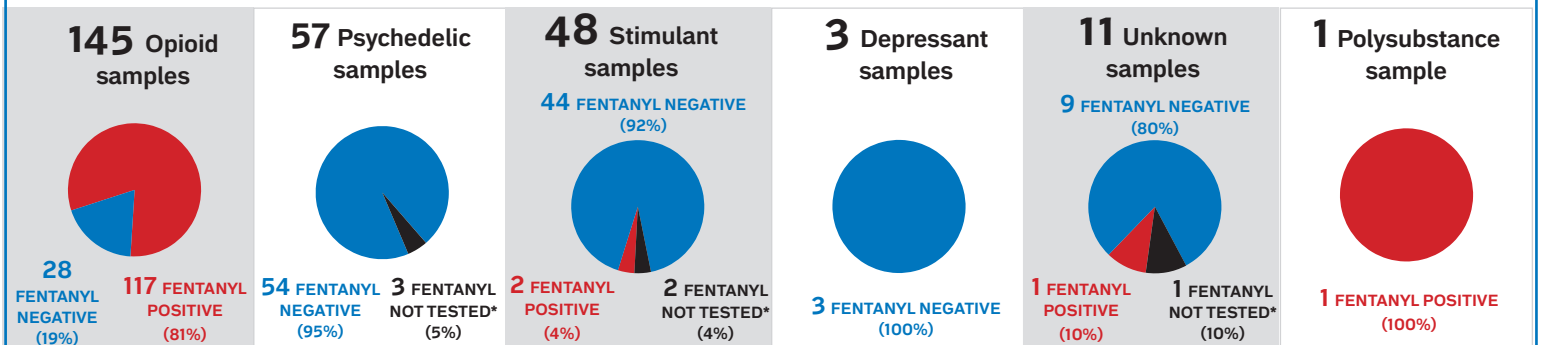
SIDE

- Dimethyl sulfone (MSM)
- Methamphetamine

DOWN

- Caffeine
- Polyethylene Glycol
- Vitamin C
- Etizolam (Benzo analogue)
- AMB-FUBINACA
- Heroin
- Cocaine
- Sweeteners
- Fentanyl

of samples tested for fentanyl



Public health notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	What does this mean?
8-August-2019, SafePoint, Surrey	Down	N/A	N/A	Increased risk of overdoses; don't use alone and carry naloxone
14-August-2019, Insite, Vancouver	Down	Etizolam	Positive	Benzos may increase the risk of an overdose; use at an OPS or SCS
24-August-2019, SafePoint, Surrey	Crack Cocaine	Heroin and Fentanyl	Positive	Check your drugs for fentanyl at any OPS or SCS

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 August 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.

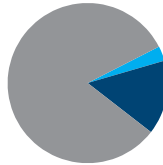
1-31 August
2019

Drug Checking in British Columbia

of Samples Tested by Region:

Total #: 265

216: Vancouver Coastal
Health region (82%)



9: Interior Health region (3%)

40: Fraser Health region (15%)

of samples that matched client expectation

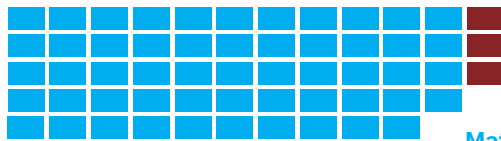
**using FTIR/test strip drug checking*

EXPECTED DRUG:
Depressant
3 Samples Tested



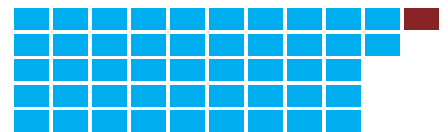
Matched: 1
Did not match: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:
Psychedelic
57 Samples Tested



Matched: 54
Did not match: 3

EXPECTED DRUG:
Stimulant
48 Samples Tested



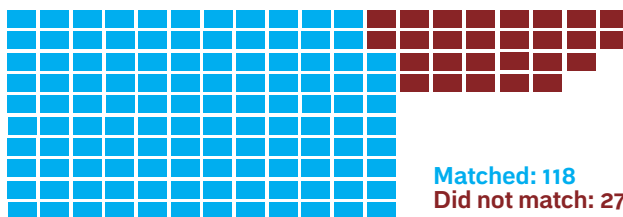
Matched: 47
Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:
Unknown
11 Samples Tested



Match not
determined: 11

EXPECTED DRUG:
Opioid
145 Samples Tested



Matched: 118
Did not match: 27

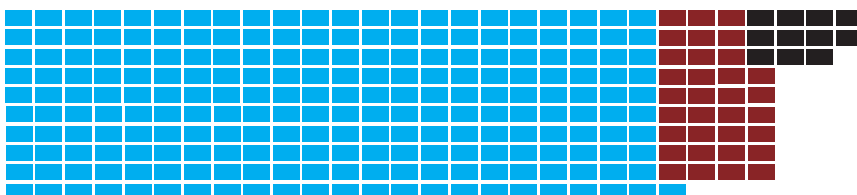
EXPECTED DRUG:
Polysubstance
1 Sample Tested



Matched: 1

Total

265 Samples Tested





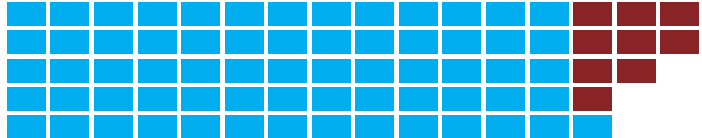



Matched: 221
Did not match: 33
Match not determined: 11

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

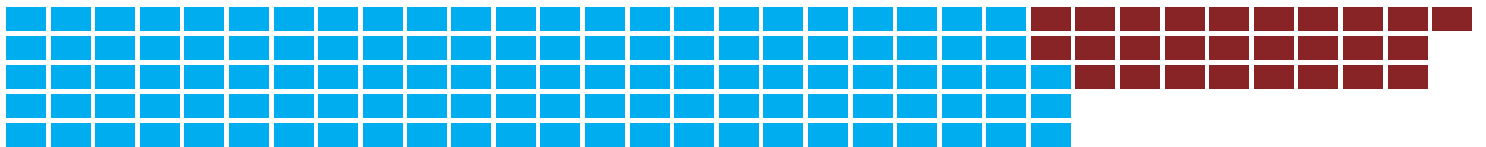
of opioid samples that matched client expectation

**using FTIR/test strip drug checking*

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl & Heroin 7 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 4 Did not match: 3</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Down 47 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 39 Did not match: 8</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl Analogue 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 2</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Heroin 13 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 9 Did not match: 4</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl 75 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 66 Did not match: 9</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Pharmaceutical 1 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 1</p>

Total

145 Samples Tested



Matched: 118
Did not match: 27

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 | Three Bridges

