

BC ECHO on SUBSTANCE USE

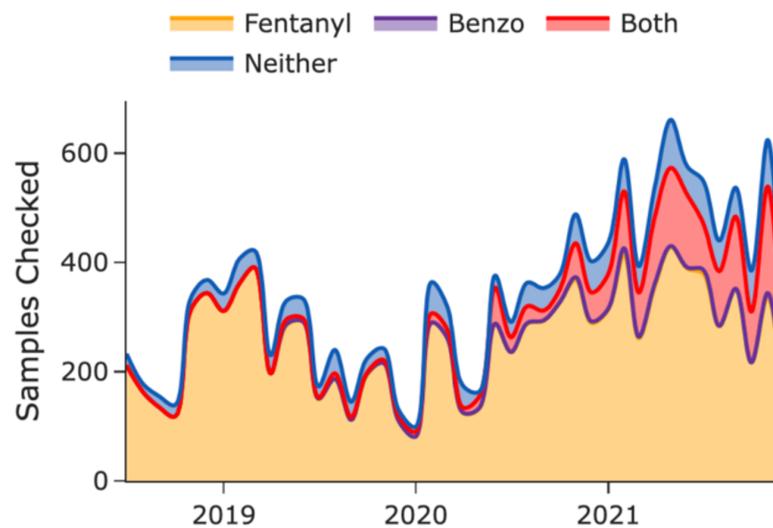


BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE ON
SUBSTANCE USE

Monthly Newsletter: November 2021

In this issue of the BC ECHO on Substance Use newsletter, you'll find resources, news updates, and feature articles related to substance use care in BC, Yukon and across Canada.

Benzodiazepines increasingly present in unregulated opioids



Presence of fentanyl and benzodiazepines in opioid samples since August 2019

The concurrent use of benzodiazepines (benzos) and opioids presents an increased risk for overdose. This risk is magnified when people are unaware their opioids have been adulterated with benzos. Explore the data, and keep up to date with unregulated drug trends at drugcheckingbc.ca.

- [Read: Clinical bulletin: benzodiazepines and opioids](#)
- [Read: Benzo-dope may be replacing fentanyl: dangerous substance turning up in unregulated opioids](#)
- [What happens when benzos are mixed with opioids? A resource from Toward the Heart](#)

Webinar series: opioid use disorder care in ED settings



The Learning about Opioid Use Disorder (LOUD) in the Emergency Department (ED) quality improvement initiative aims to improve the experience of opioid use disorder care for people and providers. This initiative is led in partnership between the BC Patient Safety & Quality Council, BC Centre on Substance Use and Overdose Emergency Response Centre with EDs across BC.

A six-part, interactive and case-based webinar series, led by emergency care providers for emergency care providers, has been launched to support the initiative. Register for upcoming webinars or view previous sessions here:

- [November 25, 5:00 - 6:00pm: Buprenorphine/naloxone in the ED \(webinar\)](#)

BC ECHO on Substance Use programming

Regularly scheduled ECHO sessions will return soon

- For new session dates and topics, stay tuned through these newsletters, or by visiting <https://bcechoonsubstanceuse.ca/#upcoming-sessions>.
- Do you have a colleague interested in joining the community of practice? New members can register for the program anytime using the link above.

We want your cases!

During the ECHO sessions, case presenters from diverse clinical backgrounds (e.g., family practice, nursing, pharmacy) have an *opportunity to receive guidance and recommendations on patient cases in their practice from addiction experts*. Presenting a case includes submitting a brief written case summary and joining an ECHO session to give a 5-minute de-identified overview of the case and questions for clinical consultation.

To submit a de-identified patient case for a future ECHO session, providers are asked to fill out the [case presentation form](#), or submit a brief paragraph to BCECHOonsubstanceuse@bccsu.ubc.ca.

Additional resources for substance use care

New podcast episodes: Addiction Practice Pod Season 2

We are excited to announce that the *Addiction Practice Pod* is back for a second season. This podcast is for health care providers in BC and Yukon. We interview clinicians, researchers, and people with lived and living experience to discuss approaches to addiction care and treatment that work.

- [Listen to new and existing episodes here, or wherever you listen to podcasts](#)

New episodes:

- S2Ep1: Substance use care in rural and remote contexts
- S2Ep2: Treatment and care for alcohol use disorder

Talking to youth about cannabis vaping: a guide for healthcare professionals

This guide, produced by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA), provides healthcare professionals with the questions they need to ask youth to start a meaningful conversation about the risk associated with vaping cannabis.

- [Talking to youth about cannabis vaping: a guide for healthcare professionals](#)

Think Twice! The (lack of) evidence for opioid analgesics to treat minor acute and chronic pain

This webinar, put on by the UBC Innovation Support Unit, the BCCSU and the Therapeutics Initiative, aims to engage prescribers in a collaborative discussion related to prescribing opioids to opioid naive patients. Opioid-sparing approaches in the context of primary care for non-cancer pain will be examined, and participants can receive CME credits.

- [November 24th at 12pm: Think Twice! The \(lack of\) evidence for opioid analgesics to treat minor acute and chronic pain](#)

News from BC and Yukon

- News (from BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions): [B.C. applies for decriminalization in next step to reduce toxic drug deaths](#)
- News (from Government of Yukon): [Government of Yukon expands of safe supply program](#)
- News (from CBC): [More than 1,500 people have now died in 2021 due to B.C.'s illicit drug supply](#)
- News (from BC Pharmacy Association): [Drug Checking: Shedding Light On Substance Use Issues](#)
- News (from CBC): [As overdose numbers climb, B.C. drug advocates question role of addictions ministries](#)
- News (from Island Health): [Hope and healing: Cowichan Valley Wellness and Recovery Centre opens](#)

News from across Canada

- News (from Government of Canada): [The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, MP, appointed new Minister of Mental Health and Addictions](#)
- News (from CBC): [Alcohol and cannabis sales across Canada rose by over \\$2.6B during the pandemic, study suggests](#)
- News (from CBC): [Why the head of Ontario's police chiefs says we can't 'charge our way out' of the opioid crisis](#)
- News (from CBC): [P.E.I. launches new 24/7 mental health and addictions phone line](#)
- News (from CBC): [Only 484 marijuana pardons have been granted since program started in 2019](#)
- News (from CBC): [Regina committee pushes well-being plan, overdose prevention amid high drug toxicity deaths](#)

The BC ECHO on Substance Use aims to build confidence and skills among primary care providers and their teams in British Columbia and Yukon. By bringing clinicians with addictions expertise and primary care providers together in a substance use community of practice, we hope to improve the implementation of evidence-based care in our communities.

This newsletter is one part of the BC ECHO on Substance Use, an initiative funded by Health Canada and the GPSC, a partnership of the Government of BC and Doctors of BC. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada or the GPSC.

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