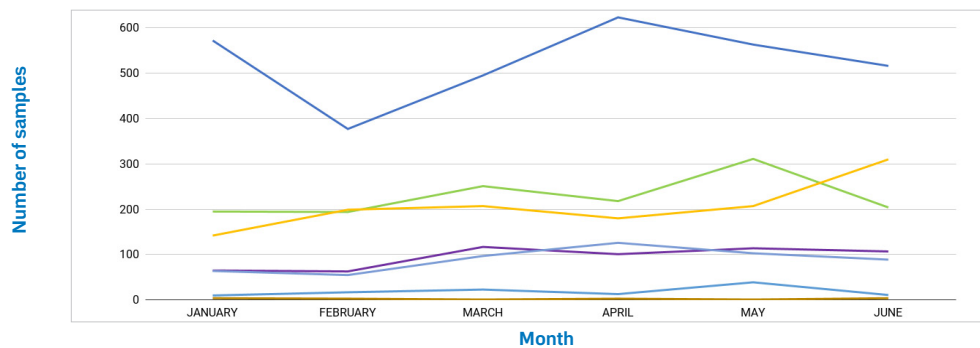


Key Findings

- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines at point-of-care has dropped to 16.9% after being on an upward trend since August. Etizolam, the predominant benzodiazepine in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies. This means that the true rate may be higher than reported here.
- Confirmatory analysis in June revealed that opioids contain etizolam from levels below 1% to as high as 8%.
- Carfentanil was detected in samples expected to be fentanyl and down. When carfentanil is detected, fentanyl is detected alongside it over half of the time. Fentanyl test strips may detect carfentanil if the concentration is high enough, but cannot differentiate it from regular fentanyl.
- Fentanyl was detected in six non-opioid drug samples: two in Vancouver Coastal, three in Interior Health, and one in Island Health. Among them, two samples of crack cocaine tested positive with fentanyl test strips.
- Nitazene opioids (e.g., metonitazene, isotonitazene) have been detected in samples sold as fentanyl or down. Not much information is available the potency of these opioids, and our results confirm these drugs are not detected by fentanyl test strips.
- The median fentanyl concentration of opioids checked was 12.6%, increasing from 11.9% last month. See page 3 for more detailed results.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



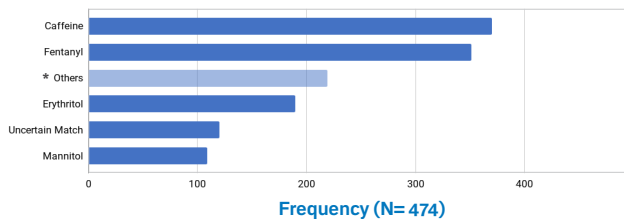
Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	516
Stimulant	204
Depressant	107
Psychedelic	310
Polysubstance	11
Other	4
Unknown	89

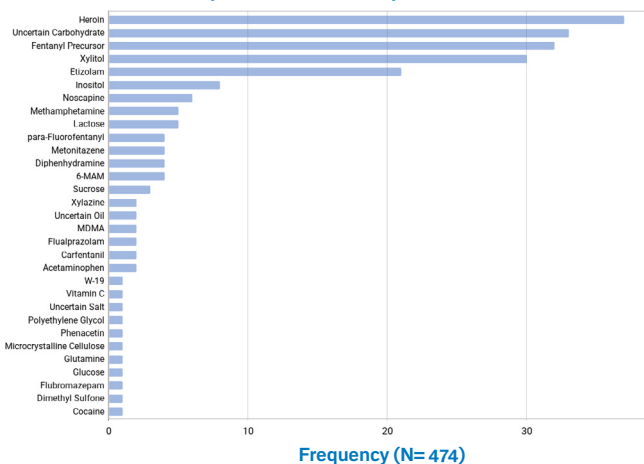
TOTAL: 1241

Components found in drug samples in June

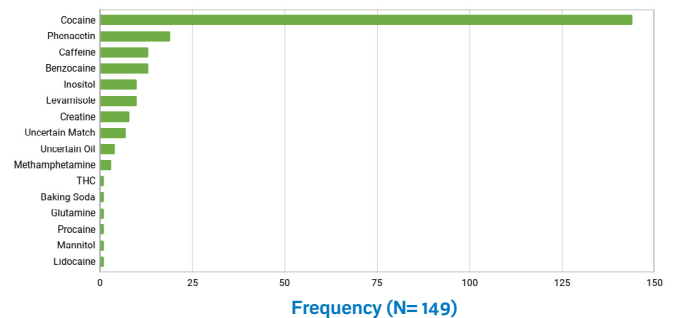
Components in opioids



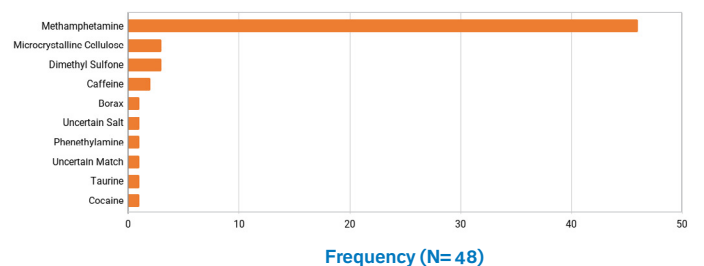
* Other components found in opioids



Components in cocaine



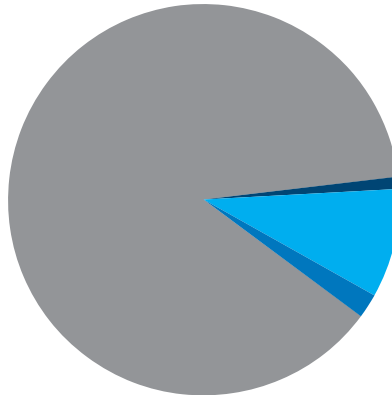
Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested by region:

Total #: 1,241

1099: Vancouver Coastal Health region (88%)



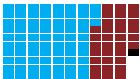
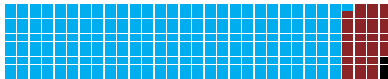
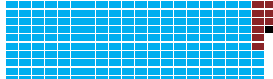

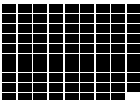
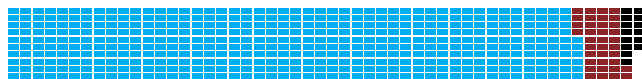

10: Fraser Health region (1%)

110: Interior Health region (9%)

22: Vancouver Island Health Region (2%)

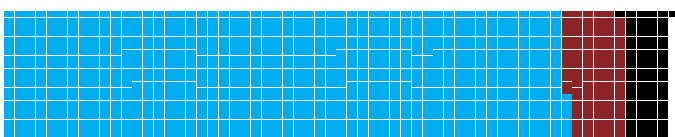
Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Depressant 107 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 73 Did not match: 33 Match not determined: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic 310 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 271 Did not match: 36 Match not determined: 3</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant 204 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 194 Did not match: 9 Match not determined: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Other 11 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 7 Match not determined: 4</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown 89 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Match not determined: 89</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid 516 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 466 Did not match: 36 Match not determined: 14</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Polysubstance 4 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 4</p>	

Total

1,241 Samples Tested



Matched: 1,015
Did not match: 114
Match not determined: 112

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

Depressant may include:
benzodiazepines, etizolam,
GHB, hypnotics

Opioid may include:
"down," heroin, fentanyl,
pharmaceutical opioids

Polysubstance includes:
cross-category mixtures

Psychedelic may include:
MDMA and related,
2C-family, tryptamines,
ketamine, LSD

Stimulant may include:
methamphetamine,
"speed," cocaine and crack
cocaine, cathinones

Unknown includes:
samples where the individual
was unable to identify an
expected substance - this
includes found samples.

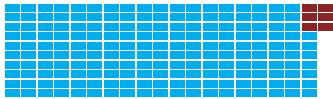
Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl

193 Samples Tested



Matched: 187
Did not match: 6

EXPECTED DRUG:

Heroin

35 Samples Tested



Matched: 21
Did not match: 14

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl and Heroin

3 Samples Tested

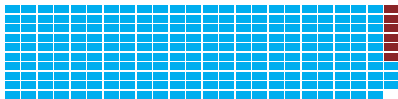


Matched: 1
Did not match: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

243 Samples Tested



Matched: 238
Did not match: 5

EXPECTED DRUG:

Pharmaceutical

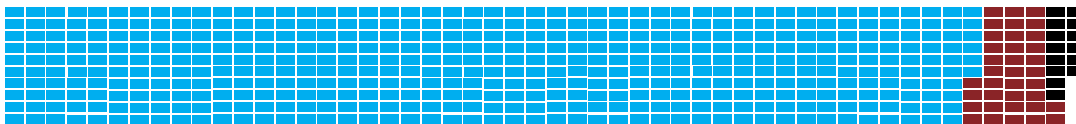
42 Samples Tested



Matched: 19
Did not match: 9
Match not determined: 14

Total

516 Samples Tested



Matched: 466
Did not match: 36
Match not determined: 14

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.

Data represented here are collected from our partner sites across the province. Drug samples are tested using the Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometer in combination with fentanyl test strips and benzodiazepine test strips.

There is 5% fentanyl detection limit on the FTIR spectrometer (McCrae, 2019), and a drug check on any given sample consists of both the FTIR and BTNX fentanyl immunoassay test strip testing done in combination. When applicable, BTNX benzodiazepine immunoassay test strips are also used.

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners:

