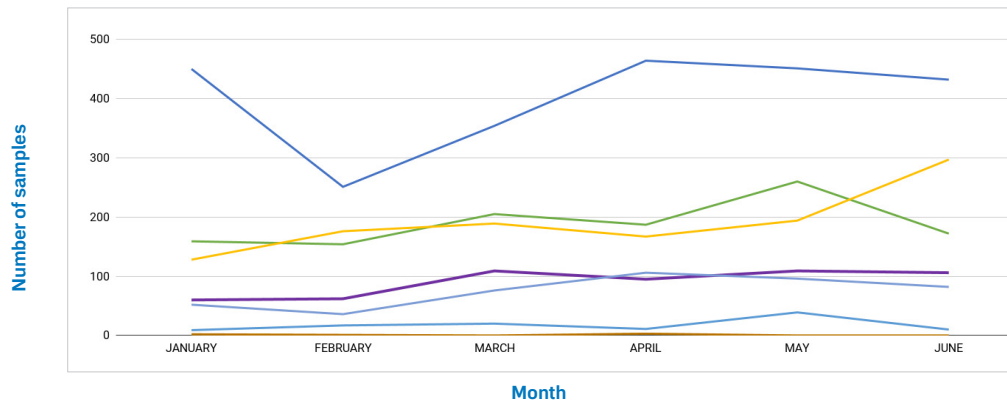


## Key Findings

- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines (13%) has fallen after remaining consistent for the past several months. 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.
- 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.
- Carfentanil is increasingly being detected by point-of-care and confirmatory drug checking in Vancouver Coastal Health. 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.

## Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



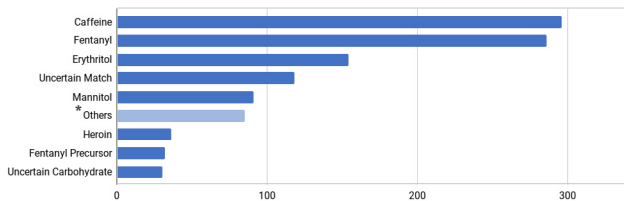
Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	432
Stimulant	172
Depressant	106
Psychedelic	297
Polysubstance	10
Other	0
Unknown	82

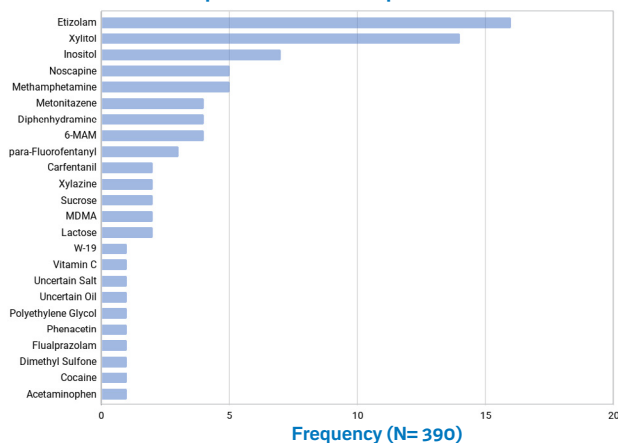
**TOTAL: 1099**

## Components found in drug samples in June

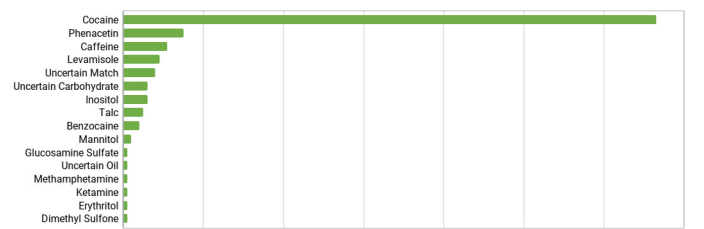
### Components in opioids



### \* Other components found in opioids

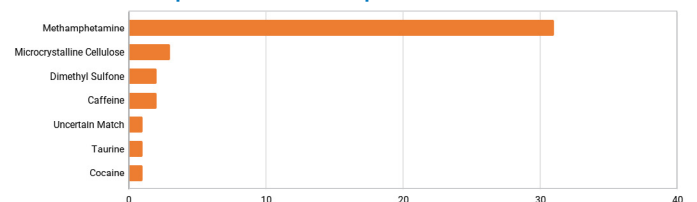


### Components in cocaine



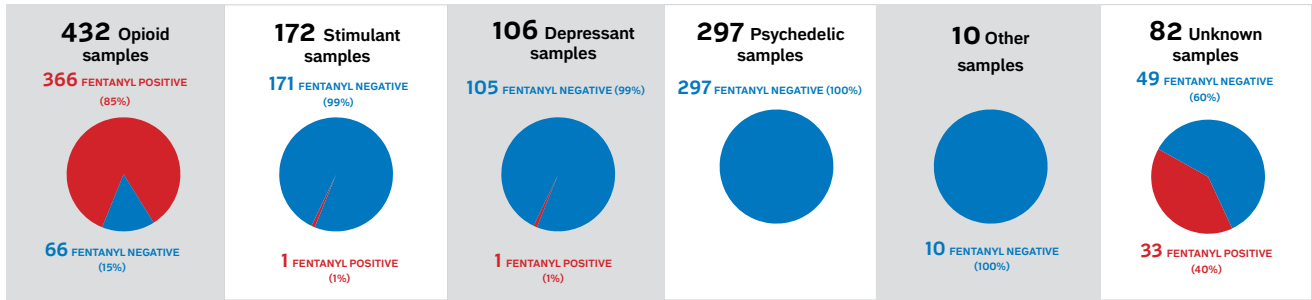
Frequency (N=136)

### Components in methamphetamine



Frequency (N=31)

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

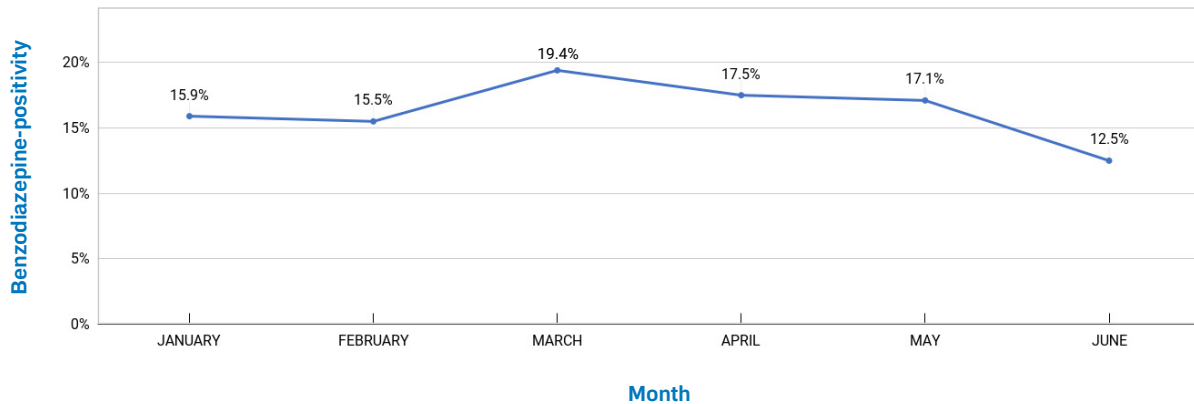


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts for Vancouver Coastal Health this month					

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

## Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the past 6 months



During the month of June, **12.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in the Vancouver Coastal Health region (**54 samples of 432 checked**).

Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

## Number of drugs checks and hours at each site

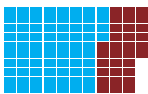
Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested	984
Insite	1
Overdose Prevention Society OPS	76
Molson OPS	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>1099</b>

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

### EXPECTED DRUG: Depressant

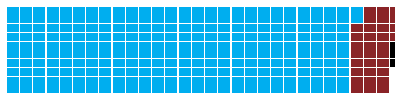
106 Samples Tested



Matched: 73  
Did not match: 32

### EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic

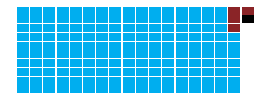
297 Samples Tested



Matched: 262  
Did not match: 32  
Match not determined: 3

### EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant

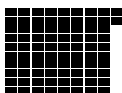
172 Samples Tested



Matched: 167  
Did not match: 4  
Match not determined: 1

### EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown

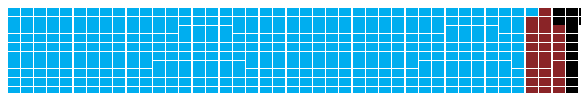
82 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 82

### EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid

432 Samples Tested



Matched: 391  
Did not match: 27  
Match not determined: 14

### EXPECTED DRUG: Other

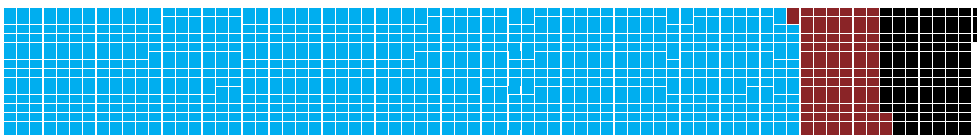
10 Sample Tested



Matched: 6  
Match not determined: 4

### Total

1099 Samples Tested



Matched: 899  
Did not match: 95  
Match not determined: 105

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

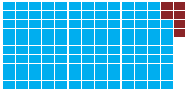


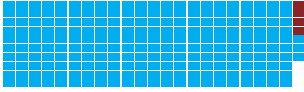

**Psychedelic may include:**  
MDMA and related,  
2C-family, tryptamines,  
ketamine, LSD

**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.

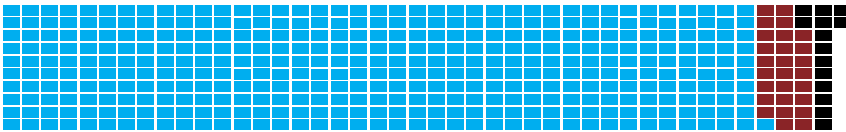
## Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Fentanyl</b> 134 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 128 Did not match: 6</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Heroin</b> 28 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 20 Did not match: 8</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Pharmaceutical</b> 42 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 19 Did not match: 9 Match not determined: 14</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Down</b> 227 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 223 Did not match: 4</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Fentanyl and Heroin</b> 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>	

### Total

432 Samples Tested



Matched: 391  
Did not match: 27  
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 Vancouver Coastal Health. Drug samples are tested using the Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometer in combination with fentanyl test strips and benzodiazepine test strips.

There is a 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 test strip checking done in combination. When applicable, BTNX benzodiazepine test strips are also used.

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners:

