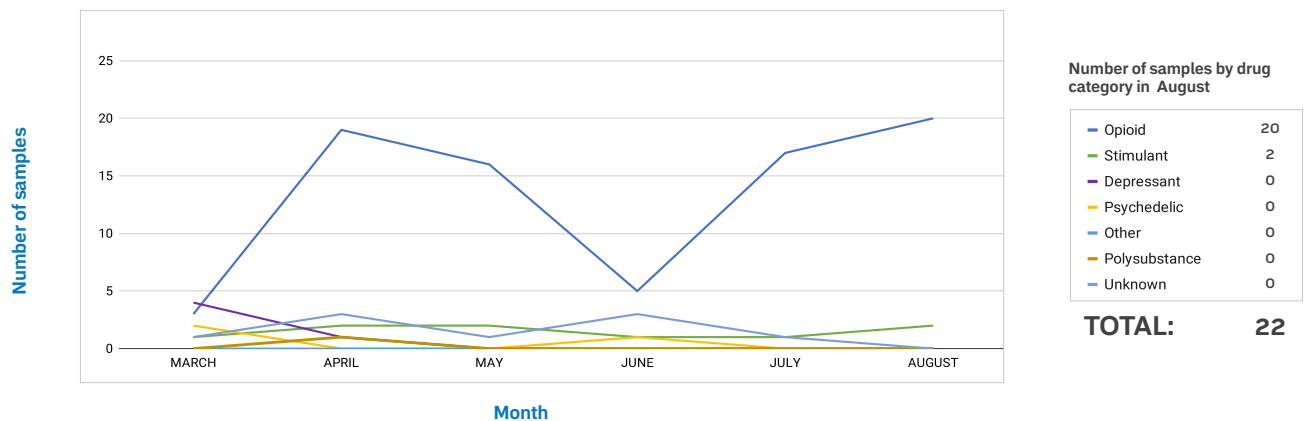


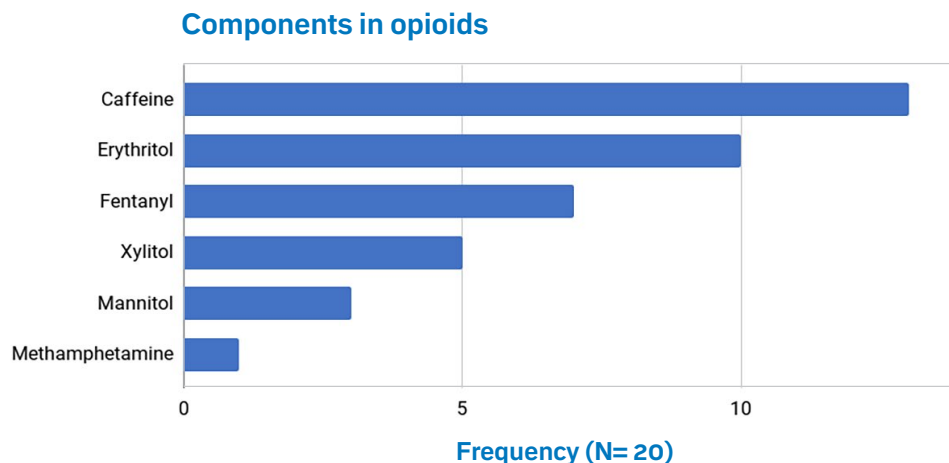
Key Findings

- 70% of opioid samples (14 of 20) tested positive for benzodiazepines. While this is a significant increase from last month, trends may be hard to infer due to the small number of samples. 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.
- Carfentanil is increasingly being detected by point-of-care and confirmatory drug checking in Fraser Health. When carfentanil is detected, fentanyl is detected alongside it over half of the time. It is recommended to be cautious even when fentanyl is expected in a sample, as there may also be carfentanil in the dose as well.
- SafePoint is currently operating a drop-off drug checking service. Samples can be dropped-off during operating hours (7am–1am) and results are available after Tuesday morning each week.

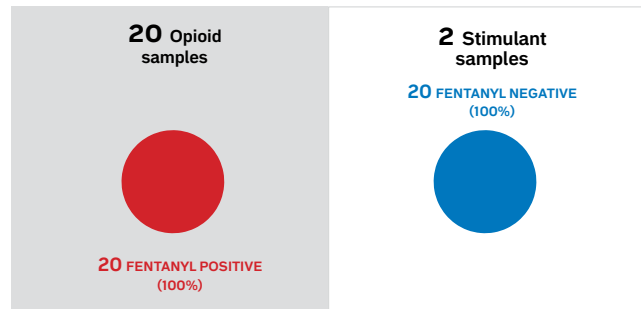
Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Components found in drug samples in August



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

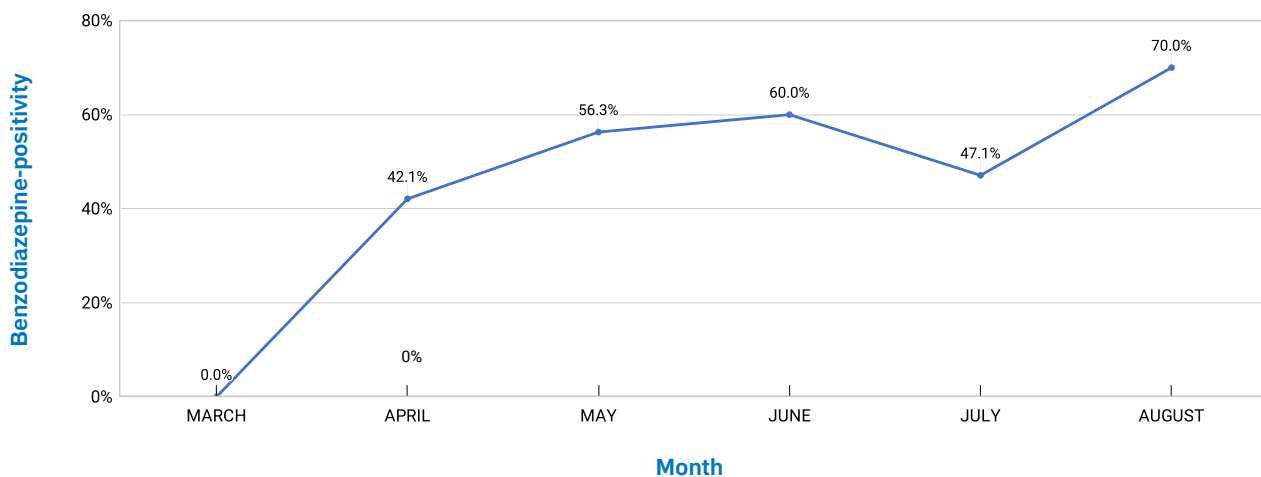


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts from Fraser Health partners this month					

For information about current substances in the Fraser Health region: overdose@fraserhealth.ca

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



During the month of August, **70.0%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**14 samples of 20 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 at each site

Location	# of drug checks	Hours
SafePoint (Surrey)	22	SafePoint is currently accepting samples for checking during operating hours. A technician checks samples every Tuesday morning and results are available after 12PM. For details visit https://drugcheckingbc.ca/drug-checking-sites/fraser-health/

of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Opioid

20 Samples Tested



Matched: 20

EXPECTED DRUG:

Stimulant

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

Total

22 Samples Tested



Matched: 22

Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

1 Samples Tested



Matched: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl

19 Samples Tested



Matched: 19

Total

20 Samples Tested



Matched: 20

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.

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: