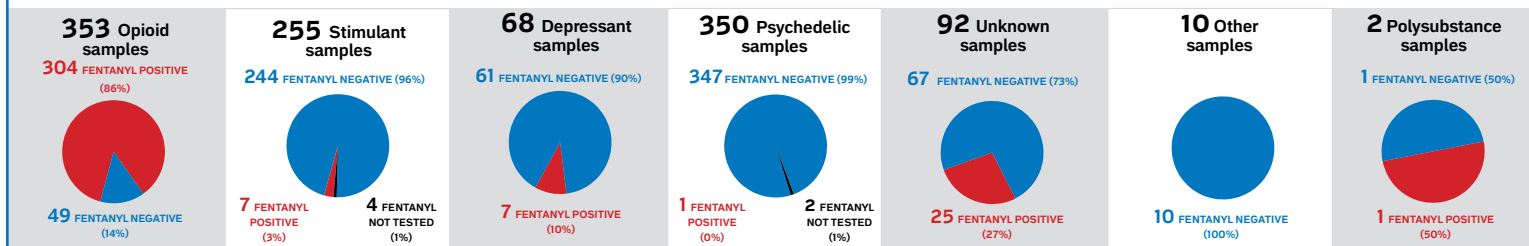




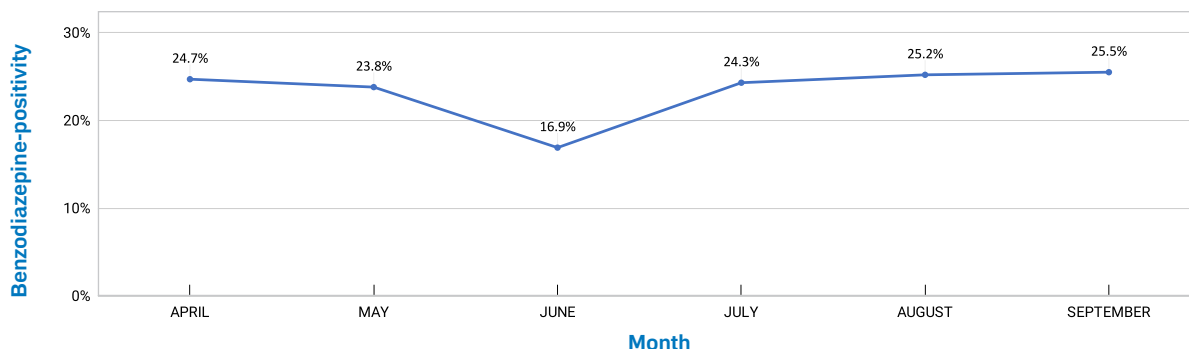
## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
September 23, 2021 Kamloops & Merritt	Down (unknown opioid)	Caffeine, Xylitol, Fentanyl, Possible synthetic cannabinoid	Positive	Negative	Merritt	Although this sample was not confirmed by laboratory testing, synthetic cannabinoids are known to cause hallucinations and disorientation if ingested accidentally.
September 13, 2021 Kamloops	Down (Unknown Opioid)	Cocaine base, Phenacetin	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	Combining depressants increases the risk of overdose, and stimulants don't decrease that risk. Phenacetin and cocaine base don't dissolve well in water which could lead to vein damage.
September 13, 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	Alprazolam (XANAX)	Microcrystalline cellulose	Positive	Negative	Vancouver	Fentanyl can cause opioid toxicity especially for opioid-naïve individuals. Combining depressants also increases the risk of overdose.
September 13, 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	Flualprazolam	Flualprazolam, Uncertain match	Positive	Positive	Unknown	Fentanyl can cause opioid toxicity especially for opioid-naïve individuals. Combining depressants also increases the risk of overdose.
September 7, 2021 Get Your Drugs Tested Vancouver	MDMA	Dimethyl sulfone, N-ethylpentylone	Negative	Negative	Vancouver	This synthetic cathinone is associated with health harms including overdose.
September 3, 2021 Overdose Prevention Society Vancouver	Alprazolam (XANAX)	Microcrystalline cellulose	Positive	Positive	Vancouver	Benzodiazepines combined with opioids can cause prolonged sedation and increases the risk of overdose.

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



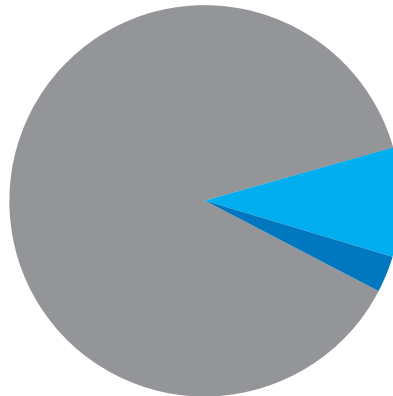
During the month of September, **25.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**90 samples of 353 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.



## Number of samples tested by region:

Total #: 1,131

995: Vancouver Coastal  
Health region (88%)


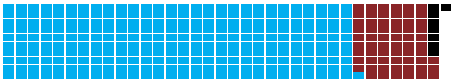
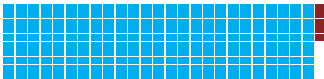

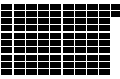
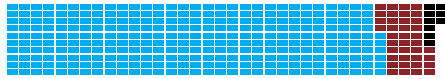



104: Interior Health region (9%)

32: Vancouver Island  
Health Region (3%)

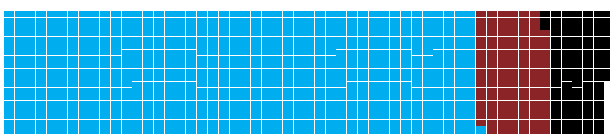
## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Depressant</b> 68 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 39 Did not match: 28 Match not determined: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Psychedelic</b> 351 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 281 Did not match: 62 Match not determined: 8</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Stimulant</b> 255 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 250 Did not match: 5</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Other</b> 10 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 5 Did not match: 1 Match not determined: 4</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Unknown</b> 92 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Match not determined: 92</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Opioid</b> 353 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 306 Did not match: 38 Match not determined: 9</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Polysubstance</b> 2 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1 Did not match: 1</p>	

### Total

1,131 Samples Tested



Matched: 882  
Did not match: 135  
Match not determined: 114

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.

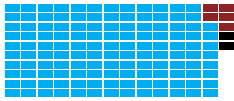
## Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Fentanyl**

135 Samples Tested



Matched: 128

Did not match: 5

Match not determined: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Heroin**

21 Samples Tested



Matched: 7

Did not match: 14

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Fentanyl and Heroin**

2 Samples Tested

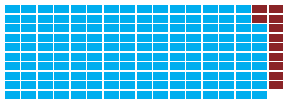


Did not match: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Down**

169 Samples Tested



Matched: 158

Did not match: 11

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Pharmaceutical**

25 Samples Tested



Matched: 13

Did not match: 5

Match not determined: 7

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Other Opioid**

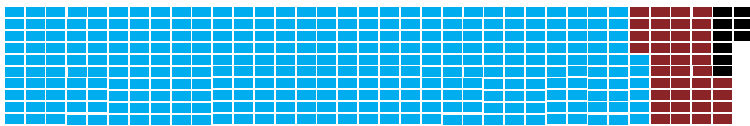
1 Samples Tested



Did not match: 1

### Total

353 Samples Tested



Matched: 306

Did not match: 38

Match not determined: 9

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:



Health Canada

Santé Canada



Canadian Mental Health Association

