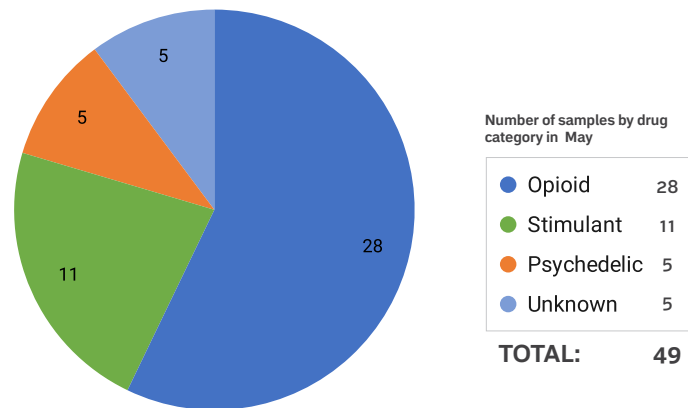


Key Findings

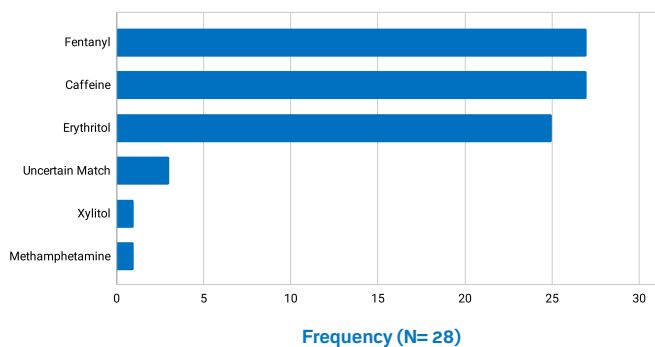
- Drug checking services with FTIR and test strips are now available in the Northern Health Region. POUNDS in Prince George currently offers a service and soon Northern Health in Terrace will launch their own.
- From the 49 samples tested in May, results seem consistent with other areas of the province. Fentanyl was detected in all opioid samples that contained an opioid, and one sample of expected methamphetamine contained fentanyl.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months

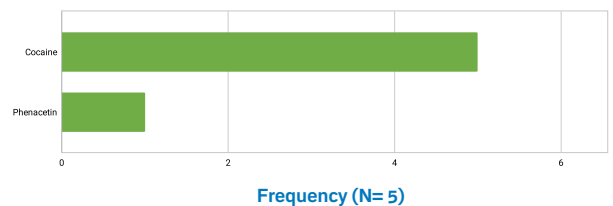


Components found in drug samples in May

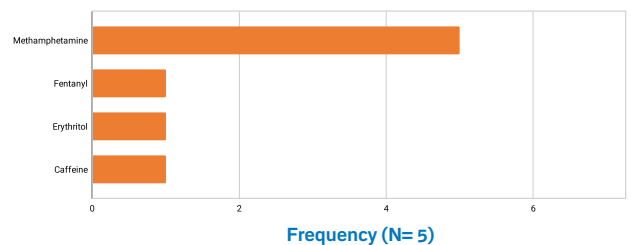
Components in opioids



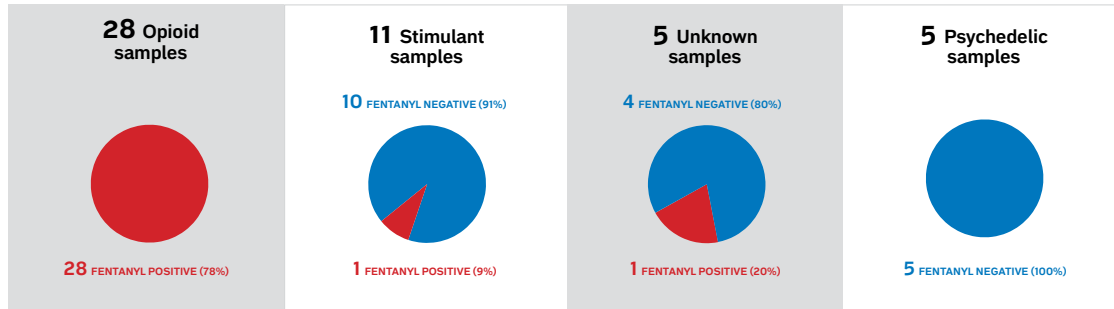
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

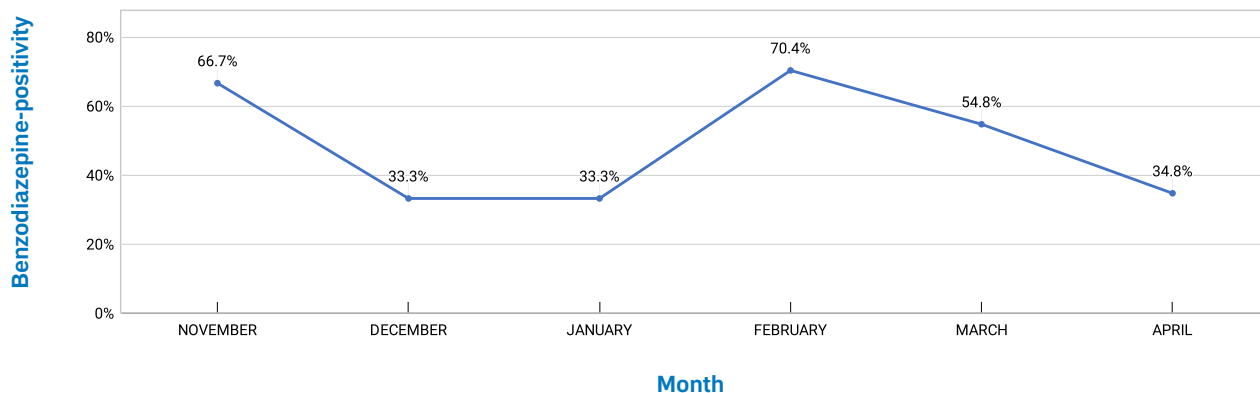


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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

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

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



During the month of May, **34.8%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Northern Health (**16 samples of 46 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
POUNDS (Prince George)	49

of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Opioid

28 Samples Tested



Matched: 28

EXPECTED DRUG:

Stimulant

11 Samples Tested



Matched: 11

EXPECTED DRUG:

Psychedelic

5 Samples Tested



Matched: 5

EXPECTED DRUG:

Unknown

5 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 5

Total

49 Samples Tested



Matched: 44

Match not determined: 5

Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

28 Samples Tested



Matched: 28

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:

