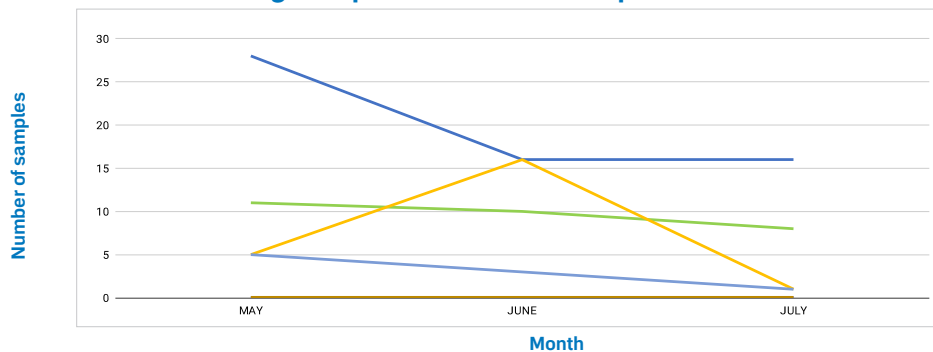


Key Findings

- Drug checking services with FTIR and test strips are now available in the Northern Health Region. Services are available with POUNDS in Prince George and Northern Health in Terrace.
- From the 26 samples tested in July, results seem consistent with other areas of the province. Fentanyl was detected in 13 out of 16 opioid samples checked. No stimulants or psychedelic samples tested positive for fentanyl in July.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 3 months

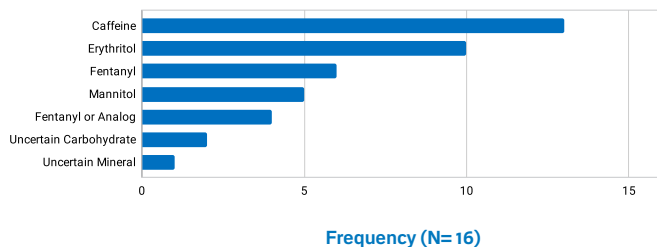


Number of samples by drug category in July

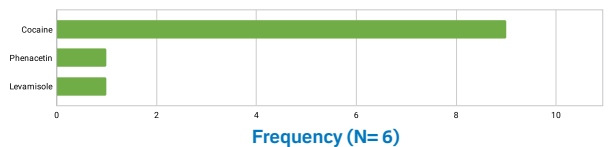
Opioid	16
Stimulant	8
Depressant	0
Psychedelic	1
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	1
TOTAL:	26

Components found in drug samples in July

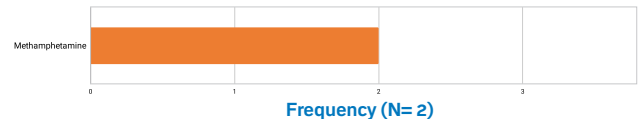
Components in opioids



Components in cocaine

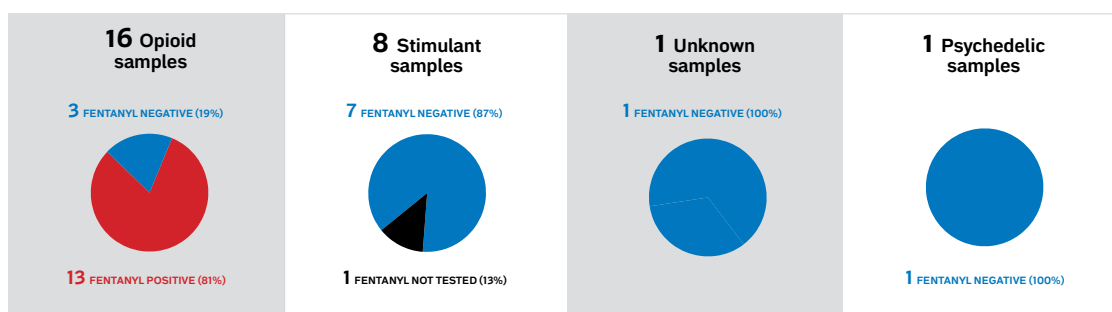


Components in methamphetamine



During the month of July, **37.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Northern Health (**6 samples of 16 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 with fentanyl present



PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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

Number of drugs checks at each site

Location	# of drug checks
POUNDS (Prince George)	20
Northwest ICMT (Terrace)	6

of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Opioid

16 Samples Tested



Matched: 13

Did Not Match: 3

EXPECTED DRUG:

Stimulant

8 Samples Tested



Matched: 8

EXPECTED DRUG:

Psychedelic

1 Samples Tested



Matched: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Unknown

1 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 1

Total

26 Samples Tested



Matched: 22

Did Not Match: 3

Match not determined: 1

Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

16 Samples Tested



Matched: 13

Did Not Match: 3

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

Depressant July include:
benzodiazepines, etizolam,
GHB, hypnotics

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

Polysubstance includes:
cross-category mixtures

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

Stimulant July 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:

