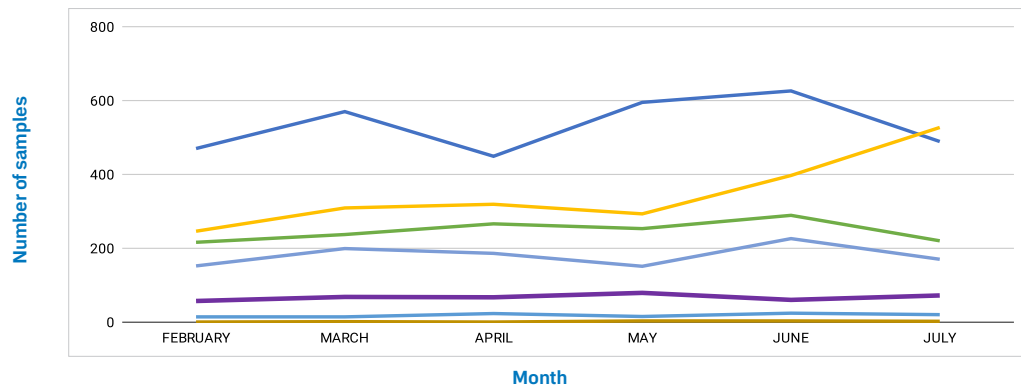


## Key Findings

- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines was 27.6% (135 of 489 samples). The true rate may still be higher than reported here because etizolam, a benzodiazepine-like substance in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies.
- Xylazine, a non-opioid veterinary tranquilizer, is increasingly being detected by point-of-care and confirmatory drug checking in Vancouver Coastal Health. Xylazine trends may be hard to infer due to the small number of samples over a large region, and may be higher than reported here because xylazine may be missed by drug checking technologies.
- One alert was issued about fentanyl containing xylazine and benzodiazepines.
- The number of psychedelics checked increased significantly, which is typical in the summer months. A majority of these drug checks were conducted at Get Your Drugs Tested in Vancouver. MDMA and ketamine are the most commonly tested psychedelics.

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

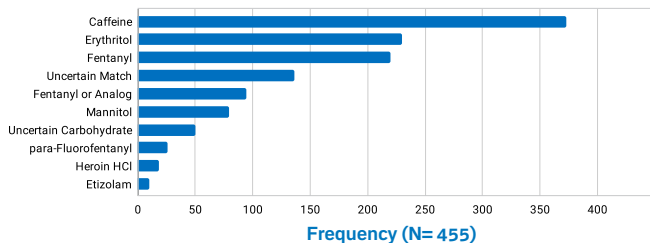


Number of samples by drug category in July

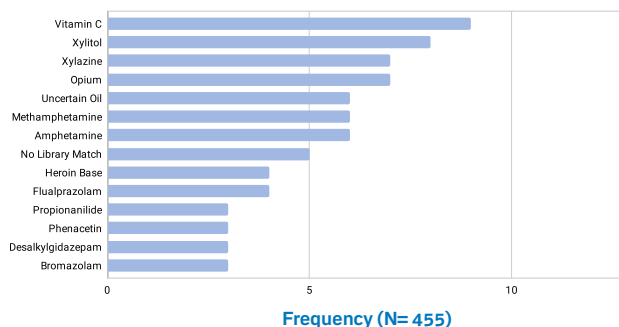
Opioid	489
Stimulant	220
Depressant	72
Psychedelic	527
Other	20
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	170
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,500</b>

## Components found in drug samples in July

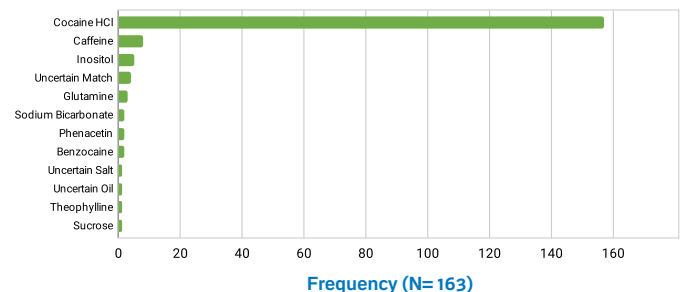
### Components in opioids



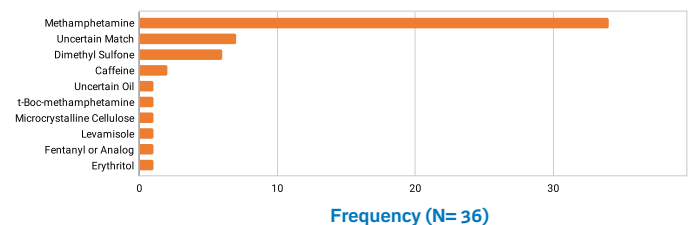
### Other components found in opioids



### Components in cocaine

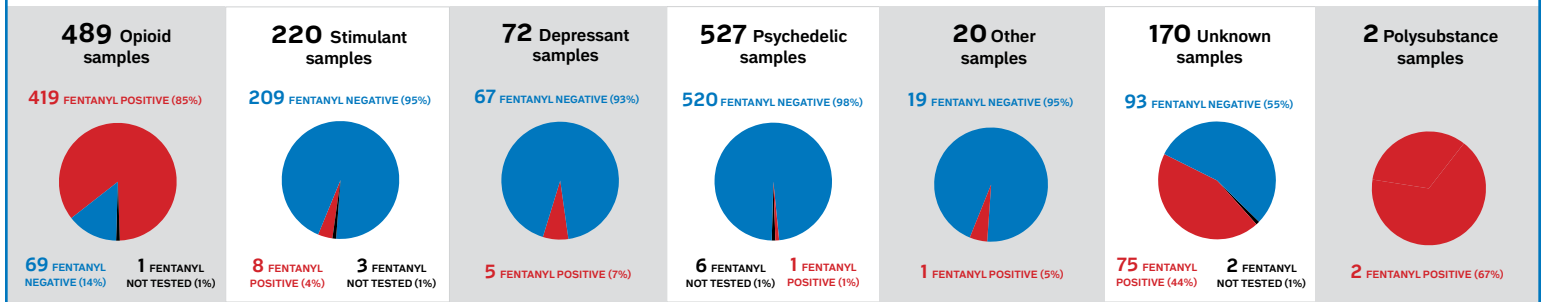


### Components in methamphetamine



There were additional compounds detected a single time each. To save space, they have been omitted from these charts. For the full list of compounds detected, visit our data dashboard at [www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/](http://www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/)

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



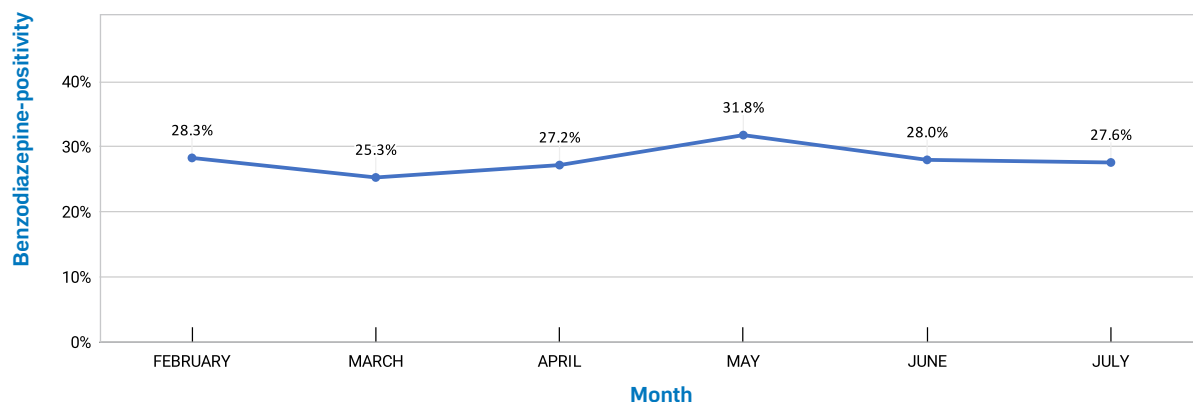
## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
July 6 2022 Vancouver	Heroin	Paraffin Wax, Uncertain Match	Negative	Negative	Vancouver	Sample was sold as heroin, but neither opioids nor other psychoactive substances were detected.
July 22 2022 Vancouver	Fentanyl	Fentanyl, Xylazine	Positive	Positive	Vancouver	Combination of respiratory depressants fentanyl, xylazine, and benzodiazepines poses an increased risk of overdose.
July 26 2022 Vancouver	Cocaine	Fentanyl	Positive	Negative	Vancouver	Risk of overdose is high as sample was sold as cocaine but instead is fentanyl. Sample has been associated with an overdose.

Health authorities and community organizations issue further toxic drug alerts from sources other than drug checking. See their respective websites or social media accounts for more alerts.

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

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



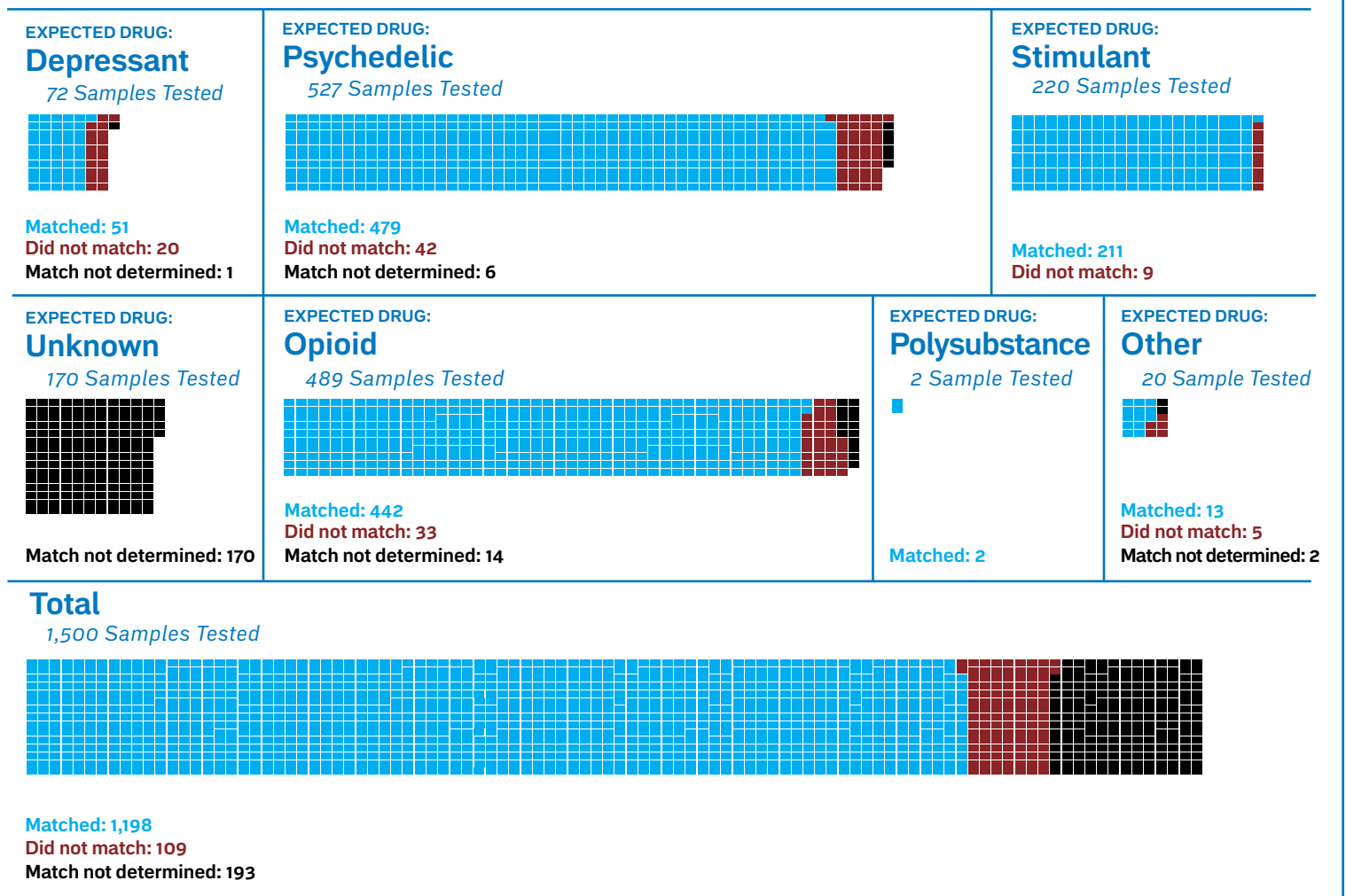
During the month of July, **27.6%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (**135 samples of 489 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. 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	1,310
Insite	163
Overdose Prevention Society	13
Molson OPS	10
HIM	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,625</b>

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking



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

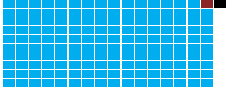





**Psychedelic July include:**  
MDMA and related,  
2C-family, tryptamines,  
ketamine, LSD

**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.

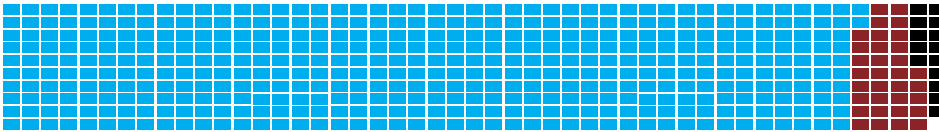
## Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Fentanyl</b> 161 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 159 Did not match: 1 Match not determined: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Heroin</b> 12 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 8 Did not match: 4</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Fentanyl and Heroin</b> 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 2</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Down</b> 273 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 256 Did not match: 17</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Pharmaceutical</b> 34 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 12 Did not match: 9 Match not determined: 13</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Opium</b> 7 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 7</p>

### Total

489 Samples Tested



Matched: 442  
Did not match: 33  
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 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:

