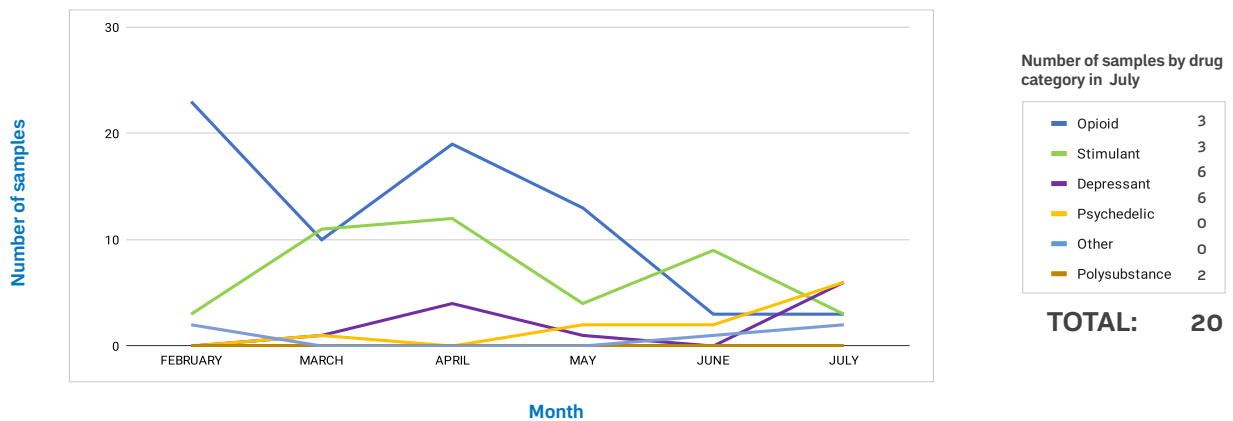


Key Findings

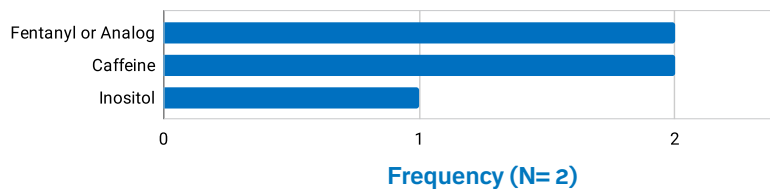
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the region was 33.3% (1 of 3 samples). Trends may be hard to infer due to the small number of samples over a large region. The true rate may be higher than reported here because etizolam, a benzodiazepine-like substance in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies.
- Drug checking services are available Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30am–3:30pm at 437 Wesley Street. Samples can also be dropped off any day of the week and results can be picked up during drug checking hours.
- The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project offers drug checking in Victoria and other communities on the Island. For information about their project and more drug checking sample results, please visit substance.uvic.ca.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months

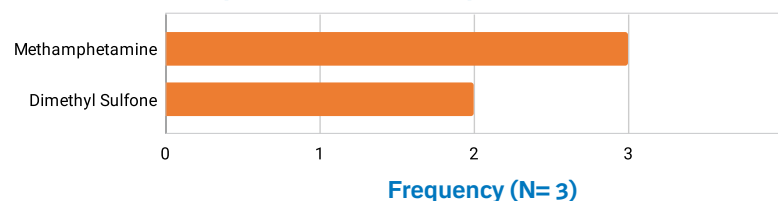


Components found in drug samples in July

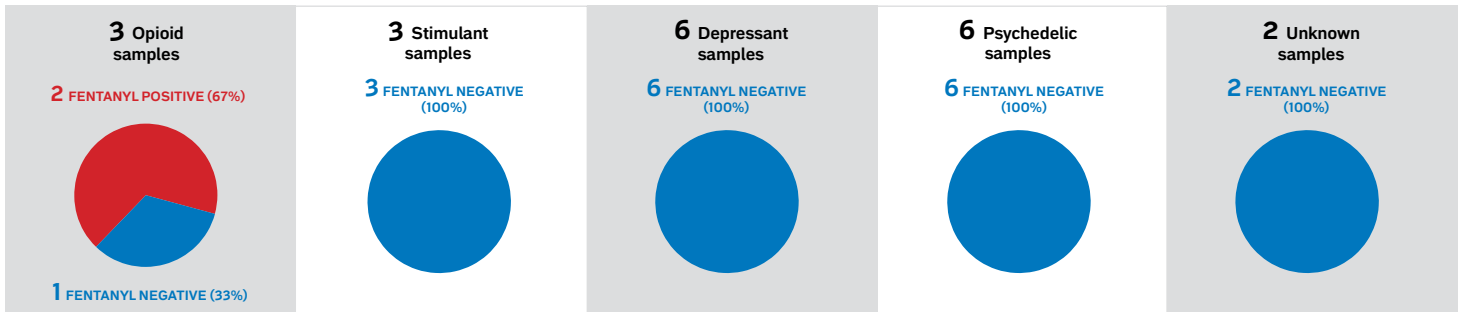
Components in opioids



Components in Methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

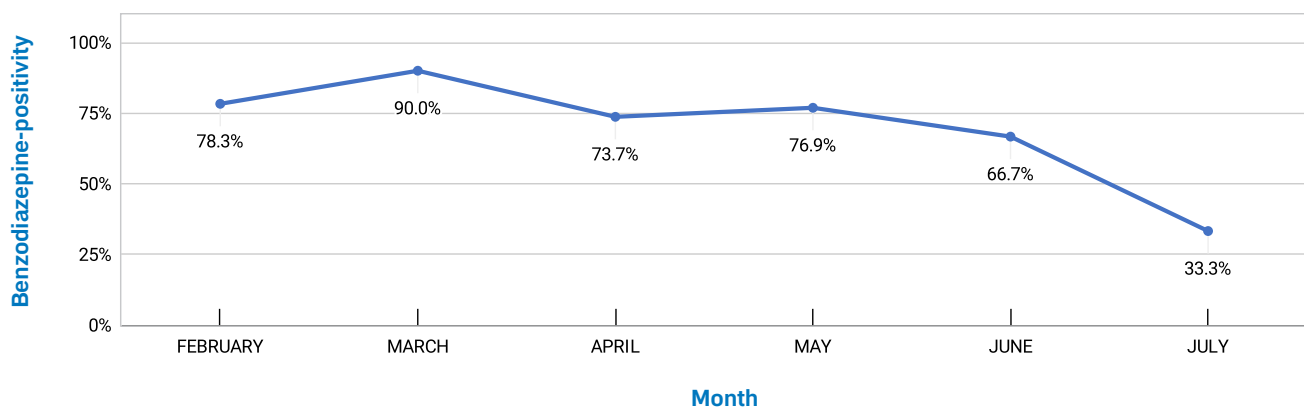


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts from drugs checked at Wesley St Drug Checking service this month					

For information about current substances in the Island Health region: <https://substance.uvic.ca/>

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








During the month of July, **33.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Island Health (**1 samples of 3 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
Wesley Street OPS (CMHA)	20

Number of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:	EXPECTED DRUG:	EXPECTED DRUG:	EXPECTED DRUG:	EXPECTED DRUG:
Opioid 3 Samples Tested 	Stimulant 3 Samples Tested 	Depressant 6 Samples Tested 	Unknown 2 Samples Tested 	Psychedelic 6 Samples Tested 
Matched: 3	Matched: 3	Matched: 6	Match Not Determined: 2	Matched: 6

Total

20 Samples Tested





Matched: 18

Match Not Determined: 2

Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

*using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:	EXPECTED DRUG:
Pharmaceutical 1 Samples Tested 	Down 2 Samples Tested 
Matched: 1	Matched: 2

Total

3 Samples Tested



Matched: 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: