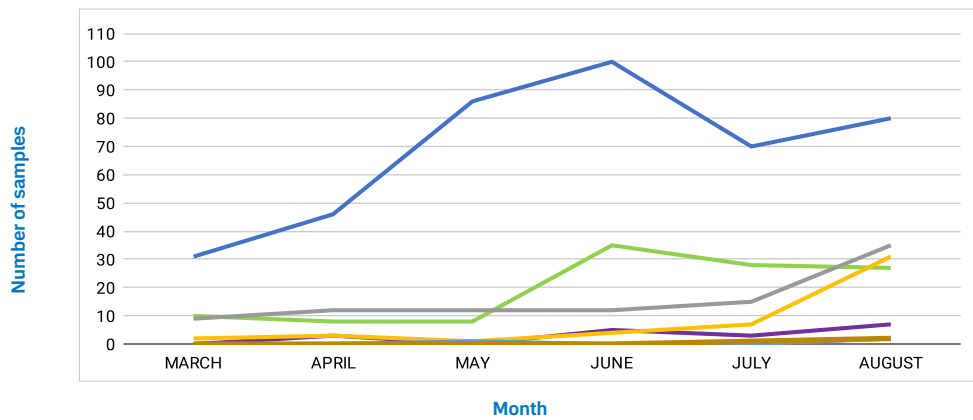


## Key Findings

- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the region increased from 30.0% to 52.5% (42 of 80 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.
- There was an increase in total drug checks in Fraser this month, mostly in the category of psychedelics. This increase reflects drug checking services provided at a festival that occurred in the region, where 54 samples were tested.
- Desalkylgidazepam, a novel benzodiazepine, was the most frequently detected benzodiazepine within the region, and was found in 5 opioid samples in August.
- Drug checking services in Fraser Health are rapidly expanding! Services are now available in Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and White Rock. For updated locations and hours, see the Fraser Health website: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/drugchecking>

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



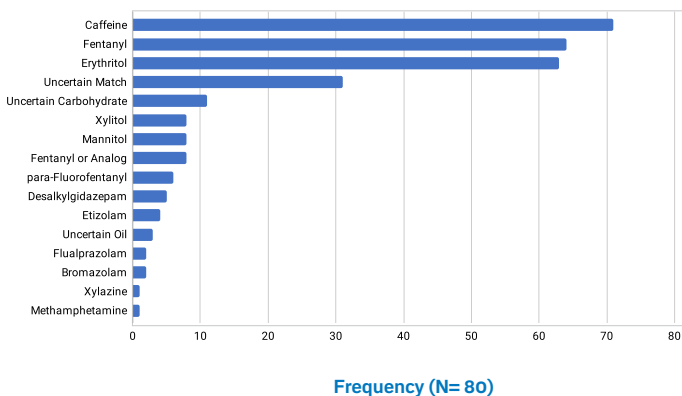
Number of samples by drug category in August

Opioid	80
Stimulant	27
Depressant	7
Psychedelic	31
Other	2
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	35

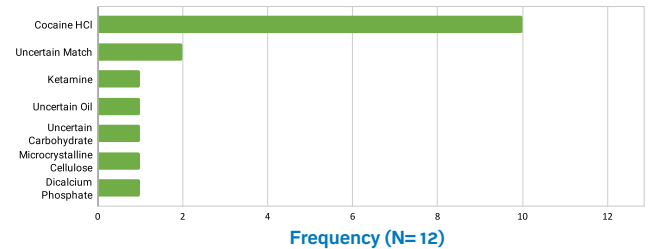
**TOTAL: 184**

## Components found in drug samples in August

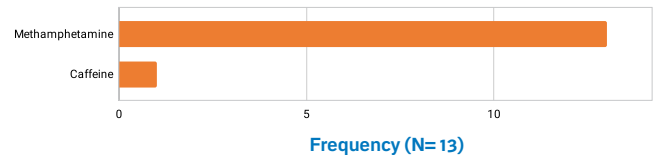
### Components in opioids



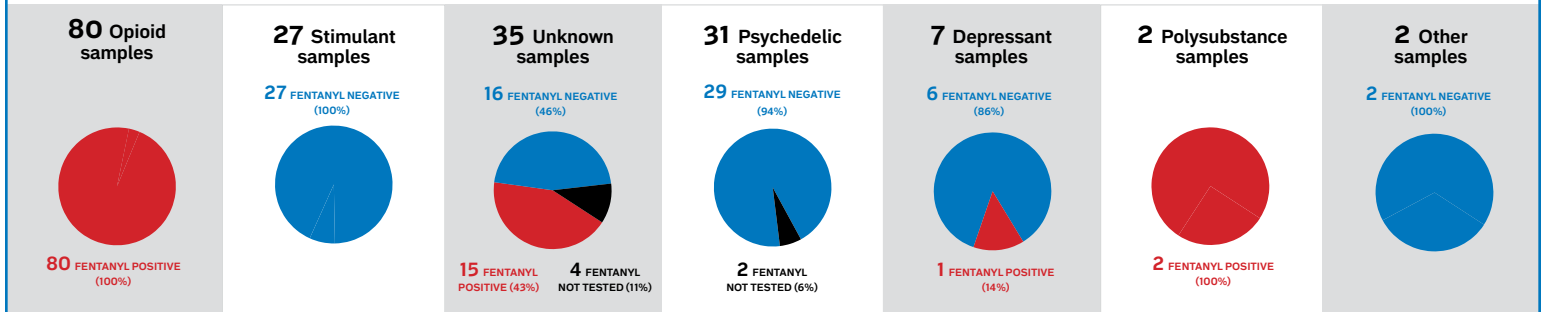
### Components in cocaine



### Components in methamphetamine



## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

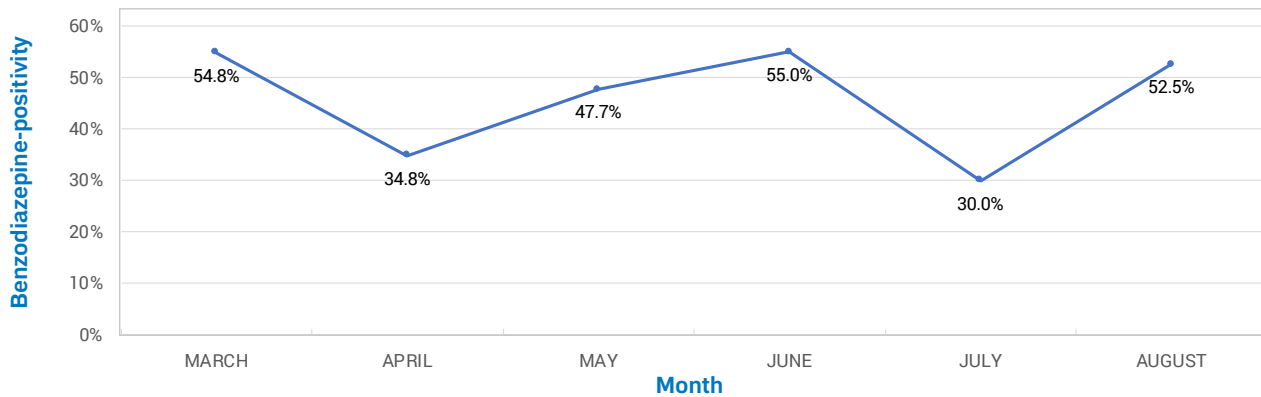


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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

For information about current substances in the Fraser Health region: [overdose@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:overdose@fraserhealth.ca)

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



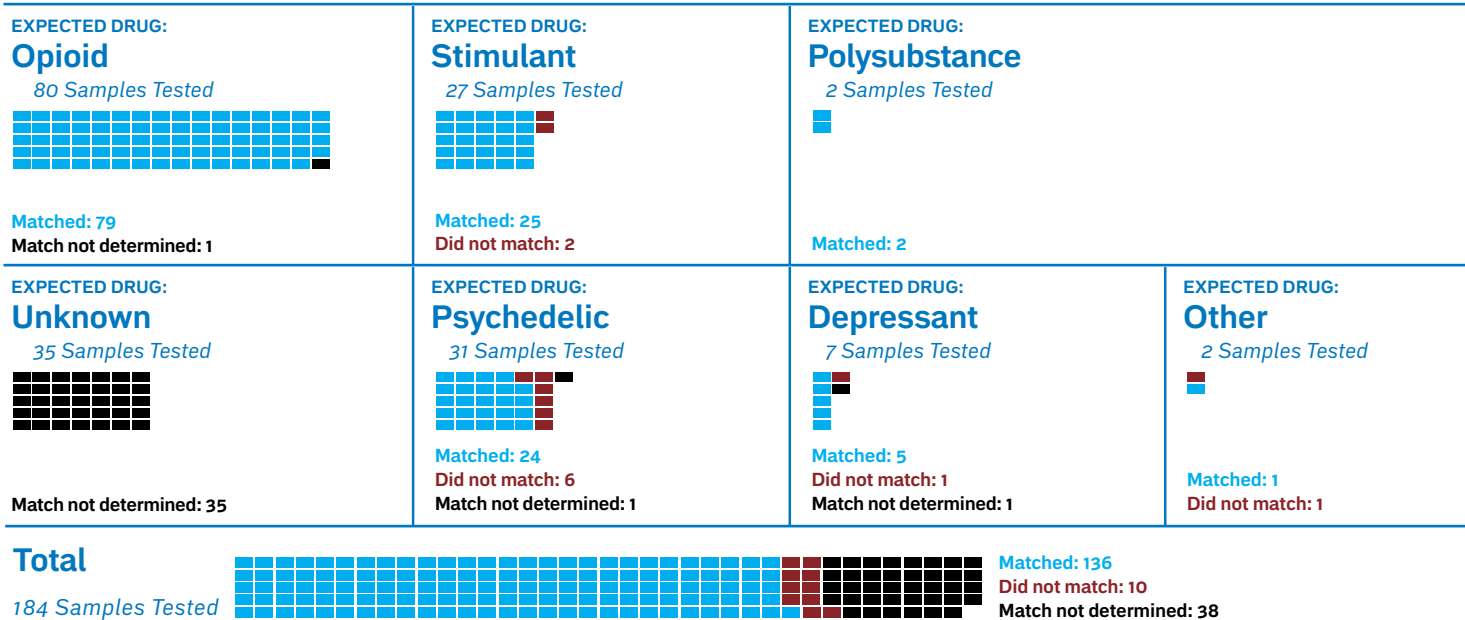
During the month of August, **52.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**42 samples of 80 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are derived from both of these technologies and are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

## Number of drugs checks at each site

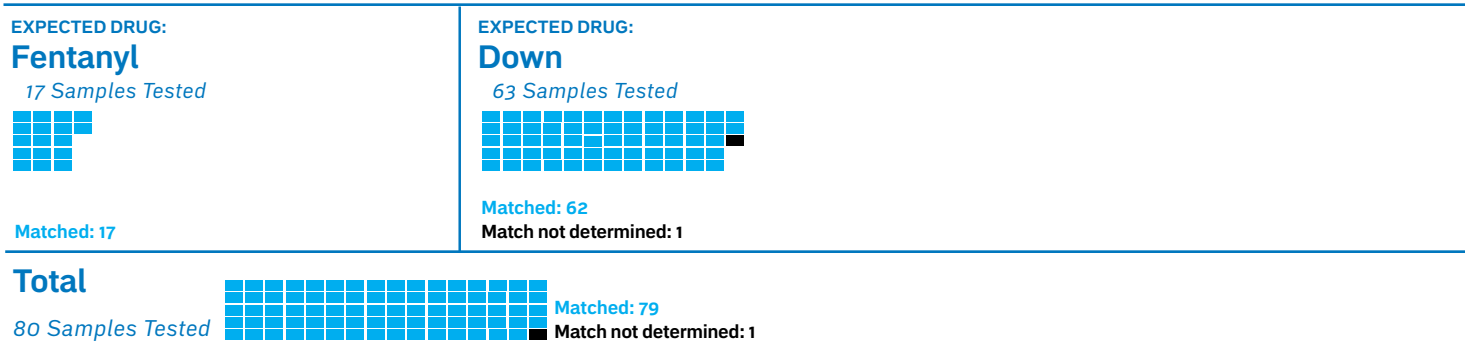
Location	# of drug checks
Purpose Society	29
SafePoint	36
The Hub	28
Public Health Unit Chilliwack	3

Location	# of drug checks
Altitude Music Festival	54
Pacific Community Resources	2
Ruth & Naomi's Mission	8
Mountainside Harm Reduction	24

## # of samples that matched client expectation using FTIR/test strip drug checking



## Number of opioid samples that matched client 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 August include:** benzodiazepines, etizolam, GHB, hypnotics

**Opioid August include:** "down," heroin, fentanyl, pharmaceutical opioids

**Polysubstance includes:** cross-category mixtures

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

**Stimulant August 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:



How you want to be treated.

