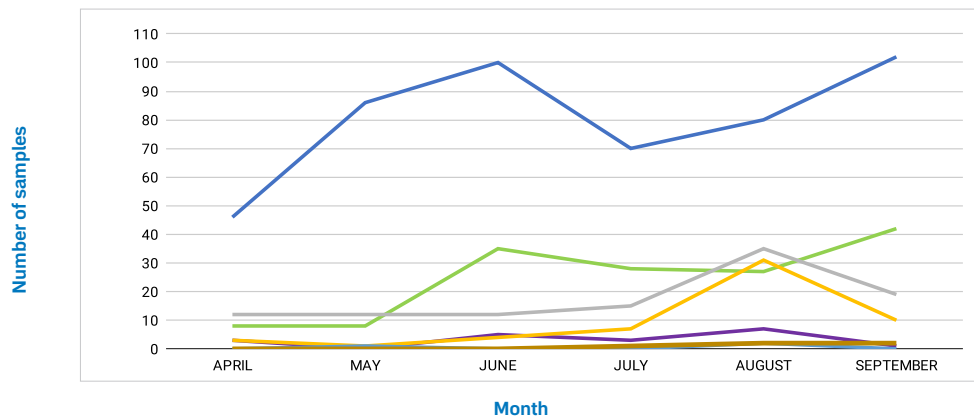


## Key Findings

- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the Fraser Health region increased from 51.4% to 63.7% (65 of 102 samples), the second highest rate observed in the region this year. 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 benzodiazepines, and benzodiazepine-like substances like etizolam, may be missed by drug checking technologies.
- Desalkylgidazepam, a novel benzodiazepine, was the most frequently detected benzodiazepine within the region, found in 5 opioid samples by FTIR in September.
- 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](#).

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



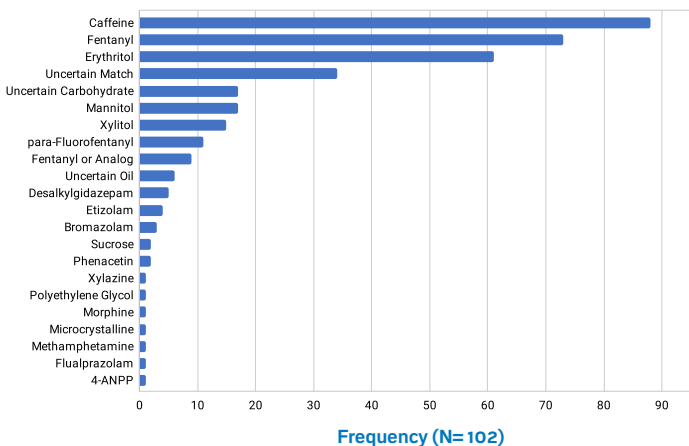
Number of samples by drug category in September

Opioid	102
Stimulant	42
Depressant	1
Psychedelic	10
Other	0
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	19

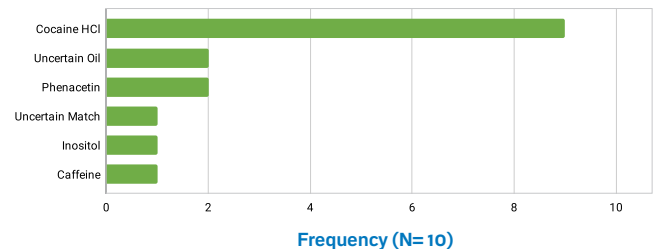
**TOTAL: 176**

## Components found in drug samples in September

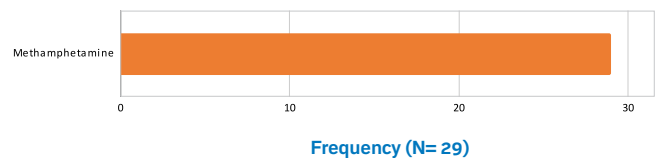
### Components in opioids



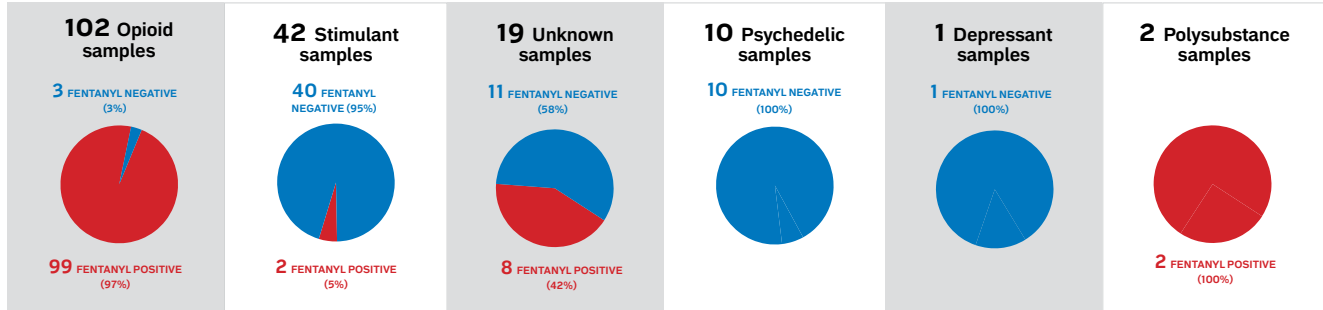
### Components in cocaine



### Components in methamphetamine



## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

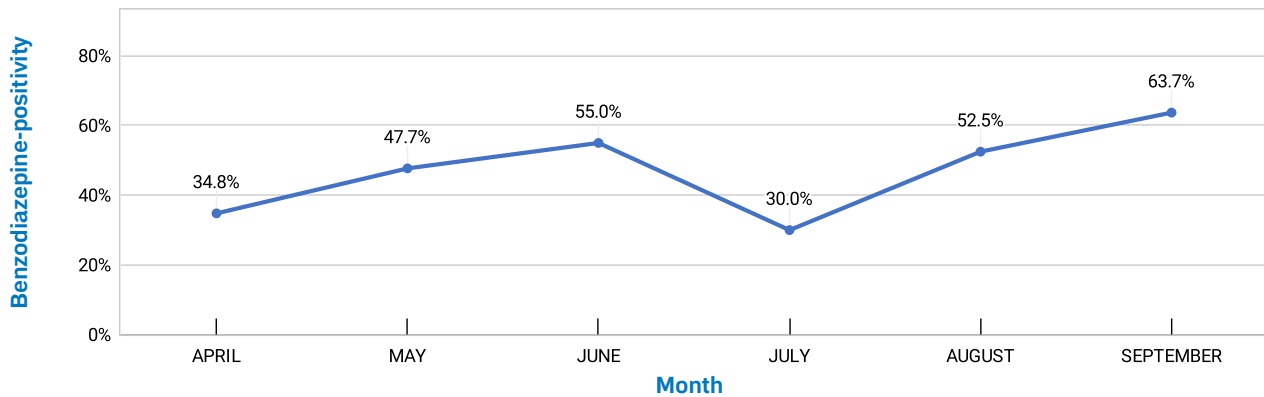


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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 September, **63.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**65 samples of 102 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	44
SafePoint	28
The Hub	33
Abby Drug War Survivors	4

Location	# of drug checks
Diamondhead Motor Inn	15
Pacific Community Resources	5
Ruth & Naomi's Mission	28
Mountainside Harm Reduction	17

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



<p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b> <b>Opioid</b> 102 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 101</b> <b>Did not match: 1</b></p>	<p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b> <b>Stimulant</b> 42 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 39</b> <b>Did not match: 2</b> <b>Match not determined: 1</b></p>	<p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b> <b>Polysubstance</b> 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 2</b></p>	
<p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b> <b>Unknown</b> 19 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Match not determined: 19</b></p>	<p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b> <b>Psychedelic</b> 10 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 8</b> <b>Did not match: 2</b></p>	<p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b> <b>Depressant</b> 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Did not match: 1</b></p>	<p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b> <b>Polysubstance</b> 2 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 2</b></p>

**Total**  
176 Samples Tested



**Matched: 150**  
**Did not match: 6**  
**Match not determined: 20**

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

<p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b> <b>Fentanyl</b> 8 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 8</b></p>	<p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b> <b>Down</b> 94 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 93</b> <b>Did not match: 1</b></p>
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**Total**  
102 Samples Tested



**Matched: 101**  
**Did not match: 1**

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

**Depressant September include:** benzodiazepines, etizolam, GHB, hypnotics

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

**Polysubstance includes:** cross-category mixtures

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

**Stimulant September 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.

