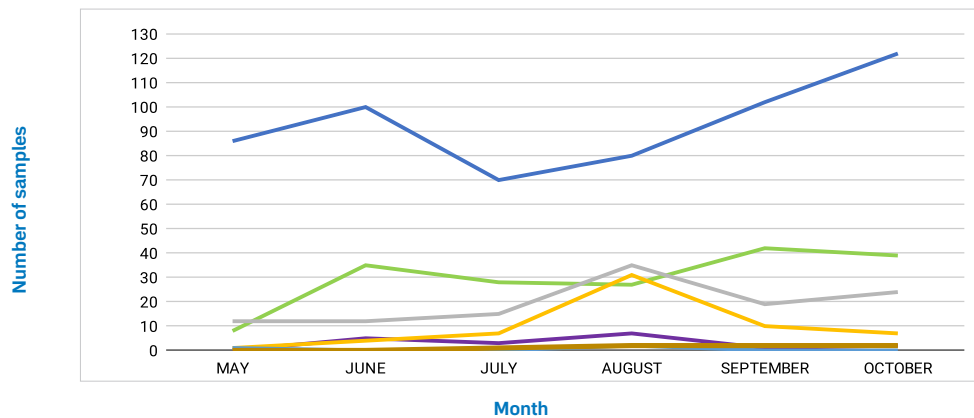


Key Findings

- In October, a total of 196 drug checks were performed across Fraser Health community partners, the most ever observed in one month within the region to date.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased from 63.7% to 53.3% (65 of 122 samples). The true rate may be higher than reported here because benzodiazepines, and benzodiazepine-like substances like etizolam, may be missed by drug checking technologies.
- In October, bromazolam was the most frequent benzodiazepine detected by FTIR (found present in 12 opioid samples), followed by desalkylgizapam (7), and etizolam (3).
- 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



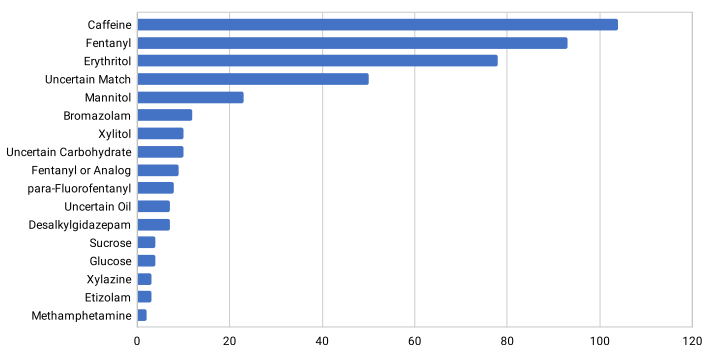
Number of samples by drug category in October

Opioid	122
Stimulant	39
Depressant	2
Psychodelic	7
Other	0
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	24

TOTAL: 196

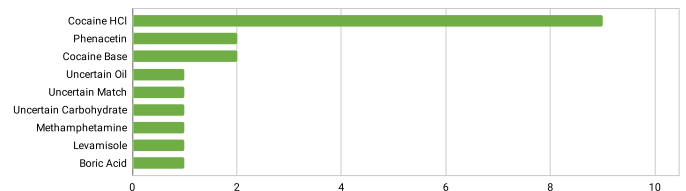
Components found in drug samples in October

Components in opioids



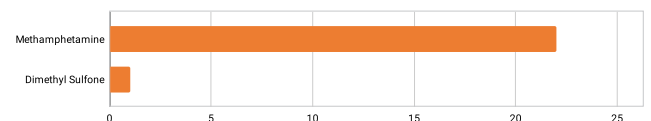
Frequency (N=121)

Components in cocaine



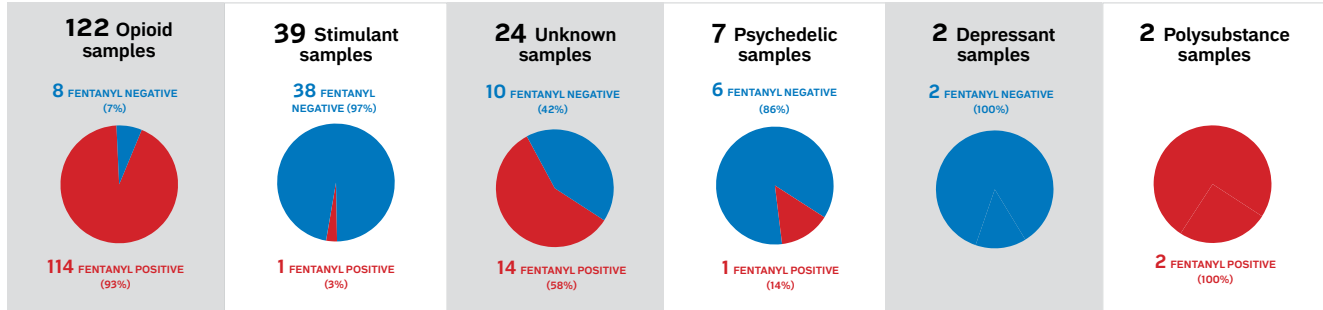
Frequency (N=12)

Components in methamphetamine



Frequency (N=22)

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

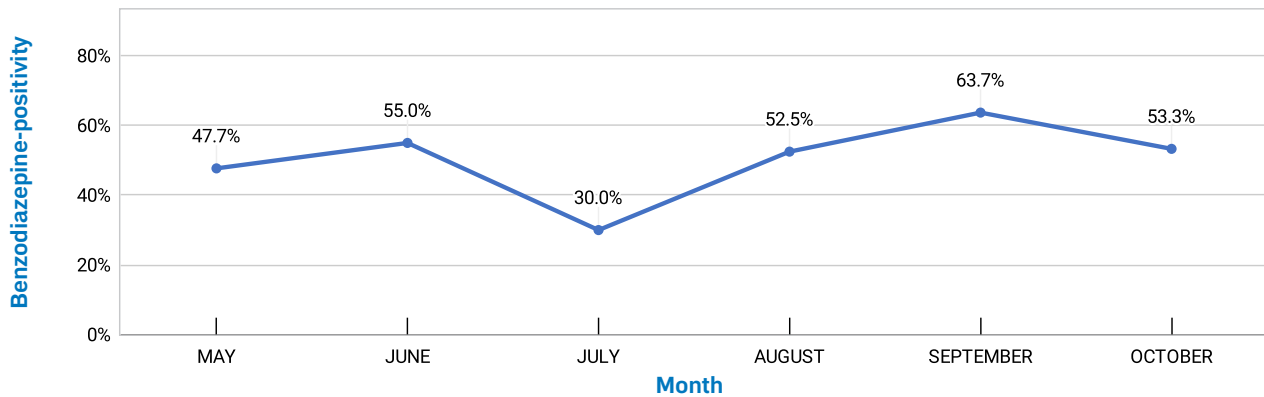


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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

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



During the month of October, **53.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**65 samples of 122 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
Abby Drug War Survivors	8
Diamondhead Motor Inn	5
Fraser Canyon Clinic	16
Public Health Unit Chilliwack	3

Location	# of drug checks
Purpose Society	70
Ruth and Naomi's Mission	16
SafePoint	38
The Haven	18
The Hub	22

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

EXPECTED DRUG:

Opioid

122 Samples Tested



Matched: 114
Did not match: 8

EXPECTED DRUG:

Stimulant

39 Samples Tested



Matched: 38
Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Polysubstance

2 Samples Tested

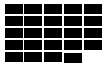


Did not match: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

Unknown

24 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 24

EXPECTED DRUG:

Psychedelic

7 Samples Tested



Matched: 6
Match not determined: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Depressant

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

Total

196 Samples Tested



Matched: 160
Did not match: 11
Match not determined: 25

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

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl

18 Samples Tested



Matched: 17
Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Heroin

1 Samples Tested



Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

102 Samples Tested



Matched: 96
Did not match: 6

EXPECTED DRUG:

Pharmaceutical

1 Samples Tested



Matched: 1

Total

122 Samples Tested



Matched: 114
Did not match: 8

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

Depressant include:
benzodiazepines, etizolam,
GHB, hypnotics

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

Polysubstance includes:
cross-category mixtures

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

Stimulant 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.