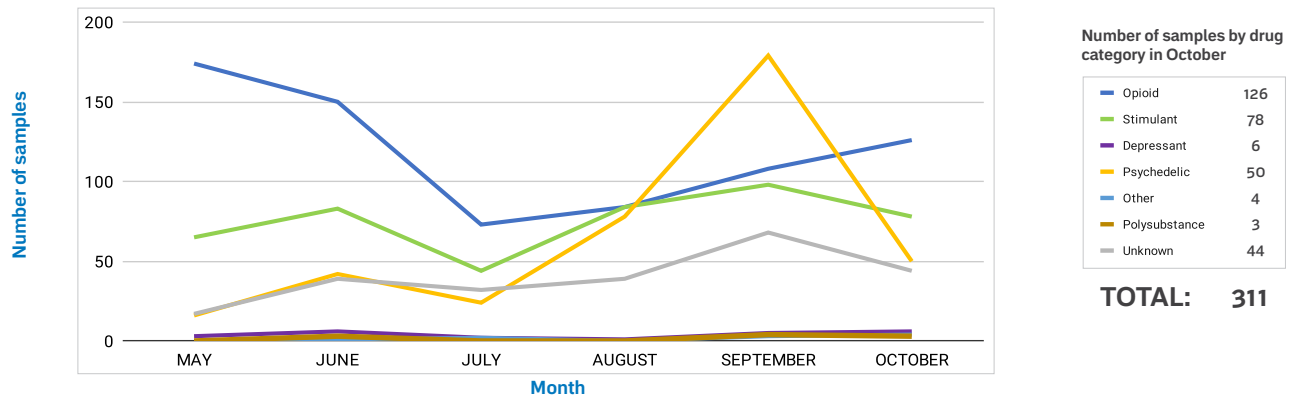


## Key Findings

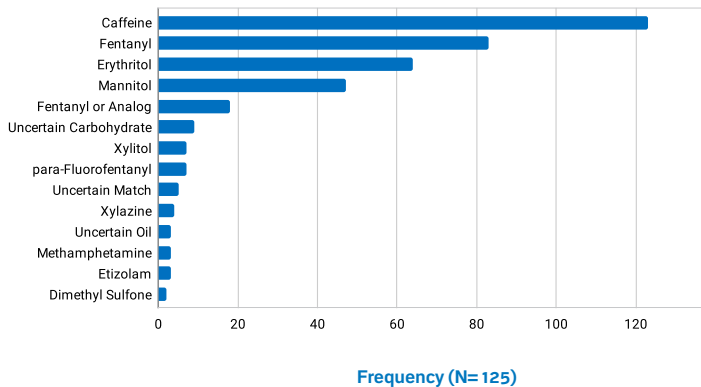
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the region increased from 50.0% to 65.1% in October (82 of 126 samples). Trends may be hard to infer due to the large geographic region, and the true rate may be higher than reported here because benzodiazepines, and benzodiazepine-like substances like etizolam, may be missed by drug checking technologies.
- Etizolam was the most frequent benzodiazepine detected by FTIR, found present in 3 opioid samples. This indicates samples had concentrations of etizolam above 5%, high enough to be detectable by FTIR.
- An increase in the number of opioid samples tested was observed in October, while the number of samples tested in all other drug categories either declined, or remained consistent.
- Drug checking is available in several communities across the Interior Health region. For updated times and locations, visit <https://drugchecking.ca/>

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

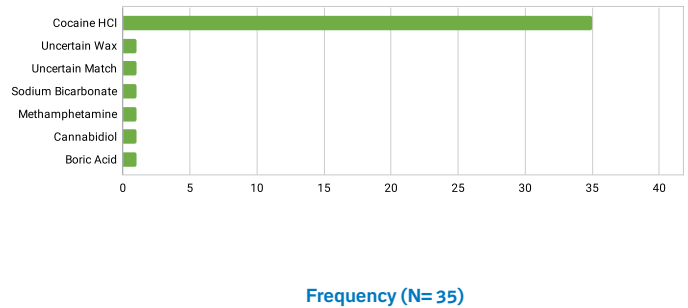


## Components found in drug samples in October

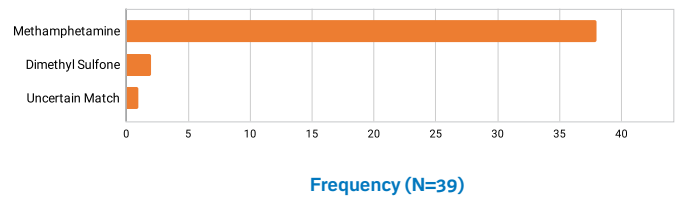
### Components in opioids



### Components in cocaine



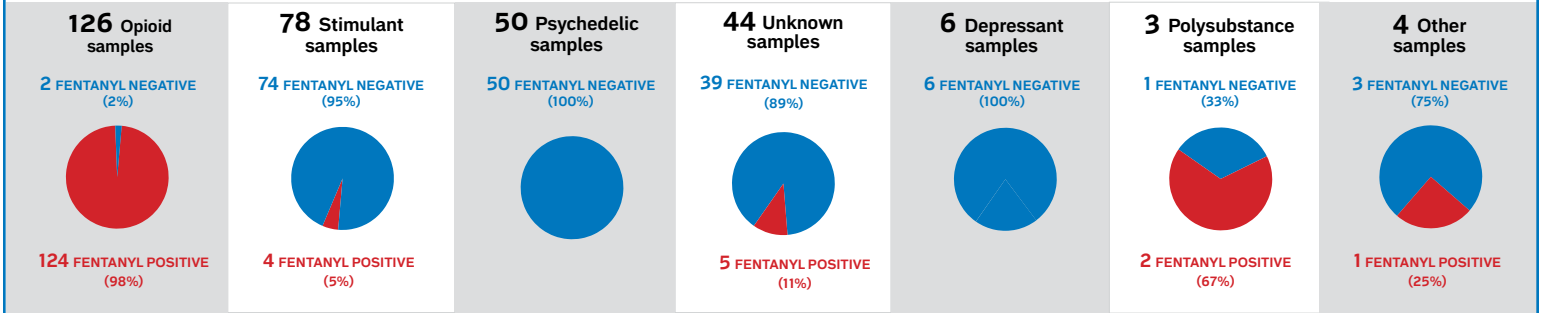
### Components in methamphetamine



October  
2022

# Drug Checking in Interior Health

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

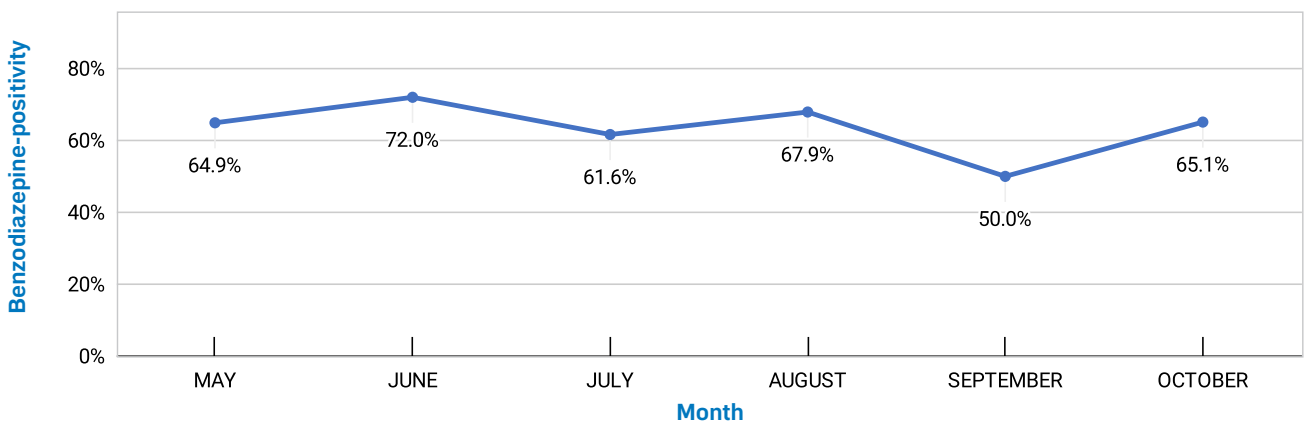


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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

For information about public health alerts in the Interior Health region, please visit:  
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/alerts>

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



During the month of October, **65.1%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**82 samples of 126 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 Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	73
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	14
ANKORS (Nelson)	89
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	24
ASK Wellness (Merritt)	3
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	54
ASK Wellness (Princeton)	2
UBCO HaRT (Kelowna)	31
UBCO HaRT (Vernon)	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>311</b>

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Psychedelic**

50 Samples Tested



Matched: 44

Did not match: 5

Match not determined: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Stimulant**

78 Samples Tested



Matched: 77

Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Depressant**

6 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

Did not match: 4

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Opioid**

126 Samples Tested



Matched: 123

Did not match: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Other**

4 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

Did not match: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Polysubstance**

3 Samples Tested



Matched: 3

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Unknown**

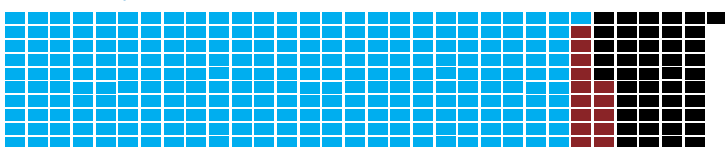
44 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 44

### Total

311 Samples Tested



Matched: 251

Did not match: 14

Match not determined: 46

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.

## Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Fentanyl**

60 Samples Tested



Matched: 60

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Pharmaceutical**

1 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Down**

64 Samples Tested



Matched: 63

Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Heroin**

1 Samples Tested



Did not match: 1

### Total

126 Samples Tested



Matched: 123

Did not match: 2

Match not determined: 1

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: