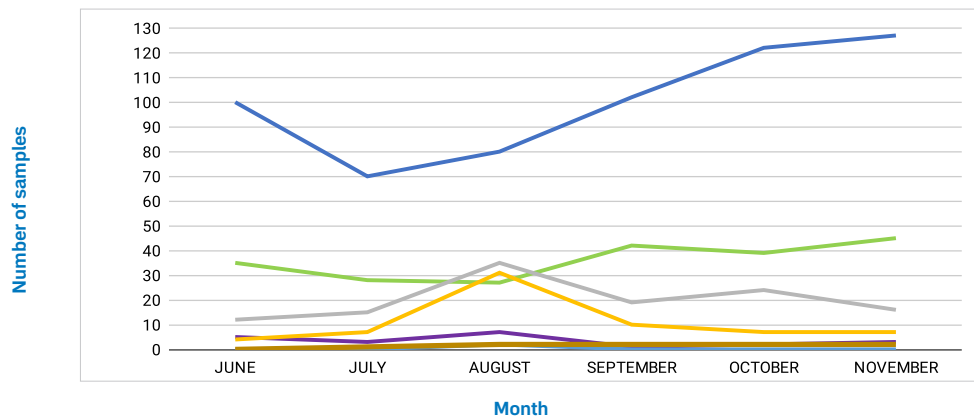


Key Findings

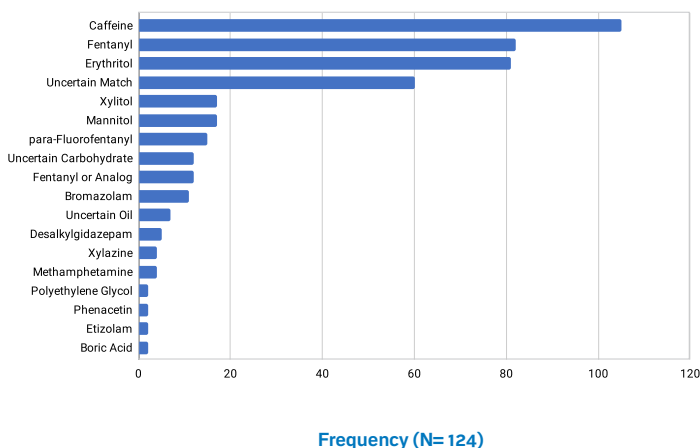
- In November, a total of 200 drug checks were performed across Fraser Health community partners, the most ever observed in one month within the region to date.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased from 53.3% to 48.8% in November (62 of 127 samples). The true rate may be higher than reported here because benzodiazepines, and benzodiazepine-like substances like etizolam, may be missed by drug checking technologies.
- Bromazolam was the most frequent benzodiazepine detected by FTIR, found present in 11 opioid samples.
- 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

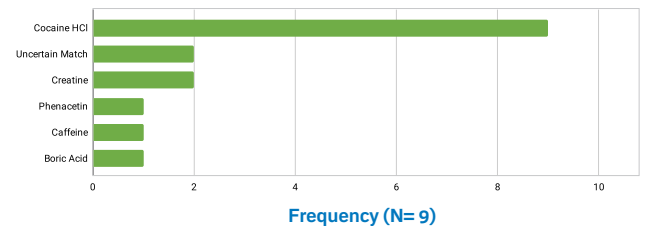


Components found in drug samples in November

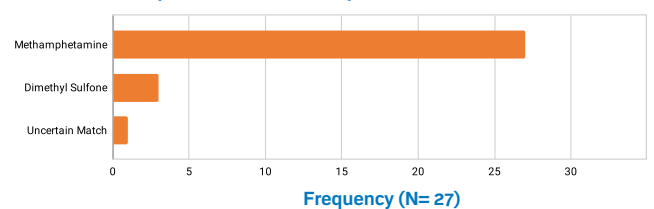
Components in opioids



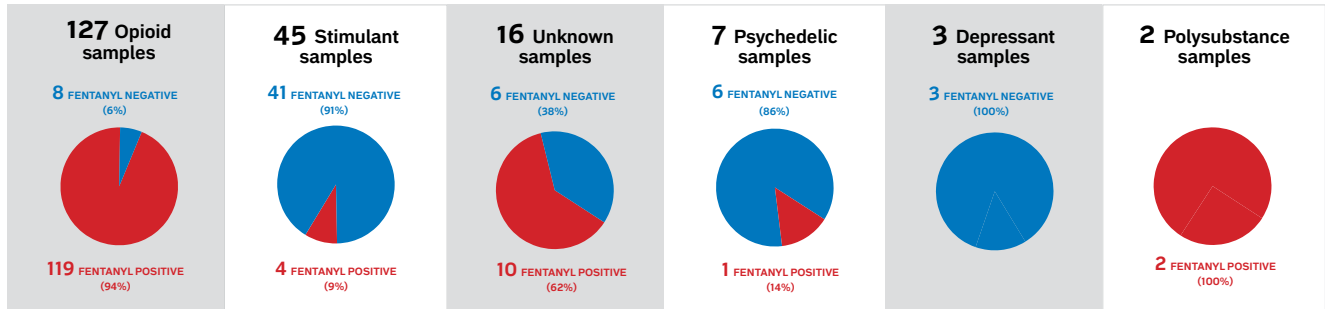
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

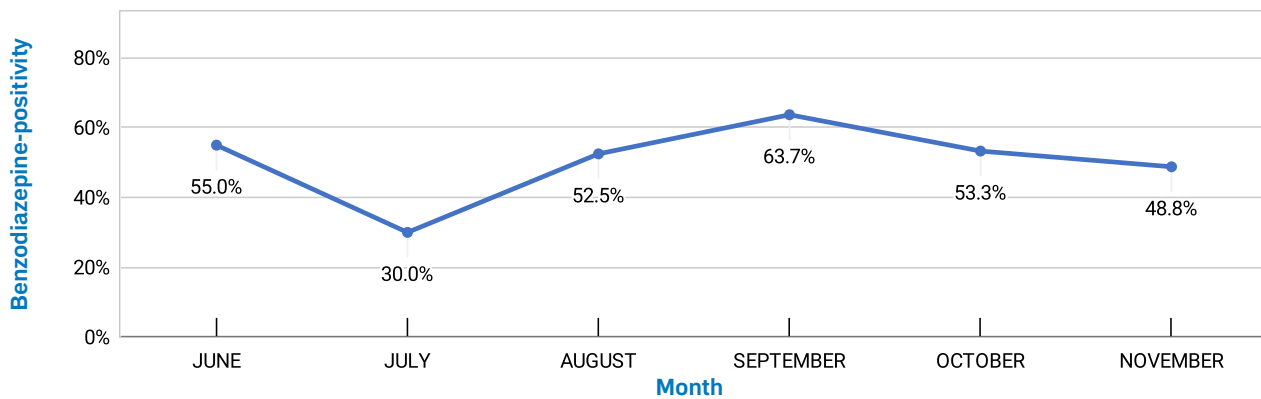


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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

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



During the month of November, **48.8%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**62 samples of 127 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
SafePoint (Surrey)	32
Purpose Society (Coquitlam)	4
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	52
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	24

Location	# of drug checks
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	52
Mountainside (Hope)	10
Mountainside (Mission)	26

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

EXPECTED DRUG:

Opioid

127 Samples Tested



Matched: 121
Did not match: 4
Match not determined: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

Stimulant

45 Samples Tested



Matched: 44
Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Polysubstance

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

Unknown

16 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 16

EXPECTED DRUG:

Psychedelic

7 Samples Tested



Matched: 6
Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Depressant

3 Samples Tested



Matched: 1
Did not match: 2

Total

200 Samples Tested



Matched: 174
Did not match: 8
Match not determined: 18

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

EXPECTED DRUG:

Fentanyl

16 Samples Tested



Matched: 15
Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

Down

108 Samples Tested



Matched: 105
Did not match: 3

EXPECTED DRUG:

Pharmaceutical

3 Samples Tested



Matched: 1
Match not determined: 2

Total

127 Samples Tested



Matched: 121
Did not match: 4
Match not determined: 2

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:

