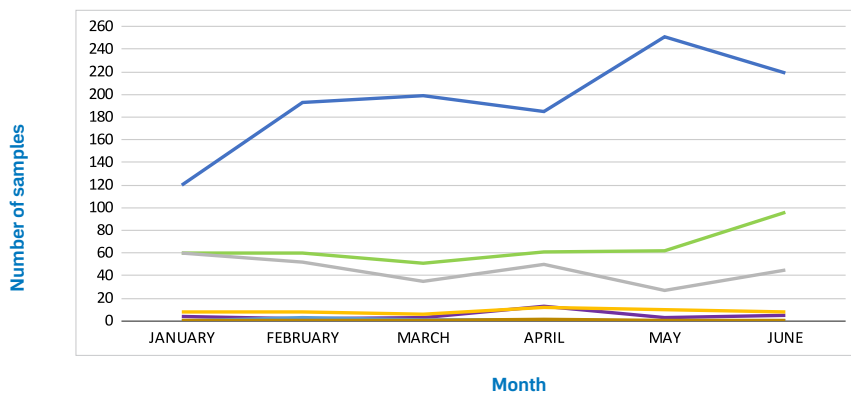


Key Findings

- In June, 373 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region, the highest number of checks recorded in the region to date. Increases in the number of samples checked occurred primarily in the stimulant category.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip reached an all-time high at 66.7% in June (146 of 219 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 38.7% of unregulated opioid samples (84 of 217 samples), with bromazolam most commonly identified (61 samples).
- Xylazine was detected in 7.4% of unregulated opioid samples (16 of 217 samples).
- Drug checking services in Fraser Health are expanding! Services are now available in Abbotsford, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Hope, Maple Ridge, Mission, New Westminster, Surrey, and White Rock. For updated locations and hours, see the [Fraser Health website](#).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



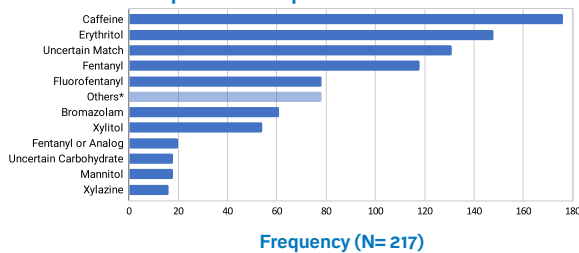
Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	219
Stimulant	96
Depressant	5
Psychedelic	8
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	45

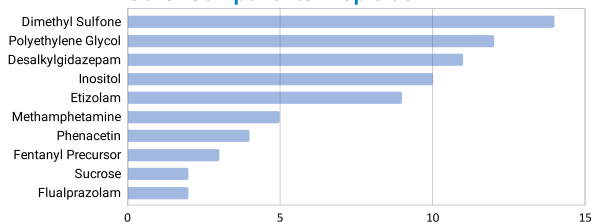
TOTAL: 373

Components found in drug samples in June

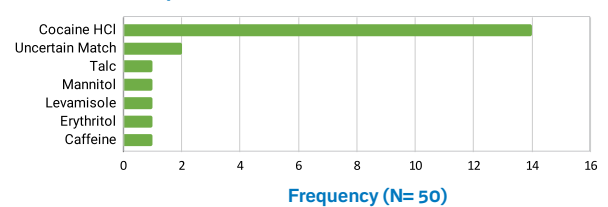
Components in opioids



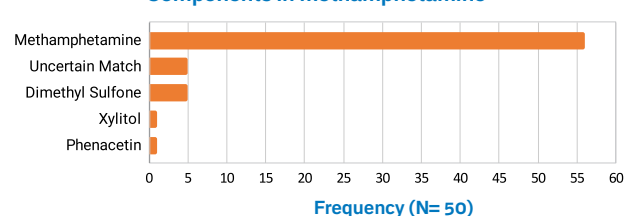
*Other Components in opioids



Components in cocaine

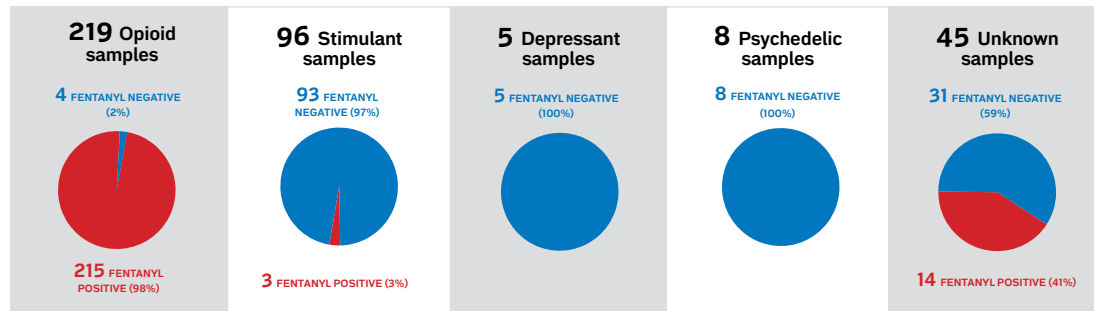


Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: bromazepam, cocaine base, cocaine hcl, heroin hcl, sodium bicarbonate, uncertain oil.

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



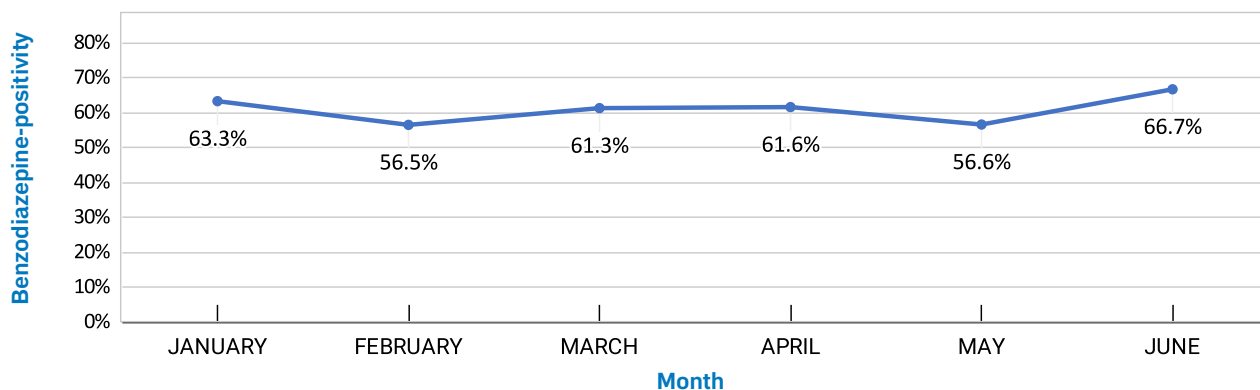
PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
June 29, 2023 Chilliwack	Cannabis Vape Cartridge	No Library Match - suspected synthetic cannabinoids	Negative	Positive	Chilliwack	Vape juice containing cannabis/suspected synthetic cannabinoids sold in refillable, unmarked, and unbranded cartridges tested positive for benzodiazepines in Chilliwack. Reported side effects include: prolonged sedation, nausea, vomiting, and black outs.

Health authorities and community organizations issue further toxic drug alerts from sources other than drug checking. See their respective websites or social media accounts for more alerts.

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 June, **66.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**146 samples of 219 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	Location	# of drug checks
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	99	PeacePoint (White Rock)	41
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	79	Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	11
Mountainside (Hope)	7	Purpose Society (New Westminster)	46
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	11	SafePoint (Surrey)	48
Mountainside (Mission)	31	Total:	373

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	218	1	0	219
Stimulant	96	0	0	96
Depressant	5	0	0	5
Psychedelic	6	2	0	8
Unknown	0	0	45	45
Total	325	3	45	373

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Fentanyl	8	0	0	8
Down	209	0	0	209
Pharmaceutical	1	1	0	2
Total	218	1	0	219

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: