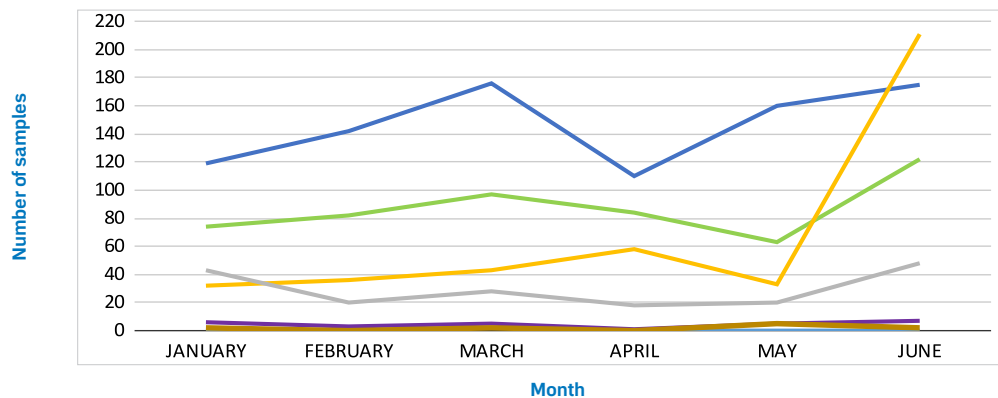


Key Findings

- In June, a total of 565 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region, the highest number of checks recorded in the region to date. This increase is primarily due to psychedelic samples tested at the Wicked Woods Music Festival in Fairmont Hot Springs.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip decreased from 88.8% to 80.0% in June (140 of 175 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 15.0% of unregulated opioid samples checked (25 of 167 samples), with bromazolam most frequently detected (23 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl detection surpassed fentanyl detection for the first time in June (99 vs. 35 unregulated opioid samples).
- Drug checking is available in several communities across the Interior Health region. As of June, the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy has commenced services in Vernon at #100-3605 31st Street. For updated times and locations, visit <https://drugchecking.ca/>

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



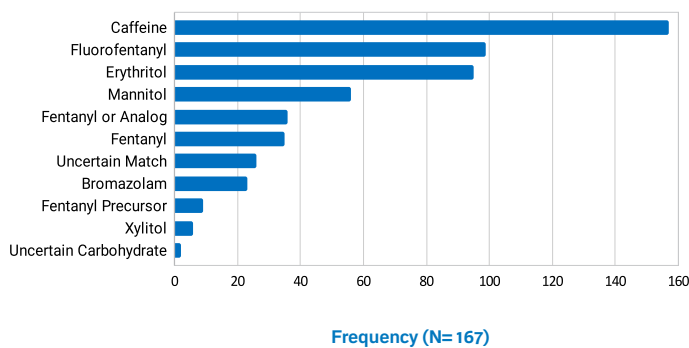
Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	175
Stimulant	122
Depressant	7
Psychedelic	211
Other	0
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	48

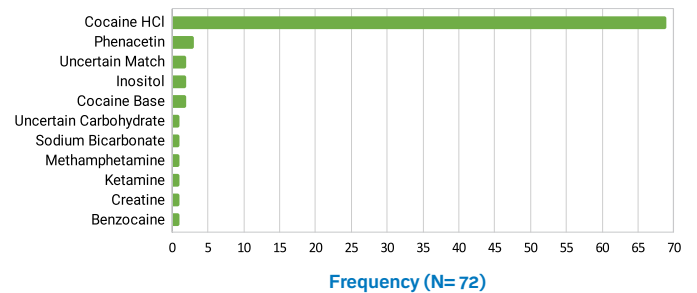
TOTAL: 565

Components found in drug samples in June

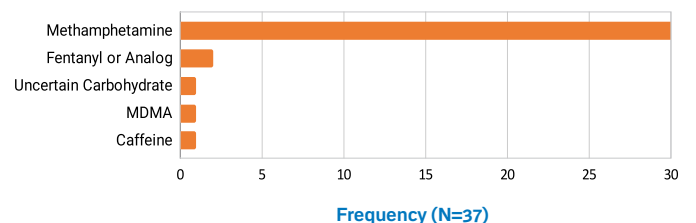
Components in opioids



Components in cocaine

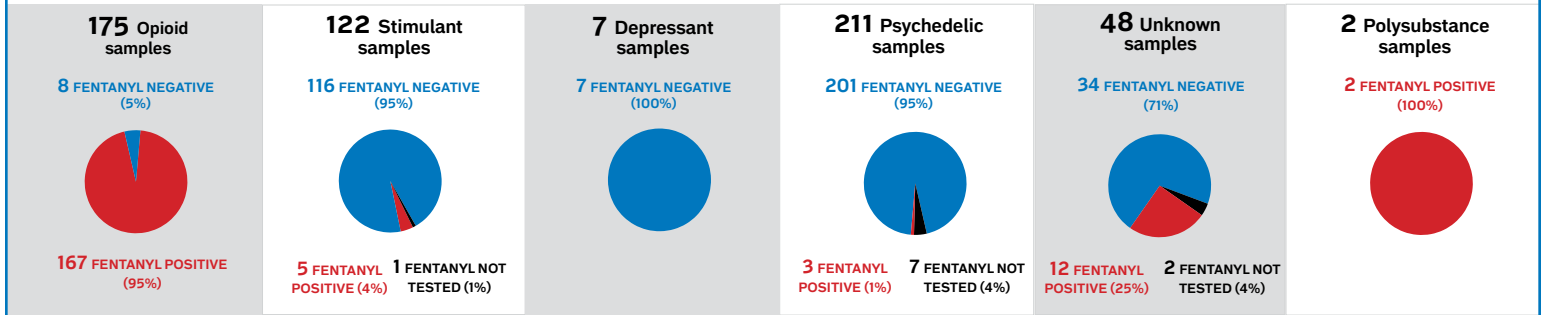


Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: benzocaine, clobromazolam, cocaine base, cocaine hcl, lactose, methamphetamine, sodium sulfate, sucrose, taurine, vitamin c, xylazine.

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



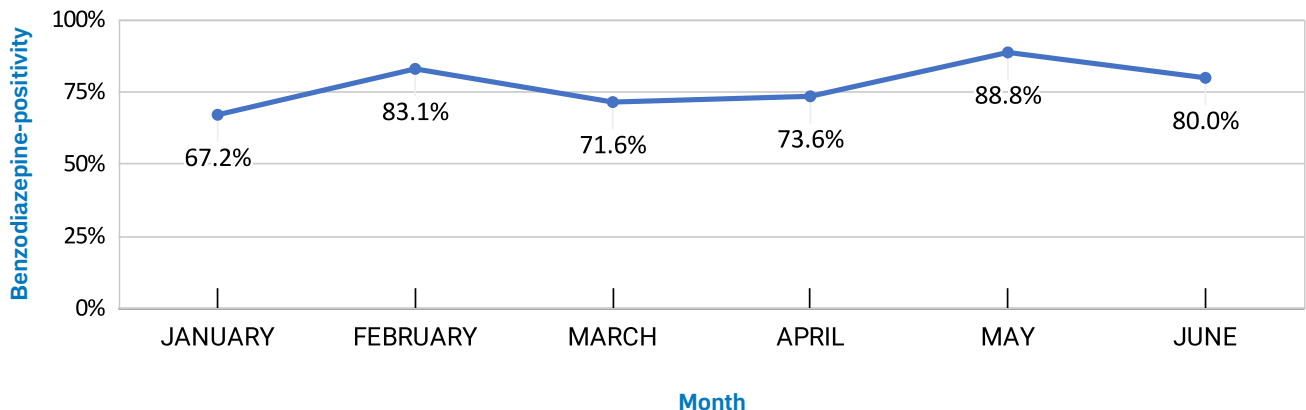
PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
June 15, 2023 Cranbrook	Down	Para-fluorofentanyl, Caffeine, Erythritol	Positive	Negative	Cranbrook	Green chunks sold as down in Cranbrook contain very high amounts of para-fluorofentanyl.
June 22, 2023 Trail	Down	Fluorofentanyl	Positive	Positive	Trail	Light green and purple pebbles sold as down with high concentrations of fluorofentanyl and benzodiazepines were tested at the Trail shelter. The sample was associated with multiple ODs.
June 22, 2023 Nelson/ Castlegar	Down	Caffeine, Mannitol, Fentanyl or Analogue	Positive	Positive	Nelson/ Castlegar	Drug alert for Nelson/Castlegar after a sample containing fluorofentanyl and a benzo analogue was tested at ANKORS. High risk of OD/fatal OD, sample associated with multiple ODs.
June 27, 2023 Vernon	Crack	Xylitol, Caffeine, Fentanyl or Analogue, Bromazolam	Positive	Positive	Vernon	Light purple substance sold as crack tested positive for fentanyl analogue and benzodiazepines in Vernon.
June 28, 2023 Kamloops	Down	Caffeine, Fentanyl, Bromazolam, Magnesium Sulfate	Positive	Positive	Kamloops	Brown granules sold as down contain high concentrations of fentanyl and benzodiazepines in Kamloops.

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 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 June, **80.0%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**140 samples of 175 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)	90
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	31
ANKORS (Nelson)	80
ANKORS (Trail)	11
ANKORS (Wicked Woods Music Festival)	181
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	45
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	46
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	17
UBCO HaRT (Kelowna)	60
Total:	565

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following location, which is included in the total: ASK Wellness (Merritt).

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	171	1	3	175
Stimulant	119	3	0	122
Depressant	5	1	1	7
Psychedelic	204	7	0	211
Polysubstance	1	1	0	2
Unknown	0	0	48	48
Total	500	13	52	565

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	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Fentanyl	41	0	0	41
Heroin	1	1	0	2
Other Opioid	2	0	0	2
Down	124	0	0	124
Pharmaceutical	3	0	3	6
Total	171	1	3	175

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: