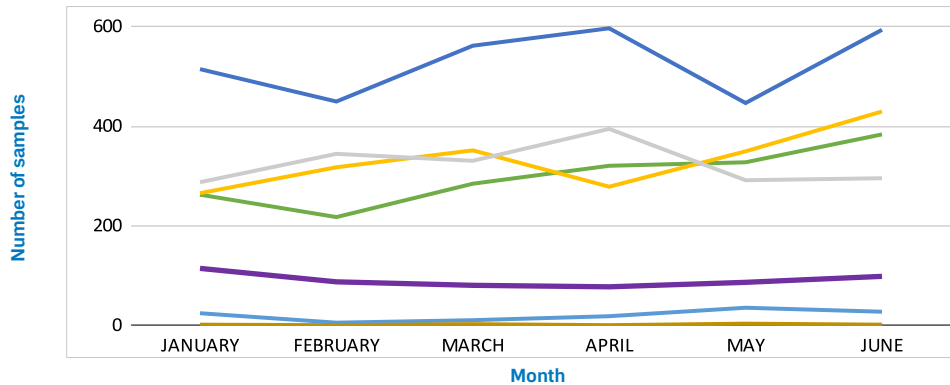


## Key Findings

- In June, a total of 1,833 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Vancouver Coastal region. Increases in the number of samples checked occurred primarily in the psychedelic category, typically seen in the summer months.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip increased from 25.1% to 33.5% in May (199 of 594 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 7.0% of unregulated opioid samples checked (37 of 531 samples), with bromazolam most frequently detected (32 samples).
- Services in Vancouver Coastal are rapidly expanding! Two services commenced drug checking in June: Whistler Community Services Society (8000 Nesters Rd, Whistler), and LIFT Community Services (4752 Joyce Ave, Powell River). Services are also available in Tla'amin Nation: 5160 Highway 101, Powell River.

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



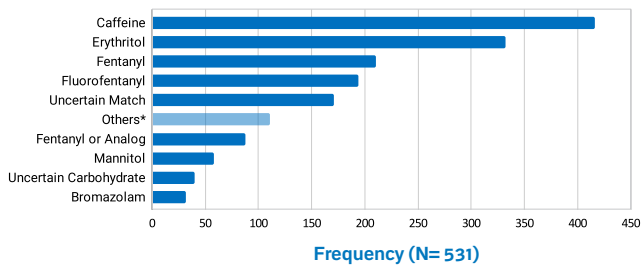
Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	594
Stimulant	384
Depressant	99
Psychedelic	430
Other	28
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	296

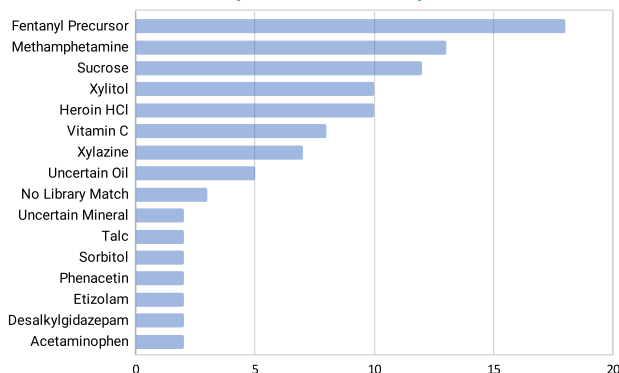
**TOTAL: 1,833**

### Components found in drug samples in June

#### Components in opioids

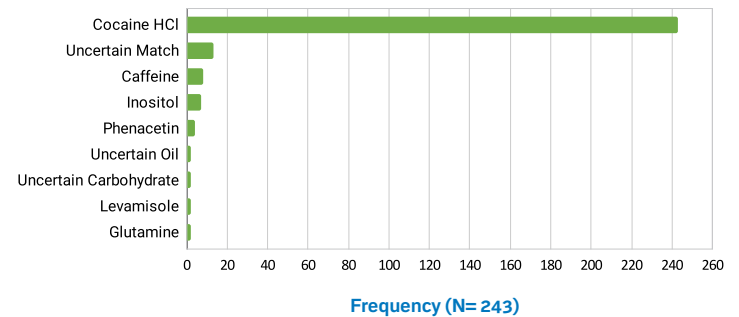


#### Other components found in opioids



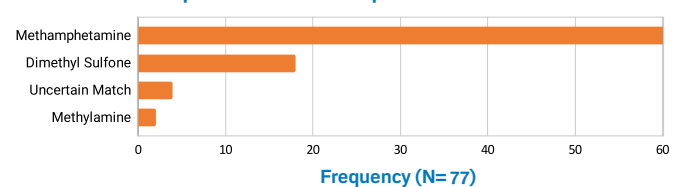
Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: 6-MAM, dimethyl sulfone, diphenhydramine, flualprazolam, inositol, lactose, methadone, microcrystalline cellulose, morphine, NPP, PEG.

#### Components in cocaine



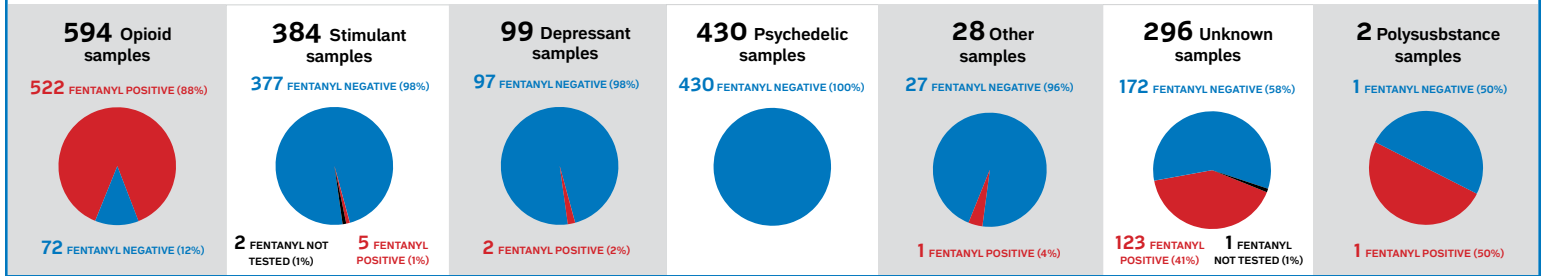
Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: creatine, glucose, ketamine, sodium bicarbonate, talc.

#### Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: caffeine, ephedrine, isopropylbenzylamine, MDMA, uncertain oil.

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



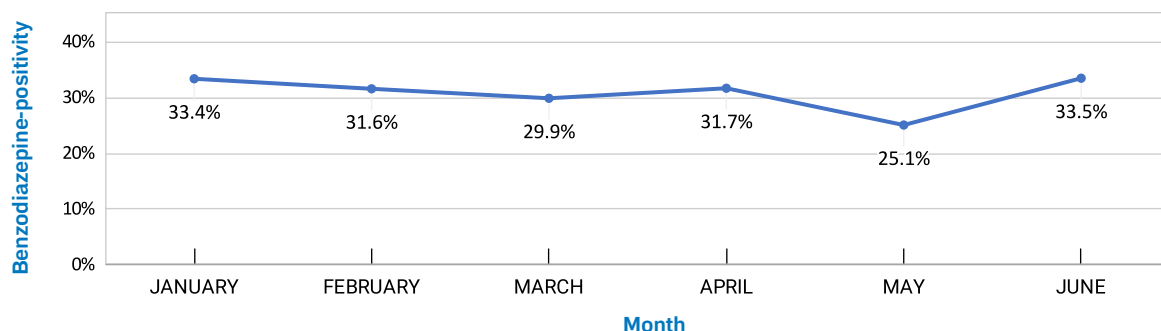
## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
June 19, 2023 Qathet Region/ Powell River	Fentanyl	Caffeine, Para-fluorofentanyl, Erythritol	Positive	Positive	Qathet/ Powell River	Orange pebbles sold as fentanyl in the qathet region tested positive for para-fluorofentanyl and benzos. Substance has caused OD.
June 26, 2023 Vancouver	2C-I	6-MAM, Caffeine, Mannitol	Negative	N/A	Vancouver	Light brown granules sold as 2C-I tested positive for 6-MAM (6-Monoacetylmorphine), a metabolite of heroin.
June 27, 2023 Vancouver/ DTES	Fentanyl	Bromazolam, Caffeine, Fentanyl, Uncertain Carbohydrate	Positive	Positive	Vancouver/ DTES	Beige granules sold as fentanyl in the DTES of Vancouver tested positive for both fentanyl and bromazolam, a benzo analogue.

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.

To receive drug contamination alerts, text "alert" to (236) 999-DOPE (3673)

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



During the month of June, **33.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (**199 samples of 594 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 and hours at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested (Vancouver)	1510
Insite (Vancouver)	302
LIFT Community Services (Powell River)	7
Tla'amin Nation (Powell River)	12
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,833</b>

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following location, which is included in the total: Whistler Community Services Society.

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	546	33	15	594
Stimulant	373	5	6	384
Depressant	71	27	1	99
Psychedelic	396	30	4	430
Other	12	7	9	28
Polysubstance	1	1	0	2
Unknown	0	0	296	296
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>1,833</b>

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	289	6	0	295
Heroin	6	10	0	16
Fentanyl and Heroin	1	0	0	1
Other Opioid	0	0	1	1
Down	218	1	0	219
Pharmaceutical	17	14	14	45
Opium	15	2	0	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>594</b>

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:

