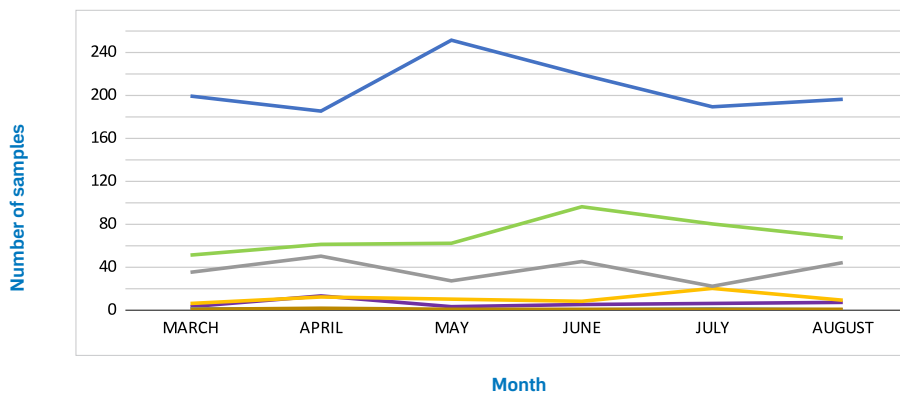


## Key Findings

- In August, 323 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region, a slight increase over the previous month.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip decreased from 64.0% to 54.6% in August (107 of 196 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 29.5% of unregulated opioid samples (57 of 193 samples), with bromazolam most commonly identified (44 samples), followed by desalkylgizapam (10 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was detected in 36.3% of unregulated opioid samples (70 of 193 samples), whereas fentanyl was detected in 58.5% (113 samples).
- Xylazine was detected in 2.1% of unregulated opioid samples (4 of 193 samples).
- Drug checking services in Fraser Health are expanding! Services are now available in Abbotsford, Burnaby, Chilliwack, Hope, Maple Ridge, Mission, New Westminster, and Surrey. For updated locations and hours, see the [Fraser Health website](#).

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



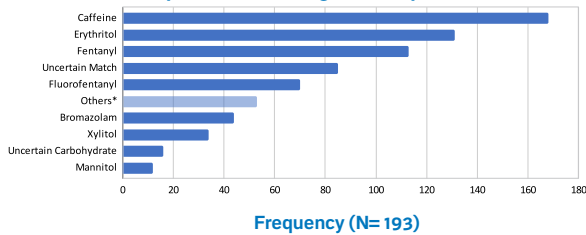
## Number of samples by drug category in August

Opioid	196
Stimulant	67
Depressant	7
Psychedelic	9
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	44

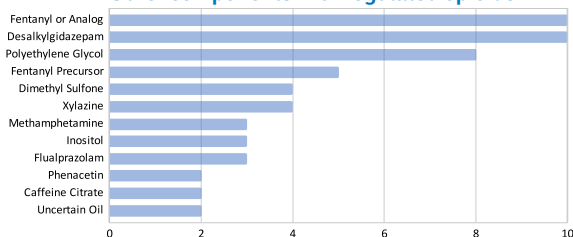
**TOTAL: 323**

## Components found in drug samples in August

### Components in unregulated opioids

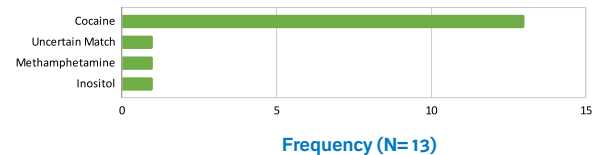


### \*Other components in unregulated opioids

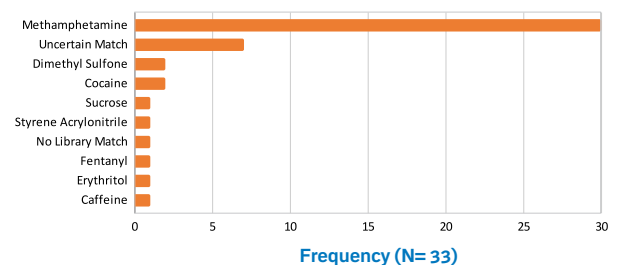


Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: 6-MAM, plaster, sucrose, heroin, lactose, DMT, cocaine base, calcium carbonate.

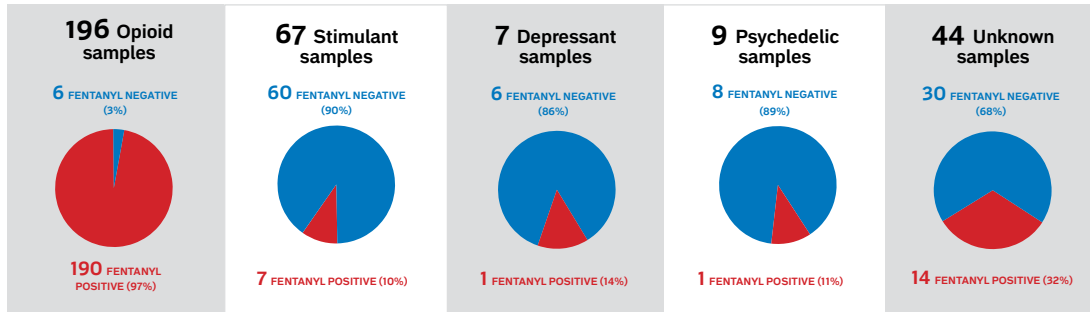
### Components in cocaine



### Components in methamphetamine



## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



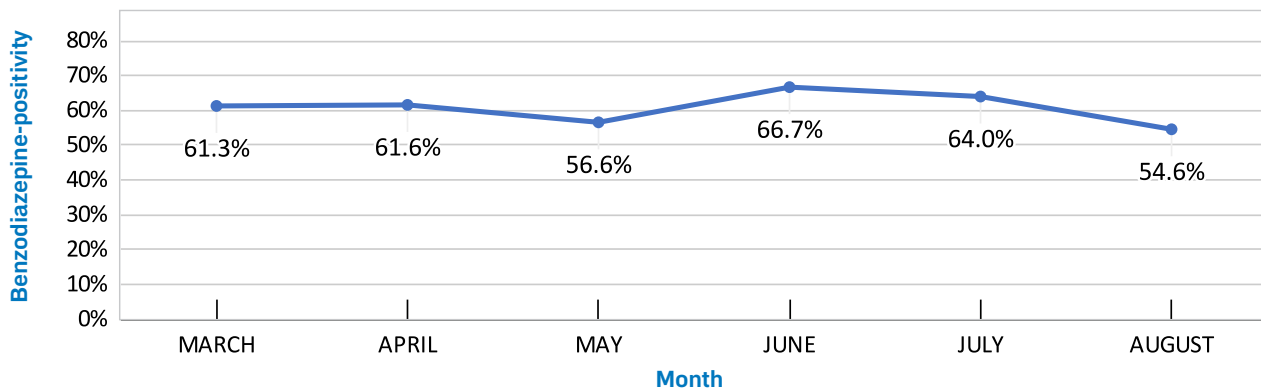
## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
August 30, 2023 New Westminster	Crack Cocaine	Cocaine Base	Positive	Negative	New Westminster	White waxy chunks sold as Crack Cocaine tested positive for fentanyl in New Westminster.

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](mailto:overdose@fraserhealth.ca)

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



During the month of August, **54.6%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**107 samples of 196**). 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
Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam)	12
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	42
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	60
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	110
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	14
Mountainside (Mission)	16
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	39
SafePoint (Surrey)	27
<b>Total:</b>	<b>323</b>

Less than 5 samples were tested at the each of the following locations, which are included in the total: Mountainside (Hope), Progressive Housing (Burnaby)

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	190	6	0	196
Stimulant	64	3	0	67
Depressant	6	1	0	7
Psychedelic	7	2	0	9
Unknown	0	0	44	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>323</b>

## 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	5	1	0	6
Other Opioid	0	1	0	1
Down	183	4	0	187
Pharmaceutical	2	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>196</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  
(unregulated opioids), and  
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: