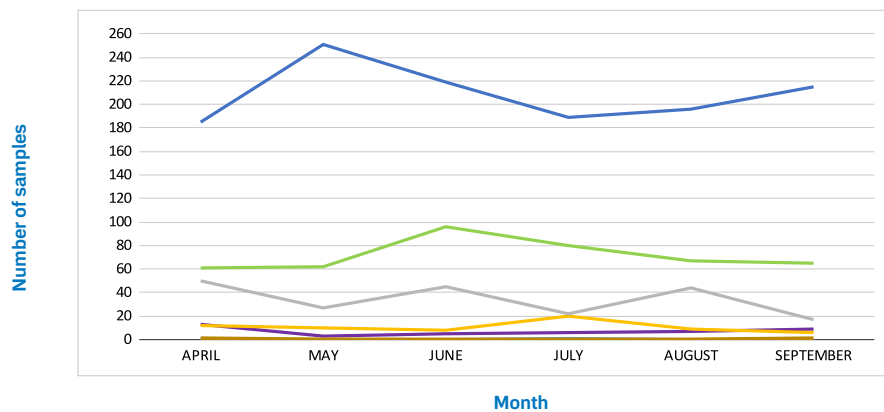


Key Findings

- In September, 313 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip increased from 54.6% to 64.2% in September (138 of 215 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 39.4% of unregulated opioid samples (82 of 208 samples), with bromazolam most commonly identified (65 samples), followed by desalkylgizapam (11 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was detected in 28.8% of unregulated opioid samples (60 of 208 samples), whereas fentanyl was detected in 55.3% (115 samples).
- Xylazine was detected in 2.4% of unregulated opioid samples (5 of 208 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



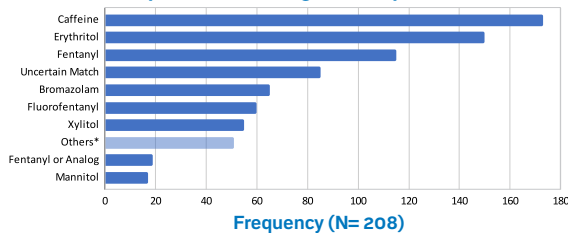
Number of samples by drug category in September

Opioid	215
Stimulant	65
Depressant	9
Psychedelic	6
Other	0
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	17

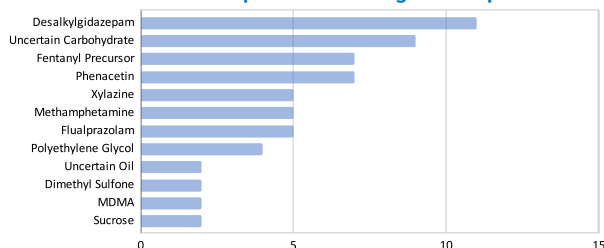
TOTAL: 313

Components found in drug samples in September

Components in unregulated opioids

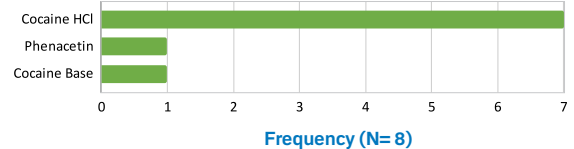


*Other components in unregulated opioids

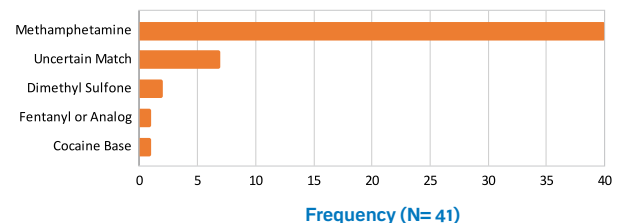


Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: fentanyl base, heroin, plaster, protonitazene, polypropylene, nitrazepam.

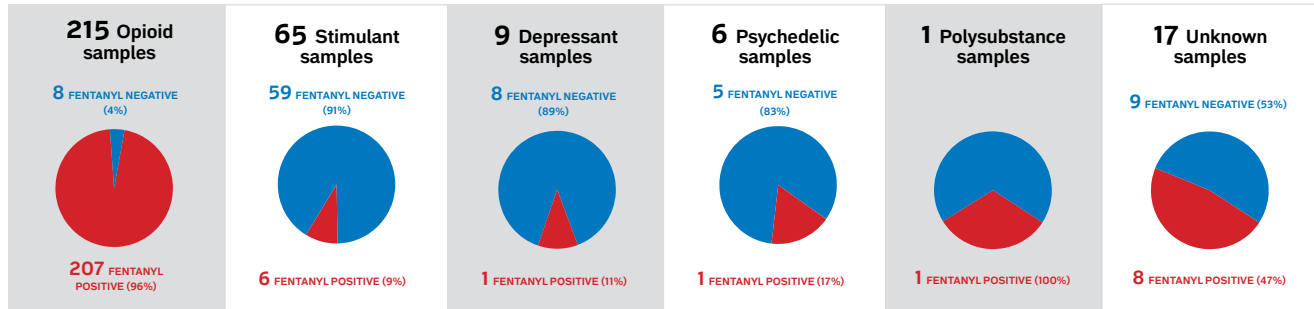
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

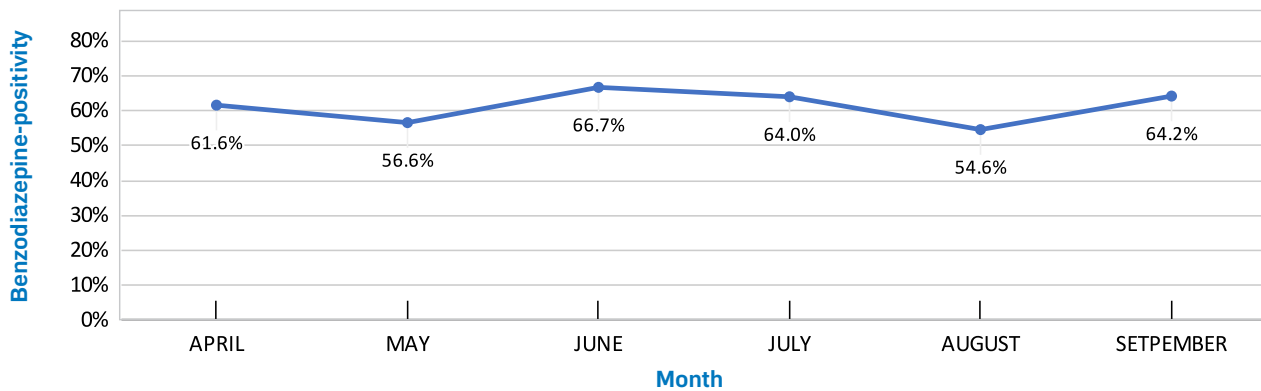


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
No alerts for Fraser Health 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 September, **64.2%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**138 samples of 215 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
Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam)	5
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	52
Mountainside (Mission)	8
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	86
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	86
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	21
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	6
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	26
SafePoint (Surrey)	23
Total:	313

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	208	6	1	215
Stimulant	64	1	0	65
Depressant	8	0	1	9
Psychedelic	6	0	0	6
Polysubstance	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	17	17
Total	287	7	19	313

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	11	3	0	14
Other Opioid	0	1	0	1
Down	194	2	0	196
Pharmaceutical	3	0	1	4
Total	208	6	1	215

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: