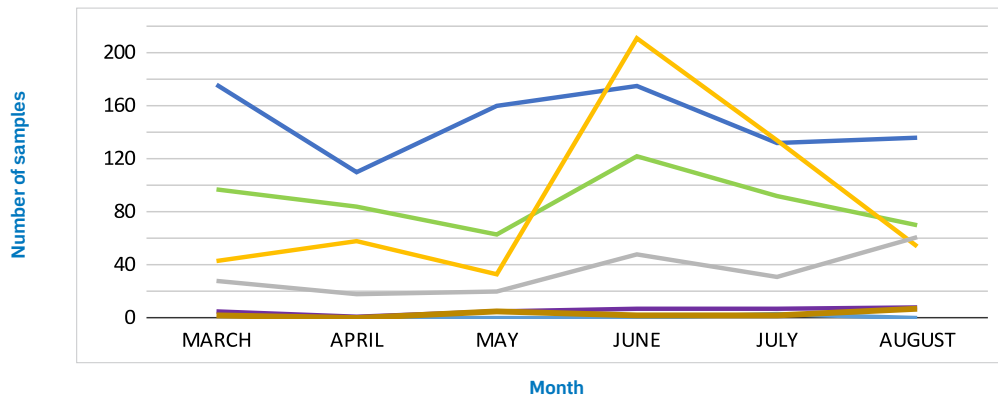


## Key Findings

- In August, a total of 336 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region. The number of psychedelic samples checked dropped significantly following the summer festival season.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip was 72.8% in August (99 of 136 samples), a slight decline from the previous months.
- Benzodiazepines were found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 18.5% of unregulated opioid samples checked (25 of 135 samples), with bromazolam most frequently detected (24 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was detected in 20.0% of unregulated samples (27 of 135 samples), whereas fentanyl was detected in 51.1% (69 samples).
- Drug checking is available in several communities across the Interior Health region. The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy offers drug checking services in Vernon at #100-3605 31st Street. For updated times and locations in Interior Health, visit <https://drugchecking.ca/>

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



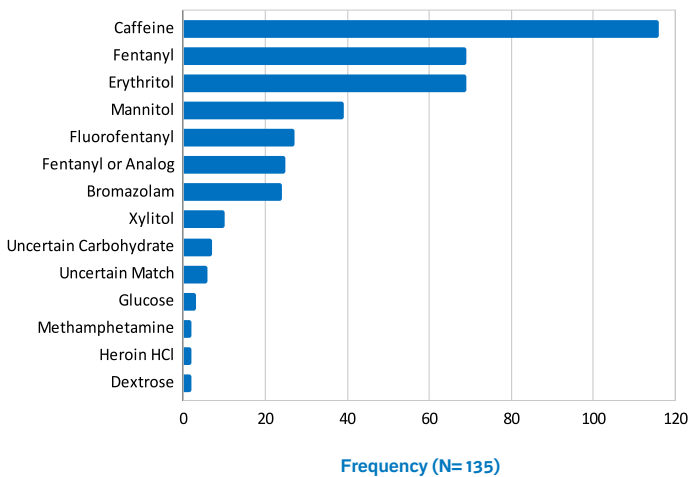
Number of samples by drug category in August

Opioid	136
Stimulant	70
Depressant	8
Psychedelic	54
Other	0
Polysubstance	7
Unknown	61

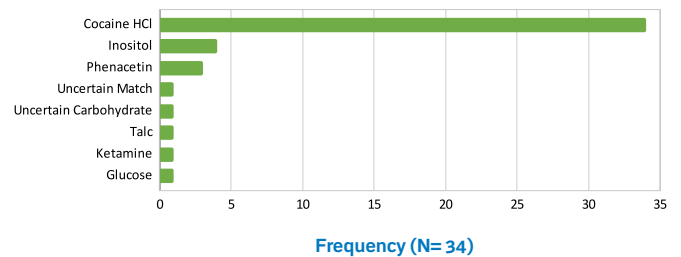
**TOTAL: 336**

## Components found in drug samples in August

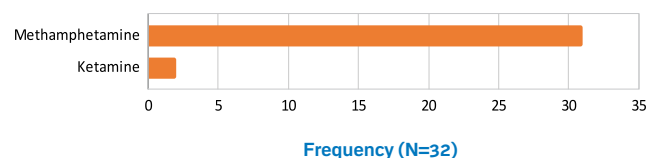
### Components in unregulated opioids



### Components in cocaine

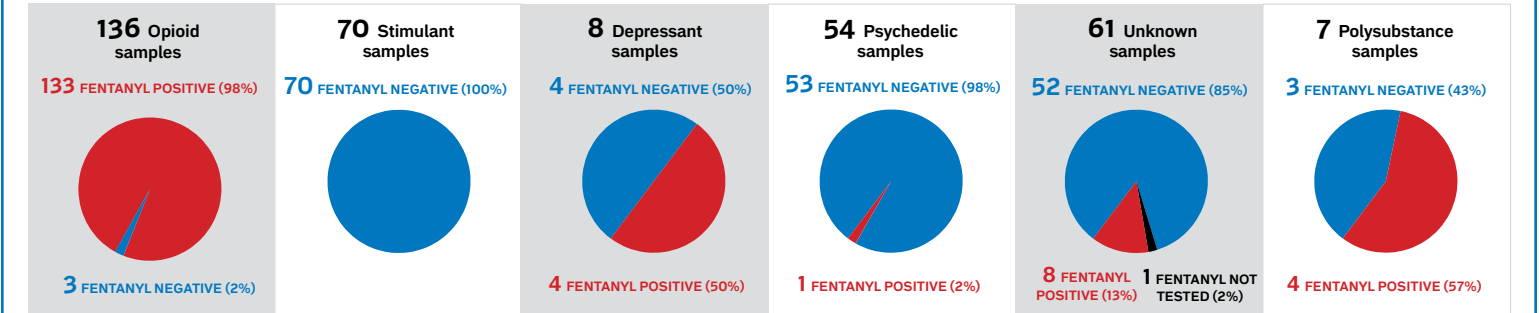


### Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: calcium carbonate, desalkylidiazepam, lactose, metonitazene, no library match, phetacetin, sorbitol, stearic acid, uncertain oil, vitamin C, xylazine.

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

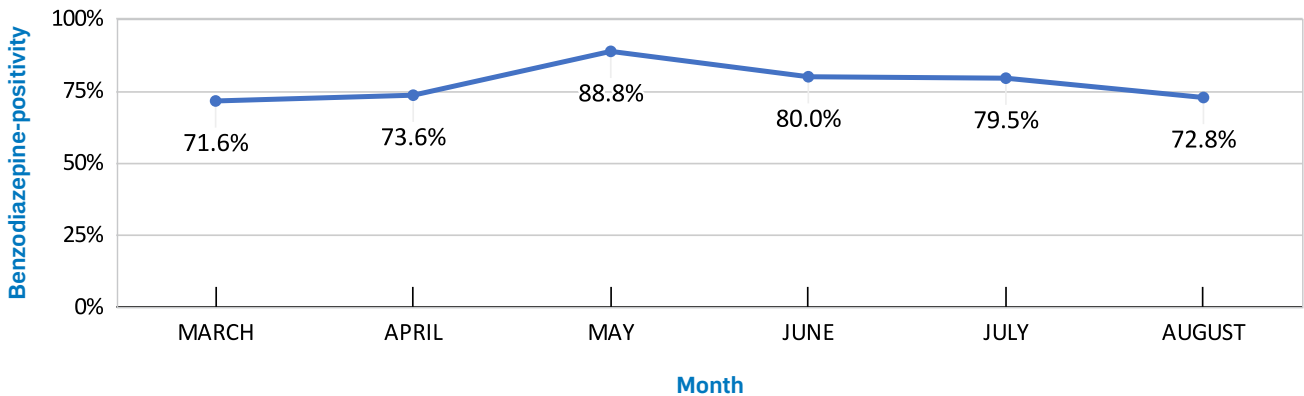


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
No alerts for Interior Health this month.						

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 August, **72.8%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**99 samples of 136 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)	52
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	16
ANKORS (Nelson)	57
ANKORS (Trail)	23
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	23
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	29
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	39
UBCO HaRT (Kelowna)	93
<b>Total:</b>	<b>336</b>

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following location, which is included in the total: ANKORS (Castlegar)

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	129	6	1	136
Stimulant	69	1	0	70
Depressant	6	2	0	8
Psychedelic	50	4	0	54
Polysubstance	1	6	0	7
Unknown	0	0	61	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>336</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.

## 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	54	1	0	55
Heroin	2	3	0	5
Down	73	2	1	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>136</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:

