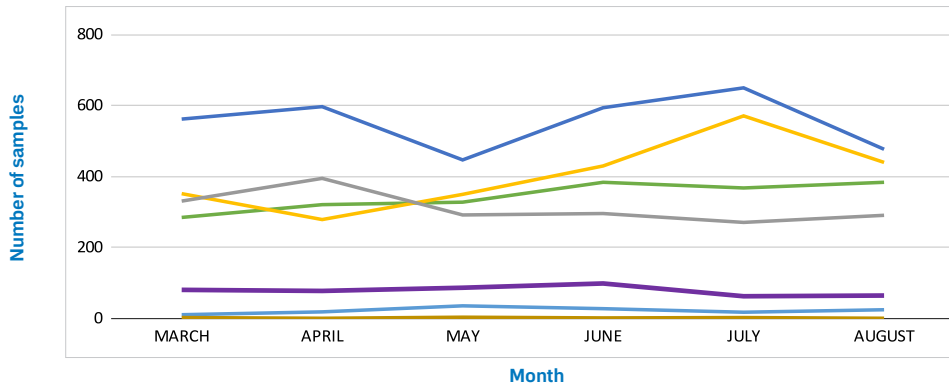


## Key Findings

- In August, a total of 1,683 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Vancouver Coastal region.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip increased slightly from 30.2% to 30.6% in August (146 of 477 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 7.4% of unregulated opioid samples checked (32 of 435 samples), with bromazolam most frequently detected (28 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was detected in 23.9% of unregulated opioid samples (104 of 435 samples), whereas fentanyl was detected in 46.7% (203 samples).
- Drug checking services are now available at Whistler Community Services Society (8000 Nesters Rd, Whistler), LIFT Community Services (4752 Joyce Ave, Powell River), and at the Tla'amin Health Centre (5160 Highway 101, Powell River).

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



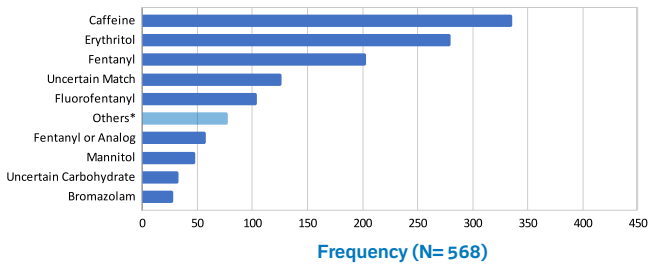
### Number of samples by drug category in August

Opioid	477
Stimulant	384
Depressant	65
Psychedelic	440
Other	25
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	291

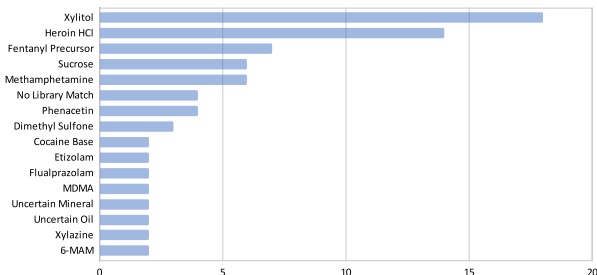
**TOTAL: 1,683**

## Components found in drug samples in August

### Components in unregulated opioids

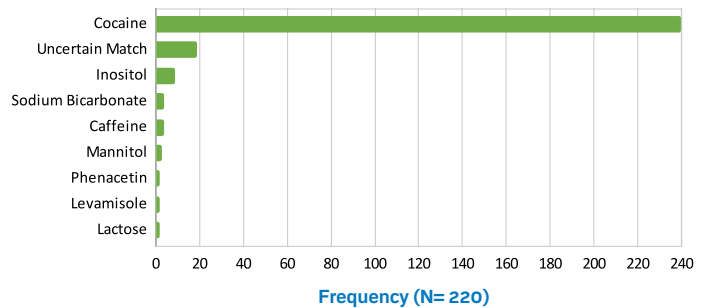


### Other components in unregulated opioids



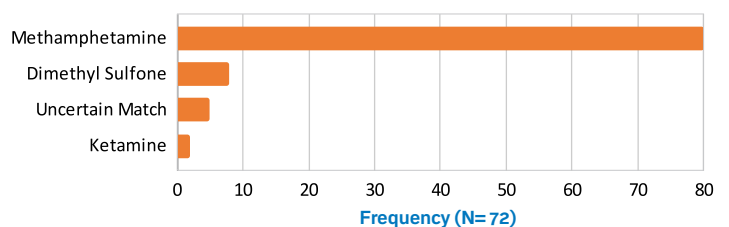
Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: calcium carbonate, pentobarbital, MDA, propylene glycol, sodium sulfate, stearic acid, glucose, talc, creatine, and microcrystalline cellulose.

### Components in cocaine



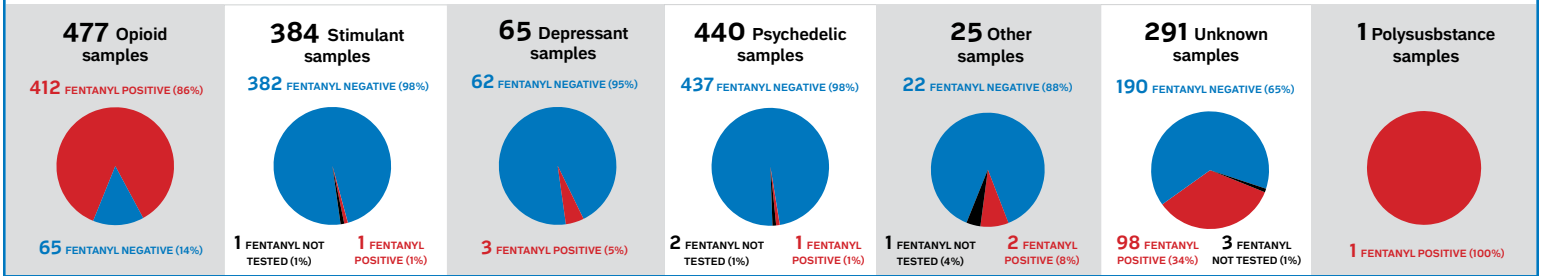
Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: benzocaine, deschloroketamine, and uncertain oil.

### Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: caffeine, fentanyl, sucrose, and uncertain oil.

## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



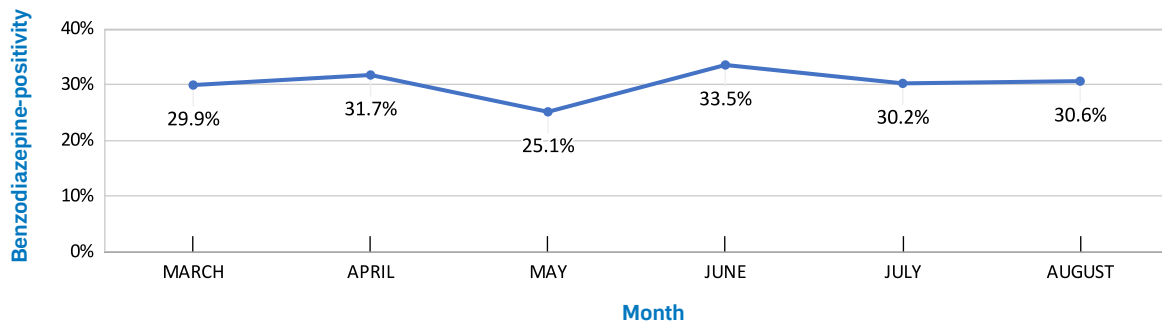
## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
August 8, 2023 Vancouver	2C-B	Xylazine, Ketamine	Negative	N/A	Vancouver	White powder sold as 2C-B in Vancouver tested positive for xylazine and ketamine

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 August, **30.6%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (**146 samples of 477 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
Get Your Drugs Tested (Vancouver)	1473
Insite (Vancouver)	131
LIFT Community Services (Powell River)	49
Tla'amin Nation (Powell River)	7
WCSS (Whistler)	23
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,683</b>

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	448	22	7	477
Stimulant	373	10	1	384
Depressant	47	16	2	65
Psychedelic	417	16	7	440
Other	11	2	12	25
Polysubstance	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	291	291
<b>Total</b>	<b>1297</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>1683</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	146	5	0	151
Heroin	5	3	0	8
Fentanyl and Heroin	0	1	0	1
Down	268	7	0	275
Pharmaceutical	24	6	7	37
Opium	5	0	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>477</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:

