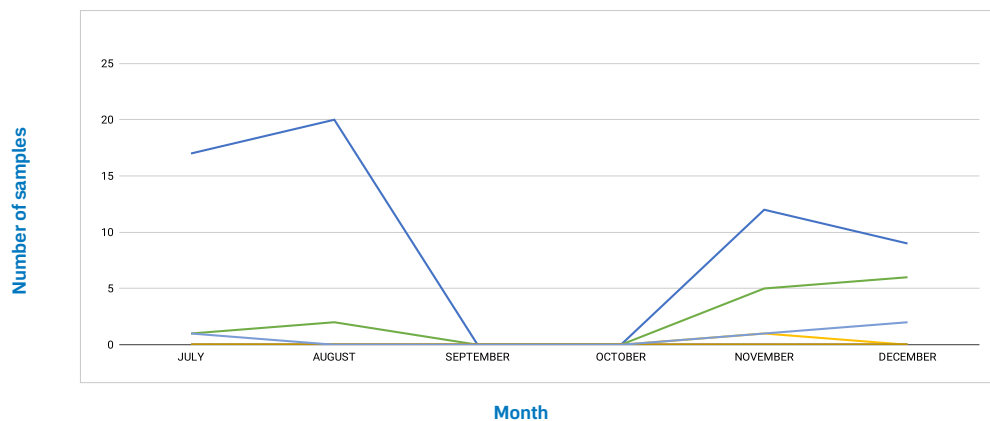


Key Findings

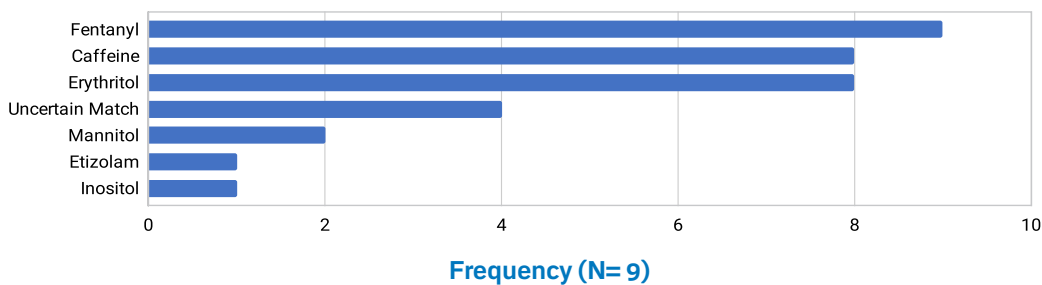
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the region was 33% (3 of 9 samples). Trends may be hard to infer due to the small number of samples over a large region. The true rate may be higher than reported here because etizolam, the predominant benzodiazepine in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies.
- Drug checking services are now available at Starship Health Contact Centre (Purpose Society) in New Westminster. Drug checking hours are Monday to Thursday 1:30–9:30pm, Friday 3:00–5:30pm. Samples can also be dropped-off anytime outside these hours.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Components found in drug samples in December

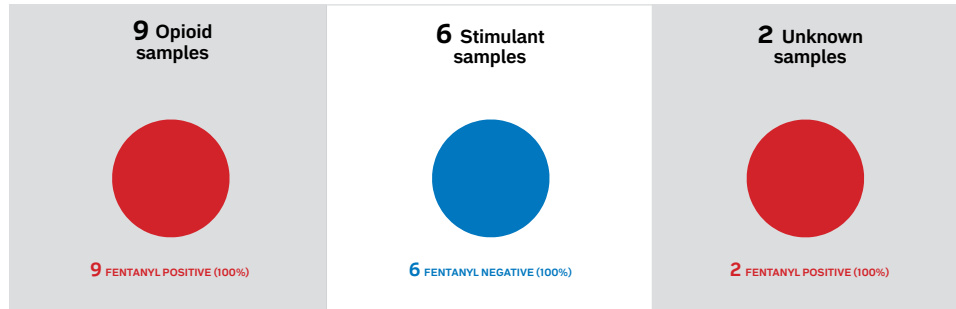
Components in opioids



1 sample of cocaine contained only cocaine.

5 samples of methamphetamine contained only methamphetamine.

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

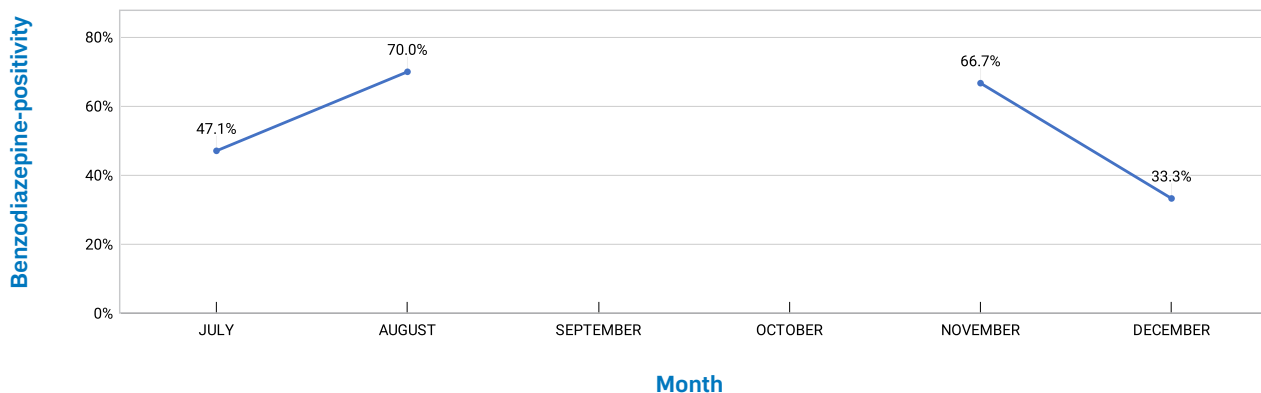


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts from Fraser Health partners 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 August, **33.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**3 samples of 9 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
Purpose Society	17

of samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Opioid

9 Samples Tested



Matched: 9

EXPECTED DRUG:

Stimulant

6 Samples Tested



Matched: 6

EXPECTED DRUG:

Unknown

2 Samples Tested



Match not determined: 2

Total

17 Samples Tested



Matched: 15

Match not determined: 2

Number of opioid samples that matched client expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG:

Other Opioid

9 Samples Tested



Matched: 9

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents

Depressant may include:
benzodiazepines, etizolam,
GHB, hypnotics

Opioid may include:
"down," heroin, fentanyl,
pharmaceutical opioids

Polysubstance includes:
cross-category mixtures

Psychedelic may include:
MDMA and related,
2C-family, tryptamines,
ketamine, LSD

Stimulant may 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: