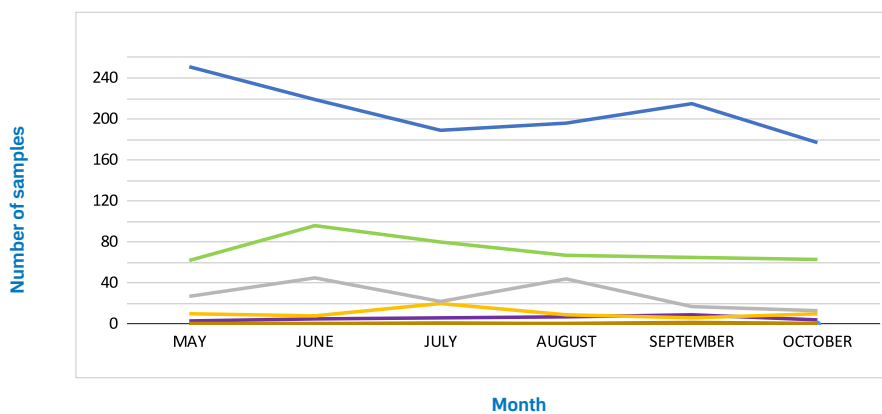


Key Findings

- In October, 267 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 64.2% to 66.7% in October (118 of 177 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 30.5% of unregulated opioid samples (54 of 177 samples), with bromazolam most commonly identified (36 samples), followed by desalkylgizazepam (14 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was detected in 30.0% of unregulated opioid samples (46 of 177 samples), whereas fentanyl was detected in 61.6% (109 samples).
- Xylazine was detected in 4.0% of unregulated opioid samples (7 of 177 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



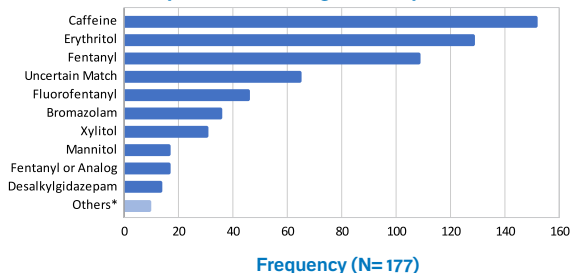
Number of samples by drug category in October

Opioid	177
Stimulant	63
Depressant	4
Psychedelic	10
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	13

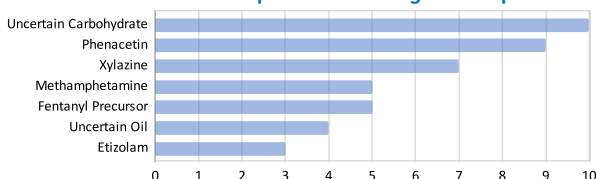
TOTAL: 267

Components found in drug samples in October

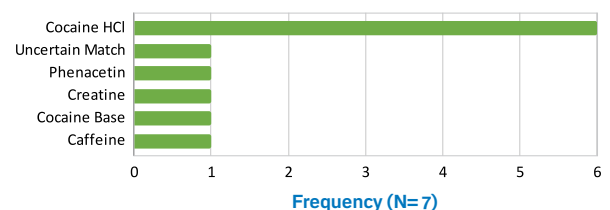
Components in unregulated opioids



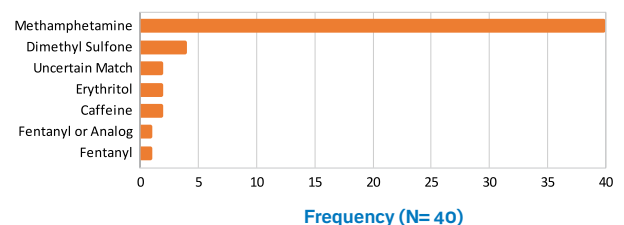
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Components in cocaine

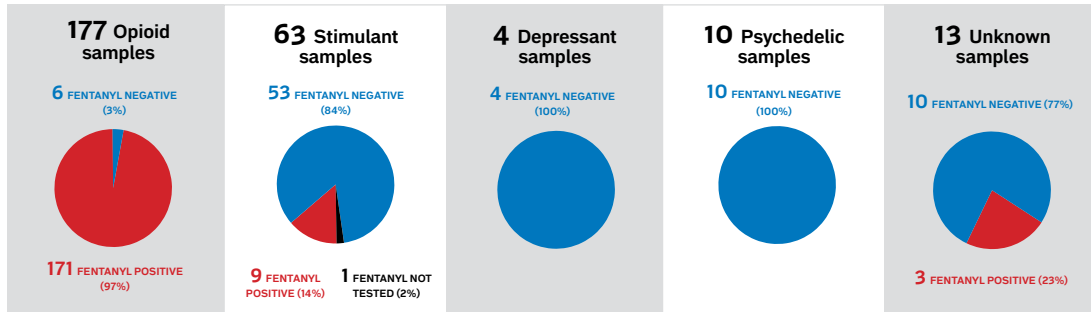


Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: dimethyl sulfone, flualprazolam, MDMA, polyethylene, uncertain match.

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



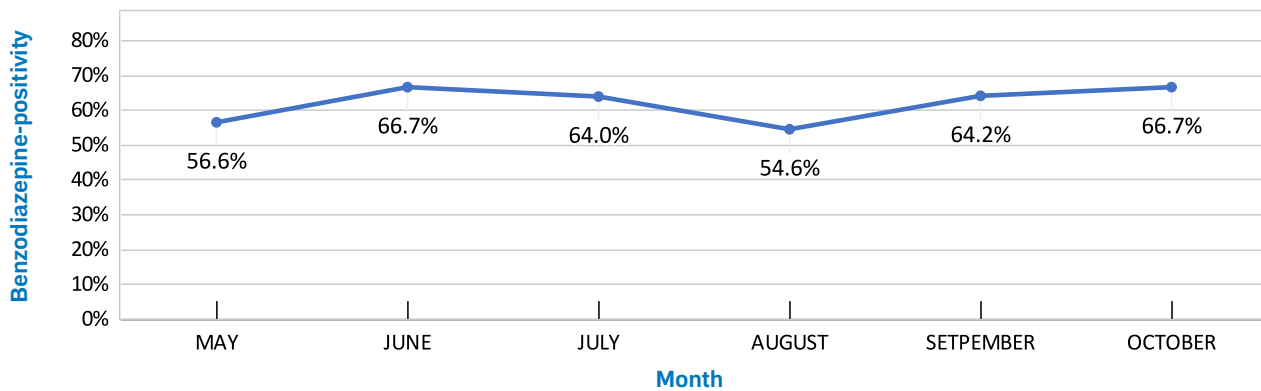
PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
October 25, 2023 Surrey	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine	Positive	Positive	Surrey	Multiple crystal samples ranging from clear to light pink in colour sold as methamphetamine tested positive for fentanyl and benzodiazepines in Surrey.

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

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



During the month of October, **66.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**118 samples of 177 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)	83
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	38
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	67
Mountainside (Hope)	5
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	8
Mountainside (Mission)	6
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	7
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	11
SafePoint (Surrey)	37
Total:	267

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	172	5	0	177
Stimulant	62	1	0	63
Depressant	2	2	0	4
Psychedelic	8	2	0	10
Unknown	0	0	13	13
Total	244	10	13	267

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	4	0	0	4
Down	167	2	0	169
Pharmaceutical	1	3	0	4
Total	172	5	0	177

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: