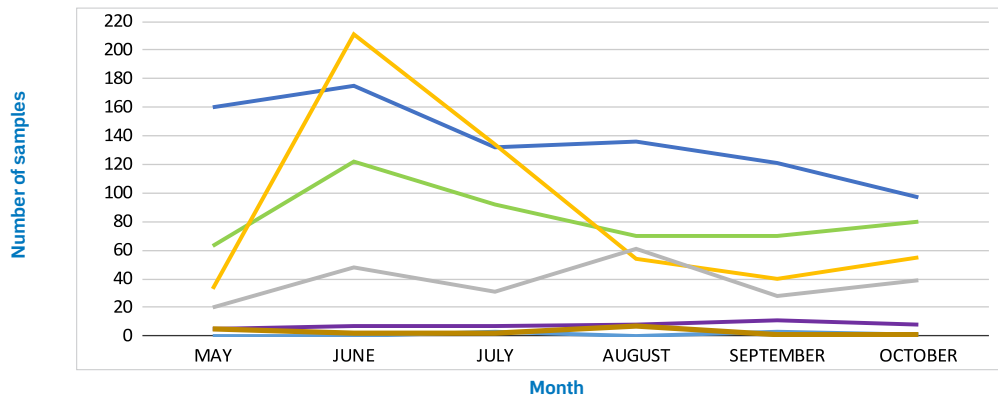


Key Findings

- In October, a total of 281 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip decreased from 77.7% to 68.0% in October (66 of 97 samples).
- Bromazolam, a benzodiazepine, was found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 17.6% of unregulated opioid samples checked (15 of 85 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was detected in 35.3% of unregulated samples (30 of 85 samples), whereas fentanyl was detected in 34.1% (29 samples).
- Xylazine was detected in 4.7% of unregulated opioid samples (4 of 85 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



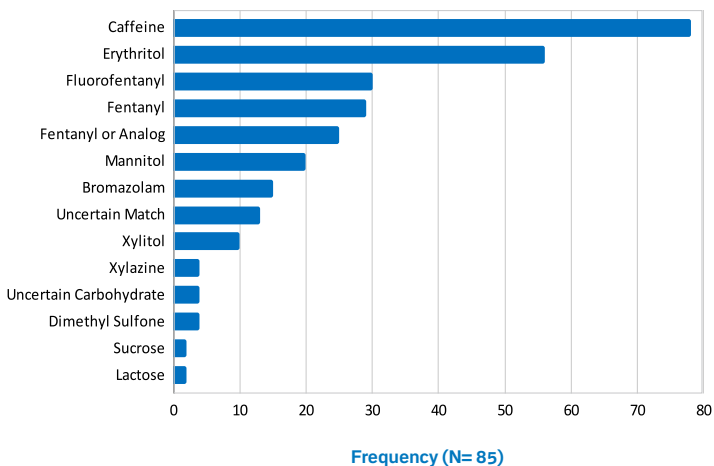
Number of samples by drug category in October

Opioid	97
Stimulant	80
Depressant	8
Psychedelic	55
Other	1
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	39

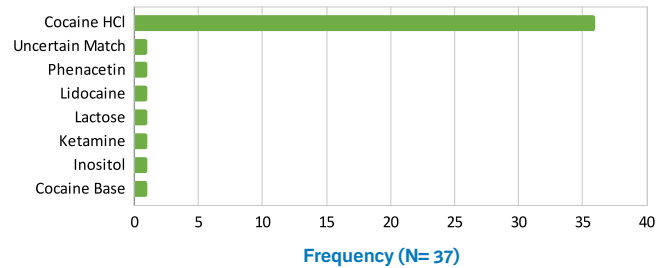
TOTAL: 281

Components found in drug samples in October

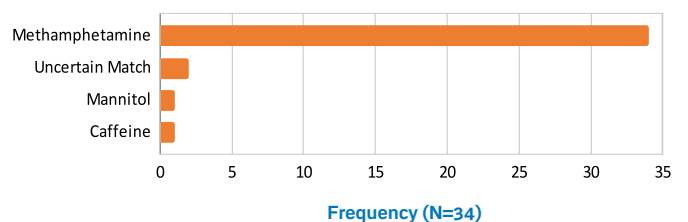
Components in unregulated opioids



Components in cocaine

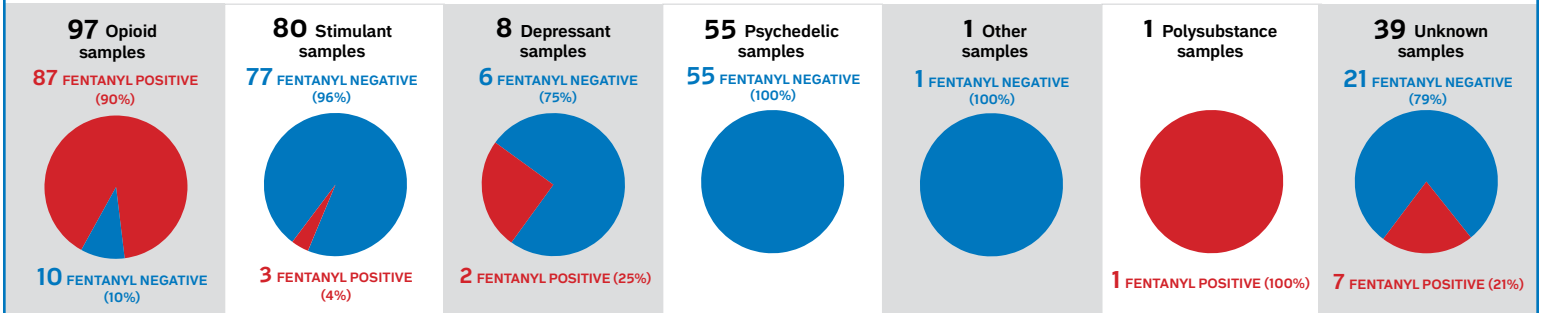


Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: 6-MAM, dextrose, fentanyl base, fentanyl precursor, methamphetamine, phenacetin, vitamin C.

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

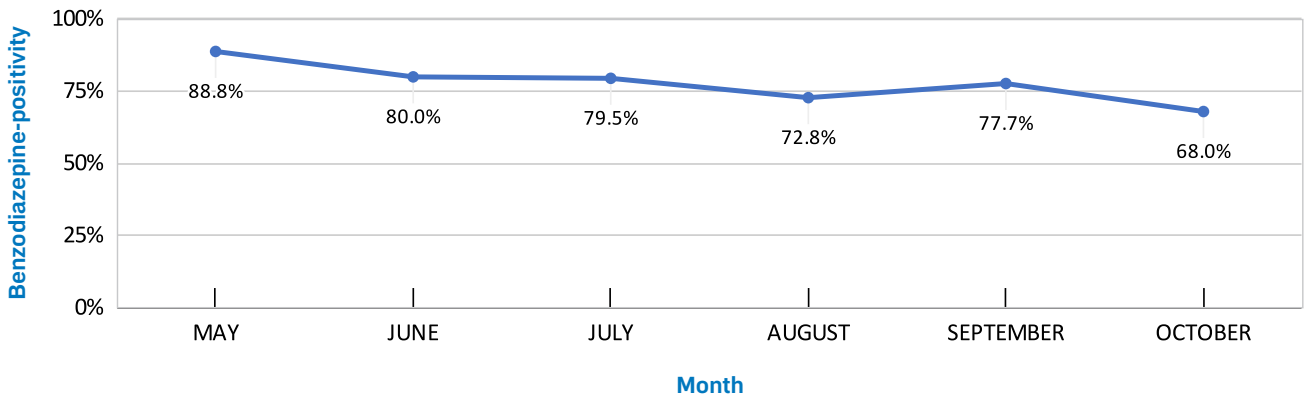


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

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 October, **68.0%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**66 samples of 97 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)	77
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	15
ANKORS (Nelson)	55
ANKORS (Trail)	12
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	12
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	16
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	20
UBCO HaRT (Kelowna)	74
Total:	281

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	82	7	8	97
Stimulant	80	0	0	80
Depressant	5	3	0	8
Psychedelic	52	2	1	55
Other	0	0	1	1
Polysubstance	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	39	39
Total	220	12	49	281

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 	7	0	0	7
Heroin 	0	3	0	3
Other Opioid 	0	0	1	1
Down 	75	1	1	77
Pharmaceutical 	0	3	6	9
Total 	82	7	8	97

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: