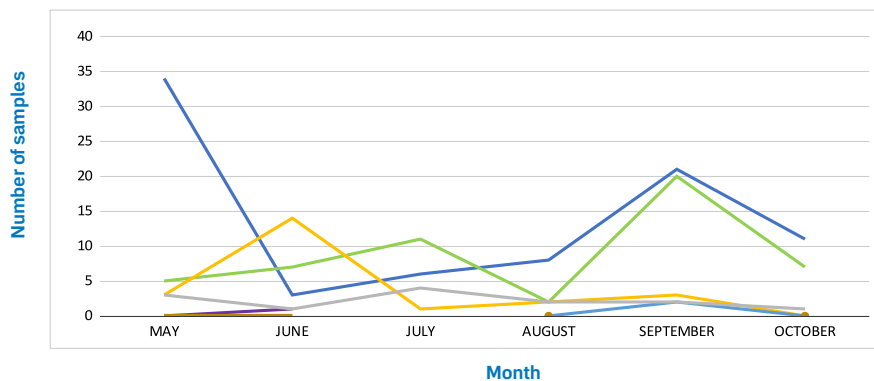


Key Findings

- In October, a total of 19 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Northern Health region.
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip increased from 38.1% to 54.5% in October (6 of 11 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was detected in 27.3% of unregulated opioid samples (3 of 11 samples), whereas fentanyl was detected in 36.4% (4 samples).
- Trends are hard to infer due to the small number of samples over a large region.
- Drug checking services with FTIR and test strips are now available in the Northern Health Region. For updated times and locations, please visit the [Northern Health website](#).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



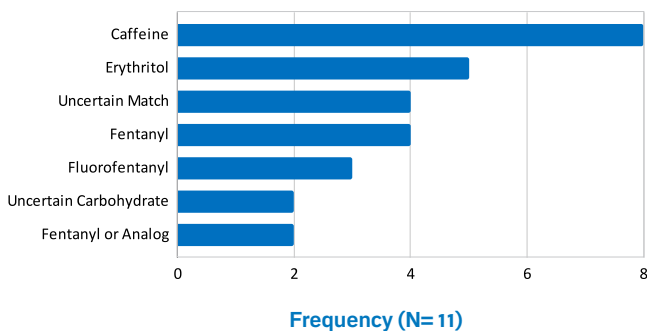
Number of samples by drug category in October

Opioid	11
Stimulant	7
Depressant	0
Psychedelic	0
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	1

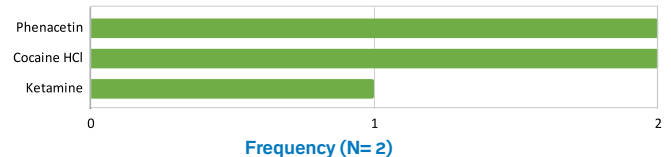
TOTAL: 19

Components found in drug samples in October

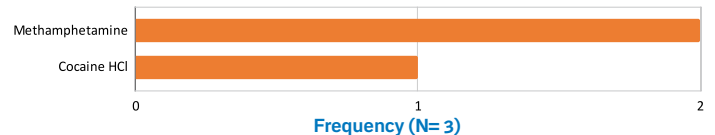
Components in unregulated opioids



Components in cocaine

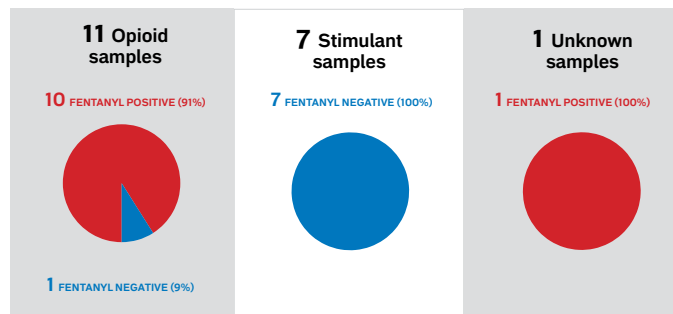


Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: bromazolam, mannitol, sucrose, no library match.

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



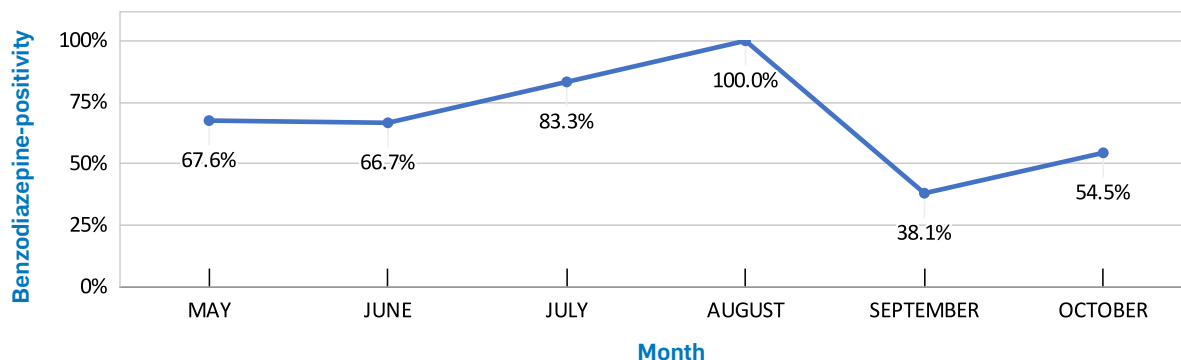
PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
October 3, 2023 Prince George	Down	Xylazine, Bromazolam, Fentanyl	Positive	Positive	Prince George	Grey chunk sold as “down” tested positive for high levels of xylazine (25-30%), benzo called bromazolam (20-25%), and fentanyl (1-5%). Can cause severe and prolonged sedation, blackouts, and memory loss.
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.						

Number of drugs checks at each site

Location	# of drug checks
POUNDS (Prince George)	11
Terrace ICMT (Terrace)	8
Total	19

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



During the month of October, **54.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Northern Health (**6 samples of 11 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.

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	10	1	0	11
Stimulant	5	2	0	7
Unknown	0	0	1	1
Total	15	3	1	19

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
Down	10	1	0	11
Total	10	1	0	11

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:

