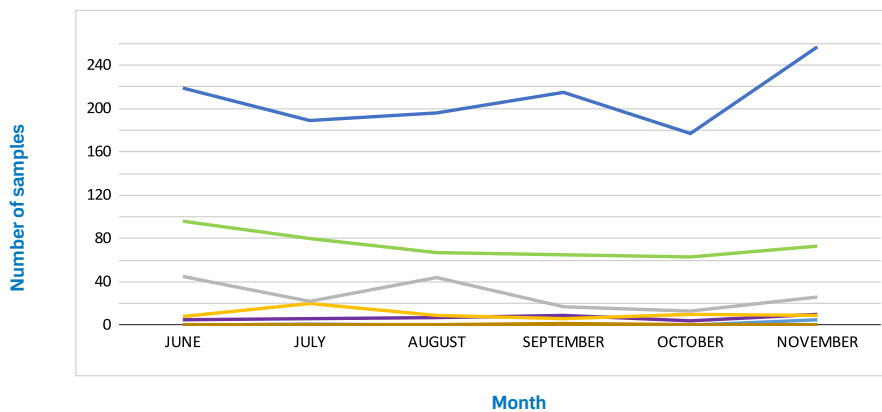


Key Findings

- In November, 380 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and test strip decreased from 66.7% to 65.4% in November (168 of 257 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were found in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR in 33.9% of unregulated opioid samples (85 of 251 samples), with bromazolam most commonly identified (65 samples), followed by desalkylidazepam (15 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was detected in 18.7% of unregulated opioid samples (47 of 251 samples), whereas fentanyl was detected in 66.5% (167 samples).
- Xylazine was detected in 4.4% of unregulated opioids (11 of 251 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



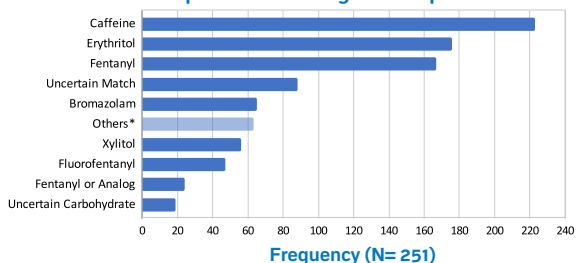
Number of samples by drug category in November

Opioid	257
Stimulant	73
Depressant	10
Psychedelic	9
Other	5
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	26

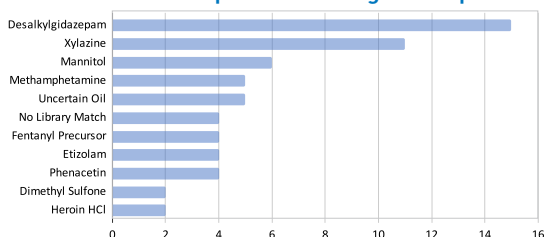
TOTAL: 380

Components found in drug samples in November

Components in unregulated opioids

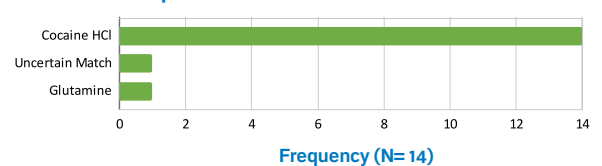


*Other components in unregulated opioids

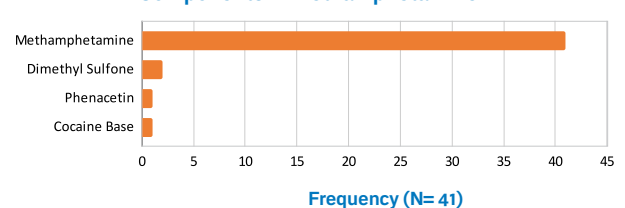


Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: inositol, cocaine base, flualprazolam, uncertain match, creatine.

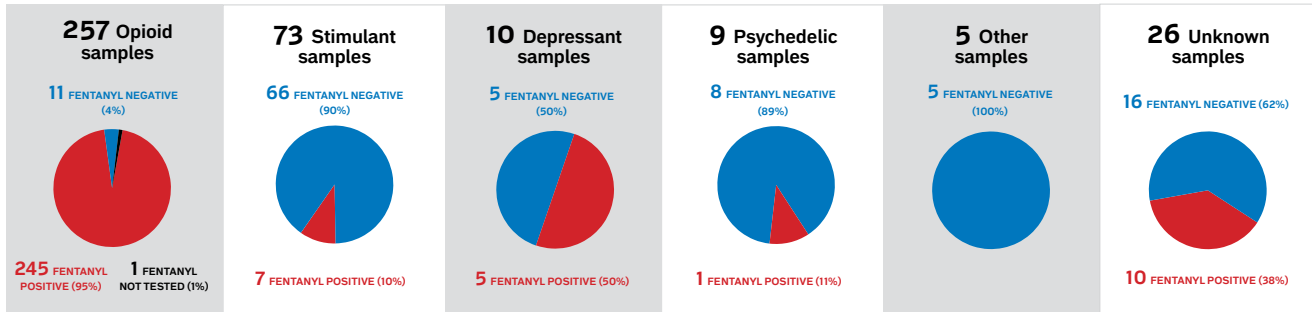
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

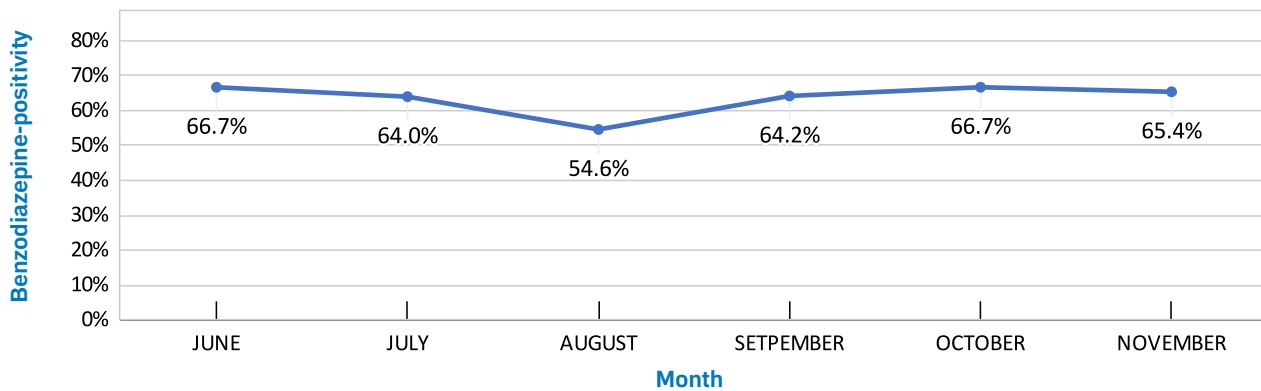


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
November 7, 2023 New Westminster	Heroin	Bromazolam, Uncertain Match	Negative	Positive	New Westminster	Beige powder sold as heroin tested as bromazolam, a benzodiazepine in New Westminster

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 November, **65.4%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**168 samples of 257 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	Location	# of drug checks
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	96	Mountainside (Mission)	20
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	98	Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	10
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	97	Purpose Society (New Westminster)	11
Mountainside (Hope)	12	SafePoint (Surrey)	29
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	6	Total:	380

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following location, which is included in the total: Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam)

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Matched	Did Not Match	Match Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	245	11	1	257
Stimulant	71	2	0	73
Depressant	7	3	0	10
Psychedelic	9	0	0	9
Other	3	1	1	5
Unknown	0	0	26	26
Total	335	17	28	380

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	15	3	0	18
Heroin	2	2	0	4
Down	227	4	1	232
Pharmaceutical	1	2	0	3
Total	245	11	1	257

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: