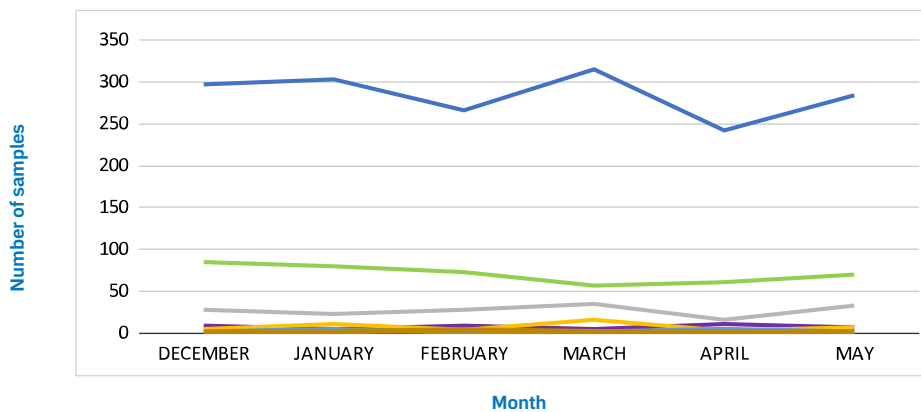


Key Findings

- In May, 405 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region (18 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased to 41.9% (119 of 284 samples). The true rate may be higher as benzo-like substances such as etizolam are not reliably detected with benzodiazepine test strips.
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 18.1% of unregulated opioids (51 of 281 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Multiple fentanyl analogues have been detected in unregulated opioids. The most recent to emerge, ortho-Methylfentanyl, was detected by FTIR in 15.7% of samples (44 of 281). Fluorofentanyl was detected in 43.8% (123 samples).
- Xylazine detection by FTIR in unregulated opioids increased from 4.2% to 4.6% in May (13 of 281 samples).
- Drug checking services are available at several locations in the Fraser Health region. To find drug checking services near you, please see our [site locator](#).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



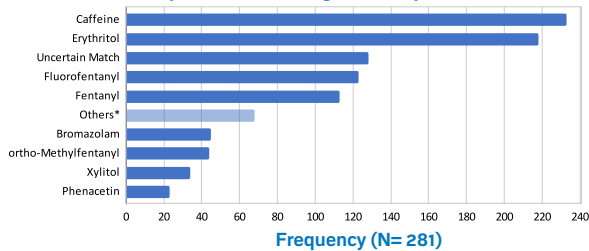
Number of samples by drug category in May

Opioid	284
Stimulant	70
Depressant	7
Psychedelic	7
Other	2
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	33

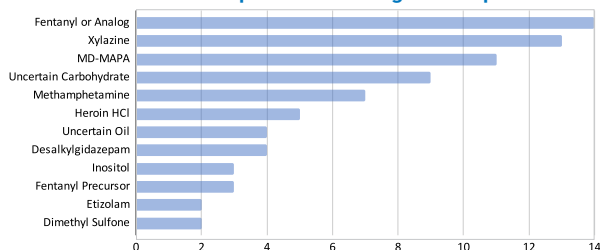
TOTAL: 405

Components found in drug samples in May

Components in unregulated opioids

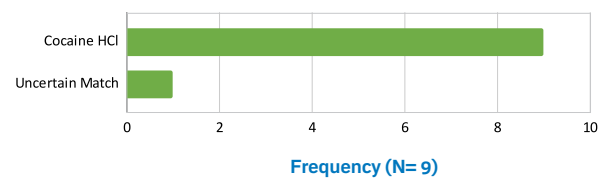


*Other components in unregulated opioids

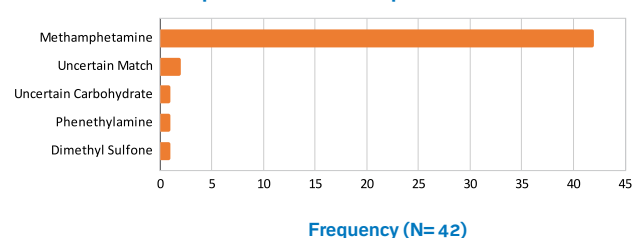


Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: isotonitazene, mannitol, uncertain mineral.

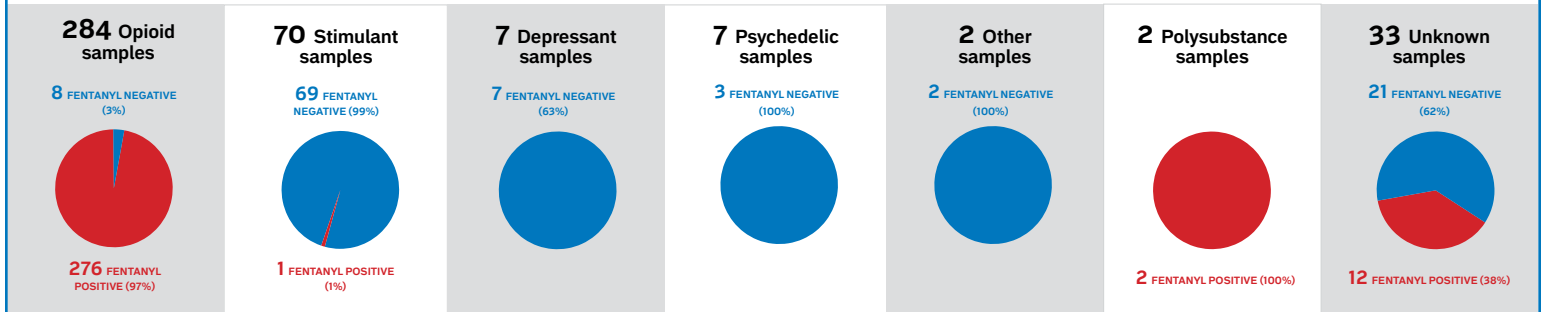
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

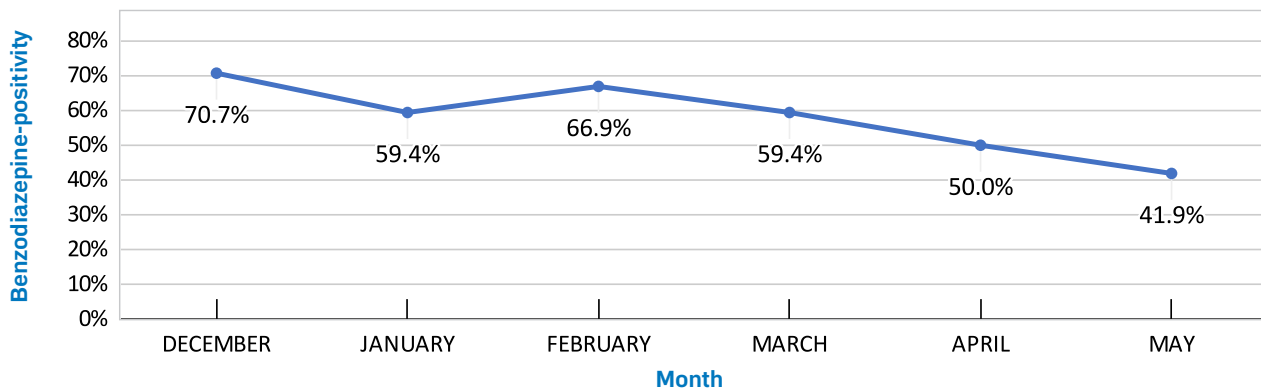


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts for Fraser Health this month					

To subscribe to the provincial drug alert and response system, text the word **JOIN** to **253787 (ALERTS)**.

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



During the month of May, **41.9%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**119 samples of 284 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)	10
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	76
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	93
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	129
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	7

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following location, which is included in the total: Mountainside (Hope)

Location	# of drug checks
Mountainside (Mission)	19
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	6
Purpose Society (Maple Ridge)	6
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	22
SafePoint (Surrey)	34
Total	405

Number of samples with expected drug present using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	278	4	2	284
Stimulant	69	1	0	70
Depressant	7	0	0	7
Psychedelic	4	3	0	7
Other	2	0	0	2
Polysubstance	1	1	0	2
Unknown	0	0	33	33
TOTAL	361	9	35	405

Number of opioid samples with expected drug present using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Fentanyl	38	0	1	39
Heroin	2	1	0	3
Down	235	3	1	239
Pharmaceutical	3	0	0	3
TOTAL	278	4	2	284

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:



How you want to be treated.

