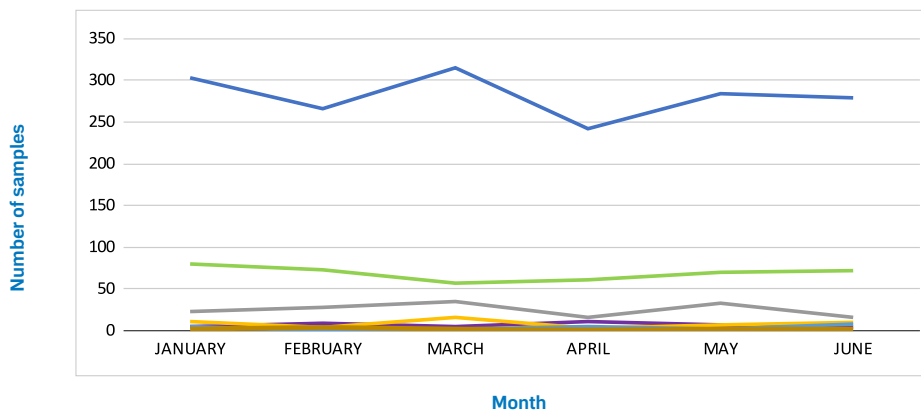


Key Findings

- In June, 391 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 increased to 44.4% (124 of 279 samples). The true rate may be higher as benzo-like substances such as etizolam are not reliably detected by benzodiazepine test strips.
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 20.1% of unregulated opioids (55 of 274 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Fluorofentanyl was the most common fentanyl analogue detected by FTIR in unregulated opioids (40.5%; 111 of 274 samples), followed by fentanyl (37.6%; 103 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was detected in 17.9% (49 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 2.2% of unregulated opioids (6 of 274 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



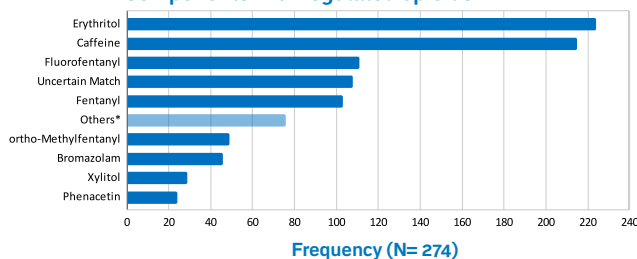
Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	279
Stimulant	72
Depressant	4
Psychedelic	10
Other	8
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	16

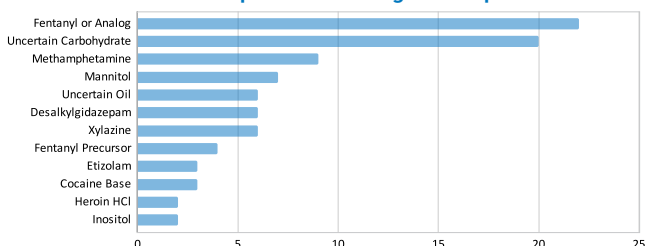
TOTAL: 391

Components found in drug samples in June

Components in unregulated opioids

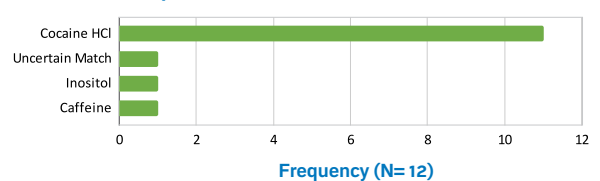


*Other components in unregulated opioids

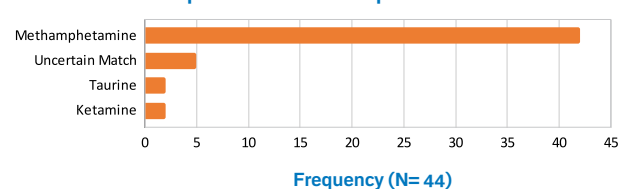


Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: lactose, medetomidine, heroin base, sodium bicarbonate, sucrose, talc, dimethyl sulfone, MD-MAPA.

Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine

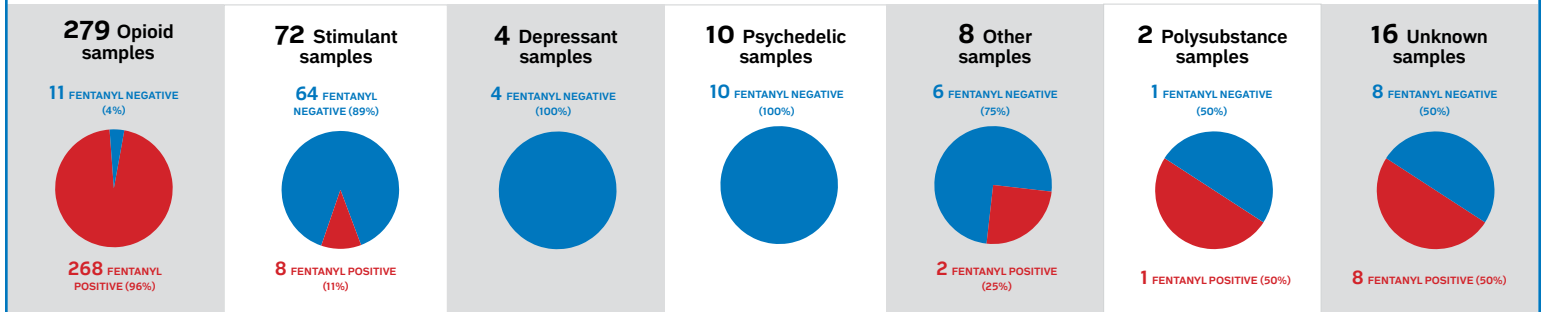


Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: bromazolam, dimethyl sulfone, erythritol, fentanyl, lactose, MD-MAPA, MDMA, phenacetin, uncertain oil.

June
2024

Drug Checking in Fraser Health

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

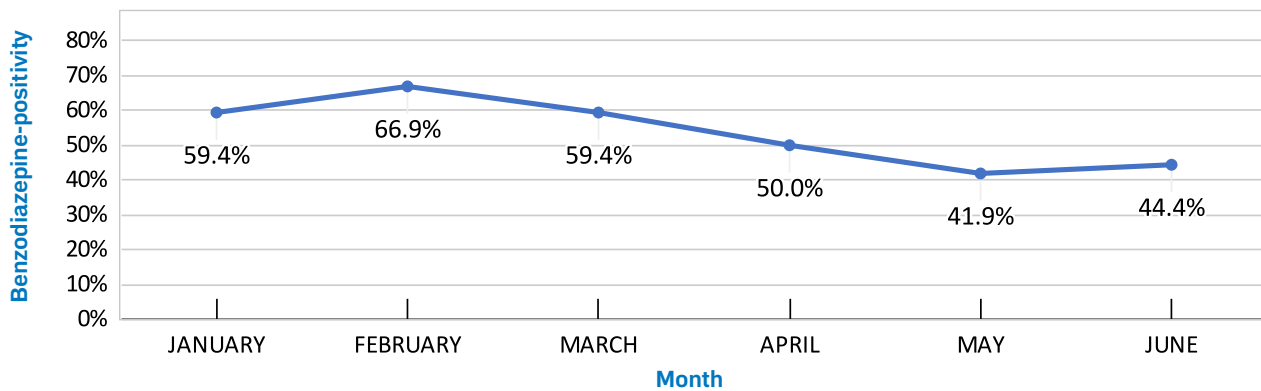


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
June 12, 2024 Surrey	Fentanyl	Fentanyl, Medetomidine, Uncertain Match	Positive	Negative	Beige/yellow chunks sold as fentanyl contain high concentrations of medetomidine, a veterinary sedative similar to xylazine but with a higher potency and longer duration of action.
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.					

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 June, **44.4%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**124 samples of 279 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 (Coquitlam)	5	Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	7
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	86	Mountainside (Mission)	22
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	83	Purpose Society (New Westminster)	8
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	100	SafePoint (Surrey)	48
Mountainside (Langley)	26	Total	391

Less than 5 samples were tested at each of the following locations, which are included in the total: Mountainside (Hope), Progressive Housing (Burnaby), Purpose Society (Maple Ridge).

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

EXPECTED DRUG	Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	269	9	1	279
Stimulant	69	3	0	72
Depressant	2	2	0	4
Psychedelic	9	1	0	10
Other	2	2	4	8
Polysubstance	1	1	0	2
Unknown	0	0	16	16
TOTAL	352	18	21	391

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	15	0	0	15
Heroin	2	0	0	2
Other Opioid	1	1	0	2
Down	249	7	1	257
Pharmaceutical	0	1	0	1
Opium	2	0	0	2
TOTAL	269	9	1	279

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.

