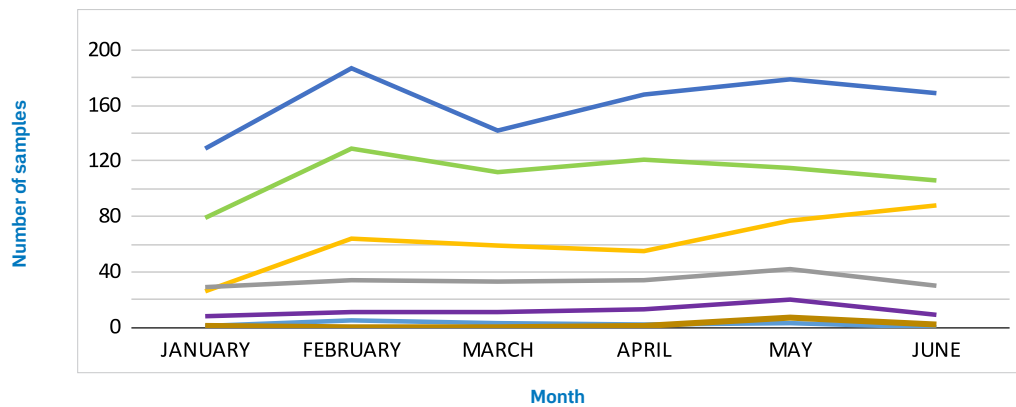


Key Findings

- In June, a total of 404 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (18 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased to 71.6% (121 of 169 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 13.4% of unregulated opioids (22 of 164 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Fluorofentanyl was the most common fentanyl analogue detected by FTIR in unregulated opioids (43.9%; 72 of 164 samples), followed by fentanyl (34.1%; 56 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was detected in 0.6% (1 sample).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 4.9% of unregulated opioids (8 of 164 samples).
- Drug checking services are available at several locations in the Interior Health region. To find drug checking services near you, please see our [site locator](#).

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



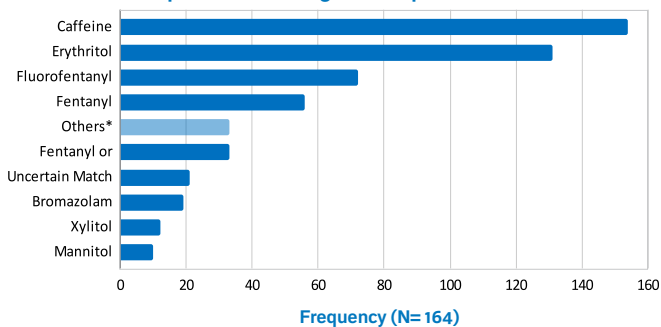
Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	169
Stimulant	106
Depressant	9
Psychedelic	88
Other	0
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	30

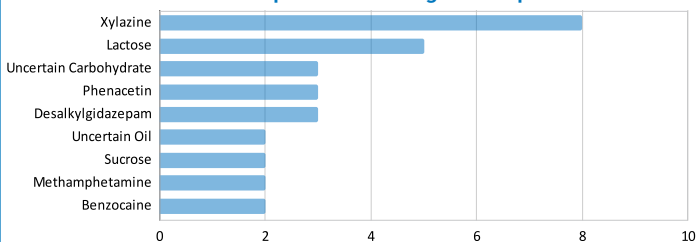
TOTAL: 404

Components found in drug samples in June

Components in unregulated opioids

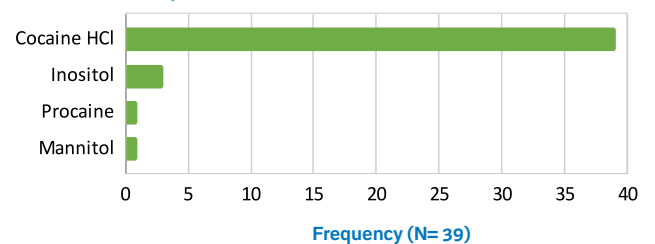


*Other components in unregulated opioids

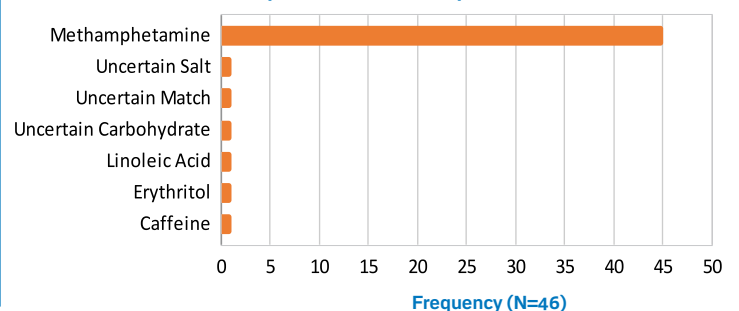


Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: cocaine HCl, dimethyl sulfone, pentobarbital, sodium bicarbonate, ortho-methylfentanyl.

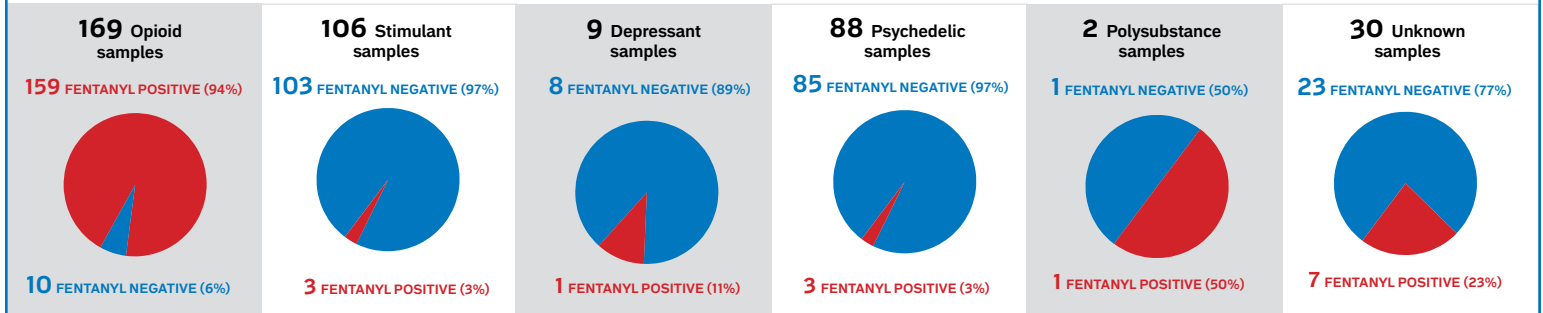
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

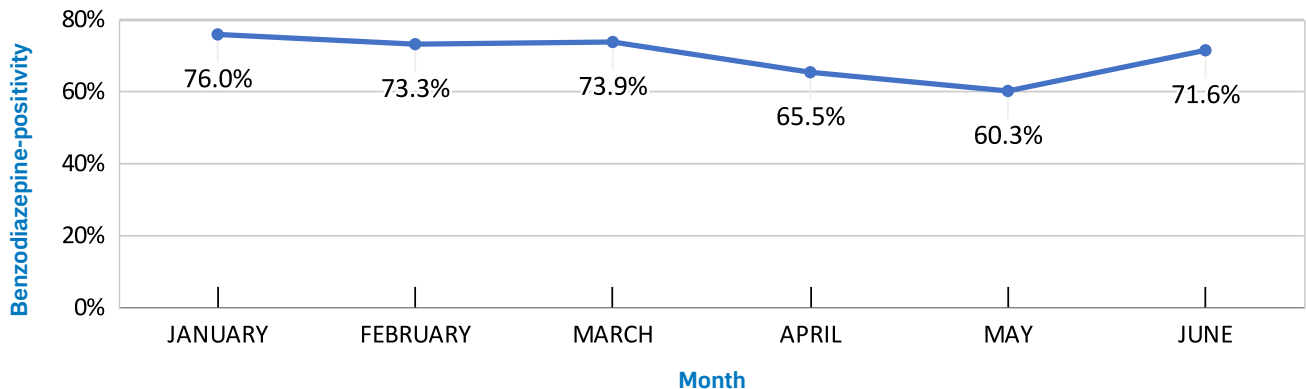


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts for Interior 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 June, 71.6% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (121 samples of 169 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 (Castlegar)	12
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	48
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	17
ANKORS (Nelson)	56
ANKORS (Trail)	7
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	57
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	92
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	29
UBCO HaRT (Kelowna)	83
Total	404

Less than 5 samples were tested at each of the following locations, which are included in the total: ASK Wellness (Merrit, Williams Lake).

Number of samples with expected drug present

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	161	7	1	169
Stimulant	103	3	0	106
Depressant	8	1	0	9
Psychedelic	83	5	0	88
Polysubstance	0	1	1	2
Unknown	0	0	30	30
Total	355	17	32	404

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 with expected drug present

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Fentanyl 	29	2	0	31
Heroin 	0	1	0	1
Other Opioid 	1	0	0	1
Down 	130	2	0	132
Pharmaceutical 	1	2	1	4
Total 	161	7	1	169

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:

