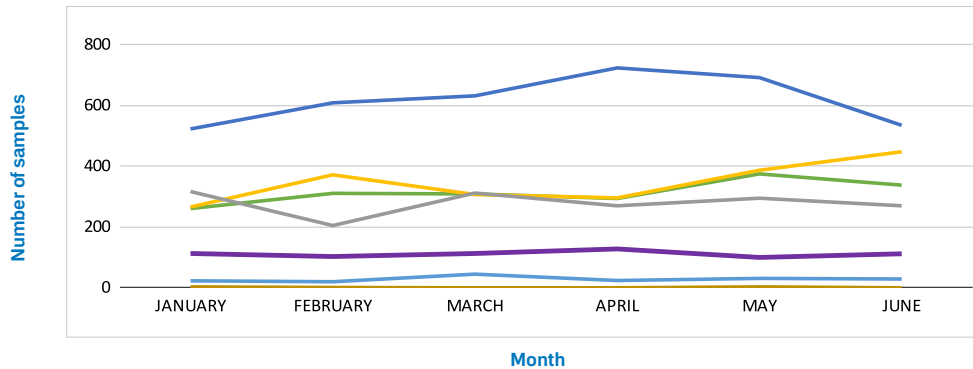


Key Findings

- In June, a total of 1,732 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Vancouver Coastal region (8 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased to 25.8% (138 of 535 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 10.3% of unregulated opioids (48 of 466 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Fentanyl was detected by FTIR in 34.5% of unregulated opioids (161 of 466 samples), whereas fluorofentanyl was detected in 26.0% (121 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was detected in 12.2% (57 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 0.6% of unregulated opioids (3 of 466 samples).
- Drug checking services are available at several locations in the Vancouver Coastal region. To find drug checking services near you, please see our [site locator](#)

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



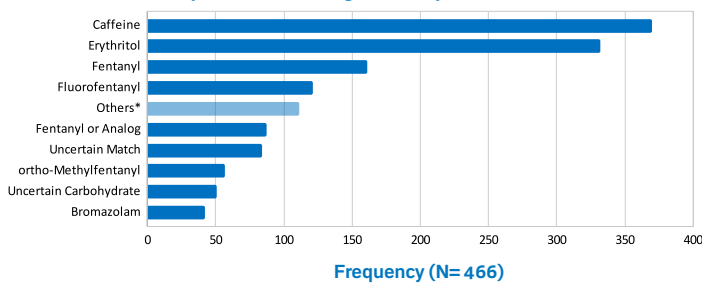
Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	535
Stimulant	338
Depressant	112
Psychedelic	448
Other	29
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	270

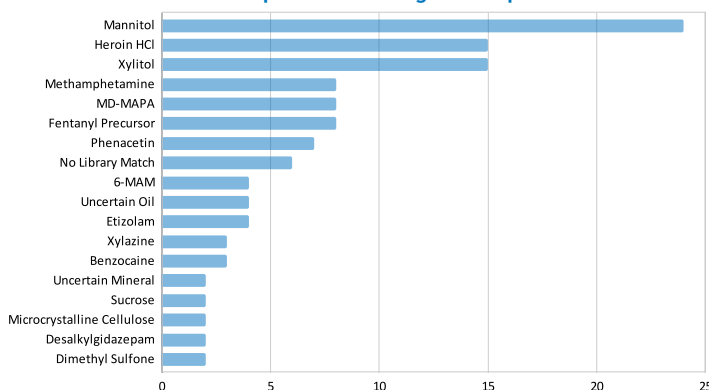
TOTAL: 1,732

Components found in drug samples in June

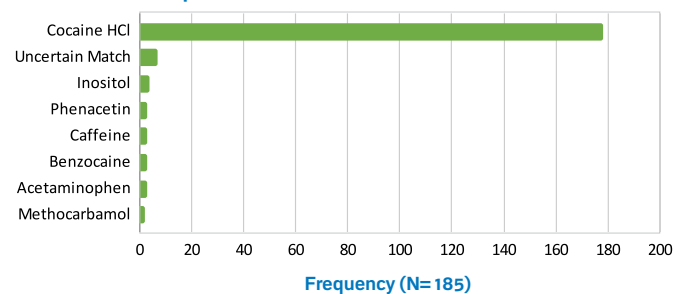
Components in unregulated opioids



Other components in unregulated opioids

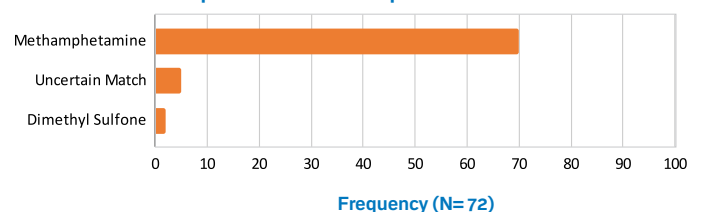


Components in cocaine



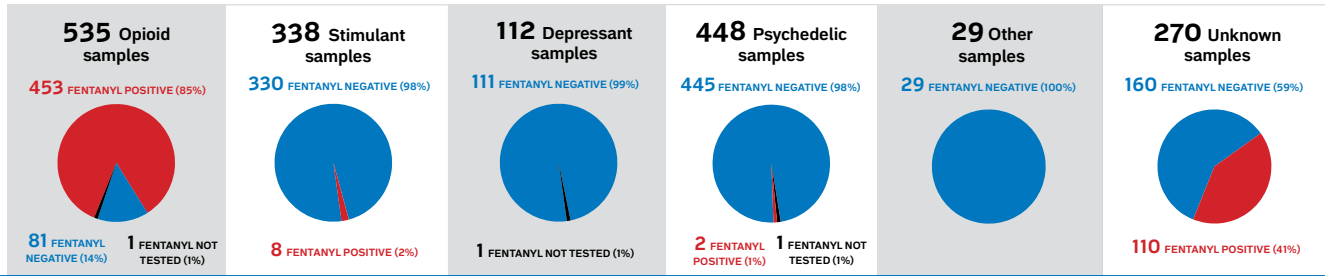
Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: cocaine base, creatine, dicalcium phosphate, MDMA, sodium bicarbonate, uncertain carbohydrate, uncertain oil.

Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: calcium stearate, cocaine HCl, microcrystalline cellulose.

Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



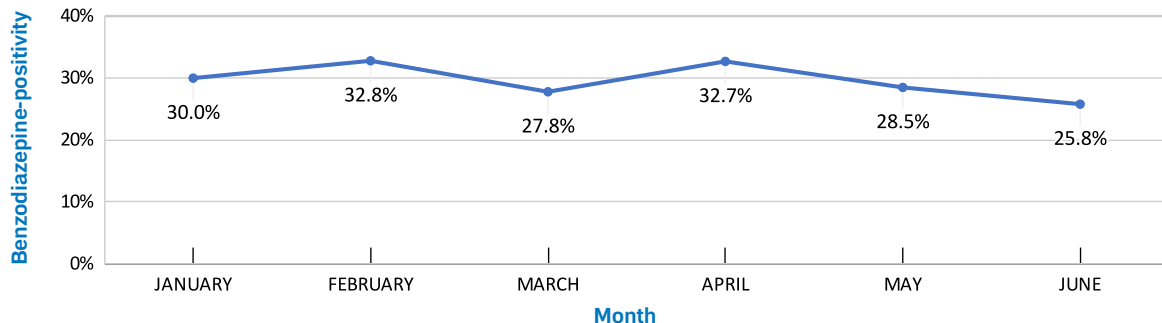
PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
June 2, 2024 Vancouver	Heroin	Caffeine, Fentanyl, Mannitol, Bromazolam	Positive	Positive	Pink pebbles sold as heroin in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and bromazolam, a benzo analog. Substance has caused overdose.
June 4, 2024 Vancouver	Oxycodone	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Fentanyl, Uncertain Carbohydrate	Positive	Negative	White pressed tablet with imprints "S/S" and "20" sold as oxycodone in the DTES of Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and negative for oxycodone. Substance has caused overdose.
June 4, 2024 Powell River (qathet)	Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine	Positive	Positive	Clear crystals sold as methamphetamine in Powell River tested positive for methamphetamine, fentanyl, and benzos.
June 6, 2024 Vancouver	Oxycodone	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Fentanyl, Uncertain Oil	Positive	Positive	Dark green pressed tablet with imprints "CDN" and "80" sold as oxycodone in the DTES of Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and benzos and negative for oxycodone.
June 12, 2024 Vancouver	Down	Fentanyl or Analog, Erythritol, Caffeine, Xylazine	Positive	Positive	Brown granules sold as down in Vancouver, tested positive for fentanyl, benzos, and xylazine.
June 12, 2024 Vancouver	Tucibi	Ketamine, MDA, Uncertain Carbohydrate, Acetaminophen	Negative	Positive	Light blue granules sold in Vancouver as "tuci" or "tusi" which typically is expected to contain ketamine, MDMA, and/or stimulants, tested positive for ketamine, MDA, and benzos.
June 25, 2024 Vancouver	Percocet (Acetaminophen + Oxycodone)	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Uncertain Match	Positive	Negative	White tablet with imprint 'TEC' sold as Percocet in the DTES of Vancouver, tested positive for fentanyl and negative for oxycodone.

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, **25.8%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Vancouver Coastal Health (**138 samples of 535 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
Get Your Drugs Tested (Vancouver)	1,436
Insite (Vancouver)	221
LIFT Community Services (Powell River)	47
Tla'amin Nation (Powell River)	6
WCSS (Whistler)	22
Total:	1,732

Number of samples with expected drug present

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	479	38	18	535
Stimulant	311	26	1	338
Depressant	82	29	1	112
Psychedelic	402	28	18	448
Other	16	7	6	29
Unknown	0	0	270	270
Total	1290	128	314	1732

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	90	2	0	92
Heroin	14	8	0	22
Other Opioid	0	1	0	1
Down	343	8	1	352
Pharmaceutical	26	19	17	62
Opium	6	0	0	6
Total	479	38	18	535

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:

