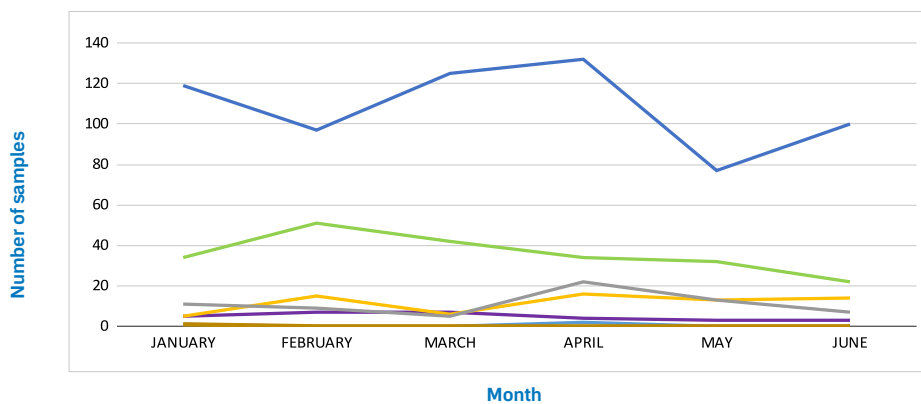


Key Findings

- In June, a total of 146 drug checks were performed at the CMHA Mid-Island Albert Street site in Nanaimo (2 access points), which includes drug checking services provided at Laketown Shaketown Music Festival.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased to 70.0% (70 of 100 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 6.1% of unregulated opioids (6 of 98 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Fentanyl was detected by FTIR in 23.5% of unregulated opioids (23 of 98 samples), whereas fluorofentanyl was detected in 17.3% (17 samples).
- Drug checking services are now operating 7 days a week from 11:00am–8:30pm at 250 Albert Street, Nanaimo. To find a drug checking service near you, please see our [site locator](#).
- Substance (The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project), offers drug checking in Victoria and communities across the Island. For more information about drug checking sample results, please visit www.substance.uvic.ca.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



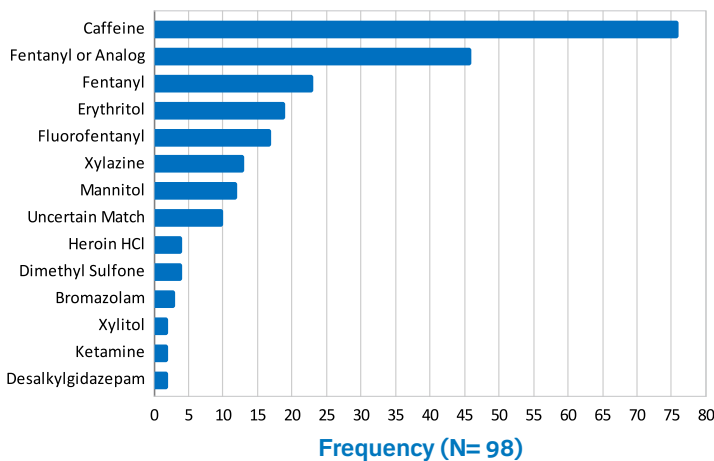
Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	100
Stimulant	22
Depressant	3
Psychedelic	14
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	7

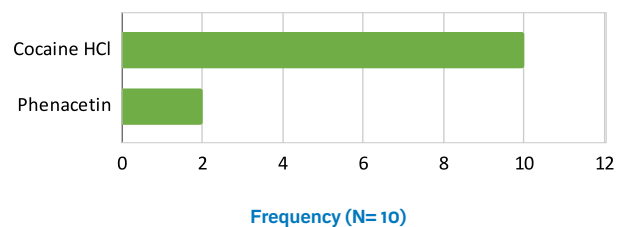
TOTAL: 146

Components found in drug samples in June

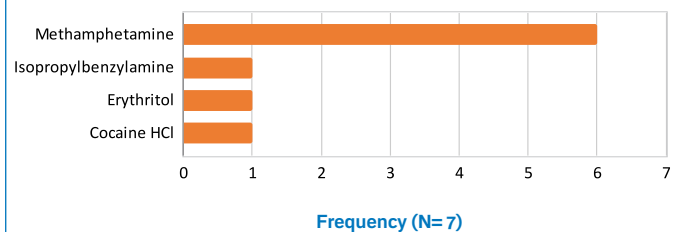
Components in unregulated opioids



Components in cocaine

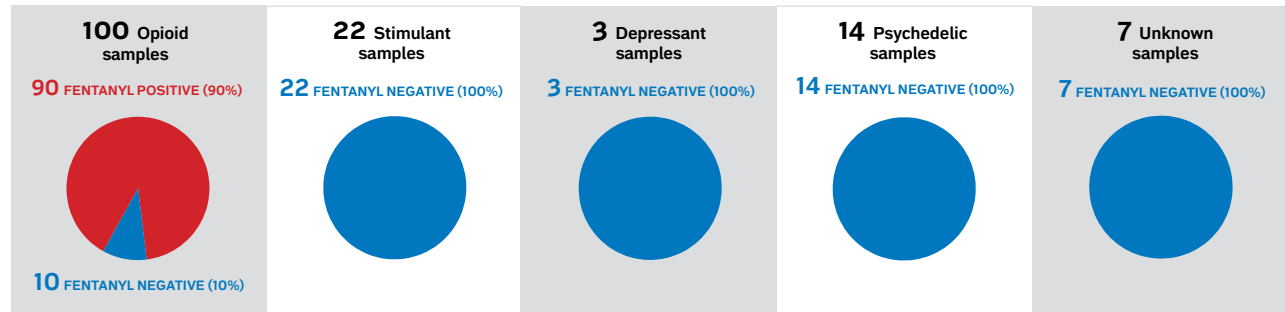


Components in methamphetamine



Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: noscapine, oxazepam, phenacetin, sodium bicarbonate, uncertain oil.

Number of samples tested with **fentanyl** present

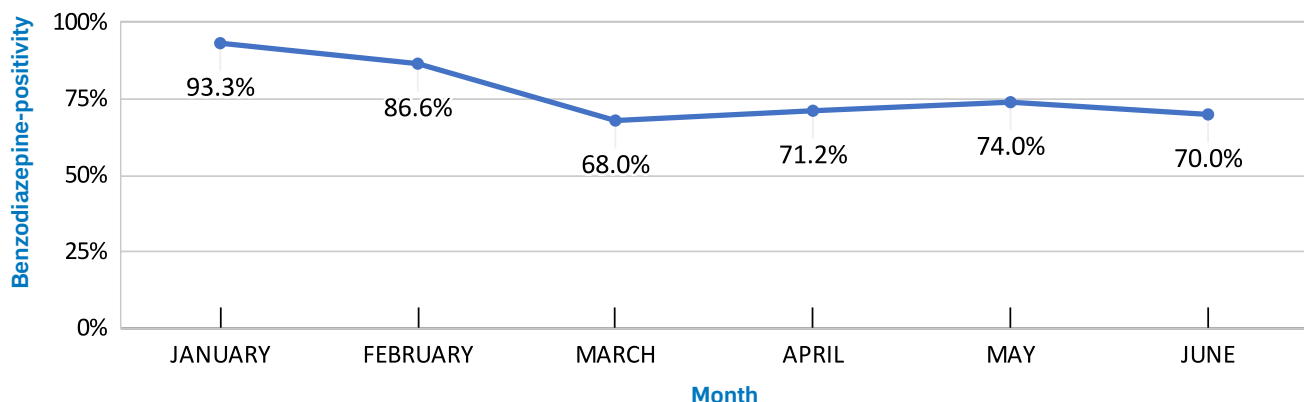


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts for Island 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, **70.0%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Island Health (**70 samples of 100 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
Albert St. OPS (CMHA Nanaimo)	136
Laketown Shakedown Music Festival	10
Total:	146

Number of samples with expected drug present

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

EXPECTED DRUG	Present	Not Present	Presence Not Determined	Samples Tested
Opioid	86	13	1	100
Stimulant	20	2	0	22
Depressant	2	1	0	3
Psychedelic	12	2	0	14
Unknown	0	0	7	7
Total	120	18	8	146

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	19	4	0	23
Heroin	2	5	0	7
Down	65	3	0	68
Pharmaceutical	0	1	1	2
Total	86	13	1	100

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: