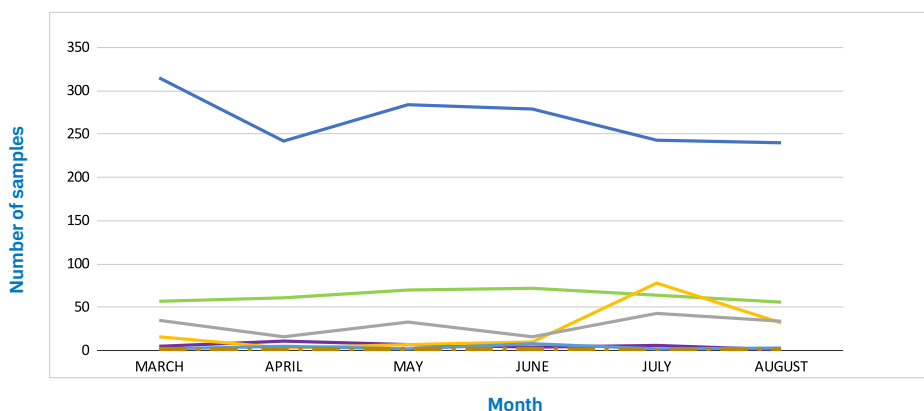


## Key Findings

- In August, 367 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region (15 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased to 47.5% (114 of 240 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 17.3% of unregulated opioids (41 of 237 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Fluorofentanyl was the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR in August (40.1%; 95 of 237 samples), surpassing fentanyl for the first time (35.0%; 83 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was detected in 16.5% of unregulated opioids (39 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 4.6% of unregulated opioids (11 of 237 samples).
- To find drug checking services near you, please see our [site locator](#).

## Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



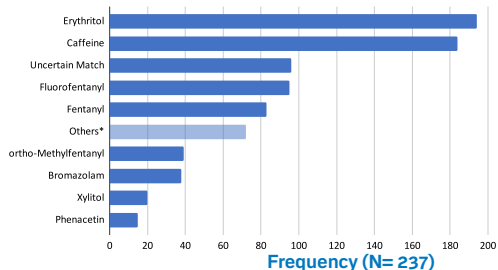
### Number of samples by drug category in August

Opioid	240
Stimulant	56
Depressant	1
Psychedelic	32
Other	3
Polysubstance	1
Unknown	34

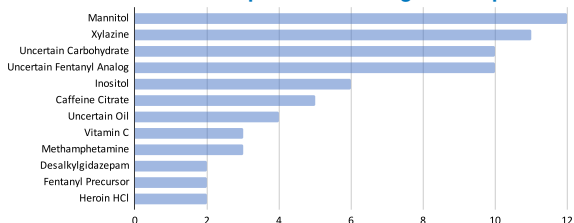
**TOTAL: 367**

## Components found in drug samples in August

### Components in unregulated opioids

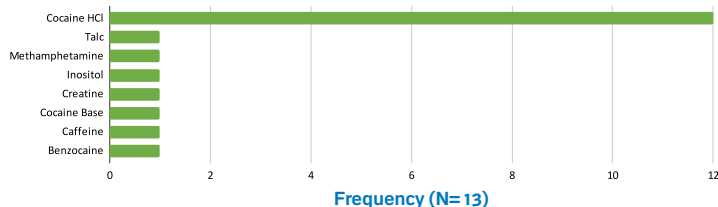


### \*Other components in unregulated opioids

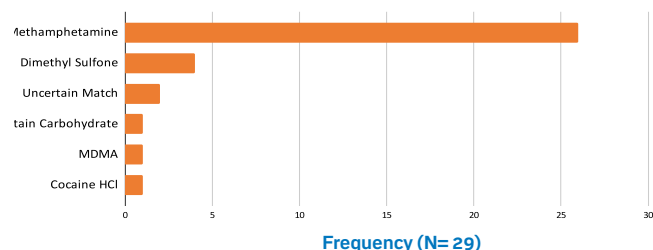


Additional compounds that were detected a single time each have been excluded from this graph, which include: glucose, lactose, MD-MAPA, cocaine base, fentanyl base, medetomidine, sucrose, etizolam, uncertain mineral, MDMA.

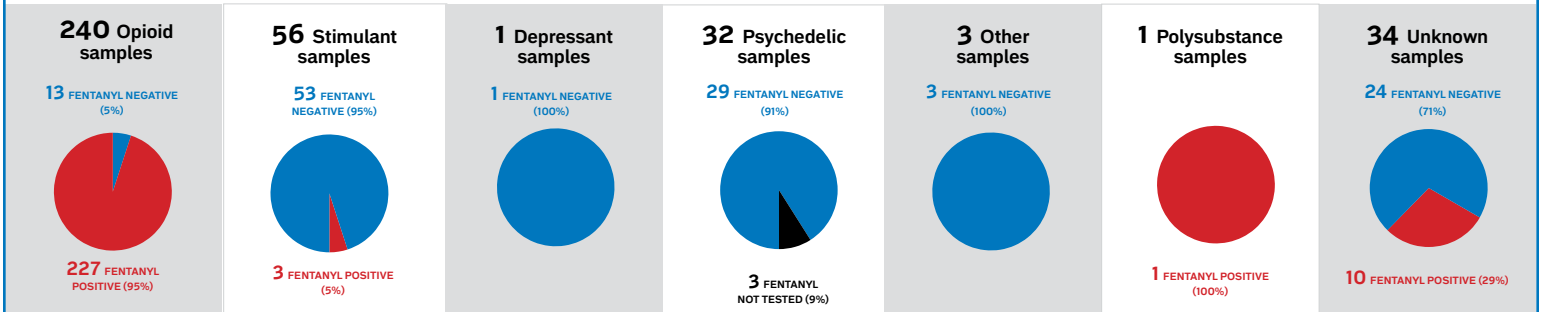
### Components in cocaine



### Components in methamphetamine



## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present



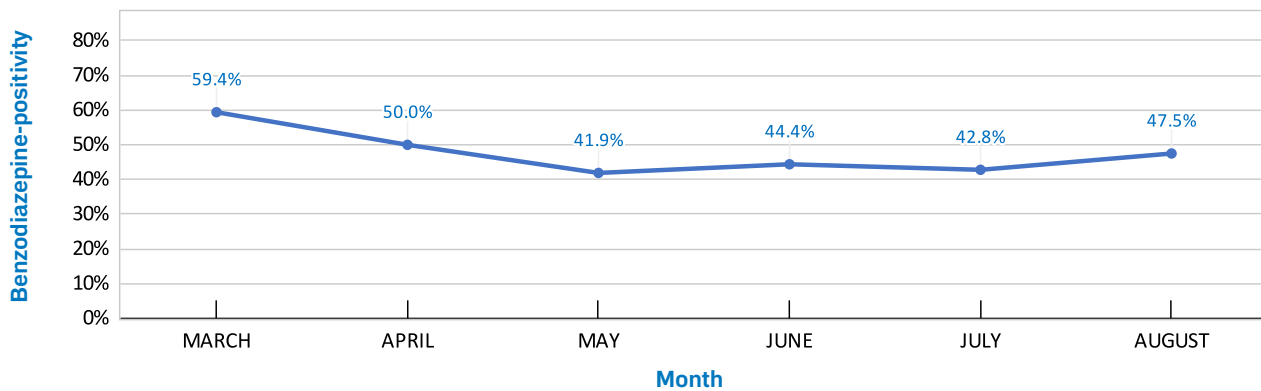
## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
August 9, 2024 Abbotsford	Down	MDMA	Negative	Negative	Dark purple powder sold as Down tested positive for MDMA and negative for fentanyl and benzodiazepines in Abbotsford.

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 August, **47.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**114 samples of 240 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)	18
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	75
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	56
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	130
Mountainside (Mission)	16

Location	# of drug checks
Mountainside (Hope)	12
Mountainside (Langley)	23
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	7
SafePoint (Surrey)	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>367</b>

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following location, which is included in the total: Purpose Society (New Westminster), Mountainside (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	228	11	1	240
Stimulant	52	3	1	56
Depressant	1	0	0	1
Psychedelic	29	3	0	32
Other	3	0	0	3
Polysubstance	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	34	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>367</b>

## 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	7	0	0	7
Heroin	0	2	0	2
Down	219	9	0	228
Pharmaceutical	1	0	1	2
Opium	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>240</b>

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:

