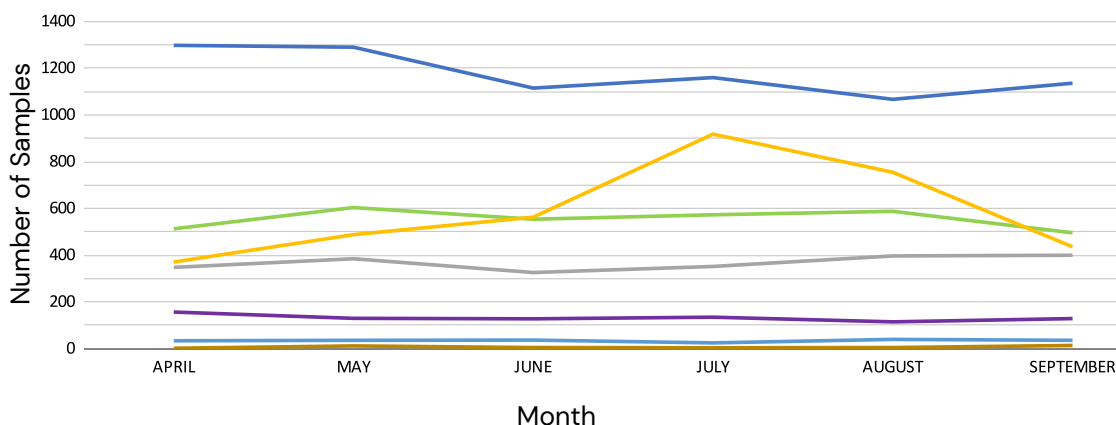




Key Findings

- In September, 2,647 drug checks were performed by community drug checking sites in BC (46 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased to 41.3% (469 of 1136 samples).
- The number of unregulated opioids containing benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detected by FTIR has been decreasing. In September, the rate was 10.4% (110 of 1054 samples).
- Fluorofentanyl was the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR in unregulated opioids for the second month in a row (39.5%; 416 of 1054 samples), surpassing fentanyl (33.1%; 349 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was detected in 10.5% of unregulated opioids (111 samples).
- The median fentanyl concentration of unregulated opioids was 18.7%. See page 4 for more detailed results.
- 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 Sept.

● Opioid	1136
● Stimulant	496
● Depressant	129
● Psychedelic	436
● Other	36
● Polysubstance	14
● Unknown	400

Total: 2,647

Number of samples tested by region:

Vancouver Coastal Health region: 1,649 (62%)

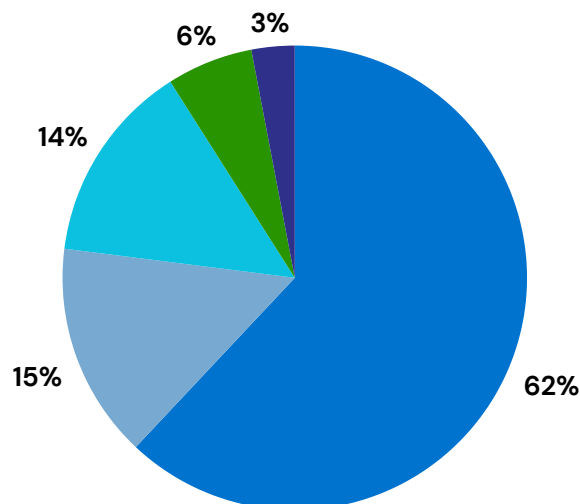
Fraser Health region: 400 (15%)

Interior Health region: 364 (14%)

Vancouver Island Health region: 161 (6%)

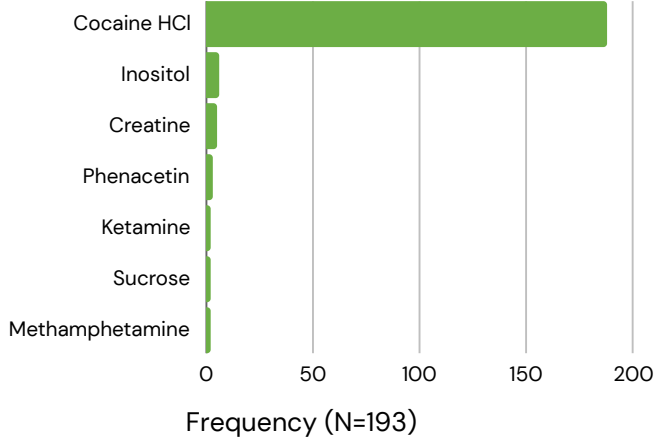
Northern Health region: 73 (3%)

Total: 2,647

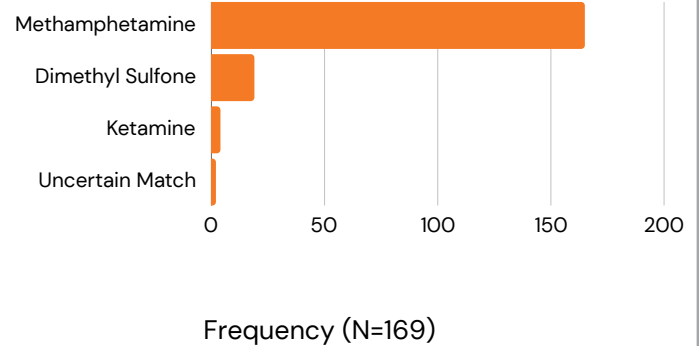


Components found in drug samples in September

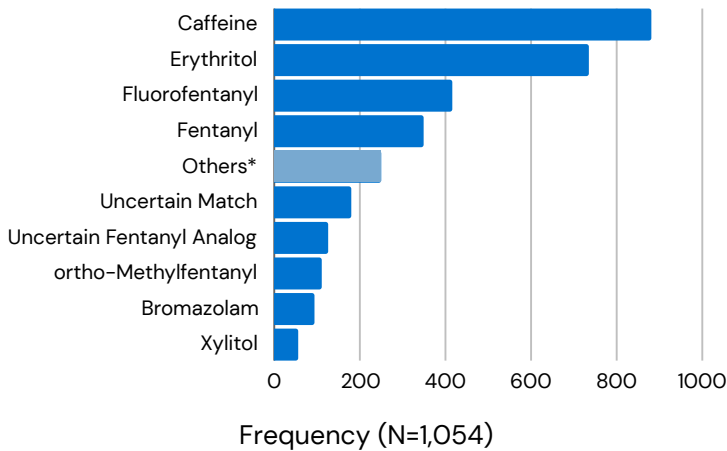
Components in cocaine



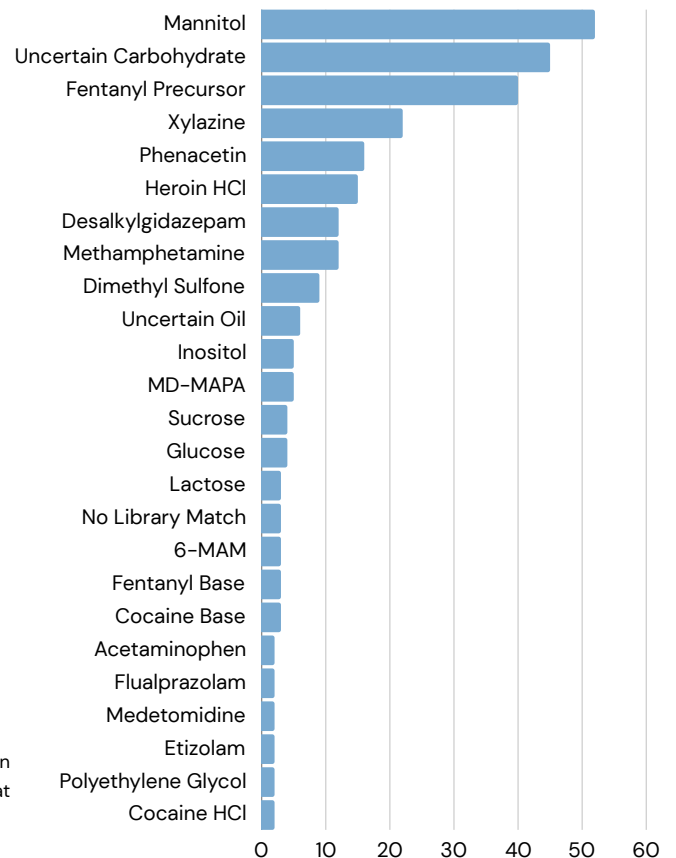
Components in methamphetamine



Components in unregulated opioids

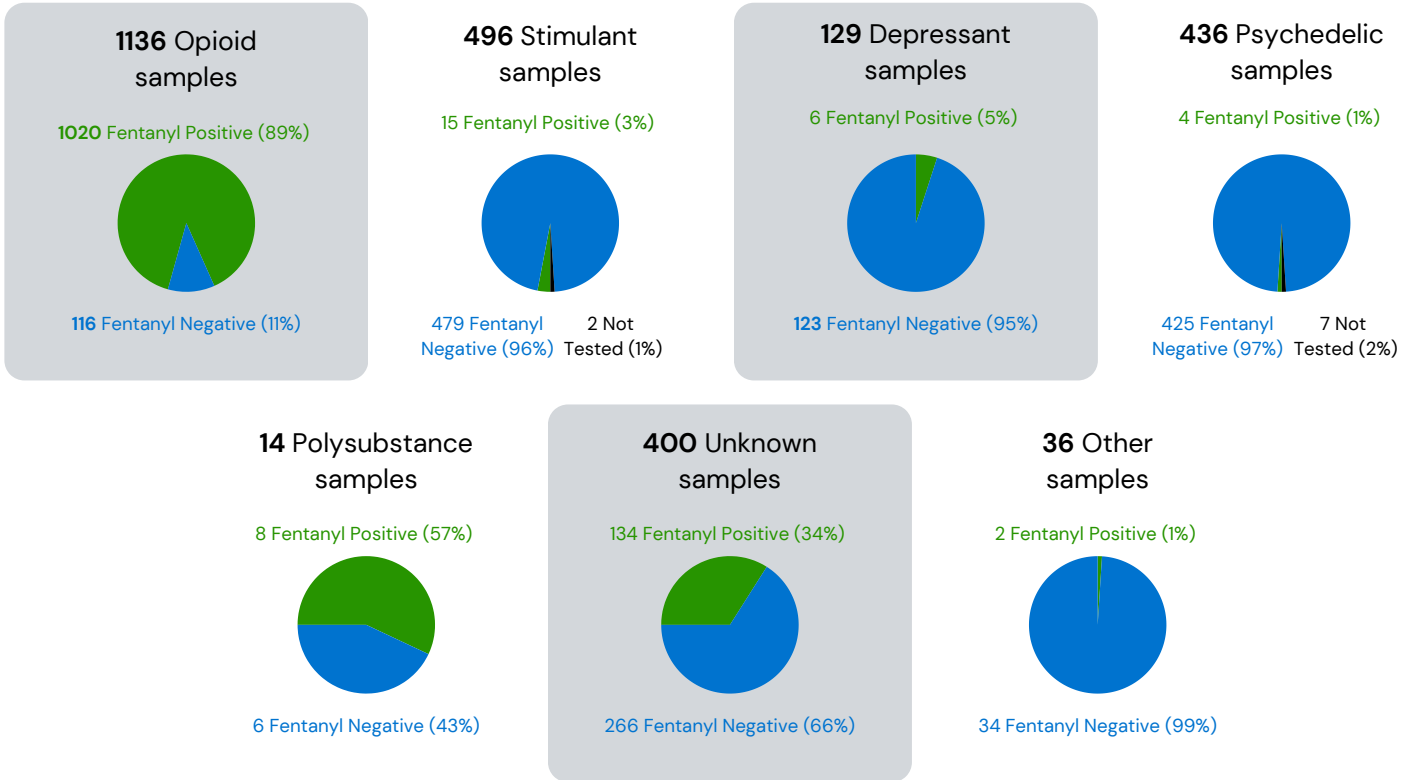


*Other components in unregulated opioids

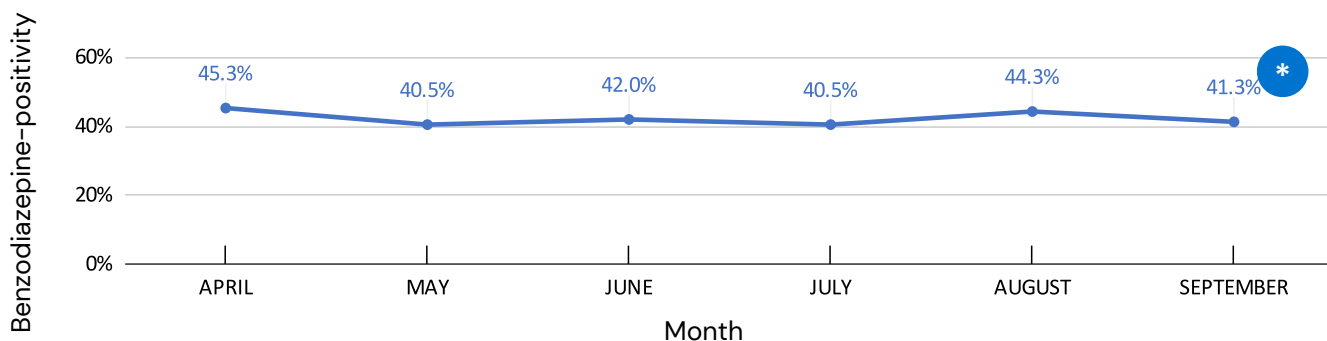


There were additional compounds detected a single time each. To save space, they have been omitted from these charts. For the full list of compounds detected, visit our data dashboard at www.drugcheckingbc.ca/dashboard/

Number of samples tested with **fantanyl present**



Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the past 6 months

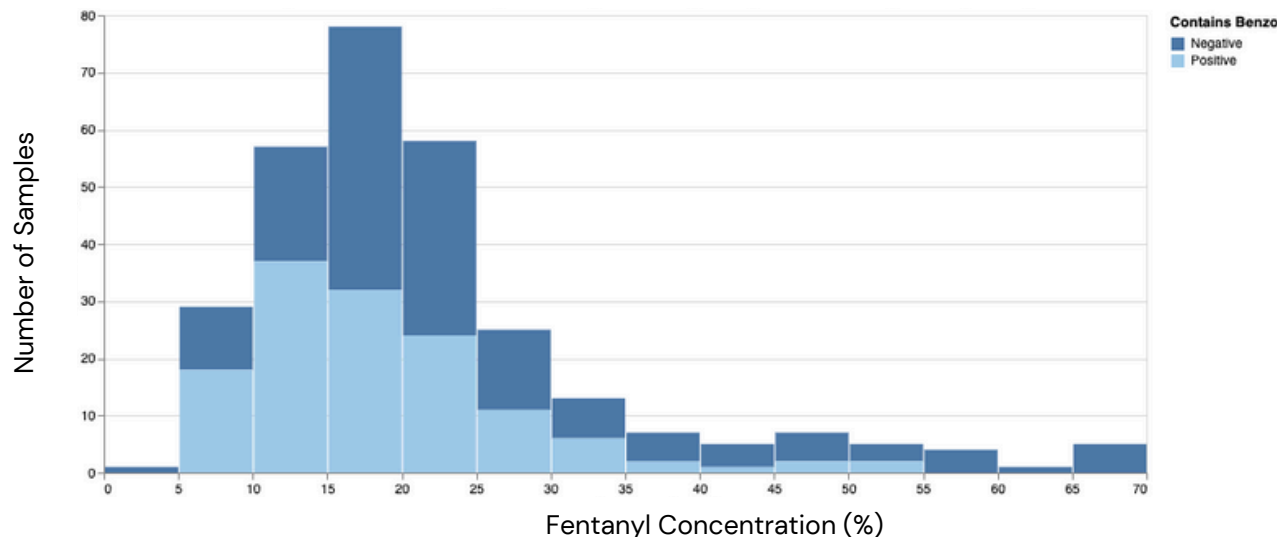


*During the month of September, **41.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**469 samples of 1136 checked**). Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The results presented here are presumptive until confirmed by a laboratory.

Fentanyl Concentration

The charts below summarize fentanyl concentrations of unregulated opioid samples brought for drug checking in British Columbia. Technicians at point-of-care may provide an estimated fentanyl quantification, but these results were calculated separately (post hoc) using the model for the purpose of this report.

Fentanyl Concentration of Opioid Drug Checking Samples in BC, September 2024

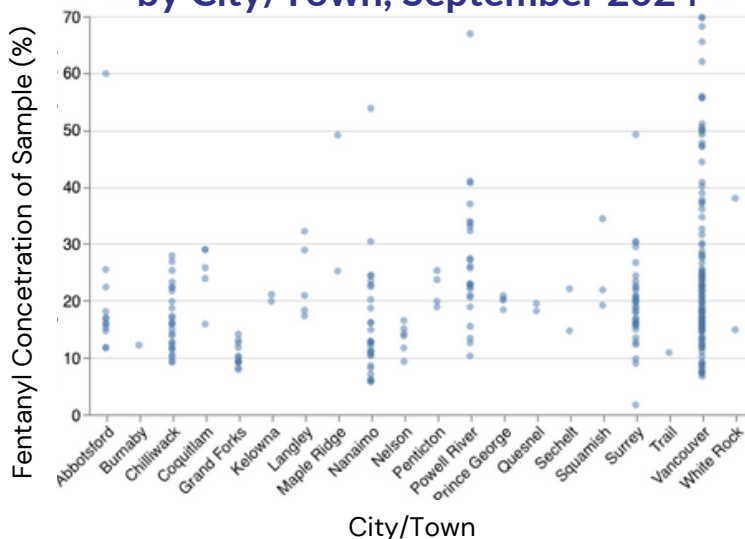


Median fentanyl concentration in all unregulated opioid samples in September: 18.7%. Most unregulated opioid samples contain fentanyl at concentrations between 15% and 25%, but can range from trace amounts to above 75% of the mixture. As of August 2024, we have revised the model to exclude samples that contain any other fentanyl analogues, with or without fentanyl present.

Drug supplies vary by location in the province. Denser points on this chart indicate a greater number of samples containing fentanyl at the concentration displayed. We note that the locations pictured here include only drug checking services partnered with the BCCSU Drug Checking Program, and may not represent the broader drug supply or the supply in other settings.

If you have any questions about the results, please email us at drugchecking@bccsu.ubc.ca.

Fentanyl Concentration of Opioid Samples by City/Town, September 2024



Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid		1065	60	11	1136
Stimulant		474	22	0	496
Psychedelic		392	24	20	436
Unknown		0	0	400	400
Depressant		98	29	2	129
Other		23	6	7	36
Polysubstance		10	1	3	14
TOTAL		2062	142	443	2647

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.

Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Down		881	19	0	900
Fentanyl		125	6	0	131
Pharmaceutical		37	26	11	74
Heroin		14	9	0	23
Opium		8	0	0	8
TOTAL		1065	60	11	1136

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.

Depressant includes:
benzodiazepines,
etizolam, GHB, hypnotics

Opioid includes:
"down", heroin, fentanyl
(unregulated opioids), and
pharmaceutical opioids

Polysubstance includes:
cross-category mixtures

Psychedelic includes:
MDMA and related, 2C-family,
tryptamines, ketamine, LSD

Stimulant includes:
methamphetamine,
"speed," cocaine and
crack cocaine,
cathinones

Unknown includes:
samples where the individual
was unable to identify an
expected substance - this
includes found samples.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
September 24, 2024 Vancouver	Acetaminophen and Oxycodone	Microcrystalline cellulose, fentanyl, ortho-methylfentanyl	Positive	Negative	White pressed pill with imprint "TEC" expected to be Percocet (oxycodone and acetaminophen) in Vancouver tested positive fentanyl and ortho-methyl fentanyl, a fentanyl analogue. Substance tested negative for oxycodone and acetaminophen.

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).

Data represented in this report is collected from our partner sites across the province utilizing Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometry in combination with BTNX fentanyl test strips, as well as benzodiazepine test strips when applicable. We note the FTIR spectrometer has a detection limit of approximately 5% concentration (McCrae, 2019).

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners:

