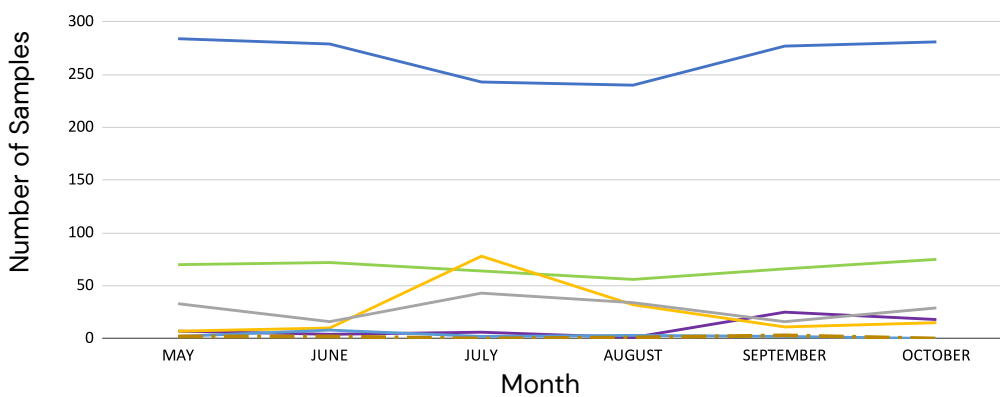




Key Findings

- In October, 418 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 was 52.7% (148 of 281 samples). The true rate may be higher as benzo-like substances such as etizolam are not reliably detected by test strips.
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 17.4% of unregulated opioids (48 of 276 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Fentanyl was the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR (39.9%; 110 of 276 samples), followed by ortho-methylfentanyl (26.1%; 72 samples). Fluorofentanyl was detected in 14.5% of unregulated opioids (40 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 3.6% of unregulated opioids (10 of 276 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 Oct.

Opioid	281
Stimulant	75
Depressant	18
Psychedelic	15
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	29

Total: 418

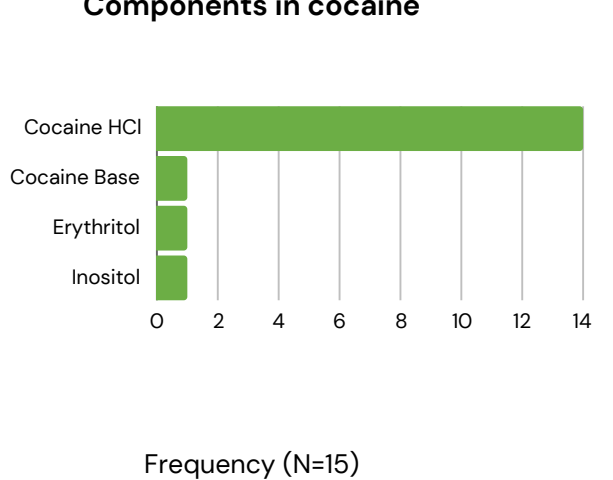
Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam)	17
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	98
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	87
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	91
Mountainside (Hope)	11
Mountainside (Langley)	21
Mountainside (Mission)	15
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	26
SafePoint (Surrey)	41
SOURCES (White Rock)	7
Total:	418

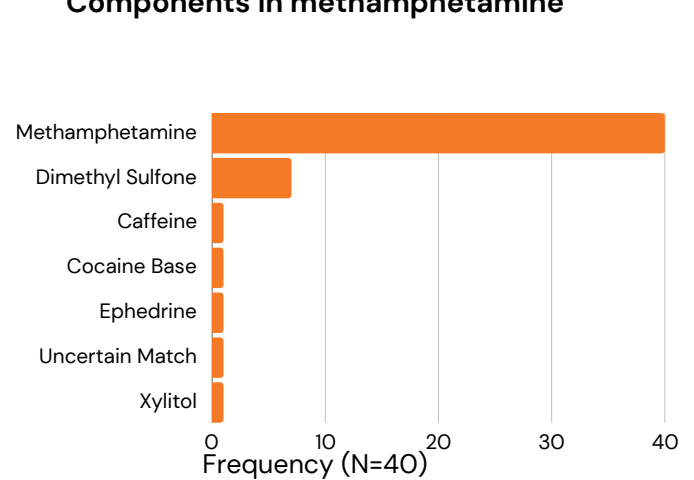
A small number of samples were tested at the following location, which is included in the total:
Progressive Housing (Burnaby).

Components found in drug samples in October

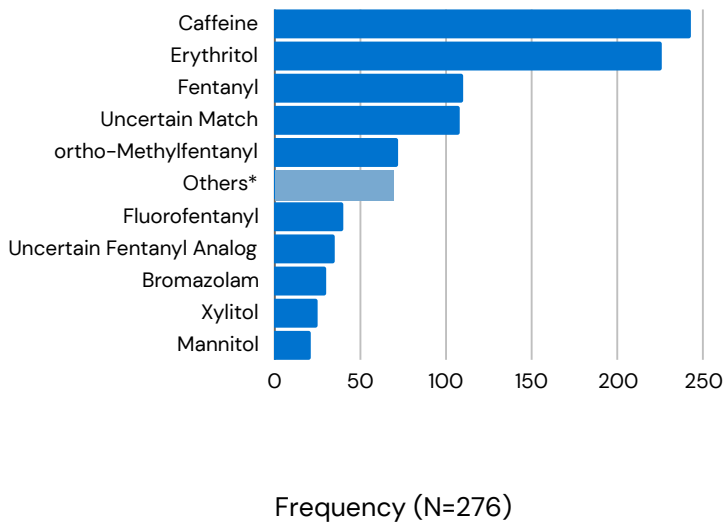
Components in cocaine



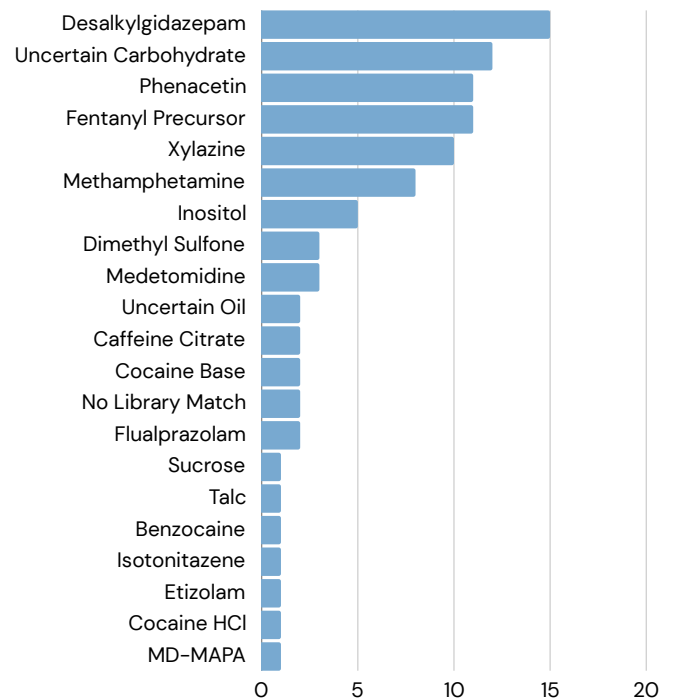
Components in methamphetamine



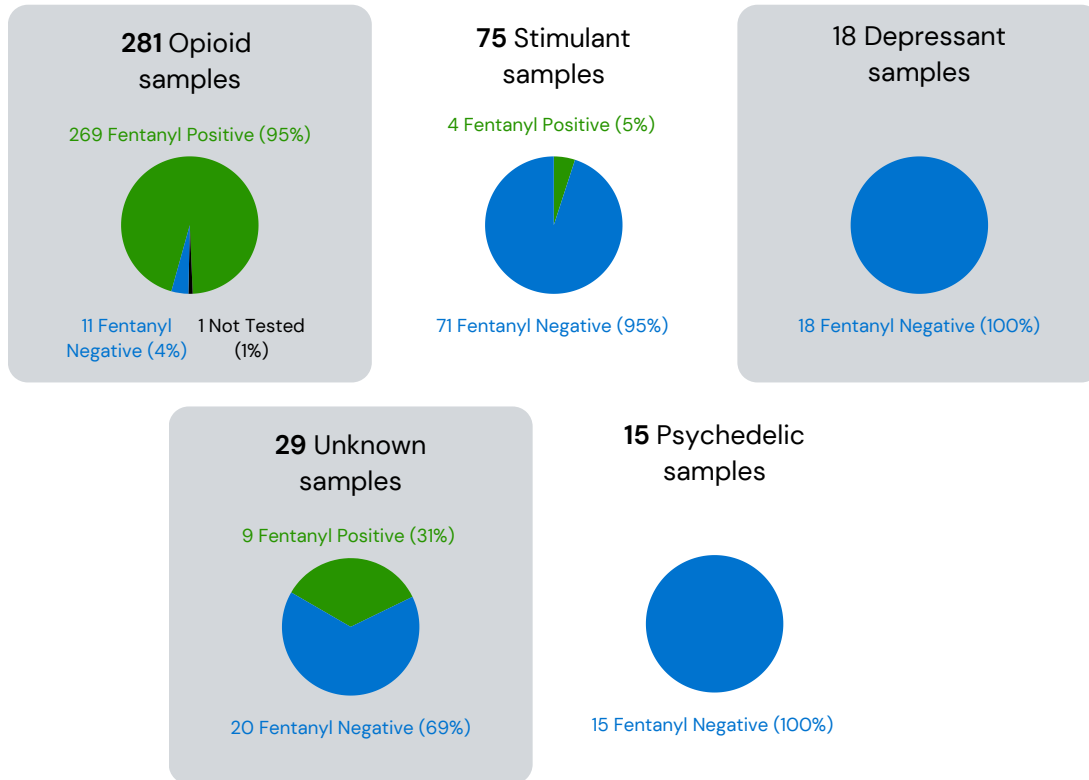
Components in unregulated opioids



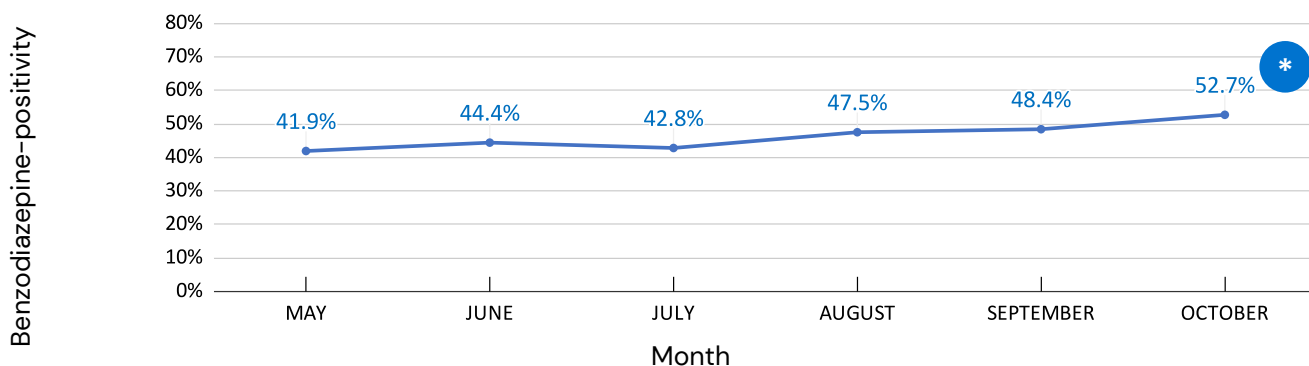
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



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



*During the month of October, **52.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**148 samples of 281 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 samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid		271	8	2	281
Stimulant		74	1	0	75
Unknown		0	0	29	29
Depressant		7	11	0	18
Psychedelic		12	3	0	15
TOTAL		364	23	31	418

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		257	3	1	261
Fentanyl		11	1	1	13
Pharmaceutical		2	2	0	4
Heroin		0	2	0	2
Opium		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		271	8	2	281

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
No alerts for Fraser Health this month.					

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:

