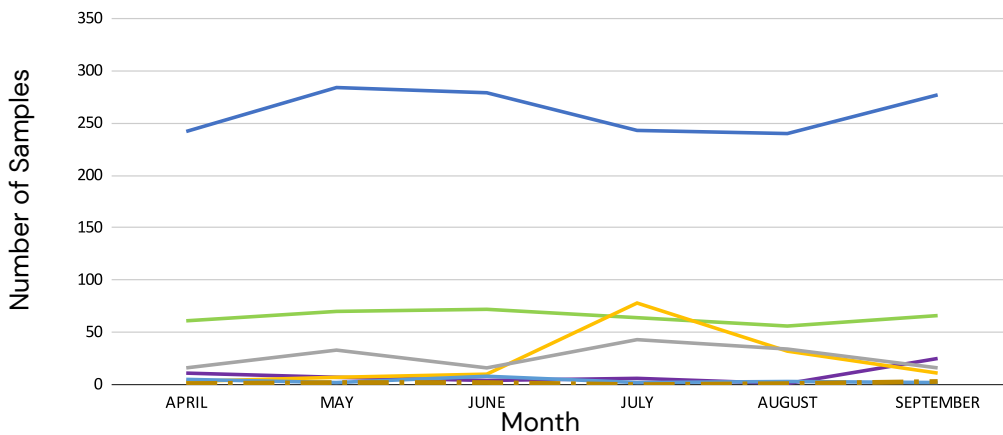




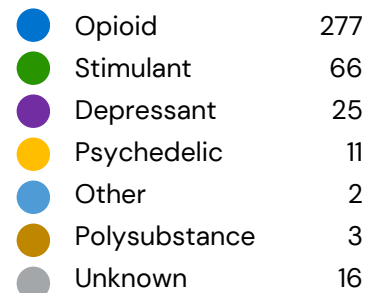
Key Findings

- In September, 400 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region (16 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased to 48.4% (134 of 277 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 16.2% of unregulated opioids (44 of 272 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Fluorofentanyl was the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR in September (38.6%; 105 of 272 samples), surpassing fentanyl for the second month in a row (37.1%; 101 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was detected in 18.0% of unregulated opioids (49 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 2.9% of unregulated opioids (8 of 272 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 Sept.



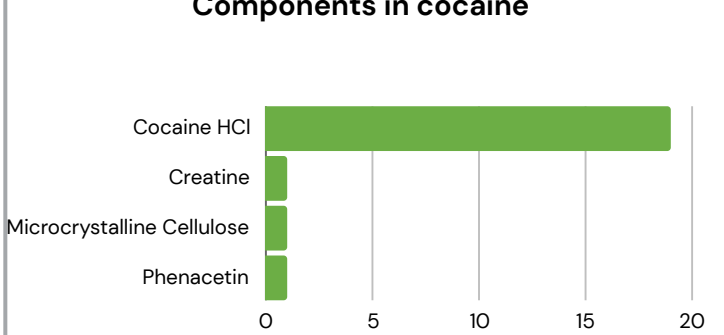
Total: 400

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam)	14
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	100
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	85
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	102
Mountainside (Hope)	8
Mountainside (Langley)	11
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	8
Mountainside (Mission)	23
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	7
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	9
SafePoint (Surrey)	25
SOURCES (White Rock)	8
Total:	400

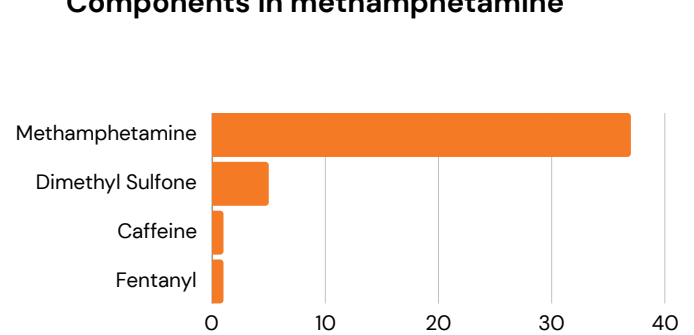
Components found in drug samples in September

Components in cocaine



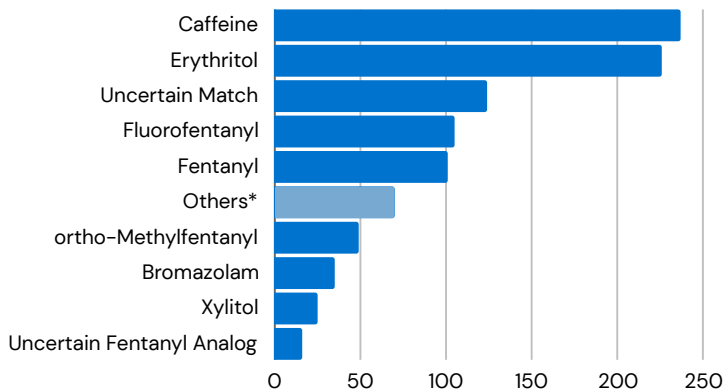
Frequency (N=19)

Components in methamphetamine



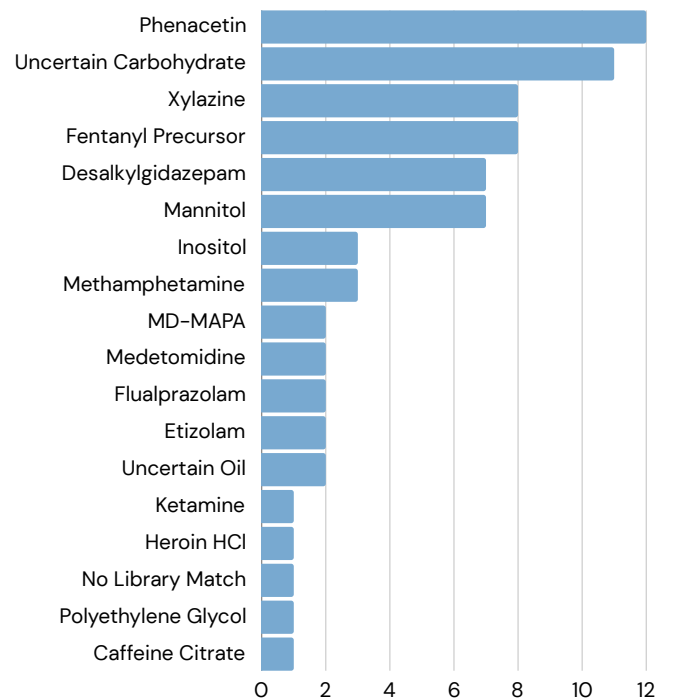
Frequency (N=37)

Components in unregulated opioids

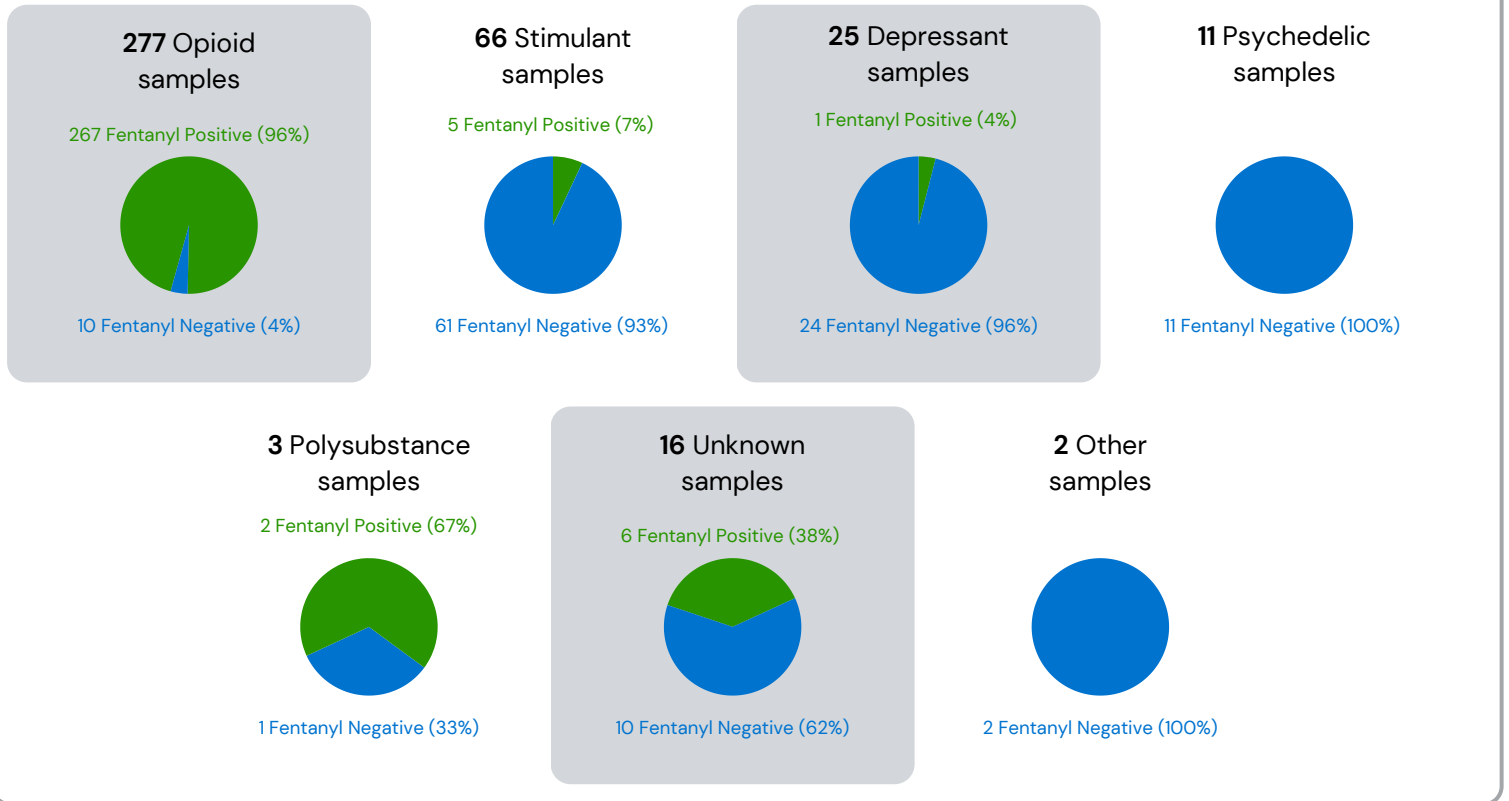


Frequency (N=272)

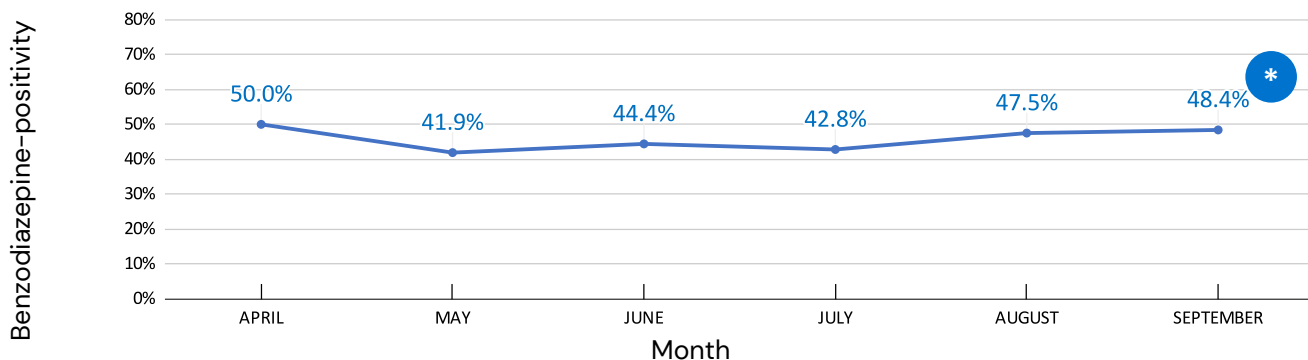
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



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



*During the month of September, **48.4%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**134 samples of 277 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.

Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug		Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid		272	5	0	277
Stimulant		66	0	0	66
Depressant		14	10	1	25
Unknown		0	0	16	16
Psychedelic		11	0	0	11
Polysubstance		2	0	1	3
Other		1	0	1	2
TOTAL		366	15	19	400

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		253	1	0	254
Fentanyl		12	3	0	15
Pharmaceutical		5	0	0	5
Heroin		2	1	0	3
TOTAL		272	5	0	277

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:

