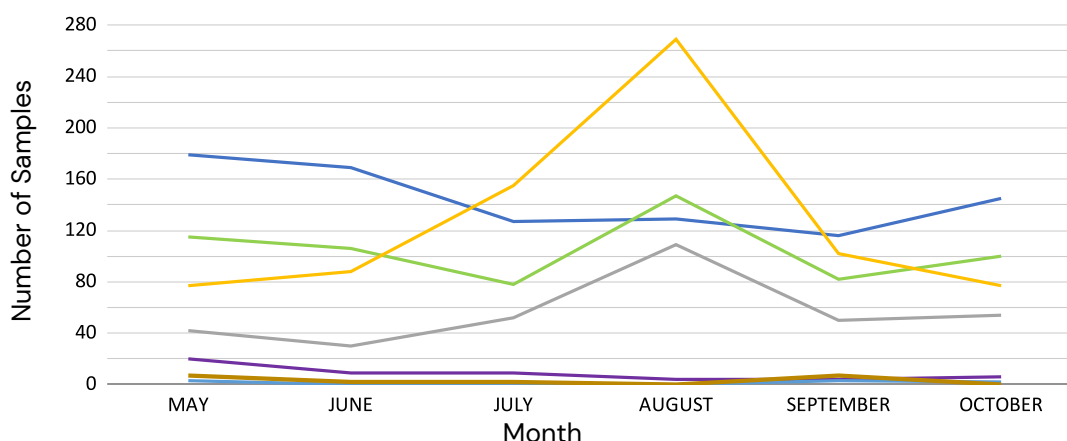




Key Findings

- In October, a total of 384 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (16 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip was 60.0% (87 of 145 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 19.3% of unregulated opioids (27 of 140 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Desalkylgidazepam was the most common benzo detected (16 samples).
- Fentanyl was the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR (40.7%; 57 of 140 samples), followed by fluorofentanyl (27.9%; 39 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was detected in 5.0% (7 samples).
- Xylazine detection by FTIR increased to 7.9% of unregulated opioids (11 of 140 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	145
Stimulant	100
Depressant	6
Psychedelical	77
Other	2
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	54

Total: 384

Number of drug checks at each site

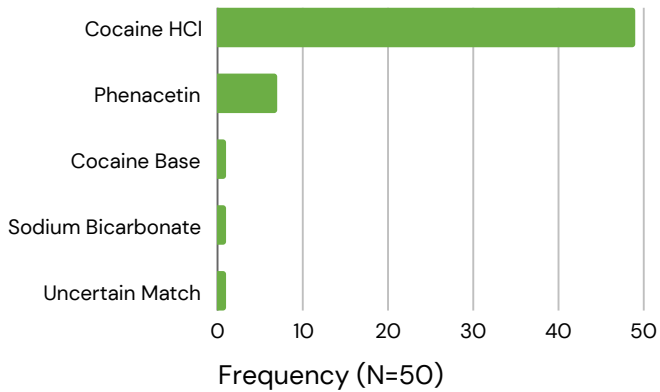
Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	49
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	18
ANKORS (Nelson)	73
ANKORS (Trail)	12
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	39
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	43
Interior Health (Kelowna)	128
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	17
Total	384

A small number of samples were tested at the following locations, which are included in the total:

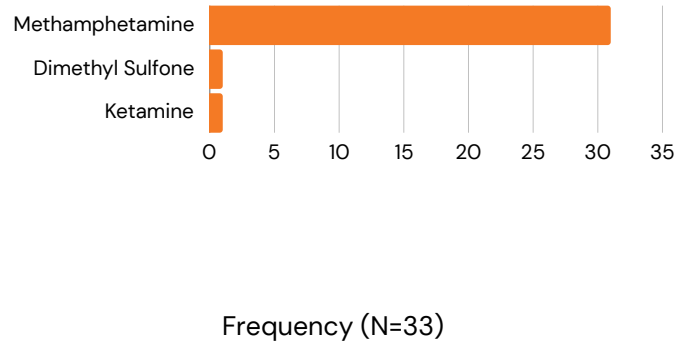
ANKORS (Castlegar), ASK (Williams Lake).

Components found in drug samples in October

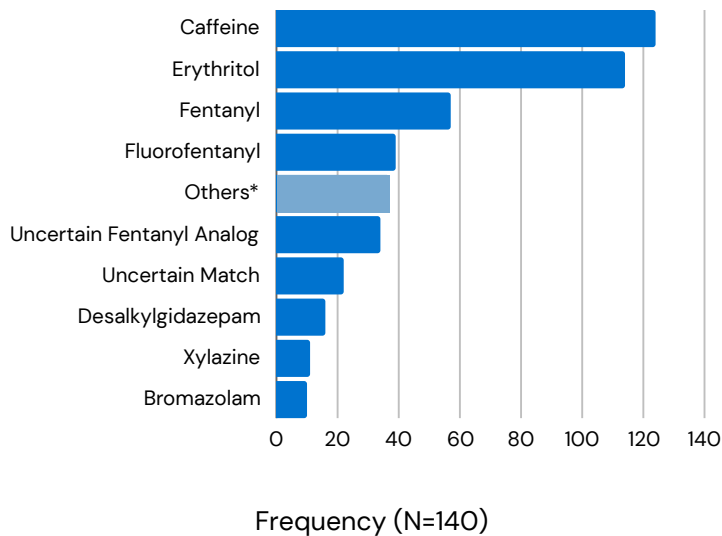
Components in cocaine



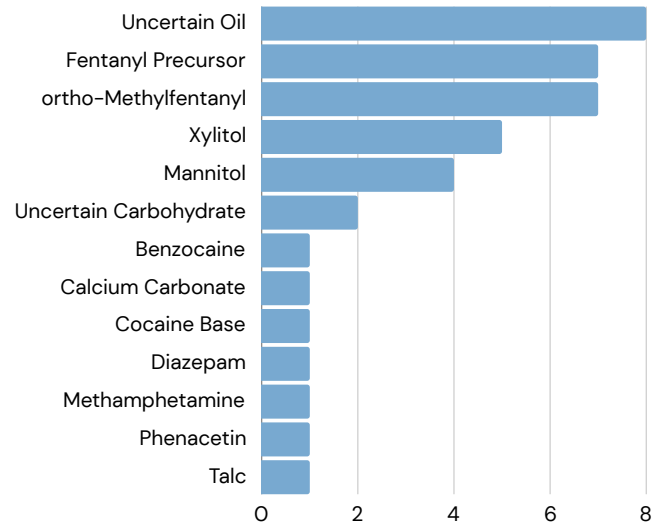
Components in methamphetamine



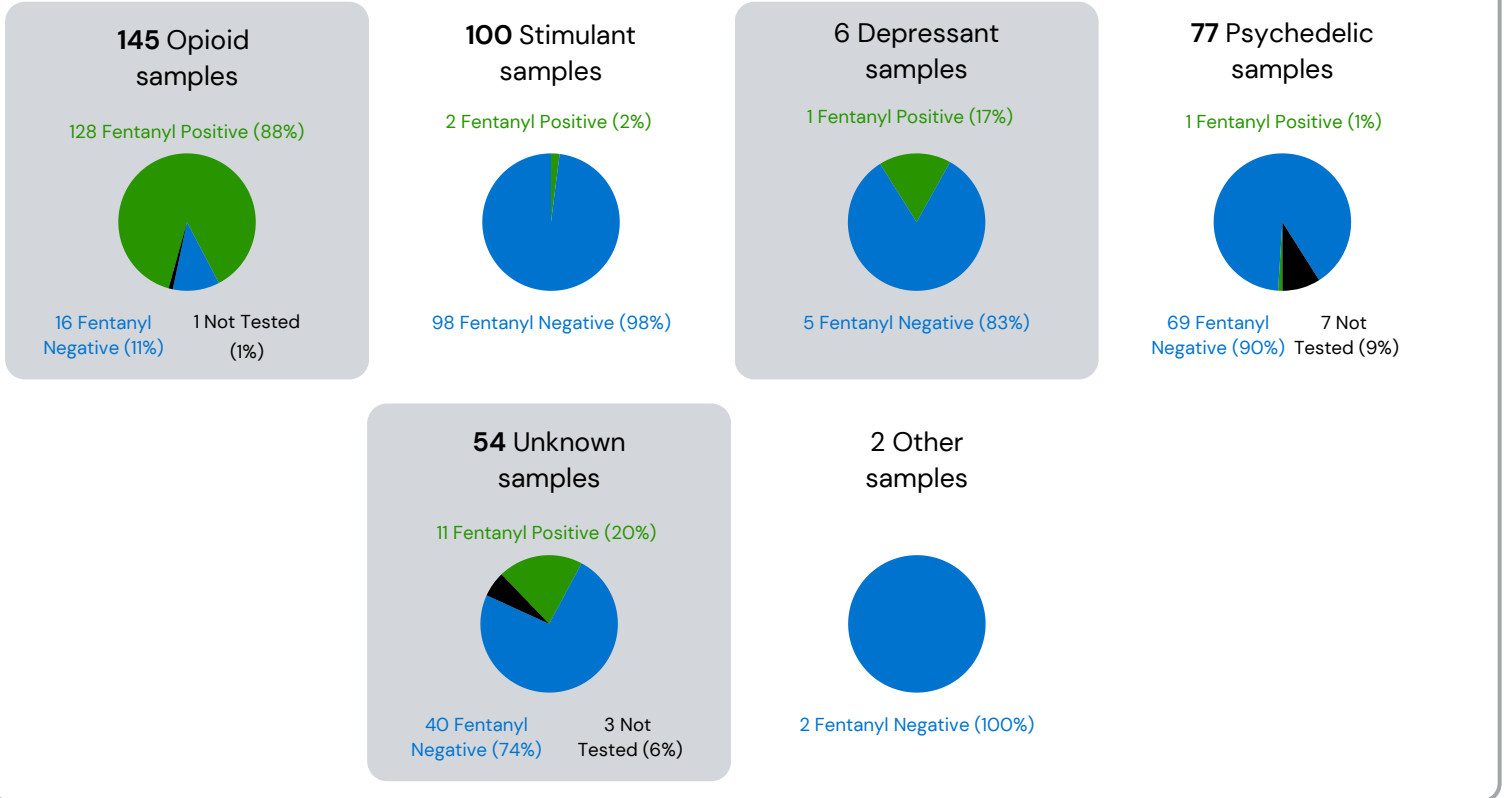
Components in unregulated opioids



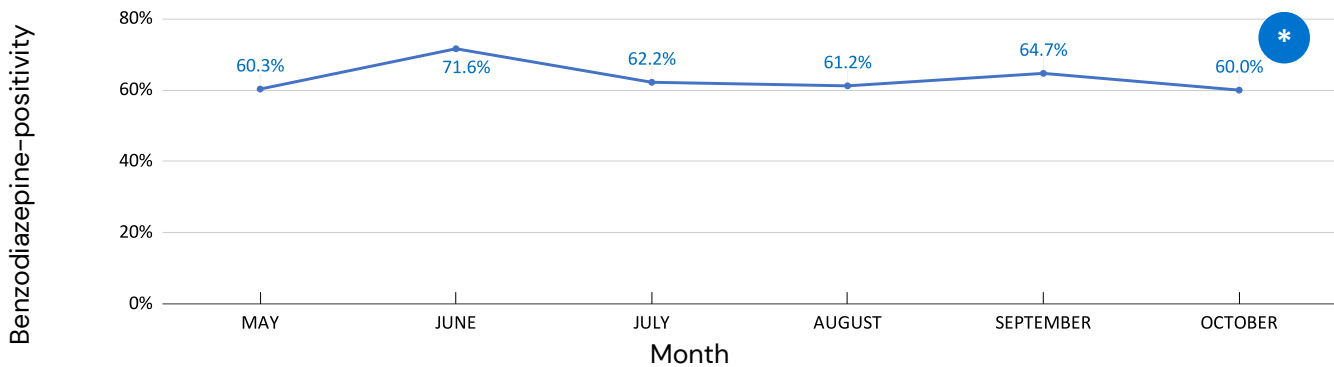
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present










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








*During the month of October, 60.0% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (87 samples of 145 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		130	15	0	145
Stimulant		97	3	0	100
Psychedelic		66	9	2	77
Unknown		0	0	54	54
Depressant		3	3	0	6
Other		2	0	0	2
TOTAL		298	30	56	384

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		121	3	0	124
Fentanyl		7	1	0	8
Heroin		0	8	0	8
Pharmaceutical		2	3	0	5
TOTAL		130	15	0	145

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 Interior 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:

