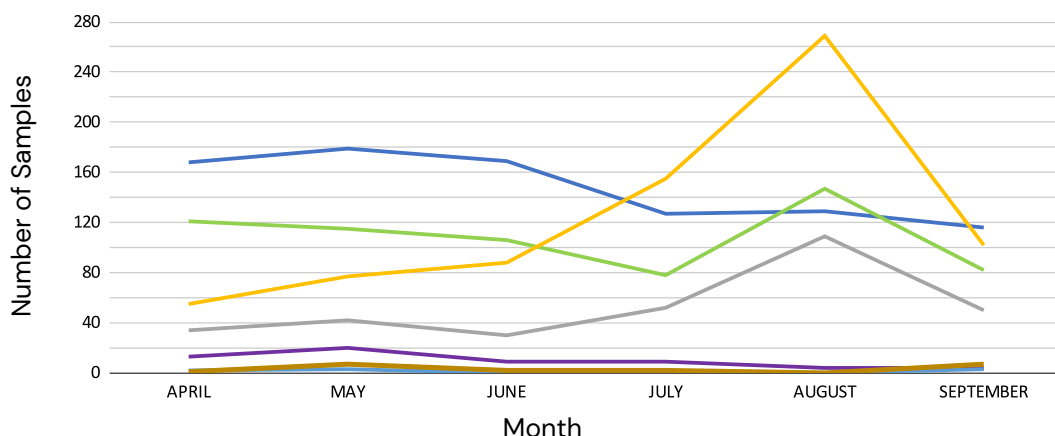




### Key Findings

- In September, a total of 364 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (18 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased to 64.7% (75 of 116 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 8.9% of unregulated opioids (10 of 112 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Fluorofentanyl was the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR in unregulated opioids (50.9%; 57 of 112 samples), followed by fentanyl (35.7%; 40 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was detected in 4.5% (5 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 2.7% of unregulated opioids (3 of 112 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.

● Opioid	116
● Stimulant	82
● Depressant	4
● Psychedelic	102
● Other	3
● Polysubstance	7
● Unknown	50

**Total: 364**

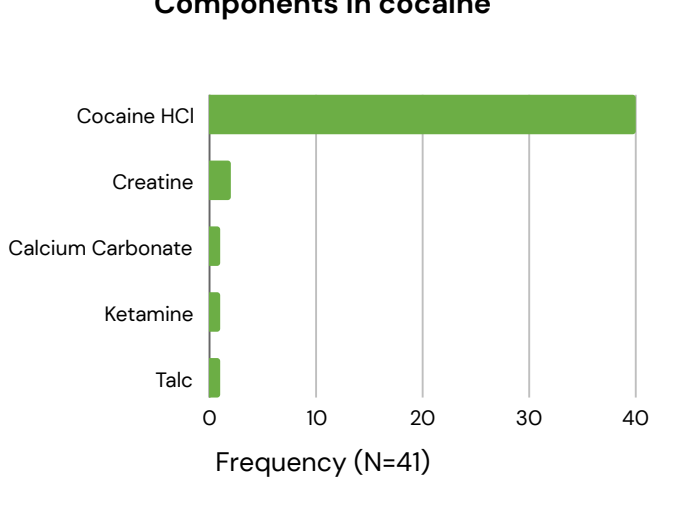
### Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	13
ANKORS (Wicked Woods Music Festival)	72
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	19
ANKORS (Nelson)	61
ANKORS (Trail)	8
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	36
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	33
Interior Health (Kelowna)	94
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	19
<b>Total:</b>	<b>364</b>

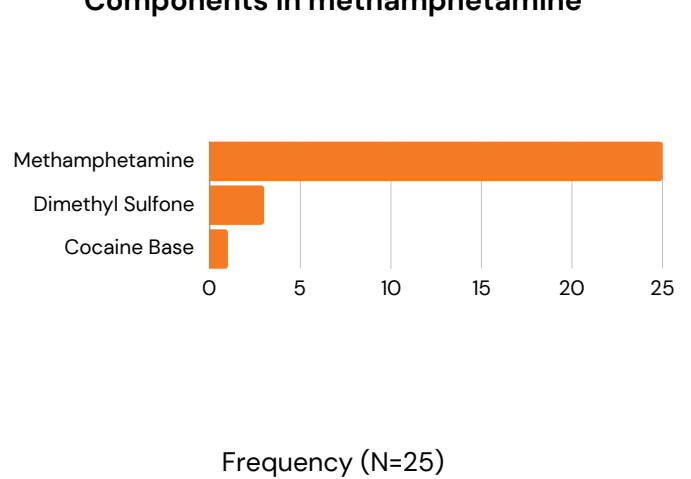
Less than 5 samples were tested at the following locations, which is included in the total: ASK Wellness (William's Lake), ASK Wellness (Merritt), ANKORS (Castlegar).

## Components found in drug samples in September

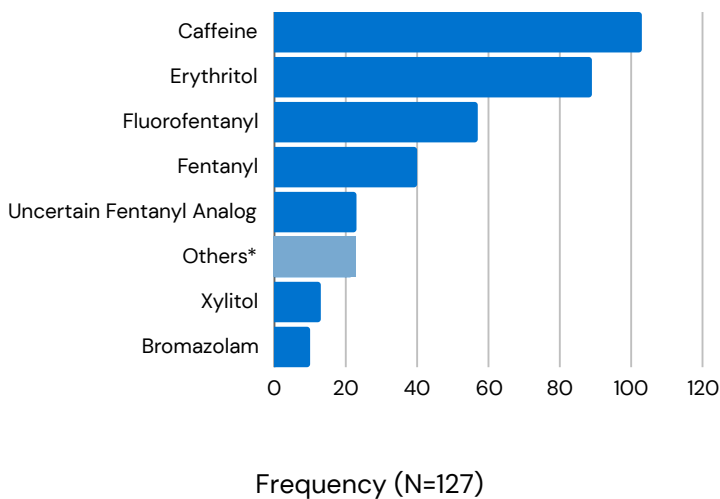
### Components in cocaine



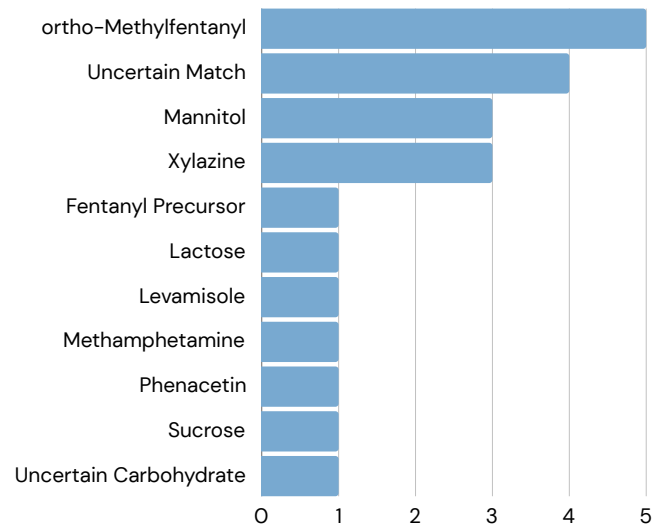
### Components in methamphetamine



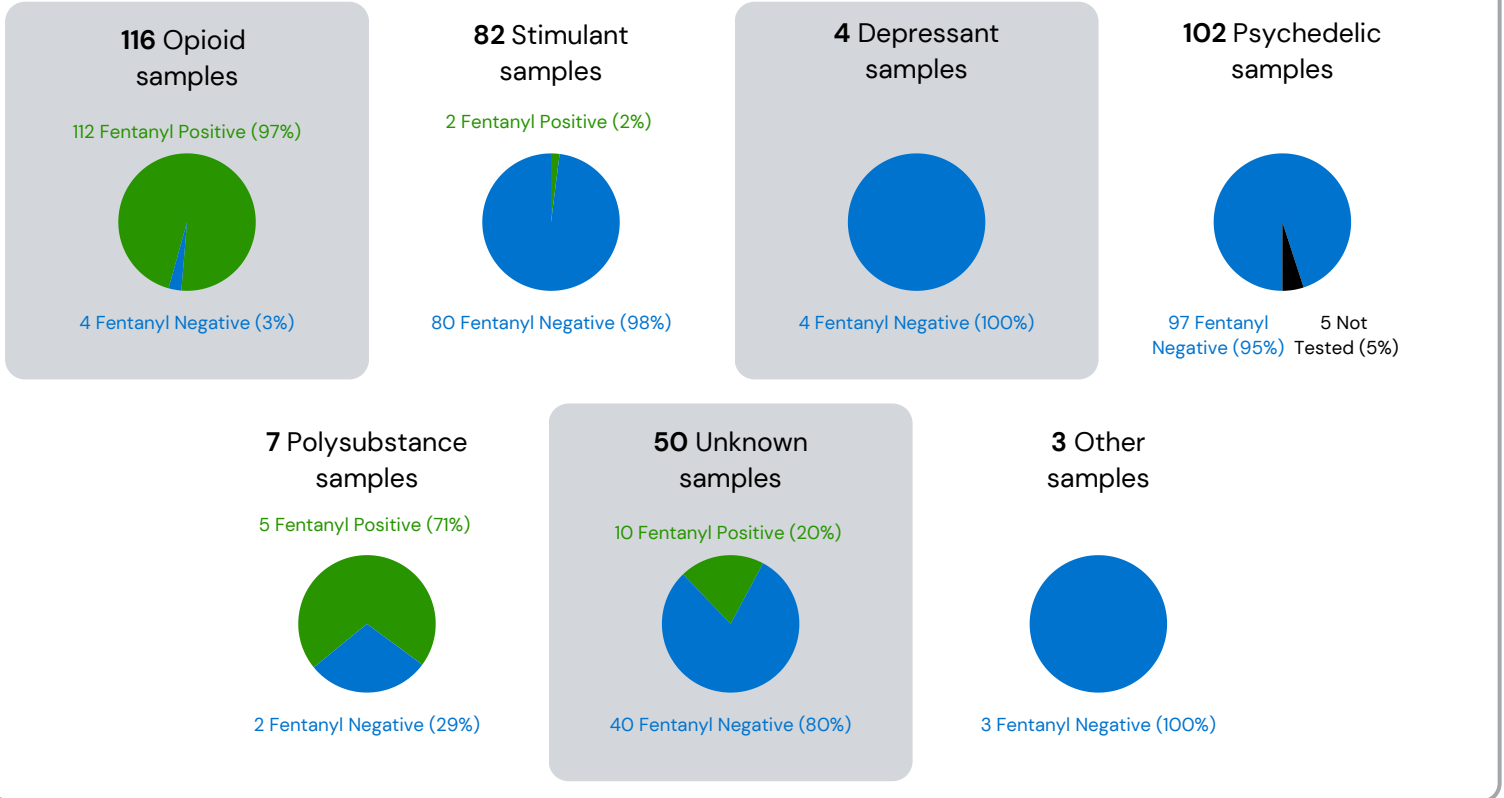
### Components in unregulated opioids



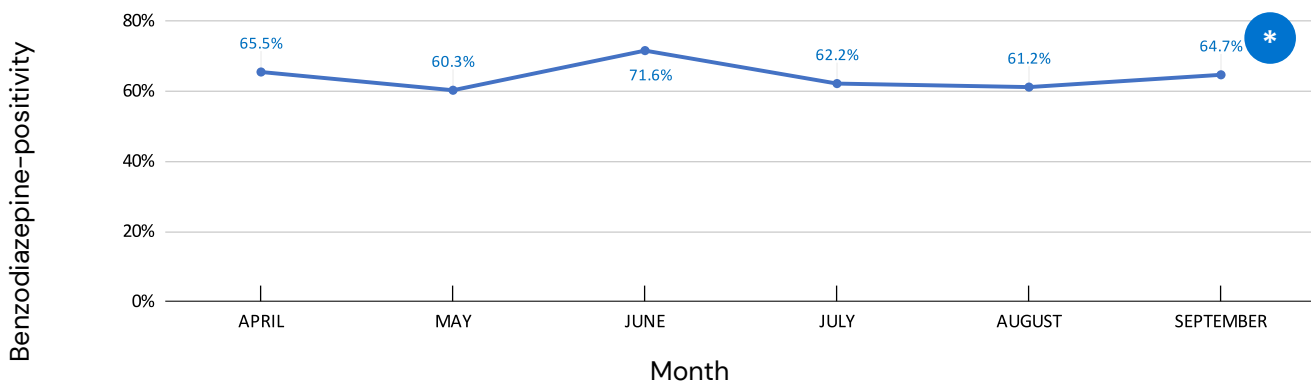
### \*Other components in unregulated opioids



### Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



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



\*During the month of **September**, **64.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**75 samples of 116 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		111	3	2	116
Psychedelic		96	5	1	102
Stimulant		79	3	0	82
Unknown		0	0	50	50
Polysubstance		5	0	2	7
Depressant		2	2	0	4
Other		2	0	1	3
TOTAL		295	13	56	364

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		105	1	0	106
Fentanyl		6	0	0	6
Pharmaceutical		0	2	2	4
TOTAL		111	3	2	116

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:

