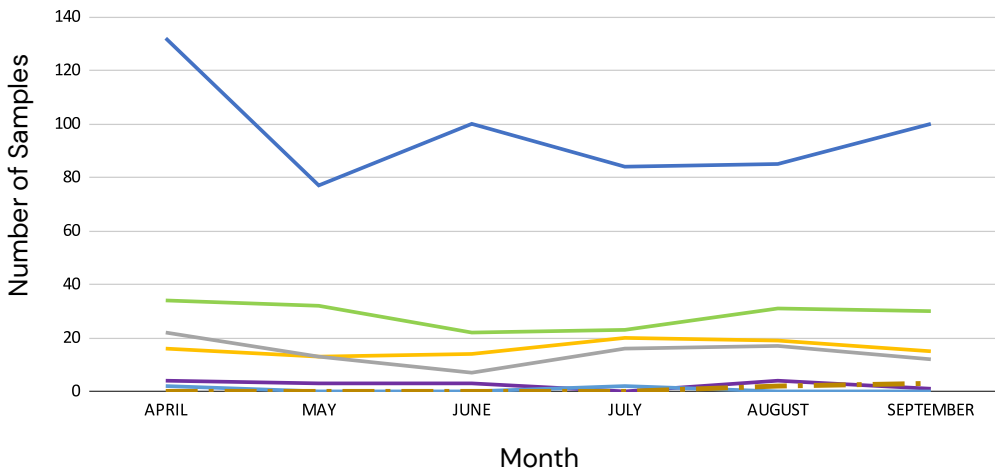




### Key Findings

- In September, a total of 161 drug checks were performed by the CMHA Mid-Island Albert Street site in Nanaimo.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased to 72.0% (72 of 100 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 8.2% of unregulated opioids (8 of 98 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations.
- Fentanyl was detected by FTIR in 33.7% of unregulated opioids (33 of 98 samples), whereas fluorofentanyl was detected in 25.5% (25 samples). Ortho-Methylfentanyl was detected in 7.1% (7 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 3.1% of unregulated opioids (3 of 98 samples).
- Substance (The Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project), offers drug checking in Victoria and communities across the Island. For more information about drug checking sample results in the Island Health region, please visit [www.substance.uvic.ca](http://www.substance.uvic.ca).
- 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.

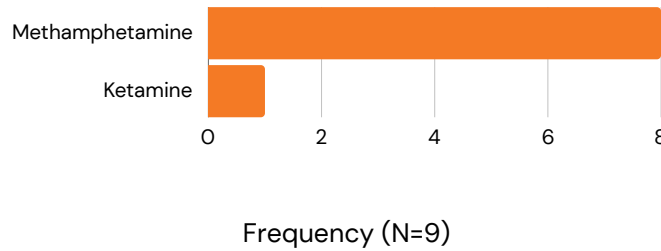
Opioid	100
Stimulant	30
Depressant	1
Psychedelic	15
Other	0
Polysubstance	3
Unknown	12
<b>Total:</b>	<b>161</b>

### Number of drug checks at each site

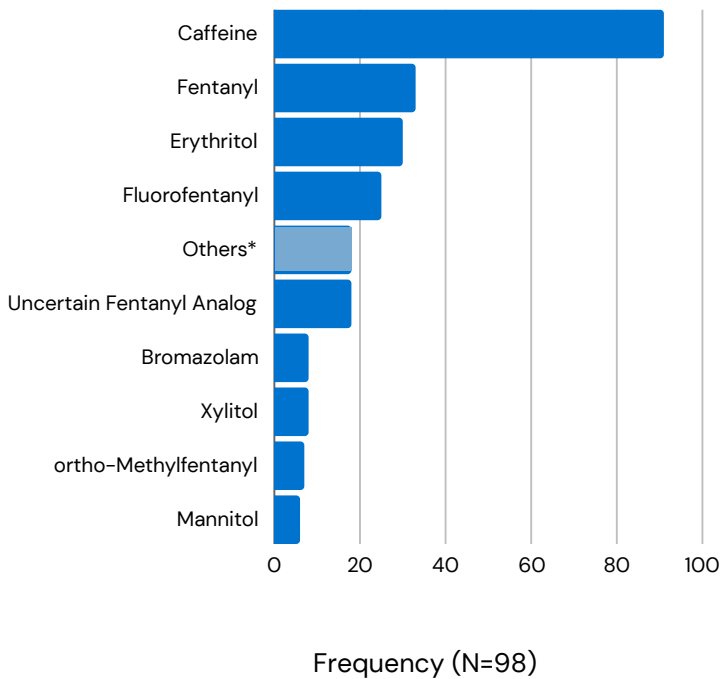
Location	# of Drugs Checked
Albert St. OPS (CMHA Nanaimo)	161
<b>Total:</b>	<b>161</b>

## Components found in drug samples in September

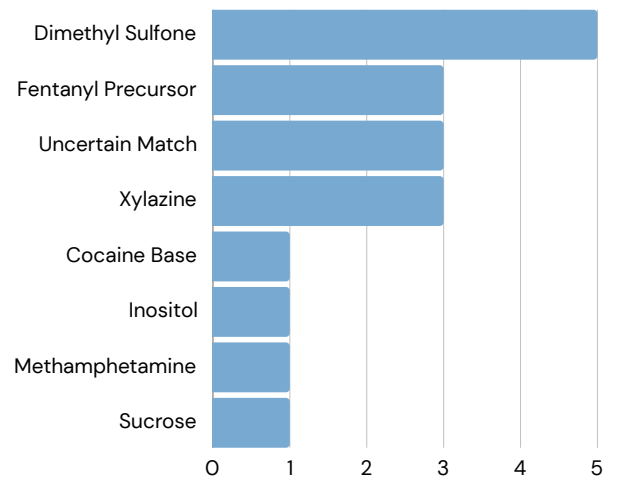
### Components in methamphetamine



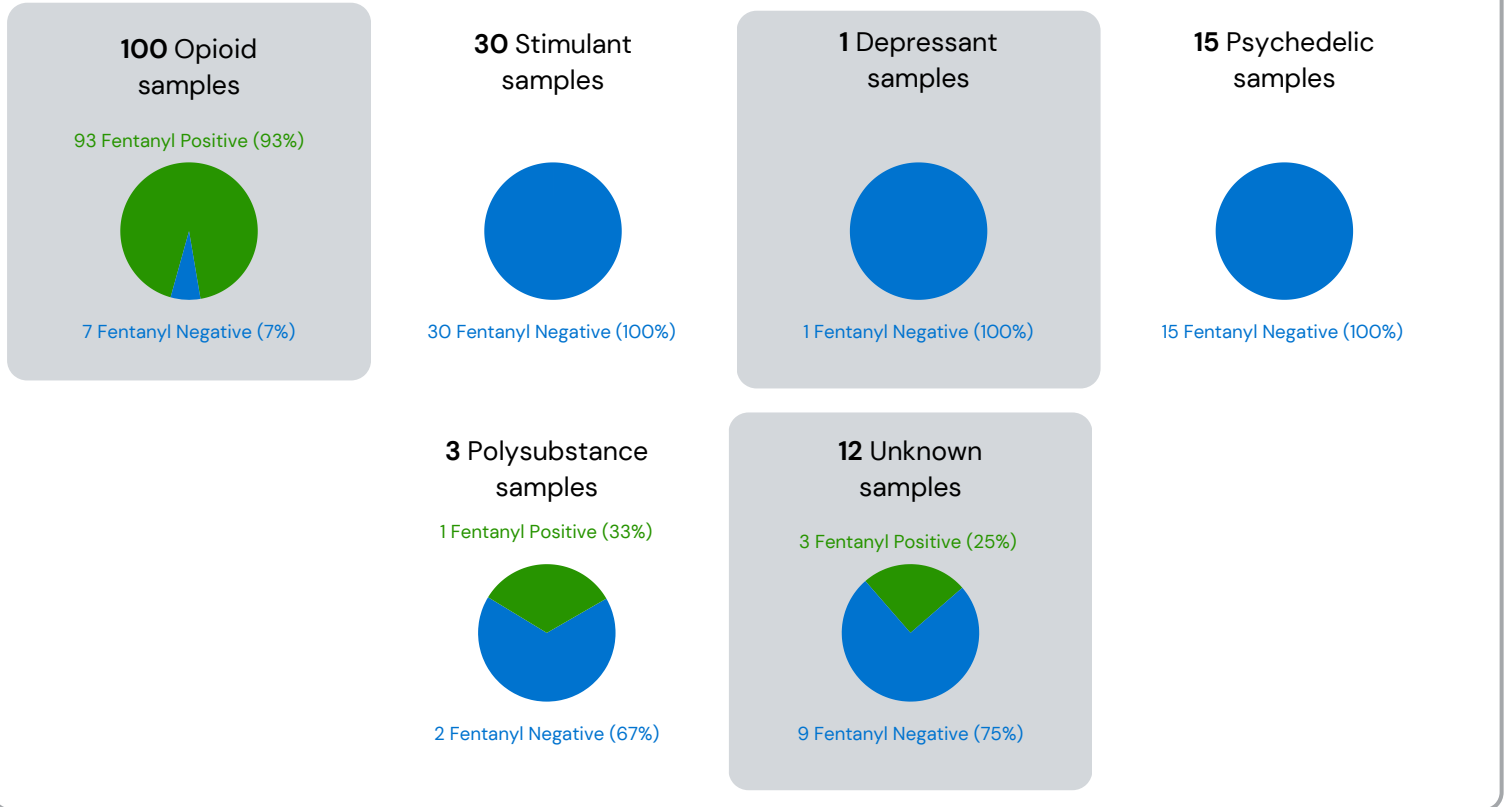
### Components in unregulated opioids



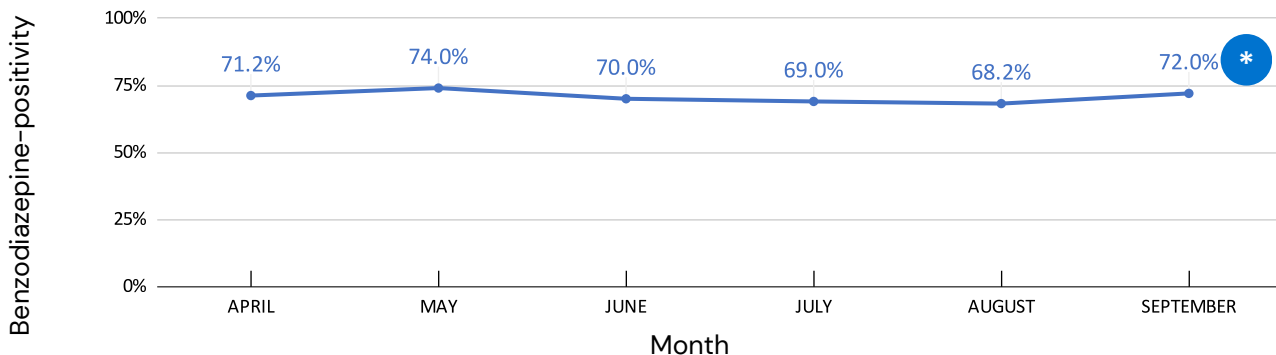
### \*Other components in unregulated opioids



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



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



\*During the month of September, 72.0% of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Island Health (72 samples of 100 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		90	10	0	100
Stimulant		28	2	0	30
Psychedelic		14	1	0	15
Unknown		0	0	12	12
Polysubstance		3	0	0	3
Depressant		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		136	13	12	161

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		82	5	0	87
Fentanyl		8	0	0	8
Heroin		0	3	0	3
Pharmaceutical		0	2	0	2
TOTAL		90	10	0	100

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 Island 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:**



Canadian Mental  
Health Association