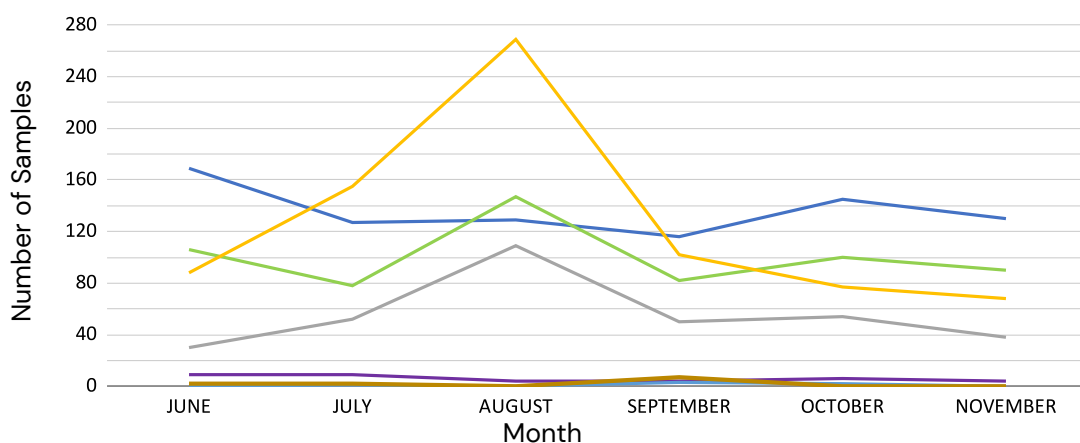




Key Findings

- In November, a total of 330 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (17 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip was 61.5% (80 of 130 samples).
- The number of unregulated opioids that contained benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR more than doubled the previous month, rising to 42.5% of samples (54 of 127). Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified (37 samples).
- Fentanyl was detected by FTIR in 32.3% of unregulated opioids (41 of 127 samples), whereas fluorofentanyl was detected in 30.7% (39 samples). Ortho-methylfentanyl was found in 4.7% (6 samples).
- Xylazine detection by FTIR almost doubled the previous month, rising to 14.2% of unregulated opioids (18 of 127 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 Nov.

Opioid	130
Stimulant	90
Depressant	4
Psychedelic	68
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	38

Total: 330

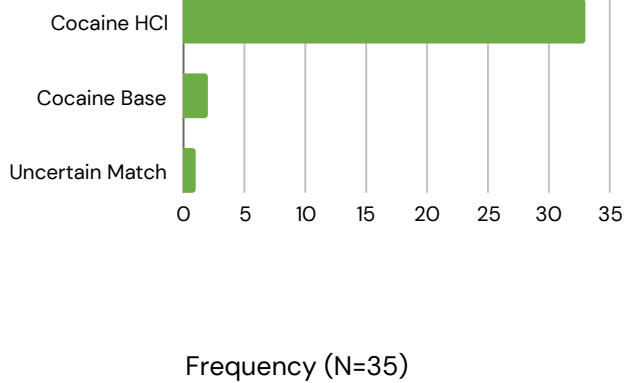
Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	35
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	10
ANKORS (Nelson)	58
ANKORS (Trail)	9
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	30
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	33
Interior Health (Kelowna)	110
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	43
Total	330

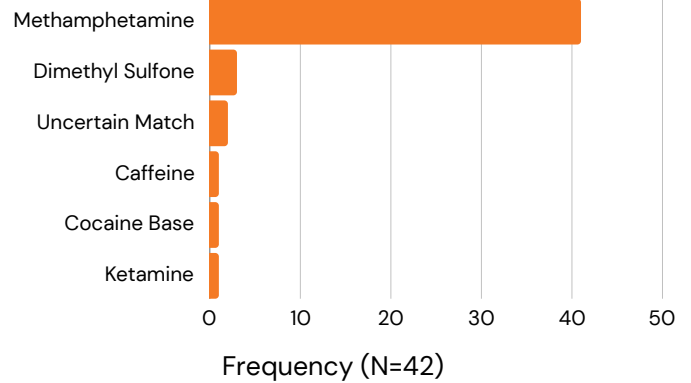
A small number of samples were tested at the following location, which is included in the total: ANKORS (Castlegar).

Components found in drug samples in November

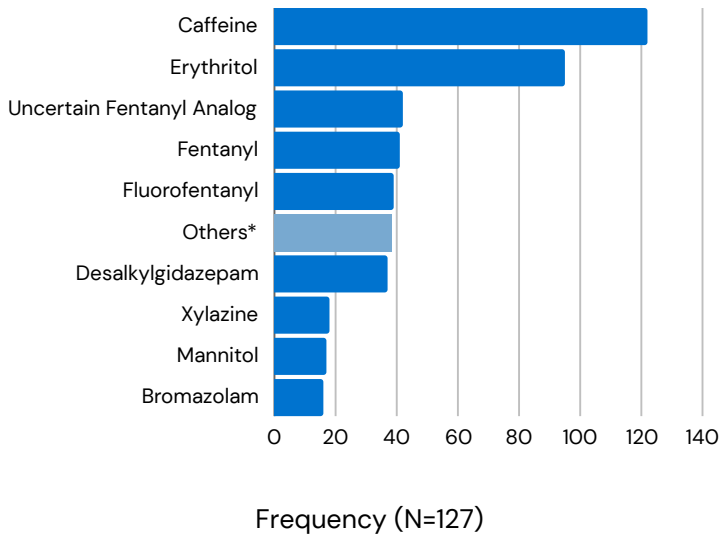
Components in cocaine



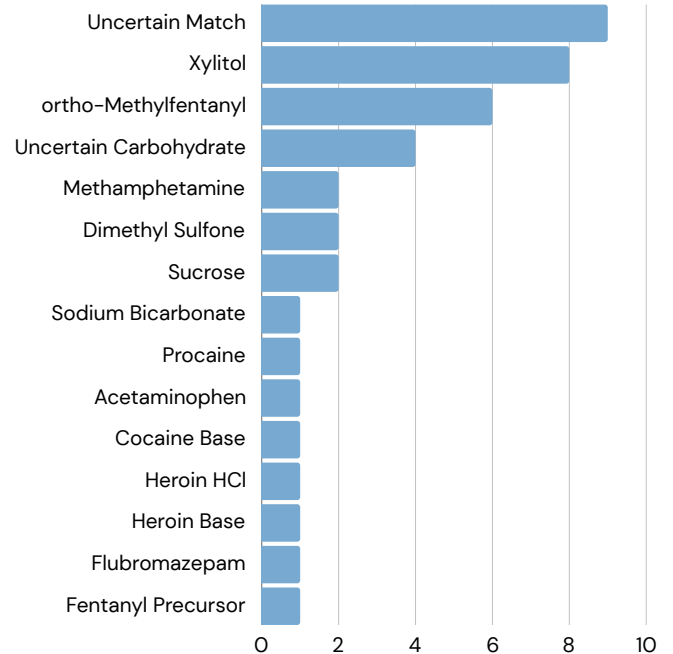
Components in methamphetamine



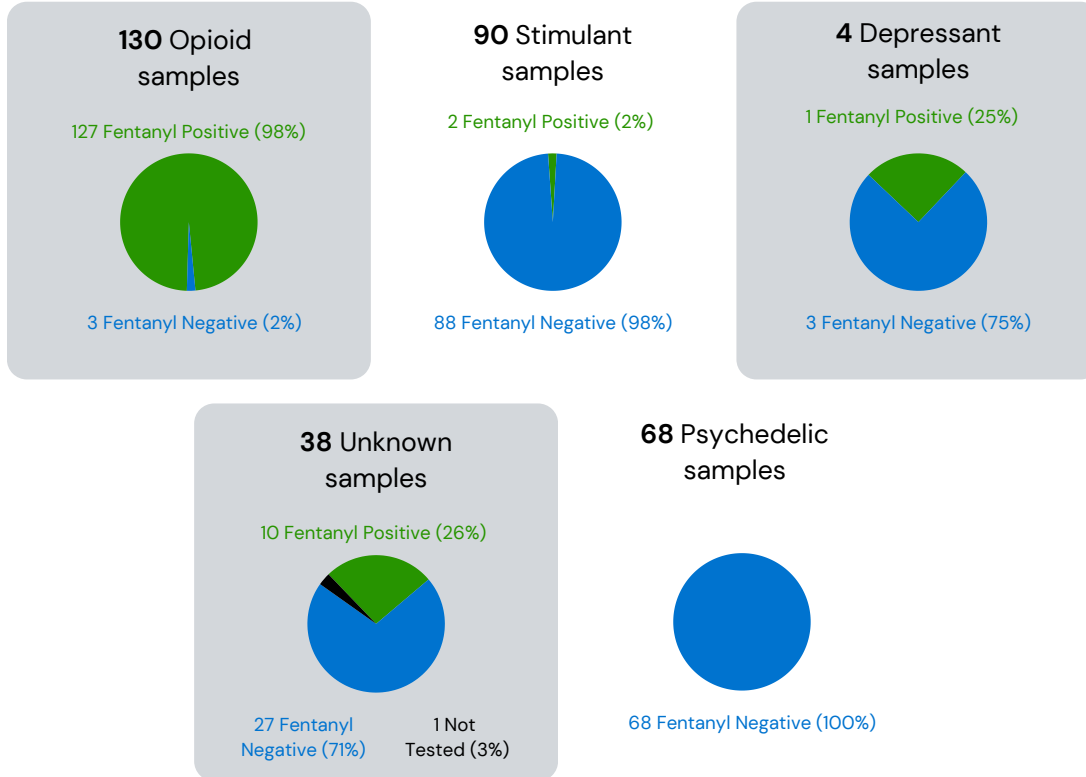
Components in unregulated opioids



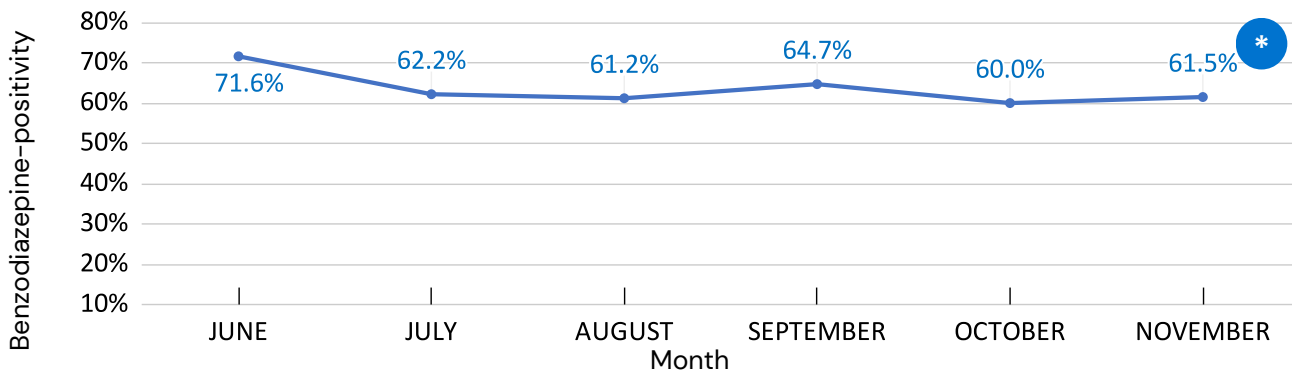
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



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



*During the month of November, **61.5%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**80 samples of 130 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		127	3	0	130
Stimulant		85	5	0	90
Psychedelic		66	2	0	68
Unknown		0	0	38	38
Depressant		3	1	0	4
TOTAL		281	11	38	330

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		110	0	0	110
Fentanyl		14	2	0	16
Pharmaceutical		2	1	0	3
Heroin		1	0	0	1
TOTAL		127	3	0	130

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:

