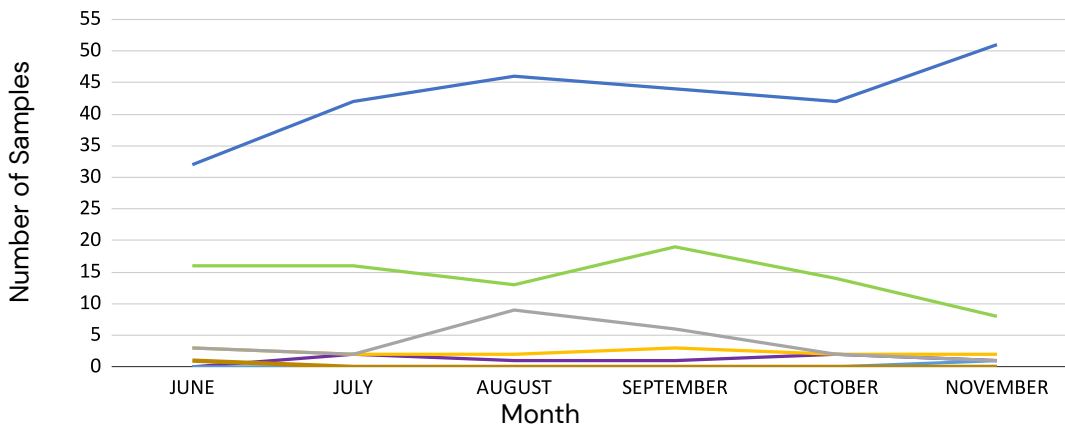




Key Findings

- In November, a total of 64 drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Northern Health region (5 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip was 58.8% (30 of 51 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 12.0% of unregulated opioids (6 of 50 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam (3 samples) and bromazolam (3 samples) were most frequently identified.
- Fluorofentanyl was the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR (22.0%; 11 of 50 samples), followed by fentanyl (16.0%; 11 samples). Ortho-methylfentanyl was found in 4.0% (2 samples).
- Note that trends are hard to infer due to the small number of samples over a large region.
- 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	51
Stimulant	8
Depressant	1
Psychedelic	2
Other	1
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	1

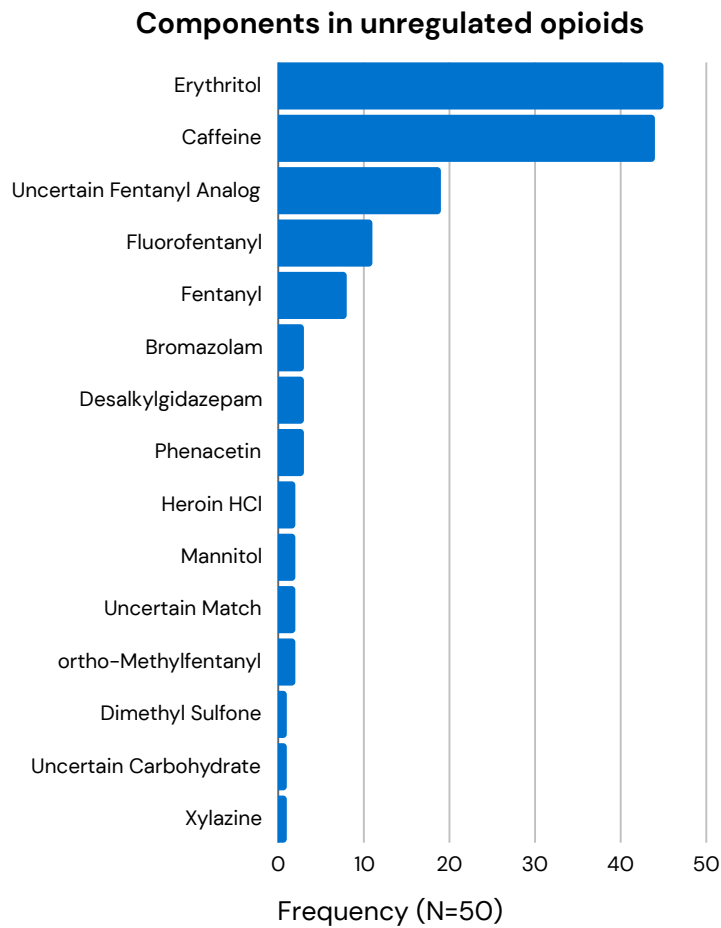
Total: 64

Number of drug checks at each site

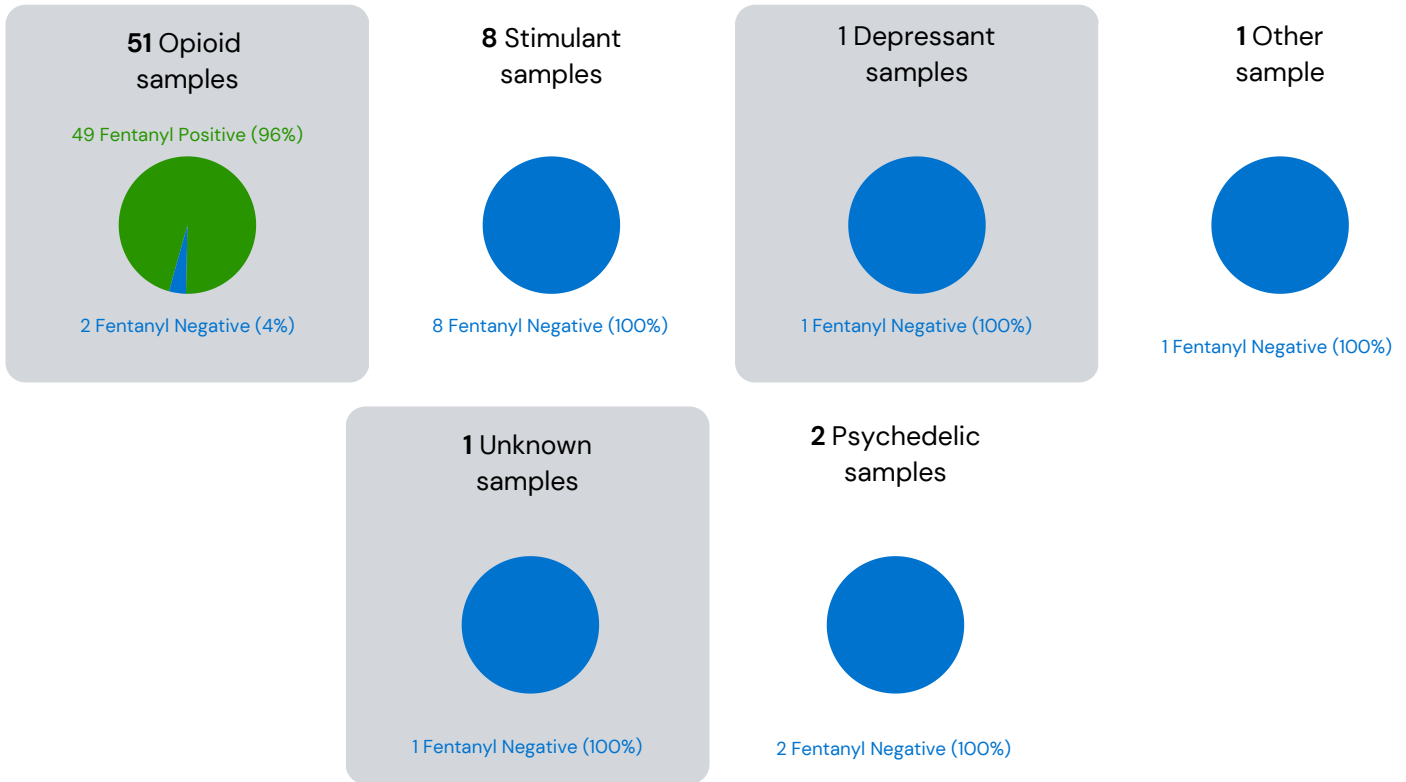
Location	# of Drugs Checked
POUNDS (Prince George)	51
Northwest ICMT (Terrace)	9
Total:	64

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

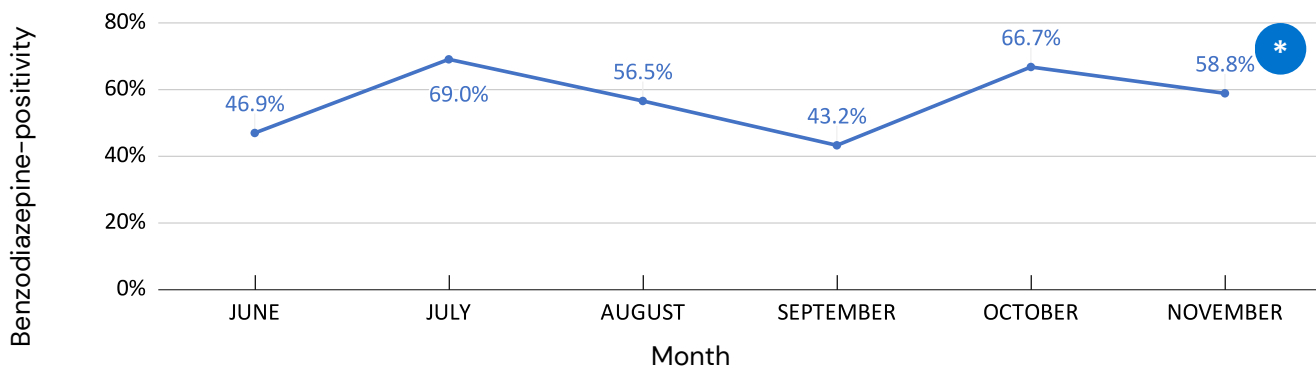
Components found in drug samples in November



Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**





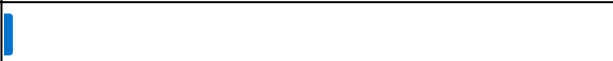
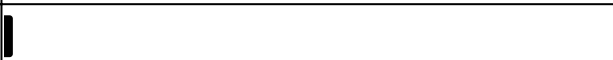



Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the past 6 months







*During the month of November, **58.8%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Northern Health (**30 samples of 51 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		50	1	0	51
Stimulant		8	0	0	8
Psychedelic		2	0	0	2
Depressant		0	1	0	1
Other		1	0	0	1
Unknown		0	0	1	1
TOTAL		61	2	1	64

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		48	0	0	48
Heroin		2	0	0	2
Pharmaceutical		0	1	0	1
TOTAL		50	1	0	51

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
November 1, 2024 Prince George	Down	Fentanyl, Bromazolam	Positive	Positive	Purple drug sold as down tested positive for high levels of fentanyl and bromazolam (benzo), drug linked to increase overdoses in Prince George.
November 22, 2024 Prince George	Fentanyl/Down	Fentanyl, Bromazolam, Xylazine	Positive	Positive	A brown drug sold as fentanyl and as purple drug sold as down have both been linked to increases in overdoses. The purple down tested positive for benzo and xylazine.
November 27, 2024 Prince George	Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Uncertain Oil	Positive	Negative	A pressed, white, 8mg tablet sold as Dilaudid/Dilly tested positive for fentanyl. The pill looks very similar to a prescription Dilaudid or Hydromorphone.
<p>Health authorities and community organizations issue further toxic drug alerts from sources other than drug checking. See their respective websites or social media accounts for more alerts.</p>					

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:

