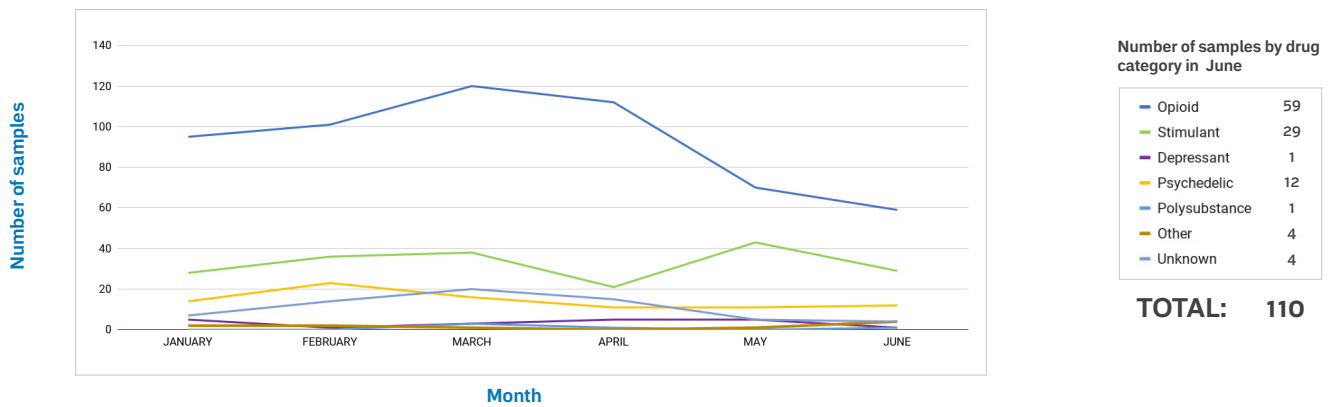


## Key Findings

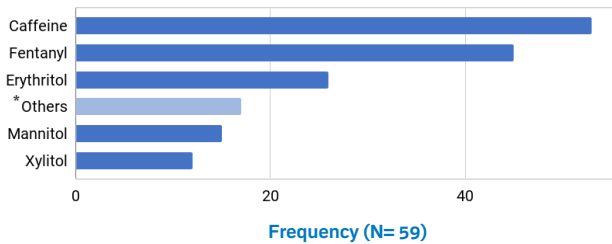
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the region (37%) has fallen after remaining consistent for the past several months. Etizolam, the predominant benzodiazepine in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies. This means that the true rate may be higher than reported here.
- Three stimulant samples checked in Vernon contained fentanyl. One was crack cocaine pipe residue, one was an empty baggie that had methamphetamine in it, and one was a drug sold as “speed.”
- Drug checking is available in many different communities in the Interior Health region. For updated times and locations, visit our [website](#).

## Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months

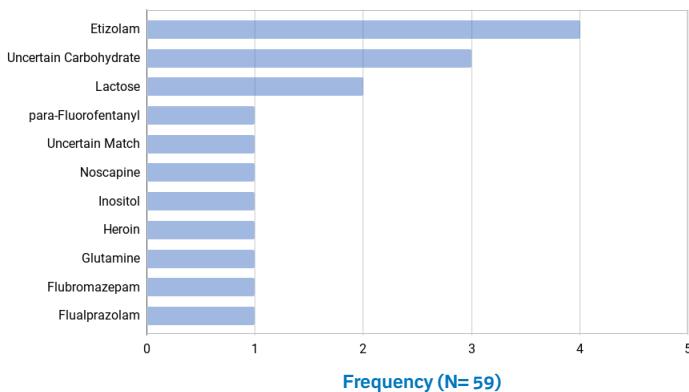


## Components found in drug samples in June

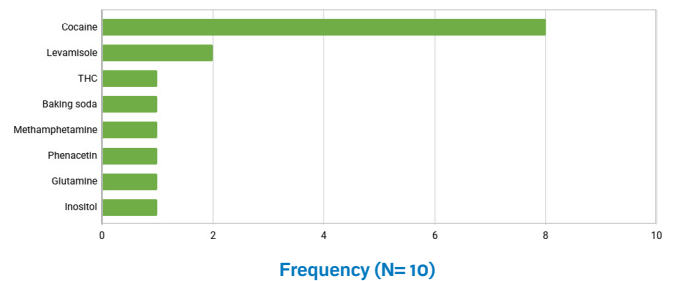
### Components in opioids



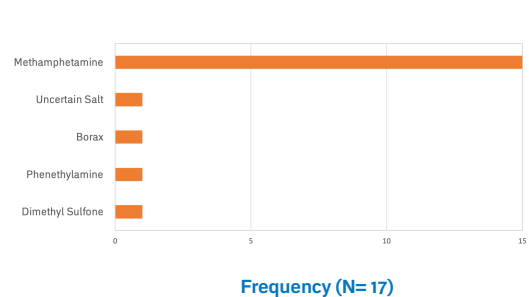
### \* Other components found in opioids



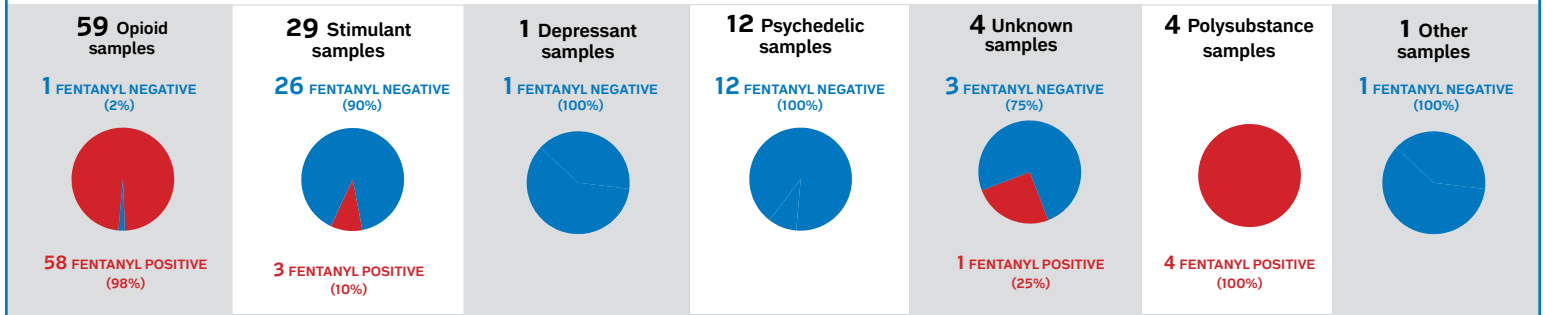
### Components in cocaine



### Components in methamphetamine



## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

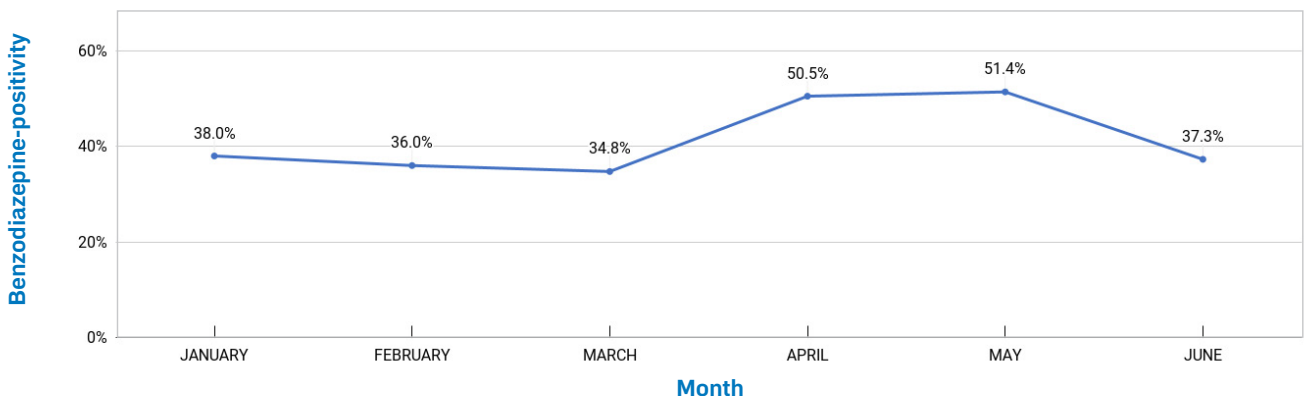


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

| Date & Location                          | Expected Drug            | Drugs Detected                            | Fentanyl Strip | Benzo Strip | Area Purchased | Alert Message   |
|--|--------------------------|---|----------------|-------------|----------------|---|
| 29 June 2021<br>ASK Wellness<br>Kamloops | Fentanyl                 | Fentanyl,<br>Flubromazepam,<br>Erythritol | Positive       | Positive    | Kamloops       | Flubromazepam is a benzodiazepine. Using even small amounts may increase the risk of overdose. Avoid combining depressants if possible.     |
| 4 June 2021<br>ASK Wellness<br>Kamloops  | Down (Unknown<br>Opioid) | Fentanyl, Erythritol                      | Positive       | Positive    | Kamloops       | The combination of opioids and benzodiazepines can cause prolonged sedation. Using even small amounts may cause overdose. Use with caution. |

For information about public health alerts in the Interior Health region, please visit:  
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/Leadership/MHQ/Pages/PHEmergency.aspx>

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



During the month of June, **37.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in the Interior Health region (**22 samples of 59 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 drugs checks at each site

| Organization | City/Town | # of Drugs Checked |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------|
| ANKORS       | Cranbrook | 1                  |
|              | Nelson    | 24                 |
| ASK Wellness | Kamloops  | 40                 |
|              | Merritt   | 11                 |
| UBC Okanagan | Kelowna   | 7                  |
|              | Penticton | 12                 |
|              | Vernon    | 15                 |
| <b>Total</b> |           | <b>110</b>         |

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b><br/><b>Depressant</b><br/>1 Sample Tested</p>  <p><b>Did not match: 1</b></p>                      | <p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b><br/><b>Psychedelic</b><br/>12 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 9</b><br/><b>Did not match: 3</b></p> | <p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b><br/><b>Stimulant</b><br/>29 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 24</b><br/><b>Did not match: 5</b></p> | <p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b><br/><b>Other</b><br/>1 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 1</b></p> |
| <p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b><br/><b>Opioid</b><br/>59 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 56</b><br/><b>Did not match: 3</b></p> | <p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b><br/><b>Unknown</b><br/>4 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Match not determined: 4</b></p>                     | <p><b>EXPECTED DRUG:</b><br/><b>Polysubstance</b><br/>4 Samples Tested</p>  <p><b>Matched: 4</b></p>                         |   |

### Total

110 Samples Tested



**Matched: 94**

**Did not match: 12**

**Match not determined: 4**

Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents

**Depressant may include:**  
benzodiazepines, etizolam,  
GHB, hypnotics

**Opioid may include:**  
"down," heroin, fentanyl,  
pharmaceutical opioids

**Polysubstance includes:**  
cross-category mixtures




**Psychedelic may include:**  
MDMA and related,  
2C-family, tryptamines,  
ketamine, LSD

**Stimulant may include:**  
methamphetamine,  
"speed," cocaine and crack  
cocaine, cathinones

**Unknown includes:**  
samples where the individual  
was unable to identify an  
expected substance - this  
includes found samples.

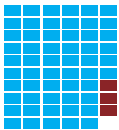
## Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>EXPECTED DRUG:<br/><b>Fentanyl</b><br/>52 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 52</p> | <p>EXPECTED DRUG:<br/><b>Heroin</b><br/>3 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1<br/>Did not match: 2</p> | <p>EXPECTED DRUG:<br/><b>Down</b><br/>4 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 3<br/>Did not match: 1</p> |
|---|---|---|

### Total

59 Samples Tested



Matched: 56  
Did not match: 3

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.

Data represented here are collected from our partner sites across the Interior Health region. Drug samples are tested using the Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometer in combination with fentanyl test strips and benzodiazepine test strips.

There is a 5% fentanyl detection limit on the FTIR spectrometer (McCrae, 2019), and a drug check on any given sample consists of both the FTIR and BTNX fentanyl test strip checking done in combination. When applicable, BTNX benzodiazepine test strips are also used.

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners: