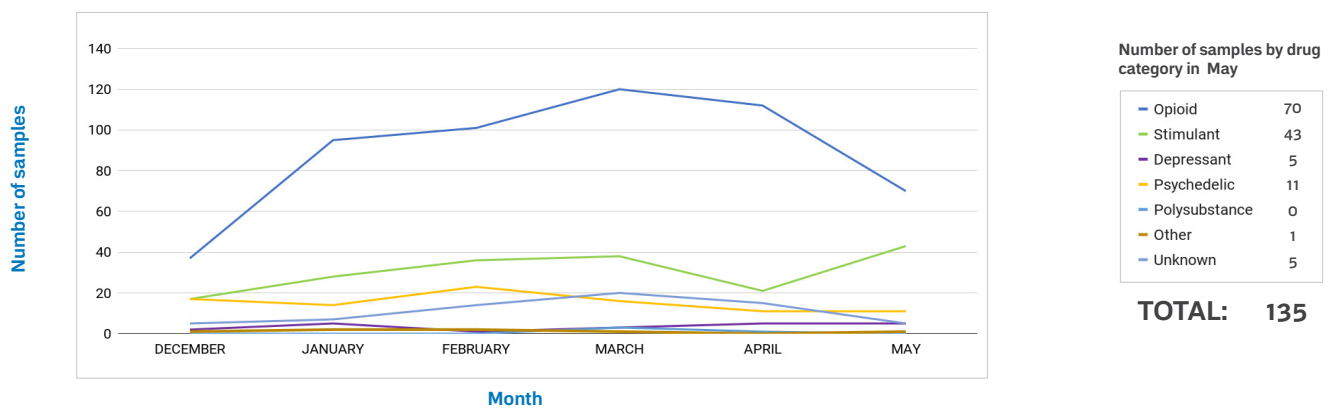


Key Findings

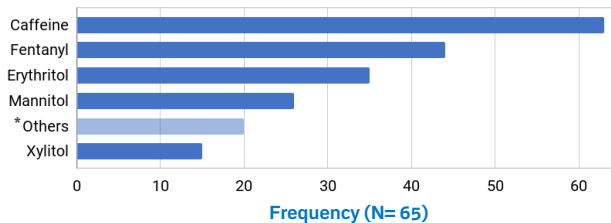
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the region (51%) has remained the same as last month after having been consistently on an upward trend since September (6%). Etizolam, the predominant benzodiazepine in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies. This means that the true rate may be higher than reported here.
- One sample of methamphetamine checked in Vernon contained fentanyl. In Merritt, a pressed ecstasy (MDMA) tablet was contaminated with fentanyl and an alert was issued.
- 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

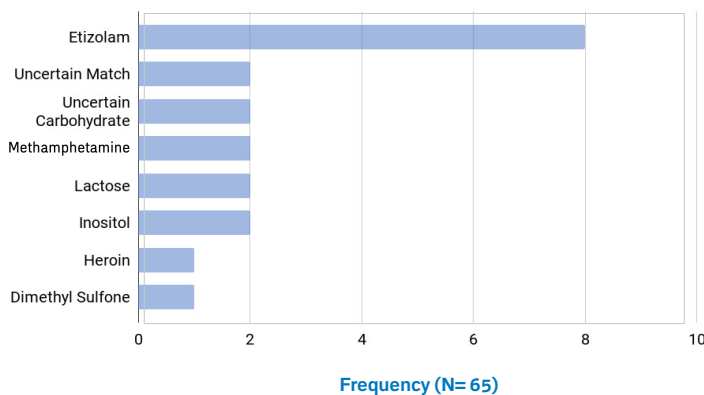


Components found in drug samples in May

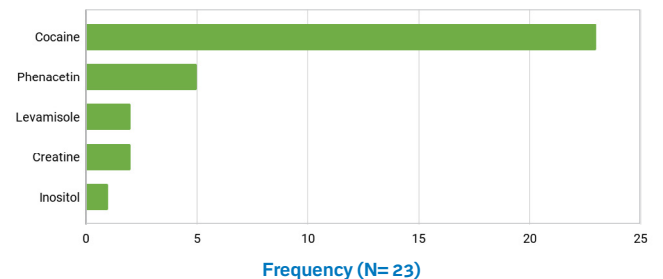
Components in opioids



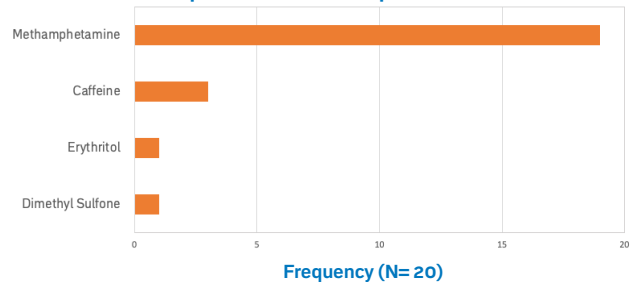
* Other components found in opioids



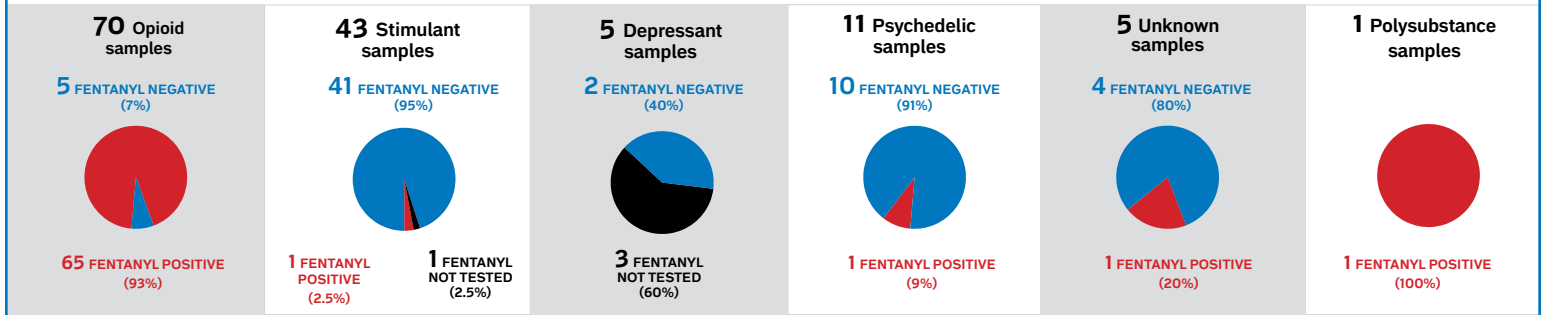
Components in cocaine



Components in methamphetamine



Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

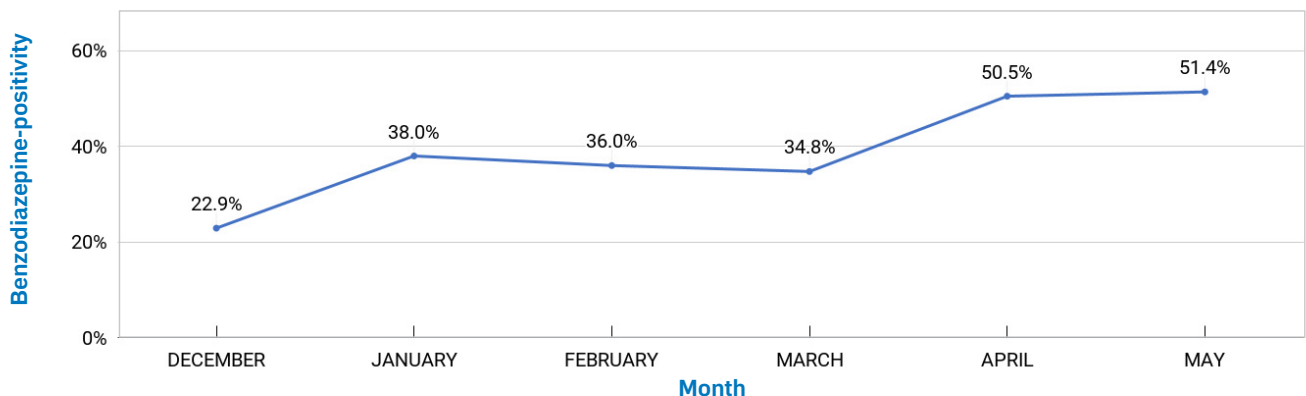


PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Area Purchased	Alert Message
21 May 2021 ASK Wellness Merritt	MDMA/Ecstasy	MDA, Caffeine, Lactose, Microcrystalline cellulose	Positive	N/A	Lower Mainland	For people without an opioid tolerance, small amounts of fentanyl can lead to opioid toxicity.

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 May, **51.4%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips or FTIR in our partner sites in the Interior Health region (**36 samples of 70 tested**).








Opioid samples are tested for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips. The results presented above are presumptive and tentative until confirmed by a laboratory.

Number of drugs checks at each site

Organization	City/Town	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS	Cranbrook	32
	Nelson	24
ASK Wellness	Kamloops	32
	Merritt	10
UBC Okanagan	Kelowna	13
	Penticton	19
	Vernon	5
Total		135

Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Depressant 5 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 5</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Psychedelic 11 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 9 Did not match: 2</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Stimulant 43 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 42 Did not match: 1</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Opioid 70 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 61 Did not match: 8 Match not determined: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Unknown 5 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Match not determined: 5</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Polysubstance 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>
<p>Total 135 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 118 Did not match: 11 Match not determined: 6</p>		

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.

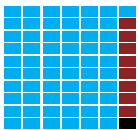
Number of opioid samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Fentanyl 59 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 58 Did not match: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Heroin 5 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1 Did not match: 4</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Down 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Pharmaceutical 4 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1 Did not match: 2 Match not determined: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: Opium 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Did not match: 1</p>	

Total

70 Samples Tested



Matched: 61
Did not match: 8
Match not determined: 1

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 province. Drug samples are tested using the Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometer in combination with fentanyl test strips and benzodiazepine test strips.

There is 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 immunoassay test strip testing done in combination. When applicable, BTNX benzodiazepine immunoassay test strips are also used.

BCCSU gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following partners: