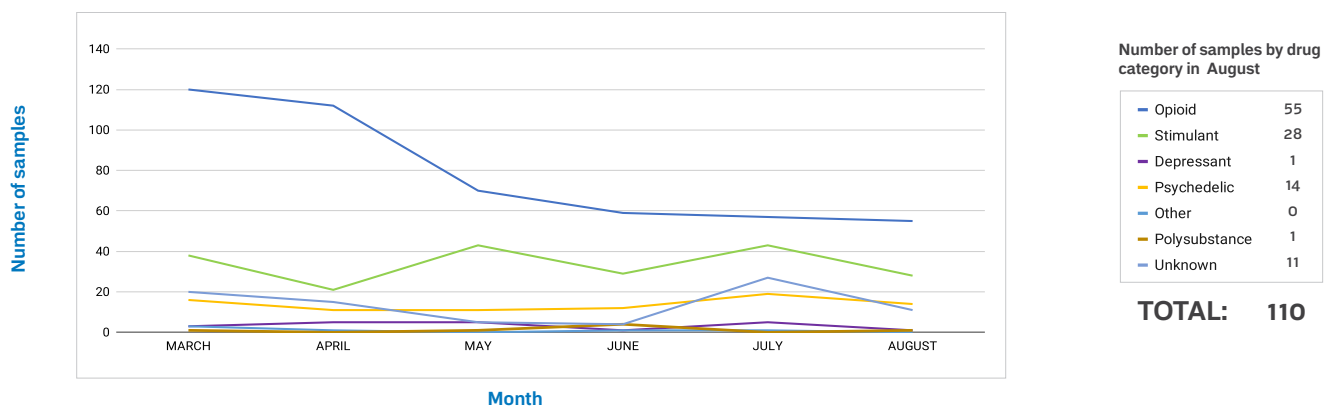


## Key Findings

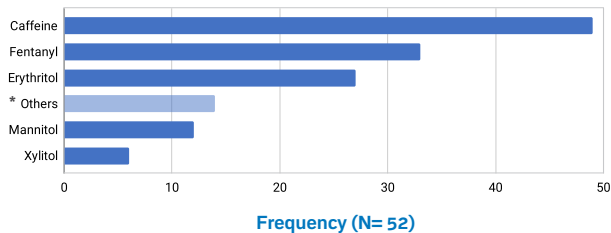
- The percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines in the region (38%, 21 of 55 samples) fell slightly from last month, but trends may be hard to infer due to the small number of samples over a large region. Etizolam, the predominant benzodiazepine in expected opioids, may be missed by drug checking technologies. This means that the true rate may be higher than reported here.
- 1 sample of MDMA purchased in Cranbrook was actually *down* containing fentanyl. Many drugs look alike—drug checking can help you confirm what you think you have.
- 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

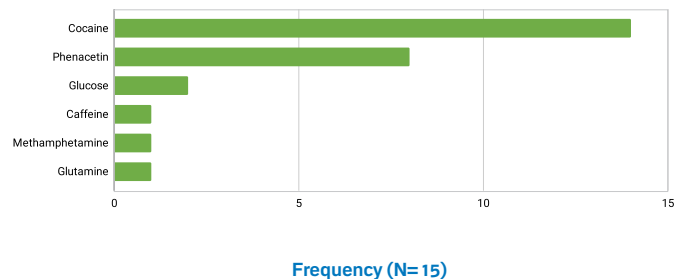


## Components found in drug samples in August

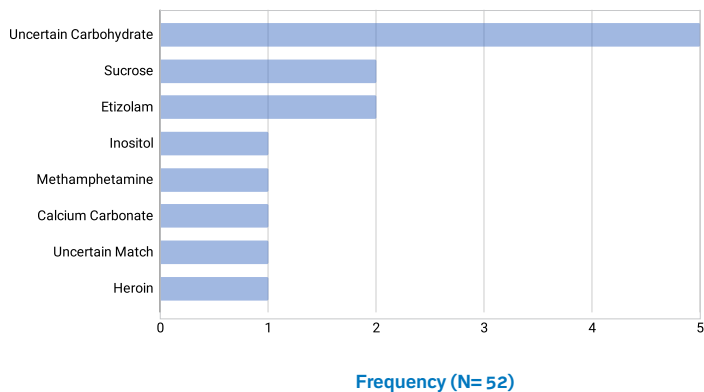
### Components in opioids



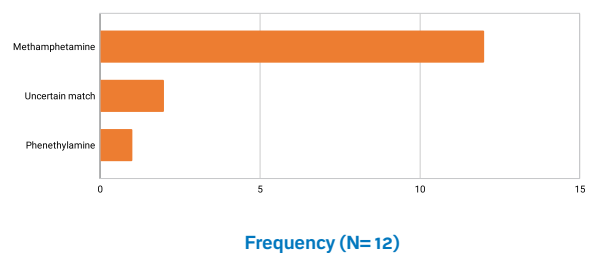
### Components in cocaine



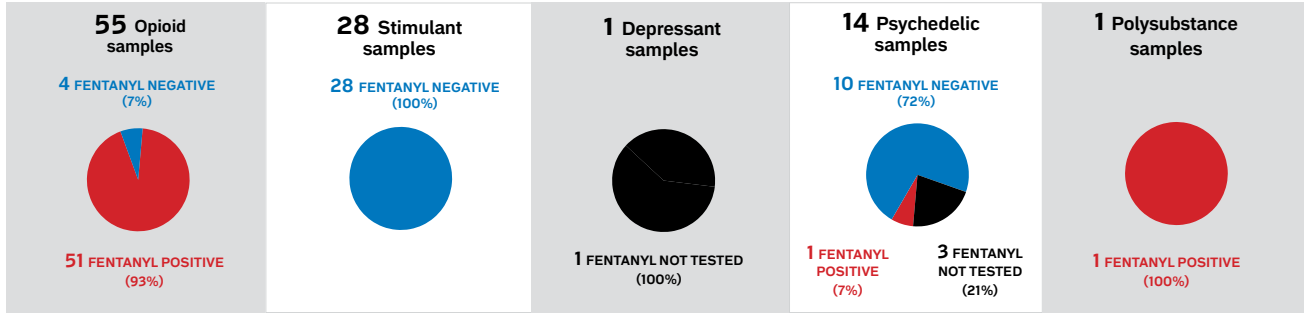
### \* Other components found in opioids



### Components in methamphetamine



## Number of samples tested with fentanyl present

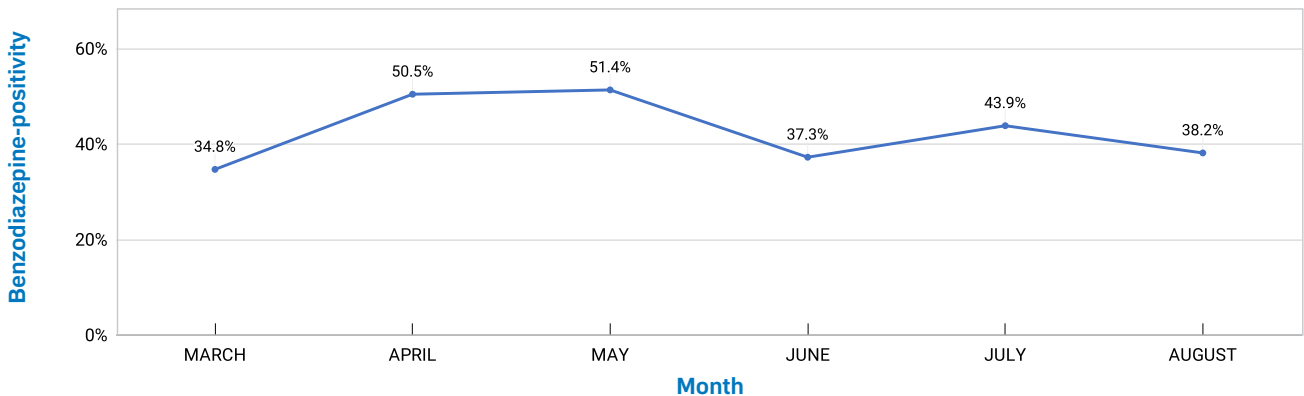


## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATIONS

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Drugs Detected	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts from Interior Health partners this month					

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 August, **38.2%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner sites in Interior Health (**21 samples of 55 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	9
	Nelson	11
ASK Wellness	Kamloops	15
	Merritt	7
	Penticton	21
UBC Okanagan HaRT	Kelowna	10
	Penticton	9
	Vernon	28
<b>Total</b>		<b>110</b>

## Number of samples that matched expectation

using FTIR/test strip drug checking

<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Depressant</b> 1 Sample Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Psychedelic</b> 14 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 10 Did not match: 3 Match not determined: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Stimulant</b> 28 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 27 Did not match: 1</p>	<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Polysubstance</b> 1 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 1</p>
<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Opioid</b> 55 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 48 Did not match: 6 Match not determined: 1</p>		<p>EXPECTED DRUG: <b>Unknown</b> 11 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Match not determined: 11</p>	
<p><b>Total</b> 110 Samples Tested</p>  <p>Matched: 87 Did not match: 10 Match not determined: 13</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

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Fentanyl**

25 Samples Tested



Matched: 24  
Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Heroin**

3 Samples Tested



Matched: 1  
Did not match: 2

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Other Opioid**

1 Samples Tested



Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Down**

24 Samples Tested



Matched: 23  
Did not match: 1

EXPECTED DRUG:

**Pharmaceutical**

2 Samples Tested



Matched: 1  
Did not match: 1

**Total**

55 Samples Tested



Matched: 49  
Did not match: 6

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: