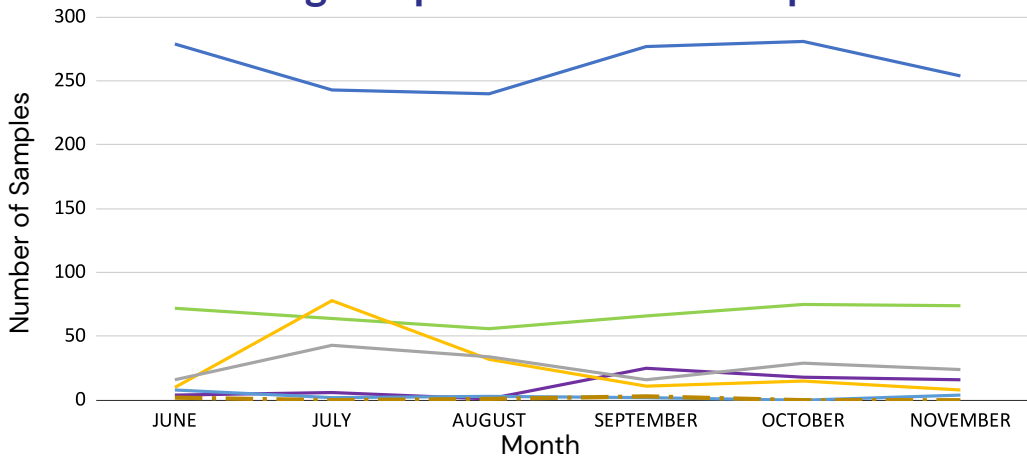




Key Findings

- In November, 380 drug checks were performed across the Fraser Health region (16 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip was 45.7% (116 of 254 samples).
- Benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in 17.1% of unregulated opioids (42 of 245 samples), indicating their presence in higher concentrations. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified (24 samples), surpassing bromazolam for the first time.
- Fentanyl was detected by FTIR in 33.1% of unregulated opioids (81 of 245 samples). Ortho-methylfentanyl was detected in 31.4% (77 samples), surpassing fluorofentanyl for the first time (24.1%; 59 samples).
- Xylazine was detected by FTIR in 3.3% of unregulated opioids (8 of 245 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	254
Stimulant	74
Depressant	16
Psychedelic	8
Other	4
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	24

Total: 380

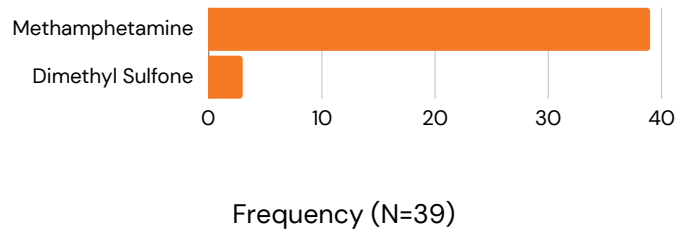
Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Coquitlam)	14
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	73
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	104
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	84
Mountainside (Hope)	9
Mountainside (Mission)	13
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	8
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	20
SafePoint (Surrey)	37
SOURCES (White Rock)	11
Total:	373

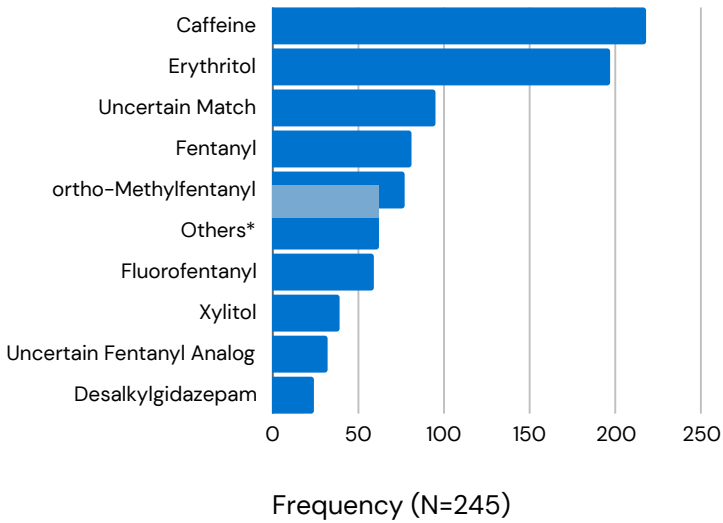
A small number of samples were tested at the following locations, which are included in the total:
Mountainside (Langley and Maple Ridge).

Components found in drug samples in November

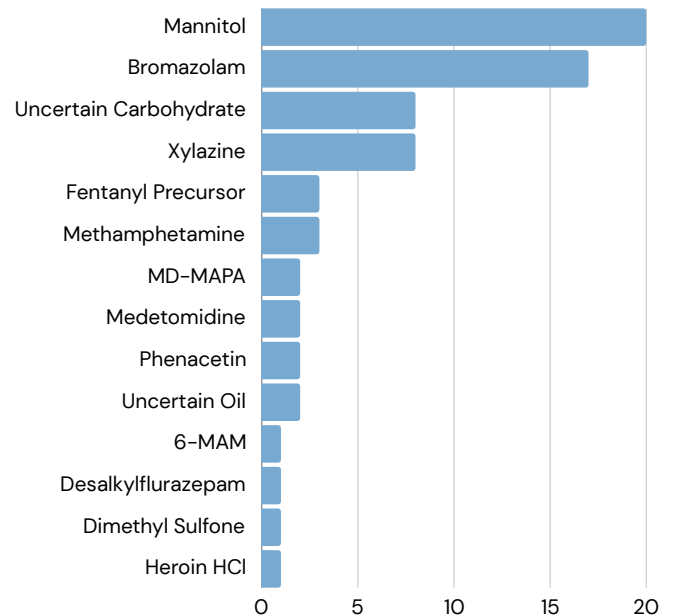
Components in methamphetamine



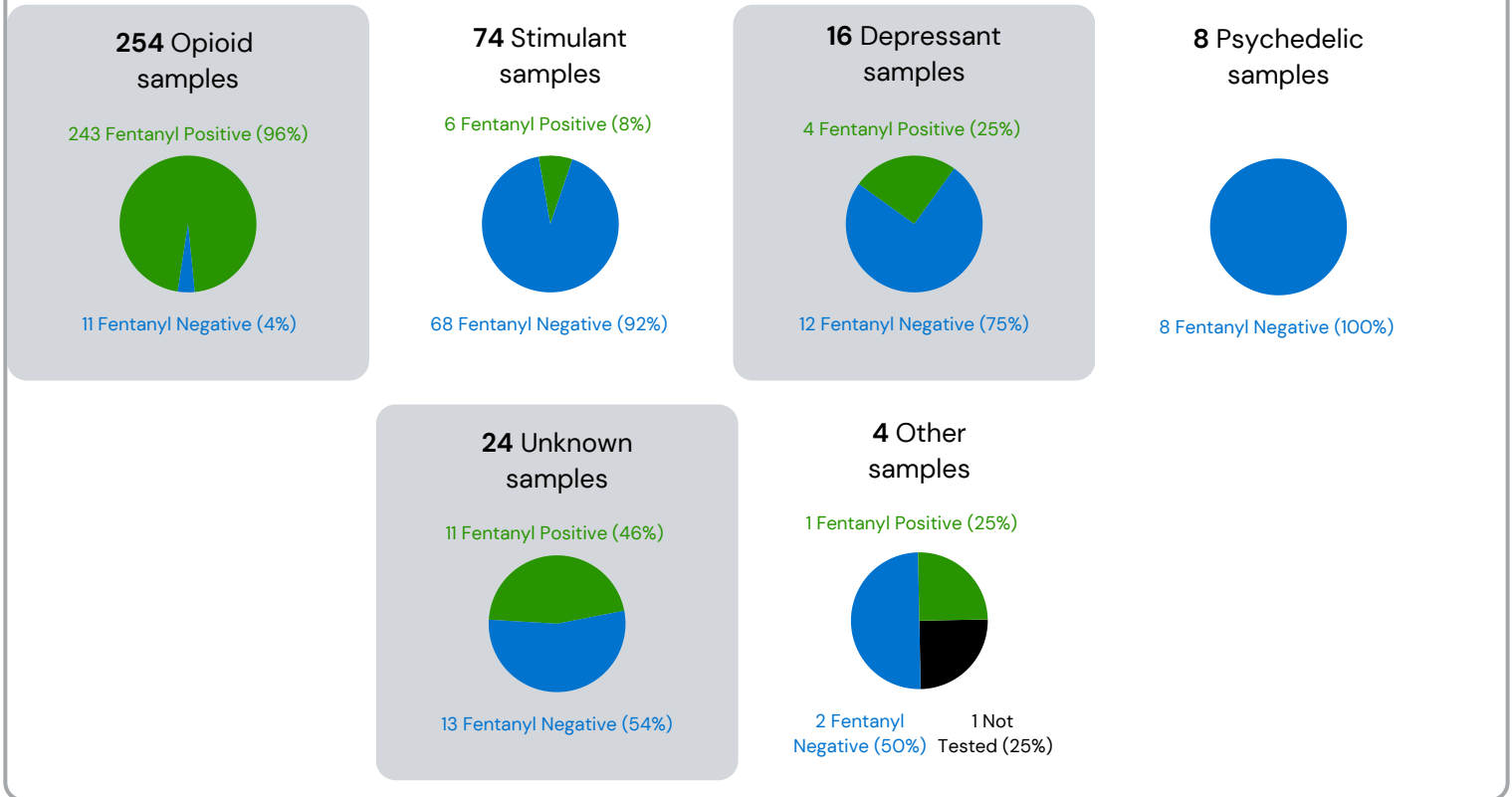
Components in unregulated opioids



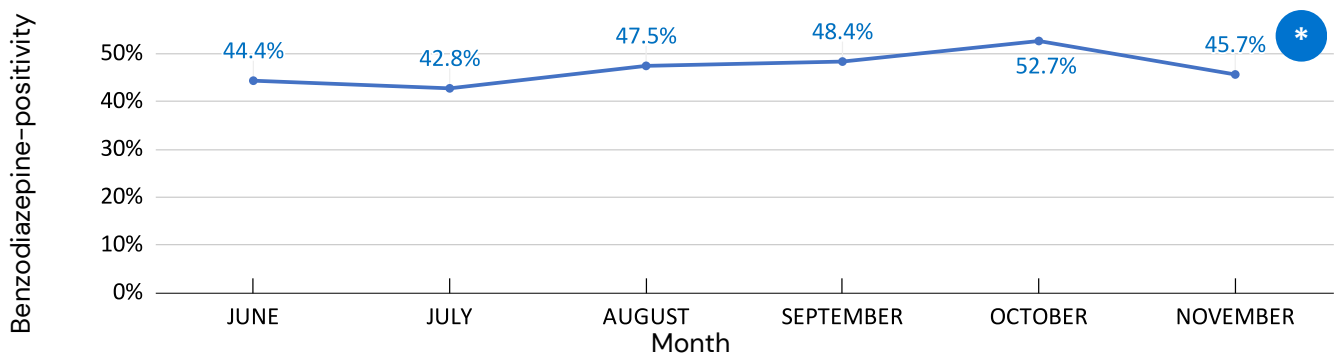
*Other components in unregulated opioids



Number of samples tested with **fentanyl present**



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



*During the month of November, **45.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines using test strips in our partner site in Fraser Health (**116 samples of 254 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		244	8	2	254
Stimulant		73	1	0	74
Unknown		0	0	24	24
Depressant		3	13	0	16
Psychedelic		7	0	1	8
Other		3	1	0	4
TOTAL		330	23	27	380

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		225	2	1	228
Fentanyl		15	0	0	15
Pharmaceutical		4	4	1	9
Heroin		0	2	0	2
TOTAL		244	8	2	254

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 29, 2024 Surrey	Mescaline	O-PCE	Negative	N/A	White powder sold as Mescaline in Surrey tested positive for O-PCE instead. Dosing and effects are significantly different for these two drugs.

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.

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:

