

Substance Drug Checking

Preliminary Results for September 2026

Substance Drug Checking on Vancouver Island offers free and confidential drug checking services in Victoria, Port Alberni, Comox Valley, Campbell River, Duncan, Port Hardy, and at local events. This report presents data about the drug supply on Vancouver Island for September 2026.

Highlighted Findings:

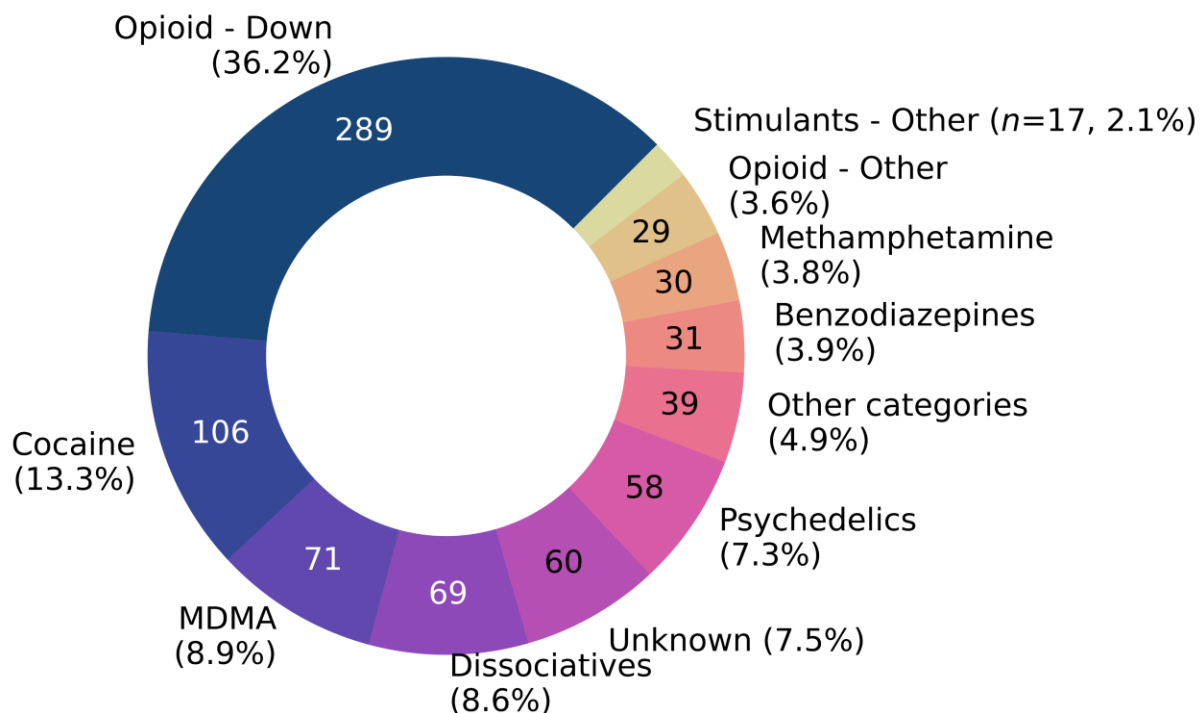
- 47.4% (379/799) of samples were as expected with cuts or adulterants detected
- The median fentanyl concentration found across all drug categories was 5.3%
- The median fluorofentanyl concentration found across all drug categories was 5.9%
- Benzodiazepines were found in 37.7% (109/289) of expected Opioid - Down samples
 - Ethylbromazolam was found in 48 Opioid - Down samples with a median concentration of 1.6% and maximum concentration of 7.1%
- Medetomidine was found in 52 expected Opioid - Down samples with a median concentration of 1.3% and a maximum concentration of 7.0%
- Nitazenes and Xylazine were not detected in any Opioid - Down samples during September

799

Samples Tested
September 2026

What were people bringing to be checked?

Service users bring us a wide variety of substances that can be grouped into different drug classes. This pie chart aggregates the samples we checked by their “expected” substance (i.e., the drug category reported by the service user). The number of samples checked in each class is included inside each slice and the relative proportion of all samples checked is given in parentheses. These data are separated by collection location/method on the following page.

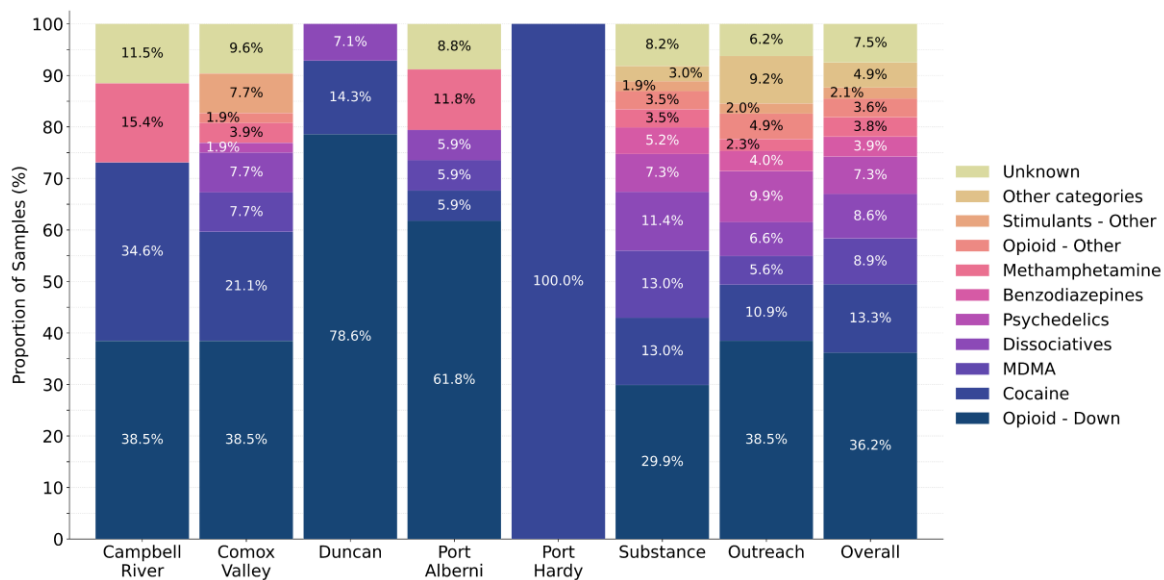


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What were people bringing to be checked by service model?

The “expected substance” data presented on the previous page can be separated by sample collection location/method, where “Substance” samples are those brought directly to our storefront, “Campbell River”, “Comox Valley”, “Duncan”, “Port Alberni”, and “Port Hardy” samples are received through our distributed drug checking model, and “Outreach” samples are those collected at supported housing sites, at overdose prevention and supervised consumption sites, through drop-off envelopes, and at events/pop-ups. This September’s “Outreach” samples include samples checked at Pachena Bay Music Festival. The relative proportions of samples checked by location and expected drug class are shown in the figure below; sample counts are listed in the table at the bottom of this page.



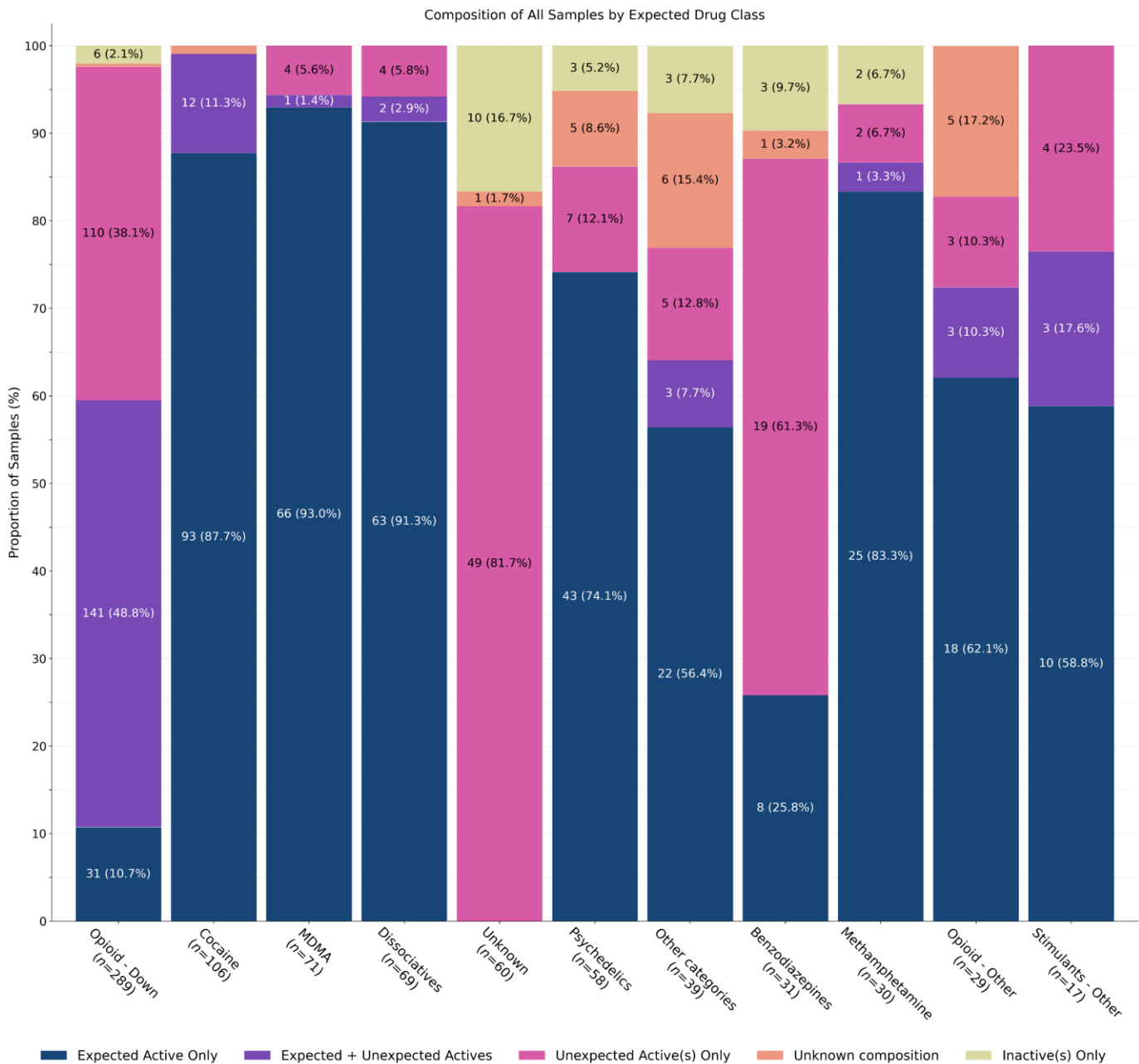
Expected Substance Class	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Duncan	Port Alberni	Port Hardy	Substance	Outreach	Overall
Opioid - Down	10	20	11	21	0	110	117	289
Cocaine	9	11	2	2	1	48	33	106
MDMA	0	4	0	2	0	48	17	71
Dissociatives	0	4	1	2	0	42	20	69
Psychedelics	0	1	0	0	0	27	30	58
Benzodiazepines	0	0	0	0	0	19	12	31
Methamphetamine	4	2	0	4	0	13	7	30
Opioid - Other	0	1	0	0	0	13	15	29
Stimulants - Other	0	4	0	0	0	7	6	17
Other categories	0	0	0	0	0	11	28	39
Unknown	3	5	0	3	0	30	19	60
Total	26	52	14	34	1	368	304	799

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What did we find?

We checked each sample to determine what active compounds and cutting agents were present. While most samples contained the expected active drug, we also detected other notable compounds that may cause unexpected effects. The figure below illustrates the proportions and numbers of samples checked in each drug category, separated by their expected drug class and colour coded by their composition. **Dark Blue** groups samples that were “as expected” with no other notable compounds detected, **Purple** groups samples that contained the expected drug *and* other unexpected active(s), **Magenta** groups samples that only contained unexpected active(s) (the expected drug was not found), **Salmon** groups samples where we were unable to determine the composition, and **Lime** displays samples where no active compounds were detected.



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Opioid - Down: What Did We Find?

In this section, we cover what we found in opioid - down samples at each collection location/model. The number of samples that contained the expected active and/or other notable components are listed. Samples where no detected actives have been excluded for brevity.

Opioid - Down	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Duncan	Port Alberni	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only		2	2	1		16
Fentanyl		2	2			16
Fluorofentanyl				1		
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)	1	8	2	9		55
3-hydroxy Desalkylgizapam						
Acetylcodeine						8
Acetylmorphine		1		1		16
Benzodiazepine (unknown type)		2		1		5
Bromazolam			1	1		
Carfentanil						
Cocaine Base						
Cocaine HCl						2
Desalkylgizapam	1	6	1	7		
Ethylbromazolam		5	1			8
Ethylflualprazolam						5
Fentanyl	1	8	2	9		48
Fluorofentanyl		3	1	1		34
Heroin		1		1		16
Medetomidine		7	1			4
Methamphetamine						2
Morphine						7
Phenacetin						
Phenazolam						1
Procaine						2
Unknown						1
ortho-Methyl fentanyl		1				1

Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. *Expected active component. 4
 "Benzodiazepine (unknown type)" and "Fentanyl or analogue" results are based on a positive strip test and are unconfirmed by paper spray.

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Opioid - Down: What Did We Find? (Continued)

Opioid - Down	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Duncan	Port Alberni	Substance	Outreach
Unexpected Active(s) Only	9	10	5	9		37
Acetylcodeine				1		
Acetylmorphine				1		1
Benzodiazepine (unknown type)	4	8		3		
Bromazolam				3		
Carfentanil						
Desalkylgidazepam				1		
Ethylbromazolam		1				4
Ethylflualprazolam						3
Fentanyl				3		
Fentanyl analogue (unknown type)						
Fentanyl or analogue			1	1		1
Fluorofentanyl	7	10	3	5		35
Fluorofentanyl Base		1		1		
Heroin				2		2
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)						
Medetomidine		4				3
Methamphetamine			1			1
Methylfentanyl	2					
Morphine						
N-Ethylpentylone						
Phenacetin						
Phenazepam			1			3
Unknown				1		
ortho-Methyl fentanyl	2					
Unknown Composition			1			
Unknown			1			

Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. *Expected active component. "Benzodiazepine (unknown type)" and "Fentanyl or analogue" results are based on a positive strip test and are unconfirmed by paper spray.

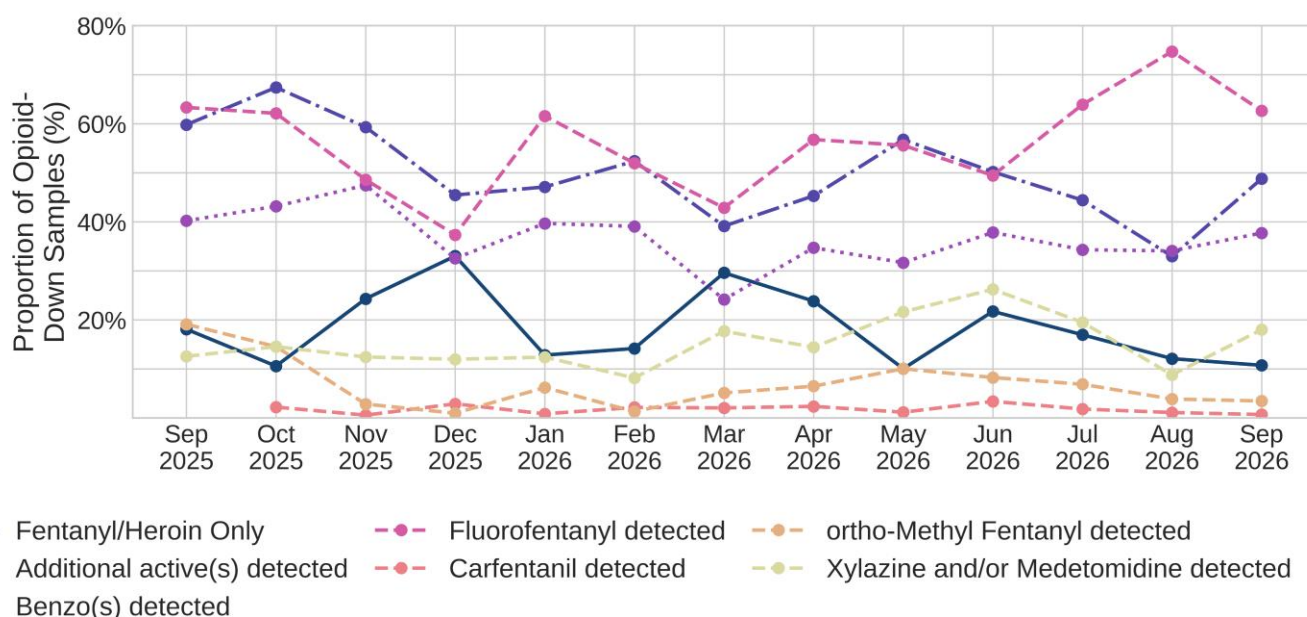
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Opioid - Down: Supply Trends

In this section we cover the opioid - down supply as a whole and look at the prevalence of different opioids and adulterants within the supply.

In September, 48.8% (141/289) of all opioid-down samples checked contained an additional active to the expected fentanyl/heroin. These data are shown in the figure below alongside the prevalence of benzos, fluorofentanyl, ortho-methyl fentanyl, carfentanil, and tranq (xylazine and/or medetomidine) in the down



- 28.4% (82/289) of expected opioid-down samples contained fentanyl as the only active opioid
- 32.5% (94/289) of expected opioid-down samples contained fluorofentanyl as the only active opioid
- 29 samples contained heroin, 25 of which contained the related alkaloid acetylcodeine and/or acetylmorphine (MAM). In total, this represents 10% of all opioid - down samples.
 - 17/29 samples which contained heroin also contained fentanyl or a fentanyl analogue
- 2 expected opioid-down sample contained carfentanil
- 10 expected opioid - down samples contained ortho-methyl fentanyl
- 37.7% (109/289) of expected opioid-down samples contained a benzodiazepine
 - The most common benzodiazepine in opioid-down samples was ethylbromazolam (48), followed by benzodiazepine (unknown type) (24) and desalkylgidazepam (20). Other benzodiazepines were also detected and can be found in the [“Opioid - Down: What Did We Find?”](#) Section.
- Xylazine was not detected in any opioid-down samples during September
- Medetomidine was detected in 18.0% (52/289) of opioid-down samples
- Nitazenes were not detected opioid - down samples during September

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Opioid - Down: Quantification

In September, we quantified fentanyl for 150 of the expected opioid-down samples¹ containing fentanyl and found the median concentration to be 5.3%². Though the median is a useful indicator, it doesn't capture the volatility of fentanyl concentrations present in the opioid supply, as half of fentanyl-positive down samples contained between 2.4% and 9.4% fentanyl, and any one sample might be the lowest strength (0.2%) or the strongest (greater than 50%^{*}). Fluorofentanyl was quantified in 146 samples with concentrations ranging from 0.2% to greater than 50%, with a median concentration of 5.9%. Heroin, was quantified in 24 samples at a median concentration of 1.2%, with concentrations ranging from 0.2% to a maximum of greater than 50%. Medetomidine, was quantified in 50 samples and had concentrations ranging from 0.3% to 7.0%, with a median of 1.3%. Ethylbromazepam, was quantified in 47 samples, with a median of 1.6%, and concentrations ranging from 0.5% to a maximum of 7.1%.

Compound	# Quant.	Median	Min	Max	IQR
Fentanyl	150	5.3%	0.2%	>50.0%*	2.4% - 9.4%
Fluorofentanyl	146	5.9%	0.2%	>50.0%*	2.0% - 11.5%
Medetomidine	50	1.3%	0.3%	7.0%	0.6% - 1.9%
Ethylbromazepam	47	1.6%	0.5%	7.1%	1.1% - 2.6%
Acetylmorphine	26	1.1%	0.3%	13.5%	0.5% - 3.3%
Heroin	24	1.2%	0.2%	>50.0%*	0.5% - 4.1%
Ethylflualprazolam	15	0.9%	0.3%	9.2%	0.5% - 1.3%
Desalkylgidazepam	14	1.9%	0.3%	7.3%	0.9% - 4.9%
Acetylcodeine	12	2.3%	0.2%	3.6%	0.3% - 2.6%
Morphine	8	0.8%	0.6%	3.4%	0.7% - 1.3%
ortho-Methyl fentanyl	8	2.1%	1.4%	>50.0%*	1.6% - 14.7%
Phenazepam	5	1.8%	0.4%	2.8%	0.7% - 2.3%
Methamphetamine	4	19.3%	10.9%	34.2%	17.0% - 23.3%
Bromazepam	4	1.7%	0.4%	8.1%	1.1% - 3.6%
Cocaine HCl	3	2.9%	0.6%	6.4%	
Carfentanil	2		0.1%	0.8%	
Phenacetin	2		1.2%	5.2%	
3-hydroxy Desalkylgidazepam	1		0.2%		

¹Not all opioid down samples brought to our service can be quantified. This is primarily due to too limited sample collected for our instruments to report a reliable mass percentage. Nevertheless, qualitative detection is still possible.

²This number is specific to fentanyl quantified in opioid-down samples. The median concentration listed in the Key Findings at the beginning of this blog is inclusive of all samples checked, across all drug classes and unknown samples, that contained fentanyl.

*There is a maximum concentration limit that the PS-MS can quantify for each compound of interest. If a sample contains a higher percentage of a compound than the PS-MS's limits, then only the upper limit will be reported. Not all samples can be quantified.

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Opioid - Down: Quantification by Service Model

Here we examine the regional variability in the unregulated market. The table below expands on the data presented on the previous page and focuses only on select actives within *expected opioid-down samples*, separated by collection site. Weight percentage is reported; “IQR” is the interquartile range: the range that contains half of the quantified samples.

Service Model	Compound	# Quant.	Median	Min	Max	IQR
Campbell River						
No down samples were quantified during the month of September.						
10 total down samples						
50% (5/10) benzo-positive						
Comox Valley	Desalkylgidazepam	6	1.3%	0.4%	4.0%	0.9% - 1.6%
	Ethylbromazolam	6	1.5%	0.9%	4.1%	1.0% - 2.4%
	Fentanyl	9	4.9%	0.3%	31.0%	2.6% - 8.7%
	Fluorofentanyl	6	5.5%	1.3%	18.4%	3.2% - 14.0%
	Medetomidine	9	1.0%	0.6%	3.3%	0.8% - 1.8%
20 total down samples						
85% (17/20) benzo-positive						
Duncan	ortho-Methyl fentanyl	1		1.7%		
	Bromazolam	1		2.0%		
	Desalkylgidazepam	1		5.6%		
	Ethylbromazolam	1		4.5%		
	Fentanyl	2		4.8%	6.1%	
11 total down samples						
27% (3/11) benzo-positive						
Port Alberni	Fluorofentanyl	2		4.1%	7.6%	
	Medetomidine	1		2.4%		
	Bromazolam	3	1.3%	0.4%	8.1%	
	Desalkylgidazepam	5	5.1%	0.3%	7.3%	4.3% - 6.4%
	Fentanyl	6	9.9%	7.8%	16.0%	8.1% - 14.4%
21 total down samples						
71% (15/21) benzo-positive						
Port Hardy						
No down samples were checked during the month of September.						
0 total down samples						

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Opioid - Down: Quantification by Service Model (Continued)

Service Model	Compound	# Quant.	Median	Min	Max	IQR
Substance	Ethylbromazolam	12	1.3%	0.5%	2.7%	1.0% - 1.9%
	Fentanyl	62	5.1%	0.3%	>50.0%*	2.1% - 9.7%
	Fluorofentanyl	61	7.7%	0.3%	>50.0%*	3.2% - 18.3%
	Medetomidine	7	0.5%	0.3%	7.0%	0.4% - 0.9%
	ortho-Methyl fentanyl	1		1.4%		
110 total down samples						
15% (28/110) benzo-positive						
Outreach	Carfentanil	2		0.1%	0.8%	
	Desalkylgidazepam	2		0.3%	2.1%	
	Ethylbromazolam	28	1.6%	0.6%	7.1%	1.1% - 2.8%
	Fentanyl	71	4.7%	0.2%	>50.0%*	2.1% - 9.0%
	Fluorofentanyl	74	5.0%	0.2%	42.3%	1.4% - 9.4%
	Medetomidine	33	1.5%	0.3%	6.4%	0.8% - 1.9%
	ortho-Methyl fentanyl	6	2.6%	1.4%	>50.0%*	2.0% - 38.2%
117 total down samples						
35% (41/117) benzo-positive						

*There is a maximum concentration limit that the PS-MS can quantify for each compound of interest. If a sample contains a higher percentage of a compound than the PS-MS's limits, then only the upper limit will be reported. Not all samples can be quantified.

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What did we find?

In this section, we cover what we found in samples from the remaining expected drug classes at each collection location/model. The number of samples that contained the expected active and/or other notable components are listed. Samples where no detected actives have been excluded for brevity.

MDMA	Comox Valley	Port Alberni	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	4	2	46	14
Ketamine				1
MDA			2	3
MDMA	4	2	44	12
Methamphetamine				1
Expected Active Only	4	2	46	14
Ketamine				1
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)			1	
MDMA* + Methamphetamine			1	
Unexpected Active(s) Only			1	3
Cocaine HCl				1
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)				1
MDMA			1	
Tadalafil (Cialis)				1

*Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. *Expected active component. "Benzodiazepine (unknown type)" and "Fentanyl or analogue" results are based on a positive strip test and are unconfirmed by paper spray.*

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What did we find? (Continued)

Cocaine	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Duncan	Port Alberni	Port Hardy	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	7	9	2	2	1	44	28
Cocaine Base	6	8		1		7	9
Cocaine HCl	1	1	2	1	1	37	19
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)	2	2				4	4
Cocaine Base* + Phenacetin	1						
Cocaine HCl* + Phenacetin							3
Cocaine HCl* + Methamphetamine						1	
Cocaine Base* + Levamisole						1	
Cocaine HCl* + Levamisole						1	
Cocaine HCl* + Ketamine, Methamphetamine						1	
Cocaine Base* + Fentanyl, Fluorofentanyl							1
Cocaine HCl* + Unknown	1						
Cocaine Base* + Unknown		2					
Cocaine Base	1	2				1	1
Unknown							1

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What did we find? (Continued)

Dissociatives	Comox Valley	Duncan	Port Alberni	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	4	1	2	38	18
3-MeO-PCP					1
Ketamine	4	1	2	38	14
MDPCP					1
MXPCP					1
O-PCP					1
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)				1	1
3-MeO-PCP* + Unknown					1
Ketamine* + Cocaine HCl				1	
Unexpected Active(s) Only				3	1
3-MeO-PCE					1
Cocaine HCl				1	
MDMA				2	

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What did we find? (Continued)

Benzodiazepines	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	5	3
Alprazolam (Xanax)	1	2
Clonazepam (Klonopin)	2	
Diazepam (Valium)	1	1
Lorazepam (Ativan)	1	
Unexpected Active(s) Only	12	7
Benzodiazepine (unknown type)	1	
Bromazolam	2	1
Desalkylgidazepam	4	
Ethylbromazolam	1	4
Ethylflualprazolam	2	
Fentanyl or analogue	1	
Flualprazolam		1
Meclonazepam	1	1
Phenazolam	1	
Unknown Composition		1
Unknown		1

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What did we find? (Continued)

Opioid - Other	Comox Valley	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only		11	7
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)		1	
Codeine			1
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)		6	3
Morphine		1	
Oxycodone (Oxycontin)		4	3
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)		1	2
Codeine* + Acetaminophen (Tylenol)		1	
Oxycodone (Oxycontin)* + Lidocaine, Acetaminophen (Tylenol)			1
Oxycodone (Oxycontin)* + Acetaminophen (Tylenol)			1
Unexpected Active(s) Only	1	1	1
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	1		
Fentanyl		1	
Fentanyl analogue (unknown type)			1
Fluorofentanyl		1	
Unknown Composition			1
Unknown			1

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What did we find? (Continued)

Methamphetamine	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Port Alberni	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	4	2	4	10	5
Methamphetamine	4	2	4	10	5
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)				1	
Methamphetamine* + Ketamine				1	
Unexpected Active(s) Only				1	1
Ketamine					1
MDMA				1	

*Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. *Expected active component. "Benzodiazepine (unknown type)" and "Fentanyl or analogue" results are based on a positive strip test and are unconfirmed by paper spray.*

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What did we find? (Continued)

Psychedelics	Comox Valley	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	1	19	23
1P-LSD			1
1cP-AL-LAD			1
25B-NBOH			1
2C-B	1	4	6
4-HO-MiPT (Miprocin)			1
5-MeO-DMT			3
5-MeO-MiPT (Moxy)		1	1
DMT (Dimethyltryptamine)		4	3
DPT			1
Ketamine		1	
LSD (acid)		7	2
MDMA		1	
Mescaline		1	2
Methallylescaline			1
Tryptamine (unknown type)		1	
Unexpected Active(s) Only		5	2
2C-X			1
5-MeO-DMT		1	
Gabapentin		1	
Ketamine		2	
Psilocybin (mushrooms)			1
Tryptamine (unknown type)		1	
Unknown Composition			
Unknown			

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What did we find? (Continued)

Other categories	Comox Valley	Substance	Outreach
Expected Active Only	3	7	22
3-MMC		1	1
4-MMC	3	3	2
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)		1	
Androstanolone			1
Clomiphene			1
Fenbendazole		1	
Fluoxymesterone			1
GHB			1
Medetomidine			1
Phenibut			1
Progesterone			1
Sildenafil (Viagra)			3
Tadalafil (Cialis)		1	2
Tamoxifen			1
Testosterone cypionate			2
Testosterone decanoate			1
Testosterone propionate			2
Triiodothyronine			1

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What did we find? (Continued)

Other categories (Continued)	Comox Valley	Substance	Outreach
Expected* + Unexpected Active(s)	1	1	4
3-MMC* + 4-MMC	1		
Amphetamine* + Unknown			2
Testosterone acetate* + Testosterone dichloroacetate			1
Trenbolone enanthate* + Unknown		1	
Trestolone acetate* + Unknown			1
Unexpected Active(s) Only		6	3
1,4-Butanediol		1	
Cocaine Base		1	
Methamphetamine		3	1
Sildenafil (Viagra)			1
Testosterone enanthate			1
Trenbolone enanthate		1	
Unknown Composition		2	4
Unknown		2	4

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What did we find? (Continued)

Unknown	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Port Alberni	Substance	Outreach
Unexpected Active(s) Only	1	5	2	24	17
2-MMC					1
2C-B					1
4-MMC					2
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)		1		1	
Acetylcodeine		1			
Acetylmorphine		1			
Amphetamine					1
Benzodiazepine (unknown type)	1				
Bromazolam			1		
Carfentanil					1
Cocaine Base		2	1	2	2
Cocaine HCl				1	2
DMT (Dimethyltryptamine)					1
Desalkylgidazepam		1			
Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)					1
Ethylbromazolam		1		1	1
Ethylflualprazolam				2	1
Fentanyl		1		8	1
Fentanyl or analogue		1	1		
Fluorofentanyl	1		1	4	4
GHB				1	
Gabapentin					1

Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. *Expected active component. "Benzodiazepine (unknown type)" and "Fentanyl or analogue" results are based on a positive strip test and are unconfirmed by paper spray.

Substance Drug Checking

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What did we find? (Continued)

Unknown (Continued)	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Port Alberni	Substance	Outreach
Unexpected Active(s) Only	1	5	2	24	17
Heroin		1			
Ketamine				4	
MDA					1
MDMA				3	1
Medetomidine		1		1	1
Methamphetamine				3	
Phenazolam					1
Xylazine				1	
ortho-Methyl fentanyl					1
Unknown Composition	1				
Unknown	1				

Data are preliminary. There were missing data for some samples. Instruments may not be able to detect all ingredients and certainty of interpretations may vary. Multiple substances may be present in one sample and substances may be present in trace concentrations. *Expected active component. "Benzodiazepine (unknown type)" and "Fentanyl or analogue" results are based on a positive strip test and are unconfirmed by paper spray.

Substance Drug Checking

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Opioid-Positivity in Non-opioid-down Samples

In September, we checked 450 samples that were not expected to contain fentanyl or other “unexpected” opioids¹. Since the opioid-down supply is no longer “just heroin” or “just fentanyl” and is instead a complex, potent, and ever-changing polysubstance market containing other synthetic opioids like fluorofentanyl or nitazenes, here we will examine the prevalence of *any* unexpected opioid, not just fentanyl, detected in non-opioid-down samples.

Expected Substance Class	Total Samples	Total Opioid Positive (% of total expected)	Samples Containing Expected Active (% of Total Samples in Class)	Contains Expected Active & Opioid Positive (% of Confirmed Expected in Class)
Cocaine	106	1 (0.9%)	105 (99.1%)	1 (1.0%)
MDMA	71	0 (0.0%)	67 (94.4%)	0 (0.0%)
Dissociatives	69	0 (0.0%)	65 (94.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Psychedelics	58	0 (0.0%)	43 (74.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Other categories	39	0 (0.0%)	25 (64.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Benzodiazepines	31	1 (3.2%)	8 (25.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Methamphetamine	30	0 (0.0%)	26 (86.7%)	0 (0.0%)
Opioid - Other	29	2 (6.9%)	21 (72.4%)	0 (0.0%)
Stimulants - Other	17	0 (0.0%)	13 (76.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	450	4 (0.9%)	373 (82.9%)	1 (0.3%)

Examining the above table, we find that 4 samples tested positive for unexpected opioids in September, representing less than 1% of all non-opioid-down samples checked. To see which samples contained unexpected opioids, please see the tables in the respective subsections of the “What Did We Find?” Section.

In September, no unexpected opioids were detected in samples expected to be MDMA, dissociatives, psychedelics, methamphetamine, stimulants - other, or other.

¹Specifically, we are excluding samples that were expected to be “opioid-down” or samples that had an “unknown/missing” expected composition. In the case of “opioid-other” samples, e.g. hydromorphone tablets and oxycodone pills, “unexpected opioids” are defined as any opioid that is not the expected opioid.

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Overall Quantification

Using paper spray mass spectrometry (PS-MS) data, we were able to quantify low concentration compounds. These aggregate values are *inclusive to all expected drug categories* in which the active drugs are found. Weight percentage is reported below. “IQR” is the interquartile range: the concentration range that contains half of the quantified samples.

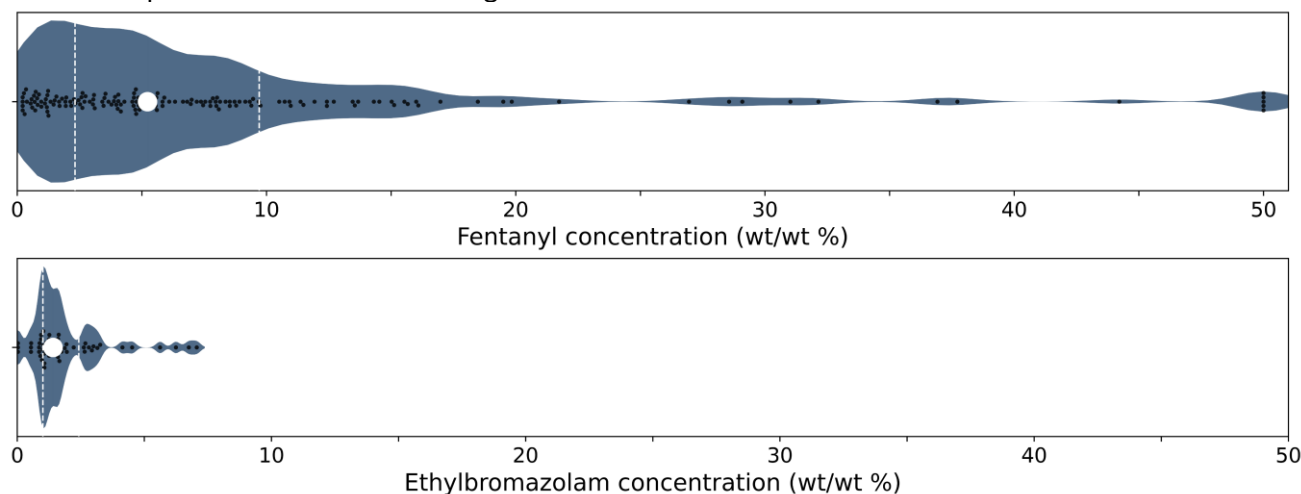
Compound	# Quant.	Median	Min	Max	IQR
Fentanyl	160	5.2%	0.2%	<50.0%*	2.3% - 9.7%
Fluorofentanyl	156	5.9%	0.2%	<50.0%*	1.8% - 11.2%
Ethylbromazepam	55	1.4%	>0.1%	7.1%	1.0% - 2.4%
Medetomidine	54	1.3%	0.3%	<50.0%*	0.6% - 1.9%
Acetylmorphine	27	1.3%	0.3%	13.5%	0.5% - 3.6%
Heroin	25	1.4%	0.2%	<50.0%*	0.5% - 4.1%
Ethylflualprazolam	20	0.9%	0.3%	9.2%	0.5% - 1.5%
Desalkylgizapam	18	1.8%	0.3%	7.3%	0.9% - 4.2%
Acetylcodeine	13	2.2%	0.2%	3.6%	0.3% - 2.6%
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	10	4.4%	0.9%	9.0%	2.9% - 6.1%

*There is a maximum concentration limit that the PS-MS can quantify for each compound of interest. If a sample contains a higher percentage of a compound than the PS-MS's limits, then only the upper limit will be reported. Not all samples can be quantified.

Distribution of Fentanyl and Ethylbromazepam Concentrations

The concentrations of fentanyl and ethylbromazepam for every sample quantified across *all expected drug categories and service models* are illustrated below to highlight the variability in the unregulated drug market.

Black Dots are individual samples, the large **white dot** marks the median concentration, the **dashed white lines** bound half of the quantified samples (IQR), and the **width** of the coloured region is proportional to the number of samples in a concentration range.



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Additional Services

At Substance we provide access to other services in addition to drug checking. These include but are not limited to access to harm reduction supplies (bubble pipes, naloxone, test strip kits, etc.), general support, referrals to substance use programs and to other agencies.

Substance Drug Checking is based out of the University of Victoria and operates community-wide drug checking services within Campbell River, the Comox Valley, Duncan, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, and Victoria, BC.

We are continuing to offer drug checking services in response to the declared public health emergency and exploring new ways to better reach those who may benefit from this service. We have partnered with Dr. Chris Gill and the team at Vancouver Island University to improve detection and reporting using their methods for the paper spray - mass spectrometer.

Our project works on Indigenous land. We provide drug checking, harm reduction education and support across many territories on what is colonially known as 'Vancouver Island.' We also act as a resource for these services across the province colonially known as 'British Columbia.' We honour and offer respect to many nations for their stewardship, care and leadership on these lands.

Our project originated on the territories of the ləkʷəŋən speaking peoples, including the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations, and the W̱SÁNEĆ (Saanich) Nations on whose land the University of Victoria is located. Some of the territories we are honoured to work across specifically include: Halalt, Lyackson, Meluxulh (Malahat), Puneluxutth', Quw'utsun, Stz-uminus, and Ts'uubaa-asatx; Hupačasath and Tseshaht; K'ómoks; and Laich-kwil-tach.

We acknowledge the inextricable links between research, colonization and racism against Indigenous peoples, which continue to this date. Ending the violence faced by people who use drugs cannot be achieved without actively working on decolonization.

For more information please visit: substance.uvic.ca

We gratefully acknowledge our partners on this project

Agilent Technologies	Island Health Authority
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BC SUPPORT Unit Vancouver Island Centre	Vancouver Island University
Canadian Institute for Health Research	Victoria Hospitals Foundation
Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research	Vancouver Foundation
Digital Research Alliance of Canada	Westgrid

