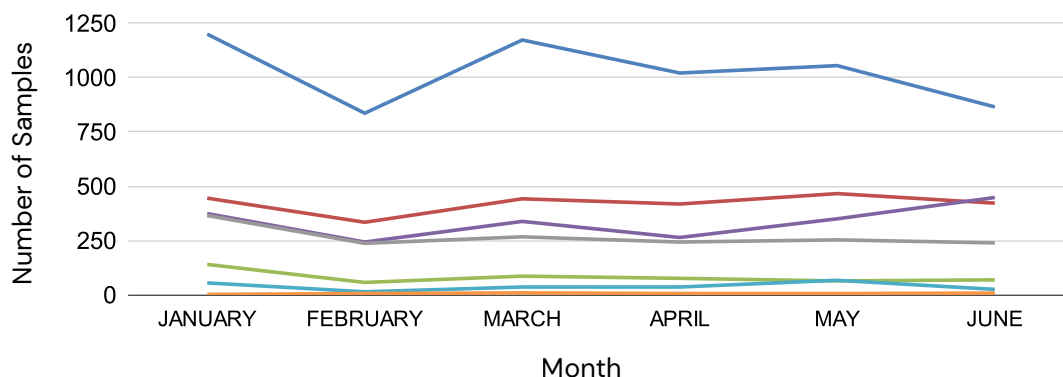




Key findings

- In June, **2,076** drug checks were performed by community drug checking sites in BC (**51 access points**).
- Benzodiazepine-positivity has been increasing over the past 3 months. In June, **44.2%** of opioids tested positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip.
- The percentage of unregulated opioids containing benzos in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR (>5%) reached a record high of **25.4%** in June. The most common benzodiazepines were desalkylgidazepam, bromazolam, and nifoxipam.
- The median concentration of unregulated opioids containing fentanyl was **5.9%**, and **8.6%** in samples containing fluorofentanyl. Samples that contained both had a combined median concentration of **12.2%**. Concentrations were estimated using a new quantification model with improved sensitivity (see page 3 for more information).
- Among the subset of opioid samples sent for secondary testing with Paper-Spray Mass Spectrometry (**n=139**), xylazine was detected in 35 samples, medetomidine in 13 samples, carfentanil in 12 samples.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	865
Stimulant	422
Depressant	69
Psychedelic	448
Other	25
Polysubstance	8
Unknown	239

Total: 2,076

Number of samples tested by region

Vancouver Coastal Health region: 1339 (**65%**)

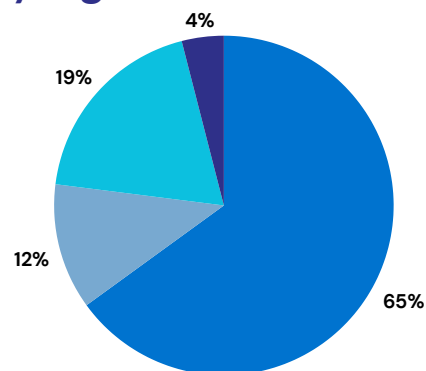
Fraser Health region: 253 (**12%**)

Interior Health region: 396 (**19%**)

Vancouver Island Health region: 0 (**0%**)

Northern Health region: 88 (**4%**)

Total: 2,076



Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid	808	41	16	865
Psychedelic	414	28	6	448
Stimulant	397	23	2	422
Unknown	0	0	239	239
Depressant	48	14	7	69
Other	14	8	3	25
Polysubstance	5	3	0	8
TOTAL	1686	117	273	2076

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

Opioids

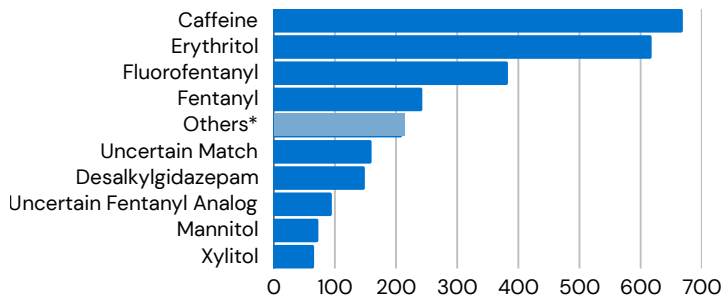
Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Down	685	13	1	699
Fentanyl	72	5	0	77
Pharmaceutical	35	16	14	65
Heroin	5	6	1	12
Opium	9	0	0	9
Opioid	2	1	0	3
TOTAL	808	41	16	865

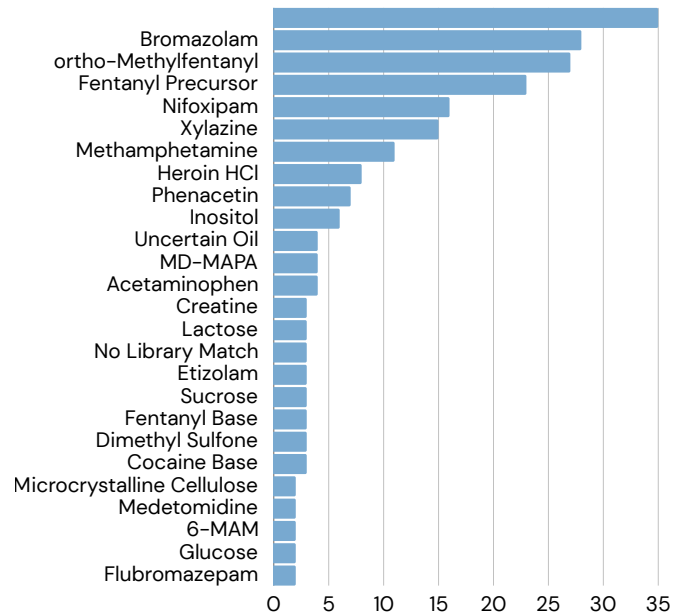
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=788)

Main components



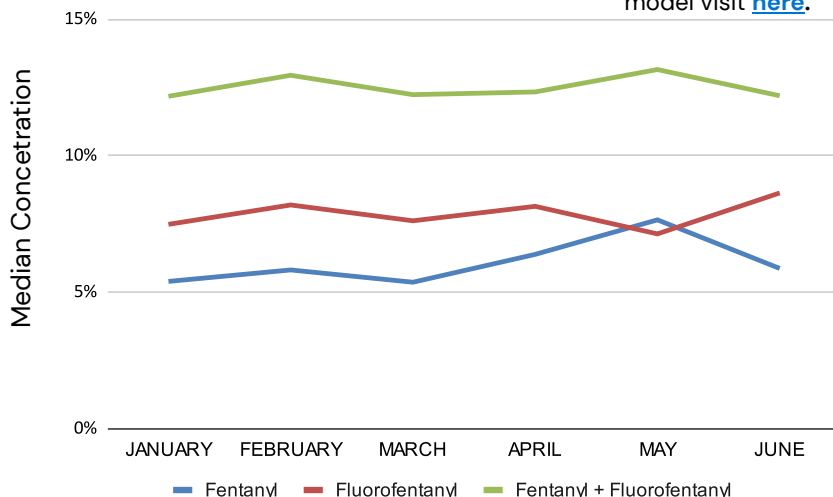
Other components



Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

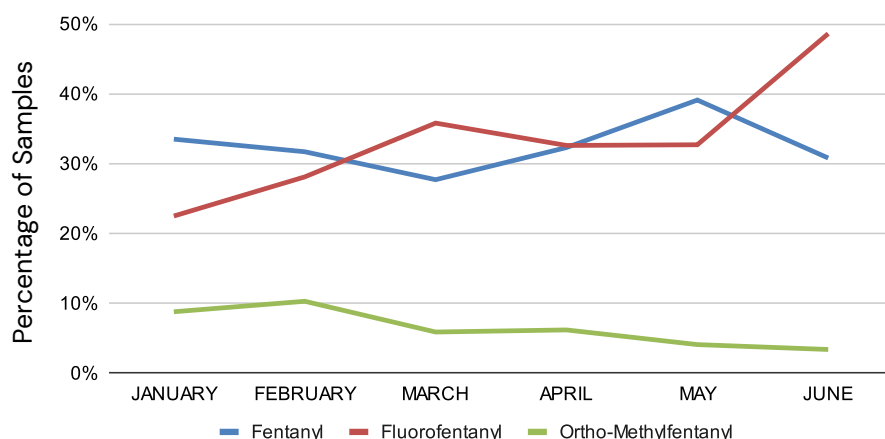
Median fentanyl concentration of unregulated opioids, past 6 months

Quantified results provided here were calculated using a validated quantification model for the purpose of this report using aggregated data. To learn more about the QUANT3 quantification model visit [here](#).



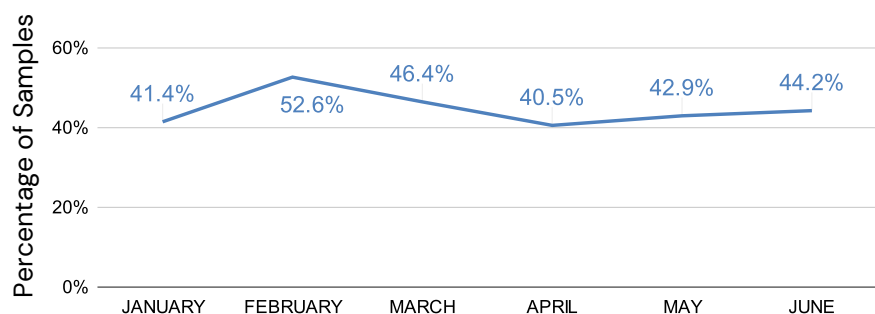
- In June, the median concentration of fentanyl decreased from the previous month to **5.9%**,
- The median fluorofentanyl concentration increased to **8.6%**.
- The median concentration of samples containing both fentanyl and fluorofentanyl was **12.2%**.
- Most unregulated opioids contain fentanyl at concentrations between 5% and 15%. But samples can range from containing trace amounts of fentanyl to comprising most of the mixture.

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



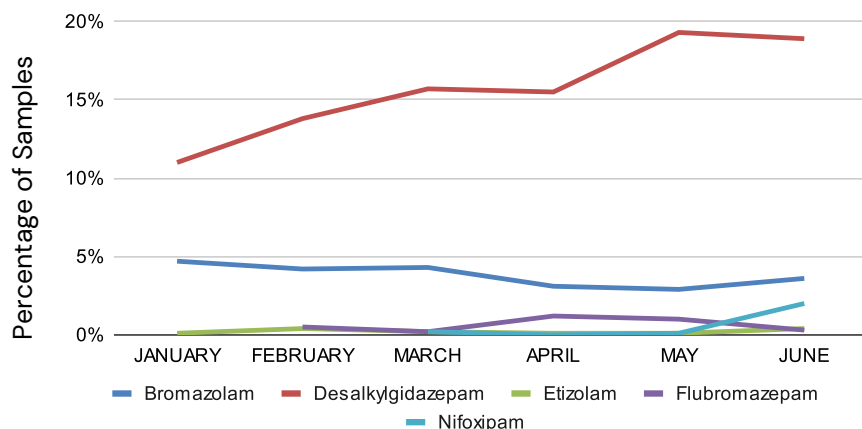
- In June, fluorofentanyl surpassed fentanyl as the most common opioid detected by FTIR. (**48.6%; 383 of 788 samples**).
- Of note, carfentanyl was detected by FTIR in 1 sample. The true number of samples containing carfentanyl is likely higher than what is observed by FTIR, as it is usually contained in concentrations below the detection limit (<5%). Please see the **Secondary Testing** section (page 6) of this report for more information

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



- In June, **44.2%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**382 samples of 865 checked**).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer.

Benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months

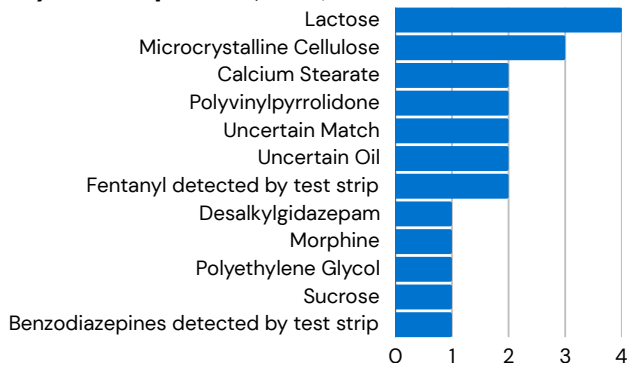


- In June, **25.4%** of all unregulated opioid samples (**200 of 788 samples**) contained benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- Desalkylgizapam was most frequently identified by FTIR (149 of 200)
- Notably, nifoxipam, a benzodiazepine first observed in February 2025, was detected in **16 samples** this month.

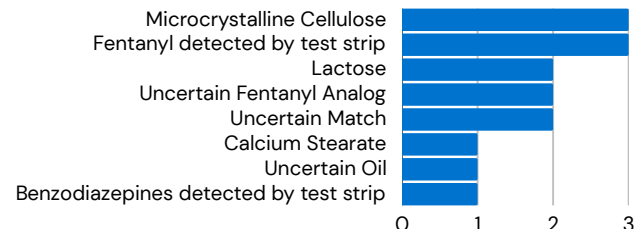
Components detected in pharmaceutical opioids

(where expected drug was absent)

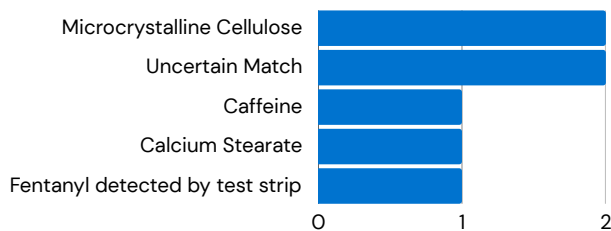
Hydromorphone (N=4)



Oxycodone (N=5)



Acetaminophen + oxycodone (N=2)

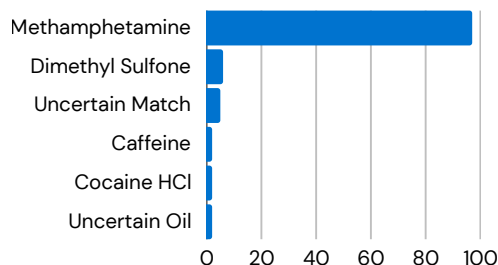


- In June, a total of **65 samples** submitted for drug checking were expected to be pharmaceutical opioids.
- The most common pharmaceutical opioids submitted were hydromorphone, oxycodone, and acetaminophen + oxycodone.
- Of these, **11** did not contain the expected drug and instead contained an unexpected active component. The most common unexpected active component was fentanyl, as detected by FTIR and/or test strip.

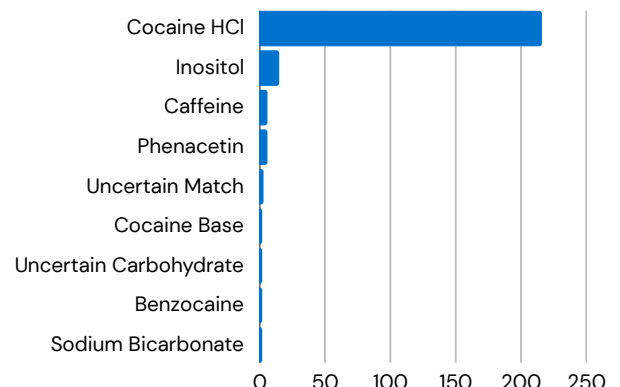
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

Components in methamphetamine (N=105)

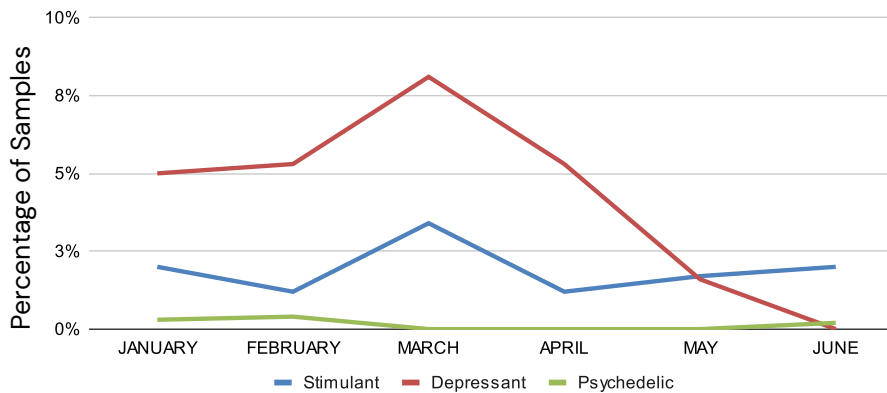


Components in cocaine (N=225)



Additional components detected a single time of samples have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on our [dashboard](#)

Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months



- In June, **9** non-opioids tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip (8 stimulants, 1 psychedelic).
- Of the 9 samples, **3 (33.3%)** were expected to be cross-contaminated by the service user (e.g storing the non-opioid with opioids prior to submitting the sample for drug checking).

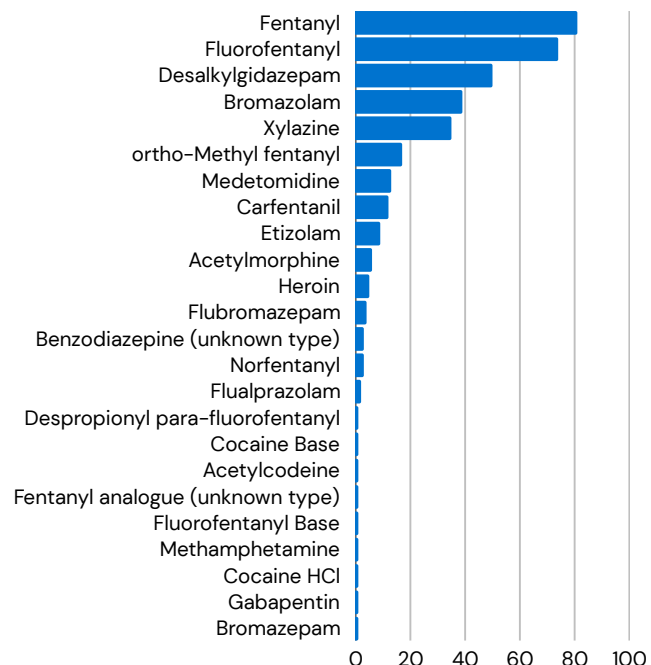
PSMS Secondary Testing Results Summary

A subset of samples were sent for secondary testing provided by Substance at the University of Victoria, using Paper-Spray Mass Spectrometry (PSMS). PSMS is a highly sensitive technology, and can detect components in samples below the detection limit of the FTIR (<5%). Below is a summary of all active components detected in opioid samples sent in confirmatory testing. For more information about Substance please visit their [website](#).

Total opioids sent to Substance

Health Authority	Number of Samples
Fraser Health	70
Interior Health	24
Northern Health	23
Vancouver Coastal Health	16
Island Health	6
Total	139

Active components detected



Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
June 13, 2025 Nelson	Down	Carfentanil, Desalkylgizapam, Bromazolam, Xylazine*	N/A	N/A	Light Pink Pebbles sold as Down tested positive for Carfentanil, Desalkylgizapam, Bromazolam, Xylazine in Nelson. This drug contains the equivalent of p to a 75% concentration of fentanyl.
June 23, 2025 Vancouver	Hydromorphone	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Desalkylgizapam	Negative	Positive	White chunk sold as hydromorphone in Vancouver tested positive for desalkylgizapam, a benzo analog, and negative for hydromorphone
June 27, 2025 Vancouver	Down	Fentanyl, Para-Fluorofentanyl, Desalkylgizapam, Caffeine, Erythritol	Positive	Positive	Pink and blue granules sold as down in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl, para-fluorofentanyl, and desalkylgizapam, a benzo analog.

All spectrometry results are determined by FTIR, with the exception of the following:
 * Results provided by complementary testing partner [Substance](#) using Paper Spray Mass Spectrometry

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).

About this data

Data represented in this report is collected from our partner sites across the province using Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometry in combination with BTNX fentanyl test strips and benzodiazepine test strips when applicable. We note the FTIR spectrometer has a detection limit of approximately 5% concentration (McCrae, 2019).

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.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of [our partners](#) to collect this data.

To find drug checking services in your area please visit our [site locator](#).