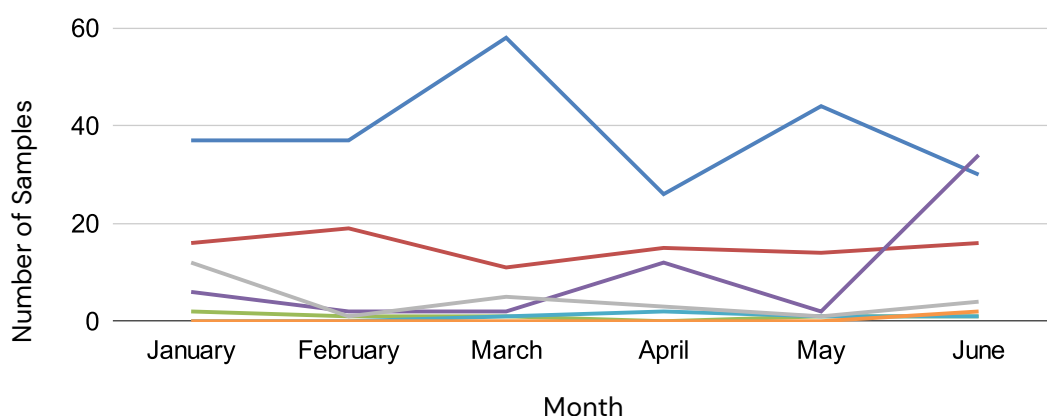




### Key findings

- In June, **88** drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Northern Health region (7 access points).
- There was an increase in the number of psychedelic samples tested in June, which is typical in the summer months.
- Benzodiazepine-positivity increased compared to the previous 2 months. In June, **63.3%** 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%) was **7.7%** in June. The most common benzodiazepines were desalkylgidazepam and bromazolam.
- Among the subset of opioids sent for secondary testing with Paper-Spray Mass Spectrometry (**n=23**), xylazine was detected in 3 samples.
- Note that trends are hard to infer due to the small number of samples over a large region.

### Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



#### Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	30
Stimulant	16
Depressant	1
Psychedelic	34
Other	1
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	4

**Total: 88**

### Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Terrace ICMT (Terrace)	49
POUNDS (Dawson Creek)	3
POUNDS (Prince George)	33
POUNDS (Quesnel)	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>

### Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid	26	3	1	30
Stimulant	16	0	0	16
Depressant	1	0	0	1
Psychedelic	34	0	0	34
Other	0	1	0	1
Polysubstance	0	2	0	2
Unknown	0	0	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>88</b>

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

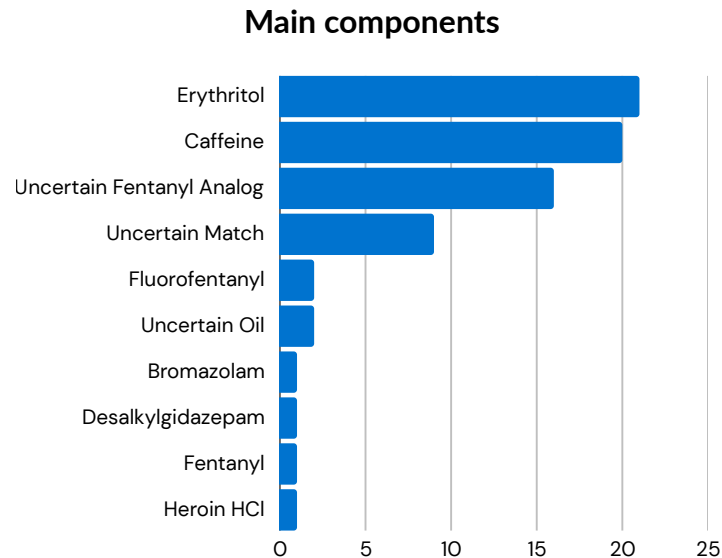
## Opioids

### Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

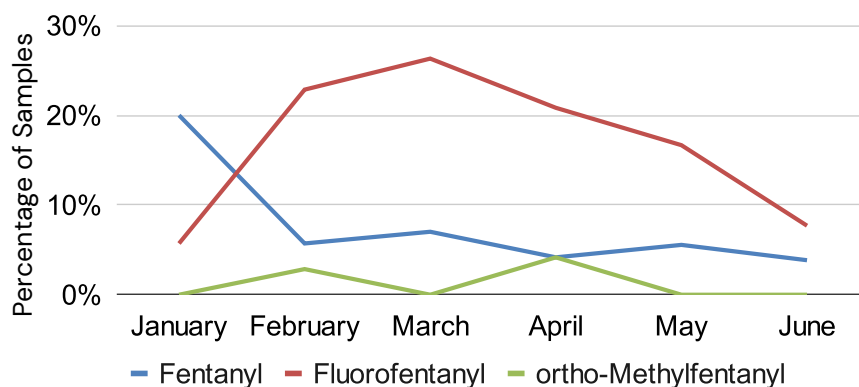
Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	4	0	0	4
Other Opioid	0	1	0	1
Down	20	2	0	22
Pharmaceutical	2	0	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>

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=26)

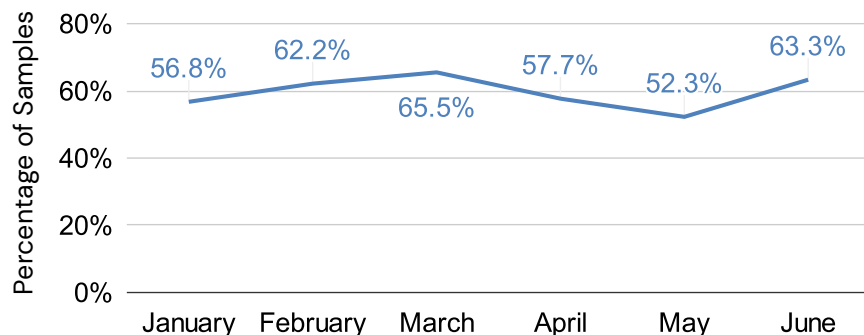


## Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



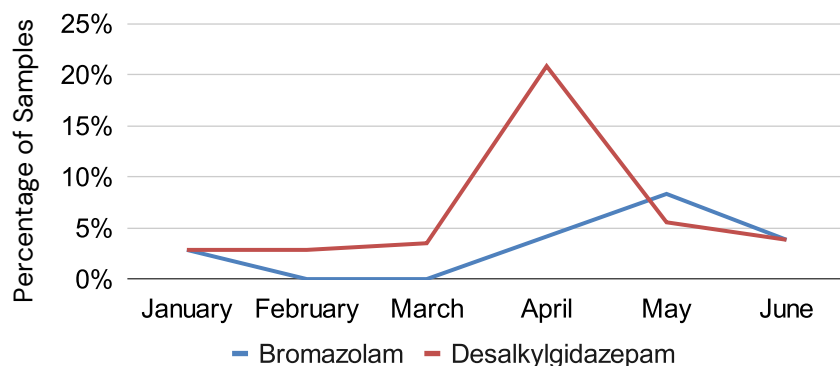
- In June, fluorofentanyl was the most common opioid detected by FTIR, detected in 7.7% of unregulated opioids tested (**2 of 26 samples**).
- We note that the majority of samples contained an "uncertain fentanyl analog", meaning that the specific type of fentanyl analog was difficult to determine by FTIR.

### Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



- During the month of June, **63.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**19 samples of 30 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.

### Benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months

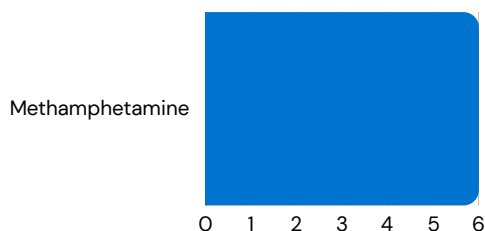


- In June, **7.7%** of unregulated opioid samples (**2 of 26 samples**) contained benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- Desalkylgidazepam and bromazolam were detected in **1 sample** each.

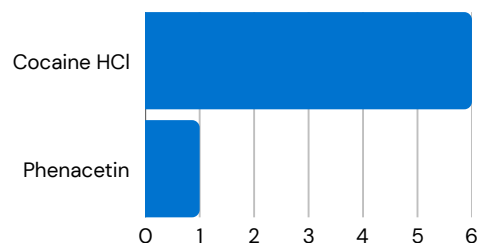
## Non-Opioids

### Components detected in stimulants

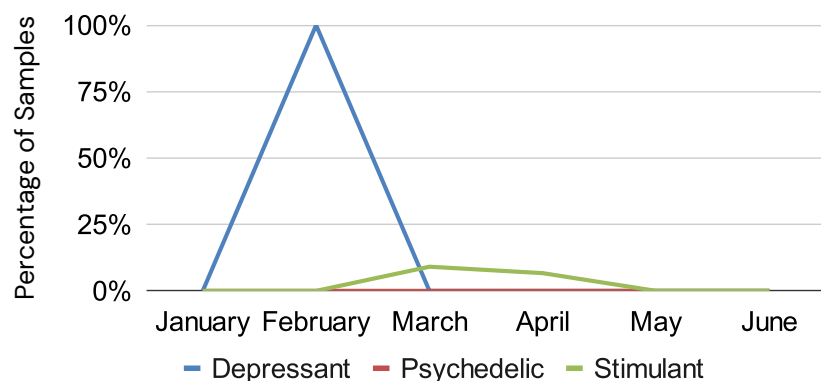
#### Components in Methamphetamine (N=6)



#### Components in Cocaine (N=6)



## Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months



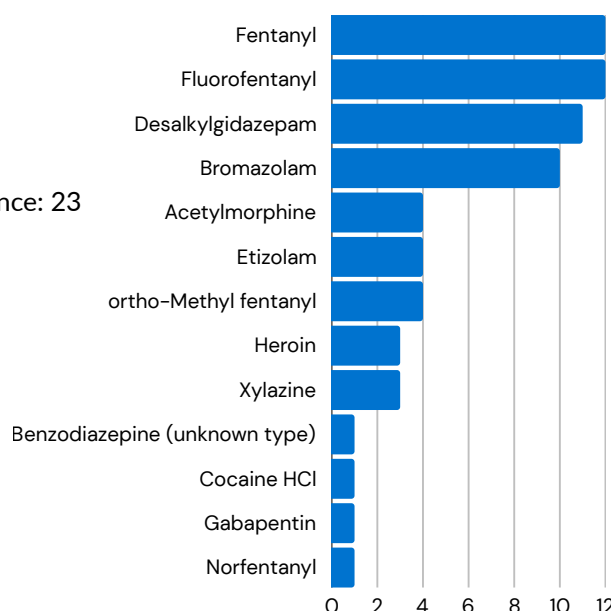
- There were no instances of non-opioid samples testing positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip in June.

## 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](#).

### Active components detected

Total opioids sent to Substance: 23



## Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts for Northern Health this month.					

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](#).