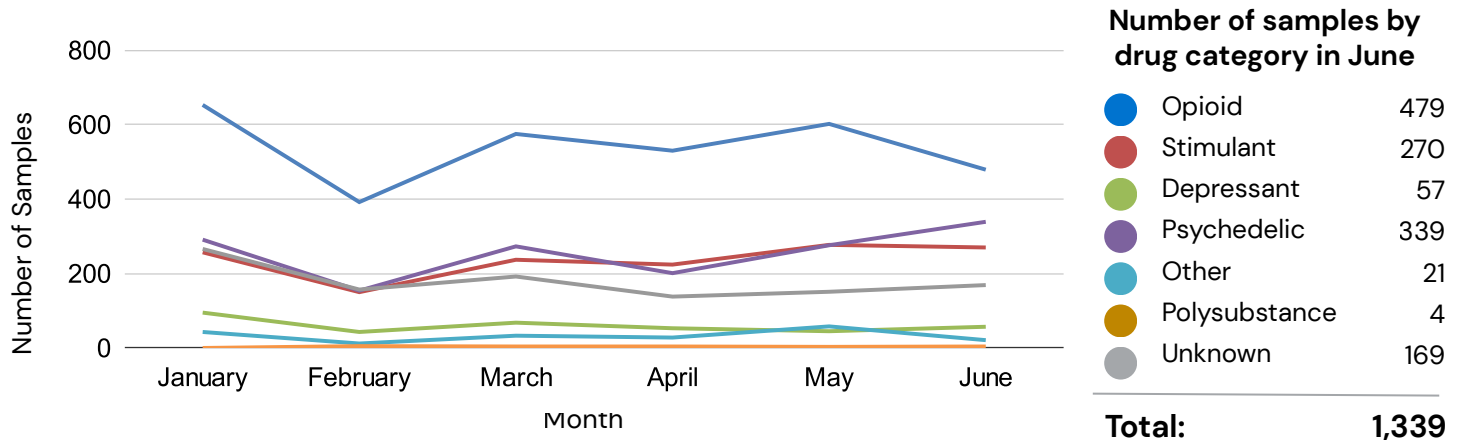




Key findings

- In June, **1,339** drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Vancouver Coastal Health region (**7 access points**).
- Benzodiazepine-positivity has been increasing over the past 3 months. In June, **33.4%** 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 **17.5%** 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=16), xylazine was detected in 3 samples, and carfentanil in 1 sample.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested (Vancouver)	967
Insite (Vancouver)	360
WCSS (Squamish)	6
WCSS (Whistler)	6
Total	1,339

Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid	443	22	14	479
Stimulant	256	13	1	270
Depressant	38	13	6	57
Psychedelic	311	22	6	339
Other	11	7	3	21
Polysubstance	3	1	0	4
Unknown	0	0	169	169
Total	1062	78	199	1339

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

Opioids

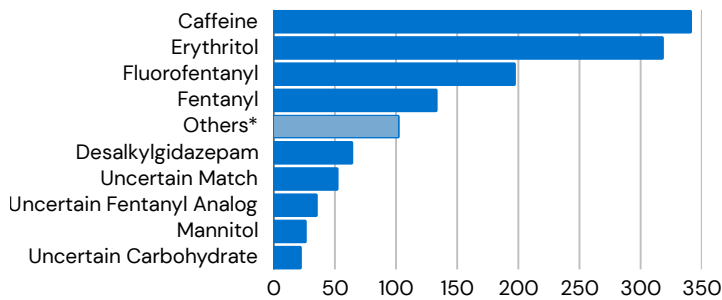
Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	36	2	0	38
Heroin	4	4	1	9
Down	371	6	0	377
Pharmaceutical	23	10	13	46
Opium	9	0	0	9
Total	443	22	14	479

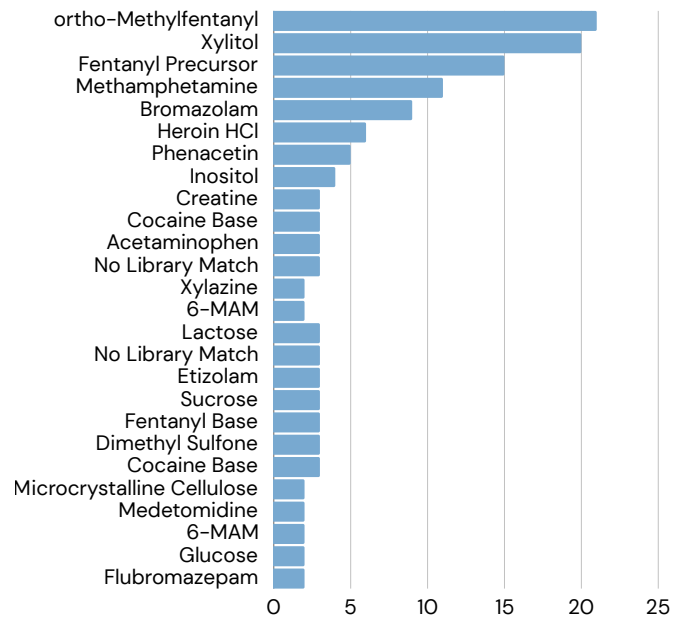
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=424)

Main components

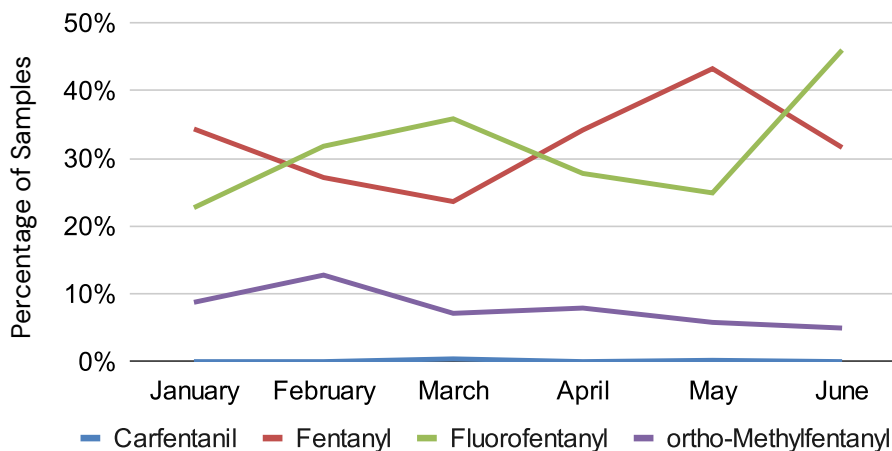


Other components*



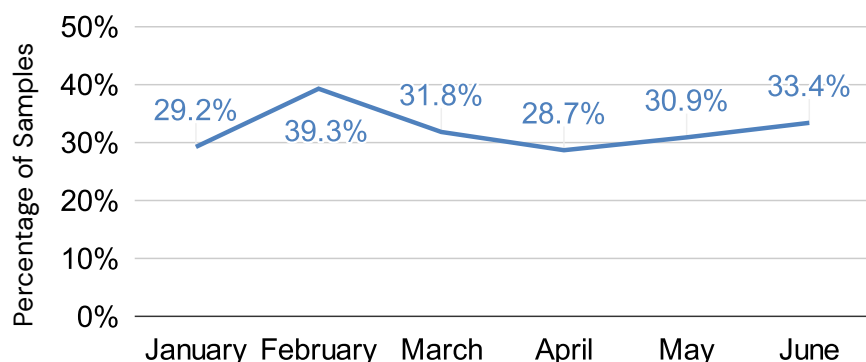
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



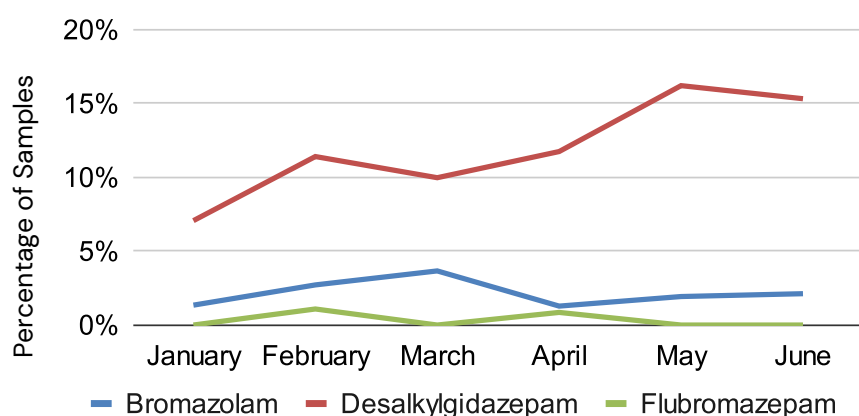
- In June, fluorofentanyl surpassed fentanyl as the most common opioid detected by FTIR, detected in **46.0%** of all unregulated opioids tested (**198 of 424 samples**).
- We note that the true number of samples containing carfentanyl is likely higher than what is observed by FTIR, as it is usually contained in concentrations below the detection limit (<5%). Please see the **Secondary Testing** section (page 5) of this report for more information.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



- During the month of June, **33.4%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**160 samples of 479 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

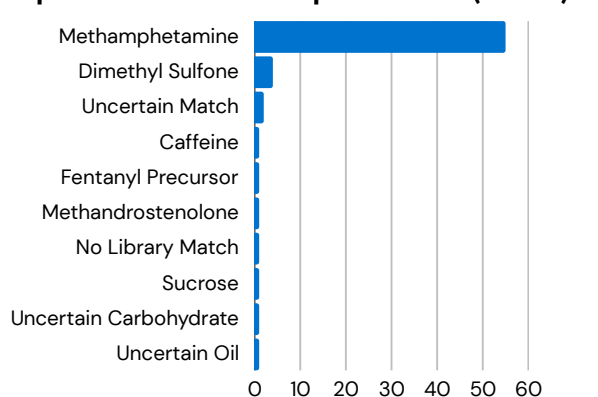


- In June, **17.5%** of all unregulated opioid samples (**74 of 424 samples**) contained benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- Of these, **desalkylgidazepam** was most frequently identified (**65 samples**).

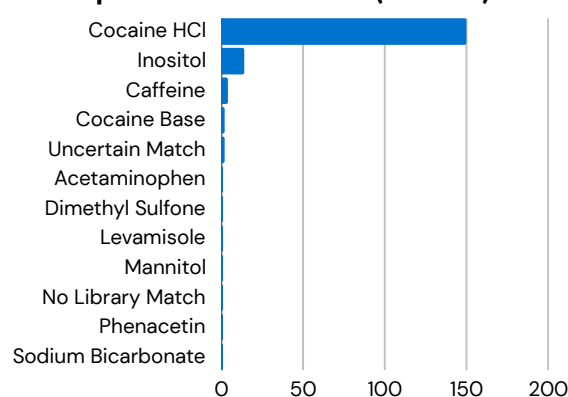
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

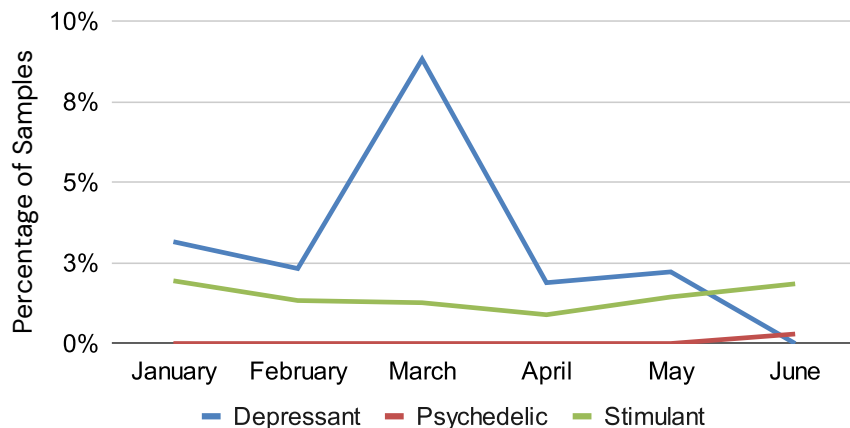
Components in Methamphetamine (N=57)



Components in Cocaine (N=155)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months



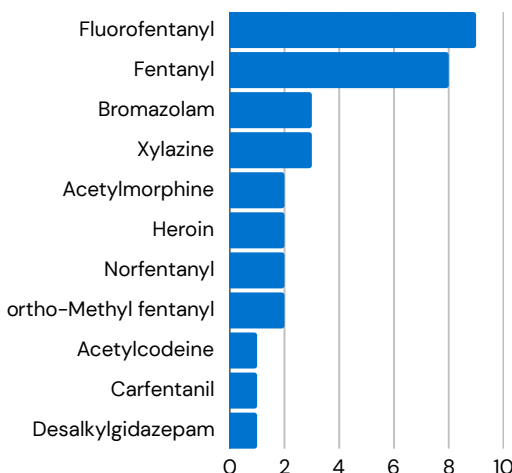
- In June, a total of **6** non-opioids tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip.
- Of these, **3 (50.0%)** were expected to be cross-contaminated by the service user, usually due to storing the non-opioid with opioids prior to submitting the sample for drug checking.

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](https://www.substance.ca).

Active components detected

Total opioids sent to Substance: 16



Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
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.

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](#).