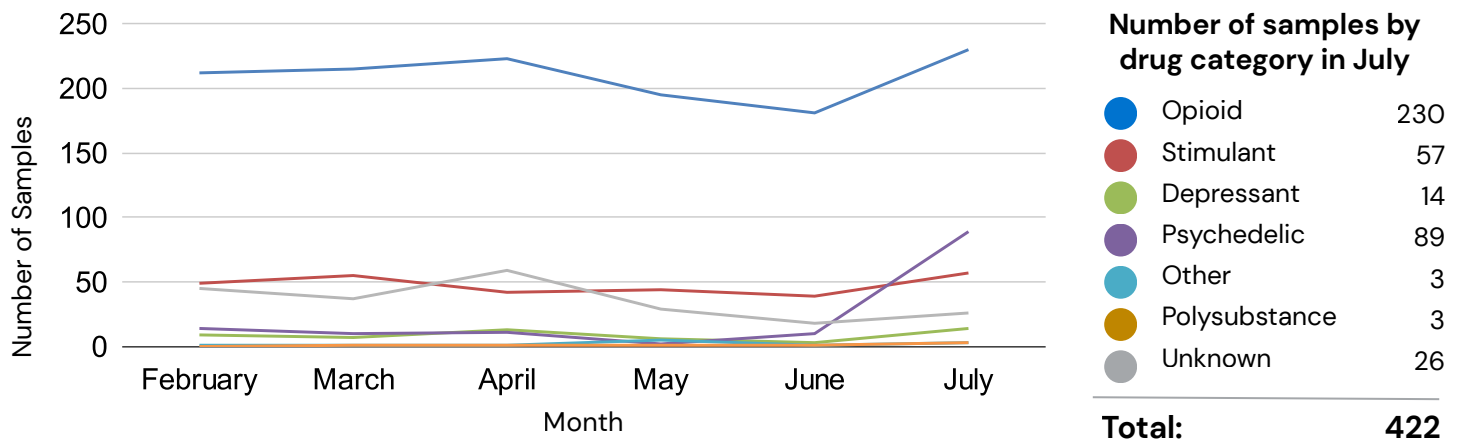




Key findings

- In July, **422** drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Fraser Health region (**17 access points**). The number of samples checked in the psychedelic category increased, coinciding with additional pop-up services provided at music festivals.
- Following a 3-month increase, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased to **53.0%** in July. The most common benzodiazepines detected were desalkylgidazepam, bromazolam, and nifoxipam.
- We note there has been an uptick in samples containing carfentanil since the beginning of the year. The true number is expected to be higher than what is observed by FTIR, as it is usually found in concentrations below the detection limit (<5%) via secondary testing.
- Among the subset of opioids sent for secondary testing with Paper-Spray Mass Spectrometry (n=69), medetomidine was detected in **14 samples**, carfentanil in **9 samples**, and xylazine in **8 samples**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
FVDED in the Park Music Festival (Surrey)	96
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	60
SafePoint (Surrey)	49
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	70
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	63
Mountainside (Langley)	23
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	22
Mountainside (Mission)	15
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	20
Total	422

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following locations, which have been included in the above total:
Mountainside (Hope), Progressive Housing (New Westminster).

Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid	216	14	0	230
Stimulant	56	1	0	57
Depressant	3	10	1	14
Psychedelic	82	4	3	89
Other	2	1	0	3
Polysubstance	2	1	0	3
Unknown	0	0	26	26
Total	361	31	30	422

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

Opioids

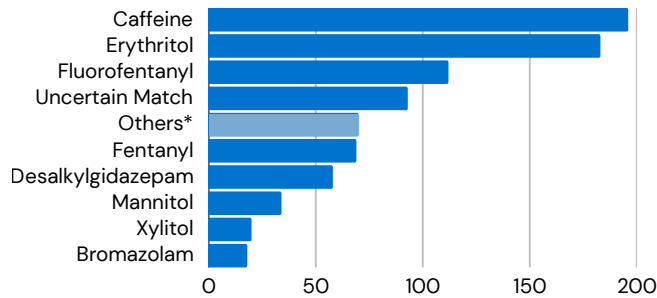
Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	20	1	0	21
Heroin	1	9	0	10
Other Opioid	1	0	0	1
Down	184	3	0	187
Pharmaceutical	9	1	0	10
Opium	1	0	0	1
Total	216	14	0	230

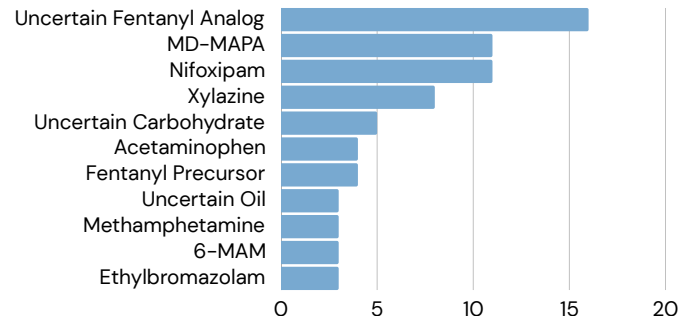
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=218)

Main components

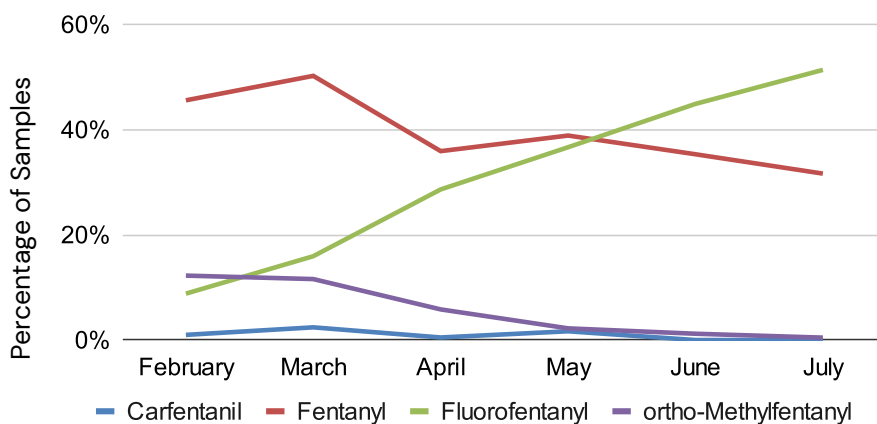


Other components*



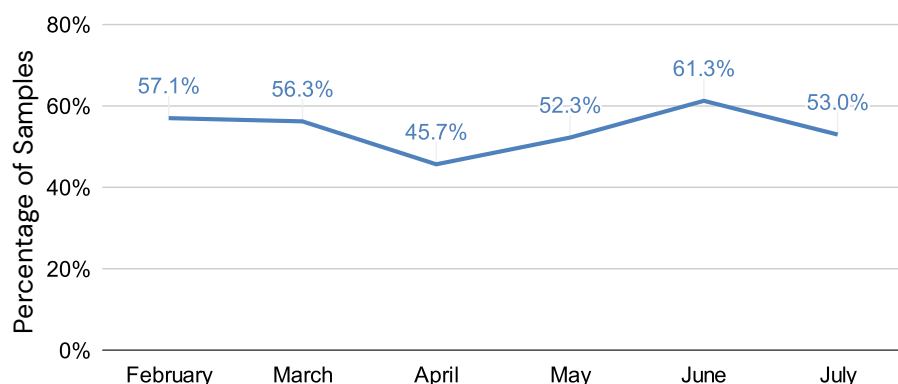
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



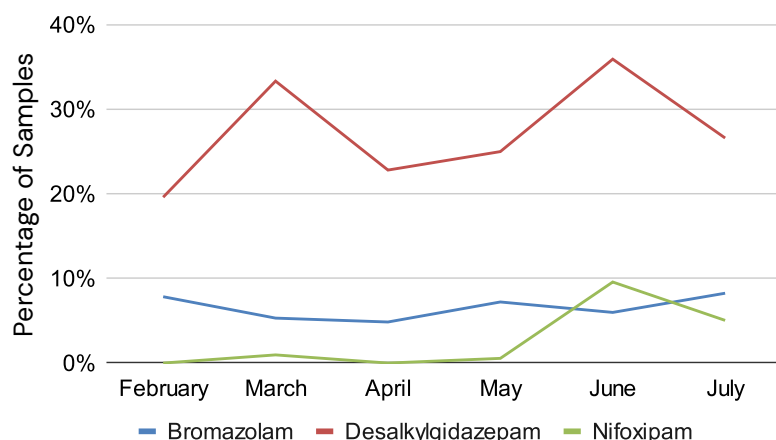
- In July, fluorofentanyl remained the most common opioid detected by FTIR, detected in **51.4%** of all unregulated opioids tested (**112 of 218 samples**).
- We note there has been an uptick in samples containing carfentanyl since the beginning of the year. The true number is expected to be higher than shown here, as carfentanyl is usually found in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%) via **secondary testing** (see page 5).

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



- During the month of July, **53.0%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Fraser Health region (**122 samples of 230 checked**).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer.

Benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months

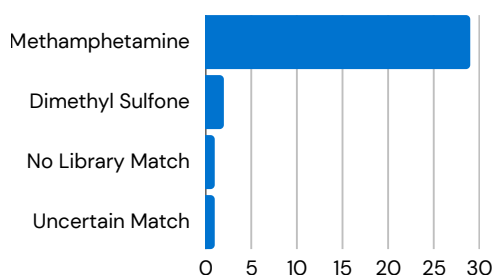


- In July, benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in **41.7%** of all unregulated opioid samples (**91 of 218 samples**), indicating their presence in higher concentrations (>5%).
- The most common, desalkylgizapam, decreased in detection this month while bromazolam detection increased.
- We are continuing to monitor novel benzodiazepines that emerged at the beginning of the year: nifoxipam, detected in 11 samples in July, and ethylbromazolam, detected in 3 samples.

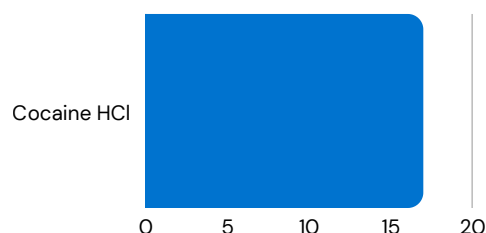
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

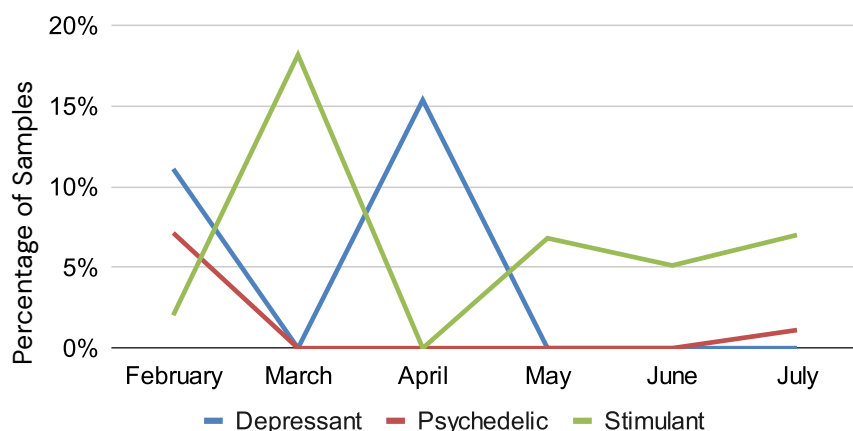
Components in methamphetamine (N=30)



Components in cocaine (N=17)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

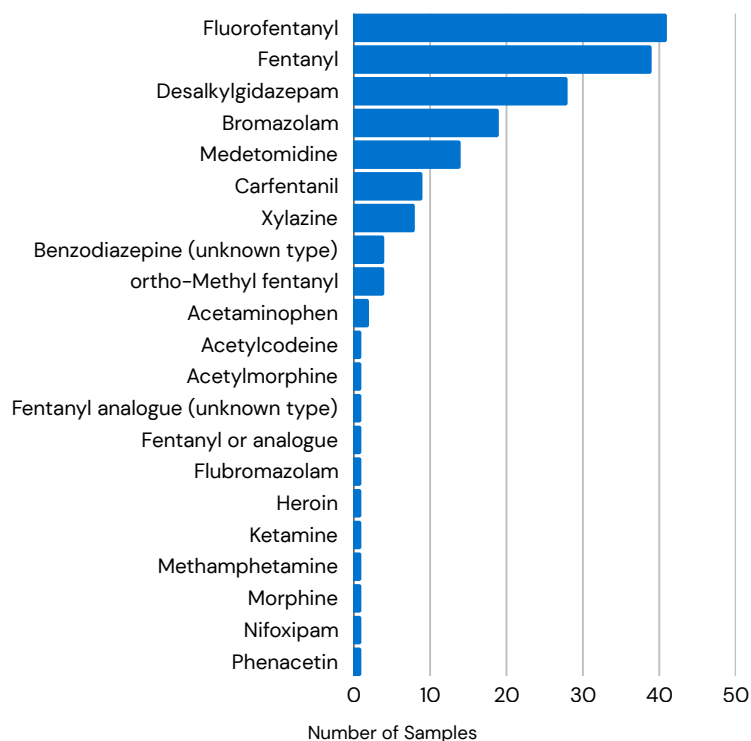


- In July, a total of **5** non-opioids tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip.
- This included **4** stimulant samples, and **1** psychedelic sample.

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 (N=69)



Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
July 24, 2025 Vancouver/ Burnaby	Alprazolam (Xanax)	Microcrystalline Cellulose, ADB-BUTINACA	Negative	Positive	White Xanax bar sold in Vancouver tested positive in Burnaby for an unknown benzodiazepine and ADB-BUTINACA, a synthetic cannabinoid. Dosing and effects may be significantly different than Xanax (alprazolam). ADB-BUTINACA may cause nausea, vomiting, hallucinations, and decreased levels of consciousness.

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.
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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](#).