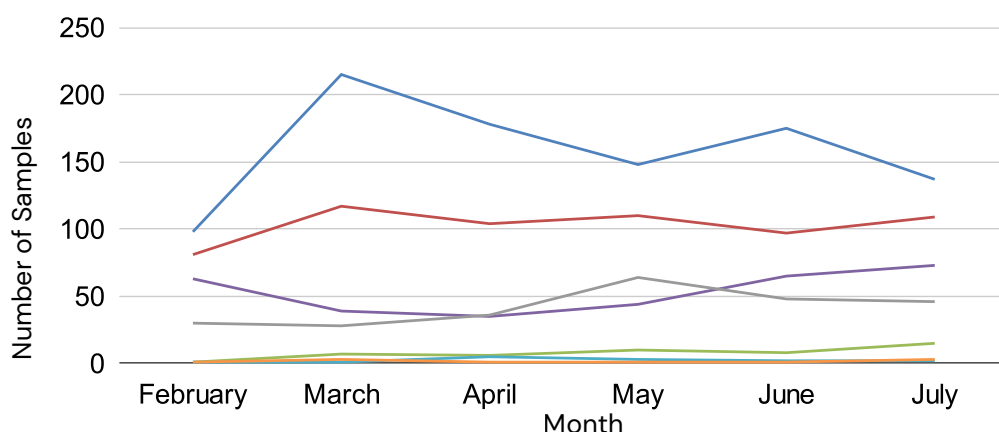




Key findings

- In July, **385** drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (**29 access points**). The number of samples checked in the psychedelic category increased, coinciding with additional pop-up services provided at music festivals.
- Benzodiazepine-positivity has been decreasing over the past 6 months. In July, **45.3%** of opioids tested positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip. The most common benzodiazepines detected were desalkylgizapam and bromazolam.
- We note there has been an uptick in samples containing carfentanil since the beginning of the year. In July, carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **1 opioid sample**. The true number is expected to be higher, as it is usually found in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%) via secondary testing.
- Among the subset of opioids sent for secondary testing with Paper-Spray Mass Spectrometry (**n=91**), medetomidine was detected in **23 samples**, carfentanil in **12 samples**, and xylazine in **6 samples**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in July

Opioid	137
Stimulant	109
Depressant	15
Psychedelic	73
Other	2
Polysubstance	3
Unknown	46

Total: 385

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	41
ANKORS (Fernie)	5
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	6
ANKORS (Nelson)	52
ANKORS (Trail)	5
ASK Wellness (Kamloops)	46
ASK Wellness (Kelowna)	79
ASK Wellness (What if Music Festival, Merritt)	21
ASK Wellness (Penticton)	49
ASK Wellness (West Kelowna)	7
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	71
Total	385

Less than 5 samples were tested at each of the following locations, which has been included in the above total: ANKORS (Castlegar), ASK (Williams Lake).

Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid	124	10	3	137
Stimulant	105	2	2	109
Depressant	10	5	0	15
Psychedelic	69	3	1	73
Other	2	0	0	2
Polysubstance	2	1	0	3
Unknown	0	0	46	46
Total	312	21	52	385

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

Opioids

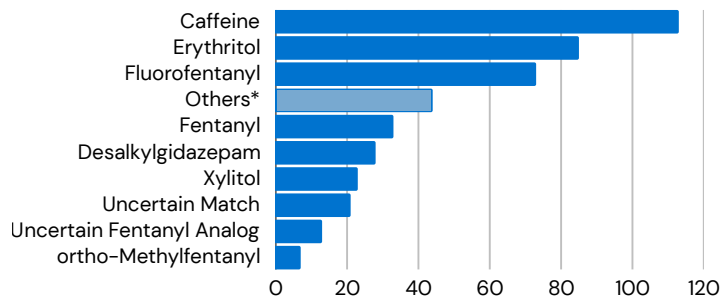
Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	15	0	1	16
Heroin	3	3	0	6
Down	103	2	1	106
Pharmaceutical	3	5	1	9
Total	124	10	3	137

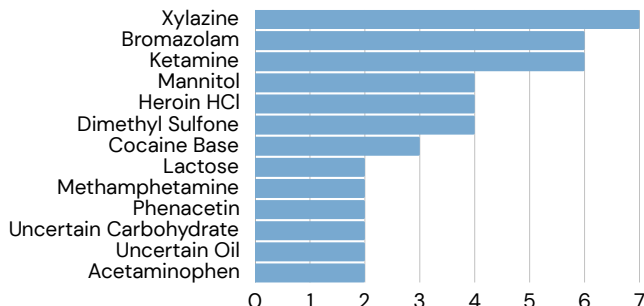
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=128)

Main components

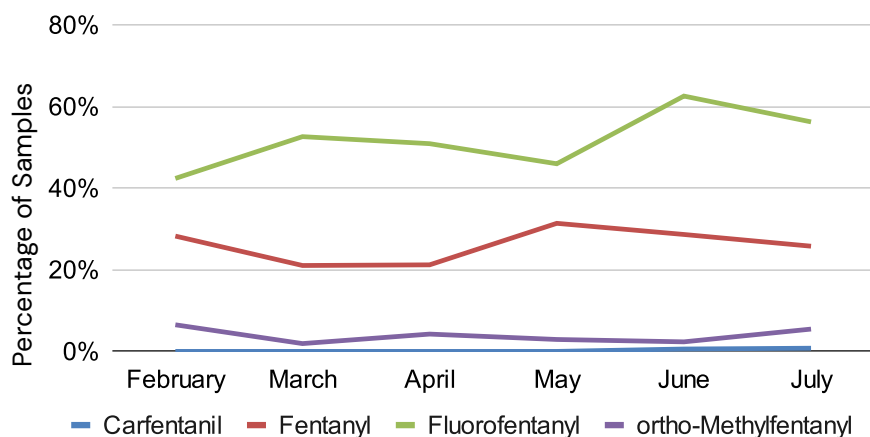


Other components*



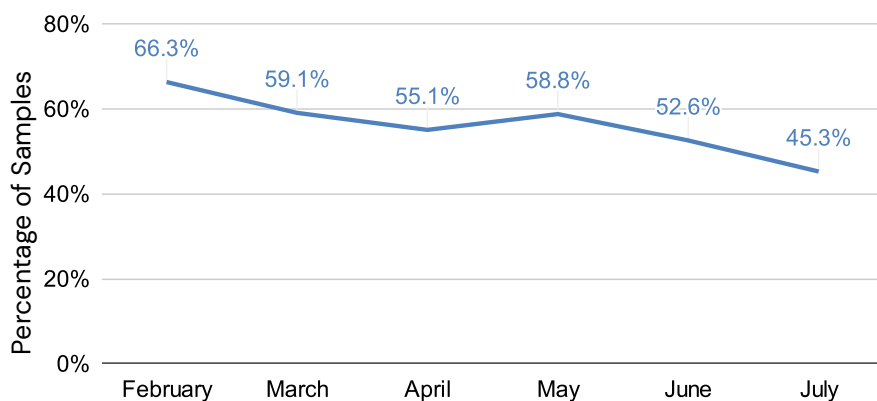
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



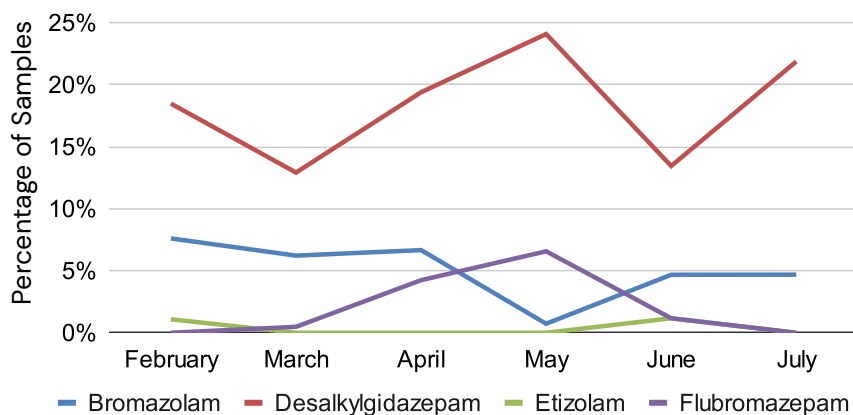
- In July, fluorofentanyl was the most common opioid detected by FTIR, found in **56.3%** of all unregulated opioid samples tested (**73 of 128 samples**).
- There has been an uptick in samples containing carfentanil since the beginning of the year. In July, carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **1 opioid sample**.
- The true number of samples containing carfentanil is expected to be higher, as it 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, **45.3%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Interior Health region (**62 samples of 137 checked**).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer.

Benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months

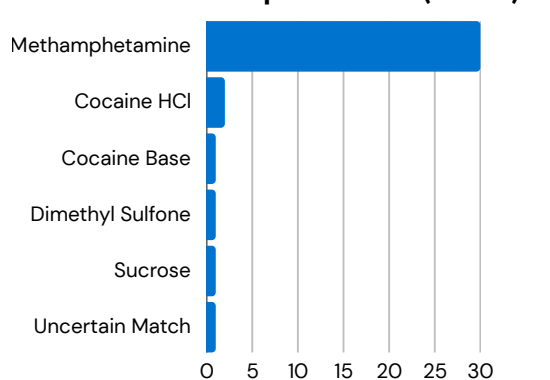


- In July, **26.6%** of all unregulated opioid samples (**34 of 128 samples**) contained benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- Of these, desalkylgizapam was most frequently identified (**28 samples**).

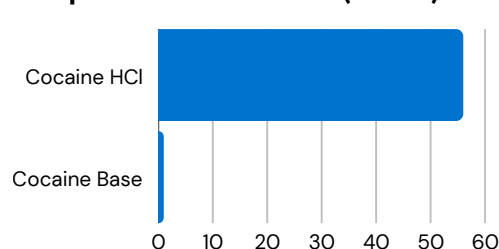
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

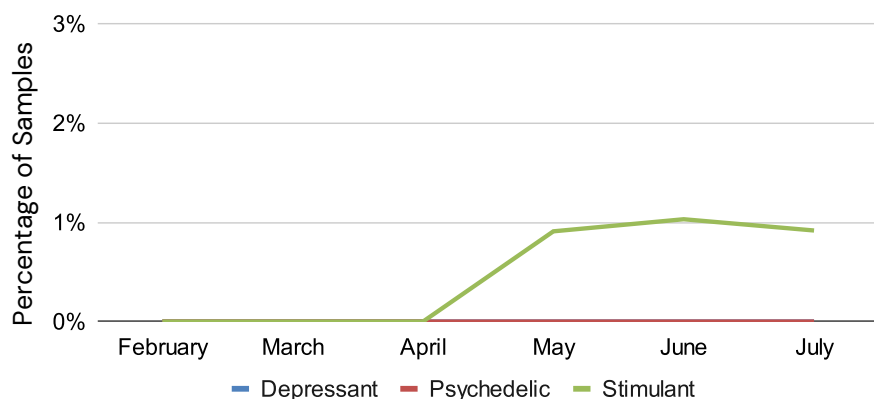
Components in methamphetamine (N=31)



Components in cocaine (N=56)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

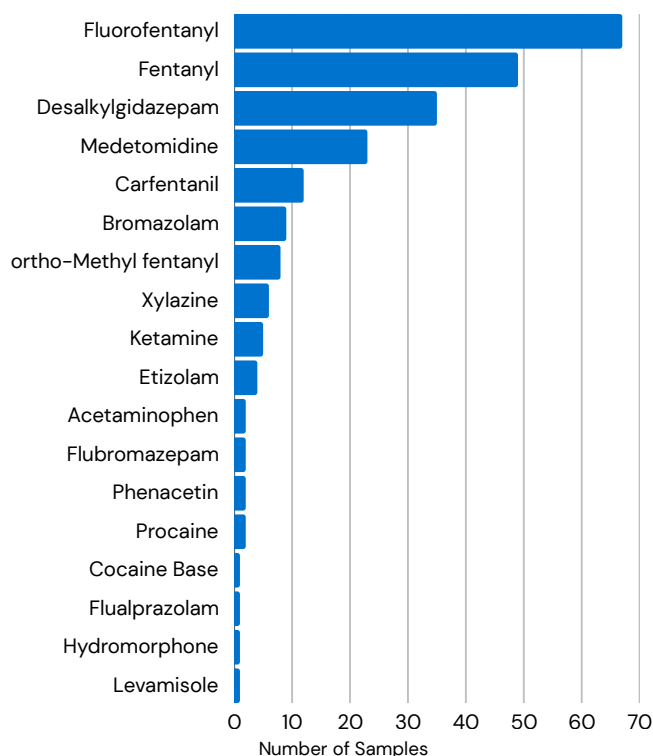


- In July, a total of **1 sample** in the stimulant category tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip.

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 in opioids submitted (N = 91)



Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
July 8, 2025 Kamloops	Down	Fluorofentanyl, Ketamine, Caffeine, Erythritol	Positive	Negative	Pink chunks sold as down tested positive for fluorofentanyl and ketamine in Kamloops.
July 24, 2025 Kamloops	Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Caffeine, N-Propionyl Para- Fluoronorfentanyl Base	Positive	Negative	Dilaudid tablet sold as Dilaudid/Dillies/Hydromorphone tested positive for N-Propionyl Para-Fluoronorfentanyl (a fentanyl analog) in Kamloops.
July 24, 2025 Kamloops	Down/Fentanyl	Carfentanil, Fentanyl, Fluorofentanyl*	N/A	N/A	Multiple samples testing positive for carfentanil (1.2%), fentanyl (21-50%), and/or fluorofentanyl (21-50%) in Kamloops.

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](#).