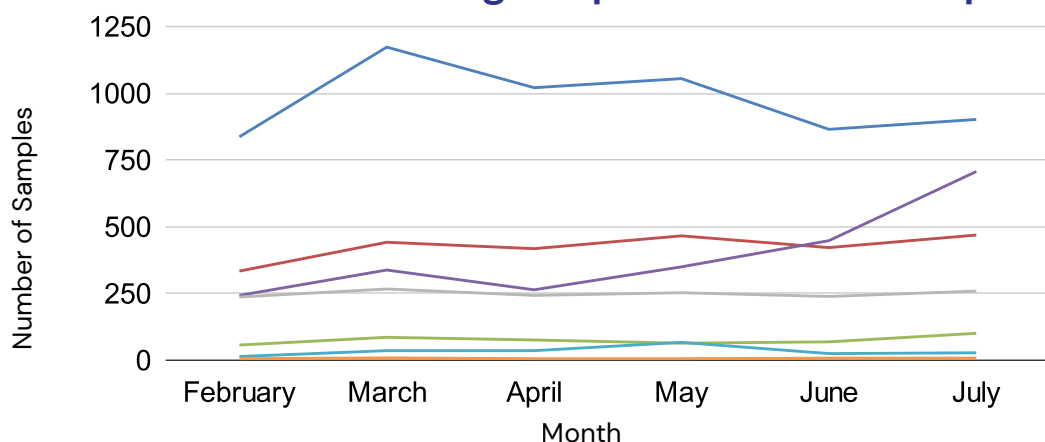




Key findings

- In July, **2,474** drug checks were performed by community drug checking sites in BC (**60 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 **38.9%** in July, the lowest level observed since October 2022. The most common benzodiazepines detected were desalkylgidazepam, bromazolam, and nifoxipam.
- Among unregulated opioids, the median concentration of fentanyl was **5.3%**, and the median concentration of fluorofentanyl was **9.3%**. The overall median concentration of samples containing fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl was **12.5%**. Concentrations were estimated using a new quantification model with improved sensitivity (see page 3).
- 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 **3 opioid samples**. 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 opioid samples sent for secondary testing with Paper-Spray Mass Spectrometry (n=194), medetomidine was detected in **37 samples**, carfentanil in **22 samples**, and xylazine in **15 samples**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in July

● Opioid	902
● Stimulant	469
● Depressant	101
● Psychedelic	707
● Other	28
● Polysubstance	8
● Unknown	259

Total: 2,474

Number of samples tested by region

Vancouver Coastal Health region: 1637 (**66%**)

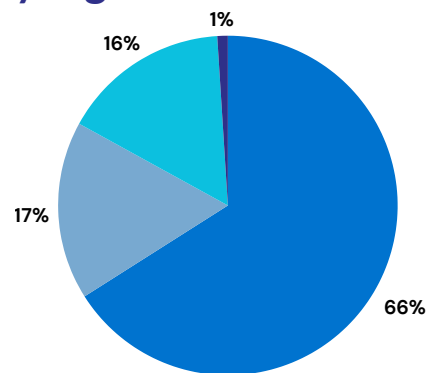
Fraser Health region: 422 (**17%**)

Interior Health region: 385 (**16%**)

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

Northern Health region: 30 (**1%**)

Total: 2,474



Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid	837	52	13	902
Stimulant	449	13	7	469
Depressant	65	32	4	101
Psychedelic	672	26	9	707
Other	17	7	4	28
Polysubstance	5	2	1	8
Unknown	0	0	259	259
Total	2045	132	297	2474

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

Opioids

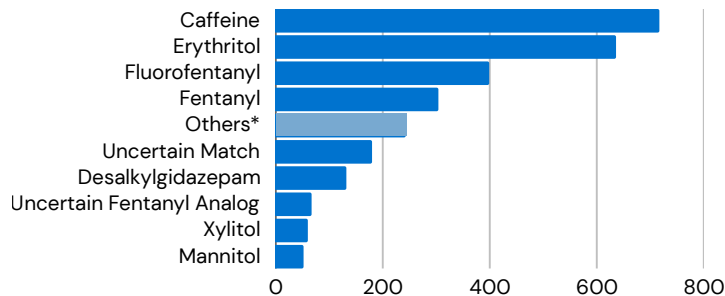
Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	82	4	1	87
Heroin	11	13	0	24
Other Opioid	1	0	0	1
Down	712	23	1	736
Pharmaceutical	28	11	11	50
Opium	3	1	0	4
Total	837	52	13	902

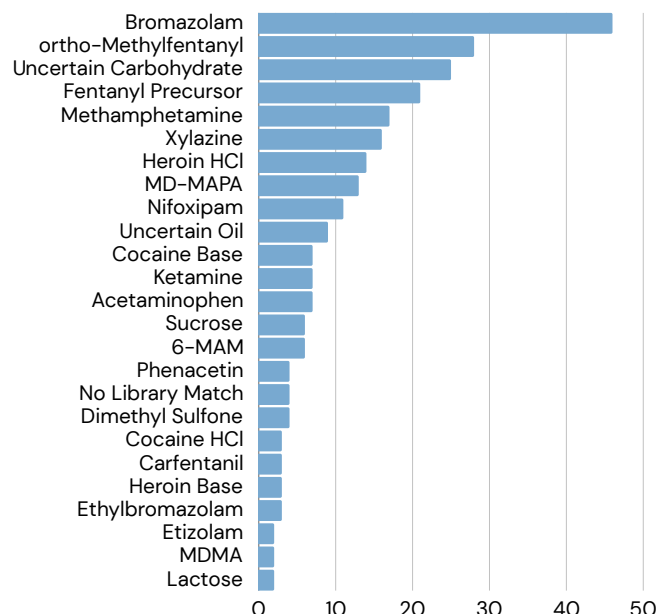
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=847)

Main components



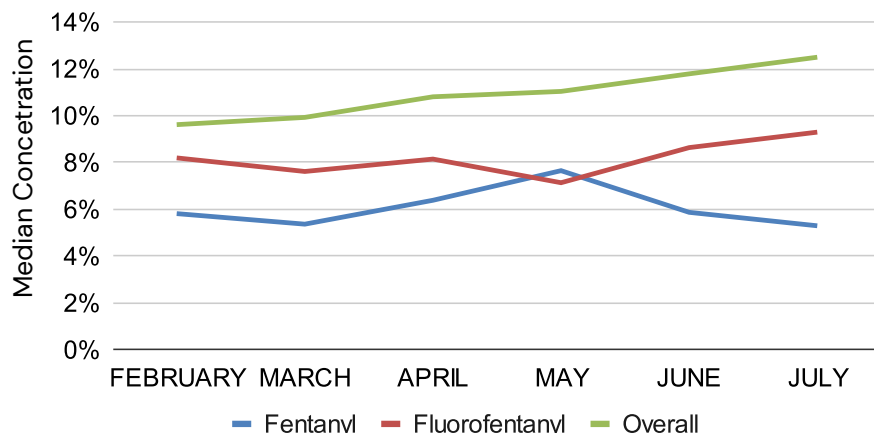
Other components



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

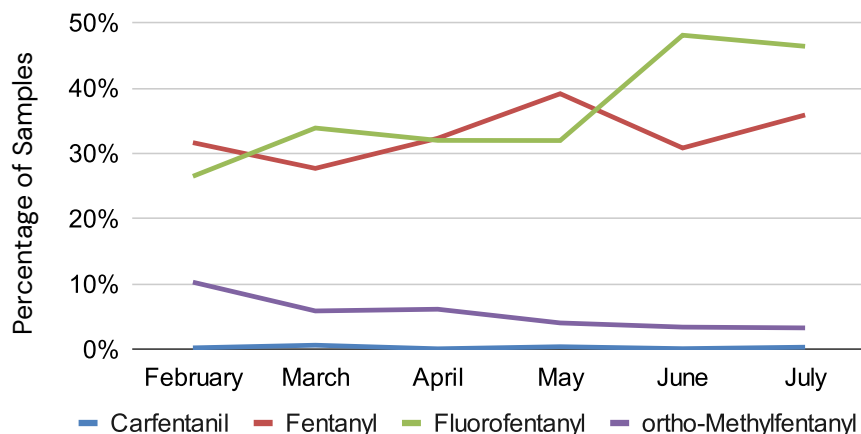
Median fentanyl concentration of unregulated opioids, past 6 months

Concentrations were estimated using a validated quantification model for the purposes of this report with aggregated data. To learn more about the QUANT3 quantification model visit [here](#).



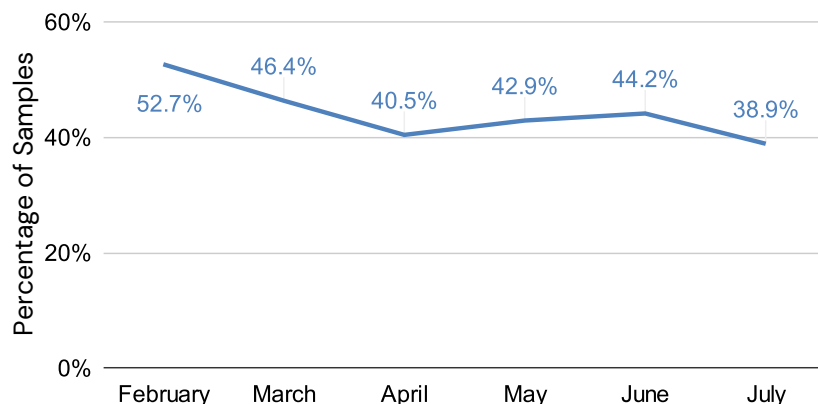
- In July, the median concentration of fentanyl in unregulated opioid samples was **5.3%**, and the median concentration of fluorofentanyl was **9.3%**. The overall median concentration of samples containing fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl was **12.5% (N = 702)**.
- Most unregulated opioids contain fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl HCl 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



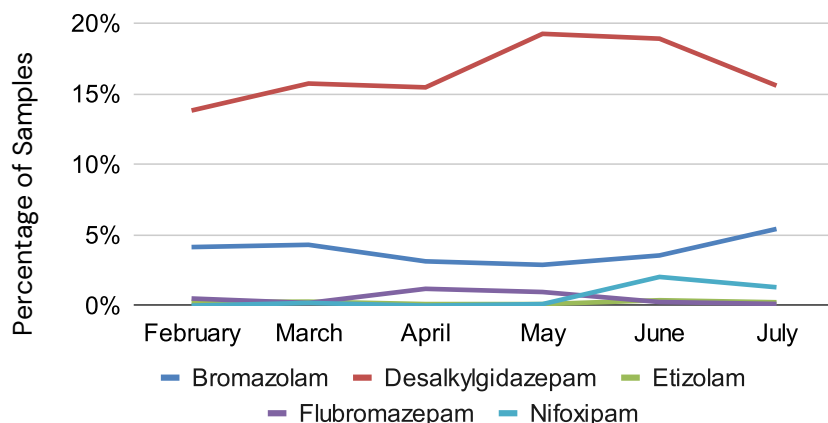
- In July, fluorofentanyl remained the most common opioid detected by FTIR, found in **46.4%** of unregulated opioids (**393 of 847 samples**).
- There has been an uptick in samples containing carfentanil since the beginning of the year. In July, carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **3 opioid samples**.
- 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 6).

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



- During the month of July, **38.9%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in our partner sites around BC (**350 samples of 902 checked**).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer.

Benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months

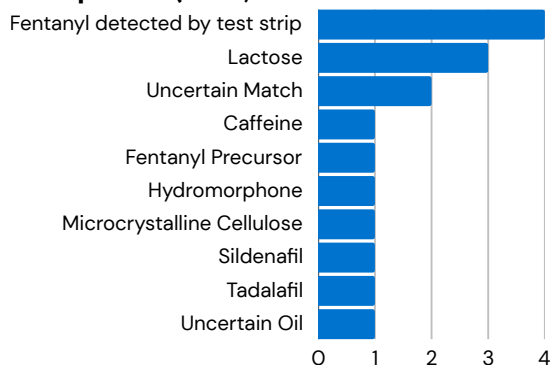


- In July, **23.1%** of all unregulated opioid samples (**196 of 847 samples**) contained benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- The most common, desalkylgidazepam, decreased in detection this month while bromazolam detection increased.
- We are continuing to monitor novel benzodiazepines that emerged at the beginning of the year: nifoxipam, detected in **11 samples** in July, and ethylbromazolam, detected in **3 samples**.

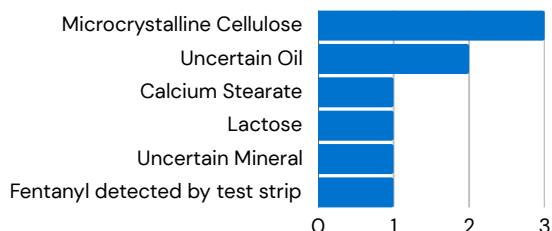
Components detected in pharmaceutical opioids

(where expected drug was absent)

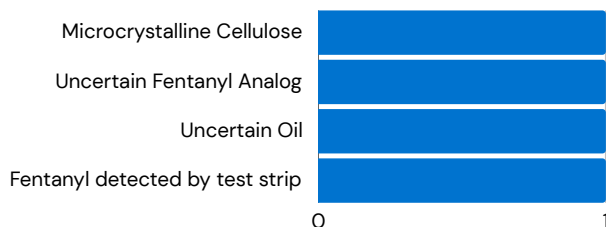
Hydromorphone (N=4)



Oxycodone (N=4)



Acetaminophen + oxycodone (N=1)

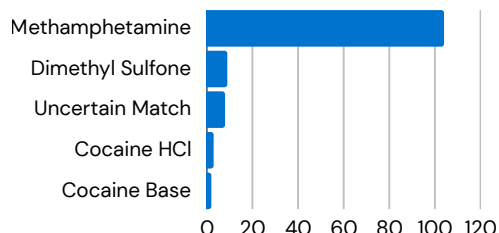


- In July, a total of **50** samples were submitted expected to be pharmaceutical opioids.
- The most common pharmaceutical opioids submitted were oxycodone, hydromorphone (Dilaudid), and acetaminophen + oxycodone (Percocet)
- Of these, **9** did not contain the expected drug and instead contained an unexpected active component. The most common unexpected active component was fentanyl, as detected by FTIR and/or test strip.

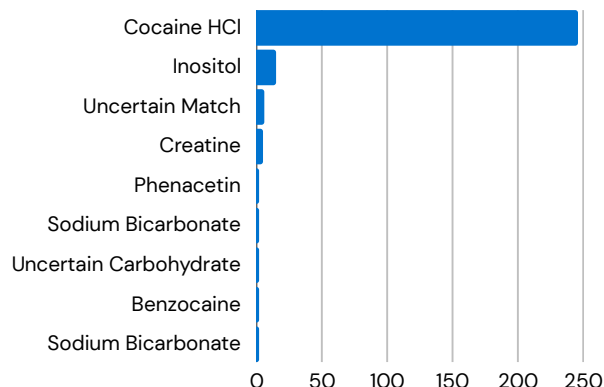
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

Components in methamphetamine (N=110)

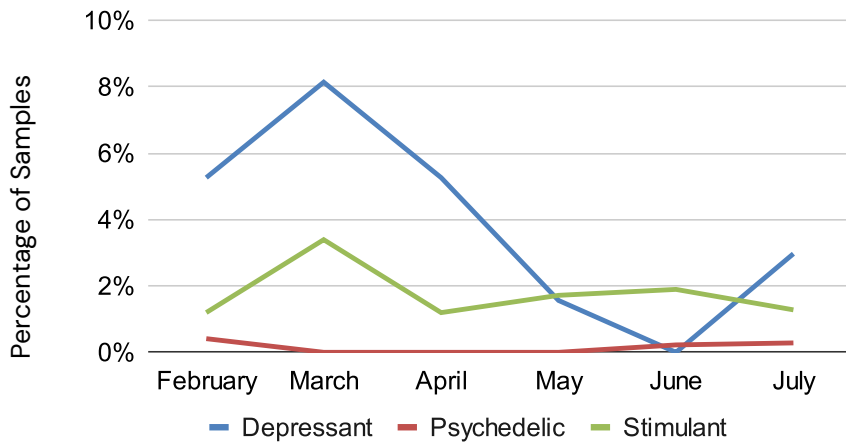


Components in cocaine (N=253)



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

Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months



- In July, a total of **11** non-opioids tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip.
- Of these, **1** stimulant sample was expected to be cross-contaminated by the service user, noting that the sample was stored with an opioid sample prior to submitting it for drug checking.

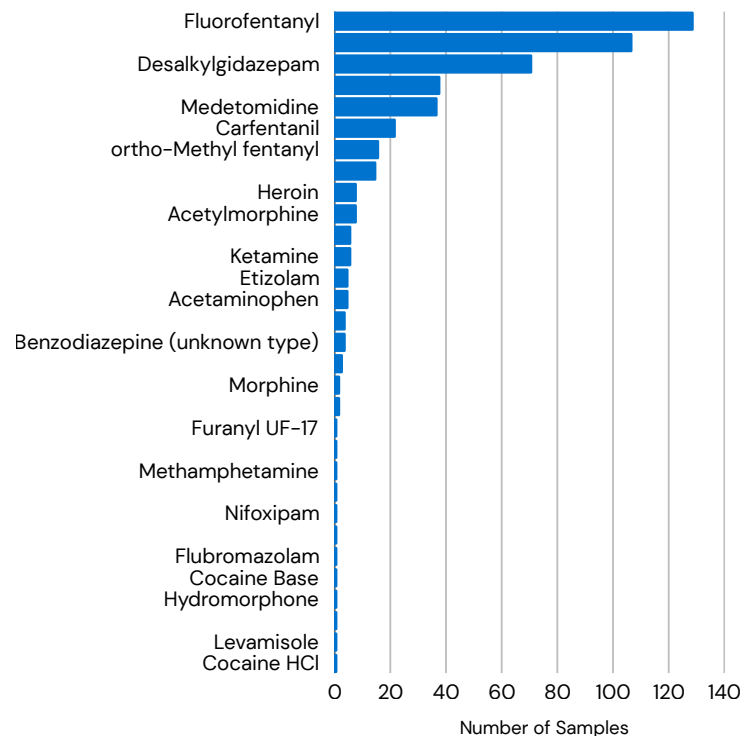
PSMS Secondary Testing Results Summary

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
Interior Health	91
Fraser Health	69
Northern Health	20
Vancouver Coastal Health	14
Total	194

Active components detected



Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
July 2, 2025 Vancouver	Down	Piperidone	Negative	Negative	Multiple samples (pink chunk, beige chunk, beige granules) sold as down in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver tested positive for piperidone, a precursor chemical used to make fentanyl, and negative for fentanyl itself. Substance may cause dizziness, nausea, and abdominal pain.
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 21, 2025 Vancouver	Alprazolam (Xanax)	Microcrystalline Cellulose, Desalkylgizapam	Negative	Positive	White tablet with the imprints "Xanax/2" sold in Vancouver as alprazolam tested positive for desalkylgizapam, a benzo analog, and negative for alprazolam.
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.
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.

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.
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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](#).