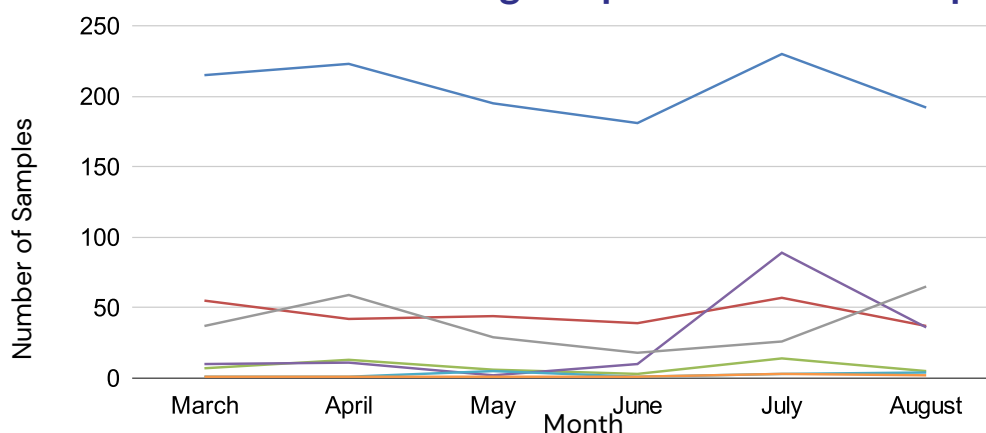




Key findings

- In August, **341** drug checks were performed by FTIR drug checking services in the Fraser Health region (**16 access points**).
- The percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased to **64.1%** in August, the highest of any region.
- The percentage of unregulated opioids containing benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR (>5%) reached a record high of **58.4%** in August. Desalkylgizapem was most common, followed by nifoxipam, which tripled in detection from the previous month.
- We note there has been an uptick in samples containing carfentanil since the beginning of the year. In August, carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **2 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 opioids sent for secondary testing with Paper-Spray Mass Spectrometry (**n=49**), medetomidine was detected in **31 samples**, carfentanil in **16 samples**, and xylazine in **4 samples**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in August

● Opioid	192
● Stimulant	37
● Depressant	5
● Psychedelic	36
● Other	4
● Polysubstance	2
● Unknown	65

Total: 341

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	81
SafePoint (Surrey)	24
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	68
Mountainside (Altitude Music Festival, Boston Bar)	51
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	62
Mountainside (Hope)	12
Mountainside (Langley)	6
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	11
Mountainside (Mission)	21
Total	341

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following locations, which have been included in the above total:
Progressive Housing (Burnaby), SOURCES (White Rock).

Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid	186	3	3	192
Stimulant	35	2	0	37
Depressant	3	2	0	5
Psychedelic	35	1	0	36
Other	3	1	0	4
Polysubstance	2	0	0	2
Unknown	0	0	65	65
Total	264	9	68	341

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

Opioids

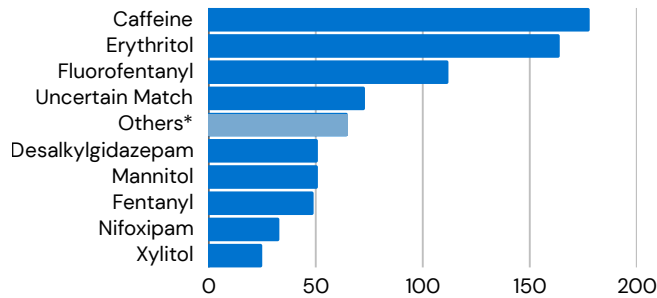
Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	4	0	1	5
Down	179	1	0	180
Pharmaceutical	2	2	2	6
Opium	1	0	0	1
Total	186	3	3	192

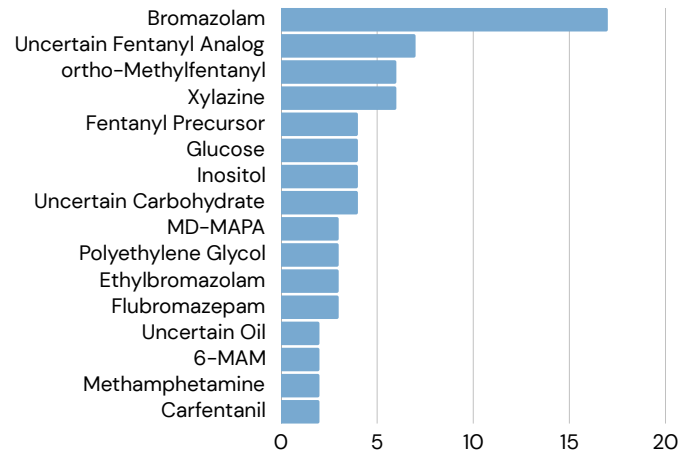
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=185)

Main components

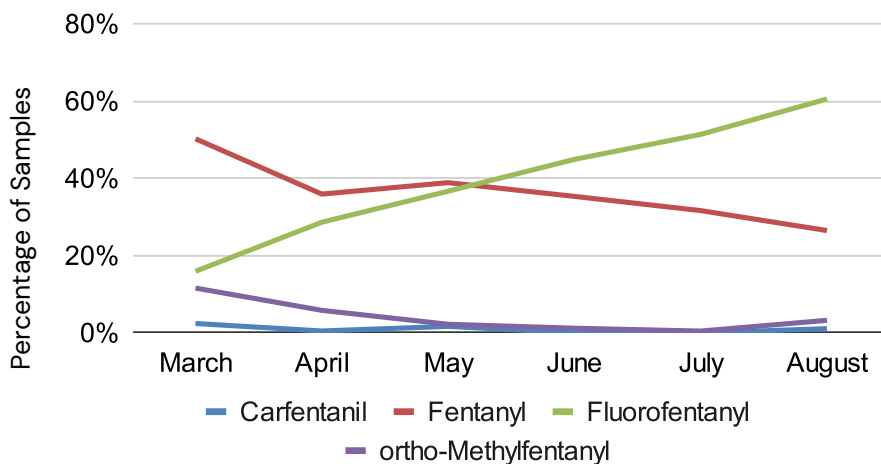


Other components*



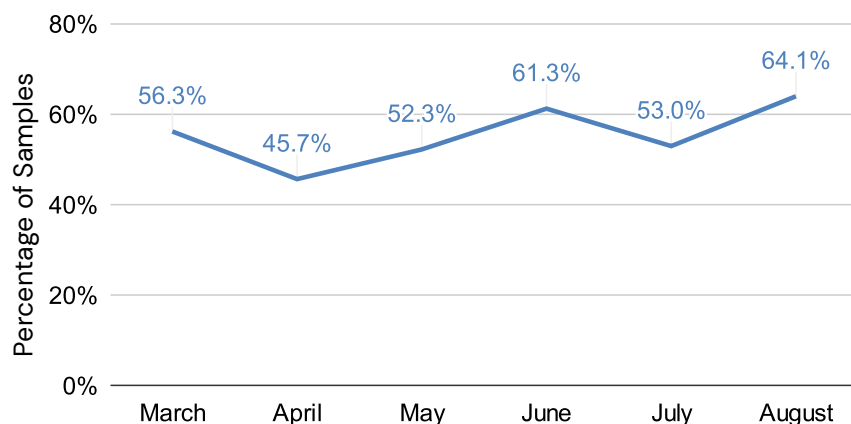
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



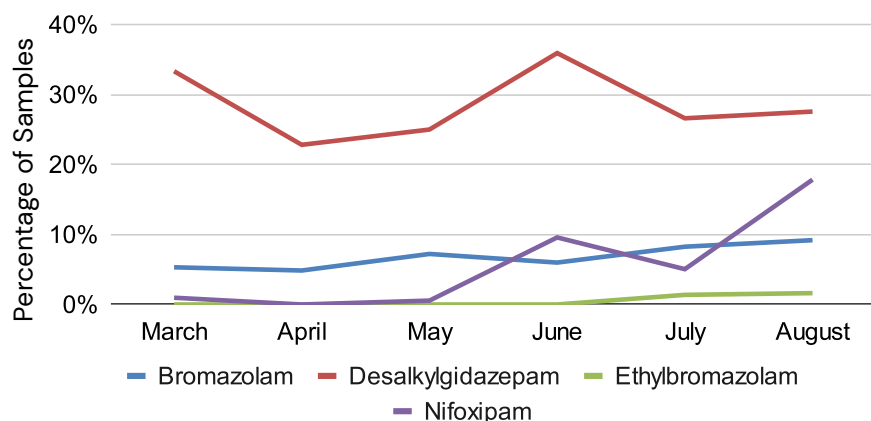
- In August, fluorofentanyl remained the most common opioid detected by FTIR, detected in **60.5%** of all unregulated opioids tested (**112 of 185 samples**).
- There has been an uptick in samples containing carfentanil since the beginning of the year. In August, carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **2 opioid samples**.
- The true number of samples containing carfentanil is expected to be 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 of this report for more information.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



- During the month of August, **64.1%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Fraser Health region (**123 samples of 192 checked**).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer.

Benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months

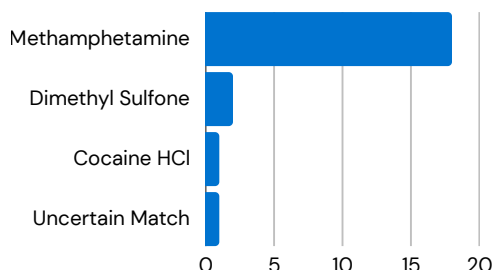


- In August, benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in **58.4%** of all unregulated opioid samples (**108 of 185**), indicating their presence in higher concentrations (>5%).
- Desalkylgizapam was most common (**51 samples**), followed by nifoxipam, which tripled in detection from the previous month (**33 samples**).
- We are continuing to monitor novel benzodiazepines that emerged at the beginning of the year: nifoxipam, as mentioned above, and ethylbromazolam, detected in **3 samples** in August.

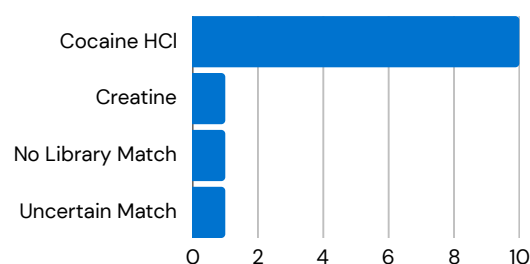
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

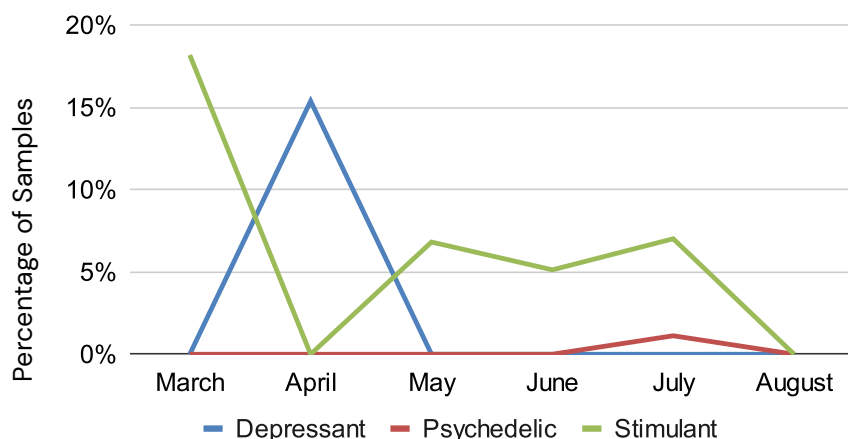
Components in methamphetamine (N=19)



Components in cocaine (N=11)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

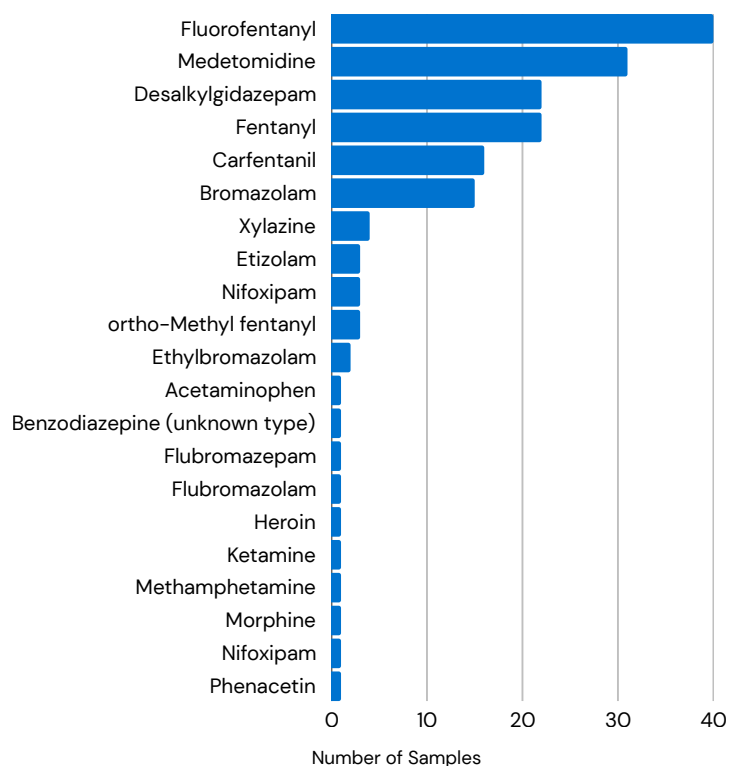


- There were no instances of non-opioid samples testing positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip in August.

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 in opioids submitted (N=49)



Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
August 8, 2025 Coquitlam	Fentanyl	Xylitol, Erythritol, Inositol, Carfentanil, ortho-Methylfentanyl	Positive	Negative	Beige chunks sold as fentanyl tested positive for high concentrations of Carfentanil in Coquitlam.

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](#).