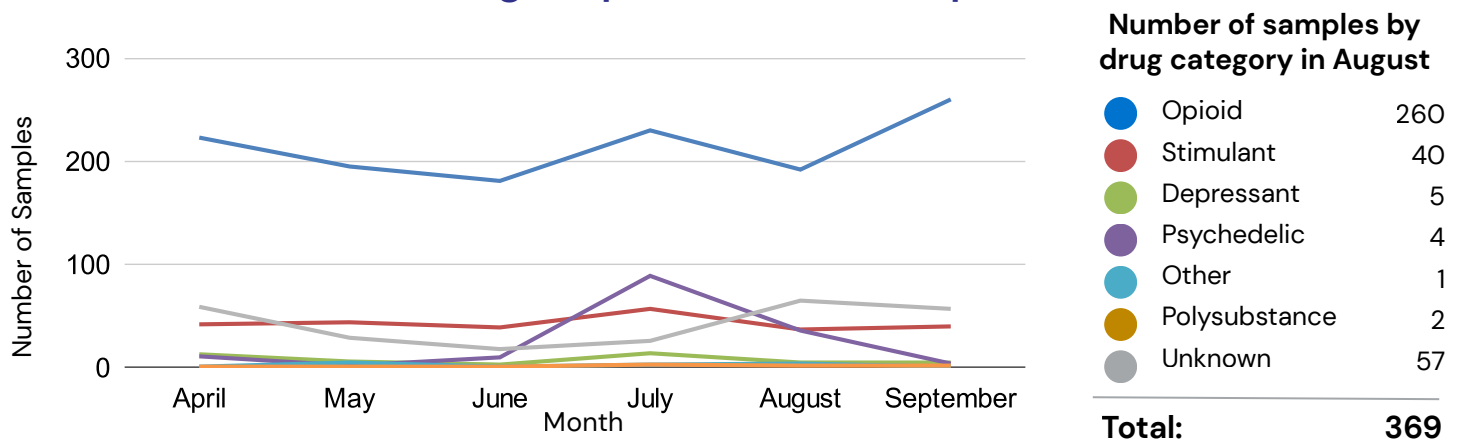




Key findings

- In September, **369** drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Fraser Health region (**16 access points**).
- The percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased to **49.2%** in September. Of these, desalkylgizapam was most common, followed by bromazolam.
- Tranquilizers were detected by FTIR in **6.3%** of unregulated opioids: xylazine in **9 samples**, and medetomidine in **7 samples**. The true number is expected to be higher as tranquilizers are usually found in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%) via secondary testing.
- There has been an uptick in unregulated opioids containing carfentanil this year. In September, carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **1 sample**. The true number is expected to be higher, as carfentanil 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=109), medetomidine was detected in **38 samples**, carfentanil in **17 samples**, and xylazine in **12 samples**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	91
SafePoint (Surrey)	30
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	66
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	108
Mountainside (Hope)	10
Mountainside (Langley)	8
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	19
Mountainside (Mission)	14
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	9
SOURCES (White Rock)	14
Total	369

Number of samples with the expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid	246	12	2	260
Stimulant	38	2	0	40
Depressant	2	2	1	5
Psychedelic	4	0	0	4
Other	1	0	0	1
Polysubstance	2	0	0	2
Unknown	0	0	57	57
Total	293	16	60	369

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

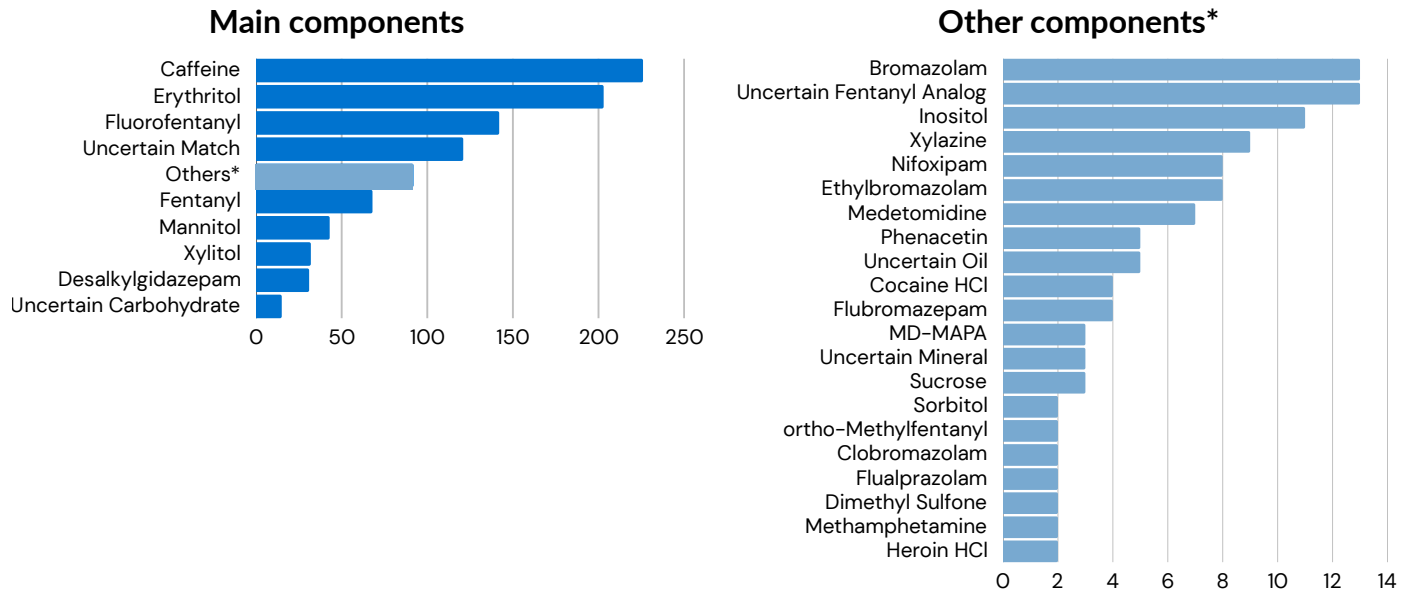
Opioids

Number of opioid samples with the expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	16	3	0	19
Heroin	1	4	0	5
Other Opioid	1	0	0	1
Down	225	3	1	229
Pharmaceutical	3	2	1	6
Total	246	12	2	260

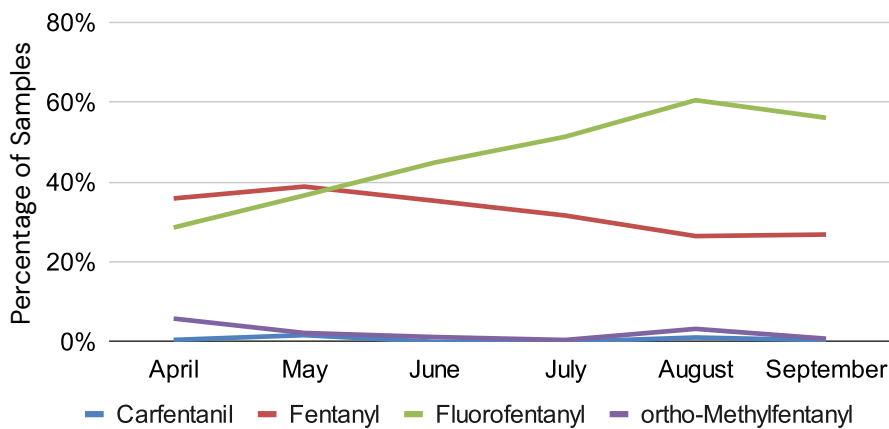
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=253)



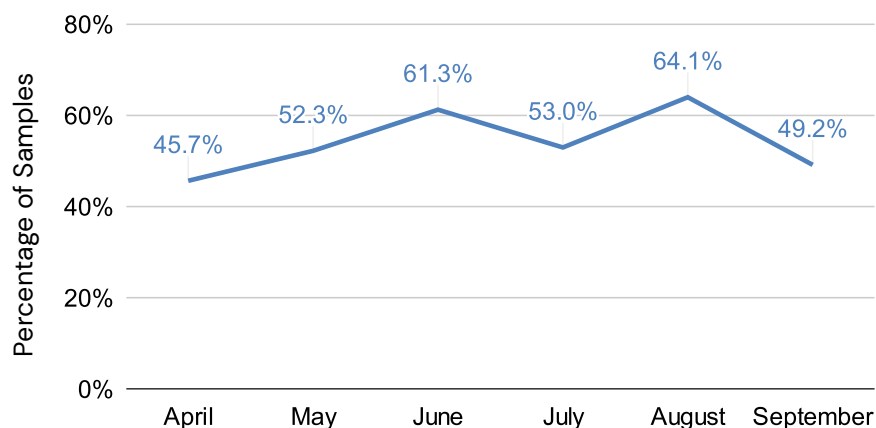
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



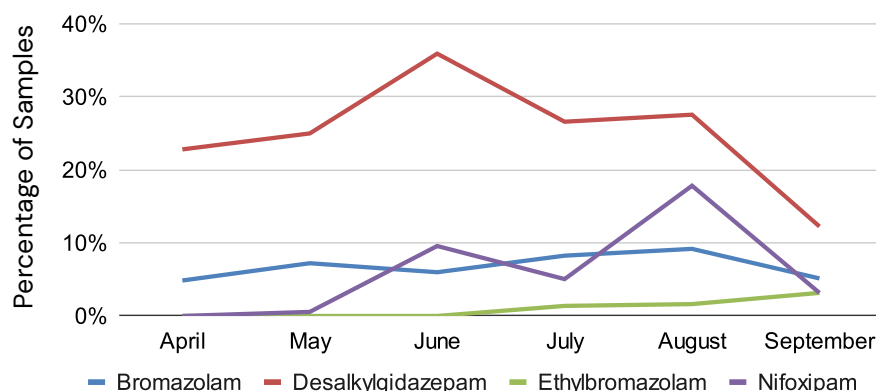
- In September, fluorofentanyl remained the most common opioid detected by FTIR, found in **56.1%** of all unregulated opioids tested (**142 of 253 samples**).
- There has been an uptick in samples containing carfentanyl since the beginning of this year. In September, carfentanyl was detected by FTIR in unregulated opioid sample.
- The true number of samples containing carfentanyl 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 September, **49.2%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Fraser Health region (**128 samples of 260 checked**).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months

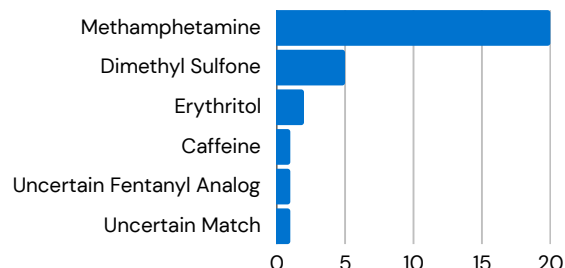


- In September, benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in **26.9%** of all unregulated opioid samples (**68 of 253 samples**), indicating their presence in higher concentrations (>5%).
- Desalkylgidazepam was most common (**31 samples**), followed by bromazolam (**13 samples**).
- We are continuing to monitor novel benzodiazepines that emerged at the beginning of the year: nifoxipam and ethylbromazolam, detected in 8 samples each in September.

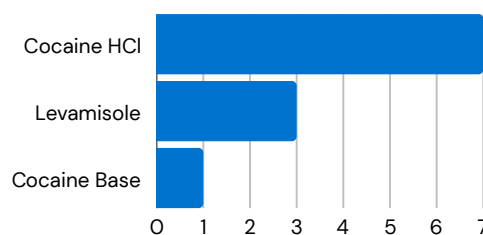
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

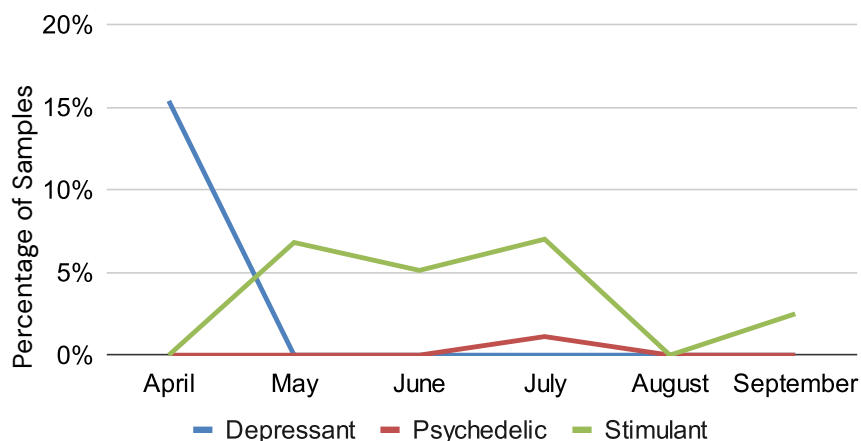
Components in methamphetamine (N=20)



Components in cocaine (N=8)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

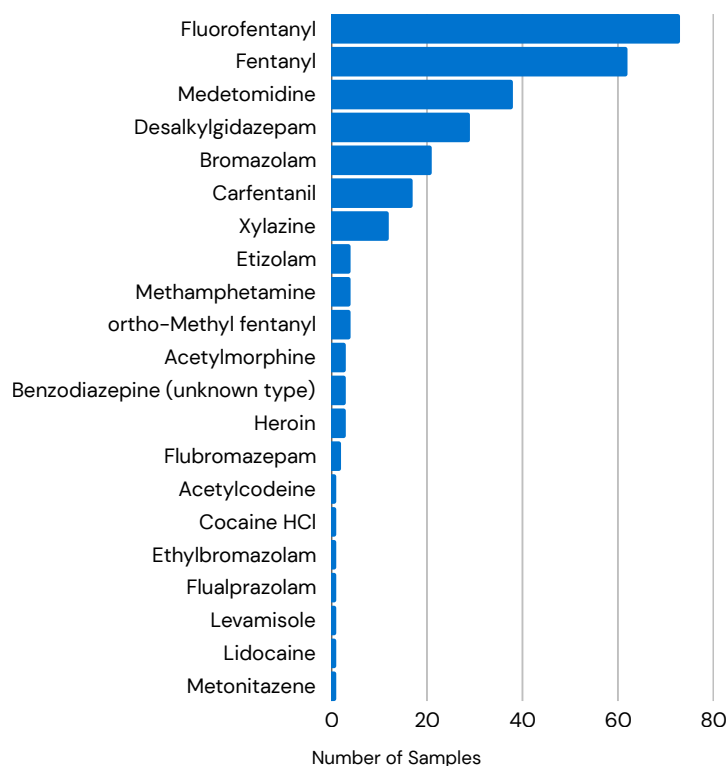


- In September, 1 stimulant sample (methamphetamine) tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR/test strip.

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](#).

Active components in opioids submitted (N=109)



Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts for Fraser Health this month.					

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](#).