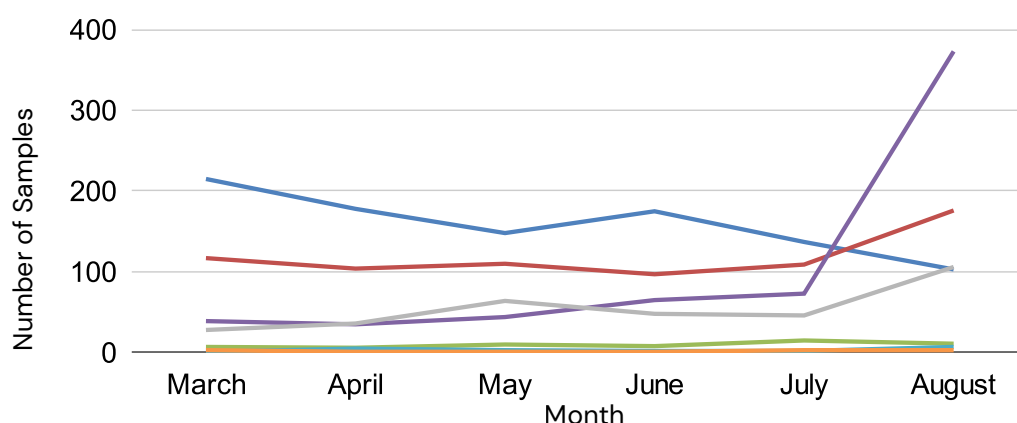




Key findings

- In August, **779** drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (**28 access points**). The number of psychedelic and stimulant samples surpassed the number of opioids checked, coinciding with pop-up services provided at music festivals.
- Benzodiazepine-positivity of opioid samples has been decreasing. In August, **42.7%** of opioids tested positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip. The most common, desalkylgidazepam, decreased in detection from the previous month, whereas the number of samples containing bromazolam increased.
- 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=36**), medetomidine was detected in **10 samples**, carfentanil in **2 samples**, and xylazine in **2 samples**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in August

● Opioid	103
● Stimulant	176
● Depressant	11
● Psychedelic	373
● Other	7
● Polysubstance	3
● Unknown	106

Total: 779

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	89
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	14
ANKORS (Nelson)	37
ANKORS (Trail)	12
ANKORS (Wicked Woods Music Festival, Fairmont Hot Springs)	334
ASK (Kamloops)	47
ASK (Kelowna)	56
ASK (Merritt)	19
ASK (Penticton)	40
ASK (Electric Love Music Festival, Pritchard)	68
ASK (West Kelowna)	16
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	45
Total	779

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

Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid	89	6	8	103
Stimulant	173	3	0	176
Depressant	10	1	0	11
Psychedelic	347	26	0	373
Other	5	1	1	7
Polysubstance	2	1	0	3
Unknown	0	0	106	106
Total	626	38	115	779

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

Opioids

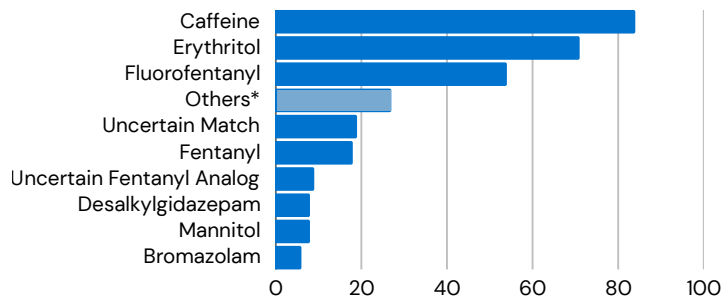
Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	11	1	0	12
Heroin	2	1	0	3
Down	75	2	1	78
Pharmaceutical	1	2	7	10
Total	89	6	8	103

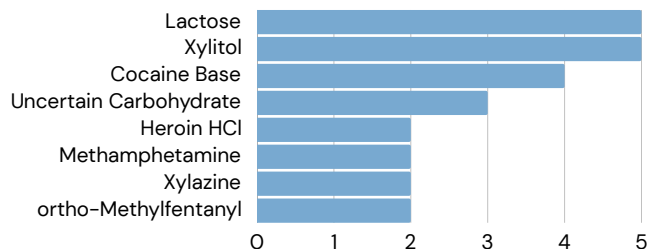
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=93)

Main components

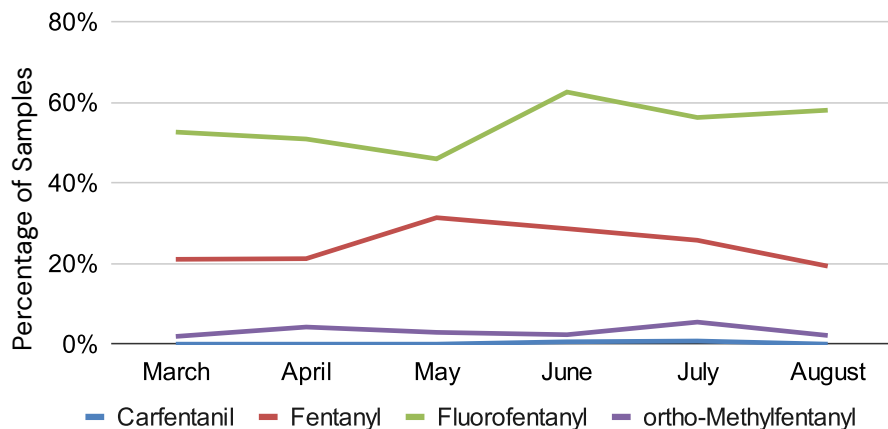


Other components*



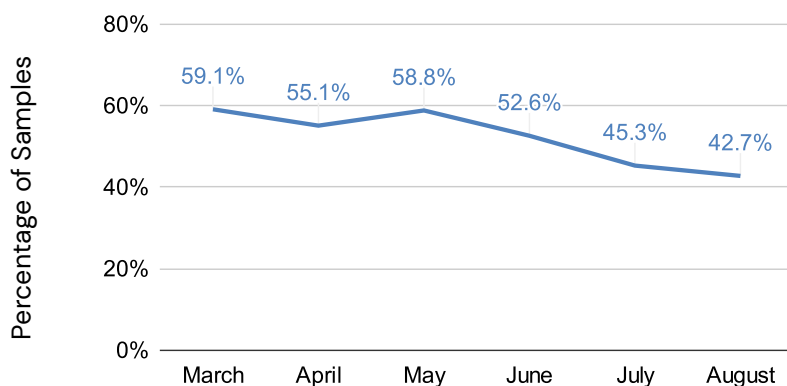
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



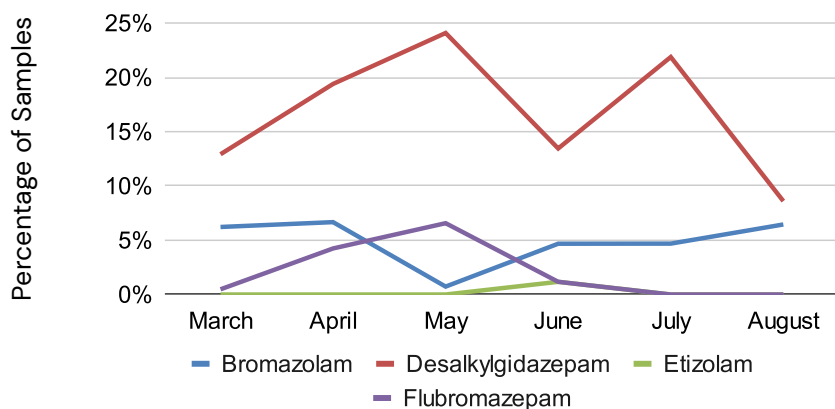
- In August, fluorofentanyl remained the most common opioid detected by FTIR, found in **58.1%** of all unregulated opioid samples tested (**54 of 93 samples**).
- We note there has been an uptick in samples containing carfentanyl since the beginning of the year. The true number of samples containing 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



- Benzodiazepine-positivity of opioid samples has been decreasing. During the month of August, **42.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines (**44 samples of 103 checked**).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer.

Benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months

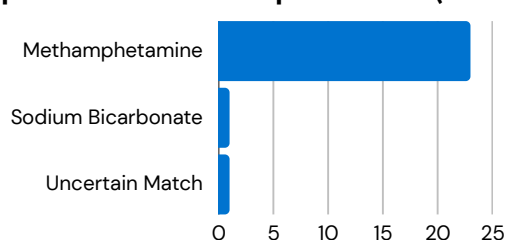


- In August, **15.1%** of all unregulated opioid samples (**14 of 93**) contained benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- The most common benzodiazepine, desalkylgidazepam, decreased in detection from the previous month (**8 samples**). Conversely, the number of samples containing bromazolam increased (**6 samples**).

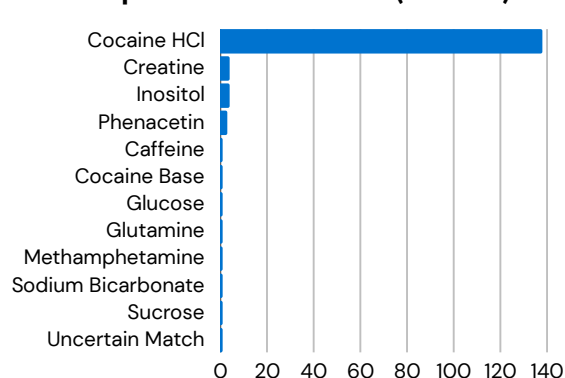
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

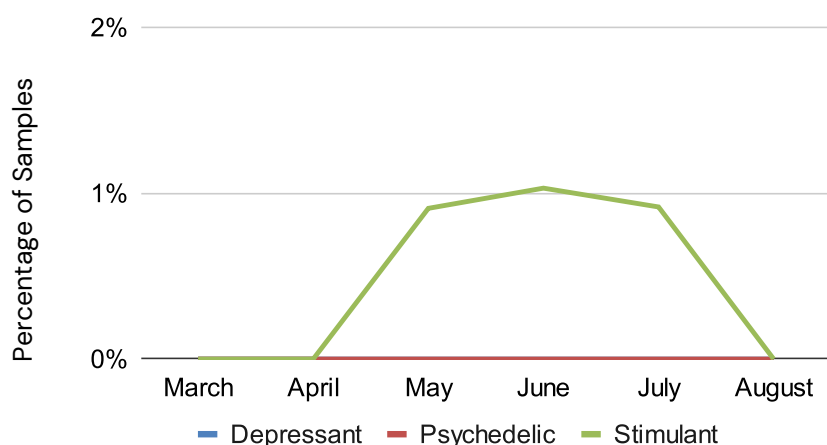
Components in methamphetamine (N=24)



Components in cocaine (N=140)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

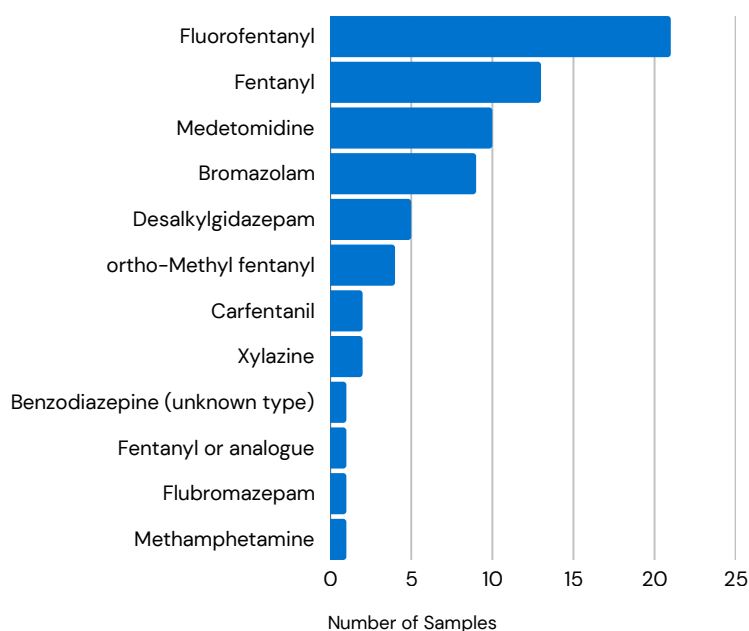


- There were no instances of non-opioid samples testing positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip in August.

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 = 36)



Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
August 20, 2025 Kamloops	Down	Carfentanil, Fluorofentanyl*	N/A	N/A	Brown granules sold as Down tested positive for Carfentanil and Fluorofentanyl 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](#).