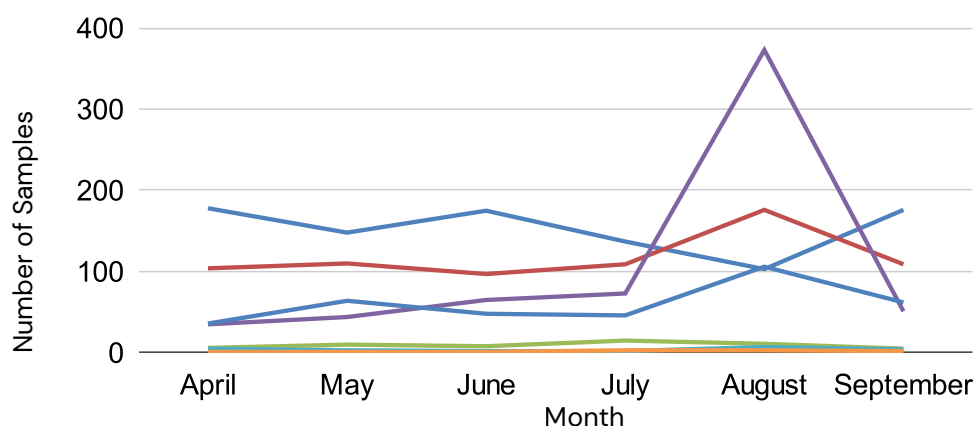




Key findings

- In September, **409** drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Interior Health region (**27 access points**). Compared to August, the number of psychedelic samples decreased, coinciding with the end of the summer festival season.
- Following a 3-month decrease, in September, the percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip rose to **55.7%**. Of these, desalkylgizapam was most common, followed by bromazolam.
- There has been an uptick in unregulated opioids containing carfentanil this year. In September, carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **2 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=59), medetomidine was detected in **12 samples**, xylazine in **5 samples**, and carfentanil in **2 samples**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in Sept.

Opioid	176
Stimulant	109
Depressant	5
Psychedelic	51
Other	4
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	62

Total: 409

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	35
ANKORS (Grand Forks)	20
ANKORS (Nelson)	62
ANKORS (Trail)	9
ANKORS (Wicked Woods Music Festival, Fairmont Hot Springs)	4
ASK (Kamloops)	38
ASK (Kelowna)	104
ASK (Merritt)	6
ASK (Penticton)	62
ASK (West Kelowna)	6
ASK (Williams Lake)	6
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy (Vernon)	55
Total	409

Less than 5 samples were tested at each of the following locations, which has been included in the above total: UBCO Kelowna.

Number of samples with the expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid	163	13	0	176
Stimulant	105	4	0	109
Depressant	1	4	0	5
Psychedelic	46	5	0	51
Other	3	1	0	4
Polysubstance	2	0	0	2
Unknown	0	0	62	62
Total	320	27	62	409

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

Opioids

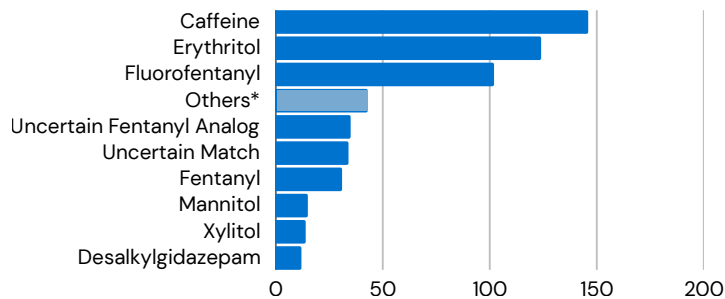
Number of opioid samples with the expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	12	1	0	13
Heroin	0	2	0	2
Down	147	1	0	148
Pharmaceutical	4	9	0	13
Total	163	13	0	176

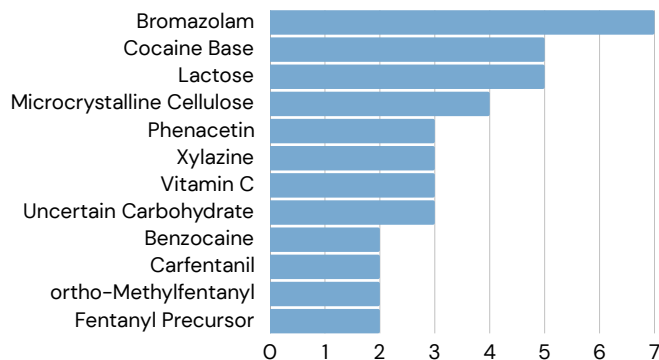
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=163)

Main components

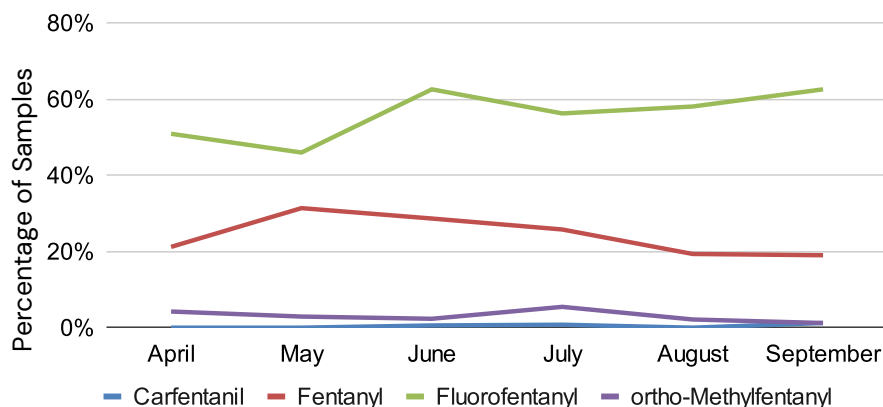


Other components*



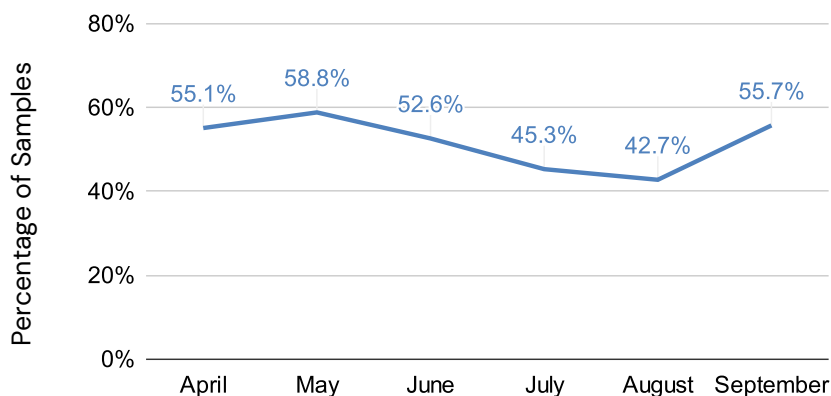
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



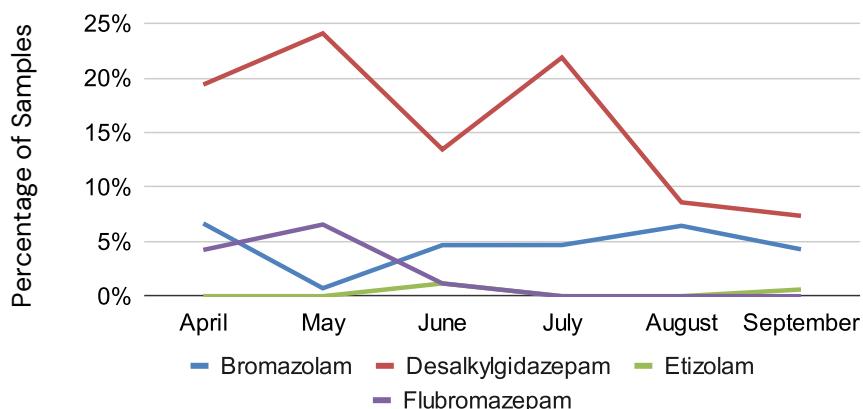
- In September, fluorofentanyl remained the most common opioid detected by FTIR, found in **62.6%** of all unregulated opioid samples tested (**102 of 163 samples**).
- There has been an uptick in samples containing carfentanil since the beginning of this year. In September, carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **2 unregulated 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



- Following a 3-month decrease in benzodiazepine-positivity, in September, **55.7%** of all expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Interior Health region (**98 samples of 176 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

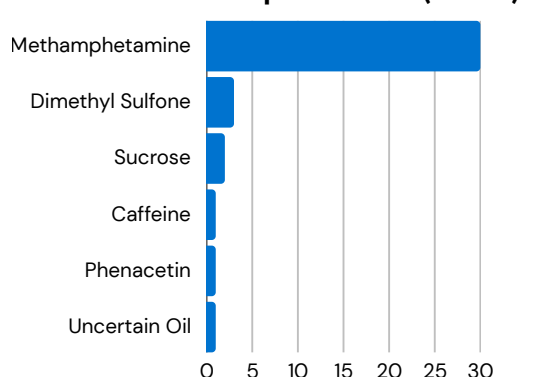


- In September, **12.9%** of all unregulated opioid samples (**21 of 163**) contained benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- The most common benzodiazepine, desalkylgizapam, decreased in detection from the previous month (**12 samples**).

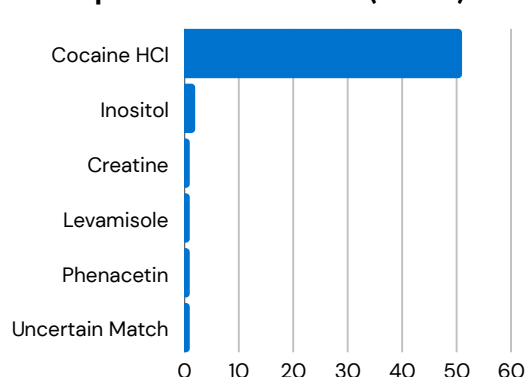
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

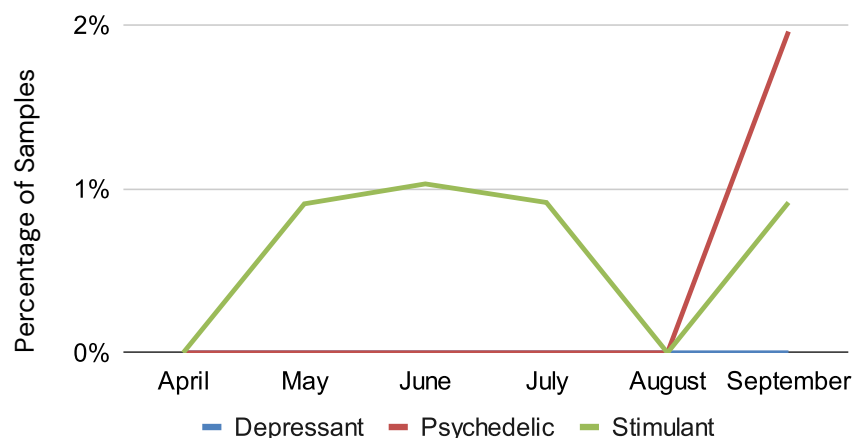
Components in methamphetamine (N=31)



Components in cocaine (N=51)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

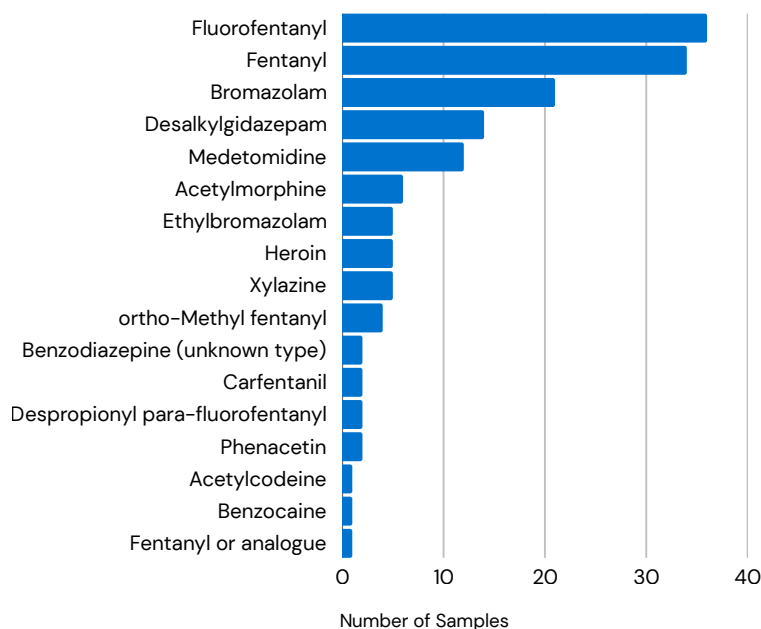


- In September, 1 **psychedelic sample** (ketamine), and 1 **stimulant sample** (crack cocaine), tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR/test strip.

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 = 59)



Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
September 5, 2025 Penticton	Crack Cocaine	Erythritol, Xylitol, Caffeine, Fentanyl	Positive	Negative	Cream/beige chunks sold as “crack caviar” tested positive for fentanyl in Penticton.

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](#).