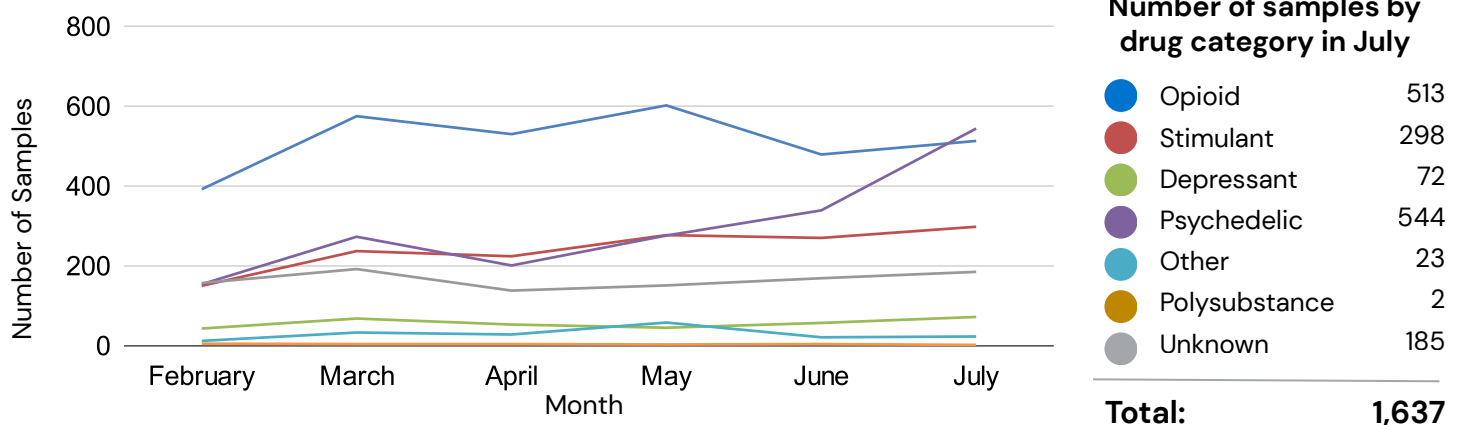




Key findings

- In July, **1,339** drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Vancouver Coastal Health region (**8 access points**). The number of psychedelic samples increased, which is typical of the summer months, and surpassed opioids as the most frequently checked drug category.
- Following a 3-month increase, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased to **29.8%** in July. The most common benzodiazepines detected were desalkylgidazepam and bromazolam.
- 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 **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=14**), xylazine was detected in **1 sample**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Get Your Drugs Tested (Vancouver)	1235
Insite (Vancouver)	382
Whistler Community Service Society (Squamish)	9
LIFT Community Services (Powell River)	8
Total	1637

Number of samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Opioid	478	26	9	513
Stimulant	284	10	4	298
Depressant	52	17	3	72
Psychedelic	520	19	5	544
Other	13	6	4	23
Polysubstance	1	0	1	2
Unknown	0	0	185	185
Total	1348	78	211	1637

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

Opioids

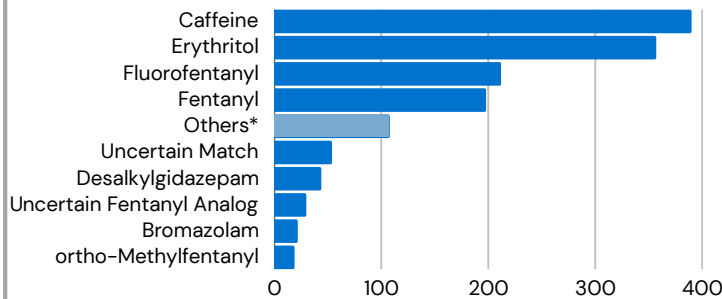
Number of opioid samples with expected drug present

Expected Drug	Present	Not Present	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	45	3	0	48
Heroin	7	1	0	8
Down	408	16	0	424
Pharmaceutical	16	5	9	30
Opium	2	1	0	3
Total	478	26	9	513

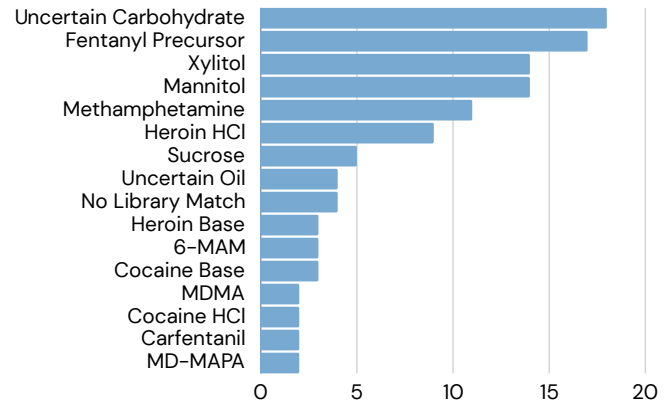
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=480)

Main components

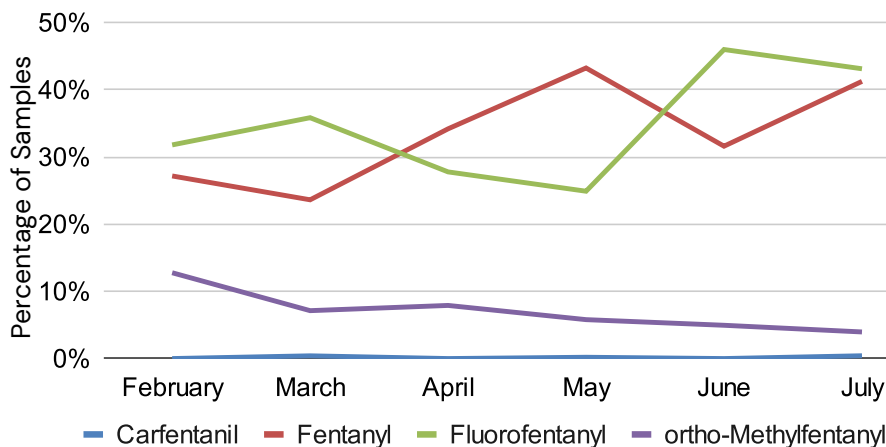


Other components*



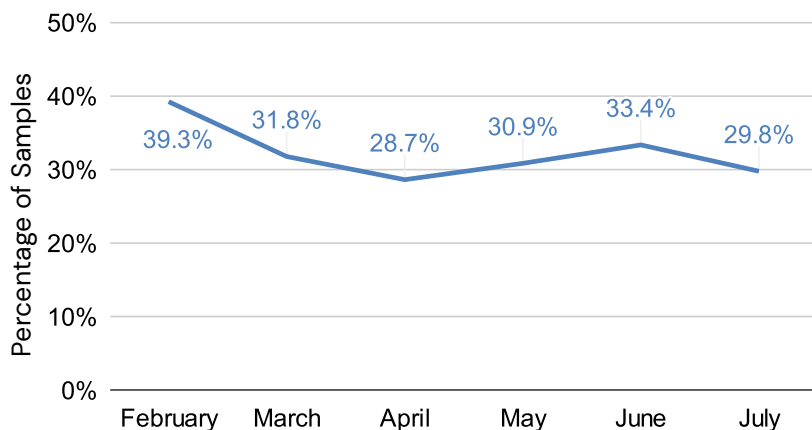
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



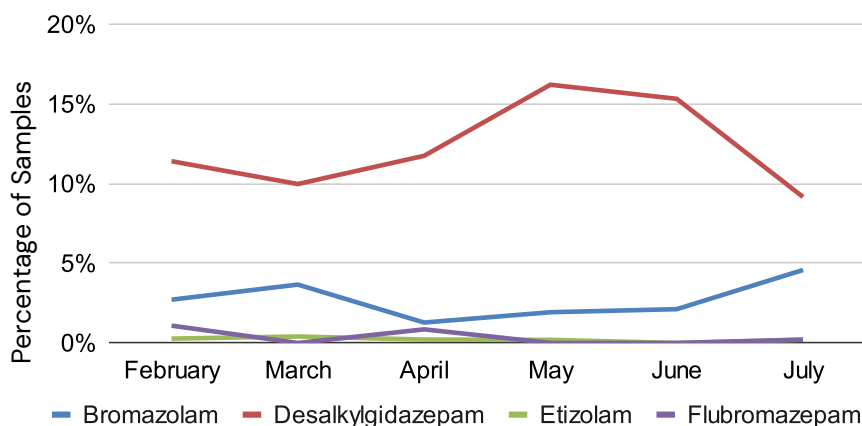
- In July, fluorofentanyl was the most common opioid detected by FTIR, found in **43.1%** of all unregulated opioid samples tested (207 of 480 samples).
- There has been an uptick in samples containing carfentanil since the beginning of the year. In July, carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **2 opioid 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 5).

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



- During the month of July, **29.8%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Vancouver Coastal Health region (**153 samples of 513 checked**).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer.

Benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months

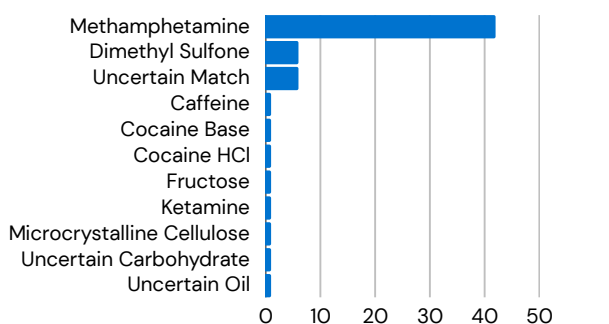


- In July, **16.3%** of all unregulated opioid samples (**69 of 424**) contained benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- The most common, desalkylgidazepam, decreased in detection this month while bromazolam detection increased.

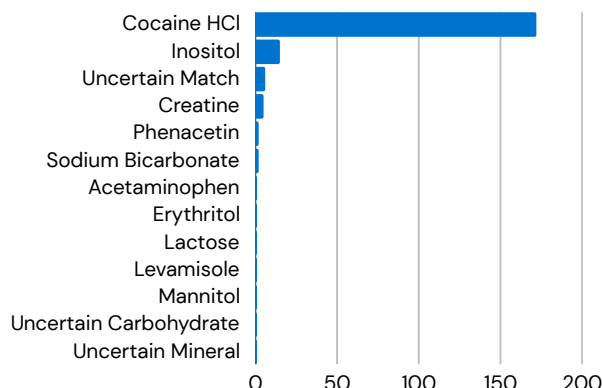
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

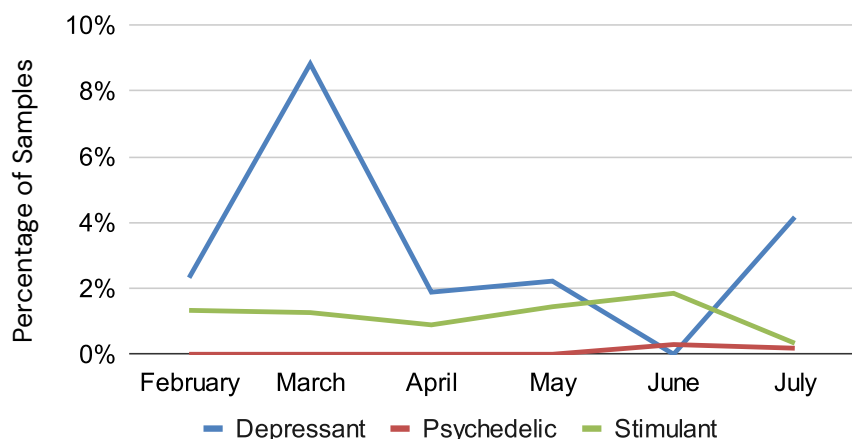
Components in methamphetamine (N=45)



Components in cocaine (N=179)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

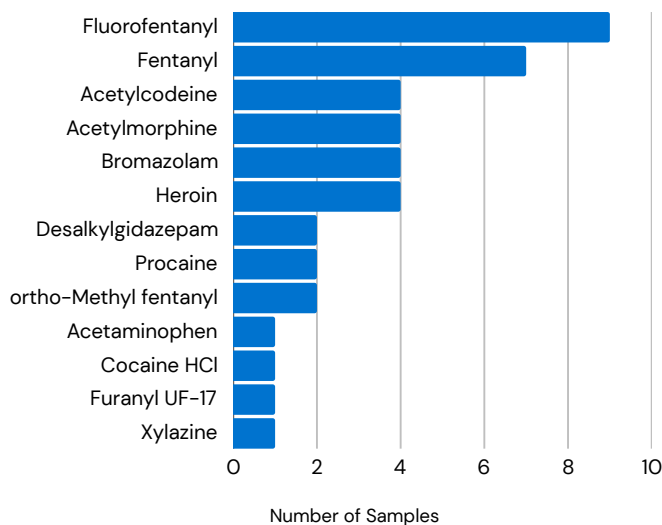


- In July, a total of **5** non-opioids tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip. This included **2** depressant samples, **1** stimulant sample, and **1** psychedelic sample.

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](https://www.substance.ca).

Active components in opioids submitted (N=14)



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 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 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.

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](#).