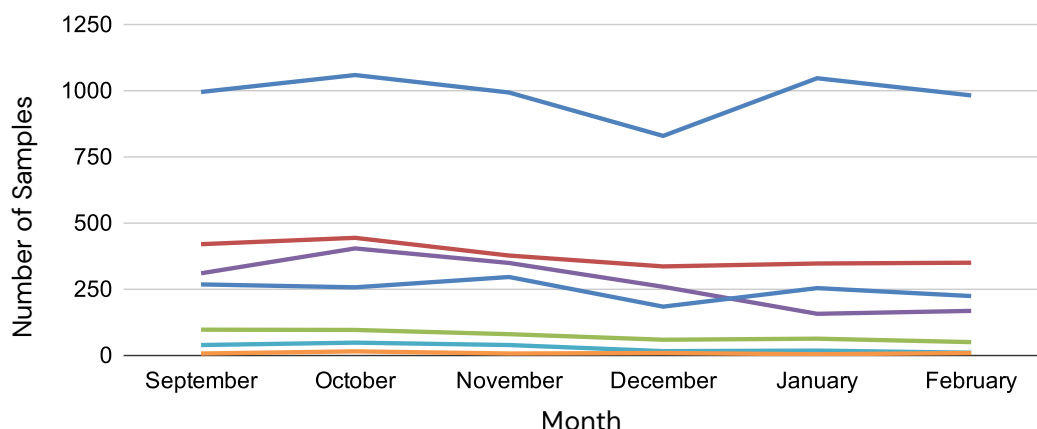




Key findings

- In February, **1,786** drug checks were performed by community drug checking sites in BC (**61 access points**). The decrease in samples from previous months is due to the closure of a high-volume site in the Vancouver Coastal region in December.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip decreased to **41.9%**. Of these, desalkylgizapam remained most frequently identified by FTIR, though detection has declined to levels last seen in 2024.
- Multiple novel benzodiazepines continue to be detected in unregulated opioids, including ethylbromazolam, clobromazolam (phenazolam), nifoxipam, ethylflualprazolam, and 3-HO-desalkylgizapam in February.
- The median concentration of fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl in rose for the first time since September. In February, the median concentration was **10.1%** (see page 3).
- There has been an increase in medetomidine in the unregulated drug supply. In response, medetomidine test strips are now being used in the Interior Health region. In February, the prevalence of medetomidine among opioids checked in the IH region was **33.2% (65 of 196 samples)**.
- Of all opioids sent for secondary testing across BC in February (**n=197**), medetomidine was detected in **66 samples**. Medetomidine concentrations ranged from **0.3-28.1%**, and the median was **1.6%**. Meanwhile, carfentanil and xylazine detections have decreased, found in **7 and 2 samples**, respectively.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in Feb.

Opioid	981
Stimulant	349
Depressant	49
Psychedelic	167
Other	9
Polysubstance	8
Unknown	223

Total: 1,786

Number of samples tested by region

Vancouver Coastal Health region: 619 (**35%**)

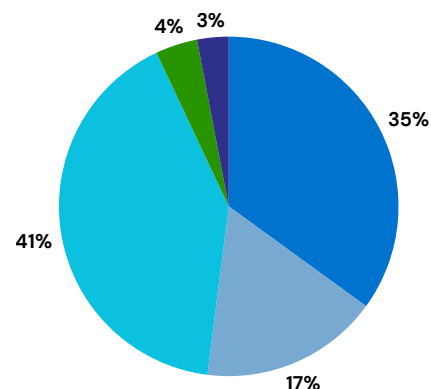
Fraser Health region: 296 (**17%**)

Interior Health region: 725 (**41%**)

Island Health region: 77 (**4%**)

Northern Health region: 69 (**3%**)

Total: 1,786*



*Does not include samples tested at Substance Drug Checking services. Please see the Island Health report for more information.

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	919	38	24	981
Stimulant	329	17	3	349
Depressant	28	21	0	49
Psychedelic	147	17	3	167
Other	6	3	0	9
Polysubstance	4	4	0	8
Unknown	0	0	223	223
Total	1433	100	253	1786

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

Opioids

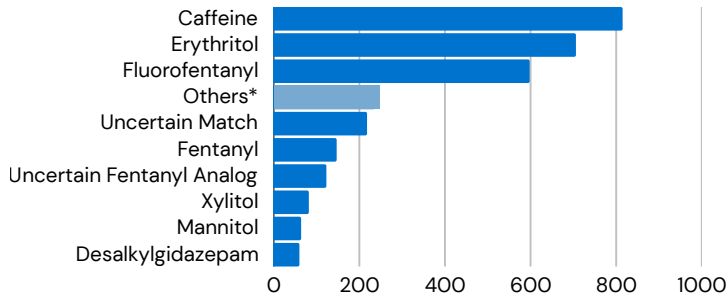
Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	75	4	0	79
Heroin	5	2	0	7
Other Opioid	2	0	0	2
Down	814	21	2	837
Pharmaceutical	16	11	22	49
Opium	7	0	0	7
Total	919	38	24	981

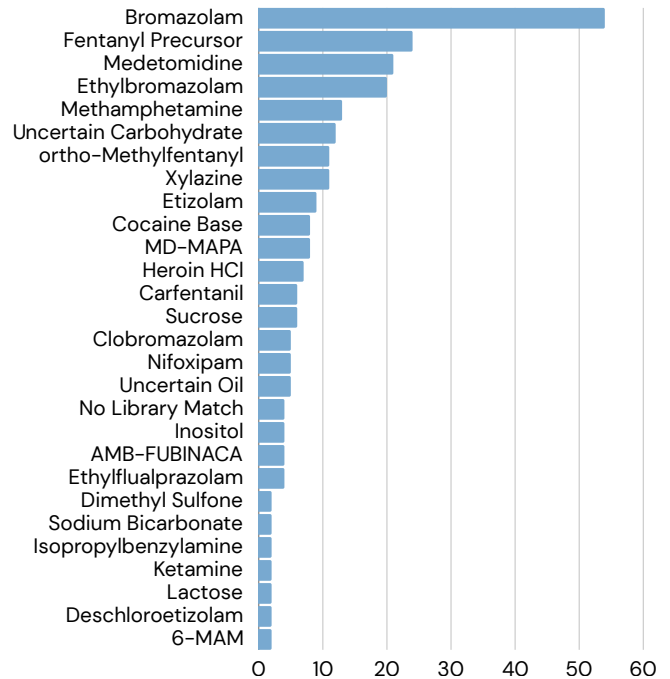
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents. 'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=923)

Main components



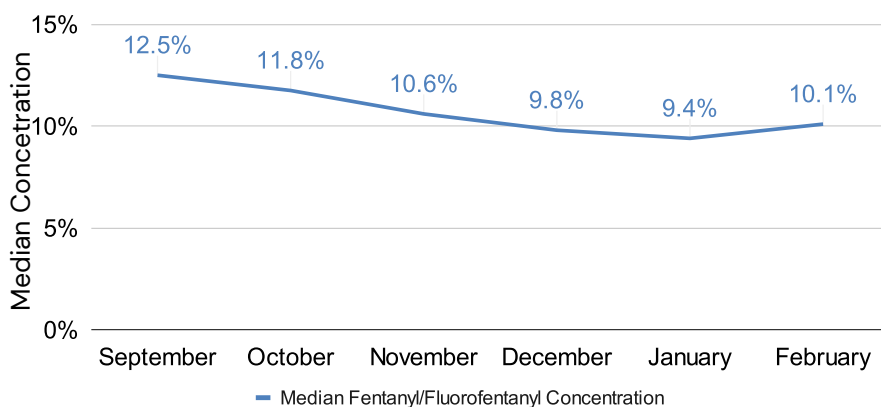
Other components



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

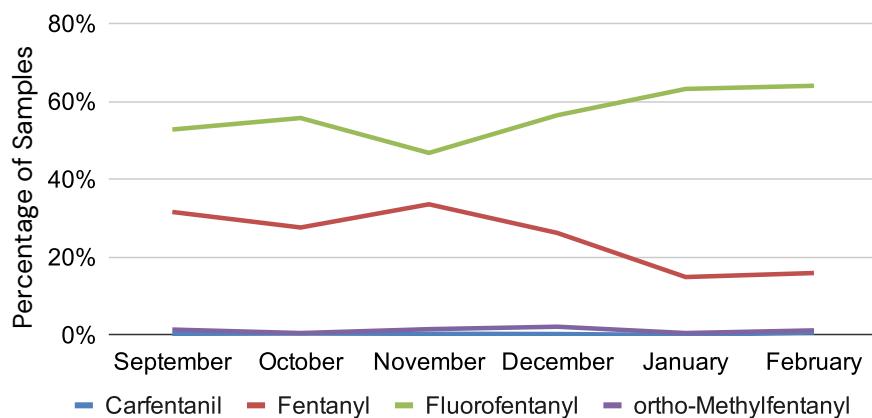
Median fentanyl concentration of unregulated opioids, past 6 months

Concentrations were estimated using a validated quantification model for the purposes of this report with aggregated data. To learn more about the QUANT3 quantification model visit [here](#).



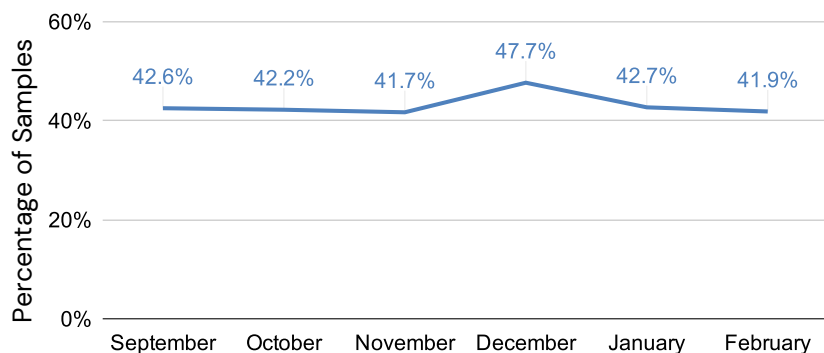
- Following a downwards trend since September, in February, the overall median concentration of fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl increased to **10.1%** (n=881).
- Most unregulated opioids contained fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl at concentrations between **5.5%** and **16.8%** in February, but concentrations can range from trace amounts to comprising most of the mixture.
- Fentanyl and fluorofentanyl are the predominate fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, and are considered to have similar potency. They are combined here to show their overall median concentration over the past 6 months.

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



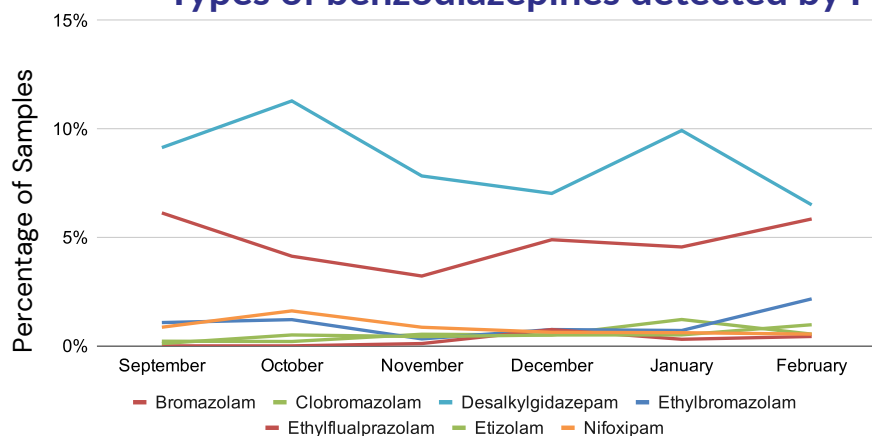
- Fluorofentanyl continues to be the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR in unregulated opioids, identified in **64.0%** of samples in Feb (**598 of 923 checked**), the highest level of detection to-date.
- Fentanyl was detected in **15.9%** of opioids (**147 samples**). The declining number of detections may indicate that less fentanyl is circulating in the opioid supply, and/or that it is present in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%).
- Carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **6 samples** this month. The true number is expected to be higher, as carfentanil is usually contained in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%). See the Secondary Testing section for more information

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



- During the month of February, **41.9%** of all expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines (**411 samples of 981 checked**).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true prevalence may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., etizolam, ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months

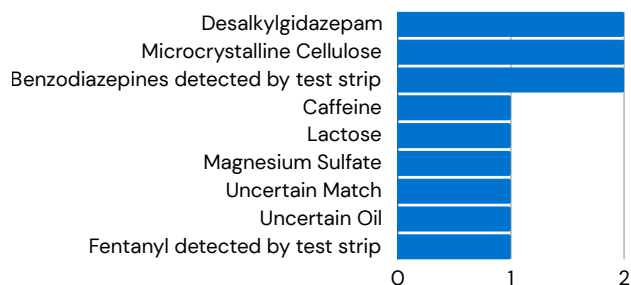


- In February, **17.4%** of unregulated opioids (**161 of 923 samples**) contained benzodiazepines in concentrations detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- While desalkylgizapem remained the most common, detection declined to **6.5%** of unregulated opioids checked (**60 samples**), a low not seen since 2024. In contrast, detection of both bromazolam (**5.9%; 54 samples**) and ethylbromazolam (**2.2%; 20 samples**) increased.
- We continue to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines. Alongside ethylbromazolam, this included clobromazolam (**5 samples**), nifoxipam (**5 samples**), ethylflualprazolam (**4 samples**), and 3-HO desalkylgizapem (**1 sample**) in February.

Components detected in pharmaceutical opioids

(where expected drug was not detected)

Hydromorphone (N=4)

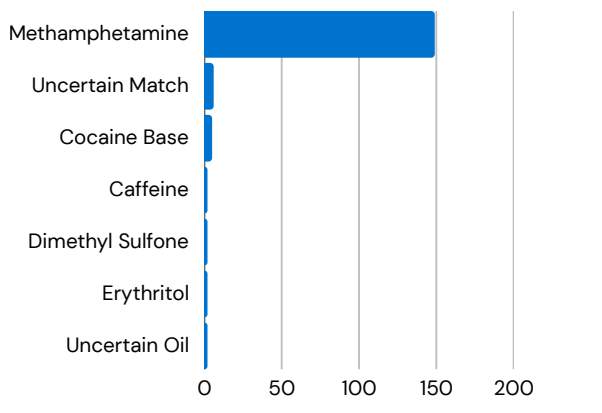


- In February, a total of **49 samples** were submitted as pharmaceutical opioids.
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) (**n=22**), oxycodone (OxyContin) (**n=15**), and acetaminophen + oxycodone (Percocet) (**n=6**) were the most frequently submitted.
- Of the samples expected to contain hydromorphone (**n=22**), **4** were determined to be counterfeit as they did not contain the expected drugs and instead contained unexpected active ingredients.
- The most common active ingredients detected were benzodiazepines, including desalkylgizazepam, and fentanyl/analogs.

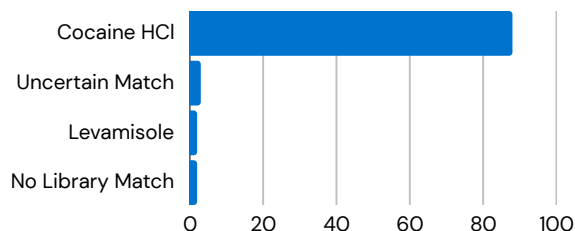
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

Components in methamphetamine (N=152)

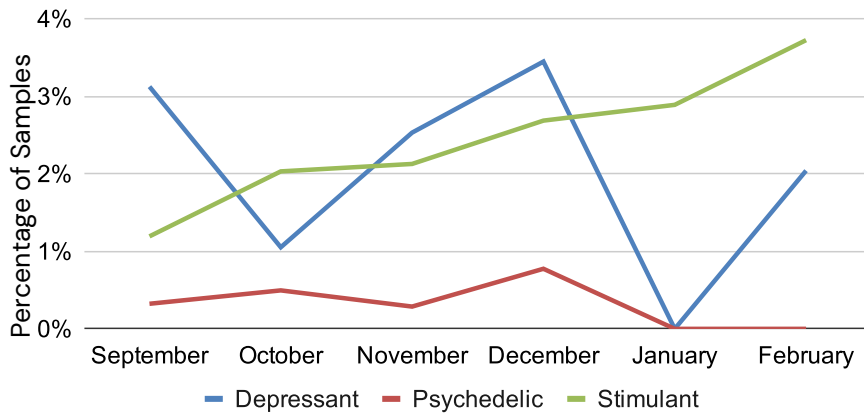


Components in cocaine (N=92)



Additional components detected a single time of samples have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on our [dashboard](#)

Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months



- In February, a total of **14 non-opioid samples** tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip. This included **13 stimulants** (methamphetamine, crack cocaine, and cocaine HCl), and **1 depressant** (unknown benzodiazepine).
- Of these, **9 samples (64.3%)** were expected to be cross-contaminated by the service user, noting they had been stored with opioids prior to submitting the sample for drug checking.

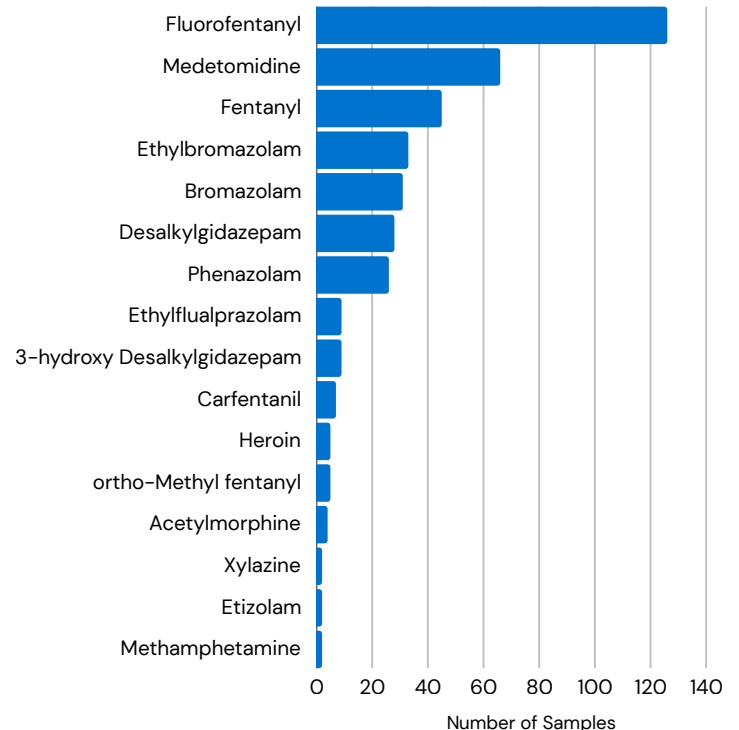
PSMS Secondary Testing Results Summary

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](#).

Total opioids sent to Substance

Health Authority	Number of Samples
Interior Health	89
Fraser Health	79
Northern Health	26
Island Health	3
Total	197

Active components detected (n=197)



To save space, additional components detected a single time have been omitted from this chart: Norfentanyl, Cocaine HCl, MDMA, Flubromazepam, Flualprazolam, Isobutyryl fentanyl, Benzodiazepine (unknown type), Etodesnitazene, Furanyl UF-17, Acetylcodeine, Codeine.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
February 3, 2026 Penticton	Down/Tranq	Medetomidine, Fluorofentanyl, Benzodiazepines*	N/A	N/A	Multiple samples in Penticton sold as “Down” and “Tranq” were found to contain very high amounts of medetomidine (up to 21%) in addition to fluorofentanyl and benzodiazepines.
February 6, 2026 Powell River	Down	Fentanyl, Etizolam, Medetomidine*	N/A	N/A	Pink chunk sold as down in Powell River tested positive for fentanyl, etizolam, a benzo analogue, and medetomidine, a non-opioid tranquilizer. May cause overdose, low heart rate, and prolonged sedation.
February 11, 2026 Interior Health Region	Down	Carfentanil, Medetomidine, Benzodiazepines*	N/A	N/A	Interior Region wide alert for down samples containing carfentanil, medetomidine, and benzodiazepines.
February 26, 2026 Prince George	Down	Para-fluorofentanyl	Positive	Negative	Northern Health and First Nations Health have issued a drug alert for the community of Prince George. A green substance sold as “down” has been linked to sudden overdoses with prolonged sedation. Initial test results show high concentrations of para-fluorofentanyl (twice as strong as fentanyl).

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](#).