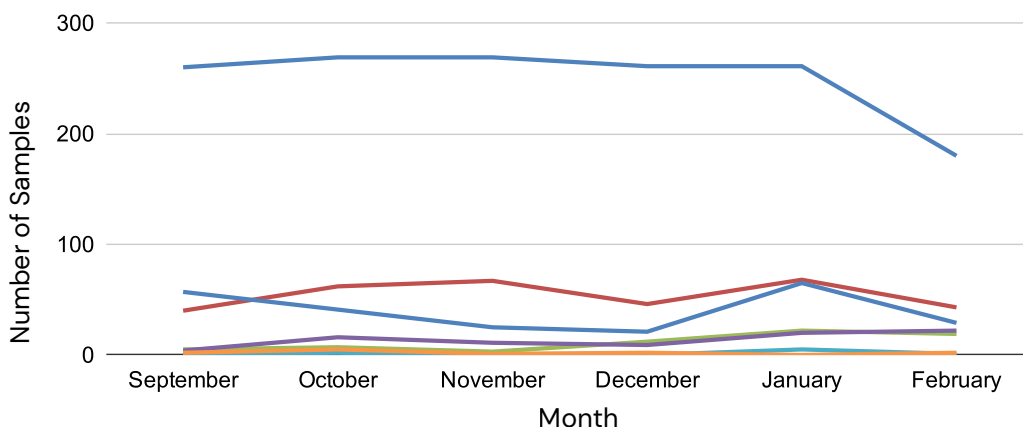




Key findings

- In February, **296** drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Fraser Health region (**15 access points**).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR and/or test strip increased to **56.7%**. For the first time, ethylbromazolam was most frequently identified.
- We continue to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines in unregulated opioids, which included ethylbromazolam, clobromazolam, nifoxipam, ethylflualprazolam, and 3-HO-desalkylgidazepam in February.
- There has been an increase in medetomidine in the unregulated drug supply. Among opioid samples sent for secondary testing in February (n=79), medetomidine was detected in **23 samples**. Additionally, carfentanil was detected in **2 samples**, and xylazine in **1 sample**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in Feb.

Opioid	180
Stimulant	43
Depressant	19
Psychedelic	22
Other	1
Polysubstance	2
Unknown	29

Total: 296

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	69
SafePoint (Surrey)	19
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	66
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	58
Mountainside (Hope)	7
Mountainside (Langley)	19
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	6
Mountainside (Mission)	8
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	10
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	33
Total	296

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following location, which has been included in the total: Progressive Housing (New Westminster).

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	173	6	1	180
Stimulant	42	1	0	43
Depressant	4	15	0	19
Psychedelic	22	0	0	22
Other	1	0	0	1
Polysubstance	2	0	0	2
Unknown	0	0	29	29
Total	244	22	30	296

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

Opioids

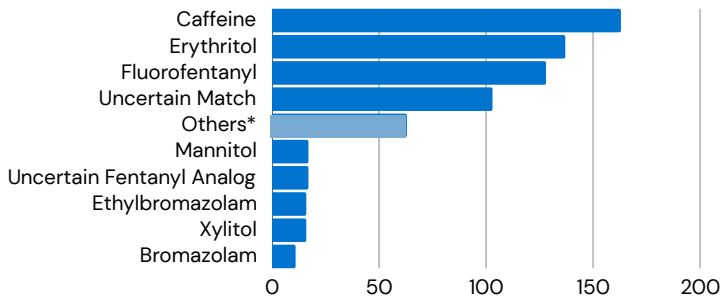
Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	12	2	0	14
Down	159	4	1	164
Pharmaceutical	1	0	0	1
Opium	1	0	0	1
Total	173	6	1	180

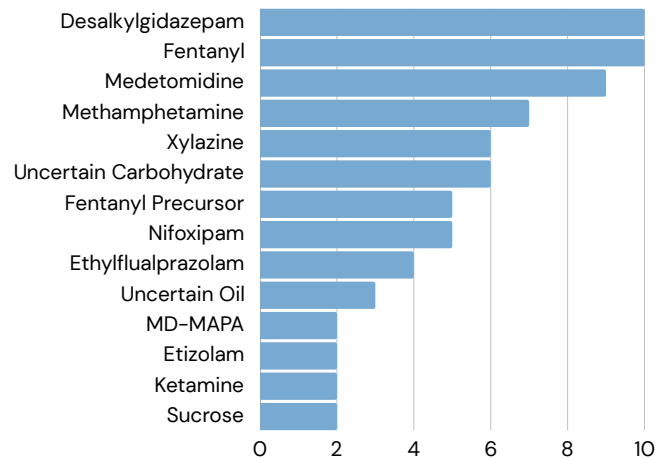
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents. 'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=178)

Main components

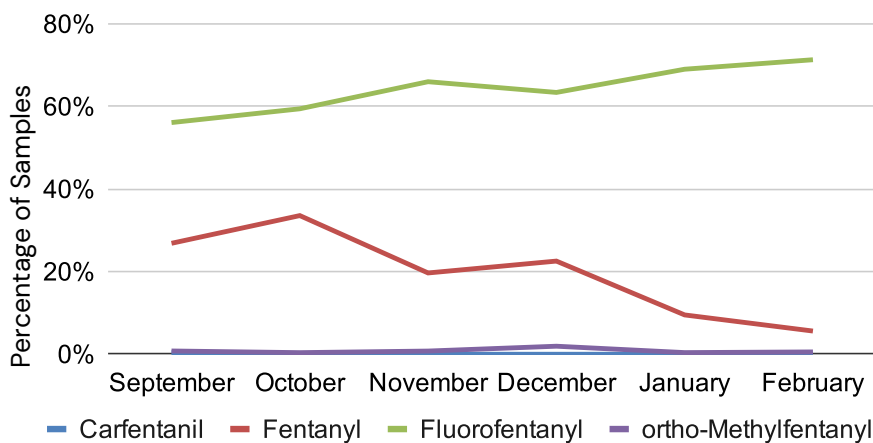


Other components*



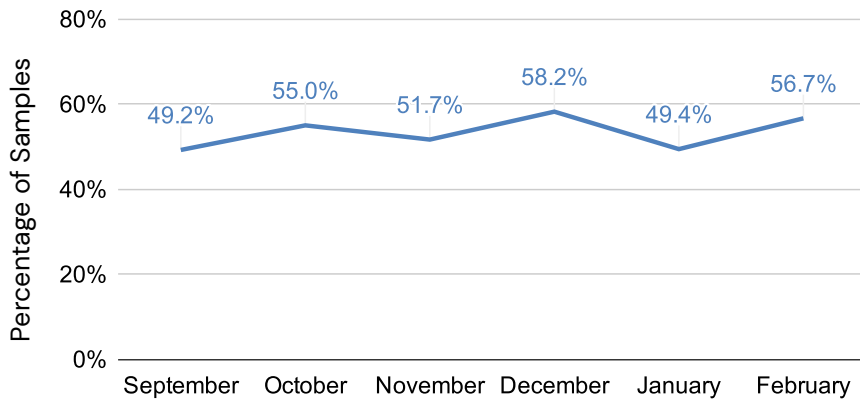
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



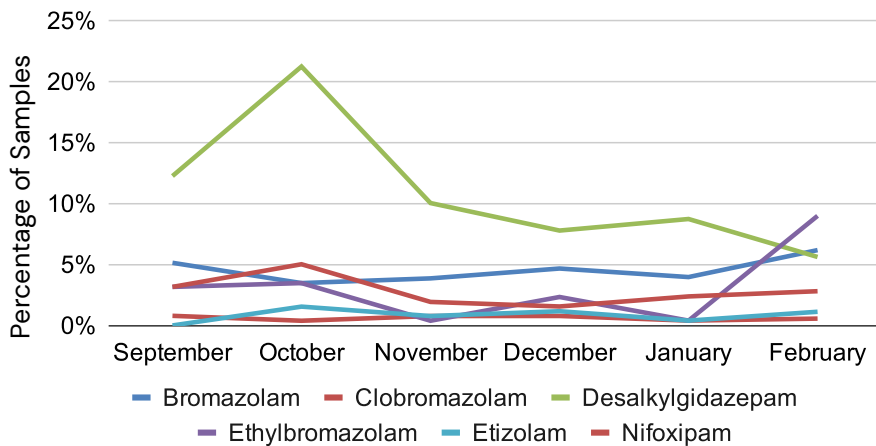
- Fluorofentanyl continues to be the most common fentanyl analog detected in unregulated opioids. In February, fluorofentanyl was detected in **71.3%** of samples by FTIR (**128 of 178 checked**), the highest level of detection to-date.
- Conversely, fentanyl was detected by FTIR in **5.6%** of opioids, the lowest level to-date (**10 samples**). This 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 not detected by FTIR this month, but continues to be found in samples sent for secondary testing. 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 February, **56.7%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Fraser Health region (**102 samples of 180 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

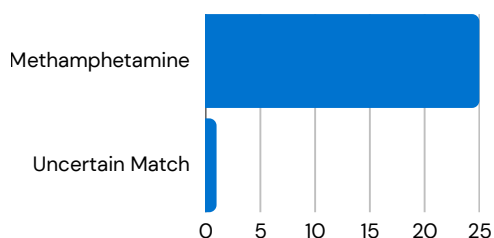


- In February, **27.0%** of unregulated opioids (**48 of 178 samples**) contained benzodiazepines in concentrations detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- For the first time, ethylbromazolam was most frequently identified, detected in **9.0%** of unregulated opioids (**16 samples**). Bromazolam detection also increased, surpassing desalkylgidazepam for the first time since 2024.
- We are continuing to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines. Alongside ethylbromazolam, this included nifoxipam (**5 samples**), ethylflualprazolam (**4 samples**), clobromazolam (**1 sample**), and 3-HO desalkylgidazepam (**1 sample**) in February.

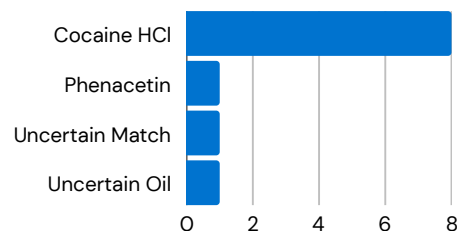
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

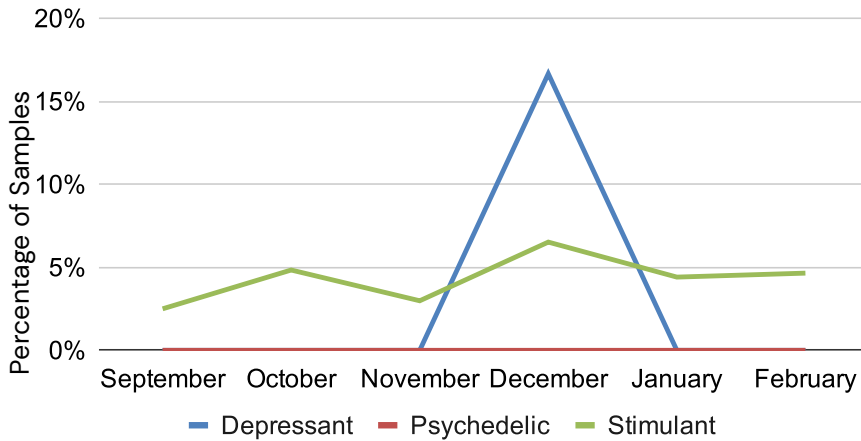
Components in methamphetamine (N=25)



Components in cocaine (N=8)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

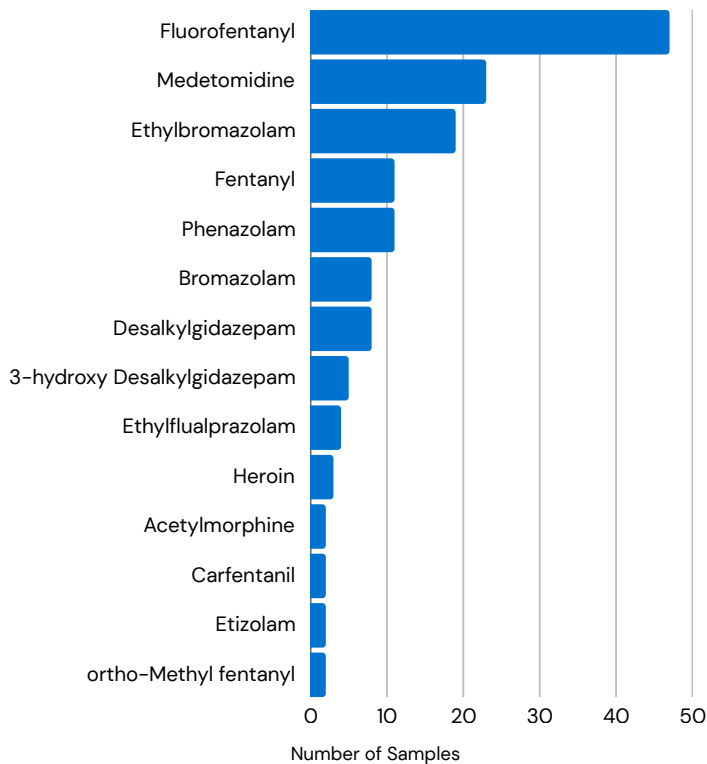


- In February, a total of **2 stimulant samples** (methamphetamine) tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip.

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=79)



To save space, additional components detected a single time have been omitted from this chart: Flualprazolam, Flubromazepam, Isobutyryl fentanyl, MDMA, Norfentanyl, Xylazine.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
<p>In January, there were no alerts issued within the Fraser Health region pertaining to samples submitted for drug checking.</p>					

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](#).