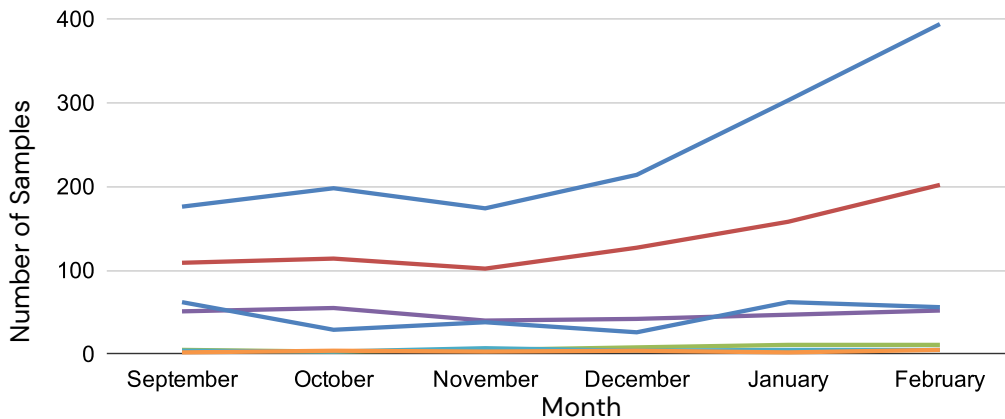




Key findings

- The number of samples checked in the Interior Health region has been rising over the past 3 months. In February, **725 samples** were tested by services offering FTIR drug checking (**31 access points**), representing a **50%** increase compared to samples checked in November.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines by FTIR/test strip decreased to **49.2%**. Of these, bromazolam was the most common detected by FTIR.
- We continue to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines in unregulated opioids. In February, clobromazolam and ethylbromazolam were detected by FTIR, and others were detected via secondary testing.
- Drug checking services in the IH region are now using medetomidine test strips in response to the increase of medetomidine in the unregulated drug supply. In February, the prevalence of medetomidine among opioids was **33.2% (65 of 196 samples)**.
- Among opioids sent for secondary testing in February (**n=89**), medetomidine was detected in **37 samples**, and carfentanil in **4 samples**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in Feb.

Opioid	394
Stimulant	202
Depressant	11
Psychedelic	52
Other	5
Polysubstance	5
Unknown	56

Total: 725

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	70
ANKORS (Nelson)	77
ASK (Kamloops)	54
ASK (Kelowna)	125
ASK (Penticton)	220
Interior Health (Kelowna)	125
Medicine Shoppe (Vernon)	53
Total	725

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following location, which has been included in the total:
UBCO (Kelowna).

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	382	10	2	394
Stimulant	193	7	2	202
Depressant	7	4	0	11
Psychedelic	45	5	2	52
Other	3	2	0	5
Polysubstance	2	3	0	5
Unknown	0	0	56	56
Total	632	31	62	725

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

Opioids

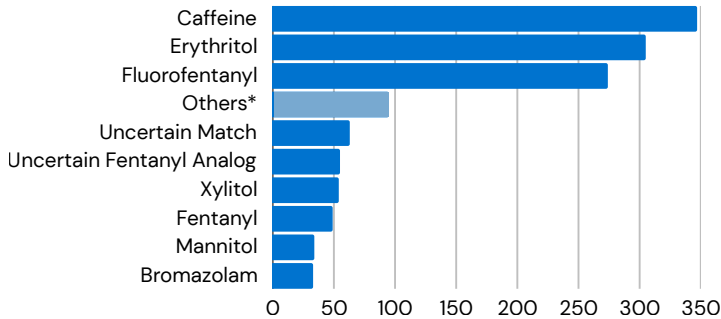
Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	27	1	0	28
Heroin	1	0	0	1
Other Opioid	2	0	0	2
Down	348	3	1	352
Pharmaceutical	4	6	1	11
Total	382	10	2	394

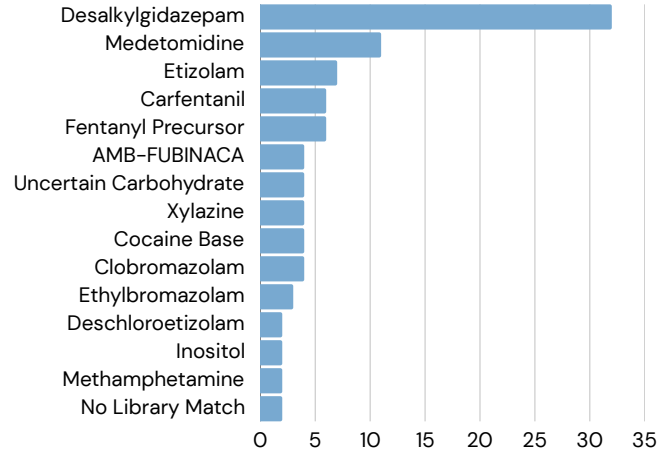
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents. 'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=381)

Main components

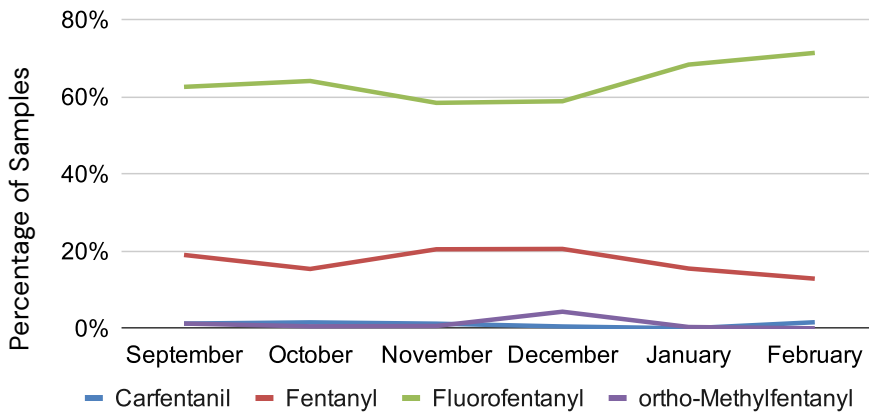


Other components*



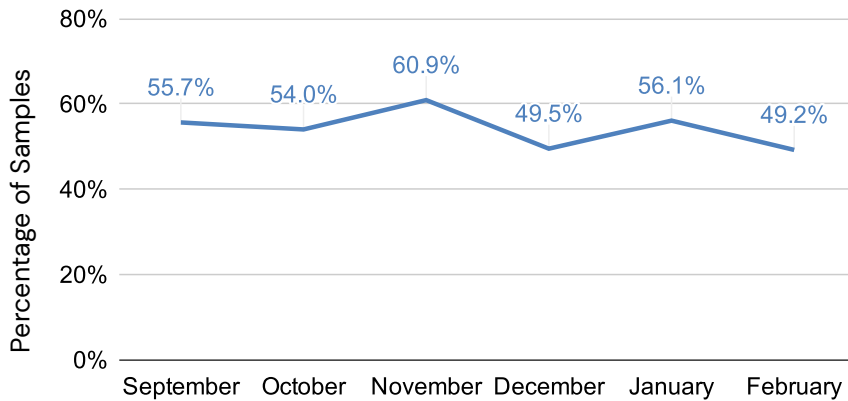
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



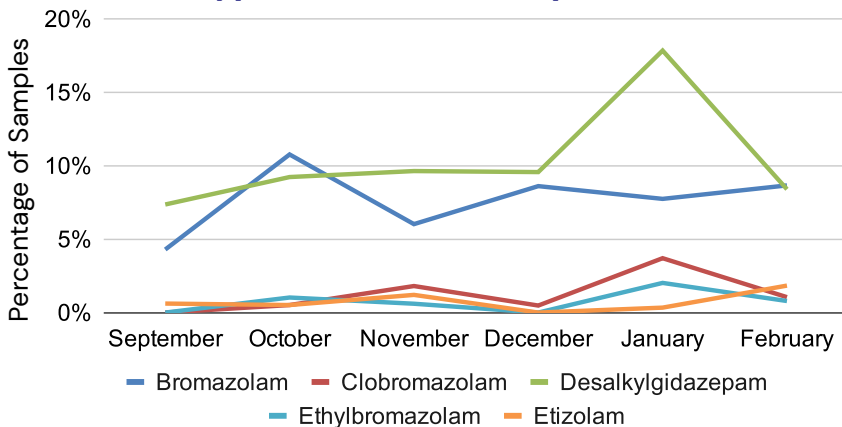
- Fluorofentanyl continues to be the most common fentanyl analog detected in unregulated opioids. In February, fluorofentanyl was detected in **71.4%** of samples by FTIR (**274 of 381 checked**), the highest level of detection to-date.
- Conversely, fentanyl was detected by FTIR in **12.9%** of opioids, the lowest level to-date (**49 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 detected by FTIR in **6 samples** this month. The true number is expected to be higher, as it is usually present in concentrations below the FTIR 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



- During the month of February, **49.2%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Interior Health region (**194 samples of 394 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, **21.5%** of unregulated opioids (**82 of 381 samples**) contained benzodiazepines in concentrations detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- Bromazolam was most common, found in **8.4%** of unregulated opioids checked (**33 samples**). Desalkylgidazepam detection was nearly on par, found in **8.4%** (**32 samples**).
- We are continuing to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines. In February, FTIR detected clobromazolam (**4 samples**) and ethylbromazolam (**3 samples**), and others were detected via secondary testing. See the **Secondary Testing section** for more information.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for medetomidine, past 6 months

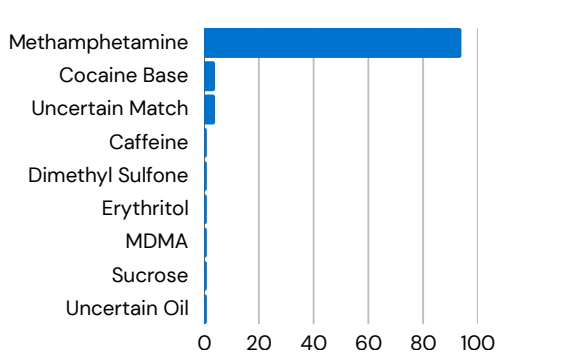


- There has been an increase in medetomidine in the unregulated drug supply. In the Interior Health region, medetomidine test strips are now being used at drug checking sites, as medetomidine is typically present in concentrations below the detection limit of the FTIR (<5%).
- Among opioid samples checked with medetomidine test strips, the prevalence of medetomidine was **33.2%** in February (**65 of 196 samples**)

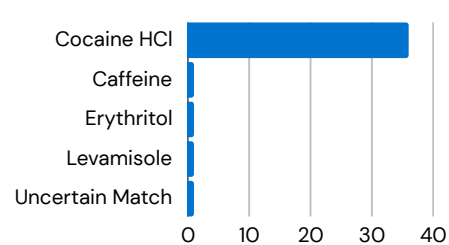
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

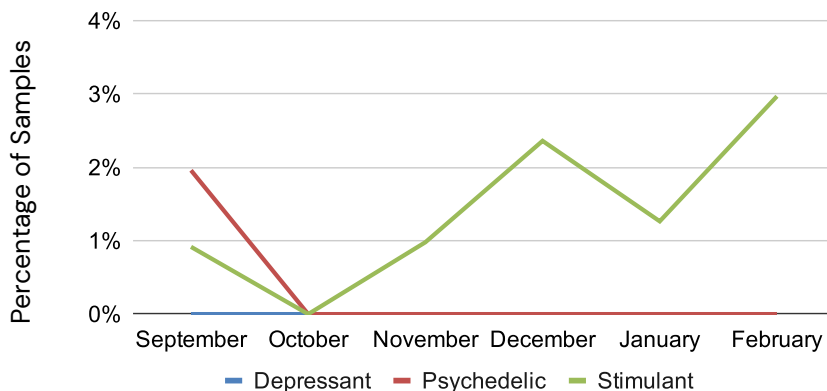
Components in methamphetamine (N=94)



Components in cocaine (N=36)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

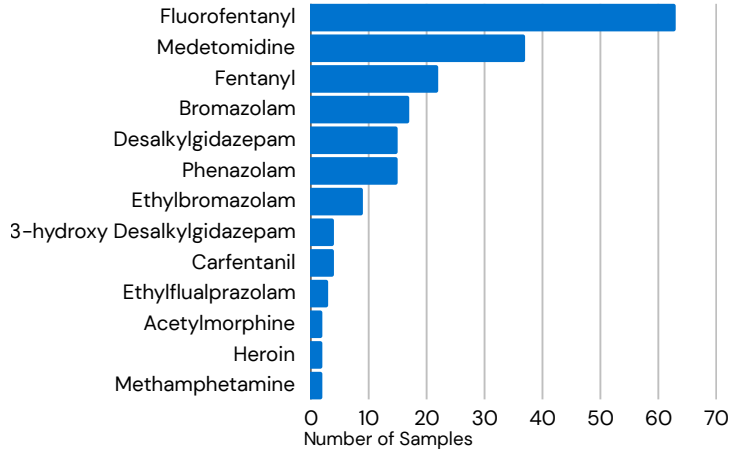


- In February, **3%** of all stimulant samples checked tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR/test strip. This included **3** methamphetamine, **2** crack cocaine, and **1** cocaine HCl sample.
- Of these, **5 samples (83.3%)** were expected to be cross-contaminated by the service user, noting they had 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](#).

Active components in opioids submitted (N = 89)



To save space, additional components detected a single time have been omitted from this chart: Acetylcodeine, Benzodiazepine (unknown type), Cocaine HCl, Codeine, Morphine.

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 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.

All spectrometry results are determined by FTIR, with the exception of the following:
*Results provided by secondary 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.
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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](#).