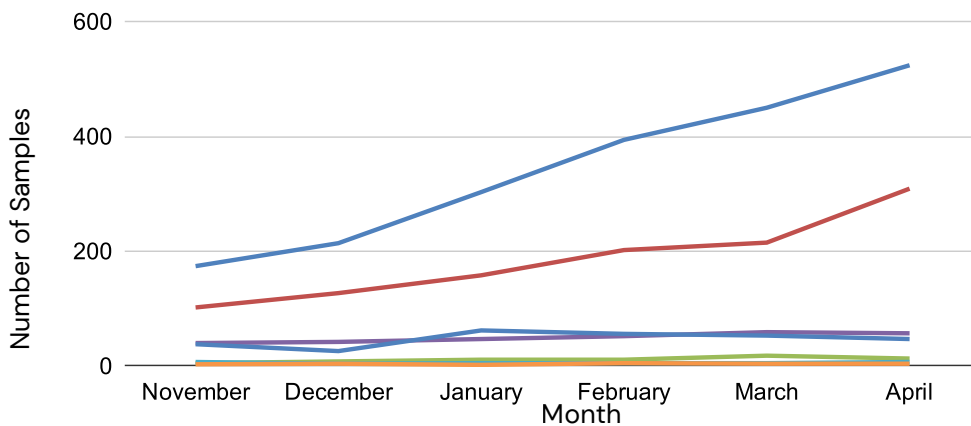




### Key findings

- The number of samples checked in the Interior Health region has been rising over the past 4 months. In April, **961** drug checks were performed by community FTIR drug checking sites (**33 access points**).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **45.2%**. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified.
- We continue to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines in unregulated opioids which included ethylbromazolam, ethylflualprazolam, and nifoxipam in April.
- The percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine decreased to **29.6%**. In response to the emergence of medetomidine in the drug supply, Interior Health has implemented medetomidine test strips at all drug checking sites.
- Among opioids sent for secondary testing in April (**n=106**), medetomidine was detected in **43 samples**, and xylazine in **2 samples**.

### Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



#### Number of samples by drug category in Apr.

Opioid	524
Stimulant	309
Depressant	13
Psychedelic	57
Other	7
Polysubstance	4
Unknown	47

**Total: 961**

### Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	80
ANKORS (Nelson)	67
ASK (Kamloops)	127
ASK (Kelowna)	170
ASK (Penticton)	332
Interior Health (Kelowna)	129
Medicine Shoppe (Vernon)	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>961</b>

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	506	9	9	524
Stimulant	297	10	2	309
Depressant	11	1	1	13
Psychedelic	50	6	1	57
Other	6	1	0	7
Polysubstance	3	1	0	4
Unknown	0	0	47	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>961</b>

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

## Opioids

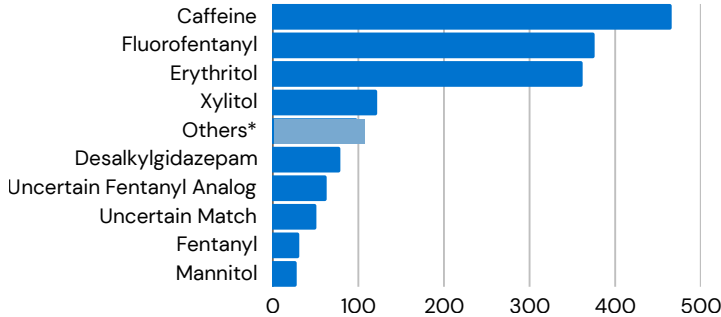
### Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	18	1	0	19
Heroin	0	1	0	1
Other Opioid	3	0	0	3
Down	481	5	1	487
Pharmaceutical	3	2	8	13
Opium	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>524</b>

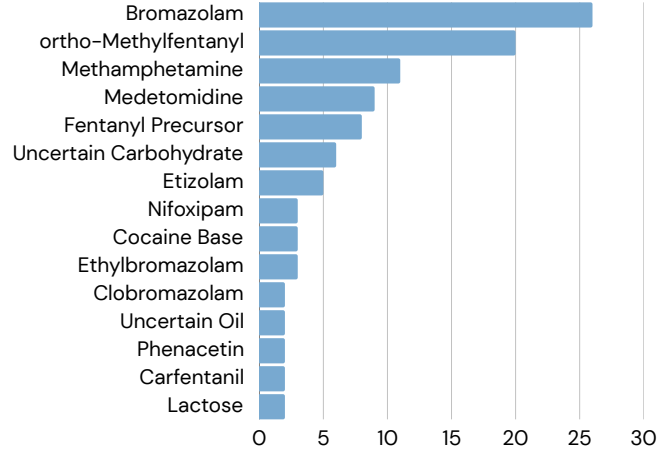
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents. 'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

## Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=507)

### Main components

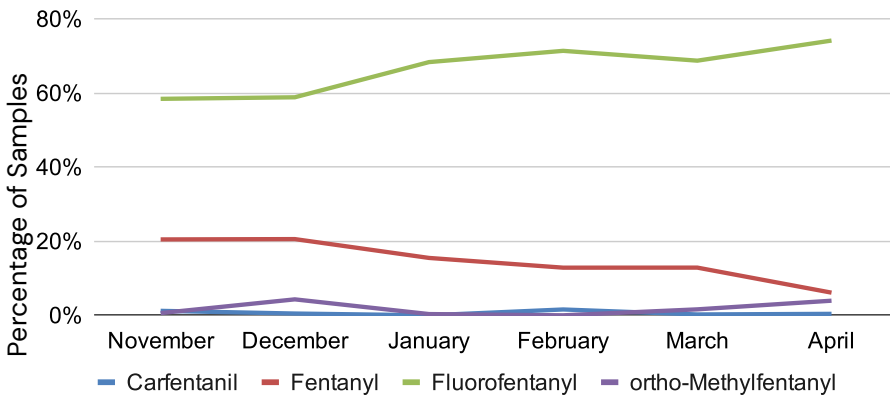


### Other components\*



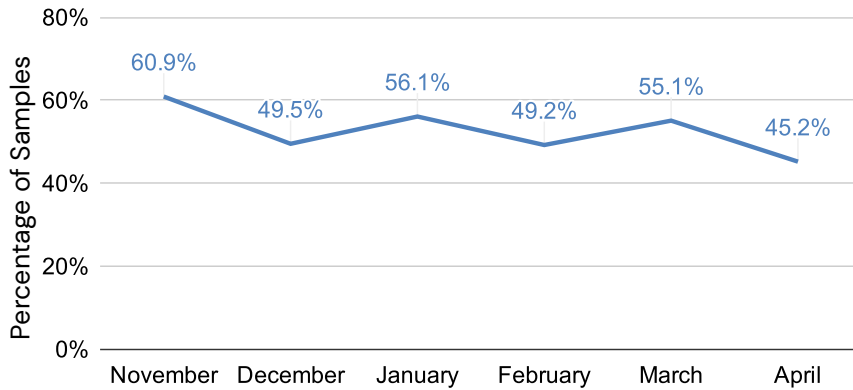
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

## Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



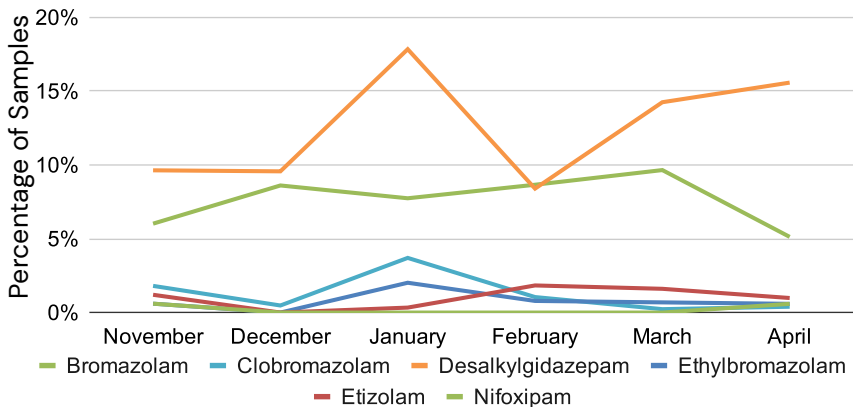
- In April, fluorofentanyl was detected in **74.2%** of samples (**376 of 507 checked**), the highest level of detection by FTIR to-date.
- Conversely, fentanyl was detected in **6.1%** of opioids (**31 samples**), the lowest level of detection to-date. The declining number of fentanyl detections may indicate that less 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 **2 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 of this report for more information.

### Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



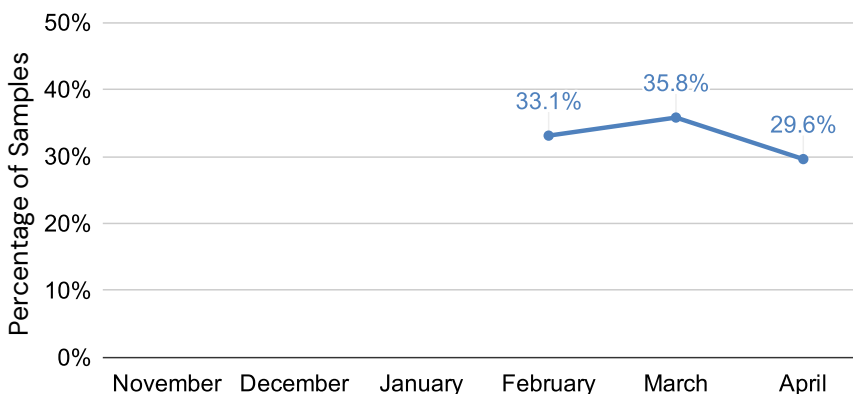
- During the month of April, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **45.2% (237 samples of 524 checked)**.
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., etizolam, ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.

### Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months



- In April, **23.7%** of unregulated opioids (**120 of 507 samples**) contained benzodiazepines at concentrations detectable by FTIR (>5%). Of these, desalkylgidazepam remained the most common (**15.6%; 79 samples**).
- We are continuing to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines. In April, clobromazolam, ethylbromazolam, ethylflualprazolam, and nifoxipam were detected by FTIR, and others were detected via secondary testing.

### Percentage of opioids testing positive for medetomidine, past 6 months

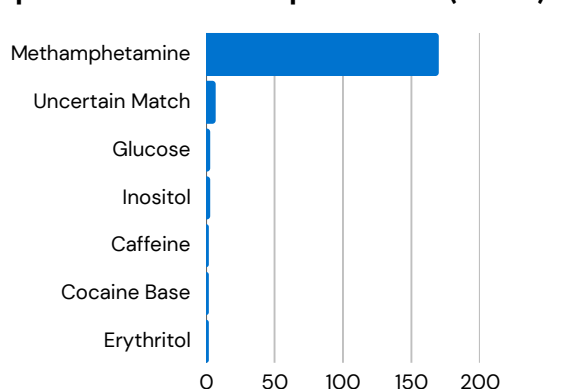


- During the month of April, the percentage of unregulated opioid samples testing positive for medetomidine decreased to **29.6% (147 of 497 samples checked)**.
- Unregulated opioids are checked for medetomidine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. In response to the emergence of medetomidine, test strips have been implemented at all drug checking sites, as it is typically present in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%).

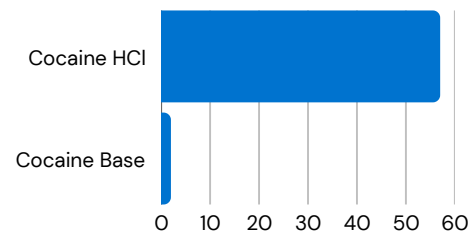
## Non-Opioids

### Components detected in stimulants

#### Components in methamphetamine (N=84)

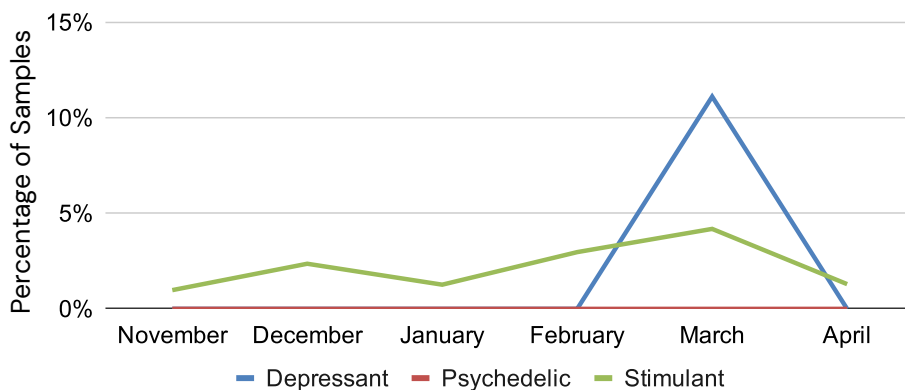


#### Components in cocaine (N=65)



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

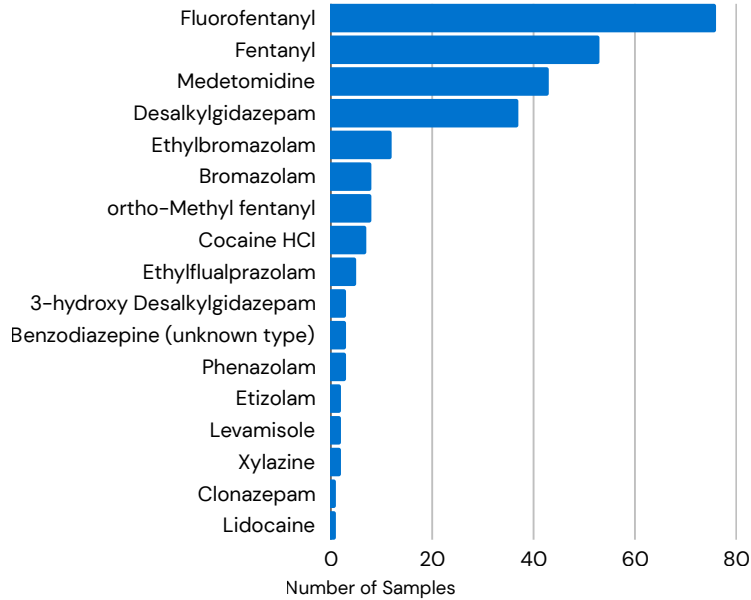


- In April, 1.3% of all stimulant samples checked tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR/test strip (2 cocaine, 2 methamphetamine samples).

## 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 = 106)



## Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results
April 1, 2026 Vernon	Methamphetamine	White chunks sold as crystal meth/side tested positive for p-fluorofentanyl in Vernon.
April 24, 2026 Penticton	Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	White tablet sold as dilaudid tested positive for cychlorphine in Penticton.

Alerts are issued based on FTIR and test strip results determined at point-of-care, or results from samples sent for further secondary testing by [Substance](#), or [Health Canada Drug Analysis Service](#)

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).

<b>Depressant includes:</b> benzodiazepines, etizolam, GHB, hypnotics	<b>Opioid includes:</b> "down", heroin, fentanyl (unregulated opioids), and pharmaceutical opioids	<b>Polysubstance includes:</b> cross-category mixtures	<b>Psychedelic includes:</b> MDMA and related, 2C-family, tryptamines, ketamine, LSD	<b>Stimulant includes:</b> methamphetamine, "speed," cocaine and crack cocaine, cathinones	<b>Unknown includes:</b> 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](#).