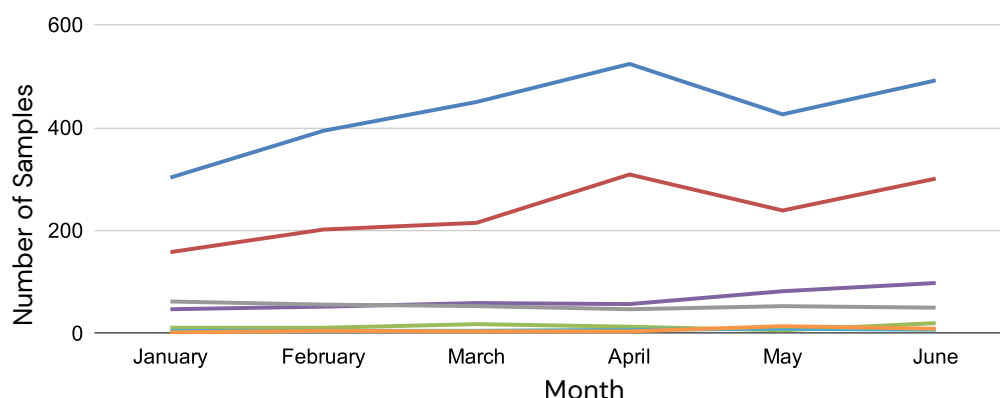




Key findings

- The number of samples checked in the Interior Health region has been rising over the past 6 months. In June, **977** drug checks were performed by community FTIR drug checking sites, the most ever checked in the region to-date (**33** access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased to **53.3%**. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified.
- We continue to monitor the increase in novel benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids. In June, ethylflualprazolam was the second most common benzodiazepine detected overall, followed by ethylbromazolam. Others detected included meclonazepam, nifoxipam, and 3-HO-desalkylgidazepam.
- The percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine increased to **37.8%**. In response to 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 June (**n=145**), medetomidine was detected in **62** samples, xylazine in **10** samples, and carfentanil in **3** samples. Notably, cychlorphine, a novel synthetic opioid, was detected in **5** samples.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	492
Stimulant	301
Depressant	20
Psychedelic	98
Other	7
Polysubstance	9
Unknown	50

Total: 977

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	105
ANKORS (Nelson)	82
ASK (Kamloops)	99
ASK (Kelowna)	97
ASK (Penticton)	349
Interior Health (Kelowna)	160
Medicine Shoppe (Vernon)	85
Total	977

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	483	7	2	492
Stimulant	295	5	1	301
Depressant	17	3	0	20
Psychedelic	89	6	3	98
Other	2	3	2	7
Polysubstance	9	0	0	9
Unknown	0	0	50	50
Total	895	24	58	977

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

Opioids

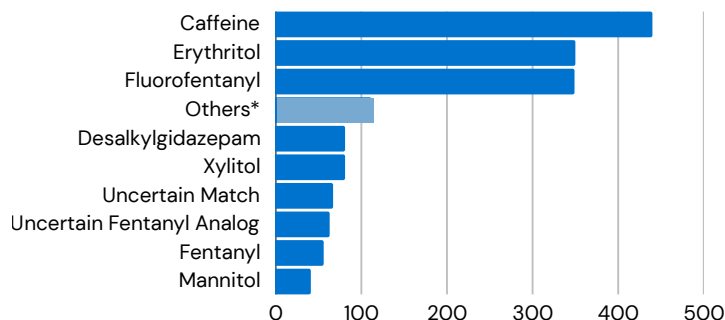
Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	12	0	1	13
Other Opioid	3	0	0	3
Down	463	5	0	468
Pharmaceutical	5	2	1	8
Total	483	7	2	492

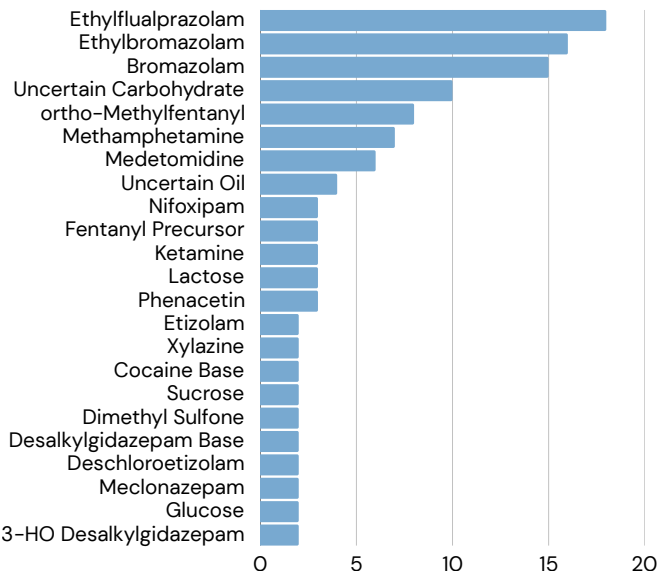
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=481)

Main components

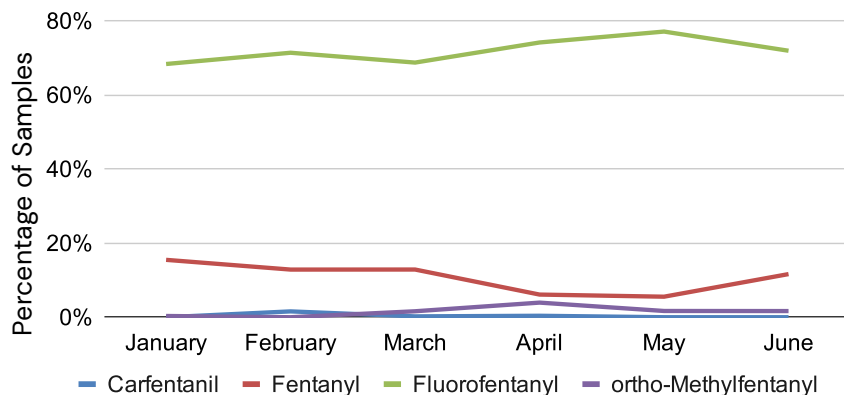


Other components*



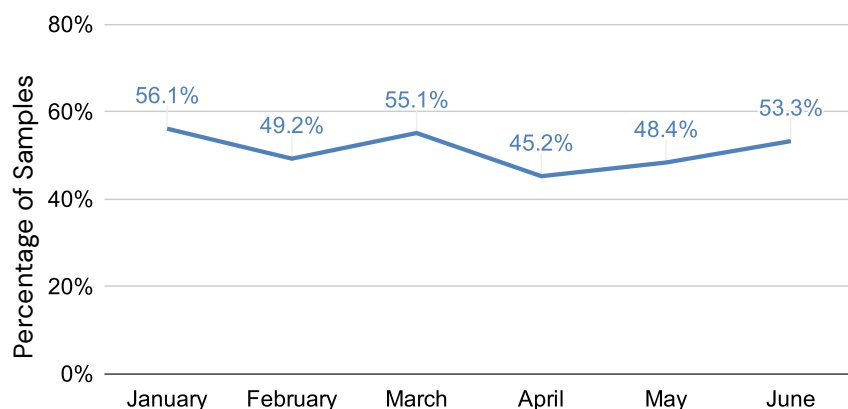
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



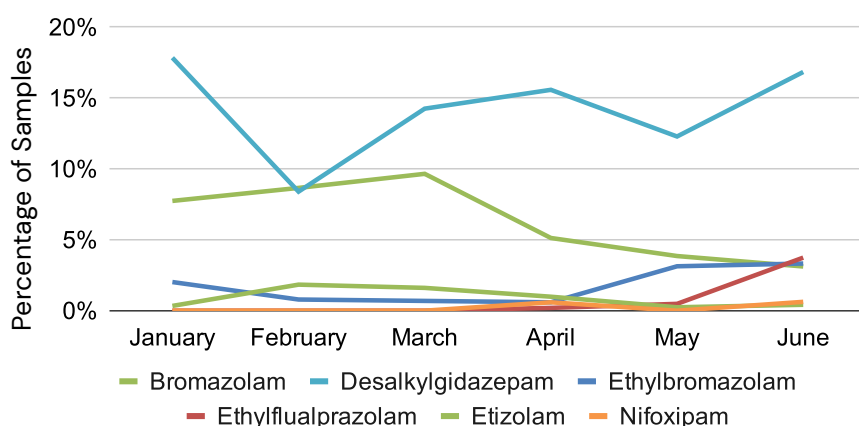
- In June, fluorofentanyl remained the most common fentanyl analog, detected by FTIR in **71.9%** of unregulated opioids (**349 of 481**).
- Conversely, fentanyl was detected in **11.6%** (**56 samples**). Declining fentanyl detections may indicate that less is circulating in the unregulated opioid supply, and/or that it is present in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%).
- Carfentanil not detected by FTIR 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



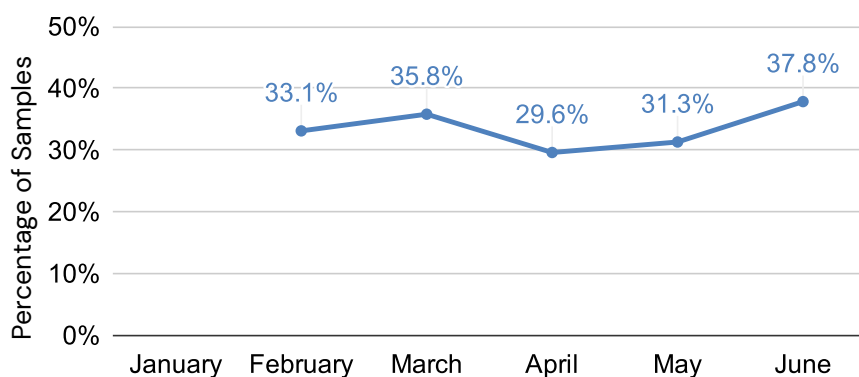
- During the month of June, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines increased to **53.3%** (262 samples of 492 checked).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., etizolam, ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months



- In June, **29.5%** of unregulated opioids (**83 of 415**) contained benzodiazepines at concentrations detectable by FTIR (>5%). Of these, desalkylgidazepam remained the most common (**16.8%**; 81 samples).
- There has been a shift from previous months with novel benzodiazepines ethylbromazolam (**3.3%**), and this month, ethylflualprazolam (**3.7%**), surpassing bromazolam detection among opioids tested in the region.
- We are continuing to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines, which also included meclonazepam, nifoxipam, and 3-HO-desalkylgidazepam in June.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for medetomidine, past 6 months

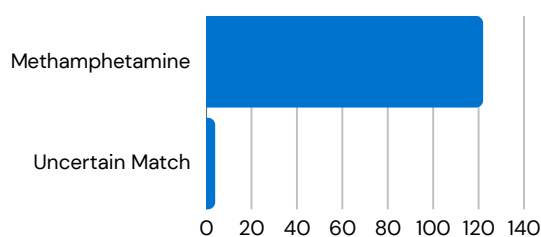


- During the month of June, the percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine increased to **37.8%** (182 of 481). The majority were also positive for benzodiazepines (121 samples).
- Unregulated opioids are checked for medetomidine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. As of February, test strips have been implemented at all drug checking sites in response to the emergence of medetomidine, as it is typically present in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%).

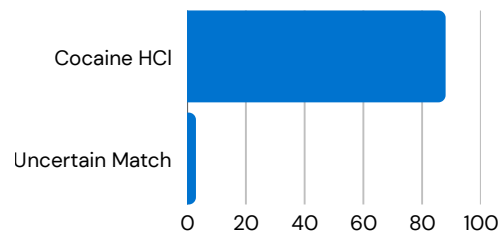
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

Components in methamphetamine (N=124)

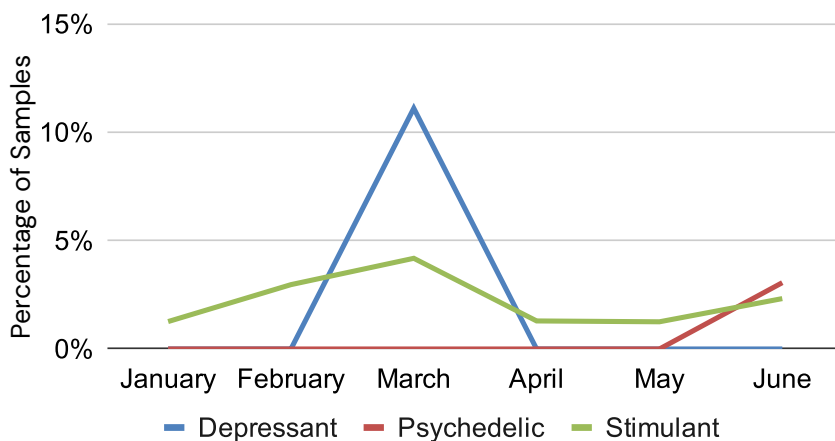


Components in cocaine (N=88)



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

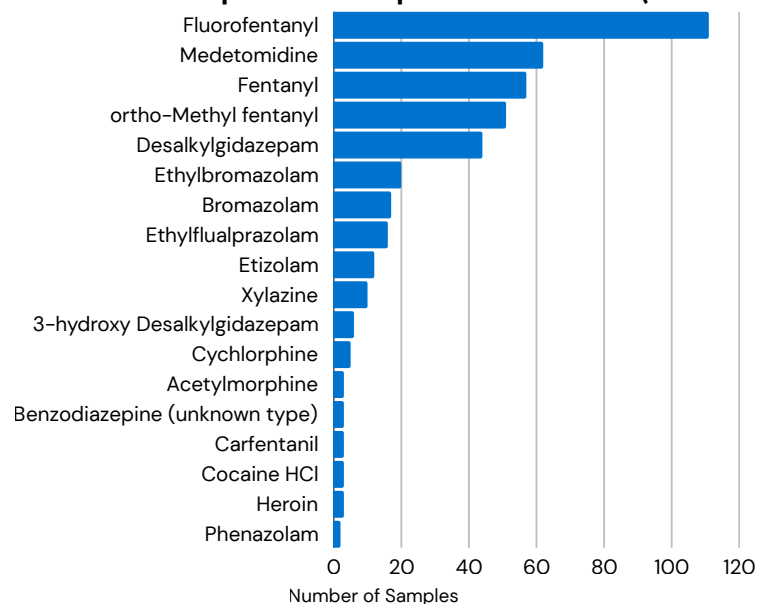


- In June, **3.1%** of all psychedelics (**3** ketamine samples), and **2.3%** of all stimulants (**3** crack cocaine, **4** methamphetamine samples) checked tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR/test strip.
- Of these, **4** samples were expected to be cross-contaminated by the service user due to sample storage/handling 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 = 145)



To save space, additional components detected a single time have been omitted from this chart: Acetylcodeine, Clonazepam, Cocaine Base, Fentanyl analogue (unknown type), Ketamine, Lidocaine, Methamphetamine, Norfentanyl.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Alert Message
June 2, 2026 Kelowna	Acetaminophen and Oxycodone (Percocet)	Counterfeit tablets sold as Oxycodone/Percocet tested positive for Medetomidine in Kelowna.
June 4, 2026 Penticton	Down	Pink chunks sold as down tested positive for Cyclorphine and Medetomidine 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).

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](#).