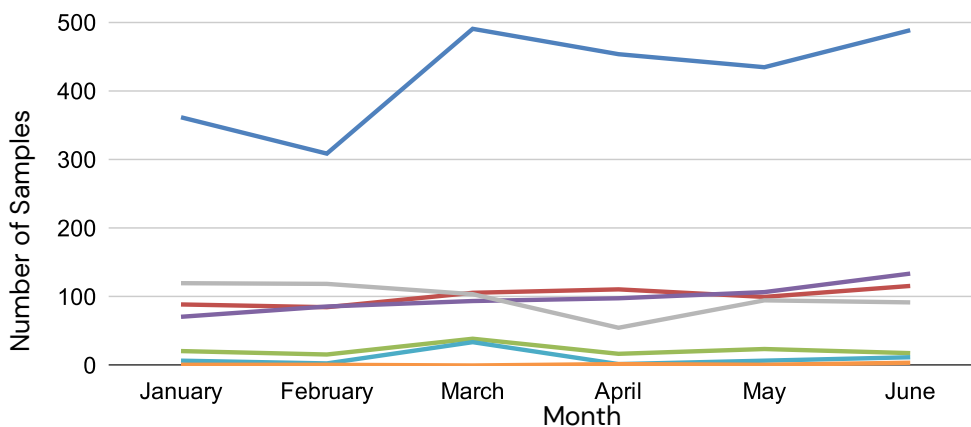




Key findings

- In June, **865** drug checks were performed by community FTIR drug checking sites in the Vancouver Coastal region (**10** access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **26.0%**. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified.
- We continue to monitor the increase in novel benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids. This month, ethylflualprazolam became the second most common benzodiazepine detected overall, followed by ethylbromazolam. Meclonazepam in was also detected in June.
- The percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine increased to **17.9%**. In response to emergence of medetomidine in the drug supply, Vancouver Coastal has implemented medetomidine test strips at all drug checking sites.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in June

Opioid	489
Stimulant	116
Depressant	18
Psychedelic	134
Other	12
Polysubstance	4
Unknown	92

Total: 865

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Insite (Vancouver)	804
LIFT Community Services (Powell River)	25
Whistler Community Service Society (Squamish)	13
Whistler Community Service Society (Whistler)	19
Total	865

Less than 5 samples were submitted to each of the following locations, which has been included in the total:
Insite (Richmond), Whistler Community Service Society (Mount Currie).

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	466	16	7	489
Stimulant	108	7	1	116
Depressant	14	4	0	18
Psychedelic	126	7	1	134
Other	9	2	1	12
Polysubstance	3	1	0	4
Unknown	0	0	92	92
Total	726	37	102	865

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

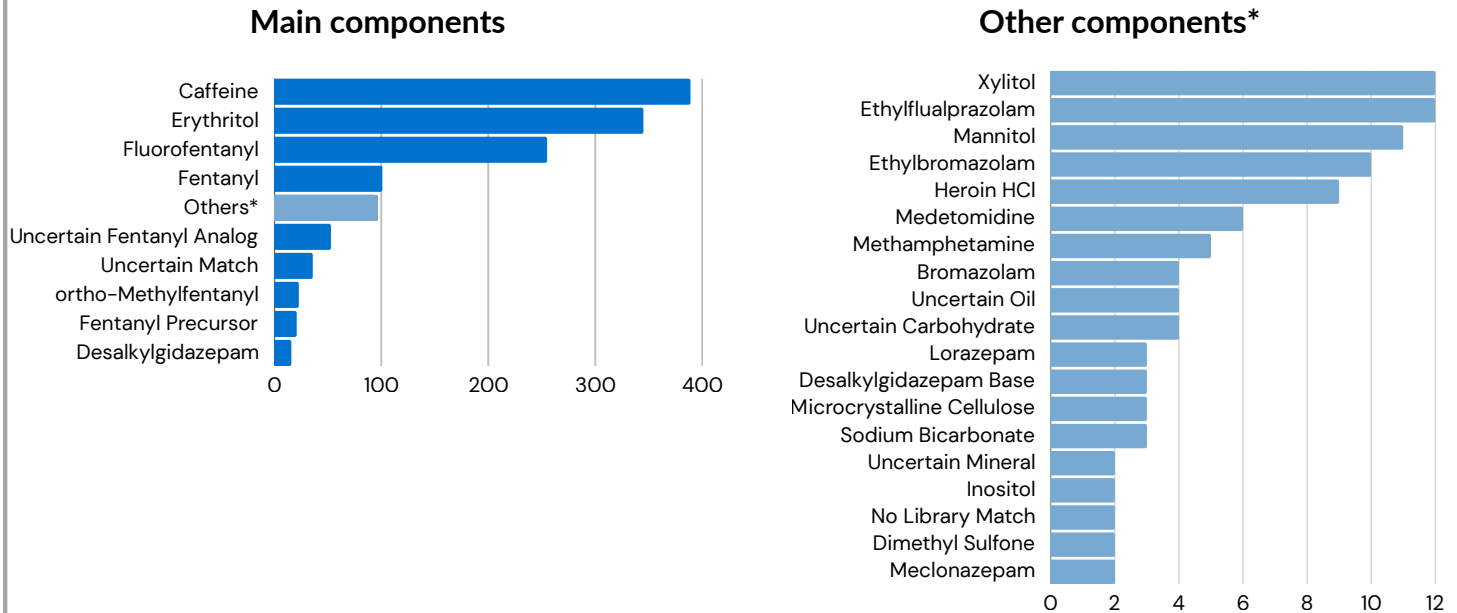
Opioids

Number of opioid samples with the expected drug present

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	43	1	0	44
Heroin	4	1	0	5
Down	407	13	0	420
Pharmaceutical	10	1	7	18
Opium	2	0	0	2
Total	466	16	7	489

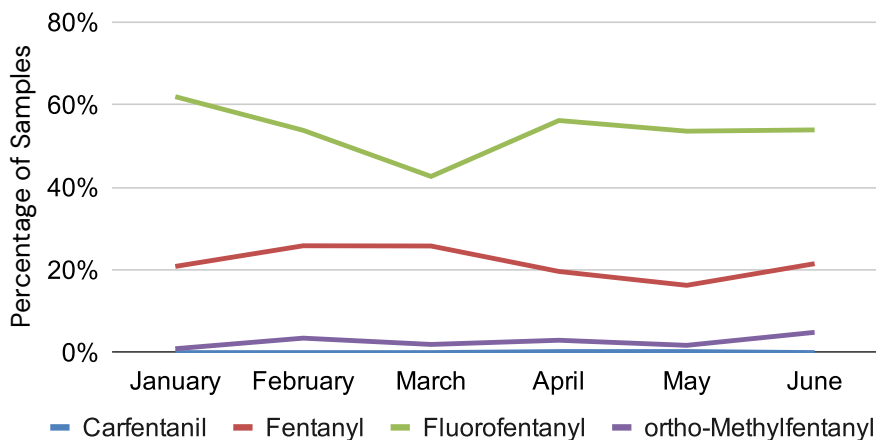
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=469)



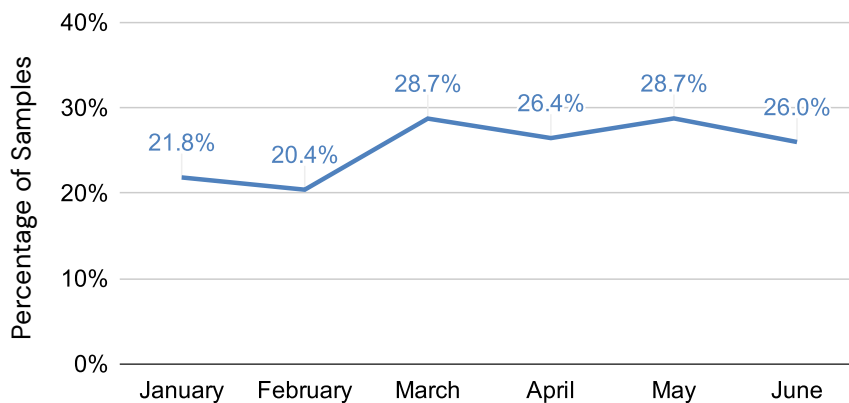
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



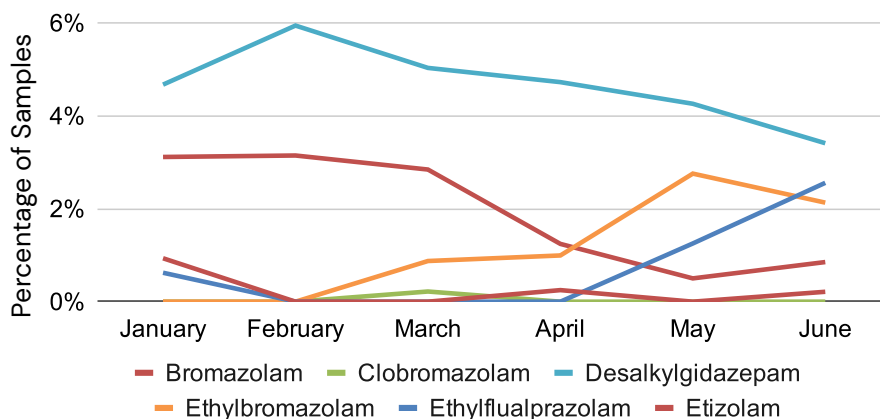
- In June, fluorofentanyl remained the most common fentanyl analog, detected by FTIR in **53.9%** of unregulated opioids (**215 of 469**).
- Conversely, fentanyl was detected in **21.5% (101 samples)**. Declining fentanyl detections may indicate that less is circulating in the unregulated opioid supply, 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



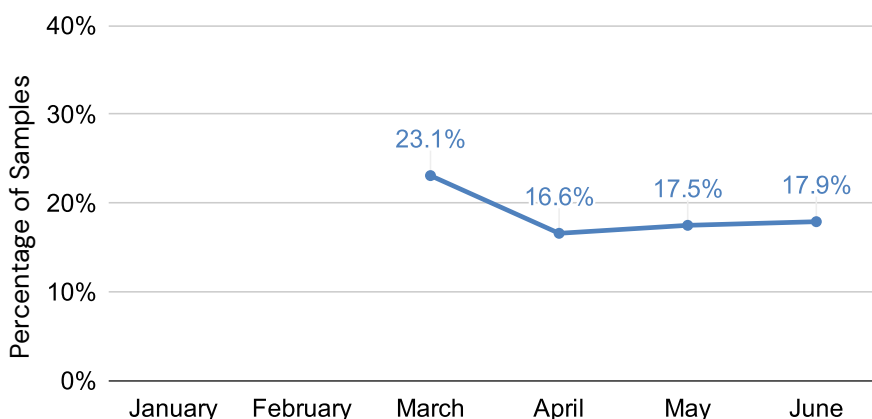
- During the month of June, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **26.0%** (127 samples of **489** checked).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., etizolam, ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months



- In June, **10.2%** of unregulated opioids (**48** of **469**) contained benzodiazepines at concentrations detectable by FTIR (>5%). Of these, desalkylgidazepam remained the most common (**3.4%**; **16** samples).
- There has been a shift from previous months with novel benzodiazepines, ethylbromazolam (**2.1%**), and this month, ethylflualprazolam (**2.6%**), surpassing bromazolam detection among opioids tested in the region.
- We are continuing to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines, which also included meclonazepam in June.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for medetomidine, past 6 months

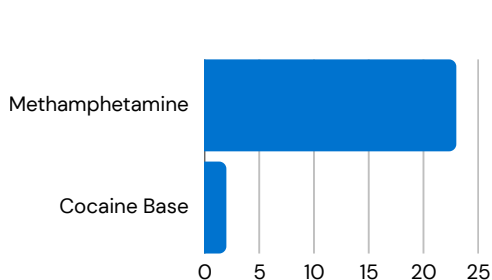


- During the month of June, the percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine increased slightly to **17.9%** (**84** of **469**). Of these, about half (**43** samples) were also positive for benzodiazepines.
- Unregulated opioids are checked for medetomidine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. As of March, 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%).

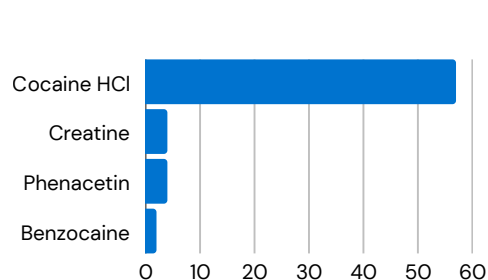
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

Components in methamphetamine (N=24)

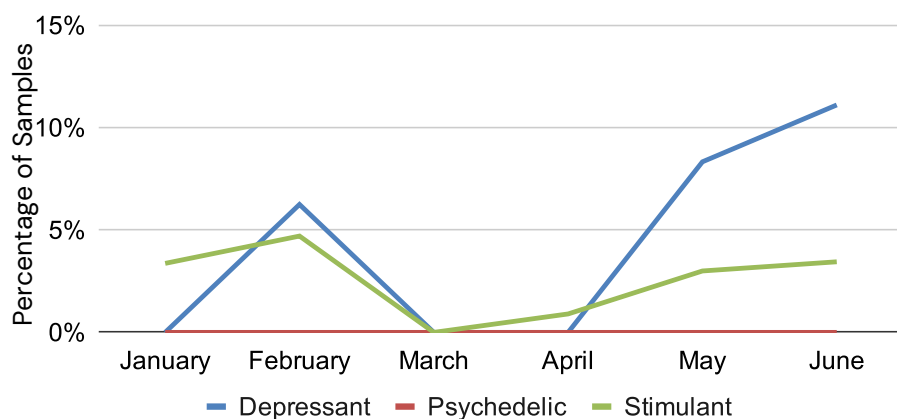


Components in cocaine (N=59)



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 detected in non-opioids, past 6 months



- In June, **11.1%** of all depressants (1 GHB, 1 alprazolam sample), and **3.4%** of all stimulants (1 methamphetamine, 1 crack cocaine, and 1 cocaine HCl sample) tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR/test strip.

- Of these, 1 sample was expected to be cross-contaminated by the service user due to sample handling/storage with opioids.

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](#).

No expected-opioid samples were submitted to Substance for secondary testing in June.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Alert Message
June 26, 2026 Vancouver	Acetaminophen and Oxycodone (Percocet)	White tablet labelled "TEC" and sold as Percocet (oxycodone + acetaminophen) in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and benzodiazepines and negative for oxycodone.
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](#).