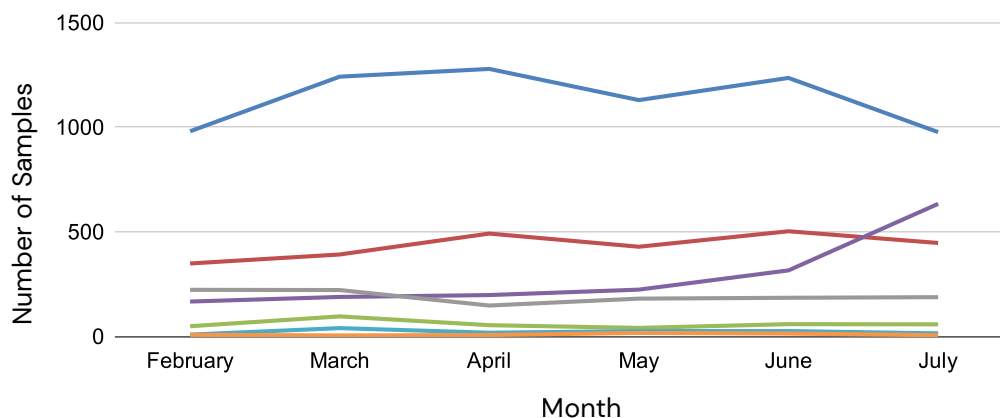




Key findings

- In July, **2,325** drug checks were performed by community FTIR drug checking sites in BC (**54** access points). The increase in samples checked, particularly in the psychedelic category, is typical of the summer and festival season.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased to **43.2%**. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified, though detection has been declining.
- We continue to monitor the emergence of novel benzodiazepines in unregulated opioids. In July, ethylbromazolam and ethylflualprazolam were the second and third most common benzodiazepines detected overall. Other novel benzodiazepines detected include 3-HO-desalkylgidazepam, clobromazolam, and meclonazepam.
- The percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine decreased to **29.4%**. In response to emergence of medetomidine in the drug supply, all health authorities have implemented medetomidine test strips at drug checking sites.
- The median concentration of fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl in unregulated opioids increased to **9.1%** (see page 3).
- Among opioids sent for secondary testing across BC in July ($n=182$), medetomidine was detected in **87** samples. Medetomidine concentrations ranged from **<1%** to **17%**, and the median was **3.0%**. In addition, xylazine was detected in **10** samples, and carfentanil in **5** samples. Notably, cyclophosphamide, a novel synthetic opioid, was detected in **3** samples this month.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in July

Opioid	977
Stimulant	447
Depressant	58
Psychedelic	634
Other	15
Polysubstance	6
Unknown	188

Total: 2,325

Number of samples tested by region

Vancouver Coastal Health region: 1124 (**48%**)

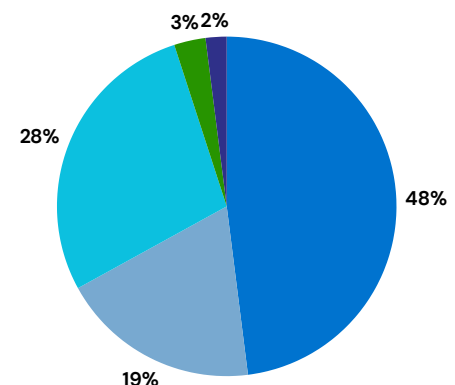
Fraser Health region: 445 (**19%**)

Interior Health region: 659 (**28%**)

Island Health region: 59 (**3%**)

Northern Health region: 38 (**2%**)

Total: 2,325*



*Does not include samples tested at Substance Drug Checking services.
Please see the Island Health report for more information.

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	933	23	21	977
Stimulant	433	14	0	447
Depressant	39	17	2	58
Psychedelic	593	37	4	634
Other	6	3	6	15
Polysubstance	5	1	0	6
Unknown	0	0	188	188
Total	2009	95	221	2325

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

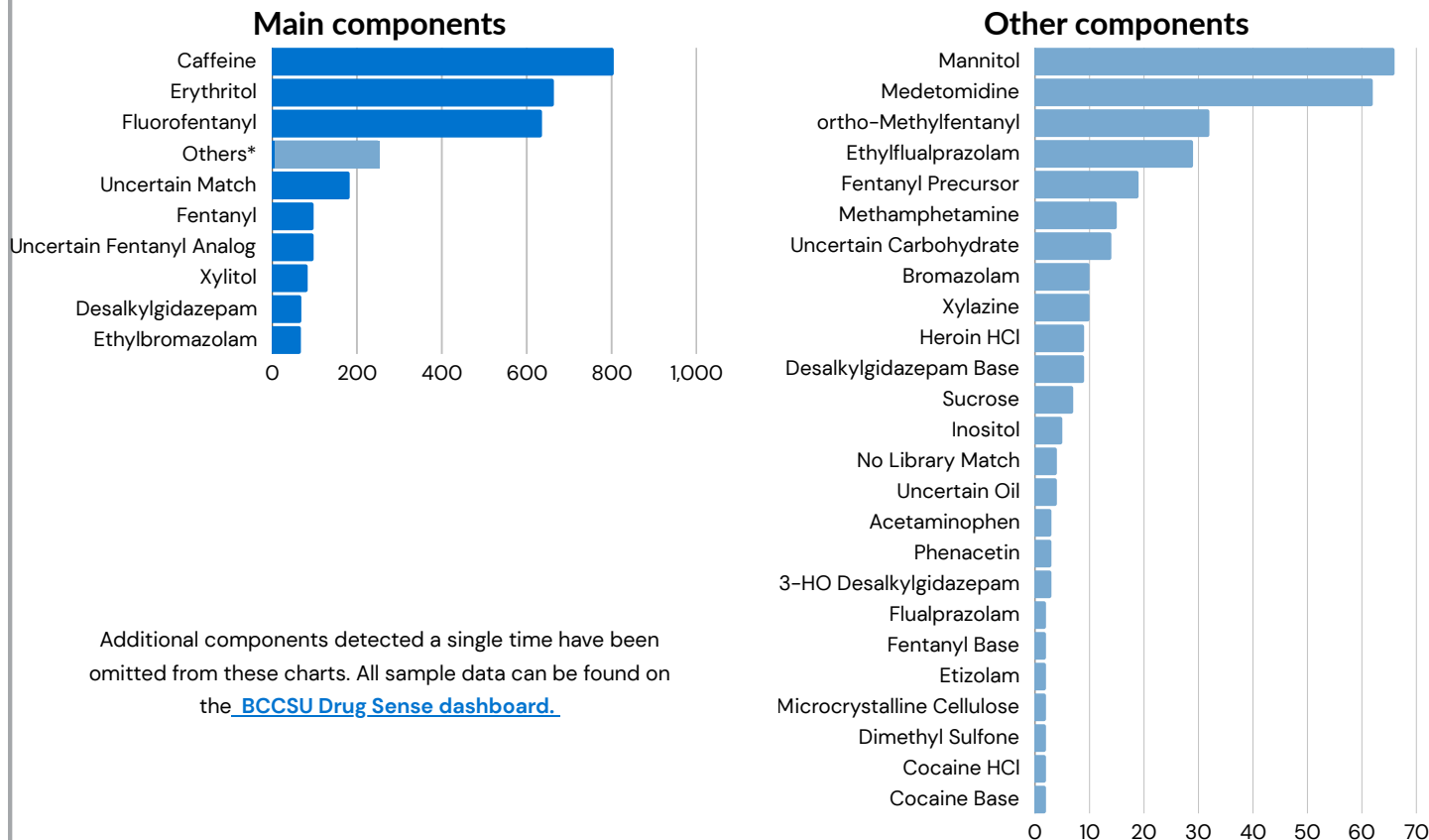
Opioids

Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	45	4	0	49
Heroin	4	2	0	6
Other Opioid	2	0	1	3
Down	842	10	1	853
Pharmaceutical	40	7	19	66
Total	933	23	21	977

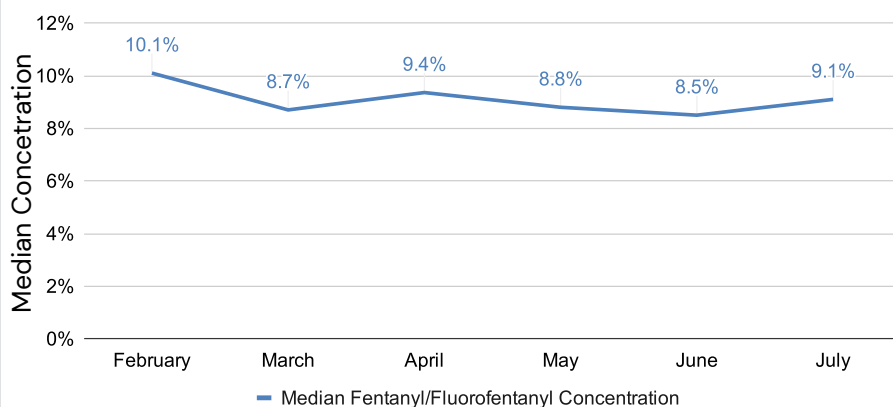
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=908)



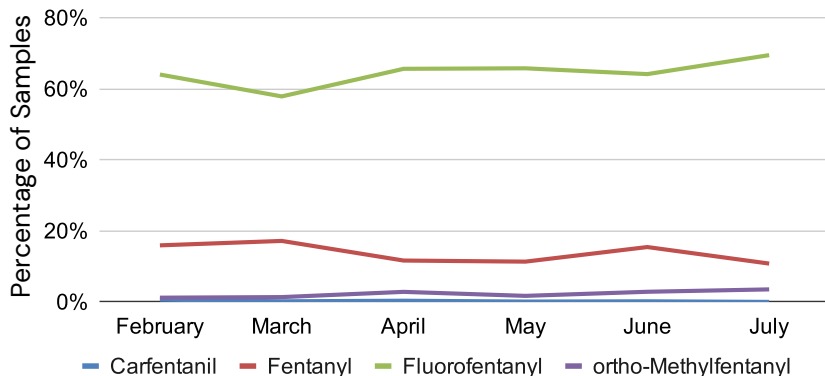
Median fentanyl concentration of unregulated opioids, past 6 months

Concentrations were estimated using a validated quantification model for the purposes of this report with aggregated data. To learn more about the QUANT3 quantification model visit [here](#).



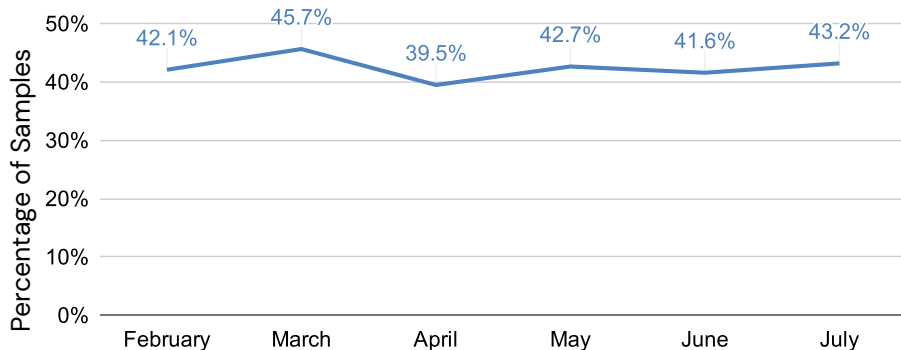
- In July, the overall median fentanyl/fluorofentanyl concentration increased to **9.1%** (n=870).
- Most unregulated opioids contained fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl at concentrations between **5.0%** and **14.4%**, but concentrations can range from trace amounts to comprising most of the mixture.
- Fentanyl and fluorofentanyl are the predominate fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, and are considered to have similar potency. They are combined here to show their overall median concentration over the past 6 months.

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



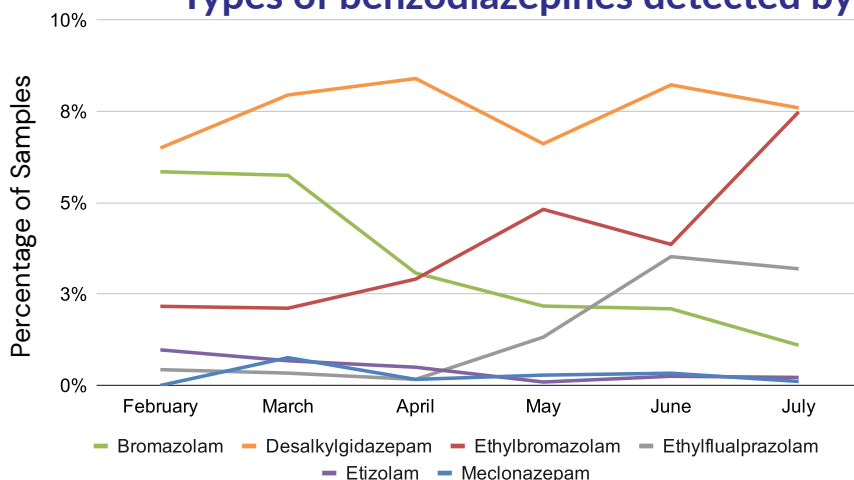
- In July, fentanyl detections by FTIR fell to a low of **10.8% (98 of 908 unregulated opioids checked)**. This decline may reflect that less fentanyl is circulating in the opioid supply, and/or that it is present in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%).
- Conversely, fluorofentanyl detections rose to **69.5% (631 samples)**, the highest proportion to date. Ortho-methylfentanyl detections also increased, found in **3.5%** of unregulated opioid samples in July.
- Carfentanil was not detected by FTIR this month. Its true prevalence is expected to be higher, as carfentanil is typically present at concentrations below the FTIR detection limit. See the **Secondary Testing** section for more information.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



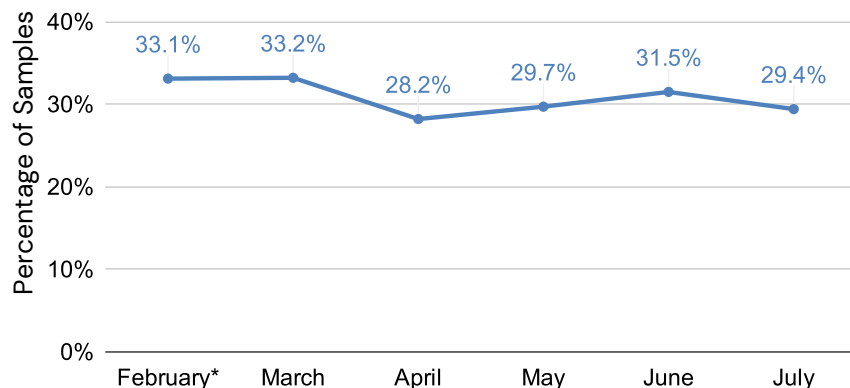
- During the month of July, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines increased to **43.2% (422 samples of 977 checked)**.
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., etizolam, ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months



- In July, desalkylgidazepam remained the most common benzodiazepine detected by FTIR in unregulated opioids (**7.6%; 69 samples**), followed by ethylbromazolam, which increased to **7.5% (68 samples)**.
- Bromazolam detections have declined steadily over the past 5 months, marking a shift as novel benzodiazepines, such as ethylbromazolam and ethylflualprazolam (**3.2%; 29 samples**), are detected more frequently.
- Other novel benzodiazepine detected in July include 3-HO-desalkylgidazepam, clobromazolam, and meclonazepam.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for medetomidine, past 6 months

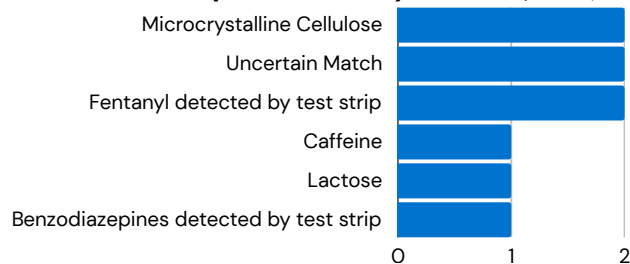


- In July, the percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine decreased to **29.4% (267 of 908)**. The majority were also positive for benzodiazepines (182 samples).
- Unregulated opioids are checked for medetomidine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. As 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%).
- *Please note that February consists of samples checked only in the Interior Health region.

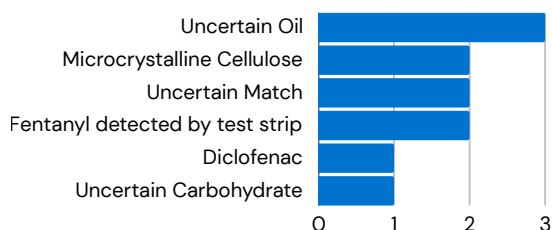
Components detected in pharmaceutical opioids

(where expected drug was not detected)

Ancetaminophen and Oxycodone (N=3)



Oxycodone (N=3)

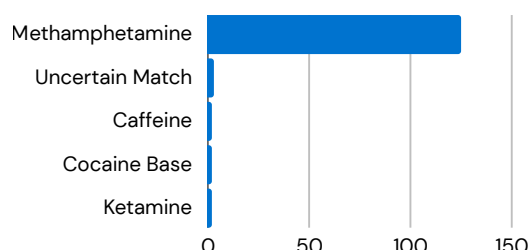


- In July, a total of **66** samples were submitted as pharmaceutical opioids. Of these, hydromorphone (Dilaudid) (**n=41**), acetaminophen + oxycodone (Percocet) (**n=12**), and oxycodone (OxyContin) (**n=9**) were the most frequently submitted.
- Among samples expected to contain oxycodone, **3** were determined to be counterfeit as they contained unexpected active ingredients: fentanyl/analogs detected by test strip, and diclofenac, an NSAID medication.
- Among samples expected to contain acetaminophen + oxycodone, **3** were determined to be counterfeit as they contained unexpected active ingredients: fentanyl/analogs, and benzodiazepines, which were detected by test strip.

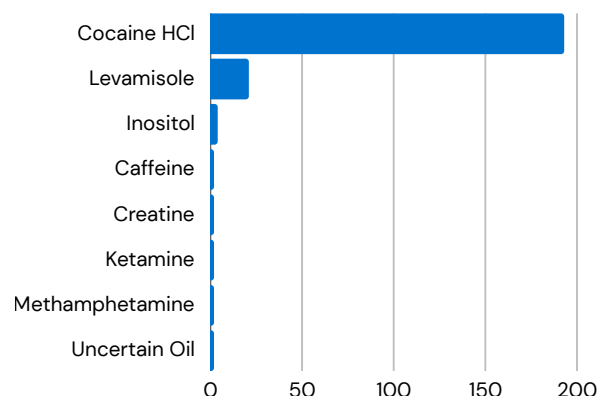
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

Components in methamphetamine (N=129)

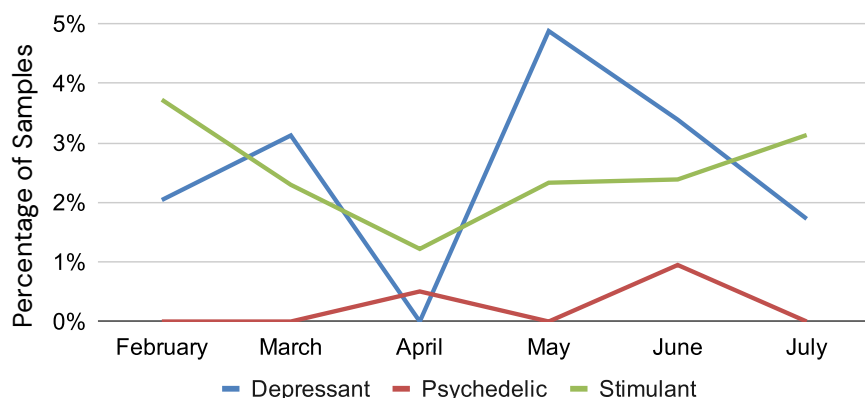


Components in cocaine (N=195)



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 July, **3.1%** of all stimulants (7 methamphetamine, 7 crack cocaine), and **1.7%** of all depressants (1 unknown benzodiazepine) tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip.
- Of these, **7** 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.

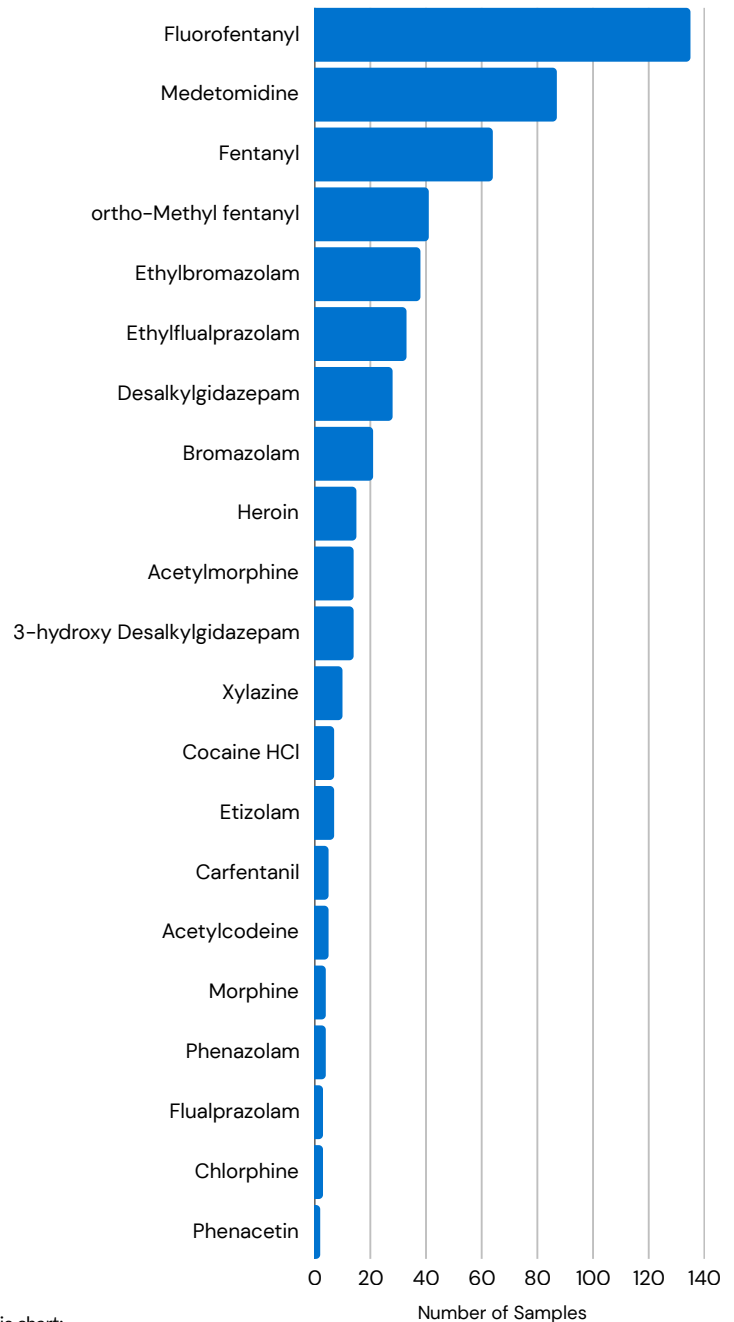
PSMS Secondary Testing Results Summary

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](#).

Total opioids sent to Substance

Health Authority	Number of Samples
Fraser Health	73
Interior Health	62
Northern Health	31
Island Health	10
Vancouver Coastal Health	6
Total	182

Active components detected (n=182)



To save space, additional components detected a single time have been omitted from this chart: Flualprazolam, Norfentanyl, Lidocaine, Cocaine Base, Ketamine, DXM, Codeine + Diclofenac, Procaine, Clonazepam.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Alert Message
July 27, 2026 Vernon	Oxycodone/Percocet	White tablet with "TEC" sold as Percocet tested positive for fentanyl in Vernon.
July 27, 2026 Vancouver	Down	Blue pebble sold as down in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver test positive for xylazine, fentanyl and para-fluorofentanyl.
July 30, 2026 Terrace	Down	Purpose granules sold as down tested positive for Medetomidine, Cychlorphine and Parafluorofentanyl (fentanyl analogue) in Terrace.

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.

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](#).