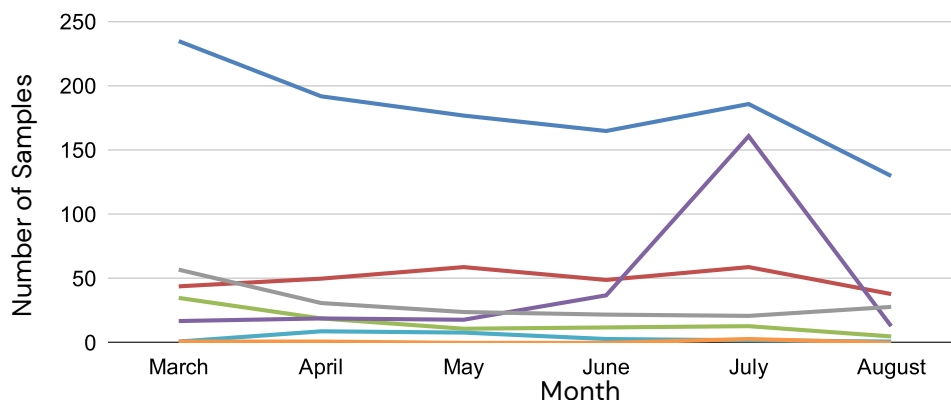




Key findings

- In August, **215** drug checks were performed by community FTIR drug checking sites in the Fraser Health region (**12** access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **55.4%**. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.
- Ethylbromazolam and ethylflualprazolam, novel benzodiazepines, were the most common benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids overall.
- The percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine increased to **62.2%**. In response to emergence of medetomidine in the drug supply, Fraser Health has implemented medetomidine test strips at all drug checking sites.
- Among opioids sent for secondary testing in August (**n=51**), medetomidine was detected in **37** samples, carfentanil in **5** samples, and xylazine in **4** samples.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in August

Opioid	130
Stimulant	38
Depressant	5
Psychedelic	13
Other	1
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	28

Total: 215

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	52
SafePoint (Surrey)	11
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	54
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	36
Mountainside (Langley)	13
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	13
Mountainside (Mission)	23
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	13
Total	215

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	128	2	0	130
Stimulant	33	5	0	38
Depressant	4	1	0	5
Psychedelic	11	2	0	13
Other	0	0	1	1
Polysubstance	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	28	28
Total	176	10	29	215

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

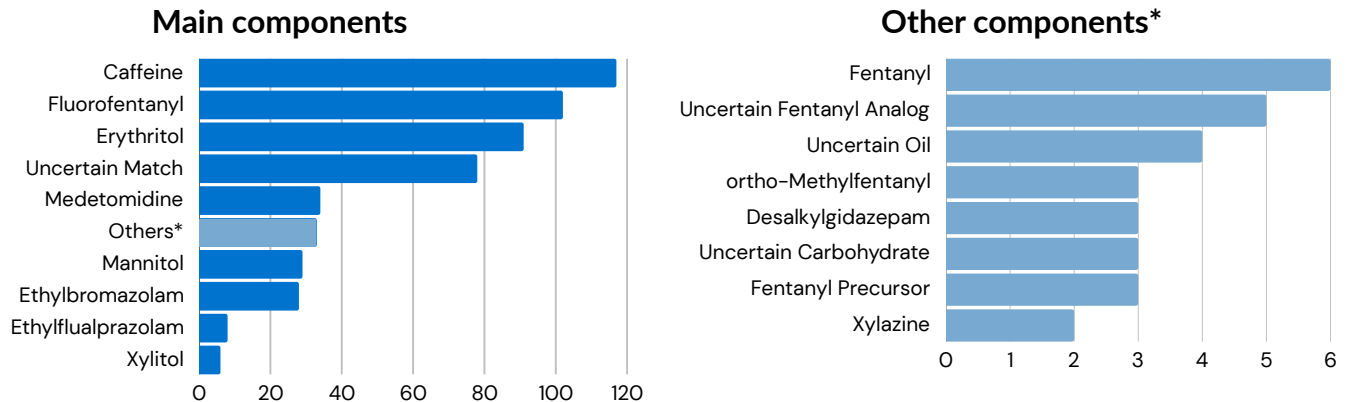
Opioids

Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	8	1	0	9
Heroin	1	1	0	2
Other Opioid	3	0	0	3
Down	116	0	0	116
Total	128	2	0	130

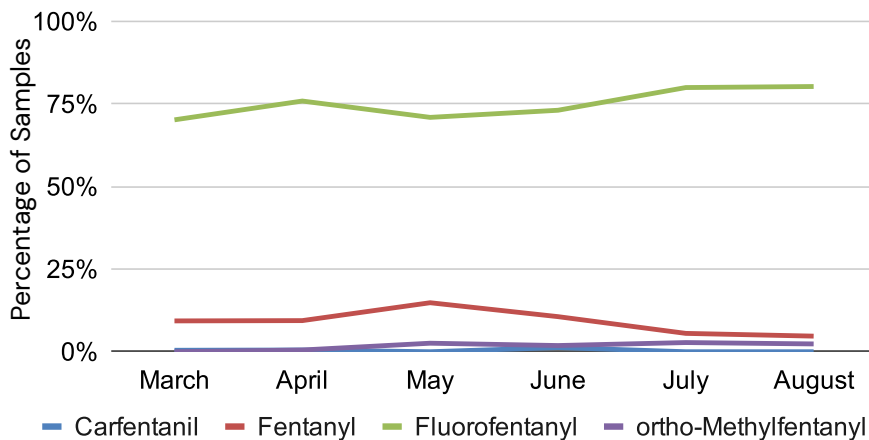
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=127)



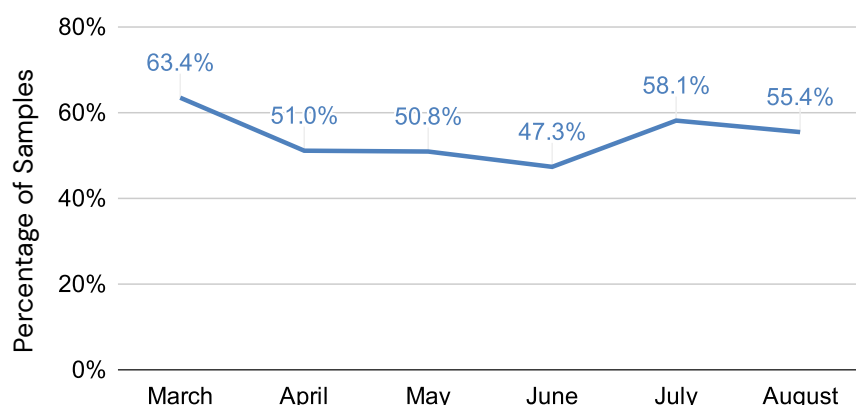
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



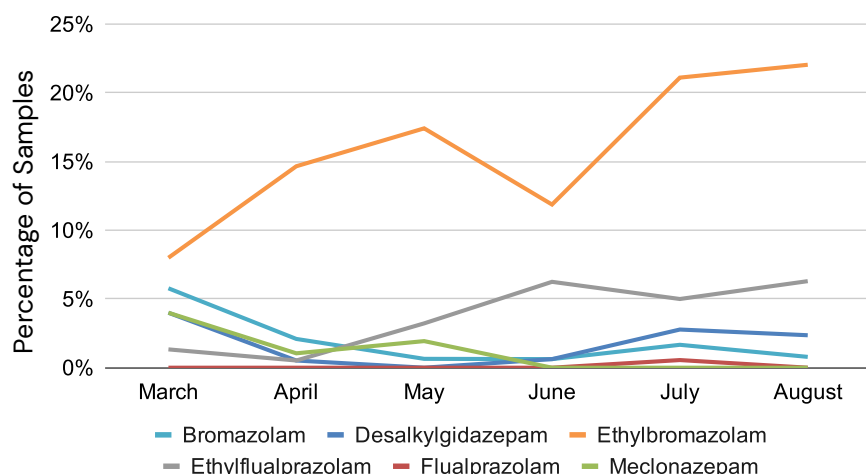
- In August, fentanyl detections by FTIR fell to a low of **4.7% (6 of 127 unregulated opioids checked)**. This decline may reflect that less fentanyl is circulating in the opioid supply, and/or that it is present in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%).
- Conversely, fluorofentanyl detections rose slightly to **80.3% (102 samples)**, the highest proportion to date. This month ortho-methylfentanyl found in **2.4%** of unregulated opioid samples.
- 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



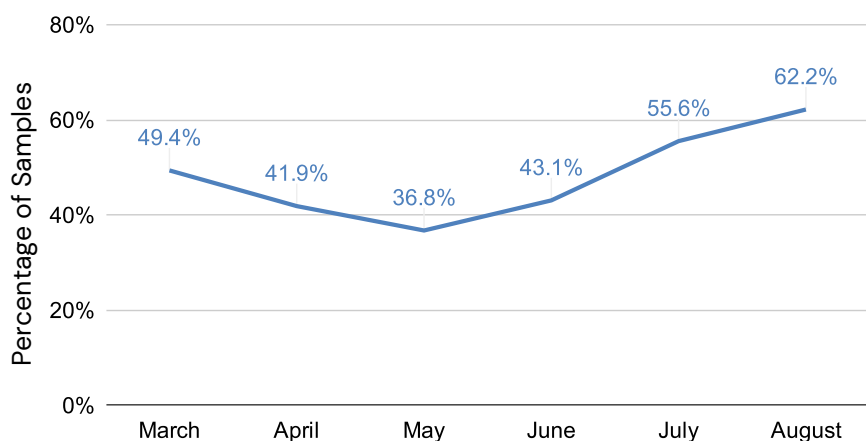
- During the month of August, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **55.4%** (72 samples of 130 checked).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., etizolam, ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months



- In August, ethylbromazolam remained the most common benzodiazepine detected by FTIR, rising to **22.0%** of unregulated opioids tested (28 of 127 samples), followed by ethylflualprazolam (**6.3%**; 8 samples).
- The increase in novel benzodiazepines marks a shift over the past 6 months, with desalkylgizazepam and bromazolam no longer being the predominant benzodiazepines in the region.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for medetomidine, past 6 months

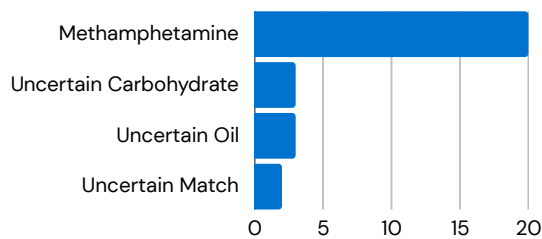


- In August, medetomidine positivity in opioid samples increased to **62.2%** (79 of 127).
- The majority of medetomidine positive opioid samples were also positive for benzodiazepines (**62 of 79** samples).
- BTNX medetomidine test strips are used in combination with FTIR. Medetomidine is typically present in low concentrations and may be missed by FTIR.

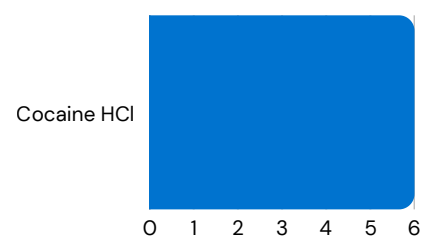
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

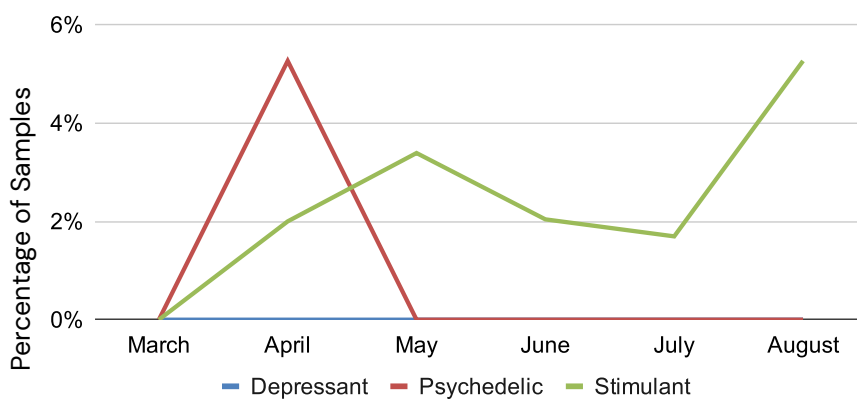
Components in methamphetamine (N=22)



Components in cocaine (N=6)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

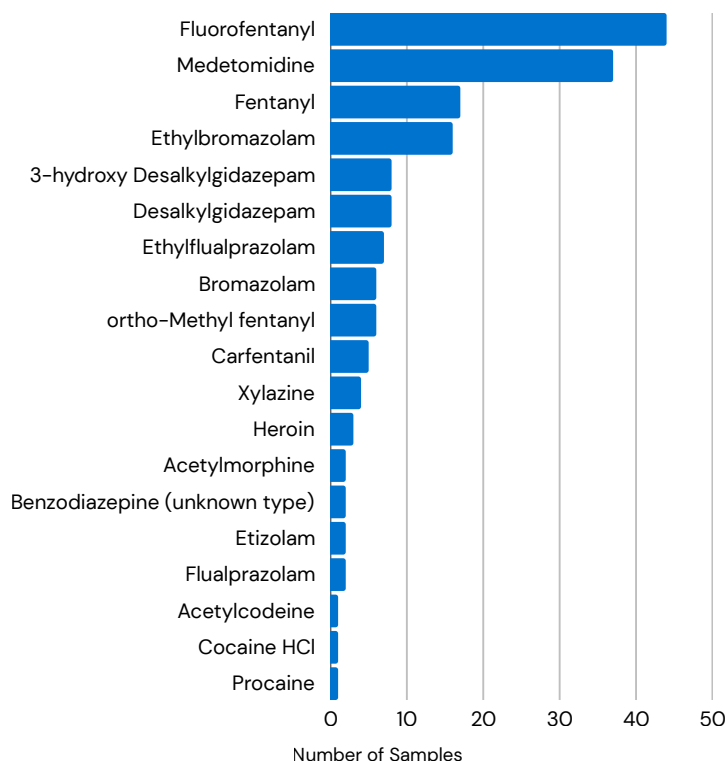


- In August, **5.3%** of all stimulants (2 crack cocaine samples) tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR/test strip.
- Of these, 1 sample was expected to be cross-contaminated by the service user due to sample storage/handling with opioids prior to submitting the sample for drug checking.

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=51)



Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Alert Message
August 12, 2026 Maple Ridge	Down	Brown chunks sold as down tested positive for high concentrations of carfentanil.
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](#).