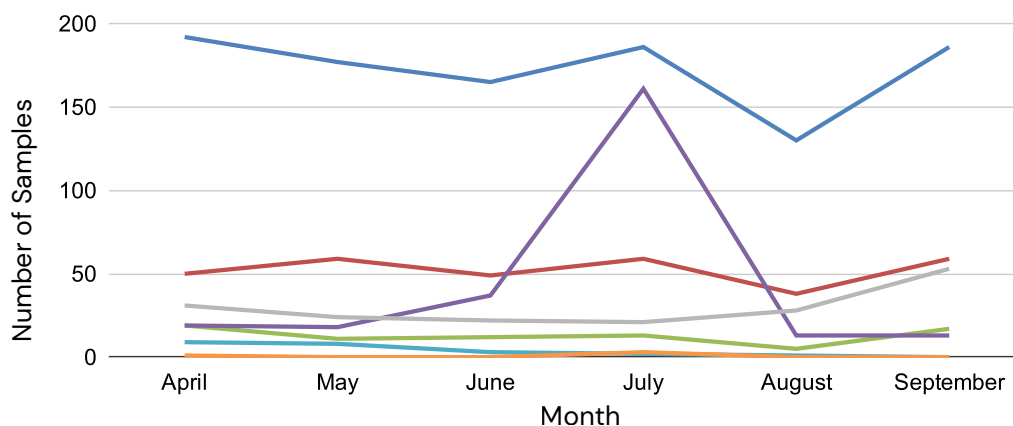




Key findings

- In September, **328** drug checks were performed by community FTIR drug checking sites in the Fraser Health region (**13** access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **49.5%**. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.
- Ethylflualprazolam and ethylbromazolam, novel benzodiazepines, were the most common benzodiazepines detected by FTIR in unregulated opioids overall.
- The percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine increased slightly to **62.4%**.
- Among opioids sent for secondary testing in September (**n=81**), medetomidine was detected in **58** 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 Sept.

Opioid	186
Stimulant	59
Depressant	17
Psychedelic	13
Other	0
Polysubstance	0
Unknown	53

Total: 328

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	83
SafePoint (Surrey)	34
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	67
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	52
Mountainside (Hope)	9
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	22
Mountainside (Mission)	20
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	38
Total	328

Less than 5 samples were tested at the following location, which has been included in the total: Mountainside (Langley).

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	180	6	0	186
Stimulant	58	1	0	59
Depressant	2	15	0	17
Psychedelic	13	0	0	13
Other	0	0	0	0
Polysubstance	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	53	53
Total	253	22	53	328

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

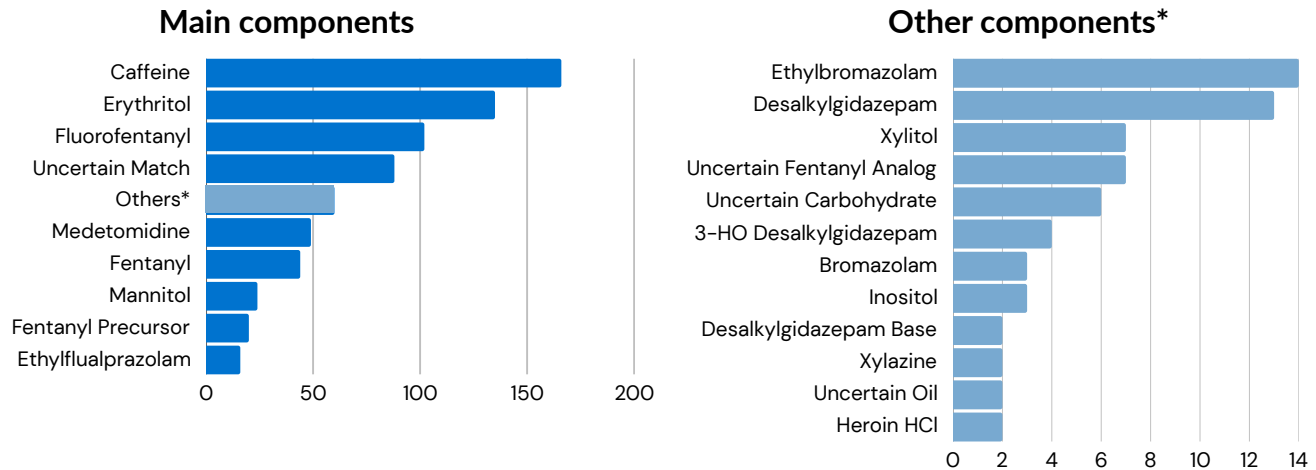
Opioids

Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	11	0	0	11
Heroin	1	0	0	1
Other Opioid	1	0	0	1
Down	164	2	0	166
Pharmaceutical	3	4	0	7
Total	180	6	0	186

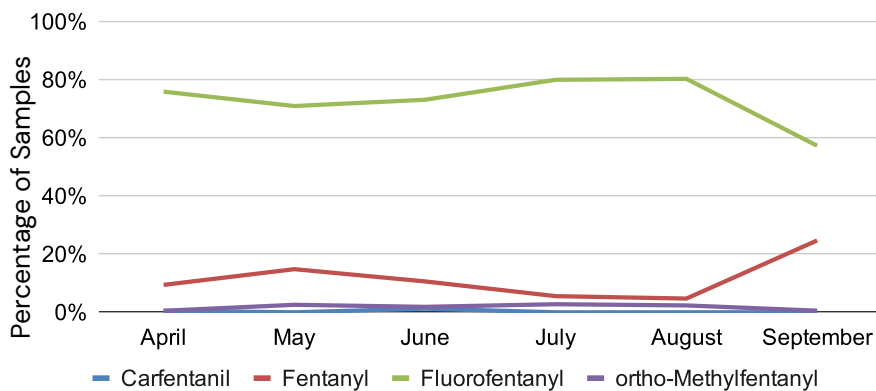
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=178)



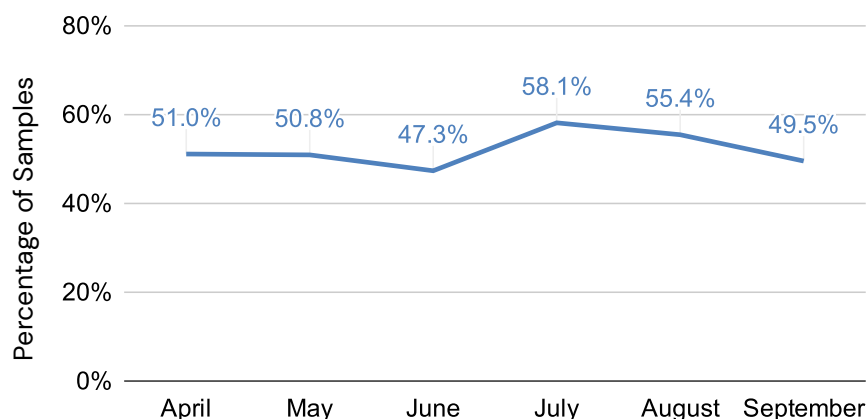
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



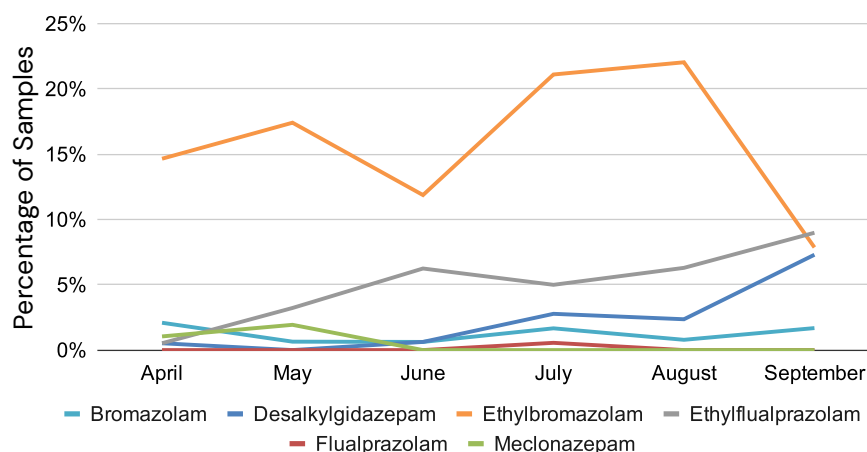
- In September, fluorofentanyl remained the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR, though detections decreased to **57.3%** of unregulated opioids checked (**102 of 178**).
- Conversely, fentanyl detections rose to **24.7%** (**102 samples**), the highest level of fentanyl detections since December 2025.
- Carfentanyl was not detected by FTIR this month. Its true prevalence is expected to be higher, as carfentanyl 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



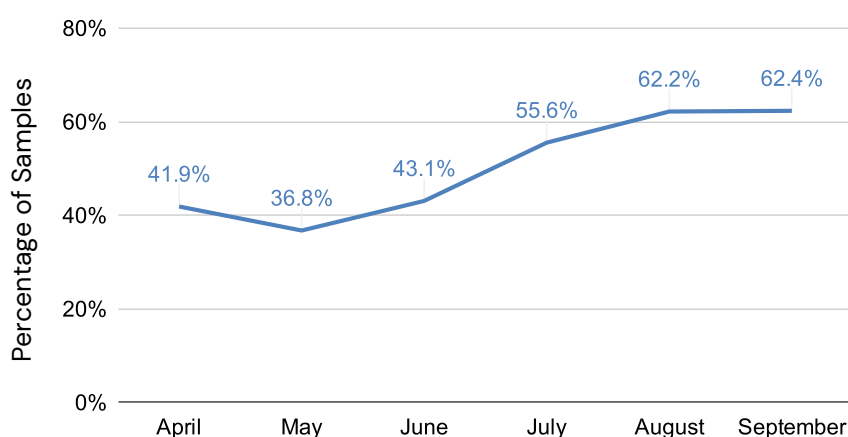
- During the month of September, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **49.5%** (92 samples of 186 checked).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., etizolam, ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months



- For the first time, ethylflualprazolam was the most common benzodiazepine detected by FTIR, found in **9.0%** of unregulated opioids checked (16 of 178).
- Ethylbromazolam detections declined to **7.9%** (14 samples), whereas desalkylgidazepam detections rose to **7.3%** (13 samples).
- There has been an increase in novel benzodiazepines over the past several months. Alongside ethylflualprazolam and ethylbromazolam, 3-HO-desalkylgidazepam was also detected in September.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for medetomidine, past 6 months

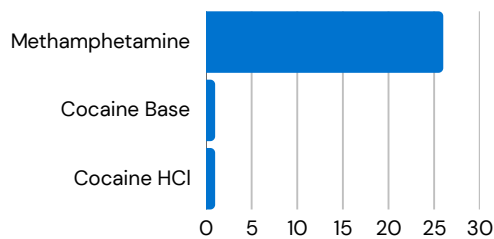


- In September, the percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine increased slightly to **62.4%** (111 of 178).
- The majority of samples containing medetomidine were also positive for benzodiazepines (72 of 111).
- Unregulated opioids are checked for medetomidine-positivity using 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%).

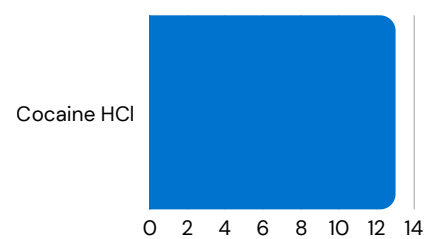
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

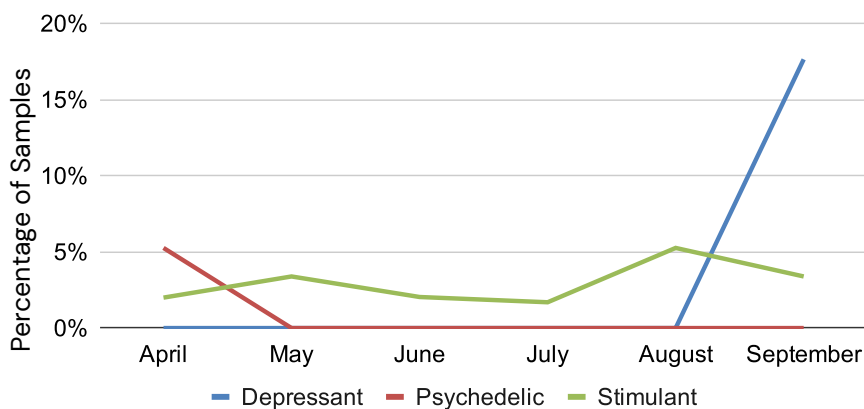
Components in methamphetamine (N=27)



Components in cocaine (N=13)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

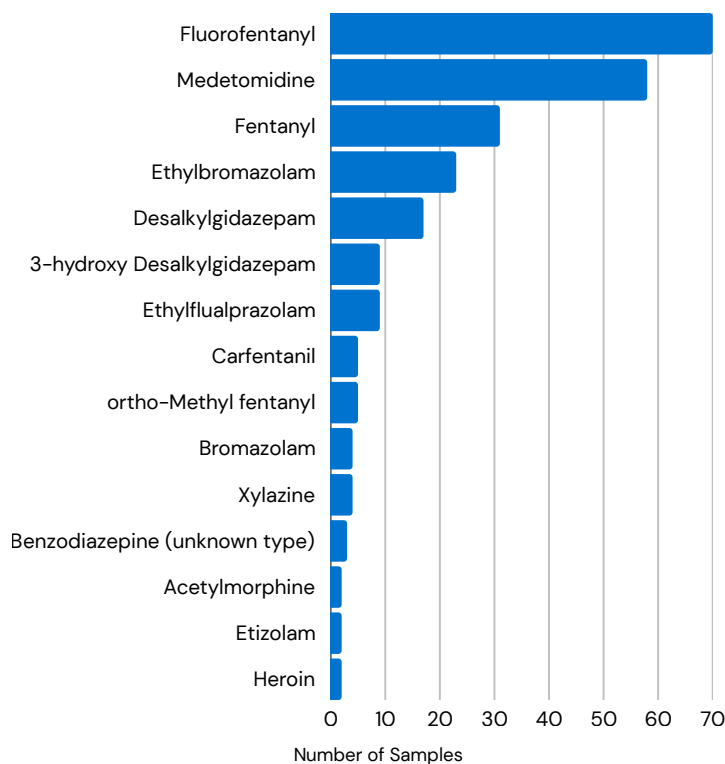


- In September, **17.6%** of all depressants (1 alprazolam, 1 unknown benzodiazepine, 1 medetomidine sample), and **3.4%** of all stimulants (2 crack cocaine samples) tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR/test strip.
- Of these, **2** samples were expected to be cross-contaminated by the service user 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=81)



To save space, additional components detected a single time have been omitted from this chart: Acetylcodeine, Cocaine HCl, Flualprazolam, Phenazolam.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Alert Message
In September, there were no alerts issued within the Fraser Health region pertaining to samples submitted for drug checking.		

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](#).