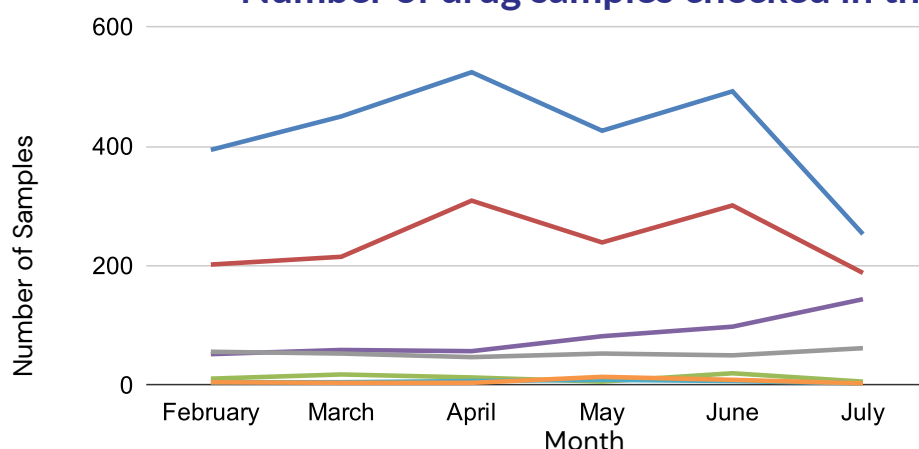




Key findings

- In July, **659** drug checks were performed by community FTIR drug checking sites in the Interior Health region (**24** access points). The increase in psychedelic samples checked this month is typical of the summer and festival season.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased to **64.4%**. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified.
- 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 and clobromazolam.
- The percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine decreased to **27.2%**. 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 July (**n=62**), medetomidine was detected in **24** samples, and xylazine in **5** samples.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples by drug category in July

Opioid	253
Stimulant	188
Depressant	6
Psychedelic	144
Other	3
Polysubstance	3
Unknown	62

Total: 659

Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
ANKORS (Cranbrook)	54
ANKORS (Nelson)	58
ASK (Kamloops)	132
ASK (Kelowna)	5
ASK (Penticton)	271
Interior Health (Kelowna)	87
Medicine Shoppe (Vernon)	52
Total	659

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	247	5	1	253
Stimulant	182	6	0	188
Depressant	3	3	0	6
Psychedelic	126	16	2	144
Other	0	0	3	3
Polysubstance	3	0	0	3
Unknown	0	0	62	62
Total	561	30	68	659

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

Opioids

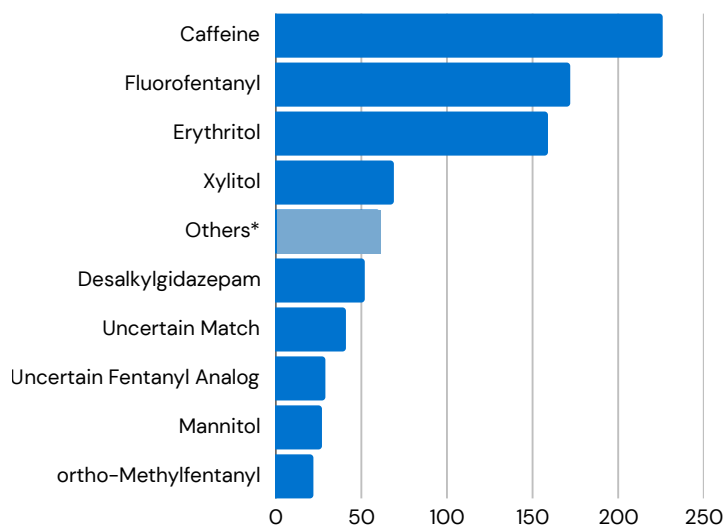
Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	9	0	0	9
Heroin	1	1	0	2
Other Opioid	1	0	0	1
Down	234	1	0	235
Pharmaceutical	2	3	1	6
Total	247	5	1	253

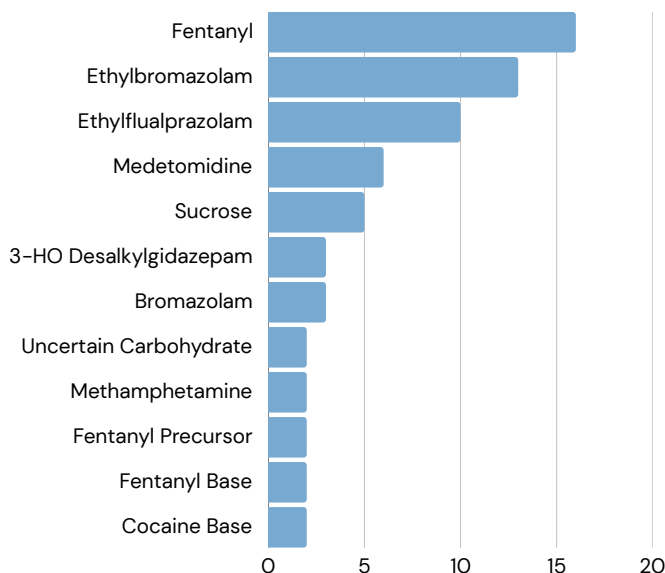
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=246)

Main components

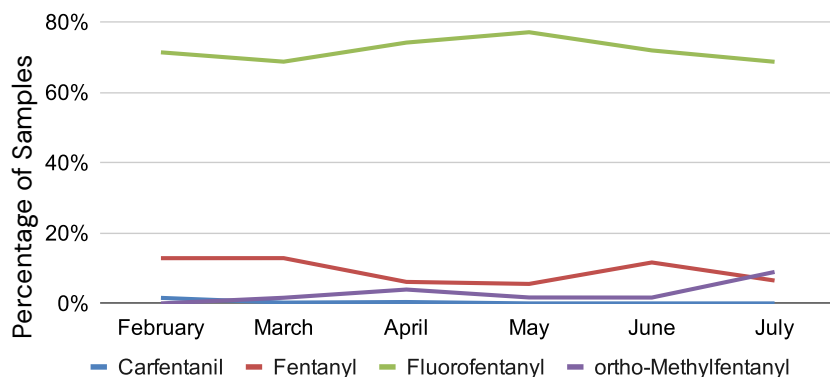


Other components*



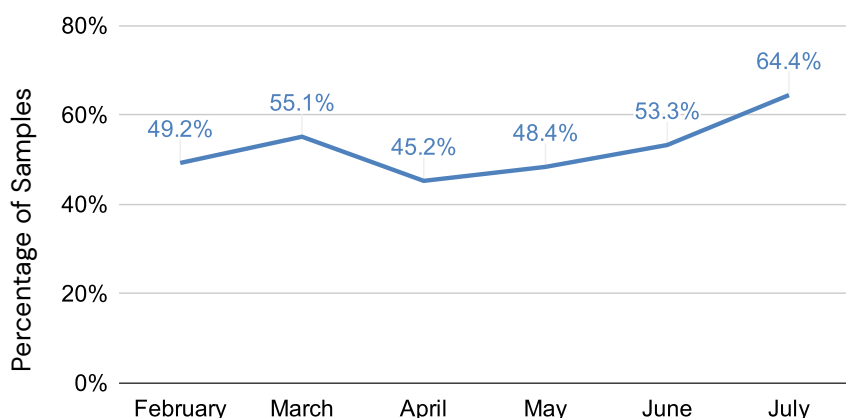
Additional components detected a single time have been omitted from these charts. All sample data can be found on the [BCCSU Drug Sense dashboard](#).

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



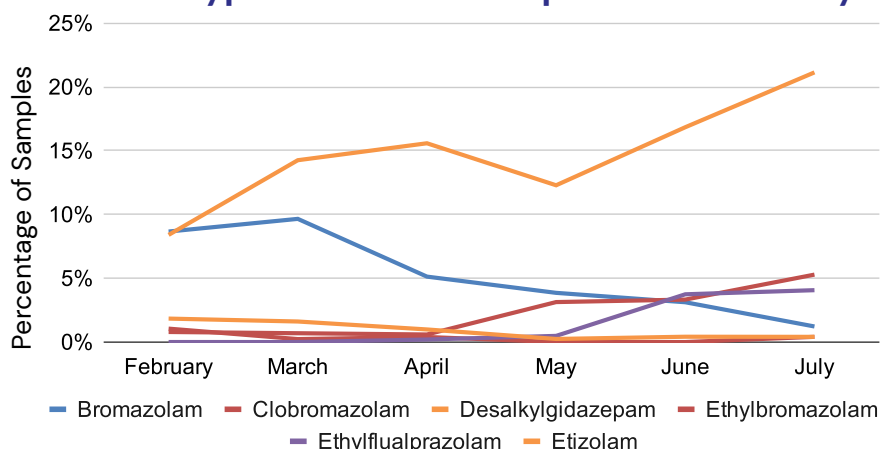
- In July, fluorofentanyl remained the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR, found in **68.7%** of unregulated opioids (**172 of 246**).
- Fentanyl detections decreased to **6.5% (16 samples)**. The declining number of fentanyl detections may reflect that less fentanyl is circulating in the opioid supply, and/or that it is present in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%).
- Ortho-methylfentanyl detections increased to **8.9% (22 samples)** in July.
- 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



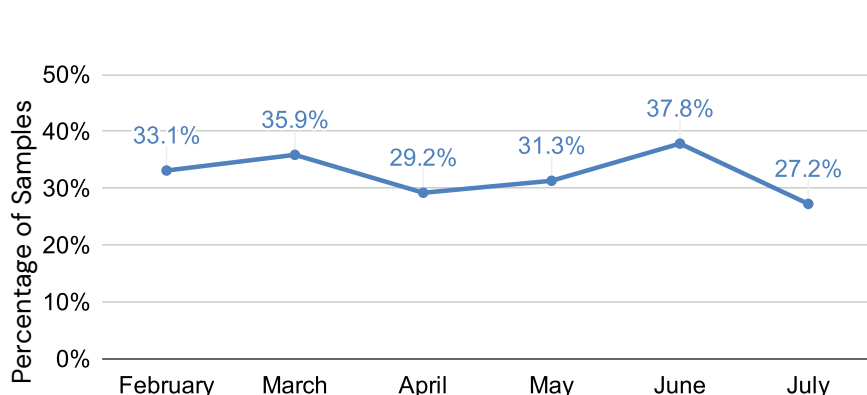
- During the month of July, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines increased to 64.4% (163 samples of 253 checked).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., etizolam, ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months



- In July, desalkylgizapam remained the most common benzodiazepine detected by FTIR, found in 21.1% of unregulated opioids checked (52 samples).
- Bromazolam detections have declined steadily over the past 5 months, marking a shift as novel benzodiazepines, such as ethylbromazolam (5.3%; 13 samples) and ethylflualprazolam (4.1%; 10 samples), are detected more frequently.
- Other novel benzodiazepines detected in July include 3-HO-desalkylgizapam and clobromazolam.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for medetomidine, past 6 months

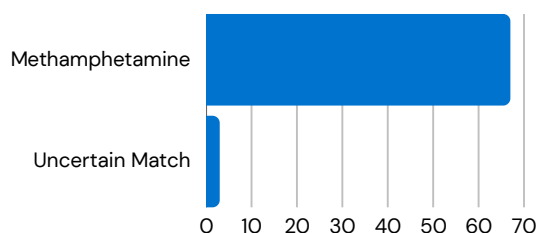


- In July, the percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine decreased to 27.2% (67 of 246). The majority were also positive for benzodiazepines (56 samples).
- Unregulated opioids are checked for medetomidine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. As of February, 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%).

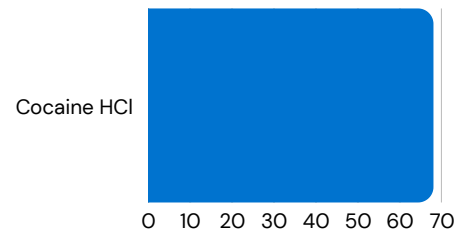
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

Components in methamphetamine (N=69)

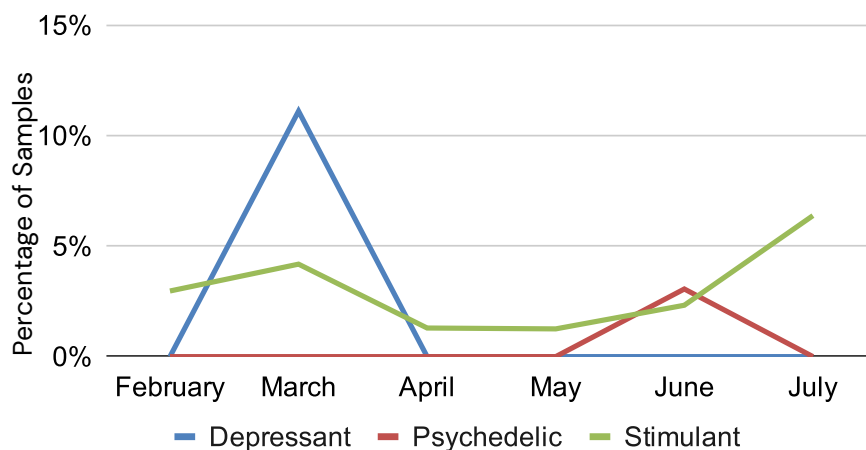


Components in cocaine (N=70)



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

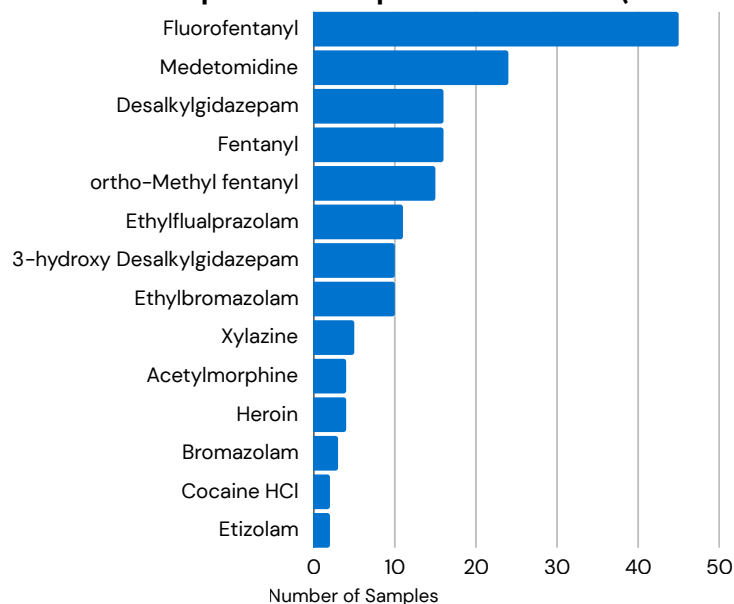


- In July, **6.4%** of all stimulant samples (**6** crack cocaine, **6** methamphetamine) tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR/test strip.
- Of these, **7** samples were expected to be cross-contaminated by the service user due to sample storage/handling with opioids prior to submitting the sample for 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](#).

Active components in opioids submitted (N = 145)



To save space, additional components detected a single time have been omitted from this chart: Benzodiazepine (unknown type), Fentanyl or analogue, Flualprazolam, Meclonazepam, Methamphetamine, Phenacetin, Phenazolam

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.

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](#).