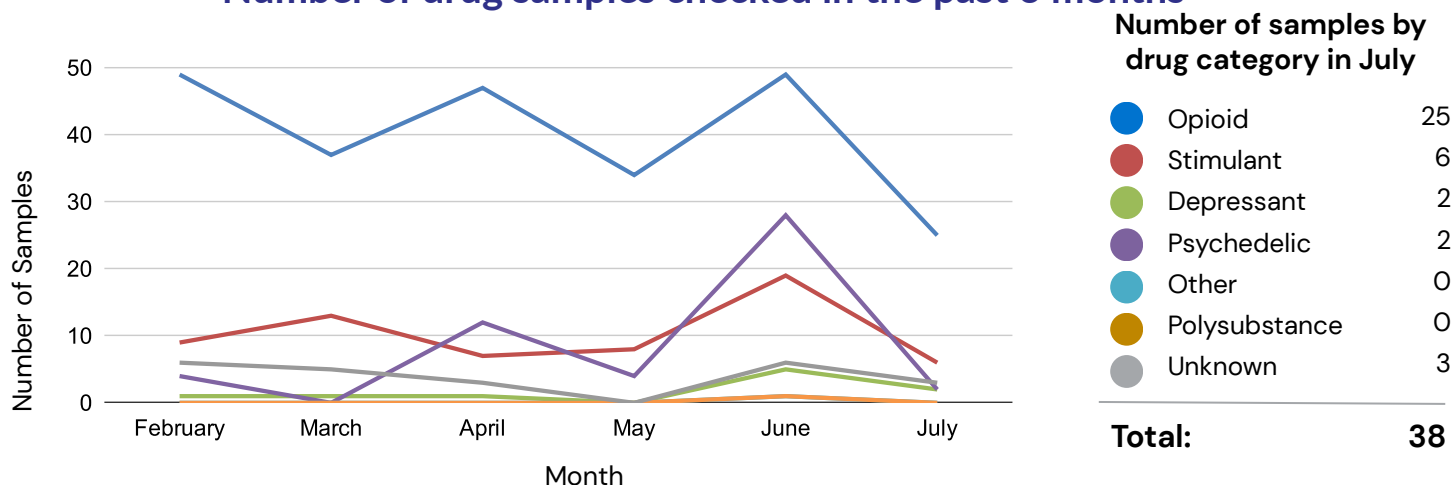




Key findings

- In July, **38** drug checks were performed by community FTIR drug checking sites in the Northern Health region (6 access points).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **28.0%**.
- The percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine increased to **80.0%**. In response to emergence of medetomidine in the drug supply, Northern Health has implemented medetomidine test strips at all drug checking sites.
- Among opioids sent for secondary testing in July (**n=31**), medetomidine was detected in **18** samples.
- Note that trends may be difficult to infer due to the smaller number of samples tested over a large geographic region.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
POUNDS (Prince George)	25
Terrace ICMT (Terrace)	8
Total	38

Less than 5 samples were submitted to each of the following locations, which are included in the total:
POUNDS (Quesnel), POUNDS (Fort St. John), Terrace ICMT (Smithers)

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	25	0	0	25
Stimulant	6	0	0	6
Depressant	1	1	0	2
Psychedelic	2	0	0	2
Unknown	0	0	3	3
Total	34	1	3	38

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

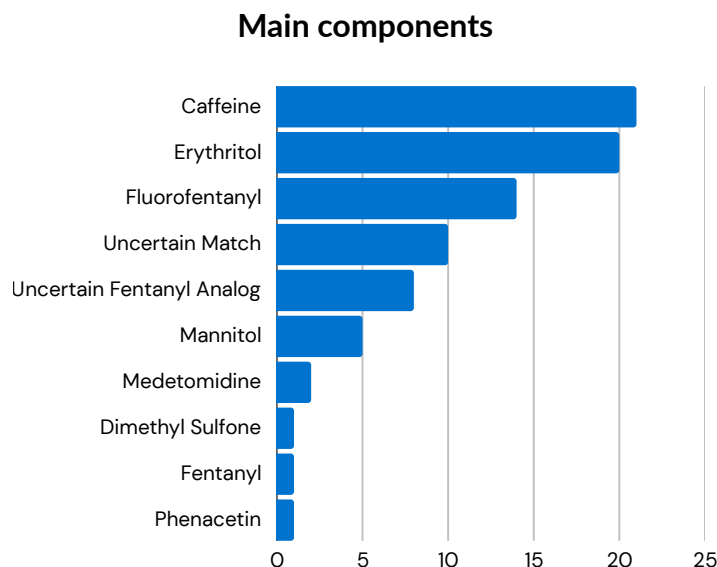
Opioids

Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

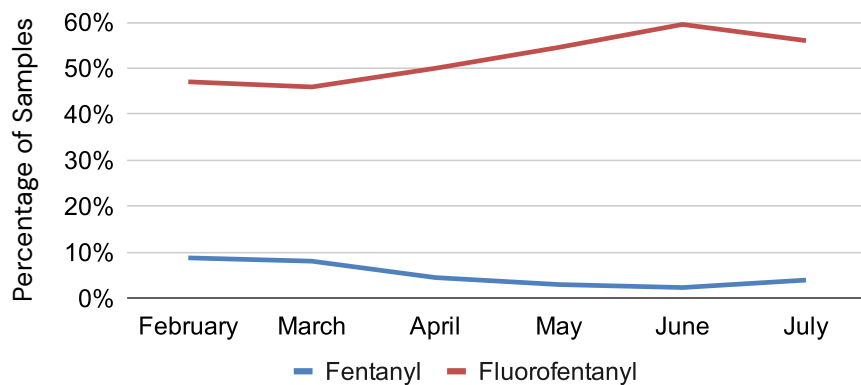
Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	1	0	0	1
Down	24	0	0	24
Total	25	0	0	25

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=25)

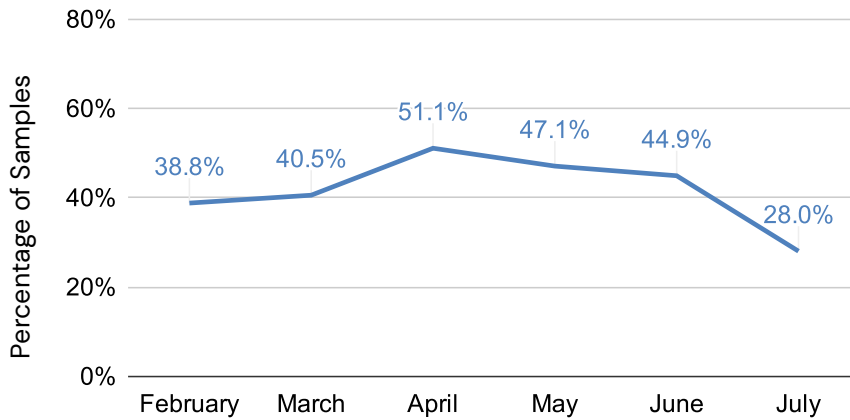


Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



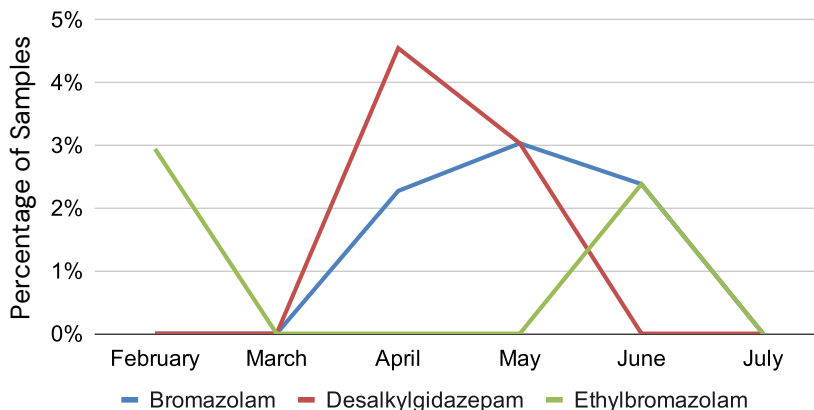
- In July, fluorofentanyl remained the most common fentanyl analog detected by FTIR, found in **56.0%** of unregulated opioids (**14 of 25**).
- Fentanyl was detected in **4.0%** of unregulated opioids checked (1 sample). The declining number of fentanyl detections may reflect that less fentanyl is circulating in the opioid supply, and/or that it is present in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%).
- 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



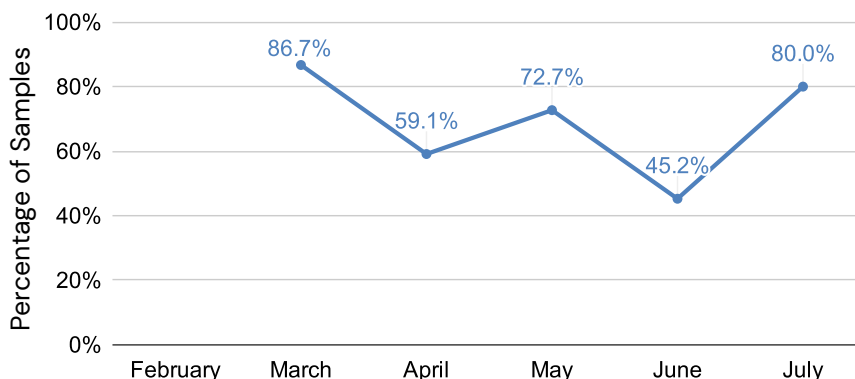
- During the month of July, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **28.0%** (7 samples of **25** checked).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., etizolam, ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months



- In July, there were no instances of unregulated opioid samples containing benzodiazepines in concentrations high enough to be detectable by FTIR (>5%).
- Please see the secondary testing section of this report for more information on the types of benzodiazepines detected by PSMS in opioid samples.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for medetomidine, past 6 months

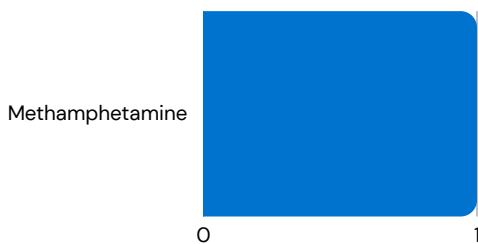


- In July, the percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine increased to **80.0%** (20 of 25). Of these, **4** were also positive for benzodiazepines.
- Unregulated opioids are checked for medetomidine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. As of March, test 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%).

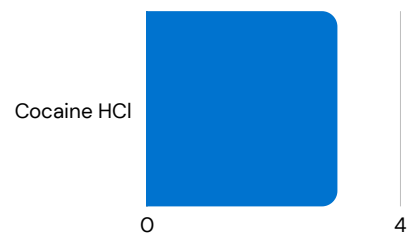
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

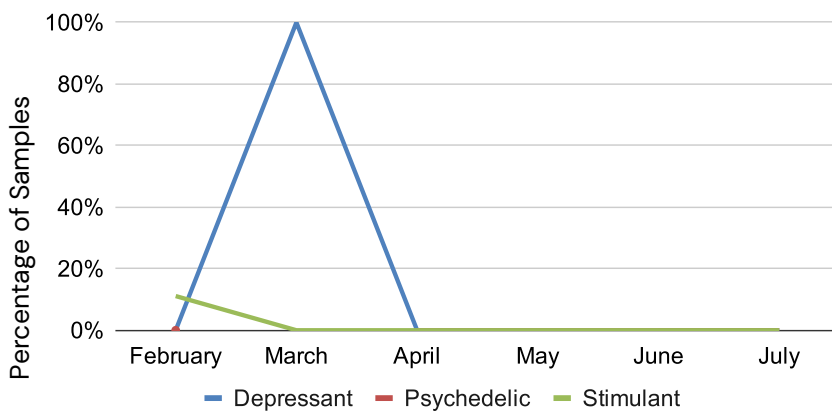
Components in methamphetamine (N=1)



Components in cocaine (N=3)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

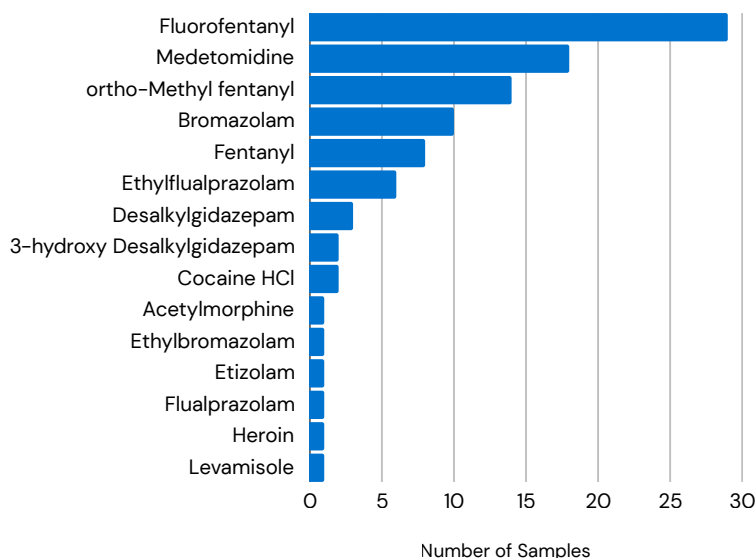


- There were no instances of non-opioid samples testing positive for fentanyl in July.

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 = 31)



Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Alert Message
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](#).