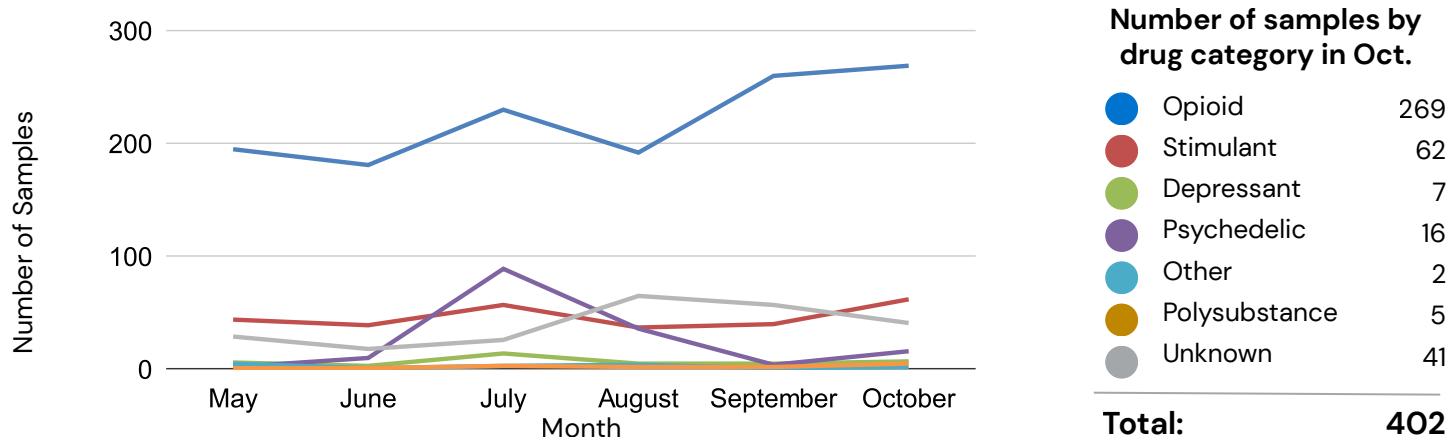




Key findings

- In October, **402** drug checks were performed by services offering FTIR drug checking in the Fraser Health region (**14 access points**).
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased to **55.0%**. Desalkylidazepam remained the most common detected by FTIR.
- There has been an influx of novel benzodiazepines detected by FTIR in unregulated opioids this year. In October, this included nifoxipam, ethylbromazolam, clobromazolam, and meclonazepam.
- Among samples sent for secondary testing with Paper-Spray Mass Spectrometry in October (**n=143**), medetomidine was detected in **47 samples**, xylazine in **19 samples**, and carfentanil in **18 samples**.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of drug checks at each site

Location	# of Drugs Checked
Foxglove Housing (Surrey)	64
SafePoint (Surrey)	34
Mountainside (Abbotsford)	91
Mountainside (Chilliwack)	102
Mountainside (Langley)	14
Mountainside (Maple Ridge)	38
Mountainside (Mission)	9
Progressive Housing (Burnaby)	8
Purpose Society (New Westminster)	5
SOURCES (White Rock)	35
Total	402

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

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	257	9	3	269
Stimulant	59	3	0	62
Depressant	3	4	0	7
Psychedelic	15	1	0	16
Other	0	1	1	2
Polysubstance	4	1	0	5
Unknown	0	0	41	41
Total	338	19	45	402

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

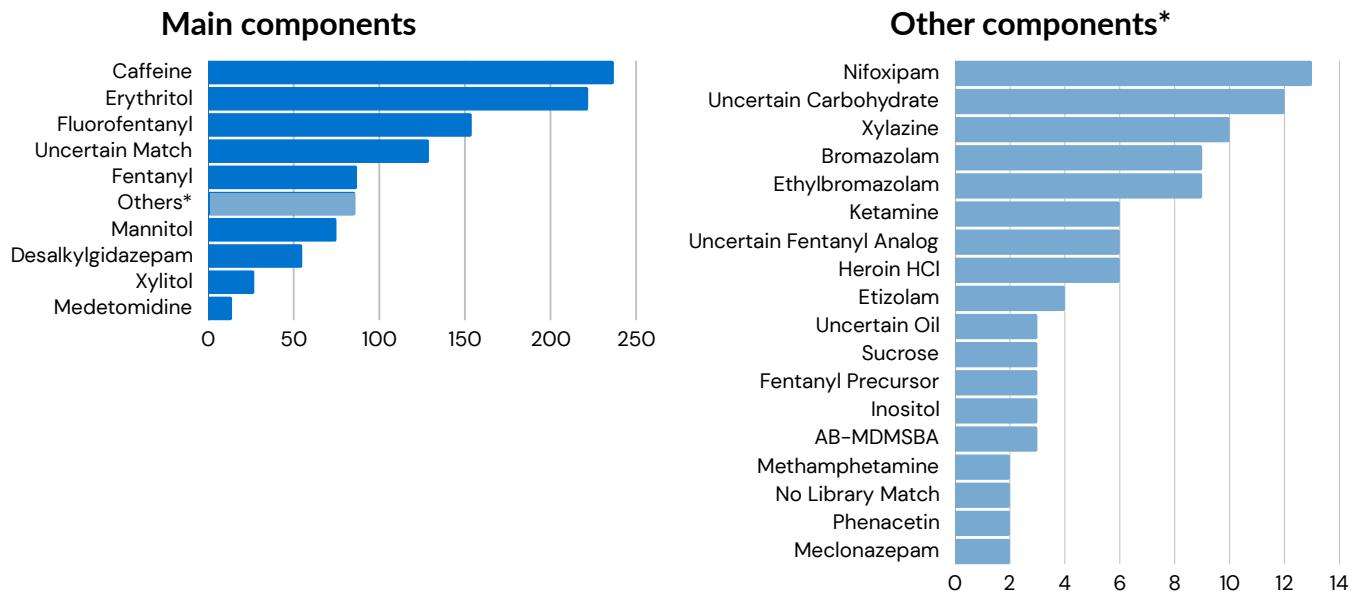
Opioids

Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	10	2	0	12
Heroin	1	2	0	3
Fentanyl and Heroin	1	0	0	1
Down	239	2	2	243
Pharmaceutical	5	3	1	9
Opium	1	0	0	1
Total	257	9	3	269

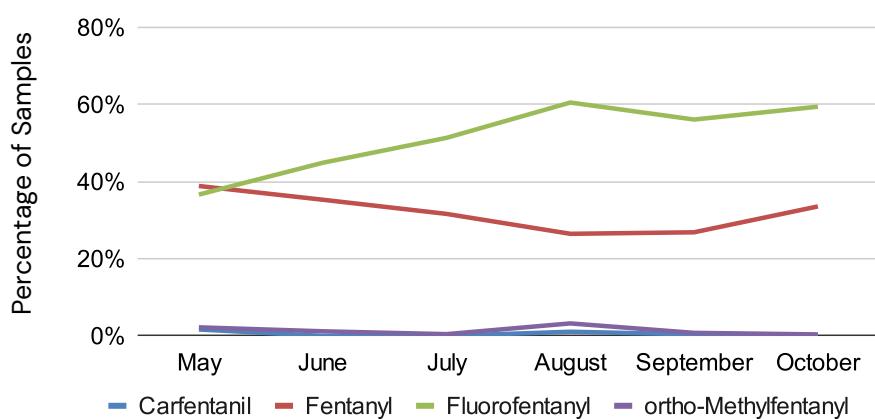
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents. 'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=259)



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



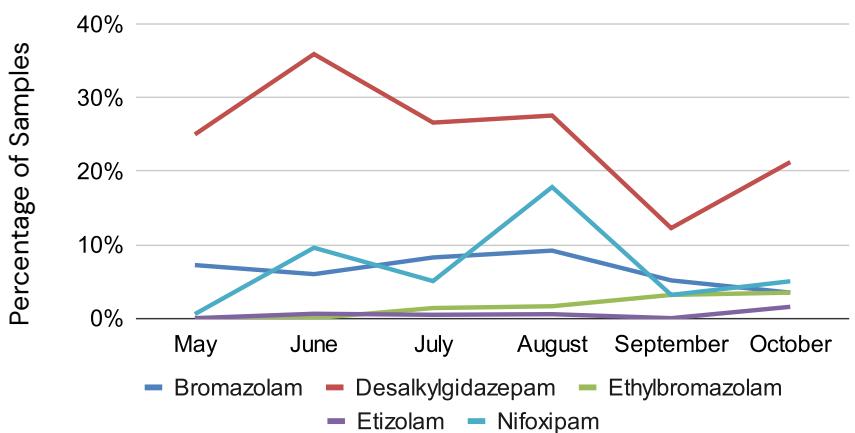
- In October, fluorofentanyl remained the most common opioid detected by FTIR, rising to 59.5% of all unregulated opioids tested (154 of 259 samples).
- We note there has been an uptick in unregulated opioids containing carfentanil this year. The true number of samples containing carfentanil is expected to be higher than what is observed by FTIR, as it is usually contained in concentrations below the detection limit (<5%). Please see the **Secondary Testing section** of this report for more information.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines, past 6 months



- During the month of October, **55.0%** of expected opioid samples tested positive for benzodiazepines in the Fraser Health region (**148 samples of 269 checked**).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BNTX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true number may be higher, as some benzodiazepines may be missed by test strip.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months

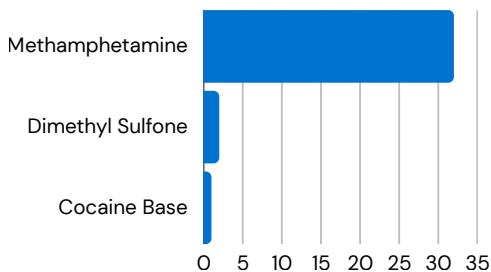


- In October, benzodiazepines were detected by FTIR in **35.9%** of unregulated opioids (**93 of 259 samples**), indicating their presence in higher concentrations (>5%).
- Desalkylidazepam was most common (**55 samples**), followed by nifoxipam (**13 samples**).
- Alongside nifoxipam, we are continuing to monitor other novel benzodiazepines, including ethylbromazolam (**9 samples**), meclonazepam (**2 samples**), and clobromazolam (**1 sample**).

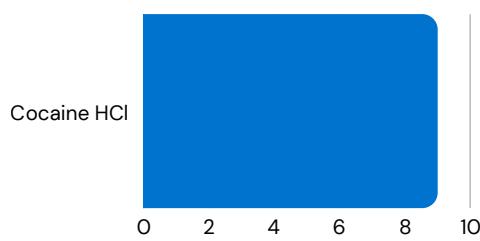
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

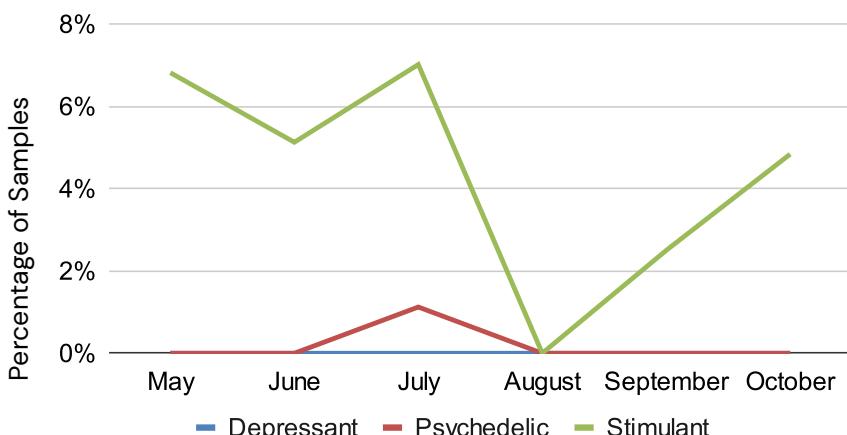
Components in methamphetamine (N=33)



Components in cocaine (N=9)



Fentanyl detected in non-opioids, past 6 months

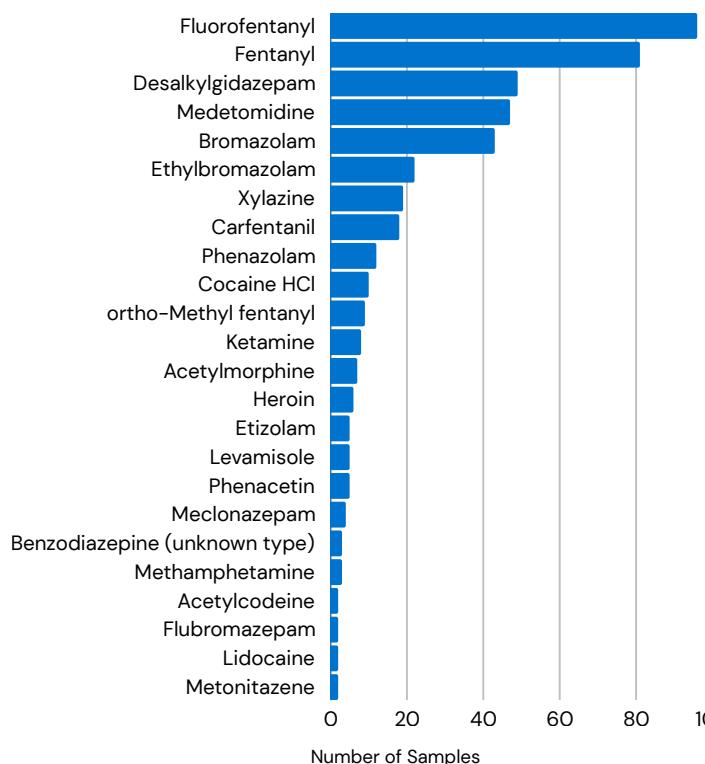


- In October, 3 stimulant samples (2 crack cocaine and 1 methamphetamine) tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR/test strip.

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=143)



To save space, additional components detected a single time have been omitted from this chart:
Flualprazolam, Fluorofentanyl Base, Isotodesnitazene, Acetylcodeine, Flubromazepam, Lidocaine.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Spectrometry Results	Fentanyl Strip	Benzo Strip	Alert Message
No alerts for Fraser Health this month.					

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](#).