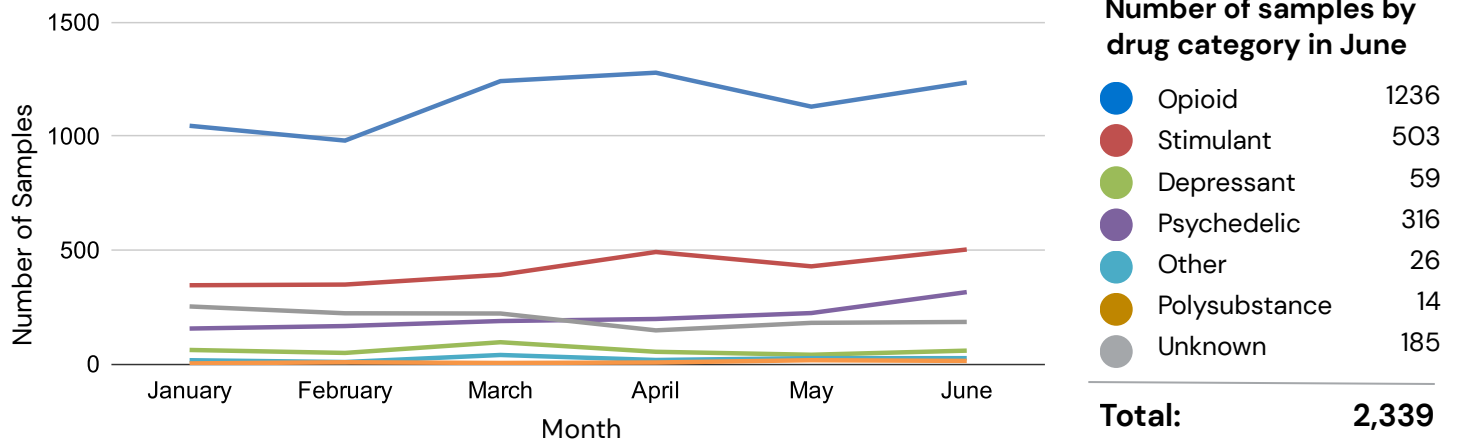




Key findings

- In June, **2,339** drug checks were performed by community FTIR drug checking sites in BC (**62** access points). The increase in samples from previous months is due to the expansion of services in the Interior Health region.
- The percentage of all opioids testing positive for benzodiazepines increased to **41.6%**. Of these, desalkylgidazepam was most frequently identified, though detection has been declining.
- We continue to monitor the increase in novel benzodiazepines detected in unregulated opioids. In June, ethylflualprazolam became the third most common benzodiazepine overall, with detection nearly on par with ethylbromazolam. Others identified included meclonazepam, nifoxipam, and 3-HO-desalkylgidazepam.
- The percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine increased to **31.5%**. In response to emergence of medetomidine in the drug supply, all health authorities have implemented medetomidine test strips at drug checking sites.
- The median concentration of fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl in unregulated opioids decreased to **8.5%** (see page 3).
- Among opioids sent for secondary testing across BC in June (**n=274**), medetomidine was detected in **129** samples. Medetomidine concentrations ranged from **<1% to 19%**, and the median was **2.0%**. In addition, carfentanil was detected in **23** samples, and xylazine in **11** samples. Notably, cyclophosphamide, a novel synthetic opioid, was detected in **5** samples this month.

Number of drug samples checked in the past 6 months



Number of samples tested by region

Vancouver Coastal Health region: 865 (**37%**)

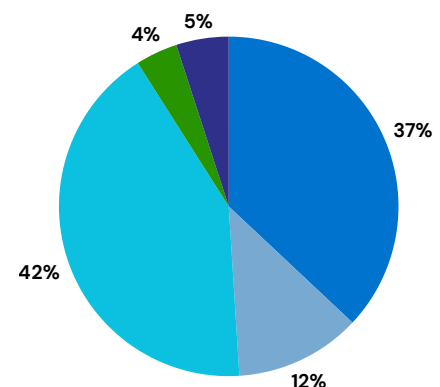
Fraser Health region: 288 (**12%**)

Interior Health region: 977 (**42%**)

Island Health region: 100 (**4%**)

Northern Health region: 109 (**5%**)

Total: 2,339*



*Does not include samples tested at Substance Drug Checking services. Please see the Island Health report for more information.

Number of samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Opioid	1186	30	20	1236
Stimulant	486	15	2	503
Depressant	39	20	0	59
Psychedelic	291	20	5	316
Other	16	7	3	26
Polysubstance	12	2	0	14
Unknown	0	0	185	185
Total	2030	94	215	2339

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

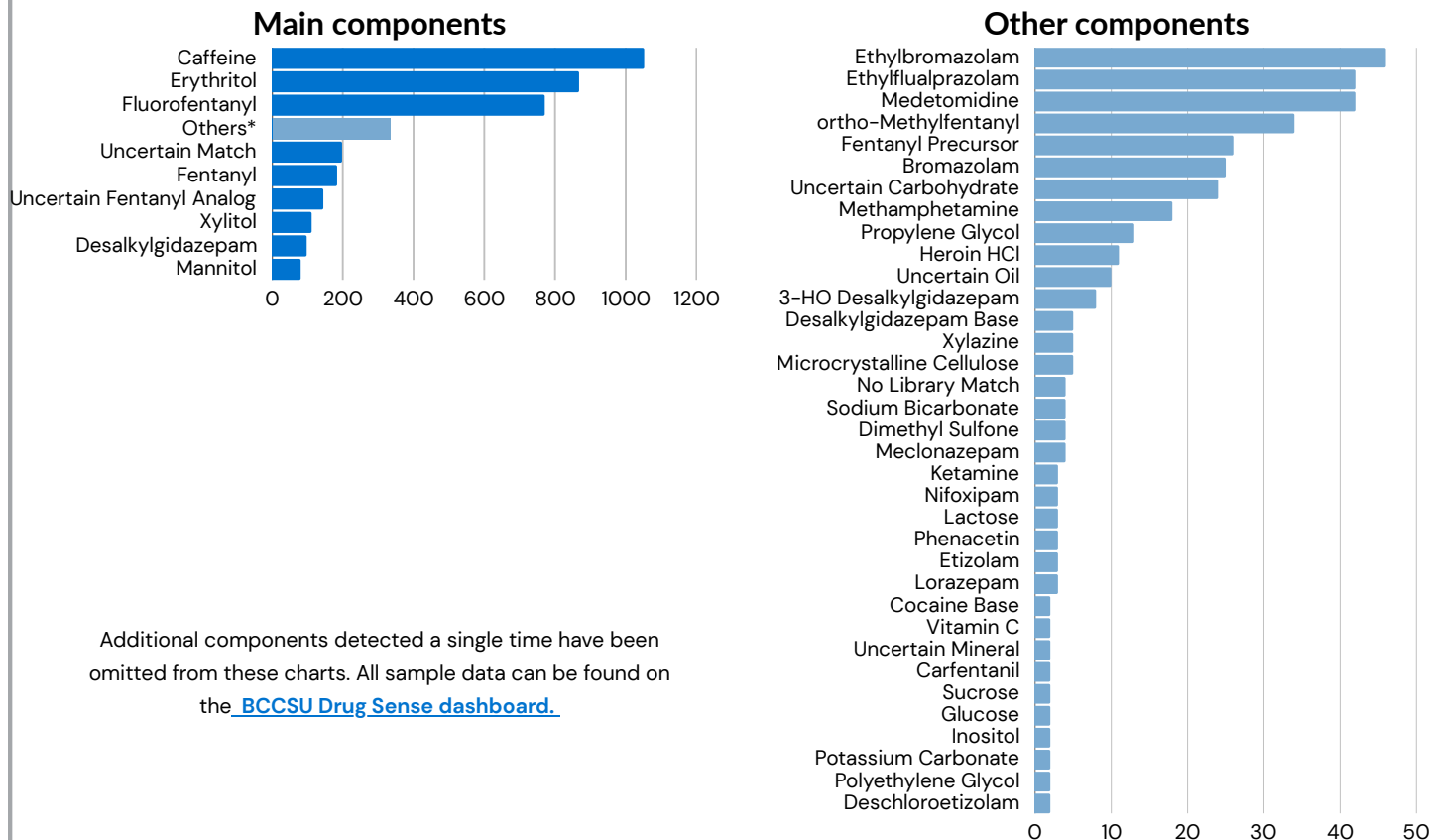
Opioids

Number of opioid samples with the expected drug detected

Expected Drug	Detected	Not Detected	N/A	Total
Fentanyl	66	2	2	70
Heroin	6	2	0	8
Other Opioid	3	0	0	3
Down	1091	22	0	1113
Pharmaceutical	16	4	18	38
Opium	4	0	0	4
Total	1186	30	20	1236

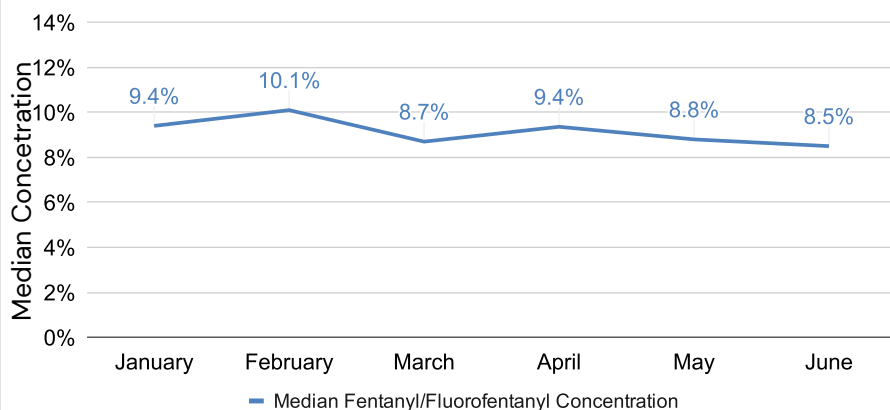
Please note that the presence of the expected substance does not imply purity, as samples frequently contain adulterating cutting agents.
'Down' can refer to any opioid drug present in any amount.

Components detected in unregulated opioids (N=1191)



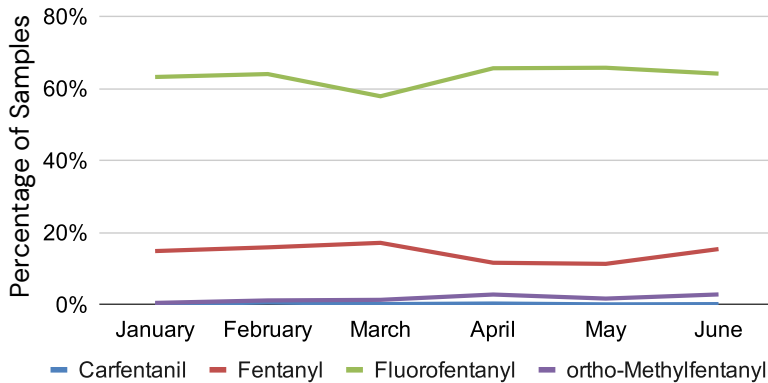
Median fentanyl concentration of unregulated opioids, past 6 months

Concentrations were estimated using a validated quantification model for the purposes of this report with aggregated data. To learn more about the QUANT3 quantification model visit [here](#).



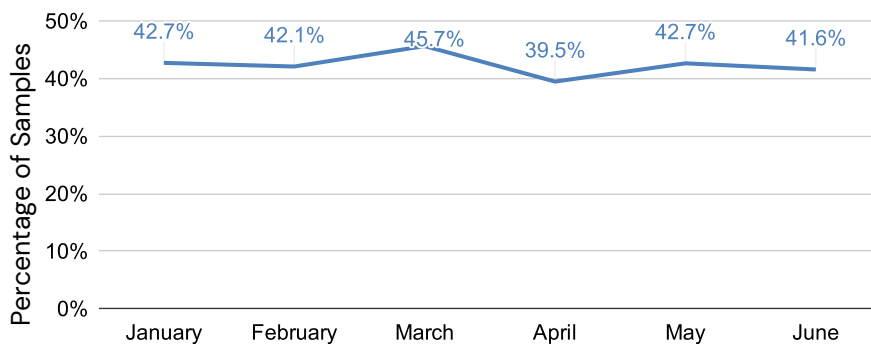
- In June, the overall median fentanyl/fluorofentanyl concentration decreased to **8.5% (n=1137)**.
- Most unregulated opioids contained fentanyl and/or fluorofentanyl at concentrations between **4.4% and 13.5%**, but concentrations can range from trace amounts to comprising most of the mixture.
- Fentanyl and fluorofentanyl are the predominate fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, and are considered to have similar potency. They are combined here to show their overall median concentration over the past 6 months.

Fentanyl analogs detected in unregulated opioids, past 6 months



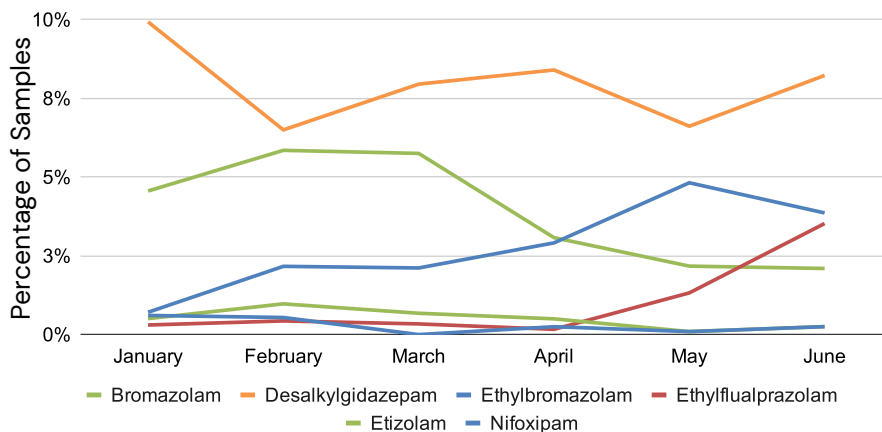
- In June, fluorofentanyl remained the most common fentanyl analog, detected by FTIR in **64.1%** of unregulated opioids (**771 of 1191**)
- Conversely, fentanyl was detected in **15.4%** of opioids (**184 samples**). Declining fentanyl detections may indicate that less is circulating in the opioid supply, and/or that it is present in concentrations below the FTIR detection limit (<5%).
- Carfentanil was detected by FTIR in **2** samples 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



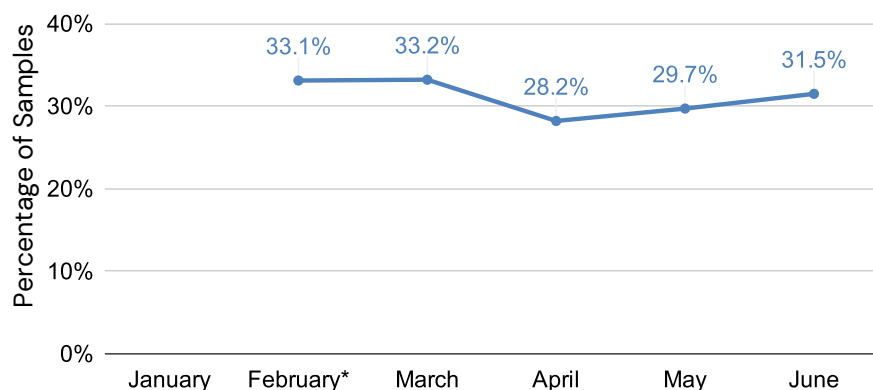
- During the month of June, the percentage of opioid samples testing positive for benzodiazepines decreased to **41.6%** (**514** samples of **1236** checked).
- Opioid samples are checked for benzodiazepine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the FTIR spectrometer. The true percentage may be higher, as some benzodiazepines (e.g., etizolam, ethylflualprazolam) may be missed by test strip.

Types of benzodiazepines detected by FTIR, past 6 months



- In June, **19.7%** of unregulated opioids (**235 of 1191**) contained benzodiazepines at concentrations detectable by FTIR (>5%). Of these, desalkylgidazepam remained the most common (**8.2%**; **98** samples).
- There has been a shift from previous months with novel benzodiazepines, ethylbromazepam (**3.9%**), and this month, ethylflualprazolam (**3.5%**), surpassing bromazepam detection among opioids in BC.
- We are continuing to monitor the increase in novel benzodiazepines, which also included meclonazepam and 3-HO-desalkylgidazepam in June.

Percentage of opioids testing positive for medetomidine, past 6 months

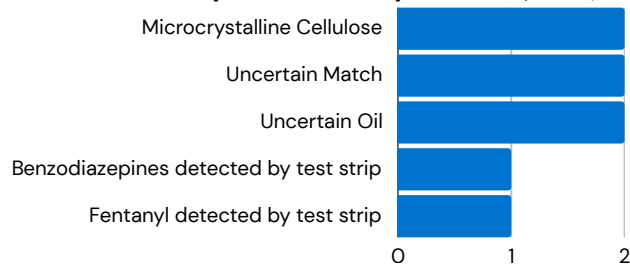


- During the month of June, the percentage of unregulated opioids testing positive for medetomidine increased to **31.5% (375 of 1191)**. The majority were also positive for benzodiazepines (**234** samples).
- Unregulated opioids are checked for medetomidine-positivity using BTNX test strips and the 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%).
- *Please note that February consists of samples checked only in the Interior Health region.

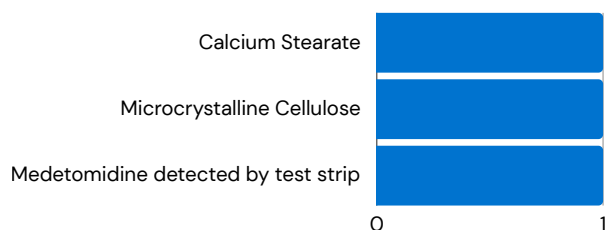
Components detected in pharmaceutical opioids

(where expected drug was not detected)

Ancetaminophen and Oxycodone (N=2)



Oxycodone (N=1)

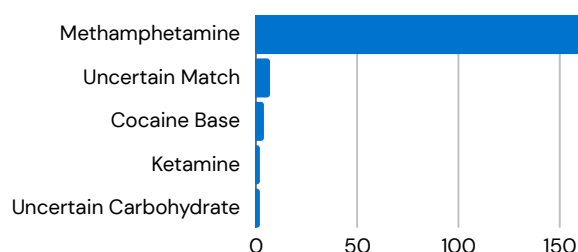


- In June, a total of **38** samples were submitted as pharmaceutical opioids. Of these, hydromorphone (Dilaudid) (**n=17**), acetaminophen + oxycodone (Percocet) (**n=6**), and oxycodone (OxyContin) (**n=13**) were the most frequently submitted.
- Among samples expected to contain acetaminophen + oxycodone, **2** were determined to be counterfeit as they contained unexpected active ingredients, fentanyl and benzodiazepines, which were detected by test strip.
- Among samples expected to contain oxycodone, **1** was determined to be counterfeit as it contained an unexpected active ingredient, medetomidine, which was detected by test strip.

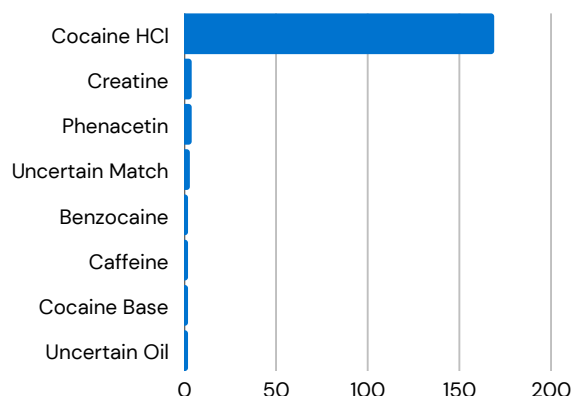
Non-Opioids

Components detected in stimulants

Components in methamphetamine (N=189)

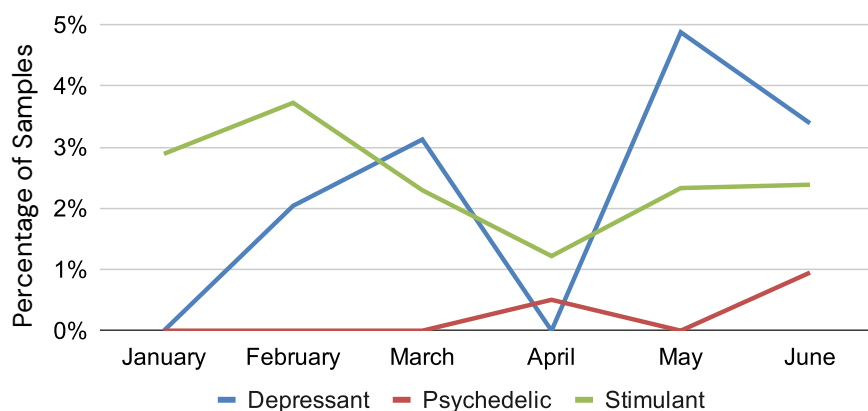


Components in cocaine (N=173)



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 June, **3.4%** of all depressants (2 alprazolam, 1 GHB), **2.4%** of all stimulants (5 methamphetamine, 4 crack cocaine, and 3 cocaine HCl), and **0.9%** of all psychedelics (3 ketamine) tested positive for fentanyl by FTIR and/or test strip.
- Of these, **5** 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.

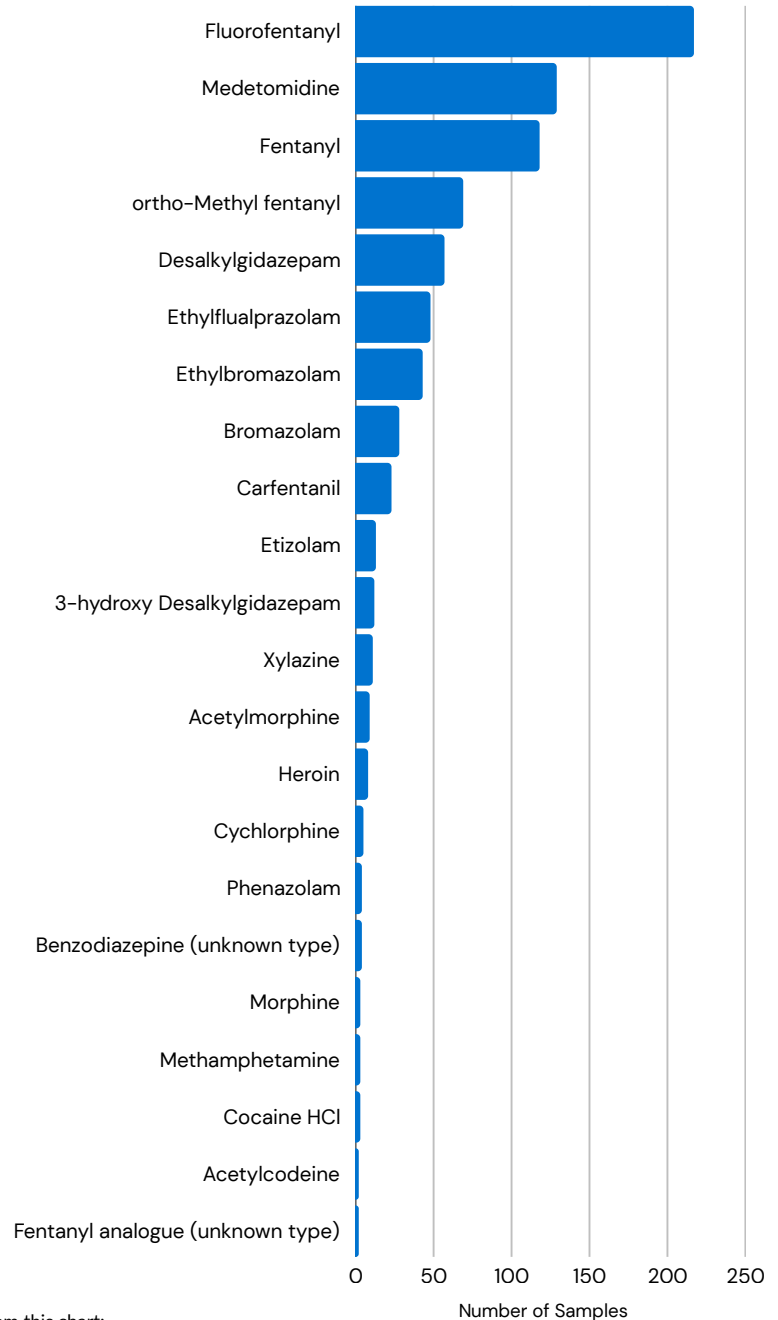
PSMS Secondary Testing Results Summary

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](#).

Total opioids sent to Substance

Health Authority	Number of Samples
Interior Health	145
Fraser Health	75
Island Health	32
Northern Health	22
Vancouver Coastal Health	0
Total	274

Active components detected (n=229)



To save space, additional components detected a single time have been omitted from this chart: Flualprazolam, Norfentanyl, Lidocaine, Cocaine Base, Ketamine, DXM, Codeine + Diclofenac, Procaine, Clonazepam.

Public Health Notifications

Date & Location	Expected Drug	Alert Message
June 2, 2026 Kelowna	Acetaminophen and Oxycodone (Percocet)	Counterfeit tablets sold as Oxycodone/Percocet tested positive for Medetomidine in Kelowna.
June 4, 2026 Penticton	Down	Pink chunks sold as down tested positive for Cychlorphine and Medetomidine in Penticton.
June 12, 2026 Maple Ridge	Down	Light brown granules sold as "Down" in Maple Ridge were found to contain very high concentrations of carfentanil, a highly toxic fentanyl analog.
June 26, 2026 Vancouver	Acetaminophen and Oxycodone (Percocet)	White tablet labelled "TEC: and sold as Percocet (oxycodone + acetaminophen) in Vancouver tested positive for fentanyl and benzodiazepines and negative for oxycodone.

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](#).