The Special Testing and Research Laboratory’s Emerging Trends Program compiled the data for this report through a query of archived seizure and analysis information from drug evidence analyzed by the Drug Enforcement Administration’s laboratory system. This data is representative of drug evidence seized and analyzed in the date ranges annotated. This is not a comprehensive list of all new psychoactive substances and is not representative of all evidence analyzed by DEA. This data is an annual snapshot of the new psychoactive substance market in the United States.

The term new psychoactive substance (NPS) describes a recently emerged drug that may pose a public health threat. This includes synthetic cannabinoids, substituted cathinones, phenethylamines, opioids, tryptamines, benzodiazepines, and a variety of other chemical classes. Due to the recent increase in seizures, fentanyl is also included in this report.

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID IDENTIFICATIONS

There were 526 synthetic cannabinoid identifications in CY2018. 5F-MDMB-PINACA and FUB-AMB were the most commonly reported synthetic cannabinoids accounting for approximately 64% of the identifications.

CATHINONES

There were 327 cathinone identifications this reporting period. N-ethylpentylone continues to be the most reported cathinone, accounting for approximately 62% of the identifications.
**OPIOIDS/ANALGESICS**

There were 3591 identifications of fentanyl, fentanyl-related compounds and other new synthetic opioids. This accounts for an approximately 27% increase in identifications from 2017. Fentanyl accounted for approximately 76% of the identifications. The next most prominent substance, 4-ANPP, accounted for approximately 6% of the identifications. Of the 2723 fentanyl identifications, fentanyl was found as the only controlled substance in approximately 39% of the identifications and was found with heroin in approximately 45% of the identifications.

**Hallucinogens**

There were 4 identifications of 2C-B during this reporting period. 25I-NBOMe was identified 2 times in CY2018. The following hallucinogens were identified 1 time each: 25B-NBOMe, 25C-NBOMe, 2C-H, and 2C-I. No NPS hallucinogens were identified for the first time in CY2018.

**Benzodiazepines**

There were 35 identifications of etizolam during this reporting period. Additionally, there were 4 identifications of flubromazolam and 2 identifications of flualprazolam. Flualprazolam was seized and identified for the first time in CY2018.

This completes the 2018 series of reports.

Stay tuned for the First Quarter 2019 Emerging Threat Report!

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