EMERGING THREAT REPORT Annual 2018

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.

SUMMARY

NPS, excluding fentanyl and fentanyl-related compounds, accounted for approximately 3% of the exhibits seized and analyzed by the DEA laboratory system in 2018.

5F-MDMB-PINACA and FUB-AMB were the most reported synthetic cannabinoids and N-ethylpentylone was the most reported cathinone in 2018. The most prevalent NPS benzodiazepine in CY2018 was etizolam.

Fentanyl and fentanyl-related compounds represented approximately 11% of the exhibits seized and analyzed by the DEA laboratory system in 2018.

Fentanyl was the most commonly reported opioid.

There were 22 substances reported for the first time in CY 2018, meaning they had not been encountered for at least the last three years. This equates to one new substance approximately every two and a half weeks. It should be noted that as backlogged samples are analyzed, the date of the first encounter may change.

Most notably, approximately 33% of the opioids identified were seized and identified for the first time in CY2018.

There was a significant increase in the number of unconfirmed substances reported in CY2018.

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 CANNABINOIDS

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.

	ATIONS.	
PB-22	1	
FUB-PB-22	1	
FUB-AKB48	1	
AB-FUBINACA	1	Of the 24 different synthetic canna-
5F-EMB-PINACA	1	binoids, 4-CN-CUMYL-BUTINACA, 5F-
5F-AKB48	1	MDMB-PICA, MMB-2201, 5Cl-AKB48
5Cl-AKB48	1	and MMB-CHMICA were seized and
MDMB-FUBINACA	2	identified for the first time during this reporting period.
MMB-2201	2	reporting period.
AB-CHMINACA	4	5F-EDMB-PINACA and MMB-FUBICA
4-CN-CUMYL-BUTINACA	4	were reported for the first time in
AB-PINACA	5	CY2018.
NM2201	6	ADB-CHMINACA = MAB-CHMINACA
MMB-FUBICA	6	
ADB-CHMINACA	7	
5F-UR-144	7	
FUB-144	8	
5F-AMB	11	
MMB-CHMICA	15	
5F-MDMB-PICA	16	
5F-EDMB-PINACA	20	
ADB-FUBINACA		71
FUB-AMB		163
5F-MDMB-PINACA		172
	PRP	3-03-21-19-04

Drug Enforcement Administration Special Testing and Research Laboratory



An identification is made when authenticated reference material is available for comparison. When reference material is not available, the drug evidence is identified as "substance unconfirmed." A single unit of drug evidence may have multiple sub-units. For the purposes of this document, each unit of drug evidence counts as one identification regardless of the number of sub-units. Some seized drug evidence contains more than one active ingredient; therefore, more than one identification can be made for a single unit.

CATHINONES

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THERE WERE **327** CATHINONE IDENTIFICATIONS THIS REPORTING PERIOD. N-ETHYLPENTYLONE CONTINUES TO BE THE MOST REPORTED CATHINONE, ACCOUNTING FOR APPROXIMATELY 62% of the **IDENTIFICATIONS.**

α-PHP TH-PVP Pentedrone J,N-Dimethylpentylone 3,4-MDDMC 4-MEC 4-MEC 4-MEC 4-MEC 4-MEAPP Methylone 4'-Methyl-α-PHP α-PVP Pentylone 4-Methylpentedrone Ethylone 4-F-α-PHP 4-F-α-PHP 4-CEC α-PiHP 4-CE α-PiHP 4-CE α-PiHP 4-CE α-PiHP 4-CE α-PiHP 4-CE α-PiHP	 Of the 21 substances identified, α-PiHP, 4- methylpentedrone, N,N-dimethylpentylone and 4-Cl-α-PVP were seized and identified for the first time in CY2018. N-ethylhexedrone was reported for the first time in CY2018. PVP = Pyrrolidinovalerophenone PiHP = Pyrrolidinoisohexanophenone CEC = Chloroethcathinone PHP = Pyrrolidinopropiophenone 4-MeAPP = Methylethylaminopentiophe- none, N-ethyl-4'-methylnorpentedrone MEC = Methylethcathinone MDDMC = Methylenedioxymethcathinone 28 29
N-Ethylpentylone	204



OPIOIDS/ANALGESICS

THERE WERE **3591** IDENTIFICATIONS OF FENTANYL, FENTANYL-RELATED COMPOUNDS AND OTHER NEW SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS. THIS ACCOUNDS FOR AN APPROXIMATELY 27% INCREASE IN IDENTIFI-CATIONS 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.

U-49900 1 p-Fluorobutyryl fentanyl | 1 o-Methyl acetyl fentanyl | 1 4'-Methyl acetyl fentanyl Of the 26 substances identified, N-Methyl norfentanyl | 2 2-furanylbenzyl fentanyl, NPP 3 despropionyl p-fluorofentanyl, Isopropyl U-47700 | 4 N-methyl norfentanyl, 4'-methyl 2-Thiofuranyl fentanyl acetyl fentanyl, o-methyl acetyl Acryl fentanyl | 6 fentanyl, p-fluorobutyryl fentanyl U-48800 7 and isopropyl-U-47700 were seized Despropionyl p-fluorofentanyl 7 and identified for the first time in Benzyl fentanyl | 8 3-Methylfentanyl | 10 Benzoyl fentanyl 11 the first time in CY2018. 2-Furanylbenzylfentanyl 13 Valeryl fentanyl | 16 Butyryl fentanyl 📕 27 2-Furanyl fentanyl 📕 35 Carfentanil 37 U-47700 42 Methoxyacetylfentanyl 59 Cyclopropylfentanyl 📕 61 4-FiBF 109 Acetylfentanyl 188

4-ANPP

Fentany

215

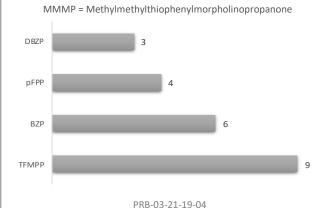
OTHER

The "other" category includes substances that could not be confirmed, psychoactive plants, PCP related substances, benzofurans, hallucinogens, tryptamines, and amphetamines.

THERE WERE 92 INSTANCES OF UNCONFIRMED SUBSTANCES DUR-ING THIS REPORTING PERIOD. THIS REPRESENTS AN APPROXIMATELY **74%** INCREASE FROM CY2017.

ADDITIONALLY, THERE WERE 12 IDENTIFICATIONS OF MITRAGYNINE AND 7 IDENTIFICATIONS OF 3-MeO-PCP. THE FOLOWING COM-POUNDS WERE IDENTIFIED 3 TIMES EACH: 2F-DESCHLOROKETAMINE. 2-OXO-PCE AND MMMP.

4 -FLUOROAMPHETAMINE, 'UNKNOWN' AND YOHIMBINE WERE EACH IDENTIFIED 2 TIMES. 3-FLUOROPHENMETRAZINE, 5-MeO-DALT, 5-MeO-DIPT AND DMAA WERE EACH IDENTIFIED f 1 TIME. ADDITIONAL-LY, THERE WERE **4** PIPERAZINES IDENTIFIED IN CY 2018. 2F-DESCHLOROKETAMINE WAS SEIZED AND IDENTIFIED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CY2018.



HALLUCINOGENS

THERE WERE 4 IDENTIFICATIONS OF 2C-B DURING THIS REPORT-ING 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 IDENTIFICA-TIONS 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!**

To be added to our distribution list, please contact us at the email address below.

to the DEA Emerging Trends Program at 703-668-3300 or

Benzoyl fentanyl was reported for

CY2018.

2723