



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.

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.

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.

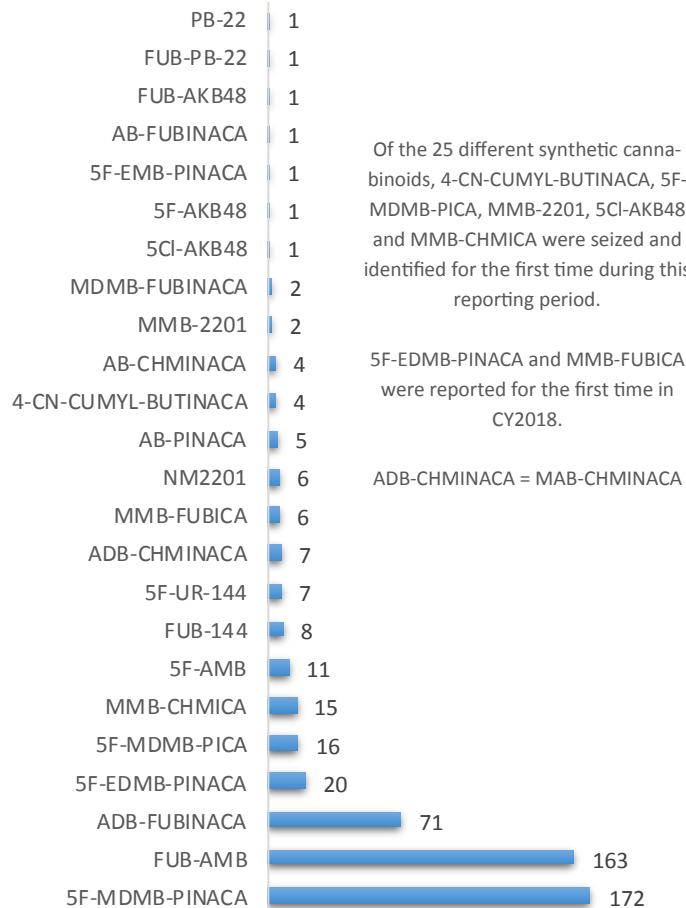
There were 22 substances reported for the first time in CY 2018, meaning they had not been encountered for at least the last three years. This equates to one new substance approximately every two and a half weeks. It should be noted that as backlogged samples are analyzed, the date of the first encounter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

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

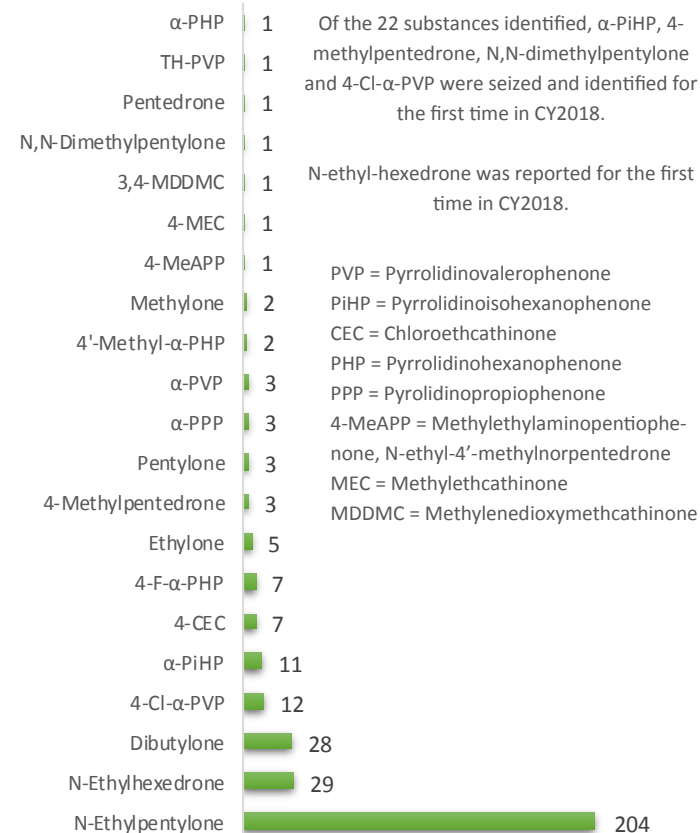
THERE WERE **526** SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID IDENTIFICATIONS IN CY2018. 5F-MDMB-PINACA AND FUB-AMB WERE THE MOST COMMONLY REPORTED SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS ACCOUNTING FOR APPROXIMATELY **64%** OF THE IDENTIFICATIONS.



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CATHINONES

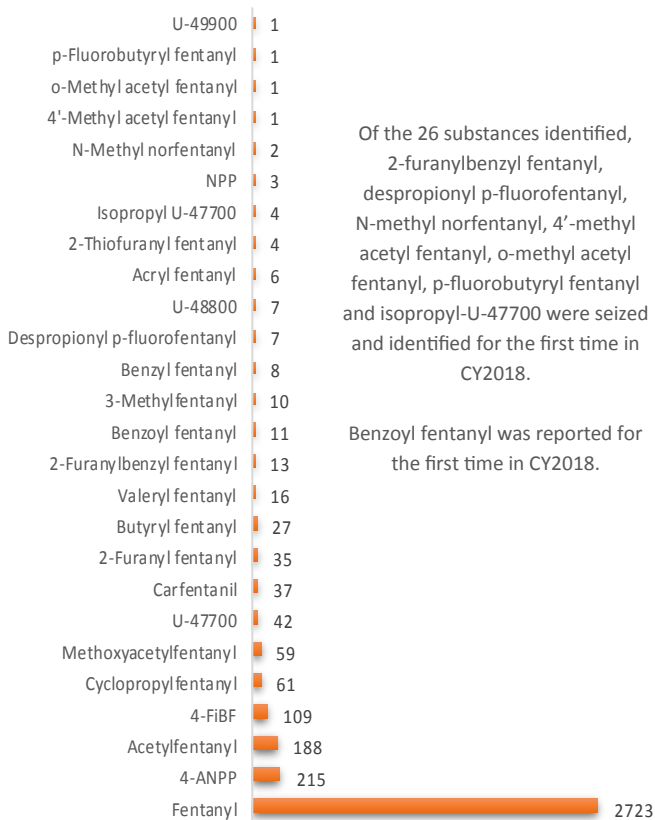
THERE WERE **327** CATHINONE IDENTIFICATIONS THIS REPORTING PERIOD. N-ETHYLPENTYLONE CONTINUES TO BE THE MOST REPORTED CATHINONE, ACCOUNTING FOR APPROXIMATELY **62%** OF THE IDENTIFICATIONS.





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.



Of the 26 substances identified, 2-furanylbenzyl fentanyl, despropionyl p-fluorofentanyl, N-methyl norfentanyl, 4'-methyl acetyl fentanyl, o-methyl acetyl fentanyl, p-fluorobutyryl fentanyl and isopropyl-U-47700 were seized and identified for the first time in CY2018.

Benzoyl fentanyl was reported for the first time in CY2018.

OTHER

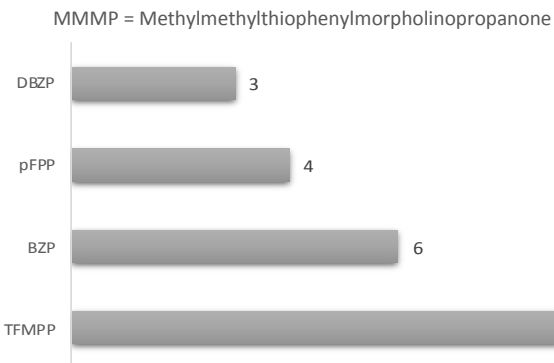
The "other" category includes substances that could not be confirmed, psychoactive plants, PCP related substances, benzofurans, hallucinogens, tryptamines, and amphetamines.

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

ADDITIONALLY, THERE WERE **12** IDENTIFICATIONS OF MITRAGYNE AND **7** IDENTIFICATIONS OF 3-MeO-PCP. THE FOLLOWING COMPOUNDS WERE IDENTIFIED **3** TIMES EACH: 2F-DESCHLOROKETAMINE, 2-OXO-PCE AND MMMP.

4 -FLUROAMPHETAMINE, 'UNKNOWN' AND YOHIMBINE WERE EACH IDENTIFIED **2** TIMES. **3**-FLUOROPHENMETRAZINE, 5-MeO-DALT, 5-MeO-DIPT AND DMAA WERE EACH IDENTIFIED **1** TIME. ADDITIONALLY, THERE WERE **4** PIPERAZINES IDENTIFIED IN CY 2018.

2F-DESCHLOROKETAMINE WAS SEIZED AND IDENTIFIED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CY2018.



MMMP = Methylmethylthiophenylmorpholinopropanone

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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Questions about this data are welcome and may be directed to the DEA Emerging Trends Program at 703-668-3300 or DEA.Emerging.Trends@usdoj.gov.