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 a mid-year snapshot of the new psychoactive substance market in the United States.

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDs

There were 81 synthetic cannabinoid identifications in the first half of CY2019. 5F-MDMB-PINACA was the most reported synthetic cannabinoid accounting for approximately 36% of the identifications.

In the first half of CY2019, there were 29 instances of unconfirmed substances during this reporting period. Additionally, there were 6 identifications of MMMP, 3 identifications of mitragynine, and 1 identification each of 2C-C and 3-methoxy-PCP.

Other

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

There were 46 instances of unconfirmed substances during this reporting period. Additionally, there were 6 identifications of MMMP, 3 identifications of mitragynine, and 1 identification each of 2C-C and 3-methoxy-PCP.

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.”

Opioids/Analgesics

There were 1783 identifications of fentanyl, fentanyl-related compounds, and other new opioids. Fentanyl accounted for approximately 78% of the opioid identifications. Of the 1392 identifications, fentanyl was found as the only controlled substance in 39% of the identifications and with heroin in approximately 42% of the identifications. Acetylfentanyl was the next most prominent substance identified, accounting for approximately 10% of the identifications.

Cathinones

There were 55 cathinone identifications this reporting period. N-Ethylpentylone was the most reported cathinone accounting for 29% of the identifications.

Benzodiazepines

There were 26 identifications of etizolam, 13 identifications of flualprazolam, 6 identifications each of clonazolam and flubromazolam and 1 identification each of diclazepam this reporting period.

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.