EMERGING THREAT REPORT Second Quarter 2019

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 quarterly snapshot of the new psychoactive substance market in the United States.

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

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.”

CATHINONES

There were 50 cathinone identifications this reporting period. Eutylone and N-ethylpentylone were the most reported cathinones each accounting for 28% of the identifications.

OPIOIDS/ANALGESICS

There were 1246 identifications of fentanyl, fentanyl-related compounds, and other new opioids. Fentanyl accounted for approximately 78% of the opioid identifications. Of the 976 identifications, fentanyl was found as the only controlled substance in 37% of the identifications and with heroin in 43% of the identifications. Acetylfentanyl was the next most prominent substance identified, accounting for approximately 10% of the identifications.

OTHER

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

There were 24 instances of unconfirmed substances during this reporting period. Additionally, there were 3 identifications of MMMP, 2 identifications each of 2C-C, 3-methoxy-PCP and mitragynine and 1 identification each of 2C-B and 2C-H.

BENZODIAZEPINES

There were 9 identifications of flualprazolam, 6 identifications each of clonazolam and etizolam, 2 identifications of flubromazolam and 1 identification of diazepam this reporting period.

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