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

There were 57 synthetic cannabinoid identifications in the first quarter of CY 2016.

FUB-AMB accounted for over 14% of the identifications.

Despite the availability of new non-controlled synthetic cannabinoids, thirteen of the twenty-two cannabinoids identified are Schedule I substances under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). MMB-CHMICA was identified for the first time during the first quarter of CY2016.

TRYP TAMINES

No substituted tryptamines were identified during the reporting period.

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.

CATHINONES

DIBUTYLANE WAS THE MOST COMMONLY IDENTIFIED CATHINONE, ACCOUNTING FOR APPROXIMATELY 40% OF THE IDENTIFICATIONS.

OPIOIDS/ ANALGESICS

Fentanyl accounted for over 65% of the opioid/analgesic identifications during the first quarter of CY 2016.

Of the 46 fentanyl identifications, fentanyl was found with heroin in approximately 17% of the identifications and was the only controlled substance in approximately 65% of the identifications. Acetylfentanyl was the next most prominent fentanyl related compound identified, accounting for approximately 28% of the opioid/analgesic identifications during the reporting period. Acetylfentanyl was the only controlled substance reported for 60% of these identifications. 2-Furanyl fentanyl and U-47700 were identified for the first time during the first quarter of CY 2016.

OTHER

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

There were 4 instances of substance unconfirmed.

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