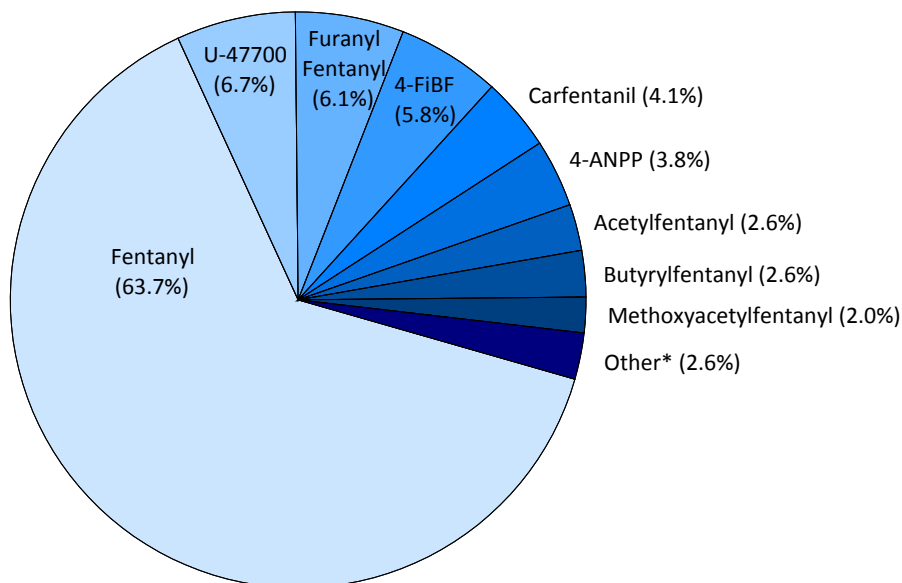


Fentanyl Accounted for the Majority of Opioid Identifications in DEA Drug Evidence Analyzed in the Third Quarter of 2017

Since 2016, the DEA's Special Testing and Research Laboratory's Emerging Trends Program has been publishing quarterly *Emerging Threat Reports* in order to monitor new psychoactive substance (NPS) trends in the United States and provide a snapshot of the psychoactive substance market in the United States. Data for these reports are obtained from a query of archived seizure and analysis information from drug evidence analyzed by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) laboratory system. According to data from the most recent *Emerging Threat Report*, there were 344 identifications of opioids in drug evidence analyzed by the DEA's laboratory system in the third quarter of 2017. Of these opioid identifications, nearly two-thirds (64%) were identified as fentanyl, either as the only controlled substance (44% of the 219 fentanyl identifications), in combination with heroin (45%), or in combination with other controlled substances (11%; data not shown). The DEA *Emerging Threat Reports* can be found on the NDEWS website at: <https://ndews.umd.edu/resources/dea-emerging-threat-reports>.

Opioids Identified in Drug Evidence Analyzed by the DEA Laboratory System, Third Quarter 2017

(N=344 opioid identifications)



*The category "Other" includes opioids that each accounted for <2% of all identifications: cyclopropylfentanyl (1.5%), 3-methylfentanyl (0.9%), and THF fentanyl (0.3%).

Notes: A single unit of drug evidence may have multiple sub-units. For the purposes of this analysis, 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.

Source: Adapted by CESAR from Drug Enforcement Administration, *Emerging Threat Report: Third Quarter 2017*, 2017. Available online at <https://ndews.umd.edu/resources/dea-emerging-threat-reports>. For more information, contact Jill Head of the Special Testing and Research Laboratory, Emergency Trend Program, Drug Enforcement Administration at Jill.M.Head@usdoj.gov.