
New synthetic opioids emerge periodically circumventing existing administrative bans and fueling the opiate/opioid crisis with unknown substances. In an effort to inform public health practitioners on new emerging substances in a timely manner, the eDarTrends project aims to collect and analyze synthetic opioids-related data from Darknet cryptomarkets. Recently notified through the NDEWS network, new substances (U-48,800, ortho-Methylmethoxyacetylfentanyl, Despropionyl ortho-Methylfentanyl) were identified by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). Based on these recent developments, we would like to share some preliminary results from the eDarTrends project.

The “Fentanyl/Synthetic opioids” and “RC’s” sections of three cryptomarkets (DreamMarket, Point / T•chka Free Market, and Wall St Market) were monitored over a two-weeks period (03/20/2018-04/03/2018). Five new non-fentanyl-type synthetic opioids appeared on two cryptomarkets (DreamMarket and Wall St Market):

**MPF-47,700** is sold by only one seller located in China and shipping worldwide; advertised as “a synthetic opioid substance of the benzamide chemical class that produces analgesic, relaxing, sedating and euphoric effects when administered. MPF is a new U47700 analogue.” Quantity advertised varies from 2g (US$50) to 1kg (US$6,500).

**U-4TDP** is sold by only one seller located in China and shipping worldwide; advertised as “a synthetic opioid substance of the benzamide chemical class that produces analgesic, relaxing, sedating and euphoric effects when administered. U-4TDP is similar to U-51754.” Quantity advertised varies from 10g (US$210) to 1kg (US$6,500).

**U-48,800** is sold by three sellers, two located in China/Hong-Kong and shipping worldwide (no information on the geographical location of the third seller). U-48,800 is advertised as “an opioid analgesic drug analogue of originally U-47700, just added one methylene on the benzene ring, at the same time, 2,4-dichlorophenyl replaced the 3,4-dichlorophenyl. U-48800 is selective for the μ-opioid receptor, having around 7.5 x the potency of morph in animal models. Research results shows that U-48800 has the same potency level as originally U-47700.” Quantity advertised varies from 5g (US$150) to 1kg (US$6,500).

**U-49,990** is sold by two sellers located in China and shipping worldwide; advertised as “a new product similar to U-47700, with high quality.” Quantity advertised varies from 1g (US$50) to 1kg (US$6500).

**U-50,488** is sold by two sellers located in China and shipping worldwide; advertised as “a highly selective κ-opioid agonist, but without any μ-opioid antagonist effects. It has analgesic, diuretic and antitussive effects, and reverses the memory impairment produced by anticholinergic drugs.” Quantity advertised varies from 1g (US$40) to 1kg (US$6,500).

NB: prices vary daily accordingly to Bitcoin-US$ exchange rate.

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