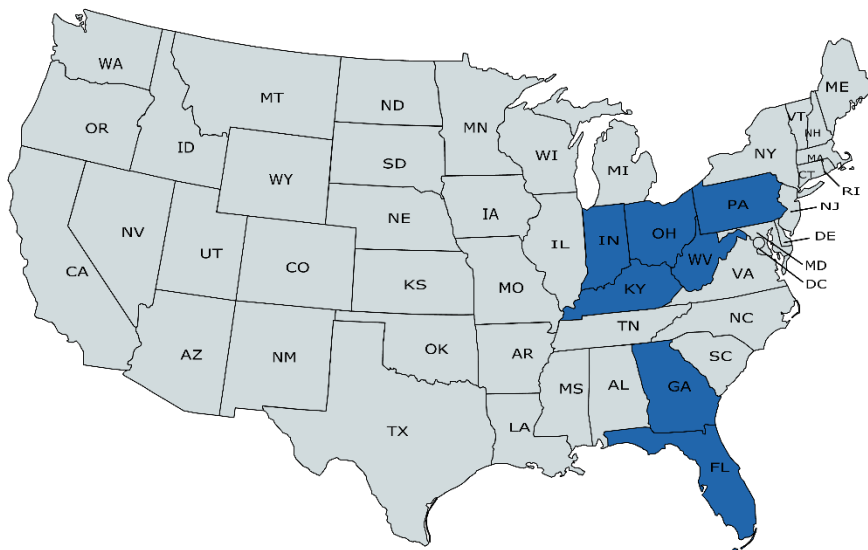


NDEWS News Scan Finds Suspected Carfentanil-Related Incidents Reported in Seven States

As of September 8, 2016, suspected carfentanil-related incidents* have been reported by print and online news articles to have occurred in seven eastern states, according to an NDEWS News Scan. Outbreaks of drug problems often come to public attention first via media reports. NDEWS conducts periodic reviews of published news articles and special scans for specific drugs. For this News Scan, NDEWS Coordinating Center staff searched the more than 2,400 news sources indexed by the LexisNexis Academic database and found 129 articles containing the word “carfentanil.” An analysis of the content of these articles found that 56 articles—all published in 2016—reported on one or more suspected carfentanil-related overdoses, seizures, arrests, and/or indictments occurring in seven states: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Georgia, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Florida. The NDEWS Network Discussion List has had several recent posts on the topic of the identification of carfentanil and other opioids (see below for information about the NDEWS Network). More information about carfentanil, including public health alerts, can be found on the NDEWS website at ndews.org/resources/carfentanil.

Limitations: This analysis looked only at *news* reports of *suspected* carfentanil incidents, which may or may not have been confirmed by testing of biological or drug samples. While other states may have experienced opioid-related incidents during this time period, any news reports of these incidents we identified did not specifically mention carfentanil. It is also possible that law enforcement personnel have identified carfentanil in other locations that have not been reported by the media. Although 56 articles reported on suspected carfentanil-related incidents, this does not mean that there were 56 incidents as many of the articles reported on the same incidents.

Seven States in Which Print and Online News Articles Have Reported Suspected Carfentanil-Related Incidents, as of 9/8/16



*Incidents were defined as overdoses, seizures, arrests, and/or indictments.

Source: NDEWS analysis of 129 English-language newspaper articles containing the term “carfentanil” published between 5/2/1998 and 9/8/2016. The majority were published in 2016 (62%). These articles were identified by a search of the more than 2,400 English-language newspapers and web news sources in the LexisNexis Academic database, conducted on September 08, 2016 at 12:19:23 EST.

Join the NDEWS Network to Share Information About Emerging Drug Trends

The NDEWS Network is an open virtual community of substance abuse experts and concerned citizens who engage in regular interactions with colleagues across the country, exchanging information and ideas about new and emerging drugs and drug trends. Visit www.ndews.org for information on how to join the Network.