Tracking Fentanyl and Fentanyl-Related Substances Reported in NFLIS-Drug by State, 2016–2017
INTRODUCTION

The National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) is an important Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) resource in monitoring drug abuse and trafficking. Current NFLIS data reflect the results from drug chemistry analyses conducted by nearly 280 Federal, State, and local forensic laboratories across the country (NFLIS-Drug), which represent an annual average of 1.6 million drug items processed each year. A research brief on fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances reported in NFLIS-Drug in 2015 and 2016 was published in March 2018 and is available at [https://www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/DesktopModules/ReportDownloads/Reports/11350_R2_NFLIS_Research_Brief_Fentanyl.pdf](https://www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/DesktopModules/ReportDownloads/Reports/11350_R2_NFLIS_Research_Brief_Fentanyl.pdf).

Because of an increased number of recent data requests to the DEA, a sharp increase in the estimated number of fentanyl reports reported to NFLIS-Drug from 2016 to 2017 (see Figure 1 for trend data for 2009–2017), and an ongoing interest in geographic patterns specifically, the DEA is pleased to release this collection of maps, which shows, by State, the distribution of drugs seized and analyzed by crime laboratories in 2016 and 2017 for fentanyl and a selected set of fentanyl-related substances. All data presented are from the laboratories that routinely submit drug chemistry analyses to NFLIS-Drug.

The geographic data presented in this publication are actual reported data or counts rather than national or State estimates. It is important to note that these data represent only those items that were submitted to and analyzed by forensic laboratories. The data represent a snapshot of the NFLIS-Drug database as of June 16, 2018.

PDFs of these maps can be found in the NFLIS Public Resource Library ([https://www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/Resources/NFLISPublicResourceLibrary.aspx](https://www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/Resources/NFLISPublicResourceLibrary.aspx)).

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Nine total States reported analyzing 3-methylfentanyl in 2017: Delaware, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

In 2017, the number of 3-methylfentanyl reports in Ohio was between 501 and 1,000, and in Pennsylvania, it was between 51 and 200.

Of the States with 3-methylfentanyl reports in both years, New Jersey had a 60% decrease in reports, Pennsylvania had a 9% decrease in reports, and Virginia had a 75% decrease in reports.

Maryland had no percentage change in 3-methylfentanyl reports between 2016 and 2017.

Meanwhile, Ohio had an 89% increase in 3-methylfentanyl reports, and West Virginia had a 300% increase in reports.

Data were run on June 16, 2018.

Suggested Citation

Suggested Citation
Twenty-two States and the District of Columbia had at least one 4-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl report: California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

New Jersey had the highest number (559) of reports.

Florida, Tennessee, and Texas had decreased 4-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl reports from 2016 to 2017.

Ohio experienced the largest (10,900%) increase.

Seven other States (Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia) and the District of Columbia also had an increase in reports from 2016 to 2017.

Data were run on June 16, 2018.

Suggested Citation

Data were run on June 16, 2018.

Suggested Citation
Almost two-thirds of States had at least one acetyl fentanyl report in 2017.

Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania had the highest number (more than 100) of acetyl fentanyl reports.

Fifteen States had a percentage decrease in acetyl fentanyl reports from 2016 to 2017, and West Virginia had no change.

Rhode Island experienced the largest percentage increase (300%).

Kentucky, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin all experienced between a 100% and 200% increase in acetyl fentanyl reports from 2016 to 2017.

Data were run on June 16, 2018.

Suggested Citation

Suggested Citation
• A total of 28 States had at least one acryl fentanyl report.
• Of those 28 States, all but one reported fewer than 150 reports.
• Ohio, however, had 1,213 acryl fentanyl reports in 2017.

• Michigan and Texas were the only two States that had no percentage change in acryl fentanyl reports or a percentage decrease in reports.
• All other States that had acryl fentanyl reports in both 2016 and 2017 had at least a 100% increase in reports.
• Ohio had more than a 7,000% increase in reports from 2016 to 2017.

Data were run on June 16, 2018.

Suggested Citation
• More than 75% of States in 2017 had at least one carfentanil report.
• Twenty States and the District of Columbia had carfentanil reports in 2017 but not in 2016.
• Of all the States having at least one carfentanil report, Ohio had the largest number (4,506 reports).

Data were run on June 16, 2018.
Suggested Citation

• All but one State that had at least one carfentanil report in 2016 experienced a percentage increase in reports in 2017. The exception was Oregon, which had no percentage change.
• The largest percentage increase was Virginia, with a 3,550% increase in reports from 2016 to 2017.

Data were run on June 16, 2018.
Suggested Citation
Thirty-five States and the District of Columbia had at least one cyclopropyl fentanyl report in 2017.

Ohio, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania had the highest numbers of reports (762, 114, and 100, respectively).

The remaining States had fewer than 100 cyclopropyl fentanyl reports in 2017.

Only Kentucky had a cyclopropyl fentanyl report in 2016, whereas 35 States had reports in 2017.

Kentucky had one report in 2016 and 78 in 2017, which was a 7,700% increase.

Data were run on June 16, 2018.

Suggested Citation

Suggested Citation
• New Hampshire, Ohio, and Massachusetts had the highest rates of fentanyl reports in NFLIS-Drug, with about 172, 124, and 113 reports per 100,000 persons aged 15 or older in 2017, respectively.

• Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, and Utah had fewer than one report per 100,000 persons aged 15 or older.

• All States except Idaho, Michigan, and Utah had a percentage increase in fentanyl reports from 2016 to 2017.

• South Dakota, Iowa, and Arizona had the largest percentage increases (495%, 301%, and 296%, respectively).

Data were run on June 16, 2018.

Suggested Citation

Suggested Citation
All but seven States (Alaska, Hawaii, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Wyoming) had at least one furanyl fentanyl report.

New Jersey and Ohio had the highest numbers of furanyl fentanyl reports (1,344 and 1,111, respectively).

Twelve States and the District of Columbia had a percentage decrease in furanyl fentanyl reports from 2016 to 2017. Colorado had no change.

Most States that had furanyl fentanyl reports in both 2016 and 2017 had a percentage increase in reports.

Delaware had a 500% increase in reports, which was the largest percentage increase.

Data were run on June 16, 2018.

Suggested Citation
• All but nine States (Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming) had at least one U-47700 report.

• Ohio had 943 U-47700 reports, which was the largest number of reports in 2017.

• Most of the States with reports had fewer than 150 U-47700 reports.

Data were run on June 16, 2018.

Suggested Citation

• Of all the States that had at least one U-47700 report in both 2016 and 2017, only Kansas and Massachusetts had a percentage decrease in reports.

• Iowa had no percentage change in reports.

• South Carolina had the largest percentage increase in reports, from nine in 2016 to 104 in 2017, which was more than a 1,000% increase.

Data were run on June 16, 2018.

Suggested Citation