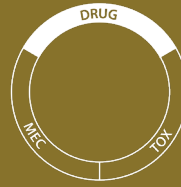




DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
DIVERSION CONTROL DIVISION

NFLIS

NATIONAL FORENSIC LABORATORY INFORMATION SYSTEM



DRUG

NFLIS-Drug Brief: Substances Co-Reported with Fentanyl in NFLIS-Drug and DEA-Tox, January 2013–June 2023

Introduction

The National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) is a program of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Diversion Control Division, which systematically collects drug identification results and associated information from drug cases submitted to and analyzed by Federal, State, and local forensic laboratories.

The number of fentanyl reports received by NFLIS-Drug started to increase dramatically in 2014.¹ Fentanyl has remained in the top 25 most frequently identified substances nationally every year since then and has been in the top 5 since 2017 (see [Table 1](#)). [Figure 1](#) shows the increase in the percentage of NFLIS-Drug items containing fentanyl alone from 2013 to 2023.

Table 1. Ranking of fentanyl in the annual NFLIS-Drug national estimates for identified substances

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
50th	22nd	9th	7th	5th	5th	5th	4th	4th	3rd

As the number of fentanyl reports has increased over the years, so have the number and variety of substances reported in the same item as fentanyl. This publication presents NFLIS-Drug findings of substances co-reported with fentanyl in items submitted to Federal, State, and local laboratories from January 1, 2013, through June 30, 2023 (see [Figures 2–13](#)). Data from NFLIS-Drug were pulled from the database on July 5, 2023, and were represented in all figures with NFLIS-Drug data. The data presented are not necessarily counts of true combinations (e.g., powders mixed together) and include counts of separate substances reported together in the same item. NFLIS-Drug captures a maximum of eight substances per item.

This brief also includes DEA Toxicology Testing Program (DEA-Tox)² data from fentanyl-positive samples submitted for analysis between January 2020 and June 6, 2023. Collection dates for these samples range from September 2018 through June 2, 2023.

Substances Co-Reported with Fentanyl in NFLIS-Drug: January 2013–June 2023

Figure 1. Percentage of NFLIS-Drug items containing fentanyl alone

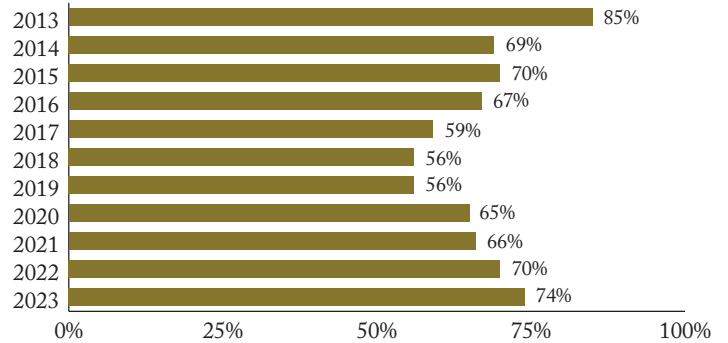
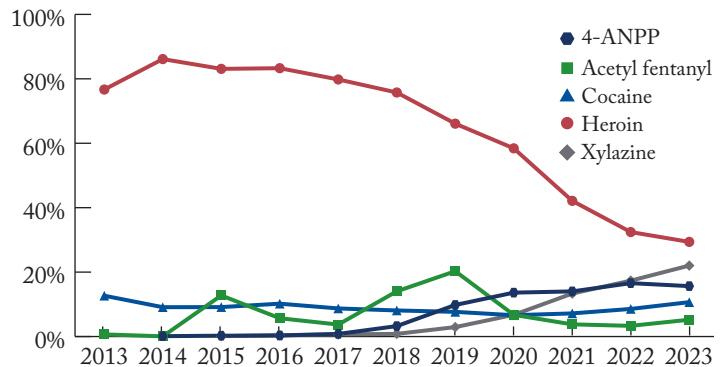


Figure 2. Percentage of items containing select substances among all NFLIS-Drug items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance



¹ Diversion Control Division. (2017). *NFLIS brief: Fentanyl, 2001–2015*. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Justice.

² For more information, see the DEA-Tox home page at https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/dea_tox/index.html.

Figure 3. Submission date: 2013 (n = 881 items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)

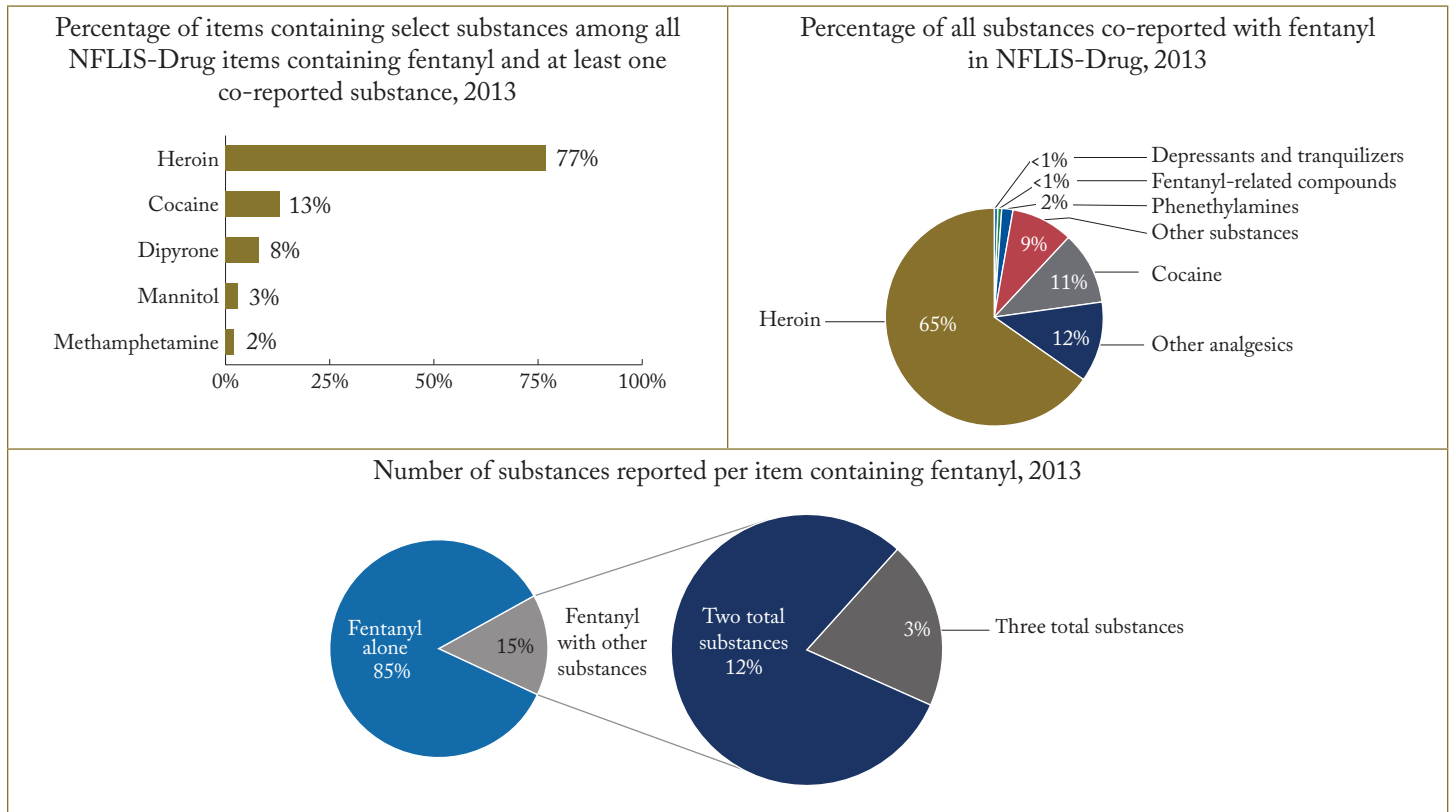
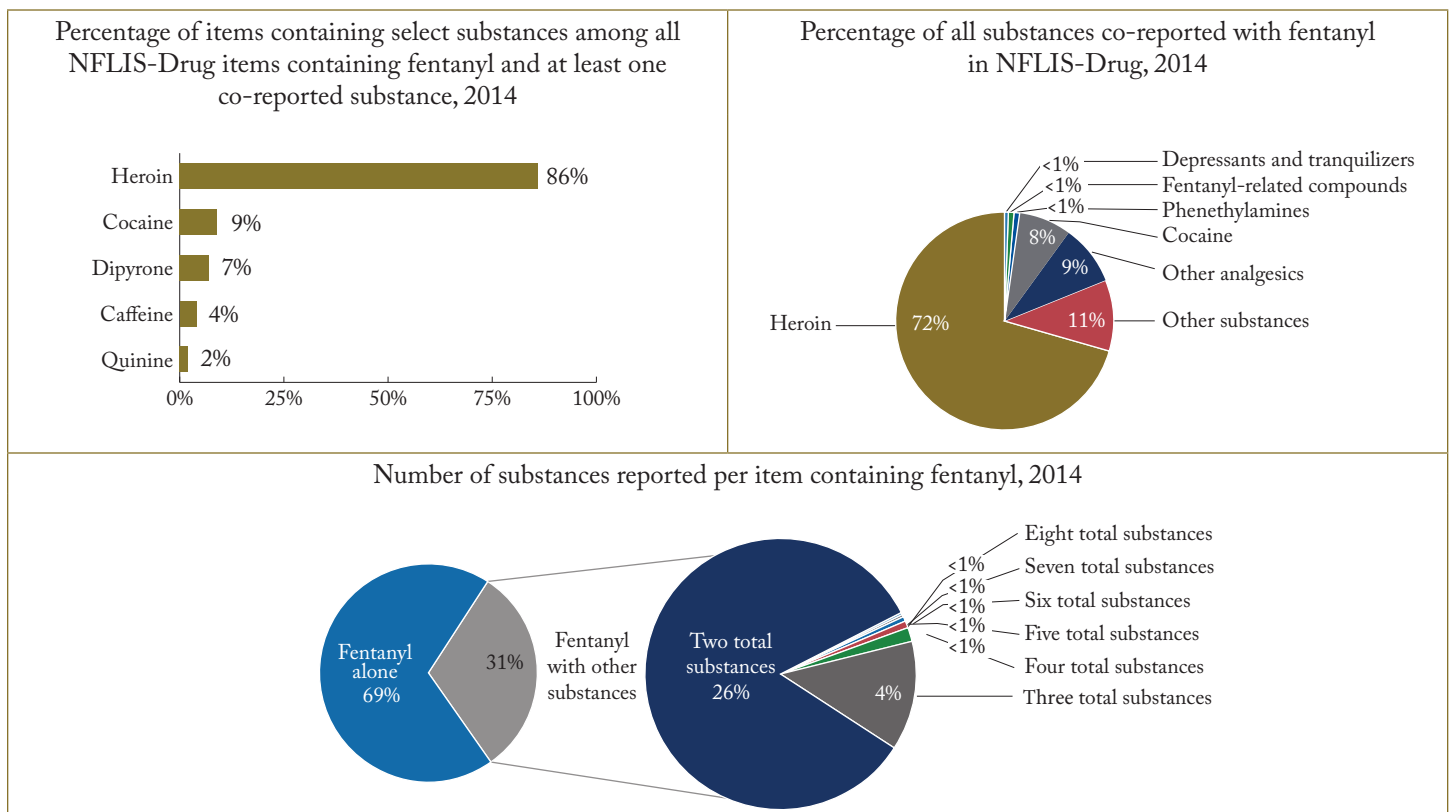


Figure 4. Submission date: 2014 (n = 1,702 items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)



Note: Percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Figure 5. Submission date: 2015 (n = 4,542 items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)

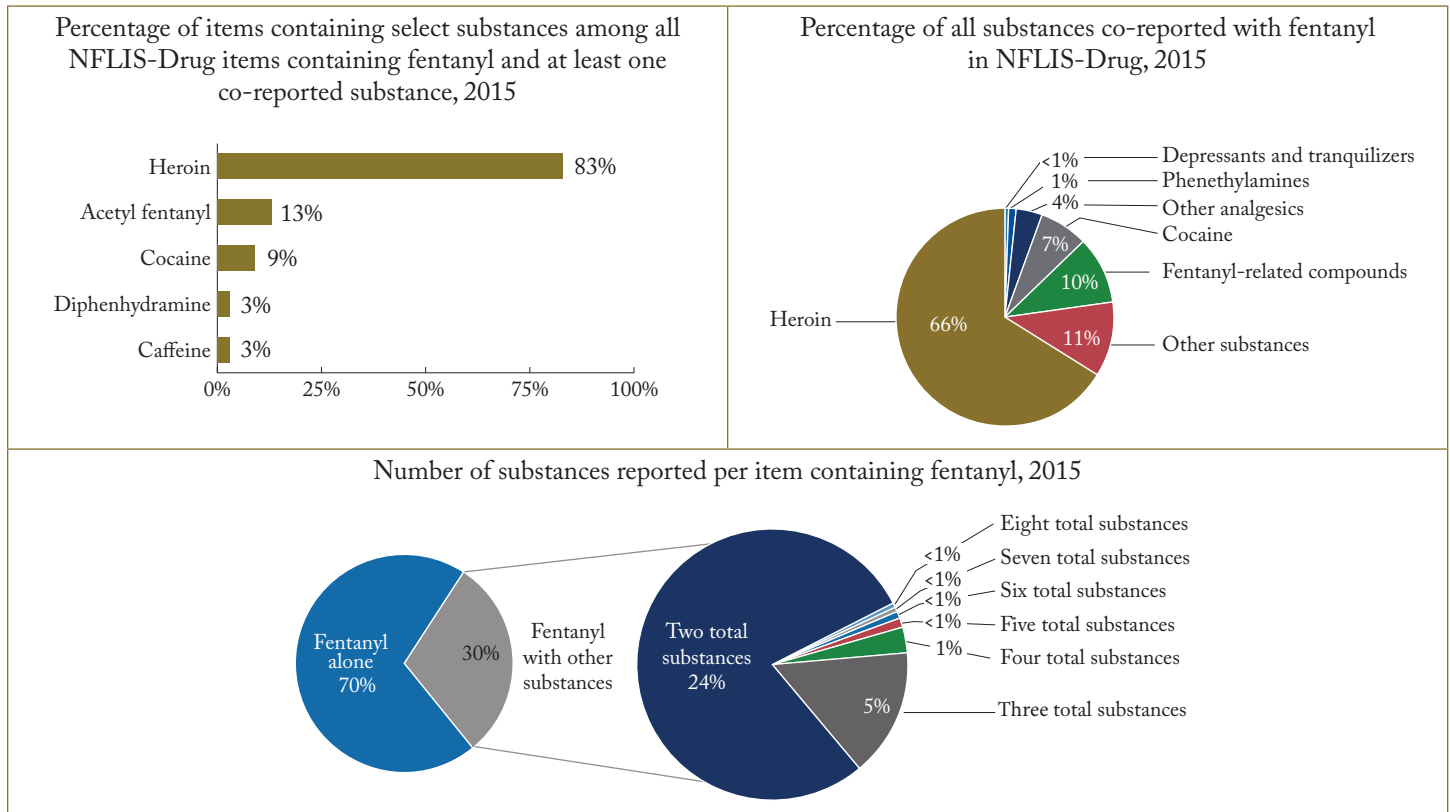
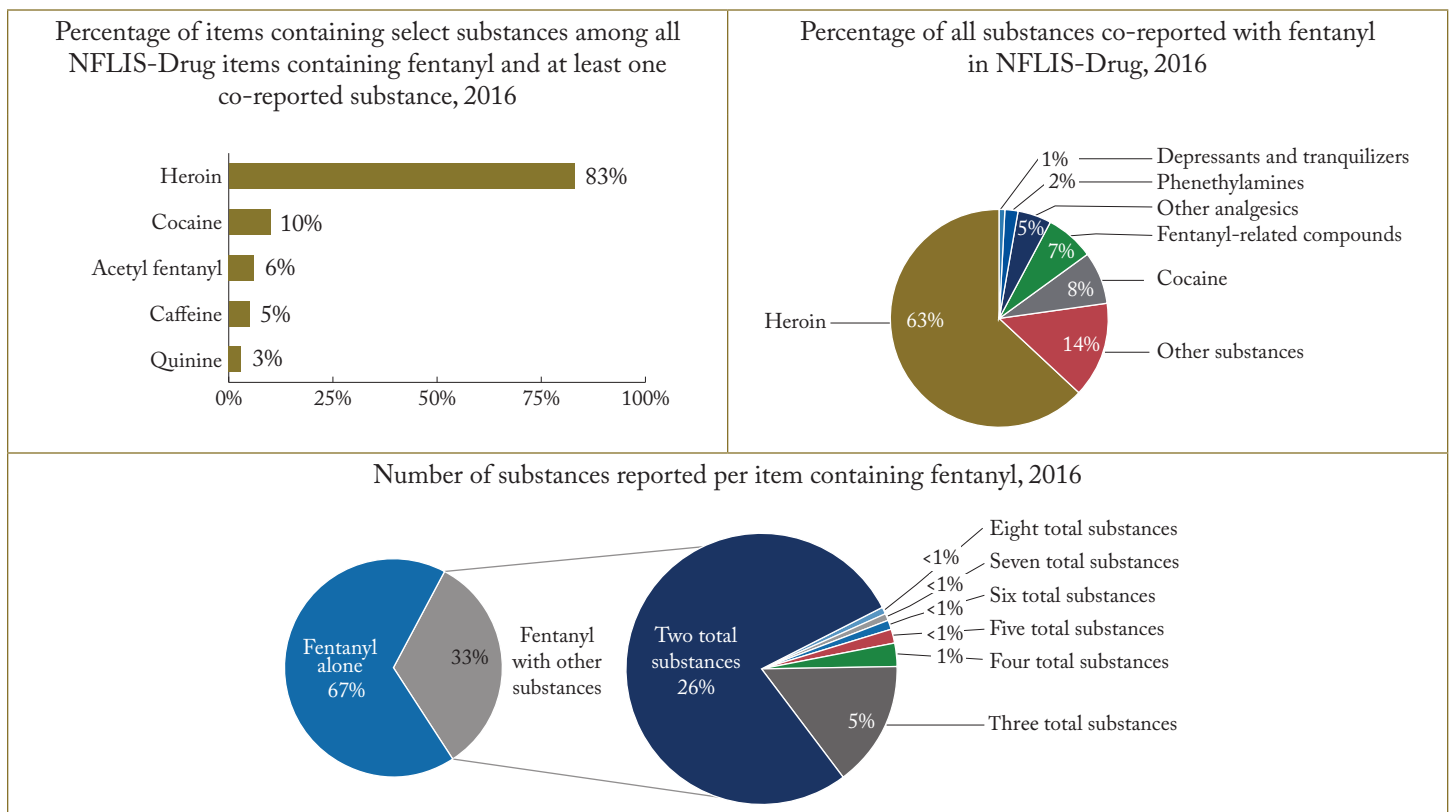


Figure 6. Submission date: 2016 (n = 11,718 items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)



Note: Percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Figure 7. Submission date: 2017 (n = 24,201 items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)

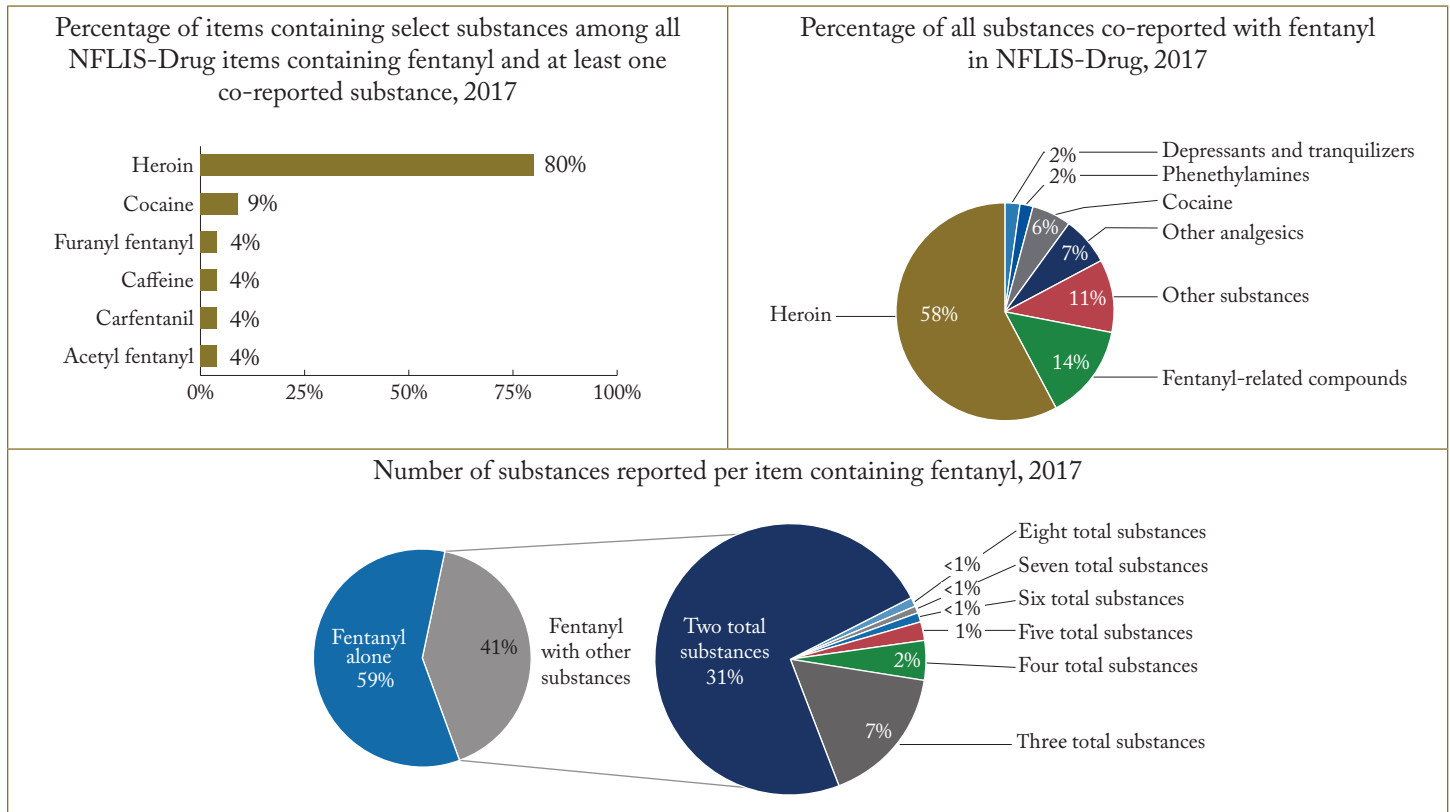
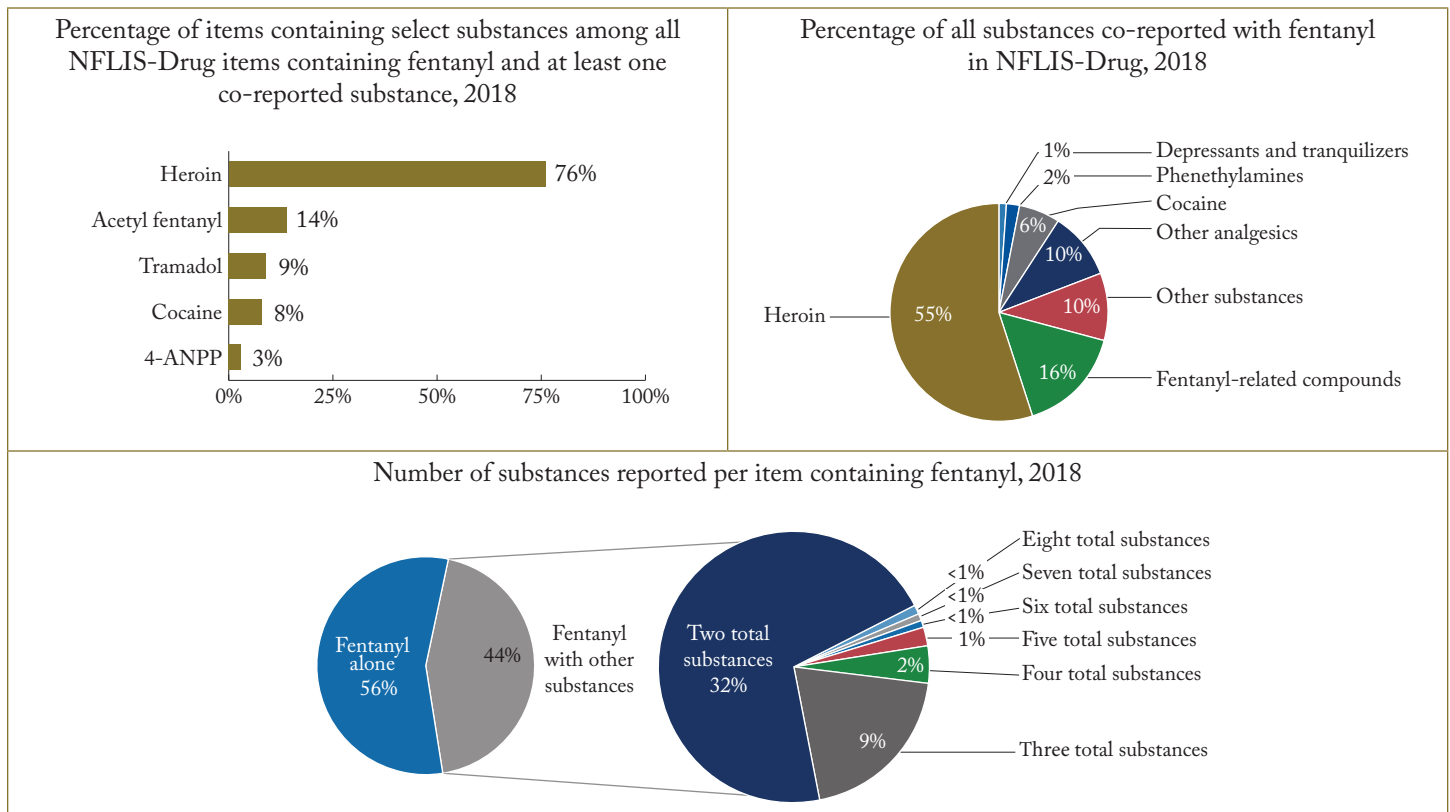


Figure 8. Submission date: 2018 (n = 38,141 items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)



Note: Percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Figure 9. Submission date: 2019 (n = 45,716 items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)

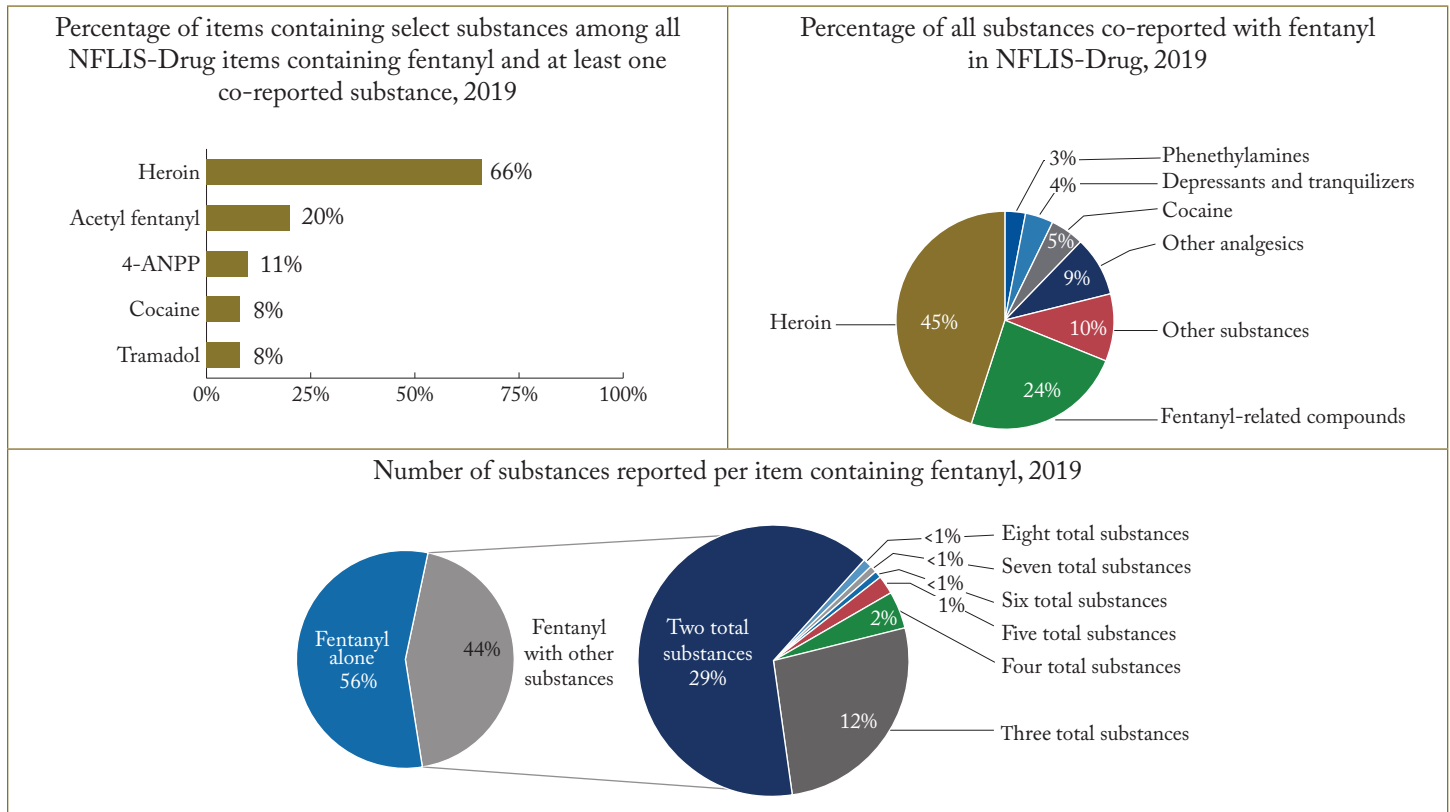
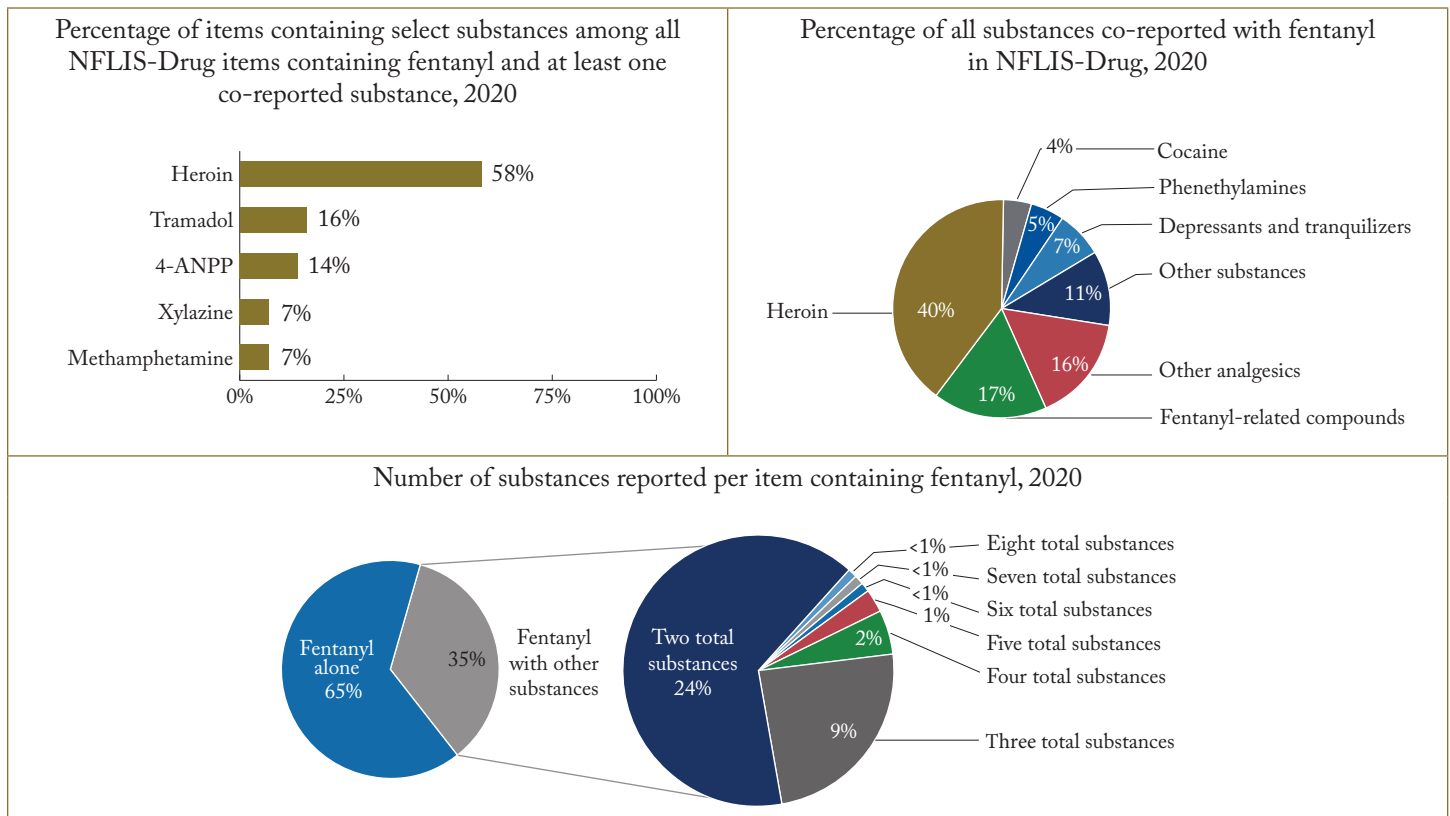


Figure 10. Submission date: 2020 (n = 43,417 items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)



Note: Percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Figure 11. Submission date: 2021 (n = 54,669 items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)

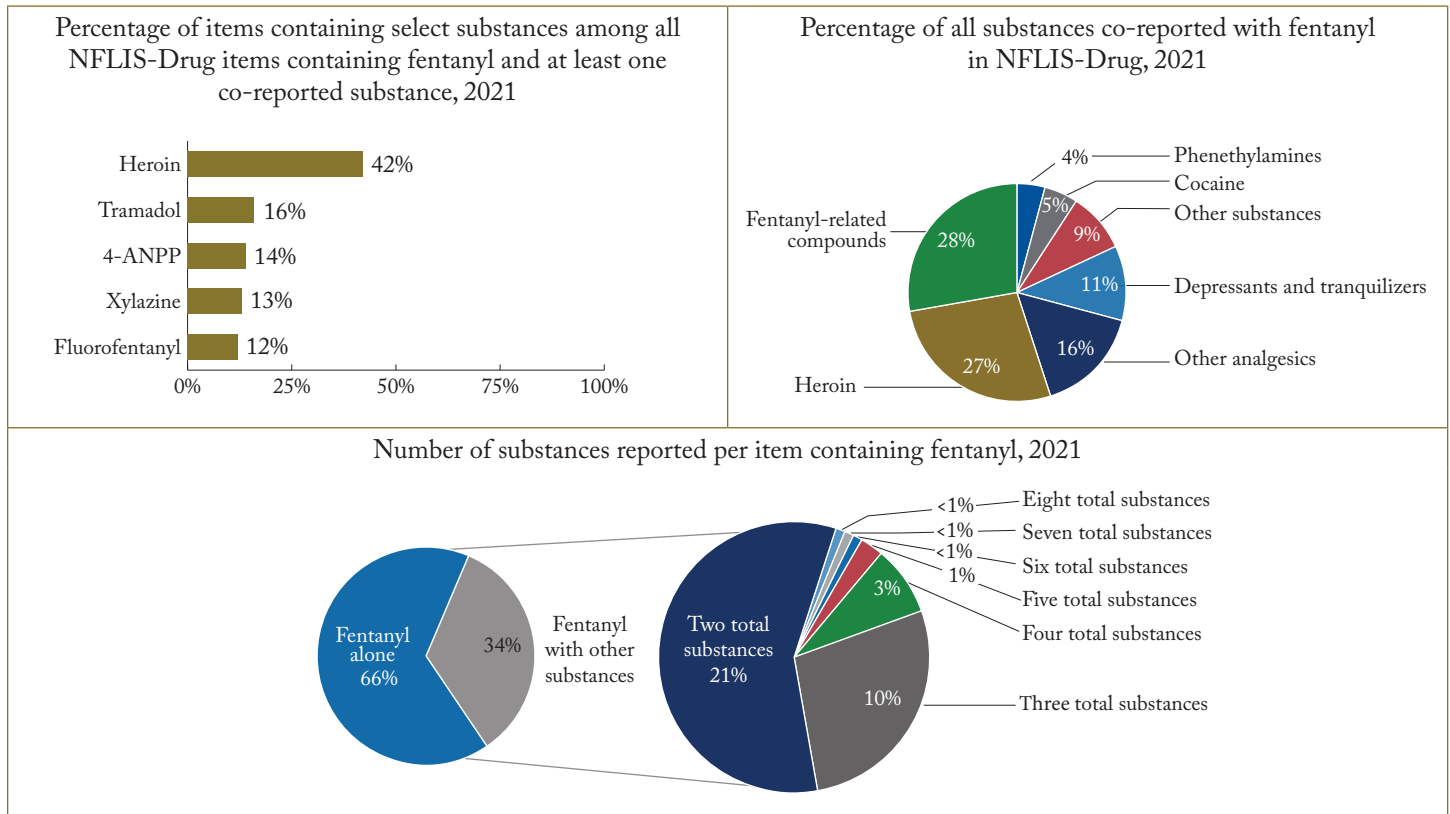
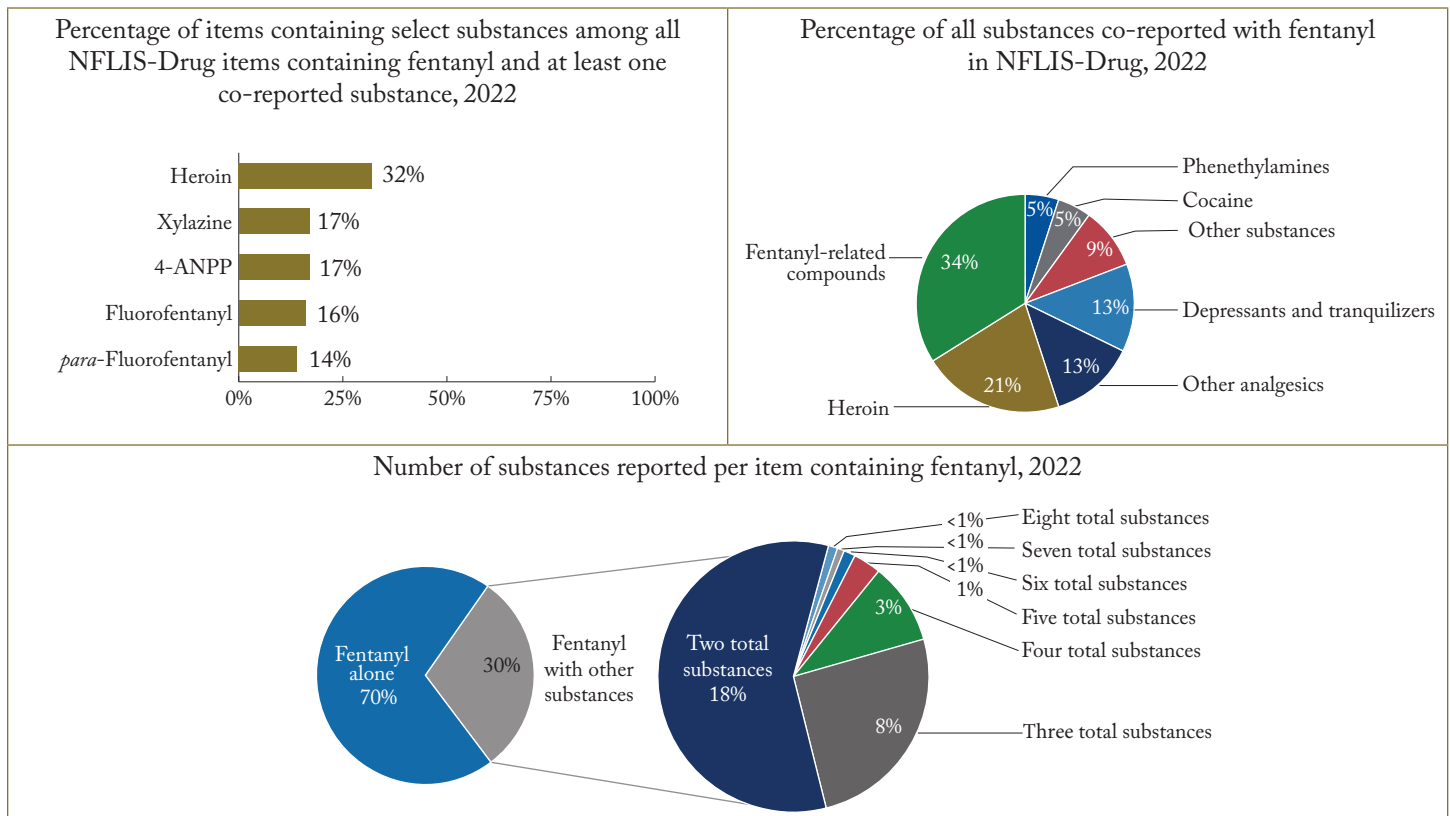
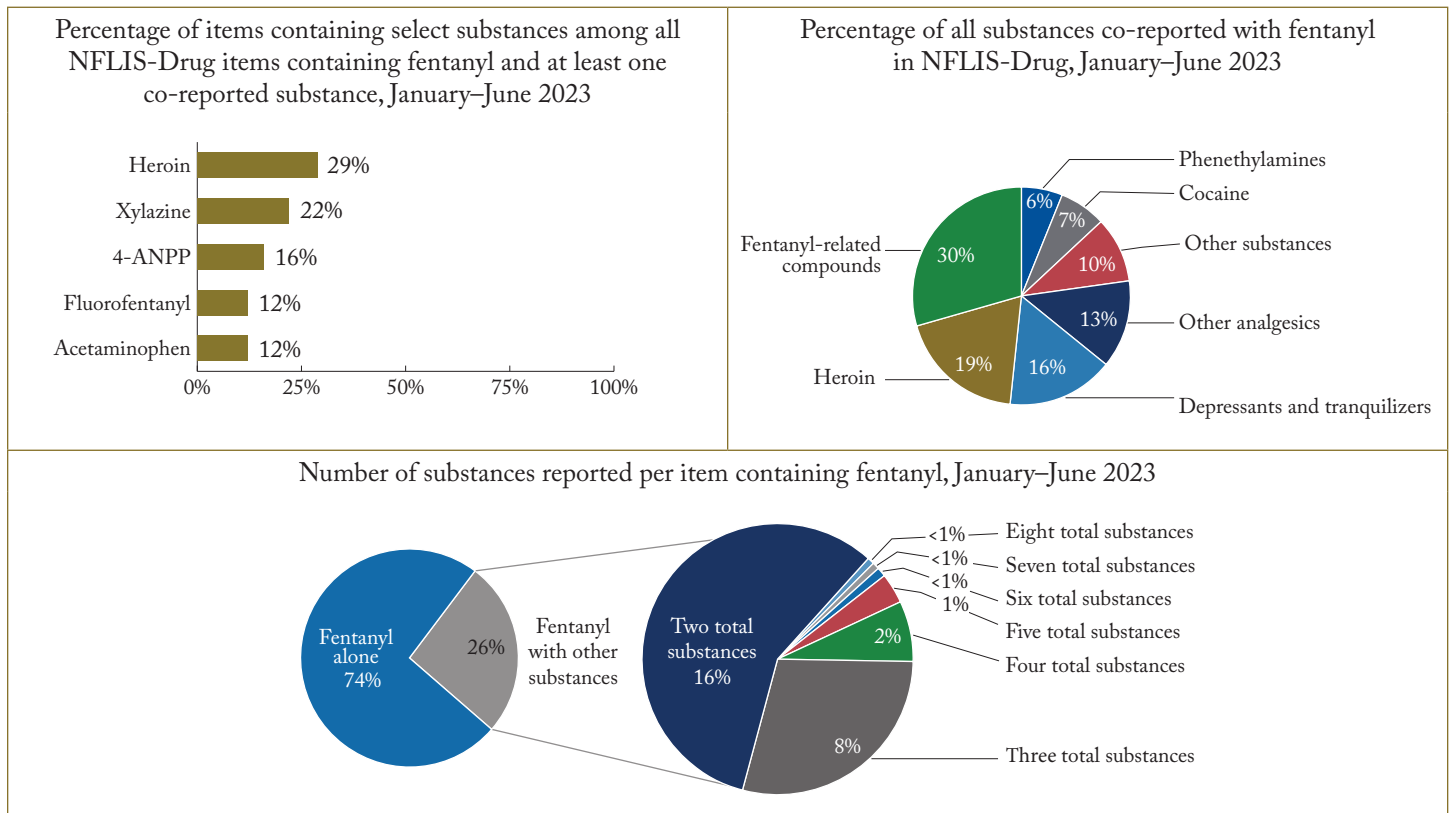


Figure 12. Submission date: 2022 (n = 48,432 items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)



Note: Percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Figure 13. Submission date: January–June 2023 (n = 10,730 items containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)



Note: Percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding.



Substances Co-Reported with Fentanyl in DEA-Tox: January 2020–June 6, 2023

There were 505 samples analyzed between January 2020 and June 6, 2023, collected by the DEA Toxicology Testing Program (DEA-Tox)³ between September 2018 and June 2, 2023, that were positive for fentanyl. Of these, only two contained fentanyl alone (see [Figures 14–18](#)).

Figure 14. Percentage of samples containing select substances among all DEA-Tox samples containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance

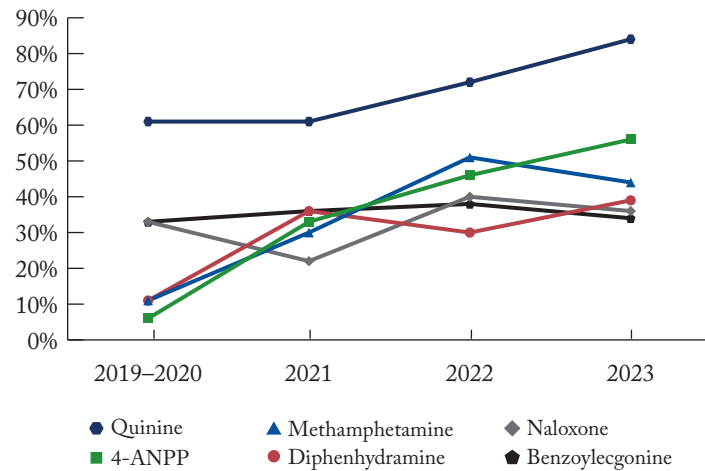


Figure 15. Collection date: 2019–2020 (n = 18 samples containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)

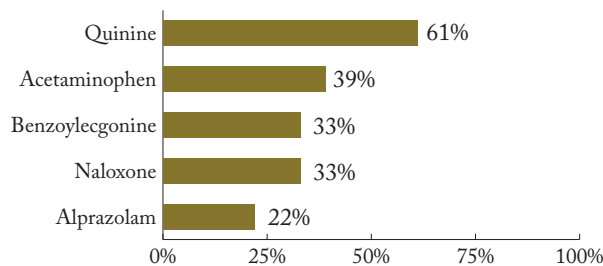


Figure 16. Collection date: 2021 (n = 187 samples containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)

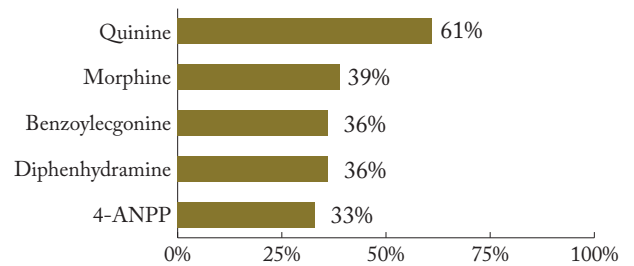


Figure 17. Collection date: 2022 (n = 164 samples containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)

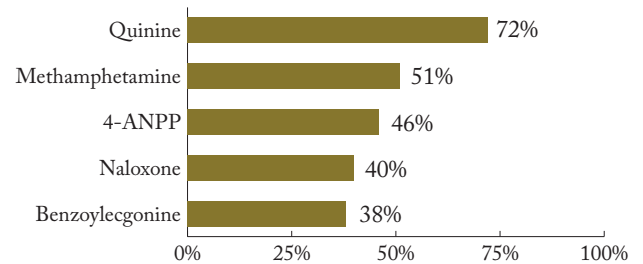
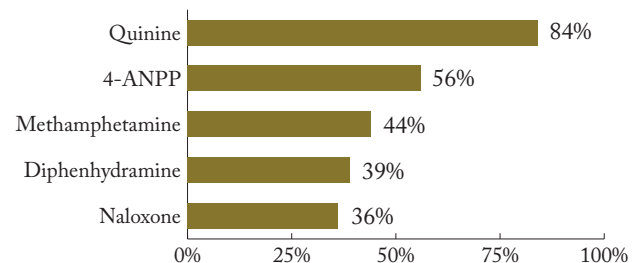


Figure 18. Collection date: January 2023–June 2, 2023 (n = 134 samples containing fentanyl and at least one co-reported substance)



³ [DEA-Tox](#) analyzes select biological samples generated from drug overdose victims for identification of synthetic drugs.

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