# EMERGING THREAT REPORT First Quarter 2019

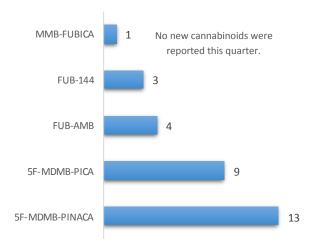
Drug Enforcement Administration
Special Testing and Research Laboratory



The Special Testing and Research Laboratory's Emerging Trends Program compiled the data for this report through a query of archived seizure and analysis information from drug evidence analyzed by the Drug Enforcement Administration's laboratory system. This data is representative of drug evidence seized and analyzed in the date ranges annotated. This is not a comprehensive list of all new psychoactive substances and is not representative of all evidence analyzed

**SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS** 

THERE WERE 30 SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID IDENTIFICATIONS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF CY2019. 5F-MDMB-PINACA WAS THE MOST REPORTED SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID, ACCOUNTING FOR APPROXIMATELY 43% OF THE IDENTIFICATIONS. 5F-MDMB-PICA WAS THE SECOND MOST REPORTED SYNTHETIC CANNABINOID, ACCOUNTING FOR 30% OF THE IDENTIFICATIONS.



### **BENZODIAZEPINES**

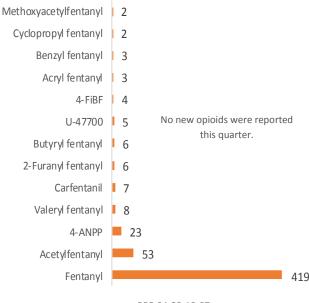
THERE WERE 20 IDENTIFICATIONS OF ETIZOLAM AND 4
IDENTIFICATIONS EACH OF FLUALPRAZOLAM AND
FLUBROMAZOLAM THIS REPORTING PERIOD.

by DEA. This data is a quarterly snapshot of the new psychoactive substance market in the United States.

The term new psychoactive substance (NPS) describes a recently emerged drug that may pose a public health threat. This includes synthetic cannabinoids, substituted cathinones, phenethylamines, opioids, tryptamines, benzodiazepines, and a variety of other chemical classes. Due to the recent increase in seizures, fentanyl is also included in this report.

## **OPIOIDS/ANALGESICS**

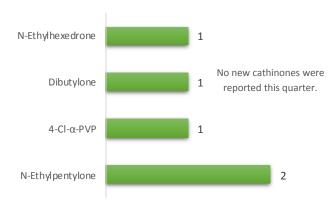
THERE WERE 541 IDENTIFICATIONS OF FENTANYL, FENTANYL-RELATED COMPOUNDS, AND OTHER NEW OPIOIDS. THIS IS AN INCREASE FROM THE 378 IDENTIFICATIONS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF CY2018. FENTANYL ACCOUNTED FOR APPROXIMATELY 77% of the opioid identifications. Of the 419 identifications, fentanyl was found as the only controlled substance in 42% of the identifications and with Heroin in approximately 38% of the identifications. Acetylfentanyl was the next most prominent substance identified, accounting for approximately 10% of the identifications.



An identification is made when authenticated reference material is available for comparison. When reference material is not available, the drug evidence is identified as "substance unconfirmed." A single unit of drug evidence may have multiple sub-units. For the purposes of this document, 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.

### **CATHINONES**

THERE WERE  $^{5}$  CATHINONE IDENTIFICATIONS THIS REPORTING PERIOD. N-ETHYLPENTYLONE CONTINUES TO BE THE MOST REPORTED CATHINONE, ACCOUNTING FOR  $^{40\%}$  OF THE IDENTIFICATIONS.



#### **OTHER**

The "other" category includes substances that could not be confirmed, psychoactive plants, PCP related substances, benzofurans, hallucinogens, tryptamines, and amphetamines.

THERE WERE 22 INSTANCES OF UNCONFIRMED SUBSTANCES DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD. ADDITIONALLY, THERE WERE 3 IDENTIFICATIONS OF MMMP AND 1 IDENTIFICATION EACH OF 2C-B AND MITRAGYNINE.

Questions about this data are welcome and may be directed to the DEA Emerging Trends Program at 703-668-3300 or DEA.Emerging.Trends@usdoj.gov