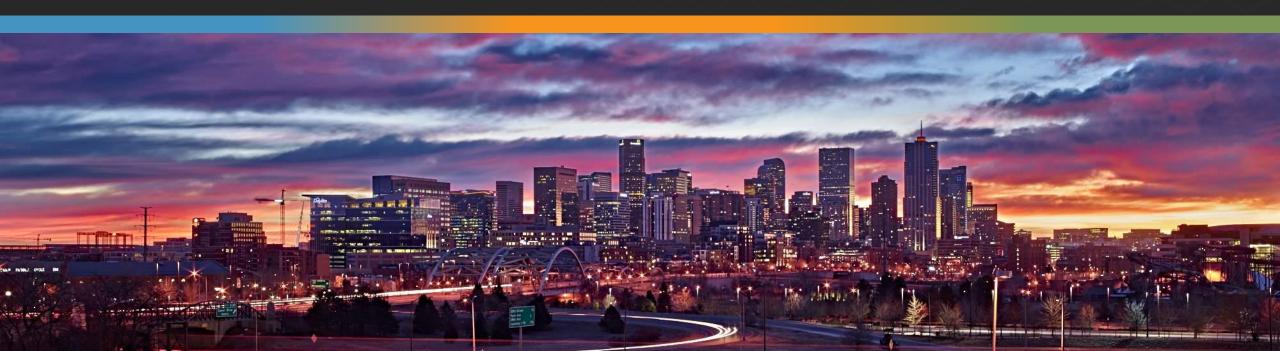


Survey of Forensic Laboratories Testing for Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

Session 5: NPS – Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) Annual Meeting – Thursday November 2, 2023

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DISCLOSURES

- I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.
- I am a scientist and employee of FRFF / CFSRE, a 501(c)(3) non-profit research and educational facility.
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 - Award Number: 15PNIJ-22-GG-04434-MUMU
 - The opinions, findings, conclusions and/or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.





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SOFT NPS COMMITTEE

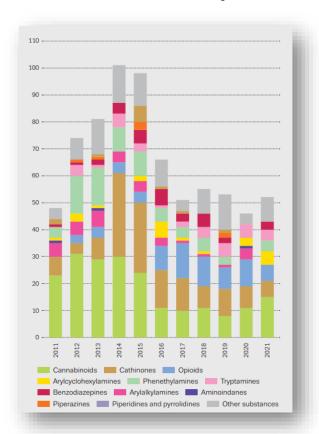
- Dani Mata Chair
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- Alex Krotulski
- Donna Papsun
- Elisa Shoff
- Szabolcs Sofalvi
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- Michael Truver
- Celia Modell
- Lana Goodson



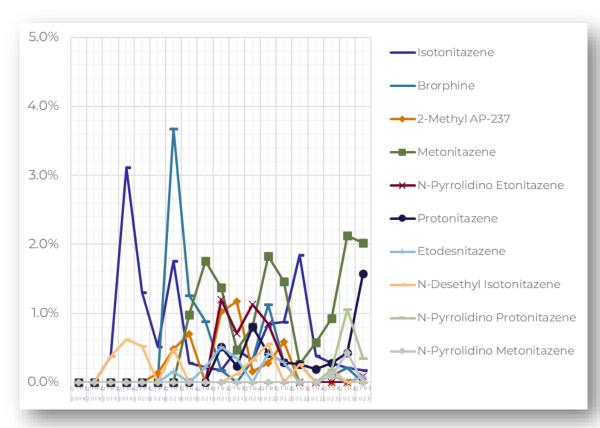




■ Statement of problem → keeping current with NPS landscapes is difficult









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- SOFT NPS Committee is frequently asked for advice on NPS scopes and new drugs



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- Initial goal of scope recommendations → provide a resource that is accessible and dynamic



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- SOFT NPS Committee is frequently asked for advice on NPS scopes and new drugs
- Initial goal of scope recommendations → provide a resource that is accessible and dynamic
- How do we format the document? → DUID scope recommendations

	Blood	Urine		Oral fluid		
Drug	Screen	Confirm	Screen	Confirm	Screen	Confirm
DRE category; cannabinoids						
Δ^9 -THC	_	1	_	_	4	1
Carboxy-THC	10	5	20	5	-	_
11-hydroxy-THC	_	1	_	_	_	_
DRE category; CNS stimulants						
Methamphetamine	20	20	200	50	20	20
Amphetamine	20	20	200	50	20	20
MDMA ^a	_	20	-	50	20	20
MDA ^a	_	20	_	50	20	20

Table III. Recommended Tier II Drugs/Drug Classes
DRE category; cannabis
Synthetic cannabinoids
DRE category; CNS stimulants
Cathinones
Methylphenidate
Mitragynine
DRE category; CNS depressants
Atypical antipsychotics
Barbiturates
Carbamazepine
Chlordiazepoxide
Chlorpheniramine
Cyclobenzaprine
Diphenhydramine
Doxylamine
Gabapentin

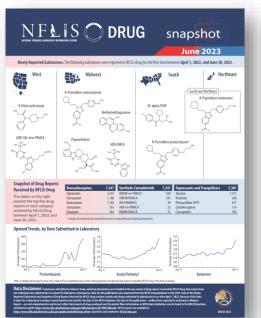


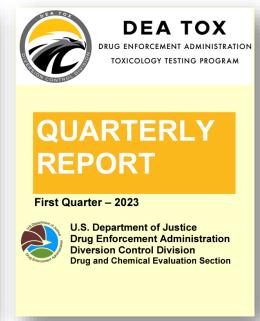
■ **Development of the matrix** → drug classes vs. tiers

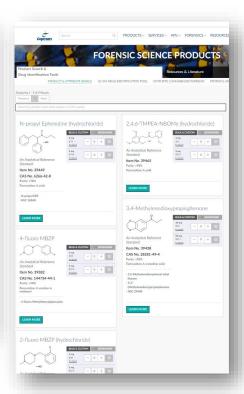
BENZODIAZEPINES	OPIOIDS	STIMULANTS & HALLUCINOGENS	SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS
	TIER ONE (STRONG	GLY RECOMMEND)	
	TIER TWO (R	ECOMMEND)	
	TIER THREE	(CONSIDER)	
Note: This may not be an all-inclusive lis	t. Laboratories should consider additional I	NPS for inclusion (or exclusion) based on locc	II. national. and/or international trends
Hotel Billishidy for be all difficultive its		W 5161 Medision for exclusion; based of foce	n, Hadonar, and of international Cellus.

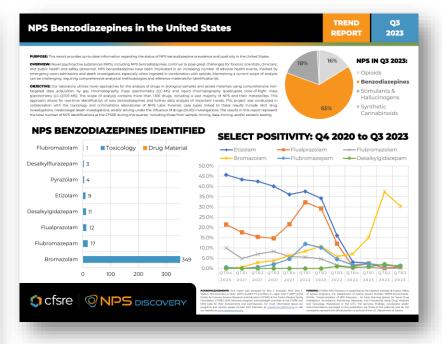


- Development of the matrix → drug classes vs. tiers
- Filling in the matrix → consultation with available NPS data and input from committee







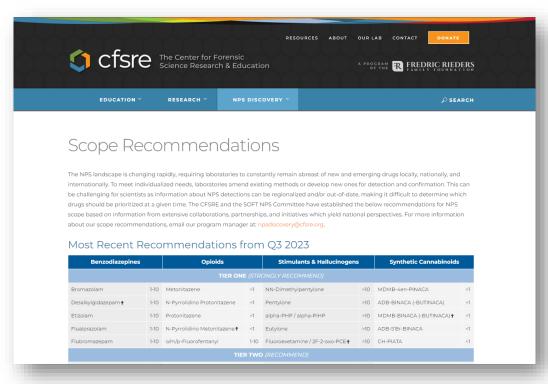


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- **Review process** → shared amongst committee and reviewed for acceptance





- Development of the matrix → drug classes vs. tiers
- Filling in the matrix → consultation with available NPS data and input from committee
- Review process → shared amongst committee and reviewed for acceptance
- First: Q1 2021 → Most Recent: Q3 2023
- Received overwhelming positive feedback
- Available publicly SOFT website linked to CFSRE's NPS Discovery webpage →





Recommended Scope for NPS Testing in the United States

NPS SCOPE Q3 2023

PURPOSE: The objective of this report is to provide updated guidance in developing an appropriate analytical scope of testing for novel psychoactive substances (NPS) in the United States (and around the world) based on current trends and intelligence. This report is based on information available in Q2 2023 and early Q3 2023 and is subject to change along with the drug market.

SUMMARY: The NPS landscape is changing rapidly, requiring laboratories to constantly remain abreast of new and emerging drugs locally, nationally, and internationally. To meet individualized needs, laboratories amend existing methods or develop new ones for detection and confirmation of NPS. This can be challenging for scientists as information about NPS detections can be regionalized and/or out-of-date, making it difficult to determine which drugs should be prioritized at a given time. **CFSRE**'s **NPS Discovery** and the **SOFT NPS Committee** have established the below recommendations for NPS scope based on information from extensive collaborations, partnerships, and initiatives which yield national and international perspectives. Suggested cut-off concentrations or reporting limits (in ng/mL) are listed for each NPS. These values are categorized (i.e., <1, 1-10, and >10 ng/mL) and determined based on currently available quantitative data and/or comparison to structurally similar NPS within the given sub-class.

BENZODIAZEPINES		OPIOIDS		STIMULANTS & HALLUCINOGENS		SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS	
TIER ONE (STRONGLY RECOMMEND)							
Bromazolam	1-10	Metonitazene	<1	N,N-Dimethylpentylone	>10	MDMB-4en-PINACA	<1
*Desalkylgidazepam†	1-10	N-Pyrrolidino Protonitazene	<1	Pentylone	>10	ADB-BINACA (-BUTINACA)	<1
Flubromazepam	1-10	Protonitazene	<1	alpha-PiHP / alpha-PHP	>10	*MDMB-BINACA (-BUTINACA)	<1
Etizolam [†]	1-10	*N-Pyrrolidino Metonitazene	<1	Eutylone	>10	ADB-5'Br-BINACA	<1
Flualprazolam	1-10	o/m/p-Fluorofentanyl	1-10	*Fluoroexetamine / 2F-2-oxo-PCE	1-10	CH-PIATA	<1
		TIER TV	VO (R.	ECOMMEND)			
*Clonazolam‡	<1	Isotonitazene	<1	*N-Propyl Butylone	>10	*CHO-4'Me-5'Br-FUBOXPYRA	<1
8-Aminoclonazolam‡	1-10	*N-Desethyl Isotonitazene	<1	N-Cyclohexyl Butylone	>10	*ADB-4en-PINACA	<1
*Desalkylflurazepam†	1-10	N-Pyrrolidino Etonitazene	<1	N-Cyclohexyl Methylone	>10	ADB-FUBIATA	<1
*Deschloroetizolam	1-10	Carfentanil	<1	2F-Deschloroketamine	<1	ADB-5'Br-PINACA	<1
		TIER TI	HREE	(CONSIDER)			
*Flubromazolam	1-10	Brorphine	<1	2,3,4-Methylmethcathinone	1-10	*5F-MDMB-PICA	<1
*4'CI-Deschloroalprazolam	1-10	Etodesnitazene	1-10	3-HO-PCP / 4-HO-PCP	<1	*4F-MDMB-BINACA	<1
Pyrazolam	1-10	Ethyleneoxynitazene	1-10	3-MeO-PCP / 4-MeO-PCP	<1	*4F-ABINACA (-ABUTINACA)	<1
Bromazepam†	1-10	N-Piperidinyl Etonitazene	<1	MDPHP	>10	*NMDMSB	<1

Note: This may not be an all-inclusive list. Laboratories should consider additional NPS for inclusion (or exclusion) based on local, national, and/or international trend





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> dalmen. The recommendations in this report are subject to change time as new information becomes available. (Toxicologists should side that NPS may appear due to varying pharmacourical origins.

In Municipe CFSE'S NOS Discovery is funded in part by the Nation institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, LLS Coperational of Justice (Award Marcher 1994/0.25 GO-64-64-M.M.M. "Implementation of NNS Discovery - An Easy Warning System file Novel Copy Intelligence of NNS Discovery - An Easy Warning System file Novel Copy Intelligence of NNS Discovery - An Easy Warning System file Novel Copy Intelligence in the UTI, The personnel Novel Copy Intelligence in the UTI, The personnel Intelligence of Novel Copy Intelligence in the UTI, The personnel Intelligence Intellige

gested Citations Krotulski et al. (2023) Accommended Scope for Testing in the United States Q2 2023, Center for Forensic Science reach and Education, United States.







OBJECTIVES

- Conduct a survey of forensic laboratories testing for NPS
 - Determine the effectiveness of our scope recommendations and other pertinent information regarding testing (e.g., instrumentation, NPS subclasses tested for, prevalence of specific NPS, etc.)
- Primary purpose of the survey was to solicit feedback about who uses the scope recommendations and how they are being used
- The survey also allowed for suggestions on future improvements and developments







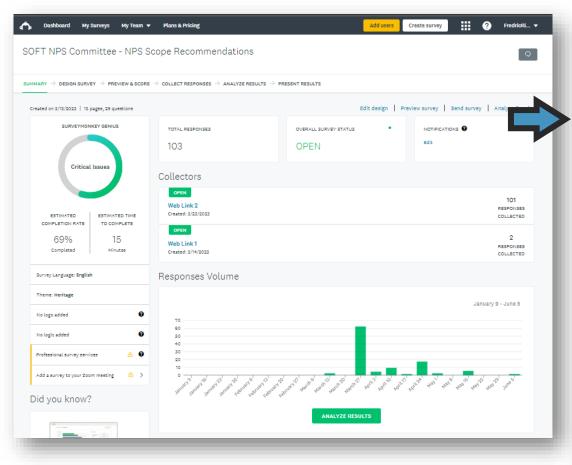


METHODS

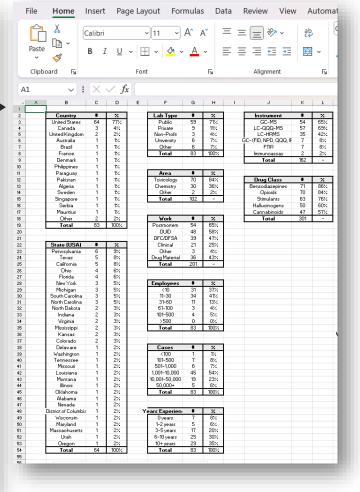
- SurveyMonkey → disseminated and facilitated online
- 29 total questions:
 - Required vs. optional
 - Single answer
 - Multiple choice
 - Open-ended response
- Estimated 10-15 minutes
- Distribution → SOFT membership, TIAFT membership, CFSRE's NPS Discovery listserv, etc.
- Questions → Generic, analytical, scope recommendations, and NPS detections



DATA CLEANING AND TABULATION









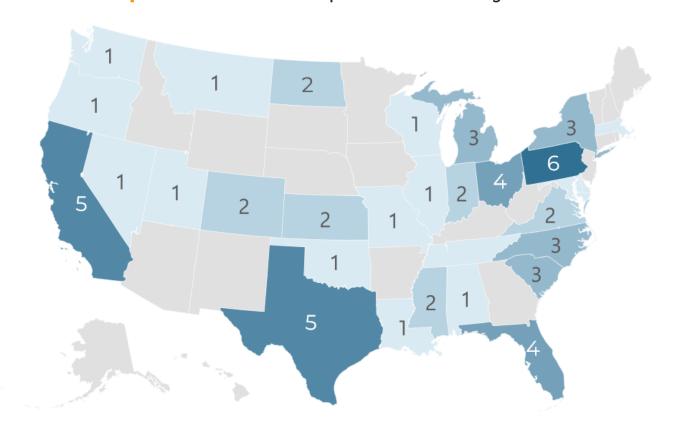
RESULTS & DISCUSSION





RESPONDENTS

83 respondents completed survey



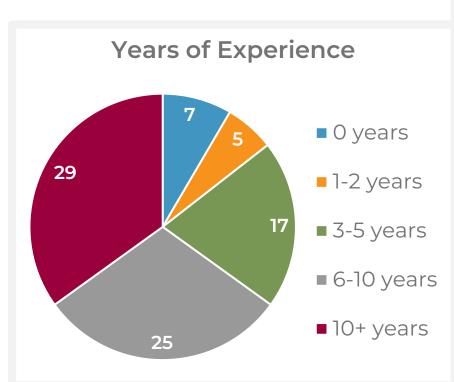
COUNTRY	#
← United States	64
Canada	3
United Kingdom	2
Australia	1
Brazil	1
France	1
Denmark	1
Philippines	1
Paraguay	1
Pakistan	1
Algeria	1
Sweden	1
Singapore	1
Serbia	1
Mauritius	1
Other	2

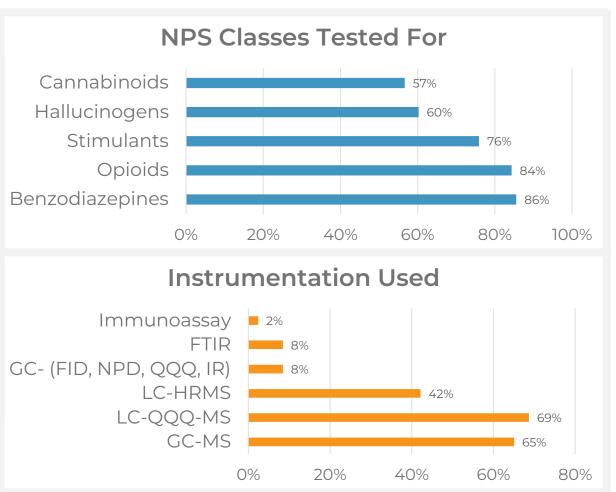
LAB DEMOGRAPHICS





EXPERIENCE WITH NPS





Are you using the NPS scope recommendations currently?	%
I download/print/utilize the recommendations and use them as a primary resource for method enhancements or scope development	40%
I open and read the recommendations but nothing further	30%
I forward the recommendations to scientists in the lab/R&D	16%
I did not know these recommendations existed	15%

How do you use the scope recommendations? (Select All)	%
To find information about new NPS I hadn't previously heard of	70%
To expand my lab's scope of testing	64%
To add new analytes to our screening method	54%
To develop new confirmation methods	30%
To develop new research projects	26%
To make sure the reference lab that we send to is testing for the most recent NPS	15%

What types of testing do you add NPS to from the scope recommendations? <i>(Select All)</i>	%
Screening Scope	66%
Confirmation Tests	55%
Surveillance Libraries	32%
None of the above	14%

How useful are the recommended cutoffs? (i.e., <1, 1-10, >10 ng/mL)	%
Highly Useful	38%
Somewhat Useful	36%
Neutral	19%
Not Useful	7%

What is the appropriate regularity with which scope recommendations should be produced, updated, and disseminated?	%
Quarterly	64%
Biannually (2x per year)	19%
Annually	11%
Monthly	4%
Other	3%

Do you think quarterly scope recommendations are attainable?	%
No	41%
Neutral	39%
Yes	20%



What PRIMARY resources do you rely on to determine your scope of testing for NPS? <i>(Select All)</i>	%
SOFT/CFSRE NPS Scope Recommendations	66%
CFSRE's NPS Discovery Reports and Resources	57%
Cayman Chemical Resources	46%
DEA/NFLIS Reports and Resources	40%
UNODC Reports and Resources	39%
SOFT NPS Committee Resources	33%
EMCDDA Reports and Resources	30%
Other (please specify)	30%
TIAFT NPS Committee Resources	17%



SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- Inclusion of metabolites
- Isomers need to be resolved vs. most common
- Concentrations:
 - Range of expected blood concentrations
 - More context for suggested cutoff (how # is determined)
- Inclusion of semi-synthetic cannabinoids
- Geographic specificity
- Wider broadcast of its existence
- More analytical toolkits



CONCLUSIONS





CONCLUSIONS

- NPS scope recommendations remain a highly valued resource and the primary resource for forensic scientists (and others)
 - National and international consumption
- Forensic toxicologists appreciate scope recommendations
 - However, <u>adequate resources and funding are necessary</u>
- There are opportunities for improvements and build out
- We gathered insightful information:
 - NPS opioids and benzodiazepines are most tested for
 - LC-QQQ-MS most common followed by GC-MS; IA least common



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Thank you to the respondents!
- SOFT Board of Directors and SOFT NPS Committee
 - Dani Mata, Kayla Ellefsen, Alex Krotulski, Donna Papsun, Elisa Shoff, Szabolcs Sofalvi, Svante Vikingsson, Michael Truver, Celia Modell, and Lana Goodson
- CFSRE Colleagues
 - Barry Logan and Sara Walton







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THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?



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