

Purpose: This report provides up-to-date information regarding the drug supply in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States.

Overview: Traditional drugs (e.g. heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine) are commonly identified among drug samples in cities across the United States, albeit at varying purities and combinations. Novel psychoactive substances (NPS) continue to appear within the drug supply, masked as traditional drugs or added to traditional drug preparations. The drug supply nationally remains a dynamic and changing environment, specifically relating to the active drugs contained within the preparations and the cutting agents or adulterants added. The drug supply can be different from city to city or even within a given community, requiring specific regional assessments. Accurate understanding of the drug supply in real-time is imperative for effective public health and public safety preparedness and response.

Objective: A partnership between the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE) and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) has been established to accurately assess the drug supply in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This initiative was established as a comprehensive effort. Select drug testing results from samples obtained within the city were compiled for preparation of this report. The results reported herein may not represent the entirety of the drug supply.

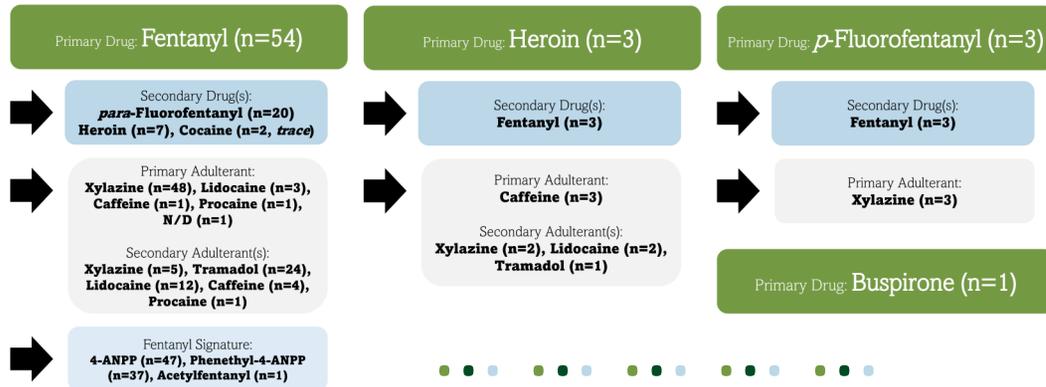
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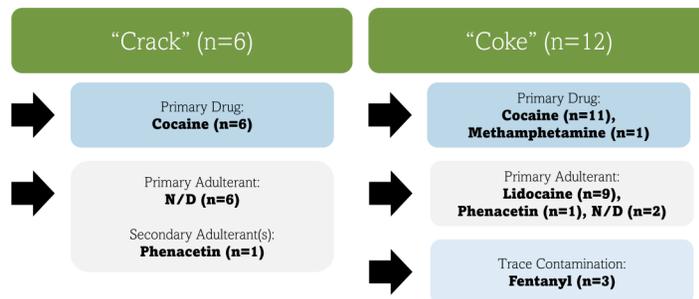
Summary and Key Findings:

- 91 samples were reported between February and April 2021
- Most “heroin” samples contained fentanyl cut with xylazine; however, heroin was identified in a few samples
- Cocaine and methamphetamine samples were not adulterated with other unsuspecting drugs, but fentanyl contamination was observed and determined to be insignificant
- para*-Fluorofentanyl is increasing in prevalence and was identified as the primary opioid in some “heroin” samples

“Heroin” / Dope (n=61)



Cocaine (n=18)



Methamphetamine	Methamphetamine
PCP	Oxycodone
ADB-BINACA	ADB-BINACA
ADB-BINACA	ADB-BINACA

61 “Heroin” / Dope (Powder in Glassine Bag)

20 Powders / Crystals (E.g., Cocaine, Methamphetamine)

2 Pills / Tablets (E.g., Oxycodone, Xanax, Ecstasy)

8 Other (E.g., K2, PCP, Paraphernalia)