

**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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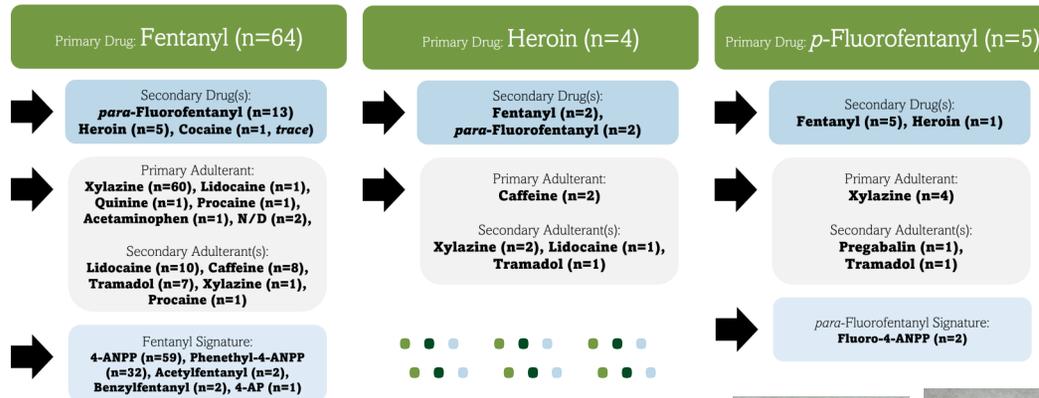


## Summary and Key Findings:

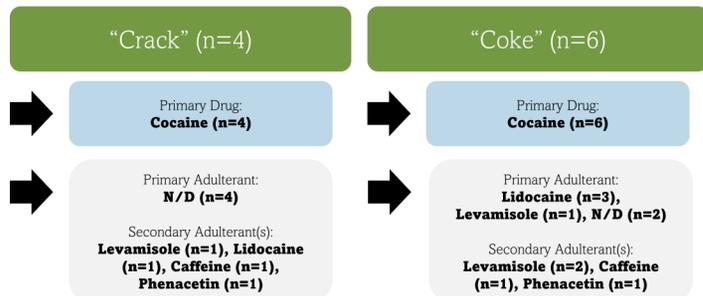
- 98 samples were reported between April and August 2021
- Most “heroin” samples contained fentanyl cut with xylazine; however, heroin was identified in the supply without fentanyl
- Cocaine and methamphetamine samples were not adulterated; fentanyl contamination was not observed in this sample set\*
- *para*-Fluorofentanyl continues increasing in prevalence, being identified as the primary opioid in some “heroin” samples
- Counterfeit “Xanax” found to contain NPS benzodiazepines

\*While cocaine and methamphetamine samples did not contain fentanyl, it is important to note that combinations of these drugs have been observed in Philadelphia and, in many instances, the user was unaware until testing was performed.

## “Heroin” / Dope (n=74)



## Cocaine (n=10)



Methamphetamine	DMT
MDA	Flualprazolam, Etizolam
Etizolam, Flualprazolam	Alprazolam
ADB-BINACA	No Drug Detected

**74**   
 “Heroin” / Dope  
 (Powder in Glassine Bag)

**16**   
 Powders / Crystals  
 (E.g., Cocaine, Methamphetamine)

**4**   
 Pills / Tablets  
 (E.g., Oxycodone, Xanax, Ecstasy)

**4**   
 Other  
 (E.g., K2, DMT, Paraphernalia)