

# YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

**Purpose:** This report provides cumulative up-to-date statistics about the emergence and landscape of novel psychoactive substances (NPS) in the United States based on data developed by the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE)'s NPS Discovery program — a premier open-access drug early warning system utilizing an evidence-based approach to disseminate information for real-time public health and safety action.

Since 2018, NPS Discovery has reported **201** newly discovered NPS in the United States (Figure 1). **NPS opioids** remain the largest subclass (Figure 2). In 2025, NPS Discovery reported the discovery of **27** NPS for the first time.

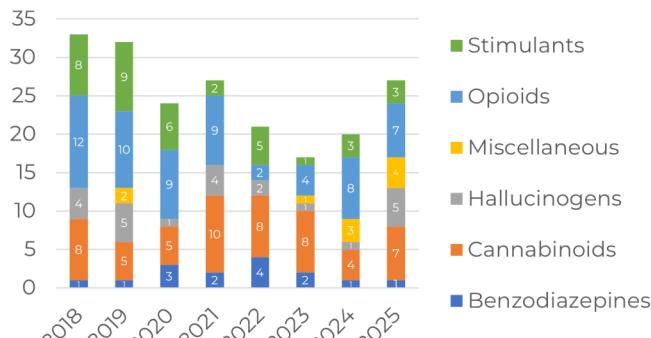


Figure 1: Newly discovered NPS reported for the first time since 2018.

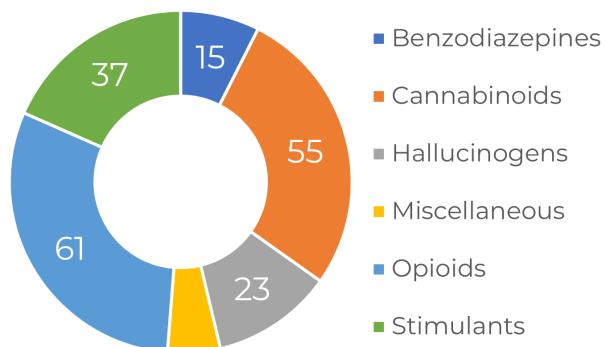


Figure 2: Breakdown by subclass of newly discovered NPS, 2018-2025.

Since 2018, NPS Discovery has identified **315** NPS in tested samples (Figure 3). **NPS opioids, stimulants, and cannabinoids** represent the largest subclasses observed. In 2025, **134** total NPS were detected (Figure 4).

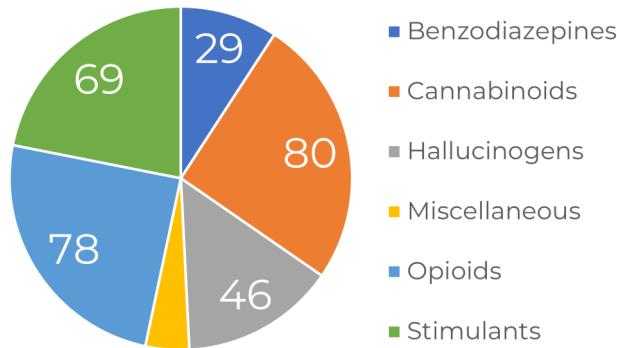


Figure 3: Breakdown by subclass of individual NPS detected, 2018-2025.

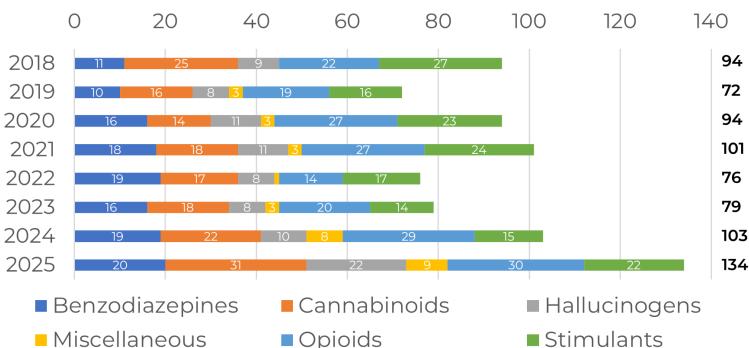


Figure 4: Individual NPS detected each year, cumulative since 2018.

In 2025, NPS Discovery observed more than **5,700** total NPS detections within examined sample populations (Figure 5), a portion of more than **25,000** total NPS detections since our program launched in 2018 (Figure 6).

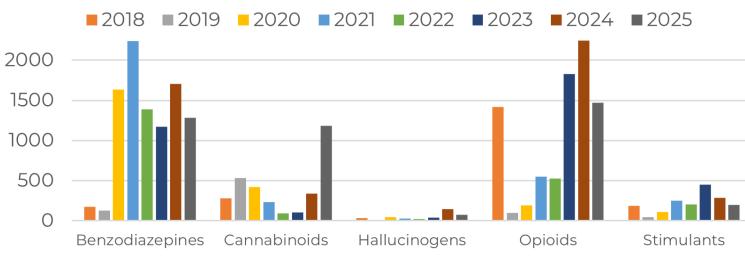


Figure 5: Total number of NPS detections by year among samples analyzed since 2018.

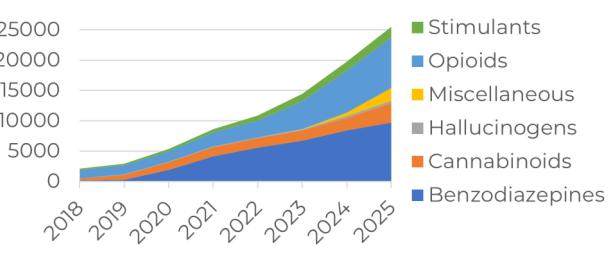


Figure 6: Cumulative number of total NPS detections since 2018.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** This report was prepared at the Center for Forensic Science Research & Education (CFSRE) at the Fredric Rieders Family Foundation by Alex Krotulski, Donna Papsun, Sara Walton, Josh DeBord, Brianna Stang, Max Denn, and Barry Logan. The authors acknowledge scientists & staff at the CFSRE for their involvements & contributions.

**RECOMMENDED CITATION:** Krotulski, AJ; Papsun, DM; Walton, SE; DeBord, JS; Stang, BN; Denn, MT; Logan, BK (2026), NPS Discovery: Year in Review 2025, Center for Forensic Science Research and Education, United States.

**FUNDING:** CFSRE's NPS Discovery is supported by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice (Award Number 1SPN122-GG-04434-MUMU, "Implementation of NPS Discovery – An Early Warning System for Novel Drug Intelligence, Surveillance, Monitoring, Response, and Forecasting using Drug Materials and Toxicology Populations in the US"). The opinions, findings, conclusions and/or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

