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.
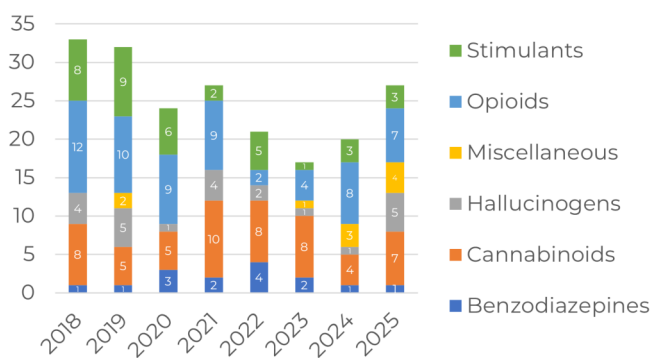

Figure 1: Newly discovered NPS reported for the first time since 2018.
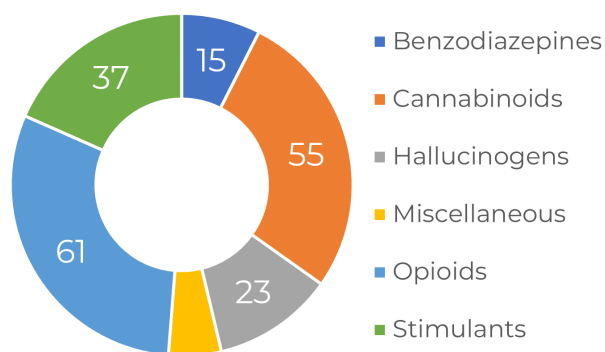

Figure 2: Breakdown by subclass of newly discovered NPS, 2018-2025.

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).
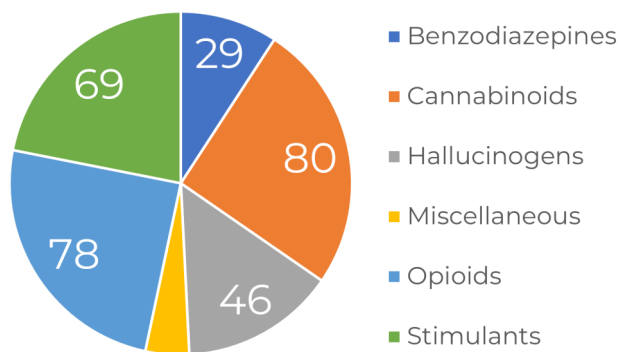

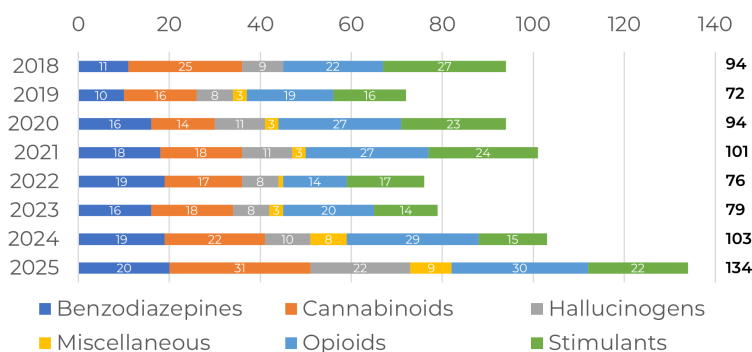**Figure 3:** Breakdown by subclass of individual NPS detected, 2018-2025.

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).
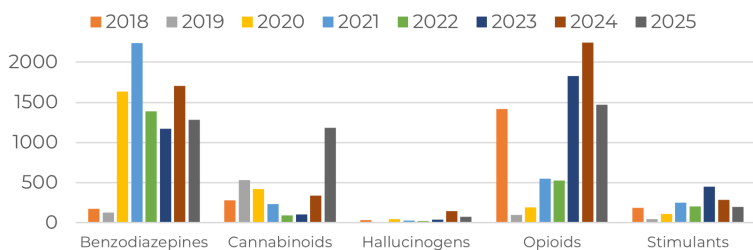

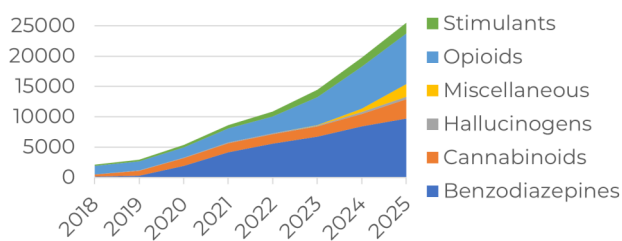**Figure 5:** Total number of NPS detections by year among samples analyzed since 2018.

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