PURPOSE: This report provides cumulative and updated statistics about the emergence and landscape of novel psychoactive substances (NPS) in the United States based on data developed by NPS Discovery at the CFSRE—a premier open-access drug early warning system utilizing an evidence-based approach to disseminate information for real-time public health and safety actions.

Since 2018, NPS Discovery has reported 116 newly discovered NPS in the United States (Figure 1). NPS opioids remain the largest subclass (Figure 2). In 2021, NPS Discovery reported the discovery of 27 NPS for the first time.

Since 2018, NPS Discovery has identified 197 NPS in forensic samples (Figure 3). NPS opioids, stimulants, and cannabinoids represent the largest subclasses observed. In 2021, 97 total NPS were detected (Figure 4).

In 2021, NPS Discovery observed more than 2700 total NPS detections within examined sample populations (Figure 5), a portion of more than 8100 total NPS detections since our program launched in 2018 (Figure 6).