

Enduring Threats

Fentanyl

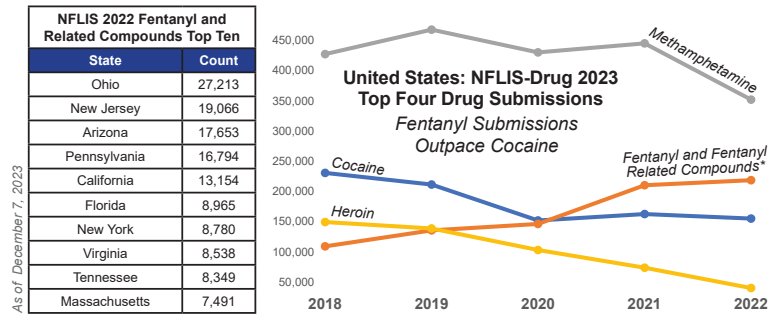
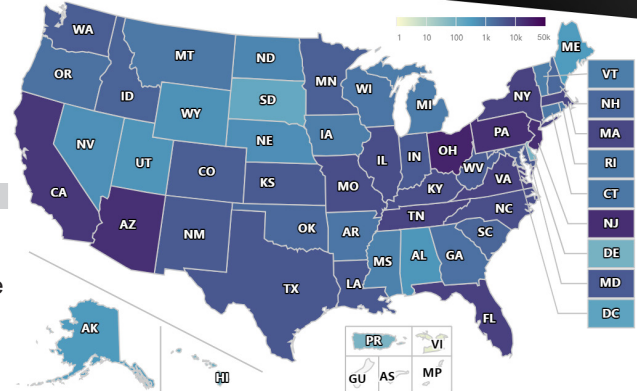
- Fentanyl remains the primary driver behind the ongoing epidemic of overdose deaths in the United States. *The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports 72,027 drug poisoning deaths from fentanyl in 2022. Moreover, the same provisional data shows synthetic opioids were involved in approximately 68 percent of drug poisoning deaths.*
- Incidents of fentanyl misuse and drug poisonings, and law enforcement seizures of fentanyl, have increased steadily since at least 2013 and reached record levels in 2022. DEA, along with state, local, and federal law enforcement partners, continues to seize record quantities of fentanyl each year.
- The Sinaloa Cartel and Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) continue

to produce fentanyl in both powder form and pressed into fake pills.

- Fentanyl is increasingly being mixed with other illicit drugs, such as methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine.

Methamphetamine

- Deaths from psychostimulants (primarily methamphetamine) have steadily increased for the past twelve years, and have sharply increased in the past five, which is likely due to widespread availability of highly pure and potent methamphetamine from Mexico.
- In 2022, the CDC reported 33,190 people died due to poisoning involving psychostimulants with abuse potential, an increase of 32 percent from 2021.



*Fentanyl related compounds is an umbrella term to capture the analogues and chemicals related to fentanyl.
Source: DEA National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS-Drug)

Emerging Threats

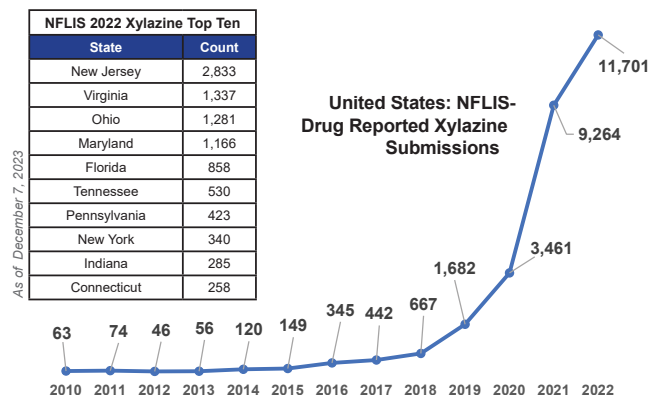
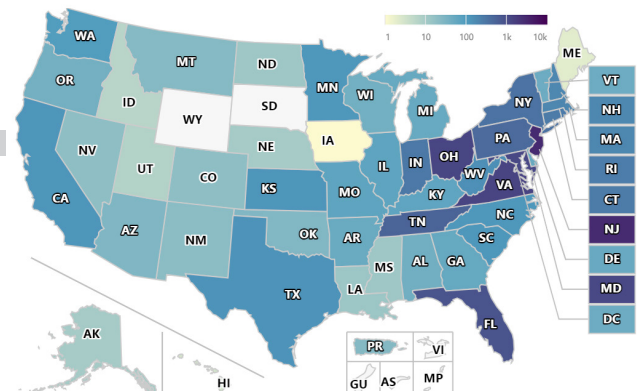
Xylazine

- Xylazine, a potent animal tranquilizer, has worsened the fentanyl threat by posing yet another health challenge.
- Xylazine is not an opioid, so naloxone/Narcan does not reverse its effects.
- Xylazine is not a controlled substance under the U.S. Controlled Substances Act (CSA).
- Xylazine is primarily added to fentanyl and other opioids to enhance the effects.
- Xylazine, also known as "tranq", is an analgesic and muscle relaxant for veterinary use.
- Xylazine has harmful physical effects in the respiratory and circulatory systems, as well as muscle and soft tissue injuries that can turn necrotic or result in amputations.
- Xylazine has been encountered in combination with fentanyl, but has also been detected in mixtures containing cocaine and heroin.

- DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

Nitazenes

- Nitazenes (2-benzylbenzimidazoles) are an emerging synthetic opioid group that can be more potent than fentanyl and poses an additional opioid threat to the United States.
- Similar to previously identified synthetic opioids, nitazenes have appeared on the illicit market with minor chemical modifications while retaining their pharmacological profile.
- Etonitazene, isotonitazene, clonitazene, and several additional nitazene analogues are Schedule I substances under the U.S. CSA.
- Nitazenes are increasingly being identified in combination with fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine in lab submissions.



Source: DEA National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS-Drug)

National Forensic Laboratory Information System-Drug Top-Five Drug Submissions 2023* by IACP Region

Mountain Pacific Region	North Atlantic Region	North Central Region	Southern Region
1. Methamphetamine	1. Cocaine	1. Methamphetamine	1. Methamphetamine
2. Fentanyl	2. Fentanyl	2. Cocaine	2. Cocaine
3. Cocaine	3. Methamphetamine	3. Fentanyl	3. Fentanyl
4. Heroin	4. Xylazine	4. Heroin	4. Heroin
5. Alprazolam	5. Heroin	5. Xylazine	5. Alprazolam

Source: DEA NFLIS-Drug, October 30, 2023

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Regions

Mountain Pacific Region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

North Atlantic Region: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia

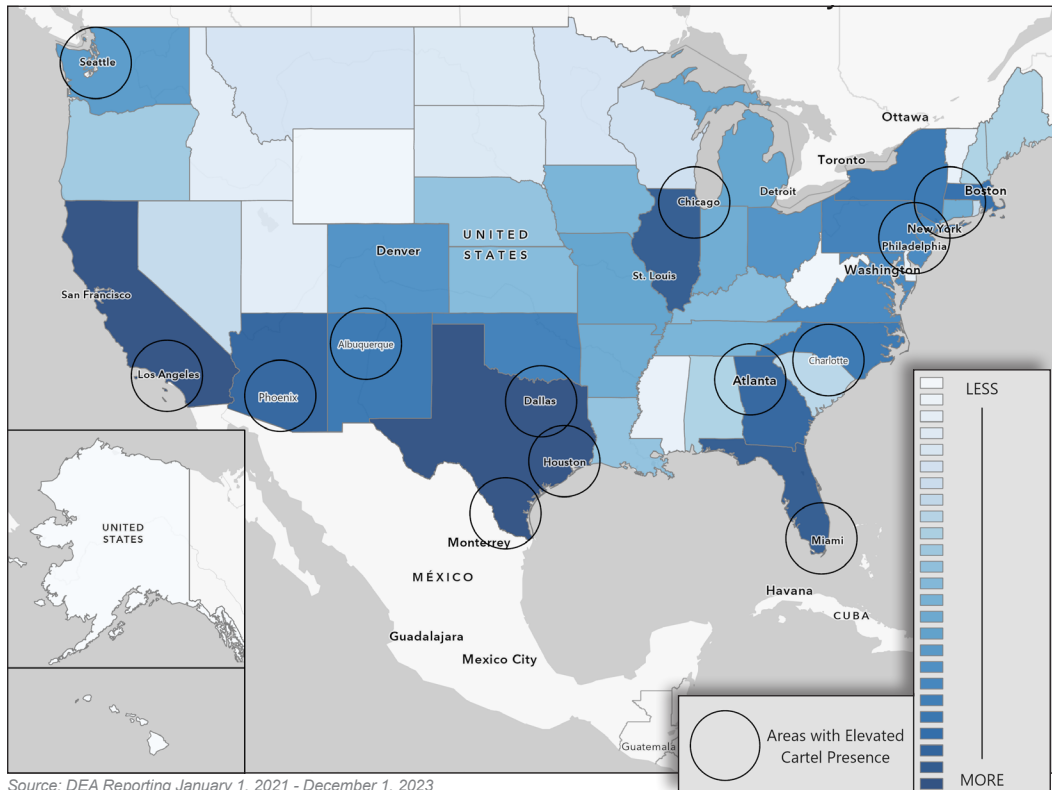
North Central Region: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin

Southern Region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Puerto Rico

The National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS)

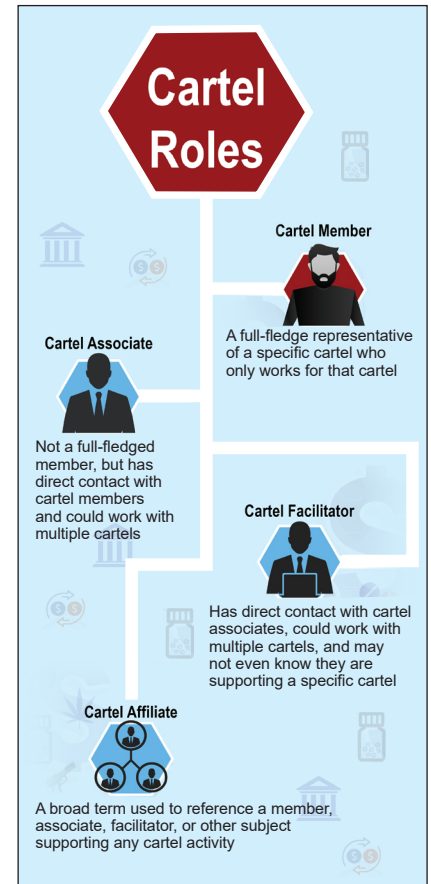
Established in 1997, the NFLIS is a program of the DEA Diversion Control Division. The DEA's NFLIS-Drug data collection systematically collects drug identification results and associated information from drug cases submitted to and analyzed by participating Federal, State, and Local forensic laboratories with drug chemistry sections. In 2018, DEA expanded the NFLIS program to include two additional continuous drug surveillance components that collect drug-related mortality data from medical examiner and coroner offices (NFLIS-MEC) and drug testing results from toxicology laboratories (NFLIS-Tox) to supplement and complement the current NFLIS-Drug data from drug cases submitted to and analyzed by the Nation's forensic laboratories.

Presence of Jalisco Cartel and Sinaloa Cartel Affiliates in the United States



Source: DEA Reporting January 1, 2021 - December 1, 2023

- Sinaloa Cartel and Jalisco Cartel affiliates identified in all 50 states in the U.S.
- Sinaloa Cartel hotspots: Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, New York, New England
- Jalisco Cartel hotspots: Texas, Georgia, Southern California, North Carolina, Illinois
- Outside of hubs near the Southwest Border of the United States, cartel-affiliated activities trend higher in large population centers east of the Mississippi River



Source: DEA





DEA Intelligence Product Feedback Database



Name of Organization: _____
Point of Contact: _____ Telephone Number: _____
Email: _____

DEA Product #: DEA- _____

Title: _____

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Overall satisfaction with DEA Product	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Readability/Understanding of DEA Product	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Value/Usefulness of DEA Product	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Report Increased my Understanding or Knowledge of the report subject	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Product Relevance to my agency's mission	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
How will you use this report? (Check all that apply)	☐ Policy Formulation	☐ Situational Awareness	☐ Operational Planning	☐ Training	☐ Resource Allocation
			☐ Other		

Additional Comments: