



### **B85 Analysis of Seized Drug Evidence by State and Local Crime Laboratories in the United States**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have an understanding of the scope and prevalence of national and regional drug evidence seized by law enforcement agencies for analysis by forensic laboratories nationwide as well as the national and regional estimates of the top 25 drugs identified and reported by the nation's forensic laboratories from January 2004 through June 2004.

NFLIS state and local forensic laboratories analyze substances secured in law enforcement operations across the country and offer a valuable and unique resource for monitoring and understanding illegal drug abuse and trafficking, including the diversion of legally manufactured drugs into illegal markets. This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating how NFLIS is an important analytical resource for drug policy and drug control agencies to support drug scheduling efforts as well as providing timely information on drug trafficking and abuse patterns across the United States.

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This presentation will provide timely data on the variation in the distribution of controlled substances and indicators of drug availability across geographic areas based on laboratory analysis and identification from the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS). The NFLIS program, which was established in September 1997, systematically collects results from drug analyses conducted by federal, state and local forensic laboratories. NFLIS is a database system that provides national wide drug seizure information. To date, approximately 232 individual forensic laboratories that perform drug analyses participate in NFLIS. The program's goal is to have all 306 forensic laboratories that perform drug chemistry analyses in the United States participating within two years.

Highlighted findings will include the estimated prevalence of selected "drugs of interest" and analyzed drug items by category. Quarterly Trends for the national and regional estimated number of drug items analyzed by state and local laboratories for 2001 through June 2004 will be presented. Aggregate results of drugs identified and reported by participating NFLIS laboratories representing the period January 2004 through June 2004 will be presented. The distribution of drug items by percent and number of total analyzed items in the state and local forensic laboratories will be depicted. The number and percentage of analyzed drug items for the twenty-five most frequently reported drugs, as well as the major drug categories such as narcotic analgesics, benzodiazepines, "club drugs", stimulants, and anabolic steroids will be discussed in tables and graphs. Special study data on (1) comparison to "consumption based" data (NSDUH and DAWN); (2) drug combinations, (3) drug purity, and (4) drugs identified in strategic geographic locations as well as selected major metropolitan areas will be summarized.

During the period January 2004 through June 2004, an estimated 850,000 drug items were analyzed by state and local laboratories in the United States. Cannabis/THC was the most frequently identified drug, followed by cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin. This has been a consistent pattern for the past three years. About one percent of all reported drug items contained two or more substances, most commonly heroin/cocaine. Overall, nearly 55% of drug combinations contained heroin or cocaine, or both, while approximately 20% contained methamphetamine.

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#### **Drug Analysis, Drug Seizures, Drug Database**