



Criminalistics Section - 2016

B29 Updates From the Drug Enforcement Administration National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS): Opiates and Related Drugs Reported in NFLIS — 2009-2014

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the breadth of information that the NFLIS provides to the forensic community.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing specific knowledge of national and regional trends for opiates and related substances as reported to NFLIS between 2009 and 2014.

The objective of this presentation is to provide the community with a special report on opiates and related drugs reported to NFLIS from 2009 to 2014 and highlight two NFLIS resources, the Data Query System (DQS), and the Drug Information System.

NFLIS is a program of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Office of Diversion Control that collects drug identification results from cases analyzed by federal, state, and local laboratories. The system currently includes data from laboratories that conduct analyses of more than 91% of the nation's approximately one million annual state and local drug cases. A total of 278 individual laboratories from state systems and local or municipal laboratories/laboratory systems participate in NFLIS. Results from NFLIS are regularly used to support drug scheduling efforts and to aid drug initiatives, including the identification and tracking of emerging drugs of abuse.

Semiannual national estimates from January 2009 to June 2014 are presented for 16 opiates and related substances, as are reports of fentanyl identified with other drugs in the same item. Maps showing state- and county-level reports of oxycodone, hydromorphone, and fentanyl are also presented. NFLIS results for emerging opiate-related drugs such as mitragynine, acetyl fentanyl, AH-7921, MT-45, and desomorphine are shown. Federal data from DEA and United States Customs and Border Protection laboratories are presented, along with data from IMS Health's™ National Prescription Audit Plus Retail database, the DEA's Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System (ARCOS), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) medical examiner data on deaths associated with opiates and related drugs.

From January 2009 to June 2014, an estimated 1,438,933 opiates and related drugs were reported to NFLIS. The number of reports increased by 28% over this period, from 116,647 drug reports during the first half of 2009 to 149,722 during the first half of 2014. From the first half of 2009 to the first half of 2014, hydromorphone reports more than doubled in the South from a rate of 0.75 reports to 2.05 reports per 100,000 persons (679 to 1,965 reports). All other regions fluctuated between minor increases and decreases in hydromorphone reports within the six-month reporting periods. Fentanyl reports increased by 300% from the second half of 2013 to the first half of 2014. This increase was especially pronounced in the South (759 reports), Northeast (711 reports), and Midwest (697 reports). Acetyl fentanyl, AH-7921, and MT-45 were first reported to NFLIS in 2013, whereas mitragynine was first reported in 2010. Acetyl fentanyl increased from 6 reports during the second half of 2013 to 55 reports during the first half of 2014. According to medical examiner data compiled by the CDC, 202,157 deaths were the result of a drug poisoning or overdose between 2009 and 2013. Of these deaths, 57% involved heroin and natural, semisynthetic, and synthetic opiates.

NFLIS publically shares data that can benefit management decisions of crime laboratories through various reports throughout the year, including special reports on such drug classes as presented in this presentation. NFLIS provides a resource for the community to identify and respond to drug trends.

Opiates, Regional Trends, National Estimates

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