An Overview of the Current Trends in Street Drugs

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Traditional Drug Categories

Narcotics (Depressants)
Sedative Hypnotics (Depressants)
Stimulants
Hallucinogens
Types of Drugs

- **Copy Cat Pills:** These pills are made to look like prescription medications but do not carry the pharmaceutical brand nor do they contain any controlled substances. (For example, tablets that are sold that look exactly like amphetamine capsules but actually contain very high doses of caffeine to mimic the feeling the user would get from an amphetamine) The user assumes they are amphetamines so pays a high price for them. They are not illegal.

- **Drugs of Deception:** These pills look exactly like a prescription medication and do contain a controlled drug; just not the one that is said to be in it. In this way, the street manufacturer makes a greater profit. (For example, pills that are sold as Quaaludes but actually contain Valium instead to mimic the high of methaqualone) These pills do carry a counterfeit pharmaceutical brand and are illegal.

- **Designer Drugs:** These drugs are made by copying the molecular structure or “recipe” of another drug but slightly altering the structure so the effect is still the same but the drug is not. In the past, prior to changes in the laws in the 1980’s this process was used to avoid prosecution. These drugs are usually highly illegal as they are mostly copies of Schedule I drugs.
National Alert

Media reports and official alerts in several U.S. communities are warning of counterfeit pain and anxiety medications that actually contain fentanyl, an extremely powerful, potentially deadly opioid. The pills, which are disguised as common prescription drugs like Norco (hydrocodone), Percocet (oxycodone), and Xanax (alprazolam), are responsible for a growing number of overdose deaths and non-fatal overdoses around the country. Fentanyl is 25 to 50 times stronger than heroin, so even a small amount can cause an overdose. (The Drug Enforcement Administration reports that some of these pills are manufactured in China and smuggled into the U.S. via Mexican drug cartels.)

The fake pills are much less expensive than the real versions. The public should be aware that drugs obtained on the street, even though they look like a real prescription pharmaceutical, may be deadly. It is always unsafe to take a prescription drug unless it comes from your own prescription and is dispensed by a reputable pharmacy.
Analogs

In pharmacology it is used to refer to one of two concepts:

Functional analog, a chemical compound with similar properties to another.

Structural analog, a chemical compound with a slightly altered chemical structure compared to another.
Question to Ponder

You are given $10,000.00 to invest in one of two companies

The first company grows a product that is illegal in its country of origin. It must be grown in hiding with money spent to protect the crop. It must survive all weather and pestilence. It must then be processed and money spent to smuggle it out of the country. It must be shipped thousands of miles over weeks or months in all types of weather. It must then be smuggled at a cost into the country it is going to. It must then be processed several more times before reaching the street for sale.

The second company operates several blocks from your office. They can produce enough doses of a synthetic copy of the product in 24 hours to equal the entire shipment that is listed above. The total product can be carried in an 8 oz. water bottle and transported anywhere in the world in carry-on luggage within a day. It is ready for the street in a matter of hours.

Where do you invest your money?
Narcotics

- **opiates**: Directly Derived From The Opium Poppy

- **semi-synthetic opiates**: Partially Derived From The Opium Poppy, Partially Man-made

- **opioids**: Completely Synthetic/Man-made
Emerging Trend – Tramadol Abuse

Tramadol is a Schedule IV opioid analgesic used to treat pain, similar to codeine. Recreational use can be dangerous due to the possibility of convulsions with higher doses. When taken orally, rather than injected, it produces opiate-like effects similar to oxycodone.

Tramadol costs $1-2 for a 50mg tablet on the street.
Emerging Trends – Opana Abuse

Law enforcement officials are alarmed by the rise of Opana abuse, which they said started after Oxycontin was changed in late 2010 to make that drug more difficult to snort or inject for a heroin-like high.

Opana abuse can be deadly because it is more potent, per milligram, than Oxycontin, and users who are not familiar with how strong it is may be vulnerable to overdosing.

Opana, known by such street names as “stop signs”, “the O bomb”, and “new blues”, is crushed and either snorted or injected up to four to ten times per day.

Opana (oxymorphone) is an opioid pain medication. Opana is used to treat moderate to severe pain.

The extended-release form of this medicine is for around-the-clock treatment of severe pain.
Emerging Trend – Zohydro Abuse

- The introduction of the powerful new opioid painkiller Zohydro has spotlighted the nation’s growing prescription drug abuse problem.

- Zohydro ER hit the market in March 2014 amidst widespread concern that the drug could trigger a disastrous spike in overdoses and deaths. Zohydro is a potent extended-release formulation of hydrocodone without the additives of aspirin or acetaminophen and without anti-abuse formulation.

**Introduction**

- **Brand name:** Zohydro ER
- **Generic name:** Hydrocodone bitartrate extended-release
- **Pharmacological class:** Opioid agonist
- **Formulation:** Extended-release caps
- **Strength:** 10mg, 15mg, 20mg, 30mg, 40mg, 50mg
- **Manufacturer:** Zogenix, Inc.
- **How supplied:** Bottle—100
- **Legal Classification:** CII
Emerging Trend - Hysingla ER

• Purdue Pharma has announced that its prescription opioid medication Hysingla ER (hydrocodone bitartrate) is ready to hit the market.

• The drug is the first hydrocodone product that contains abuse-deterrent properties
Emerging Trend – U-47700

• A synthetic opioid drug that was developed in the 1970s but never made available to the public is being sold online.

• The designer drug has gained popularity through drug forums and websites, where it is sold as a powder or granules. One website offers 1 gram for $40, or up to 1 kilogram for $7,000.
Emerging Trend – Grey Death

- A new drug called "grey death" has been linked to a handful of lethal overdoses in the South -- but no one knows exactly what's in it or where it's coming from.

- The drug, a mix of opioids, can kill in very small doses and looks like concrete mixing powder.
Emerging Trend - Acetyl Fentanyl

• Mixing fentanyl with heroin isn’t new; however, the development of a synthetic fentanyl has just started to make headlines.

• Acetyl fentanyl is often marketed as heroin but it is five times more potent than heroin, 16 times more potent than morphine. Therefore, it is leading to many overdose deaths, particularly in Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. The pills are also peddled as oxycodone.

• Acetyl fentanyl is difficult to detect and easy to miss in drug overdose cases.

• Acetyl fentanyl is not scheduled under the Controlled Substance Act.
Current Trend - Carfentanil

• Carfentanil or carfentanyl is an analog of the synthetic opioid analgesic fentanyl. It is 10,000 times more potent than morphine, making it among the most potent commercially used opioids.
Emerging Trend - P-Dope

- Often Called Designer Heroin
- Molecular Similarities to Fentanyl in Some Areas of the Country; Purer Heroin Mixed With Procaine/Lidocaine in Other Areas
- Over-rides Methadone Allowing Users to Get High
- Users Call it the “Crack of Heroin” due to its addictive potential
- Multiple New forms are Being Released On the Street as Synthetics Become More Popular Due to Their Potency
Emerging Trend - W-18

• The drug is a synthetic opiate like fentanyl that produces a heroin-like high, but it's 100 times more powerful than fentanyl and 10,000 times more powerful than morphine.

• No tests are available to detect it in urine or blood, which means it may already be taking an unknown toll on users if it's being cut into other drugs—and perhaps be at least partly responsible for the escalating deaths attributed to heroin. "Often, if the analog is mixed with heroin, heroin just becomes the cause of death.

• In a recent news conference, the Canadian Border Services Agency and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said they found the drug hidden in a box labeled as printer accessories and addressed to a man in Calgary. They charged the man, age 24, with one count of importing a controlled substance and one count of possession for the purpose of trafficking. The package, authorities said, could have produced 50 million doses.

• This drug is thought to have contributed to Prince's death.
Emerging Trend - Cheese

• A mixture of heroin and OTCs such as Tylenol PM
• The heroin-Tylenol PM combination of "cheese" sells for approximately $2 a pill
• Users commonly take the powder by insufflation ("snorting") rather than by intravenous injection.
• This mixture is also known as "Tylenol With Smack"
Emerging Trend - Krokodile

- Krokodil (pronounced crocodile) is a homemade substitute for heroin, invented in rural Russia and has recently been featured in news reports alleging its appearance in parts of the United States although the DEA has not yet confirmed any krokodil in this country.

- The chemical name for the main ingredient is desomorphine.

- The drug is made from codeine mixed with household chemicals like paint thinner and gasoline. It's injected and can reportedly cause a high “ten times more powerful than morphine,” It’s also three times as toxic.

- Krokodil gets its name from the scaly, gray-green dead skin that forms at the site of an injection. The flesh destroyed by krokodil becomes gangrenous, and, in some cases, limb amputation has been necessary to save a user’s life.
Emerging Trends – “Syrup,” “Purple Drank,” “Sizzurp,” “Lean”

- Drinking prescription-strength cough syrup containing codeine and promethazine mixed with soda was referenced frequently in some popular music beginning in the late 90s and has now become increasingly popular among youth in several areas of the country. Codeine is an opioid that can produce relaxation and euphoria when consumed in sufficient quantities. Promethazine is an antihistamine that also acts as a sedative. Users may also flavor the mixture with the addition of hard candies.

- Demand for the syrup has sent its price soaring on the streets. Syrup that typically costs $12 per pint to make is sold to street dealers for $300 per pint. Dealers sell it by the ounce for $40-$80.

- The drink produces euphoria and causes motor skill impairment that make users move slowly or lean over. Overdosing on the syrup is potentially fatal.
Emerging Trend - Kratom

- Most illegal cases involving kratom have occurred when it is combined with other drugs. Some users consume kratom along with dextromethorphan-containing cough syrup, amphetamines, or benzodiazepines.
- Kratom use is increasing among those who have been self-managing chronic pain with opioids purchased without a prescription.
- Compulsive use has been reported among drug users who inject opioids. Side effects include loss of appetite, weight loss, constipation, and darkening of the skin color of the face.
Loperamide Misuse/Abuse
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- Loperamide is an over-the-counter anti-diarrheal medication that is available in tablet, capsule, or liquid form under brand names such as Imodium, Kaopectate 1-D, Maalox Anti-Diarrheal, and Pepto Diarrhea Control. It is an opioid medication, and there are reports of its being misused by drug users to stave off opioid withdrawal or possibly even to get high.

- When taken as recommended, loperamide is designed not to enter the brain; but instructions available on the Internet purport to show how taking loperamide in very high quantities and combining it with other substances may help it produce psychoactive effects that resemble the euphoric effects of other opioids or that mitigate cravings and withdrawal symptoms.
Emerging Trends - Powdered Alcohol
Emerging Trends - Caffeine Powder

• The recent death of an Ohio high school senior caused by an overdose of powdered caffeine has prompted the FDA to issue a safety advisory about caffeine powders. Bulk bags of pure caffeine powder are readily available online, and these products may be attractive to young people looking for added caffeine stimulation or for help losing weight, but they are extremely dangerous.

• Just a teaspoon of pure caffeine powder is equivalent to about 25 cups of coffee—a lethal amount. Besides death, severe caffeine overdose can cause fast and erratic heartbeat, seizures, vomiting, diarrhea, and disorientation—symptoms much more extreme than those of drinking too much coffee or tea or consuming too many sodas or energy drinks.
Emerging Trend - Gravel/Flakka

- Gravel is a highly addictive form of synthetic cathinone. Its primary component, alpha-PVP, is often used in combination with other drugs.
- Seizures of the drug have been found to contain methamphetamine, Klonopin, and bath salts.
- Mail delivery systems are used for the transportation and distribution of alpha-PVP in bulk quantities purchased overseas. It is often labeled as plant fertilizer.
- Rat poison and ammonium are used to dilute the alpha-PVP, producing the rock-like substance. It is often in the form of small rocks or pieces of salt that can be injected or smoked.
- Side effects include increased blood pressure, elevated heart rate, paranoia, hallucinations, and brain damage.
Emerging Trend - “Pump It” Powder

- As the chemicals in synthetic drugs are designated controlled substances, chemists are actively inventing new compounds to circumvent legal restrictions. One such product that has replaced bath salts is Pump-It Powder, marketed as an enhanced plant vitamin.

- Geranamine, aka methylhexanamine, is the active ingredient similar to an amphetamine and decongestant found naturally in the geranium plant. Methylhexanamine is a legal substance.

- Users report effects similar to bath salts. Some users have suffered seizures, hallucinations, and paranoia. It produces effects considered to be more powerful than cocaine and methamphetamine.

- It is particularly popular in the Midwest and Plains states, and is sold in gas stations and head shops.

- It is easy to find and relatively cheap, $30 for a tin container packed with the powder.

- The drug can be snorted, injected, or smoked. The high is somewhat delayed, which may cause users to double or triple the dose if the effects are not felt right away, resulting in a likely trip to the hospital.
Emerging Trends - Party Pills

• The original ingredient in party pills or “herbal highs” was benzylpiperazine (BZP) but the ingredients have since expanded to a wide variety of compounds with various effects.

• BZP was listed as a Schedule I controlled substance in 2002. It is still legal in Canada, also home to the largest supplier of party pills. BZP is widely used in New Zealand and has been seen in California since the 1990s.

• The effects of BZP are largely similar to amphetamines and MDMA. Users report alertness and euphoria. The high typically lasts four to six hours. Side effects include dilated pupils, blurred vision, dry mouth, headache, dizziness, anxiety, vomiting, insomnia, hallucinations, hypertension, hyperventilation, hyperthermia, respiratory failure, and seizure.

• Common party pills include Xplode, which is marketed as a six hour energy legal alternative to amphetamines. It is legal to sell, possess and use, even getting a feature in Men’s Health magazine.
Emerging Trend – Cloud 9

• Cloud 9, a dangerous synthetic drug which mimics the effects of cocaine and methamphetamine. Many teenagers automatically assume this drug is safer than street drugs because it’s legal. However, that couldn’t be further from the truth.

• In the fall, the drug sent over two dozen Michigan teenagers to the hospital. Cloud 9 can cause hallucinations, severe vomiting, rapid heartbeat, seizures and heart attacks.

• The drug, which is easily accessible at gas stations and convenience stores, is sold as a liquid in eyedropper bottles. Oftentimes, teens use Cloud 9 in e-cigarettes, which turns it into an odorless vapor.

• Unfortunately, Cloud 9 cannot be detected in drug tests
Emerging Trend – LSD Microdosing: The New Job Enhancer In Silicon Valley And Beyond?

• A growing number of people are experimenting with "microdoses" of psychedelics to help them work. A microdose of LSD is around 10-15 micrograms, approximately a tenth of a “normal” dose.

• At that dosage, the drug’s effects are described as “subperceptual”; enough to feel a little bit of energy lift, a little bit of insight, but not so much that you are tripping.

• At a conference in New York last month, Canadian documentarian John Andrew discussed his experiences with microdoses of psilocybin mushrooms, which he took every day for six months: “I experienced this clarity that is almost indescribable .... I felt a homeostasis, a feeling that despite what's going on, bad or good, everything was OK." After six months he felt he was "maximizing his potential."
“Not For Human Consumption”

- The Federal Analogue Act, 21 U.S.C. § 813, is a section of the United States Controlled Substances Act passed in 1986 which allowed any chemical "substantially similar" to a controlled substance listed in Schedule I or II to be treated as if it were also listed in those schedules, but only if intended for human use.

- A designer drug is a structural or functional analog of a controlled substance that has been designed to mimic the pharmacological effects of the original drug while at the same time, avoid being classified as illegal and/or avoid detection in standard drug tests.
The Tollhouse Effect

- Butter
- Sugar
- Brown Sugar
- Eggs
- Flour
- Vanilla
- Baking Soda
- Chocolate Chips
Emerging Trend: MXE

- Methoxetamine or MXE is a new designer “research chemical product” often taken for its hallucinogenic and dissociative effects and is relatively new to the recreational drug culture in the United States.
- MXE is considered to be an analog to the drug Ketamine, classified as a dissociative anesthetic.
- Originally used as a powerful tranquilizer on animals. The packaging reads “research chemical” and “not for human consumption.”
- MXE is marketed as a safe alternative to Ketamine and is sold as a white powdery substance. It is currently unscheduled in the United States but may emerge as a popular synthetic drug of abuse.
- Users report effects including hallucinations, euphoria, warmth, enlightenment, and being detached from the world around them. Increased heart rate and blood pressure, involuntary eye movement, loss of balance and coordination, and slurred speech have been reported. It has been linked to deaths in Europe and placed under temporary class drug control in Great Britain.
- It takes 10-15 minutes for the effects of MXE to be felt and can sometimes take 60-90 minutes, causing some users to double dose and die from overdose. MXE is usually snorted or ingested in capsule. It is primarily sold online under the names MXE, M-Ket, Kmax, or Mexxy.
Emerging Trend - 2C-I or India

- The synthetic drug 2C-I or India is replacing bath salts as the new hallucinogen of choice among teenagers. The drug is derived from phenethylamine. It is sometimes confused with 251-NBOMe, aka Smiles.

- India is usually sold as a fluffy, sparkling-white powder, which can be pressed into a pill and taken orally, snorted, smoked, or taken rectally.

- It is sold from several online vendors of research chemicals in the United States. It is often misrepresented as mescaline when being sold on the street; however, it has a much greater potency by weight, resulting in a higher likelihood of overdose if taken as mescaline.

- Effects occur within two hours of ingestion and last four to 12 hours. Desired effects include psychedelic or hallucinogenic effects similar to LSD or MDMA. Symptoms include dilated pupils, high energy, and muscle relaxation.
Emerging Trend - Benzo Fury

• Benzo Fury is a party drug similar in structure to MDMA and usually taken in pill form.
• It takes effect within 45 minutes to an hour. Desired effects include euphoria and an energy surge that may last up to ten hours, plateauing at two hours.
• Benzo Fury was marketed over the Internet as a research drug. It became briefly popular in clubs, bars, and convenience stores in the United States and Britain before being banned in June 2013. It is priced at $15.35 per pill.
• It is a compound of the phenethylamine and amphetamine classes.
Emerging Trend - Bromo Dragonfly

- Bromo Dragonfly is a psychedelic drug related to the phenethylamine family.
- It is slightly less potent than LSD and 200 times the potency of mescaline.
- Effects could last several days; however, they may not take effect for up to six hours, leading users to take multiple doses.
- Bromo Dragonfly is sold in the form of blotters, and is often mistaken for LSD.
Emerging Trends - Lemon Drop

- Lemon drop is a homemade hallucinogenic drug produced by mixing a painter’s solvent (Naphtha) with over-the-counter drugs, such as Robitussin cough syrup, Sucrets, or Vicks Formula 44.

- Lighter fluid can be used to replace Naptha but is usually not preferred due to the bad aftertaste.

- Once the solvent is mixed with the drugs, the mixture is heated to extract the DXM (Dextromethorphan) from the drugs. The byproduct of this process is mixed with either lemon juice or Country Time powdered lemonade mix and cooled, which causes the juice to bond with the DXM.

- Lemonade is used if the lemon drop product is to be ingested orally and real lemon juice is required if the lemon drop is to be swallowed via capsule form.
Emerging Trend - Dabs (BHO)

• A highly concentrated version of THC known as Butane Hash Oil, Dabs, Amber, Honey Ear Wax or Wax is made using highly explosive butane. A clear, golden-brown cannabis derivative, BHO has little smell, either in its solid form or when vaporized.

• It sells on average for $50 a gram. BHO is 15 percent THC, and a drop or two can be as potent as a joint. It is said to be so potent that it will keep a person high for more than a day.

• The process for producing BHO is extremely dangerous. The finely ground marijuana is stuffed into an extractor, which is a tube or cylinder made of glass or stainless steel. The cylinder is then filled with liquid butane, which extracts the active ingredients from the marijuana and drips down out of the cylinder. The butane is evaporated from the mixture using a hot water bath. What’s left is the concentrated hash oil.

• “We have seen people have an onset of psychosis and even brain damage from the exposure to that high concentration of THC,” said Gary Hill, assistant special agent in charge at the DEA’s San Diego office. “Our concern is that this is going to spread before we get it under control.”
Emerging Trend - Puppy Chow

- Puppy chow is a common party food made by melting chocolate and butter and combining it with powdered sugar and Chex cereal.
- The THC oil is added to the butter during the cooking process.
- Users are also mixing the THC oil with Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal.
- The high lasts approximately five hours and costs $10 per cup. Marijuana is not visible on the product. It does have a faint odor of marijuana, which grows stronger when the bag is shaken.
Emerging Trend - Transdermal THC Patches

- State troopers are seeing more marijuana hash-infused transdermal patches (similar to a nicotine patch) being purchased from Colorado and crossing state lines. Once removed from the package, the patches have no markings. They do have a slight odor of marijuana and easily test positive for THC.
Emerging Trend – THC Vape Pens

So, what is liquid pot?
• Liquid THC is tetrahydrocannabinol, which is the component in cannabis that gives it its psychoactive affects. The liquid can either be bought in cartridges or extracted from a marijuana plant The liquid then gets loaded into a vaporizer pen.

Why do people use vaporizer pens?
• Many people use “vape” pens because it’s easier to hide what it is they’re really smoking. Like e-cigarettes, vape pens use a battery-powered heater to vaporize the THC liquid—so no fire, no smoke, and no smell. Some people believe that vaping is healthier, but research shows that’s probably not the case. Others say vape pens simply feel easier on the lungs.
Emerging Trend - Mojo

• In October, Mojo, a synthetic marijuana, resulted in 150 people being hospitalized in Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Paranoia, seizures, intense hallucinations, psychotic episodes and suicidal thoughts are among the adverse side effects of Mojo.

• Sometimes sold under the name Scooby Snax and Spice, Mojo is comprised of the compound MAB-CHMINACA. After the scores of hospitalizations in Louisiana, state officials banned the compound.
Emerging Trend - 2C-P

- A little-known synthetic hallucinogen with only a brief history of use, 2C-P is reportedly a long-lasting and very potent drug. Its intense psychedelic effects don't begin until a few hours after a person takes it, but they can last for 10 to 20 hours, according to law enforcement officials.

- At a concert in Middlebury, Conn., in September, four teenagers were hospitalized after collapsing almost simultaneously — police suspect 2C-P was the culprit, according to the Hartford Courant. "It was like a light switch went off," acting Middlebury Police Chief Richard Wildman said in a press statement. Officers used CPR and a defibrillator to treat a teenage male who had stopped breathing and had no pulse, the Courant reports.
Emerging Trends: N-bomb

• **N-bomb**” refers to any of three closely related synthetic hallucinogens (25I-NBOMe, 25C-NBOMe, and 25B-NBOMe) that are being sold as legal substitutes for LSD or mescaline. Also called “legal acid,” “smiles,” or “25I,” they are generally found as powders, liquids, soaked into blotter paper (like LSD) or laced on something edible.

• These chemicals act on serotonin receptors in the brain, like other hallucinogens, but they are considerably more powerful even than LSD. Extremely small amounts can cause seizures, heart attack or arrested breathing, and death. At least 19 young people are reported to have died after taking 25I- 25C- or 25B-NBOMe between March 2012 and August 2013.

• During November 2013, the DEA used their emergency scheduling powers to add NBOMe as a Schedule I drug for two years. NBOMe has been reported in Georgia during the last several months of 2013. While there have been no known deaths in Georgia (at least 19 deaths occurred nationwide in 2013), law enforcement officials reported that users get aggressive and uncooperative. In some cases it has taken three or four police officers or EMTs to force an aggressive abuser into handcuffs, said Rick Allen, director of the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency.