New Hampshire Drug Monitoring Initiative

New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center

Phone: (603) 223.3859 NH.IAC@dos.nh.gov **Fax: (603) 271.0303**

NHIAC Product #: 2017-2960 *23 May 2017*

Purpose: *The NH Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) is a holistic strategy to provide awareness and combat drug distribution and abuse. In line with this approach the DMI will obtain data from various sources (to include, but not limited to, Public Health, Law Enforcement, and EMS) and provide monthly products for stakeholders as well as situational awareness releases as needed.*

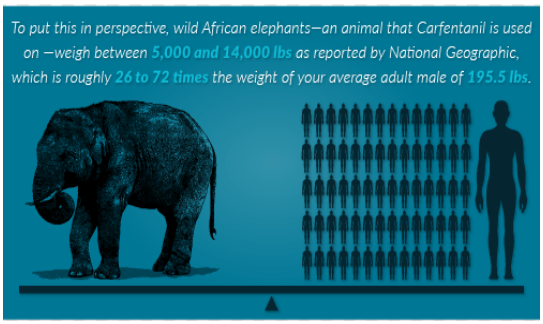
Situational Awareness Alert

Sources: NH Attorney General's Office, DEA, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, NH Forensic Laboratory, Open Source Research

(U) Carfentanil Update

(U) State Police Forensics Lab:

There have been 6 confirmed carfentanil related deaths in New Hampshire. In a 2 week time period the NH State Police Forensic Lab has tested 21 submissions that have been positive for carfentanil. The lab has received more submissions that have not yet been tested. Some submissions tested positive for more than one drug type and/or cutting agent. The total weight of the drugs tested is approximately 40grams.



(U) Overview:

Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid approximately 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl. Carfentanil and other fentanyl-related compounds are a serious danger to public safety, first responder, medical, treatment, and laboratory personnel. These substances can come in several forms, including powder, blotter paper, tablets, and spray—they can be absorbed through the skin or accidental inhalation of airborne powder.

(U) Carfentanil in Cincinnati, OH:

From August 15 to September 4, 2016, the Drug Enforcement Administration has recorded 208 overdoses, and local officials say at least eight deaths in the Cincinnati area have been linked to Carfentanil. Cuyahoga County, which includes Cleveland, saw 52 overdose deaths in August with at least two from carfentanil, the most fatalities related to heroin and fentanyl the county has ever seen. Police in Huntington, W. VA, say they responded to 26 overdoses within four hours on August 15. In Louisville, 24 people experienced overdoses in a single day. Overall the DEA estimates there were about 300 fentanyl-related overdoses in Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Indiana within a few week time period. Given the confirmed presence of carfentanil in NH, the NHIAC assesses that it is likely that a similar rash of overdoses could occur in NH. NH first responders and anyone coming into contact with white powder are urged to exercise extreme caution and follow the guidelines below.

(U) Public Safety:

1. **Call 911**—If you believe someone has overdosed, call 911 immediately.
2. **Stay Safe**—Perform a risk assessment before you even enter a scene. If you feel unsafe, do not enter the area. Call 911 immediately.
3. **Protect Yourself**—If you enter an area where you believe a synthetic opioid has been used, take appropriate precautions by wearing gloves, a face mask, and eye protection.
4. **Do not Touch**—Never touch substances or items that look suspicious, such as vials, exposed needles, or powders. Additional materials may be added to carfentanil to make it look like cocaine or heroin.

Carfentanil Fact Sheets— First Responders: **Public:**

Tracked by NHIAC SIN 03,16; HSEC 05,06