



ILLICIT FENTANYLS AND THEIR PRECURSORS **Intelligence-gathering survey**

A joint activity of INCB operational Projects Cohesion, Prism and ION examining global patterns of the flows, sources, illicit manufacture, and modi operandi of trafficking in fentanyl, designer fentanyls, other opioid-type NPS, and their precursors

Background

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid under strict international control. The substance and some of its analogues are placed in Schedule I of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs; some fentanyl analogues are further placed in Schedule IV, the strictest control regime of that Convention.

While fentanyl has been used as a potent and fast-acting analgesic for legitimate medical purposes, the substance and several of its analogues have also caused severe health crises, including recent surges in opioid-related overdose deaths. There are indications that the problem may have global dimensions, although little is known about its actual scope, the sources of illicit manufacture or current trafficking patterns. The trafficking in these substances is of particular concern not only due to the serious danger they pose to the health of users; they are also of concern due to the dangers they pose to the personnel of courier and postal services and law enforcement officers, including canine units, who may unwittingly be exposed to fentanyls in the process of their detection or their distribution without adequate protection.

Available information suggests that recent problem cases have involved:

- (a) substances already controlled internationally, such as fentanyl,
- (b) internationally non-scheduled fentanyl analogues and other opioid-type new psychoactive substances (NPS), as well as
- (c) precursors of any of these substances, none of which are presently included in the Tables of the 1988 Convention.¹

To fill existing knowledge gaps, in March 2016, members of the INCB Precursors Task Force (attached to Project Cohesion on precursors of cocaine and heroin, and Project Prism on precursors of synthetic drugs) and the NPS Task Force (attached to Project ION on new psychoactive substances) decided to examine, from an operational perspective, the global illicit fentanyls situation through a joint intelligence-gathering survey.

Purpose

The present survey aims to gather information about the occurrence in global illicit markets of fentanyl, designer fentanyls (fentanyl analogues), other opioid-type NPS, as well as their precursors, and to identify major patterns of their flows, sources and/or illicit manufacture, as well as the modi operandi used to traffic them.

The information gathered will provide a basis for devising appropriate measures to better address the issue of illicitly manufactured fentanyls and their precursors globally, and contribute to effectively countering the further expansion of opioid-related overdose problems beyond individual countries, regions and substances. The survey is thus a one-time exercise designed to elicit information on a wider range of substances than those already identified in currently affected countries by including fentanyl analogues, other opioid-type NPS, and the precursor chemicals used to manufacture them. A subset of fentanyl analogues and opioid-type NPS has also been included in the revised international surveillance list of NPS, with a view to focus international operational cooperation on those substances.

¹ Note that some fentanyl precursors are included in the limited international special surveillance list (ISSL) compiled by INCB and a two chemicals (ANPP and NPP, see below) are currently under review for possible inclusion in the tables of the 1988 Convention.



Participation

All Competent National Authorities (CNAs) and focal points nominated under Project Prism, Project Cohesion and Project ION will receive this survey. Focal points shall ensure that mechanisms are in place to gather inputs from all relevant national sources, including technical experts and concerned industries, where necessary. A call for contributions will also be made through established networks of forensic laboratory experts.

The results of the survey will be reviewed by the Precursors and NPS Task Forces and shared with the Projects' focal point networks through established mechanisms, which may entail the dissemination of special alerts or notices, the design of targeted operations under Project Prism/Cohesion and/or Project ION and other collaborative, global efforts, as appropriate.

Timeline

Survey participants are requested to return completed forms as soon as practically possible and no later than **22 January 2017**. Completed form(s) should be returned to precursors@incb.org, or to the address provided at the end of the survey form. For any queries in connection with the survey, please contact precursors@incb.org.

To proceed, please identify yourself:

Country: [Click here to enter](#)

GEORGIA

Agency name [Click here to enter name and address.](#)

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Your name [Click here to enter](#)

NIKA KOBAKHIDZE

Your Email [Click here to enter](#)

nk@mia.gov.ge

Name and email of a technical expert (for follow-up/clarification if needed) [Click here to enter](#)



Survey Questions

1) Which substances have you encountered² in illicit markets in your country in the last two years (i.e. since January 2015)? Please tick all that apply and/or provide names and CAS numbers, if available.

ONLY FENTANYL - 2015-0,9040452 GR.
2016-0,0784 GR.

1.1. Fentanyl, fentanyl analogue or other opioid-type NPS end-product encountered:

Substance name ³	Encountered		Remarks ⁴
• Acetyl fentanyl [CAS 3258-84-2] <i>controlled under the 1961 Convention</i>	YES ☐	No ☒	
• Acryl fentanyl [CAS 82003-75-6]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• Butyryl fentanyl [CAS 1169-70-6, 1443-52-3 (hydrochloride)] <i>recommended for international control by WHO-ECDD</i>	YES ☐	No ☒	
• Carfentanil [CAS 59708-52-0]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• Fentanyl [CAS 437-38-7] <i>controlled under the 1961 Convention</i>	YES ☒	No ☐	2015- 4 SEIZURES 2016- 4 SEIZURES
• 4-Fluoro butyrfentanyl [CAS 90736-23-5, 117332-92-0 (hydrochloride)]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• Furanyl fentanyl [CAS 101345-66-8, 101365- 56-4 (hydrochloride)]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• <i>beta</i> -Hydroxy fentanyl [CAS 78995-10-5] <i>controlled under the 1961 Convention</i>	YES ☐	No ☒	
• <i>beta</i> -Hydroxy thiofentanyl [CAS 1474-34-6]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• Isobutyryl fentanyl [CAS 117332-90-8 (hydrochloride)]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• 3-Methyl fentanyl [CAS 42045-86-3] <i>controlled under the 1961 Convention</i>	YES ☐	No ☒	
• AH-7921 [CAS 41804-96-0] <i>controlled under the 1961 Convention</i>	YES ☐	No ☒	
• MT-45 [CAS 52694-55-0] <i>controlled under the 1961 Convention</i>	YES ☐	No ☒	
• U-47700 [CAS 82657-23-6, 121348-98-9]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• W-18 [CAS 93101-02-1]	YES ☐	No ☒	

² "Encountered" is to be understood broadly; details of the circumstances under which a substance has been encountered are to be provided under question 2) on circumstances below.

³ Substances specifically named in the table do not constitute an exhaustive list. If you have encountered substances not named here, please name them in the table for 'other' substances below.

⁴ Use the "Remarks" field to provide further information as needed, e.g. more specific year or period of encounter, frequency (one-off, only during a peak period, encountered regularly...), high or low quantities, etc.



- **Other** fentanyl analogues and opioid-type NPS encountered; *please list all:*

Name of designer fentanyl (fentanyl analogue) or opioid-type NPS	CAS number, if known
•	
•	
•	

(please add lines as required)

1.2. **Precursors** encountered in connection with the illicit manufacture of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues or other opioid-type NPS:

NO ILLICIT MANUFACTURE OF FENTANYL APPEARS IN GEORGIA

Substance name ⁵	Encountered		Remarks
• Aniline [CAS 62-53-3]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• ANPP* (4-anilino-N-phenethyl-4-piperidine [CAS 21409-26-7])	YES ☐	No ☒	
• 1-Benzyl-4-piperidone [CAS 3612-20-2]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• (2-Bromoethyl)benzene [CAS 103-63-9]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• (2-Chloroethyl)benzene [CAS 622-24-2]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• 3,4-Dichlorobenzoyl chloride [CAS 3024-72-4]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• 4-Fluoroaniline [CAS 371-40-4]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• Methyl acrylate [CAS 96-33-3]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• NPP* (N-phenethyl-4-piperidone [CAS 39742-60-4])	YES ☐	No ☒	
• Phenethylamine [CAS 64-04-0]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• Propionic anhydride [CAS 123-62-6]	YES ☐	No ☒	
• Propionyl chloride [CAS 79-03-8]	YES ☐	No ☒	

* ANPP and NPP are also the subject of a questionnaire sent by the United Nations Secretary-General in connection with the United States Government's request to review the two substances for possible inclusion in the tables of the 1988 Convention.

- **Other** chemicals encountered in connection with the illicit manufacture of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues and other opioid-type NPS. *If known, please indicate for which end-product the chemical was intended to be used; please list all:*

Name of precursor chemical	CAS number, if known	Name of end-product
•		

⁵ Please refer to the footnote 3 above.



Name of precursor chemical	CAS number, if known	Name of end-product
•		
•		

(please add lines as required)

2) Information about the circumstances in which the substance(s) were encountered:

For each of the substance(s) encountered in illicit markets in your country, please indicate whether it was:

Type of circumstance	Name of substance (drug end-product or precursor)*		
2.1.1. <u>seized in a laboratory</u> (i.e. the substance was illicitly manufactured in my country; or, in the case of a precursor chemical, this implies that the substance was used in illicit manufacture)	Please also indicate whether the laboratory was <u>chemically synthesising</u> or only <u>processing</u> (i.e., cutting, tableting, and/or packaging for retail distribution) the respective substance by ticking the appropriate box. If you have seen both 'synthesis' labs and 'processing' labs, please tick both. Please tick "synthesis" also if you have information that a substance (precursor) was illicitly synthesized from pre-precursors.	synthesis	processing
	•	☐	☐
	•	☐	☐
	•	☐	☐
	•	☐	☐
2.1.2. <u>seized anywhere else</u> (i.e. not in a laboratory, but at the border, in a warehouse, from trade channels etc.)	- FENTANYL -		
2.1.3. <u>encountered under other circumstances</u> (i.e., not actually seized but encountered as the subject of suspicious inquiries to industry or inquiries/orders placed on the Internet etc.)			
2.1.4. <u>encountered in a hospital/medical emergency setting</u>	(Note: Health impact or toxicity aspects of the substances encountered are beyond the operational focus of Projects Prism/Cohesion/ION. Therefore, this sub-section only seeks to gather information on substances that have not been encountered in any other setting above, with a view to providing additional insights into possible trafficking patterns, modi operandi, sources, etc.)		

* Please list all names of drug end-products and precursors in the applicable box; add lines where required.

If the same substance has been encountered under more than one of the above-mentioned circumstances, please list it in each applicable box.



3) Origin

Where available, please provide information on:

3.1. the suspected source /origin (country) of the substance:

Name of the substance (drug end-product or precursor)	Suspected origin (country/countries)

(please add lines as required)

3.2. the name(s), address(es) and other relevant contact information of the company(ies) involved (exporter, importer, broker, shipping company(ies) etc.):

Name of substance (drug end-product or precursor)	Company details	Type of involvement (importer, exporter etc.)

(please add lines as required)

4) Legitimate use(s)

If any of the substance(s) has *legitimate use(s)* in your country, please indicate the purpose(s) and, if known, in which amount (estimated annual needs):

Name of substance (drug end-product or precursor)	Purpose(s)	Approximate amount required (per year)

(please add lines as required)

5) Please provide any other information that may help to identify the sources of the substance(s) and modi operandi of traffickers, and to understand whether a new trend is developing:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

6) Attach photographs of the substance(s) and packaging, where available.



Return completed forms via email to: precursors@incb.org

or alternatively to:

Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board
Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna, Austria
Fax: (+43 1) 26060-5930