



Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative

Maine Information and Analysis Center



13 June 2025

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2025-0000614

(U) Purpose: *This Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) report is a collection of information obtained from various sources and partners, including but not limited to public health, law enforcement, and EMS. The MIAC welcomes the sharing of information that your agency believes may be beneficial to this report and to other agencies.*

(U) PUBLIC HEALTH AWARENESS - Medetomidine

Medetomidine, referred to as "rhino tranq," is a veterinary anesthetic drug with potent sedative effects and is increasingly being found mixed with fentanyl and xylazine, which further complicates the opioid crisis. Medetomidine's potency is 200-300 times greater than that of xylazine and makes opioid overdoses more difficult to reverse with naloxone. According to DEA Office of Forensic Sciences, xylazine remains the number one adulterant found in fentanyl powder, but the emergence of medetomidine is a dangerous development.¹

Medetomidine has recently been found as an adulterant of the illicit opioid supply in multiple states in the Northeast and has also been detected during a cluster of opioid overdoses in Worcester, Massachusetts. Using blood samples from two patients and advanced analytical toxicology conducted at the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education, the study identified medetomidine alongside fentanyl and xylazine. Clinical signs included bradycardia and hypotension, prompting dissemination of findings to emergency clinicians, health departments, and harm reduction organizations.²

(U) Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL)

The Maine HETL is responsible for a number of functions related to the safety of Maine residents including work completed by their forensic chemistry section which provides accurate, reliable, timely, and state of the art scientific analysis and subsequent expert testimony in the areas of controlled substances and toxicology. The service is provided primarily to Maine Criminal Justice Agencies in regard to evidence submitted by them, however the Forensic Director may authorize the occasional acceptance of other work related to government agency investigations.³

Below is a list of illicit substances that were detected through forensic examination during the month of April by the Maine HETL of seized drugs by Maine law enforcement agencies. The list is organized alphabetically and does not reflect the number of samples containing each substance or the quantity of each substance. It is important to note that tested samples of material sometimes contain more than one illicit substance in a variety of combinations.

Illicit Drugs Detected

4-ANPP
Cocaine base
Cocaine Hydrochloride
Fentanyl
Fluorofentanyl
Heroin
Methamphetamine
Tramadol
Xylazine

Combinations

Cocaine, Fentanyl, Tramadol
Fentanyl, 4-ANPP
Fentanyl, Fluorofentanyl
Fentanyl, Fluorofentanyl, Xylazine
Fentanyl, Heroin, 4-ANPP
Fentanyl, Tramadol
Fentanyl, Xylazine
Fentanyl, Xylazine, 4-ANPP

(U) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND NEWS:

(U) Maine Drug Data Hub Monthly Overdose Data

(U) The most recent monthly overdose report available from the Maine Drug Data Hub reports that fatal overdoses in Maine continue to decline. The total number of confirmed and suspected fatal overdoses during 2025 is 71, 17.4% lower than the total confirmed fatal overdoses for January-February 2024. For additional information, please visit [Maine Monthly Overdose Report for February 2025](#)

(U) U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) Monthly Provisional Drug Overdose Data

(U) CDC's NVSS released its provisional drug overdose data on May 14, 2025, based on data available for analysis on May 4, 2025. The new preliminary data from NVSS predicts 80,391 drug overdose deaths for the 12 months ending in December 2024 (i.e., full 2024 calendar year) and estimates a nearly 27% decline in drug overdose deaths in the U.S compared to the previous year. For additional information, please visit [Products - Vital Statistics Rapid Release - Provisional Drug Overdose Data](#)

(U) 2025 Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Fentanyl Seizures

(U) To date, in 2025, the DEA has seized more than 36.8 million fentanyl-laced fake pills and nearly 4,000 pounds of fentanyl powder. The 2025 seizures to date are equivalent to more than 157 million lethal doses of fentanyl. For additional information, please visit [Home | DEA.gov](#)

(U) Trends in Opioid-Involved Emergency Department Visits: Overall and by Type of Opioid, 2021-2024

(U) A recently published report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) analyzes national trends in opioid-fentanyl-benzo-heroin-involved emergency department (ED) visits from 2021 to 2024. The authors used data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN). For additional information, please visit [Trends in Opioid-Involved Emergency Department Visits: Overall and by Type of Opioid, 2021-2024](#)

(U) Maine Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel

(U) The Maine Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel recently released a Special Report: Recommendations from Adolescent Overdose Review (prepared by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center - University of Maine, on behalf of the Maine Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel). In 2023-24, the Maine Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel focused on cases of adolescent overdose in the state. At a population level, these cases make up a small percentage of total fatal overdoses in Maine (0.54% in 2023), but they have a significant impact on families and communities. For additional information, please visit [Maine Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel](#)

(U) Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) 2025 National Drug Threat Assessment (NDTA)

(U) The DEA recently released the 2025 National Drug Threat Assessment (NDTA), a comprehensive report that provides a national-level perspective on the threats posed by deadly illicit drugs and the violent transnational criminal organizations responsible for producing the drugs poisoning our communities. This annual assessment from the DEA provides valuable strategic drug-related intelligence to communities, health professionals, educators, and law enforcement agencies to help inform their response to this crisis. For additional information, please visit [2025 National Drug Threat Assessment](#)

(U) Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) State and Territory Report on Enduring and Emerging Threats

(U) The DEA reports that Medetomidine and Dexmedetomidine submissions have increased significantly. Due to the similarities of medetomidine and dexmedetomidine to xylazine — medetomidine is used in a similar manner as xylazine in veterinary medicine, and dexmedetomidine in human practice and veterinary medicine — DEA assesses both drugs have the potential to be supplements to or replacements for xylazine in terms of mixing with illicit opioids. For additional information, please visit [STREET Report - Oct 2024 - Medetomidine and Dexmedetomidine Submissions Increase Significantly](#)

(U) Governor Mills 7th Annual Opioid Response Summit

(U) Governor Mills Annual Opioid Response Summit will be held on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at the Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, ME. The annual summit is part of the states commitment to fighting the opioid epidemic. The Summit convenes leaders from around Maine and the nation to share ideas, strategies, and best practices to help Maine people affected by this crisis. For additional information or to register, please visit [Summary - Governor Mills 7th Annual Opioid Response Summit](#)

(U) Addiction Experts Raise Alarm About Cannabis Use Among Youth

(U) Low cost and high-potency marijuana appeals to youth who think it's safe to use, but it also poses serious mental health risks, including psychosis, for youth. Multiple studies have linked heavy marijuana use at a young age with an increased risk of mental illness, notably schizophrenia. A report issued by the National Academy of Sciences cites evidence that heavy marijuana use, prolonged length of exposure and age at the beginning of exposure may all be risk factors in triggering a first episode of psychosis. For additional information, please visit [Addiction Experts Raise Alarm About Cannabis Use Among Oregon's Youth | Just Think Twice](#)

(U) CDC Foundation News: The Connection between Youth Vaping and Mental Health Challenges

(U) The powerful link between youth vaping and mental health. More than 1.6 million youths still reported current e-cigarette use in 2024. Nearly 9 in 10 used flavored products, and 1 in 4 reported using them daily. Peer-reviewed research increasingly shows vaping is linked to poorer mental health outcomes. For additional information, please visit [The Connection between Vaping and Mental Health Challenges: Why Youth Deserve Our Protection | CDC Foundation](#)

(U) The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education releases a Parent's Guide to Substance Use Prevention

(U) The U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education recently released a parents' guide to substance use prevention. The guide includes an overview of substance use among children, youth, and young adults; descriptions of some substances young people may use; a look at risk factors that may make children, youth, and young adults try alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, and protective factors that help offset those risks. For additional information and to view the guide, please visit [Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent's Guide to Substance Use Prevention](#)

Sources:

¹National Drug Threat Assessment. (2025). DEA. <https://www.dea.gov/documents/2025/2025-05/2025-05-13/national-drug-threat-assessment>

²Rettger, B., et al. (2025). Identifying the Local Emergence of Medetomidine through Prehospital Collaborations. *Prehospital Emergency Care*, 29(4), 338–342. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10903127.2025.2491752>

³Maine.Gov. Division of Public Health Systems. Maine Health and Environmental Laboratory Sections. Retrieved 2025, from Maine Health and Environmental Testing Lab – Divisions – Division of Public Health Systems | ME CDC | Maine DHHS

Survey: <https://tinyurl.com/y5uboh4d>

Tracked by MIAC SINS: 04, 17