



Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative

Maine Information and Analysis Center



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(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

(U) Kratom

(U) The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) lists kratom as a drug and chemical of concern. Kratom, known by various street names such as thang, kakuam, thom, ketum, and biak, is a tropical tree that is native to Southeast Asia. Its leaves contain two major psychoactive compounds (mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine), when consumed, produce stimulant effects at low doses and sedative effects at higher doses. Use of kratom can lead to psychotic symptoms as well as psychological and physiological dependence. Reported effects of kratom on the body include nausea, itching, sweating, dry mouth, constipation, increased urination, tachycardia, vomiting, drowsiness, and loss of appetite. More severe reactions such as anorexia, weight loss, insomnia, hepatotoxicity, seizures, and hallucinations have also been documented.¹ Despite these risks, some individuals use kratom to self-manage various conditions, including pain, cough, diarrhea, anxiety, depression, opioid use disorder, and withdrawal symptoms.²

(U) The leaves of the kratom plant are typically crushed and then either smoked, brewed with tea, or placed in gel capsules. Products prepared from kratom leaves are available in the U.S. through internet sales and brick-and-mortar stores.²

(U) Kratom is not classified as a controlled substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act, nor is it banned at the federal level. However, several states have enacted regulations or prohibitions restricting use and possession. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved kratom for any medical purposes, and reports of its misuse have increased substantially in recent years.² Its use has generated debate within the United States, particularly concerning public health and safety. In 2016, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) proposed classifying kratom as a controlled substance but subsequently withdrew the proposal following widespread public opposition.³

(U) In 2018, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning advising consumers against purchasing kratom, characterizing its compounds as "opioids" and linking its use to as many as 44 deaths.³ According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 1.7 million Americans aged 12 and older used kratom in 2021.²

(U) As of February 2024, 22 states and the District of Columbia regulate kratom or its components. In six of those states and the District of Columbia, kratom's psychoactive compounds, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, are classified as controlled substances. Meanwhile, sixteen states regulate the possession, sale, and manufacture of kratom products. The remaining twenty-eight states, including Maine, do not impose any control or regulations on kratom.⁴

(U) On 29 July 2025, the FDA announced it is taking steps to protect Americans from dangerous, illegal opioids by recommending a scheduling action to control certain 7-hydroxymitragynine (also known as 7-OH) products under the Controlled Substances Act.²

(U) Maine Health and Environmental

(U) Below is a list of illicit substances that were recently detected through forensic examination 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 203, 26.2% lower than the total confirmed fatal overdoses for January–June 2025. For additional information, please visit [Maine Monthly Overdose Report for June 2025](#).

(U) New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) 2025 Youth Prevention Institute

(U) On 15 and 16 September 2025, the New England HIDTA 2025 Youth Prevention Institute will be held in Manchester, NH. This event will bring together professionals dedicated to building protective factors in their communities through connection and health-promoting relationships with youth. For additional information and to register, please visit [New England HIDTA Youth Prevention Institute - High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas](#).

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

(U) To date, in 2025, the DEA seized more than 29.7 million fentanyl-laced fake pills and over 5,500 pounds of fentanyl powder. The 2025 seizures to date represent over 218 million lethal doses of fentanyl. For additional information, please visit [Home | DEA.gov](#).

(U) 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH): An Assessment of the Scientific Data and Toxicological Concerns Around an Emerging Opioid Threat

(U) Recent reports indicate increased availability and marketing of 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) in the U.S., raising public health concerns due to its pharmacology. 7-OH is a naturally occurring substance in the kratom plant. This report provides an overview on the chemical, pharmacological, and epidemiological data on 7-OH. For additional information, please visit [7-Hydroxymitragynin \(7-OH\): An Assessment of the Scientific Data and Toxicological Concerns Around an Emerging Opioid Threat](#).

(U) National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS): This Week's Focus: Kratom and Mitragynine-Derived Substances (Issue 233: May 30, 2025)

(U) This NDEWS Weekly Briefing focuses on kratom and the increasing availability of substances derived from its primary alkaloid, mitragynine – including 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) and mitragynine pseudoindoxyl (MP). Kratom leaf has traditionally been used in Southeast Asia, but more recently in the U.S. for self-managing opioid withdrawal. Reports point to the emergence of semi-synthetic products with elevated potency and unclear safety profiles. For additional information, please visit [NDEWS Weekly Briefing Issue 233 — This Week's Focus: Kratom and Mitragynine-Derived Substances](#) .

(U) Interventions to Address Xylazine

(U) The Thomas Jefferson University, in partnership with the Brandeis University, recently completed a study called “community-informed approaches to the escalating presence of xylazine in opioids.” The goal of the study was to learn from the experiences of people who use opioids, an early locus of xylazine emergence, and to develop person-centered approaches to mitigate the impact of xylazine as it emerges as an adulterant in other markets nationally. The project was funded by a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. For additional information, please visit [Interventions to Address Xylazine](#).

(U) National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) Released Monthly Provisional Drug Overdose Data

(U) CDC's National Vital Statistics System released its most recent provisional drug overdose data on 11 June 2025, based on data available for analysis on 1 June 2025. The latest preliminary data from NVSS predicts 82,138 national drug overdose deaths for the 12 months ending in January 2025 and estimates a nearly 26% decline in drug overdose deaths in the U.S. compared to the previous year for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For additional information, please visit [Products - Vital Statistics Rapid Release - Provisional Drug Overdose Data](#).

(U) Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI) Promising Practices Guide

(U) PAARI recently released the PAARI Promising Practices Guide, a comprehensive resource developed to help law enforcement, public safety, and public health partners develop and sustain deflection and pre-arrest diversion programs to help save lives and improve public safety. The guide is the result of years of research, collaboration and lived experience from departments, community partners, and advocates across the country. For additional information, please visit [PAARI Promising Practices Guide](#).

(U) Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) Hosts Bi-monthly Webinar Series: Trends, Analysis & Threats Webinar

(U) The ORS is hosting a bi-monthly webinar series delivering briefings on current and emerging drug trends from experts with leading forensic and toxicology labs. The webinar is open to any interested professionals throughout the country working in public safety, public health, or other disciplines to prevent overdoses. The next webinar will be held on 3 September 2025 from 2:00-3:00pm EST. For additional information or to register, please visit [ORS Trends, Analysis, & Threats Webinar Registration](#).

(U) State of Maine, Office of Governor Mills. At Opioid Response Summit, Governor Mills Urges Maine People to Continue Fight Against Opioid Epidemic

(U) The annual Maine summit, held 10 July 2025 at Central Maine Community College in Auburn, brought together health care providers, policy experts, state and federal government leaders, affected individuals and families, advocates, law enforcement officials, and members of the public to discuss strategies to help Maine people impacted by the opioid crisis. For additional information, please visit [At Opioid Response Summit, Governor Mills Urges Maine People to Continue Fight Against Opioid Epidemic | Office of Governor Janet T. Mills](#).

Sources:

¹U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. (2025, January). *What is Kratom? (Drug Fact Sheet)*. In *Drugs of Abuse: A DEA Resource Guide, 2024 Edition*. Retrieved August 13, 2025, from [Drugs of Abuse: A DEA Resource Guide, 2024 Edition](#)

²U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2025, July 15). *FDA and Kratom*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved August 13, 2025, from [FDA and Kratom | FDA](#)

³NMS LABS. (N.D.). *Mitragynine Found More Frequently in Death Investigations*. NMS Labs. Retrieved August 13, 2025, from [Mitragynine Found More Frequently in Death Investigations | NMS Labs](#)

⁴Legislative Analysis. (2024, February). *Kratom: Summary of State Laws*. Legislative Analysis. Retrieved August 14, 2025, from [Kratom Summary of State Laws](#)