

Substance Use Trend *Alert*

April 2021

Eutylone: An Emerging Substance in the U.S. and Florida

Eutylone is a synthetic cathinone that is chemically manufactured.¹ Eutylone is part of a group of drugs called new psychoactive substances (NPS) that are a concern to public health officials.² New psychoactive substances are unregulated mind-altering substances and have no medical use.² Often, NPS copy the effects of controlled substances and are marketed as cheap alternatives to other stimulants such as amphetamines and cocaine.² Synthetic cathinones can be swallowed, snorted, smoked, or injected.² Synthetic cathinones are associated with health effects such as raised heart rate and blood pressure, chest pain, delirium and even death.¹⁻²

Eutylone in the U.S.

Drug cases are submitted and analyzed by State and local laboratories. Eutylone drug cases emerged in the U.S. in 2017 with 29 cases. In 2018, there were 182 cases across the U.S. and by 2019, a sharp increase in eutylone accounted for 4,514 national drug cases.³ By the end of 2019, popularity of eutylone grew as more positive cases became frequent in toxicology casework in postmortem cases and driving under the influence of drugs investigations.¹ The most recent data between October 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, indicates 2,745 drug reports identified eutylone in the U.S.⁴

Eutylone in Florida

Florida was identified as one of several states that had eutylone drug cases in 2019. Additionally, in 2019 Florida accounted for 3,026 (or 67%) of the 4,514 national eutylone drug cases.³ Total drug reports identified as eutylone by county is shown in Figure 1. Five counties in Florida identified eutylone with 10.0-15.0 percent of total drug reports.⁵

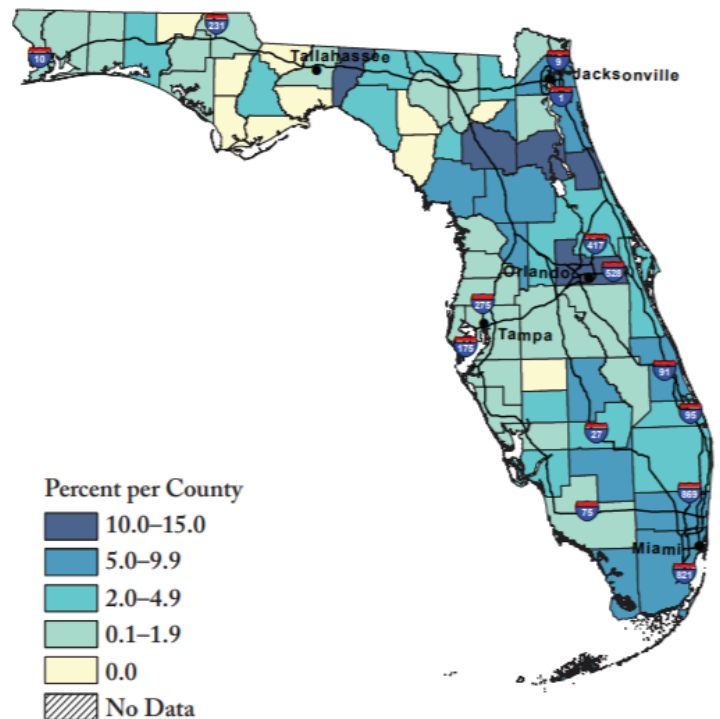


Figure 1: Percentage of total drug reports identified as eutylone in Florida, by county, 2019.⁵

Recommendations

New and emerging drugs call for a multidisciplinary approach. Public health should raise awareness about the risks and dangers associated with eutylone.¹ Surveillance of drug distribution and trends are also recommended.¹ A suggestion for clinicians is becoming familiar with signs and symptoms of use and the effects reported by synthetic cathinone users which has stimulant-like adverse effects.⁶ It is recommended that medical examiners test for new synthetic stimulants.¹ Lastly, forensic laboratories should share data on drug seizures with local health departments, medical examiners, and coroners.¹ For more information, please visit the following websites:

Additional Information Sources:

[National Institute on Drug Abuse: Synthetic Cathinones \(“Balt Salts”\) Drug Facts](#)

References

1. Krotulski, A. J., Mohr, ALA., Fogarty, M. F., Logan, B. K. (2018). The Detection of Novel Stimulants in Oral Fluid from Users Reporting Ecstasy, Molly and MDMA Ingestion. *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*, 42, 544-553. https://www.npsdiscovery.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Public-Alert_Eutylone_Benzylone_NPS-Discovery_033120.pdf
2. National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2020). Synthetic Cathinones (“Bath Salts”) DrugFacts. Retrieved March 23, 2021, from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/synthetic-cathinones-bath-salts>
3. National Drug Early Warning System (2021). Southeastern Florida 2020: Drug Use Patterns and Trends. Retrieved March 31, 2021, from <https://ndews.org/publications/site-reports/>
4. National Forensic Laboratory Information System. (2021). Drug Snapshot (December 2020). Retrieved March 23, 2021, from https://www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/DesktopModules/ReportDownloads/Reports/NFLIS_Snapshot_122020.pdf
5. National Forensic Laboratory Information System. (2020). NFLIS-Drug 2019 Annual Report. Retrieved March 23, 2021, from <https://www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/DesktopModules/ReportDownloads/Reports/NFLIS-Drug-AR2019.pdf>
6. Drug Abuse Recognition. (2020). New Synthetic Stimulant Alert: Eutylone and Benzylone. Retrieved April 5, 2020., from <https://drugabuserecognition.com/eutylone-and-benzylone/>