



# Criminal Intelligence Unit

## PUBLIC BULLETIN



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## Para-fluorofentanyl: Ohio BCI Laboratory Update

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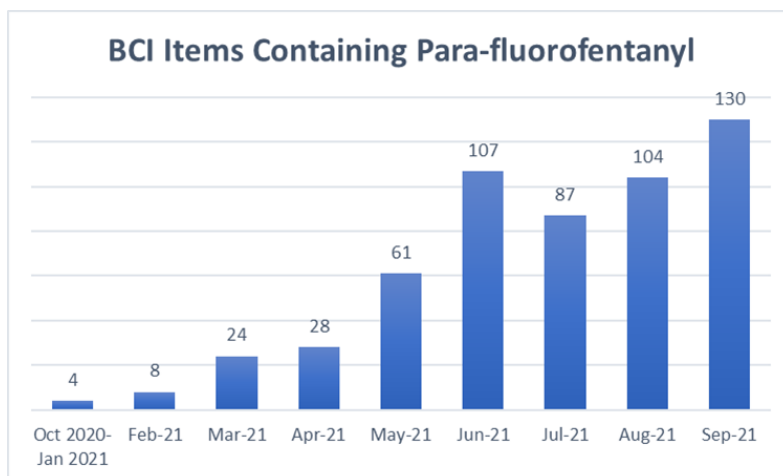
Many Ohio counties have reported encountering Para-fluorofentanyl<sup>1</sup>, and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Laboratory Division wants to warn law enforcement: It has seen a recent increase of lab submissions containing the chemical Para-fluorofentanyl. Para-fluorofentanyl is an analogue of Fentanyl also known as p-fluorofentanyl or p-FF.<sup>2</sup> It is classified as a schedule I narcotic and is commonly referred to as China White or Fentanyl.<sup>3</sup> Para-fluorofentanyl triggers more opioid receptors than Fentanyl and is considered more potent.<sup>4</sup> It is increasingly seen in combination with other drugs contributing to overdoses, including a recent high profile case involving the actor Michael K. Williams.<sup>5</sup>

### Ohio Specific Case Observations

- **Color:** White, off-white, tan, gray, brown, green, pink, purple, yellow, and blue (tablets)
- **Form:** Powder, residues, liquid from syringes, and blue tablets (including those marked M<>30)
- **Adulterants:** Found primarily in combination with Fentanyl. Also found in combination with other fentanyl pharmacophores, heroin, cocaine, tramadol, and 3-CI-PCP. Other substances that are sometimes present include diphenhydramine, mannitol, xylazine, and quinine

The Ohio BCI Laboratory first identified Para-fluorofentanyl in lab results beginning in October 2020. Between then and September 2021, the BCI Laboratory has identified 553 new items containing Para-fluorofentanyl.

Month	Number of Items Reported
October 2020 - January 2021	4
February 2021	8
March 2021	24
April 2021	28
May 2021	61
June 2021	107
July 2021	87
August 2021	104
September 2021	130



1. Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC). (2021, March). 3.10 Para-fluorofentanyl Bulletin.

2. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). (2021, August). Re-emerging Analogue of Fentanyl Encountered by Law Enforcement in Northeast Ohio.

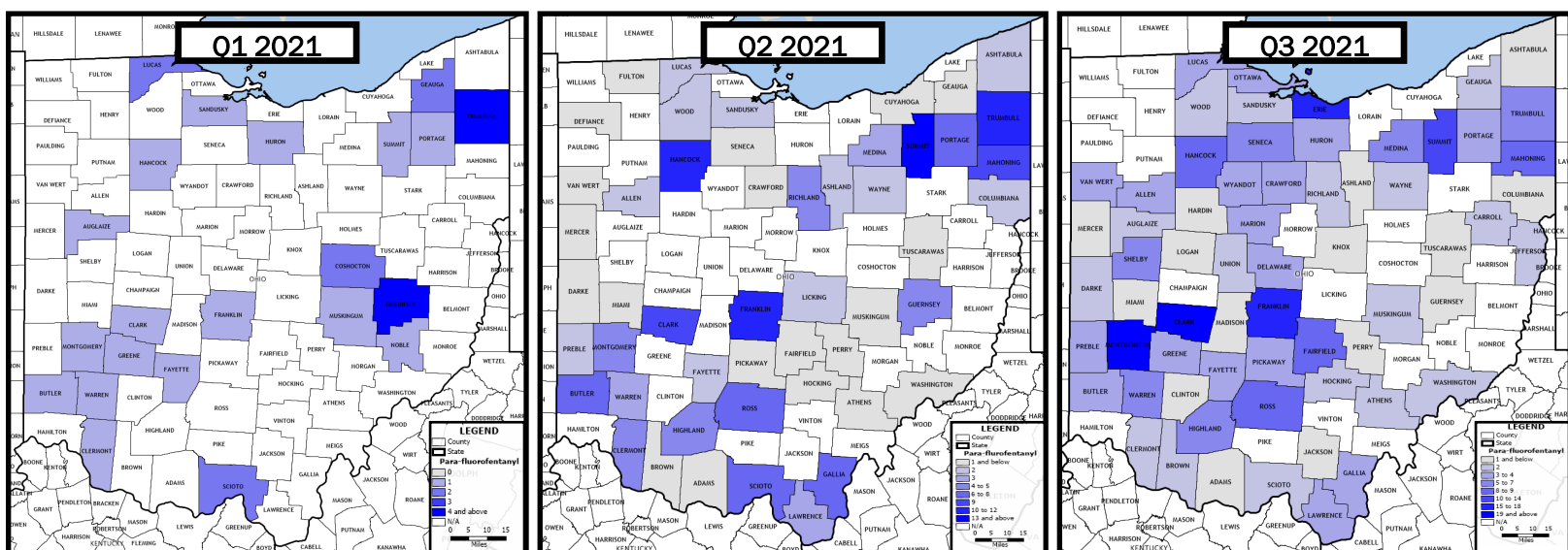
3. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). (2021, August 27). Controlled Substances - Alphabetical Order. Retrieved from [deaddiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/orangebook/c\\_cs\\_alpha.pdf](https://deaddiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/orangebook/c_cs_alpha.pdf)

4. Ulens C, Van Boven M, Daenens P, Tytgat J. (2000). Interaction of p-fluorofentanyl on cloned human opioid receptors and exploration of the role of Trp-318 and His-319 in mu-opioid receptor selectivity. The Journal of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics, 294(3), 1024-33.

5. Sprague, J. E. (2021, October 08). Michael K. Williams' death sounds urgent warning on fentanyl variants' lethality: Jon E. Sprague. Retrieved from [www.cleveland.com/opinion/2021/10/michael-k-williams-death-sounds-urgent-warning-on-fentanyl-variants-lethality-jon-e-sprague.html](https://www.cleveland.com/opinion/2021/10/michael-k-williams-death-sounds-urgent-warning-on-fentanyl-variants-lethality-jon-e-sprague.html)

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## 2021 Para-fluorofentanyl Item Submissions by County



Agencies submitting items containing Para-fluorofentanyl are geographically widespread. Throughout the first three quarters of 2021, the BCI Laboratory has seen Para-fluorofentanyl in 70 out of the 88 counties in Ohio.<sup>6</sup> In October 2021, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office seized two kilograms of Para-fluorofentanyl (pictured below).

Officers and first responders should handle all items suspected to contain Para-fluorofentanyl or Fentanyl related substances with caution and proper personal protective equipment (PPE).



Image from Franklin County Sheriff's Office:

- 2 Kilos Fentanyl
- 2 Kilos Para-fluorofentanyl
- Smaller drugs located at the top of the image contain either one or both Fentanyl and Para-fluorofentanyl

6. Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. (2021, October). Laboratory Statistics.



## About BCI CIU

The Criminal Intelligence Unit consists of Criminal Intelligence Analysts and a Criminal Intelligence Analyst Supervisor. Analysts are located in BCI London headquarters, as well as regional offices in Youngstown, Bowling Green and Richfield. The members receive and fulfill requests from BCI Agents, local, state, federal law enforcement agencies and task forces. Our mission is to predict and expose criminal activity in order to prevent, eliminate or neutralize the activity.

This publication may be disseminated to the general public.

To submit a tip please call: 740-845-2406

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