



**LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
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**LabINFO NEWSLETTER**

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*This newsletter is provided by the Lorain County Crime/Drug Lab discussing technical and general information dedicated to local agencies within Lorain County. The information has been collected from various sources and journals.*

**SYNTHETIC FENTANYL FUELING RISE IN OD DEATHS** [Source: CDC]  
WebMD News, by Steven Reinberg- August 25, 2016

As more fentanyl was sold illegally on the streets, the number of fatal overdoses jumped 79 percent in 27 states from 2013 to 2014, while law enforcement seizures of the drug increased 426 percent in eight of those 27 states.

"Fentanyl is a powerful opioid that is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine, and it is available by prescription, but evidence indicates that illicitly made fentanyl is more likely a powder mixed with heroin and or sold as heroin," said report author R. Matthew Gladden, a behavioral scientist at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He added that the fentanyl crisis is being driven by products made illegally, not by the diversion of prescription fentanyl. Most of the victims of these overdoses were men and those aged 15 to 44.

Eight states from the 27 studied were more dramatically affected than the others: Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Ohio, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland and North Carolina. In those states, the synthetic opioid death rate (mostly fentanyl) jumped 174 percent during 2013-2014, the researchers said.

Heroin analyzed at the Lorain County Crime/Drug Lab in the recent string of overdoses in Northeast Ohio (including Lorain County), have contained illicitly manufactured compounds such as U-47700, 3-Methylfentanyl, Acetylfentanyl, W-18, Carfentanil, etc. Dealers often cut their heroin with such synthetic drugs to make their supply last longer and at the same time making it more potent for profit.

**TEENS USING e-cig NOT JUST FOR NICOTINE**  
[Source: [www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov)]

A recent analysis of the 2015 Monitoring the Future (MTF) findings on e-cigarette use highlights uncertainty about what teens are actually inhaling when using "e-cig" devices, and at least six percent report they are using the vaporizers to inhale *marijuana*.



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Of the students in 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade who said they had ever used a vaporizer device:

- More than 65 percent said they are vaping "just flavoring"
- About 20 percent said they are vaping nicotine
- About 6 percent said they are vaping marijuana
- About 6 percent do not know what substance they last vaped

While many teens do not believe they were using these vaporizers for nicotine, it is unclear if some products labeled nicotine-free actually contained nicotine. New FDA regulations will be requiring accurate labeling on e-cig products.

For more information about the 2015 Monitoring the Future survey results, go to:

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/monitoring-future>

### **KRATOM** [Source: [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)]

Kratom is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia. Consumption of its leaves produces both stimulant effects (in low doses) and sedative effects (in high doses), and can lead to psychotic symptoms and psychological addiction. The psychoactive ingredient is found in the leaves from Kratom tree. These leaves are subsequently crushed and then smoked, brewed with tea, or placed into gel capsules. Because it is classified as a supplement, it is loosely regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Several cases of psychosis resulting from use of Kratom have been reported, where individuals addicted to Kratom exhibited psychotic symptoms, including hallucinations, delusion, and confusion.

Kratom is not controlled under the Federal Controlled Substances Act; however, there are at least six (6) states have banned against the possession and use of Kratom: Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Tennessee, Vermont and Wisconsin. New York has introduced legislation to ban it.

There's no legitimate medical use for Kratom in the United States. DEA has listed Kratom as a Drug and Chemical of concern.





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### CARFENTANIL

#### *DEA Issues Carfentanil Warning to Police and Public*

*[Source: [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)]*

#### ***DEA has issued a warning to the public and law enforcement nationwide about the health and safety risks of Carfentanil!***

Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid that is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than Fentanyl, which itself is 50 times more potent than Heroin. The presence of Carfentanil has been linked to a significant number of overdoses deaths in various parts of the country, including Summit and Cuyahoga counties.

Carfentanil is a Schedule II substance under the Controlled Substance Act (CSA) and is used as a tranquilizing agent for elephants and other large animals. The lethal dose for Carfentanil in humans is unknown, depending on route of administration and other factors.

If encountered, responding personnel should do the following based on the specific situation: *More information about Fentanyl, Carfentanil and other dangerous synthetic opiates can be found at [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov).*

- Exercise extreme caution – Only properly trained and outfitted law enforcement professionals should handle any suspected substances. Contact the appropriate agency if encountered.
- Be aware of any sign of exposure – Respiratory depression, drowsiness, disorientation, sedation, pinpoint pupils, and clammy skin. The onset of these symptoms usually occurs within minutes of exposure.
- Seek IMMEDIATE medical attention – In cases of suspected exposure, call EMS immediately! If inhaled, move the victim to fresh air. If ingested and the victim is conscious, wash out the victim's eyes and mouth with cool water.
- Be ready to administer Naloxone (Narcan) in the event of exposure – Narcan is an antidote for opioid overdose. Multiple Narcan may be required. Administer a dose of Narcan every 2-3 minutes until the individual is breathing on his/her own for at least 15 minutes or until the EMS arrives.
- Remember that Carfentanil can resemble powdered Cocaine or Heroin – Do not disturb the substance as this could lead to accidental exposure. Secure the substance and wait for the professionals.



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### U-47700

U-47700 is a synthetic opioid that is 7.5 times more potent than Morphine. It was a research drug that was synthesized in the 1970s. The U in the name stands for (Doctor) Upjohn, a pharmaceutical manufacturer that developed the drug, looking for a synthetic alternative to morphine.

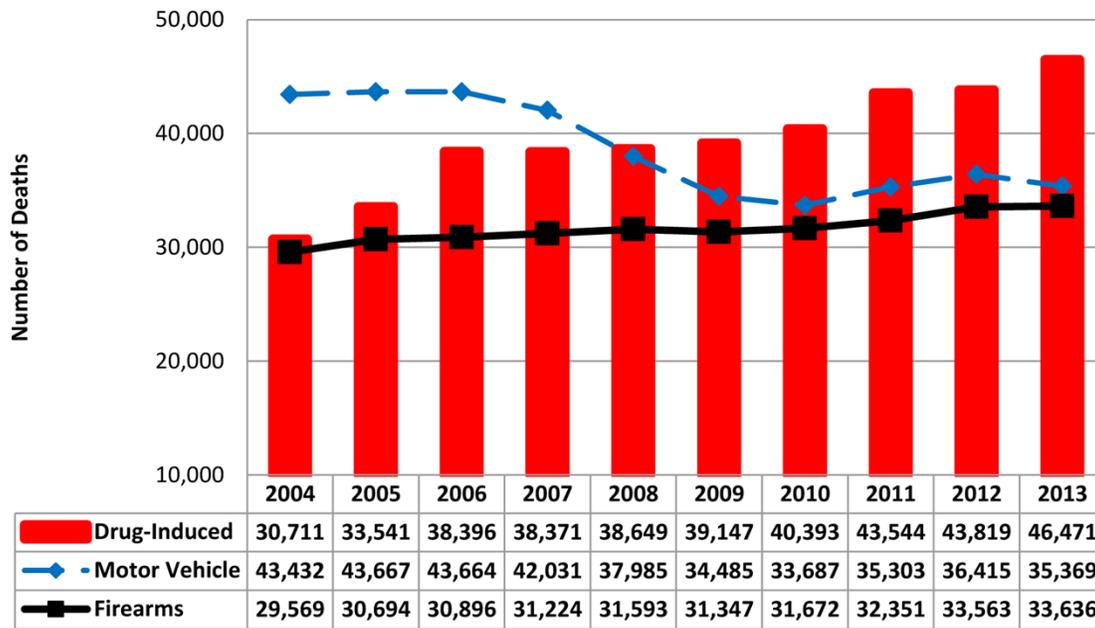
U-47700 poses a risk for potential overdose and respiratory depression, and ultimately a fatal overdose.

This drug is only available for research use only! You never really know what you are buying, especially when you buy something like this through the internet. You don't know what the drug dealer is giving you. Many of them don't even know what they're giving you.

Governor John Kasich signed an emergency Executive Order to place U-47700 to Schedule I controlled substance on May 3, 2016. First fatal overdose of this drug was reported from Lake County.

### 2015 National Drug Threat Assessment Summary

**Chart I. Number of Drug Induced Deaths Compared to the Number of Motor Vehicle and Firearm Deaths, 2004 - 2013**



*SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*



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### FACTS:

Analyzing drugs in their natural form is relatively easy; the process becomes much more difficult once the drug begins to be metabolized by the body.

The vast majority of fatalities involved illegally produced Fentanyl, not the prescription from drug commonly given to end-stage cancer patients.

### KROKODIL

[Source: [www.drugs.com](http://www.drugs.com)]

*Desomorphine*, known by street name Krokodil, is an opioid derivative of codeine. Like heroin and other opioids, it has a sedative and analgesic effect, is highly addictive, and potentially harmful. Krokodil is presumed to contain desomorphine, but due to illicit, home-based, manufacturing, it may contain other unknown ingredients, or in fact, no desomorphine at all.

Homemade versions of the drug start with codeine, and can be 'cooked' similar to illicit methamphetamine production. Organic solvents such as gasoline, paint thinner, or lighter fluid, iodine, hydrochloric acid, and red phosphorus (from matches) are used in homemade synthesis. These dangerous chemicals are not always fully 'cooked' out of the concoction when used to make illicit krokodil.

Those who inject these caustic agents into their veins can develop extreme skin ulcerations, infections, and *gangrene* – a discolored (green, black) scale-like skin that resembles a crocodile, hence the street name "krokodil". Krokodil is also called "Russian Magic", referring to its short duration of opioid intoxication (euphoria).

### NBOMe (25B; 25C; 25I)

*Psychedelic Drugs*

*Street Name: N-Bombs*

In 2010, the first anecdotal evidence of human use of NBOMe drugs began to emerge. The effects have been reported by users to be more similar to LSD than MDMA (commonly known as Ecstasy) and active at very low doses. A dose of MDMA, for example is 125mg, whereas people reported that some of NBOMe were active at 0.05mg. This high potency increases the likelihood of individuals overdosing on NBOMe drugs.

By 2012, there were a number of reports in the U.S. of people dying from NBOMe drug overdoses.



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**FACTS:** *[Source: American Society of Addiction Medicine]*

Prescription pain reliever overdose deaths among women increased more than 400% from 1999 to 2010, compared to 237% among men.

Heroin overdose deaths among women have tripled in the last few years. From 2010 through 2013, female heroin overdoses increased from 0.4 to 1.2 per 100,000.

In 2014, 467,000 adolescents were current non-medical users of pain reliever, with 168,000 having an addiction to prescription pain relievers.

People often share their unused pain relievers, unaware of the dangers of non-medical opioid use. Most adolescents who misuse prescription pain relievers are given them for free by a friend or relative.

Women are more likely to have chronic pain, be prescribed prescription pain relievers, be given higher doses, and use them for longer time periods than men. Women may become dependent on prescription pain relievers more quickly than men.

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*The information gathered for this newsletter is not necessarily the opinion of the County Crime/Drug Lab staff. The LabINFO Newsletter is solely available for informational purposes only.*