Heroin and Fentanyl Abuse on the Rise

We saw 88 Positive Cases in 90 Days

Our testing procedures are positioned to detect this growing drug combination even in our most basic postmortem panel.

While the popularity of heroin has risen in recent years, so has the positivity rate of fentanyl. Recent data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has shown that heroin is currently one of the biggest drugs of concern regarding abuse in the United States and that the increase in its use is associated with a rise in overdose deaths (see map on reverse). Additionally, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) issued an alert about an increase in deaths related to the use of heroin laced with fentanyl, which is reported to be 100 times more potent than heroin’s active ingredient of morphine.

In reviewing drug trends, NMS Labs has found fentanyl to be more prevalent than ever before. With an increase in positivity rates, we have positioned our testing procedures to detect this growing drug combination even in our most basic postmortem panel in blood. The chart on the right shows the number of all postmortem cases that tested positive for both Heroin and Fentanyl at NMS Labs.

NMS Labs can be a credible source for law enforcement, providing current drug trends that can aid in planning ahead so agencies can allocate resources where they’re needed most.

Source: NMS Labs
Denver, CO
Heroin Is Getting Cheaper In Denver & Beyond
That combination is a deadly mix. In Denver alone the drug is connected to 30 to 40 people being rushed in a life and death struggle...

Boone County, KY
Five People Overdose In One Kentucky Home
Overdoses across the tri-state are growing because more and more often heroin is being cut with the powerful painkiller Fentanyl...

W. Palm Beach, FL
Heroin Use In South Florida Reaching ‘Epidemic’ Levels
Not only are investigators at the medical examiner’s office discovering more and more heroin related cases, but a growing number...

Buffalo, NY
Heroin’s deadly highs: Recent deaths underscore growing peril for users
They are sometimes replacing heroin with pure fentanyl...

Philadelphia, PA
Fentanyl-Laced Heroin Deaths on the Rise Once Again
The potentially deadly practice of lacing heroin with the synthetic opioid analgesic fentanyl appears to have made a comeback...

Elyria, OH
Elyria Man Gets 20 Years For Heroin/fentanyl Death
An Elyria man was sentenced to 20 years in prison for distributing heroin and fentanyl, including fentanyl that caused the death of...

According to the CDC, heroin and other opioid drug abuse are not limited to any certain demographic or geographic area. The deaths associated with opioid drug use are seen in urban and suburban areas, rural communities, and inner cities alike.

1 National Institute on Drug Abuse, DrugFacts: Heroin, www.drugabuse.gov; 2 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit, www.samhsa.gov © 2014 NMS Labs. All Rights Reserved. NMS Labs, When you need to know, the associated logo and all associated NMS Labs marks are the trademarks of NMS Labs.