Prevalence of Fentanyl in Miami-Dade County Death Investigations

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Fentanyl

- Schedule II synthetic opioid analgesic (treats pain)
- 50-100x more powerful than morphine / heroin
- Typically prescribed in the form of a transdermal patch
- Abuse potential is high due to euphoric effects
  - Chewing or sucking on a prescribed patch bypasses the time release
  - Fentanyl produced in clandestine laboratories is typically in powder or pill form and can be swallowed, snorted, or injected
- Fentanyl / Heroin relationship?
MDME Fentanyl Cases
Present and Cause
2010 - 2016

Illicit fentanyl
Illicit Fentanyl Cases 2015 - 2016
Fentanyl - Cause of Death
2014 - 2016

- Fentanyl has been listed in the cause of death in 67% of the cases in which fentanyl was identified.
- 28% of fentanyl positive cases are still pending toxicology or pending review by medical examiner.
Fentanyl - Cause of Death 2014 - 2016

- Pending toxicology cases will most likely include fentanyl or fentanyl analog(s) in cause of death

Drug Overdose 95% !!
Fentanyl - Cause of Death

- From April 2014 - 2016, the majority of deaths involving fentanyl (~80%) were poly-drug overdose cases.

Pie chart showing:
- Fentanyl Overdose: 17%
- Poly drug Overdose: ~78%
Fentanyl by Police Agency

MDPD, 96 cases

City of Miami PD, 118 cases

- City of Aventura PD
- City of Hialeah PD
- City of Miami Beach PD
- City of Miami PD
- City of North Miami Beach PD
- City of North Miami PD
- Miami-Dade PD
- Florida Highway Patrol
- City of Miami Gardens PD
Fentanyl Analogs

- Beta-hydroxythiofentanyl
- Acetyl fentanyl
- Para-fluorobutyrylfentanyl / para fluoroisobutryrlfentanyl *
- Furanylfentanyl *
- Butyrylfentanyl *
- Carfentanil* - 100x more potent than fentanyl!!

* Identified Sept 2016 - present
Fentanyl Analogs

- Carfentanil
- Furanyl fentanyl
- Para-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl

# Cases Pending
# Cases COD
Summary

- From 2010 to 2016, fentanyl and/or analogs have been identified in 451 cases; the majority of those cases occurred in 2015 and 2016.
- From 2014 to 2016, fentanyl and/or analogs have been identified in 376 cases.
  - 251 medical examiner cases (67%) list fentanyl and/or analogs in the cause of death; this number will increase to over 90% once pending cases are completed.
- Fentanyl related deaths are most common among white males, 30 – 39 years of age.
Summary cont..

- The majority of cases involve multiple drugs, the most common are **heroin and cocaine**
- Fentanyl analogs have been identified in approximately **150 cases** since Sept 2016
  - Carfentanil, 86%
  - Furanyl fentanyl, 23%
  - Para-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl, 17%
Thank You

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