



PA GROUNDHOGS · REGIONAL
INTELLIGENCE

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ISSUE

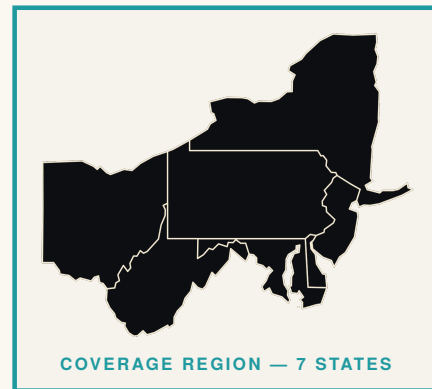
Drug Anomaly Digest.

A monthly read of the regional drug supply — what's spiking, what's emerging, what to watch.

REPORTING WINDOW: 27 APRIL — 31 MAY 2026

COVERAGE: PA · NJ · NY · DE · MD · WV · OH

PA Groundhogs is proud to introduce its new **Regional Drug Anomaly Digest** — a monthly intelligence brief covering Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and Ohio designed for county health agencies, community-based and harm reduction organizations, SSPs, researchers and others who need a broader view of trends in the drug supply and available P.A.G. data.



A true representation of our drive to promote **anticipatory intelligence through multi-disciplinary collaboration**, the **Regional Drug Anomaly Digest** blends expertise in the fields of journalism, drug market analysis, community outreach, harm reduction, drug checking, forensic science and epidemiology to deliver premium subscribers the relevant information they need to understand the latest drug supply trends and identify new and ongoing threats in Pennsylvania and its six border states. We offer this inaugural issue **for free to all our subscribers**. However, as we labor to achieve self-sustainability in 2027 so we can keep doing this important work, future issues of the monthly Digest will require a paid subscription. A full announcement will be made, including pricing, on [our website](#) in the coming weeks with more details.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: MAY 2026

We would like to thank [The SOAR Initiative](#) for facilitating P.A.G. kit distribution in Ohio; our Western PA team for outreach efforts in West Virginia & Ohio and, of course, our lab partners at the **Center for Forensic Science Research & Education (CFSRE) for prioritizing sample analysis from affected communities. **Is your community suffering a spike in adverse drug events? We want to know about it. Email tips to rapidresponse@pagroundhogs.org to discuss how we can help.***

● ACTIVE — LAST 30 DAYS

Multiple overdose cluster signals across OH, WV, and MD — May 2026

PA Groundhogs has identified **multiple overdose cluster signals across Ohio, West Virginia, and Maryland** during May 2026. At least **50 reported overdose incidents** and **23 confirmed fatalities** have been tallied across events with public numeric counts. The true number is likely higher, as at least one multi-county West Virginia alert reported "*multiple overdoses*" without a specific count, and human intelligence reports **12 additional overdoses in Hamilton County, OH and surrounding areas since May 20**.

PA Groundhogs has issued **Emergency Response Kits** to affected communities and has a team in the field to assess the situation on the ground. We will report lab analysis as samples are received and tested. Clusters are listed below by severity.

50+

REPORTED OD INCIDENTS

23

CONFIRMED FATALITIES

5

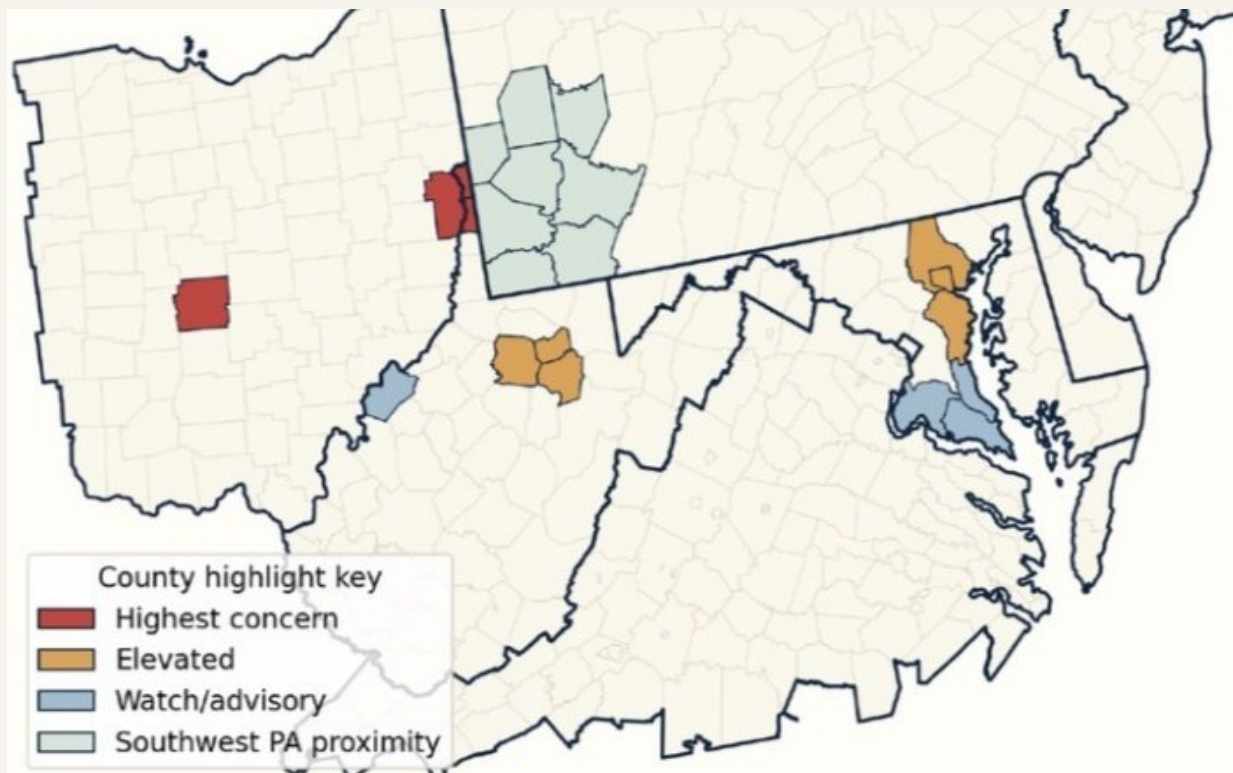
ACTIVE CLUSTER ZONES

3

STATES AFFECTED

COMPOSITE COUNTY MAP — AFFECTED AREAS, MAY 2026

Highlighted counties show areas named in this alert. Southwest Pennsylvania counties are included for geographic proximity to the Northern Panhandle and Ohio River corridor.



May 13-15 OHIO

Franklin County, OH — mass-casualty overdose spike

Central & Southwest Franklin County · Columbus metro

Franklin County Public Health issued a community alert after **six suspected overdose deaths in a 24-hour window** between May 13 and May 14. The threshold for a public alert in the county is five fatal ODs in 24 hours; this exceeded it. In the broader seven-day window ending May 15, the county logged **36 suspected overdoses with 18 fatalities**. Officials report the most common substances were cocaine and fentanyl — seven cases involved cocaine, four involved fentanyl, with polysubstance presentations dominant.

SOURCE: FRANKLIN CO. PUBLIC HEALTH (MAY 15) · WCMH/WSYX COLUMBUS · FRANKLIN CO. CORONER

36

SUSPECTED ODS
· 7 DAYS

18
DEATHS

May 9 WEST VIRGINIA

Weirton / Northern Panhandle, WV — suspected fentanyl-contaminated cocaine

Weirton · Hancock-Brooke-Weirton region · spillover into neighboring Ohio

Weirton Police Chief Charlie Kush issued a public alert after his department responded to **six overdoses in seven days**, including **one fatality** and two victims who remained hospitalized at the time of the alert. The supply was characterized as "*suspected cocaine with high amounts of fentanyl*" with users reportedly unaware of the contamination. The Hancock-Brooke-Weirton Drug Task Force is investigating; one distribution arrest had already been made by alert release.

SOURCE: WEIRTON PD PRESS RELEASE (MAY 9) · WDTV · WV METRONEWS

6

OVERDOSES · 1
WEEK

1
DEATH · 2
HOSPITALIZED

△ CAVEAT — ON THE "CRACK LACED WITH FENTANYL" FRAMING

Several of the WV and OH cluster reports characterize the contaminated supply as **crack or cocaine laced with fentanyl**. PA Groundhogs urges this framing be **treated with caution until lab samples are tested** and our analytical results are released. Cross-contamination at the distribution level, non-fentanyl adulterants invisible to field test strips, and the under-warned stimulant-using population all complicate a clean "laced" narrative. Our forensic work, summarized below, is intended to ground the framing in lab data rather than street characterization.

Regardless of what testing confirms, smoke-route consumption of an opioid-contaminated supply — intentional or not — carries real overdose risk for people who do not consider themselves opioid users. PA Groundhogs has published practical, non-stigmatizing guidance for harm-reduction outreach and stimulant users at pagroundhogs.org/safer-smoking.

Full lab results from collected samples will be reported in the next digest, or as a supplemental alert if findings are time-sensitive.

May 14 WEST VIRGINIA

North Central WV multi-county alert — Harrison, Taylor, Barbour

Suspected source area: Philippi / Grafton corridor

The Salvation Army in Clarksburg and county-level officials issued a regional warning citing "multiple overdoses" linked to cocaine that had been laced with fentanyl. Authorities indicated the contaminated supply may have originated in the Philippi or Grafton area and extended the alert to **Harrison, Taylor, and Barbour counties**. *No specific incident count was disclosed in the public alert* — this is a known gap in our tally and the true incident number is presumed higher.

SOURCE: WDTV (MAY 14) · SALVATION ARMY CLARKSBURG · REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

N/A

COUNT
UNDISCLOSED

DEATHS NOT
REPORTED

Apr-May OHIO

Jefferson County, OH — Steubenville-area sustained spike

Steubenville · Wintersville · Mingo Junction · Brilliant · Bloomingdale

The Jefferson County General Health District issued a fatal overdose spike alert on May 8 reporting **eight confirmed overdose deaths year-to-date with four occurring in April alone** — against just ten across all of 2025. Geography is unusual: deaths are dispersed across five small municipalities, not concentrated in a single neighborhood, suggesting either multiple supply chains or wider distribution of a single contaminated source. Cross-border (Northern Panhandle WV / Ohio) trafficking patterns are consistent with the Weirton cluster.

SOURCE: JEFFERSON CO. GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT (MAY 8) · WTRF STEUBENVILLE

8

DEATHS YTD 2026

4

IN APRIL ALONE

May 2026 MARYLAND

Anne Arundel & Baltimore Counties, MD — central Maryland supply-side watch

Annapolis · Glen Burnie · Pasadena · Baltimore County (eastern & western corridors)

No discrete mass-casualty cluster has been publicly reported in Anne Arundel or Baltimore County for the reporting window, but PA Groundhogs is flagging the corridor as **elevated on supply-side grounds**. State and regional sources continue to track the **emergence of medetomidine in the Maryland drug supply** following Pennsylvania's 2024 scheduling of xylazine, which CFSRE and the Maryland RAD program have linked to a documented adulterant shift across the I-95 corridor.

Anne Arundel County Health, the University of Maryland School of Medicine ED network, and Baltimore-area harm-reduction providers have all expanded medetomidine and xylazine test-strip distribution in the past quarter. The signal we are watching: medetomidine-driven prolonged-sedation events that *do not* reverse fully with naloxone, and which may be miscoded as "refractory opioid OD" in initial public reporting. *No specific incident count is asserted — this is a watch posture, not a confirmed cluster.*

SOURCE: CFSRE RAD PROGRAM · MD DOH / CENTER FOR HARM REDUCTION SERVICES · ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT · OPEN-SOURCE SURVEILLANCE

NO CLUSTER
ASSERTED

SUPPLY-SIDE
WATCH

Since May 20 OHIO · HUMINT — UNCONFIRMED

HAMILTON COUNTY, OH AND SURROUNDING AREAS — HUMAN-INTEL CLUSTER SIGNAL

Cincinnati metro · Hamilton County and adjacent jurisdictions

~12

OVERDOSES · HUMINT

fatalities pending

PA Groundhogs field sources report **approximately 12 overdoses across Hamilton County and surrounding areas since May 20**, not yet reflected in public dashboards or official health-department alerts. Included as an early HUMINT signal, not a confirmed case count.

Cincinnati sits at the OH/KY/IN tri-state convergence, a distinct supply environment from the Columbus and Steubenville clusters above. No connection is asserted without evidence; this is flagged so subscribers can act ahead of any official confirmation.

SOURCE: PA GROUNDHOGS FIELD REPORTING · PENDING HAMCO PUBLIC HEALTH / CORONER CONFIRMATION

WATCH / ADVISORY SUPPLY-SIDE MONITORING & EMERGING SIGNALS

Wood County, WV / Parkersburg. *Spike alert confirmed May 14.* No public substance attribution. Location is relevant to the Ohio River corridor between Columbus and the Northern Panhandle.

Southern Maryland. Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties issued a **May 13 advisory** warning about **medetomidine** increasingly found with fentanyl in the illicit supply.

Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and New York. No active public county-level cluster was identified in this scan for PA, NJ, DE, or NY. New York drug-checking data continues to show **medetomidine and xylazine** in opioid samples.

• FORENSICS — LAB PARTNERSHIP & SAMPLE TESTING

Through our partnership with the **Center for Forensic Science Research & Education (CFSRE)** the first two samples from Franklin County were identified today. Both were sold as crack on May 22; **results were unremarkable, detecting just cocaine and associated alkaloids.**

Over the weekend, P.A.G.'s **Emergency Response Team traveled to Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati, OH**, as part of an interagency response group that included the **SOAR Initiative** and the **Ohio Coalition for Public Safety**. Numerous P.A.G. test kits were distributed.

We expect CFSRE will receive **at least 13 more samples from affected areas this week** and more in the coming weeks. We will publish all results as they become available via our Instagram page [@pa_groundhogs](#).

SAMPLES ANALYZED	2	COLLECTION SITE	Franklin County, OH
COLLECTED	May 22, 2026	MATRIX	Sold as crack
ANALYSIS	GC/MS — CFSRE	RESULT	Cocaine & alkaloids only

PIPELINE — **13+** additional samples expected at CFSRE this week. Rolling results posted to [@pa_groundhogs](#) on Instagram.

The clusters above tell the tactical story for May. The strategic picture is more encouraging. Across all seven states in our footprint, fatal overdose counts have continued the multi-year decline that began in late 2023 — in some places dramatically so. West Virginia's most recent CDC update shows a 48% year-over-year drop, outpacing the national 44%; Maryland just reported its lowest annual total in a decade; Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York are all running well below their 2022–23 peaks.

The caveat: the supply is getting *weirder*, not safer. May saw a federal Public Safety Advisory from the DEA warning that fentanyl is now routinely cut with substances no one is testing for at street level — medetomidine, nitazenes, and a newly-named synthetic, cyclophosphine. Naloxone still saves lives, but it doesn't reverse everything in the bag anymore. The cluster signals we've documented above are the visible edge of that volatility.

The rest of this issue tracks the federal alert in detail, breaks down state-by-state movement, profiles the four substances on our watchlist, and pulls signal from harm-reduction outreach and street-level chatter.

A declining death curve and a more unpredictable drug supply are not contradictions — they are the same story, told from different ends of the syringe.

7

STATES COVERED

↓

26% YoY

U.S. OD DEATHS,
LATEST CDC

22

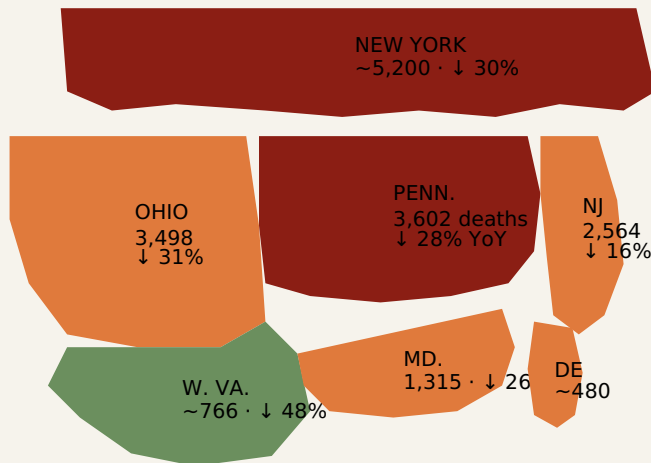
UNIQUE NITAZENES
SINCE 2020

4

SUBSTANCES ON
WATCHLIST

Fatal overdose burden, by state — most recent CDC 12-month rolling

Shaded by absolute death count; arrows indicate YoY change



SEVERITY TIER — BY DEATH COUNT

- Severe** — > 3,000 deaths / 12 mo (PA, NY)
- Elevated** — 1,000-3,500 (OH, NJ, MD, DE)
- Watch** — 250-1,000 (rate-adjusted hotspots)
- Improving** — > 40% YoY decline (WV)



Note on color logic: Tiers reflect absolute fatal overdose counts in the most recent CDC 12-month rolling provisional window. West Virginia's improving shade reflects the magnitude of its decline; its per-capita rate remains among the nation's highest. New York's total is dominated by NYC; the state rate is moderate.

04 STATE-BY-STATE BREAKDOWN

Pennsylvania

SEVERE / IMPROVING

3,602 overdose deaths · 12 mo ending Sep 2024 (CDC) · ↓ **28%** YoY

Philadelphia recorded 1,069 unintentional overdose deaths in 2024 — an 18% drop from 2023 and 24% below the 2022 peak. The decline was unevenly distributed: Black Philadelphians saw the largest single-year reduction (27%). The Pittsburgh region remains a national epicenter of medetomidine-involved overdose; a CDC *MMWR* dispatch documented severe withdrawal syndrome in fentanyl-exposed patients from October 2024 through March 2025.

SOURCE: PHILA. DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH · CDC *MMWR* 2025;74:269 · CDC STATE PROVISIONAL

New York

SEVERE

441 NYC overdose deaths · Q1 2025 alone · ↓ **28%** NYC YoY (2024)

NYC overdose deaths fell 28% in 2024, mirroring national trends, but quarterly data shows the pace of decline has flattened. A January 2026 NYC Health Department advisory and an April 2026 *NEJM Evidence / CIDRAP* Public Health Alert flagged medetomidine: 134 OD deaths in 2025 involved the sedative, up from 18 in 2024. Drug-withdrawal ED visits ran higher in every quarter of 2025 than any prior quarter.

SOURCE: NYC DOHMH EPI DATA BRIEF 150 · NEJM/CIDRAP PHA APR 2026

Ohio

ELEVATED · LOCAL SPIKE

3,498 deaths · 12 mo · ↓ **31%** YoY · ↓ **63%** since June 2023 peak

Ohio's longer-arc decline is among the steepest in the nation. **However:** on May 8, the Jefferson County General Health District issued a fatal overdose spike alert — eight confirmed deaths year-to-date with four occurring in April alone, against just ten across all of 2025. Deaths reported in Steubenville, Wintersville, Mingo Junction, Brilliant and Bloomingdale. Naloxbox locations have been re-stocked.

SOURCE: JEFFERSON CO. GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT (8 MAY 2026) · STATELINE / KFF ANALYSIS

New Jersey

ELEVATED

2,564 deaths (2023) · **306** suspected · Q1 2025

Statewide decline continues — deaths fell 17 of 21 counties in the first half of 2024. The exceptions matter: Cape May, Somerset, and Hunterdon all saw year-over-year increases. NJ Cares dashboard data running March 2025–Feb 2026 shows naloxone administrations remain elevated. The state's opioid death rate is now 42% below 2019 — the largest such reduction in our coverage area.

SOURCE: NJ OFFICE OF CHIEF STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER · NJ CARES

Delaware

ELEVATED

Per-capita rate **47.3 / 100k** — 2nd highest in U.S.

Delaware's small absolute counts mask one of the highest per-capita overdose mortality rates in the country. State surveillance has flagged increasing detections of xylazine, para-fluorofentanyl, and other fentanyl analogues consistent with the Philadelphia–Baltimore corridor. New Castle County continues to carry the majority share of fatal cases.

SOURCE: DE DIVISION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE · DE DPH

West Virginia

IMPROVING

~**766** deaths · 12 mo ending Feb 2025 · ↓ **48%** YoY

The steepest one-year decline of any state in our footprint — from 1,331 deaths to ~766 in twelve months. Officials credit naloxone saturation, expanded MAT, and drug-court expansion. The flip side: Cabell-Huntington Health Department ended syringe services in December 2025 (it had distributed 45% of the state's clean syringes); federal recovery-program funding cuts are now flagged by state officials as a forward risk to the trendline.

SOURCE: CDC PROVISIONAL · MOUNTAIN STATE SPOTLIGHT · NWVCIL

Maryland

ELEVATED / IMPROVING

1,315 deaths (2025) · ↓ **26%** YoY · 10-year low

Fourth consecutive year of decline. Fentanyl-involved deaths dropped 31% (1,314 → 906). Baltimore City accounted for 561 deaths in the most recent 12-month window (Mar 2025–Feb 2026), followed distantly by Baltimore County (146) and Prince George's (113). Black men age 55+ remain the highest-burden demographic by rate even after sharp YoY improvement.

SOURCE: MD DEPT. OF HEALTH OVERDOSE DATA DASHBOARD · GOV.'S OFFICE

Regional Outlook

WATCH

Cross-state signal · **April–May 2026**

The Northeast Corridor — NYC to Philadelphia to Baltimore to D.C. — remains the most-watched supply chain in the country. On 7 May, DEA arrested 11 in a federal indictment targeting a meth/GBL ring operating across the corridor with active expansion underway. Expect continued enforcement-driven supply turbulence, which historically correlates with short-window adulterant changes.

SOURCE: DEA PRESS RELEASE 7 MAY 2026 · U.S. ATTY., D.D.C.

Medetomidine A₂-AGONIST SEDATIVE

A veterinary sedative chemically similar to xylazine but substantially more potent. NY State first detected it in May 2024; by 2025 it appeared in 25.1% of analyzed opioid samples statewide, peaking at 44.1% in May 2025. NYC OCME postmortem testing tied medetomidine to 134 overdose deaths in 2025, up from 18 in 2024.

Why it matters: Naloxone does not reverse it. Withdrawal syndrome is severe and clinically complex — Pittsburgh and Philadelphia hospitals have logged distinct case clusters requiring tailored protocols.

FIRST REGIONAL DETECTION: MAY 2024 · STATUS: ESTABLISHED & SPREADING

Cychlorphine SYNTHETIC OPIOID

Named publicly for the first time in the DEA's 12 May 2026 Public Safety Advisory as an unregulated synthetic opioid now appearing alongside fentanyl. Limited public chemistry detail to date; classed by DEA among the "highly potent substances" emerging in the market.

Why it matters: May require multiple naloxone doses to reverse. Undetectable to the user. Treat any opioid product as potentially adulterated.

FIRST DEA NAMED ALERT: 12 MAY 2026 · STATUS: EMERGING

Nitazenes (incl. new analogues) BENZIMIDAZOLE SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

DEA has now reported 22 unique nitazene compounds since 2020, 21 of which are Schedule I. New analogues continue to emerge as regulatory pressure closes off prior versions. Several are substantially more potent than fentanyl on a per-microgram basis.

Why it matters: Test strips designed for fentanyl will not detect nitazenes. Multiple naloxone doses are often required for reversal.

FIRST U.S. DETECTIONS: 2020 · STATUS: ONGOING DIVERSIFICATION

Xylazine ("tranq") A₂-AGONIST VETERINARY SEDATIVE

The established adulterant of the Philadelphia–Baltimore corridor. In 2023 xylazine appeared in 38% of all Philadelphia unintentional overdose deaths; 100% of xylazine-positive deaths also involved fentanyl. Detections continue to spread north and south of the corridor.

Why it matters: Soft-tissue wounds and necrotic ulcers are the signature harm, often requiring debridement. Naloxone does not reverse the xylazine component.

REGIONAL FOOTPRINT: PA, NJ, DE, MD, NY · STATUS: ENDEMIC

06 PUBLIC-HEALTH & FEDERAL ALERTS LOG

15 MAY 2026	Mass-Casualty Overdose Alert — Franklin County, OH	FRANKLIN CO. PUBLIC HEALTH
	Franklin County Public Health issued a community warning after six fatal overdoses occurred within a 24-hour window May 13–14, exceeding the county's five-in-24-hours alert threshold. Week-to-date: 36 suspected overdoses, 18 fatalities. Suspected substances: cocaine and fentanyl, with polysubstance involvement dominant. Spread across central and southwest Franklin County.	
14 MAY 2026	Multi-County Overdose Spike Alert — North Central WV	LOCAL LE / SALVATION ARMY
	Salvation Army Clarksburg and local officials issued a regional alert for Harrison, Taylor, and Barbour counties citing "multiple overdoses" tied to cocaine laced with fentanyl. Suspected source area: Philippi / Grafton corridor. Specific incident count not disclosed in public alert.	

12 MAY 2026	Public Safety Advisory: Fentanyl Mixed with Emerging Synthetic Drugs	DEA HQ
Federal advisory names xylazine, nitazenes, cyclophosphine, and medetomidine as the four substances most often appearing in the illicit fentanyl supply. Calls for naloxone training that accounts for "non-opioid co-adulterants" and warns that single-dose naloxone may be insufficient.		
09 MAY 2026	Overdose Surge Alert — Weirton / Northern Panhandle, WV	WEIRTON PD
Weirton Police Department reports six overdoses in seven days with one fatality and two victims hospitalized. Supply characterized as "suspected cocaine with high amounts of fentanyl." Hancock-Brooke-Weirton Drug Task Force investigating; one distribution arrest made. Spillover reported into neighboring Ohio.		
08 MAY 2026	Fatal Overdose Spike Alert — Jefferson County, OH	JEFFERSON CO. GHD
Eight confirmed overdose deaths YTD (vs. 10 all of 2025), four in April alone. Cases reported across Steubenville, Wintersville, Mingo Junction, Brilliant, Bloomingdale. Naloxbox restocking advisory issued; community urged not to use alone.		
07 MAY 2026	Federal Indictment — Northeast Corridor Meth/GBL Ring	DOJ / DEA
Eleven defendants charged in a multi-district investigation spanning D.C., Maryland, E.D. Virginia, E.D./S.D./N.D. New York, and E.D. Pennsylvania. Expected to disrupt methamphetamine and GBL supply in the corridor; historically such disruptions trigger short-window adulterant volatility.		
08 MAY 2026	PA Standing Order Update — Naloxone Access	PA DOH
PA Secretary of Health Debra Bogen updated the public standing order for naloxone based on stakeholder feedback. Continues to make naloxone available at-risk residents and bystanders without an individual prescription.		
22 MAY 2026	Schedule I Temporary Placement — 2-Fluorodeschloroketamine	DEA DIVERSION
DEA Diversion Control posted temporary placement of 2-fluorodeschloroketamine (2-FDCK) into Schedule I — the latest dissociative analogue to surface in the U.S. illicit market. Detections to date are limited but increasing.		
11 MAY 2026	Philadelphia 2024 Mortality Report Released	PHILA. DPH
Philadelphia Board of Health published its 2024 unintentional overdose mortality report: 1,069 deaths (↓18% YoY, ↓24% from peak). Notable demographic finding: 27% decline among non-Hispanic Black residents. Polysubstance involvement (opioid + stimulant) implicated in 50% of cases.		

◎ SIGNAL FROM HARM-REDUCTION OUTREACH, SOCIAL PLATFORMS, AND ONLINE COMMUNITIES

REDDIT · R/ OPIATES	Repeat user reports across Philadelphia and South Jersey describe " <i>longer nods and harder wakeups</i> " on supply purchased late April, consistent with documented medetomidine and xylazine co-presence. Posts referencing "tranq dope" continue to dominate Kensington-area threads.
HARM- REDUCTION FIELD	Outreach workers in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia report a rising number of cases requiring more than one naloxone dose for reversal — consistent with the federal advisory's warning about nitazene and cychlorphine presence. Field protocols are increasingly defaulting to " <i>give a second dose</i> " rather than waiting.
NYC HAN ADVISORY	Clinicians asked to call NYC Poison Center (212-POISONS) for unusual overdose presentations — specifically <i>prolonged sedation</i> , <i>non-response to naloxone</i> , or <i>complex withdrawal</i> patterns. Drug-withdrawal ED visits citywide ran higher in every quarter of 2025 than any prior quarter on record.
LOCAL PRESS · OHIO VALLEY	WTRF (Steubenville/Wheeling) confirms a separate 3,750-stamp fentanyl seizure tied to a Pittsburgh-based supplier in late May — one data point in a broader pattern of cross-border (PA/WV/OH) trafficking that local enforcement says is intensifying ahead of summer.
CROSS- PLATFORM	No verified street-name terminology has emerged yet for cychlorphine. Watch for it — historically, a new adulterant gets a slang label within weeks of street penetration; the silence suggests either very early-stage circulation or successful concealment within existing fentanyl product.

Street-intelligence items are synthesized from open social platforms, harm-reduction worker reports, and regional press. They are signals, not statistics — useful for orientation, not for causal claims.

IF SOMEONE IS USING RIGHT NOW

Never Use Alone — trained volunteer stays on the line while you use; calls 911 if you stop responding.

English: 1-877-696-1996

SafeSpot — same model, additional staffing windows.

1-800-972-0590

SAMHSA National Helpline — free, confidential, 24/7, treatment referral and information.

1-800-662-4357 (HELP)

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline — available for mental health and substance-use crises.

Dial 988

Delaware HOPE LINE — free 24/7 coaching and support, plus links to mental health, addiction, and crisis services.

833-9-HOPEDE

NYC Poison Center — for clinicians seeing unusual overdose presentations.

212-POISONS · 212-764-7667

WHERE TO GET NALOXONE & TEST STRIPS

PA — available at pharmacies without prescription under the statewide standing order. Free at many local fire stations and county health departments. See [substanceusephilly.com](https://www.substanceusephilly.com) for training.

OH (Jefferson Co.) — Jefferson County General Health District; Family Recovery Center; Naloxbox locations at Chrysalis Health (Sunset Blvd.), Jefferson County Justice Center, 107 Main Street Winterville. Report empty boxes: 740-283-8350.

NJ — NJ Cares Naloxone Dashboard and standing order; available OTC at pharmacies. Fentanyl test strips legal and available through harm-reduction programs.

MD — Overdose Response Program (ORP) statewide; health.maryland.gov/OverdoseData.

NY / NYC — Health Department drug-checking and naloxone training programs; consult NYC HAN advisories for current substance-specific guidance.

DE / WV — State health departments distribute naloxone; WV's distribution network remains active despite the Cabell-Huntington SSP closure.

Universal precautions — carry naloxone, start small, go slow, use with someone present or call a hotline, and assume any non-pharmacy pill or powder may contain fentanyl or a deadlier analogue.

ABOUT THIS DIGEST. The PA Groundhogs Regional Drug Anomaly Digest is a monthly intelligence brief covering Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and Ohio. The reporting window for this issue is 27 April through 27 May 2026. Sources include federal agencies (DEA, CDC, SAMHSA), state and city health departments (PA DOH, NJ Cares, NYC DOHMH, MD Dept. of Health, OH local health districts, WV DHHR), forensic and toxicology surveillance (NFLIS, NYC OCME, NJ OCSME), peer-reviewed and editorial reports (*NEJM Evidence*, *MMWR*, CIDRAP), regional press, and harm-reduction field reporting. Death counts are provisional and subject to revision as investigations close. Severity tiers in the heat map are derived from absolute death counts in the most recent CDC 12-month rolling provisional window; rate-based readings may differ.

NOT MEDICAL ADVICE. Contact a healthcare professional or local harm-reduction program for guidance specific to your situation.

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