



# EDDS Update

Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR)  
University of Maryland, College Park

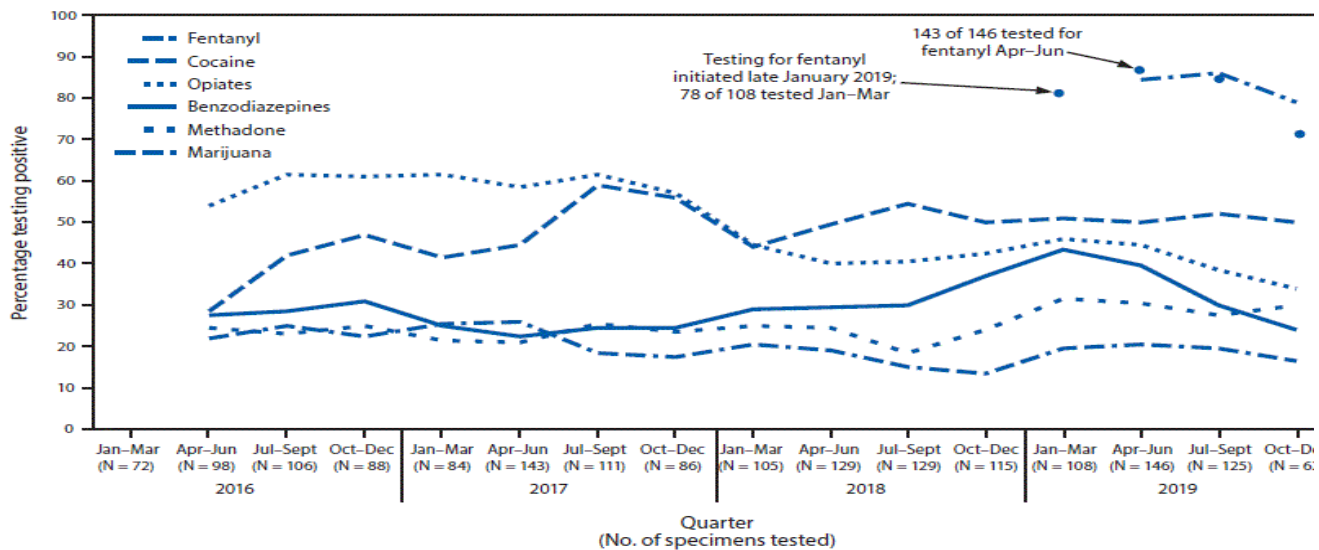
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DRUG SURVEILLANCE (EDDS) SYSTEM

October 2020

## MMWR Publishes EDDS Results Showing Preponderance of Fentanyl Positives in 2 Baltimore Hospitals; EDDS is Selecting New Sites

Many hospitals do not currently include fentanyl in their urinalysis panels. Informed by EDDS results showing a steady decline in opiate positives, two University of Maryland Medical Center hospitals introduced fentanyl testing (Dezman et al., 2020). Recent quarterly Electronic Health Record (EHR) data submitted to EDDS shows that about 80% of their ED patients tested for drugs test positive for fentanyl, far more than any other drug. Helping each hospital to discover the new drugs their patients are using is a prime benefit from participating in EDDS.

**FIGURE: Percentage of substances detected in emergency department (ED) patients evaluated for drug overdoses\*† (N = 1,707) — University of Maryland Medical Centers, January 2016–December 2019**



\*Lines indicate 2-quarter moving average. Source: Dezman Z, Schwartz B, Billing A, et al. *Notes from the Field: High Prevalence of Fentanyl Detected by the Maryland Emergency Department Drug Surveillance System — Baltimore, Maryland, 2019.* MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020;69:724–726. DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6923a3external\\_icon](http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6923a3external_icon)

### The EDDS Project

Hospitals provide selected EHR information quarterly to EDDS, including ED patient urinalysis results, to enable them to analyze trends in their drug test results. EDDS also offers each hospital one-time free testing of up to 150 urine specimens for 490 drugs so that they can gain a fuller picture of the drugs their patients have recently used and allows them to educate their patients and update their routine urinalysis test panels, as needed. EDDS data can also be used to analyze how COVID-19 has affected ED admissions. CESAR staff work with each hospital to prepare IRB materials, create exports of selected EHR information and to prepare de-identified urine specimens for shipping to a collaborating laboratory at no cost.

## Become an EDDS Site

### Contact:

**Erin Artigiani**  
[cartigia@umd.edu](mailto:cartigia@umd.edu)

**Amy Billing**  
[billing@umd.edu](mailto:billing@umd.edu)

Additional information available at:  
<https://cesar.umd.edu/landing/EDDS>

EDDS is supported by a cooperative agreement awarded to CESAR at the University of Maryland, College Park, Dr. Eric Wish (PI), by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) of the Executive Office of the President. The information and opinions expressed herein are the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of, nor an endorsement by, ONDCP or the U.S. Government.

# Expanded EDDS Features

## Serving Multiple Constituencies

### Physicians, Practitioners, and First Responders

- Identify substances associated with behavioral health problems and symptoms
- Enable physicians to inform patients about drug adulteration and drugs to which they have been exposed
- Track trends in diagnoses and urinalysis results over time

### Hospital Administrators

- Be among the first to participate in the pioneering nationwide launch of EDDS sponsored by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
- Make cost-effective decisions about updating urinalysis protocols
- Help doctors inform patients about drugs being consumed locally
- Inform community substance use and misuse programs

### Researchers

- Inform research describing the potential impact of COVID-19 on drug overdoses
- Work with the EDDS team to conduct preliminary studies for NIH grant applications
- Prepare manuscripts for publications such as the CDC *MMWR* and *Clinical Toxicology*

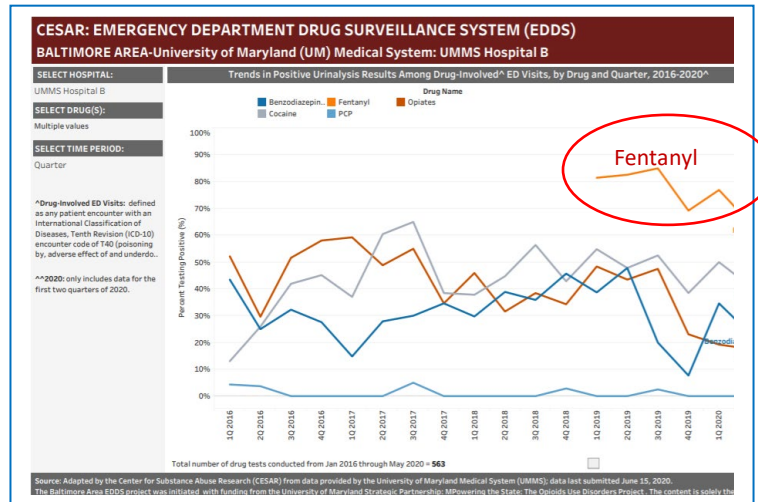
### Local Officials and HDTAs

- Relate EDDS information to data in other systems such as ODMAP and NFLIS
- Provide new information about substances currently available locally
- Support community outreach activities

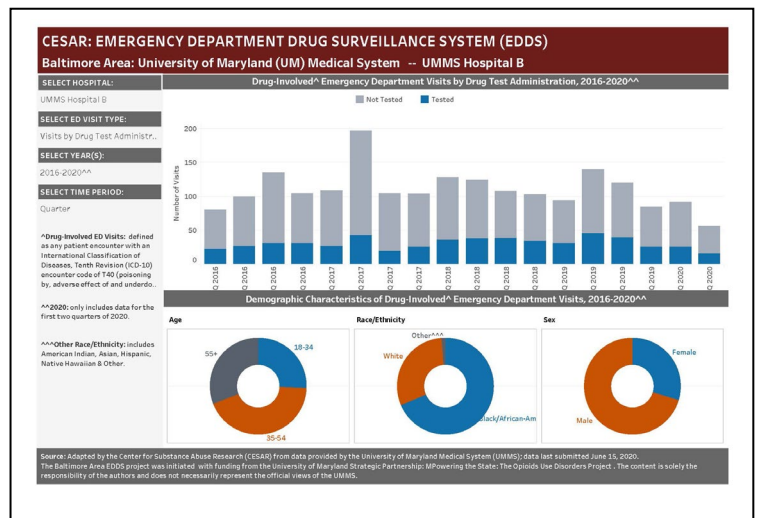
## EDDS Dashboards

Each interactive EDDS dashboard is updated quarterly to enable users to create customized graphics to monitor trends and address specific questions.

Below are one Baltimore hospital's urinalysis results showing the predominance of fentanyl positive specimens since testing for the drug was introduced in early 2019.



Initial EDDS findings alerted Baltimore area hospitals to initiate testing for fentanyl.



Number of drug-involved ED visits with drug tests administered at one Baltimore area hospital from 2016-2020, along with patients' age, race/ethnicity, and sex.