

WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence

Fentanyl analogs

Annex 1: Member State Questionnaire

1. Overview (Q1-Q6)

Q1: Your country name.

- 91 country representatives have answered the questionnaire

Q5: Do you have any information on the use of the **5 listed fentanyl analogs** in your country either for medical, scientific, industrial or other professional purposes, or for non-medical consumption or recreational purposes, or any other purpose?

- Cyclopropyl fentanyl
- Methoxyacetyl fentanyl
- Ortho-fluorofentanyl
- Parafluoro butyrfentanyl
- Para-Methoxy-butyrylfentanyl
- 27 (30%) answered yes, 62 (70%) answered no.

Q6: For which substance do you have information?

- Of the 27 countries with information, the following **specific fentanyl analogs** were mentioned:
- **Cyclopropyl fentanyl**

N=15	
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- **Methoxyacetyl fentanyl**

N=17	
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- **Ortho-fluorofentanyl**

N=9	
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- **Parafluoro butyrfentanyl**

N=10	
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- **Para-Methoxy-butrylfentanyl**

N=8	
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2. Section 1: Approved medical or scientific use (Q7-Q11)

Q7: Do you know if approved medical products containing any of the **5 fentanyl analogs** are available in your country for human or veterinary indications?

- **“Human medical product”**
 - N=1 country
- **“Veterinary medical product”**
 - N=0 countries
- **“Not available in medical products”**
 - N=17 countries
- **“Do not know”**
 - N=2 countries

Q10: Are any of the **five listed fentanyl analogs** currently used in medical or scientific research (excluding use as an analytical reference standard) in your country (e.g. , is it in clinical trials for any human or veterinary indication)?

- 14 (88%) answered no, 2 (13%) answered “Do not know”.

3. Section 2: Non-approved medical and non-medical or non-scientific use (Q12-Q16)

Q12: Are any of **the 5 fentanyl analogs** used for industrial or other non-medical/non-scientific purposes in your country?

- Out of 19 responses, three indicated that any of **the 5 fentanyl analogs** are used for industrial or other non-medical/non-scientific purposes in their country (16%). There were six “Do not know” responses (21%).

Q14: What is the origin/source of **the 5 fentanyl analogs** when used for legitimate non-medical/non-scientific use?

- **“Imported”**
 - N=2 countries
- **“Do not know”**
 - N=6 countries

4. Section 3: Cultural, religious or ceremonial use (Q17-Q20)

Q17: Are any of **the 5 fentanyl analogs** used for cultural, religious or ceremonial purposes in your country?

- Out of 18 responses, 88% (N=14) indicated no cultural, religious or ceremonial use, while four country representatives answered “Do not know” (22%).

5. Section 4: Epidemiology of non-medical/non-scientific use – psychoactive purposes/recreational use (Q20-Q37)

Q20: Are any of the 5 fentanyl analogs misused for their psychoactive properties (as a recreational drug) in your country?

- Out of 19 responses, 63% (N=12) indicated misuse of any of **the 5 fentanyl analogs**.
- In four countries, these substances are reportedly not misused (21%) while three country representatives answered “Do not know” (16%).

Q21: By what route(s) of administration are any of the **5 fentanyl analogs** used for non-medical/non-scientific purposes in your country?

Oral (N=4)	
Injection (N=7)	

Inhalation (N=0)	
Sniffing (N=4)	
Smoking (N=1)	
Do not know (N=5)	
Other (please specify) (N=2)	

Q23: In which formulations are **fentanyl analogs** used for non-medical/non-scientific purposes in your country?

Powder (N=9)	
Tablets (N=3)	
Liquid or solution for oral administration/use (N=3)	
Solution for injection (N=3)	
Other (please specify) (N=2)	

Q24: What is (are) the source(s) of **fentanyl analogs** for non-medical/non-scientific use in your country?

Illegal manufacturing (N=1)	
Smuggling (from other countries) (N=9)	
Do not know (N=3)	
Other (N=2)	

Q25: Are there any specific subpopulations in your country known to misuse **fentanyl analogs**?

- In two out of 12 responding countries (17%), there are specific subpopulations misusing fentanyl analogs. In the remaining 10 countries specific subpopulations are not known to misuse fentanyl analogs.

Q28: As an expert, what negative health impact do you believe the non-medical consumption of **fentanyl analogs** has in your country?

- Out of 13 responses, a total of five country representatives evaluated the negative health impact of fentanyl analogs as either “serious” (31%) or “substantial” (8%). In four countries, fentanyl analogs were found to have a “negligible” negative health impact (31%). Four country representatives answered “Do not know” (31%).

Q30: Are you aware of any emergency room/department visits related to the use of any of **the 5 fentanyl analogs** in your country?

- Out of 12 responses, two country representatives (17%) were aware of any emergency room/department visits related to the use of any of the 5 fentanyl analogs. The remaining ten responses (83%) were unaware of such visits.

Q35: Are you aware of people presenting for drug dependence treatment due to the use of **fentanyl analogs** in your country?

- Out of 12 responses, one country representative (8%), was aware of people presenting for drug dependence treatment due to the use of fentanyl analogs. The majority answered “Do not know” (58%) or “No” (33%).

6. Section 5: Current Control (Q38-Q49)

Q38: Are any of the **fentanyl analogs** currently controlled under national legislation in order to regulate its availability in your country?

- Out of 19 responses, the majority of countries have a national control legislation in place (79%). In two countries (11%), no national legislation exists and two country representatives answered “Do not know” (11%).

Q40: What is the scope of this control?

Production	N=13	
Manufacture	N=14	
Export	N=14	
Import	N=14	
Distribution	N=14	
Use	N=11	
Possession	N=14	
Do not know	N=0	
Other (please specify)	N=1	

Q41: Is the current control a temporary provision in your country?

- Out of 15 responding countries, the current control is a temporary provision in one country (7%).

Q43: Have there been challenges to implementing controls of **fentanyl analogs** in your country?

- Out of 14 responding countries, challenges in implementing controls was reported by one country (7%) and one country representative answered "Do not know" (7%). In the remaining countries, no challenges in implementing controls were reported (86%).

Q45: Are there illicit activities involving **fentanyl analogs**?

Manufacture of the substance by chemical synthesis	N=2	
Manufacture of the substance by extraction from other products	N=0	
Production of consumer products (dosage forms, packaging)	N=2	
Trafficking	N=6	
Diversion	N=2	
Internet sales (seller or website)	N=4	

located in your country)		
Internet sales (from abroad to buyers in your country)	N=4	
Internet sales (other or location of sellers and website unknown)	N=3	
Sales to people who use fentanyl analogs	N=4	
Do not know	N=3	
Other (please specify)	N=1	

Q47: If **fentanyl analogs** were to be placed under international control, will your country have the capacity to enforce the control at the national level?

- Out of 18 responses, 17 reported sufficient capacities (94%). One country representative answered "Do not know" (6%).

Q48: If **fentanyl analogs** were to be placed under international control, does your country have the forensic laboratory capacity to analyse the substance (identification, purity)?

- Out of 18 responses, 17 reported sufficient capacities (94%). One country representative answered "Do not know" (6%).

7. Conclusions

The data obtained from less than two dozen high-income countries suggest that the five fentanyl analogs are not legally used in any jurisdiction. There is no medical or scientific research conducted and the substances are not used for cultural or religious purposes.

Recreational use has been identified in one dozen countries, with varying routes of administration and formulations being applied. In the vast majority of countries with recreational use, fentanyl analogs are reported to be sourced from other countries; only one country representative has acknowledged domestic production. The reported number/volume of seizures of fentanyl analogs varies largely by substance class but has appeared to increase for Cyclopropyl fentanyl and Methoxyacetyl fentanyl between 2015 and 2017.

In five out of 13 countries fentanyl analogs are considered to have substantial or serious negative effects on public health. Fentanyl analogs have been identified as main or contributory cause of death in about half a dozen countries, with 2 countries reporting substantially more than 10 deaths related to these substances.