

# The National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths

Dr Caroline Copeland



# The National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths (NPSAD)

- Established in 1997
- Over 48,000 cases
- NPSAD Criteria
  - A psychoactive drug found at post-mortem and/or implicated in causing the death
  - The decedent had a history of drug abuse
- Reporting documents
  - NPSAD Form + Toxicology report
  - Record of Inquest + Toxicology report + GP Summary

# The National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths (NPSAD)

## Office for National Statistics (ONS)

- Recorded as date of reporting
- Drugs must appear in Cause fields on the death certificate to be recognised
- Drug categorisation limited

## NPSAD

- Recorded as date of death
- Full toxicology provided
- (see above)

# Case Study: Fentanyl-Related Deaths

- Pharmaceutical fentanyls: Fentanyl, remifentanyl, sufentanyl, alfentanyl
- Non-pharmaceutical fentanyl derivatives (NPFDs): Carfentanyl, ocfentanyl, butyrylfentanyl



# Case Study: Fentanyl-Related Deaths

**ACMD**  
Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

ACMD Chair: Dr Owen Bowden-Jones  
ACMD NPS Committee Secretary: Imogen McHarg  
[ACMD@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:ACMD@homeoffice.gov.uk)

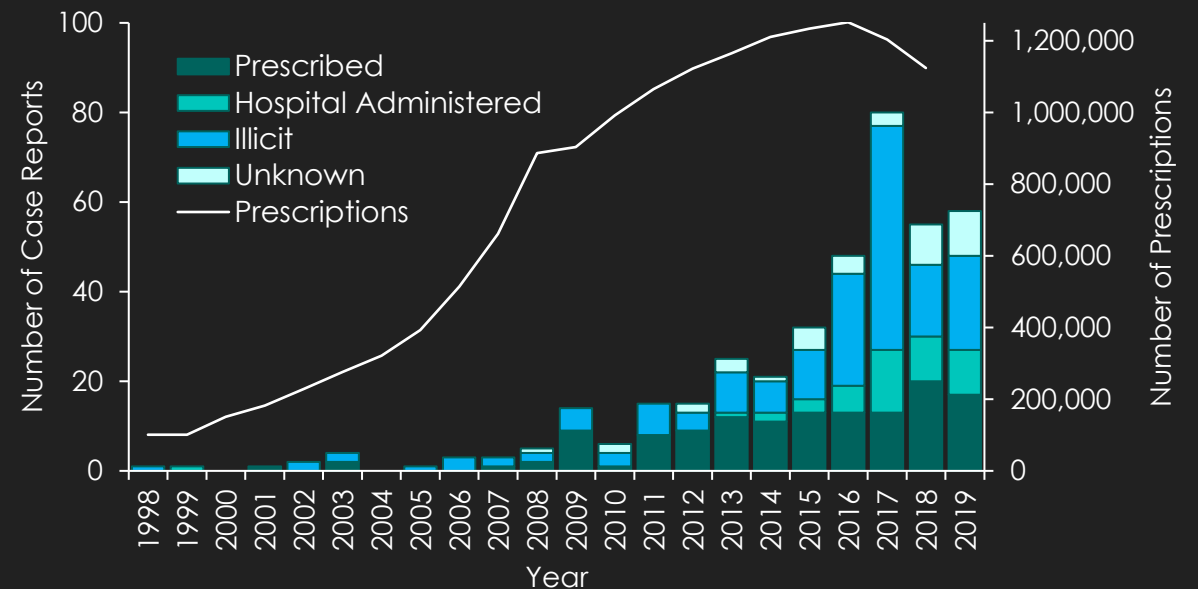
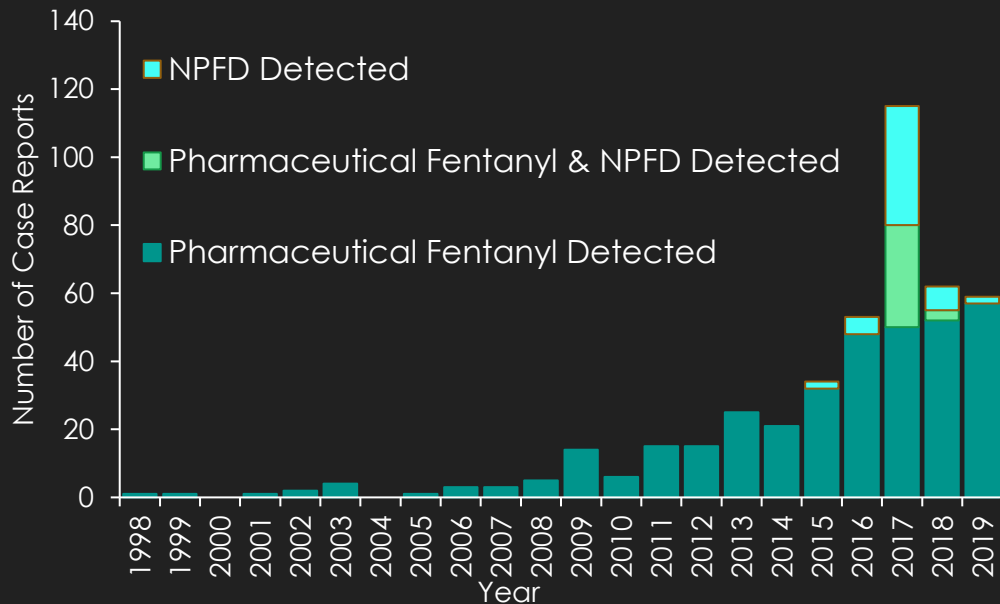
Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Dear Home Secretary, Friday, 3 January 2020

**Re: ACMD Report – Misuse of Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogues**

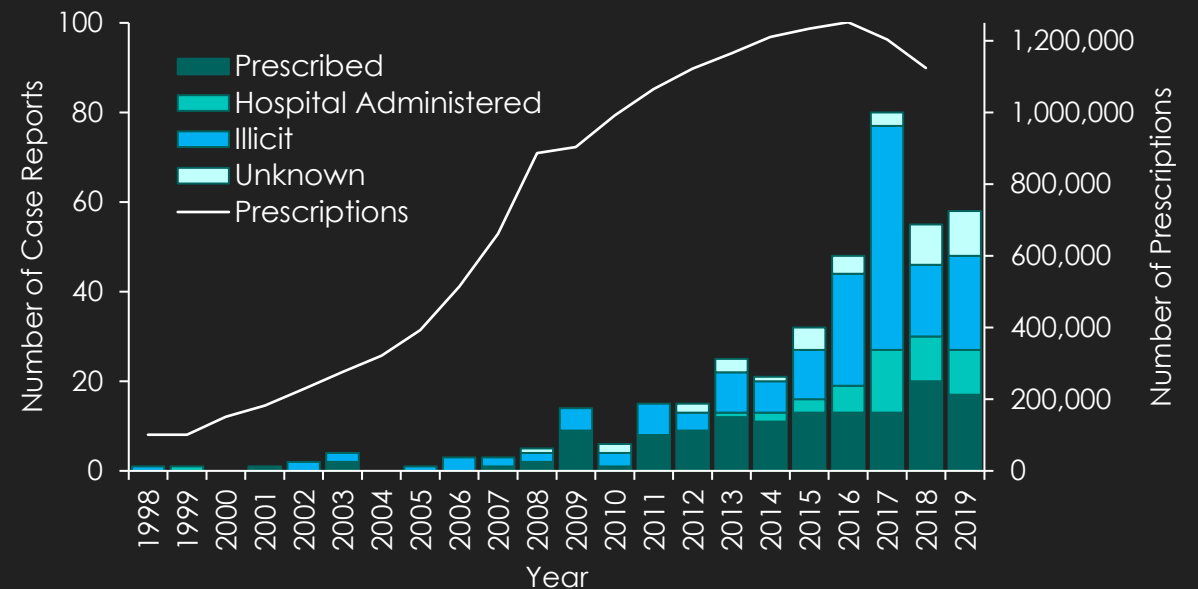
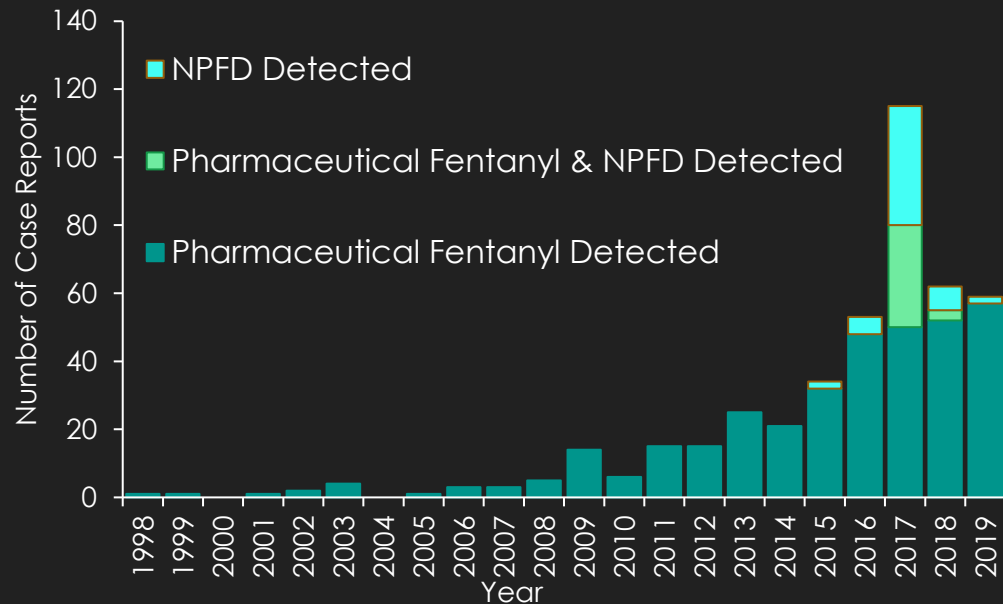
In July 2017 the then-Home Secretary commissioned the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) to consider fentanyl and fentanyl analogues following the publication of the Drug Strategy 2017.

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# Case Study: Synthetic Cannabinoids

- Synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (SCRAs), often termed ‘Spice’
- Based on the structure of the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis, THC,
  - But **much more potent**

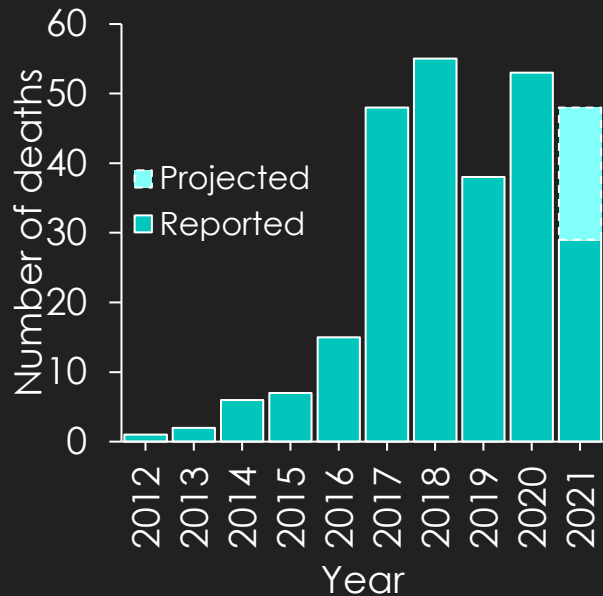
**ACMD**  
 Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs  
 ACMD Chair: Prof Owen Bowden-Jones  
 ACMD NPS Committee Secretary: Imogen McHarg  
 4th Floor (NE), Peel Building  
 2 Marsham Street  
 London  
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[ACMD@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:ACMD@homeoffice.gov.uk)

Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP  
 Home Secretary  
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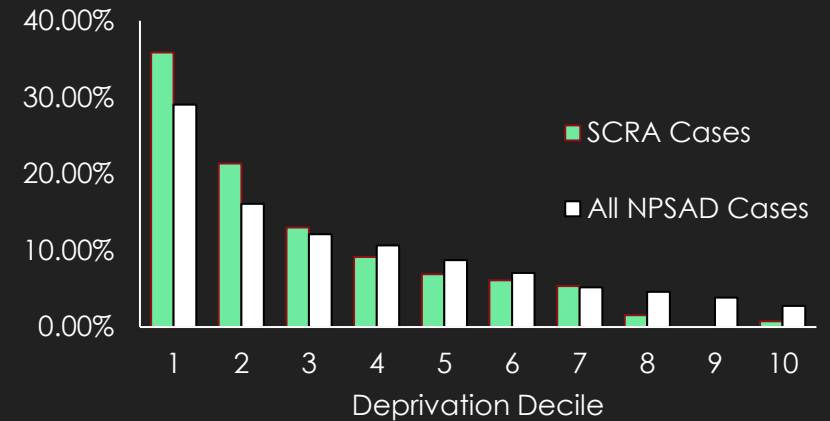
Wednesday, 28 October 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

**Re: ACMD Report – Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists**



Usual Living Circumstances	% (n)
Private residential	57.6% (n=95)
Hostel	13.3% (n=22)
Homeless	19.4% (n=32)
Prison	4.9% (n=8)
Other	4.9% (n=8)

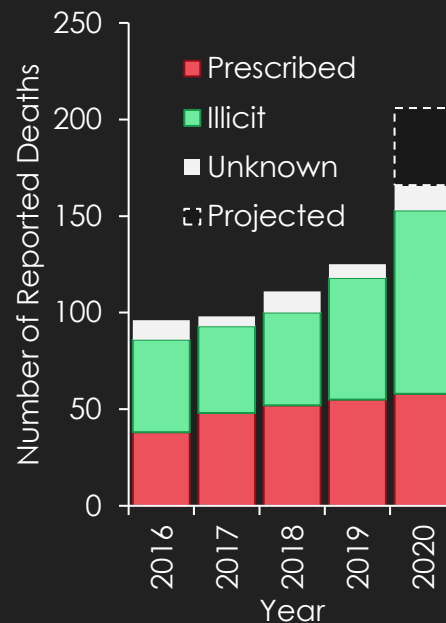


# Ongoing NPSAD Projects

Naloxone by Drone



Methadone deaths in first COVID-19 lockdown



Illicit drug – Pharmaceutical Drug Interactions





# The National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths

- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (PHE 2.0)
- The Home Office's independent Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
- National Crime Agency
- World Health Organisation

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Any Questions?