

I would like to draw the reader's attention to group of synthetic opioids, which have been increasingly appearing or re-emerging during the last few years on the black drug markets in many European countries, the USA, Canada and elsewhere. Newly encouraged interest in synthetic opioids has been observed for last 6-7 years and recently has grown intensively. Increasing number of European countries (Germany, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Czech Republic etc.) have reported abuse of fentanyl (Janssen, 1962), which so far has been rather limited to Estonia (Fentanyl in Europe, 2012; Mouteney, 2015), fentanyl-related intoxications and deaths have markedly increased recently (to hundreds) in the USA (NIDA, 2015) and Canada (CCNDU Bulletin, 2014). Also the spectrum of different structures of synthetic opioids on the bl b

mixtures with other substances, frequently they are sold as "heroin" or are mixed with heroin as unknown admixtures and can cause unexpected serious or even fatal complications. Common analytical methods used for heroin/morphine-like derivative detections, such as

15). EMCDDA, Lisbon; <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/edr/trends-developments/2013-15>

Fentanyl in Europe – *EMCDDA trendspotter study* (2012). [http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att\\_191974\\_EN\\_TD3112230ENN-Fentanyl.pdf](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_191974_EN_TD3112230ENN-Fentanyl.pdf)

Henderson, G.L. (1988). Designer drugs: Past history and future prospects. *Journal of Forensic Research*, 33(2), 569-575.

Janssen, P.A. (1962). A review of the chemical features associated with strong morphine-like activity. *British Journal of Anaesthesia*, 34