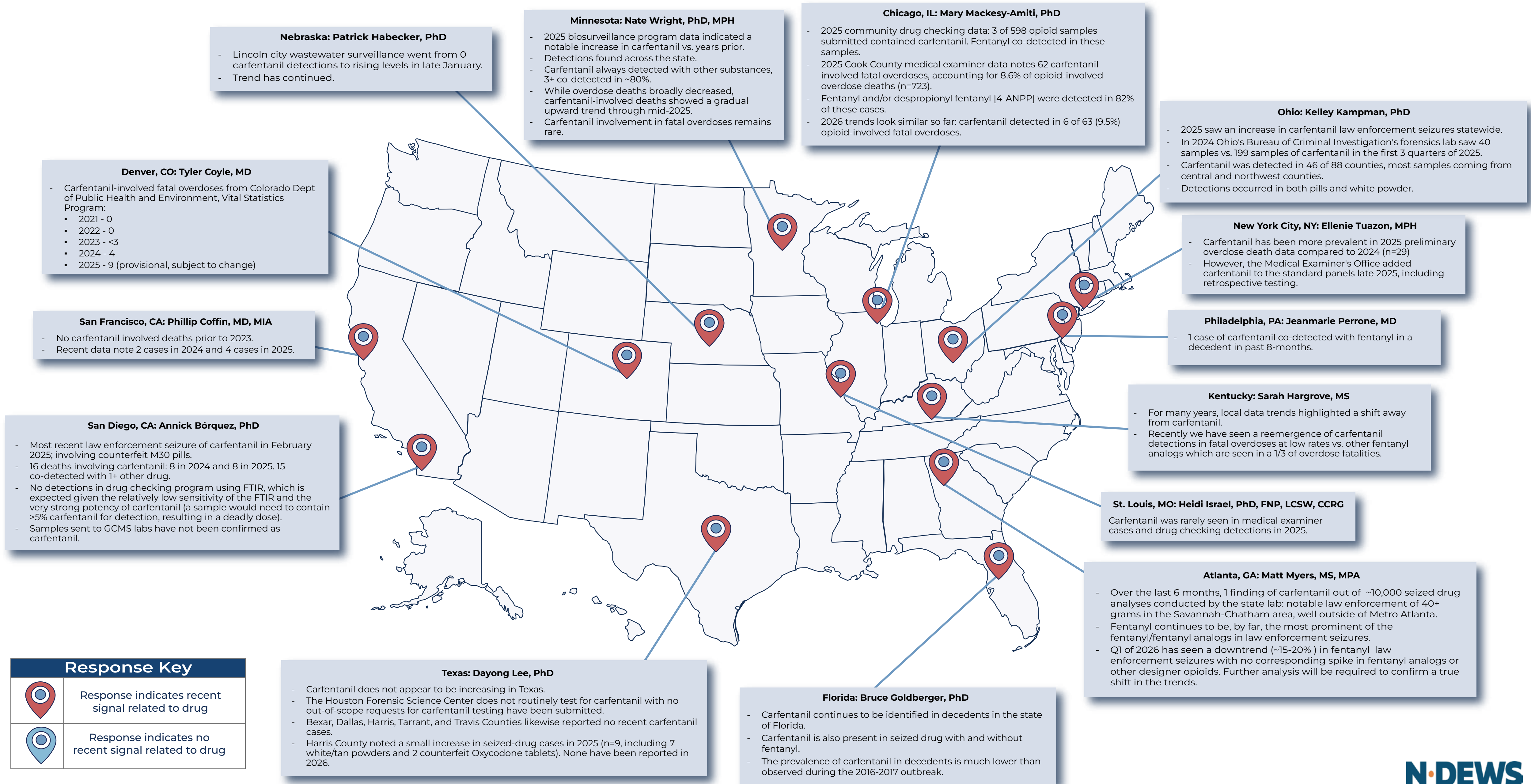


Sentinel Site Report - February 2026: What can you tell us about trends involving carfentanil in the local drug supply?



Nebraska: Patrick Habecker, PhD

- Lincoln city wastewater surveillance went from 0 carfentanil detections to rising levels in late January.
- Trend has continued.

Minnesota: Nate Wright, PhD, MPH

- 2025 biosurveillance program data indicated a notable increase in carfentanil vs. years prior.
- Detections found across the state.
- Carfentanil always detected with other substances, 3+ co-detected in ~80%.
- While overdose deaths broadly decreased, carfentanil-involved deaths showed a gradual upward trend through mid-2025.
- Carfentanil involvement in fatal overdoses remains rare.

Chicago, IL: Mary Mackesy-Amiti, PhD

- 2025 community drug checking data: 3 of 598 opioid samples submitted contained carfentanil. Fentanyl co-detected in these samples.
- 2025 Cook County medical examiner data notes 62 carfentanil involved fatal overdoses, accounting for 8.6% of opioid-involved overdose deaths (n=723).
- Fentanyl and/or despropionyl fentanyl [4-ANPP] were detected in 82% of these cases.
- 2026 trends look similar so far: carfentanil detected in 6 of 63 (9.5%) opioid-involved fatal overdoses.

Ohio: Kelley Kampan, PhD

- 2025 saw an increase in carfentanil law enforcement seizures statewide.
- In 2024 Ohio's Bureau of Criminal Investigation's forensics lab saw 40 samples vs. 199 samples of carfentanil in the first 3 quarters of 2025.
- Carfentanil was detected in 46 of 88 counties, most samples coming from central and northwest counties.
- Detections occurred in both pills and white powder.

Denver, CO: Tyler Coyle, MD

- Carfentanil-involved fatal overdoses from Colorado Dept of Public Health and Environment, Vital Statistics Program:
 - 2021 - 0
 - 2022 - 0
 - 2023 - <3
 - 2024 - 4
 - 2025 - 9 (provisional, subject to change)

New York City, NY: Ellenie Tuazon, MPH

- Carfentanil has been more prevalent in 2025 preliminary overdose death data compared to 2024 (n=29)
- However, the Medical Examiner's Office added carfentanil to the standard panels late 2025, including retrospective testing.

San Francisco, CA: Phillip Coffin, MD, MIA

- No carfentanil involved deaths prior to 2023.
- Recent data note 2 cases in 2024 and 4 cases in 2025.

Philadelphia, PA: Jeanmarie Perrone, MD

- 1 case of carfentanil co-detected with fentanyl in a decedent in past 8-months.

San Diego, CA: Annick Bórquez, PhD

- Most recent law enforcement seizure of carfentanil in February 2025; involving counterfeit M30 pills.
- 16 deaths involving carfentanil: 8 in 2024 and 8 in 2025. 15 co-detected with 1+ other drug.
- No detections in drug checking program using FTIR, which is expected given the relatively low sensitivity of the FTIR and the very strong potency of carfentanil (a sample would need to contain >5% carfentanil for detection, resulting in a deadly dose).
- Samples sent to GCMS labs have not been confirmed as carfentanil.

Kentucky: Sarah Hargrove, MS

- For many years, local data trends highlighted a shift away from carfentanil.
- Recently we have seen a reemergence of carfentanil detections in fatal overdoses at low rates vs. other fentanyl analogs which are seen in a 1/3 of overdose fatalities.

St. Louis, MO: Heidi Israel, PhD, FNP, LCSW, CCRG

Carfentanil was rarely seen in medical examiner cases and drug checking detections in 2025.

Atlanta, GA: Matt Myers, MS, MPA

- Over the last 6 months, 1 finding of carfentanil out of ~10,000 seized drug analyses conducted by the state lab: notable law enforcement of 40+ grams in the Savannah-Chatham area, well outside of Metro Atlanta.
- Fentanyl continues to be, by far, the most prominent of the fentanyl/fentanyl analogs in law enforcement seizures.
- Q1 of 2026 has seen a downtrend (~15-20%) in fentanyl law enforcement seizures with no corresponding spike in fentanyl analogs or other designer opioids. Further analysis will be required to confirm a true shift in the trends.

Response Key	
	Response indicates recent signal related to drug
	Response indicates no recent signal related to drug

Texas: Dayong Lee, PhD

- Carfentanil does not appear to be increasing in Texas.
- The Houston Forensic Science Center does not routinely test for carfentanil with no out-of-scope requests for carfentanil testing have been submitted.
- Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis Counties likewise reported no recent carfentanil cases.
- Harris County noted a small increase in seized-drug cases in 2025 (n=9, including 7 white/tan powders and 2 counterfeit Oxycodone tablets). None have been reported in 2026.

Florida: Bruce Goldberger, PhD

- Carfentanil continues to be identified in decedents in the state of Florida.
- Carfentanil is also present in seized drug with and without fentanyl.
- The prevalence of carfentanil in decedents is much lower than observed during the 2016-2017 outbreak.