



Fentanyl and other opioids in France :

Capturing online signals to prevent public health crisis

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The 13th ISSDP conference, Paris, 22-24 may 2019

Presentation outline

- I. Introduction
- II. Data from the e-shops monitoring on the surface web
- III. Data from the online discussions monitoring on forums specialised on drug use
- IV. Conclusion

■ I – Introduction



Internet tools for research
in Europe on new drugs

www.i-trend.eu



Co-funded by
The European Union

European project JUST/2012/DPIP/AG/3641 co-financed by the
Drug Prevention and Information Program of the European Union.

Semi-automated online monitoring

- Online supply is expressed via
- Online demand is expressed via
- Each monitored on the surface web by two separate semi-automated software tools still in development !

(surface)
Online
e-shops

Online
Forums

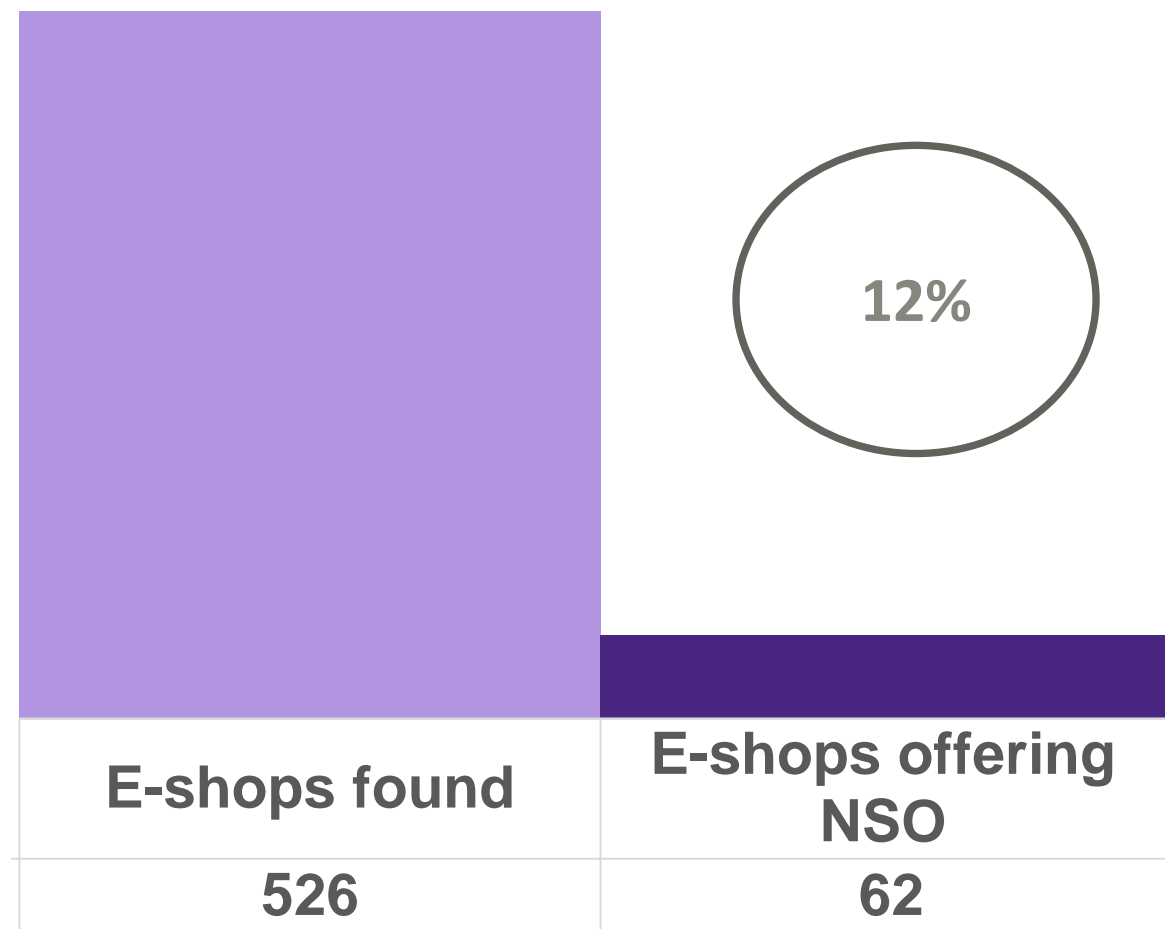


Method

- **Monitoring period : 01/01/2017 - 31/12/2018**
- **This analysis focus on the New synthetic opioids (NSOs) listed by the European Database on New drugs (EDND) of the EMCDDA.**
 - **Plus Fentanyl on online forums – not in EDND / not on e-shops**
 - **Some pharmaceutical are included on forums also (eg. tramadol, codein) listed or not by the EDND**
 - **Classical opioids such as heroin, methadone or opium were excluded**

■ **II – Data from the e-shops monitoring
on the surface web**

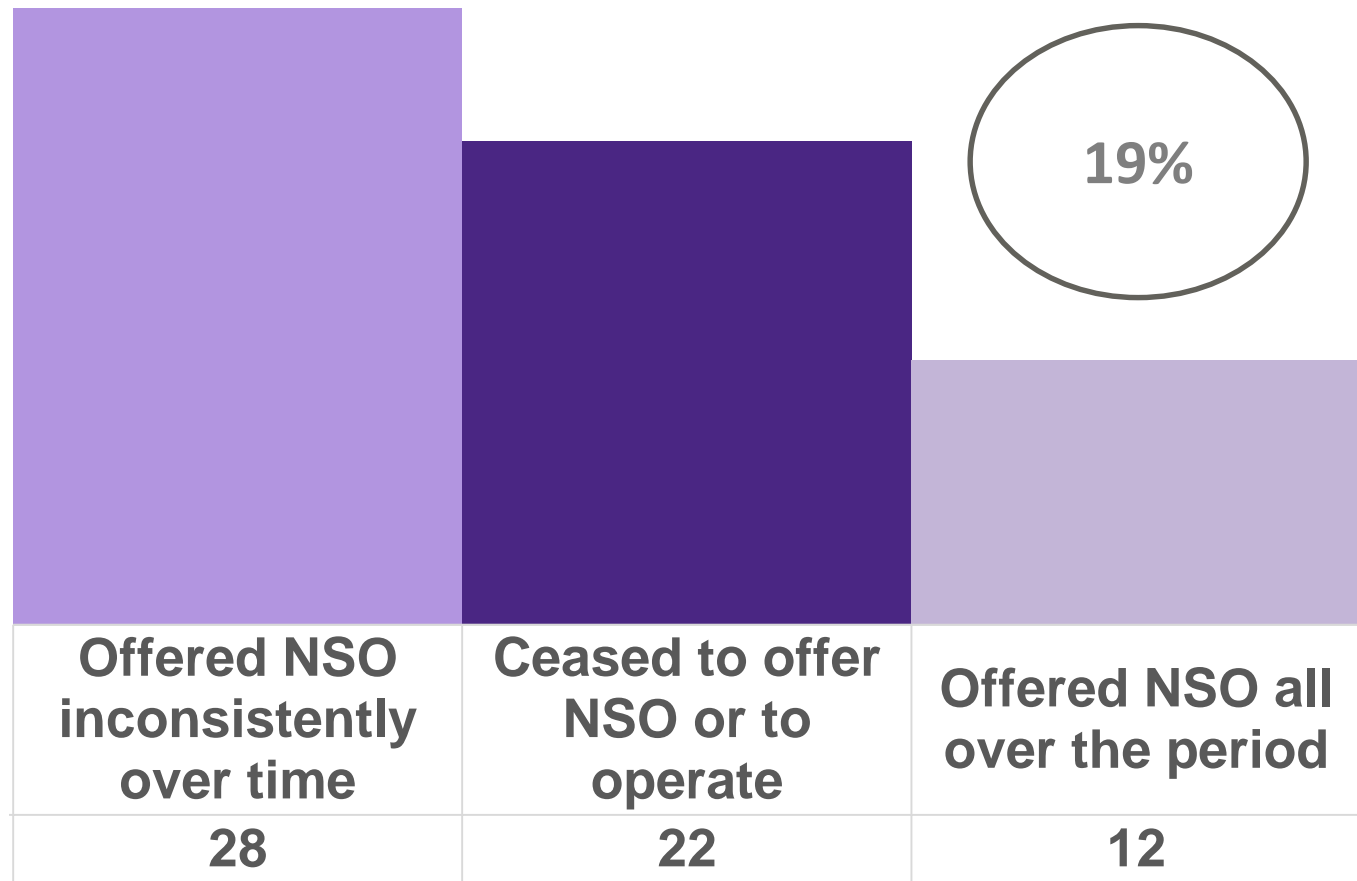
E-shops monitoring - e-shops offering NSOs



Source : PsyIT.org, OFDT, e-shops monitoring on the surface web

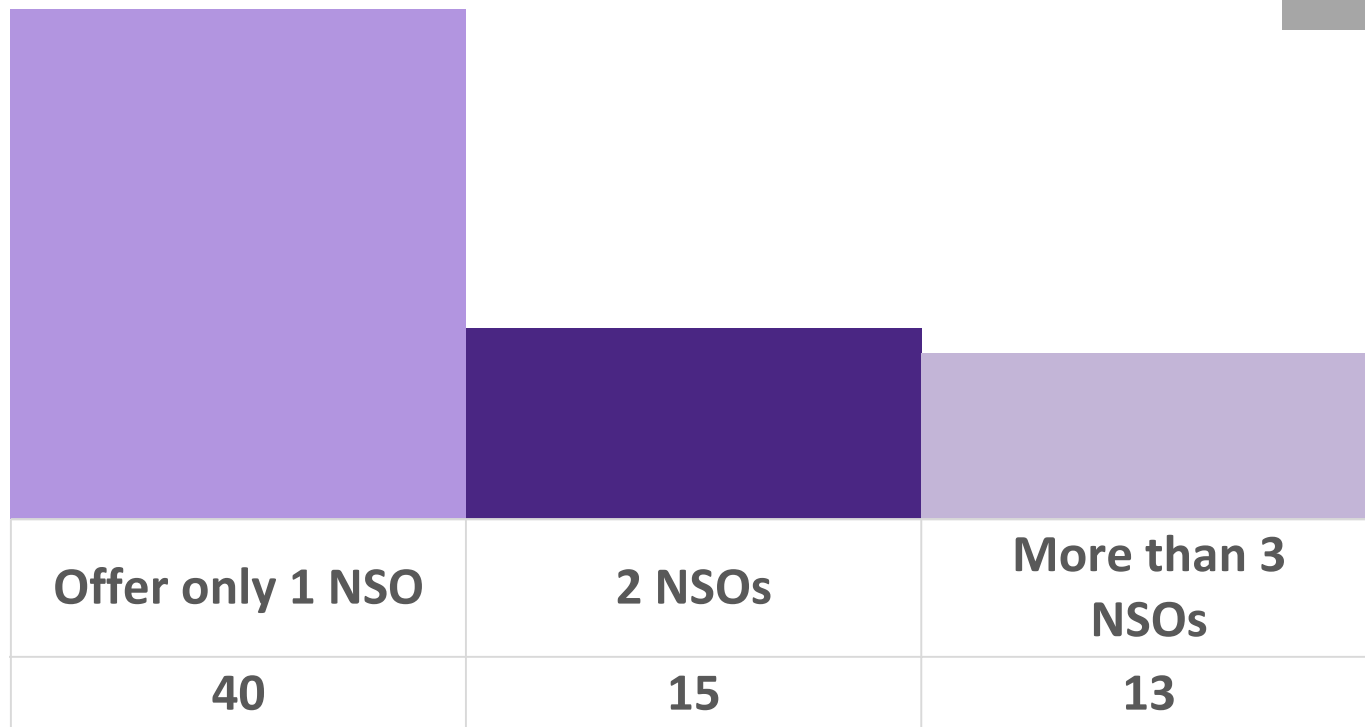
E-shops monitoring - e-shops offering NSOs over time

■ Among 62 e-shops offering NSOs,



Source : PsyIT.org, OFDT, e-shops monitoring on the surface web

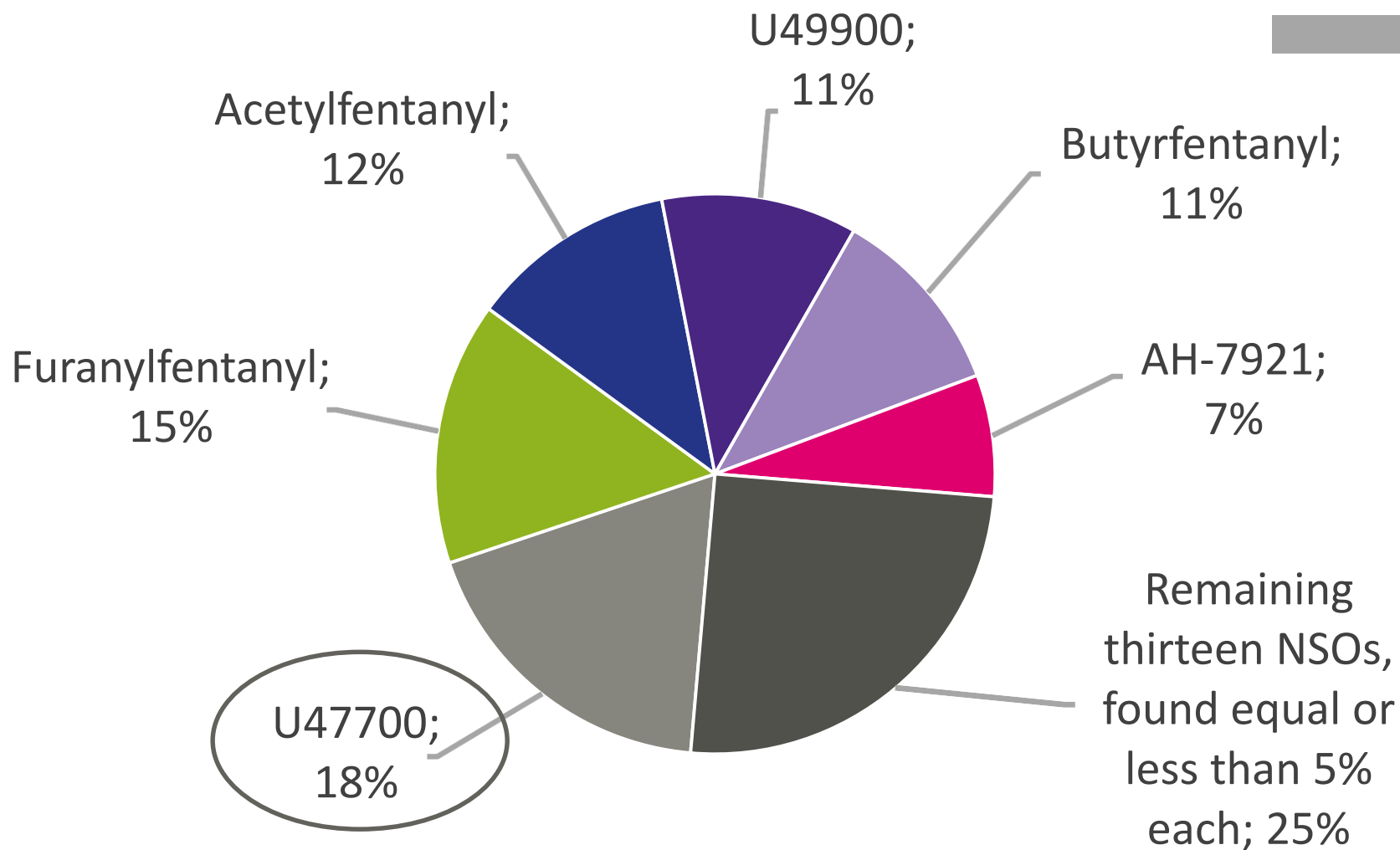
E-shops monitoring – specialisation in NSOs



- One e-shop offered 14 NSOs simultaneously
- All in all, 19 NSOs out of the 48 listed by the EDND were found.

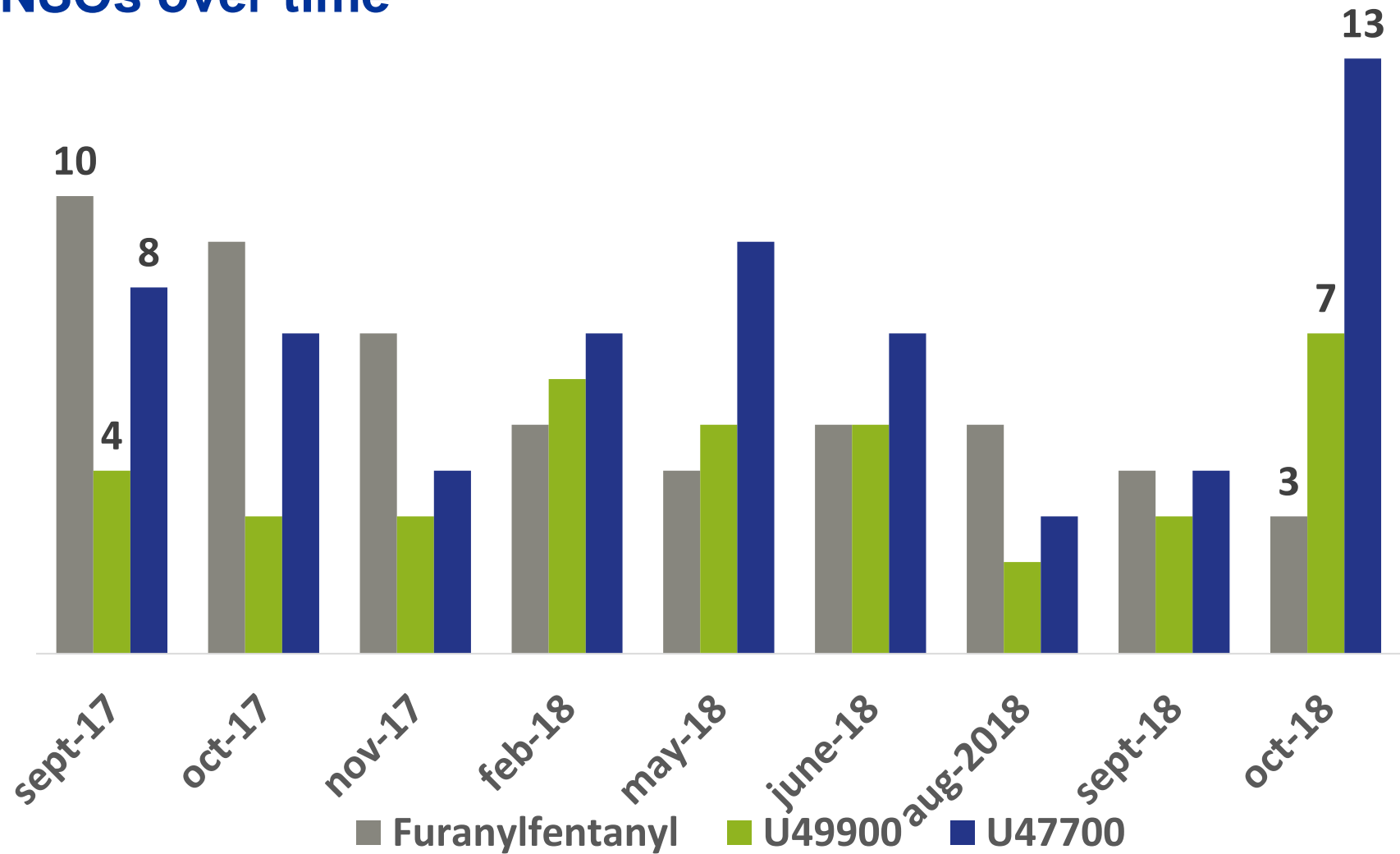
Source : PsyIT.org, OFDT, e-shops monitoring on the surface web

E-shops monitoring – number of results allocated for each NSO (N = 348)



Source : PsyIT.org, OFDT, e-shops monitoring on the surface web

E-shops monitoring – number of unique e-shops per NSOs over time



Source : PsyIT.org, OFDT, e-shops monitoring on the surface web

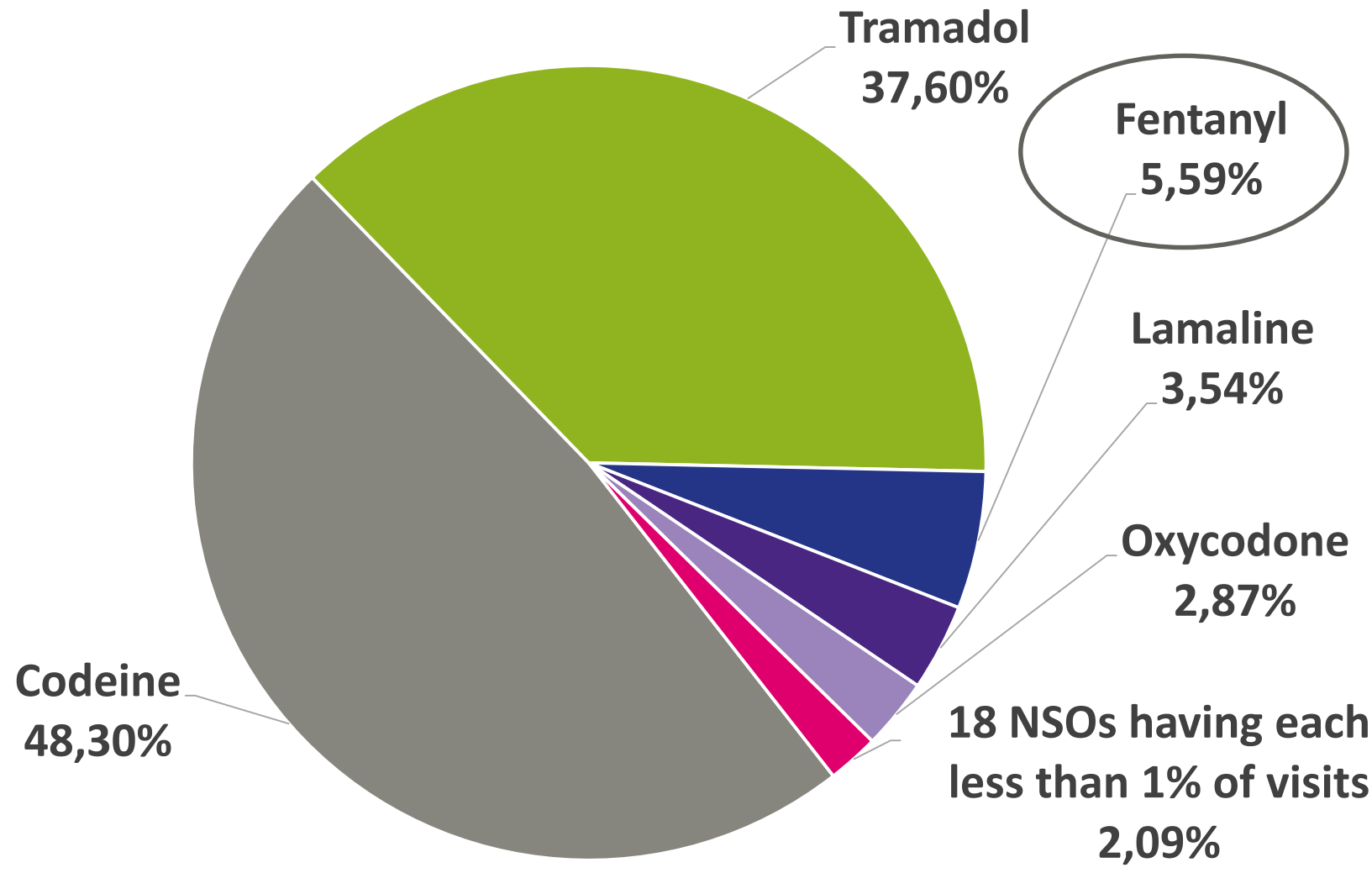
- **III- Data from the online discussions monitoring on forums specialised on drug use**

Forums monitoring – online discussions related to selected opioids



Source : OFDT, French speaking forums monitoring, Psychonaut.fr and Psychoactif.org

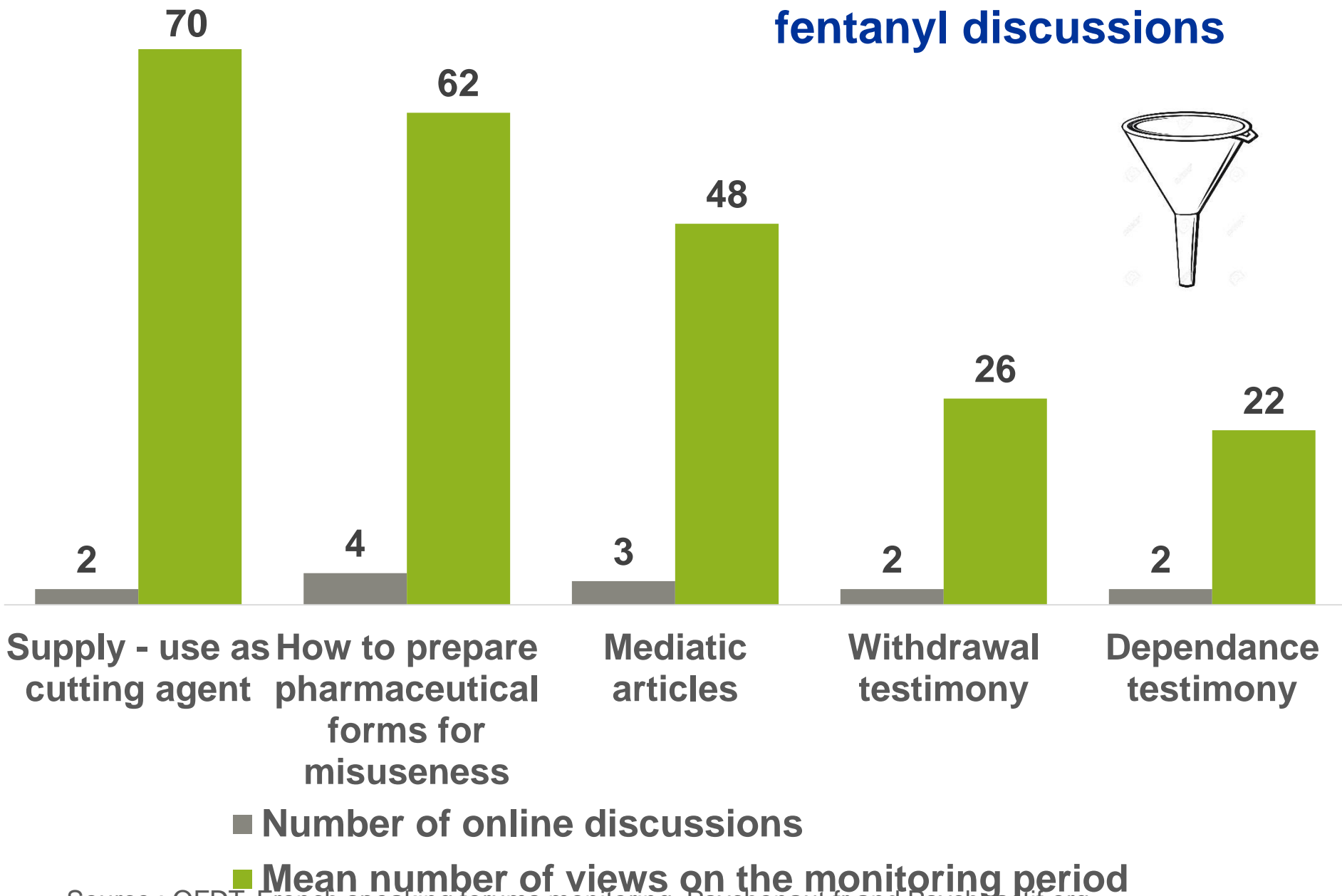
Forums monitoring – breakdown of the number of views of discussions related to opioids in December 2018



Source : OFDT, French speaking forums monitoring, Psychonaut.fr and Psychoactif.org

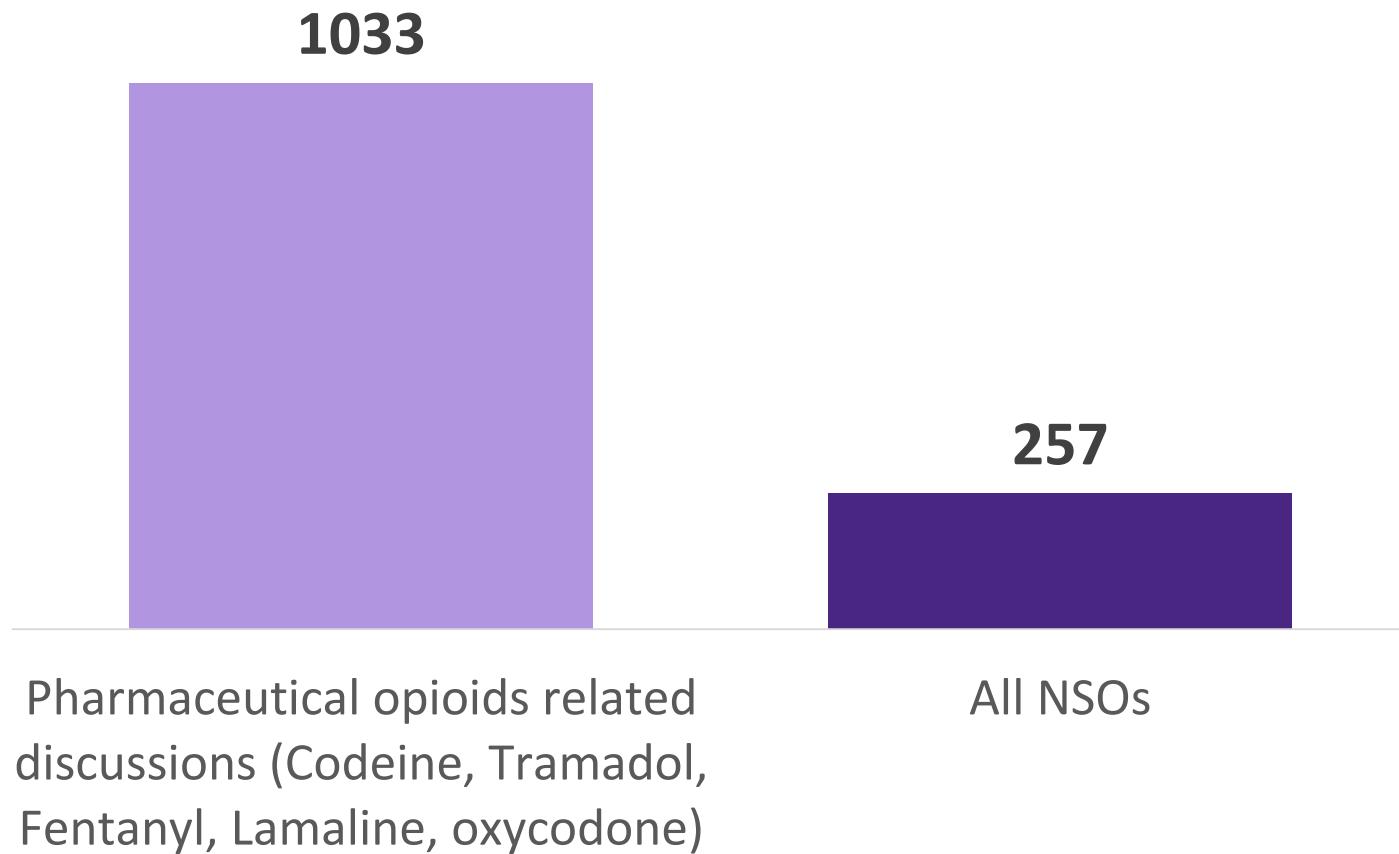


Forums monitoring – Main topics of the most viewed fentanyl discussions



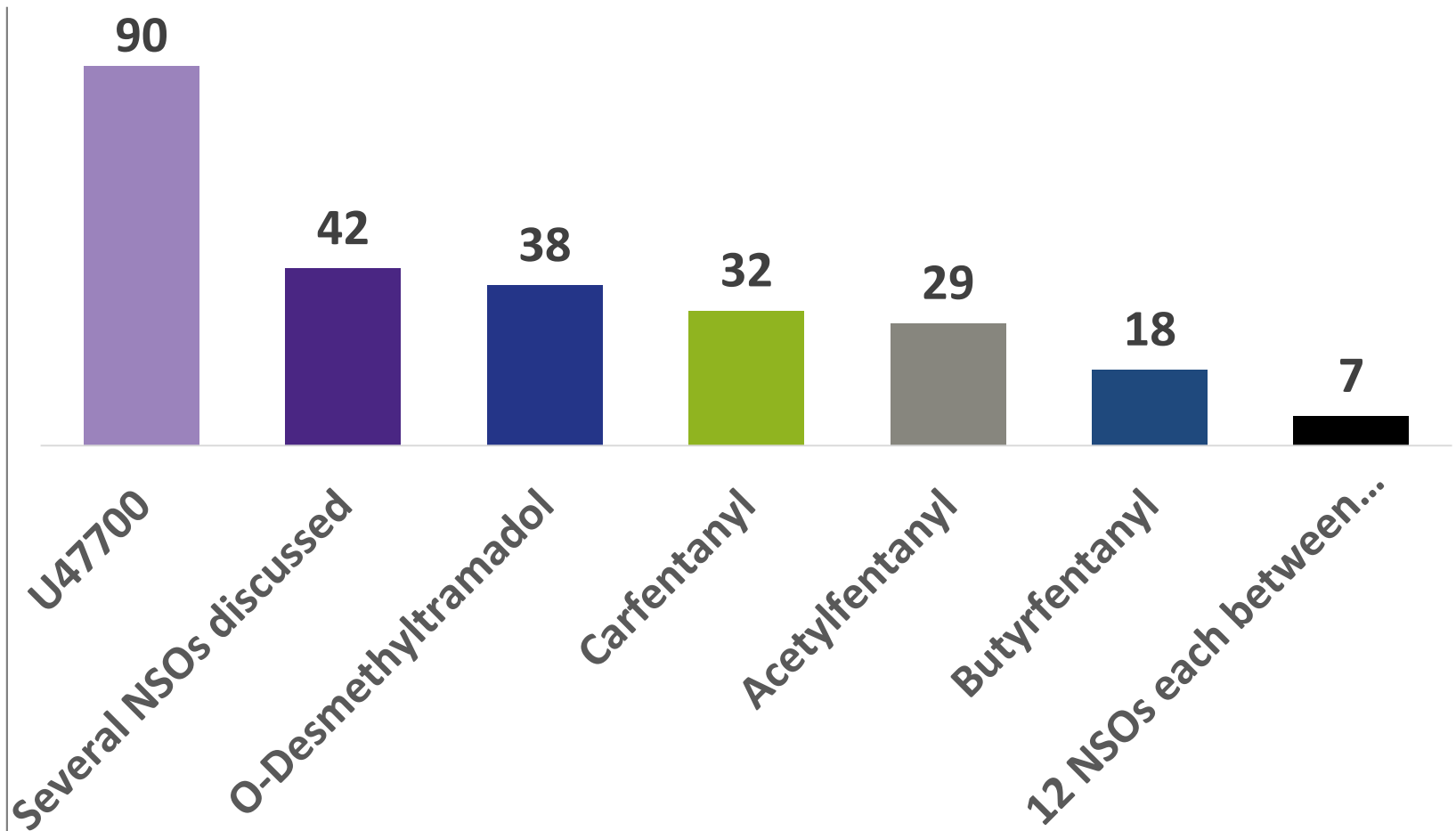
Source : OFDT, French speaking forums monitoring, Psychonaut.fr and Psychoactif.org

Forums monitoring – mean number of views per day on the whole monitoring period



Source : OFDT, French speaking forums monitoring, Psychonaut.fr and Psychoactif.org

Forums monitoring – mean number of views per day on the whole monitoring period



Source : OFDT, French speaking forums monitoring, Psychonaut.fr and Psychoactif.org

Forum monitoring – qualitative analysis



- **Discussions about carfentanyl and acetylfentanyl are driven by media events**
 - Announcement of deaths, health warnings or overdoses
 - Implying that their popularity is connected with an emotional reaction but not a search of information about their consumption



Whereas

- **Discussions about the main NSOs, U47700, O-DMST are driven by topics which focus on the consumption itself (eg: dosage, effects...)**

■ IV- Conclusions

Conclusions 1/3

- **Some NSOs are found with the same importance in e-shops and forums monitoring, notably the U47700**
- **In the monitoring period, a shift happened between the supply of furanylfentanyl and U47700**
- **U49900 is quite well offered, but not discussed on FR forums**
- **Pharmaceutical opioids are more accepted by forumers than any other NSO**

Conclusions 2/3

- **Fentanyl does not appear as a substance sought by forumers**
 - They do not seem to aim to use it
 - They express their concern about involuntary consumption,
 - They look for a way to protect themselves, notably by purchasing colorimetric tests on the Internet
- **An opioid crisis, shaped as it is happening in North-America does not seem to occur shortly in France**

Conclusions 3/3

- Despite its global ban in March 2017 –
- U47700 is the most discussed, the most viewed, as well as the most offered during the past two years,

You can always buy U47700(opioid) from pharma-chemic.com and enjoy all the best conveniences.

- Why ?
- 7.5 times more potent than morphin
- One testimony on Erowid presents this substance as similar to Tramadol, maybe the pharmaceutical opioid the most misused in France
- Does this testimony could have influenced the research of information about this product ?
- What about the U49900 ?

Limitations

- **An under-representation of people declaring their consumption of fentanyl derivatives online, due to the normative consensus on fentanyl harms**
- **Comparison between e-shops and forums is limited because**
 - **E-shop monitoring based on the EDND list only**
 - **Online forums in French only, e-shops in English**
- **However, putting in perspective data from e-shops and forums is promising and should be tested on other national situations, and in 2019 too**

Thanks for your attention,

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