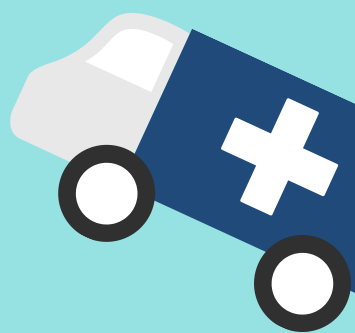
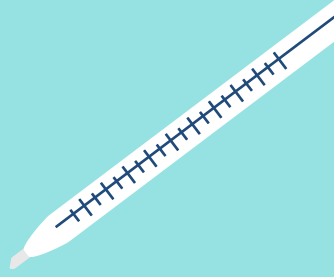


# STREET DRUGS TO WATCH IN 2021



As COVID-19 continues to negatively impact mental health, it's also changing which drugs are on the rise. Here are eight to watch.

compiled by [Sprout Health Group](#)

## 1 FENTANYL

Fentanyl surged in 2020, leading to a record number of deaths. Cheap and easy to produce, the synthetic opioid is cut into fake Percocet and Oxycodone pills, as well as cocaine, MDMA, Xanax and other street drugs. [Read more.](#)

## 2 BENZODIAZEPINES

This highly addictive class of anti-anxiety drugs, which includes Xanax and Valium, has become increasingly available on the street. Overdoses have spiked as users mix pills with alcohol, opioids, and unwittingly, fentanyl. [Read more.](#)

## 3 CANNABIS

Cannabis was the most popular drug of the COVID-19 pandemic, with 46% of Americans increasing their use. As more states legalize recreational marijuana, cannabis stands to become even more prevalent in 2021. [Read more.](#)

## 4 METH

Fatal meth overdoses have spiked over the last year and a half, particularly among individuals already struggling with opioid addiction. Deaths were rising even before the pandemic, but COVID-19 has worsened the problem. [Read more.](#)

## 5 COCAINE

After a long period of stability, cocaine overdoses tripled in the 5 years leading up to 2020. Although use over the last year fell as bars and nightclubs were forced to close, a post-pandemic party landscape in 2021 could mean a new surge. [Read more.](#)

## 6 PHENIBUT

Use of Phenibut, an unregulated anti-anxiety drug, began to skyrocket in 2018 and continued to rise amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Without an immediate return to normalcy in 2021, it remains a drug to watch. [Read more.](#)

## 7 KRATOM

A federally unregulated drug, Kratom made headlines in 2020 as more states introduced their own regulations. Advocates of the herb say it's a safer alternative to opioids, while critics point to its addictive properties. [Read more.](#)

## 8 LSD

Although "club drugs" lost their scene in 2020, psychedelics rose as people sought to mentally escape from a tough year. For LSD, the rise came after a pre-pandemic resurgence. [Read more.](#)