DRUG ABUSE: NATIONAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

Florence, Alabama
June 2018
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Supervisory Special Agent, DEA Birmingham District Office
2017
National Drug Threat Assessment

Available via www.dea.gov
Objectives

• Describe national and state-level trends related to drug misuse and abuse
• Compare and contrast drug misuse and abuse across Alabama regions
• Describe national and state efforts to address drug misuse and abuse
Disclosure
U.S. Drug Situation

- Opioid threat increased
  - Controlled Prescription Drugs (CPDs)
  - Heroin
  - Fentanyl

- Methamphetamine production primarily Mexico-sourced

- Cocaine shows indications of rebounding

- Marijuana threat changed due to legalization efforts

- New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) marketed to larger user base
2016 NDTS Greatest Drug Threat

- **Heroin**: 44.7%
- **Meth**: 31.8%
- **CPDs**: 11.5%
- **Marijuana**: 4.9%
- **Crack Cocaine**: 3.4%
- **Powder Cocaine**: 0.6%

Source: DEA
Shifting Drug Threats

Source: DEA
Regional Greatest Drug Threat

West Coast: Meth

East Coast: Heroin

Source: DEA
The Southeast Region
Major Causes of Death from Injury

Note: Suicide and homicide include deaths by drug poisoning or firearms.

Source: CDC
Involving All Prescription Drugs
- 2015: 29,728
- 2014: 22,598
- 2013: 12,989
- 2012: 9,580
- 2011: 6,784
- 2010: 5,716

Involving Prescription Opioids
- 2015: 22,598
- 2014: 12,989
- 2013: 9,580
- 2012: 6,784
- 2011: 5,716

Involving Heroin
- 2015: 5,716
- 2014: 6,784
- 2013: 9,580
- 2012: 9,580
- 2011: 5,716

Involving Synthetic Opioids (Fentanyl)
- 2015: 12,989
- 2014: 9,580
- 2013: 5,716
- 2012: 6,784
- 2011: 9,580

Involving Cocaine
- 2015: 9,580
- 2014: 5,716
- 2013: 6,784
- 2012: 9,580
- 2011: 5,716

Involving Psychostimulants (Methamphetamine)
- 2015: 5,716
- 2014: 6,784
- 2013: 9,580
- 2012: 9,580
- 2011: 5,716

Source: CDC
How Did We Get Here?

DRAWINGBOARD / SIGNE

DRUG-FREE AMERICA

AGD 0-4  AMPICILIN  4-12  RITALIN  12-18  APPETITE SUPPRESSANTS  18-24  NO-DOZ  24-38  PROZAC  38-65  ZANTAC  65   EVERYTHING ELSE
Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine Use
Current (Past-Month) Use Among Persons Aged 12 or Older

- Stable use rates
- 0.2% of the U.S. population

Source: NSDUH
Methamphetamine
Purity and Price

- Domestic purchase data from January 2007 to March 2015
  - Purity increased 64%
  - Price decreased 57%

Source: DEA
Foreign Production

- Primary methamphetamine source
  - Smuggled across SWB
  - Super laboratories in Mexico
  - Large kilogram quantities
  - Difficult to detect
Methamphetamine Trafficking

- Methamphetamine in solution
  - Easy to conceal
  - Hard to detect
Methamphetamine Southwest Border Seizures

- 305% increase in total weight from CY 10 to CY 15
- 27% increase in total weight from CY 14 to CY 15

Source: CBP
Heroin
Heroin Seizures Southwest Border 2016 (% Change from 2015)
Heroin Drug Poisoning
Deaths by State  (Rate per 100,000 population)

Source: CDC
Past year heroin use increased 51% from 2009 - 2014

Heroin-related deaths increased 222% from 2009 to 2014

Source: CDC, NSDUH
Explanation of Death Increase

- High purity heroin
  - Accidental overdoses
- Prescription opioid abusers
  - Dosage amounts
  - Adulterants
- Returning to heroin after a period of abstinence
  - Tolerance decreased
Heroin Availability by Type

Source: DEA
Increasing Heroin Production

Potential Pure Heroin Production in Mexico, 2011 - 2015

Source: U.S. Government Estimates
Controlled Prescription Drugs
## Worldwide Hydrocodone Use

**Top 10 List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Hydrocodone Use</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>79,700 kilograms</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>200 kilograms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>115.5 kilograms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Syrian Republic</td>
<td>50 kilograms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>30 kilograms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>25.5 kilograms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>20 kilograms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>20 kilograms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>10 kilograms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>10 kilograms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Today

Chronic Pain?
Stop Hurting & Start Living!

Established • Professional • Dedicated

Utilizing FDA Approved Medications
Outpatient Detox Available

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS
DON'T DELAY! CALL TODAY!

www.PainCenters.com
Top 10 CPD Dispensed (in Billions of Dosage Units)
Primary Diversion of CPDs

Source Where Pain Relievers Were Obtained for Nonmedical Use

- Free From Friend/Relative: 53%
- One Doctor: 21.20%
- Bought/Took from Friend/Relative: 14.60%
- Drug Dealer/Stranger: 4.30%
- Other: 4.30%
- More than One Doctor: 2.60%
- Bought on Internet: 0.10%

Source: NSDUH
Illegally Obtaining Prescription Drugs

Forged Prescriptions
Illegally Obtaining Prescription Drugs

Pharmacy Thefts/Robberies
Illegally Obtaining Prescription Drugs

Street Dealers
Illegally Obtaining Prescription Drugs

Friends
“Sunny” Sells Her Fentanyl Patches

Opana 5mg (immediate release formula - crushable) 80 pills. 6 each. ----------------------
Opana 10mg (extended release formula. (orange coating that you got before but TWICE the strength) 46 pills. 8 each. ----------------------
Opana 10mg (immediate release formula - crushable - (high demand for this, very strong) I have 41. 11 each. Methadone 5mg pills. 14 pills. 4 each. Lastly I have Fentanyl 2-day patches. 25 mcg. I’d have to research the going price on these then offer them for less....

Cool - to be clear, you want 40 - 10mg extended release @ 8 ea. Sure!

I am concerned to give the fentanyl patches unless it’s for someone VERY comfortable with opiates and has high tolerance. Ppl overdose on these. Please keep that in mind. I care 😊

Let’s communicate tmrw. Good night!
Illegally Obtaining Prescription Drugs

Medicine Cabinets
Medicine Cabinets: Easy Access

- More than half of teens (73%) indicate that it’s easy to get prescription drugs from their parent’s medicine cabinet.
- Half of parents (55%) say anyone can access their medicine cabinet.
- Almost four in 10 teens (38%) who have misused or abused a prescription drug obtained it from their parent’s medicine cabinet.
Counterfeit Pills / Dark Web Distributors
Oxy 30 (Fentanyl) Seizure
Fentanyl Uses, Sources, and Seizures

- Schedule II synthetic opioid
  - More potent than heroin

- “Synthetic Heroin”
  - Users are often unaware

- Sources
  - Mexico: Clandestine fentanyl
  - China: Fentanyl and its analogs
  - Pharmaceutical Diversion: Much smaller scale
Fentanyl in New Forms

- Counterfeit pills for street sales
- Appearance consistent with authentic pills
- Over 10,000 pills seized in 2015
- Black tar form
- Appeared to be black tar heroin
- Lab analysis indicated it was fentanyl and no heroin present
Fentanyl and Precursor Flow

1. Fentanyl in powder form and pill presses are shipped via mail services.
2. The powder fentanyls are processed and mixed with heroin, or sold as heroin, or pressed into pills and sold in the Canadian drug market.
2a. Some fentanyl products are smuggled from Canada into the United States for sale, on a smaller scale.
3. The powder fentanyl is processed and mixed with heroin, or sold as heroin, or pressed into pills and sold in the United States drug market.
4. The powder fentanyl is cut and diluted for further smuggling, or pressed into counterfeit prescription pills.
4a. Diluted powder fentanyl and counterfeit prescription pills containing fentanyl are smuggled from Mexico into the United States.
5. Precursors for manufacturing fentanyl are shipped via mail services.
6. Precursors are used to manufacture fentanyl in clandestine laboratories.
6a. Precursors are likely smuggled across the Southwest border into Mexico to manufacture fentanyl.
7. Precursors are likely used to manufacture fentanyl in clandestine laboratories.

Source: DEA
Fentanyl Exhibits by State CY2016

[Map showing the distribution of fentanyl exhibits by state.]
Fentanyl Seizure 2016 (40kgs)
Carfentanil

- Schedule II synthetic opioid
  - 10,000x more potent than morphine
  - Used to tranquilize elephants and large wildlife

- July 2016 – at least 236 overdoses & 14 deaths in Ohio
- In 2016, 413 samples identified in submitted exhibits

- Confirmed cases
  - Ohio
  - Kentucky
  - Rhode Island
  - Michigan
  - Oregon
Carfentanil cases 2016

*Cases of carfentanil are confirmed when the drug is positively identified in a forensic laboratory using analytical reference standards.*
Cocaine Cultivation and Production

Source: U.S. Government Estimates
Domestic Cocaine Purity and Prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Price Per Pure Gram (PPG) ($)</th>
<th>Percent Purity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$116</td>
<td>61.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$155</td>
<td>51.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$178</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$184</td>
<td>45.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$173</td>
<td>49.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$215</td>
<td>45.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$206</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$220</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$202</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$165</td>
<td>56.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marijuana Use
Current (past month) use among persons aged 12 or older

- 31.9% increase in use from 2009 to 2014
- 12% increase in use from 2013 to 2014
- 8.4% of the U.S. population

Source: NSDUH
Marijuana Trafficking and U.S. Marijuana Markets

- Foreign
  - Mexico, Canada, and Caribbean

- Domestic
  - West Coast to East Coast

- Three Markets
  - 1. Illicit
  - 2. State-approved medical
  - 3. State-approved personal use/recreational
Domestic Production

- State-approved producers
- Illicit producers
  - Large-scale and small-scale
  - U.S. citizens and foreigners
  - West Coast dominate, however production is in all 50 states
  - Indoor and outdoor cultivation
State Approved Marijuana Status
As of August 2017
New Psychoactive Substances

- Substances designed to mimic illicit drugs; oftentimes unscheduled and unregulated
  - Younger individuals
  - Avoid drug tests

- As of December 2015
  - 643 NPS worldwide
  - 250 NPS in the US

- Major Categories
  - Synthetic Cannabinoids
    - K2, Spice
  - Synthetic Cathinones
    - Molly, Flakka, Bath Salts
NPS Production

China Lab

Mailed to the U.S.

Sprayed on Plant

Typical Package

Packaged for Sale

Dried
Other NPS Forms

- **Counterfeit Pills**
  - Fall 2015 - 214 counterfeit Xanax pills seized in New Jersey
    - Contained no Xanax, but AB-FUBINACA instead
    - AB-FUBINACA has also been disguised as “Molly”

- **Liquid Synthetic Cannabinoids**
  - Used in e-cigarettes/vape pens
  - Hot spots, difficult dosage
  - Hard to detect
NPS Rebranding

- Molly or Flakka
  - Decreased popularity of Bath Salts
  - Synthetic cathinones in MDMA

- Methylone
  - Synthetic cathinone
  - More profitable than MDMA
Alabama: DEA New Orleans Division

DEA Offices in Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Montgomery

DEA Demand Reduction Coordinator:
George Cazenavette
3838 N. Causeway Blvd, Suite 1800
Metairie, LA 70002
Phone: (504)840-100
E-mail: george.j.cazenavette@usdoj.gov
The Southeast Region

Puerto Rico
US Virgin Islands

Florida/Caribbean

Seaboard

Southeast

Powder Cocaine
Crack Cocaine
Methamphetamine
Heroin
Marijuana
CPDs
Drugs most associated with violent crime in Alabama

- Methamphetamine: 26
- Crack Cocaine: 20
- Marijuana: 7
- Heroin: 2
- Controlled Prescription Drugs: 2
- Psychoactive Substances: 2
- Fentanyl & Other Opioids: 1
Heroin Death Cases in Alabama
2012-2016

- 1-2 Cases
- 3-5 Cases
- 6-10 Cases
- 11-15 Cases
- Over 16 Cases
- Jefferson County

[Map of Alabama showing the distribution of heroin death cases by county, with color codes indicating the number of cases.]
Fentanyl Death Cases in Alabama
2012-2016

- 1-5 Cases
- 6-10 Cases
- 11-15 Cases
- 16-20 Cases
- Over 20 Cases
- Jefferson County *(2015 and 2016 Only)*
Hydrocodone Death Cases in Alabama
2012-2016

- 1-5 Cases
- 6-10 Cases
- 11-15 Cases
- 16-20 Cases
- Over 20 Cases
- Jefferson County
Oxycodone Death Cases in Alabama
2012-2016

- 1-5 Cases
- 6-10 Cases
- 11-15 Cases
- 16-20 Cases
- Over 20 Cases
- Jefferson County

[Map of Alabama with counties colored to indicate number of cases]
Methadone Death Cases in Alabama
2011-2016

- 1-20 Cases
- 21-40 Cases
- 41-60 Cases
- 61-80 Cases
- Over 80 Cases
- Jefferson County ~800 cases (death)
Alabama Heroin Deaths 2017

2017 Heroin Deaths

- Walker: 2
- Tuscaloosa: 6
- Talladega: 1
- St. Clair: 7
- Shelby: 4
- Russell: 2
- Pickens: 1
- Morgan: 5
- Marshall: 3
- Madison: 2
- Lauderdale: 3
- Etoah: 4
- Tallapoosa: 1
- Cullman: 1
- Calhoun: 1
- Bibb: 2
- Barbour: 1
- Baldwin: 1
- Jefferson: 98
Jefferson County Drug Overdoses

Total Deaths:
2014 - 259
2015 - 224
2016 - 251
2017 - 267

Heroin:
2014 - 138
2015 - 97
2016 - 100
2017 - 98
Jefferson County Drug Overdoses

Fentanyl:
2014 - 25
2015 - 49
2016 - 105
2017 - 104

Cocaine:
2016 - 55
2017 - 59
Jefferson County Drug Overdoses

Methamphetamine:
2016 - 22
2017 - 35

Prescription Opioids:
2014 - 32
2015 - 74
2016 - 22
2017 - 9
Tackling Drug Abuse
The DEA 360 Strategy

- Enforcement Partnership
- Diversion Partnership
- Community Partnership
Enforcement Partnerships

• Coordinating and Targeting Enforcement Efforts
  • Federal, State, and Local Resources
  • Community Enforcement Efforts
    1. Built on local intelligence and experience
    2. Coordinating efforts – Task Forces / Initiatives
    3. Targeting local distribution realities
    4. “Top Target” Lists
    5. Death or Serious Bodily Injury Cases
The DEA 360 Strategy

Enforcement Partnership

Diversion Partnership

Community Partnership
Diversion Partnerships

Targeting the Supply and Demand Problem

5% of World Population / 99% of hydrocodone consumed

80% of New Heroin Abusers Start with Opioids

DEA Diversion is Uniquely Positioned
1.6 Million Registrants Regulated by DEA - every point in the chain
Diversion Partnerships

• Enhance Data to Identify and Track Problems
  • Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), Medical Examiners (MEs), and Other Sources

• Vigilant Enforcement and Regulation
  • Identify the Threat
    • DEA Registrants Operating Outside the Law

• Address the Threat
  • Tactical Diversion Squads (TDSs)
    • Agents, Diversion Investigators, Intel Analysts, Task Force Officers
  • Diversion Investigators
  • Mobile/Regional TDSs
Diversion Partnerships

• **Education and Outreach**
  • National Strategy - *Sustained & Consistent Messaging*
    • *Pharmacist Drug Awareness Conferences*
    • *Law Enforcement, Medical Practitioners, Anti-Drug Organizations*
    • *National Drug Take Back Initiative Collection Sites and Safe Drug Disposal Regulations*

• Local Strategy in 360 Strategy Target Areas
  • *Proactive and Robust Community Engagement*
  • *Local Practitioners/Community Groups*
  • *Local Field Divisions with HQ Support*
15th National Take Back Day: April 28, 2018
Total Collection Sites: 5,842

Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Control Division

*American Indian and Alaskan Native Communities: 142 sites
15th National Take Back Day: April 28, 2018
Total Weight Collected: 949,046 lbs. (474.5 Tons)
National RX Take Back Day

Save The Date:
October 27, 2018
The DEA 360 Strategy

Enforcement Partnership

Diversion Partnership

Community Partnership
Community Action Support

- DEA recognizes we cannot arrest our way out of the drug problem – our goal is lasting success in the communities we serve.
- Education and Prevention are key elements for a true 360 degree strategy.
- Enforcement operations provide an opportunity for community empowerment and a jumping off point for education and prevention efforts.
FOUR KEY TARGET AUDIENCES:

1) Home (Parents & Caregivers)

2) Educators & The Classroom

3) After School (Athletics, Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, 4H, After-School Activities)

4) The Workplace
Community Partnerships

Initial National Partners:

• Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and Violence Reduction Network (VRN)
• Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (HHS-SAMHSA)
• Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
• Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
• Partnership for Drug-Free Kids (Partnership)
• DEA Educational Foundation
• Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks
• Boys & Girls Clubs
• Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts of America
• Youth Athletic Associations
• Young Marines
Community Partnerships

Year 1 (2016) Pilot Communities:

Milwaukee
St. Louis

Pittsburgh
Louisville
Community Partnerships

Year 2 (2017) Pilot Communities:

Manchester
Albuquerque
Charleston, WV
Dayton