UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

HEARING TITLED, "BIDEN AND MAYORKAS' OPEN BORDER: ADVANCING CARTEL CRIME IN AMERICA"

STATEMENT OF DEREK S. MALTZ

JULY 19, 2023

Chairman Mark E, Green, Ranking Member Bennie Thompson and distinguished members of the committee, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak today about the catastrophic situation in America caused by the Mexican Cartels, the open borders and the escalating fentanyl poisoning crisis. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my experience and thoughts as America faces complex challenges with this unprecedented national security and public health disaster. I had a long rewarding 28-year career as a Special Agent in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). I retired from the DEA in July 2014 but remain actively involved in the private sector supporting law enforcement agencies around the world as they aggressively target Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs). I'm also very engaged in supporting families around the country who have lost loved ones to the devastating substance fentanyl entering America at historic levels.

During the last 10 years of my career, I was the Agent in Charge of the DEA's Special Operations Division (SOD) in Northern Virginia. In that capacity, I ran the SOD operational coordination center with 30 participating agencies, to include representatives from Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. SOD's primary mission is to support and synchronize the investigative efforts of federal, state, local and international law enforcement agencies. SOD focused substantial resources on the Mexican cartels since they have been one of the greatest threats to the United States for several years. SOD was instrumental in supporting the Mexican government and several U.S. agencies to capture the former leader of the Sinaloa Cartel, El Chapo Guzman, on two occasions, and coordinating the worldwide investigations against the cartel. SOD also has a long history of coordinating the efforts of agencies around the world disrupting and dismantling major criminal networks.

Unfortunately, the threat of the Mexican cartels has grown tremendously over the years from drug cartels to TCO's to narco-terrorists. **In my view they remain the greatest daily threat to the citizens of this country.** They have killed more Americans than any other terrorist organization and the rate of death and destruction continues to escalate. The cartels control the importation and distribution of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and deadly fentanyl. They work closely with Chinese Criminal Networks (CCN) and together they are destroying communities and families throughout the United States and are killing record numbers of our future generation.

I remain committed to work with Congress, my colleagues in the government agencies and fellow citizens who have lost their loved ones to the drug crisis to help develop recommendations and solutions to build more effective approaches to eliminate the current

threats. Too many Americans are dying from fentanyl poisoning and citizens all over the United States are impacted by the Mexican cartels and the CCN.

It is time to work together and put politics aside. **"The current unprecedented fentanyl** poisoning crisis that's killing our kids at record levels is not a Red or Blue Issue. It's a Red, White and Blue issue. We need all Americans to work together now to save lives".

We must utilize the best and brightest patriots serving the country and combine the arsenal of capabilities and authorities to decimate the cartel's deadly production operations in Mexico. We must simultaneously dismantle their importation and distribution networks to eliminate the growing threat to the United States and our citizens. The U.S. agencies must continue to work together with innovative strategies to shut down the flow of precursor chemicals shipped to Mexico from China, India and other countries around the globe that are used in the production of dangerous synthetic drugs. The evolving sophisticated money laundering schemes offered by the CCN to the cartels must also be shut down.

The U.S.G. must also use all Treasury and economic sanctions to disrupt the movement of criminal proceeds to the foreign leaders who run these networks. As the country faces these growing threats, especially with the involvement of the CCN's and their partnership with the cartels, law enforcement needs the full support of Congress. **This historic ongoing national security threat requires a true "whole of America approach."** While we must continue to treat those with mental illness and drug addiction, the Mexican cartels and the CCN must be held accountable for their devastation and damages. They can no longer operate with impunity, and we need Congress and government leadership to step up their efforts with a greater sense of urgency.

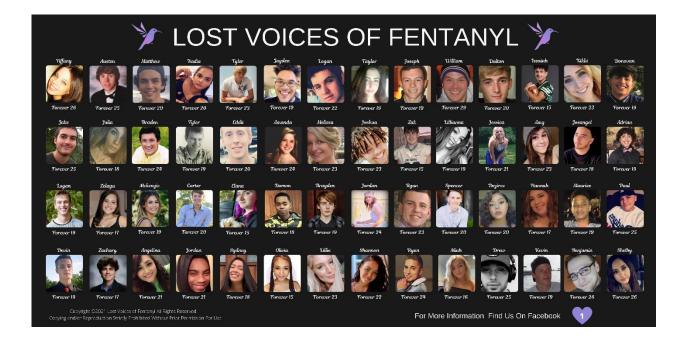
President Biden said appropriately on December 15, 2021, while speaking about his Executive Order on Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade,

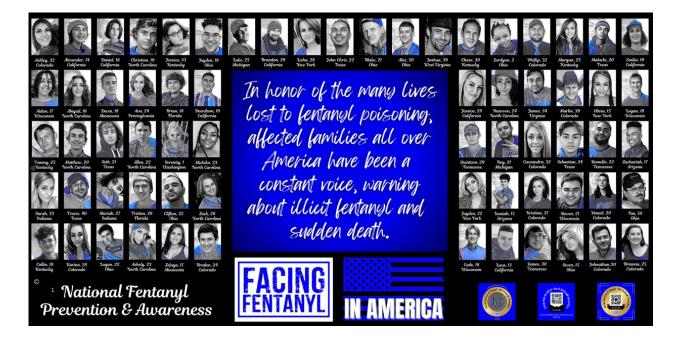
"trafficking into the United States of illicit drugs, including fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, is causing the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans annually, as well as countless more non-fatal overdoses with their own tragic human toll. Drug cartels, transnational criminal organizations, and their facilitators are the primary sources of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals that fuel the current opioid epidemic, as well as drug-related violence that harms our communities. I find that international drug trafficking — including the illicit production, global sale, and widespread distribution of illegal drugs; the rise of extremely potent drugs such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids; as well as the growing role of Internet-based drug sales constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

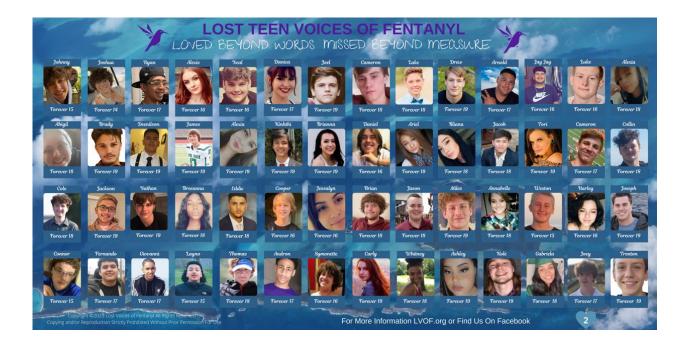
(Executive Order on Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade, 2021)

Based on the President's statement above, and knowing the Mexican cartels are responsible for shipping record amounts of deadly substances and sending their operatives into the country from Mexico, any reasonable person can understand that the current border policies are enhancing the cartel's ability to operate successfully, contradict the President's statement, and that the border must be secured to ensure increased public safety and security in America.

DEVASTATION AROUND THE U.S. DEPICTED IN COLLAGES BELOW PRODUCED BY LOST VOICES OF FENTANYL AND VOICES FOR AWARENESS, FACING FENTANYL







OVERVIEW:

On July 12, 2023, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Dr. Rahul Gupta released an update on drug overdose deaths in America. The latest CDC report shows 109,940 predicted overdose deaths in the 12-month period ending in February 2023. Most of these deaths are caused by illicit synthetic drugs like clandestinely manufactured fentanyl and methamphetamine, often in combination with other drugs, including cocaine and heroin. (Dr. Rahul Gupta Releases Statement on CDC's New Overdose Death Data, 2023) **This alarming statistic reflects that America is losing around 9161 people per month to drugs.**

When you look closer into the statistics in some areas of the country like New Orleans, **95%** of overdose deaths in 2022 were from fentanyl according to Coroner Dr. Dwight McKenna. (Robin, 2023)

When you look at the death statistics in San Diego, California, there was a 2375% increase in fentanyl related deaths in the 5-year period 2016-2021. (Fentanyl Seizures at Border Continue to Spike, Making San Diego a National Epicenter for Fentanyl Trafficking, 2022)

According to the Families against Fentanyl who have analyzed CDC statistics and have done a tremendous job educating the public on the troubling trends involving fentanyl, they revealed the following in the recent report "The Changing Faces of Fentanyl Deaths."

(The Changing Faces of Fentanyl Deaths, 2023)

- Synthetic opioid (fentanyl) poisoning was still the leading cause of death among Americans 18 to 45 in 2021.
- Synthetic opioid (fentanyl) fatalities among children are rising faster than any other age group.

- In just two years, synthetic opioid (fentanyl) deaths among children ages 1 to 4 more than tripled, and increased fourfold among infants less than one, and children ages 5 to 14.
- Since 2015, deaths among infants increased nearly 10-fold; among children ages 1 to 14 deaths increased 15-fold: an increase of more than 1400%.

These are staggering statistics impacting communities all around the country, and **all Americans should be alarmed and demanding accountability from the leaders.**

Look at the recent press stories involving celebrity families, a 9-month-old baby and Black and Hispanic Americans impacted by deadly fentanyl. This again highlights how citizens are suffering, from all walks of life, because of the ruthless cartels and the wide-open borders.

- Ray Lewis III, the son of two-time Super Bowl champion Ray Lewis, has died, police said in an incident report detailing a suspected overdose. (Press, 2023)
- Robert De Niro's grandson Leandro died from 'fentanyl laced pills (Ushe, 2023)
- Teen mom charged with aggravated manslaughter for giving 9-month-old baby fentanyl (El-Bawab, 2023)
- As Fentanyl Overdose Rates Rise Among Latinos, So Do Calls for Government Action (Gunderson, 2023)
- Mass. set a record for opioid overdose deaths. Black residents were hardest hit (Bebinger, 2023)

Sarah Richardson, Program Manager at the Chicago Department of Public Health Office of Substance Use, said city data shows a deepening crisis. "What we're seeing in Chicago right now is that 80 to 90% of our overdose deaths involve fentanyl, and a growing number of those deaths involve fentanyl as the only opioid in that death," Richardson said. "The number of Latinos in the community that have experienced a fatal overdose has significantly increased in recent years. We've seen those increases across every demographic group, but the greatest increase has in fact been in our Latino communities in Chicago."

There are so many stories around the country that highlight the unprecedented nature of the fentanyl poisoning crisis. **Please see the mass poisonings all over the country at the end of this document.**

Over the last few years while actively supporting law enforcement in the private sector, I participated in the production of documentaries, national media segments, congressional, think tank and educational sessions, and rallies with grieving families and non-profits from around America to help educate the public and bring needed awareness to the dangerous and evolving synthetic drug crisis.

I will continue to engage with families who lost children from these poisonous substances hitting our communities like a tsunami. It's hard to imagine the lack of engagement and action from of our national leaders in Washington especially on the education for young Americans and the mixed messages from the leadership. I have worked tirelessly with families to recruit celebrities, professional athletes, role models and social media influencers to help create a movement to get specific messages to the kids. Sadly, these efforts to date haven't been very successful due to the stigma related to drugs and lack of knowledge on the current crisis. All **Americans must realize this ongoing poisoning crisis is like nothing we have ever seen** and the I believe if the right celebrity pushed out short social media videos, the kids would get the important messages. We must all accept that most children are not watching congressional hearings, mainstream media, cable news or listening to podcasts so it's critical to have role models step up in a big way to fill the educational void.

The Mexican cartels are also working in close partnership with CCN, operating with impunity and killing our citizens at historic levels. The threats posed by the cartels are growing rapidly as they make billions of dollars, especially benefiting from human smuggling with the porous Southern Border. **The current border policies are irresponsible and placing all Americans at risk.** As we see all the troubling news on the fentanyl poisoning crisis, there are also dangerous connections between the criminal activity of the Mexican cartels and terrorist groups like Hezbollah. The topic of narco-terrorism has been a priority of mine for many years, and we documented a very disturbing partnership during DEA's priority operation Project Cassandra to show the growing role of Hezbollah, working with the cartels in drug trafficking and global money laundering.

As we look at the latest statistics from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), all Americans should be concerned with the fact that in fiscal year (FY) 2023 through May there were 127 U.S. Border Patrol Terrorist Screening Data Set (TSDS) encounters between ports of entry of non-U.S. Citizens. This reflects a staggering increase compared to the 3 apprehended for the entire FY 2020 when the last administration enforced strong border security policies.

The country is currently being invaded by an overwhelming number of illegal immigrants from over 150 countries and deadly drugs killing Americans at historic levels. The brave men and women of CBP are being inundated with administrative duties and migrant processing instead of focusing on protecting our national country. **The outrageous dereliction of duty by the current administration with the weak border policies distracting our CBP from securing the country is placing every American at risk.**

The New York Times headline published on July 13, 2023, says "*This Agency Was Created With a Terrorism Focus. Now It Also Has to Care for Migrants.*

• Customs and Border Protection was set up after 9/11 amid the fight against terrorism. Its responsibilities have ballooned with the influx of asylum-seeking migrants crossing the southern border."

You don't have to be a border or immigration expert to understand that the current administration's policies related to the border are a recipe for a disaster. Look at the recent statement made by FBI Director Christopher Wray,

"I've said before, there is no doubt that the greatest long-term threat to our nation's ideas, our economic security, and our national security is that posed by the Chinese Communist government." (Inside the FBI: The China Threat, 2023)

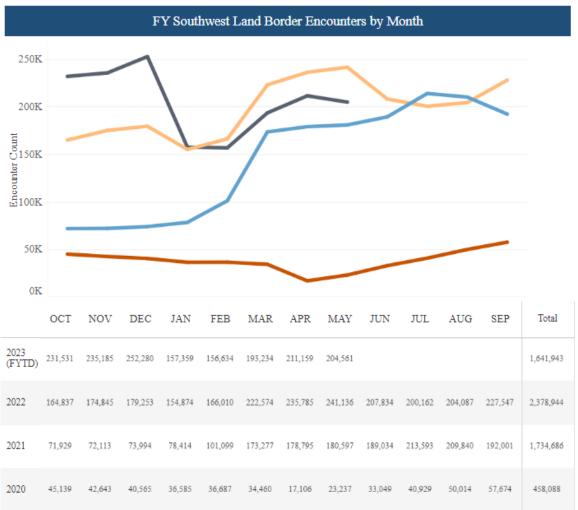
In June there were several news reports on the disturbing number of Chinese nationals crossing the U.S. Border.

Fox Business reported on June 26, 2023,

- "There are certain Chinese coming in that are really disturbing," Gatestone Institute senior fellow Gordon Chang said. Packs of Chinese males of military age, unattached to family groups pretending not to speak English. These are probably saboteurs who are coming in on the first day of war with Asia."
- Rep. Mark Green, R-Tenn., also claimed that "10,000-plus" Chinese nationals have been apprehended in fiscal year 2023, "a massive 300% increase" from the year prior. (Altus, 2023)
- A recent Fox News report also reflected that over 12,000 Chinese nationals were apprehended at the border this fiscal year thus far.

This concerning statement by the FBI Director combined with CBP's statistics related to the massive increase of military age Chinese national men apprehended at the border and that over 1,500,000 known got-aways have been documented during this administration, I would say as an experienced public safety and law enforcement executive, the entire country is at serious risk.

Below provides the very alarming statistics of the FY 2023 through May of Southwest Land Border Encounters: (CBP.gov, 2023)



On July 12, DEA Principal Deputy Administrator George Papadopoulos testified before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement at a Hearing entitled, "Protecting the U.S. Homeland: Fighting the Flow from the Southwest Border" Mr. Papadopoulos stated the following:

- The Sinaloa and Jalisco Cartels pose the greatest criminal drug threat the United States has ever faced.
- The availability of fentanyl throughout the United States has reached unprecedented heights. In 2022, DEA seized more than 58 million fake pills containing fentanyl, and 13,000 pounds of fentanyl powder, equating to nearly 400 million deadly doses of fentanyl. This is enough fentanyl to supply a potentially lethal dose to every member of the U.S. population. **These seizures occurred in every state in the country.**
- These ruthless, violent, criminal organizations have associates, facilitators, and brokers in all 50 states in the United States, as well as in more than 100 countries around the world.
- The Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco Cartel and their affiliates control the vast majority of the fentanyl global supply chain, from manufacture to distribution.
- The cartels are buying precursor chemicals in the Peoples Republic of China; transporting the precursor chemicals from the PRC to Mexico; using the precursor chemicals to mass produce fentanyl; using pill presses to process the fentanyl into fake prescription pills; and using cars, trucks, and other routes to transport the drugs from Mexico into the United States for distribution. It costs the cartels as little as 10 cents to produce a fentanyl-laced fake prescription pill that is sold in the United States for as much as \$10 to \$30 per pill. As a result, **the cartels make billions of dollars from trafficking fentanyl into the United States.**
- The business model used by the Sinaloa and Jalisco Cartels is to grow at all costs, no matter how many people die in the process. The cartels are engaging in deliberate, calculated treachery to deceive Americans and drive addiction to achieve higher profits.

Steven Cagen, Assistant Director, Homeland Security Investigations, testified at the same congressional hearing as Mr. Papadopoulos and made the following statements:

- TCOs flood the United States with deadly drugs, including illicit fentanyl and other opioids.
- Criminal organizations in the 21st century do not limit themselves to a single criminal enterprise. These criminal organizations have expanded beyond narcotics smuggling and have morphed into poly criminal TCOs involved in the associated crimes of weapons trafficking, human trafficking, human smuggling, money laundering, and other crimes.
- TCOs have also evolved beyond insular entities and have sought out partnerships with competing TCOs in furtherance of their criminal activities. For example, the illicit collaboration between Chinese TCOs and Mexican cartels has created a complex criminal ecosystem that is fueling money laundering and narcotics trafficking operations, specifically illicit fentanyl, into and within the United States.
- Chinese money laundering organizations have developed sophisticated networks in the United States, Mexico, China, and throughout Asia to facilitate money laundering schemes.

- Mexican cartels have taken over fentanyl production and operate on an industrial scale, they are obtaining precursor chemicals from China and synthesizing these chemicals in Mexico to produce fentanyl. Mexican cartels then smuggle the fentanyl into the United States in either powder or pill form for distribution.
- Chinese TCOs also facilitate the trafficking and distribution of illicit fentanyl pills by providing the Mexican cartels with the pill press equipment to make the fake oxycodone pills.
- The Mexican cartels are purchasing these pill presses directly from Chinese manufacturers that are producing the equipment specifically for illicit activity.

CBP has also reported staggering drug seizure statistics for the first 8 months of fiscal year 2023. CBP reports they seized **19,800** pounds of fentanyl. Although, I appreciate the incredible work of CBP and all the law enforcement agencies and I'm totally impressed with the dedication of the men and women on the front lines, these large seizures of deadly drugs should be a "wake up call" for all Americans. **It's obvious and alarming to anyone who works in drug enforcement or border security that if this is what agencies are seizing, then everyone should be concerned on how much is being manufactured in Mexico, imported and now on the streets in America.**



To be clear, the current crisis can't be solved with law enforcement alone. This complex and emerging problem requires that all Americans unite. The U.S. needs more focus and resources on drug education, treatment and rehabilitation in addition to law enforcement. This is an unprecedented public health, national security and community safety matter that also has huge mental health ramifications for the addicted as well as their families. Sadly, Americans are turning to what they think are legitimate prescription pills for help and are getting "fake" pills containing deadly fentanyl. Our citizens are being deceived to death in an exorbitant number of cases. There are many great American patriots working in the medical, education, addiction, science, technology, financial, and other private sector industries that can help develop comprehensive strategies and plans to deal with this matter.

The status quo is an unacceptable option as too many lives are on the line. There must be accountability for all resources provided to these initiatives since it's not good enough to just provide funding. **We need to see the death rates decline across the country.**

America has outdated technology and laws, limited resources directed at these national security threats, deceptive political leadership and huge morale issues across the agencies who are responsible for keeping the country safe. There is a concerning movement involving experienced law enforcement personnel retiring rapidly. This is happening as the cartels are building up their capabilities, enhancing their weapons systems, expanding their product line and unfortunately after forming a lethal partnership with CCN. Sadly, this has resulted in increased violence and escalating deaths in the United States.

As a DEA supervisor for many years, the Agent in Charge of SOD for almost ten years and as an huge supporter of law enforcement and grieving families since retirement, I learned so much about the evolution of the opioid addiction crisis, the **"bombing of America"** from synthetic drugs coming from China and Mexico, the growing role of CCN in drug trafficking and money laundering and the increased threats posed to our country from the Mexican "terror" cartels.

Over the last year, there has been increased press reporting and government warnings about new and more powerful synthetic opioid drugs or New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) like Nitazene, Etonitazene, Isonitizene and Protonitazene. **Nitazines are being sourced from China** and being mixed into other drugs. DEA, Washington Field Division put out a warning on June 1, 2022, alerting the public about this emerging threat. (New, Dangerous Synthetic Opioid in D.C., Emerging in Tri-State Area, 2022)

In addition to the Nitazene class of drugs, American communities have been saturated with Xylazine mixed with fentanyl, known as Tranq. Xylazine is a non-opiate sedative, analgesic, and muscle relaxant only authorized in the U.S. for veterinary use and not approved for human consumption. However **massive amounts of illicit Xylazine are being produced in Chinese labs** as well and now this deadly flesh-eating drug is destroying Americans all over the country.

On March 20,2023, DEA put out an emergency public warning on the widespread threat of Xylazine mixed with Fentanyl and on July 11, 2023, the White House announced warnings and a plan to deal with this emerging drug threat. As stated in the press release, ONDCP Director Dr. Gupta said,

"Xylazine has been detected in nearly every state in the country." And "I have seen the devastating consequences of xylazine combined with fentanyl firsthand."

(FACT SHEET: In Continued Fight Against Overdose Epidemic, the White House Releases National Response Plan to Address the Emerging Threat of Fentanyl Combined with Xylazine, 2023) (DEA Reports Widespread Threat of Fentanyl Mixed with Xylazine, 2023)

(The Growing Threat of Xylazine, 2022)

Deadly chemical substances are being manufactured in Chinese labs and being distributed all over America. Although I appreciate of the government warnings and plans to deal with these emerging drug threats, **SYNTHETIC DRUGS COMING FROM CHINA AND MEXICO HAVE BEEN A GAME CHANGER FOR THE U.S.** and we are under attack in my view. The U.S.G. must be way more aggressive in dealing with this growing public health and national security threat. Aggressive action plans, operational implementation and accountability on the leaders should be a top priority. Allowing the Mexican cartel operatives and people from around the world to enter the country illegally at record levels is enhancing the ability for criminals to kill Americans.

SYSTEMATIC CORRUPTION IN MEXICO AND GROWTH OF THE CARTELS:

Another disturbing aspect involving the Mexican cartels is their role as narco-terrorists and their advancement with the use of technology and weapon systems to enhance their deadly business enterprise. They are not typical crime groups as they conduct acts of terrorism not solely in furtherance of drug trafficking but for the purpose of instilling fear in the public and influencing.

The cartels are responsible for utilizing terror tactics to silence, torture and kill civilians, government officials, Catholic priests, and news reporters, who publicly speak out against the violence inflicted by the cartels. The Mexican cartels have become Mexico's insurgency's and have utilized terror tactics. They have corrupted the system and undermine the Mexican government and the rule of law. The Mexican cartels have recruited hundreds of trained law enforcement and military personnel who now carry out executions and assassinations on behalf of the cartels. The cartels routinely conduct beheadings, in which corpses and heads are hung on public display. The cartels are also indiscriminately killing to scare the general population into submission and subservience.

The conviction of Genaro Garcia-Luna, former Director of Mexico's Public Security, in federal court in New York and the DEA arrest of Salvador Cienfuegos, former Defense Secretary of Mexico, reflects the level of corruption at the highest level of the Mexican government. (Mexico's former public security chief convicted in U.S. drug case, 2023)

(Golden, 2022) Having the top government officials on the Mexican cartel's payroll, help the cartels operate with impunity moving tons of drugs around the world and make billions. **One of the biggest obstacles for U.S. law enforcement is overcoming the presence of high-level corruption in Mexico.**

In my view, the United States Government mistakenly views the Mexican cartels as only transnational crime organization, and its current strategy to attack the cartel threat at the

border and in America are insufficient to end the Mexican cartels chaos and massive deaths to Americans. Look at the amounts of young Americans dying daily from their poisonous substances. The production is on the rise and the supply of these poisonous drugs are vast. The United States must accept and come to the realization that the cartels are operating like the most dangerous terrorist organizations in the world.

As far as I know, there has never been a terrorist organization like Al Qaeda, Hezbollah or ISIS, that has killed this many Americans. The U.S. government assessment of the cartels must be updated. From my perspective, it doesn't matter what the U.S.G. decides to name the cartels, but rather what does matter is that the cartels are held fully accountable with the right force. The consequences for their actions must be appropriate based on their level of devastation they have caused American families. On September 11, 2001, approximately 3000 Americans were killed, and the U.S. responded appropriately. With hundreds of thousands being killed from poisonous fentanyl, it's about time the cartels feel the full force of America.

The U.S. and Mexico efforts and strategies against the Mexican cartels have been proven to be ineffective in its ability to curtail and significantly reduce the level of drug trafficking and violence inflicted by the cartels. America must confront the level of violence and terror carried out by the cartels. The U.S.G. should not limit the strategy to combat the cartels with law enforcement alone. Additional capabilities must be put on the table to combat the Mexican "terror" cartels. The U.S.G must use whatever authorities are needed to create a seamless plan to bridge the gap between the law enforcement, military, and the intelligence community to decimate these ruthless networks.

The cartels utilize military grade weapons and C4 explosives and have been found to be in possession of weapons such as assault rifles, pistols, grenades, RPG rocket launchers, claymore anti-personnel mines and man portable air defense systems. The Mexican cartels have taken control of Mexico through active means of terrorism. During my last trip to the Rio Grande Valle, Texas, I was extremely concerned to learn about the 9000 drones used by the cartels for surveillance inside America especially knowing how the cartels are now dropping C4 explosives on their adversaries in Mexico. It's a threat growing daily on our Southern border and the use of drones and explosives is a huge risk to our brave men and women of CBP who are fighting daily to keep us safe.

On July 12, 2023, as reported in ABC News, A drug cartel set off a coordinated series of seven roadway bombs in western Mexico that killed four police officers and two civilians. The governor of Jalisco state said the explosions were "a trap" set by the cartel to kill law enforcement personnel. This is another recent example of the advanced terrorist style attacks carried out by the Mexican Cartels. (STEVENSON, 2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

• The President should hold a White House Summit immediately to declare a national health and security emergency based on the historic number of deaths from fentanyl and the escalating growing lethal relationship between the Mexican cartels

and the CCN. All Americans must understand this is not the same old drug problem and synthetic drugs have changed the game.

- Create an Operation Warp Speed type of response for Fentanyl like we had for COVID and apply the best practices and lessons learned to address the current fentanyl poisoning crisis.
- The President should direct the Department of Education to implement a mandatory and robust curriculum at all schools to ensure young Americans are learning about the emerging deadly synthetic drug threats.
- The President must mandate the CDC to update the processes on reporting timely and producing accurate statistics on fentanyl and other synthetic drug poisonings and deaths.
- The White House should collaborate with professional athletes, role models, celebrities and social media influencers to start an immediate outreach campaign to push impactful video reels on social media sites targeting the younger generation. The White House is currently using social media influencers to push campaign messages out so why not message about fentanyl to save American lives in the current state of emergency.
- Declare fentanyl a weapon of mass destruction.
- Work with Mexico and provide full U.S. support to decimate the cartel's operations.
 - Hold high level security meetings with the Mexican counterparts to accurately assess their commitment to shut down the cartels and implement bilateral strategies.
 - Offer the use of U.S. military assets for training, capabilities and resources to ensure the appropriate resources are directed at the threats.
 - Apply pressure on Mexico for increased information sharing and bilateral investigations.
 - Increase operations to arrest and extradite the highest members of the cartels to face justice in the U.S.
 - Increase operations in Mexico to identify and destroy fentanyl and methamphetamine manufacturing labs.
 - Consider precision strikes on the cartel's production labs in Mexico.
- Declare the Sinaloa and CJNG cartel's terrorist organizations based on their growing direct threats to the U.S. and Mexico and apply the appropriate U.S. authorities, resources and capabilities.
 - Since this recommendation is stuck in U.S. bureaucracy and doesn't seem to have the full support of U.S. leadership, the U.S. must at least respond appropriately based on the gravity of the threats posed by the cartels. The current response is unacceptable and irresponsible by anyone who took the oath to support the U.S. Constitution and protect America.
- Increase U.S. Treasury designations and sanctions to target people and businesses facilitating the deadly criminal enterprises and flooding America with poisonous drugs. Seize as many assets derived from criminal activity as possible.
- Expand multi-agency task forces with additional resources to target the supply of

precursor chemicals from China and other countries to the Mexican cartels.

- Build up relationships with China, India and other countries involved in shipping pre-cursor chemicals to the cartels.
- Strengthen border security with the polices that work and always place the interest of American citizens first.
 - Need additional scanning resources at the border.
 - Implement border walls with appropriate technology where necessary based on Homeland Security expertise not based on political motives.
 - Continue the border wall construction.
 - Implement remain in Mexico sound and common-sense policies to address the tsunami of illegal migrants entering the U.S.
 - Eliminate the loopholes for the fraudulent asylum claims.
- Office of National Drug Control Policy of U.S should develop Public Service Announcements immediately and establish close partnerships with grieving families and nonprofits who are fighting daily to spread awareness and save lives.
- Hold social media companies accountable for facilitating the movement of deadly drugs and other serious criminal activity like "sextortion" on their platforms.
- Increase resources for mental health, treatment and rehabilitation for drug addiction and apply strict accountability for the resources. Need to articulate the results and progress.
- Provide resources for lab analysis and medical examiners to expedite the process.
- Set up fentanyl death task forces like Task Force 10 in San Diego and multi-agency task forces like in Los Angeles to aggressively prosecute fentanyl dealers who are killing citizens.
 - Increase resources and prosecutions of synthetic drug violators and ensure maximum penalties.
- Establish a more formal DC based multi-agency "Synthetic Drug Task Force" to use existing resources at the National Targeting Center at DOD, National Targeting Center at CBP, DOJ OCDETF Fusion Center, SOD, DEA's Special Intelligence, HIDTAs, HHS, FDA, USPS, Treasury and other key agencies.
 - Build new strategies to stop the complex money laundering schemes used by the CCN to assist the cartels by moving funds efficiently back to the leaders.
- Must address the outdated laws and polices especially related to criminal communications.
 - Work with technology companies and law enforcement to collaborate on the growing concern of encrypted communications and the impacts to national security.
 - Address the DOJ policy regarding the December 16, 2022, memorandum to all federal prosecutors on charging, pleas and sentencing on drug crimes.
 - The perception from law enforcement around America is their own DOJ is way to "soft on criminals". The dedicated law enforcement is working hard to keep citizens safe are feel strongly they are being undermined. There are huge moral issues developing.

- Must engage with mail services companies like UPS, FEDEX, DHL and others to address the movement of deadly substances into America.
 - Need updated technology at mail facilities to screen and identify contraband moving around the country.

******The above is not an all-inclusive list of recommendations to address this very complex and escalating crisis.

CONCLUSION

The Mexican cartels, Sinaloa, and CJNG, currently operate throughout the U.S. and around the globe. They are working with CCN and are flooding America with deadly synthetic drugs. They are operating with impunity while taking full advantages of the vulnerabilities in the U.S. system and failing border policies and immigrations laws. The cartels are growing in strength and power and using advanced technology and weapons systems to grow their operations. Migrants are dying in record numbers on their journey to America and being exploited and trafficked by the cartels at the most inhumane levels we have ever seen.

The current enforcement focus, treating the cartels as only criminal organizations, is not enough to stop the death and destruction. The United States must shut down the cartel's ability to operate with or without Mexico placing the safety and security of Americans first. We must use all authorities and capabilities of not only law enforcement but the Intelligence Community, the Department of Defense and Treasury Department as one force to decimate the cartels.

CBP must focus their resources on border security and not have to be inundated with migrant processing, baby sitting and administrative duties. The country is saturated with crime, drugs and violence fueled by the Mexican cartels and, the cartels are taking full advantage of the massive addiction and the demand for opioids and methamphetamines all over the United States.

During his Senate testimony on February 15, 2023, Dr. Rahul Gupta, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy of U.S., stated the following related to the current drug situation:

- "Worst drug crisis we have ever seen."
- "Unacceptable to me"
- "Unacceptable to the President"
- "Direct threat to public health and national security"
- "New era of drug trafficking"

Based on these statements, the American public and specifically the families who have lost loved ones to poisonous fentanyl, deserve full transparency and way more action. Solving this unprecedented national security and public health crisis won't go away from just words. We need new strategies and way more action. We must recognize that this is something America has never faced before, and we are losing the future generation rapidly. Terrorists will continue to tap into the incredible amounts of money generated from drug trafficking and many other criminal activities such as human trafficking, counterfeiting, weapon sales and sex trafficking so it's imperative that our hard-working law enforcement and other U.S. government personnel get the resources and support to enforce the laws and keep Americans safe.

We need the leadership of the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Executives from the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community to unite and battle these growing adversaries. We also need to work closely with our state and local counterparts who are under resourced trying to deal with this crisis on the front lines. We need to unite our agencies as the complexity of the threats continues to grow. The threats to this great country are moving at lightning speed and we need a sense of urgency at this point. It's evident that the Mexican cartels are moving extremely fast while our investigators and assets are getting "stuck in the mud" of politics, bureaucracy, and antiquated laws.

In my view, fentanyl is a chemical weapon and the narco-terrorists' Mexican cartels are destroying our country as their work closely with the CCN.

We need to step up the game with a sense of urgency. Law enforcement will continue to do their best in enforcing the laws, but America needs Congress and White House leadership to further engage on these growing issues. **The death rates are spiking and impacting Republicans, Democrats and Independents.** We must come together and develop updated strategies to combat these threats.

As DHS Secretary Mayorkas stated during a Senate Hearing in March 2023, **"The record number of Americans dying of fentanyl overdoses is now the "single greatest challenge we face as a country."** Based on this statement, America needs policies and actions consistent to this assessment.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on these important topics impacting our national security and public safety.



(Chart made by Derek Maltz depicting the complexity of crime in America. The gap between "good and evil" is growing rapidly resulting in a more dangerous America)

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IMPACT ON AMERICA FROM MASS FENTANYL POISONINGS HIGHLIGHTS THE **SEVERITY OF THE THREAT FROM** THE MEXICAN CARTELS ALL **OVER THE COUNTRY**



April 06, 2022

Contact: Media Relations Phone Number: (571) 776-2508



DEA Warns of Increase in Mass-Overdose Events Involving Deadly Fentanyl

WASHINGTON – Today, the Drug Enforcement Administration sent a letter to federal, state, and local law enforcement partners warning of a nationwide spike in fentanyl-related mass-overdose events. Administrator Anne Milgram outlined the current threat and offered DEA support to law enforcement officers responding to these tragic incidents.

"Fentanyl is killing Americans at an unprecedented rate," said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. "Already this year, numerous mass-overdose events have resulted in dozens of overdoses and deaths. Drug traffickers are driving addiction, and increasing their profits, by mixing fentanyl with other illicit drugs. Tragically, many overdose victims have no idea they are ingesting deadly fentanyl, until it's too late."

Fentanyl-related mass-overdose events, characterized as three or more overdoses occurring close in time and at the same location, have happened in at least seven American cities in recent months, resulting in 58 overdoses and 29 deaths. Cities impacted include Wilton Manors, Florida; Austin, Texas; Cortez, Colorado; Commerce City, Colorado; Omaha, Nebraska; St. Louis, Missouri; and Washington, D.C.

Tragic events like these are being driven by fentanyl. Fentanyl is highly-addictive, found in all 50 states, and drug traffickers are increasingly mixing it with other illicit drugs — in powder and pill form — in an effort to drive addiction and attract repeat buyers. These mass-overdose events typically occur in one of the following recurring scenarios: when drug dealers sell their product as "cocaine," when it actually contains fentanyl; or when drug dealers sell pills designed to appear nearly identical to legitimate prescriptions, but are actually fake prescription pills containing fentanyl. This is creating a frightening nationwide trend where many overdose victims are dying after unknowingly ingesting fentanyl.



Police say 10 people died in fatal fentanyl overdoses in Northeast D.C.

Authorities have tied lethal drugs to a single batch sold in Trinidad and Ivy City

By Peter Hermann

April 12, 2022 at 5:21 p.m. EDT

The Washington Post



<u>Ten people</u> in two neighborhoods in Northeast Washington have now died from a lethal batch of fentanyl, police said, the second mass-casualty incident involving the deadly opioid in the District this year.

Police said at least 17 people overdosed on cocaine laced with fentanyl in Trinidad and Ivy City from Saturday morning through Monday evening, and seven of them survived.

In January, <u>nine people died</u> after taking a similar concoction in a neighborhood near Nationals Park.

On March 10, 2022, 6 individuals overdosed at a rental property in Wilton Manors, Florida after being exposed to a substance that they believed was cocaine, but contained fentanyl.

On March 4, 2022, **21** individuals overdosed, 3 of whom died, at a homeless shelter in downtown Austin, Texas after ingesting crack-cocaine and **methamphetamine** laced with fentanyl.

On March 3, 2022, 3 individuals overdosed and died in a hotel room in Cortez, Colorado after ingesting what that they believed were 30mg oxycodone pills, but which were in fact fake prescription pills containing fentanyl.

On February 20, 2022, **6** individuals overdosed, 5 of whom died, in the same apartment in Commerce City, Colorado after ingesting a substance that they believed was pure **cocaine** but was in fact pure fentanyl.

On February 6, 2022, **4** individuals overdosed, 2 of whom died, in the same apartment complex in Omaha, Nebraska after ingesting a substance that they believed was **cocaine**, but contained fentanyl.

Between February 5-7, 2022, **8** individuals overdosed, 7 of whom died, at an apartment complex in St. Louis, Missouri after ingesting **crack-cocaine** laced with fentanyl.

On January 28, 2022, **10** individuals overdosed, 9 of whom died, within the same city block in Washington, D.C. after ingesting **crack-cocaine** laced with fentanyl.





People May 06, 2022

Ohio State Issues Warning About 'Fake Adderall' Pills Laced with Fentanyl After 2 Students Die

"While we strongly discourage any kind of drug misuse, if you, or someone you know, may choose to experiment with drugs," the OSU statement continued, "...consider confidentially picking up a free Naloxone kit or fentanyl test strips..."









El Paso DEA warns of an opioid epidemic after 9 overdoses in 36 hours a total of nine patients were taken to local hospitals after they experienced signs of drug overdose. Additionally, El Paso Police officials said two people died of an accidental overdose.

May 30, 2022



DSM 071923





Police warn public after 9 opioid overdoses in St. Paul over 24 hours



June 9, 2022

Police are warning members of the public after they've responded to nine suspected opioid overdoses over the course of the past 24 hours.

The St. Paul Police Department issued an "OD Alert" due to the incidents. Officers say all nine recent overdose patients survived. However, over the past five days, the city has reported five overdose deaths.

The alert is a reminder of the dangers of using street drugs. If you have access to naloxone, the opioid antidote, police say you should carry it with you.



10 dead from fentanyl: Number of fatal overdoses in Will County growing









Crime & Safety

WILL COUNTY, III. — The Will County Coroner's Office says 10 deaths in 24 hours could be tied to overdoses, prompting a new warning about deadly drugs in the suburbs.

Will County Coroner Laurie Summers said a recent spike in drug overdose deaths linked to heroin on the market laced with lethal doses of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid up to 100 times more potent than morphine.

Coroner Laurie Summers is urging family members and friends of suspected abusers to READ this alert and to understand that there is likely street drugs that contain lethal doses of fentanyl.

Drugs Kill 3 More Joliet Residents: Coroner Jun 13, 2022

Last week, Will County's Coroner reported at least 10 known probable drug overdose deaths that her office was called to investigate.





1 dead, 4 hospitalized after overdosing at Grand Rapids-area hotel

The Kent County Sheriff's Office says having five people overdose in one room together is ''unique'' and a very big concern.

June 21, 2022













Jun 28, 2022

One of 5 overdoses at Tryon International Equestrian Center was linked to fentanyl-laced lollipop







-One of the five overdoses was linked to Fentanyl-laced lollipop

-Happened at Tryon Equestrian Center









Jul. 4, 2022

Death toll climbs to 9 from drug overdoses in Gadsden County

"We suspect that this was due to some type of opioid poisoning such as Fentanyl,"

Sheriff Morris Young.

Gadsden County sees a deadly spike in fentanyl overdoses

Drug Enforcement Administration

"Today we learned of another potential mass fentanyl poisoning event in Gadsden County, Florida. We send our deepest condolences to the multiple families involved. This tragedy demonstrates yet again the extreme danger of fentanyl, which we continue to seize in all 50 states, often hidden in other drugs or made into fake pills. The men and women of the DEA are committed to bringing to justice the criminal drug networks and dealers that are killing Americans by deliberately distributing fentanyl and deceptively mixing it into other substances and into fake pills."

DEA ADMINISTRATOR ANNE MILGRAM

DEA Administrator Anne Milgram's statement about the Gadsden County fentanyl overdoses.



Preliminary findings suggest the deaths are due to drugs like cocaine and marijuana being laced with fentanyl, according to investigators.





COMMITTEE ON Homeland Security CILIEMAN MARK GREEN

#DEA

Www.Facebook.Com/DEAHQ / Facebook

7 people found unresponsive after taking bad drugs laced with Fentanyl, Tampa police say

Seven people have been hospitalized due to consuming drugs laced with Fentanyl When officers arrived, they found six people on the ground, all of whom were having a difficult time breathing.

Several were unresponsive, police said.

Several of the victims needed to be revived with Narcan.





ALBERT WYCHE





July 18, 2022





Gwinnett County Police are warning of an

41 overdoses in 18 days: Metro Atlanta county

is warning of a sudden overdose spike

overdose spike













HUNTSVILLE

Fentanyl suspected in at least 6 overdose deaths in Madison County



"We had literally 6 overdose deaths in less than 48 hours," said Executive Director of the Partnership for a Drug-Free Community, Wendy Reeves. She said those deaths were reported between 3:00 am on Sunday and 2:00 pm on Tuesday afternoon.

Madison County Coroner, Dr. Tyler Berryhill, said since then, two more overdose deaths have been reported. He said Fentanyl is suspected in those deaths, however, they are waiting on the results from a toxicology report.

"Nobody ever took these drugs this week with the intention to harm themself or to cause death,"

syracuse.com



Aug. 03, 2022

Onondaga County sees 14 opioid overdoses in one day. Spike linked to fentanyl



ongovhealth Onondaga County Health Department





Onondaga County is seeing a significant spike in opioid overdoses, including at least 14 overdoses that occurred over a 24-hour period Monday, according to the county Health Department.

The department reported its overdose tracking system shows there has been a rise in overdose activity over the past two months. The tracking system gathers data about overdoses from first responders.



August 8, 2022



Fentanyl accounted for 89% of 2021 overdose deaths in Franklin County



Franklin County experienced a significant number of overdose deaths for yet another year. During the past few years, the county has seen a dramatic increase in overdose deaths, which mirrors what is seen in several other counties across the United States.





7th LAUSD teen overdoses from possible fentanyl-laced pills SEPT. 21, 2022 **Los Angeles Times**

At least seven teenagers, including the 15-year-old Bernstein High School girl who died last week, have overdosed in the last month from pills possibly containing fentanyl, according to the Los Angeles Police Department.





Four people overdose on fentanyl in San Francisco's Mission District in one night



Oct. 5, 2022

San Francisco firefighters and medics responded to a report of four adults who overdosed on Monday night at 24th and Mission streets near the BART station, officials said.





Sep 27, 2022

Eight drug overdoses reported in Kankakee County



KANKAKEE — Kankakee County Coroner Bob Gessner said there were eight fentanyl overdoses reported during the weekend.

Of those eight, two victims died and a third is in critical condition in a local hospital

It is the second time there have been mass overdoses in the county this year.

In January, seven people overdosed with two dying







Oct. 6, 2022



16 possible fentanyl-related deaths in short span prompt public health alert

CINCINNATI (WXIX) - Hamilton County health officials are issuing a public health alert due to a possibly high level of fentanyl in drugs causing 16 overdose deaths in the span of a few days.

From Sept. 30 through Oct. 5, Hamilton County Public Health says there has been "abnormal changes in overdose-related activity."

During that six-day period, health officials say there were 16 preliminary overdose deaths.



3 dead from apparent fentanyl overdose in Stamford

















Oct. 23, 2022







Three New Yorkers Ordered Cocaine From the Same Delivery Service. All Died From Fentanyl. Cocaine, long popular among New York professionals, is now often tainted with fentanyl, catching users unprepared and driving drug fatalities



3 men who died in suspected drug overdose in Denver were brothers



November 1, 2022



DENVER — The three men who were found dead in Denver on Sunday after a suspected drug overdose were related, according to family.

Police were called to an apartment on Kittredge Street in northeast Denver around 5:30 p.m. Sunday. On Tuesday, the coroner's office identified the three men who died there as 28-year-old Darren King Jr., 30-year-old Terrance King and 31-year-old Jairon Jackson.



November 10, 2022

2 dead, 2 hospitalized in possible overdose in University Heights

First responders revived two of them with Narcan -- a drug used to counteract the effects of fentanyl -- and transported them to a hospital, SDPD said.



First responders revived two of them with Narcan -- a drug used to counteract the effects of fentanyl -- and transported them to a hospital, SDPD said.

San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit told CBS 8 that a man and a woman in their 30s were found dead in the home after someone called 911 about their roommates not waking up. He also said drugs were found in the home.

During a joint news conference Thursday with Mayor Todd Gloria on the fight against fentanyl, Chief Nisleit spoke about the overdose.



5 possible overdose victims rushed to hospital in Granada Hills

NOVEMBER 13, 2022







Four overdose deaths in 24 hours in Kershaw County



November 17, 2022



KERSHAW COUNTY, S.C. — Kershaw County Sheriff Lee Boan says his county is on pace to have the worst year on record of drug overdose deaths.

On Thursday the department posted an update that in a 24 hour stretch, 11 overdoses were called in, with four resulting in deaths.





2 students possibly overdose at Dekaney High School in Harris Co., officials say

By FOX 26 Digital and Gabby Hart | Published November 17, 2022 12:55PM | Updated November 18, 2022 12:26PM | Spring | FOX 26 Houston

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS - On Thursday, FOX 26 received reports about a drug overdose at a local high school, videos circulating on social media show two students passed out at Dekaney High School





The scare happened on Thursday morning when two female students passed out in the cafeteria, one video shows school personnel and EMTs giving them CPR.

Coroner: Investigation underway after 2 dead, 2 hurt in Anderson County following overdose Nov. 20, 2022





ANDERSON, S.C. (FOX Carolina) - The Anderson County Sheriff's Office is investigating after two people were found dead and one person was injured on Jones Street.

The Anderson County Coroner's Office said officials responded at around 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20 to a report of drug overdose. Deputies said at that time one person was taken to AnMed for treatment.

At around 6:44 a.m., the coroner said another call came and once on scene officials found two individuals were found dead outside a house and one person was found inside suffering from an overdose.

Montgomery County issues alert after 14 overdose deaths in week



Dayton Daily News

November 21, 2022

An overdose surge alert was issued Monday by Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County after 14 people died in one week by suspected accidental overdoses.

The deaths occurred between Nov. 13 and Nov. 19, health department spokesman Dan Suffoletto said.

"Fourteen deaths in one week is a huge number, even taking into consideration what we've been through over the last couple of years," said Dawn Schwartz, project manager for the Montgomery County Community Overdose Action Team.

"You have to think about if we have that many deaths, think about how many overdoses we had both reported and not reported that didn't result in death in that same week. It's important for us to get out into the community that apparently there is some really, really bad stuff going on."

Broome overdose spike: 7 deaths in 11 days

Dec 9, 2022

BINGHAMT homepage

BROOME COUNTY, NY – Broome County is once again experiencing a significant spike in drug overdose deaths.

According to the Broome County Health Department, there have been a suspected **7 deaths over the course** of the past 11 days.

The total number of deaths this year is already 75 compared to 54 last year.





BAY AREA

Six people treated in possible mass overdose on Christmas Day

by: <u>Tori Gaines</u> Posted: Dec 26, 2022 / 12:56 PM PST Updated: Dec 26, 2022 / 01:20 PM PST

SAN FRANCISCO (KRON) — Six people were treated for possible drug overdoses on Christmas Day, according to the San
Francisco Fire Department. At 2:30 p.m., fire crews responded to the 1700 block of Post Street where they found six adult patients suffering from possible drug overdoses inside of a residence.





Onondaga County reports 25 fentanyl-related overdoses in last 24 hours



by Emma Misiaszek | Thursday, January 12th 2023

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The Onondaga County Health Department reported at 4:30 p.m. Thursday that in the last 24 hours, approximately 25 overdoses have been reported in Onondaga County.

Initial information is showing a possible link to fentanyl-laced spike/spice, an illegal synthetic drug. Other substances that can potentially be laced with fentanyl include cocaine, molly, MDMA and other illicit drugs.



Crime & Safety

Onondaga County reporting 14 fentanyl overdoses in just 36 hours

Updated: Dec. 22, 2022, 5:30 p.m. | Published: Dec. 22, 2022, 1:35 p.m.

COMMITTEE ON Homeland Securit

6 hospitalized after fentanyl overdoses at Mount Greenwood bar in Chicago

CHICAGO

BY CBS CHICAGO TEAM

UPDATED ON: JANUARY 24, 2023 / 8:20 AM / CBS CHICAGO



CHICAGO (CBS) -- **Six people** were hospitalized after overdosing on fentanyl at a bar in Chicago's Mount Greenwood neighborhood.

The Chicago Fire Department was called to Lawlor's Bar in the 3600 block of West 111th Street Sunday afternoon.

According to CFD, two victims were transported to Advocate Christ Medical Center where they were stabilized. Three others were transported to Little Company of Mary Medical Center, where they were also stabilized.





Montana Department of Justice O

Drug Overdose Alert There appears to be a spike in Fentanyl-related overdoses in Cascade, Custer, Flathead, Gallatin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Ravalli, Silver Bow, and Yellowstone counties. Since January 11, there have been at least 28 opioid overdoses identified and at least eight fatalities. Please, do not use any pill or prescription drug you haven't been prescribed. Click the link for signs that indicate an overdose and call 9-1-1 if you suspect someone is experiencing a drug overdose. https://nbcmontana.com/.../10-montana-counties-see-uptick-in-...

Fentanyl has been found locally in these substances:

M30 pills

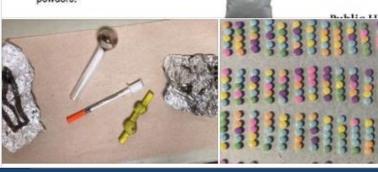
These are the most common pills containing fentanyl in our area.



V48 & A215 pills

These pills, although less common, may also contain fentanyl.

Powders Fentanyl can also be found in white powders.



28 fentanyl overdoses, 8 deaths reported in Montana over 10 day period



Jan 24, 2023

G

MISSOULA - State health officials are again warning residents about fentanyl after nearly 30 overdoses were reported in a 10-day time frame this past month.

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) reports **28 overdoses, including eight deaths**, occurred between Jan. 11 and Jan. 21.

Overdoses have been reported in 11 counties, including in Flathead, Lake, Missoula and Ravalli



HACKENSACK — One of the five women who overdosed on fentanyl in a car parked at the Shops at Riverside has died, according to the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office.

The women aged 29 to 41 were found passed out on fentanyl inside a car in the parking garage on March 15. Four were hospitalized and one refused after they were all revived using Naloxone (Narcan).





NEWS

Three dead in apparent overdose case in New Rochelle



Jonathan Bandler

Rockland/Westchester Journal News

Published 9:53 a.m. ET March 26, 2023 Updated 12:26 p.m. ET March 26, 2023



Three men died and a fourth was in critical condition after apparently overdosing Saturday afternoon in New Rochelle, police said.



50 Fountain Place. New Rochelle, where four men overdosed, three fatally, on March 25, 2023 Jonathan Bandler/lohud

Health News

syracuse.com

Onondaga County reports 40 drug overdoses in 48-hour period

Updated: Mar. 31, 2023, 3:38 p.m. | Published: Mar. 31, 2023, 1:28 p.m.





8 overdoses - one fatal - in 24 hours, St. Lawrence County, New York



CANTON, New York (WWNY) - After eight drug overdoses in 24 hours, St. Lawrence County officials are warning residents that any illegal drugs they take could contain fentanyl or xylazine. One of the overdoses was fatal, officials say.



The warning came Thursday in a joint statement from the county's sheriff's office and its public health, addiction services, and emergency services departments.

"This is very abnormal. It's a first for our county to have this many overdoses in one night," said St. Lawrence County Public Health Director Jolene Munger.

According to public health, most of the overdoses stemmed from a batch of cocaine laced with fentanyl. But in a first for the county, some were the result of marijuana that had also been laced with fentanyl.

"If you think you're going to a store to purchase marijuana and you think it's going to be safe because you purchased it from a store, you still do not know what you are buying because they are not licensed by the state," said Munger.



8 OVERDOSES IN 24 HOURS



6 men overdose on fentanyl in Oceanside

First responders revived the patients with naloxone, firefighters said

By Danielle Smith • Published 3 hours ago • Updated 3 hours ago









The Washington Post Democracy Dies in Darkness

Fentanyl has taken a record toll on the Army. Families demand answers.

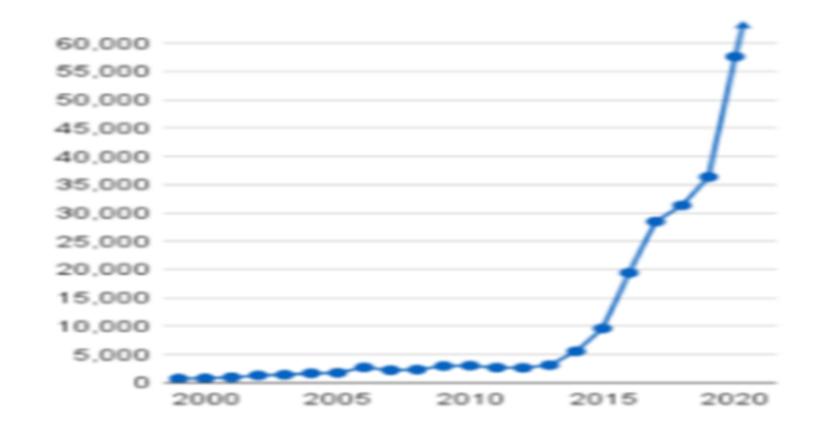
By <u>Meryl Kornfield</u>, <u>Kyle Rempfer</u> and <u>Steven Rich</u> June 12, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. EDT





Fentanyl Deaths Per Year

United States





Synthetic Opioid Deaths

Source: Families Against Fentanyl

DSM 071923



SIGNIFICANT DRUG SEIZURES IN AMERICA HIGHLIGHTING THE SEVERITY OF THE THREAT

DSM 071923





Federal Charges Filed following Record-breaking Seizure of Fentanyl and Meth

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - November 19, 2021

SAN DIEGO – Acting U.S. Attorney Randy Grossman announced federal drug charges today against Carlos Martin Quintana-Arias of Mexico, following the seizure yesterday of 17,584 pounds of methamphetamine and 388.93 pounds of fentanyl from a commercial trailer attempting entry at the Otay Mesa, California, Commercial Port of Entry. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) confirmed that both drug seizures would be the largest in each drug category, for both this year and last year, in the entire United States.

The Complaint alleges that on November 18, 2021, at approximately 8:18 p.m., Quintana-Arias, a Mexican citizen, applied for entry into the U.S. as the driver and sole occupant of a 2009 Kenworth Tractor pulling a 1996 Stoug trailer. Quintana-Arias' manifest reflected the trailer contained automotive body parts. However, according to the Complaint, an X-Ray machine detected anomalies inside the trailer and a drug detection dog alerted to the rear door of the trailer.

Further inspection of the trailer's contents revealed a few automotive body parts among 6,266 packages of drugs. Of the total drug packages, 6,106 packages contained a substance that field-tested positive for methamphetamine; these packages together weighed approximately 7,976.2 kilograms (17,584.33 pounds). The other 160 packages contained a substance that field-tested positive for fentanyl and weighed approximately176.42 kilograms (388.93 pounds).

"This is a staggering seizure that demonstrates the extent of our current fight against mass production of methamphetamine and fentanyl. But for the vigilance of our law enforcement partners, this recordbreaking deluge of drugs would have caused incredible damage in our communities." said Acting U.S. Attorney Randy Grossman. "We commend our partner agencies for their tireless work and dedication to preventing these dangerous and deadly drugs from entering our country."

Record-breaking amounts of meth and fentanyl seized in San Diego

More than 17,500 lbs of meth and 389 lbs of fentanyl were seized from a tractor-trailer at the Otay Mesa Port last Thursday

Trucker arrested in record-breaking drug seizure at border



FILE - The U.S. Attorney's Office says more than 17,500 pounds of meth and 389 pounds of fentanyl were discovered last Thursday hidden inside a tractor-trailer at the Otav Mesa Port of Entry in San Diego. (Associated Press)





DEA seizes record 1 million fentanyl-laced pills in California It's the biggest seizure of fentanyl pills in California history

July 15, 2022

It's the biggest seizure of fentanyl pills in California history and the pills have an estimated street value of between \$15 million and \$20 million







This massive seizure disrupted the flow of dangerous amounts of fentanyl into our streets and probably saved many lives. The deceptive marketing coupled with the ease of accessibility makes these small and seemingly innocuous pills a significant threat to the health and safety of all our communities. A staggering number of teens and young adults are unaware that they are ingesting fentanyl in these fake pills and are being poisoned.

BILL BODNER

Los Angeles Field Division



OVER 1.1 MILLION FENTANYL PILLS SEIZED IN THE LAST 7 DAYS AUGUST 6, 2022 AT THE NOGALES POE



DSM 071923



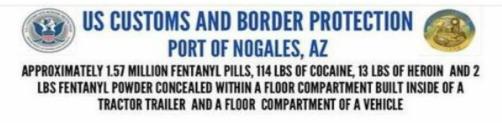
PARENTS BEWARE: "The Mexican Cartels are the Enemy of the Children"

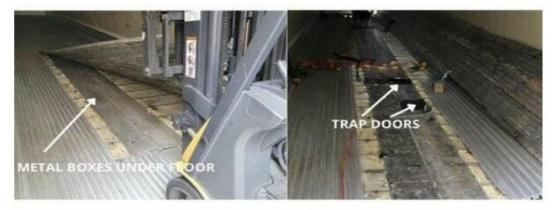
This Distribution Tactic and Marketing Brings a New Level of Danger for American Kids





US Border Agents Seize 1.6 Million Fentanyl Pills In Big-Rig, Destined For US Cities







H ZeroHedge AUG 22, 2022

Drugs were discovered in an 18-Wheeler trailer floor compartment. The vehicle was attempting to cross into Arizona from Mexico at the Nogales Port of Entry when CBP agents stopped it for inspection.





Millions in cash, fentanyl seized in raid

It may be the biggest seizure of drugs and money in New Mexico history.

Federal search warrant returns unsealed Friday revealed the discovery of up to \$4 million in bulk cash and what authorities said could be a record amount of fentanyl pills at one of 15 Albuquerque locations searched Thursday as part of an ongoing FBI investigation into a new evolving alliance among street and prison gangs in the state.

The deadly pills, believed to be destined for distribution in New Mexico, totaled more than 1 million. About 142 pounds of methamphetamine was also recovered, along with two hand grenades, ballistic vests, a bulletproof baseball cap, 37 firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition.









DSM 071923

Over 1 million fentanyl pills seized by officers; single largest bust in Phoenix Police's history







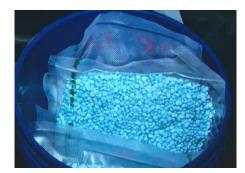
South Carolina deputies seize 30,000 grams of fentanyl, arrest 6

Oct 25, 2022



COMMITTEE ON Homeland Security





During the execution of one search warrant on Golden Pond Dr in Clover, investigators said they seized around 30,531 grams of fentanyl, 2869 grams of cocaine, 704 grams of methamphetamine, 454 grams of marijuana, four firearms and seven pill presses used to manufacture illegal pills.









Port Director Michael W. Humphries 🤣 @CBPPortDirNOG

On January 13th, CBP officers at the Nogales POE seized approximately 953,000 fentanyl pills and 2.65 pounds of cocaine concealed within commercial equipment in a vehicle. Most of the pills were the traditional blue color, some were green in color and some were "rainbow colored".



US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION Port of Nogales, AZ

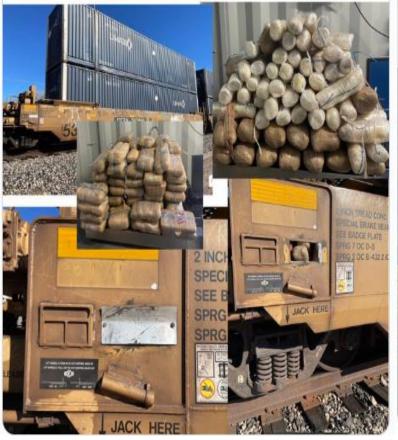
Nearly 1 million fentanly pills prevented from reaching U.S communities



. Port Director Michael W. Hump... 🤣 @CBPPortDir... · Dec 21, 2022 ···· Port Director Michael W. Hump... 🤣 @CBPPortDir... · Dec 29, 2022 ····

On Wednesday, CBP officers working rail operations at the Nogales POE searched a train entering from Mexico and discovered a compartment in a spine rail car that contained approximately 736,200 fentanyl pills and 196 pounds of meth.





CBP officers stopped two loads on Wednesday. First load contained approx. 541,000 fentanyl pills, 4 lbs fentanyl powder and 37.55 lbs of meth concealed in doors and rear panels of a car. Seven hours later, approx. 689,200 fentanyl pills were found hidden throughout a vehicle.



One day, over 1.2 million fentanyl pills, 4 pounds fentanyl powder and 37.55 pounds meth



In the first 3 months of FY23, the Nogales POE has already surpassed the total amount of fentanyl seized throughout all of FY22, which was already a record year.





COMMITTEE ON Homeland Security

Biggest drug bust in Mesa PD history: 700K+ fentanyl pills, 15 lbs of hard drugs found









Feb. 21, 2023

DPS finds over 1.2 million fentanyl pills while investigating crash in Sacaton

GILA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION GILA RIVER Sacaton Galage Galage Casa Grande Stanfeld Arizola Galage Casa Grande Stanfeld Arizola



The estimated street value of the fentanyl found is about \$5.1 million. (Arizona's Family) By Tianna Morimoto Published: Feb. 21, 2023 at 8:47 PM EST





Drug Enforcement Administration

Cheri Oz Special Agent in Charge

Phoenix @DEAPhoenixDive February 23, 2023 Contact: Jodie Underwood Phone Number: (571) 387-3289

For Immediate Release

DEA, Arizona Attorney General & Tempe Police Announce 150+ Subjects Charged & Massive Quantities of Narcotics Seized



Seizure of over 4.5 million fentanyl laced fake prescription pills, 66 kilograms of fentanyl powder, 138 kilograms of cocaine, 3100 pounds of methamphetamine, 35 kilograms of heroin, 49 firearms and over \$2 million dollars.



Los Angeles Times

MARCH 10, 2023

CALIFORNIA



3 arrested, 1 million fentanyl pills seized in undercover sting, authorities say

10,000 fentanyl pills to the buyers for \$7,500



A Los Angeles regional drug task force seized 1 million fentanyl pills and arrested three Mexican nationals during a sting operation this week after a confidential informant working with the task force brokered a deal for a massive buy, according to court records.

The three men from Sinaloa, Mexico, were charged by federal prosecutors with one count each of possession-controlled substances with intent to distribute.

Florencio Camacho Allan, 28; Gerardo Gaixola-Patino, 29; and Alex Valdez Oroz, 25, are being held in a Los Angeles detention facility after making an appearance Thursday in U.S. District Court in downtown Los Angeles.



200,000 Pills, fentanyl Powder, Methamphetamine, and Cocaine Seized in Washington Heights Search El Dorado Task Force- New York City

June 2, 2023













U.S. Border Patrol at San Diego Crossing Seizes \$2.5 Million Worth of Fentanyl Hidden Inside Porcelain Sinks



07/02/23

A vehicle screening alerted officers to 'anomalies within the shipment'



A 45-year-old Mexican national applied for entry through the Otay Mesa Port of Entry located in San Diego while driving a white 2000 Ford cargo van carrying porcelain sinks.



"Narcotics traffickers will try new and innovative ways to smuggle dangerous drugs across our border, but CBP officers are always on their toes," said Rosa Hernandez, Port Director for the Otay Mesa entry.



NEW DRUGS EMERGING AROUND THE COUNTRY ALSO HIGHLIGHTING THE SEVERITY OF THE THREAT AND INFLUENCE OF CHINESE CRIMINAL NETWORKS



Newsweek 7/22/22

NITAZENES

New Drug About 10 Times Stronger Than Fentanyl Circulating in Colorado

Pyro, the street name of a new drug that is stronger than the high-risk narcotic fentanyl, has been circulating in Colorado and recently reportedly killed at least one person in Denver.

COMMITTEE ON Homeland Security

The N-pyrrolidino Etonitazene drug is a high-potency synthetic opioid that is between 1,000 and 1,500 times stronger than morphine, while fentanyl is only around 100 times stronger than morphine, local news station KKCO reported on Thursday.

Detroit DEA warns of animal tranquilizer street drug 'Tranq'

where Narcan has no effect



A new trend the agency is monitoring closely is the rise in use of a relatively easy-to-get animal tranquilizer called xylazine. It is known on the streets – as Tranq. We are hiring technologists now for the fintech of tomorrow. "We have seen xylazine within our field division, so Ohio and Detroit," said Special Agent in Charge Orville Greene of the Detroit DEA

Florida leads the nation in overdose deaths related to new synthetic drug, CDC data shows



August 13, 2022

Florida is leading the nation in overdose deaths with a new synthetic drug called eutylone.

Eutylone is a synthetic psychoactive bath salt. Just last year it was listed as the seventh most identified drug detected in over 8,000 cases.

> **GROWING AND ALARMING THREATS**

Flesh-eating drug 'tranq' meant for animals now linked to thousands of heroin, fentanyl ODs Way Ock POST September 25, 2022

The flesh-eating animal tranquilizer xylazine has been linked to thousands of drug overdoses across the country as it inundates heroin and fentanyl supplies in places such as Philadelphia, Delaware and Michigan, reports say.

Known on the street as "tranq," the sedative is now found in 91% of Philly's heroin and fentanyl supplies, according to a report earlier this month in the peer-reviewed journal Science Direct.





La Crosse police investigating 9 recent fatal drug overdoses

yesterday

January 25, 2023

2023's first three weeks.



RELATED TOPICS Health Addiction and treatment La Crosse Opioids amid concerns that a powerful animal tranquilizer may be present in the local illicit opioid supply. The La Crosse Police Department, the city's mayor, Gundersen Health System and Tri-State Ambulance warned the community Tuesday about the high number of fatal overdoses during

LA CROSSE, Wis. (AP) - La Crosse police are investigating nine recent drug overdose deaths

Toxicology reports on those overdose deaths are pending, and it may take weeks to complete, the La Crosse Tribune reported.

But the deaths have raised concerns that the animal tranquilizer xylazine, known as "tranq," may have entered local illicit supplies of fentanyl, heroin and cocaine. The tranquilizer can leave users in an hours-long stupor, and it also causes slowed breathing that interferes with the effectiveness of naloxone, a medication used to reverse opioid overdoses.

"We want those who are struggling with substance abuse to know there is possibly a dangerous mix here in our community," said Jason Melby, La Crosse's assistant chief of police.



The ineffectiveness of naloxone in treating the recent overdoses highlights the importance of emergency care, such as supportive breathing, that can keep overdose patients alive even if the medication fails, said Dr. Chris Eberlein with emergency medicine at Gundersen Health System.



DEVASTATING IMPACT TO FAMILIES AND THE FUTURE **GENERATION IN AMERICA** FROM DEADLY DRUGS **IMPORTED INTO THE USA**



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LOST TEEN VOICES OF FENTA LOVED BEYOND WORDS MISSED BEYOND MECISIRE

Joel

Forever 19

Brianna

Forever 19

Jessalyn

Cameron

Forever 18

Daniel

Forever 16

Brian

Forever 18

Carlu

Lake

Forever 18

Ariel

Forever 19

Jason

Forever 18

Whitney

Drew

Forever 19

Illiana

Forever 18

Miles

Forever 19

Ashleu

Arnold

Forever 17

Jacob

Forever 18

Annabelle

Forever 18

Kole

Danica

Forever 17

Kinhthi

Forever 19

Cooper

Neal

Forever 16

Alexia

Forever 19

Eddie

Forever 18

Thomas

6

Alexis

Forever 16

James

Forever 19

Breeanna

Ruan

Forever 17

Deenilson

Forever 19

Nathan





Ioshua

Forever 14

Brady

Forever 19

Jackson

Forever 15

Abigil



Forever 18

Cole





Connor





Forever 15





Forever 19





Forever 17

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Forever 18 🚆 Forever 17 🜉





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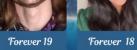
Forever 19

Forever 18

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Forever 19

DSM 071923

Cameron

Forever 16

Luke

Collin



Forever 18



Alexia

Forever 18

Forever 19

Jay Jay

Forever 16

Tori

Forever 17 Harley

Joseph

Weston





Forever 16

Forever 19

Trenton





Sarah, 33

C







Matthew, 20

Travis, 40

Daniel, 16 California

Devin, 19

Seth, 21

Mariah, 27

¹ National Fentanyl

Prevention & Awareness



Christian, 19

North Carolina

Ava, 24

Allen, 22

North Carolina

Tristan, 26

Florida

Ashely, 23



Deenilson, 19 California

Michiko, 23

Kentucku

Brian, 18

Florida

Serenity, 1 Washington

Clifton, 32



Luke, 25 Michigan



Lisha, 28 New York

Brandon, 29 California



Texas

In honor of the many lives

lost to fentanyl poisoning,





Chase, 30 Kentucky

Quintenn, 20

Cade. 18

Wisconsir



lordynn, 2 Ohio

Heavven, 24

North Carolina

Roy, 21 Michiaan

Luca, 13 California



Morgan, 23





James, 34 Marlin. 39 Virainia Colorado

Cassandra, 32 Colorado

Kristina, 37

Colorado







Sebastian, 24 Romello, 22

Zachariah 1 Arizona



























James, 30 Owen, 15 Tennessee Ohio

Steven, 21















































affected families all over America have been a constant voice, warning about illicit fentanyl and sudden death.







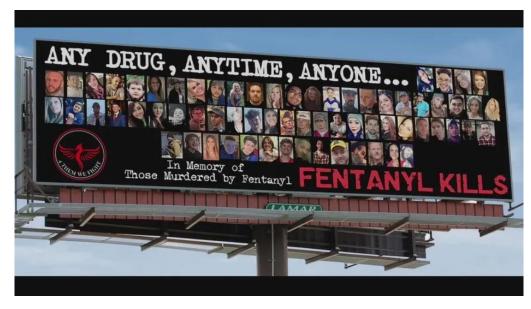






Report: WI fentanyl-related overdose deaths rose 1,000 % from 2015-2021









"The current unprecedented fentanyl poisoning crisis that's killing our kids at record levels is not a or issue, it's a RED, WHITE and BLUE issue. Need all Americans to work together NOW to SAVE LIVES"



Derek S Maltz

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