



# Current Drug Threats in Utah (Sept/2023)

Drug Intelligence Officer  
SIAC / DPS / HIDTA



# Utah Drug Monitoring Initiative



## Utah Drug Monitoring Initiative Annual Report

Analysis of the impact related to illicit drug use  
September 2021

This report addresses DHS HSEC Codes: HSEC-5.9.6, HSEC 5.9.7, HSEC 6.2.1, HSEC 6.2.3

Attention: "Receipt of this information constitutes acceptance of all terms and conditions regarding its use, handling, storage, further dissemination or destruction. At a minimum, recipient acknowledges a commitment to protect privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties, in the collection, use, analysis, retention, destruction, sharing and can be shared freely without restriction."

Scope Note - This joint report was completed based on information obtained from the Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS), Utah Department of Health, Utah Office of the Medical Examiner, Utah DPS Crime Laboratories, Utah Poison Control Center, and state and local law enforcement agencies. This assessment will focus on data obtained regarding the impact of illicit fentanyl use in Utah. Some data sets are not available to the current year, so the most recent data available will be represented. All data obtained from medical professionals did not include personally identifiable information and complies with all data sharing agreements. Data may also vary from year to year based on methods utilized to compile certain data sets. Data



## Utah Drug Monitoring Initiative Fentanyl Report

A joint publication of public health and public safety  
June 2021

This report addresses DHS HSEC Codes: HSEC-5.9.6, HSEC 5.9.7, HSEC 6.2.1, HSEC 6.2.3 and SIAC Standing Information Requirements: UTSIAC-05-04

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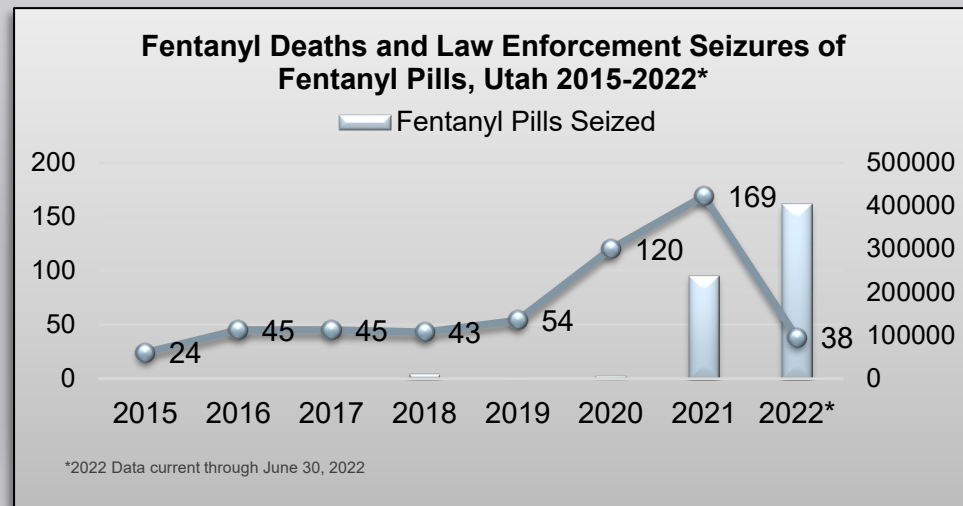
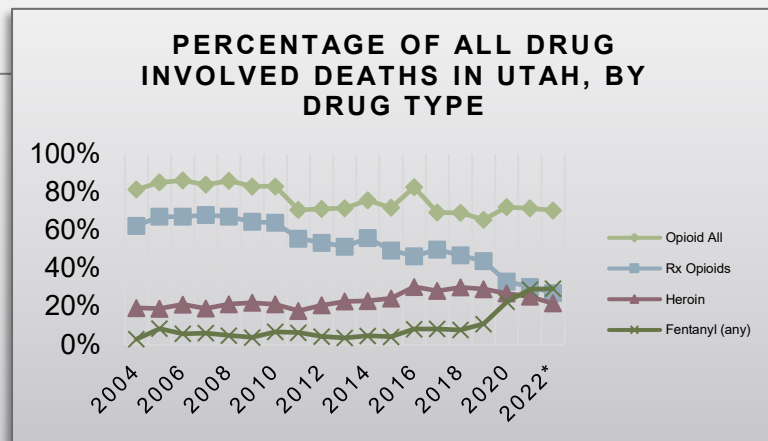
## Utah Drug Monitoring Initiative Methamphetamine Report

Analysis of the impact related to methamphetamine in Utah - 2022  
January 2022

This report addresses DHS HSEC Codes: HSEC-5.9.6, HSEC 5.9.7, HSEC 6.2.1, HSEC 6.2.3 and SIAC Standing Information Requirements: UTSIAC-05-04

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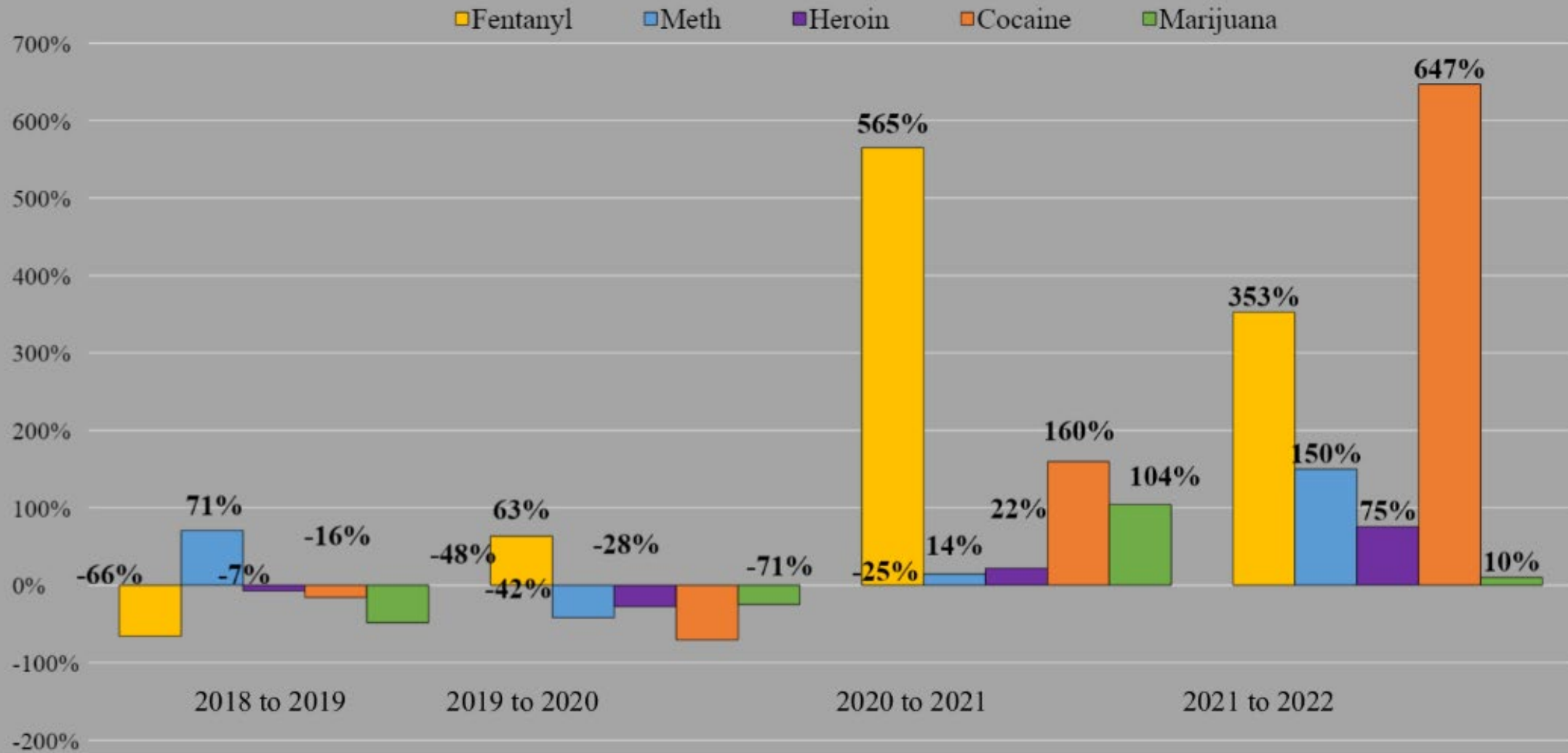
# Utah Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) partners

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- Utah Dept of Health and Human Services
- Utah Dept of Public Safety – SIAC & SBI
- Rocky Mountain HIDTA Region
- Utah HIDTA Drug Task Forces
- Utah CCJJ Task Forces
- Utah National Guard – Counter Drug and DDRO
- Office of the Medical Examiner
- Utah State Crime Lab (DPS)
- Utah Poison Control Center
- Utah Coalition of Opioid Overdose Prevention
- Community Outreach Organizations Statewide
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Utah Naloxone
- EMS/Fire agencies



## Utah: Percent Change of Seizures in Pounds for Top Drug Threats



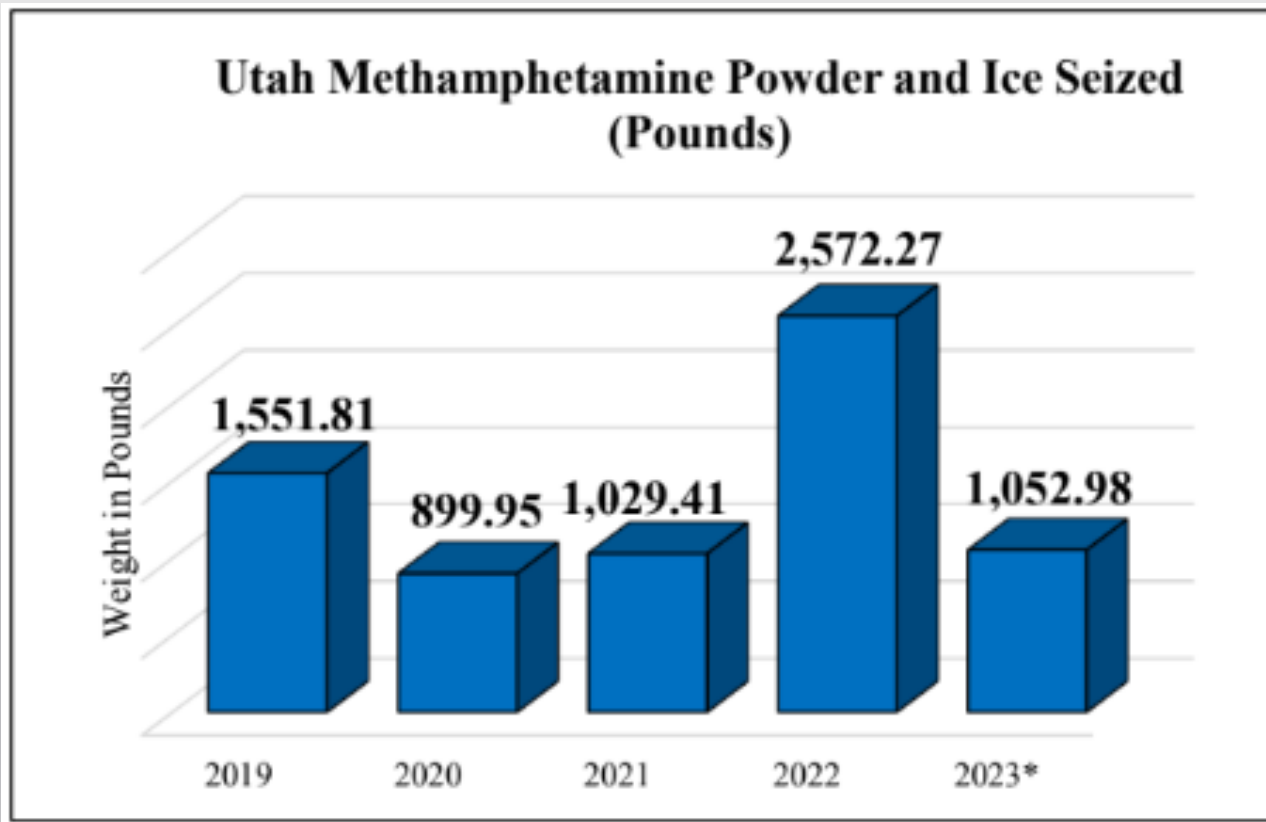


# Utah's "Top 10"

(Per Submissions to DPS State Lab)

- Methamphetamine
- Fentanyl (Recently surpassed Heroin)
- Heroin
- delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol
- Cocaine
- No controlled substances (Per Lab Tests)
- Psilocyn
- Buprenorphine
- Marijuana
- Alprazolam

Methamphetamine remains the most common, single drug involved in fatal overdoses to date in 2022.



## Recent UHP Interdiction Team Meth Seizure



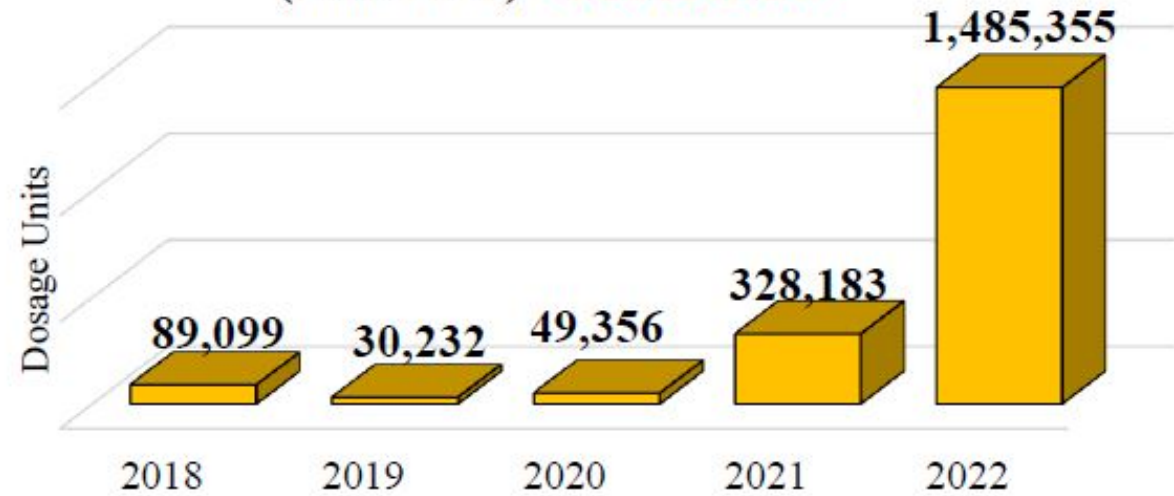
- 60 pounds of methamphetamine and 3 kilograms (6.6 pounds) of fentanyl pills
- Reference: 1 kilogram equals 1,000,000 milligrams (500,000 potential lethal doses)







### Utah Fentanyl (DU) Seized (2018-2022) \*COMBINED\*



\*Includes Fentanyl (DU) Combined with Fentanyl (Pounds) Converted to Dosage Units Seized by RMHIDTA Utah Task Forces\*



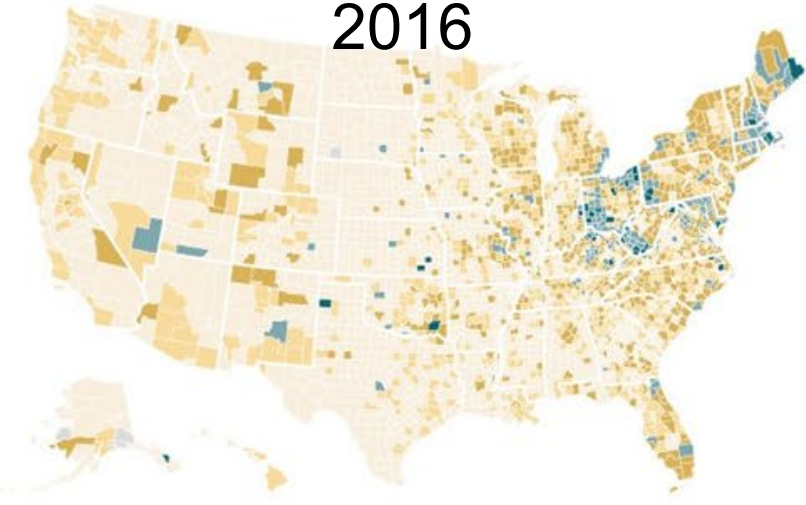
## Fentanyl - What is it?

- A powerful synthetic opioid 50-100 times stronger than morphine
- Developed originally for pain management in treatment of cancer patients
- Also used as an anesthetic during surgeries
- Chemical structure can be easily modified (Carfentanil as an example)
- Mexican Drug Cartels are focused on **profit** – Mother Nature plays no part

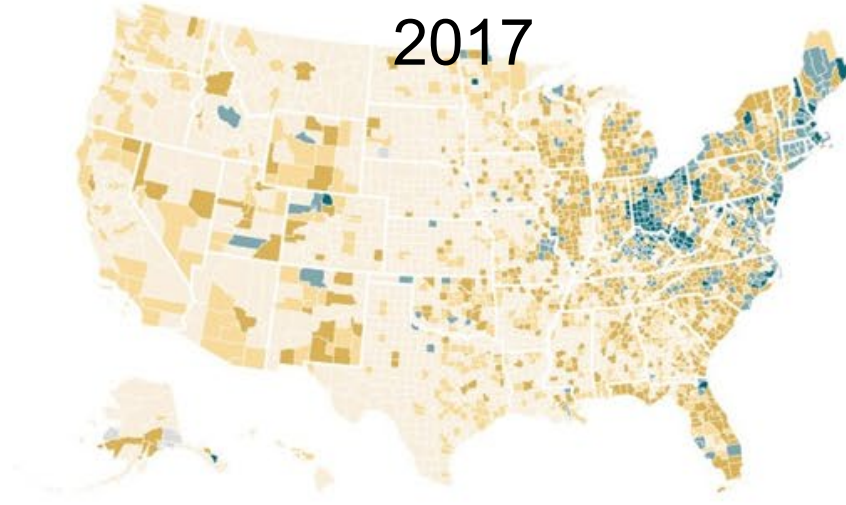


# Fentanyl Death Rates in U.S.

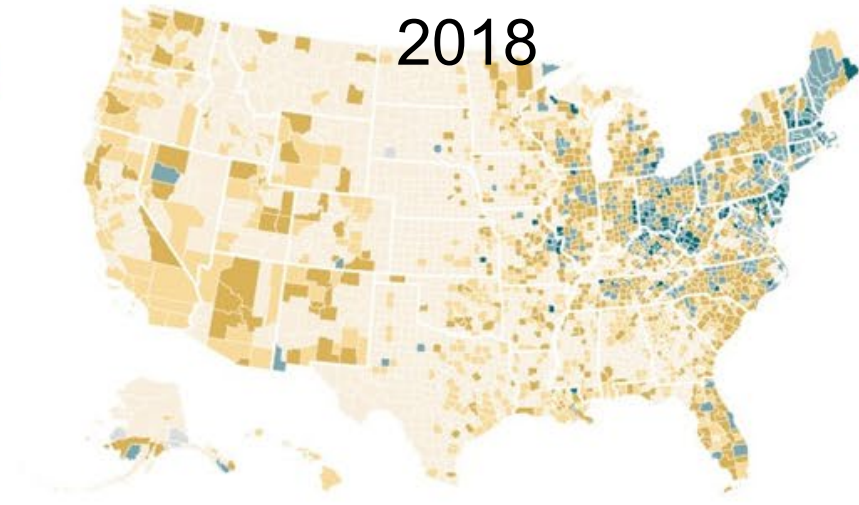
2016



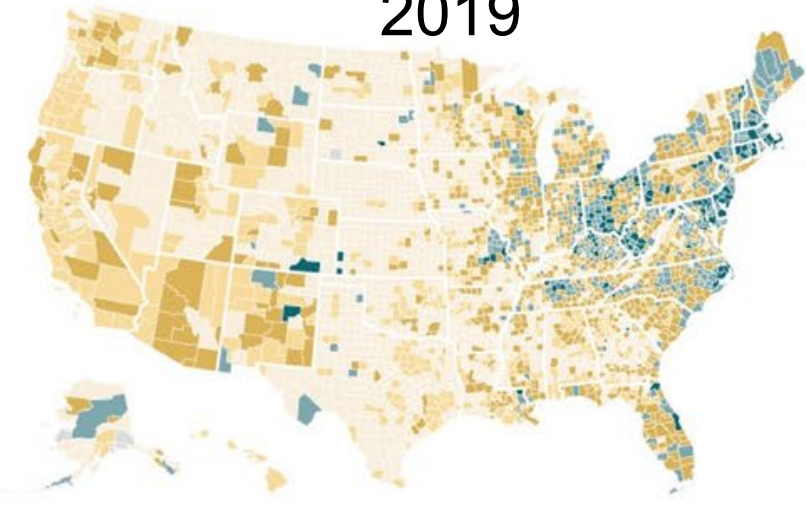
2017



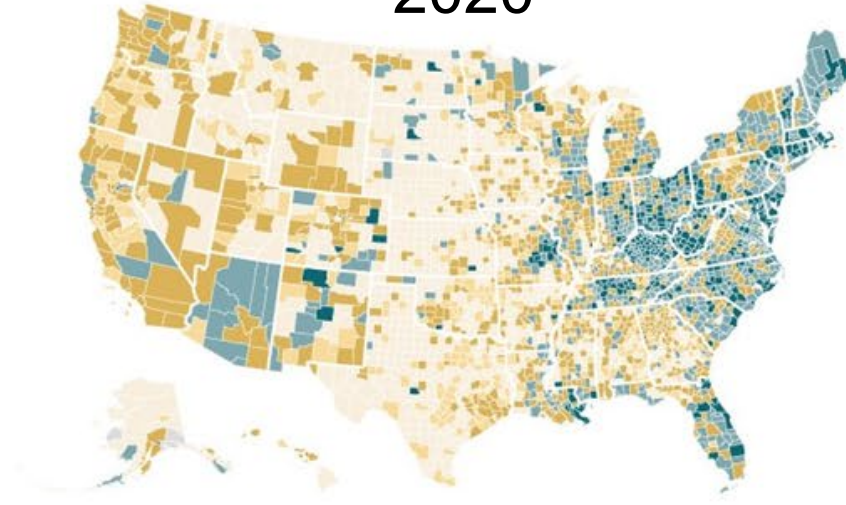
2018



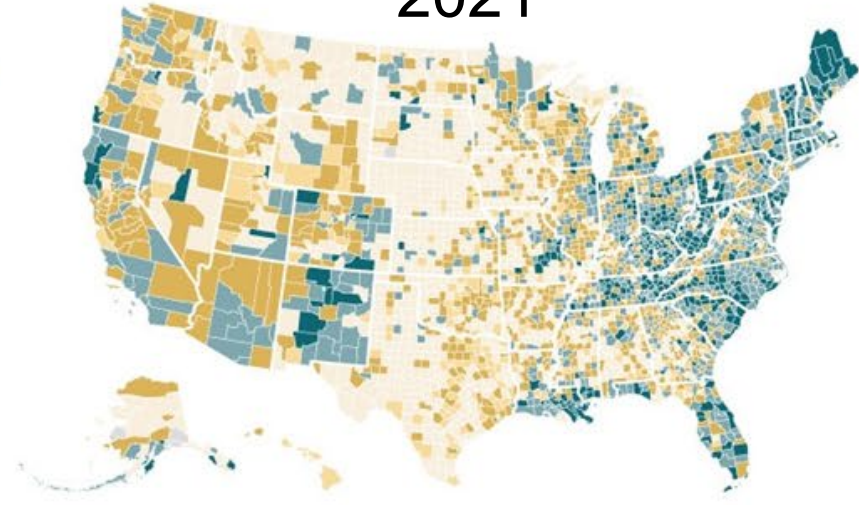
2019



2020



2021



# DEA Reveals Criminal Drug Networks Are Flooding the U.S. with Deadly Fentanyl

DEA Seizes Enough Fentanyl in 2021 to Provide A Lethal Dose to Every American



Which one is fake?



NOT ALL PILLS ARE REAL



**ONE  
PILL CAN  
KILL**

Taking a pill **NOT** purchased from a licensed pharmacy can be a deadly decision.



Get a closer look at the dangers of counterfeit pills at [DEA.gov/OnePill](https://www.dea.gov/OnePill).



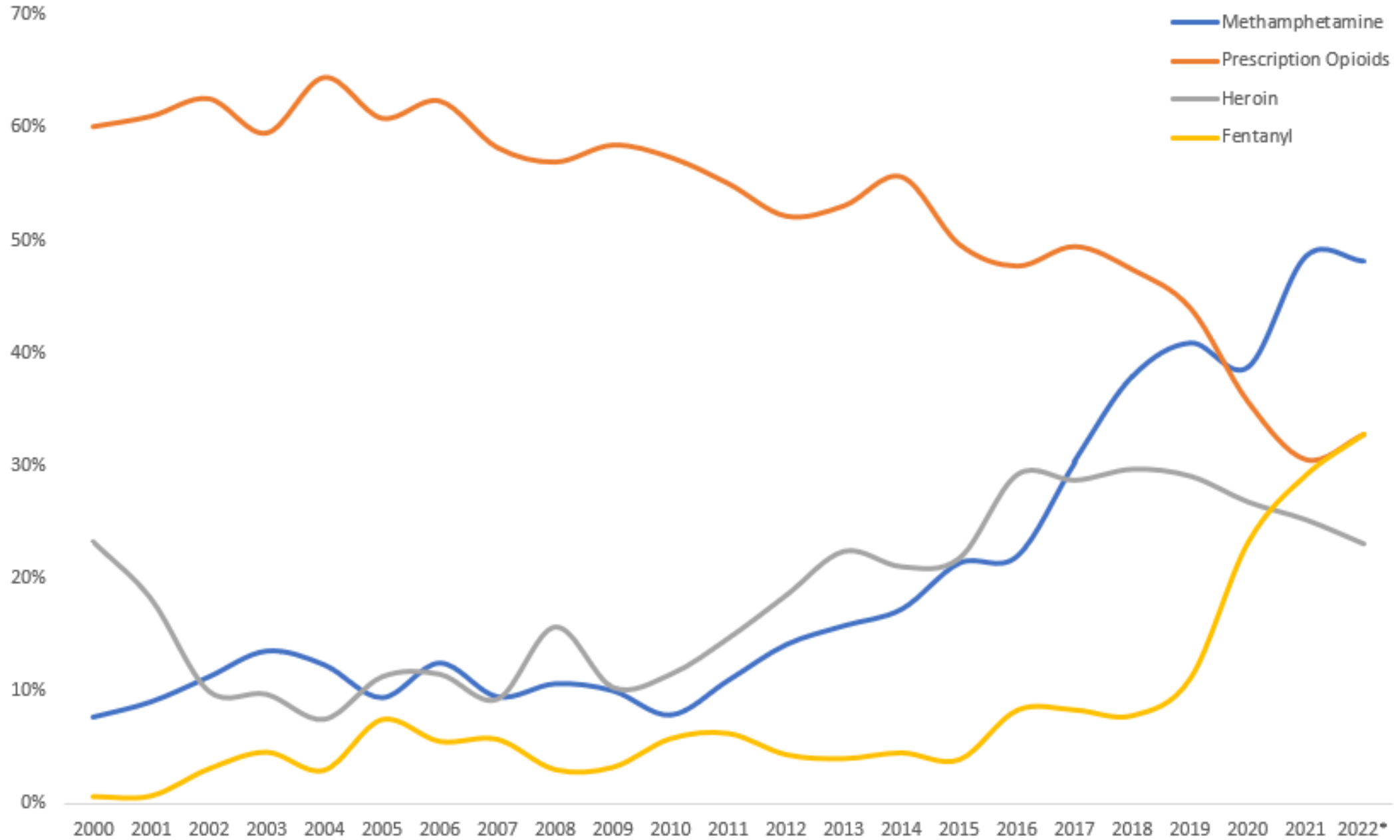


# Utah Overdose Data 2000-2022

Fentanyl  
involved:

2000 – 1%  
2018 – 8%  
2022 – 33%

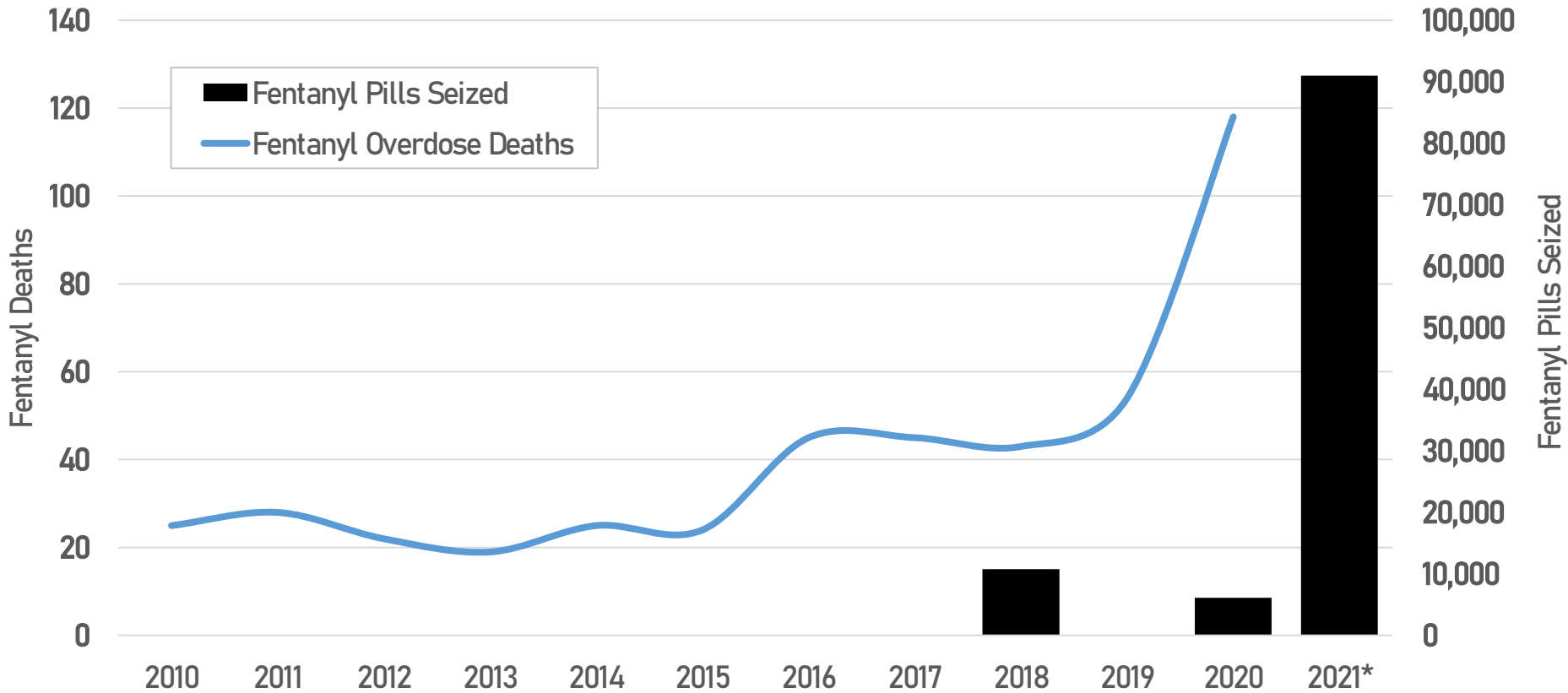
## Proportion of All Accidental and Undetermined Drug Overdose Deaths In Utah, By Select Drug Types





# Utah Fentanyl Seizure Data & ODs

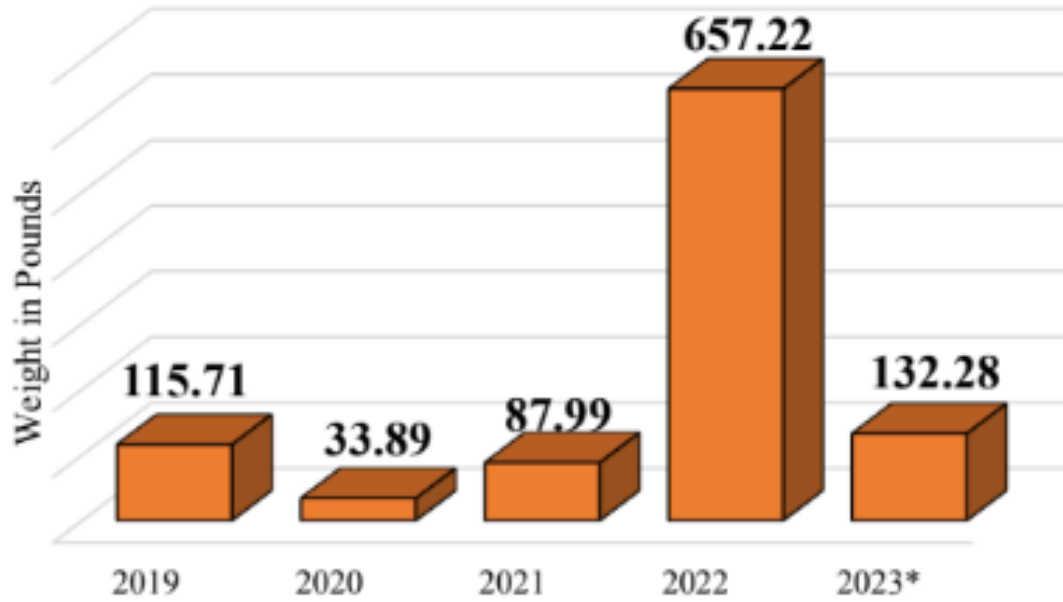
### Fentanyl Deaths and Law Enforcement Seizures in Utah

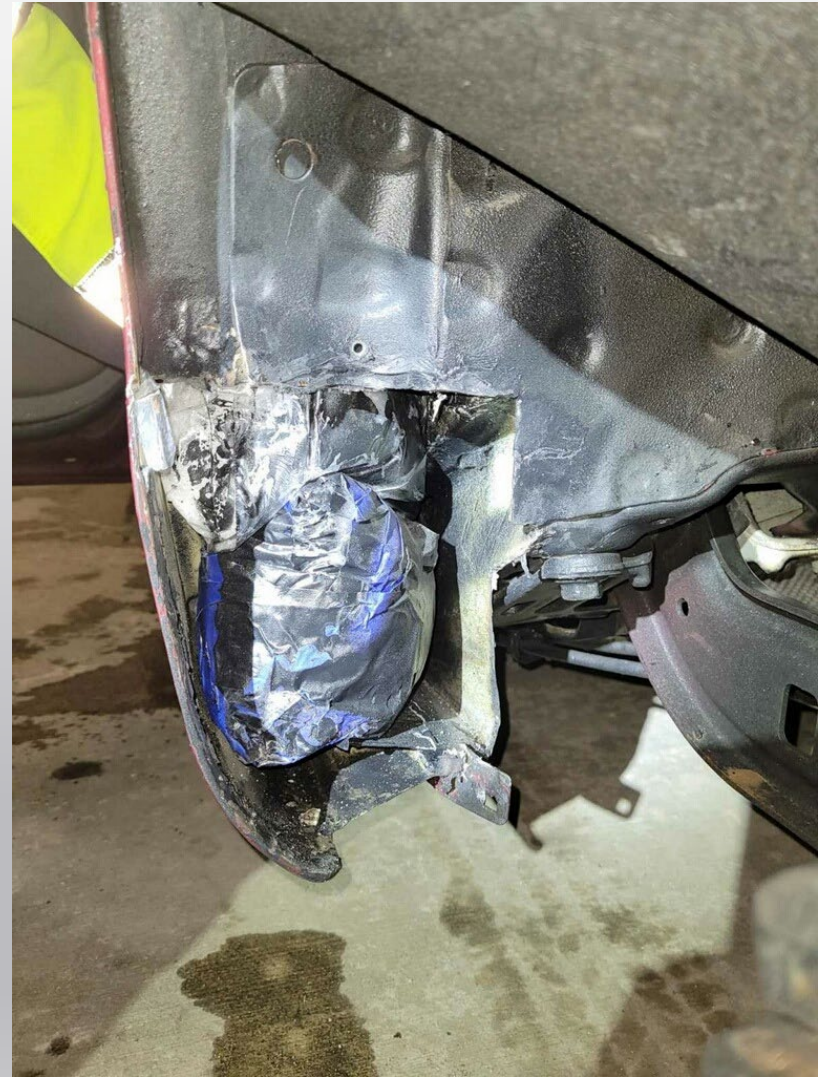




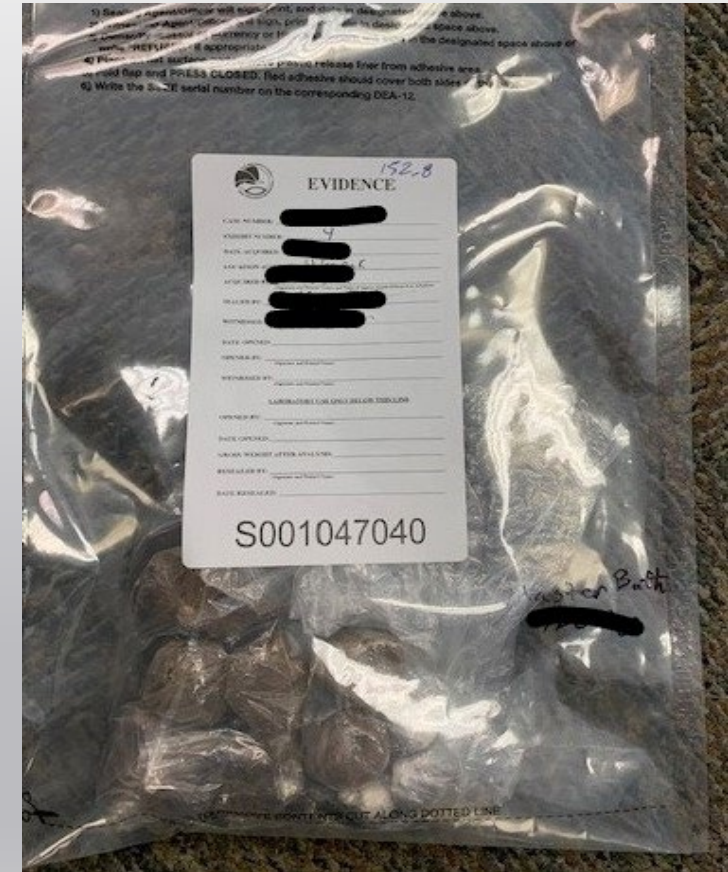
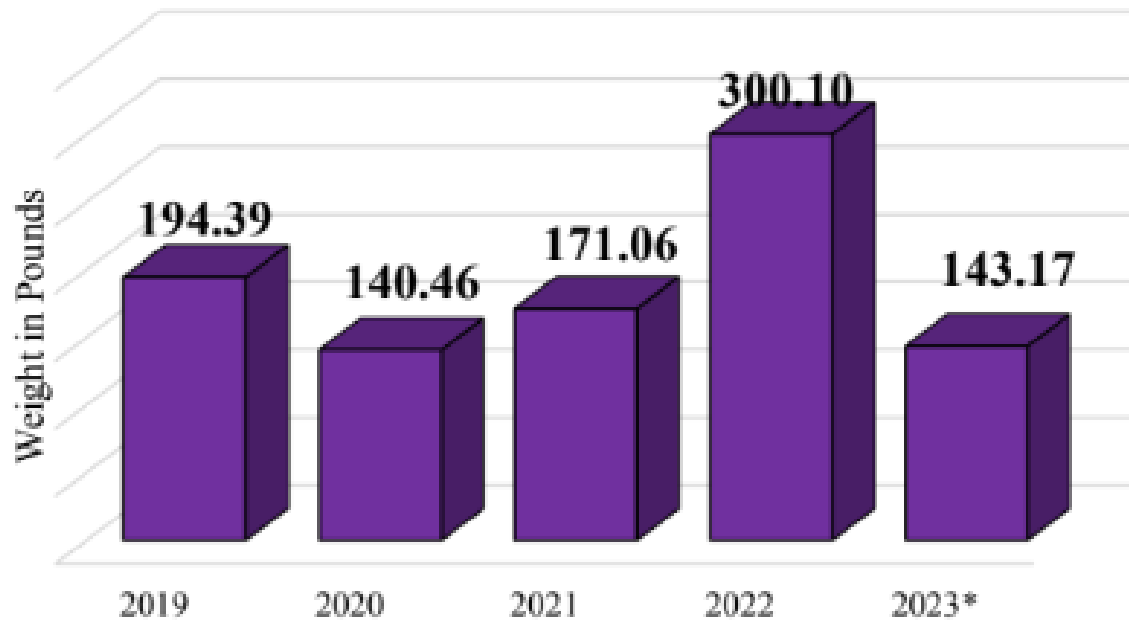


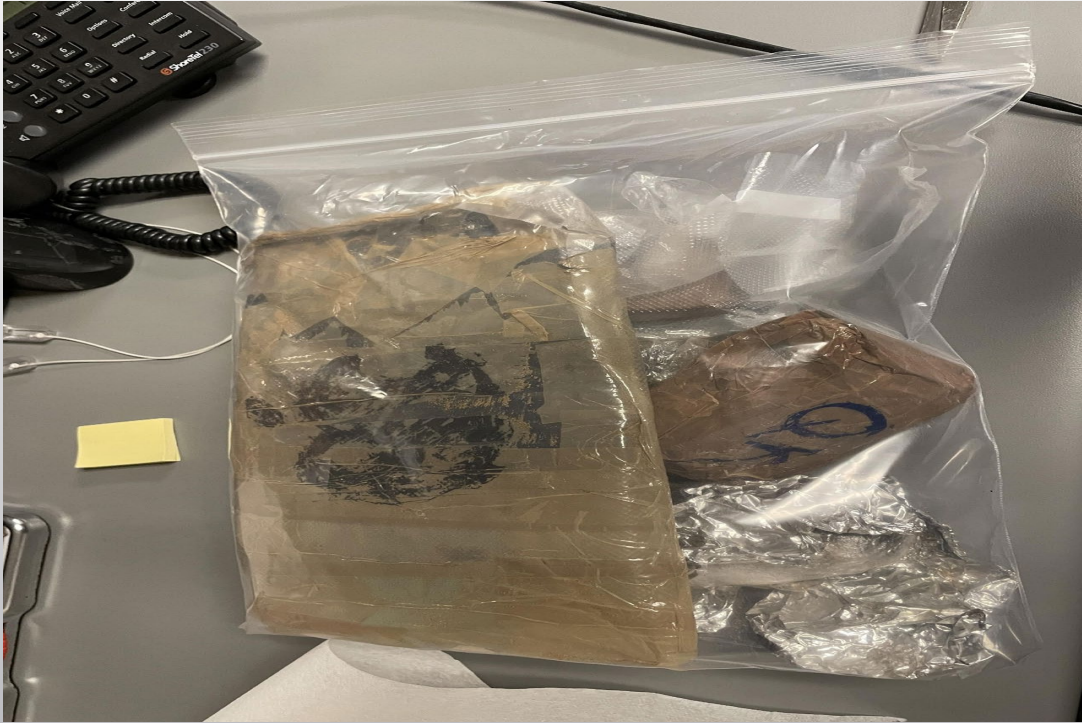
### Utah Cocaine Powder and Crack Seized (Pounds)

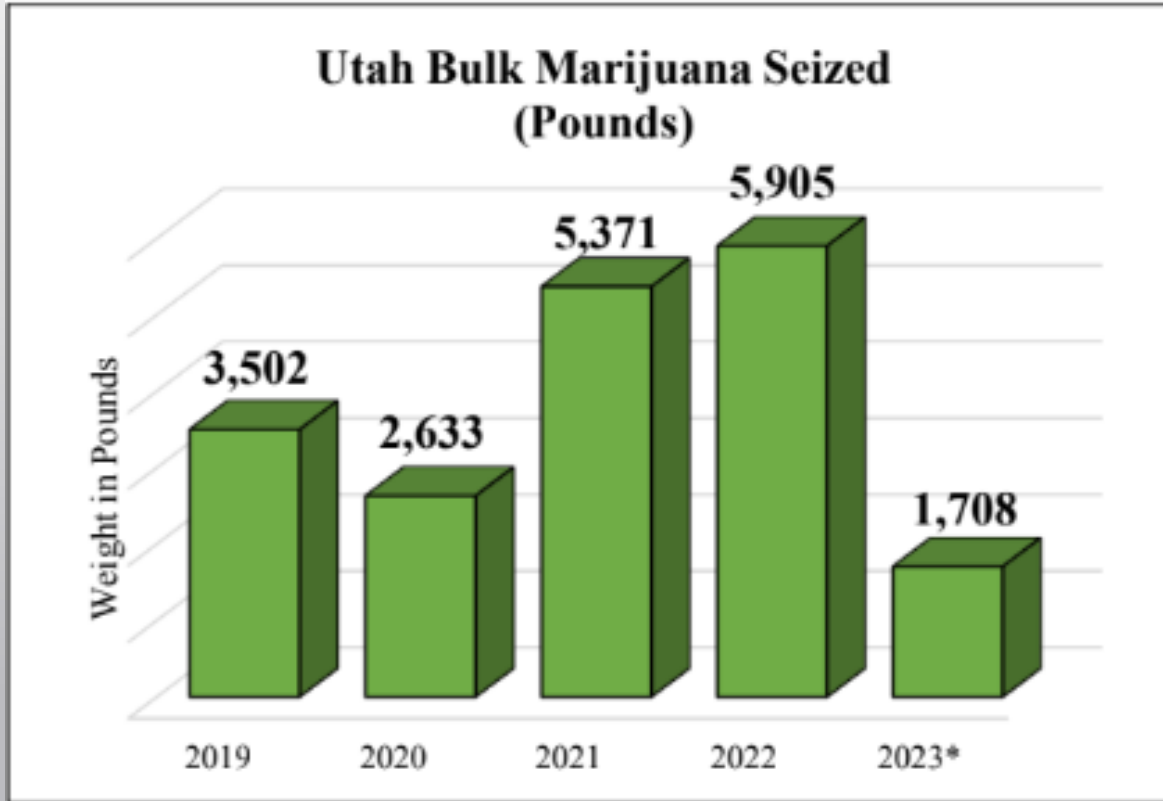




## Utah Heroin Seized (Pounds)









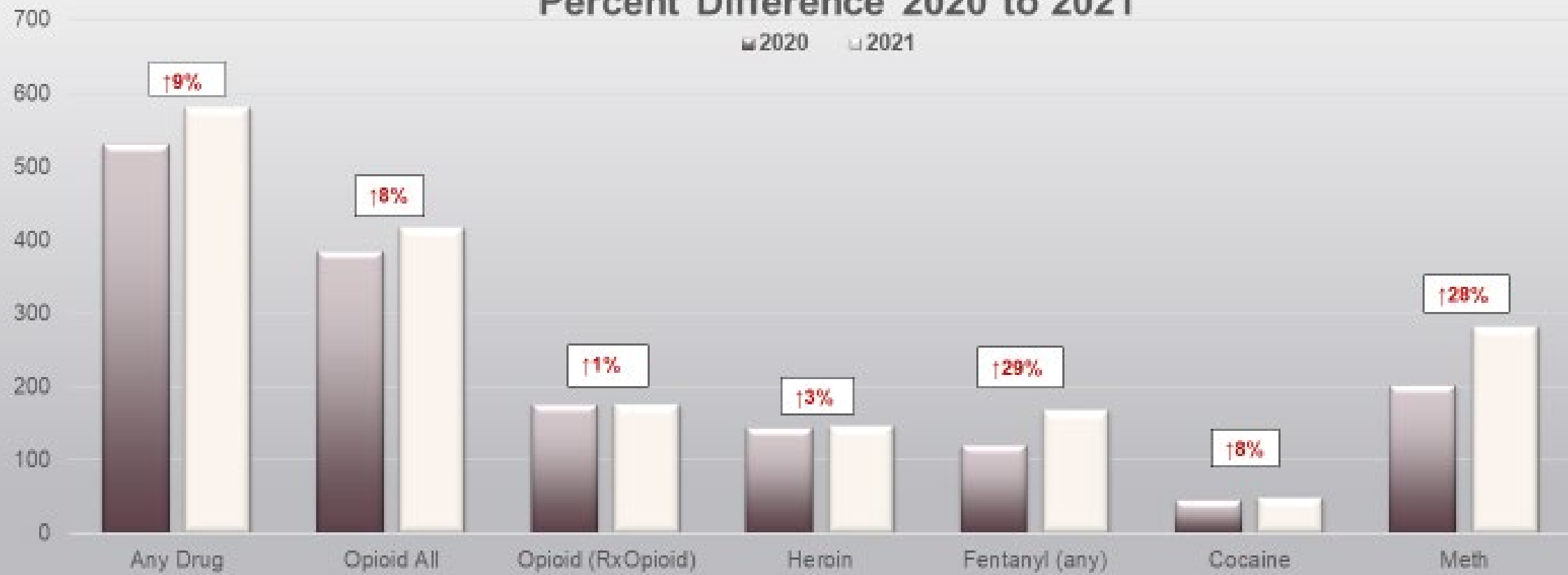


## UHP Seizure Comparison: 2021 vs 2022

Item Name	2021 Totals (Jan-Dec)	2022 Totals (Jan-Dec)	% Change (Jan-Dec 2021 vs Jan-Dec 2022)
Fentanyl (# pills)	139,568	617,125	▲ 342%
Cocaine (gr)	48,248	120,276	▲ 149%
Heroin (gr)	8,743	23,899	▲ 173%
Methamphetamine (gr)	123,741	381,904	▲ 209%
Ecstasy (# pills)	336	820	▲ 144%
Marijuana raw (gr)	2,054,842	1,771,395	▼ -14%
Marijuana edibles (gr)	3,658	7,885	▲ 116%
Marijuana concentrates (shatter/wax) (gr)	24,929	88,713	▲ 256%
THC Vape cartridges (#)	13,386	28,375	▲ 112%
Currency (\$)	561,597	425,629	▼ -24%
Firearms: Rifle/Shotgun (#)	12	4	▼ -67%
Firearms: Handgun (#)	56	78	▲ 39%



## Fatal Drug Overdoses, Utah Percent Difference 2020 to 2021







# Utah Law Enforcement Data

## Crime Lab Submissions

- ~73% of fentanyl samples submitted by Utah law enforcement agencies in 2022 were in the form of **counterfeit pills**
  - only 10% had other drugs present
  - Primarily Para-Fluorofentanyl (fentanyl analog), acetyl fentanyl, and tramadol
  - 3% of heroin samples submitted in 2022 also contained fentanyl
- Methamphetamine was the most common substance submitted in 2022
- Fentanyl submissions: 2020 (55) 2021 (151) 2022 (546)
- Xylazine presence increasing along with fentanyl submissions.
  - \*\* 2018 – 2021 eight (8) items indicated Xylazine
  - \*\* 2022 fifteen (15) items indicated Xylazine



## Challenges for Utah Law Enforcement

- ❖ Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCO's) remain the greatest drug trafficking threat to the U.S.
- ❖ Control most of the U.S market / established routes / affiliations / technology
- ❖ Production/distribution techniques not limited to historical methods (counterfeit prescription products)
- ❖ Global reach enabled by international networks (Dark Web/Internet/Crypto Currency)
- ❖ Utah's proximity to Mexico – Crossroads of Western U.S.



# Where does *illicit* fentanyl come from?

## Tracking Prices:

### 1 Fent Pill in Utah

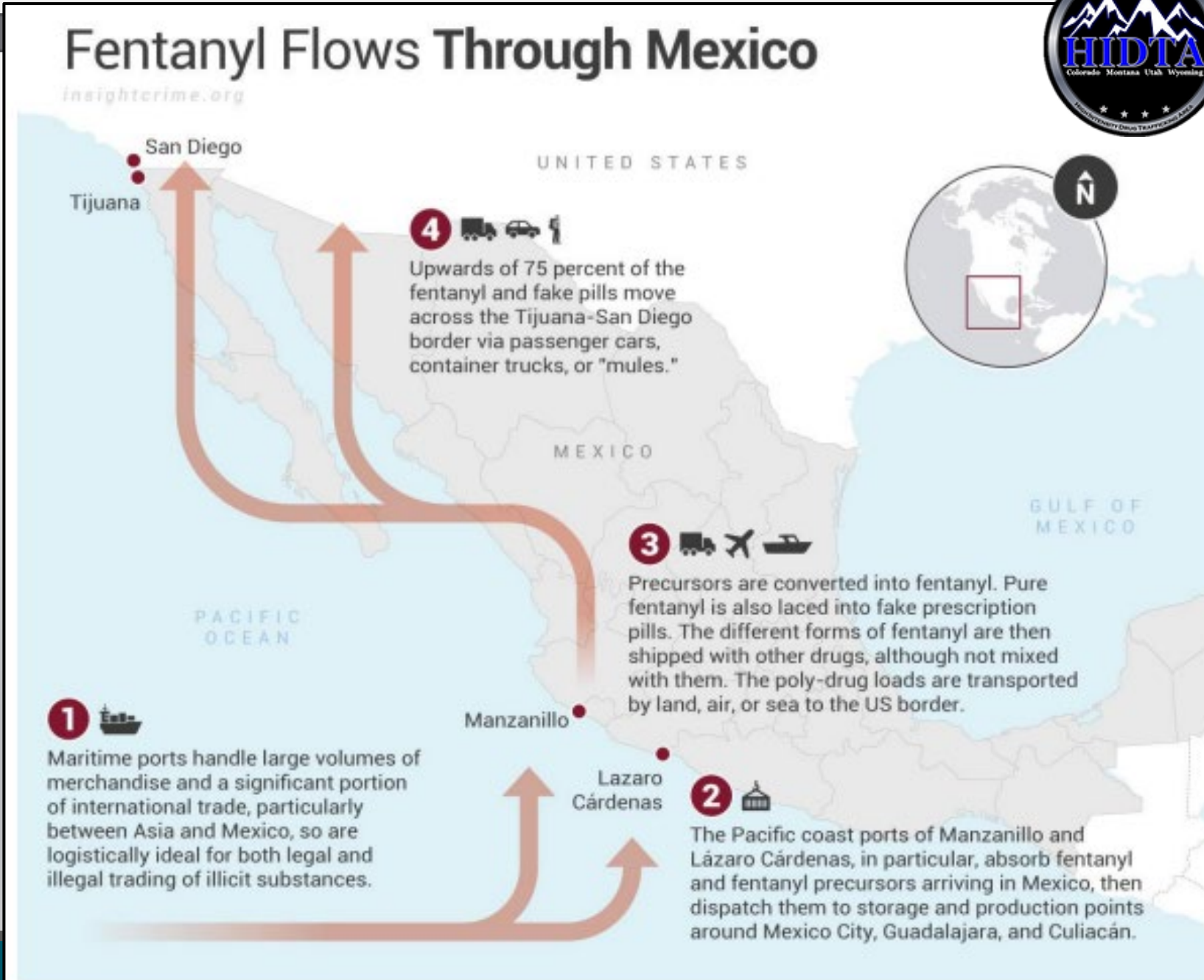
- 2018 - \$25 to \$30
- 2019 - \$22 to \$25
- 2020 - \$18 to \$20
- 2021 - \$10 to \$13
- 2022 - \$3 to \$5

AZ/SoCal - .25 per pill

LE used to count seizures per pill – now we just weigh them, 4500k pills = 1 lb

Increase in fentanyl powder seizures is a concern – why?

Increase in amount of fentanyl per pill



# Drug cartel areas in Mexico





# CARTEL TERRITORIES AND DRUG ROUTES

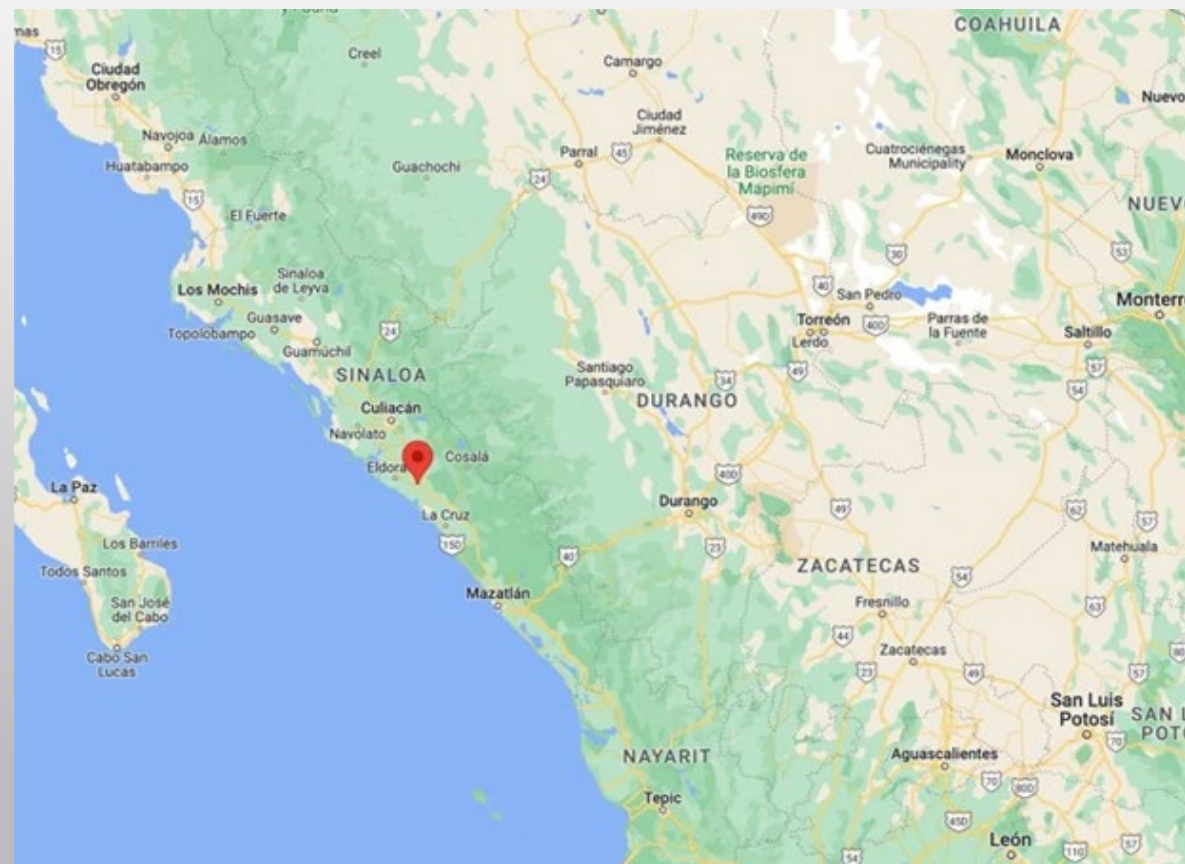




# A \$200 Million Load of Fentanyl Was Just Seized in El Chapo's Hometown



# Mexico Just Seized the 'Biggest' Fentanyl Lab in History





**Fentanyl created in outdoor labs**

**UNITED STATES**

Los Angeles

Phoenix

Chicago

NYC

Atlanta

**MEXICO**



**Fentanyl pressed into colorful pills**





## U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

- Andrade, CA – seize **54 lbs fentanyl** and **32 lbs meth** from vehicle fuel tank. Largest seizure at this POE
- Salton City, CA – seize **\$746,050** from vehicle at Highway 86 checkpoint
- Indio, CA – seize **692 lbs meth** from traffic stop of two vehicles near Dillon Road and I-10
  
- Nogales, AZ – seize **19 lbs meth** in vehicle spare tire
- Nogales, AZ – seize **280,600 fentanyl pills** from vehicle
- Nogales, AZ – seize **20 kilos meth** from two abandoned backpacks northwest of Tubac
- Nogales, AZ – seize **597,640 fentanyl pills** from vehicle
  
- Mission, TX – seize **14 lbs cocaine** from vehicle
- Mission, TX – seize **13 lbs cocaine** from vehicle
- Laredo, TX – seize **145 lbs cocaine** from tractor-trailer
- Laredo, TX – seize **454 lbs marijuana** from tractor-trailer
- Hidalgo, TX – seize **26 lbs cocaine** from vehicle
- Hidalgo, TX – seize **281 lbs cocaine** from vehicle
- Eagle Pass, TX – seize **268 lbs meth** from vehicle
- El Paso, TX – seize **70 lbs cocaine** from vehicle
- El Paso, TX – seize **2 lbs fentanyl** and **16 lbs meth** from vehicle
- El Paso, TX – seize **133 lbs marijuana** and **22 lbs meth** from vehicle
- El Paso, TX – seize **44 lbs cocaine** from vehicle
- El Paso, TX – seize **155 lbs meth** from vehicle
- El Paso, TX – seize **18 lbs cocaine** from vehicle



**Fentanyl Pills**



**Methamphetamine**



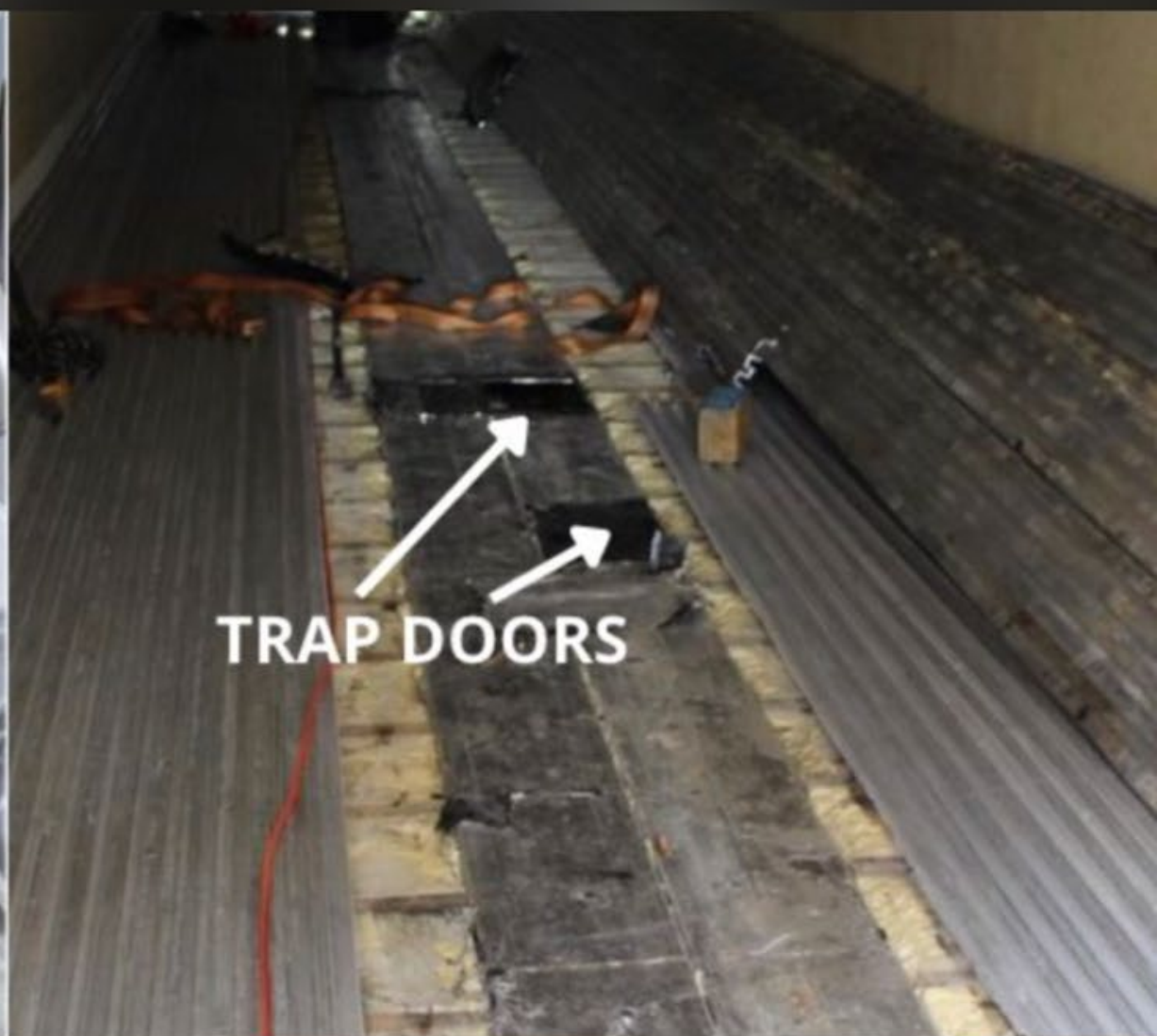
Port of Nogales

**Fentanyl Pills**



Nogales, Arizona

**Heroin**





# US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PORT OF NOGALES, AZ



APPROXIMATELY 16,000 FENTANYL PILLS AND 11 POUNDS OF METH  
CONCEALED WITHIN A VEHICLE'S ROCKER PANELS



FENTANYL PILLS



METH











## Emerging Threats

- ❑ **Xylazine** – known as “Tranq” on the street, due to being a large animal tranquilizer. Prolongs the effects of fentanyl but has severe side effects, including necrosis. Naloxone may have limited effect
- ❑ **Fentanyl-laced** Marijuana , Cocaine, Heroin and Meth  
– Assume Fentanyl is in everything





# PUBLIC SAFETY ALERT

## DEA Reports Widespread Threat of Fentanyl Mixed with Xylazine

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is warning the American public of a sharp increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with xylazine. Xylazine, also known as "Tranq," is a powerful sedative that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved for veterinary use.

"Xylazine is making the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced, fentanyl, even deadlier," said Administrator Milgram. "DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of 50 States. The DEA Laboratory System is reporting that in 2022 approximately 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills seized by the DEA contained xylazine."



- Xylazine is a drug used for sedation, anesthesia, muscle relaxation, and analgesia in animals such as horses, cattle, and other non-human mammals.
- Xylazine and fentanyl drug mixtures place users at a higher risk of suffering a fatal drug poisoning.
- Because xylazine is not an opioid, naloxone (Narcan) does not reverse its effects.





UTAH

# Xylazine is in Utah, and is a significant threat says the DEA

Mar 31, 2023, 4:54 PM | Updated: Apr 1, 2023, 4:37 pm

SALT LAKE CITY — Xylazine, a new substance linked to several deadly overdoses around the country, is appearing in Utah. And according to the [Drug Enforcement Administration](#) (DEA) it's a serious danger.

Xylazine (ZY-la-zeen) is an animal tranquilizer, its street name is known by the name 'tranq.' It's cheap and easy to access for the Mexican drug cartels that use it.

It largely comes from places like China and India for anywhere between \$5 and \$20 per kilogram.

"If you were to go onto the internet and do a search for xylazine for sale," Assistant DEA Special Agent in Charge for Utah, Dustin Gillespie, told KSL. "You're going to be presented with a bunch of online websites that will sell Xylazine in powder form, liquid form, crystalline form, directly to you."

When cut with fentanyl it gives users a similar, but longer high than they get from fentanyl alone.

# (U) Smoking Fentanyl: A Chemical Analysis

(U) This DEA Bulletin is based on preliminary reporting and may be subject to updating as additional information becomes available.

**DEA-DCT-BUL-045-23**  
**MARCH 2023**



- Was initially not thought possible due to high temperature degradation
- New evidence shows that it is
- Marijuana laced with fentanyl is a very real threat to young adults



# THE BEST WEED CARTS IN CALIFORNIA



GEORGIA - Published April 7, 2023 1:24pm EDT

# Georgia boy, 13, has stroke after bullies allegedly pressure him to smoke fentanyl-laced vape





# What is HIDTA?

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Created by Congress in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988

A program (not an agency) managed by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)

Provides assistance to law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States

Coordinate federal, state, local, and tribal drug law enforcement agencies' investigations

- Manage
- De-conflict
- Analyze
- Provide Intelligence
- Execute drug enforcement activities



# High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

Rocky Mountain HIDTA

Utah, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming

[www.rmhidta.org](http://www.rmhidta.org)

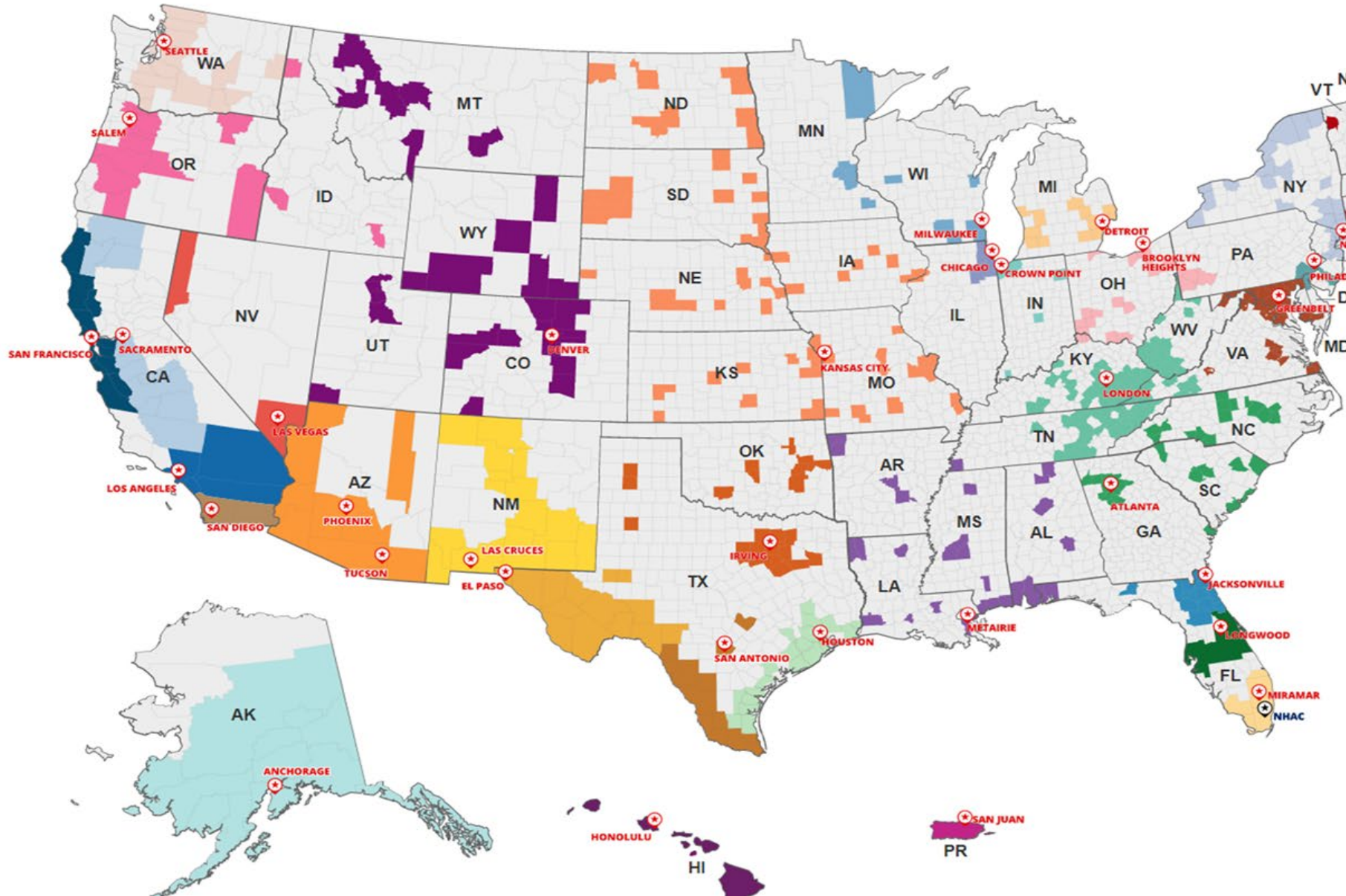
303-671-2180





# HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS (HIDTA)

PROGRAM COUNTIES JUNE 2020



- HIDTA HEADQUARTERS
- ALASKA
- APPALACHIA
- ARIZONA - SOUTHWEST BORDER
- ATLANTA-CAROLINAS
- CENTRAL FLORIDA
- CENTRAL VALLEY CALIFORNIA
- CHICAGO
- GULF COAST
- HAWAII
- HOUSTON
- INDIANA
- LIBERTY MID-ATLANTIC
- LOS ANGELES
- MICHIGAN
- MIDWEST
- NEVADA
- NEW ENGLAND
- NEW MEXICO - SOUTHWEST BORDER
- NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY
- NORTH CENTRAL
- NORTH FLORIDA
- NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
- NORTHWEST
- OHIO
- OREGON-IDAHO
- PUERTO RICO/US VI
- ROCKY MOUNTAIN
- SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL VALLEY - SOUTHWEST BORDER
- SOUTH FLORIDA
- SOUTH TEXAS - SOUTHWEST BORDER
- TEXOMA
- WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE



# RMHIDTA Utah Task Force Counties

**Weber County:**  
Weber Morgan Strike Force

**Morgan County:**  
Weber Morgan Strike Force


**Davis County:**  
Davis Metro Narcotics Task Force

**Salt Lake County:**  
Salt Lake Metro Narcotics Task Force

**Utah County:**  
Utah County Major Crimes Task Force

**Washington County:**  
Washington County Task Force

**Statewide:** Utah Highway Patrol (Part of the Rocky Mountain Highway Patrol Network)

**Statewide:** Overdose Response Strategy (ORS), covers the entire state out Salt Lake City. 



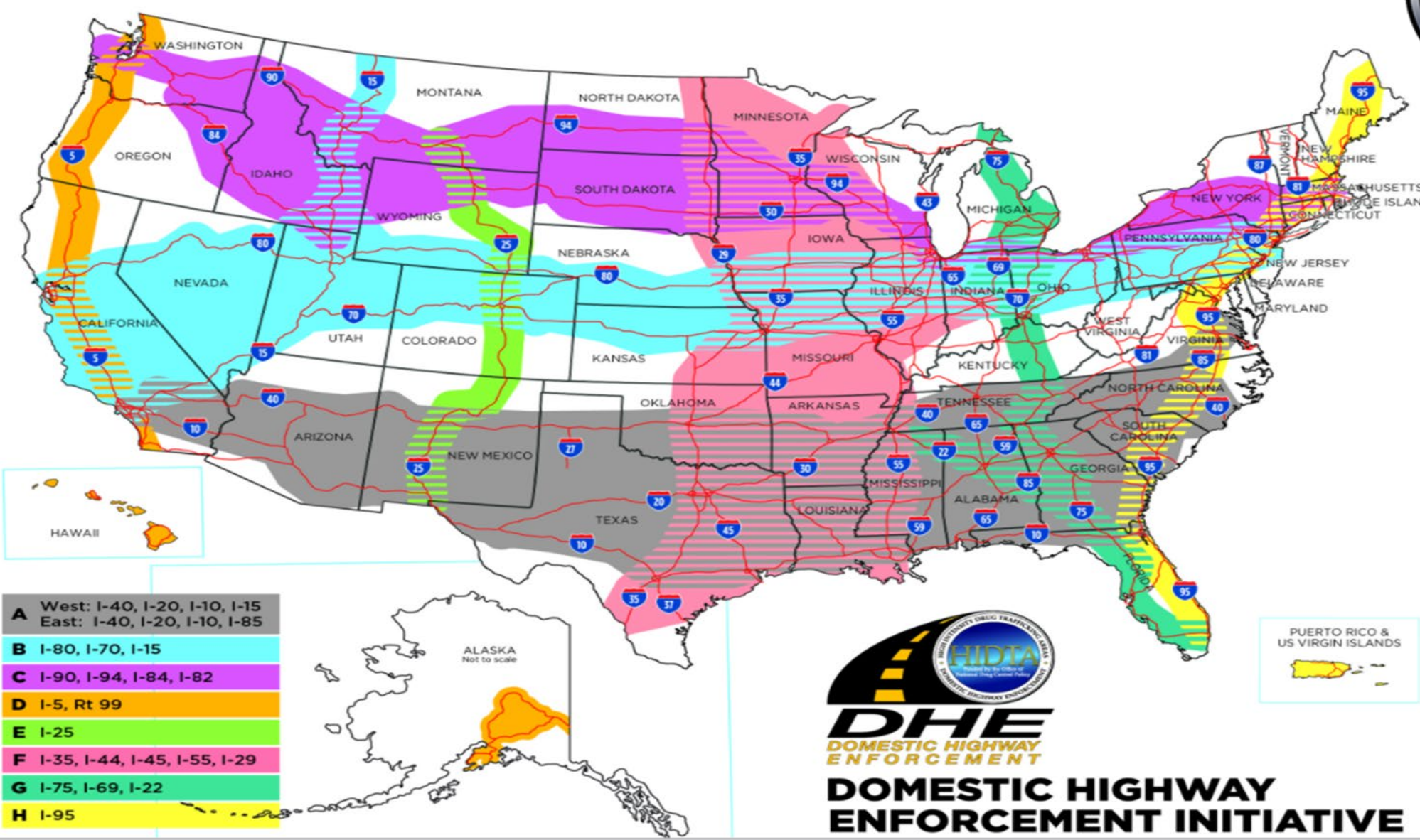


# HIDTA National Initiatives:

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- ❖ Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE)
- ❖ National Emerging Threats (NETI)
- ❖ National Marijuana Initiative
- ❖ Overdose Response Strategy

[HTTPS://WWW.HIDTAPROGRAM.ORG](https://www.hidtaprogram.org)



- A** West: I-40, I-20, I-10, I-15  
East: I-40, I-20, I-10, I-85
- B** I-80, I-70, I-15
- C** I-90, I-94, I-84, I-82
- D** I-5, Rt 99
- E** I-25
- F** I-35, I-44, I-45, I-55, I-29
- G** I-75, I-69, I-22
- H** I-95



# DOMESTIC HIGHWAY ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE

PUERTO RICO & US VIRGIN ISLANDS

# What is the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS)?

The Overdose Response Strategy is an unprecedented and unique collaboration between public health and public safety, created to help local communities reduce drug overdoses and save lives by sharing timely data, pertinent intelligence and innovative strategies.



# Overdose Response Strategy



**COLLABORATE** across public health and public safety sectors

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**SHARE** data, insights, and trends we are seeing related to drug overdose in our communities

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**INFORM AND HELP** local communities develop local solutions to reduce overdoses and save lives

# Overdose Response Strategy

## Utah's State Team



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***Reshma Arrington***  
***Public Health Analyst***

***Bill Newell (Interim)***  
***Drug Intelligence Officer***



Funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and  
the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**COLLABORATE • SHARE • INFORM & HELP**

# We want you safe!

*One Pill of Fentanyl Can Kill*



AUTHENTIC  
oxycodone  
M30 tablets



\*FAKE  
oxycodone M30 tablets  
containing fentanyl







# DEA Resources for Parents

- Launch of nationwide public awareness campaign, “One Pill can Kill”
- [www.dea.gov/onepill](http://www.dea.gov/onepill)
- “Assume it has fentanyl”
- [www.dea.gov/fentanylawareness](http://www.dea.gov/fentanylawareness)





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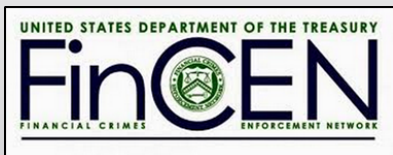
# Statewide Information & Analysis Center (SIAC)

Utah Department of Public Safety  
Utah Statewide Information and Analysis Center  
4501 S 2700 W  
Salt Lake City, UT

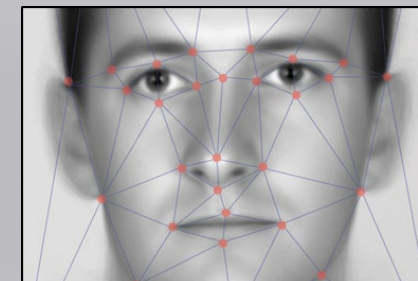
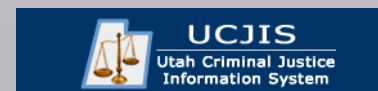
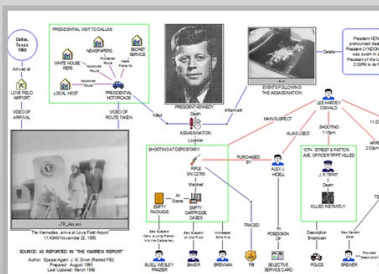


# Tactical Case Support

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!!!



Accurint® LE Plus



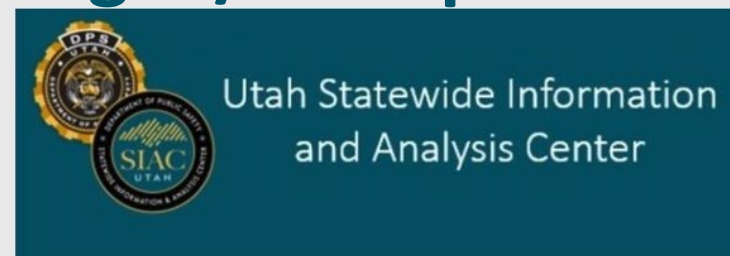
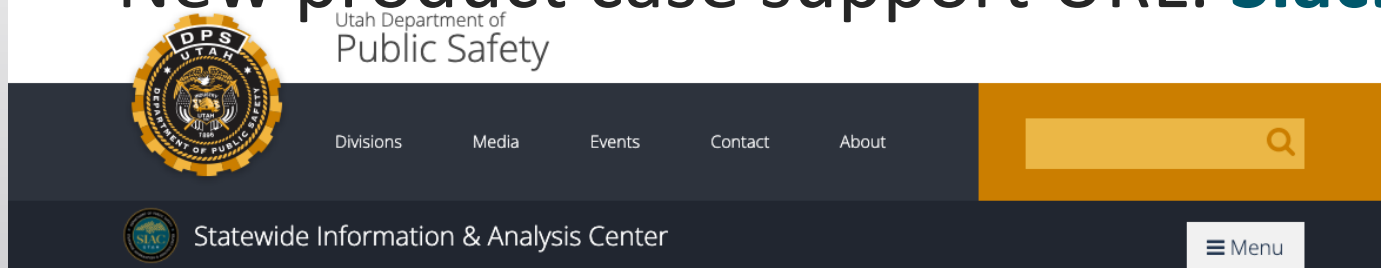
SIAC MAIN LINE - 801-965-3838

SIAC EMAIL - [siac@utah.gov](mailto:siac@utah.gov)



# SIAC Case Support Request Portal

- New product case support URL: [siac.utah.gov/le-request](https://siac.utah.gov/le-request)



LE Request

## Case Support Requests

The SIAC has access to databases and software to assist law enforcement investigations. For all criminal case requests, include your ORI, case number, severity and crime type.

[Submit a Case Support Request](#)

### Services We Provide

- Criminal Network Analysis Products (Association Chart, Link Chart, Timeline)
- State Criminal History Databases/Criminal History
- FinCEN Database – CTR & SAR
- Social Security Number Verification
- Subscriber Information

### Case Support Request

**Request Details**

Deadline:

Priority:  
 Routine  Urgent (If urgent, please call to verify request received)

**Requestor**

First Name\*:

Last Name\*:

Phone Number\*:



# Questions?

