



**City of Dallas**

# **Fentanyl Investigations and Data Overview**

**Public Safety Committee  
December 12, 2022**

Michael Igo, Assistant Chief,  
Devon Palk, Major of Police  
Dallas Police Department  
City of Dallas

# Presentation Overview



- Purpose
- Fentanyl Background
- Fentanyl Trafficking
- Dallas Police Department Fentanyl Investigations
- Dallas Police Department Fentanyl Data
- Dallas Police Department Overdose Investigations
- Education and Outreach
- Next Steps



# Purpose



- Provide the Public Safety Committee and the residents of Dallas information on Fentanyl, overdose data, outreach efforts, and steps being taken by the Dallas Police Department to combat Fentanyl trafficking and overdose deaths.



# Background



- What is Fentanyl?
  - Synthetic opioid drug
  - Fentanyl is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin.
  - 2 milligrams considered lethal dose.
  - Schedule II narcotic (Federal), Penalty Group 1B (Texas)





- Penalties in Texas

- Manufacture/Delivery of Penalty Group 1B

- Less than 1 gram, State Jail Felony.
    - 1 to 4 grams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Felony.
    - 4 to 200 grams, 10 years to 99 years or Life, fine not to exceed \$20,000.00
    - 200 to 400 grams, 15 years to 99 years or Life, fine not to exceed \$200,000.00
    - 400 grams or more, 20 years to 99 years or Life, fine not exceed \$500,000.00

- Possession of Penalty Group 1B

- Less than 1 gram, State Jail Felony.
    - 1 to 4 grams, 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Felony
    - 4 to 200 grams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Felony
    - 200 to 400 grams, 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Felony
    - 400 grams or more, 10 years to 99 years or Life, fine not to exceed \$100,000.00



# Background



- Where did it come from?
  - Licit Fentanyl
    - Development
    - Use
    - Forms
    - Diversion/Trafficking
  - Illicit Fentanyl
    - Production in Clandestine Laboratories
      - Precursor sources
      - Production
    - Forms
    - Illicit Fentanyl Trafficking



# Background



- How is Fentanyl introduced into the body?
  - Injection, snorting, smoking, orally, transdermally
- Fentanyl effects
  - Relaxation, euphoria, pain relief, drowsiness, respiratory depression
- Fentanyl overdose effects
  - Stupor, cold and clammy skin, cyanosis, coma, respiratory failure, death



# Fentanyl Trafficking



- Fentanyl trafficking into the US is primarily by the following Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO's):
  - Sinaloa Cartel
  - New Generation Jalisco (Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generation or CJNG)
- Majority of Fentanyl trafficked through the Southwest Border
  - Routes
  - Methods
  - Forms
- Fentanyl trafficking and Dallas
  - Forms
  - Market





# Fentanyl Trafficking



# DPD Fentanyl Investigations



- In 2021, Dallas Police Department's Special Investigations Division (SID) seized 4,473.3 grams of Fentanyl during 12 operations, resulting in 13 arrests or cases filed.
- Through October 31, 2022, DPD SID has seized 3,918.8 grams of Fentanyl during 14 operations, resulting in 12 arrests or cases filed.
- These operations include DPD operations, as well as joint operations with local, state, and federal partners.
  - DPD SID routinely partners with the DEA, FBI, and Texas DPS on Fentanyl investigations.
- In 2021, 54 Fentanyl cases were filed from Patrol investigations.
- Through October 31, 2022, 35 Fentanyl cases were filed from Patrol.



# DPD Fentanyl Data



- In 2021, there were 115 incidents reported to DPD that were classified as 'Accidental Death' in which controlled substances were a cause or contributing factor in the incident
  - 38 incidents involved Fentanyl (33%)
  - 5 incidents involved Fentanyl as the only controlled substance (4%)
  - 57 incidents involved a poly-drug combination (50%)
  - Ages ranged from 18 to 76, with an average age of 48
- From January 1, 2022, to October 31, 2022, there were 51 incidents classified as 'Accidental Death' in which controlled substances were a cause or contributing factor in the incident.
  - 23 incidents involved Fentanyl (45%)
  - 2 incidents involved Fentanyl as the only controlled substance (4%)
  - 33 incidents involved a poly-drug combination (65%)
  - Ages ranged from 16 to 72, with an average age of 44



# DPD Overdose Investigations



- Dallas PD SID started conducting Overdose Investigations in January of 2021.
  - Texas Health and Safety Code § 481.141 Manufacture or Delivery of Controlled Substance Causing Death or Serious Bodily Injury
  - Will pursue Federal prosecution where appropriate
  - 1 Detective assigned to Overdose Investigations in 2021.
  - 2 Detectives assigned to Overdose Investigations in 2022.
- Investigated 41 overdose deaths in 2021
- Investigated 36 overdose deaths through October 31, 2022
- Investigations have led to 5 cases filed in 2021.
- Investigations have led to 5 cases filed in 2022.



# DPD Overdose Investigation



- Overdose Investigations are difficult for the following reasons:
  - Delayed notification due to autopsy and toxicology
  - Co-morbidities and cause of death
  - Reluctance of witnesses to speak to law enforcement, or a lack of witnesses
  - Lack of physical evidence to include electronic devices
- To combat these difficulties, SID has implemented the following:
  - Overdose Detectives liaise with the Homicide Unit, and will respond on callback to suspected overdose scenes
  - Ensure collection of drug evidence, and their submission to SWIFS for analysis
  - Monitoring and mapping of overdose data to identify problem areas or hot spots.
  - Sharing intelligence on overdoses for investigation or enforcement by SID, or partner agencies.



# DPD Overdose Investigations



- Investigation Success Story

- On May 31, 2022, Dallas PD Love Field Unit responds to an unresponsive male in a restroom. After providing medical assistance, male is pronounced deceased.
- Autopsy showed cause of death from Fentanyl toxicity, drug evidence was found to contain Fentanyl.
- SID OD Detectives contacted the DEA due to the interstate nature of the investigation.
- A joint DPD/DEA investigation resulted in the indictment of the suspect in the Northern District of Texas for Delivery of Controlled Substance Resulting in Death.
- On November 17, 2022, suspect was arrested in New Mexico and is currently being detained awaiting trial. Suspect faces 20 years to Life in the federal system.



# Education and Outreach



- Internal

- SID has issued two internal Roll Call Training Bulletins
- Naloxone (Narcan) being issued to Patrol Stations, Jail, Property Room, Love Field, SID Personnel, Specialized Units and Dallas PD School Resource Officers. No DPD deployments to date.
  - School Resource Officers issued Naloxone at the following schools:
    - Lake Highlands High School (RISD)
    - Lake Highlands Junior High (RISD)
    - Forest Meadow Junior High (RISD)
    - Liberty Junior High (RISD)
    - Westwood Junior High (RISD)
    - Parkhill Junior High (RISD)
    - Frankford Middle School (PISD)
- Purchase of updated suits and respirators for the SID Clandestine Lab Squad
- Exploring the acquisition of Raman spectrometers to replace reagent field test kits.
- Continued conversations with Texoma HIDTA, Dallas Fire-Rescue, and the City Attorney's Office on OD Mapping



# Education and Outreach



- External
  - Participated in the DEA Dallas Field Division's 2022 Summit on the Overdose Epidemic
  - DEA Task Force Officers participation in outreach to schools for Red Ribbon Week
  - Initial talks with the Dallas Independent School District on possible outreach efforts
  - Fentanyl awareness video released on DPD Social Media
  - Fentanyl awareness video shared with DISD Police





# Next Steps



- Creation of new CAD Signal for a Juvenile Overdose, which will be a Priority 1 Call.
- Planning a summit with all school districts within the City of Dallas to discuss Fentanyl.
- Development of a 'Drug Related Overdose Death Investigations' course with Texoma HIDTA.





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