Missouri Opioid Summits
9-City Tour
July 20, 2017 – December 5, 2017
DEA Perspective

James P. Shroba
Special Agent in Charge
Drug Enforcement Administration
St. Louis Division
Regional Drug Threats

• Methamphetamine
  • Widely available
  • Primary drug threat in western Division
  • Mexican crystalized methamphetamine is most prevalent form
  • Consistent high purity range 98% - 100%

• Heroin
  • Increasing, high availability, always in demand

• Fentanyl
  • Deadly synthetic opioid
  • Users demand over heroin

• Prescription Opioids
  • Always available, continuous threat
  • Fuel the heroin/opioid epidemic
Methamphetamine

- Greatest drug threat for majority of St Louis Division
- During 2000s, local meth labs predominated
- Since 2010, potent Mexican crystal methamphetamine has dominated demand
- Mexican cartels control U.S. drug market
  - Sinaloa Cartel has greatest presence in SLD
  - actual members or affiliates
- Pervasive availability
- Purity can be 99% or 100%
  - more than doubled in potency since 1990s
- Typically powder form
  - can be liquid or crystallized
- Largely contributes to overall division violent crime
Heroin

• White powder extensively available in eastern Missouri
  • heroin is moving westward
• Black tar is primary drug threat in Kansas City Metropolitan Area (KCMA)
• Heroin/opiate overdose deaths increased in 2016
• No organized coalition between law enforcement, public health, first responders or medical examiners
  • result: exact number of deaths hard to determine
• Today’s heroin is far more potent
  • more emergency hospital visits from overdose
  • users unaware of effects from such pure heroin

BOTTOM LINE: Heroin is at heart of increasing drug incidents in Springfield and across STL Division
Heroin

- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) confirms heroin abuse dramatic and recent rise in U.S.
- National heroin/fentanyl overdose deaths nearly doubled in 2016
  - Imported from Mexico
  - Low cost and widely available
  - Greater purity
    - Since 2010…up from 10% to 55%
    - Competitive price with prescription drugs
  - Currently one of biggest drug concerns in nation
  - Users opt for heroin when prescription pills
    - Hard to obtain
    - Too costly
Fentanyl

- 50 times more potent than heroin
- 100 times more potent than morphine
- Carfentanil is 10,000 times more potent than morphine

- Typically synthetic... *not* pharmaceutical grade
  - clandestine lab produced vs. pharmaceutical product
- Tiny amount of fentanyl to overdose
  - one or two salt-sized grains of fentanyl can kill an adult
- Fentanyl mixed with heroin, cocaine or pills is new and very dangerous threat in Division
- Many fentanyl analogues compound situation
- *All* fentanyl forms are highly addictive
- Heroin/fentanyl = primary SLMA drug threat
Fentanyl

- Mexican cartels supply fentanyl to U.S.
  - no crop to grow vs cheap chemicals
  - Mexican super labs have tremendous production capability
- Fentanyl = synthetic opioid pain medication that is manufactured in laboratories from chemicals
  - China is primary manufacturer
  - smuggled into U.S. through Mexico or Canada
- Potency enables smugglers to transport compact quantities for huge profit
- One kilogram = apprx $60,000 street value
  - Appx. $3500 lab cost to manufacture one kilogram fentanyl
  - *If* 1mg of fentanyl contained in each pill = 666,666 pills
  - *Then* = $20 million street value for pills

**BOTTOM LINE:** A majority of national opioid deaths are currently fentanyl-related
Fentanyl in KCMA

- Preliminary KCMA findings indicate continued increase and abuse of heroin, opiates, and fentanyl during the first half of 2017.
- Presence of fentanyl analogues also on the rise.
- Pharmacy theft or loss of fentanyl occurs infrequently.
  - Fentanyl patches are typically stolen.
- Fentanyl may be abused alone or combined with other drugs.
  - Heroin or pills.
  - U-47700 or Pink has been used as an alternative to fentanyl.
    - Synthetic opioid not intended for human use.
    - 8 times stronger than morphine.
- Most fentanyl in the KCMA sourced from China.
  - Some from Mexico.
  - Some from Dark Web.
- 85 pounds of fentanyl were seized in KCMA during 2017.
  - Only 16 pounds were destined for the AOR.

Central location + road network = KCMA as part of main shipping route for TCO drugs and bulk currency to/from Southwest Border.
Fentanyl

• Most lab submissions are sent in as other drugs (heroin, cocaine, etc)
• 12 doses of NARCAN were required to revive a St Louis overdose victim in June 2017
Fentanyl in SLMA

- Fentanyl purity levels range from 0.7% - 4.1% in DEA laboratory submissions

- Fentanyl increasingly replacing current heroin markets

- St Louis Metropolitan Area overdose deaths
  - Fentanyl overdose deaths increased 643% in SLMA from 2014 to 2016
  - Rise in overdose deaths from 47 to 349
  - Fentanyl is now major factor in opioid deaths
## Fentanyl Deaths 2007-2016

*As of March 6, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>St. Louis City</th>
<th>St. Louis County</th>
<th>St. Charles County</th>
<th>Jefferson County</th>
<th>Franklin County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data as of March 6, 2017*
St. Louis Area Fentanyl vs Other Opiate Deaths

St. Louis Missouri Metropolitan Area
Fentanyl vs. Heroin and Other Opiate Deaths 2007-2016

* As of March 6, 2017
April 2017…St. Charles County Criminal Lab analyzed its first exhibit of carfentanil
  • A plastic nasal spray bottle containing carfentanil, fentanyl and the analog butyryl fentanyl
By Comparison

![Image of three vials labeled Heroin, Fentanyl, and Carfentanil comparing their contents.]
Prescription Pills

- U.S. consumes 80% of global opioid supply
- Pain pills are 2nd largest global drug class
- Only cancer drugs exceed pain drug demand
- In 2014, Americans ingested 99% of all hydrocodone, a powerful opioid painkiller
So... What Caused this Drug Crisis?

- Heroin-prescription pills cycle started current crisis
- Illicit drug use in U.S. has historically increased
- 2017...25 million+ Americans abuse drugs
- User demand for more and stronger drugs only continues to increase
- Mexican cartels adapted to U.S. consumer demand
- Synthetic opioids such as fentanyl are the latest and growing drug demand

Consensus: Worst drug crisis in U.S. history
Majority of drug overdose deaths stems from opioids

1980 - 6,000 drug overdose deaths in U.S.

2000 to 2015 - 180,000 overdose deaths in U.S.
  • Three times the number of Vietnam War deaths

2016 - 64,000 to 65,000 Americans died from drug overdose
  • 2016 - 40,000 Americans died in traffic accidents
  • 2016 - Deadliest on roads in last 10 years

2016 - Drug overdose leading cause of death for Americans under 50

Fentanyl and fentanyl analogues compound the opioid drug disaster

U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services
  • 2016 - 580 people began daily heroin use
  • 2016 - 78 people died each day from opioid overdose
DEA 360 Goals

- Tackle the cycle of violence and addiction in a comprehensive approach generated from the link between drug cartels, violent gangs and rising problem of prescription opioid and heroin abuse in U.S. cities

- Stop the deadly cycle of heroin and opioid pill abuse by eliminating drug trafficking organizations and gangs that fuel violence on the streets and perpetuate cycles of addiction in our communities

- Partner with the medical community and the public to raise awareness of the dangers of prescription opioid misuse and the link to heroin

- Strengthen community organizations best positioned to provide long-term help and support to build drug free communities
DEA recognizes we cannot arrest our way out of the drug problem – our goal is lasting success in the communities we serve.

Education, prevention and opportunity are key elements for a true 360 degree strategy.

Enforcement Operations provide an opportunity to empower communities and provide a springboard for education and prevention efforts.
Diversion Control

- Engage drug manufacturers, wholesalers, practitioners and pharmacists to increase awareness of the opioid epidemic and encourage responsible prescribing practices for opioid painkillers in the healthcare community.

- DEA Pharmacy Diversion Awareness Conferences for pharmacists in our region:
  - Des Moines – July 2017
  - Omaha – June 2017
  - Wichita – March 2017
  - St. Louis – April 2017

- Appearances at dozens of high schools, town halls, civic organizations, and various healthcare, social work and law enforcement associations and organizations across Missouri.
National Take Back Initiative

- DEA sponsored program that collects unused Rx & OTC meds from the public to remove this “attractive nuisance” from homes in an effort to reduce accidental poisonings by partnering with state and local law enforcement agencies to provide collection points twice annually.

- Beginning Sept 2016, these twice annual collection events have removed over 331,000 lbs. of unwanted meds from Missouri homes.

- Our first collection netted just over 5,000 lbs: the last event was our 3rd highest total of nearly 37,000 lbs.

- Nationally, this program has removed over 8 million pounds of unused meds from homes.