# Current Trends in Drug Use

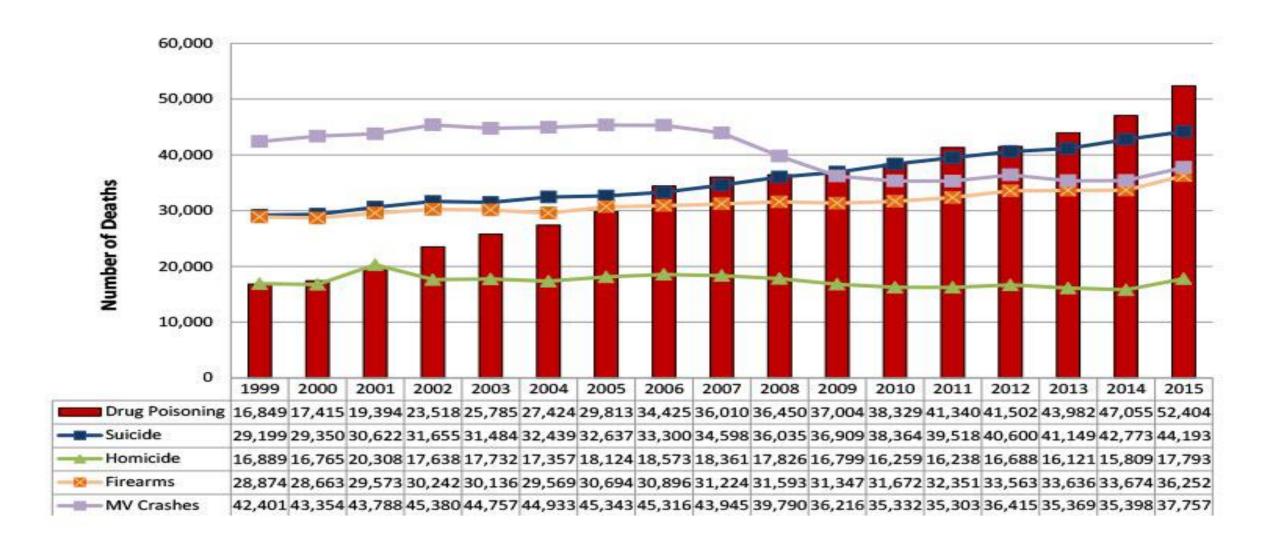
THE EQUALIZATION OF ILLICIT DRUGS

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#### Learning Objectives

- Drugs on the increase
- Is it only the Opioid Epidemic we should be worried about?
- What about alcohol and marijuana?
- ▶ What's new?
- Supply and Demand
- Kentucky

### Number of Injury Deaths by Drug Poisoning, Suicide, Homicide, Firearms, and Motor Vehicle Crashes in U.S., 1999-2015





#### Drug Overdose Deaths by Decedent's County of Residence 2016



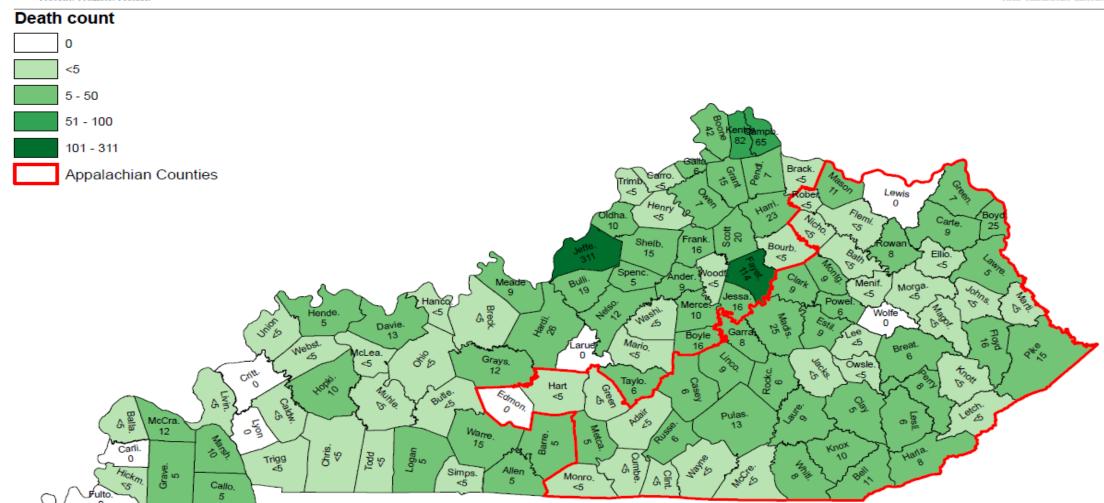
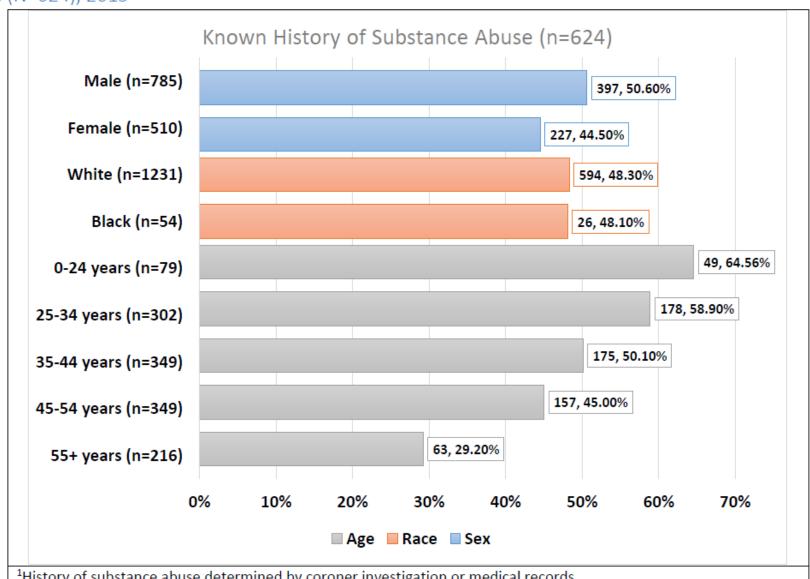


Figure 17. Demographics of Drug Overdose Decedents in Kentucky with Known Histories of Substance Abuse (N=624), 2015<sup>1-2</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>History of substance abuse determined by coroner investigation or medical records.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Asian/PI, Indian, Other, and Unknown Races were excluded from this analyses due to low counts.

#### The most common drugs found in Kentucky's overdose victims

Based on an analysis of 1,471 drug overdose deaths in 2016

Individual drugs		Two-drug combinations		Three-drug combinations	
DRUG	SHARE	DRUGS	SHARE	DRUGS	SHARE
Morphine	45.4%	Heroin, morphine	24.3%	Heroin, morphine, codeine	16.6%
Fentanyl	37.0	Fentanyl, morphine	23.7	Heroin, morphine, fentanyl	11.6
Gabapentin	32.6	Codeine, morphine	20.0	Morphine, codeine, fentanyl	9.3
Alprazolam	25.5	Heroin, codeine	16.6	Heroin, morphine, THC-COOH	7.9
THC-COOH	24.9	Gabapentin, morphine	14.2	Heroin, codeine, fentanyl	7.6
Heroin	24.7	Morphine, THC-COOH	12.8	Fentanyl, morphine, THC-COOH	7.3
Codeine	20.7	Alprazolam, morphine	12.6	Alprazolam, heroin, morphine	7.3
Ethanol	18.4	Methamphetamine, amphetamine	12.0	Gabapentin, heroin, morphine	7.1
Oxycodone	17.2	Heroin, fentanyl	11.7	Gabapentin, fentanyl, morphine	6.8
Methamphetamine	17.1	Oxycodone, oxymorphone	11.5	Alprazolam, codeine, morphine	6.6

In cases in which multiple drugs are detected, every individual drug — as well as every two- and three-drug combination — is counted separately.

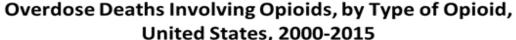
## Region 16 Self Report Top Drugs of Addiction 2013-2017

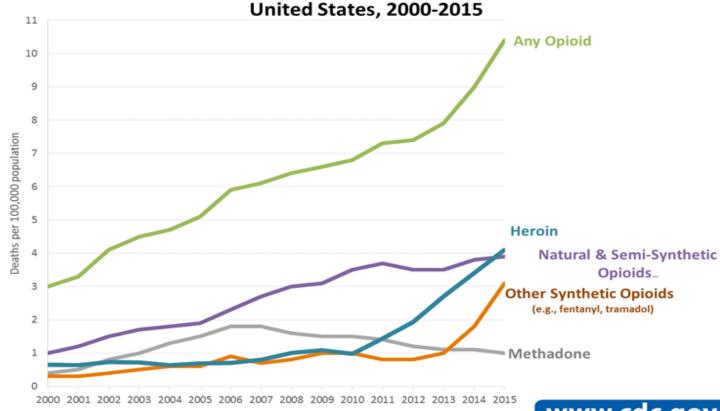
- Region 16
  - ▶ 2013 Heroin and Alcohol
  - ▶ 2014 Heroin and Alcohol
  - 2015 Heroin and Alcohol
  - 2016 Heroin and Alcohol
  - ▶ 2017 Meth and Heroin
- ▶ The rest of the state
  - Alcohol and Marijuana

#### THP Drug Testing Results

Still waiting on data

#### Overdose Deaths: Types of Opioids





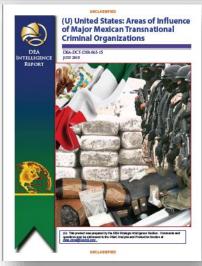
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality. CDC WONDER, Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2016. https://wonder.cdc.gov/.



## Opioid Nation: The Flooding of America with Opioids

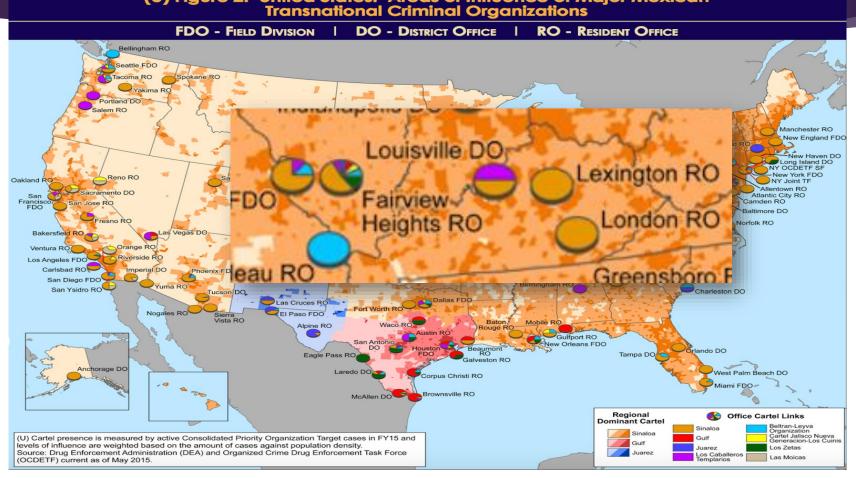
- America begins to restrict access to prescription opioids
  - Prescription drug monitoring programs
  - Abuse deterrent formulations of opioids (e.g. OxyContin®)
  - Squeeze on "Pill Mills"
  - Pain as fifth vital sign
- Mexican opioid trafficking
  - Legalization of marijuana
  - ▶ 46.3 tons of heroin produced
  - Highly refined and potent heroin
  - Fentanyl from China





#### Opioid Nation: The Flooding of America with Opioids

(U) Figure 2: United States: Areas of Influence of Major Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations

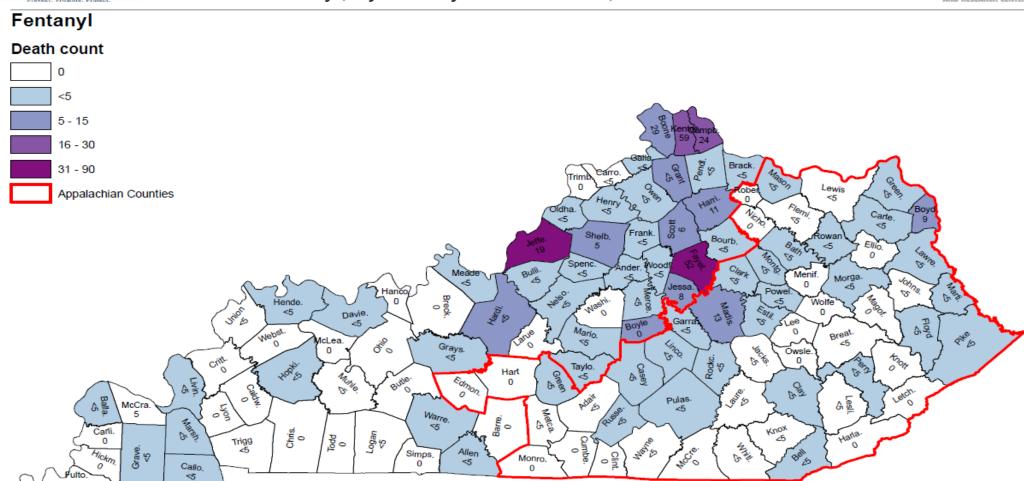


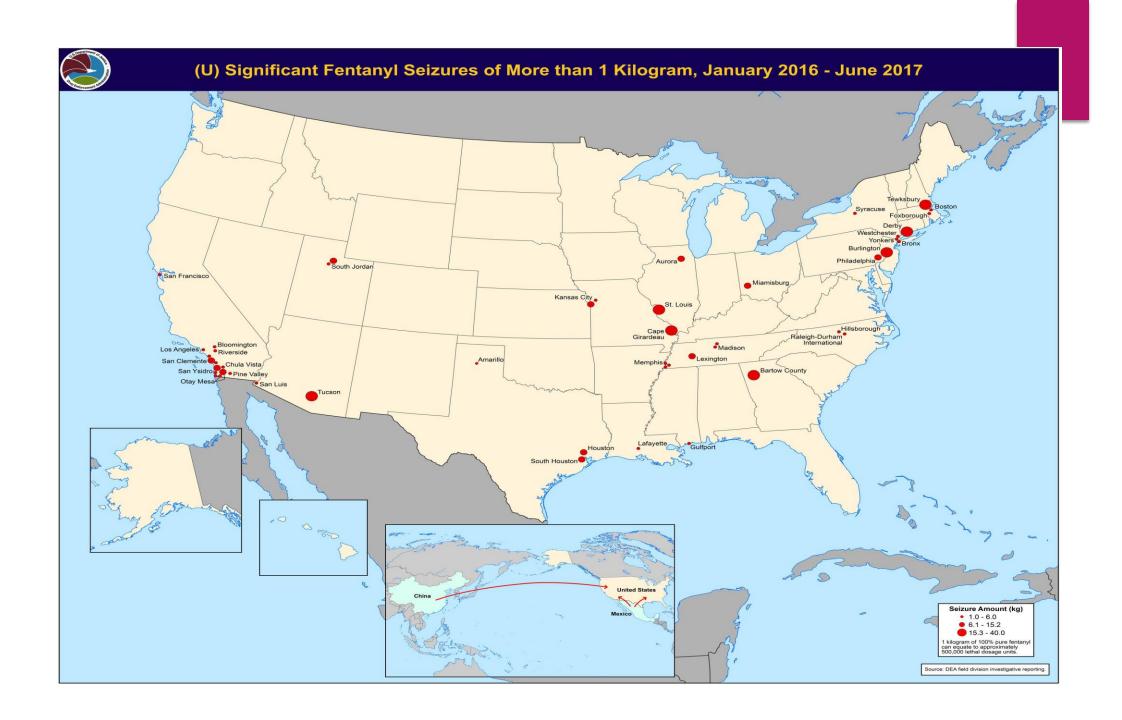
#### Fentanyl & Other Synthetic Opioids (i.e. Carfentanil)



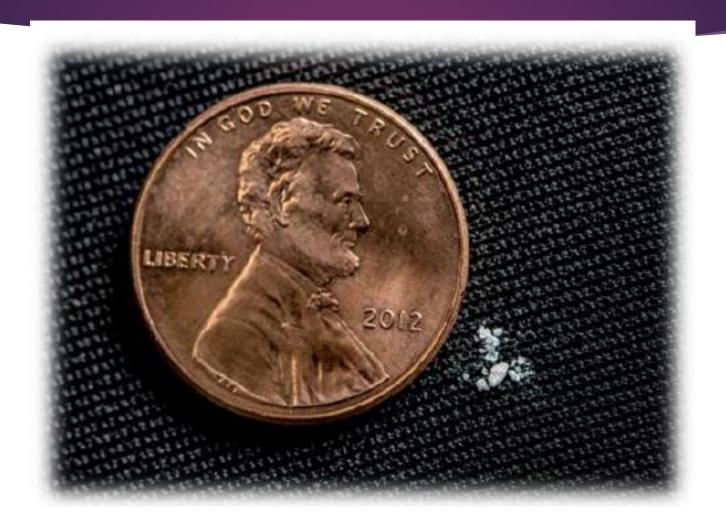
Kentucky Resident Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl, by County of Residence, 2016







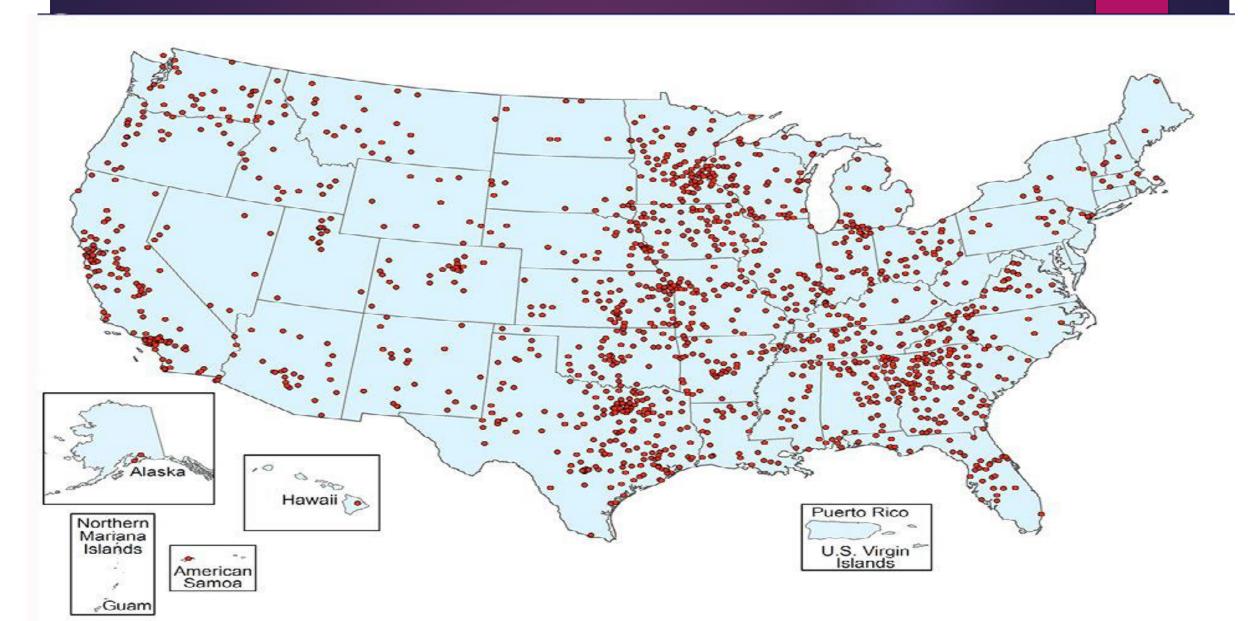
#### Fentanyl



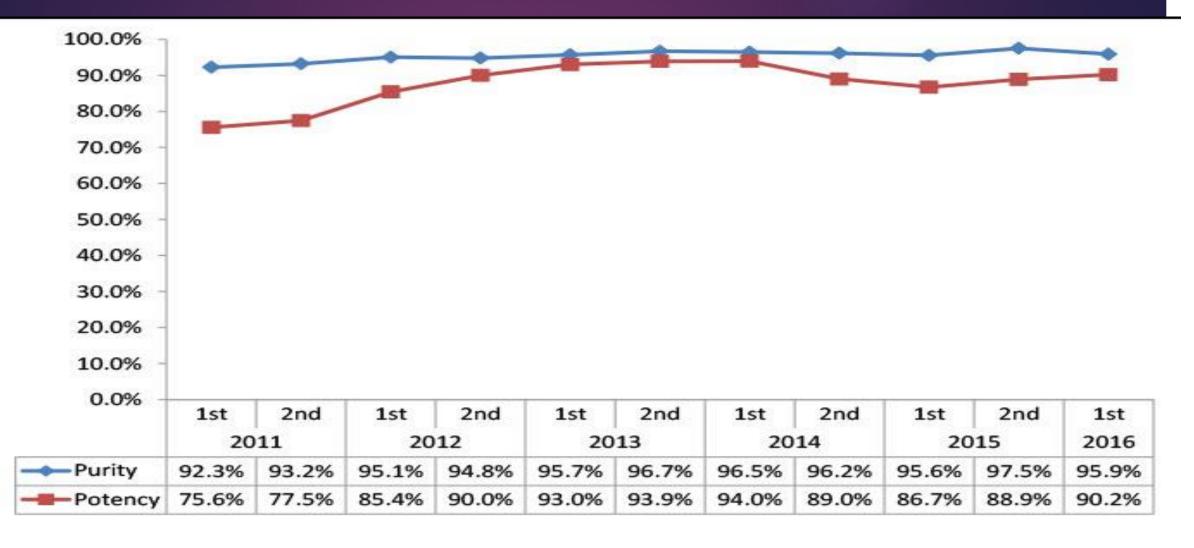
#### Fentanyl is Profitable

Drug	Cost Per 1 Kg to DTO	Approximate Number of Kgs Produced from Original Drug Procurement	Wholesale Price per Kg in Massachusetts	Revenue to DTO from 1 Kg
Heroin	\$5,000 - 7,000 (Purchased from Colombia)	1 kg	\$80,000	\$80,000
Pure Fentanyl (99%)	\$3,300 -5,000 (Purchased from China)	16-24 kgs	\$80,000	\$1,280,000 - 1,920,000

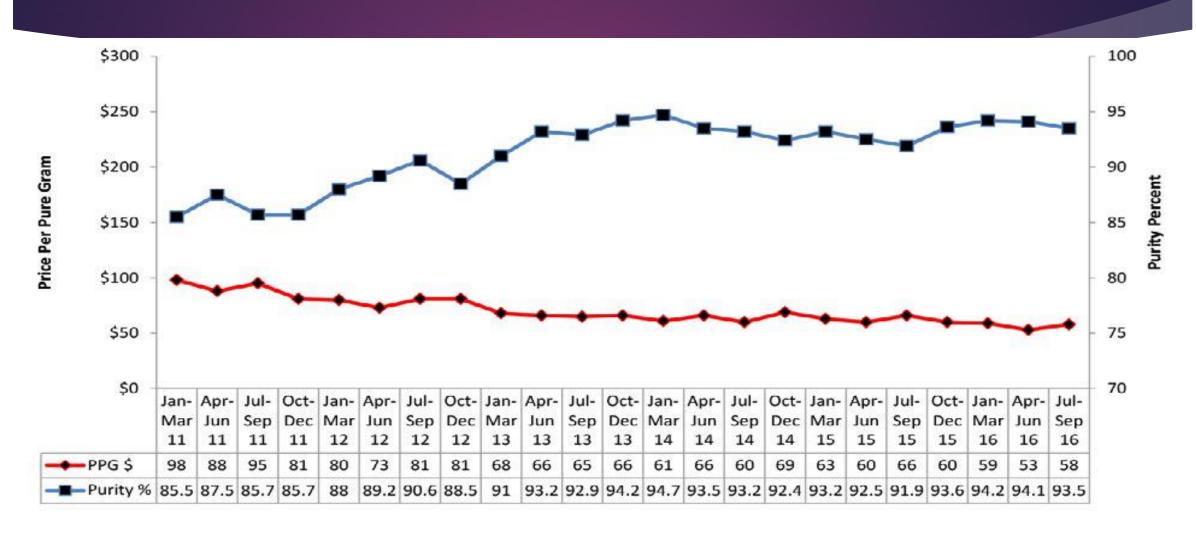
#### Methamphetamine



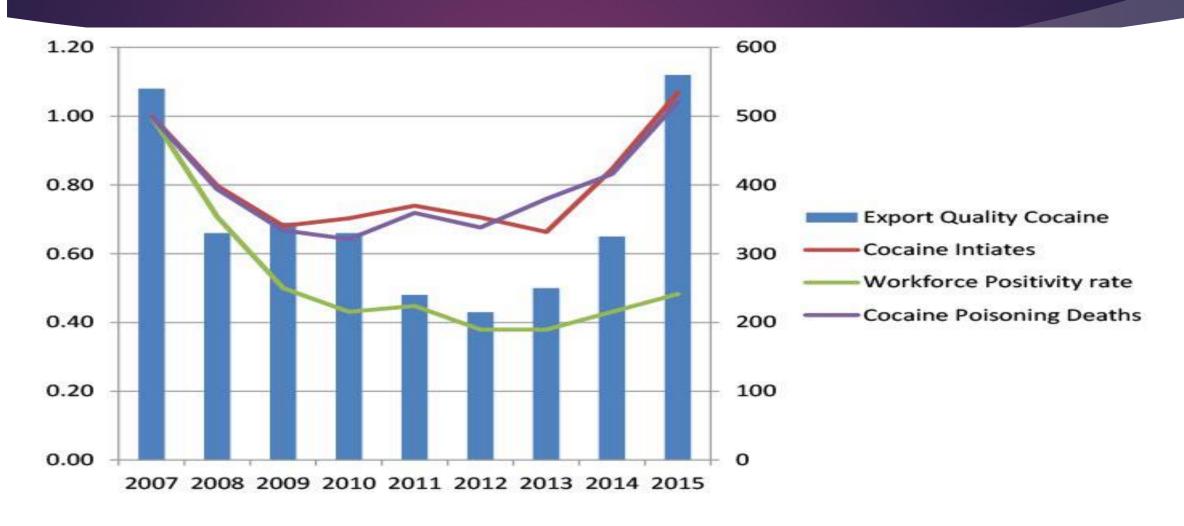
#### Meth Purity and Potency



#### Domestic Meth Purchases Jan 2011-Sept 2016



## U.S. Cocaine Indicators and Colombia Export Quality Cocaine Production Based on 2007 Value, 2007 – 2016.



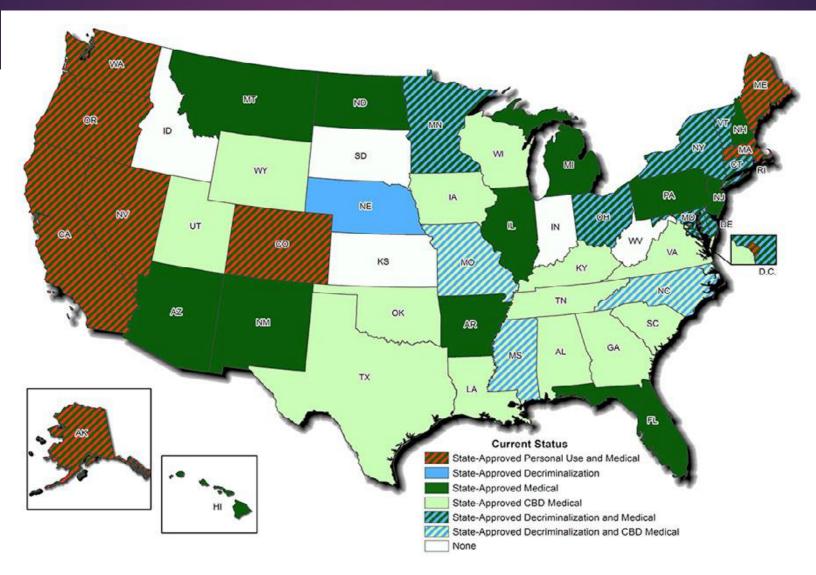
#### Domestic Cocaine Price and Purity 2007-2016



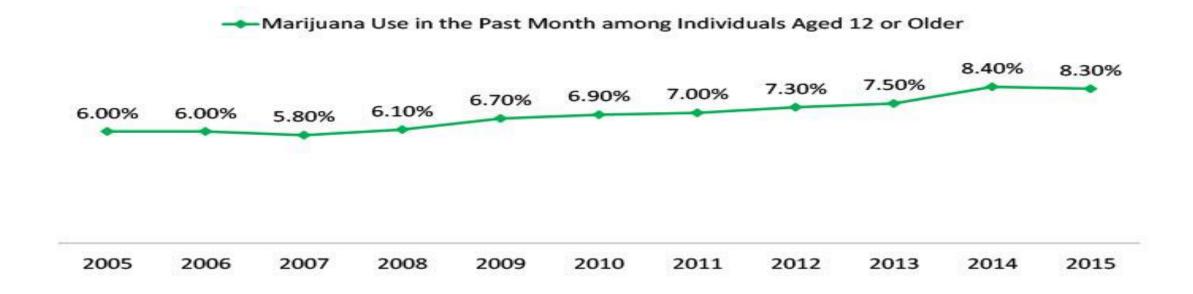
#### Colombia's Coca Boom

- ▶ Cocaine production in Colombia increased 35% between 2015 and 2016.
- Current production estimates are at the highest levels ever recorded.
- Between 2007 and 2016, export quality cocaine purity in Colombia ranged from 73% to 83% with an average export quality of 77%.
- ▶ DEA assess that coca cultivation in Colombia is likely to expand in 2017 due to increased coca farmer profits.
- ▶ DEA has documented a historic correlation between increased Colombian coca cultivation and increased cocaine use in the U.S.
- ► This is all despite the peace deal between Colombia's government and FARC requiring that FARC end all involvement in the drug trade.

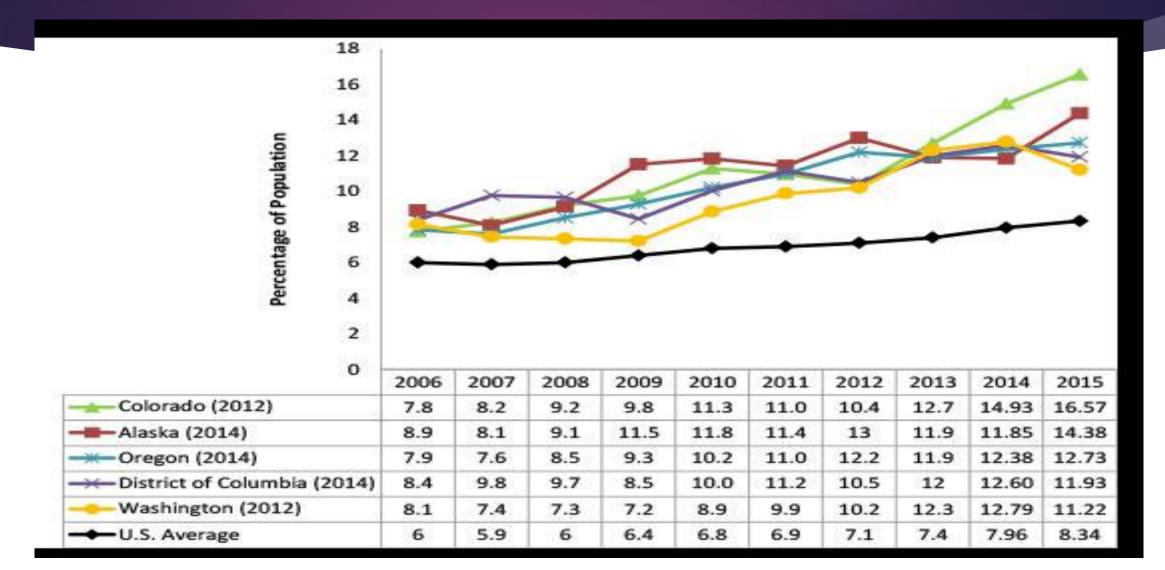
#### Current State Approved Marijuana Status, Aug 2017



## Percentage of Past Month Marijuana Users Among People Aged 12 or Older, 2005-2015.



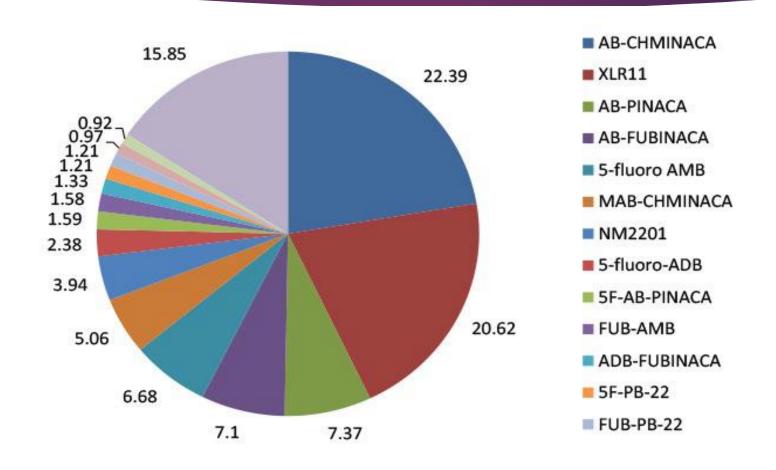
#### Use in Legal States v U.S Average in the Past Month



#### Marijuana

- Marijuana is the most widely available and commonly used illicit drug in the U.S.
- There are three markets currently: Illicit markets, state approved medical marijuana markets, and state approved personal use/recreational markets.
- ▶ THC levels are at 56% compared to 13% in 1995
- ► Edibles, tinctures, capsules, patches and dabs
- Harm perception by the public is decreasing
- Adolescent use is up

#### New Psychoactive Substances



#### Alcohol

- ▶ 86.4% of adults reported that they drank alcohol at some point in their lifetime
- ▶ 26.9% of people age 18 or older reported that they engaged in binge drinking in the past month and 7% reported that they engaged in heavy alcohol use in the past month.
- ▶ 6.2% of adults had an Alcohol Use Disorder in 2015.
- ▶ An estimated 88,0008 people (approximately 62,000 men and 26,000 women) die from alcohol-related causes annually, making alcohol the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States. The first is tobacco, and the second is poor diet and physical inactivity.
- ▶ In 2014, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 9,967 deaths (31 percent of overall driving fatalities).

#### Takeaways

- We are at a historical juncture when it comes to the availability, potency, and affordability of illicit drugs.
- The long view on this trend is that it isn't going to get better.
- We will continue to see synthetic drugs increasing and new synthetic drugs emerging.
- Marijuana use and public perception will continue to trend up.
- Alcohol is still the worst.
- Trying to control the supply side won't cut it.
- We need demand reduction.

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