

**REVIEWED***By Chris at 3:40 pm, May 18, 2020*[skip to main navigation](#)**DEA****United States Drug Enforcement  
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Narcotics (Opioids)

## Narcotics (Opioids)



### *WHAT ARE NARCOTICS?*

Also known as “opioids,” the term “narcotic” comes from the Greek word for “stupor” and orig

substances that dulled the senses and relieved pain. Though some people still refer to all drug refers to opium, opium derivatives, and their semi-synthetic substitutes. A more current term of uncertainty regarding its meaning, is “opioid.” Examples include the illicit drug heroin and pharmaceuticals such as OxyContin, Vicodin, codeine, morphine, methadone, and fentanyl.

### ***WHAT IS THEIR ORIGIN?***

The poppy *Papaver somniferum* is the source for all natural opioids, whereas synthetic opioids include meperidine, fentanyl, and methadone. Semi-synthetic opioids are synthesized from natural products, such as morphine and codeine, and include heroin, oxycodone, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone. People obtain narcotics from friends, family members, medicine cabinets, pharmacies, nursing homes, and the Internet.

**September 16, 2019**

### **[Drug-Related Overdose Deaths in Pennsylvania, 2018 \(BUL-132-19\)](#)**

Since 2014, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Philadelphia Division Intelligence Program (PDIP) has annually collected and analyzed data and disseminated perceived trends and key findings that concern drug-related overdose deaths in Pennsylvania. This analysis has informed a multidisciplinary audience relating to the drugs, populations, and geographic areas of greatest concern...

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**May 31, 2019**

### **[Updating the Prescription Opioid Threat in Pennsylvania](#)**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Philadelphia Division’s Intelligence Program (PDIP) reviewed a set of data indicators for the years 2015-2018 to assess the current prescription opioid threat in Pennsylvania. Analysis revealed that a positive change in the prescription opioid threat may be underway...

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**June 4, 2019**

### **[Greg Cherundolo The Countdown: Fentanyl Analogues and the Expiring Emergency Scheduling Order](#)**

Greg Cherundolo Chief of Operations Office of Global Enforcement Drug Enforcement Administration U.S. Department of Justice before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee for hearing entitled: The Countdown: Fentanyl Analogues and the Expiring Emergency Scheduling Order.

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**February 21, 2019**

**[Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon, Museum of Natural History and Science](#)**

Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon at the Drugs: Cost and Consequences Press Conference, Museum of Natural History and Science, Albuquerque, New Mexico

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**February 19, 2019**

**[Athletes and Opioids Poster](#)**

What is prescription pain reliever misuse? As defined by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, it's "use without a prescription of one's own or use at a higher dosage or more often than prescribed." Prescription opioid addiction – stemming from misuse – has hit the nation hard in recent years. Unfortunately, high school student-athletes can be especially vulnerable to prescription painkiller misuse. This poster encourages teens, parents and other caregivers, and educators to know the risks around misusing pain pills.

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**October 2, 2018**

**[2018 National Drug Threat Assessment \(NDTA\)](#)**

The 2018 National Drug Threat Assessment (NDTA) is a comprehensive strategic assessment of the threat posed to the United States by domestic and international drug trafficking and the abuse of illicit drugs. The report combines federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement reporting; public health data; open source reporting; and intelligence from other government agencies to determine which substances and criminal organizations represent the greatest threat to the United States.

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**October 12, 2018**

**[Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon, Instead Opioid Summit Plenary Opening Remarks](#)**

Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon, delivers plenary opening remarks for the Instead Opioid Summit in Salt Lake City Utah

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**September 6, 2018**

## [Paul E. Knierim - Tackling Fentanyl: The China Connection](#)

Statement of Paul E. Knierim Deputy Chief of Operations, Office of Global Enforcement Before the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations Committee on Foreign Affairs U.S. House of Representatives for a hearing entitled "Tackling Fentanyl: The China Connection"

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**November 28, 2017**

## [Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders](#)

The abuse of drugs containing fentanyl is killing Americans. Misinformation and inconsistent recommendations regarding fentanyl have resulted in confusion in the first responder community. This document provides scientific, evidence-based recommendations to protect first responders from exposure.

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**October 4, 2018**

## [How to Properly Dispose of Your Unused Medicines](#)

Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue. The Drug Enforcement Administration provides guidance on the right way to dispose of unused medicine.

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## United States Drug Enforcement Administration

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