42 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL TASK FORCES
MISSION

The Ohio Task Force Commanders’ Association exists and operates as a unified body, which partners with the State of Ohio to promote professionalism and cooperation through the sharing of information and resources in order to target the flow of illegal drugs and organized criminal activity into Ohio communities, ensuring the safety and security of Ohio’s citizens.
OUR PURPOSE

• To maintain cooperation among all drug task forces in Ohio, and to assist in developing new Ohio drug task forces
• To maintain the highest standards of professionalism in task force operations and to encourage best practices
• To promote and maintain the highest standards of ethics, integrity and honesty throughout Ohio drug task forces
• To provide forums for information exchange and to encourage deconfliction of information pertaining to our enforcement activities
• To provide and coordinate training and assistance to Ohio’s drug task forces
OUR PURPOSE

• To have an Executive Board that governs our association through a set of written by-laws and overall purpose of the association

• To maintain a cooperative relationship with other professional organizations on matters of mutual interest which further the purposes of the Ohio Task Force Commander’s Association

• To provide drug awareness education in our communities and schools, to support our prevention and treatment partners and to promote and encourage acceptance of new programs/ideas that can prove beneficial to the health of Ohio’s residents.
PROBLEMATIC PROGRESSION

Pill Abuse

Heroin Addiction

Cartel Supply and Oversight

Gang Distribution and Violence
SUPPLY

AFGHANISTAN
- Fall of Taliban regime allowed for more opium poppy production
- Local warlords and government corruption
- US / NATO need local support for counterterrorism initiatives
- Local populations are dependent on poppy production for survival

MEXICO
- Increase in local opium poppy production
- Government corruption and control of territory by cartels
- US / Mexico border not fully secured

COLUMBIA
- Source of heroin and cocaine since 1980’s
- Still largest supplier of heroin to US
DEMAND

Transit
- Interstates make Ohio a high-intensity drug trafficking area
- Buyers from suburbs, surrounding rural counties in Ohio and Indiana

Social Factors
- Economics factors and steady unemployment
- Rising addiction to prescription narcotics and over-the-counter pain medications
- Addicts use a variety of different types of drugs together, including methamphetamines and heroin

Law Enforcement
- Ohio legislative initiatives in the past few years closed many “pill mills” and forced users to turn to heroin
Heroin has a higher quality
Heroin is cheaper
Heroin is more available
Increased heroin addiction
Lethal drug combinations
Varying degrees of quality makes heroin dangerous
WITH THE WHOLESALE PRICE OF MARIJUANA FALLING — driven in part by decriminalization in sections of the United States — MEXICAN DRUG FARMERS ARE TURNING AWAY FROM CANNABIS AND FILLING THEIR FIELDS WITH OPIUM POPPIES.
TARGETING THE STRATEGIC LINK

Gang Distribution and Violence

Link Point

Cartel Drug Supply
KEY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO THE HEROIN SHIFT IN OHIO

- Growing opioid-addicted population
- Shutdown of Southern Ohio pill mills
- Added scrutiny of Rx opioid pills
- Tamper resistant long acting Rx opioid formulations
- Increase supply of heroin
- Decrease cost of heroin
- Increasing purity of heroin
The prescription painkiller has become the new gateway drug to heroin use, eclipsing marijuana, cocaine and alcohol.

People addicted to narcotic painkillers are 40 times more likely to misuse heroin.
HEROIN STREET NAMES

- BROWN
- SUGAR
- BIG H
- HORSE
- JUNK
- H
- HELL
- DUST
- BOY
- NOSE
- SMACK
- THUNDER
- SKAG

THUNDER

HEROIN STREET NAMES
1 Cap (tenth of a gram) = $10.00
1 Gram = $100.00
1 Ounce = $1,800
1 KILO = $70,000
SHORT-TERM SIDE EFFECTS

- “Rush”
- Slowed breathing
- Clouded mental functioning
- Nausea and vomiting
- Sedation; drowsiness
- Hypothermia (body temperature lower than normal)
- Coma or death (due to overdose)

LONG-TERM SIDE EFFECTS

- Bad teeth
- Inflammation of the gums
- Constipation
- Cold sweats
- Itching
- Weakening of the immune system
- Coma
- Respiratory (breathing) illnesses
- Muscular weakness, partial paralysis
- Reduced sexual capacity and long-term impotence in men
- Menstrual disturbance in women
- Inability to achieve orgasm (women and men)
- Loss of memory and intellectual performance
- Introversion
- Depression
- Pustules on the face
- Loss of appetite
- Insomnia
Injecting heroin into the bloodstream is perhaps the most dangerous way of using heroin. IV heroin use delivers the strongest high, but can also lead to the transmission of several potential deadly diseases.
SNORTING HEROIN

When crushed into powder form, heroin can be snorted through the nose. Snorting heroin delivers an impactful high, although not quite as fast acting as shooting or smoking heroin.
SMOKING HEROIN

Heroin is smoked by heating the powder on a piece of tin or aluminum foil over a flame. The resulting white smoke is inhaled, sometimes using a tube or rolled foil cylinder. The practice is often called "chasing the dragon."
In its purest form, heroin is a fine white powder. But more often, it is found to be rose gray, brown or black in color. The coloring comes from additives which have been used to dilute it, which can include sugar, caffeine or other substances.
HEROIN
HEROIN IS BEING PRESSED INTO PILL FORM TO DISGUISE THE DRUG & MIMIC PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION.
MORE SUPPLY & MORE DANGEROUS

• The purity of heroin has always been questionable. In the past, dealers cut the drug with caffeine, sugar, flour, starch, powdered milk, chalk or some other relatively harmless substance that weakened what the user got.

• Today, cartels are manufacturing something that makes it even more potent while increasing their overall supply – **FENTANYL.**
Fentanyl, an synthetic opiate that in its legal, prescription form is used to treat post-surgery pain. By itself is potent enough to kill someone if too much is consumed. Fentanyl effectively slows a user’s breathing, which makes it particularly dangerous when combined with another opiate such as heroin.

Fentanyl continues to be a driving factor of the high number of overdoses due to it being used to cut heroin and/or selling it pure.
OPIOID ADDICTION RESPECTS NO GEOGRAPHIC, ETHNIC, ECONOMIC, OR SOCIAL BOUNDARIES.
Today, fentanyl is the leading opioid of abuse in many areas of Ohio, and its availability and use are also outpacing heroin in many places.
The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a carfentanil warning in September 2016 to the general public, as well as to law enforcement agencies across the country. The DEA cautioned that carfentanil, a synthetic opioid 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl, could be lethal at the 2-milligram range.
Carfentanil (aka “elephant tranquilizer”) is primarily produced in China as a large-animal anesthetic to be used in veterinary medicine; it is brought to this country from China via the U.S.
Naloxone (also known as Narcan®) is a medication used to counter the effects of opioid overdose. It’s initial intention was to reverse the effects of narcotic drugs used during surgery. The drug was approved for opioid overdose usage by the FDA in 1971. In fentanyl related overdoses, more than one spray is usually required to revive the victim.
OTFCA

For information on drugs of abuse, drug trends, news and its member task forces can be found at:

www.otfca.net

Ohio Task Force Commanders Association