



# Drug Trends in the Tri-State

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NKY Drug Strike Force

# PreventionFIRST!

## 2020 Coalition Academy



### Housekeeping Notes:

- Continuing education will only be awarded for those who view the live session
- You must attend the entire training to receive continuing education hours
- Post event evaluation surveys are required to receive continuing education
- For Social Work/Mental Health Counselor credits you must provide your license number in the post event evaluation survey
- For CHES credits, you must provide your CHES ID in the post event evaluation survey
- You will receive your certificate for continuing education by email within **30 days** of this training.

The background of the slide features a light pinkish-red color with several 3D renderings of COVID-19 virus particles. These particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous red, spike-like protrusions extending from the outer layer. The particles are scattered across the slide, with some appearing larger and more detailed than others.

# Drug Trafficking and Abuse in the COVID–19 Era

**A look at how the current pandemic has impacted  
Drug Production, Drug Distribution and Drug Use**

# Measures Implemented to Address COVID-19 Having Mixed Impact on Drug Supply Chain

- Economic Downturn affected Opium Market
  - Drug Trafficking relies heavily on legal trade to camouflage activities
  - Opium Production in Afghanistan down - need for chemicals from outside the country
  - No indications that Opium Production in Mexico is impacted
  - Synthetic Drugs decrease due to availability of needed precursor chemicals

# COVID-19 Mixed Impact on Drug Supply Chain

- Closed or Tighter Borders and Mobility Restrictions within borders
  - At some borders, increased controls lead to increased interdictions
  - Some Production Countries reporting large seizures
  - Stockpiling of illicit drugs occurring on both sides of the Southwest border
  - Destination Markets - Smaller seizures, Increased Prices, Purity Reductions
    - Problems for those with drug use disorders
    - Use of other available drugs as substitute

# COVID-19 Measures Impact on Drug Trafficking

- Most Universal Restrictions during pandemic are on air traffic
- Sea Transport also seeing restrictions
- Vehicle Transport likely to Increase
- Already seeing increase use of parcel carrier services

# Overall Impact on Illegal Drug Use

- Overall decrease in drug use
- Behavioral changes of drug dependent people
  - Cost may drive them to criminal or hazardous activities
- Decrease in services for narcotic dependent people
- Increase demand for other drugs: Meth, Marijuana and THC products

# Overall Impact on Illegal Drug Use

- Criminal Organizations will adapt strategies to overcome COVID measures
  - Transportation modes and routes – utilize “dark net” and mail/parcel services more
  - Stockpiling of drugs - will over supply the market when restrictions lift
- Economic downturn
  - Might create environment conducive for drug abuse
  - Could lead to reduction of budgets and subsequent available services



## June 1 through June 30, 2020 Southwest Border Seizures

Contraband Type	# of Incidents	Amount Seized*
Cannabis	39	25,732 KGS
	1	424 plants
Cocaine	57	668 KGS
Fentanyl	55	264 KGS
Heroin	49	254 KGS
Methamphetamine	225	4,754 KGS
Misc. Opioids	2	8 KGS
	4	6,210 DU
Benzodiazepines	1	3 KGS
	1	12,240 DU
U.S. Currency	2	\$4,623

# Regional – Local Trends

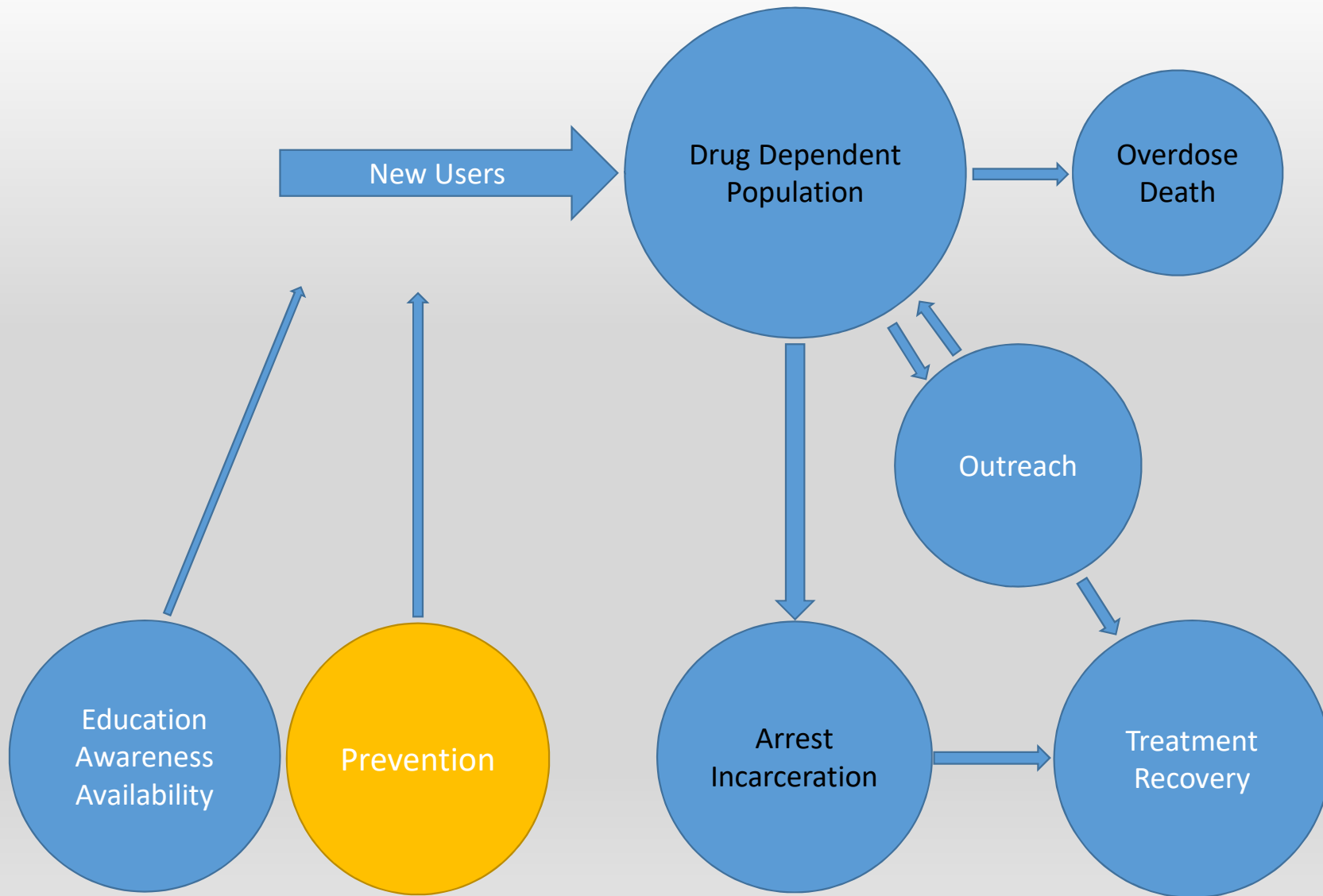
- Methamphetamine
  - Priced doubled
    - California – A pound cost \$900 last year, now is \$2000
    - Stockpiling on both sides of Southwest border
    - “Street level price of “Ice” increased in VA, WV, KY and TN” says Vic Brown – App HIDTA
  - Still available here
  - Quality still very good
  - Prices jumped drastically
    - 2015-2016 Prices of \$2000+ per Ounce
    - Pre COVID-19 (2018 to March 2020) \$350 to \$450 per ounce
    - Now prices are \$750 to \$800 per ounce

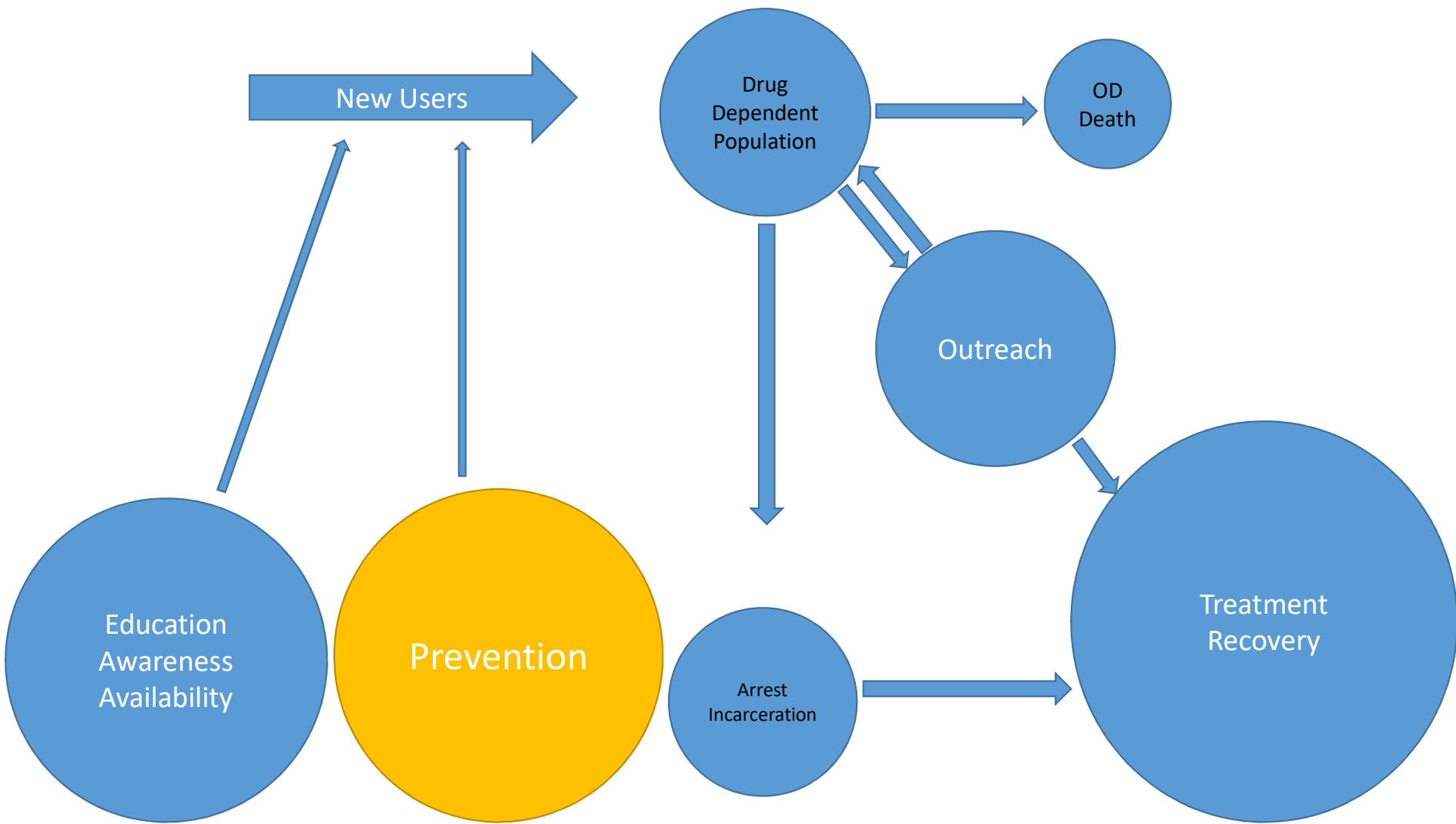
(Warren and Suarez, 2020) Mexican cartels stockpile drugs and money amid COVID-19 Pandemic.  
<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/crime/2020/06/08/coronavirus-pandemic-mexican-cartels-stockpile-drugs-money/5193971002/>

# Regional – Local Trends

- Marijuana
  - More prevalent
  - More potent
  - THC Products - oil, wax, 70% to 90% THC content, edibles
  - Hemp businesses - 0.399% or less for KY
  - Primarily coming from recreationally legal states
- Cocaine
  - Harder to get
  - More expensive
  - Many dealers switching to marijuana and/or methamphetamine
- Hallucinogens (LSD and MDMA)
  - More prevalent
  - Several cases regionally, Ecstasy (MDMA) sold tested as Meth

NKDSF - UNIT TOTALS	2019 - 2020 STATISTICS												YTD TOTALS
	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
<b>Cases</b>	11	10	3	10	8	7	12	13	10	5	4	8	<b>101</b>
<b>ARRESTS</b>													112
FELONY	4	11	4	15	4	7	5	6	5	2	8	14	85
MISD	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
FEDERAL CHARGES	4	0	1	2	2	1	2	14	0	0	0	0	26
<b>CONTRABAND SEIZED (GRAMS)</b>													
COCAINE (GRAMS)	16.60	15.00	3.00	18.80	44.80	4.20	28.60	29.90	61.40	46.00	0.00	275.68	544.0
CRACK (GRAMS)	5.40	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	23.50	0.00	7.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.0
MARIJUANA (GRAMS)	234.00	432.60	643.90	3306.20	3660.06	8001.40	26052.00	1372.98	1625.00	11.00	11657.30	5110.10	62106.5
HEROIN (GRAMS)	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.6
METHAMPHETAMINE (GRAMS)	64.90	61.10	8.50	403.48	241.30	121.01	65.80	156.10	14.80	316.00	0.00	230.40	1683.4
FENTANYL (GRAMS)	1.30	0.00	2.00	50.45	0.00	0.00	1.00	8.30	0.20	4.00	19.00	10.30	96.55
CLAN LABS DISMANTLED (#)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MJ CULTIVATIONS DISMANTLED (#)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
MJ CULT - INDOOR (# of PLANTS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MJ CULT - OUTDOOR (# of PLANTS)	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
MDMA (ECSTASY) or LSD (# of DU)	1000	0	0	0	267	29	0	0	120	504	1092	1300	4312
PRESCRIBED PILLS (# of PILLS)	1	0	0	3001	10	10	0	174	36.5	0	35	55	3322.5
SCHEDULE II	1	0	0	1	10	0	0	54	1	0	21	25	113
SCHEDULE III	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	35.5	0	14	30	196.5
SCHEDULE IV	0	0	0	3000	0	10	0	3	0	0	0	0	3013
PILL DROP BOX (GRAMS)	44954.00	15444.00	65012.00	360846.00	32862.00	34294.00	20306.00	21758.00	4564.00	114987.00	27306.00	20128.00	762461.0







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### Post Training Info:

- Please complete the evaluation survey in the post event email.
- The recording and supplemental materials will be available on the PreventionFIRST! website under **TrainingHUB**.

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