DRUG OVERDOSE CALLS AND INVESTIGATIONS

CONSIDERATIONS AND RESPONSE
National Overdose Deaths
Number of Deaths Involving Opioids

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder
OPIATES

• #1 Producer- Afghanistan, #2 SE Asia, #3 Mexico, #4 Colombia
• 2002-2018, OD Deaths have quadrupled
• Heroin is 2-3 stronger than Morphine
• 1/10 of gram= 100mg>> Typical daily user dosage
• “Brick”= 50 bags (look for in text messages)
• “Packs/Bundles”= 10 bags (looks for in text messages)
• Opium seeds by themselves, not illegal. Opium poppy tea> Cold Water Extraction= Lab (11350HS) * Can Overdose, look for yellowish liquid in Gatorade or water bottle
TRENDS AND GRADES

• “China White,” “Mexican Brown” *The quality of the cook, chemicals, textures looks like all kinds. “Colombian” found in wax paper with a logo stamp (powder form).
• Balloons>> Biohazard (Removed and re-inserted from mouth and digestive tract, passed along)
• Tar Heroin+ empty pill container+ pennies or dimes, shake until it becomes powder
• Heroin combo with pills>> Benzodiazepine “Benzos” (Xanax or alprazolam, Valium or diazepam, Ativan or lorazepam
• *Look for Jesus Malverde statues, paintings, pendants, pictures, shrines (Narco Saint worshipped by street level to cartels)
FENTANYL

- Medical application (trans-dermal patch, lolli-pop, lingual under the tongue)
- DEALER DRIVEN added to every street drug and marijuana to create addiction
- Very potent (Sufentanil 30mcg = 1000x more potent than heroin)
- Users build up tolerance, can overwhelm a first responder (particulate matter)
THINK SAFETY - HAVE YOUR PPE GEAR READY,
(STANDARD N95 MASK IS FINE, NITRIL GLOVES,
EYE PROTECTION IF POSSIBLE)
APPROACH WITH CAUTION
*92% HEP C+
*72% HIV+
INTRAVENOUS, SUBCUTANEOUS, INTRAMUSCULAR
MAKE YOURSELF SAFE - GLOVE UP AND PUT ON YOUR MASK, NALOXONE (NARCAN) SHOULD BE AVAILABLE
SIGNS OF OPIATE OVERDOSE

• Loss of Consciousness
• Look for the “Foam Cone” (foaming at the mouth and nostrils)
• Where normal respirations are 12-15 breaths per minute, Opiate OD subjects have less than 12 respirations per minute
• Rescue breathing + Narcan application
• Be aware of range for projectile vomit
Signs of an Opioid Overdose

- Blue lips or nails
- Dizziness and confusion
- Can't be woken up
- Choking, gurgling or snoring sounds
- Slow, weak or no breathing
- Drowsiness or difficulty staying awake
OVERDOSE SCENES

• Look for diabetic syringes (usually closest to the body) *absence of needle may be indicative of a tampered scene/ clean up.
• Look for the cooker (bottle cap) and cotton balls, heat source added if heroin won’t break down
• Pipes or glass tubing (bent at the edge) sign of “hot railing”
• Look for the Kits (box, spoons, syringes, vials, cotton, rubber band) absence of a kit possibly indicative of scene contamination
• Take photos
• Good interviews from those at the scene and those close to decedent might have information about user and dealer
• Collect phones left behind, especially believed to belong to the decedent
• Have WC Notify Investigations Sgt./ Advise SIU (email or phone call)
• Consider Hazmat clean up response if needed
ANY QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS?