




DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
 STATE OF MAINE

43rd Annual Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC) Conference
 Portland, ME
 May 22, 2017

BRIEFING



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Strategy

- 25 M.S.A., chapter 353 – ME Drug Enforcement Act
- Address the upper and mid-level drug dealers that operate below the interest of the Federal law enforcement authorities that focus on international, interstate and substantial violators, and the street level efforts that focus on the small dealers and those caught in possession.



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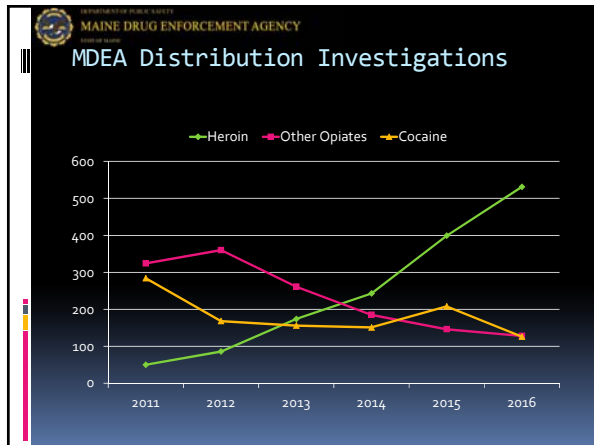
Strategy

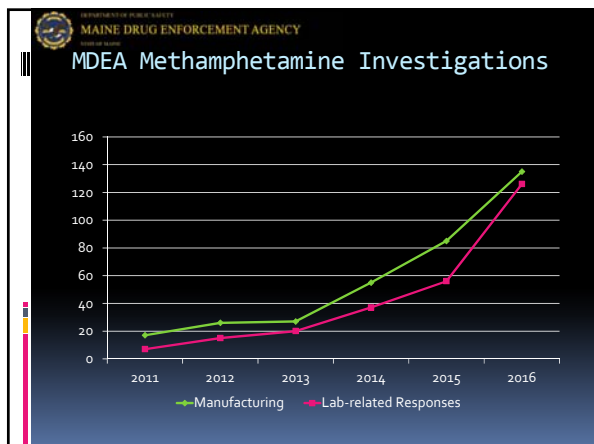
- Mission – reduce the distribution, availability and use of illicit drugs through a collaborative statewide drug enforcement effort.
 - Undermine the ability of drug suppliers to meet, expand, and profit from drug demand.
 - Impacts the State's ability to support prevention efforts by making initiation to drug use more difficult and
 - Contributes to treatment efforts by eroding the ability of users to sustain their habits.

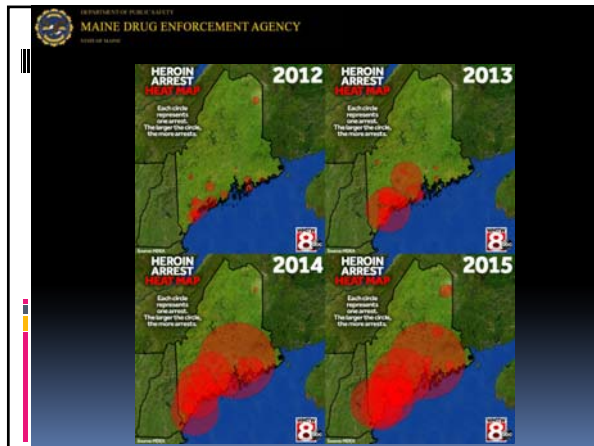
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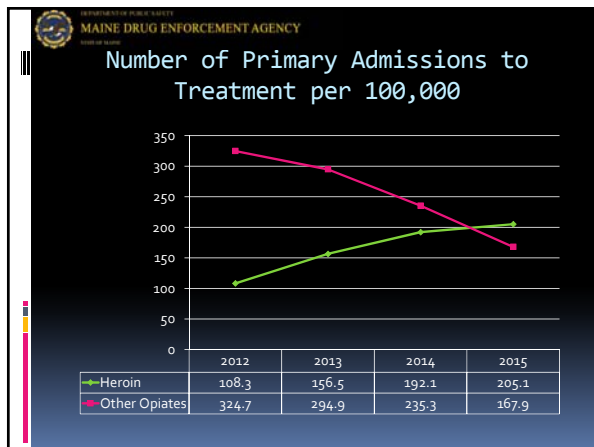
Strategic Goals

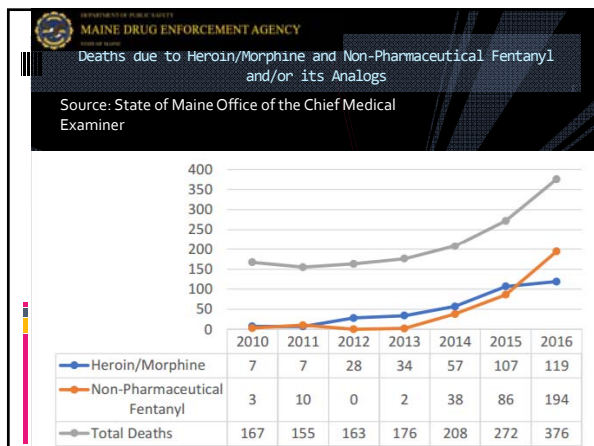
- Reduce the availability of drugs in Maine
- Protect Maine's borders by stemming the flow of drugs into and through Maine
- Strengthen state drug LE infrastructure
- Strengthen intelligence and information sharing
- Enhance collaboration and coordination with all LEAs
- Establish effective partnerships with other state agencies

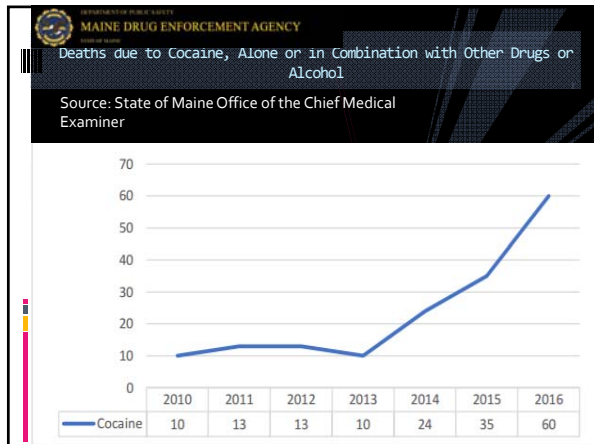


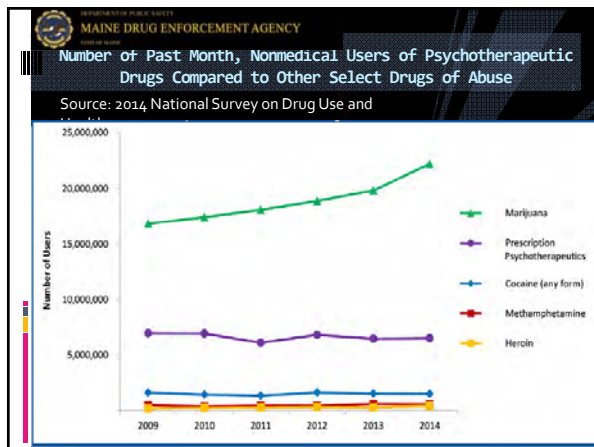


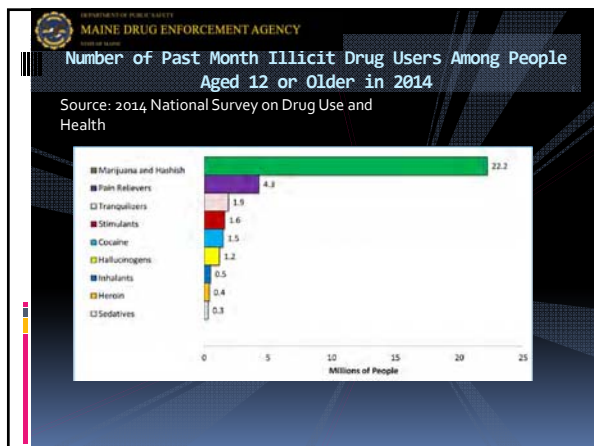


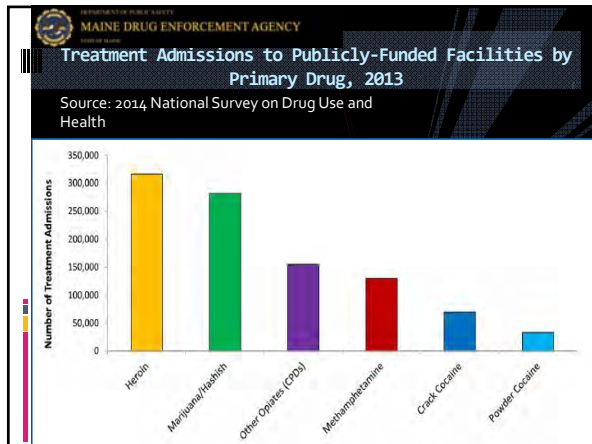


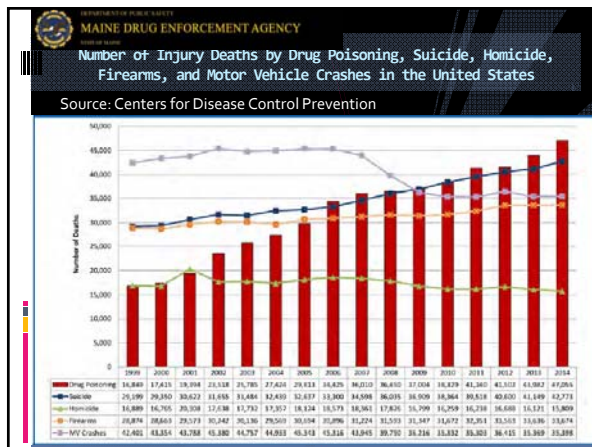












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Controlled Prescription Drugs (CPDs):

- The threat posed by CPD abuse is prevalent and, every year since 2002, the number of deaths attributable to CPDs has outpaced those for cocaine and heroin combined.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 52 people in the United States die every day from overdosing on prescription painkillers.
- While recent data suggests that abuse of these drugs has lessened in some areas, the number of individuals reporting current abuse of CPDs is still more than those reporting use of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, MDMA, and phencyclidine (PCP) combined.
- With the slightly declining abuse levels of CPDs, data indicates there is an increase in heroin use, as some CPD abusers have begun using heroin as a cheaper alternative to the high price of illicit CPDs or when they are unable to obtain prescription drugs.

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Fentanyl

- Fentanyl is a Schedule II synthetic opioid originally developed to serve as both an analgesic (painkiller) and an anesthetic; however, its strong opioid properties have made it an attractive drug of abuse.
- Fentanyl, in its licit form, is diverted from the market for personal use or sale, although on a small scale.
- Illicit fentanyl, likely manufactured in Mexico or China and then smuggled into the United States, is responsible for the current overdose epidemic.
- It is usually mixed into heroin products, or pressed into counterfeit prescription pills, often without the users' awareness, which leads to overdose incidents.

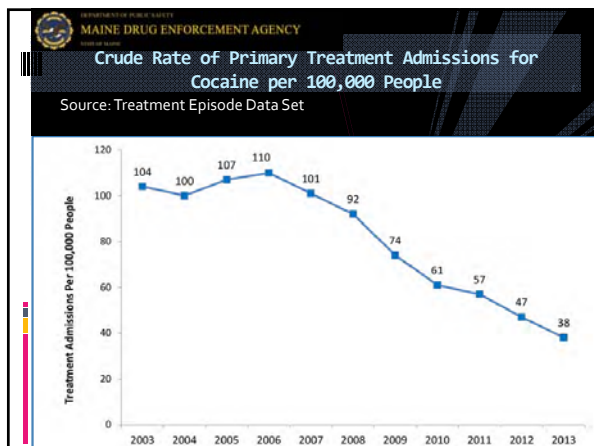
Source: 2016 National Drug Threat Assessment


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Cocaine

- Cocaine availability and use in the United States increased across multiple fronts between 2014 and 2015 and is likely to continue increasing in the near term.
- Colombia will remain the primary source of supply for cocaine in the United States, and elevated levels of coca cultivation, potential pure cocaine production, and north-bound movement indicate that more cocaine is available for traffickers who want to attempt to re-invigorate the U.S. cocaine market.
- Data from seizures along the SWB, overdose deaths, and past-year initiates shows that cocaine availability and use in the United States have increased since 2014; however, these numbers currently remain below 2007 benchmark levels for cocaine availability in the United States.

Source: 2016 National Drug Threat Assessment

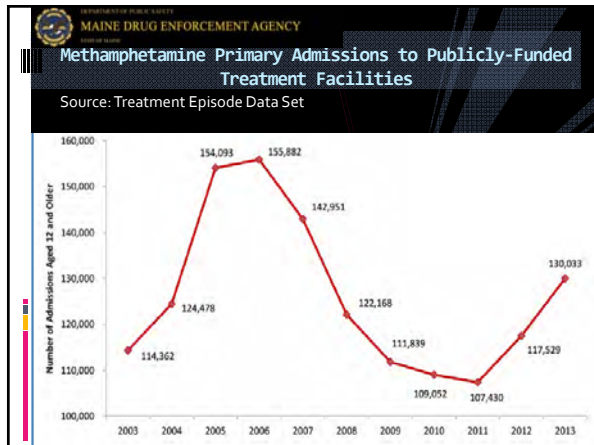




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Methamphetamine

- Methamphetamine seizures, survey results, price and purity data, and law enforcement reporting indicate methamphetamine continues to be readily available throughout the United States.
- Use data remains stable, while treatment admissions increased slightly in 2013.
- Most of the methamphetamine available in the United States is clandestinely produced in Mexico and smuggled across the SWB.
- Domestic production continues to occur at much lower levels than in Mexico, and seizures of domestic methamphetamine laboratories have declined, most likely due to the wide availability of high-purity, high-potency Mexican methamphetamine and the passage of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act (CMEA).

Source: 2016 National Drug Threat Assessment




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Marijuana

- Marijuana is the most widely available and commonly used illicit drug in the United States.
- While marijuana remains illegal under federal law, many states have passed laws allowing the cultivation, possession, and use of marijuana within their respective states.
- Due to these varying state laws, as well as an abundance of media attention surrounding claims of possible medical benefits, the general public has been introduced to contradictory and often inaccurate information regarding the legality and benefits of marijuana use. This has made enforcement and prosecution for marijuana-related offenses more difficult, especially in states that have approved marijuana legalization.
- State-legalization measures have had several observable effects, including increases in marijuana use, increases in domestically-produced marijuana, shifts in demand for higher-quality marijuana, increases in seizures of marijuana concentrates, increases in the number of THC extraction laboratories, and declines in the overall amount of Mexico-sourced marijuana seized at the SWB.

Source: 2016 National Drug Threat Assessment

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New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

- The synthetic drugs included within this category, including cannabinoids and cathinones, will continue to pose a nationwide threat to the United States and overdoses and deaths will continue to occur.
- NPS are inexpensive to purchase and widely available. In addition, traffickers will continue to experiment with NPS, such as pressing synthetic cannabinoids into counterfeit prescription pills, to expand their market.
- These characteristics make NPS a valuable commodity to traffickers, since traffickers modify and disguise NPS as other "traditional" drugs, such as MDMA.
- Traffickers will work around scheduling actions by modifying NPS' chemical formulas to create new, unregulated and unscheduled drugs. However, as traffickers maintain their traditional street sales of NPS, they may continue to distribute popular NPS, regardless of their status on the controlled substances list.

Source: 2016 National Drug Threat Assessment

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