

Evidence Based Policing Project

"Our Job Together"

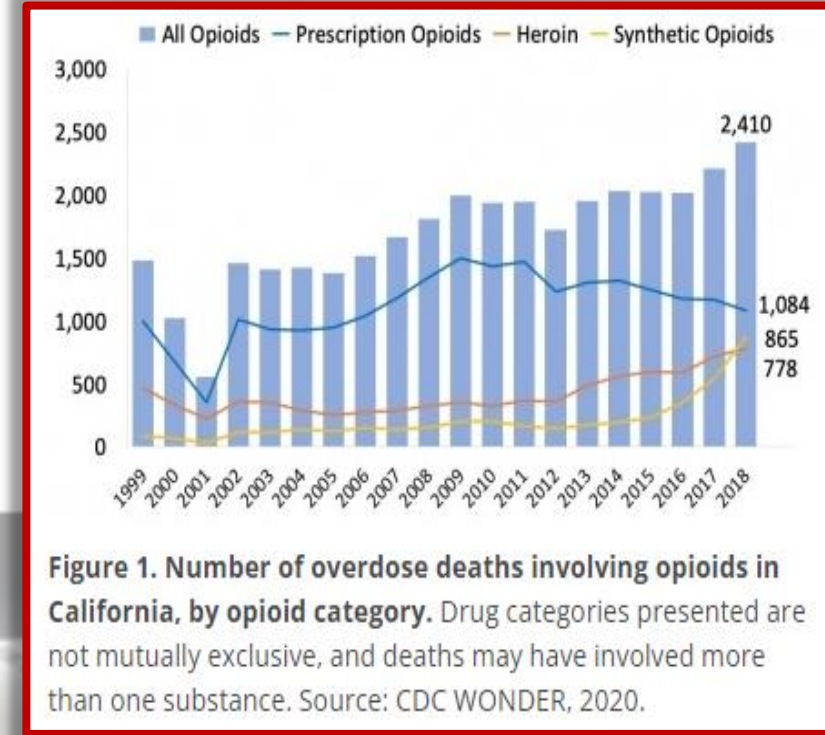


Detective Steven Masone



The War on Drugs and the Fentanyl Epidemic

- Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is **80-100 times more potent than morphine**. It was mainly mass-produced in China. However, over the last few years, demand has increased dramatically in the U.S. Cartels in Mexico recognized how inexpensive it was to manufacture fentanyl and have had Chinese scientists teach Cartel members in Mexico how to mass-produce the illicit product. They can create a kilo **50 times stronger than pure heroin** for a fraction of the cost, boosting their profit immensely.
- In 2014, **15 people** died in Los Angeles County from fentanyl drug caused deaths. In 2018 **over 200 deaths occurred and spiked over 1,200%**. Statewide, the rise was only 600% showing L.A. County is predominately more at risk, approximately taking credit for **half the statistics statewide**.
- In the Spring of 2020, there was a sharp rise of DCDs involving fentanyl in L.A. County to date due to the **Covid 19 Pandemic**.
- In 2020, **52.7% of all DCDs have involved fentanyl**. Additionally, 20% of U.S. states report at least a **98% annual increase in opioid DCDs**, indicating a 31.57% increase in fentanyl deaths, although some yearly spike as high as 200%.
- Currently, fentanyl is doctored as an element of perception, people think they are getting real pharmaceutical drugs, leading to addiction, increase in violence, and property crimes or death.

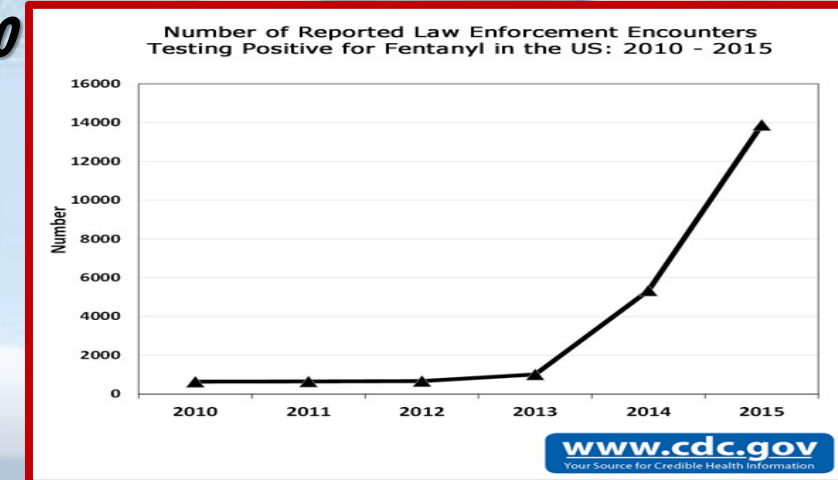
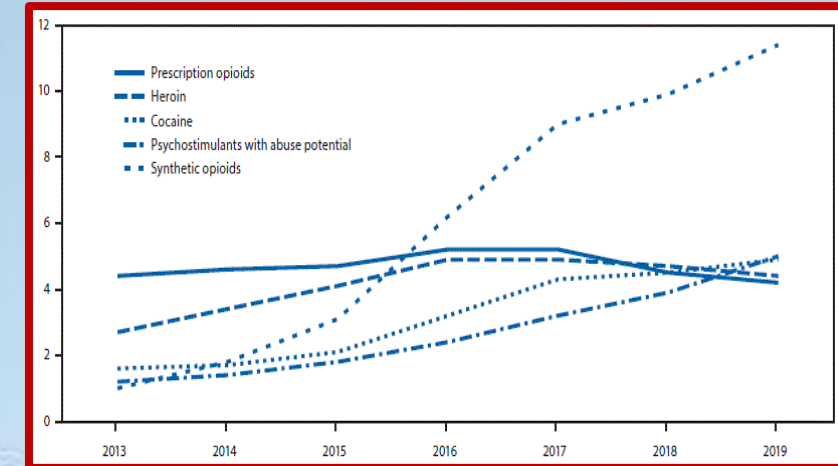


- [Fentanyl is behind rising deaths in the homeless population - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](https://www.latimes.com)
- [Fentanyl Abuse Statistics - NCDAS \(drugabusestatistics.org\)](https://www.drugabusestatistics.org)
- [Fentanyl killed 1,649 people in California over 5 years, a number dwarfed by other states — Orange County Register \(ocregister.com\)](https://www.ocregister.com)



History of the National Fentanyl Epidemic

- In California, a young person ***under 24*** is now dying every ***12 hours*** due to ***fentanyl poisoning***.
- ***Fentanyl is the leading cause of death for Americans 18-45*** (more than Covid, suicide and car accidents.)
- Currently ***18*** states in the Country are asking ***Fentanyl*** to be classified as a ***Weapon of Mass Destruction***.
- From 2013 to 2019, fentanyl death rate increased ***1,040%***
- The U.S. recorded its highest number of DCDs in a 12 month period eclipsing ***100,000*** for the first time, marking nearly a 29% rise for the year prior. (***2020— 107,000 DCDs***)
- Fentanyl seizures at the border;
 - 2020 - ***471***
 - 2021 - ***11,000***
- ***Seizures at the Border by CBP:***
 - 2019 — 2,804 pounds of Fentanyl
 - 2020 — 4,791 pounds of Fentanyl
 - 2021 — 11,201 pounds of Fentanyl



- [California: Opioid-Involved Deaths and Related Harms | National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#)
- <https://cis.org/Arthur/CBP-Border-Patrol-Fentanyl-Seizures-Southwest-Border>



Drug Caused Deaths Future Projections

- Over the last five years, the Statewide average percentage for yearly DCD increases is approximately **90%** per year.

- **1,649** people died from fentanyl in California over the five years examined (2014-2019).
- More than **93,000** people died of a DCD in the U.S. last year — a record number that reflects a rise of nearly 30% from 2019, according to new data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 - *"This is the highest number of DCDs ever recorded in 12 months, and the largest increase since at least 1999."*

- At this rate we can estimate:

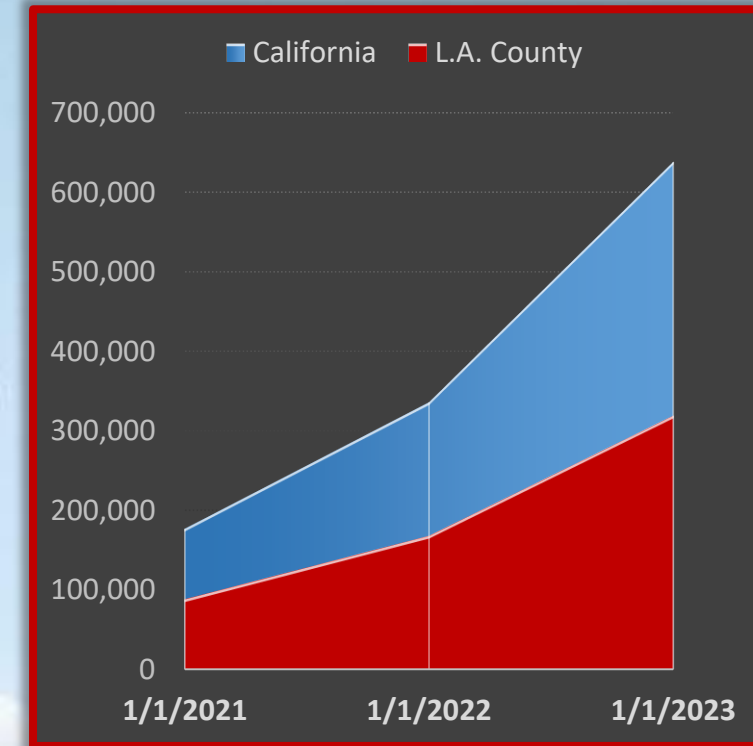
Statewide

- 2021- **176,700** DCDs
- 2022- **335,730** DCDs
- 2023- **637,887** DCDs

L.A. County

- 2021- **88,350** DCDs
- 2022- **167,865** DCDs
- 2023- **318,943** DCDs

- During a single month in 2016, **86% of all drugs** tested came up positive for fentanyl, whether pills or powder.



- [Fentanyl killed 1,649 people in California over 5 years, a number dwarfed by other states — Orange County Register \(ocregister.com\)](#)
- <https://www.npr.org/2021/07/14/1016029270/drug-overdoses-killed-a-record-number-of-americans-in-2020-jumping-by-nearly-30>



Why is this Significant?

- In V&N seizures over the last year, lab analysis has revealed FENTANYL in bulk METH and COCAINE. Additionally, **one M30 pill** contained **.01 to .05 gram** of fentanyl.
- Fentanyl is doctored as an element of perception, Victims believe they consume pharmaceutical drugs, leading to addiction and death.
- Lack of knowledge and consumption of one pill will lead to a ***Drug Caused Death***.
- Fentanyl pills are ***Disguised*** as ***XANAX*** or ***ADDERALL*** targeting our youth.
- One kilo of fentanyl can result in the deaths of **500,000** people!!
- [Fentanyl Abuse Statistics - NCDAS \(drugabusestatistics.org\)](https://www.drugabusestatistics.org/)

Fentanyl Consumed	Risk of Overdose
0.00005 grams	Death unlikely
0.0001 grams	Moderate risk of death
0.00015 grams	Significant risk of death
0.00025 grams	High risk of death
0.00004 grams	Very high risk of death
0.0007 grams	Death likely
0.001 grams	Near-certain death
0.002 grams	Death certain



Drug Caused Deaths in Torrance

- There have been over 110 reported overdoses in the City from January 2020 to Present.
- **69 Drug Caused Deaths** in the City over the last four years.
- These are DCDs that are *reported* to TPD.
- Due to inconsistent record-keeping, ***“unclassified drug overdoses,”*** translated into an **estimated 99,160 additional opioid-related deaths.**
- It is estimated approximately 30% or more DCDs go unreported.
 - Based on this statistic, we can estimate approximately **89 DCDs** in the City over the last four years.
 - Equivalent to almost **2 DCD**'s a month in the City.
- <https://www.futurity.org/overdose-related-opioid-deaths-records-2293792/>



What is Narcan?

- Narcan is an opioid Antagonist – it rapidly reverses an opioid overdose.
 - It works by attaching to and blocking the opioid receptors in the brain so the opiate in question cannot influence the central nervous system and most importantly, your breathing.
 - Narcan is a safe medicine. It only reverses overdoses in people with opioids in their system.
 - Narcan only works in the body for 30-90 minutes.
- Proper generic name for Narcan is, Naloxone.



TPD Utilizing Narcan

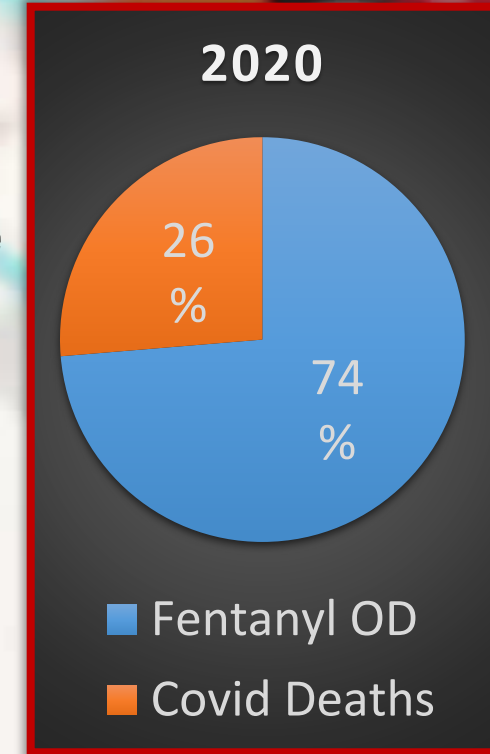
- In 2017, TPD began R&D on outfitting all Officers with Narcan/Naloxone Nasal Spray Devices to assist victims at overdose incidents.
- In early 2018, TPD was one of the first Agencies in LA County to outfit all Officers with two Narcan Nasal Spray devices.
- To date, our Officers have utilized their Narcan Nasal spray devices approximately ten times and have successfully reversed the effects of a possible Drug Cased Death.
- We have learned these are ***TOOLS*** for our Officers, but these devices are not the ***SOLUTION***.





Covid-19 Pandemic

- A new study led by USC Researcher's found during the L.A. County stay-at-home orders in ***March 2020 to April 2020***, Drug Caused Deaths almost ***DOUBLED*** in less-educated residents.
 - In ***95%*** of these deaths, ***fentanyl*** or ***heroin*** was the contributing cause of death. In this one month in L.A. County, there were ***152 deaths***.
- In California, one specific county reported nearly ***THREE TIMES*** as many victims ***died from a DCD in 2020*** than ***Covid-19***.
 - A total of ***714*** individuals died from a ***DCD*** in 2020 compared to ***255*** who died from the ***Covid-19***.
- Per TorranceAlerts, there have been ***243 deaths*** confirmed in the City to date as a result of ***Covid-19***.





Is Fentanyl affecting Torrance?

A recent in-depth analysis determined narcotics had **negatively impacted the Quality of Life** within the City of Torrance.

- Fentanyl, now estimated to be ***mixed in over 50% of narcotics*** seized by TPD Officers, was the root cause for many problems that impacted the City and our residents, which included;
 - Addiction
 - Property Crimes
 - Violent crimes
 - Significant impact on children that grow up in homes where addiction is present.
 - Increased calls for Police Services and Medical Services (DCDs)
 - Negative impact on property value



Is it Easy to Sell?



- TPD V&N Detectives currently operate undercover social media accounts and actively contact fentanyl traffickers on:

- *OfferUp*
- *SnapChat*
- *Facebook*
- *Craigslist*
- *Instagram*

- Traffickers are now trying to identify LEO

- Asking for the UC's social media accounts
- Asking for the UC's CDL picture
- And changing phone numbers weekly with internet-based VOIP #'s

- Betrayal of Public trust- advertise fentanyl as prescription medication.



Brand New Blue LED light strips - 30 inches - \$1

image 1 of 10



Blue M 30 Roxy Hoodies - \$30 (Santa Monica)

I got Blue M 30 Roxy Hoodies never been pressed Best hoodies in town.







2022 Proposed *new* EBP Project

- **Prevention**- Proactively spread knowledge and engage the community on ***Drug Caused Deaths***.
- **Identification**- PEH, fentanyl users, and low-level dealers within the City of Torrance and ***offer rehabilitation services and guidance***.
- **Utilization**- ***Federal partnerships*** to investigate, identify, and seize fentanyl from large-scale organizations dealing directly with the Cartels in Mexico.
- **Disseminate** ***press releases*** and ***public outreach*** displaying our collaborative success. Indirectly, discouraging the presence of FENTANYL in our City.

Local, State, and Federal Level

LOCAL

Area Commander
City Prosecutors
CLO / PIO
Patrol / TMET
Traffic / SROs
DIVERSION / V&N
Detectives / Sex Crimes
TFD / Hospitals

STATE

DA's
V&N
CIT
Technology Officer
Intel
Gangs
Detectives

FEDERAL

DEA
AUSA
JRIC
TFO



Opioid Awareness

Our Mission

The Torrance Police Department's goal is to prevent loss of life and educate the public on the extreme dangers of opioid addiction, mental health issues and homelessness.

Many people require help with addiction, mental health and homelessness and don't know where to turn to receive assistance with these services. This resource guide is designed to assist individuals in beginning the process of recovery.



There is Hope & Help

Contact Information



Torrance Police Department
Special Investigations Division
3300 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, CA 90503
(310) 618-5709

Torrance Police Department
Non-emergency: (310) 328-3456
Emergency Dial 911
www.TorranceCA.gov/TPD

TPD 04/2022

City of Torrance



Opioid Awareness and Resource Guide

City of Torrance
Police Department



Special Investigations Division



Opioid Awareness

T.O.R.C.H Opioids

T - Torrance P.D. Outreach
O - Opioid Education
R - Respond with Resources
C - Coordinate Victim's Resources
H - Help Eradicate the Problem

Over the past few years there has been an overwhelming increase in drug use, mental health issues and homelessness in the community. The Torrance Police Department would like to offer referrals to any citizen who could benefit from utilizing these programs.



It can happen to anyone...

Unfortunately, for the unsuspecting public, illicitly manufactured fentanyl can be disguised as prescription Oxycodone, Xanax, nasal sprays, eye drops and other forms of medication. Only two grains of fentanyl (the size of a few salt granules) are potent enough to put you at risk of an overdose. Naxalone is a safe medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids; however, it should not be relied upon.

Resources & Referrals

Substance Abuse Treatment Centers, Inpatient & Outpatient

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
310-328-1416

Fred Brown Recovery Services
310-519-8723

Thelma McMillen Recovery Center
310-784-4879

Twin Town Treatment Centers
310-787-1335

Torrance Opiate Detox Suboxone Clinic
310-365-5526

Little Company of Mary Medical Center Recovery Center
310-514-5300

Torrance Lomita Alano Club
310-320-3861

Mental Health Services

Harbor UCLA Medical Center
310-222-3322

Del Amo Hospital
310-530-1151

Little Company of Mary Hospital
310-540-7676

Torrance Memorial Hospital
310-517-4711

Housing Resources

Sober Living Homes

Behavioral Health Services
562-599-8444

Pacifica House
323-754-2816

Patterns House
310-675-4431

South Bay Sober Living
844-316-2809

Progress House
310-543-1212

The Lighthouse-Lomita Sober Living
310-387-9664

Fresh Start Sober Living Homes
562-253-2789

Housing Resources

Harbor Interfaith Services
424-276-3602

1736 Family Services
310-379-3620

Mental Health America Los Angeles
562-285-1330

Family Promise of South Bay
310-782-8196

If you need any other services, you can also call 211 for more referral programs.



- Utilize TPD website as a resource to the public to download our pamphlet and to share CDC's educational website;
- <https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/index.html>



**Our Job
Together**

- Detective S. Masone
- 310.678.2058

***Thank
You!***

