

Confronting the Opioid Crisis

DHS is seizing more fentanyl than ever.

- Between CBP and ICE, DHS seized almost 5,000 lbs. of fentanyl in FY18.
- That is more than 1.2 billion lethal doses — enough to kill every American by overdose four times.
- In FY18, ICE seized over 2,700 lbs. of fentanyl and over 7,100 lbs. of heroin.
- During the first six months of FY19, ICE fentanyl seizures totaled 1,340 lbs., compared to 1,314 lbs. during the same period in FY18.
- CBP total fentanyl seizures at ports of entry during the first half of FY19 totaled over 939 lbs., compared to 914 lbs. during the same period in FY18.

DHS is blocking more fentanyl shipments through the mail.

- Over the last two fiscal years, CBP has detected more packages containing fentanyl in our mail — a 810% increase from FY16—keeping it from reaching American communities.
- All international mail is screened for radiological materials and all packages identified by CBP as high-risk are either screened by a narcotics canine, X-ray, or physically inspected by a CBP officer.

DHS is using a vast array of tools to confront the crisis.

- **Specialized Canines:** All of CBP's Office of Field Operations (OFO) narcotics detector dogs are trained in fentanyl detection.
- **Advanced Technology:** DHS is using non-intrusive inspection technology to find fentanyl smuggled into the country, and the Department has launched an Opioid Detection Challenge to incentivize new, innovative detection methods with a \$1.5M prize.
- **Dedicated Teams:** DHS has increased the number of Border Enforcement Security Task Forces (BEST) — which incorporate personnel from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies — to 57 total nationwide. These teams help hunt down and disrupt fentanyl smuggling operations.
- **Scouring the Dark Web:** ICE – Homeland Security Investigations has ramped up their investigations targeting “dark web” illicit marketplaces, many of which involve fentanyl and other narcotics smuggling. ICE/HSI now has more than 100 investigations focused on these marketplaces.
- **Sophisticated Targeting:** CBP established an interagency Special Operations unit at the National Targeting Center (NTC) to focus on opioid shipments within the supply chain. These analysts are using law enforcement data and intelligence to go after the threat.
- **Increased Scientific Support:** CBP Laboratories and Scientific Services (LSS) has established a 24/7 narcotics reachback at the National Targeting Center to provide scientific and technical support to frontline officers and agents. Additionally, LSS stood up the INTERDICT center to analyze and characterize new and emerging synthetic opioids.



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