

-OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF-

THE COALITION

THE NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS ASSOCIATIONS COALITION



FREE WILL
IS A DREAM
WE MUST WAKE
UP FROM
IN ORDER TO
ATTAIN.

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2023 NNOAC EXECUTIVE BOARD



The Coalition

Volume 25, No. 1 - Spring, 2023

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United We Stand!

Engage in the dialog.

Front Cover:

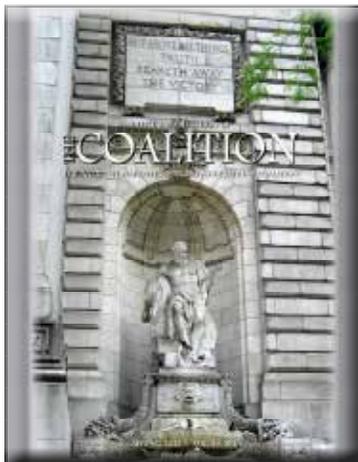
Free will is often mistaken for freedom of choice. In a sarcastic play on Patrick Henry's famous quote, hard-core punk front man Biafra wrote, "give me convenience or give me death"! That is often what we are asking for when we trade in our core values for "easier" or more comfortable lives. In the short term, giving in to avoid conflict may get us out of an uncomfortable pinch at the office or in the kitchen, but in the big picture we pay a price when we sacrifice what we know in our guts to be right. This is not a question of moralism or another us versus them mentality dressed up in propaganda in order to sell something. It is a simple inquiry into the heart and mind of every man, woman and child who deserves to live free and thinks they are.

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The Coalition is published twice per year. Submit articles, photos, region reports, kudos, busts and other items of interest to: wbutka@nnoac.com

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President's Message

Winter, 2023

By Eric Brown

**Editor's
Note:**
The Fall,
2022 issue
of *The
Coalition*
has been
combined
with the
Spring,
2023 issue.

As the incoming President of NNOAC, I want to thank all of you for a very productive and successful Delegates Meeting and Conference in Washington, D.C., in July. Even though we had to change the meeting dates from our normal routine in the first week of February in previous years, the attendance numbers were still very solid. This is a testament to your commitment to NNOAC and its mission. Additionally, I would like to thank all our federal, state, and local partners, along with some of our Congressional leaders. They contributed in many ways to bringing together our conference agenda.

On a more personal note, I want to let all of you know how much I appreciate your support and confidence in me to lead us forward in the coming years of my term. Change can be challenging at times, but I am surrounded by a tremendous Executive Board and Regional Directors who work hard every day, not only in their day jobs but also in support of NNOAC's mission.

Past President Bob Bushman and Executive Director Ron Brooks decided at our July meetings to take a step back from their respective duties with the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition. I can't even begin to tell you what their

contributions have meant not only to NNOAC, but to narcotics enforcement and criminal justice across the United States. They will both be missed by the organization. However, both have assured me that they are only a phone call away, and I know we will still need to rely on their expertise from time to time. All of us at NNOAC wish them the best in whatever their new journeys may hold for them.

As for our Board and Regional Directors, we have also experienced some changes there. Many of you already know our new Vice President, Ernie Martinez from Colorado. Ernie has been a long-time board member and has always been at the forefront of the narcotics issues being experienced in Colorado. We also added three new regional directors, with Nitin Daniels, from New Jersey, covering the Northeast Region; Dennis Lowe, from Ohio, covering the Great Lakes Region; and Wayne Stinnet, from Oklahoma, covering the South Central Region. All three individuals come highly recommended and will be great additions to our organization. We also give our thanks to Gary Ashenfelter from Indiana, a founding member and long-standing Regional Director covering the Great Lakes Region for NNOAC. Gary announced his upcoming retirement at our July meetings.

" What you do is important. Never forget that. There are a lot of people out there who are grateful for the work that you do because you are still saving lives. "

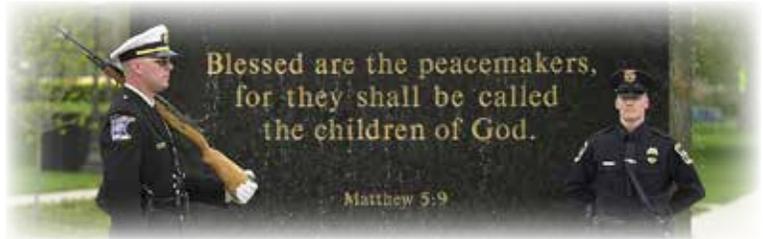
Bob Bushman and I have had numerous conversations over the years and also many leading up to my ascending into the presidency of the NNOAC. One conversation that has always stood out to me was about "Political Winds & Organizations." If you look up the definition of the word "consistency" in Webster's Dictionary, you will find many different variations. What I found to be most applicable is "Firmness of constitution and character and adhering to one's principles." NNOAC, I believe, fits this definition. We have never wavered in our messaging or mission and have never been swayed by political winds. This stance has garnered respect, whether you were with us or against us. Our consistency has always been the key to success as an organization.

Moving forward, NNOAC's mission remains the same: to inform and educate our Congressional leaders

President's Message, cont.

and the Administration, and always to advocate for sound drug policy and legislation. We still have many hurdles ahead of us during the most challenging time in law enforcement that many of us have ever witnessed. There is much work that needs to be done. Remember that the majority of citizens in our country hold you in great esteem and value what you do every day by showing up, putting your lives on the line, and helping those in need. Stay the course.

*Respectfully,
Eric Brown, President NNOAC*



A LEGISLATIVE VICTORY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATED BY NNOAC



NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

*455 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Box 112, Washington, DC 20001
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August 16, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsome,

The National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) represents our nation's State Narcotic Officers' Associations and their thousands of members. We join our colleagues at the California Narcotic Officers Association (CNOA) in vigorously opposing SB57, which includes plans to establish drug consumption sites in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oakland and in San Francisco and Los Angeles Counties. Not only are such sites illegal, but they will also draw more drug abusers and criminals into the areas where you allow them to operate. Crime and drug deaths will increase at the expense of decreased public safety.

The Coalition

There are numerous news articles regarding San Francisco Mayor Breed's comments about getting tougher on the crime that is plaguing San Francisco. While I applaud those comments, it will be difficult for crime fighting efforts to succeed there, or anywhere else, if you proceed with plans to fund and open drug consumption sites proposed in SB57. That will be an open invitation for more drug abusers and criminals to commit crimes in your cities at a time when it is already difficult to protect businesses and citizens from the crimes they are experiencing.

The terms "safe consumption site" and "safe injection site" are misnomers – using or injecting illegal drugs is never safe, as evidenced by the plan to include monitors at the consumption sites to supervise drug use. If those sites will be safe, why are monitors needed? Enabling and pandering to drug users does nothing to decrease drug abuse, save lives or improve public safety.

Proponents' claims that consumption sites will reduce drug overdose deaths are simply not true. An in-depth review of statistics from other cities and countries that have experimented with consumption/injection sites reveal significant increases in drug deaths, drug abuse and crime. For example, the British Columbia Coroners Services reported that, after eighteen years of operations of such a site in Vancouver, there was about a 1,000% increase in drug overdose deaths, rising from 172 to 1723. Now the vicinity of the Vancouver injection site has become a center of drug trafficking, drug use, and criminal activities. Only a small percentage of drug users actually use the injection site regularly, while most drug users ignore the injection site, defeating the intended purpose.

The situation is similar in Australia and Europe. According to the European Center for Monitoring Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMDDA), overdose drug deaths doubled five years after the introduction of injection sites in the Netherlands and they were more than double again, twenty years later. Only 7 of the 49 European Countries have injection sites, numbering around 75, mostly in the Netherlands and Portugal, and they too, report problems of attracting drug users, drug trafficking and criminal activity. These are by no means, success stories.

Another reason for concern is the recent announcement that over 107,000 people in America lost their lives to drug poisonings and overdoses during the past year. Many thousands more succumbed to addiction or were victims of drug fueled-violent crime. And those numbers are still increasing. That is inexcusable, and our NNOAC members and partners know that many of those deaths were preventable. Our Country can decrease drug abuse to avoid many of those deaths. We have done it before, but it requires bold initiative and a firm resolve. Yet, while most of our nation's drug policy is aimed at drug addiction and treatment, it seems to overlook the role that vigorous support and enforcement of drug laws contribute to reducing drug availability, an important factor that can prevent people from becoming addicted.

Allowing consumption sites to operate will not result in reducing drug abuse, addiction, or deaths in any city. As proven in the other places, those numbers will increase, posing even greater threats to your citizens. They will further compromise public safety, at a time when law enforcement resources are stretched beyond their capacity. Drug users pose significant risks to the health and safety of the law enforcement officers, EMS workers, and medical personnel that respond to deal with persons that are under the influence of dangerous drugs.

All levels of government have a responsibility to do much more to prevent losing so many people each year to drug induced deaths. The NNOAC urges you to veto SB57 and the injection site program plan, and instead, promote programs that will improve, not decrease, the quality of life and safety that the citizens of your state deserve, that businesses seek, and tourists expect.

NNOAC will continue to adamantly oppose SB57 and we strongly encourage you to veto this bill on the grounds stated previously in our letter above. This proposal will not improve public safety, and your state risks suffering many more ruined lives and preventable deaths if you implement this program to enable and promote drug abuse.

Sincerely,



Eric Brown, President

NNOAC

A LEGISLATIVE VICTORY, CONT.



AUG 22 2022

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 57 without my signature.

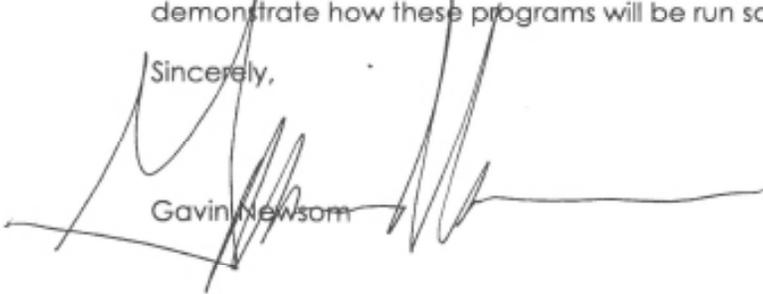
This bill authorizes certain jurisdictions to approve any number of "overdose prevention programs," often referred to as safe injection or consumption sites, where individuals may use illegal controlled substances at supervised facilities.

I have long supported the cutting edge of harm reduction strategies. However, I am acutely concerned about the operations of safe injection sites without strong, engaged local leadership and well-documented, vetted, and thoughtful operational and sustainability plans.

The unlimited number of safe injection sites that this bill would authorize – facilities which could exist well into the later part of this decade – could induce a world of unintended consequences. It is possible that these sites would help improve the safety and health of our urban areas, but if done without a strong plan, they could work against this purpose. These unintended consequences in cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Oakland cannot be taken lightly. Worsening drug consumption challenges in these areas is not a risk we can take.

We should strive to ensure our innovative efforts are well planned, even when they start as pilots, to help mitigate the potential for unintended impacts. Therefore, I am instructing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene city and county officials to discuss minimum standards and best practices for safe and sustainable overdose prevention programs. I remain open to this discussion when those local officials come back to the Legislature with recommendations for a truly limited pilot program – with comprehensive plans for siting, operations, community partnerships, and fiscal sustainability that demonstrate how these programs will be run safely and effectively.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom

GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM • SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 • (916) 445-2841



THE STORY BEHIND A LEGISLATIVE VICTORY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

By Bob Cooke, Southwest Regional Director



On May 16, 2022, Frank Lee, CNOA’s Citizen of the Year, and CNOA’s Legislative bulldog John Lovell, put together a news conference addressing CA Senate Bill SB 57. This began the second battle to beat back this destructive bill, which would allow drug users to openly use dangerous drugs in designated cities in California.

The news conference included several Canadian representatives and at least one person from Europe. They provided first-hand information regarding the myriad problems caused by “shooting galleries” in Canada and Europe. Allowing these so-called “overdose prevention” sites has not worked anywhere on this planet. In fact, the opposite is true.

State Senator Scott Weiner (San Francisco) was the author of bill SB 57. CNOA provided to him and to the state legislature the facts regarding the failures of such programs where they have been previously introduced. In Vancouver, Canada, the government-approved “shooting galleries” resulted in tragic increases of overdose deaths. Same results in Europe. However, Mr. Weiner’s bill passed and went to the Governor’s desk for approval and signature.

Fortunately, due to the hard work of CNOA’s legislative committee and President Glenn Walsh, Governor Newsom was not convinced. Governor Newsom vetoed the bill!

CALLED TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE NNOAC MISSION?

PARTNER WITH US!

The NNOAC partners program attracts companies interested in legislative support on relevant issues, subject matter expertise in the areas of narcotics enforcement and impairment and exposure to a nationwide audience to position products and services.

*NNOAC offers attendance, networking and speaking opportunities at its annual Delegates meeting, advertising and articles in its publication *The Coalition* and individualized programming to complement partner objectives.*

We offer three tiers of participation or can develop an entirely customized program. Please contact Laura Milford at lmilford@nnoac.com or 858.602.6050 to discuss partnership opportunities.

National Narcotics Officers' Associations' Coalition 2023 Partnership Program



Premier \$20,000+

Program elements uniquely curated for each Premier Partner

Tier 1 \$10,000

- 3 registrations for Annual Delegates Meeting
- 15-minute remarks during plenary session
- Preferred seating at Delegates Meeting lunch
- Promotion in outreach to Delegates prior to February meeting
- Delegates meeting registration list
- Collaboration/support on legislative positioning
- Quarterly positioning call with NNOAC Board
- Quarterly email distribution or webinar promotion
- Full page ad and article in *The Coalition* (2 – 3 issues annually)
- Company description and linked logo on NNOAC website
- Inclusion in NNOAC partner resource guide

Tier 2 \$7,500

- 2 registrations for Annual Delegates Meeting
- 10-minute remarks during plenary session
- Promotion in outreach to Delegates prior to February meeting
- Delegates meeting registration list
- Semi-annual positioning call with NNOAC Board
- Semi-annual email distribution or webinar promotion
- Half page ad and article in *The Coalition* (2 issues annually)
- Company description and linked logo on NNOAC website
- Inclusion in NNOAC partner resource guide

Tier 3 \$5,000

- 1 registration for Annual Delegates Meeting
- 5-minute remarks during plenary session
- Promotion in outreach to Delegates prior to February meeting
- Delegates meeting registration list
- Annual positioning call with NNOAC Board
- Annual email distribution or webinar promotion
- Quarter page ad article in *The Coalition* (2 issues annually)
- Company description and linked logo on NNOAC website
- Inclusion in NNOAC partner resource guide

Supplemental Sponsorships

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Monday lunch (2 available) | \$5,000/includes 10-minute lunch presentation |
| • Monday evening mixer (3 available) | \$2,500/includes intro and remarks at event |
| • Tuesday lunch (2 available) | \$5,000/includes 10-minute lunch presentation |
| • Tuesday evening mixer (3 available) | \$2,500/includes intro and remarks at event |

2023 NNOAC PARTNERS

The financial support and subject matter expertise our corporate partners provide are invaluable to NNOAC. Our current corporate partners are listed below.

**Please visit their websites to learn more
about their missions, products and services.**

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Website</i>
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Altria	www.altria.com
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Appriss Insights, an Equifax Company	www.apprissinsights.com
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Brooks Bawden Moore	www.bbm-dc.com
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Consumer Brands	www.consumerbrands.com
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Digital Citizens Alliance	www.digitalcitizensalliance.org
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FirstNet Built With AT&T	www.firstnet.com
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Kaseware	www.kaseware.com
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National HIDTA Directors Association	www.hidtdirectors.org
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Partnership for Safe Medicines	www.safemedicines.org
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Thermo Fisher Scientific	www.thermofisher.com
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Zinatt	www.zinatt.com
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2023 NNOAC Delegate Meeting & Conference

February 6-8, 2023
Washington, DC

Dear Colleagues,

The **2023 NNOAC Delegate Meeting & Conference** will be taking place from **Monday – Wednesday, February 6-8, 2023** at the **Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill** in Washington, DC. The cost to attend is \$275. To help us plan, please register by **Monday, January 23, 2023**.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

1. Monday, 8am - Delegate Meeting, Speakers to follow
2. Tuesday, Full day - Speakers
3. Wednesday, Full day - Capitol Hill Visits

REGISTRATION

Please register by completing the registration form: [NNOAC REGISTRATION FORM](#).

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

We kindly ask that all attendees stay at the **Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill**, 525 New Jersey, NW, Washington, DC 20001. A block of guest rooms is available at a discounted rate of \$259/night + tax (single/double). The group rate is good from February 4 - 10, 2023. Please remember that by staying at the Hilton, it helps your association meet its financial obligations to the Hotel. To make a reservation, [NNOAC GROUP RESERVATION LINK](#). Please note, the **hotel cut-off date for reservations is Wednesday, January 25, 2023**.

QUESTIONS

1. If you have any **content or logistics** questions, please contact Eric Brown, ebrown@nnoac.com.
2. If you have any **registration** questions, please contact Stephanie Hines with Capital Meeting Planning, registrar@cmpinc.net.

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A Tale of Two Traffic Stops By The Objectively Reasonable Officer



AKA Callahan's Corner

By John M. "Mike" Callahan, Jr.

I. A NARROW JUDICIAL WIN FOR THE BLUE IN MASSACHUSETTS

*The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial
Court rules a police pat frisk of an armed
gang member is lawful-- Jan. 27, 2022*

During the early hours of a February evening, three detectives assigned to the New Bedford (Massachusetts) Police Department's gang unit observed a red sedan make an abrupt lane change. The sudden lane change caused another vehicle to slam on its brakes to avoid a collision. The officers initiated a traffic stop of the offending vehicle.

Once the vehicle stopped but before the officers approached it, Raekwan Paris, a passenger in the vehicle, got out and angrily confronted the officers about why they stopped them. The officers recognized Paris from previous encounters including field interrogations and arrests for firearms offenses. Currently, Paris was out on bail for a previous firearm charge. During past encounters with police, including the detectives involved with this stop, Paris had acted both calm and cooperative. One of

the officers described Paris as respectful during previous police encounters.

Two officers attempted to deal with the agitated Paris while the third attempted to approach the vehicle to speak with the driver. However, he was distracted by the escalating anger being displayed by Paris. Paris was ordered three times to return to the vehicle, but he refused. Paris bladed his body toward the officers and clenched his fists, leading an officer to be unsure of whether Paris intended to attack him.

The officers handcuffed Paris, pat frisked him and brought him to the rear of the stopped vehicle. The officers then focused on the other occupants of the vehicle. The other three occupants (a female and two males) were ordered to exit the vehicle. ^[1] Upon exiting all were pat frisked. During the pat down of defendant Sweeting-Bailey, officers found a loaded firearm tucked into the waist area of his pants and arrested him. Charges later included unlawful possession of a large capacity firearm; unlawful possession of large-capacity magazine; and carrying a loaded firearm without a license.

In addition to what the officers knew about Paris's past encounters with police, the on-scene officers were aware that Cortes, a male passenger, had recently posted pictures of a firearm on social media and that Sweeting-Bailey had a prior firearm offense on his juvenile record. Officers were likewise aware that the three detained males were members of local street gangs.

THE INITIAL COURT ADJUDICATION

Sweeting-Bailey was subsequently indicted for several firearms offenses. A Superior Court judge denied his motion to suppress the discovery of the firearm on his person. He entered a conditional guilty plea and appealed to the Massachusetts Appeals Court which affirmed his conviction. He next appealed to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC).

THE DECISION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT ^[2]

The SJC ruled in a 4-3 decision that the officers had reasonable suspicion, based upon specific articulable facts, that the defendant might be armed and dangerous. In concluding that reasonable suspicion that the occupants



A Tale of Two Traffic Stops, cont.

might be armed existed, the SJC focused upon the facts known to the arresting officers that the lower court judge considered before rejecting the motion to suppress the firearm.

The SJC observed that the facts considered by the lower court included “Paris’s uncharacteristic behavior during the traffic stop, which officers interpreted as an effort to draw their attention away from the vehicle and its contents, the prior involvement with firearms of the three male passengers in the car, their known gang affiliations, and the high crime area in which the traffic stop occurred.”

The court ruled that although each of these factors standing alone would be insufficient to justify the pat frisk, “the totality of these factors justified not only the exit order but also the pat frisk.”

THE DISSENTING OPINION OF THE SJC CHIEF JUDGE

Chief Justice Budd issued a dissenting opinion in which she labeled as “pure speculation” the officers’ belief that Paris’s unusual conduct after the initial stop was an attempt to divert their attention away from the firearm possessed by Sweeting-Bailey. She explained that the officers did not testify that they had any training on drawing inferences of this kind. ^[3] Moreover, she rejected the idea that the officers could draw this inference based upon common sense and stated, “it cannot seriously be maintained that it was simply a matter of common sense to interpret Paris’s behavior as a ruse... .”

She further stated, “the three male occupants, histories of firearm possession and suspected gang affiliations similarly do not transform into a commonsense judgment the inference from Paris’s behavior to the defendant’s weapon possession.”

Judge Budd concluded her opinion by stating, “I write also to emphasize the adverse implications of today’s decision for communities of color.” She explained, “[A]nyone’s dignity can be violated’ by an unconstitutional search; however, ‘it is no secret that people of color are disproportionate victims of this type of scrutiny.’” ^[4] She concluded, “Creating greater space for officers to act on their ungrounded intuitions that people are dangerous increases the risk that people of color will be subjected disproportionately to unjustified pat frisks.”

CONCLUSION

During my 44-year law enforcement career, I was involved in two unforgettable situations in which officers’ lives were threatened, bullets were fired and people died. I am keenly aware of the inherent and instantaneous danger faced by law enforcement officers from suspects with access

to firearms. Accordingly, I fully concur with the SJC majority in the instant matter that approves of the officers’ order for Sweeting-Bailey to exit the vehicle and the subsequent pat frisk of his person. My only surprise is that only four of the seven SJC justices ruled that the conduct of the officers was constitutionally proper. My view is that the result should have been 7-0.

Justice Budd expressed her concern for the minority community that may result from this decision. My concern is directed toward the safety of law enforcement officers who swear an oath to protect us from dangerous persons on our streets and for the innocent civilians who live, work, and go to school in inner-city neighborhoods. These are the often-solid silent citizens who believe in law and order, rely on the police to keep them safe, and do not carry guns or join street gangs.

I seriously doubt that Justice Budd and the other dissenting justices are aware of FBI Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) statistics that show that for almost 500 officers murdered by firearms between 2011 and 2020, 78.32% of those officers never fired their weapons. ^[5] What this means, in a nutshell, is that those officers were shot and killed so quickly that they never had a chance to defend themselves.

Likewise, these justices are likely not aware of how long it will take an officer to draw a firearm from a holster to defend against a threat and how many shots can be fired at an officer before he/she can draw. The bottom line is simple: it can take an officer up to two seconds to draw a firearm from a holster. ^[6] Meanwhile, a suspect with a pointed weapon can fire approximately four shots in a little over one second. ^[7] A rocket science degree isn’t required to determine who wins these confrontations. An officer with reasonable suspicion that a suspect may be armed must find and control that weapon before it is used against him, i.e., before it is drawn by the suspect.

REFERENCES

1. *From the time Paris first exited the vehicle to the time Sweeting-Bailey was told to exit, only 90 seconds had elapsed.*
2. *Commonwealth v. Zahkuan Sweeting-Bailey (SJC-13086) (Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts 12/22/2021).*
3. *Justice Wendlandt authored a concurring opinion siding with the majority opinion. In footnote four of the concurring opinion the judge observed: “The officers had approximately thirty-eight years of collective experience as police officers in New Bedford, including ten years of*

collective experience in the gang unit.” It is apparent that this judge credited the police training and experience of the on scene officers to make an objectively reasonable decision that their safety was threatened by these individuals.

4. Quoting, *Utah v. Strieff*, 579 U.S. 232, 254 (2016) (Sotomayor J., dissenting).

5. During that time frame 503 officers were murdered by firearms but information on whether they fired back was limited to 472 cases. Of the 472 cases, 370 officers did not fire their weapons.

6. See John M. Callahan Jr., “Lethal Force and the Objectively Reasonable Officer,” pg. 134, commenting on time and motion studies conducted by Dr. William Lewinski of the ForceScience Institute.

7. John M. Callahan Jr., “Lethal Force and the Objectively Reasonable Officer,” pg. 133, commenting on a separate time and motion study conducted by Dr. William Lewinski, ForceScience Institute.

II. FEDERAL APPEALS COURT RULES GUN DISCOVERY VIOLATES FOURTH AMENDMENT BECAUSE TRAFFIC STOP WAS UNLAWFULLY EXTENDED

Philadelphia officers had removed a vehicle’s passenger for safety concerns during a traffic stop and found a loaded pistol

May 2, 2022

During the early morning hours of February 23, 2019, Philadelphia police officers Cannon and Gonzalez were on patrol in a high crime area of North Philadelphia. They observed a two-door pick-up truck drive through a stop sign and fail to activate a turn signal. The officers pulled the truck over and the officers approached the truck on both sides. They observed three male passengers, two in the front and one in the back.



During the officers’ collection of license, registration and keys from the driver, they smelled alcohol and noticed that the front seat passenger was heavily intoxicated. The officers requested the driver to step out of the truck for a sobriety test. The driver complied and left the truck door open as he exited.

Officer Cannon, uninvited and “without apparent justification,” entered the truck and placed both knees on the driver’s seat. He explained at a subsequent evidence suppression hearing that he entered to engage with the passengers.

Cannon told both passengers three times to keep their hands visible. They failed to comply and explained that they were cold. Cannon exited the truck, walked to the other side and ordered the front seat passenger to step out. While this was going on, Officer Gonzalez was in the process of conducting a field sobriety test on the driver. Gonzalez noticed that Cannon was attempting to deal with the two passengers. Before he completed the sobriety test and before running the driver’s license and registration, he placed the driver in the patrol car to assist Cannon with the passengers. He did so out of concern for the safety of his fellow officer.

Meanwhile, Hurtt, the backseat passenger, turned away from Cannon and reached toward a tool bucket on the seat next to him. Cannon ordered him to show his hands and Hurtt put them up and said, “I’m cool.”

Hurtt reached for the bucket again, but Cannon grabbed his arm and told Hurtt to exit the truck. Hurtt complied and during a subsequent search, Cannon found a loaded handgun in his waistband. Hurtt was arrested and the entire stop lasted 16 minutes and 33 seconds based on police video.

During a motion to suppress the hearing Hurtt argued that when Cannon entered the truck, he strayed from the parameters of a lawful traffic stop. He argued that this unlawful police action made the subsequent discovery of the gun illegal. The District Court judge rejected Hurtt’s

A Tale of Two Traffic Stops, cont.

argument and ruled that Cannon “was justified in looking into the vehicle to maintain the safety of the officers ... during the open investigations.” Hurtt entered a guilty plea but preserved his right of appeal.

“PRECARIOUS CONDUCT” OF THE OFFICER

The Decision of the Court of Appeals – The Third Circuit ^[1] determined that the initial traffic stop of the pick-up truck was reasonable and based upon probable cause. The court next examined Officer Cannon’s actions during the time period of the stop.

The court observed that during a traffic stop, the police investigation must be reasonably related to the reasons for the stop. The court explained that if an extension of a stop prolongs it beyond the time reasonably required to complete the mission of issuing a ticket, the resulting delay must be supported by reasonable suspicion.

The court cited the United States Supreme Court opinion in *Rodriguez v. United States* in which the Supreme Court ruled that “a seizure justified only by a police-observed traffic violation ... becomes unlawful if it is prolonged beyond the time reasonably required to complete the mission.” ^[2]

The Third Circuit stated that “when evaluating whether an officer was on-mission, we consider the legitimate and weighty interest in officer safety and thus will tolerate additional intrusions, such as forcing a driver to get out of a vehicle.” ^[3] However, the court observed that “police may not vary from the original mission and thereby create an exigency to support the resulting delay and any subsequent arrest.” The court explained that “an officer cannot create a safety concern while off-mission and then rely upon that concern to justify a detour from the basic mission of the traffic stop.”

The court stated that “presence in a high-crime area alone cannot justify a safety concern that would excuse deviating from the original purpose of the detention.” The court observed that while Officer Gonzalez was conducting the field sobriety test, “Cannon entered the truck and kneeled on the front seat, putting himself in a very vulnerable position. Gonzalez had to interrupt – indeed he stopped – his attempt to determine the sobriety of the driver for the purpose of ensuring Cannon’s safety.” At that point, there was no reasonable suspicion to search Hurtt.

The court determined that Cannon’s “precarious conduct” required his fellow officer to stop the sobriety exam so he could “ensure his partner’s safety.” The court explained that “because Cannon created a safety concern by going off-mission, the officers cannot rely upon that concern to justify

detouring from the original purpose of the traffic stop.” “Accordingly, pausing the field sobriety test, for this reason, was off-mission ...[and] without reasonable suspicion.” This off-mission action unlawfully extended the traffic stop, “was unlawful under *Rodriguez*, and the subsequent search violated Hurtt’s Fourth Amendment rights.”

CONCLUSION

The court’s decision, in this case, is difficult to accept because Officer Cannon and his fellow officer acted in the manner described to protect themselves from possible serious physical harm. Moreover, their safety concerns proved real when a loaded firearm was discovered on the person of defendant Hurtt. Nonetheless, the appellate court considered and rejected officer safety concerns in ruling against the prosecution.

The unfavorable result notwithstanding, it is our duty to examine the decision for guidance for future police actions:

During a lawful traffic stop, officers may order the driver to exit the vehicle for safety concerns. See, *Pennsylvania v. Mimms*, 434 U.S. 106 (1977).

During a lawful traffic stop, officers may order passengers to exit the vehicle for safety concerns. See, *Maryland v. Wilson*, 519 U.S. 408 (1997).

During a lawful traffic stop, officers may not go off mission and extend the traffic stop beyond its normal parameters, unless they have reasonable suspicion that criminal activity may be present. See, *Rodriguez v. United States*, 575 U.S. 348 (2015).

Officer Cannon’s uninvited entry, without reasonable suspicion, into the stopped vehicle, created the unwarranted delay in processing the traffic stop.

Presence of a person in a high crime area alone, without more, will not create a reasonable suspicion that the person may be armed. See, *Illinois v. Wardlow*, 528 U.S. 119, 124 (2000).

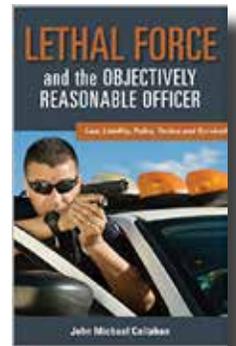
This decision, although mandatory only within the jurisdiction of the Third Circuit, can be accepted as persuasive authority by the other federal courts of appeal. ^[4]

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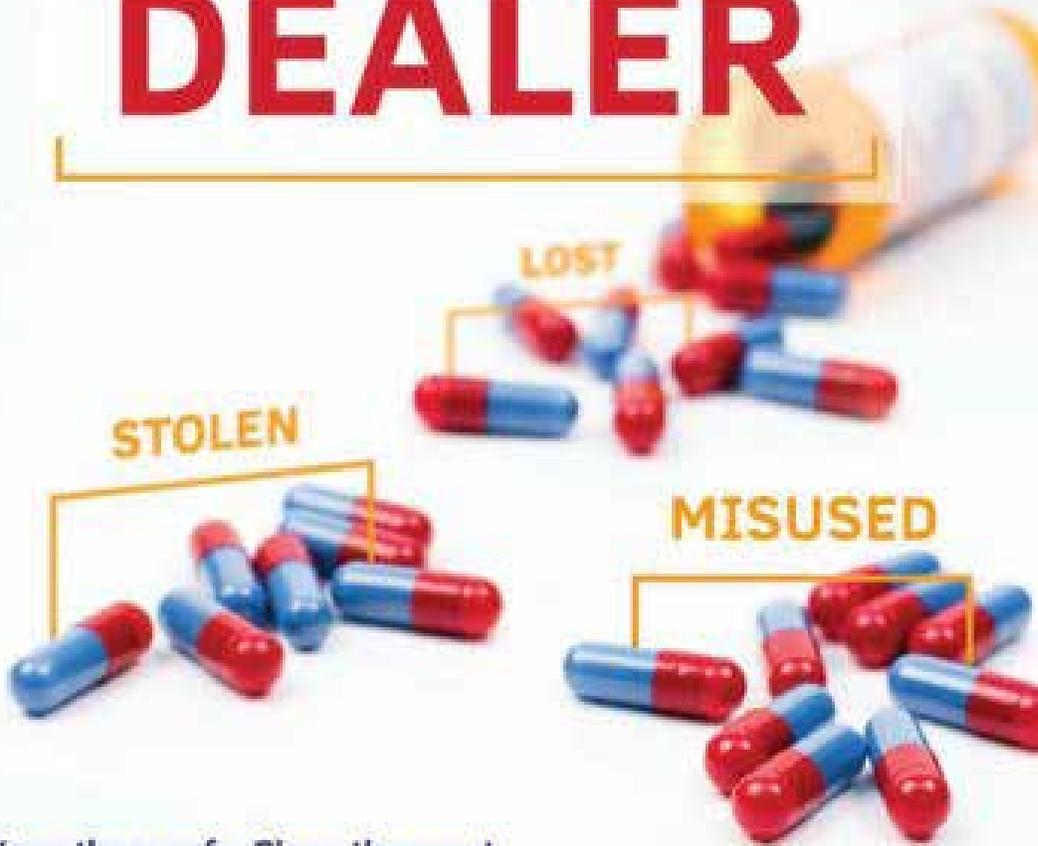
1. *United States v. Hurtt*, (No. 20-2494) (3d. Cir. 2022).
2. See *Rodriguez*, 575 U.S. 348, 350-351 (2015).
3. *Additional quotes eliminated.*
4. *The Third Circuit covers Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and the U.S. Virgin Islands.*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Michael Callahan served in law enforcement for 44 years. His career began as a special agent with NCIS. He became an FBI agent and served in the FBI for 30 years, retiring in the position of supervisory special agent/chief division counsel. He taught criminal law/procedure at the FBI Academy. After the FBI, he served as a Massachusetts Deputy Inspector General and is currently a deputy sheriff for Plymouth County, Massachusetts. He is the author of two published books on deadly force and an upcoming book on supervisory and municipal liability in law enforcement.



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New nationwide study links higher youth marijuana usage and mental health issues in states that have legalized the drug

By Drug-Free America Foundation



In the summer of 2022, a first of its kind study was released by Drug Free America Foundation, Inc. and Johnny’s Ambassadors indicates more youth are using marijuana in states that have legalized the drug and are experiencing greater mental health implications. The study analyzed federal data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Background

Despite its continued status as a Schedule I substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act, as of February 2022, cannabis has been legalized for recreational use in 18 states and the District of Columbia and legalized for medical use in 37 states and the District of Columbia. The State of Mississippi most recently changed their cannabis laws to include legalization for medical purposes in February 2022. As more states have increased availability of cannabis, growing scholarly research – more than 20,000 peer-reviewed articles – has shown higher rates of cannabis-related driving fatalities, emergency hospitalizations, and crimes.

An equally growing trend is not just the increase in availability of cannabis products, but also the potency of cannabis products, in the United States. One landmark cannabis potency study showed a tripling in the percentage of Tetrahydrocannabinol (or THC, the main psychoactive compound in cannabis) – from 4 percent to 12 percent – in illicit cannabis products seized by the US Drug Enforcement Administration between 1995 and 2012. A more recent study by the University of Mississippi, and supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), found a near-doubling of THC percentages in cannabis products – from 8.9 percent to 17.1 percent – between 2008 and 2017. The potency of modern cannabis products is substantially more powerful than the “Woodstock Weed” of the 1960s and early-1970s, which contained THC levels of 1 to 3 percent.

High Potency Cannabis

Several major authors have defined high potency cannabis as products containing greater than 15 percent THC. Products marketed in many state-regulated medicinal and recreational cannabis programs in the United States, far

exceed this 15 percent level and are considered highly potent. In fact, one study of more than 8,500 cannabis products, marketed online by more than 650 cannabis dispensaries in four western (CA, CO, NM, WA) and five northeastern (ME, MA, NH, RI, VT) states, found the average medicinal cannabis product was advertised with a 19.2 percent THC concentration. The average recreational cannabis product was advertised with a 21.5 percent THC concentration. Despite evidence showing lower potency cannabis (less than 5 percent THC) is more highly effective in pain management, marketed medicinal cannabis potency levels were only slightly lower than recreational cannabis potency levels.

The potency of cannabis products is a highly relevant policy topic, due to the rapidly evolving medical study of negative outcomes associated with higher potency cannabis. States that have legalized cannabis use have higher rates of cannabis use. Accessibility to higher potency cannabis is growing as commercialization of the industry has grown – as cannabis “retail locations outnumber all McDonald’s and Starbucks locations” in states like Colorado, where cannabis retailers (1,016) outnumbered the two retailers (600 combined) in 2018. This growth in use and availability of cannabis products in Colorado, for example, has tracked with similar increases in cannabis-related emergency hospital visits, with such activity increasing by 54 percent between 2013 and 2017.

Meanwhile, several recent studies have documented the associated mental health risks of high potency cannabis use. The first of these notable studies includes a British study that found a link between use of high potency cannabis and initial episodes of adult psychosis. A decade later, a similar group of researchers found an association between high potency cannabis use and psychotic disorders across eleven sites in Europe. Even more recently, a 2020 British medical study of more than 1,000 participants, found that use of high potency cannabis increased the likelihood of anxiety and mental health disorders.

In the United States, the link between cannabis use and mental health hospitalization has only been studied in the limited geographic region of the Pacific Northwest. The study Moran et al. (2022), recently reported a higher level of psychosis-related hospital discharges in regions with higher levels of cannabis legalization, with a significant correlation between a cannabis legality score and psychosis hospitalizations. This study utilized the National Inpatient Sample database and considered 129,000 hospital discharges in 2017.

The DFAF and Johnny’s Ambassadors Study

Our study expanded on the research linking cannabis use and cannabis legality, and mental health hospitalizations, to explore the potential connection between cannabis legality, cannabis use, high potency cannabis, and mental health disorders, depression, and suicide. The study endeavored to answer the research question: “Is there a positive relationship between cannabis use by adolescents (ages 12-17) and young adults (ages 18-25) and corresponding mental health disorders, depression, and suicide in the United States?” The study utilizes the geographic diversity of cannabis legality within the 50 states and the District of Columbia (n=51), the rates of cannabis use by these age groups by state as reported over time in the National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) over eight (t=8) annual time periods (2012-2019). It compared these datasets to mental health disorders, major depressive episodes, and suicidal thoughts, as reported over time in the NSDUH reports.

Additionally, consideration was given to constructing a legality index for state cannabis legalization (and subsequent corresponding access to high potency cannabis) and comparing this ordinal scale to mental health disorders, major depressive episodes, and suicidal thoughts. Results determined whether correlation exists between the growing use of cannabis and the rising trend of mental health disorders, major depressive episodes, and suicide prevalence in the United States.

Many of those who want to legalize marijuana are quick to point to enhanced tax revenue that will pour into state and local coffers.

What they fail to share is the devastating costs these decisions can have on our children and young adults.

Panel Data Regression Results (MDE)

Panel Data Regression Results			
Dependent Variable: Major Depressive Events (MDE)			
Age Category	Age 12-17	Age 18-25	Age 26+
Dependent Variable	MDE	MDE	MDE
Constant	18.7186 (1.038)	-20.08 (-1.249)	5.92 (0.622)
Cannabis Use	0.45*** (4.683)	0.21*** (7.563)	0.12*** (3.662)
Gender	+	+	0.01 (0.064)
Marital Status	-0.22 (1.309)	-0.01 (-0.069)	0.07 (1.257)
Educational Attainment	0.52*** (4.009)	1.04*** (8.590)	0.01 (0.120)
Veteran Status	-1.05*** (-5.061)	-0.40 (-1.841)	0.16 (1.666)
Unemployment Status	-0.53*** (-3.708)	0.28** (2.116)	^ ^
Race	-0.14 (-0.873)	-0.14 (-0.951)	-0.05 (-0.853)
Ethnicity	0.56 (1.622)	0.72*** (2.604)	-0.17 (-1.609)
Observations	408	408	408
Panel Type	Fixed Effects	Fixed Effects	Fixed Effects
LSDV R-squared	0.8634	0.8547	0.6613
Within R-squared	0.8277	0.8241	0.0939
HAC Standard Errors	Yes	Yes	Yes

+ Omitted due to correlation
^ Omitted due to impact on cross-sectional dependence

Study Conclusions

A difference-in-means test demonstrated that marijuana use is higher among all age groups in more highly permissive states, with 47 percent more monthly marijuana use among adolescents (ages 12-17) and 81 percent more monthly marijuana use among young adults (ages 18-25) in states with fully legalized recreational marijuana programs compared to states where the drug has not been legalized. While cannabis use grew, subsequent raises in mean averages for major depressive events, severe mental illnesses, and suicidal thoughts all increased in more highly permissive US states. This is a fact that must become part of the conversation when states and local communities discuss legalizing the drug.

That finding coupled with a recent study that revealed that states that have legalized marijuana have higher concentrations of THC in their marijuana, the psychoactive ingredient, compared to states that haven’t. Since the 1960s, the average THC potency in cannabis products has increased from 2 percent during the Woodstock Era to 4 percent in 1995, 12 percent in 2012, and over 17 percent in 2017, with a recent study showing average THC levels over 20 percent in

High Potency, cont.

nine highly permissive states. It shouldn't surprise anyone to learn that marijuana is big business and those ready to profit are willing to make their drug more powerful in the hopes of attracting new customers.

Using fixed effects panel regression models with government data from the NSDUH and U.S. Census reports, this research establishes a correlative link between monthly cannabis use among adolescents and young adults and self-reported major depressive events with both statistical significance and strong explanatory power. Additionally, positive correlation is shown between monthly cannabis use by young adults and the prevalence of self-reported severe mental illnesses and suicidal thoughts. Similar data for adolescents for prevalence of these mental health disorders is, unfortunately, not available.

The research results presented in this study demonstrate that for each one percent increase in overall monthly cannabis use, self-reported major depression increased by 0.45 percent for adolescents and 0.21 percent for young adults. For every one percent increase in overall monthly cannabis use by young adults, severe mental illnesses increased by 0.12 percent and suicidal thoughts increased by 0.11 percent. Panel regression models included control variables for gender, marital status, educational attainment, veteran status, unemployment status, race, and ethnicity.

While epidemiological studies including smaller samples of hospital patient data suggest a causal link between cannabis use, higher potency THC levels, and the risk of mental health disorders such as cannabis-induced psychosis (CIP), measurements on population data are more elusive. Through consideration of state legal status, differences-in-means testing, and panel regression, research results suggest the existence of cannabis-induced mental health disorders within federally reported population survey data, validating the similar epidemiologically explained connection.

This research is significant in that it represents the first nationwide correlative regression data. It links monthly cannabis use and self-reported mental health disorders among adolescents and young adults, over 51 geographical variations and 8 time periods. These research results strongly support the federal and state policy considerations for caps on high potency THC products.

The results of this study are alarming and should serve as a wake-up call to states that are considering legalizing and/or expanding recreational marijuana distribution.

Many of those who want to legalize marijuana are quick to point to enhanced tax revenue that will pour into state and local coffers. What they fail to share is the devastating costs these decisions can have on our children and young adults.

NBC News Report on High Potency Cannabis



The image is a screenshot of an NBC News article. At the top, the NBC NEWS logo is visible on the left, and the article title "High potency weed linked to psychotic episodes" is on the right. Below the logo, the word "Psychiatric issues" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. The main text of the article reads: "Four Colorado doctors interviewed by NBC News said they've also seen an increase in the number of patients with psychiatric issues after consuming powerful marijuana. A 2019 study found that consuming cannabis with THC levels exceeding 80 percent increased the odds of a psychotic episode." Below this, a quote from a doctor is shown: "Almost every day I see a patient in the ER who is having a psychotic break after taking high-potency THC," Roberts said. To the right of the text is a photograph of a doctor in a blue surgical cap and mask. Further down, another quote from Dr. Karen Randall is shown: "I never saw anything like this," Randall said. Below that, more text explains that marijuana has long been considered a nonaddictive drug but that research suggests it can have damaging effects on adolescent brains. At the bottom, it states that an increasing share of Colorado's \$2 billion cannabis market is made up of concentrates or other products with high levels of THC.

WHAT IS PSYCHOSIS?

**PSYCHOSIS DISTORTS A PERSON'S
PERCEPTIONS AND THOUGHTS
THROUGH HALLUCINATIONS
AND DELUSIONS**



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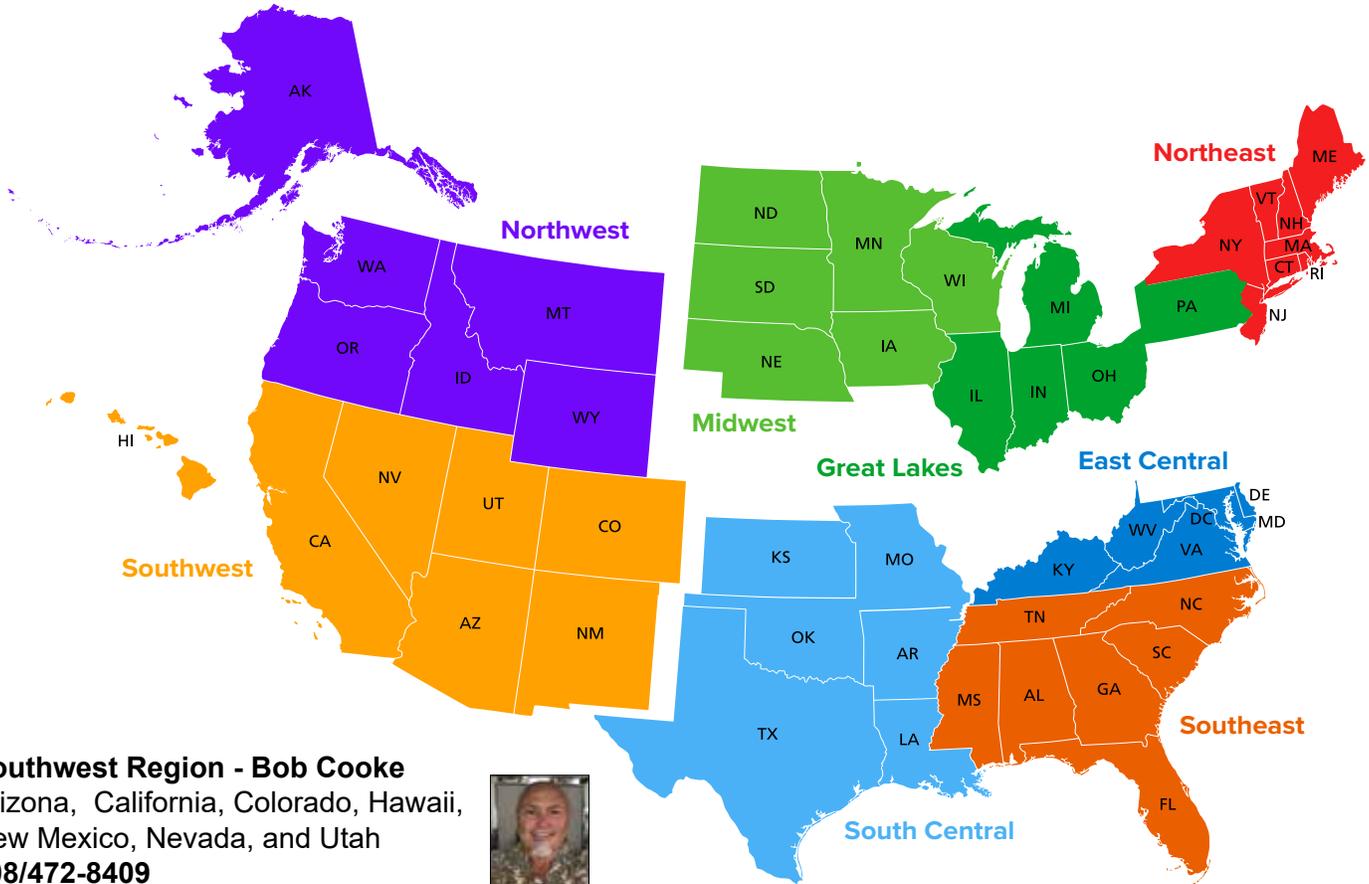


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NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Northeast Regional Director's Report

By Nitin Daniels

Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont

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Fall is here, and we move on to more training seminars. First and foremost, the NJNEOA is a non-profit organization that is ONLY interested in furthering the knowledge and training for all law enforcement officers. We rely on member fees of a mere \$40.00 per year to assist us in maintaining our operational costs and getting speakers for our seminars and conferences. I am asking you to give thought to becoming members and supporting our great cause of training law enforcement officers. Trained officers are an asset to their agency and the community. The community deserves knowledgeable officers who will make the right decisions and guide the citizens. But most importantly, a well-trained officer has a better chance of survival in the streets and in the court of law. In addition to physical officer survival training, be well versed and be current in case laws and the statutes.

The NJNEOA thanks Bob Bushman for his service and wishes him the best in his retirement. As president of NNOAC, he has done a tremendous job of connecting with the officials in DC and in conveying the importance of grants and support of law enforcement. I also take this opportunity to congratulate Eric Brown as the incoming NNOAC President.

Thank you to NNOAC for appointing me as the Regional Director of the Northeast Region. I will be responsible for the following states: New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, and Vermont. I hope to fill the shoes of Bill Butka and contribute to the NNOAC. NNOAC consists of all the State Narcotic Associations in the nation. Speaking with the other state association presidents, it is evident that our work in narcotic enforcement is getting tougher and tougher.

I was fortunate enough to speak with DEA Administrator

Anne Milgram, who spoke at the conference about the importance of curbing the fentanyl epidemic and going after the Sinaloa and CJNG cartels. She was very happy with the work we do and supports the NJNEOA. We must continue our fight against addiction and provide resources to the community to battle this ongoing addiction around the nation. Let's do our best to arrest the dealers and hope that, with our assistance, prosecutors can put them behind bars. The arrest of the criminal is just the beginning of the case. Let's conduct the investigations with convicting the criminals in mind and not just arresting them.

I am always thankful to the NJNEOA Members of The Board who tirelessly work to make the Association better. I would like to thank our past president Felix Pacheco in convincing me to design the Basic TNT Class, which is now six days. This class always has a waiting list. We will continue to improve it. In addition, THANK YOU - the members and non-members, who are constantly attending the seminars and Conferences. Continue taking advantage of our offers and stay educated.

RHODE ISLAND

According to a September 19, 2022, press release from the United States Attorney's Office in Rhode Island, an ongoing Project Safe Neighborhoods investigation has resulted, so far, in the arrest of one man, who has agreed to plead guilty to drug trafficking charges. According to the release, in what is believed to be the "largest seizure of counterfeit Adderall pills to date", agents seized "660,500 methamphetamine-laced counterfeit Adderall® pills, weighing a total of approximately 660 pounds; approximately eleven kilograms of methamphetamine powder; 1,000 fake Oxycodone fentanyl-laced pills; two motorized pill presses; 250 grams of cocaine; \$15,000 in cash; and seven handguns, including two 'ghost guns'." The DEA Special Agent in Charge (New England Division) said, "This investigation demonstrates the strength of collaborative local, state and federal law enforcement efforts...."

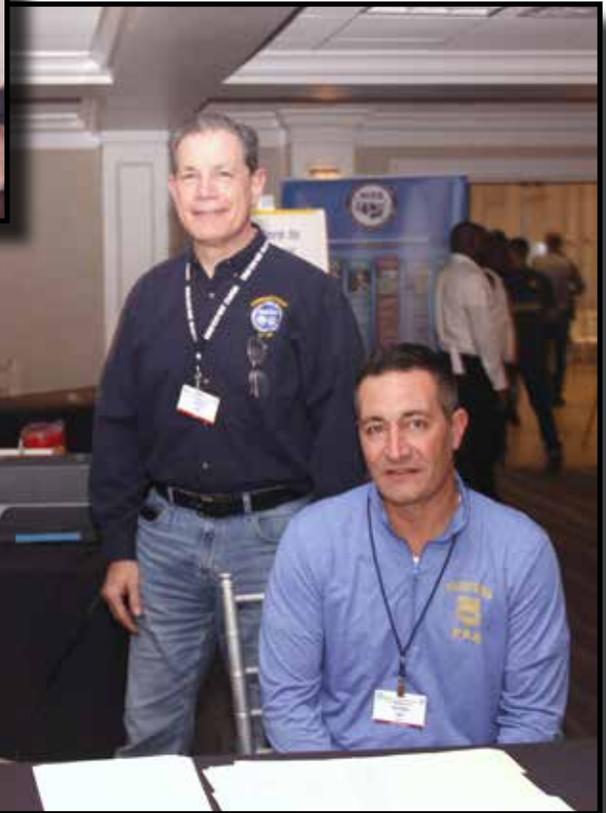
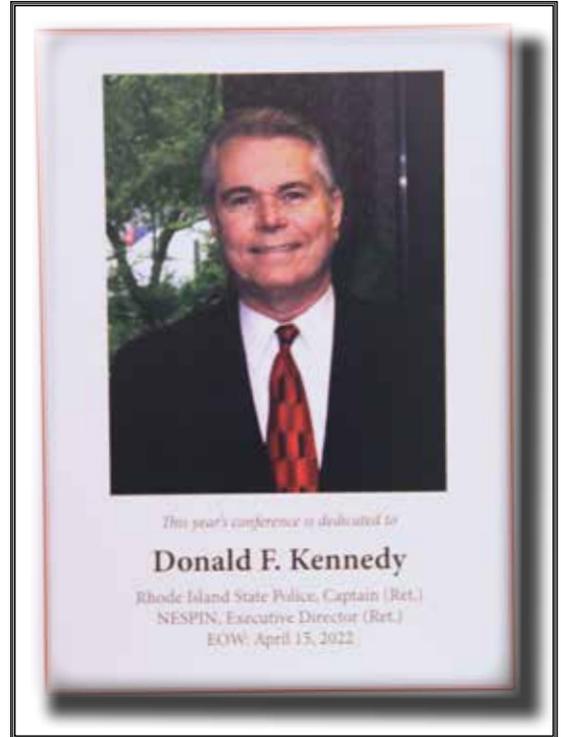
STAY WELL and STAY SAFE OUT THERE.

54th Annual Criminal Investigation School

The CTNEOA held their annual criminal investigation school in Newport, RI, in November, 2022.

The Connecticut NEOA dedicated the school to Donald F. Kennedy, Rhode Island State Police, Captain, (retired) and NESPIN, Executive Director (retired) who passed on April 15, 2022.

The intense training course POSTC awarded 18.25 Post Review Credit Hours for all attendees at the 54th Annual Regional Criminal Investigation School, November 15-18, 2022 at Newport, Rhode Island.



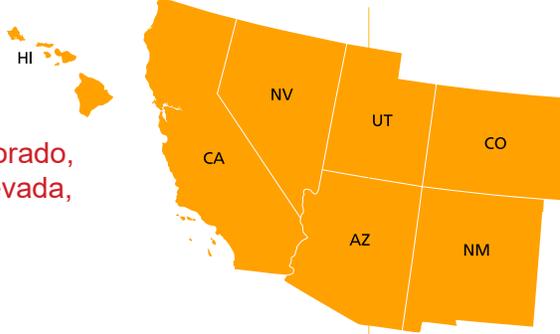
*Congratulations
to the CTNEOA
from NNOAC
on 54 years of
Quality Training*

Southwest Regional Director's Report By Bob Cooke

Arizona, California, Colorado,
Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada,
and Utah

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I won't be the last to say "Best wishes" to our outgoing NNOAC President Bob Bushman. Although he has decided to step down, I don't think we have seen the last of him. I've known Bob Bushman for many years and have always known him to be a true warrior for the NNOAC and the American people. Incoming NNOAC President Eric Brown is another true believer with decades of law enforcement leadership experience. We will continue to have excellent leadership.

OK, so what has changed recently that affects our safety and communities? Not much! Our friends and neighbors are reeling from the increase in crime, lack of consequences, and fentanyl poisonings.

I meet with lots of people every week. These include friends (naturally, I have a few), law enforcement professionals, local and state government officials, including some who are running for office. EVERY single person is concerned about how far things will digress before the fentanyl BORDER fiasco is recognized and addressed. I really have no clue when fentanyl smuggling will be properly addressed or resolved. In the meantime, more and more children become victims and the death toll increases. I never thought I'd see the day when schools would have to stock Narcan to revive children.

Over two years ago, a huge movement began to defund and disrespect police and impair the safety of America. The pendulum is starting to swing back to more sensible public safety policies. People are beginning to demand that criminals be held accountable. Every law enforcement agency is having problems with hiring and retaining law enforcement officers. As you watch the news – or maybe witness in person – as swarms of criminals loot massive amounts of goods from our stores, you must wonder how it got this bad.

On the news recently, I saw a plan from the White House's "Safer America Plan." This is a plan to:

- fund, retain, recruit 100,000 new police officers
- invest in district attorneys' offices, create violent crime task forces

- invest in crime prevention and mental health services
- combat illegal guns with ATF funding boost

I'm watching this plan develop and hope this isn't a ploy to get votes after two years of ignoring our country's crime increase.

I believe that every cop in America is familiar with the "Broken Windows" theory that was proven to work in New York City. The results made NYC the safest large city in America. The recent so-called bail reforms and zero-cash bail have failed to hold criminals accountable and have allowed them to commit new violent crimes immediately after their release. The NNOAC and all our member associations are watching. We meet and advocate for smart policies that address your safety. But your elected officials need to hear from everyone else.

I am the Southwestern States Regional Director. These states consist of Arizona, Colorado, California, Nevada, Utah, Hawaii and New Mexico. Our state associations focus on all aspects of training, public safety policies, and officer safety. New Mexico has not had a viable association for more than a decade. I'm pleased to announce that the New Mexico Narcotic Officer's Association is being formed again and will rejoin the NNOAC soon.

I urge you to visit the state associations' websites for information on events, training, and fundraising. They are:

Arizona Narcotic Officers' Association

www.aznoa.org

California Narcotic Officers' Association

www.CNOA.org

Colorado Drug Investigators Association

www.CDIA.us

Nevada Narcotic Officers Association

www.nnoanv.com

Utah Narcotic Officers' Association

www.unoa.org

Hawaii Narcotic Officers' Association

currently working on website

New Mexico Narcotic Officers' Association

pending

Please get involved with your state association and stay informed.

The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it. – Albert Einstein

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL REPORT - WINTER UPDATE

In addition to my duties as the Regional Director of the southwestern states for the National Narcotic Officers' Association's Coalition (NNOAC), I am also a member of the California Narcotic Officers' Association's (CNOA) Executive Board. My NNOAC responsibilities include the states of California, Utah, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Each year at the California Narcotic Officers' Association Training Institute, we host a reception for other state associations' executives. This year the CNOA Training Institute was held in Indian Wells. This was the perfect time for us to meet other state and foreign country associations' representatives. The reception was well attended by many of CNOA's Executive Board and Past Presidents. We hosted twelve (12) other state associations and two (2) other countries' organizations.

There aren't many times that a group of so many accomplished professionals may gather for training, networking, and socializing. Funny as it may be, we all have the same common goals and threats to our communities.

Virtual meetings may serve as decent methods for some meetings. Personal meetings allow for more involvement with discussions, developing strategies for public safety, and training. The entire country and world are suffering from a drug pandemic that has not been experienced by so many people, states, and countries before. It has become common knowledge that fentanyl poisoning is the number one threat to the lives of our youths. When the crisis at the border and the death tolls are rising, we are wondering what is next.

Twelve state and two foreign country association executives made presentations during the afternoon's reception. An exceptional gift of appreciation and recognition was presented to outgoing NNOAC President Bob Bushman. Bob has served his home state association, the Minnesota State Association of Narcotic Investigators (MSANI) and NNOAC for decades. CNOA President Glenn Walsh surprised everyone with a beautiful hand-crafted shield (see photo attached). Bob has attended numerous CNOA annual training institutes and always speaks at our out-of-state receptions, explaining the importance of state association involvement in the NNOAC. Bob was teaching a leadership class and was taking a 15-minute break to receive his award. He asked me to speak on the importance of the NNOAC:

Most of the founders of the NNOAC have retired or worse, passed away. Our goals have not changed. We lead the charge to maintain funding for Byrne-Justice Assistance



Southwest Regional Director's Report By Bob Cooke, cont.

Grants that provides funding and assistance for local and state law enforcement. Every time we meet with a US Congress member, or their staff, we include the importance of funding for the national High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) programs and fought to keep it from being placed into the US Department of Justice. All our state associations are benefiting from the National Guard's Counter Drug program. The National Guard's training schools host on-site training at their schools and sponsor training all over the country – mostly at little or no expense to the students.

No one can sit down and explain what is happening in your communities better than the members of the state associations. It is vitally important that each state's association do their best to find the funding to send their members to the annual Washington DC delegates meeting. I can bull-sh*t with the best of them. But I can't explain your community to your own US Congress member or staff. It takes a constituent to advocate for your community. Please try and find the funding to attend the NNOAC annual meetings. I know it can be a struggle. But if we lose our grants, HIDTA or the National Guard training funds/schools

we may not be able to maintain our state association's training and conferences.

As we concluded the reception with networking and updating our Rolodexes, this year was a great example of how well our associations have bounced back. We hosted the following associations during the reception: Arizona, Washington, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Minnesota, Oklahoma, NNOAC, Nevada, Texas, Oregon, Utah, and Kentucky. In addition, we had teams from Iceland and Sweden. I know we had some student attendees and sponsors from other parts of North America including Alaska and Canada. We will try and assist them with forming their own associations.

The California Narcotic Officers' Association is a large organization and always makes a good showing in our nation's capital. I hope to see many of you in February at the Annual NNOAC Delegates Meeting.

Bob Cooke
CNOA President 2005 & 2025
Regional Director NNOAC





NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

REGIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Great Lakes Regional Director's Report

By Dennis Lowe

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,

Ohio, and Pennsylvania

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Hello everyone, my name is Dennis Lowe, and I am your new Great Lakes Regional

Director. I am honored and humbled to be appointed to this position by the NNOAC Executive Board, and I appreciate their confidence in me to represent our region of the country.

I am currently the Commander of the South-Central Ohio Major Crimes Unit, a multijurisdictional law enforcement task force, and the President of the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association. This year marks my 38th year in law enforcement, with the past 34 of those years spent in drug enforcement. Prior to becoming the Commander of the Major Crimes Unit, I was a Senior Special Agent with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, where I spent time in the general narcotics division; and for the last eleven years, I was assigned to the Clandestine Laboratory/Cannabis Suppression Unit. During that time, I also was the President of the Ohio Narcotics Association of Regional Coordinating Officers, so I guess it's fair to say that I have a little experience in our very specialized field.

Regional update

Throughout my career, I have placed the utmost importance on building strong relationships, not only throughout the law enforcement community but with a diverse group of disciplines. Understanding that relationships equal mission success has really led me to not only my association and work with the NNOAC, but the work that we are doing at the state and local level to address the challenges of drug trafficking and substance use in our communities. Now more than ever, I think we all must look at the work that we are doing and continue innovating and developing new and robust strategies to combat the greatest drug crisis

in our nation's history, while our ability to address drug trafficking and substance use has been greatly hampered by legislative and societal shifts across the United States. As I have spoken with our colleagues across our region, we are all facing the same challenges – extreme staffing shortages, lack of resources, and lack of funding. Some of us are facing catastrophic outcomes if we cannot right the ship or develop new ways to access funding and promote greater recruitment and retention throughout our profession.

Here in Ohio, we saw these challenges begin to emerge just as we transitioned from the “opiate epidemic” to a full-blown “drug crisis”, in which methamphetamine and fentanyl trafficking and use have become pervasive across our state. With funding for traditional enforcement-only strategies decreasing at both the state and federal level, we saw more and more funding being directed at treatment and recovery programs. This shift led task forces and other law enforcement agencies across Ohio to begin implementing QRT (Quick Response Team) and outreach programs to not only address the issue of substance use from a new perspective but to provide additional opportunities to access those re-directed dollars.

These strategies are paying big dividends here. My task force, which has a very robust QRT/Outreach program called project FORT, has built new and strong relationships with a non-traditional and diverse group of community partners. Those partners – who include treatment and health care providers, mental health and drug addiction boards, and community groups – now not only enhance the work we are doing with low-level drug offenders, but frequently advocate for us for additional grant and general revenue funding opportunities and provide direct financial assistance and other resources. By simply opening our minds and our doors to a new approach, we have been able not only to continue our enforcement efforts but to grow those investigative capabilities, as well. I should mention that this new approach, in addition to providing that desperately needed financial support, is also changing people's lives and how we are perceived in our community.

Project FORT – which partnered a drug enforcement detective with a civilian Peer Supporter/Peer Recovery Coach – engages with those in the community who have substance use disorders and connects them to available resources outside of the criminal justice system. Often the

FORT team is working with a client at the scene of a search warrant while the enforcement detectives are processing evidence and leading a drug trafficker away in handcuffs. It is anything but traditional, but it is working. One notable FORT client, who had struggled with heroin and methamphetamine addiction, last year graduated from the state fire academy as the honor graduate. He went on to become a Firefighter/EMT and is now out there in our community saving other people's lives. Here in Ohio, we now have more than 100 QRT/Outreach teams, with about a third of those being law enforcement-led programs. They don't all look and operate exactly like ours, but they all have resulted in building strong and meaningful relationships in their respective communities; they all are providing positive outcomes, and that's certainly something.



I look forward to meeting many of you at future NNOAC events. I am always available to answer questions or be of assistance, so please don't hesitate to reach out. And always remember – what you do matters.

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I hope everyone enjoyed the summer. With Leland's ascension within NNOAC, I have inherited his duties within the South Central Region, and I'm struggling to catch up and become better connected with some of the narcotics officer's associations within the region.



That being said, all of the states in the South Central Region are experiencing similar issues as the rest of the nation. With our nation experiencing 108,000 fatal drug poisonings in the preceding year, we are all aware of the harm the Fentanyl crisis is inflicting upon our fellow citizens. That effect is being felt proportionally throughout the region. Fentanyl continues to be found mixed with just

about every other drug being illicitly sold. Add to that the counterfeit Fentanyl tablets being distributed as well, and a much more difficult multifaceted issue has been created for law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Methamphetamine continues to be a major issue across the South Central Region, along with an increased presence of cocaine. The lack of attention being directed at the Southwest border by the current White House administration ensures that the influx of these poisons into our communities will continue at alarming levels. It also ensures that law enforcement, specifically across the South Central Region, will face further difficulties in combating the continued smuggling, distribution, and abuse of these substances, as well as their damaging effects.

Speaking about issues I'm somewhat more familiar with closer to home, along with the other illicit drug issues previously mentioned, Oklahoma has become a major source for marijuana across the central United States and points beyond. Due to the lack of controls within the statutes pertaining to the commercial cultivation of "medical marijuana", many groups have rushed to take advantage of the situation and established "legitimate fronts" for criminal operations. As explained in a white paper prepared by Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics Deputy Director Brian Surber, as of February 2022, there were 382,069 medical marijuana card holders within Oklahoma, while there were 8,137 licensed commercial cultivating operations in the state. Assuming that every card holder is a daily user and smokes an average-sized joint (.32 grams, according to a study by the University of Pennsylvania), and assuming that each commercial cultivator produced a mere 1,000 pounds of marijuana annually (which is laughably conservative), then 1.2% of the current commercial cultivation operations (or 98 commercial cultivators) would be able to supply every medical marijuana care holder within the state. That would leave the marijuana produced by the other 8,039 cultivation operations to be sold illicitly wherever there is a market for their product. Of course, it is illegal for marijuana produced within the State of Oklahoma to be transported outside the state, but I'll let you all judge for yourselves as to whether such prohibited activity is actually taking place. This does not speak to the number of illegal cultivators that are present within the state, as well. This has become a major issue for law enforcement, requiring the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics to create teams of officers assigned to specifically deal with and address the issue of illegal cultivation of marijuana.

You can read more about this particular issue on the A-ONE website at www.okienarc.com under the "Position Paper" tab.

The most current update on marijuana in the region is that



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the option to make marijuana legal for recreational use will be on the ballot this November in both Arkansas and Oklahoma.

All of the 2022 annual training conferences within the South Central Region have already been held. All of the state narcotic officers' associations have seen a welcomed return to a more pre-pandemic ability to host their annual training

conferences, and all associations reported that the 2022 conferences were well attended.

The schedule for each association's 2023 training conference is as follows:

Arkansas Narcotics Officers Association (Arkansas Narcotics Officers Association – Facebook)
May 23 – 26, 2023
Hot Springs, AR

Kansas Narcotics Officers Association (www.knoa.org)
March 6 – 9, 2023
Wichita Marriot, Wichita, KS

Louisiana Narcotics Officers Association (www.lnoa.net)
August 7 – 10, 2023 (Tentative)
New Orleans, LA

Missouri Narcotics Officers Association (www.mnoa.com)
March 29 – 31, 2023
Springfield, MO

Association of Oklahoma Narcotic Enforcers (www.okienarc.com)
August 1 – 4, 2023
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tulsa, OK

Texas Narcotics Officers Association (www.tnoa.org)
July 24 – 27, 2023
San Marcos, TX

I hope that everyone is making plans to attend the upcoming NNOAC Conference, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in D.C. in February 2023. In the meantime, "Hey,... Let's be careful out there."

Southeast Region - T. Gene Donegan

Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina

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The majority of the areas in this region are being plagued with the same drug issues, although some areas are being hit harder than other areas with specific drug problems.

The Southeast region continues to see an overwhelming number of overdose deaths resulting from counterfeit pharmaceutical pills, such as fake oxycontin and hydrocodone. Unfortunately, we don't have a monopoly on overdose deaths. The rest of the regions are suffering the same issues that the Southeastern region is dealing with. The United States saw a record number of overdose deaths last year, and I believe this year will surpass that number. Keep in mind that last year was the largest single-year percentage increase in the past 20 years.

Some of the departments are utilizing different methods while executing search warrants. We have seen a shift in executing search warrants, especially the use of no-knock search warrants, which many states and cities have banned.





We, as the police, are having to look for new or updated methods to deal with these issues.

Crystal Methamphetamine

Over the past several years, we have consistently seen an increase in methamphetamine in rural areas of the Southeast, but this past year we have seen larger amounts coming into the bigger cities. This is especially true in the Atlanta area, which is a known drug hub for the Southeastern United States. This drug trend continues to grow with the



unattended and so-called “open” southern border. This trend will continue to grow as the cartels have learned to utilize the open border to bring across more and more illegal drugs. We continue to see that cheaper prices have led to a surge of new dealers that have previously sold cocaine and other illicit drugs.

There are also interceptions of methamphetamine that is being shipped by FedEx, UPS and the United States Postal Service. We are also seeing larger amounts being shipped by large-scale trucking companies throughout the United States. You can see just a few examples of the drugs seized during an interdiction effort. Officers seized 35 pounds of fentanyl that was packaged much like cocaine. In addition, hundreds of pounds of marijuana are being shipped from states that have legal marijuana, which is not supposed to be shipped out of state. Most of these shipments from clandestine marijuana grows



avoid paying taxes on the drugs that are being shipped and sold to various other states.

Old Drug-dealing Trends are Back

New – or should I say old – methods of dealing drugs have begun to get a foothold in certain areas of the Southeast.

I have talked with officers in the Nashville, Tennessee downtown area where they are seeing a large amount of street drug dealers. This is something that hasn’t been dealt with in 20 years; but, in an area of downtown Nashville where there is a lot of foot traffic walking from location to location, officers have made a large number of street dealer arrests. These arrests have been predominantly for cocaine,



but in every intercepted sale, traces of fentanyl were mixed with the cocaine. Many cases were pure fentanyl that was being sold as cocaine.

This is only an example of the street dealers taking the streets back. You can rest assured that if you have a large, heavily populated entertainment area, the dealers are lurking in the shadows, or blending in with the tourists.

Fentanyl and Heroin

The Southeastern region is continuing to deal with large amounts of heroin, fentanyl and fentanyl-laced heroin spreading throughout the region. We are still seeing fentanyl pills that are disguised as prescription medications. As I mentioned earlier in this article, much of the cocaine is also laced with fentanyl.

We continue to deal with the purchasers not knowing what’s in the illicit products, which is resulting in the increase of overdose deaths.

These trends that we are seeing continue to be detrimental to our society. These trends are not just in the Southeastern region, but across the United States. They are filling



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our states with poison that are taking the lives of many unknowing participants. We can stop this surge of drugs, but it will take the help of Congress, the courts and law enforcement.

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Idaho is seeing unprecedented change and growth, which comes with growing pains, including new drug trends and complications.

Fentanyl is no longer only impacting other communities in surrounding states, but it has also found us. We know that Fentanyl has flooded the United States and poured into every corner.

Fentanyl, as well as methamphetamine, are devastating to our families and communities. In states where drug leniency is prevalent, you can also find trashed cities, wars on law enforcement, and other similar movements.

Communities with economic struggles, such as lack of jobs, higher cost of living, and increased rates of homelessness and despair, are at higher risk for drug use. The increased cost of living, coupled with the federal government's absence on the border, has created an opportunity for the illicit drug market to flourish in many areas.

This year, the state reported that 9.36% of Idaho residents were using illegal drugs in the past 30 days. The national average was 8.82%. Additionally, 3.71% of Idahoans reported using illicit drugs besides marijuana in the past month. Those numbers for the rest of the nation are 3.33%. Idaho is also higher than the national average in prescription use, at 46.7%. This issue can't be ignored and most likely feeds into the need for illegal drugs like Fentanyl.

Fentanyl is related to 42% of overdose deaths in Idaho in 2022, double from 2021, which was at 21% (Idaho Department of Health and Welfare). The White House has misjudged the open border policy with Mexico.

Idaho State Police have been on record saying methamphetamine is the most seized drug in Idaho. The

state has also said that at least one item in every controlled substance case has tested positive for Fentanyl.

So what do we do with this statewide, changing issue? Idaho Governor Brad Little has come to the podium with 25 other state governors to start The American Borders Task Force.

This task force disrupts and dismantles transitional criminal organizations taking advantage of the Biden Border Failure with Mexico. Governor Brad Little has declared meth and Fentanyl the most dangerous trafficked drugs in Idaho. Unfortunately, these drugs also open the door for an increase in human trafficking that goes unchecked and strangulates the US policy on border protection.

This Task Force will financially target Mexican cartels and criminal organizations by increasing law enforcement's collaborative efforts, improving intelligence, and combating human smuggling.

Additionally, Governor Little has dropped one million dollars to combat Fentanyl. His office has also started Operation Esto Perpetua, a direct strategy to protect communities from growing drug trends. It puts law enforcement and the governor in the same room as community leaders and citizens to discuss ways to help the individual communities. These meetings have already begun.

East Central Region - Tommy Loving
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Kentucky

On June 13, 2022, the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy released the 2021 Drug Overdose Death Report. The report indicates that 2,250 Kentuckians died from drug overdoses in 2021, a 14.5% increase compared with the year prior.

The 2021 Overdose Fatality Report is compiled from data supplied by the Office of the State Medical Examiner, the Kentucky Injury Prevention & Research Center, and the Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics.

According to cases autopsied by Kentucky's Office of the State Medical Examiner and toxicology reports submitted by Kentucky coroners, the rise in the death toll was driven largely by an increased use of fentanyl, which accounts for approximately 70% of all overdose deaths for the year. Additionally, the increase in overdose deaths was worsened by the widespread availability of potent, inexpensive methamphetamine.

“The drug epidemic is not a Kentucky issue or political issue, but a nationwide issue that is affecting everyone and every state,” according to our friend ODCP Executive Director Van Ingram. “Our focus over this next year will be on increasing access to clinical care for those suffering from an addiction and offering more harm reduction measures.”

The Kentucky Narcotic Officers' Association (KNOA) delegation – Bruce Crouch (President), Steve Cobb, Ron Eckart, Mike Brackett, Ron Lafferty, Mitch Walker, John Williams, Van Ingram, Tod Young and Tommy Loving – attended the NNOAC Washington conference in July. We also visited with Senator Mitch McConnell at the Capitol to share our concerns on drug enforcement issues and the crisis created at the open border. Senator McConnell was very interested in hearing from us and has always been a friend to the KNOA.

The KNOA annual training conference was held August 31 through September 2, 2022, at the Hilton Downtown Hotel in Lexington, KY. KNOA President Bruce Crouch presided over the opening ceremony. National Narcotic Officers' Association Coalition President Eric Brown was the opening speaker, presenting an overview of the “state of narcotic enforcement” – both good and bad. Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton, Lexington Police Chief Lawrence Weathers, Kentucky State Police Commissioner P. J. Burnett, and Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron made brief opening remarks.

Detective Jonah Kiper, Criminal Interdiction Division, Major Case Squad of the Louisville Metro Police

Department, was presented with Narcotic Officer of the Year for the Western District of Kentucky.

Detective Brian Cobb, Lexington Police Department, Narcotics Enforcement Unit, was presented with Narcotic Officer of the Year for the Eastern District of Kentucky. This was a first for KNOA, as he received it last year and we have never awarded it to the same person two years in a row until now. In addition to that, the Mayor of Lexington, Linda Gorton, declared by proclamation August 31, 2022, to be “Detective Brian Cobb Day” in Lexington Metro, and she presented Detective Cobb with the official proclamation at the opening.

Scott Miller, retired (KSP) Lt. Colonel and Attorney-Legal officer now working with the Sturgill-Turner Law Firm in Lexington, presented "Trends in Critical Incident Litigation".

During intelligence sharing presentations were made on RISS Safe/ROCIC, Kentucky State Police (KSP) Intelligence Section concerning drug trends in Kentucky and parcel interdiction. Louisville Metro Police Department Strategic Crime Intelligence Section presented an overview of the record-setting murders in Louisville. Following the presentations, an open discussion of intel sharing was conducted with the over 300 narcotic officers attending by Matt Gelhausen, LMPD Steve Wright, ROCIC and KNOA Intelligence Coordinator Steve Cobb.

On September 1, the entire day consisted of Cryptocurrency and Opioid Investigations training. It was presented by Retired Detective/Reserve Dallas PD Officer Byron Boston with Professional Law Enforcement Training and certified by the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council for 8 hours of certified training.

This course is designed to give officers exposure to how the use of cryptocurrency as a form of payments and investments has exploded over the past several years. Due to the decentralization that cryptocurrency offers, criminals have tapped into this market to pay for illicit activity, as well as engage in money laundering methods. This training course covers the fundamentals of cryptocurrency, including how to obtain it using cryptocurrency wallets, peer-to-peer networks, CoinJoin multi-party services, and various other methods. Anti-money laundering laws, as they relate to cryptocurrency, to include when “Know your Customer” laws are applicable, are discussed in detail. Cryptocurrencies operate on decentralized public ledgers known as blockchains. These blockchains rely on several key concepts that are explained in detail during the course. Understanding these concepts can assist with the “de-anonymization” process to try to identify criminals during opioid investigations.

On September 2, the 4-hour training, Introduction to

Drug-Related Death Investigation, was presented by Lt. Josh Shaffer, Knoxville TN Police Department, Commander A-HIDTA Knoxville Overdose Task Force.

The “Introduction to Drug-Related Deaths” provided officers and investigators with an overview of various aspects of Overdoses and Drug Related Deaths. The class covered how drugs, specifically stimulants and opiates, interact with the body to cause medical emergencies as well as death; the class also went over the signs and symptoms of drug-related deaths and how opiate- and stimulant-related deaths differ. It also covered the benefits to law enforcement of investigating overdoses and drug-related deaths, as well as the various objectives in those investigations. The course highlighted some investigative techniques and concluded with specific points that need to be covered in the investigation to build a solid prosecution. This course is solely an introduction and overview course and briefly hits on the topics listed to allow the attendees to identify specific areas where they may need additional training.

The conference concluded at noon on September 2, 2022.

Kentucky, like most of the region, is experiencing an increase in (Mexican) methamphetamine and fentanyl cases, as reflected in the aforementioned overdose report. We don't expect this deadly trend to slow until the Biden administration allows the Border Patrol and other agencies to regain control of the border.

West Virginia Narcotic Officers' Association (WVNOA)

After two years of inactivity due to COVID, the WVNOA is planning to organize a conference in 2023. The WVNOA will be partnering with the US Attorney's Office to provide the training, which will take place in the Southern District of West Virginia. The course of instruction has not been planned yet.

West Virginia is experiencing an increase in crystal (Mexican) methamphetamine and fentanyl cases, as is most of the region.

Top Right: Eric Brown, President NNOAC speaking at the KNOA Conference

Right Center: KNOA Executive Board visiting the Capitol during the NNOAC Meeting in July

Bottom Right: Mitch McConnell and Tom Loving taken in DC office during our meeting with him while attending NNOAC Delegate Meeting in July



NNOAC Legislative Update

Spring - 2023



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BROOKS BAWDEN MOORE

LLC

The 118th Congress has convened, a change in the power dynamics within Congress has occurred, and new leaders are settling into their roles. But before we get into all that, let us review what occurred during the Second Session of the previous Congress.

A substantial portion of the 2022 news cycle was dominated by the midterm elections, with numerous issues being in the spotlight, including the out-of-control drug overdose crisis being driven primarily due to the flood of fentanyl coming into the country. The latest data has shown that in 2021, overdoses surpassed 107,000 deaths, with the numbers not slowing in 2022. Congress and the Administration continue to be slow to respond. They have implemented small efforts to address aspects of the crisis, but a grand national response remains elusive.

National Defense Authorization Act

The annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which was signed into law in December, included the FENTANYL Results Act. This legislation requires the Department of State to establish a program to

provide capacity-building assistance for law enforcement agencies of specified countries to identify, track, and detect synthetic controlled substances (such as fentanyl) and new psychoactive substances. The State Department must also carry out an international exchange program for drug demand reduction experts to provide educational and professional development on demand-reduction matters relating to the illicit use of drugs, including synthetic drugs. Additionally, the NDAA included a provision for the Department of Homeland Security in collaboration with DOJ (Department of Justice), HHS (Health and Human Services) (Health and Human Services) (Health and Human Services), and ONDCP (Office of National Drug Control Policy) to research technologies to target and detect illicit fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, and precursor chemicals.

Despite bipartisan support for efforts to permanently schedule fentanyl analogues under schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, disagreement remains on establishing penalties, resulting in continued temporary extensions of DEA's emergency scheduling authority for fentanyl analogues. In the recently passed Omnibus Appropriations bill, Congress included a temporary extension through December 31, 2024, indicating that this will likely not be resolved permanently in the current Congress.



NNOAC Legislative Update
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While the overdose rates soar and violent crime remains high, Marijuana usage is on the rise, especially amongst our youths. Some in Congress continue to push efforts to legalize marijuana at the Federal level. In the House, there were multiple movements on marijuana related legislation in 2022. The SAFE (Secure and Fair Enforcement) Banking Act, which allows the marijuana industry access to banking services was attached to the House version of the annual defense bill. Despite intense pressure from marijuana advocates, the Senate did not include this in their bill, and it was excluded from the final legislation. Additional efforts to attach this legislation to the Omnibus Appropriations bill also failed.

The Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act

The Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act, a comprehensive reform proposal, made its way out of the House in April 2022. This legislation would remove cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act, purge the records of those who were convicted of certain marijuana related offenses, and create an Office of Cannabis Justice within the Department of Justice to administer grants to aid communities negatively affected by the “war on drugs.” Senate Democratic leaders pushed similar sweeping proposals in the Senate, however it did not share the same level of support as in the House and went nowhere.

However, there was one marijuana related piece of legislation that did move through Congress and was signed into law. The Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research

Expansion Act eases federal restrictions on the research of medical marijuana by making it easier to study the impacts and potential uses of cannabis.

Looking to 2023

Looking to 2023, Democratic leaders have signaled their intention to continue to make marijuana reforms a priority. Proposals to be included range from variations of the MORE Act, SAFE Banking Act, to legislation permitting medical marijuana for veterans. It remains to be seen whether enough support exists in the Senate for anything to pass, or whether the new House Republican majority will consider or support any of those efforts. The SAFE Banking Act is seen as the bill that could gain enough bipartisan support and move through Congress in some fashion.

The final act of Congress

The final act of Congress before they adjourned was approving a \$1.7 trillion omnibus appropriations bill. This legislation included all 12 of the annual appropriations bills, including funding for the various law enforcement programs, such as Byrne JAG (Justice Assistance Grant), COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services), and the homeland security grants. The Byrne JAG (Justice Assistance Grant) grant program received a 7.9 percent increase (minus carveouts) from FY 2022. The COPS hiring grants received a 43.4 percent increase (minus carveouts). The Anti-Meth Task Forces program received a \$1 million increase, while the Anti-Heroin Task Force program was level funded. The RISS (Regional Information Sharing Systems) program received \$44 million, a \$2 million increase. Under the homeland security grant programs, the Urban Areas Security



Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program were level funded.

Looking back

In 2022, we also saw a major push for privacy legislation and efforts to restrict big tech. Some of these efforts were a more direct effort to restrict law enforcement's use of systems and data. These efforts would have had significant unforeseen side effects affecting law enforcement's ability to generate leads. Two bills, the Fourth Amendment is Not For Sale Act and the American Data Privacy and Protection Act were the two most discussed bills that were of concern. The Fourth Amendment is Not For Sale Act would have required the government to get a court order to compel data brokers to disclose data, and would have prohibited law enforcement and intelligence agencies from buying data through services from data brokers. The American Data Privacy and Protection Act place significant restrictions on big tech companies that possess data on individuals. These restrictions would hinder the ability of law enforcement from using private sector data services. Neither of these bills moved through Congress, however the bipartisan support for the principles behind these bills remain strong.

New business

Now on to new business. The 2022 elections continue to show we are a very deeply divided nation. While Republicans were expected to gain many more seats than they did, they do now control the House by a very slim majority, while Democrats now fully controls the Senate, also by a slim majority. What this means for legislation being signed

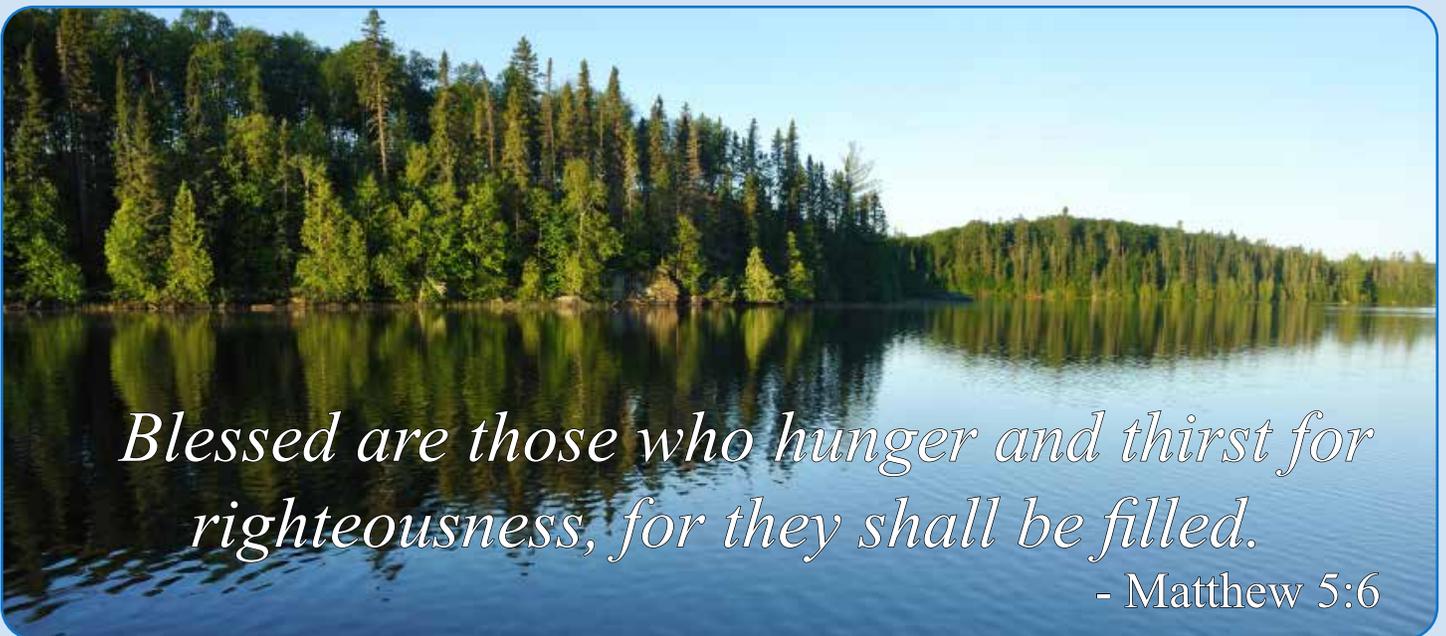
into law is unknown, however, we do not expect much to be accomplished. Republicans in the House have vowed to rein in the Biden Administration by launching numerous investigations, while also going to battle with Democrats and the Administration over government spending and border security issues. Compromise legislation on immigration reform is unlikely, however some border security issues may gain bipartisan support as it relates to addressing Mexican cartels and the smuggling of drugs into the U.S.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-OH)

We are also keeping an eye on House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-OH), who has ideological disagreements with grant programs. How he will treat legislation that must move through his committee relating to state and local law enforcement grants, including legislation affecting Byrne JAG and COPS, will be of interest.

In Closing

In closing, it will be crucial for you to become engaged and share your input and experience with local, state, and Federal policy makers as key reform discussions and efforts to address the drug poisoning crisis take place. We must reiterate that any plan to address these deaths need a law enforcement component, as recovery and prevention efforts alone will not solve this problem. We encourage you to write to your local, state, and Federal representatives to express the importance of the programs that are important for your work and for your safety. Please contact us if you want more information on messaging or key contacts.



*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they shall be filled.*

- Matthew 5:6



National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition

2022 Federal Priorities

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program - \$519 million

Byrne JAG is a critical source of support for multijurisdictional task forces. Task forces are cornerstones of effective drug law enforcement that enable joint efforts against regional drug trafficking organizations that are connected to larger transnational crime groups. Byrne JAG funding has been slashed since FY 2010, resulting in fewer task forces at a time when drug overdose deaths have skyrocketed. Byrne JAG should be restored to the FY 2010 level of **\$519 million in FY 2023**.

Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program - \$50 million

RISS is a trusted cornerstone of law enforcement information sharing. RISS, which reaches nearly 10,000 agencies across the United States, is particularly helpful to small agencies that do not have in-house analytical or investigative support functions. RISS centers provide criminal intelligence analysis, officer safety, and deconfliction services that are critical to America's narcotic officers. RISS funding should be funded at no less than **\$50 million in FY 2023**.

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program - \$356 million

HIDTA provides essential support for drug enforcement across America. Results of HIDTA investments are clearly demonstrated through a comprehensive performance measurement program. HIDTAs support investigations into hundreds of regional and international drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and money laundering organizations (MLOs). HIDTA should be funded at **no less than \$356 million in FY 2023 and be administered under ONDCP**.

Pass Legislation to Permanently Schedule Fentanyl Analogues

Fentanyl and similar substances kill tens of thousands of Americans each year. While Congress recently extended the temporary emergency scheduling of these substances under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, permanent scheduling should follow. Permanent scheduling – which the **Stopping Overdoses of Fentanyl Analogues (SOFA) Act** would do – would support continued aggressive enforcement against criminals who traffic in these poisons.

Protect Facial Recognition and Other Investigative Technologies

Investigative technology, including facial recognition, helps law enforcement be more accurate and efficient in investigating drug trafficking organizations. Overhyped fears about these tools ignore the reality that they are successfully used every day to protect Americans. We support responsible guardrails including human review of technology outputs. Congress should **oppose bans, moratoriums, or other undue limitations on the use of facial recognition and other investigative tools**.

Protect Access to Private Sector Digital Information

Protecting the privacy rights of law-abiding citizens is a top priority of law enforcement and members of Congress. Legislation to strengthen these protections is currently being considered by Congress, however we are concerned with proposed language that could hinder federal, state, and local law enforcement officers from using private sector services to support drug trafficking, money laundering, and other criminal investigations. Congress should **ensure law enforcement has access to important commercial data, oppose data retention and destruction mandates that could impact access to investigative data, and provide exemptions for companies working with law enforcement when considering data privacy legislation**.

Pass Legislation to Ensure Lawful Access to Digital Evidence

The “going dark” challenge impacts criminal investigations every day in America. This is when companies implement encryption on devices and apps without maintaining an ability to provide access to the system when a judge signs a warrant. That means drug traffickers, child exploiters, and other criminals have an easier time planning, executing, and covering up their activities. Congress should **ensure service providers can provide lawful access to digital evidence in response to a warrant, and should increase grants and training to build digital evidence capacity among all of law enforcement**.

Oppose Marijuana Legalization; Regulate CBD Products

Data show that youth drug use, seizures of black market marijuana, and marijuana-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and traffic deaths have skyrocketed in states that have legalized marijuana sales. **Congress should oppose**

any effort to legalize marijuana, including the MORE Act. At the same time, Congress should ensure that CBD, which does not produce impairment, is subjected to a clear regulatory framework to protect consumer safety.

Support the National Guard Counterdrug Training Schools

High quality training is essential for all of law enforcement, and especially for drug enforcement operations. The National Guard Counterdrug Schools train tens of thousands of narcotic officers each year. Congress should fund the National Guard Counterdrug Schools at no less than **\$26 million in FY 2023 and ensure that curriculum content and instruction are determined by drug enforcement experts.**

Importation of Counterfeit Medications

Counterfeit drugs, especially counterfeit pills made with fentanyl, are having a devastating impact on the United States and they are a major contributor to the thousands of drug deaths our Country is currently experiencing. We believe that continuing to allow importation of these dangerous drugs will further weaken our borders, while also increasing the amount of substandard, adulterated, and counterfeit prescription drugs entering the United States, fueling criminal enterprises, and worsening the opioid crisis in our country. Congress should **reject any proposal that will increase the potential for more Americans to become harmed, addicted, or even killed by foreign-produced and marketed illegal drugs.**

Restrict Marketing of CBD/THC

It is the responsibility of private industry and our elected leaders to work with us to discourage the questionable practices and deceptive marketing tactics that illicit market producers and distributors of THC products use to entice and encourage impressionable young people to consume these dangerous substances. Children are increasingly threatened by the unscrupulous use of famous brand logos, characters, trademarks, and trade dress on THC-laced edible products. Proposed legislation creates liability for electronic commerce platforms for advertising, sale, or distribution of goods with counterfeit marks that “implicate health and safety.” Congress should also **include “famous” marks, a term already defined in U.S. code, to extend this protection and deter the sale of these copycat THC items which clearly “implicate health and safety” of children.** You can learn more about this issue from the Consumer Brands Association THC Copycat Edibles Toolkit, which can be found at the following link: <https://consumerbrandsassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/FINAL-THC-Packet.pdf>.

Public Safety Communications

The American Music Fairness Act has been introduced in Congress by a bi-partisan group of lawmakers to mandate creators get paid when their music is played on traditional AM/FM radio stations. While this legislation is not the typical issue that the NNOAC considers, we understand that the important issue of public safety communications has been discussed. Broadcasters play a role, as part of their obligations, to communicate public safety information about events such as dangerous weather and national emergencies. Some have claimed that the costs associated with this legislation may impede radio stations’ capability to deliver on these obligations. Public safety communications should not be used as a pawn in the lobbying battle over this issue. Congress should **base its decision on its merits, and not hinge it on some questionable claims about the costs of public safety communications.**

To view NNOAC’s detailed position papers,
scan the QR code below.



COPYCAT EDIBLES

Imagine going through the cabinet looking for a favorite snack and finding what looks exactly like the packaging of a favorite chip or cookie. An adult may notice the small letters “THC” printed in the corner and realize that it is not the snack they had in mind. But would a child notice — or even be able to read — that the brand name they know has been hijacked and the contents are actually potent marijuana edibles?

Recent data has put a spotlight on the threat copycat tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) edibles pose to children who are increasingly mistaking them for a favorite breakfast cereal or afternoon snack, as many of the cannabis products’ packaging are virtually indistinguishable from the beloved brands they’ve ripped off.

Copycat edibles create serious risk that a child will mistakenly ingest THC when they otherwise might believe they’ve scored the treat jackpot finding their parents’ stash. [FDA data](#) showed that between January 2021 and May 31, 2022, poison control centers across the county fielded [10,448 calls](#) regarding THC exposure. Of those reports, 77% involved patients 19 years old or younger. Further, an overwhelming majority (91%) of unintentional exposures impacted children.

[A recent New York University study](#) analyzed just how closely some THC products mimic an original brand product. They found that out of the photos of edibles submitted by consumers, 22 of them “closely resembled” 13 snack food brands, eight used the same brand name and seven copied the brand mascot.

Moreover, the study revealed copycat products averaged a whopping 459 mg of THC, far outpacing most states’ 100

mg legal limitations on each packaged product, making accidental ingestion particularly dangerous for children. Danielle Ompad, the lead author on the study, said the dosage was “alarming” – somewhere three to six times greater than the typical amount in an edible.

“Policies to prevent cannabis packaging from appealing to children haven’t stopped copycat products from entering the market — nor have food brands taking legal action against cannabis companies for copyright infringement,” said Ompad. “People who purchase edibles that look like snack foods should store them separately from regular snacks and out of reach of children.”

Part of the challenge in pursuing bad actors is that, while cannabis laws are at the state level, these purveyors are not necessarily in a state’s borders. One of the biggest

challenges is not the THC product itself but the packaging. The point of origin for these copycats may be only the bag they come in. Online retailers sell these bags in bulk, leaving the filling of the package to others.

A simple search for “THC mylar bags” quickly offers

up options bearing brand names you know with only a small THC disclosure relegated to the corner. Not eye-grabbing for kids and not practical for the many children who have landed in the hospital who are not yet at reading age.

Policymakers, law enforcement and private industry must focus on enforcement, awareness and deterrence. Consumer Brands, along with CPG companies whose branding has been coopted, are seeking legislative solutions to copycat branding that will allow for better enforcement. In June, Consumer Brands [joined Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares](#) in his warning to consumers of the dangers products like copycat edibles pose to children. And, as a result of Consumer Brands’ continued efforts, two dozen state attorneys general issued a [letter to Congress](#) urging action to crack down on those bad actors marketing edible products. For more information, including a list of the [commonly used terms and brand appropriations](#), please visit the [Consumer Brands website](#).



DAMAGING MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT POLICE SHOOTINGS

Permission to reprint “Damaging Misperceptions” by James A. Gagliano -- originally published in City Journal.
EYE ON THE NEWS

Media coverage leads many Americans to believe that fatal police shootings are far more common than they are.

By James A. Gagliano
August 11, 2022
Public safety
The Social Order

Many Americans believe that fatal police shootings are far more frequent than they are in reality. A study from the Skeptic Research Center asked 908 participants to guess how many unarmed black men were killed by police in 2019 and what percentage of people killed by police were black. “The more people reported being ‘liberal’ or ‘very liberal’ on social and fiscal matters, the greater the discrepancy between the available data and their estimations,” the study found.

Experts are not immune from this misperception. Consider, for example, Nusrat Jahan Choudhury, formerly legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and recently appointed to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. By all accounts an accomplished attorney, Choudhury had held numerous positions within the ACLU of New York before President Biden appointed her to the federal bench. She holds a J.D.



from Yale Law School, an M.P.A. from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, and a bachelor’s degree from Columbia University. But as Republican senator John Kennedy noted during her confirmation hearings, Choudhry has said that “the killing of unarmed black men by police happens every day in America.” Choudhry attempted to defend her remarks as having occurred while she was “engaging in rhetorical advocacy” and in her “role as an advocate to make a rhetorical point,” but either way, she was off the mark.

Facts easily disprove the notion that unarmed black men are routinely killed by police.

A look at the NYPD’s fatal police shootings, based on publicly available data released by the department (cross-referenced with online police watchdog groups, such as the Washington Post’s Fatal Force database, which began in 2015), highlights exactly how rare these instances are in New York. Nationwide, too, the numbers remain far lower than the estimates of liberals. In any case, when analyzing fatal police shootings and comparing across populations, one must also consider differential rates of criminality.

What explains this persistent misunderstanding?

As research shows, black and white Americans view the racial divide in America very differently. Blacks tend to be more pessimistic than whites about policing and the criminal-justice system. Seventy-nine percent of African-Americans polled perceived disparate treatment for minorities by the criminal-justice system and viewed it as a large problem, versus just 32 percent of whites.

But while African-Americans hold a dim view of policing fairness in their communities, they still view law enforcement as a necessary function. Since 2020, when defund-the-police efforts gained momentum, a strange phenomenon has emerged. While they remain concerned about police bias, a whopping 81 percent of blacks want police to spend the same amount or more time in their neighborhoods, as determined by a Gallup Panel survey. That shouldn’t come as a surprise: criminality—including violent crime—is more prevalent in minority neighborhoods.

African-Americans deserve to enjoy safe neighborhoods.

Yet, per Gallup, “fewer than one in five Black Americans feel very confident that the police in their area would treat them with courtesy and respect” and “seven in 10 Black

Americans (71 percent) say they know ‘some’ or ‘a lot of’ people who were treated unfairly by the police.” This is the paradox of police relations within minority communities: residents therein need and want police to enforce the laws in their neighborhoods, but they still feel that police are biased and prone to mistreatment of certain people. Why?

Media coverage seems to explain the persistent overestimates of police shootings. Most American journalists identify as liberal or progressive, and journalism remains stubbornly lacking in diversity of thought. Despite American elections highlighting the nearly 50-50 split along ideological lines, nearly all political donations from those helping shape the news skew in one direction—to the left. This stark contrast directly affects how Americans view

perceived racial disparities in fatal police shootings. News consumers are certainly vulnerable to a cognitive bias known as the availability heuristic—the susceptibility to a “mental shortcut” due to frequency of exposure. The more the press sounds the alarm that a particular incident is emblematic of a broader, systemic problem (such as inherent racism in policing), the more likely the public is to believe it.

The difficulties lie in how best to counter the tropes and one-sided media coverage. The release of more descriptive statistical studies of other police departments and agencies should assist in refuting these mischaracterizations. Rebuilding trust is essential to improving relations between cops and the communities they serve.

THE STUDIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- When asked whether they want the police to spend more time, the same amount of time or less time than they currently do in their area, most Black Americans -- 61% -- want the police presence to remain the same. This is similar to the 67% of all U.S. adults preferring the status quo, including 71% of White Americans.

Meanwhile, nearly equal proportions of Black Americans say they would like the police to spend more time in their area (20%) as say they’d like them to spend less time there (19%).

Preference for Amount of Time Police Spend in Your Area **Would you rather the police spend more time, the same amount of time** **or less time as they currently spend in your area?**

	More time	Same amount of time	Less time
	%	%	%
Black Americans	20	61	19
White Americans	17	71	12
Hispanic Americans	24	59	17
Asian Americans	9	63	28
U.S. adults	19	67	14

GALLUP PANEL, JUNE 23-JULY 6, 2020

These findings are from a June 23-July 6 Gallup Panel survey, administered by web in English and conducted as part of the newly launched [Gallup Center on Black Voices](#). The study includes large samples of Black, Hispanic and Asian Americans, weighted to their correct proportions of the population.

Of these four racial/ethnic groups, Asian Americans are the most likely to want less police presence where they live, with 28% saying this. That contrasts with 12% of White Americans, 17% of Hispanic Americans and 19% of Black Americans.

Damaging Misperceptions About Police Shootings | Reprinted with permission of City Journal (city-journal.org)

Little Difference by Race in Local Exposure to Police

The survey also asked Americans to estimate how often they see police in their neighborhood. Black Americans’ reported exposure to local police is slightly above the national average, with 32% saying they see the police often or very often in their neighborhood. This compares with 22% of White Americans and 21% of Asian Americans. Hispanic Americans’ experience is similar to that of Black Americans, with 28% often seeing police where they live.

Most other Black Americans (41%) say they sometimes see police in their area, matching the national average, while another 27% say they rarely or never see them.

Frequency With Which Americans See Their Local Police

How often do you see police in your neighborhood?

	Very often/Often	Sometimes	Rarely/Never
	%	%	%
Black Americans	32	41	27
White Americans	22	42	36
Hispanic Americans	28	37	34
Asian Americans	21	47	32
U.S. adults	24	41	35

GALLUP PANEL, JUNE 23-JULY 6, 2020

The slightly elevated frequency with which Black Americans see police in their neighborhood has limited impact on their preferences for changing the local police presence. About a third of Black Americans who say they often see the police in their neighborhood think the police should spend less time there (34%); however, the majority of adults in this group think they should spend the same amount of time (56%) or more time (10%).

Black Americans’ desire for reduced police presence drops to 16% for those who “sometimes” see the police and to 8% for those who rarely or never see the police.

Black Americans’ Preference for Time Police Spend in Their Neighborhood

Results according to frequency with which they see local police

	See police: Very often/Often	See police: Sometimes	See police: Rarely/Never
	%	%	%
More time	10	24	25
Same amount of time	56	60	67
Less time	34	16	8

GALLUP PANEL, JUNE 23-JULY 6, 2020

Black Americans Lack Assurance Police Encounters Will Go Well

Although Black Americans seem about as comfortable as Americans overall with the amount of police presence where they live, they differ markedly in their perceptions of how their local police might treat them if they were to interact.

Fewer than one in five Black Americans feel very confident that the police in their area would treat them with courtesy and respect. While similar to the 24% of Asian Americans saying the same, it is markedly lower than the 40% of Hispanic Americans and the 56% of White Americans who feel this way. This could either stem from Black Americans’ own negative experiences with the police or from their familiarity with people who have had negative encounters with law enforcement.

When factoring in those who are at least somewhat confident that the police would treat them well, a majority of Black Americans (61%) are generally confident, but this is still below the 85% seen nationally, including 91% of White Americans.

Confidence About Receiving Positive Treatment by Police
If you had an interaction with police in your area,
how confident are you that they would treat you with courtesy and respect?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident
	%	%	%	%
Black Americans	18	43	27	12
White Americans	56	35	7	2
Hispanic Americans	40	37	17	5
Asian Americans	24	54	16	6
U.S. adults	48	37	11	4

GALLUP PANEL, JUNE 23-JULY 6, 2020

Black Americans’ preference for the amount of time police spend in their area is modestly related to their expectation about receiving fair treatment. However, 59% of the relatively small group of Black Americans who are “not at all confident” that the police would treat them with courtesy and respect want the police to spend less time in their neighborhood.

The majority of all other Black Americans, including those who are “not too confident” about receiving considerate police treatment, want the police to spend the same amount of time, with additional percentages favoring more time.

Black Americans’ Preference for Amount of Time Police Spend in Their Neighborhood
Results according to their confidence that police would treat them courteously, respectfully

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident
	%	%	%	%
More time	24	19	19	18
Same amount of time	68	71	56	23
Less time	7	10	25	59

GALLUP PANEL, JUNE 23-JULY 6, 2020

Notably, simply *having an interaction* with the police in the past year has no bearing on Black Americans’ preference for local police presence in their area:

- Seventy-nine percent of those who have had an interaction with the police in the past 12 months say they want the police to spend more or the same amount of time in their neighborhood; 21% favor less time.
- Eighty-two percent of those who have not had an interaction want the same or greater police presence; 18% want less.



Damaging Misperceptions About Police Shootings | Reprinted with permission of City Journal (city-journal.org)

What does matter is the *quality* of the interaction:

- Forty-five percent of Black Americans who report not being treated with courtesy or respect by the police within the past 12 months want less of a police presence in their neighborhood. Meanwhile, 55% want the same or more police presence.
- By contrast, just 13% of those who did feel they were treated respectfully want the police to spend less time in their neighborhood; 87% want them there as much or more often.

Bottom Line

It's not so much the volume of interactions Black Americans have with the police that troubles them or differentiates them from other racial groups, but rather the quality of those interactions.

Most Black Americans want the police to spend at least as much time in their area as they currently do, indicating that they value the need for the service that police provide. However, that exposure comes with more trepidation for Black than White or Hispanic Americans about what they might experience in a police encounter. And those harboring

the least confidence that they will be treated well, or who have had negative encounters in the past, are much more likely to want the police presence curtailed.

These results correspond with Gallup's previously reported findings showing that only 22% of Black Americans favor abolishing police departments. However, the vast majority believe reform is needed, with upward of 90% favoring specific reforms aimed at improving police relations with the communities they serve and preventing or punishing abusive police behavior.

In these findings, policymakers may find a path forward that helps the police both protect communities and establish relations that make all citizens feel good about their presence.

Learn more about how the Gallup Panel works.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

James A. Gagliano is a retired FBI supervisory special agent and a doctoral candidate in homeland security at St. John's University. He serves on the board of directors of the Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund and as a CBS News security and law enforcement analyst.



The only safe medications are ones that come from licensed and accredited medical professionals.

DEA warns that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially lethal.

For more information about counterfeit pills, go to [DEA.gov/OnePill](https://www.dea.gov/OnePill)

Data as of December 2021



The Drug Enforcement Administration ensures the safety and health of the American public by fighting against violent criminal drug networks and foreign cartels trafficking in illicit drugs. To accomplish that mission, the Drug Enforcement Administration employs approximately 10,000 men and women throughout the world—Special Agents, diversion investigators, intelligence analysts, and chemists—across 239 domestic offices in 23 U.S. divisions and 91 foreign offices in 68 countries.

**ONE
PILL CAN
KILL**

Department of Justice | Drug Enforcement Administration
COUNTERFEIT PILLS FACT SHEET

FAKE PRESCRIPTION PILLS • WIDELY AVAILABLE • INCREASINGLY LETHAL

DEA LAB TESTING REVEALS THAT
4 OUT OF EVERY 10 PILLS
WITH FENTANYL CONTAIN A POTENTIALLY
LETHAL DOSE



Counterfeit pills often contain fentanyl and are more lethal than ever before.

DEA officials report a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing at least 2 mg of fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose.

Drug traffickers are using fake pills to exploit the opioid crisis and prescription drug misuse. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports more than 100,000 drug overdose deaths in the United States in the most recent 12-month reporting period, the most ever recorded.

Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid most commonly found in counterfeit pills, is the primary driver in this alarming increase in overdose deaths.

Criminal drug networks are flooding the U.S. with deadly fake pills.

- Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public.
- Counterfeit pills are easy to purchase, widely available, often contain fentanyl or methamphetamine, and can be deadly.
- Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them available to anyone with a smartphone, including minors.
- Many counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription opioids such as oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Percocet®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), and alprazolam (Xanax®); or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall®).



For more information about counterfeit pills, go to [DEA.gov/OnePill](https://www.dea.gov/OnePill)

Data as of December 2021



*Photos of counterfeit pills do not represent all available fake pills.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT COUNTERFEIT MEDICATIONS ARE HARD, BUT THEY'RE IMPORTANT

Talk to your community about the deadly consequences of counterfeit pills.

THIS IS WHAT SURVIVORS WISH THEY COULD HAVE SAID:



"Buying a pill online is just as dangerous as buying one off the street. You never know what's in them; your pill could be filled with poison."



Rachel Blado's son, Josh, died after taking a fake Xanax made with fentanyl. He bought pills online after he saw a TED talk claiming that online drug sellers with good reviews were safe.



"You cannot tell a counterfeit by looking at it. Don't buy a pill from a co-worker or friend!"



Caroline DiVita's sister, Maggie, was killed instantly when she took what she thought was an oxycodone pill for her back pain.



"Just because it looks like a pill doesn't mean it's a safe pharmacy product. Criminals make fake pills with deadly ingredients and sell them for money. When your friend offers you a pill, ask yourself, 'Why do they have this?'"



Lisa Hicks' son, Joe, died after he pulled a muscle and a friend gave him fake painkillers.

Contact Sven Bergmann at 614-401-8010 for training, intelligence, support and materials. Email him at SBergmann@ventureglobal.com.

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THE MARIJUANA MYTH

BY HEATHER MAC DONALD



BIDEN'S PARDON OF FEDERAL POT POSSESSION CASES IS A SMOKE SCREEN.

With the midterms bearing down and the post-George Floyd crime wave still underway, President Biden and his fellow Democrats face a dilemma: Continue hammering the theme that law enforcement is racist or position themselves as guardians of law and order?

Innate inclination won out again last week. Biden announced that he was pardoning all individuals who have ever been federally convicted of marijuana possession. His reason for doing so, Biden said, was to “right” the racial “wrongs” that the criminal justice system has allegedly perpetrated. “While white and Black and brown people use marijuana at similar rates, Black and brown people are arrested, prosecuted and convicted at disproportionately higher rates,” Biden said in a video.

This claim—equal marijuana use, unequal criminal justice treatment—has been a cornerstone of the Left’s war

on cops for decades. It is routinely trotted out as Exhibit A in the Left’s narrative about racist policing; it got an added boost from Michele Alexander’s disastrously influential book, *The New Jim Crow*.

Predictably, the *New York Times* regurgitated the equal-use claim in its coverage of the Biden marijuana pardons: “While studies show white and Black people use marijuana at similar rates, a Black person is more than three times as likely to be arrested for possession than a white person, according to a report from the ACLU that analyzed marijuana arrest data from 2010 to 2018.”

The Marijuana Myth | *Reprinted with permission of Manhattan Institute City Journal*

The significance of the equal use claim extends beyond the war on cops, however. It is part of a larger narrative that denies both the existence of significant racial differences in culture and behavior and the role played by those differences in explaining socioeconomic disparities. It is worth assessing the equal use claim against the data, therefore, since a worldview hangs upon it.

Historically, marijuana use and culture has been more embedded in black communities than in white, as twentieth-century chronicles of urban black life by Claude Brown, Richard Wright, W.E.B. Du Bois, and others make clear. That disparity continues today, despite the flower power revolution that created generations of Grateful Dead potheads. Blacks comprise one-third of all treatment admissions nationally for marijuana abuse, though they represent only about 13 percent of the nation's population. Among cannabis users, blacks have a nearly 70 percent higher rate of cannabis dependence than whites (16.82 percent v. 10.01 percent).

Cannabis is the illicit drug for which black drug abusers are most frequently treated (29 percent of all drug treatments), according to a 2013 U.S. Treatment Episode Data Set compiled by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. By contrast, 12 percent of whites in drug treatment were there for cannabis abuse.

A 2016 study by Washington, D.C.'s Department of Health found that there were 38 times more blacks than whites in treatment for marijuana disorder. The rate of marijuana use in D.C. was 62 percent higher for blacks than for whites.

The journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* has called for research into the cultural norms that lead to such higher rates of cannabis abuse disorders among blacks.

As for drug use more generally, from 2017 to 2019, the rate of treatment admissions for substance abuse disorder was nearly 58 percent higher for blacks than for whites (85.5 per 10,000 population, compared to 54.2 per 100,000).

Drug abuse data is a more reliable indicator of drug use than self-reported surveys. Adult surveys exclude prisoners, street vagrants, and other individuals not tied to a stable home; school surveys exclude dropouts. Those excluded populations are precisely the ones with higher rates of drug use; if blacks are overrepresented in those populations, which they are, their rate of drug use will be underreported.

A core claim, then, of the New Jim Crow anti-cop Left is not supported by the evidence. The superstructure that has been built up around that claim is equally detached from reality.

Even if marijuana use and abuse were spread equally among black and white populations, possessing a small

amount of marijuana lands no one in federal or state prison, absent more significant criminal activity, as even radical prison abolitionists are increasingly willing to admit. Marijuana possession convictions are usually the result of plea bargaining down from more serious charges, whether drug trafficking or other felonies. In 2013, over 91 percent of federal marijuana possession convictions came from arrests made at the border. The median quantity of marijuana possessed by those border offenders was over 48 pounds. That load would make for one very big blunt, but it is not likely that the possessors intended to smoke their suitcases of pot themselves. Rather, U.S. attorneys were charging traffickers with the easier-to-prove possession offense.

Away from the border, marijuana possession arrests (now a thing of the past) were usually made during the investigation of more serious crime. No police officer sets out to arrest someone for the possession or use of recreational weed. Instead, if the police stop someone who appears to be casing a target or hiding a gun and they discover marijuana on him, they may use that marijuana possession to summons him or to bring him in to the station house. Even so, state convictions for marijuana possession have been rare—0.3 of one percent of state prisoners had low-level marijuana possession as their most serious offense, according to a 2008 Bureau of Justice Statistics report.

Given the concentration of street crime in black neighborhoods, officers make more street investigations there and thus will be more likely to uncover marijuana, especially if racial norms are (or were) different around outdoor use and possession.

Marijuana possession convictions—or indeed, any type of drug enforcement—is not what creates racial disparities in the prisoner population, despite Michelle Alexander's "New Jim Crow" argument. If all drug prisoners in state prisons (which is where the vast bulk of the nation's prisoners are incarcerated) were removed from the rolls, the proportion of black prisoners would not change. Violent crime and property offenses drive the black incarceration rate, not drug enforcement.

Biden's indictment of the racial "wrongs" in marijuana enforcement, like the entirety of the New Jim Crow thesis, ignores the fact that the impetus for stricter drug enforcement has always come from black communities themselves, as research by Randall Kennedy, Michael Fortner, and James Forman has documented. During police-community meetings in high crime neighborhoods, I have routinely heard complaints about the smell of marijuana in hallways and about the youth trespassing in building lobbies smoking weed. If the police ignore those heartfelt

The Marijuana Myth | Continued

requests for enforcement because Biden and the ACLU tell them that they would be racist to act on the complaints, the police would deny the law-abiding, hardworking inhabitants of crime-ridden areas the government protection that they deserve.

That indifference appears to be what the Left seeks, however. After Biden's pardon announcement, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, a member of the George Soros progressive prosecutor club, announced that the White House had taken a "momentous step toward justice and equity." It has been "long understood," Foxx said, that the "war on drugs was a war on Black and Brown communities." Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman, in a hot race for the U.S. Senate, lauded Biden's pardons as a "massive step towards justice" (the "racial" in "racial justice" being so obvious as to not need stating).

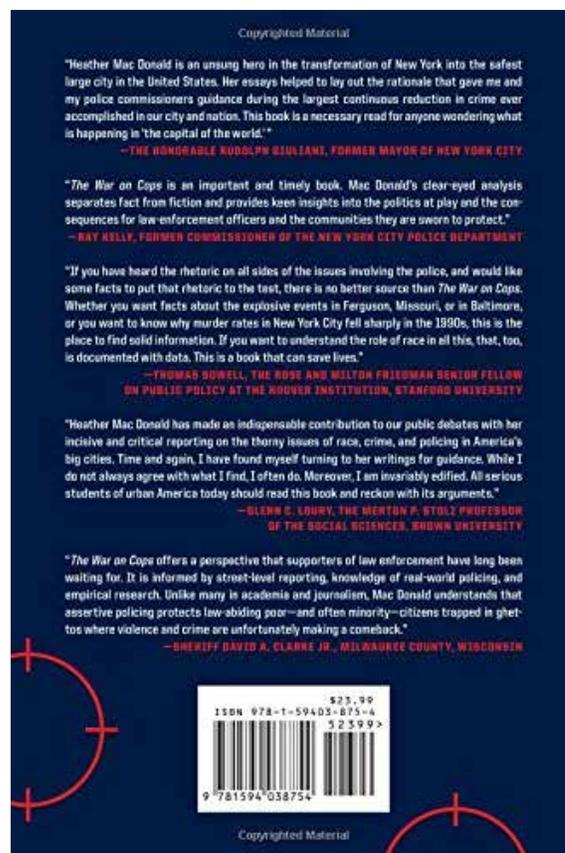
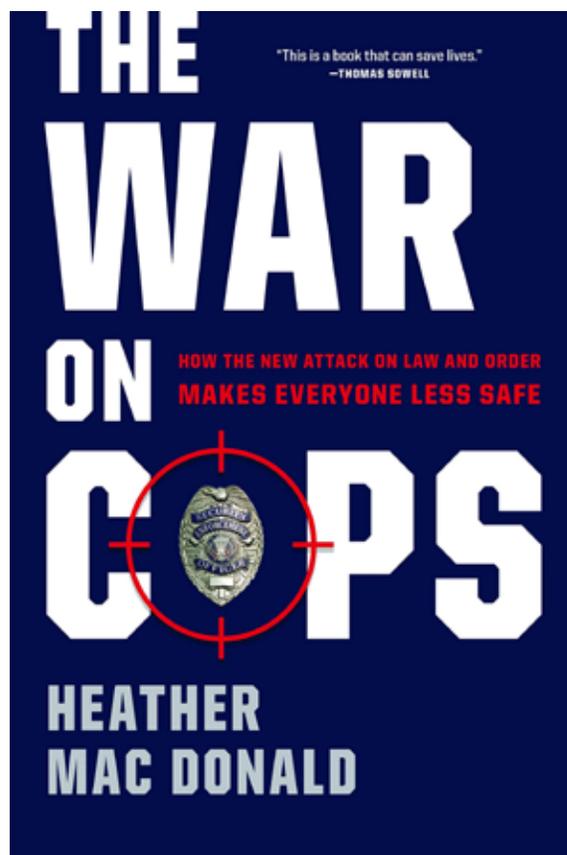
If reenslaving blacks is the point of drug enforcement, Biden, Foxx, and Fetterman would have a hard time explaining why rural white counties have the most draconian arrest and prosecution policies.

Even though federal marijuana possession convictions are a proxy for serious dealing, there is at present no one even serving time in federal prison for marijuana possession. In 2017, only 92 people were sentenced on federal marijuana possession charges, out of nearly 20,000 drug convictions, reports the New York Times. The Biden marijuana initiative is intended to remind the Democratic base that the party remains committed to the systemic racism narrative, recent gestures about "refunding the police" notwithstanding.

But the black community suffers disproportionately from the effect of marijuana and other drugs on its children and on its broader social capital, an effect that results from drug use itself, not from drug criminalization, as the legalizers maintain. It was that public health reality that drove the black war on drugs. Denying that reality and insisting that drug enforcement is about white supremacy are not blows for racial justice; they are simply means to preserve an ideology of resentment and hatred.

Heather Mac Donald is the Thomas W. Smith Fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a contributing editor of City Journal. A New York Times bestseller, she is the author of *The War on Cops: How the New Attack on Law and Order Makes Everyone Less Safe*

This article was reprinted from The American Mind which presents a range of perspectives. Views are writers' own and do not necessarily represent those of The Claremont Institute.





ROG THE DOG Animal-Assisted Therapy

Supporting the health and well-being of those who serve our communities

First responders experience higher rates of depression, PTSD, burnout, anxiety, and other mental health issues*, compared with the general population. As public safety's partner, FirstNet®, Built with AT&T has a responsibility unlike any other wireless carrier to deliver for the first responder community. That's why we established the FirstNet Health & Wellness Coalition.

And that's why we've gone beyond our commitment to build and operate FirstNet to introduce the ROG the DOG Animal-Assisted Therapy Program. Therapy dogs are proven* to:

- Have a positive impact on mental and physical health
- Improve coping and recovery
- Enhance morale
- Decrease stress
- Impact PTSD and emotional distress

To learn more about this kennel of trained Labradoodles who specialize in animal-assisted therapy for first responders, go to [FirstNet.com](https://www.firstnet.com).

To request a ROG the Dog, please call customer care or email your request to dl-rogthedog@att.com.



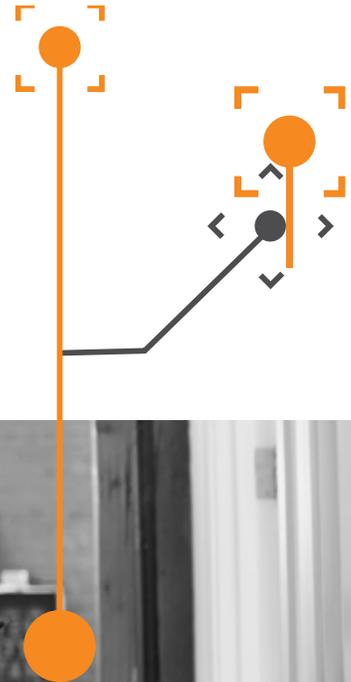
*Purvis, M., Fullencamp, L. & Docherty, M. (2020). Animal Assisted Therapy on Law Enforcement Mental Health: A Therapy Dog Implementation Guide. Bowling Green University.

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Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention How to Use this Toolkit

A Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention Toolkit was developed and distributed to all Florida law enforcement agencies in October of 2007. This Toolkit was designed with input from many law enforcement officers, deputies, and troopers, as well as subject-matter experts to help you present suicide prevention training within your department, reduce the stigma associated with seeking help, and to encourage your officers to roll backup for each other.

The Florida RCPI has uploaded these resources to its Web site for your use. Digital copies of the printed materials that were provided in the Toolkit are here for download and printing. All have space for localization: your agency seal/logo; name; phone numbers and other contact information for EAP, Peer Support, CISM, Chaplaincy, Psychologists/Counselors/, etc.

You may produce as many copies as you like for free distribution within your agency or for other law enforcement agencies as long as you do not change the text or delete the credit. Some printers will need to see written proof that you have permission to print or copy these materials before they will proceed with the job; this page serves as that permission. You may add your agency's name, address, phone number, and Web site where space is provided.

You can research cutting edge articles on the issue of law enforcement suicide. PowerPoint presentations, model policies and procedures, best practices, research, and recommendations are included.

hotline numbers

<i>Copline</i>	1-800-267-5463
<i>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline</i>	1-800-273-8255
<i>Veterans Crisis Line</i>	1-800-273-8255
<i>Cop 2 Cop</i>	1-866-267-2267



Please browse through this information frequently to learn more about how to develop a strong program within your agency.

For more information, contact the partners who developed this kit:

Regional Community Policing Institute (RCPI)
Executive Director Eileen LaHaie
(727) 341-4502
lahaie.eileen@spcollege.edu

Donna G. Schulz
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Donna.schulz@aol.com

Survivors of Law Enforcement Suicide
Executive Director Teresa Tate
AskT8@aol.com



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



Remember that the majority
of citizens in our country
hold you in great esteem and value
what you do every day by showing up,
putting your lives on the line,
and helping those in need.

Stay the course. ”

- Eric Brown, President NNOAC

