



ILLICIT DRUG TRENDS 2025

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AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

FENTANYL & MORE

MOSTLY METH

BENZOS & KETAMINE

GAS STATION HEROIN

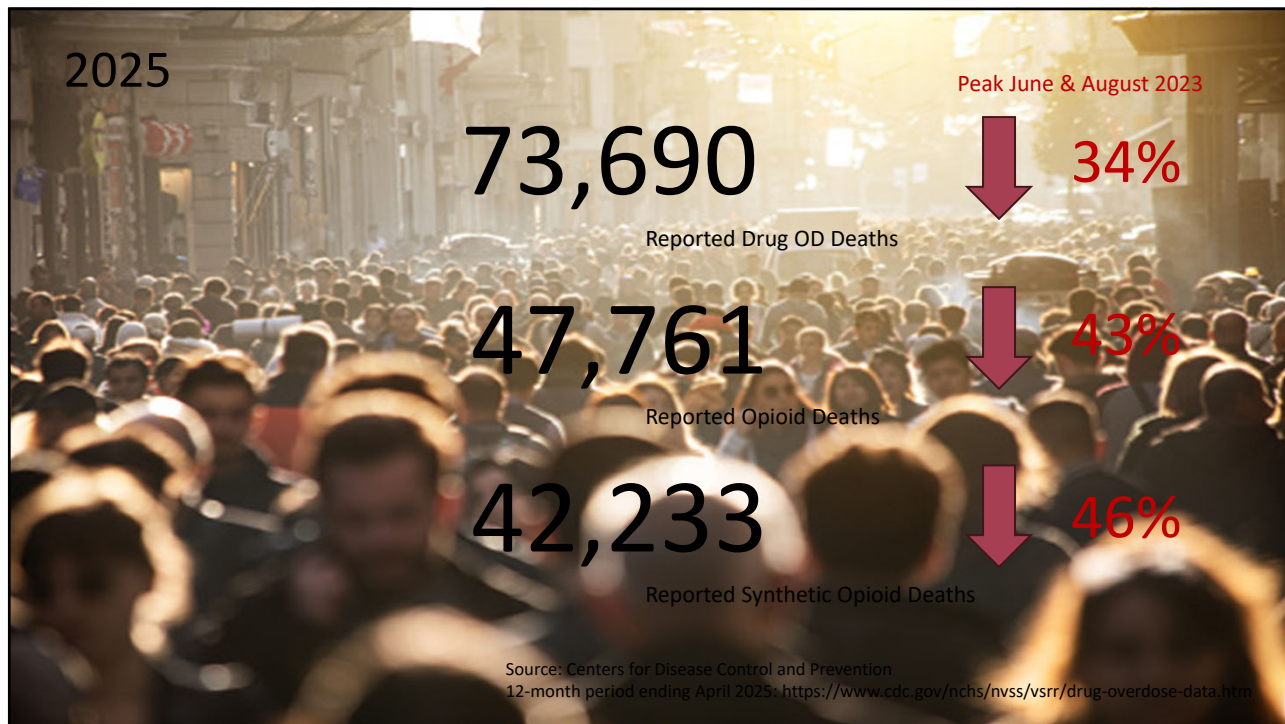
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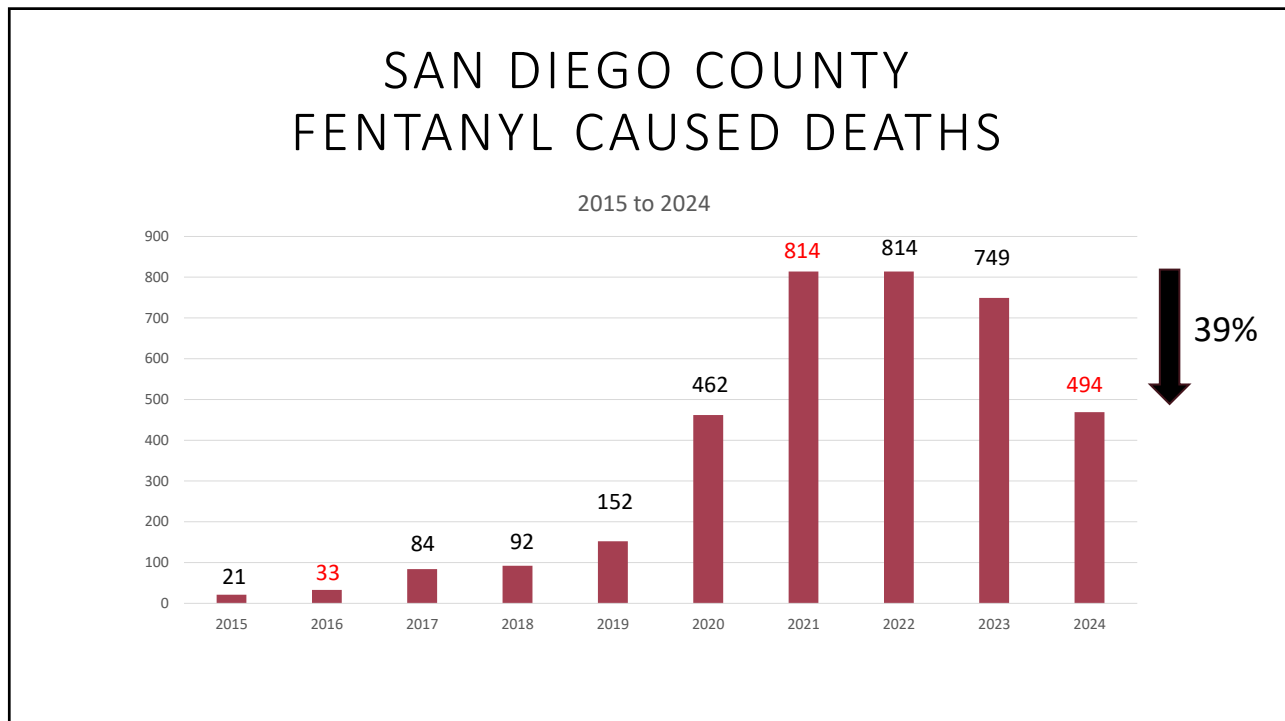
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**INCREASED
ENFORCEMENT**

EDUCATION

**INCREASED
NALOXONE**

DECREASED
POTENCY

CARTEL WAR

LOSS OF MOST
VULNERABLE

**INTERNATIONAL
PRESSURE**

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POWDER VS. PILLS



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Social Media Drug Dealers

- With increasing frequency, drugs, including fentanyl, are being sold via social media apps such as Snapchat, Instagram, and Facebook.
- Some dealers are overt in their efforts to sell. Others are more nuanced, using coded language and emojis to represent the drugs being sold.
- Disappearing messages and heightened privacy policies encourage and facilitate drug dealing via social media.
- Drugs are being dropped off at or near a buyer's home. Often, that buyer is a kid between the ages of 12 and 18.

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ONLY 5% OF THE APPROXIMATE 35,000 ACTIVE ONLINE PHARMACIES, COMPLY WITH UNITED STATES PHARMACY LAWS AND PRACTICE STANDARDS. — NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF PHARMACY

September 30, 2024

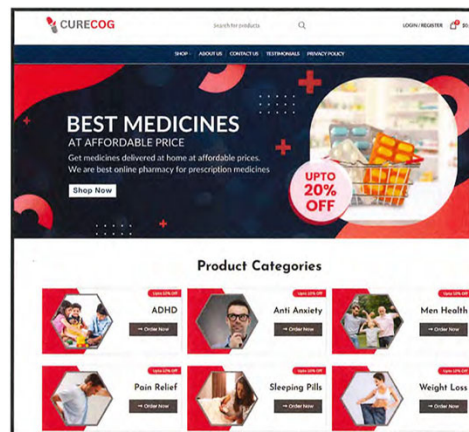
The U.S. Attorneys Office for the Southern District of New York, HSI, DEA, and USPIS announced charges against 18 defendants located in the United States, Dominican Republic, and India.

Dozens of fake online pharmacies

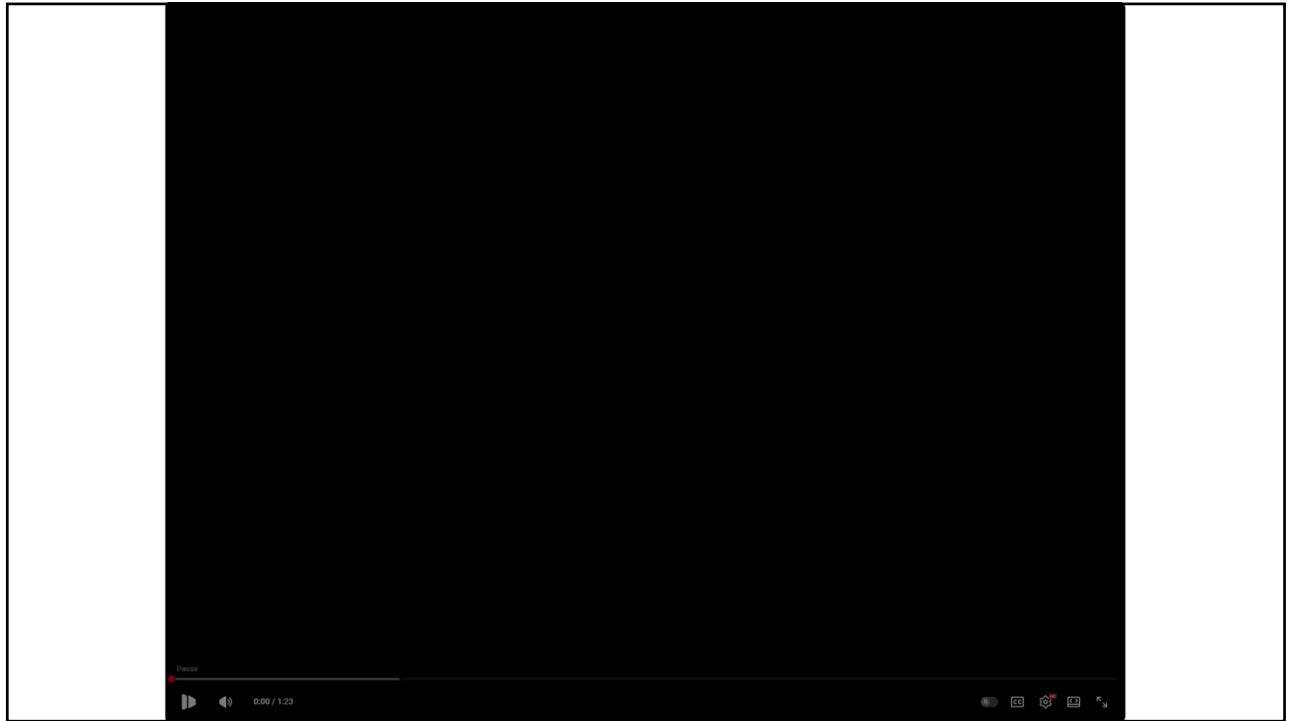
Selling counterfeit pills containing fentanyl or methamphetamine in all 50 states

Pill mills producing 100,000 pills every 12 hours

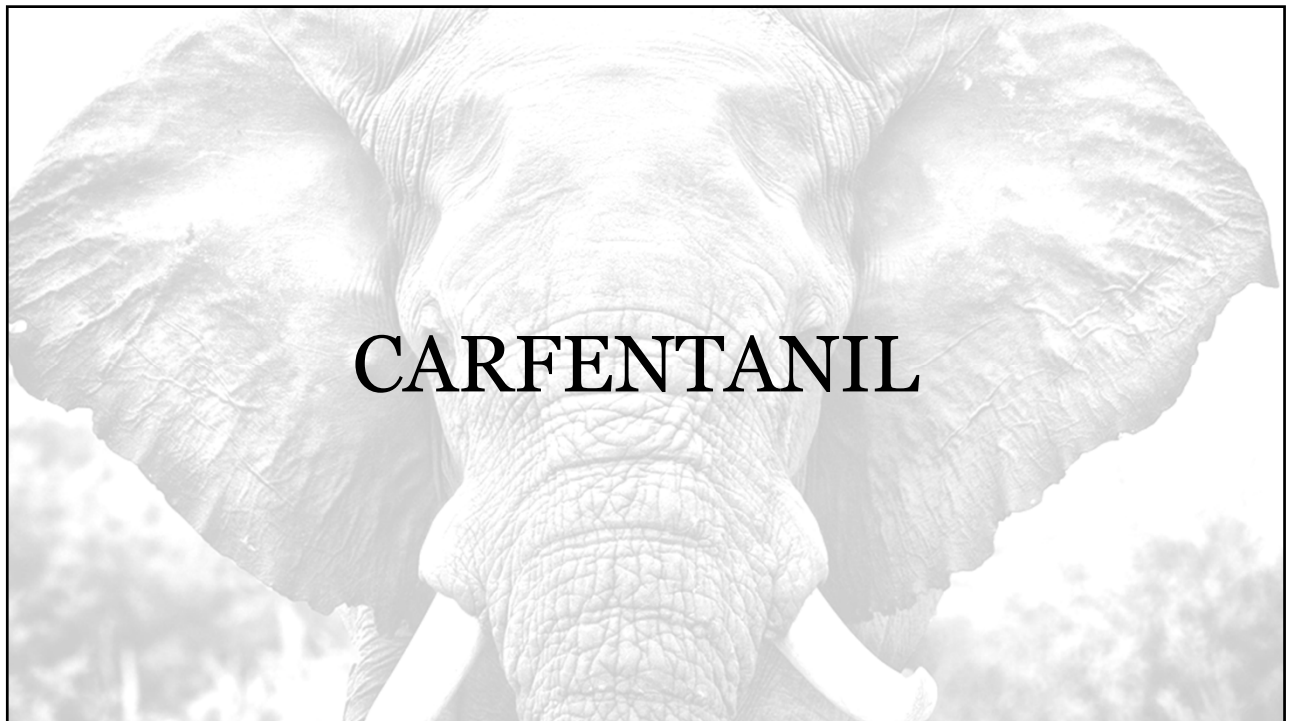
At least 9 victims dead



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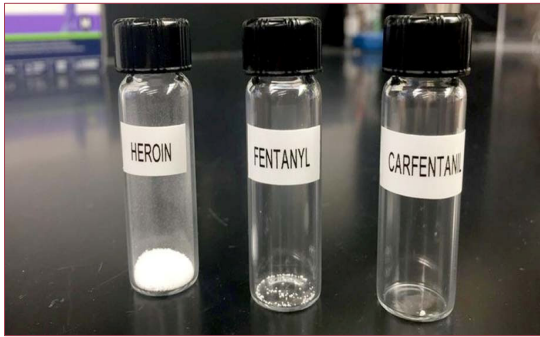
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FATAL DOSE

Factors that can influence the likelihood of an opioid overdose include tolerance, potency and purity, the presence of other harmful substances, and overall health.



Heroin = 30mg

Fentanyl = 2mg

Carfentanil = .02mg



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New record high drug deaths as nitazene opioid fatalities almost quadruple

📅 17 October 2025, 10:50am

Two Young Men Die from Street Drug That's 43 Times Stronger than Fentanyl. It's Taking Hold in the U.S.

Experts are warning about nitazenes — synthetic opioids with different, deadly strains — that can be hidden in other drugs

By [Cara Lynn Shultz](#) | Updated on August 11, 2025 01:18PM EDT

CALIFORNIA

California overdose death linked to opioid three times stronger than fentanyl, federal prosecutors say

Stronger Than Fentanyl: A Drug You've Never Heard of Is Killing Hundreds Every Year

Ultrapotent nitazenes, mostly from China, are easy to smuggle and mix into heroin, recreational drugs and gray-market pharmaceuticals



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ADULTERANTS

Xylazine and Medetomidine

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XYLAZINE & MEDETOMIDINE

Xylazine and medetomidine are non-opioid sedatives used in veterinary medicine and never approved for use in humans.

Like opioids, xylazine and medetomidine slow breathing, slow heart rate, and drop blood pressure.

Unlike opioids, there are no approved reversal agents for xylazine or medetomidine.

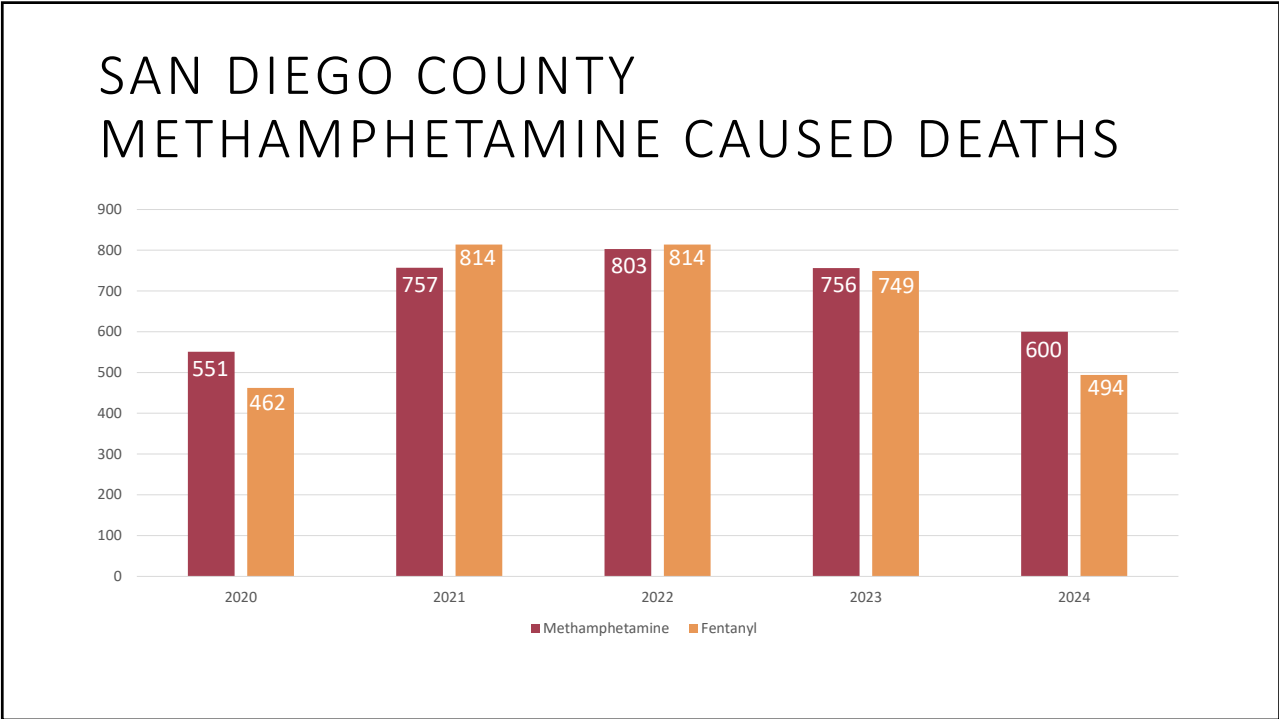
Vasoconstriction can lead to necrotic tissue and amputation of limbs.




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The image shows the title card for the TV series "Breaking Bad". The title is split into two parts: "Breaking" and "Bad". The word "Breaking" is associated with the periodic table element for Bromine (Br), which has an atomic number of 35, an atomic weight of 79.904, and oxidation states of -1, +1, and +5. The word "Bad" is associated with the periodic table element for Barium (Ba), which has an atomic number of 56, an atomic weight of 137.33, and an oxidation state of +2. The background features a close-up of Walter White's face with a green tint and a grid of periodic table elements.

Hydriotic Acid/Red Phosphorous vs. Phenyl-2-propanone (P2P)

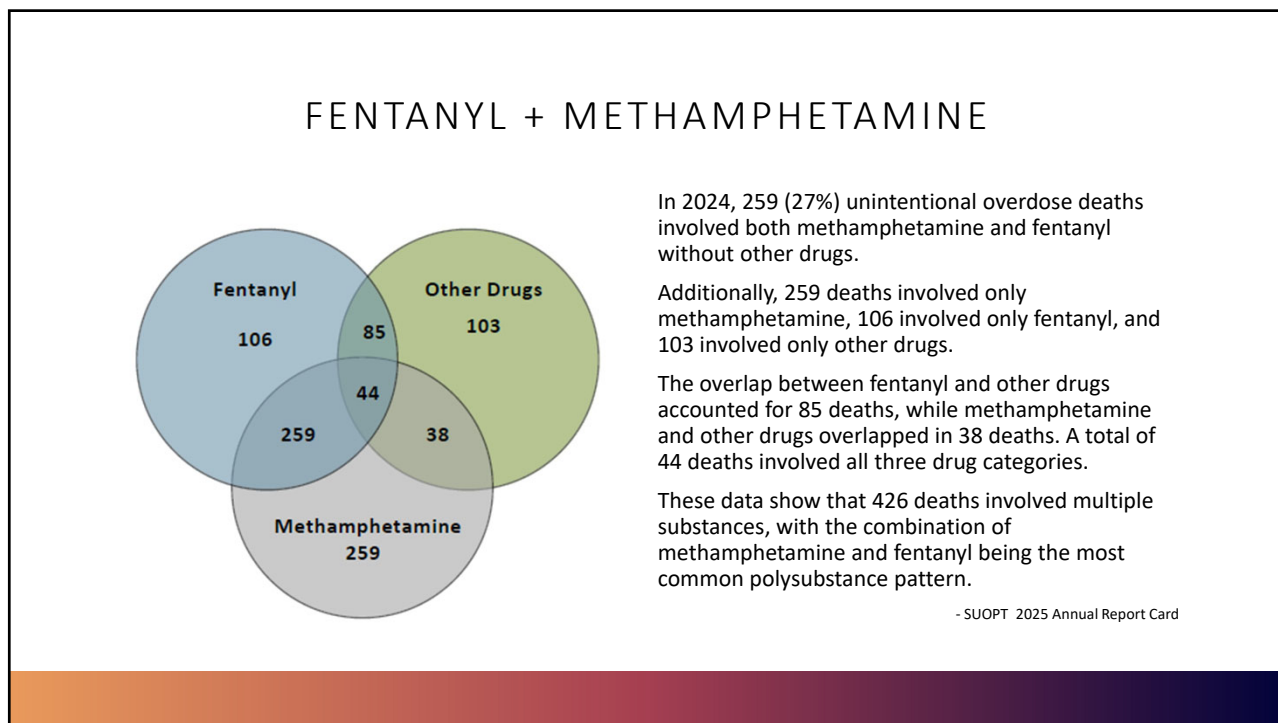
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BENZOS & KETAMINE

JAGUARS & LEOPARDS



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ALPRAZOLAM / XANAX

The Anxiety & Depression Association of America estimates that over 40 million adults nationwide experience anxiety symptoms.

Xanax is used to treat anxiety and panic disorders, as well as phobias by slowing down the brain's activity.

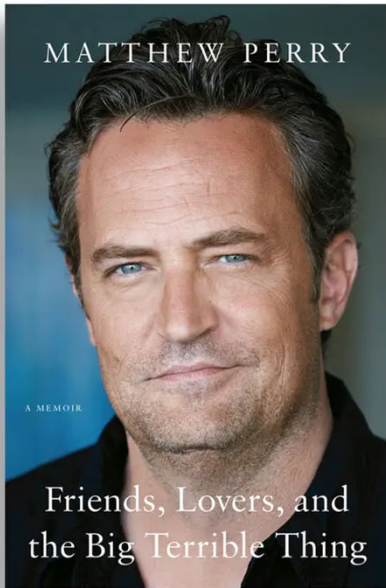
Common side effects include drowsiness, nausea or vomiting, lightheadedness, confusion, slurred speech, loss of balance.

The sedating effect of Xanax, when combined with opioids or alcohol, increase the risk of overdose.

Designer benzos, such as bromazolam, are significantly more potent and being found with increasing frequency in counterfeit pills, tablets, and bars.



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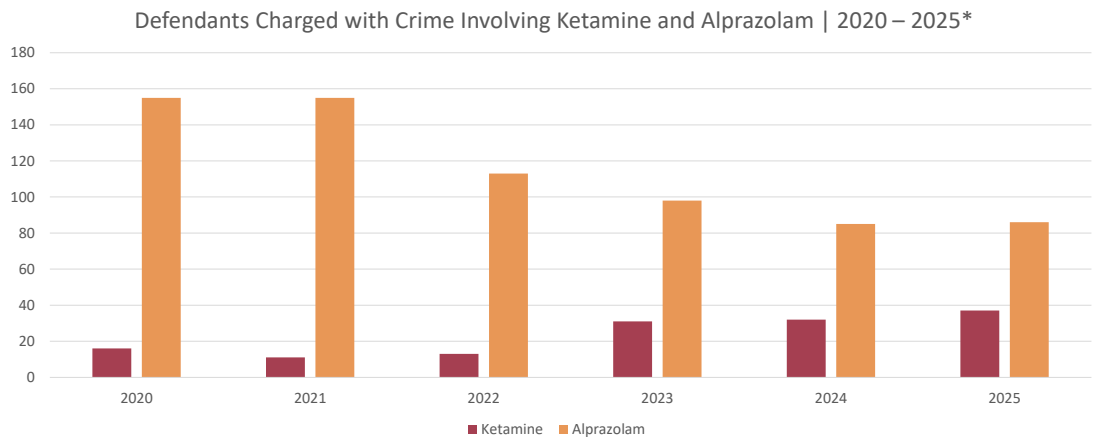
KETAMINE

- A dissociative anesthetic FDA approved for treatment-resistant depression, requiring in-clinic dosing and at least 2 hours of monitoring.
- Results in a disconnection from pain, the environment, or own internal experience, perceptual distortion, euphoria/dysphoria, confusion, slurred speech.
- Increased risk of overdose when combined with alcohol, opioids, or benzodiazepines due to deeper central nervous system respiratory depression.
- No specific antidote. Maintain airway, give naloxone if opioids are suspected.



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DEFENDANTS CHARGED



*Jan. 01, 2025 – Sept. 30, 2025

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GAS STATION HEROIN

AND OTHER UNREGULATED DRUGS



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NITROUS OXIDE aka

- Laughing Gas
- Nos
- Nawz
- Whippets/Whippits
- Hippy Crack
- Galaxy Gas
- Buzz Bomb

POLICE 1

LINE OF DUTY DEATH



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MITRAGYNA SPECIOSA KORTH aka **KRATOM**

- Naturally derived from a tree native to Southeast Asia.
- Used for centuries as a stimulant and as a remedy for pain, diarrhea, and muscle soreness.
- The leaves are brewed into teas and at low doses, have stimulant effects. At high doses, they have opioid-like effects.
- Kratom is also used by some to help manage opioid withdrawal symptoms.
- The primary components of natural kratom include mitragynine (66%) and 7-hydroxymitragynine or “7-OH” (2%).
 - 7-OH products are considered novel potent opioids, often manufactured at much higher levels than naturally occurring.
 - 7-OH is 13 times stronger than morphine.
 - This increase in 7-OH is leading to addiction, withdrawal, agitation, drowsiness, seizures, and death.
 - Mitragynine was identified in 17 deaths in San Diego County since 2023. There were a total of 10 from 2014 to 2018.



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WHAT HAVEN'T WE TALKED ABOUT?



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THANK YOU



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