

VPD Drug Enforcement Activities

VANCOUVER
CITY HALL

CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

March 1, 2021

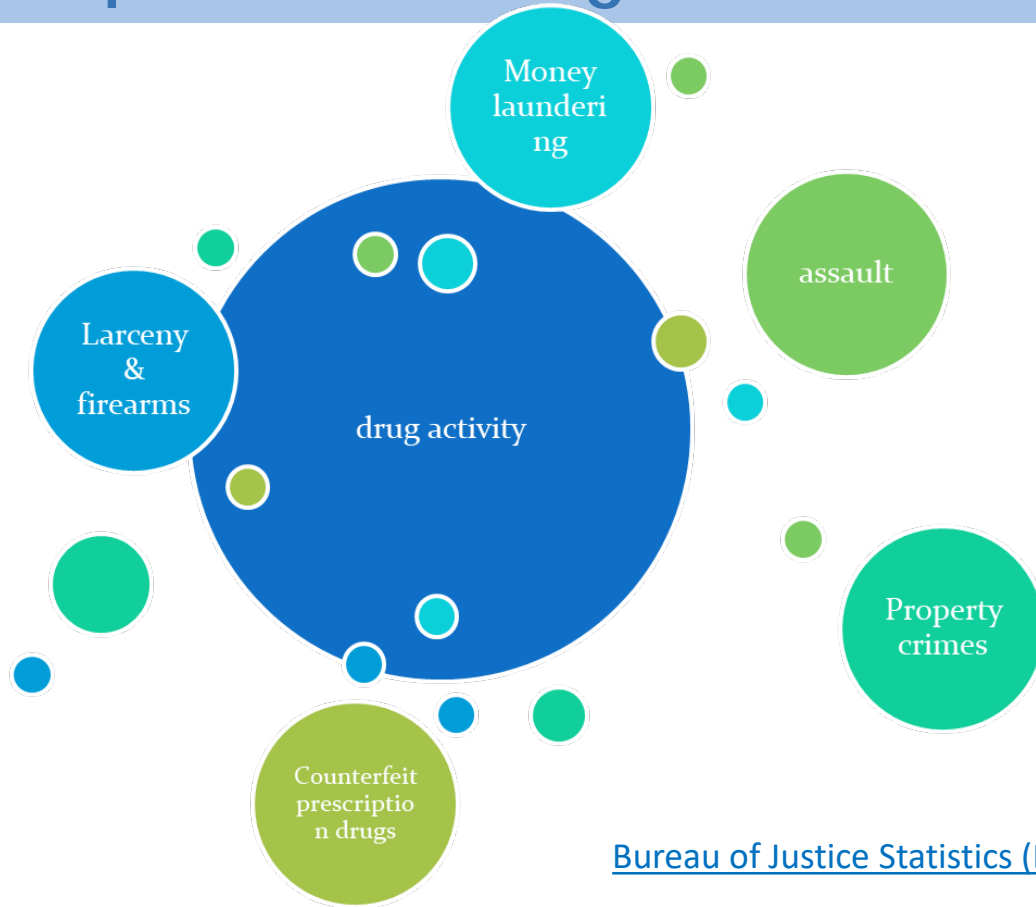
Vancouver City Council Workshop

Mike Lester, Assistant Police Chief

Overview

- Relationship between Drugs and Crime
- How Drugs Impact our Community
- Related Public Safety Concerns
- VPD Patrol/Specialty Units
- Heroin, Methamphetamine and Fentanyl
- Statistics
- VPD Events / Partnerships
- Specialty Courts
- Closing
- Questions

Relationship between Drugs and Crime



How drugs impact our community

- The negative consequences of drug abuse affects more than the individuals who abuse drugs. [The Impact of Drugs on Society - National Drug Threat Assessment 2006 \(justice.gov\)](#)
- Drug abuse is associated with higher rates of foster care child placements. [How Does Drug Abuse Affect Society And You? - Vertava Health](#)
- The majority—approximately 80 percent—of incarcerated individuals ~~has~~ have or ~~is~~ are currently abusing illicit drugs or alcohol. [How Does Drug Abuse Affect Society And You? - Vertava Health](#)

Related public safety concerns

- Abuse of prescription medication and counterfeit prescription medication.
 - Examples: fentanyl found in fake oxycodone.
 - Traffickers have now moved to counterfeiting other common prescription medications, such as Adderall and Xanax, which are more popular with children and young adults.
 - The substances used to manufacture fake medications have been found to be more potent than real medications, leading to accidental overdoses.

VPD Patrol / Specialty Units

- Patrol Officers
- Safe Streets Task Force
- Neighborhood Response Team (NRT)
- Clark Vancouver Regional Drug Task Force (CVDTF)

Drug Enforcement Outcomes - Examples

Heroin, Methamphetamine and Fentanyl

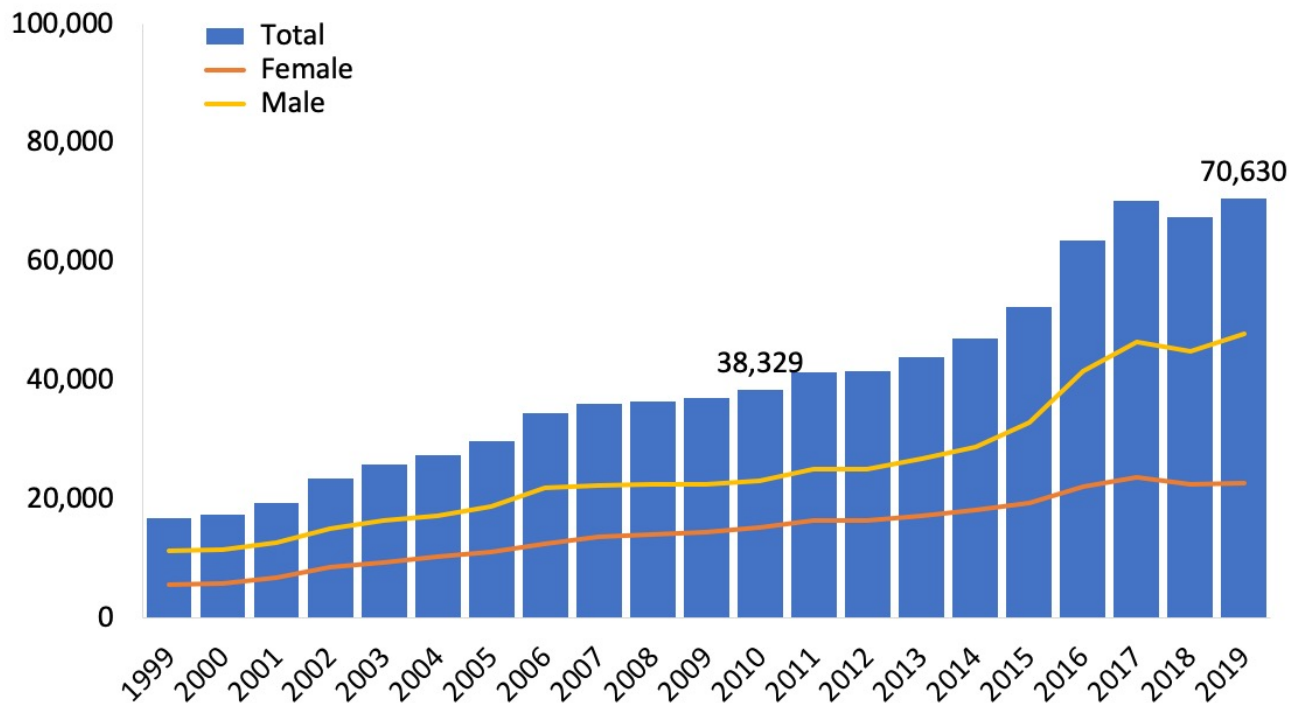


Drug Enforcement Outcomes - Examples

Safe Streets Task Force serves search warrant on home near Peace Health Southwest



Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths* Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2019



*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2019 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2020.

Local Drug Overdoses

- During the last 5 years and within the city of Vancouver, there have been 228 calls for service related to overdoses. Of the 228 calls for service, 78 have resulted in an overdose death.
- In 2020, VPD reported 27 overdose deaths compared to 17 in 2019. This is a 59% increase.

VPD Events and Partnerships

- Drug Take back Program
- Prevent Coalition
- Human Trafficking Task Force
- Co-Responder Grant

Specialty Courts

- Drug Court
 - [2019 End of Year Summary_FINAL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)
- Family Court
- Mental Health Court
- DOSA
 - The Residential Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (DOSA) Drug Court is an effective use of a sentencing option available to judicial officers throughout the state of Washington for repeat felony-level offenders diagnosed with a severe substance use disorder.
- FOSA
 - Family offender sentencing alternative

Closing

- Over the years, law enforcement has modified its drug enforcement practices.
- More treatment/counseling centric.
- Police still have a role.
- We are still responsible to the victims who have been harmed by drug-affected people.
- This includes victims who are taking drugs and overdosing.

Questions and Discussion

VANCOUVER
CITY HALL

CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

VPD Drug Enforcement Activities - 14