

Disrupting Open Air Drug Markets in San Francisco



SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

June 14, 2023



INTRODUCTION

Open air drug markets in San Francisco has led to an average of two deaths per day and one of the highest overdose rates of large U.S. counties. San Francisco residents, business owners, workers, visitors to our City, and public officials alike have voiced their concerns due to the degradation of the quality of life and unsafe public exposures.

On April 28, 2023, Mayor London Breed partnered with Governor Newsom to enhance resources to help combat San Francisco's deadly fentanyl crisis. California Highway Patrol (CHP) resources were allocated to assist the San Francisco Police Department in drug trafficking enforcement in key areas of the city with the highest concentration of drug sales in public, Tenderloin and South of Market.

Fuller, Thomas, *San Francisco Contends with a Different Sort of Epidemic: Drug Deaths*, New York Times, April 23, 2021, updated July 14, 2021
.Leonard, Christian, *'Enormous rise' in San Francisco overdose deaths in 2023*, San Francisco Chronicle, April 27, 2023.



SAN FRANCISCO & DRUG OVERDOSE



According to the San Francisco Office of the Medical Examiner Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report:

- From January 2023 through April 2023, 268 people have died in 2023 from drug overdoses.
- Of those 211 (78%) were Fentanyl related.
- 32% of the overdoses were in the Tenderloin (17%) and South of Market (15%) communities of San Francisco.
- 36% of the people who died by overdose were residents of the Tenderloin (21%) and South of Market (15%) communities in San Francisco.
- 55% of the people who died by overdose were people of color, 35% were White and 10% were Other/Unknown.



OVERARCHING GOAL

Disrupting open air drug markets in San Francisco by a comprehensive collaboration between SFPD, law enforcement partners (local, state, and federal), other city agencies, and community-based organizations.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase and sustain deployment of sworn personnel specifically dedicated to disrupting and reducing open air drug sales and usage.
- Increase levels of officer expertise in identification of, detention of, and arrest of people who use illicit drugs and/or are under the influence of illicit drugs in public.
- Reduce/curtail/ and ultimately over time eliminate open air drug sales in areas mostly impacted by drug overdose, such as the Tenderloin and South of Market communities.
- Reduce availability of illicit drugs (especially Fentanyl) on the streets.





OBJECTIVES continued.....

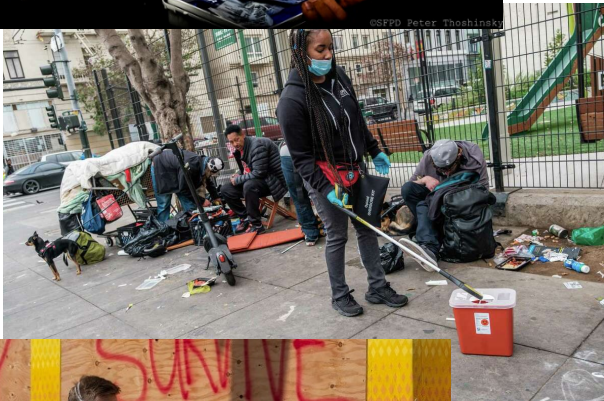
- Work collaboratively with City Agencies and Community Based stakeholders to disrupt illicit drug markets and keep areas clear of drug market activity block by block.
- Work collaboratively with Community Based Stakeholders and the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SF DPH) to refer individuals with substance addiction disorders to services.
- Contribute to reduction of overdose death by ensuring SFPD officers continue receiving trainings on interventions to drug-overdose, such as the use of Naloxone (Narcan).



COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES



- 1 ENFORCEMENT:**
Street level illicit drug sales in public, disruption of the supply chain at higher than street level, and disruption of blatant public illicit drug use, must be addressed simultaneously by law enforcement.



- 2 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & WELLBEING:**
Root causes of addiction and addiction treatment must be addressed by public health and collaborative community-based partners.



CITY DEPARTMENT PARTNERSHIPS

SFDEM

Set up, coordinate and provide logistical support for a Unified Command Operations Center to support the overarching goals and objectives.

SFSD

Booking and processing of persons arrested and booked at County Jail for drug sales, illicit drug use and/or being under the influence of illicit drugs in public.

Field Support from the SFSO Emergency Service Unit to detain, arrest, persons committing illegal illicit drug offenses around properties and locations under SFSO jurisdiction.

SFDA

The San Francisco District Attorney's office will prosecute illicit drug related sales, public use and/or public under the influence and possession offenses.

SFDPH

The San Francisco Department of Public Health will offer substance abuse and addiction disorder services to people booked in the San Francisco County Jail for public use of illicit drugs and/or public intoxication.



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

CHP

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has been assigned specifically provide uniform officer deployment and support in designated areas.

Currently, the CHP are focused in portions of the Tenderloin and South of Market communities of San Francisco.

CHP officers are conducting traffic enforcement and enforcement of general criminal violations in an effort to disrupt the public drug markets.

CHP support of uniformed officer deployment 7 days a week has allowed the SFPD to be more flexible to focus personnel exclusively on strategies to disrupt open air drug markets.

CA National Guard

The California National Guard has been authorized by Governor Gavin Newsom to provide analytical and logistical support to the City and County of San Francisco to address open air drug market and specifically the fentanyl crisis.

National Guard analysts are currently assigned to Northern California Regional Intelligence Center High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and support regional task forces with analytical support which includes analyzing data to identify illicit narcotics sales and distribution networks and their methods of operation.

Administrative support to the City and County of San Francisco to help facilitate strategic planning, setting up and maintain the Unified Command Operations Center.

HIDTA

The Northern California HIDTA is made of a collaboration of regional task forces from local, state, and Federal, law enforcement agencies and offices from Monterey, CA to Humboldt County CA and is facilitating regional coordination to address the illicit fentanyl fueled spike in overdose deaths.

HIDTA provides assistance to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States.



DATA AND METRICS

SFPD will partner with City departments, regional partners, and community-based organizations to reduce the public illicit drug usage and overdoses impacting residents and neighborhoods.

The following metrics will be used to evaluate the performance of the collaborative effort to sustain decreases in the open air drug market presence, including public drug sales and drug uses, and decreases in drug overdoses related deaths.

- Number of Arrests
- Number of People Booked in San Francisco County Jail
- Number of people booked offered services for substance abuse/addiction disorder (aggregate data from DPH)
- Number of people who have agreed to accept services (aggregate data from DPH)
- Number of persons arrested and/or cited who are San Francisco residents



QUESTIONS?



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