



Date: 06/23/2025

Location: TEECH Foundation

1750 West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street Chicago IL 60643

In person/virtual

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83594646165?pwd=mSe9cJy0S4E90KmbD3LEy8CMpuiMit.1>

Meeting ID: 835 9464 6165

Passcode: 235477

### ROSC monthly meeting

Community topic: Operational Readiness "Preparing for combat against the source of Substance Misuse"

Presenter and trainer: **Sidney Mays**

### History

- Research suggests: The first addictive ingredient isolated, besides distilled spirits was morphine. F.W.A. Serturmer, a German pharmacist, extracted it from crude opium in 1806. Morphine, making up about 10% of crude opium, revolutionized pain control.

Opioids, including natural, synthetic, and semi-synthetic drugs, are primarily used for pain relief. Initially prescribed for acute and cancer-related pain, their increased availability in the late 1990s, particularly drugs like OxyContin, contributed to widespread misuse and addiction. This surge led to the opioid epidemic, a public health crisis marked by impairment, distress, overdose, and death.

- Opioids were originally developed for pain relief, but their addictive nature and increased prescriptions led to misuse, causing a public health crisis.

The opioids most frequently misused include prescription opioids, heroin, and being illicitly manufactured fentanyl and its analogues.

### Facts:

- Opioids were developed to relieve pain.
- Historically, opioids were used by healthcare and military sectors, with research indicating their use during the Civil War, World War I, and World War II to enhance combat performance. Over 40% of U.S. infantry members reported chronic pain after deployment, and 15% reported using opioids in the past month.
- The American Civil War changed attitudes towards narcotics, as many soldiers became addicted to morphine, which was then called the "Soldier's disease".

### Statistical Stats

- The size of the Global Illicit drug trade market reported between 426 and 652 billion in 2014.
- 1% of total Global trade
- A report from the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) indicates that the quantity of cocaine seized by law enforcement agencies in Europe increased by 62% between 2017 and 2023.

- The UNODC report indicates that the number of fatalities related to drug trafficking activities increased by 10% in 2023 compared to 2017.

Drug trafficking in the United States has a disproportionately detrimental impact on young people, particularly those from marginalized and vulnerable communities.

From the Chicago Department of Public Health, 2020 data on opioid use and misuse in Cook County:

- 12% of the population used opioids as pain relievers.
- 76% of these users followed physician directions.
- 24% misused opioids as pain relievers.
  - 29% used more than prescribed.
  - 79% didn't have a prescription.

**Note: These numbers may have increased since 2020.**

#### **Opioid and Fentanyl-Related Deaths in Cook County (2015-2022):**

- 2022: 2,000 total deaths, 1,825 fentanyl-related
- 2021: 1,935 total deaths, 1,721 fentanyl-related
- 2020: 1,843 total deaths, 1,533 fentanyl-related
- 2019: 1,295 total deaths, 961 fentanyl-related
- 2018: 1,170 total deaths, 847 fentanyl-related
- 2017: 1,195 total deaths, 669 fentanyl-related
- 2016: 1,126 total deaths, 560 fentanyl-related

#### **Opioid Misuse Deaths in Cook County by Age Groups:**

- 10-19: 24 deaths
- 20-29: 230 deaths
- 30-39: 398 deaths
- 40-49: 389 deaths
- 50-59: 538 deaths
- 60-69: 353 deaths
- 70-79: 64 deaths
- 80+: 4 deaths

Substance misuse-related deaths have exhibited varying trends between 2022 and 2024. Key observations include:

- **2022 to 2023:** The overall age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths decreased by 4.0%. However, deaths involving cocaine and psychostimulants continued to rise.
- **2023 to 2024:** Drug overdose deaths dropped significantly—by 26.9%. This reduction was predominantly driven by fewer deaths from opioids, fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine. Nearly all states reported decreases, with some states experiencing declines of at least 35%.

Despite these improvements, overdose remains a leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 44. Efforts such as increased availability of naloxone and expanded addiction treatment options have contributed to the decline.

Between 2022 and 2023, rates of drug overdose deaths increased for Black non-Hispanic and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic individuals.

- The age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths for White people decreased by 7.0%, from 35.6 per 100,000 in 2022 to a lower rate in 2023.
- For Black people, the rate increased from 47.5 to 48.9, and for Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander people, it rose from 18.8 to 26.2 in the same period.

- The rates for Asian non-Hispanic, Hispanic, and American Indian and Alaska Native non-Hispanic people remained relatively stable.
- In both 2022 and 2023, American Indian and Alaska Native people had the highest rates (65.2 and 65.0), while Asian people had the lowest (5.3 and 5.1).
- The largest percentage increase was seen among Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander people, with a rise of 39.4%.
- Overall drug overdose deaths declined by 4% from 2022 to 2023, with Hispanic rates remaining stable or increasing slightly.
- From 2023 to 2024, a significant drop of 27% in drug overdose deaths was noted across the U.S., including a 48% decrease among Latinx residents in Boston.

**Solutions:** How can we as a community collective combat substance misuse:

- **Education:** Spread awareness through education on what addiction is and what the substances do to the mind and the body. Educate on what mental health is and is not and how to deal with mental struggles in a productive manner.
- **Effective Communication:** Be open to listening and have conversations about the dangers and the consequences of substance misuse, healthy and unhealthy choices, and mental health awareness.
- **Empowering:** Take ownership and accountability for one's choices.
- **Ask for Help:** Seeking professional and skilled help
- **Collaboration:** Collectively working together to bridge gaps by sharing information and resources.  
Get involved with local community agencies, violence prevention, alderman's, city officials and speak out your concerns.

"Operational  
Reading Test"

"Preparation for  
combat against the  
source of substance  
misuse"

# *Order of Presentation*

- Cover the geographic origin of opium
- How drugs and in particular, opioids were introduced into our society
- The misuse of opioids during the civil war
- The misuse of drugs during WW I
- History of illegal substances use and the illegal drug trade
- The Harrison Act
- The misuse of drugs during WW II
- Clinical Studies
- Some of the latest statistics



*The birth of substance misuse in the United States*

# AMERICA'S FIRST OPIOID CRISIS







*The idea that drugs enhance combat performance*



**DRUGS DURING  
WORLD WAR I**



# *The History of the Illegal Drug Trade World Wide*

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# Some Critical Stats

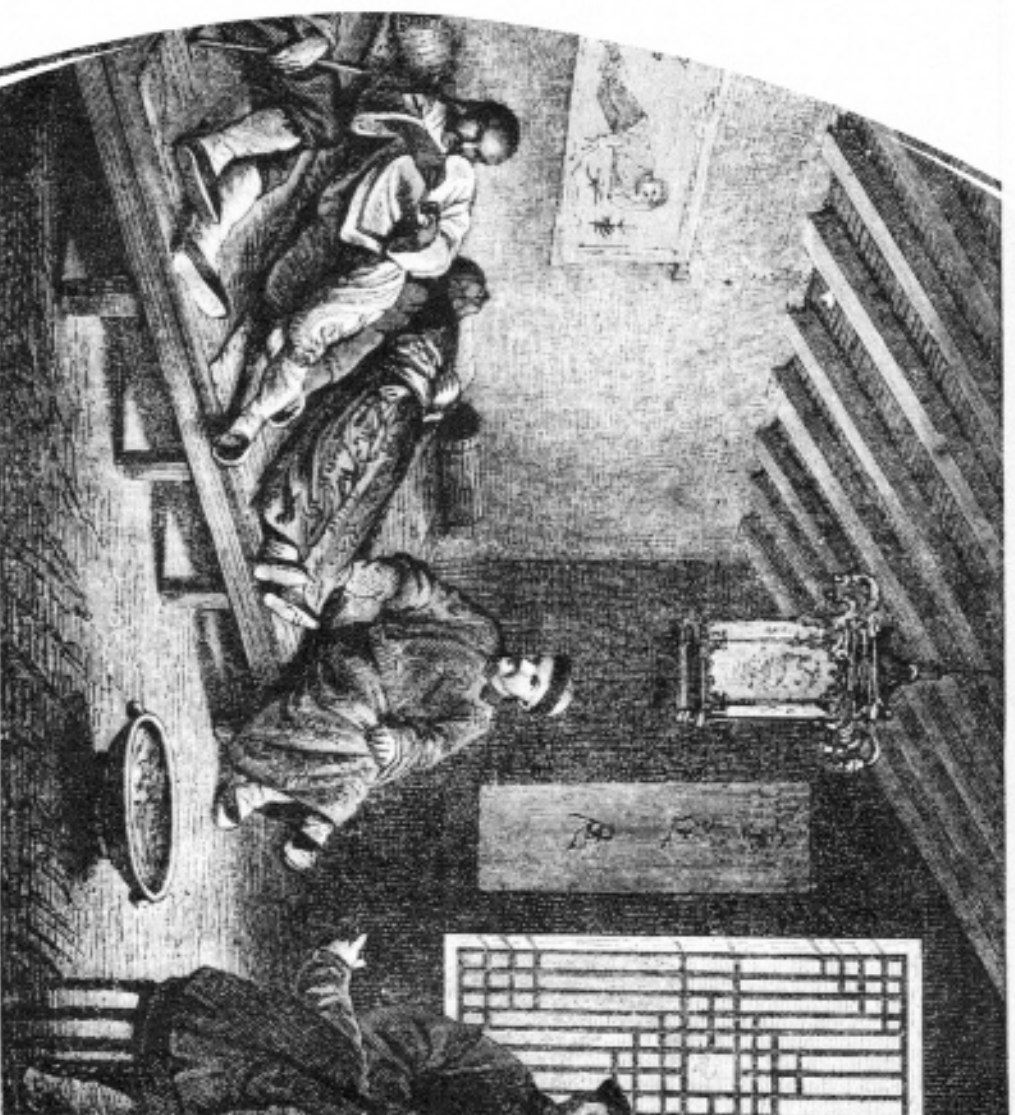
- *Transnational Crime and the Developing World* report estimated the size of the global illicit drug market between **\$426 and \$652 billion in 2014**, with a **world GDP** of US\$78 trillion in the same year, the illegal drug trade may be estimated as nearly 1% of total global trade
- According to a report from the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the amount of cocaine seized by law enforcement agencies in Europe increased by **62% between 2017 to 2023**
- Another statistic from a UNODC report shows that the number of people killed due to drug trafficking activities increased by 10% in 2023 compared to 2017
- The impact of drug trafficking on young people in the United States is disproportionately harmful and affects marginalized and vulnerable populations



## Interesting Note:

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- By 1838 and out of a population of over 400 million people, there were between four and 12 million opium addicts in China



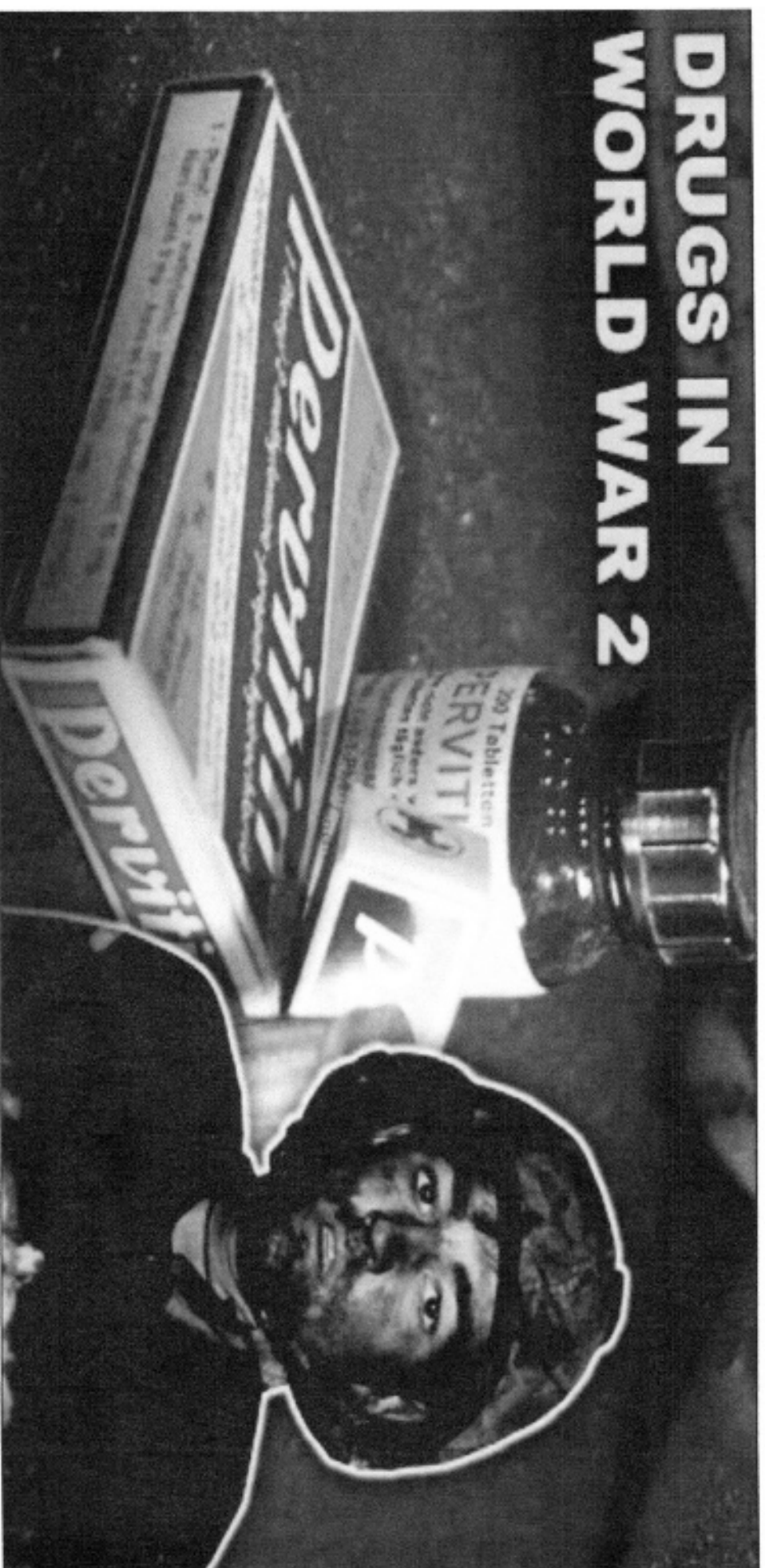
CHINE. — Une fumette d'opium.

# Harrison Narcotics Act of 1914



WW II

# DRUGS IN WORLD WAR 2





# Fentanyl/

## Overdoses

## And Deaths

## In Chicago's

## Low Income

## Communitie

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**From the Chicago Department of Public Health,  
Percentages of Opioid use and Misuse in Cook County:**

These are numbers from 2020 and have likely gone up since then.

**12%** of the total population in Cook County used opioids as a pain relievers

**76%** of those who used them as pain relievers used them as directed by a physician

**24%** of those who used opioids as a pain reliever misused them

**29%** used more that was prescribed

**79%** of those who misused opioids were not prescribed them by a physician



**Number of deaths recorded in Cook County over an eight year period from 2015 - 2022:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Opioid Deaths</b>	<b>Fentanyl-Related</b>
2022	2000	1,825
2021	1,935	1,721
2020	1,843	1,533
2019	1,295	961
2018	1,170	847
2017	1,195	669
2016	1,126	560
2015	676	103

# Opioid Misuse Deaths in Cook County by Age

## Groups:

Age	Opioid Deaths
10-19	24
20-29	230
30-39	398
40-49	389
<b>50-59</b>	<b>538</b>
60-69	353
70-79	64
80+	4

# Some of the latest statistics from the CDC

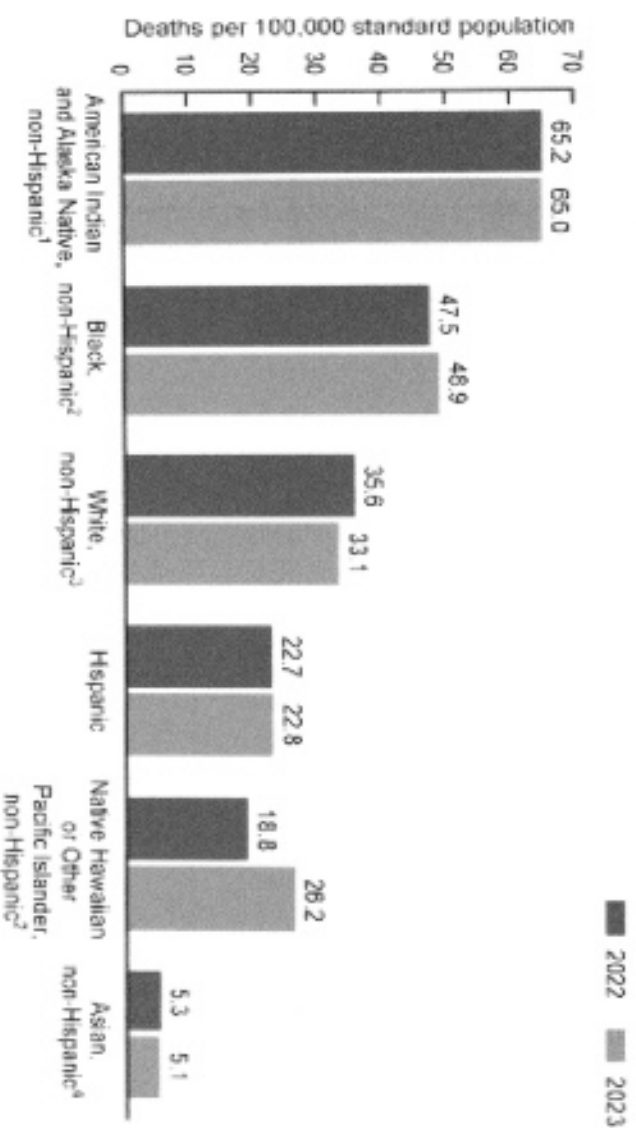
- Substance misuse-related deaths have shown some fluctuations between 2022 and 2024. Here are some key trends:
- **2022 to 2023:** The overall age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths **decreased by 4.0%**. However, deaths involving **cocaine and psychostimulants** continued to rise.
- **2023 to 2024:** Drug overdose deaths **dropped significantly**—by **26.9%**. This decline was largely driven by fewer deaths from **opioids, fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine**. Almost all states saw decreases, with some states experiencing declines of **at least 35%**.
- Despite these improvements, overdose remains a leading cause of death for Americans aged **18 to 44**. Efforts such as **greater availability of naloxone** and **expanded addiction treatment** have contributed to the decline



## *Between 2022 and 2023, rates of drug overdose deaths increased for Black non-Hispanic and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander non-Hispanic people.*

- For White people, the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths was lower in 2023 than in 2022, decreasing by 7.0% from 35.6 deaths per 100,000 standard population to. The rates of death caused by substance misuse increased for Black people (47.5 to 48.9) and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander people (18.8 to 26.2) from 2022 to 2023.
- From 2022 to 2023, the age-adjusted rate of substance misuse deaths did not significantly change for Asian non-Hispanic (subsequently, Asian) people (5.3 to 5.1), Hispanic people (22.7 to 22.8), and American Indian and Alaska Native non-Hispanic (subsequently, American Indian and Alaska Native) people (65.2 to 65.0).
- In both 2022 and 2023, the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths was highest for American Indian and Alaska Native people (65.2 and 65.0, respectively), and lowest for Asian people (5.3 and 5.1, respectively).
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander people experienced the largest percentage increase in the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths from 2022 to 2023, with the rate increasing 39.4%.
- 2022 to 2023: While overall drug overdose deaths declined by 4%, rates among Hispanic individuals remained relatively stable or increased slightly.
- 2023 to 2024: A significant 27% drop in drug overdose deaths was observed across the U.S., with Hispanic communities also experiencing declines. In Boston, for example, Latinx residents saw a 48% decrease in opioid overdose deaths





**Age-adjusted drug  
overdose death rate,  
by race and Hispanic  
origin: United  
States, 2022 and  
2023**