



Drug Trends Update

**Presentation
August 28, 2023**

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Purpose:

Respond to Council Objective 13: Examine drug use trends locally and nationally and develop outreach and education.

Locally and regionally, we face challenges like those throughout the United States related to fentanyl availability, misuse, use disorders, and poisoning.

Oregon Opioid Timeline

2023

Fentanyl continues to flood into the local drug supply from Mexico. Continual rise in overdose-related incidents in the northwest.

2022

Fentanyl powder became more prevalent in the local drug supply, surpassing pills, and became the primary opioid risk.

2021

Fentanyl overdoses continue to rise. Fentanyl in powder form began to emerge. Oregon ballot measure decriminalizes the unlawful possession of controlled substances.

2020

Fentanyl in pill form significantly increased. Overdose deaths rose significantly and created more substance use disorder issues.

2019

Heroin peaked as counterfeit pills containing fentanyl continued to increase.

2017

Fentanyl emerged in the form of counterfeit oxycodone.

Who's investigating?

There are 13 Oregon Interagency Teams that are made up of numerous law enforcement agencies.

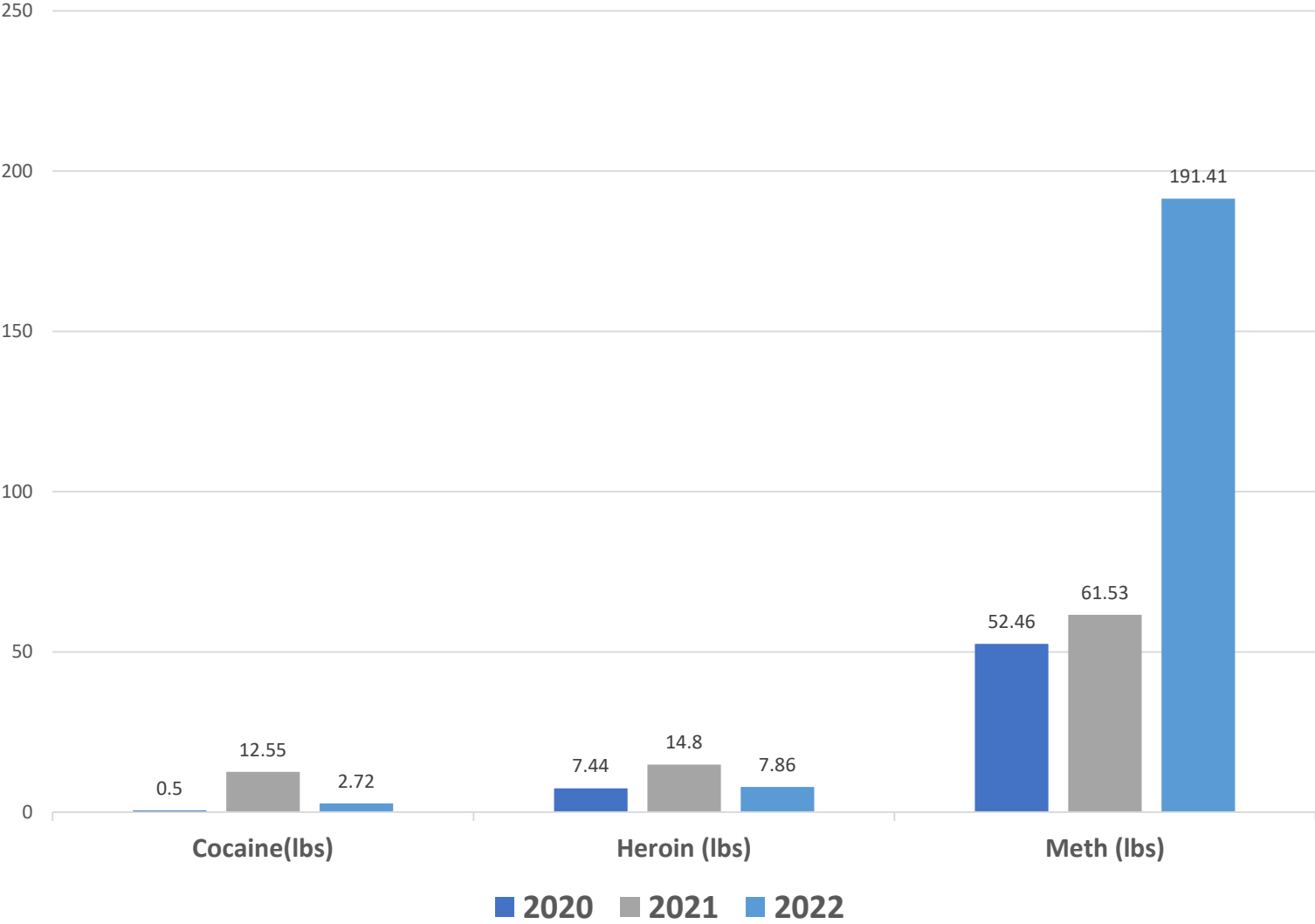
The Westside Interagency Narcotics Team is the primary drug investigative team in Washington County.

County Drug Team Stats

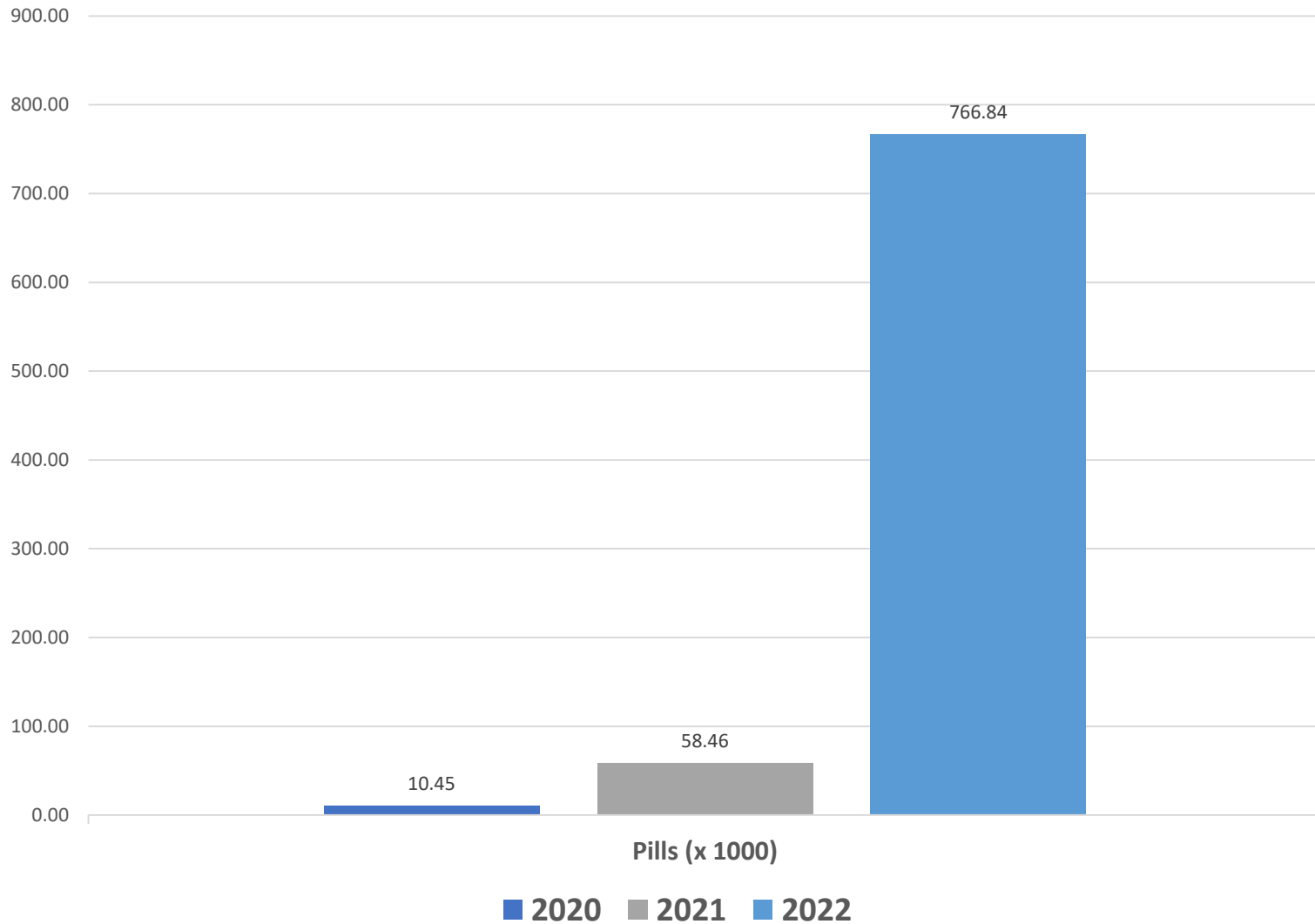
	2021	2022
Arrests	27	26
Len Bias Assessments	28	42
Search Warrants Executed	34	47
Buy Slides	21	39
Buy Busts	16	16

Local arrests for drug offenses in Oregon have been impacted by 2021 ballot measure that decriminalized the unlawful possession of many controlled substances and as a result, have decreased since 2021.

Seizure Stats



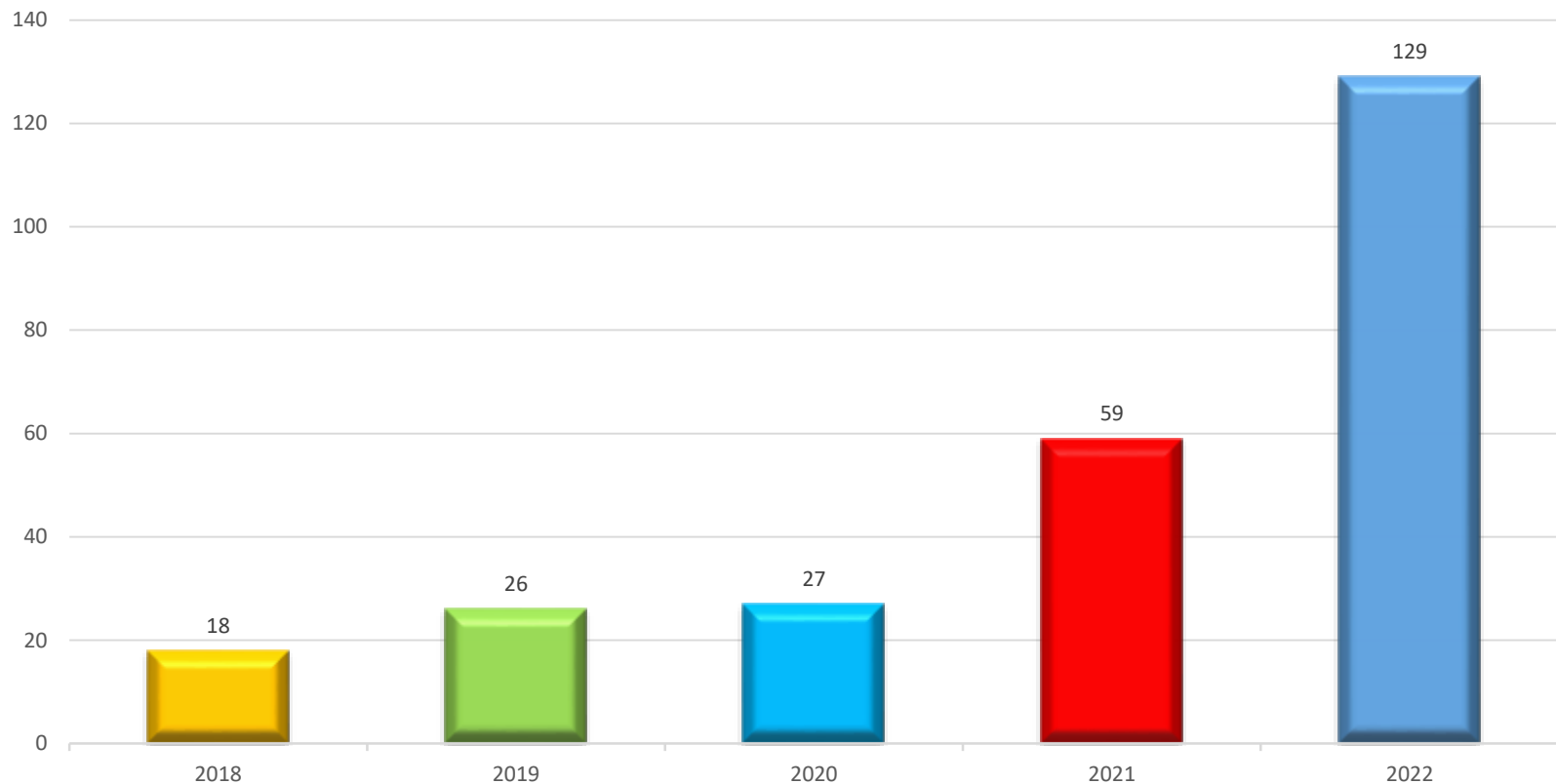
Fentanyl Seizure



Seizure Stats

	2021	2022
Cash	\$856,045	\$933,126
Firearms	56	36
Cocaine	12.55 lbs	2.72 lbs
Heroin	14.8 lbs	7.86 lbs
Meth	61.53 lbs	191.41 lbs
Pills	58,463	766,841 pills
Marijuana	5273 lbs	1394 lbs

Washington County Law Enforcement Reports of Narcan Use



FGPD 2022 Narcan Deployments: 20

Local Future Concerns

- High availability of Fentanyl
 - Powder and pills
- Trans-national organized crime setting up large marijuana distribution hubs in Washington County



2024 Regional Threat Assessment

Fentanyl

Fentanyl has overtaken methamphetamine as the primary drug threat in Oregon, seized by law enforcement agencies in counterfeit pills and increasingly in powder form.

Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs are increasingly found in drug samples.



Meth

Methamphetamine continues to impact community livability and is present in over half of the drug-related deaths reported during 2021 and the first half of 2022, and present in over one-third of the drug-related overdose deaths reported in 2021.



Heroin

Heroin availability and seizures have significantly decreased during the past year as the demand for and availability of fentanyl rises among opioid-dependent users and the opioid naïve.



Cocaine

Cocaine availability increased in the region as indicated by an increase in cocaine seizures by regional initiatives as well as an increase in cocaine-related Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) investigations.

Oregon and Idaho remain transit states for cocaine destined for Washington and Canada.



Marijuana

Oregon remains a source state for high-quality marijuana and extract products for the nation. Despite state efforts to regulate the legalized marijuana market, black and grey market products originating in Oregon continue to be seized in other parts of the country.

Marijuana from Oregon continues to negatively affect communities outside of our region, undermining the legal markets in many states including Oregon.

Mexican and Chinese DTOs continue to impact illicit marijuana cultivation in Oregon.

Environmental degradation and forced labor trafficking remain a concern to law enforcement and elected leaders throughout the state.



Xylazine

Xylazine has become a substance of concern throughout the United States. It has been identified in the illicit fentanyl supply in Oregon and continues to be a topic of concern among public health and law enforcement professionals in the region.

While Xylazine is not currently a controlled substance, combining it with fentanyl exacerbates the life-saving measures associated with naloxone administration which is used to reverse opioid overdoses.



State of Oregon

Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) operating in Oregon and Idaho remain robust, with an average of 125 unique organizations investigated yearly.

Multi-state DTOs continue to have the largest impact followed by locally operated and internationally connected DTOs. International DTOs are operationally connected to Transnational Crime Organizations (TCOs) in Mexico and are responsible for sourcing fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine. TCOs connected to China have increased their presence in large-scale marijuana cultivation and export.

DTOs and Money Laundering Organizations (MLO) in the region continue to utilize cash-intense businesses, such as stores, restaurants, and used car dealerships as the primary methods to transfer drug trafficking proceeds into legitimate funding streams. Bulk cash smuggling continues to be the primary method for transporting illicit proceeds throughout the region and internationally to TCOs operating in drug-source countries.

Questions?