

# Changes in the global opium market

Just when we think fentanyl is the worst thing we could introduce to the market, the UK decides it can go bigger, harder, faster, stronger.

## *A clear and present danger*

**USING DRUGS?**  
Overdoses are rising  
To reduce your risk of an overdose, please take extra precautions when using any type of drug  
YOU ARE IMPORTANT

**USING DRUGS?**  
Drugs are changing  
To reduce your risk of an overdose, please take extra precautions when using any type of drug  
YOU ARE IMPORTANT

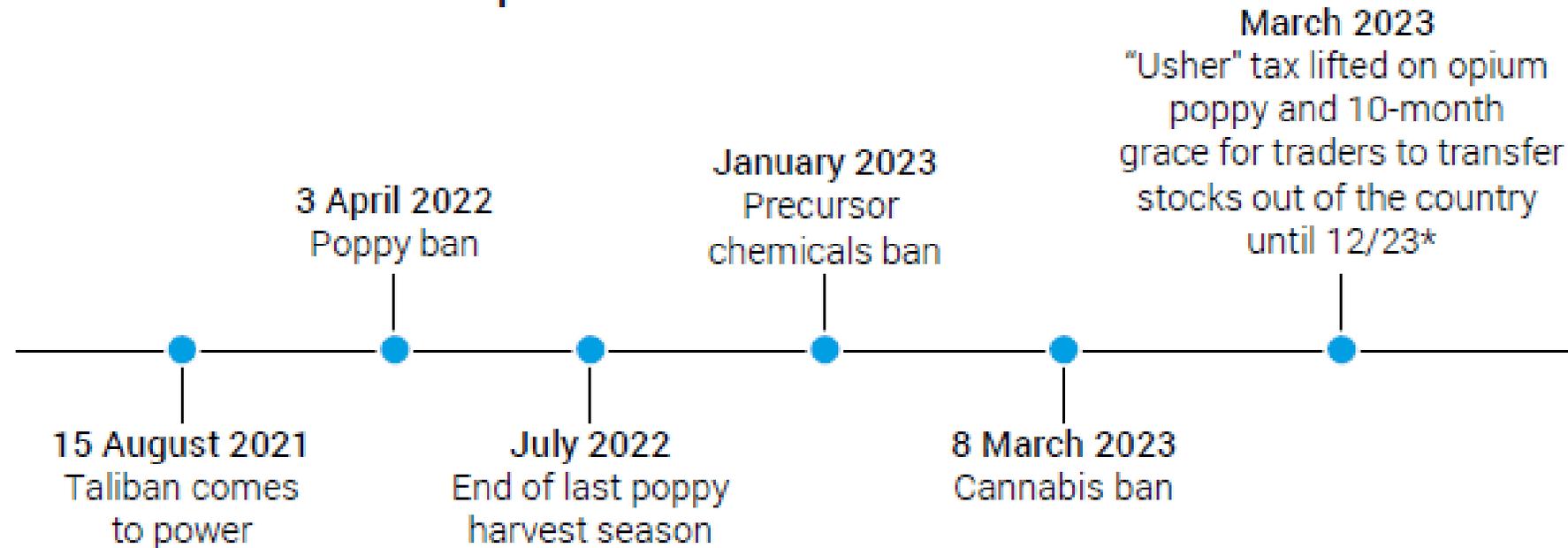
**USING DRUGS?**  
NALOXONE  
Make a rescue plan  
How would anyone know if you overdosed? How would anyone find you? Carry Naloxone. If you have a smartphone, use BuddyUp app  
YOU ARE IMPORTANT

**USING DRUGS?**  
Assume any drug could be something else  
To reduce your risk of an overdose, please take extra precautions when using any type of drug  
YOU ARE IMPORTANT

Opiates > RC Opioids  
Metonitazene  
Escrow  
Source: China  
Ships to: Worldwide  
5g - 1000g  
347.33 - 14167.57 €

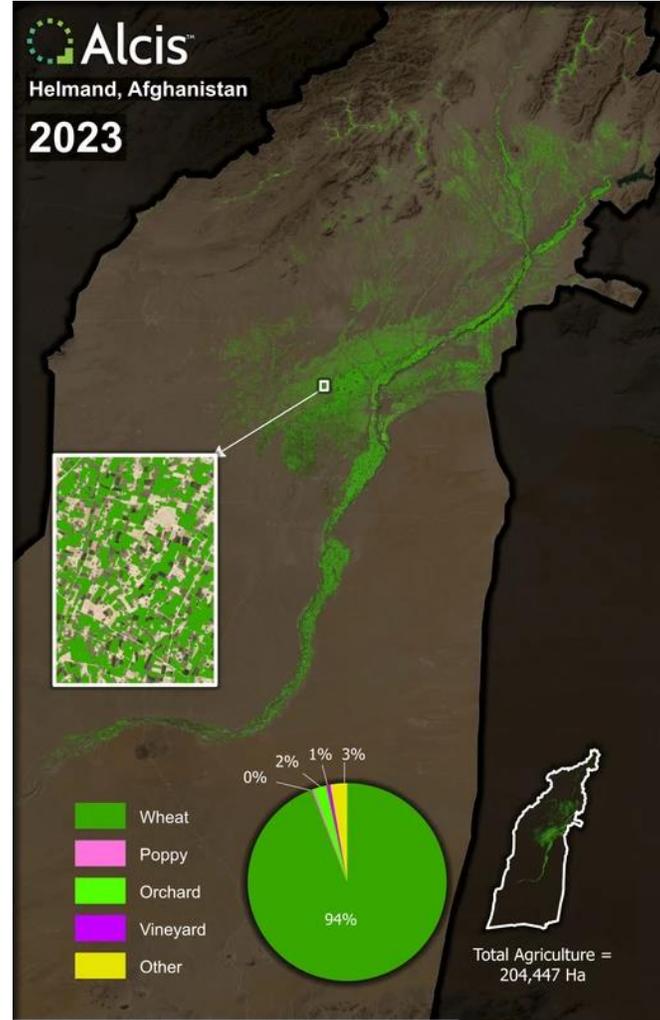
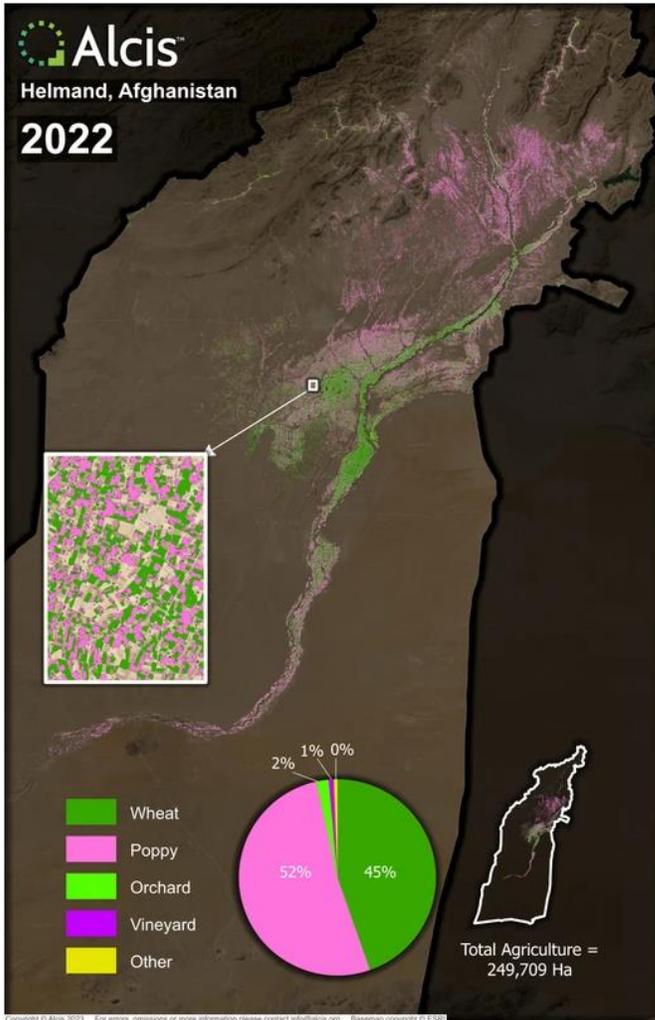
# Changes in the global opium market

## Post-Taliban Development

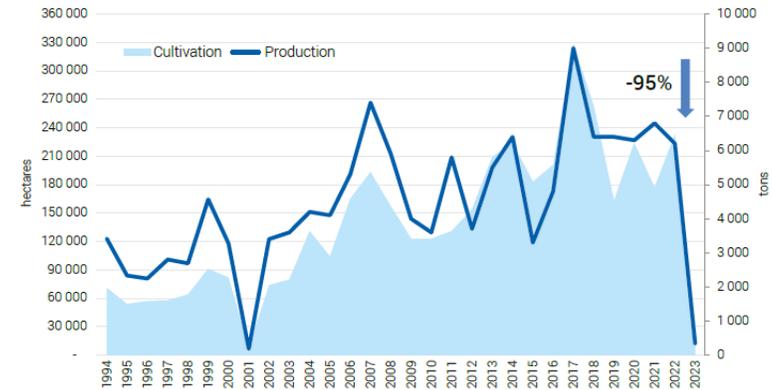


\*UNODC cannot confirm the validity as the decree was issued verbally and circulated to specific de facto authorities only

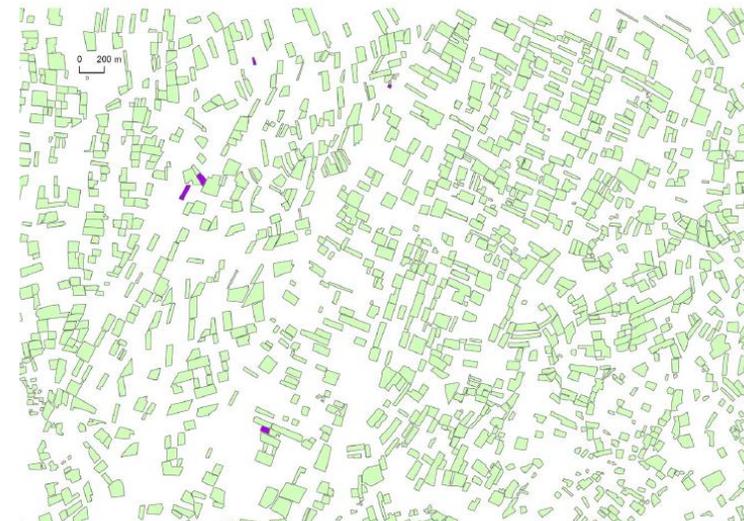
# Changes in the global opium market



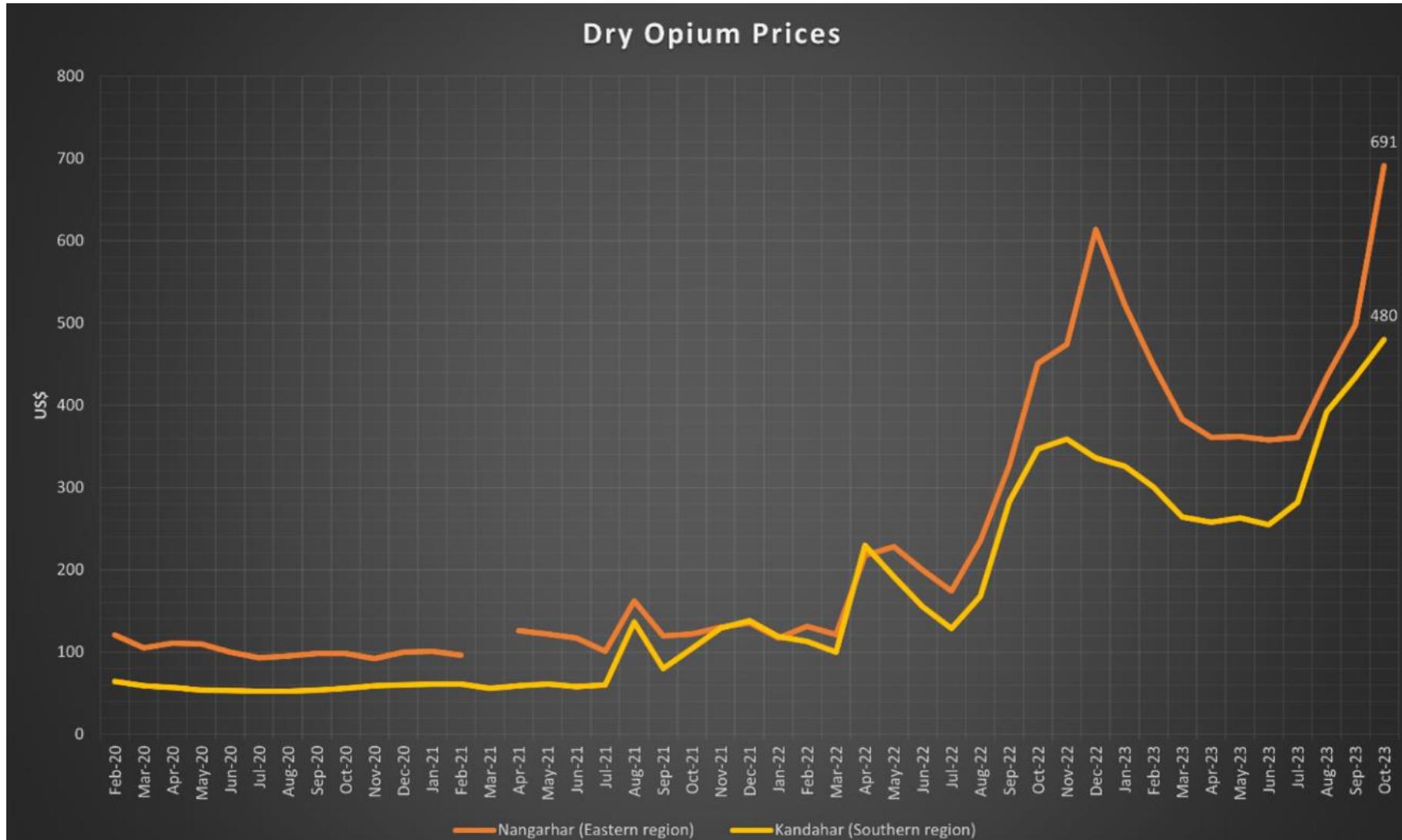
Opium cultivation and production in Afghanistan, 1994-2023



Example of opium poppy fields identified in 2022 (green) and 2023 (purple) in Helmand province



# Changes in the global opium market



# Nitazenes emerging into the UK supply

Year	Number of Nitazene samples
2021	5
2022	7
2023	77
2024	34

Type	Prevalence
Metonitazene	100
Isotonitazene	7
Butonitazene	1
Etodesnitazene	1
Protonitazene	14

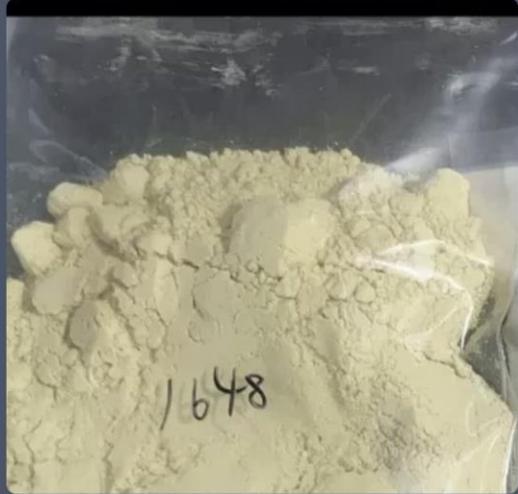
What people thought they were buying	Number of incidents
Benzodiazepines	67
Cannabinoids	4
Nitazene	5
Oxycodone/ Oxycontin	27
Heroin/ MSJ/Diamorphine	14
Others	6

# Changes in the global opium market

Relative potency to heroin	
Heroin	1
Fentanyl	50
Metonitazene	50
Protonitazene	100
Isotonitazene	250
Etonitazene	500

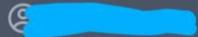
But don't worry they have been added to the MDA so of course people will stop, using them, selling them, importing them and dying from them as they have with all the other drugs added to the list.

# Changes in the global opium market



Opiates > RC Opioids

Metonitazene



Escrow

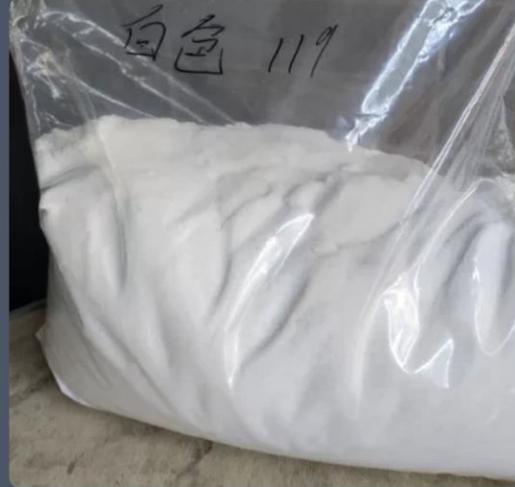
Source  
China

Ships to  
Worldwide



5g - 1000g

347.33 - 14167.57 €



Opiates > RC Opioids

Protonitazene white



Escrow

Source  
China

Ships to  
Worldwide



5g - 2000g

228.51 - 21022.84 €



Opiates > RC Opioids

Isotonitazene Powder



Escrow

Source  
China

Ships to  
Worldwide



5g - 1000g

351.9 - 16964.52 €



Opiates > RC Opioids

Protonitazene Powder



Escrow

Source  
China

Ships to  
Worldwide



5g - 1000g

260.5 - 10511.42 €

# Changes in the global opium market

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SHOP > OPIATES > ETONITAZENE POWDER



## Etonitazene Powder

\$5,000.00 – \$60,000.00

Place of Origin: China  
Product Name: Etonitazene Powder  
Synonyms: Etonitazene  
IUPAC: 2-(p-Ethoxybenzyl)-1-diethylaminoethyl-5-nitrobenzimidazole  
CAS Nr.: 911-65-9  
MF: C22H28N4O3  
Purity: >99.5%  
Appearance: Powder  
Packing: Aluminum Foil Bag or Plastic Bag

GRAMS: 250 grams 500 grams **1 kg** 2 kg 5 kg

CLEAR

**\$14,000.00**

- 1 + **ADD TO CART**

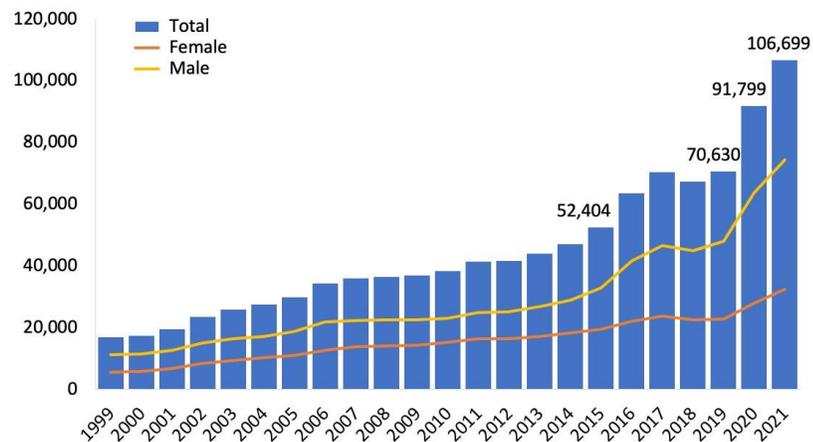
f x e t

DESCRIPTION DELIVERY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



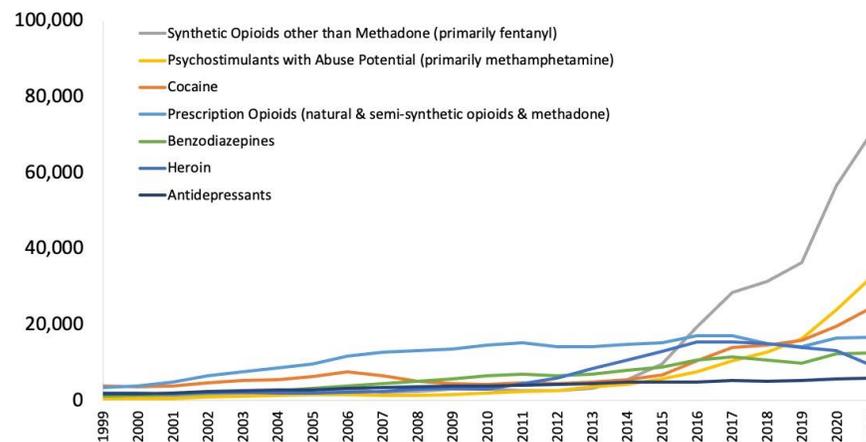
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Related  
Deaths  
Conference  
2024

Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths\*,  
Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2021



\*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 1999-2021 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 1/2023.

Figure 2. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths\*,  
Number Among All Ages, 1999-2021



\*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 1999-2021 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 1/2023.

- Fentanyl started as an adulterant
- Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids were implicated in 88% opiate deaths (2022/23)
- Fentanyl now drug of choice displacing heroin
- Xylazine and other NSOs complicate
- Seeing some increase in acyl piperazines responses (AP 237 Opioids)

## Lessons to learn from USA

# Responding to drugs containing PSOs

**USING DRUGS?**

**Overdoses are rising**

To reduce your risk of an overdose, please take extra precautions when using any type of drug

**YOU ARE IMPORTANT**

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**Drugs are changing**

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**hit.org.uk**



Use your camera to link to the resources

LJMU Drug Related Deaths Conference 2024

# Responding to drugs containing PSOs

SEEK SUBSTITUTE  
MEDICATION AND  
PRESCRIBING  
SUPPORT

CARRY  
NALOXONE

AVOID USING  
DRUGS ALONE.  
STAGGER YOUR  
DOSES.

CHECK YOUR  
DRUGS

START LOW,  
GO SLOW

KNOW HOW TO  
RESPOND TO  
AN OVERDOSE



USING DRUGS?



Make a  
rescue plan

How would anyone know if you overdosed?  
How would anyone find you?  
Carry Naloxone  
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# What are we doing ?



- Raising awareness, talk to people who use drugs.
- New Nitazenes Self-Test strips (Lateral Flow Immunoassay), as a harm reduction intervention tool.
- #Stayin Alive plans developed from the North-west fatal and non-fatal overdose prevention task and finish group.
- Taking every opportunity to talk with media outlets around the dangers on potent synthetic opioid.
- Cross sector conversations about how we respond to this massive change in the supply of opioids.
- Feeding into and out of LDIS process
- A National Early Warning system in planning: “This will include state-of-the-art monitoring for the presence of synthetic drugs by analysing wastewater, or recording spikes in overdoses in specific locations”

# What does the future hold?

We *may* see the following for **September 2024**

- **Heroin will either:**
  - (a) Not be available
  - (b) Heavily cut with PSOs
  - (c) Too expensive for many people who use drugs
- Based on levels of Heroin and Crack use this puts **300,000 people at risk**
- Based on 2023 OD stats & North American experience, **overdoses will continue to increase in this environment.**

# What we need

- More drug checking and testing services to be up and running at pace.
- A national database of the information people have on these drugs that are tested and not 3 months after they have been tested.
- The ability to do point of care urinalysis for Nitazenes to enable safe and continued opioid substitute treatments
- Over-dose prevention centres/ Safe consumption spaces
- Naloxone to be carried by as many people as possible
- HAT needs to be available more widely
- An adult grown up conversation about safe, regulated supply

# Some of the Sources of information

- **Uncharted Territory: Does the Taliban's new edict signal a crackdown on the drugs trade is looming?**  
David Mansfield Nov 2, 2023
- **Afghanistan opium survey 2023** UNODC Research brief August 2023
- **Unprecedented 85% reduction of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan** Alcis
- **Wedinos**
- **Some websites accessed are through dark web applications**

# Contact Details

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