

Drug Enforcement in Vermont

What Are Our Goals?

- Supply and demand reduction
- Prosecution reduces supply, slows the flow of opioids into our communities
 - Less supply, less demand
- Opioid crisis is bad, but it would be much more severe if law enforcement did not deter and interdict dealers and work to make Vermont a hostile location to sell drugs
- We cannot charge our way out of the problem. Goal is to stop people from using and rescue them from lives of addiction. Enforcement one piece of multifaceted, multidisciplinary approach – that's why this group is so important!

Drug Enforcement Agencies

- Federal Law Enforcement: DEA, FBI, HSI (tackles the financial component of investigations), Border Patrol (stop the flow of drugs from Canada, e.g., counterfeit pills, including fentanyl)
- Vermont State Police – drug task force, organized regionally
- Local Police
- Sheriffs' Officers
- United States Attorney's Office and 14 States Attorneys

The five-tier supply chain in Vermont

- Opioid supply chains almost always include the following actors:
 - Tier 1: Vermont users, non-dealers (perhaps new users who have not turned to trafficking to support addiction)
 - Tier 2: Vermont addict users, who share with friends and sell small amounts to support habit
 - Tier 3: Vermont addicts-dealers who prop up suppliers in a significant way: routinely deliver drugs to their customers; let them use their homes as base of operation; drive to population centers like Springfield, MA or NYC to pick up drugs; etc.
 - Tier 4: Out-of-State profit-motivated dealers who come to VT to sell on a rotating basis. Usually from NYC, Springfield, MA (supplies 91 corridor in VT), Connecticut
 - Tier 5: Out-of-State profit-motivated dealer who rarely comes to Vermont, supplies the 4s and reaps lion's share of the profits.
- USAO charges 2-5; 2&3 (local addicts) almost always cooperate against 4&5 in connection with guilty pleas.

USAO's Drug Program

- Governed by two overarching principals:
 - (1) strong collaboration and coordination of federal, state, local and county law enforcement/resources
 - (2) serving the entire state, not just Chittenden County
- Forging strong alliances with State's Attorneys
- View it is as our responsibility to coordinate statewide collaboration
- Statewide Drug Prosecution Plan
 - Drug Coordinator
 - Liaisons

Examples of success through collaboration

- Davila et. al.
 - Windsor County – HSI and VT Drug Task Force.
 - 1500 bags of heroin, two handguns, \$85,000 cash seized during warrant at his residence
 - Two residences purchased in Windsor County with cash (drug money) – we are seeking to take them
 - 35 prior criminal convictions, including firearms offenses and other felonies
 - From Springfield, MA area
 - Operated for about 3 years.
 - Seen with shoeboxes filled with heroin and massive sums of cash, up to \$300,000 at a time.

Examples of success through collaboration

- Esperanza and Mateo
 - Lamoille County – DEA, ATF, Morristown PD, Lamoille County Sherriff's Office, Stowe PD
 - Mother – Daughter duo from NYC
 - Sold fentanyl, heroin, and oxycodone in very significant quantities (10 gram quantities of fentanyl laced heroin at a time – 5,000 lethal doses)
 - Lots of money moved through bank accounts
 - Purchased a residence in Morrisville with drug money – seeking to forfeit
 - Mother threatened violence against any witness against her

Examples of success through collaboration

- Andre Terrell et al
 - Chittenden County – FBI, Vermont Drug TF, DEA, NYPD, Shelburne PD, ATF, Milton PD, Burlington PD
 - Terrell from NYC, leader of DTO, received 190-month sentence from Judge Reiss
 - Imported more than a Kilo of heroin and large quantities of pure fentanyl into VT
 - Raped a female Vermont addict as retribution for stolen drugs
 - Extreme recidivist (prior convictions for guns, drug trafficking, pointing a gun at an NYPD police officer, nonfatal shooting of an individual)
 - Gun carrier – used an enforcer to collect money in VT

Federal Drug Courts and Federal Supervision

- Prosecutors must use considerable power judiciously – liberty is on the line. Address each offender based on unique circumstances they present, always with an eye toward justice.
- Tier 2 and 3 drug offenders are good candidates for drug court
- Rutland Federal Drug Court
- Burlington Re-entry Court
- Standing up a Burlington Drug Court, modeled on Rutland program
- The outstanding work of the U.S. Probation Office regarding addict defendants on conditions of release