Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York

2016 Annual Report

Most Common Preventable Deaths

Unintentional Overdose

Homicides

Traffic Fatalities
Despite the best efforts of law enforcement and public health experts, the opioid crisis has not abated in New York City. Last year saw a record number of deaths due to overdose and our office seized a record amount of heroin.

The spike in overdose deaths is due to fentanyl, which is a synthetic opioid 50 times as powerful as heroin. It can be sold as heroin, mixed in with heroin and cocaine and pressed into counterfeit Xanax pills. Dealers may not know they are selling it and buyers often don’t know they are buying it.

Death from fentanyl can happen so fast there is no time to call for help or revive a victim with naloxone, an antidote to overdose. Fentanyl is a game changer, requiring swift action from all – immediate overdose response, fast identification of dealers and obliteration of supply chains.

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) is ramping up its efforts to identify and arrest those who sell drugs that cause death. The Mayor has released an opioid strategy focusing on expanded availability of overdose antidotes and medically assisted treatment for those with addiction.

Our office has expanded investigations into narcotic cartels and local distributors. We continue to prosecute medical professionals who profit by illegally prescribing addictive pain pills, often the gateway to heroin addiction. Finally, we provide clear, accurate information about the deadly drugs on the black market and support treatment programs which can save lives.

We will rein in this tragic epidemic by reducing the flood of cheap addictive drugs in our city. Equally important, we will offer young people not only accurate information about addictive drugs, but safe recreational opportunities and reasons to be optimistic about their future. Only when we prevent addiction from ever taking hold, can we turn the tide on this epidemic.

Bridget G. Brennan
Special Narcotics Prosecutor
# Contents

About the Office ........................................................... 2  
New York City’s District Attorneys .............................................. 3  
Overdose Spike: Fentanyl Drives Deaths ........................................ 4  
Trends: Opioid Crisis: Overdose Deaths ........................................ 6  
Trends: Opioid Crisis: Cutting off the Supply ..................................... 9  
Trends: Gangs and Violence ....................................................... 11  
SNP Outreach ........................................................................ 12  
Community Initiatives ................................................................ 13  
Investigation Division ................................................................ 14  
Trial Division ........................................................................... 16  
Investigators Unit ...................................................................... 17  
Case Highlights ........................................................................ 17  
Alternative Sentencing Division .................................................. 28  
Legal Training Unit .................................................................... 29  
NYPD Special Narcotics Team .................................................... 30  
Support Services Units .............................................................. 31  
The People of SNP ..................................................................... 34  
Executive & Legal Staff ............................................................. 36  
Managerial & Support Staff ....................................................... 37
Case Highlights:

Over 15 Pounds of Fentanyl Seized on the Upper West Side. .............................. 17
Record-Breaking Heroin Packaging Operation Dismantled ............................. 18
Truck Axle and Drive Shaft Filled with 100 Pounds of Heroin ......................... 18
Fentanyl Marketed as Heroin in Queens Drug Sale ...................................... 19
Over 65 Pounds of Heroin in Croton-on-Hudson ......................................... 19
$5 Million in Heroin Seized at Inwood Drug Packaging Spot ......................... 19
Father and Son Rx Drug Forgery Ring ..................................................... 20
Rx Forgeries Yielded $3 Million in Pain Pills ........................................ 20
Ex-Physician Sold Pills to Patients after Losing License ............................... 20
Colombian Traffickers Extradited to NYC: Spanish Navy Ship Smuggled Narcotics .... 21
Narcotics Mailed to NYC from Puerto Rico ........................................... 21
Money Launderers for Sinaloa Cartel Arrested ........................................... 22
Cocaine Concealed in 100 Fake Yuccas .................................................. 22
Bronx Daycare Served as Cover for Drug Ring ...................................... 23
Drug Delivery in Livery Cars .................................................................... 23
Sin City Cabaret Cocaine Sales ............................................................... 24
Staten Island Gang Shooting, Heroin Trafficking ....................................... 24
Open Air Drug Market Disrupted in Washington Heights ............................ 25
East Harlem Gang Probe: 17 Arrests and Guns Seized .................................. 25
NYC Department of Correction Auditor Arrested for Cocaine Sales ................. 25
NYC Firefighter Sold Drugs at Firehouse ................................................. 25
Man Returning from Music Festival Arrested with Drugs ............................ 26
Hallucinogenic Mushrooms Seized in Harlem ........................................ 27
Brooklyn Crack Dealer’s Plan to Sell Fireworks Fizzles .................................. 27
Heroin Investigation Leads to Weapons Seizure ......................................... 27
About the Office

A local prosecutors’ office with citywide jurisdiction, the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (SNP) is responsible for felony narcotics investigations and prosecutions in the five boroughs of New York City. Founded in 1971, it is the only agency of its kind in the United States.

Created in response to a burgeoning heroin epidemic and spike in violent crime, SNP was granted broad authority under New York State Judiciary Laws to root out sophisticated narcotics trafficking organizations and track offenders across traditional jurisdictional boundaries. The Special Narcotics Prosecutor is appointed by the city’s five District Attorneys, who also assign Assistant District Attorneys to serve in SNP. Since its inception, SNP has worked closely with local, state and federal law enforcement partners.

Renowned for its wiretap investigations, SNP is a leader in the use of cutting-edge electronic technology to identify and pursue members of criminal enterprises from street-level dealers to top suppliers. In recent years, SNP has applied its expertise to confronting the explosion of heroin trafficking, prescription drug diversion and the prosecution of violent gangs. The office is also committed to reducing demand for narcotics by raising public awareness and facilitating treatment for addicted offenders.

The first Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Frank Rogers, was appointed in January 1972. He was succeed by Hon. Sterling Johnson, Jr., who headed SNP for 16 years before becoming a federal judge in the Eastern District of New York. Robert H. Silbering was named the Special Narcotics Prosecutor in 1992.

On May 1, 1998, Bridget G. Brennan was appointed Special Narcotics Prosecutor by the city’s five District Attorneys. Under her direction, the office has developed innovative strategies to stem the flow of drugs into the city and target emerging problems. Ms. Brennan established the Heroin Interdiction Team (HIT), the Digital Forensic Services Unit, the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit (PDIU), the Narcotics Gang Unit and the Money Laundering and Financial Investigation Unit.

Based in lower Manhattan, the Special Narcotics Prosecutor’s Office brings cases in New York County Supreme Court.
New York City’s District Attorneys

The city’s five District Attorneys appoint the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, assign Assistant District Attorneys to the office and oversee the agency’s work. The only office of its kind in the nation, SNP is a model of collaboration and effective partnerships. In the midst of the current heroin crisis, the District Attorneys formally reaffirmed their support for SNP in a recently signed agreement that recognizes the importance of the office’s leadership in citywide narcotics prosecutions.
SNP is increasingly intercepting fentanyl in New York City. In the past year, we have seized fentanyl in many forms:

- Mixed with cocaine
- Mixed with heroin
- Pressed into counterfeit pills
- Pure fentanyl packages

Street level drug dealers are often unaware that their product contains fentanyl, leaving buyers at great risk of overdose or death.

Fatal drug overdoses in New York City reached an all-time high in 2016. More than 50% of these deaths involved fentanyl, a highly potent synthetic opioid that has run rampant on the black market. Originally developed as an anesthetic and for treatment of severe pain, fentanyl is now being manufactured illicitly in Mexico and China.

As little as 2 milligrams of fentanyl can be lethal. It is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.

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- Mixed with cocaine
- Mixed with heroin
- Pressed into counterfeit pills
- Pure fentanyl packages

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In an effort to tackle the overdose epidemic, SNP has collaborated with organizations such as NYC RxStat, Columbia University SIPA and the Coro Fellows Program.

More than 50% of overdose deaths in New York City involve fentanyl.

The Bronx and Brooklyn had the highest number of overdose deaths.

Manhattan and Queens saw the greatest increase in fatal overdoses.

Staten Island has one of the highest rates of overdose deaths in the city.

PARTNERSHIPS

SPREADING AWARENESS

SNP is a strong advocate for prevention and public outreach. In 2016, we have worked on public service announcements and community initiatives to combat the rise of fentanyl abuse.
Overdose deaths in New York City reached an estimated 1,300 in 2016, up from 937 in 2015, according to provisional data from the New York City Department of Health (DOH). Heroin and fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, were involved in approximately 1,100 deaths, making these narcotics the leading causes, followed by cocaine, prescription medications and other drugs.

Compare overdose deaths in 2016 to a near-record-low of 335 homicides and 230 traffic deaths in New York City that same year. While the city has made great strides in its initiatives to curb traffic deaths and homicides, much work remains to be done in reversing the alarming rise of overdose deaths. Public health and law enforcement both have essential roles to play in addressing this epidemic, as Mayor Bill de Blasio acknowledged when announcing the city’s new overdose prevention initiative HealingNYC.

Overdose deaths have increased for six consecutive years in all five boroughs. According to preliminary DOH data on overdoses in the five boroughs, the Bronx continues to have the highest number of fatal overdoses at 279 deaths, with Brooklyn as a close second at 277. Manhattan and Queens are currently seeing the greatest increase in numbers of fatal overdoses at 279 deaths, with Brooklyn as a close second at 277. Manhattan and Queens are currently seeing the greatest increase in numbers of fatal overdoses. In Manhattan, overdose deaths increased by approximately 50% between 2015 and 2016, from 145 to 233. Queens saw a similar increase in these two years, from 144 overdose deaths to 218 last year. Staten Islanders continue to fatally overdose at the highest rate in the city. In 2016, there were 107 overdose deaths in Staten Island for a population of 470,000.
Opioid Crisis: Fentanyl

Fentanyl has thoroughly infiltrated the drug market in New York City and is present in all five boroughs. Overdose deaths were already at an all-time high when fentanyl began appearing on the black market in previously unheard of quantities. Up to 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, fentanyl was involved in more than half of all fatal overdoses in the city in 2016. The vast majority of these deaths involved more than one substance, with heroin and fentanyl as the leading causes in 2016, followed by cocaine, prescription medications and other drugs.

This problem does not appear to be driven by user preference. Interviews conducted by both law enforcement and health officials suggest users are not actively seeking fentanyl. Users simply do not know what they are buying and sellers may not know what they are selling. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), doses as small as 2 mg can be fatal.

The size of a lethal dose of heroin as compared to fentanyl.
STAT, September 29, 2016
Law enforcement agencies are increasingly seizing fentanyl, including shipments of pure fentanyl and mixtures of fentanyl combined with a wide variety of other drugs. Often the presence of fentanyl in a drug seizure is only detected through laboratory analysis.

Much of the fentanyl found in New York City is illicitly produced by Mexican cartels, which obtain precursor chemicals from China. Fentanyl from these clandestine manufacturing facilities is flooding the U.S. drug market. It can also be ordered from overseas sources online. This is different from the pharmaceutically produced fentanyl, used as an anesthetic or in end of life care, which is found on the black market far less frequently.

Fentanyl is much cheaper and easier to produce than heroin, which is an organic substance. Given the strength of fentanyl, drug traffickers stand to gain considerable profits from its sale and distribution as compared to profits from heroin.

Law enforcement agencies have witnessed large amounts of fentanyl traveling the same smuggling routes used for transporting other drugs, such as heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine. Multi-kilogram shipments of the powerful narcotic are brought across the Mexican border inside cars and trucks and delivered to local trafficking groups in New York City and throughout the U.S.

The widespread saturation of the black market with fentanyl creates a new danger for law enforcement agents and officers in the field. Because it can be ingested by breathing contaminated air or through the skin, officers need to take extra precautions. Both the DEA and the NYPD have issued orders barring agents and officers from conducting field tests when they suspect fentanyl might be present.

Further complicating the crisis of fatal drug overdoses, antidotes like naloxone are not as effective with fentanyl as with other opioids. Naloxone is now widely available in New York City and has been used to save many lives, including by members of the New York City Police Department (NYPD), who are trained in administering the antidote and are instructed to carry it with them. Private citizens who use drugs or who are concerned about friends or family members can also obtain naloxone at pharmacies without a prescription. However, naloxone is not a silver bullet solution. A fast-acting opioid that binds tightly to certain receptors in the brain, fentanyl can kill before there is time to administer an antidote. Additionally, multiple doses are often required.
Opioid Crisis: Cutting off the Supply

Faced with a drug epidemic, the primary responsibility of law enforcement is to protect public safety by cutting off the supply of dangerous drugs. SNP works with partners to follow the supply chain to identify the source at the highest level possible. In 2016, SNP handled cases involving the seizure of 398 kilograms of heroin (875 pounds). This is more than triple the amount of heroin seized in 2010.

The overwhelming majority of heroin found in the U.S. is produced either in Colombia or Mexico. Heroin-related investigations often lead back to Mexico and the Sinaloa Cartel, which oversees transportation of the heroin overland across the Mexico-U.S. border.

Over the past year, SNP has coordinated with local and federal partners to track the source of heroin throughout the New York City area. Through the work of the Heroin Interdiction Team (HIT), the office has shared its expertise with law enforcement agencies across New York State.

Once heroin arrives in New York City, it is typically handed off to local wholesalers and large-scale packaging operations that proliferate across upper Manhattan and the Bronx. Strategically located near major highways, these packaging “mills” process multi-million dollar shipments for retail distribution.

Shortly before the Fourth of July holiday weekend, more than a million dosages of heroin were seized from one of the largest heroin packaging mills ever uncovered by DEA New York Division. Members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (DETF) and Special Narcotics investigators conducted a court authorized search of a single-family private residence in the University Heights section of the Bronx and uncovered a fully functioning heroin mill in the basement. Agents seized 64 kilograms of

A single-family residence in the Bronx housed one of the largest heroin mills ever dismantled by the DEA in New York City.
heroin (140 pounds) and $300,000 cash. The drug operation supplied customers citywide.

Increasingly, fentanyl is present alongside heroin and other narcotics. Earlier this year, SNP worked with the DEA’s New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force and the U.S. Postal Service to dismantle a narcotics trafficking group that received drug shipments from Puerto Rico through the U.S. Mail for distribution in New York City. Some loads of narcotics were concealed in children’s games and exercise equipment. This investigation led agents to seize 21 kilograms (46 lbs.) of narcotics, initially suspected to be cocaine and heroin. However, laboratory tests indicated that at least 2 kilograms (over 4 lbs.) contained fentanyl.

Prescription drugs on the black market are also an important focus for SNP, which continues to investigate and prosecute pill traffickers, forgery rings and corrupt medical professionals who sell prescriptions for cash. Increased awareness on the part of medical professionals and regulatory changes under New York State’s I-STOP/PMP, the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing – Prescription Monitoring Program, appear to have had a positive impact. The number of prescriptions filled for oxycodone, the opioid pain medication most commonly sold on the black market, decreased by 4% in 2016. This decline is significant because the majority of people who develop heroin addictions first become dependent on prescription pills.

Oxycodone Prescriptions Filled by NYC Residents: 2007–2016
Gangs and Violence

The Special Narcotics Prosecutor’s Office works closely with the NYPD to identify and prosecute individuals designated as Violence Reduction Targets (VRTs). These defendants are violent recidivists, or known individuals who repeatedly commit acts of violence. A relatively small number of criminals, particularly those associated with street gangs, can wreak havoc on a neighborhood’s sense of security.

**Violence Reduction Target Initiative**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VRTs and Associates</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>42 arrests; 53%</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>32 arrests; 40%</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>6 arrests; 7%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total arrests: 80</td>
<td></td>
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In 2016, SNP was involved in the arrest and prosecution of 42 VRTs and associates of VRTs. This accounts for 53% of the total VRT-related arrests handled by Special Narcotics since the inception of the initiative in 2014.

Among those prosecuted were individuals engaged in drug dealing at the West Brighton Houses, a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residential complex in Staten Island, and the AK Houses, a privately-owned affordable housing complex in Manhattan.

Of the VRTs with pending cases, only one has been released on bail. Two subjects are in court-ordered drug treatment. The overall conviction rate on a felony charge for VRTs is 68%, with 62% receiving jail time.

**GS9 Gang Prosecution**

An investigation into the Brooklyn-based criminal gang “GS9” dismantled a brazen criminal group responsible for multiple shootings. While engaged in a protracted turf battle with rivals, members of GS9 murdered a 19-year-old rival inside a Brooklyn bodega, fired bullets into crowds at clubs in New York City and Miami and shot an innocent bystander in front of her home. The investigation was conducted by the NYPD’s Brooklyn South Violence Reduction Task Force and SNP’s Gang Prosecution Unit. Twenty-one firearms seized during the investigation fueled the violence at the heart of the case.

All 21 defendants charged have been convicted, including three of the main shooters for the gang. Rashid Derrisant and Alex Crandon, tried together, were sentenced to 98 1/3 years to life and 53 1/3 to life respectively. Santino Boderick was sentenced to 117 1/2 to 130 years in prison.

Some members of the gang performed rap as part of a well-known group, also called “GS9,” led by Ackquille Pollard, aka “Bobby Shmurda,” and Chad Marshall, aka “Rowdy Rebel.” Pollard and Marshall pled guilty to conspiracy and weapons charges and each received a seven-year prison term.

New York Times, October 20, 2016
SNP Outreach

Sharing Expertise with Local and International Partners

Judges and attorneys from Buenos Aires, Argentina discuss criminal law and investigative techniques with members of SNP:

Investigators from the Supreme Prosecutor’s Office, Republic of Korea, meet with SNP staff:

Narcotics Chiefs from the five District Attorneys’ offices collaborate on citywide law enforcement strategies.

New York State Bar Association’s Committee on Women in the Law luncheon: Bronx DA Darcel D. Clark (center), Justice Troy Karen Webber, Appellate Division-First Department (left), and Bridget G. Brennan (right).

Professional Recognition

FDAF honors Assistant District Attorney Jeffrey Linehan (right), DEA New York Drug Enforcement Task Force Group T-21 and SNP’s Investigators Unit.

Paul H. Harvey, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division (left), receives the Thomas E. Dewey Medal from the New York City Bar Association.

Bridget G. Brennan receives Person of the Year Award from the Society of Professional Investigators (SPI).

The Tri-State Law Enforcement Foundation honors Bridget G. Brennan.
Community Initiatives

In the wake of major investigations, SNP seeks opportunities to make positive contributions to neighborhoods that have been impacted by drug trafficking and law enforcement activity. By supporting recreational programs, the office has an opportunity to help strengthen the community and build relationships between young people and law enforcement.

SNP sponsored renovations to the Frederick E. Samuel Houses Community Center gymnasium in Harlem in 2016, following an investigation into drug sales in the vicinity of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residential complex. Renovations included installation of a new scoreboard and refinished gymnasium floors. The Police Athletic League (PAL) also sponsored a “Cops & Kids” basketball game between members of the Frederick E. Samuel Houses Community Center basketball team and NYPD officers from the 32nd Precinct and Police Service Area (PSA) #6. Financial support for the gymnasium, a ribbon-cutting event and the basketball game came from drug trafficking money seized during criminal prosecutions by SNP.

Two major community projects in 2015 followed successful investigations into narcotics trafficking in the vicinity of NYCHA residential complexes in Manhattan and Brooklyn. The Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing Visual Arts, located near the A. Philip Randolph Houses in Harlem, received a new scoreboard and 24-second clocks. PAL also sponsored a “Cops & Kids” basketball game between the Wadleigh boys’ varsity basketball team and police officers representing the 28th Precinct and PSA #5.

In Brooklyn, SNP funded a newly refurbished gymnasium at the Farragut Houses, located in Vinegar Hill. Refurbishments included newly finished and painted floors, new safety mats and an upgraded scoreboard. A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of the gymnasium, along with a PAL sponsored “Cops & Kids” basketball game involving members of the Farragut Houses Community Center boys’ basketball team and police officers from the 84th Precinct and PSA #3.

SNP staff participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony and an awards luncheon for the newly renovated Frederick E. Samuel Houses Community Center gymnasium.
Investigation Division

Special Investigations Bureau
The Special Investigations Bureau (SIB) targets major narcotics trafficking organizations, including those that import and distribute multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine and heroin. The activities of the criminal enterprises extend beyond county, state and international borders. SIB prosecutors work with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the New York City Police Department (NYPD), the New York State Police, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and other local, state, federal and foreign law enforcement.

In 2016, SIB launched 153 investigations targeting a wide range of criminal activity including drug trafficking, robberies, weapons trafficking and money laundering. The bureau also commenced civil actions to forfeit narcotics proceeds. Senior staff supervised wiretap investigations involving 231 eavesdropping applications, including 131 originals, 82 extensions and 18 amendments. Narcotics investigations resulted in the seizure of approximately 441 pounds of heroin, 493 pounds of cocaine, 30 pounds of fentanyl, 72 pounds of marijuana and various other drugs.

Heroin Interdiction Team
The resurgence of heroin throughout New York State drove SNP to create the Heroin Interdiction Team (HIT) in late 2014. HIT is tasked with combating the flow of heroin to the area surrounding New York City, particularly upstate counties. Working with a dedicated team of New York State Police troopers, DEA agents, NYPD officers and

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 SNP WIRETAP ACTIVITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amendment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original</td>
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<tr>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>INSTRUMENT TYPES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cellphone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chat Accounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>INVESTIGATION ACTIVITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trial Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Invest. Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription Drug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narcotics Gang</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Special Investigations Bureau targets major local and international narcotics trafficking organizations.
other law enforcement officials, HIT focuses on cooperating with local prosecutors and law enforcement to share intelligence and resources to take down the organizations responsible for spreading heroin from the mills in New York City to New York State as a whole.

**Prescription Drug Investigation Unit**
Alarming rates of prescription drug abuse and related crime led SNP to form the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit. The unit, created in 2011, is designed to combat the proliferation of prescription narcotics on the black market by investigating and prosecuting the criminal distribution of these drugs. Prosecutions target a range of subjects, from members of street level drug organizations to doctors and pharmacists engaged in the criminal sale of prescriptions or pills. Armed robberies of pharmacies, shootings, home invasions and other violent crimes are also associated with prescription drug diversion. The unit works closely with the New York State Health Department’s Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE), the NYPD and the DEA, among other law enforcement agencies.

**Narcotics Gang Unit**
The Narcotics Gang Unit was established in 2002. It concentrates on violent neighborhood gangs, robbery crews and weapons traffickers committing drug-related criminal activity across the city. The unit works closely with detectives from the NYPD’s Gun Violence Suppression Division, Narcotics and Gang Squads and Precinct members. The unit has developed expertise in the use of new technologies and collecting evidence through social media, such as Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Facebook and messaging applications. In addition to narcotics trafficking, the unit also prosecutes murder and murder conspiracy, assault, armed robbery, kidnapping, burglary, weapons possession and illegal firearms sales.

**Money Laundering and Financial Investigations Unit**
The Money Laundering and Financial Investigations Unit was initiated in 2001, and reconfigured in 2005 and 2008. It investigates narcotics-related money laundering and other financial criminal activity. Cases are generated from multiple sources, including intelligence developed during narcotics investigations. The unit aims to prevent foreign drug trafficking organizations from repatriating drug proceeds through smuggling, as well as the use of the financial system and international trade, and local drug organizations from benefiting from illicit profits.

**Forfeiture Investigations**
Established more than 25 years ago, the Forfeiture Investigations Unit evaluates felony drug prosecutions for potential civil litigation to recover proceeds of narcotics crimes. The unit works closely with law enforcement on the federal, state and local levels to identify criminal assets and deprive narcotics traffickers and money-laundering groups of the profits of criminality. A comprehensive set of systems track office participation in investigations resulting in forfeiture actions. In 2016, 206 federal forfeiture actions were initiated and 224 were completed. At the state level, 328 actions were initiated and 325 were completed.
Trial Division

2016 SNP WORKLOAD

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arrests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indictments/SCI</td>
<td>1,338</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trials</td>
<td>27</td>
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FELONY DISPOSITIONS

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<tr>
<th>Disposition</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convicted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acquitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dismissed</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>Treatment Dismissals</td>
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FELONY SENTENCES

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<th>Sentence</th>
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<td>City Jail</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>234</td>
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<td>City Jail &amp; Probation</td>
<td>51</td>
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SEIZURES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>727 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>873 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fentanyl</td>
<td>32 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxycodone</td>
<td>2,940 pills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>7 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>140 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guns Seized</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trial Division Assistant District Attorneys handle the bulk of the drug felony arrests referred to the office for prosecution. They are assigned to one of the two bureaus that comprise the Trial Division. Each bureau is headed by a Chief and Deputy Chief who supervise Assistant District Attorneys, as they provide legal advice and draw up court orders, including search and arrest warrants, on a 24-hour basis.

Assistant District Attorneys work closely with the NYPD’s Narcotics Division, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force, the Port Authority Police, the New York State Police, the state Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) and the SNP Investigators Unit. In 2016, the Division launched 135 new investigations. A total of 1,996 complaints were referred to the office for prosecution during the year; 1,338 defendants were prosecuted by indictment or Supreme Court information (SCI). Search warrants drafted numbered 1,211.
Investigators Unit

SNP’s Investigators Unit handles narcotics cases targeting local, national and international trafficking groups, as well as trafficking over the Internet. Teams within the unit have expertise in identifying and dismantling major heroin organizations within New York City and in investigating prescription drug diversion rings and corrupt medical practitioners. Investigators provide crucial leadership in collaborative efforts with law enforcement partners.

Created in 1992, the unit fulfills two primary areas of responsibility: investigations and enforcement support. The unit initiates cases independently and works jointly with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout New York City and across the nation. During 2016, the unit opened 35 new investigations, resulting in 210 arrests. Of those, 105 individuals were charged with top felony narcotics counts and 7 with violations of money laundering laws. As a result of those arrests, 331 pounds of heroin and 467 pounds of cocaine were seized. Investigations by the unit and its DEA and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) partners yielded cash seizures totaling millions of dollars in narcotics trafficking proceeds.

Many investigators in the unit are law enforcement veterans who formerly served with the New York City Police Department’s (NYPD) Narcotics Division and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF). A Chief Investigator oversees the activities of the investigators and monitors all investigation-related expenditures.

Case Highlights

Over 15 Pounds of Fentanyl Seized on the Upper West Side

An investigation by DEA New Jersey Division resulted in the seizure of 7 kilograms of fentanyl (over 15 lbs.) at Broadway and 76th Street on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. Agents were conducting surveillance as part of an ongoing investigation when they observed a man in a Honda with New York plates pull up behind a Toyota Sequoia with Maryland plates, park and exit the Honda carrying what appeared to be a heavy black bag. The man climbed into the Sequoia and then reemerged carrying a different bag that was red in color, which he placed in the Honda and drove off. Two individuals who had been seated in the Sequoia, Gary Waddell and Geneen James, were approached by agents as they got out of the vehicle. Waddell and James denied knowing anything about the man in the Honda. DEA agents observed the black bag in the Sequoia, but it was empty. After the Special Narcotics Prosecutor’s Office obtained court authorization for a search, approximately 7 kilograms of fentanyl were found in a trap compartment in the center of the second row of seats.

Seven kilograms of fentanyl (over 15 lbs.) were recovered on Manhattan’s Upper West Side.
Case Highlights continued

Record-Breaking Heroin Packaging Operation Dismantled
Before the Fourth of July weekend, members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force dismantled one of the city’s largest known heroin packaging operations in the Bronx and seized 64 kilograms of heroin (140 lbs.) worth approximately $15 million. The packaging operation, known as a “heroin mill,” was in full swing at 2115 Harrison Avenue when agents and officers arrived at the door. Mill workers fled out the rear of the location and attempted to jump a fence. Nine defendants were charged. Over a million individual dose “glassine” envelopes had already been packaged for retail distribution. The envelopes were color-coded and branded with various names, such as Red Bull, Speed Limit and Sweet Dreams. Prior to entering the mill, agents and officers conducted surveillance at the location and observed two men leave with heavy bags. The bags contained $34,000 cash wrapped in bundles. Another $265,000 cash was recovered inside the mill.

Truck Axle and Drive Shaft Filled with 100 Pounds of Heroin
An investigation into heroin distribution organizations operating across the Northeast United States led agents with the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force to seize 48 kilograms (over 105 lbs.) of heroin in Elmhurst, New York. In January 2016, agents stopped two pick-up trucks with North Carolina license plates and a trained search dog confirmed the presence of narcotics. Heroin was later found concealed within a car axle casing in the bed of one of the pick-up trucks. The DEA estimated the street value of the heroin at $14 million. The two drivers were arrested.


Traffickers got creative and hid over 48 kilograms of heroin inside the axle and drive shaft of a large truck.
**Fentanyl Marketed as Heroin in Queens Drug Sale**

Four kilograms of heroin and fentanyl (over 8 lbs.) were seized from a Queens-based drug trafficker, who was arrested while carrying a kilogram of fentanyl in a chest girdle. Agents and officers with the DEA's New York Drug Enforcement Task Force saw the defendant Cesar Cornelio-Mencia enter a customer's vehicle. The investigation revealed the trafficker met with the customer in order to sell heroin. However, laboratory tests subsequently determined that the substance in the girdle was fentanyl, a highly potent synthetic opioid that is an estimated 50 times stronger than heroin. Agents and officers also conducted a court authorized search of Cornelio-Mencia's apartment at 98-04 Alstyne Avenue in Corona and recovered another three kilograms of narcotics. Two brick-shaped packages and a scale were recovered from the kitchen, along with drug ledger books. Two plastic bags of powder were found in a safe and multiple smaller clear plastic bags of narcotics and a heat-sealing machine were recovered from a boiler room. Three of the four kilograms seized in the investigation were a combination of fentanyl and heroin, while the fourth was heroin alone.

**Over 65 Pounds of Heroin in Croton-on-Hudson**

Two men were charged with possessing at least 30 kilograms of heroin (over 65 lbs.) hidden in the axle of a truck's trailer in Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y. The defendants intended to sell the heroin for up to $2.3 million wholesale to distributors in New York City, Long Island and across the Northeast. A wiretap investigation by the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office and the DEA's Long Island District Office revealed that the defendants received the shipment from a Mexican-based organization, which transported it across the Texas border. The defendants rented a single-family home on a private wooded lot for the sole purpose of using the location to park a tractor trailer and to stash the drug. Agents and investigators observed as the truck arrived at the rental property. Signs of welding on the axle led agents to discover 30 kilograms of heroin hidden inside.

**$5 Million in Heroin Seized at Inwood Drug Packaging Spot**

A short-term heroin investigation led investigators to dismantle an Inwood heroin packing operation that was in full swing at 10 Park Terrace East. Ten mill workers were engaged in processing heroin and packaging tens of thousands of individual...
dose “glassine” envelopes for distribution when investigators and agents arrived to make arrests. Approximately $3 million worth of heroin was found in the apartment, including nearly 94,000 filled doses and over 3.5 kilograms (8 lbs.) of loose powder waiting to be packaged. More than 100 stamps used to label glassine envelopes with brand names, such as “$INCOME TAX,” were seized in the court authorized search.

Father and Son Ran Rx Drug Forgery Ring

Accused drug kingpin Nelson Quezada Sr. and his son Riquelvin Quezada allegedly ran a sophisticated drug trafficking ring that forged and filled prescriptions for approximately $1.5 million in addictive opioid painkillers. From 2010 to 2014, the Quezadas produced forged oxycodone prescriptions and paid “runners” in cash to fill the fraudulent prescriptions at pharmacies in the Bronx and elsewhere. The runners delivered the pills to the Quezadas for resale. An investigation identified over 460 forged prescriptions for oxycodone that had been printed on official prescription paper illegally obtained from a host of medical facilities, ranging from hospitals to small group practices. The prescriptions yielded more than 51,000 pills with a street value of up to $30 each. The scheme unraveled when New York City Human Resource Administration investigators became aware of a pattern of forgeries. Quezada Sr. faces the top narcotics charge of Operating as a Major Trafficker.

Rx Forgeries Yielded $3 Million in Pain Pills

Two leaders of a prescription forgery ring and five other defendants were charged in a lucrative scheme to illegally obtain over 160,000 oxycodone pills from pharmacies for resale on the black market. Ringleaders Joseph Bivona and Steven Keller face the top narcotics charge of Operating as a Major Trafficker, which carries a possible life sentence. The pair employed runners to visit pharmacies in Queens and Brooklyn in order to fill forged prescriptions, all of which bore the name of a physician who operated a pain management practice in Astoria, Queens. Members of the drug ring scaled back their criminal activity in response to the implementation of stricter regulations under “I-STOP,” New York State’s enhanced Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing. However, they managed to skirt a requirement that prescriptions be submitted to pharmacies electronically. Pills obtained during the scheme had an estimated street value of $3 million.

Ex-Physician Sold Pills to Patients after Losing License

A former practitioner of osteopathic medicine who sold amphetamine diet pills to patients long after his license was revoked pled guilty in exchange for a one-year jail sentence. Dr. Steven Bernhard, who practiced in Bayside, Queens, pled guilty to charges related to his treatment of a long-time patient who died. The patient, a 65-year-old woman, had a heart condition and regularly paid Bernhard cash for diet pills. She suffered a heart attack...
after receiving a larger supply than usual. Stimulant-like diet pills are contraindicated for patients with a history of heart disease. Bernhard’s license was revoked in 2013 after the New York State Board of Professional Medical Conduct sustained disciplinary charges against him.

Colombian Traffickers Extradited to NYC: Spanish Navy Ship Smuggled Narcotics

Colombian nationals Jorge Luis Hoayeck and Jorge Alberto Siado-Alvarez were extradited to the U.S. on charges of Operating as a Major Trafficker for allegedly smuggling narcotics to New York City aboard a famed Royal Spanish Navy training vessel, the Juan Sebastian de Elcano. In overseeing the international trafficking operation, the pair employed corrupt Spanish sailors to receive and conceal a load of narcotics during a stop in Cartagena, Colombia in April 2014. The ship then made its way north to a pier on Manhattan’s West Side, where the sailors were directed to off-load four kilograms of heroin and four kilograms of cocaine to a local drug distribution network. Members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force tracked and seized the narcotics in New York City and Hartford, Conn. As the Juan Sebastian de Elcano returned to its home port in Cadiz, Spain, U.S. officials alerted authorities there to the drug activity. The Spanish Civil Guard subsequently recovered nearly 280 pounds of cocaine from a sails storeroom.

Narcotics Mailed to NYC from Puerto Rico

A trafficking group smuggled large amounts of narcotics from Puerto Rico through the U.S. Mail for distribution in New York City, and sometimes concealed drugs inside boxes of exercise equipment and children’s toys. A Bronx-based ringleader and two drug suppliers in San Juan, Puerto Rico were among 13 charged as a result of a wiretap investigation by the DEA’s New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force. Agents recovered over 21 kilograms
of cocaine, heroin and fentanyl (46 lbs.) with a combined street value of $4.5 million, as well as $150,000 in cash, $70,000 in jewelry, two vehicles, a short-barrel rifle, a stun gun and drug packaging equipment. Parcels containing narcotics were shipped to the Bronx, Manhattan and New Jersey. The Bronx-based ringleader and the two drug suppliers face the top narcotics charge of Operating as a Major Trafficker, which carries a possible life sentence.

**Money Launderers for Sinaloa Cartel Arrested**

A sister and brother team was arrested for laundering up to $1 million a month in narcotics proceeds for the Sinaloa Cartel. Much of the money that Alejandra and Francisco Salgado collected came from New York City-based drug trafficking groups. Alejandra Salgado, who maintained residences in Mexico City and California, was allegedly supervised by a high-ranking member of the cartel. The pair was extradited from Alaska, where Francisco resided. During trips to New York City, the Salgados met with local drug groups and deposited funds into multiple bank accounts held under fake names. They then wrote checks from those accounts to companies controlled by the cartel. On one day alone, DEA agents observed the well-dressed duo visit seven banks in New York City in a matter of two hours and make cash deposits under the reporting requirement of $10,000 at each location. They lugged the money for cash deposits in bags.

More than 100 plastic yucca roots concealing cocaine were recovered in the Soundview section of the Bronx along with $325,000 cash. The majority of the narcotics and money was seized from a basement apartment located across the street from P.S. 196, a public elementary school, and close to two other schools. Prior to searching the apartment, DEA agents and Special Narcotics investigators were conducting surveillance as part of a narcotics investigation. They observed an individual carrying a heavy bag leave the apartment and approach a vehicle. The bag held $100,000. Eight fake yucca roots filled...
with cocaine were in the trunk. The individual was also in possession of small quantities of heroin, crack and marijuana.

Bronx Daycare Served as Cover for Drug Ring
Ten people were convicted as part of a sophisticated drug ring that used the U.S. Postal Service to smuggle kilogram quantities of cocaine to New York City from Puerto Rico. The narcotics trafficking organization, led by Juan Valdez, concealed narcotics in packages of children’s items, such as SpongeBob SquarePants bedding, and used a childcare center as a cover. The DEA, NYPD and U.S. Postal Service recovered approximately 23 kilograms (over 50 lbs.) of cocaine worth over $1.4 million wholesale.

Valdez’s top manager, Gregorio Hanley, conducted drug business from his Bronx home, which doubled as Fun World Childcare. Nearly a kilogram of cocaine, over 700 oxycodone pills and over $15,000 were stored in the day care center, which was operated by the mother of Hanley’s two children. She was among those convicted. Valdez and Hanley were each sentenced to seven years in prison.

Drug Delivery in Livery Cars
A lucrative drug delivery service that sold cocaine from livery cars in the Bushwick and East New York neighborhoods of Brooklyn was dismantled following an investigation by the NYPD’s Narcotics Borough Brooklyn North. Ringleader Edgar Rodriguez is charged with overseeing the drug operation from a deli he owned in Brooklyn, where he occasionally sold drugs over the deli’s counter. The fleet of livery cars took on no fares other than drug customers, despite bearing NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) plates. In a search of Rodriguez’s home in Farmingdale, L.I., police seized approximately $300,000 cash, a firearm and ammunition, and nearly a kilogram of cocaine worth approximately $50,000 wholesale. A total of five defendants were arrested during the investigation, dubbed “Operation Cityline,” which centered on three overlapping narcotics operations. The defendants sold approximately $20,000 in cocaine to undercover officers during three-dozen transactions.
Sin City Cabaret Cocaine Sales

Adult entertainers and a bouncer were among nine charged in connection with sales of cocaine at Sin City Cabaret, a gentlemen’s club located in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. Undercover officers purchased cocaine from the defendants on nearly two-dozen occasions for over $20,000, with the majority of the sales taking place inside or in front of the club. In some instances, the defendants sold individual doses of cocaine, either inside a capsule, a bag, or rolled in a dollar bill, for the inflated price of $100. The largest sales in the case were conducted by the girlfriend of a dancer in the vicinity of their apartment and at a McDonald’s restaurant parking lot. This defendant pled guilty and was sentenced to three years in prison. A bouncer also pled guilty and was sentenced to two years in prison. Charges are pending against the majority of the defendants.

Staten Island Gang Shooting, Heroin Trafficking

Thirteen members of the “WB Savages,” a gang based in West Brighton, Staten Island, were arrested in connection with a conspiracy to sell heroin and a conspiracy to criminally possess guns. The investigation was initiated by the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office and the NYPD’s Staten Island Gang Squad (SIGS). Ringleaders Jahiek Chunn and Travis Johnson shared a cell phone that they used to take orders for heroin from customers, who were primarily located in the vicinity of the West Brighton Houses, a New York City Housing Authority residential complex. The group’s supplier transported heroin from Manhattan in a Jeep. In September 2015, violence erupted when Chunn was targeted in a shooting. Several months later, in April 2016, detectives learned Johnson and another individual were armed at a deli. Both fled when police arrived. However, two guns were recovered.
Open Air Drug Market Disrupted in Washington Heights

Twelve defendants were arrested following a long-term investigation into criminal street gang involvement in an open air drug market in Washington Heights. The gang’s name “Six Block” was derived from the size of the gang’s territory in upper Manhattan. Defendants sold approximately $24,000 in drugs to undercover officers with the NYPD’s Manhattan North Gang Squad. The investigation also involved surveillance and an examination of social media postings, including images of the defendants flashing gang signs and money. One gang member brought a seven-year-old child along on a sale. The defendants sold cocaine and pills, including oxycodone, a powerful opioid painkiller.

East Harlem Gang Probe: 17 Arrests and Guns Seized

A long-term investigation into round-the-clock narcotics trafficking at the AK Houses, a privately-owned affordable housing complex in East Harlem, led to 17 arrests. Many of the individuals charged are associated with a gang known as “No Sleep Get Money” or “N$GM.” The NYPD initiated the investigation, dubbed “Operation Insomnia,” in response to community complaints about drug dealing and a rash of gang-related shootings at the AK Houses. Brazen drug traffickers met with customers in the lobbies, hallways and stairwells of AK Houses, as well as in front of the residential complex, in close proximity to three schools. The defendants sold crack-cocaine to undercover officers on approximately 20 occasions. During a search of one defendant’s apartment in the AK Houses police recovered two guns from a dresser drawer in a bedroom where a one-year-old child was present.

NYC Department of Correction Auditor Arrested for Cocaine Sales

An auditor for the City of New York Department of Correction was among three defendants charged in connection with cocaine sales to an undercover officer in Brooklyn. Auditor Ronald Germain allegedly orchestrated four sales of cocaine for $5,250 to an undercover from the NYPD’s Narcotics Borough Brooklyn North in December 2015. Germain showed the undercover his official parking plaque and explained that he worked for DOC. Three of the four sales took place inside Germain’s East Flatbush apartment, which he shared with his girlfriend and the couple’s three children, who were present during drug transactions. Police also recovered $4,000 cash, a quantity of cocaine and drug paraphernalia during a court authorized search.

NYC Firefighter Sold Drugs at Firehouse

An eight-year veteran of the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) was arrested for selling narcotics in front of Engine 279/ Ladder 131 in Red Hook, Brooklyn, and at a nearby gas station. Firefighter Daniel Torres sold Vicodin, an opioid prescription painkiller,
Case Highlights continued

and Xanax, an anti-anxiety medication, during the wiretap investigation, conducted by the DEA’s New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force. Torres also provided a sample of heroin to a customer. Sales took place in close proximity to a daycare center near the firehouse and a private high school on the same block as the gas station. Torres was reassigned to the FDNY Recruitment Unit prior to his arrest.

Man Returning from Music Festival Arrested with Drugs
A man driving back from the Movement Detroit Music Festival was arrested in the Inwood section of Manhattan while in possession of a cornucopia of drugs. DEA agents stopped the 2011 Toyota Sienna and found seven people inside, along with cocaine, ecstasy, marijuana, pills, needles, an electronic scale and other paraphernalia. The drugs were found inside a black bag with a “Rebel Effect” logo, which was in turn hidden in a secret “trap” compartment in the car. Another 50 bags with the same logo, which is associated with a New York City smoke shop, were also found in the car.

New York Post, November 30, 2016

A bag containing a plethora of drugs was found in the secret “trap” compartment of the car.
Hallucinogenic Mushrooms Seized in Harlem
Two men were arrested in possession of five pounds of hallucinogenic mushrooms in a car in Harlem. The mushrooms were inside plastic bags in the backseat of the vehicle. One of the men had previously sold nearly a pound of mushrooms to undercover NYPD officers over the course of four transactions for a total of $1,700. He and his partner were poised to make yet another sale to an undercover officer on the day they were arrested with the five pounds of drugs in their vehicle.

Brooklyn Crack Dealer’s Plan to Sell Fireworks Fizzes
A Brooklyn man was in the process of selling professional grade fireworks at his Bushwick apartment when police arrived to conduct a court authorized search related to his other illegal line of work – drug dealing. Police recovered $2,000 worth of fireworks, along with crack cocaine, $3,000 cash and a loaded Glock .45-caliber pistol. An investigation revealed that the man had recently rented a van to make a bulk purchase of fireworks in Pennsylvania for resale in New York City. The plan was disrupted one month before the Fourth of July. The Brooklyn man previously sold $350 in fireworks to an undercover NYPD officer and at least $6,600 in cocaine. He pled guilty to drug possession and gun charges in exchange for a sentence of eight years in prison.

Heroin Investigation Leads to Weapons Seizure
An undercover NYPD investigation into heroin trafficking led police to recover two crossbows, two large knives, a collapsing knife, an air gun and oxycodone pills from a residence in the Wingate section of Brooklyn in July. A defendant who made three sales of heroin to an undercover officer was arrested. During the court authorized search, police found the defendant’s six-year-old daughter in the same room as the weapons. The defendant pled guilty to Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.
For addicted criminal offenders, an effective drug treatment program can mean the difference between repeated terms of imprisonment and the ability to lead a productive, law-abiding life. Yet it is not enough to simply conquer addiction. To begin anew, recovering drug users require skills gained through academic and vocational training, along with supportive counseling. The Alternative Sentencing Division has successfully worked with thousands of addicted criminal defendants over the past two decades to provide them with the tools they need to permanently close the door on crime and dependence.

Through SNP’s pioneering Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison (DTAP) programs, highly experienced staff members evaluate offenders to identify those who are likely to reap the benefits of treatment. Eligible candidates are given the opportunity to enter an appropriate program, most often at a long-term residential facility, instead of going to prison. SNP also refers eligible offenders with co-occurring substance use and mental illness disorders to the Manhattan Mental Health Court to provide integrated substance use and mental health treatment.

Residential programs typically last for at least one year and are followed by an additional term of supervision. Offenders who are employed and have strong community ties may be placed into short-term residential programs or, in rare cases, directly into intensive outpatient treatment programs. When offenders enter treatment, their sentences are deferred. Upon successful completion, charges may be dismissed. However, failure to abide by the rules of a program can result in a sanction. If offenders commit a new crime, their original prison sentence may be imposed.

Since October 2009, judges are authorized to place defendants in a court sponsored diversion program. Although a judge determines which addicted felony offenders qualify for these programs, and court staff supervises them, SNP continues to offer its expertise in the screening and monitoring of diverted defendants.

### SNP Defendants Entering Treatment 2005–2016

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Legal Training Unit

The Legal Training Unit develops and implements the professional training curriculum offered to Assistant District Attorneys. The unit selects speakers, lectures and workshops to address topics that include investigatory and prosecutorial techniques, legal procedures, changes in the law and effective approaches to the prosecution of felony narcotic and related crimes.

In 2016, the Legal Training Unit offered a professional development series and numerous lectures throughout the year to both experienced and new assistant district attorneys. Presentations included: *Alternative Sentencing, Prosecuting Gun Cases, HIT: Stopping the Upstate Heroin Pipeline, Introduction to Wiretapping, Preparing for a Wiretap Trial, Preparing a DNA Case, and Subpoena Practice – The Do’s and Don’ts*, among others.

The training curriculum complies with the regulations and guidelines of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board. The office has been a New York State CLE Accredited Provider since 2000.

For over a decade, SNP has devoted a portion of its resources to training programs offered to hundreds of local and federal enforcement and criminal justice personnel in New York and other areas of the country. Senior staff members lecture on narcotics investigations and prosecutions at the New York State District Attorney’s Association (DAASNY) Summer College, the DAASNY Winter Conference, the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), the New York Police Department’s Police Academy, Organized Crime Control Division and Narcotics Division, the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (DETF) and the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).
The New York City Police Department (NYPD) has assigned a team of detectives to the office since 1972. The Special Narcotics Prosecutor’s Unit, as it is known, is under the command of a senior NYPD lieutenant who serves as a liaison between SNP and the Detective Bureau’s Criminal Enterprise Division.

Expert at tracking, safekeeping and presenting electronically recorded evidence, the detectives also provide support to search warrant investigations and maintain citywide repositories for electronically recorded evidence and SNP search warrants.

Search Warrant Unit
The Search Warrant Unit prepares search warrants and affidavits and expedites requests through SNP. The detectives keep track of all confiscated evidence and maintain a database on arrests and seizures resulting from the execution of search warrants. The unit also educates new investigators on search warrant procedures. In 2016, the unit processed 1,578 search warrants.

Technical Unit
The Technical Unit tracks and controls “chain of custody” for electronic media evidence and makes certain that all audio/video evidence is secure. The unit is responsible for the creation and testimony of grand jury/trial wiretap composite recordings and processes digital photographic evidence, as well as data evidence.

In 2016, the unit registered 1,189 pieces of audio/video evidence, 1,374 pieces of wiretap media evidence and 291 pieces of data and photographic evidence. The unit also prepared, created and registered 3,680 duplicate copies of registered electronic media evidence. Additionally, the unit can edit original video evidence to protect the identity of undercover officers and make compilations of original evidence, which they did 72 times in 2016.

Members of the NYPD’s Special Narcotics Team are assigned by the Detective Bureau’s Criminal Enterprise Division.
Support Services Units

Fiscal
All agency fiscal activities, including the production and submission of funding requests to federal, state and city funding agencies, as well as the monitoring of expenditures, fall under the responsibility of the Fiscal Unit. To that end, the unit assesses and approves purchases and payment vouchers, disbursement of funds, such as petty cash, and payroll coordination; enforces fiscal policy; conducts internal audits; and reviews and approves agency procurements.

Members of the Fiscal Unit submit funding requests and oversee expenditures.

Human Resources
The Human Resources Unit oversees and implements procedures related to the assignment or transfer of Assistant District Attorneys from the offices of the five county District Attorneys and the recruitment of managerial, administrative and clerical personnel. Unit staff participates in planning, developing and executing employee programs and policies for all staff. The unit disseminates information on mandatory programs and policies for all city agencies and monitors implementation of procedures; provides facts on citywide policies and labor relations issues; and maintains time and leave records for all staff. The unit is responsible for the bi-weekly distribution of paychecks and serves as liaison with the citywide payroll management system.

Human Resource professionals administer payroll and benefits for agency staff.

Public Information
The Public Information Unit responds to inquiries from members of the media, government agencies, advocacy groups and individuals on the status of cases, legal decisions, legislative action, citywide drug trafficking trends and joint enforcement efforts. Press releases, reports and testimony are prepared and distributed through the unit. The agency’s website and social media accounts are also maintained by the unit.

The Public Information Unit prepares reports and responds to inquiries from the media.
Community Outreach

The Community Outreach Coordinator meets with community and religious leaders, block associations, the New York City Housing Authority and other groups to address local drug problems, while conferring regularly with NYPD officials to devise strategies to combat crime. Once an investigation is completed and a drug organization is removed from a building or neighborhood, resources are devoted toward providing community support services. Additionally, experienced prosecutors offer lectures to schools and youth groups on topics ranging from drug laws and gang activity to alternatives to incarceration.

Criminal and Investigative Analysts

Analysts are instrumental to all stages of investigation and prosecution, using the most current technology available to enhance a case from its inception through trial. Evidence from various sources is analyzed, including telephone communication carriers, social media sources, Treasury Department data and prescription drug-related data. Analysts prepare and process subpoenas, provide background searches using public records and law enforcement specific databases, prepare investigative reports and act as points of contact for law enforcement. During the presentation of a case, analysts prepare trial exhibits and testify in the grand jury and at trial.

Information Technologies (IT)

Information Technology develops, establishes and administers SNP’s computer and telecommunication systems. The unit identifies needs and puts in place systems that effectively merge technology with office processes, and provides a variety of case-related services.

Digital Forensics and Litigation Support: provides pre-trial and in-court technology support, including recovery and examination of evidence from electronic devices, trial exhibit preparation and presentation.

Application Development and Support: computer software development, maintenance and support.

Technical Support: supports staff in using electronic devices and addresses technical problems.

Records Management: files, registers and maintains a record of closed and bench warranted case files and processes parole requests.

IT Infrastructure Support: servers, computers, networks, computer storage, email and data backup maintenance and support.
**Case Information:** captures and tracks data pertaining to all cases prosecuted by the office, from arrest to disposition. The unit prepares regular reports and ad hoc reports on narcotics activities, trends and statistical analyses. Unit staff is assigned to the Trial Division to coordinate data capture and provide additional support.

**Extraditions/Detainers**
The unit administers the return of fugitives apprehended or in custody in other jurisdictions and in foreign countries that have extradition treaties with the United States.

**Grand Jury Reporters**
Grand Jury Reporters record, produce and maintain transcripts of confidential testimony presented before the grand juries.

**Interpretation and Translation Services**
The unit interprets and translates for non-English speaking witnesses in debriefings with investigators and Assistant District Attorneys, and during testimony before the grand jury; provides written translation and transcription services for evidentiary consent and wiretap recordings that contain dialogue in a foreign language; and provides translation of foreign language documents.

**Operations**
The Operations Unit is responsible for office maintenance, reproduction of documents, mail delivery, messenger services, housekeeping requests, office supply inventory and disbursement.

Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAs) are assigned to the Investigations Division, the Trial Division, Part N and the Alternative Sentencing Division. Investigation and Trial Division TPAs track cases, maintain case records and gather reports and legal papers required by Assistant District Attorneys. Additionally, they make arrangements for prisoners to be produced in court and help Assistants prepare for grand jury and trial presentations. Alternative Sentencing Bureau TPAs interview defendants who are diverted to treatment and track their progress. Part N TPAs assist in tracking plea offers, grand jury actions and case dispositions that take place in the Part.
Executive & Legal Staff

Bridget G. Brennan  
Special Narcotics Prosecutor

Steven M. Goldstein  
Chief Assistant District Attorney

Rhonda Ferdinand  
Special Assistant District Attorney for Drug Prevention and Policy

Edward Burns  
Bureau Chief, 30/60

Jannine Rowser  
Deputy Bureau Chief, 30/60

William Cook  
Chief Investigator

Kati Cornell  
Public Information Director

Calvin Solomon  
Director of Community Outreach

Nicholas J. Mauro  
Chief, Special Investigations Bureau

Bernice Ordonez  
Deputy Chief, Special Investigations Bureau

Lisa M. Tompkins  
Deputy Chief, Special Investigations Bureau

Ryan Sakacs  
Chief, Prescription Drug Investigation Unit

Eryck Kratville  
Chief, Heroin Interdiction Team

NEW YORK COUNTY

Clark S. Abrams  
Justin Ashenfelter  
Kristin Bailey  
Amy Boddorff  
Edward Burns  
Gabriel Cohen  
Tess Cohen  
Lisa DePasquale  
Michael Di Paolo  
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