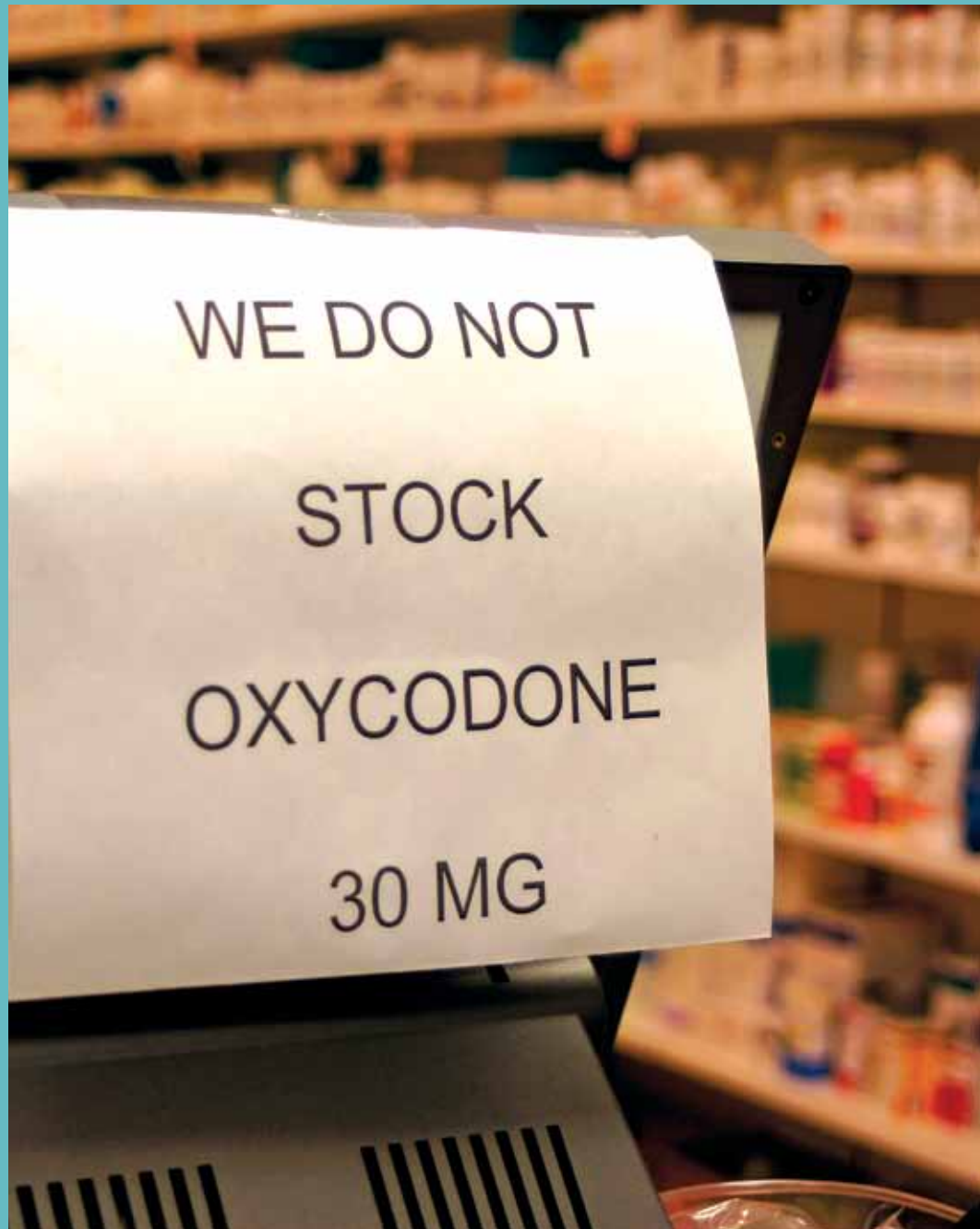


Office of the  
**Special Narcotics Prosecutor**  
for the **City of New York**





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# Message From the Special Narcotics Prosecutor

The photographs on the front cover were taken at pharmacies in Queens, Manhattan, and Staten Island. They reflect rising concern about crime associated with the abuse of oxycodone. Oxycodone is only one of several heavily abused narcotic pain relief drugs.



We have brought cases against drug rings forging and filling prescriptions for millions of pills sold on the black market. We have also investigated corrupt doctors who rake in cash by writing prescriptions for narcotic drugs with no medical justification. This work requires a high level

In 2011 alone, the number of prescriptions filled in New York City for oxycodone increased by 13%, rising to more than 1.2 million. While Staten Island continues to be the borough most inundated, the numbers of oxycodone prescriptions across the rest of the city are skyrocketing, with increases of 17% in Brooklyn and 16% in Queens, followed by 13% in both Manhattan and the Bronx.

This year's report describes in detail what our office is doing to tackle this problem. Prescription drug abuse and criminal pill distribution schemes pose unique problems for law enforcement. Unlike previous drug epidemics we have faced, prescription drugs originate from a legal source – the pharmaceutical industry, physicians' offices and pharmacies. Criminal enterprises prey on the weaknesses in regulatory systems which oversee the legitimate distribution network for addictive drugs.

of expertise and thousands of hours on the part of our investigators, analysts, and Assistant District Attorneys. During the summer of 2011, with support from New York City, we established a Prescription Drug Investigation Unit to spearhead our efforts in this area.

Law enforcement alone will not solve this problem. My office has devoted considerable time to developing legislation that would enhance New York State's ability to curtail this epidemic and is participating in newly formed groups, including the Mayor's Task Force on Prescription Painkiller Abuse, which pool the expertise of health and local authorities.

We are doing all this while continuing our efforts to upend heroin, cocaine, and most recently methamphetamine organizations attempting to peddle illegal drugs throughout our city.

*Bridget G. Brennan*

Special Narcotics Prosecutor

An independent 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 a related 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. Since its inception, SNP has worked closely with local, state and federal law enforcement partners to dismantle drug networks, money laundering enterprises and entrenched local gangs in neighborhoods across the city and beyond.

Renowned for its leadership in wiretap investigations, SNP uses 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 a new challenge: the explosion of prescription drug abuse and diversion. The office is also committed to reducing demand for narcotics by raising public awareness and facilitating treatment for addicted offenders.

Assistant District Attorneys are assigned to the office by the city's five District Attorneys and placed into one of three divisions: the Investigation Division, the Trial Division or the Alternative Sentencing Division.

The first Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Frank Rogers, was appointed in January 1972. He was succeeded 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 and served for six years.

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, such as prescription drug diversion and the use of social media by violent gangs. In 2011, Ms. Brennan established the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit. Ms. Brennan previously launched the Narcotics Gang Unit and the Money Laundering and Financial Investigation Unit.



*Bridget G. Brennan receives a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Federal Drug Agents Foundation at the 11th Annual True American Heroes Award Celebration, with former Special Narcotics Prosecutor Robert H. Silbering presenting.*



# The Paths of Prescription Drug Diversion

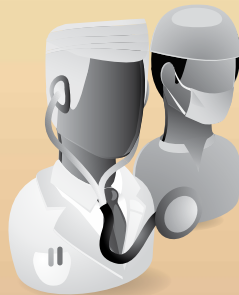
The explosion in prescription drug addiction has created a huge demand for illicit pills. To satisfy this demand a complex web of techniques has been developed to divert medication from legitimate sources to the black market.

## Legitimate Transaction



## Criminal Techniques

Unscrupulous doctors, who prescribe pills regardless of medical needs, profit by collecting substantial ongoing fees for office visits.



**Doctor**

Dealers forge the prescriptions and recruit individuals to fill them, then sell the pills for big profits.

Prescription forms are stolen from doctors and hospitals.



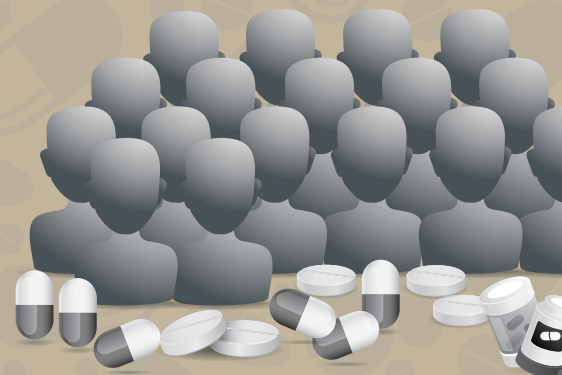
**Prescription**

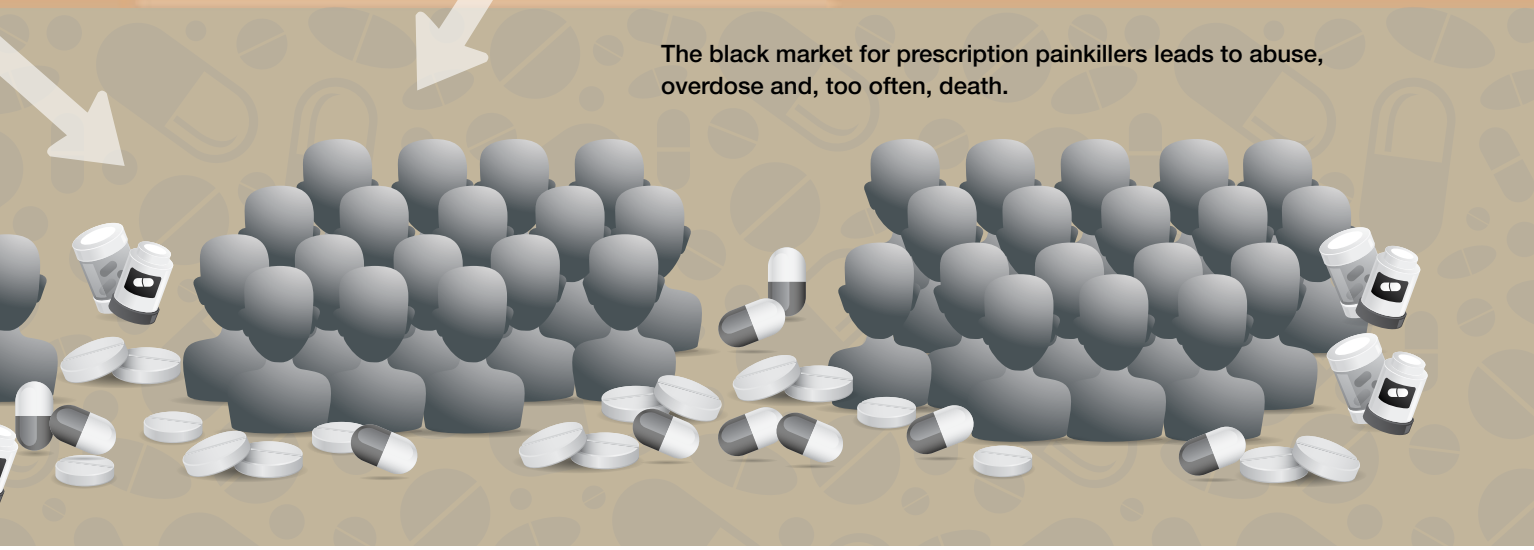
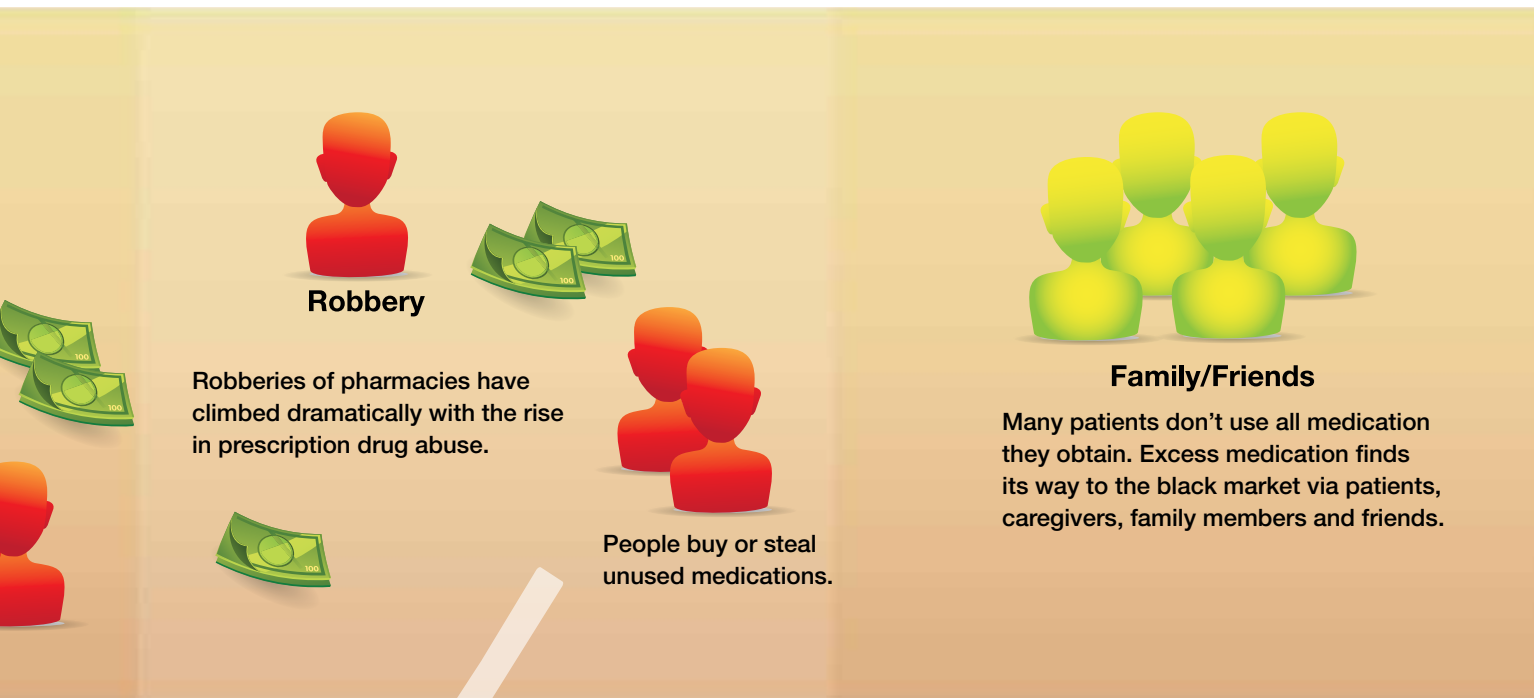
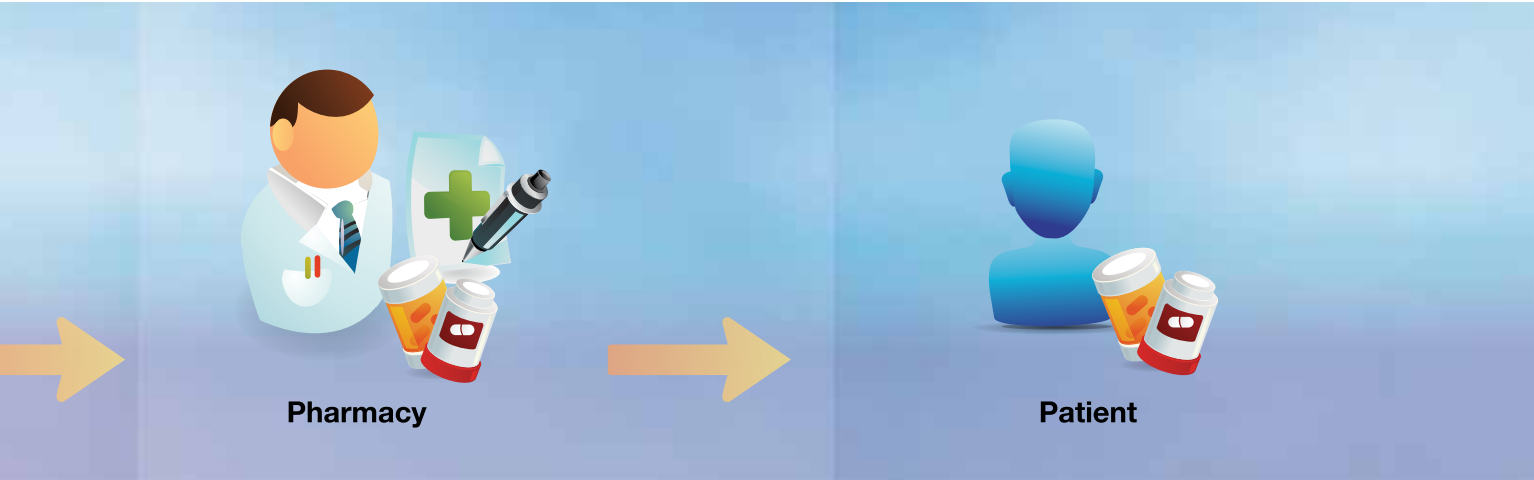


**Dealer**

## Black Market

This epidemic is fueled by greed. Huge profits are made through illegal distribution of pills.





# Prescription Drug Trends

## Prescription Drug Epidemic

Prescription drug abuse and diversion pose unique problems for law enforcement because, unlike the previous drug epidemics we have faced in New York City, prescription drugs originate from a legal source – the pharmaceutical industry, physicians’ offices and pharmacies. While SNP has been focused on the prescription drug problem for over two years, our efforts intensified in 2011.

## New Prescription Drug Investigation Unit

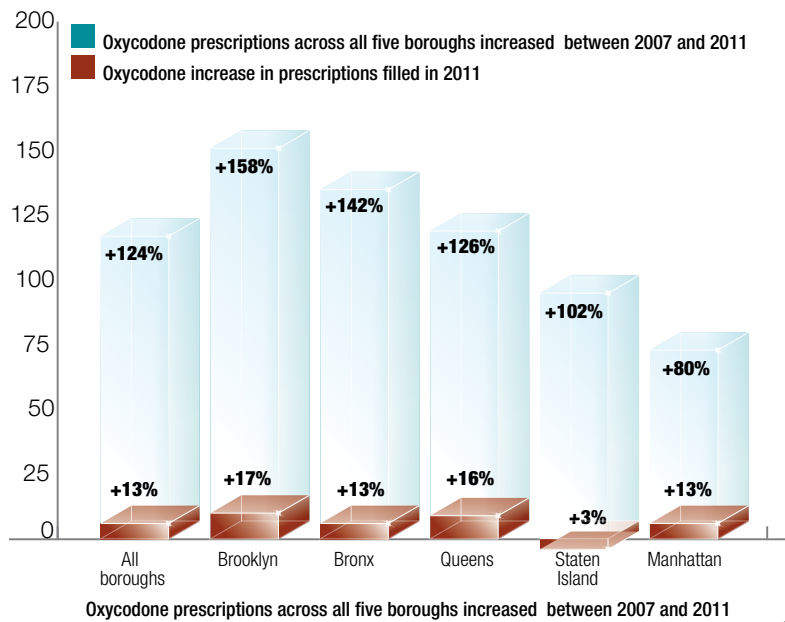
In the summer of 2011, SNP formed a new Prescription Drug Investigation Unit with support from the Mayor’s Office. The goal of this unit is to cut off the illegal supply of prescription drugs to the black and gray markets at the highest level possible. These investigations are highly complex and, in some cases, lead us to corrupt doctors, pharmacists and other medical professionals. Since the formation of the unit, the office has received a flood of referrals. Elected officials have reported questionable pharmacies and suspected pill mills in their districts. Physicians and physicians’ office managers have called with concerns about suspected drug traffickers. Medical professionals have relayed concerns about colleagues. Pharmacists have called about forged prescriptions. Hospital security units have reported thefts of prescription pads. Patients’ relatives have detailed concerns about doctors who seem to be overprescribing to their loved ones.

## Inadequate Laws

Gaps in the laws and regulations governing the prescribing and dispensing of prescription medication – both controlled and non-controlled substances – must also be addressed. SNP staff is participating in several new task forces designed to address

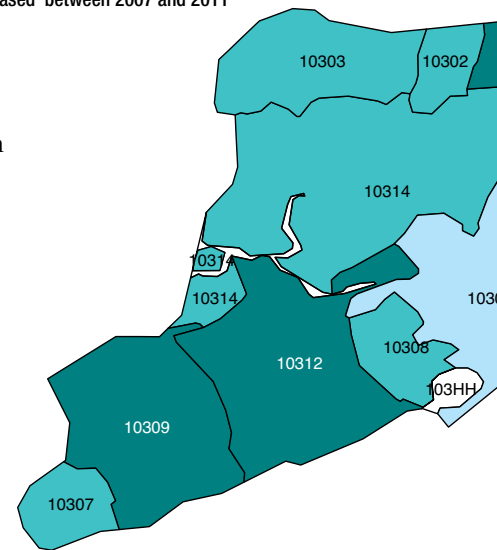
the problem of prescription drug abuse. We participate in the Mayor’s Task Force on Prescription Painkiller Abuse and the New York State Interagency Workgroup on Preventing Prescription Drug Misuse, Diversion and Overdose, among other groups. SNP staff has assisted in drafting proposed legislation that would enhance New York State’s ability to identify, investigate and prosecute those who are fuelling this deadly epidemic.

## Oxycodone Prescription Increases



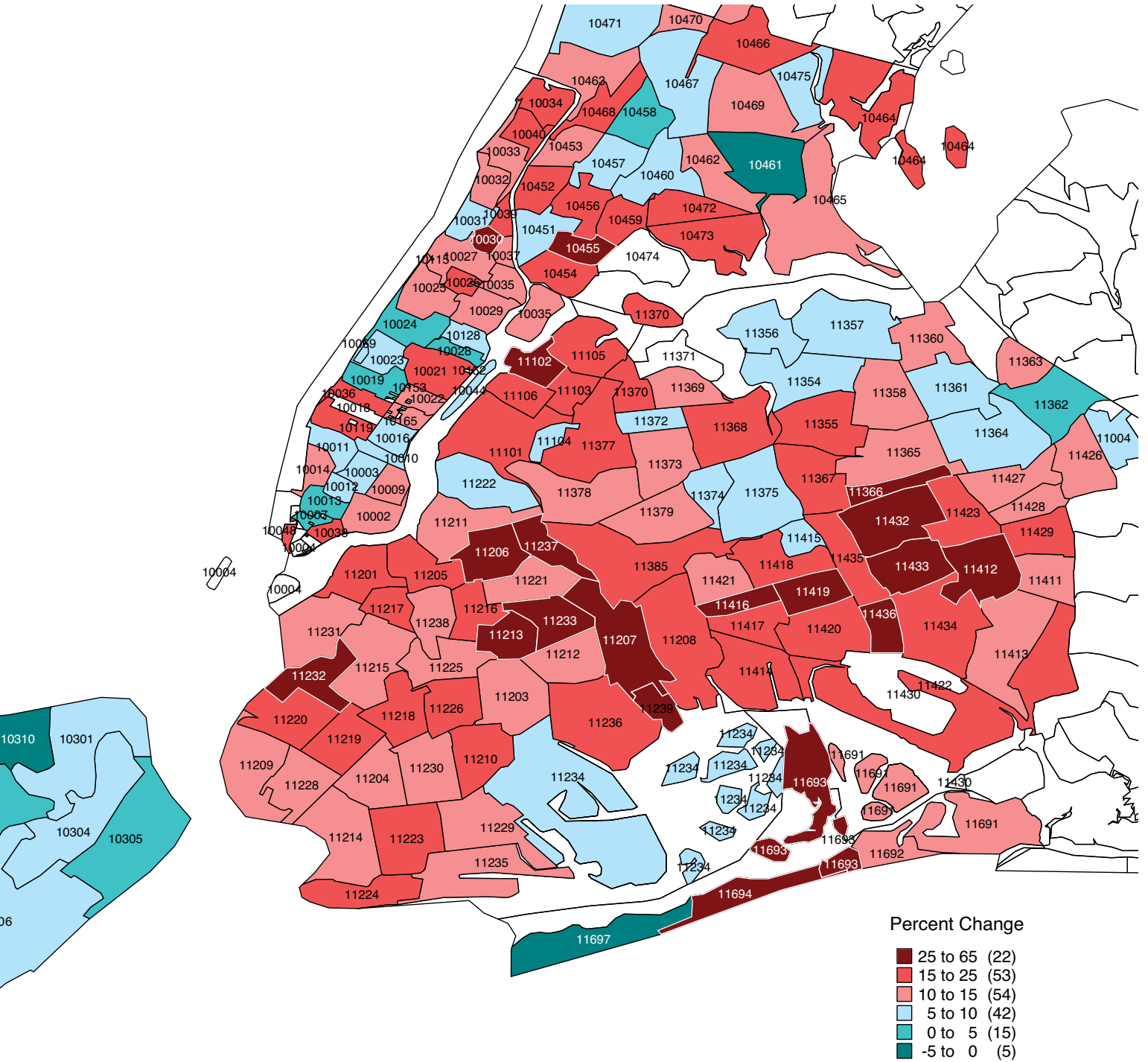
## Skyrocketing Prescription Rates

As the attached map shows, the prescription drug epidemic has not only failed to level off – it has worsened significantly. In 2011, nearly two million prescriptions were filled for oxycodone and hydrocodone, two of the most highly abused families of opioid painkillers. That is the equivalent of nearly one prescription for every fourth New York City resident. The number of oxycodone prescriptions filled by residents increased 124% between 2007 and 2011.





# Change in Oxycodone Prescriptions Filled by New York City Residents 2010–2011





A record-breaking 51 pounds of “crystal meth” was seized at a NJ truck stop. The massive load, which also contained five kilos of heroin, originated in Mexico.



## Upsurge in Methamphetamine: Shipments from Mexico

The DEA’s New York Field Division reports that seizures of methamphetamine – or “crystal meth” – have more than tripled over the past four years. An expensive drug, methamphetamine has long been popular in the New York City club scene, but use of the drug is beginning to become more widespread.

Much of the methamphetamine found in New York City is produced by the “super labs” in Mexico. The Mexican cartels use the same trafficking routes developed for transporting cocaine, heroin and marijuana, with narcotics smuggled across the border into states like California, Arizona and Texas, and then transported across the country. Smaller loads are often sent through the mail.

In August, SNP and the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force announced the indictment of a New York City-based drug kingpin and three fellow drug traffickers following the record-breaking seizure of 51 pounds of “crystal meth” and 11 pounds of heroin worth approximately \$6.5 million. This is the region’s largest seizure of methamphetamine in memory. Purity levels of both drugs tested at over 90 percent.

DEA agents seized the massive load at the Vince Lombardi Service Area off Interstate 95 (I-95) following a wiretap investigation. The load of drugs had crossed the border from Mexico into Texas and travelled across the country in a tractor trailer.



## Drugs and Gang Violence

Firearms are increasingly falling into the hands of young gang members, who make money through drug dealing, burglaries and robberies. Bloody turf battles have erupted in Upper Manhattan and Brooklyn over the past year, and innocent bystanders are often caught in the crossfire. Violence escalates when gang members post messages on social media about disputes and plans for revenge.

One significant investigation by SNP’s Narcotics Gang Unit, the NYPD and the Kings County District Attorney’s Office dismantled two warring gangs – the Hoodstarz and the Wave Gang – that terrorized residents of Brownsville, Brooklyn. Gang members were responsible for at least six murders and 32 shootings during an 18-month period. The long-term investigation culminated in the indictment of 43 gang members by the Kings County District Attorney’s Office. Assistant District Attorneys from SNP developed significant evidence that was used in securing the indictment.

The gang members, many in their late teens and early 20s, used coded language to communicate with one another through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. For example, “going to the beach” meant entering enemy turf.

Members of the Hoodstarz stored communal firearms and ammunition at several locations, including the family home of one of the Hoodstarz’s top lieutenants. Known as the “Trap,” the home became the main place where the Hoodstarz met to discuss business and to use marijuana and narcotics.

Investigative techniques developed during this investigation are used to tackle the gang problem across the city.



Gang members in Brownsville, Brooklyn were behind six murders and 32 shootings.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND COLLABORATION



*Narcotics Chiefs from the five District Attorneys' Offices discuss citywide law enforcement strategies with SNP staff.*



*Youth from the Law Enforcement Explorers Program visit SNP, where Assistant District Attorneys and NYPD detectives lead an interactive educational program about the criminal justice system.*

## SHARING EXPERTISE WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



*ADA Clark Abrams speaks at the Twenty-Ninth Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime in the United Kingdom in September.*



*The Drug Commissioner for the German Federal Government visits SNP to discuss drug trends and criminal procedures.*

## PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION



*Meggan Dodd, Counsel to SNP, receives the Thomas E. Dewey Medal from the New York City Bar Association.*



*ADA Ryan Sakacs and SNP investigators are honored at the Detective Investigators Association (DIA) awards breakfast for their work on a prescription drug case.*



*ADA Jodie Kane receives an award for Operation Blue Diamond, a successful investigation into trademark counterfeit Viagra trafficking spearheaded by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and SNP's Investigators Unit.*



## Neighborhood Initiatives



*Bridget Brennan and Bronx DA Robert Johnson participate in a ribbon cutting at I.S. 229, where PAL launched a Play Street and a Teen Impact Center in 2011.*

We are grateful for city funding that allowed us to dismantle entrenched drug networks and open Police Athletic League (PAL) Play Streets and Teen Impact Centers. The Special Narcotics Prosecutor, the Bronx District Attorney and PAL announced the opening of a PAL Play Street and Teen Impact Center at I.S. 229, Roland Patterson School in July and December of 2011. The programs provide a safe haven for youth in Morris Heights to participate in fun recreational activities.

Over the past two years, both SNP and the Bronx DA's office dismantled violent drug gangs that were operating in the immediate vicinity of I.S. 229. By supporting PAL, the prosecutors' offices join in a cooperative effort to maintain the gains achieved when drug organizations are removed from a community, and to improve relationships between young people and law enforcement. The school was the second location where SNP helped to establish PAL programs. A PAL Teen Impact Center and Play Street opened at Brooklyn's Albany Houses, a New York

City Housing Authority complex, in 2010 and 2011. With the generous support of the city, we will be able to continue these programs in the future.

In another community outreach program, the Special Narcotics Prosecutor collaborated with the Richmond County District Attorney to raise awareness about the dangers of prescription drug abuse at high schools on Staten Island. Former NBA star Chris Herren made special visits to Tottenville High School and Susan E. Wagner High School to share his harrowing, cautionary tale with students whose community is the epicenter of the prescription drug epidemic in New York City.

Herren described how he achieved his dream of playing for the Boston Celtics, only to descend into a severe oxycodone and heroin addiction that destroyed his professional basketball career. A series of near-fatal overdoses drove Herren, now 36, into drug treatment and he now works with young people as part of his continuing recovery. Herren's story is also the subject of a popular ESPN documentary, "Unguarded." Herren was willing to share his time with the Staten Island students because of the close working relationship between the Special Narcotics Prosecutor and Daytop Village, where Herren underwent drug treatment.



*Former NBA star Chris Herren visits Tottenville High School on Staten Island to speak about his battle to overcome an addiction to oxycodone and heroin.*

Staten Island Advance/ Anthony DePino

## Special Investigations Bureau

The Special Investigations Bureau, (SIB) targets major narcotics trafficking organizations importing and distributing multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine and heroin. The activities of the criminal enterprises extend beyond county, state, and international borders. In 2011, SIB prosecutors worked with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the New York City Police Department (NYPD), the New York State Police, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force and other local, state, federal and foreign law enforcement. The division launched 162 investigations targeting a wide range of criminal activity including drug trafficking, push-in robberies, weapons trafficking and money laundering. SIB also commenced civil actions to forfeit narcotics proceeds.

In 2011, senior staff supervised 79 original wiretap investigations. Narcotics investigations resulted in the seizure of 375 kilograms of cocaine (825 lbs.), 87 kilograms of heroin (191 lbs.), 23 kilograms of methamphetamine (51 lbs.), over 3,800 oxycodone pills, 3,000 ecstasy pills, three pounds of marijuana and various other drugs.

## Prescription Drug Investigation Unit

Alarming rates of prescription drug abuse and related crime led SNP to form the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit. Created in 2011, the unit 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, 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 Narcotics Enforcement, the NYPD and the DEA, among other law enforcement agencies.

*The new Prescription Drug Investigation Unit has been inundated with referrals.*

## Narcotics Gang Unit

The Narcotics Gang Unit was established in 2002. It concentrates on violent neighborhood groups, robbery crews, and weapons traffickers committing drug-related criminal activity across the city. The unit works closely with detectives from the NYPD's Narcotics Division and members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force's REDRUM Unit. In 2011, the unit conducted a major investigation that examined the use of social media by two violent warring gangs. The unit also prosecuted armed robbery, kidnapping, burglary, weapons possession, illegal firearms sales, and narcotics trafficking.

## 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 and use of the financial system, and local drug organizations from benefiting from illicit profits.

## Forfeiture Investigations

Established 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—in identifying criminal assets to deprive narcotics traffickers and money-laundering groups of the profits of criminality. The unit has in place a comprehensive set of systems to track office participation in investigations resulting in forfeiture actions. In 2011, 297 federal forfeiture actions were entered and 267 were completed. At the state level, 429 actions were initiated and 419 were completed.

Wiretap Activity	
Orders	155
Originals	106
Extensions	41
Amendments	8
Cellphones	149
Emails	6

Investigation Activity	
	Investigations Opened
Investigation Division	173
Trial Division	144
	<b>317</b>

## Case Highlights

### Doctor Arrested for Selling Prescriptions to Overdose Victim

A physician was arrested for illegally selling prescriptions for controlled substances from a pain management clinic he operated in Flushing, Queens. Following a year-long investigation, Dr. Stan Xuhui Li was indicted on 15 counts of Criminal Sale of a Prescription for a Controlled Substance and 5 counts of Reckless Endangerment in the 2nd degree in November. The charges stem from the illegal sale of



*Patients would line up outside Medical Pain Management in Flushing, Queens before office hours began.*

prescriptions to Michael Cornetta, a Queens resident who received dozens of prescriptions for multiple controlled substances from the physician between May 2009 and August 2010. Cornetta overdosed at least twice during this time period and ultimately died of an overdose in November 2010 at the age of 40.

In addition to the Cornetta case, SNP is investigating Li's sale of prescriptions to other patients, including at least a dozen individuals who suffered fatal drug overdoses since January 2009. Li saw approximately 90 patients each day at the Flushing clinic, Medical Pain Management, which was open on Saturdays and the occasional Sunday. During the week, Li worked full-time as an anesthesiologist at a hospital in New Jersey. Immediately following his arrest, the New Jersey hospital suspended his clinical privileges. Subsequently, the New York State Health Department's Board of Professional Medical Conduct filed disciplinary charges against Li and suspended his license to practice medicine in New York pending a hearing.

### Pills, Cocaine and Weapons Seized from Staten Island Home

A drug trafficker who maintained a heavily-fortified stash house on Staten Island was arrested on drug and weapons charges in March. Brando Franco was apprehended after federal agents with ICE Newark observed him conduct a drug sale with his girlfriend and another man in Sayreville, N.J. Franco was under surveillance at the time. Agents searched a white Lexus belonging to Franco's girlfriend and found a 40 caliber



*A Staten Island drug trafficker sold pills from his home, which he protected with weapons and a sophisticated security system.*

pistol. Franco subsequently consented to a search of his house in the Pleasant Plains section of Staten Island, where agents found two additional guns – an AR-15 rifle and a 9mm pistol – as well as body armor, ski masks and sophisticated surveillance equipment. Approximately 3,000 oxycodone pills, 30 grams of cocaine, and quantities of alprazolam (the generic name for Xanax) and anabolic steroids were also stashed in the home. A framed poster of Al Pacino’s “Scarface” hung prominently on the wall.

### **International Drug Pipeline Cut: Dozens of Kilos and 22 Guns**

A six-month wiretap investigation into a violent narcotics trafficking organization led DEA agents to seize 22 kilos of heroin (48.4 lbs.) in New York City, and 32 kilos of cocaine (74.8 lbs.) and a large arsenal of weapons from a suspect’s home in Texas. Intercepted phone calls revealed that drug kingpin Naldy Rodriguez, who headed the New York arm of the organization, travelled to Mexico to arrange for narcotics to be purchased and smuggled across the border to Texas. Agents seized a 32-kilo load of cocaine in Texas as it was being transported to New York for distribution in January

2011. Three months later, the DEA New York Field Division arrested Rodriguez and conducted court authorized searches of his home and stash houses in Yonkers and the Bronx. Agents seized 22 kilos of heroin, two guns and \$100,000 cash, as well as expensive jewelry, a Bentley automobile and several other luxury vehicles.

During the probe, dubbed Operation Hard Promises, Rodriguez’s supplier was identified as a Gulf cartel associate operating out of Houston, Texas. Agents in Texas executed court authorized searches in one related residence and recovered an arsenal of 20 tactical military-grade guns, as well as thousands of rounds of ammunition and high-capacity magazines. A total of six defendants were indicted in New York. Rodriguez is charged with Operating as a Major Drug Trafficker.



*A car transporting 32 kilos of cocaine to New York was stopped in Texas.*

### **Money Launderer Operated from Westchester Restaurant**

A money launderer who carried out his criminal activity from a Westchester restaurant was arrested following a long-term investigation. Members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF) stopped Jose Narvaez in Queens in May after he purchased money orders and shipped them via FedEx. A court authorized search of Narvaez’s New Rochelle restaurant, Il Mulino, yielded over \$150,000, along with money laundering ledgers, bank records, money order receipts, phones, and computers. Agents determined the restaurant was not in operation.

Members of the NYDETF had previously identified Narvaez as a participant in an undercover money laundering operation and observed him making structured cash deposits at banks. Financial records analyzed by the NYDETF, the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division and SNP confirmed that drug proceeds were being laundered through the Black Market Peso Exchange. Narvaez received a one-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to money laundering and violation of the New York State Banking Law (unlicensed money transmitting). Seizure warrants executed on bank accounts have resulted in the forfeiture of an additional \$400,000. This investigation is ongoing.

## Drug Proceeds Laundered through Black Market Peso Exchange

“Operation Triple Play” focuses on individuals and businesses that use the Black Market Peso Exchange to launder narcotics proceeds, including high level money brokers in Colombia, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, New York, and elsewhere in the U.S. Led by the El Dorado Task Force, the investigation has spawned related cases in other jurisdictions, and resulted in over 40 arrests and the seizure of over \$16 million in drug proceeds, as well as heroin, cocaine, and guns.

In April 2010, Edgar Guerrero was stopped in a livery cab as he headed into Manhattan from the Bronx to deliver over \$500,000. Investigators identified a stash house used by Guerrero and another individual, Julio Conde, and recovered an additional \$2.6 million from the apartment during the execution of a search warrant. They also seized a money counting machine, a digital scale, and extensive narcotics and money laundering records that reflected the recent sale of approximately 140 kilos of cocaine (308 lbs.) and the laundering of over \$1 million.

Guerrero and Conde were charged with drug trafficking and money laundering in a 37 count indictment. They were arrested in

Puerto Rico and extradited to New York. In late 2011, Guerrero pleaded guilty and was sentenced to concurrent prison terms of 9 years and 4½ to 9 years. Conde subsequently pleaded guilty and received concurrent prison terms of 3 years and 2 to 6 years.

## Massive “Crystal Meth” Seizure: Manufactured in Mexico

Two drug kingpins were indicted following the record-breaking seizure of 51 pounds of



*A suitcase packed with 41 pounds of “crystal meth” was transported from Texas in a tractor trailer.*

methamphetamine and 5 kilos (11 lbs.) of heroin worth approximately \$6.5 million. The massive load of drugs was intercepted by the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force at New Jersey’s Vince Lombardi Service Area off Interstate 95 (I-95) in July. The seizure of methamphetamine, “crystal meth,” was the region’s largest in recent years. Worth approximately \$4.8 million, it was five times the size of the total amount of methamphetamine seized by the DEA’s New York Field Division in all of 2010.

The drug shipment originated in Mexico and was transported through Texas to New Jersey by tractor trailer. A total of four drug traffickers were arrested at the Service Area, including two charged under New York’s Operating as a Major Trafficker statute. Jose Mauro Mota, a major distributor for the eastern seaboard, was overseeing transfer of the shipment from the truck to another vehicle when the investigators swooped in.

Deivis Rafael Ceballos, a resident of Spring, Tex. who was in charge of making the transportation arrangements for the load, was arrested as he moved a suitcase containing 41 pounds of methamphetamine from the tractor trailer to a car.

### **\$1 Million Cocaine Shipment to Kingpin at Times Square Hotel**

A 10-month wiretap investigation culminated in the seizure of a \$1 million cocaine shipment and the indictment of 10 narcotics traffickers, including a major Puerto Rican drug kingpin. Ricardo Gonzalez-Santiago was arrested moments after he picked up two suitcases stuffed with 36 kilos (79 lbs.) of cocaine at the Paramount Hotel on West 46th Street, in the heart of Times Square. Unbeknownst to Gonzalez-Santiago, members of the NYPD's Vice Squad and the DEA-led New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force had placed him under surveillance earlier that day when he arrived in New York from Puerto Rico. Gonzalez-Santiago was charged with Operating as a Major Drug Trafficker. The investigation began with street-level sales of ketamine, ecstasy and oxycodone at Manhattan nightclubs, such as Webster Hall and Pacha NYC.

### **Teacher's Aide Arrested for Pill Sale on Craigslist**

A New York City teacher's aide was arrested for selling Adderall pills on Craigslist in December. An undercover officer responded to a coded advertisement for Adderall that Mariel Javier had posted on the Craigslist site. Javier set up a meeting with the undercover at 96th Street and 2nd Avenue via text messages. The undercover entered Javier's vehicle and bought three tablets of Adderall for \$60. At that point, Javier was placed under arrest. A search of the car yielded an additional 16 Adderall pills. Javier was charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance and Criminal Diversion of Prescription Medications.

### **1,000 Oxycodone Pills Mailed from the Dominican Republic**

DEA agents seized 1,000 oxycodone pills and arrested two men during a wiretap investigation. Prior to the arrests, intercepted phone calls revealed that a suspect was brokering a deal between a drug supplier and a customer. The customer was prepared to start ordering up to 3,000 pills per day at a price of approximately \$6.50 per pill. The oxycodone is believed to have been sent from the Dominican Republic to New York via the mail. Agents seized the 1,000 pills and \$6,300 cash when the broker and one of the supplier's workers met to conduct a drug transaction on Jerome Avenue in the Bronx. Both men were arrested.

### **Dentist Stole and Forged Pain Medication Prescriptions**

A Brooklyn dentist was arrested for stealing more than 150 prescription sheets from his employer and forging the prescriptions to obtain controlled substances. Andrew Hechtman used the prescriptions to obtain Vicodin, Percocet and other medications over a two-year period from November 2009 to November 2011. The prescriptions were filled at multiple pharmacies. Hechtman's scheme unraveled when his insurance company grew suspicious and contacted the dentist's employer, whose name appeared on the forgeries. The employer fired Hechtman and reported him to authorities. Hechtman is currently charged in connection with four instances of forgery and illegally obtaining prescription drugs. The investigation is ongoing.

### **Inwood Heroin Mill Dismantled: Two Guns Seized**

Over three kilos of heroin (6.6 lbs.) and two guns were seized from a heroin mill at 5025 Broadway in the Inwood section of Manhattan following a long-term investigation. Six mill workers were busily packaging heroin into glassine envelopes in an apartment when members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force arrived to conduct



*A wiretap investigation revealed drug traffickers in the Dominican Republic shipped oxycodone pills by mail.*



*Prescription sheets are a form of currency for drug trafficking groups.*





Stamps were used to market the heroin under different brand names.



Mill workers upended a table covered with heroin as DEA agents arrived to arrest them.

the search. The startled workers upended the table – sending loose heroin power flying across the living room – and attempted to flee. They made it only as far as the bathroom, where the agents apprehended all six. Police also recovered heroin from the kitchen table and cabinets. Additional heroin and a handgun were recovered from a “trap” in a dresser in the bedroom, while a second gun was found in a hallway closet. The heroin was stamped with various brand names, including “Bat,” “Call Me” and “Speed.”

## Brooklyn Woman Arrested for Forged Prescriptions

A Brooklyn woman was arrested in connection with two forged prescriptions. Theresa Giovannucci raised a pharmacist’s suspicions when she presented an error-riddled prescription sheet for 180 tablets of 30 mg-strength oxycodone at a Bay Ridge pharmacy. A call to the Staten Island doctor listed on the prescription revealed that the office had not issued the prescription. The pharmacist refused to dispense the medication and reported Giovannucci to authorities. Detectives with the NYPD’s Narcotics Borough Brooklyn South soon learned that Giovannucci had successfully filled a prescription for the same medication at the same pharmacy a few months earlier. That prescription, also a forgery, purportedly came from a Brooklyn doctor’s office. Detectives arrested Giovannucci outside her home in Coney Island for possessing a forged instrument and a controlled substance.

## Correction Officer Promised Inmate Freedom for Drugs

A Corrections Officer with the New York City Department of Corrections and an accomplice were arrested on charges of bribe receiving and drug possession. Robert Whitfield, a veteran officer assigned to Rikers Island, was taken into custody in April following a long-term investigation. Authorities learned that Whitfield had attempted to solicit a bribe from an inmate at Rikers Island, promising he could secure the inmate’s early release in exchange for cash or drugs. A DEA agent posed as the inmate’s intermediary and made plans to deliver 3 kilos (6 ½ lbs.) of cocaine to Whitfield. The Corrections Officer sent a representative to pick up the drugs. As soon as the cocaine changed hands, investigators from the DEA Strike Force and Department of Investigation arrested both the representative and Whitfield, who was in his vehicle two blocks away.

## Over \$5 Million in Heroin Seized: Bronx Mill Dismantled

Two men were arrested for their roles in one of the largest heroin trafficking operations in the metropolitan area following a long-term investigation. New York State Police investigators seized approximately 18 ½ kilos of heroin (40 lbs.) with a street value of more than \$5 million in the Gun Hill section of the Bronx. Francisco Ramirez and Andy Moscat were arrested and indicted in February after investigators observed them pick up a large duffle bag loaded with heroin from 2526 Bronx Park East. Searches of a heroin mill inside the building and the pair’s residences yielded a loaded 9mm Beretta handgun, approximately \$38,000 and drug packaging equipment.



40 pounds of heroin seized along with a gun and masks worn by drug workers.



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 a Deputy Chief who supervise assistants and provide legal advice as they draw up court orders, including search and arrest warrants on a 24-hour basis. In 2011, several Trial Division assistants were designated to handle cases for the newly formed Prescription Drug Investigation Unit.

Assistants 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 New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement and the SNP Investigators Unit. In 2010, the Division launched 317 new investigations. A total of 1,925 complaints were referred to the office for prosecution during the year; 1,292 defendants were indicted. Search warrants drafted numbered 1,043.

## Case Highlights

### Park Slope Heroin Dealers Targeted in Operation Sin City



*The head of a heroin trafficking ring in Park Slope made drug deliveries on a red three-wheeled motorcycle.*

Four loosely-linked drug trafficking rings that operated in Park Slope, Brooklyn were dismantled following a year-long investigation by the NYPD's Narcotics Borough Brooklyn South Major Case Team and the DEA. The probe involved the sale of over \$70,000 in narcotics to undercover officers and resulted in a dozen arrests. Many sales took place in broad daylight on tony brownstone-lined streets.

The main target of the investigation, Edwin Perez, sold heroin from a bright red,

three-wheeled Can-Am Spyder motorcycle, which he used to navigate traffic in the leafy neighborhood. Perez frequently sold heroin from a location he referred to as "the office," near Prospect Park. In one brazen sale at "the office," Perez pulled alongside an undercover officer's car and handed a Sephora bag packed with 2,000 glassines of heroin through the window. Perez received \$10,000 cash in exchange. At the time of Perez's arrest in April, police seized approximately 1,400 glassines of heroin from a compartment in his motorcycle, as well as a helmet emblazoned with the name "Sin City," which is one of the brands of heroin sold during the investigation. Perez's home on 19th Street was fortified and equipped with a sophisticated security system.

### Upper West Side: Cocaine, Ecstasy, Oxycodone and Guns

A court authorized search of an apartment on West 87th Street in Manhattan led to the seizure of over four kilos of cocaine (8.8 lbs.), 879 ecstasy pills, and a quantity of oxycodone pills in February. Three loaded semi-automatic handguns were also recovered in the search by the DEA's New York Drug Enforcement Task Force. Agents conducted the search after they encountered Edwin Diaz leaving the apartment, which had been identified as a possible drug stash house. Diaz was carrying a small amount of cocaine, ecstasy and oxycodone at the time. The stash apartment was located on the same block as a high school and a home for the elderly.



### Two Rival Drug Crews Targeted in East New York: 28 Arrested

A long-term investigation in East New York, Brooklyn led to the arrests of



*Narcotics and weapons were seized from an apartment on West 87th Street.*

28 drug traffickers, including members of two rival crews that peddled crack cocaine and marijuana. Undercover detectives with the NYPD's Narcotics Borough Brooklyn North purchased drugs from the two groups on approximately 200 occasions. The investigation targeted drug trafficking in a neighborhood that has been plagued by violence, including a string of brazen shootings that may have stemmed from the dispute between the two rival crews. Drug traffickers conducted their illicit business inside a neighborhood Chinese restaurant, a barber shop and a bodega, among other locations.



*Police seized business cards from two men who ran a drug delivery service. The pair stuck cards inside copies of The Village Voice, and circulated them in a high-rise building in Tribeca, among other locations.*

## Manhattan Drug Delivery Service: Business Cards in Newspaper

Two men who operated a drug delivery service that supplied cocaine and marijuana to over 200 customers throughout Manhattan were arrested in January. A three-month investigation by the NYPD's Manhattan South Narcotics Division revealed that the pair had brazenly advertised their 24-hour service with two business cards, which were widely distributed in the East Village, the Lower East Side and Tribeca. One card bore the "Coca Cola" logo and a phone number, while the other card depicted a livery car and words "Purple Rain...Up in Smoke" with a second phone number. The delivery service catered to students and the bar/lounge crowd in the East Village and Lower East Side. It came under investigation when a man who is known to law enforcement found the two business cards paper-clipped inside a copy of The Village Voice newspaper, which he had picked up from a stack of papers in a distribution box near a New York University dormitory at East 10th Street and 3rd Avenue. Undercover officers bought cocaine and marijuana from the two men on 12 occasions.

## Prescription Drugs Sold from Car in Murray Hill

A prescription drug trafficker who set up shop at the corner of 2nd Avenue and 41st Street in the Murray Hill section of

Manhattan was arrested after he sold oxycodone pills to an undercover officer and another customer. The NYPD became aware of Alexander Mesh after neighbors complained about drug activity in a white Toyota parked near the busy intersection. Detectives conducted surveillance and observed a drug customer enter the car and exit a short time later. The detectives stopped the customer and retrieved five oxycodone pills. Subsequently, an undercover officer posing as another customer approached Mesh's car, climbed inside and purchased six oxycodone pills. Mesh, a resident of Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, was immediately placed under arrest. A search yielded approximately 440 oxycodone pills and 134 Xanax pills stashed inside the center console of the car. Mesh also had a zip of marijuana hidden in a Pringles can and \$1,200 cash in his possession. An indictment charges Mesh with multiple counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance.

## South Williamsburg Heroin Supply Disrupted



A heroin ring that supplied dealers in South Williamsburg, Brooklyn, was

*A heroin mill in Queens supplied drug users in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.*

put out of business in August. An NYPD investigation revealed that the vast majority of heroin sold in South Williamsburg came from a single heroin mill in Glendale, Queens. NYPD officers conducted a court authorized search of the apartment that housed the mill and seized over a kilo of

heroin, as well as all of the equipment necessary to process the drug and package it for distribution. At the time of the early morning search, police arrested a total of five mill workers, three of whom were sleeping on the living room floor. Work stations had been set up around the room and the workers had filled approximately 25,000 glassine envelopes with heroin before going to sleep. Another half-kilo of heroin was still in the loose powder form, waiting to be packaged. The glassines were stamped with the brand “NOS” – the name of an engine booster used in drag racing. Also seized were an inoperable 9mm semi-automatic firearm and nearly \$6,000 cash.

### Red Hook Heroin Mill Dismantled



*Various brand names were stamped on envelopes of heroin.*



A heroin trafficker who operated a drug packaging mill in an up-and-coming section of Red Hook, Brooklyn was arrested in October.

The Van Brunt Street garage that housed Hector Lorenzo’s heroin business sat amidst cafés, boutiques and trendy bars that had recently moved to the area. During a court authorized search of Lorenzo’s mill, police seized approximately \$50,000 in heroin, as well as drug processing equipment, 25 Xanax pills and quantities of marijuana.

### Two Bronx Heroin Mills Shut-tered: \$400,000 in Drugs Seized

A pair of heroin mills was dismantled in the tree-lined Pelham Parkway section of the Bronx in December following a two-month investigation by the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force. Six drug traffickers were arrested and approximately 39,000 glassine envelopes of heroin worth nearly \$400,000 were seized. The glassines were stamped with the brand name “BlackBerry” alongside a

picture of a phone. During the investigation, DEA agents and NYPD detectives observed members of the ring carrying blankets between the locations in an effort to conceal packages of drugs that were wrapped inside.



*Police watched as members of a drug crew purchase blankets that were later used to conceal bundles of heroin.*



### 10 lbs. of Marijuana Seized from Celebrity Photographer

A celebrity photographer was arrested after fire marshals stumbled across a 10-pound stash of marijuana in her kitchen while investigating a fire in her SoHo apartment building. Jennifer Tzar was charged with Criminal Possession of Marijuana in the 1st degree. A fire marshal smelled a strong odor of marijuana when he entered the apartment and found two open laundry bags stuffed with large plastic bags of marijuana in the kitchen and bedroom. A jar of marijuana was also sitting on a table in her bedroom and \$8,835 cash was lying on the bed. Police executed a court authorized search warrant and seized the marijuana, the cash, paraphernalia and a drug ledger.

Workload	
Arrests	1925
Indictment	1292
Trials	43
Felony Dispositions	
Convicted	1230
Acquitted	11
Dismissed	113
Treatment Dismissals	95
Felony Sentences	
State Prison	645
City Jail	252
Probation	175
City Jail & Probation	72
Seizures	
Cocaine	1318 Pounds
Heroin	221 Pounds
Methamphetamine	62 Pounds
Oxycodone	9315 Pounds
Ecstasy	3000 Pounds
Weapons Seized	75

## Housing Cases



*Ten drug traffickers arrested at Brooklyn's Lafayette Gardens*

### Chelsea Gangs Sold Heroin, Cocaine, Oxycodone and Guns

The NYPD's Manhattan South Narcotics Division conducted a major operation in the Chelsea Houses following community complaints of gang-related violence and drug activity in the New York City Housing Authority complex. In August, police arrested five members of a drug ring for peddling two guns and nearly \$11,400 in heroin, cocaine, crack and oxycodone pills to undercover officers. The main defendant, Epifanio Santiago, brought his infant daughter along on the largest sale in the case, and stashed the drugs inside the baby's stroller and diaper bag. Santiago sold over 200 glassines of heroin and 2 ounces of highly-pure cocaine for \$4,000 in that exchange. Over the past year, an NYPD initiative resulted in the arrests of over 30 drug traffickers in the vicinity of the Chelsea Houses, including a dozen members of the Bloods and Crips gangs. A total of three handguns and a shotgun were recovered.

### Ten Drug Traffickers Arrested at Brooklyn's Lafayette Gardens

Ten drug traffickers were arrested for selling crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana to undercover officers on nearly 20 occasions in the Lafayette Gardens, a New York City Housing Authority complex, and the surrounding area of Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. Drug sales took place in public hallways, lobbies and stairwells of residential buildings, as well as outdoor courtyards. In launching the investigation, dubbed "Operation Cash Gardens," the NYPD responded to community complaints about drug traffickers intimidating residents, and the presence of narcotics and weapons inside the buildings. The neighborhood was plagued with shootings and a rash of burglaries and robberies.



## Alternative Sentencing Division

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 20 years 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 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.

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 court-sponsored diversion programs. 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.



*Alternative Sentencing Division staff evaluate and monitor candidates for drug treatment.*





*The doctor who operated this pain management clinic in Flushing, Queens was arrested for illegally selling prescriptions.*

The Special Narcotics Investigators Unit works with Assistant District Attorneys and federal and state law enforcement agencies in combating drug activity throughout the five boroughs of New York City. During 2011, the unit opened 26 new investigations, which resulted in the arrests of 151 offenders. Of that total, 71 were charged with top felony counts and 20 were charged with violations of money laundering laws. Additionally, the unit and its DEA and NYPD partners were involved in 18 investigations that yielded cash seizures totaling millions of dollars in narcotics trafficking proceeds.

Created in 1992, the unit fulfills two primary areas of responsibility: investigations and enforcement support. The majority of the investigators are law enforcement veterans from the NYPD's Narcotics Division and the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force. They develop their own cases or work jointly with law enforcement agencies in large-scale narcotics and money laundering investigations. With the emergence of narcotics trafficking over the Internet, select investigators have specialized in this area.

Staffed with the most experienced narcotics investigators in the city, the unit plays a vital role in partnering with other law enforcement agencies. The SNP investigators bring an unmatched level of expertise, along with cutting-edge investigative techniques and technology, to their cases.

A Chief Investigator oversees activities of the investigators, and monitors all investigation-related expenditures.

## Prescription Drug Investigations

SNP's investigators work closely with the office's newly formed Prescription Drug Investigation Unit, investigators from the New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, the DEA and other law enforcement agencies to combat the pharmaceutical drug epidemic that the city currently faces. The investigators' skills and dogged persistence enabled the office to indict Dr. Stan Xuhui Li, a physician who operated a pain management clinic in Flushing, Queens and is charged with illegally selling prescriptions. At least a dozen of his current and former patients suffered fatal overdoses. One of these former patients is the subject of charges in the indictment.

The investigation, which is ongoing, revealed that Dr. Li ran his clinic like a "pill mill." An average of 90 patients visited there each day, and more than 17,000 prescriptions – 65% of which were for oxycodone and other opiate drugs – were written over a two-and-a-half-year period. These prescribing practices directly resulted in black market pill sales.

A case of this nature is extraordinarily difficult to put together, given patient confidentiality and other sensitive issues surrounding health care. Investigators devoted hundreds of man-hours to reviewing

voluminous prescription records and interviewing dozens of witnesses, including patients and their family members. In order to identify patients who had fatally overdosed, investigators travelled to Medical Examiners' Offices throughout the region and painstakingly compared autopsy records to the prescription histories of Dr. Li's patients.

## Collaborating with Law Enforcement Partners

During the course of this investigation, SNP investigators and Assistant District Attorneys developed information that was instrumental in identifying the perpetrator of a horrific quadruple homicide in Suffolk County – a Father's Day pharmacy massacre in Medford, Long Island. SNP provided assistance to the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office and the Suffolk County Police Department, who arrested David Laffer for killing four innocent people while robbing the pharmacy at gunpoint.

## Heroin Mill Workers Commuted from NYC to Fort Lee, NJ

A heroin mill that SNP investigators discovered on a quiet suburban street in Fort Lee, NJ fit a continuing pattern of drug traffickers attempting to avoid law enforcement scrutiny by setting up shop in unlikely locations. Over \$1.5 million in heroin was seized and 10 drug traffickers were arrested at a heroin mill in Fort Lee, N.J. A two-month investigation revealed that drug workers were transported across the George Washington Bridge from Washington Heights in Manhattan to the mill in a newly constructed two-family house on the leafy street. The workers spent their shifts cutting the heroin and packaging it into glassine envelopes in a room off the garage.

A man and his girlfriend who controlled the packaging mill were among those arrested in February. Their preschool-aged daughter was in the house at the time agents arrived to conduct the court authorized search. The



mother had been stamping brand names onto glassine bags at the kitchen table, while the child sat next to her eating breakfast and watching cartoons. A court authorized search yielded 2.5 kilos (over 6 lbs.) of unprocessed heroin and more than 100,000 user-ready glassine envelopes, as well as \$50,000 in cash. The glassines bore names like "Roger Dat" and "True Love." The case was referred to the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office.



*Top: A two-family home on a quiet residential street in New Jersey served as a heroin mill.*



*Heroin mill workers on West 164th Street wait for their ride to Fort Lee, N.J.*

*Bottom: Glassine envelopes were stamped with a variety of brand names for marketing heroin.*



*A young child ate her breakfast and watched cartoons while her mother stamped brand names onto glassine envelopes.*

## 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 in the prosecution of felony narcotic and related crimes.

In 2011, the Legal Training Unit offered a professional development series and numerous workshops and lectures throughout the year to both experienced and new Assistant District Attorneys. Presentations included: *Social Media and Investigations*, *Prescription Drug Abuse*, *Use of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN) for Investigations*, *Trial Technology*, *Geographic Cell phone Tracking*, and *Recent Developments in Search and Seizure Law*.

In the Spring, an all day CLE conference for legal staff “*Putting Power Behind Your Words*” was held featuring presentations by notable

expert trial attorneys on “*Enhancing Advocacy through Technology*” and “*Use of Technology During Trial*” and an expert writing instructor on “*Effective Writing Techniques*.”

The training curriculum complies with the regulations and guidelines of the New York State Mandatory Continuing Legal Education program and all courses are open to prosecutors from the city’s District Attorneys’ Offices and other offices in the state. The office has been an accredited provider of the State’s Continuing Legal Education Program 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. During the year, senior staff lectured on narcotics investigations and prosecutions at the New York State District Attorney’s Association Summer College, the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), New York Police Department’s Organized Crime Control Division and Narcotics Division, and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA).



ADA Catherine Christian conducts a training program with members of the NYPD’s Organized Crime Control Bureau.



## NYPD SPECIAL NARCOTICS TEAM

The New York City Police Department has assigned a team of detectives to the office from the Narcotics Division's Organized Crime Control Bureau since 1972. The Special Projects Unit, as it is known, is under the command of a senior lieutenant who serves as a liaison between both agencies. Within SNP, the team's detectives are assigned to either the Search Warrant Unit or the Technical Unit.

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

Beginning in 2009, the unit assumed the responsibility of tracking all seized illegal narcotics and marijuana shipped to New York City via the United States Postal Service and common carrier services such as UPS and FedEx. In 2011, the NYPD seized 59 packages originating in nine states and four different countries, including the United States, Canada, Trinidad and Ecuador. Of the domestic packages, 16 originated in both New York and Arizona, and 13 originated in California. A total of 650 pounds of

marijuana, 5½ pounds of cocaine and 3 pounds of heroin were seized, as well as quantities of hash, ecstasy, oxycodone, Xanax, phentermine and Vicodin. The tracking of this information is used for prosecutions and to assist common carriers in the prevention of the shipment of contraband.

## 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 warrants procedures. In 2011, the unit processed 1,047 search warrants.

## TECHNICAL UNIT

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



*The NYPD Special Narcotics Team prepares search warrants for locations throughout the city's five boroughs.*



# 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.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Public Information Unit disseminates information about the office and 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 the results of joint enforcement efforts.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Director of Community Outreach 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.

*Human Resource professionals administer payroll and benefits for agency staff.*



## PERSONNEL

The Personnel Unit oversees and implements procedures related to the assignment or transfer of Assistant District Attorneys from the office 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.



*The Director of Community Outreach meets with neighborhood groups, religious organizations and the NYPD.*

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (IT)

Information Technologies 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



*IT staff provide records management and litigation support services.*

processes. IT also provides a variety of case-related services, including:

**Case Information:** captures and tracks data pertaining to all cases prosecuted by the office, from arrest to disposition. The section 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.

**Litigation Support:** provides pre-trial and in-court technology support, including exhibit preparation and presentation.

**Analyst Services:** prepares and processes subpoenas, analyzes phone records and provides background searches using public records and law enforcement specific databases.

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

## **TRIAL PREPARATION ASSISTANTS (TPAS)**

Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAs) are assigned to the Investigations Division, the Trial Division, Part N, and the Alternative Sentencing Division. Trial Division and Investigation Division TPAs track cases, maintain case records, gather reports and legal papers required by Assistant District Attorneys, handle arrangements when prisoners have 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.

## **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 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.



*The operation unit keeps the office running smoothly.*



# The People of SNP

## Conference 2011



## Around the Office 2011



## Holiday 2011



## Softball 2011



# Executive & Legal Staff

**Bridget G. Brennan**  
Special Narcotics Prosecutor

**Steven M. Goldstein**  
Chief Assistant District Attorney

**Kristine Hamann**  
Executive Assistant District  
Attorney

**Joseph J. Tesoriero**  
Executive Assistant District Attorney,  
Chief of Investigations

**Lisa DePasquale**  
Chief of the Trial Division,  
Bureau Chief, 40/50

**Thomas G. Van Noy**  
Deputy Administrative Assistant  
District Attorney

**Peter M. Kougasian**  
Special Assistant

**Catherine A. Christian**  
Counsel for the Trial Division,  
Chief of Alternative Sentencing

**Meggan K. Dodd**  
Counsel to the Special Narcotics  
Prosecutor

**Rhonda Ferdinand**  
Special ADA for Drug Prevention  
and Policy

**David Lauscher**  
Bureau Chief, 30/60

**Jodie E. Kane**  
Co-Chief, Special Investigations Bureau

**Clark S. Abrams**  
Money Laundering and  
Financial Crimes Coordinator

**Nicholas Mauro**  
Deputy Bureau Chief, 30/60

**Susan Krischel**  
Co-Chief, Special Investigations Bureau

**Marcel J. Philippe**  
Chief, Forfeiture Unit

**Paul H. Harvey**  
Deputy Bureau Chief, 40/50

**Nigel I. Farinha**  
Co-Chief, Narcotics Gang Unit

**Lisa M. Tompkins**  
Counsel to SIB

**Steven R. Miller**  
Deputy Bureau Chief, 40/50

**Susan N. Lanzatella**  
Co-Chief, Narcotics Gang Unit

**Leon Schwartzman**  
Chief Investigator

**Kati Cornell**  
Public Information Director

**Ryan Sakacs**  
Chief, Prescription Drug  
Investigation Unit

## NEW YORK COUNTY

Clark S. Abrams  
Mark E. Bini  
Erin Brzeski  
Thomas Burke  
Wesley Cheng  
Catherine A. Christian  
Michael K. Clarke  
Emily Cohen  
Daniel Davis  
Lisa DePasquale  
Meggan K. Dodd  
Kathleen V. Doyle  
Christopher C. Edel  
Nigel I. Farinha  
Rhonda Ferdinand  
Charlotte Fishman  
Philip Gary  
Evan Glaberson  
Oren Gleich  
Steven M. Goldstein

## Assistant District Attorneys

Daniel Haier  
Kristine Hamann  
Brigid Harrington  
Nowles Heinrich  
Joseph T. Ippolito  
Jodie E. Kane  
Alona Katz  
Bradley King  
Eli Koppel  
Peter M. Kougasian  
Eryck Kratville  
Susan Krischel  
Christopher LaForgia  
Susan N. Lanzatella  
David Lauscher  
Jeffrey Linehan  
Michael Lui  
Nicholas J. Mauro  
Atalanta Mihos  
Stephanie Minogue

Matthew Murphy  
Terence J. O'Leary  
Bernice Ordonez  
Alexander Owen  
Marcel J. Philippe  
Kaitrin Roberts  
Jannine Rowser  
Kofi Sansculotte  
Patrick Scruggs  
Bryan Serino  
Elizabeth Sheetz  
Jonathan Shih  
Daniel Shin  
Kathryn Spota  
H. Adeniyi Taiwo  
Sandra Talbott  
Joseph J. Tesoriero  
Thomas G. Van Noy  
Justin K. Wechsler

## BRONX COUNTY

James Hanley  
William Novak  
Lisa M. Tompkins  
Nicholas S. Tuffarelli

## KINGS COUNTY

Michael L. Brenner  
Frederick S. Hartwell  
Grace Jean  
Anju Malhotra  
Steven R. Miller  
Kelli Muse  
Ari M. Rottenberg

## QUEENS COUNTY

Paul H. Harvey

## RICHMOND COUNTY

Ryan Sakacs  
Alexander Shapiro



# Managerial & Support Staff

## EXECUTIVE/ ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

Joan Maloney, Supervisor

### Grand Jury Reporters Unit

Jodi Arnold  
Gladys Ayan  
Carol Bach  
Bonnie Greenstein  
Nancy McEnroe  
Mirelle Monestime  
Reva Palmer

### Interpretation and Translation Services

Rosa Ruales

### Operations

Albert Nichols  
Harry Reyes

## EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

Carla Jenkins  
Hysa Moultrie-Miller  
David Rosenberg

## FISCAL

Lei Yuan, Director  
Jenny Lai  
Regina Mavasheva  
Krisna Ramkhelawan

## GRAND JURY WARDENS

Sgt. John McCormick  
SCO Dennis Creegan  
SCO Christopher Stottmann  
SCO George Vassall

## INVESTIGATORS

Leon Schwartzman,  
Chief Investigator

## PERSONNEL

Beatrice Miller, Director  
Darlene Cole-Jeffrey  
Sylvia Fernandez  
Craig Jelen  
Diane Johnson  
Lisa Thomas

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

Kati Cornell, Director

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Calvin Solomon, Director

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

William Power, Director  
Chanyute Oottamakorn,  
Deputy Director

### Management

#### Information Systems

Luisa Boireau, Analyst  
Joseph Cullen  
Christopher Spies  
Boris Vestfrid  
Gregory L. Wilson

### Case Information

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