

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



2013 Annual Report

The cover photo was taken inside a “heroin mill,” a location where bulk quantities are processed for retail distribution. Heroin mills are commonly set up in residential apartments and houses. The plastic tubs shown hold approximately 10 kilos (22 lbs.) of heroin in loose powder form, which would have yielded hundreds of thousands of individual doses. Coffee grinders, sieves and a blender were used to cut the heroin with a diluting substance. Mill operators prefer glass-topped tables for their transparent, hard and smooth surfaces, which won’t absorb the heroin. A MetroCard® and toothbrush would have been used to scrape residue off the tabletop.

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Message from the Special Narcotics Prosecutor

This year we explore New York City's role in the widely reported epidemic of heroin abuse in the United States. The Office of Special Narcotics noted an uptick in heroin seizures from international drug cartels in 2009. Sadly, four years later, state and local officials nationwide are reporting a high incidence of heroin addiction and overdose deaths.



Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan announces the results of a major investigation at DEA New York Division headquarters.

The Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York was established more than four decades ago in response to a heroin epidemic that overwhelmed New York City. That epidemic was ushered in by American soldiers returning with heroin habits nurtured by opium grown in Southeast Asia. It hit Harlem, the South Bronx and parts of Brooklyn especially hard, and battered impoverished communities in urban areas. Forty years ago, the heroin found on the New York City streets was 5% to 10% pure, and usually injected. Effective prosecutions, which reduced the supply of heroin, combined with the drug's waning allure to those who lost friends and relatives to overdose and addiction brought the epidemic under control.

Today, New York City has again become one of the nation's hubs for the importation and distribution of heroin. Most of the heroin found in New York today originates in South America, not Asia. The drug sold on the street is much more concentrated than the heroin in the 1970s — 40% to 60% pure. It is often snorted rather than injected. Initial exposure to opioid drugs does not occur on a battle front in a distant land, but in comfortable homes or schoolyards, where the gateway drug comes in the form of legally prescribed pain killing medication.

Prescription pain medication is highly addictive, and a robust street market has developed around the sale of drugs like oxycodone, which contain ingredients from the same family as heroin. Once addicted to pain pills, people often turn to heroin, which is cheaper and offers a quicker high. Unlike the victims of the epidemic 40 years ago, today's heroin abuser is often a teenager or young adult from a suburban community and as likely to be middle class as from an impoverished background.

Curtailing the available supply of heroin through investigations into street level and importation organizations are critical elements of a prevention strategy. The Office of the Special Narcotic Prosecutor is committed to working together with partners in law enforcement and public health to bring today's heroin epidemic under control.

Bridget G. Brennan
Special Narcotics Prosecutor

About the Office

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 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 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 technological expertise to confronting the explosion of prescription drug abuse and 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.

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 the related surges in heroin trafficking and prescription drug diversion, and the use of social media to coordinate criminal activity by violent gangs. In 2013, Ms. Brennan established the Digital Forensic Services Unit. Ms. Brennan previously launched the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit, the Narcotics Gang Unit and the Money Laundering and Financial Investigation Unit.



(Photo courtesy of DA Donovan's office)

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan with Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan (left) and former Special Narcotics Prosecutor Robert H. Silbering (right) at a Federal Drug Agents Foundation ceremony in Manhattan. D.A. Donovan, a former SNP Assistant District Attorney, received a lifetime achievement award.

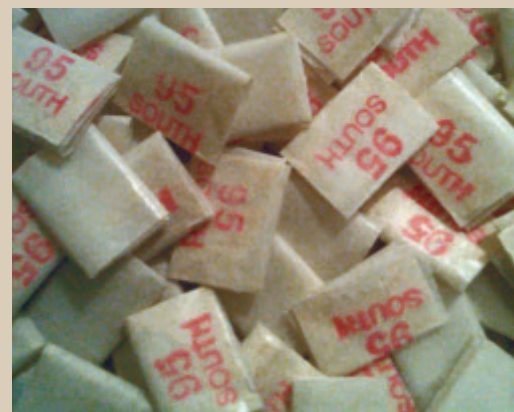
New York: Distribution Hub

Heroin found in the Northeastern U.S. usually originates in South America. Drugs are smuggled over land, by sea and by air. Shipments travel from Colombia, through Mexico, to the Southwestern U.S. and on to New York. Smugglers also send drugs by boat or plane from South America via the Dominican Republic or Puerto Rico.

Drug smugglers use an infinite variety of methods to conceal heroin. Multiple kilos are packed inside furniture and transported by boat or truck. In an unusual seizure, heroin was pressed into the form of coffee beans, sealed inside a retail coffee bag and shipped through a parcel-delivery company.



“Heroin mills” are multi-million dollar wholesale drug packaging locations, where workers process bulk quantities of heroin for retail distribution. Using coffee grinders to cut the heroin with diluting agents, workers spoon single dosages into user-ready glassine envelopes.



Heroin Fuels Regional Crisis

Regional Distribution

Pre-packaged glassines of heroin are resold to dealers throughout the region and distributed in local neighborhoods.



Vermont: Gov. Peter Shumlin announced that deaths from heroin and opioids in 2013 were nearly double the number of the preceding year. There was a 771% increase in treatment for all opiates since 2000 and a 260% increase in people receiving heroin treatment since 2000.

Massachusetts: Gov. Deval Patrick declared a public health emergency in response to heroin overdoses and opioid addiction. Opiate overdose deaths rose 90% between 2000 and 2012.

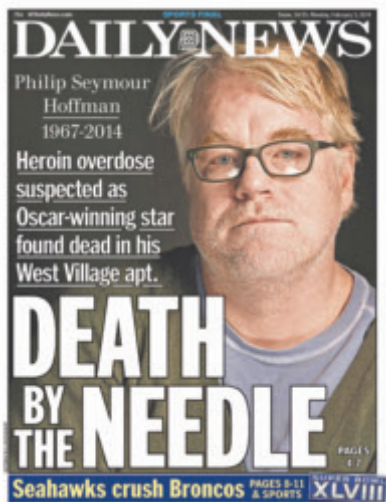
Long Island: The number of heroin overdose deaths in Nassau and Suffolk County increased 45% between 2010 and 2012. Heroin-related deaths account for nearly one third of all opiate overdose fatalities on Long Island.

New Jersey: From 2009 to 2012, there was a 40% increase in prescription opioid-involved deaths and a 65% increase in heroin-involved deaths.

Trends

Opioid Epidemic – Heroin and Prescription Painkillers

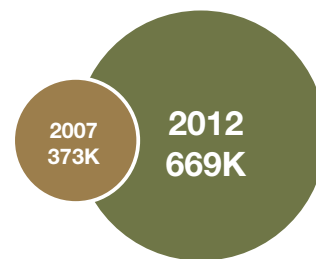
Much of the nation is in the grips of an exploding epidemic of opioid abuse. Officials from Bennington, Vt. to Portland, Ore. are sounding the alarm. Recently the highly-publicized death of Philip Seymour Hoffman in New York City shone a spotlight on the nation's opioid crisis and the link between prescription drug abuse and heroin. With recent reductions in violent crime, drug overdose deaths now claim more lives than homicides and car crashes in many communities.



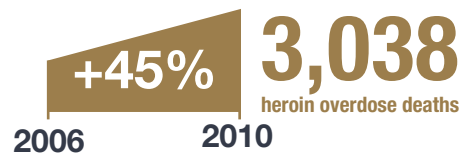
Daily News, February 3, 2014

Over the past five years, SNP and our local and federal law enforcement partners have witnessed a dramatic upsurge in large-scale heroin distribution operations in New York City. Sadly, heroin-related overdose deaths in the city are also spiking, with the largest increases among young adults in middle-class neighborhoods. Between 2010 and

2012, heroin-related overdose deaths in the city increased by 84%, according to the most recent data available from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). In 2012, heroin was involved in 382 deaths – 52% of all fatal drug poisonings in the city.

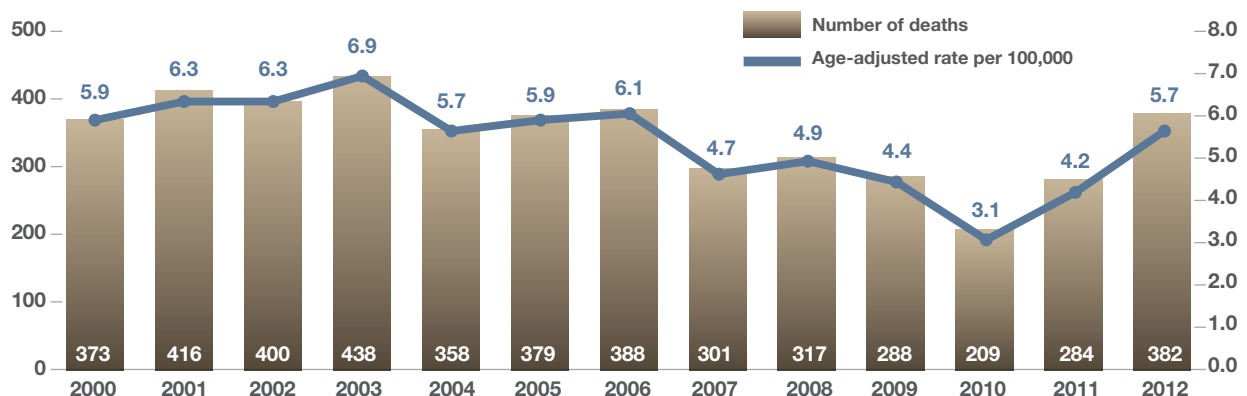


Americans reporting heroin use nearly doubled between 2007 and 2012, from 373,000 to 669,000: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)



Nationwide, heroin overdoses increased by 45% between 2006 and 2010, with 3,038 heroin overdose deaths in 2010, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

Unintentional drug poisoning deaths involving heroin, New York City, 2000-2012

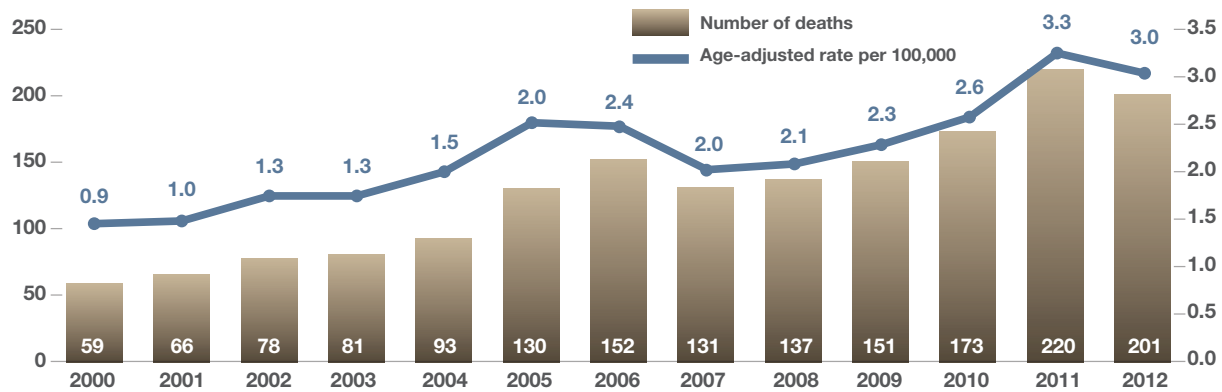


Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics



New York Times, February 11, 2014

Unintentional drug poisoning deaths involving opioid analgesics, New York City, 2000-2012



Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics

The enormous amount of heroin on the wholesale level isn't just staying here. New York City is a hub of drug importation and distribution for the Northeast. Curtailing the available supply of drugs at the street level and at the time of importation are critical elements of a prevention strategy. It is our mission to prevent addiction, overdose deaths, and abuse of narcotic drugs.

SNP has been focused on the parallel surges in heroin trafficking and the continued overprescribing of highly addictive opioid prescription painkillers since 2009. Working at the forefront of policy development and legislation, SNP coordinates with city, state and federal agencies over these issues.

It is increasingly common for individuals who misuse painkillers to transition to heroin,

which is generally cheaper than pills and offers a purer, more immediate high to users.

While deaths stemming from the misuse of opioid painkillers appear to have dropped somewhat between 2011 and 2012 in New York City, the potential for overdoses from these pills remains a significant problem. Prescription opioid-related fatalities rose by a dramatic 267% between 2000 and 2011, and then dropped by 9% in 2012, according to DOHMH. Opioid painkillers were involved in 28% of all drug overdose deaths in the city 2012.

Philip Seymour Hoffman's sad end highlighted not only the potentially deadly consequences of heroin use, but also the dangers posed by ingesting multiple substances. Toxicology reports revealed the presence of not only heroin, but

the anti-anxiety drug benzodiazepine (commonly prescribed as Xanax and Valium), which further suppresses the already compromised respiratory system of an individual who has ingested heroin or opioid painkillers. Between 2000 and 2012, benzodiazepine-related fatalities in New York City increased by 180%.

Enforcement Efforts: Heroin

Over the past five years, SNP and our law enforcement partners have dismantled dozens of large-scale “heroin mills,” or wholesale drug packaging locations. These multi-million dollar operations are typically set up in apartments, where round-the-clock workers process bulk quantities of heroin for retail distribution. Coffee grinders are used to cut the heroin cut with diluting agents. Single dosages of the heroin are packaged into user-ready glassine envelopes, which are stamped with brand names selected by the trafficking group, and bundled together for retail distribution. A heroin organization can purchase a kilogram (over 2 lbs.) of heroin for approximately \$60,000 and package it into an average of 30,000 glassine envelopes that retail for anywhere from \$5 to \$15 each. Large mills churn out hundreds of thousands of these glassines at a time.

These operations have become all too common in areas of the Bronx and Upper Manhattan, where there is easy access to transportation routes. Increasingly, New

York City-based heroin organizations are also establishing mills in quiet residential neighborhoods and suburban areas. SNP’s Investigators Unit works cooperatively with U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the New York City Police Department (NYPD), the New York State Police, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and other law enforcement partners to locate these mills through a variety of sophisticated investigative techniques.

In 2013, the DEA New York Division reported dismantling 13 heroin mills — 50% more than any other year in the past decade. Heroin seizures in New York State went up 67% over the last four years. Approximately 144 kilograms (317 lbs.) were seized by DEA New York, which accounts for approximately 20% seized nationwide.



Bulk quantities of heroin are packaged into thousands of user-ready envelopes in heroin mills located throughout the city.



Heroin mill workers use coffee grinders to cut the drug with a diluting agent.



Stamps are used to brand glassine envelopes of heroin.

**Enforcement Efforts:
Prescription Opioid Painkillers**

As a law enforcement agency, our primary focus is on the supply side of a drug epidemic. For the past several years, SNP has examined data from the New York State Health Department’s Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) to track the number of prescriptions for narcotic painkillers filled by New York City residents. The rate of prescriptions filled for oxycodone (one of the most highly addictive and commonly abused types of opioid painkillers) increased by an alarming 138% between 2007 and 2012.

Fortunately, after awareness campaigns targeted at the medical community and the general public, increased law enforcement efforts, and tighter controls through programs such as I-STOP, the numbers now appear to be leveling off. Between 2012 and 2013 the rate of oxycodone prescriptions filled by New York City residents dropped by 1%. In 2013, there were 1,270,162 prescriptions for oxycodone filled citywide – 9,493 less than in 2012. Likewise, doctor shopping has been sharply reduced with the advent of I-STOP.

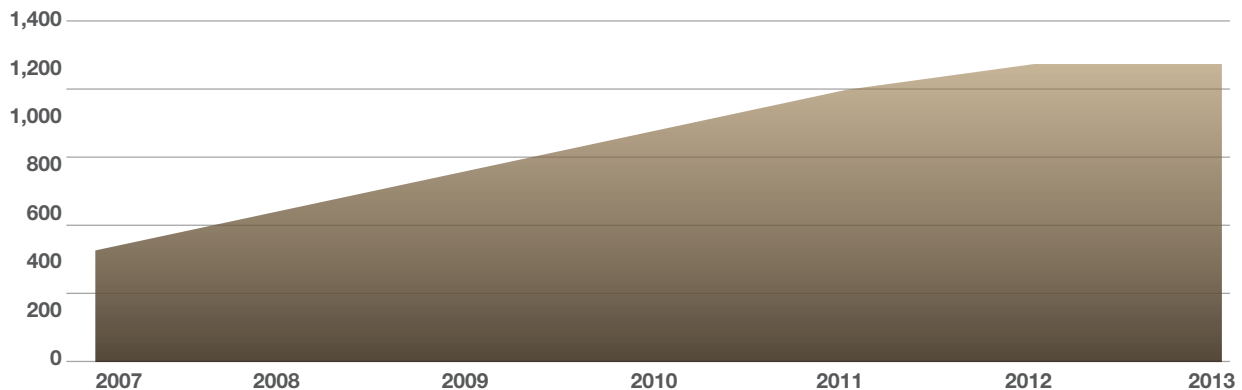
SNP’s Prescription Drug Investigation Unit (PDIU) has sought to cut off the illicit supply of painkillers and other highly addictive prescription drugs at the highest level possible. Since the unit’s creation in September 2011, we have opened



A Gramercy doctor and office manager were arrested in a \$10 million drug trafficking scheme run out of a medical center at 205 East 16th Street.

approximately 160 prescription drug investigations, which have resulted in the indictment of seven corrupt physicians on charges ranging from Criminal Sale of a Prescription for a Controlled Substance to Manslaughter. PDIU has also prosecuted numerous other medical professionals, including physicians’ assistants, office managers and pharmacists. We have learned that one pill mill can issue a huge volume of illegal prescriptions that impacts not only New York City, but the state and the entire Northeast.

New York City Oxycodone Prescriptions



Rates of oxycodone prescriptions filled by New York City residents spike over five years and begin to level off in 2013.

SNP Outreach

Sharing Expertise with Local and International Partners



Narcotics Chiefs from the five District Attorneys' Offices and SNP staff meet to develop citywide law enforcement strategies.



Narcotics investigators from the Supreme Prosecutor's Office, Republic of Korea, meet with SNP staff.



Treatment providers discuss drug trends with staff from Special Narcotics.



Turkish judges participate in the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Professional Recognition



Top Left: Joseph J. Tesoriero, Executive Assistant District Attorney and Chief of Investigations, (far right), receives the Thomas E. Dewey Medal from the New York City Bar Association. Photo credit: Rick Kopstein/New York Law Journal

Top Right: Federal Drug Agents Foundation honors ADAs Nicholas Connor (far left) and Amy Sharpe (center) and New York Drug Enforcement Task, Group T-22.



Left: New York State Police Superintendent Joseph A. D'Amico (right) and Major Keith M. Corlett (left) present Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan (center) with the Troop NYC Excelsior Award.

Neighborhood Initiatives

The Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office (SNP) sponsors Police Athletic League (PAL) Play Streets and Teen Impact Centers in locations previously dominated by drug networks. In coordination with PAL, our partner District Attorneys' Offices and the New York City Police Department (NYPD), we strive to maintain the gains achieved when drug organizations are removed from a community, and to improve relationships between young people and law enforcement. The programs provide a safe haven for youth to participate in fun recreational activities.

SNP, the Bronx District Attorney's Office, the NYPD and PAL announced the opening of a PAL Summer Play Street and a Teen Impact Center in the Morrisania section of the Bronx, following a series of significant narcotics gang investigations in the area. The PAL Summer Play Street Program served youth ages 6 to 16 during the summer of 2013 and was located at Mott Playground, a New York City Department of Parks and Recreation facility between 166th Street and 167th Street and Morris Avenue and College Avenue. In the spring of 2014, youth ages 14 to 19 were invited to participate in activities at a Teen Impact Center located at Junior High School 22, Jordan L. Mott.

Over the past two years, the SNP's Narcotics Gang Unit, the Bronx District Attorney's Office and the NYPD's 44th Precinct Field Intelligence Division



Attending the PAL Summer Play Street 2013 season kick-off in Harlem were (from left to right) Robert M. Morgenthau, Chairman of the PAL Board of Directors, Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan, Richard Guevara, PAL Director of Field Operations, Alana Sweeny, PAL Executive Director, and John A. Catsimatidis, a member of the PAL Board of Directors.

investigated and prosecuted 50 leaders and members of four violent gangs engaged in a turf dispute: "Dub City," "WTG," "6 Wild" and "280." A total of 24 firearms were seized during these related investigations. The NYPD credits these cases in part with driving down shootings in the area. As each successive gang was prosecuted, shooting rates declined.

Gang members sold narcotics and committed robberies in order to fund the purchase of communal firearms, which were often carried by juveniles at the direction of gang leaders. Members of the four violent narcotic gangs were responsible for 34 shootings in which 43 individuals were shot.

Also in 2013, Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan hosted two citywide community forums addressing drug dealing and gang violence. The first was on January 30, 2013 at the Infinity Mennonite Church located at 2522 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd., and the second on May 16, 2013 at Convent Avenue Baptist Church located at 420 West 145th Street.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of the PAL Teen Impact Center at J.H.S. 22 in the Morrisania section of the Bronx.

Investigation Division

SNP WIRETAP ACTIVITY	
Amendment	10
Extension	81
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Special Investigations Bureau



Assistant District Attorneys in SIB handle complex international narcotics investigations.

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 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 agencies.

In 2013, SIB launched 132 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 38 wiretap investigations and 213 eavesdropping applications, including 122 originals, 81 extensions and 10 amendments. Narcotics investigations resulted in the seizure of approximately 56 pounds of heroin, 228 pounds of cocaine, thousands of pills of oxycodone and other prescription drugs, 112 pounds of marijuana and various other drugs. Also in 2013, SIB handled the largest gun trafficking investigation in New York City history, resulting in the seizure of 254 illegal guns. This case was initiated by the Trial Division.

Prescription Drug Investigation Unit

Alarming rates of prescription drug abuse and related crime led SNP to form the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit (PDIU). 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 Narcotics Enforcement, 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 groups, robbery crews, and weapons traffickers committing drug-related criminal activity across the city. The unit works closely with detectives from the NYPD's Gang Division, Narcotics Division and Precinct members. In 2013, the unit conducted major investigations that examined the use of new technologies and social media, such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram, by violent warring gangs. In addition to narcotics trafficking, the unit also prosecuted 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 Unit

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 — 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 2013, 291 federal forfeiture actions were initiated and 298 were completed. At the state level, 512 actions were initiated and 344 were completed.

Case Highlights

Physician Charged in Massive Oxycodone Scheme at Bronx Pain Clinic



A doctor sold prescriptions to drug crews at Astramed Physicians in the Bronx – the city's largest pill mill. Agents seized a firearm from the Yonkers motel room where the doctor was living.



A Bronx pain clinic believed to be the region's largest pill mill was shuttered as a result of long-term investigation by SNP, DEA New York Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. An SNP indictment charged Dr. Robert Terdiman, a licensed internist, with illegally selling

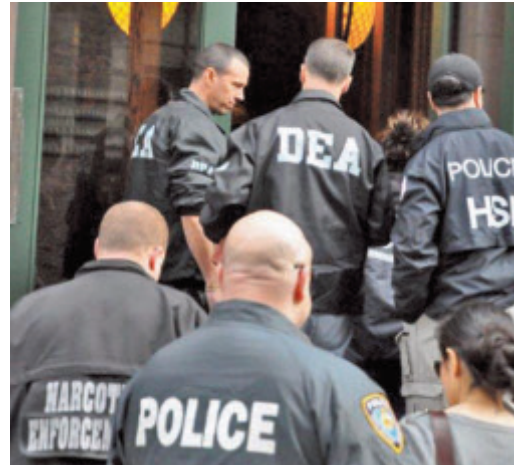
thousands of prescriptions for oxycodone from Astramed Physicians, PC, in the Morrisania section of the Bronx. Terdiman sold prescriptions to undercover officers on eight occasions. Agents also seized a firearm from a motel room in Yonkers, N.Y. where Terdiman was living.

Since June 2012, Terdiman wrote over 18,000 prescriptions for oxycodone to over 4,200 individuals, none of which are believed to be legitimate. The doctor allegedly conspired with “recruiters,” who supplied a steady flow of purported “patients” to obtain prescriptions for oxycodone. The prescriptions were then filled at pharmacies and the pills sold on the black market. On weekday mornings, security guards performed crowd control on the sidewalk and inside the medical offices and waiting rooms.

Federal prosecutors focused a related investigation on Astramed owner Dr. Kevin Lowe and the drug rings supplied by Terdiman. Following the arrests, a superseding federal indictment also incorporated charges against Terdiman and state charges were dismissed at the request of SNP.

Gramercy Center Pumped \$10 Million in Pills onto Interstate Market

A Gramercy physician and his office manager were among 49 individuals arrested in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania in connection with the illegal trafficking of \$10 million in oxycodone pills. Dr. Hector Castro, founder of the Itzamna Medical Center on East 16th Street, and his office manager Patricia Valera are charged in two separate prescription-related criminal schemes that together led to the diversion of well over 500,000 narcotic pills onto the black market. Thirty firearms were seized by DEA agents and partner law enforcement agencies



DEA agents arrested the founder of the Itzamna Medical Center on East 16th Street in Manhattan, while officers seized weapons and pills from drug trafficking crews in Pennsylvania.

in Pennsylvania during the 15-month investigation.

Castro supplied groups in New York and New Jersey. The doctor personally sold 28 narcotic painkiller prescriptions to an undercover investigator from Special Narcotics, including prescriptions written in the names of individuals who were not present. Castro never performed any physical examinations on the undercover officer or referred him for medical tests. At least two New Jersey residents who received prescriptions from Castro's office died of drug overdoses. These deaths are the subject of an ongoing investigation. Meanwhile, Valera sold prescriptions to two rival crews in Pennsylvania. Of the 49 individuals arrested in the investigation, 41

were members of these violent Pennsylvania drug rings and are being prosecuted by the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office. Additionally, 28 of the 30 firearms seized in the case were recovered during court authorized searches in Pennsylvania.

Over 250 Guns Sold in New York City's Largest Firearms Investigation

An investigation into narcotics sales in Brooklyn led to the largest gun case in New York City history. Nineteen members of two loosely-organized gun trafficking groups were indicted for illegally funneling firearms from North and South Carolina. The guns were intended for resale on the city's black market, where they fetch at least three times their original price. During the long-term wiretap investigation, 254 illegal weapons were sold to an undercover with the NYPD's Firearms Investigation Unit for over \$200,000. Two main defendants, Walter Walker, of North Carolina, and Earl Campbell, of South Carolina, personally smuggled the guns inside their luggage on Chinatown-bound buses. Each trafficker tapped a network of individuals in his home town with access to black market weapons or the willingness to purchase guns, knowing they would be illegally resold in New York City. In at least one instance, an individual acted as a straw buyer and shopped at gun stores for Walker. Firearms ran the gamut from .22 caliber pistols to assault weapons.

Criminal associates in New York City assisted the gun traffickers in securing buyers and conducting sales. A rap studio in the Ocean Hill section of Brooklyn was the scene of 11 gun sales, while other sales were made in Manhattan's Lower East Side. Special Narcotics announced this case with the NYPD, the Mayor's Office, and partner District Attorneys' Offices in Manhattan and Brooklyn.



Among the 254 guns sold to an undercover detective with the NYPD's Firearms Investigation Unit were 10 assault weapons. The guns were smuggled to New York City from North and South Carolina.

A 552-count Special Narcotics indictment charged the defendants with Conspiracy, Criminal Sale of a Firearm, Criminal Possession of a Weapon and other crimes. The Manhattan District Attorney's Office is overseeing the prosecutions post-arrest.

50 Members of Warring Gangs Arrested in the Bronx

Fifty leaders and members of four warring gangs in the Morrisania section of the Bronx were indicted and arrested over the past two years, as a result of collaboration between the Special Narcotics Gang Unit, the Bronx District Attorney's Office and the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) 44th Precinct Field Intelligence Division. Investigations targeting the crews "Dub City," "WTG," "6 Wild" and "280" led to the seizure of 24 guns. Since at least 2011, these gangs were linked to 34 shooting incidents in which



Members of four warring gangs used social media to boast and attract new recruits. Money from drug sales was used to buy firearms and support a high-end lifestyle.



43 individuals were shot. Gang members brazenly fired their weapons in public areas, including busy streets, at apartment buildings and in one case into a crowded restaurant. Several victims were innocent bystanders. Drugs sold by members of these four crews included heroin, cocaine, crack, PCP, marijuana and various prescription medications. Money from drug sales was used to buy firearms and support a high-end lifestyle.

These cases involved investigation of violent incidents and a close examination of evidence obtained from text messages and social media, which gang members used to fuel violent rivalries, boast about victories and attract new recruits. As four successive waves of arrests occurred, the NYPD's 44th

Precinct experienced a significant decline in shootings. Between 2011 and 2013, the 44th Precinct recorded a dramatic 34% drop in overall shootings. (Overall shootings include incidents in which one or more individuals are shot, and are not limited to gang-related shootings.) Shootings attributed specifically to these four gangs dropped by 75%.

Kingpin Convicted in \$1.5 Million Cocaine Seizure near Midtown Hotel

A trial jury convicted drug kingpin Robert Adrian in connection with a scheme to smuggle over a million dollars in cocaine from Puerto Rico to New York. Adrian was sentenced to eight years in prison with five years of post-release supervision for Operating as a Major Trafficker. In May 2011, agents and officers with the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force seized approximately 43 kilos (nearly 95 lbs.) of cocaine worth \$1.5 million in Midtown Manhattan. Agents observed drug couriers loading duffel bags of narcotics into a vehicle near the Hampton Inn at 51st Street and 8th Avenue. They recovered 37 kilos from the bags and another 6 kilos from a matching duffel bag inside a room registered to one of the couriers at the Hampton Inn. A five-month investigation revealed that this large shipment of cocaine was one of several that Adrian took possession of in New York. Adrian directed a circle of drug workers, who were to receive, process, and distribute the cocaine. A member of Adrian's organization was also convicted at trial. A judge declared a mistrial as to a third defendant, Jose Cruz-Ortiz, after jurors were unable to reach a verdict in his case. Ortiz was an inmate in a federal prison in Puerto Rico during the conspiracy. Charges against him are still pending.

Colombian Kingpin Extradited in New York Heroin Trafficking Scheme

Drug kingpin Sergio Zuilanny Gordillo Joya was extradited to New York to face charges for smuggling millions of dollars of heroin bound for New York via the Port of Miami. Joya had been held in Argentina, where he lived as a fugitive after fleeing authorities in Colombia. A second defendant who reported to Joya, Luis Fernando Galleano Gasca, was extradited from Bogota, Colombia. A DEA-led wiretap investigation revealed that Joya intended to transport a large heroin shipment to New York City. Agents used information from email exchanges between Joya and his cohorts to locate and seize 16 kilos of heroin (over 35 lbs.) from a freight ship, the “Seaboard Pride,” as it docked in Miami in 2012. A total of 34 packages of heroin were found hidden inside four couches, which were packed in a shipping container.



Agents found packages of heroin hidden inside a shipment of couches aboard a freight ship in Miami.

A third defendant was arrested in New York and a fourth is contesting extradition in Colombia. Joya is charged with Operating as a Major Trafficker under New York State’s kingpin statute, which carries a possible life sentence.

Nearly \$200,000 in Crystal Meth Seized in Chinatown

Four members of a drug trafficking group that operated in Manhattan’s Chinatown and in Flushing, Queens were arrested in March after an undercover DEA agent bought three-quarters of a kilo of methamphetamine (nearly 2 lbs.) for \$193,000. The arrests followed a six-month wiretap investigation, in which members of the drug ring spoke openly about their illegal business while conversing in Mandarin. The undercover officer made numerous drug purchases from the group during the investigation. The group obtained “crystal meth” from Mexican suppliers. The largest and final sale of methamphetamine took place in the parking lot of a closed Pathmark supermarket on Cherry Street in Chinatown.

Kingpin Among Eight Indicted for Smuggling Millions of Dollars in Heroin

A multi-million dollar drug trafficking organization that smuggled approximately 10 kilos (22 lbs.) of heroin to New York City from Colombia each month was dismantled. The head of the heroin ring, Cruz Aguaviva-Done, is charged under New York State’s kingpin statute and faces a possible life sentence. A wiretap investigation revealed that Aguaviva-Done ordered heroin directly from a Colombian drug organization that had a point person in New York City. On the day of the kingpin’s arrest, DEA agents intercepted a shipment of 4½ kilos (nearly 10 lbs.) of heroin



DEA agents seized millions of dollars in heroin, including three kilos found inside an ottoman.

from two brothers who worked for Aguaviva-Done. The load carried a street value of more than \$1.2 million. Court authorized searches yielded another 4½ kilos (nearly 10 lbs.) on the day of the arrests. Several months earlier, agents had seized another large shipment of 3 kilos (nearly 7 lbs.) worth over \$800,000 from inside an ottoman. Members of the Aguaviva-Done organization had stashed the drug-filled ottoman at a furniture store before handing it off to a customer.

\$3 Million in Drugs and Cash, 2 Guns, Seized Near Horace Mann School

A drug trafficker was indicted after DEA agents seized 31 kilos of cocaine (over 68 lbs.), \$1.6 million in cash and two



Cocaine, guns and cash seized from an apartment near in the Fieldston section of the Bronx.

semi-automatic pistols from an apartment in the Fieldston section of the Bronx. The cocaine was found inside a closet in the bedroom, wrapped in plastic and covered in grease. The firearms were hidden under the bed. The apartment complex abuts the Horace Mann School, a private school for youth from kindergarten through high school.

Rikers Island Correction Officer Sentenced to 8 Years for Bribe Receiving

Robert Whitfield, formerly a Correction Officer with the New York City Department of Correction, was sentenced to eight years in state prison for receiving a bribe of \$100,000 in cocaine after he promised to secure an inmate's early release. A trial jury found Whitfield guilty on charges of drug possession, conspiracy, bribe receiving and official misconduct. Testimony and other evidence presented at trial proved that Whitfield, a veteran Correction Officer assigned to Rikers Island, made an agreement with an inmate to receive three kilos of cocaine (over 6½ lbs.) in exchange for shortening the inmate's sentence in the Corrections Department computer system. Authorities arrested Whitfield in the Inwood section of Manhattan shortly after his designated intermediary received the cocaine from an undercover agent at a nearby meeting place. The investigation was conducted by the New York City Department of Investigation, the DEA's New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force and the New York Department of Taxation and Finance.



A pizza deliveryman who sold cocaine to an undercover officer set up meetings outside the Papa John's restaurant where he worked and sometimes used food boxes to conceal drugs.



Pizza Delivery Man Served “Coke” with Slices: \$45K in Cocaine Sold

A drug-dealing pizza deliveryman used his job at a Papa John's restaurant in Sunset Park, Brooklyn as a cover to sell cocaine. Ramon Rodriguez made at least 19 sales to an undercover officer during an investigation by the NYPD's Narcotics Borough Brooklyn South. Rodriguez frequently wore his Papa John's uniform during the sales, which took place in front of his workplace and near his home. Prior to many of the sales, the undercover observed Rodriguez going inside the restaurant and returning with a pizza box, a menu or an insulated pizza bag, which he would use to conceal cocaine he was carrying. In the largest and final sale, the undercover arranged to purchase a kilo of cocaine for \$27,500. Rodriguez carried a bag containing the cocaine out of the restaurant and placed it in the officer's car. A court authorized search of Rodriguez's home yielded approximately \$4,500 cash. Rodriguez pleaded guilty to Criminal

Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree and was sentenced to four years in prison.

Police Clip Barbershop Cocaine Ring in the Bronx

A drug crew that made brazen cocaine sales near two schools and terrorized residents in the Tremont section of the Bronx was dismantled. The NYPD investigation, dubbed “Operation Scissorhands,” revealed that barber Ian Ortiz, of Diamond Cuts Barbershop on E. Tremont Ave., and a second defendant supplied cocaine to a street level crew, headed by Ryan Alcantra. Members of Alcantra's drug ring sold cocaine from lawn chairs that they set up on a sidewalk outside a deli. Sales also took place near The William W. Niles School, MS 118, and the St. Joseph School, which serves children Pre-K through 8th grade, and in vehicles. The drug crew was the subject of numerous community complaints from residents and local business owners. Members of the ring are charged in 12 sales to an undercover officer from the NYPD's Bronx Narcotics Division, including the largest sale of nearly 200 grams of cocaine for \$9,000 by Ortiz and Alcantra on the day of the arrests.

Trial Division

2013 SNP WORKLOAD	
Arrests	2230
Indictments/ SCI	1364
Trials	36
FELONY DISPOSITIONS	
Convicted	1191
Acquitted	14
Dismissed	91
Treatment Dismissals	74
FELONY SENTENCES	
State Prison	534
City Jail	388
Probation	183
City Jail & Probation	38
SEIZURES	
Cocaine	536 lbs.
Heroin	175 lbs.
Oxycodone	21,188 pills
Marijuana	507 lbs.
Guns	359

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 assistants as they provide legal advice and draw up court orders, including search and arrest warrants, on a 24-hour basis.

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 Health Department's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement and the SNP Investigators Unit. In 2013, the Division

launched 121 new investigations. A total of 1,928 complaints were referred to the office for prosecution during the year; 1,070 defendants were indicted. Search warrants drafted numbered 713.

Case Highlights

\$8 Million in Heroin Seized in the Bronx



Heroin seized from a wholesale packaging operation in the Bronx.

A wholesale heroin packaging operation was dismantled in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx in June. Members of the DEA's New York Drug Enforcement Task Force seized 11 kilos of heroin (24 lbs.) worth approximately \$8 million after members of the organization loaded a bag containing a large amount of drug proceeds into a vehicle. Investigators had been conducting surveillance outside the drug location near Van Cortlandt Park and the Major Deegan Expressway.

Rx Pills, Cocaine and 4 Guns: Brooklyn and Staten Island

Eleven members of a drug trafficking ring were indicted for selling oxycodone and cocaine in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn and in Staten Island. A nine-month wiretap investigation revealed three overlapping conspiracies. In one, a defendant received

prescriptions for oxycodone from a corrupt Sheepshead Bay physician with whom she was acquainted. Four firearms were seized during court authorized searches of the homes of two suppliers, including two semi-automatic pistols and a revolver from a home in Staten Island and an AK-47 style assault rifle from an apartment in Brooklyn. During the investigation, an undercover DEA agent made two purchases of cocaine for approximately \$7,000 from defendant Simon Berman. Berman was arrested after he sought to buy 10,000 pills of oxycodone from the undercover, with the intention of reselling the drugs. After his arrest, Berman attempted to bribe the undercover agent by offering to pay \$20,000 cash.

Rx Trafficking Ring Ran Brooklyn Practices: \$3.4 Million in Pills

Five members of a prescription drug trafficking ring that illegally collected and distributed over \$3.4 million in oxycodone and other prescription drugs were indicted. A nine-month wiretap investigation by the DEA revealed that ringleader Sergey Plotits established and controlled medical offices in Sheepshead Bay and other neighborhoods in Brooklyn for the sole purpose of illegally obtaining and selling highly addictive medication. Among those indicted was Zhanna Kanevsky, a physician hired by Plotits to write prescriptions at a medical office at 1763 East 12th Street. Other members of the crew recruited people they knew to pose as patients. Medical practitioners employed by Plotits were paid by the hour or by the day and generally failed to perform examinations on the phony patients. These phony patients collected the pills and handed them over to the drug ring. Between 2011 and 2013, the defendants illegally collected and distributed over 180,000 prescription pills, including 170,000 pills of oxycodone. Kanevsky

pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy and criminal sale of a prescription and her medical licenses in New York and New Jersey were revoked.

Over \$2 Million in Heroin and Crystal Meth, and Firearm, Seized from Trio



A drug crew used a house in Corona, Queens as a stash location, where heroin and crystal meth were processed for resale. Investigators stopped three men with narcotics after following their cars to the Bronx.

New York State Police investigators seized nearly 20 pounds of heroin and methamphetamine worth more than \$2 million and arrested three members of a drug trafficking group that maintained a stash location in a house in Corona, Queens. Investigators had been conducting surveillance at the stash location when they observed the trio exit the house and leave in two separate vehicles. The cars traveled to the Bronx, where both stopped and a defendant emerged from one vehicle, entered the other vehicle, and removed a bag. Investigators arrested the individual with the bag as he left the area on foot. The bag contained 3 kilos (nearly 7 lbs.) of heroin. A court authorized search of the Corona stash location yielded more than a kilo of heroin (approximately 3 lbs.), 4 kilos of crystal

meth (nearly 9 lbs.) and a 9mm handgun. The drugs and the firearm were found in a dresser with a hidden compartment. Investigators believe the crystal meth was produced in Mexico. A drug ledger, \$2,000 cash and equipment used for packaging narcotics were also found inside the stash location.

Harlem Doctor Sold Painkiller Prescriptions to Drug Ring

Dr. Robert S. Gibbs, Sr., a licensed internal medicine physician, was arrested for illegally selling prescriptions for powerful narcotic painkillers to a drug trafficking ring in exchange for cash. The investigation revealed that Gibbs, 75, who maintained an office in Harlem, had written and sold at least 42 illegal prescriptions for oxycodone.

In a scheme that ran more than three years, prescriptions were written in the name of Ronald Vaughan, head of the drug trafficking organization, as well as numerous other names that Vaughan supplied to the doctor. These individuals were not under the doctor's care. In exchange, Vaughan made cash payments to Gibbs. The pills were then distributed on the black market. Gibbs pleaded guilty to Conspiracy, Criminal Sale of a Prescription for a Controlled Substance and Criminal Facilitation. He was sentenced to five years of probation and ordered to forfeit approximately \$48,000 and to surrender his medical license. Vaughan pleaded guilty to Conspiracy and Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, and was sentenced to a prison term of between six and nine years.



Cobble Hill Office Manager Sold Rxs for \$165,000 in Pills

An office manager for a Cobble Hill neurologist was arrested for stealing and forging prescriptions for approximately \$165,000 in hydromorphone, a potent opioid painkiller sold under the brand name Dilaudid. A trusted employee, Syreeta Jones had worked at the doctor's office for nearly two decades. The criminal scheme spanned the last two years.

Jones stole 48 prescription sheets from the medical practice without the neurologist's knowledge and supplied them to drug trafficker Ira Sutton, with whom Jones communicated by text message. Jones wrote the prescriptions in Sutton's name and the names of two of his relatives, forging the doctor's signature. Each prescription was for 360 pills of Dilaudid. Sutton's drug ring filled the prescriptions at pharmacies in the Upper East Side and Gramercy sections of Manhattan, and in Flushing, Queens. Sutton pleaded guilty



A Harlem doctor used his medical practice to illegally funnel prescriptions for narcotic painkillers to a drug trafficking ring.

to Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and faces a year in jail. Charges are pending against Jones.

Curtain Closes on Citywide Cocaine Ring



Drug traffickers made a dozen sales of cocaine to an undercover officer inside a Bronx barbershop.

Five drug traffickers were arrested in connection with sales of nearly \$45,000 in cocaine from two barbershops in the Bronx and Brooklyn. Undercover police officers from the NYPD's Narcotics Borough Bronx Major Case Unit made 16 purchases of cocaine, totaling more than a kilo (approximately 3 lbs.). A dozen of these sales took place inside a busy barbershop called Noel Barber Shop & Unisex, in the Mott

Haven section of the Bronx. The investigation revealed that the cocaine sold was obtained from a supplier, who owned a barbershop in the Cypress Hills section of Brooklyn.

Harlem Stash: Pit Bulls, Python, Pot, Guns and Cash

Police recovered over \$35,000 in marijuana, four guns and \$21,000 cash in a long-term investigation targeting a high-volume marijuana operation in Harlem. Defendants Mark Hansen and Manuel Bey made two gun sales and 10 bulk marijuana sales — totaling more than 6 pounds for \$9,200 — to an undercover NYPD officer with Narcotics Borough Manhattan North. Sales were conducted in a first floor hallway of an apartment building at 1 East 124th St., where customers lined up seven days per week.



Guns and large quantities of marijuana were seized in connection with a bustling bulk marijuana spot across the street from Marcus Garvey Park.

The bustling marijuana business was the subject of numerous community complaints. The basement of the building served as a stash location for Hansen and Bey. During a court authorized search, police encountered two pit bull dogs and an eight-foot python in the basement, where they also found a loaded revolver, several pounds of marijuana and \$1,200 cash. An additional firearm was recovered from Bey's residence in the Morrisania section of the Bronx, along with a pound of marijuana and over \$19,200 cash. A search of Hansen's residence in the Van Nest section of the Bronx yielded another 20 pounds of marijuana.

Traffickers Smuggle Narcotics through U.S. Mail: Day Care Centers Searched

A sophisticated drug ring used the U.S. Postal Service to smuggle large quantities of cocaine to New York City from Puerto Rico. Ring leader Juan Valdez and four others were arrested following a wiretap investigation by the DEA's New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The traffickers concealed cocaine in objects associated with children. In December 2013, investigators intercepted

a package that contained a kilo of cocaine (over 2 lbs.) wrapped in SpongeBob SquarePants bedding.

A Bronx day care center served as a cover for the ring. Drugs and cash were seized from a residence that housed Fun World Childcare, including a kilo of cocaine (over 2 lbs.), 1,000 pills of oxycodone, 150 grams of crack-cocaine, and \$20,000 cash. Some of the cocaine was hidden in a child's insulated lunch bag. Valdez was arrested at a family member's home that contained a second day care center called Sweet Home. Approximately \$7,500 in cash was seized.

Charges in the indictment involve \$300,000 in narcotics, including 4 kilos of cocaine (nearly 9 lbs.) and 1,000 pills of oxycodone, \$400,000 in drug proceeds and a firearm. Over the past five years, investigators seized packages containing 23 kilos of cocaine (over 50 lbs.) worth approximately \$1.4 million that have been linked to the organization.



A package containing a kilo of cocaine wrapped in SpongeBob SquarePants bedding was shipped via express mail from Puerto Rico to New York City.



Authorities seized large quantities of drugs and cash from a residence that housed a day care center, including cocaine hidden inside a child's insulated lunch bag.

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 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



Alternative Sentencing Division staff evaluates and monitors candidates for drug treatment.

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 2005-2013									
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
DTAP	169	137	90	114	91	36	7	5	6
MTC	156	101	81	76	33	17	6	0	0
Diversion					18	99	68	73	121
Total Treatment	325	238	171	190	142	152	81	78	127
Indictments/SCI	2424	2178	1974	1703	1595	1376	1293	1373	1364
% Indictments/SCI diverted	13%	11%	9%	11%	9%	11%	6%	6%	9%

Investigators Unit

The Special Narcotics Investigators Unit works with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the five boroughs of New York City. During 2013, the unit opened 31 new investigations, resulting in arrests of 174 offenders. Of those, 84 were charged with top felony narcotics counts and 21 with violations of money laundering laws. As a result of those arrests, the unit was involved in the seizure of 114 kilograms of cocaine (over 250 lbs.), over 44 kilograms of heroin (98 lbs.), approximately 10,600 oxycodone pills, hundreds of pounds of marijuana, and 16 handguns. Additionally, the unit and its DEA and NYPD partners were involved in 60 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 investigators, many of whom are law enforcement veterans from the NYPD's Narcotics Division and the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (DETF), develop their own cases or work jointly with partner 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.

The Investigators Unit handles a wide variety of narcotics cases targeting local, national and international trafficking groups. In recent years, the unit has developed a unique expertise in prescription drug-related investigations.

The Chief Investigator oversees activities of the investigators, monitors all investigation – related expenditures and acts as liaison with the squad of NYPD detectives assigned to SNP.

Controlled Deliveries

In a continuing trend, drug traffickers are using the U.S. Postal Service and private package delivery services to transport shipments of narcotics into New York City. In 2013, the Investigators Unit joined with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Drug Enforcement Task Force and the Drug Enforcement Strike Force to identify and intercept these packages. Investigators identify those involved in sending and receiving packages of narcotics.



An investigation into drugs shipped via a package delivery service led to a surprising seizure: two kilos of cocaine concealed inside garbanzo bean cans.

Partners in Heroin Investigations – 2013

DEA New York Division	Hudson County, N.J. Prosecutor's Office
Drug Enforcement Task Force (DETF)	Paterson, N.J. Police Department
Drug Enforcement Strike Force	U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York
NYPD Narcotics Division	Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST)
New York State Police	Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor (WCNYH)
DEA New York Division, Long Island Office	U.S. Coast Guard
Nassau County Police Department	U.S. Postal Inspection Service
Suffolk County Sheriff's Office	DEA Philadelphia Division
Hempstead Police Department	DEA New England Division
Yonkers Police Department	DEA Detroit Division, Youngstown, Ohio Office
DEA New Jersey Division	Youngstown, Ohio Police Department
Passaic County, N.J. Sheriff's Department	Inland Crackdown Allied Task Force (INCA), San Diego
Passaic County, N.J. Prosecutors Office	
Bergen County, N.J. Prosecutor's Office	

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 2013, 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: Mutual Legal Assistance Agreements and International Extraditions, Social Media and Digital Communications, Trying a Wiretap Case, False Identifications, Call Analysis, Asset Forfeiture, Handling Cooperators: Ethics, Policy and Practice, Recent Developments in Search and Seizure, Alternative Sentencing, Prescription Drug Investigations.

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.



Special Narcotics offered training to new undercover officers assigned to the NYPD's Organized Crime Control Bureau, headed by Chief Thomas P. Purtell (pictured here with Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan).

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 Police Academy, Organized Crime Control Division and Narcotics Division, the Drug Enforcement Task Force (DETF), and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA).

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 U.S. Postal Service and common carrier services such as UPS and FEDEX. 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 the 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 2013, the unit processed 1,311 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 and testimony of grand jury/trial wiretap composite recordings and processes digital photographic evidence as well as data evidence.

In 2013, the unit registered 1,323 pieces of audio/video evidence, 1,544 pieces of wiretap media evidence, and 172 pieces of photographic and data evidence. The unit also prepared, created and registered 3,539 duplicate copies of registered audio/video and wiretap evidence.



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.

Personnel

The Personnel 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.

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. Visits by foreign dignitaries are coordinated through the unit.

Community Outreach



SNP Community Outreach Director has coordinated with the DA's Offices, PAL and the NYPD to provide recreational programs for youth.

The Community Outreach Director 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.

Information Technologies (IT)



IT staff provide technical support and assist in gathering digital evidence for investigations.

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. 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.

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.

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

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.



Analysts are instrumental to all stages of investigation and prosecution.

Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAs)



TPAs support the work of each legal division in the office.

Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAs) are assigned to the Investigations Division, the Trial Division, Part N, and the Alternative Sentencing Division. Investigations 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.

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.

The People of SNP

“A Great Shot” - Photos by Chief Investigator Leon Schwartzman Exhibited

A photographer for the NYPD during the 1970s and 1980s, Leon Schwartzman documented two notoriously challenging decades in crime fighting. A collection of Mr. Schwartzman's photos on display at SNP showcases his skill with a camera and chronicles the impact of the narcotics trade on New York City. Colleagues gathered to view the exhibit.



Holiday Party 2013



Executive & Legal Staff

Bridget G. Brennan
Special Narcotics Prosecutor

Steven M. Goldstein
Chief Assistant District Attorney

Joseph J. Tesoriero
Executive Assistant District Attorney
Chief of Investigations

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

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

Thomas G. Van Noy
Deputy Administrative Assistant
District Attorney

Meggan K. Dodd
Counsel to the Special Narcotics
Prosecutor

Peter M. Kougasian
Special Assistant District Attorney

Rhonda Ferdinand
Special Assistant District Attorney
for Drug Prevention and Policy

Scott Leet
Bureau Chief, 30/60

Nicholas Mauro
Chief, Special Investigations Bureau

Nigel I. Farinha
Co-Chief, Narcotics Gang Unit

Edward Burns
Deputy Bureau Chief, 30/60

Bernice Ordonez
Deputy Chief,
Special Investigations Bureau

Susan N. Lanzatella
Co-Chief, Narcotics Gang Unit

Paul H. Harvey
Deputy Bureau Chief, 40/50

Lisa M. Tompkins
Deputy Chief,
Special Investigations Bureau

Clark S. Abrams
Money Laundering and
Financial Crimes Coordinator

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