



# High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program

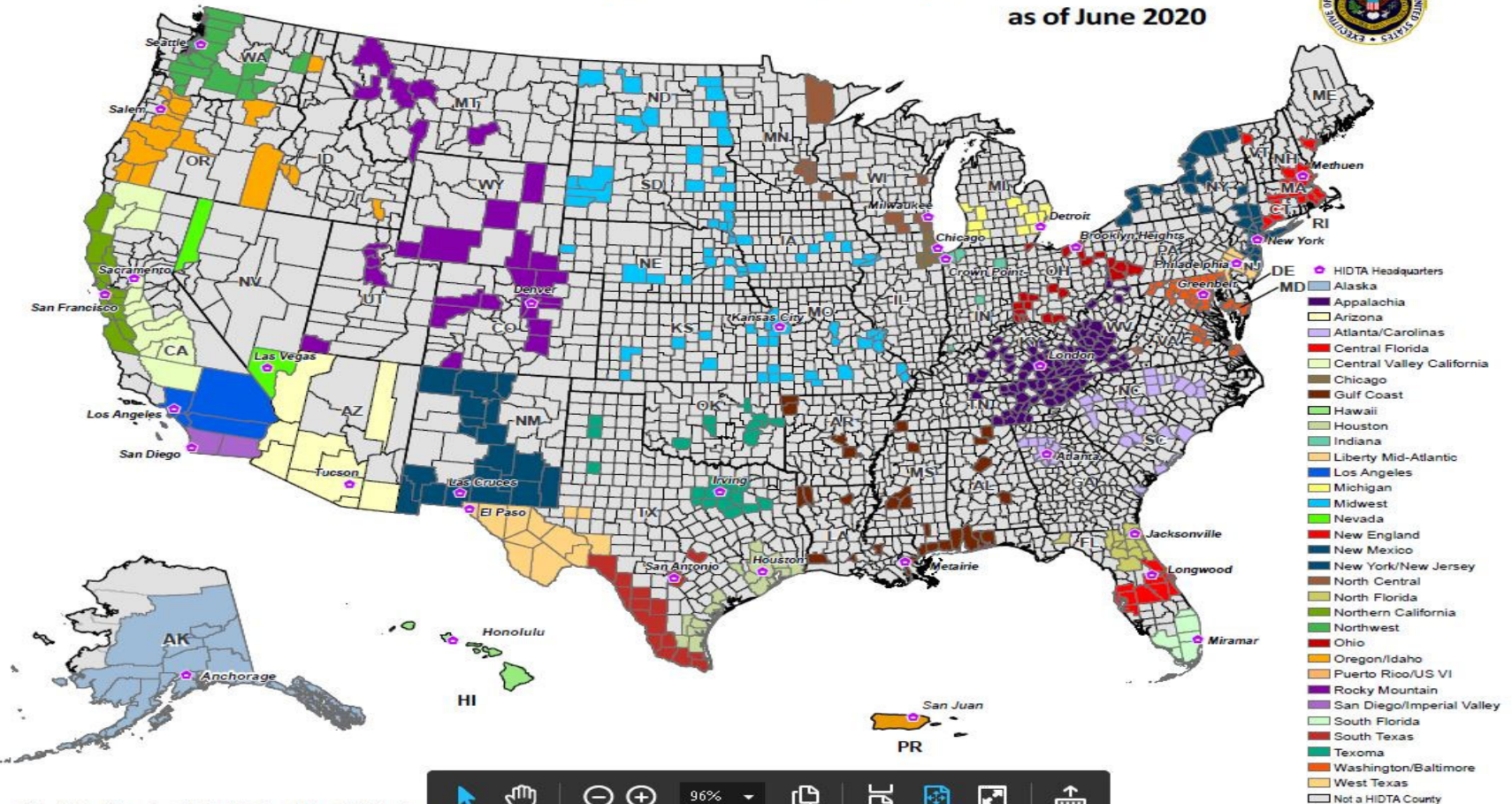


Stephen Collins  
Director  
Central FL HIDTA

# 33 HIDTA's



## High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas as of June 2020



# Central Florida HIDTA

## *“Designated Counties”*



- Pinellas
- Hillsborough
- Polk
- Osceola
- Orange
- Seminole
- Volusia
- Brevard
- Pasco
- Manatee

# Central FL HIDTA



## 16 Law Enforcement Initiatives

- Pinellas County SO Task Force
- Pasco County SO Task Force
- Tampa PD
- Hillsborough County SO Major Violators Unit
- Tampa DEA TF IMeth Group
- Tampa DEA TF 2
- Polk County SO Task Force
- Osceola County SO Investigative Bureau
- Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI)-Orlando
- Orlando DEA - Mexican Poly Drug
- Orlando DEA -Heroin

# Central FL HIDTA



- City/County Investigative Bureau (Seminole County)
- Volusia Bureau of Investigation
- Brevard County SO Special Investigations Unit
- US Marshal's Fugitive Apprehension Team
- Gulf Coast Task Force – Manatee County



# Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners



# CFHIDTA Counties/Deaths Caused by Select Drugs



| CFHIDTA Deaths Caused by Select Drugs |      |      |       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|-------|-----------------------|
|                                       | 2017 | 2018 | 2019  | % Change<br>2018-2019 |
| <b>Cocaine</b>                        | 572  | 640  | 659   | +2.9                  |
| <b>Heroin</b>                         | 282  | 352  | 283   | -19.6                 |
| <b>Methamphetamine</b>                | 250  | 297  | 383   | +28.9                 |
| <b>Fentanyl</b>                       | 527  | 865  | 1,148 | +32.7                 |
| <b>Fentanyl Analogs</b>               | 403  | 309  | 181   | -41.4                 |
|                                       |      |      |       |                       |



# 2018- March 15, 2021 Seizures



## CFHIDTA Seizures

|                        | 2018        | 2019        | 2020        | 2021<br>Thru<br>March 15 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Cocaine kg.</b>     | 692         | 1,595*      | 2,641*      | 46                       |
| <b>Heroin kg.</b>      | 40          | 43          | 16          | 5                        |
| <b>Fentanyl kg.</b>    | 8           | 17          | 10          | 2                        |
| <b>Meth kg.</b>        | 125.02      | 372         | 192         | 16                       |
| <b>Opioid Rx* du</b>   | 10,031      | 6,797       | 13,665      | 281                      |
| <b>All Pharm.** du</b> | 20,050      | 34,299      | 44,275      | 1,459                    |
| <b>Marijuana kg.</b>   | 3,557       | 3,173       | 2,473       | 119                      |
| <b>Assets Seized</b>   | \$9,566,906 | \$8,493,000 | \$8,380,000 | \$2,014,000              |



# Drug Trends 2021



- International



- Domestic

- Central Florida

# Central FL Drug Threat



## Drug Trafficking Organizations Influencing Central FL

- Mexico
- Puerto Rico
- Dominican Republic
- Colombia

# Poly-Drug Flow to Central FL, Staging, and Transit Areas



# Central FL Drug Threat



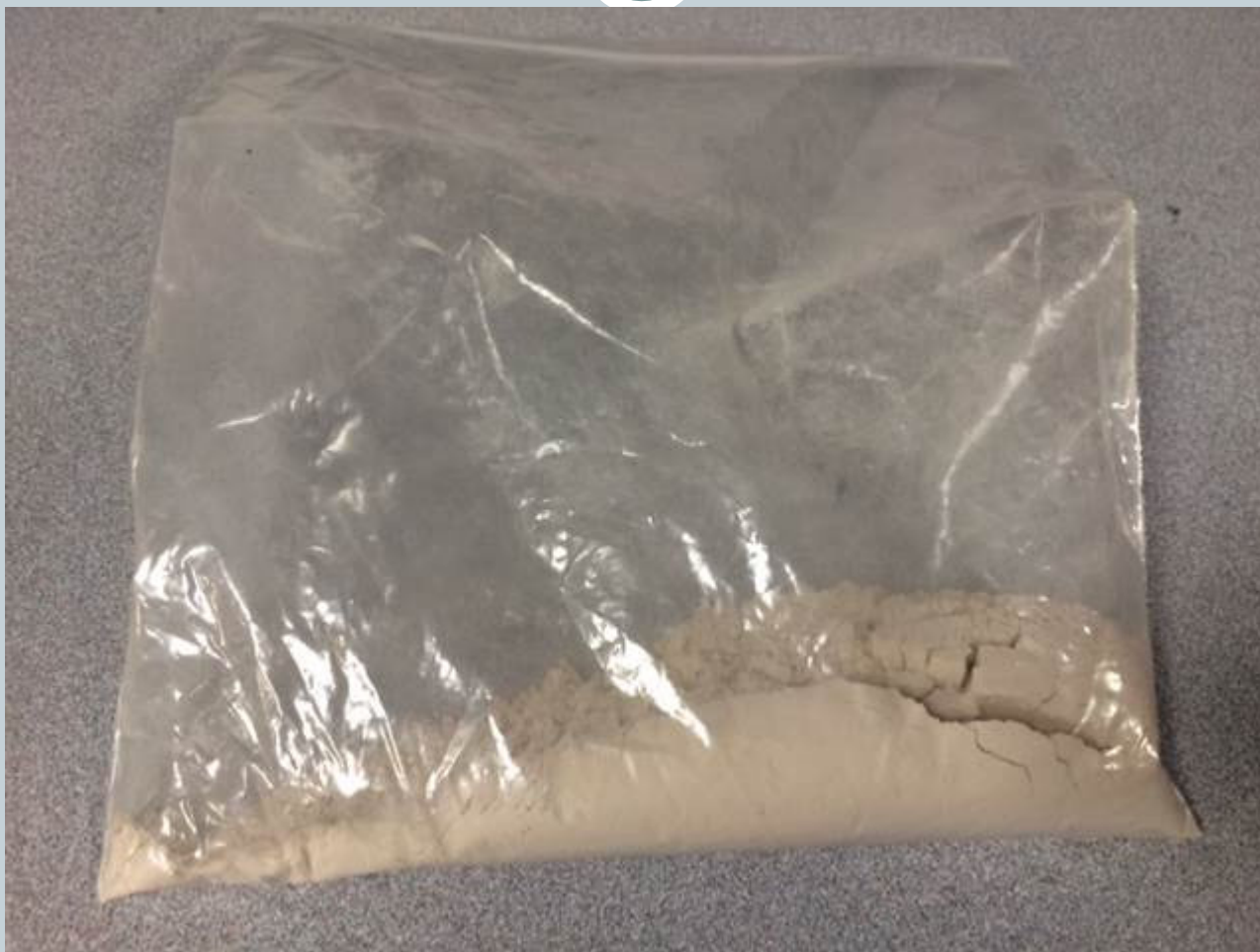
- Fentanyl/Fentanyl analogs/Heroin
- Methamphetamine
- Cocaine
- Opioid RX Drugs
- Marijuana and by-products from legalized states

# Fentanyl

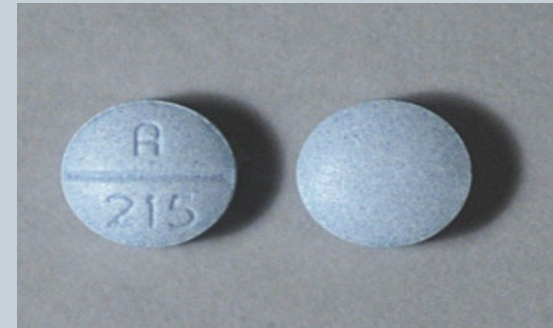


- Primary Threat-
- Manufactured in labs in Mexico-  
Transported from SW Border to Central FL
- Mail parcels from China- purchased via the internet and Dark Web (declining)
- Distributed in Central FL by independent poly-drug DTOs

# Fentanyl Powder



# Forms of Illicit Fentanyl





# Fentanyl disguised as Oxy 30s



# International Mail Facilities



Chronicle / Paul Chinn



5 Facilities  
NY (JFK)  
Chicago  
Los Angeles  
San Francisco  
Miami

Over a million pieces of mail daily

# Why Abuse Fentanyl?



- Fentanyl and analogues of fentanyl are the most potent opioids available for human and veterinary use.
- Fentanyl is approximately ~100 times more potent than morphine and ~50 times more potent than heroin<sup>1</sup>.
- Fentanyl works on the brain the same way as other opioids - it crosses the blood-brain barrier and binds with the brain's  $\mu$ -opioid receptors.
- Fentanyl:
  - Has greater potency and shorter duration of action,
  - Creates an intense euphoric effect,
  - May cause respiratory depression sufficient enough to stop breathing.

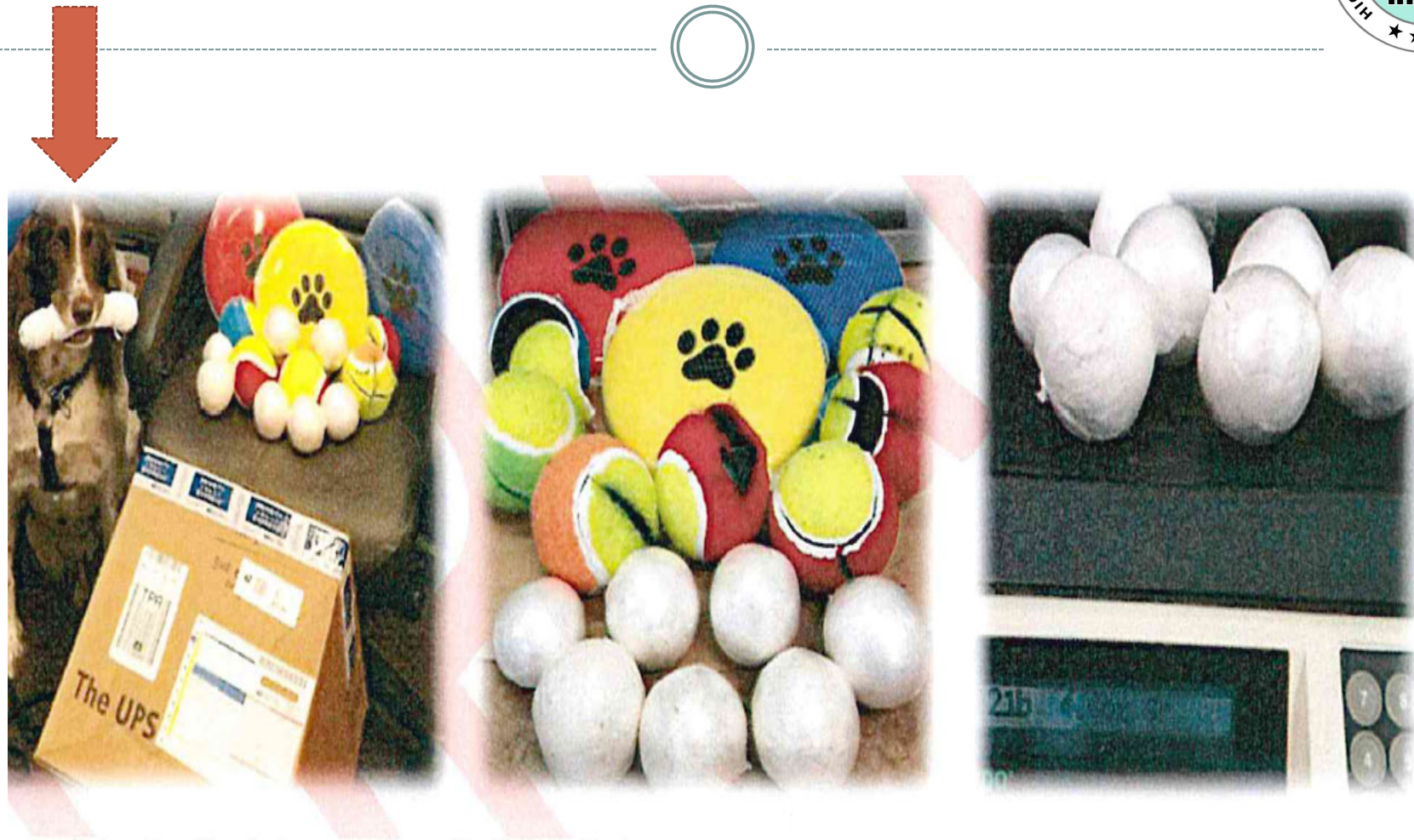
# Heroin



- Primary source Colombia and Mexican produced
- Transported via vehicle, parcel shipments, and airlines from SW border and Puerto Rico
- Seizures indicate an uptick of heroin mixed with fentanyl
- Distributed in Central FL by Mexican Cartel cells, Dominican, Puerto Rican, and independent DTOs
- Still widely available but has begun to give way to the preferred drug- fentanyl



## Heroin Seizure - Tampa International Airport



# Methamphetamine



- Widely available throughout Central FL
- Primary source from “super” labs in Mexico producing “Ice”, a high purity crystalized drug
- Transported from SW border to Central FL in both powder and in solution
- Distributed by both Mexican Cartel cells and local DTOs
- Prices doubled during the early days of the pandemic
- Now beginning to stabilize to pre-Covid prices
- One pot lab method from drug store pseudoephedrine tablets virtually non-existent

# Mexican Meth Super Labs



Capable of producing ton quantities





# Methamphetamine “ICE”



# Ice Methamphetamine Parcel Seizure



# Cocaine



- Widely available throughout Central FL
- Primarily produced in Colombia, transported to Mexico and throughout the Caribbean
- Transported from SW border to Central FL in wide variety of vehicles with concealed compartments; Mail parcels from Puerto Rico to FL
- Distributed by both Mexican Cartel cells, PR, Dominican and local DTOs
- Prices doubled during the early days of the pandemic
- Now stabilized to pre-covid prices

# Synthetics



- Synthetic drugs fall into three categories: cannabinoids, cathinone's, and phenethylamines.
- Synthetic cannabinoids are sold as “potpourri” or “incense” products, synthetic cathinone's are sold as “bath salts,” “jewelry cleaner” and “plant food,” and phenethylamines are marketed online or through Illicit channels as hallucinogens.

## What is a Synthetic Cathinone/Phenethylamine



- A class of drug that produces a stimulant type of effect.
- Users have reported the desired effects of euphoria, alertness and sexual arousal
- Other reported effects; rapid heart rate, increase in body temperature, agitation, insomnia, irritability, depression, paranoia, seizures, and panic attacks

# Synthetics



## Continued Problems/Issues with Synthetics

- Lack of foreign regulations
- US Government can't compete fast enough to Schedule new compounds as Controlled Substances
- Advertised and Promoted through the Internet and Social Media
- Health Concerns
- Russian Roulette – “what are you really taking”



# Marijuana





# Marijuana



- Parcel shipments diverted from legalized states
- Indoor grow operations



# Indoor Marijuana Grows



## Primary Threat

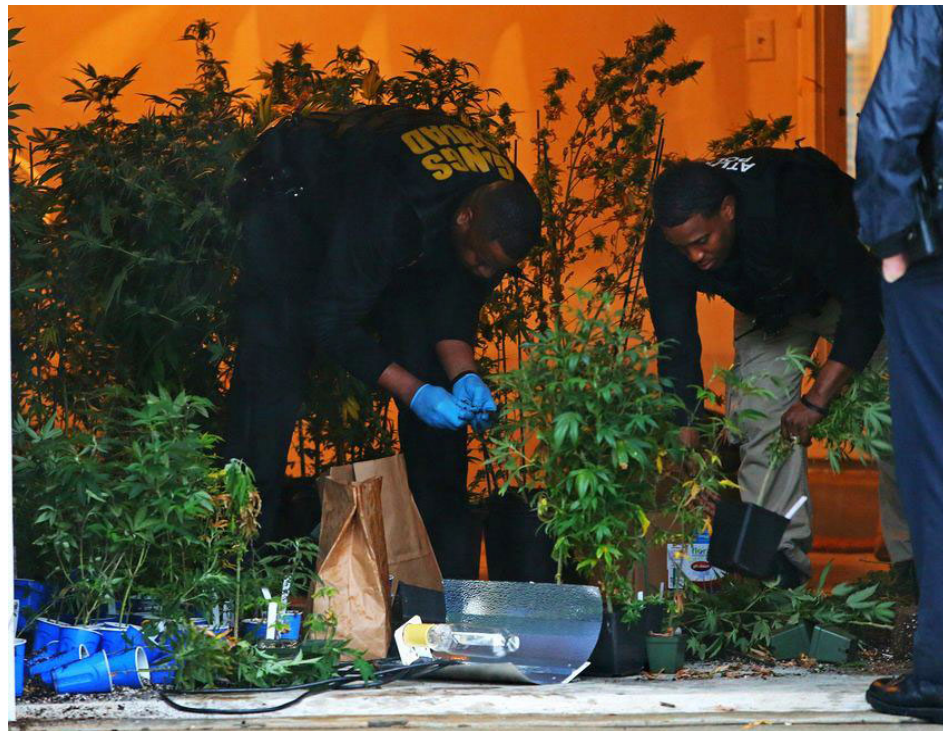
- Smaller Grows to avoid detection
- Setbacks to Law Enforcement- Overtime killer



# Hazards of Indoor Grows



- Chemical/Fertilizer Exposure
- Lack of Ventilation
- Electrical hazard



# E-Cigarettes “Vaping”



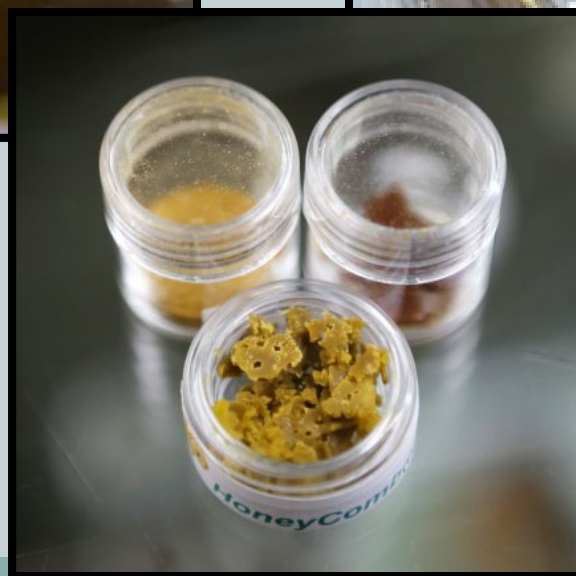
Methamphetamine dissolved into a flavored refill liquid and “smoked” or “vaped”



synthetic marijuana oil (primarily) and liquid ecstasy are being used in the e-cigarettes



# Butane Honey Oil (BHO)

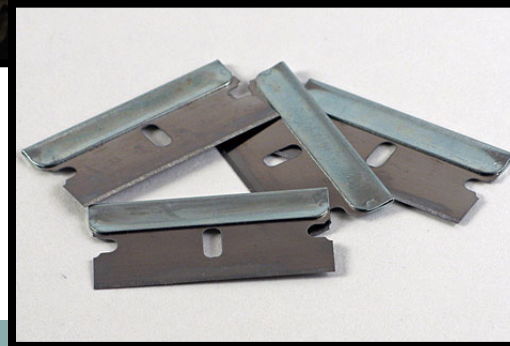
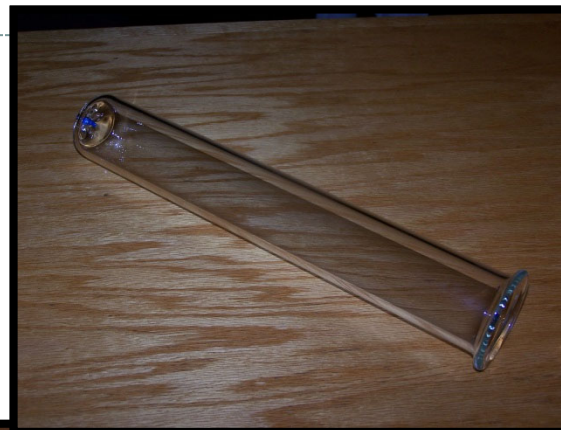


# Hash Oil Nicknames

- BHO (Butane Hash Oil)
- Honey Oil
- Weed Oil
- **Dabs**
- Concentrate
- Wax
- Amber Glass
- Moon Rocks
- **Shatter**
- 710 (spells Oil upside down and backwards)



# Common Items for Manufacturing





# Hash Oil Extraction Fire



# Hash Oil Extraction Fire





# Explosion Image



# Questions?



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