NASCSA Annual Conference
November 2, 2018

Captain John Leavitt,
Counter Narcotics Alliance
Christmas Day 2017
2016 – First Pills containing fentanyl
- Discovered by the Tucson PD Crime Lab
- May not have been the first pills
- Offered to the undercover officer at a reduced price
- Compared by the dealer to “pharmaceutical oxy”
- Called “Mexican oxy” or “blues”
- Half price
• Tens of thousands of pills purchased
• TPD Crime Lab tests every buy
  - Quality of the pills is improving
  - Cut with a variety of legal substances
  - Fake oxy pills are all undercover officer are offered by dealers now
  - Only two cases out of more than 100 operations resulted in the purchase of pharmaceutical oxy
  - Price has dropped
All of the CNA pill buys are of pills produced in Mexico.

Dies to make pills have been recovered in Southern Arizona.

There is the capacity to produce the pills locally.
Why are counterfeit pills taking over the street oxy business?

Less than $1,000 in equipment
$32,000 in fentanyl

Produces a $9 Million return on pills at the current price per pill.
Arizona’s special problem with Mexican oxy
Familiarity with Mexican pharmacies and pharmaceuticals
As patients get moved off of prescription meds, the move to Mexican oxy is an easy move
The CNA message to our community is: Work with your doctor when beginning to use pain medication to avoid developing dependency. Only obtain pharmaceuticals from a licensed pharmacist. If you see a problem developing with the use of substances in you or somebody near you, Get help - Help works.