



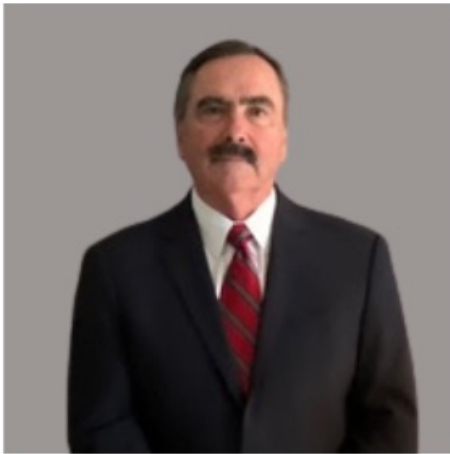
## Effective Interdiction Approaches to Stem the Flow of Drugs and Contraband in Legal Mail and Privileged Communications

*None of the planners, moderators, or presenters of this continuing education activity have any financial relationships to disclose relating to the content of this activity*



# Continuing Education Activity Disclosure

# Panel Members



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# Legal Mail: Presents unique challenge

*“Legal mail is also a pathway for contraband drugs. Unlike personal mail, legal mail is protected by attorney-client privilege. Staff may open privileged mail to check for contraband but only in the presence of the inmate; thus, some of the solutions discussed above may not be acceptable in all jurisdictions.” -*

Mitigating Contraband in the Mail, National Institute of Justice\*

**How can legal mail be processed without violating state laws, protecting confidentiality and affording access to the courts while also protecting staff and inmates inside the walls from harm?**

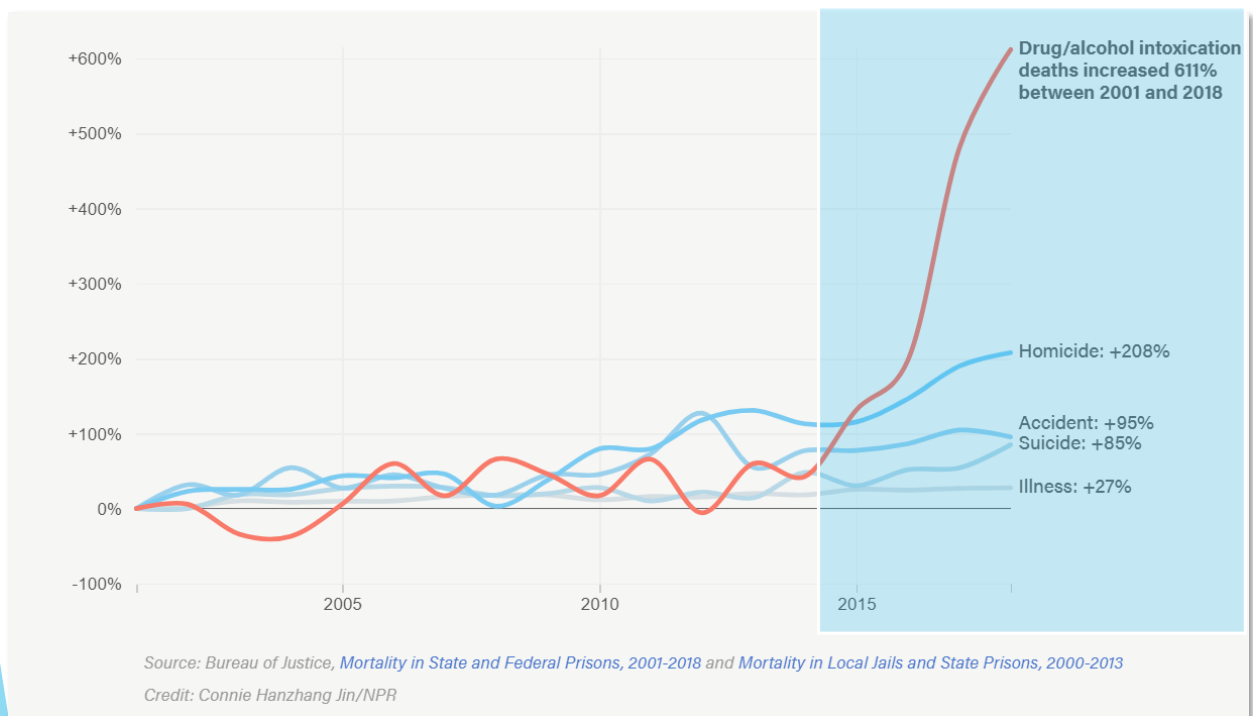


\* <https://cjtec.org/files/65532c6da8f35>

# The Drug and Contraband Situation



# Prison Deaths from Drug/Alcohol Intoxication up 600%



**NIH** National Institute on Drug Abuse  
Advancing Addiction Science

**85%**

Prison population with active substance use disorder or incarcerated for drug-related crime

Drug use a contributing factor to homicides, suicides, accidents, and medical-related issues

# Smuggling Continues to Grow

## Seized Contraband

### Florida DOC\*:

- 10K knives
- 8K Cell phones
- 561 grams of Tobacco

### Colorado DOC\*:

- 400 Grams of Cocaine
- 3x Heroin

### Texas Criminal Department of Justice\*\*

- 1800 Sheets of treated paper
- 584 Cell Phones
- 74.5 Gallons of Alcohol
- 587 Weapons
- 564 Dangerous Items

\* <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2023/01/19/cell-phones-in-prisons-tiktok-education>

\*\* <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2023/01/19/cell-phones-in-prisons-tiktok-education>

# The Problem of Drug and Contraband in the Mail





# The Challenge:

## Proliferation of drugs and contraband

### ▶ Main smuggling routes for drugs into prisons\*:

▶ Visitors

▶ Mail

▶ Remand or work release

▶ Staff

▶ Perimeter throw overs

▶ Drones and Packages

#### Including

- Under postage stamps or labels
- Folds and glue seams of envelopes
- Business cards, greetings cards, and postcards
- Magazines, newspapers, or letters
- Treated papers
- Fraudulent Legal Mail

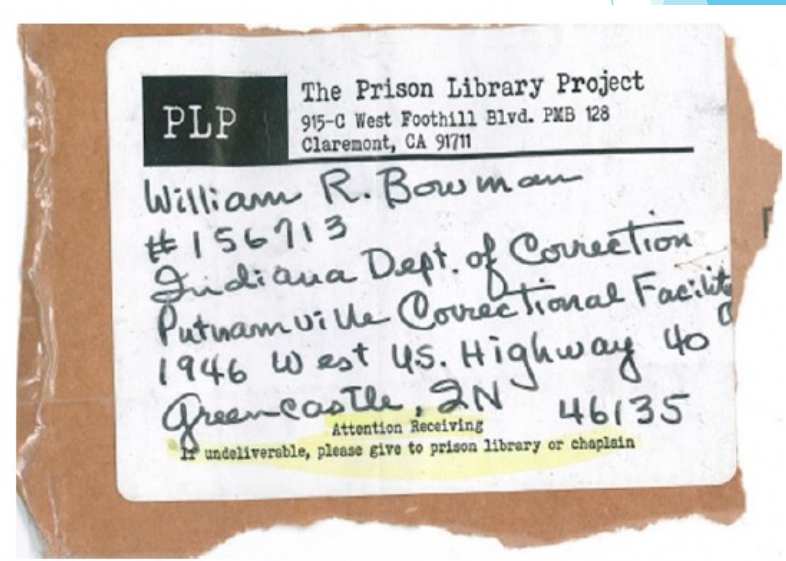


\* <https://wires.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wfs2.1473#:~:text=The%20main%20smuggling%20routes%20for,%3B%20staff%3B%20and%20perimeter%20throwovers>

# The Challenge:

## Proliferation of drugs and contraband

- ▶ Other means of entering
  - ▶ Intake areas
  - ▶ Courts and attorney mail runners
  - ▶ Fraudulent vendor shipments



KSWB articles

### Woman arrested on suspicion of mailing drug-laced letter to county jail

Domenick Candelieri  
September 12, 2023 · 1 min read



Chris Potter / CC

### Attorney arraigned in alleged Lakeland Correctional Facility drug smuggling

By Jim Measel  
Jul 21, 2023 | 6:06 PM

COLDWATER, MI (WTVB) – A Detroit area attorney was arraigned Friday in Branch County District Court on two charges after a investigation was conducted by the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Department of Corrections into an alleged incident of smuggling contraband into the Lakeland Correctional Facility in Coldwater.

NEWS

### Feds: Sheets of paper soaked in heroin, fentanyl sell for \$1,000 each in Texas prisons

A federal grand jury in San Antonio charged 13 people, including inmates and guards, with drug trafficking across the Lone Star State.

By Melissa Manno, Staff writer  
Updated Dec 19, 2023 2:24 p.m.

AP

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Israel-Hamas war Biden cannabis pardons Holiday COVID spike Prague mass shooting Trump legal issues

U.S. NEWS

### Texas attorney accused of smuggling drug-laced papers to inmates in county jail

Crime & Safety

### 5 Attempted To Smuggle Fentanyl Into Suffolk County Jail: DA

The fentanyl was reportedly sprayed onto sheets of paper that they attempted to disguise as legal papers, DA says.

Lisa Finn, Patch Staff

Posted Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 1:30 pm ET



HERALD LEADER

### Federal employee in Kentucky allegedly mailed paper soaked in synthetic marijuana to inmate

Bill Estep  
September 22, 2023 · 1 min read



### Inside Cook County Jail's battle against drug-soaked paper trade

By Tia Ewing | Published October 4, 2023 | Special Reports | FOX 32 Chicago



Inside Cook County Jail's battle against drug-soaked paper trade

Trending

- 1 Cause of death released for teen found dead in trunk of burning car in Chicago
- 2 'Illegal in so many ways': Controversy surrounds Dolton Mayor Tiffany Henyard's salary maneuver
- 3 Glenview shooting: 4 charged in murders of

# The Impact of Drugs and Contraband



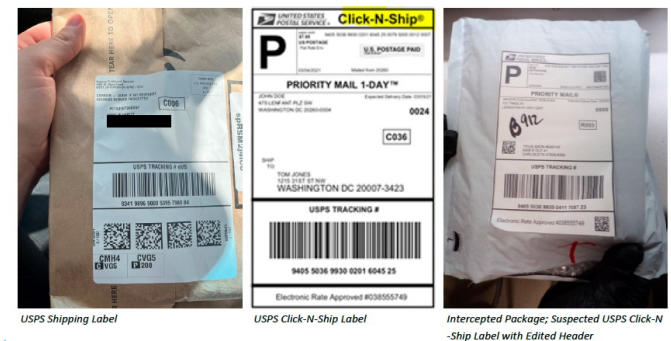
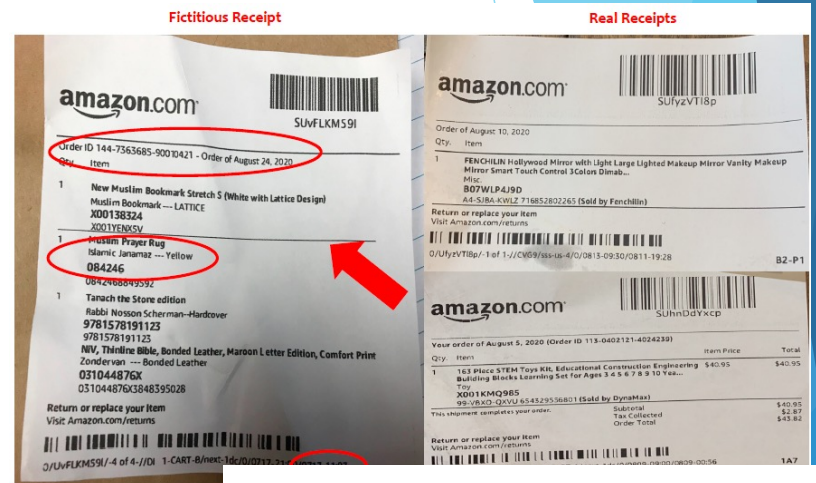
# What Are We Seeing Inside Facilities?

## ▶ Drugs in the Mail - Indiana DOC:

- Mail sprayed with synthetic cannabinoids, liquid methamphetamines and/or spice
- Contraband concealed in the spines of books or sprayed on pages
- Attorneys used as an avenue when delivering legal mail
- Civilians becoming Amazon sellers or using third party companies to disguise books and magazines as being sent from a company

## ▶ Other:

- Cotton paper purchased in commissary
- Mail being made inside facility



# Resulting Issues from Drugs and Contraband - *Indiana DOC*

## Resulting Issues

- Increased assaults due to intoxication and accumulated debt
- Increased medical emergencies and injuries
- Increase in self-inflicted injuries and suicide attempts

## Strains Resources

- Additional burden on staff and resources already stretched thin
- Preventable costs for medical treatment and transport
- Impacts staff morale and retention
- Legal expenses

# Establishing a Successful Interdiction Strategy



# What is the Facility's Contraband Goal?

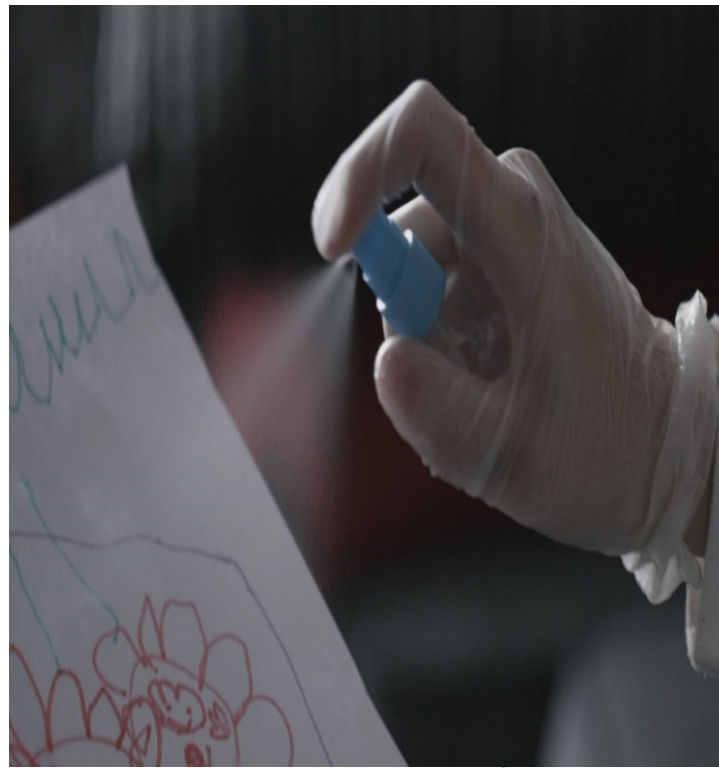
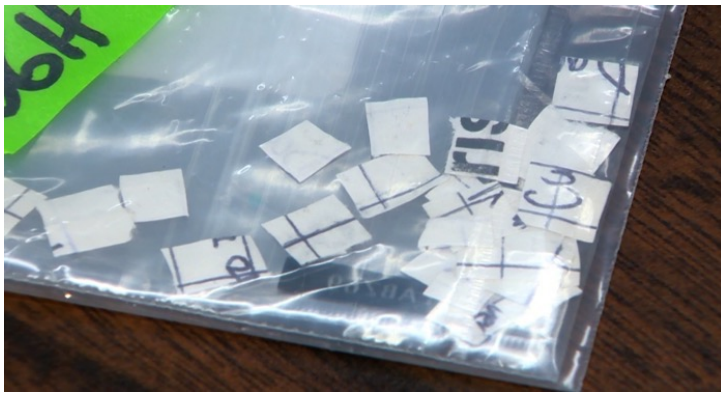
- Detection vs. Identification
- Prosecute vs Destroy

## **Set-up Processes to Best Achieve:**

- Train staff to goal
- Record keeping for investigation
- Leverage federal agency for lab testing



# Treated Papers Unidentifiable by Screening Methods



## Psychoactive Substances: Outside of known drugs and contraband

Aminoindanes	Benzodiazepines	Fentanyl analogues	Lysergamides	Nitazenes
Phencyclidine-type substances	Phenethylamines	Phenidates	Phenmetrazines	Piperazines
Plant based (e.g., kratom)	Synthetic cannabinoids (e.g., K2 / spice)	Synthetic cathinones (e.g., bath salts)	Tryptamines	Other (e.g., DMAA)

# Mail Screening Solutions



## What Are Facilities Implementing to Overcome?

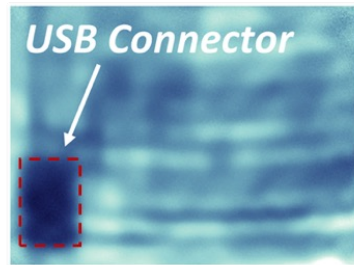
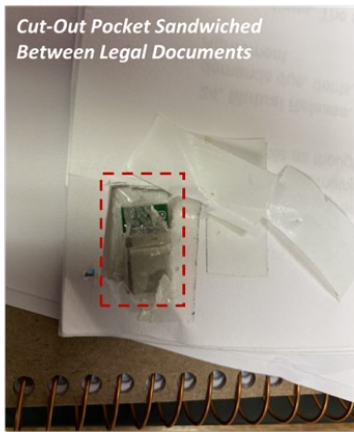
- Copying legal mail
- Communication between facilities/mailrooms on recent trends or known addresses
- Proactively monitoring offender communication
- Knock & Talks / Search Warrants when civilians are known to be in possession
- Communication with prosecutors to understand the problem to ensure individuals are held accountable
- Expansion of narcotics trained canine units

# Advanced Screening Technology

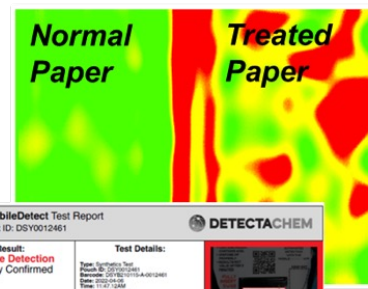


# T-Ray Applications for Corrections

**Legal Mail:** Cell phone USB connector behind staple.



**Personal Mail:** K2/Spice-laced artwork sent in letter.



MobileDetect Test Report  
Test ID: DSY0012461

**Result:**  
Positive Detection  
Visually Confirmed

**Test Details:**  
Name: Synthetic Test  
Batch ID: 2022040601  
Reference: 2022040601-AD010001  
Time: 11:07:14 AM  
Location: 4010000000  
Language: English  
Platform: Q2 1.3  
App Version: 2.0.0  
Autonomous Analysis: Enabled  
Print Configuration: Yes  
Pre Test Mode: Disabled

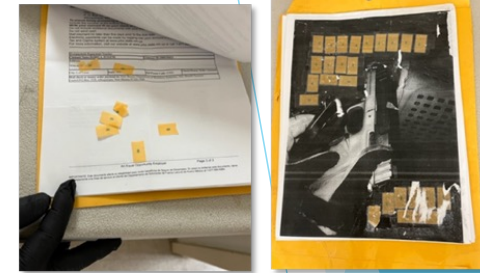
**Notes:**      **Map:**

Additional Notes (Updated: 2022-04-06 11:48 AM)

Additional Pictures:

10 09 11  
UNPROCESSED  
UNRECORDED

**Legal Mail:**  
Multiple suboxone strips, loose and taped to documents.



**Personal Mail:**  
Morphine-laced picture and letter.



**Personal Mail:** Cocaine in book binding, suboxone behind return address label.

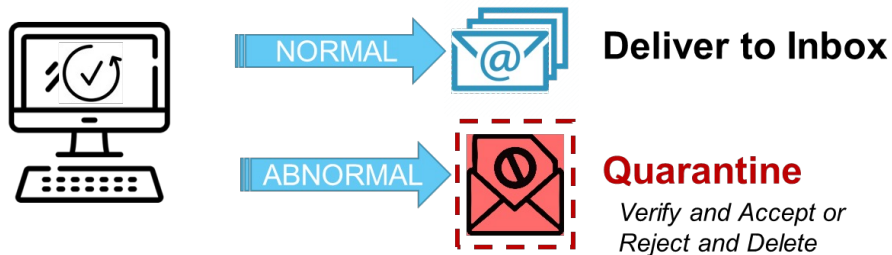


# Effective Screening Approaches

## No Need to Reinvent the Wheel

Successful high-throughput approaches.

### Email Security



### TSA Airport Screening



## Ideal Screening Process

Lean on industry best-practices to detect contraband and threats without opening the mail.

<b>Maintain</b>	Maintain privacy and confidentiality
<b>Protect</b>	Protect corrections staff
<b>Reduce</b>	Reduce screening time
<b>Detect</b>	Detect more contraband and threats

# Thank you!

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