



DIVERSION CONTROL DIVISION NEWS

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Fentanyl Free America Summit/CADCA Partnership

In December 2025, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Administrator Terry Cole proudly launched DEA’s newest public awareness and enforcement initiative – Fentanyl Free America (FFA).

As part of this campaign, the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) has invited the DEA to hold its inaugural Fentanyl Free America Summit in conjunction with the 2026 CADCA Mid-Year at the Gaylord Palms Hotel/Convention Center in Orlando, FL, July 12 through July 16, 2026. The FFA Summit will allow roughly 3,000 attendees of the CADCA Mid-

Year along with hundreds of other organizations from various sectors (businesses, federal/tribal/state/local government, community non-profit, faith-based, and

families to name a few) to come together to improve the protection, prevention, and



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support efforts against illicit fentanyl across the nation.

This partnership underscores DEA’s unwavering commitment to protect the United States from synthetic opioids by disrupting the illicit fentanyl supply chain, reducing its availability, and saving American lives.

Visit DEA’s website to learn more about the [Fentanyl Free America](#) initiative.

Fentanyl Pre-Cursor Chemical Awareness

In June 2025, Houston-area Diversion personnel executed Project Sage Advice, in which investigators conducted on-site visits to 318 freight transportation and logistics entities throughout the Port of Laredo area.

During this industry outreach event, investigators distributed DEA’s newly-created [Green Notice](#), which explains how chemical traffickers are exploiting delivery systems by concealing pre-cursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of fentanyl through mis-manifested, undervalued, and consolidated shipments.



This effort led to a national initiative the Diversion Control Program launched in conjunction with the Fentanyl Free America campaign in late 2025. Diversion personnel worldwide continue to educate industry partners of these current trends, provide guidance regarding know your customer provisions, explain applicable DEA regulations, and develop relationships in hopes of establishing coordinated pre-cursor chemical diversion prevention efforts.

The distribution, receipt, sale, importation, or exportation of listed chemicals can qualify as a regulated transaction per the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and its corresponding federal regulations. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly or intentionally to possess or distribute chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of fentanyl, or having reasonable cause to believe the chemicals will be used to illegally manufacture fentanyl. 21 U.S.C. 843(a)(6), (7). Failure to comply may result in criminal, civil, or administrative proceedings. To report suspicious chemical related activity, please visit: apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/CORT.

Drug Spotlight: KRATOM

Kratom is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia. Consumption of its leaves produces both stimulant effects (in low doses) and sedative effects (in high doses), and can lead to psychotic symptoms as well as psychological and physiological dependence. Kratom leaves contain two major psychoactive ingredients (mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine).



Kratom's effects on the body include nausea, itching, sweating, dry mouth, constipation, increased urination, tachycardia, vomiting, drowsiness, and loss of appetite. Users of kratom have also experienced anorexia, weight loss, insomnia, hepatotoxicity, seizure, and hallucinations.

America's Poison Centers' 2023 annual report indicates that kratom accounted for 1,489 case mentions, 880 single exposures, 671 cases that involved treatment in a healthcare facility, and 5 deaths. Preliminary data for 2024 shows similar trends; however, the partial year data for 2025 (Jan-Jul) outpaced 2023 and 2024 trends with nearly 1,700 kratom exposure cases reported with 35% reporting a serious medical outcome.

Kratom is not currently controlled under the Controlled Substances Act; however, there may be some state regulations or prohibitions against the possession and use of kratom. The Food and Drug Administration has not approved kratom for any medical use. In addition, DEA has listed kratom as a Drug and Chemical of Concern.

For more information, see DEA's drug fact sheet on [Kratom](#).

Conference Connections

The Diversion Control Division Outreach Section partners with national professional associations at various conferences and industry-related meetings throughout the year. Conference engagement allows DEA to both inform and listen by providing timely regulatory guidance while gaining direct insight and feedback from the registrant community. This two-way exchange strengthens collaboration, enhances mutual understanding, and supports more effective and responsive diversion control efforts.



Pain Connect

DEA hosted a booth at the American Academy of Pain Medicine's Pain Connect Conference in Salt Lake City, UT, March 5-8, 2026. Health care professional attendees asked questions about prescribing, illicit fentanyl, and Suboxone.

Healthcare Distribution Alliance

Diversion Control's Assistant Administrator (AA) Cheri Oz and Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA) Katie Laughery addressed primarily manufacturers and distributors of controlled substances at the Healthcare Distribution Alliance annual conference in Austin, TX, on March 10, 2026.



AA Oz spoke about Fentanyl Free America and how everyone has a part in making America free from illicit fentanyl. DAA Laughery addressed specific concerns attendees had about buprenorphine supply chain issues, telemedicine, electronic prescribing, suspicious order reports, and the xylazine threat.

DEA also hosted a booth where topics of discussion included quota, registration issues and illicit fentanyl.

Supply Chain Training Opportunities

To better align with the needs of our registrant community, DEA will offer virtual Diversion Awareness Trainings on topics identified as high interest by the supply chain community, including Quota and Import/Export matters. While we will not host our in-person Supply Chain Conference this year, this approach ensures we continue to deliver the information most critical to this community in a timely and accessible format. We remain committed to this partnership and look forward to returning to an in-person conference next year.

Email invitations will be sent to the contacts on the DEA registrations for manufacturers, distributors, importers and exporters of both controlled substances and listed chemicals. Additionally, the invitation will be posted on the Diversion Control website.

These supply chain focused trainings are one component of DEA's broader outreach and training efforts. To stay informed of additional learning opportunities, please bookmark Diversion Control Division's ["Meeting and Events" page](#) for upcoming pertinent trainings.

Diversion Control Enforcement Awareness

The Diversion Control Division's enforcement efforts focus on protecting public health by identifying and addressing behaviors that place patients and communities at risk, while preserving access to legitimate medical treatment and commerce.

Data analysis, prescribing and distribution trends, and risk indicators associated with diversion, misuse, and patient harm inform enforcement priorities.



The Division emphasizes a targeted, risk-based approach, directing resources toward patterns of activity that reflect systemic compliance failures or elevated diversion risk, rather than isolated or inadvertent errors.

Through a combination of regulatory oversight, investigative action, and industry engagement, the Diversion Control Division works to promote accountability, transparency, and adherence to professional standards across the controlled substance supply chain.

What registrants should expect:

DEA will continue to prioritize enforcement actions that address significant public health risks, emerging drug threats, and repeat or egregious violations, while encouraging proactive compliance efforts and early corrective action.

These cases underscore DEA’s focus on patient safety, professional accountability, and early identification of diversion risk.

Case of Interest

[Long Island Doctor Sentenced to 7 Years in Prison for Operating Oxycodone Pill Mill](#)

Mar. 2, 2026

Ways to Stay Connected



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