

Detection and Prevention of Illicit Drugs in a Correctional Facility

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to examine and determine the common types of illicit drugs entering correctional facilities today and the effects these drugs have on the inmate population and detention staff. This research further explores methods of drug detection and prevention and how these methods are being utilized from eleven correctional facilities surveyed throughout the state of Florida. These various methods ascertained from those surveyed provides insight into which technique of drug interdiction may be most effective in reducing or even stopping the flow of drugs in our correctional institutions.

Introduction

Illicit drugs have a detrimental impact in a correctional facility and the methods of detecting and preventing these drugs from entering the facility presents a constant challenge. The goal of this research is to examine the most common types of dangerous drugs being found within facilities across Florida and the nation. This research further intends to provide an understanding of the methods of how drugs are being illegally introduced within correctional institutions. Once the portal for the entry of specific drugs is identified, the focus will be to determine methods in which drugs can be detected and prevented from entering prisons and jails.

One can certainly ascertain as to the dangers illicit drug pose and with the opioid epidemic this country is experiencing; correctional facilities are no exception. Due to this epidemic and coupled with the introduction of drugs in facilities, inmates are suffering and or dying from overdoses at a high rate.

We must be diligent in examining the dangerous types of drugs being smuggled in and understand how these drugs present devastating effects to the inmate population and detention staff. Some effects can be, but not limited to, inmate overdoses, violence, and safety concerns to staff, who come in contact with certain drugs. It's our duty to ensure our facilities remain safe and secure for the inmate population and employees. Once establishing the risk drugs pose and the manner in which they are introduced, one can establish a method as to how said drugs can be detected and subsequently prevented.

The traditional methods of detection are in the form of searches performed by detention staff, which can be further augmented with the use of drug sniffing dogs or K-9's. However, are there best practice methods that can enhance human intervention? What other tools can be used to help lessen the burden of liability? As our society continues to advance in technology and automation, can these advancements be used to prevent the introduction of drugs in our correctional institutions?

Literature Review

Types of Drugs and the Dangerous Effects:

It's difficult to almost impossible to list all the type of drugs being smuggled into correctional facilities. It was said "The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons." (Shapiro, 2006). It's my understanding this quote refers to what occurs in the free society could also mimic to what's occurring in correctional facilities. For this research I selected several common types of illicit and dangerous drugs being used outside and inside the walls of confinement. It should be noted that my selection of illicit drugs are only a few drugs out of many being smuggled into facilities, which pose a risk.

The most commonly used illicit drug in the United States is marijuana, which first became popular in the 1920's. There has been a great deal of debate whether or not marijuana is a "gateway drug". In 2011, the most commonly detected drug among male arrestees in the United States was marijuana. This data was collected through self-reporting and urinalysis samples, which was collected at booking facilities in ten cities across the U.S. Other drugs detected from these urinalysis samples were cocaine, opiates and methamphetamine. (Cesar, 2013)

Another more dangerous drug which has been, since 2008, a serious issue in the United States is synthetic cannabinoids or synthetic marijuana also known as spice or K2. The drug is a human made mind altering chemical, which is meant to mimic tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). This chemical can be sprayed on dried plant material and then smoked or distributed in a liquid state to be inhaled in electronic cigarettes. The effects from taking this drug are unpredictable, dangerous and life threatening. This drug has serious physical and mental effects which may include, but limited to the following: rapid heart rate, high blood pressure, kidney damage, violent behavior, paranoia, hallucinations and suicidal thoughts. (NIDA, 2018, February 5)

This drug has greatly impacted our society both inside and outside the correctional setting. It was reported that, on August 15, 2018, in New Haven, Connecticut, more than 70 people had suffered from drug overdoses within a 24 hour period. All of these overdoses occurred in a small geographical area and the cause of the overdoses were from the use synthetic cannabinoids. (Schmidt, 2018)

In regards to correctional facilities there have been an unprecedented amount of overdoses and violence associated with synthetic marijuana just in the past two years. It was reported in 2018 that the Florida prison system has had a dramatic increase in accidental deaths among inmates, which totaled 12 in 2016 and 62 in 2017. The majority of these deaths are related to overdoses according to the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC). In a FDC internal audit the top drug which caused the most deaths was synthetic marijuana. (Blaskey, 2018)

In August of 2018, Pennsylvania Prison officials reported that their facilities in the western part of the state have seen a four percent increase of inmate violence, which includes inmate on staff assaults. This increase is measured over a six-month period and the contributing factor was K2. (Esack, 2018)

In a Washington DC jail, on March 15, 2018, at least a dozen employees became sick when a package arrived in the facility mailroom containing what was first thought to

be fentanyl, but later determined to be synthetic cannabinoid. At least seven of the effected employees, who suffered from dizziness and breathing difficulties, were taken to the hospital for treatment. (Coffin, 2018)

Another type of drug which has had a harmful impact in our society is opioids. For this research I focused my attention to fentanyl and heroin. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid similar to the natural drug morphine. However, Fentanyl can be up to 100 times more powerful than morphine. (NIDA, 2019) Heroin on the other hand is natural product made from morphine. Both of these drugs are highly addictive and deadly. (NIDA, 2018, June 8)

Another commonality that these opioids have is that in 2016 both reached the top of the charts as being the most common drugs found in overdose deaths. Fentanyl was ranked number one with 18,335 deaths and Heroin at number two with 15,961 deaths. However, in the previous four years (2013 to 2016) heroin was ranked number one. Fentanyl jumped 113 percent each of the four years to land at the top of the chart. (Kounang, 2018)

Fentanyl and other opioids has had increased notoriety in the past couple of years with overdose occurring in prisons and jails across the country, to include ill effects this drug has had on officers by direct and indirect exposure. In August 2018, an inmate at an Ohio correctional facility was found to have overdosed on a mixture of fentanyl and heroin and was sent to the hospital. Accompanying the inmate were 27 staff members from the facility, who had been exposed to the drug. (Duggan, 2018)

In the Miami-Dade County Jail two inmates had died and two others sent to the hospital. The suspected cause was from the use of fentanyl. It is further alleged that that one of the deceased inmates obtained the drugs from an inmate who had been recently transferred from another facility. It is believed that this inmate had smuggled the drug in the facility in his anal cavity. In November 2018, he was indicted for murder. (Ovalle, 2018)

On February 1, 2019, the Pasco County Jail was placed on lockdown and a facility wide search was underway due to five inmates, who suffered from drug overdoses in less than a week. One of the inmates' died as a result of the overdose even after receiving four doses of Narcan. The drug believed to have caused the overdoses was fentanyl laced methamphetamines. It is suspected that the drugs entered the facility by an inmate hiding it in his body cavity. (Cascio, 2019)

Another drug that has become increasingly common in correctional facilities is Suboxone. Suboxone is a prescribed medication used to manage opioid addiction. Suboxone formulated using a combination of buprenorphine, which is a synthetic opioid, and Naloxone. (NIDA, 2018, January 17)

Drug Smuggling techniques:

Inmate's motivation for obtaining drugs in correctional facilities is extreme and various techniques are used in order to thwart the efforts of detention staff. The following describes different methods in which inmates smuggle drugs into correctional facilities throughout Florida and United States. One popular method is through outside mail delivered to the inmates. In Panama City, Florida, 27 arrests were made in connection with a drug smuggling operation at the Bay County Jail. Through a yearlong investigation

it was discovered that mail sent to inmates was laced with synthetic drugs to include suboxone. (Breux, 2018)

Another example of drugs being smuggled in through the mail occurred at the Polk County Jail where K2 was sprayed on sheets of paper and mailed to inmates. The papers were disguised with legal information and personal messages written on bogus and appropriate law firm stationary. Some papers were brought in to the facility during meetings with an attorney. (WFTS, 2018)

Another method includes arrestees being brought into the facility with drugs hidden on their person to include in their body cavity. In July 2018, an incident occurred at St. Johns County Jail, in St. Augustine, Florida, where drugs were found on a female arrestee at the time she was being booked in. A search revealed that the woman had hidden drugs in her anus, which included three bags of methamphetamine and one bag of crack cocaine. (WJXT, 2018)

A similar case occurred in Columbus, Indiana at the Bartholomew County Jail. An officer had received information of a women planning to smuggle drugs into the jail. Upon entering the jail, the woman was taken to a medical facility where she removed, from her body cavity, drugs consisting of 2.5 grams of heroin, suboxone pills, other unknown pills and two packs of cigarettes. Later the Sheriff of Bartholomew County explained that the only way to find contraband concealed in the body cavity is by intelligence, a probable cause search warrant, and body scanner. (King, 2019)

One can only assume that when inmates come in contact with other individuals the chances of contraband being passed to the inmate is great. It reasonable to say that inmates need a connection with individuals outside the facility to obtain drugs. An example would include inmate visitation, especially if the visitation is conducted in a manner in which the inmate is in direct contact with the visitor. In January 2019, at Lowell Correctional Institute, near Ocala, a man who was visiting a female inmate simply removed something from his jacket and gave it to the inmate. Fortunately, this was witnessed by staff and the inmate was search. It was discovered that the inmate was in possession of fifteen strips of suboxone. (Fillmore, 2019)

Another example of inmates obtaining drugs from an outside source would be through the contact with professional visitors and detention staff assigned to the facility. In a North Carolina jail a man disguised as a pastor attempting to see an inmate was discovered having suboxone strips inside his bible. (Price, 2019)

In Plymouth County Massachusetts, two women entered the county correctional facility. One of the women was an attorney who used her credentials to gain access into the jail and make contact with an inmate. The attorney gave the inmate sixty-one suboxone strips. (Legal Monitor Worldwide, 2018)

Detention staff who provide drugs to inmates are not uncommon as one would hope. An example occurred in Columbia County, FL, where a correctional officer was arrested for distributing drugs to an inmate at Columbia Correctional Institution. It was reported that the office received payments from the inmate's girlfriend, which totaled \$1,100. (Hamlin, 2019)

As indicated inmates will go to great lengths to obtain drugs and have used more sophisticated methods in doing so. One such smuggling technique is through use of small remote piloted drones. With use of these drones contraband can be dropped in and around facilities.

In the early morning hours, on August 18, 2017, two correctional officers from a correctional facility in Michigan witnessed a drone drop two bags near a housing unit. The bags contained a cellphone and drugs. (Corrections One, 2017)

Detection and Prevention:

As previously identified there are different and diverse ways inmates smuggle drugs into facilities. This problem presents a constant endeavor and challenge for detention employees. Technology in the correction setting has advanced rapidly. In many ways advancements in technology has lessen the burden for staff or help them become more proficient and even safer during the course of their duties.

One form of technology that can be used to detect contraband hidden on individuals, including concealed in body cavities, are full body scanners. In 2012, the Hamilton County Jail, in Ohio, began using a full-body digital scanner. The brand name for this particular device is SecurPass. This device was used to scan inmates in addition to strip searches in the intake area of the facility. In 2013, the Pinellas County Jail also implemented the SecurPass scanner, which is also used in the facilities intake and receiving area in order to scan all new prisoners. In a twelve-month period there were 158 incidents where contraband was detected while using the scanner. The forms of contraband detected included, but not limited to, the following: drugs, drug paraphernalia, guns, knives and handcuff keys. At the end of 2015 there were 200 correctional facilities throughout the United States using SecurPass scanners. (Clarke, 2016)

In Orange County Florida, at the Orange County Jail, staff have battled the introduction of contraband to include drugs. In April 2016, the jail began using a full body digital scanner. In a particular case, following implementation of the scanner, an arrestee was brought into the facility and denied having any contraband. After being scanned the arrestee removed from her body cavity forty-nine bags of heroin and ten bags of cocaine. (Allen, 2016)

Drugs sent through the mail not only jeopardizes the safety and security of the inmate population, but has threatening effects on staff. With the use of technology inmate mail can now be scanned for drugs. With the use of this type of device the Okaloosa County Jail is able to screen a letter in just seconds. The device then determines if the letter contains illicit drugs such as cocaine, heroin, amphetamines and suboxone. The brand name of this particular device is the Verovision Mail Screener. In just several weeks of using the screener forty pieces of mail was found to have illicit drugs. (Judnich, 2018)

Another method of combating contraband in mail is to not have inmate mail delivered to the facility. Smart Communication is a company base in Pinellas County, FL and has devised a system called MailGuard. Instead of mail being sent directly to the correctional facility, it is sent off-site and to a third party, scanned and then uploaded to kiosks located in an inmate housing unit. The inmate may then view the correspondence. The mail is further filtered with specific security setting customized for your facility. (Sims, 2017)

Just in the past several months the Seminole County Sheriff's Office began using the MailGuard system at their jail facility. The jail further adopted an inmate electronic messaging system, where the inmate may correspond with family and friends through the kiosk. (Williams, 2019)

Drone detection and interdiction pose another type of challenge for jail administrators. In a survey prepared for the National Institute of Justice, it was explained that the most effective method of drone detection is through the use of radio frequency (RF). When using this technology, the user may identify the GPS coordinates and altitude of the drone and even the GPS location of the drone operator. There are other methods of detection such as audio, video, thermal and radar detection. (NIJ, 2017)

In May 2016, the Suffolk County Correctional Facility in New York, installed drone detection equipment at their facility. Although there were no incidents with drones that prompted this move to install the technology, but understood that incidents involving drones were happening at other facilities. Since being installed the facility has not had any drones enter their area. However, the facility was alerted to drones flying in a public parking lot near the facility, which confirms the system works. (Coppola, 2017)

Inmate visitation certainly increases the risk of contraband introduction. One method facilities can implement would be the use of a video visitation system. This type of visitation is similar to a video conference and is conducted remotely as opposed to being face to face or in person. Video visiting was first implemented in correctional facilities around 25 years ago. As technology advanced so did the application of the system resulting in more user friendly equipment and affordability. Research and subsequent guide prepared for the National Institute of Corrections suggested that these type of systems are used to improve safety and security of correctional facilities.

A reduction in contact or in person visits may reduce the amount of contraband introduction. This type of technology may further reduce both inmate movement and incidents that occur in visitation rooms. (Hollihan & Portlock, 2014)

Methods

The focus of this research was to examine what dangerous and illicit drugs are being introduced in correctional facilities, methods of introduction and what techniques and forms of technology are being used to detect and prevent drugs from entering facilities. The method in which research data was collected was through the use of surveys. The surveys were forwarded to eleven correctional facilities throughout the State of Florida. These facilities included county jails in Lake, Orange, Polk, Seminole, Volusia, Pasco, Hillsborough, Collier, and Palm Beach County. In order to broaden the scope of this research, surveys were also forwarded to two Florida Department of Correction facilities, which included Jefferson Correctional Institution and Okaloosa Correctional Institution. The surveys were sent, by email, to an individual from each of the selected facilities.

The facilities that took part in this survey were selected based on geographic location with intent of ensuring input was gathered throughout the State of Florida. The daily average inmate population of the eleven facilities surveyed range from 800 to just over 3000 inmates. Although the facilities varied greatly in inmate population, I didn't want to isolate the research to just a large or small institutions.

The design of the survey was intended to gather information from the selected institutions to determine effective and innovative measures used to detect and prevent the introduction of illicit drugs. This survey was further intended to ascertain if the use of

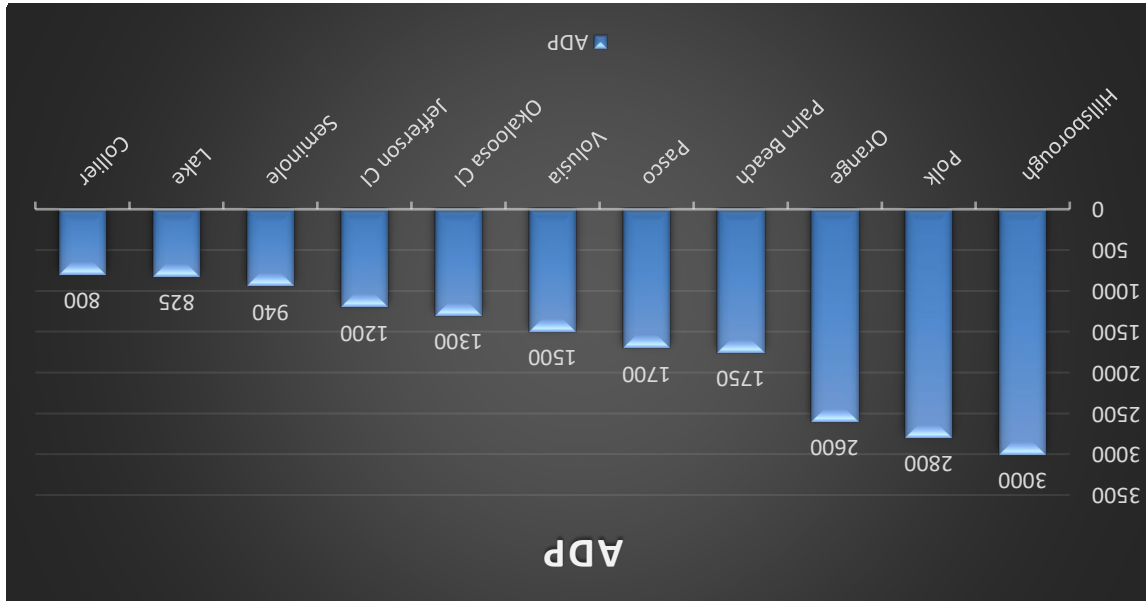
technological devices have generated successful results or is the applied technology only effective when used in conjunction with traditional measure such as human interdiction methods or officer searches and the use of other means such as drug detection dogs. This survey is to be confidential by only indicating the name of the facility and not the individual completing the survey. The weakness in this survey is that some of the questions maybe too broad in scope not requiring a more definitive or finite response. Although the purpose of these type of questions may ensure a greater degree of openness and candor, they may also require a small degree of interpretation.

Results

The surveys, consisting of twenty-three questions, were sent by email to eleven correctional facilities throughout the State of Florida. I had a 100 percent return rate as all eleven surveys were returned. However, one survey was incomplete with only 64% of the questions answered or nine questions unanswered.

The first question simply inquired to the size of the facility or the average daily population (ADP) of inmates at the time of the survey. Indicated in the table below are the responses of those surveyed.

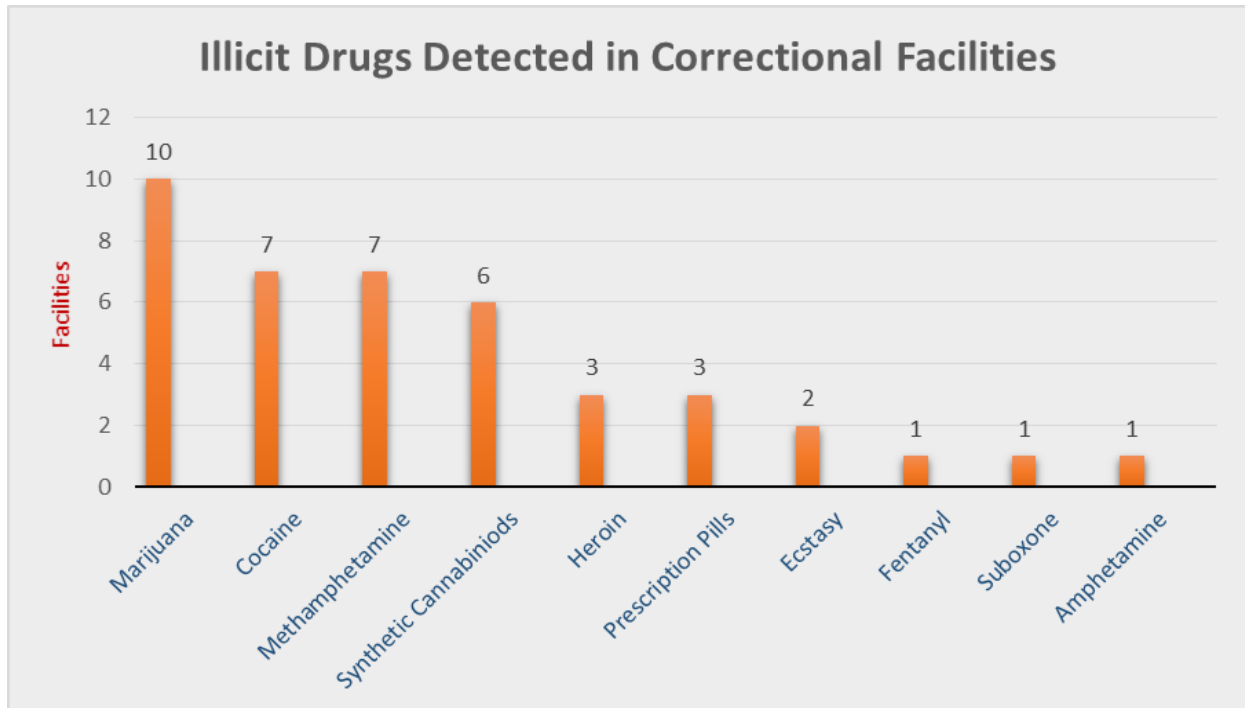
Table 1: Average Daily Population (ADP)



Question 2 of the survey focuses on the type of illicit drugs being detected entering each of the participating facilities. The results of the eleven facilities surveyed indicated ten types of illicit drugs that have been detected. Ten facilities (91%) detected Marijuana, seven facilities (64%) detected Cocaine, seven facilities (64%) detected Methamphetamine, six facilities (55%) detected Synthetic Cannabinoids (K2), three facilities (27%) detected Heroin, three facilities (27%) detected Prescription Pills, two

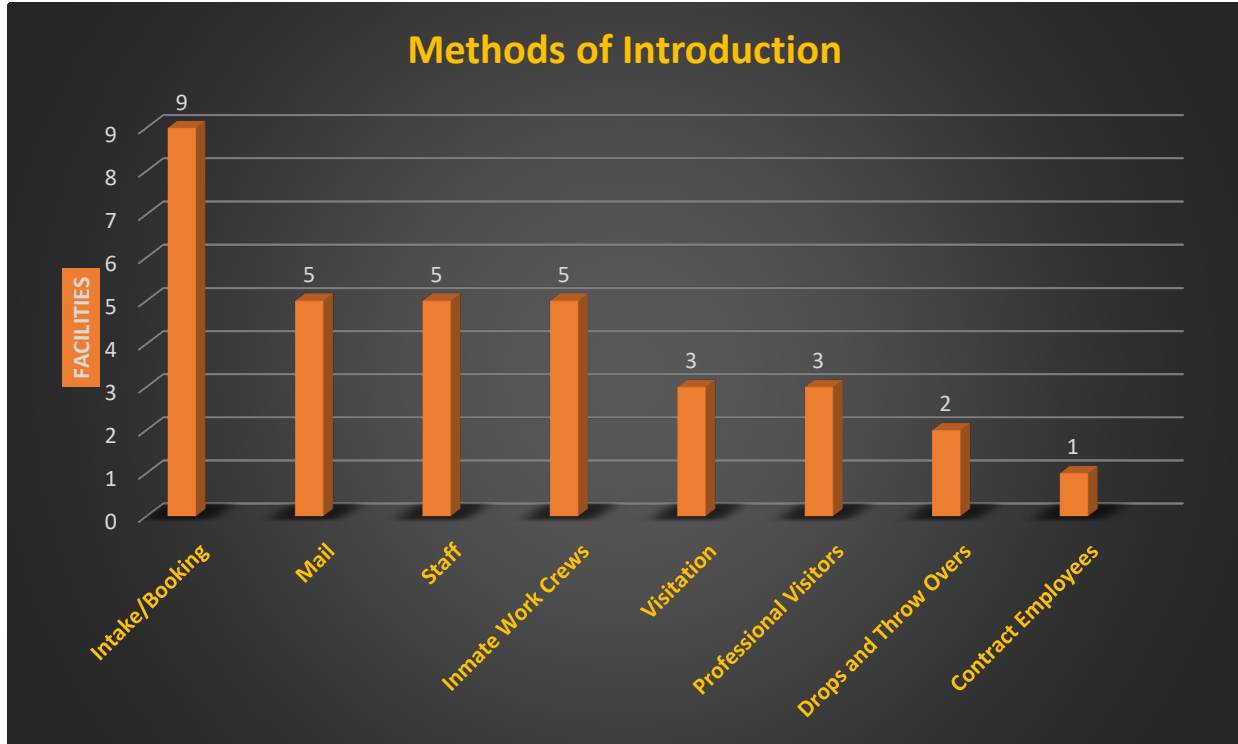
facilities (18%) detected Ecstasy, one facility (9%) detected Fentanyl, One facility (9%) detected Suboxone and only one facility (9%) detected Amphetamine. See Table 2 below, which further illustrates the responses.

Table 2: Illicit Drugs Detected in Correctional Facilities



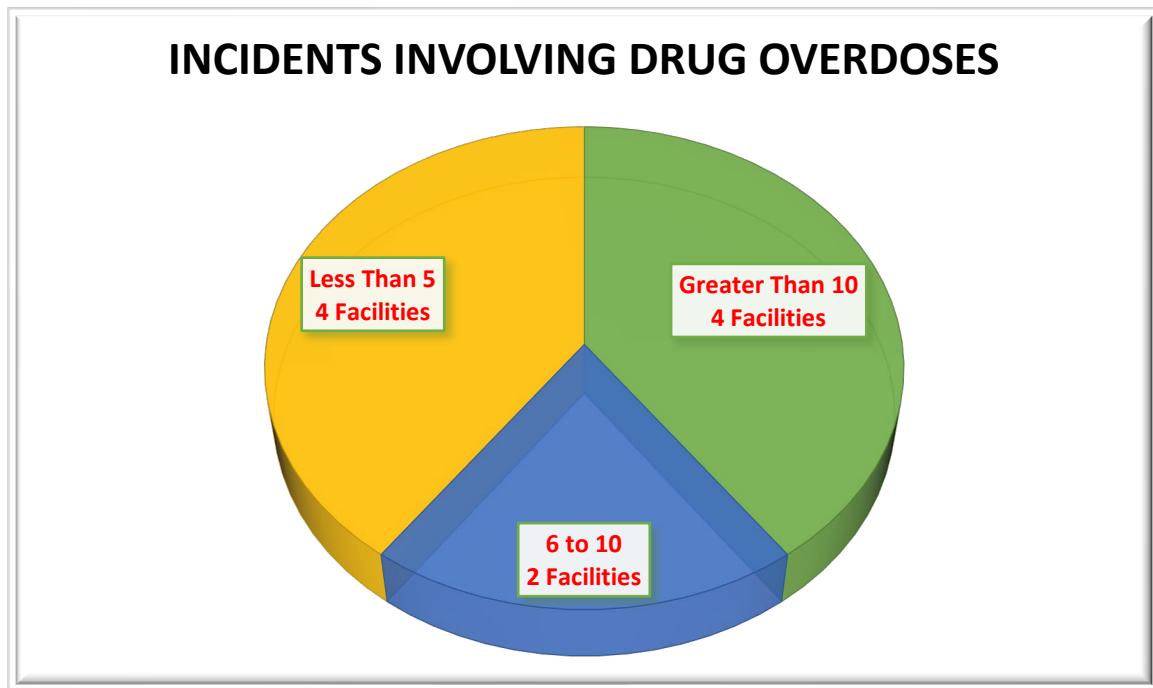
Question 3 asked participants the methods in which illicit drugs are being introduced and or smuggled into their respective facilities. The following are the surveyed responses of all eleven facilities based on the most common methods of introduction to the least common: Intake/Booking areas (81% of the facilities), mail, staff, inmate work crews (45% of the facilities), Visitation (27% of the facilities), Professional visitors (18% of the facilities), individuals dropping and throwing drugs over fences or into the facility (18% of the facilities), one facility indicated prison transfers and one facility indicated contracted employees (9% of the facilities) as a method of introduction.

Table 3: Methods of Introduction



Question 4 of the survey inquired as to how many inmates in the participant's facility have suffered from a drug overdose since 2016. Hillsborough, Polk, and Pasco County Jails, to include Jefferson CI indicated that they have had greater than 10 inmates who have suffered from a drug overdose. Palm Beach and Volusia County Jails stated that they have had 6 to 10 inmates suffer a drug overdose. Whereas Okaloosa CI and jails in Collier, Lake and Seminole County indicated they had less than 5 inmates overdose from illicit drugs. A response to this question was not received from Orange County.

Table 4: Incident Involving Drug Overdoses

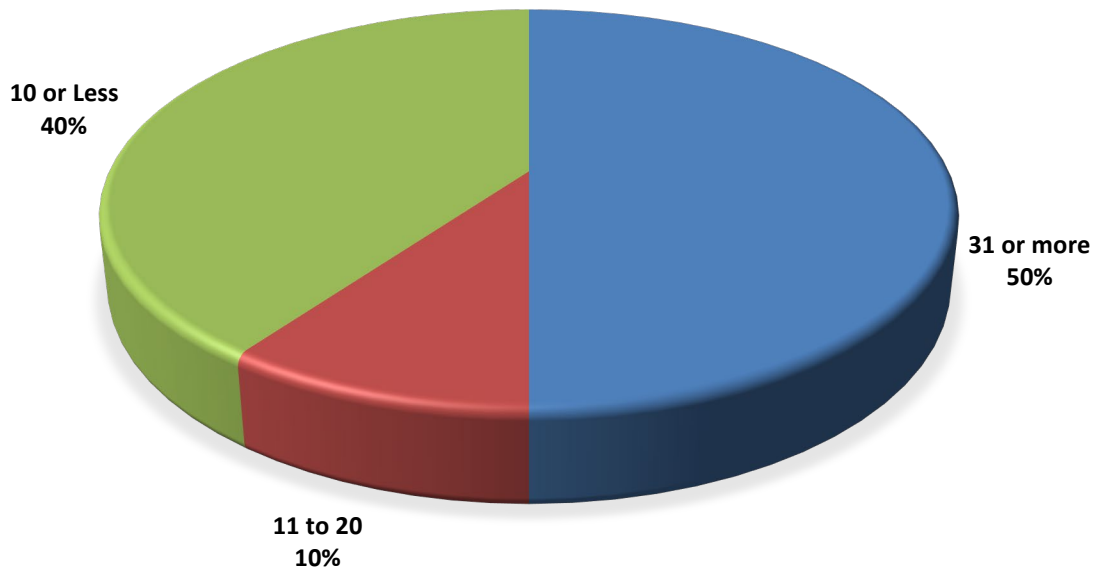


Question 5 asked those surveyed as to what type of inmate visitation does their facility conduct. Seven out of the eleven facilities, to include Collier, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Volusia, and Orange County use a video visitation system. Lake and Seminole County inmates conduct visitation face to face visits with a barrier so no contact between the inmate and the visitor can occur. Jefferson and Okaloosa CI conduct in person visits without a barrier.

Question 6 focuses on incidents that have occurred involving the detection or introduction of illicit drugs into the facilities Intake/Receiving area since 2016. Ten responses were received for this question. Of those ten responses five facilities (50%) stated that they had 31 or more incidents, which includes Hillsborough, Palm Beach, Pasco, Seminole and Volusia County, . Four facilities (40%) indicated that they have had 10 or less incidents. These facilities include Jefferson CI, Okaloosa CI, Collier and Polk County. Lake County responded that they have experienced 11 to 20 incidents since 2016.

Table 5: Intake/Receiving Incidents

INTAKE/RECEIVING INCIDENTS 2016-PRESENT



The seventh question wanted to know the amount of incidents involving illicit drugs being introduced through inmate mail since 2016. Only one facility failed to respond to this question. Seventy percent of those who did respond indicated that 10 or less incidents have occurred. Two facilities stated that they have had 11 to 20 incidents since 2016. The remaining facility responded that 31 or more incidents have occurred during this period.

Question 8 asked the participants the amount of incidents involving illicit drugs being introduced through inmate visitation since 2016. Six of the ten responses or 60% indicated that there were no incidents that occurred. Two of the participants indicated that they have had 10 or less incidents. One facility responded that they have had 11 to 20 incidents that had occurred and the remaining facility answered that they have had 31 or more incidents.

Question 9 and 10 centered on the use of drones (remote aircraft) and if those surveyed had any incidents with drones flying in and around their facilities or have drones been used as a means to smuggle in contraband. Jefferson CI indicated that they have experienced less than 10 incidents. Okaloosa CI stated that they had 2 incidents involving drones. The remaining facilities or 80% have not experienced any drone activity. In Question 10 it was asked to those surveyed if they deploy any type of drone detection and prevention technology. All eleven responses specified “No” to this question.

For Question 11 the participants were asked if they have had incidents where employees have provided or attempted to provide illicit drugs to inmates. Six facilities (55%) provided a “Yes” to this question with the other five facilities or 45% indicating that this had not occurred.

Question 12, similar to the previous question, asked if there had been any incidents involving professional visitors who had provided or attempted to provide inmates with illicit drugs. Only three county jails to include Lake County, Palm Beach County and Polk County answered "Yes" to this question. The remaining participants responded "No."

The next two questions focused on methods that have been implemented to prevent employees and professional visitors from smuggling in drugs into their respective facility. In regards to employees, Hillsborough County conducts random bag searches on agency staff and contract employees as they enter the facility. Palm Beach County conducts random bag searches, locker searches, utilizes cameras, signage showing the consequences of bringing in drugs. Polk County posted signs advising that anyone can be searched. Seminole County responded that security screenings are conducted for staff and visitors. Volusia County conducts random bag searches. Orange County stated that they use a third party to screen those entering the compound. Jefferson CI answered that they deploy metal detectors and hand held wands and conduct pat searches. Okaloosa CI said they use an enhanced search process, cell phone detection wands and K-9's. Collier, Lake and Pasco County indicated that they do not have any methods of preventing employees from smuggling in drugs.

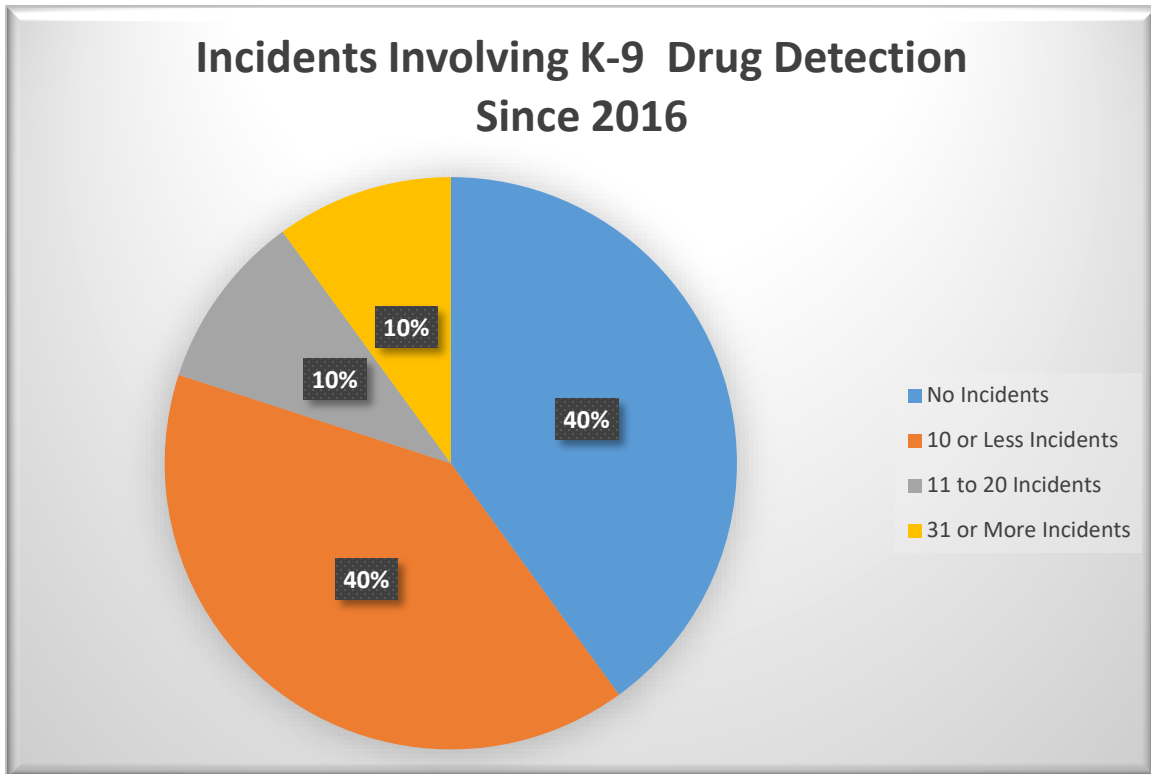
In regards to question 14, methods to prevent professional visitors from smuggling in drugs, Hillsborough County searches bags and all personal property. Palm Beach County deploys metal detector and bag x-ray scanners and conducts bag searches. Polk County indicates that they have a K-9 at their facility. Seminole County conducts security screening. Volusia County conducts random bag searches. Orange County, like the response for question 13, indicated that they use a third party to screen those entering the compound. Jefferson CI responded that they deploy metal detectors and hand held wands and conduct pat searches. Okaloosa CI, similar to question 13, explained they use an enhanced search process, cell phone detection wands, K-9's and searches visitors entering and exiting restrooms. Collier County responded that belongings are x-rayed prior to entering the attorney visitation area. Volusia County conducts random bag searches and Lake County do not have methods for preventing professional visitors from smuggling in illicit drugs.

Question 15 asked those being surveyed if they use drug detection dogs in their facilities. Eight facilities (73%) responded they use drug detection dogs on a regular basis. Those facilities include Jefferson CI, Okaloosa CI, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Orange, Lake, and Volusia County. The remaining three facilities do not deploy drug detection dogs on a regular basis. However, Seminole and Hillsborough County indicated that dogs are used as needed based on a suspicion of drugs. Hillsborough County noted that they had a drug detection dog in the past. Further elaboration was requested in Question 16 asking the participants as to when, where, and how often are drug detection dogs being utilized. The responses varied considerably in regards to how often dogs are used. Polk and Palm Beach County uses dogs on a daily basis. Pasco County uses dogs four times a week and Orange County deploys dogs weekly. In Volusia County local law enforcement brings dogs into the facility several times a month for training. Jefferson and Okaloosa CI utilizes dogs three times a month.

Question 17 asked the participants to indicate how many incidents occurred involving illicit drugs being detected by drug detection dogs from 2016 to present. Ten of the eleven surveyed responded to this question. Four of the ten facilities indicated that

they have had no incident where drugs were detected. Four facilities responded that they have had 10 or less incidents. One of the participants stated that their facility has had 11 to 20 incident and the remaining facility had 31 or more incidents, since 2016, where drug detection dogs have discovered drugs.

Table 5: Incidents Involving K-9 Drug Detection Since 2016



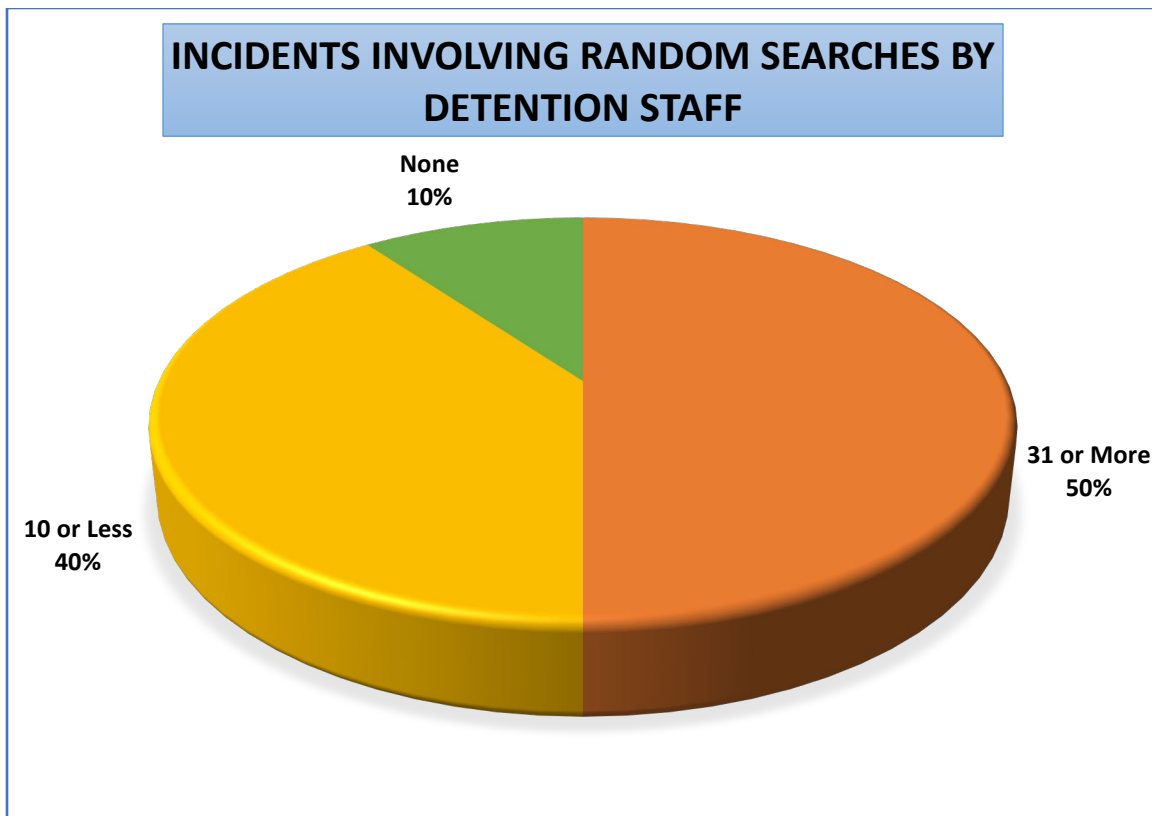
Question 18 asked those surveyed if they use detection devices or any forms of technology to detect and prevent illicit drugs from entering their facility. All but one participant responded “Yes” to this question. However, the one that responded “No” indicated that their facility is currently testing a video visitation system for future implementation. The following question requested that the participants describe the devices currently used. The most commonly deployed items were Body Scanners (used by 7 facilities), video surveillance cameras (used by 7 facilities) and video visitation. Other devices included were metal detection equipment (hand held and walk through), mail scanners (used by 2 facilities) and cellular telephone detection devices. One facility indicated they use a system where inmate mail is sent to a third party (off compound), who scans and uploads the mail to a kiosk in the inmate housing area.

Question 20 simply asked if the use of the devices or forms of technology used been effective in detecting and preventing drugs from entering their facilities. Nine of the eleven who responded stated “Yes”. One of the participants responded “No” and the remaining participant was not definitive as the response was both “Yes” and “No.”

In Question 21 the participants were asked how often does their facility conduct random searches using detention staff. Daily searches were conducted by staff at 73% of the facilities surveyed. One facility explained that every area of the facility will be search quarterly. One of the participants indicated that searches are done twice a week. The remaining participant indicated that each of their four squads complete searches monthly.

Question 22 is a follow up to the previous question by asking the participants to indicate how many incidents have occurred where illicit drugs were detected during random facility searches conducted by detention staff since 2016. Out of the ten responses received 50% indicated 31 or more incidents, which include Jefferson CI, Lake, Palm Beach, Pasco, and Volusia County. Four of the responding facilities or 40% indicated 10 or less incidents, which includes Collier, Hillsborough, Polk and Seminole County. Okaloosa CI indicated that no incidents have occurred.

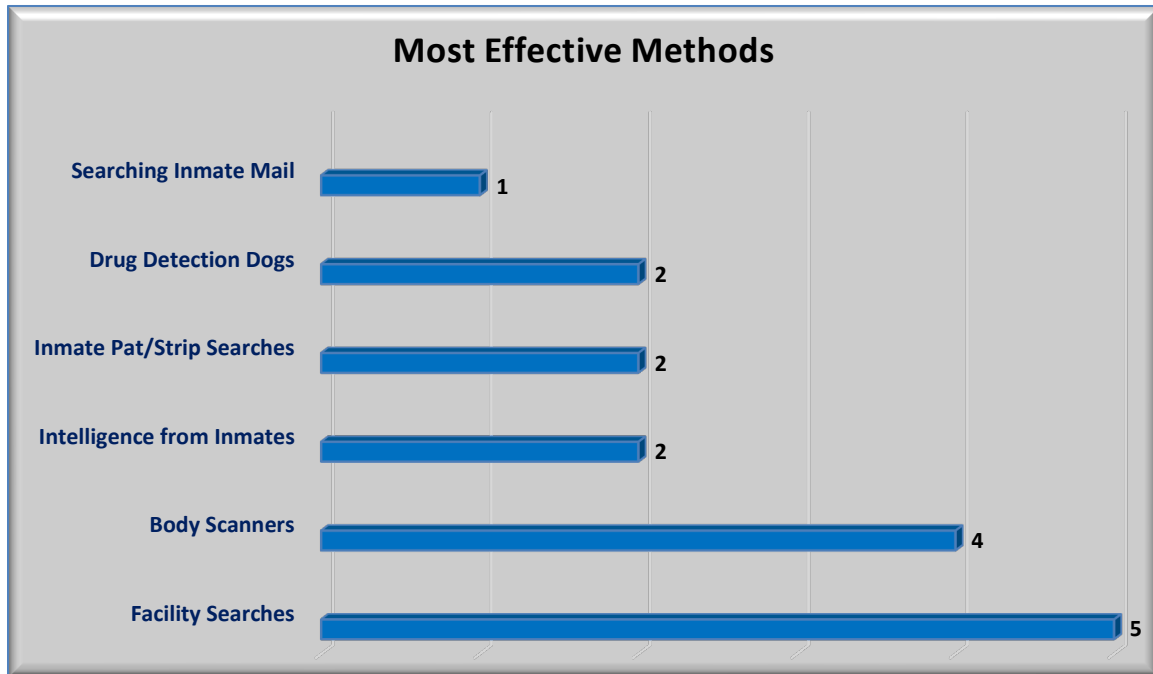
Table 6: Incidents Involving Random Searches by Detention Staff



Question 23 asked those surveyed the method(s) that have been most effective in detecting and preventing illicit drugs in their facility. Five of the eleven facilities (45%) indicated inmate cell searches and or facility searches. Four facilities (36%) indicated body scanners. There were two indications (18%) of obtaining information/intelligence from inmates. Two participants indicated the deployment of drug detection dogs. Two facilities stated inmate searches and one response to searching inmate mail. It should

be noted that five participants provided multiple responses. See Table 7, which illustrates the participant's responses.

Table 7: Most Effective Methods



Discussion

The responses from the survey were informative and interesting and somewhat surprising to a certain degree. In the first portion of the survey, where it asked for the type of drugs entering their respective institution, it was no surprise that Marijuana was the most common response equating to 91% of the facilities. Research conducted prior to the surveys indicated Marijuana as being the most commonly detected drug among male arrestees. The second most common drugs found entering the surveyed facilities were Cocaine and Methamphetamine followed closely by the introduction of Synthetic Cannabinoids, also known as K-2, which 54% of the facilities reported. What was surprising was only one facility indicated the synthetic opioid Fentanyl considering the increased notoriety this drug has had in recent years. Furthermore, it was discovered in previous research that in 2016 Fentanyl had surpassed heroin as being the highest cause of death with 18,335 deaths a years. This leads one to assume that the most volatile and dangerous drug doesn't necessarily correlate with the most popular drug being introduced.

In regards to methods in which drugs are introduced into those participating facilities, the most common response, by nearly all or 82%, was through intake areas. This location is the first process arrestees/prisoner undertake as they enter the county jail. The two facilities that understandably did not indicate this response are the two

Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) institutions. FDC receives inmate from other secured facilities such as prison and county jails, which those inmates would have been searched prior to transport. The second most popular methods were inmate mail, inmate work crews, and staff. Five of the eleven participant's specified staff as being a method of drug introduction, which was interesting considering there was a lesser response to professional visitors and visitation. The issue with staff being a method was further confirmed later in the survey when it was asked of the participants if there had been any incidents where staff have provided or attempted to provide illicit drugs to inmates. Six facilities or 55% indicate "Yes."

As far as incidents involving drugs being detected intake/receiving areas, five of the ten facilities who responded to this specific question indicated that they have had greater than 31 incidents since 2016 and one facility stated that have had between 11 and 20 incidents. What is interesting that of these six facilities; five facilities deploy body scanners. Four facilities responded they have had 10 or less incident. One of the participants did not respond.

In respect to drugs entering through inmate mail, which 45% of the participants indicated; only three responded that they use a form of technology to prevent this from occurring. Two facilities use a mail scanner, whereas the other facility explained that mail is scanned at a remote location and the inmates read their mail on a kiosk. This system is similar if not the same as the MailGuard system found in previous research. This system would certainly elevate the issue of mail being a concern.

Another area explored through this survey was the use of drug detection dogs (K-9). Eight facilities of the eleven who responded use K-9's in some regular capacity with varying schedules of use. Search schedules included (most frequent to least frequent): every day, four times a week, weekly, three times a month and once a month. When asked to indicate how many incidents have occurred, since 2016, involving drugs detected by K-9's; the responses indicated that only one facility had 31 or greater incidents of detection and one facility had 11 to 20 incidents. Both are FDC institutions and use K-9's only three times a month, but have the most incidents. Three other facilities who use K-9's only had 10 or less incidents and one facility has had none. It should be noted that three facilities surveyed only use K-9's on an as needed basis or when suspicion arise.

Another segment of the survey focused on the frequency of random searches (i.e. shakedowns and cell searches) conducted by staff and are these random searches effective in detecting illicit drugs. Eight facilities advised that random searches are conducted daily. However, I was somewhat surprised with the remaining response considering that one facility indicated only twice a week. Two of the responses were somewhat ambiguous advising that every area of the facility was completed quarterly and the other stated that each of their four squads are responsible for completing searches monthly of various areas. This may equate to daily or possibly weekly searches, but it's uncertain.

In regards to the effectiveness random searches have on detecting drugs, five of the ten facilities who responded have had 31 or more incidents where drugs have been detected since 2016. Of these five facilities, only four conduct random searches on a daily basis. As to the other four facilities, who conduct daily searches, three facilities have had 10 incidents or less and the remaining facility had none. The one facility that only

conduct searches twice a week had 31 or more incidents. One can theorize that it may not be the frequency of the search, but the effective manner in which searches are being conducted. One can further theorize that the size of the facility or a higher inmate population may contribute to likelihood of increased incidents of detecting drugs.

At the conclusion of the survey the participants indicated the most effective method(s) of detecting and preventing drugs in their facilities. The responses to this question was significant and answers an important question of this research. Of the sixteen different types of methods received 62% of these methods involved the utilization of staff in the efforts to detect and prevent illicit drugs. This utilization is in the form of facility searches, intelligence gathering from inmates, pat/strip searches and mail searches. What is interesting is that seven facilities deploy body scanners, but there were only four facilities (36%) indicating body scanners as being one of their most effective methods. This data would further confirm that detention staff is the single most important commodity in detecting and preventing illicit drugs in a correctional facility.

Recommendations

The information obtained from the survey appears to be somewhat consistent with efforts taken to stop the flow of drugs in jails and prisons. However, are the efforts taken enough to avoid an inmate suffering from an overdose and/or die? Are the efforts enough to prevent staff from being exposed to a harmful drug that cause severe effects as the previous literature suggested? These questions are best answered by administrators in correctional institutions. Each institution varies in size with regards to inmate population and each may have certain limitations dependent on budgets and staffing levels. However, it is a certainty that inmates will continue make every attempt or use any method to smuggle in drugs. It's our job to ensure this does not occur as we are bound in providing care, custody and control of the inmate population.

The information collected through this research was beneficial in providing an understanding and insight to the various types of illicit drugs and how these drugs are entering our facilities. It was equally valuable in determining the different types of technology being deployed, such as full body scanners, mail scanners, video visitation and surveillance cameras. Based on my research and considering each facilities differs to a degree, I would recommend all the detection and prevention methods mentioned paying close attention to those areas where drugs are likely to enter. I would further recommend each facility must continue to research technology based efforts as advances in this field will continue to grow.

This research further confirms that the utilization of detention staff is the most effective method in preventing drugs in a correctional institution. It's my recommendation that facilities invest in this valuable resource by providing proper and effective training for staff in the areas of facility and inmate searches and investigative techniques.

Lieutenant George Brotchi has been a member of the Pinellas County Sheriff's for over 24 years, beginning his career in the Department of Detention and Correction in 1995. He has worked various assignments throughout his tenure to include: shift supervisor, shift commander, Juvenile Boot Camp Sergeant, Internal Affairs Investigator and member of the Corrections Response Team and Honor Guard. He is currently assigned as an Administrative Lieutenant in the Support Services Division within the Department of Detention and Corrections and is the Commander of the Corrections Response Team. George has a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Mountain State University.

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Appendix A

Survey Introduction:

My name is Lieutenant George Brotchi with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. I'm currently attending the F.D.L.E. Senior Leadership Program in Tallahassee and part of the requirement for this program is to complete a research project. I am conducting research on the Detection and Prevention of Illicit Drugs in a Correctional Facility. Attached is a survey, which is needed to complete my research. I am respectfully requesting your assistance in completing the attached survey. This survey is to be confidential by only using the name of the facility and information obtained, but not the name of the individual completing the survey. Once completed, please forward the survey back to me via email to gbrotchi@pcsonet.com. Please return by July 15, 2019. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Your assistance with this important research is greatly appreciated.

Survey Questions:

1. What is your facilities average daily population?
2. What type of illicit drugs have been detected entering your facility?
3. List methods in which illicit drugs are introduced/smuggled into your facility (for example, intake/receiving areas, visitation, inmate mail, facility employees, professional visitors, drones)

4. How many Inmates in your facility have suffered from a drug overdose from 2016 to present? Please select the appropriate category.

- None
- Less than 5 occurrences
- 6 to 10 occurrences
- Greater than 10 occurrences

5. What type of inmate visitation does your facility conduct?

- In person visits
- Video visits
- Visits with barrier (Inmate is unable to make physical contact with visitors)
- Other, explain _____

6. How many incidents have occurred involving illicit drugs being detected or introduced in the intake/receiving area of your facility from 2016 to present?

- None
- 10 or less
- 11 to 20
- 21 to 30
- 31 or more

7. How many incidents have occurred involving illicit drugs being detected or introduced through inmate mail from 2016 to present?

- None
- 10 or less
- 11 to 20
- 21 to 30
- 31 or more

8. How many incident have occurred involving illicit drugs being introduce through inmate visitation from 2016 to present?

- None
- 10 or less
- 11 to 20
- 21 to 30
- 31 or more

9. How many incidents have occurred involving drones flying in and around your facility or have been used to smuggle contraband?

10. Does your facility use drone detection/prevention technology?

- Yes
- No

11. Has your facility had incidents where employees have provided or attempted to provide illicit drugs to inmates?

- Yes
- No

12. Has your facility had incidents where professional visitors provided or attempted to provide illicit drugs to inmates?

- Yes
- No

13. What methods are implemented to prevent employees from smuggling in drugs at your facility?

14. What methods are implemented to prevent professional visitors from smuggling drugs in your facility?

15. Does your facility use drug detection dogs for detecting illicit drugs?

- Yes
- No

16. When, where and how often are drug detection dogs utilized in you facility?

17. How many incidents have occurred involving illicit drugs being detected by drug detection dogs from 2016 to present?

None

10 or less

11 to 20

21 to 30

31 or more

18. Does your facility use detection devices or any forms of technology (i.e. body scanners, mail scanners, video visitation, video surveillance) to detect and prevent illicit drugs from entering your facility?

Yes

No

19. If answered "Yes" to Question 18 please describe the devices or forms of technology used and when were they implemented in your facility?

20. Has the use of devices or forms of technology used been effective in detecting and preventing drugs from entering your facility?

Yes

No

21. How often does your facility conduct random searches using detention staff (i.e. shakedowns, cell searches, facility searches)?

22. Please indicate as to how many incidents occurred where illicit drugs were detected during random searches conducted by detention staff from 2016 to present?

None

10 or less

11 to 20

21 to 30

31 or more

23. What method(s) of detecting and preventing illicit drugs in your facility have been the most effective

Your input for this survey is greatly appreciate and if you wish to include additional information please do so below.
