

News Release

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OPERATION LETHAL DOSE

Over the past 9 months, we have worked with a unified law enforcement coalition to address the staggering opioid crisis we face here in the Ninth Circuit. Mortality analysis conducted in late-2016 by local coroners indicates that our Tri County region suffers an overdose death rate far above than the national average.

Our joint heroin and opioid enforcement initiative, *Operation LETHAL DOSE*, has been an incredible opportunity to join forces as a unified coalition to push back against the poison that is killing so many in our community. The law enforcement coalition has been investigating dealers whose distribution network has led to deaths of users in the community and has exposed children to these toxic drugs. Our prosecutor has consulted with the coalition throughout this investigation. Defendants are now facing a variety of charges in both federal and state courts for distribution, conspiracy, and trafficking poison in our community. While we understand that these Defendants are innocent until we prove them guilty, now that arrests have been made, our goal in the Solicitor's Office is to continue working with law enforcement in seeking convictions and sentences that send a clear message to those who have targeted our community as well as those who aim to fill their shoes.