November 2015 an additional DCU Squad was added to the 12 that were already investigating drug offenses in the City of Boston.

The objective of the squad is two fold.

First was a strong response focusing on the Opioid Epidemic.

Second was to foster a better relationship with those overdose victims effected by this epidemic.
Boston Police Drug Control Unit

• The squad consists of myself, two detectives and four police officers.
• We work in conjunction with the following units:
  – The Homicide Unit
  – The District Attorney’s Office
  – District Detectives
  – BRIC & EMS Analyst
  – The Boston Public Health Commission (PAATHS)
  – The State Medical Examiners Office
Boston Police Drug Control Unit

• **Fatal Overdoses**
  – Detectives
    • Work with district detectives
    • Assess evidence
    • Identify, Locate & Investigate
    • Collect evidence, test narcotics & forensic investigation

• **Non-Fatal Overdoses**
  – Police Officers
    • Contact victims within 72 hours through home visits, phone calls and mail.
    • Encourage victims to seek treatment and provide access
    • Over 550 home visits
Boston Public Health Commission

• **PAATHS** - Providing Access to Addiction Treatment Hope & Support.

• Commissioners Memo

• PAATHS Referral Form on BPD Home Page
  – All BPD Officers can access and fill out form online
  – Referral information is sent to a google sheets database and accessed by the BPD DCU and PAATHS personnel.
Boston Police Drug Control Unit

• DCU Commanders directive to all personnel
  – All non-violent & warrantless individuals in possession of drugs should be considered for a summons & PAATHS referral.
  – District Clerk Magistrates were notified of the PAATHS referral program.
    • Individuals progress in rehab effort
    • Case status and disposition
  – Section 35 Referral Pilot Program
Boston Police Drug Control Unit

• Supply & Demand
  – The United States is less than 5% of the world population.
    • We consume 80% of the Opioids

• Three Prong Approach to Fight the Epidemic
  – Prevention
  – Enforcement
  – Treatment
In 2016, there was an 11% increase in NRI transports citywide and an 11% decrease in fatal overdoses. This follows increases of 44% and 28% respectively from 2013-2014 & 2014-2015. In 2016, there was a 24% increase in Narcan™ administrations.
Opioid Related Overdoses

YTD in 2017, there has been:

- 4% increase in transports
- 34% increase in patients found in Cardiac Arrest
- 81% increase in cases referred to the Medical Examiner’s office
- 54% increase in suspected opioid related fatalities
Opioid Related Overdoses

- 73% of patients are males.
- Average age of patients is 39.
- 44% of patients report either being homeless or living outside of Boston.
- 88% of patients have some criminal history.
- 48% of patients had at least one open charge at time of their overdose.
- 16% of patients were on probation at the time of their overdose.
85% of patients have a criminal record in Massachusetts.

Of those with a criminal record. The overdose victims have an average of 35 charges on their record, and average 7 drug charges.

However, the majority of patients (52%) have 25 or less arraignments. 24% of patients have 50 or more charges on their record, including 6% of patients who had over 100 charges on their record.

Criminal record is related to age. Older patients tend to have larger criminal records. 92% of patients ages 16-24 had 25 or fewer charges, that percentage steadily decreases across the subsequent age groups.
• 20% of the individuals with a criminal record do not have a drug charge on their record. 53% of the individuals have less than 5 drug charges on their record.

• Again, the number of drug charges is related to the patient’s age.

• 92% of patients ages 16-24 had 5 or fewer charges, that percentage steadily decreases across the subsequent age groups.
Who is Selling the Drugs?

- An analysis of gang arrests related to heroin showed that gang members are not heavily involved in heroin distribution.

- 35% were born outside of the US. Of that group, 84% were born in the Dominican Republic.

- 26% claimed to have been born in Puerto Rico. In more than half of these arrests there were signs of identity fraud involving stolen Puerto Rican identities.

- The use of stolen Puerto Rican identities to obtain drivers licenses is a known tactic employed by drug traffickers.