



David W. Spencer  
Field Intelligence Manager  
DEA European Region



# Introduction to DEA



# DEA's Mission

1. Enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States;
2. Bring to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States, or any other competent jurisdiction, those involved in the illegal growing, manufacture, or distribution of controlled substances that are part of or destined for illicit drug markets in the United States; and,
3. Recommend and support non-enforcement programs aimed at reducing the availability of illicit controlled substances on domestic and international markets.



**Domestic Offices:** DEA has 221 offices organized in 21 divisions throughout the United States and works closely with state and local partners to investigate and prosecute violators of our drug laws and those who facilitate them.

**International Presence:** DEA has 89 offices in 68 countries around the world. Among government agencies, DEA has sole responsibility for coordinating and pursuing drug investigations abroad and partners with foreign law enforcement counterparts.

**DEA** employs more than 9,000 men and women, including over 4,600 Special Agents, over 600 Diversion Investigators, 700 Intelligence Research Specialists, and close to 300 Chemists.

**Revenue Denied:** From FY 2005 through FY 2015, the DEA stripped drug trafficking organizations of approximately \$33.1 billion in revenues through the seizure of both assets and drugs.



# Drug Enforcement Administration European Region



DEA's primary mission and responsibility as a law enforcement agency is to enforce the Nation's federal drug laws.

DEA recognizes that not only reducing the quantity (supply) of drugs is essential to a safe and drug free country, but also reducing the desire (demand) for illicit drugs is a vital component to effectively reduce drug use in our Nation.

For that reason, DEA created the Community Outreach Section as a critical complement to our primary law enforcement mission and included drug use prevention as one of the priorities in DEA's vision.



## DEA's Community Outreach Strategy

DEA's Community Outreach strategy is to develop effective drug information for youth, parents, caregivers, and educators, and to increase the public's awareness about the dangers associated with using drugs. There are three major concepts of drug use prevention research at the core of this strategy:

Parents and teens need to know that the brain develops until age 25. In particular, the frontal cortex, which carries out mental processes such as thinking, decision making, and judgment, is not fully developed until that age; therefore, it's vitally important that youth and young adults refrain from drug use as this use will affect brain development.

When youth and young adults perceive that drug use is harmful and risky, drug use dramatically declines. The longer youth and young adults delay drug use, addiction and/or substance use disorders are significantly reduced.



DEA's Community Outreach Section provides the public with current and relevant drug information about illicit drug use, the misuse of prescription drugs, drug use trends, and the health consequences of drug use. The Community Outreach Section also develops drug information brochures, drug fact sheets, pamphlets, and parent/teacher drug education guides to assist the community in identifying drug use and finding help.

Another major component of the Community Outreach Section is collaboration with various drug use prevention partners. These partners include other federal agencies, national and regional prevention organizations, law enforcement organizations, community coalitions, fraternal and civic organizations, youth-serving organizations, state and local governments, and school districts. DEA supports our partners, who present significant opportunities for involvement in prevention efforts by providing drug trend information at local community events as well as at national conferences and professional educational forums.





## Websites:

DEA provides essential information about the harmful effects of illicit drug use through our educational materials and two websites:

[www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com) for teens,

[www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com) for parents, educators, and caregivers.



[www.JustThinkTwice.com](http://www.JustThinkTwice.com)

DEA's website for teens, [www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com), provides credible information about the harmful effects of drug use. The site includes information about various drugs, including facts and fiction about drugs, the consequences of drug use, as well as topics about addiction, impaired driving, and true stories about teens that have had drug problems.

The site provides descriptions of specific drugs, such as marijuana, Spice/K2, bath salts, and heroin, as well as the drugs' street names, effect on the mind and body, overdose effects, legal status, and origin.



[www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](http://www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com)

DEA's website for parents, [www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](http://www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com), provides valuable drug education information for parents, educators, and caregivers to further help identify drug use, drug paraphernalia, warning signs of drug use, and the harmful side effects of the most commonly abused drugs.

The site features several downloadable publications including "Growing Up Drug-Free: A Parent's Guide to Prevention," "Prescription for Disaster: How Teens Abuse Medicine," and "The Dangers and Consequences of Marijuana Abuse."



## Publications

For a list of all of DEA's publications that can be downloaded, go to [www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com) and click on Publications.

For more information about DEA's Community Outreach Section, or for more drug prevention resources, contact the Community Outreach Section at 202-307-7936 or by e-mail at [demand.reduction@usdoj.gov](mailto:demand.reduction@usdoj.gov).



**Europe Region**



**Thank You**