Illicit synthetic drugs are a global threat to public health and security. In the United States this threat is in the form of synthetic opioids like fentanyl, which are driving an unprecedented crisis of fatal overdoses. A small dose can potentially be lethal. Fentanyl may be mixed with other drugs like cocaine and heroin, and even pressed into fake pills that look legitimate. Traffickers and dealers add fentanyl to other drugs to amplify their effects and cut costs. Since July 2022, U.S. authorities have seized about 2,200 pounds of fentanyl per month – that’s more than they confiscated in all of 2018. INL donated protective equipment to specialized units in Mexico to investigate and safely dismantle clandestine drug labs and held a series of trainings for law enforcement and courier facility operators to reduce accidental contamination.

**INL Combats Fentanyl**

**Canines:**
INL-donated canines have detected 200 kilos of fentanyl and seized more than 176,000 fentanyl pills in Mexico since 2019. Overall, Mexico’s fentanyl seizures increased more than 40% from 2021 – 2022.

**Narcotics Rewards:**
Over the past two years, the INL Narcotics Reward Program has announced multi-million-dollar reward offers for information leading to the arrest or conviction of fentanyl traffickers worldwide.

**Equipment & Training:**
INL donated protective equipment to specialized units in Mexico to investigate and safely dismantle clandestine drug labs and held a series of trainings for law enforcement and courier facility operators to reduce accidental contamination.

**INL Cares About Recovery**

- INL supports the development & implementation of substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery support initiatives worldwide, to help prevent drugs like fentanyl from becoming prevalent in other countries.

- INL supports the training of treatment professionals to deliver assistance to those suffering from substance use disorders.