



### Why is it Wicked?

- **Economic**
  - U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee (JEC) found that the opioid epidemic cost the U.S. nearly \$1.5 trillion in 2020 (Klobucista & Martinez, 2023).
- **Social**
  - Overdose deaths roughly quadrupled, from 8,050 in 1999 to 33,091 in 2015.
  - In 2021, nearly 107,000 Americans died from a drug overdose, three-quarters of those deaths involving opioids.
- **International**
  - Mexican cartels buy and transport precursor chemicals in the People's Republic of China.
- **Political**
  - The fentanyl crisis has become a polarizing topic in the United States and is a major topic of conversation on the Presidential campaign trail.

### Decision-Making Matrix

Criteria	Combating the cartels in Mexico through the DEA, FBI, and State Department.	Disrupting the drug supply chain to stop fentanyl before it reaches US borders.	Bombing drug labs in Mexico.	Working to lower the corruption levels in the Mexican government.	Global public information campaign blaming China for facilitating the fentanyl crisis.
Cost	4	3	1	2	4
Effectiveness	3	2	1	3	3
Political Acceptability for Leaders in the (abroad?)	3	4	1	4	5
Public Acceptability in the US	5	5	3	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	14	6	12	<b>17</b>

### What Has Been Done:

- The National Interdiction Command and Control Plan.
- Canada and US's Beyond the Border Plan.
- Diplomatic Pressure (China and Mexico).
- Economic Sanctions.
- Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

### What Worked and What Didn't:

- **Did work:**
  - US Law Enforcement training Mexican Police.
- **Didn't work:**
  - China's crackdown on the production.
  - Cooperation between the US, Mexico, and China.

### Who Our Recommendation is for

- The State Department
- The President

### Recommendation

- Combating the cartels in Mexico through the DEA, FBI, and State Department.
- Global public information campaign blaming China for facilitating the fentanyl crisis.

### Alternative Ideas

- Disrupting the drug supply chain to stop fentanyl before it reaches US borders.
- Bombing drug labs in Mexico.
- Working to lower the corruption levels in the Mexican government.

### Sources:



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