

Crime and the Pandemic

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Criminal Investigations
and Network Analysis
A DHS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



Major Trends

- **The COVID-19 pandemic is allowing all forms of transnational crime to flourish:**
 - particularly online fraud, calls to defraud individuals
- **Sale of counterfeit goods instead of the real goods needs for protection during the pandemic—overlap with supply chains for rogue pharmaceuticals**
- **Opioid deaths are growing despite disruption of supply chains for narcotics**
- **Human trafficking is flourishing online and increasingly on the streets in certain US cities despite social isolation**
- **Increase in environmental crime in many parts of the world—illegal timber and poaching are key elements**
- **Criminal actors are often willingly or being coerced into collaboration with the state**

Responses

- Analysis is needed of the networks that are facilitating online sale of narcotics and the networks that are distributing drugs in the pandemic
- Counterfeit PPE sellers need to be examined through large scale data analytics and network analysis
- The transformation of human trafficking and enhanced vulnerability of youth needs greater attention and resources including online activity
- Networks that combine both state and non-state actors need to be studied. This is imperative as crime is increasingly a tool of state policy