# Sinaloa Cartel Member Apprehended in Washington with Drugs and Firearms



Last week, a member of the Sinaloa Cartel was apprehended in Burien, Washington, following a two-month-long investigation by the King County Sheriff's Office. The suspect, whose identity has not been disclosed, was reportedly involved in transporting drugs and money for the cartel founded by Joaquín 'El Chapo' Guzmán.

The investigation, which included over 100 hours of surveillance in the Puget Sound area, led to the seizure of three handguns, one AR-15 style short barrel rifle with a 60-round drum magazine, and $182,249 in cash. Authorities also confiscated 5,000 fentanyl/M-30 pills, 10 grams of cocaine, and 2.8 pounds of fentanyl powder. Additionally, three vehicles were taken during the execution of several search warrants.

The King County Sheriff's Office emphasized the destructive impact of narcotics and firearms on the community, reiterating their commitment to public safety. This arrest closely preceded the DEA’s release of the 2024 National Drug Threat Assessment, which highlighted the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel as central to the synthetic drug crisis in the United States. According to the CDC, synthetic opioids like fentanyl were responsible for at least 70% of the 107,941 drug-related deaths in the U.S. in 2022.