

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [How Fentanyl Laid Waste to Guatemala's Time-Worn Opium Trade](#)

Article

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/28/world/americas/guatemala-fentanyl-opium-poppy.html>

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Tweet: Prices for poppies are plunging as fentanyl outcompetes heroin. In Guatemala, poppy prices have fallen almost 90% since 2017.

Summary: The convoy rolled out of the military base before dawn into the mist-shrouded mountains straddling Guatemala's border with Mexico. Its mission: destroy opium poppies used to make heroin. But after scouring village after village, they found only tiny plots of poppies here and there — a fraction of the region's cultivation in previous years. "The land here used to be covered in poppies," said Ludvin López, a police commander, as soldiers fanned out around Ixchiguán, an area of remote hamlets populated by speakers of Mam, a Mayan language. But that was before opium prices plunged from \$64 an ounce to about \$9.60, he added. Regino García, a Mam leader from San Antonio Ixchiguán, said poppy prices began tumbling in 2017, eventually crashing to 2,000 quetzals (\$256) per kilo from 18,000 quetzals (\$2,310). Related: Importing the Opioid Crisis? International Trade and Fentanyl Overdoses and The Global Network Behind The Fentanyl Crisis and America's Ten-Year-Old Fentanyl Epidemic is Still Getting Worse

Primary Topic: Poverty/Crime

Topics: News article, Politics, Poverty/Crime, Workforce

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