

## 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>

Author(s)	Simon Romero
Publication	New York Times
Publication Date	April 29, 2024

**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 Articles:** [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

**Permalink:** <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/prices-for-poppies-are-plunging-as-fentanyl-outcompetes-heroin-in-guatemala-poppy-prices-have-fallen-almost-90-since-2017?view=detail>