

# HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS PROGRAM

## 2024 REPORT TO CONGRESS

THE WHITE HOUSE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY





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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to the requirements of the reauthorization statute of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) pertaining to ONDCP’s High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, codified at 21 U.S.C. § 1706, ONDCP is providing Congress with this report on the HIDTA Program.

This document presents a national overview of the HIDTA Program, including an evaluation of each HIDTA, and addresses the following three Congressional reporting requirements in one cohesive and coordinated report:

1. Assessment of Law Enforcement Intelligence Sharing in the HIDTA Program – as required by 21 U.S.C. § 1706(m)
2. Assessment of Drug Enforcement Task Forces in HIDTAs – as required by 21 U.S.C. § 1706(l)
3. Evaluation of the HIDTA Program – as required by 21 U.S.C. § 1706(k)

This Executive Summary presents a brief overview of each of the three sections responding to the reporting requirements mentioned above.

## I. HIDTA Program Background Information

As an important aspect of the *National Drug Control Strategy*, the HIDTA Program coordinates and assists federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in each HIDTA-designated region to address regional drug threats with the purpose of reducing drug trafficking and drug production in the United States.

The HIDTA Program includes 33 regional HIDTAs in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), and the District of Columbia.

An Executive Board that includes, in most cases, an equal number of regional, federal, and non-federal (state, local, and Tribal) law enforcement leaders, guides each HIDTA, as required by statute. Where it is impractical for an Executive Board to consist of equal numbers of representatives of federal agencies and state, local, and Tribal agencies, a system of proxy votes or weighted votes must be used to achieve the voting balance.

A central feature of the HIDTA Program is the discretion granted to the Executive Boards to design and implement initiatives that address the specific drug trafficking threats in each HIDTA region. This flexibility ensures that each HIDTA Executive Board can tailor its strategy and initiatives to local conditions, and respond most efficiently to region-specific threats.



In 2022, the most recent year for which complete data is available,<sup>1</sup> HIDTA reports indicate that the HIDTA Program comprises 945 initiatives distributed among the following categories:

- Intelligence
- Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Support
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Management

These initiatives were staffed by 23,053 federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agents, officers, analysts, attorneys, support personnel, and drug treatment and prevention specialists. Seventy percent (16,157) of the participants were from state, local, or Tribal agencies, and 30 percent (6,896) were from federal agencies.

## **II. Assessment of Law Enforcement Intelligence Sharing in the HIDTA Program**

This section presents an assessment of law enforcement intelligence systems that provide support to and participate in the various HIDTAs. It outlines the formal processes of the HIDTA Program to assess law enforcement intelligence and information sharing, including policy and budget guidance; processes for sharing federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement information; and measures needed to achieve effective sharing of information.

Each HIDTA capitalizes on the combined resources of the federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement communities. This section describes existing and planned law enforcement intelligence systems supported by each HIDTA or used by task forces receiving funding from the program. It explains the extent to which the agencies participating in each HIDTA share law enforcement intelligence information to determine current drug trafficking threats and design appropriate enforcement strategies to address the threats.

In addition, this section outlines the basic requirements and objectives of intelligence and information sharing in the HIDTA Program, including facilitating event<sup>2</sup> and case/subject/target<sup>3</sup> deconfliction and providing analytical support to ongoing investigations.<sup>4</sup>

Further, it describes how continuing interagency cooperation among ONDCP, federal, state, local, and Tribal LEAs enhances dialogue to expand intelligence resources and capabilities.



Finally, this section articulates the measures needed to improve further effective sharing of drug production and trafficking information and law enforcement intelligence among federal, state, local, and Tribal LEAs participating in a HIDTA and between such agencies outside the HIDTA.

### **III. Assessment of Drug Enforcement Task Forces in HIDTAs**

HIDTAs provide a coordination umbrella for federal, state, local, and Tribal drug law enforcement and act as neutral centers to manage, deconflict, analyze, and report on drug enforcement activities in their respective regions. This section of the report describes how the HIDTA Program promotes and facilitates cooperation and collaboration among LEAs of various jurisdictions to share resources and information to reduce drug trafficking, production, transportation, and substance use disorder in the United States.

The HIDTA task forces coordinate and collaborate with other drug enforcement task forces through a variety of methods. To ensure coordination, every HIDTA requires its task forces – and strongly encourages non-participating agency task forces – to deconflict targets and subjects under investigation. Deconfliction is a guiding principle of the HIDTA Program that helps prevent investigations from overlapping and ensures officer safety in the field.

### **IV. Evaluation of the HIDTA Program**

This section presents a succinct description of each HIDTA, its responses to the Congressional reporting requirements, and an evaluation of its performance.

This section further describes the measurements used to evaluate the performance of each HIDTA in achieving the two goals established by the HIDTA Program to:

1. disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and/or money laundering organizations (MLOs); and
2. improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the HIDTA initiatives.

It concludes with a description of the HIDTA Program accomplishments as the sum of achievements of individual HIDTA initiatives and a presentation of program-wide initiatives, including discretionary projects, performance and financial audits, and new county designations.

For a more comprehensive look at an individual HIDTA's performance in addressing specific drug threats, ONDCP can provide an annual summary or threat assessment on any specific HIDTA upon request.



# I. HIDTA PROGRAM BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## Purpose

The purpose of the HIDTA Program, as defined by its authorizing statute, 21 U.S.C. § 1706, is to reduce drug trafficking and drug production in the United States by:

- facilitating cooperation among federal, state, local, and Tribal LEAs to share information and implement coordinated enforcement activities;
- enhancing law enforcement intelligence sharing among federal, state, local, and Tribal LEAs;
- providing to LEAs reliable law enforcement intelligence needed to design effective enforcement strategies and operations; and
- supporting coordinated law enforcement strategies that maximize the use of available resources to reduce the supply of illegal drugs in designated areas and in the United States as a whole.

## Program Description

The HIDTA Program provides assistance to federal, state, local, and Tribal LEAs operating in areas determined to be critical drug trafficking regions of the United States.

When determining whether to designate an area as a HIDTA, the ONDCP Director is required by statute to consider the extent to which:

- the area is a significant center of illegal drug production, manufacturing, importation, or distribution;
- state, local, and Tribal LEAs have committed resources to respond to the drug trafficking problem in the area, thereby indicating a determination to respond aggressively to the problem;
- drug-related activities in the area are having a significant harmful impact in the area and in other areas of the country; and
- a significant increase in allocation of federal resources is necessary to respond adequately to drug-related activities in the area.

There are 33 HIDTAs in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the USVI, and the District of Columbia. At the local level, each HIDTA is directed and guided by an Executive Board comprising, in most cases, equal numbers of regional federal and non-federal (state, local, and Tribal) law



enforcement leaders, as required by statute.<sup>5</sup> Where it is impractical for an equal number of representatives of federal agencies and state, local, and Tribal agencies to attend a meeting of an Executive board in person, the Executive Board may use a system of proxy votes or weighted votes to achieve the required voting balance.

A central feature of the HIDTA Program is the discretion granted to the Executive Boards to design and implement initiatives to confront the drug trafficking threats specific to their HIDTA regions. This flexibility ensures that each HIDTA Executive Board can tailor its strategy and initiatives to local conditions and respond efficiently to address region-specific threats. Each year, every HIDTA Executive Board assesses the drug trafficking threat in its defined area; develops a strategy to address the threat; designs initiatives to implement the strategy; and proposes funding needed to carry out the initiatives in the coming year. Each HIDTA's annual strategy contains its overall performance objectives to be attained through various initiatives.

The types of initiatives designed and implemented by each HIDTA's Executive Board to address the specific drug trafficking threats in its region include:

- Enforcement initiatives that engage in multiagency investigative, interdiction, and prosecution activities targeting DTOs and MLOs, drug production organizations, drug gangs, drug fugitives, and other serious crimes with a drug nexus;
- Intelligence and information sharing initiatives that furnish intelligence (tactical, operational, and strategic), deconfliction services (event and case/subject), information collection and dissemination, and other analytical support for the HIDTA initiatives and participating agencies;
- Prevention initiatives and treatment initiatives that facilitate increased coordination between law enforcement and prevention and treatment communities to reduce substance use and its negative consequences; and
- Management and coordination initiatives and support initiatives that provide assistance beyond the core enforcement and intelligence and information sharing initiatives (e.g., training, crime and forensic labs, information technology initiatives, and coordination initiatives).

## **Program-wide Initiatives**

In addition to the regional HIDTA-level initiatives outlined above, the HIDTA Program supports several key domestic projects identified below. These national initiatives are administered by the National HIDTA Assistance Center (NHAC) and overseen by the HIDTA Directors Committee (HDC).

1. The Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) initiative assists the HIDTAs with market disruption of dangerous drugs through a nationwide, highway enforcement, information-sharing platform. The coordinated highway enforcement strategy combines traffic safety efforts with information regarding criminals and associated organizations that use the Nation's highways to transport their contraband, weapons, currency, and other illicit



commodities. Information from other drug trafficking modalities that include air, marine, rail, and parcel, are also integrated within DHE. The collaborative effort is organized by major public transportation corridors and utilized by federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement officers and crime analysts from LEAs across the United States and Canada. In 2023, DHE received \$402,100 in baseline funding.

2. The National Emerging Threats Initiative (NETI) mission is to provide clear and concise insights to the HIDTA Program, ONDCP, and other critical stakeholders by systematically analyzing current and emerging drug threats. The NETI team collects and analyzes data to produce reports to guide policymakers and operationalize policy actions. NETI generates scheduled reports, ad hoc studies and presents briefs and presentations that enable the 33 HIDTA regions and their partners to understand, meet, evolve with, and overcome these threats. In 2023, NETI received \$618,188 in baseline funding.
3. The National Marijuana Initiative's (NMI) mission is to improve the capabilities of the regional HIDTA programs in carrying out the objectives of disrupting domestic trafficking and production of, and reducing demand for, illicit marijuana and derivative products. The initiative accomplishes this by enhancing information sharing, enforcement, treatment, and prevention activities while educating and advising policymakers on current research findings, laws, and public policies. NMI's efforts are coordinated and closely aligned with the Public Lands Drug Control Committee, a federal interagency group that aligns policies and coordinates programs to support field-level eradication, operations, investigations, and intelligence and information sharing. In 2023, NMI received \$448,171 in baseline funding.
4. Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) (formerly the Heroin Response Strategy and the Opioid Response Strategy) was launched in 2015 with an initial investment of \$2.5 million in HIDTA discretionary funds to address the heroin and opioid epidemic by coordinating the efforts of regional HIDTA Programs across 15 states.<sup>6</sup> In 2016, ONDCP provided \$3.9 million to expand into five additional states. In 2017, the initiative received \$4.5 million in HIDTA funds and was expanded to two more states. In 2018, the initiative received \$4.9 million in HIDTA funds and covered 11 HIDTAs and 24 states. In 2019, the initiative received \$5 million in HIDTA funds to support the efforts of 21 HIDTAs covering 34 states. In 2020, ONDCP committed \$5.4 million to support the current staffing levels of drug intelligence officers (DIOs), HIDTA-funded ORS management staff, and the expansion of DIO positions in all 50 states and two territories, encompassing all 33 HIDTAs and the NHAC. Supporting the expansion of the HIDTA-funded DIOs in the 33 HIDTAs completes the ORS public safety national implementation plan.

In 2021, ONDCP incorporated into the HIDTA baseline funding plan support for compensation and travel costs for 60 full time DIO positions allocated across the 33 regional HIDTAs. The HIDTA baseline plan also supported two public safety advisory positions, situated at the NHAC, who coordinate the efforts of the DIOs and serve as central liaisons with their public health counterparts. Finally, the baseline plan provided funding for annual meetings and training. As a complement to HIDTA funding, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has committed to provide funding to



support full time public health analyst (PHA) positions in all 33 regional HIDTAs. Full implementation of a national public health and public safety approach for the ORS in each HIDTA region supports ONDCP and CDC's shared mission of reducing fatal and nonfatal overdoses by developing and sharing information about heroin, fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other drugs across agencies, and by offering evidence-based intervention strategies. Furthermore, this allocation addresses directives from the Appropriations Committees to support HIDTAs in states with high levels of substance use disorder.<sup>7</sup> This allocation also responded to statutory language that permitted ONDCP to implement a drug overdose response strategy in HIDTAs on a nationwide basis.

ORS has an ambitious goal – to leverage its strategic partnerships to target the organizations and individuals trafficking deadly drugs, such as fentanyl and methamphetamine, so overdoses decrease and lives are saved. ORS is achieving this goal by creating a human network spanning the law enforcement and public health communities to share actionable information. The HIDTA-funded DIOs, for example, are charged with transmitting felony arrest notifications (FANs), that is sharing information about individuals charged with felony drug offenses to a law enforcement agency where the individual permanently resides. With this information, law enforcement agencies can open new investigations or support existing investigations into specific individuals or into larger DTOs. To meet the goals of the ORS, the FAN program helps DIOs build trust with law enforcement agencies around their state, which are then leveraged to implement evidence-based overdose prevention and response strategies.

Each year, the ORS focuses on a specific cornerstone project, including examining the presence and status of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (2016), law enforcement knowledge, understanding and perceptions of 911 Good Samaritan laws (2017), promising strategies for implementing linkages to care at the nexus of public health and public safety (2018), and overdose prevention in jails (2019).<sup>8</sup> Due to challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, a Cornerstone Project was not completed in 2020. The three-year (2021-2023) Cornerstone Project examined existing resources on stimulants available from public health, public safety, and harm reduction agencies. This project reviewed 376 resources on stimulants used by 169 agencies in 29 states and United States territories. Preliminary findings revealed that most resources (52%) were from public health agencies; many (45%) were in the form of a handout; most (54%) targeted the general public; and most (62%) focused on what stimulants are, how they are used or what effects they can have. The project aimed to understand the scope of available information, identify useful resources for wider dissemination and resource gaps to be addressed, identify language that can be stigmatizing or otherwise harmful, and make recommendations for developing, disseminating, and using comprehensive, non-stigmatizing resources. The final report evaluated the utility of the resources and provided recommendations to help guide the redevelopment and circulation of high-quality resources. The findings from the study will provide recommendations to help guide the redevelopment and circulation of high-quality resources. The final report is due out in 2024.



## Public Health / Public Safety Framework

The *National Drug Control Strategy* combines prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction with a robust commitment to reducing the availability of drugs in America. LEAs have experience in implementing strategies that foster relationships with public health and community leaders to reduce illicit drug availability and use. In view of this, the HIDTA Program developed the *Public Health/Public Safety Framework*. This framework outlines the collaborative HIDTA public health and public safety initiatives that align with the *National Drug Control Strategy*, and emphasizes the shared mission to build a stronger, healthier, drug free society. Initiatives encompassed by this framework include NMI, naloxone training and distribution, the ORS, the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP),<sup>9</sup> and the HIDTA National Prevention Strategy, including A Division for Advancing Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT).

The HIDTA National Prevention Strategy facilitates cross-sector collaboration and communication among its stakeholders, and functions as a catalyst for the development, implementation and evaluation of prevention programming, unique to the needs of each HIDTA region.

The HIDTA Prevention Strategy has three strategic goals:

1. Establish evidence-based prevention strategies in all HIDTA regions to stop illicit drug use before it begins;
2. Use assessments and research to guide prevention efforts; and
3. Sustain prevention strategies in all HIDTA regions.

The initiatives that make up the HIDTA Prevention Strategy accomplish these goals by building community coalitions and partnerships that bring together law enforcement, educational, social service, and community organizations to provide science-based prevention programs. These initiatives are conducted in schools, community coalitions, civic organizations, and faith-based organizations. Information sharing sessions, symposiums, public forums, and prevention conferences are held for law enforcement professionals and their coalition partners to improve prevention strategies within their respective communities. In 2022, ONDCP funded public messaging campaigns that conveyed evidence-based prevention messages displayed on billboards and posters. The funding also supported a public service campaign to address counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl along with drug prevention specialist trainings, and the National HIDTA Prevention Summit. The goal of these efforts is to save lives by increasing the awareness of the drug threat and the dangers of illegal drugs.

In 2019, the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA used HIDTA discretionary funds to launch ADAPT, and received additional discretionary funding through 2022 to continue its efforts. ADAPT supports the HIDTA National Prevention Strategy by providing a mechanism for integrating innovative evidence-based and evidence-informed prevention strategies into the coordinated efforts of federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement and community partners within each HIDTA region. It is focused on the translation and generation of knowledge for prevention advancement through public safety and public health collaboration, as well as disseminating



individual and aggregate findings locally, nationally, and internationally. It provides technical assistance to all regional HIDTAs in five domains: 1) identification of substance use prevention evidence-based practices, 2) training, 3) implementation, 4) evaluation, and 5) finance/budgeting.

In 2022, ADAPT provided individual technical assistance to 16 HIDTAs and two National Initiatives; presented a technical webinar series on the Fundamentals of Substance Use Prevention that reached 75 percent of HIDTAs; held two *Engagement* webinars bringing HIDTA prevention staff together with the HIDTA ORS, Drug Free Communities, and National Guard Counterdrug Representatives; launched a HIDTA *Conversations* webinar series to showcase HIDTA responses to the emerging or immediate substance use prevention needs in their communities; and initiated a HIDTA *Roundtable & Workshop* series bringing together HIDTA prevention, ORS, and National Guard Counterdrug teams to discuss and develop responses to timely prevention issues. Also, in October 2022, ADAPT hosted the HIDTA National Prevention Summit.

## Support Services

The NHAC, located in Miami, Florida, assists ONDCP in the administration of the HIDTA Program, including the four program-wide initiatives: 1) DHE, 2) NETI, 3) NMI, and 4) ORS. Services provided by the NHAC include training, event planning and coordination, and multimedia services for the regional HIDTAs, as well as hosting the HIDTA financial management system (FMS). FMS is a web-based application developed and maintained by the NHAC and used for budgeting and grant administration.



## II. ASSESSMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT INTELLIGENCE SHARING IN THE HIDTA PROGRAM

The HIDTA Program’s authorizing statute requires ONDCP to provide Congress with an assessment of law enforcement intelligence sharing in the HIDTA Program.

### Reporting Requirement

The text of the reporting requirement (21 U.S.C. § 1706(m)) states:

“(m) ASSESSMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT INTELLIGENCE SHARING IN HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS PROGRAM.— Not later than 180 days after [the date of the enactment of this section], and as part of each subsequent annual *National Drug Control Strategy* report, the Director, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to Congress a report—

(1) evaluating existing and planned law enforcement intelligence systems supported by each high intensity drug trafficking area, or utilized by task forces receiving any funding under the program, including the extent to which such systems ensure access and availability of law enforcement intelligence to federal, state, local, and Tribal LEAs within the high intensity drug trafficking area and outside of it;

(2) the extent to which federal, state, local, and Tribal LEAs participating in each high intensity drug trafficking area are sharing law enforcement intelligence information to assess current drug trafficking threats and design appropriate enforcement strategies; and

(3) the measures needed to improve effective sharing of information and law enforcement intelligence regarding drug trafficking and drug production among Federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement participating in a high intensity drug trafficking area, and between such agencies and similar agencies outside the high intensity drug trafficking area.”

### HIDTA Intelligence Sharing Report

This report constitutes an evaluation of law enforcement intelligence systems that provide support to and participate in the various HDTAs. It includes information on the existing and planned law enforcement intelligence systems supported by each HIDTA or used by initiatives receiving funding under the program. This report further describes the extent to which federal, state, local, and Tribal LEAs participating in each HIDTA share law enforcement intelligence information to determine current drug trafficking threats and design appropriate enforcement strategies. Finally, it articulates the measures needed to improve effective sharing of information and law enforcement intelligence regarding drug trafficking and drug production among federal,



state, local, and Tribal LEAs participating in a HIDTA and between such agencies outside the HIDTA.

### ***Basic Requirements of Intelligence and Information Sharing***

The HIDTA *Program Policy and Budget Guidance* (PPBG) provides specific guidance and requirements for intelligence and information sharing among HDTAs. Each HIDTA must develop and implement at least one intelligence and information sharing initiative that focuses on collecting, evaluating, collating, analyzing, and disseminating law enforcement information and intelligence on its behalf. The initiative must include co-located participants from federal and state, local, or Tribal agencies. Direct access to pertinent databases is provided at the primary Investigative/Intelligence Support Centers (ISCs) by participating agencies in accordance with each agency's requirements for sharing information.

All HIDTA intelligence and information sharing initiatives must comply with applicable federal, state, and local regulations, including 28 C.F.R. Part 23, "Criminal Intelligence Systems Operating Policies." HDTAs provide intelligence and information sharing services from their respective primary intelligence centers. HIDTA Executive Boards have discretion to establish additional intelligence and information sharing components to suit the specific circumstances of their HIDTA region. Individual HIDTA reports in Section IV provide further information regarding intelligence and information sharing initiatives.

### ***Objectives of Intelligence and Information Initiatives***

Each HIDTA ISC provides actionable intelligence, information, and analytical support to HIDTA enforcement initiatives and participating agencies. The objectives of the ISCs and ancillary intelligence and information sharing initiatives are to:

- provide actionable, accurate, detailed, and timely drug and criminal intelligence and/or investigative information and analytical support to HIDTA enforcement initiatives, HIDTA participating agencies, and other LEAs and intelligence centers; and
- collect, collate, analyze, and disseminate information about offenders, crimes, and events to LEAs. In rare cases, the Director may authorize the use of the ISCs and ancillary intelligence and information sharing initiatives to support an investigation or activity related to terrorism or the prevention of terrorism, in accordance with Section 1706(g) of the ONDCP Reauthorization Act, as amended.

The core functions provided by HIDTA ISCs and ancillary intelligence and information sharing initiatives are analytical services; development of drug threat assessments; intelligence products such as special assessments, bulletins, and alerts; information sharing; and deconfliction.

### ***Analytical Support***

HIDTA ISCs support drug enforcement investigative operations, track potential threats to officer safety, manage and analyze case information, and assist in preparing case reports for prosecution. They provide support through telephone toll analysis, analytical case support, operational



intelligence programs, officer safety bulletins, and post-seizure analysis. Drug intelligence information submitted by HIDTA enforcement and interdiction initiatives is processed by ISCs and returned for appropriate action to the initial investigators.

### ***Threat Assessment***

Each HIDTA is responsible for preparing an annual drug threat assessment for the designated counties in its regional area and an appropriate law enforcement response to address the drug threat. These assessments focus heavily on recent law enforcement data and reports from the region that detail emerging drug threats.

A HIDTA threat assessment includes demographics of the region and an overview of the drug threat, including:

- DTOs and their impact on the region;
- production and/or cultivation of illegal drugs, including cocaine, methamphetamine, associated methamphetamine chemicals, fentanyl, heroin, marijuana, 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), and others;
- transportation of illegal drugs, including air, land, and sea threats; drug transportation activity; organizations; highway corridors; quantities and methods of transportation; and emerging transportation trends;
- distribution methods and trends;
- illicit finance activities; and
- crime rates and trends.

Each ISC is responsible for creating its own HIDTA threat assessment based on input from its member LEAs and other resources in the region (e.g., public health agencies).

The threat assessment also includes ancillary data such as overdose statistics, property crime data, and the number of substance use disorder treatment admissions in the area. This comprehensive approach to analyzing the drug threat provides a thorough assessment of the drug problem in a HIDTA region and benefits law enforcement, prevention, and treatment organizations as they prepare appropriate strategies to address the drug threat.

### ***Event and Case/Subject/Target Deconfliction***

A critical component of intelligence and information sharing is ensuring the safety of members of LEAs participating in the HIDTA Program. Event deconfliction ensures LEAs working in close proximity to one another are immediately notified when enforcement actions are planned in a manner that threatens effective coordination or compromises enforcement operations. Notifications of such conflicts enhance officer safety and promote the coordination of operations in a multiagency environment. Similarly, target deconflictions alert investigators when there is



an investigatory crossover by enforcement agencies. Notification of duplicate targets encourages investigators to share information and resources.

HIDTAs are required to provide a mechanism to deconflict targets and events within their respective regions. HIDTAs use several deconfliction systems, which are fully and operationally integrated, to accomplish this task:<sup>10</sup>

- Regional Information Sharing System (RISS): RISS System Intelligence Database (RISSIntel) is information entered by RISS member LEAs into a database hosted by one of the six RISS Centers;
- RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe): a deconfliction program available to any RISS member for event and target deconfliction. Currently, 12 HIDTAs utilize RISSafe for deconfliction;
- SAFETNet: an event/target deconfliction system developed, owned, and operated by a consortium of nine HIDTAs across the country. The SAFETNet deconfliction application has been consolidated within the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) computing cloud, resulting in an enhanced sharing environment with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and others; and,
- Case Explorer: a case management, event/case deconfliction, intelligence, and tip management database that is owned and administered by the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA. Currently, 13 HIDTAs use Case Explorer for deconfliction.

### ***Intelligence and Information Sharing***

Intelligence and information sharing initiatives continuously validate the regional drug threat and ensure the proper focus of a HIDTA's regional strategy. The threat assessment is primarily used to allocate operational law enforcement task forces, initiatives, and resources to address the illegal drug threat in the designated region. This process is continually updated based on the threat. HIDTAs have the flexibility to allocate resources in a way that ensures the most effective enforcement.

“Actionable intelligence and information,” a term that has been used in the law enforcement community for many years, is the foundation of the HIDTA intelligence architecture. Simply stated, it refers to the use of information that is analyzed by trained intelligence analysts to drive and/or direct criminal investigations. HIDTA ISCs and post-seizure analysis teams are able to analyze the information they collect, determine associations with related cases, and identify new targets and trends to strengthen investigations.

In addition to the annual threat assessment, many HIDTAs prepare regular bulletins, alerts, and newsletters that are widely distributed throughout the program. Specific intelligence products may:

- identify links between DTOs, which are then relayed to law enforcement personnel for the targeting, investigation, and disruption or dismantlement of identified DTOs;



- cluster arrests involving similar drug packaging/stamps (e.g., heroin brand names) or links to previous arrests through database research and alert law enforcement;
- evaluate geographic commonalities by graphic depiction in maps to project areas in need of increased enforcement; or
- provide reviews and weekly progress reports on ongoing projects/investigations, as well as drug-related information found beyond HIDTA resources.

### ***Details of Information Sharing Collaboration***

Continuing interagency cooperation has enhanced dialogue among ONDCP, the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and state, local, and Tribal LEAs to expand intelligence resources and capabilities. Currently, the HIDTA Program has 34 primary ISCs and 29 ancillary operational intelligence and information sharing initiatives. At least one ISC is located in each regional HIDTA.

Continued cooperation among federal, state, local, and Tribal partners has enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination of investigative data. Currently, ten state and major urban area fusion centers<sup>11</sup> and HIDTA ISCs are co-located and jointly share and analyze information across an all-crimes spectrum. LEAs at these centers leverage intelligence resources and analytical expertise, integrate information sharing in disparate databases, perform deconfliction for investigative data involving multiple agencies, and serve the national effort to mitigate crime and other threats.

ONDCP and the HIDTA Intelligence Committee continue to work with the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (DHS I&A) and the Office of the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment to identify the best practices that have led to successful information sharing and deconfliction capabilities between HIDTA ISCs and fusion centers. To enhance partnerships and leverage resources and data sharing, ONDCP and DHS I&A have worked to foster cooperation by facilitating joint attendance at training events and informational meetings (e.g., HIDTA ISC Managers Meetings, the DHS-sponsored Fusion Center Leadership Program, and analyst training courses). In addition, to foster opportunities for analysts to share information and develop joint products, ONDCP and DHS I&A sponsor training opportunities for fusion center and HIDTA ISC analysts. Of special note, the DHE program has an information-sharing website hosted by the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). This increased cooperation has led to enhanced collaboration among these complementary information-sharing entities.

HIDTA ISCs, through their participating agencies, have access to systems that enable them to securely share information with intelligence components in their regions and other HIDs. These systems may include federal and state law enforcement information sharing systems, as well as numerous databases from departments of motor vehicles, county prosecution offices, sheriffs' offices, city police departments, and parole offices. In alignment with strategic objectives in the *National Drug Control Strategy*, ONDCP will continue to encourage increased intelligence sharing with federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement partners.



### ***Evaluation of Existing and Planned Law Enforcement Intelligence Systems***

The HIDTA PPBG provides specific guidance and requirements for the program review of all HIDTAs, including the intelligence and information sharing initiatives. ONDCP conducts reviews of individual HIDTAs in three phases:

- annual reviews by Executive Boards and ONDCP of the budget request documentation (threat assessment and initiative description and budget proposals) submitted by each HIDTA;
- internal program reviews that each HIDTA is required to conduct annually; and
- periodic ONDCP-led reviews conducted virtually or at the HIDTA's onsite location. The program review process addresses the HIDTA's performance and financial management.

### ***Intelligence and Information Sharing Committee***

In 2000, the HIDTA Program created an Intelligence Committee, that currently comprises six regional representatives, a chairperson, and an ONDCP representative. This Committee addresses challenges and arising issues in intelligence and information sharing and deconfliction. The Committee may establish working groups to assist in its efforts and may request assistance from intelligence program managers, information technology specialists, and others from the HIDTAs. The Committee has quarterly teleconference updates and coordination meetings, as well as an annual meeting held in conjunction with the ISC Managers Meeting to discuss strategic initiatives.



### III. ASSESSMENT OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCES IN HIDTAS

The HIDTA Program’s authorizing statute requires ONDCP to provide Congress with an assessment of drug enforcement task forces in HIDTAs.

#### Reporting Requirement

The text of the reporting requirement (21 U.S.C. § 1706(l)(1)) states:

“(l) ASSESSMENT OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCES IN HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS.— Not later than one year after [the date of enactment of this subsection], and as part of each subsequent annual *National Drug Control Strategy* report, the Director shall submit to Congress a report—

- (1) assessing the number and operation of all federally funded drug enforcement task forces within each high intensity drug trafficking area; and
- (2) describing—
  - (A) each federal, state, local, and Tribal drug enforcement task force operating in the high intensity drug trafficking area;
  - (B) how such task forces coordinate with each other, with any high intensity drug trafficking area task force, and with investigations receiving funds from the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF);
  - (C) what steps, if any, each such task force takes to share information regarding drug trafficking and drug production with other federally funded drug enforcement task forces in the high intensity drug trafficking area;
  - (D) the role of the high intensity drug trafficking area in coordinating the sharing of such information among task forces;
  - (E) the nature and extent of cooperation by each federal, state, local, and Tribal participant in ensuring that such information is shared among LEAs and with the high intensity drug trafficking area;
  - (F) the nature and extent to which information sharing and enforcement activities are coordinated with joint terrorism task forces (JTTFs) in the high intensity drug trafficking area; and



(G) any recommendations for measures needed to ensure that task force resources are utilized efficiently and effectively to reduce the availability of illegal drugs in the high intensity drug trafficking areas.”

## Federal Task Force Report

Multijurisdictional task force teams are the backbone of counterdrug enforcement efforts. The HIDTA Program brings together federal, state, local, and Tribal LEAs into co-located, commingled task force teams to conduct joint investigations for the disruption and dismantling of DTOs and MLOs. Task force teams collaborate with each other, as well as with non-HIDTA entities, and implement strategies to pool resources and share information. This focuses limited resources on significant threats and strengthens their ability to identify and destabilize interconnected national and transnational criminal networks. This planning and collaboration enhance the safety of the officers involved. HIDTA initiatives also serve to reduce duplicative efforts and promote collaboration by capitalizing on participating agency subject matter specializations and best practices.

In addition to funding interagency investigative teams, the HIDTA Program funds other types of task force initiatives to support investigative efforts. Examples include intelligence and information sharing, drug interdiction, technical support, crime/forensic lab programs, prosecution initiatives, and training initiatives.

Regardless of the method of funding for the participating task forces, HIDTAs provide a coordination umbrella for federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement efforts by fostering a strategy-driven, systemic approach to integrate and synchronize efforts; facilitate efficiency, effectiveness, and cooperation among and between various agencies; and focus on outcomes and impacts. Using both formal and informal methods of coordination among drug enforcement task forces, HIDTAs act as neutral centers to manage, deconflict, analyze, and report on drug enforcement activities in their respective regions. Informally, HIDTAs coordinate and collaborate with other drug enforcement task forces through a variety of methods, including drug unit commander meetings, law enforcement coordinating committees, OCDETF case review and coordination meetings, law enforcement conferences, weekly intelligence bulletins, quarterly newsletters, and training opportunities. For example, HIDTAs regularly make training available to drug unit personnel, including non-HIDTA participating agencies. These training opportunities enhance investigative capability and promote communication, cooperation, and a strong cohesion among investigators.

To ensure coordination among HIDTA and non-HIDTA task forces, every HIDTA ensures that its participating agencies’ task forces deconflict targets and subjects under investigation. Deconfliction is a guiding principle of the program and ensures investigations do not overlap. By informing agencies when critical activities associated with fluid enforcement operations occur in close proximity to one another and could result in conflict, deconfliction services protect law enforcement officers in the field. Investigators and their managers can then determine the most prudent course of action for the investigation.

The sharing of intelligence and information is essential to coordinated and effective operations. Each HIDTA must have at least one intelligence and information sharing initiative, namely an



ISC. ISCs are managed and staffed by representatives of participating agencies who have direct onsite access to their agencies' information databases. ISCs are designed to develop intelligence, share information, and provide deconfliction and technical support to enforcement initiatives. They support and manage the reporting, analysis, and dissemination of case management and threat-related information and work with all LEAs in the HIDTA region in preparing the required annual threat assessment and strategy documents for their specific HIDTA. ISCs also share documents and threat information with national intelligence centers such as EPIC. Terrorism-related information and/or investigative leads are turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)-led JTTFs.

In Section IV of this report, individual HDTAs provide descriptions of federal, state, local, and Tribal drug enforcement task forces operating in their regions, as well as an explanation of their efforts.



## IV. EVALUATION OF THE HIDTA PROGRAM

The HIDTA Program’s authorizing statute requires ONDCP to provide Congress with an annual evaluation of HIDTA performance. The requirements of this section are contained below. To meet these requirements, this report includes, for each HIDTA, a description of its mission, purposes, and goals and an evaluation of its performance.

### Reporting Requirement

The text of the reporting requirement (21 U.S.C. § 1706(k)(2)) states:

“(k) EVALUATION. —

“(2) EVALUATION OF HIDTA PROGRAM AS PART OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY. —For each designated high intensity drug trafficking area, the Director shall submit, as part of the annual *National Drug Control Strategy* report, a report that—

“(A) describes—

“(i) the specific purposes for the high intensity drug trafficking area; and

“(ii) the specific long-term and short-term goals and objectives for the high intensity drug trafficking area; and

“(B) includes an evaluation of the performance of the high intensity drug trafficking area in accomplishing the specific long-term and short-term goals and objectives identified under paragraph (1)(B).”

### Measurements Used to Evaluate the Performance of Each HIDTA

ONDCP has established two goals for the HIDTA Program to address program effectiveness, efficiency, and management. The first goal is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting DTOs/MLOs. The second goal is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives. These goals reflect the continued refinement of the process ONDCP has developed to manage and measure HIDTA performance.

To demonstrate its efforts toward accomplishing the first goal, each HIDTA must collect and enter information into the HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP)<sup>12</sup> database. The database tracks the number of DTOs and MLOs, including Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT)-related DTOs and MLOs known to operate in its region. On a quarterly basis, each HIDTA must report in the PMP database changes in the status of a DTO/MLO, including



timing of the disruption/dismantlement of the DTO/MLO, as well as related quantities and wholesale values of drugs and assets seized.

The second goal ensures that HIDTAs are striving to meet the first goal in an efficient manner. To measure this, ONDCP focuses both on relevant training provided to task force officers (TFOs) and on each HIDTA's level of participation in information sharing. Measures include the number of students trained in each of the four HIDTA training categories (Enforcement, Analytical Support, Management, and Demand Reduction). In addition, HIDTAs are required to send follow-up surveys to each student two months post-training. The number of ISC-processed event deconflictions measures a HIDTA's accomplishments related to information sharing and the number of cases that received analytical support from the ISC or from an analyst embedded in an enforcement initiative.

## Reporting Requirements Needed to Evaluate Performance

Each HIDTA is required to provide annual budget documentation necessary to ensure the HIDTA is addressing priority drug trafficking and money laundering threats in the designated area, prior to disbursing grant funds. The required documentation includes:

- Threat Assessment – A threat assessment is an analysis of drug trafficking and related activities taking place in a HIDTA region. Its primary purpose is to provide a basis for the development of a HIDTA's strategy by identifying and describing the organizations that manufacture, cultivate, import, transport, or distribute illegal drugs in the region. The threat assessment must also specifically identify and describe those drug trafficking activities taking place in the region that affect other parts of the United States.
- Initiative Description and Budget Proposals (IDBPs) – Each HIDTA must submit IDBPs identifying the activities that will be undertaken to implement its strategy during the upcoming program year. These proposals must include 1) realistic annual funding needs for each initiative, 2) specific quantitative performance targets, and 3) sufficient detail for ONDCP to assess whether the proposed initiatives are consistent with the HIDTA's strategy, and are likely to achieve the performance targets stated therein. The documents also report on the initiative's progress in achieving prior year performance targets, and convey the HIDTA's overall strategy. Additionally, HIDTAs may request policy exemptions, or waivers, in the IDBP.

The threat assessment is submitted directly to ONDCP for review and approval prior to dissemination. The IDBPs are entered into the PMP database, and are reviewed by ONDCP prior to the disbursement of grant funds.



## HIDTA Initiative Accomplishments

Program achievements for 2023 will be available once data have been fully collected and analyzed in summer 2024. For 2022, the most recent year for which complete data are available, HIDTA reports indicate there were 945 initiatives participating in the HIDTA Program distributed among the following categories:

- Intelligence
- Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Support
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Management<sup>13</sup>

These initiatives were staffed by approximately 6,896 federal agents, criminal and intelligence analysts, attorneys, and support staff, and 16,156 state, local, and Tribal officers, criminal and intelligence analysts, attorneys, and other representatives that include drug treatment and prevention specialists. In 2022, HIDTA initiatives identified 9,167 DTOs/MLOs operating in their areas of responsibility (AORs) and reported disrupting or dismantling 3,107 DTOs/MLOs.<sup>14</sup> A majority (55%) of the disrupted or dismantled DTOs were determined to be part of multistate or international operations. In the process, HIDTA initiatives removed significant quantities of drugs from the market (see table below) valuing over \$22.3 billion, and seized \$494.6 million in cash and \$216.9 million in non-cash assets from drug traffickers (totaling over \$711.5 million in assets seized). HIDTA criminal and intelligence analysts provided analytical support to 36,723 investigations. The combined value of the illegal drugs seized and the cash and assets taken from traffickers equates to a return on investment (ROI) of \$82.90 for every HIDTA dollar budgeted in 2022.

<b>Quantities of Drugs Removed from the Marketplace by HIDTA Initiatives in 2022</b>	
<b>Drugs Seized</b>	<b>Kilograms</b>
Cocaine/Crack	183,305
Methamphetamine	119,491
Fentanyl	13,659
Heroin	2,538
Marijuana	2,356,467
Marijuana Plants - Outdoors <sup>15</sup>	939,733
Marijuana Plants – Indoors	316,299

*Source: HIDTA PMP Database, data retrieved June 1, 2023.*



## A. Individual HIDTA Reports

To address the specific reporting requirements, individual HIDTA reports are provided below. These reports are succinct descriptions of the individual HDTAs and their responses to the Congressional reporting requirements. Each HIDTA developed and submitted data contained in the following regional HIDTA summaries. Any questions regarding the data will be addressed by the respective HDTAs. For a more comprehensive look at any particular HIDTA’s performance in addressing specific drug threats, ONDCP will provide an annual summary or threat assessment upon request. Each of the individual HIDTA reports contains the various sections noted below.

### *Purpose and Goals*

Per the reporting requirement in 21 U.S.C. § 1706(k)(2)(A) of the HIDTA Program authorizing statute, this section highlights the specific purpose and mission for the HIDTA.

### *Strategy*

Per the reporting requirement in 21 U.S.C. § 1706(k)(2)(B) of the HIDTA Program authorizing statute, this section highlights the specific long-term goals and objectives for the HIDTA.

### *Location*

This section identifies the geographical location of the HIDTA, including the HIDTA-designated counties in its AOR.

### *Initiatives*

This section highlights the types and numbers of initiatives in the HIDTA. Initiatives are activities that implement portions of the HIDTA’s strategy, as opposed to an organization of activities or investigative efforts.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

Per the reporting requirement in 21 U.S.C. § 1706(k)(2)(B) of the HIDTA Program authorizing statute, this section highlights the specific short-term goals and objectives for the HIDTA.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>



Year: The numbers provided in the respective categories reflect the *projected* performance targets by each HIDTA for 2023 and not *actual* results from 2023. Individual HDTAs are not required to submit 2023 results until June 2024.

DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/Dismantled: A DTO is an organization consisting of five or more persons: (1) that has a clearly defined chain-of-command; and (2) whose principal activity is to generate income or acquire assets through a continuing series of illegal drug production, manufacturing, importation, transportation, or distribution activities. An organization is dismantled when its leadership, financial base, and supply network are incapable of operating and/or reconstituting themselves. An organization is disrupted when the normal and effective operation of the organization is impeded, as indicated by changes in organizational leadership and/or changes in methods of financing, transportation, distribution, communications, or drug production. There is no precise way to calculate or measure whether a DTO/MLO is disrupted. This is a subjective assessment made by the case agent or initiative supervisor.

Target Return on Investment – Assets: ROI for assets is the ratio between the value of cash and non-cash assets seized and the amount of HIDTA funds budgeted for all activities other than treatment, prevention, and/or research and development.

Target Return on Investment – Drugs: ROI for drugs is the ratio between the wholesale value of drugs seized and the amount of HIDTA funds budgeted for all activities other than treatment, prevention, and/or research and development.

Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support: Analytical support means services an analyst provides to support an investigation, such as crime pattern analyses (e.g., information relating to a series of crimes), financial analyses (e.g., connections between bank accounts and individuals or entities), association/link/network analyses (e.g., relationships or connections among people and organizations involved in a criminal activity), and/or commodity flow analyses (e.g., flow of goods, currency, or services relating to a criminal act, among people, organizations, or businesses).

### ***Threat Assessment***

As required by 21 U.S.C. § 1706(m)(2) of the HIDTA Program authorizing statute, this section highlights the drug threat in the HIDTA region. While each HIDTA provides an in-depth threat assessment annually, this section includes a short overview of the drug trends and threats in the HIDTA region. These assessments are developed through cooperation among federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement.

### ***Intelligence Initiatives***

As required by 21 U.S.C. § 1706(m) of the HIDTA Program authorizing statute, this section identifies the HIDTA Intelligence Initiatives in its region. Each HIDTA must have at least one intelligence and information sharing initiative that is responsible for developing information and intelligence collection requirements and for collecting, evaluating, collating, analyzing, and disseminating law enforcement information and intelligence for the HIDTA Program. These initiatives are required to have participants from federal *and* state, local, or Tribal agencies.



### ***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

As required by 21 U.S.C. § 1706(l) of the HIDTA Program authorizing statute, this section includes a list of federal, state, local, and Tribal drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region and their locations.

### ***Task Force Coordination***

As required by 21 U.S.C. § 1706(l) of the HIDTA Program authorizing statute, this section describes how task forces coordinate with each other; steps taken to share information among task forces; the role of the HIDTA in coordinating information sharing; the extent of current cooperation among participants; the extent of information sharing with JTTFs; and any recommendations for ensuring effective and efficient use of task force resources.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

As required by 21 U.S.C. §1706(k)(2)(B) of the HIDTA Program authorizing statute, ONDCP provides an evaluation of the performance of each HIDTA in accomplishing its goals and objectives. Note that the number of DTOs disrupted or dismantled is affected by developing cases, varying levels of DTOs, national and international scope of investigations, differing levels of sophistication and size of DTOs, and the ability to acquire resources. Performance data included in this section are provided by the HIDTA in the PMP database.



# Alaska HIDTA

**Designated in 2018**

**Executive Director – Ed Mercer**

## *Purpose and Goals*

Alaska HIDTA’s mission is to reduce drug importation, distribution, and drug-related violent crimes through intelligence-led targeting of DTOs. The HIDTA focuses on disrupting and dismantling high-value DTOs.

## *Strategy*

The HIDTA consists of enforcement, support, management, and intelligence initiatives. The enforcement initiatives include Statewide Prosecution, Fugitive Task Force, Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs Task Force (SCAN), Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Task Force (FANT), and the Southcentral Area-wide Narcotics Task Force (SEACAD).

The enforcement initiatives target significant DTOs through intelligence-led investigations that focus on distribution, interdiction, financial activity, and drug-related violence within Alaska. The ISC provides support for LEAs to identify, disrupt, and/or dismantle DTOs by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on the targets of investigations.

## *Location*

The HIDTA designated areas align with the First, Third, and Fourth Judicial Districts in Alaska, which comprise all but three of Alaska’s 28 boroughs.

## *Initiatives*

The HIDTA has 9 initiatives: 5 enforcement, 2 management, 1 intelligence, and 1 support.

## *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$0.48</b>	<b>\$1.44</b>	<b>21</b>

Due to the HIDTA’s designation in 2018, these targets are estimates based on historical case information provided by partner agencies. The HIDTA program did not have a three-year average solely for HIDTA participants as of 2022, when these targets were developed.



### *Threat Assessment*

The HIDTA assesses fentanyl is the greatest threat by dosage unit in Alaska and this mirrors the national trend. The drug threat environment has shifted in the HIDTA from primarily methamphetamine trafficking and abuse to a dual threat that increasingly leans towards high availability and use of opioid-based drugs. Marijuana and cocaine also pose significant threats and are widely available in the state. This assessment is based on federal, state, and local law enforcement drug seizure reporting. In 2022, the HIDTA program seized 107 kilograms of methamphetamine, 44 kilograms of heroin, 26 kilograms and 5013 dosage units of fentanyl, 24 kilograms of cocaine/crack, and 260 kilograms of marijuana and marijuana plants.

The disparity between prices in the contiguous United States and Alaska presents an incentive for DTOs to import and distribute drugs into and throughout the state. Moreover, there is a strong correlation between distance from a regional hub and price – the further a drug is trafficked from a regional hub the greater the retail price. The high rate of return for drug traffickers greatly incentivizes supply into and throughout Alaska. Illegal drugs are predominantly imported and then distributed throughout the state. Alaska is not known to produce illegal drugs. This trend is likely to continue as Alaska remains an attractive marketplace for DTOs due to its remote location, high demand for illicit substances, and limited law enforcement resources.

DTOs utilize several similar methods of transportation to import and distribute cocaine, methamphetamine, and opioids into and throughout Alaska. The most common methods of transportation are by air and parcel, followed by road, ferry, and boat. Due to Alaska's geography, there does not appear to be a difference in transportation method by drug type. DTOs are known to employ persons from outside Alaska to transport drugs within the state, and across state lines. Additionally, there is no law enforcement presence on the network of ferries operating in the region; therefore, vehicles and passengers are not inspected prior to boarding. These challenges make it difficult for limited law enforcement personnel to effectively detect or stop traffickers.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The mission of the HIDTA ISC is to support law enforcement agencies in their effort to identify, disrupt and/or dismantle DTOs, criminal groups and individuals, and other organized criminal elements operating in Alaska by actively collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on the targets of investigations and on the scope and dynamics of criminal activity. The ISC is co-located in the Alaska Criminal Intelligence Center, the state's fusion center, within the Alaska Department of Public Safety.

The HIDTA ISC produces intelligence products, briefs, and assessments, and it provides target deconfliction through a database linked to RISSIntel. The primary task of the ISC is to provide analytical and investigative support to HIDTA participants with the goal of collaboration and communication between all partner agencies to improve investigative performance to disrupt and/or dismantle the illicit drug markets in Alaska.



### ***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the HIDTA-funded drug enforcement task forces and squads operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
SCAN	Anchorage
FANT	Fairbanks
SEACAD	Juneau
SCAN: Mat-Su Drug Team	Wasilla
SCAN: Kenai Peninsula Drug Team	Kenai
SCAN: Anchorage Area Drug Team	Anchorage
SCAN: Kodiak Island Drug Team	Kodiak
SCAN: Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team A/B	Anchorage
Fugitive Task Force	Statewide

### ***Task Force Coordination***

All task forces receiving HIDTA funding and operating in Alaska are mandated to use the HIDTA ISC for deconfliction, and all participating agencies have agreed to use the HIDTA ISC for deconfliction. The HIDTA uses the Western States Information Network (WSIN)/RISS for event deconfliction. The ISC plays a vital role in ensuring that coordination, cooperation, and information sharing exist among all the participating agencies and task forces.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the Alaska HIDTA succeeded in disrupting/dismantling six DTOs but fell short of its targets overall, as indicated below. Established regional HIDTA programs set targets based upon historical outputs (i.e., an average of the 3 previous years' outputs). For newly-created programs such as the Alaska HIDTA, which was designated in 2018, the absence of historical outputs creates challenges in setting accurate and achievable targets.

For 2022, 3-year historical averages were used for setting future year goals. The Alaska HIDTA program remains fully dedicated to seizing, interdicting, disrupting, and dismantling DTOs in Alaska, and will continue to refine its targeting efforts as it accumulates additional years of outputs.



<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$0.54</b>	<b>\$1.88</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$0.57</b>	<b>\$2.62</b>	<b>28</b>



## Appalachia HIDTA

**Designated in 1998**

**Executive Director – Vic Brown**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Appalachia HIDTA’s mission is to enhance and coordinate drug enforcement efforts of local, state, and federal LEAs within areas designated as HIDTAs by pursuing the disruption/dismantlement of DTOs, particularly as it relates to the specific drug threats of the Appalachian region. The most significant drug threats to the HIDTA region are: opioids (including fentanyl), crystal methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and diverted pharmaceuticals. Kentucky and Tennessee continue to rank amongst the top ten states with the highest number of opioid prescriptions in the United States. West Virginia continues the distinction of ranking number one in the nation in per capita overdose deaths (90.9 per 100,000) in recent years, followed by Tennessee (56.6) and Kentucky (55.6), largely due to opioids. In addition, high unemployment rates and low median household incomes directly affect socioeconomic conditions that significantly influence the drug-related activity in the region. The development of cooperative, multijurisdictional law enforcement efforts, that enhance the coordination of HIDTA-funded and non-HIDTA-funded resources is paramount to addressing the HIDTA’s threats.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA measures success, in part, by its ability to facilitate efficiency, effectiveness, and cooperation among participating agencies at all levels. The HIDTA is influential in fostering cooperation and collaboration among federal, state, and local LEAs throughout the region. The HIDTA provides the support, resources, and coordination necessary to facilitate cooperation among its collaborative initiatives. In all, the HIDTA has fostered cooperative and effective working relationships among nearly 172 federal, state, and local agencies to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs while reducing the demand for drugs.

The HIDTA Executive Board comprises 24 executives from federal, state, and local LEAs, the National Guard Counterdrug Program, and federal and state prosecutors. The Executive Board develops and manages the HIDTA strategy while providing program oversight to 52 enforcement initiatives (55 to include the intelligence, management and coordination, and training initiatives), and directs resources throughout the HIDTA region to ensure the achievement of desired outcomes based on the current and emerging drug threat. Executive Board subcommittees provide policy guidance through compartmentalized topics and information while serving as a forum for regional planning and coordination for all HIDTA participating agencies.

### *Location*

The HIDTA Headquarters is in London, Kentucky, centrally located within the HIDTA region. The HIDTA region comprises 96 counties throughout Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The HIDTA region consists of the following designated counties:



- Kentucky (35): Adair, Bell, Boyd, Bullitt,<sup>16</sup> Clark, Clay, Daviess, Floyd, Hardin, Harlan, Jackson, Jefferson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Logan, Madison, Magoffin, Marion, Montgomery, Nelson, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Simpson, Taylor, Warren, Wayne, and Whitley.
- Tennessee (31): Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Davidson, Fentress, Franklin, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hawkins, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Macon, Marion, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Sullivan, and Washington.
- Virginia (9): Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Pulaski, Scott, Tazewell, Wise, and Wythe.
- West Virginia (21): Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Fayette, Hancock, Harrison, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monongalia, Ohio, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph,<sup>17</sup> Wayne, Wood, and Wyoming.

### *Initiatives*

HIDTA supports 55 initiatives: 52 investigative, 1 intelligence, 1 management and coordination, and 1 training. The three support initiatives provide direct case support, operational oversight, training event and conference coordination, financial management, and logistical support. Collaborative efforts between all the HIDTA initiatives promote an atmosphere where achieving success is more important than who gets the credit, while creating an efficient information-sharing network throughout the HIDTA region.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>\$55.00</b>	<b>644</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The HIDTA faces substantial threats from the trafficking and use of fentanyl, crystal methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, diverted pharmaceuticals, and synthetic drugs like lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and MDMA, as well as drug-related violence. Over the past three years, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and fentanyl-analogs have become increasingly popular and are a highly credible threat to the region. The trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs throughout the four-state HIDTA region continues to pose a significant threat to the citizens of Appalachia. international and multi-state DTOs in origin, continue to flood the region with fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, crystal methamphetamine, and heroin by utilizing vast arrays of intersecting roadways. Seizures of bulk fentanyl increased from 66.8 kilograms in 2021, to 413.4 kilograms in 2022, crystal methamphetamine increased 216 percent, and seizures of cocaine increased 62 percent from the previous year. Fentanyl dosage unit seizures increased from 33,038 in 2021, to



167,272 in 2022 and are most commonly sold as diverted pharmaceuticals. Crack cocaine continues to be primarily converted in larger metropolitan area and seizures of crack cocaine increased 43 kilograms from the previous year. The HIDTA region continues to be a significant source of domestically produced illicit marijuana and is often an import destination for illicit marijuana cultivated outside the United States.

The majority of the HIDTA region is located within a reasonable driving distance to metropolitan areas within the midwestern, eastern, and southeastern parts of the United States. Fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, and crystal methamphetamine are commonly transported from regional areas such as Detroit, Michigan; Columbus, Ohio; Atlanta, Georgia; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; neighboring parts of Indiana, North Carolina, Missouri, and Maryland. Marijuana and marijuana derivatives imported into the HIDTA region are commonly transported from western states such as California, Colorado, and Washington. Additionally, it is not uncommon for imported illicit drugs to have a point of origin within Mexico, destined for the HIDTA region.

Transportation to and from the HIDTA region is conducted primarily by private and commercial vehicles. A variety of highways and secondary road corridors traverse the HIDTA region providing easy access to the area. In all, nine major interstate systems span the HIDTA region, allowing for effortless access by roadway into, throughout, and out of locations known to be major drug distribution points within the eastern United States. The importation of illicit drugs into the HIDTA region via parcel has become more prevalent. In order to evade law enforcement patrolling interstate corridors, DTOs are exploiting the mail system to traffic illicit drugs eliminating in person transactions.

### ***Intelligence Initiatives***

Counterdrug investigations are supported and often driven by information and intelligence. Sharing and disseminating information and intelligence is an essential component of the HIDTA strategy. The HIDTA's intelligence hub is the ISC, co-located within the HIDTA Headquarters, in London, Kentucky. The ISC facilitates the flow of information and intelligence among the HIDTA initiatives, support initiatives, and the Executive Board. The ISC provides a multitude of analytical support functions aimed at providing accurate and relevant information and intelligence in a timely manner. One of the most critical services the ISC provides the HIDTA initiatives is managing the deconfliction process. Deconfliction is an essential component of officer safety, and the ISC retains administrative privileges to ensure deconfliction is a part of all operations. The ISC strives to maintain efficiency and effectiveness of the HIDTA initiatives by facilitating communication, collaboration, and the dissemination of valuable information pertaining to the current and projected drug threat, while assisting in developing counterdrug strategies.

### ***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Appalachia HIDTA Diversion Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	London, KY
Appalachia Narcotics Investigations Task Force (HIDTA)	Pineville, KY
Appalachia Parcel Interdiction (HIDTA)	Louisville, KY
Beckley-Raleigh County Drug and Violent Crime Unit (HIDTA)	Beckley, WV
Bowling Green-Warren County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Bowling Green, KY
Central Kentucky Interdiction Team	Bowling Green, KY
Central Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Fayetteville, WV
Chattanooga Safe Streets Violent Crime Task Force (FBI)	Chattanooga, TN
Claytor Lake Regional Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Wytheville, VA
Columbia Area Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Columbia, KY
DEA London Task Force (HIDTA)	London, KY
DEA Rocky Top Task Force/TN Eradication (HIDTA)	Knoxville, TN
DEA South Tennessee Task Force (HIDTA)	Chattanooga, TN
DEA Upper East Tennessee Task Force (HIDTA)	Johnson City, TN
Domestic Highway Enforcement Interdiction Plus (HIDTA)	Knoxville, TN
Drug-Related Death Task Force (HIDTA)	Knoxville, TN
Eighth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Jacksboro, TN
FBI Rocky Top Task Force (HIDTA)	Knoxville, TN
FBI HEAT Task Force (HIDTA)	Pikeville, KY
Fifteenth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Hartsville, TN
First Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Johnson City, TN
Fourteenth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Manchester, TN
Fourth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Sevierville, TN
Gateway Area Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Mt. Sterling, KY
Greater Hardin County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Elizabethtown, KY
Greater Harrison County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Bridgeport, WV
Hancock-Brooke-Weirton Drug and Violent Crime TF (HIDTA)	Weirton, WV
Huntington Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force (HIDTA)	Huntington, WV
Kentucky Eradication Initiative (HIDTA)	London, KY
Knoxville HQ Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Knoxville, TN
Louisville DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Louisville, KY
Louisville Metro Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Louisville, KY
Madison County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Richmond, KY
Marshall County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Moundsville, WV
Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team (HIDTA)	Charleston, WV
Middle Tennessee Drug and Violent Crime Task Force (DEA)	Nashville, TN
Middle Tennessee Drug Related Death Task Force (TBI)	Nashville, TN
Mon-Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Dellslow, WV
Ninth Judicial Drug Task Force	Kingston, TN



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Northeast Kentucky Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Ashland, KY
Ohio Valley Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Wheeling, WV
Operation UNITE Drug Task Force	London, KY
Parkersburg Violent Crime and Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Parkersburg, WV
Second Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Blountville, TN
Seventh Drug and Violent Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Clinton, TN
Sixth Judicial Drug Task Force	Knoxville, TN
Southeastern KY FBI Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	London, KY
Southern Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Bluefield, WV
Southcentral Area Drug Task Force	Franklin, KY
Southwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Big Stone Gap, VA
Sullivan County Drug-Related Death Task Force (HIDTA)	Blountville, TN
Tazewell County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Cedar Bluff, VA
TBI Middle Tennessee Task Force (HIDTA)	Algood, TN
Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force	Chattanooga, TN
Third Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Greeneville, TN
Thirteenth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Cookeville, TN
Twelfth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Jasper, TN
Twenty-Ninth Circuit Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Clintwood, VA
Twin County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Galax, VA
U.S. 119 Task Force (HIDTA)	Logan, WV
Violent Crime and Drug Task Force West (HIDTA)	Milton, WV
West Virginia DEA HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Charleston, WV
West Virginia Eradication Task Force (HIDTA)	South Charleston, WV
West Virginia State Police – Bureau of Criminal Investigations	South Charleston, WV

### ***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA initiatives coordinate investigations, enforcement operations, and intelligence sharing with one another, various HIDTAs, and non-HIDTA task forces and agencies. These task forces have longstanding relationships with federal, state, and local LEAs, and judicial officials in their respective areas. Frequently, HIDTA initiatives participate in conferences and training events aimed at facilitating the exchange of information, while networking and establishing working relationships that would not exist without these outreach efforts.

In an effort to ensure officer safety and increase operational efficiency, the HIDTA ensures that all HIDTA initiatives participate in deconfliction in accordance with ONDCP guidelines. Additionally, the HIDTA encourages all LEAs within the HIDTA region to use programs such as Case Explorer, while providing free training and administrative support upon request. Currently, there are more than 250 LEAs located within the HIDTA region that participate in a deconfliction program.



The HIDTA ISC coordinates information sharing for all HIDTA initiatives, and when applicable, outside LEAs throughout the HIDTA region. The ISC facilitates information sharing between HIDTA initiatives and other LEAs related to organizational structures of DTOs, transportation and distribution methods, and many other intelligence-related matters. The ISC shares intelligence originating from EPIC, the Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCIC), other regional HIDTAs, and various public health resources throughout the HIDTA region.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA plays a significant role in reducing DTO operations throughout the Appalachian region. The HIDTA’s initiatives thwart the trafficking of heroin, diverted pharmaceuticals, cocaine, and synthetic drugs – such as fentanyl, as well as impede the production and distribution of methamphetamine and marijuana. In 2022, initiatives disrupted or dismantled 80 DTOs, falling short of the 147 DTOs expected to be disrupted/dismantled during the year. The number of actual DTO disrupted or dismantled was lower than expected in 2022 in part due to an increased push to conduct more in-depth DTO investigations and to push the investigation as far up the DTO structure as possible. This push led to a decrease in the overall number of DTOs dismantled or disrupted but an increase in arrests of members of the DTOs and assets seized from the DTO investigations. Of the DTOs under investigation, 61 percent were identified as multistate or international in nature. In 2022, initiatives seized illegal drugs with a wholesale value of over \$700 million, over \$15 million in cash and other drug-related assets, for a total ROI of \$43.54. In addition, the investigative initiatives made more than 3,282 arrests and seized 1,606 firearms. The overall ROI, as well as other investigative accomplishments represented in 2022, provide proof that the HIDTA is supporting the National HIDTA Program goals to (1) disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting DTOs and (2) improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>\$1.50</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>	<b>485</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$2.12</b>	<b>\$41.42</b>	<b>1,535</b>



## Arizona HIDTA

**Designated in 1990**

**Director – Dawn Mertz**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Arizona HIDTA’s mission is to reduce the smuggling, transportation, distribution, manufacture, and cultivation of illicit drugs by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs operating in Arizona and other areas of the United States. This is accomplished by supporting and coordinating the drug control efforts of federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement entities. Central to this mission is the implementation of innovative intelligence and law enforcement strategies designed to respond to the threats posed by drug trafficking and drug-related crime.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA uses an intelligence-driven, threat-focused strategy to target the most significant DTOs and MLOs affecting Arizona. The HIDTA is organized into four initiative functions – enforcement (interdiction, investigation, fugitive arrests, and prosecution); intelligence (coordination, deconfliction, targeting, investigative case support, and threat assessment); support (training and public health/public safety); and management. The HIDTA coordinates and supports the efforts of 607 full-time and 81 part-time participants from 78 federal, state, local, and Tribal agencies.

The HIDTA supports the *National Drug Control Strategy* by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs, thereby disrupting the flow of illicit drugs to drug markets in Arizona and the United States. Specifically, AZ HIDTA:

- facilitates a coordinated threat-focused, intelligence-led strategy against the most significant DTOs and MLOs affecting Arizona and the United States;
- collects, analyzes, and disseminates actionable intelligence, enabling HIDTA initiatives to identify and investigate current and emerging drug threats; and
- enhances Tribal, regional, local, and cross-border demand reduction efforts by working with established community coalitions.

### *Location*

The HIDTA comprises nine counties: Cochise, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma.

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 27 initiatives: 21 enforcement; 1 intelligence/information sharing; 4 support (includes 1 training), and 1 management.



### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$2.25</b>	<b>\$33.00</b>	<b>419</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The HIDTA is a major arrival zone for multi-ton quantities of fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine entering the United States from Mexico. Sharing more than 370 miles of border with Mexico, the southern border of Arizona presents a variety of challenges for LEAs in their efforts to stem the tide of both illegal drugs and proceeds.

The Sinaloa Cartel (Sinaloa) presents the primary operational threat to Arizona, possessing vast resources to distribute, transport, and smuggle large amounts of fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine into and through Arizona. Sinaloa exploits well-established routes into Arizona and has perfected smuggling methods to supply drug distribution networks located throughout the United States. The Mexican state of Sonora is home to key drug trafficking plazas controlled by Sinaloa that are used for offloading, stashing, and staging drugs, money, and weapons. Sinaloa's influence in Arizona is growing stronger as it continues to gain control of additional drug trafficking corridors and routes in Sonora, Mexico, and neighboring Baja California, Mexico. The Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación (CJNG) is expanding its presence and influence throughout Mexico, to include trafficking routes through Sonora.

Drug seizures indicate Arizona is a significant drug trafficking corridor and distribution hub for DTOs. Federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement in the region proactively target the transportation and distribution cells of these DTOs to disrupt the flow of drugs through and from Arizona, thereby directly affecting drug markets throughout the United States. Drug seizures indicate DTOs are increasing fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine smuggling from Mexico into the region. With the dramatic increase of fentanyl smuggled from Mexico, heroin seizures have decreased. Most illicit THC/marijuana seizures in Arizona originate from California.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The HIDTA ISC intelligence unit is structured to support all initiatives and to serve as the drug investigative support/intelligence hub for the HIDTA initiatives, as well as non-HIDTA law enforcement entities in Arizona. The ISC consists of representatives from the DEA, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Pima County Sheriff's Department, Phoenix Police Department, Apache Junction Police Department, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Arizona National Guard, Mesa Police Department, and Tucson Police Department. These partnerships enhance intelligence efforts by promoting intelligence sharing and leveraging intelligence resources to target DTOs based and operating in Arizona.



The ISC is structured into five primary units – Case Support; Device Exploitation; Interdiction Response Group; Research, Leads and Targeting; and Threat Analysis and Production. The functions and focus of each unit are as follows:

- **Case Support:** This unit provides analytical support to investigations, which may include telephone toll analysis, pen register analysis, Title III analysis, and seizure analysis. Analytical support includes, but is not limited to, identifying overt acts, stash house locations, sources of supply, organizational members and co-conspirators, trafficking routes and methods, and relevant seizure information – all of which are used to identify potential targets and link key events to other investigations.
- **Device Exploitation:** The Device Exploitation unit fully exploits extracted telephone data received from HIDTA Initiative investigations. The analysis and deconfliction provided to the investigator(s) are far more extensive, providing specific lead information and investigative clarity. Cross Case Analysis is also performed. This is a complete comparison of telephone data extractions between all participating HIDTA Initiatives creating case links, case ties, investigative common targets/suspects, and case deconfliction.
- **Interdiction Response Group (IRG):** The IRG provides 24/7 real-time intelligence support to Arizona law enforcement interdiction efforts and provides intelligence support to interdiction operations during the planning, operational, and investigative phases utilizing 1-888-AZHIDTA. The group helps drive interdiction efforts based on intelligence and bridge the gap between interdiction and investigation. IRG provides 24/7 real-time intelligence support to all types of interdictions, including highway/road, airport, parcel, and desert operations. The IRG meets the growing demand for intelligence-driven operations and real-time analytical support, along with post-seizure analysis, for all interdiction efforts by Arizona law enforcement. The IRG also produces and disseminates quarterly seizure reports for each of the nine DHE regions and maintains a national Interdiction Network dedicated to supporting criminal interdiction, information sharing, operational awareness, as well as intelligence support of criminal interdiction cases and operations. The Interdiction Network is available to law enforcement officers engaged in criminal interdiction, investigators, and criminal intelligence analysts supporting interdiction and is accessible from a desktop, laptop, or smartphone.
- **Research, Leads and Targeting:** This unit researches and deconflicts information using all available investigative and analytical tools before coordinating the dissemination of findings to the interested law enforcement entity and/or entities. During the analytical process, investigative leads are produced and methodically disseminated through the ISC manager to the appropriate HIDTA initiative or law enforcement partner.
- **Threat Analysis and Production:** This unit maintains a streamlined, consistent approach to strategic collection, analysis, and reporting for the ISC; is responsible for writing and producing strategic products; and maintains a strategic threat assessment picture of the drug situation in Arizona. This unit is also responsible for collecting and evaluating data and information from all possible sources, including open-source information,



investigative information, information developed by the ISC, and other HIDTA initiative elements.

The ISC is the central processing hub for intelligence to support drug law enforcement programs and is designed to reduce drug trafficking and money laundering affecting Arizona and other areas of the United States.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Apache County Cooperative Narcotics Team	Apache County
Arizona Crime Gun Intelligence and Enforcement Initiative (HIDTA)	Maricopa County
Arizona Regional Interdiction Network (HIDTA)	Arizona
Arizona Warrant Apprehension Network Targeted Enforcement Detail (HIDTA)	Arizona
Border Anti-Narcotics Network (HIDTA)	Pima County (Ajo/West Desert area)
Border Enforcement Security Task Force (DHS)	Maricopa, Pima, and Yuma Counties
Commercial Narcotics Interdiction Task Force	Maricopa County
Counter Narcotics Alliance (HIDTA)	Pima County
East Valley Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Maricopa and Pinal Counties
Gila County Narcotics, Gang and Violent Crime Enforcement Task Forces	Gila County
Greenlee County Narcotics Task Force	Greenlee County
Investigative Support Center (HIDTA)	Arizona
La Paz County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	La Paz County
Maricopa County Drug Suppression Task Force (HIDTA)	Maricopa County
Maricopa County Neighborhood Narcotics Enforcement Team	Maricopa County
Metro Intelligence Support and Technical Investigative Center (HIDTA)	Maricopa County
Violent Street Gang Task Force (FBI)	Maricopa County
Mohave Area General Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Mohave County
Native American Targeted Investigation of Violent Enterprises Task Force (HIDTA)	Pima County
Navajo County Major Crimes Apprehension Team (HIDTA)	Navajo County



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Northern Arizona Metro Street Crimes Task Force	Coconino County
Organized Drug Enforcement Strike Force (DEA)	Arizona
Partners Against Narcotics Trafficking	Yavapai County
Pima County HIDTA Investigative Task Force (HIDTA)	Pima County
Pinal County Drug and Gang Enforcement Multiagency Task Force	Pinal County
Pinal County HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Pinal County
Santa Cruz County HIDTA Investigative Task Force (HIDTA)	Santa Cruz County
Southeastern Arizona Drug, Gang and Violent Crime Task Force	Graham County
Southeastern Arizona Major Investigative Team (HIDTA)	Cochise County
Southern Arizona Integrity Initiative (HIDTA)	Pima County
Strategic Planning and Enforcement Action Reform (HIDTA)	Maricopa County
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Arizona
Tucson HIDTA Financial Task Force (HIDTA)	Pima County
West Valley Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Maricopa County
Yuma County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Yuma County
Yuma County Prosecutorial Initiative (HIDTA)	Yuma County

***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA provides a forum for sharing important trend information on drug trafficking, money laundering, and drug-related crime in Arizona and along the Arizona/Mexico border. The HIDTA coordinates information sharing with other HIDTAs located in the Southwest border region by hosting intelligence meetings and through information dissemination via electronic and hard copy formats at the federal, state, local, and Tribal levels. The ISC, through formalized interagency communication protocols, coordinates investigative activities directly with enforcement and intelligence personnel at federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement entities in Arizona. Information dissemination at the regional and national levels occurs through EPIC, the National Seizure System (NSS), HSIN, the Interdiction Network, National Virtual Pointer System, and RISS.

The HIDTA works closely with other HIDTAs, EPIC, and HSIN to ensure distribution of time-sensitive intelligence developed from these operations and used for case development and target identification.

The HIDTA regularly disseminates intelligence and attends intelligence sharing meetings with the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center. The Executive Director also participates as a member of the Unified Command for the Alliance to Combat Transnational Threats (ACTT), as HIDTA personnel are a critical element in ACTT’s coordination efforts.



The Arizona Regional Interdiction Network (ARIN) focuses on degrading and disrupting the ability of drug trafficking and money laundering organizations to use Arizona to transport illegal drugs and money by conducting interdiction of highways, commercial air, rail, parcel, and hotel/motel operation through the year. The ARIN also supports interdictors through the Interdiction Network, a Web-based application that is fully compliant with Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) requirements. The Interdiction Network allows criminal interdictors to share national and regional information on concealment methods, seizures, trends, training, and interdiction-related bulletins and has a mapping component with apprehension and destination locations. The Interdiction Network resource has been presented at several national interdiction conferences and is gaining partner users across the country.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 48 DTOs. Of the 48 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 26 were international, 10 were multistate, and 12 were local. Initiatives also dismantled/disrupted 643 criminal operations. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with an estimated wholesale value of nearly \$538 million and more than \$17 million in cash and assets for a total ROI of \$40.81. By weight, fentanyl accounted for 75 percent methamphetamine for 9 percent, and cocaine for 8 percent of the drugs seized; heroin and marijuana accounted for the remaining 8 percent.

The multiagency statewide fugitive task force arrested 4,525 subjects, and fugitive apprehensions resulted in the seizure of 898 firearms. Prosecutors obtained 1,170 indictments, prosecuted 3,028 individuals, and convicted 848 individuals.

The ISC provided analytical support to 440 cases and sent or provided 1,173 substantive leads to HIDTA initiatives and agencies. In addition, the ISC disseminated 166 analytical reports; handled 7,143 information requests; produced five strategic and threat bulletins and 843 tactical intelligence bulletins; performed forensic extraction of 427 communication devices and created 166 Device Exploitation Reports; and provided 24/7 support for Arizona law enforcement.

The HIDTA processed 3,096 event deconflictions and 8,858 case deconflictions.

The Arizona Regional Training Initiative (ARTI) provided 33,025 hours of training to 2,497 students from federal, state, local, Tribal, and military agencies. ARTI presented 26 courses, including weeklong classes covering Basic Drug Investigations, Advanced Drug Investigations, and Drug Unit Supervisors; two-week Basic Intelligence Analyst courses; weeklong Advanced Intelligence Analyst course; and six regional classes. ARTI also conducted a three-day Strategic Analyst course and a course related to basic and advanced social media investigations.

The Public Health/Public Safety (PH/PS) Initiative includes demand reduction/prevention and training components, as well as the Opioid Monitoring Initiative and ORS.

The PH/PS Initiative collaborates at the federal, state, local, and Tribal levels to address the urgent need to work with communities, the public, and law enforcement on educating the community and parents about the health and societal costs of illicit prescription drug, methamphetamine, and youth marijuana use; the connection between prescription drugs, heroin, and the rise of fentanyl; and the surge in youth vaping and youth THC concentrate use. The goal



is to minimize rates of misuse and addiction, and in doing so, reduce the associated harmful outcomes involving mortality, morbidity, and law enforcement costs.

In 2022, the PH/PS Initiative co-sponsored the fifth annual *Arizona Drug Summit – Uniting for Solutions* to address ongoing and emerging polydrug threats within Arizona and nationally. The conference was presented in person and virtually, with 558 total attendees. The PH/PS Initiative also presented Stronger Together training for law enforcement, school resource officers, and community organizations with 43 attendees and conducted 42 additional educational activities that reached 3,435 people in law enforcement, school resource officers, Drug Free Communities grantees, school counselors, and community substance use prevention organizations. The PH/PS Initiative also developed new and updated prevention materials on counterfeit pills, fentanyl, naloxone, and methamphetamine and disseminated 7,800 prevention educational materials. The PH/PS Initiative played a significant role in developing and launching a mass media campaign that reached millions of parents and caregivers in Arizona, alerting them to the dangers, availability, and risks of counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl. The Fentanyl Toolkit (English and Spanish) developed in 2021 provides substance use prevention coalitions, law enforcement partners, and drug prevention practitioners with materials and strategies to prevent and reduce fentanyl overdoses. Portions of the Fentanyl Toolkit have been implemented by other HIDTAs/states.

The Opioid Monitoring Initiative produced and disseminated 53 alerts with law enforcement/healthcare safety information; responded to 10 in-depth data requests; and provided 28 informational products to law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and healthcare providers.

The ORS is a multi-HIDTA/multistate effort to reduce fatal and non-fatal drug overdose rates by improving information sharing across agencies. The ORS, which includes the Opioid Monitoring Initiative, DIO, and PHA, has been working with agencies across the state to implement ODMAP.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$1.20</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>420</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>\$1.28</b>	<b>\$39.53</b>	<b>440</b>



## Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA

**Designated in 1995**

**Executive Director – Daniel Salter**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA’s primary mission is to disrupt and dismantle DTOs and MLOs utilizing strategic and tactical intelligence-driven, multijurisdictional operations; improve the safety and effectiveness of law enforcement operations; and ensure communication and information sharing amongst law enforcement in the HIDTA AOR. In addition, the HIDTA cultivates, develops, and facilitates cooperation and communication with public safety and public health in support of the HIDTA ORS.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA, utilizing strategic, tactical, and predictive intelligence, facilitates a three-part geographical, functional, and operational strategy targeting the command-and-control elements of DTOs/MLOs operating throughout the Southeast. Commingled federal, state, local and tribal task force initiatives ensure collaborative cooperation and partnership with more than 123 participating agencies. Utilizing a robust training model, the HIDTA provided training to more than 1,036 LEAs in Georgia and the Carolinas.

### *Location*

Since 2008, the HIDTA has expanded its original AOR, consisting of 2 areas in Metropolitan Atlanta, to 13 in Georgia, and 20 in North Carolina, including portions of 5 counties in the designated territories of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Nation, and 6 in South Carolina.

The HIDTA’s Operations Center is in Atlanta, Georgia. The HIDTA consists of the following designated areas:

- Georgia: Bartow, Chatham, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Henry
- North Carolina: Alamance, Buncombe, Durham, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian Reservation, Gaston, Guilford, Henderson, Johnston, McDowell, Mecklenburg, New Hanover,<sup>18</sup> Randolph, Rockingham, Wake, Wayne, Wilson, and Union
- South Carolina: Charleston, Florence, Greenville, Horry, Lexington, and Richland



### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 17 initiatives: 12 enforcement/interdiction, 2 prosecution, 1 management, 1 intelligence, and 1 training.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>	<b>1,300</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The HIDTA region is a major trans-shipment/distribution center for Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (MDTOs) and associated MLOs impacting the eastern United States. DTOs distribute illicit drugs from the region to other major metropolitan areas, including Baltimore, Maryland; Boston, Massachusetts; Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio; Columbia, South Carolina; Gainesville, Orlando, and Pensacola, Florida; Indianapolis, Indiana; Knoxville, Tennessee; Louisville, Kentucky; and Norfolk, Virginia. The supply lines reach as far as Detroit, Michigan, and New York, New York. Utilizing a robust highway system, DTOs/MLOs transport/ship drugs from the Southwest border to transshipment/staging areas located in or near the Atlanta metropolis for distribution east and northeast. The intricate highway system throughout the HIDTA AOR is utilized by these DTOs for shipment of drugs from Mexico to points east and illicit proceeds from the east back to Mexico.

In the HIDTA AOR, methamphetamine consistently poses the greatest drug threat. Methamphetamine is widely available and has filled market demand gaps caused by shortages in cocaine and heroin. In addition to higher imported quantities, the HIDTA reports more robust retail-level distribution operations which distribute an increased quantity of methamphetamine locally. MDTOs operate “conversion” laboratories within the HIDTA region. The laboratories are utilized by these DTOs to convert methamphetamine in solution to powder.

In 2022, cocaine represented 20 percent of all drug seizures in the HIDTA AOR. Approximately a quarter of overdose deaths were linked to cocaine, or a mixture of cocaine and fentanyl and fentanyl derivatives. The HIDTA reports similar trends with heroin. While less-widely available, heroin is also increasingly mixed with other substances and has contributed to the rise in overdose deaths.

Fentanyl represents approximately 70 percent of overdoses in the HIDTA AOR. Counterfeit pills marked as legitimate prescribed medicine e.g., Percocet, Oxycodone, and other opioid based pills are the leading cause of overdoses.

Marijuana and pharmaceuticals continue to pose a risk in the region, especially as marijuana byproducts and counterfeit prescription pills proliferate throughout the market. The HIDTA is



concerned with DTOs' operations and impacts on the region, and by ongoing efforts of those and other criminal groups to increase market share.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The HIDTA ISC, supervised by a DEA supervisory intelligence analyst, is located at the Operations Center in Norcross, Georgia. The ISC provides analytical intelligence (e.g., toll, link, and document analyses; interviews/debriefings; administrative subpoenas; subpoena requests; profiles of suspects; and database checks) and information management support to HIDTA investigative and interdiction initiatives. Five HIDTA-funded analysts support initiatives in the Carolinas.

The ISC provides investigative coordination and operational subject, case, and event deconfliction for approximately 97 federal, state, and local LEAs.

### *Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region*

The table below lists the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Asheville Initiative (HIDTA)	Asheville, NC
Piedmont Initiative (HIDTA)	Charlotte, NC
DeKalb Task Force (HIDTA)	Decatur, GA
Metro Atlanta Task Force (HIDTA)	Atlanta, GA
SC Midlands - Columbia, Charleston, Florence and Greenville	South Carolina
Triangle Initiative (HIDTA)	Raleigh, NC
Triad Initiative (HIDTA)	Greensboro, NC
Airport Group - Hartsfield-Jackson Airport (HIDTA)	Atlanta, GA
Atlanta Gang Initiative (HIDTA)	Atlanta, GA
Georgia Low Country Initiative (HIDTA)	Savannah, GA
North Georgia Task Force (HIDTA)	Rome, GA

### *Task Force Coordination*

There are significant formal and informal coordination mechanisms among all relevant task force initiatives in the HIDTA AOR. Informally, participants know each other from operational contacts, periodic meetings, and HIDTA/OCDETF/law enforcement coordinating committee-sponsored training and conferences. Agencies participating in one task force initiative often have officers assigned to other task forces initiatives, thereby promoting information exchange and coordination. HIDTA-sponsored deconfliction services promote event and target coordination among task force initiatives and agencies. Executives from agencies with personnel participating in HIDTA initiatives serve on the HIDTA Executive Board, thereby further fostering information



sharing. The ISC publishes and distributes intelligence bulletins to area narcotics investigation units and task forces.

The HIDTA ISC interviews/surveys task force initiatives and other federal, state, local and Tribal agencies to solicit and conduct a real time drug threat assessment of the HIDTA AOR. The results of these surveys are documented in required annual reporting to ONDCP. This information is shared with the interviewed agencies and the HIDTA Executive Board. Area narcotics enforcement units attend periodic conferences and commander meetings, including those sponsored by HIDTA and OCDETF.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA continued its three-part strategy (geographical, functional, and operational) to focus command and control elements of DTOs/MLOs. 53 DTOs/MLOs were disrupted/dismantled. The more complex investigations require increased resources and additional time to pursue to a conclusion.

<b>Percentage of Atlanta Carolina HIDTA Disrupted/Dismantled DTOs by Type</b>						
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
International & Multistate	67%	58%	74%	68%	64%	66%
Local	33%	42%	26%	32%	36%	34%

In 2022, task forces seized illicit drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$88 million, and over \$21 million in cash and other drug-related assets (\$2.4 million total other assets), achieving a total ROI of \$13.79.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>1,319</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>\$2.74</b>	<b>\$11.05</b>	<b>1,469</b>



## Central Florida HIDTA

**Designated in 1998**

**Executive Director – A.J. Collazo**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Central Florida HIDTA’s mission and purpose is to reduce drug-related crimes and the manufacture, cultivation, distribution, transportation, and availability of illicit drugs that impact Central Florida and other areas of the United States through disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs. The goals of the HIDTA centers on collaborative efforts among federal, state, and local LEAs in collecting, disseminating, and deconflicting information. The HIDTA strives to implement innovative intelligence in support of enacting first-rate strategic responses to regional threats and national priorities.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA fosters cooperation and effective working relationships among all of the federal, state, and local agencies participating in law enforcement initiatives to achieve the overall mission. The agency-neutral approach permits interagency cooperation within the ISC for local and national assistance and threat-specific efforts. The sharing of information at quarterly intelligence meetings warrants cooperation and effective relationships that encourage the collection, analysis, and dissemination of actionable information. By providing training and the necessary resources to address DTOs and MLOs, LEAs are better equipped to carry out the purpose and goals of the HIDTA. Furthermore, a prevention initiative engages and assists community stakeholders to understand the current drug threats and to develop strategies to reduce overdose deaths.

### *Location*

The HIDTA administrative offices and ISC are located in Lake Mary, Florida. The HIDTA comprises 10 counties:

- Brevard, Hillsborough, Manatee, Osceola, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Seminole, and Volusia

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 20 initiatives: 15 investigative initiatives, 1 fugitive, 1 management/coordination, 1 training, 1 intelligence, and 1 prevention.



### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>\$2.34</b>	<b>\$17.25</b>	<b>973</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

Fentanyl remains the primary drug threat in the Central Florida HIDTA region, and confidence is high this will continue over the next year. Following fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, controlled prescription drugs, and marijuana were ranked as the region’s top drug threats.

The following information is an update to drug-caused overdose fatalities (fentanyl) as reported by Florida Medical Examiners (“Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners”-2022 Interim Report-January through June 2022).

The Central Florida HIDTA (CFHIDTA) ISC analyzed the report and extrapolated data specifically pertaining to the areas of responsibility for CFHIDTA:

The report pertains to the first 6 months of calendar year 2022 in the state of Florida. Overall, for the state of Florida, fentanyl was once again the most frequently occurring drug found in decedents. State-wide, during the first 6 months of 2022, fentanyl was the cause of 2,744 overdose deaths. Deaths caused by fentanyl decreased by 9 percent overall in Florida, compared to the same period in the prior year. Within the CFHIDTA region, 1,232 fentanyl-caused fatalities occurred, compared to 1,224 fatalities in 2021 during the same reporting period (slight increase).

Central Florida HIDTA law enforcement initiatives seized 85.1 kilograms, or 42.5 million dosage units of fentanyl in 2022, as compared to 18.1 kilograms the year prior. This reflects a 372 percent increase. In the first quarter of 2023, CFHIDTA initiatives have already seized over 39 kilograms of fentanyl (PMP, 2023).

Xylazine, or “tranq,” has emerged as a new threat in the region. Though not yet pervasive, it is increasingly being found as a cutting agent in fentanyl, counterfeit fentanyl opioid pills, and other drugs (CFHIDTA, 2023).

Heroin has been effectively replaced by fentanyl as the depressant of choice in the Central Florida HIDTA region. Confidence is high that this trend will continue (CFHIDTA, 2023).

The majority of fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine trafficked in Central Florida comes from Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) operating in Mexico and the United States, who utilize compartmented cells and other surrogates to transport, process, and distribute these drugs via motor vehicles, while also safeguarding and concealing drug proceeds and other assets. Mexican TCOs, TCO cells, and Caribbean TCOs and DTOs dominate the wholesale and regional supply and distribution of these drugs in the region. The Atlanta, Georgia area remains a



transshipment hub for these drugs, exploiting the extensive network of interstate highways leading into Florida (DEA, 2021; CFHIDTA, 2023).

The Sinaloa and New Jalisco Generation Cartel (CJNG) are the dominant Mexican TCOs operating in the Central Florida HIDTA region. Puerto Rican and Dominican Republic TCOs and DTOs are the dominant organizations from the Caribbean region that transport and distribute most of the Colombian-sourced cocaine into the CFHIDTA region. Most of the cocaine seized in 2022 was transported via mail parcels from Puerto Rico, a Caribbean transshipment hub that is popular with traffickers as Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory, and parcels are not subject to routine examination by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) (DEA, 2021; CBP, 2022, CFHIDTA, 2023). Most of the DTOs investigated by Central Florida HIDTA law enforcement initiatives in 2022 were local poly-drug organizations, with the primary drugs trafficked being fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, and controlled prescription drugs. (PMP, 2023; CFHIDTA, 2023).

Over the next year, Central Florida HIDTA assesses with high confidence that fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine supply and use will be high to very high, while heroin and controlled prescription drugs will be low to moderate (CFHIDTA, 2023).

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The ISC was created with the designation of the HIDTA in 1998 to provide co-located, multiagency intelligence support for regional LEAs to enhance their ability to dismantle and disrupt DTOs. The ISC serves as the central processing hub for information in support of effective investigative enforcement efforts to reduce drug trafficking, money laundering, and drug-related violent criminal activity affecting Central Florida and other areas of the United States.

The ISC in Central Florida actively collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on the composition, scope, and dynamics of money laundering, drug trafficking, distribution, and drug-related violent crime organizations. Additionally, clarity and an understanding of the organized criminal elements operating throughout Central Florida are provided, including subject and event deconfliction services to 60 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Performance measures for success are identified through assessments of the previously mentioned investigative efforts and the extent to which major and secondary organizations involved in these criminal activities have been disrupted or dismantled. Additional assessments are made through the coordinated and cooperative efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement to address the specific criminal activity.



***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Brevard County Task Force (HIDTA)	Titusville
City County Investigative Bureau (HIDTA)	Sanford
Colombian/South American DTO (HIDTA)	Tampa
DEA Heroin Task Force (HIDTA)	Orlando
DEA HIDTA Methamphetamine Task Force (HIDTA)	Tampa
DEA Mex/Poly Task Force (HIDTA)	Orlando
DEA Orlando State and Local Task Force (DEA)	Orlando
DEA Tampa State and Local Task Force (DEA) (HIDTA)	Tampa
Gulf Coast Task Force (HIDTA)	Bradenton
Hillsborough County Major Violators Unit (HIDTA)	Tampa
Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (HIDTA)	Orlando
Osceola County Investigative Bureau (HIDTA)	Kissimmee
Pasco County Task Force (HIDTA)	Dade City
Pinellas County (HIDTA)	Largo
Polk County HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Bartow
US Marshals Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team, East/West (HIDTA)	Orlando/Tampa
Volusia Bureau of Investigation (HIDTA)	Daytona Beach
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Tampa
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Orlando
ICE Financial Money Laundering Task Force (ICE)	Orlando
Internal Revenue Service/Secret Service Financial Crimes Task Force (IRS)	Orlando
Panama Express OCDETF Strike Force (DEA, FBI, HSI, CGIS)	Tampa

***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA funds 15 drug task forces and 1 fugitive apprehension task force. The HIDTA is overseen by an Executive Board made up of participating law enforcement officials from federal, state, and local agencies. All task forces use the ISC for deconfliction of cases, subjects, and activities. All regional LEAs are encouraged to use the ISC for information sharing and deconfliction.

All HIDTA task forces meet and are evaluated quarterly. They routinely coordinate activities with other regional task forces, as well as other HIDTA task forces nationwide. All task forces are vigilant in handling information relating to national security and strive to meet ever-changing drug threats through the redirection of their efforts when needed. The annual threat assessment serves as a guideline when a change in focus is needed and is shared with other Central Florida law enforcement entities.



### *HIDTA Evaluation*

In 2022, initiatives actively investigated 74 DTOs/MLOs and successfully disrupted or dismantled 49. In addition, initiatives seized \$10 million cash and other drug-related assets from drug traffickers. The wholesale value of drugs removed from the HIDTA AOR in 2022 was \$63.7 million, and the total ROI was \$19.14.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>\$2.34</b>	<b>\$17.37</b>	<b>1,366</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>\$2.62</b>	<b>\$16.52</b>	<b>1,109</b>



# Central Valley California HIDTA

**Designated in 1999**

**Executive Director – John J. Martin**

## *Purpose and Goals*

To support and enhance collaborative drug control and overdose reduction efforts among law enforcement agencies and public health organizations. To identify, disrupt, and dismantle DTOs by conducting comprehensive investigations.

To combat drug-related violence, and associated gun and gang violence, through partnerships and innovative strategies. To provide timely intelligence and promote information sharing among public safety and public health partners.

## *Strategy*

The Central Valley California HIDTA applies a multiagency task force model to leverage diverse authorities, expertise, and resources to achieve its mission. Approximately 228 federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement members representing 48 agencies participate in the HIDTA initiatives. The HIDTA’s Executive Board constructs task forces according to regional needs, and adapts them as necessary to address changes in the drug threat environment. The ISC provides intelligence support to the enforcement initiatives and coordinates intelligence sharing with the appropriate federal, state, and local entities.

## *Location*

The HIDTA is based in Sacramento and comprises 15 counties:

- Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Trinity, and Tulare

## *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 18 initiatives: 12 enforcement initiatives, 1 fugitive initiative, 1 management and coordination, 1 training, 1 prevention and demand reduction, 1 prosecution, and 1 intelligence.

## *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>\$1.50</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>420</b>



### *Threat Assessment*

The most serious drug threats to the HIDTA are fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, unregulated marijuana, cocaine, and other dangerous drugs. Fentanyl is the HIDTA's primary drug threat. Fentanyl-laced counterfeit prescription pills produced by Mexican DTOs are the dominant form of the drug but, over the last year, law enforcement officials have begun to seize an increasing amount of powder fentanyl. The HIDTA seized 443 kilograms and 1,534,491 dosage units of fentanyl in 2022. According to preliminary data from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the HIDTA counties reported 861 fentanyl-related deaths from January through June 2022. This is a significant increase from 804 reported deaths in all of 2021.

Methamphetamine is the second most dangerous drug threat in the HIDTA region. Most of the methamphetamine available in the United States is produced in clandestine labs in Mexico, and then smuggled across the Southwest border either as a finished product or in liquid form that is converted into crystal methamphetamine at clandestine laboratories. The availability of methamphetamine—particularly crystal methamphetamine—has increased over the last several years. In 2022, the initiatives removed 380 kilograms of methamphetamine and 3,297 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine. The HIDTA also noted a shift in transportation and distribution tactics. Mexican DTOs typically smuggle methamphetamine in solution to conversion labs in southern California, such as Los Angeles, but in the fall of 2022 the discovery of three large conversion labs in Tulare County revealed a shift in tactics that bears watching. Heroin is the HIDTA's third most important drug threat. In 2022, the HIDTA seized 101 kilograms of heroin of which black tar remained the dominant form. The availability of heroin has decreased over the last three years, possibly as a result of the demand for fentanyl-laced counterfeit prescription pills. While seizure data suggests that the availability of heroin has decreased, data adapted from the CDPH shows that opioid-related deaths in the Central Valley have increased. Since heroin is the drug most commonly mixed with fentanyl, it is possible that fentanyl contributed to the increase in opioid-related overdose deaths.

Unregulated marijuana poses the fourth most significant drug threat in the HIDTA's AOR. The HIDTA focuses its efforts on the DTOs and criminal organizations that produce, transport, and distribute marijuana in violation of federal and state laws. In 2022, HIDTA enforcement initiatives seized 91,953 kilograms of marijuana as well as 187,391 indoor plants and 531,169 outdoor plants. They also removed 36 kilograms of THC extract from the marketplace in 2022. The practice of cultivating marijuana illicitly on public lands continues to cause significant environmental damage. The final DEA Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program statistical report for 2022 indicates that California law enforcement agencies seized 4,976,881 illicit marijuana plants from 3,020 illicit cultivation sites. They seized an additional 872,865 kilograms of illicit processed marijuana.<sup>19</sup>

Cocaine is fifth, but increasing availability and abuse means it is not the least of the HIDTA's drug threats. In 2022, the HIDTA removed 355 kilograms of cocaine from the marketplace, which is a significant increase from the previous three years when the initiatives seized approximately 150 kilograms per year. The increase in powder cocaine seizures correlates with a corresponding increase in cocaine-related overdose deaths. Data from CDPH shows that cocaine-related overdose deaths in the fifteen HIDTA counties increased since 2019, and preliminary data indicates the final overdose death rate for 2022 may be even higher.



***Intelligence Initiatives***

The HIDTA ISC provides tactical and strategic intelligence services to participating agencies and the Executive Board under the leadership of a DEA supervisor. In June 2021, the ISC merged with the Sacramento OCDEF Strike Force’s Intelligence Group. The main ISC office, located at the Strike Force office, comprises one DEA analyst, three FBI, one Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), seven counterdrug analysts from the California National Guard, one asset forfeiture specialist contracted by DEA, one by OCDEF and one HIDTA-contracted strategic analyst. The forward deployed analysts, who are embedded in the enforcement initiatives, consist of 13 counterdrug analysts and 6 contract analysts. The HIDTA deconflicts investigative information and enforcement events through WSIN.

The ISC oversees the ORS, which consists of one DIO and one PHA. The ORS team creates partnerships between public health and public safety and disseminates timely information to the public.

The ISC also oversees the Crime Gun Intelligence program. Formed in 2022 with discretionary funds, the program employs two part-time contract analysts to improve firearm-related deconfliction in the Central Valley.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS (City)</b>
Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Butte County
Central Valley Violent Crime Gang Task Force	Fresno
DEA Task Force (Sacramento District Office)	Sacramento
DEA Task Force (Bakersfield Resident Office)	Bakersfield
FBI Operation Safe Streets Task Force	Redding
FBI Operation Safe Streets Task Force	Sacramento
FBI Operation Safe Streets Task Force	Stockton
FBI Operation Safe Streets Task Force	Modesto
FBI Operation Safe Streets Task Force	Bakersfield
Fresno Area Surveillance Team (HIDTA)	Fresno
High Impact Investigation Team (HIDTA)	Fresno
Homeland Security Investigative Gang Violence Reduction Task Force	Bakersfield
Investigative Support Center (HIDTA)	Sacramento
Joint Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Fresno
Kern County Task Force (HIDTA)	Bakersfield
Kings County Narcotics Task Force (JAG-Byrne Grant)	Hanford



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS (City)</b>
Madera Narcotics Enforcement Team (JAG-Byrne Grant)	Madera
Merced Area Gang/Narcotic Task Force (HIDTA)	Merced
Merced Multiagency Narcotics Enforcement Team (JAG-Byrne Grant)	Merced
Narcotics and Economic Crimes Investigations Task Force	Sacramento
Northern State Major Investigation Team (HIDTA)	Redding
OCDETF Strike Force	Sacramento
Sacramento Area Intelligence Narcotic Task Force (HIDTA)	Sacramento
Shasta Interagency Narcotics Task Force (JAG-Byrne Grant)	Redding
Stanislaus Special Investigations Unit (HIDTA)	Modesto
Stockton High Intensity Narcotics Enforcement (HIDTA)	San Joaquin County
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Sacramento
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Fresno
Tri-County Drug Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Sacramento County
Tulare Narcotics Team (HIDTA)	Tulare County

### ***Task Force Coordination***

Using in-person communications or the WSIN deconfliction system, task forces routinely coordinate their investigations and tactical deployments when their operations enter an adjoining jurisdiction. This multistate deconfliction system is essential to task force operations. Coordination generally is achieved through shared information, shared analytical resources, shared computer networks and software, and training opportunities. The HIDTA initiatives coordinate with other HIDTA programs throughout the country on drug investigations.

Initiatives are comprised of agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. These agencies include municipal police departments, county sheriff and probation departments, and multiple state and federal agencies. Information sharing between HIDTA initiatives takes place at quarterly meetings where initiative commanders discuss investigative activities in addition to regular communication between initiatives and the ISC

The HIDTA Executive Board has members from local, state, and federal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. The Executive Board meets at least four times each year to evaluate funding, training, and effectiveness of the initiatives. Program staff keep the Executive Board abreast of emerging threats, trends, and resource needs in the area, enabling board members to disseminate that information to their parent agencies. In addition, members also bring pertinent information from their agencies to share with the HIDTA.

The HIDTA sponsors training programs that are open to all agencies in the region and are intended to improve coordination and effectiveness.

Terrorism-related information programs such as the Terrorism Liaison Officer program, which is administered by the Central California Intelligence Center (CCIC), have alerted regional agencies and drug task forces to the importance of sharing information with the Joint Terrorism



Task Force (JTTF). The CCIC also shares relevant Suspicious Activity Reports with the ISC Manager who disseminates them to the appropriate initiatives for follow up.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA investigated 80 DTOs/MLOs and successfully disrupted or dismantled 38 (48%) of them. Of the 38 DTOs/MLOs disrupted or dismantled, 20 were international, 5 were multistate, and 13 were local in scope. In addition, the HIDTA reduced drug availability and impeded the ability of criminal organizations to do business by seizing substantial quantities of drugs and assets. The HIDTA initiatives seized illicit drugs with a wholesale value of more than \$2.9 billion and more than \$9 million in cash and other drug-related assets, resulting in a total ROI of \$590.18. The HIDTA will remain strategically agile in order to address emerging drug threats and the dynamic nature of the DTOs/MLOs in its AOR. This is particularly important as the drug threat environment changes and DTOs expand their influence in related criminal enterprises that include human trafficking, prison gangs, and violent street gangs.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$3.50</b>	<b>\$950.00</b>	<b>727</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>\$1.85</b>	<b>\$588.33</b>	<b>400</b>



## Chicago HIDTA

**Designated in 1995**

**Executive Director – Nicholas Roti**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Chicago HIDTA’s mission is to reduce substance use disorder, overdoses, and the inherent crime and violence that is associated with drug trafficking by developing multiagency initiatives to disrupt and dismantle all levels of the illicit drug trafficking trade, while also supporting efforts to ensure collaboration between public safety and public health agencies. The HIDTA’s initiatives focus on the greater Chicagoland area, as well as other parts of Illinois and the Midwest affected by Chicago based DTOs and MLOs.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA reacts quickly to emerging narcotics threats by developing innovative multiagency initiatives focused and properly equipped to investigate, disrupt, and dismantle the drug trafficking pipeline, from the local and regional, to the international DTO level. The HIDTA’s multijurisdictional task force initiatives comprise 76 local, state, and federal LEAs, and capitalize on each agency’s specific expertise. The task force initiatives form a multi-pronged attack against Chicagoland’s diverse drug trafficking avenues to include internet, postal, highway, street corner, retail, wholesale, as well as regional, national, and international drug trafficking and money laundering operations.

The HIDTA’s multi-agency ISC provides actionable, detailed, and timely tactical and strategic intelligence and support to all the HIDTA initiatives and LEAs in its AOR. All aspects of the HIDTA encourage neutral interagency collaboration through training, meetings, and co-locating of task forces. The HIDTA conducts and sponsors joint training for task force initiative personnel, as well as non-task force narcotics investigators across the region and state to foster a wider net of information sharing and collaboration.

The HIDTA’s strategy targets the overdose epidemic by addressing the complete cycle of addiction and fostering demand reduction through an innovative and heralded prevention curriculum for students, developing and collaborating on a diversion program for eligible people with substance use disorders, and participating in the National HIDTA ORS.

### *Location*

The HIDTA administrative offices are located in Chicago’s South Loop. The HIDTA encompasses the following six Illinois counties: Cook, Grundy, Kendall, Will, Lake, and DuPage.

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 22 initiatives to include: 14 enforcement (prosecution included), 6 support (prevention, resource, and training included), 1 intelligence and 1 management.



### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>\$6.43</b>	<b>\$15.13</b>	<b>154</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

Chicago’s geographic location, unique demographics, and significant Mexican drug cartel presence, combined with its role as a principal national transportation hub and financial mecca, make it a significant transshipment point for illicit drug trafficking. Most of the illicit drugs reaching the United States are coming across the Southwest border, and a large portion is destined for the Chicago hub. Some drugs will be marketed locally, and the remainder will be transshipped elsewhere throughout the country. Within Chicago’s culturally diverse community, MDTOs have been able to establish and maintain local source-country connections, create a support system to mask illicit activity, and operate with relative anonymity. Illicit proceeds collected from drug sales are often staged in and around Chicago for bulk shipment or other distribution schemes back to the MDTOs and/or cartels.

The major drug threats in the HIDTA AOR continue to be the distribution and use of heroin, fentanyl, fentanyl-laced drugs, and the corresponding overdose deaths that accompany such widespread availability. Escalated demand for pharmaceuticals, synthetic cannabinoids, increased methamphetamine availability, and gang/drug-related violence are also primary areas of concern.

A continuing and expanding threat is the increased trafficking of illicit drugs and firearms on various social platforms and the dark web, often through cryptocurrencies.

Organized criminal street gangs are the principal retail distributors of illicit drugs in the HIDTA AOR. These gangs regularly engage in violent criminal activities to protect their drug supplies, distribution territories, and illicit drug proceeds. These criminal organizations are continuing their incursion into outlying areas and are becoming increasingly problematic for suburban law enforcement.

In direct response to the gang-related violence plaguing the greater Metropolitan Area, the HIDTA, in cooperation with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), established the Gang and Violent Crimes Task Force (GVCTF) as a pilot initiative in 2022. The GVCTF is tasked with conducting complex investigations against the organized street gangs responsible for driving the rise in gang-related violence in the HIDTA AOR.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The HIDTA ISC includes analysts from the Cook County Sheriff’s Department, DEA, FBI, Illinois National Guard, and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The ISC facilitates interaction and information sharing to support multiagency efforts that further drug-related



and/or criminal investigations. The operational mission of the ISC is to provide comprehensive case support and actionable and strategic criminal intelligence to HIDTA initiatives, participating HIDTA agencies, and other LEAs to enable effective and efficient use of investigative resources.

The ISC functions include information collection, compilation, and analysis regarding illicit drug and associated criminal activities; all-source counterdrug information accessibility to all LEAs; case and trial support to federal and state counterdrug and related prosecutions; and coordination of counterdrug and related law enforcement training and technical assistance.

The ISC publishes periodic newsletters with relevant regional drug enforcement information, as well as timely intelligence bulletins that are shared electronically through an extensive contact list throughout the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Intelligence is also shared with the Illinois State Police Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC), the Police Department Crime Prevention and Information Center (CPIC), and our federal partners as appropriate. The ISC also assists regional police agencies with case support and inquiries.

The ISC also makes available a national pointer event and target deconfliction system. All HIDTA-funded initiatives, as well as the Chicago Police Department (CPD), are mandated to use SAFETNet. In 2022, there were 275 registered law enforcement participants in the system, and 25,123 event and case/subject deconflictions were processed.

The HIDTA actively engages in the National HIDTA ORS. An important aspect of the ORS is that it extends beyond HIDTA regions to include statewide initiatives. ORS participation enables The HIDTA's DIO and PHA to work collaboratively with various local, state, and federal agencies to gather, analyze, and disseminate vital information about drug use with a focus on actionable intelligence, trend information, and best practices for developing evidence-based responses to the opioid epidemic in their areas. Their duties also include introducing and offering to state agencies access to ODMAP. Inclusion in the ORS addresses both the National HIDTA and the HIDTA mission by making efforts to reduce the harmful effects and consequences of illegal drug trafficking.

### *Support Initiatives*

The HIDTA initiated, developed, and supports the “West Side Narcotics Diversion Initiative” (WNDI), which is a collaboration between law enforcement and community public health and safety partners to include the Urban Lab and Crime Lab for the University of Chicago, the Police Department, and Thresholds Clinic Treatment Providers. At the outset, the initiative concentrated on the West Side of Chicago; however, due to the overwhelming success of the program, it was expanded citywide, and is considered the largest such program in the country. The HIDTA PHA serves as the point person in support of this initiative.

The HIDTA has also partnered with the CPD, the Chicago Fire Department (CFD), and the Office of Emergency Management and Communication (OEMC) to develop a protocol enabling the CPD to immediately respond to clusters of opioid-related overdoses identified by a pre-determined time and geographic location. By sending alerts to command personnel in the CPD Narcotics Unit, the information can be quickly evaluated, and investigative teams can be immediately deployed to counter the threat.



Additionally, the HIDTA partnered with the Illinois State Police (ISP), the Cook County Sheriff’s Department (CCSO), and the Office of Emergency Management and Communications for the City of Chicago (OEMC), and embarked on an ambitious project, Highway Net, to install a combination of Point/Tilt/Zoom (PTZ) and automated license plate reader (LPR) cameras on a major thoroughfare, the Eisenhower/Congress Expressway (I-290). The “Highway Net” project has as one of its main goals to mitigate the chronic issue of heroin/fentanyl distributors and buyers traversing the Interstate 290 “Heroin Highway” to make heroin/fentanyl purchases from the open-air markets on the West Side of Chicago. Phase II of the Highway Net Project incorporated 66 additional ALPRs on the extensive interstate highway system that flows through the Chicagoland area. Information developed by investigators utilizing the HIDTA LPRs has proven invaluable in support of numerous investigations.

***HIDTA Funded Task Forces Operating in the Region***

The table below highlights the HIDTA-funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Domestic Highway Enforcement/Narcotics & Currency Interdiction (HIDTA)	Multi-County
Internet Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Cook County
Joliet Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad (HIDTA) *	Will County
Kendall County CPAT (Cooperative Police Assistance Team)	Kendall County
Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Initiative Task Force (HIDTA)	Cook County
Narcotics Overdose and Trafficking Initiative (HIDTA)	DuPage County
Gang and Violent Crimes Task Force (HIDTA)	Cook County
Package Interdiction Initiative Task Force (HIDTA)	Cook County
Prosecution Initiative (HIDTA)	Cook County
Regional Drug Trafficking Organization Initiative/Violent Crimes Task Force (HIDTA)	Cook County
Street Crimes Suppression Unit (HIDTA)	Cook County
Strike Force Initiative (HIDTA)	Cook County
Fugitive Apprehension Unit (Strike Force) **	Cook County
Choke Point Unit (Strike Force) **	Cook County
Transnational Organized Crime Heroin Investigative Unit (Strike Force) **	Cook County
CPOT Unit (Strike Force) **	Cook County
International Threat Finance Unit (Strike Force) **	Cook County
Tri-County Multi-Jurisdictional Counterdrug Enforcement Initiative Task Force (HIDTA)	Will/Kendall/Grundy Counties
Violent Drug Trafficking Gang Initiative (HIDTA)	Cook County
Violent Gang Conspiracy Group Initiative Task Force (HIDTA)	Cook County



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Will County CPAT (Cooperative Police Assistance Team) (HIDTA) *	Will County
Will County Gang Suppression Unit (HIDTA) *	Will County
Lake County Special Investigations Group (HIDTA)	Lake County

\* denotes component of Tri-County Multi-Jurisdictional Counterdrug Initiative

\*\* denotes component of Strike Force/HIDTA Initiative

### ***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA is governed by an Executive Board that comprises federal, state, and local agencies with agent and TFO participation in the HIDTA. The Executive Board determines the strategies for achieving the HIDTA mission and goals and establishes policies and procedures.

The HIDTA initiatives operating in the Metropolitan Area are co-located in a shared facility, thus fostering a cooperative spirit of sharing information, activities, and resources. All the HIDTA task force initiatives are required to cooperate and interact with the ISC and utilize the deconfliction system. The HIDTA also conducts quarterly meetings with initiative supervisors to share timely and relevant information regarding current activity, regional trends, and issues of mutual concern. Intelligence products, information bulletins, and safety alerts are distributed electronically to the initiatives and other regional drug enforcement units through the ISC. Initiative supervisors and other drug enforcement agencies within the region are surveyed to produce the annual threat assessment that serves as a blueprint for setting strategies to counter the threats identified.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

Chicago stands as one of the largest consumer markets and distribution centers for cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, illicit marijuana, and other illicit drugs. Faced with this severe challenge, the HIDTA continues to recognize the importance of continually evaluating initiative performance, effectiveness, and adaptability to address new illicit drug issues and problems unique to the HIDTA area of responsibility. In 2022, the HIDTA initiatives disrupted or dismantled 59 DTOs and MLOs (107% of expected output). Additionally, initiatives reported the seizure of 1,873.5 kilograms of powder and crack cocaine, 69 kilograms of heroin, 141.8 kilograms of fentanyl, 500.3 kilograms of methamphetamine, and 4,782.8 kilograms of illicit marijuana. The total wholesale value of the drugs removed from the market was \$109.8 million. Enforcement initiatives also seized approximately \$65.8 million in drug-related assets (\$30.8 million in cash alone) during the reporting year. In 2022, the HIDTA achieved an ROI of \$21.47 for drugs and assets seized (112% of expected ROI).



<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>\$5.07</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$4.95</b>	<b>\$16.52</b>	<b>156</b>



## Gulf Coast HIDTA

**Designated in 1996**

**Executive Director – Tim Valenti**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Gulf Coast HIDTA’s mission is to reduce illicit drug availability and its harmful consequences within its designated areas by creating and maintaining intelligence-driven task forces and supporting infrastructure designed to target, disrupt, and eliminate DTOs and MLOs impacting the region and beyond. Specifically, the HIDTA:

- Disrupts and dismantles major DTOs with arrest, drug and asset seizures;
- Coordinates law enforcement efforts in the HIDTA’s AOR; and
- Maintains a drug intelligence network to gather, analyze and disseminate drug intelligence information throughout the HIDTA.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA promotes an effective working relationship among its law enforcement initiatives by designing and deploying an infrastructure that fosters information sharing and ensures a coordinated response to the drug threat. The HIDTA fosters an environment in which participating federal, state, and local agencies can achieve the goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and reducing the demand for drugs by focusing on specific drug threat elements unique to their respective areas. Specifically, the HIDTA:

- Has 35 enforcement initiatives that are strategically located with the primary goal of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs;
- Has an intelligence support network which gathers, analyzes and disseminates drug intelligence information throughout the AOR and beyond;
- Provides officer safety and information sharing through a robust, nationally connected, deconfliction solution; and
- Provides case support for all enforcement initiatives through the ISC.

### *Location*

The Executive Offices of the HIDTA are located in Metairie, Louisiana. It comprises the following counties and parishes:

- Alabama: Baldwin, Jefferson, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, and Morgan
- Arkansas: Benton, Jefferson, Pulaski, and Washington



- Louisiana: Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans, and Ouachita
- Mississippi: Forrest, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lafayette, Madison, and Rankin
- Tennessee: Shelby
- Florida: Escambia and Santa Rosa

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 41 initiatives: 1 management, 3 intelligence, 1 resource, 1 training, and 35 investigation/interdiction initiatives. The HIDTA is a partner in the Blue Lightning Operations Center (BLOC), a HSI program that provides real-time tactical intelligence and information to federal, state, and local law enforcement engaged in drug law enforcement and DHE throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>\$4.91</b>	<b>\$40.82</b>	<b>430</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The HIDTA comprises a geographically diverse area consisting of 29 HIDTA-designated counties/parishes in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Mexican DTOs pose the greatest criminal drug threat to the HIDTA. The proximity of the Southwest border to the Gulf Coast positions the region as a key drug trafficking route. Fentanyl poses the greatest threat in the region. Law enforcement intelligence indicates that Mexico-based, poly-drug DTOs transport fentanyl into the HIDTA region for distribution by local drug trafficking groups. Law enforcement, treatment and prevention professionals, and medical examiners in these areas have seen a troubling surge of fentanyl and acetyl-fentanyl. Many other areas across the HIDTA that have not witnessed this kind of opioid use in the past are now experiencing it.

Methamphetamine is considered the second most serious threat. Violent crime continues to affect the safety and quality of life of the citizens as high rates of drug-related murders and robberies continue to plague urban areas such as Memphis, Tennessee, and New Orleans, Louisiana.



***Intelligence Initiatives***

The HIDTA’s principal intelligence sub-system component is the ISC. The ISC’s mission is to implement the HIDTA strategy by addressing drug trafficking modalities noted in the annual threat assessment and facilitating effective and efficient information sharing between and among the HIDTA participating agencies, non-participating agencies within the AOR, and other HIDTA enforcement entities nationwide. The ISC staff ensure new trafficking patterns and trends are communicated to participating HIDTA agencies, as well as the law enforcement community in general. This ensures timely availability of critical information necessary for agency resource planning and deployment. Through tactical and operational support strategies, the analytical staff provide initiative supervisors the necessary information to identify new criminal targets and trends, as well as direct resources toward existing trafficking organizations.

An ancillary component in the HIDTAs intelligence sub-system is the BLOC, an HSI-led program which partnered with the HIDTA in 1997. The BLOC strives to support collaborative, intelligence-led policing on the nation's highways by being a unique intelligence support center that serves federal, state, and local law enforcement partners conducting DHE operations. This partnership between HSI and the HIDTA serves more than 3,500 law enforcement officers and more than 1,000 agencies across its AOR.

The dissemination of information is accomplished within the HIDTA and shared nationally through the circulation of its products, including threat assessments, information bulletins, and officer safety alerts. All HIDTA intelligence products are posted on HSIN Intel, EPIC, HSI Inbox and the FBI’s Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP).

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Task Force (Byrne)	Fayetteville, AR
Alabama Operations Center (HIDTA)	Montgomery, AL
Birmingham Border Enforcement Security Task Force	Birmingham, AL
Border Enforcement Security Task Force (HIDTA)	New Orleans, LA
Border Enforcement Security Task Force West Tennessee (HIDTA)	Memphis, TN
Caddo/Bossier Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Shreveport, LA
Calcasieu Parish Combined Anti-Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lake Charles, LA
Capital Area Gang Task Force (FBI)	Baton Rouge, LA
City of New Orleans Major Investigations Team (HIDTA)	Metairie, LA
Coastal Narcotics Enforcement Team (Byrne)	Gulfport, MS
Cyber Fraud Task Force (USSS)	Metairie, LA
Forrest County Major Investigations Team (HIDTA)	Hattiesburg, MS
Homeland Security Investigations Task Force (HIDTA)	Fayetteville, AR



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Inter-Local Narcotics Task Force (Byrne)	Pascagoula, MS
Jackson County Major Investigations Team (HIDTA)	Pascagoula, MS
Jefferson County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Birmingham, AL
Little Rock Get Rock Task Force (FBI)	Little Rock, AR
Little Rock Major Investigations/Mobile Deployment Teams (HIDTA)	Little Rock, AR
Memphis HQ City Violent Gang Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Memphis, TN
Metro-Jackson Major Investigations Team (HIDTA)	Jackson, MS
Metro-Jackson Mobile Deployment Team (HIDTA)	Pearl, MS
Metro New Orleans Major Investigations Team (HIDTA)	Metairie, LA
Metro New Orleans Mobile Deployment Team (HIDTA)	New Orleans, LA
Middle LA Major Investigations/Transport Interdiction Team (HIDTA)	Baton Rouge, LA
Mississippi Gulf Coast Border Enforcement Security Team (HIDTA)	Gulfport, MS
Mobile/Baldwin Border Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Mobile, AL
Mobile/Baldwin Major Investigations Team (HIDTA)	Mobile, AL
Mobile Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Mobile, AL
Monroe Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	West Monroe, LA
Montgomery Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Montgomery, AL
Multi-Agency Safe Neighborhoods Task Force (HIDTA)	Metairie, LA
Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force (Byrne)	Gretna, LA
New Orleans Fugitive Task Force (USMS)	New Orleans, LA
New Orleans Gang Task Force (HIDTA)	New Orleans, LA
North Alabama Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Huntsville, AL
North Mississippi Major Investigations Team (HIDTA)	Oxford, MS
Northwest AR Major Investigations/Mobile Deployment Teams	Fayetteville, AR
Northwest Florida Task Force (HIDTA)	Pensacola, FL
Northwest Louisiana Violent Crimes Task Force (HIDTA)	Shreveport, LA
Project Star (HIDTA)	Harvey, LA
Shelby County HIDTA Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Memphis, TN
Shelby County Multi-Agency Gang Unit (HIDTA)	Memphis, TN
Southeast Mississippi Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Pascagoula, MS
Southwest Louisiana Major Investigations Team (HIDTA)	Lafayette, LA
South Central Louisiana Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Lafayette, LA
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	New Orleans, LA
Tri-County Major Investigations Team (HIDTA)	Gulfport, MS
US Marshals Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Little Rock, AR
Western Arkansas Mobile Deployment Team (HIDTA)	Fayetteville, AR



***Task Force Coordination***

Initiatives are required to submit all investigative targets and planned operations to SAFETNet, which links them to the two other national deconfliction systems, Case Explorer and RISSafe, through a hub supported by EPIC. Non-HIDTA task forces and agencies are encouraged to participate in the HIDTA-sponsored deconfliction system. The HIDTA provides deconfliction services to 196 federal, state, and local agencies. The initiatives meet regularly with federal, state, and local counterparts in their respective AORs to coordinate and share information.

EPIC hosts all instances of the SAFETNet application resulting in interagency deconfliction among Federal, state, and local LEAs and greater efficiencies, cost savings and better integration of existing deconfliction systems.

The initiatives are encouraged to share information regarding local, regional, and national DTOs. This is accomplished through deconfliction and regional meetings of task force commanders. The Executive Board, which comprises heads of federal, state, and local agencies operating in the six-state area, is regularly kept abreast of ongoing operations conducted by all funded initiatives.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA continues to be a valued partner in the law enforcement community within its designated counties and parishes, and accomplishments continue to meet or exceed performance targets. In 2022, enforcement initiatives disrupted or dismantled 554 DTOs and MLOs operating in their designated areas and beyond, representing 159 percent of the HIDTA’s target for this performance measure. Of the disrupted and dismantled DTOs and MLOs, 237 were international or multistate in scope. Equally important was the success in denying DTOs their desired profits obtained through illegal activities. In 2022, initiatives seized over \$34.2 million in cash and other drug-related assets from drug traffickers, while the estimated wholesale value of drugs seized was \$621.3 million (\$655.6 million total). The HIDTA realized a combined ROI of \$70.50 based on the wholesale value of drugs and assets seized.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>\$4.25</b>	<b>\$76.46</b>	<b>295</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>\$3.69</b>	<b>\$66.81</b>	<b>931</b>



## Hawaii HIDTA

**Designated in 1999**

**Executive Director – Gary Yabuta**

### *Purpose and Goals*

The Hawaii HIDTA region encompasses Hawaii’s six populated islands--Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. These islands are independently situated in the Pacific Ocean; are the most isolated set of landmasses in the world; and consists of 4,507 square land miles (geographically larger than the size of Rhode Island). Hawaii is distanced 2,400 miles from the United States mainland, 4,000 miles from Japan, and 4,660 miles from North Korea. Hawaii’s economy is tourist-based, and although continuing to recover from interstate and international COVID-19 restrictions, 1,674,208 visitors managed to travel to Hawaii in 2022. All five United States military service branches are stationed in Hawaii: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. The United States Indo-Pacific Command and Joint Interagency Task Force West (JIATF) Headquarters are located on Oahu. The U.S. Navy Pacific Missile Range is located at Barking Sands, Kauai.

As in the past four decades, methamphetamine poses the greatest drug threat in Hawaii, followed by an increasing presence of fentanyl. The threat of specific drugs in Hawaii is evidenced by pathology data: There were 320 drug deaths in 2022, as compared to 305 in 2021, and 266 in 2020. Of the 320 drug deaths in 2022, methamphetamine ranked highest at 210 deaths (66%). There were 79 related to fentanyl in 2022—a 65 percent increase from the 48 fentanyl deaths in 2021.

Drug threats in Hawaii are also measured by law enforcement seizure data: 63 percent of the drugs seized by HIDTA Task Forces in 2022 was methamphetamine, and this percentage ranks highest among the 33 HIDTA regions. The 2022 HIDTA Surveys for both public health and the criminal justice system ranked methamphetamine as Hawaii’s greatest drug threat, and methamphetamine impacts agency resources and institutional operations more than any other illicit drug.

With the exception of Hawaiian grown and cultivated marijuana, illicit drugs (i.e., meth, fentanyl, cocaine) are predominantly manufactured and exported by Mexican Cartels. These cartel drugs are smuggled across the Southwest Border into the United States and shipped to Hawaii via parcel delivery systems (U.S. Postal, FedEx, UPS, etc.). Illicit drugs are also transported into the region by marine and air cargo, and air passenger carrier.

The HIDTA all-hazard drug targeting mechanism is designed to eliminate DTOs in the region by allocating resources and analytical support to the HIDTA task forces located statewide and on every populated Hawaiian Island. These task forces are synergized by their multi-agency design, consisting of federal, state, and local narcotics agents and investigators – known as HIDTA Task Force Officers. The state of Hawaii is divided among islands that are surrounded entirely by ocean water. Mobilization and interisland task force support is difficult, as there are no



connecting bridges or tunnels to facilitate ground travel. Expensive commercial airline travel is the region’s only recourse for accommodating statewide drug enforcement initiatives.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA strategically incorporates independent enforcement task forces for the State of Hawaii as a whole, and within each of the region’s four municipalities: City & County of Honolulu, Hawaii County, Kauai County, and Maui County. Each task force is capable of commingling whenever task force asset-sharing and interisland interdiction operations are necessary. The HIDTA Interdiction Task Force is especially important since drugs are primarily imported into Hawaii via parcel delivery systems (U.S. Postal, FedEx and UPS). The HIDTA Interdiction Task Force adds impetus for parcel, cargo, and traveler screening by applying drug detection canine operations at Hawaii’s airports, marine ports and harbors, and postal and parcel facilities. The HIDTA Task Forces are staffed with local law enforcement criminal intelligence officers who generate intelligence gathering and intelligence sharing among the region’s four municipalities and federal counterparts. The ISC provides investigative, analytical, and digital forensic support to all task forces in the region. The HIDTA Drug and Money Laundering Task Force targets drug money laundering and financial crimes as part of the HIDTA strategy. It is imperative that the HIDTA remain vigilant of the overdose epidemic that has devastated many of the Nation’s mainland communities, and so the HIDTA is a stakeholder in the multi-disciplinary Hawaii State Opioid Initiative and Hawaii Department of Health affiliated CDC Overdose to Action (OD2A) Initiative, which includes a youth drug prevention program developed by the HIDTA known as Prevention Plus Wellness. To further prevent the influx of fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses in Hawaii, the HIDTA participates in the HIDTA ORS, which embraces a partnership with Hawaii’s public health agencies, and CDC-OD2A. The HIDTA ORS is staffed with a PHA and DIO – both of whom conduct Fentanyl Awareness Presentations, Narcan Training, and Narcan distribution throughout Hawaii.

The aloha spirit of inter-island and interagency cooperation in a multi-island region is a hallmark of the HIDTA partnerships, and the success of implementing HIDTA resources to counter drug trafficking depends heavily on the ability of our law enforcement communities and task forces to cross ocean boundaries and work together.

The HIDTA works diligently with mainland HIDTAs and law enforcement partners to curtail organized crime and DTOs throughout the Nation. Reiterating, the region’s greatest drug threat is crystal methamphetamine, and the current composition of the HIDTA task forces is focused on countering the methamphetamine threat that infected Hawaii well before its devastating influence on mainland states (manufactured crystal methamphetamine in smokable form originated from nearby Asia, and Asian methamphetamine traffickers engaged with the densely populated Asian culture in Hawaii). Today, the region’s supply of methamphetamine is solely from Mexican cartel sources, but the demand has never been greater.

### *Location*

The HIDTA Headquarters is located in Honolulu, and represents the State of Hawaii, City & County of Honolulu, Maui County, Hawaii County, and Kauai County.



### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 15 initiatives: 11 enforcement, 1 intelligence, 1 management and coordination, 1 training, and 1 prevention.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>	<b>102</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

More than any drug, methamphetamine threatens the overall socioeconomic landscape and quality of life in Hawaii. Methamphetamine is the drug most associated with drug deaths; property and violent crimes; anti-social behavior; mental and physical illnesses; homelessness; and poverty. Fentanyl abuse is rising in Hawaii, and by dosage is even deadlier than methamphetamine. The influence of xylazine has not manifested among the Hawaiian Islands, and the HIDTA remains vigilant in protecting the region from becoming another state to fall victim to this insidious drug. Drugs such as cocaine, marijuana and heroin remain available and popular in Hawaii.

Drug pathology provides compelling evidence of a specific drug threat, and identifies what drugs are most harmful and causing the most deaths. In 2016, the Hawaii HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment began collecting regional drug-related death autopsy data from the Honolulu Medical Examiner and Forensic Pathologists for Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii County. Overall, drug related deaths in Hawaii increased from 305 in 2021 to 320 in 2022. Since 2016, methamphetamine has been identified as the drug most prevalent in Hawaii’s drug-related deaths (66% of all drug deaths in 2022 were methamphetamine-related). Steadily, fentanyl-related deaths are increasing (from 48 fentanyl deaths in 2021 to 79 in 2022).

Approximately 85 percent of Hawaii’s 1.4 million residents live on Oahu and proportionally, Oahu has the largest population of illicit drug users among the six Hawaiian Islands. Consequently, Oahu receives the majority of drugs imported from United States Mainland. The islands of Maui, Kauai, Hawaii, Lanai, and Molokai receive drugs from Oahu-based DTOs, but these “neighbor” islands also receive drug shipments directly from United States Mainland sources. Occasionally, drugs are transported to Hawaii by DTOs with direct links to Mexican cartels. MLOs are associated with the region’s DTOs and are investigated by the HIDTA Drug and Money Laundering Task Force and the Hawaii HIDTA Financial Analyst.

The demographic character of Hawaii’s local drug traffickers match those most likely to abuse drugs in Hawaii – that being Hawaiian-Local-Mixed ethnicities, Asian-Local, and Asian-Local-Mixed ethnicities. (The term “Local” describes a person, regardless of ethnicity, born or raised in Hawaii.)



The Parcel Delivery System (UPS, FedEx, and U.S. Postal Services) is the principal transport method for shipping drugs from United States Mainland sources to Hawaii. It is imperative for the HIDTA Strategy to support consistent enforcement interdiction operatives at all Hawaii's airports, postal facilities, commercial parcel facilities, and harbors. And this drug interception strategy must include an intelligence-gathering mechanism that can identify drug trafficking tendencies and specific targets enroute to Hawaii with drugs. Drug seizures at the Honolulu International Airport by CBP and HIDTA Interdiction Task Force indicate that Hawaii is a transshipment point for drugs destined for Australia and New Zealand, e.g., CBP continuously intercepts large amounts of methamphetamine at the Honolulu Airport bound for Australia or New Zealand.

The youth in Hawaii are experiencing a variety of drugs and are heavily influenced by social media and the darknet—where a worldwide collage of drugs is available for delivery at their doorsteps, simply by ordering online with a mobile phone. Youth drug abuse in Hawaii ranges anywhere from dab pens for inhaling Delta 8, Delta 9, and pure THC, to fentanyl tragedies--a 14-year-old girl died from a fentanyl overdose in Hawaii County in 2022.

Not only must the HIDTA form strategies to curtail local drug trafficking, the global threat of narco-terrorism and Mexican drug cartel enterprises must be prevented from establishing Hawaii footholds, and this includes Asian drug trafficking enterprises as well. (According to JIATF West, enormous drug production of methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin are traced to Asian countries, including the Golden Triangle (Southeast Asia), Myanmar, Laos, Philippines, China, and India.)

Asian drug trafficking is of particular concern for the HIDTA, due to the region's close proximity to Asia; lineage to Asians living in Hawaii and ease of assimilating among Asians who make up the largest ethnic group in Hawaii at 32 percent; and Hawaii's reception of 1.6 million Asian visitors annually. Most recently, ketamine powder enroute from Asia to United States Mainland was intercepted at Honolulu International Airport during a flight stopover.

The threat of sophisticated money laundering techniques needs to be addressed in conjunction with the HIDTA narcotic interdiction and investigative operatives, and this requires highly trained investigators and analysts capable of identifying and suppressing money laundering activity.

Marijuana flourishes agriculturally in Hawaii's tropical environment, robust water sources, and fertile soil. Marijuana is grown indoors and outdoors on public or private lands. In addition, marijuana concentrates are produced and trafficked in the area.

### ***Prevention***

The HIDTA Prevention Initiative develops drug demand reduction strategies by implementing evidence-based drug education and prevention programs statewide. The HIDTA and its ORS engage with community public health and social service agencies and form drug abuse education and prevention platforms for all audiences--especially the socially and economically disadvantaged communities that are most vulnerable to drug abuse. The HIDTA's current prevention project is the Prevention Plus Wellness program, which is designed to reduce drug



experimentation and abuse through an educational platform that teaches holistic skills for promoting effective wellness and lifestyles for parents and youth. The HIDTA produces drug abuse awareness announcements and documentary films that are continuously televised statewide. The HIDTA ORS Team, consisting of the CDC PHA and the HIDTA Drug Intelligence Officer, provides Fentanyl Awareness Presentations and Narcan Training for law enforcement, Guam, schools, and community and business organizations.

By virtue of sharing prevention resources among participating local law enforcement and social service partners for the Islands of Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai, the HIDTA Prevention Initiative provides each Hawaiian Island and municipality with an opportunity to develop unique cultural drug prevention programs best suited for their own environments.

The HIDTA Prevention Initiative nurtures community-based partnerships to understand further the drug problems that are systemic to neighborhoods, schools, and businesses. Through this discourse, the HIDTA identifies cultural needs and implements the appropriate prescription and stimulus to reduce drug abuse and addiction.

***Intelligence Initiatives***

The ISC is a component of the HIDTA intelligence and analytical support program. It supports the HIDTA’s mission by collecting, evaluating, analyzing, and disseminating timely information in support of investigative case activity relating to drug importation, drug distribution, money laundering, drug-related violent crime, and drug-related firearms trafficking. The HIDTA ISC provides a full range of analytical and digital forensic support to all enforcement task forces, Hawaii prosecutors, and U.S. Attorney, appropriate non-HIDTA law enforcement, and other official intelligence entities. All initiatives are able to deconflict investigative data and operational events via the WSIN system, and HIDTA task forces access the WSIN’s 24/7 Watch Center deconfliction services to ensure officer safety and investigation integrity.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Hawaii Interdiction Task Force (HIDTA)	Statewide
Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Statewide
HI Impact Oahu 1 Task Force (HIDTA)	HI HIDTA Facility, Honolulu, HI
HI Impact Oahu 3 Task Force (HIDTA)	HI HIDTA Facility, Honolulu, HI
HI Impact Hilo Task Force (HIDTA)	Hawaii County
HI Impact Kauai Task Force (HIDTA)	Kauai County
HI Impact Kapolei Task Force (HIDTA)	City and County of Honolulu at
HI Impact Kona Task Force (HIDTA)	Hawaii County
HI Impact Maui Task Force (HIDTA)	Maui County



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Drug & Money Laundering Task Force (HIDTA)	HI HIDTA Facility, Honolulu, HI
Project Safe Neighborhoods (HIDTA)	Statewide

***Task Force Coordination***

All HIDTA task forces are mandated to utilize WSIN for coordination, case activation, and critical event/subject deconfliction. All other law enforcement components within the state of Hawaii voluntarily use WSIN for deconfliction services and information sharing. Additionally, the drug task forces share information through the avenues of regional police department’s Criminal Intelligence Units. The HIDTA is the primary source of drug and financial crime training for HIDTA task forces, and regional law enforcement and criminal justice system institutions. The HIDTA training strategy is based on the needs of the Task Forces and also by researching contemporary training opportunities for which the Task Forces may be unaware of.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA continues to demonstrate significant accomplishments in its effort to reduce drug availability in its AOR. In 2022, the HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 19 DTOs. The HIDTA initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$28.5 million, and \$5.3 million in cash and assets. The HIDTA ROI for 2022 was calculated at \$7.41. The ISC provided analytical support to 48 cases and processed 1,334 event/case/subject/target deconflictions. The HIDTA also provided 16,449 hours of training to 1,296 students at no cost to the participants or their agencies.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$1.38</b>	<b>\$7.41</b>	<b>48</b>



## **Houston HIDTA**

**Designated in 1990**

**Executive Director – F. Mike McDaniel**

### ***Purpose and Goals***

The purpose of the Houston HIDTA is to reduce the transportation, distribution, manufacture, and cultivation of illicit drugs by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs operating in the Gulf Coast region of Texas. This vast amount of the Texas Coastal region contains several major metropolitan areas and extends from the Louisiana/Texas state line to the near southern tip of the Texas Southwest border. The HIDTA's goals are accomplished by supporting and coordinating the efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement entities, and reporting measurable accomplishments of the efforts. The HIDTA utilizes intelligence and operational-based strategies to respond to the threats posed to the region by DTOs and MLOs operating throughout the country.

### ***Strategy***

The HIDTA fosters cooperative and effective working relationships among federal, state, and local agencies that participate and/or operate in the region to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and reducing the demand for drugs. The law enforcement initiatives at the HIDTA comprise intelligence-driven, multijurisdictional, co-located, and commingled drug task forces from federal, state, and local LEAs. These drug task forces pursue coordinated efforts to reduce the manufacture, smuggling, transshipment and distribution of drugs by targeting all aspects of the DTOs and MLOs operating in the region through high-level intelligence driven investigative strategies, interdiction activities and effective prosecution. In addition to these efforts, the HIDTA recognizes that law enforcement cannot accomplish these goals alone. Therefore, there is a continued effort to develop stronger relationships and strategies with our community partners to create a more holistic approach to significantly reduce the impact of drug addiction on the communities.

### ***Location***

The HIDTA operates out of Houston, Texas, and comprises 18 counties: Aransas, Austin, Brazoria, Brooks, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Kennedy, Kleberg, Liberty, Montgomery, Nueces, Refugio, Victoria, and Walker.

### ***Initiatives***

The HIDTA supports 17 initiatives: 12 enforcement/interdiction, 2 intelligence, 1 training, 1 management, and 1 resource initiative.



### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>\$2.32</b>	<b>\$15.76</b>	<b>292</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The threat from illicit drug trafficking and associated violence within the HIDTA region remains high, in large part due to its close proximity to the Southwest Border, seaports, and national highway infrastructure. As a result, the region is one of the most significant distribution and transshipment areas for the variety of illegal drugs trafficked from Mexico into the United States. It is also a primary consolidation point for bulk cash smuggled back across the border. Therefore, Houston is one of the principal centers for drug activity in the country. Opioids (fentanyl) and methamphetamine tied as the number one drug threat in the region. The upward trajectory of fentanyl-involved deaths continues and comprised 49 percent of all drug and alcohol-related deaths in Houston, up from 41 percent in 2021. This rising threat is being seen across a broad age, race, and socioeconomic spectrum. A primary reason for the rise in fentanyl-involved deaths is that this deadly substance is being identified more frequently in a broader array of illicit drug types. The high availability and relatively low cost of methamphetamine has contributed to its ongoing expansion in the region, and cocaine remains the third greatest drug threat fostered by increased availability along with a very steep \$10,000 drop in its average kilogram-level price.

In addition to the imminent threat posed by the vast supply of illegal drugs moving through the region, drug-related violence continues to escalate, especially among the region's gangs. Gangs within the HIDTA continue to grow in strength and number. Their violence, often spurred by drug-related turf issues, is increasingly brutal, heightening the severity of the impact of the drug trade in the region.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The mission of the Houston Investigative Support Center (HISC) is to provide accurate and timely intelligence analysis and investigative support to LEAs regarding drug-related criminal activity in the region. The HISC provides investigative case support for the HIDTA's enforcement initiatives, participating agencies, and any other regional law enforcement entity needing assistance. In addition to case support, the HISC also provides strategic, organizational, and tactical intelligence on DTOs operating in the region, using the full gamut of analytical techniques.

Basic investigative, intelligence and deconfliction services include short- and long-term case support; post seizure analysis; financial analysis and Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) reviews; a multiagency deconfliction triage team focused on quickly identifying and connecting CPOTs, Regional Priority Organization Targets (RPOTs), and OCDETF links to investigations. Techniques also include communication exploitation services including toll analysis and



mapping; strategic intelligence services and products including special assessments based on new and emerging threats; and coordinating intelligence meetings and trainings.

The HISC sponsors an Opioid Overdose Clearinghouse, a collaborative effort within the HIDTA region to mitigate the threat and disrupt the trafficking and misuse of opioids. The Clearinghouse incorporates best practices and lessons learned from other HIDTAs that have been on the front lines of the national opioid crisis. It is an intelligence-based initiative that uses a four-prong approach to address and attack the threat through training, a robust regional opioid database, referral packages and custom reports, and partnerships with regional medical, treatment, and prevention entities to address the opioid threat from more than a law enforcement perspective.

The HIDTA also administers and maintains the National HIDTA LPR Program. The HIDTA Program continues to serve as leader in cooperative data sharing amongst law enforcement agencies by facilitating linkage of LPR cameras and the data they generate to the DEA-administered LPR system housed at EPIC, which ingests LPR data from partner agencies across the country and stores the data in a nationally consolidated database that is available to all program participants. This creates a significant force multiplier by allowing participants, not only to share their own LPR data with other law enforcement agencies but to also have access to significant LPR data that they previously would not have access to. This system has grown into a critical resource for targeting large scale violent DTOs for law enforcement across the country.

The HISC developed and continued to manage the unique Stop Drugs Website Project, a needed resource to address the ever-changing drug landscape in a format that is comfortable for millennials and the younger population. In addition to being a web-based drug tip line, current prevention, rehabilitation, and new drug threats and trend information is readily available to local communities, families, administrators, educators, community groups, and coalitions on a website online tip venue that also provides a resource parents and educators can use to have a serious discussion about illegal drugs and their effect. The website is unique in that it has separate, yet connected, websites in ten different locations in the HIDTA region.

The second HIDTA intelligence component is the Narcotics Operations Control Center (NOCC). The NOCC provides event deconfliction services to the HIDTA and other agencies in the Houston area. It is the only single-agency initiative in the HIDTA. Event deconfliction in the HIDTA region continues to improve each year as regional agencies recognize the value and importance of these centralized services. The NOCC deconflicts the Houston area, and the South Texas HIDTA provides the service to the southern part of the HIDTA region using SAFETNet.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Crossroads Rural Task Force (HIDTA)	Victoria County
Fort Bend Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Stafford



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Gangs and Non-Traditional Gang Squad (HIDTA)	Houston
Houston Money Laundering Initiative (HIDTA)	Houston
Major Drug Squads (HIDTA)	Houston
Methamphetamine Initiative Group (HIDTA)	Houston
Montgomery County Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Montgomery County
South East Texas Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Jefferson County
Truck, Air, Rail and Port (HIDTA)	Houston
Targeted Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Houston
Texas Costal Corridor Initiative (HIDTA)	Corpus Christi
Westside Initiative	Austin County

### *Task Force Coordination*

It is the policy of the HIDTA Executive Board that all participating agencies deconflict all events, whether or not they are related to a HIDTA Initiative, through the HIDTA’s event deconfliction initiative, the NOCC. Area agencies that do not participate in the HIDTA also use the HIDTA’s services to deconflict drug and other events. Case/subject deconfliction through the HISC is completed by HIDTA Initiatives and Houston-area agencies.

The HISC is co-located with the FBI’s Field Intelligence Group in Houston, and sharing is routine and institutionalized. The OCDETF Strike Force is housed in the DEA office and shares information daily with the Major Drug Squads, a HIDTA Initiative also located at the DEA. It also shares information on an ad hoc basis with other HIDTA Initiatives, especially the Fort Bend Enforcement Team. The DEA has formal HIDTA task forces in Houston, Corpus Christi, Galveston, and Beaumont, Texas. The Corpus Christi task force is co-located with the Texas Coastal Corridor Initiative and shares information constantly. The others work with HIDTA on an ad hoc basis. The FBI violent crimes task force in Corpus Christi works closely and shares personnel with the HIDTA Gangs and Non-Traditional Gang Squad Initiative. The FBI task force is not strictly a drug task force, but it has a drug nexus. The Houston Area Gun Crime Intelligence Center (HACGIC) is a HIDTA-funded ATF/HIDTA group that provides crime gun intelligence to assist state, local and federal partners with violent crime and drug investigations and assist in identifying communities within their area of responsibility plagued with gun violence.

Other FBI and ATF task forces operating in the area that have a drug nexus include the Houston Asian Organized Crime Task Force; JTTF; Houston, Beaumont, Bryan/College Station, and Corpus Christi Violent Crime Fugitive Task Force; Houston Coastal Safe Streets Task Force; Southeast Texas Safe Streets Task Force, Texas City, Texas; and the Counter Terrorism Intelligence Group, Houston. ATF also has a Violent Crime Impact Team Task Force in Houston and three Project Gunrunner groups that operate in the area. Other than deconfliction, the cooperation with these task forces is ad hoc and frequent.



### *HIDTA Evaluation*

In 2022, Houston HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 126 DTOs. Of the 126 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 60 were international, 22 multistate, and 44 were local in scope. Houston HIDTA Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$514.7 million, as well as \$22.2 million in cash and assets (\$539.9 million total), for a total ROI of \$41.59 for every dollar invested in the Houston HIDTA. The ISC provided analytical support to 184 cases and processed 17,773 event deconflictions. Houston HIDTA also provided 3,968 hours of critical law enforcement training for 322 law enforcement officers, agents, and analysts, at no cost to the participants or their agencies.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>\$2.10</b>	<b>\$17.07</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>\$1.72</b>	<b>\$39.87</b>	<b>184</b>



## Indiana HIDTA

Designated in 1996

Executive Director – Charles Porucznik

### *Purpose and Goals*

The purpose of the Indiana HIDTA is to reduce both the supply and demand for illegal drugs, through the disruption of drug transportation, distribution, and organizational structures of DTOs and MLOs and to support drug use prevention strategies in the AOR and the nation. This is accomplished by being a funding mechanism, but also by fostering interagency cooperation at the local, state, Tribal, and federal levels. The ISC and the Marion County Sheriff's Office – Criminal Intelligence Unit (MCSO-CIU) work to share intelligence among all LEAs and departments by providing timely and accurate intelligence to assist enforcement strategies and operations. Through this purpose, three primary goals emerge:

- Provide a means to fund enforcement, intelligence, and prevention efforts that can demonstrate effectiveness through definable outputs and return on investment.
- Create synergy by providing a means to share intelligence and operational aptitudes.
- Demonstrate sound stewardship of the assets provided.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA is composed of 24 distinct initiatives. The driving force of all initiatives is to reduce both the supply and demand of illegal drugs by fostering cooperative action in the areas of enforcement, prevention, and recovery. The work of the HIDTA is accomplished by the cooperative efforts of 36 state and local agencies and 7 federal partners.

The purpose of the strategy is to provide strategic guidance and goals to the HIDTA participating agencies as set forth by the HIDTA Executive Board. The Executive Board's strategy supports the two national HIDTA goals: disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting DTOs, and increasing the efficiency of LEAs.

The strategy focuses HIDTA efforts on these goals through attacking the primary threats to Indiana of drug trafficking, the violence associated with the drug trade and the organizations conducting drug trafficking. These goals are the underlying theme throughout the strategy.

### *Location*

The HIDTA operates out of Crown Point, Indiana, and the AOR consists of the following designated counties: Allen, Lake, LaPorte, Marion, Porter, Vanderburgh, and Vigo.



### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA is composed of 24 distinct initiatives. These include 18 enforcement initiatives, 2 intelligence initiatives, 2 support initiatives, and 2 management initiatives. A listing of the enforcement task forces follows under its own heading. The intelligence initiatives include the ISC, housed at the Crown Point office, and the Marion County Criminal Intelligence Unit in Indianapolis. The two management initiatives include Management and Coordination and the Resource Initiative.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$2.25</b>	<b>\$6.39</b>	<b>4,663</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The drug supply in Indiana continues to increase. The availability for fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and controlled prescription drugs is reported as moderate or high according to the HIDTA 2023 Drug Threat Survey. Survey respondents further indicated that demand closely matched perceived availability. Indiana set a state record for overdose deaths in 2021 followed by a nearly 12 percent decrease in 2022.<sup>20</sup> All 2022 data are provisional due to the complex nature of death investigations, there is a lag of several months between time of death and the coroner’s determination on the manner and cause of death. On average, 17.5 out of every 100,000 Indianians dies from an opioid overdose, which is 19.9 percent above the national death rate.<sup>21</sup> In the past year, the supply of fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine in the HIDTA AOR have increased. These drugs are grown and manufactured in South America and Mexico, transported from the Southwest border to main hubs such as Chicago, then distributed throughout the HIDTA AOR.

Significant findings of the HIDTA 2023 Drug Threat Assessment include:

- Respondents to the annual survey ranked fentanyl as the most important drug threat to the HIDTA’s AOR. Seizures of fentanyl in 2022 nearly tripled over the previous year. And while seizures rose, the price for fentanyl declined from 2021.
- Methamphetamine continues to be viewed as a serious threat in Indiana and was ranked second in the 2023 Threat Assessment. Local production appears to have been nearly replaced by Mexican-sourced product. The seizures of methamphetamine are trending upward while its price continues to fall indicating that supply appears to exceed demand.
- Heroin was ranked as the third greatest drug threat in the AOR by survey respondents. Survey data indicates that heroin availability remains high; however, seizures of heroine fell by nearly 80 percent in the AOR. A drop in heroin prices was also noted, indicating the supply may be outpacing demand. The disparity between perceptions of survey



respondents, seizure, and price data is believed to be due to fentanyl being sold at the street level as purported heroin.

- Marijuana was viewed as the fourth greatest threat in the 2023 Annual Survey. Seizures of marijuana in 2022 more than doubled from the previous year. Demand for marijuana remained strong with prices declining slightly.
- CPDs were viewed as the fifth most prevalent drug threat in the AOR. An increase in counterfeit productions, often sourced through Mexico, was noted. Pricing data was found to be variable, but availability remained high.
- 2023 respondents considered cocaine as the sixth most prevalent drug threat. Powder cocaine was viewed as the prevalent form; however, cocaine base appears to be on the rise in some areas. Seizures of both forms are trending upward in the AOR, and price declined slightly.
- Mexican DTOs, primarily the Sinaloa Cartel CJNG, supply most of the wholesale quantities of cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, crystal methamphetamine, and marijuana in Indiana.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The ISC is the hub of the HIDTA operations. It is managed by a group supervisor from DEA and staffed by analysts from HIDTA, DEA and the Indiana National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. The ISC provides accurate, detailed, and timely drug and non-drug intelligence to HIDTA initiatives, as well as to other police agencies throughout Indiana and the nation. The ISC provides event and target deconfliction services to HIDTA initiatives and police agencies throughout Indiana. The ISC is co-located in the HIDTA facility with other HIDTA initiatives.

The ISC works closely with the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center and Chicago HIDTA to increase intelligence sharing in the AOR. In late 2015, the ISC began providing support to ATF under the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) project. In 2018, the ATF Achilles Unit in Indianapolis came online to assist with the NIBIN project. In 2016, the ISC began assisting the Porter County Sheriff's Department with its Heroin Overdose Response Team project. This assistance has spread to other departments in Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties.

The ISC uses the SAFETNet deconfliction system, which is directly linked to four other HIDTAs in the Midwest. Nationwide, SAFETNet is directly linked to 18 HIDTAs and to all HIDTAs via the National Virtual Pointer System. The ISC also has access to police databases throughout Allen, Lake, LaPorte, and Porter Counties, the Indiana Department of Corrections, as well as federal databases that include DEA, FBI, ATF, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC) in Indianapolis assists the HIDTA in Marion County.

The ISC also provides strategic and predictive intelligence capabilities throughout the region. The Digital Evidence Section (DES) became operational in October 2009. Currently, the ISC-



DES unit consists of two detective-sergeants from the Indiana State Police. In 2018, the Digital Forensic Unit (DFU) started in Indianapolis to assist with digital evidence in Marion County. In addition, the Marion County Sheriff's Office – Special Investigations Gang Intelligence Unit (MCSO-SIGIU) utilizes front-line access to Marion County jail facilities and active warrants to gather intelligence in and around Marion County.

### *Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region*

The table below lists the federally funded enforcement task forces operating as HIDTA enforcement initiatives.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
ATF Achilles Unit (HIDTA)	Indianapolis
Central Indiana Drug Task Force Group 52 (HIDTA)	Indianapolis
Firearms Interdiction Regional Enforcement (HIDTA)	Crown Point
Fort Wayne Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Fort Wayne
Gang Response Investigative Team (HIDTA)	Hobart
Highway Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Lowell
Indianapolis Hotel Interdiction and Truck Stops (HIDTA)	Indianapolis
Indianapolis Metro Safe Streets Gang Task Force (HIDTA)	Indianapolis
Lake County Combined Task Force Group 57 (HIDTA)	Crown Point
LaPorte County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Michigan City
Marion County Prosecutor's Office Initiative (HIDTA)	Indianapolis
Marshal's Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Hammond
Money Laundering and Financial Crimes (HIDTA)	Crown Point
Northeast Indiana Drug Task Force Group 55P (HIDTA)	Fort Wayne
Porter County Multi-Enforcement Group (HIDTA)	Valparaiso
Project Bullet Initiative (HIDTA)	Fort Wayne
Regional Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Crown Point
River City Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Evansville
Wabash Valley Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Terre Haute

### *Task Force Coordination*

Task force initiative managers and investigators make themselves available to assist other initiatives and unaffiliated investigative units. Examples of this include the utilization of the Lake County Combined Task Force to assist Domestic Highway Enforcement interdiction officers in case adoption and seizures of evidence. The Regional Enforcement Team is designed to initiate investigations on lower-level offenders with the intent of identifying targets suitable for referral to initiatives focused on DTOs. Coordination is enhanced through annual meetings of initiative managers with the ability to discuss investigative assets and cooperation. With the integration of investigators from multiple departments and federal agencies, initiatives can leverage the strengths and assets of members to create a synergistic operation.



Representatives of the federal, state, and local LEAs and the Indiana National Guard in Lake, LaPorte, Marion, and Porter Counties serve on the HIDTA Executive Board as voting or advisory members. The Executive Board ensures information sharing among its membership and fosters a spirit of cooperation between agencies.

The HIDTA ISC and task forces turn over any terrorism-related information and investigative leads encountered during their counterdrug efforts to the JTTFs.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA is achieving its primary performance objectives. During 2022, 37 DTOs were disrupted or dismantled. In addition, the HIDTA task forces seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$48.4 million and \$8.5 million in cash and other drug-related assets (\$56.9 million total), achieving a total ROI of \$12.59. The HIDTA also provided 2,787 training hours to 251 students.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>\$1.82</b>	<b>\$6.77</b>	<b>3,763</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$1.83</b>	<b>\$10.76</b>	<b>9,027</b>



## Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA

**Designated in 1995**

**Executive Director – Jeremiah Daley**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA’s mission is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs and address drug-related violent crime in its 11 designated counties by assisting federal, state, and local LEAs participating in the HIDTA program. Specifically, the HIDTA and its participants seek to dismantle and/or disrupt DTOs and MLOs, with emphasis on those activities that have harmful impacts on other parts of the United States; targeting the DTO/MLO illicit financial profits; utilizing cutting edge technologies; and applying advanced investigative techniques to make better use of available data to dismantle these organizations. To accomplish this, the HIDTA facilitates interagency cooperation at the federal, state, and local levels; improves intelligence gathering, analysis, and sharing capabilities; and provides mission-critical resources and services otherwise unavailable to regional LEAs. Parallel to the enforcement effort is an increased emphasis on untreated addiction and partnerships with public health and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address underlying conditions that drive the opioid epidemic.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA’s strategy supports the above goals, as well as the goals of the HIDTA Program overall. Through information sharing, interdiction, investigation, and prevention initiatives, the HIDTA takes a comprehensive approach to thwarting the use, flow, and distribution of drugs into its eleven-county region. The HIDTA’s initiatives identify, disrupt, and dismantle DTOs and MLOs; locate and apprehend violent fugitives wanted in connection with drug offenses; gather intelligence linking drug traffickers to criminal organizations; and pursue opportunities for collaboration with public safety, public health, and NGOs to decrease demand for and harm from illegal substance use. The investigative and enforcement initiatives are structured to maximize the response to violent episodes in the most seriously impacted areas – Philadelphia, Atlantic City, Camden, Chester, Coatesville, and Wilmington – while continuously pursuing the region’s DTOs and MLOs that fuel the supply of drugs to all our communities. The HIDTA’s support initiatives enhance the operating environments, professional skillsets, information sharing capabilities, and intelligence assessments and case support services that law enforcement initiatives rely upon to succeed.



### *Location*

With its principal office in Philadelphia, the HIDTA footprint includes the following counties:

- Pennsylvania: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh,<sup>22</sup> Montgomery, and Philadelphia
- New Jersey: Atlantic, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland
- Delaware: New Castle

### *Initiatives*

In 2022, the HIDTA supported 27 law enforcement initiatives focused on investigation, interdiction, and fugitive apprehension in the 11-county region (Salem and Cumberland counties were approved for HIDTA designation in 2022) plus one each of the following support initiatives: Management and Coordination, Training, Intelligence and Information-sharing, Information Technology and Prevention. Investigative and Enforcement initiatives operate in the designated counties, each with varied foci on the drug trade, contingent on the threats most prevalent therein, including Dark Web drug distribution and gun violence related to the drug trade.

As part of a unique collaboration with the CDC and other HIDTAs nationwide, the HIDTA implements the HIDTA ORS across Pennsylvania and Delaware. This novel undertaking engages public safety and public health partners through data collection and analysis, cross-disciplinary planning, training and community tailored responses to the acute threats posed by fentanyl, heroin and opioid use in the Delaware Valley region and beyond.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>\$3.75</b>	<b>\$8.50</b>	<b>264</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The HIDTA lies within the eighth largest metropolitan area in the United States and is home to 5.7 million people within its 11-county region. Approximately 100 million additional people live within a one-day drive of the Philadelphia metropolitan area, a key drug transshipment zone along the Interstate 95 northeast corridor in the Mid-Atlantic region. In addition, the HIDTA sits within one of the more violent regions in the Nation, as Atlantic City, New Jersey; Camden, New Jersey; Chester, Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Wilmington, Delaware, remain high in rankings of the most violent cities per capita in the country.

Urban areas within the HIDTA region consistently rank among the most dangerous and violent regions in the country, due in no small part to the impact of drug trafficking, distribution, and



drug-related violent crime. Throughout the region, territorial violence is rampant within neighborhoods where distribution groups, as well as neighborhood-based and nationally connected street gangs, compete for control of profitable drug markets using violence and intimidation tactics. Various distribution groups exploit inner city neighborhoods and suburban public housing developments to intimidate residents and competitors and protect profitable drug enterprises and markets.

The HIDTA counties struggled with growing homicide totals in 2022. The City of Philadelphia tallied 514 homicides in 2022, a 9 percent decrease from the year prior (562) but still one of the deadliest years on record.<sup>23</sup> Philadelphia reported 2,255 shootings and 2,910 robberies with a gun. Further, major crimes such as auto theft, commercial burglary, and retail theft rose significantly. Homicides in Wilmington decreased 58 percent to pre-pandemic numbers as the city continues to see significant reductions in overall major crime categories. However, Wilmington Police Department has made significantly more gun arrests every year since 2019. Camden homicides increased almost 22 percent from 2021 to 2022 despite overall violent crime reductions for the third straight year. Camden did, however, see an increase of 29 percent in non-violent crimes, particularly motor vehicle crimes.<sup>24</sup>

New and evolving technology has also had an impact on the HIDTA regional drug environment. Various social media and phone applications as well as digital currencies are increasingly being used for drug trafficking and money laundering activities. Synthetic substances such as LSD and MDMA remain attractive drugs of abuse, particularly among younger users. Synthetic drug influence will continue to take root through ease of online procurement and perceived legality for direct use. Though used mostly for legitimate transactions, virtual currency has been used for the sale and purchase of illegal drugs for many years. Virtual currency wallets, which store virtual currency and the anonymity of technology makes cryptocurrency attractive to users. While largely used on the Dark Web, virtual currency can also be used to purchase illegal drugs from outside the Dark Web or used to launder profits from drug trafficking. In 2022, the HIDTA Cyber Investigations Initiative finalized preparations for the federal trial of Henry Konah Koffie a/k/a “Narcoboss” charged with distribution of fentanyl on the Dark Web in exchange for cryptocurrency, including two fatal overdoses. Koffie was convicted in March 2023 for distribution of a controlled substance resulting in death (two counts) and distribution of a controlled substance (five counts) among other charges.

Privately manufactured firearms (also known as “ghost guns”) are increasingly encountered in narcotics, money laundering, and violent crime investigations. Because ghost guns are created with kits sold online, they are untraceable and do not require a background check to purchase. The Philadelphia Police Department alone seized 575 ghost guns in 2022, more than double the number seized in 2020 (250).<sup>25</sup> Due to the ease of obtaining 3D printers, it is likely the presence will continue to increase.

DTOs operating in southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, and northern Delaware are closely linked to largest domestic and international criminal groups for acquiring drug supply and returning cash proceeds. MDTOs linked with the Sinaloa and CJNG cartels remain the dominant suppliers of fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine in the HIDTA.



Fentanyl and fentanyl-related analogs, heroin, prescription drugs, cocaine, and marijuana are the principal drug threats to the HIDTA region, with the majority of fatal and nonfatal overdose episodes attributed to fentanyl and poly-drug use. The increasing presence of xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer, as an adjunct, along with fentanyl being used concurrently and/or mixed with stimulants such as cocaine, are additional factors in fatality numbers. MDTOs (with direct connections to cartel-level syndicates or cells) remain the dominant heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and marijuana suppliers within the HIDTA region. MDTOs have established the region as a central location to store temporarily large quantities of illicit drugs and cash proceeds transiting between the northeastern United States and the Southwest Border region. MDTOs, allied with various other independent groups, are capable of distributing multi-kilogram quantities of fentanyl and Mexican-produced white heroin, hundred-kilogram quantities of cocaine, millions of dosage units of counterfeit prescription drugs, and thousands of pounds of commercial-grade and high potency marijuana on a monthly basis. Continuing a multiyear trend, investigations and intelligence confirm that MDTOs are supplying bulk quantities (multikilogram) of crystal methamphetamine within the HIDTA region in an attempt to establish new markets and increase demand among stimulant users. Methamphetamine distribution at retail levels is rising, as well, and the Darknet is becoming more common as a source for illicit drug procurement, particularly for fentanyl-related substances and novel psychoactive substances in various classes.

The effects of the above detailed drug market are reflected in the fatal drug overdose data for the HIDTA counties:<sup>26</sup>

<b>County</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Philadelphia (PA)	1,385	1,278	1,214
Bucks (PA)	173	178	215
Chester (PA)	94	106	108
Montgomery (PA)	167	188	257
Delaware (PA)	152	195	268
Camden (NJ)	354	335	288
Atlantic (NJ)	255	188	216
Cumberland (NJ)	76	68	81
Gloucester (NJ)	87	110	129
Salem (NJ)	22	25	39
New Castle (DE)	334	275	278

While it is not a drug prescribed for use in humans, xylazine, a livestock tranquilizer, has continued to infiltrate the drug supply in the area. In Philadelphia, over 90 percent of the fentanyl/heroin samples contain xylazine. From 2021 through 2022, New Jersey state labs reported 97 percent of xylazine submissions were in combination with fentanyl or fentanyl analogs. Additionally, 36 percent of suspected heroin submissions and 29 percent of suspected heroin glassine bags contained xylazine. For a second straight year, Camden County reported the highest number of xylazine-related suspected heroin submissions. There has been consistent reporting that the ratio of xylazine to other substances has continued to increase. Xylazine combined with other drugs can increase the chances of a fatal overdose and can make reversal efforts more difficult as it does not respond to naloxone. Further, xylazine can cause skin lesions leading to health implications, and has led to an increased demand for emergency services.<sup>27</sup>



Cocaine remains a significant threat to the HIDTA and reporting has increased despite a decrease in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reported that the global supply of cocaine is at record levels, particularly due to an expansion in coca bush cultivation and improvements in the process of converting coca bush to cocaine hydrochloride.<sup>28</sup> In March 2022, CBP seized 18 pounds of cocaine on a passenger flight arriving in Philadelphia from Jamaica and another 40 pounds, valued at \$1.3 million, in August 2022.

Methamphetamine remains a growing threat to the HIDTA as evidenced by increasing enforcement seizures, postmortem toxicology detections, and area drug treatment admissions. From 2015 to 2021, New Jersey saw a 234 percent increase in methamphetamine arrests, with an 11 percent increase from 2021 to 2022. New Jersey state labs saw a seven percent decrease in methamphetamine cases from 2021 to 2022, despite an overall increase of 616 percent from 2015 to 2022. Average cases per quarter were down slightly from 391 in 2021 to 363 in 2022.

Mexican, Dominican, and Puerto Rican organizations – linked to larger domestic and international criminal organizations - primarily transport drug proceeds in bulk currency from the HIDTA to domestic and international source areas. Organizations based primarily in Phoenix, Arizona, Atlanta, Georgia, Houston, Texas, and New York, New York, transit bulk currency from the Philadelphia area back to their respective locales. Chinese money laundering affiliates are reportedly increasingly involved participants in remitting proceeds back to Mexican source entities, using multi-layered trade-based exchanges.

### *Activities*

Other money movement techniques used by traffickers in the HIDTA region include bank deposit structuring to avoid Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) reporting requirements, cash-based and money service businesses to wire proceeds, prepaid stored value cards, purchases of high-priced assets, and laundering through legitimate or front businesses.

Law enforcement and public health professionals alike view heroin, fentanyl, and opioid addiction as the greatest concern in the HIDTA region due to the continued availability of higher potency, low-priced fentanyl and fentanyl mixtures and its appeal to teenage and young adults. Compounding these factors, the emergence of fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, and opioid-like synthetic drugs in tablet form that mimic genuine prescription drugs in the regional drug market pose the likelihood of more deaths and hospitalizations, adding to the already alarming numbers of fatal and nonfatal overdose incidents.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The HIDTA ISC provides analytical case support, event and target deconfliction services, and strategic intelligence assessments to law enforcement in the region. The ISC interacts and collaborates regularly with federal, state, and local agencies' criminal intelligence components, along with fusion centers in the region, including the Delaware Valley Intelligence Center (DVIC) and state-operated fusion centers (Delaware Information & Analysis Center, New Jersey Regional Operations and Intelligence Center, and Pennsylvania Criminal Information Center) and the Mid-Atlantic Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network



(MAGLOCLLEN), the area’s RISS iteration. Along with LEAs, the ISC interacts with public health agencies throughout the region, exchanging drug use indicators and overdose-related data.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below lists the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA-supported task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
ATF-Camden Gun Violence Task Force (HIDTA)	Camden County, NJ
DEA-NJ Atlantic County Gangs, Guns and Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Atlantic Co., NJ
Chester County HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Chester County, PA
Cumberland County Prosecutor’s Office HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Cumberland, NJ
DEA-Camden RO Task Force (DEA)	Camden, Burlington, Gloucester & Salem Counties, NJ
DEA-Phila. Group 31 Interdiction Initiative Task Force	Metropolitan Philadelphia, PA
DEA-Phila. Group 32 Drug Trafficking Org. Initiative Task Force (HIDTA)	Metropolitan Philadelphia, PA
DEA-Phila. Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Philadelphia, PA
DEA-Phila. Task Force Group(s) 22, 23, 24, 51 (DEA)	Philadelphia, PA
DEA-Wilmington RO TF Group #41 (HIDTA) New Castle Co. Initiative	New Castle County, DE
Delaware County HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Delaware County, PA
FBI-Delaware Valley Violent Crime Task Force (DOJ-Safe Streets/FBI)	Newtown Square, PA
FBI-Atlantic City RA Safe Streets Task Force (DOJ-Safe Streets/FBI)	Atlantic Co., NJ
FBI-Wilmington RA Safe Streets Task Force Sq. C-7 (DOJ-Safe Streets/HIDTA) New Castle Co. Initiative	New Castle County, DE
USMS-E. PA Fugitive Apprehension Initiative (HIDTA)	Eastern District of PA
ICE/HSI-Airport & Critical Infrastructure Protection Group (DHS-ICE/HSI)	Philadelphia, PA
ICE/HSI-Gang Enforcement & Public Safety Task Force (DHS-ICE/HSI)	Eastern & Middle Districts of Pennsylvania
ICE/HSI-Seaport Contraband Smuggling Group (DHS-ICE/HSI)	Eastern District of Pennsylvania



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
ICE/HSI-NJ Joint Camden Task Force (HIDTA)	Camden County, NJ
ICE/HSI-Phila. Money Laundering & Drug Asset Forfeiture Task Forces (HIDTA)	Metropolitan Philadelphia, PA area
Montgomery County Task Force (HIDTA)	Montgomery County
Philadelphia DA’s Office-Dangerous Drug Offender Unit Initiative (HIDTA)	Philadelphia, PA
Philadelphia Police Dept.-Intensive Drug Investigations Squad Task Force (HIDTA)	Philadelphia, PA
Salem County Prosecutor’s Office HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Salem County, NJ
FBI-S. Jersey RA-South Jersey Safe Streets Violent Drug Gang Task Forces (HIDTA/DOJ-Safe Streets)	Metropolitan Camden, Gloucester and Salem NJ area
Camden Co. Prosecutor’s Office - Suburban Camden County Drug Task Force (Byrne)	Camden County, NJ
USMS-Delaware 1st State Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	New Castle County, DE
ATF-Phila. Violent Crimes Task Force (HIDTA)	Metropolitan Philadelphia, PA
Violent Drug Gang Task Forces (FBI Squads C-2 & C-3) (HIDTA/DOJ-Safe Streets)	Metropolitan Philadelphia, PA area

***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA designates and funds initiatives that support the overall strategy and address drug trafficking, money laundering, and associated violent crime threats to the region. Twenty HIDTA task forces are directly engaged in drug trafficking investigations, while seven others address the collateral criminal behavior of money laundering, gangs, violence and fugitives.

Drug enforcement task forces in the HIDTA region continuously coordinate investigative activities with each other, the HIDTA, and OCDETF program administrators. All participating agency task forces, as well as many non-HIDTA LEAs in the region, contribute to and query against the event and target deconfliction systems offered by the HIDTA ISC.

Event deconfliction is provided twelve hours a day and five days a week via the ISC Watch Center that is housed in the DVIC and staffed by Philadelphia Police Department personnel who use RISSafe as the event deconfliction application. After the Watch Center’s normal operational hours, submissions are automatically forwarded to the Pennsylvania State Police Department Watch Center, which is partnered with the HIDTA and the region’s RISS Project – the MAGLOCLN.

Target deconfliction is provided around the clock via Case Explorer, a secure, web-based interstate system operated by the Washington-Baltimore HIDTA that compares persons, places, things, and other case elements entered by different agencies. The ISC also provides element deconfliction by way of the DEA Internet Connectivity Endeavor (DICE) System, furthering coordination among participant agencies nationally.



The HIDTA and its ISC provide several platforms for information sharing activities among task forces. In addition to the deconfliction measures, the HIDTA facilitates identification of emerging drug threats and detection of changes in the drug marketplace through quarterly meetings attended by task force supervisors, analysts, and prosecutors (from the HIDTA participant agencies), permitting the face-to-face exchange of intelligence. Also, the HIDTA participates in bi-weekly meetings of the U.S. Attorney’s Office (USAO) – Camden Violent Crime Initiative (VCI-Camden), and weekly Philadelphia Police Department Shooting Review Meetings, enabling further coordination of investigative efforts.

The HIDTA also acts as an access point for state and local law enforcement to NSS, permitting entry to and query of nationwide data on drug and asset seizures to be analyzed to formulate investigative leads. Likewise, the HIDTA ISC submits intelligence reports to the HSIN.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 79 DTOs/MLO, representing 103 % of its target of 77 DTOs/MLOs. Of the DTOs/MLOs disrupted or dismantled, 13 were International, 29 were multi-state, and 37 were local in scope.

Additionally, the HIDTA initiatives seized a \$68 million dollars (wholesale value) of drugs, to include 225, 886 dosage units of fentanyl, and \$14.75 million dollars’ worth of cash and other assets. The HIDTA initiatives arrested 1,287 individuals and seized 740 firearms.

In 2022, the HIDTA deconflicted 5,613 tactical enforcement operations via the HIDTA Watch Center; provided analytical support to 678 investigations and requests for information; sent 265 FANs to other HIDTAs; and trained 664 students in the areas of law enforcement, analysis, management, and demand reduction.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>\$2.70</b>	<b>\$7.25</b>	<b>218</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>\$2.17</b>	<b>\$9.98</b>	<b>678</b>



## Los Angeles HIDTA

**Designated in 1990**

**Executive Director – Roger Bass**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Los Angeles HIDTA’s mission is to efficiently and effectively identify and target major DTOs/MLOs working at the higher levels of the narcotic “food chain” to reduce measurable drug trafficking, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in the region and other areas of the country. The mission is accomplished by using multijurisdictional (federal, state, and local), co-located and commingled law enforcement and intelligence initiatives designed to attack, disrupt, and dismantle major DTOs and MLOs that are operating in and through the HIDTA region.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA’s strategy aligns the Intelligence Support System (ISS) and task force initiatives to communicate effectively, coordinate and focus their respective intelligence and enforcement efforts to enhance the disruption and/or dismantling of major DTOs and MLOs that, at their highest levels, operate in and through the regions primary geographical area to other parts of the country. The strategy provides a comprehensive, dynamic law enforcement/intelligence plan that combines and coordinates regional drug control efforts in areas where they can have the most significant impact on the threat. The HIDTA comprises seven major operational task forces comprising co-located federal, state, and local LEAs and three intelligence initiatives. It is their collective purpose to effectively and efficiently work within the strategy to identify and target the major DTOs/MLOs that operate at the higher levels of the illegal drug chain of command to measurably reduce drug trafficking and its impact in this and other areas of the country.

### *Location*

The HIDTA operates out of Los Angeles, California. Its designated geographic area covers the following counties (32,341 square miles/population of approximately 18 million):

- Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 13 initiatives: 7 enforcement, 3 intelligence, 1 management, 1 training, and 1 prosecution.



### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>\$2.15</b>	<b>\$370.00</b>	<b>1,293</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

Major DTOs and criminal groups control the wholesale distribution of illicit drugs in the HIDTA region. They supply illicit drugs to distributors within the region and to distributors in most other significant drug markets throughout the country. Their influence is so profound that the HIDTA region has become one of the most significant illicit drug distribution centers in the United States for cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, marijuana, methamphetamine, MDMA, and phencyclidine (PCP). Additionally, MDTOs and criminal groups based in the HIDTA region are increasing their control over illicit drug distribution in many drug markets – most recently in East Coast drug markets long controlled by other trafficking groups – further enhancing the role of the region as a national drug distribution center. It is a staging area for MDTOs and some that have a national and/or international presence.

The geographic, cultural, social, and economic diversity and general affluence of the population within the four-county area [sixth largest economy in the world with approximately 12.5 percent of the national gross domestic product (the largest in the United States)] have helped make the HIDTA a huge market for drug use and distribution. At the same time, the highly developed transportation routes, and the proximity to the Southwest Border have made the HIDTA a primary distribution, storage, and supply hub for illicit drugs destined for all the major metropolitan areas in the United States. Further, the large rural and remote desert areas make the HIDTA an ideal location for clandestine manufacturing of methamphetamine, although the majority of methamphetamine encountered in the HIDTA is manufactured in Mexico.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The HIDTA ISS comprises the following intelligence initiatives: Los Angeles Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (LA CLEAR); Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC); and Inland Narcotics Clearing House (INCH).

It is the primary mission of LA CLEAR to ensure officer safety and operational efficiency by providing advanced technology, intelligence, and enhanced information sharing to all LEAs. As part of the HIDTA ISS, LA CLEAR provides an ISC for LEAs operating within the HIDTA region. LA CLEAR has electronic connectivity with and provides a variety of services to both HIDTA-funded initiatives and other LEAs operating within the HIDTA region. LA CLEAR comprises the following:

- 24/7 Intelligence and Deconfliction Watch Center;



- The Deconfliction Watch Center uses RISS, specifically the RISSIntel database as a target deconfliction pointer system which achieves national connectivity through RISS.NET connectivity to the National Virtual Pointer System (NVPS). This facilitates target (case/subject) deconfliction, as well as the sharing of information among LEAs operating within and outside the HIDTA region. Additionally, the Deconfliction Watch Center uses RISSafe to facilitate event deconfliction, which achieves national connectivity through RISS.NET connectivity through EPIC's Partner – Deconfliction Interface (PDI) with Case Explorer and SAFETNet. Officer safety remains of paramount importance within the HIDTA region.
- An Analytical Unit comprising an Investigative Analysis Section (case support) and a Research Analysis Section (post-seizure analysis and DHE);
- The Analytical Unit provides agencies with all types of operational, tactical, and analytical products, including telephone toll analysis, link analysis, charts, graphs, wiretap support, and targeting analysis.
- The Analytical Unit produces quarterly trend reports that have strategic analysis on enforcement trends, price and purity updates, lab seizure data, and clandestine laboratory trend information.
- The Analytical Unit has access to the RISS and RISSIntel databases, numerous law enforcement and commercial databases.
- A Special Operations Support Unit that provides electronic intercept support through an onsite electronic intercept and surveillance center capable of handling 85 simultaneous wiretap operations.
- The Special Operations Support Unit has technicians on call 24 hours a day to assist LEAs.
- An 85-seat training facility that doubles as a command post with sufficient telephone and data lines to support large operations.
- A broadcast studio capable of live streaming law enforcement classes via the Internet.
- A 20-station computer training lab where classes are presented on a variety of programs, including Pen-Link and Analyst's Notebook.
- An Information Systems Support Unit that supports over 30 different federal, state, and local law enforcement and public databases complemented by over 40 open-source databases onsite at LA CLEAR, maintains the HIDTA node, and is a RISS node within the RISSNET information sharing highway; and
- Intelligence and deconfliction services provided to 255 federal, state, and local LEAs, regional and district offices, and task forces in California.



The JRIC serves as an intelligence coordination fusion center for the JTTFs and FBI Field Intelligence Groups within the HIDTA region. To enhance efficiency in 2010, the JRIC and the Joint Drug Intelligence Group joined to become one intelligence effort; the JRIC is now considered one of the HIDTA’s three intelligence initiatives. The lead agency for the JRIC is the FBI and the initiative is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement and public service agencies. The FBI represents the JRIC as a voting member of the HIDTA Executive Board.

To enhance communications and joint use among personnel, the FBI Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) is co-located with JRIC. To share secure communications, analysts and managers assigned to JRIC, along with the other two HIDTA intelligence initiatives, have access to the office.

INCH, located in Riverside County, is a full-service intelligence support component with a primary focus on methamphetamine production and trafficking. Additionally, they are the primary intelligence center that provides comprehensive intelligence support to the 4 county HIDTA Domestic Highway Enforcement Teams, the Vehicle Interdiction Pipeline Enforcement Resource (VIPER). The Lead agency is the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement, violent crime, and terrorism task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
California Border Enforcement Team (HSI)	Los Angeles County
Domestic Highway Enforcement Team – VIPER (HIDTA)	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside & San Bernardino Counties
Inland Crackdown Allied Task Force (HIDTA)	Riverside County
Inland Empire Financial Crimes Task Force (USSS)	Riverside County
Inland Narcotic Clearing House (HIDTA)	Riverside County
Inland Regional Apprehension Team – Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Riverside County
Inland Regional Narcotic Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	San Bernardino County
Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (HSI)	Los Angeles County
Joint Regional Intelligence Center (HIDTA / DHS Fusion Center)	Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties
Los Angeles Border Enforcement Strike Team (HSI)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Parcel Interdiction Task Force (DEA)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Human Trafficking Task Force (FBI)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Marijuana Eradication Task Force (LASD/DEA)	Los Angeles County



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Los Angeles Interagency Metropolitan Police Apprehension Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Narcotics Task Force (DEA)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Metro Violent Crimes – Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Parcel Interdiction Team (USPS)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (HIDTA)	Los Angeles County
Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force (FBI)	Orange County
Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center (DHS Fusion Center)	Orange County
Orange County Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)	Orange County
Orange County Narcotic Enforcement Team (DEA)	Orange County
Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force (USMS)	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside & San Bernardino Counties
Palm Springs Narcotic Enforcement Team (DEA)	Riverside County
Regional Methamphetamine Task Force (HIDTA) - Riverside	Riverside County
Regional Methamphetamine Task Force (HIDTA) – San Bernardino	San Bernardino County
Regional Methamphetamine Task Force – Los Angeles (HIDTA)	Los Angeles County
Regional Methamphetamine Task Force - Orange (HIDTA)	Orange County
Regional Narcotics Suppression Program (HIDTA)	Orange County
Riverside County Gang Impact Team (FBI)	Riverside County
Riverside County Human Trafficking Task Force (FBI)	Riverside County
Riverside County Marijuana Eradication Team (HIDTA)	Riverside County
Riverside Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)	Riverside County
San Bernardino County Human Trafficking Task Force (FBI)	San Bernardino County
San Bernardino County Marijuana Eradication Team)	San Bernardino County
San Bernardino County Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	San Bernardino County
San Bernardino International Parcel Interdiction Team – ICEFIT (HSI)	San Bernardino County
San Bernardino Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)	San Bernardino County
Santa Ana Violent Crimes & Gang - Safe Streets Task Force	Orange County
Sinaloa Cartel Strike Force (DEA)	Los Angeles County
Southern California Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside & San Bernardino Counties
Southwest Border Task Force (DEA)	Los Angeles County
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Los Angeles County



### ***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA facilitates cooperation and joint efforts among more than 153 federal, state, and local LEAs, and involves over 608 personnel participating in the HIDTA task force and intelligence initiatives.

The HIDTA facilitates an initiative cooperation agreement between intelligence and task force initiatives, enhances lines of communication, and defines AORs. The plan also brings an enhanced level of intelligence resources to the HIDTA law enforcement community. Law enforcement's intelligence needs are addressed regardless of which component of the ISS is initially contacted for service. The ISS then focuses on defining viable targets and providing meaningful case support, based on major drug trafficking intelligence information that has been gathered by the ISS and various law enforcement elements within the region.

The HIDTA task force then applies all necessary investigative resources to identify, prioritize, target, and dismantle the major poly-drug DTOs found operating in the HIDTA region on a regional, national, and international level. All task forces, in concert with the ISS, review ongoing cases. The goal is to reevaluate their targets' viability and redistribute resources, if necessary, to ensure maximum impact and overall success. Case, subject, and event deconfliction are major components of these efforts.

All LEAs and task forces (to include all JTTFs and intelligence centers within the HIDTA region) utilize the LA CLEAR to perform all case and event deconfliction.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA task forces identified and targeted for enforcement action 298 major DTOs/MLOs operating in and through the region. Much of the effort to disrupt and dismantle many of the DTOs/MLOs was the result of long-term, multi-year investigations. Once targeted, 214 (72%) of the major drug trafficking/money laundering organizations were dismantled or severely disrupted in 2022. Of the DTOs/MLOs disrupted or dismantled, 88 were international, 21 were multistate, and 105 were local in nature.

The HIDTA invested \$16.3 million in its initiatives and seized 1,134 tons of illegal drugs with a wholesale value of \$6.1 billion, for a total ROI of \$374.96. In 2022, initiatives dismantled 4 methamphetamine conversion laboratories, and 1 "low level" methamphetamine powder laboratory. All the methamphetamine conversion laboratories were "super" labs, yielding 10 or more pounds of product per cycle. This represented 80 percent of all the methamphetamine conversion "super labs" seized in the State of California (5).

In 2022, task forces removed over 1,134 tons of dangerous drugs from the streets. This included more than 5.2 tons of cocaine, 1,107.6 tons of marijuana, 509 pounds of heroin, more than 19.6 tons of methamphetamine, 1.3 tons of fentanyl powder and 8,696,889 million dosage units of fentanyl, and 5,168 vaping cartridges. Additionally, over \$26.4 million in cash and an additional \$153 thousand in property assets were seized. There were 2,229 individuals arrested for various high-level drug and money laundering offenses and 974 firearms were seized.



A continuing, emerging trend/drug threat in the HIDTA in 2022 involves the fabrication of Butane Honey Oil (BHO) laboratories. In 2022, enforcement initiatives seized 50 BHO laboratories and 6 (12%) of the 50 seized BHO laboratories involved some type of fire or explosion. BHO is odorless when smoked and is typically used in vaporizers, water pipes, electronic cigarettes, or similar devices. The results are potent due to the concentrated high levels of THC.

In total, 60 clandestine laboratories were dismantled in 2022, including 2 fentanyl laboratories; 3 dimethyltryptamine (DMT) laboratories, which includes 2 “super” laboratories; and 50 BHO (also known as “honey oil”) laboratories (28 were “super” laboratories) and 5 methamphetamine laboratories (1 powder and 4 crystal “super” conversion laboratories).

In 2022, the HIDTA ISS provided analytical support to 1,591 major investigations and processed 66,905 critical events (this number included 7,398 (11%) deconflictions wherein various undercover law enforcement operations are notified when they are about to conflict with each other for several reasons) and 192,053 case/subject/target element deconflictions. Additionally, the HIDTA provided 55,069 hours of training to some 7,001 law enforcement students.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>\$2.25</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>1,258</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>\$1.62</b>	<b>\$374.96</b>	<b>1,591</b>



## Michigan HIDTA

**Designated in 1997**

**Executive Director – Rinaldo Ollie**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Michigan HIDTA’s mission is to reduce the production and trafficking of illegal drugs, related violent crime, guns, and money laundering in the region and throughout the United States. The mission is accomplished through the coordination and sharing of intelligence, a unified law enforcement effort, and community cooperation to improve the quality of life in Michigan and throughout the United States. The HIDTA coordinates and synchronizes the focus and energy of its law enforcement partners by providing a common, neutral environment for planning and implementing strategies to address the drug, guns, and violent crime threat in the region.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA has adopted a three-tiered enforcement strategy. The initiatives target street-level dealers threatening the community, mid-level dealers and priority targets, and major DTOs and MLOs identified in the threat assessment. These initiatives are supported by task force teams that address the serious threat caused by violent felons, firearms, and fugitives associated with DTOs.

The HIDTA accomplishes its mission and addresses the threat in the region through a united response from its federal, state, local, and Tribal partners, taking full advantage of their knowledge, skills, and expertise. Through co-location, interagency cooperation, and consolidation of strategic and tactical information, the HIDTA fosters a comprehensive response to illicit drug trafficking by bringing together all available law enforcement resources. Cooperative working relationships have been supported and strengthened over many years by the Executive Board and the Executive Director to ensure that enhanced communication, collaboration, and information sharing support effective, intelligence-driven investigations.

### *Location*

The HIDTA is based in Southfield, a suburb of Detroit, and its AOR comprises the entire State of Michigan. Furthermore, the following 12 HIDTA designated counties are located within the HIDTA AOR:

- Allegan, Genesee, Kalamazoo, Kent, Macomb, Muskegon, Oakland, Saginaw, St. Clair, Van Buren, Washtenaw, and Wayne

These counties are home to approximately 6.3 million people and include major illicit drug markets in Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Warren, Kalamazoo, Pontiac, Port Huron, Muskegon, and Saginaw. Detroit, Flint, Pontiac, and Saginaw share similar characteristics that contribute to violent crime, including high poverty rates, high unemployment rates, high narcotics usage, and reduction in local law enforcement staffing. Drug-related violent crime continues to pose a significant threat in these areas. The HIDTA continues to support the Michigan State Police



Secure Cities Partnership, which provides enhanced, regionalized, data-driven law enforcement services to the cities of Detroit, Pontiac, Saginaw, and Flint in an effort to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in these areas. The HIDTA teams seized 1,768 firearms in 2022, down from the 1,912 firearms in 2021.

***Initiatives***

The HIDTA currently supports 29 initiatives: 22 investigative/enforcement initiatives, 2 fugitive apprehension, 2 interdiction, 1 training, 1 investigative support and deconfliction, and 1 management and coordination. The focus of the investigative/ enforcement initiatives is as follows:

- DTOs (17), money laundering (1), prescription drug diversion (1), Dark Web drug-trafficking (1) drug-related violent crime (1), and firearms (1)

***Short-Term Objectives***

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>\$4.50</b>	<b>\$18.50</b>	<b>401</b>

***Threat Assessment***

The HIDTA is located between major drug markets in Chicago and New York City, shares an international border with Canada, and has three of the top 25 busiest commercial land ports in the United States. DTOs transport illicit drugs into and through the region from Chicago, New York, Atlanta, the Southwest border, and Canada. The HIDTA major drug markets serve as distribution centers for smaller markets within the region and neighboring states. Mexican DTOs are the primary source of supply for cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin and low-grade marijuana for Michigan.

Fentanyl is readily available and its use continues to increase throughout most areas in the state. In 2022, the HIDTA task forces seized a total of 123 kilograms of fentanyl compared to 211 kilograms in 2021, which constitutes a 42 percent decrease from 2021 to 2022. Additionally, the HIDTA task forces seized a total of 29,507 fentanyl dosage units in 2022 compared to 88,854 dosage units seized in 2021, which constitutes a 67 percent decrease from 2021 to 2022. Michigan State Police forensic laboratory data, identifying the predominant drug type in tested samples, showed roughly a 14 percent decrease in the presence of fentanyl from 2021 to 2022.<sup>29</sup>

While heroin continues to decline with the rise in fentanyl, it is still a viable threat in Michigan. In 2022, 26 percent of drug teams surveyed reported a decrease in heroin seizures from 2021. In 2022, 87 percent of drug teams reported heroin is more prevalent, 58 percent reported it is stable, and 21 percent reported it is less prevalent compared to 2021. Mexican Brown (MEX/BP) is reported as the most predominant type of heroin within Michigan, followed by Mexican Black Tar (MEX/T). A reason for some teams reporting heroin is less prevalent may be an indication



that most heroin seized actually contains fentanyl and may be reported as fentanyl rather than heroin. Heroin use, in combination with opioid use, continues to have a detrimental impact on jurisdictions throughout Michigan. The majority of heroin is acquired by consumers at known drug houses or private residences and through street sales. Due to the rise in fentanyl, heroin consumption is declining. According to drug teams surveyed, the majority of heroin sold on the streets is actually fentanyl.

Heroin and/or fentanyl mixed with other common street drugs pressed into pill form to resemble legitimate pharmaceutical drugs has become a significant emerging threat as has mixing heroin/fentanyl with substances like xylazine, a veterinary sedative, muscle relaxant and analgesic.

The HIDTA task forces seized 15 kilograms of heroin in 2022 compared to 46 kilograms in 2021, which constitutes a 67 percent decrease from 2021 to 2022. In 2022, there were 14,246 Michigan residents admitted to publicly-funded treatment facilities for heroin use (23% of all public admissions), a 9 percent decrease from the 15,740 admissions in 2021.

Crystal methamphetamine continues to be a significant threat in Michigan. The presence of Mexican crystal methamphetamine trafficked from the Southwest Border continues to be prevalent. The availability of crystal methamphetamine, continues to increase, with 97 percent of drug teams reporting the drug is readily available compared to 97 percent in 2021, which is consistent with the previous reporting period. Additionally, 74 percent of drug teams reported an increase in availability. The HIDTA task forces seized 276 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine in 2022, which is roughly a 54 percent decrease from the 596 kilograms seized in 2021. This decrease may be due to the surge of crystal methamphetamine availability in 2021 within Michigan. In 2021, reporting suggested Mexican drug cartels flooded the market with a low-cost, potentially lethal drug that is highly addictive and increasingly easy to obtain. For example, in June 2021, southwest Michigan reported a record-breaking seizure of 50 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine with a street value of over \$1 million. Significant seizures have continued into 2022 as well.

In 2022, 39 percent of teams surveyed reported crystal methamphetamine as their most significant drug threat compared to 38 percent in 2021. The HIDTA task force teams seized a total of 9 kilograms of methamphetamine powder in 2022 compared to 1 kilogram in 2021. However, this increase is likely correlated to counterfeit tablets containing methamphetamine being reported as methamphetamine powder seizures as there is no separate category for methamphetamine pills. According to drug teams surveyed, some areas reported heroin users are resorting to crystal methamphetamine. It is unknown at this time if crystal methamphetamine is a preferred drug over heroin, if it is more available than heroin, or if users are switching from heroin to crystal methamphetamine due to fear of an opioid overdose. An initial assumption was that users may use whatever drug was more available given the COVID-19 pandemic impacts on the drug supply, however, recent reporting indicates crystal methamphetamine is an ever-increasing threat and the use and availability will continue to increase. Additional reporting also suggests that Mexican drug cartels are promoting crystal methamphetamine sales over cocaine sales as it is pervasive and cheap. In 2022, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) reported 6,468 Michigan residents indicated methamphetamine as their



primary drug of choice upon admission for treatment, a 7.8 percent increase from the 6,013 admissions in 2021.<sup>30</sup>

Cocaine is a significant drug threat and is readily available across the State of Michigan. The availability of cocaine continues to increase with 97 percent of drug teams reporting the drug is readily available compared to 91 percent in 2021. The HIDTA task forces seized roughly 5,711 kilograms of cocaine in 2022 compared to roughly 272 kilograms in 2021; however, the increase is due to one HIDTA team's significant seizure of 4,930 kilograms of cocaine outside the United States pursuant to an investigation of an international DTO. Crack cocaine in Michigan continues to be a moderate drug threat and its availability slightly decreased since the last reporting period. MDHHS data show there were 6,524 publicly-funded treatment admissions for cocaine use in 2022, a 23 percent increase from the 5,311 reported in 2021.<sup>31</sup>

Prescription drug diversion and misuse continue to be a significant threat to the state due to availability through multiple methods of acquisition. Consistent with last reporting period, these drugs are readily available and in high demand across all jurisdictions. The methods of acquiring illegal prescription drugs include illegal purchases at known drug houses or private residences, diversion by doctor/pharmacist, street sales, "doctor shopping," (i.e., the practice of visiting more than one doctor in a short time span in order to obtain multiple prescriptions of the same medication), prescription forgeries, and pharmacy theft. Another method includes visiting physicians who operate as DTOs. Illegally obtained pharmaceutical drugs from Detroit and the surrounding metropolitan area are subsequently distributed at higher costs to other states like Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Dakota and West Virginia.<sup>32</sup> However, with the rapid increase in availability of counterfeit pharmaceutical pills from multiple sources, it is unknown if the demand for traditionally diverted pharmaceuticals will decrease. For example, if it is easier for local DTOs to import large quantities of counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl compared to working with doctors, pharmacies, or "recruiters," the aforementioned trend may change.

In 2022, substance use treatment facility prescription drug admissions constituted 7 percent of total drug treatment admissions in Michigan. Prescription drugs accounted for the largest percentage of substance use disorder treatment admissions in 5 of the 83 counties statewide, which is a decrease from the 18 counties in 2021.<sup>33</sup> The HIDTA Task Force Teams seized a total of 559 kilograms and 84,501 dosage units of narcotic prescription drugs in 2022 compared to 21 kilograms and 78,136 dosage units in 2021. The MDHHS reports 4,532 Michigan resident admissions for publicly-funded treatment for prescription opioid use in 2022.<sup>34</sup>

Michigan legalized adult-use marijuana in 2018, and the first regulated dispensaries opened at the end of 2019. Despite Michigan's legalization of recreational marijuana, black market marijuana is still being trafficked and remains a threat. As such, marijuana continues to be the most readily available controlled substance in the State of Michigan. According to drug teams surveyed, 97 percent reported it is readily available with 67 percent reporting more availability than in 2021. MDHHS data show there were 2,643 publicly funded treatment admissions for marijuana use in Michigan in 2022. This amounted roughly to a 21.6 percent decrease from the 3,373 reported in 2021.<sup>35</sup>



Marijuana produced in Michigan is illegally distributed to other states. Mexico remains the primary source of supply for low quality, high yield marijuana imported to Michigan. In 2022, 3,878 kilograms of marijuana (including plants) was seized compared to 6,406 kilograms in 2021.

MDMA, also known as “ecstasy,” continues to be moderately available in Michigan. MDMA, both in tablet and powder form, is typically imported from China to Canada or manufactured in clandestine laboratories in Canada then smuggled to Michigan or sent via parcel services. Synthetic drugs, to include spice/herbal products and bath salts, continue to be seen in the state, though availability has continued to decrease.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

Supervisors from the DEA, FBI, and Michigan State Police work in conjunction with the HIDTA Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center (ISDC) manager to co-manage the ISDC. They meet on a regular basis to discuss current trends and report updated agency operations. This commitment provides an open environment with free sharing of information across agency boundaries. The Detroit and Southeast Michigan Information and Intelligence Center (DSEMIIC), known as the Fusion Center for southeastern Michigan, is fully operational and co-located with the HIDTA ISDC. More than 200 law enforcement entities use the ISDC for event deconfliction, case matching, and investigative support services. In 2022, the HIDTA processed 15,785 requests for event deconfliction and identified 736 potential blue-on-blue conflicts. The ISDC also processed 6,099 cases for matching, identifying 1,975 positive case matches allowing the HIDTA to bring together separate law enforcement agencies investigating the same subject/residence/business/etc. In addition, the ISDC processed more than 721 requests for investigative support during 2022 an increase of 28.8 percent from the more than 560 requests in 2021.

In response to the continued increase of heroin, fentanyl, and opioid-related fatal and nonfatal overdoses throughout the state, the HIDTA continues to participate in the ORS Initiative in conjunction with federal, state, and local partners. The cornerstone of the ORS is the collaborative efforts of a DIO and PHA team. In conjunction with the ISDC, in which the DIO is embedded, the HIDTA continues to serve as the central repository for information and intelligence regarding opioid-related overdoses and deaths collected from law enforcement incident reports submitted to the HIDTA. The team analyzed 1,116 overdose reports in 2022. Currently, Michigan does not have centralized reporting of this data in real time and unlike some states, does not have legislative policy requiring agencies across the state to report overdose events to a centralized database such as ODMAP.

The HIDTA in conjunction with the MDHHS have integrated state-wide emergency medical services suspected overdose data into ODMAP with the goal of providing real-time overdose data to our public safety and public health partners throughout the state. In 2022, there were 32,906 suspected overdose incidents, in Michigan (2,016 fatal overdoses and 30,890 non-fatal overdoses) tracked in the ODMAP platform. The HIDTA PHA and University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center partners developed the System for Opioid Overdose Surveillance (SOS). In 2020, the SOS web-based dashboard that offers two levels of access transitioned from weekly data updates to daily updates. The first access level is public and displays county-level



summaries. The second level of access available to authorized public health and public safety users maps non-fatal and fatal opioid overdose incidents in near real-time, and provides demographic briefs. Since the dashboard launched in late 2019, more than 500 unique public health or public safety stakeholders from 98 percent of Michigan counties have requested logins. Stakeholders span local public health, law enforcement, outreach and prevention organizations, treatment providers, medical examiners, and more. SOS collects statewide EMS naloxone administration data and medical examiner data covering more than 80 % of the state’s population. Local communities are using SOS to inform data-driven opioid overdose prevention and response efforts with the goal of reducing overdose injuries and deaths. The HIDTA public safety and public health partners also utilize ODMAP to provide actionable real-time data to focus their attention on those residents and those areas most in need of assistance and care. Working with our partners at the MDHHS and the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA, real-time naloxone administration data for the State of Michigan is integrated into ODMAP.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Saginaw County
Border Enforcement Security Task Force (HSI)	Michigan-Wide
Combined Hotel Interdiction Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Wayne County
County of Macomb Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Macomb County
DEA Flint (HIDTA)	Genesee County
DEA Grand Rapids (HIDTA)	Kent County
DEA Group 2 (HIDTA)	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties
DEA Group 3 (DEA)	Michigan-Wide
DEA Group 4 (DEA)	Michigan-Wide
DEA Group 5 (HIDTA)	Oakland and Wayne Counties
DEA Group 6 (HIDTA)	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties
DEA Group 7 (HIDTA)	Wayne County
DEA Group 8 (HIDTA)	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties
DEA Group 9 (HIDTA)	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties
DEA Group 10 (HIDTA)	Macomb, Wayne, Oakland Counties
DEA Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Michigan-Wide
DEA Tactical Diversion Squad (HIDTA)	Detroit Metropolitan Area
Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team (HIDTA)	Wayne County



Detroit Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Detroit Metropolitan Area
Detroit Violent Gang Task Force (FBI)	Detroit, MI
Firearms Investigation Team (HIDTA)	Wayne and Genesee County
Flint Area Narcotics Group (HIDTA)	Genesee County
Genesee County Safe Streets Task Force	Flint, MI
Grand Rapids Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Kent County
Homeland Security Investigations BEST (HIDTA)	St. Clair County
Homeland Security Investigations Dark Web Task Force (HIDTA)	Michigan Wide
Livingston and Washtenaw Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Livingston, Washtenaw County
Metropolitan Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Kent County
Metro Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb
Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Oakland County
Oakland County Violent Gang Task Force (FBI)	Oakland County
Southwest Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Kalamazoo, Allegan County
West Michigan Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Allegan and Muskegon Counties

### ***Task Force Coordination***

The teams listed above include all enforcement task forces supported by the HIDTA. They coordinate their activities through direct communication, case matching, and event deconfliction conducted by the ISDC, at task force commander meetings coordinated by the HIDTA, and through their initiating federal, state and local agencies. Each member agency of the HIDTA Executive Board uses the ISDC for deconfliction and case support purposes.

Each year, the HIDTA prepares a threat assessment to provide information on DTOs, MLOs, firearms trafficking, violent crime, drug trafficking trends, production techniques, gangs, drug-related homicides, and information regarding threats along the United States-Canada border. Timely intelligence bulletins and relevant regional law enforcement information are shared electronically through an extensive contact list and directly with the Michigan Intelligence Operations Center (MIOC) located in Lansing.

The HIDTA also houses representatives from the Michigan State Police, DEA, Detroit Police Department, FBI, ATF, HSI, DHS, Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railroad investigators, U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), Livonia Police Department, and the Michigan National Guard Counterdrug program. These agents/analysts work in conjunction with the ISDC Coordinator, DEA, FBI, and Michigan State Police supervisors, agents, and officers for day-to-day intelligence gathering and sharing, dissemination, and case support.

The DSEMIIC, a satellite of the Michigan Fusion Center is co-located with the HIDTA ISDC. Its function complements the ISDC and vice versa.



***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA responds to the drug threats facing its AOR by using established methods augmented by innovative strategies. Performance measures for 2022 demonstrate that the HIDTA achieved outcomes by successfully disrupting/dismantling 108 DTOs/MLOs. Of the organizations disrupted or dismantled, 54 were international or multistate in scope. In 2022 initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of more than \$61.9 million from the marketplace and seized more than \$27.7 million in cash and other drug-related assets from DTOs for a ROI of \$21.97.

The HIDTA recognizes two key elements that are critical to conducting efficient and effective drug trafficking investigations – coordinated, co-located, commingled efforts where federal, state, and local partners work together, and information sharing among agencies in a timely manner. The HIDTA continues to facilitate information sharing through its ISDC and by fostering close working relationships with its initiatives and law enforcement partners.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>\$4.04</b>	<b>\$16.50</b>	<b>386</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>\$6.80</b>	<b>\$15.17</b>	<b>328</b>



## Midwest HIDTA

**Designated in 1996**

**Executive Director – Daniel Neill**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Geographically situated in America’s heartland, Midwest HIDTA’s mission is to reduce drug availability in critical and identified markets by creating and supporting intelligence-driven enforcement task forces whose activities are aimed at identifying and disrupting or dismantling DTOs. The HIDTA’s AOR provides a fertile environment for the importation, manufacturing, and distribution of narcotics. Therefore, the HIDTA’s mission is to reduce the production and trafficking of illegal drugs within and through its AOR by creating and supporting intelligence-driven, enforcement task forces whose activities are aimed at identifying and disrupting or dismantling DTOs. This is accomplished by enhancing and coordinating drug control efforts among federal, state, local, and Tribal LEAs. Central to this mission are cooperative, multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task forces, interagency collaboration, and the sharing of accurate and timely information and intelligence among participating agencies.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA has developed a cohesive and comprehensive regional program focused on reducing and disrupting the importation, distribution, and manufacturing of illegal drugs. The task forces maintain an aggressive posture toward enforcement activities. The HIDTA has identified primary and secondary threat areas, defined drug importation and transportation corridors, and well-known areas of local drug production. Investigators conduct complex, in-depth, multi-jurisdictional OCDETF, priority target organization (PTO), CPOT, and other TCO investigations with an emphasis on dismantling the entire organization and reducing drug-related violence. Investigations target the highest level of DTOs and MLOs using undercover operations, innovative techniques, and surveillance of command-and-control communications. These investigations are intelligence-driven and conducted in a cooperative spirit among federal, state, and local counterparts in a task force arrangement.

### *Location*

The primary management and coordination initiative of the HIDTA, is located in Kansas City, Missouri. Field program staff assist and provide coordination support to regional task forces and HIDTA initiatives. Field staff offices are located in four of the states that are involved in the HIDTA Program. The HIDTA encompasses the following counties in seven states:

- Illinois: Madison, Rock Island, St. Clair
- Iowa: Black Hawk, Linn, Marshall, Muscatine, Polk, Pottawattamie, Scott, and Woodbury



- Kansas: Barton, Cherokee, Crawford, Finney, Franklin, Johnson, Labette, Leavenworth, Miami, Saline, Sedgwick, Seward, Shawnee, and Wyandotte
- Missouri: Boone, Buchanan, Cape Girardeau, Christian, Clay, Cole, Franklin, Greene, Jasper, Jackson, Jefferson, Platte, Scott, St. Charles, Texas, and St. Louis
- Nebraska: Dakota, Dawson, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison, Platte, Sarpy, and Scotts Bluff
- North Dakota: Burleigh, Cass, Grand Forks, Morton, Richland, Walsh, Ward, and Williams
- South Dakota: Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Clay, Codington, Custer, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Union, and Yankton

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 60 initiatives: 49 investigation/interdiction, 5 intelligence, 1 prevention, 1 management, 1 training, 1 prosecution, 1 ORS, and 1 technology.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>\$1.53</b>	<b>\$13.09</b>	<b>4,245</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

Considering its nexus to drug poisoning deaths, fentanyl is now the greatest drug threat to the HIDTA region. This is evident in both the HIDTA’s Law Enforcement (LES) and Public Health Surveys (PHS), along with Performance Management Process (PMP) data reported by the HIDTA law enforcement initiatives. Methamphetamine and heroin are the region’s second and third-greatest drug threats, respectively. A slightly higher percentage of DTOs were found to be gang-related and violent in 2022 compared to the previous year. Polydrug DTOs remained the same percentage from 2021 to 2022 with over a little more than one in four DTOs being polydrug. The HIDTA’s central location within the continental United States and extensive network of roadways make the region ideal for DTOs and criminal enterprises intent on moving drugs into or through the region, to other destinations.

Marijuana, methamphetamine, and fentanyl are the most widely available and widely used drugs in the HIDTA. Law enforcement and public health agencies report unprecedented levels of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids in the region’s illicit drug supply. Privately owned vehicles, the United States Postal Service (USPS), and commercial parcel services (e.g., FedEx, UPS) are the most common methods used by DTOs to traffic drugs into and throughout the HIDTA. The



HIDTA law enforcement initiatives documented 955 DTOs and four MLOs operating within the region in 2022, with 8,469 members and 1,381 leaders identified. This is a 17 percent increase from the 815 DTOs identified in 2021. DTOs in the HIDTA utilize novel technologies to facilitate communication, obtain payment, and monitor drug courier location. These platforms include encrypted messaging applications, social media, portable GPS devices, and the dark web. The HIDTA experienced a 6 percent decrease in drug-related poisoning deaths from 2021 to 2022. Sixty-one percent of these deaths involved opioids including fentanyl and heroin.

***Intelligence Initiatives***

The HIDTA plays a central role in assuring coordination and cooperation between initiatives and, to a lesser degree, with other agencies and task forces that voluntarily participate. All the enforcement drug task forces share information with the ISC and actively participate in the HIDTA Intelligence Coordination Plan. The HIDTA provides the only formal coordination plan in the region, and it will continue to cooperate with the nine state and major urban area fusion or threat integration centers in the AOR.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
ATF Crime Gun Intelligence Center (HIDTA)	Kansas City, MO
Cedar Rapids DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Linn County, IA
Central Iowa Drug Task Force (JAG)	Story County, IA
TRIDENT Task Force (HIDTA)	Hall County, NE
Combined Ozarks Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement Team	Lawrence County, MO
Cooperative Operation for Drug Enforcement Task Force	Lincoln County, NE
Des Moines DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Polk County, IA
DCI Statewide Drug Task Force (JAG)	Pierre, SD
Dubuque Area Drug Task Force (JAG)	Dubuque County, IA
East Central Drug Task Force (JAG)	Audrain County, MO
Fargo DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Cass County, ND
Franklin County Narcotics Enforcement Unit (HIDTA/JAG)	Franklin County, MO
Garden City DEA/Finney County Task Force (HIDTA)	Finney County, KS
Grand Forks Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Grand Forks County, ND
Greater Omaha Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Douglas County, NE
Iowa Interdiction Support (HIDTA/JAG)	Polk County, IA
Jackson County Drug Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Jackson County, MO
Jasper County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Jasper County, MO
Jasper County Drug Task Force (JAG)	Jasper County, MO
Jefferson City DEA (HIDTA)	Cole County, MO
Jefferson County Municipal Enforcement Group	Jefferson County, MO
Johnson County Multiagency Drug Task Force (JAG)	Iowa City, IA



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Kansas Bureau of Investigations (HIDTA)	Topeka, KS
Kansas City DEA Interdiction TF (HIDTA)	Platte County, MO
Kansas City DEA Northland Drug Task	Platte County, MO
Kansas City FBI (HIDTA)	Jackson County, MO
Kansas City Missouri Metro Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Jackson County, MO
Kansas City/Overland Park DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Johnson County, MO
Kansas Interdiction Support (HIDTA)	Shawnee County, MO
Lafayette County Narcotics Unit (JAG)	Lafayette County, MO
Lake Area Narcotics Enforcement Group (JAG)	Camden County, MO
Lee County Narcotics Task Force (JAG)	Keokuk, IA
Lincoln-Lancaster Drug Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Lancaster County, NE
Metro Area Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Burleigh County, ND
Mid Iowa Drug Task Force (JAG)	Marshall County, IA
Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force (JAG)	Polk County, IA
Mid-Missouri Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force (JAG)	Pettis County, MO
Midwest HIDTA Investigate Support Center (HIDTA)	Platte County, MO
Mineral Area Drug Task Force (JAG)	Farmington, MO
Missouri Interdiction and Information Exchange (HIDTA)	Cole County, MO
MO Western Interdiction & Narcotics (JAG)	Platte County, MO
Muscatine Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Muscatine County, IA
Nebraska Interdiction Support (HIDTA)	Lancaster County, NE
North Central Iowa Narcotics Task Force (JAG)	Cerro Gordo County, IA
North Dakota Interdiction (HIDTA)	Burleigh, ND
Northeast Missouri Drug Task Force (JAG)	Marion County, MO
Northeast Iowa Drug Task Force (JAG)	Decorah, IA
Northeast Kansas Drug Task Force	Olathe, KS
Omaha ATF Illegal Firearms Task Force (HIDTA)	Douglas County, NE
Omaha DEA Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Douglas County, NE
Omaha Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Douglas County, NE
Pennington County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Pennington County, SD
Quad Cities Federal Gang Task Force (FBI)	Rock Island, Illinois
Quad Cities Metropolitan Enforcement Group (HIDTA)	Rock Island County, IL
S.W. Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force (JAG)	Council Bluffs, IA
Scott County Drug Task Force (JAG)	Scott County, IA
Sioux Falls Task Force (HIDTA)	Minnehaha County, SD
South Central Iowa Drug Task Force (JAG)	Centerville, IA
South Dakota Interdiction (HIDTA)	Pierre, SD
South Central Drug Task Force (JAG)	West Plains, MO
Southeast Iowa Inter-Agency Drug Task Force (JAG)	Ottumwa, IA
Southeast Iowa Narcotics Task Force (JAG)	Burlington, IA
Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Cape Girardeau County,
Southeast Multi-County Agency (JAG)	Wahpeton, ND
Springfield DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Green County, MO



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
St. Charles County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	St. Charles County, MO
St. Louis County Multi Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	St. Louis County, MO
St. Louis DEA Intelligence Group (HIDTA)	St. Louis City, MO
St. Louis DEA Major Investigations and Conspiracy Group (37) (HIDTA)	St. Louis City, MO
St. Louis DEA Violent Traffickers Task Force (HIDTA)	St. Louis City, MO
St. Louis FBI Squad 5 (HIDTA)	St. Louis City, MO
Topeka DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Topeka, KS
Tri-County Drug Task Force (JAG)	Washington County, IA
Tri-State Sioux City DEA Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Woodbury County, IA
Wichita DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Sedgwick County, KS
WING Drug Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Scotts Bluff County, NE
Southwest Narcotics Task Force (JAG)	Dickinson, ND
Stutsman County Narcotics Task Force (JAG)	Jamestown, ND
South Sakakawea Narcotics Task Force (JAG)	Washburn, ND

### ***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA ISC coordinates information sharing through several integrated groups. The DEA’s St. Louis Intelligence Group helps gather, analyze, and evaluate information for the St. Louis DEA regional enforcement area. The St. Louis DEA Regional Wire Intercept Initiative provides a regional-based telecommunications interception strategy for federal, state, and local LEAs. The ATF Gun Crime Intelligence Center is co-located with the HIDTA ISC facility, and the arrangement greatly enhances intelligence sharing related to firearms, gun tracing, and violent drug trafficking offenders. This group provides intelligence support and assistance within the Kansas City division areas of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. All task forces are required to use the SAFETNet deconfliction system. All other task forces in the seven-state HIDTA area, whether federally funded or not, have the ability to voluntarily use SAFETNet to enhance officer safety and event deconfliction. Currently, over 500 task forces or agencies in the AOR use or have access to SAFETNet. SAFETNet also connects to the NVPS, assuring interface with National Drug Pointer Index and other HIDTA deconfliction systems.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 286 DTOs – 27 international, 150 multistate, and 109 local in scope. The wholesale value of drugs removed from the marketplace by Midwest enforcement initiatives was over \$238 million, and cash and asset seizures totaled more than \$18 million. The 2022 ROI (drugs and assets) was calculated at \$16.17.

Although the HIDTA continues to support methamphetamine laboratory seizures and clean-up, the focus has shifted to the exponential growth of methamphetamine produced and trafficked by MDTOs throughout the region. The predominance of Mexican transnational organized crime – along with their regional mid-level cells in every Midwest state, which also traffic in all other



major drugs, to include heroin and fentanyl, cocaine and marijuana – has also led to intelligence-led drug investigations targeting those specific threats.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>\$2.28</b>	<b>\$11.59</b>	<b>4,168</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>\$1.18</b>	<b>\$14.99</b>	<b>5,383</b>



## Nevada HIDTA

**Designated in 2001**

**Executive Director – Keith Carter**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Nevada HIDTA’s vision is to nurture lasting and effective partnerships among federal, state, and local LEAs that are committed to reducing drug trafficking and related violent crime, as well as provide the HIDTA participants the resolve to continue to support and coordinate intelligence-driven investigations through information sharing, deconfliction practices, and training of participating personnel.

The HIDTA’s mission is to reduce drug trafficking and associated crime through intelligence-driven task forces, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in Nevada and other areas of the country. The specific goals of the HIDTA are to:

- reduce drug availability by disrupting/dismantling major poly- DTOs and seizing their drugs and assets;
- maximize the efforts of law enforcement to investigate drug and gang-related criminal organizations and drug-related crime;
- expand and improve the multiagency drug intelligence network within the HIDTA region; and
- improve the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement organizations and their operations.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA’s primary enforcement strategy is to incorporate the use of well trained, well equipped, and commingled intelligence-led law enforcement personnel assigned to task forces to reduce the drug threats and the crime drugs bring to the area. These task forces consist of law enforcement personnel from local, state, and federal agencies whose mission is to identify, investigate, disrupt, and dismantle drug organizations, drug traffickers, criminal operations, gang crime, and MLOs with an emphasis on violent crime reduction.

Through this multiagency program, personnel become the force-multiplier, thus enhancing information and resource sharing. The HIDTA has consistently provided proven results with this time-tested process and rapidly adjusting strategies to meet the demands of changing threats and crime patterns. The extent of information sharing and interagency cooperation fostered through this approach strongly demonstrates that law enforcement personnel are working effectively and efficiently.



Task forces are composed of investigators representing a wide variety of local, state, and federal LEAs, and each contributes unique authorities, perspectives, access to data and additional resources and expertise. The operational strategy ensures that task forces and affiliated agencies deconflict cases and subjects, share information, work cooperatively as necessary to avoid duplication of effort and maximize the use of resources.

The ISC is an important component of the strategy. In addition to providing case support directly to ongoing investigations, the strategy tasked the ISC with conducting analyses of patterns and trends in the drug market that are then used by the HIDTA leadership to proactively direct task force activities.

Continuous monitoring and close coordination efforts are a cornerstone of the strategy – through regular task force supervisor meetings, individual task force and Executive Board meetings, and the strategy calls for the HIDTA leadership to monitor the direction and progress of the initiatives and ensure each is faithfully pursuing the achievement of program goals.

### *Location*

The HIDTA operates out of Las Vegas, Nevada, and comprises two counties:

- Clark and Washoe

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 18 initiatives: 14 enforcement, 1 management, 1 training and prevention, 1 prosecution, and 1 intelligence.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>\$2.84</b>	<b>\$27.99</b>	<b>301</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The HIDTA leadership, through examination of available intelligence trends, seizures, arrests, treatment admissions, drug death cases, investigative cases, and anecdotal information relating to the Nevada drug market, concluded that methamphetamine, paralleled by the surge in fentanyl, would be the most significant targets of all task forces. Methamphetamine and fentanyl remain the most significant threats due the high level of use, availability, lower cost, significant number of people treated for addiction, and the probable relationship to other crimes.

Nevada continues to experience an increase in fentanyl related overdose deaths and has seen a 213 percent increase in fentanyl related seizures in 2022 compared to 2021. The HIDTA AOR is also be subjected to other forms of illicit narcotics being laced with fentanyl. This may be



leading to additional overdose deaths in users who weren't necessarily seeking illicit opioids. Medical Examiners reporting in both Clark and Washoe Counties indicates most overdose related deaths involve a combination of fentanyl and other substances, including methamphetamine. Reporting indicates 52 percent of the fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the HIDTA AOR involved a combination of methamphetamine and fentanyl. In 2022, Nevada dealt with a slight increase in fentanyl-related overdose deaths involving children 18 years of age and under, three of which involved children under the age of five. Data suggests overdoses involving of children 18 years and younger would have leveled off for 2021 and 2022 with the exclusion of those under the age of five.

Heroin trafficking and use continues in Nevada, all available heroin in Nevada is moved through California or Arizona from Mexico. Cocaine is also moved through California or Arizona from Mexico to Nevada, cocaine seizures decreased slightly in Nevada during 2022 as did cocaine-related overdose deaths, it not uncommon for cocaine overdoses to involve fentanyl. As adult-use, regulated marijuana has been legal in Nevada since 2017, resources have been prioritized toward illicit drugs causing significant overdose deaths in the state rather than black market marijuana which is produced in illegal clandestine grows in California and more often indoor grows in the Las Vegas.

***Intelligence Initiatives***

All Nevada task forces use the HIDTA ISC for analytical case support. This results in the information being available to all of the task forces. The other drug units not funded through, but operating within, the AOR use the HIDTA Watch Center for event/subject deconfliction.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA Program enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Clark County Gang Task Force	Clark County
Southern Nevada Transnational Organized Crime Drug Task Force	Clark County
DEA Financial Investigations Task Force	Clark County
Las Vegas Community Impact Initiative - Overdose Response Team	Clark County
Nevada Fugitive Investigative Strike Team	Clark and Washoe
Northern Nevada Drug Task Force	Washoe County
Northern Nevada Interdiction Task Force	Washoe County
DEA Tactical Diversion Squad	Clark County
Regional Offender Drug Enforcement Organization	Clark County
Regional Narcotics Unit	Washoe County
Safe Streets Task Force	Clark County
Southern Nevada Drug Task Force	Clark County
Southern Nevada High Impact Narcotics Task Force	Clark County



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Southern Nevada Interdiction Task Force	Clark County

***Task Force Coordination***

All of the task forces within the HIDTA AOR are required to cooperate and interact with the ISC. Each of the individual agencies in Nevada is required to run all of its deconfliction cases and subjects through the Nevada Watch Center. Information sharing meetings between the ISC analysts and the members of the enforcement task forces are conducted on a regular basis.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

Approximately 80 percent of DTOs investigated by the HIDTA are of Mexican origin, further supporting the notion Mexican DTOs are the predominant source of supply for the major drug types in the HIDTA AOR. Importantly about 30 percent of all DTOs investigated were associated to violent crime. In 2022, the HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 40 DTOs (75% of its target). Of the 40 DTOs disrupted or dismantled, 13 were international, 21 multistate, and 6 were local in nature. The estimated wholesale value of illegal drugs seized was nearly \$112 million and cash and other drug-related assets seized was \$10.7 million, resulting in a combined ROI of \$32.38. The ISC provided analytical support to 258 cases, the Watch Center processed 7,243 event deconflictions, and the HIDTA provided 24,937 hours of training to 1,823 students.

YEAR	DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled	Target Return on Investment: Assets	Target Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support
2022	53	\$2.74	\$24.99	240
YEAR	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2022	40	\$2.83	\$29.55	258



## New England HIDTA

Designated in 1999

Executive Director – J. T. Fallon

### *Purpose and Goals*

The mission of New England HIDTA is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs in New England in support of the *National Drug Control Strategy* by assisting federal, state, and local law enforcement entities participating in the HIDTA Program. The HIDTA seeks to identify, disrupt, and dismantle DTOs and money laundering organizations MLOs; and to further reduce the harmful consequences of drug trafficking by promoting public safety and public health partnerships.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA has developed a strategy designed to encourage interagency cooperation and coordination, bolstered by a commitment to intelligence-led policing and information sharing. The HIDTA provides an agency-neutral program aimed at balancing regional law enforcement efforts to address regional drug threats and national priorities. It continues to foster effective working relationships among six U.S. Attorney's Offices, eight federal LEA), and numerous state and local LEAs. The HIDTA task force initiatives are staffed with co-located and commingled federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. The multi-agency integration present in all initiatives ensures a unified effort in achieving the goals and objectives of the HIDTA.

### *Location*

NEHIDTA comprises 15 counties located throughout the six-state New England region:

- Massachusetts: Bristol, Essex, Hampden, Middlesex, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester
- Connecticut: Fairfield, Hartford, and New Haven
- Rhode Island: Providence
- Vermont: Chittenden
- Maine: Cumberland
- New Hampshire: Hillsborough and Rockingham

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 27 initiatives: 21 Enforcement, 1 Management, 1 Training, 1 Intelligence, and 3 Prevention. In addition, the HIDTA supports 1 special project: Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC).



### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>\$5.40</b>	<b>\$22.92</b>	<b>513</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

According to the 2023 HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment, illicit fentanyl continues to be the number one drug threat across the NEHIDTA region. After fentanyl and heroin, illicit trafficking of cocaine (crack and powder) and methamphetamine present the next greatest threats of concern across the six-state region. NEHIDTA continues to see an increase in morbidity through polysubstance use. The analysis of available data indicates seizures of methamphetamine continue across the region. Methamphetamine, which was historically a niche subculture drug in New England, is moving further into mainstream use. The reasons for this are many, but among them is the availability of inexpensive, high-quality methamphetamine trafficked from the Southwest border.

Pursuant to the 2023 HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment, fentanyl and heroin pose the greatest drug threats to New England. Fentanyl is the primary driver of the ongoing opioid crisis in the region, the use of which, has resulted in more deaths than any other illicit drug. The low cost, high availability, and high rate of addiction has led to an increased demand. Both are readily available at low prices, and while heroin remains a threat, seizures of it have significantly decreased, with only 1.2 percent of NEHIDTA seizures in 2022 being pure heroin. In contrast, 97.1 percent of total seizures recorded by NEHIDTA contained fentanyl. Fentanyl was the only drug recorded where seizures increased in 2022, specifically fentanyl tablets and pills.

Overdoses involving fentanyl continue to increase, while heroin use has decreased. Throughout the six-state New England region, total suspected overdoses involving heroin have decreased from 2021 by 12.3 percent, based on reporting from ODMAP. In comparison, total suspected overdoses involving fentanyl have increased by nearly 106 percent since 2020. Counterfeit prescription pills represent a significant threat in New England and across the United States. Counterfeit prescription pills containing fentanyl and methamphetamine are now more prevalent on the street than the pharmaceutical-grade drugs they imitate. While a majority of the fentanyl and methamphetamine contained within these counterfeit pills originates in Mexico, associated pill presses and other paraphernalia (stamps, dyes, etc.) are seized throughout New England and demonstrate local DTOs production of fake pills. Counterfeit Adderall (methamphetamine) and Oxycodone (fentanyl) pills were the two most frequently encountered varieties in 2022. From 2019 to 2021, all six New England states experienced age-adjusted fatal opioid-related overdose rates that were above the national average. While national and state-level age-adjusted rates of opioid-fatal overdoses for are not yet available, reporting suggests New England will remain well above the national average.



***Intelligence Initiatives***

The HIDTA ISC collects, analyzes, and disseminates detailed and relevant information concerning DTOs, CPOTs, and RPOTs affecting New England and other areas of the country. The ISC serves as a regional clearinghouse for DHE related intelligence submissions and operational support. The ISC also provides strategic intelligence support to assist investigators in probing major conspiracies, projecting potential criminal drug operations, and producing estimates of future major drug activities. This provides agencies with the necessary information to prioritize investigations and enforcement operations. The ISC Watch Center provides deconfliction services to minimize investigative conflicts between agencies. Nearly 300 New England LEAs participate in deconfliction services.

The ISC, co-managed by the FBI and the Massachusetts State Police, is co-located with the Commonwealth Fusion Center in Maynard, Massachusetts. The ISC uses advanced computer technology to assist in collecting data on DTOs, MLOs, emerging border/coastal threats, narcoterrorism, and other organized trafficking groups operating within the region and along the New England border with Canada and the New England coastline.

A priority of the ISC is to provide federal, state, and local law enforcement with event and target deconfliction services through its web-based deconfliction system. Additionally, the HIDTA ISC affiliates with the RISS for information sharing purposes.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or interdiction initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Blackstone Valley Drug Task Force	Worcester County, MA
Boston Drug Task Force	Suffolk County, MA
Boston OCDETF Strike Force	Waltham, MA
Bristol County HIDTA Task Force	New Bedford, MA
Central Massachusetts HIDTA Task Force	Worcester, MA
CINRET South (HIDTA)	Middleboro, MA
CINRET West (HIDTA)	Springfield, MA
Community Narcotics Task Force	Worcester County, MA
Connecticut HIDTA Task Force	Meriden, CT
East Hampden County Narcotic Task Force	Hampden County, MA
Essex County Drug Task Force	Essex County, MA
Financial Investigative Task Force (HIDTA)	Boston, MA
Greater Boston HIDTA Task Force	Waltham, MA
Hampden County District Attorney’s Narcotics Task Force	Hampden County, MA
Maine Drug Enforcement Agency	Maine
New England Domestic Highway Enforcement – Transportation Drug Unit (HIDTA)	Lawrence, MA



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
New England HIDTA Fugitive Task Force	Boston, MA
New Hampshire Attorney General’s Drug Task Force	New Hampshire
North Shore Drug Task Force	Essex County, MA
North Shore HIDTA Task Force	Methuen, MA
North Shore Hillsborough Task Force (HIDTA)	Bedford, NH
North Shore Lowell Task Force (HIDTA)	Methuen, MA
North Suffolk Drug Task Force	Suffolk County, MA
North Worcester County Drug Task Force	Worcester County, MA
Northeast Merrimack Valley Drug Task Force	Essex County, MA
Northern Vermont HIDTA Task Force	Burlington, VT
Plymouth County HIDTA Initiative	Brockton, MA
Providence County HIDTA Task Force	Warwick, RI
Regional Drug and Crime Counter Crime Task Force	Worcester County, MA
Rhode Island HIDTA Task Force	Providence, RI
South Shore Drug Task Force	Plymouth County, MA
Southern Maine HIDTA Task Force	Portland, ME
Southern Middlesex Drug Task Force	Middlesex County, MA
Southern New Hampshire HIDTA Task Force	Bedford, NH
Southwestern Connecticut HIDTA Task Force	Bridgeport, CT
Suburban Middlesex County Drug Task Force	Middlesex County, MA
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Boston, MA
Vermont Drug Task Force	Vermont
WEB Major Crimes Task Force	Plymouth County, MA
Western Massachusetts Task Force (HIDTA)	Springfield, MA

***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA ISC facilitates intelligence sharing among task forces situated throughout New England, as well as the rest of the country. The ISC supports the HIDTA enforcement and interdiction initiatives and continues to explore avenues to increase and coordinate information sharing opportunities with the New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN), state fusion centers, regional intelligence centers, the OCDETF Fusion Center and the FBI JTTF.

The HIDTA task forces regularly share intelligence with other HIDTA task forces through ISC coordination. The HIDTA shares information with JTTF when investigative information or intelligence reveals a nexus to terrorism-related activity. Examples of task force coordination are as follows:

The Southern Maine HIDTA Task Force coordinates and shares intelligence with the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. Coordination and partnership with the OCDETF program are developed and encouraged, as are partnerships with non-HIDTA agencies and organizations.

The New Hampshire Attorney General’s Drug Task Force (NH DTF) coordinates closely with the Southern New Hampshire Task Force, a HIDTA-supported initiative. In OCDETF cases, NH



DTF will often pool resources and play a supporting role for the HIDTA task force or New Hampshire State Police/Narcotics and Investigations Unit.

The HIDTA-supported, DEA-led Northern Vermont HIDTA Task Force (NVTF) identifies, targets, arrests, and prosecutes illicit drug organizations whose activities impact the northern Vermont area. NVTF coordinates and shares intelligence with the Vermont Drug Task Force, a state-sponsored task force responsible for the entire state of Vermont.

The ORS network of one DIO and one PHA in each of the six New England states coordinates and shares intelligence with respective state fusion centers, as well as the HIDTA ISC. ORS personnel work to gather, analyze, and distribute drug-related intelligence and public health data; develop and support data-driven policy and programming initiatives; and facilitate interagency collaboration. DIOs serve to fill a critical gap in intelligence sharing by reporting cross-jurisdictional links, communicating interstate intelligence, relaying case referrals between agencies, and developing timely intelligence reports for law enforcement audiences. PHAs work with numerous key public health agencies and non-governmental (e.g., treatment and prevention) organizations to increase interagency data sharing, and improve coordinated overdose response efforts. ORS is a fusion of public health and public safety efforts designed to yield smarter responses to an increasingly widespread and complex drug overdose issue.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA continues to provide an agency-neutral program, creating initiatives that coordinate the integration of all projects and ensure a unified effort in achieving goals and objectives. During 2022, the HIDTA enhanced drug education and prevention initiatives while providing guidance and information to numerous state-sponsored drug awareness programs. In 2022, task forces identified 363 DTOs/MLOs and dismantled/disrupted 144 of them (27 were international, 42 were multi-state, and 75 were local in nature). In addition, task forces seized illegal drugs with a wholesale value of \$80 million and \$14 million in cash and other drug-related assets. CY 2022 seizures totaled \$94 million, resulting in an overall return on investment (ROI) of \$18.39.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>\$5.40</b>	<b>\$22.91</b>	<b>560</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>\$2.79</b>	<b>\$15.60</b>	<b>508</b>



## New Mexico HIDTA

**Designated in 1990**

**Director – Will R. Glaspy**

### *Purpose and Goals*

New Mexico HIDTA’s mission is to reduce drug availability by supporting multiagency task forces and facilitating intelligence-driven interdiction efforts and investigations aimed at disrupting or dismantling international and domestic DTOs. New Mexico’s topography along the 180-mile international border limits law enforcement communication and presence in many areas and allows smugglers the opportunity to exploit routes through the rough terrain. Coupled with the transportation infrastructure, New Mexico is a significant smuggling corridor and a major trafficking route for illicit drugs. While some of these drugs are destined for criminal markets within the state, the majority are transported to drug markets in other parts of the United States with bulk cash and weapons heading back to Mexico.

The HIDTA mission is accomplished through initiatives that enhance and coordinate drug trafficking control efforts among federal, state, local, and tribal LEAs. The mission facilitates a synchronized system involving coordinated law enforcement intelligence and information sharing, interdiction, investigation, violent fugitive apprehensions, and prosecution efforts to measurably reduce drug trafficking, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in the state and other areas of the country.

### *Strategy*

To combat the drug threats encountered across the state, the HIDTA Executive Committee funds multiagency initiatives that coordinate operations, share intelligence, and leverage resources. These task forces employ intelligence-driven, coordinated efforts to reduce the production, smuggling, trafficking, distribution, and the use of illicit drugs. The HIDTA utilizes coordinated interdiction and investigative initiatives, a strong, aggressive prosecution component, law enforcement intelligence and information sharing, and support components (e.g., forensic crime laboratories, training, and information technology). These efforts are enhanced by an initiative that seeks out fugitive violent drug offenders as its primary mission. The HIDTA also uses a prevention initiative to reduce the illicit drug use, especially in northern New Mexico. Lastly, the HIDTA is incorporating public health and public safety professionals as part of the HIDTA ORS to reduce drug overdoses within the state.

### *Location*

The HIDTA, sharing approximately 180 miles of border with Mexico, operates out of Las Cruces, and comprises 17 of the state’s 33 counties. Those counties include:

- Bernalillo, Chaves, Doña Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe, San Juan, Taos, Torrance, and Valencia



### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA’s integrated systems approach uses coordination, intelligence, and information sharing to synchronize the efforts of enforcement, prosecution, and support initiatives. There are 32 initiatives including: 17 multijurisdictional law enforcement, 7 prosecution, 2 management and coordination, 1 investigative support / information sharing, 2 prevention, 1 forensic support, 1 information technology, and 1 training.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>\$0.95</b>	<b>\$7.55</b>	<b>189</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

New Mexico is a prime transportation corridor for illegal drugs entering the United States from Mexico. It is also a common corridor for drugs passing from California and Arizona to the Midwest and beyond. With three international ports of entry (POEs) funneling thousands of commercial and private vehicles into the state on a daily basis, drug transportation organizations have access to a vast network of interstate highways and local roads that create many options to move illicit drugs through the state. Unfortunately, New Mexico also has a drug problem of its own. Overdose death rates remain high and new threats, like fentanyl, increase the challenge.

The state’s proximity to Mexico, its topography along the sparsely populated 180-mile border, its limited law enforcement presence between United States POEs, and its transportation infrastructure make it a significant smuggling corridor and a major trafficking route for drugs destined for illicit markets within the state, but primarily to other United States drug markets. Weapons and bulk cash are smuggled back into Mexico, primarily through vehicular conveyances utilizing hidden compartments. The sparsely populated international border between New Mexico and Mexico, along the three POEs, represents a high-risk area that presents many challenges to law enforcement; as a result, it is continually exploited by DTOs.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The HIDTA has a full-service ISC divided into two offices. The main office is located in Albuquerque and has primary responsibility for supporting law enforcement in the northern half of the state. There is also a sub-office, which is located in Las Cruces with primary responsibility for supporting law enforcement in the southern half of the state. The ISC supports the entire law enforcement community in its efforts to address and target drug threats in New Mexico. The ISC is able to improve the ability of HIDTA initiatives to disrupt and dismantle DTOs through collaboration, analysis, and information sharing. The ISC assists initiatives with intelligence-driven investigations through research, analysis, and coordination of information. The ISC provides tactical, investigative, and strategic intelligence to initiatives, and other HIDTA participants and LEAs.



The ISC’s core functions include event and subject de-confliction, case support and post-seizure analysis, pen-register and wire-tap support, threat assessments, bulletins, and special projects. Additionally, the ISC provides bilingual, linguistic services that include reviewing, analyzing, and translating tape recordings, documents, statements, and other items related to the intelligence gathering process and investigation. The service also includes investigating social media sites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) for the purpose of gathering criminal intelligence information, bridging existing intelligence gaps, and providing actionable, timely intelligence to the field to assist in the disruption and/or dismantlement of CPOTs, RPOTs, and PTOs.

The ISC manages the electronic connectivity to commercial and law enforcement databases for the HIDTA and handles the day-to-day operation of the deconfliction system, as well as the information sharing and coordination of all intelligence matters, including interagency liaison. Training, strategic reporting, and case support are also provided by the ISC. The ISC supports major drug investigations, including RPOT/CPOT and OCDETF cases. The ISC is the primary collection hub for all highway enforcement intelligence data in the State of New Mexico.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Albuquerque Police Department Narcotics (HIDTA)	Bernalillo County
BEST (ICE)	Statewide
FBI Transnational Organized Crime (HIDTA)	Albuquerque, NM
Fugitive/Violent Offender Task Force (HIDTA)	Statewide
JTTF (FBI)	Albuquerque, New Mexico
NM Border Operations Task Force (HIDTA)	Statewide
NM DEA HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Statewide
NM Department of Public Safety (HIDTA)	Statewide
NM Gang Task Force (JAG)	Statewide
OCDETF Strike Force (DOJ)	Statewide
Region I Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia counties
Region II HIDTA Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	San Juan County
Region III Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, and Taos Counties
Region IV Drug Task Force (Byrne JAG)	Las Vegas, New Mexico
Region V Drug Task Force (Byrne JAG)	Clovis, New Mexico
Region VI Drug Task Force – Chaves County (HIDTA)	Chaves County
Region VI Drug Task Force – Lea County (HIDTA)	Lea County
Region VI Drug Task Force– Lincoln County (HIDTA)	Lincoln and Otero Counties
Region VI Drug Task Force – Pecos Valley (HIDTA)	Eddy County



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Region VII Border Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Luna, Grant, Hidalgo Counties
Regional Interagency Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Doña Ana County
Safe Trails (FBI)	Farmington, New Mexico
Southwest Border Public Corruption Task Force (FBI)	Las Cruces, NM

### ***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA provides a coordination umbrella for federal, state, local, and Tribal drug enforcement agencies and their counterdrug efforts. The Executive Committee, which includes participation from 19 key law enforcement organizations throughout New Mexico, provides leadership and fosters an environment conducive to teamwork and equality among its federal, state, local, and tribal partners. It also ensures a strategy-driven, systemic approach to synchronizing drug enforcement efforts and leveraging resources, thereby increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of its initiatives responsible for implementing the strategy. The multiagency participation and co-location mandate of federal, state, local, and Tribal agencies is the key to the success of this program. Although HIDTA initiatives are already mandated to share information, the Executive Committee encourages information sharing by all LEAs, thereby making collaboration more effective. Frequently, the HIDTA cases receive OCDETF designation, making additional resources available.

The HIDTA mandates its task forces, and encourages non-HIDTA law enforcement participants, to use event and case/subject deconfliction that mitigates officer safety issues and minimizes duplication of effort while leveraging resources. The HIDTA ISC is the coordination hub for deconfliction activities in New Mexico.

The ISC coordinates information sharing for all initiatives. It shares information with LEAs, fusion centers, and other ISCs. The ISC facilitates information sharing concerning DTOs, their smuggling, transportation, distribution methods, and other related criminal intelligence. Drug task forces, groups, or units not already part of or affiliated with a HIDTA task force coordinate with the ISC electronically or through daily contact. Many drug task forces or agencies that are not currently part of or affiliated with a HIDTA task force also coordinate with the ISC's deconfliction and intelligence units on a daily basis to eliminate possible duplicative efforts. Normally when case overlap occurs, HIDTA task forces work jointly with these agencies and combine resources to effectively dismantle targets in their respective jurisdictions.

The HIDTA evaluates its initiatives annually regarding information sharing. It conducts annual onsite reviews and monitors each initiative's performance through the HIDTA PMP system. Internal onsite reviews include a financial and programmatic review, as well as an audit of HIDTA-funded property.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 96 DTOs. Of the 96 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 19 were international, 14 multistate, and 63 were local. During 2022, the HIDTA initiatives seized illegal drugs with an estimated wholesale value of over \$69.1 million and \$8.7 million in cash and assets (totaling \$77.8 million) for a combined ROI of \$8.29. Methamphetamine



accounted for the majority of drugs seized based on total number of seizures followed by fentanyl, cocaine, marijuana, and heroin. The HIDTA initiated 2,912 cases, received analytical support for 254 cases and requested approximately 2,708 event and case deconflictions and processed 4,467 target/investigative data elements. In 2022, the HIDTA provided 9,219 hours of training to 775 criminal justice professionals. It also facilitated drug prevention presentations for 3,015 students, totaling 3,285 hours.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>\$0.83</b>	<b>\$7.03</b>	<b>243</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>\$0.92</b>	<b>\$7.36</b>	<b>254</b>



# New York/New Jersey HIDTA

**Designated in 1990**

**Executive Director – Chauncey Parker**

## *Purpose and Goals*

The mission of the New York/New Jersey HIDTA is to build safe and healthy communities by investing in innovative and effective partnerships in the region.

## *Strategy*

HIDTA-funded initiatives aim to facilitate the timely and accurate sharing of criminal and drug intelligence among these agencies, enabling them to more effectively target regional and international DTOs and MLOs, drug gangs, drug fugitives, and other serious crimes with a drug nexus. Recognizing that there is no single, effective strategy for reducing illegal drug abuse and its harmful consequences, the HIDTA invests in five key areas: enforcement, information sharing, training, public health and prevention.

## *Location*

The HIDTA operates out of New York City (NYC) and comprises 36 counties:

- New York: NYC (Bronx, Kings, New York, Richmond, and Queens Counties), Albany, Broome, Chautauqua, Clinton, Dutchess, Erie, Franklin, Jefferson, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Orange, Oswego, Putnam, Rockland, Schenectady, St. Lawrence, Suffolk, Sullivan,<sup>36</sup> Ulster, and Westchester
- New Jersey: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, and Union

## *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 16 initiatives: 10 investigation/interdiction, 2 prevention, 1 management, 1 training, 1 intelligence, and 1 technology.

## *Short-Term Objectives*

YEAR	DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/Dismantled	Target Return on Investment: Assets	Target Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support
2023	102	\$10.00	\$10.00	2,938



## *Threat Assessment*

All major drugs of abuse are readily available within the HIDTA AOR, originating from both domestic and foreign sources of supply. The New York City metropolitan area, which includes the five New York City counties as well as northern New Jersey, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley HIDTA counties, is an epicenter of diverse drug trafficking and money laundering activity, and one of the country's largest drug consumption areas. NYC and surrounding areas serve as a hub for the importation and distribution of narcotics from, and to, innumerable cities, states, and countries. Urban areas of New Jersey (such as Newark, Paterson and Camden) also serve as supply hubs for much of the Northeast. In addition, some traffickers outside of these metro areas are supplied by sources in Atlanta, Chicago, Arizona or directly from foreign sources.

Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs represent the primary drug threat within the HIDTA region. Fentanyl-involved overdose deaths have been rising for years in both New York and New Jersey, a trend which was greatly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic but which has persisted in its aftermath. Seizures by law enforcement continue to indicate an elevated and growing presence of fentanyl and its various analogues in the region, as well as in combination with stimulants such as cocaine, crack cocaine and methamphetamine. According to law enforcement sources in the New York region, the presence of pills containing fentanyl increased significantly in 2022. The New York Division of the DEA (NYD) reports that the number of seizures of fentanyl pills grew by 500 percent in 2022 compared with 2021. In addition, the number of heroin/fentanyl mills dismantled by the NYD increased in 2022 for the fifth year in a row.

Seizures of pure heroin continue to decrease while seizures of fentanyl without the presence of heroin continue to increase. The New Jersey State Police's Drug Monitoring Initiative (NJSP DMI) reports that the number of pure heroin submissions to police labs decreased from 88 percent in the first quarter of 2015 to just two percent in the fourth quarter of 2022. The NYD also reports that although fentanyl continues to be sold on the street as heroin, a large number of fentanyl seizures in 2022 contained only fentanyl (with no heroin).

Rates of overdose death in NYC are the highest since reporting began in 2000. More New Yorkers now die of drug overdoses than homicides, suicides, and motor vehicle crashes combined. The latest data published by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene show another concerning year-over-year increase in the rate of drug overdose fatalities. The number of overdose deaths among NYC residents has jumped from 1,497 in 2019 to 2,668 in 2021, an increase of nearly 80 percent in two years. Between 2015 and 2021, the number and rate of drug overdose deaths nearly tripled in NYC, driven primarily by fentanyl-involved deaths.

Opioids were involved in 84 percent of all overdose deaths in NYC in 2021, with fentanyl being the substance most commonly involved in all overdose deaths (80%) for the fifth year in a row. Provisional data from Q1 and Q2 of 2022, indicate that the concerning rise in fentanyl-driven deaths in NYC has yet to reverse itself.

For New York State (NYS) as a whole, opioid-involved overdose deaths increased sharply between 2019 and 2020, and preliminary data for 2021 indicates another substantial year-over-



year increase. According to the latest available data, the number and rate of opioid-involved overdose deaths has quadrupled among NYS residents between 2010 and 2020, driven primarily by an increase in deaths fentanyl. There is also growing concern among state health officials about the presence of xylazine in the illicit opioid market, and particularly in combination with fentanyl.

Investigative and intelligence reporting indicates cocaine availability has increased within the New York AOR, and crack cocaine remains a threat both in New York City as well as smaller cities throughout the state. The majority of cocaine transported into the DEA NYD AOR can be attributed to MDTOs who work in partnership with US-based Dominican traffickers to facilitate the movement of cocaine into the New York area. In New York City, fentanyl has been increasingly identified in overdose deaths involving cocaine. In 2021, 47 percent of unintentional overdose deaths in New York City involved cocaine, with fentanyl involved in 85 percent of those deaths. People who use cocaine recreationally in NYC, as well as those who are opioid naïve, face an exceptionally high risk of overdose.

Cocaine continues to be a threat in the New Jersey area where it ranks fourth in overall drug threats in the central and northern counties and sixth, behind methamphetamine, prescription drugs, and fentanyl in the southern section of the State. As in New York, law enforcement sources report there has been an increase in cocaine availability throughout New Jersey. According to data from NJ OCSME, the prevalence of cocaine-involved overdose deaths has *increased* in New Jersey since 2014. The number of cocaine-involved deaths has tripled across the state, rising from 314 in 2014 to 995 in 2020, with a corresponding spike in the rate of deaths per 100,000 population.

Methamphetamine trafficking and abuse is encountered on a much smaller scale in the New York region comparison to other major drugs like cocaine, heroin and fentanyl. However, investigative intelligence over the last year has revealed an increase in availability of methamphetamine in the NYD AOR. In addition, the total number of methamphetamine pills seized in 2022 in the NYD increased nearly 300 percent when compared to 2021. Data reported by NYSDOH shows an increase in overdose deaths involving methamphetamine in combination with fentanyl in New York in recent years. In New Jersey, methamphetamine availability and use remain highly concentrated in the southern region of the state, however availability is increasing throughout the entire state. According to NSJP DMI, labs saw a decrease in the number of methamphetamine cases in 2022 compared to the prior year. However, the state has seen a substantial increase in methamphetamine cases overall since 2015.

### ***Intelligence Initiatives***

Intelligence initiatives are a major pillar of the HIDTA strategy to effectively target criminal organizations operating in the region. Through its intelligence subsystem organized under the ISC, the HIDTA provides LEAs in the region with better access to actionable intelligence, significantly improving their drug enforcement efforts. The ISC, led by the New York City Police Department (NYPD), provides event, case, and subject deconfliction; analytical case support and strategic reporting; and other critical services. Staffed by approximately 700 participants from numerous federal, state, and local LEAs, the ISC serves as the central conduit for criminal intelligence sharing among LEAs in the HIDTA region.



The Investigative Support Center is organized into several sections, including: the NYPD Intelligence Section, the ATF CGIC, the Drug Trends Group (DTG), the ORS, the CASE Team, and Strategic Support provided throughout the region.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Adirondack Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Plattsburgh, NY
Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) JFK Airport	Queens, NY
Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) Massena	Massena, NY
Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) New Jersey	Elizabeth, NJ
Border Enforcement Security Task Force - NY Seaport	New York, NY
Border Enforcement Security Task Force - Rouses Point	Rouses Point, NY
Buffalo Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Buffalo, NY
FBI Buffalo Safe Streets Task Force (FBIDOJ)	Buffalo, NY
Capital District Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Albany, NY
Central New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Syracuse, NY
DEA New York Drug Enforcement Task Force	New York, NY
DEA Rochester Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Rochester, NY
El Dorado Money Laundering Task Force (HIDTA)	New York, NY
FBI Capital District Violent Gang Task Force (DOJ)	Albany, NY
FBI Violent Gang Task Force (DOJ)	Newark, NJ
FBI Westchester Violent Gang Task Force (DOJ)	Westchester County, NY
FBI Garret Mountain Resident Agency Violent Crimes Incident Task Force (FBIDOJ)	Garret Mountain, NJ
FBI Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force (FBIDOJ)	Goshen, Westchester/ Orange, NY
FBI Jersey Shore Gang and Criminal Organization Task Force (FBIDOJ)	Ocean/Monmouth, NJ
Long Island Drug Enforcement Task Force (DOJ)	Long Island, NY
Long Island Violent Gang Task Force (DOJ)	Long Island, NY
New Jersey Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force (HIDTA)	Newark, NJ
New York HIDTA Investigative Support Center (HIDTA)	New York, NY
New York OCDETF Strike Force (HIDTA)	New York, NY
Violent Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Teams New York State Police Counter Narcotics Enforcement Teams (DOJ)	Albany, NY
Regional Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	New York/New Jersey
Rochester Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Rochester, NY



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
FBI South Jersey Violent Incident Gang Task Force (FBIDOJ)	Trenton, NJ
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	New York, NY
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Albany, NY
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Buffalo, NY
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Long Island, NY
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Newark, NJ
Westchester County Drug Enforcement Task Force (DOJ)	Westchester County, NY

### ***Task Force Coordination***

There are a number of established avenues of communication, coordination, and collaboration among the HIDTA-funded task forces. All are required to submit targets through the SAFETNet/Case Explorer deconfliction systems at the ISC.

Task forces share information through various components of the ISC. A key component of the ISC is a network of DIOs, strategically located throughout the HIDTA region to help ensure the efficient collection, analysis, and dissemination of criminal intelligence to area law enforcement entities. The DIOs provide a 24/7, one-stop source for critical, time-sensitive information such as criminal profile and database checks. In addition, through the felony arrest notification FAN program, law enforcement personnel are notified when any individual from their region is arrested for a drug felony or violent crime in another region of New York State or New Jersey.

The CGIC, led by ATF, provides a central location for all criminal firearm databases. The CGIC gathers and consolidates all aspects of intelligence on illegal firearms use and trafficking and makes that information available to law enforcement 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In addition, there are various informal coordination mechanisms among all task forces within the HIDTA. Participants interact through active cases, operational contacts, periodic meetings, coordinating committees, trainings, and conferences.

The HIDTA plays a central role in providing training to the task forces to ensure the latest information and enforcement techniques are shared and coordinated. Every year, thousands of law enforcement personnel from the region participate in courses through the HIDTA Training Initiative.

Leaders or representatives from the federal, state, and local LEAs who participate in the task forces serve on the HIDTA Executive Board, thereby promoting information exchange and coordination. Task forces also participate in the preparation of the annual threat assessment which is shared with all participating law enforcement agencies.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA is an effective platform for building federal, state, and local law enforcement partnerships to implement the *National Drug Control Strategy*. In 2022, initiatives disrupted/dismantled 75 DTOs/MLOs operating in the HIDTA area, 29 percent of which were



international in scope. The estimated wholesale value of drugs seized in the same period was approximately \$93 million. In addition, the HIDTA seized approximately \$50 million in cash and other drug-related assets, resulting in a ROI of \$8.49.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>2,792</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>\$2.93</b>	<b>\$5.55</b>	<b>2,915</b>



## North Central HIDTA

**Designated in 1998**

**Executive Director – Ryan Shogren**

### *Purpose and Goals*

The North Central HIDTA’s mission is to substantially reduce drug trafficking activity and related violence through enhanced intelligence processes, coordinated law enforcement, prosecutions, and demand reduction efforts. The goals are to reduce drug availability by disrupting and dismantling DTOs, diminish the harmful consequences of drug trafficking, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the region’s law enforcement organizations.

The HIDTA enforcement initiatives utilize the HIDTA ISCs in both Wisconsin and Minnesota to identify the region’s greatest drug threats and enhance investigative capabilities through shared intelligence from the participating federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement partner agencies. The HIDTA initiatives focus primarily on opioid and methamphetamine related and violent DTOs, primarily those DTOs linked through intelligence to Mexican Cartel organizations and/or the Southwest border. In addition, participating agencies are encouraged to share intelligence within the two-state HIDTA region and with other affected areas and/or HIDTAs outside of Wisconsin or Minnesota. The HIDTA ISCs in Wisconsin and Minnesota actively promote and utilize subject and event deconfliction within the HIDTA region to further ensure the efficient and effective use of HIDTA resources.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA’s strategy is to foster cooperative and effective relationships among more than 145 federal, state, local, and Tribal participating member agencies in Wisconsin and Minnesota to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and reducing drug demand. Through enforcement initiatives working within the 15 designated counties in both Wisconsin (eight counties) and Minnesota (seven counties), investigative emphasis is placed on targeting DTOs that pose the most significant threats – primarily those with ties to the southwest and northern borders (multistate and international in scope). In addition, particular emphasis is placed on violent DTOs and drug traffickers that pose significant risk to the HIDTA region, especially those engaged in violent criminal acts, firearm offenses, and the trafficking of significant quantities of opioids and/or methamphetamine in the region. In line with the HIDTA’s goals, initiatives work cooperatively and share information with other HIDTAs and LEAs throughout the country to further enhance effective investigations. As described below, in addressing the threats that face the HIDTA, the Executive Board directs and continually adjusts its strategy to reduce the most significant threats and create safer communities. The strategy moving forward is to continue to integrate any newly formed initiatives to address the threats to their region, as well as coordinate intelligence and information sharing with this enhanced partnership.

The HIDTA strategy also recognizes the need for strong demand reduction efforts in the community. The mission is to reduce violent crime through targeted law enforcement, community building, raising community awareness, and proactive engagement of youth in



activities that increase positive social skills and behaviors and teach resistance to drugs, gangs, guns, and other criminal behavior.

***Location***

The HIDTA co-locates several enforcement and support initiatives, including its Management and Coordination Initiative, within its main facility in West Allis, Wisconsin. Other initiatives are located throughout the following other member counties:

- Wisconsin: Brown, Dane, Eau Claire, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, and Waukesha
- Minnesota: Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey, St. Louis, and Washington.

***Initiatives***

The HIDTA currently supports 36 initiatives: 28 investigation/interdiction, 2 intelligence, 2 prevention, 1 management, 1 training, 1 information technology support, and 1 prosecution.

***Short-Term Objectives***

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Cases Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>\$1.79</b>	<b>\$7.14</b>	<b>1,130</b>

***Threat Assessment***

Wisconsin, specifically the metropolitan areas of Milwaukee and Madison, serves as a midpoint and a destination area for drug trafficking operations. These metropolitan areas sit along the Interstate 90/Interstate 94 corridor and are in close proximity to the major drug markets of Minneapolis and Chicago. Because of these factors, the HIDTA region is vulnerable to DTOs that establish their presence for drug trafficking activities.

Fentanyl, heroin and other synthetic opioids continue to present the greatest threat to the HIDTA region. Overdose deaths and other harmful effects resulting from the use of various opioids continues to increase and pose significant risks for the community. Potentially lethal opioid synthetics, particularly fentanyl and other fentanyl related substances (FRSs), such as counterfeit pharmaceutical pills, are increasingly putting communities at risk due to the danger of overdosing. Both Wisconsin and Minnesota have seen a continued increase in the trafficking and use of counterfeit prescription pills containing fentanyl or fentanyl-related substances. Xylazine is an emerging threat and a common fentanyl adulterant found in the HIDTA region. The number of fatal overdose deaths from illicit opioids involving xylazine is expected to increase.

Methamphetamine continues to be a significant and growing drug threat to the HIDTA region. Larger wholesale amounts of methamphetamine from Mexico are being sourced from the areas



of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Chicago, California, and the Southwest border. Southeastern Wisconsin, an area that has not traditionally experienced a large volume of methamphetamine activity, has seen law enforcement seizing wholesale quantities of methamphetamine on a more frequent basis. The HIDTA region has seen an increase in the number of instances methamphetamine sourced from the Twin Cities area of Minnesota is being trafficked directly to major metropolitan areas. In 2022, enforcement initiatives in Minnesota, seized over 750 kilograms of methamphetamine. Seizures of large quantities of finished-product Mexican methamphetamine in and around the Minneapolis/St. Paul area originate mainly from the Southwest border region and are sourced by Mexican-based cartels. The Twin Cities area of Minneapolis/St. Paul is considered an upper Midwest methamphetamine transshipment center for the Mexican cartels. Task forces throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin reported an increase in wholesale-level quantities. In addition, opioid related trafficking, use, and overdoses continue to increase in the HIDTA region. Both Minnesota and Wisconsin participate in the HIDTA ORS program, which includes having a dedicated DIO and PHA assigned to each state to focus on joint public health and public safety strategies to address the overdose problem regionally.

Cocaine is a persistent, significant threat to the HIDTA region. Throughout 2022, cocaine supplies have steadily increased in availability. Reports also show that cocaine is often comingled with fentanyl or other FRS. Law enforcement continues to report that violent criminal activities and property crimes are often tied to cocaine distribution.

Marijuana and potent THC products remain the most commonly used illicit drug in the HIDTA region. The demand for higher-potency marijuana and marijuana-related products has remained high over the past several years. Traffickers and DTOs source the majority of marijuana and THC products from Colorado and West Coast states that have legalized the recreational and/or medical use of marijuana and related products. In addition, the demand for and use of high-potency edibles, oils, and vaping products has remained high, creating a health risk to the user community.

### ***Intelligence Initiatives***

The HIDTA ISCs provide a full range of analytical products and expertise to assist and support law enforcement investigations. The ISCs located in both Wisconsin and Minnesota employ a group of specially trained criminal intelligence analysts that include civilian employees, supplemented with support from the Wisconsin and Minnesota National Guards and various federal agencies. The primary ISC in Wisconsin maintains a Watch Center that assists law enforcement with specific requests for information and facilitates event and target deconfliction for law enforcement via Case Explorer. Both ISC locations share information within their respective intelligence environments as appropriate.

The ISCs support complex counterdrug investigations by utilizing their expertise in areas of communications analysis and database research to provide investigative leads for investigators. The ISCs in Wisconsin and Minnesota continue to provide extensive analysis of opioid related overdose deaths in the region and assistance for investigators to identify priority targets. The HIDTA ISCs continue to add innovative analytical products, resources, and training to enhance further their ability to support investigations.



***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
DEA Task Forces (DEA)	Wisconsin and Minnesota HIDTA regions
Drug Gang Task Force (HIDTA)	Southeast Wisconsin
Drug Task Forces in Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington Counties (HIDTA)	Twin Cities Metro region
Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Southeast Wisconsin
The FBI Safe Streets TF; Greater St. Paul Violent Crime Initiative Task Force; and the Greater Minneapolis Violent Crime Initiative Task Force (HIDTA)	Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro area
Lake Superior Drug Corridor Initiative (HIDTA)	St. Louis County, MN
Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG) co-located at HIDTA	Milwaukee County, WI
Multiple Interdiction Initiative Task Forces (HIDTA)	Wisconsin and Minnesota HIDTA region
Native American Drug & Gang Initiative (HIDTA and WI DOJ/DCI)	Northern and western Wisconsin
The Brown County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Brown County, WI
Numerous FBI Safe Streets Task Forces	Various locations throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota
Opioid Initiative (HIDTA)	Southeast Wisconsin
Drug Task Forces in Dane and Rock Counties (HIDTA)	Rock and Dane Counties (WI)
Southeast Minnesota Drug Corridor Initiative, including the Rochester DTF and Southeast VCET (HIDTA)	Olmsted County, MN
DTF Units from Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha Counties (HIDTA)	Waukesha, Racine and Kenosha Counties (WI)
West Central Drug Task Force Initiative	Eau Claire County
The Hennepin County Violent Offender Task Force and Anoka-Hennepin Narcotic and Violent Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Twin Cities Metro region

***Task Force Coordination***

Four HIDTA investigative initiatives are co-located in the HIDTA facility in West Allis, Wisconsin. Nine additional investigative/enforcement initiatives are based in the northeast, south central, west central, southeast, and Tribal regions of Wisconsin, within the designated counties of Kenosha, Racine, Waukesha, Rock, Dane, Eau Claire, and Brown, including the Native American Drug and Gang Initiative that targets drug activity located on nine of the eleven Native American Tribal lands in Wisconsin.



In Minnesota, there are currently 14 investigative initiatives located within the seven-county designated region around the metro Minneapolis/St. Paul, St. Louis County (north), and Olmsted County (south central) areas. The various task forces within these initiatives target all types of drug-related activity, including major multistate, international, and local DTOs affecting the quality of life in these Minnesota communities.

Each of the enforcement initiatives is dedicated to its individual mission, not only with respect to the regional AORs, but also as it relates to the particular threats the initiative may identify and target. For instance, the HIDTA has been actively participating in the HIDTA ORS program in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Likewise, all enforcement initiatives listed above look to reduce the threats of violence, drug trafficking, and drug use within the HIDTA region. The HIDTA Executive Board comprises representatives from member agencies in both Wisconsin and Minnesota and is committed to an impact-driven strategy. This strategy emphasizes full cooperation and information-sharing efforts that ultimately lead to well-coordinated, efficient operations. Board members participate on four committees (Finance, Intelligence, and the Minnesota or Wisconsin Advisory Committees) to provide guidance and oversight on all aspects of the program. Regular information sharing meetings are held with supervisors of all enforcement initiatives to further the HIDTA mission. Coordination of all investigative information is accomplished through the HIDTA ISCs. In Wisconsin, participating agencies use a common case management system called the Automated Criminal Investigation Secure System (ACISS) that is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The HIDTA continues its efforts to assist the member agencies in Minnesota with sharing drug-related intelligence among their many disparate reporting systems and increase their use of the HIDTA Case Explorer system for subject/target deconfliction. Criminal intelligence analysts from the HIDTA regularly meet with each of the task forces to gather and share information.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 80 DTOs/MLOs in 2022. Of the 80 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 9 were international in scope, 33 were multistate, and 38 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of approximately \$55 million and \$12 million in cash and assets for a total ROI of \$9.35. The HIDTA intelligence analysts provided analytical support to 1,823 investigations and processed 6,349 event and 13,834 case/target deconflictions. The HIDTA also provided 10,845 hours of training to 642 students.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>\$1.69</b>	<b>\$6.72</b>	<b>1,213</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$1.65</b>	<b>\$7.70</b>	<b>1,823</b>



## North Florida HIDTA

**Designated in 2001**

**Executive Director – Robert Peryam**

### *Purpose and Goals*

The purpose of the North Florida HIDTA is to promote the coordination and collaboration of federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel and the prevention and treatment community to fulfill its mission to measurably and accountably disrupt and dismantle DTOs and MLOs and reduce opioid- and drug-related deaths. This is accomplished through an intelligence-driven process enhanced by multijurisdictional partnerships, information sharing, and deconfliction to reduce the production and trafficking of illegal and diverted drugs and drug-related violent crime affecting the AOR and other areas of the United States while promoting officer safety. In addition, the HIDTA supports ONDCP's goals and objectives while addressing existing and emerging threats. The HIDTA supports public health and public safety through its collaboration and coordination with the HIDTA Program's national initiatives by actively participating in DHE, NETI, and the ORS. All performance measures are evaluated through the PMP database and a quarterly review of each initiative's accomplishments towards achieving the stated goals.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA employs strategic, tactical, geospatial, and operational intelligence and an enforcement strategy that focuses on investigative and interdiction efforts to address the command-and-control elements of DTOs and MLOs operating within the AOR. The HIDTA fosters collaborative and cooperative partnerships among federal, state, and local LEAs to achieve its long-term strategic goals. These goals include reducing and disrupting drug trafficking and availability of the illegal drug market, related drug-proceeds, drug-related violent crime, and overdose deaths. The HIDTA's short-term goal is to dismantle identified DTOs, MLOs, criminal groups, and gangs operating within its AOR through effecting arrests and seizures of drugs, assets, and weapons, and seek maximum penalties through prosecution. To maximize this effort, the HIDTA facilitates cooperation and joint operations among 48 federal, state, and local LEAs and 459 full-time and part-time personnel who participate in its initiatives, as of June 2023.

### *Location*

The HIDTA operates out of Jacksonville, Florida, and comprises 13 counties:

- Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Leon, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, and Union

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 15 initiatives: 12 investigation/interdiction, 1 management, 1 training, and 1 intelligence and information sharing.



### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>\$1.01</b>	<b>\$5.44</b>	<b>187</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

For the second consecutive year, fentanyl and fentanyl analogs remain the top drug threat in the HIDTA, largely due to the significant increase in seizures coupled with its potency and lethality. Continuing the upward trend, the HIDTA initiatives seized a 189 percent increase in kilograms of fentanyl compared to 2020. For 2020, the Florida Medical Examiner (FME) identified fentanyl to be the drug that caused the most deaths in the state of Florida.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, when viewed collectively, fentanyl and fentanyl analogs were the most frequently occurring drugs found in decedents.<sup>38</sup> As fentanyl is often concealed and is frequently used as a cutting agent for other substances, its potential lethality continues to pose a dire concern for the drug user as well as first responders and law enforcement.

Methamphetamine, essentially all imported crystal methamphetamine, remains the second greatest drug threat in the region. Following a 28 percent decrease in methamphetamine seizures in 2020, 2021 experienced a 69 percent increase. The increase in seizures coupled with survey responses indicates that availability issues due to COVID-19 were no longer a factor in 2021.<sup>39</sup> For 2020, FME reported methamphetamine occurrences increased 47 percent, and deaths caused by methamphetamine increased 55 percent.<sup>40</sup> While it remains readily available and easily obtained, meth continues to be laced with fentanyl, likely increasing its lethality.

Although heroin maintained its third-place ranking in the region's drug threat, seizures continued the downward trajectory noted in 2020 with a 66 percent decrease in 2021. FME reporting for 2020 found that occurrences of heroin decreased 11.5 percent, and deaths caused by heroin decreased 12 percent.<sup>41</sup> Survey respondents reported the decline in heroin seizures is likely due to the infiltration of fentanyl in the marketplace.

Cocaine and crack are ranked fourth and fifth, respectively. Notably, cocaine and crack seizures increased 1,666 percent in 2021. However, this significant increase is mostly attributed to two sizeable seizures at the Port of Jacksonville that totaled 1,408 kilograms. For 2020, FME reported cocaine occurrences increased 24 percent as deaths caused by cocaine increased 30 percent.<sup>42</sup> The availability of cocaine alone may be worthy of a higher ranking; however, when viewed in conjunction with other factors such as potency and lethality, cocaine and crack rank behind the aforementioned substances.

Although MDMA seizures only increased by a small margin, MDMA moved up two ranks to the sixth greatest drug threat. The ranking advancement is likely due to an increase in seizures, the identification of MDMA being mixed with other substances, and MDMA being marketed and sold as a different substance. Notably, one survey respondent mentioned that although MDMA



use is infrequent, the overdoses associated with MDMA use are significant. Diverted pharmaceuticals, marijuana, and synthetics round out the drug ranking.

As of April 5, 2022, there are 112 DTOs under investigation that are operating within the HIDTA, of which 82 are local, 24 multistate, and 6 are classified as international. While the majority of the DTOs were identified as nonviolent (103), nine were considered violent. Consistent with the prior year, cocaine is the most common drug trafficked by the identified DTOs.

***Intelligence Initiatives***

The HIDTA’s ISC serves as its sole intelligence and information sharing initiative. The HIDTA initiatives are mandated to submit case, subject, and event information for deconfliction through Case Explorer. Non-HIDTA agencies operating within the region and participating agencies are encouraged to share their non-HIDTA case/subject and event deconfliction information with the HIDTA ISC (NFHISC) for inclusion in Case Explorer in an effort to expand the deconfliction footprint, enhance officer safety, and further prevent enforcement overlap.

North Florida law enforcement and intelligence resources operate under a mutually agreed upon Information and Intelligence Sharing Plan. The NFHISC shares information and intelligence in accordance with its mission and is co-located with the Northeast Florida Regional Fusion Center.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Capital Area Drug Response & Evaluation (HIDTA)	Leon County
Combined Alachua Drug Enforcement Team (HIDTA and OCDETF)	Alachua County
Community of Violence Intervention and Prevention (OJP)	Duval and Leon Counties
Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse-Site Based Program (BJA)	Flagler County
Domestic Security Task Force (DHS Grant Program)	All HIDTA Counties
Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force – Jacksonville Resident Office (DEA/OCDETF)	All HIDTA Counties
FBI Safe Streets Task Force (FBI/OCDETF)	Duval County
Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team (HIDTA)	Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, and Union Counties
Gateway (HIDTA)	Columbia and Union Counties
Maritime & Land Investigation and Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	All HIDTA Counties



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Narcotics Overdose Death Investigations Task Force (HIDTA)	Duval County
North Florida HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA, OCDETF, and DEA)	Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties
Pharmaceutical Diversion and Designer Drug Squad (HIDTA)	Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, and Union Counties
Tri-County (HIDTA)	Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties
Unified Drug Enforcement Strike Team (HIDTA)	Marion County
Violent Crime and Gangs/Guns Task Force (HIDTA, FBI Safe Streets, ATF)	Duval County
Violent Crime and Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Duval County

### ***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA plays an integral role in facilitating information and intelligence sharing among various LEAs and task forces, including HIDTA and non-HIDTA participating agencies. The Narcotics Overdose Death Investigations Task Force (NODITF) conducts monthly intelligence and information sharing meetings where all initiatives and LEAs are invited to attend to share, coordinate, and inform best practices. All NODITF cases, as well as all the HIDTA initiative cases, are deconflicted in Case Explorer. The FBI’s Safe Streets Task Force is a federally funded gang and violent crimes task force operating within the region. Information is shared via direct communication between the FBI Safe Streets Task Force and the HIDTA initiatives, specifically with the Violent Crime and Gangs/Guns Task Force whenever there is an investigation involving narcotics and/or gangs, via face-to-face meetings. The FBI Safe Streets Task Force also shares information with the DEA, ATF, and the local drug task forces. Furthermore, ATF participates on the Violent Crime and Gangs/Guns Task Force, specifically with the Gun unit, and shares information on a daily basis. The Tactical Diversion Squad is a DEA funded drug task force that hosts members from other law enforcement agencies within the HIDTA. Members of the Tactical Diversion Squad are also part of the Pharmaceutical Diversion and Designer Drug Squad initiative. These two task forces deconflict, coordinate, and share information through routine meetings and collocated personnel.

The HIDTA information is deconflicted locally, nationwide, and among OCDETF and DICE/DEA Analysis and Response Tracking System (DARTS) platforms to enhance coordination and avoid duplication of investigative efforts. Routinely, current and potential drug trafficking trends and officer safety issues are disseminated by the NFHISC through intelligence briefs and written strategic assessments to LEAs within the HIDTA. To a larger population of law enforcement personnel this information is communicated through RISS and the Florida Criminal Justice Network that is accessible through the HIDTA’s secure webpage and via



national sharing platforms such as EPIC’s NSS, HSIN Intel, and HSIN DHE sites. On an annual and ongoing basis, analysts from NFHISC solicit current drug trends and related information from regional law enforcement drug units for analysis and synthesis into the annual drug threat assessment which is disseminated to a wide-reaching law enforcement community, other HIDTAs, ONDCP, and national intelligence agencies.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA initiatives disrupted/dismantled 46 DTOs/MLOs. In addition, initiatives seized illegal drugs with an estimated wholesale value of over \$34 million and over \$3.1 million in cash and other drug-related assets (a combined total of over \$37 million in drugs and assets seized) for a total ROI of \$9.73. Analytical support was provided by the HIDTA to 187 cases and 12,395 event and case deconflictions were processed. The HIDTA provided 7,537 hours of training to 923 students.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$0.93</b>	<b>\$5.36</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$0.82</b>	<b>\$8.92</b>	<b>187</b>



## Northern California HIDTA

**Designated in 1997**

**Executive Director – Mike Sena**

### *Purpose and Goals*

The Northern California HIDTA mission is to reduce the smuggling, transportation, distribution, production, and cultivation of illicit drugs by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs operating in Northern California and other areas of the United States. This is accomplished by supporting and coordinating the drug control efforts of federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement entities. in its 13-county AOR.

The HIDTA accomplishes its mission through evidence-based practices that include: intelligence production; tactical case support; comprehensive firearm tracing; National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) lead generation; strategic threat assessments; and collaboration between LEAs, public health partnerships, and community outreach to identify the area's most dangerous and prolific drug and weapons traffickers and organizations, and violent criminal gangs. The HIDTA ISC, with assistance from the Technical Operations Group (TOG), the Training initiative, the Prevention initiative, the Privately Made Firearms and Crime Gun Intelligence (PMFCGI) initiative, and the Northern California Computer Crimes Task Force initiative, supports the HIDTAs' enforcement task forces in pursuing and accomplishing the HIDTA mission.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA consists of seven law enforcement initiatives (including 22 counternarcotic and fugitive task forces), an ISC, a training initiative, a prevention initiative, a computer crimes initiative, a PMFCGI initiative, and an administrative and management initiative focused on the mission of countering DTOs and MLOs in the HIDTA AOR. The HIDTA strategy co-locates federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel in multijurisdictional enforcement initiatives and task forces and fosters enhanced information and resource sharing to accomplish the mission. The enforcement initiatives and task forces identify, investigate, disrupt, and dismantle DTOs and MLOs through specific focus on sources of supply, distribution, drug interdiction, and drug-related financial and violent crimes within the designated area.

The HIDTA ISC and supporting initiatives (i.e., Training, Prevention, PMFCGI, and Northern California Computer Crimes) provide the enforcement initiatives with unique tools to enhance their ability of targeting violent drug criminals through intelligence research, analysis, resource sharing, deconfliction, digital exploitation, firearm tracing and NIBIN lead generation, training, education, and coordination.

The HIDTA successfully executes its strategic plan by continuing to bring 68 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies together, comprised of 299 agents, officers, analysts, and other staff members. The impact of the HIDTA strategy is evident by the success of continually meeting expected outcomes and performance metrics each year.



### *Location*

The HIDTA AOR is located along the northern California coast. The AOR consists of 13 counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma.

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA has 13 initiatives: 7 enforcement, 2 support, 1 management, 1 training, 1 intelligence, and 1 prevention. Included in the enforcement initiatives are a variety of task forces that support the HIDTA mission. In total, there are 22 enforcement task forces in the HIDTA AOR; 21 are traditional counternarcotics task forces that were created for the purpose of detecting, investigating, arresting, dismantling, disrupting and prosecuting drug trafficking and money laundering organizations, and one is a fugitive apprehension task force. In addition, two support initiatives offer investigative support services, such as digital forensic services, comprehensive firearm tracing, and NIBIN lead generation.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>\$303.86</b>	<b>53</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The most serious drug threats confronting the HIDTA region were illicit fentanyl and methamphetamine, followed by illegal marijuana. Compounding these drug threats are major criminal organizations involved in the transportation and distribution of narcotics. Such DTOs contribute to drug-related violent crimes, gang violence, and other threats to public health and safety.

Illicit fentanyl continues to dominate narcotic threats to the HIDTA AOR. At year-end 2021, fentanyl seizures already reached extraordinarily dangerous quantities, but 2022 closed with the highest kilogram and dosage unit (DU) seizure reports for fentanyl in the last five years. Kilogram quantities of fentanyl were almost 200 percent higher in 2022 than they were in 2021. (During 2021, these same figures were already 58 percent higher than in 2020.)

Fentanyl usage in the HIDTA AOR is high and continuously increasing, and so are fentanyl-related overdoses. Unbeknownst to many users, fentanyl is commonly mixed with other drugs, including cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. Overdose victims increasingly include juveniles – even infants – and many adult users who are unaware of what they are consuming. Those who knowingly use fentanyl are often enticed by stronger potency, lower prices, and marketing techniques, including the addition of colorants to powdered fentanyl. Fentanyl, which is more potent and less expensive than heroin, is also the likely cause for less heroin observed and seized in the HIDTA AOR during 2022.



Fentanyl mixed with xylazine is also a growing threat. Xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer, is commonly found in fentanyl (among other drugs). However, unlike fentanyl, xylazine is unaffected by opioid antagonists (such as naloxone) because it is not an opioid. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) recently reported the first confirmed incidents of xylazine-related overdoses in San Francisco, specifically four overdose decedents whose toxicology tested positive for xylazine between December 1, 2022, and January 15, 2023. All cases involved fentanyl.

Methamphetamine remains a constant threat and in steady supply in the HIDTA AOR. In a survey of the HIDTA Initiative and Task Force Commanders, a majority of commanders cited methamphetamine as one of the two most serious drug threats to the region in 2022, along with fentanyl. Alarming, some fentanyl users are reportedly deterred by the risks associated with fentanyl usage and turn to methamphetamine, believing it is safer. Meanwhile, law enforcement across the HIDTA AOR continue to report that users unwittingly consume fentanyl-laced methamphetamine or other poly-substances and often overdose as a result. Corroborating this reporting is a recent study by *The American Journal of Public Health* about methamphetamine-related mortality in the United States, showing a 50-fold increase in the methamphetamine mortality rate from 1999 to 2021, with an increasing proportion of deaths that involved heroin or fentanyl, peaking at 61.2 percent in 2021.

Illicit marijuana presents a unique set of threats to the AOR. These threats include: violence and illegal weapons associated with outdoor trespass grows on public land and tribal territories; the trading of high-quality marijuana for more life-threatening drugs like fentanyl or methamphetamine (or fentanyl-laced methamphetamine); robberies and burglaries of marijuana dispensaries; labor and sex trafficking associated with marijuana cultivation; the environmental impact of illicit marijuana; and fraudulent marijuana businesses feigning legitimacy under state law. According to the HIDTA survey data, a majority of surveyed commanders believed that marijuana was one of two drugs that most contributed to violent crimes in the AOR. Illicit marijuana cultivation continues to be a defining feature of drug trafficking in the HIDTA AOR. California's legalization of marijuana for recreational use took effect in 2018, but illicit marijuana grows are widespread, and marijuana cultivators and dealers remain steadfastly undeterred by the law. The famed "Emerald Triangle" is considered the marijuana capital of the United States and includes two HIDTA counties: Humboldt and Mendocino. These counties are home to thousands of illegal marijuana farms, many of which are trespass grows on public lands.

In 2022, Honduran drug traffickers were the greatest DTO threat to the HIDTA AOR. Now well established with an expanded distribution network considerably beyond the San Francisco Bay Area, Honduran DTOs traffic large quantities of illicit fentanyl – a drug responsible for hundreds of fatal overdoses a year in San Francisco alone – and other illegal drugs. Honduran DTOs appear to leverage the local environment, including a perceived lower risk of prosecution, for lucrative drug trafficking activities. Mexico-based transnational criminal organizations reportedly provide wholesale drugs to various criminal organizations in the HIDTA AOR, including Honduran DTOs.

International Mexico-based DTOs continue to supply wholesale drugs primarily through United States POEs in Southern California, which are then moved through major transportation corridors into the San Francisco Bay Area and the HIDTA AOR's northernmost counties.



The Norteños – under the command of the Nuestra Familia prison gang – are the greatest multi-state/regional threat to the HIDTA AOR. Independent, multi-generational groups and a variety of gangs are responsible for significant violence and continue to distribute both wholesale and retail drugs across the region, as well.

Drug dealers continue to advertise and sell narcotics using a wide variety of digital and social media applications, enabling easier facilitation of drug shipments from other states and countries. Independent DTOs and those with ties to criminal organizations are both operating on the darknet. Cryptocurrency money laundering schemes and the use of money service businesses are also common tactics used by DTOs when moving illicit drug proceeds.

***Intelligence Initiatives***

The mission of the HIDTA’s Bay Area Narcotics Intelligence Network (BAYNIN), which includes the ISC, is to provide drug intelligence sharing; enhance officer safety; provide analytical case support; make available high-technology surveillance equipment; provide forensic cellular analytical support and telephone intercept equipment; and provide training to all LEAs in the 13-county HIDTA region. The BAYNIN is a multiagency coalition of federal, state, and local LEAs in the San Francisco Bay Area that is co-located to serve as a regional information-sharing center. The BAYNIN is designed to enhance the ability of the HIDTA initiatives and agencies to identify, target, arrest, and prosecute key members of criminal organizations by facilitating information exchange through enhanced coordination and support.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally-funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Alameda County Narcotics Task Force (EBPTO – HIDTA)	Alameda County
Humboldt County Drug Task Force (NCPTO – HIDTA)	Humboldt County
Marin County Special Investigations Unit (NCPTO – HIDTA)	Marin County
Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force (MMCTF – HIDTA)	Mendocino County
Monterey Area Gang & Narcotics Enforcement Team (SBMETRO – Narcotics Financial Investigation Task Force (SF METRO – HIDTA)	Monterey County San Francisco Region
Northern California Computer Crimes Task Force (NC3TF – HIDTA)	San Francisco Region
Northern California Joint Fugitive Task Force (NC JFTF – HIDTA)	San Francisco Region
Oakland Task Force Group 1 (EBPTO – HIDTA)	Alameda/Contra Costa County
Privately Made Firearms and Crime Gun Intelligence (PMFCGI – HIDTA)	San Francisco Region
Salinas Violence Suppression Task Force (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Monterey County



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
San Francisco International Airport Task Force II (SFMETRO – HIDTA)	San Francisco Region
San Francisco Metro Task Force Group 1 (SFMETRO - HIDTA)	San Francisco County
San Francisco Police Department Narcotic Task Force (SFMETRO – HIDTA)	San Francisco County
San Jose Task Force Group 1 (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Santa Clara County
San Mateo County Narcotic Task Force (SMCNTF – HIDTA)	San Mateo County
Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Santa Clara County
Santa Clara County Safe Streets Task Force (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Santa Clara County
Santa Cruz County Anti-Crimes Team (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Santa Cruz County
Santa Rosa Task Force Group 1 (NCPTO- HIDTA)	Sonoma County
San Jose Enforcement Group 1 (SBMETRO - HIDTA)	Santa Clara County
Southern Alameda County Major Crimes Task Force (EBPTO – HIDTA)	Alameda County
Transnational Narcotic Team (SF METRO – HIDTA)	San Francisco
Unified Narcotic Enforcement Team (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	San Benito County

### ***Task Force Coordination***

Each HIDTA initiative and task force is created and managed by a memorandum of understanding (MOU). Each MOU mandates that the initiative or task force will deconflict and share information as a prerequisite to accepting federal grant funds. The HIDTA actively supports OCDETF cases throughout the region. The HIDTA conducts outreach to the OCDETF Pacific Region program through attendance and active participation at its weekly OCDETF Pacific Regional Coordination Group and Advisory Council Meetings. The HIDTA provides the OCDETF Pacific Region access to the HIDTA Annual Threat Assessment.

The deconfliction mandate is accomplished through services provided to the HIDTA by the WSIN, a component of RISS. The practical process includes identifying a target, location, vehicle, boat or carrier, or telephone number, and submitting the data via telephone, computer (direct data link or e-mail), or fax to WSIN for subject deconfliction.

Information sharing among the initiatives and task forces is an essential component of the overall mission of the HIDTA. Information sharing takes place through deconfliction; regularly-scheduled area intelligence meetings; the Annual Initiative and Task Force Commanders’ Symposium; regularly-scheduled Commander Calls; new commander orientations; participation with the California Narcotics Officers Association (CNOA) and National Narcotics Officers Association Coalition (NNOAC); input into the HIDTA annual threat assessment; four HIDTA quarterly bulletins; and the distribution of strategic intelligence products. The HIDTA facilitates cooperation, information sharing, and joint efforts among more than 68 federal, state, and local LEAs and involving 299 personnel participating in initiatives and task forces. The BAYNIN-ISC brings an enhanced level of intelligence resources to the HIDTA law enforcement community by supporting lines of communication and by providing and coordinating a secure exchange of data and intelligence. The HIDTA furthers information sharing and promotes collaboration among



HIDTAs by various means, including event coordination and shared resources. In 2023, the HIDTA hosted and coordinated the Annual Initiative and Task Force Commanders' Symposium in partnership with the CVC HIDTA. The NC and CVC HIDTAs share training resources, to include a training coordinator. Courses in both HIDTA areas are shared and promote both virtual and in-person learning between the law enforcement officers, analysts, and managers that attend the HIDTA training courses. In addition, the HIDTA will sponsor a 2023 Fentanyl Case Collaboration Workshop. This event will include representatives from all four California HIDTAs, the Northwest HIDTA, the Oregon/Idaho HIDTA, and the Rocky Mountain HIDTA, specifically Utah and Colorado. The focus of the workshop will be the cross-jurisdictional trafficking of fentanyl, from the California/Mexico border to the Canadian border. Case agents, analysts, supervisors, and prosecutors involved in fentanyl trafficking investigations will be invited to participate and share intelligence, tactics, techniques, and protocols related to their fentanyl-trafficking investigations.

To enhance communications between initiatives and task forces, and all-crimes law enforcement information sharing, the HIDTA Executive Board established an integrated fusion center known as the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC). The joint HIDTA/NCRIC have access to the secure Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) Intel/Exchange Tools, the Drug Enforcement Administration's secure network, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's secure network and Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP). Further communications are established through circulation and dissemination of Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES) and For Official Use Only (FOUO) intelligence products distributed via the HIDTA/NCRIC dissemination tools to more than 14,000 federal, state, local, and Tribal partners.

The BAYNIN-ISC focuses on defining viable targets and providing meaningful case support and intelligence products to task forces based on credible and timely drug trafficking information gathered by both the ISC and various law enforcement elements within the region. The HIDTA task forces then apply all necessary investigative resources to identify, prioritize, target, and dismantle the major poly-DTOs operating in the region at all levels – state, national, and international. Cooperation by each federal, state, and local participating agency with the HIDTA task force program is fluid, creating a highly effective and efficient organization that meets and exceeds the goal of dismantling and disrupting DTOs and MLOs.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA continues to foster a comprehensive response to the region's illicit drug activity by bringing together all available law enforcement resources to address the problem. In 2022, initiatives identified 62 DTOs/MLOs operating in the region. In this year, investigative initiatives were able to disrupt or dismantle 10 DTOs/MLOs. Of those, one case was international, two were multistate, and seven were local DTOs/MLOs. The ROI of \$308.88 resulted from initiatives seizing \$307.22 in illicit drugs and \$1.66 in illicit drug assets for every allocated dollar. Using an investigative budget of \$3.8 million, initiatives denied DTOs/MLOs over \$1.1 billion in illicit drug profits, \$6.3 million in cash, and \$75,000 in assets for a total of \$1.18 billion. By removing the seized narcotics and denying the DTOs illicit proceeds, the enforcement initiatives/task forces decreased the 62 DTOs ability to conduct business in the communities of the HIDTA AOR.



<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$4.70</b>	<b>\$228.22</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$1.66</b>	<b>\$307.22</b>	<b>56</b>



## Northwest HIDTA

**Designated in 1997**

**Executive Director – Jonathan Weiner**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Each year, Northwest HIDTA’s executive board directs the development of a strategy that focuses its resources on identifying and addressing the most serious trafficking threats. Thus, the HIDTA supports 18 enforcement initiatives that operate throughout Washington State. Initiatives unite federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement personnel with associated resources in furtherance of common goals — disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking and money laundering organizations that are adversely affecting the region and help bolster safe and healthy communities. Operating together enables law enforcement agencies to allocate stretched resources in a more efficient and effective manner. A by-product of this operating model is the marked increase of information and intelligence sharing.

Similarly, the HIDTA provides support and funding to 16 prevention and treatment organizations, including drug courts, housing programs, community coalitions, and prevention resource libraries. National HIDTA Program goals offer the foundation upon which performance planning and outcome measurements are based. Moreover, the HIDTA initiatives are developed and operated within parameters set forth in national guidelines that govern their activities and expenditures. As the HIDTA develops its own comprehensive budget plan, each initiative must provide an assessment of its particular area. Each group is required to detail how it will address identified threat(s) and set realistic performance measures. Also, specific information on how funds received will assist in achieving their desired outcome(s) must be provided.

### *Strategy*

The primary elements of the HIDTA strategy are to: increase communication, cooperation, and information sharing by and between law enforcement and public health entities; identify clear investigative priorities; conduct intelligence-driven investigations; and provide oversight and accountability.

### *Location*

Situated in the furthest corner of the Northwestern United States, Washington is bordered by Oregon, Idaho, Canada, and the Pacific Ocean. With a land mass of more than 66,455 square miles, it is the 20th largest state in the United States in terms of surface area and is home to nearly 7.8 million people. Western Washington has a diverse and robust economy, which employs a highly skilled workforce. It is home to several multi-national corporations, including Amazon, Boeing, and Microsoft. Eastern Washington is well known for agriculture, as farmers produce more than 300 different agricultural commodities in the region.



The HIDTA operates out of Seattle, Washington, and comprises the following 15 counties:

- Benton, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, Grant, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima.

***Initiatives***

The HIDTA supports 23 initiatives: 18 enforcement, 1 management, 1 training, 1 prevention, 1 treatment, and 1 intelligence.

***Short-Term Objectives***

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>141</b>

***Threat Assessment***

Overall, illicit drug use continues to pose serious public health and safety threats to communities in Washington State.

The HIDTA examined a number of sources in order to determine the most significant drug threats in Washington State. These sources included treatment and drug overdose data from the Washington Department of Health (DOH) and other federal, state, local, and academic institutions engaged in public health research. Law enforcement seizure statistics, including the HIDTA initiative Performance Management Process reporting as well as federal and state crime laboratory data were also examined. Finally, intelligence reporting by federal, state, and local agencies and the HIDTA initiative responses to the threat assessment surveys were used to assess the drug threat in general, as well as how it relates to violence and property crime. Also, important to note, general trends in trafficking intelligence are collected by ISC intelligence analysts while supporting criminal investigations.

Fentanyl availability and use continues to grow at a rapid rate. The HIDTA assesses fentanyl and its analogs will remain the leading opioid of abuse in program year 2024. Although counterfeit pills containing fentanyl are most commonly encountered, fentanyl in powder and chalk form are increasing in availability.

Methamphetamine remains the leading illicit stimulant throughout the HIDTA region. Although availability indicators are mixed, the number of methamphetamine-related fatal overdoses continue to climb, largely due to it being combined with fentanyl.

The volume of cocaine seizures by the HIDTA program participants dropped significantly. However, the number of fatal overdoses involving cocaine have increased, attributed mostly to it being taken with fentanyl.



Domestic cannabis availability and use remains stable. As licensed retailers saw the first ever decline in revenue, the market will likely maintain current usage levels for the foreseeable future. Washington was the point of origin for cannabis products driven or mailed to at least 20 other states throughout the United States

International and multi-state trafficking organizations aligned with Mexico continue to control the importation and distribution of fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine. Asian organizations dominate the indoor production and distribution of illicit cannabis products in Washington State.

Bulk currency smuggling remains a common tactic among DTOs. The number of suspicious activity reports filed by banks, money remitters, and casinos remain stable. Access to digital currency ATMs continues to increase at a rapid pace.

### ***Intelligence Initiatives***

The HIDTA maintains an ISC staffed by contracted analysts and an array of other full and part-time law enforcement personnel assigned by participating agencies. A DEA Supervisory Intelligence Research Specialist manages day-to-day operations and directly supervises assigned personnel. The ISC provides analytical support and information sharing resources to all the HIDTA initiatives plus other law enforcement, prevention and treatment, public health, and other government agencies.

In March 2023, the ATF Seattle Division relocated their existing CGIC to the HIDTA. This integration was made to unify efforts of disparate agencies and allow for a more comprehensive approach to data-driven investigations, firearms tracing, and ballistics acquisitions.

### ***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Clark-Vancouver Drug Task Force	Vancouver, WA
DEA Bellingham Regional HIDTA Task Force	Bellingham, WA
DEA Tacoma Regional Task Force	Tacoma, WA
DEA Tri-Cities HIDTA Task Force	Richland, WA
HSI HIDTA Task Force	Seattle, WA
Interagency Narcotics Enforcement Team	Ephrata, WA
Law Enforcement Against Drugs Task Force	Yakima, WA
HSI Northwest Border Task Force	Ferndale, WA
Pacific NW Violent Offender Task Force	Seattle, WA
SeaTac DEA HIDTA Task Force	Federal Way, WA
Seattle DEA HIDTA Task Force	Seattle, WA
Seattle Safe Streets Task Force	Seattle, WA



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Skagit County Inter-Local Drug Enforcement Unit	Mount Vernon, WA
Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force	Everett, WA
Spokane DEA HIDTA Drug Task Force	Spokane, WA
Spokane Regional Safe Streets Task Force	Spokane, WA
Thurston County Narcotics Task Force	Tumwater, WA
WSP SWAT	Olympia, WA
Yakima DEA	Union Gap, WA

### ***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA plays a central role in ensuring that coordination, cooperation, and information sharing exist among all initiatives.

The HIDTA has an agreement with WSIN to provide deconfliction services for operational matters, investigative purposes, and identified individuals. Initiatives that receive HIDTA funds, or other federal financial support, are mandated to participate. In addition, the ISC utilizes the RISSIntel database maintained by WSIN to coordinate other matters underway. Each of these things promotes officer safety and reduce the potential duplication of law enforcement efforts. Additionally, all Department of Justice investigative agencies in Washington State have agreed to use the HIDTA’s ISC for deconfliction purposes.

National HIDTA initiatives, such as the DHE initiative, also serve to promote information sharing among groups and agencies throughout Washington. Moreover, the HIDTA-sponsored training programs are available to participating entities. In 2022, the HIDTA coordinated or presented 10,668 hours of enforcement, analytical, management, and demand reduction training throughout the region.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA is successfully working toward National HIDTA Program goals and continually supporting associated initiatives through a variety of means. With support from the HIDTA’s ISC, law enforcement initiatives continue to make significant progress in identifying, investigating, and disrupting and/or dismantling the most dangerous and prolific drug distributors and money launderers operating in the region.

During 2022, illicit drug availability in the region was reduced by the HIDTA actions. Program participants recovered 99 kilograms of cocaine HCl, 128 kilograms of heroin, 2,240 kilograms of methamphetamine, and approximately 415 kilograms of fentanyl – directly contributing to the lowered availability. Additionally, 1,531,851 dosage units of fentanyl were seized. Also, seven illegal indoor marijuana grows totaling 1,817 kilograms of cannabis plant material, four outdoor marijuana grows totaling 548 kilograms of plant material, and an additional 453 kilograms of bulk marijuana were seized.



These seizures amounted to the denial of over \$94 million in illicit revenue. When coupled with drug asset seizures, totaling over \$4 million, it is clear DTO/MLO operations have been significantly impacted.

In total, 63 DTOs/MLOs were either significantly disrupted or entirely eradicated. Overall, trafficker-denied funds totaled over \$98 million in 2022.

Through its treatment initiative, the HIDTA provides funds to assist substance use disorder treatment programs operating in seven HIDTA counties. Funds are used to support staff positions, such as peer recovery coaches and case managers, as well as substance use disorder treatment services, mental health and trauma treatment services, medical and dental care, housing, educational programs, vocational training, and recovery support programs.

Additionally, the HIDTA’s prevention initiative provides funding to support substance use prevention programs located in eight HIDTA counties, as well as one program serving the entire state of Washington. In order to qualify for funding, programs must employ evidence-based or evidence-informed prevention practices, tailored to best address local risk factors and needs. Many HIDTA-funded prevention grantees place special emphasis on substance use prevention in youth populations.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$2.58</b>	<b>\$31.80</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>\$0.92</b>	<b>\$21.61</b>	<b>199</b>



## Ohio HIDTA

**Designated in 1999**

**Executive Director – Derek Siegle**

### *Purpose and Goals*

The purpose of the Ohio HIDTA is to reduce the transportation, distribution, manufacture, and cultivation of illicit drugs by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs operating in Ohio, Northern Kentucky (NKY) and Western Pennsylvania (WPA). This is accomplished by supporting and coordinating the efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement entities, as well as reporting measurable accomplishments of those efforts. The HIDTA utilizes the implementation of intelligence and operational strategies to respond to the threats posed to communities by the DTOs and MLOs operating throughout the country.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA's strategy is to incorporate the use of co-located law enforcement personnel from local, state, and federal agencies to identify, investigate, disrupt, and dismantle those DTOs/MLOs operating within the HIDTA AOR. These DTOs/MLOs are involved in the drug trafficking business within Ohio, NKY, and WPA, or they are utilizing the AOR to distribute and transport narcotics and facilitate the movement of ill-gotten gains from the drug trade in and outside of the region.

The 41 initiatives approved by the HIDTA Executive Board in Ohio, NKY, and WPA provide the basis of the HIDTA and its ability to combat the narcotics trade in HIDTA-designated counties, as well as throughout Ohio, NKY, and WPA. The strategy is successful at bringing together 288 federal, state, and local agencies, comprising 1,631 agents, officers, analysts, and other staff members. The impact of the strategy is evident by the information reported by the HIDTA in the PMP database.

### *Location*

The HIDTA is headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. The HIDTA comprises 16 Ohio counties, three NKY counties, and six WPA counties as follows (24 total):

- Ohio: Adams, Allen,<sup>43</sup> Butler, Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Scioto, Stark, Summit, and Warren
- Kentucky: Boone, Campbell, and Kenton
- Pennsylvania: Allegheny, Beaver, Erie, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA currently supports 37 enforcement/interdiction initiatives, 1 management initiative, 1 training initiative, 1 intelligence initiative, and 1 information technology initiative.



*Short-Term Objectives*

YEAR	DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled	Target Return on Investment: Assets	Target Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support
2023	112	\$11.91	\$21.36	148

*Threat Assessment*

The HIDTA region continues to be flooded with illicit drug abuse and high levels of addiction throughout the entirety of its AOR. The central location of the HIDTA between major United States drug distribution centers and the large amount of interstate highways easily accessible to drug traffickers make the region a hotbed of narcotics and bulk currency smuggling.

An analysis of responses from the 2023 HIDTA Threat Assessment Commanders’ Survey (OHTACS) displayed a stable demand for all types of drugs throughout 2022. Decreased drug prices have been reported across the AOR for fentanyl, crystal methamphetamine, and powder cocaine. This significant price decrease has been attributed to an increase in availability of these three drug types all across the AOR.

A thorough review of all submitted survey responses, follow up interview notes, and drug seizures submitted by task forces was conducted by the HIDTA personnel. After reviewing this information, the current ranking of drug threats within the HIDTA AOR has been determined to be:

Greatest Drug Threats to the Ohio HIDTA AOR	
Rank	Drug
1	Fentanyl/Heroin
2	Crystal Methamphetamine/Methamphetamine
3	Powder Cocaine/Crack Cocaine
4	Marijuana

Figure 1. Greatest Drug Threats to the HIDTA AOR

The risk of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl is the greatest drug threat facing the majority of the HIDTA AOR. A total of 94 percent of respondents to the 2023 OHTACS reported that synthetic opioids were highly available with 83 percent of respondents listing synthetic opioids as the greatest drug threat within their jurisdiction. In recent years, synthetic opioids have saturated the drug markets of Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and Western Pennsylvania and have replaced heroin as the opioid of choice. In 2022, seizures of heroin, powder cocaine, crack cocaine, and methamphetamine were all found to contain varying amounts of fentanyl. The presence of these highly potent synthetic opioids in related drug markets continues to be a major factor driving record levels of overdose deaths across the AOR. Fentanyl pills designed to look like legitimate prescription drugs have been seized by numerous task forces across the AOR. The HIDTA task



forces seized a total of 688 kilograms of fentanyl in 2022, a 46 percent increase from 2021's total of 472 kilograms. The HIDTA Task Forces also reported the seizure of 140,705 dosage units (DU) of fentanyl in 2022. This reflects a 15 percent increase from 2021's total of 122,458 DUs of fentanyl seized.

Crystal methamphetamine has once again been ranked as the second greatest drug threat within the HIDTA AOR. A total of 92 percent of respondents to the 2023 OHTACS reported that crystal methamphetamine was highly available within their jurisdiction with 14 percent of task forces listing it as the greatest drug threat. Task force commanders reported an increase in the level of crystal methamphetamine availability in 67 percent of jurisdictions. Methamphetamine, specifically crystal methamphetamine, has seen a rapid expansion into the drug markets of the HIDTA AOR in recent years. Because of its highly addictive nature and less expensive cost, DTOs have pushed methamphetamine alongside fentanyl and cocaine allowing it to gain a foothold in the area. In 2022, the HIDTA task forces seized a total of 808 kilograms of methamphetamine with 209 of those kilograms being crystal methamphetamine. This total is the second highest amount of methamphetamine ever seized by the HIDTA task forces, trailing only 2021's record total of 1,497 kilograms of methamphetamine seized.

Cocaine has been ranked as the third greatest drug threat within the HIDTA AOR. Cocaine continues to be highly available throughout the region. A total of 75 percent of task forces reported powder cocaine to be highly available while 50 percent reported high levels of crack cocaine available in their jurisdiction. The cocaine market appears to have remained stable in the region, with the majority of respondents reporting either no change or a slight increase in availability when compared to 2022. Fentanyl has been found within samples of both powder cocaine and crack cocaine at alarming levels within the HIDTA AOR. The presence of the highly potent and ultra-deadly synthetic opioid alongside cocaine presents a deadly threat to the drug market within the region and has fueled the surge of fatal drug related overdose incidents. HIDTA Task Forces seized a total of 1,271 kilograms of powder cocaine in 2022. This is a 41 percent increase when compared to the 903 kilograms seized in 2021. A total of 14 kilograms of crack cocaine was seized in 2022, which is 18 percent lower than 2021's total of 17 kilograms seized.

Marijuana is once again ranked as the fourth greatest drug threat within the HIDTA AOR. Marijuana continues to be the most used drug within the region. The majority of task forces responding to the 2023 OHTACS indicated that marijuana was highly available in their area, with 83 percent reporting high availability of high-grade marijuana, 64 percent reporting high availability of marijuana vaping cartridges, 64 percent reporting high availability of marijuana concentrates, 61 percent reporting high availability of marijuana edibles, and 56 percent reporting high availability of low-grade marijuana. High-grade marijuana from domestic sources of supply across the United States (US) such as California, Colorado, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Michigan is readily available to users within the HIDTA AOR. This marijuana has been cultivated to have much higher levels of THC compared to the previously encountered Mexican sourced low-grade marijuana. This marijuana is often diverted from US states where it is legal and transported to the HIDTA AOR. Marijuana vaping cartridges continue to surge in popularity within the region. These vaping cartridges allow users to consume marijuana concentrate oil that has alarmingly high levels of THC content. The vaping pens are calibrated to burn at a lower temperature than would typically be found in the marijuana smoking process. Because of this,



the blend of chemicals is released at an optimal level, which can lead to exposure to higher amounts of THC than anticipated. Marijuana concentrates and edibles are also increasing in popularity and use within the region. HIDTA task forces seized a total of 11,569 kilograms of marijuana in 2022 to include both bulk marijuana and marijuana plants. This is a 49 percent increase from 2021 when HIDTA task forces seized a total of 7,767 kilograms of marijuana and marijuana plants.

The misuse of prescription drugs remains a threat to the HIDTA AOR. Although the total number of prescription opioids dispensed continues to fall each year, a certain percentage of those doses still end up diverted and misused within the area. Some of the most commonly abused and legitimately prescribed drugs of note within the region are Percocet®, OxyContin®, Vicodin® and tramadol. Doses of these medications are acquired via various methods of diversion including theft, trade for other drug types and sale from a legitimately prescribed patient. The cost of use for these prescription drugs remains relatively high, with several of the drug types fetching \$1 per each milligram (mg) of drug contained in the pill. The more pressing concern within the prescription drug threat is that of counterfeit prescription medication being consumed in the area. It is not uncommon for users to purchase a pill that has the looks and appearance of a legitimate prescription medication like oxycodone or alprazolam but the pills actually contain fentanyl, methamphetamine and other cutting agents. The risk of illness and death from unintentional overdoses of these products is alarmingly high. In 2022, HIDTA task forces seized a total of 37,452 DUs of controlled prescription drugs. This represented a 61 percent decrease from 2021's total of 95,707 DUs seized. The 19 kilograms of prescription drugs seized in 2022 is the same amount reported by the HIDTA task forces in 2021.

MDMA continues to have a stable but smaller market within the HIDTA AOR. A total of 56 percent of task forces surveyed reported no change in the level of availability of MDMA in 2022 compared to 2021 levels. MDMA is frequently found at clubs and music festivals in the area. Purchases of MDMA frequently occur via dark web marketplaces and have international sources such as Europe, Canada, Asia, and Mexico. In 2022, HIDTA task forces seized a total of 10 kilograms of MDMA, which is a 67 percent increase from the 6 kilograms seized in 2021.

Moderate levels of other drug types are also reported by HIDTA task forces in the field. Availability of synthetic cathinones (bath salts), synthetic cannabinoids (synthetic marijuana) and synthetic hallucinogens such as LSD and PCP have all been reported in the moderate to low levels across the region.

The drug threat in the HIDTA AOR is heavily influenced by international Mexican DTOs. These DTOs are primarily responsible for the production, transportation and distribution of major drugs in the area such as synthetic opioids, heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine. Mexican DTOs use the vast interstate highway system to coordinate the supply of bulk amounts of narcotics to the various drug markets in the region. Larger cities like Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh may see direct shipments of product to their cities, but travel to major drug markets such as Chicago, Detroit, New York, and Philadelphia are also routinely encountered.



### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The HIDTA ISC performs a significant role in supporting the strategy and all of the initiatives throughout the year as they execute strategic, tactical, and operational activities to achieve targeted objectives. Intelligence analysts execute a vital function to enhance the coordination between initiatives and agencies to accomplish results as mandated by the National HIDTA Program goals. Full-time, part-time, co-located, and multiagency personnel, with the use of a myriad of analytical tools, provide the backbone to this crucial infrastructure. Intelligence subsystem activities have been extremely successful in performing the following key functions on behalf of initiatives and participating agencies:

- accomplishing essential analytical case support to the HIDTA law enforcement initiatives and participating agencies, whose analytical resources otherwise are either very limited or non-existent;
- facilitating connectivity between and/or among local, state, and federal LEAs; criminal databases; other intelligence databases; HIDTA ISCs; and open-source databases;
- assisting in the development of drug threat assessments and initiative description and budget proposals;
- creating actionable intelligence recommendations on DTOs and their members;
- providing SAR referrals for MLOs and their members; and
- coordinating drug intelligence symposiums for the exchange of drug intelligence and networking opportunities amongst investigators and analysts from HIDTA initiatives, participating agencies, and other law enforcement entities in the HIDTA region.

The ISC intelligence component provides a full range of intelligence analytical support to other HIDTA initiatives, participating agencies, and other appropriate law enforcement and intelligence community entities. There is an expanding exchange of tactical, operational, and strategic intelligence between the HIDTA and other HIDTAs throughout the country. Core intelligence subsystem functions include: analytical case support, cell phone extraction analysis, cell phone ping analysis, crime mapping, database inquiry and exploration, event and subject deconfliction via Case Explorer, financial analysis/SAR review, GPS monitoring and analysis, heroin overdose incident form, link chart creation & analysis, ODMAP, overdose incident deconfliction form, pharmaceutical analysis, social networking investigation, and strategic intelligence.

The ISC consists of the Analytical Unit and the Case Explorer deconfliction system. The Case Explorer deconfliction system provides officer safety deconfliction to avoid hazardous encounters between law enforcement personnel by making agencies aware of conflicting actions being taken by their fellow agencies. The Case Explorer deconfliction system also facilitates the exchange of information between officers and agents potentially investigating the same subject. Both the Case Explorer deconfliction system and the Analytical Unit provide tactical intelligence



to the HIDTA law enforcement initiatives, participating agencies, other HIDTAs, and LEAs outside of the HIDTA region, utilizing a variety of law enforcement and public databases.

The ISC has also spearheaded the efforts to form shared overdose initiative groups within each of these trained counties. The purpose of these shared groups is to more efficiently link overdose investigators to overdose data from neighboring jurisdictions, as well as provide additional intelligence support that they may not have realized was available to them.

The HIDTA has also introduced ODMAP into the state. The program uses a web service accessible through a smart phone or computer to allow first responders to report fatal and nonfatal overdose incidents and related data. The location, date, and time of the incidents are transmitted to the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA secure map server and plotted on an electronic map that allows participating agencies to visualize overdose incidents in and around their jurisdiction. ODMAP enables agencies to see overdose spikes, as well as the locations of overdose occurrences. The HIDTA is looking to utilize the data to work with public health officials in identifying at-risk individuals in need of treatment. As of June 2023, 69,696 overdoses were entered for 82 of the 88 Ohio counties. Currently, the HIDTA has 329 agencies signed up on participation agreements with the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA for access to ODMAP.

The HIDTA ISC hosts and coordinates a variety of drug intelligence training to facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge amongst intelligence analysts and drug investigators. It affords the opportunity for analyst and investigators from the HIDTA initiatives, HIDTA ISCs, and other LEAs in the Great Lakes Midwest region to network and share valuable intelligence information with the end goal of disrupting drug-trafficking activities.

### *Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region*

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Akron Safe Streets Task Force	Summit
Akron/Summit Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Summit
Allegheny County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny (PA)
Beaver County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Beaver (PA)
Brown County Drug Task Force	Brown
Butler Undercover Regional Narcotics-BURN (HIDTA)	Butler
Caribbean Gang, Narcotics and Laundering Task Force	Cuyahoga
Central Ohio Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Franklin
Central Ohio Narcotics Task Force	Coshocton, Know, Licking, Muskingum, and Perry
Cincinnati Law Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Hamilton
Cincinnati Major Drug Offenders Unit	Hamilton



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Cincinnati regional Narcotics Unit-RENU	Hamilton
Clermont County Drug Task Force	Clermont
Columbiana County Drug Task Force	Columbiana
DEA Cincinnati Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Hamilton
DEA Cleveland Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Cuyahoga
DEA Columbus Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Franklin
DEA Pittsburgh Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny (PA)
DEA Toledo Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lucas
DEA Youngstown Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Mahoning
Delaware County Drug Task Force	Delaware
Drug Abuse Reduction Task Force (DART)	Hamilton
FBI Opioid/Overdose Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny (PA)
Franklin County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Franklin
Grand Lake Task Force	Auglaize and Mercer
Greene County Combined Enforcement (ACE)	Greene
Hardin County Crime Task Force	Hardin
HSI Border Enforcement Security Team Interdiction Initiative	Cuyahoga
HSI/Pennsylvania State Police Interdiction Drug Task Force	Allegheny (PA)
Hotel Interdiction Team (HIDTA)	Cuyahoga
Jackson County Drug Task Force	Jackson
Jefferson County Drug Task Force	Jefferson
Lake County Narcotics Agency	Lake
Lawrence County Drug Task Force	Lawrence (PA)
Lawrence Drug and Major Crimes Task Force	Lawrence
Logan County Drug Task Force	Logan
Lorain County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lorain
Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Mahoning
Major Crimes Unit (HIDTA)	Fairfield/Hocking/Athens
Medina County Drug Task Force	Medina
Medway Drug Enforcement Agency	Wayne and Medina
METRICH Enforcement Unit	Ashland, Crawford, Hancock, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot
Miami Valley Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Montgomery
Multi-Area Narcotics Unit	Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Putnam, and Williams
Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force (HIDTA)	Boone/Campbell/Kenton



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Statewide
Northwest Ohio Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Allen
Northwest Pennsylvania Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Erie (PA)
Ohio Highway Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Statewide
Ottawa County Drug Task Force	Ottawa
Pennsylvania Highway Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Allegheny, Beaver, and Washington (PA)
Pittsburgh Bureau of Police/DEA Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny (PA)
Portage County Drug Task Force	Portage
Regional Agencies Narcotics & Gun Task Force	Clark, Montgomery, and Preble
Sandusky County Drug Task Force	Sandusky
Southeast Area Law Enforcement Task Force-SEALE	Cuyahoga
Southern Ohio Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Scioto
Southern Ohio Fugitive Apprehension Strike Force (HIDTA)	Statewide
Stark County Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Stark
Stark County Sheriff's Metro Narcotics Unit	Stark
Toledo Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lucas
Trumbull, Ashtabula, Geauga Task Force	Ashtabula and Trumbull
United States 23 Pipeline Major Crimes Task Force	Fayette, Highland, Pickaway, Pike, and Ross
Columbus Violent Crime Task Force	Franklin
Warren County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Warren
Washington County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Washington (PA)
West Central Ohio Crime Task Force	Allen
Westmoreland County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Westmoreland (PA)
Westshore Enforcement Bureau-WEB	Cuyahoga

### ***Task Force Coordination***

Through oversight by the HIDTA Executive Board, initiatives are managed, reviewed, and funded in a consistent manner with a focus on achieving the mission to disrupt and dismantle DTOs/MLOs. Annual review of each initiative, use of the four subcommittees created by the Executive Board, task force commander meetings, and submission of initiative descriptions and budget proposals help ensure that each initiative is meeting the goals and objectives of the HIDTA Program.

The HIDTA ISC provides the platform for intelligence information sharing, deconfliction services, and investigative support for the initiatives. The ISC ensures information sharing among initiatives to avoid duplication of effort and resources. This ISC complements the other operational initiatives through its support and facilitates a comprehensive intelligence strategy



that enables overall initiative cohesiveness. The Training Initiative coordinates all law enforcement, analytical, and management training, and it provides a mechanism for consistent training to all of the operational initiatives. Finally, the IT Initiative provides IT systems and support to all member agencies.

Operational initiatives are reviewed annually to ensure they are operating according to their mission statement, addressing the identified drug problem in their area of operation, operating according to the PPBG, properly recording data in the PMP system, deconflicting events and subject/cases, sharing information, and properly utilizing funds. Initiatives are spread out through 23 counties, including three in NKY and six in WPA. Only in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, and Mahoning in Ohio, and Allegheny in WPA are there more than one HIDTA initiative in operation. In these counties, the demand for narcotics enforcement necessitates multiple initiatives. These initiatives work together when needed, share information on a daily basis, and at times have different areas of focus in terms of geography, type of DTO/MLO, or narcotic distribution.

The Ohio Highway Interdiction Initiative (OHII) and the Pennsylvania Highway Interdiction Initiative (PAII) remain conduits of information to the traditional drug task forces based upon the vast amount of highway interdictions conducted. All information obtained from highway interdiction is shared with the nearest HIDTA task force, and seizures are entered into the NSS. In turn, task forces rely on OHII and PAII participants to provide support on the highways when interdiction of drug and/or cash shipments is warranted. In 2022 OHII and PAII seized approximately \$48.5 million in wholesale value of drugs, and more than \$13.3 million in cash and assets. The highway interdiction initiatives also utilize the Case Explorer deconfliction system for all interdictions, further ensuring coordination with traditional task forces.

The Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force and the Southern Ohio Fugitive Apprehension Strike Force provide support in locating drug fugitives identified by other initiatives. These initiatives also utilize deconfliction to determine if a subject has been arrested in another initiative's investigation. The number of fugitives apprehended for 2022 was 3,963, of which 974 were sought for drug-related crimes. The removal of 974 drug felons from the streets of their communities had a direct impact on the reduction of crime and the distribution of illegal drugs. The HIDTA anticipates that 3,703 fugitives will be targeted and apprehended in 2023.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA remains an effective and efficient platform to continue development of law enforcement partnerships, coordinate investigative information sharing, and support the *National Drug Control Strategy*. In 2022, the HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 112 DTOs/MLOs operating in the region. Of those disrupted or dismantled, 38 were international, 57 were multistate, and 17 were local. The estimated wholesale value of drugs seized in 2022 was more than \$162.9 million. Cash and other drug-related assets seized totaled \$43.4 million. The ROI for drugs and assets seized in 2022 was \$35.76.



<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$10.24</b>	<b>\$28.34</b>	<b>120</b>

  

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>\$7.53</b>	<b>\$28.23</b>	<b>1,244</b>



## Oregon-Idaho HIDTA

**Designated in 1999**

**Executive Director – Chris Gibson**

### *Purpose and Goals*

In conjunction with the national program goals, Oregon-Idaho HIDTA’s mission is to facilitate, support, and enhance collaborative drug control efforts among LEAs and community-based organizations, thus significantly reducing the impact of illegal trafficking and drug use throughout Oregon and Idaho and the areas within the United States experiencing harmful effects from drug trafficking.

As a means of achieving its mission and goals, and to achieve maximum results, the specific purpose of the HIDTA is to provide supplemental funding to law enforcement and community-based prevention initiatives that promote and facilitate cooperative sharing of intelligence information, leverage available resources, and maintain effective working relationships among federal, state, local, and Tribal agencies. The HIDTA provides its initiatives with valuable operational funding and resources, including case support, strategic and tactical analytical assistance, electronic surveillance equipment loans, technical support, deconfliction services, and training.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA will continue to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among the 12 federal agencies, 6 state agencies, 61 local agencies, 2 Tribal agencies, and the USAOs in the District of Oregon and District of Idaho to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs and reducing the demand for, and availability of, illegal drugs.

### *Location*

The HIDTA, based in Salem, Oregon, includes the following designated areas:

- Idaho: Ada, Bannock, Canyon, Kootenai
- Oregon: Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla, Washington

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 25 initiatives: 21 enforcement, 1 prevention, 1 management, 1 training, and 1 intelligence.



### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs and MLOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>\$3.55</b>	<b>\$325.00</b>	<b>855</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The HIDTA counties face challenges like those throughout the United States related to fentanyl availability, misuse, use disorder, and poisoning. During 2022, the HIDTA region has experienced an increased rate of fatal and non-fatal overdose incidents as illicit fentanyl, analogs, and stimulants continue to flood the area. Methamphetamine remains a constant and significant threat in Idaho and Oregon with continued high availability, high purity, and low prices driving demand. The HIDTA Information Sharing and Analytical Coordination Center (ISACC) predicts with high confidence that fentanyl and methamphetamine will continue to be the most significant drug threats in 2024.

The following further highlights the drug threats impacting the HIDTA region:

- Fentanyl has overtaken methamphetamine as the primary drug threat in Oregon and Idaho, seized by law enforcement agencies in counterfeit pills and increasingly in powder form. Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs are increasingly found in drug samples submitted by law enforcement agencies to state and federal crime labs for analysis.
- Methamphetamine continues to impact community livability and is present in over half of the drug-related deaths reported by OHA during 2021 and the first half of 2022, and present in over one-third of the drug-related overdose deaths reported by IDHW in 2021. Methamphetamine use also contributes to criminal activity including crimes against persons and property crimes in the HIDTA region.
- Heroin availability and seizures have significantly decreased during the past year as the demand for and availability of fentanyl rises among opioid-dependent users and the opioid naïve.
- Cocaine availability increased in the region as indicated by an increase in cocaine seizures by HIDTA initiatives as well as an increase in cocaine-related DTO investigations. Oregon and Idaho remain transit states for cocaine destined for Washington and Canada.

Oregon remains a source state for high-quality marijuana and extract products for the nation. Despite state efforts to regulate the legalized marijuana market, black and grey market products originating in Oregon continue to be seized in other parts of the country. Marijuana from Oregon continues to negatively affect communities outside of this HIDTA region, undermining the legal markets in many states including Oregon. Mexican and Chinese DTOs continue to impact illicit



marijuana cultivation in Oregon. Environmental degradation and forced labor trafficking remain a concern to law enforcement and elected leaders throughout the state.

Illicit use and availability of diverted controlled prescription drugs (CPD) and designer drugs, such as dimethyltryptamine (DMT) and MDMA remains low in Oregon and Idaho and are not considered a significant threat based on law enforcement and public health reporting.

DTOs operating in Oregon and Idaho remain robust, with an average of 125 unique organizations investigated yearly. Multi-state DTOs continue to have the largest impact followed by locally operated and internationally connected DTOs. International DTOs are operationally connected to TCOs in Mexico and are responsible for sourcing fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine. TCOs connected to China have increased their presence in large-scale marijuana cultivation and export.

DTOs and MLOS in the region continue to utilize cash-intense businesses, such as stores, restaurants, and used car dealerships as the primary methods to transfer drug trafficking proceeds into legitimate funding streams. Bulk cash smuggling continues to be the primary method for transporting illicit proceeds throughout the region and internationally to TCOs operating in drug-source countries.

Xylazine has become a substance of concern throughout the United States. It has been identified in the illicit fentanyl supply in Oregon and Idaho and continues to be a topic of concern among public health and law enforcement professionals in the region. While xylazine is not currently a controlled substance, combining it with fentanyl exacerbates the life-saving measures associated with naloxone administration which is used to reverse opioid overdoses.

### ***Intelligence Initiatives and Task Force Coordination***

All HIDTA task forces receiving OCDETF, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, or HIDTA funding are encouraged to use the RISSIntel and RISSafe systems for case, subject, and event deconfliction. The HIDTA ISACC, which is co-located with the Management Initiative and the Idaho Fusion Center coordinate these activities and share information routinely and freely with federal, state, local, and Tribal LEAs throughout the region.

All drug task forces share information with the HIDTA ISACC. Many of the task forces work together on investigations and subsequently share information and resources. The HIDTA conducts periodic information sharing meetings with task force managers and supervisors. The HIDTA Training Initiative, in partnership with the Oregon Narcotics Enforcement Association, coordinates annual training conferences for narcotics officers.

### ***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Bannock Area Drug & Gang Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Pocatello, ID
Blue Mountain Narcotics Team (HIDTA)	Pendleton, OR
Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (HIDTA)	Bend, OR
Clackamas County Interagency Task Force (HIDTA)	Oregon City, OR
DEA Boise District Office Task Force (DEA & HIDTA)	Boise, ID
Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team (HIDTA)	Roseburg, OR
City County Narcotics Unit FBI Metro TF (HIDTA)	Caldwell, ID
HIDTA Interdiction Team (HIDTA)	Portland, OR
HIDTA Special Assistant United States Attorney District of Idaho	Boise, ID
High Desert Task Force (HIDTA)	Ontario, OR
Idaho State Police Domestic Highway Enforcement (HIDTA)	Meridian, ID
Information Sharing and Analytical Coordination Center (HIDTA)	Salem, OR
Linn Interagency Narcotics Enforcement (HIDTA)	Albany, OR
Medford Area Drug and Gang Enforcement (HIDTA)	Medford, OR
Multnomah County Dangerous Drug Team (HIDTA)	Portland, OR
North Idaho Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Coeur d'Alene, ID
Oregon HIDTA DEA Task Force (DEA & HIDTA)	Portland, Salem, Eugene, Medford, OR
Oregon State Police Domestic Highway Enforcement (HIDTA)	Salem, OR
Rogue Area Drug Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Grants Pass, OR
U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force (USMS & HIDTA)	Portland, OR
Westside Interagency Narcotics Team (HIDTA)	Beaverton, OR

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

The HIDTA reduced drug availability in its AOR and is on target to meet the national HIDTA goals as it seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all initiatives. The HIDTA has established funding and operational priorities that focus on disrupting and/or dismantling those DTOs and MLOs operating in Oregon and Idaho, those affecting other parts of the Nation, and those involved with drug-related crime.

In 2022, initiatives disrupted or dismantled 80 of 126 identified DTOs or MLOs. Enforcement task forces were responsible for seizing illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$2.16 billion and \$29.20 million in cash and other drug-related assets (\$2.19 billion total) from drug traffickers and money launderers, resulting in a total ROI of \$473.12.



<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>\$3.50</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>644</b>

  

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$6.29</b>	<b>\$466.83</b>	<b>783</b>



## **Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA**

**Designated in 1994**

**Director – John Kanig**

### ***Purpose and Goals***

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA has created intelligence-driven task forces comprising federal, Commonwealth, territorial, and local LEAs to combat drug trafficking and related money laundering and criminal activities with a continued focus on violent crime. The HIDTA promotes sharing accurate intelligence and operates a joint investigation system using the latest technology and featuring full agency and partner participation. The integration of land, sea, and air resources will continue to advance the dismantling and disruption of major DTOs and MLOs operating in the Caribbean Basin. The HIDTA’s purpose is to provide LEAs with coordination, equipment, technology, and resources to address drug trafficking and money laundering activities that have detrimental consequences in United States jurisdictions in the Caribbean.

The HIDTA’s primary goal is to disrupt and dismantle DTOs and related money laundering schemes and reduce violence associated with these illegal activities. The HIDTA also supports prevention efforts through the Alianza for a Drug Free Puerto Rico and the newly-created prevention initiative for USVI.

### ***Strategy***

The HIDTA’s strategy focuses on regional threats and includes prevention as part of its plan to assist in the reduction of illegal activities and violent crimes. The HIDTA, through cooperation and effective relationships established with federal, Commonwealth, territorial and local agencies, has joint task forces positioned throughout the region to counter drug trafficking and related criminal activity. Additional partnerships are being developed with neighboring Island Nations and LEAs that closely work with our law enforcement representatives to ensure extended coverage of the region is accomplished.

### ***Location***

The HIDTA’s headquarters is located in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, and the offices covering the U.S. Virgin Islands are situated on the islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix. Located in the northeastern Caribbean Basin, and in a prime transit zone for drugs moving from South America to the continental United States (CONUS) and Europe, the HIDTA comprises the following:

- Puerto Rico (including the off-island municipalities of Culebra and Vieques) and USVI

### ***Initiatives***

The HIDTA supports 16 initiatives: 11 enforcement (investigative and interdiction), 2 prevention, 1 intelligence, 1 training, and 1 management.



### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>\$58.00</b>	<b>656</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The HIDTA AOR is highly vulnerable to drug trafficking because of its geographic location in the Caribbean, an established transshipment zone of illicit drugs from South America through the United States territories (Puerto Rico and USVI) to the CONUS. In recent years, larger amounts of drugs have been available for transport through the supply chain, as more security has been implemented along the Southwest border of the CONUS in direct response to the drug threat and human trafficking threat. In addition, increased production of cocaine in South America has resulted in an increase in the annual drug flow. Strong earthquakes and the COVID-19 pandemic also shifted LEA resources and focus creating a void that allowed for DTO/MLOs to operate freely during certain periods. As a result, South American cartels have been trafficking larger drug shipments through the Caribbean. Drug trafficking remains a significant threat to Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CONUS. Consequently, violent crimes, unlawful financial activities, and substance use disorder continue to impact communities within the AOR. In 2019, the identification of fentanyl being trafficked through the area increased, thereby causing a larger number of overdoses. In 2020 it remained unchanged.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

Information sharing is a key factor in the success of HIDTA-led investigations. The HIDTA ISC, located in Guaynabo, continues to be a center for regional information sharing, and tactical and operational intelligence.

The HIDTA ISC analyzes information and delivers accurate and timely strategic, organizational, and tactical intelligence on cocaine, heroin, and marijuana-related criminal activity within Puerto Rico and USVI. The initiative is designed to improve the functioning of law enforcement initiatives by providing them with critical, relevant, and timely intelligence. The ISC facilitates efficient information sharing on drug trafficking/distribution, money laundering, and illegal firearms used in drug-related crime activities with participating agencies, non-participating agencies, and with the law enforcement community nationwide.

The ISC shares information obtained from the use of many commercial and law enforcement databases. The ISC provides event and case deconfliction; post-seizure analysis; telephone toll analysis; active pen register monitoring; intelligence profiles; Title III support; charts, graphs, trend, and pattern analysis; and financial analysis. The ISC provides coordination with the EPIC and Joint Interagency Task Force South and offers 24/7 coverage via an automated Hotline Deconfliction Number. The ISC added to its portfolio of services a forensic extraction laboratory, staffed by certified cellular device technicians, capable of retrieving data from seized



devices for evidentiary use. This service has proven to be a useful law enforcement tool for HIDTA partners and non-participating agencies.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces and supporting initiatives operating in the HIDTA region.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Air & Marine Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Alliance for a Drug Free Puerto Rico (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Caribbean Corridor OCDETF Strike Force (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Fajardo Major Organization Investigations (HIDTA)	Fajardo, PR
FBI OCDETF Task Force (FBI)	San Juan, PR
FBI OCDETF Task Force (FBI)	St. Croix, USVI
HIDTA Training Initiative (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Investigative Support Center (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Management & Coordination Support (HIDTA Admin)	San Juan, PR
Major Crimes Interdiction (MCI)	San Juan, PR
Caribbean Money Laundering Alliance (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Ponce Major Organization Investigations/Hormigueros Satellite (HIDTA)	Ponce/Hormigueros, PR
Puerto Rico Violent Offenders Task Force (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Safe Neighborhoods (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	San Juan, PR
Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	Fajardo, PR
Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	Ponce, PR
Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	Aguadilla, PR
Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	St. Thomas, USVI
St. Croix Major Organization Investigations (HIDTA)	St. Croix, USVI
St. Thomas Major Organization Investigations (HIDTA)	St. Thomas, USVI
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Ponce, PR
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	San Juan, PR
USVI Prevention Initiative	St. Thomas, USVI

***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA plays an important role in coordinating and sharing information with federal, state, and local LEAs.

The ISC works with the law enforcement community to support each other in the intelligence arena. The ISC operates a 24-hour deconfliction hotline available to all initiatives in the HIDTA AOR. The ISC is staffed by intelligence/criminal research specialists/analysts; TFOs from the



Puerto Rico Police Bureau, San Juan Municipal Police and Special Agents from the DEA, CBP, USBP, Puerto Rico Special Investigations Bureau, Puerto Rico Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Puerto Rico National Guard, and Puerto Rico Treasury Department.

The Caribbean Corridor Strike Force is a major multiagency investigative and interdiction initiative that tackles drug trafficking in the Caribbean transit zone. The initiative receives support from the Puerto Rico Police Bureau/Joint Forces of Rapid Action (Fuerzas Unidas de Rápida Acción or FURA), U.S. Coast Guard, and CBP, among others.

Prevention activities are covered by two HIDTA-funded initiatives. The first is Alianza, the Alliance for a Drug Free Puerto Rico (Alianza para un Puerto Rico Sin Drogas), and the second is the Virgin Islands Prevention Initiative. These programs work with students and schools in the most vulnerable neighborhoods in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands to help young people avoid drug use.

The HIDTA Training Initiative coordinates the training needs for the law enforcement community with an emphasis on officer safety, and the safe handling of opioids. In addition, the Training Unit focused on the deployment of naloxone by first responders, and has helped certify over 1000 law enforcement partners in the use of naloxone.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, PR/USVI HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 21 DTO’s operating in the region, of which 8 were international, 3 were multi-state, and 10 were local. The 2022 wholesale value of drugs seized was \$2.540B and the value of cash and other drug-related assets were \$16.1MM for a grand total of \$2.556B. In 2022, the ROI for drugs and assets seized totaled \$244.2.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
2022	52	\$2.00	\$58.00	1,403
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
2022	21	\$1.54	\$242.65	1,668



# Rocky Mountain HIDTA

**Designated in 1996**

**Director – Keith R. Weis**

## *Purpose and Goals*

Rocky Mountain HIDTA’s mission is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs by facilitating cooperation and coordination among federal, state, and local drug enforcement entities to dismantle and disrupt DTOs, with particular emphasis on drug-trafficking within the HIDTA region that has harmful effects on other parts of the United States. This mission is accomplished through intelligence-driven joint multiagency co-located drug task forces sharing information and working cooperatively with other drug enforcement initiatives, including interdiction.

## *Strategy*

The HIDTA has a strong management team that stresses cooperation and collaboration among initiatives to address current drug threats at federal, state, and local levels, while affecting the availability and use of all drugs throughout the Nation.

The Executive Board’s ongoing efforts are dedicated to facilitating coordination and cooperation among 10 federal agencies and 124 state and local agencies that partner to reduce drug availability by eliminating or disrupting DTOs and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement efforts within the HIDTA region. The Board’s efforts help achieve common goals and respond to current drug threats effectively and efficiently. Initiatives facilitate collaboration, coordination, and information sharing among all task forces and drug units both within and outside the HIDTA region.

An extensive training program, an intelligence initiative, aggressive enforcement initiatives, and a criminal interdiction program support the HIDTA’s strategy. Enforcement initiatives focus on targeting and dismantling or disrupting major DTOs. Criminal interdiction initiatives have been established in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana in an effort to address DTOs that transport illicit drugs into and through the region. A drug prevention initiative is also included in the strategy. Enforcement initiatives, coupled with drug prevention, that includes ORS in each of the HIDTA’s four states, add multiple tools to address drug trafficking and use.

## *Location*

The HIDTA operates out of Denver, Colorado, and comprises 30 designated counties:

- Colorado: Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Garfield, Jefferson, La Plata, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, and Weld
- Montana: Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, and Yellowstone
- Utah: Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, and Weber



- Wyoming: Albany, Campbell, Laramie, Natrona, Sweetwater, and Uinta

***Initiatives***

The HIDTA supports 31 initiatives: 28 investigative, 1 management, 1 training, and 1 intelligence.

***Short-Term Objectives***

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>\$1.52</b>	<b>\$23.25</b>	<b>263</b>

***Threat Assessment***

Fentanyl is the most significant drug threat in the Rocky Mountain region due to its polydrug capabilities, resulting in a greater number of fatal overdoses, and a substantial increase in seizures by the HIDTA task forces. Mexican DTOs are the principal suppliers of wholesale quantities of fentanyl (in both pill and powder form), methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin to the region from locations along the Southwest Border, while West Coast-based DTOs supply high potency marijuana to the region from sources in California, as well as from within Colorado. These DTOs exploit the HIDTA’s centralized location and extensive transportation infrastructure to distribute wholesale quantities of fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, and heroin. Interstates 15, 25, 70, 80, 90, and 94 transect the AOR, and DTOs use these major routes to transport illicit drugs from California, Arizona, and Texas to markets in Salt Lake City, Utah, Denver, Colorado, and major midwestern cities such as Omaha, Nebraska; Kansas City, Missouri, and Chicago, Illinois.

***Intelligence Initiatives***

The HIDTA ISC is located in Denver and supports a network of at least 50 analysts across the region. The ISC provides a mechanism for integrating various regionally- and nationally-based intelligence systems into one centralized resource for investigative inquiries by participating agencies in the HIDTA area. The ISC performs tactical case analysis for investigative agencies and develops strategic intelligence to provide timely and accurate information for threat assessments. Regional deconfliction services offered by the ISC address both operational/event deconfliction and open case/subject deconfliction processes. These services are achieved through the mandated use of RISSafe and RISSIntel for all funded initiatives.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Big Muddy River (Byrne/JAG)	Wolf Point, MT
Central Utah Narcotic Task Force (Byrne/JAG)	Richfield, UT
Colorado Criminal Interdiction (HIDTA)	Denver, CO
Colorado Springs Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Colorado Springs, CO
Davis Metro Narcotics Strike Force (HIDTA)	Kaysville, UT
Denver Metro Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Denver, CO
Eastern Montana Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Billings, MT
Front Range Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Aurora, CO
Fugitive Location and Apprehension Group (HIDTA)	Aurora, CO
Missoula County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Missoula, MT
Missouri River Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Bozeman, MT
Montana Criminal Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	Great Falls, MT
Montana Regional Violent Crime Task Force (FBI)	Great Falls, MT
Mountain Enforcement Team (Byrne/JAG)	Jackson, WY
North Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Broomfield, CO
Northern Colorado Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Ft. Collins, CO
Northern Utah Criminal Apprehension Team (FBI)	Ogden, UT
Northwest Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Kalispell, MT
Northwest Enforcement Team (Byrne/JAG)	Powell, WY
OCDETF Strike Force	Denver, CO
Regional Anti-Violence Enforcement Network (HIDTA)	Aurora, CO
Russell Country Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Great Falls, MT
Safe Streets Violent Crimes Task Force (FBI)	Salt Lake City, UT
Southern Colorado Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Colorado Springs, CO
Southern Colorado Violent Gang Safe Streets Task Force	Colorado Springs, CO
Southwest Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Durango, CO
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Denver, CO
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Salt Lake City, UT
Tri-Agency Drug Task Force (Byrne/JAG)	Havre, MT
Two Rivers Drug Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Glenwood Springs, CO
Weld County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Greeley, CO
West Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Golden, CO
Western Colorado Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Grand Junction, CO
Iron/Garfield County Narcotic Task Force (Byrne/JAG)	Cedar City, UT
Salt Lake City Metro Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Salt Lake City, UT
Utah County Major Crimes Task Force (HIDTA)	Orem, UT
Utah Criminal Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	Salt Lake City, UT
Washington County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	St. George, UT



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Weber Morgan Narcotics Strike Force (HIDTA)	Ogden, UT
Wyoming Criminal Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	Cheyenne, WY
Wyoming Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Casper, Sheridan, Cheyenne, and Rock Springs, WY

***Task Force Coordination***

All HIDTA task force initiatives are required to use RISSIntel. Task force initiatives are also required to use the RISSafe event deconfliction system. All other federally funded task forces operating in the HIDTA region voluntarily use RISSafe and RISSIntel. Deconfliction hits require interagency communication and coordination to prevent investigative overlap.

All drug task forces share information with the HIDTA ISC analysts on a regular, informal and formal basis through a mandated report and threat assessments. The task force teams, particularly those located in the Denver metropolitan area often work together on overlapping investigations and/or resource sharing. The HIDTA coordinates with the drug investigator associations or those responsible for Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funding, and conducts periodic commander meetings for all drug units and task forces throughout the HIDTA region regardless of the funding sources. The purpose of these meetings is to exchange information on drug trafficking threats and address issues of mutual concern.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 129 DTOs consisting of 16 international, 49 multistate, and 64 local organizations. There were no methamphetamine laboratories dismantled in the HIDTA region in 2022. The wholesale value of the drugs removed from the marketplace by the HIDTA initiatives was more than \$208 million, and the cash and assets seized was over \$19.6 million (\$227.7 million total). The 2022 total ROI for the HIDTA was \$21.42.

YEAR	DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled	Target Return on Investment: Assets	Target Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support
2022	118	\$1.78	\$25.06	273
YEAR	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2022	129	\$1.80	\$19.62	204



# San Diego/Imperial Valley HIDTA

**Designated in 1990**

**Director – David King**

## *Purpose and Goals*

San Diego Imperial Valley HIDTA’s mission is to measurably reduce drug trafficking, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in the AOR and other areas of the country. The HIDTA region has a long history of being one of the most prolific drug transshipment points along the Southwest border. The HIDTA AOR continues to account for an overwhelming majority of Southwest border drug seizures. For 2022, border seizures in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas revealed that over 43 percent of cocaine; 50 percent of heroin; 60 percent of methamphetamine; and 57 percent of powder fentanyl are attributed to the HIDTA AOR. The HIDTA consists of both San Diego County and Imperial County that border Mexico.

## *Strategy*

The HIDTA assists in the coordination of joint operational and supporting initiatives to disrupt and dismantle the most significant DTOs, MLOs, TCOs, and their associated transportation and distribution organizations. The HIDTA also emphasizes efforts against methamphetamine manufacturing, precursor chemical supply, and illicit use through innovative enforcement operations and demand reduction programs using a multiagency, joint concept of operations. Initiatives continue to foster cooperative and productive working relationships among approximately 700 federal, state, and local full-time and part-time personnel from almost every LEA in the region. These agencies voluntarily participate in HIDTA initiatives to disrupt and dismantle DTOs, reduce drug demand, and make communities safer.

## *Location*

The HIDTA operates out of San Diego, California, and is responsible for the following counties:

- Imperial and San Diego

## *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 16 initiatives: 9 investigation/interdiction, 1 management and coordination, 3 support, 1 demand reduction, 1 prosecution, and 1 intelligence.

## *Short-Term Objectives*

YEAR	DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled	Target Return on Investment: Assets	Target Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support
2023	48	\$2.00	\$85.00	154



### *Threat Assessment*

San Diego and Imperial Counties are national distribution centers for illicit drugs entering the United States from Mexico and Central and South America, including heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. In 2022, the HIDTA removed 52 metric tons of drugs valued at over \$892 million and proceeds worth over \$53 million from the profit sheets of DTOs, MLOs, and TCOs. Initiatives focused efforts on major DTOs/MLOs and investigated 107 DTOs/MLOs, resulting in 57 open OCDEF cases. 13 DTOs/MLOs were linked to CPOT (or RPOT) level organizations, and 75 DTOs were international in scope. In 2022, investigations continue to indicate that traffickers operating within the region continue to supply significant markets in almost every state throughout the United States.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center (SD-LECC) provides coordination and information sharing among federal, state, and local LEAs within the two-county region, nationally, and with all other HIDTAs, Fusion Centers, and RISS centers.

SD-LECC functions as the all-crimes ISC and Homeland Security Fusion Center for the HIDTA and the principal intelligence coordination center for participating drug and all-crimes LEAs, prosecutors, and other federal, state, and local agencies. The primary elements include a Watch Center for case deconflictions; Investigative Support Unit that provides tactical and analytical case support; Strategic Intelligence Unit for threat intelligence production and strategic planning; and Critical Infrastructure Protection program that offers products and services to benefit essential facility and first responder awareness of a facility. Also included is a Terrorism Liaison and Infrastructure Liaison Unit that provides free regional training for first responders and private sector personnel on a variety of subjects. The SD-LECC also has an established Tips and Leads Unit, USBP Targeting Action Group, Geospatial Intelligence Unit, Open Source Intelligence Unit, Cyber Security Program and a Technology Unit that provides support to the HIDTA and affiliated initiatives, SD-LECC, and the Imperial Valley Law Enforcement Coordination Center (IV-LECC).

SD-LECC prepares the annual threat assessment that is the baseline for area strategies and subsequently for regional initiatives. The initiatives achieve the desired outcomes of the strategy, including improved intelligence support to the region and other HIDTAs, disruption/dismantlement of significant DTOs, fully coordinated counterdrug interdiction operations along the border and with the other Southwest border HIDTA regions, and a decrease in drug use.

SD-LECC is a complete integration of the ISC and fusion center components under a single command structure, organized only by subject and functional area. The fusion center is designed to be a partnership consisting of federal, state, and local agencies that act as an information sharing gateway with the intent to assist law enforcement and other public safety entities to detect, prevent, and solve crimes and potential acts of terrorism through the production of tactical, operational, and strategic intelligence.



Federal, state, and local agencies contribute intelligence resources to the center, partially through personnel detailed to represent these agencies. Participants include the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, San Diego Police Department, Escondido Police Department, San Diego District Attorney's Office, San Diego Community College Police Department, California National Guard, California Highway Patrol, DHS, DEA, CBP Office of Field Operations, USBP, FBI, his U.S. Marshals Service.

SD-LECC and IV-LECC utilize a single shared computer network to enable seamless information sharing among all fusion center participants. The system, called LECCnet, is made up of approximately 300 workstations and is deployed at five different HIDTA locations throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties. LECCnet provides access to numerous information resources, several analytical tools, and a central collaborative intranet portal, which includes collaborative workspaces, an intelligence report repository, an enterprise search tool, automatic content-based search alerts, and intelligence production management tools. Additionally, eight different agency networks have been installed at the SD-LECC, further increasing the ability to share, correlate, and analyze intelligence information.

In Imperial County, the Investigative Support Unit is co-located at the IV-LECC along with the DEA's Major Mexico-based Traffickers Group, the Imperial County Narcotic Task Force, and the HSI BEST team. The IV-LECC also has office space that includes room for a U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and USAO presence in Imperial County, and it is hosting office and computer workstations for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

All task forces and member agencies use the subject and event deconfliction services provided by the SD-LECC. In 2022, the SD-LECC coordinated 136,826 case/subject inquiries and handled event deconfliction for 21,045 enforcement actions in San Diego and Imperial counties. The SD-LECC is a node in WSIN (which covers California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii). These inquiries and events are shared electronically on a real-time basis with all the participants in the WSIN system and most significantly with ISCs in the western states. Further, the SD-LECC co-locates and combines the HIDTA ISC and the regional fusion center. In this way, agencies in the region are committed to full intelligence and information sharing.

### ***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Border Crimes Suppression Team (Southwest Border Recovery Act - DOJ)	San Diego
Combined Border Prosecutions Initiative (HIDTA)	San Diego and Imperial
DEA Narcotic Task Force (DEA and HIDTA) (9 Teams)	San Diego
DHS-HSI Border Enforcement Security Teams (4 Teams) (DHS and HIDTA)	San Diego and Imperial



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
East County Regional Gang Task Force (FBI)	San Diego
High Intensity Financial Crimes Task Force (HSI and HIDTA) (4 Teams)	San Diego
Imperial Valley Drug Coalition (HIDTA) (4 Task Forces under IVDC)	Imperial
Major Mexican Traffickers Initiative (HIDTA) (4 Teams)	San Diego and Imperial
Marine Task Force (HIDTA)	San Diego
OCDETF Strike Force (FBI/DEA/HSI)	San Diego
Operation Alliance Joint Task Force (HIDTA) (11 Teams)	San Diego
Operation Citadel (HIDTA) (3 Teams)	San Diego and Imperial
Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (FBI and HIDTA)	San Diego
San Diego/Imperial Counties Law Enforcement Coordination Center	San Diego
San Diego Violent Crime Task Force (HIDTA) (4 Task Forces under SDVCTF)	San Diego and San Marcos
Transnational Organized Crime Global Money Laundering Task Force (FBI) (HIDTA)	San Diego

### ***Task Force Coordination***

Each agency has its strategies, requirements, and missions. The HIDTA Executive Board coordinates the integration and synchronization of efforts to reduce drug trafficking; eliminate unnecessary duplication; and improve the direction, production, and systematic sharing of intelligence.

The Executive Board provides a coordination umbrella over networked joint task forces, the intelligence center, task forces not funded by the HIDTA, and single agency task forces and drug units within the AOR. The Board is formed of 20 members/officers – 10 federal and 10 state/local – with the chair and vice chair positions rotating annually between federal and state/local.

The SD-LECC Executive Board, co-chaired by federal and state or local representatives, provides guidance and oversight to the SD-LECC and develops intelligence policies for the approval of the Executive Board.

To accomplish its mission, the HIDTA coordinates intelligence-driven, joint, multiagency coordinated initiatives organized into five mutually supporting subsystems. The emphasis is on seamless mutual support between intelligence, interdictors, investigators, and prosecutors, with cross-attachment and co-location of enforcement groups responsible for differing operational methods, target regions, and target levels of investigation. The flow of information, both intelligence and investigative/operational, is critical to a comprehensive success against the widely differing drug threats in the region.



All task forces and member agencies use the subject and event deconfliction services provided by the SD-LECC. Additionally, the HIDTA holds quarterly initiative meetings with the initiative leaders to exchange information and address issues of mutual concern among all the enforcement and support initiatives.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 67 DTOs/MLOs. Of the 67 DTOs/MLOs dismantled or disrupted, 48 were international, 10 were multistate, and 9 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$892 million and \$53 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$80.56. The ISC provided analytical support to 129 cases and processed 136,826 event and case deconflictions. The HIDTA also provided 32,946 hours of training to 3,672 students.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$160.00</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>\$4.53</b>	<b>\$76.02</b>	<b>185</b>



## South Florida HIDTA

**Designated in 1990**

**Executive Director – Hugo Barrera**

### *Purpose and Goals*

South Florida HIDTA’s mission is to augment the collective efforts of program participants to coordinate federal, state, and local LEAs to disrupt and dismantle DTOs, MLOs, and violent criminal organizations, thereby effectively reducing the illegal drug supply chain in the HIDTA area of operations, while directing emphasis on violent criminal organizations and systems that extend harm to others across the HIDTA and the United States. Central to the HIDTA mission is the use of state-of-the-art technology for investigations and ultimately employing new techniques to attack emerging threats such as cybercrime and illicit cryptocurrency.

The HIDTA uses substance use prevention strategies provided by ADAPT, which is administered by the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA. These strategies are aimed at advancing knowledge, skills, and quality outcomes in the field of substance use prevention while supporting successful integration of evidence-based strategies into the HIDTA area of operation, focusing on areas that are identified as violent crime communities. The HIDTA works in the prevention and treatment community through its participation in the Overdose Fatality Review Committee (OFRC) coordinated by the Florida Department of Health in Broward County and Palm Beach County’s CDC Overdose Data to Action program (OD2A), the United Way of Broward County Advisory Committee, and the National Opioids and Synthetics Coordination Group.

With its proximity to the Caribbean and South American narcotics distribution routes, the work of the HIDTA is unique. It combats drug trafficking intended for the South Florida AOR users, and for drugs intended for distribution and use in other nationwide areas. Intelligence garnered from maritime drug smuggling investigations targeting drug smuggling ventures is shared with the U.S. Coast Guard and CBP for interdiction prior to arrival to the United States, and at South Florida POEs. The quantitative effect of port and water-based seizures is an overall mitigation strategy to ultimately reduce the availability of drugs for local nationwide distribution and use.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA fosters cooperative and effective working relationships among federal, state, local, and Tribal agencies that contribute 724 co-located full-time personnel who share the common goal to disrupt and dismantle DTOs and MLOs through long-term, multiagency investigations and operations. The HIDTA strategy comprises 34 initiatives that exploit the collective expertise of federal, state, and local agencies to target multiple regional drug threats identified in the HIDTA threat assessment.

The expansion of multi-HIDTA approaches to identify, disrupt, and dismantle traditional and emerging threats are key aspects of the HIDTA’s short- and long-term strategy. The HIDTA has made significant progress in addressing the region’s primary threats and will continue to



intensify its response to the escalating cocaine trafficking surge, the opioid crisis, and more recently, an increase in the atypical availability of methamphetamine.

***Location***

The HIDTA operates three major task force facilities and numerous onsite task forces located throughout eight counties:

- Broward, Collier, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie<sup>44</sup>

***Initiatives***

The HIDTA supports 34 initiatives (comprises 39 reporting groups): 29 investigation/interdiction, 1 management and coordination, 1 support, 1 intelligence and information sharing, 1 joint training, and 1 prosecution.

***Short-Term Objectives***

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$6.75</b>	<b>\$79.79</b>	<b>213</b>

***Threat Assessment***

The HIDTA AOR is a key United States drug trafficking and money laundering region. Its geographical nexus to the Americas, the Caribbean nations, and the Bahamas, along with its multi-cultural backdrop, make it a preferred portal for illicit drugs entering the United States to supply local, state, and other United States drug markets. South Florida’s robust tourism, international banking, global trade, and transportation infrastructures are key features that make it one of the most viable United States territories routinely exploited by transnational DTOs and MLOs, and other enterprising criminals.

The drugs that caused the most deaths were fentanyl (5,791), cocaine (2,677), methamphetamine (2,101), ethyl alcohol (1,478), fentanyl analogs (1,152), benzodiazepines (994, including 670 alprazolam deaths), amphetamine (865) and oxycodone (504). Halogenated Inhalants (93%), fentanyl (90%), heroin (80 %), synthetic cannabinoids (79%), methamphetamine (72%), cocaine (67%), cathinones (64%), mitragynine (61%), hallucinogenic phenethylamines/piperazines (55%) and methadone (5 %) were listed as causing death in more than 50 percent of the deaths in which these drugs were found.<sup>45</sup>

Cocaine continues to dominate all illicit drug threats in the HIDTA. Cocaine DTOs represent the majority of the HIDTA’s international and local drug trafficking community. These DTOs work in concert with multiethnic, regional, and local poly-drug DTOs to supply state, regional, and United States cocaine markets. Most cocaine flow destined for South Florida transits the



Caribbean by South American and Caribbean DTOs who exploit this coastal nexus by using maritime vessels to transport wholesale quantities of cocaine into South Florida. The HIDTA initiatives operating under the Cocaine Strategy Initiative (CSI) have seized 212, 439 kilograms of cocaine since 2018.

The HIDTA also views cocaine, opioids (counterfeit fentanyl), and methamphetamine as primary drug threats. Notwithstanding this, cocaine seizure activity represents a fraction of the cocaine smuggling activity that is occurring within the region under the radar, primarily due to the limited availability of dedicated maritime and intelligence resources at pivotal transshipment points. There are areas in the AOR that do not have any monitoring, as well as counties that we have requested and continue to request to expand and to incorporate in the HIDTA's area of responsibility to address major intelligence gaps.

Increased cocaine use with opioids – the “fourth wave” of the national opioid epidemic – is supported by historically high poly-drug substance use trends involving the deliberate or unwitting use of cocaine and/or methamphetamine with and/or fentanyl and xylazine.

The opioid threat is an ongoing challenge for the HIDTA and reflects poly-drug trafficking and consumption trends involving xylazine and illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Regional deaths involving counterfeit fentanyl reached a historic high, despite overall opioid deaths stabilizing within the last two years.<sup>46</sup> Over the counter naloxone availability has been a factor in possibly mitigating opioid overdoses. However, it must be noted that fentanyl is still being smuggled across the Southwest Border at alarming rates in both powder and pill form.

The infiltration of purer, lower-cost methamphetamine has led to its widespread availability, record seizure activity, and exponential mortality rates within the region, upgrading it to a primary drug threat in South Florida. Mexican TCOs are the primary producer and supplier of methamphetamine to the United States. The oversupply of Mexican methamphetamine has caused Mexican TCOs to seek to develop new markets for the drug in areas of the United States where it is not widely abused. According to the National Forensic Laboratory System, during 2022, methamphetamine was the most frequently identified drug (163,172 reports), followed by cocaine (82,670 reports), fentanyl (78,226 reports), cannabis/THC (71,288 reports), and heroin (22,450 reports). These five most frequently identified drugs account for approximately 73 percent of all drug reports.<sup>47</sup> Methamphetamine wholesale prices have dropped from \$30,000 per pound in 2009 to \$1,500 per pound in 2022, illustrating the ample availability across the state. While in the past, Mexican traffickers were the sole actors behind methamphetamine distribution in Florida. In 2022, investigations saw a host of Cuban, Dominican, and Puerto Rican DTOs engaged in methamphetamine distribution.

Exponential increases in methamphetamine deaths involving opioids are one of the snowball effects of poly-substance use patterns involving opioids. To mitigate the possibility of detection, DTOs smuggle methamphetamine into the area in its liquid form by mixing it with solvents and then converting it to its crystal form upon arrival, creating a toxic environment in our communities.

Marijuana, controlled prescription drugs and NPS, are viewed as secondary drug threats. Florida's medical marijuana program, implemented in 2016, currently serves more than 780,000



Floridians. However, the HIDTA views illegal marijuana operations to be a significant threat to the region, and nonmedical marijuana, remains illegal in Florida. In addition, marijuana cultivation operations and the parcel shipment of commercially packaged marijuana from states where it is legal are sent to Florida, where these activities are prohibited, are vast.

The threat of CPDs remain a key issue due, particularly pharmaceutical opiates such as oxycodone as they are an integral part of opioid use disorder.

NPS (synthetic cathinones and synthetic cannabinoids) are included in poly-substance use patterns affecting the region and are popular within South Florida clubs. Eutylone is the newest generation of molly, ranking in the top-ten list of exhibits to the DEA NFLIS.

The continuum of grave non-drug-related threats posed to the community includes money laundering, trafficking via parcel services, street-level gangs, firearms violence, and human trafficking. In addition to bulk cash smuggling, DTOs use a spectrum of money laundering schemes to exploit South Florida's trade-based economy. While the anonymity and convenience offered by crypto-currency has led to its mainstream adoption, the HIDTA considers this a serious global threat as investigative activity indicates that DTOs and MLOs are increasingly adopting this digital practice of moving and laundering illicit proceeds.

DTO's increased use of parcel services, in concert with digital platforms, including cryptocurrency and the dark web, has increased both the anonymity and efficiency of drug trafficking and distribution. Counterfeit fentanyl in powder and pill form continues to threaten the livelihood of postal workers and law enforcement personnel.

Street-level gangs operate in the HIDTA communities using an assortment of criminal activity and armed violent crimes, to include the wholesale and retail distribution of illicit drugs, homicides, indiscriminate shootings, armed burglaries, home invasions, and automobile thefts. These organizations have expanded their criminal portfolio to include the utilization of ID fraud to exploit Paycheck Protection Program loans and unemployment check programs. These schemes have become a mainstay of armed violent gang activity and they enable them to finance their illicit activity and overtly extravagant lifestyles. Gang members from other states began coming to South Florida using fraud to rent high-end cars and Airbnb apartment rentals. Most recently, armed violent gangs have started using firearms that have been illegally altered (street name switches) to fire in automatic mode. This is of great concern to the community and most importantly to LE personnel conducting day-to-day investigations. Criminal elements spray rounds indiscriminately that can potentially kill law enforcement personnel and innocent bystanders from stray bullets being fired rapidly from illegal handguns and/or rifles that are modified to stimulate fully automatic weapons capable of firing multiple rounds in seconds.

To address these issues, the HIDTA initiated a collaboration with ATF and created a CGIC located at the HIDTA-ISC. This CGIC has a Brasstrax computer which is linked to the ATF NIBIN. The CGIC also offers law enforcement the option to test firearms involved in armed violent drug crimes, subsequently the test fired casings are entered into the NIBIN network. This provides actionable intelligence that assists law enforcement to solve crimes more effectively. The CGIC also provides fingerprint processing of firearms, the option to swab firearms for DNA, and to trace firearms. The SFHIDTA CGIC offers LE the ability to identify armed violent drug



traffickers and the illegal sources of their firearms in a timelier manner. Recently, RAPID DNA was added to the inventory at the HIDTA CGIG. RAPID DNA is a sample collection device that provides advanced evidence collection DNA testing on site.

The notorious affiliation of firearms trafficking from South Florida to the Caribbean persists. DTOs transport firearms and sell them at a premium to purchase drugs and/or finance terrorism.

Human trafficking activity is very prevalent in South Florida due to its entertainment, tourism, and cruise ship industries. Most human traffickers are also involved in drug trafficking. These human traffickers use drugs to lure girls into prostitution and other criminal activities, to pay off debts owed to the traffickers.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The HIDTA ISC initiative provides intelligence sharing and operational support to all tactical commanders of the HIDTA initiatives and law enforcement agencies. These critical functions are possible because the HIDTA facilitates the timely exchange of information from local, state, federal, HIDTA and commercial databases with all participating law enforcement agencies. This level of intelligence sharing is fundamentally necessary and crucial to solving the large scale and complex challenges presented by DTOs in the region. The HIDTA currently provides initiatives and affiliated agencies access to the Case Explorer system to track and manage data regarding cases, groups (such as gangs), and events. Case Explorer provides deconfliction support, investigative support applications that include case management, database searches, and customized statistical reporting. Access to all scheduled and ad hoc intelligence assessments, law enforcement intelligence reports, and officer safety reports are made available and disseminated to the HIDTA personnel and regional law enforcement.

The ISC strategic group analysts collect and analyze current, investigative drug case data and related information from regional LEAs and incorporate it into the HIDTA's annual drug threat assessment. The HIDTA disseminates this threat assessment, along with other intelligence products, to the law enforcement community and other HIDTAs.

The ISC has also partnered with several agencies to offer further investigative resources to include creating a CGIC with ATF, operating a digital forensics lab with the United States Secret Service (USSS), and partnering with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to access radar interdiction operability and records of straw registration of airplanes.

### *Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region*

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Black Pearl (HIDTA)	Miami
Broward County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Plantation
Cobra 13 FBI Group (HIDTA)	Miami



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Counternarcotic Cyber Investigations Task Force (HIDTA)	Weston
Cocaine Strategy Initiative (HIDTA)	Weston
Financial Investigation Strike Team (HIDTA)	Plantation
Gangs, Guns and Drugs Task Force (HIDTA)	Miami
Gang Strike Force (HIDTA)	Miami
Global Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Miami
HIDTA Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	Miramar
Key West Drug Trafficking Task Force (HIDTA)	Key West
Major Case Initiative (HIDTA)	Miami
Martin County Regional Task Force (HIDTA)	Stuart
Miami-Dade Parcel Interdiction Task Force	Miami
Monroe HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Marathon
Operation Top Heavy (HIDTA)	Plantation
Palm Beach County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	West Palm
South Florida Financial Crimes Strike Force (HIDTA)	Miami
South Florida Organized Fraud Task Force (HIDTA)	Plantation
Southeast Florida Regional Task Force (HIDTA)	Weston
Southwest Florida Regional Task Force (HIDTA)	Naples
Street Gang and Criminal Organization Task Force (HIDTA)	Miami
Street Terror Offender Program	Miami
Street Terror Offender Program	Plantation
Transnational Organized Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Plantation
Transportation Conspiracy Unit (HIDTA)	Plantation
USAO HIDTA Prosecution (HIDTA)	Miami
U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Initiative (HIDTA)	Miami
Violent Crime and Drug Trafficking Organizations (HIDTA)	Miami
Violent Offender Task Force (HIDTA)	Plantation

### ***Task Force Coordination***

All HIDTA-funded task forces must coordinate information and intelligence sharing and submit case, subject, and event information for deconfliction through the Case Explorer system. Likewise, non-HIDTA agencies operating within the region are encouraged to share their information and deconflict case, subject, and event information with the SFLHISC. In 2022, 67 federal, state, and local LEAs deconflicted their investigations through the SFLHISC.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 46 DTOs, of which 29 were international and 17 were local in scope. Task forces seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$1.5 billion and \$89 million in cash and assets for a combined ROI of \$109.39. Furthermore, one of the HIDTA’s most vital functions, event deconfliction, prevented 541 “blue on blue” events.



<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$6.50</b>	<b>\$89.78</b>	<b>324</b>

  

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$6.05</b>	<b>\$103.34</b>	<b>279</b>



## South Texas HIDTA

**Designated in 1990**

**Executive Director – Antonio Garcia**

### *Purpose and Goals*

The purpose and goal of the South Texas HIDTA is to disrupt and dismantle DTO/MLOs that operate within the AOR, other parts of the United States, and foreign based organizations. Its mission is to reduce the availability of drug and illicit proceeds by focusing task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing the TCO infrastructures that promote domestic drug trafficking and its harmful consequences through coordinated drug trafficking control efforts among federal, state and local law enforcement. The leveraging of local, state, and federal law enforcement resources throughout the AOR has enhanced information sharing and has resulted in more effective international, multistate, and local investigative successes.

### *Strategy*

Federal, state, and local LEAs combine their efforts with multijurisdictional, co-located/commingled drug task forces and intelligence/investigative support initiatives. These intelligence-driven drug task forces pursue coordinated efforts to reduce the smuggling, transshipment, and distribution of drugs into and through Texas. In focusing on the disruption and dismantlement of DTOs/MLOs and by following the *National Drug Control Strategy*, the HIDTA employs intelligence-driven investigations and interdiction activities targeted at drug transshipments and money laundering, including extensive systematic follow-up investigations involving intelligence analysis, information sharing, and an aggressive prosecution structure. The HIDTA initiatives are organized seamlessly into four types:

- Enforcement (interdiction, investigation, and prosecution)
- Intelligence/Investigative Support and Information Sharing
- Support/Training/Prevention
- Management and Coordination

Through an intensive initiative and task force review and inspection process, along with statistical information gathered through the HIDTA PMP system, the Executive Board holds initiatives accountable for their productivity.

### *Location*

The HIDTA is headquartered in San Antonio, Texas and comprises 15 counties:

- Bexar, Cameron, Dimmit, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Starr, Travis, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala



***Initiatives***

The HIDTA supports 25 initiatives: 17 investigation/interdiction, 4 intelligence/investigative support, 1 management, 1 prevention, 1 training, and 1 information technology.

***Short-Term Objectives***

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>\$55.00</b>	<b>694</b>

***Threat Assessment***

The HIDTA is a significant transshipment corridor for synthetic opioids, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, other illegal drugs, and human trafficking. Although marijuana continues to be smuggled from Mexico in significantly diminished quantities, the primary and most perilous threats are methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin/synthetic opioids and the organizations that distribute them. These same routes are utilized to repatriate illicit proceeds back to Mexico. The HIDTA consists of 15 counties, 13 of which sit along the Southwest border. These counties represent 50 percent of the Texas-Mexico border. Seventeen of the 25 POEs along the Texas-Mexico border are within the HIDTA. POEs, coupled with the regional interstate highways, make the AOR one of the most strategically important drug and illicit proceeds smuggling corridors in use by both domestic DTO/MLOs and foreign DTO/MLOs. Despite the low population in some areas, the region greatly influences drug trafficking and availability at the national level. Gang activity associated with the Gulf Cartel, Zetas, and other DTOs/MLOs and cartels continues to be a threat in the area.

***Intelligence Initiatives***

The HIDTA does not routinely or directly participate with either the Southern or the Western Judicial Districts JTTF. However, the HIDTA’s ISC provides support as requested by the JTTF on a case-by-case or event-to-event basis. The HIDTA participates with the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Border Security Operations Center, and the Texas Fusion Center in sharing pertinent information.

***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Amistad Intelligence Center (HIDTA)	Del Rio
Austin Area HIDTA Task Force	Austin



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
BEST Task Forces, Immigration and Custom Enforcement (DHS)	Laredo, Webb County; Harlingen, Cameron County
Brownsville HIDTA Task Force	Brownsville
DEA Funded Task Forces (DEA)	San Antonio, Bexar County
Del Rio HIDTA Task Force	Del Rio
Eagle Pass HIDTA Task Force	Eagle Pass
Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force	Edinburg
Joint Task Force – West	San Antonio, Bexar County; McAllen, Hidalgo County; Brownsville, Cameron County; Laredo, Webb County
Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)	San Antonio, Bexar County; McAllen, Hidalgo County; Brownsville, Cameron County; Laredo, Webb County
Laredo DEA HIDTA Task Force	Laredo
Laredo Intelligence Support Center (HIDTA)	Laredo
Laredo Police Department/HSI HIDTA Task Force	Laredo
McAllen DEA HIDTA Task Force	McAllen
McAllen HSI HIDTA Task Force	McAllen
McAllen DPS HIDTA Task Force	McAllen
OCDETF Strike Force (DOJ)	Laredo, McAllen, and San Antonio, Bexar County
Rio Grande Valley HIDTA TF	McAllen
Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	San Antonio, Bexar County; McAllen, Hidalgo County; Brownsville, Cameron County; Laredo, Webb County
San Antonio DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	San Antonio
San Antonio HSI HIDTA Task Force	San Antonio
San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force	San Antonio
South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center	San Antonio
Starr County HIDTA Task Force	Rio Grande City
STX HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative	San Antonio
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Austin
Unified Narcotics Intelligence Task Force (HIDTA)	Brownsville
White Sands HIDTA Task Force	Brownsville



***Task Force Coordination***

Regularly scheduled intelligence and information sharing meetings take place across the Southwest border region. Federal, state, and local LEAs participate and include representatives from the Texoma HIDTA, Houston HIDTA, other Southwest border HIDTA regions, as well as DEA’s EPIC and other affected HIDTAs. Many of the attendees are non-LEAs such as the Texas National Guard, USCG, and military personnel from the Department of Defense’s Joint Task Force North.

From these meetings, numerous agencies acquire new knowledge and information on the HIDTA Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center and their capabilities. The Deconfliction Center provides deconfliction services to LEAs in 89 counties in South Texas. Over 244 federal, state, and local agencies receive deconfliction support through the HIDTA ISC. All task force personnel are mandated by the Executive Board and their respective agency heads to participate in the deconfliction process, resulting in enhanced officer safety and investigation coordination.

The HIDTA continues to use information sharing meetings to bring together personnel from those HIDTAs directly affected by drug trafficking activity originating in the South Texas area. This two-way exchange of information helps to identify significant links between ongoing investigations in different jurisdictions, allowing officers to join forces in their investigations. Sharing investigative information promotes the dismantlement of DTO/MLO cells at their importation, transportation, and distribution site that results in a stronger effect on the dismantling/disruption of the overall organizations.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 105 DTOs – 71 percent of its target of 147. Of the 105 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 63 were international, 8 were multistate, and 34 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$391 million and \$26 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$40.50. The total drug seizure breakdown included nearly 4103 kilograms of cocaine, 10,882 kilograms of marijuana, 82 kilograms of heroin, 12,936 kilograms of methamphetamine and 273 kilograms of fentanyl. The ISCs provided analytical support to 634 cases and processed 13,907 event and 10,094 case/subject deconflictions. The HIDTA provided 26,122 hours of training to 2,421 students.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>\$64.00</b>	<b>677</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>\$2.57</b>	<b>\$37.93</b>	<b>634</b>



## Texoma HIDTA

**Designated in 1998**

**Acting Executive Director – Keith Brown**

### *Purpose and Goals*

The purpose of the Texoma HIDTA is to reduce the transportation, distribution, manufacture, and cultivation of illicit drugs by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs operating in the northern region of Texas and throughout the state of Oklahoma. This is accomplished by supporting and coordinating the efforts of federal, state, Tribal, and local law enforcement entities, as well as reporting measurable accomplishments of our efforts. The HIDTA applies intelligence-led policing and operational strategies to respond to the threats posed by DTOs and MLOs in the communities within the AOR and throughout the country.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA Executive Board ensures that the program functions within the mission of the National HIDTA Program. The Executive Board ensures the four subcommittees – Budget, Intelligence, DHE, and Initiative Review – effectively carry out their stated functions. These actions work towards increasing the efficiencies and effectiveness of the HIDTA. The Executive Board, in conjunction with the HIDTA Director, leads staff on developing effective plans to meet the organizational objectives. The Executive Board maintains interaction through Executive Board meetings, HIDTA subcommittees, and regional meetings such as the North Texas Crime Commission and the North Texas Police Chiefs Association.

The Executive Board continually evaluates the HIDTA’s 32 initiatives to ensure adherence to the HIDTA PPBG and the regional HIDTA mission and vision. The Executive Board also determines if new initiatives should be implemented to address the HIDTA’s regional drug threats.

### *Location*

The HIDTA’s main office is located in Irving, Texas. The HIDTA comprises 27 counties:

- Texas: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Lubbock, Navarro, Parker, Potter, Randall, Rockwall, Smith, and Tarrant
- Oklahoma: Canadian,<sup>48</sup> Cleveland, Comanche, McIntosh, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Pittsburg, Sequoyah, and Tulsa

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 32 initiatives: 26 investigation/interdiction, 1 management, 2 support, 1 prevention, 1 training, and 1 intelligence.



### *Short-Term Objectives*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>\$8.42</b>	<b>\$43.10</b>	<b>622</b>

### *Threat Assessment*

The overall drug trafficking threat to the HIDTA region remains stable. Law enforcement and intelligence data clearly indicate that fentanyl continues to pose the most significant drug threat to the region. Methamphetamine, marijuana, and cocaine also pose significant threats to communities throughout the HIDTA region, and to a lesser extent, controlled prescription drugs (i.e., pharmaceuticals) pose a threat in the region.

Both the Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) and Oklahoma City metropolitan areas continue to serve as key command and control distribution points for drug loads sent by Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations, who dominate the wholesale trafficking of most major drug types encountered in the region. Mexican DTOs continue to send large shipments of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana to the HIDTA area of responsibility on a regular basis, either for local distribution or as a transshipment point for loads destined to other United States locations, such as the Midwest and eastern United States. MDTOs and MLOs continue to funnel large sums of drug proceeds through the area, remitting money to Mexico in bulk cash form, as well as through wire transfers, cryptocurrency, and other money laundering techniques.

In addition to MDTOs involved in marijuana trafficking, independent DTOs within the HIDTA region also specialize in the distribution of high-grade marijuana, obtained from United States states with legalized forms of marijuana. The diversion of CPDs from medical and pharmacy venues poses a significant risk and negatively influence the quality of life, and the safety of communities throughout north Texas and Oklahoma.

Local DTOs, to include street and prison-based gangs, also control the distribution of drugs at the street/retail level. Street gangs, operating in the HIDTA's region, include subsets of traditional gangs, with professed allegiances to parent national or regional gangs (e.g., Bloods, Crips, Sureños). Prison-based gangs, especially in Oklahoma, are heavily engaged in coordinating the distribution of methamphetamine at lower levels. Additionally, hybrid gangs, that function in a looser sense, are likely to create alliances and working arrangements with traditional rivals for the ultimate goal of making money. All types of gangs contribute to rising levels of violent criminal activity in major metropolitan areas of the HIDTA region.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The HIDTA Regional Investigative Support Center (RISC) is a co-located, multiagency initiative that provides full intelligence analysis and support to investigative initiatives from case targeting through prosecution. RISC, operational since 1998 and located in Irving, Texas, is managed by



the HIDTA Deputy Director and the DEA Intelligence Group Manager. The RISC and the Oklahoma Intelligence Center (OIC) are linked electronically.

RISC and OIC provide intelligence sharing and deconfliction support services to the initiatives and LEAs within their respective states. The deconfliction system improves the safety of enforcement operations and the efficiency of investigations. Without exception, deconfliction is a critical officer safety tool that sets the HIDTA Program apart from any other task force program. RISC collects and analyzes information from all task forces, as well as from other participating task forces and agencies, and provides event and subject deconfliction services, multi-source name checks, investigative case support, toll analysis, charting and graphics work, and post-seizure and trend/predictive analysis. The RISC also provides a continual evaluation of drug threats to the region to identify changes in smuggling patterns and trends. This support helps regional initiatives identify, investigate, and dismantle or disrupt the area's most dangerous and prolific DTOs, drug dealers, MLOs, weapon traffickers, and violent criminals. Our Watch Center staff includes three HIDTA analysts. After-hour and weekend Watch Center requests are automatically routed to the Irving Police Department for processing. The Dallas Police Department manages their own event deconflictions.

The OIC provides intelligence support to the HIDTA enforcement initiatives in Oklahoma and deconfliction services to all LEAs in Oklahoma. The OIC employs one HIDTA-funded analyst and other intelligence analysts from the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics. These analysts collect and disseminate intelligence about the identification and investigation of DTOs and MLOs in Oklahoma. By improving intelligence and information exchange through coordination that is more efficient, RISC improves the abilities of federal, state, and local LEAs to identify, arrest, and prosecute key members of DTOs and MLOs. Trend and predictive analysis developed by RISC assist the HIDTA Executive Board in using its limited resources more efficiently.

### ***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
ATF Crime Gun Enforcement Initiative (HIDTA/TAG)	Lewisville, TX
ATF Tulsa Violent Crimes Initiative (HIDTA)	Tulsa, OK
Caprock Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Lubbock, TX
Central Oklahoma Metro Fugitive TF (HIDTA)	Oklahoma City, OK
Central Oklahoma Task Force (HIDTA)	Oklahoma City, OK
Commercial Smuggling Initiative (HIDTA)	Irving, TX
DEA Dallas Division Strike Forces (DEA)	Dallas, TX
DEA Dallas Division Task Forces (DEA)	Fort Worth, TX
DEA Dallas Division Task Force (DEA)	Oklahoma City, OK
DEA Dallas Division Task Forces (DEA)	Tyler, TX
DEA Transportation Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Irving, TX
DEA Tulsa Metro Task Force	Tulsa, OK
DEA Tulsa Rural Task Force	Tulsa, OK
District 5 Drug Task Force	Comanche County, OK
District 27 Drug Task Force	Sequoyah County, OK
East Texas Violent Crime Initiative (HIDTA)	Tyler, TX
DEA HIDTA GROUP 1 (HIDTA)	Irving, TX
Eastern Oklahoma Violent Crimes Task Force (HIDTA)	Muskogee, OK
FBI Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA/TAG)	Irving, TX
FBI Southwest Border Task Force (FBI)	Frisco, TX
Financial Crimes Investigative Unit (HIDTA)	Irving, TX
Green Twister Task Force (HIDTA)	Oklahoma City, OK
HSI National Gang Unit (TAG)	Irving, TX
HSI Transnational Organized Crime Initiative (HIDTA)	Irving, TX
Joint East Texas Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Plano, TX
McAlester Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	McAlester, OK
North Texas Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Grand Prairie, TX
Northern Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Frisco, TX
Northern Oklahoma Violent Crime TF (HIDTA)	Tulsa, OK
Parcel Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Irving, TX
DEA HIDTA Group 2 (HIDTA)	Midlothian, TX
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Dallas, TX
Tarrant County Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Fort Worth, TX
Texas DPS Dallas (TAG)	Irving, TX
Texas DPS Fort Worth (TAG)	Irving, TX
Texas Panhandle Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Amarillo, TX
Tulsa County Sheriff's Office	Tulsa County, OK
Tulsa Metro Gang Task Force (FBI)	Tulsa County, OK
Violent Crime Initiative (HIDTA/TAG)	Irving, TX
Violent Crime, Major Offenders & Gang Task Force	Dallas, TX
DEA HIDTA Group 3 (HIDTA)	Irving, TX



***Task Force Coordination***

The HIDTA facilitates cooperation and joint efforts with 111 Federal, state, tribal, and local LEAs and 507 initiative participants. The HIDTA plays a leading role in coordinating the activities of multiple interagency task forces, drug units, and investigative support initiatives, including information sharing, training, and deconfliction efforts through the HIDTA RISC and OIC. Currently, no other regional intelligence center or fusion center in the AOR provides deconfliction for officer safety and investigative efficiency. Current users of deconfliction services include all HIDTA initiatives, member agencies, and non-HIDTA participating agencies. The HIDTA also provides numerous free training courses that are attended by officers in the area and out-of-state to encourage intelligence sharing. Efforts are continually made to increase collaboration with local and state fusion/intelligence centers.

The Executive Board requires all regional HIDTA task forces to use Case Explorer or RISSafe, as well as NVPS, for target deconfliction activities. The HIDTA encourages all other enforcement task forces, whether federally funded or not, to use Case Explorer for deconfliction purposes.

In North Texas and Oklahoma, all drug task forces coordinate and share information with the HIDTA RISC, OIC, and other federal, state, and local agencies. Intelligence analysts from participating Federal, state, and local agencies also share information through intelligence meetings hosted by their agencies, the HIDTA, or through informal networking.

***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 63 DTOs. Of the DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 16 were international, 7 were multistate, and 40 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$250 million and \$22.1 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$69.89. The HIDTA apprehended 5,576 felony fugitives, of which 972 had drug charges. The ISC provided analytical support to 934 cases and processed 11,831 event deconflictions with help from its partners. The HIDTA provided 16,531 hours of training to 1,203 students.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$21.19</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>\$5.65</b>	<b>\$64.24</b>	<b>934</b>



## Washington/Baltimore HIDTA

**Designated in 1994**

**Executive Director – Thomas H. Carr**

### *Purpose and Goals*

Washington/Baltimore HIDTA's mission is to reduce drug trafficking and misuse by improving interagency collaboration, promoting accurate and timely information and intelligence sharing, and providing specialized training and other resources to its law enforcement, intelligence, treatment, and prevention initiatives. To accomplish this mission, the HIDTA strategically applies its resources to initiatives designed to save lives, prevent initiation of drug use, and apprehend drug traffickers and money launderers.

The HIDTA's goals are to 1) disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or money laundering organizations; and 2) improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA believes that coordination among LEAs at all levels is key to disrupting the drug market in the region. Consequently, since its designation in 1994, the HIDTA has fostered cooperative and effective working relationships among federal, state, and local criminal justice organizations, including LEAs and drug treatment and prevention organizations. Currently, 125 agencies participate in the HIDTA. Information and intelligence sharing are required for all participating agencies and has become a standard practice.

To foster this collaboration, the HIDTA has developed and currently manages and maintains several systems to support drug investigations and overdose response. Case Explorer is a web-based case management and deconfliction system designed for law enforcement serving thousands of LEAs nationwide. The Communications Analysis Portal (CAP) was designed specifically to deconflict phone numbers, which remains a critical component of drug investigations. It allows LEAs to share, organize, and identify sources of supply.

Recognizing the importance of real-time data for saving lives, in 2016, the HIDTA developed the ODMAP, a system that provides near real-time suspected overdose surveillance data across jurisdictions to support public safety and public health efforts in mobilizing an immediate response to a sudden increase or spike in overdose events. It links first responders and relevant record management systems to a mapping tool that tracks overdoses to stimulate real-time response and strategic analysis across jurisdictions. ODMAP presents a significant public health and safety collaborative opportunity with the ability to respond to a crisis as it is occurring. By combining the data in ODMAP with active partnerships spanning different agencies, localities can develop and deploy a real-time plan to reduce both fatal and non-fatal overdoses.

Since its inception, federal agencies including ONDCP, the CDC, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) have supported and financed the expansion of the ODMAP program



nationwide. They have emphasized the critical impact of ODMAP on state and local overdose response strategies, including its use in their respective competitive grants.

To date, 4,771 agencies from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have entered more than 2.17 million suspected overdoses into ODMAP. States have realized the importance of using this data in support of their response efforts. Twenty-five states have initiated a statewide ODMAP strategy. Of those states, 18 have connected overdose data from their respective data systems with ODMAP through an application program interface (API), offering the most comprehensive and timely data sharing. ODMAP is part of the Biden Administration's National Drug Control Strategy and remains the only nationwide near-real-time overdose tracking system to support life-saving overdose response efforts.

ADAPT has been funded by ONDCP since the Fall of 2019 to operationalize and support the National HIDTA Program's Prevention Strategy, which promotes the integration of evidence-based strategies for substance use prevention in HIDTA communities across the country. ADAPT provides training and technical assistance, and serves as a translator of prevention science, navigator of resources, and connector to peers and mentors.

ADAPT is currently servicing or has already completed almost 300 technical assistance requests to support 20 HIDTAs and 3 national initiatives in advancing their prevention efforts. Technical assistance is provided in the following domains: 1) identification of evidence-based strategies, 2) implementation, 3) evaluation, 4) training, 5) fiscal/budgeting, 6) sustainability, 7) early response, 8) prevention messaging, and 9) systems development.

The average duration of technical assistance per request is three months. ADAPT coordinates a variety of trainings and technical webinars on substance use prevention fundamentals to cultivate, nurture, and support hospitable systems for implementation in HIDTA communities. It also develops products, including toolkits and implementation guides, to offer evidence-based support for HIDTA communities on more complex prevention topics. ADAPT hosts an annual HIDTA Prevention Summit to disseminate advances in the field of prevention science and build critical skill sets within HIDTA communities. ADAPT partners with HIDTAs to also offer annual Substance Use Prevention Institutes across the five HIDTA regions.

### *Location*

The HIDTA comprises 30 counties and 15 independent cities, and the District of Columbia. These jurisdictions include major metropolitan areas, suburban communities, small towns, and traditionally rural areas:

- District of Columbia
- Maryland: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester counties, and the City of Baltimore
- Virginia: Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Frederick, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, Loudoun, Prince George, Prince William, Roanoke, and Warren counties, and the Cities



of Alexandria, Chesapeake, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Hampton, Manassas, Manassas Park, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke and Virginia Beach

- West Virginia: Berkeley, Jefferson, and Mineral counties

***Initiatives***

The HIDTA supports 74 initiatives: 41 investigative, 11 treatment, 5 prevention, 4 management, 3 resource, 2 information technology, 2 training, 2 prosecution, 1 network support, 1 intelligence, and 1 technical support.

***Short-Term Objectives***

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>\$1.75</b>	<b>\$6.25</b>	<b>351</b>

***Threat Assessment***

The Director of ONDCP designated the HIDTA in 1994. Unlike the first areas established as HIDTAs, the HIDTA was not a major gateway for illegal drugs into the United States. However, the region was a significant drug consumption market, especially for heroin and drugs associated with street violence (i.e., crack cocaine and PCP). Accordingly, the combination of significant drug consumption and widespread drug-related violence led to the designation of the Washington/Baltimore area as a HIDTA.

Previously, drugs entering the region were imported through an alternate United States city, primarily New York, where they were repackaged and then transported into the HIDTA region. Now, a significant number of the HIDTA cases involve shipments originating in California, Arizona, and Mexico. Additionally, a growing number of DTOs have reported receiving drugs directly from abroad, specifically from Central America, and Southwest Asia. In addition to the continuing threat posed by DTOs and MLOs, criminal street gangs represent a consistent threat to the region. Throughout the HIDTA region, membership in criminal street gangs has remained high. The violence associated with these gangs and their role in illegal drug trafficking pose a serious threat to the region. There does not appear to be an increase in human trafficking activity among these criminal groups. However, there has been a dramatic increase in violent crime across the region since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, including carjackings and shootings, with traditional and ghost guns

The primary drug threats in the HIDTA region are fentanyl, heroin (mostly combined with other drugs), cocaine powder and crack cocaine, and prescription narcotics. Fentanyl is commonly mixed with other drugs, including heroin, xylazine, and crack cocaine. Further, fentanyl, like crack cocaine in the 1980s and 1990s, is responsible for high levels of violent crime in the region. It is also linked to high levels of overdoses. All are reported to be readily available



throughout the region. These drugs and others are trafficked by more than 322 DTOs and MLOs that are under investigation by the HIDTA initiatives.

What was originally a very compact HIDTA is now widely dispersed. By way of example, Roanoke City and County, the most southwestern area of the HIDTA, is approximately 275 miles from Cecil County, MD, in the northeast corner of the HIDTA region. Virginia Beach, VA in the southeastern corner of the region is approximately 238 miles from Mineral County, WV in the northeast corner.

The transportation infrastructure in the HIDTA region is one of the most developed and diverse in the United States It includes:

- More than 1,600 miles of Interstates, including 64, 66, 68, 70, 81, 83, 85, 93, and 95;
- Six major international airports: Thurgood Marshall-Baltimore Washington International (BWI), Washington Dulles International (IAD), Ronald Reagan-National (DCA), Richmond (RIC), Newport News (PHF), and Norfolk International (ORF), which have recorded 4.4 million passenger boardings in 2018; and more than 100 other airports of various capacities;
- Three international seaports: the ports of Baltimore, Norfolk, and Newport News, in which, altogether, 14.6 million metric tons of container freight arrived in 2018;
- Almost 100 Amtrak trains passing through the HIDTA region on a daily basis, carrying approximately five million passengers annually;
- More than a dozen major railroad freight lines; and
- Hundreds of miles of shoreline.

In sum, several factors combine to make the HIDTA region a fertile environment for drug trafficking. The region is relatively affluent and not as susceptible as the rest of the country to the fluctuations of the national economy due to the stability of government jobs and government-related industries. A well-developed transportation infrastructure connects the six distinct major population centers (Baltimore, the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, Richmond, Roanoke, and the Tidewater region of Virginia), which enables traffickers to transport even large quantities of illegal drugs efficiently. Drug traffickers and gang members can use the more than 200 banks operating in the region to launder their ill-gotten gains. The increasingly diverse ethnic and racial makeup of the population enables Mexican, Colombian, Dominican, Salvadoran, Korean, and Vietnamese criminal groups and gangs to recruit members and operate more easily.

By substantial margins, federal, state, and local law enforcement task force supervisors, as well as drug treatment leaders responding to the HIDTA's threat assessment surveys identified fentanyl, heroin (in combination with other drugs), cocaine HcL/crack cocaine, and prescription narcotics as the primary drug threats in their communities. In all four cases, at least 75 percent of the respondents said the substance(s) caused significant or moderate harm in their communities; and, in the cases of fentanyl, substantial majorities said the drug caused significant



harm. With the exception of fentanyl, these drugs have been long-standing major threats in the HIDTA AOR. Methamphetamine use is also on the rise in the HIDTA region, as evidenced by overdose increases and drug seizures in areas of the region where the drug previously was rarely seen.

### *Intelligence Initiatives*

The HIDTA facilitates information sharing among all regional task forces and drug units with the HIDTA's Investigative Support Center ISC. The ISC routinely distributes intelligence products throughout the criminal justice community. The HIDTA collaborates event deconfliction activities with the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC), which is primarily focused on the terrorist threat to the region. Any information related to the terrorist threat is immediately forwarded electronically to the MCAC or to the fusion centers in Virginia and the District of Columbia. MCAC forwards drug-related information to the ISC. The HIDTA's participation in OCDETF's Regional Coordination Group (RCG) enhances the ability to share information about DTOs and/or MLOs in the region and across the Nation.

All task forces and law enforcement agencies operating in the region are eligible to use the HIDTA event and case deconfliction services. Task forces receiving HIDTA funding are required to use Case Explorer software for case and event deconfliction. The FBI, DEA, ATF, and HSI have mandated the use of Case Explorer for event deconfliction for all their enforcement components. The HIDTA has established an arrangement with the RISS program and with representatives of SAFETNet that enables Case Explorer to deconflict events entered into either system. This arrangement creates a seamless, nationwide event deconfliction system for Case Explorer users.

All drug task forces are eligible to share information and receive case support through the HIDTA's ISC with immediate access to over 40 analysts in the region. Agencies within the AOR are solicited annually to provide information about the regional drug threats in the HIDTA Threat Assessment Survey. In addition, the HIDTA's Gang Intelligence System is available to agencies in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, allowing participating agencies to share gang data. The HIDTA also manages the CAP, which assists investigators in exchanging information for deconfliction and identifying links within mobile forensic data and other communication data that otherwise may have been unknown. CAP automatically deconflicts with Case Explorer to reduce redundancies in data sharing and is available to federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel. In 2019, the ISC was awarded a grant for PenLink PLX, which is being used for phone analysis across 40 different federal, state, and local agencies. Users are provided data sharing capabilities, along with analytical options to enhance deconfliction efforts. In 2023, the ISC initiated the process to connect its PenLink PLX to other HIDTA PLX's across the nation.

The HIDTA's ISC is a member of the Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center and works closely with State executives across different disciplines to provide law enforcement intelligence. This information is used to help the State respond to real time drug issues and develop long-term strategies. The ISC remains the primary intelligence center in the region to support drug investigators and to facilitate the collaboration of cross-jurisdictional analytical sharing.



***Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region***

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Allegany County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Cumberland, MD
Baltimore DEA Heroin Initiative (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
Baltimore Metropolitan Initiative - Delivery Systems Parcel Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
Baltimore Metropolitan Initiative - Mass Transportation Initiative (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
Baltimore Seaport Initiative (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
Baltimore Special Investigation Group (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
Berkeley & Jefferson County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Martinsburg, WV
Carroll County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Westminster, MD
Cecil County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	North East, MD
Charles County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Waldorf, MD
Cross Border Task Force (FBI)	Cheverly, MD
DEA Cross Border Initiative (HIDTA)	Washington, DC
Dorchester County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Cambridge, MD
Drug Money Laundering Initiative (HIDTA)	Baltimore MD
FBI/Metro Police Department Safe Streets Gang Task Force	Washington, DC
Frederick County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Frederick, MD
Hampton Roads Peninsula Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Hampton, VA
Hampton Roads Regional Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Norfolk, VA
Harford County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Bel Air, MD
Illicit Online Marketplace Initiative (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
Hi-Tech Drug Enforcement Initiative (HIDTA)	Manassas, VA
Metropolitan Area Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Greenbelt MD
Northern Virginia Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Reston, VA
Northern Virginia Drug Money Laundering Initiative (HIDTA)	Reston, VA
Northern Virginia Gang Initiative (HIDTA)	Manassas, VA
Northern Virginia Mass Transportation Initiative (HIDTA)	Arlington, VA
Northern Virginia Regional Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Reston, VA
Northern Virginia SARs (Financial) Initiative (HIDTA)	Reston, VA
Northwest Virginia Drug and Gang Initiative (HIDTA)	Winchester, VA
OCDETF Strike Force (U.S. Attorney's Office Maryland)	Baltimore, MD
Prince George's Safe Streets Initiative (HIDTA)	Cheverly, MD
Richmond Area Violent Enterprise Task Force (FBI)	Richmond, VA



<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Richmond Metropolitan Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Richmond, VA
Roanoke Regional Valley Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Roanoke, VA
Southern Maryland Drug & Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Greenbelt, MD
Southern Maryland Major Conspiracy Initiative (HIDTA)	Greenbelt, MD
Strategic Task Force of Narcotics and Guns Initiative (HIDTA)	Washington, DC
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Washington, DC
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Baltimore, MD
Violent Crime Safe Street Initiative (HIDTA)	Woodlawn, MD
Violent Traffickers Initiative (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
Washington Area Gang Initiative (HIDTA)	Washington, DC
Washington County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Hagerstown, MD
Weapons Enforcement Initiative (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
Wicomico County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Salisbury, MD
Worcester County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Snow Hill, MD

### *Task Force Coordination*

Almost all federally funded drug enforcement task forces in the HIDTA region that specifically target illegal drugs are funded, at least in part, by the HIDTA Program. The HIDTA has taken a leadership role in ensuring coordination and cooperation, as well as information sharing, among all task forces and drug units operating throughout the HIDTA region. All of the task forces and the majority of law enforcement agencies in the region use HIDTA’s Case Explorer software to share information, deconflict events and cases, and manage their investigations.

### *HIDTA Evaluation*

In 2022, the HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 134 DTOs and MLOs. Sixty-two percent of the DTOs and MLOs disrupted or dismantled were part of an international or multistate operation, and 8 percent were part of an OCDETF-designated investigation. Seizures of drugs, cash, and other drug-related assets resulted in a ROI of \$9.57. Cash seizures totaled nearly \$19 million, and the combined value of illegal drugs, cash, and other assets seized was nearly \$287 million.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>\$1.75</b>	<b>\$5.25</b>	<b>269</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>\$1.75</b>	<b>\$7.81</b>	<b>333</b>



## West Texas HIDTA

**Designated in 1990**

**Executive Director – Travis Kuykendall**

### *Purpose and Goals*

West Texas HIDTA’s mission is to dismantle DTOs operating in the AOR and help stem the flow of illegal drugs to other regions of the United States through cooperative efforts in intelligence, investigation, and interdiction, forfeiture, and prosecution initiatives.

### *Strategy*

The HIDTA continues to foster cooperative and productive working relationships among 1 USAO, 13 federal agencies, 4 state agencies, 15 local agencies and 1 tribal agency; with the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and securing the HIDTA 12-county area of the Southwest Border by preventing multi-ton quantities of illicit drugs from reaching their intended market.

### *Location*

The HIDTA operates out of El Paso. The region shares 520 miles of border with Mexico and comprises 12 counties:

- Brewster, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, and Terrell

### *Initiatives*

The HIDTA supports 17 initiatives: 12 investigation/interdiction, 1 management and coordination, 1 training, 1 prevention, 1 prosecution, and 1 intelligence.

### *Short-Term Objectives*

YEAR	DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled	Target Return on Investment: Assets	Target Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support
2023	53	\$0.65	\$14.00	730

### *Threat Assessment*

The HIDTA comprises 12 counties and over 520 miles of the United States border with Mexico. El Paso, Texas sits on the Rio Grande River adjacent to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, representing the two largest cities situated on the Texas-Mexico border. El Paso, the most populous city in West Texas, lies at the intersection of three states (Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua). El Paso also



sits along Interstate Highway 10 that connects to Interstate Highways 20 and 25. DEA's *2020 National Drug Threat Assessment* indicates that Mexican TCOs employ intermediaries who oversee shipments across the Southwest border and facilitate sales to a wholesale and mid-level client. These intermediaries can take the form of criminal street gangs, many of which have known ties to Mexican cartels.

The HIDTA's main concern continues to be that the region is a transshipment and distribution hub for narcotics from Mexico into the United States. All other concerns are derived from this reality. Based upon drug seizure quantities, marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin rank as the greatest drug threats to the AOR.

Fentanyl presents the greatest threat in the HIDTA due to being manufactured by DTO's as powder, counterfeit pills, and "cocktail" mixes. Many cocktail mixes in the HIDTA include fentanyl being added/laced with methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin. While single fentanyl overdose deaths decreased by 21 percent in El Paso County during 2022, there was also a decrease in cocktail deaths. Law enforcement officers in the HIDTA explained that consumers are smoking fentanyl-laced products as pills, and not dying as quickly as in previous years. Xylazine, an animal sedative, was also present in fentanyl products tested in crime labs. Overall, there was a 561 percent increase in charges involving fentanyl, mostly pills.

### ***Intelligence Initiatives***

The intelligence subsystem was created to provide a seamless regional intelligence support system for the narcotics operational initiatives and units. It is a multiagency system designed to offer timely and actionable information to the agent/officer. Case and event deconfliction services provided by the ISC improve officer safety issues and maximize the efficient use of resources.

The ISC is the hub of the HIDTA operations and sponsors yearly marketing presentations (on services provided by the Intelligence Initiative) that are presented to all law enforcement personnel in the region. Limited intelligence support is provided in the Big Bend, as well as the Permian Basin areas of the HIDTA region, through connectivity with existing agency and task force intelligence resources. The ISC partners with the Joint Operation Intelligence Center, El Paso Fusion Center, Alliance to Combat Transnational Threats Center, EPIC, Texas Fusion Center, and all area federal, state, and local intelligence units in West Texas to coordinate intelligence streams and products to better support regional operational customers.

The ISC provides database queries, deconfliction, pointer index services, and a full range of tactical and strategic analytical support and reports. It includes translation/transcription services for all the HIDTA initiatives. The ISC produces an annual threat assessment and other strategic intelligence products as necessary. All LEAs in the region are responsible for the production of the threat assessment. The ISC develops intelligence-driven cases to provide to the operational units. The ISC is also the hub of communications between all agencies/initiatives, and the other Southwest border HIDTA regions through the development and operation of a secure Intranet/e-mail system. Through 11 information networks, the ISC has the direct search capability in 53 database systems. Access to all applicable federal, state, local, and commercial databases has been enabled. FBI, DEA, Department of Public Safety, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, and



the El Paso Police Department have all assigned personnel to the ISC on a full-time basis. The Texas Office of the Attorney General, CBP El Paso Sector, and Big Bend Sector have all assigned part-time personnel to the ISC.

### *Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region*

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

<b>FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Alpine Multiagency Task Force (HIDTA)	Alpine
BEST (ICE)	El Paso
Big Bend HIDTA Initiative (HIDTA)	Marfa
Border Corruption Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso
Cross Border Violence Group (DEA/FBI)	El Paso
El Paso Multiagency Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso
El Paso Strike Force (OCDETF)	El Paso
Enterprise Money Laundering Initiative (HIDTA)	El Paso
Fentanyl Overdose Response Team (HIDTA)	El Paso
Permian Basin Multiagency Task Force (HIDTA)	Midland
Source City Metro Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso
Transportation Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso
West Texas Anti-Gang Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso
West Texas Anti-Smuggling Initiative (HIDTA)	El Paso
West Texas Fugitive/Violent Offender Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso

### *Task Force Coordination*

The HIDTA coordinates drug task forces through event and case deconfliction services. All drug task forces receiving HIDTA funds are mandated to use the HIDTA's RISSafe event and subject deconfliction services. All agencies receiving HIDTA funds are mandated to use RISSafe, as well. Additionally, other task forces in the region, whether federally funded or not, use RISSafe to enhance officer safety and event deconfliction.

The HIDTA ISC is the hub for all drug intelligence and investigation information in the West Texas region. All agencies and task forces, whether HIDTA-funded or not, share drug trafficking intelligence and case information through the ISC. All information is available through the ISC to any LEA. All agencies in the HIDTA, and many agencies outside of the region, participate in the services of the ISC. This participation ensures thorough information sharing to all LEAs in the region.

The HIDTA has taken a leadership role to facilitate coordination of operations and management of information and intelligence in the region. All joint operations, task forces, and intelligence



units, whether federally funded or not, are involved in these processes. The ISC is a member of, and is commingled with, the JTTF in El Paso and coordinates activities with DHS's Unified Command structure.

### ***HIDTA Evaluation***

In 2022, the HIDTA initiatives dismantled or disrupted 39 DTOs. Of the 39 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 16 were international, 7 were multistate, and 16 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$119 million and \$6 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$13.61. The HIDTA provided analytical support to 958 cases, processed 10,493 event and case deconflictions, and provided 13,107 hours of training to 774 students.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Target Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>\$0.65</b>	<b>\$13.50</b>	<b>918</b>
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Assets</b>	<b>Return on Investment: Drugs</b>	<b>Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>\$0.66</b>	<b>\$12.95</b>	<b>958</b>



## National HIDTA Assistance Center

**Director – Tomas Sánchez**

### *Purpose and Goals*

In accordance with HIDTA Program goals, the NHAC provides programmatic support to all designated HIDTA regions, their grant recipients, and ONDCP. The NHAC's support is focused on HIDTA Goal 2, which is to provide services that increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the overall HIDTA program.

The NHAC's grant is organized into seven initiatives under the direction of the NHAC's Director. The initiatives are; Management and Coordination, Training, Media and Technology, and four national initiatives: DHE, NETI, NMI and ORS.

The Management & Coordination Unit also provides administrative support to all 33 HIDTAs, the HIDTA Directors Committee (HDC), and interfaces with ONDCP to carry out their mission in alignment with the *National Drug Control Strategy*.

The Training Unit activities include the organization of HIDTA-related meetings/conferences, including the National HIDTA Conference, and development and implementation of HIDTA-specific training with 6,783 total training hours provided. Follow-up surveys of those attending HIDTA training nationwide have routinely been 96 percent positive. The Media and Technology Unit actively develops and delivers technological support that includes managing the HIDTA Resource Management System (HRMS); the Clearance Management System (CMS), the FMS; the HIDTA Online Training Tracking (HOTT); HIDTAprogram.org, NHAC.org and cybersecurity support. In addition, the unit provides graphics, videos, mapping, and other services as requested by the HIDTA's nationwide.

The Finance Unit operates as a desk audit team for the National HIDTA Program Office under a contract with ONDCP. This unit is responsible for overseeing the regular expenditures of all state and local grant funds, as well as maintaining records for all grant transactions through the NHAC's Financial Management System (FMS.net) software.

### *The Four National Initiatives*

The NHAC supports the HDC's oversight of four national initiatives: DHE, NETI, NMI and ORS. These initiatives educate, inform, analyze and coordinate actions, which guide HIDTA strategic planning. The following details provide specific information about each initiative.

#### **Domestic Highway Enforcement**

The DHE initiative provides a national platform for unprecedented highway drug trafficking trend collaboration among federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement. The initiative has led to significant disruption of dangerous drugs, illicit proceeds, human trafficking, and other substantial crimes taking place on and along United States transportation corridors. DHE leverages law enforcement information on drug trafficking to other smuggling modalities – air,



maritime, rail, bus, freight and parcel and postal – along with traffic safety resources to deny drug traffickers and other criminals the use of United States roads.

DHE efforts focus on disrupting drug trafficking organizations' ability to transport narcotics and other contraband on United States public transportation corridors. The DHE program incorporates both regional and corridor transportation information models to encourage the gathering, reporting, analysis, and sharing of criminal intelligence and threats to public safety.

The 2022 initiative was led by two full time program coordinators and one analyst. The DHE team worked with HIDTA-funded and non-HIDTA-funded patrol officers, investigators, and analysts nationwide, and in Canada. HIDTA funds supported travel, national and regional information sharing meetings and management of data collection tools with HSIN. The DHE team prioritized resources based on the DHE Strategic Plan produced in conjunction with the DHE Chair and committee members.

Approximately 2,500 personnel from state, local, Tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies participated in DHE information-sharing activities in 2022.

### **National Emerging Threats Initiative**

NETI supports the 33 regional HIDTA programs and their public safety and public health partners, including the ORS. The initiative seeks to enhance awareness of ongoing licit and illicit drug trends as well as future trends. This awareness is in collaboration with federal, state, local, and Tribal public safety and public health as well as the intelligence community of each. Engagement with each facet of the community allows for scientific-based reporting to enable policy decisions based on data science.

The focal point of NETI's efforts is to provide informed drug trend information to allow both public safety and public health to make informed decisions. The data enables public safety to allocate resources for the disruption of drug trafficking organizations and for public health to understand the trends for the allotment of resources. The information is provided via intelligence briefs as well as reporting.

The NETI strives to provide timely data based upon the HIDTA PMP database seizure statistics coupled with state Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs). NETI includes other data sources from agencies and entities such as:

- Centers for Disease Control
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- U. S. Customs and Border Protection



- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Veterans Administration (VA)

### **National Marijuana Initiative**

NMI's mission is to improve the capabilities of all regional HIDTAs in carrying out the objectives of disrupting domestic trafficking and production of, and reducing demand for, illicit marijuana and its derivative products. NMI does this through information sharing, support of demand reduction activities, as well as educating and advising policymakers on current research findings, law, and public policy regarding marijuana.

To accomplish this mission, NMI provides training, supports the exchange of emerging research findings, and promotes the sharing of relevant information between all interested stakeholders. This enables the regional HIDTAs and their communities to improve public safety, public health, and quality of life through well-informed, evidence-based policy development. Towards these ends, NMI's goals are to host regional conferences for law enforcement, public health officials, and substance treatment, and prevention specialists; promote valid data collection and reporting; and responding to special requests for information or services. Additionally, NMI will provide training on best practices associated with writing reports on the impacts of the legalization of marijuana; and conduct workshops to educate community coalitions on the impacts of changing policies on marijuana.

### **Overdose Response Strategy**

The ORS is an unprecedented and unique collaboration between public health and public safety, created to help local communities reduce drug overdoses and save lives by sharing timely data, pertinent intelligence and evidence-based and innovative strategies. The program is an example of a cross-agency, interdisciplinary collaboration with a single mission of reducing overdose deaths and saving lives, and was highlighted as such in the Biden-Harris Administration's 2022 *National Drug Control Strategy* as a Public Health and Public Safety Collaboration Success.

The mission of the ORS is to help communities reduce fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses by connecting public health and public safety agencies, sharing information, and supporting evidence-based interventions. To achieve this mission, the ORS has adopted four goals that shape priorities of the ORS Teams within each state and territory:

- Share data systems to inform rapid and effective community overdose prevention efforts.
- Support immediate, evidence-based response efforts that can directly reduce overdose deaths.
- Design and use promising strategies at the intersection of public health and public safety.
- Use effective and efficient primary prevention strategies that can reduce substance use and overdose long term.



The ORS is implemented by teams made up of Drug Intelligence Officers and PHAs, who work together on drug overdose issues within and across sectors, states, and territories. By sharing information across sectors, the ORS is growing the body of evidence related to early warning signs and prevention strategies. With the information shared, and programs inspired by the ORS, the program is helping communities and individuals make healthier, safer choices. As of July 2022, there were ORS PHA and DIO positions in 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### ***Conclusion***

The NHAC is meeting its performance objectives. All requests for reimbursement and advances were reviewed within established time parameters under the guidance of the Finance Unit. The Training Unit is achieving or exceeding all of its goals, and the Media and Technology Unit has provided support to the HIDTA Program. Placement of the four national initiatives (DHE, NETI, NMI, and ORS) under one program has improved oversight and the ability to orient them to respond to emergent national threats and support the *National Drug Control Strategy*.



## **B. HIDTA Program Highlights**

### ***Intelligence and Information Sharing***

Intelligence and information sharing are essential to coordinated and effective operations, and each HIDTA has at least one ISC designed to develop intelligence, share information, and provide deconfliction and technical support to enforcement initiatives. ISCs are managed and staffed by representatives of participating agencies with direct onsite access to their agencies' information databases.

In 2022, HDTAs budgeted \$58.2 million for intelligence and information sharing to support 63 operational intelligence and information sharing initiatives. Each ISC capitalizes on the combined resources of the federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement communities associated with its HIDTA.

Using both formal and informal methods of coordination among drug enforcement task forces, HDTAs act as neutral centers to manage, deconflict, analyze, and report on drug enforcement activities in their respective regions.

In 2022, HIDTA ISCs processed more than 280,566 event deconfliction requests submitted by LEAs, along with more than 973,493 case/subject/target deconfliction requests. During the same year, 3,312 law enforcement agencies participated in the HIDTA event deconfliction systems. More than 36,729 cases were provided analytical support by the HIDTA Program.

### ***Training***

Training is an essential component of the HIDTA Program's goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of all initiatives and law enforcement efforts throughout the HIDTA Regions. HIDTA Executive Boards allocate significant amounts of funding to training and related activities that contribute to accomplishing this goal. Training equips law enforcement officers with the skills needed to improve investigative capability, and promotes communication and cooperation among all key partners to disrupt and dismantle DTOs and MLOs. Training is provided on a wide variety of law enforcement, intelligence, management, and public health/public safety topics that benefit all agencies participating in the HIDTA Program as well as external law enforcement partners.

In 2022, the HIDTA Program supported training for more than 83,395 officers, agents, analysts, and support staff on drug-related subjects across all HIDTA regions. Results of 2-month follow-up surveys consistently indicate that 96 percent of respondents find that the courses improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities pertaining to the subject matter.

### ***Domestic Highway Enforcement***

The DHE initiative supports the HIDTA Program goal to disrupt and dismantle DTOs by maintaining a nationwide, highway enforcement, information-sharing platform. The coordinated highway enforcement strategy combines traffic safety efforts with information regarding criminals and associated organizations that use the Nation's highways to transport contraband,



weapons, currency, and other illicit commodities. The DHE effort integrates state, local, and Tribal law enforcing resources with multiple federal agencies and Canadian law enforcement. The investigation collaboration also includes non-highway smuggling transportation modalities such as air, marine, rail, and package. The DHE effort is organized by major public transportation corridors.

DHE's major partners include EPIC, DHS, and the DOT. EPIC supports the DHE initiative through its DHE analysis unit and dissemination of data from the NSS. DHS houses the DHE HSIN portal utilized during annual collaborative web meetings known as DHE Corridor Calls. DHE, in conjunction with HSIN, also facilitates the use of the scientific law enforcement community through the Scientific Trend Open Exchange monthly meeting. This allows members the ability to share crime laboratory data on synthetic drugs, and provides expertise on the safe handling of dangerous drugs. The DOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Drug Interdiction Assistance Program participates in all DHE activities and provides subject matter expertise on commercial motor vehicle safety and crime trends.

DHE's two coordinators and one analyst facilitate corridor conference calls, maintain the DHE input to the HSIN, and disseminate a weekly informational hot sheet to the greater DHE community. The DHE initiative also facilitates communication through national and regional information sharing meetings, and is implementing a strategic plan that identifies a range of action items in support of the traffic safety and HIDTA Program goals and objectives. These include the dissemination of information to law enforcement on safety procedures when conducting highway enforcement and widespread adoption of multimedia technology as a resource for real-time information sharing for law enforcement. The NHAC supports the DHE initiative by organizing the DHE nationwide meetings and provides day-to-day technical support.

### ***National Emerging Threats Initiative***

NETI supports the HIDTA Program by tracking national, regional, and state level drug seizure patterns by actively mining the PMP dataset. These data are used to identify emerging drug trafficking trends and to forecast upcoming threats. NETI also offers specialized analytics for the public safety and public health components of the HIDTA ORS program. NETI's efforts are intended to provide insight and facilitate cooperation between public safety, public health, and regulatory authorities.

Additional focus areas include analyzing data from the following sources: CDC overdose mortality, PDMP, state drug seizure systems, DEA's NFLIS and Automated Reports and Consolidated Ordering System (ARCOS), and Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) and National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). On request, NETI also provides specialized reports for HIDTA AORs.

NETI's upcoming efforts will focus on; 1) determining the relationship between drug seizure patterns and overdose deaths, 2) preparing a report on state overdose mortality trends, 3) identifying drug trafficking patterns through a detailed analysis of national felony arrest notification data, and 4) forecasting drug seizure trends using Aggressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) or related statistical modeling technology.



### *National Marijuana Initiative*

NMI's mission is to improve the capabilities of all regional HIDTAs in carrying out the objectives of disrupting domestic trafficking and production of, and reducing demand for, illicit marijuana and its derivative products. NMI does this by enhancing information sharing, enforcement, treatment, and demand reduction activities, as well as educating and advising policymakers on current research findings, law, and public policy regarding marijuana.

To accomplish this mission, NMI provides training, supports the exchange of research findings, promotes sharing of best practices, emerging trends and supports the need for continued research into marijuana. This effort enables the regional HIDTAs and their communities to improve public safety, health, and welfare through well-informed, evidence-based policy development. Towards these ends, NMI's goals are to host regional conferences for drug law enforcement, treatment, and prevention officials; provide training for HIDTA ISCs on the methodologies, data collection, and analysis needed to write reports on the impacts of changing policies on marijuana; and conduct workshops to educate community coalitions on the impacts of changing policies on marijuana. In addition, NMI maintains a public website to disseminate emerging research related to public health and public safety issues surrounding marijuana.

### *Public Health/Public Safety Framework Efforts*

ONDCP and HIDTA seek a balanced and comprehensive approach to address drug-related threats. This balanced approach entails implementing problem-oriented policing strategies, as well as actively promoting and participating in regional public health and public safety efforts. In 2020, the HIDTA Public Health/Public Safety Framework (Framework) was formally implemented to highlight and synergize continuous efforts of stakeholders and community partners while synchronizing public health and safety programs and initiatives aimed at combatting illicit drug use and its availability across the United States. The initiatives under the Framework aim to build a stronger, healthier, drug free society by reducing the number of Americans affected by substance use disorder through a coordinated, systematic effort while seeking to reduce drug use, manufacturing, and trafficking; drug-related crime and violence; and drug related health-consequences. To achieve this mission, the HIDTA Program supports the following programs in support of drug prevention, treatment, and recovery, and reducing the availability of illicit drugs: ODMAP, naloxone training and distribution, ORS, NMI, and the HIDTA National Prevention Strategy, including ADAPT.

In 2019, the W/B HIDTA launched ADAPT, which supports the HIDTA National Prevention Strategy by providing a mechanism for integrating innovative evidence-based and evidence-informed prevention strategies into the coordinated efforts of federal, state, local, and Tribal law enforcement and community partners within each HIDTA region. ADAPT focuses on the translation and generation of knowledge for prevention advancement through public safety and public health collaboration, as well as disseminating individual and aggregate findings locally, nationally, and internationally. ADAPT provides technical assistance to all regional HIDTAs in five domains: 1) identification of substance use prevention evidence-based practices; 2) training; 3) implementation; 4) evaluation; and 5) finance/budgeting.



In 2022, ADAPT provided individual technical assistance to communities in all 33 HIDTAs and three national initiatives. ADAPT completed 137 technical assistance requests and offered several webinars and virtual workshops including a technical webinar on “Balancing Fidelity with Adaptation when Implementing Programs,” a social norms workshop, an evidence-based practice spotlight on Botvins Life Skills substance use prevention curriculum for schools, a conversations webinar with Rocky Mountain HIDTA, and a roundtable for the ORS on prevention communications. ADAPT also offered a learning community to seven different HIDTAs and ORS on evaluation fundamentals. In 2022, ADAPT launched a Framing Fundamentals campaign and 4 framing workshops in the Spring, followed by a launch of the Mind the Message Campaign during its annual HIDTA Prevention Summit in October, which attracted 1500 registrants. ADAPT formed a HIDTA Prevention Communications Council in March of 2022 and developed the first Substance Use Prevention Communications Toolkit for the public. The toolkit translated communications science for use by substance use prevention professionals, public safety, healthcare providers, and educators in HIDTA communities. ADAPT also launched its learning management system, including its first module on the Fundamentals of Substance Use Prevention, and disseminated 4 issues of its Prevention Post newsletter.

### ***Tribal Initiatives***

Drug trafficking is a significant problem in Indian Country. ONDCP has made it a priority to collaborate with Tribal leadership and enhance law enforcement and prevention responses across the United States. HIDTAs are uniquely positioned to work with local and Tribal communities to promote and participate in community-based drug prevention programs. HIDTAs continue to collaborate with Tribal nations on enforcement operations and training. Currently, there are 14 HIDTAs actively engaging with 30 initiatives involving 27 Tribal enforcement agencies.<sup>49</sup>

Across the Nation, regional HIDTAs collaborate with Tribal law enforcement to target specific regional drug threats. In Arizona, the HIDTA’s Native American Targeted Investigation of Violent Enterprises (NATIVE) Task Force, a cooperative federal and Tribal task force, addresses drug smuggling operations of individuals and organizations throughout the Tohono O’odham Tribe. NATIVE includes law enforcement personnel from the Tohono O’odham Police Department, HSI, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Drug Enforcement Division. In the Midwest, the North Central HIDTA’s Native American Drug and Gang Initiative (NADGI) brings together nine Tribal enforcement agencies, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, and FBI to target illegal drug distribution, criminal gang activities, and associated collateral crime and victimization. In North Carolina, the Atlanta/Carolinas HIDTA’s Asheville Initiative is a partnership of federal, state, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies targeting DTOs and MLOs operating on the Eastern Band of Cherokee Nation Tribal lands.

### ***Discretionary Funding***

In 2023, ONDCP allocated \$18.9 million in discretionary funding to projects designed to further support the *National Drug Control Strategy* through the following categories:

- Bolster public health and public safety partnerships and collaborations;



- Enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA programs; and
- Address evolving or emergent drug threats including in areas petitioned for HIDTA designation.

### *Program Oversight*

To ensure the HIDTA Program addresses the goals and objectives of the *National Drug Control Strategy* in an effective, efficient, and fiscally responsible manner and to provide appropriate oversight to the HIDTAs, an enterprise risk management framework was established.<sup>50</sup> The process entails:

- review of expenditures charged to HIDTA grants (desk audits);
- financial audits of HIDTA grantees performed by a certified public accounting firm;
- performance-related audits conducted by an independent performance auditor; and
- programmatic reviews led by ONDCP analysts.

The process detailed below contributes to the overall success of the HIDTA Program by facilitating effective management of the individual HIDTAs and enhancing their contributions to the *National Drug Control Strategy*.

### Desk Audits

ONDCP contracts with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office to operate as a desk audit team to oversee the regular expenditures of all state and local grant funds and maintain records for all grant transactions through the NHAC's FMS software.

### Grantee Financial Audits

ONDCP contracts with an independent accounting firm to conduct financial audits of HIDTA grantees. Having an independent accounting firm conduct these audits ensures that a HIDTA grantee's financial information is presented in an unbiased manner, its internal controls are adequate, and it complies with laws and regulations in terms of grant usage.

Financial audits prove to be incredibly beneficial for improving HIDTA operations and overall financial management. Audits allow for a comprehensive review that can strengthen internal controls over HIDTA funds and can identify effective strategies to reduce costs. In 2022, audits of seven grantees were conducted for the following HIDTAs:

- Alaska, Los Angeles, Michigan, Midwest, New Mexico, Rocky Mountain and San Diego/Imperial Valley

Recommendations were addressed by the grantees and the HIDTAs. There were two findings for two of the seven audits conducted that resulted in a corrective action. The auditees took appropriate actions to resolve the findings.



### Performance-Related Audits

Each HIDTA must set specific, measurable, and realistic annual performance goals, and it is required to report its accomplishments towards achieving those goals. ONDCP uses data from the PMP database, created to improve the focus and management of the HIDTA program, to identify the extent to which individual HDTAs meet performance goals they established in coordination with ONDCP. Data from the PMP database are used to assess the performance of each HIDTA and of the HIDTA Program as a whole.

To ensure the accuracy and validity of performance reports submitted each year by the HDTAs, ONDCP commissions an independent performance auditor to review the data input by HDTAs in the PMP database and the information reported in the HIDTA's regional reports. Each year, performance audit results are assembled to determine the general effectiveness of the HIDTA Program. ONDCP reviews these audit reports and ensures that findings are addressed and required corrective actions are implemented. In 2022, performance audits were conducted on the following HDTAs:

- Gulf Coast, Houston, Indiana, Liberty Mid Atlantic, Los Angeles, North Central, San Diego, New England, and Puerto Rico-U.S. Virgin Islands

The auditors determined that seven of nine HDTAs audited were operating in full compliance with the HIDTA PPBG and the PMP User Guide. Recommendations from the audits have been addressed by the HDTAs.

### Program Review Process – Programmatic Reviews

ONDCP regularly undertakes programmatic reviews of regional HDTAs. A team led by an ONDCP analyst carries out each review. The review process is designed to provide the HIDTA Program Office comprehensive awareness of the management, operation, and performance of the HDTAs and assurance that HIDTA management adheres to ONDCP guidance, and funding is invested in effective activities that directly support the *National Drug Control Strategy*.

These reviews also allow ONDCP to follow up on the performance-related audits to ensure issues identified by these audits are resolved. Through this process, the HIDTA Program Office can support HIDTA management by providing appropriate guidance during and after the review and assistance in their resolution. Lessons learned through these reviews can be shared with other HDTAs for the benefit of the entire program. In 2022, ONDCP did not conduct any program reviews.

### ***HIDTA Designation***

In 2023, the HIDTA Program designated 9 counties as follows:

- Appalachia HIDTA: Bullitt County, Kentucky, and Randolph County, West Virginia
- Atlanta/Carolinas HIDTA: New Hanover County, North Carolina
- Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA: Lehigh County, Pennsylvania



- New York/New Jersey HIDTA: Sullivan County, New York
- Ohio HIDTA: Allen County, Ohio
- South Florida HIDTA: Lee County, Florida and St. Lucie County, Florida
- Texoma HIDTA: Canadian County, Oklahoma

### *Outlook*

The HIDTA Program will continue to allocate budget resources among the regional HIDTAs to fund targeted law enforcement initiatives based on the unique drug threats facing each area. A threat assessment is provided by each HIDTA to ONDCP as part of its annual budget request documentation.

As part of their annual assessment of the regional drug threat and their strategy development, ONDCP requires that HIDTA Executive Boards review the designated counties in their region to ensure each continues to meet the statutory requirements for such designation. This review is essential to prioritize resources to meet the constantly changing drug trafficking threat.

The HIDTA Program strives to continue to support initiatives that provide resources to carry out coordinated multistate activities intended to address specific drug trafficking threats. ONDCP expects the HIDTA Program will remain a key component of national efforts to reduce drug trafficking and address substance use disorder and overdose.



## Notes

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<sup>1</sup> HIDTA Program data are not finalized until several months after the end of the program (calendar) year. Thus, achievements for 2023 will not be available until mid-2024. Please also note that the program targets reported throughout this document are based upon an average of actual outputs for the previous 3 complete program years. For example, all 2024 targets are based upon an average of the actual outputs for the years 2021 through 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Event deconfliction is the process of determining whether multiple law enforcement agencies are conducting an enforcement action (e.g., serving a search warrant, conducting an undercover operation, surveillance, or other high-risk activity) in close proximity to one another during a specified time period. When certain elements are matched, it is referred to as a positive hit. The process includes notifying each agency of the conflict.

<sup>3</sup> Case/subject/target deconfliction is the process of determining when multiple LEAs are investigating the same person, place, or thing. Elements of an investigation are compared and the number of matches is reported as a positive hit to verify the deconfliction. The deconfliction process includes notifying each agency of the potential conflict.

<sup>4</sup> The HIDTA Program uses three systems for field-based event deconfliction: CaseExplorer, RISSafe, and SAFETNet. These three systems are fully interoperable and operationally integrated, enabling more than 1,500 agencies to successfully deconflict events and ensure officer safety.

<sup>5</sup> Only those agencies with at least one staff member assigned full-time in a HIDTA initiative may have a voting member on the Executive Board.

<sup>6</sup> Since the 2021 HIDTA-wide ORS expansion, in February 2023, in consultation with the HIDTA Directors, ONDCP approved the ORS becoming the fourth national initiative.

<sup>7</sup> The Explanatory Statement for the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill, 2021 included the following, “The Committee encourages ONDCP, in consultation with the HIDTA Directors, to prioritize discretionary funds to aid States that have identified heroin and opioid addiction as an emergent threat, and have developed and implemented community responses to combat addiction to heroin and other opioids.”

<sup>8</sup> A cornerstone project was not able to be completed in 2020 due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>9</sup> ODMAP was developed by the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA in 2016 to provides near real-time suspected overdose surveillance data across jurisdictions in order to mobilize an immediate response to a sudden increase or spike in overdose events.

<sup>10</sup> The number of systems used totals to 34 because one HIDTA – New York/New Jersey – uses SAFETNet in New York and Case Explorer in New Jersey.

<sup>11</sup> State and major urban area fusion centers are owned and operated by state and local entities, and serve as focal points within the state and local environment for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information between the Federal Government and state, local, tribal, territorial (SLTT) and private sector partners.

<sup>12</sup> The PMP system, which became fully operational in 2005, was developed as a data collection tool to validate HIDTA effectiveness and help evaluate the performance of the HIDTA program.

<sup>13</sup> Initiatives are activities that implement portions of an individual HIDTA’s strategy to address the national and regional drug threats in the designated HIDTA region.

<sup>14</sup> In 2022, HIDTA initiatives dismantled 939 DTOs/MLOs, and disrupted 2,168.

<sup>15</sup> As reported in the HIDTA PMP database, 1 marijuana plant is equivalent to 0.45 kilogram.

<sup>16</sup> Bullitt County was designated as a HIDTA in May 2023.

<sup>17</sup> Randolph County was designated as a HIDTA in May 2023.

<sup>18</sup> New Hanover County was designated as a HIDTA in May 2023.

<sup>19</sup> DEA, Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program, [www.dea.gov/operations/eradication-program](http://www.dea.gov/operations/eradication-program)

<sup>20</sup> Next Level Recovery Indiana. Data from: Next Level Recovery Data Dashboard. <https://www.in.gov/recovery/data/>. Accessed May 8, 2023.

<sup>21</sup> National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics. Opioid Epidemic: Addiction Statistics. <https://drugabusestatistics.org/opioid-epidemic/#indiana>.

<sup>22</sup> Lehigh County was designated as a HIDTA in May 2023.



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- <sup>23</sup> [Philadelphia 2023: State of the City | The Pew Charitable Trusts \(pewtrusts.org\)](#)
- <sup>24</sup> [CCPD: Total Violent Crime Down in 2022; Motor Vehicle Crime Up Sharply | Camden, NJ News TAPinto](#)
- <sup>25</sup> Cole, J. Ghost Guns are a Growing Concern in Philadelphia as Gun Violence Rises, AG Says. <https://www.fox29.com/news/ghost-guns-are-a-growing-concern-in-philadelphia-as-gun-violence-rises>. February 28, 2022.
- <sup>26</sup> Data Sources: Pennsylvania Department of Health; New Jersey State Police; NJ Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner; Delaware Division of Forensic Science (all totals tallied as of publication and are subject to change)
- <sup>27</sup> New Jersey State Police Drug Monitoring Initiative
- <sup>28</sup> [Cocaine trafficking surges following COVID-19-related slowdown | UN News](#)
- <sup>29</sup> Michigan State Police, Forensic Science Division. Drug Examination Report. 2022.
- <sup>30</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. FY 2022 Substance Use Disorder Treatment Admissions. January 25, 2023.
- <sup>31</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. FY 2022 Substance Use Disorder Treatment Admissions. January 25, 2023.
- <sup>32</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration. 2022 DEA Detroit Field Case Reporting. February 15, 2023.
- <sup>33</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. FY 2022 Substance Use Disorder Treatment Admissions.
- <sup>34</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. FY 2022 Substance Use Disorder Treatment Admissions. January 25, 2023.
- <sup>35</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. FY 2022 Substance Use Disorder Treatment Admissions. January 25, 2023.
- <sup>36</sup> Sullivan County was designated as a HIDTA in May 2023.
- <sup>37</sup> FDLE. 2021, November. 2020 Annual Report: Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners.
- <sup>38</sup> FDLE. 2021, November. 2020 Annual Report: Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners.
- <sup>39</sup> NFHIDTA. 2022. *North Florida Drug Threat Survey*. Investigative Support Center.
- <sup>40</sup> FDLE. 2021, November. 2020 Annual Report: Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners.
- <sup>41</sup> FDLE. 2021, November. 2020 Annual Report: Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners.
- <sup>42</sup> FDLE. 2021, November. 2020 Annual Report: Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners.
- <sup>43</sup> Allen County was designated as a HIDTA in May 2023.
- <sup>44</sup> Lee and St. Lucie Counties were designated as HIDTAs in May 2023.
- <sup>45</sup> Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners Commission Drug Report FINAL. Published December 2022.
- <sup>46</sup> Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Florida Medical Examiners. May 2022.
- <sup>47</sup> NFLIS-DRUG 2022 Midyear Report. <https://www.nflis.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/nflisdata/docs/13915NFLISDrugMidYear2022.pdf>
- <sup>48</sup> Canadian County was designated as a HIDTA in May 2023.
- <sup>49</sup> HIDTAs with initiatives that include tribal law enforcement include Arizona, Atlanta/Carolinas, Gulf Coast, Michigan, Midwest, Nevada, New Mexico, New York/New Jersey, North Central, Northwest, Oregon/Idaho, Rocky Mountain, Texoma and West Texas.
- <sup>50</sup> In 2022, ONDCP allocated funding to undertake new projects to enhance its oversight of HIDTA systems and initiatives. These include an analysis of automated license plate reader systems and practices, an assessment of data privacy and cybersecurity systems and policies, and an examination of the current desk audit review process. Results of these projects will be reported in a subsequent report.