



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503

17 April 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

Pursuant to the *Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act* (SUPPORT Act), 21 U.S.C. § 1706, I am pleased to provide Congress with this report on the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program.

This report provides background information on the HIDTA Program, including performance data from the 2024 HIDTA program year, and addresses the following reporting requirements:

- An evaluation of the National HIDTA Program;
- An assessment of law enforcement intelligence sharing in the HIDTA Program; and
- An assessment of drug enforcement task forces operating within HIDTA boundaries.

The report presents a thorough overview of the HIDTA Program. There are currently 33 HIDAAs nationwide. HIDTA-designated areas are located in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. ONDCP will provide more information about any specific HIDTA's performance or threat assessment upon request.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or my staff. Please accept my sincere thanks for your continued support of the HIDTA Program.

Sincerely,

Sara Carter
Director

Enclosure: High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program 2026 Report to Congress

cc:

Senate Judiciary

The Honorable Charles Grassley

The Honorable Richard Durbin

Senate Appropriations

The Honorable Susan Collins

The Honorable Patty Murray

Senate Approps. Sub on Commerce

The Honorable Jerry Moran

The Honorable Christopher Van Hollen

Senate Approps. Sub FSGG

The Honorable Bill Hagerty

The Honorable Jack Reed

Senate HELP

The Honorable Bill Cassidy

The Honorable Bernie Sanders

House Judiciary

The Honorable Jim Jordan

The Honorable Jamie Raskin

House Appropriations

The Honorable Tom Cole

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro

House Approps. Sub on FSGG

The Honorable Dave Joyce

The Honorable Steny Hoyer

House Oversight

The Honorable James Comer

The Honorable Robert Garcia

House Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Brett Guthrie

The Honorable Frank Pallone

Senate Caucus on Int'l Narcotics Control

The Honorable John Cornyn

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse



HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS PROGRAM

2026 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 HDTAs – 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

The HIDTA Program coordinates and assists Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial 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. This section provides background on the efforts of the 33 regional HDTAs that are located 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, tribal, and territorial) 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, tribal, and territorial 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 2024, the most recent year for which complete data is available,¹ reports from the HIDTAs indicate that the HIDTA Program comprises 1,032 initiatives distributed among the following categories: Enforcement, Intelligence, Prosecution, Management, Prevention, Treatment, and Support.

These initiatives were staffed by 23,037 Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agents, officers, analysts, attorneys, support personnel, and drug treatment and prevention specialists. Sixty-eight percent (15,697) of the participants were from State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies, and 32 percent (7,340) 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, tribal, and territorial law enforcement information; and measures needed to achieve effective sharing of information.

As each HIDTA capitalizes on the combined resources of the Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement communities, this section also describes existing and planned law enforcement intelligence systems supported by each HIDTA or used by task forces receiving funding from the program, and 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 event² and case/subject/target³ deconfliction and providing analytical support to ongoing investigations.⁴

Further, it describes how continuing interagency cooperation among ONDCP, Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial 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, tribal, and territorial 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, tribal, and territorial 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 (SUD) 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, tribal, and territorial 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 Director of National Drug Control Policy 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 HDTAs 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, tribal, and territorial) law



enforcement leaders, as required by statute.⁵ Where it is impractical for an equal number of representatives of Federal agencies and State, local, tribal, and territorial 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 National HIDTA Program supports national initiatives administered by the National HIDTA Assistance Center (NHAC) and overseen by the HIDTA Directors Committee (HDC). In 2024, the HDC combined three national initiatives under a single organizational unit – the National Strategic Analysis Initiative (NSAI), which received \$1,479,718 in baseline funding in 2024. Combining these efforts into a single initiative enables cost savings through resource sharing and facilitates greater collaboration among the functional groups described below. The NSAI's mission is to assist in reducing the dangerous drug threat nationwide by providing clear and concise insights regarding the production, distribution, supply, transportation, illicit cultivation, and effects of controlled and emergent drugs.



The NSAI comprises three functional groups. The Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) initiative assists the HIDTAs with market disruption of dangerous drugs through a nationwide, highway enforcement, information-sharing platform. The Drug Threat Analysis Group (DTAG)⁶ collects and analyzes data, and produces insights and products that guide policymakers and operationalize policy actions to address current and emerging drug threats. The Marijuana Impact Group (MIG)⁷ disseminates evidence-based information regarding the illicit cultivation and impacts of marijuana use to the public and policy makers.⁸ Through the efforts of these groups, the NSAI achieves the following:

- disseminates timely reports and data;
- generates annual strategic intelligence products and supply briefs and materials to ONDCP and the regional HIDTA programs;
- maintains a national platform for sharing intelligence among law enforcement on the Nation's highways to enhance drug interdiction efforts;
- provides a public-facing platform to share information and scientific information on emerging and established drug threats; and
- shares information and actionable intelligence regarding the cultivation and production of illicit drugs within the United States, including related and enabling crimes, such as firearms trafficking, money laundering, and human trafficking.

The National HIDTA Program also supports the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS), which was launched in 2015 with HIDTA discretionary funds, and expanded in 2021 to become a nationwide effort sustained by HIDTA baseline funds. In 2025, ORS received \$5,847,250 in baseline funding. Of that \$5,394,650 is allocated directly to the regional HIDTAs to provide compensation and travel costs for 61 full-time drug intelligence officer (DIO) positions. The remaining \$452,600 supports a national coordinator, deputy coordinator, and public safety policy analyst under the umbrella of the NHAC and overseen by the HDC. The ORS also receives support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which provides full time public health analysts (PHAs) in all 33 regional HIDTAs and undertakes complementary national coordination efforts through the CDC Foundation.

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.⁹



Public Health/Public Safety Framework

The Administration’s “Statement of Drug Policy Priorities” combines prevention, treatment, and recovery 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 Administration’s “Statement of Drug Policy Priorities,” and emphasizes the shared mission to build a stronger, healthier, drug free society. Initiatives encompassed by this framework include naloxone training and distribution, the ORS, the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP),¹⁰ and the HIDTA National Prevention Strategy, including A Division for Advancing Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT).¹¹

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 National 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 National 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.

ONDCP funding also supported the National HIDTA Prevention Summit focused on Youth Substance Use Prevention; an inaugural HIDTA-sponsored Youth Substance Use Prevention Institute hosted by Rocky Mountain HIDTA; a workshop on substance use prevention fundamentals for HIDTA Prevention Coordinators; and a national campaign titled “Mind the Message” to provide education on best practices in prevention messaging. The purpose of all of these efforts was to develop the capacity of public health and public safety professionals by equipping them with knowledge, skills, and tools to engage in primary prevention activities for substance use prevention in youth.



Support Services

The NHAC, located in Miami, Florida, assists ONDCP in the administration of the HIDTA Program, including the nationwide initiatives – NSAI and 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. In 2024, ONDCP launched the Grants Management System, including the Financial Administration for the HIDTA Program (FAH). Beginning with the 2025 program year, the FAH will replace the FMS. The NHAC will continue to support the FMS until grant funds processed through the FMS have been expended.



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

An evaluation of law enforcement intelligence systems that provide support to and participate in the various HDTAs is provided below; 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. It further describes the extent to which Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial 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, tribal, and territorial 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, tribal, or territorial 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 of National Drug Control Policy 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, illicit 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 SUD 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 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:

- 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, nine 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, 15 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 used to develop strategies, and allocate resources to operational law enforcement task forces and initiatives 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 and disseminated more broadly by posting on the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). 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., fentanyl tablet markings) 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, tribal, and territorial LEAs to expand intelligence resources and capabilities. Currently, the HIDTA Program has 35 primary ISCs and 18 ancillary operational intelligence and information sharing initiatives.

Continued cooperation among Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial partners has enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination of investigative data. Four HIDTA ISCs – Alaska, Michigan, New England, and North Florida – are co-located with state fusion centers, and two HIDTA ISCs – Northern California and San Diego Imperial Valley – are co-located with regional fusion centers.¹² Other HIDTA ISCs maintain robust relationships with LEAs at these centers and leverage intelligence resources and analytical expertise, integrate information sharing across disparate databases, perform deconfliction for investigative data involving multiple agencies, and serve the national effort to mitigate drug crime and other threats.

Similarly, five HDTAs¹³ had co-located their operations with Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) Strike Forces while others had located their ISCs in proximity to OCDETF Strike Forces. With the sunset of the OCDETF program, case coordination functions previously undertaken through OCDETF are occurring through the Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF) National Coordination Center (NCC). In addition, regional HDTAs coordinate drug enforcement operations with the 30 HSTF core regions and participate in HSTF leadership via the Regional Executive Committees.

ONDCP and the HIDTA Intelligence Committee work with Federal agency partners including: DEA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), and within DHS, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (DHS I&A) and the Office of the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment. This collaboration has helped to identify the best practices for successful information sharing and deconfliction capabilities among HIDTA ISCs, fusion centers, and Federal components, including EPIC and the Special Operations Division (SOD). To enhance partnerships and leverage resources and data sharing, ONDCP and Federal colleagues have worked to foster cooperation by facilitating joint attendance at training events and informational meetings, including the HIDTA ISC Managers Meetings, the DHS-



sponsored Fusion Center Leadership Program, and analyst training courses, as well as threat-specific meetings such as the Gateway/Destination Meeting). ONDCP, DEA, FBI, and DHS I&A also sponsor training opportunities for fusion center and HIDTA ISC analysts.

In addition, the HIDTA Program leverages the DHS HSIN platform to streamline information sharing and increase collaboration.

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 HDTAs. These systems may include Federal and State law enforcement information sharing systems, as well as numerous databases from county prosecution offices, sheriffs' offices, city police departments, and parole offices. In alignment with strategic objectives of the Administration's "Statement of Drug Policy Priorities," ONDCP will continue to encourage increased intelligence sharing with Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial 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 HDTAs, including the intelligence and information sharing initiatives. ONDCP conducts reviews of individual HDTAs 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 reviews conducted by ONDCP.

Intelligence 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 HDTAs. 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. The Committee maintains an advisory council, called the ISC Managers Advisory Council (IMAC). Like the Intelligence Committee, the IMAC comprises six regional representatives and a chairperson. These regional representatives advise the Intelligence Committee on behalf of their regions and intelligence initiatives within their HDTAs.



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 forces are the backbone of counterdrug enforcement efforts. As noted previously, the National HIDTA Program brings together Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial 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 regional, national, and transnational criminal networks. This coordination also enhances 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 National HIDTA Program funds other types of task force initiatives to support investigative efforts. Examples include intelligence and information sharing, drug interdiction, crime gun intelligence centers (CGICs), technical support, crime/forensic laboratory 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, tribal, and territorial 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. HIDTAs coordinate and collaborate with other drug enforcement task forces through a variety of methods, including drug unit commander meetings, law enforcement coordinating committees, HSTF 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. ISCs incorporate 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 FBI-led JTTFs.

In Section IV of this report, individual HDTAs provide descriptions of Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial 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. 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)¹⁴ 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 they are reviewed by ONDCP prior to the disbursement of grant funds.



HIDTA Initiative Accomplishments

Program achievements for 2025 will be available once data have been fully collected and analyzed in Summer 2026. For 2024, the most recent year for which complete data are available, HIDTA reports indicate there were 1,032 initiatives participating in the HIDTA Program distributed among the following categories:

- Intelligence
- Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Support
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Management¹⁵

These initiatives were staffed by approximately 7,340 Federal agents, criminal and intelligence analysts, attorneys, and support staff, and 15,697 State, local, tribal, and territorial officers, criminal and intelligence analysts, attorneys, and other representatives that include drug treatment and prevention specialists. In 2024, HIDTA initiatives identified 9,713 DTOs/MLOs operating in their Areas of Responsibility (AORs) and reported disrupting or dismantling 3,209 DTOs/MLOs.¹⁶ A majority (53%) of the disrupted or dismantled DTOs were determined to be part of multi-state or international operations. In the process, HIDTA initiatives removed significant quantities of drugs from the market (see table below) valuing over \$17.6 billion, and seized \$488.6 million in cash and \$184.1 million in non-cash assets from drug traffickers (totaling over \$672.7 million in assets seized). HIDTA criminal and intelligence analysts provided analytical support to 30,039 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 \$68.07 for every HIDTA dollar budgeted in 2024.

Quantities of Drugs Removed from the Marketplace by HIDTA Initiatives in 2024	
Drugs Seized	Kilograms
Cocaine/Crack	167,263
Methamphetamine	121,311
Fentanyl	7,302
Heroin	1,403
Marijuana	472,691
Marijuana Plants - Outdoors ¹⁷	854,661
Marijuana Plants – Indoors	222,710
Source: HIDTA PMP Database, data retrieved January 21, 2026	



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.

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



Year: The numbers provided in the respective categories reflect the *projected* performance targets by each HIDTA for 2025 and not *actual* results from 2025. Individual HDTAs are not required to submit 2025 results until June 2026.

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) that generates income or acquires 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. Throughout the report, this ratio will be expressed as a dollar figure showing ROI for each \$1 in HIDTA funds budgeted.

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. Throughout the report, this ratio will be expressed as a dollar figure showing ROI for each \$1 in HIDTA funds budgeted.

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, tribal, and territorial 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, tribal, or territorial 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, tribal, and territorial 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

The 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 (SEACAD), Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Task Force (FANT), and the Southcentral Area-wide Narcotics Task Force (SCAN).

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 3 of Alaska’s 28 boroughs.

Initiatives

The HIDTA has nine initiatives: five enforcement, two management, one intelligence, and one support.

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
2025	10	\$0.47	\$2.51	28

These targets are estimates based on historical case information documented in PMP by the Alaska HIDTA over the last three-year period.

Threat Assessment

The HIDTA assesses fentanyl is the greatest threat by dosage unit¹⁸ in Alaska, which mirrors the national trend. The drug threat environment has shifted in the HIDTA from primarily



methamphetamine trafficking and use to a dual threat that increasingly leans towards high availability and use of opioid-based drugs. Demand for fentanyl, heroin and cocaine remain high and continue to pose significant threats. Illicit marijuana demand is up and is widely available in the State. This assessment is based on Federal, State, and local law enforcement drug seizure reporting. In 2024, the Alaska HIDTA seized 141 kilograms of methamphetamine; 8,746 dosage units of methamphetamine; 6.4 kilograms of heroin; 44 kilograms of fentanyl; 397,466 dosage units of fentanyl; 29 kilograms of cocaine/crack; and 265 kilograms of marijuana.

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 Alaska 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 Alaska 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.

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

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 2024, the Alaska HIDTA succeeded in disrupting/dismantling 11 DTOs, outperforming the expected target goal of 7 DTOs disrupted/dismantled, as indicated below. Established regional HIDTA programs set targets based upon historical outputs (i.e., an average of the three previous years' outputs). For the Alaska HIDTA, which was designated in 2018, the absence of long-term historical outputs creates challenges in setting accurate and achievable targets.

For 2024, three-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.



Target				
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
2024	7	\$0.41	\$1.84	17
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	11	\$0.42	\$2.57	46



Appalachia HIDTA

Designated in 1998

Executive Director – Vic Brown

Purpose and Goals

The 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 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, and 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 154 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 when including 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.

- Kentucky: Adair, Bell, Boyd, Bullitt, 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: 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: Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Pulaski, Scott, Tazewell, Wise, and Wythe
- West Virginia: Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Fayette, Hancock, Harrison, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monongalia, Ohio, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, 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

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
2025	114	\$2.20	\$78.80	210

Threat Assessment

The HIDTA faces substantial threats from the trafficking and use of fentanyl, crystal methamphetamine, and cocaine, as well as drug-related violence. Over the past 3 years, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and fentanyl analogs have become increasingly popular and are a significant threat to the region. The trafficking and use 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 continue to flood the region with fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, crystal methamphetamine, and cocaine by utilizing vast arrays of intersecting roadways. Seizures of fentanyl pills increased from 498,553 dosage units in 2023, to 747,923 in 2024; crystal methamphetamine seizures increased from 1,358 kilograms in 2023 to 3,888 kilograms in 2024. During the same period cocaine seizures increased from 635 kilograms to 1,362 kilograms. The HIDTA region has shifted from a significant source of domestically-produced illicit marijuana to a destination for illicit marijuana diverted from legalized 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, cocaine, and crystal methamphetamine are commonly transported from regional areas such as Detroit, Michigan; Columbus, Ohio; Atlanta, Georgia; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and neighboring parts of Indiana, North Carolina, Missouri, and Maryland. Illicit 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.

In addition to primary trafficking routes, DTOs have increasingly adopted commercial parcel and mail delivery services as a secondary means of importing illicit drugs into the Appalachian region. DTOs operating within the HIDTA-designated area are exploiting these services to circumvent traditional law enforcement interdiction efforts along interstate corridors. By leveraging the anonymity and logistical reach of parcel services, DTOs are reducing the need for in-person transactions and effectively masking their trafficking operations, posing new challenges to HIDTAs regional interdiction and investigative strategies.

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 HIDTA drug enforcement task forces who receive Federal funding while operating in the Appalachian region.

FEDERALLY FUNDED HIDTA TASK FORCES	LOCATION
AHIDTA Diversion Enforcement Task Force	London, KY
Appalachia Narcotics Investigations Task Force	Pineville, KY
Appalachia Parcel Interdiction	Louisville, KY
Beckley Raleigh County Drug and Violent Crime Unit	Beckley, WV
Bowling Green - Warren County Drug Task Force	Bowling Green, KY
Central Kentucky Interdiction Team	London, KY



FEDERALLY FUNDED HIDTA TASK FORCES	LOCATION
Central Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Fayetteville, WV
Claytor Lake Regional Drug Task Force	Pulaski, VA
Columbia Area Drug Task Force	Columbia, KY
DEA London Task Force	London, KY
Rocky Top Tennessee Task Force	Knoxville, TN
DEA South Tennessee Task Force	Chattanooga, TN
DEA Upper East Tennessee Task Force	Johnson City, TN
Domestic Highway Enforcement Interdiction Plus	Knoxville, TN
Drug Related Death Task Force	Knoxville, TN
FBI HEAT Task Force	Pikeville, KY
Gateway Area Drug Task Force	Mt. Sterling, KY
Greater Hardin County Narcotics Task Force	Elizabethtown, KY
Greater Harrison County Drug Task Force	Bridgeport, WV
Hancock, Brooke, Weirton Drug and Violent Crime TF	Weirton, WV
Huntington Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force	Huntington, WV
Kentucky Eradication Task Force	London, KY
Louisville DEA Task Force	Louisville, KY
Louisville Metro Narcotics Task Force	Louisville, KY
Madison County Drug Task Force	Richmond, KY
Marshall County Drug Task Force	Moundsville, WV
Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team	Charleston, WV
DEA Middle Tennessee Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Nashville, TN
Middle Tennessee Drug Related Death Task Force	Nashville, TN
Mon Metro Drug Task Force	Morgantown, WV
Mountain Region Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force	Elkins, WV
Northeast Kentucky Drug Task Force	Ashland, KY
Ohio Valley Drug Task Force	Wheeling, WV
Owensboro - Daviess County Drug Task Force	Owensboro, KY
Parkersburg Violent Crime and Narcotics Task Force	Parkersburg, WV
7th Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Oak Ridge, TN
Smoky Mountain Drug Task Force	Knoxville, TN
Southeastern KY FBI Drug Task Force	London, KY
Southern Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Bluefield, WV
South Central Kentucky Drug Task Force	Russellville, KY
Southwest Virginia Drug Task Force	Big Stone Gap, VA
TBI Upper East Tennessee Drug Related Death Task Force	Blountville, TN
Tazewell County Narcotics Task Force	Clay Pool Hill, VA
Middle Tennessee Task Force	Cookeville, TN
Tennessee Highlands Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Greenville, TN
29th Circuit Narcotics Task Force	Breaks, VA



FEDERALLY FUNDED HIDTA TASK FORCES	LOCATION
Twin County Narcotics Task Force	Galax, VA
US 119 Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Logan, WV
Violent Crime and Drug Task Force West	Ona, WV
West Kentucky Interdiction Team	Bowling Green, KY
West Virginia DEA HIDTA Task Force	Charleston, WV
West Virginia Eradication/Fentanyl Task Force	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 140 LEAs located within the HIDTA region that participate in a deconfliction program.

The HIDTA's Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) enhances the operational capabilities of its task forces by providing actionable investigative leads derived from crime gun intelligence. The CGIC serves as a centralized hub for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of firearms-related data, including ballistics evidence, firearm trace information, and shooting incident reports. By leveraging this intelligence, the CGIC supports efforts to identify and disrupt violent criminal networks, link shooting incidents across jurisdictions, and target repeat offenders involved in gun violence. This strategic integration of crime gun intelligence into HIDTA operations strengthens interagency collaboration and directly supports the program's mission to reduce drug trafficking and its associated violent crime.

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, HSIN, the Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCIC), other regional HIDTAs, and various public health resources throughout the HIDTA region.

HIDTA Evaluation

The Appalachia HIDTA plays a significant role in reducing DTO operations throughout the region. The HIDTA's initiatives thwart the trafficking of cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, and



synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl, as well as impede the production and distribution of methamphetamine and illicit marijuana. In 2024, initiatives disrupted or dismantled 110 DTOs, falling short of the 138 DTOs expected to be disrupted/dismantled during the year. The number of actual DTOs disrupted or dismantled was lower than expected in 2024 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, 64 percent were identified as multi-state or international in nature. In 2024, initiatives seized illegal drugs with a wholesale value of over \$813 million, over \$23 million in cash and other drug-related assets, for a total ROI of \$82.46. In addition, the investigative initiatives made more than 3,692 arrests and seized 2,348 firearms.

Target				
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
2024	138	\$2.00	\$47.00	220
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	110	\$2.30	\$80.16	210



Arizona HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Executive Director – Dawn Mertz

Purpose and Goals

The 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 (investigative case support, coordination, deconfliction, targeting, and threat assessment); support (training, public corruption, and public health/public safety); and management. The HIDTA coordinates and supports the efforts of 800 full-time and 44 part-time participants from 90 Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies.

The HIDTA supports administrative priorities by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs, thereby disrupting the flow of illicit drugs to drug markets in Arizona and the United States. Specifically, Arizona 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 ten counties: Cochise, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, and Yuma.¹⁹

Initiatives

The HIDTA supports 29 initiatives: 23 enforcement, 1 intelligence/information sharing, 4 support (includes 1 training and 1 public corruption), and 1 management.



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
2025	54	\$1.15	\$30.00	328

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 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)/marijuana seizures in Arizona originate from California. The continued increase of firearms purchased in Arizona and recovered in Mexico indicates weapons are being smuggled from Arizona to Mexico.

Intelligence Initiative

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 Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); Homeland Security Investigations (HSI); Pima County Sheriff's Department; Phoenix Police Department; Apache Junction Police Department; Maricopa County Sheriff's Office; Arizona Department of Corrections; Arizona National Guard; and Arizona Attorney General's Office. These partnerships enhance intelligence efforts by promoting intelligence sharing and leveraging intelligence resources to target DTOs based and operating in Arizona and distributing throughout the United States.



The ISC consists of five Investigative Support Groups, an Interdiction Response Group, and a Threat Analysis and Production Group.

Investigative Support Groups: The five Investigative Support Groups perform the following functions:

- *Case Support:* Analytical and evidence-based case support for HIDTA Initiative and partner agency investigations, including telephone toll analysis, pen register analysis, wiretap analysis, financial analysis, and seizure analysis. Analysts identify key details such as overt acts, stash house locations, sources of supply, members of the organization, co-conspirators, trafficking routes and methods, and other relevant seizure information. They also identify key events, linkages to other investigations, and help investigators expand their scope by identifying potential targets and providing additional investigative insights.
- *Device Exploitation:* Thorough exploitation of telephone data extracted from HIDTA Initiative and partner agency investigations. Analysts provide in-depth deconfliction and generate specific leads, offering greater investigative clarity. Cross-case analysis is performed to compare telephone data extractions across participating HIDTA Initiatives and partner agencies. This process creates case links, identifies common targets and suspects, and ensures case deconfliction across investigations.
- *Research, Leads, and Targeting:* Research and deconfliction of information are performed using all available investigative and analytical tools. Using a systematic approach, phone numbers, names, addresses, seizure data, license plates, and other identifying information are queried against Case Explorer, criminal databases, motor vehicle files, state systems, open-source databases, Federal proprietary databases, EPIC, and phone deconfliction systems such as DICE and DARTS, to fully identify investigative overlaps and provide intelligence products to law enforcement.
- *Interdiction Response Group:* Provides 24/7 real-time analytical support to interdictors and investigators. Analysts exploit the most appropriate criminal systems and intelligence databases and provide a quick response to interdictors to help them obtain reasonable suspicion, or probable cause, to search a vehicle, person, or conveyance. Pursuant to the seizure, first level analytical support is provided within two hours using all available intelligence systems to enhance the initial investigation. A comprehensive report is provided to investigators containing analytical findings and relevant information.
- *Threat Analysis and Production Group:* Prepares and disseminates the annual Arizona HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment, as well as a range of strategic products pertaining to drug trends, drug availability, price changes, smuggling methods and changes, trafficking routes, emerging drug threats, officer safety issues, and DTOs most impacting Arizona law enforcement. The Ken's New News Report (KNNR) is an additional intelligence product which focuses on Mexico-based DTOs. The KNNR is distributed to various Federal agencies, the intelligence community, Department of War, U.S. Fusion Centers, consulates, and State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies nationwide. The report is updated weekly, drawing intelligence from open sources, and provides near real-time



information on DTO activities in Mexico, Latin America, and the United States. It covers various aspects such as drug and weapon seizures, DTO arrests and murders, leadership photos, organizational charts, narco-messages, trends, statistics, key operational elements, and situational awareness.

The ISC is the central processing hub for intelligence to support drug law enforcement programs and is designed to reduce drug trafficking, money laundering, and associated violence 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.

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



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Native American Targeted Investigation of Violent Enterprises Task Force (HIDTA)	Pima County, AZ
Navajo County Major Crimes Apprehension Team (HIDTA)	Navajo County, AZ
Northern Arizona Metro Street Crimes Task Force	Coconino County, AZ
Organized Drug Enforcement Strike Force (DEA)	Arizona
Partners Against Narcotics Trafficking (HIDTA)	Yavapai County, AZ
Phoenix El Dorado Financial Task Force (HIDTA)	Maricopa County, AZ
Pima County HIDTA Investigative Task Force (HIDTA)	Pima County, AZ
Pinal County Drug and Gang Enforcement Multiagency Task Force	Pinal County, AZ
Pinal County HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Pinal County, AZ
Santa Cruz County HIDTA Investigative Task Force (HIDTA)	Santa Cruz County, AZ
Southeastern Arizona Drug, Gang and Violent Crime Task Force	Graham County, AZ
Southeastern Arizona Major Investigative Team (HIDTA)	Cochise County, AZ
Southern Arizona Integrity Initiative (HIDTA)	Pima County, AZ
Strategic Planning and Enforcement Action Reform (HIDTA)	Maricopa County, AZ
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Arizona
Tucson HIDTA Financial Task Force (HIDTA)	Pima County, AZ
West Valley Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Maricopa County, AZ
Yuma County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Yuma County, AZ
Yuma County Prosecutorial Initiative (HIDTA)	Yuma County, AZ

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 regularly disseminates intelligence and attends intelligence sharing meetings with the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC). 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, local and regional airports, rail, parcel, and hotel/motel operations throughout the year. The ARIN also supports interdictors nationwide 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 seizure information, origin, and destination locations. The Interdiction Network resource has been presented at numerous national interdiction conferences and is gaining partner users from across the country.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2024, the Arizona HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 53 DTOs. Of the 53 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 37 were international, 7 were multi-state, and 9 were local. The HIDTA also dismantled/disrupted 658 criminal operations and seized illegal drugs with an estimated wholesale value of nearly \$413 million and more than \$12 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$32.17. By wholesale value, fentanyl accounted for 73 percent, methamphetamine for 15 percent, cocaine for 7 percent, marijuana for 2 percent, and heroin for 1 percent of the drugs seized. Other drugs accounted for the remaining 2 percent.

Under HIDTA initiatives, 4,865 subjects were arrested and 1,023 firearms seized. The HIDTA is engaged in running the seized firearms through e-Trace and utilizing the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) for crime guns. Prosecutors obtained 940 indictments, prosecuted 1,797 individuals, and convicted 981 individuals.

The ISC provided analytical support to 291 cases and sent or provided 2,598 substantive leads to HIDTA initiatives and agencies. In addition, the ISC handled 28,822 information requests; produced one strategic and threat bulletin and 11,181 tactical intelligence products; performed forensic extraction of 850 communication devices and created 288 device exploitation reports; and provided 24/7 support for Arizona law enforcement.

The Arizona Regional Training Initiative (ARTI) provided 22,415 hours of training to 1,864 students from Federal, State, local, tribal, and military agencies. ARTI presented 32 courses, including weeklong classes covering Basic Drug Investigations, Advanced Drug Investigations, and Drug Unit Supervisors; two-week Basic Intelligence Analyst courses; and conducted six regional classes across the state. ARTI also conducted a three-day Detecting Deception course and a three-day Enhanced Tactical Medicine course in addition to courses on or related to basic and advanced social media investigations.

The Public Health/Public Safety (PH/PS) Initiative encompasses demand reduction and prevention strategies, training components, OMI, and ORS. PH/PS fosters collaboration across Federal, State, local, and tribal levels to address the pressing need for community engagement, public education, and law enforcement involvement. Key objectives include educating communities and parents about the health and societal impacts of illicit prescription drug use, the increasing prevalence of fentanyl; and the alarming rise in youth vaping and THC concentrate



usage. The goal is to minimize substance use disorders and reduce the associated harmful outcomes.

In 2024, PH/PS co-sponsored the seventh annual Arizona Drug Summit to address ongoing and emerging polydrug threats within Arizona and nationally. PH/PS presented Stronger Together training and conducted 80 additional educational activities that reached 1,952 people in law enforcement, school resource officers, Drug-Free Communities grantees, school counselors, and community substance use prevention organizations. PH/PS led two Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST) courses which equips prevention practitioners to implement effective strategies to reduce behavioral health disparities and promote overall wellness. PH/PS developed a Primary Prevention Advanced Course (PPAC), which builds upon the knowledge gained in SAPST.

PH/PS developed new and updated prevention materials on counterfeit pills, fentanyl, naloxone, and methamphetamine and disseminated 24,000 prevention educational materials. PH/PS helped create Public Service Announcements (PSAs) in English and the tribal languages of Apache, Navajo, and Tohono O’odham to educate about the dangers of fentanyl. The Fentanyl Toolkit, developed by Arizona HIDTA in 2021, provides materials and strategies to prevent and reduce fentanyl overdoses. The Toolkits were customized for each county juvenile probation department and the Arizona Department of Child Safety to educate juveniles, caregivers, parents, and foster families.

The OMI disseminated 51 alerts with law enforcement/healthcare safety information, responded to 22 in-depth data requests, and provided 35 informational products to law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and healthcare providers. The ORS distributed 126 Felony Arrest Notification (FANs) and works with agencies across the State to implement ODMAP. There are currently 67 agencies using ODMAP with a total of 10,503 entries. The ORS implemented a Naloxone Leave Behind Program for law enforcement and a Naloxone Take Away Program for county jails. Over 2,000 naloxone kits have been provided to Arizona law enforcement to distribute to Arizona communities.

The ORS developed a “Be in the Know” Program, in partnership with the University of Arizona, Tucson Police Department, and Pima County Health Department, to educate college students about substance use prevention and overdose intervention. The program includes information on the local drug landscape, signs of drug poisoning and overdose, naloxone administration, and the Good Samaritan Law. The ORS also assisted in the Arizona Department of Education’s “STOP-IT” Campaign to get naloxone into Arizona schools and worked with the Arizona Department of Health Services to obtain enough naloxone to be distributed to school districts and charter schools throughout Arizona.



Target				
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
2024	48	\$2.00	\$28.00	435
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	53	\$0.88	\$31.29	318



Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA

Designated in 1995

Executive Director – Robert Murphy

Purpose and Goals

The 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 146 participating agencies. Utilizing a robust training model in 2024 the HIDTA provided training to approximately 758 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 comprises 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, 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

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
2025	53	\$3.00	\$17.00	250

Threat Assessment

The HIDTA region is a major transshipment/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.

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. Counterfeit pills disguised as prescription medications (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. Ten HIDTA-funded analysts support initiatives in Georgia and the Carolinas.

The ISC provides investigative coordination and operational support, case, and event deconfliction for approximately 109 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
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
Cape Fear (HIDTA)	Wilmington, NC

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 support, periodic meetings, ACHIDTA Initiative Commanders Training and coordination between the HIDTA and HSTF. Agencies participating in one task force initiative often have officers assigned to other task forces initiatives, thereby promoting information sharing and case coordination. HIDTA-sponsored deconfliction services ensure 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 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 HSTF.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2024, the Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA continued its three-part strategy (geographical, functional, and operational) to focus command and control elements of DTOs/MLOs. Fifty-three DTOs/MLOs were disrupted/dismantled. The more complex investigations require increased resources and additional time to pursue to a conclusion.

In 2024, task forces seized illicit drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$176.9 million, and over \$21 million in cash and other drug-related assets (\$4 million total other assets), achieving a total ROI of \$24.41.

Target				
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
2024	61	\$3.00	\$17.00	1,575
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	53	\$2.64	\$21.77	1,164



Central Florida HIDTA

Designated in 1998

Executive Director – A.J. Collazo

Purpose and Goals

The 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 center 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 as follows: 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

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
2025	52	\$2.29	\$14.64	965

Threat Assessment

Fentanyl will likely remain the top drug threat in the coming year, along with new and emerging opioids and opioid-like drugs, such as xylazine. These drugs are posing an ever-increasing risk as fentanyl and many other illicit drugs are adulterated with xylazine, which can be easily obtained without being subject to interdiction along the Southwest Border.

The non-opioid depressant xylazine has emerged as a significant threat in recent years. As its use is expanding nationally, it is now being found more often in Central Florida, both in drug seizures and in overdose mortality data. The HIDTA will likely see the continued expansion of xylazine as a cutting agent in opioids, such as fentanyl, as well as heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine, which will increase a drug's potency and mortality.

Cocaine and methamphetamine will continue to be significant drug threats over the next year as their availability remains very high and the prices are decreasing.

Mexican and Caribbean transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) and DTOs will continue to be the primary organizational threats in the region and will continue to dominate the wholesale and regional distribution of fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin.

The prevalence of violence and the proliferation and use of crime guns by DTOs will likely increase over the next year. There was a 12 percent increase in firearms seized in 2024 in comparison to 2023, and investigators reported that nearly 70 percent of the regional DTOs investigated were violent. The hiring of a Crime Gun Intelligence Officer in 2024 has improved Central Florida HIDTA's ability to capture, analyze, and exploit crime gun data such as firearms tracing to identify the original purchasers and "Time to Crime," and NIBIN ballistic entries and comparisons to match seized firearms to crime scene ballistic evidence, which was not possible before. In 2024, 93 percent of the weapons seized were submitted to the ATF E-Trace Database and 89 percent of the weapons seized were entered into NIBIN by either the local agency who seized the weapons, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, or ATF.

The utilization of cryptocurrency and money apps will continue to increase by DTOs and MLOs over the next year as it affords more anonymity and security.

Xylazine, nitazene synthetic opioids, and emerging psychoactive substances like medetomidine and etomidate are beginning to appear in Florida labs. Confidence is moderate that these substances will pose a continuing threat if supply of methamphetamine and fentanyl is mitigated by enhanced border security efforts and the designation of Mexican TCOs as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs).



The downward trend of all drug-caused overdose fatalities likely will continue over the next year due to ORS efforts, public awareness, the availability of naloxone, and increased security and interdictions at the Southwest Border.

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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Brevard County Task Force (HIDTA)	Titusville, FL
City County Investigative Bureau (HIDTA)	Sanford, FL
Colombian/South American DTO (HIDTA)	Tampa, FL
DEA Heroin Task Force (HIDTA)	Orlando, FL
DEA HIDTA Methamphetamine Task Force (HIDTA)	Tampa, FL
DEA Mex/Poly Task Force (HIDTA)	Orlando, FL
DEA Orlando State and Local Task Force (DEA)	Orlando, FL
DEA Tampa State and Local Task Force (DEA) (HIDTA)	Tampa, FL
Gulf Coast Task Force (HIDTA)	Bradenton, FL
Hillsborough County Major Violators Unit (HIDTA)	Tampa, FL
Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (HIDTA)	Orlando, FL
Osceola County Investigative Bureau (HIDTA)	Kissimmee, FL
Pasco County Task Force (HIDTA)	Dade City, FL
Pinellas County (HIDTA)	Largo, FL
Polk County HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Bartow, FL



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
U.S. Marshals Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team, East/West (HIDTA)	Orlando/Tampa, FL
Volusia Bureau of Investigation (HIDTA)	Daytona Beach, FL
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Tampa, FL
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Orlando, FL
ICE Financial Money Laundering Task Force (ICE)	Orlando, FL
Internal Revenue Service/Secret Service Financial Crimes Task Force (IRS)	Orlando, FL
Panama Express OCDETF Strike Force (DEA, FBI, HSI, CGIS)	Tampa, FL

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 2024, CF HIDTA law enforcement initiatives successfully disrupted or dismantled 60 DTOs/MLOs, exceeding their expected outcome of 41. In addition, initiatives seized over \$5.5 million cash and other drug-related assets from drug traffickers. The wholesale value of drugs removed from the HIDTA AOR in 2024 was \$ 44.9 million, and the total ROI was \$11.69.

Target				
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
2024	41	\$2.50	\$15.95	970
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	60	\$1.43	\$11.69	451



Central Valley California HIDTA

Designated in 1999

Executive Director – John J. Martin

Purpose and Goals

The Central Valley California HIDTA's (CVC HIDTA) mission and purpose is to (1) support and enhance collaborative drug control and overdose reduction efforts among law enforcement agencies and public health organizations; (2) identify, disrupt, and dismantle DTOs by conducting comprehensive investigations; (3) combat drug-related violence, and associated gun and gang violence, through partnerships and innovative strategies; and (4) provide timely intelligence and promote information sharing among public safety and public health partners.

Strategy

The CVC HIDTA applies a multiagency task force model to leverage diverse authorities, expertise, and resources to achieve its mission. Approximately 272 (249 full time) Federal, State, county, and municipal law enforcement members, representing 52 different agencies, participate in the CVC HIDTA initiatives. The CVC 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 CVC HIDTA is based in Sacramento and comprises 15 counties, as follows: Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Trinity, and Tulare.

Initiatives

The CVC HIDTA supports 18 initiatives: 12 enforcement, 1 fugitive, 1 management and coordination, 1 training, 1 prevention and 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
2025	51	\$2.00	\$700.00	260



Threat Assessment

The most serious drug threats to the CVC HIDTA are fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, illicit marijuana, heroin, 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. The CVC HIDTA seized 100 kilograms and 1.3 million dosage units of fentanyl in 2024. According to preliminary data from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the CVC HIDTA counties reported 1,030 fentanyl-related deaths in the first three quarters of 2024. CDPH reported 1,305 fentanyl related deaths in all of 2023.

Methamphetamine is the second most dangerous drug threat in the CVC HIDTA region. Most of the methamphetamine available in the United States is produced in clandestine laboratories 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 2024, CVC HIDTA initiatives removed 3,243 kilograms of methamphetamine in all forms from the marketplace. This is a 19 percent decrease from the previous year when CVC HIDTA initiatives seized 4,006 kilograms of methamphetamine. Even with this decrease in seizures, in the last two years, CVC HIDTA initiatives seized an unprecedented number of large-capacity methamphetamine conversion labs. Intelligence reporting indicates that Mexican DTOs may have relocated to the Central Valley to take advantage of the largely rural terrain, which makes detection by law enforcement more difficult, in addition to the area's proximity to Mexico and key transportation routes.

Cocaine is the CVC HIDTA's third most important drug threat. In 2024, the CVC HIDTA removed 498 kilograms of cocaine from the marketplace, which is a significant increase from previous years. The increase in powder cocaine seizures correlates with a corresponding increase in cocaine-related overdose deaths. Preliminary data from CDPH shows that cocaine-related overdose deaths in 2024 in the fifteen CVC HIDTA counties are on track to exceed 2023 levels.

Illicit marijuana poses the fourth most significant drug threat in the CVC HIDTA's AOR. The CVC HIDTA focuses its efforts on the DTOs and criminal organizations that produce, transport, and distribute marijuana in violation of Federal and State laws. In 2024, CVC HIDTA enforcement initiatives seized 54,685 kilograms of processed marijuana as well as 81,820 kilograms of indoor plants and 390,739 kilograms of outdoor plants. They also removed 192 kilograms of THC extract from the marketplace in 2024. The practice of cultivating marijuana illicitly on private and public lands continues to cause significant environmental damage, to include deforestation, damage to wildlife habitats, hazardous chemical pollutants, and the diversion of water resources.

Heroin is the HIDTA's fifth most important drug threat. In 2024, the CVC HIDTA seized 41 kilograms of heroin in all forms. That is a 76 percent increase from the previous year when they seized 23 kilograms. The increasing demand for fentanyl led to an increase in law enforcement seizures. Consequently, the CVC HIDTA's heroin seizures have increased in 2024 due to the decreased availability of fentanyl. As the availability of heroin has increased, data adapted from the CDPH shows that heroin-related deaths in the Central Valley have increased as well. Preliminary data from the first half of 2024 shows more heroin related deaths than in all of 2023.



Intelligence Initiatives

The CVC HIDTA ISC provides tactical and strategic intelligence services to participating agencies and the Executive Board. In June 2021, the ISC merged with the Sacramento OCDETF Strike Force's Intelligence Group. The main ISC office, located at the Strike Force office, comprises one DEA analyst, three FBI analysts, one HSI analyst, seven counterdrug analysts from the California National Guard, one asset forfeiture specialist contracted by DEA, and one by HSTF. The prior working relationship with OCDETF has transferred to the HSTF (CORE) Region 2. The forward deployed analysts, who are embedded in the enforcement initiatives, consist of 13 counterdrug analysts and 4 contract analysts. The CVC HIDTA deconflicts investigative information and enforcement events through the RISS WSIN.

The ISC oversees the ORS, which consists of one contract 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 three part-time contract analysts to develop crime gun intelligence and improve firearm-related deconfliction in the Central Valley.

Task Forces Operating in the CVC HIDTA Region

The table below highlights the federally funded task forces operating in the CVC HIDTA region.

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



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

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 multi-state 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 CVC HIDTA initiatives coordinate with other CVC HIDTA programs throughout the country on drug investigations.

Initiatives comprise 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 CVC HIDTA initiatives takes place at quarterly meetings where initiative commanders discuss investigative activities in addition to regular communication between initiatives and the ISC.

The CVC 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 CVC HIDTA.

The CVC 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 JTTF. The CCIC



also shares relevant Suspicious Activity Reports with the ISC Manager who disseminates them to the appropriate initiatives for follow up.

CVC HIDTA Evaluation

In 2024, the CVC HIDTA investigated 54 DTOs/MLOs and successfully disrupted or dismantled 45 (83%) of them. Of the 45 DTOs/MLOs disrupted or dismantled, 16 were international, 8 were multi-state, and 21 were local in scope. In addition, the CVC HIDTA reduced drug availability and impeded the ability of criminal organizations to do business by seizing substantial quantities of drugs and assets. The CVC HIDTA initiatives seized illicit drugs with a wholesale value of more than \$3.7 billion and more than \$9.1 million in cash and other drug-related assets, resulting in a total ROI of \$778.70. The CVC 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.

Target				
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
2024	48	\$1.50	\$600.00	483
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	45	\$1.93	\$776.77	252



Chicago HIDTA

Designated in 1995

Executive Director – Nicholas Roti

Purpose and Goals

The Chicago HIDTA's mission is to reduce drug overdoses/poisonings and the inherent crime and violence that is inextricably 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 Chicago 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 94 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 Chicago 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 Chicago HIDTA's strategy targets the overdose epidemic by addressing the complete cycle of SUD and fostering demand reduction through an innovative and heralded prevention curriculum for students, developing and collaborating on a diversion program for eligible people with SUD, and participating in the National HIDTA ORS.

Location

The HIDTA administrative offices are located in Chicago's South Loop. The HIDTA encompasses the following seven Illinois counties: Cook, Grundy, Kankakee, Kendall, Will, Lake, and DuPage.²⁰

Initiatives

The Chicago HIDTA supports 22 initiatives to include: 16 enforcement (prosecution included), 4 support (prevention, resource, and training included), 1 intelligence, and 1 management.



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
2025	72	\$6.00	\$22.00	158

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 Chicago HIDTA AOR continue to be the distribution and use of heroin, fentanyl, and 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 media platforms and the dark web, often using cryptocurrency.

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 response to emerging drug threats in the United States perpetrated by domestic and international DTOs and TCOs, Chicago HIDTA, in coordination with the DEA, established the Counternarcotics/Cryptocurrency Task Force (CNCTF) as a pilot initiative. The CNCTF directly confronts DTOs and TCOs responsible for producing and distributing lethal drugs in the United States by utilizing the cyber realm to obfuscate their involvement. The CNCTF concentrates enforcement efforts toward drug trafficking and money laundering violations with a cryptocurrency and cyber nexus. These investigations have substantial overlap with conventional long-term and local conspiracy investigations targeting the highest level of domestic and international DTOs/TCOs. The CNCTF effectively combines the enforcement and intelligence resources, authorities, and capabilities of the DEA, FBI, HSI, the Chicago Police Department (CPD), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), USPIS, CBP, and several additional local police departments.



In response to the exponential increase in illicit fentanyl and other illicit drugs being transported throughout the Nation via U.S. mail, Chicago HIDTA—in coordination with USPIS—established the Parcel Interdiction Regional Enforcement Team (PIRET). A multi-agency task force that targets the use of the U.S. mail to advance the distribution of controlled substances by DTOs to Chicago-based Street Gang Networks and similar criminal organizations, the illicit proceeds generated from multi-level drug trafficking, and the command-and-control elements of DTOs funneling illegal and dangerous narcotics into the Chicago HIDTA AOR and adjoining counties. The initiative consists of four enforcement groups that are each tasked with targeting a specific aspect of the narcotics supply and transport chain involving the U.S. mail and private commercial shippers, to include international, regional, and local sources of supply; command and control; threat finance (money laundering); and bulk cash smuggling.

Intelligence Initiatives

The Chicago HIDTA ISC includes analysts from the Cook County Sheriff's Department, DEA, FBI, Illinois National Guard, and 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 Chicago Police Department Crime Prevention and Information Center (CPIC), and 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 Chicago HIDTA-funded initiatives, as well as the CPD, are mandated to use SAFETNet. In 2024, there were 325 registered law enforcement participants in the system, and 23,295 event and case/subject deconflictions were processed.

In March 2024, ATF-Chicago officially opened a newly remodeled Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) at its Chicago Field Office. The CGIC is staffed by ATF personnel and supported by members of the Chicago Police Department, along with other Federal, State, and local agencies/departments. The Chicago HIDTA utilized 2023 Discretionary Funding to hire two full-time HIDTA analysts/contractors to support the Chicago CGIC. Discretionary Funding for the two full-time CGIC analysts was re-approved in 2024. The Chicago HIDTA analysts collaborate with their counterparts in the Chicago HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC) and assist in linking firearms to murders and shooting incidents, as well as establishing links between violent offenders and their gangs or gang associates. The goal is to ensure that every gun recovered in



the Chicago HIDTA AOR is being traced, ballistically tested, and entered into the NIBIN system. Also, the analysts are tasked with looking at all recovered firearms and their connection to DTOs and drug crimes in general, as well as gun trafficking organizations. As CPD detectives are often overwhelmed by the sheer number of shooting incidents, the analysts provide critical and timely information necessary to assist investigators in linking weapons to specific crimes and/or offenders. The addition of the two Chicago HIDTA Analysts has proven to be mutually beneficial to ATF, Chicago HIDTA, and the entire law enforcement community and serves to reinforce the overall mission of the HIDTA program by fostering an environment of collaboration and partnership.

The Chicago 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 Chicago 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 Chicago HIDTA missions by making efforts to reduce the harmful effects and consequences of illegal drug trafficking.

Support Initiatives

The Chicago 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 Chicago HIDTA has also partnered with the CPD, the Chicago Fire Department, 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 deployed immediately to counter the threat.

Additionally, the Chicago HIDTA partnered with the Illinois State Police, the Cook County Sheriff's Department, and the OEMC for the City of Chicago, and embarked on an ambitious project, Highway Net, to install a combination of Point/Tilt/Zoom (PTZ) and automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras on a major thoroughfare, the Eisenhower/Congress Expressway (I-290). The 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 project incorporated 66 additional ALPRs on the extensive interstate highway system that flows through the Chicagoland area. Information developed by investigators utilizing the HIDTA ALPRs 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 Chicago HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

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

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

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



Task Force Coordination

The Chicago 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 Chicago 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 Chicago 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 AOR. In 2024, the Chicago HIDTA initiatives disrupted or dismantled 73 DTOs and MLOs. Additionally, initiatives reported the seizure of 1,128 kilograms of powder and crack cocaine, 32.3 kilograms of heroin, 147.1 kilograms of fentanyl, 803.9 kilograms of methamphetamine, and 8,780.6 kilograms of illicit marijuana and marijuana-related products. The total wholesale value of the drugs removed from the market was \$110.7 million. Enforcement initiatives also seized approximately \$36.2 million in drug-related assets (\$34,628,129 million in cash alone) during the reporting year. In 2024, the HIDTA achieved an ROI of \$22.08 for drugs and assets seized.

Target				
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
2024	68	\$6.92	\$17.45	157
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	73	\$5.45	\$16.63	178



Gulf Coast HIDTA

Designated in 1996

Executive Director – Tim Valenti

Purpose and Goals

The 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 40 initiatives: 1 management, 2 intelligence, 1 resource, 1 training, and 35 investigation/interdiction initiatives.

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
2025	564	\$4.32	\$50.26	531

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.

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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
4 th Judicial District Drug Task Force (Byrne JAG)	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 JAG)	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
Inter-Local Narcotics Task Force (Byrne JAG)	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)	Biloxi, MS
Mobile/Baldwin Border Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Mobile, AL
Mobile/Baldwin Major Investigations Team (HIDTA)	Mobile, AL



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
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 JAG)	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 separate 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 Gulf Coast 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 2024, enforcement initiatives disrupted or dismantled 648 DTOs and MLOs operating in their designated areas and beyond, representing 112 percent of the HIDTA's target for this performance measure. Of the disrupted and dismantled DTOs and MLOs, 212 were international or multi-state in scope. Equally important was the success in denying DTOs their desired profits obtained through illegal activities. In 2024, initiatives seized over \$32.2 million in cash and other drug-related assets from drug traffickers, while the estimated wholesale value of drugs seized was \$308.4 million (\$340.6 million total). The HIDTA realized a combined ROI of \$37.03 based on the wholesale value of drugs and assets seized.

Target				
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
2024	519	\$4.83	\$53.51	692
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	648	\$3.50	\$33.53	944



Hawaii HIDTA

Designated in 1999

Executive Director – Gary Yabuta

Purpose and Goals

The Hawaii HIDTA AOR 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. All six United States military service branches are stationed in Hawaii: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard. The United States Indo-Pacific Command and Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) West Headquarters are located on Oahu. The U.S. Navy Pacific Missile Range is located at Barking Sands, Kauai.

The Hawaii HIDTA’s drug enforcement 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. The State of Hawaii is divided among islands that are surrounded entirely by ocean water. Mobilization and inter-island 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 inter-island interdiction operations are necessary. The HIDTA Interdiction Task Force is especially important since drugs are primarily imported into Hawaii via U.S. mail and express consignment carriers (ECCs). 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 for the Hawaii HIDTA to 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. To further prevent the influx of fatal and non-fatal



drug overdoses in Hawaii, the HIDTA participates in the ORS, which embraces a partnership with Hawaii’s public health agencies and CDC-OD2A. The Hawaii HIDTA ORS is staffed with a Public Health Analyst and Drug Intelligence Officer—both of whom conduct Fentanyl Awareness Presentations, naloxone training, and naloxone distribution throughout Hawaii (over 1,130 students have been trained and supplied with naloxone by the ORS team in Hawaii since its inception).

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 its law enforcement communities and task forces to cross ocean boundaries and work together, and this dogma also includes Hawaii HIDTA’s drug prevention and education efforts.

The HIDTA works diligently with mainland HIDTAs and law enforcement partners to “nip the bud” of transnational and international organized crime and DTOs, whose drugs infiltrate the Hawaiian Islands. The region’s greatest drug threat is crystal methamphetamine, and it is therefore imperative the HIDTA counter 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 successfully influenced the highly populated Asian communities in Hawaii). Today, the region’s supply of methamphetamine is sourced directly from the Mexican cartels, and the demand and devastating abuse have never been greater.

Location

The HIDTA Headquarters is located in Honolulu, and comprise the State of Hawaii, City and 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

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
2025	26	\$0.84	\$5.50	25

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 use is rising in Hawaii, and by dosage is even deadlier than methamphetamine. Unlike on the U.S. Mainland, the influence of xylazine has not manifested



among the Hawaiian Islands. 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 346 in 2023 to 354 in 2024. Since 2016, methamphetamine has been identified as the most prevalent drug in Hawaii's drug-related deaths (74 percent of Hawaii drug deaths in 2024 were methamphetamine-related). According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Drug Threat Analysis Group, 81 percent of the drugs confiscated by the Hawaii HIDTA Task Forces in 2024 was methamphetamine, which was the highest methamphetamine seizure percentage among the 33 HIDTA regions.

In 2024, meth drug related deaths increased in Hawaii while fentanyl deaths slightly declined after experiencing an upward trend since 2019. Meth deaths rose from 222 deaths in 2023 to 260 in 2024, while fentanyl deaths decreased from 107 in 2023 to 103 in 2024. Meth's dominance as the #1 drug threat in Hawaii increased in 2024 and accounted for 74 percent of the 352 general drug deaths in Hawaii. Conversely, the proportion of fentanyl deaths decreased from 31 percent in 2023 to 29 percent in 2024. In Hawaii, the pendulum appears to be swinging towards an increasing threat of methamphetamine, but the lethality of fentanyl remains steady.

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 use illicit 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 U.S. mail and ECCs are the principal transportation method for shipping drugs from United States mainland sources to Hawaii. Thus, the HIDTA strategy is to support consistent enforcement interdiction operatives at all Hawaii's airports, postal facilities, commercial parcel facilities, and harbors. This drug interdiction strategy includes an intelligence-gathering mechanism that can identify drug trafficking tendencies and specific targets en route to Hawaii with drugs. Drug seizures at the Honolulu International Airport by CBP and the HIDTA Interdiction Task Force further 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.

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 footholds in Hawaii. This includes Asian drug trafficking enterprises, which pose a threat due to the region's close proximity to Asia; lineal ties or connections with established Asians in Hawaii (Hawaii's largest ethnic group at 32 percent); and Hawaii's reception of 1.6 million Asian visitors annually.

The threat of sophisticated money laundering techniques needs to be addressed in conjunction with the HIDTA narcotic interdiction and investigative operations, 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 Hawaii HIDTA Prevention Initiative develops drug demand reduction strategies by implementing evidence-based drug education and prevention programs statewide. The Hawaii HIDTA and its ORS engage with community public health and social service agencies and form drug use education and prevention platforms for all audiences—especially the socially and economically disadvantaged communities that are most vulnerable to drug use. Since 2024, the Hawaii public school system partnered with the Hawaii HIDTA prevention program and a series of fentanyl awareness strategies have been implemented at high schools throughout the Hawaiian Islands. One of which is the Photo Voice program, which produces high school films through the students' perception of what their age group is facing in their communities and schools; through film, the students are able to translate their identified social issues into actionable knowledge about how the students can create positive social change. The Hawaii HIDTA Prevention Initiative is developing a statewide Youth Challenge Program for 2026.

Hawaii is multi-cultural and 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 the drug problems systemic to Hawaii neighborhoods, schools, and businesses. Through this discourse, the HIDTA identifies cultural needs and implements the appropriate prescription and stimulus to reduce drug use and SUD for a particular culture or social grouping.



Intelligence Initiatives

The ISC is a component of the HIDTA intelligence and analytical support program. It supports 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, the 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
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
HI Impact Kauai Task Force (HIDTA)	Kauai County, HI
HI Impact Westside Task Force (HIDTA)	City and County of Honolulu at Kapolei, HI
HI Impact Kona Task Force (HIDTA)	Hawaii County, HI
HI Impact Maui Task Force (HIDTA)	Maui County, HI
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. 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 the benefit of the task forces.



HIDTA Evaluation

The Hawaii HIDTA continues to demonstrate significant accomplishments in its effort to reduce drug availability in its AOR. In 2024, the HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 21 DTOs. HIDTA initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$22.7 million, and \$1.5 million in cash and assets, and the total ROI was calculated to be \$6.71. In 2024, the HIDTA Investigative Support Center processed 6,184 event/case/subject/target deconflictions. HIDTA also provided 14,230 hours of training to 1,924 students at no cost to the participants or their agencies.

Target				
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
2024	31	\$2.00	\$6.50	75
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	21	\$0.42	\$6.29	54



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 its community partners to create a more holistic approach to significantly reduce the impact of SUD on the communities.

Location

The HIDTA operates out of Houston, Texas, and comprises 18 counties as follows: 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

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
2025	123	\$2.38	\$15.38	222

Threat Assessment

The threat from illicit drug trafficking and associated violence within the HIDTA region remains high, in large part due to its 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 a 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 are the number one drug threat in the region. Fentanyl is used both inadvertently and intentionally in the Houston HIDTA. It is available as a singular drug type in powder form, is commonly found in counterfeit oxycodone tablets, and is often a component of other drugs including methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin. This threat is being seen across a broad age, race, and socioeconomic spectrum, with a recent increase among high school and middle school students.

Nitazenes, thought to be 25 times stronger than fentanyl, are a class of synthetic opioids increasingly being identified in counterfeit oxycodone tablets and a small but growing number of deaths in the Houston area. This poses a significant risk as most users are believed to be completely unaware of what they are consuming. Because of their potency, many doses of naloxone (Narcan) may be needed to reverse the effects of the overdose. Some information suggests that some drug users seek out nitazenes because they are not included as part of a standard urinalysis test panel. While the number of deaths from nitazene toxicity in the region remains comparatively low, it is increasing. Furthermore, the actual number of deaths involving nitazenes may be much higher than the available data suggest due to a lack of testing. Methamphetamine continues to expand in the region due to its high availability and relatively low cost, and cocaine remains the third greatest drug threat, fostered by increased availability along with a 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 ISC (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 HSTF links to investigations. Techniques also include communication exploitation services, toll analysis, and mapping; strategic intelligence services and products, including special assessments based on new and emerging threats; and coordinating intelligence meetings and training sessions.

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 ALPR Program. The HIDTA Program continues to serve as leader in cooperative data sharing amongst law enforcement agencies by facilitating linkage of ALPR cameras and the data they generate to the DEA-administered ALPR system housed at EPIC, which ingests ALPR 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 ALPR data with other law enforcement agencies but to also to access data from partner agencies. This system has grown into a critical resource for targeting large-scale violent DTOs for law enforcement across the country. Houston HIDTA is also developing a new system to enhance ALPR information sharing, which will facilitate law enforcement access to multiple vendors' systems operating through HIDTA regions.

The HISC developed and continued to manage the unique Stop Drugs Website Project. This vital resource addresses the ever-changing drug landscape in a format that is relatable to a 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; the website 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 features separate, yet interconnected websites in ten different locations within the Houston 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.

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

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 Major Drug Squads is housed in the DEA Houston Office and shares information daily with DEA. It also shares information on an ad hoc basis with other HIDTA Initiatives. 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 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 AOR 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; and the Counter Terrorism Intelligence Group, Houston. ATF also has a Violent Crime Impact Team Task Force in Houston. Other than deconfliction, the cooperation with these task forces is ad hoc and frequent.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2024, Houston HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 154 DTOs. Of the 154 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 64 were international, 18 multi-state, and 72 were local in scope. Houston HIDTA Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$195.3 million, as well as \$24.4 million in cash and assets (\$219.7 million total), for a total ROI of \$19.06 for every dollar invested in the Houston HIDTA. The ISC provided analytical support to 291 cases and processed 23,248 event deconflictions. Houston HIDTA also provided 8,762 hours of critical law enforcement training for 3,613 law enforcement officers, agents, analysts and related staff, at no cost to the participants or their agencies.

Target				
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
2024	120	\$2.27	\$17.87	254
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	154	\$2.11	\$16.95	291



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 Federal, State, local, and tribal levels. The ISC and the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) – Criminal Intelligence Unit 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; and
- demonstrate sound stewardship of the assets provided.

Strategy

The HIDTA is composed of 25 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 seven 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 from Crown Point, Indiana, and comprises the following designated counties: Allen, Lake, LaPorte, Marion, Porter, Vanderburgh, and Vigo.

Initiatives

The HIDTA is composed of 25 distinct initiatives. These include 19 enforcement initiatives, 2 intelligence initiatives, 2 support initiatives, and 2 management initiatives. 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

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
2025	38	\$1.81	\$8.46	4,459

Threat Assessment

The drug supply in Indiana continues to increase. The availability for fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, illicit marijuana, and controlled prescription drugs is reported as moderate or high according to the HIDTA Drug Threat Survey. Survey respondents further indicated that demand closely matched perceived availability. The exception to this is heroin where demand has remained high and appears to be met by synthetic products such as fentanyl. Indiana set a state record for overdose deaths in 2021 with 2,812 deaths due to any drug. Overdose deaths have declined each year with provisional data for 2024 indicating 1,542 deaths in the calendar year. This equates to a 45 percent reduction in deaths from the 2021 totals. This drop in deaths is believed to be attributed to the State of Indiana's free naloxone distribution strategy. In the past year, the supply of fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine in the HIDTA AOR have increased. These drugs are produced 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 2026 Drug Threat Assessment include:

- HIDTA participants ranked fentanyl as the most important drug threat to the HIDTA's AOR. Both availability and demand for fentanyl are high in Indiana. The number of seizures containing fentanyl continued to rise in 2024 continuing a six-year trend. The total weight of fentanyl seized increased slightly, thereby confirming the sense of the ubiquitous nature of fentanyl in the Indiana illegal drug supply.
- Methamphetamine continues to be a serious threat in Indiana and was ranked second in the 2026 threat assessment. Methamphetamine typically is produced in Mexico and transported to the HIDTA AOR. Seizures of methamphetamine declined slightly in 2024 for the second year in a row. Pricing for methamphetamine continued to decline in 2024, indicating that supply appears to exceed demand.
- Cocaine tied with heroin as the third greatest drug threat. Perceived demand and availability of cocaine have trended upward over the previous three years. The weight of cocaine seized in the AOR in 2024 rose by over 25 percent. 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.



Intelligence 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 NIBIN project. In 2018, the ATF Achilles Unit in Indianapolis came online to assist with the NIBIN project. The Indiana HIDTA DIO leverages the capabilities of the ISC through networking with other DIOs across the country and integrating significant seizures and felony arrest notifications into actionable intelligence products.

The ISC uses the SAFETNet deconfliction system, which is directly linked to four other HIDTAs in the Midwest. Nationwide, SAFETNet is directly linked across eight 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, 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 started in Indianapolis to assist with digital evidence in Marion County. In addition, the MCSO – Special Investigations Gang Intelligence Unit 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 highlights the federally funded enforcement task forces operating as HIDTA enforcement initiatives. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
ATF Achilles Unit (HIDTA)	Indianapolis, IN
Central Indiana Drug Task Force Group 52 (HIDTA)	Indianapolis, IN
Firearms Interdiction Regional Enforcement (HIDTA)	Crown Point, IN
Fort Wayne Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Fort Wayne, IN
Gang Response Investigative Team (HIDTA)	Hobart, IN
Highway Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Lowell, IN
HSI Border Enforcement Security Task Force (HSI-BEST)	Indianapolis, IN
Indianapolis Hotel Interdiction and Truck Stops (HIDTA)	Indianapolis, IN
Indianapolis Metro Safe Streets Gang Task Force (HIDTA)	Indianapolis, IN
Lake County Combined Task Force Group 57 (HIDTA)	Crown Point, IN
LaPorte County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Michigan City, IN
Marion County Prosecutor's Office Initiative (HIDTA)	Indianapolis, IN
Marshal's Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Hammond, IN



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Money Laundering and Financial Crimes (HIDTA)	Crown Point, IN
Northeast Indiana Drug Task Force Group 55P (HIDTA)	Fort Wayne, IN
Porter County Multi-Enforcement Group (HIDTA)	Valparaiso, IN
Project Bullet Initiative (HIDTA)	Fort Wayne, IN
Regional Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Crown Point, IN
River City Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Evansville, IN
Wabash Valley Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Terre Haute, IN

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 DHE 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 Indiana HIDTA is achieving its performance objectives. During 2024, 50 DTOs were disrupted or dismantled. In addition, the HIDTA task forces seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$51.4 million and \$5 million in cash and other drug-related assets (\$56.5 million total), achieving a total ROI of \$12.15. The HIDTA also provided 12,223 training hours to 1066 students.

Target				
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
2024	37	\$2.49	\$7.68	6,368
Actual				



Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	50	\$1.09	\$11.06	6,092

Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA

Designated in 1995

Executive Director – Brian Michael

Purpose and Goals

The Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA (LMA HIDTA) mission is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs and address drug-related violent crime in its 12 designated counties by assisting Federal, State, and local LEAs participating in the LMA HIDTA program. Specifically, the LMA 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 LMA 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 SUD and partnerships with public health and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address underlying conditions that drive the opioid epidemic.

Strategy

The LMA 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 LMA HIDTA takes a comprehensive approach to thwarting the use, flow, and distribution of drugs into its 12-county region. The LMA 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 its communities. The LMA HIDTA's support initiatives enhance the operating environments, professional skillsets, information sharing capabilities, intelligence assessments, and case support services that law enforcement initiatives rely upon to succeed.

Location

With its principal office in Philadelphia, the LMA HIDTA comprises the following counties in:



- Pennsylvania: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Philadelphia
- New Jersey: Atlantic, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland
- Delaware: New Castle

Initiatives

In 2024, the LMA HIDTA supported 27 law enforcement initiatives focused on investigation, interdiction, and fugitive apprehension in the 12-county region (Salem and Cumberland counties were approved for HIDTA designation in 2022, and Lehigh County was approved in 2023) plus one of 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 collaboration with CDC and other HIDTAs nationwide, the LMA HIDTA implements the HIDTA ORS across Pennsylvania and Delaware. This 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 other opioid use in the Delaware Valley region and beyond.

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
2025	75	\$2.25	\$11.00	458

Threat Assessment

The LMA HIDTA lies within the 7th largest metropolitan area in the United States and is home to 6 million people within its 12-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.



LMA HIDTA counties have seen a steady decrease in homicides in 2024, continuing a downward trend. The City of Philadelphia tallied 269 homicides in 2024, a 35 percent decrease from the previous year and the lowest homicide total since 2014.²⁶ In 2024, Philadelphia reported 1,082 shooting victims, a decrease of 35 percent from 1,660 shooting victims in 2023.²⁶ Similarly, specific gun crimes—like Robbery with a Firearm and Aggravated Assaults with a Firearm—also decreased in totals from 2023 to 2024. Other major crimes, like Aggravated Assault (No Firearm) showed an increase, and Vehicle Theft showed a decrease in the past year.²¹

New and evolving technology has also had an impact on the LMA 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. Encrypted phone apps like Telegram and Sessions are often utilized by local dealers and buyers apart from the traditional dark web markets, partly for ease and accessibility. Though used mostly for legitimate transactions, virtual currency has been used for the sale and purchase of illegal drugs for many years. The use of virtual currency has seen rapid growth, with illicit transaction volume reaching an all-time high of \$54.3 billion in 2022. The newest report confirms \$40.9 billion received by illicit addresses in 2024; however, it is estimated that the total may be closer to \$51 billion.²² Virtual currency wallets, which store virtual currency, are accessed through private keys that prove ownership of the virtual currency, and the anonymity of the technology makes cryptocurrency attractive to users.

Privately Manufactured Firearms (PMFs)—commonly referred to as ghost guns—continue to pose a problem for law enforcement in the region. According to data reported to eTrace, the Philadelphia Police Department seized 418 PMFs in 2024, a decrease from 530 in 2023.²⁶ Machinegun Conversion Devices (MCDs)—also referred to as switches—reported a slight decrease in the number recovered from 2023 to 2024. However, there is believed to be significant under reporting of both PMFs and MCDs to eTrace, so their presence is potentially higher than reported. 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 the 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, illicit marijuana, and methamphetamine in the HIDTA.

Fentanyl is observed and distributed mostly in powder form, either deliberately marketed as such or passed off as heroin. Even though it can be passed off as heroin it is estimated to be 100 times more potent. At New Jersey State labs, in 2015, 93 percent of suspected heroin submissions did not include any fentanyl; by 2024, only 4 percent of submissions did not include any fentanyl.²³ Camden has consistently ranked number one for the highest number of fentanyl submissions in the State, and in 2023 Atlantic County moved from number three to number two and stayed in the number two place for 2024.²⁸ Fentanyl's presence is increasingly pervasive through counterfeit pills. In 2024 in New Jersey, pills containing fentanyl remain in the top six pills analyzed by forensic labs by number of cases and made up a total of 23 percent of all pills by quantity, down from 37 percent in 2023.²⁸ Most often, these pills are pressed to appear



indistinguishable from legitimate prescription drugs and are easily accessible due to social media and e-commerce platforms. Certain non-opioid counterfeit pills and tablets are also increasingly found to contain fentanyl-related substances. This increase in illicit pill availability poses a significant threat to users who may expect diverted opioid pills but instead receive a fentanyl-laced product. Users may be at higher risk for overdose due to scant prior exposure to, and tolerance for, the potent opioid.

The effects of the above detailed drug market are reflected in the fatal drug overdose data for the HIDTA counties:

County	2024	2023	2022	2021
Philadelphia (PA)	1041	1315	1,385	1,278
Bucks (PA)	109	132	75	76
Chester (PA)	66	79	94	106
Lehigh (PA)	112	146		
Montgomery (PA)	123	178	167	188
Delaware (PA)	104	170	152	195
Camden (NJ)	206	286	354	335
Atlantic (NJ)	160	160	255	188
Cumberland (NJ)	64	91	76	68
Gloucester (NJ)	63	118	87	110
Salem (NJ)	15	31	22	25
New Castle (DE)	222	319	331	334

**Data Sources: Pennsylvania Department of Health; New Jersey State Police; NJ Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner; Delaware Division of Forensic Science*

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. Xylazine continued to rise in Philadelphia with Philadelphia PD reporting 3,146 occurrences at their lab in 2024 compared to 1,680 in 2023.²⁶ In New Jersey, xylazine seems to be plateauing with 54 percent of suspected heroin submissions including it in 2023 and 52 percent in 2024.²⁸ In 2024, Camden County submitted the second highest number of xylazine submissions at 365, only behind Mercer County.²⁸ While New Jersey had a slight decrease in xylazine in 2024, it is still drastically higher than the 3 percent seen in 2019.

The LMA HIDTA region has also seen an increase of medetomidine into the local fentanyl supply. Medetomidine, a newer $\alpha 2$ -adrenergic agonist sedative and analgesic, has ~200-fold higher potency and 10-times more selectivity than xylazine and provides more consistent anesthesia. The combination of medetomidine and fentanyl poses significant dangers, primarily due to their synergistic effects on the central nervous and cardiovascular system. According to the Philadelphia PD, medetomidine was first detected in Philadelphia drug seizures in May 2024 and increased rapidly in the following months. By the end of 2024 there were 1,081 occurrences of medetomidine in Philadelphia PD’s lab, roughly a third of the 3,146 occurrences of xylazine over the same period.²⁶ Medetomidine is now being detected in most New Jersey counties.



Cocaine remains a significant threat to the LMA HIDTA and reporting has increased for the past few years. Pricing for cocaine in the LMA HIDTA is continuing to fall, as a result of increased availability. Cocaine cases in New Jersey rose another 12 percent from 2023 to 2024 after an 8 percent increase from 2022 to 2023.²⁸ Camden County accounted for more than 23 percent of all cocaine cases and over 48 percent of all specimens sent to state forensic labs in Q4 of 2024.²⁸ In Delaware, cocaine was involved in 19.8 percent of drug arrests in 2024, higher than any other drug category.²⁴

Methamphetamine remains a growing threat to the LMA HIDTA, especially within the New Jersey counties, as evidenced by increasing enforcement seizures, postmortem toxicology detections, and area drug treatment admissions. From 2019 to 2024, New Jersey saw an increase in methamphetamine arrests, going from 210 in 2019 to 303 in 2024.²⁸ The average number of methamphetamine cases submitted to NJ State labs per quarter in 2020 was 262.²⁸ That number increased to 499 per quarter in 2024. The corresponding specimen submission per quarter rose from 2,602 to 8,975.²⁸ In the final quarter of 2024, New Jersey saw 507 cases with 9,156 specimens submitted. Camden and Atlantic counties, respectfully, remain in the top two in methamphetamine cases for the state. Philadelphia PD Office of Forensic Science reported a slight decrease in methamphetamine samples from 2023 to 2024 with 1184 submissions in 2023 and 1,118 submissions in 2024.²⁶ Outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania State Police are reporting an increase in methamphetamine in the Western and South-central parts of the state. In 2024 in Delaware methamphetamine arrests only account for 6.5 percent of total drug arrests falling behind cocaine (19.8%), heroin (17.7%) and marijuana (8.9%).²⁹

Mexican, Dominican, and Puerto Rican organizations linked to larger domestic and international criminal organizations primarily transport drug proceeds in bulk currency from the HIDTA AOR 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.

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 (MAGLOCLN), 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 LMA HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
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
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 JAG)	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 LMA 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 the HSTFs covering south Jersey, Philadelphia, and Delaware. 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 12 hours a day and 5 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 MAGLOCLEN. In addition, we now allow event deconfliction 24/7 through the use of Case Explorer, which also alerts both the watch center and user to any event conflicts.

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, LMA HIDTA ISC submits intelligence reports to HSIN.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2024, the LMA HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 104 DTOs/MLO, representing 118 percent of its target of 88 DTOs/MLOs. Of the DTOs/MLOs disrupted or dismantled, 15 were international, 25 were multi-state, and 64 were local in scope.

Additionally, LMA HIDTA initiatives seized \$53.6 million dollars (wholesale value) of drugs, to include 142,374 dosage units of fentanyl, and \$48.7 million dollars' worth of cash and other assets. The HIDTA initiatives arrested 1,921 individuals and seized 883 firearms.

In 2024, the HIDTA deconflicted 6,009 tactical enforcement operations via the HIDTA Watch Center; provided analytical support to 582 investigations and requests for information; sent 5,281 FANs to other HDTAs; and trained 171 students in the areas of law enforcement, analysis, management, and demand reduction.

Target				
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
2024	88	\$3.50	\$9.00	607
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	104	\$7.75	\$8.53	582



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 identify, 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 region's 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 from Los Angeles, California. Its designated geographic area (32,341 square miles/population of (+/-) 18 million) comprises the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino.

Initiatives

The HIDTA supports 12 initiatives: 7 enforcements, 3 intelligence, 1 management, and 1 training.



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
2025	254	\$1.45	\$185.00	857

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, illicit 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.

California’s real gross domestic product (GDP) for 2023, the most current year of data, was \$3.23 trillion, representing approximately 11.8 percent of the national GDP, the largest in the United States. California has recently become the 4th largest economy in the world in 2024. All of this, along with the geographical and population expanse of the region, has helped make the HIDTA a huge market for drug use and both national and international 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 presently 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, which 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 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). It provides agencies with all types of operational, tactical, and analytical products, including telephone toll analysis, link analysis, charts, graphs, wiretap support, and targeting analysis. It also produces quarterly trend reports that have strategic analysis on enforcement trends, price and purity updates, lab seizure data, and clandestine laboratory trend information. It 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. It 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 composed of Federal, State, and local law enforcement and public service agencies. The FBI represents the JRIC as a voting member of the LA HIDTA Executive Board.

To enhance communications and joint use among personnel, the FBI Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility 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 four 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.

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



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

Task Force Coordination

The HIDTA facilitates cooperation and joint efforts among more than 71 Federal, State, and local LEAs, and involves over 585 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 2024, the Los Angeles HIDTA task forces identified and targeted for enforcement action 185 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, 139 (75%) of the major drug trafficking/money laundering organizations were dismantled or severely disrupted in 2024. Of the DTOs/MLOs disrupted or dismantled, 116 were international, 11 were multi-state, and 12 were local in nature.

The HIDTA invested \$16.1 million in its initiatives and seized 384.7 tons of illegal drugs with a wholesale value of \$2.9 billion, for a total ROI of \$181.60. This included more than 8.1 tons of cocaine, 353.7 tons of marijuana, 217 pounds of heroin, more than 20,611 kilograms (22.7 tons) of methamphetamine, which included 367 gallons of methamphetamine in solution, 114,250 dosage units of methamphetamine, 207 kilograms of fentanyl powder and 8,400,590 million dosage units of fentanyl pills, 261 gallons of PCP and 1,172,760 vaping cartridges. Additionally, over \$22.3 million in cash and an additional \$1.9 million in property assets were seized. There were 1,470 individuals arrested for various high-level drug and money laundering offenses, and 530 firearms were seized.

In calendar year 2024, the enforcement initiatives of the LA HIDTA seized one methamphetamine powder "super lab" (10 to 20+ pounds per production cycle) operating in the region. (In 2024, there was only one other methamphetamine lab seized in the State of California, a low level "powder" laboratory outside the LA HIDTA). "Super labs" accounted for 20 percent of the total methamphetamine powder production seizures in the United States in 2024.

Enforcement elements in California seized 2 of the 3 (67%) reported seizures nationwide involving cartel-related "Super ICE Conversion Labs" (10 – 20+ pounds). Both of the "Super ICE Conversion Labs" seized in California were from within the LA HIDTA.

A continuing trend/drug threat in the LA HIDTA in 2024 involves the fabrication of butane honey oil (BHO) laboratories. In 2024, our enforcement initiatives seized 17 BHO laboratories, 9



were “super labs” (10 pounds or greater) and 1 of the 17 involved a fire or explosion. BHO is odorless when smoked and is typically used in vaporizers, water pipes, electronic cigarettes, or similar devices. The results are very potent due to the concentrated high levels of THC.

In 2024, the HIDTA ISS provided analytical support to 1,471 major investigations and processed 76,807 critical events (this number included 10,053 [13%] deconflictions wherein various undercover law enforcement operations are notified when they are about to conflict with each other for several reasons) and 207,812 case/subject/target element deconflictions. Additionally, the HIDTA Training Initiative provided 59,315 hours of training to 7,052 law enforcement students.

Three of the LA HIDTA counties have fatal drug overdose investigative elements in place with existing initiatives. The general objective of these elements is to review drug overdose fatalities within the counties, identify those that have “workable” evidence and conduct comprehensive investigations, ultimately arresting and prosecuting the responsible “drug supplier” at the highest levels (homicide/manslaughter). In 2024, these fatal overdose investigative elements conducted 987 investigations; submitted 45 investigations for filing considerations; and 84 of these investigations were filed for prosecution.

Target				
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
2024	250	\$1.40	\$275.00	1,346
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	139	\$1.49	\$180.11	1,471



Michigan HIDTA

Designated in 1997

Executive Director – Ranaldo Ollie

Purpose and Goals

The 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. The 12 HIDTA designated counties within the HIDTA AOR are 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 1,543 firearms in 2024, down from the 2,251 firearms in 2023.

Initiatives

The HIDTA supports 27 initiatives: 21 investigative/enforcement, 2 fugitive apprehension, 1 interdiction, 1 training, 1 investigative support and deconfliction, and 1 management and coordination. The focus of the investigative/enforcement initiatives is DTOs (16), money laundering (1), prescription drug diversion (1), Dark Web drug-trafficking (1) drug-related gang and violent crime (1), and firearms (1).

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
2025	110	\$4.50	\$21.50	386

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 illicit marijuana for Michigan.

Fentanyl is readily available, and its use continues to increase throughout most areas in the state. In 2024, the HIDTA task forces seized a total of 138 kilograms of fentanyl compared to 133 kilograms in 2023. Additionally, the HIDTA task forces seized a total of 765,949 fentanyl dosage units in 2024, a 534 percent increase, compared to 120,880 dosage units seized in 2023. Michigan State Police forensic laboratory data, identifying the predominant drug type in tested samples, showed roughly a 30 percent decrease in the presence of fentanyl from 2023 to 2024.

While heroin continues to decline with the rise in fentanyl, it is still a viable threat in Michigan. In 2024, 26 percent of drug teams surveyed reported a decrease in heroin seizures from 2023. In 2024, 8 percent of drug teams reported heroin is more prevalent, 63 percent reported it is stable, and 29 percent reported it is less prevalent compared to 2023. HIDTA task forces seized 18 kilograms of heroin in 2024 compared to 13 kilograms in 2023. In 2024, there were 9,932 Michigan residents admitted to publicly-funded treatment facilities for heroin use (16% of all public admissions), a 21.3 percent decrease from 12,622 admissions in 2023.

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.

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. HIDTA task forces seized 434 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine in 2024, an increase from the 222 kilograms seized in 2023. This 95.5 percent increase may be due to the surge of crystal methamphetamine availability in 2024 within Michigan. In 2024, reporting suggested Mexican drug cartels flooded the market with a low-cost, potentially lethal drug that is highly addictive and increasingly easy to obtain.

In 2024, 39.5 percent of teams surveyed reported crystal methamphetamine as their most significant drug threat which is consistent with 2023 reporting. Crystal methamphetamine has become more widespread. The influx in crystal methamphetamine has had a major impact on the methamphetamine powder drug market in Michigan. According to drug teams surveyed, crystal methamphetamine appears to be more readily available in most areas than fentanyl; however, fentanyl ranks as a higher threat due to its potential for overdose. Due to the increase in availability and low price, crystal methamphetamine is the most prevalent drug used in many areas throughout Michigan. According to drug teams surveyed, crystal methamphetamine is so inexpensive, it has replaced cocaine/crack usage in some areas.

In 2024, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) reported 7,221 Michigan residents indicated methamphetamine as their primary drug of choice upon admission for treatment, a 3.33 percent decrease from the 7,470 admissions in 2023.

Cocaine is a significant drug threat and is readily available across the State of Michigan. The availability of cocaine continues to increase with 100 percent of drug teams reporting the drug is readily available compared to 95 percent in 2023. The HIDTA task forces seized roughly 2,317 kilograms of cocaine in 2024, a 402 percent increase, compared to 461 kilograms in 2023. Crack cocaine in Michigan continues to be a moderate drug threat and its availability has remained relatively consistent with the last reporting period. MDHHS data show there were 7,959 publicly-funded treatment admissions for cocaine use in 2024, an 8.27 percent increase from the 7,351 reported in 2023.

Prescription drug diversion and misuse is a moderate drug threat; however, continues to be in high demand in Michigan. 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. However, with the rapid increase in availability of counterfeit pharmaceutical pills from multiple sources, the demand for traditionally diverted pharmaceuticals has decreased. For example, it has become easier for local DTOs to import large



quantities of counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl compared to working with doctors, pharmacies, or “recruiters.”

In 2024, substance use treatment facility prescription drug admissions constituted 8 percent of total drug treatment admissions in Michigan. Prescription drugs accounted for the largest percentage of SUD treatment admissions in 4 of the 83 counties statewide, which is a slight increase from the 3 counties in 2023. The HIDTA Task Force Teams seized a total of 44 kilograms and 197,645 dosage units of narcotic prescription drugs in 2024 compared to 507 kilograms and 1,098,011 dosage units in 2023. The MDHHS reports 5,123 Michigan resident admissions for publicly-funded treatment for prescription opioid use in 2024, a .51 percent increase from the 5,097 admissions reported in 2023.

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, illicit marijuana is 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, 95 percent reported it is readily available with 37 percent reporting more availability than in 2023. MDHHS data show there were 2,153 publicly funded treatment admissions for marijuana use in Michigan in 2024. This amounted roughly to a 13 percent decrease from the 2,479 reported in 2023.

Marijuana produced in Michigan is illegally distributed to other states; however, Mexico remains the primary source of supply for low quality, high yield marijuana imported to Michigan. In 2024, 518 kilograms of marijuana (including plants) was seized compared to 2,074 kilograms in 2023.

MDMA continues to be moderately available in Michigan. MDMA, both in tablet and powder form, typically originates from Europe and 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 Michigan 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 Michigan HIDTA ISDC. More than 180 law enforcement entities use the ISDC for event deconfliction, case matching, and investigative support services. In 2024, the HIDTA processed 14,280 requests for event deconfliction and identified 841 potential blue-on-blue conflicts. The ISDC also processed 5,266 cases for matching, identifying 3,131 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 736 requests for investigative support during 2024.



In response to the continued increase of 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 506 overdose incident reports in 2024. 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 its public safety and public health partners throughout the state. In 2024, there were 9,694 suspected overdose incidents in Michigan (849 fatal overdoses and 8,845 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 percent 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 its 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Saginaw County, MI
Border Enforcement Security Task Force (his)	Michigan-Wide, MI
Combined Hotel Interdiction Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Wayne County, MI



County of Macomb Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Macomb County, MI
DEA Flint (HIDTA)	Genesee County, MI
DEA Grand Rapids (HIDTA)	Kent County, MI
DEA Group 2 (HIDTA)	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties, MI
DEA Group 3 (DEA)	Michigan-Wide
DEA Group 4 (DEA)	Michigan-Wide
DEA Group 5 (HIDTA)	Oakland and Wayne Counties, MI
DEA Group 7 (HIDTA)	Wayne County, MI
DEA Group 8 (HIDTA)	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties, MI
DEA Group 9 (HIDTA)	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties, MI
DEA Group 10 (HIDTA)	Macomb, Wayne, Oakland Counties, MI
DEA Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Michigan-Wide
DEA Tactical Diversion Squad (HIDTA)	Detroit Metropolitan Area, MI
Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team (HIDTA)	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties, MI
Detroit Police Multi-Agency Task Force	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb Counties, MI
Detroit Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Detroit Metropolitan Area, MI
Detroit Violent Gang Task Force (FBI)	Detroit, MI
Firearms Investigation Team (HIDTA)	Wayne and Genesee County, MI
Flint Area Narcotics Group (HIDTA)	Genesee County, MI
Genesee County Safe Streets Task Force	Flint, MI
Grand Rapids Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Kent County, MI
Homeland Security Investigations BEST (HIDTA)	St. Clair County, MI
Homeland Security Investigations Dark Web Task Force (HIDTA)	Michigan Wide
Livingston and Washtenaw Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Livingston, Washtenaw County, MI
Metro Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, MI
Oakland County Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Oakland County, MI
Oakland County Violent Gang Task Force (FBI)	Oakland County, MI
Southwest Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Kalamazoo, Allegan County, MI
West Michigan Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Allegan and Muskegon Counties, MI

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 located in Lansing.

The HIDTA also houses representatives from the Michigan State Police, DEA, Detroit Police Department, FBI, ATF, HSI, DHS, IRS, 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 is co-located with the HIDTA ISDC. Its function complements the ISDC and vice versa.

HIDTA Evaluation

The Michigan HIDTA responds to the drug threats facing its AOR by using established methods augmented by innovative strategies. Performance measures for 2024 demonstrate that the HIDTA achieved outcomes by successfully disrupting/dismantling 99 DTOs/MLOs. Of the organizations disrupted or dismantled, 51 were international or multi-state in scope. In 2024 initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of more than \$89 million from the marketplace and seized more than \$19.2 million in cash and other drug-related assets from DTOs for a ROI of \$27.33.

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.

Target				
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
2024	115	\$4.50	\$18.50	393
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	99	\$4.84	\$22.48	462



Midwest HIDTA

Designated in 1996

Executive Director – Daniel Neill

Purpose and Goals

The Midwest HIDTA, strategically situated in the heartland of America, is dedicated to reducing the availability of drugs in key markets. Its primary mission is to establish and support intelligence-driven enforcement task forces focused on identifying, disrupting, and dismantling DTOs. Given that the HIDTA's AOR presents a fertile environment for the importation, manufacturing, and distribution of narcotics, a primary objective is to mitigate the production and trafficking of illicit drugs both within and transiting the AOR. This is achieved through the enhancement and coordination of drug control efforts among Federal, State, local, and tribal LEAs. Integral to this mission are collaborative, multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task forces, robust interagency cooperation, and the precise and timely dissemination of information and intelligence among all participating agencies.

Strategy

The HIDTA has developed a cohesive and comprehensive regional program designed to reduce and disrupt 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 priority target organization (PTO), CPOT, and other TCO investigations with an emphasis on dismantling the entire organization and reducing drug-related violence. Investigations specifically target the highest level of DTOs and MLOs using undercover operations, innovative techniques, and surveillance of command-and-control communications. All 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 five 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 61 initiatives: 50 investigation/interdiction, 5 intelligence, 1 prevention, 1 management, 1 training, 1 prosecution, 1 ORS, 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
2025	235	\$1.87	\$12.89	4,451

Threat Assessment

Considering its nexus to drug poisoning deaths, fentanyl is now the greatest drug threat to the Midwest HIDTA region. This is evident in both the Midwest HIDTA’s Law Enforcement Survey and Public Health Survey, along with PMP data reported by Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives. Methamphetamine and cocaine are the region’s second and third-greatest drug threats, respectively. A slightly lower percentage of DTOs were found to be violent in 2024 compared to the previous year, while a slightly higher percentage were gang connected. Polydrug DTOs remained the same percentage from 2023 to 2024, with over a little more than one in four DTOs being polydrug. The Midwest 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.

Methamphetamine, illicit marijuana, and fentanyl are the most widely available and widely used drugs in Midwest HIDTA. The trend of adulterating the region’s illicit drug supply with fentanyl and other synthetic opioids continues, as reported by both law enforcement and public health agencies. Privately owned vehicles, the U.S. 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 Midwest HIDTA. Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives documented 1,046 DTOs and 4 MLOs operating within the region in 2024, with 8,985 members and 1,399 leaders identified. This is less than one percent (.07%) increase from the 1,039 DTOs identified in 2023. DTOs in Midwest HIDTA utilize technologies to facilitate communication, obtain payment, and monitor drug courier location. These platforms include encrypted messaging applications, social media, and portable GPS devices. Midwest HIDTA experienced a 10 percent



decrease in drug-related poisoning deaths from 2022 to 2023. Sixty-nine percent of these deaths involved opioids including fentanyl and heroin.

Intelligence Initiatives

The HIDTA plays a pivotal role in ensuring 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
ATF Crime Gun Intelligence Center (HIDTA)	Kansas City, MO
Cape Girardeau DEA TF (HIDTA)	Cape Girardeau, 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
Drug and Crime Reduction Initiative of the Metro East (DCRIME) (HIDTA)	Fairview Heights, IL
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 Finney County Drug 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
Jefferson City DEA (HIDTA)	Cole County, MO
Jefferson County Municipal Enforcement Group (HIDTA)	Jefferson County, MO
Johnson County Multiagency Drug Task Force (JAG)	Iowa City, IA
Kansas Intelligence and Information Exchange (HIDTA)	Topeka, KS
Kansas City DEA Interdiction TF (HIDTA)	Platte County, MO
Kansas City DEA Northland Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Platte County, MO



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Kansas City FBI Combined Task Force (HIDTA)	Jackson County, MO
Kansas City HIS Financial Task Force	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
Kansas Parcel Interdiction	Jackson 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
North Missouri DTF (NOMO) (JAG)	Brookfield, MO
Northeast Missouri Drug Task Force (JAG)	Marion County, MO
Northeast Iowa Drug Task Force (JAG)	Decorah, IA
Northeast Kansas Drug Task Force	Olathe, KS
Northwest Missouri DTF (NWMO) (JAG)	Buchanan County, MO
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
Ozark Drug Enforcement Team (ODET) (HIDTA/JAG)	Jasper County, MO
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



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Springfield DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Green County, MO
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 HSI	St. Louis City, MO
St. Louis FBI Squad 5 (HIDTA)	St. Louis City, MO
Topeka DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Topeka, KS
Tri-City Drug Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Grand Island, NE
Tri-County Drug Task Force (JAG)	Washington County, IA
Tri-State Sioux City DEA Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Woodbury County, IA
Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team (UNET) (HIDTA)	Pennington County, SD
Wichita DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Sedgwick County, KS
WING Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	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 assists in gathering, analyzing, and evaluating 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 Crime Gun Intelligence Center is co-located with the HIDTA ISC facility, significantly enhancing 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. HIDTA Task Forces are mandated to submit seized firearms to the ATF or other competent agency for NIBIN examination and tracing. Furthermore, all HIDTA 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 2024, the Midwest HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 277 DTOs, comprising 31 international, 135 multi-state, and 111 local in scope. This represents a 6 percent increase compared to the previous year. The wholesale value of drugs removed from the marketplace by Midwest enforcement initiatives was over \$237 million, a 21 percent increase over 2023. Additionally,



cash and asset seizures totaled more than \$29 million a 16 percent increase over 2023. The 2024 ROI (drugs and assets) was calculated to be \$16.79.

While Midwest HIDTA continues to support methamphetamine laboratory seizures and clean-up, its primary focus has shifted to the exponential growth of methamphetamine produced and trafficked by MDTOs throughout the region. The dominance of Mexican transnational organized crime, coupled 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 illicit marijuana, has resulted in intelligence-driven drug investigations targeting these specific threats.

Target				
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
2024	237	\$1.53	\$13.09	4,447
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	277	\$1.88	\$14.91	4,687



Nevada HIDTA

Designated in 2001

Executive Director – Keith Carter

Purpose and Goals

The 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, as follows: 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

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
2025	30	\$5.00	\$23.00	339

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 fentanyl—paralleled by methamphetamine—would be the most significant targets of all task forces. Fentanyl and methamphetamine remain the most significant threats due the high level of use, availability, lower cost, significant number of people treated for SUD, fatal and non-fatal overdoses, and the probable relationship to other crimes.

During 2024, Nevada continued to experience an increase in fentanyl-related overdose deaths. Nevada HIDTA enforcement initiatives continued to focus investigation on fentanyl related crime including drug trafficking organizations transporting and selling fentanyl throughout the area of operation. Nevada law enforcement also encountered other forms of illicit narcotics that appeared to be laced with fentanyl. An assessment concluded this may be leading to additional overdose deaths in users who weren't necessarily seeking illicit fentanyl. Nevada Medical Examiners reporting indicates most overdose related deaths involve a combination of fentanyl and other illicit



and legal substances, predominately methamphetamine mixtures. Reporting from 2024 indicates nearly half of the fentanyl-related overdose deaths in the HIDTA AOR involved a combination of methamphetamine and fentanyl, with cocaine a close second.

In 2024, Nevada continues to experience a decrease in fentanyl-related overdose deaths involving children 18 years of age and under. Public safety and public health data confirmed this positive trend is primarily due to multifaceted prevention efforts, overdose investigations, and prosecutions of those who traffic fentanyl.

Heroin trafficking and use appears to be declining or remaining flat 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 remain constant in Nevada however, assessments indicate it is not uncommon for cocaine overdoses to involve fentanyl.

As adult-use, regulated marijuana has been legal in Nevada since 2017 sold through state regulated dispensaries throughout the state. Resources have been prioritized toward illicit drugs causing significant overdose deaths in the state rather than illicit marijuana. Initiatives often encounter illegal marijuana which may be produced in illegal clandestine grows in California and Oregon and in limited indoor grows in the Las Vegas area. Throughout the AOR, law enforcement has encountered increasing numbers of “illegal marijuana pop-up parties” locations where unlawful, non-regulated black-market marijuana products are sold and used. Further reporting indicates firearms are common at these events due to the large sums of cash on hand.

Intelligence Initiatives

All Nevada task forces use the HIDTA ISC for analytical case support. This results in the information being shared with all of the task forces and agencies across Nevada. The majority of law enforcement agencies in the area of operation require investigators and agents to 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Clark County Gang Task Force	Clark County, NV
Southern Nevada Transnational Organized Crime Drug Task Force	Clark County, NV
DEA Financial Investigations Task Force	Clark County, NV
Las Vegas Community Impact Initiative - Overdose Response Team	Clark County, NV
Nevada Fugitive Investigative Strike Team	Clark and Washoe, NV
Northern Nevada Drug Task Force	Washoe County, NV
Northern Nevada Interdiction Task Force	Washoe County, NV
DEA Tactical Diversion Squad	Clark County, NV



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Regional Offender Drug Enforcement Organization	Clark County, NV
Regional Narcotics Unit	Washoe County, NV
Safe Streets Task Force	Clark County, NV
Southern Nevada Drug Task Force	Clark County, NV
Southern Nevada High Impact Narcotics Task Force	Clark County, NV
Southern Nevada Interdiction Task Force	Clark County, NV

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

The vast majority of DTOs investigated by the Nevada 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, approximately 30 percent of all DTOs investigated were associated to violent crime. The enforcement initiatives often encounter and deal with individuals with direct ties to Mexico or operating from Mexico using various forms of communication to communicate with undercover TFOs and agents or cooperating individuals. They are often ordering drugs directly from a supply drug cartel and commonly using apps and social media as methods for completing those unlawful transactions.

In 2024, the HIDTA identified 19 DTOs including drug, gang, firearm crimes, money laundering organizations and dismantled or disrupted 9 of those organizations. Of the nine DTOs disrupted or dismantled, seven were international, nine multi-state, and three were local in nature. The estimated wholesale value of illegal drugs seized was nearly \$61 million, and cash and other drug-related assets seized was nearly \$3 million, resulting in a combined ROI of \$19.91. The ISC provided analytical support to 385 investigations, and developed 10 Intelligence and Officer Safety documents, an Annual Threat Assessment, and an assessment of Clark County School Gun Threats. The Nevada Watch Center operated and staffed by Nevada HIDTA processed over 12,000 event deconflictions, and the HIDTA provided training for 1,666 officers, agents, analysts, and support staff. Nevada HIDTA, in coordination with public health, developed a person-centered overdose linkage to care initiative with the Southern Nevada Health District.



Target				
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
2024	36	\$2.50	\$20.50	281
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	9	\$0.79	\$19.12	385



New England HIDTA

Designated in 1999

Executive Director – J. T. Fallon

Purpose and Goals

The mission of the New England HIDTA (NEHIDTA) is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs in New England in support of the Administration's priorities by assisting Federal, State, and local law enforcement entities participating in the HIDTA Program. The HIDTA seeks to identify, disrupt, and dismantle DTOs and MLOs; and to further reduce the harmful consequences of drug trafficking by promoting public safety and public health partnerships.

Strategy

The NEHIDTA has developed a strategy designed to encourage interagency cooperation and coordination, bolstered by a commitment to intelligence-led policing and information sharing. The NEHIDTA 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 law enforcement agencies, 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 NEHIDTA.

Location

NEHIDTA comprises 15 counties located throughout the 6-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 NEHIDTA supports 29 initiatives: 21 enforcement, 1 management, 1 training, 1 intelligence, and 4 prevention. In addition, the HIDTA supports one special project – the CGIC.



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
2025	128	\$2.00	\$11.00	617

Threat Assessment

According to the 2026 NEHIDTA Drug Threat Assessment, illicit trafficking of fentanyl poses the greatest threat to the New England region due to the increasing availability, high potency, and low cost. Further, the illicit trafficking of fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine are the primary drivers of violent/property crime in the region. Concurrently, the number of firearms seized with illicit drug trafficking continues to increase across the New England region.

The NEHIDTA Drug Threat Assessment also suggests that fentanyl's overwhelming presence has reshaped drug markets, with dealers increasingly mixing it with other drugs like heroin, cocaine, and counterfeit prescription pills, amplifying the risk of fatal overdose. During 2024, fentanyl remained the dominant threat, both in terms of overdose deaths and drug seizures. The majority of fentanyl found in the region is imported from Mexico, with smaller amounts coming from China via the Dark Web. The high potency and lower cost of fentanyl compared to other opioids make it the most trafficked synthetic opioid in the region.

Methamphetamine continues to pose a significant threat to the New England AOR. Methamphetamine continues to be found in counterfeit pills, and DTOs will likely take advantage of increased demand for prescription pharmaceuticals, like Adderall, which are currently experiencing nationwide shortages. Popularity of other forms of methamphetamine will also rise as Mexican producers continue to improve the purity of their product.

Counterfeit prescription pills continue to represent a significant drug threat across New England. Manufacturing of counterfeit pills using the fentanyl and methamphetamine produced predominately by Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) outside the region is increasingly common. DEA New England Division reporting indicates that there were a number of counterfeit pill mills seized in New England during 2024.

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 Framingham, 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 those task forces that receive Federal funding while operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or interdiction initiative.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
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
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



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
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 NEHIDTA ISC facilitates intelligence sharing among task forces situated throughout New England, as well as the rest of the country. The ISC supports NEHIDTA enforcement and interdiction initiatives and continues to explore avenues to increase and coordinate information sharing opportunities with the New England State Police Information Network, State fusion centers, regional intelligence centers, HSTF, and the FBI JTTF. The ISC also supports NEHIDTA ORS and CGIC initiatives.

NEHIDTA task forces regularly share intelligence with other HIDTA task forces through ISC coordination. NEHIDTA 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 HSTF and other non-HIDTA agencies and organizations are developed and encouraged.

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 HSTF 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.

To combat the increasing crime gun threat, NEHIDTA continues to work with enforcement initiatives to provide criminally seized firearm information to the NEHIDTA/CGIC initiative analysts. The task forces are required to both eTrace and submit acquisitions, including cartridge casings and test fires, to NIBIN.

HIDTA Evaluation

The NEHIDTA 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 2024, the NEHIDTA enhanced drug education and prevention initiatives while providing guidance and information to numerous state-sponsored drug awareness programs.

Additionally, in 2024, enforcement task forces identified 307 DTOs/MLOs and dismantled/disrupted 141 of them (26 were international, 47 were multi-state, and 68 were local in nature). In addition, task forces seized illegal drugs with a wholesale value of more than \$55 million and \$13 million in cash and other drug-related assets. In 2024, seizures totaled \$68 million, resulting in an overall ROI of \$14.48.

Target				
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
2024	137	\$4.85	\$24.49	588
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	141	\$2.77	\$11.71	682



New Mexico HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Executive Director – Will R. Glaspy

Purpose and Goals

The 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. The HIDTA is incorporating public health and public safety professionals as part of the HIDTA ORS to reduce drug overdoses within the state. Lastly, a CGIC has been implemented as the newest initiative, with two analysts supporting law enforcement efforts in northern and southern New Mexico respectively.

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, including 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 33 initiatives including: 17 multijurisdictional law enforcement, 8 prosecution, 2 management and coordination, 2 investigative support/information sharing, 1 prevention, 1 forensic support, 1 information technology, and 1 training.

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
2025	95	\$0.75	\$7.50	229

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, DTOs have access to a vast network of interstate highways and local roads that create many options to move illicit drugs through the State. 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 new CGIC initiative places an analyst in Albuquerque, supporting northern New Mexico, and another in Las Cruces, supporting southern New Mexico.



The ISC's core functions include event and subject de-confliction, case support and post-seizure analysis, pen-register and wiretap 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 and RPOTs.

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 HSTF 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 task forces operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Albuquerque Police Department Narcotics (HIDTA)	Bernalillo County, NM
BEST (ICE)	Statewide
FBI Transnational Organized Crime (HIDTA)	Albuquerque, NM
Fugitive/Violent Offender Task Force (HIDTA)	Statewide
JTTF (FBI)	Albuquerque, NM
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, NM
Region II HIDTA Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	San Juan County, NM
Region III Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, and Taos Counties, NM
Region IV Drug Task Force (Byrne JAG)	Las Vegas, NM
Region V Drug Task Force (Byrne JAG)	Clovis, NM
Region VI Drug Task Force – Chaves County (HIDTA)	Chaves County, NM
Region VI Drug Task Force – Lea County (HIDTA)	Lea County, NM
Region VI Drug Task Force– White Mountain (HIDTA)	Lincoln and Otero Counties, NM
Region VI Drug Task Force – Pecos Valley (HIDTA)	Eddy County, NM



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Region VII Border Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Luna, Grant, Hidalgo Counties, NM
Regional Interagency Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Doña Ana County, NM
Safe Trails (FBI)	Farmington, NM
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, HIDTA cases had received OCDEFB designation—making additional resources available—and the HIDTA anticipates this practice continuing with HSTF.

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 2024, the New Mexico HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 98 DTOs. Of the 98 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 12 were international, 20 multi-state, and 66 were local. During 2024, the HIDTA initiatives seized illegal drugs with an estimated wholesale value of over \$586 million and \$6



million in cash and assets (totaling \$592 million) for a combined ROI of \$63.82. Marijuana accounted for the majority of drugs seized based on total seizure quantity followed by fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin. The HIDTA initiated 2,713 cases, received analytical support for 228 cases, requested approximately 2,253 event and case deconflictions and processed 4,043 target/investigative data elements. In 2024, the HIDTA provided 10,395 hours of training to 588 criminal justice professionals. It also facilitated drug prevention presentations for 1,914 students, totaling 2,312 hours.

Target				
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
2024	98	\$0.80	\$7.00	252
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	98	\$0.65	\$63.17	228



New York/New Jersey HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Executive Director – Chauncey Parker

Purpose and Goals

The mission of the New York/New Jersey HIDTA (NY/NJ 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 participating 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 use 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 38 counties:

- New York: New York City (Bronx, Kings, New York, Richmond, and Queens Counties), Albany, Broome, Chautauqua, Clinton, Dutchess, Erie, Franklin, Jefferson, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Orange, Oswego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Schenectady, St. Lawrence, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester²⁵
- 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
2025	57	\$10.00	\$15.00	1,863



Threat Assessment

All major drugs of abuse are readily available within the NY/NJ HIDTA AOR, originating from both domestic and foreign sources of supply. The New York City (NYC) metropolitan area—which includes the five NYC 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 NY/NJ 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, there was a decrease in bulk quantities of counterfeit pharmaceutical pills containing fentanyl in 2024. According to the DEA, fentanyl pill seizures in the New York Division (NYD) decreased 70 percent in 2024 when compared to 2023. The number of mills dismantled by the NYD increased in 2024: 17 mills were dismantled in 2024 compared to 15 in 2023.

Seizures of pure heroin have decreased to almost zero while seizures of fentanyl without the presence of heroin (96% in 2024) continue to increase. The New Jersey State Police’s Office of Drug Monitoring and Analysis Unit (NJSP DMAU) reports that the number of pure heroin submissions to police labs decreased 41 percent from 2019 to 2024. The NYD also reports that although fentanyl continues to be sold on the street as heroin, a large number of fentanyl seizures in 2024 contained only fentanyl (with no heroin).

In New York State from 2021 to 2022, opioid-involved overdose deaths increased by 6.9 percent. Preliminary data show that the number of opioid-involved overdose deaths in New York State decreased by 3 percent from 2022 to 2023. Concern among state and city health officials continues regarding the presence of xylazine in the illicit opioid market, typically found in combination with fentanyl. Data from 2021 indicate that xylazine and fentanyl were detected in combination in 19.1 percent of opioid overdose deaths in NYC and 5.2 percent of opioid overdose deaths in New York State outside of NYC.

More New Yorkers continue to die of drug overdoses than homicides, suicides, and motor vehicle crashes combined. Rates of overdose death in NYC have remained stable from 2022 to 2023, with the 2022 age-adjusted rate of 44.7 overdoses per 100,000 residents as the highest since reporting began in 2000. The latest data published by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene show that the number of overdose deaths among NYC residents jumped from 1,497 in 2019 to 3,070 in 2022, an increase of 105 percent. This was followed by a small decrease from 2022 to 2023 (3,046 overdose deaths). Between 2015 and 2023, the number and



age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths in NYC has more than tripled, driven primarily by fentanyl-involved deaths.

Opioids were involved in 83 percent of all overdose deaths in NYC in 2023, with fentanyl as the most commonly involved substance in overdose deaths (80%) for the seventh year in a row. Provisional data from the first half of 2024 shows a decrease in confirmed overdose deaths, with counts for Q1 and Q2 2024 lower than all quarters of 2023.

Investigative and intelligence reporting indicates cocaine availability has increased within the New York AOR, and crack cocaine remains a threat both in NYC as well as smaller cities throughout the State. The majority of cocaine transported into the DEA New York Division (NYD) AOR can be attributed to Mexican drug trafficking organizations who work in partnership with US-based Dominican traffickers to facilitate the movement of cocaine into the New York area. In NYC, fentanyl has been increasingly identified in overdose deaths involving cocaine. In 2021, 47 percent of unintentional overdose deaths in NYC involved cocaine. Of those deaths involving cocaine, 85 percent also involved fentanyl; more recent data from New York State indicate this trend is continuing. 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 second in overall drug threats in the southern counties and third, behind fentanyl and crack, in the northern and central parts of the state. Similar to New York, law enforcement sources report there has been an increase in cocaine availability throughout New Jersey. Approximately 82 percent of suspected cocaine samples analyzed in labs contained no other substance — indicating a high rate of cocaine purity and reinforcing its demand and appeal. Furthermore, 87 percent of suspected cocaine specimens also contained no other drugs suggesting that the market for cocaine is largely unadulterated.

Methamphetamine trafficking and abuse is encountered on a much smaller scale in the New York region in 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 2024 in the NYD decreased 27 percent when compared to 2023. 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 NJSP DMAU, New Jersey labs saw an increase in the number of methamphetamine cases in 2024 compared to the prior year.

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 deconfliction services, 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 ISC is organized into several sections, including: the NYPD Intelligence Section, the ATF CGIC, the Drug Trends Group, 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
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
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 (FBIDNJ)	Garret Mountain, NJ
FBI Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force (FBIDNJ)	Goshen, Westchester/ Orange, NY
FBI Jersey Shore Gang and Criminal Organization Task Force (FBIDNJ)	Ocean/Monmouth, NJ
Homeland Security Task Force	New York, NY
Homeland Security Task Force	New Jersey
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
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



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Rochester Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Rochester, NY
FBI South Jersey Violent Incident Gang Task Force (FBIDOG)	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, 7 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 New York/New Jersey HIDTA is an effective platform for building Federal, State, and local law enforcement partnerships to implement the *National Drug Policy Priorities*. In 2024,



initiatives disrupted/dismantled 49 DTOs/MLOs operating in the HIDTA area, 10 percent of which were international in scope. The estimated wholesale value of drugs seized in the same period was approximately \$438 million. In addition, the HIDTA seized approximately \$69 million in cash and other drug-related assets, resulting in a ROI of \$33.73.

Target				
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
2024	92	\$5.00	\$8.00	1,731
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	49	\$4.59	\$29.14	2,239



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, collaboration, 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, methamphetamine, and cocaine related violent DTOs, which are routinely linked through intelligence to Mexican drug cartels 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 HDTAs outside of Wisconsin or Minnesota. The HIDTA ISCs in Wisconsin or Minnesota actively promotes and utilizes 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 150 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 designated counties in both Wisconsin and Minnesota, investigative emphasis is placed on targeting DTOs that pose the most significant threats—primarily those with ties to the Southwest and Northern Borders (multi-state and international in scope). Emphasis is placed on violent DTOs and individual 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, cocaine and/or methamphetamine in the region. In line with the HIDTA's goals, initiatives work cooperatively and share information with other HDTAs and LEAs throughout the country to further enhance effective investigations. As described below, in addressing the threats that face the HIDTA, the North Central 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 additional 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 drug use, drug distribution, and violent crime through



targeted law enforcement, community building, raising community awareness, and proactive engagement of youth in the community. This is accomplished, in part, through hosting 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 (Milwaukee County). Other initiatives are located throughout the following additional HIDTA-designated counties:

- Wisconsin: Brown, Dane, Eau Claire, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, and Waukesha
- Minnesota: Anoka, Beltrami, Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey, St. Louis, Stearns, and Washington.²⁶

Initiatives

The HIDTA currently supports 41 initiatives: 33 investigation/interdiction, 2 intelligence, 2 prevention, 1 management, 1 training, 1 information technology support, and 1 prosecution.

Short-Term Objectives

Year	DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled	Target Return on Investment: Assets	Target Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Cases Expected to be Provided Analytical Support
2025	88	\$1.71	\$7.25	1,377

Threat Assessment

The North Central HIDTA region is a primary market for illicit drug activity within Wisconsin and Minnesota and is recognized as a transshipment point for drug markets in the Upper Midwest and Canada. DTOs operating in the North Central HIDTA region use source suppliers from Chicago, Illinois; Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota; Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin; as well as the Southwest Border states of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. These Southwest Border states receive massive amounts of drugs from well-structured Mexican drug cartels, which are not only operating in Mexico but also within the continental United States. The Metropolitan areas of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, act as stable midpoints for DTO operations at varying levels. The proximity of these areas to the major interstate highway systems of Interstate 90 and Interstate 94, connecting major midwestern drug markets, make the region even more vulnerable to DTOs establishing their presence.

Opioids—particularly fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances (FRS), as well as heroin and other synthetic opioids—pose the greatest threat to the North Central HIDTA region. Task forces across Minnesota and Wisconsin have reported a significant increase in the availability of fentanyl and FRS at wholesale levels, heightening the challenges in addressing the crisis. The



number of fentanyl dosage units raised 5.89 percent from 2,089,121 in 2023 to 2,212,224 dosage unit in 2024. Compounding the issue is the prevalence of counterfeit pills that mimic legitimate prescription pain medications, often containing fentanyl or other FRS, further complicating efforts to combat this epidemic.

Opioids remain prevalent in the majority of overdose fatality toxicology reports and are becoming increasingly accessible. Their association with property and violent crimes exacerbates the threat, extending beyond the alarming number of overdose deaths. The incidence of overdose fatalities and other harmful effects linked to opioid use continues to pose significant risks to its communities' 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 collaboration and strategies to address the overdose problem regionally.

The North Central HIDTA region has seen a significant increase in the number of instances methamphetamine sourced from the Twin Cities area of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota is being trafficked directly to other major metropolitan areas within the North Central HIDTA region. In 2024, enforcement initiatives in Minnesota, seized over 1,629 kilograms of methamphetamine. Seizures of large quantities of finished-product Mexican methamphetamine in and around the Twin Cities area originate mainly from the Southwest Border region and are sourced by Mexico-based drug cartels. The Twin Cities area is considered an upper Midwest methamphetamine transshipment center for the Mexican cartels.

Cocaine and cocaine base continue to pose a significant public health and safety threat to the HIDTA region. Throughout 2024, 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. Individual traffickers and DTOs source the majority of marijuana and THC products from Colorado and other western 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 are 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 ISCs 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Central Minnesota Drug Trafficking Initiative (HIDTA)	Stearns County, MN
DEA Task Forces (DEA)	Wisconsin and Minnesota HIDTA regions
Domestic Highway Enforcement	Various locations throughout Wisconsin
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	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
Paul Bunyan Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Beltrami County, MN
The Brown County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Brown County, WI
Numerous FBI Safe Streets Task Forces	Various locations throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota
Overdose Death Initiative	Various locations throughout 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, WI



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
The Hennepin County Violent Offender Task Force and Anoka-Hennepin Narcotic, Greater Twin Cities Violent Crime Initiative, and Violent Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Twin Cities Metro region

Task Force Coordination

Five HIDTA investigative initiatives are co-located in the HIDTA facility in West Allis, Wisconsin. Ten 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 Native American tribal lands in Wisconsin.

In Minnesota, there are currently 18 investigative initiatives located within the 9-county designated region around the metro Minneapolis/St. Paul, Beltrami County (northwest), St. Louis County (north), Stearns County (north central), and Olmsted County (south central) areas. The various task forces within these initiatives target all types of drug-related activity, including major multi-state, 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 North Central HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 80 DTOs/MLOs in 2024. Of the 80 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 10 were international in scope, 34 were multi-state, and 36 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of approximately \$68.1 million and \$7.8 million in cash and assets for a total ROI of \$10.35. The HIDTA intelligence analysts provided analytical support to 2,170 investigations and processed 1,584 event and 20,674 case/target deconflictions. The HIDTA also provided 16,618 hours of training to 1,404 students.

Target				
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
2024	96	\$1.72	\$6.73	1,414
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	80	\$1.28	\$9.07	2,170



North Florida HIDTA

Designated in 2001

Executive Director – Robert Peryam

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the North Florida HIDTA (NFHIDTA) 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. All performance measures are evaluated utilizing the PMP database and quarterly reviews 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 471 full-time and part-time personnel who participate in its initiatives, as of June 2025.

Location

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

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
2025	45	\$1.03	\$10.03	190

Threat Assessment

For the fifth consecutive year, fentanyl—including its analogs—remains the top drug threat in the NFHIDTA, largely due to a recent increase in availability, often commingled with other drugs, high level of use, and high potency and lethality. While there was a 64 percent decrease in fentanyl seized in 2024, there is already a 56 percent increase in 2025 (as of May 19, 2025) over 2024's totals, likely indicating a resurgence in local supply. Despite the noted decrease in 2024, the North Florida HIDTA's fentanyl seizures comprised nearly 87 percent of its total apex drug seizures,²⁷ placing it in the top six of all HDTAs. In 2023, fentanyl remained the drug that *caused* the most deaths in the State of Florida.

Methamphetamine—essentially all imported crystal (ice)—remains the second greatest drug threat in the region, primarily due to its wide availability and high level of use, with increased availability and use in nearly all counties within the NFHIDTA. While methamphetamine seizures decreased nearly 50 percent in 2024, it was identified by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) Crime Laboratory as the top drug identified in 2024 for all North Florida HIDTA counties' sample submissions. For 2023, the Florida Medical Examiner (FME) reporting indicated that methamphetamine was the third highest drug to *cause* the most deaths throughout the State, behind fentanyl and cocaine. Although the overall number of meth *caused* deaths decreased in 2023, in FME District 23, which covers the NFHIDTA counties of Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns, the number of meth *caused* deaths increased 55 percent. While it remains readily available and easily obtained, meth continues to be combined with other substances, such as fentanyl, likely increasing its lethality.

Cocaine/crack remains the third greatest drug threat in the NFHIDTA, due to its wide availability and moderate to high use level, with a reported increase in the availability and level of use in some areas of the region over the past 12 months. However, it is worth noting there was a 35 percent decrease in cocaine seizures in 2024 while there was nearly a 1,300 percent increase in crack seizures during the same timeframe. In 2023, FME reporting indicates that while it remains in second place behind fentanyl, the number of deaths *caused by* cocaine decreased 8.5 percent.

Marijuana moves up a rank into fourth place, due to its high level of availability and use, with a noted increase in availability in Atlantic Beach (Duval County), Florida, and Camden County, Georgia, as well as Alachua, Columbia, Duval, and St. Johns Counties. The total NFHIDTA marijuana seizures decreased 8.5 percent in 2024, but indoor marijuana plants, hashish, edibles, and THC liquid all increased. As of May 19, 2025, total marijuana seizures are already at 75 percent of 2024's totals, with indoor plants at 178 percent of 2024's, indicating this year's marijuana seizures will likely exceed those of 2024 and possibly those of 2023. While marijuana has been found in the area mixed or laced with fentanyl, the FME reporting indicates that statewide occurrences of cannabinoids found in decedents decreased 11.5 percent in 2023.



MDMA moves up a rank into fifth place, due to its moderate to high level of availability, increasing in Camden (Georgia), Columbia, and Duval Counties, its moderate to high use, with a noted increase in Camden and Duval Counties, and its propensity to lead to great harm. NFHIDTA seized a 647 percent increase in kilograms of MDMA in 2024 and a 4,162 percent increase in dosage units (DUs). FME data indicated that deaths *caused by* the phenethylamine class, under which MDMA is included, increased by 26.4 percent in 2023.

Diverted Pharmaceuticals move up two spots into sixth place, due to consistent, moderate availability and use and propensity to cause great harm. Several prescription drugs, including Tramadol, are in the top 10 list of the most commonly reported drugs commingled with fentanyl powder. In addition, NFHIDTA seized a nearly 840 percent increase in the total kilograms of diverted pharmaceuticals for 2024; although, there was a 56 percent decrease in the total DUs seized during the same timeframe. Nearly 8,500 decedents were found with one or more prescription drugs in their system in 2023 as compared to 9,230 in 2022, and while deaths *caused by* prescription drugs decreased in 2023, deaths *caused by* oxycodone increased by 4 percent.

Heroin drops to seventh place, primarily due to its low and declining availability and low to moderate use level. Synthetics, including K2-Spice, synthetic cannabinoids, xylazine, and ketamine, remain in eighth place; cathinones, including Alpha-PVP, bath salts, and MDPV round out the drug threat, despite a large percent increase in seizures for both categories.

NFHIDTA is investigating 120 DTOs. Nearly half (50) of these organizations are involved in trafficking a single drug type and the remainder are involved in polydrug trafficking. The majority are local in scope, then multi-state, and to a much lesser extent, international. Of these organizations, 38 are classified as violent, 7 are gang related, and 2 are affiliated with cocaine cartels.

The majority of NFHIDTA's DTOs under investigation are trafficking cocaine, including crack, which is consistent with the past four years, while fentanyl remains a close second. NFHIDTA is investigating 42 methamphetamine/ice DTOs; 25 marijuana DTOs; 14 MDMA; 8 heroin; 4 oxycodone; 4 trafficking cathinones, including Alpha-PVP and MDPV; and 1 trafficking K2-Spice.

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 overlaps.

North Florida law enforcement and intelligence resources operate under a mutually agreed upon Information and Intelligence Sharing Plan. 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Capital Area Drug Response & Evaluation (HIDTA)	Leon County, FL
Combined Alachua Drug Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Alachua County, FL
Community of Violence Intervention and Prevention (OJP)	Duval and Leon Counties, FL
Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force – Jacksonville Resident Office (DEA/OCDETF)	All HIDTA Counties
FBI Safe Streets Task Force (FBI/OCDETF)	Duval County, FL
Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team (HIDTA)	Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, and Union Counties, FL
Gateway (HIDTA)	Columbia and Union Counties, FL
Maritime & Land Investigation and Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA & Homeland Security Task Force)	All HIDTA Counties
Narcotics Overdose Death Investigations Task Force (HIDTA)	Duval County, FL
North Florida HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA, OCDETF, and DEA)	Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties, FL
Pharmaceutical Diversion and Designer Drug Squad (HIDTA)	Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties, FL
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, and Union Counties, FL
Tri-County (HIDTA)	Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties, FL
Unified Drug Enforcement Strike Team (HIDTA)	Marion County, FL
Violent Crime and Gangs/Guns Task Force (HIDTA)	Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties, FL
Violent Crime and Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties, FL

Task Force Coordination

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 in 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 HIDTA. The Maritime and Land Investigation and Interdiction Initiative (MLII) is co-designated as a HIDTA initiative and part of the HSTF. They share information and intelligence regarding fentanyl interdictions with other member agencies of the HSTF locally.

All NFHIDTA initiatives' case and event information is entered into Case Explorer, deconflicting across all deconfliction 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 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 HDTAs, and national intelligence agencies.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2024, North Florida HIDTA initiatives disrupted/dismantled 47 DTOs/MLOs. In addition, initiatives seized illegal drugs with an estimated wholesale value of over \$43.8 million and over \$3.3 million in cash and other drug-related assets (a combined total of over \$47 million in drugs and assets seized) for a total ROI of \$12.26. Analytical support was provided by the HIDTA to 303 cases and 14,374 event and case deconflictions were processed. The HIDTA provided 7,913 hours of training to 956 students.

Target				
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
2024	44	\$0.86	\$7.56	166
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	47	\$0.86	\$11.40	303



Northern California HIDTA

Designated in 1997

Executive Director – Mike Sena

Purpose and Goals

The Northern California HIDTA (NC 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, and local law enforcement entities in its 13-county AOR.

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

Strategy

The HIDTA consists of seven law enforcement initiatives (including 23 counternarcotic and fugitive task forces), an ISC, a training initiative, a prevention initiative, a computer crimes initiative, a crime gun intelligence initiative, and an administrative and management initiative focused on the mission of countering DTOs and MLOs in the HIDTA AOR. The NC 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 NC HIDTA ISC and supporting initiatives (i.e., Training, Prevention, Crime Gun Intelligence, and 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 NC HIDTA successfully executes its strategic plan by continuing to bring 72 Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies together, composed of 294 agents, officers, analysts, and other staff members. The impact of the NC 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, and 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 NC HIDTA has 13 initiatives: 7 enforcements, 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 NC HIDTA mission. In total, there are 23 enforcement task forces in the HIDTA AOR: 22 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 1 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

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
2025	10	\$2.00	\$300.00	55

Threat Assessment

The most serious drug threats confronting the HIDTA region were illicit fentanyl and methamphetamine, followed by marijuana and the reappearance of cocaine. 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, including fentanyl analogs, continues to be a leading drug threat to the NC HIDTA region. Since at least 2023, fentanyl continues to surpass methamphetamine for “demanding the most law enforcement resources” and “determined prevalence, negative impact on the community, and harm to the user.” Total dosage unit and powder seizures in 2024 for both drugs decreased by approximately 45 percent for the first time in at least four years. General fentanyl availability and use were high in 2024 but appeared to stagnate year-to-year. Fentanyl pills were likely more available than powder. The illicit fentanyl threat continued to change in 2024 with the emergence of *bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidyl) sebacate*, or BTMPS, an industrial chemical used in plastics to block ultraviolet light.

Methamphetamine remains a threat with a steady supply in the HIDTA AOR. Like 2023 survey results, methamphetamine continued to exceed fentanyl in several drug-related factors affecting the region, including “prevalence,” “contribution to violent crime,” and “contribution to property crime.” Methamphetamine prices decreased overall in 2024 with the price of crystal methamphetamine increasing more than powder. The quantity of methamphetamine seized



varied by type. Crystal methamphetamine seizures increased by 22 percent between 2023 and 2024, while seizures of powder methamphetamine decreased by approximately 6 percent.

Despite legalization, illicit marijuana continues to be a widespread threat across the NC HIDTA AOR. These threats include violence and illegal weapons associated with marijuana grows, trading of marijuana for other drugs, robberies or burglaries at dispensaries, labor and sex trafficking associated with marijuana operations, the environmental impact of illegal grows, and fraudulent marijuana businesses. While there was a significant increase in seizures from 2020 to 2021, there has been a steady decrease in seizures over the last four years. Between 2023 and 2024, there was a 27 percent decrease in seizures of all types of illegal marijuana

In 2024, Honduran drug traffickers remained the greatest DTO threat to the NC HIDTA AOR. Honduran DTOs are now documented as a TCO, pursuant to efforts by the HIDTA Program in conjunction with DHS I&A. Their established distribution network expands considerably beyond the San Francisco Bay Area. Honduran DTOs traffic large quantities of illicit fentanyl – the drug responsible for over 400 fatal overdoses a year in San Francisco alone – and other illegal drugs. Honduran DTOs changed some methods of operation in response to heightened regional law enforcement action but continue to leverage the local environment to conduct lucrative drug trafficking activities. Mexico-based TCOs reportedly provide wholesale drugs to various criminal organizations in the NC HIDTA AOR, including Honduran DTOs. Tren de Aragua (TdA) was identified in the AOR for the first time in 2024 and was reportedly involved in violent crimes and organized retail theft. At the time of this writing, the NC HIDTA has not received reporting on TdA involvement in narcotics trafficking.

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 more advanced 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 NC 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Alameda County Narcotics Task Force (EBPTO – HIDTA)	Alameda County, CA
Humboldt County Drug Task Force (NCPTO – HIDTA)	Humboldt County, CA
Marin County Special Investigations Unit (NCPTO – HIDTA)	Marin County, CA
Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force (MMCTF – HIDTA)	Mendocino County, CA



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Monterey Area Gang & Narcotics Enforcement Team (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Monterey County, CA
Narcotics Financial Investigation Task Force (SF METRO – HIDTA)	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, CA
Crime Gun Intelligence & Investigation Team (CGIIT – HIDTA)	San Francisco Region
Salinas Violence Suppression Task Force (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Monterey County, CA
San Francisco International Airport Task Force II (SFMETRO – HIDTA)	San Francisco Region
San Francisco Metro Task Force Group 1 (SFMETRO - HIDTA)	San Francisco County, CA
San Francisco Police Department Narcotic Task Force (SFMETRO – HIDTA)	San Francisco County, CA
San Jose Task Force Group 1 (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Santa Clara County, CA
San Mateo County Narcotic Task Force (SMCNTF – HIDTA)	San Mateo County, CA
Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Santa Clara County, CA
Santa Clara County Safe Streets Task Force (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Santa Clara County, CA
Santa Cruz County Anti-Crimes Team (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Santa Cruz County, CA
Santa Rosa Task Force Group 1 (NCPTO- HIDTA)	Sonoma County, CA
San Jose Enforcement Group 1 (SBMETRO - HIDTA)	Santa Clara County, CA
Southern Alameda County Major Crimes Task Force (EBPTO – HIDTA)	Alameda County, CA
Transnational Narcotic Team (SF METRO – HIDTA)	San Francisco Region
Criminal Apprehension, Suppression, Prevention, and Response (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	San Benito County, CA

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 NC HIDTA actively supports HSTF cases throughout the region. The NC HIDTA executive director serves as a member of the HSTF Region 2 Regional Executive Committee (REC) and actively participates in the REC meetings. The NC HIDTA provides the HSTF Region 2 members with access to the NC HIDTA Annual Threat Assessment.



The deconfliction mandate is accomplished through services provided to the NC HIDTA by Western States Information Network (WSIN), a component of Regional Information Sharing Systems (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 NC 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 NC HIDTA annual threat assessment; four NC HIDTA quarterly bulletins; and the distribution of strategic intelligence products. The NC HIDTA facilitates cooperation, information sharing, and joint efforts among 72 Federal, State, and local LEAs which involves 249 personnel participating in initiatives and task forces. The BAYNIN-ISC brings an enhanced level of intelligence resources to the NC HIDTA law enforcement community by supporting lines of communication and by providing and coordinating a secure exchange of data and intelligence. The NC HIDTA enhances information sharing and promotes collaboration among HDTAs by various means, including event coordination and shared resources.

In 2024, the NC HIDTA hosted and coordinated the Annual Initiative and Task Force Commanders' Symposium in partnership with the CVC HIDTA. The two HDTAs 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. The NC HIDTA and CVC HIDTA co-sponsored the 3rd Annual Fentanyl Case Collaboration Summit, held in December of 2024, hosting representatives from all four California HDTAs as well as the Northwest, Oregon-Idaho, Rocky Mountain, and Southwest Texas HDTAs. The focus of the Summit was the cross-jurisdictional trafficking of fentanyl, from the California portion of the United States-Mexico border to the United States-Canada border. Case agents, analysts, supervisors, and prosecutors involved in fentanyl trafficking investigations were invited to participate and share intelligence, tactics, techniques, and protocols related to their fentanyl-trafficking investigations and prosecutions.

To enhance communications between initiatives and task forces, and all-crimes law enforcement information sharing, the NC 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 HSIN Intel/Exchange Tools, DEA's secure network, and FBI's secure network and the LEEP. Further communications are established through circulation and dissemination of Law Enforcement Sensitive and For Official Use Only intelligence products distributed via the HIDTA/NCRIC dissemination tools to more than 22,600 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 NC HIDTA task forces then apply all necessary investigative resources to identify, prioritize, target,



and dismantle the major poly-drug DTOs operating in the region at all levels – State, national, and international. Cooperation by each Federal, State, and local participating agency with the NC HIDTA task force program is fluid, creating a highly effective and efficient organization that not only meets, but exceeds the goal of dismantling and disrupting DTOs and MLOs.

HIDTA Evaluation

The NC 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 2024, initiatives identified 67 DTOs/MLOs operating in the region and were able to disrupt or dismantle 12 DTOs/MLOs. Of those, four DTOs/MLOs were international, one was multi-state, and seven were local to the NC HIDTA AOR. The ROI of \$261.42 resulted from initiatives seizing \$260.18 in illicit drugs and \$1.24 in illicit drug assets for every allocated dollar. Using an investigative budget of \$3.5 million, initiatives denied DTOs/MLOs over \$926 million in illicit drug profits, \$4.3 million in cash, and \$72,259 in assets. By removing the seized narcotics and denying the DTOs illicit proceeds, the enforcement initiatives/task forces decreased the 67 DTOs ability to conduct business in the communities of the NC HIDTA AOR.

Target				
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
2024	10	\$2.00	\$300.00	54
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	12	\$1.24	\$260.18	56



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, Northwest HIDTA supports 19 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 byproduct of this operating model is the marked increase in information and intelligence sharing.

Similarly, Northwest HIDTA provides support and funding to 15 organizations engaged in prevention and/or treatment activities, including drug courts, community coalitions, housing programs, and school-based prevention.

National HIDTA Program goals offer the foundation upon which performance planning and outcome measurements are based. Moreover, HIDTA initiatives are developed and operated within parameters set forth in national guidelines that govern their activities and expenditures. As Northwest 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 threats and set realistic performance measures. Also, specific information on how funds received will assist in achieving their desired outcomes 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 furthestmost 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 over 8.1 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. Northwest 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

Northwest HIDTA supports 24 initiatives: 19 enforcement, 1 management, 1 training, 1 prevention, 1 treatment, 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
2025	59	\$1.13	\$21.01	244

Threat Assessment

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

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

Northwest HIDTA assesses fentanyl and its analogs will remain the leading opioid of abuse in the next program year. Fentanyl is most commonly encountered in powder and tablet form.

Heroin (primarily in black tar and brown powder form) is the second most commonly encountered opioid in Washington State. The number of seizure events and amount of heroin seized decreased moderately for the fifth straight year.

Crystal methamphetamine remains the leading illicit stimulant throughout the HIDTA region. Although availability indicators are mixed, the number of methamphetamine-related fatal overdoses continues to climb, largely due to concurrent use with fentanyl.

Law enforcement, public health, and prevention and treatment partners reported an increase in cocaine powder availability and use among a wide demographic. Initiative seizures increased when compared to 2023, even when omitting bulk cocaine seizures at the U.S./Canada border that were not destined for Washington State users. The number of fatal overdoses involving cocaine have increased, largely due to polydrug use involving fentanyl.



Cannabis availability and use remains stable. While licensed retailers saw a small decline in revenue, the market will likely maintain current usage levels for the foreseeable future. Washington State was the point of origin for products driven or mailed to various states throughout the United States. Northwest HIDTA assesses usage, illicit cultivation, and exportation rates will remain constant in program year 2026.

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. The popularity of convertible virtual currencies (CVC) such as CashApp ® are growing.

Intelligence Initiatives

Northwest 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, law enforcement, prevention and treatment partners, public health entities, and other government agencies.

In March 2023, the ATF Seattle Division relocated their existing CGIC to Northwest HIDTA. This integration was made to unify the 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 Northwest HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Clark County Special Investigations Unit	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	Kent, WA



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Seattle DEA HIDTA Task Force	Seattle, WA
Seattle Safe Streets Task Force	Seattle, WA
Skagit County Inter-Local Drug Enforcement Unit	Mount Vernon, WA
Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force	Marysville, WA
Spokane DEA HIDTA Drug Task Force	Spokane, WA
Regional Anti-Violence Enforcement and Narcotics	Spokane, WA
Thurston County Narcotics Task Force	Tumwater, WA
WSP SWAT	Olympia, WA
Yakima DEA	Union Gap, WA

Task Force Coordination

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

Northwest 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 reduces the potential duplication of law enforcement efforts.

National HIDTA initiatives, such as DHE, also serve to promote information sharing among groups and agencies throughout Washington. The ORS unites public health and law enforcement expertise, perspectives, and resources to combat Washington's overdose epidemic. This includes efforts to identify drug market trends, sharing actionable information, and supporting evidence-based prevention practices. Moreover, HIDTA-sponsored training is available to participating entities and serves to increase capabilities and enhance proficiency. In 2024, Northwest HIDTA coordinated or presented 10,134 hours of enforcement, analytical, management, and demand reduction training throughout the region.

HIDTA Evaluation

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

During 2024, illicit drug availability in the region was reduced by the actions of Northwest HIDTA and its partners. In total 53 DTOs/MLOs were either significantly disrupted or entirely eradicated. Program participants recovered approximately 177 kilograms of fentanyl, 1,251 kilograms of methamphetamine, 281 kilograms of cocaine, and 51 kilograms of heroin – directly contributing to the lowered availability. Additionally, nearly 3.4 million dosage units of fentanyl



was seized.²⁸ Also, six illicit indoor marijuana grows totaling 1,862 kilograms of cannabis plant material, thirteen outdoor marijuana grows totaling 3,276 kilograms of plant material, and an additional 466 kilograms of bulk marijuana was seized.

These seizures amounted to the denial of nearly \$88 million in illicit revenue. When coupled with drug asset seizures, totaling over \$6 million, it is clear DTO/MLO operations have been significantly impacted. Overall, trafficker-denied funds totaled over \$94 million in 2024.

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

Additionally, Northwest HIDTA's prevention initiative provides funding to support substance use prevention programs located in nine designated counties. 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.

Target				
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
2024	56	\$2.00	\$20.00	344
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	53	\$1.55	\$21.41	144



Ohio HIDTA

Designated in 1999

Executive Director – Andrew Deserto

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 43 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 296 Federal, State, and local agencies, comprising 1,585 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 the following designated areas:

- Ohio: Adams, Allen, 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 39 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
2025	112	\$15.79	\$28.53	1,068

Threat Assessment

The Ohio HIDTA region continues to be inundated with illicit drug use and high levels of SUD throughout the entirety of its AOR. The central location of the Ohio 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 2025 Ohio HIDTA Threat Assessment Commanders' Survey (OHTACS) displayed a stable demand for all types of drugs throughout 2024. Decreased drug prices have been reported across the AOR for fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine. This significant price decrease has been attributed to an increase in availability of these three drug types all across the AOR.

Synthetic opioids such as fentanyl are the greatest drug threat facing the majority of the Ohio HIDTA AOR. A total of 95 percent of respondents to the 2025 OHTACS reported that synthetic opioids were highly available, with 62 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 2024, 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. In 2024, the number of kilograms of fentanyl seized by Ohio HIDTA task forces decreased to 316 kilograms, a 2 percent decrease from the previous year's total.

Methamphetamine has once again been ranked as the second greatest drug threat within the Ohio HIDTA AOR. A total of 77 percent of respondents to the 2025 OHTACS reported that crystal methamphetamine was highly available within their jurisdiction with 21 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 46 percent of jurisdictions. Methamphetamine, specifically crystal methamphetamine, has seen a rapid expansion into the drug markets of the Ohio 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 2024, Ohio HIDTA task forces seized a record high total of 2,480 kilograms of methamphetamine. This represents a 156 percent increase from the previous year total of 970 kilograms of methamphetamine seized.



Cocaine has been ranked as the third greatest drug threat within the Ohio HIDTA AOR. Cocaine continues to be highly available throughout the region. A total of 77 percent of task forces reported powder cocaine to be highly available while 51 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 2023. Fentanyl has been found within samples of both powder cocaine and crack cocaine at alarming levels within the Ohio 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. Ohio HIDTA task forces seized a total of 2,376 kilograms of powder cocaine in 2024. This is a 93 percent increase when compared to the 1,232 kilograms seized in 2023. A total of 15 kilograms of crack cocaine were seized in 2024 which is the slightly higher than 2023's total of 14 kilograms of crack cocaine seized.

Heroin has been ranked as the fourth greatest drug threat within the Ohio HIDTA AOR. Fentanyl has seemingly replaced heroin as the illicit opioid of choice across the AOR, but heroin is still present in the region's drug supply and poly-drug mixtures. In 2024, Ohio HIDTA task forces seized 49 kilograms of heroin. This total is a 48 percent increase compared to 2023's total of 33 kilograms of heroin seized. Although this increase seems significant, heroin seizure levels are still significantly below where they were before fentanyl replaced it within the region's drug supply.

Illicit marijuana is ranked as the fifth greatest drug threat within the Ohio HIDTA AOR. High-grade marijuana from domestic sources of supply across the United States, such as California, Colorado, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Michigan, are readily available to users within the Ohio HIDTA AOR. This marijuana has been cultivated to have much higher levels of THC compared to the previously encountered Mexican sourced low-grade marijuana. Ohio HIDTA task forces seized a total of 10,979 kilograms of marijuana in 2024 to include both bulk marijuana and marijuana plants. This is a 50 percent increase from 2023 when Ohio HIDTA task forces seized a total of 22,103 kilograms of bulk marijuana and marijuana plants.

The misuse of controlled prescription drugs (CPDs) remains a threat to the Ohio 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 misused 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 of drug contained in the pill.

The more pressing concern within the prescription drug market is that of counterfeit prescription medication being consumed in the area. It is not uncommon for users to purchase a pill that has the same 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. It is nearly impossible for the drug user to differentiate between the actual contents of the pills compared to what it is they think they are purchasing. At the dosage unit (DU) level, the total amount of



CPDs seized fell from 93,944 DUs in 2023 to 35,003 DUs in 2024, a 63 percent decrease. Kilogram level seizures of CPDs decreased from 55 kilograms seized in 2023 to 39 kilograms seized in 2024, a 29 percent decrease.

3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA) seizures reached record levels in 2024, rising to a total 242 kilograms seized. This represents a 1,521 percent increase over the previous 6-year average of 15 kilograms seized from 2018-2023. The total amount seized in 2024 was inflated by four large seizures of MDMA where the amount seized (76 kg, 70 kg, 40 kg, and 23 kg) was greater than the previous annual averages. MDMA continues to have a stable but smaller market within the Ohio HIDTA AOR. A total of 67 percent of task forces surveyed reported no change in the level of availability of MDMA in 2024 compared to 2023 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.

An emerging trend the past two years has been the sudden explosion of psilocybin seizures within the AOR. Before 2020, annual kilogram seizures of psilocybin by Ohio HIDTA task forces remained relatively stable, with task forces seizing 8 kilograms in 2018, 8 kilograms in 2019, and 5 kilograms in 2020. Those numbers sky-rocketed 974 percent in 2021 when Ohio HIDTA task forces seized 58 kilograms of psilocybin, a record-high. After a slight decrease down to 34 kilograms seized in 2022, psilocybin seizures have once again exploded across the Ohio HIDTA AOR. In 2023, Ohio HIDTA task forces seized a new record 162 kilograms of psilocybin. After reporting a slight decrease of 85 kilograms seized in 2024, Ohio HIDTA task forces have already reported 120 kilograms of psilocybin seized in the 1st quarter of 2025. This quarterly total surpasses the total for all of 2024 and will likely increase to, if not exceed the previous record of 162 kilograms seized by the end of 2025.

Moderate levels of other drug types are also reported by Ohio HIDTA task forces in the field. Availability of synthetic cathinones (bath salts), synthetic cannabinoids (synthetic marijuana) and synthetic hallucinogens such as lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and PCP have all been reported in the moderate to low levels across the region.

The drug threat in the Ohio 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 among 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 HDTAs 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 HDTAs, 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, 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 July 2025, 86,449 overdoses were entered for 82 of the 88 Ohio counties. Currently, the HIDTA has 349 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Akron Safe Streets Task Force	Summit County, OH
Akron/Summit Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Summit County, OH
Allegheny County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny County, PA
Allen County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allen County, OH
Beaver County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Beaver County, PA
Brown County Drug Task Force	Brown County, OH
Butler Undercover Regional Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Butler County, OH
Cartel, Gang, Narcotics and Laundering Task Force (HIDTA)	Cuyahoga County, OH
Central Ohio Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Franklin County, OH
Central Ohio Drug Enforcement Task Force	Coshocton, Know, Licking, Muskingum, and Perry Counties, OH
Cincinnati Law Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Hamilton County, OH
Cincinnati Major Drug Offenders Unit	Hamilton County, OH
Cincinnati Regional Narcotics Unit	Hamilton County, OH
Clermont County Drug Task Force	Clermont County, OH
Columbiana County Drug Task Force	Columbiana County, OH
DEA Cincinnati Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Hamilton County, OH
DEA Cleveland Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Cuyahoga County, OH
DEA Columbus Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Franklin County, OH
DEA Pittsburgh Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny County, PA
DEA Toledo Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lucas County, OH
DEA Youngstown Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Mahoning County, OH
Delaware County Drug Task Force	Delaware County, OH
Drug Abuse Reduction Task Force	Hamilton County, OH



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Franklin County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Franklin County, OH
Grand Lake Task Force	Auglaize and Mercer Counties, OH
Greene County Agencies for Combined Enforcement (HIDTA)	Greene County, OH
Hardin County Crime Task Force	Hardin County, OH
HSI Border Enforcement Security Team Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Cuyahoga County, OH
HSI/Pennsylvania State Police Interdiction Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny County, PA
Hotel Interdiction Team (HIDTA)	Cuyahoga County, OH
Jackson County Drug Task Force	Jackson County, OH
Jefferson County Drug Task Force	Jefferson County, OH
Lake County Narcotics Agency	Lake County, OH
Lawrence County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lawrence County, PA
Lawrence Drug and Major Crimes Task Force	Lawrence County, OH
Logan County Drug Task Force	Logan County, OH
Lorain County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lorain County, OH
Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Mahoning County, OH
Major Crimes Unit (HIDTA)	Athens, Fairfield, and Hocking Counties, OH
Medina County Drug Task Force	Medina County, OH
Medway Drug Enforcement Agency	Wayne and Medina Counties, OH
METRICH Enforcement Unit	Ashland, Crawford, Hancock, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties, OH
Miami Valley Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Montgomery County, OH
Multi-Area Narcotics Unit	Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Putnam, and Williams Counties, OH
Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force (HIDTA)	Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties, KY
Northern Kentucky Parcel Task Force (HIDTA)	Kenton County, KY
Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Statewide (OH)
Northwest Pennsylvania Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Erie County, PA
Ohio Highway Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Statewide (OH)
Ottawa County Drug Task Force	Ottawa County, OH



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Pennsylvania Highway Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Allegheny, Beaver, and Washington Counties, PA
Pittsburgh Bureau of Police/DEA Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny County, PA
Portage County Sheriff's Office Drug and Violent Crime Unit	Portage County, OH
Regional Agencies Narcotics and Gun Enforcement Task Force	Clark, Montgomery, and Preble Counties, OH
Sandusky County Drug Task Force	Sandusky County, OH
Southeast Area Law Enforcement Task Force	Cuyahoga County, OH
Southern Ohio Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Scioto County, OH
Southern Ohio Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team (HIDTA)	Statewide (OH)
Stark County Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Stark County, OH
Stark County Sheriff's Office Metro Narcotics Unit	Stark County, OH
Toledo Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lucas County, OH
Trumbull Action Group	Trumbull County, OH
United States 23 Major Crimes Task Force	Fayette, Highland, Pickaway, Pike, and Ross Counties, OH
Columbus Violent Crime Task Force	Franklin County, OH
Warren County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Warren County, OH
Washington County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Washington County, PA
West Central Ohio Crime Task Force	Allen County, OH
Western Pennsylvania Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny County, PA
Westmoreland County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Westmoreland County, PA
Westshore Enforcement Bureau Drug Task Force	Cuyahoga County, OH

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 Information Technology 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 policy, properly recording data, deconflicting events and subject/cases, sharing information, and properly utilizing funds. Initiatives are spread out through 25 counties, including 3 in NKY and 6 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 daily, 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 2024 OHII and PAII seized approximately \$40 million in wholesale value of drugs, and more than \$7.4 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 2024 was 4,839, of which 954 were sought for drug-related crimes. The removal of 954 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 4,316 fugitives will be targeted and apprehended in 2025.

HIDTA Evaluation

The Ohio HIDTA remains an effective and efficient platform to continue development of law enforcement partnerships, coordinate investigative information sharing, and support the priorities of the presidential administration. In 2024, the HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 116 DTOs/MLOs operating in the region. Of those disrupted or dismantled, 35 were international, 65 were multi-state, and 16 were local. The estimated wholesale value of drugs seized in 2024 was more than \$198.5 million. Cash and other drug-related assets seized totaled more than \$27.48 million. The ROI for drugs and assets seized in 2024 was \$38.49.

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
2024	114	\$11.30	\$23.60	702
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	116	\$4.68	\$33.81	1,365



Oregon-Idaho HIDTA

Designated in 1999

Executive Director – Chris Gibson

Purpose and Goals

In conjunction with the national program goals, the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA's mission is to facilitate, support, and enhance collaborative drug control efforts among law enforcement agencies 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 13 Federal agencies, 6 State agencies, 63 local agencies, 1 tribal agency, 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/counties:

- Idaho: Ada, Bannock, Canyon, Kootenai
- Oregon: Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla, Washington

Initiatives

The HIDTA supports 24 initiatives: 20 enforcement, 1 prevention, 1 management, 1 training, 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
2025	83	\$2.00	\$215.00	850

Threat Assessment

Communities within the HIDTA AOR face challenges related to the impact of illicit drug use like other counties throughout the United States. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl in powder and pill form and ever-present, high-purity methamphetamine have caused a significant increase in fatal and non-fatal overdose incidents as both drugs continue to flood the region. The Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Information Sharing and Analytical Coordination Center (ISACC) predicts with high confidence that fentanyl and methamphetamine will continue to be the region's most significant drug threats in 2026.

Fentanyl and methamphetamine remain the primary drug threats, affecting community livability and contributing to drug-related overdose deaths and criminal activity, including crimes against persons and property in the HIDTA region. Preliminary numbers in Idaho show fentanyl was identified as the primary cause of death in 35 percent of the drug-related deaths in Idaho during 2024.

In Oregon, data from the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) indicate a consistent rise in unintentional opioid overdose deaths from 2020 through 2023. Provisional figures for 2024 reveal that opioids were involved in 72 percent of reported overdose deaths, while stimulants were implicated in 71 percent. Despite these high percentages, the total number of overdose deaths has declined by 28.3 percent compared to 2023, according to the CDC's National Vital Statistics System.

Methamphetamine continues to impact community livability, contributing to overdose deaths and criminal activity including crimes against persons and property in the HIDTA region. Preliminary numbers show methamphetamine was identified as the cause of death either alone or with other substances in 47 percent of the drug-related overdose deaths in Idaho in 2024.

Heroin seizure incidents by law enforcement agencies continued to decrease in 2024, likely indicating a decrease in availability, as demand for and availability of fentanyl rose among opioid-dependent users. Although heroin is still available in the HIDTA region, it is often seized in smaller amounts with other illicit drugs in poly-drug seizures.

Cocaine availability remains stable in the region, as indicated by the rise in both the number of cocaine seizure incidents and investigations into cocaine-related DTOs conducted by HIDTA enforcement initiatives in Oregon and Idaho. The region continues to serve as a transit area 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 CPDs and designer drugs, such as dimethyltryptamine (DMT) and MDMA, remain 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 traditionally linked 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 domestic export from Oregon.

DTOs and MLOs in the region utilize bulk cash smuggling as the primary method for transporting illicit proceeds from local areas to TCOs operating in drug-source countries. Traffickers in the region increasingly rely on money service businesses to facilitate the transfer of drug profits and payments for drug shipments from this area to source countries and those of familial origin. Cash-intensive businesses—such as retail stores, restaurants, and used car dealerships—are often employed as primary methods to integrate drug proceeds into legitimate funding streams.

Xylazine continues to be found infrequently in the region, often mixed in with the illicit fentanyl drug supply. It has been detected in drug evidence submissions of counterfeit pills and powder fentanyl tested at State or Federal laboratories, as well as in toxicology results from overdose deaths, though at low percentages.

The continual presence of firearms among drug traffickers creates an increased risk to law enforcement officers during suspect encounters and potentially impacts local communities with the potential of increased shooting incidents. The HIDTA region experienced a 17 percent decrease in firearms seized from 2023 to 2024; however, over the past 5 years, HIDTA initiatives have seized an average of 982 firearms annually.

Intelligence Initiatives and Task Force Coordination

All HIDTA initiatives are required 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 law enforcement agencies 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 and the Idaho Narcotics Officers Association, supports and 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Bannock Area Drug & Gang Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Pocatello, ID
Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team (HIDTA)	Pendleton, OR
Central Oregon Drug Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Bend, OR
Clackamas County Interagency Task Force (HIDTA & FBI)	Oregon City, OR
DEA Boise District Office Task Force (DEA & HIDTA)	Boise, ID
Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team (HIDTA)	Roseburg, OR
City County Narcotics Unit (HIDTA)	Caldwell, ID
HIDTA Interdiction Team (HSI & HIDTA)	Portland, OR
HIDTA Special Assistant United States Attorney District of Idaho (HIDTA)	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 & FBI)	Portland, OR
North Idaho Narcotics Enforcement Team (DEA & 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, FBI & HSI)	Beaverton, OR



HIDTA Evaluation

The Oregon-Idaho HIDTA reduced drug availability in its area of operation 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 2024, initiatives disrupted or dismantled 83 of 123 identified DTOs or MLOs. Enforcement task forces were responsible for seizing illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$1.2 billion and \$14.7 million in cash and other drug-related assets (\$1.24 billion total) from drug traffickers and money launderers, resulting in a total ROI of \$294.84.

Target				
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
2024	75	\$2.00	\$215.00	808
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	83	\$3.48	\$291.36	826



Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA

Designated in 1994

Executive Director – John Kanig

Purpose and Goals

The Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands (PR/USVI) HIDTA has created intelligence-driven task forces comprised of 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 the 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 its law enforcement representatives to ensure extended coverage of the region is accomplished.

Location

The HIDTA's headquarters is 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 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

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
2025	37	\$1.40	\$125.00	1,500

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 U.S. 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. 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 USVI, and the CONUS. Consequently, violent crimes, unlawful financial activities continue to impact communities within the AOR. In 2019, fentanyl began to emerge as a major threat thereby causing more drug abusers to overdose. In 2025 it continues to be available throughout the region.

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 illicit 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 JIATF 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 operating in the HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Air & Marine Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Alliance for a Drug Free Puerto Rico (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Caribbean Corridor OCEDEF Strike Force (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Fajardo Major Organization Investigations (HIDTA)	Fajardo, PR
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
Opioid Initiative	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
St. Croix Major Organization Investigations (HIDTA)	St. Croix, USVI
St. Thomas Major Organization Investigations (HIDTA)	St. Thomas, USVI
Virgin Island 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. In 2024, the HIDTA expanded to include the Opioid Initiative. This initiative became operational January 1, 2024, and is tasked with investigating trafficking organizations responsible for the opioid threat in the region.

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 the 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 (USCG), 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 USVI Prevention Initiative. These programs work with students and schools in the most vulnerable neighborhoods in Puerto Rico and the USVI 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 1,000 law enforcement partners in the use of naloxone.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2024, the Puerto Rico/USVI HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 24 DTOs operating in the region, of which 7 were international, 1 was multi-state, and 16 were local. Two local MLOs were also disrupted or dismantled, for a total of 47 disruptions and dismantlements. The 2024 wholesale value of drugs seized was \$1.6 billion and the value of cash and other drug-related assets were \$9.1 million. In 2024, the ROI for drugs and assets seized totaled \$149.44.

Target				
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
2024	43	\$1.50	\$125.00	1,636
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	24	\$0.87	\$148.57	1,348



Rocky Mountain HIDTA

Designated in 1996

Executive Director – Keith R. Weis

Purpose and Goals

The 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, 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 the following 30 designated areas:

- 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

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
2025	113	\$1.33	\$16.75	199

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, 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, illicit 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 and 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Big Muddy River (Byrne JAG)	Wolf Point, MT
Central Utah Narcotic Task Force (Byrne JAG)	Richfield, UT



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Colorado Criminal Interdiction (HIDTA)	Denver, CO
Colorado Springs Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Colorado Springs, CO
Davis Metro Narcotics Strike Force (HIDTA)	Layton, 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)	Denver, CO
Missoula County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Missoula, MT
Missouri River Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Helena, MT
Montana Criminal Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	Helena, 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
Special Problem Enforcement and Response (HIDTA)	Glenwood Springs, CO
Weld County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Greeley, CO
West Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lakewood, 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
Weber Morgan Narcotics Strike Force (HIDTA)	Ogden, UT
Wyoming Criminal Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	Cheyenne, WY



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Wyoming Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Casper, Gillette, Cheyenne, Powell 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 2024, the Rocky Mountain HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 133 DTOs consisting of 37 international, 49 multi-state, and 47 local organizations. There were six methamphetamine laboratories dismantled in the HIDTA region in 2024. The wholesale value of the drugs removed from the marketplace by the HIDTA initiatives was more than \$159 million, and the cash and assets seized was over \$17 million (\$177.1 million total). The 2024 total ROI for the HIDTA was \$16.20.

Target				
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
2024	116	\$1.58	\$21.74	219
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	133	\$1.64	\$14.56	450



San Diego/Imperial Valley HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Executive Director – David King

Purpose and Goals

The San Diego Imperial 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 2024, border seizures in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas revealed that over 57 percent of cocaine; 37 percent of heroin; 61 percent of methamphetamine; and 52 percent of powder fentanyl are attributed to the San Diego Imperial HIDTA AOR. The HIDTA consists of both San Diego County and Imperial County, which 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 800 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 comprises Imperial and San Diego Counties.

Initiatives

The HIDTA supports 15 initiatives: 8 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
2025	57	\$5.50	\$76.50	252



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 illicit marijuana. In 2024, the HIDTA removed over 64 metric tons of drugs valued at over \$885 million and proceeds worth over \$77.9 million from the profit sheets of DTOs, MLOs, and TCOs. Initiatives focused efforts on major DTOs/MLOs and investigated 106 DTOs/MLOs. Eight DTOs/MLOs were linked to CPOT (or RPOT) level organizations, and 66 DTOs were international in scope. In 2024, 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; an Investigative Support Unit that provides tactical and analytical case support; a Strategic Intelligence Unit for threat intelligence production and strategic planning; and a Critical Infrastructure Protection program that offers products and services to benefit essential facility and first responder awareness of a facility. Also included is a Threat 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, a new Threat Management 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, Chula Vista Police Department, San Diego District Attorney's Office, San Diego Community College Police Department, California National Guard, California Highway Patrol, UCSD Police Department, DHS, DEA, CBP Office of Field Operations, USBP, FBI, and the 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 5 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, the Imperial County Sheriff's Border Crime Suppression Team, the Brawley Investigative Team, the HSI Border Enforcement Security Task Force, the HSI Internet Crimes Against Children, and the HSI HIFCA Money Laundering Task force. The IV-LECC also has office space that includes room for a USAO and District Attorney presence and is hosting office and computer workstations for the HSI 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 2024, the SD-LECC coordinated 119,636 case/subject inquiries and handled event deconfliction for 24,024 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Border Crimes Suppression Team (Southwest Border Recovery Act - DOJ)	San Diego, CA
Combined Border Prosecutions Initiative (HIDTA)	San Diego and Imperial, CA
DEA Narcotic Task Force (DEA and HIDTA) (9 Teams)	San Diego, CA



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
DHS-HSI Border Enforcement Security Teams (4 Teams) (DHS and HIDTA)	San Diego and Imperial, CA
East County Regional Gang Task Force (FBI)	San Diego, CA
High Intensity Financial Crimes Task Force (HSI and HIDTA) (4 Teams)	San Diego, CA
Imperial Valley Drug Coalition (HIDTA) (7 Task Forces under IVDC)	Imperial, CA
Marine Task Force (HIDTA)	San Diego, CA
HIDTA - OCDETF Strike Force (FBI/DEA/HSI)	San Diego, CA
Operation Alliance Joint Task Force (HIDTA) (10 Teams)	San Diego, CA
Operation Citadel (HIDTA) (4 Teams)	San Diego and Imperial, CA
Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (FBI and HIDTA)	San Diego, CA
San Diego/Imperial Counties Law Enforcement Coordination Center	San Diego, CA
San Diego Violent Crime Task Force (HIDTA) (5 Task Forces under SDVCTF)	San Diego and San Marcos, CA

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 24 members/officers – 12 Federal and 12 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 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 2024, the San Diego Imperial HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 54 DTOs/MLOs. Of the 54 DTOs/MLOs dismantled or disrupted, 32 were international, 13 were multi-state, and 9 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$885 million and \$77.9 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$81.99. The ISC provided analytical support to 245 cases and processed 143,660 event and case deconflictions. The HIDTA also provided 47,632 hours of training to 4,732 students.

Target				
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
2024	61	\$2.00	\$78.00	172
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	54	\$6.64	\$75.36	245



South Florida HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Executive Director – Hugo Barrera

Purpose and Goals

The South Florida HIDTA's (SFLHIDTA) mission is to augment the collective efforts of program participants to coordinate Federal, State, and local LEAs to disrupt and dismantle FTOs, DTOs, MLOs, and violent criminal organizations, thereby effectively reducing the illegal drug supply chain in the SFLHIDTA AOR, while directing emphasis on violent criminal organizations and systems that extend harm to others across the SFLHIDTA and the United States. Central to the SFLHIDTA 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 SFLHIDTA uses substance use prevention strategies provided by ADAPT. 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 SFLHIDTA area of operation, focusing on areas that are identified as violent crime communities. The SFLHIDTA works in the prevention and treatment community through its participation in the Overdose Fatality Review Committee coordinated by the Florida Department of Health in Broward County and Palm Beach County's CDC Overdose Data to Action program (OD2A), and the United Way of Broward County Advisory Committee.

With its proximity to the Caribbean and South American narcotics distribution routes, the work of the SFLHIDTA 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 is shared with the USCG 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 nationwide distribution and use.

Strategy

The SFLHIDTA fosters cooperative and effective working relationships among Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies that contribute 807 co-located, full-time personnel who share the common goal to disrupt and dismantle FTOs, DTOs, and MLOs through long-term, multiagency investigations and operations. The HIDTA strategy comprises 44 initiatives that exploit the collective expertise of Federal, State, and local agencies to target multiple regional drug threats identified in the SFLHIDTA threat assessment.

The expansion of multi-HIDTA approaches to identify, disrupt, and dismantle traditional and emerging threats are key aspects of the SFLHIDTA's short- and long-term strategy. The SFLHIDTA 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 SFLHIDTA operates three major task force facilities and numerous onsite task forces located throughout eight counties, as follows: Broward, Collier, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie.

Initiatives

The SFLHIDTA supports 44 initiatives (comprises 40 reporting groups): 39 investigation/interdiction, 1 management and coordination, 1 support, 1 intelligence and information sharing, 1 joint training, and 1 prosecution.

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
2025	55	\$4.98	\$75.00	208

Threat Assessment

The SFLHIDTA AOR is a key United States drug trafficking and money laundering region. Florida is the third border of the United States. 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 FTOs, DTOs, MLOs, and other enterprising criminals.

According to medical examiner data, the drugs that caused the most deaths were fentanyl (4,962), cocaine (2,377), methamphetamine (1,983), ethyl alcohol (5,890), fentanyl analogs (881), amphetamine (860), and oxycodone (448). Occurrences of xylazine increased by 17 percent (79 more), and deaths caused by xylazine increased by 27 percent (72 more).

Cocaine continues to dominate all illicit drug threats in the SFLHIDTA. Cocaine FTOs and DTOs represent the majority of the SFLHIDTA's international and local drug trafficking community. These FTOs and DTOs work in concert with multiethnic, regional, and local poly-drug DTOs to supply State, regional, and national cocaine markets. Most cocaine flow destined for South Florida transits the Caribbean by South American FTOs 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 have seized 377,471 kilograms of cocaine since 2015. With the new closure of the Texas border by the second Trump administration and law enforcement presence in the Atlantic, DTOs/FTOs will seek to maintain their supply chain through the next logical route: the southwest coast of Florida.



The SFLHIDTA 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 have been requested to expand and to incorporate in the SFLHIDTA's AOR to address major intelligence gaps. Left unmonitored, these areas are potential gateways into the region allowing FTOs and or DTOs to smuggle dangerous drugs into the HIDTA AOR.

Increased cocaine used 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 fentanyl and/or xylazine.

The opioid threat is an ongoing challenge for the SFLHIDTA 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. Over the counter naloxone availability has possibly been a factor in 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. With the enforcement action at the border, it can be expected for FTOs to use the Gulf of America and the southwest coast of Florida as an entry point.

South Florida also faces a new emerging threat, a polydrug mixture of ketamine and MDMA, commonly referred to as “pink cocaine” or “Tusi.” “Tusi” combinations have many varieties depending on the source of supply. Recent samples have tested positive for the presence of fentanyl. From 2023 to 2024, evidence submitted to the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory as suspected “pink cocaine” has more than doubled.

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 FTOs are the primary producer and supplier of methamphetamine to the United States. The oversupply of Mexican methamphetamine has caused Mexican FTOs to seek to develop new markets for the drug in areas of the United States where it is not widely used. The proximity of the Yucatan to South Florida offers a logical route these groups could exploit. According to the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS), during 2024, methamphetamine was the most frequently identified drug (299,331 reports), followed by cocaine (170,771 reports), fentanyl (143,876 reports), cannabis/THC (128,713 reports), and xylazine (28,562 reports). These five most frequently identified drugs account for approximately 76 percent of all drug reports, according to NFLIS. Methamphetamine wholesale prices have dropped from \$30,000 per pound in 2009 to approximately \$1,500 per pound in 2024, illustrating the ample availability across the state. 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,



FTOs 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 communities.

Illicit marijuana, CPDs, and new psychoactive substances (NPS), are viewed as secondary drug threats. Florida's medical marijuana program, implemented in 2016, currently serves more than 900,000 Floridians. However, the HIDTA views illicit 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 and sent to Florida are vast.

The threat of CPDs remains a key issue, due particularly to pharmaceutical opioids 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 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, FTOs and DTOs use a spectrum of money laundering schemes to exploit South Florida's trade-based economy. While the anonymity and convenience offered by cryptocurrency has led to its mainstream adoption, the HIDTA considers this a serious global threat as investigative activity indicates that FTOs, DTOs and MLOs are increasingly adopting this digital practice of moving and laundering illicit proceeds.

The massive threat posed by FTOs/DTOs and Chinese sources of supply exploiting parcel delivery services (United States Postal Service, FedEx, UPS, DHL, etc.) is growing exponentially in response to the anonymity and convenience cyber-drug emporiums offer on the dark web. 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. Now common in the SFLHIDTA AOR, violent gangs routinely commit crimes from a computer or smart device, such as identity theft, loan fraud, unemployment check fraud, credit card fraud, and various forms of bank fraud. 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 to fire in automatic mode. This is of great concern to the community and most importantly to law enforcement 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 simulate 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, with the test fired casings 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 HIDTA CGIC offers law enforcement the ability to identify armed violent drug traffickers and the illegal sources of their firearms in a timelier manner. Recently, RAPID DNA, a sample collection device that provides advanced evidence collection on site, was added to the inventory at the HIDTA CGIC.

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 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 HDTAs.

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, and partnering with the Federal Aviation Administration 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Charlie Doce (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Broward County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Plantation, FL
Cobra 13 FBI Group (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Counternarcotic Cyber Investigations Task Force (HIDTA)	Weston, FL
Cocaine Strategy Initiative (HIDTA)	Weston, FL
Financial Investigation Strike Team (HIDTA)	Plantation, FL
Gangs, Guns and Drugs Task Force (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Gang Strike Force (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Global Crime Task Force – Daedalus/Cargo Conspiracy (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Global Crime Task Force – Marine Smuggling (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Global Crime Task Force – Seaport (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Global Crime Task Force – Violent Gang Task Force (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Global Crime Task Force – El Dorado Task Force (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Global Crime Task Force – Miami Airport Parcel Interdiction (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
HIDTA Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	Weston, FL
Key West Drug Trafficking Task Force (HIDTA)	Key West, FL
Major Case Initiative – DEA 41 (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Major Case Initiative – DEA 42 (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Major Case Initiative – DEA 43 (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Major Case Initiative – DEA 44 (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Major Case Initiative – DEA 45 (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Martin County Regional Task Force (HIDTA)	Stuart FL
Miami-Dade Parcel Interdiction Task Force	Miami, FL
Monroe HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Marathon, FL
Operation Top Heavy (HIDTA)	Plantation, FL
Palm Beach County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	West Palm, FL
SAO Human Trafficking Task Force (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
South Florida Financial Crimes Strike Force (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
South Florida Organized Fraud Task Force (HIDTA)	Plantation, FL
Southeast Florida Regional Task Force (HIDTA)	Weston, FL
Southwest Florida Regional Task Force (HIDTA)	Naples, FL
Street Gang and Criminal Organization Task Force (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Street Terror Offender Program Broward County (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Street Terror Offender Program Miami Dade County (HIDTA)	Plantation, FL
Transnational Organized Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Plantation, FL



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Transportation Conspiracy Unit (HIDTA)	Plantation, FL
USAO HIDTA Prosecution (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Initiative (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Violent Crime and Drug Trafficking Organizations (HIDTA)	Miami, FL
Violent Offender Task Force (HIDTA)	Plantation, FL

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 ISC. In 2024, 60 Federal, State, and local LEAs deconflicted their investigations through the ISC.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2024, the South Florida HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 65 DTOs/FTOs, of which 29 were international and 31 were local in scope. Task forces seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$1.2 billion and \$44.4 million in cash and assets for a combined ROI of \$88.50. Furthermore, one of the HIDTA's most vital functions, event deconfliction, prevented 469 "blue on blue" events.

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
2024	64	\$6.00	\$60.00	228
YEAR	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	65	\$3.08	\$85.42	278



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 DTOs 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, multi-state, 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 priorities set by the administration—the HIDTA employs intelligence-driven investigations and interdiction activities targeted at drug transshipments and money laundering. These efforts include extensive systematic follow-up investigations involving intelligence analysis, information sharing, and an aggressive prosecution structure. The HIDTA initiatives are organized into four categories: enforcement; intelligence/investigative support and information sharing; support, training, and prevention; and 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, as follows: 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

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
2025	103	\$3.00	\$40.00	610

Threat Assessment

The HIDTA is a significant transshipment corridor for synthetic opioids, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and other illegal drugs, and human trafficking. Although illicit marijuana continues to be smuggled from Mexico in significantly diminished quantities, the primary and most perilous threats are methamphetamine, cocaine, THC, fentanyl, and heroin/synthetic opioids and the organizations that distribute them. Ingress and egress routes are utilized to repatriate illicit proceeds back to Mexico. The HIDTA consists of 15 counties, 13 of which are situated along the Southwest Border. These counties represent 50 percent of the Texas portion of the United States-Mexico border. Seventeen of the 25 POEs in Texas 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 Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), Cartel del Noreste, Cartel del Golfo, Sinaloa Cartel, Guerreros Unidos, the Beltran-Leyva Organization, and other DTOs/MLOs continue 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-by-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.

The Executive Director of the South Texas HIDTA serves as a co-chair for the Southwest Region Integration and Coordination Plan designed under the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for the sharing of information among a multitude of agencies for the protection of national security during crisis situations. The South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Coordinator serves as a member of this group's steering committee formulated to increase communications among partners in 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.



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Amistad Intelligence Center (HIDTA)	Del Rio, TX
Austin Area HIDTA Task Force	Austin, TX
BEST Task Forces, Immigration and Custom Enforcement (DHS)	Laredo, Webb County; Harlingen, Cameron County, TX
Brownsville HIDTA Task Force	Brownsville, TX
DEA Funded Task Forces (DEA)	San Antonio, Bexar County, TX
Del Rio HIDTA Task Force	Del Rio, TX
Eagle Pass HIDTA Task Force	Eagle Pass, TX
Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force	Edinburg, TX
Joint Task Force – West	San Antonio, Bexar County; McAllen, Hidalgo County; Brownsville, Cameron County Laredo, Webb County Eagle Pass, Maverick County, TX
Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)	San Antonio, Bexar County; McAllen, Hidalgo County; Brownsville, Cameron County; Laredo, Webb County, TX
Laredo DEA HIDTA Task Force	Laredo, TX
Laredo Intelligence Support Center (HIDTA)	Laredo, TX
Laredo Police Department/HSI HIDTA Task Force	Laredo, TX
McAllen DEA HIDTA Task Force	McAllen, TX
McAllen HSI HIDTA Task Force	McAllen, TX
McAllen DPS HIDTA Task Force	McAllen, TX
OCDETF Strike Force (DOJ)	Laredo, McAllen, and San Antonio, Bexar County, TX
Rio Grande Valley HIDTA TF	McAllen, TX
Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	San Antonio, Bexar County; McAllen, Hidalgo County; Brownsville, Cameron County; Laredo, Webb County, TX
San Antonio DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	San Antonio, TX
San Antonio HSI HIDTA Task Force	San Antonio, TX
San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force	San Antonio, TX
South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center	San Antonio, TX
Starr County HIDTA Task Force	Rio Grande City, TX
STX HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative	San Antonio, TX
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Austin, TX
Unified Narcotics Intelligence Task Force (HIDTA)	Brownsville, TX
White Sands HIDTA Task Force	Brownsville, TX



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 HDTAs. Many of the attendees are non-LEAs such as the Texas National Guard, USCG, and military personnel from the Department of War'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 92 counties in South Texas. Over 97 Federal, State, and local agencies received deconfliction support through the HIDTA ISC.²⁹ 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 HDTAs 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.

In 2009, the HIDTA created the Gateway/Destination Information Sharing meeting with the intent of joining ongoing investigations from the HDTAs along the Southwest Border (Gateway) to other HDTAs (Destination) across the United States. Past meetings have resulted in numerous investigations being linked affecting numerous states, the solving of several murders, arrests of fugitives, and the sharing of trends and patterns. The Gateway/Destination Information Sharing meeting has been recognized as a best practice.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2024, the South Texas HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 94 DTOs/MLOs –71 percent of its target of 133. Of the 94 DTOs/MLOs dismantled or disrupted, 49 were international, 5 were multi-state, and 40 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$554 million and \$19 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$57.51. The total drug seizure breakdown included 18,057 kilograms of all forms of methamphetamine, 5,593 kilograms of cocaine, 58 kilograms of powdered fentanyl and 1,711,583 fentanyl dosage units, 7,342 kilograms of marijuana and 21,032 vaping cartridges containing THC, and 139 kilograms of heroin. The ISCs provided analytical support to 623 cases and processed 16,386 event and 15,225 case/subject deconflictions resulting in 41 DTO/MLO Deconflictions/Matches. The HIDTA provided 29,393 hours of training to 4,290 students.³⁰



Target				
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
2024	133	\$4.00	\$56.00	649
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	94	\$1.95	\$55.56	623



Texoma HIDTA

Designated in 1998

Executive Director – Keith Brown

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the Texoma HIDTA is to identify, invest in, and support law enforcement programs and efforts that make its communities and citizens safer and improve the quality of life for the people of North Texas and Oklahoma. To accomplish this goal, the Texoma HIDTA focuses on the identification, implementation, training, and support of law enforcement efforts designed to combat the harms of drug trafficking, violent crime, and drug overdoses in North Texas and Oklahoma. The Texoma HIDTA accomplishes this goal by funding and supporting efforts to identify, target, and eliminate drug trafficking and violent crime organizations. The Texoma HIDTA also strives to identify and bridge gaps that allow for successful partnership between public safety, public health, education, community, and other organizations to reduce the dreadful impacts of drug overdoses in its communities.

Strategy

The staff of the Texoma HIDTA, with general oversight and direction provided by the Executive Board of the Texoma HIDTA, works constantly to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate effective law enforcement initiatives and programs that best accomplish the goals of increasing safety for the citizens of North Texas and Oklahoma, and reducing the significant harm caused by drug trafficking, violent crime, and associated criminal activity. The HIDTA strives to identify gaps, provide solutions, and measure the performance of those solutions and their return on investment in a constant cycle to ensure that the funding received by the Texoma HIDTA is best applied to achieve the goals of the national HIDTA program generally, and the specific goals of the Texoma HIDTA. As currently structured, the Texoma HIDTA focuses on these principal areas:

- **Successful Law Enforcement Task Forces** – The Texoma HIDTA invests the vast majority of its resources into funding, coordinating, and supporting 28 separate law enforcement task forces in North Texas and Oklahoma. Led by various Federal law enforcement agencies, these task forces broadly focus on one of four primary enforcement areas: drug trafficking, violent crime, fugitive apprehensions, or financial crime, with significant crossover between groups. The Texoma HIDTA constantly evaluates the performance of these task forces and strives to identify ways to improve enforcement outcomes and effectiveness, to leverage resources to greater effect, and to improve collaboration between law enforcement agencies and entities.
- **Tactical Intelligence Support** – The Texoma HIDTA recognizes the importance of intelligence collection and analysis in effective law enforcement operations and initiatives, and strives to provide embedded tactical intelligence support to State and local drug and gang units in the Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) Metroplex that lack sufficient tactical intelligence support within their agency. Currently, the Texoma HIDTA funds six



embedded case support analysts to support investigations by six separate Texoma HIDTA initiatives led by DEA, FBI, and the USPIS. These analysts are assigned to their respective initiatives in PMP for budgeting and performance management, not to the Texoma HIDTA Regional Intelligence Center. In addition, using the extremely limited resources of the Texoma HIDTA Regional Intelligence Watch Center, efforts are made to support State and local drug and violent crime investigations in agencies with little or no intelligence support of their own.

- **Target and Event Deconfliction** – The deconfliction of investigative targets and events is one of the most critical tasks normally undertaken by the HIDTA program, and it is an obligation taken seriously by the Texoma HIDTA. The Texoma HIDTA employs three intelligence analysts who has, as one of their primary duties, performs investigative target and operational event deconflictions in the DFW Metroplex. In addition, the Texoma HIDTA funds one analyst position for the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) to coordinate all investigative target and enforcement event deconfliction for the State of Oklahoma.
- **Training** – The Texoma HIDTA provides training to hundreds of law enforcement officers per year in North Texas and Oklahoma each year. During the past two years, the Texoma HIDTA has begun to survey initiatives, State and local task forces, and law enforcement leadership to identify training gaps and design specific courses to address specific needs such as Social Media Exploitation, Cash App Investigations (in partnership with the IRS and USPIS), Drug Overdose Death Investigations (in partnership with DEA), Basic Narcotics Investigations (in partnership with DEA), Crime Gun Investigations (in partnership with ATF), Advanced Drug Investigations (in partnership with DEA), and other relevant law enforcement training. In addition, the Texoma HIDTA conducts training of both law enforcement, public health, and educational organizations to attempt to better prepare professionals from multiple disciplines to better address the overdose crisis in the United States.
- **Overdose Reduction** – The Texoma HIDTA and its Executive Board recognize the terrible damage being done to the United States by drug overdose deaths. The Texoma HIDTA strives to support a broad-based attack on the overdose threat through its law enforcement and intelligence programs, through its law enforcement and public health training efforts, and through efforts to bridge gaps between law enforcement, public health, education and community partners, and the public at large.

Location

The HIDTA's main office is located in Irving, Texas in a 35,000 square foot facility funded jointly by the Texoma HIDTA and the Texas Anti-Gang Task Force (a State entity similar in nature to HIDTA). This facility houses nine HIDTA initiatives, two Texas Department of Public Safety Gang groups, the Texoma HIDTA training room, and the Texoma HIDTA ISC, along with the HIDTA staff.

The HIDTA comprises the following designated areas:



- Texas: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Lubbock, Navarro, Parker, Potter, Randall, Rockwall, Smith, and Tarrant
- Oklahoma: Canadian, Cleveland, Comanche, McIntosh, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Pittsburg, Sequoyah, and Tulsa

Initiatives

The HIDTA supports 32 investigative initiatives, 1 management and coordination initiative, 3 intelligence initiatives, a training initiative, an overdose reduction initiative, and an operational support 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
2025	100	\$6.58	\$56.52	236

Threat Assessment

Drug trafficking, money laundering, and violent crime associated with drug trafficking remains a substantial threat to the populations served by the Texoma HIDTA. Fentanyl generated the largest number of overdoses throughout the entire Texoma HIDTA region during 2024. Specifically, in the DFW Metroplex and Oklahoma AOR, fentanyl was identified as the most significant threat to public safety followed by methamphetamine as the second most significant. In east and west Texas, methamphetamine was identified as the most significant threat, with fentanyl as the second most significant. Drug seizure data demonstrated a significant amount of methamphetamine and fentanyl seized in 2024, supporting these overall threat measures. The initiatives of the Texoma HIDTA seized 3,375 kilograms of methamphetamine, 127 kilograms of fentanyl powder and 1,178,683 dosage units of fentanyl tablets.

DFW and Oklahoma City metropolitan areas continue to serve as a major transshipment point and distribution hub for wholesale amounts of illicit drugs and bulk cash currency generated from DTOs illicit activities. Businesses and private residences within the DFW area are being utilized by Mexican cartels as a hub to store, repackage, and prepare illicit drugs, currency, and weapons destined for other parts of the country.

In addition to Mexican DTOs, prison gangs in Oklahoma correctional facilities continue to pose a serious threat to the safety of inmates, correctional staff, and the general public. The Universal Aryan Brotherhood (UAB), identified as the most violent prison gang, utilize Mexican contacts made in prison to participate in drug trafficking and criminal operations, sourced by cartels operating out of Sinaloa or Matamoros, Mexico.



Almost half of the HIDTA survey respondents reported that drug trafficking, drug use, and associated crime activity significantly contributed to the violent crime in their jurisdiction. According to ATF Dallas Crime Gun Intelligence Center, auto sears aka “Glock Switches” or “Machine Gun Conversion Devices” are often used in furtherance of drug trafficking activities or violent gangs whose activities are mainly funded by illicit narcotic sales.

Intelligence Initiatives

The HIDTA Regional ISC (RISC) is a small cadre of Texoma HIDTA intelligence personnel supported by DEA and the Texas National Guard. Due to its limited budget and personnel, the RISC focuses primarily on ensuring target and event deconfliction for law enforcement in the DFW Metroplex, and well as supporting smaller law enforcement agencies which lack intelligence resources by providing tactical intelligence support. As currently structured due to budgetary constraints, other than the required annual Texoma HIDTA Threat Assessment, the Texoma HIDTA has no strategic intelligence program and produces no strategic intelligence products. The Texoma HIDTA RISC is supervised by the Deputy Director of the Texoma HIDTA.

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 OBN and the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. These analysts provide a host of intelligence support to law enforcement agencies in Oklahoma, with a particular emphasis on intelligence gathering from within the correctional facilities of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, as well as providing broad based intelligence support to multiple Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies across the State of Oklahoma.

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.



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
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 (FBI)	Dallas, TX
DEA HIDTA Group 3 (HIDTA)	Irving, TX

Task Force Coordination

The initiatives of the Texoma HIDTA are comprised 676 law enforcement participants from 128 Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies. 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 2024, the Texoma HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 97 DTOs. Of the DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 22 were international, 21 were multi-state, and 54 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$686 million and \$34.1 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$178.19. The HIDTA apprehended 7,635 felony fugitives, of which 961 had drug charges. The ISC provided analytical support to 303 cases and processed 9,917 event deconflictions with help from its partners. The HIDTA provided 20,485 hours of training to 1,264 students.



Target				
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
2024	81	\$8.42	\$43.10	637
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	97	\$8.44	\$169.75	303



Washington/Baltimore HIDTA

Designated in 1994

Executive Director – Jeff Beeson

Purpose and Goals

The 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, drug treatment, and prevention organizations. Currently, 159 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 case management and deconfliction system designed for law enforcement with over 1,250 current users in the HIDTA region and over 5,800 users nationwide. The Communications Analysis Portal (CAP) assists LEAs in sharing, organizing, and identifying sources of supply by deconflicting phone numbers, a critical component of drug investigations.

The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA also developed and oversees two initiatives that are funded by ONDCP using HIDTA discretionary funds that support priority efforts nationwide. ODMAP 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 in order to save lives. ADAPT operationalizes and supports 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.³¹

The HIDTA also developed and houses the PMP, a data-driven process and system that measures the HIDTA performance nationally. This robust data set offers an opportunity to evaluate the



program's performance and inform its strategic investments. The HIDTA integrated the Power BI platform, offered through Microsoft, within the PMP process and launched Power PMP. The Power PMP system harnesses traditional performance measures through the model providing HIDTA leadership the ability to make informed, data-driven decisions. The updated system is designed to improve management and oversight from the HIDTA leadership and Executive Board level and enhance reporting for ONDCP.

Location

The HIDTA comprises the following designated 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, Loudoun, Prince George, Prince William, Roanoke, and Warren counties, and the Cities of Alexandria, Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke and Virginia Beach
- West Virginia: Berkeley, Jefferson, and Mineral counties

Initiatives

The HIDTA supports 71 initiatives: 42 investigative, 11 treatment, 3 prevention, 3 management, 3 resource, 2 information technology, 2 training, 2 prosecution, 1 network support, 1 intelligence, and 1 technical support.

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
2025	121	\$1.50	\$4.50	248

Threat Assessment

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, DTOs are receiving drugs directly from abroad, such as China, India, and Europe. 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.

The primary drug threats in the HIDTA region are fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, and illicit marijuana. According to HIDTA seizure data, the total amount and quantity of fentanyl seizures has continued to increase over the past five years. According to the Maryland Department of Health's new Overdose Data Portal, during the time period of March to December 2024 there were 1,030 overdose deaths from fentanyl and almost 6,600 emergency department visits due to suspected opioid overdose in Maryland. Additionally, counterfeit M30 oxycodone pills containing fentanyl remain a significant problem in the region. The vast majority of law enforcement and public health partners reported the availability of fentanyl higher this year over the previous year and data indicate fentanyl is responsible for the largest percentage of overdose deaths.

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 over 80 million passenger boardings;
- two international seaports: the ports of Baltimore and Virginia both have multiple facilities across the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA region.
- almost 100 Amtrak trains passing through the HIDTA region on a daily basis, carrying approximately 5 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.

Intelligence Initiatives

The HIDTA facilitates information sharing among all regional drug task forces with the ISC. The ISC provides analytical support and routinely distributes intelligence products throughout the criminal justice community. The ISC holds monthly analyst roundtable meetings to support information sharing across Federal, State, and local agencies. The HIDTA collaborates event deconfliction activities with the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) for 24/7 availability across the region.

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 the Case Explorer system for case and event deconfliction. 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.

In the spring of 2024, HIDTA directors agreed that it would be a benefit for law enforcement to expand beyond event deconfliction seamlessly within the systems. As a result, software engineers from Case Explorer and the RISS program initiated a proof of concept to deconflict investigative case data, to include subjects. The partnership has proven successful, and the Nationwide Case Coordination System (NCCS) officially launched in July 2025, strengthening nationwide investigations.

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, the ISC ensures that all HIDTA law enforcement initiatives have the necessary analytical support to further investigations. Agencies within the AOR are solicited annually to provide information about the regional drug threats in the HIDTA Threat Assessment Survey. The HIDTA manages the Communication Analysis Portal (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. The ISC deployed PenLink PLX in 2019 which provides analytical capabilities to exploit communication data for 206 users across 39 different Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies. In addition, the system is directly connected to 28 other law enforcement agencies and 9 other HIDTAs across the Nation to find case overlap.

The HIDTA's ISC works closely with regional state executives across different disciplines to provide law enforcement intelligence. This information is used to help the jurisdictions 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 data 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
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
Major Drug Traffickers Initiative (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
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



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Prince George's Safe Streets Initiative (HIDTA)	Cheverly, MD
Richmond Area Violent Enterprise Task Force (FBI)	Richmond, VA
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
Transnational Violent Crime Initiative (HIDTA)	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 2024, the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 122 DTOs and MLOs. Sixty-three percent of the DTOs and MLOs disrupted or dismantled were part of an international or multi-state operation, and 12 percent were part of an OCDETF-designated investigation. Moving forward, the HIDTA anticipates similar support from HSTF. Seizures of drugs, cash, and other drug-related assets resulted in a ROI of \$4.29. Cash seizures totaled over \$11 million, and the combined value of illegal drugs, cash, and other assets seized was over \$53 million.



Target				
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
2024	120	\$1.75	\$6.25	298
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	122	\$1.17	\$3.13	293



West Texas HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Executive Director – Travis Kuykendall

Purpose and Goals

The 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 from El Paso. The region shares 520 miles of border with Mexico and comprises the following designated 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
2025	42	\$0.55	\$8.00	915

Threat Assessment

The West Texas HIDTA comprises 12 counties that make up the AOR, covering 32,207 square miles and over 520 miles of the United States’ border with Mexico. El Paso, Texas, stands on the Rio Grande River across from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, the two largest cities on the Texas-Mexico border. The City of El Paso, the most populous city in West Texas, lies at the intersection of three states (Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua). The City of El Paso also sits along Interstate 10, which has connections to Interstates 20 and 25.



The West Texas HIDTA area of concern continues to be the area's use as a transshipment and distribution hub of narcotics from Mexico into the United States; however, both fentanyl and methamphetamine remain in the El Paso region, as reflected in previous threat assessments since 2019. The threat is also based on an increase in overdose deaths involving fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine. The West Texas HIDTA, based upon emerging narcotics threats, concludes the following order of narcotic threat in the region: fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, illicit marijuana, and other opioids.

Fentanyl continues to remain the greatest threat in the West Texas HIDTA region due not only to it being manufactured by DTOs as powder, counterfeit pills, and multi-drug mixtures, but also because of the addition of new and usually unknown adulterants and additives. Mexican DTOs continue to race against Mexican authorities to create and manufacture new chemical precursors not yet on Mexico's controlled substance list to enhance their fentanyl products. A majority of mixed drug overdoses in the West Texas HIDTA included fentanyl. As deadly as it is alone, fentanyl is being mixed with other drugs—whether to increase the potency or not—and can inevitably cause overdoses to unsuspecting drug users.

Cocaine moved up to the second greatest major threat in the West Texas HIDTA region. Mexican DTOs regulate the wholesale distribution of most cocaine products in West Texas HIDTA. There was a downward trend in all total cocaine charges. However, there was an 11.26 percent increase in possession charges of 4 grams or less. Moreover, there was a slight increase of 5.56 percent in single-drug cocaine overdose deaths for El Paso County and a 40 percent increase in Ector County. It should be noted that the price of cocaine has steadily decreased over time, making it more easily attainable.

Methamphetamine moved down as the third greatest threat in West Texas HIDTA. Although it has moved down on the threat level, West Texas HIDTA still considers methamphetamine to be a serious drug threat to the AOR. There was a 35.71 percent decrease in single-drug methamphetamine overdose deaths (18 deaths) and 17 overdose deaths attributed to methamphetamine laced with fentanyl for 2024 in El Paso County.

THC/Marijuana is the fourth threat in the West Texas HIDTA region. Consumers in West Texas HIDTA find it easily accessible to purchase THC and marijuana from nearby New Mexico dispensaries. However, there is a noted preference for similar products from Colorado and California because of better quality, according to survey responses for 2025.

Other Opiates (including Heroin) is the fifth most significant threat in West Texas HIDTA. Overall, heroin drug charges decreased. However, there was a 126 percent increase in personal heroin charges (4 grams or less). Spice/K2, MDMA, and prescription opioid drug charges continue to be an issue in West Texas HIDTA. Prescription opioid charges increased by 47 percent in 2024 compared to 2023.

West Texas HIDTA will continue to remain a key Southwest Border strategic transit corridor for the trafficking of various narcotics, destined for major metropolitan cities throughout the central and eastern United States. The West Texas HIDTA anticipates an influx (through local POEs) of legal precursor chemicals used in the production of fentanyl within the United States. Due to the synthetic nature of the illicit narcotics market, the ability for the manufacturers to change their



substance composition and method of manufacture based upon enforcement actions is now the norm.

The West Texas HIDTA will continue to remain an increasingly important corridor for Mexican cartels to continue smuggling large amounts of methamphetamine and fentanyl through local ports of entry. However, it is anticipated that drug amount seizures (weight) could exceed the numbers seen for 2024; In part, the anticipation of greater narcotics trafficking activities and potentially greater violence south of our borders may be the result of attempting to mitigate the loss of revenue from human trafficking, which was so lucrative in the past four years.

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 and 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, the Texas 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.



FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Alpine Multiagency Task Force (HIDTA)	Alpine, TX
BEST (ICE)	El Paso, TX
Big Bend HIDTA Initiative (HIDTA)	Marfa, TX
Border Corruption Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso, TX
Cross Border Violence Group (DEA/FBI)	El Paso, TX
El Paso Multiagency Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso, TX
El Paso Strike Force (OCDETF)	El Paso, TX
Enterprise Money Laundering Initiative (HIDTA)	El Paso, TX
Fentanyl Overdose Response Team (HIDTA)	El Paso, TX
Permian Basin Multiagency Task Force (HIDTA)	Midland, TX
Source City Metro Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso, TX
Transportation Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso, TX
West Texas Anti-Gang Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso, TX
West Texas Anti-Smuggling Initiative (HIDTA)	El Paso, TX
West Texas Fugitive/Violent Offender Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso, TX

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, coordinates activities with DHS's Unified Command structure and the State funded Texas Anti-Gang Center in El Paso.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2024, the West Texas HIDTA initiatives dismantled or disrupted 35 DTOs; of those: 18 were international in scope, 3 were multi-state, and 14 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$78 million and \$4.7 million in cash and assets, for a total Return on Investment of \$9 for every HIDTA dollar spent. The HIDTA provided analytical



support to 899 cases, processed 9,574 event and case deconflictions, and provided 8,401 hours of training to 659 students.

Target				
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
2024	47	\$0.60	\$12.00	663
Actual				
Year	DTOs Disrupted/ Dismantled	Return on Investment: Assets	Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Provided Analytical Support
2024	35	\$0.52	\$8.48	899



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.³²

The NHAC's grant is organized into six initiatives under the direction of the NHAC's Director with oversight from the HIDTA Directors Committee (HDC). The initiatives are: Management and Coordination, Financial Management, Media and Technology, Training, and the two national initiatives, NSAI and ORS.³³

The Management and Coordination initiative provides administrative support to all 33 HIDTAs, the HDC, and interfaces with ONDCP to carry out their mission in alignment with the priorities set by the Administration. The Financial Management initiative supports the FMS software, including maintenance of records for grant transactions conducted through that platform. The NHAC also provides invoice review functions for the National HIDTA Program under a separate contract with ONDCP. The Media and Technology initiative develops and delivers technological support that includes managing the FMS, the HIDTA Resource Management System (HRMS), the Clearance Management System (CMS), the HIDTA Online Training Tracking (HOTT), HIDTAprogram.org, NHAC.org, and providing cybersecurity services to all regional HIDTAs. In addition, the initiative provides graphics, videos, mapping, and other services as requested by the HIDTAs nationwide. The Training initiative plans and executes national HIDTA meetings and conferences, and develops and implements HIDTA-specific training.

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 three national initiatives (DHE, DTAG, and MIG) under one program has improved oversight and the ability to orient them to respond to emergent national threats and support the Administration's goals and priorities.



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 2024, HDTAs budgeted \$57.8 million for intelligence and information sharing to support 53 operational intelligence and information sharing initiatives. Each ISC capitalizes on the combined resources of the Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial 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 2024, HIDTA ISCs processed more than 290,236 event deconfliction requests submitted by LEAs, along with more than 975,256 case/subject/target deconfliction requests. During the same year, 3,928 law enforcement agencies participated in HIDTA case coordination, and 3,169 law enforcement agencies participated in officer safety efforts. More than 30,039 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 2024, the HIDTA Program supported training for more than 104,698 officers, agents, analysts, and support staff on drug-related subjects across all HIDTA regions. Results of 2-month follow-up surveys consistently indicate that 97 percent of respondents find that the courses improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities pertaining to the subject matter.

National Strategic Analysis Initiative

Uniting nationwide HIDTA initiatives under NSAI allows for resource-sharing and greater collaboration that facilitate the success of its three functional groups, as described below.



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, tribal, and territorial law enforcement resources with multiple Federal agencies and, where appropriate, collaborates with international partners such as Canadian law enforcement. The investigation collaboration also includes non-highway smuggling transportation modalities such as air, marine, rail, and package as part of an “all crimes, all threats, all hazards” approach. The DHE effort is organized by major public transportation corridors.

DHE’s major partners include EPIC, DHS, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and National Guard support elements. 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 regular collaborative web meetings known as DHE Corridor Calls. DHE, in conjunction with HSIN, also facilitates engagement with the scientific law enforcement community through the Scientific Trend Open Exchange (STONE) 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. DOT’s 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 broader DHE community. The DHE initiative also facilitates communication through national and regional information sharing meetings, such as the annual DHE Conference. It is implementing a strategic plan and an interdiction Code of Conduct 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 policy guidance for technology such as Automated License Plate Readers as a resource for real-time information sharing. The NHAC supports the DHE initiative by organizing the DHE nationwide meetings and provides day-to-day technical support.

Drug Threat Analysis Group

DTAG provides clear and concise insights to the HIDTA Program, ONDCP, and other key stakeholders through the systematic analysis of current and emerging drug trends. DTAG supports a coordinated HIDTA strategy for emerging drug-related threats, and is a poly-drug national trends, intelligence, and best practices-sharing initiative that addresses all aspects of the illicit drug supply, including the diversion of legal drugs. DTAG identifies rising drug risks and patterns, and responds to emerging threats by promoting cooperation among public safety and public health officials, regulators, treatment providers, and entities supplying education and prevention services.

DTAG is a dedicated team of experts who collect and analyze data and produce insights and products that guide policymakers and operationalize policy actions to respond to current and



emerging drug threats. The team is arrayed to disseminate and communicate information quickly and relevantly. As such, annually, DTAG generates products and presents briefs and presentations that enable the 33 HIDTA regions and partners to understand, meet, evolve with, and overcome these threats.

DTAG supports the HDTAs, and a range of Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies, and non-governmental partners. DTAG routinely coordinates with, accepts data from, and disseminates products to a range of partners across the United States. This network of partners makes DTAG invaluable to other agencies and connects partner agencies to ONDCP and the HIDTA regions. DTAG works with regional HDTAs, law enforcement, public health, treatment, and other entities to develop measures and establish an innovative methodology to analyze and identify emerging trends.

Marijuana Impact Group

The MIG, formerly known as the National Marijuana Initiative (NMI), is a HIDTA initiative under the National Strategic Analysis Initiative (NSAI). The MIG strengthens the operational capabilities of the 33 HDTAs nationwide in executing Drug Policy Priorities, with a primary focus on disrupting and dismantling domestic marijuana trafficking and production networks and reducing demand for marijuana and its derivatives. The MIG supports this mission by enhancing intelligence-sharing and coordination of law enforcement operations targeting DTOs involved in violence, human trafficking, money laundering, and other criminal enterprises; addressing the environmental destruction associated with illegal marijuana cultivation, including water diversion, hazardous waste, and public land degradation; supporting prevention and treatment strategies that reduce criminal exploitation and drug abuse; and providing policymakers with expert guidance grounded in current research, statutory developments, and public safety considerations.

The MIG achieves the above by:

- providing coordination, consultation, and guidance in implementing the Administration's strategic objectives related to marijuana,
- facilitating the sharing informational, operational, and strategic intelligence to enhance public safety, health, and welfare through evidence-based policy development,
- improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the HIDTA Program in carrying out the objectives of disrupting illicit supply,
- convening enforcement, medical, and scientific expertise to support local, regional, and national objectives of the HIDTA program through training, information exchange, and sharing, and
- operating a public-facing unclassified website with information, evidence-based research, and educational materials.

Public Health/Public Safety Framework Efforts

ONDCP and the HIDTA Program seek a balanced and comprehensive approach to address drug-related threats. This 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 SUD 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: ODMAP, naloxone training and distribution, ORS, and the HIDTA National Prevention Strategy, including ADAPT.

ODMAP

Recognizing the importance of real-time data for saving lives, in 2016, the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA developed the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP). ODMAP is a web-based system that provides cross-jurisdictional, near real-time suspected overdose event data to public safety and public health agencies, enabling them to mobilize responses to overdoses as quickly as practically possible. The system collects data directly from public health and safety agencies (e.g., EMS and law enforcement), which can then be seen on the national map. The system additionally offers additional data layers, built-in analytics, and spike alerts.

To better assist users, ODMAP released two new features to assist agencies in their overdose response, reduction, and prevention efforts, including the Naloxone Saturation Layer. This layer, launched in spring 2024, looks at the amount of publicly available naloxone and displays the county's saturation status on the national map. To date, there are 10 states, the District of Columbia, 2 individual counties, and the City of Chicago reporting the number of naloxone kits to ODMAP. Additionally, ODMAP released the Tribal Nations Layer, which allows users to now filter the data and analytics based on a reservation.

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. To date, more than 5,5470 agencies from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have entered more than 3.01 million suspected overdoses into ODMAP. States have realized the importance of using these data in support of their response efforts. Thirty-five states and the District of Columbia have initiated a statewide ODMAP strategy. Of those states, 28 have connected overdose data from their respective data systems with ODMAP through an application program interface, offering the most comprehensive and timely data sharing. ODMAP remains the only nationwide near-real-time overdose tracking system to support life-saving overdose response efforts.

ADAPT

In 2024, ADAPT provided universal technical assistance to all 33 HIDTAs in the forms of a National HIDTA Prevention Summit focused on school-based prevention, a winter prevention messaging campaign titled "Mind the Message: Beyond the Basics," a workshop to support application of prevention messaging best practices, two technical webinars on foundational



prevention strategies, and the release of three new tools to support prevention efforts in HIDTA communities. The new tools translated prevention science into guidance for a variety of school-based prevention topics including:

- School-based prevention systems and opportunities for schools to collaborate with community partners to build capacity for prevention activities
- Support for schools and community partners in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of a social norms centered media campaign in middle, junior, and high school settings
- Resources for educators, school administrators, law enforcement, parents, policymakers, and other community partners on engaging with schools to help prevent youth from using and overdosing on opioids, including fentanyl

ADAPT made all resources publicly available through its [Prevention Intervention Resource Center](#), and housed all Summit and webinar presentations on its [YouTube channel](#), which has received over 16,000 views and 180,000 minutes of view time.

Over the course of 2024 ADAPT provided individual technical assistance to communities in 30 HIDTAs and completed 117 technical assistance requests to support HIDTAs and their communities in identifying, implementing, and evaluating evidence-based substance use prevention activities. The annual HIDTA Prevention Summit hosted by ADAPT and the National HIDTA Program attracted more than 2,000 registrants and focused on key principles and pillars for school-based prevention and strategies for building capacity to implement evidence-based programming. Eighty-five percent of evaluation respondents felt more confident in identifying opportunities to support school-based prevention, and 79 percent left the event feeling more confident in implementing a social norms media campaign, two key goals of the Summit.

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.³⁴

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 2025, ONDCP allocated \$15.4 million in discretionary funding to projects designed to further support the *National Drug Control Strategy* through the following categories:

- reduce overdose deaths;
- 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. The process entails:

- review of expenditures charged to HIDTA grants (invoice review);
- financial audits of HIDTA grantees performed by a certified public accounting firm;
- performance-related audits conducted by an independent performance auditor;
- data privacy and cybersecurity; 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*.

Invoice Review

ONDCP contracts the Monroe County Sheriff's Office to oversee the regular expenditures of all State and local grant funds and maintain records for all grant transactions through the NHAC's financial management system (FMS) software. In 2024, as part of efforts to enhance financial management of HIDTA funding, the HIDTA Program transitioned from FMS to the Grants Management Tool and the Financial Administration for the HIDTA (FAH) platform. Starting with the FY2025 award cycle, HIDTA funding will be managed in FAH. FMS will remain active until grant awards for FY2024 and older are closed.

With the launch of the Grants Management System and FAH, ONDCP began efforts to streamline the reimbursement review process. ONDCP worked with GrantSolutions to build an electronic process within FAH to achieve savings of time and increase output. This overall effort



seeks to 1) create standardization methods that account for people, processes, and technology; and 2) implement a system with electronic capabilities to mitigate against human error and significantly improve the efficiency of the reimbursement process.

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 2024, audits of nine grantees were conducted for the Arizona, Central Florida, Houston, Midwest, North Central, Ohio, Oregon-Idaho, South Florida, and Washington/Baltimore HDTAs. Recommendations were addressed by the grantees and the HDTAs. There were nine findings for three of the nine 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 HDTAs' reports. Each year, performance audit results are assembled to determine the general effectiveness of the HIDTA Program and the accuracy of reported data. ONDCP reviews these audit reports and ensures that findings are addressed and required corrective actions are implemented. In 2024, performance audits were conducted on the Appalachia, Central Florida, Chicago, Hawaii, New Mexico, New York/New Jersey, North Florida, Michigan, South Florida, Texoma, and West Texas HDTAs. The auditors determined that all of the 11 HDTAs audited were operating in compliance with the HIDTA PPBG and the PMP User Guide. Auditors noted seven HDTAs with exceptions (findings), which formed the basis for improvements to policy and internal controls. Recommendations from these audits have been addressed by the HDTAs.

Data Privacy and Cybersecurity

Following a baseline assessment of databases and data systems owned, operated, or maintained by regional HDTAs and the National HIDTA Assistance Center, ONDCP contracted with a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) to 1) determine whether HIDTA databases and data systems are operating in compliance with federal privacy and cybersecurity laws, regulations, and policies, and 2) develop concrete recommendations for requirements for



data privacy and data security tailored to the needs of the regional HIDTAs and the NHAC. In 2024, phase two of the FFRDC assessment was completed, and a cybersecurity specialist supporting all regional HIDTAs was hired by the National HIDTA Assistance Center. ONDCP is working to incorporate recommendations gleaned from the assessment into the HIDTA PPBG.

Programmatic Reviews

ONDCP regularly undertakes programmatic reviews of regional HIDTAs. The review process is designed to provide the National HIDTA Program comprehensive awareness of the management, operation, and performance of the HIDTAs and assurance that HIDTA management adheres to ONDCP guidance, and funding is invested in effective activities that directly support the Administration’s “Statement of Drug Policy Priorities.”

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 National HIDTA Program can support regional 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 HIDTAs for the benefit of the entire program. In 2024, no program reviews were conducted.

HIDTA Designation

In 2025, the HIDTA Program designated two counties as follows:

- Indiana HIDTA: St. Joseph County, Indiana
- Texoma HIDTA: Rogers 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 multi-state 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 to support Homeland Security Task Forces efforts across the country.



Notes

¹ HIDTA Program data are not finalized until several months after the end of the program (calendar) year. Thus, achievements for 2024 will not be available until mid-2025. The program targets reported throughout this document are based upon an average of actual outputs for the previous three complete program years. For example, all 2024 targets are based upon an average of the actual outputs for the years 2021 through 2023.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ DTAG staff were formerly part of the National Emerging Threat Initiative (NETI).

⁷ MIG staff were formerly part of the National Marijuana Initiative (NMI).

⁸ Additional information about the NSAI's functional groups is available at www.hidtaprogram.org.

⁹ The 2023 ORS Annual Report, which provides an overview of significant activities conducted throughout the program year, is available at <https://orsprogram.org/2023-annual-report/>.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ ADAPT was launched in 2019 through HIDTA discretionary funds, which have continued to support its efforts through 2024. 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, tribal, and territorial 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.

¹² 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.

¹³ Alaska HIDTA, Central Valley California HIDTA, Chicago HIDTA, Midwest HIDTA, and New York/New Jersey HIDTA were co-located with OCEETF Strike Forces. Washington/Baltimore HIDTA shared building space, and assigned analysts, but was not formally co-located.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ In 2023, HIDTA initiatives dismantled 846 DTOs/MLOs, and disrupted 2,351.

¹⁷ As reported in the HIDTA PMP database, one marijuana plant is equivalent to 0.45 kilogram.

¹⁸ Throughout this report, measurements represented as dosage units indicate pills.

¹⁹ Yavapai County was designated as a HIDTA in 2024.



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- ²⁰ Kankakee County was designated as a HIDTA in 2024.
- ²¹ Philadelphia Police Department, Delaware Valley Intelligence Center
- ²² Chainalysis, [The 2025 Crypto Crime Report](#)
- ²³ New Jersey State Police, Drug Monitoring Initiative
- ²⁴ Delaware Drug Monitoring Initiative
- ²⁵ Rensselaer County was designated as a HIDTA county in 2024.
- ²⁶ Beltrami and Stearns Counties were designated as HDTAs in 2024.
- ²⁷ Apex drugs are those deemed by the HIDTA Program to be the four highest-volume drugs most frequently linked to overdose deaths: cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl (DTAG 2025).
- ²⁸ Beginning in 2023, the Northwest HIDTA converted seizures of weighed fentanyl pills to dosage units. Hence, 2023 and 2024 fentanyl seizures are not entirely comparable to prior years.
- ²⁹ HIDTA Performance Management Process, 06-27-2025
- ³⁰ HIDTA Performance Management Process, 06-27-2025
- ³¹ Additional information about ODMAP and ADAPT can be found in the Program Highlights section of this report.
- ³² The HIDTA program has two overarching goals: (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.
- ³³ Additional information about NSAI and ORS efforts can be found in the Program-wide Initiatives section of this report.
- ³⁴ HDTAs with initiatives that include tribal law enforcement are as follows: 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.