



**Executive Office of the President
Office of National Drug Control Policy**

**High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program
2021 Report to Congress**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

I. HIDTA Program Background Information

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

The HIDTA Program includes 33 regional HIDTAs¹ in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

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

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

¹ In April 2020, the ONDCP Director renamed the five regions (Arizona, New Mexico, San Diego/Imperial, South Texas, and West Texas) that had previously been included in the Southwest Border HIDTA as their own distinct HIDTAs, thus creating 33 separate HIDTAs in total. This action was done at the request of the Executive Boards of the five regional HIDTAs, that had comprised the Southwest Border HIDTA, in recognition of their essentially autonomous operation since 2006.

In 2019, the most recent year for which complete data are available,² HIDTA reports indicate that the HIDTA Program comprises 881 initiatives distributed among the following categories:

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

These initiatives were staffed by more than 22,000 Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agents, officers, analysts, attorneys, support personnel, and drug treatment and prevention specialists. Seventy percent (15,672) of the participants were from state, local, or tribal agencies, and 30 percent (6,907) were from Federal agencies.

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

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

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

² HIDTA Program data are not finalized until several months after the end of the program (calendar) year. Thus, achievements for 2020 will not be available until mid-2021. Please also note that the program targets reported throughout this document are based upon an average of actual outputs for the previous 3 complete program years. For example, all 2020 targets are based upon an average of the actual outputs for the years 2016 through 2018.

In addition, this section outlines the basic requirements and objectives of intelligence and information sharing in the HIDTA Program, including facilitating event³ and case/subject/target⁴ deconfliction and providing analytical support to ongoing investigations.⁵

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

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

III. Assessment of Drug Enforcement Task Forces in HDTAs

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

³ Event deconfliction is the process of determining whether multiple LEAs 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

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 report, strategy, or threat assessment on any specific HIDTA upon request.

I. HIDTA PROGRAM BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Purpose

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

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

Program Description

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

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

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

There are 33 HIDTAs in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), and the District of Columbia. At the local level, each HIDTA is directed and guided by an Executive Board comprising, in most cases, equal numbers of regional Federal and non-Federal (state, local, and tribal) law enforcement leaders, as required by statute.⁶ Where it is impractical for an equal number of representatives of Federal agencies and State, local, and tribal agencies to attend a meeting of an Executive board in person, the Executive Board may use a system of proxy votes or weighted votes to achieve the required voting balance.

A central feature of the HIDTA Program is the discretion granted to the Executive Boards to design and implement initiatives to confront the drug trafficking threats specific to their HIDTA

⁶ 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.

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. After the end of a program year, each Executive Board prepares an annual report describing its HIDTA's performance against the overall objectives outlined in its strategy report for that year.

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 drug abuse and its negative consequences; and
- Management and coordination initiatives and support initiatives that provide assistance beyond the core enforcement and intelligence and information sharing initiatives (e.g., training, crime and forensic labs, information technology initiatives, and coordination initiatives).

Program-wide Initiatives

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

- 1) The Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) initiative assists the HIDTAs with market disruption of dangerous drugs through a nationwide, highway enforcement, information-sharing platform. The coordinated highway enforcement strategy combines traffic safety efforts with information regarding criminals and associated organizations that use the Nation's highways to transport their contraband, weapons, currency, and other illicit commodities. Information from other drug trafficking modalities that include air, marine, rail, and parcel, are also integrated within DHE. The collaborative effort is organized by major public transportation corridors and utilized by Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers and crime analysts from LEAs across the United States and Canada. In 2020, the DHE program received \$402,100 in baseline funding.
- 2) The National Emerging Threat Initiative (NETI) supports a coordinated HIDTA strategy for emerging drug-related threats. NETI is a poly-drug national trends-, intelligence-, and best practices-sharing initiative that addresses all aspects of the illegal drug supply, including the diversion of legal drugs. The initiative identifies rising drug risks and patterns

and develops responses to emerging threats by promoting cooperation among public safety and public health officials, regulators, treatment providers, and entities supplying education and prevention services. In 2020, the initiative received \$618,188 in baseline funding.

- 3) The National Marijuana Initiative's (NMI) mission is to improve the capabilities of the regional HIDTA Programs in carrying out the objectives of disrupting domestic trafficking and production of, and reducing demand for, marijuana and derivative products. The initiative accomplishes this by enhancing information sharing, enforcement, treatment, and prevention activities while educating and advising policymakers on current research findings, laws, and public policies. NMI's efforts are coordinated and closely aligned with the Public Lands Drug Control Committee, a Federal interagency group that aligns policies and coordinates programs to support field-level eradication, operations, investigations, and intelligence and information sharing. In 2020, the initiative received \$448,171 in baseline funding.

Prevention and Treatment Initiatives

The *National Drug Control Strategy* emphasizes a balanced approach to drug policy based on prevention, treatment, and recovery, reducing the availability of drugs in America. LEAs have substantial experience in implementing problem-oriented policing strategies and are well-positioned to promote and participate in community-based drug prevention programs. In view of this, the HIDTA Program developed the HIDTA National Prevention Strategy to serve as an infrastructure that facilitates cross-sector collaboration and communication among its stakeholders. The National Prevention Strategy functions as a catalyst for the development, implementation and evaluation of prevention programming, unique to the needs of each HIDTA region.

The HIDTA Prevention Strategy has three strategic goals:

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

The initiatives that make up the HIDTA Prevention Strategy accomplish these goals by building community coalitions and partnerships that bring together law enforcement, educational, social service, and community organizations to provide science-based prevention programs. These initiatives are conducted in schools, community coalitions, civic organizations, and faith-based organizations. Information sharing sessions, symposiums, public forums, and prevention conferences are held for law enforcement professionals and their coalition partners to improve prevention strategies within their respective communities. Also funded are targeted, local media campaigns that advertise on television, Internet, radio, newspapers, cinemas, buses, bus shelters, and strategically placed billboards on travel corridors to promote anti-drug messaging.

In 2019, the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA utilized HIDTA discretionary funds to launch A Division for Advancing Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT), which supports the HIDTA National Prevention Strategy by providing a mechanism for integrating innovative evidence-based and evidence-informed prevention strategies into the coordinated efforts of Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and community partners within each HIDTA region. ADAPT 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. ADAPT provides technical assistance to all regional HIDTAs in five domains: 1) identification of substance use prevention evidence-based practices; 2) training; 3) implementation; 4) evaluation; and 5) finance/budgeting.

Overdose Response Strategy

The Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) (formerly the Heroin Response Strategy and the Opioid Response Strategy) was launched in 2015 with an initial investment of \$2.5 million in HIDTA discretionary funds to address the heroin and opioid epidemic by coordinating the efforts of regional HIDTA Programs across 15 states. In 2016, ONDCP provided \$3.9 million to expand into five additional states. In 2017, the initiative received \$4.5 million in HIDTA funds and was expanded to two more states. In 2018, the initiative received \$4.9 million in HIDTA funds and covered 11 HIDTAs and 24 states. In 2019, the initiative received \$5 million in HIDTA funds to support the efforts of 21 HIDTAs covering 34 states. This 2019 expansion was made possible in part through a partnership between 10 HIDTAs and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which provided complementary funding in those HIDTA regions. This partnership continued through 2020, when \$5.4 million in HIDTA discretionary funds supported HIDTA-funded management staff and the expansion of drug intelligence officer positions in 50 states and 2 territories.

The mission of the ORS is to reduce fatal and nonfatal overdoses by developing and sharing information about heroin, fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other drugs across agencies and by offering evidence-based intervention strategies. This allocation addresses directives from the Appropriations Committees' Conference Report to support HIDTAs in states with high levels of drug addiction. This allocation also responds to statutory language that permits ONDCP to implement a nationwide drug strategy in HIDTA regions; thereby, the ORS is proposed to become part of the HIDTA baseline funding plan beginning in 2021.

ORS has an ambitious goal – to leverage its strategic partnerships to target the organizations and individuals trafficking deadly drugs like heroin and illicit fentanyl so that 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. For example, drug intelligence officers (DIOs) track and relay drug-related felony arrests of out-of-state residents and report this information to the individuals' home LEA. In addition, each year the ORS has focused on a specific cornerstone project, including examining the presence and status of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (2016), law enforcement knowledge, understanding and perceptions of 911 Good Samaritan laws (2017), promising strategies for implementing linkages to care at the nexus of public health and public safety (2018), and overdose prevention in jails (2019).

In 2019, DIOs shared nearly 15,000 felony arrest notifications. In multiple instances, sharing drug intelligence across the ORS network resulted in the identification and arrest of heroin and/or fentanyl distributors linked to outbreaks of fatal and nonfatal overdoses. Surveys of notification recipients show that over 95 percent of these notifications are judged as valuable by the receiving agency and that more than half have led to new investigations or contributed to ongoing investigations.

Support Services

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

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

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

Reporting Requirement

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

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

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

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

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

HIDTA Intelligence Sharing Report

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

Basic Requirements of Intelligence and Information Sharing

The *HIDTA Program Policy and Budget Guidance* (PPBG) provides specific guidance and requirements for intelligence and information sharing among HIDTAs. 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 collocated participants from Federal and state, local, or tribal agencies. Direct access to pertinent databases is provided at the primary

Investigative/Intelligence Support Centers (ISCs) by participating agencies in accordance with each agency's requirements for sharing information.

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

Objectives of Intelligence and Information Initiatives

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

- provide actionable, accurate, detailed, and timely drug and criminal intelligence and/or investigative information and analytical support to HIDTA enforcement initiatives, HIDTA participating agencies, and other LEAs and intelligence centers; and
- collect, collate, analyze, and disseminate information about offenders, crimes, and events to LEAs. In rare cases, the Director may authorize the use of the ISCs and ancillary intelligence and information sharing initiatives to support an investigation or activity that does not have a clear connection to a drug-related crime, in accordance with Section 1706(g) of the ONDCP Reauthorization Act, as amended.

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

Analytical Support

HIDTA ISCs support drug enforcement investigative operations, track potential threats to officer safety, manage and analyze case information, and assist in preparing case reports for prosecution. They provide support through telephone toll analysis, analytical case support, operational intelligence programs, officer safety bulletins, and post-seizure analysis. Drug intelligence information submitted by HIDTA enforcement and interdiction initiatives is processed by ISCs and returned for appropriate action to the initial investigators.

Threat Assessment

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

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

- DTOs and their impact on the region;

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

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

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

Event and Case/Subject/Target Deconfliction

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

HIDTAs are required to provide a mechanism to deconflict targets and events within their respective regions. HIDTAs use several deconfliction systems, which are fully and operationally integrated, to accomplish this task:⁷

- Regional Information Sharing System (RISS): RISS System Intelligence Database (RISSIntel) is information entered by RISS member LEAs into a database hosted by one of the six RISS Centers;
- RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe): a deconfliction program available to any RISS member for event and target deconfliction. Currently, 12 HIDTAs utilize RISSafe for deconfliction;
- SAFETNet: an event/target deconfliction system developed, owned, and operated by a consortium of nine HIDTAs across the country. The SAFETNet deconfliction application has been consolidated within the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC)

⁷ The number of systems used totals to 34 because one HIDTA – New York/New Jersey – uses SAFETNet in New York and Case Explorer in New Jersey.

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. As of 2019, 13 HIDTAs use Case Explorer for deconfliction.

Intelligence and Information Sharing

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

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

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

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

Details of Information Sharing Collaboration

Continuing interagency cooperation has enhanced dialogue among ONDCP, the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and state, local, and tribal LEAs to expand intelligence resources and capabilities. The HIDTA program has 34 primary ISCs and 28 ancillary operational intelligence and information sharing initiatives. At least one ISC is located in each regional HIDTA.

Continued cooperation among Federal, state, local, and tribal partners has enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination of investigative

data. Currently, ten state and major urban area fusion centers⁸ and HIDTA ISCs are collocated and jointly share and analyze information across an all-crimes spectrum. LEAs at these centers leverage intelligence resources and analytical expertise, integrate information sharing in disparate databases, perform deconfliction for investigative data involving multiple agencies, and serve the national effort to mitigate crime and other threats.

ONDCP and the HIDTA Intelligence Committee continue to work with the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (DHS I&A) and the Office of the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment to identify the best practices that have led to successful information sharing and deconfliction capabilities between HIDTA ISCs and fusion centers. To enhance partnerships and leverage resources and data sharing, ONDCP and DHS I&A have worked to foster cooperation by facilitating joint attendance at training events and informational meetings (e.g., HIDTA ISC Managers Meetings, the DHS-sponsored Fusion Center Leadership Program, and analyst training courses).

Additionally, in order to foster opportunities for analysts to share information and develop joint products, ONDCP and DHS I&A sponsor training opportunities for fusion center and HIDTA ISC analysts.

Of special note, the DHE program has an information-sharing website hosted by the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). This increased cooperation has led to enhanced collaboration among these complementary information-sharing entities.

HIDTA ISCs, through their participating agencies, have access to systems that enable them to securely share information with intelligence components in their regions and other HIDTAs. These systems may include Federal and state law enforcement information sharing systems, as well as numerous databases from departments of motor vehicles, county prosecution offices, sheriffs' offices, city police departments, and parole offices. ONDCP will continue to encourage increased intelligence sharing through the DEA Special Operations Division and Internet Connectivity Endeavor. In order to ensure information integrity and security, the HIDTAs maintain and enforce security rules and practices required by the agencies providing the information. In addition, HIDTAs make use of firewalls that conform to industry standards for encryption and security.

Evaluation of Existing and Planned Law Enforcement Intelligence Systems

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

1. annual reviews by Executive Boards and ONDCP of the budget request documentation (threat assessment, strategy, initiative description and budget proposals, and annual report) submitted by each HIDTA;
2. internal program reviews that each HIDTA is required to conduct annually; and

⁸ 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.

3. periodic ONDCP-led reviews conducted at the HIDTA's onsite location. The program review process addresses the HIDTA's performance and financial management.

Intelligence and Information Sharing Committee

In 2000, HIDTA Directors established an Intelligence and Information Sharing Committee. The Committee currently consists of ten HIDTA Directors, two ISC Managers, and a representative from ONDCP. This Committee addresses challenges and arising issues in intelligence and information sharing and deconfliction. The Committee may establish working groups to assist in its efforts and may request assistance from intelligence program managers, information technology specialists, and others from the HIDTAs. The Committee has quarterly teleconference updates and coordination meetings, as well as an annual meeting held in conjunction with the ISC Managers Meeting to discuss strategic initiatives.

III. ASSESSMENT OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCES IN HIDTAS

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

Reporting Requirement

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

“(1) 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

Multi-jurisdictional task force teams are the backbone of counterdrug enforcement efforts. The HIDTA Program brings together Federal, state, local, and tribal LEAs into collocated, commingled task force teams to conduct joint investigations for the disruption and dismantling of DTOs and MLOs. Task force teams collaborate with each other, as well as with non-HIDTA entities, and implement strategies to pool resources and share information. This focuses limited resources on significant threats and strengthens their ability to identify and destabilize interconnected national and transnational criminal networks. This planning and collaboration 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 HIDTA Program funds other types of task force initiatives to support investigative efforts. Examples include intelligence and information sharing, drug interdiction, technical support, crime/forensic lab programs, prosecution initiatives, and training initiatives.

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

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

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

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

IV. EVALUATION OF THE HIDTA PROGRAM

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

Reporting Requirement

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

“(k) EVALUATION. —

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

“(A) describes—

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

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

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

Measurements Used to Evaluate the Performance of Each HIDTA

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

To demonstrate its efforts toward accomplishing the first goal, each HIDTA must collect and enter information into the HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP)⁹ 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

⁹ 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.

number of students trained in each of the four HIDTA training categories (Enforcement, Analytical Support, Management, and Demand Reduction). In addition, HDTAs are required to send follow-up surveys to each student six 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 annual 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 initiative description and budget proposals 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, HDTAs may request policy exemptions, or waivers, in the IDBP.

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

HIDTA Initiative Accomplishments

Program achievements for 2020 will be available once data have been fully collected and analyzed in summer 2021. For 2019, the most recent year for which complete data are available, HIDTA reports indicate there were 881 initiatives participating in the HIDTA Program distributed among the following categories:

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

- Management¹⁰

These initiatives were staffed by approximately 6,796 Federal agents, criminal and intelligence analysts, attorneys, and support staff, and 15,213 state, local, and tribal officers, criminal and intelligence analysts, attorneys, and other representatives that include drug treatment and prevention specialists.

In 2019, HIDTA initiatives identified 8,440 DTOs/MLOs operating in their areas of responsibility (AORs) and reported disrupting or dismantling 3,133 DTOs/MLOs. A majority (56%) 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 \$41.7 billion, seized \$652 million in cash and almost \$243 million in non-cash assets from drug traffickers (totaling almost \$895 million in assets seized). HIDTA criminal and intelligence analysts provided analytical support to 26,196 investigations.

Quantities of Drugs Removed from the Marketplace by HIDTA Initiatives in 2019	
Drugs Seized	Kilograms
Cocaine/Crack	167,856
Methamphetamine (“ice”)	152,282
Fentanyl	3,252
Heroin	6,607
Marijuana	6,008,680
Marijuana Plants - Outdoors ¹¹	301,730
Marijuana Plants – Indoors	244,881
<i>Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, HIDTA PMP Database, data retrieved 8/12/2020</i>	

¹⁰ Initiatives are activities that implement aspects of an individual HIDTA’s strategy to address the national and regional drug threats in the designated HIDTA region.

¹¹ As reported in the HIDTA PMP database, 1 marijuana plant is equivalent to 0.45 kilogram.

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 report, strategy, 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 2020 and not *actual* results from 2020. Individual HDTAs are not required to submit 2020 results until June 2021.

DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/Dismantled: A DTO is an organization consisting of five or more persons: (1) that has a clearly defined chain-of-command; and (2) whose principal activity is to generate income or acquire assets through a continuing series of illegal drug production, manufacturing, importation, transportation, or distribution activities. An

organization is dismantled when its leadership, financial base, and supply network are incapable of operating and/or reconstituting themselves. An organization is disrupted when the normal and effective operation of the organization is impeded, as indicated by changes in organizational leadership and/or changes in methods of financing, transportation, distribution, communications, or drug production. There is no precise way to calculate or measure whether a DTO/MLO is disrupted. This is a subjective assessment made by the case agent or initiative supervisor.

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

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

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

Threat Assessment

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

Intelligence Initiatives

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

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

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

Task Force Coordination

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

HIDTA Evaluation

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

Alaska HIDTA

Designated in 2018

Executive Director – Michael Troster

Purpose and Goals

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

Strategy

Alaska HIDTA consists of enforcement, support, prosecution, and intelligence initiatives. The enforcement initiatives include the Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs Task Force, Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Task Force, and the Southcentral Area-wide Narcotics Task Force.

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

Initiatives

Alaska HIDTA has 9 initiatives: 1 intelligence, 1 administrative, 1 support, 1 statewide prosecution, and 5 enforcement 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
2020	9	\$0.41	\$1.70	120

Due to Alaska HIDTA’s more recent 2018 designation, these targets are estimates based on historical case information provided by partner agencies.

Threat Assessment

Alaska HIDTA identifies methamphetamine and heroin as the top two drug threats in Alaska. This assessment is based on Federal, state, and local law enforcement drug seizure reporting. Methamphetamine remains a prominent threat to the Alaska HIDTA designated areas, and it has a significant impact, due to widespread availability. Spurred by the higher purity and potency of methamphetamine produced in Mexico and trafficked into Alaska, availability and use rates are expected to continue to increase. Law enforcement reports indicate that DTOs import and distribute methamphetamine in larger quantities than any other illicit drug, with the majority of methamphetamine originating in Mexico.

The rise in demand for heroin as a drug of choice is likely due to its increasing availability and affordability in Alaska. Heroin is associated both directly and indirectly with increased violence and criminal activities, such as drug possession and sales, robbery, and prostitution.

Alaska serves as an importation state, with most drugs entering by mail/parcel, body couriers, or the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). DTOs are known to employ drug mules from outside of Alaska to smuggle illegal substances into the state. There is no law enforcement presence on the AMHS and vehicles and passengers are not routinely inspected prior to boarding the ferry, allowing drug traffickers and smugglers to exploit the region virtually undetected. Primarily air carrier achieves the distribution of drugs from the regional hubs to the outlying villages.

Intelligence Initiatives

The mission of the ISC is to provide intelligence and information to all Alaska HIDTA initiatives. The ISC is collocated in the Alaska Criminal Intelligence Center under the Alaska State Troopers and Alaska Department of Public Safety, which supports Federal, state, and local law enforcement investigations through tactical, operational, and strategic analysis.

The Alaska HIDTA ISC produces intelligence products, briefs, and assessments, and it provides event and subject deconfliction through the RISS Network (RISSNET) while maintaining a 24/7 on-call deconfliction and exigent case support service. The primary task of the ISC is to provide analytical support to HIDTA participants with the goal of collaboration and communication between all partner agencies to improve investigative performance to disrupt 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
South Central Area-wide Narcotics Task Force (SCAN)	Anchorage
Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Task Force (FANT)	Fairbanks
Southeast Alaska Communities Against Drugs Task Force (SEACAD TF)	Juneau
SCAN Mat-Su Drug Team	Wasilla
SCAN Kenai Peninsula Drug Team	Kenai Peninsula
SCAN Anchorage Area Drug Team	Anchorage
SCAN Kodiak Island Drug Team	Kodiak
SCAN Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team A/B	Anchorage
Fugitive Task Force	Anchorage

Task Force Coordination

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

HIDTA Evaluation

Alaska HIDTA was designated in 2018, and there are no data on dismantled or disrupted DTOs to note. However, Alaska HIDTA is fully dedicated to seizing, interdicting, disrupting, and dismantling DTOs in Alaska.

Appalachia HIDTA

Designated in 1998

Executive Director – Vic Brown

Purpose and Goals

Appalachia HIDTA's (AHIDTA) 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 threat of the Appalachian region.

While marijuana cultivation was traditionally the most significant drug threat for AHIDTA, it has lessened to emerging threats within the region posed by prescription drug abuse, opioids synthetics, along with crystal methamphetamine ("ice"). Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia continue to rank among the top ten states with the highest number of opioid prescriptions in the United States. West Virginia has held the dubious distinction of ranking number one in the Nation in per capita overdose deaths in recent years, largely due to opioids. AHIDTA also responds to the threats posed by the illicit trafficking and use of other drugs, such as heroin and cocaine, which have grown in popularity over the last several years. The development of cooperative, multijurisdictional law enforcement efforts, that enhance the coordination of AHIDTA-funded and non-AHIDTA-funded resources is paramount to addressing AHIDTA's threats.

Strategy

AHIDTA measures success, in part, by its ability to facilitate efficiency, effectiveness, and cooperation among participating agencies at all levels. AHIDTA is influential in fostering cooperation and collaboration among Federal, State, and Local LEAs throughout the region. AHIDTA provides the support, resources, and coordination necessary to facilitate cooperation among its collaborative initiatives. In all, AHIDTA has fostered cooperative and effective working relationships among nearly 165 Federal, State, and Local agencies to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs while reducing the demand for drugs.

The AHIDTA 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 AHIDTA strategy while providing program oversight to 44 enforcement initiatives (48 to include the ORS, intelligence, management and coordination, and training initiatives), and directs resources throughout the AHIDTA 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 AHIDTA participating agencies.

Location

The AHIDTA Headquarters is in London, Kentucky, centrally located within the AHIDTA region. As of July 1, 2020, the AHIDTA region comprises 93 counties throughout Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The AHIDTA region consists of the following designated counties:

- Kentucky (33): Adair, Bell, Boyd, Clark, Clay, 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, Whitley

- Tennessee (31): Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Davidson, Fentress, Franklin, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hawkins, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Macon, Marion, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Sullivan, Washington
- Virginia (9): Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Pulaski, Scott, Tazewell, Wise, and Wythe
- West Virginia (20): Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Fayette, Hancock, Harrison, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monongalia, Ohio, Putnam, Raleigh, Wayne, Wood, Wyoming

Initiatives

AHIDTA supports 48 initiatives: 44 Investigation/Interdiction/Eradication, 1 ORS, 1 intelligence, 1 management and coordination, and 1 training. The four support initiatives provide direct case support, operational oversight, training event and conference coordination, financial management, and logistical support. Collaborative efforts between all AHIDTA initiatives promote an atmosphere where achieving success is more important than who gets the credit, while creating an efficient information-sharing network throughout the AHIDTA 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
2020	137	\$1.75	\$100.00	294

Threat Assessment

AHIDTA faces substantial threats from the trafficking and abuse of heroin, prescription drugs, methamphetamine (“ice”), cocaine, and synthetic drugs like lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and MDMA, 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 highly credible threat to the region. The AHIDTA region is also a significant source of domestically produced marijuana and is often an import destination for marijuana cultivated outside the United States. In addition, high unemployment rates and low median household incomes directly affect socioeconomic conditions that significantly influence the drug-related activity in the region.

The majority of the AHIDTA region is located within a reasonable driving distance to metropolitan areas within the Midwest, eastern, and southeastern parts of the United States. Heroin, cocaine, pharmaceutical drugs, marijuana, and methamphetamine are commonly transported from areas such as Detroit, MI; Columbus, OH; Atlanta, GA; Pittsburgh, PA; neighboring parts of Indiana, North Carolina, Missouri, and Maryland. Furthermore, it is not uncommon for imported illicit drugs to have a point of origin within Mexico, destined for the AHIDTA region.

Transportation to and from the AHIDTA region is conducted primarily by private and commercial vehicles. A variety of highways and secondary road corridors traverse the AHIDTA region providing easy access to the area. In all, nine major interstate systems span the AHIDTA 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.

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 AHIDTA strategy. AHIDTA’s intelligence hub is the ISC, co-located within the AHIDTA Headquarters, in London, KY. The ISC facilitates the flow of information and intelligence amongst AHIDTA 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 AHIDTA 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 AHIDTA initiatives by facilitating communication, collaboration, and the dissemination of valuable information pertaining to the current and projected drug threat, while assisting in developing counterdrug strategies.

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

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

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATION
AHIDTA Diversion Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	London, KY
Appalachia Narcotics Investigations Task Force (HIDTA)	Pineville, KY
Appalachia Parcel Interdiction (HIDTA)	Louisville, KY
Beckley-Raleigh County Drug and Violent Crime Unit (HIDTA)	Beckley, WV
Bowling Green-Warren County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Bowling Green, KY
Central Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Fayetteville, WV
Chattanooga Safe Streets Violent Crime Task Force (FBI)	Chattanooga, TN
Claytor Lake Regional Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Wytheville, VA
Columbia Area Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Columbia, KY
DEA London Task Force (HIDTA)	London, KY
DEA Rocky Top Task Force/TN Erad (HIDTA)	Knoxville, TN
DEA South Tennessee Task Force (HIDTA)	Chattanooga, TN
DEA Upper East Tennessee Task Force (HIDTA)	Johnson City, TN
Domestic Highway Enforcement Interdiction Plus (HIDTA)	Knoxville, TN
Drug-Related Death Task Force (HIDTA)	Knoxville, TN
Eighth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Jacksboro, TN
FBI Rocky Top Task Force (HIDTA)	Knoxville, TN

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATION
FBI HEAT Task Force (HIDTA)	Pikeville, KY
Fifteenth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Hartsville, TN
First Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Johnson City, TN
Fourteenth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Manchester, TN
Fourth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Sevierville, TN
Gateway Area Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Mt. Sterling, KY
Greater Hardin County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Elizabethtown, KY
Greater Harrison County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Bridgeport, WV
Hancock-Brooke-Weirton Drug and Violent Crime TF (HIDTA)	Weirton, WV
Huntington Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force (HIDTA)	Huntington, WV
Kentucky Eradication Initiative (HIDTA)	London, KY
Knoxville HQ Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Knoxville, TN
Louisville DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Louisville, KY
Louisville Metro Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Louisville, KY
Madison County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Richmond, KY
Marshall County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Moundsville, WV
Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team (HIDTA)	Charleston, WV
Mon-Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Dellslow, WV
Ninth Judicial Drug Task Force	Kingston, TN
Northeast Kentucky Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Ashland, KY
Ohio Valley Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Wheeling, WV
Operation UNITE Drug Task Force	London, KY
Parkersburg Violent Crime and Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Parkersburg, WV
Second Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Blountville, TN
Seventh Drug and Violent Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Clinton, TN
Sixth Judicial Drug Task Force	Knoxville, TN
Southeastern KY FBI Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	London, KY
Southern Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Bluefield, WV
Southwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Big Stone Gap, VA
Sullivan County Drug-Related Death Task Force (HIDTA)	Blountville, TN
Tazewell County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Cedar Bluff, VA
TBI Middle Tennessee Task Force (HIDTA)	Algood, TN
Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force	Chattanooga, TN
Third Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Greeneville, TN
Thirteenth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Cookeville, TN
Twelfth Judicial Drug and Violent Crime Task Force	Jasper, TN
Twenty-Ninth Circuit Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Clintwood, VA
Twin County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Galax, VA

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATION
U.S. 119 Task Force (HIDTA)	Logan, WV
Violent Crime and Drug Task Force West (HIDTA)	Milton, WV
West Virginia DEA HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Charleston, WV
West Virginia Eradication Task Force (HIDTA)	South Charleston, WV
West Virginia State Police – Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI)	South Charleston, WV

Task Force Coordination

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

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

HIDTA Evaluation

AHIDTA plays a significant role in reducing DTO operations throughout the Appalachian Region. AHIDTA initiatives thwart the trafficking of diverted prescription drugs, heroin, cocaine, and synthetic drugs, as well as impede the production and distribution of methamphetamine and marijuana. In 2019, initiatives disrupted or dismantled 92 DTOs. Of the DTOs under investigation, approximately 80 percent operated in states beyond the AHIDTA region, or were involved in international operations. In 2019, initiatives seized illegal drugs with a wholesale value of over \$687 million, approximately \$10 million in cash and other drug-related assets, for a total ROI of \$75.19. In addition, the investigative initiatives made more than 3,600 arrests and seized over 1,800 firearms. The overall ROI, as well as other investigative accomplishments represented in 2019, provide evidentiary proof that AHIDTA is supporting the National HIDTA Program goals to (1) disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting DTOs and (2) improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives.

Arizona HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Director – Dawn Mertz

Purpose and Goals

The Arizona HIDTA's (AZ HIDTA) 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, drug-related crime, and drug abuse.

Strategy

AZ HIDTA uses an intelligence-driven, threat-focused strategy to target the most significant DTOs and MLOs affecting Arizona. AZ HIDTA is organized into four initiative functions – enforcement (interdiction, investigation, fugitive arrests, and prosecution); intelligence (coordination, deconfliction, targeting, investigative case support, and threat assessment); support (training); and management. AZ HIDTA coordinates and supports the efforts of 620 full-time and 177 part-time participants from 71 Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies.

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

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

Location

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

Initiatives

AZ HIDTA supports 25 initiatives: 20 enforcement; 1 intelligence/information sharing; 3 support (includes one 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
2020	45	\$2.00	\$30.00	355

Threat Assessment

AZ HIDTA is a major arrival zone for multi-ton quantities of methamphetamine, fentanyl, marijuana, heroin, and cocaine entering the United States from Mexico. Sharing more than 370 miles of border with Mexico, most of which is uninhabited desert and mountains, 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 presents the primary operational threat to Arizona, possessing vast resources to distribute, transport, and smuggle large amounts of methamphetamine, fentanyl, marijuana, 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. Furthermore, 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.

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 heroin, methamphetamine, fentanyl, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)/hashish oil, and cocaine smuggling from Mexico into the region.

Intelligence Initiatives

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

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

- **Research, Leads, and Targeting:** This unit researches and deconflicts information using all available investigative and analytical tools before coordinating the dissemination of findings to the interested law enforcement entity and/or entities. This unit also supports the Drug Intelligence Officer (Overdose Response Strategy). During the analytical

process, investigative leads are produced and methodically disseminated through the ISC manager to the appropriate HIDTA initiative or law enforcement partner.

- **Case Support:** This unit provides analytical support to investigations, which may include telephone toll analysis, pen register analysis, Title III analysis, and seizure analysis. Analytical support includes, but is not limited to, identifying overt acts, stash house locations, sources of supply, organizational members and co-conspirators, trafficking routes and methods, and relevant seizure information – all of which are used to identify potential targets and link key events to other investigations.
 - o **In-Depth Telephone Analysis:** Using advanced forensic software, a specialized group of ISC analysts identify and immediately detect (match) telephone numbers, objects within images and videos such as suspects, drugs, weapons, money, and documents. These analysts focus on persons of interest; find leads faster with optical character recognition; analyze links within case-related networks to reveal hidden connections, group hierarchies, and communication patterns; perform cross-case analysis and deconfliction by subject, crime type, or time; and create compelling, easy to understand intelligence reports, which are then provided to HIDTA enforcement initiatives as target lead packages.
- **Threat/Production:** This unit maintains a streamlined, consistent approach to strategic collection, analysis, and reporting for the ISC. Threat/Production is responsible for writing and producing all strategic products, as well as maintaining a strategic threat assessment picture of the drug situation in Arizona. This unit is also responsible for collecting and evaluating data and information from all possible sources, including open source information, investigative information, information developed by the ISC, and other HIDTA initiative elements.
- **Interdiction Response Group (IRG):** IRG's mission and focus is to provide 24/7 real-time intelligence support to Arizona law enforcement interdiction efforts and provide intelligence support to interdiction operations during the planning, operational, and investigative phases utilizing 1-888-AZHIDTA. The group helps drive interdiction efforts based on intelligence and bridge the gap between interdiction and investigation. IRG provides 24/7 real-time intelligence support to all types of interdiction, including highway/road, airport, parcel, and desert operations. IRG meets the growing demand for intelligence-driven operations and real-time analytical support, along with post-seizure analysis, for all interdiction efforts by Arizona law enforcement and the AZ HIDTA DHE community. IRG also maintains a national Interdiction Network dedicated to supporting criminal interdiction, information sharing, operational awareness, as well as intelligence support of criminal interdiction cases and operations. The Interdiction Network is available to law enforcement officers engaged in criminal interdiction, investigators, and criminal intelligence analysts supporting interdiction and is accessible from a desktop, laptop, or smartphone.

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

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

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

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

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Pinal County HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Pinal County
Santa Cruz County HIDTA Investigative Task Force (HIDTA)	Santa Cruz County
Southeastern Arizona Drug, Gang and Violent Crime Task Force	Graham County
Southeastern Arizona Major Investigative Team (HIDTA)	Cochise County
Southern Arizona Integrity Initiative (HIDTA)	Pima County
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Arizona
Tucson HIDTA Financial Task Force (HIDTA)	Pima County
West Valley Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Maricopa County
Yuma County Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Yuma County
Yuma County Prosecutorial Initiative (HIDTA)	Yuma County

Task Force Coordination

AZ 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. AZ HIDTA coordinates information sharing with other HIDTAs located in the Southwest border (SWB) 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. Furthermore, information dissemination at the regional and national levels occurs through NSS, EPIC, NVPS, and RISS.

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

AZ HIDTA regularly disseminates intelligence and attends intelligence sharing meetings with the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center, as appropriate. 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.

Many of the AZ HIDTA initiatives dedicate significant time and resources toward DHE efforts, which include both highway and airport interdiction strategies. In 2019, the AZ HIDTA DHE Initiative implemented the Interdiction Network utilizing SmartForce, a Web-based application that can be accessed from a desktop or Smartphone and is fully compliant with Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) requirements. The Interdiction Network allows criminal interdictors to share national and regional information on concealment methods, seizures, trends, training, and interdiction-related bulletins and has a mapping component with apprehension and destination locations. The Interdiction Network resource has been presented at several national interdiction conferences and is gaining partner users across the country.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, AZ HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 53 DTOs. Of the 53 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 31 were international, 7 were multi-state, and 15 were local. Initiatives also dismantled/disrupted 954 Criminal Operations. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with an estimated wholesale value of over \$385 million and more than \$37 million in cash and assets for a total ROI of \$31.55. By weight, marijuana accounted for 47 percent of the drugs seized, with methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin accounting for the remaining 53 percent.

The multi-agency statewide fugitive task force arrested 2,943 subjects (911 drug-related), and fugitive apprehensions resulted in the seizure of 84 firearms.

Prosecutors obtained 1,169 indictments, prosecuted 1,833 individuals, and convicted 833 individuals.

The ISC provided analytical support to 64 cases and sent or provided 631 leads to HIDTA initiatives and agencies. In addition, the ISC disseminated 1,099 analytical reports; handled 2,629 information requests; produced 27 strategic and threat bulletins and 751 tactical intelligence bulletins; and provided 24/7 support for Arizona law enforcement and the AZ HIDTA DHE community.

The AZ HIDTA processed 1,511 event deconflictions and 15,506 case deconflictions.

The Arizona Regional Training Initiative (ARTI) provided 51,919 hours of training to 3,814 students from Federal, state, local, tribal, and military agencies. ARTI presented 43 courses, including weeklong classes covering Basic and Advanced Drug Investigations, Comprehensive Drug Interdiction, Drug Unit Supervisors, and Basic and Advanced Intelligence Analysts. ARTI also presented eight regional classes around the state.

The Arizona Demand Reduction Alliance Initiative co-sponsored the second annual Arizona Drug Summit in Tempe, Arizona, with over 400 attendees; presented Stronger Together training for law enforcement, school resource officers, and community organizations with 53 attendees; conducted 10 additional educational activities that reached 1,129 people in law enforcement, school resource officers, Drug Free Communities grantees, school counselors, and community substance abuse prevention organizations on topics that included methamphetamine, Rx360, marijuana, and vaping; presented two educational trainings for American Indian leaders and members on prescription drug prevention with 97 attendees; developed new prevention materials on Methamphetamine, E-Cigarettes and Vaping (English and Spanish), Meth 360 (Spanish), and Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and Sales; and disseminated 4,443 prevention educational materials. The Opioid Monitoring Initiative produced and disseminated 53 Alerts with law enforcement/healthcare safety information; responded to ten in-depth data requests; and provided eight information products to law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and healthcare providers.

Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA

Designated in 1995

Executive Director – Daniel Salter

Purpose and Goals

Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA’s (AC HIDTA) primary mission is to disrupt and dismantle DTOs and MLOs utilizing strategic and tactical intelligence-driven, multi-jurisdictional operations; improve the safety and effectiveness of law enforcement operations; and ensure communication and information sharing amongst law enforcement in the AC HIDTA AOR. Additionally, to cultivate, develop and facilitate cooperation and communication with public safety and public health in support of the National ORS.

Strategy

The AC HIDTA, utilizing strategic, tactical, and predictive intelligence, facilitates a three-part geographical, functional, and operational strategy targeting the Command and Control elements of DTOs/MLO’s operating throughout the Southeast. Commingled Federal, state, local and tribal task force initiatives ensure collaborative cooperation and partnership with more than 120 participating agencies. Utilizing a robust training model, the AC HIDTA provided training to in excess of 700 LEAs in Georgia and the Carolinas.

Location

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

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

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

Initiatives

AC HIDTA supports 17 initiatives: 1 management, 1 prevention, 1 intelligence, 1 training, 2 prosecution, and 11 enforcement/interdiction.)

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
2020	43	\$4.00	\$15.00	1,000

Threat Assessment

The AC HIDTA region is a major distribution center for DTOs, particularly Mexican DTOs (MDTOs) and associated MLOs that supply 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 SWB to transshipment/staging areas in the or near the Atlanta metropolis for ultimate distribution east and northeast. Interstate 85 is the major artery for this distribution.

Intelligence Initiatives

The AC HIDTA ISC, supervised by a DEA supervisory intelligence analyst, is located at the Operations Center in Atlanta. 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 AC HIDTA investigative and interdiction initiatives. Three HIDTA funded analysts support initiatives in the Carolinas.

The ISC provides investigative coordination and operational subject, case, and event deconfliction for approximately 127 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
Charlotte Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Charlotte, NC
Columbia Violent Gang Task Force (FBI)	Columbia, SC
DEA Task Force (DEA)	Charlotte, NC
DeKalb Task Force (HIDTA)	Decatur, GA
Metro Task Force (HIDTA)	Atlanta, GA
OCDETF Strike Force (OCDETF/DOJ)	Atlanta, GA
Pee Dee Gang Violent Crime Task Force	Florence, SC
Piedmont Initiative (HIDTA)	Charlotte, NC
Piedmont Triad Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	Greensboro, NC
Raleigh-Durham Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Raleigh, NC
SC Midlands (HIDTA)	Columbia, SC
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Atlanta, GA
Triangle Initiative (HIDTA)	Durham, NC
Triad Initiative (HIDTA)	Greensboro, NC
Violent Gang Criminal Enterprise Task Force (FBI)	Atlanta, GA

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
West Metro Regional Drug Enforcement Office (Byrne/JAG)	Carrollton, GA

Task Force Coordination

There are significant formal and informal coordination mechanisms among all relevant task force initiatives in the AC HIDTA AOR. Informally, participants know each other from operational contacts, periodic meetings, and HIDTA/OCDETF/law enforcement coordinating committee-sponsored training and conferences. Agencies participating in one task force initiative often have officers assigned to other task forces initiatives, thereby promoting information exchange and coordination. HIDTA-sponsored deconfliction services promote event and target coordination among task force initiatives and agencies. Executives from agencies with personnel participating in HIDTA initiatives serve on the AC HIDTA Executive Board, thereby further fostering information sharing. The ISC publishes and distributes intelligence bulletins to area narcotics investigation units and task forces. The AC HIDTA participates in the Heroin Working Group in Georgia and the Carolinas.

The AC HIDTA ISC interviews/surveys task force initiatives and other Federal, state, local and tribal agencies to solicit and conduct a “real time” drug threat assessment of the AC 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 AC HIDTA Executive Board. Area narcotics enforcement units attend periodic conferences and commander meetings, including those sponsored by AC HIDTA and OCDETF.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, AC HIDTA continued its three-part strategy (geographical, functional, and operational) to focus command and control elements of DTOs/MLOs. Fifty-eight DTOs/MLOs were disrupted/dismantled. The more complex investigations require increased resources and additional time to pursue to a conclusion.

Percentage of Atlanta Carolina HIDTA Disrupted/Dismantled DTOs by Type					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
International & Multi-State	80%	78%	67%	58%	74%
Local	20%	22%	33%	42%	26%

In 2019, task forces seized illicit drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$106 million and \$22 million in cash and other drug-related assets (\$2.96 million total), achieving a total ROI of \$15.36.

Central Florida HIDTA

Designated in 1998

Executive Director – Stephen R. Collins

Purpose and Goals

Central Florida HIDTA's (CFHIDTA) 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 CFHIDTA centers on collaborative efforts among Federal, state, and local LEAs in collecting, disseminating, and deconflicting information. CFHIDTA strives to implement innovative intelligence in support of enacting first-rate strategic responses to regional threats and national priorities.

Strategy

CFHIDTA fosters cooperation and effective working relationships among all of the Federal, state, and local agencies participating in the 13 law enforcement initiatives to achieve the overall mission. The agency-neutral approach permits inter-agency cooperation within the ISC for local and national assistance and threat-specific efforts. The sharing of information at quarterly intelligence meetings warrant 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 CFHIDTA. 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 CFHIDTA administrative offices and ISC are located in Lake Mary, Florida. The CFHIDTA comprises 10 counties:

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

Initiatives

CFHIDTA supports 18 initiatives: 1 fugitive, 1 management/coordination, 1 training, 1 intelligence, 1 prevention, and 13 investigative 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
2020	49	\$2.74	\$11.81	1,387

Threat Assessment

Although opioids have been the greatest drug threat in the Central Florida HIDTA region, there was a change in the priority of that threat once fentanyl surpassed heroin as the greatest opioid threat in 2019. The change was due to upward trends in fentanyl- caused overdose deaths, its unwitting presence in counterfeit pharmaceutical opioids and other drugs, and high to very high availability and use. Fentanyl-caused overdose deaths led all other illicit drugs in the Central Florida HIDTA region, increasing 83 percent from 473 in 2017 to 865 in 2018 (Last full year of available FDLE data). Following this trend, Central Florida HIDTA law enforcement initiatives seized 111 percent (17 kilograms) more fentanyl in 2019 than in 2018 (8 kilograms).

In 2019, heroin remained highly abused and available throughout the Central FL HIDTA region. Heroin related overdose deaths increased by 31 percent in 2018 and seizures by Central Florida HIDTA law enforcement initiatives increased by 8.7 percent in 2019, from 39.89 kilograms in 2018 to 43.36 kilograms in 2019.

Methamphetamine (“ice”) supplanted cocaine as the second-greatest drug threat category in the region in 2019. Methamphetamine has grown in availability and use given its relatively low price, surpassing cocaine in some counties as the stimulant of choice. Methamphetamine seizures by Central Florida HIDTA law enforcement initiatives increased by 198 percent in 2019, from 125 kilograms in 2018 to 372 kilograms in 2019. Local clandestine methamphetamine lab seizures have declined significantly in the region based on the high demand and adequate supply of Mexican produced ICE methamphetamine.

According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, methamphetamine-caused overdose deaths in the Central Florida HIDTA region have been steadily rising over the past few years and increased again in 2018 by 54 percent. This increase was driven by significant mortality spikes in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area on the Gulf coast and in Brevard County on the Atlantic coast.

The majority of fentanyl, heroin and methamphetamine (“ice”) trafficked in Central Florida transits from Mexico via motor vehicles. Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) dominate the wholesale supply and distribution of these drugs in the region; the primary Mexican TCOs involved are the Sinaloa Cartel followed by Cartel Jalisco New Generation (CJNG). The Atlanta, GA area remains a transshipment hub for these drugs, exploiting the extensive network of interstate highways leading into Florida.

Central Florida HIDTA has high confidence that cocaine will continue to follow behind methamphetamines due to the relative low price, high availability and increasing demand for methamphetamine within the region’s stimulant market. Cocaine seizures by Central Florida HIDTA law enforcement initiatives increased by 130 percent from 2018 to 2019, from 692 kilograms in 2018 to 1595 kilograms in 2019 (this was largely impacted by a single DEA foreign seizure of 1,346 kilograms). Removing the DEA seizure, local central Florida HIDTA law enforcement initiative seizures of cocaine in 2019 were 249 kilograms, a 64 percent decrease. According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, cocaine-caused overdose deaths in the Central Florida region increased from 572 in 2017 to 640 in 2018. This represents an 11.9 percent increase from 2017 to 2018. This increase was driven by a higher cocaine-caused mortality rate in the eastern counties of the Central Florida HIDTA region, specifically within Seminole County.

FDLE Drug crime laboratories and law enforcement report that cocaine has been adulterated with fentanyl, presumably to expedite more dependency and demand for fentanyl by cocaine users. This factor surely contributes to the mortality rate of cocaine overdose victims and presents a heightened threat to law enforcement and the public who handle or use cocaine.

Colombian TCOs are the primary suppliers of cocaine to central Florida via the Caribbean corridor. Circulation is dependent on Mexican and Dominican DTOs who coordinate with Puerto Rican DTOs to smuggle cocaine into Puerto Rico via water vessels, such as “go-fast” boats and commercial fishing vessels. According to DEA, Puerto Rico is the dominant transshipment hub for Colombian cocaine being trafficked in the region and is smuggled into Central Florida primarily by mail parcels.

Controlled prescription drugs (CPDs) remained a moderate drug threat to the region in 2019. With Florida’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) being fully implemented and embraced, and the high availability and use of other opioid alternatives such as heroin and fentanyl, central Florida HIDTA law enforcement initiatives reported low to moderate availability and use of CPDs in 2019.

Central Florida HIDTA does assess concern for the growing supply, distribution and abuse of high-THC content marijuana and related edible products. The clandestine production of high-THC concentrates such as “wax”, honey butane oil, and “shatter” are inherently dangerous and poses a significant threat to the public and law enforcement. There is a rising trend of legal marijuana being diverted from Colorado, Washington State, and California to the Central Florida region via commercial parcel delivery services, private vehicle, bus, and aircraft. Law enforcement sources report that many Florida-based Cuban marijuana DTOs have relocated to Colorado to set up illegal grow operations for distribution across the US.

Intelligence Initiatives

The ISC was created with the designation of CFHIDTA in 1998 to provide collocated, 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
City County Investigative Bureau (HIDTA)	Sanford
Colombian/South American DTO (HIDTA)	Tampa
DEA Heroin Task Force (HIDTA)	Orlando
DEA HIDTA Methamphetamine Task Force (HIDTA)	Tampa
DEA Mex/Poly Task Force (HIDTA)	Orlando
DEA Orlando State and Local Task Force (DEA)	Orlando
DEA Tampa State and Local Task Force (DEA)	Tampa
Hillsborough County Major Violators Unit (HIDTA)	Tampa
ICE Financial Money Laundering Task Force (ICE)	Orlando
IRS/Secret Service Financial Crimes Task Force (IRS)	Orlando
Metropolitan Bureau Of Investigation (HIDTA)	Orlando
Osceola County Investigative Bureau (HIDTA)	Kissimmee
Pasco County Task Force (HIDTA)	Dade City
Pinellas County (HIDTA)	Largo
Polk County HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Bartow
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Tampa
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Orlando/Tampa
US Marshals Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team, East/West (HIDTA)	Orlando/Tampa
Volusia Bureau of Investigation (HIDTA)	Daytona Beach

Task Force Coordination

CFHIDTA funds 13 drug task forces and one fugitive apprehension task force. CFHIDTA is overseen by an Executive Board made up of participating law enforcement officials from Federal, state, and local agencies. All task forces use the CFISC for deconfliction of cases, subjects, and activities. All regional LEAs are encouraged to use the CFISC for information sharing and deconfliction.

All CFHIDTA 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 2019, initiatives actively investigated 120 DTOs/MLOs and successfully disrupted or dismantled 53 (43%). In addition, initiatives seized \$8.49 million in cash and other drug-related assets from drug traffickers. The wholesale value of drugs removed from the CFHIDTA AOR in 2019 was \$76.2 million, and the total ROI was \$22.02.

Central Valley California HIDTA

Designated in 1999

Executive Director – John J. Martin

Purpose and Goals

The Central Valley California HIDTA's (CVC HIDTA) mission is to reduce the manufacturing, trafficking, and distribution of methamphetamine; opioids (primarily heroin and fentanyl); marijuana; cocaine; and other dangerous drugs in its area of responsibility (AOR). The CVC HIDTA accomplishes its mission through the:

- Identification, investigation, disruption and dismantlement of DTOs and MLOs;
- Seizure of large quantities of illegal drugs to reduce their availability in the marketplace;
- Optimization of drug law enforcement efforts through intelligence sharing and coordination; and
- Creation of strong partnerships with public health and public safety organizations to implement the Overdose Response Strategy.

Strategy

The CVC HIDTA applies a multiagency task force model to leverage diverse authorities, expertise, and resources to achieve its mission. Approximately 159 Federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement members representing 43 agencies participate in 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 Investigative Support Center (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 twelve counties:

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

Initiatives

The CVC HIDTA supports 13 initiatives: one management, one training, one prevention, one intelligence, and nine investigative 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
2020	54	\$2.08	\$1,390.89	150

Threat Assessment

The most serious drug threats to CVC HIDTA are methamphetamine, opioids (primarily heroin and fentanyl), marijuana, cocaine, and other dangerous drugs. Methamphetamine remains the primary drug threat in the CVC HIDTA region. Most of the methamphetamine available in the United States is produced in clandestine labs in Mexico, and then smuggled across the Southwest Border either as a finished product or in liquid form that is converted into crystal methamphetamine (“ice”) at clandestine labs. In 2019, CVC HIDTA initiatives seized six such labs, including three capable of producing over 10 pounds of ice per month. During the same period, task forces seized more than 2,759 pounds of methamphetamine.

In 2019, the CVC HIDTA removed 103.12 kilograms of heroin (all forms) from the marketplace, which is 40 percent more than the previous year. Black tar heroin is the most available form of heroin in the Central Valley. Brown heroin is the second most available form, then tan or light brown heroin, and finally white heroin is the least available form of the opioid. The CVC HIDTA also removed 81 kilograms of fentanyl and 5,004 dosage units of fentanyl from the marketplace. National Seizure System data shows that seizures of fentanyl in kilograms in California increased 31 percent from 2018 to 2019; seizures of fentanyl in dosage units increased 75 percent. The state also saw a 64 percent increase in kilograms of fentanyl mix and a 97 percent increase in dosage units of fentanyl mix.

Illegal marijuana poses the third most significant drug threat in the CVC HIDTA’s AOR. In 2019, the CVC HIDTA removed 5,547 metric tons of illicit marijuana from the marketplace. At the same time, the CVC HIDTA saw an increase in the number of illegal outdoor cultivation sites. Law enforcement officers encountered more illegal grows on private land than public as well as an increasing number of greenhouses. The sophistication and organization of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) extraction labs has grown. In 2019, the initiatives encountered 38 illegal THC extraction labs and seized over 1,200 pounds of THC extract.

The CVC HIDTA removed 108 kilograms of cocaine from the marketplace in 2019. Although this is an overall increase of 51 percent since 2016, it is a 42 percent decrease from the previous year’s seizure statistics. It is likely that cocaine supply has exceeded demand. Consequently, DTOs may have decreased the number and/or size of cocaine shipments to the United States or diverted it to countries where demand is higher.

Intelligence Initiatives

The CVC HIDTA ISC provides tactical and strategic intelligence services to participating agencies and the Executive Board under the leadership of a DEA supervisor. It is composed of one National Park Service analyst, six counterdrug analysts from the California National Guard, and six contractors. The ISC’s main office is located in the DEA Sacramento District Office, but twelve of its analysts are co-located with enforcement initiatives in Bakersfield, Fresno, Modesto, Redding, and Sacramento. The decentralization of analytical support is necessary due to the CVC HIDTA’s large geographic area. The CVC HIDTA deconflicts investigative information and enforcement events through the Western States Information Network (WSIN).

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

The table below lists the Federally funded task forces operating in the HIDTA region.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS (City)
Central Valley Violent Crime Gang Task Force	Fresno

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS (City)
DEA Task Force (Sacramento District Office)	Sacramento
DEA Task Force (Bakersfield Resident Office)	Bakersfield
FBI Operation Safe Streets Task Force	Redding
FBI Operation Safe Streets Task Force	Sacramento
FBI Operation Safe Streets Task Force	Stockton
FBI Operation Safe Streets Task Force	Modesto
FBI Operation Safe Streets Task Force	Bakersfield
Fresno Area Surveillance Team (HIDTA)	Fresno
High Impact Investigation Team (HIDTA)	Fresno
Homeland Security Investigative Gang Violence Reduction Task Force	Bakersfield
Investigative Support Center (HIDTA)	Sacramento
Joint Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Fresno
Kern County Task Force (HIDTA)	Bakersfield
Kings County Narcotics Task Force (JAG-Byrne Grant)	Hanford
Madera Narcotics Enforcement Team (Byrne Grant)	Madera
Merced Area Gang/Narcotic Task Force (HIDTA)	Merced
Merced Multiagency Narcotics Enforcement Team (Byrne Grant)	Merced
Narcotics and Economic Crimes Investigations Task Force	Sacramento
Northern State Major Investigation Team (HIDTA)	Redding
OCDETF Strike Force	Sacramento
Sacramento Area Intelligence Narcotic Task Force (HIDTA)	Sacramento
Shasta Interagency Narcotics Task Force (JAG-Byrne)	Redding
Special Investigations Unit (HIDTA)	Modesto
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Sacramento
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Fresno
Tri-County Drug Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Sacramento County

Task Force Coordination

Using in-person communications or the WSIN deconfliction system, task forces routinely coordinate their investigations and tactical deployments when their operations enter an adjoining jurisdiction. This 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 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 departments, and multiple Federal agencies. Information sharing between HIDTA initiatives takes place at quarterly meetings where initiative commanders discuss investigative activities.

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, have alerted regional agencies and drug task forces to the importance of sharing information with the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, the CVC HIDTA investigated 76 DTOs/MLOs and successfully disrupted or dismantled 51 (67%) of them. Of the 51 DTOs/MLOs disrupted or dismantled, 21 were international, eight were multi-state, and 22 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. CVC initiatives seized illicit drugs with a wholesale value of more than \$28.5 billion and more than \$10.2 million in cash and other drug-related assets, resulting in a total ROI of \$7,839.62. 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.

Chicago HIDTA

Designated in 1995

Executive Director – Nicholas Roti

Purpose and Goals

Chicago HIDTA's mission is to reduce narcotics addiction, overdoses, and the inherent crime and violence that is associated with drug trafficking by developing multi-agency 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. Chicago 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

Chicago HIDTA reacts quickly to emerging narcotics threats by developing innovative multi-agency initiatives focused and properly equipped to investigate, disrupt, and dismantle the drug trafficking pipeline, from the local and regional to the international DTO level. Chicago HIDTA's multi-jurisdictional task force initiatives comprise of 69 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 and national drug trafficking and money laundering operations.

Chicago HIDTA's multi-agency ISC provides actionable, detailed, and timely tactical and strategic intelligence and support to all Chicago HIDTA initiatives and LEAs in the AOR. All aspects of the Chicago HIDTA encourage neutral interagency collaboration through training, meetings, and co-locating of task forces. Chicago 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 complete cycle of the drug abuse epidemic by also addressing demand reduction through an innovative and heralded substance abuse prevention curriculum for students, developing and collaborating on a diversion program for eligible people with substance use disorders, and participating in the ORS.

Location

Chicago HIDTA administrative offices are located in Chicago's South Loop. In 2019, the Chicago HIDTA was composed of the following five Illinois Counties: Cook, Grundy, Kendall, Will, and DuPage. Lake County, Illinois was designated as a HIDTA county in 2020.

Initiatives

Chicago HIDTA supports 20 initiatives: 1 management, 2 intelligence, 1 training, 1 resource initiative, 1 prosecution initiative, 1 prevention initiative, and 13 enforcement 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
2020	39	\$5.66	\$9.30	151

Threat Assessment

Chicago’s geographic location, unique demographics, and MDTO presence, combined with its role as a principal national transportation hub and financial mecca, has resulted in Illinois being characterized as a non-traditional border state, particularly as it relates to illicit drug trafficking. The majority of illicit drugs reaching the United States are coming across the SWB, 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 DTOs.

The distribution and use of heroin, fentanyl and other fentanyl-laced drugs, and associated overdose deaths, are a major threat in the region. Escalated demand for pharmaceuticals, synthetic cannabinoids, increased marijuana availability, and gang/drug-related violence are also areas of primary concern.

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

Organized criminal street gangs are the principal retail distributors of illicit drugs in the Chicago 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.

Intelligence Initiatives

The Chicago HIDTA ISC includes analysts from the Cook County Sheriff’s Department, DEA, FBI, Illinois National Guard, and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The ISC facilitates interaction and information sharing to support multiagency efforts that further drug-related and/or criminal investigations. The operational mission of the ISC is to provide comprehensive case support and actionable and strategic criminal intelligence to HIDTA initiatives, HIDTA participating 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 a newsletter 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. Data regarding fentanyl seizures, naloxone administrations, and overdoses in Chicago obtained from the Chicago Police Department, the Illinois State Police Crime Laboratory, the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, and the Chicago Fire Department is also analyzed and presented in the Chicago HIDTA Fentanyl Response Initiative Report. Intelligence is also shared with the Illinois State Police Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center, the Chicago Police Department Crime Prevention and Information Center, and our Federal partners as appropriate. The ISC also assists regional police agencies with case support and inquiries.

The ISC also makes available a national pointer event and target deconfliction system. All HIDTA-funded initiatives, as well as the Chicago Police Department, are mandated to use SAFETNet. In the past year, there were 399 registered law enforcement participants in the system and 31,169 event and case/subject deconflictions were processed.

The Cook County Sheriff's Office Strategic Intelligence Initiative comprises members of the Cook County Sheriff's Office, Chicago Police Department, FBI, and Illinois National Guard Counter-Drug Task Force. This initiative will gather historical and actionable intelligence from various sources within the Cook County Jail (CCJ), such as databases, intake monitoring, inmate population, and electronic means. Relevant Intelligence obtained will be used to disrupt criminal activity both inside and outside of CCJ. This initiative will aim to leverage intelligence and information to disrupt acts of possible gang-related violence, as well as support active investigations post violence. Initiative members will track gangs, gang factions, leadership, hierarchies, and membership. Efforts will be coordinated with other intelligence entities from the Federal, state, and local agencies working in Cook County. The Chicago HIDTA ISC will provide additional support and act as a coordinating body between criminal intelligence entities. ISC analyst activities will include:

- comparing criminal-related data sets with CCJ data, such as phone studies (comparing telephone numbers of outgoing and incoming calls of CCJ to telephone numbers of active T-III wire intercepts).
- comparing inmate intake and gang affiliations with active gang conflicts
- identifying inmate gang affiliations in relation to ongoing investigations
- identifying and mapping of gang and gang faction territories
- identifying and documenting gang alliances and conflicts

In 2017, Chicago HIDTA became the tenth HIDTA to participate in the ORS. An important aspect of the ORS is that activity involvement extends beyond HIDTA regions to include statewide initiatives. ORS participation enabled Chicago HIDTA to enlist the help of a DIO and a public health analyst (PHA) to work collaboratively with various local, state, and Federal agencies to gather, analyze, and disseminate vital information about drug abuse 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 the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP).¹² Inclusion in ORS addresses both the National HIDTA and Chicago HIDTA mission statements by making efforts to reduce the harmful effects and consequences of illegal drug trafficking.

Chicago HIDTA has also partnered with the Chicago Police Department (CPD), the Chicago Fire Department (CFD), and the Office of Emergency Management and Communication (OEMC) to develop a protocol enabling the CPD to immediately respond to clusters of opioid-related overdoses identified by a pre-determined time period and geographic location. By sending alerts to Command personnel in the CPD Narcotics Unit, the information can be quickly evaluated, and investigative teams can be immediately deployed to counter the threat. The C-HIDTA ISC also develops and disseminates a strategic intelligence product, the Fentanyl Report, using information garnered via several sources associated with the Initiative. Additionally, as part of the FRI, the Chicago HIDTA partnered with the Illinois State Police (ISP), the Cook County Sheriff’s Department (CCSO), and the Office of Emergency Management and Communications for the City of Chicago (OEMC), and embarked on an ambitious project, Highway Net, to install a combination of Point/Tilt/Zoom (PTZ) and Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras on a major Chicago thoroughfare, the Eisenhower/Congress Expressway (I-290). The “Highway Net” project has as one of its main goals to mitigate the chronic issue of heroin/fentanyl distributors and buyers traversing the I-290 “Heroin Highway” to make heroin/fentanyl purchases from the open-air markets on the West Side of Chicago. Phase 2 of the Highway Net project will incorporate over 60 additional ALPRs and PTZ cameras on the extensive interstate highway system that flows through the Chicagoland area.

HIDTA Funded Task Forces Operating in the Chicago-HIDTA Region

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

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Cook County Sheriff’s Office Strategic Intelligence Unit (HIDTA)	Cook County
Domestic Highway Enforcement/Narcotics & Currency Interdiction	Multi-County
Fentanyl Response Initiative (HIDTA)	Cook County
Internet Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Cook County
Investigative Support Center (HIDTA)	Cook County
Joliet Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad* (HIDTA)	Will County
Kendall County CPAT (Cooperative Police Assistance Team) *(HIDTA)	Kendall County

¹² In 2016, the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA developed ODMAP, a system that provides near real-time suspected overdose surveillance data across jurisdictions to support public safety and public health efforts in mobilizing an immediate response to a sudden increase or spike in overdose events. It links first responders and relevant record management systems to a mapping tool that track overdoses to stimulate real-time response and strategic analysis across jurisdictions. ODMAP presents a rare public health and safety opportunity with the ability to respond to a crisis as it is occurring. By combining the data in ODMAP with collaborative partnerships that span different agencies, localities can develop and deploy a real-time plan to reduce both fatal and non-fatal overdoses.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Initiative Task Force (HIDTA)	Cook County
Narcotics Overdose and Trafficking Initiative (HIDTA)	DuPage County
Opioid Response Strategy (HIDTA)	Cook County-based Active
Package Interdiction Initiative Task Force (HIDTA)	Cook County
Regional Drug Trafficking Organization Initiative/Violent Crimes Task Force (HIDTA)	Cook County
Street Crimes Suppression Unit (HIDTA)	Cook County
Strike Force Initiative (HIDTA)	Cook County
Tri-County Multi-Jurisdictional Counterdrug Enforcement Initiative Task Force (HIDTA)	Will/Kendall Grundy Counties
Violent Drug Trafficking Gang Initiative (HIDTA)	Cook County
Violent Gang Conspiracy Group Initiative Task Force (HIDTA)	Cook County
Westside Narcotics Diversion Initiative (HIDTA)	Cook County
Will County CPAT (Cooperative Police Assistance Team) *(HIDTA)	Will County
Will County Gang Suppression Unit *(HIDTA)	Will County

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

Task Force Coordination

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 Chicago HIDTA mission and goals and establishes policies to follow.

Thirteen Chicago HIDTA initiatives are collocated in a shared facility, thus fostering a cooperative spirit of sharing information, activities, and resources. All the Chicago HIDTA task force initiatives are required to cooperate and interact with the ISC and utilize the deconfliction system. Chicago 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, marijuana, and other illicit drugs. Faced with this severe challenge, 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 Chicago HIDTA area of responsibility. In 2019, Chicago HIDTA initiatives disrupted or dismantled 41 DTOs and MLOs (93% of expected output). Additionally, initiatives reported the seizure of 436 kilograms of powder and crack cocaine, 314 kilograms of heroin, 57 kilograms of

Fentanyl, 248 kilograms of Methamphetamine, and 3,110 kilograms of marijuana. The total wholesale value of the drugs removed from the market was \$59.4 million. Enforcement initiatives also seized approximately \$28.1 million in drug-related assets (\$26.65 million in cash alone) during the reporting year. In 2019, Chicago HIDTA achieved an ROI of \$13.71 for drugs and assets seized – 88 percent of the expected ROI.

Gulf Coast HIDTA

Designated in 1996

Executive Director – Tim Valenti

Purpose and Goals

Gulf Coast HIDTA's (GCHIDTA) 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 impacting the region and beyond. Specifically, the GCHIDTA:

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

Strategy

GCHIDTA 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. GCHIDTA 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 GCHIDTA:

- Has 34 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 Intelligence Support Network (ISN).

Location

The Executive Offices of GCHIDTA 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

GCHIDTA supports 41 initiatives: 1 management, 2 intelligence, 1 resource, 1 prevention, 1 prosecution, 1 training, and 34 investigation/interdiction initiatives. GCHIDTA is a partner in the Blue Lightning Operations Center, a Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) program that provides real-time tactical intelligence and information to Federal, state, and local law enforcement engaged in drug law enforcement and DHE throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee.

Short-Term Objectives

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
2020	224	\$4.09	\$93.72	282

Threat Assessment

GCHIDTA 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 GCHIDTA. The proximity of the SWB to the Gulf Coast positions the region as a key drug trafficking route. Methamphetamine, in both powder and ice forms, poses the greatest threat in the region. Law enforcement intelligence indicates that Mexico-based, poly-drug DTOs transport methamphetamine into the GCHIDTA region for distribution by local drug trafficking groups. Methamphetamine laboratories continue to decline across the region as availability of the less expensive and purer Mexico-produced methamphetamine remains high. 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 GCHIDTA that have not witnessed this kind of opioid use in the past are now experiencing it.

Fentanyl and other opioids are 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 ISN’s mission is to implement the GCHIDTA strategy by addressing drug trafficking modalities noted in the annual threat assessment and facilitating effective and efficient information sharing between and among the GCHIDTA participating agencies, non-participating agencies within the AOR, and other HIDTA enforcement entities nationwide. The ISN staff ensures 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, as well as direct resources toward existing trafficking organizations.

The Network Coordination Group (NCG), its supervisor, the Technical Operations Supervisor (TOS), the Title III Wire Intercept Center, and the IT Systems Administrators are collocated with the Management and Coordination initiative in Metairie, Louisiana. Intelligence Support Teams (ISTs) consist of participating agency, National Guard, and HIDTA-funded intelligence analysts who are remotely located and embedded in GCHIDTA initiatives. The BLOC/HIDTA Watch Center, while part of the Intelligence Subsystem, is a separate initiative and consequently reports staffing and budgeting items independent of the ISN.

The DEA-led NCG functions as the central coordination component of the ISN. The NCG supervisor communicates directly with other ISN components, including the ISTs, TOS, IT Systems Administrators, and the BLOC/HIDTA Watch Center in Gulfport, Mississippi, to ensure a coordination of efforts. Real time communication, data collection and sharing, and dissemination of information are achieved through connectivity via the GCHIDTA Wide Area Network (WAN).

The ISTs, which are included in the ISN initiative, are remotely located and embedded in initiatives throughout Alabama; Arkansas; northwestern Florida; Mississippi; Louisiana; and Shelby County, Tennessee. The principal function of each IST member is to provide HIDTA initiatives and participating agencies with tactical and investigative intelligence support for active investigations. The NCG supervisor provides direction and oversight to the IST members. Each IST member is tasked with providing a full range of intelligence products and services, including the collection, analysis, and dissemination of drug intelligence targeting DTOs. Routinely employed analytical techniques include, but are not limited to, tactical wiretap support, open source research, telephone toll analysis, document analysis, and flow charts. Additional responsibilities include coordinating the development of threat assessments for both its AOR and the GCHIDTA threat assessment.

The TOS supports wire intercept capabilities for GCHIDTA and assists the investigative teams by providing technical support for intelligence and operational purposes on a case-by-case basis. The TOS also maintains an inventory of HIDTA-supplied equipment and assists in the evaluation and coordination of equipment requests.

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)	Fayetteville, AR
Alabama Operations Center (HIDTA)	Montgomery, AL
Border Enforcement Security Task Force (HIDTA)	New Orleans, LA
Border Enforcement Security Task Force West Tennessee (HIDTA)	Memphis, TN
Caddo/Bossier Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Shreveport, LA
Calcasieu Parish Combined Anti-Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lake Charles, LA
Capital Area Gang Task Force (FBI)	Baton Rouge, LA
City of New Orleans Major Investigations Team (HIDTA)	Metairie, LA
Coastal Narcotics Enforcement Team (Byrne)	Gulfport, MS
Financial Crimes Task Force (USSS)	Metairie, LA

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

Task Force Coordination

Initiatives are required to submit all investigative targets and planned operations to SAFETNet, which links them to the two other national deconfliction systems, Case Explorer and RISSafe, through a hub supported by EPIC. Non-HIDTA task forces and agencies are encouraged to participate in the HIDTA-sponsored deconfliction system. GCHIDTA provides deconfliction services to 113 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.

GCHIDTA provides funding to support its intelligence subsystem, including a network of intelligence analysts strategically located throughout the region, to ensure the efficient collection, analysis, and dissemination of information to all law enforcement entities within the AOR. The dissemination of information is accomplished within the HIDTA and shared nationally through the circulation of its products, including threat assessments, information bulletins, and officer safety alerts. All HIDTA intelligence products are posted on HSIN Intel, EPIC, HSI Inbox and the FBI's Law Enforcement Online and made available to all JTTFs throughout the United States. Specific information generated by the GCHIDTA initiatives is routinely forwarded to the appropriate JTTF.

HIDTA Evaluation

GCHIDTA 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 2019, enforcement initiatives disrupted or dismantled 366 DTOs and MLOs operating in their designated areas and beyond, representing 166 percent of the HIDTA's target for this performance measure. Of the disrupted and dismantled DTOs and MLOs, 92 were international or multi-state in scope. Equally important was the success in denying DTOs their desired profits obtained through illegal activities. In 2019, initiatives seized over \$35.3 million in cash and other drug-related assets from drug traffickers, while the estimated wholesale value of drugs seized was \$258.9 million (\$294.3 million total). GCHIDTA realized a combined ROI of \$32.28 based on the wholesale value of drugs and assets seized.

Hawaii HIDTA

Designated in 1999

Executive Director – Gary Yabuta

Purpose and Goals

The Hawaii HIDTA (HI HIDTA) region is situated in the Pacific Ocean and is its closest landmasses are Asia, Polynesian Islands, New Zealand, Australia and the Continental USA. This geographic independence offers no protection from the influx of illicit drugs and the region has become a transshipment point for DTOs looking to expand their transnational connections between the United States and other foreign countries. The HI HIDTA strategy is navigated by an annual regional drug threat assessment. The region's strategy targets Hawaii's most serious drug trafficking threats through the efforts of enforcement task forces brought together from Hawaii's Federal, state, and local LEAs. These innovative task forces specialize in conducting sophisticated drug trafficking investigations and operations. Intelligence and information sharing is an essential practice among the HI HIDTA task forces, especially since the region consists of 6 Hawaiian Islands. The spirit of inter-island and interagency collaboration in a multi-island region has been a hallmark of the HI HIDTA, and the success of implementing HIDTA resources to counter public health and safety threats caused by drug abuse and drug trafficking depends heavily on the ability of our law enforcement communities and task forces to cross ocean boundaries and work together.

Strategy

HI HIDTA, in addressing the use and distribution of all illicit drugs, will work diligently with mainland HIDTAs and law enforcement partners to curtail organized crime and DTOs throughout the Nation. The region's greatest drug threat is crystal methamphetamine, commonly known in the Hawaiian Islands as methamphetamine ("ice"). The current composition of HI HIDTA task forces is designed to counter the ice threat that infected Hawaii well before its devastating influence on mainland states (manufactured ice originated from nearby Asia and Asian traffickers entered the densely populated Asian culture in Hawaii). Today, the region's supply of ice is solely from Mexican Cartel sources.

The HI HIDTA strategically incorporates independent task forces for each of the region's four island municipalities: City and County of Honolulu (Oahu), Hawaii County (Hilo and Kona), Kauai County, and Maui County (islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai). Each task force is capable of commingling whenever task force asset sharing is necessary, and during joint-island interdiction operations. To counteract the most prevalent drug transportation methods used by the DTOs in the region, a statewide drug interdiction task force is responsible for investigations and drug canine screening at Hawaii's major airports, passenger terminals, and postal and parcel facilities. The HI HIDTA task forces are staffed with police criminal intelligence officers who facilitate intelligence sharing among the region's four municipalities and Federal counterparts. The ISC provides investigative and analytical support to all task forces. An additional task force focuses on drug money laundering as part of the HI HIDTA strategy. It is imperative that the HI HIDTA remain vigilant of the opioid and abuse epidemic that has devastated many of our mainland communities, and so the HI HIDTA is a stakeholder in the multi-disciplinary Hawaii State Opioid Initiative. To further prevent the influx of fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses in Hawaii, the HI HIDTA began its participation in the HIDTA Overdose Response Strategy and Drug Intelligence Officer

Program, which embraces a partnership with Hawaii’s Public Health Sector; CDC; and the Hawaii HIDTA.

Location

HI HIDTA is located in Honolulu, Hawaii, and comprises the following counties:

- Honolulu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai

Initiatives

HI HIDTA supports 16 initiatives: 12 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
2020	31	\$.75	\$2.00	30

Threat Assessment

The trafficking and use of ice and diverted pharmaceuticals, and the production and cultivation of marijuana pose the greatest illicit drug threats to HI HIDTA. Methamphetamine is widely available throughout the AOR. Methamphetamine (“ice”) is produced in Mexico and primarily transported via California, Nevada, Arizona, and Washington. Transportation methods favored by DTOs shipping methamphetamine (“ice”) to the region include commercial parcel and postal services, and the use of human couriers traveling on commercial airline flights who may conceal illicit drugs on their bodies or in carry-on baggage. In addition, DTOs sometimes employ corrupt airline employees to ensure methamphetamine (“ice”) shipments circumvent airport security. DTOs also use private couriers to transport small amounts of methamphetamine to the state. In addition, intelligence data indicate that DTOs use sea containers and vehicles aboard commercial shipping vessels to transport illicit drugs, including methamphetamine (“ice”). Proceeds derived from the sale of methamphetamine (“ice”) are then mailed or carried by human couriers traveling on commercial airline flights or transferred via wire remitters.

Small groups of individuals who obtain pharmaceuticals from physicians and pharmacies typically coordinate the distribution of diverted pharmaceuticals in the AOR. Some DTOs solicit patients to obtain pharmaceutical drugs, in particular opioids.

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, reporting indicates that marijuana concentrates are produced and trafficked in the area. Most marijuana DTOs operating in Hawaii are not poly-drug in nature, distributing mainly marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, and THC liquids for use in vaping devices. Hawaii’s location also provides potential international and multi-state criminal groups with many opportunities to traffic drugs to and from the area, due to its exceptionally high volume of international and domestic air and ocean traffic.

The HI HIDTA Prevention Initiative encompasses drug demand reduction efforts by implementing a multi-disciplinary approach to affect communities through evidence-based programs that include drug education and awareness, drug prevention strategies, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) programs, and public health and social service partnerships.

By virtue of dividing prevention funds among participating local law enforcement and state social services representing the Islands of Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai, the Prevention Initiative will provide the opportunity to develop unique drug prevention programs for the state of Hawaii and each of the island counties.

The Prevention Initiative includes a primary partnership with the state of Hawaii’s Department of the Attorney General’s (AG) Crime Prevention Division that will reach out with a creative drug awareness educational platform to youth and school students throughout Hawaii. These presentations and projects associated with the Department of the AG’s Crime Prevention Division will continue throughout the existence of the Prevention Initiative.

The Prevention Initiative intends to establish community-based partnerships to understand further the drug problems that are systemic to neighborhoods, schools, and businesses. Through this discourse, HI HIDTA will identify cultural needs, design, and implement the appropriate prescription and stimulus to curtail drug abuse. In addition, HI HIDTA is a stakeholder in the Hawaii State Opioid Abuse Initiative, a multi-disciplinary approach to counteract the opioid abuse epidemic.

Intelligence Initiatives

The ISC is a component of the HI HIDTA intelligence and analytical support program. It supports the HIDTA’s mission by collecting, evaluating, analyzing, and disseminating timely information in support of investigative case activity relating to drug importation, drug distribution, money laundering, drug-related violent crime, and drug-related firearms trafficking. The ISC Intelligence Group provides a full range of investigative analytical support to all enforcement task forces, Hawaii prosecutors and U.S. Attorney, appropriate non-HIDTA law enforcement, and other official intelligence entities. Support includes telephone toll, pen register, wiretap and Internet communications analysis, link analysis (analysis of associations among targets), event analysis (analysis of illegal activity or law enforcement action), post-seizure analysis, financial investigative analysis, and development of new analytical techniques. The ISC intelligence analysts work closely on a daily basis with Federal agents and TFOs in the investigative and interdiction task forces during the full investigative and prosecutorial process.

All initiatives are able to deconflict investigative data and operational events via WSIN and the deconfliction and intelligence-sharing component of the HI HIDTA ISC. HI HIDTA member agencies utilize WSIN’s 24/7 Watch Center deconfliction services to ensure maximum protection of their personnel during enforcement operations.

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

The table below highlights the HIDTA-funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region.

HIDTA FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Domestic Interdiction Task Force (HIDTA)	Honolulu International Airport: Operating Statewide

HIDTA FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Foreign Interdiction Task Force (HIDTA)	Honolulu International Airport
Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	City and County of Honolulu
HI Impact Group 1 Task Force (HIDTA)	HI HIDTA Facility, Honolulu, HI
HI Impact Group 3 Task Force (HIDTA)	HI HIDTA Facility, Honolulu, HI
HI Impact Hilo Task Force (HIDTA)	Hawaii (Big Island) County
HI Impact Kauai Task Force (HIDTA)	Kauai County
HI Impact Kapolei Task Force (HIDTA)	City and County of Honolulu at Kapolei
HI Impact Kona Task Force (HIDTA)	Hawaii (Big Island) County
HI Impact Maui Task Force (HIDTA)	Maui County
Money Laundering & Asset Forfeiture Task Force (HIDTA)	HI HIDTA Facility, Honolulu, HI
Project Safe Neighborhoods (HIDTA)	City and County of Honolulu

Task Force Coordination

All HI 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 various components of the HI HIDTA ISC. The ISC maintains access to WSIN's 24/7 Watch Center through an exchange of services. The Watch Center coordinates all case activation, critical event/subject deconfliction, and communication activities. Within the ISC, the intelligence unit coordinates the reporting, analysis, and dissemination of information among the task forces. The CIU-Gang unit coordinates the sharing of information among the neighboring island police department intelligence units. HI HIDTA also plays a central role in providing training to the task forces to ensure the latest information and enforcement techniques are shared and coordinated.

HIDTA Evaluation

HI HIDTA continues to demonstrate significant accomplishments in its effort to reduce drug availability in its AOR. In 2019, HI HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 15 DTOs. Of the 15 DTOs, dismantled or disrupted 1 was international, 2 were multi-state, and 12 were local. HI HIDTA initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$6.3 million and \$1.6 million in cash and assets, resulting in a total ROI of \$2.25. The ISC provided analytical support to 45 cases and processed 5,824 event/case/subject/target deconflictions. HI HIDTA also provided 15,613 hours of training to 1,142 students at no cost to the participants or their agencies.

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. Houston 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. Houston 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

Houston 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 Houston HIDTA comprise intelligence-driven, multi-jurisdictional, collocated, 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, Houston HIDTA recognizes that law enforcement cannot accomplish these goals alone. Therefore, there is a continued effort to develop stronger relationships and strategies with our treatment and prevention partners to create a more holistic approach to reduce significantly the impact of drug addiction on the communities.

Location

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

Initiatives

Houston HIDTA supports 18 initiatives: 1 management, 12 enforcement/interdiction, 2 intelligence, 1 prevention, 1 training, 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
2020	148	\$3.00	\$28.00	440

Threat Assessment

The threat from illicit drug trafficking and associated violence within the Houston HIDTA region remains high, in large part due to its close proximity to the SWB, seaports, and national highway infrastructure. As a result, the region is one of the most significant distribution and transshipment areas for the variety of illegal drugs trafficked from Mexico into the United States. It is also a primary consolidation point for bulk cash smuggled back across the border. Therefore, Houston is one of the principal centers for drug activity in the country. Houston has experienced an increase in methamphetamine availability, heightening the threat level posed to the region and beyond. Cocaine remains ranked as the Houston HIDTA's second greatest drug threat due to its substantial impact on public health, while opioids/opiates follow close behind as the third highest drug threat in the region. The long-standing high level of use of both powder cocaine and crack cocaine among adults is correlated with a significant number of deaths. In fact, the number of toxicity-related deaths in Harris County with cocaine listed as a contributing factor continues to be higher than for any other singular drug type.

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 Houston 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 Houston 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 CPOT, regional priority organizational targets (RPOT), and OCDETF links to investigations. Techniques also include communication exploitation services including toll analysis and mapping; strategic intelligence services and products including special assessments based on new and emerging threats; and coordinating intelligence meetings and trainings.

The HISC sponsors an Opioid Overdose Clearinghouse, a collaborative effort within the Houston 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 HISC developed and continued to manage the unique StopDrugs Website Project, a needed resource to address the ever-changing drug landscape in a format that is comfortable for millennials and the younger population. In addition to being a web-based drug tip line, current

prevention, rehabilitation, and new drug threats and trend information is readily available to local communities, families, administrators, educators, community groups, and coalitions on a website online tip venue that also provides a resource parents and educators can use to have a serious discussion about illegal drugs and their effect. The website is unique in that it has separate, yet connected, websites in ten different locations in the Houston HIDTA region.

The second Houston HIDTA intelligence component is the Narcotics Operations Control Center (NOCC). The NOCC provides event deconfliction services to the Houston HIDTA and other agencies in the Houston area. It is the only single-agency initiative in the Houston HIDTA. Event deconfliction in the Houston 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 Houston 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 Houston 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
Fort Bend Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Stafford
Gangs and Non-Traditional Gang Squad (HIDTA)	Houston
Houston Money Laundering Initiative (HIDTA)	Houston
Major Drug Squads (HIDTA)	Houston
Methamphetamine Initiative Group (HIDTA)	Houston
Montgomery County Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Montgomery County
South East Texas Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Jefferson County
Truck, Air, Rail and Port (HIDTA)	Houston
Targeted Narcotics Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Houston
Texas Coastal Corridor Initiative (HIDTA)	Corpus Christi
Westside Initiative	Austin County

Task Force Coordination

It is the policy of the HIDTA Executive Board that all participating agencies deconflict all events, whether or not they are related to a HIDTA initiative, through the Houston 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 collocated with the FBI’s Field Intelligence Group in Houston, and sharing is routine and institutionalized. The manager of the FBI Field Intelligence Group is also the HISC Commander. The OCDETF Strike Force is housed in the DEA office and shares information daily with the Major Drug Squads, a HIDTA initiative also located at the DEA. It also shares information

on an ad hoc basis with other HIDTA initiatives, especially the Fort Bend Enforcement Team. The DEA has formal task forces in Corpus Christi, Galveston, and Beaumont, Texas. The Corpus Christi task force is collocated 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.

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

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, Houston HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 153 DTOs, which is 9 percent higher than the projected target of 140. Of the 153 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 86 were international, 27 multi-state, and 40 were local in scope. Houston HIDTA initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$212 million, as well as \$24.5 million in cash and assets (over \$237 million in total), for a total ROI of \$19.38 for every dollar invested in the Houston HIDTA. The ISC provided analytical support to 299 cases and processed 15,056 event deconflictions. Houston HIDTA also provided 14,812 hours of critical law enforcement training for 883 law enforcement officers, agents, and analysts, at no cost to the participants or their agencies.

Indiana HIDTA

Designated in 1996

Executive Director – Charles Porucznik

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the Indiana HIDTA is to reduce domestic drug trafficking and drug production by dismantling/disrupting DTOs and MLOs throughout Indiana and the rest of the United States. This is accomplished by cooperating with Federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement in coordinated enforcement activities. The ISC and the Marion County Sheriff's Office – Criminal Intelligence Unit (MCSO-CIU) work to share intelligence among all LEAs and departments by providing timely and accurate intelligence to assist enforcement strategies and operations. The goal is to maximize resources to reduce the supply of illegal drugs throughout Indiana and the Nation.

Strategy

The Indiana HIDTA has 15 law enforcement initiatives and two intelligence initiatives (the ISC and MCSO-CIU) tailored to address the specific needs of the AOR – drug trafficking, gangs, firearms, money laundering and fugitive activities. The non-investigative initiatives are in management, support and prevention. Indiana HIDTA works with 33 state and local jurisdictions, and 6 Federal agencies to bring a coordinated law enforcement effort to the region in an effort to address drug trafficking.

The purpose of the strategy is to provide strategic guidance and goals to the Indiana HIDTA participating agencies as set forth by the Indiana 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

Indiana HIDTA operates out of Crown Point, Indiana, and the AOR consists of the following designated counties:

- Allen, Lake, LaPorte, Marion, Porter, and Vanderburgh

Initiatives

Indiana HIDTA supports 24 initiatives: 2 management, 1 training, 2 intelligence, 3 prevention, 1 prosecution and 15 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
2020	21	\$1.10	\$4.31	3,316

Threat Assessment

The drug threat in the Indiana HIDTA has increased over the past year because of rising levels of fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine availability due to the presence of Mexican DTOs in the area. DTOs operating in the HIDTA region have direct links to Chicago, Indianapolis, the SWB, and Mexico. Criminal street gangs are the primary retail-distributors of drugs in the HIDTA AOR. Nine major interstate highways crossing through the Indiana HIDTA region make it a strategic area utilized by traffickers who transport drugs and money to and through the Indiana HIDTA region. This report is based on both 2019 seizures and 2020 surveys sent to law enforcement officers both within and outside of the AOR (but within Indiana).

Key issues identified in the Indiana HIDTA region are noted as follows:

- Fentanyl was ranked as the highest drug threat in our area. The availability of fentanyl was high in early 2020 and has increased over last year. The departments outside of the AOR ranked fentanyl as third overall.
- In our annual survey to law enforcement, heroin ranked as the second highest drug threat in the Indiana AOR. Heroin availability remains high and has remained the same from last year throughout Allen, Lake, LaPorte, Marion and Porter Counties. In the surveys we distributed to law enforcement departments/agencies within Indiana, but outside of the AOR, heroin also ranked as the second highest drug threat.
- In 2020, methamphetamine availability remains high overall but was moderate to low in two of our five counties – Lake and Porter respectively. Meth availability in LaPorte County increased substantially, from low to high, over last year. The 2019 seizures of methamphetamine (157 kilograms and 973 dosage units) and methamphetamine crystals – ice (12 kilograms) were 13 percent and less than 1 percent respectively of the drugs seized during the year. The Indiana HIDTA has seen substantial seizures, especially in Marion County (Indianapolis), of methamphetamine (106 kilograms and 73 dosage units) in 2019. Those departments outside of Allen, Lake, LaPorte, Marion, and Porter Counties ranked methamphetamine as the highest drug threat.
- According to law enforcement surveys, 31.6 percent of the respondents said that cocaine is readily available throughout the AOR and that the high level of availability remained the same over the previous year. Mexican DTOs continue to control the transportation and bulk sales of cocaine, which is being transported either from Chicago or directly from the SWB to the Indiana HIDTA area for distribution or onward movement. During 2019, the HIDTA initiatives seized 342 kilograms of cocaine and 4 kilograms of crack. Cocaine was also ranked fourth among departments outside of the Indiana HIDTA AOR.
- Local LEAs in Allen, Lake, LaPorte, Marion and Porter Counties report that the availability for CPDs is high and remained the same from 2019. Seizures by Indiana HIDTA initiatives in 2019 showed that hydrocodone, oxycodone, MDMA and alprazolam, are currently among the most commonly diverted and abused CPDs in the HIDTA region. In 2019, HIDTA initiatives seized 28,332 dosage units (DUs) and 4 liters of prescription drugs. The Indiana surveys outside of our area of responsibility also ranked CPDs fifth.
- Area law enforcement ranked synthetics as the sixth highest drug threat in the area. The availability of synthetics is moderate and has decreased over last year. The HIDTA initiatives seized nearly 1 kilogram of synthetics in 2019. Departments outside our AOR ranked synthetics as sixth overall.

- In the survey 74.6 percent of the respondents said that the availability of marijuana was high in Indiana and remained high over the previous year. In 2019, a total of 2,076.819 kilograms of marijuana (of which 117 kilograms was high-grade sinsemilla), 125 liters of THC liquid (vapes) and 198 kilograms of THC resin (edibles) were seized by the Indiana HIDTA initiatives. In the surveys from outside of the AOR, marijuana was also listed in seventh place.
- Street gangs continue to expand into the HIDTA region. Gangs are involved in the trafficking of drugs and firearms throughout Indiana and neighboring states. Gang-related violence and influence are of major concern for LEAs throughout the area.

Intelligence Initiatives

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

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

The ISC uses the SAFETNet deconfliction system, which is directly linked to four other HDTAs in the Midwest. Nationwide, SAFETNet is directly linked to 18 HDTAs and to all HDTAs 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 (DFU) started in Indianapolis to assist with digital evidence in Marion County.

In June 2019, the mission of the initiative formerly known as the Marion County Sheriff's Office – Special Investigations Gang Intelligence Unit (MCSO-SIGIU) in Indianapolis changed from “investigative” to intelligence.” Now the MCSO-CIU initiative utilizes front-line access to Marion County jail facilities and active warrants to gather intelligence in and around Marion County.

In late 2019, three initiatives from Allen County were added to the Indiana HIDTA. The FBI-led Fort Wayne Safe Streets Task Force (FWSSTF), the DEA-led Northeast Indiana Drug Task Force (NEIDTF) and Project Bullet (PB) which is led by the ATF. In June, 2020, Vanderburgh County became a designated county with the Indiana HIDTA. During the third

quarter, the River City Drug Task Force (RCDTF) initiative was added to our law enforcement 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
ATF Achilles Unit (HIDTA)	Indianapolis
Central Indiana Drug Task Force Group 52 (HIDTA)	Indianapolis
DEA Task Force Group 56	Merrillville
Domestic Highway Enforcement (HIDTA)	Lowell
Firearms Interdiction Regional Enforcement (HIDTA)	Crown Point
Fort Wayne Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Fort Wayne
Gang Response Investigative Team (HIDTA)	Hobart
Indianapolis Hotel Interdiction and Truck Stops (HIDTA)	Indianapolis
Indianapolis Metro Safe Streets Gang Task Force (HIDTA)	Indianapolis
Lake County Combined Task Force Group 57 (HIDTA)	Crown Point
Lake County Drug Task Force (Lake County Sheriff’s Department)	Crown Point
LaPorte County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Michigan City
Marshal’s Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Hammond
Money Laundering and Financial Crimes (HIDTA)	Crown Point
Northeast Indiana Drug Task Force Group 55P (HIDTA)	Fort Wayne
Porter County Multi-Enforcement Group (HIDTA)	Valparaiso
Project Bullet Initiative (HIDTA)	Fort Wayne
River City Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Evansville

Task Force Coordination

The Lake County Drug Task Force (LCDTF) coordinates with a number of other Indiana HIDTA initiatives. If LCDTF’s operations encounter large amounts of drugs or any weapons, they contact and coordinate with either the Lake County Combined Task Force (a DEA-led initiative) or the Firearms Interdiction Regional Enforcement Task Force (an ATF-led initiative). LCDTF works with the Indiana HIDTA ISC on certain operations and event/subject deconflictions, as well as with the IRS, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and other agencies to carry out its operations. The Indiana HIDTA ISC provides deconfliction (event and target) services to 46 Federal, state, and local LEAs.

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

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

HIDTA Evaluation

Indiana HIDTA is achieving its primary performance objectives. During 2019, 32 DTOs (128% of the expected result) were disrupted or dismantled. In addition, the Indiana HIDTA task forces seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$30.4 million and \$4.6 million in cash and other drug-related assets (\$35.0 million total), achieving a total ROI of \$7.96. Indiana HIDTA also provided 8,425 training hours to 661 students.

Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA

Designated in 1995

Executive Director – Jeremiah Daley

Purpose and Goals

Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA's (LMA HIDTA) mission is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs and address drug-related violent crime in its nine designated counties LMA HIDTA by assisting Federal, state, and local LEAs participating in the 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. To accomplish this, 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.

Strategy

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, LMA HIDTA takes a comprehensive approach to thwarting the use, flow, and distribution of drugs into its nine-county region. 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 non-governmental organizations to decrease demand for and harm from illegal substance abuse. The investigative and enforcement initiatives are structured to maximize the response to violent episodes in the most seriously impacted areas – Philadelphia, Atlantic City, Camden, Chester, Coatesville, and Wilmington, while continuously pursuing the region's DTOs and MLOs that fuel the supply of drugs to all our communities. LMA HIDTA's support initiatives enhance the operating environments, professional skillsets, information sharing capabilities, and intelligence assessments and case support services that law enforcement initiatives rely upon to succeed.

Location

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

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

Initiatives

For 2020, the LMA HIDTA supports 24 law enforcement initiatives and sub-initiatives focused on investigation, interdiction, and fugitive apprehension in the nine-county region plus one each of the following support initiatives: Management and Coordination, Training, Intelligence and Information-sharing, Information Technology and Prevention. Five of the primary enforcement initiatives contain 14 sub-initiatives in total, each with varied foci on the drug trade, including Dark Web drug distribution and gun violence related to the drug trade.

As part of a unique collaboration with other HIDTAs nationwide, LMA HIDTA implements the HIDTA ORS across Pennsylvania and Delaware. This novel undertaking engages public safety and public health partners through data collection and analysis, cross-disciplinary planning, training and community tailored responses to the acute threats posed by heroin and 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
2020	66	\$2.47	\$5.69	356

Threat Assessment

LMA HIDTA lies within the fifth largest metropolitan area in the United States and is home to 5.7 million people within its nine-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, LMA HIDTA sits within one of the more violent regions in the Nation, as Atlantic City, NJ, Camden, NJ, Chester, PA, and Wilmington, DE, remain high in rankings of the most violent cities per capita in the country. Philadelphia’s 2019 violent crime rate is two and a half times the national average (1021.4 per 100,000 versus 382.9 nationally); the homicide rate (15.9 per 100,000) was three times higher than the national average (5.3).

Heroin, fentanyl and fentanyl-related analogs, prescription drugs, cocaine, and marijuana are the principal drug threats to the LMA HIDTA region, with growing numbers of fatal and nonfatal overdose episodes attributed to fentanyl and poly-drug abuse. MDTOs (with direct connections to cartel-level syndicates or cells) remain the dominant heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and marijuana suppliers within the LMA HIDTA region. MDTOs have established the region as a central location to store temporarily large quantities of illicit drugs and cash proceeds transiting between the northeastern United States and the SWB region. MDTOs, allied with various other independent groups, are capable of distributing multi-kilogram quantities of high-purity South American- and Mexican-produced white heroin, kilogram quantities of fentanyl, hundred-kilogram quantities of cocaine, millions of dosage units of prescription drugs, and thousands of pounds of commercial-grade and high potency marijuana on a monthly basis. Continuing the prior year’s trend, investigations and intelligence confirm that MDTOs are supplying bulk quantities

(multi-kilogram) of crystal methamphetamine (“ice”) and liquid methamphetamine within the LMA HIDTA region in an attempt to increase demand among users. Methamphetamine distribution is rising and the DarkNet is becoming more common as a source for illicit drug procurement.

Philadelphia is a commercial transportation hub. Drugs arrive in the region through various means, including private and commercial vehicles; commercial air, rail, and bus transit; and postal, commercial parcel; and ground, air, and maritime cargo shipments.

These same conveyances are also utilized to transport bulk currency to domestic consolidation points across the SWB to Mexico or through the Caribbean to Central and South America. Other money movement techniques used by traffickers in the LMA HIDTA region include bank deposit structuring to avoid Bank Secrecy Act reporting requirements, cash-based and money service businesses to wire proceeds, prepaid stored value cards, purchases of high-priced assets, and laundering through legitimate or front businesses.

Urban areas within the LMA 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. Law enforcement and public health professionals alike view heroin, fentanyl, and opioid abuse as the greatest concern in the LMA HIDTA region due to the continued availability of higher potency, low-priced heroin and fentanyl mixtures and its appeal to teenage and young adult users priced out of the prescription narcotics market. Compounding these factors, the emergence of fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, and opioid-like synthetic drugs in the regional drug market pose the likelihood of more deaths and hospitalizations, adding to the already alarming numbers of fatal and nonfatal overdose incidents.

Intelligence Initiatives

The LMA 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). Along with LEAs, the ISC interacts with public health agencies throughout the region, exchanging drug abuse indicators and overdose-related data.

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

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

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
ATF-Camden Gun Violence Task Force (HIDTA)	Camden County, NJ
Atlantic County Gangs, Guns and Narcotics Task Force (Atlantic Co. Prosecutor's Office)	Atlantic Co., NJ
Chester County HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA)	Chester County, PA
DEA-Camden RO Task Force (DEA)	Camden, Burlington, Gloucester & Salem Counties, NJ
DEA-Phila. Group 31 Interdiction Initiative Task Force (HIDTA)	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 Tactical Diversion Squad Group #42 (DEA)	State of Delaware
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 Safe Streets Task Force (FBI-Atlantic City Resident Agency)	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
Fugitive Apprehension Initiative (USMS) (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
Joint Camden Task Force (CCPD/DEA) (HIDTA)	Camden County, NJ
Money Laundering & Drug Asset Forfeiture Task Forces (DHS-ICE) (HIDTA)	Metropolitan Philadelphia, PA area
Montgomery County Task Force (HIDTA)	Montgomery County
Philadelphia Drug Trafficking Task Forces Initiative (PPD/PDAO) (HIDTA)	Philadelphia, PA
South Jersey Safe Streets Violent Drug Gang Task Forces (FBI-Philadelphia) (HIDTA/DOJ-Safe Streets)	Metropolitan Camden, NJ area
Suburban Camden County Drug Task Force (Byrne)	Camden County, NJ

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
USMS-Delaware 1st State Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA) New Castle Co. Initiative	New Castle County, DE
Violent Crimes Task Force (ATF) (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

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. LMA 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 LMA HIDTA region continuously coordinate investigative activities with each other, LMA HIDTA, and DOJ OCDETF program administrators. All participating agency task forces, as well as many non-HIDTA LEAs in the region, contribute to and query against the event and target deconfliction systems offered by the LMA 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 LMA HIDTA and the region’s RISS Project – the Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLN).

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

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

LMA HIDTA also acts as an access point for state and local law enforcement to EPIC National Seizure System (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 the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN).

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, LMA HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 80 DTOs/MLOs, representing 100 percent of its target of 80 DTOs/MLOs. Much of the effort to disrupt and dismantle many of the DTOs/MLOs was the result of long-term, multiyear investigations. Of the DTOs/MLOs disrupted or dismantled, 24 were international, 25 were multi-state, and 31 were local in nature.

In addition, initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$571 million and nearly \$20 million in cash and other assets. Approximately 1,324 fugitives were apprehended by the LMA HIDTA fugitive task forces (355 of which were directly related to drug charges).

In 2019, 6,558 tactical operations were deconflicted through the LMA HIDTA Watch Center. Also, in 2019, major investigative case support was administered to 251 investigations and LMA HIDTA presented, supported, and/or sponsored training for 2,782 students from LEAs in the region.

Los Angeles HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Executive Director – Roger Bass

Purpose and Goals

Los Angeles HIDTA’s (LA HIDTA) mission is to efficiently and effectively identify and target major DTOs working at 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 multi-jurisdictional (Federal, state and local), collocated and commingled law enforcement and intelligence initiatives designed to attack, disrupt and dismantle major DTOs and MLOs that are operating in and through the LA HIDTA region.

Strategy

LA HIDTA’s strategy aligns the Intelligence Support System (ISS) and task force initiatives to communicate effectively, coordinate and focus their respective intelligence and enforcement efforts to enhance the disruption and or dismantling of major DTOs and MLOs that, at their highest levels, operate in and through the regions primary geographical area to other parts of the country. The strategy provides a comprehensive, dynamic law enforcement/intelligence plan that combines and coordinates regional drug control efforts in areas where they can have the most significant impact on the threat. By Executive Board direction, this HIDTA consists of seven major operational task forces comprising collocated 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 that operate at the higher levels of the illegal drug chain of command in order to measurably reduce drug trafficking and its impact in this and other areas of the country.

Location

LA HIDTA operates out of Los Angeles, California. Its designated geographic area covers the following counties (32,341 square miles/population of approximately 17.9 million):

- Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino

Initiatives

LA HIDTA supports 13 initiatives: 1 management, 1 training, 1 prosecution, 3 intelligence, and 7 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
2020	163	\$2.25	\$122.00	900

Threat Assessment

Major DTOs and criminal groups control the wholesale distribution of illicit drugs in the LA 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 LA HIDTA region has become one of the most significant illicit drug distribution centers in the United States for cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, marijuana, methamphetamine, MDMA, and phencyclidine (PCP). Additionally, MDTOs and criminal groups based in the LA 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 clearly a staging area for MDTOs and some that have a national and/or international presence.

The geographic, cultural, social, and economic diversity and general affluence of the population within the four-county area [sixth largest economy in the world with approximately 14 percent of the national gross domestic product (the largest in the United States)] have helped make LA HIDTA a huge market for drug abuse and distribution. At the same time, the highly developed transportation routes and the proximity to the SWB have made LA 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 LA HIDTA an ideal location for clandestine manufacturing of ice, although the majority of methamphetamine encountered in LA HIDTA is manufactured in Mexico.

Intelligence Initiatives

The LA 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.

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 LA HIDTA ISS, LA CLEAR provides an ISC for LEAs operating within the LA 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 LA HIDTA region. LA CLEAR comprises the following:

- 24/7 Intelligence and Deconfliction Watch Center (War Room);
 - The War Room uses the California State Intelligence Index (CSII) database and the RISSIntel as pointer systems and achieves national connectivity through the RISSNET pointer system with its connectivity to the National Virtual Pointer System (NVPS). This facilitates Case/Subject/Target Deconfliction, as well as the sharing of information among LEAs operating within and outside the LA HIDTA region. Additionally, through the War Room's use of RISSafe to facilitate Event Deconfliction, officer safety remains a paramount consideration within the LA HIDTA region.
- An Analytical Unit comprising an Investigative Analysis Section (Case Support) and a Research Analysis Section (Post-Seizure Analysis and DHE);

- The Analytical Unit provides agencies with all types of operational, tactical, and analytical products, including telephone toll analysis, link analysis, charts, graphs, wiretap support, and targeting analysis.
- The Analytical Unit produces quarterly trend reports that have strategic analysis on enforcement trends, price and purity updates, lab seizure data, and clandestine laboratory trend information.
- The Analytical Unit has access to the CSII and RISSIntel databases, law enforcement databases, commercial databases such as Autotrak, Automated License Plate Reader System and Lexis-Nexis, as well as access to EPIC.
- A Special Operations Support Unit that provides electronic intercept support through an onsite electronic intercept and surveillance center capable of handling 85 simultaneous wiretap operations;
 - The Special Operations Support Unit has technicians on call 24 hours a day to assist LEAs.
- An 85-seat training facility that doubles as a command post with sufficient telephone and data lines to support large operations;
- A broadcast studio capable of live streaming law enforcement classes via the Internet;
- A 20-station computer training lab where classes are presented on a variety of programs, including Pen-Link and Analyst's Notebook;
- An Information Systems Support Unit that supports over 30 different Federal, state, and local law enforcement and public databases complemented by over 40 open source databases onsite at LA CLEAR, maintains the HIDTA node, and is a RISS node within the RISSNET information sharing highway; and
- Intelligence and deconfliction services provided to 255 Federal, state, and local LEAs, regional and district offices, and task forces in California.

The JRIC serves as an intelligence coordination fusion center for the JTTFs and FBI Field Intelligence Groups within the LA HIDTA region. In order 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 LA HIDTA's three intelligence initiatives. Personnel lead the JRIC from the FBI and local agencies represented on the LA HIDTA Executive Board.

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

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
Domestic Highway Enforcement Team – Los Angeles (HIDTA)	Los Angeles County
Domestic Highway Enforcement Team - Orange (HIDTA)	Orange County
Domestic Highway Enforcement Team - Riverside (HIDTA)	Riverside County
Domestic Highway Enforcement Team – San Bernardino (HIDTA)	San Bernardino County
Inland Crackdown Allied Task Force (HIDTA)	Riverside County
Inland Empire Financial Crimes Task Force (USSS)	Riverside County
Inland Narcotic Clearing House (HIDTA)	Riverside County
Inland Regional Apprehension Team – Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Riverside County
Inland Regional Narcotic Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	San Bernardino County
Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (HSI)	Los Angeles County
Joint Regional Intelligence Center (HIDTA / DHS Fusion Center)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Border Enforcement Strike Team (HSI)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Parcel Interdiction Task Force (DEA)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Human Trafficking Task Force (FBI)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Marijuana Eradication Task Force (LASD/DEA)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Interagency Metropolitan Police Apprehension Crime Task Force (HIDTA)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Narcotics Task Force (DEA)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Metro Violent Crimes – Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Parcel Interdiction Team (USPS)	Los Angeles County
Los Angeles Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (HIDTA)	Los Angeles County
Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force (FBI)	Orange County
Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center (DHS Fusion Center)	Orange County
Orange County Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)	Orange County
Orange County Narcotic Enforcement Team (DEA)	Orange County
Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force (USMS)	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside & San Bernardino
Palm Springs Narcotic Enforcement Team (DEA)	Riverside County
Regional Methamphetamine Task Force (HIDTA)	Riverside County
Regional Methamphetamine Task Force (HIDTA)	San Bernardino County
Regional Methamphetamine Task Force – Los Angeles (HIDTA)	Los Angeles County
Regional Methamphetamine Task Force - Orange (HIDTA)	Orange County
Regional Narcotics Suppression Program (HIDTA)	Orange County
Riverside County Gang Impact Team (FBI)	Riverside County
Riverside County Human Trafficking Task Force (FBI)	Riverside County

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Riverside County Marijuana Eradication Team (HIDTA)	Riverside County
Riverside Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)	Riverside County
San Bernardino County Human Trafficking Task Force (FBI)	San Bernardino County
San Bernardino County Marijuana Eradication Team (BJA)	San Bernardino County
San Bernardino County Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	San Bernardino County
San Bernardino International Parcel Interdiction Team – ICEFIT (HSI)	San Bernardino County
San Bernardino Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)	San Bernardino County
Santa Ana Violent Crimes & Gang - Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Orange County
Sinaloa Cartel Strike Force (DEA)	Los Angeles County
Southern California Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside & San
Southwest Border Task Force (DEA)	Los Angeles County
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Los Angeles County

Task Force Coordination

LA HIDTA facilitates cooperation and joint efforts among more than 164 Federal, state, and local LEAs and involves over 581 personnel participating in the LA HIDTA task force and intelligence initiatives.

LA 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 LA 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 LA HIDTA task force then applies all necessary investigative resources to identify, prioritize, target, and dismantle the major poly-DTOs found operating in the LA 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 LA HIDTA region) utilize the LA CLEAR to perform all case and event deconfliction.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, LA HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 207 DTOs/MLOs, representing 148 percent of its target of 140 DTOs/MLOs. Much of the effort to disrupt and dismantle many of the DTOs/MLOs was the result of long-term, multi-year investigations. Of the DTOs/MLOs disrupted or dismantled, 77 was international, 68 was multi-state, and 62 was local in nature.

LA HIDTA invested \$16.20 million in its initiatives and seized illegal drugs with a wholesale value of \$1.9 billion, for a total ROI of \$124.48. In 2019, initiatives did not dismantle

any methamphetamine powder labs, but they did dismantle 6 methamphetamine (“ice”) conversion laboratories (5 were methamphetamine (“ice”) super conversion labs – 10 pounds or greater which equates to 83% of all super ice conversions seized in the State of California).

In 2019, task forces removed over 377 tons of dangerous drugs from the streets. This included 3.6 tons of cocaine, 365.9 tons of marijuana, 993 pounds of heroin, 6.8 tons of methamphetamine, 329 kilograms of fentanyl, and 1,887 dosage units of MDMA (Ecstasy). Additionally, over \$26.9 million in cash and an additional \$10.4 million in property assets were seized. There were 1,451 individuals arrested for various high-level drug and money laundering offenses and 434 firearms were seized.

A continuing, emerging trend/drug threat in LA HIDTA in 2019 involves the fabrication of BHO laboratories. In 2019, enforcement initiatives seized 103 BHO laboratories, an increase of 20 percent from 2018 (86). Thirty (29%) of the 103 seized BHO labs involved some type of fire or explosion. BHO is odorless when smoked and is typically used in vaporizers, water pipes, electronic cigarettes, or similar devices. The results are potent due to the concentrated high levels of THC.

In total, 118 clandestine laboratories were dismantled in 2019, to include: 2 fentanyl laboratories (one a “super” fentanyl laboratory – 10 pounds or greater per production cycle); 1 GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyric acid) laboratory; 3 DMT (dimethyltryptamine) laboratories (one 10 pounds or greater per production cycle); 1 steroid laboratory; 2 MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine) laboratories and 103 BHO (butane hash oil also known as “honey oil”) laboratories (40 were “super” honey oil laboratories – 10 pounds or greater per production cycle) and 6 methamphetamine (ICE) conversion laboratories (5 were “super” methamphetamine (“ice”) conversion laboratories – 10 pounds or greater per production cycle). The fact that we are continuing to see fentanyl production laboratories in our area of responsibility remains of significant concern.

In 2019, the LA HIDTA ISS provided analytical support to 1,083 major investigations and processed 75,384 critical events and 251,274 case/subject/target element deconflictions. Additionally, LA HIDTA provided 215,421 hours of training to some 16,310 law enforcement students.

Michigan HIDTA

Designated in 1997

Executive Director – Craig Summers

Purpose and Goals

Michigan HIDTA's mission is to reduce the production and trafficking of illegal drugs, related violent crime, 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. Michigan 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 and violent crime threat in the region.

Strategy

Michigan 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.

Michigan 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 collocation, interagency cooperation, and consolidation of strategic and tactical information, Michigan 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

Michigan HIDTA is based in Southfield, a suburb of Detroit, MI and its AOR comprises 12 counties:

- 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, Kalamazoo, Pontiac, Port Huron, Muskegon, and Saginaw.

Initiatives

Michigan HIDTA currently supports 33 initiatives: 1 management and coordination, 2 training, 2 operational support, 1 prosecutorial, 1 investigative support and deconfliction, 2 fugitive apprehension, 3 interdiction, and 21 investigative/enforcement initiatives. The focus of the investigative/ enforcement initiatives is as follows:

- DTOs (16), money laundering (1), prescription drug diversion (1), Dark Web drug-trafficking (1) drug-related 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
2020	107	\$3.50	\$16.50	541

Threat Assessment

Michigan 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 Michigan HIDTA counties include major drug markets in Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Pontiac, Port Huron, and Saginaw. These markets serve as distribution centers for smaller markets within the region and neighboring states. Mexican DTOs are the primary source of supply for cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin and low-grade marijuana for Michigan.

Fentanyl is readily available and its abuse continues to increase throughout most areas in the state. In 2019, Michigan HIDTA task forces seized a total of 30 kilograms of fentanyl compared to 17 kilograms in 2018. Michigan State Police forensic laboratory data, identifying the predominant drug type in tested samples, showed roughly a 42% increase in the presence of fentanyl from 2018 to 2019.

Heroin continues to rank high as a serious drug threat in Michigan. Heroin remains widely available with 97 percent of drug teams reporting the drug is readily available compared to 94 percent in 2018. Sixty-four of the 99 DTOs/MLOs disrupted or dismantled by Michigan HIDTA Task Forces in 2019 trafficked heroin. In 2019, Michigan HIDTA task forces seized roughly 29 kilograms of heroin. In 2019, there were 21,954 Michigan residents admitted to publicly-funded treatment facilities for heroin use (29% of all public admissions), an increase from 21,576 in 2018.

Crystal methamphetamine, a purer form of methamphetamine, is 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 (“ice”), continues to increase, with 84 percent of drug teams reporting the drug is readily available compared to 72 percent in 2018. Michigan HIDTA task forces seized 100 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine in 2019, which is roughly a 207 percent increase from 33 kilograms seized in 2018. The influx in ICE has had a major impact on the methamphetamine powder drug market in Michigan and several drug teams have reported a drop in “one-pot” methamphetamine labs. Twenty-four percent of teams surveyed reported crystal methamphetamine as their most significant drug threat. More specifically, the counties reporting crystal methamphetamine as their most significant threat are located primarily in northern and western Michigan, with two counties located within mid-Michigan. In 2019, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported 4,268 Michigan residents indicated methamphetamine as their primary drug of choice upon admission for treatment, up from 2,691 in 2018.

Prescription Diversion and Abuse continues to be a significant threat to the state due to availability through multiple methods of acquisition. Consistent with last reporting period, these

drugs are readily available and in high demand across all jurisdictions. The methods of acquiring illegal prescription drugs include illegal purchases at known drug houses or private residences, diversion by doctor/pharmacist, street sales, “doctor shopping,” (i.e., the practice of visiting more than one doctor in a short time span in order to obtain multiple prescriptions of the same medication), prescription forgeries, and pharmacy theft. Another method includes visiting physicians who operate as DTOs. Illegally obtained pharmaceutical drugs from Detroit and the surrounding metropolitan area are subsequently distributed at higher costs to other states like Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Prescription drugs accounted for the largest percentage of substance abuse treatment admissions in 31 of the 83 counties statewide. The MDHHS reports 7,198 Michigan resident admissions for publicly funded treatment for prescription opioid use in 2019.

Cocaine is a significant drug threat and is readily available across the State of Michigan. The availability of cocaine continues to increase with 97% of drug teams reporting the drug is readily available compared to 94 percent in 2018. Additionally, 27 percent of drug teams surveyed reported an increase in availability and 73 percent reported stable availability from 2018. Pricing for cocaine has slightly increased from the last reporting period with a kilogram of cocaine ranging from \$30,000 to \$38,000. Michigan HIDTA task forces seized roughly 1,036 kilograms of cocaine in 2019, compared to roughly 431 kilograms in 2018; however, the increase is due to one team’s significant seizure of 753 kilograms of cocaine outside the United States pursuant to an investigation of an international DTO. Crack cocaine in Michigan is a moderate drug threat and is readily available. MDHHS data show there were 7,183 publicly-funded treatment admissions for cocaine use in 2019, up from 6,316 in 2018.

Marijuana is the most readily available drug in the State of Michigan. According to drug teams surveyed, 100 percent reported it is readily available with 73 percent reporting more availability than in 2018. Abuse of the laws enacted through the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act (MMMA) and the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act, has contributed to the increase in usage. The Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act was passed by the voters of the State of Michigan on November 6, 2018. Effective December 6, 2018, marijuana has been legal for anyone over 21 years of age to grow, consume, and possess. Under this law, a person may carry up to 2.5 ounces and store up to 10 ounces or grow up to 12 plants in their home. Additionally, recreational marijuana sales in the state began December 1, 2019, which allow anyone over the age of 21 to purchase marijuana from licensed dispensaries. It is likely that marijuana and other marijuana extracts such as edibles will continue to increase in availability. Per the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), there are more than 200 legal medical marijuana provisioning centers and roughly 50 legal recreational marijuana retailer provisioning centers, most commonly known as dispensaries, in the State of Michigan.

According to the *2019 Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Report*, there are 268,566 registered medical marijuana cardholders and 36,392 medical marijuana caregivers registered in the state (total 304,958), down from 340,571 approved registrants in 2018. MDHHS data show there were 4,791 publicly funded treatment admissions for marijuana use in Michigan in 2019. The Michigan Regional Poison Control Center reported 256 emergency room (ER) visits involving adolescents related to marijuana in 2019. Additionally, calls made to the Michigan Regional Poison Control Center involving adolescent exposures (ingestion or inhalation) to marijuana increased roughly 53 percent from 2018. Marijuana produced in Michigan is distributed to other states. Mexico remains the primary source of supply for low quality, high yield

marijuana imported to Michigan. In 2019, 1,067 kilograms of indoor grown marijuana plants and 740 kilograms of processed marijuana were seized by Michigan HIDTA initiatives.

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

Detroit, Flint, and Saginaw continue to be three of the more violent cities in the United States. These cities 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. Michigan HIDTA supports 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.

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 southeast Michigan, is fully operational and collocated with the Michigan HIDTA ISDC. More than 226 law enforcement entities use the ISDC for event deconfliction, case matching, and investigative support services. In 2019, Michigan HIDTA processed 20,268 requests for event deconfliction and identified 943 potential blue-on-blue conflicts. The ISDC also processed 6,423 cases for matching, identifying 1,045 positive case matches allowing Michigan HIDTA to bring together separate law enforcement agencies investigating the same subject/residence/business/etc. In addition, the ISDC processed more than 300 requests for investigative support during 2019.

In response to the continued increase of heroin, fentanyl, and opioid-related fatal and nonfatal overdoses throughout the state, Michigan HIDTA continues to participate in the ORS in conjunction with Federal, state and local partners. The cornerstone of the ORS is the collaborative efforts of a Drug Intelligence Officer (DIO) and Public Health Analyst (PHA) team. In conjunction with the ISDC, in which the DIO is embedded, Michigan HIDTA serves as the central repository for information and intelligence regarding opioid-related overdoses and deaths and analyzed 1,439 overdose reports in 2019. Currently, Michigan does not have centralized reporting of this data in real time. The Michigan HIDTA in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and University of Michigan partners have integrated state-wide emergency medical services overdose data into the HIDTA ODMAP with the goal of providing real-time overdose data to our public safety and public health partners throughout the state. The Michigan HIDTA PHA and University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center partners have developed the System for Opioid Overdose Surveillance (SOS). In 2019, the system transitioned to a web-based dashboard that offers two levels of access. The first 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 launch in late 2019, over 160 stakeholders from 70 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. Michigan HIDTA public safety and public health partners also utilize ODMAP to provide actionable real-time data to focus their attention on those residents and those areas most in need of assistance and care. Working with our partners at the MDHHS and the Washington Baltimore HIDTA real-time naloxone administration data for the State of Michigan as 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.

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

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

Task Force Coordination

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

In early 2020, Michigan HIDTA prepared a threat assessment to provide information on DTOs, MLOs, firearms trafficking, violent crime, drug trafficking trends, production techniques, gangs, drug-related homicides, and information regarding threats along the United States-Canada border. Timely intelligence bulletins and relevant regional law enforcement information are shared electronically through an extensive contact list and directly with the Michigan Intelligence Operations Center (MIOC) located in Lansing.

Michigan HIDTA is involved in highway interdiction through a comprehensive DHE initiative that uses both HSIN and EPIC NSS to gather and share data nationwide with other HIDTAs and other agencies. Those initiatives that investigate methamphetamine laboratory cases also use NSS. In 2019, the Michigan HIDTA DHE operations confiscated more than \$1.2 million in illegal drugs at wholesale prices.

Michigan HIDTA also houses representatives from the Detroit Police Department, FBI, ATF, HSI, DHS, CP and CN Railroad investigators, U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), the Dearborn 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 Detroit and Southeast Michigan Information and Intelligence Center (DSEMIIC), a satellite of the Michigan Fusion Center is collocated with the Michigan HIDTA ISDC. Its function complements the ISDC and vice versa.

HIDTA Evaluation

Michigan HIDTA responds to the drug threats facing its AOR by using established methods augmented by innovative strategies. Performance measures for 2019 demonstrate that Michigan HIDTA achieved outcomes by successfully disrupting/dismantling 99 DTOs/MLOs. Of the organizations disrupted or dismantled, 60 were international or multi-state in scope. In 2019, initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of more than \$57.6 million from the marketplace and seized more than \$12.8 million in cash and other drug-related assets from DTOs for a ROI of \$17.23.

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

Midwest HIDTA

Designated in 1996

Executive Director – Jeffrey Stamm

Purpose and Goals

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

Strategy

Midwest HIDTA has developed a cohesive and comprehensive regional program focused on reducing and disrupting the importation, distribution, and manufacturing of illegal drugs. The task forces maintain an aggressive posture toward enforcement activities. Midwest 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, multijurisdictional OCDETF, priority target organization (PTO), CPOT, and other TCO investigations with an emphasis on dismantling the entire organization and reducing drug-related violence. Investigations target the highest level of DTOs and MLOs using undercover operations, innovative techniques, and surveillance of command and control communications. These investigations are intelligence-driven and conducted in a cooperative spirit among Federal, state, and local counterparts in a task force arrangement.

Location

The office of the HIDTA Director, as the primary management and coordination initiative of Midwest HIDTA, is located in Kansas City, Missouri. The Director's field program staff assists and provides coordination support to regional task forces and HIDTA initiatives. Field staff offices are located within donated office space in four of the states that are involved in the Midwest HIDTA Program. Midwest HIDTA encompasses the following counties in seven states:

- Illinois: Rock Island
- 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 Scott's 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

Midwest HIDTA supports 57 initiatives: 1 management, 1 training, 1 prosecution, 1 technology, 46 investigation/interdiction, 5 intelligence, and 2 prevention 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
2020	239	\$2.36	\$12.70	4,632

Threat Assessment

A myriad of drugs are abused throughout the densely populated urban areas, user hubs, and rural territory within the region and their presence threatens the life and property of the citizens, along with the social fabric of the communities. Cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana continue to be a plague in all areas of the Midwest HIDTA region. Moreover, the opioid epidemic, which has spread across the Nation, has not left the Midwest untouched. Heroin and fentanyl are prevalent across all communities in every state across the Midwest, fueled by the prescription opioid explosion. Drugs such as fentanyl, MDMA and GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyric acid), and other dangerous synthetics are also consistently present in most urban areas. PCP appears to be readily available in the Kansas City metro area, with significant quantities interdicted between California and Kansas City. In the Midwest HIDTA region, Mexican traffickers continue to dominate wholesale drug distribution and transportation.

Competing gangs and other DTOs use violence to solidify and maintain their hold on drug trafficking within their area of influence. Cooperative local, state, and Federal law enforcement efforts throughout the region have had noteworthy success in identifying, targeting, and prosecuting active DTOs and gang members involved in violent drug-related activity. Drug trafficking trend analysis has long indicated that high-level DTOs have become established and entrenched in the Midwest, and many of these DTOs are poly-drug operations. As a result, task forces continue to initiate significant OCDETF, PTO-linked, CPOT-linked, Title III, and financial investigations. Usage of CPDs and opioid pain medications has also driven an increase in the number of heroin and/or fentanyl users as trafficking groups expand their markets. Heroin overdose deaths and emergency room episodes have also exponentially increased in many Midwest cities.

A significant and chronic problem in both suburban and rural areas of the AOR is methamphetamine abuse, along with its related violence and social costs. Crystal methamphetamine (“ice”) is highly sought after, and its popularity throughout the region contributes to the dominant presence of MDTOs in the Midwest. Mexican organizations transport methamphetamine into the region via well-established overland routes. Some reporting also indicates the smuggling of methamphetamine in solution into the region for local conversion.

Intelligence Initiatives

Midwest HIDTA plays a central role in assuring coordination and cooperation between initiatives and, to a lesser degree, with other agencies and task forces that voluntarily participate. All the enforcement drug task forces share information with the ISC and actively participate in the HIDTA Intelligence Coordination Plan. Midwest 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 Midwest HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Cedar Rapids DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Linn County, IA
Central Iowa Drug Task Force (JAG)	Story County, IA
Central NE Drug and Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Hall County, NE
Central Nebraska Cooperation for Drug Enforcement (JAG)	North Platte, NE
Cooperative Operation for Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Lincoln County, NE
Des Moines DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Polk County, IA
DCI Statewide Drug Task Force (JAG)	Pierre, SD
Dubuque Area Drug Task Force (JAG)	Dubuque County, IA
Fargo DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Cass County, ND
Franklin County Narcotics Enforcement Unit (HIDTA/JAG)	Franklin County, MO
Garden City DEA/Finney County Task Force (HIDTA)	Finney County, KS
Grand Forks County Task Force (HIDTA)	Grand Forks County, ND
Greater Omaha Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Douglas County, NE
Iowa Interdiction Support (HIDTA/JAG)	Polk County, IA
Jackson County Drug Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Jackson County, MO
Jasper County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Jasper County, MO
Jasper County Drug Task Force (JAG)	Jasper County, MO
Jefferson City DEA (HIDTA)	Cole County, MO
Jefferson County Municipal Enforcement Group (HIDTA/JAG)	Jefferson County, MO
Johnson County Multiagency Drug Task Force (JAG)	Iowa City, IA
Kansas City DEA Interdiction TF (HIDTA)	Platte County, MO
Kansas City DEA Northland Drug Task	Platte County, MO
Kansas City FBI (HIDTA)	Jackson County, MO
Kansas City Missouri Metro Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Jackson County, MO
Kansas City Violent Crimes (HIDTA)	Jackson County, MO
Kansas City/Overland Park DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Johnson County, MO
Kansas Interdiction Support (HIDTA)	Shawnee County, MO
Lafayette County Narcotics Unit (JAG)	Lafayette County, MO

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Lee County Narcotics Task Force (JAG)	Keokuk, IA
Lincoln-Lancaster Drug Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Lancaster County, NE
Metro Area Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Burleigh County, ND
Mid Iowa Drug Task Force (JAG)	Marshall County, IA
Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force (JAG)	Polk County, IA
Midwest HIDTA Investigate Support Center (HIDTA)	Platte County, MO
Missouri Interdiction and Information Exchange (HIDTA)	Cole 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)	Cass County, ND
Northeast Iowa Drug Task Force (JAG)	Decorah, IA
Omaha ATF Illegal Firearms Task Force (HIDTA)	Douglas County, NE
Omaha DEA Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Douglas County, NE
Omaha Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Douglas County, NE
Pennington County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Pennington County, SD
Quad Cities Federal Gang Task Force (FBI)	Rock Island, Illinois
Quad Cities Metropolitan Enforcement Group (HIDTA)	Rock Island County, IL
Regional Apprehension Program (JAG)	York, NE
S.W. Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force (JAG)	Council Bluffs, IA
SAUSA Prosecution (HIDTA)	Williams County, ND
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
Southeast Area for Drug Enforcement (JAG)	Beatrice, NE
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, MO
Southeast Multi-County Agency (JAG)	Wahpeton, ND
Special Narcotics Abuse Reduction Effort (JAG)	Columbus, NE
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

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
St. Louis FBI Squad 5 (HIDTA)	St. Louis City, MO
Tri-County Drug Task Force (JAG)	Washington County, IA
Tri-State Sioux City DEA Task Force (HIDTA/JAG)	Woodbury County, IA
Wichita DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	Sedgwick County, KS
WING Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Scotts Bluff County, NE

Task Force Coordination

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

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, Midwest HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 301 DTOs – 26 international, 128 multi-state, and 60 local in scope. The wholesale value of drugs removed from the marketplace by Midwest enforcement initiatives was over \$198 million, and cash and asset seizures totaled more than \$27.4 million. The 2019 ROI was calculated at \$14.49. Although the Midwest HIDTA continues to support methamphetamine laboratory seizures and clean-up, the focus has shifted to the exponential growth of methamphetamine produced and trafficked by Mexican DTOs throughout the region. The predominance of Mexican transnational organized crime – along with their regional mid-level cells in every Midwest state which also traffic in all other major drugs, to include heroin and fentanyl, cocaine and marijuana – has also led to intelligence-led drug investigations targeting those specific threats.

Nevada HIDTA

Designated in 2001

Executive Director – Keith Carter

Purpose and Goals

Nevada HIDTA's (NV HIDTA) 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 NV HIDTA participants the resolve to continue to support and coordinate intelligence-driven investigations through information sharing, deconfliction practices, and training of participating personnel.

NV 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 NV 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

NV 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 becomes the force multiplier, thus enhancing information and resource sharing. NV 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 ISP with conducting analyses of patterns

and trends in the drug market that are then used by NV HIDTA leadership to proactively direct task force activities.

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

Location

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

- Clark and Washoe

Initiatives

NV HIDTA supports 19 initiatives: 1 management, 1 training and prevention, 1 prosecution, 1 intelligence, and 15 enforcement 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
2021	57	\$2.18	\$21.70	300

Threat Assessment

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

Heroin produced in Mexico is the only heroin available within the NV HIDTA AOR. Marijuana continues to be the most frequently used and widely available illicit drug. However, changes in public opinion, prosecution requirements, and resources have pushed it to a lower-level priority threat in the community.

Illicit fentanyl is an emerging threat in the region. Task forces have reported several seizures of fentanyl confirmed through laboratory testing. Some of the seizures include multi-kilogram quantities of fentanyl hydrochloride. It is expected that other drugs, including CPDs, club drugs, synthetic drugs, and cocaine, will continue to cause deep concern within the NV HIDTA region.

Intelligence Initiatives

All Nevada task forces use the HIDTA ISC for analytical case support. This results in the information being available to all of the task forces. The other drug units not funded through, but operating within, the AOR use the NV 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 enforcement or investigative initiative.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Clark County Gang Task Force (HIDTA)	Clark County
HIDTA DEA Group 2	Clark County
HIDTA DEA Group 3	Clark County
Las Vegas Community Impact Initiative -Overdose Response Team	Clark County
Nevada Fugitive Investigative Strike Team (HIDTA)	Clark and Washoe
Northern Nevada Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Washoe County
Northern Nevada Interdiction Task Force (HIDTA)	Washoe County
DEA Tactical Diversion Squad	Clark
Regional Offender Drug Enforcement Organization (HIDTA)	Clark County
Regional Narcotics Unit	Washoe County
Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Clark
Southern Nevada Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Clark County
Southern Nevada High Impact Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Clark County
Southern Nevada Interdiction Task Force (HIDTA)	Clark County

Task Force Coordination

All of the task forces within the NV 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

In 2019, NV HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 49 DTOs (98% of its target). Of the 49 DTOs disrupted or dismantled, 5 were international, 27 multi-state, and 17 were local in nature. The estimated wholesale value of illegal drugs (\$98 million) and cash and other drug-related assets (\$9.5 million) seized by task forces resulted in a combined ROI of \$32.10. The ISC provided analytical support to 317 cases, the Watch Center processed 7,834 event deconflictions, and NV HIDTA provided 27,762 hours of training to 2,214 students.

New England HIDTA

Designated in 1999

Executive Director – J. T. Fallon

Purpose and Goals

New England HIDTA's (NE HIDTA) mission is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs in New England in support of the *National Drug Control Strategy* by assisting Federal, state, and local law enforcement entities participating in the HIDTA Program. Moreover, the NE HIDTA seeks to identify, disrupt, and dismantle DTOs; and to reduce further the harmful consequences of drug trafficking by promoting public safety and public health partnerships.

Strategy

NE HIDTA has developed a strategy tailored to encourage interagency cooperation and operations coordination, and remains committed to intelligence-led policing and information sharing. NE HIDTA provides an agency-neutral program to balance regional law enforcement efforts and coordinates a strategy to address the regional threat and national priorities. It continues to foster effective working relationships among six USAOs, nine Federal LEAs, and scores of state and local LEAs. Task force initiatives are staffed with collocated Federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, and NE HIDTA coordinates the integration of all initiatives to ensure a unified effort in achieving its goals and objectives.

Location

NE HIDTA is headquartered in Methuen, Massachusetts, and comprises 15 counties in 6 states:

- 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

NE HIDTA supports 23 initiatives: 1 management, 1 training, 1 intelligence, and 20 enforcement initiatives. In addition, NE HIDTA supports 4 special projects (DHE, Education, Prevention, and ORS discretionary programs).

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
2020	175	\$5.67	\$14.12	394

Threat Assessment

According to the 2020 New England HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment, the greatest drug threats to the New England Region remain fentanyl, heroin, cocaine hydrochloride (HCL), crack cocaine, controlled prescription drugs, and methamphetamine. The overall drug threat to the NEHIDTA increased in 2019 - primarily stemming from heroin and fentanyl. Increasingly, cocaine and fentanyl are more interrelated resulting in challenges for first responders.

Per the 2020 New England HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment, from 2016 to 2018, all six New England states experienced age-adjusted fatal opioid-related overdose rates that were above the national average. Overdoses significantly rose in Connecticut and in Maine. Vermont, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island experienced a notable decline in fatal overdoses over the past year. Massachusetts experienced a modest decrease in overdoses over the past year. While some states in New England are seeing a minor decline or a lesser rate of change in fatal opioid-related overdoses, it is important to note that this is likely a stabilization and not a true decrease. This stabilization is typical of an epidemic curve.

During 2019, fentanyl contributed to over 80 percent of all opioid overdose fatalities in each New England state. Massachusetts and New Hampshire had the highest percentage of positive fentanyl screens, with 93 percent, while Maine had the lowest, with 81 percent. The impact to first responders is significant, in terms of rescue/treatment approaches. Emblematic of these challenges, the amount of naloxone required to reverse a fentanyl versus opioid overdose is no doubt a driving factor in the higher fentanyl-related death rate.

Intelligence Initiatives

The NE 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. Almost 300 New England LEAs participate in deconfliction services.

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

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

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

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

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Blackstone Valley Drug Task Force	Worcester County, MA
Boston Drug Task Force	Suffolk County, MA
Boston OCDETF Strike Force	Watertown, MA
Bristol County HIDTA Task Force	New Bedford, MA
Central Massachusetts HIDTA Task Force	Worcester, MA
CINRET South	Middleboro, MA
CINRET West	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	Boston, 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	Bedford, NH
North Shore Lowell Task Force	Methuen, MA
North Suffolk Drug Task Force	Suffolk County, MA
North Worcester County Drug Task Force	Worcester County, MA
Northeast Merrimack Valley Drug Task Force	Essex County, MA
Northern Vermont HIDTA Task Force	Burlington, VT
Plymouth County HIDTA Initiative	Brockton, MA
Providence County HIDTA Task Force	Warwick, RI
Regional Drug and Crime Counter Crime Task Force	Worcester County, MA
Rhode Island HIDTA Task Force	Providence, RI
South Shore Drug Task Force	Plymouth County, MA
Southern Maine HIDTA Task Force	Portland, ME
Southern Middlesex Drug Task Force	Middlesex County, MA

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Southern New Hampshire HIDTA Task Force	Manchester, 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 NE HIDTA ISC facilitates intelligence sharing among task forces situated throughout New England, as well as the rest of the country. The ISC supports NE HIDTA enforcement initiatives and continues to explore avenues to increase and coordinate information sharing opportunities with the New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN), state fusion centers, regional intelligence centers, and the JTTF.

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

- The Southern Maine HIDTA Task Force coordinates and shares intelligence with the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. Coordination and partnership with the OCDEF program are developed and encouraged, as are partnerships with non-HIDTA agencies and organizations.
- The New Hampshire AG’s Drug Task Force (NH DTF) coordinates closely with the Southern New Hampshire Task Force, a NE HIDTA-supported initiative. In OCDEF 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 NE 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 NE HIDTA ISC. Analysts work to gather, analyze, and distribute drug-related public health data; develop and support data-driven policy and programming initiatives; and facilitate interagency collaboration. DIOs serve to fill a critical gap in intelligence sharing by reporting cross-jurisdictional links, communicating interstate intelligence, relaying case referrals between agencies, and developing timely intelligence reports for law enforcement audiences. PHAs work with numerous key public health agencies and non-governmental (e.g., treatment and prevention) organizations to increase interagency data sharing, and improve coordinated overdose response efforts. ORS is

a fusion of public health and public safety efforts, designed to yield smarter responses to an increasingly widespread and complex heroin issue.

HIDTA Evaluation

NE HIDTA continues to provide an agency-neutral program, creating initiatives that coordinate the integration of all projects and ensure a unified effort in achieving goals and objectives. During 2019, NE HIDTA enhanced drug education and prevention initiatives while providing guidance and information to numerous state-sponsored drug awareness programs. In 2019, task forces identified 418 DTOs/MLOs and dismantled/disrupted 199 of them (30 were international, 84 were multi-state, and 85 were local in nature). In addition, task forces seized illegal drugs with a wholesale value of \$57.8 million and \$23.6 million in cash and other drug-related assets, totaling \$81.4 million and resulting in a ROI of \$15.

New Mexico HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Director – Will R. Glaspy

Purpose and Goals

New Mexico HIDTA's (NM HIDTA) mission is to reduce drug availability by supporting multi-agency 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 NM 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 NM 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 abuse of illicit drugs in the state use a multi-prong approach to address the numerous drug threats. NM HIDTA utilizes coordinated interdiction and investigative initiatives, a strong aggressive prosecution component, law enforcement intelligence and information sharing, and certain support components like 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. Lastly, NM HIDTA uses a prevention initiative to reduce the drug abuse threat especially in northern New Mexico, and is incorporating public health and public safety professionals as part of the Overdose Response Strategy to help reduce drug overdoses within the state.

Location

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

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

Initiatives

NM HIDTA's integrated systems approach uses coordination, intelligence and information sharing to synchronize the efforts of enforcement, prosecution, and support initiatives. There are 23 initiatives including: 15 multi-jurisdictional law enforcement initiatives, 1 statewide

interdiction initiative, 1 prosecution initiative consisting of 8 sub-initiatives, 1 management and coordination initiative, 1 investigative support / information sharing initiative, 2 prevention initiatives with one of those consisting of 2 sub-initiatives, 1 forensic support initiative, and 1 training 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
2020	99	\$0.55	\$7.70	263

Threat Assessment

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

The state’s proximity to Mexico, its topography along the sparsely populated 180-mile border, its limited law enforcement presence between U.S. 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 many other U.S. 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

NM 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, HIDTA participants and other LEAs.

The ISC’s core functions include event and subject de-confliction, case support and post-seizure analysis, pen-register and wire-tap support, threat assessments, bulletins, and special projects. Additionally, the ISC provides bilingual, linguistic services that include reviewing, analyzing, and translating tape recordings, documents, statements, and other items related to the intelligence gathering process and investigation. The service also includes exploiting social media sites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) for the purpose of gathering criminal intelligence

information, bridging existing intelligence gaps, and providing actionable, timely intelligence to the field to assist in the disruption and/or dismantlement of CPOTS, RPOTS, and PTOs.

The ISC manages the electronic connectivity to commercial and law enforcement databases for the HIDTA in New Mexico. The ISC handles the day-to-day operation of the de-confliction system as well as all systems utilized for case support and strategic reporting. The ISC provides familiarization training as needed. The ISC coordinates all intelligence matters, including interagency liaison for the HIDTA in New Mexico. The ISC supports major drug investigations, including RPOT/CPOT and OCDETF cases. The ISC is the primary collection hub for all highway enforcement intelligence data in the State of New Mexico. Other projects supported by the ISC's strategic and tactical support units include marijuana eradication efforts in New Mexico, as well as, the Southwest Border Anti-Money Laundering Alliance which provides law enforcement and prosecutors needed resources to effectively investigate and prosecute money-laundering organizations.

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

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

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

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Regional Interagency Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Doña Ana County
Safe Trails (FBI)	Farmington, New Mexico
Southwest Border Public Corruption Task Force (FBI)	Las Cruces, NM

Task Force Coordination

NM 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 collocation 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, NM HIDTA cases receive OCDETF designation, making additional resources available.

NM 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 NM 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.

NM 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 2019, NM HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 95 DTOs. Of the 95 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 19 were international, 20 multi-state, and 56 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$73.3 million and \$5.3 million in cash and assets (over \$78.7 million total), for a total ROI of \$8.49. Marijuana accounted for the majority of drugs seized, followed by methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, and heroin. Initiatives provided analytical support to 230 cases and processed 5,983 event and case deconflictions. NM HIDTA provided 17,231 hours of training to 1,023 criminal justice professionals. It also facilitated drug prevention presentations for 7,382 students, totaling 7,658 hours.

New York/New Jersey HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Executive Director – Chauncey Parker

Purpose and Goals

New York/New Jersey HIDTA’s (NY/NJ HIDTA) mission is to invest in law enforcement partnerships to build safe and healthy communities by reducing drug trafficking and drug production in the region.

Strategy

NY/NJ HIDTA accomplishes its mission by promoting cooperation among agencies by creating collocated and commingled task forces, providing technological capabilities to enhance and expedite investigations, establishing lasting public health/public safety partnerships, and leveraging resources to ensure funds are used in the most efficient way possible.

Location

NY/NJ HIDTA operates out of New York City (NYC) and comprises 35 counties:

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

Initiatives

NY/NJ HIDTA supports 16 initiatives: 1 management, 1 training, 1 intelligence, 1 technology, 2 prevention, and 10 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
2020	126	\$5.00	\$20.00	2,841

Threat Assessment

All major drugs of abuse are readily available within the NY/NJ HIDTA Area of Responsibility, originating from both domestic and foreign sources of supply. The New York City metropolitan area, which includes the five New York City counties as well as northern New Jersey, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley HIDTA counties, is an epicenter of diverse drug trafficking and money laundering activity, and one of the country’s largest drug consumption areas. NYC and surrounding areas serve as a hub for the importation and distribution of narcotics from, and to, innumerable cities, states, and countries. Urban areas of New Jersey (such as Newark, Paterson and Camden) also serve as supply hubs for much of the Northeast. In addition,

some traffickers outside of these metro areas are supplied by sources in Atlanta, Chicago, Arizona or directly from foreign sources.

Illicit opioids (heroin and fentanyl) represent the primary drug threat within the NY/NJ HIDTA region. The continued rise in fentanyl-involved overdose deaths, even as total overdose deaths in the region appear to be flattening or decreasing slightly, illustrates the threat posed by fentanyl and fentanyl analogues. 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 methamphetamines. Law enforcement sources in the region report that unlike in past years, when fentanyl was typically encountered in combination with heroin, an increasing number of fentanyl seizures have been analyzed and found to contain only fentanyl or fentanyl mixed with drugs other than heroin.

Reporting from NY/NJ HIDTA's law enforcement partners in New York State identifies fentanyl and heroin as the leading threats in the region, followed by cocaine and crack cocaine, then controlled prescriptions drugs, methamphetamine and lastly, marijuana. Reporting from law enforcement partners in New Jersey reveals a different landscape and greater regional variation in the drug threat. As in New York, fentanyl and heroin are identified as the leading threats in New Jersey, and marijuana has been reported as the second most in demand drug in the state.

In the southern section of New Jersey, methamphetamine has been identified as representing the third highest threat, followed by controlled prescription drugs and then cocaine and crack cocaine. While availability and use of methamphetamine remains highest in southern NJ, demand is increasing in both the northern and central regions of the state. According to case information, the vast majority of methamphetamine distributed throughout New Jersey originates in Mexico with distribution routes that can be traced back to the Southwestern United States.

In New York, investigative reporting indicates cocaine availability has increased. This increase, combined with a rise in lab reports identifying cocaine mixed with fentanyl and a rise in overdose deaths involving cocaine and fentanyl in NYC, with no heroin present, suggest a trend that is of grave concern. According to the DEA New York Division (NYD), the majority of cocaine transported into the NYD AOR can be attributed to MDTOs that work in partnership with U.S.-based Dominican traffickers to facilitate the movement of cocaine into New York. Additionally, reporting indicates Caribbean-based DTOs are responsible for much of the cocaine that comes into JFK Airport, specifically on commercial flights.

Crack also remains a threat in the New York region as well as in New Jersey's urban areas with street gangs typically controlling the street market.

Methamphetamine trafficking and use in New York State is encountered on a much smaller scale in comparison to other major drugs like cocaine, heroin and fentanyl. However, the influx of crystal methamphetamine ("ice") from Mexico (with purity levels in the upper 90th percentile) to the upstate NY region has caused a shift in the user market toward greater use of ice over domestically-produced methamphetamine in the area.

Marijuana remains a drug of choice in the NYD’s AOR and originates from a variety of sources. Mexican marijuana continues to be brought into the state by tractor trailer, passenger vehicle, containerized cargo and express mail services. High-quality hydroponic marijuana is increasingly smuggled into New York from California, Colorado, and Northwestern US states where medical and/or recreational use marijuana is legal and state laws regarding the drug are less restrictive. The flow of Canadian-produced marijuana into northern New York increased during the reporting period following a decline in previous years. The NYD has also noted an increase in marijuana concentrates, oils and extracts, likely due to the popularity of vaping devices.

In New Jersey, demand for marijuana remains high in New Jersey, as does supply. Bushels of marijuana are imported into New Jersey from Mexico and from states where production is legal. Also of concern is the emerging market for liquid marijuana which has been shown to have THC levels as high as 90 percent. DEA’s New Jersey Division (NJD) has also seen an increase in significant seizures of marijuana oils.

Intelligence Initiatives

Intelligence initiatives are a major pillar of the NY/NJ HIDTA strategy to effectively target criminal organizations operating in the region. Through its intelligence subsystem organized under the ISC, NY/NJ HIDTA provides LEAs in the region with better access to actionable intelligence, significantly improving their drug enforcement efforts. The ISC, led by the New York City Police Department (NYPD), provides event, case, and subject deconfliction; analytical case support and strategic reporting; and other critical services. Staffed by approximately 900 participants from numerous Federal, state, and local LEAs, the ISC serves as the central conduit for criminal intelligence sharing among LEAs in the NY/NJ HIDTA region.

The ISC is organized into several sections, including the NYPD Intelligence Groups; Drug Trends Group; ORS; High Intensity Financial Crime Area Money Laundering Intelligence Section; and Firearms Section (Regional Crime Gun Center). In addition, the ISC has the following satellite intelligence centers in New York and New Jersey – New Jersey Intelligence Center, Westchester Intelligence Center, Nassau County Intelligence Center, and Suffolk County Intelligence Center. NY/NJ HIDTA also provides analysts in the counties of Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, Orange, Erie, Oswego, Franklin, Ulster, and Niagara.

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 (BEST) NY Seaport	New York, NY
Buffalo Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Buffalo, NY
Buffalo Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Buffalo, NY

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
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
Garret Mountain Resident Agency Violent Crimes Incident Task Force (FBI)	Garret Mountain, NJ
Hudson Valley Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Goshen, Westchester/Orange, NY
Jersey Shore Gang and Criminal Organization Task Force (FBI)	Ocean/Monmouth, NJ
Long Island Drug Enforcement Task Force (DOJ)	Long Island, NY
Long Island Violent Gang Task Force (DOJ)	Long Island, NY
New Jersey Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force (HIDTA)	Newark, NJ
New York HIDTA Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (HIDTA)	New York, NY
New York OCDETF Strike Force (HIDTA)	New York, NY
New York State Police Counter Narcotics Enforcement Teams (DOJ)	Albany, NY
Regional Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	New York/New Jersey
Rochester Drug Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Rochester, NY
South Jersey Violent Incident Gang Task Force (FBI)	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 NY/NJ 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 NY/NJ 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.

The Regional Gun Center gathers and consolidates intelligence on illegal firearm use and trafficking and makes that information available to law enforcement at all hours of the day.

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

NY/NJ 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 NY/NJ 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

NY/NJ HIDTA is an effective platform for building Federal, state, and local law enforcement partnerships to implement the *National Drug Control Strategy*. In 2019, initiatives disrupted/dismantled 110 DTOs/MLOs operating in the NY/NJ HIDTA area, 35 percent of which were international in scope. The estimated wholesale value of drugs seized in the same period was \$193 million. In addition, NY/NJ HIDTA seized \$96.8 million in cash and other drug-related assets, resulting in a ROI of \$18.36.

North Central HIDTA

Designated in 1998

Executive Director – James F. Bohn

Purpose and Goals

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

The North Central 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, and local law enforcement partner agencies. In Wisconsin, initiatives focus primarily on opioid-related and violent DTOs; while the Minnesota initiatives focus primarily on methamphetamine DTOs, particularly those linked through intelligence to any Mexican Cartel organizations and/or the SWB. In addition, participating agencies are encouraged to share intelligence within the two-state North Central HIDTA region and with other affected areas and/or HIDTAs outside of Wisconsin or Minnesota. The North Central HIDTA ISCs in Wisconsin and Minnesota actively promote and utilize subject and event deconfliction within the HIDTA region to further ensure the efficient and effective use of HIDTA resources.

Strategy

The North Central HIDTA's strategy is to foster cooperative and effective relationships among more than 100 Federal, state, local, and tribal participating member agencies in Wisconsin and Minnesota to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and reducing drug demand. Through enforcement initiatives working within the 15 designated counties in both Wisconsin (eight counties) and Minnesota (seven counties), investigative emphasis is placed on targeting DTOs that pose the most significant threats – primarily those with ties to the southwest and northern borders (multi-state and international in scope). In addition, particular emphasis is placed on violent DTOs and drug traffickers that pose significant risk to the community, especially those engaged in violent criminal acts, firearm offenses, and the trafficking of significant quantities of opioids and/or methamphetamine in the region. In line with the North Central HIDTA's goals, initiatives work cooperatively and share information with other HIDTAs and LEAs throughout the country to further enhance effective investigations. As described below, in addressing the threats that face the North Central HIDTA, the Executive Board directs and continually adjusts its strategy to reduce the most significant threats and create safer communities. The strategy moving forward is to continue to integrate any newly formed initiatives to address the threats to their region, as well as coordinate intelligence and information sharing with this enhanced partnership.

The North Central HIDTA strategy also recognizes the need for strong demand reduction efforts in the community. The mission is to reduce violent crime through targeted law enforcement, community building, raising community awareness, and proactive engagement of youth in activities that increase positive social skills and behaviors and teach resistance to drugs, gangs, guns, and other criminal behavior.

Location

The North Central HIDTA collocates several enforcement and support initiatives, including its Management and Coordination Initiative, within its main facility in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Other initiatives are located throughout the following other member counties:

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

Initiatives

The North Central HIDTA currently supports 24 initiatives: 1 management, 1 training, 1 information technology support, 2 prevention, 1 prosecution, 2 intelligence, and 16 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 Cases Expected to be Provided Analytical Support
2020	62	\$1.70	\$7.50	1,538

Threat Assessment

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

Heroin, fentanyl, and other synthetic opioids continue to present the greatest threat to the Wisconsin portion of the AOR. Overdose deaths and other harmful effects, resulting from the use of various opioids, continue to increase and pose significant risks for the community. Closely associated with the heroin and fentanyl threat is the abuse of prescription medications, especially opioids such as oxycodone. Potentially lethal opioid synthetics are increasing the risk to the area, including to law enforcement and emergency services personnel that encounter these substances. During the past several years, the presence of methamphetamine across Wisconsin has dramatically increased. Larger wholesale amounts of methamphetamine from Mexico are being sourced from the areas of Chicago, Minneapolis, California, and the SWB. Southeastern Wisconsin, an area that has not traditionally experienced a large volume of methamphetamine activity, has seen law enforcement seizing wholesale quantities of methamphetamine on a more frequent basis.

In Minnesota, the primary illegal drug threat is methamphetamine. In 2019, enforcement initiatives, mainly in Minnesota, seized approximately 469 kilograms of methamphetamine. Seizures of large quantities of finished-product Mexican methamphetamine in and around the Minneapolis/St. Paul area originate mainly from the SWB area and are sourced by Mexican-based cartels. The Twin Cities area of Minneapolis/St. Paul is considered an upper Midwest methamphetamine distribution hub and transshipment point for the Mexican cartels. Task forces

throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin reported an increase in wholesale-level quantities, with half of the responding agencies reporting seizing a pound or more during the course of their investigations.

Marijuana continues to remain the most commonly used and abused illicit drug in the North Central HIDTA region. The demand for higher potency marijuana and marijuana-related products has remained high over the past several years and continues to present a serious issue. Much of this demand is met by sources and DTOs based on the west coast and Pacific Northwest, mainly from states that have legalized the recreational and/or medical use of marijuana and related products. Concerns continue related to the distribution of high-grade marijuana/products and the violent criminal activity and firearms used by traffickers and drug abusers. Much of the violence can be traced to the large profits associated with the distribution of this drug. In addition, the demand and abuse of high-potency edibles, oils, and vaping products has dramatically increased, which has created a serious threat to the user community.

There continues to be a steady increase in the availability of cocaine in the North Central HIDTA region, which is consistent with many intelligence reports relating such a trend to the increased coca production in Colombia and elsewhere in South America. Law enforcement continues to report that violent criminal activities are often tied to cocaine distribution.

Intelligence Initiatives

The North Central 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 includes civilian employees, supplemented with support from the Wisconsin and Minnesota National Guards and various Federal agencies. The primary ISC in Wisconsin maintains a Watch Center that assists law enforcement with specific requests for information and facilitates event and target deconfliction for law enforcement via Case Explorer. Both ISC locations share information within their respective intelligence environments as appropriate.

The ISCs support complex counterdrug investigations by utilizing 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 North Central HIDTA ISCs continue to add innovative analytical products 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 North Central HIDTA region. Multiple HIDTA task forces may make up an overarching HIDTA enforcement or investigative initiative.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
DEA Task Forces (DEA)	Wisconsin and Minnesota HIDTA regions
Drug Gang Task Force (HIDTA)	Southeast Wisconsin
East Metro Initiative (HIDTA) – Includes Task Forces in Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington Counties	Twin Cities Metro region

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

Task Force Coordination

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

In Minnesota, there are currently seven investigative initiatives located within the seven-county designated region around the metro Minneapolis/St. Paul, St. Louis County (north), and Olmsted County (south central) areas. The various task forces within these initiatives target all

types of drug-related activity, including major 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 North Central HIDTA has recently been actively participating in the HIDTA ORS program in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. Likewise, all enforcement initiatives listed above look to reduce the threats of violence, drug trafficking, and drug abuse within the North Central HIDTA region.

The North Central HIDTA Executive Board is comprised of 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 North Central HIDTA mission.

Coordination of all investigative information is accomplished through the North Central HIDTA ISCs. In Wisconsin, participating agencies use a common case management system called the Automated Criminal Investigation Secure System that is administered by the Wisconsin DOJ's Division of Criminal Investigation. The North Central HIDTA is continuing its efforts to assist the member agencies in Minnesota with sharing drug-related intelligence among their many disparate reporting systems and most recently have facilitated their use of the HIDTA Case Explorer system for subject/target deconfliction in Minnesota. 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 64 DTOs/MLOs in 2019. Of the 64 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 9 were international in scope, 19 were multi-state, and 36 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$63.5 million and \$11.6 million in cash and assets for a total ROI of \$10.84. The HIDTA Intelligence Analysts provided analytical support to 1,440 investigations and processed 7,776 event and 12,122 case/target deconflictions. The North Central HIDTA also provided 28,200 hours of training to 1,545 students.

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 multi-jurisdictional 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 NFHIDTA supports ONDCP's goals and objectives while addressing existing and emerging threats. NFHIDTA supports public health and public safety through its collaboration and coordination with the HIDTA Program's national initiatives by actively participating in DHE, NETI, and the ORS. All performance measures are evaluated through the PMP database and a quarterly review of each initiative's accomplishments towards achieving the stated goals.

Strategy

NFHIDTA 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. NFHIDTA 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. NFHIDTA'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, NFHIDTA facilitates cooperation and joint operations among 43 Federal, state, and local LEAs and 388 full-time and part-time personnel who participate in its initiatives.

Location

NFHIDTA operates out of Jacksonville, Florida, and comprises 13 counties:

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

Initiatives

NFHIDTA supports 13 initiatives: 1 management, 1 training, 1 intelligence and information sharing, and 10 investigation/interdiction 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
2020	41	\$0.97	\$7.10	112

Threat Assessment

Methamphetamine, essentially all imported crystal, remains the top threat for the fourth consecutive year, having spread throughout the region. Despite lower seizures, heroin advanced to the second-ranked threat. Thereafter, the ranking is cocaine, synthetic fentanyl, marijuana, club drugs, diverted pharmaceuticals, and synthetic cannabinoids. Fentanyl is ranked separately for the first time due to its lethality, appearance as a standalone drug, and its additive role to other drugs. For 2018, the most current annual data, the Jacksonville medical examiner district had the most deaths in Florida caused by fentanyl.

While 2018 medical examiner data indicates the region’s opioid death total had decreased by 23 percent to 961, mid-2019 data resumed rising. Anecdotal reports from select Narcan administration data suggests that rise was continuing through April 2020. The rise likely verifies the ORS consideration of polydrug influence in fatal outcomes. Increasingly sold mixtures of fentanyl with cocaine and methamphetamine confuse attribution and extent of the opioid death rate. The mixture of opioids is also a threat, as evidenced by three seizures of Grey Death, a carfentanil-heroin concoction, in Duval and Marion Counties in early 2020.

Although seized diverted pharmaceuticals increased by 59 percent to over 300,000 d.u., over half were prescription dysfunction pills from India being drop-shipped throughout the United States. Among higher scheduled pills, the 54 percent increase in seized benzodiazepines (32,443 DUs) follows the previous year’s 458 percent increase. Opioids declined 27 percent to 36,869 DUs, but the new opioid, Nucynta, increased by 73 percent. Club drug seizures saw an unusual 79 percent decline against the trend of increases since 2012. MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine) composed 94 percent of the category, notably, most in the classic shapes and colors, but using the related substance, Eutylone. Intercept of 553 parcels included 288 with prescription drugs from India and China, as well as 30 pounds of meth and 15 pounds of cocaine.

The NFHIDTA has a notable role in drug transfer to other states. Proven schemes included drop shipping prescription drugs throughout the United States, meth sent to northern states, and reshipping cocaine and heroin from Puerto Rico to the northeast. Also relating to the area’s importance for transport were successful DHE seizures, including 45 percent of heroin, 20 percent of club drugs, 14 percent of cocaine, and 10 percent of meth.

Increased violence and gun use are spreading, especially among young African-Americans and Mexican cartel members. DTOs are also getting smaller due to technology, security, and parcel use, as well as including more family and female participation. Traffickers are leveraging changing technologies, including apps and social media, for temporary and secure location sharing and countersurveillance, creating increased challenge for law enforcement detection.

Intelligence Initiatives

The FLHIDTA’s ISC serves as its sole Intelligence and Information Sharing initiative. NFHIDTA 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 NFHIDTA ISC (NFHISC) for inclusion in Case Explorer in an effort to expand the deconfliction footprint, enhance officer safety, and further prevent enforcement overlap.

North Florida law enforcement and intelligence resources operate under a mutually agreed upon Information and Intelligence Sharing Plan. The NFHISC shares information and intelligence in accordance with its mission and is collocated 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.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Combined Alachua Drug Enforcement Team (HIDTA and JAG)	Alachua County
Clay County Drug Task Force (DREI)	Clay County
Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force – Jacksonville Resident Office (DEA/OCDETF)	All NFHIDTA Counties
FBI Gang Safe Streets Task Force (FBI/OCDETF)	Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy, and Marion Counties*
Flagler County Task Force (Byrne)	Flagler County
Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team (HIDTA)	Duval County
Gateway (HIDTA)	Columbia and Union Counties
Maritime & Land Investigation and Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Duval County
North Florida HIDTA Task Force (HIDTA and DEA)	Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties
Pharmaceutical Diversion and Designer Drug Squad (HIDTA)	Duval County
Tri-County (HIDTA)	St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler Counties
Unified Drug Enforcement Strike Team (HIDTA)	Marion County
Violent Crime and Gangs Task Force (HIDTA)	Duval County
Violent Crime and Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Duval County
*Counties outside of the NFHIDTA were listed to define the scope of the TF.	

Task Force Coordination

NFHIDTA plays an integral role in facilitating information and intelligence sharing among various LEAs and task forces, including HIDTA and non-HIDTA participating agencies. 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 TF and the NFHIDTA initiatives whenever there is an investigation involving narcotics. The

NFHIDTA initiatives share information with the FBI Safe Streets TF regarding gangs and violent crimes. The FBI Safe Streets TF shares information with the DEA, ATF, and the local drug task forces, including those that are participating in the HIDTA. Furthermore, the Clay County Drug Task Force receives overtime money from the Federal grant Drug Reduction Enforcement Initiative (DREI). The Task Force detectives are also members of the NFHIDTA under the North Florida HIDTA Task Force and share information as appropriate.

NFHIDTA information is deconflicted locally, nationwide, and among OCDETF and DICE/DEA Analysis and Response Tracking System (DARTS) platforms to enhance coordination and avoid duplication of investigative efforts. Routinely, current and potential drug trafficking trends and officer safety issues are disseminated by the NFHISC through intelligence briefs and written strategic assessments to LEAs within the NFHIDTA. To a larger population of law enforcement personnel this information is communicated through RISS and CJNET that is accessible through the NFHIDTA's secure webpage and via national sharing platforms such as EPIC's NSS, HSIN Intel, and HSIN DHE sites. On an annual and ongoing basis, analysts from NFHISC solicit current drug trends and related information from regional law enforcement drug units for analysis and synthesis into the annual drug threat assessment which is disseminated to a wide-reaching law enforcement community, other HIDTAs, ONDCP, and national intelligence agencies.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, NFHIDTA initiatives disrupted/dismantled 46 DTOs/MLOs. In addition, initiatives seized illegal drugs with an estimated wholesale value of over \$20 million and over \$2.7 million in cash and other drug-related assets (a combined total of over \$22.8 million in drugs and assets seized) for a total ROI of \$6.19. Analytical support was provided by the NFHIDTA to 183 cases and 12,653 event and case deconflictions were processed. NFHIDTA provided 10,178 hours of training to 815 students.

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, manufacture, and cultivation of illicit drugs by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs operating in Northern California and other areas of the United States. This is accomplished by supporting and coordinating the drug control efforts of Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement entities. The NC HIDTA's mission is to measurably reduce the availability of illicit drugs and the occurrence of drug-related crime and violence in its 13-county AOR.

The NC HIDTA ISC, with support from the Technical Operations Group, training initiative, prevention initiative, and a computer crimes initiative, supports the HIDTA's mission. We accomplish our mission through evidence-based practices that include intelligence production, tactical case support, strategic threat assessment, and collaboration between LEAs, public health partnerships, and community outreach to identify the area's most dangerous and prolific drug and weapons traffickers and organizations, and violent criminal gangs.

Strategy

The NC HIDTA consists of 8 law enforcement initiatives, including 18 counternarcotic and fugitive task forces, an ISC, a training initiative, a prevention initiative, a computer crimes initiative, and an administrative and management initiative focused on the mission of countering DTOs and MLOs in the Northern California AOR. The NC HIDTA strategy co-locates Federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel in multi-jurisdictional 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 those 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 (Training, Prevention, and Computer Crimes), provide the enforcement initiatives with unique tools to enhance their capability of targeting violent drug criminals through intelligence research, analysis, resource sharing, deconfliction, digital exploitation, training, education, and coordination.

The NC HIDTA is successful in the strategic plan by continuing to bring 71 Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies together, comprising 324 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 NC HIDTA AOR is located along the northern California coast. The AOR consists of 13 counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma Counties.

Initiatives

NC HIDTA has 12 initiatives: 1 management, 1 training, 1 intelligence, 1 prevention, and 8 enforcement initiatives. Included in the initiatives are 21 narcotic, fugitive, and support task forces consisting of 71 unique Federal, state, local, and tribal LEAs.

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
2020	19	\$4.97	\$151.39	51

Threat Assessment

The most serious drug threats confronting the NC HIDTA AOR region are methamphetamine - conversion, transportation and distribution; the increased prevalence and distribution of fentanyl, purposeful adulteration of stimulants and counterfeit CPDs, and accidental cross-contamination with other drugs; the continued increased availability of heroin; indoor and outdoor illicit marijuana cultivation and trafficking, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) extractions (to include liquids and resin), and their distribution; and other illicit narcotics sales such as cocaine, CPD’s and new psychoactive substances (NPS). Compounding these threats are major criminal organizations involved in transportation, distribution, and money laundering that also cause drug-related violent crime, gang violence, and other threats.

Methamphetamine is considered the most significant threat to the NC HIDTA AOR. Methamphetamine is pervasive and easy to obtain in all parts of the region, prices are low, and overall use is high. Additionally, it contributes heavily to crimes of violence and property crimes, drawing attention and resources from all levels of law enforcement. Due to the severe health effects, highly addictive nature and violence often associated with methamphetamine use, the drug is elevated to its position as the most significant drug threat to the AOR

Methamphetamine is generally smuggled by MDTOs across the border from Mexico into Southern and Central California and then distributed by the larger, more established DTOs, along with some individual, regional dealers that either don’t affiliate with a large gang or don’t fit into the traditional structure of an organized DTO.

Fentanyl and fentanyl analogues pose a significant threat due to the increased prevalence and distribution, purposeful adulteration of drug stimulants and counterfeit Controlled Prescription Drugs (CPD), and accidental cross-contamination with other drugs. Fentanyl is believed to be the second greatest drug threat to the NC HIDTA AOR. Both pharmaceutical and clandestinely-produced fentanyl are available, with illicit fentanyl – predominantly manufactured in Chinese and Mexican clandestine labs – being the most abused. In the NC HIDTA AOR, fentanyl is most commonly added to counterfeit prescription pills and heroin, but it is also mixed with stimulants such as cocaine and methamphetamine at the retail level intentionally or accidentally. Fentanyl usage is likely moderate to high and increasing. However, like availability, it can be difficult to measure because use is likely underreported: users are often unaware that their drugs contain a synthetic opioid, and preliminary drug analysis does not always detect trace amounts of fentanyl or fentanyl analogues. The wholesale price of fentanyl in the NC HIDTA AOR likely remained

stable in 2019 due to consistent availability by diversion from medical facilities and from fentanyl labs in China and Mexico. This increased prevalence increases the likelihood of overdose cases or exposure risk to first responders in the AOR.

Heroin continues to be a high threat within the NC HIDTA AOR, ranking as the third greatest threat behind methamphetamine and fentanyl. Heroin is prevalent throughout the region and can be found for sale in several different forms, each named after its color and consistency. The most common form in the NC HIDTA AOR is black tar. The availability and usage of black tar heroin has remained stable since the previous reporting cycle. The heroin market in the NC HIDTA AOR continues to be dominated by Mexican cartels, including Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generación and Sinaloa, who control the wholesale supply, trafficking, and bulk shipments of heroin. More established Norteño and Sureño gangs or organized multi-state DTOs are primarily responsible for trafficking heroin kilogram quantities into the NC HIDTA AOR for distribution. At the retail level, heroin is usually sold by poly-drug dealers, primarily low-level street gangs and unaffiliated small DTOs.

Illicit marijuana remains readily available throughout the NC HIDTA AOR despite California legalizing recreational marijuana production and consumption in 2018, consequently marijuana use remains extremely high and prices remain stable. Illegal outdoor marijuana cultivation (on public lands, including state and national parks) continues to pose a serious environmental threat, polluting and diverting water sources, and poisoning wildlife. Additionally, THC extraction labs are a significant public safety hazard in the NC HIDTA AOR. Violent explosions and fires caused by THC extraction labs often result in serious and sometimes fatal injuries to producers, firefighters, law enforcement, and surrounding communities. During 2019, one large-scale illegal THC extraction laboratory was seized by a NC HIDTA task force – amounting to 157 kilograms of THC liquid (wholesale value \$7,839,600) and nearly 4 kilograms of THC tetrahydrocannabinols (wholesale value \$173,850). Most THC extraction sites within the AOR was located indoors at either private residential or private commercial sites. The frequency of discovered THC labs remained the same as compared to last year with many large labs selling manufactured products to legitimate storefronts. THC labs may continue to be stable due to the lack of laws and penalization for related equipment, as well as excess marijuana remnants DTOs may have. Additionally, more users are attempting to build THC extraction labs for personal use. A growing number of social media sites and amateur instructional videos provide the step-by-step instructions necessary to build and operate these THC extraction labs. In most cases, THC extraction labs typically don't get discovered until the laboratory catches fire or explodes.

Northern California marijuana is a highly accessible and lucrative cash-sales commodity. California-grown marijuana is exported nationally and internationally. In addition to distributing marijuana within California, NC HIDTA task forces identified the following states as importing California-grown marijuana: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Traffickers move cross-country bulk marijuana shipments using personally owned vehicles (POVs), rental vehicles, and commercial aircraft (to a lesser degree). They also exploit unmonitored and private airports along major west-to-east highways and employ pilots and aircraft capable of avoiding detection. Additionally, individuals and DTOs use freight carriers including UPS, FedEx, and the U.S. Postal Service to ship limited volumes of marijuana out of the NC HIDTA AOR.

Cocaine availability and usage, in both powder and crack cocaine forms, remains stable with moderate increases and is available in most cities, particularly within metropolitan areas in the NC HIDTA AOR. Cocaine prevalence within the inner-city areas of San Francisco, Oakland, and Santa Clara County is less dominant than methamphetamine or heroin but continues to be abused in major urban centers (often in the form of crack cocaine) and is often used recreationally in clubs or other party settings. The transportation of cocaine continues to be dominated by MDTOs often relying on the cooperation and participation of local criminal groups for distribution to user markets. The NC HIDTA AOR is considered a regional distribution hub for cocaine with Los Angeles serving as the national distribution hub supplied by San Diego as the U.S. POE.

Intelligence Initiatives

The mission of NC HIDTA’s Bay Area Narcotics Intelligence Network (BAYNIN), including the ISC, is to provide drug intelligence sharing, enhance officer safety, provide analytical case support, make available high technology surveillance equipment, provide forensic cellular analytical support and telephone intercept equipment, and provide training to all LEAs in the 13-county NC HIDTA region. BAYNIN is a multi-agency coalition of Federal, state, and local LEAs in the San Francisco Bay Area that are collocated to serve as a regional information-sharing center. BAYNIN is designed to enhance the ability of 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 within the NC HIDTA region. Multiple task forces can make up an overarching enforcement or investigative initiative.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Alameda County Narcotic Task Force (EBPTO- HIDTA)	Alameda County
Humboldt Drug Task Force (NCPTO – HIDTA)	Humboldt County
Marin County Major Crimes Task Force (NCPTO – HIDTA)	Marin County
Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force (MMCTF – HIDTA)	Mendocino County
Northern California Computer Crimes Task Force (NC3TF – HIDTA)	San Francisco Region
Northern California Joint Fugitive Task Force (U.S. Marshals – HIDTA)	San Francisco Region
North County Priority Target Organization Task Force (NCPTO – HIDTA)	Sonoma County
Oakland Task Force Group (EBPTO – HIDTA)	Alameda County
Peninsula Regional Violence and Narcotics Team (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Monterey County
Salinas Violence Suppression Task Force (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Monterey County
San Francisco International Airport Task Force 2 (SFMETRO – HIDTA)	San Francisco Region
San Francisco Metro Task Force 1(SFMETRO - HIDTA)	San Francisco County
San Francisco Police Department Narcotic Task Force (SFMETRO – HIDTA)	San Francisco County
San Jose Task Force Group (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Santa Clara County
San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force (SMCNTF – HIDTA)	San Mateo County
Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Santa Clara County
Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	Santa Cruz County

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
South Bay METRO Initiative (SBMETRO) Enforcement Group (HIDTA)	Santa Clara County
Southern Alameda County Major Crimes Task Force (EBPTO – HIDTA)	Alameda County
Transnational Narcotic Team (SF METRO – HIDTA)	San Francisco Region
Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team (SBMETRO – HIDTA)	San Benito County

Task Force Coordination

Each NC 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. NC HIDTA actively supports OCDEF cases throughout the region. NC HIDTA conducts outreach to the OCDEF Pacific Region program through attendance and active participation at its weekly OCDEF Coordinator meetings and annual conferences. NC HIDTA provides the OCDEF Pacific Region access to the NC HIDTA Annual Threat Assessment.

The deconfliction mandate is accomplished through services provided to NC HIDTA by WSIN, a component of the 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 important 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 briefings, participation with the California Narcotics Officers Association (CNOA) and National Narcotics Officers Association Coalition (NNOAC), input into the annual threat assessment, four quarterly bulletins, and distribution of strategic intelligence products. NC HIDTA facilitates cooperation, information sharing, and joint efforts among more than 71 Federal, state, and local LEAs and involving 324 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.

To enhance secure communications between initiatives and task forces, the NC HIDTA has developed an integrated fusion center known as the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC) with analysts and managers that have access to the secure HSIN Intel/Exchange Tools, the DEA’s secure network and the FBI’s secure network and Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP). Further communications are established through circulation and dissemination of law enforcement intelligence bulletins passed between the NC HIDTA’s NCRIC to some 14,000 FBI, DHS, and Federal, state, local, and tribal partners through Law Enforcement Sensitive and For Official Use Only intelligence products.

The BAYNIN-ISC focuses on defining viable targets and providing meaningful case support and intelligence products to task forces based on major drug trafficking information that has been 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-DTOs found operating in the region on 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 meets and exceeds the goal of dismantling and disrupting DTOs.

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 2019, initiatives identified 46 DTOs/MLOs operating in the region. Investigative initiatives disrupted or dismantled 17 DTOs/MLOs. Of those, 2 cases were international, 3 were multi-state, and 12 were local DTOs/MLOs. The ROI of \$154.61 resulted from initiatives seizing \$150.45 in illicit drugs and \$4.16 in illicit drug assets for every allocated dollar. Using an investigative budget of \$3.6 million, initiatives denied DTOs/MLOs over \$537 million in illicit drug profits, \$14 million in cash, and \$481,097 in assets for a total of \$553 million. By removing the seized narcotics and denying the DTO's illicit proceeds, the enforcement initiatives/task forces decreased the capabilities of the 46 DTOs from conducting business in the communities of the NC HIDTA AOR.

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 a common goal — disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking and money laundering organizations that are adversely affecting the region. Operating together enables law enforcement agencies to allocate stretched resources in a more efficient and effective manner. A by-product of this operating model is the marked increase of information and intelligence sharing.

In addition to enforcement initiatives, Northwest HIDTA’s Drug Court and Prevention/Public Education initiatives support the operation of: 10 adult felony drug courts, 9 community coalitions, and various local government administrations engaged in drug prevention programs and other activities throughout the state.

National HIDTA Program goals offer the foundation upon which performance planning and outcome measurements are based. Moreover, Northwest HIDTA initiatives are developed and operated within parameters set forth in national guidelines that govern its 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 threat(s) and set realistic performance measures. Also, specific information on how funds received will assist in achieving its desired outcome(s) must be provided.

Strategy

The primary elements of the Northwest HIDTA strategy are to: increase collaboration, cooperation, information sharing throughout 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 71,000 square miles, it is the 18th largest state in the United States in terms of surface area and is home to more than 7.7 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.

NW 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

NW HIDTA supports 24 initiatives: 1 management, 1 training, 1 prevention/ treatment, 1 intelligence, 1 support, and 19 enforcement. With Grant County receiving HIDTA designation in 2020, an additional enforcement initiative is being contemplated.

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
2020	75	\$3.40	\$44.50	42

Threat Assessment

Overall, illicit drug use continues to pose serious public health and safety threats to communities in Washington State. Public health reports point to opioids, namely heroin, as the most widely used illicit drug category. In King County, opioid-involved overdose deaths accounted for more than 70% of all drug related deaths in 2019.

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

- Northwest HIDTA assesses that opioids continue to be the greatest single drug threat (based on a combination of factors, including criminal justice and public health consequences) facing the state of Washington and its communities, followed by methamphetamine.

The composition of fentanyl seizures is shifting from powder to pills. Counterfeit tablets made to look like 30 mg oxycodone doses are frequently encountered and nearly always contain fentanyl. The value of fentanyl seized by Northwest HIDTA initiatives has increased from \$495,425 in 2017 to \$670,884 in 2019.

- Methamphetamine remains a serious drug threat in Washington and methamphetamine-related deaths in King County are increasing. Methamphetamine

seizures by Northwest HIDTA initiatives increased 81 percent from 2018 to 2019, from 749 kilograms in 2018 to 1,362 kilograms in 2019.

- Increasingly, drug overdose events involve multiple substances, such as heroin and methamphetamine. Post-mortem toxicology tests reveal the presence of these mixtures and it is often unclear if consumed together or independent of one another.
- Cocaine seizure data by Northwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives over the past five years indicate large quantities of cocaine passing through Washington and on to Canada.
- Prescriptions for oxycodone, hydrocodone, and tramadol decreased by approximately 50 percent from 2015 to 2019. Despite this, they remain the top three controlled prescription drugs authorized for use in Washington State.
- Every Northwest HIDTA law enforcement initiative reported activity by DTOs affiliated with Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations. Two thirds of Northwest HIDTA 2019 TAS respondents reported they are currently investigating DTOs with links to the Sinaloa Cartel.
- MLOs identified in the region laundered proceeds derived largely from the sale of opioids, methamphetamine, marijuana, and cocaine. Common methods employed to transfer proceeds and mask origins are: funneling through restaurants and casinos, real estate purchases, internet-based pay systems, and bulk cash smuggling.
- The use of social media applications has become more popular in recent times, allowing for stealthy communication and coordination of illicit activities. Its use is likely to increase as new applications and technologies are put on the market.

Intelligence Initiative

Northwest HIDTA maintains an ISC staffed by contracted analysts and a variety 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 Northwest HIDTA initiatives plus other law enforcement, prevention and treatment, public health, and other government agencies.

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

The table below highlights the HIDTA-funded enforcement task forces operating in Washington State.

HIDTA FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Clark-Vancouver Drug Task Force	Vancouver, WA

HIDTA FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Narcotics Task Force	Kelso, 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
Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD)	Yakima, WA
Northwest Border Task Force	Ferndale, WA
Pacific NW Violent Offender Task Force	Seattle, WA
Pierce County Task Force	Tacoma, WA
SeaTac HIDTA DEA Transportation Group	Federal Way, WA
Seattle DEA HIDTA Task Force	Seattle, WA
Seattle Safe Streets Task Force	Seattle, WA
Snohomish Regional Drug and Gang Task Force	Everett, WA
Spokane DEA HIDTA Drug Task Force	Spokane, WA
Spokane Regional Safe Streets Task Force	Spokane, WA
Thurston County Narcotics Task Force	Tumwater, WA
WSP SWAT	Olympia, WA
Yakima DEA Task Force	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 monies, 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. Additionally, all DOJ investigative agencies in Washington State have agreed to use Northwest HIDTA's ISC for deconfliction purposes.

National initiatives, such as the DHE program, also serve to promote information sharing among initiatives and agencies throughout Washington. Moreover, Northwest HIDTA-sponsored training programs are available to all law enforcement personnel. In 2019, Northwest HIDTA coordinated and presented training programs to 1,109 law enforcement personnel throughout the area.

HIDTA Evaluation

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

During 2019, illicit drug availability in the region was reduced by Northwest HIDTA actions. More than 14,749 marijuana plants, 10,654 kilograms of bulk marijuana, 93 kilograms of cocaine HCl, 132 kilograms of heroin, 1,362 kilograms of methamphetamine, and 10 kilograms of fentanyl was seized by initiatives – directly contributing to the lowered availability. These seizures equated to the denial of more than \$168 million in illicit revenue. When coupled with drug asset seizures, totaling roughly \$9.7 million, it is clear DTO/MLO operations have been significantly impacted. In total, 80 DTOs/MLOs were either significantly disrupted or entirely eradicated. Overall, trafficker-denied funds totaled \$178 million in 2019.

Northwest HIDTA Drug Court Initiative supports the operations of 10 adult drug court programs in Washington State. In 2019, those Drug Courts enrolled 1,152 participants:

- Graduation rate of 56 percent
- Re-arrest rate of 14 percent
- Re-incarceration rate of 5 percent
- Adult Drug Courts in Northwest HIDTA counties report supporting the births of 126 drug-free babies.

The Northwest HIDTA Prevention/Public Education Initiative supports the operations of nine drug prevention community coalitions and associated departments of county government. In 2019, those coalitions/departments:

- Sponsored and/or provided 105 community events attended by 15,863 citizens.
- Conducted 42 on-going service programs with 14,066 participants. These service programs include parenting support, mentoring, public education, community mobilization, and crime prevention programs.
- Produced, purchased and distributed 59,737 print and electronic drug education materials.
- Supported the management, design and content of the “M-Files” website (www.mfiles.org) which in 2019 received 3,959 visitors and 81,102 page views.

Northwest HIDTA's Prevention/Public Education Initiative has also sponsored a train-the-trainer program that mentors citizens to provide public presentations focusing on methamphetamine, opioids, and marijuana. Since 2002, the program has trained and provided curricula to 1,152 persons, who have provided 1,400 public education presentations to 52,552 Washington State residents.

Northwest HIDTA works in coordination with the 33 Drug Free Communities grantees selected by ONDCP and located throughout Washington State. These grants are awarded to establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, public and private non-profit agencies, and all levels of government to support the efforts of coalitions working to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, among adults.

Ohio HIDTA

Designated in 1999

Executive Director – Derek Siegle

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the Ohio HIDTA is to reduce the transportation, distribution, manufacture, and cultivation of illicit drugs by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs operating in Ohio, Northern Kentucky (NKY) and Western Pennsylvania (WPA). This is accomplished by supporting and coordinating the efforts of Federal, state, and local law enforcement entities, as well as reporting measurable accomplishments of those efforts. Ohio 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

Ohio HIDTA's strategy is to incorporate the use of collocated law enforcement personnel from local, state, and Federal agencies to identify, investigate, disrupt, and dismantle those DTOs/MLOs operating within the Ohio 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 37 initiatives approved by the Ohio HIDTA Executive Board in Ohio, NKY, and WPA provide the basis of Ohio 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 274 Federal, state, and local agencies, comprising 1,427 agents, officers, analysts, and other staff members. The impact of the strategy is evident by the information reported by Ohio HIDTA in the PMP database.

Location

Ohio HIDTA is headquartered in Brooklyn Heights, Ohio. Ohio HIDTA comprises fifteen Ohio counties, three NKY counties, and four WPA counties as follows (22 total):

- Ohio: Adams, Butler, Cuyahoga, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Scioto, Stark, Summit, and Warren
- Kentucky: Boone, Campbell, and Kenton
- Pennsylvania: Allegheny, Beaver, Washington, and Westmoreland

Initiatives

Ohio HIDTA currently supports 33 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
2020	88	\$8.59	\$30.52	131

Threat Assessment

Opioid trafficking, abuse, and overdoses will remain the greatest drug threat to the Ohio HIDTA AOR during 2020. In 2019, the Ohio HIDTA Region began seeing an increase in the mixture of fentanyl with cocaine, as well as the reemergence of carfentanil. Cocaine and crystal methamphetamine, or ice, continued to move to the forefront with reported use on the rise. As reported in previous years, the 2020 Ohio HIDTA Drug Threat Survey still ranks marijuana as the most consumed recreational drug.

In comparison to past years, all of the LEAs responding to the 2020 Ohio HIDTA Drug Threat Survey identified opioids provided by Mexican-Based DTOs as the greatest drug threat in their region. The AOR continues to deal with heroin, which has transformed into a hybrid opioid product. Heroin and fentanyl seizures continue to increase and the lethal combination of heroin and fentanyl remains a very deadly combination. Heroin sold in the Ohio HIDTA AOR is often cut with fentanyl, carfentanil, or made up of straight fentanyl being sold as heroin. The use of fentanyl and carfentanil with, or in place of heroin, is bringing with it a high rate of unintentional overdose deaths in the Ohio HIDTA AOR. The rapid deployment and administration of naloxone an opioid antagonist antidote, continues to be administered daily in the fight to decrease unintentional overdose deaths.

The majority of the Ohio HIDTA 2020 Drug Threat Survey respondents highlighted the increased availability, use, and seizures of ice in their region. Historically, the Ohio HIDTA AOR was inundated with one-pot methamphetamine labs concentrated in the rural areas of the state. Mexican-based DTOs have all but overtaken the methamphetamine trade in the Ohio HIDTA AOR. Some Ohio HIDTA Drug Task Force Commanders even expressed their concerns that ice may overtake opioid abuse in the future

Marijuana remains the number one recreational drug used in the Ohio HIDTA AOR. The legalization of medical marijuana in Ohio has led to an even greater amount of marijuana usage in the region. Nearly all of the respondents to the 2020 Ohio HIDTA Drug Threat Survey reported the majority of marijuana consumed in their area was coming from the Western Region of the United States. It is not uncommon to see bulk shipments of high-grade marijuana products being brought into Ohio from states that have legalized marijuana such as California, Colorado, and Washington¹.

Vaping, the use of vape pens with Butane Hash Oil (BHO) filled cartridges, has become one of the most common forms of illegal use of marijuana in the AOR. The vape cartridges are consistently sold on the street with an 85 to 95 percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) purity content. Edibles are becoming more popular with the legalization of recreational marijuana in Western States and medical marijuana in Ohio. In 2016, Ohio HIDTA initiatives seized nearly 6 kilograms

of edible marijuana products. Seizures skyrocketed from 2018 to 2019 when the Ohio HIDTA Initiatives seizures increased from 45 kilograms to 829 kilograms, an increase of 1,742 percent.

The 2020 Ohio HIDTA Drug Threat Survey indicates a continued downward trend in the use and availability of prescription opioids in the AOR. The new formulation of abuse-deterrent prescription opioid tablets that use physical and chemical barriers or agonist/antagonist combinations to deter the manipulation and abuse has had a major impact on the desire for these prescription opioids. The drug cartels have been acquiring their own pill presses and are using fentanyl to produce counterfeit pills such as OxyContin, Xanax, and most recently Percocet. These counterfeit pills are readily available in the AOR and in nearly every state of the United States.

Most respondents to the 2020 Ohio HIDTA Drug Threat Survey saw very little change or any new emerging drug threats in their areas of operation. The AOR continues to see a limited use of synthetic drug products such as bath salts, K2, and Spice. Designer or club drugs like MDMA, LSD, and Anabolic Steroids can be found in limited quantities throughout the numerous campus communities in Ohio.

Intelligence Initiatives

The Ohio 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, collocated, 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 Ohio 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, strategy reports, initiative budget and description reports, and annual reports;
- creating actionable intelligence recommendations on DTOs and their members;
- providing SAR referrals for MLOs and their members; and
- coordinating drug intelligence symposiums for the exchange of drug intelligence and networking opportunities amongst investigators and analysts from HIDTA initiatives, participating agencies, and other law enforcement entities in the Ohio HIDTA region.

The ISC intelligence component provides a full range of intelligence analytical support to other Ohio 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 Ohio HIDTA and other HIDTAs throughout the country. Core intelligence subsystem functions include: analytical case support, cell phone extraction analysis, cell phone ping analysis, crime mapping, database inquiry and exploration, event and subject

deconfliction via Case Explorer, financial analysis/SAR review, GPS monitoring and analysis, heroin overdose incident form, link chart creation & analysis, ODMAP, overdose incident deconfliction form, pharmaceutical analysis, social networking investigation, and strategic intelligence.

The ISC consists of the Analytical Unit, Case Explorer deconfliction system, and the SAR Review Team (SAR-RT). 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 Ohio HIDTA law enforcement initiatives, participating agencies, other HIDTAs, and LEAs outside of the Ohio 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.

Ohio HIDTA has also introduced ODMAP into the state. The program uses a web service accessible through a smart phone or computer to allow first responders to report fatal and nonfatal overdose incidents and related data. The location, date, and time of the incidents are transmitted to the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA secure map server and plotted on an electronic map that allows participating agencies to visualize overdose incidents in and around their jurisdiction. ODMAP enables agencies to see overdose spikes, as well as the locations of overdose occurrences. Ohio HIDTA is looking to utilize the data to work with public health officials in identifying at-risk individuals in need of treatment. As of October 2020, Ohio has seen 34,519 overdoses entered in 78 of the 88 Ohio counties. Currently, the Ohio HIDTA has 257 agencies signed up on participation agreements with the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA for access to ODMAP.

The Ohio 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 Ohio HIDTA region.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Akron Safe Streets Task Force	Summit
Akron/Summit Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Summit
Allegheny County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny (PA)
Beaver County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Beaver (PA)
Brown County Drug Task Force	Brown
Butler Undercover Regional Narcotics-BURN (HIDTA)	Butler
Central Ohio Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Franklin
Central Ohio Narcotics Task Force	Coshocton, Know, Licking, Muskingum, and Perry
Cincinnati Law Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Hamilton
Cincinnati Major Drug Offenders Unit	Hamilton
Cincinnati regional Narcotics Unit-RENU	Hamilton
Clermont County Drug Task Force	Clermont
Columbiana County Drug Task Force	Columbiana
DEA Cincinnati Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Hamilton
DEA Cleveland Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Cuyahoga
DEA Columbus Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Franklin
DEA Pittsburgh Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny (PA)
DEA Toledo Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lucas
DEA Youngstown Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Mahoning
Delaware County Drug Task Force	Delaware
Drug Abuse Reduction Task Force (DART)	Hamilton
FBI Opioid/Overdose Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny (PA)
Franklin County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Franklin
Grand Lake Task Force	Auglaize and Mercer
Greene County Combined Enforcement (ACE)	Greene
Hardin County Crime Task Force	Hardin
HSI Border Enforcement Security Team Interdiction Initiative	Cuyahoga
HSI/Pennsylvania State Police Interdiction Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny (PA)
Hotel Interdiction Team (HIDTA)	Cuyahoga
Jackson County Drug Task Force	Jackson
Jefferson County Drug Task Force	Jefferson
Lake County Narcotics Agency	Lake
Lawrence Drug and Major Crimes Task Force	Lawrence

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Logan County Drug Task Force	Logan
Lorain County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lorain
Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Mahoning
Major Crimes Unit (HIDTA)	Fairfield/Hocking/Athens
Medina County Drug Task Force	Medina
Medway Drug Enforcement Agency	Wayne and Medina
METRICH Enforcement Unit	Ashland, Crawford, Hancock, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot
Miami Valley Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Montgomery
Multi-Area Narcotics Unit	Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Putnam, and Williams
Northern Kentucky Drug Strike Force (HIDTA)	Boone/Campbell/Kenton (KY)
Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force (HIDTA)	Cuyahoga
Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Statewide
Ohio Highway Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Statewide
Ottawa County Drug Task Force	Ottawa
Pennsylvania Highway Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Allegheny, Beaver, and Washington (PA)
Pittsburgh Bureau of Police/DEA Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Allegheny (PA)
Portage County Drug Task Force	Portage
Regional Agencies Narcotics & Gun Task Force	Clark, Montgomery, and Preble
Sandusky County Drug Task Force	Sandusky
Southeast Area Law Enforcement Task Force-SEALE	Cuyahoga
Southern Ohio Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Scioto
Southern Ohio Fugitive Apprehension Strike Force (HIDTA)	Statewide
Stark County Safe Streets Task Force (HIDTA)	Stark
Stark County Sheriff's Metro Narcotics Unit	Stark
Toledo Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Lucas
Trumbull, Ashtabula, Geauga Task Force	Ashtabula and Trumbull
U.S. 23 Pipeline Major Crimes Task Force	Fayette, Highland, Pickaway, Pike, and Ross
Columbus Violent Crime Task Force	Franklin
Warren County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Warren
Washington County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Washington (PA)
West Central Ohio Crime Task Force	Allen
Westmoreland County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Westmoreland (PA)

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Westshore Enforcement Bureau-WEB	Cuyahoga

Task Force Coordination

Through oversight by the Ohio 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 Ohio HIDTA ISC provides the platform for intelligence information sharing, deconfliction services, and investigative support for the initiatives. The ISC ensures information sharing among initiatives to avoid duplication of effort and resources. This ISC complements the other operational initiatives through its support and facilitates a comprehensive intelligence strategy that enables overall initiative cohesiveness. The Training Initiative coordinates all law enforcement, analytical, and management training, and it provides a mechanism for consistent training to all of the operational initiatives. Finally, the IT Initiative provides IT systems and support to all member agencies.

Operational initiatives are reviewed annually to ensure they are operating according to their mission statement, addressing the identified drug problem in their area of operation, operating according to the PPBG, properly recording data in the PMP system, deconflicting events and subject/cases, sharing information, and properly utilizing funds. Initiatives are spread out through 22 counties, including three in NKY and four in WPA. Only in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, and Mahoning in Ohio, and Allegheny in WPA are there more than one HIDTA initiative in operation. In these counties, the demand for narcotics enforcement necessitates multiple initiatives. These initiatives work together when needed, share information on a daily basis, and at times have different areas of focus in terms of geography, type of DTO/MLO, or narcotic distribution.

The Ohio Highway Interdiction Initiative and the Pennsylvania Highway Interdiction Initiative 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 Ohio HIDTA task force, and seizures are entered into the EPIC 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 2019, OHII and PAII seized \$31.9 million in wholesale value of drugs, and \$19.3 million in cash. They highway interdiction initiatives also utilize the Case Explorer deconfliction system for all interdictions, further ensuring coordination with traditional task forces.

The Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force (OVFTF) provides support in locating drug fugitives identified by other initiatives. OVFTF also utilizes deconfliction to determine if a subject has been arrested in another initiative’s investigation. The number of fugitives apprehended for 2019 was 3,960, of which 1,298 were sought for drug-related crimes. The OVFTF removal of 1,298 drug felons from the streets of their communities had a direct impact on the reduction of crime and the distribution of illegal drugs. Ohio HIDTA anticipates that 4,552 fugitives will be targeted and apprehended in 2020.

HIDTA Evaluation

Ohio HIDTA remains an effective and efficient platform to continue development of law enforcement partnerships, coordinate investigative information sharing, and support the *National Drug Control Strategy*. In 2019, Ohio HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 104 DTOs/MLOs operating in the region. Of those disrupted or dismantled, 37 were international, 41 were multi-state, and 26 were local. The estimated wholesale value of drugs seized in 2019 was \$123.9 million. Cash and other drug-related assets seized totaled \$53.8 million. The ROI for drugs and assets seized in 2019 was \$30.87.

Oregon-Idaho HIDTA

Designated in 1999

Executive Director – Chris Gibson

Purpose and Goals

In conjunction with the national program goals, Oregon-Idaho HIDTA's (OI HIDTA) mission is to facilitate, support, and enhance collaborative drug control efforts among LEAs and community-based organizations, thus significantly reducing the impact of illegal trafficking and drug abuse 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 OI 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. OI 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

OI HIDTA will continue to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among the 11 Federal agencies, 7 state agencies, 51 local agencies, 2 tribal agencies, and the USAOs in the District of Oregon and District of Idaho to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs and reducing the demand for, and availability of, illegal drugs.

Location

OI HIDTA, based in Salem, Oregon, includes the following designated areas:

- Ada, Bannock, Canyon, Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Kootenai, Lane, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Umatilla, and Washington.

Initiatives

OI HIDTA supports 24 initiatives: 1 management, 1 training, 3 prevention, 1 intelligence, and 18 enforcement initiatives.

Short-Term Objectives

YEAR	DTOs and MLOs Expected to be Disrupted/Dismantled	Target Return on Investment: Assets	Target Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support
2020	65	\$2.00	\$22.00	542

Threat Assessment

Methamphetamine availability and trafficking continues to occur at a high level in the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA and remains the area's greatest drug threat, followed by heroin; fentanyl and synthetic opioids; controlled prescription drugs; illicit marijuana; cocaine; and other dangerous substances.

Methamphetamine is widely used and trafficked in the region with most indicators – such as related seizures, deaths, arrests, and forensic samples – showing continued expansion. Crystal methamphetamine (“ice”) has increased in availability as MDTOs have escalated the importation of methamphetamine powder, liquid, and finished product from laboratories outside the region and from Mexico. Local production in Oregon has remained low due to state legislation eliminating the ability to obtain pseudoephedrine without a physician's prescription.

Over the last 7 years, the drug threat environment has shifted in the HIDTA from primarily methamphetamine trafficking and abuse to a dual threat that includes high availability and use of opioid-based drugs. Production of heroin in Mexico has expanded leading to greater access to low-cost product, mainly black tar, in Oregon and Idaho. In addition, misuse of prescription opioids has contributed to crossover abuse with heroin -- people who are addicted to prescription opioids have increasingly switched to heroin because it is easier to obtain, cheaper, and provides a more intense high than prescription opioids.

The market for synthetic opioid drugs has continued to evolve in the HIDTA. Fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, and other dangerous synthetic opioids have become more prevalent in the region since 2013 with higher availability closely paralleled by increased overdose deaths. Fentanyl and fentanyl analogues are increasingly transported into the HIDTA in the form of counterfeit pills or mixed with other drugs such as heroin.

Availability and non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs, mostly painkillers, remains high in the HIDTA. However, some indicators, such as use, deaths and rates of prescribing, suggest a decline in misuse and may reflect a shift in demand for opioid-based drugs like heroin or counterfeit drugs laced with fentanyl.

Marijuana use, cultivation, and trafficking are pervasive in the HIDTA. Oregon's Medical Marijuana Act and recreational marijuana laws, which allow for specified quantities of marijuana to be grown, continue to be exploited for profit. In addition, illicit manufacture and distribution of marijuana extracts, such as hash oil and marijuana wax, continue to increase in the region and have led to nearly 40 production-related explosions or fires in Oregon since 2011. Idaho marijuana laws remain rigorous, with all possession, manufacture, and sale of the drug strictly prohibited.

Cocaine availability and use remain low relative to other illicit drugs in the HIDTA. Some indicators, such as task force and law enforcement reporting, suggest increased availability and are likely a result of increased production in Colombia, the main source country for the United States. Despite higher availability, the user base for cocaine in most areas of the HIDTA has remained unchanged likely due to availability and low cost of highly potent stimulant alternatives, such as methamphetamine.

Other dangerous drugs such as MDMA, DMT (N,N-Dimethyltryptamine), LSD, synthetic cathinones, synthetic cannabinoids, and psilocybin remain available in the HIDTA. These substances are obtained from a variety of sources, including local production, retail outlets, the internet, and through cross-border trafficking of product.

During 2019, participating agencies within the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA identified 69 DTOs with foreign and domestic connections that were actively operating in the HIDTA; 14 new DTOs were identified between January 1 and April 13, 2020.

Multi-state DTOs represent the greatest criminal drug threat to the HIDTA. These DTOs transport and distribute illicit drugs to and within the HIDTA in addition to influencing the drug market in other states. Multi-state DTOs identified in 2019 were involved in trafficking methamphetamine, heroin, and polydrugs, as well as interstate trafficking of marijuana.

International DTOs, specifically, trafficking organizations connected to Mexico, either directly or through associated trafficking and distribution cells, represent another serious criminal drug threat in Oregon and Idaho. Mexican criminal organizations maintain the greatest influence on the illicit drug market in the United States and use the established transportation and distribution infrastructure to move product, primarily methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and fentanyl into the country and into the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA region.

Criminal organizations that operate locally also remain a concern in the HIDTA. The majority of local DTOs were involved in trafficking and distribution of crystal methamphetamine and polydrugs, mostly varying combinations of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, fentanyl, and/or marijuana. Other criminal groups, such as criminal street gangs and local independent dealers, also transport and distribute drugs, but to a lesser extent.

Drug trafficking groups in the HIDTA also engage in money laundering activities -- the legitimization of illegally obtained proceeds. HIDTA task forces identified three MLOs in 2019. Bulk cash smuggling, money service businesses, cash-intensive businesses, and bank structuring remain primary methods of transferring drug revenues into, through, and out of the HIDTA.

Intelligence Initiatives and Task Force Coordination

All OI HIDTA task forces receiving OCDETF, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, or HIDTA funding are encouraged to use the RISSIntel and RISSafe systems for case, subject, and event deconfliction. The OI HIDTA ISC and the Idaho Fusion Center coordinate these activities.

All drug task forces share information with the OI HIDTA ISC. Many of the task forces work together on investigations and subsequently share information and resources. OI HIDTA conducts periodic information sharing meetings with task force managers and supervisors. The OI HIDTA Training Initiative, in partnership with the Oregon Narcotics Enforcement Association, coordinates annual training conferences for narcotics officers.

The OI HIDTA ISC, which is collocated with the Oregon Fusion Center, and the Idaho Fusion Center share information routinely and freely with Federal, state, local, and tribal LEAs 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
Bannock Area Drug & Gang Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Pocatello, ID
Blue Mountain Narcotics Team (HIDTA)	Pendleton, OR

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (HIDTA)	Bend, OR
Clackamas County Interagency Task Force (HIDTA)	Oregon City, OR
DEA Boise Resident Office Task Force (DEA & HIDTA)	Boise, ID
Douglas Interagency Narcotics Team (HIDTA)	Roseburg, OR
FBI Treasure Valley Metro Violent Crimes Safe Streets Task Force (FBI & HIDTA)	Boise, ID
HIDTA Interdiction Team (HIDTA)	Portland, OR
HIDTA Special Assistant United States Attorney District of Idaho	Boise, ID
Idaho State Police Domestic Highway Enforcement (HIDTA)	Meridian, ID
Intelligence and Investigative Support Center (HIDTA)	Salem, OR
Linn Interagency Narcotics Enforcement (HIDTA)	Albany, OR
Medford Area Drug and Gang Enforcement (HIDTA)	Medford, OR
Multnomah County Dangerous Drug Team (HIDTA)	Portland, OR
Oregon HIDTA DEA Task Force (DEA & HIDTA)	Portland, Salem, Eugene, Medford, OR
Oregon State Police Domestic Highway Enforcement (HIDTA)	Salem, OR
Rogue Area Drug Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Grants Pass, OR
U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force (USMS & HIDTA)	Portland, OR
Westside Interagency Narcotics Team (HIDTA)	Beaverton, OR

HIDTA Evaluation

OI HIDTA reduced drug availability in its AOR and is on target to meet the national HIDTA goals as it seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all initiatives. OI 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 2019, initiatives exceeded their projected target of disrupting or dismantling 62 of 138 identified DTOs or MLOs by ultimately disrupting or dismantling 74. Enforcement task forces were responsible for seizing illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$143.43 million and \$12.93 million in cash and other drug-related assets (\$156.35 million total) from drug traffickers and money launderers, resulting in a total ROI of \$37.65.

Puerto Rico and United States Virgin Islands HIDTA

Designated in 1994

Director – Samuel Santana

Purpose and Goals

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA (PR/USVI HIDTA) has created intelligence-driven task forces comprising Federal, Commonwealth, territorial and local LEAs to combat drug trafficking and related money laundering and criminal activities with a continued focus on violent crime. PR/USVI 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 disrupting of major DTOs and MLOs operating in the Caribbean Basin. PR/USVI 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.

PR/USVI HIDTA's primary goal is to disrupt and dismantle DTOs and related money laundering schemes and reduce violence associated with these illegal activities. Second, it is important to continue supporting prevention efforts addressed by the Alliance for a Drug Free Puerto Rico and develop a similar prevention initiative or enter into a partnership for USVI prevention efforts.

Strategy

PR/USVI 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. PR/USVI HIDTA, through cooperation and effective relationships established with Federal, Commonwealth, and local agencies, has joint task forces positioned throughout the region to counter drug trafficking and related criminal activity.

Location

PR/USVI HIDTA's headquarters are located in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the office covering the United States Virgin Islands is located in St. Thomas. 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, PR/USVI HIDTA comprises the following:

- Puerto Rico (including the off-island municipalities of Culebra and Vieques) and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Initiatives

PR/USVI HIDTA supports 15 initiatives: 11 enforcement (investigative and interdiction), 1 intelligence, 1 prevention, 1 training, and 1 management 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
2020	47	\$1.50	\$48.50	660

Threat Assessment

The PR/USVI HIDTA AOR is highly vulnerable to drug trafficking because of its position in the Caribbean, an established transshipment zone of illicit drugs from South America through the U.S. territories (Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands) 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 SWB of the CONUS in direct response to the drug threat and human trafficking threat. As a result, South American cartels have been trafficking more frequent and larger drug shipments through the Caribbean. Drug trafficking remains a significant threat to PR, USVI, and the CONUS. Consequently, violent crimes, unlawful financial activities, and drug abuse continue to deteriorate communities within the AOR. In 2019, the identification of Fentanyl being trafficked through the area increased, thereby causing a larger number of overdoses.

Intelligence Initiatives

Information sharing is a key factor in the success of HIDTA-led investigations. The PR/USVI HIDTA ISC, located in San Juan, has grown to be a center for regional information sharing, tactical, and operational intelligence.

The PR/USVI HIDTA ISC analyzes information and delivers accurate and timely strategic, organizational, and tactical intelligence on cocaine, heroin, and marijuana-related criminal activity within Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. 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 criminal databases. The ISC provides event and case deconfliction; post-seizure analysis; telephone toll analysis; active pen register monitoring; intelligence profiles; Title III support; charts, graphs, trend, and pattern analysis; and financial analysis. The ISC provides coordination with the EPIC and Joint Interagency Task Force South and offers 24/7 coverage via an automated Hotline Deconfliction Number. The ISC has added to its portfolio of services a forensic extraction laboratory that has proven to be useful to law enforcement partners and non-participating agencies.

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces and supporting initiatives operating in the HIDTA region. 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 OCDETF Strike Force (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Fajardo Major Organization Investigations (HIDTA)	Fajardo, PR
FBI OCDETF Task Force (FBI)	San Juan, PR
FBI OCDETF Task Force (FBI)	St. Croix, USVI
HIDTA Racketeering Investigations (RICO Act)	San Juan, 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
Money Laundering Initiative (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Ponce Major Organization Investigations/Mayaguez Satellite (HIDTA)	Ponce/Mayaguez, PR
Puerto Rico Violent Offenders Task Force (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Safe Neighborhoods (HIDTA)	San Juan, PR
Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	San Juan, PR
Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	Fajardo, PR
Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	Ponce, PR
Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	Aguadilla, PR
Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	St. Thomas, USVI
St. Croix Major Organization Investigations/Marine Interdiction (HIDTA)	St. Croix, USVI
St. Thomas Major Organization Investigations (HIDTA)	St. Thomas, USVI
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Ponce, PR
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	San Juan, PR

Task Force Coordination

PR/USVI HIDTA plays an important role in coordinating and sharing information with Federal, state, and local LEAs.

The ISC works with the law enforcement community to support each other in the intelligence arena. Initiatives share information through the ISC, which operates a hotline available to all initiatives in the PR/USVI HIDTA AOR. The ISC is staffed by intelligence/criminal research specialists/analysts; TFOs from the Puerto Rico Police Bureau, San Juan Municipal Police and Special Agents from the DEA, CBP, USBP, Puerto Rico Special Investigations Bureau, Puerto Rico, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Puerto Rico National Guard, and Puerto Rico Treasury.

OCDETF attorneys and PR/USVI HIDTA collaborate on OCDETF and HIDTA strategic plans and threat assessments through the USAO for the District of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Caribbean Corridor Strike Force is a major multiagency investigative and interdiction initiative that tackles drug trafficking in the Caribbean transit zone. The initiative receives support from the Puerto Rico Police Bureau/Joint Forces of Rapid Action (Fuerzas Unidas de Rápida Acción or FURA), U.S. Coast Guard, and CBP, among others.

Prevention activities are covered by one HIDTA-funded initiative, the Alliance for a Drug Free Puerto Rico (Alianza para un Puerto Rico Sin Drogas). The program works with students and schools in the most vulnerable neighborhoods in Puerto Rico to help young people avoid drug use.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, PR/USVI HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 89 DTOs operating in the region. Of those disrupted or dismantled, 16 were international, 4 were multi-state, and 69 were local. The 2019 wholesale value of drugs seized was \$592.9 million, and the value of cash and other drug-related assets was \$76.3 million, for a total of \$669.2 million. In 2019, the ROI for drugs and assets seized totaled \$64.85.

Rocky Mountain HIDTA

Designated in 1996

Acting Director – Chelsey Clarke

Purpose and Goals

Rocky Mountain HIDTA's (RM HIDTA) mission is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs by facilitating cooperation and coordination among Federal, state, and local drug enforcement entities to dismantle and disrupt DTOs, with particular emphasis on drug-trafficking within the HIDTA region that has harmful effects on other parts of the United States. This mission is accomplished through intelligence-driven joint multi-agency collocated drug task forces sharing information and working cooperatively with other drug enforcement initiatives, including interdiction.

Strategy

RM 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 RM 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 RM HIDTA region.

An extensive training program, an intelligence initiative, aggressive enforcement initiatives, and a criminal interdiction program support RM HIDTA's strategy. Enforcement initiatives focus on targeting and trying to dismantle or disrupt 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 has also been added to the strategy. Enforcement initiatives, coupled with drug prevention, give RM HIDTA multiple tools to address drug trafficking and use.

Location

RM HIDTA operates out of Denver, Colorado, and comprises 30 designated counties:

- Colorado: Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Garfield, Jefferson, La Plata, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, and Weld
- Montana: Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, and Yellowstone
- Utah: Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, and Weber
- Wyoming: Albany, Campbell, Laramie, Natrona, Sweetwater, and Uinta

Initiatives

RM HIDTA supports 30 initiatives: 1 management, 1 training, 1 intelligence, and 27 investigative 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
2020	95	\$2.33	\$23.31	300

Threat Assessment

Methamphetamine distribution and use pose the greatest overall drug threat, and marijuana is the most widely available and used illicit drug, in the RM HIDTA region. MDTOs are the principal suppliers of wholesale quantities of methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin to the region from locations along the SWB, 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 RM HIDTA’s centralized location and extensive transportation infrastructure to distribute wholesale quantities of ice, methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, and heroin. Interstate highways I-15, I-25, I-70, I-80, I-90, and I-94 transect the AOR, and DTOs use these major routes to transport illicit drugs from California, Arizona, and Texas to markets in Denver, Colorado, and major Midwest cities such as Omaha, Nebraska; Kansas City, Missouri; and Chicago, Illinois. Similar to other areas of the country, prescription drug abuse has increased significantly in the region, particularly in areas such as Salt Lake City, Utah, and Denver, Colorado, as illustrated by the number of opioid prescriptions issued and overdose deaths when compared to prior years.

Intelligence Initiatives

The RM HIDTA ISC, funded since 1997, is located in Denver and staffs 14 analysts that support initiatives. This includes ancillary analytical support provided from RM HIDTA-funded analysts housed in Salt Lake City (two analysts); Colorado Springs, Colorado (one analyst); and Cheyenne, Wyoming (one analyst). 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 RM 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
Colorado Criminal Interdiction (HIDTA)	Denver, CO
Colorado Springs Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Colorado Springs, CO

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Davis Metro Narcotics Strike Force (HIDTA)	Kaysville, UT
Denver Metro Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	Denver, CO
Eastern Montana Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Billings, MT
Front Range Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Aurora, CO
Fugitive Location and Apprehension Group (HIDTA)	Aurora, CO
Missoula County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Missoula, MT
Missouri River Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Bozeman, MT
Montana Criminal Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	Great Falls, MT
Montana Regional Violent Crime Task Force (FBI)	Great Falls, MT
Mountain Enforcement Team (Byrne/JAG)	Jackson, WY
North Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Broomfield, CO
Northern Colorado Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Ft. Collins, CO
Northern Utah Criminal Apprehension Team (FBI)	Ogden, UT
Northwest Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Kalispell, MT
Northwest Enforcement Team (Byrne/JAG)	Powell, WY
OCDETF Strike Force	Denver, CO
Regional Anti-Violence Enforcement Network (HIDTA)	Aurora, CO
Russell County 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 (FBI)	Colorado Springs, CO
Southwest Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Durango, CO
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Denver, CO
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Salt Lake City, UT
Tri-Agency Drug Task Force (Byrne/JAG)	Havre, MT
Two Rivers Drug Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Glenwood Springs, CO
Weld County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Greeley, CO
West Metro Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Golden, CO
Western Colorado Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Grand Junction, CO
Iron/Garfield County Narcotic Task Force (Byrne/JAG)	Cedar City, UT
Salt Lake City Metro Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	Salt Lake City, UT
Utah County Major Crimes Task Force (HIDTA)	Orem, UT
Utah Criminal Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	Salt Lake City, UT
Washington County Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	St. George, UT
Weber Morgan Narcotics Strike Force (HIDTA)	Ogden, UT
Wyoming Criminal Interdiction Program (HIDTA)	Cheyenne, WY
Wyoming Enforcement Team (HIDTA)	Casper, Sheridan, Cheyenne, and Rock Springs, WY

Task Force Coordination

All task force initiatives receiving RM HIDTA funding are required to use RISSIntel. Task force initiatives are also required to use the RISSafe event deconfliction system. Task forces that are not HIDTA-funded voluntarily use RISSafe and RISSIntel. Deconfliction hits require interagency communication and coordination to prevent investigative overlap.

All drug task forces share information with the RM HIDTA ISC analysts on a regular, informal and formal basis through a mandated report and TAS. The task force teams, particularly those located in the Denver metropolitan area often work together on overlapping investigations and/or resource sharing. RM HIDTA coordinates with the drug investigator associations or those responsible for Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funding, and it conducts periodic commander meetings for all drug units and task forces throughout the RM 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 2019, RM HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 119 DTOs consisting of 13 international, 53 multi-state, and 53 local organizations. In 2019, RM HIDTA dismantled three methamphetamine laboratories. The wholesale value of the drugs removed from the marketplace by the RM HIDTA initiatives was more than \$267 million, and the cash and assets seized was over \$17.8 million (\$284.8million total). The 2019 total ROI for RM HIDTA was \$25.84.

San Diego/Imperial Valley

Designated in 1990

Director – David King

Purpose and Goals

San Diego Imperial Valley HIDTA’s (SDI HIDTA) mission is to measurably reduce drug trafficking, thereby reducing the impact of illicit drugs in the AOR and other areas of the country. The SDI HIDTA region has a long history of being one of the most prolific drug transshipment points along the SWB. The SDI HIDTA AOR continues to account for an overwhelming majority of SWB drug seizures. From October 2019 to August 2020, border seizures in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas reveals that 51 percent of cocaine; 47 percent of heroin; 57 percent of methamphetamine; and 51 percent of fentanyl are attributed to the SDI HIDTA AOR. The SDI HIDTA consists of both San Diego County and Imperial County that border Mexico.

Strategy

The SDI 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 SDI HIDTA also emphasizes efforts against methamphetamine manufacturing, precursor chemical supply, and illicit use through innovative enforcement operations and demand reduction programs using a multiagency, joint concept of operations. Initiatives continue to foster cooperative and productive working relationships among approximately 700 Federal, state, and local full-time and part-time personnel from almost every LEA in the region. These agencies voluntarily participate in HIDTA initiatives to disrupt and dismantle DTOs, reduce drug demand, and make communities safer.

Location

The SDI HIDTA operates out of San Diego, California, and is responsible for the following counties:

- Imperial and San Diego

Initiatives

The SDI HIDTA supports 16 initiatives: 9 investigation/interdiction, 1 management and coordination, 3 support, 1 demand reduction, 1 prosecution, and 1 intelligence.

Short-Term Objectives

YEAR	DTOs Expected to be Disrupted/ Dismantled	Target Return on Investment: Assets	Target Return on Investment: Drugs	Number of Investigations Expected to be Provided Analytical Support
2020	59	\$1.80	\$173.11	225

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, cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. In 2019, the SDI HIDTA removed over 263,732kilograms of

drugs valued at over \$4 billion and proceeds worth over \$16.75 million from the profit sheets of DTOs, MLOs, and TCOs. Initiatives focused efforts on major DTOs and investigated 140 DTOs, resulting in 70 open OCDETF cases. Thirty-five DTOs were linked to CPOT (or RPOT) level organizations, and 114 DTOs were international in scope. In 2019, 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 SDI HIDTA and the principal intelligence coordination center for participating drug and all-crimes LEAs, prosecutors, and other Federal, state, and local agencies. The primary elements include a watch center for case deconflictions; investigative support units that provide tactical and analytical case support and focus on targeting and strategic planning; and a critical infrastructure program that offers products and services to benefit essential facility and first responder awareness of a facility. Also included is a Terrorism Liaison and Infrastructure Liaison Unit that provides free regional training for private sector personnel and first responders on a variety of subjects. The SD-LECC also has an established Tips and Leads Unit; a Cyber Security Program; a Geospatial Unit; a USBP Targeting Action Group; and an information technology unit that provides support to the SDI HIDTA and affiliated initiatives, SD-LECC, and the Imperial Valley Law Enforcement Coordination Center (IV-LECC). The FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and the San Diego Sheriff's Department (SDSO) are also co-located at the Center.

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 SWB 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, Chula Vista Police Department, Escondido Police Department, San Diego District Attorney's Office, California National Guard, California Highway Patrol, DHS, DEA, CBP Office of Field Operations, USBP, NCIS, FBI, and HSI.

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 collocated at the IV-LECC along with the DEA's Major Mexico-based Traffickers Group, the Imperial County Narcotic Task Force, and the HSI BEST team. The IV-LECC also has office space that includes room for a USMS and USAO presence in Imperial County, and it is hosting office and computer workstations for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

All task forces and member agencies use the subject and event deconfliction services provided by the SD-LECC. In 2019, the SD-LECC coordinated 132,705 case/subject inquiries and handled event deconfliction for 26,959 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 collocates and combines the SDI 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 (SWB Recovery Act - DOJ)	San Diego
Combined Border Prosecutions Initiative (HIDTA)	San Diego and Imperial
Cross Border Violence Task Force (HIDTA)	San Diego
DEA Narcotic Task Force (DEA and HIDTA) (10 Teams)	San Diego
DHS-HSI Border Enforcement Security Teams (4 Teams) (DHS and HIDTA)	San Diego and Imperial
East County Regional Gang Task Force (FBI)	San Diego
High Intensity Financial Crimes Task Force (HSI) (3 Teams)	San Diego
Imperial Valley Drug Coalition (HIDTA) (4 Task Forces under IVDC)	Imperial
Major Mexican Traffickers Initiative (HIDTA) (4 Teams)	San Diego and Imperial
Marine Task Force (HIDTA)	San Diego
OCDETF Strike Force (FBI/DEA/HSI)	San Diego
Operation Alliance Joint Task Force (HIDTA) (11 Teams)	San Diego
Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory (FBI and HIDTA)	San Diego
San Diego/Imperial Counties Law Enforcement Coordination Center (HIDTA)	San Diego
San Diego Prescription Drug Initiative (DEA and HIDTA)	San Diego

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
San Diego Violent Crime Task Force (HIDTA) (4 Task Forces under SDVCTF)	San Diego and San Marcos

Task Force Coordination

Each agency has its strategies, requirements, and missions. The SDI 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 SDI HIDTA, and single agency task forces and drug units within the AOR. The Board is formed of 18 members/officers – 9 Federal and 9 state/local – with the chair and vice chair positions rotating annually between Federal and state/local.

The SD-LECC Executive Board, co-chaired by Federal and state or local representatives, provides guidance and oversight to the SD-LECC and develops intelligence policies for the approval of the Executive Board.

To accomplish its mission, the SDI 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 collocation 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 SDI 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 2019, the SDI HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 44 DTOs. Of the 44 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 32 were international, 8 were multi-state, and 4 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$4 billion and \$16.75 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$342.98. The ISC provided analytical support to 130 cases and processed 26,959 event and case deconflictions. The SDI HIDTA also provided 22,039 hours of training to 1,681 students.

South Florida HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Executive Director – Hugo Barrera

Purpose and Goals

South Florida HIDTA's (SFHIDTA) mission is to augment the collective efforts of program participants to coordinate Federal, state and local LEAs to disrupt and dismantle DTOs, MLOs, and violent criminal organizations, thereby to reduce the illegal drug supply in the South Florida area and, while directing emphasis on organizations and systems that extend harm to others across the United States. Central to the SFHIDTA mission is the use of state-of-the-art technology for investigations and employing new techniques to attack emerging threats such as cybercrime and illicit cryptocurrency.

With its close proximity to Caribbean and South American narcotics distribution routes, the work of the SFLHIDTA is unique. It combats drug trafficking intended for South Florida AOR users, and for drugs intended for distribution and use in other nationwide areas. Intelligence gathered from investigations is shared with the U.S. Coast Guard and CBP for interdiction prior to arrival to the United States, and at South Florida POEs. The quantitative effect of port and water-based seizures is an overall reduction for drugs available for nationwide distribution and use.

Strategy

SFHIDTA fosters cooperative and effective working relationships among Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies that contribute over 600 collocated full-time personnel who share the common goal to disrupt and dismantle DTOs and MLOs through long-term, multiagency investigations and operations. The SFHIDTA strategy comprises 34 initiatives that exploit the collective expertise of Federal, state, and local agencies to target multiple regional drug threats identified in the SFHIDTA threat assessment.

The expansion of multi-HIDTA approaches to identify, disrupt, and dismantle traditional and emerging threats are key aspects of SFHIDTA's short- and long-term strategy. SFHIDTA 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

SFHIDTA operates three major task force facilities and numerous onsite task forces located throughout six contiguous counties:

- Broward, Collier, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach

Initiatives

SFHIDTA supports 34 initiatives (comprises 39 reporting groups): 1 management and coordination, 1 support, 1 intelligence and information sharing, 1 joint training, 1 prosecution, and 29 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
2020	59	\$8.00	\$75.00	435

Threat Assessment

The SFLHIDTA is a key US drug trafficking and money laundering region. Its geographical nexus to the Americas, the Caribbean nations, and The Bahamas, along with its multi-cultural backdrop make it a preferred portal for illicit drugs entering the US to supply local, state, and other US 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 US territories that is routinely exploited by transnational drug trafficking and money laundering organizations and other enterprising criminals.

Cocaine DTOs represent the majority of the SFLHIDTA's international and local drug trafficking community. These DTOs work in concert with multi-ethnic, regional, and local poly-drug DTOs to supply state, regional, and US cocaine markets, exploiting South Florida's coastal juxtaposition to the Caribbean by using a variety of maritime conveyances such as freighters, cruise ships, go-fast vessels, and sailboats to transport wholesale quantities of cocaine into the region. The territorial scope of SFHIDTA drug activity also extends to major cities throughout the state of Florida, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and most notably Georgia, New York, Illinois, California, and Texas.

SFHIDTA views cocaine, heroin, and opioids as primary drug threats. Secondary drug threats include CPDs, marijuana, NPS, and methamphetamine. Cocaine continues its reign as the most readily available of all illicit drugs in South Florida. The historic revival of coca cultivation and cocaine production in Colombia has amplified the amount of cocaine flowing into South Florida via the Caribbean by South American and Dominican/Caribbean DTOs during the last two years. Cocaine continues to outrank all other drug submissions to the US DEA National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) for the SFLHIDTA. Cocaine seizures by the SFHIDTA initiatives have exceeded the benchmark set in 2007 when coca production and cocaine cultivation were at a high for two consecutive years. 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.

Cocaine-related deaths remain at historically high levels. The devastation caused by the increased availability of cocaine and poly-drug abuse in which cocaine and opioids/fentanyl are a particularly toxic combination are largely contributing to escalating mortality rates.

The ominous opioid threat is an ongoing challenge for the SFLHIDTA and is a reflection of poly-drug trafficking and consumption trends involving heroin and illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Regional deaths involving fentanyl reached a historic high, despite overall opioid deaths stabilizing within the last two years. Investigative activity reports the prevalence of counterfeit pill press operations that manufacture fake oxycodone, laced with heroin and/or fentanyl. Cyber-criminals import fentanyl analogues into the region from China and Mexico via parcel delivery

and have expanded the scope of South Florida's drug trafficking networks. Because of these innovations, street level distributors are making inroads into traditional drug markets such as cocaine and methamphetamine and expanding the scope of South Florida's drug addicted subculture. The infiltration of purer, lower-cost methamphetamine combined with heroin or fentanyl (also known as speedballing) is evidenced by above average seizure activity and higher than normal mortality rates within the region. As noted above, this stimulant class is part of the nationwide opioid epidemic.

While the perceived danger of marijuana by the public is diminishing in scope due to the legalization movement, SFHIDTA views marijuana and its variants (BHO, wax, edibles, etc.) as a significant threat to the region. The high level of diversion from states where it is legal, along with the prevalence of illegal marijuana grow house operations and the health and safety hazards they pose to consumers, are a key concern to the SFHIDTA AOR.

Novel psychoactive substances (synthetic cathinones and synthetic cannabinoids) are included in poly-substance abuse patterns afflicting the region and are popular within South Florida clubs. Eutylone is the newest generation of molly, ranking fourth in the top-ten list of the DEA NFLIS for the SFLHIDTA region and sixth for the State of Florida.

Methamphetamine is becoming a more prevalent threat to the region, evidenced by higher than normal availability, seizure activity, and reported consumption trends. A sharp increase in methamphetamine deaths involving a fentanyl-type substance is one of the snowball effects of poly-substance abuse patterns involving the proliferating class of poisonous opioids.

Street level gangs operate in the SFHIDTA communities with an assortment of criminal activity and violent crime linked to drug trafficking, including the wholesale and retail distribution of illicit drugs, homicides and shootings, armed burglaries, home invasions, automobile theft, and ID fraud. In addition, the region is a primary hub for domestic and international money laundering, particularly at the integration phase where illicit dollars enter the financial world under the guise of clean money used for any purpose. In addition to bulk cash smuggling, DTOs use a spectrum of money laundering schemes to exploit South Florida's trade-based economy. While the anonymity and convenience offered by crypto-currency has led to its mainstream adoption, the SFLHIDTA considers this a serious global threat as investigative activity indicates that DTOs and MLOs are increasingly using this digital practice of moving and laundering illicit proceeds.

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 stealing, in order to pay off debts and avoid being tortured.

Intelligence Initiatives

The South Florida HIDTA ISC initiative provides intelligence sharing and operational support to all SFLHIDTA initiatives and law enforcement agencies. These critical functions are possible because the SFLHIDTA 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. SFLHIDTA currently provides initiatives and affiliated agencies access to the Case Explorer.net 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 SFLHIDTA personnel and regional law enforcement.

The ISC strategic analysts collect and analyze current, investigative drug case data and related information from regional LEAs, and incorporate it into SFHIDTA’s annual drug threat assessment. SFHIDTA disseminates this report, along with other intelligence products, to the law enforcement community and other HIDTAs.

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
Black Pearl	Miami
Broward County Drug Task Force	Plantation
Cobra 13 FBI Group	Miami
Counternarcotic Cyber Investigations Task Force	Weston
Cocaine Strategy Initiative	Weston
Financial Investigation Strike Team	Plantation
Gangs, Guns and Drugs Task Force	Miami
Gang Strike Force	Miami
Global Crime Task Force	Miami
HIDTA Interdiction Program	Miramar
Key West Drug Trafficking Task Force	Key West
Major Case Initiative	Miami
Martin County Regional Task Force	Stuart
Miami-Dade Parcel Interdiction Task Force	Miami
Monroe HIDTA Task Force	Marathon
Operation Top Heavy	Plantation
Palm Beach County Narcotics Task Force	West Palm
South Florida Financial Crimes Strike Force	Miami
South Florida Organized Fraud Task Force	Plantation
Southeast Florida Regional Task Force	Weston
Southwest Florida Regional Task Force	Naples
Street Gang and Criminal Organization Task Force	Miami
Street Terror Offender Program	Miami
Street Terror Offender Program	Plantation
Transnational Organized Crime Task Force	Plantation
Transportation Conspiracy Unit	Plantation
USAO HIDTA Prosecution	Miami

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Initiative	Miami
Violent Crime and Drug Trafficking Organizations	Miami
Violent Offender Task Force	Plantation

Task Force Coordination

All SFHIDTA-funded task forces must coordinate information and intelligence sharing and submit case, subject, and event information for deconfliction through the Case Explorer system. Likewise, non-HIDTA agencies operating within the region are encouraged to share their information and deconflict case, subject, and event information with the SFLHISC. In 2019, 78 Federal, state, and local LEAs deconflicted their investigations through the SFLHISC.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, SFHIDTA dismantled or disrupted 53 DTOs, of which 26 were international, 20 were local, and 7 were multi-state in scope. Task forces seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of \$1.2 billion and \$189 million in cash and assets for a combined ROI of \$98.28.

South Texas HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Director – Antonio Garcia

Purpose and Goals

The purpose and goal of the South Texas HIDTA (STX HIDTA) is to disrupt and dismantle DTO/MLOs that operate within the AOR and other parts of the United States. Its mission is to reduce the availability of drug and illicit proceeds by focusing task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing the cartel 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 LE 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 multi-jurisdictional, collocated/commingled drug task forces and intelligence/investigative support initiatives. These intelligence-driven drug task forces pursue coordinated efforts to reduce the smuggling, transshipment, and distribution of drugs into and through Texas. In focusing on the disruption and dismantlement of DTOs/MLOs and by following the *National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy*, STX HIDTA employs intelligence-driven investigations and interdiction activities targeted at drug transshipments and money laundering, including extensive systematic follow-up investigations involving intelligence analysis, information sharing, and an aggressive prosecution structure. STX HIDTA initiatives are organized seamlessly into four types:

- Enforcement (interdiction, investigation, and prosecution)
- Intelligence/Investigative Support and Information Sharing
- Support/Training/Prevention
- Management and Coordination

Through an intensive initiative and task force review and inspection process, along with statistical information gathered through the HIDTA PMP system, the Executive Board holds initiatives accountable for their productivity.

Location

STX HIDTA is headquartered in San Antonio, Texas and comprises 15 counties:

- Bexar, Cameron, Dimmit, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Starr, Travis, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala

Initiatives

STX HIDTA supports 23 initiatives: 1 management, 1 prevention, 1 training/IT, 4 intelligence/investigative support, and 16 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
2020	134	\$3.00	\$61.00	590

Threat Assessment

STX HIDTA is a significant transshipment corridor for marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, other illegal drugs, and human trafficking. Although marijuana is more significant by weight, the primary and most perilous threats are methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin/synthetic opioids and the organizations that distribute them. These same routes are utilized to repatriate illicit proceeds back to Mexico. STX HIDTA consists of 15 counties, 13 of which sit along the SWB. These counties represent 50% of the Texas-Mexico border. Seventeen of the 25 POEs along the Texas-Mexico border are within the STX 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 Mexican DTO/MLOs. Despite the low population in some areas, the region greatly influences drug trafficking and availability at the national level. Gang activity associated with the Gulf Cartel, Zetas, and other DTOs/MLOs and cartels continues to be a threat in the area.

Intelligence Initiatives

STX HIDTA does not routinely or directly participate with either the Southern or the Western Judicial Districts JTTF. However, STX HIDTA’s ISC provides support as requested by the JTTF on a case-by-case or event-to-event basis. STX HIDTA participates with the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Border Support Operations Center, and the Texas Fusion Center in sharing pertinent information. STX HIDTA is an integral participant in the CBP South Texas Campaign in collaborating on investigations and information sharing.

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

The table below highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces and intelligence/ISCs operating in STX HIDTA.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Amistad Intelligence Center (HIDTA)	Del Rio
Austin Area HIDTA Task Force	Austin
BEST Task Forces, Immigration and Custom Enforcement (DHS)	Laredo, Webb County; Harlingen, Cameron County
Brownsville HIDTA Task Force	Brownsville
DEA Funded Task Forces (DEA)	San Antonio, Bexar County
Del Rio HIDTA Task Force	Del Rio
Eagle Pass HIDTA Task Force	Eagle Pass
Hidalgo County DA HIDTA Task Force	Edinburg

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Joint Task Force – West	San Antonio, Bexar County; McAllen, Hidalgo County; Brownsville, Cameron County Laredo, Webb County Eagle Pass, Maverick County Del Rio, Valverde County
Joint Terrorism Task Force (FBI)	San Antonio, Bexar County; McAllen, Hidalgo County; Brownsville, Cameron County; Laredo, Webb County
Laredo DEA HIDTA Task Force	Laredo
Laredo Intelligence Support Center (HIDTA)	Laredo
Laredo Police Department/HSI HIDTA Task Force	Laredo
McAllen DEA HIDTA Task Force	McAllen
McAllen HSI HIDTA Task Force	McAllen
McAllen DPS HIDTA Task Force	McAllen
OCDETF Strike Force (DOJ)	Laredo, McAllen, and San Antonio, Bexar County
Rio Grande Valley HIDTA TF	McAllen
Safe Streets Task Force (FBI)	San Antonio, Bexar County; McAllen, Hidalgo County; Brownsville, Cameron County; Laredo, Webb County
San Antonio DEA Task Force (HIDTA)	San Antonio
San Antonio HSI HIDTA Task Force	San Antonio
San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force	San Antonio
South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center	San Antonio
Starr County HIDTA Task Force	Rio Grande City
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Austin
Unified Narcotics Intelligence Task Force (HIDTA)	Brownsville
White Sands HIDTA Task Force	Brownsville

Task Force Coordination

Regularly scheduled intelligence and information sharing meetings take place across the SWB region. Federal, state, and local LEAs participate and include representatives from the Texoma HIDTA, Houston HIDTA, other SWB HIDTA regions, as well as DEA’s EPIC and other affected HIDTAs. Many of the attendees are non-LEAs such as the Texas National Guard, USCG, and military personnel from the Department of Defense’s Joint Task Force North.

From these meetings, numerous agencies acquire new knowledge and information on the STX HIDTA Investigative Support and Deconfliction Center and their capabilities. The Deconfliction Center provides deconfliction services to LEAs in 64 counties in South Texas. Over 220 Federal, state, and local agencies receive deconfliction support through the STX HIDTA ISC.

All task force personnel are mandated by the Executive Board and their respective agency heads to participate in the deconfliction process, resulting in enhanced officer safety and investigation coordination.

STX HIDTA continues to use information sharing meetings to bring together personnel from those HIDTAs directly affected by drug trafficking activity originating in the South Texas area. This two-way exchange of information helps to identify significant links between ongoing investigations in different jurisdictions, allowing officers to join forces in their investigations. Sharing investigative information promotes the dismantlement of DTO/MLO cells at their importation, transportation, and distribution site that results in a stronger effect on the dismantling/disruption of the overall organizations.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, STX HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 144 DTOs – 104 percent of its target of 138. Of the 144 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 95 were international, 10 were multi-state, and 39 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$715 million and \$25 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$71.82. The total drug seizure breakdown included 15 percent for cocaine, 48 percent for marijuana, 4 percent for heroin, and 32 percent for methamphetamine. The ISCs provided analytical support to 651 cases and processed 13,169 event and 15,965 case/subject deconflictions. STX HIDTA provided 38,628 hours of training to 4,929 students.

Texoma HIDTA

Designated in 1998

Executive Director – Lance Sumpter

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the Texoma HIDTA is to reduce the transportation, distribution, manufacture, and cultivation of illicit drugs by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs operating in the northern region of Texas and throughout the state of Oklahoma. This is accomplished by supporting and coordinating the efforts of Federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement entities, as well as reporting measurable accomplishments of our efforts. Texoma HIDTA applies intelligence-led policing and operational strategies to respond to the threats posed by DTOs and MLOs in the communities within the AOR and throughout the country.

Strategy

The Texoma HIDTA Executive Board ensures that the program functions within the mission of the National HIDTA Program. The Executive Board ensures the four subcommittees – Budget, Intelligence, DHE, and Initiative Review – effectively carry out their stated functions. These actions work towards increasing the efficiencies and effectiveness of Texoma HIDTA. The Executive Board directs staff on developing effective plans to meet the objectives outlined in this strategy. The Executive Board maintains interaction through Executive Board meetings, HIDTA subcommittees, and regional meetings such as the North Texas Crime Commission and the North Texas Police Chiefs Association.

The Executive Board continually evaluates the Texoma HIDTA's 30 initiatives to ensure adherence to the ONDCP PPBG and the regional HIDTA mission and vision. The Executive Board also determines if new initiatives should be implemented to address Texoma HIDTA's regional drug threats.

Location

The Texoma HIDTA's main office is located in Irving, Texas. The Texoma HIDTA is comprised of 25 counties:

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

Initiatives

The Texoma HIDTA supports 30 initiatives: 1 management, 1 support, 1 prevention, 1 training, 3 intelligence, and 23 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
2020	39	\$4.15	\$18.06	350

Threat Assessment

The overall drug trafficking threat to the Texoma HIDTA region remains stable. Law enforcement and intelligence data clearly indicates methamphetamine continues to pose the most significant drug threat to the region, as North Texas, the Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma are flooded with cheap, high-purity methamphetamine. Currently, almost all of this methamphetamine is produced in Mexico and transported to the region by Mexican DTOs. Prescription drugs, heroin, synthetic cannabinoids, cocaine/crack cocaine, and marijuana also pose a significant threat to communities throughout the Texoma HIDTA region. In particular, increased flow of cocaine into the region and signs of increasing distribution of synthetic opioids, including fentanyl and fentanyl-laced drugs, are the most significant emerging trends facing the region.

Both the Dallas-Fort Worth and Oklahoma City metropolitan areas continue to serve as key command and control distribution points for drug loads sent to the region by MDTOs. These DTOs continue to dominate the wholesale trafficking of most major drug types encountered in the region, sending large shipments of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana to the Texoma HIDTA AOR, either for local distribution or as a transshipment point for loads destined to the Midwest and Eastern United States. DTOs and MLOs continue to funnel large sums of drug proceeds through the area, remitting the money to Mexico in bulk cash form as well as through large numbers of wire transfers and other money laundering techniques.

Outside of the threats posed by MDTOs, a significant public health and public safety threat to the region exists. This threat to the region includes: 1) the diversion of controlled pharmaceutical drugs (from both medical facilities and pharmacies); 2) production and distribution of synthetic opioids by independent DTOs (who often obtain controlled substances from foreign-based sources of supply via the Dark Web); and 3) sale of smokeable synthetic cannabinoids from retail establishments. Additionally, independent DTOs have formed in the Texoma HIDTA region that specialize in the distribution of high-grade marijuana, generally obtained from Western states with legalized forms of the drug. These controlled substances are often just as destructive as other “hard-core” drugs and negatively affect the quality of life and safety of communities throughout Texas and Oklahoma.

In addition to Mexican DTOs, many local organizations, including several street and prison-based gangs, are involved in the distribution of drugs at the retail level. Currently, there are several street gangs operating in the Texoma HIDTA region, to include subsets of traditional gangs with a professed allegiance to national or regional gangs (e.g., Bloods, Crips, Sureños). Similarly, there are prison-based gangs involved in coordinating the street-level distribution of methamphetamine, as well as several hybrid gangs, which function in a looser sense and are more apt to create alliances with traditional rivals, in order to make money. All of these groups are to blame for rising levels of violent criminal activity in major metropolitan areas in the region, including drug-related shootings and homicides, aggravated assaults, thefts, armed robberies,

burglaries and fraud. In many areas of the Texoma HIDTA region, gangs have elevated their distribution activities to mid-level distribution of multiple pounds of controlled substances, particularly methamphetamine.

Intelligence Initiatives

The Texoma HIDTA Regional ISC (RISC) is a collocated, multiagency initiative that provides full intelligence analysis and support to investigative initiatives from case targeting through prosecution. RISC, operational since 1998 and located in Irving, Texas, is co-managed by DEA and the Dallas Police Department. The RISC and the Oklahoma Intelligence Center (OIC) are linked electronically.

RISC and OIC provide intelligence sharing and deconfliction support services to the initiatives and LEAs within their respective states. The deconfliction system improves the safety of enforcement operations and the efficiency of investigations. Without exception, deconfliction is a critical officer safety tool that sets the HIDTA Program apart from any other task force program. RISC collects and analyzes information from all task forces, as well as from other participating task forces and agencies, and provides event and subject deconfliction services, multi-source name checks, investigative case support, toll analysis, charting and graphics work, and post-seizure and trend/predictive analysis. The RISC also provides a continual evaluation of drug threats to the region to identify changes in smuggling patterns and trends. This support helps regional initiatives identify, investigate, and dismantle or disrupt the area's most dangerous and prolific DTOs, drug dealers, MLOs, weapon traffickers, and violent criminals. Our Watch Center staff includes two (2) HIDTA analysts and a deputy from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office. After-hour and weekend Watch Center requests are automatically routed to the Irving Police Department for processing. The Dallas Police Department manages their own event deconflictions.

The OIC provides intelligence support to the Texoma HIDTA enforcement initiatives in Oklahoma and deconfliction services to all LEAs in Oklahoma. The OIC employs one HIDTA-funded analyst and other intelligence analysts from the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics. These analysts collect and disseminate intelligence about the identification and investigation of DTOs and MLOs in Oklahoma. By improving intelligence and information exchange through coordination that is more efficient and communications, RISC improves the abilities of Federal, state, and local LEAs to identify, arrest, and prosecute key members of DTOs and MLOs. Trend and predictive analysis developed by RISC assist the Texoma HIDTA Executive Board in using its limited resources more efficiently.

The ATF Crime Gun Intelligence Center is our newest intelligence initiative. This initiative provides analytical and intelligence support to the Dallas ATF Office and law enforcement agencies in our region. The initiative conducts investigations on intelligence obtained from the area NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistics Network) machines to identify, target and investigate violent criminal offenders in our region.

This initiative is led by the ATF and has support from the Texas National Guard. By its mission, this initiative works consistently with the major law enforcement agencies within our region to obtain, develop, analyze and distribution criminal intelligence to partnering agencies.

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

The following table highlights the federally funded drug enforcement task forces operating in the HIDTA region.

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
ATF Crime Gun Intel Group (HIDTA/TAG)	Irving, 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
District 5 Drug Task Force	Comanche County, OK
District 27 Drug Task Force	Sequoyah County, OK
East Texas Violent Crime Initiative (HIDTA)	Tyler, TX
Eastern Drug Initiative (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
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
Southern Drug Initiative (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
Tulsa Regional Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Tulsa, OK
Violent Crime Initiative (HIDTA/TAG)	Irving, TX
Violent Crime, Major Offenders & Gang Task Force (FBI)	Dallas, TX
Western Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Irving, TX

Task Force Coordination

The Texoma HIDTA facilitates cooperation and joint efforts with 104 Federal, state, tribal, and local LEAs and 442 initiative participants. Our 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 Texoma 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. Texoma 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. Texoma 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 Texoma 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, Texoma HIDTA, or through informal networking.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, the Texoma HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 52 DTOs, one shy of the expected goal. Of the DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 19 were international, 15 were multi-state, and 18 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$104.7 million and \$16.8 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$30.15. Our HIDTA apprehended 5,555 felony fugitives, of which 1,336 had drug charges. The ISC provided analytical support to 646 cases and processed 11,251 event deconflictions with help from its partners. The Texoma HIDTA provided 22,721 hours of training to 1,298 students.

Washington/Baltimore HIDTA

Designated in 1994

Executive Director – Thomas H. Carr

Purpose and Goals

Washington/Baltimore HIDTA's (W/B HIDTA) 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 W/B HIDTA will strategically apply its resources to initiatives designed to save lives, prevent initiation of drug use, and apprehend drug traffickers and money launderers.

Our goals are to 1) disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or money laundering organizations; and 2) improving the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives.

Strategy

W/B HIDTA believes that coordination among LEAs at all levels is key to disrupting the drug market in the AOR. Consequently, since its designation in 1994, W/B HIDTA has fostered cooperative and effective working relationships among Federal, state, and local criminal justice organizations, including LEAs and drug treatment and prevention organizations. Currently, W/B HIDTA has 143 participating agencies. Information and intelligence sharing is required for all participating agencies and has become a standard practice. The Gang Intelligence System, which identifies suspected members of criminal gangs, and Case Explorer, a case management system, are available to all agencies in the W/B HIDTA area and form the central elements of information sharing among those agencies.

In 2016, the W/B HIDTA developed the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), a system that provides near real-time suspected overdose surveillance data across jurisdictions to support public safety and public health efforts in mobilizing an immediate response to a sudden increase or spike in overdose events. It links first responders and relevant record management systems to a mapping tool that track overdoses to stimulate real-time response and strategic analysis across jurisdictions. ODMAP presents a rare public health and safety opportunity with the ability to respond to a crisis as it is occurring. By combining the data in ODMAP with collaborative partnerships that span different agencies, localities can develop and deploy a real-time plan to reduce both fatal and non-fatal overdoses.

In May 2019, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the CDC announced \$3 million dollars funding for ODMAP over two years to support ODMAP's growth and development. Shortly after, both BJA and CDC announced the ODMAP Statewide Expansion and Response grant and made awards to eight states to implement ODMAP in coordination with establishing public safety, public health, and behavioral health partnerships.

As of August 2020, over 315,000 suspected overdoses have been entered into the ODMAP system by almost 30,000 users in more than 3,200 agencies in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Approximately 15 states have active statewide implementation and/or efforts incorporating ODMAP, with several other states actively working on implementation efforts.

Location

W/B HIDTA comprises 30 counties and 15 independent cities, and the District of Columbia. These jurisdictions include major metropolitan areas, suburban communities, small towns, and traditionally rural areas:

- District of Columbia
- Maryland: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester counties, and the City of Baltimore
- Virginia: Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Frederick, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, Loudoun, Prince George, Prince William, Roanoke, and Warren counties, and the Cities of Alexandria, Chesapeake, Falls Church, Hampton, Manassas, Manassas Park, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke and Virginia Beach
- West Virginia: Berkeley, Jefferson, and Mineral

Initiatives

W/B HIDTA supports 75 initiatives, including: 43 investigative initiatives, 12 treatment, 7 prevention, 3 management, 3 resource, 1 network support, 2 training, 1 intelligence, 2 prosecution, 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
2020	139	\$1.90	\$3.00	259

Threat Assessment

The Director of ONDCP designated the W/B HIDTA in 1994. The W/B HIDTA, unlike the first areas established as HIDTAs, 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. This combination of significant drug consumption and widespread drug-related violence led to the designation of the Washington/Baltimore area as a HIDTA.

The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA (W/B HIDTA) region has evolved from a consumer market to a regional distribution hub for the Mid-Atlantic region. Typically, drugs entering the region have been previously imported into a different U.S. city, primarily New York, where they are repackaged and then transported into the W/B HIDTA region. Now, however, a significant number of W/B HIDTA cases have involved shipments originating in Texas, California, Arizona, and Mexico. Additionally, a growing number of DTOs have reported receiving drugs directly from abroad, specifically from Africa, Central America, and Southwest Asia. In addition to the continuing threat posed by DTOs and MLOs, criminal street gangs represent a growing threat to the region. Throughout the W/B HIDTA region, membership in criminal street gangs has remained

high and is increasing. The violence associated with these gangs and their role in illegal drug trafficking poses a serious threat to the region.

The primary drug threats in the W/B HIDTA region are heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and diverted prescription narcotics. All are reported to be readily available throughout the region. These drugs and others are trafficked by more than 500 DTOs and MLOs that are under investigation by W/B HIDTA initiatives. The majority of the DTOs/MLOs under investigation in the W/B HIDTA are African-American groups, but there are large numbers of Caucasian American, Mexican, and Central American groups operating in the region.

What was originally a very compact HIDTA is now widely dispersed across the HIDTA region. By way of example, Roanoke City and County, the most southwestern area of the W/B HIDTA, is approximately 275 miles from Cecil County, MD, in the northeast corner of the W/B 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 median income levels in the W/B HIDTA regions are substantially higher than the national median level. By way of example, in 2019, the national median income level was estimated as \$61,937, while the median incomes in the District of Columbia (\$85,203), Maryland (\$83,242), and Virginia (\$72,577) were 138%, 134%, and 117%, above the national median, respectively.

The transportation infrastructure in the W/B HIDTA region is one of the most developed and diverse in the United States. It includes:

- More than 1,600 miles of interstate highways: I-64, I-66, I-68, I-70, I-81, I-83, I-85, I-93, and I-95;
- Six major international airports: Thurgood Marshall-Baltimore Washington International, Dulles, Ronald Reagan-National, Richmond, Newport News, and Norfolk, which have recorded 4.4 million passenger boardings in 2018; and more than 100 other airports of various capacities;
- Three international seaports: the ports of Baltimore, Norfolk, and Newport News, in which, altogether, 14.6 million metric tons of container freight arrived in 2018;
- Almost 100 Amtrak trains passing through the HIDTA region on a daily basis, carrying approximately five million passengers annually;
- More than a dozen major railroad freight lines; and
- Hundreds of miles of shoreline.

In sum, several factors combine to make the W/B 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. There is a well-developed transportation infrastructure connecting 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 gains¹. The increasingly diverse ethnic and racial makeup of the population enables Mexican, Colombian, Dominican,

Salvadoran, Korean, and Vietnamese criminal groups and gangs to recruit members and operate more easily.

By substantial margins, Federal, state, and local law enforcement officials responding to the W/B HIDTA Threat Assessment Survey identified heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and prescription narcotics as the primary drug threats in their communities. In all four cases, more than 86 percent of the respondents said the substance(s) caused significant or moderate harm in their communities, and, in the cases of heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine, substantial majorities said the drug caused significant harm. With the exception of fentanyl, these drugs have been long-standing major threats in the W/B HIDTA area.

Intelligence Initiatives

W/B HIDTA facilitates information sharing among all task forces and drug units operating throughout the region. The W/B HIDTA ISC routinely distributes intelligence products to regional drug investigators and analysts. W/B HIDTA collaborates deconfliction activities with the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC), which is primarily focused on the terrorist threat to the region. Any information related to the terrorist threat is immediately forwarded electronically to the MCAC or to the fusion centers in Virginia and Washington, D.C. MCAC forwards drug-related information to the ISC. W/B HIDTA's participation in OCDETF's Regional Coordination Group (RCG) enhances the ability to share information about DTOs and/or MLOs in the region and across the Nation.

All task forces and agencies operating in the region are eligible to use the W/B HIDTA event and case deconfliction services. Task forces receiving HIDTA funding are required to use Case Explorer for case and event deconfliction. The FBI, DEA, ATF, and HSI have mandated the use of Case Explorer for event deconfliction for all their enforcement components. The W/B HIDTA has established an arrangement with the RISS program and with representatives of SAFETNet that enables Case Explorer to deconflict events entered into either system. This arrangement creates a seamless, nationwide event deconfliction system for Case Explorer users.

All drug task forces are eligible to share information and receive case support through the W/B HIDTA ISC. Agencies within the AOR are solicited annually to provide information about the regional drug threats in the W/B HIDTA TAS. In addition, W/B HIDTA's Gang Intelligence System is available to agencies in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia, allowing participating agencies to share gang data. W/B HIDTA also manages the Communications Analysis Portal (CAP), which assists investigators in exchanging information for Deconfliction and identifying links within mobile forensic data that otherwise may have been unknown. CAP is available free of charge to Federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel. In 2019, the ISC was awarded a grant for PenLink PLX, which is being used for phone analysis across 20 different Federal, state, and local agencies. Users are provided robust data sharing capabilities, along with analytical options to enhance deconfliction efforts.

The W/B HIDTA ISC is a member of the Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center and works closely with State executives across different disciplines to provide law enforcement intelligence. This information is used to help the State respond to real time drug issues and develop long term strategies. The ISC remains the primary intelligence center in the region to support drug investigators and facilitate the collaboration of cross-jurisdictional analytical sharing.

Task Forces Operating in the HIDTA Region

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

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
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)	Elkridge, MD
Baltimore Seaport Initiative (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
Baltimore Special Investigation Group (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
Berkeley & Jefferson County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Martinsburg, WV
Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (HIDTA)	Greenbelt, MD
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)	Elkridge, MD
FBI/Metro Police Department Safe Streets Gang Task Force (FBI)	Washington, DC
Frederick County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Frederick, MD
Hampton Roads Peninsula Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Hampton, VA
Hampton Roads Regional Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Norfolk, VA
Harford County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Bel Air, MD
Illicit Online Marketplace Initiative (HIDTA)	Baltimore, MD
Hi-Tech Drug Enforcement Initiative (HIDTA)	Manassas, VA
Major Offenders Initiative (HIDTA)	Washington, DC
Metropolitan Area Drug Task Force (HIDTA)	Greenbelt MD
Northern Virginia Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Annandale, VA
Northern Virginia Drug Money Laundering Initiative (HIDTA)	Annandale, VA
Northern Virginia Gang Initiative (HIDTA)	Manassas, VA
Northern Virginia Mass Transportation Initiative (HIDTA)	Arlington, VA
Northern Virginia Regional Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Annandale, VA
Northern Virginia SARs (Financial) Initiative (HIDTA)	Annandale, VA
Northwest Virginia Drug and Gang Initiative (HIDTA)	Winchester, VA
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

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
Roanoke Valley Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Roanoke, VA
Southern Maryland Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Greenbelt, MD
Southern Maryland Interdiction Initiative (HIDTA)	Palmer Park, MD
Southern Maryland Major Conspiracy Initiative (HIDTA)	Greenbelt, MD
Strategic Task Force of Narcotics and Guns Initiative (HIDTA)	Washington, DC
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Washington, DC
Tactical Diversion Squad (DEA)	Baltimore, MD
Violent Crime Safe Street Initiative (HIDTA)	Woodlawn, MD
Violent Traffickers Initiative (HIDTA)	Elkridge, MD
Washington Area Gang Initiative (HIDTA)	Washington, DC
Washington County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Hagerstown, MD
Weapons Enforcement Initiative (HIDTA)	Elkridge, MD
Wicomico County Drug Initiative (HIDTA)	Salisbury, MD
Worcester County Drug Initiative	Snow Hill, MD

Task Force Coordination

Almost all federally funded drug enforcement task forces in the W/B HIDTA region that specifically target illegal drugs are funded, at least in part, by the HIDTA Program. W/B 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 W/B HIDTA region.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019 W/B HIDTA dismantled or disrupted 151 DTOs and MLOs. More than 57 percent of the DTOs and MLOs disrupted or dismantled were part of an international or multi-state operation, and 20 percent were part of an OCDETF-designated investigation. Seizures of drugs, cash, and other drug-related assets resulted in a ROI of \$8.80. Cash seizures totaled more than \$19 million, and the combined value of illegal drugs, cash, and other assets seized was more than \$116 million.

West Texas HIDTA

Designated in 1990

Executive Director – Travis Kuykendall

Purpose and Goals

West Texas HIDTA’s mission is to dismantle DTOs operating in the AOR and help stem the flow of illegal drugs to other regions of the United States through cooperative efforts in intelligence, investigation, and interdiction, forfeiture, and prosecution initiatives.

Strategy

West Texas HIDTA continues to foster cooperative and productive working relationships among 1 USAO, 11 Federal agencies, 7 state agencies, and 16 local agencies to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and securing the West Texas HIDTA 12-county area of the Southwest Border by preventing multi-ton quantities of illicit drugs from reaching their intended market.

Location

West Texas HIDTA operates out of El Paso, Texas. The region shares 520 miles of border with Mexico and comprises 12 counties:

- Brewster, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, and Terrell

Initiatives

West Texas HIDTA supports 15 initiatives: 1 management and coordination, 1 training, 1 prevention, 1 prosecution, 1 intelligence, and 10 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
2020	49	\$0.45	\$13.00	717

Threat Assessment

The West Texas HIDTA comprises 12 counties and over 520 miles of the United States border with Mexico. El Paso, Texas sits on the Rio Grande River adjacent to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, representing the two largest cities situated on the Texas-Mexico border. El Paso, the most populous city in West Texas, lies at the intersection of three states (Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua). El Paso also sits along Interstate Highway 10 that connects to Interstate Highways 20 and 25. DEA’s *2019 National Drug Threat Assessment* indicates that Mexican TCOs employ intermediaries who oversee shipments across the SWB and facilitate sales to a wholesale and mid-level client. These intermediaries can take the form of criminal street gangs, many of which have known ties to Mexican cartels.

West Texas HIDTA’s main concern continues to be that the region is a transshipment and distribution hub for narcotics from Mexico into the United States. All other concerns are derived

from this reality. Based upon drug seizure quantities, marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin rank as the greatest drug threats to the AOR.

There is reporting of an increasing amount of narcotics-related violence in Ciudad Juarez. This violence may be connected to the production and distribution of methamphetamine by some organizations and the resistance to methamphetamine by other organizations. While high-profile arrests and dismantlement and disruption operations have occurred, the flow of narcotics into the United States via the West Texas HIDTA corridor has remained near constant.

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. Deconfliction services provided by the ISC improve officer safety issues and maximize the efficient use of resources.

The ISC is the hub of West Texas HIDTA operations and sponsors yearly marketing presentations (on services provided by the Intelligence Initiative) that are presented to all law enforcement personnel in the region. Limited intelligence support is provided in the Big Bend, as well as the Permian Basin areas of the West Texas 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 West Texas 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, DPS, 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 AG, 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
BEST (ICE)	El Paso
Border Corruption Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso
Cross Border Violence Group (DEA/FBI)	El Paso
El Paso Multiagency Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso

FEDERALLY FUNDED TASK FORCES	LOCATIONS
El Paso Strike Force (OCDETF)	El Paso
Enterprise Money Laundering Initiative (HIDTA)	El Paso
Operation Lone Star (HIDTA)	Marfa
Permian Basin Multiagency Task Force (HIDTA)	Midland
Source City Metro Narcotics Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso
Transportation Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso
West Texas Anti-Smuggling Initiative (HIDTA)	El Paso
West Texas Fugitive/Violent Offender Task Force (HIDTA)	El Paso

Task Force Coordination

West Texas HIDTA coordinates drug task forces through event and case deconfliction services. All drug task forces receiving HIDTA funds are mandated to use the West Texas 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 West Texas 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 West Texas 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 West Texas HIDTA has taken a leadership role to facilitate coordination of operations and management of information and intelligence in the region. All joint operations, task forces, and intelligence units, whether federally funded or not, are involved in these processes. The ISC is a member of, and is commingled with, the JTTF in El Paso and coordinates activities with DHS’s Unified Command structure.

HIDTA Evaluation

In 2019, West Texas HIDTA initiatives dismantled or disrupted 42 DTOs. Of the 42 DTOs dismantled or disrupted, 22 were international, 6 were multi-state, and 14 were local. Initiatives seized illegal drugs with a total estimated wholesale value of over \$126 million and \$5.9 million in cash and assets, for a total ROI of \$14.50. Marijuana accounted for 87 percent of drug seizures. West Texas HIDTA provided analytical support to 818 cases, processed 4,980 event and case deconflictions, and provided 23,930 hours of training to 1,394 students.

National HIDTA Assistance Center

Director – William Martin

Purpose and Goals

In accordance with HIDTA Program goals, the NHAC provides programmatic support to all designated HIDTA regions, their grant recipients, and ONDCP's Program Office. Initiatives are organized into six grant units arrayed under the direction of the NHAC's Management and Coordination Unit and include the Training, Media and Technology, Finance Units, and three national initiatives: NMI, NETI, and DHE.

The Training Unit and the Media and Technology Unit provide services that increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the overall HIDTA Program. Some of their activities include the organization of HIDTA-related meetings/conferences, including the National HIDTA Conference, and development and implementation of HIDTA-specific training with 8,683 total training hours provided. The Media and Technology Unit actively develops and delivers technological support including managing HIDTA Resource Management System (HRMS); Clearance Management System (CMS), Financial Management System (FMS.net); HIDTA Online Training Tracking (HOTT); HIDTAprogram.org and NHAC.org, all of which contribute to information sharing across the entire HIDTA community. The Finance Unit operates as a desk audit team for the National HIDTA Program Office under a contract with ONDCP. This unit is responsible for overseeing the regular expenditures of all state and local grant funds, as well as maintaining records for all grant transactions through the NHAC's Financial Management System (FMS.net) software.

The Three National Initiatives

The NHAC oversees three national initiatives: DHE, NETI, and NMI. These initiatives educate, inform, analyze and coordinate actions, which guide HIDTA strategic planning. The following details provide specific information about each initiative.

Domestic Highway Enforcement

The DHE initiative provides a national platform for unprecedented highway drug trafficking trend collaboration among Federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement. The program has led to significant disruption of dangerous drugs, illicit proceeds, human trafficking, and other substantial crimes taking place on and along U.S. transportation corridors. DHE leverages law enforcement information on drug trafficking to other smuggling modalities - air, maritime, rail, bus, freight and parcel and postal - along with traffic safety resources to deny drug traffickers and other criminals the use of United States roads.

DHE efforts focus on disrupting drug trafficking organizations' ability to transport narcotics and other contraband on U.S. public transportation corridors. The DHE program incorporates both regional and corridor transportation information models to encourage the gathering, reporting, analysis, and sharing of criminal intelligence and threats to public safety.

The 2019 initiative was led by two full time program coordinators and one analyst contracted through the NHAC. The DHE team worked with HIDTA funded and non-HIDTA funded patrol officers, investigators and analysts nationwide, and in Canada. HIDTA funds supported travel, national and regional information sharing meetings and management of data

collection tools with HSIN. The DHE team prioritized resources based on the DHE Strategic Plan produced in conjunction with the DHE Chair and committee members.

Approximately 2,500 personnel from state, local, tribal and Federal law enforcement agencies participated in DHE information sharing activities in 2019.

National Emerging Threat Initiative

NETI supports the 33 regional HIDTA programs and their public safety and public health partners including the ORS. The initiative seeks to enhance awareness of ongoing licit and illicit drug trends as well as future trends. This awareness is in collaboration with Federal, state, local and tribal public safety and public health as well as the intelligence community of each. Engagement with each facet of the community allows for scientific-based reporting to enable policy decisions based on data science.

The focal point of NETI's efforts is to provide informed drug trend information to allow both public safety and public health to make informed decisions. The data enables public safety to allocate resources for the disruption of drug trafficking organizations and for public health to understand the trends for allotment of resources. The information is provided via intelligence briefs as well as reporting.

The NETI strives to provide timely data based upon the HIDTA PMP database seizure statistics coupled with state PDMPs. NETI includes other data sources from agencies and entities such as:

- CDC
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- DEA
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Veterans Administration (VA)
- Other information to include state and local data sources

National Marijuana Initiative

NMI's mission is to improve the capabilities of all regional HDTAs in carrying out the objectives of disrupting domestic trafficking and production of, and reducing demand for, marijuana and its derivative products. NMI does this through information sharing, support of demand reduction activities, as well as educating and advising policymakers on current research findings, law, and public policy regarding marijuana.

To accomplish this mission, NMI provides training, supports the exchange of emerging research findings, and promotes the sharing of relevant information between all interested stakeholders. This enables the regional HDTAs and their communities to improve public safety, public health, and quality of life through well-informed, evidence-based policy development. Towards these ends, NMI's goals are to host regional conferences for law enforcement, public health officials, substance abuse/treatment, and prevention specialists; promote valid data

collection and reporting, and responding to special requests for information or services. Additionally, NMI will provide training on best practices associated with writing reports on the impacts of the legalization of marijuana; and conduct workshops to educate community coalitions on the impacts of changing policies on marijuana.

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 unfailing support to the HIDTA Program. Placing the three national initiatives (DHE; NETI; and NMI) under one roof has improved oversight and the ability to orient them to respond to emergent national threats and support the *National Drug Control Strategy*.

B. HIDTA Program Highlights

Intelligence and Information Sharing

Intelligence and information sharing are essential to coordinated and effective operations, and each HIDTA has at least one ISC designed to develop intelligence, share information, and provide deconfliction and technical support to enforcement initiatives. ISCs are managed and staffed by representatives of participating agencies with direct onsite access to their agencies' information databases.

In 2019, HIDTAs budgeted \$56.02 million for intelligence and information sharing to support 62 operational intelligence and information sharing initiatives (34 primary ISCs and 28 ancillary information-sharing initiatives). Each ISC capitalizes on the combined resources of the Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement communities associated with its HIDTA.

Using both formal and informal methods of coordination among drug enforcement task forces, HIDTAs act as neutral centers to manage, deconflict, analyze, and report on drug enforcement activities in their respective regions.

In 2019, HIDTA ISCs processed 289,661 event deconfliction requests submitted by LEAs, along with more than 1.2 million case/subject/target deconfliction requests. A total of 26,196 cases were provided analytical support by the HIDTA Program. ISCs distributed 257 intelligence products (threat assessments and information bulletins) to other LEAs.

Training

To support the HIDTA Program's goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives, Executive Boards allocate significant amounts of funding to training and related activities that contribute to accomplishing this goal, which enhances the ability of participating agencies to disrupt and dismantle DTOs. HIDTAs regularly make training available to drug unit personnel, including non-HIDTA participating agencies. The training improves investigative capability and promotes communication, cooperation, and a strong cohesion among investigators who train together. Courses span a range of topics, including drug-specific classes addressing critical threats such as heroin trafficking and use, officer safety training, and sessions focusing on investigative techniques.

In 2019, 1,147,569 training hours were provided to 100,192 students across all HIDTAs. Results of 6-month follow-up surveys indicate that 97 percent of respondents found that the course improved their knowledge, skills, and abilities, and 86 percent have applied course material since completing the training.

Domestic Highway Enforcement

The DHE initiative supports HIDTA program with market disruption of dangerous drugs through a nationwide, highway enforcement, information-sharing platform. The coordinated highway enforcement strategy combines traffic safety efforts with information regarding criminals and associated organizations that use the nation's highways to transport contraband, weapons, currency, and other illicit commodities. The DHE effort integrates state, local and tribal law enforcing resources with multiple Federal agencies to include Canadian law enforcement. The investigation collaboration also includes non-highway smuggling transportation modalities such as air, marine, rail and package. The DHE effort is organized by major public transportation corridors.

DHE's major partners include EPIC, DHS and the DOT. EPIC supports the DHE initiative through its DHE analysis unit and dissemination of data from the NSS. DHS houses the DHE HSIN portal utilized during annual collaborative web meetings known as DHE Corridor Calls. DHE, in conjunction with DHS HSIN, also facilitates the use of the scientific law enforcement community through the Scientific Trend Open Exchange monthly meeting. This allows members the ability to share crime lab scientific data on synthetic drugs and provides expertise on the safe handling of dangerous drugs. The Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Drug Interdiction Assistance Program participates in all DHE activities and provides subject matter expertise on commercial motor vehicle safety and crime trends.

ONDCP continues to support the DHE initiative by providing funding to the NHAC for two coordinators and an analyst who facilitate corridor conference calls, maintain the DHE input to the HSIN, and dissemination of a weekly informational hot sheet to the greater DHE community. The DHE program also facilitates communication through national and regional information sharing meetings and, most recently, DHE developed a strategic plan that identifies a range of action items in support of the traffic safety and HIDTA program goals and objectives. These include the dissemination of information to law enforcement on safety procedures when conducting highway enforcement and widespread adoption of multi-media technology as a resource for real-time information sharing for law enforcement. The NHAC further supports the DHE initiative by organizing the DHE nationwide meetings and day-to-day technical support.

National Emerging Threat Initiative

NETI supports the HIDTA Program by reporting regional emerging drug trends and acting as an early warning system. It does so by observing multiple trend lines and using the data to identify rising drug risks and their patterns to predict what is coming next. NETI's work is accomplished by promoting cooperation among public safety, public health, regulators, treatment, and prevention entities. NETI supports both the public safety and public health components of the ORS. Subject matter areas include, and are not limited to, state PDMPs, drug trends for target areas within a particular HIDTA, and specific strategic applications in certain localities by request.

During 2019, NETI supported the coordinated HIDTA strategy for emerging drug-related threats affecting designated HIDTA areas and the United States as a whole. NETI continued deploying a public telephone application (APP) that provides law enforcement and the public with information about emerging drug threats. The APP allows NETI to deliver the information quickly and efficiently. Also, during the period-specific, drug corridors were analyzed.

NETI works closely with LEAs across the country to develop and deploy a data collection and analysis model to predict emerging drug threats by combining PDMP, HIDTA seizure data, State Public Health data, and other data points forecasting future trends. Moving forward, that model, along with the Rural Areas Project model, will be provided to specific regional HDTAs along with predictive analysis tailored to their HIDTA regions.

Finally, NETI is focused on developing a systematic, innovative way to identify drug threats as they emerge in rural areas of the United States, including tribal areas. The current Rural Areas Project evaluates various methods for identifying and thwarting emerging drug threats in rural and tribal areas. NETI strives to produce a predictive emerging drug trends tool that can be

used by any rural or tribal community. The Rural Areas Project is being evaluated in six different HIDTA regions across the United States, which includes both rural communities and Indian reservations. In the Appalachia HIDTA, 17 rural communities in Kentucky are participating in the project. Also included are 19 communities in Ohio, 7 communities in New York, 1 community in Kansas from the Midwest HIDTA, and 4 communities in Oregon from the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA. Lastly, in the Arizona HIDTA, 1 sizeable rural county, including the Yavapai-Apache and Yavapai-Prescot tribal communities, is participating in the Rural Areas Project.

National Marijuana Initiative

NMI's mission is to improve the capabilities of all regional HIDTAs in carrying out the objectives of disrupting domestic trafficking and production of, and reducing demand for, marijuana and its derivative products. NMI does this by enhancing information sharing, enforcement, treatment, and demand reduction activities, as well as educating and advising policymakers on current research findings, law, and public policy regarding marijuana.

To accomplish this mission, NMI provides training, supports the exchange of research findings, promotes sharing of best practices, emerging trends and supports the need for continued research into marijuana. This effort enables the regional HIDTAs and their communities to improve public safety, health, and welfare through well-informed, evidence-based policy development. Towards these ends, NMI's goals are to host regional conferences for drug law enforcement, treatment, and prevention officials; provide training for HIDTA ISCs on the methodologies, data collection, and analysis needed to write reports on the impacts of changing policies on marijuana; and conduct workshops to educate community coalitions on the impacts of changing policies on marijuana. Additionally, NMI maintains a public website to disseminate emerging research related to public health and public safety issues surrounding marijuana.

Prevention Initiatives

ONDCP and HIDTA seek a balanced and comprehensive approach to effectively mitigate drug-related threats. This balanced approach entails implementing problem-oriented policing strategies, as well as actively promoting and participating in regional drug prevention programs. In 2019, all HIDTAs supported prevention initiatives across the country, including building community coalitions and partnerships, information sharing sessions, symposiums, public forums, and prevention conferences for law enforcement professionals and their partners to improve prevention strategies within their respective communities.

In 2019, the W/B HIDTA launched ADAPT, which supports the HIDTA National Prevention Strategy by providing a mechanism for integrating innovative evidence-based and evidence-informed prevention strategies into the coordinated efforts of Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and community partners within each HIDTA region. ADAPT 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. ADAPT provides technical assistance to all regional HIDTAs in five domains: 1) identification of substance use prevention evidence-based practices; 2) training; 3) implementation; 4) evaluation; and 5) finance/budgeting.

Tribal Affairs

Drug trafficking is a significant problem in Indian Country, and 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 12 HIDTAs actively engaging with 26 initiatives involving 35 tribal enforcement agencies.

In the Southwest, both the AZ HIDTA and the NM HIDTA routinely engage with Indian Country. In Arizona, the 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 New Mexico, the Indian Country HIDTA Drug Task Force assists tribes in New Mexico to maximize interagency cooperation with other Federal, state, and local LEAs to reduce the use, sale, transportation, and cultivation of illegal drugs. Although the central coordinating location is in Albuquerque District IV of the BIA (lead agency), the AOR includes Indian Country in various parts of other states, including the Navajo Tribe in Arizona, two Ute Tribes in Colorado, and the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Tribe in Texas.

Other HIDTA-designated areas collaborate with Tribal Affairs to address specific regional drug threats, including in the Northwest and the Carolinas. In Washington state, Operation Rocky Bear Paw, led by the Northwest HIDTA's DEA task force in conjunction with other state, local, and tribal agencies, investigated and eliminated the availability of approximately 9 pounds of crystal methamphetamine from the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Yakima, Washington. In North Carolina, the Asheville Post of Duty (APOD) Initiative is part of the Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA and led by the BIA. The APOD is responsible for the enforcement of the Controlled Substance Act on the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indian Reservation and encompasses five counties within the initiative's AOR. The cooperative Federal, state, local, and tribal task force successfully disrupted and dismantled a DTO operating on Tribal Lands, making 49 arrests, including one fugitive, and saving countless lives.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Events

The safe, environmentally sound disposal of drugs helps to reduce prescription drug abuse and is critical to curbing the national opioid epidemic. DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day events provide a safe and convenient method to dispose properly of unwanted or expired medications, including, for the first time in 2019, vaping devices and cartridges. In October 2019, LEAs throughout the Nation collected nearly a million pounds of unused, expired, and unwanted medications at the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. HIDTAs across the country assisted with this effort and achieved the largest amount ever collected over ten years of the program. HIDTAs plan to partner with regional communities to support new regulations.

Discretionary Funding

In 2019, ONDCP allocated nearly \$12.9 million in discretionary funding to projects designed to further support the *National Drug Control Strategy* through the following categories:

- Enhance innovative and strategic partnerships and collaboration with new technology and innovation;

- Strengthen the HIDTA Program infrastructure, either regionally or nationally, to sustain the operational capacity to target regional threats; and
- Address evolving or emergent drug threats including in areas petitioned for HIDTA designation.

Program Oversight

To ensure that 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, a HIDTA Program review process was established. The process entails:

- fiscal audits of HIDTA grantees performed by a certified public accounting firm;
- performance-related audits conducted by an independent performance auditor; and
- programmatic onsite 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*.

Grantee Fiscal 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 2019, audits of seven grantees were conducted for the following HIDTAs:

- Arizona, Atlanta-Carolinas, Hawaii, Northwest, Oregon-Idaho, San Diego/Imperial Valley, and Texoma

Recommendations and findings determined through the audits were addressed by the grantees and the HIDTAs, and corrective action was instituted.

Performance-Related Audits

In order to ensure the accuracy and validity of performance reports submitted each year by the HIDTAs, ONDCP commissions an independent performance auditor to review the data input by HIDTAs in the PMP database and the information reported in the HIDTA's regional reports. Each year, performance audit results are assembled to determine the general effectiveness of the HIDTA Program. ONDCP reviews these audit reports and ensures that findings are addressed and required corrective actions are implemented. In 2019, performance audits were conducted on the following HIDTAs:

- Gulf Coast, Houston, Indiana, Midwest, Northwest, Oregon-Idaho, Puerto Rico-U.S. Virgin Islands, South Texas, and Washington-Baltimore

Program Review Process – Programmatic Onsite Reviews

Each year, ONDCP undertakes programmatic onsite reviews of several HIDTAs. A team led by an ONDCP analyst carries out each onsite review. The review process is designed to provide the National HIDTA Program Office comprehensive awareness of the management, operation, and performance of the HIDTAs and assurance that HIDTA management adheres to ONDCP guidelines and funding is invested in effective activities that directly support the *National Drug Control Strategy*.

These reviews also allow ONDCP analysts to follow up on the performance-related audits to ensure issues identified by these audits are resolved. Through this process, the national HIDTA Program Office can support HIDTA management by providing appropriate feedback guidance during and after the onsite review and by early detection of problems with assistance in their resolution. Lessons learned through these reviews can be shared with other HIDTAs for the benefit of the entire program.

HIDTA Designation

In 2020, the HIDTA Program designated 15 additional counties/independent cities/areas as follows:

- Appalachia HIDTA: Davidson County in Tennessee, Clark, Logan, and Simpson Counties in Kentucky
- Atlanta/Carolinas HIDTA: Chatham County in Georgia
- Central Florida HIDTA: Manatee County in Florida
- Chicago HIDTA: Lake County in Illinois
- Houston HIDTA: Chambers County in Texas
- Indiana HIDTA: Vanderburgh County in Indiana
- North Central HIDTA: Eau Claire County in Wisconsin
- North Florida HIDTA: Leon County in Florida
- Northwest HIDTA: Grant County in Washington
- Ohio HIDTA: Westmoreland County in Pennsylvania
- Oregon/Idaho HIDTA: Kootenai County in Idaho
- Washington/Baltimore HIDTA: Allegany County in Maryland

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 abuse and its consequences.
