



2026 Midwest HIDTA Threat Assessment

Program Year 2027

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I. Scope

The 2026 Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Threat Assessment^a identifies current and emerging illicit drug trends within the region's seven-state area. It strives to deliver accurate and timely strategic intelligence to assist law enforcement executives and other officials in the development of drug enforcement strategies to ensure the safety of our communities. This document provides an illicit drug threat overview with respect to the abuse, transportation, and organizations involved in drug trafficking. This document fulfills the statutory and grant requirements issued by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and has been approved by the Midwest HIDTA Executive Board.

^a The "2026 Midwest HIDTA Threat Assessment" is being published for the 2027 Program Year.

II. Executive Summary

Overview

After 3 years as the second greatest threat, methamphetamine is once again ranked as the greatest drug threat to the Midwest HIDTA region. This is evident in both the Midwest HIDTA's Law Enforcement Survey (LES) and Public Health Survey (PHS), along with Performance Management Process (PMP) data reported by Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives. Fentanyl^b, largely due to its nexus to drug poisoning deaths^c, and cocaine are the region's second and third-greatest drug threats, respectively. Polydrug drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) essentially remained the same percentage from 2024 to 2025, with just over one in four DTOs being polydrug (26.6 percent). The Midwest HIDTA's central location within the continental United States (U.S.) and extensive network of roadways make the region ideal for DTOs and criminal enterprises intent on moving drugs into or through the region, to other destinations.

Key findings derived from the data sources listed in Appendix I are presented and discussed in detail throughout this document. A description of the drug and DTO threats facing the Midwest HIDTA region include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ❖ Methamphetamine, marijuana, and fentanyl are the most widely available and widely used drugs in Midwest HIDTA.
- ❖ The trend of adulterating the region's illicit drug supply with fentanyl and other synthetic opioids continues, as reported by both law enforcement and public health agencies.
- ❖ Privately owned vehicles, the United States Postal Service (USPS), and commercial parcel services (e.g. FedEx, UPS) are the most common methods used by DTOs to traffic drugs into and throughout Midwest HIDTA.
- ❖ Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives documented 947 DTOs and two money laundering organizations (MLOs) operating within the region in 2025, with 8,818 members and 1,265 leaders identified.¹
- ❖ DTOs in Midwest HIDTA utilize technologies to facilitate communication, obtain payment, and monitor drug courier location. These platforms include encrypted messaging applications and social media.
- ❖ Midwest HIDTA experienced a 19 percent decrease in drug-related poisoning deaths from 2023 to 2024 (3,474 to 2,816). Sixty-two percent of these deaths (3,931) involved opioids including fentanyl and heroin.^{2 d}

^b Unless indicated otherwise, the term fentanyl refers to fentanyl and all its analogs which are manufactured illicitly and not pharmaceutically manufactured fentanyl.

^c The term drug poisoning deaths (often interchangeably referred to as drug overdose deaths) is derived from the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes which are used by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to report deaths by drug exposure.

^d A drug poisoning death may involve more than one drug type.

III. The Midwest HIDTA Region

The Midwest HIDTA region is a vast and varied area with equally diverse drug threats. The region spans more than 428,000 square miles, making it the largest by geographic area of the 33 HDTAs operating in the U.S. The Midwest HIDTA region consists of 72 designated counties that fall within the following seven states: Iowa (IA), Illinois (IL), Kansas (KS), Missouri (MO), Nebraska (NE), North Dakota (ND), and South Dakota (SD). Midwest HIDTA has a total of 60 initiatives (see Appendix III for complete list, by state), including 43 drug enforcement task forces, 6 domestic highway interdiction initiatives, 5 intelligence initiatives, and 6 support initiatives, including Management and Coordination. The 60 initiatives include 182 participating agencies from federal, state and local law enforcement.

This section compiles state-level demographic, geographic, and calendar year 2024 crime statistics for the primary six states that make up the Midwest HIDTA region – Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Within Illinois there are only 3 counties and 2 Midwest HIDTA initiatives in the state; therefore, Illinois’ overall totals were not included in this section. A map of the Midwest HIDTA region is shown in Figure 1 depicting HIDTA designated counties, interstate highway systems and ports of entry with Canada. Additional state maps may be found in Appendix V: State Maps.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the population of the area comprising Midwest HIDTA to be over 16.23 million in 2025. The region is comprised of metropolitan districts, medium and small cities, and many rural areas. The most populous urban centers are St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area; and Kansas City, KS-MO Metro Area; which rank 33rd and 48th, respectively, amongst the largest metropolitan statistical areas in the United States. Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA; Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA; and Wichita, KS, are other cities/metro areas ranking in the top 125 most populated metropolitan statistical areas, according to 2024 U.S. Census Bureau information. However, less than half of the overall population of Midwest HIDTA resides in these large urban areas. Table 1 presents information on the most populous metropolitan areas in the Midwest HIDTA region, and Table 2 includes information regarding overall state population, land area, median age, and median household income.

Table 1. 2024 U.S. Population Ranking of the Most Populated Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the Midwest HIDTA Region.³

2024 Ranking of the Most Populated Metropolitan Areas		
U.S. Population Ranking	City, State	2024 Estimated Population
33	St. Louis, MO-IL	2,811,927
48	Kansas City, KS-MO	2,253,579
84	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	1,001,010
116	Des Moines, IA	753,913
125	Wichita, KS	661,217

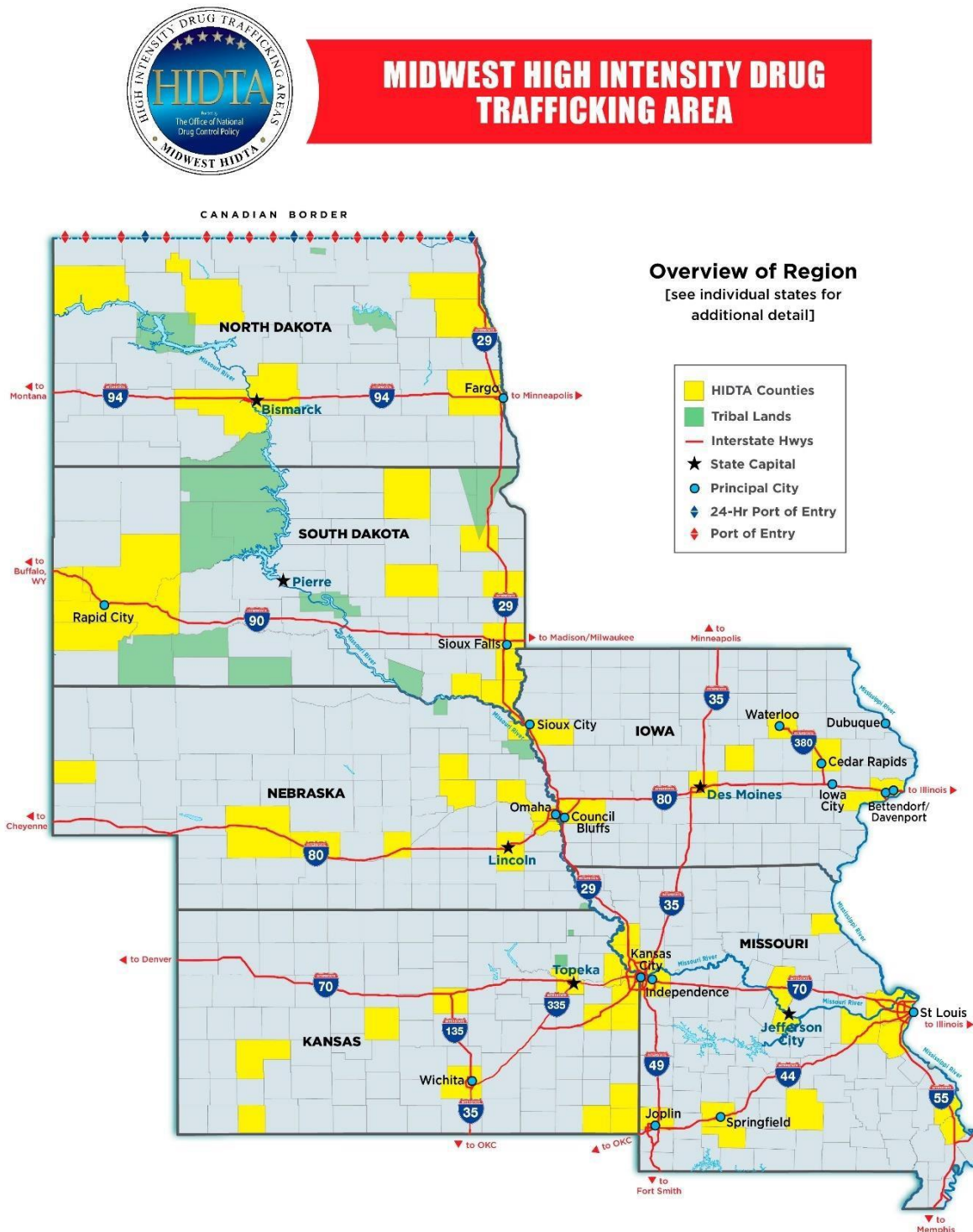
Table 2. Regional Summary Table of Midwest HIDTA States

State	Population (7/1/2025)	Change Since 2020	Land Area (sq mi)	Median Age	Median HH Income	Poverty Rate	Urban % (2020)
Iowa	3,238,387	+1.50%	55,853.69	39.0	\$75,501	11.3%	63.2%
Kansas	2,977,220	+1.34%	81,758.79	38.0	\$75,514	10.9%	72.3%
Missouri	6,270,541	+1.88%	68,746.34	39.4	\$71,589	12.3%	69.5%
Nebraska	2,018,006	+2.86%	76,815.25	37.4	\$76,376	10.9%	73.0%
North Dakota	799,358	+2.60%	68,994.30	36.7	\$77,871	11.1%	61.0%
South Dakota	935,094	+5.46%	75,808.07	38.7	\$76,881	10.4%	57.2%

Source: population and change — [U.S. Census Bureau NST-EST2025-POP](#); land area — [2025 Census Gazetteer state file](#); median age — [ACS 2024 1-Year Table DP05](#); income and poverty — [ACS 2024 1-Year Table DP03](#); urban share — [2020 Census DHC Table P2](#).

Considered the heartland of the country, the population of Midwest HIDTA is diverse, with all races, classes, genders, religions, and socioeconomic statuses represented. Therefore, criminal organizations have the potential to assimilate within a community and conceal their operations to avoid detection.

Figure 1. Overall Map of the Midwest HIDTA Region Depicting HIDTA Designated Counties, Interstate Highway System and Ports of Entry with Canada.^{e,f}



^e Individual state maps may be found in Appendix V

^f Although not depicted on the map, Madison, St. Clair, and Rock Island, Illinois are HIDTA designated counties within the Midwest HIDTA region.

Crime Statistics and Trends

Crime-rate figures for violent crime, property crime, and homicide are drawn from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Crime Data Explorer (CDE); annual rates per 100,000 are the sum of the CDE’s twelve monthly rates for the year. 2024 is the most recent complete/finalized reporting year, while 2025 figures are preliminary and understate final totals because agency submissions continue to arrive. CDE rates reflect only reporting agencies and therefore can differ from state-published index-crime figures, which use different offense definitions, population coverage, and, in several states, a per-1,000 denominator. Drug-arrest figures come from the FBI CDE state arrest API (application programming interface), where “Drug Possession,” “Drug Sale/Manufacturing,” and “Drug Abuse Violations” are reported as separate offense labels. Table 3 summarizes the state-level crime trends for the Midwest HIDTA Region.

Table 3. State-Level Crime Trends of Midwest HIDTA States

Regional Crime Trend Summary							
State	Violent Crime Rate 2024 (per 100k)	Violent Crime Trend	Property Crime Rate 2024 (per 100k)	Homicide Rate 2024 (per 100k)	Drug Possession Arrest 2024	% Change from 2023	Drug Sale / Manufacturing Arrests 2024
Iowa	247.1	Decreasing	1,331.0	2.4	9,372	+1.2%	896
Kansas	474.7	Increasing	2,174.4	4.1	9,581	+2.8%	1,156
Missouri	472.6	Stable	2,007.4	8.1	11,000	-9.3%	1,355
Nebraska	224.3	Increasing (coverage-related)	1,676.9	2.4	6,934	+1.7%	299
North Dakota	257.6	Decreasing	1,709.6	2.5	3,636	-5.0%	391
South Dakota	356.9	Decreasing	1,712.6	4.7	5,702	+3.8%	315

Source: violent crime rate, violent crime trend, property crime rate, homicide rate, and drug arrests — FBI Crime Data Explorer.

Drug Transportation Methods

Midwest HIDTA’s assessment of the LES found that private passenger vehicles, the USPS, and commercial mailing services are the primary drug transportation methods used by DTOs to transport illicit drugs into and throughout the Midwest HIDTA region. The Midwest HIDTA region contains more than 4,300 miles of interstate highways and an international border stretching over 300 miles. The key transportation routes are Interstate (I)-70, I-80, I-90, I-94, I-29, and I-35.

With its central location, there are several transportation hubs in Midwest HIDTA allowing easy access to other points in the United States. For instance, Kansas City, KS-MO, located near the geographic center of the United States and at the intersection of several of the nation's busiest interstate highways (I-29, I-49, I-35, I-70), is a major transit point for the transportation of drugs and drug proceeds to and from significant market areas across the country.

Furthermore, the convergence of I-44, I-55, I-64, and I-70 in St. Louis, MO, provides easy access for the transportation of drugs and bulk cash via commercial and privately-owned vehicles. Other smaller transportation hubs include Fargo, ND, where I-29 and I-94 intersect; and Des Moines, IA, where I-80 and I-35 intersect. Given the 310-mile border, including the 18 ports of entry North Dakota shares with Canada, there is an expansive roadway infrastructure and a large international border for drug traffickers to exploit.

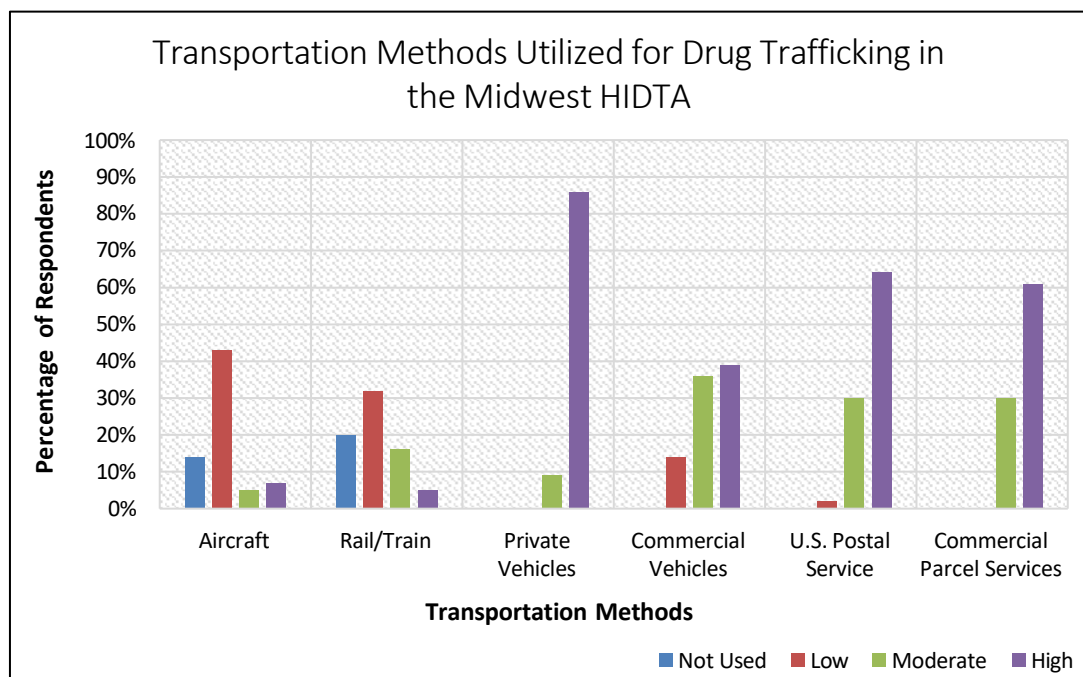
I-35 is a particularly useful transportation route for Mexican DTOs.⁴ Converging with I-70 and I-29 in Kansas City, I-35 covers approximately 1,568 miles in the U.S., from Laredo, Texas, to Duluth, Minnesota, and runs directly through Midwest HIDTA in Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa. Following I-35 into Mexico, it becomes Federal Highway 85, which runs southward from Nuevo Laredo, just across the Mexican border from the U.S., through Monterrey, Ciudad Victoria, Pachuca, and to the southern edge of Mexico City.⁵

When asked to indicate the levels at which various transportation methods are utilized in Midwest HIDTA to traffic drugs, 86 percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives indicated that privately owned vehicles are used at a high level, the highest percentage for any transportation method. Law enforcement initiatives claimed that traffickers often attempt to conceal contraband within natural voids or man-made compartments throughout the vehicle. Traffickers also reportedly concealed contraband within the tires, gas tanks, cardboard boxes, storage totes, and various pieces of luggage within the vehicle.

The second and third-most utilized transportation methods were the USPS (64 percent) and commercial parcel services (61 percent). Commercial vehicles, such as tractor-trailers, were also frequently used to transport drugs in Midwest HIDTA, with 39 percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives reporting their use as high and 36 percent reporting usage as moderate. Drugs transported via tractor-trailer may be hidden within legitimate cargo items to avoid law enforcement detection or found in the cabin of the tractor. Midwest HIDTA, as a large transshipment area, sees the movement of vehicles such as cars, trucks and SUVs on tractor-trailers. Drugs continue to be discovered in vehicles that are being hauled by tractor-trailer within

the region. The use of aircraft and rail/trains were also utilized, although less than the aforementioned methods. Figure 2 depicts the most commonly used drug transportation methods in the Midwest region, according to Midwest HIDTA initiatives.

Figure 2. LES: Transportation Methods Utilized for Drug Trafficking in the Midwest HIDTA Region.⁶



The roadways that traverse Midwest HIDTA are vital to drug trafficking organizations. The 4,300 miles of interstate connecting the Midwest region to the remainder of the U.S. are an enormous challenge to law enforcement interdiction efforts. Eighty-six percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives reported a high level of interstate highway use by DTOs. U.S. highways (75 percent) and state highways/rural roads (41 percent) were also reported by Midwest HIDTA initiatives to be highly used by DTOs to traffic drugs.

IV. Drug Threats

1. Overview of All Drug Threats

The Midwest HIDTA assesses that methamphetamine, fentanyl, cocaine, and marijuana are the primary drug threats to the region. Drug trafficking activities in the Midwest HIDTA region pose significant threats to public health and safety. These activities are a driving force of both violent and property crimes. Midwest HIDTA evaluated the threat posed by each drug type in order to determine a ranking of drug threats. The evaluation consisted of Midwest HIDTA initiative responses to the LES and public health partner responses to the PHS, as well as drug trend and other related information collected over the past 12 months. Midwest HIDTA initiatives were asked to consider the nexus of the drug type to violent and property crimes when determining their rankings. Secondary factors included drug availability, abuse, poisoning rate, and related fatalities. PHS respondents were asked to consider the greatest drug threat to their areas over the past 12 months. Upon the evaluation of these criteria, the Midwest HIDTA rankings of drug threats by drug type are represented in Table 2.

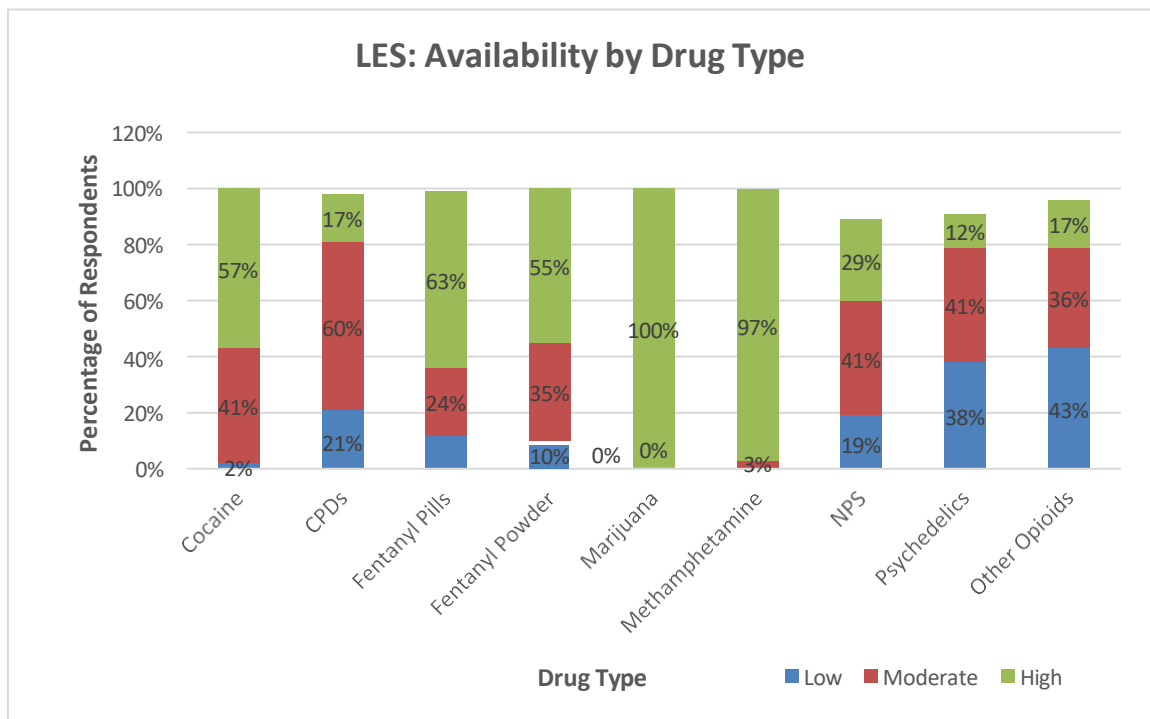
Table 4. Midwest HIDTA Threat Assessment: Drug Threat Ranking.^g

	Drug Type		Availability	Use	Characteristics
1	Methamphetamine		High	High	Primary contributor to both violent and property crime
2	Fentanyl		High	High	Major contributor to drug poisoning deaths
3	Cocaine		High	Moderate	Increase in region and opioid mixtures continue to impact drug poisonings
4	Marijuana		High	High	Contributor to violent and property crime
5	Controlled Prescription Drugs		Moderate	Moderate	Opioids constitute majority of abuse
6	Psychedelics (e.g. MDMA, LSD, psilocybin mushrooms)		Moderate	Moderate	Continuing to increase in the region
7	Heroin (other opioids)		Low	Moderate	Contributor to drug poisoning deaths
8	New Psychoactive Substances (e.g. synthetic cathinones and cannabinoids)		Low	Low	Materials soaked in NPSs often mailed into jails/prisons

^g Arrows indicate the movement of drug types within the ranking of drug threats.

As indicated above, an important factor in the determination of threat ranking is the availability of the drug in the Midwest HIDTA region. LES respondents ranked marijuana as more available than any other drug type. In fact, 100 percent of survey respondents indicated that marijuana is highly available in their respective areas of responsibility (AORs). This was followed closely by methamphetamine, with 97 percent of respondents indicated it was highly available and 63 percent of respondents designated fentanyl pills as highly available. Figure 3 shows the total number of LES responses indicating “low,” “moderate,” and “high” availability for each drug type.

Figure 3. LES: Availability by Drug Type.⁶



2. Methamphetamine

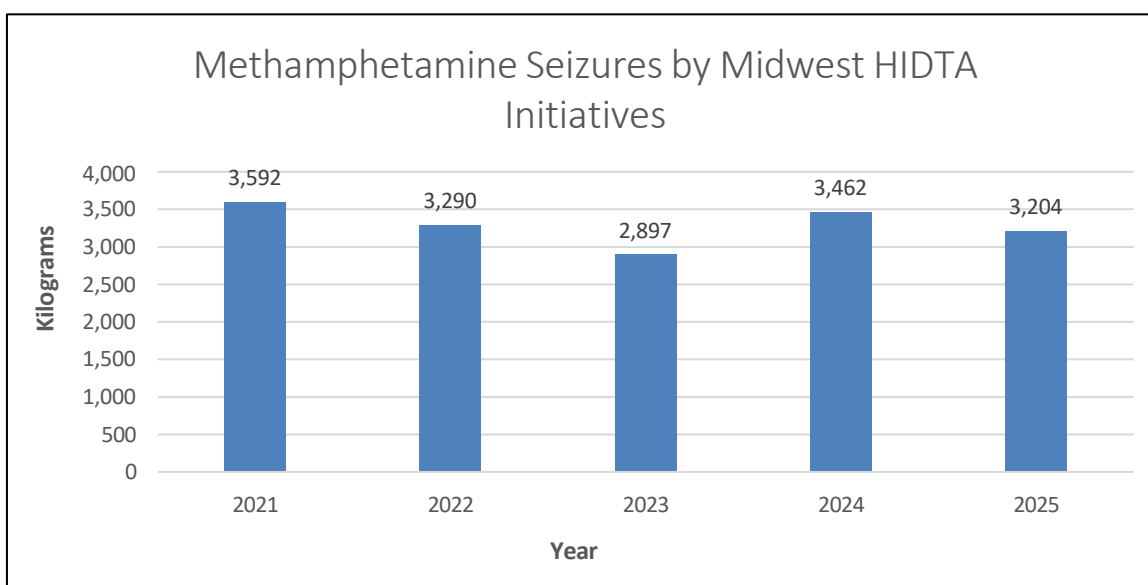
A. Overview

Methamphetamine is ranked as the greatest drug threat to the Midwest HIDTA region, as 59 percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives ranked it as such in their AORs. Methamphetamine is still the main contributor to violent and property crime in the region. From a public health perspective, methamphetamine is the greatest drug threat, with 51 percent of PHS respondents indicating the drug as the greatest. Forty-six percent of the region's drug poisoning deaths in 2024 involved psychostimulants, which include drugs such as methamphetamine, Adderall, and Ritalin.

B. Availability

The Midwest HIDTA assesses the supply of methamphetamine in the Midwest region as high, with its popularity unlikely to fade. LES respondents ranked methamphetamine as the second most available drug type, behind only marijuana. In fact, 98 percent of survey respondents indicated that methamphetamine is highly available in their respective AORs. Midwest HIDTA initiatives seized 3,204 kilograms (7,064 pounds) of methamphetamine in 2025, a decrease of 7.5 percent from 2024 (3,462 kilograms/7,632 pounds). Except for marijuana, more methamphetamine was seized than any other drug type. Figure 4 depicts methamphetamine seizure totals by Midwest HIDTA initiatives from 2021 to 2025.

Figure 4. Methamphetamine Seizures by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives, 2021-2025. ⁷



C. Use

Ninety-five percent of Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives assessed the level of methamphetamine use in their areas as high. Methamphetamine use and trafficking has long been associated with crime and violence in the Midwest HIDTA region. This is supported by 55 percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives that identified methamphetamine as the drug responsible for the greatest level of violence while 79 percent of respondents indicated it as the drug most responsible for property crime.

Of the PHS respondents that operated an inpatient/outpatient admissions program, 50 percent noted an increase in inpatient admissions for methamphetamine in their areas. Methamphetamine is often combined with a variety of other drugs in order to achieve a wide range of effects. The most popular drugs taken in combination with methamphetamine are fentanyl and marijuana.

Based on the TEDS data in Table 5, the number of admissions to drug treatment facilities for a substance use disorder involving amphetamines^h in Iowa, Nebraska, and North Dakota decreased between 2020 and 2024. Missouri and South Dakota admittances have increased 55 (7,288 to 11,330) and 18 percent (3,020 to 3,553) respectively from 2020 to 2024. Kansas displays a general decreasing admission rate for amphetamines from 2022 to 2024.

Table 5. Treatment Episode Data Sets – Amphetamines⁸

Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)						
Amphetamines						
	Iowa	Kansas	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	South Dakota
2020	7,553	4,503	7,288	2,942	1,053	3,020
2021	7,699	5,764	8,306	1,835	988	3,248
2022	6,067	5,566	9,869	1,602	827	3,474
2023	5,754	4,554	10,465	1,578	782	3,505
2024	6,382	3,277	11,330	1,966	939	3,553
*SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through December 31, 2025.						

Midwest HIDTA has historically had a high level of methamphetamine use as indicated by high treatment admissions and PHS responses. These high levels of methamphetamine use are likely to continue due to its high purity and relatively cheap price in the Midwest HIDTA AOR.

^h Amphetamines are the general categorization of amphetamine-type stimulants that SAMHSA records in their TEDS data. Methamphetamine is included within this dataset and is not reported separately.

D. Price

The dominant form of methamphetamine in Midwest HIDTA is crystal methamphetamine, which is reflected in the pricing table below.

Table 6. 2025 Drug Pricing Data– Crystal Methamphetamine⁹

Crystal Methamphetamine		
Unit of Measurement	Range	Average
Kilogram	\$1,740-\$3,000	\$2,580
Pound	\$1,078-\$5,000	\$2,752
1/2 Pound	\$1,400-\$2,600	\$1,940
1/4 Pound	\$475-\$3,200	\$1,286
Ounce	\$122-\$892	\$332
1/2 Ounce	\$100-\$500	\$260
1/4 Ounce	\$20-\$360	\$173
1/8 Ounce (8-Ball)	\$40-\$180	\$85
Gram	\$3-\$120	\$26

E. Production

The Midwest HIDTA assesses that the majority of methamphetamine in the region was produced in Mexico. Although 30 percent of Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives stated that methamphetamine production occurred within their AORs, most of this production involved the one-pot method—which typically yields one-ounce quantities for user amounts—or the lithium ammonia/anhydrous ammonia/ephedrine process. Large-scale labs in Mexico have replaced the majority of the Midwest HIDTA region’s local clandestine methamphetamine labs since the late 2000s; therefore, the regional supply of methamphetamine is mostly trafficked in from Mexico. Mexico-based “super labs” are capable of producing massive quantities of highly potent methamphetamine.¹⁰ With the shift to Mexican sources of supply, the purity levels for methamphetamine have increased and are typically over 90 percent, with some areas reporting an average purity level of 97 percent.¹¹ Domestic producers of methamphetamine in the Midwest HIDTA region have been unable to compete with Mexican producers, in part due to laws restricting sales of precursor chemicals utilized during production.¹⁰

F. Transportation

Methamphetamine is most commonly transported into the region in either crystal form (i.e. “ice”) or suspended in solution by private passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, and mailing services. While crystal methamphetamine is the most common form encountered by Midwest HIDTA initiatives, reporting suggests drug traffickers consider methamphetamine in solution as a low-risk concealment method. Methamphetamine in solution can be concealed within other liquids—such as gasoline or other automotive fluids—rendering it more difficult to detect. Methamphetamine in solution is transported into the region in large quantities by commercial

Novel Concealment Pattern

In 2025, two separate roadside stops in Kansas encountered methamphetamine concealed in the exhaust tunnel compartments of Volkswagen make vehicles. The first stop in February led to the discovery and seizure of 50 pounds of methamphetamine. The second stop in October led to the discovery and seizure of 22 pounds of methamphetamine. In both instances the methamphetamine was destined for Wichita, Kansas, and originated in Phoenix, Arizona.

vehicle, or in smaller quantities while being concealed in windshield washer fluid reservoirs or other containers in privately owned vehicles. Midwest HIDTA initiatives have seen methamphetamine in solution disguised in paint buckets and sports drinks. Once transported into the region, methamphetamine in solution is converted into crystal methamphetamine by conversion laboratories using a variety of highly flammable materials. Makeshift conversion laboratories, capable of converting several hundred pounds of methamphetamine, have been uncovered in parts of the Midwest HIDTA region and reported by Midwest HIDTA initiatives. In fact, 27 percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives reported the presence of at least one methamphetamine conversion laboratory in their area.

G. Intelligence Gaps

- What is the full extent of methamphetamine conversion laboratory utilization in the Midwest HIDTA region?
- How often is methamphetamine mixed with fentanyl, and at what step of the distribution process are they combined?
- How many counterfeit prescription pills contain methamphetamine?
- What factors are behind the slight decrease in the amount of methamphetamine seized in 2025, despite indicators of greater availability compared to 2024?

3. Fentanyl

A. Overview

Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives report fentanyl as the second greatest drug threat to the region. Fentanyl, the most prevalent synthetic opioid, is linked to violent and property crime, and has the highest association to poisoning deaths. Thirty-four percent of law enforcement initiatives ranked fentanyl as the greatest threat in their respective areas of responsibility (AORs), while 52 percent ranked it as the second greatest threat. Twenty-eight percent of PHS respondents ranked fentanyl as their greatest drug threat, second to methamphetamine (51 percent). Fentanyl has infiltrated rural and urban markets and is the opioid with both the greatest use and abuse within the region.

Fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, and other synthetic opioids such as metonitazene, are usually produced in laboratories by transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) in Mexico, with precursors provided from China, before being transported into the Midwest HIDTA region.¹⁰ Some synthetic opioid abusers in the region purchase the drugs directly through the internet or dark web sources.¹² Laboratory results have confirmed fentanyl's presence in various counterfeit pharmaceuticals, to include opioids and stimulants. Illicit drug users can be unaware that the substances they purchase and ingest may contain fentanyl or another synthetic opioid, thereby increasing their risk of being poisoned.¹⁰

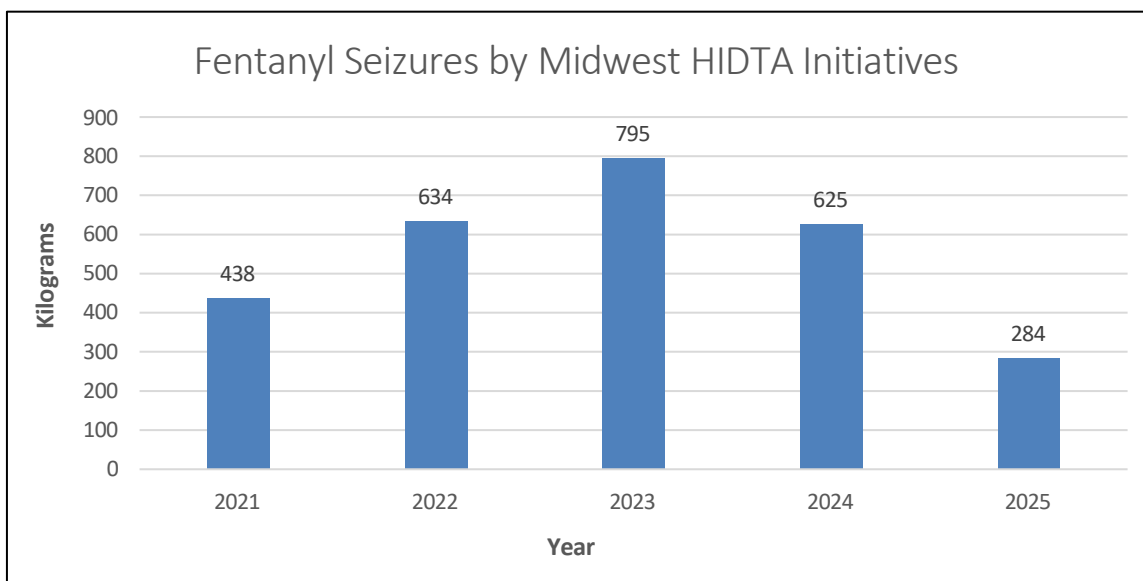
Fentanyl is often found to be mixed with a variety of other drugs including heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and other synthetic opioids such as metonitazene. An additive of note that is a cause for public health concern is xylazine, an unscheduled veterinary anesthetic.¹⁰ Xylazine is responsible for an increase in poisoning deaths as there is no known treatment for xylazine poisoning. The widely known opioid overdose reversal agent naloxone is not effective against xylazine poisoning as xylazine is not an opioid.¹³ Forensic laboratories within the Midwest HIDTA region have identified xylazine within the fentanyl supply in the region.¹¹ Due to xylazine being unregulated five of the six states in the Midwest HIDTA region, it is a Schedule III substance in South Dakota, it is difficult to know the true extent of the issue in the region. Medetomidine, another veterinary anesthetic, which is more potent than xylazine, has also been identified in the Midwest HIDTA region's illicit fentanyl supply.¹¹

B. Availability

The Midwest HIDTA assesses the availability of fentanyl in the region as high. This was corroborated by the majority of Midwest HIDTA's law enforcement initiatives. The law enforcement respondents to the LES indicated that fentanyl pills (e.g. counterfeit M30/oxycodone) are slightly more prevalent in the Midwest HIDTA region than fentanyl powder. Fifty-nine percent of law enforcement initiatives indicated fentanyl pills as being highly available, while 50 percent indicated fentanyl powder as being highly available. Fentanyl powder comes in a variety of colors including white, brown, pink, and purple. Fentanyl seizures decreased by 55 percent in the

Midwest HIDTA region between 2024 (625 kilograms/1,378 pounds) and 2025 (284 kilograms/626 pounds). Figure 5 shows the increase of fentanyl seized by Midwest HIDTA initiatives between 2021 and 2023 followed by decreases in 2024 and 2025 for the region, as reported through the ONDCP Performance Measurement Process (PMP) data.

Figure 5. Fentanyl Seizures by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives, 2021-2025.⁷



C. Use

The Midwest HIDTA assesses the level of use in the region as high for fentanyl, as indicated by 57 percent of law enforcement initiatives responding that fentanyl pill use is high and 55 percent responding that fentanyl powder use is high. Fentanyl abuse and trafficking is frequently associated with violence in the Midwest HIDTA region, although less so than methamphetamine. Sixteen percent of initiatives listed fentanyl as the drug responsible for the greatest level of violence, the third highest contributor to violent crimes. Fentanyl is also the third highest contributor to property crimes with seven percent of initiatives indicating thus.

The PHS respondents that work in treatment noted that fentanyl was tied with three other drugs for the highest increase of inpatient admissions (marijuana, methamphetamine, and kratom). Fifty percent noted an increase in inpatient admissions for fentanyl in their areas. Fentanyl is often combined with a variety of other drugs to achieve a wide range of effects. Methamphetamine was the drug most taken in combination with fentanyl in 2025, according to Midwest HIDTA's public health partners. Fentanyl was listed as being combined with virtually everything including cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine by public health partners.

Poisoning Deaths in the Midwest HIDTA Region

Of the 2,474 drug poisoning deaths in the Midwest HIDTA region in 2024, sixty-one percent (1,518) involved opioids, predominantly fentanyl.

Counterfeit controlled prescription drugs (CPDs) have been identified as a threat across both the Midwest HIDTA region and nationally. Counterfeit CPDs are popular among those that already abuse drugs and those experimenting with them, such as teenagers. The most common counterfeit prescription containing fentanyl takes the form of round, blue in color, oxycodone 30 mg pills. Many poisonings across both the Midwest HIDTA region and the country as a whole have been linked to counterfeit CPDs containing fentanyl.¹⁰

In 2023, the grams of fentanyl pills seized by Midwest HIDTA initiatives also began to be reported to PMP. In 2024 there were 424,772 grams of fentanyl pills seized, and in 2025 there were 126,113 grams of fentanyl pills seized. These seizures translate to approximately 4,214,250 and 1,251,000 fentanyl pills, respectively, as one pound of pills converts to approximately 4,500 dosage units.⁷

Counterfeit CPDs

Mexico-based DTOs are trafficking considerable quantities of counterfeit CPDs into both the U.S. and Midwest HIDTA region. These CPDs contain fentanyl and other synthetic opioids and closely resemble popular brands such as the 30mg oxycodone pills, also known as “M30s,” “blues,” and “30s”



Left: Authentic oxycodone M30 tablets

Right: Counterfeit oxycodone M30 tablets

The Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) is a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) program that includes drug treatment admission data. This data is routinely collected by states to monitor drug abuse among their populations. Fentanyl is included in a general category called “Other Opiates” that also includes oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine, and other narcotic analgesics, opiates, or synthetics. Fentanyl is not reported separately. The TEDS data in Table 7 demonstrates an increase in the number of admissions to drug treatment facilities for a substance use disorder involving opiates other than heroin in every Midwest HIDTA state between 2020 and 2024. Kansas and Missouri’s admission numbers peaked in 2023, but both showed a reduction of 24 percent from 2023 to 2024, 976 to 743 and 8,806 to 6,672 respectively.⁸

Table 7. Treatment Episode Data Sets – Other Opiates ⁸

Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)						
Other Opiates*						
	Iowa	Kansas	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	South Dakota
2020	917	408	3,724	227	177	208
2021	923	632	5,107	138	208	201
2022	747	858	6,860	225	251	244
2023	829	976	8,806	232	264	245
2024	921	743	6,672	281	281	303

*Other Opiates includes: Fentanyl, codeine, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, and any other drug with morphine-like effects.
SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through December 31, 2025.

D. Price

The price of fentanyl in Midwest HIDTA varied significantly from region to region. The purity of the fentanyl product also impacted the price of the drug. The prices per unit of measurement for fentanyl are listed in Table 8 below and was collected from Midwest HIDTA initiatives through debriefs of confidential informants (CIs), proffer interviews of defendants, and undercover CI purchases. When compared to the 2024 drug pricing numbers, the 2025 price averages show powder has reduced in price (ounce \$1,706 to \$1,113, gram \$119 to \$74), while the price per pill has nearly doubled (\$8 to \$15).

Table 8. 2025 Drug Pricing Data– Fentanyl ⁹

Unit of Measurement	Fentanyl	
	Range	Average
Ounce	\$237-\$2,000	\$1,113
Gram	\$45-\$125	\$74
Pill	\$3-\$40	\$15

E. Production

The Midwest HIDTA assesses that the majority of the region's fentanyl supply originates from Mexico. DEA's Fentanyl Signature Profiling Program identified that the primary route of synthetization for fentanyl was the Gupta Method for nationwide fentanyl submissions seized in 2022. The average purity for fentanyl powder in 2025 was 10.3 percent, down from 19.5 percent in fiscal year 2023. The DEA's forensic laboratories' testing indicated that 3 out of 10 pills seized by DEA in 2025 contained a lethal dose of fentanyl, an approximately 45 percent decrease from fiscal year 2023.¹⁴

F. Transportation

Fentanyl is primarily transported into the area via private passenger vehicles and mailing services. Large quantities of fentanyl pills are easily concealed in natural voids and spaces in vehicles, as well as within luggage being transported in the vehicle.

G. Intelligence Gaps

- At what stage is fentanyl added into drug mixtures in the drug distribution process?
- Why is fentanyl being found mixed with non-opioid drugs, specifically stimulants such as cocaine and methamphetamine?
- Where in the drug distribution process is xylazine or medetomidine being added to fentanyl?
- What effect, if any, has the reported decreased availability of fentanyl pills, and the increased availability of fentanyl powder, had on the lower number of opioid poisoning deaths in 2025?
- What are the factors behind the dramatic decrease in the amount of fentanyl seized in 2025, compared to 2024?

4. Cocaine

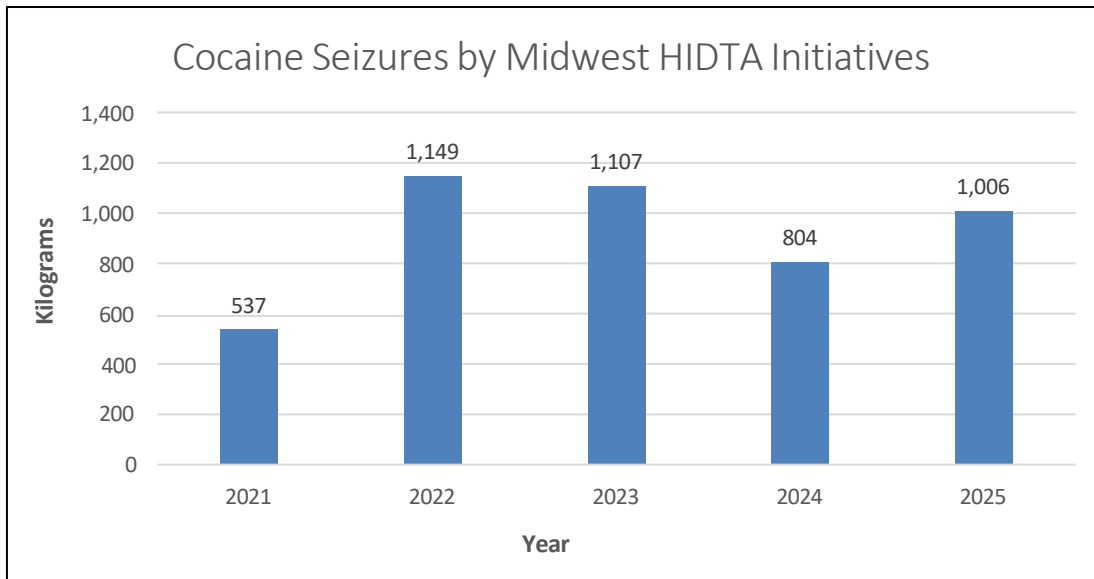
A. Overview

Midwest HIDTA ranks cocaine as the third greatest drug threat. Seventy-four percent of Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives reported cocaine as either the third (43 percent) or fourth (31 percent) greatest drug threats. PHS respondents considered cocaine to be their sixth primary drug threat, with 26 percent of respondents indicating this. Cocaine's availability, and it being mixed with fentanyl, has increased the threat posed by the drug.

B. Availability

The Midwest HIDTA assesses cocaine availability as high throughout the region. This is corroborated by the majority (57 percent) of Midwest HIDTA initiatives reporting cocaine's availability as high in their areas while 41 percent report cocaine as moderately available in their area. Seizures of cocaine by Midwest HIDTA initiatives in 2025 increased 25 percent from 2024, with initiatives seizing 1,006 kilograms (2,217 pounds). Cocaine seizures by Midwest HIDTA initiatives from 2021 to 2025 can be found in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Cocaine Seizures by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives, 2021-2025. ⁷



C. Use

The Midwest HIDTA assesses cocaine use throughout the region as moderate. Fifty-two percent of Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives reported moderate levels of cocaine use within their AORs, while 38 percent reported high level of use. Of the PHS respondents that operate an inpatient or outpatient admissions program, 33 percent reported that admissions for cocaine had increased over the past 12 months. Cocaine may be combined with other substances, the most popular of which being fentanyl.

The TEDS data in Table 9 demonstrates a 58 percent (726 to 1,144) and 27 percent (352 to 447) increase in the number of admissions to drug treatment facilities for a substance use disorder involving cocaine from 2020 and 2024 in Missouri and Iowa respectively. Kansas shows a 15 percent decrease (343 to 292) in admissions over the same period. Nebraska and South Dakota decreased from 2020 to 2022, followed by increases in consecutive years, 2023 and 2024, with admissions rising 46 percent (79 to 115) and 65 percent (54 to 89) respectively. North Dakota shows no clear trend.

Table 9. Treatment Episode Data Sets – Cocaine⁸

Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)						
Cocaine						
	Iowa	Kansas	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	South Dakota
2020	352	343	726	132	22	70
2021	293	326	720	100	9	53
2022	341	376	922	79	20	54
2023	376	349	1,107	91	9	68
2024	447	292	1,144	115	19	89
*SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through December 31, 2025.						

D. Price

Cocaine prices in the Midwest HIDTA region vary heavily depending on the location. Pricing information from law enforcement initiatives is available in Table 10.

Table 10. 2025 Drug Pricing Data– Cocaine⁹

Cocaine		
Unit of Measurement	Range	Average
Kilogram	\$14,000-\$35,000	\$23,607
Ounce	\$266-\$2,000	\$1,077
1/8 Ounce (8-Ball)	\$150-\$380	\$236
Gram	\$16-\$230	\$66

E. Production

Cocaine is neither cultivated nor produced within the Midwest HIDTA region. The coca plant is native to western South America, which produces most of the world's supply of cocaine. Cocaine production in Colombia, the largest producer of coca and cocaine, is estimated to have increased 12 percent from 2023 (2,664 tons) to 2024 (3,000 tons) according to unreleased and therefore speculative United Nations data.¹⁵ Seizures of cocaine by U.S. Customs and Border

Protection (CBP) for fiscal year 2025 (70.1 thousand pounds) resulted in a 3 percent increase from 2024 seizures (68.2 thousand pounds).¹⁶

F. Transportation

The Midwest HIDTA assesses that most U.S.-bound cocaine is transported from South America into Mexico, where it is then smuggled into the Midwest region. As with other illicit drug types, cocaine is primarily transported into the region via private passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, and mailing services.⁶ Cocaine trafficking organizations also utilize “go-fast boats” and undersea submersible vehicles to smuggle cocaine into the U.S., though these methods are believed to be used for transporting cocaine to destinations along the eastern and western seaboard.^{17 18}

G. Intelligence Gaps

- What other drugs are mixed with cocaine in the Midwest HIDTA region, and at what step of the distribution chain are they added?
- What are the factors behind the increased amount of cocaine seized in 2025, compared to 2024?

5. Marijuana

A. Overview

Marijuana is the most widely available and abused illicit drug within the Midwest HIDTA region. Midwest HIDTA initiatives ranked marijuana as a lower significant drug threat with 17 percent ranking it fourth, 14 percent ranking it fifth, and 22 percent ranking it the lowest threat. Respondents to the PHS ranked marijuana as the fourth greatest drug threat for their area with 26 percent of respondents indicating marijuana was their highest ranked drug threat. Due to marijuana's high availability and high use, it is ranked as the fourth greatest drug threat for the Midwest HIDTA region.

North Dakota legalized medical marijuana through regulations that became effective in April 2016. Missouri legalized medical marijuana in November 2018 and recreational in 2022; recreational sales in Missouri started February 3, 2023.¹⁹ South Dakota legalized medical marijuana in November 2020 and became effective as of July 2021. In November 2024, Nebraska voters legalized medical marijuana, Illinois also legalized recreational marijuana, while Iowa only allows for specialized cannabidiol (CBD) products as part of its medical CBD program. Currently, Kansas is the only Midwest HIDTA state to not have implemented a public marijuana access program.

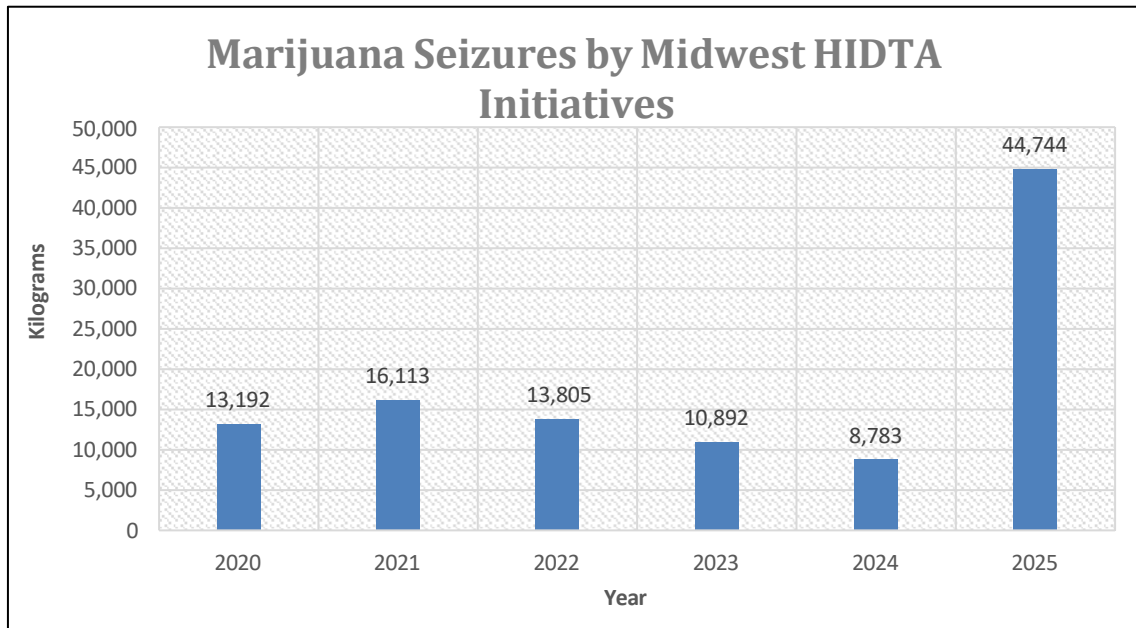
Similar to methamphetamine, the region has experienced a change in sources of marijuana. Whereas much of the marijuana in the Midwest HIDTA region was previously grown in Mexico and transported into the region, after being smuggled across the Southwest Border, a majority of the marijuana in the region today now comes from sources within the U.S. Domestically-produced marijuana, a majority of which is grown hydroponically in states where marijuana has been decriminalized and/or legalized in some form, typically has a much higher tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content than Mexican-sourced marijuana.

Marijuana decriminalization has created a readily available supply of highly potent domestically cultivated marijuana for transport into the region. This now includes states within Midwest HIDTA that have legalized various forms of marijuana.

B. Availability

Marijuana is the most widely available drug in the region due in part to the various legalization levels in the Midwest HIDTA states. One hundred percent of Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives reported marijuana as highly available within their AORs. Midwest HIDTA initiatives seized 44,744 kilograms (98,644 pounds) of marijuana in 2025ⁱ, along with 1,902 marijuana plants from indoor and outdoor grows. Figure 7 depicts marijuana seizure totals by Midwest HIDTA initiatives from 2020 to 2025, as reported through PMP data.

ⁱ The overall seizure number was impacted by the impressive 24,043 kilograms seized by the St. Louis Major Investigation and Conspiracy Group in 2025.

Figure 7. Marijuana Seizures by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives, 2020-2025.⁷

C. Use

Marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug in the Midwest HIDTA region, according to 97 percent of law enforcement initiatives. Twenty-nine percent believed marijuana contributed the most to violence in their areas. Of the PHS respondents that operate an inpatient or outpatient admissions program, 50 percent of respondents cited marijuana-related admissions increased over the past 12 months. Data from the PHS states that marijuana is a drug frequently combined with other substances. The most popular drugs taken in combination with marijuana are methamphetamine and fentanyl.

Based on the TEDS data in Table 11, the number of admissions to drug treatment facilities for a substance use disorder involving marijuana declined for every state in the Midwest HIDTA region, except Missouri, which saw a slight increase of 2 percent (3,718 to 3,773) from 2020 to 2024. The push for marijuana decriminalization in parts of the Midwest HIDTA region may have played a role in the decreased number of marijuana admissions, especially if court-mandated marijuana substance abuse programs are less prevalent, although this information is currently unsubstantiated.

Table 11. Treatment Episode Data Sets – Marijuana ⁸

Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)						
Marijuana						
	Iowa	Kansas	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	South Dakota
2020	4,844	1,626	3,718	992	623	1,150
2021	4,752	1,783	3,811	665	590	1,131
2022	3,626	1,648	4,126	567	566	1,036
2023	3,652	1,501	3,969	546	549	863
2024	3,634	1,179	3,773	663	484	846
*SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through December 31, 2025.						

D. Price

The price of marijuana in the Midwest HIDTA region is dependent upon the origin of the marijuana and the form that it takes. For example, an ounce of marijuana flower is generally less expensive than an ounce of butane hash oil or other concentrate. Additionally, marijuana originating from states that have legalized recreational/adult-use is generally more expensive than marijuana originating from Mexico because of its higher THC content. Table 12 depicts marijuana pricing information obtained from Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives.

Table 12. 2025 Drug Pricing Data– Marijuana ⁹

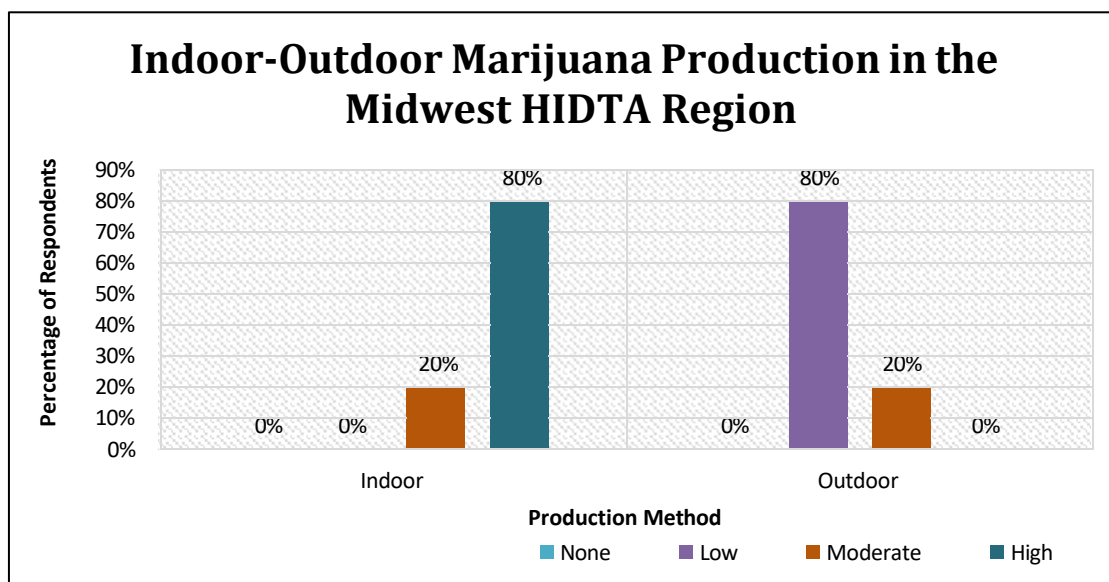
Marijuana		
Unit of Measurement	Range	Average
Pound	\$450-\$3,200	\$1,919
Ounce	\$60-300	\$146
Gram	\$3-\$40	\$13
THC Cartridge	\$2-\$60	\$35
Gram of Wax	\$2-\$50	\$27

E. Production

The Midwest HIDTA assesses that the majority of marijuana in the region is produced in areas within the U.S. where marijuana has been decriminalized. Twelve percent of initiatives stated that illicit marijuana production occurred within their area, with indoor marijuana production more prevalent than outdoor production. Eighty percent of the initiatives that reported marijuana production within their areas indicated that indoor marijuana production occurred at a high level

in their AORs, while 80 percent of respondents indicated that outdoor marijuana production occurred at a low level. Indoor production methods, which protect plants from harsh weather conditions in the region, also allow cultivators to have greater control over THC content in marijuana. Indoor growing also affords a higher degree of concealment from law enforcement as the production sites are hidden from public view. Figure 8 shows levels of indoor and outdoor marijuana production in the Midwest HIDTA region, as indicated by law enforcement initiatives.

Figure 8. LES: Indoor-Outdoor Marijuana Production in the Midwest HIDTA Region. ⁶



In December 2018, Congress passed the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (also known as the 2018 Farm Bill), which legalized the production, cultivation, and retail sale of industrial hemp.²⁰ Industrial hemp and marijuana are the same plant only differentiated by the delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) amount in the plant. Hemp must not contain more than 0.3 percent delta-9 THC.²¹ Every state within the Midwest HIDTA region now participates in industrial hemp cultivation. Marijuana may be produced under the guise of industrial hemp.²² Hemp concentrates also contend with the issue of high amounts of delta-9 THC.²³

F. Transportation

Most of the marijuana and marijuana products transported into the Midwest HIDTA region are from California, Colorado, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Washington.²⁴ The source states have all legalized recreational/adult or medical use marijuana. Private passenger vehicles are the most common method of transporting marijuana into the region.

G. Intelligence Gaps

- What impact will the legalization of marijuana in Midwest HIDTA states, both medical and recreational/adult use, have on black-market marijuana within those states?

- What factors are behind the dramatic increase in the amount of marijuana seized in 2025 compared to 2024?

6. Controlled Prescription Drugs

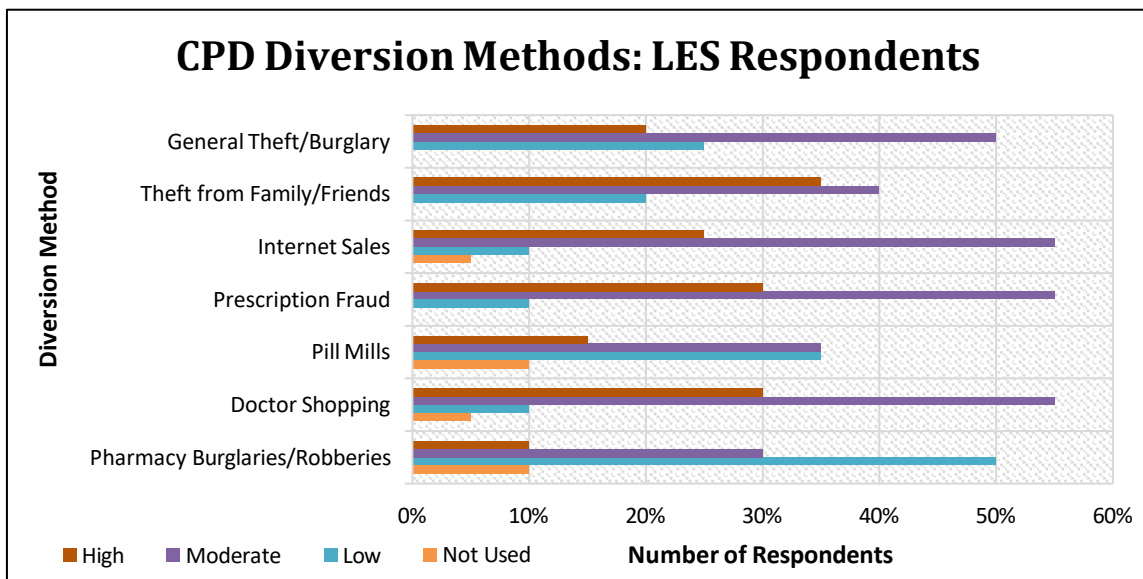
A. Overview

The Midwest HIDTA assesses that CPD abuse within the region is widespread and represents a constant drug threat. A significant percentage of the drugs marketed as CPDs seized by Midwest HIDTA initiatives are counterfeit pharmaceuticals. Post seizure laboratory analysis often reveals the presence of fentanyl, methamphetamine, other opioids, or benzodiazepine analogues. Twenty-six percent of LES respondents ranked CPDs as the sixth drug threat in their AORs. Twenty-eight percent of PHS respondents reported CPDs as their fourth drug threat. CPD's threat ranking is subsequently lower, due to the lower availability and use compared to the drugs ranked higher in the threat rankings. The legal, yet controlled status of CPDs has resulted in their moderate level of both availability and use in the Midwest HIDTA region.

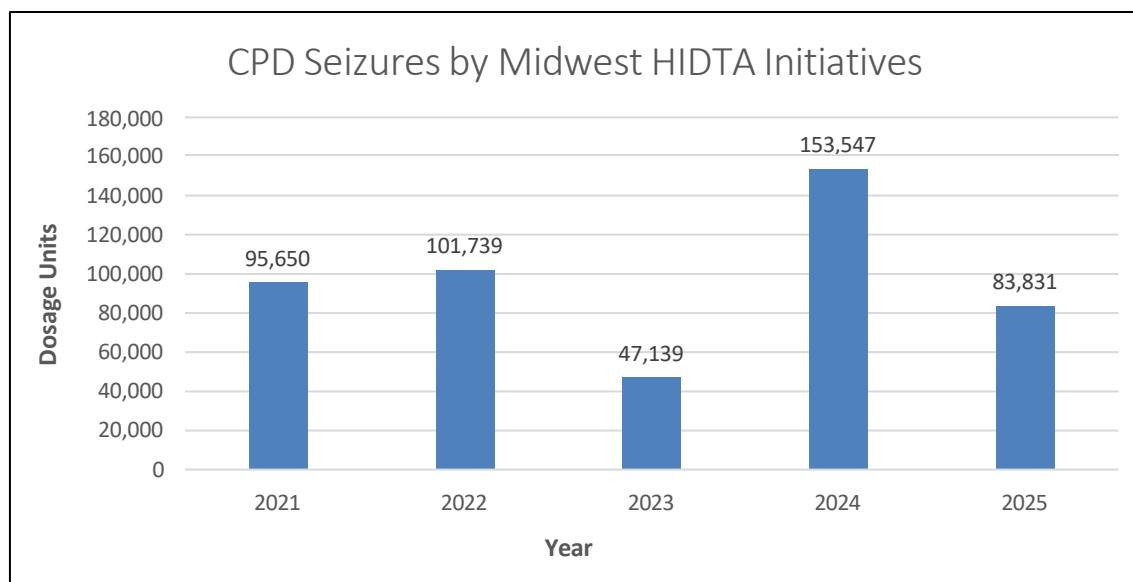
All states within the Midwest HIDTA region now have a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The prohibition of law enforcement in several Midwest HIDTA states from obtaining PDMP information to identify over-prescribing doctors also limits the overall effectiveness of these programs in addressing the opioid epidemic. There are currently no Midwest HIDTA initiatives focused on CPD diversion.

B. Availability

Sixty percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives reported CPD availability as moderate within their AORs. Pharmaceutical diversion is responsible for most of the illicit use. Eighty-seven percent of LES respondents indicated that CPD diversion occurs in their AORs. Of those respondents, 49 percent indicated that it happens at a low rate, which is a decrease from last year. Figure 9 illustrates the most common CPD diversion methods, as reported by respondents to the LES.

Figure 9. CPD Diversion Methods: LES Respondents. ^{6, j}

Midwest HIDTA initiatives seized 83,831 dosage units of CPDs in 2025.^k Figure 10 depicts CPD seizure totals by Midwest HIDTA initiatives from 2021 to 2025, as reported in the PMP.

Figure 10. CPD Seizures by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives, 2020-2025. ⁷

^j General theft/burglary is the theft of CPDs from individuals in possession of CPDs that do not involve friends/family or a pharmacy. Rx fraud is the illegal acquisition of prescription drugs for profit. Pill mills are clandestine operations where a medical worker offers CPDs to patients in exchange for bribes rather than needs. Doctor shopping is the illegal practice of seeking care from multiple health care providers for an illicit purpose.

^k This number is the total for all PMP prescription drug statistics, which include alprazolam, hydrocodone, ketamine, oxycodone, and other CPD types.

C. Use

Fifty-seven percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives reported moderate levels of CPD use within their AORs. If an individual with a substance use disorder loses legitimate access to their CPD supply, they may seek out illicit CPDs or transition to cheaper, more potent alternatives, such as heroin or fentanyl.

Of the PHS respondents that operate either an inpatient or outpatient admissions program, 33 percent stated that CPD admissions had remained the same over the past 12 months. According to these PHS respondents, treatment admissions for opioids decreased 33 percent, while stimulants and dissociatives (e.g. ketamine) increased by 33 percent. The other CPD categories including sedatives remained the same for the plurality of PHS respondents. According to the PHS, CPDs are most often combined with fentanyl, marijuana, and methamphetamine.

D. Price

Pricing for diverted CPDs within the Midwest HIDTA region is dependent upon the type of CPD, the dosage, and the regional marketplace. Table 13 illustrates various CPD pricing information for 2025. Benzodiazepine pricing information is available for alprazolam. Opioid pricing information is available for hydrocodone and oxycodone. Stimulant pricing information is available for Adderall®. Prices are based on drugs marketed as illicit CPD's, regardless of whether they are illicit CPD's or counterfeit.

Table 13. 2025 Drug Pricing Data– CPDs ⁹

Unit of Measurement	Per Pill	
CPD Type	Range	Average
Alprazolam (Xanax®)	\$1-\$5	\$3
Hydrocodone	\$8-\$30	\$13
Adderall®	\$15-\$18	\$16

E. Production

Midwest HIDTA is not aware of CPD diversion from regional pharmaceutical manufacturers at this time. However, law enforcement investigations have identified numerous counterfeit CPD operations elsewhere within the U.S. A significant portion of the counterfeit opioid and benzodiazepine pills encountered by Midwest HIDTA initiatives are found to contain a mixture of fentanyl and other substances when sent to a laboratory for further analysis. Similarly, many counterfeit stimulant drugs contain methamphetamine rather than the various stimulants they are marketed as.

F. Transportation

Midwest HIDTA found that the region's most popular methods of CPD diversion in 2025 were theft from family/friends, prescription fraud, and internet sales. Genuine CPDs encountered by regional law enforcement are produced by pharmaceutical companies and distributed to pharmacies nationwide. Counterfeit CPDs are manufactured in China, India, Mexico, and the United States. Counterfeit CPDs clandestinely produced outside of the Midwest HIDTA region are often shipped via mailing services from overseas or smuggled across international borders where they ultimately enter into the region transported by private vehicles.

G. Intelligence Gaps

- What percentage of CPD's marketed as genuine are counterfeit CPDs?
- What are the factors behind the decrease in CPDs seizures in 2025?

7. Psychedelics

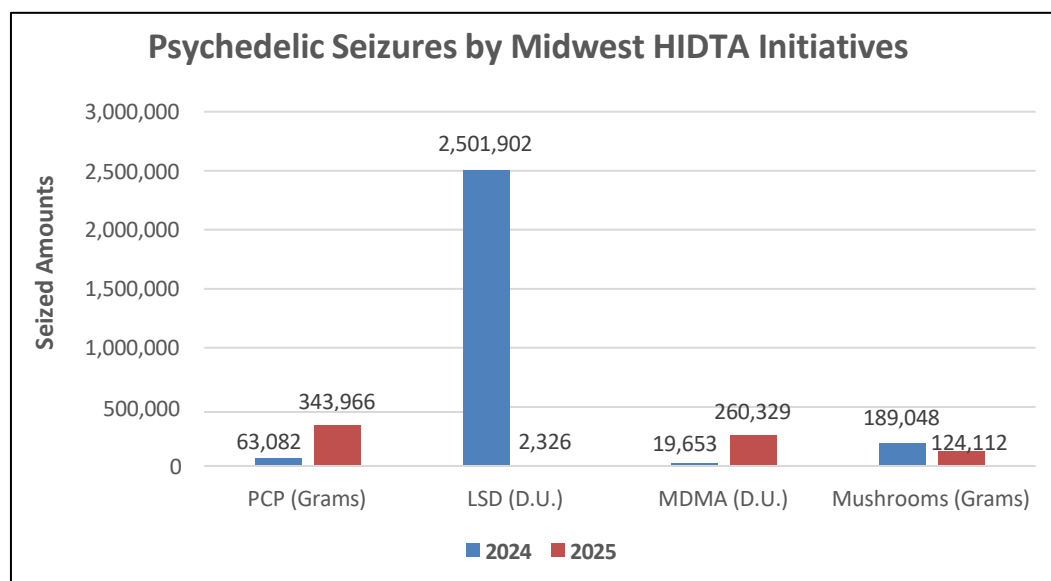
A. Overview

A wide variety of psychedelics are abused within the Midwest HIDTA region. The threat posed by these drugs in the region is ever-changing due to the development of new synthetic drugs in source countries such as China, as well as resurgences in other drug types, such as “magic” mushrooms. Several types of psychedelics are available in the region, including methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), ketamine, and psilocybin mushrooms (hereafter referred to as “mushrooms”). The breadth of the threat, its variance from area to area in the region, makes it difficult to assess the overall drug threat created by psychedelics compared to other drug types. However, only three percent of LES respondents ranked psychedelics within the top four drug threats in their AORs.

B. Availability

The Midwest HIDTA assesses the availability of psychedelics across the region as moderate. This is supported by the 41 percent of law enforcement initiatives that reported psychedelics availability as moderate. Although psychedelics have existed within the Midwest HIDTA region for decades, their availability has historically remained moderate to low. Psychedelics and other similar drugs are typically purchased at bars, nightclubs, music festivals, or online, and are generally more difficult to obtain compared to drugs such as cocaine or marijuana, contributing to inconsistent amounts of psychedelics seized from year to year by Midwest HIDTA initiatives. Figure 11 shows the amounts of psychedelics seized by Midwest HIDTA initiatives in 2024 and 2025.

Figure 11. Psychedelic Seizures by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives, 2024-2025.⁷



Midwest HIDTA initiatives seized 344 kilograms of PCP in 2025. The 344 kilograms of PCP seized was the highest amount seized in the Midwest HIDTA region in the last five years and an increase of 446 percent compared to 2024. There was a total of 2,326 dosage units of LSD seized in 2025 by Midwest HIDTA initiatives, the least amount in the last five years, and a decrease of approximately 99 percent compared to 2024. Initiatives seized 260,329 dosage units of MDMA in 2025, an increase of 1,224 percent from 2024. One hundred twenty-four kilograms (273 pounds) of mushrooms were seized in 2025, which is a 34 percent decrease from 2024 (189 kilograms/417 pounds).

C. Use

The Midwest HIDTA assesses the use of psychedelics in the region to be moderate. Fifty percent of LES respondents indicated that psychedelics are used at a moderate level in the Midwest HIDTA region. A significant number of public health respondents (33 percent) stated inpatient/outpatient admissions for psychedelics were unknown over the past 12 months.

The TEDS data in Table 14 depicts the low levels of hallucinogens abuse across the Midwest HIDTA region between 2020 and 2024. Inpatient admissions decreased in North Dakota and South Dakota from 2020 to 2024. Iowa's admissions peaked in 2020, decreased into 2022, but have had incremental increases since. Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas do not show a clear trend, although both Missouri and Nebraska's admissions increased from 2023 to 2024.

Table 14. Treatment Episode Data Sets – Hallucinogens ⁸

Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)						
Hallucinogens						
	Iowa	Kansas	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	South Dakota
2020	47	17	21	8	5	14
2021	38	12	46	4	5	10
2022	13	17	16	3	10	5
2023	16	17	33	4	7	4
2024	17	11	38	8	4	4
SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through December 31, 2025.						

D. Price

The price of psychedelics varies depending on the purity, location, and ingredients. The pricing information from law enforcement initiatives who have had the opportunity to purchase psychedelics is available in Table 15.

Table 15. 2025 Drug Pricing Data – Psychedelics ⁹

Psychedelics		
Psychedelic Type	Range	Average
MDMA (D.U.)	\$1-\$10	\$5
PCP (Oz)	\$105	\$105
Mushrooms (G)	\$35 / \$120	\$77

E. Production

Most MDMA seized in the U.S. is primarily synthesized in Canada and the Netherlands.²⁵ LSD may be produced in clandestine laboratories across the country, although a crucial precursor chemical, known as ergotamine tartrate, is not readily available in the U.S. Ketamine is commercially produced in a number of countries, including the U.S., and is typically either diverted or stolen from legitimate sources, specifically veterinarian sources in the U.S. PCP destined for the Midwest HIDTA region is typically manufactured in clandestine laboratories in Southern California. Psilocybin mushrooms may be grown across the U.S. and have been increasingly discovered alongside illegal marijuana grows.

F. Transportation

The Midwest HIDTA assesses that the majority of the region's MDMA is sourced from foreign countries, such as Canada and the Netherlands, and subsequently being shipped into the Midwest HIDTA region. PCP is transported into the region from clandestine laboratories in Southern California. Ketamine is typically diverted from veterinary clinics and other medical sources within the U.S. and transported into the region. Most psychedelics are transported into the Midwest HIDTA region in private vehicles.

G. Intelligence Gaps

- How has the increased research into psychedelics as a treatment for mental health affected the psychedelic black market?
- How often is methamphetamine marketed as MDMA and/or ecstasy pills in the Midwest HIDTA region?
- What is the reason(s) for the inconsistency of seizures of psychedelics from year to year in the Midwest HIDTA region?
- What does the increase in the seizures of MDMA indicate for the Midwest HIDTA region?

8. Heroin

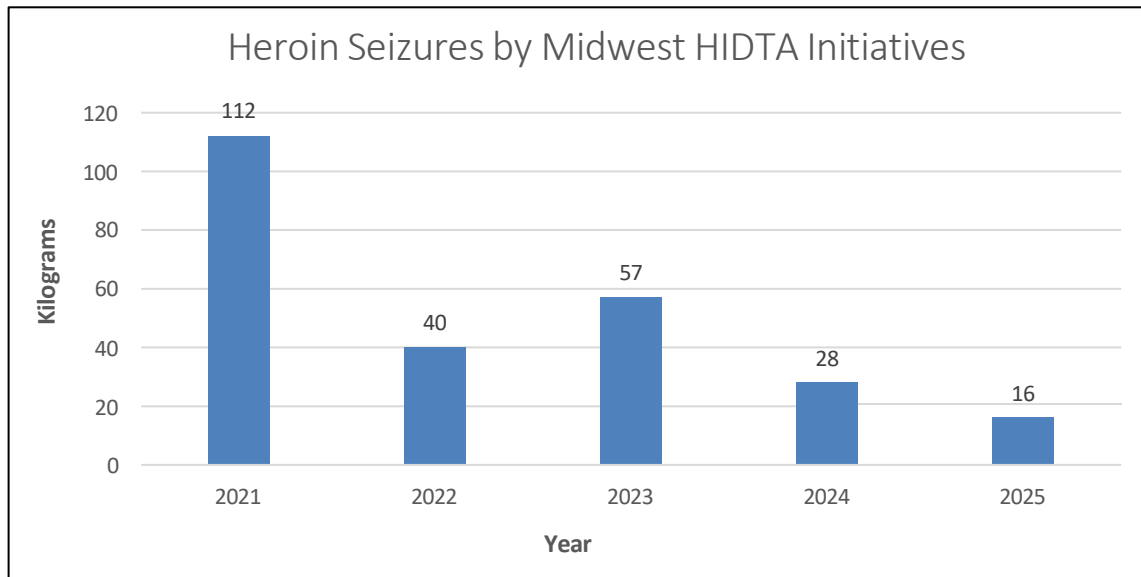
A. Overview

Midwest HIDTA ranks heroin as the seventh greatest drug threat, due to a continuing decrease in availability. Heroin, mixed with stronger opioids such as fentanyl, can result in an increased likelihood of poisoning. Twenty-two percent of law enforcement initiatives ranked heroin as the fourth greatest threat while 19 percent ranked heroin as their sixth greatest threat in their respective AORs. Thirty-five percent of PHS respondents ranked heroin as their sixth greatest drug threat. Heroin is now usually found mixed with fentanyl or other synthetic opioids.¹¹

B. Availability

Midwest HIDTA assesses the availability of heroin in the region as low, this was corroborated by 43 percent of the Midwest HIDTA's law enforcement initiatives, which is a decrease for the region. The decrease is primarily due to the replacement of heroin with fentanyl. Seizures of heroin by Midwest HIDTA initiatives decreased by 43 percent from 2024 (28 kilograms/62 pounds) to 2025 (16 kilograms/35 pounds). Figure 12 presents the heroin seized by Midwest HIDTA initiatives between 2021 and 2025.

Figure 12. Heroin Seizures by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives, 2021-2025. ⁷



C. Use

The Midwest HIDTA assesses the level of heroin use in the region as moderate, as indicated by 43 percent of law enforcement initiatives. Thirty-three percent of public health respondents noted that heroin admissions decreased in their areas. Heroin is often combined with fentanyl and other drugs. It can be difficult to source heroin without fentanyl within the Midwest HIDTA region as fentanyl has essentially supplanted the traditional heroin markets.

Based on the TEDS data in Table 16, the number of admissions to drug treatment facilities for a substance use disorder involving heroin, decreased by over 70 percent in four of the six Midwest HIDTA states from 2020 to 2024. The exceptions being Iowa and South Dakota, which decreased 29 percent and 40 percent respectively from 2020 to 2024.

Table 16. Treatment Episode Data Sets – Heroin ⁸

Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)						
Heroin						
	Iowa	Kansas	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	South Dakota
2020	1,051	268	4,173	151	132	151
2021	916	478	3,517	97	146	143
2022	721	375	2,739	62	50	91
2023	711	251	2,526	36	48	74
2024	747	76	940	41	36	90
*SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through December 31, 2025.						

D. Price

The price of heroin varies significantly throughout the Midwest HIDTA region. There was a decrease in the heroin buys within the Midwest HIDTA region, demonstrating a decrease in availability of the drug which is supported by survey responses and seizures. The price per unit of measurement for heroin is listed in Table 17 below.

Table 17. 2025 Drug Pricing Data– Heroin ⁹

Unit of Measurement	Heroin	
	Range	Average
Ounce	\$1,100-\$4,000	\$2,775

E. Production

The Midwest HIDTA assesses that most of the region’s heroin supply is cultivated outside of the region, primarily within Mexico and South America. Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives have reported a consistent decrease in heroin seizures in recent years, coinciding with an increase in fentanyl seizures, reinforcing the theory that Mexican DTOs shifted their focus from heroin cultivation to fentanyl production.

F. Transportation

Heroin is primarily transported into the area via private passenger vehicles.⁶

G. Intelligence Gaps

- What is the demand for unadulterated heroin within the Midwest HIDTA region?

9. New Psychoactive Substances

A. Overview

The most abused new psychoactive substances (NPSs) in the Midwest HIDTA region are synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, and synthetic phenethylamines. NPSs are a class of synthetic substances that mimic the effects of established illicit drugs. Often referred to as “designer drugs,” NPSs have no legitimate industrial or medical uses. Synthetic cannabinoids are typically sprayed onto plant matter or suspended into a liquid and smoked, which are intended to simulate the effects of marijuana. Synthetic cathinones normally reside in powder or crystal form, are either swallowed or insufflated (“snorted”), and are intended to mimic the effects of stimulants. The synthetic phenethylamine drug class possess entactogenic, hallucinogenic, and/or stimulant properties and represent the largest category of designer drugs.

B. Availability

Midwest HIDTA assesses NPS availability as moderate. Debuting in the late 2000s, NPSs were designed to mimic the effects of marijuana, stimulants, and hallucinogens and were most popular among young adults. Although still not as prevalent as they once were, NPSs are still available and are still a threat to the Midwest HIDTA region. According to 41 percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives, NPS availability was moderate. Midwest HIDTA initiatives seized 1.3 kilograms (3 pounds) of NPS’ in 2025, a 19 percent decrease from 2024.

C. Use

Thirty-eight percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives reported moderate levels, while 31 percent reported low levels of NPS use. While NPSs were not a primary contributor to violence and property crimes in the Midwest HIDTA region, some of these drugs have been linked to assaults, erratic behavior which can result in property damage, and overdoses in the region, especially in jails and prisons.²⁶ Of the public health respondents that operate a drug treatment program, 17 percent reported that NPS admissions had decreased over the past 12 months while 83 percent of respondents reported unknown/not applicable.

D. Price

The Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives reported no pricing for NPS in 2025. Sales of NPS are most prevalent online and vary in price, depending on the formulation and batch purity.

E. Production

There were no reports of NPS production within Midwest HIDTA in 2025. Synthetic cannabinoids are typically produced in foreign laboratories and are purchased by individuals in the U.S. These individuals then spray leafy plant matter or paper with the synthetic cannabinoid solution and package the product. Synthetic cathinones and phenethylamines are often produced

in Chinese laboratories where suppliers misrepresent the drug's intended purpose, often describing the drugs as "research chemicals" to pass inspection by CBP.

The chemical blueprints and recipes for many NPSs are catalogued in scientific and patent literature. Many of these substances were originally created to be used in medicine but were abandoned after they failed to meet medical standards. Except for phenethylamines, the relative ease of NPS production is possible by the availability of chemical blueprints on the internet. Once an NPS is scheduled as a controlled substance in the U.S. or any other major market, manufacturers will modify the molecular structure of that chemical to avoid legal penalty. This creates significant challenges for the law enforcement agencies investigating the distribution of these products.

F. Transportation

The USPS and other mailing services are the most common methods used to ship NPSs into the Midwest HIDTA region. Semi-trailer trucks and other commercial vehicles are also used to transport NPSs to retailers that offer NPS products.

G. Intelligence Gaps

- What is the true extent of NPS trafficking in the Midwest HIDTA region?
- What are the factors for the decrease in the number of synthetic cannabinoids seized in 2025?

10. Source Considerations

Several sources were considered in the preparation of the drug threat section of the 2026 Midwest HIDTA Threat Assessment. Statistics from the Midwest HIDTA PMP aided the section by quantifying the volume, type, and prices of drugs seized. Survey responses from our law enforcement initiatives and public health partners via the 2026 LES and PHS identified the drugs most used and abused in the region. Data collected from SAMHSA's TEDS illustrated the number of individuals seeking treatment for various substance use disorders. Drug and asset seizure data collected by the Midwest HIDTA's Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) program allowed for the identification of source states and transportation methods for different drug categories and cash seizures. Open-source data provided by CBP illustrated the number of drugs seized, by category, at different ports of entry along the U.S border. Anecdotal information such as HIDTA task force phone interviews, news media reports, law enforcement agency websites, and official press releases proved useful in highlighting specific drug threat issues.

V. Drug Trafficking Organizations

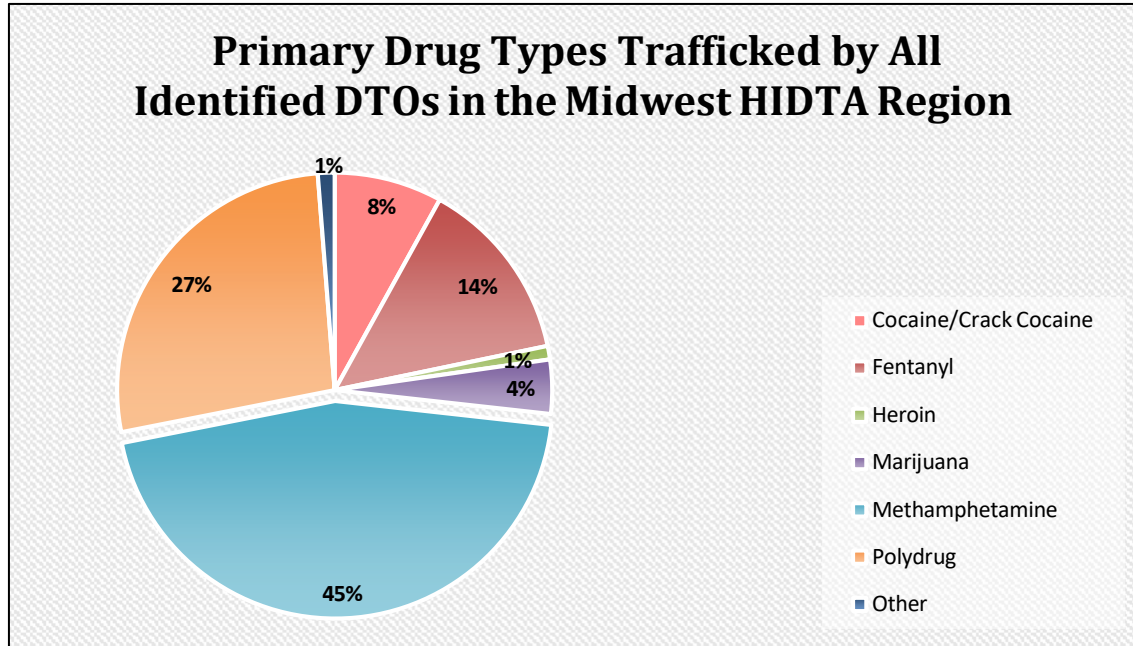
1. Overview of All Drug Trafficking Organizations

Midwest HIDTA enforcement initiatives documented 947 DTOs operating within the region in 2025, with 8,818 members and 1,265 leaders identified.²⁷ Mexico-sourced DTOs continue to have the most significant impact in the region. The average identified membership of a DTO was approximately nine individuals; of which, eight were members and one held a leadership role. Midwest HIDTA-based DTOs operate in both urban and rural areas and vary in terms of size, structure, and trafficking activities. Approximately 28 percent of LES respondents noted the movement of large metropolitan gangs (e.g. Gangster Disciples, Latin Kings) from major cities into smaller more rural areas.

However, neighborhood-based street gangs dominate violence related to drug trafficking in most areas of the Midwest HIDTA region. These groups, which are comprised of individuals that reside on a shared street or locality, are difficult to identify because they lack the traditional hierarchy associated with nationally affiliated gangs and frequently disband and regroup. Twenty-two percent of DTOs identified in the Midwest HIDTA region were associated with gangs, whether local street, national street, or outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs). Thirty-five percent of the DTOs identified by Midwest HIDTA initiatives in Missouri were gang-related, the highest percentage for any state in the region.

Polydrug DTOs account for about 27 percent of DTOs, and methamphetamine constitutes the majority of single-drug DTOs operating in the Midwest HIDTA region. Missouri contains both the largest population and the most initiatives of any state in the Midwest HIDTA region. As such, Missouri reported more methamphetamine trafficking organizations than any other state, accounting for approximately 28 percent of all methamphetamine trafficking organizations. Missouri also identified the highest percentage of fentanyl (39 percent) and cocaine (37 percent) trafficking organizations operating in the region. Figure 13 depicts the primary drug types trafficked by all DTOs within the Midwest HIDTA region in 2025.

Figure 13. Primary Drug Types Trafficked by All DTOs Identified as Operating in the Midwest HIDTA Region. ²⁷



Of the 947 DTOs operating within the Midwest HIDTA region, 12 percent were international in scope, 53 percent were multi-state, and 35 percent were local. Appendix VII summarizes key characteristics of all identified DTOs in 2025, while Appendix VIII includes a summary table for DTOs identified as operating in each state of the Midwest HIDTA region. According to 2025 data from the PMP, 39 percent of all DTOs identified by Midwest HIDTA initiatives were identified as being violent, posing a significant threat throughout the region. Fifty-eight percent of international DTOs operating in the Midwest HIDTA region were identified as being violent, compared to 37 percent of multi-state and approximately 36 percent of local DTOs. A state-by-state review of violent DTOs identified by Midwest HIDTA initiatives may be found in Table 18.

Table 18. Violent DTOs Identified by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives. ²⁷

Violent DTOs identified by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives			
	Total DTOs	Violent DTOs	Violent DTOs (%)
Illinois*	84	11	13%
Iowa	165	26	16%
Kansas	80	37	46%
Missouri	308	181	59%
Nebraska	145	74	51%
North Dakota	113	29	26%
South Dakota	105	19	18%
All Initiatives	947	370	39%

*This data only originated from the three Midwest HIDTA counties and two Midwest HIDTA initiatives in Illinois

This year's Midwest HIDTA state with the highest percentage of violent DTOs was Missouri (59 percent), which was lower than their percentage in 2021 (64 percent). Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota experienced an increase in the percentage of violent DTOs within their borders from 2021, which may be found in table 19. Illinois saw a decrease in the reported percentage of violent DTOs between 2021 to 2025.

Table 19. Percentage of Violent DTOs Identified by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives in 2021 & 2025 ²⁷

Percentage of Violent DTOs Identified by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives in 2021 & 2025		
	2021	2025
Illinois*	22%	13%
Iowa	16%	16%
Kansas	41%	46%
Missouri	64%	59%
Nebraska	33%	51%
North Dakota	21%	26%
South Dakota	14%	18%
All Initiatives	41%	39%

*This data only originated from the Midwest HIDTA counties and Midwest HIDTA initiatives represented in Illinois during the respective years.

Fifty-three percent of all DTOs classified as violent were also classified as gang-related, indicating a direct correlation between gangs and violence in the region. Missouri was the Midwest HIDTA state that had that highest percentage of violent, gang-related DTOs identified. Gang-related DTOs identified in Midwest HIDTA were highly indicated as being violent with 94 percent in the region being gang-related and violent.

DTOs in the Midwest HIDTA region utilize novel technologies to facilitate communication, obtain payment, and monitor the locations of their drug couriers in real-time. These platforms include the dark web, social media, portable GPS systems, and encrypted messaging applications (apps) available through mobile devices. Many of the apps utilized by DTOs in the region have now implemented end-to-end encryption. Apps with end-to-end encryption, such as WhatsApp, provide an investigative hurdle to law enforcement due to the encryption aspect inherent in their infrastructure. Apps identified by Midwest HIDTA initiatives as being most utilized in the region include Facebook messenger, WhatsApp, Snapchat, and Signal. Cryptocurrency, sometimes concurrent with dark web use, is used by some DTOs to transfer drug proceeds into and outside of the Midwest HIDTA region.⁶ The use of complex technology by DTOs in the region is expected to continue to increase in the future.

2. International Drug Trafficking Organizations

A. Overview

A total of 112 international DTOs were identified as operating in the Midwest HIDTA region in 2025, with 178 leaders and 1,222 members. Table 20 lists the characteristics of international DTOs identified by Midwest HIDTA initiatives in 2025. Mexico was the primary country affiliated with the identified international DTOs. On average, there were 12 members per international DTO. Approximately 30 percent of the international DTOs trafficked more than one drug type.²⁷

Table 20. International DTOs Identified as Operating in the Midwest HIDTA.²⁷

International DTOs Identified by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives	
Characteristics	
Total International DTOs	112
- Mexico	98
Total Members (Leaders)	1,222 (178)
Average DTO Size	12.5
Gang Related	56
Violent	65
Cartel Affiliated	33
Polydrug	33
Money Laundering	0
Federal Case Designations ¹	
OCDETF	18
CPOT	7
RPOT	4

B. Affiliations and Membership

The Sinaloa Cartel and New Generation Jalisco Cartel (CJNG) exert the most influence over Mexican DTOs operating within Midwest HIDTA. PMP data indicates that 88 percent of international DTOs that operated within the Midwest HIDTA region in 2024 were linked to Mexico. Similarly, 87 percent of Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives indicated that international DTOs operated within their AORs. Of those same respondents, 97 percent listed Mexico as the primary country affiliated with those DTOs.

With their larger scope of operations, international DTOs generally have higher average numbers of identified membership than multi-state or local DTOs. The targeted disruption and dismantlement of international DTOs require a high level of cooperation and coordination amongst HIDTA initiatives, law enforcement task forces, and law enforcement agencies.

¹ OCDETF – Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force; CPOT – Consolidated Priority Organization Target; RPOT – Regional Priority Organization Target

Thus, investigations targeting the illicit activities of international DTOs often result in a larger number of identified DTO members and leaders. International DTOs operating within the Midwest HIDTA region had an average of approximately 13 identified members in 2025, which is larger than that of multi-state (10) or local DTOs (10).

Approximately 58 percent of international DTOs operating in the Midwest HIDTA region were described as violent. According to law enforcement initiatives, violence associated to international DTOs operating in the region is directly related to their associations with violent Mexico-based drug cartels and gangs. Mexican cartels have significant influence over the region's drug trafficking activities. The Sinaloa cartel is the most prevalent cartel in the region and is involved in international, multi-state, and local DTOs. The Sinaloa cartel, along with the CJNG, are the main sources of supply for illicit drugs for the United States and for the Midwest HIDTA region.^{10 6}

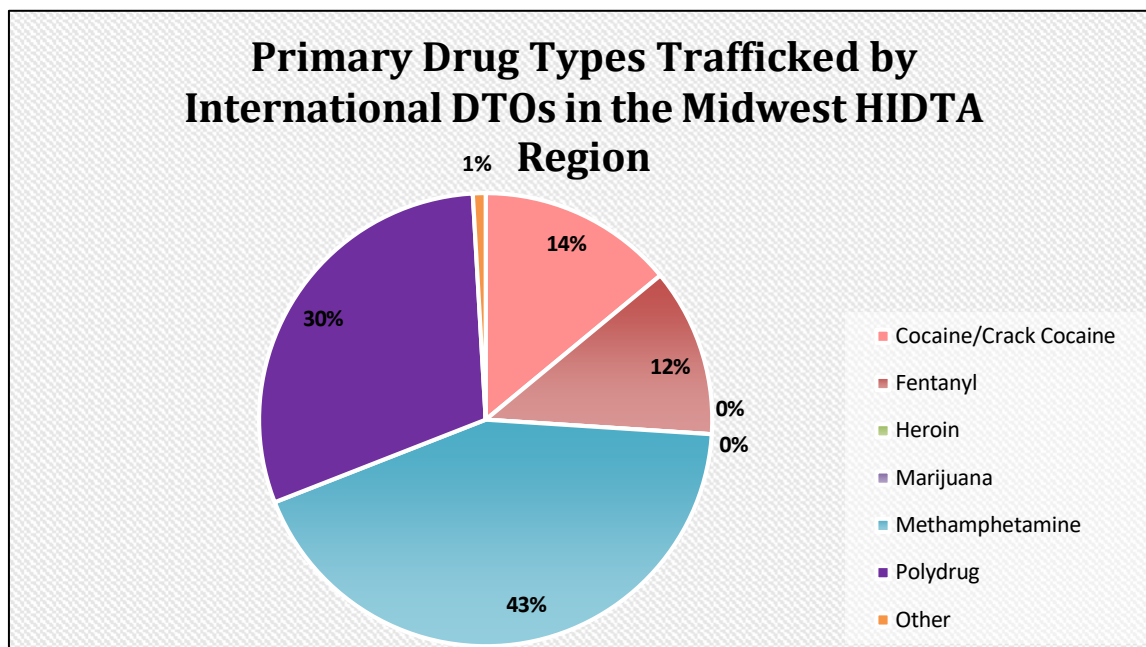
In addition to Mexican cartels, 50 percent of international DTOs within the Midwest HIDTA region have documented affiliations with gangs.²⁷ The Latin Kings, Sureños, and the Aryan Brotherhood street gangs have all been identified by law enforcement initiatives as participating in drug trafficking activities with international DTOs in the Midwest region. The Hells Angels were the predominant OMG identified by initiatives as coordinating drug trafficking activities with international DTOs in the region, while the Mongols, Banditos, Vagos, and Galloping Goose were also reported as operating in the Midwest HIDTA region.⁶

C. Activities and Methods

Seventy-five percent of the Midwest HIDTA region's international DTOs engaged in money laundering activities, according to law enforcement initiatives. International DTOs in the region utilized money remittances, casinos, and online payment systems (e.g. Cash App, PayPal, Venmo) to transfer drug proceeds. Law enforcement initiatives indicated that international DTOs utilized bulk cash smuggling 81 percent (50 percent "high" usage/31 percent "moderate" usage) and 68 utilized money remittances (34 percent "high" usage/34 percent "moderate" usage) to return drug proceeds to the source of supply.

Approximately 30 percent of all international DTOs within the Midwest HIDTA region were polydrug trafficking organizations. Most polydrug DTOs trafficked methamphetamine and/or fentanyl. Forty-three percent of single drug international DTOs trafficked methamphetamine. Other primary drug types trafficked by international DTOs include cocaine (14 percent) and fentanyl (12 percent). Figure 14 shows the primary drug types trafficked by international DTOs identified as operating in the Midwest HIDTA region.

Figure 14. Primary Drug Types Trafficked by International DTOs Identified as Operating in the Midwest HIDTA Region.²⁷



3. Multi-State Drug Trafficking Organizations

A. Overview

Multi-state DTOs are the most common DTO type encountered by Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives. A total of 506 multi-state DTOs were identified as operating in the Midwest HIDTA region in 2025. Twenty percent of multi-state DTOs were linked to California, the state most affiliated with multi-state DTOs. Illinois, Arizona, Colorado, Texas and Minnesota were the other states most closely tied to multi-state DTOs in the region. Midwest HIDTA initiatives identified 664 leaders and 4,762 other members. According to 92 percent of law enforcement initiatives, at least one multi-state DTO within their AOR had a connection to a Mexican cartel. This connection typically involves the use of a cartel member as a source of supply.⁶ Table 21 shows the characteristics of multi-state DTOs identified as operating in the Midwest HIDTA region in 2025.

Table 21. Multi-State DTOs Identified as Operating in the Midwest HIDTA Region.²⁷

Multi-State DTOs Identified by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives	
Characteristics	
Total Multi-State DTOs	506
- California	102
- Illinois	93
- Arizona	52
- Colorado	51
- Texas	36
- Minnesota	36
Total Members (Leaders)	4,762 (664)
Average DTO Size	10.72
Gang Related	94
Violent	182
Cartel Affiliated	27
Polydrug	143
Money Laundering	1
Federal Case Designations	
OCDETF	50
CPOT	6
RPOT	2

B. Affiliations and Membership

Multi-state DTOs in the Midwest HIDTA region have an average of 10 members per organization, including one leader and nine additional members, just higher than local DTOs. This is slightly smaller than the average identified membership of international DTOs that operate within the region. PMP data states that 36 percent of multi-state DTOs in the Midwest HIDTA

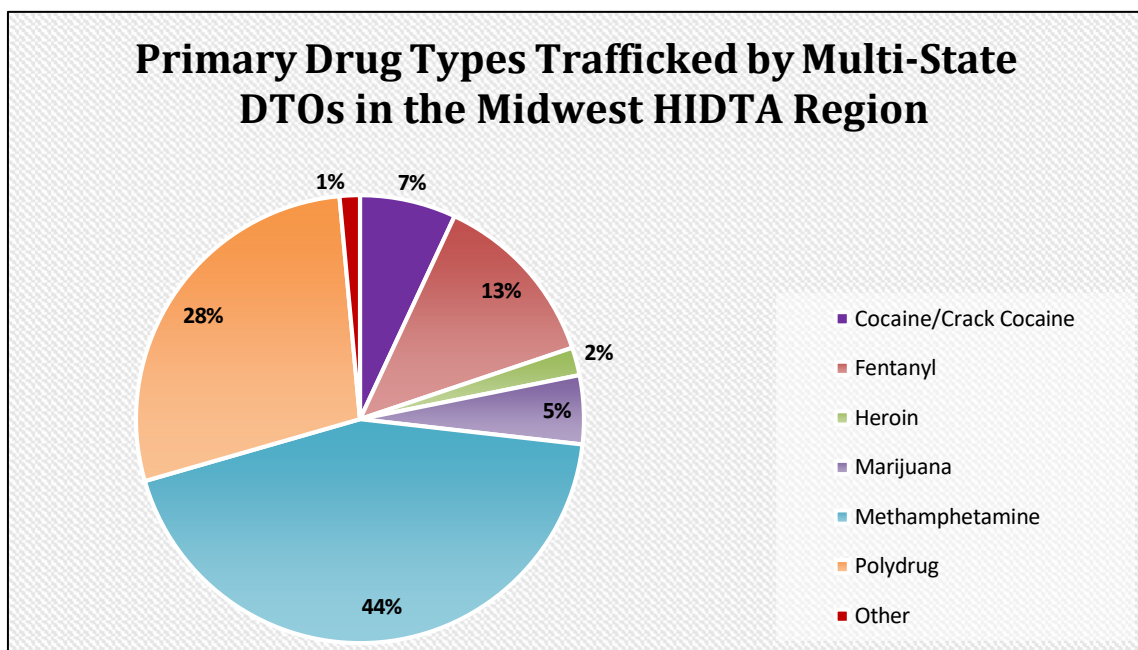
region were identified as violent and that 20 percent have connections to gangs. According to law enforcement initiatives, multi-state DTOs operating within the region are linked to nationally affiliated street gangs, including the Bloods, Crips, Gangster Disciples, and the Aryan Brotherhood. They are also linked to OMGs not previously reported in association with international DTOs, specifically the Sons of Silence, Defiant Souls, Sin City Disciples, Chosen Few, Flatlanders, and Midwest Drifters.⁶

C. Activities and Methods

Approximately 77 percent of law enforcement initiatives reported that multi-state DTOs within their AOR conducted money laundering activities. Similar to international DTOs, multi-state DTOs in the Midwest HIDTA region utilize money remittances, and online payment systems. Forty-six percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives indicated multi-state DTOs in their AORs use money remittances and approximately 50 percent used online payment systems. According to the initiatives, the most common methods utilized to return drug proceeds to the source by multi-state DTOs was through bulk cash smuggling (55 percent) and online payment systems (48 percent).

Twenty-eight percent of multi-state DTOs operating in the region were identified as polydrug trafficking organizations. Methamphetamine trafficking organizations account for 44 percent of multi-state DTOs operating in the Midwest HIDTA region, the highest percentage of any drug type. Other primary drug types trafficked by multi-state DTOs operating in the region were fentanyl (13 percent), cocaine (7 percent), and marijuana (5 percent). Multi-state DTOs are responsible for more marijuana trafficking than any other DTO category. Most of the marijuana in the Midwest HIDTA region is transported in from Western states with recreational and medical marijuana programs (e.g. California, Colorado, Oklahoma) but that will potentially shift with Midwest HIDTA states having their own state-approved marijuana markets. Figure 15 shows the primary drug types trafficked by multi-state DTOs identified as operating in the Midwest HIDTA region.

Figure 15. Primary Drug Types Trafficked by Multi-State DTOs Identified as Operating in the Midwest HIDTA Region.²⁷



4. Local Drug Trafficking Organizations

A. Overview

Local DTOs were the second most encountered DTO type encountered by Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives, behind multi-state DTOs. A total of 329 local DTOs were identified as operating in the Midwest HIDTA region in 2025. Of the local DTOs, Midwest HIDTA initiatives identified 423 leaders and 2,834 members. Table 22 lists the traits of local DTOs within the Midwest HIDTA region in 2025.

Table 22. Local DTOs Identified as Operating in the Midwest HIDTA Region.²⁷

Local DTOs Identified by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives	
Characteristics	
Total Local DTOs	329
Total Members (Leaders)	2,834 (423)
Average DTO Size	9.90
Gang Related	60
Violent	123
Cartel Affiliated	5
Polydrug	75
Money Laundering	1
Federal Case Designations	
OCDTF	24
CPOT	2
RPOT	0

B. Affiliations and Membership

Local DTOs operate within each state of the Midwest HIDTA region. One hundred percent of law enforcement initiatives indicated that local DTOs were operating within their AORs. Midwest HIDTA initiatives identified 2,834 members and 423 leaders belonging to local DTOs, with an average of 10 members per organization.

More than half (60 percent) of Midwest HIDTA initiatives reported that local DTOs within their AOR were affiliated with Mexican drug cartels. The Sinaloa Cartel and the CNJG were the most cited Mexican cartels affiliated with local DTOs.

According to data from the PMP, approximately 37 percent of local DTOs operating in the Midwest HIDTA region were identified as violent. Approximately 20 percent of local DTOs had connections to street and OMGs. According to law enforcement initiatives, local DTOs coordinated criminal activities with nationally affiliated street gangs such as the Bloods and Crips. Furthermore, many local DTOs collaborate with local street gangs that have no national affiliation. Law enforcement survey data indicates that neighborhood-based street gangs are responsible for more drug trafficking and violence than nationally affiliated street gangs. Some nationally

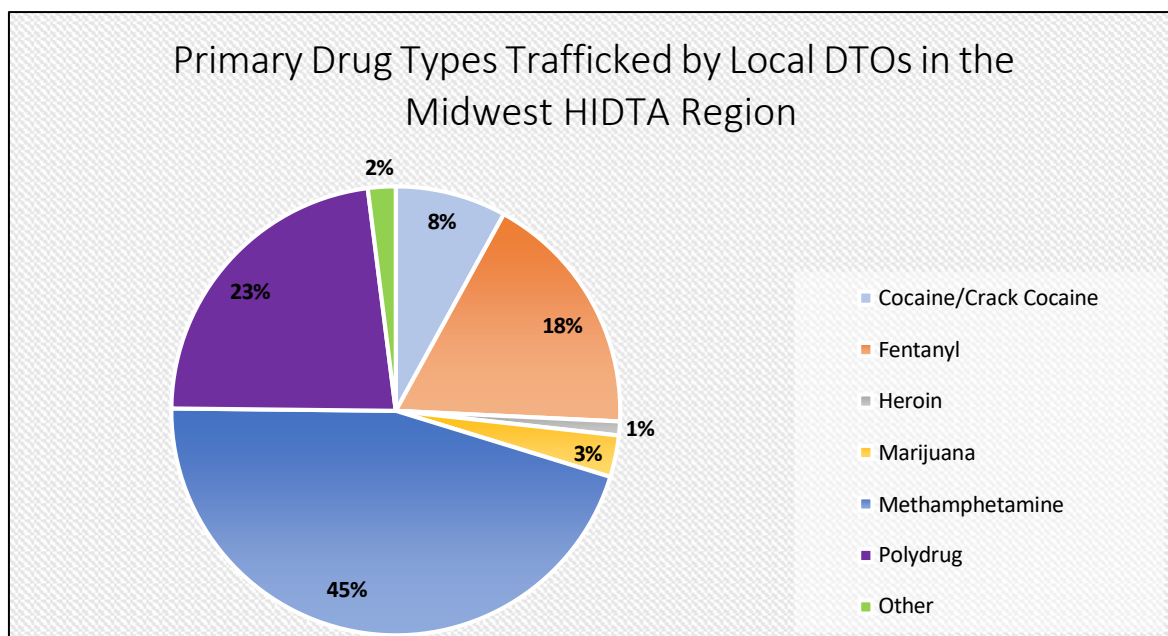
affiliated street gangs associated with local DTOs include the Bloods, Crips, and Florencia 13.⁶ They are also linked to OMGs not previously reported in association with international or multi-state DTOs, specifically the El Foresteros, Pharaohs, Invaders, Road Rage, Statesmen, Los Diablos, Hells Lovers and Saddle Tramps.⁶

C. Activities and Methods

Seventy percent of LES respondents stated that local DTOs within their AORs engaged in money laundering activities. Online payment systems (85 percent), banking systems (73 percent) and casinos (62 percent) were the top methods utilized by local DTOs. Initiatives indicated local DTOs primarily utilize online payments systems (approximately 78 percent) and bulk cash smuggling (approximately 84 percent) to return the drug proceeds to the source of supply. These percentages were based on those responses who ranked their usage as “high” and “moderate.”

Methamphetamine trafficking organizations accounted for 45 percent of local DTOs operating in the Midwest HIDTA region. Twenty-three percent of local DTOs were identified by Midwest HIDTA initiatives as polydrug trafficking organizations. Other primary drug types trafficked by local DTOs include fentanyl (18 percent), cocaine/crack (8 percent), marijuana (3 percent), and heroin (1 percent). Figure 16 shows the primary drug types trafficked by local DTOs identified as operating in the Midwest HIDTA region.

Figure 16. Primary Drug Types Trafficked by Local DTOs Identified as Operating in the Midwest HIDTA Region.²⁷



5. Tren de Aragua

The Midwest HIDTA region queried the Midwest HIDTA initiatives about the presence of Tren de Aragua (TdA), a gang that started in a Venezuelan prison in 2014. The TdA spread its power and influence to other countries including Colombia, Peru and Chile. The gang has been linked to drug smuggling, human trafficking, and extortion rackets. In February 2025, TdA was designated as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) by U.S. State Department.²⁸ Fifty-eight percent of Midwest HIDTA initiatives responded negatively to the presence of TdA members in their AOR as part of a DTO, while 6 percent indicated they were present, and 36 percent stated their presence was unknown. Due to their status as an FTO, activity by TdA will continue to be monitored by the Midwest HIDTA.

6. Intelligence Gaps

- What methods and recruitment strategies do local DTOs use in order to recruit drivers to transport drugs?
- What is the true extent of cartel associations to Midwest HIDTA-based DTOs?
- Beyond acting as the source of supply, how involved are Mexico-associated DTOs with street gangs and OMGs in the Midwest HIDTA region?

7. Source Considerations

There were several sources consulted in the development of the DTO section of the 2026 Midwest HIDTA Threat Assessment. These sources include Midwest HIDTA PMP data, law enforcement initiative responses to the 2026 LES, and the DEA's 2025 National Drug Threat Assessment.

VI. Money Laundering Organizations

A. Overview of All Money Laundering Organizations

Two money laundering organizations (MLOs), one local and one multi-state, were identified within the Midwest HIDTA region in 2025, according to PMP data. Most DTOs operating in the Midwest HIDTA region conduct their own money laundering activities without the use of separate and distinct MLOs. Of those participating in the LES, only one reported an MLO independent of a DTO existed within their AOR, and this MLO was described as international in scope.⁶

Business fronts, comingling of funds with legitimate businesses, conversion to cryptocurrency, prepaid cards (e.g., store, credit), and online payment systems (e.g., CashApp, PayPal, Venmo) were all indicated as being moderately used by the Midwest HIDTA-based MLO.

Table 23. Money Laundering Organizations Identified as Operating in the Midwest HIDTA Region.²⁷

Money Laundering Organizations Identified by Midwest HIDTA Initiatives			
Total Identified	International	Multi-State	Local
2	0	1	1

B. Affiliations and Membership

Mexico was the country affiliated with the international MLO according to the LES response. Law enforcement initiatives also indicated Columbia as being affiliated with international MLOs in their AOR. Initiatives reported that the international MLO was linked to the Mexico-based Sinaloa drug cartel. Midwest HIDTA initiatives reported a single multi-state MLO in PMP. Local MLOs were linked to Mexican cartels, both the CJNG and Sinaloa cartel, according to survey responses.

C. Activities and Methods

The utilization of the banking system is used more by MLOs than DTOs. The method is a quick withdrawal scheme where a member of the MLO deposits money in a bank branch in the Midwest HIDTA region then another member of the MLO withdrawals the money quickly from another state, usually a Southwest border state. Business fronts and conversion to cryptocurrency were both indicated to be more used by MLOs than DTOs in the Midwest HIDTA region.

D. Intelligence Gaps

- How prevalent is cryptocurrency use by MLOs within the Midwest HIDTA region?

- What is the true number of organizations within Midwest HIDTA whose sole purpose is to launder money?
- Are identified MLOs in reality engaged in drug trafficking or other criminal ventures?

E. Source Considerations

There were two sources consulted in the development of the MLO section of the 2026 Midwest HIDTA Threat Assessment. These sources are Midwest HIDTA PMP data and law enforcement initiative responses to the 2026 LES.

VII. Drug-Related Poisoning Deaths in the Midwest HIDTA Region

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) WONDER Data

Data collected from the CDC WONDER database illustrates that the Midwest HIDTA region experienced a 20.2 percent decrease in unintentional drug-related poisoning fatalities from 2023 to 2024. There was a 25.2 percent decrease (97,215 to 72,687) in unintentional drug poisoning deaths across the U.S. during the same period. States within the Midwest HIDTA region reported 2,474 unintentional drug poisoning deaths in 2024, down from 3,101 in 2023. Provisional data from the CDC WONDER database for 2025 currently shows 1,584 unintentional drug poisoning deaths for the region thus far. Due to incomplete information, lab results and validation are still pending, it is not possible to compare 2025 to previous years.²⁹

Midwest HIDTA utilized CDC WONDER data in this section due to poisoning death data reporting not being standardized across the Midwest HIDTA states, which makes it difficult to accurately compare one state to another. Table 24 shows the change in the number of drug poisoning deaths across the Midwest HIDTA region from 2023 to 2024 with provisional data for 2025.

Table 24. Drug Poisoning Deaths in the Midwest HIDTA Region, 2023 to 2025. ²⁹

Drug Poisoning Deaths in the Midwest HIDTA Region, 2023 to 2025*				
	2023	2024	2025 (Provisional)	Percent Change 2023 to 2024
Iowa	358	356	227	-0.6%
Kansas	553	504	350	-8.9%
Missouri	1,866	1,326	805	-28.9%
Nebraska	147	117	74	-20.4%
North Dakota	114	99	79	-13.2%
South Dakota	63	72	49	+14.3%
All Midwest HIDTA states**	3,101	2,474	1,584	-20.2%
*These numbers reflect ICD-10 Codes: T36-50 (drug poisoning) and X40-44 (unintentional overdose) **The sum of the poisoning deaths for specific drug categories may exceed the total poisoning deaths in this table as more than one drug may be present in a poisoning death case.				

Cocaine poisoning death data was not available for every state within the region and may be found in Table 25. As a result, the percentage change for 2023 and 2024 represents only the data for Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. All Midwest HIDTA states reported a decrease in cocaine-involved fatalities except for Kansas.

Table 25. Cocaine Poisoning Deaths in the Midwest HIDTA Region, 2023 to 2025. ²⁹

Cocaine Poisoning Deaths in the Midwest HIDTA Region, 2023 to 2025*				
	2023	2024	2025 (Provisional)	Percent Change 2023 to 2024
Iowa	35	35	28	0.0%
Kansas	71	74	51	+4.2%
Missouri	323	277	172	-14.2%
Nebraska	16	13	**	-18.8%
North Dakota	**	**	**	
South Dakota	**	**	**	
All Midwest HIDTA states	455	406	264	-10.8%
*These numbers reflect ICD-10 Codes T40.5 (cocaine) and X40-44 (unintentional overdose)				
**Data suppressed by CDC WONDER due to their being less than 10.				

Deaths involving psychostimulants declined overall in the Midwest HIDTA region, despite Iowa, Kansas, and South Dakota experiencing increases. Table 26 shows the change in psychostimulant poisoning deaths across the Midwest HIDTA region from 2023 to 2024 with provisional data for 2025.

Table 26. Psychostimulant Poisoning Deaths in the Midwest HIDTA Region, 2023 to 2025. ²⁹

Psychostimulant Poisoning Deaths in the Midwest HIDTA Region, 2023 to 2025*				
	2023	2024	2025 (Provisional)	Percent Change 2023 to 2024
Iowa	201	228	147	+13.4%
Kansas	249	251	184	+0.8%
Missouri	702	551	342	-21.5%
Nebraska	56	40	26	-28.6%
North Dakota	39	37	28	-5.1%
South Dakota	25	34	17	+36.0%
All Midwest HIDTA states	1,272	1,141	744	-10.3%
*These numbers reflect ICD-10 code T43.6 which includes Adderall (dextroamphetamine), Ritalin (methylphenidate), and other amphetamine-type stimulants (methamphetamine, etc.) and X40-44 (unintentional overdose)				

Opioid poisoning deaths for the entire Midwest HIDTA region decreased 31.2 percent from 2023 to 2024. The number of opioid poisoning deaths decreased in every Midwest HIDTA state except for South Dakota. Table 27 shows information on opioid poisoning deaths in the Midwest HIDTA region from 2023 to 2024 with provisional data for 2025.

Table 27. Opioid Poisoning Deaths in the Midwest HIDTA Region, 2023 to 2025. ²⁹

Opioid Poisoning Deaths in the Midwest HIDTA Region, 2023 to 2025*				
	2023	2024	2025 (Provisional)	Percent Change 2023 to 2024
Iowa	210	152	83	-27.6%
Kansas	385	326	199	-15.3%
Missouri	1,415	883	498	-37.6%
Nebraska	72	51	32	-29.2%
North Dakota	93	70	61	-24.7%
South Dakota	30	36	24	+20.0%
All Midwest HIDTA states	2,205	1,518	897	-31.2%
*These numbers reflect ICD-10 codes X40-44 (unintentional overdose) and T40.0 (Opium), T40.1 (Heroin), T40.2 (Other Opioids), T40.3 (Methadone), T40.4 (Other Synthetic Narcotics), and T40.6 (Other and Unspecified Narcotics).				

Using the most recent CDC WONDER data, the Midwest HIDTA assesses that the regional drug poisoning deaths are primarily attributable to opioids and psychostimulant abuse. Opioids were linked to 61 percent of the poisoning deaths in 2024. Psychostimulants were linked to 46 percent of the poisoning deaths in 2024, some of which also included opioids. The increasing availability and potency of both psychostimulants and synthetic opioids in Midwest HIDTA has significantly contributed to both fatal and non-fatal poisoning statistics. Synthetic opioids continue to be mixed with other drugs, often unbeknownst to users, which increase the chance of poisoning.

2. Intelligence Gaps

- What impact has expanded naloxone availability had on reducing drug poisoning deaths in the Midwest HIDTA region?
- What effect has the increased availability of fentanyl in powder form had on the number of drug poisoning deaths in the Midwest HIDTA region?

3. Source Considerations

The drug-related poisoning mortality section relied upon one data source: the CDC WONDER dataset. The CDC WONDER dataset represents the most recent drug mortality data that Midwest HIDTA is able to access for each of its six states. This data is based on the location (state) of the occurrence and not the residence (state) of the decedent.

VIII. Outlook

The Midwest HIDTA region serves as an attractive area for drug trafficking and money laundering organizations because of its extensive transportation network, varied demographics, substantial population, and centralized geography. For these reasons, the Midwest HIDTA region serves as the principal transit corridor for drug trafficking between the east and west coasts of the United States. Midwest HIDTA, having herein presented the drug threat status in this region, provides its assessment of what is expected to occur within the next year:

- ❖ Fentanyl, marijuana, and methamphetamine will continue to be highly available in the Midwest HIDTA region.
- ❖ Cocaine will increase in availability, until it is highly available across the region.
- ❖ Fentanyl will continue to pose a significant threat to the region as it is still the greatest driver of drug poisoning deaths. Known adulterants, such as xylazine and medetomidine, and unknown adulterants are of ongoing concern in the Midwest HIDTA region, due to their impact on poisoning deaths in the region.
- ❖ Methamphetamine will continue to pose a significant threat, with its high levels of availability, demand, use, and transportation to and through the region. Low-cost, high potency methamphetamine transported from the Southwest Border will likely continue to saturate both rural and metropolitan drug markets. The level of violence and crime surrounding methamphetamine production, trafficking, and use will also remain a threat to both law enforcement and the public.
- ❖ Heroin and CPDs will remain threats in the region, despite their reduced and inconsistent seizure numbers, respectively.
- ❖ The availability, demand, use, and transportation of marijuana will increase as the medical marijuana programs in Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota, and the recreational marijuana programs of Illinois and Missouri mature. Midwest HIDTA will continue to see high levels of marijuana trafficking as more states loosen restrictions on marijuana.
- ❖ Mexico-based DTOs will remain the primary suppliers of fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and counterfeit prescription drugs. Mexican cartels and their affiliated DTOs will continue to expand their influence in the region's illicit drug trade as they increasingly control each stage of the drug distribution process.
- ❖ The use of mailing services by DTOs to smuggle illicit drugs will continue to increase as criminals realize the decreased risk of detection and anonymity this technique provides over traditional transportation methods.
- ❖ The use of encrypted mobile applications (e.g. WhatsApp, Signal) and social media platforms (e.g. Facebook Messenger, Snapchat) are frequently utilized by both DTOs and

MLOs and will continue to be utilized to avoid law enforcement interception of group communications.

- ❖ The mixing of opioids with other illicit drugs and the emergence of new psychoactive substances will continue to impact drug poisoning statistics in the Midwest HIDTA region.

IX. Appendices

Appendix I: Methodology

The 2026 Midwest HIDTA Threat Assessment addresses the current drug threat within the region. The Midwest HIDTA Investigative Support Center (ISC), the Kansas Intelligence and Information Exchange, The St. Louis Intelligence Group, the Omaha DEA Intelligence Group, and the Midwest HIDTA Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) team contributed to the preparation of the Threat Assessment. Both quantitative and qualitative data were utilized to complete the Threat Assessment. The Threat Assessment process began with the development of a Law Enforcement Survey and Public Health Survey. The surveys were created to assess the drug threat in the Midwest HIDTA region and to fulfill ONDCP annual reporting requirements. The LES was sent to all HIDTA enforcement and intelligence initiatives, while the PHS was sent to its public health partners across the Midwest region. Survey respondents completed the survey online. Respondents were asked to consider only their initiative's AORs when responding to survey questions. The results of the survey, combined with information from other data sources, were used to form the Midwest HIDTA Threat Assessment. Additional informational sources that were utilized to develop the Threat Assessment include: CDC WONDER data, DEA's *National Drug Threat Assessment*, PMP data, SAMHSA's TEDS dataset, CBP Seizure Data, and information from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The assessment of the drug threat in the Midwest HIDTA region was made while considering limitations of data sources utilized. For example, the survey was only disseminated to Midwest HIDTA enforcement and intelligence initiatives and may not represent the illicit drug threat outside of those areas represented by Midwest HIDTA initiatives. However, HIDTA initiatives have been established in areas of the region that are believed to have the greatest drug threats. Likewise, PMP data is obtained only from HIDTA initiatives. The public health survey is limited in that the information is from those that responded to the survey and may not be the complete picture of the region. Quantitative data reported in the Threat Assessment was obtained on the following dates: PMP (MLO-related information) – March 19, 2026; PMP (DTO-related information) – March 19, 2026; PMP (drug seizure-related information) – March 24, 2026. The information provided by these sources, though incomplete, provides an important perspective into Midwest HIDTA regional drug threats and any DTO/MLO presence in 2025. An explanation of primary sources utilized to develop the Threat Assessment is provided below.

Appendix II: Explanation of Sources

Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Performance Management Process (PMP) Data-

A component of the Executive Office of the President, ONDCP was created by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. ONDCP advises the President on drug-control issues, coordinates drug-control activities and related funding across the Federal government, and produces the annual National Drug Control Strategy, which outlines Administration efforts to reduce illicit drug use, manufacturing and trafficking, drug-related crime and violence, and drug-related health consequences. PMP data contains information related to drug seizures, drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), and money laundering organizations (MLOs) known to operate in the HIDTA region. At least quarterly, each HIDTA funded task force and HIDTA are required to update the PMP database with information regarding seizures of drugs and drug-related assets, as well as changes in the status of a DTO/MLO, including when a DTO/MLO has been disrupted or dismantled.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics Mortality

Data on CDC WONDER – This dataset is updated annually by the CDC. The data captures drug-specific poisoning death data using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Drug poisoning deaths are identified using underlying cause-of-death codes T36-T42 and T44-T50.

Midwest HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey (LES) – Annual Survey administered by the Midwest

HIDTA ISC and used to obtain information related to the various drug threats within the Midwest HIDTA region covering: specific threats, drug-related violence and crime, distribution, smuggling, money laundering, and drug trafficking organizations. Responses are collected from HIDTA funded task forces within the Midwest HIDTA region. There were 44 responses to this year's Midwest HIDTA Threat Assessment Survey. Appendix III lists the Midwest HIDTA initiatives who responded to the 2026 LES.

Midwest HIDTA Public Health Survey (PHS) – Midwest HIDTA ISC and Overdose Response

Strategy (ORS) teams developed and administered this survey to public health agencies throughout Midwest HIDTA to obtain information related to the various drug threats from a public health perspective in order to supplement LES data. There were 41 responses to this year's Midwest HIDTA PHS, listed in Appendix IV.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Drug Seizure Statistics – This data is publicly available

via CBP's public-facing website. This data represents the total weight of drug seizures interdicted at various ports of entry along the U.S. border. Drug seizure statistics are represented in pounds and may be refined using several filters.

Appendix III: Midwest HIDTA Initiatives

The following Midwest HIDTA initiatives received the 2026 LES and are grouped according to the state in which they are located. Those marked with an * participated in the 2026 LES.

Illinois

Drug and Crime Reduction Initiative of the Metro East (DCRIME)*
Quad Cities Metropolitan Enforcement Group

Iowa

Cedar Rapids DEA Task Force*
Des Moines DEA Task Force*
Iowa Interdiction Support
Muscatine Drug Task Force*
Tri-State Sioux City DEA Task Force*

Kansas

Garden City/Finney County Drug Task Force*
Kansas City/Overland Park DEA Task Force*
Kansas Intelligence and Information Exchange (KBI)
Kansas Interdiction Support*
Kansas Parcel Interdiction Task Force
Northeast Kansas Drug Task Force*
Topeka DEA Task Force*
Wichita DEA Task Force

Missouri

ATF Crime Gun Intelligence Center*
Cape Girardeau DEA Drug Task Force*
Franklin County Narcotics Enforcement Unit*
Jackson County Drug Task Force
Jefferson City DEA Task Force*
Jefferson County Municipal Enforcement Group*
Kansas City DEA Interdiction Task Force*
Kansas City DEA Northland Task Force*
Kansas City FBI Combined Task Force
Kansas City HSI Financial Task Force*
Kansas City, Missouri Metro Task Force*
Missouri Interdiction and Information Exchange*
Missouri State Highway Patrol – DHE*
Ozark Drug Enforcement Team (ODET)*
St. Charles County Drug Task Force*
St. Louis County Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Enforcement Task Force*
St. Louis DEA Intelligence Group*
St. Louis DEA Major Investigations/Conspiracy Group 37
St. Louis DEA Violent Traffickers Task Force*

St. Louis FBI Squad 5*
St Louis HSI Border Enforcement Task Force (BEST)*
Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force*
Springfield DEA Task Force*

Nebraska

C.O.D.E Task Force*
Greater Omaha Safe Streets Task Force*
Lincoln/Lancaster Drug Task Force
Nebraska Interdiction Support*
Omaha ATF Illegal Firearms Task Force*
Omaha DEA Drug Task Force*
Omaha Metro Drug Task Force*
TRIDENT (Tri-City Drug Enforcement Team) *
WING Drug Task Force*

North Dakota

Fargo DEA Task Force*
Grand Forks Narcotics Task Force*
Metro Area Narcotics Task Force*
North Dakota Interdiction*

South Dakota

Sioux Falls Task Force*
South Dakota Interdiction Support*
Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team (UNET)*

Appendix IV: 2026 Public Health Survey Participating Agencies

The following agencies/organizations participated in the 2026 Midwest HIDTA PHS and are grouped according to the state in which they are located.

Iowa

Cedar County Public Health	MADD
Clinton Substance Abuse Council (CSAC)	New Opportunities, Inc.
Dubuque County Public Health	North Fayette Valley Community Coalition
Employee And Family Resources	Polk County Public Health
Heartland Family Service	Scott County Public Health
Linn County Public Health	

Kansas

Kansas Overdose Response Strategy

Missouri

Audrain County Health Department	Jackson County Public Health
Burrell Behavioral Health/EPICC	New Madrid County Health Department
Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center	NKC Health
Central Ozarks Medical Centers	Phelps/Maries County Health Department
Clark County Health Department	Platte County Health Department
Columbia/Boone County Public Health & Human Services	Putnam County Health Department
Community Network for Behavioral Health Network, Inc.	Scotland County Health Department
Compass Health Network - EPICC	Springfield-Greene County Health Department
Cooper County Public Health Center	St. Clair County Health Department
CoxHealth	Texas County Health Department
Gibson Center for Behavioral Change	Vernon County Health Department
	Washington County Health Department

Nebraska

Nebraska Overdose Response Strategy

North Dakota

North Dakota Overdose Response Strategy

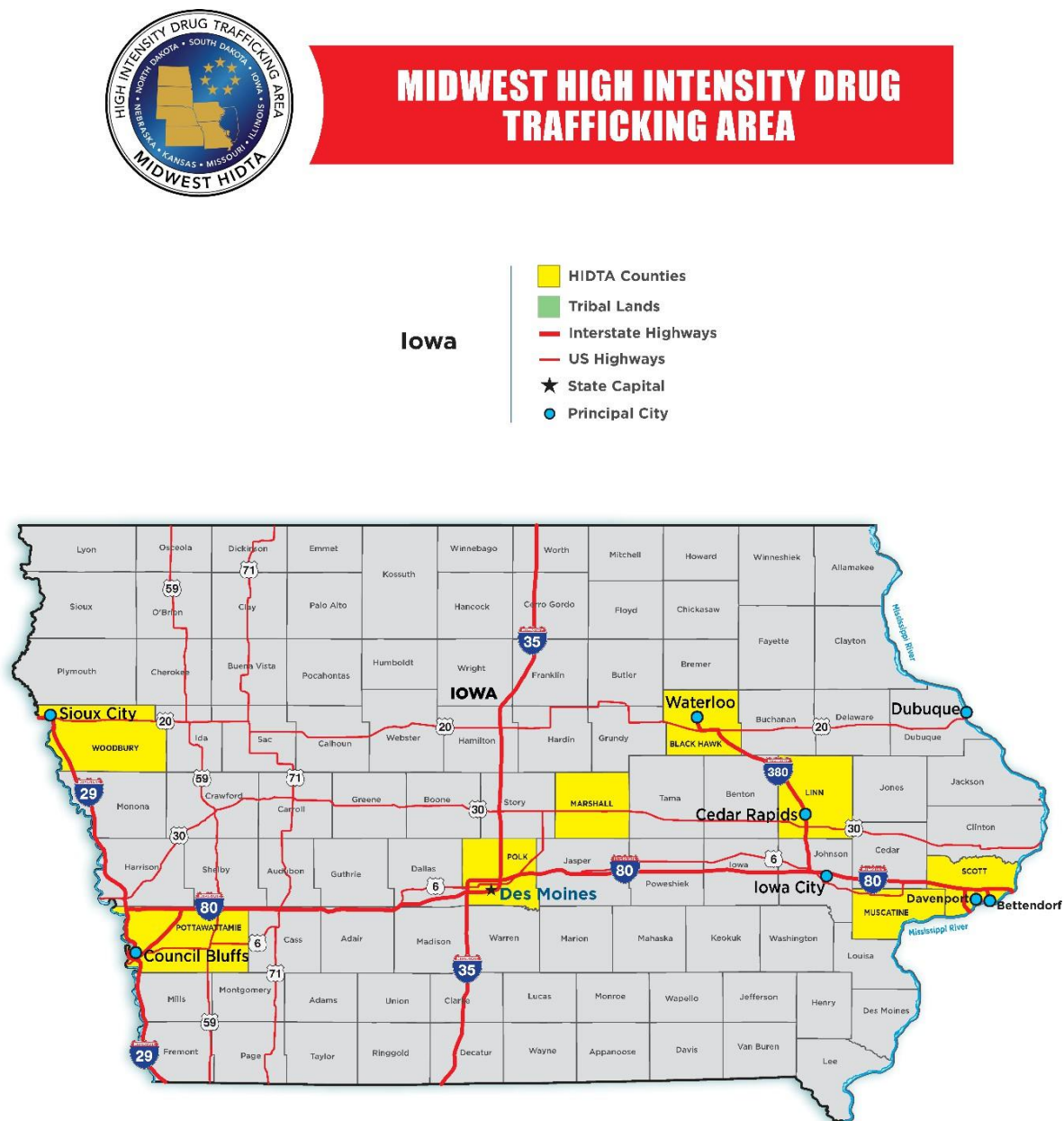
South Dakota

Human Service Agency NEPRC	Western Prevention Resource Center
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Appendix V: State Maps

Individual state maps may be found in the following figures: Iowa may be found in Figure 16, Kansas in Figure 17, Missouri in Figure 18, Nebraska in Figure 19, North Dakota in Figure 20, and South Dakota in Figure 21. Midwest HIDTA does not have a map for the three HIDTA-designated counties within Illinois. The maps include HIDTA designated counties, major highways and, in North Dakota's case, the ports of entries shared with Canada.

Figure 17: Detailed Map of Iowa Depicting HIDTA Designated Counties and Major Highway Systems.



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Figure 18. Detailed Map of Kansas Depicting HIDTA Designated Counties and Major Highway Systems.

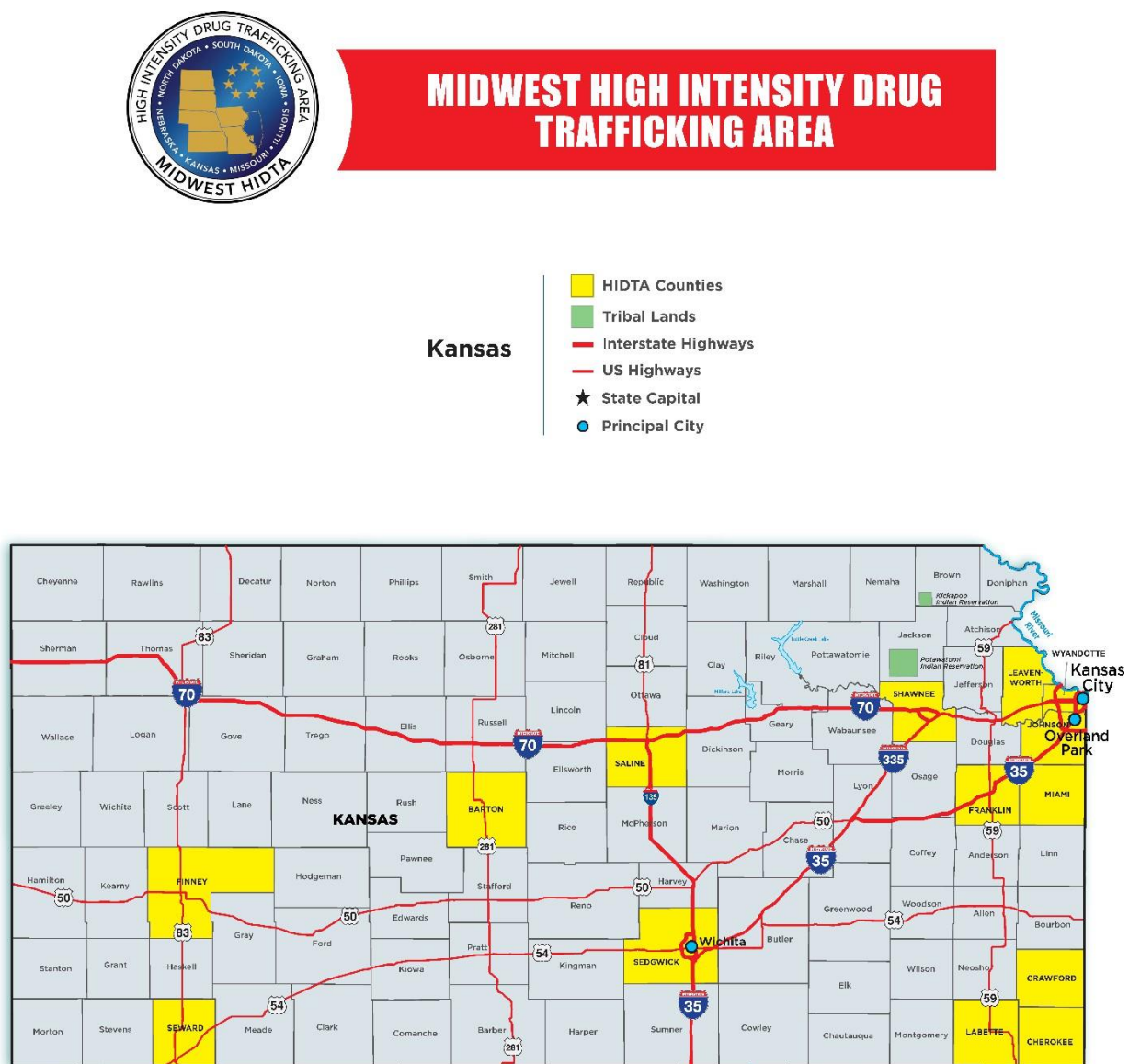
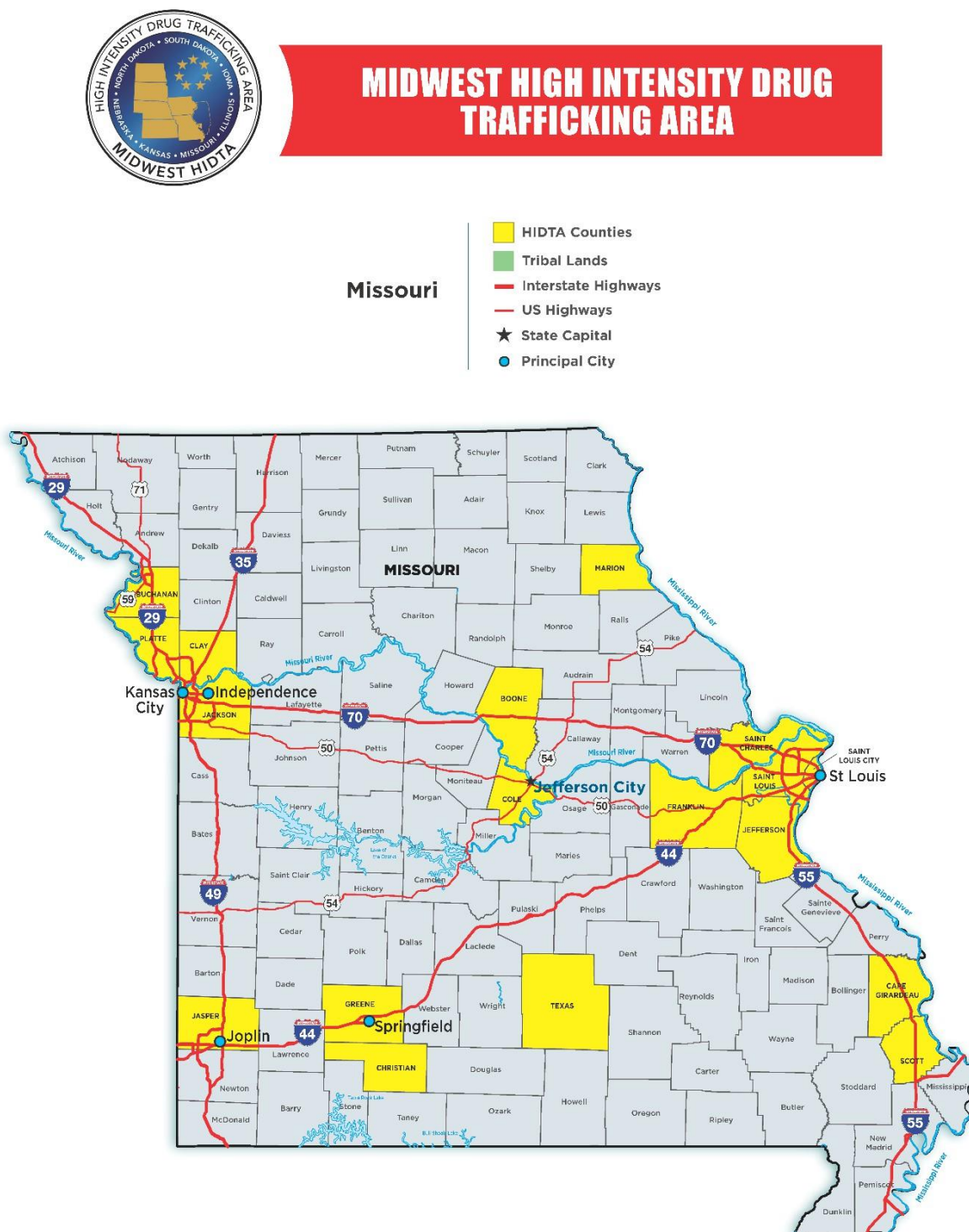
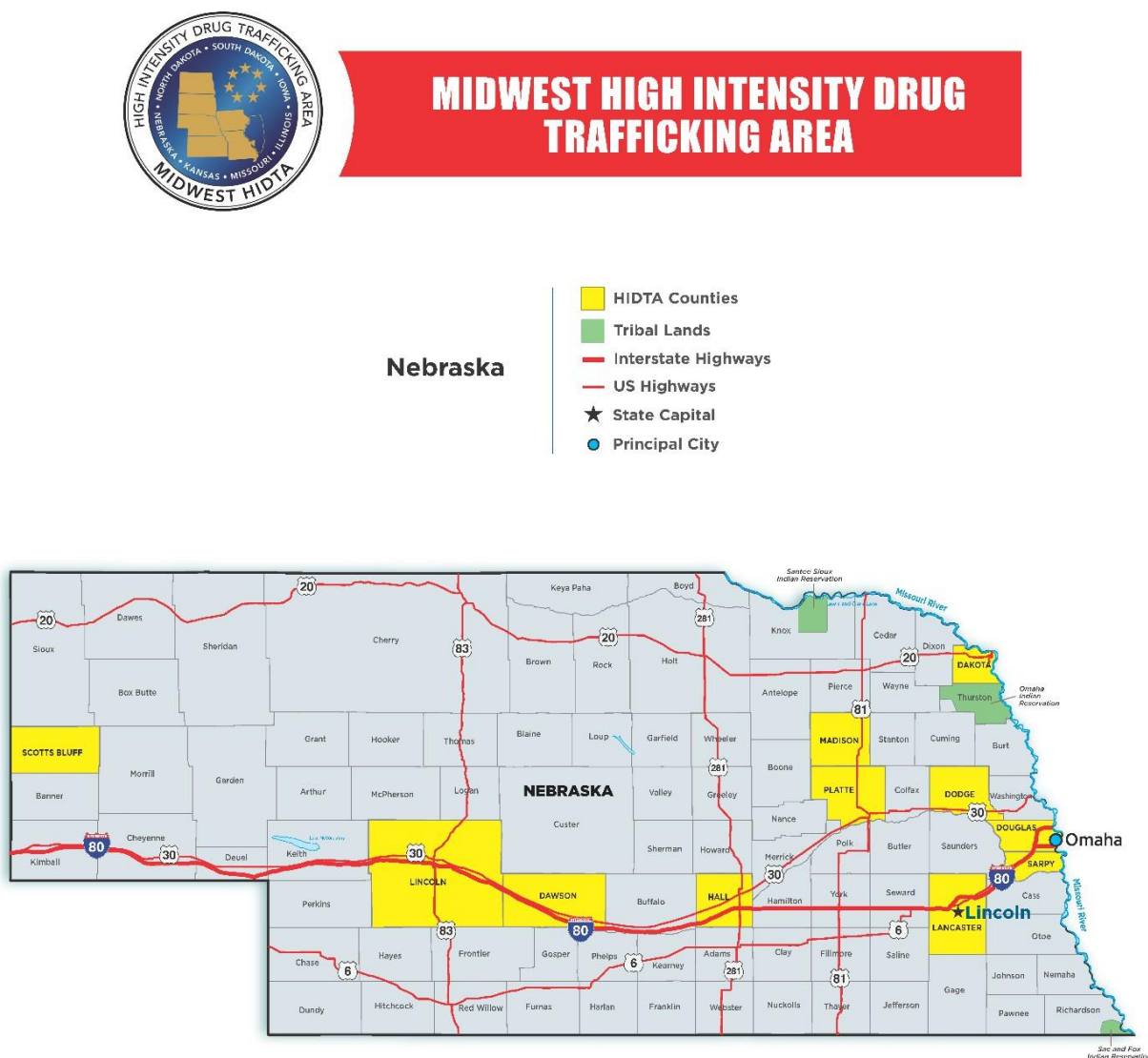


Figure 19. Detailed Map of Missouri Depicting HIDTA Designated Counties and Major Highway Systems.



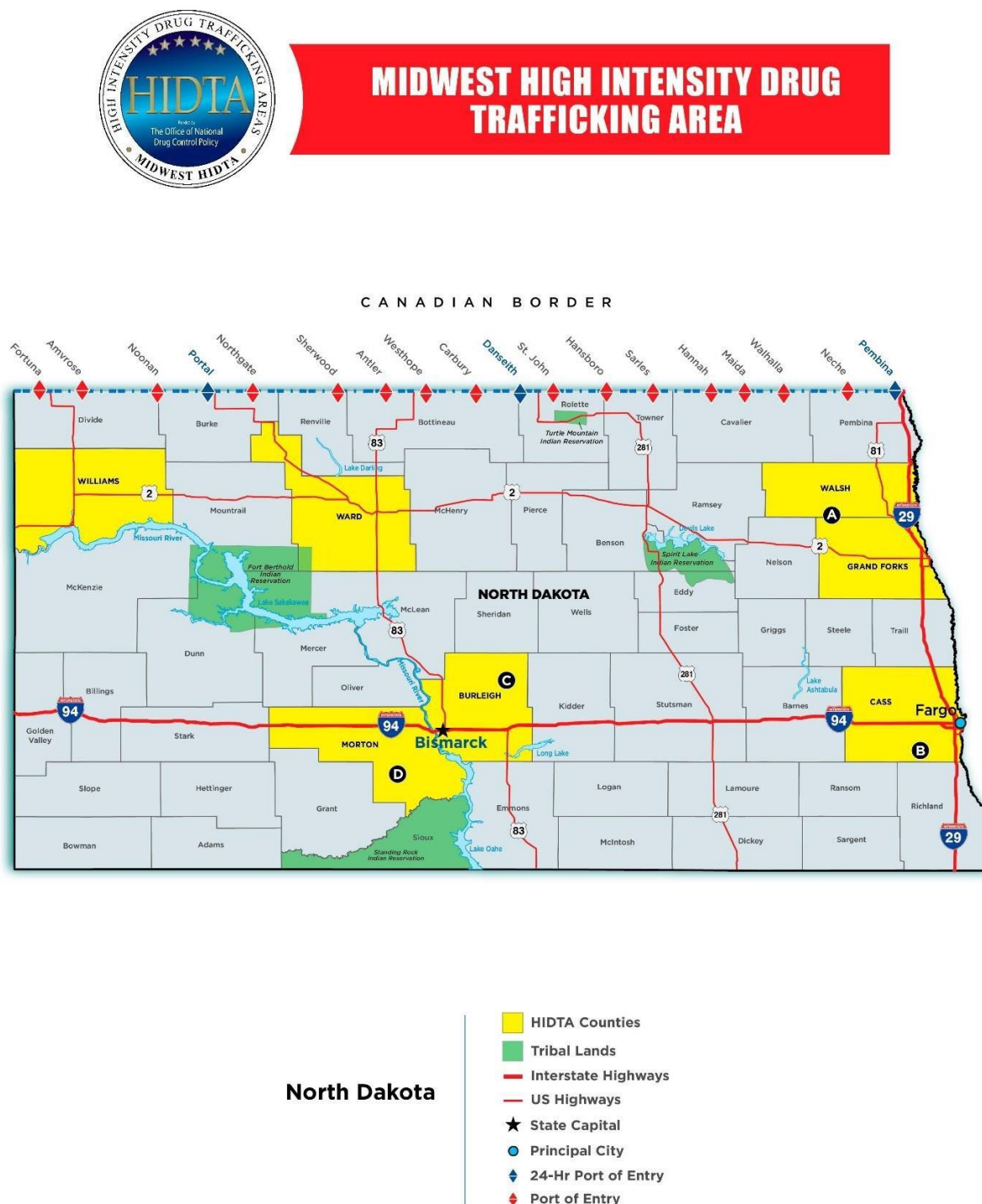
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Figure 20. Detailed Map of Nebraska Depicting HIDTA Designated Counties and Major Highway Systems.



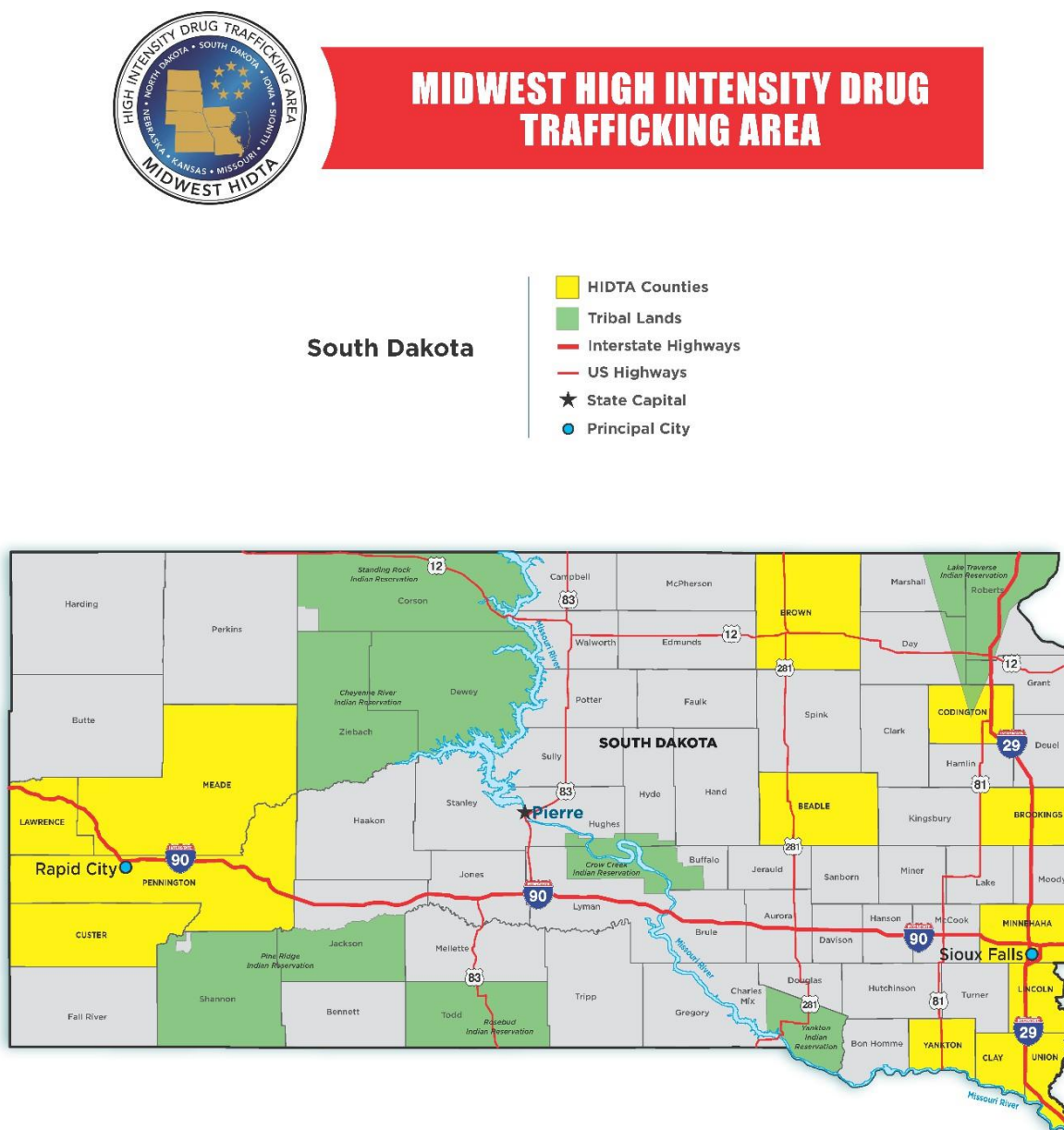
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Figure 21. Detailed Map of North Dakota Depicting HIDTA Designated Counties, Ports of Entry with Canada, and Major Highway Systems.



UNCLASSIFIED

Figure 22. Detailed Map of South Dakota Depicting HIDTA Designated Counties and Major Highway Systems.



Appendix VI: State-Level Data Tables

Table 28. LES and PHS: Greatest Drug Threats by State

Law Enforcement Survey: Top Drug Threats By State		
	Primary Threat	Secondary Threat
Illinois	Marijuana	Fentanyl
Iowa	Methamphetamine	Fentanyl
Kansas	Marijuana	Fentanyl
Missouri	Fentanyl	Methamphetamine
Nebraska	Methamphetamine	Fentanyl
North Dakota	Methamphetamine	Fentanyl
South Dakota	Methamphetamine	Fentanyl
Public Health Survey: Top Drug Threats By State		
	Primary Threat	
Iowa	Methamphetamine	
Kansas	Methamphetamine	
Missouri	Methamphetamine	
Nebraska	Methamphetamine	
North Dakota	Methamphetamine	
South Dakota	TIED: Fentanyl and Methamphetamine	

Table 29. LES: Drug Availability by State

Law Enforcement Survey: Level of Availability By State (LES)							
	Illinois	Iowa	Kansas	Missouri	Nebraska	North Dakota	South Dakota
Cocaine	High	Moderate	High	High	High	High	Moderate
CPDs	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low/ Moderate
Fentanyl Pills	Moderate	Low/ Moderate	High	High	High	Low/ Moderate /High ^m	Low/ High
Fentanyl Powder	High	Moderate	High	High	Moderate/ High	High	Low/ High
Marijuana	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Methamphetamine	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
NPSs	High	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate/ High	Moderate	Low/ High
Psychedelics	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low- Moderate	Low
Other Opioids (e.g. Heroin)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low

^m These ratings are based on all three of the responding initiatives providing a different response to the LES.

Appendix VII: Drug Trafficking Organization Summary Table

Table 30. DTO Summary Table for All Identified DTOs Operating in the Midwest HIDTA Region.

Midwest HIDTA DTOs Identified in 2025	
Characteristics	
Identified	947
- International	112
- Multi-State	506
- Local	329
Total Members (Leaders)	8,818 (1,265)
Average DTO Size	9.31
Gang Related	210
Violent	370
Polydrug	252
Cartel Affiliated	65
Federal Case Designations	
OCDETF	92
CPOT	15
RPOT	2

Appendix VIII: Drug Trafficking Organization Summary Table by State

The individual DTO summary table for each state may be found in the following figures. Illinois may be found in Table 31, Iowa may be found in Table 32, Kansas in Table 33, Missouri in Table 34, Nebraska in Table 35, North Dakota in Table 36, and South Dakota in Table 37. The tables present information on the DTOs found in each state that were identified in 2025.

Table 31. DTO Summary Table for all DTOs Identified in Illinois.

Illinois DTOs Identified*	
Characteristics	
Identified	84
- International	8
- Multi-State	52
- Local	24
Total Members (Leaders)	353 (91)
Average DTO Size	5.29
Gang Related	8
Violent	11
Cartel Affiliated	3
Polydrug	15
Federal Case Designations	
OCDETF	2
CPOT	0
RPOT	0

*This data only originated from the three Midwest HIDTA counties and two Midwest HIDTA initiatives in Illinois

Table 32. DTO Summary Table for all Identified DTOs Operating in Iowa.

Iowa DTOs Identified	
Characteristics	
Identified	165
- International	9
- Multi-State	34
- Local	122
Total Members (Leaders)	963 (185)
Average DTO Size	6.96
Gang Related	9
Violent	26
Cartel Affiliated	0
Polydrug	26
Federal Case Designations	
OCDETF	5
CPOT	1
RPOT	0

Table 33. DTO Summary Table for all Identified DTOs Operating in Kansas.

Kansas DTOs Identified	
Characteristics	
Identified	80
- International	13
- Multi-State	28
- Local	39
Total Members (Leaders)	662 (127)
Average DTO Size	9.86
Gang Related	22
Violent	37
Cartel Affiliated	11
Polydrug	31
Federal Case Designations	
OCDETF	16
CPOT	1
RPOT	3

Table 34. DTO Summary Table for all Identified DTOs Operating in Missouri.

Missouri DTOs Identified	
Characteristics	
Identified	308
- International	41
- Multi-State	115
- Local	152
Total Members (Leaders)	3,030 (482)
Average DTO Size	11.40
Gang Related	108
Violent	181
Cartel Affiliated	25
Polydrug	100
Federal Case Designations	
OCDETF	53
CPOT	12
RPOT	1

Table 35. DTO Summary Table for all Identified DTOs Operating in Nebraska.

Nebraska DTOs Identified	
Characteristics	
Identified	145
- International	36
- Multi-State	55
- Local	54
Total Members (Leaders)	1,014 (199)
Average DTO Size	8.37
Gang Related	40
Violent	74
Cartel Affiliated	20
Polydrug	23
Federal Case Designations	
OCDETF	9
CPOT	0
RPOT	1

Table 36. DTO Summary Table for all Identified DTOs Operating in North Dakota.

North Dakota DTOs Identified	
Characteristics	
Identified	113
- International	4
- Multi-State	72
- Local	37
Total Members (Leaders)	2,167 (129)
Average DTO Size	20.32
Gang Related	9
Violent	29
Cartel Affiliated	6
Polydrug	27
Federal Case Designations	
OCDETF	5
CPOT	0
RPOT	0

Table 37. DTO Summary Table for all Identified DTOs Operating in South Dakota.

South Dakota DTOs Identified	
Characteristics	
Identified	105
- International	3
- Multi-State	90
- Local	12
Total Members (Leaders)	848 (105)
Average DTO Size	9.08
Gang Related	18
Violent	19
Cartel Affiliated	0
Polydrug	36
Federal Case Designations	
OCDETF	2
CPOT	1
RPOT	1

Appendix IX: Money Laundering Organization Summary Table by State

Table 38. MLO Summary Table for all Identified MLOs Operating in Nebraska.

Nebraska MLOs Identified	
Characteristics	
Identified	1
- International	0
- Multi-State	1
- Local	0
Total Members (Leaders)	2 (1)
Gang Related	0
Violent	0
Federal Case Designations	
OCDETF	0
CPOT	0
RPOT	0

Table 39. MLO Summary Table for all Identified MLOs Operating in North Dakota.

North Dakota MLOs Identified	
Characteristics	
Identified	1
- International	0
- Multi-State	0
- Local	1
Total Members (Leaders)	6 (1)
Gang Related	0
Violent	0
Federal Case Designations	
OCDETF	0
CPOT	0
RPOT	0

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- ¹ Midwest HIDTA. (2025). [Information Network: ONDCP PMP for DTOs/MLOs Disrupted or Dismantled by the Midwest HIDTA as a Percent of Expected]. Unpublished raw data retrieved on March 18, 2026.
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