



National Methamphetamine Threat Assessment



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National Methamphetamine Threat Assessment



NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE CENTER
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Preface

The *National Methamphetamine Threat Assessment 2008* is a national-level strategic assessment of methamphetamine trafficking in the United States. This assessment addresses significant trends in methamphetamine production, transportation, distribution, and abuse. It discusses a wide range of issues, including methamphetamine production in Mexico, the increasing availability of Mexican ice methamphetamine in domestic drug markets, and apparent methamphetamine shortages in some western markets. This assessment draws upon the *National Drug Threat Assessment 2008*, regional drug intelligence products prepared by the National Drug Intelligence Center, and reporting from numerous federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Overview

Methamphetamine production and distribution are undergoing significant changes. Methamphetamine use has stabilized nationally since 2002 after increasing during much of the 1990s, and domestic production of methamphetamine has decreased dramatically since 2004. However, the increasing prevalence of high-purity ice methamphetamine throughout the country and the expansion of methamphetamine networks operated by Mexican and, more recently, Asian drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) have largely sustained methamphetamine markets in the United States. Despite heightened chemical import restrictions in Mexico, methamphetamine production in that country has increased since 2004, and Mexico is now the primary source of methamphetamine to U.S. drug markets. Moreover, large-scale methamphetamine production is increasing in Canada as outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs) and Asian DTOs expand their methamphetamine operations. Some methamphetamine produced in Canada is distributed in U.S. drug markets, including methamphetamine tablets sold as MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy). Nevertheless, Mexican

DTOs distributing Mexican methamphetamine continue to dominate domestic markets. In fact, distribution of the drug in domestic drug markets by Mexican DTOs is increasing, supplanting many local dealers who had previously produced and distributed the drug independently.

Strategic Findings

- Mexican DTOs are circumventing chemical sale and import restrictions in Mexico in an attempt to maintain large-scale methamphetamine production in that country.
- Mexican methamphetamine distribution networks are expanding in many U.S. drug markets and have supplanted many local midlevel and retail dealers in areas of the Great Lakes, Pacific, Southeast, Southwest, and West Central Regions.
- Methamphetamine production in Canada has risen in recent years; a limited but increasing amount of Canadian methamphetamine is intended for distribution in U.S. drug markets.



- Methamphetamine producers in Canada acquire pseudoephedrine through relationships with illicit chemical brokers in China and India and through the diversion of legitimate supplies in Canada.
- State and federal precursor chemical controls and sustained law enforcement pressure continue to drive down domestic methamphetamine production levels.
- The steady decline in domestic methamphetamine production since 2004 may be contributing to a decrease in the percentage of state and local law enforcement agencies that perceive methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat to their areas.
- Methamphetamine availability trends in U.S. drug markets are mixed; some markets in western states have reported sporadic and temporary shortages, while markets in other regions have reported increasing availability.
- Ice methamphetamine prices have increased significantly in some drug markets in California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, and South Carolina.
- Law enforcement pressure and chemical controls in the United States and Mexico appear to be contributing to intermittent methamphetamine shortages in some western drug markets.
- Methamphetamine abusers and distributors are increasingly engaging in identity theft to fund drug purchases and distribution operations.
- Law enforcement officials often uncover evidence of methamphetamine-related identity theft during execution of methamphetamine-related search warrants; methamphetamine-related identity theft

appears to occur most often in southwestern and western states, where distribution and abuse of the drug are most prevalent.

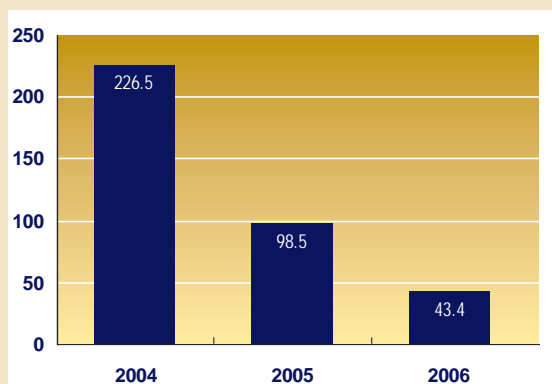
- Methamphetamine use appears to be stable; however, treatment for methamphetamine abuse has more than doubled since 2000.
- Flavored methamphetamine has emerged in some western drug markets.

Mexican DTOs are circumventing chemical sale and import restrictions in Mexico in an attempt to maintain large-scale methamphetamine production in that country.

Available law enforcement and intelligence reporting regarding methamphetamine production in Mexico, the primary source of methamphetamine to U.S. drug markets, indicates that production was high and stable in 2006. In 2007 production remained high but may have decreased. The high levels of production are being achieved by Mexican DTOs despite strong restrictions placed by the government of Mexico on the importation and legitimate distribution of precursor chemicals in mid-2005 and despite several seizures of methamphetamine precursor chemicals and finished methamphetamine by Mexican officials since late 2006. The latest available data from the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database show that the amount of commercial pseudoephedrine imported into Mexico decreased from 226.5 metric tons in 2004 to 43.4 metric tons in 2006 (see [Chart 1 on page 3](#)). Additionally, the government of Mexico recently seized several significant, large shipments of pseudoephedrine, pseudoephedrine analogs, and methamphetamine—on December 5, 2006, 19.5 tons of N-acetyl pseudoephedrine were seized at the Port of Lázaro Cárdenas, Michoacán; on February 8, 2007, 3.4 tons of pseudoephedrine were seized at the Mexico City International Airport; in mid-February



Chart 1. Commercial Pseudoephedrine Imports to Mexico, in Metric Tons, 2004–2006



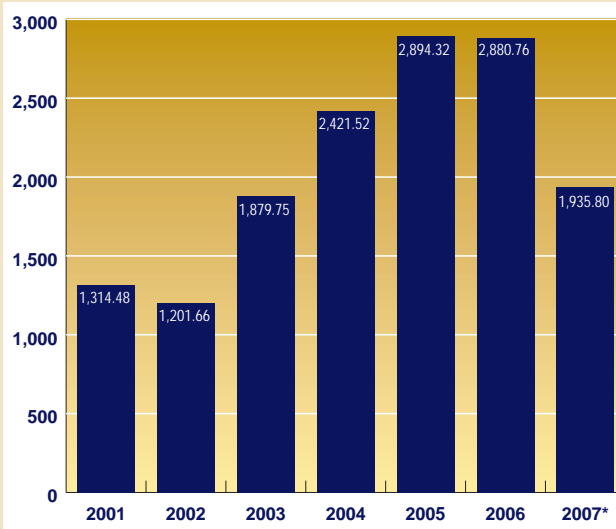
Source: United Nations.

2007, 40.0 tons of reported “raw pharmaceutical chemicals” (believed to be N-acetyl-pseudoephedrine) were seized at the Port of Manzanillo, Colima; and on March 13, 2007, 260 kilograms of ice methamphetamine were seized near Gómez Palacios in the state of Durango. In an attempt to maintain production levels in the face of these developments, Mexican DTOs appear to have adapted their operating procedures in several ways, including smuggling restricted chemicals through new routes, importing nonrestricted chemical derivatives instead of precursor chemicals, and using alternative production methods. For example, Mexican DTOs smuggle pseudoephedrine and ephedrine into Mexico from source areas in China (often with assistance from ethnic Chinese associates) and India using indirect smuggling routes that include transit through Central Africa, Central America, Europe, and South America. In addition, packages containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are commonly mislabeled as other items during transit to Mexican methamphetamine producers in order to impede inspection by law enforcement at airports and seaports in Mexico. This circumvention of chemical control laws in Mexico has enabled producers to continue production and the flow of methamphetamine

into the United States, as evidenced by methamphetamine seizures at or between ports of entry (POEs) along the Southwest Border (see Chart 2). National Seizure System (NSS) data show a significant increase in the amount of methamphetamine seized on the Southwest Border from 2002 through 2005 and relatively stable seizures from 2005 to 2006. Data for 2007 are incomplete; however, year-end totals will very likely show decreased seizures since 2006. If final 2007 seizure totals show a significant decrease from 2006, it would be the first indication of a possible decrease in methamphetamine production in Mexico following Mexico’s chemical import restrictions.

Mexican methamphetamine distribution networks are expanding in many U.S. drug markets and have supplanted many local midlevel and retail dealers in areas of the Great Lakes, Pacific, Southeast, Southwest, and West Central Regions. Mexican DTOs have expanded their methamphetamine distribution networks, particularly in methamphetamine markets previously supplied by local

Chart 2. Methamphetamine Seizures on the Southwest Border, in Kilograms, 2001–2007*



Source: National Seizure System.

*Data as of November 27, 2007.



distributors. For instance, law enforcement authorities in Akron (OH), Hannibal (MO), Dallas and Houston (TX), Mobile (AL), Nashville (TN), Oklahoma City (OK), Orlando and Tampa (FL), Pueblo (CO), and Richmond and Shenandoah (VA) report the growing prevalence of Mexican DTOs at all levels of methamphetamine distribution in their areas and a concurrent increase in the availability of ice methamphetamine. Furthermore, law enforcement reporting indicates that in some cities—including Los Angeles (CA), Chicago (IL), Dallas and Fort Worth (TX), Memphis and Nashville (TN), and Oklahoma City—Mexican DTOs are exploiting their relationships with Hispanic and African American gangs as a means of controlling methamphetamine distribution at the midlevel and retail level.

Methamphetamine production in Canada has risen in recent years; a limited but increasing amount of Canadian methamphetamine is intended for distribution in U.S. drug markets. Anecdotal law enforcement reporting and laboratory seizure data from Canada indicate a potentially significant increase in large-scale production of ice methamphetamine and methamphetamine tablets since 2005. The purported increase has been attributed by Canadian law enforcement officials to Canada-based Asian (Chinese and Vietnamese) DTOs and criminal groups and members of OMGs (particularly members of Hells Angels Motorcycle Club) that reportedly produce the drug in large-scale laboratories in rural and residential areas of the country. According to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), methamphetamine tablets are produced primarily by Canada-based Asian DTOs in Quebec, particularly in Montreal. Conversely, ice and, to a much lesser extent, powder methamphetamine is produced in laboratories operated by members of OMGs and Asian (primarily

Chinese, but also Vietnamese) DTOs in superlabs in central and western provinces such as Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

Methamphetamine producers in Canada acquire pseudoephedrine through relationships with illicit chemical brokers in China and India and through the diversion of legitimate supplies in Canada. RCMP reporting and laboratory seizure data indicate that methamphetamine producers in Canada currently have little difficulty acquiring bulk ephedrine or pseudoephedrine; most methamphetamine laboratories seized in Canada during 2006—15 of 23—had the capacity to produce 20 or more pounds of product per production cycle, and 6 had the capacity to produce between 2 and 20 pounds. RCMP reporting reveals that methamphetamine laboratories in Canada are maintaining large production capacities in 2007; however, 2007 laboratory seizure data for Canada are not yet available. According to RCMP reporting, most of the methamphetamine produced in Canada is intended to supply growing demand in that country; nonetheless, some is intended for distribution in the United States, Japan, and Australia. Canada-based methamphetamine traffickers typically transport ice and tableted methamphetamine into the United States through the same smuggling routes used by traffickers to smuggle Canadian marijuana and MDMA. Moreover, some tableted methamphetamine produced in Canada is reportedly sold by distributors in the United States as MDMA to unsuspecting buyers, very likely in an attempt to stretch MDMA supplies and/or to ensure additional methamphetamine users.

State and federal precursor chemical controls and sustained law enforcement pressure continue to drive down domestic methamphetamine production levels. State and federal precursor chemical restrictions com-



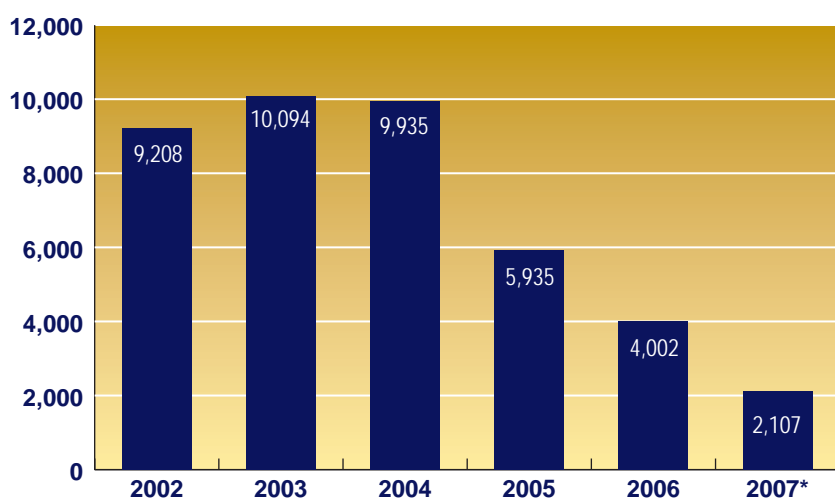
bined with sustained law enforcement pressure have reduced domestic methamphetamine production over the past several years. NSS data for 2007 show that the number of reported methamphetamine laboratory seizures has decreased sharply each year since 2004—the year that states began implementing strong, retail-level sales restrictions of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine products (see Chart 3). Moreover, in September 2006 the federal Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 became effective nationwide, setting restrictions on the retail sale of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine products; this Act appears to be contributing to continued decreases in domestic methamphetamine production, according to seizure data through November 2007.

The steady decline in domestic methamphetamine production since 2004 may be contributing to a decrease in the percentage of state and local law enforcement agencies that perceive methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat to their areas. National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS) 2007 data reveal that the percentage of state and local law enforce-

ment respondents who identified methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat to their areas was lower than that for cocaine for the first time since 2004. Moreover, the percentage of law enforcement agencies reporting methamphetamine as their greatest drug threat declined annually between 2004 and 2007. During this period, the percentage of state and local law enforcement agencies reporting cocaine as their greatest drug threat increased (see Chart 4 on page 6). The apparent shift in perception among law enforcement regarding the threat of methamphetamine may be due to the sharp decrease in domestic methamphetamine production between 2004 and 2007.

Methamphetamine availability trends in U.S. drug markets are mixed; some markets in western states have reported sporadic and temporary shortages, while markets in other regions have reported increasing availability. Law enforcement reporting indicates atypical trends in methamphetamine availability in the first half of 2007. Law enforcement agencies in Phoenix, (AZ); Bakersfield, Los Angeles, Modesto, Oakland, Sacramento, and San Diego

Chart 3. Number of Reported Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures, 2002–2007*



Methamphetamine laboratory seizures in the United States have decreased dramatically since 2004.

Source: National Seizure System.
*Data as of November 21, 2007.



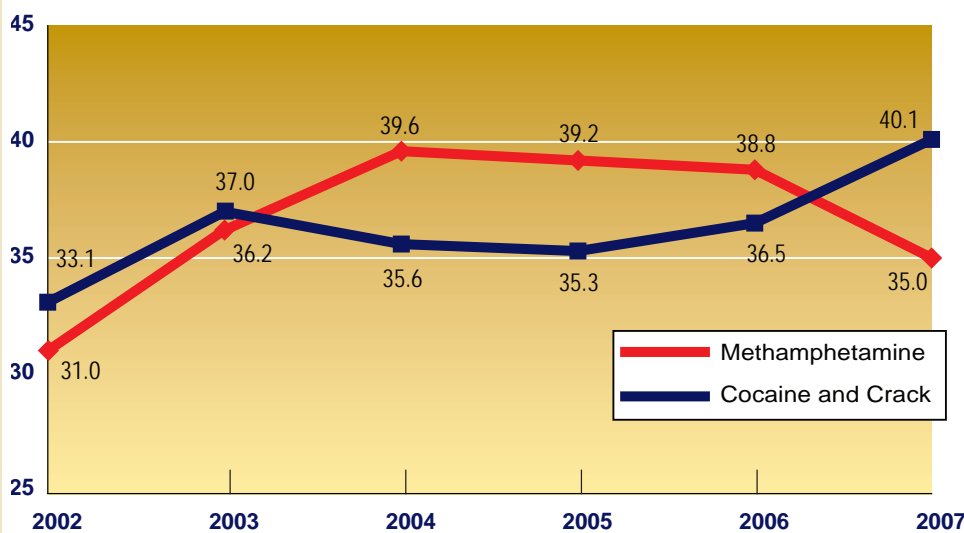
(CA); Honolulu (HI); Boise (ID); Minneapolis (MN); Las Vegas (NV); Portland (OR); and Seattle (WA) reported decreases in the availability and purity of methamphetamine in their areas during the first 6 months of 2007; a number reported a concurrent rise in methamphetamine prices (see Table 1 in Appendix C). Conversely, law enforcement agencies in Huntsville, Birmingham, Mobile, and Montgomery (AL); Batesville, Conway, Jonesville, and Little Rock (AR); Pueblo (CO); Orlando and Tampa (FL); Chicago (IL); Indianapolis (IN); Minneapolis (MN); Hannibal (MO); Atlantic City and Newark (NJ); Akron (OH); Oklahoma City (OK); Memphis and Nashville (TN); Salt Lake City (UT); and Richmond and Shenandoah (VA) reported increasing availability of Mexican ice methamphetamine in their areas; most also reported that the influence of Mexican DTOs in their areas is growing.

Ice methamphetamine prices have increased significantly in some drug markets in California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho,

Nevada, and South Carolina. Wholesale-level prices of Mexican ice methamphetamine have increased in a number of cities, according to NDIC Field Program Specialist (FPS) reporting (see Table 1 on page 7). The increased prices may be the result of decreased availability in those drug markets.

Law enforcement pressure and chemical controls in the United States and Mexico appear to be contributing to intermittent methamphetamine shortages in some western drug markets. Several factors, including declining domestic methamphetamine production, precursor chemical controls and import restrictions in the United States and Mexico, and law enforcement pressure in both countries, quite likely are contributing to recent methamphetamine shortages in some markets in western states. Limited domestic methamphetamine production—primarily the result of domestic precursor chemical controls—has resulted in decreased supplies of domestically produced methamphetamine nationwide and a

Chart 4. Greatest Drug Threat: Percentage of State and Local Agencies Reporting



Source: National Drug Threat Surveys 2002 through 2007.

The percentage of law enforcement agencies reporting methamphetamine as their greatest drug threat declined yearly between 2004 and 2007; during that time the percentage of state and local law enforcement agencies reporting cocaine increased overall.



subsequent dependence on Mexican methamphetamine. Precursor chemical controls and import restrictions in Mexico have challenged Mexican DTOs' ability to access bulk quantities of precursor chemicals and, reportedly, have impacted their ability to maintain high levels of production in Mexico. However, Mexican DTOs have been able to maintain stable (or possibly slightly decreased) methamphetamine production at clandestine laboratories in Mexico from which they supply U.S. drug markets. Nevertheless, decreases in the availability of methamphetamine have reportedly occurred in a number of U.S. markets, particularly those in western states that are generally dependent on Mexican methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine abusers and distributors are increasingly engaging in identity theft to fund drug purchases and distribution operations. Some methamphetamine abusers engage in various forms of identity theft in order to obtain the drug. For example, methamphetamine abusers often generate cash by stealing and subsequently cashing personal checks or by using stolen credit cards to purchase merchandise that they sell for cash or trade for methamphetamine. Some abusers also trade stolen credit cards or personal documents (such as checks, bank statements, workplace pay statements, etc.) to distributors in exchange for methamphetamine. The distributors then sell the stolen credit cards and documents or provide them to methamphetamine producers as payment for the drug. For example, the Central Valley California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) reports that DTOs and criminal groups that

Table 1. Wholesale-Level Ice Methamphetamine Prices, U.S. Dollars per Pound, Reported to NDIC in December 2006 and June 2007; Markets Experiencing Significant Price Increases

City, State	December 2006 Price	June 2007 Price
Fresno, CA	7,500-9,000	15,000-20,000
Los Angeles, CA	8,000-12,000	15,000
Sacramento, CA	8,000-14,000	16,000
San Diego, CA	9,000-11,000	9,000-17,000
San Francisco, CA	8,000-12,000	10,000-20,000
Colorado Springs, CO	5,000-6,000	14,000-16,000
Denver, CO	13,000	16,000-20,000
Jacksonville, FL	10,000-12,000	16,000
Miami, FL	10,000-30,000	15,000-30,000
Honolulu, HI	20,000-30,000	20,000-45,000
Boise, ID	10,000-12,000	17,000
Las Vegas, NV	8,000-11,200	16,000-18,000
Reno, NV	8,500	19,200
Greenville, SC	12,000-15,000	25,000-27,000

NDIC FPS reporting revealed that between January and June 2007 the wholesale price for ice methamphetamine increased significantly in some drug markets in California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, and South Carolina. Such increases are very likely attributable to decreased availability of the drug in those drug markets.

For a list of methamphetamine prices in major U.S. markets, see Appendix C.



traffic methamphetamine in the HIDTA region organize groups of methamphetamine abusers and direct them to steal personal identity documents in exchange for drugs or cash. Identities traded for methamphetamine are then used by the DTOs and criminal groups in a variety of ways, including:

- To supply criminal fugitives within the DTOs and criminal groups with fresh identities in order to evade law enforcement, incarceration, or even deportation (in the case of illegal aliens).
- To sell for cash to brokers, who resell the identification documents to other criminals for their use.
- To purchase precursor and essential chemicals with fraudulent credit cards or checks.
- To launder drug proceeds:
 - By opening bank accounts in victims' names to deposit, transfer, and withdraw funds.
 - By using victims' identities to transfer large sums of money through money services businesses and to purchase money orders in amounts that require proof of identification.
 - By applying for mortgages in victims' names.
 - By using victims' identities to acquire online credit and to make purchases.

Law enforcement officials often uncover evidence of methamphetamine-related identity theft during execution of methamphetamine-related search warrants; methamphetamine-related identity theft appears to occur most often in southwestern and western states,

where distribution and abuse of the drug are most prevalent. Law enforcement reporting indicates that methamphetamine is the drug most commonly implicated in drug-related identity theft complaints. For instance, law enforcement officials in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Kansas, Oregon, and Washington indicate that stolen mail and other documentation consistent with identity thefts have become increasingly commonplace at locations investigated under methamphetamine-related search warrants. Moreover, the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2006 Survey of U.S. Counties reveals that the percentage of sheriffs reporting methamphetamine-related identity theft in their county increased 15 percent—from 27 percent in 2005 to 31 percent in 2006.¹ (2007 survey data are not yet available.) However, a precise comparison of the rate of methamphetamine-related identity theft with rates of identity theft associated with other drugs is not feasible because drug-specific identity theft statistics are not currently collected by a sufficient number of federal, state, or local agencies. Nonetheless, the latest data available from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) show that in 2006 rates of reported identity theft were highest in states that have high and sustained levels of methamphetamine distribution and abuse. For example, Arizona, Nevada, California, Texas, and Florida (all states with well-documented and long-standing concerns regarding high levels of methamphetamine distribution and abuse) ranked first through fifth, respectively, for identity theft complaints per 100,000 population in 2006 (see Table 2 on page 9).

1. National Association of Counties (NACo), *The Meth Epidemic in America: The Criminal Effect of Meth on Communities, A 2006 Survey of U.S. Counties*, July 18, 2006.



Table 2. Top 5 States for Identity Theft Complaints per 100,000 Population, 2006

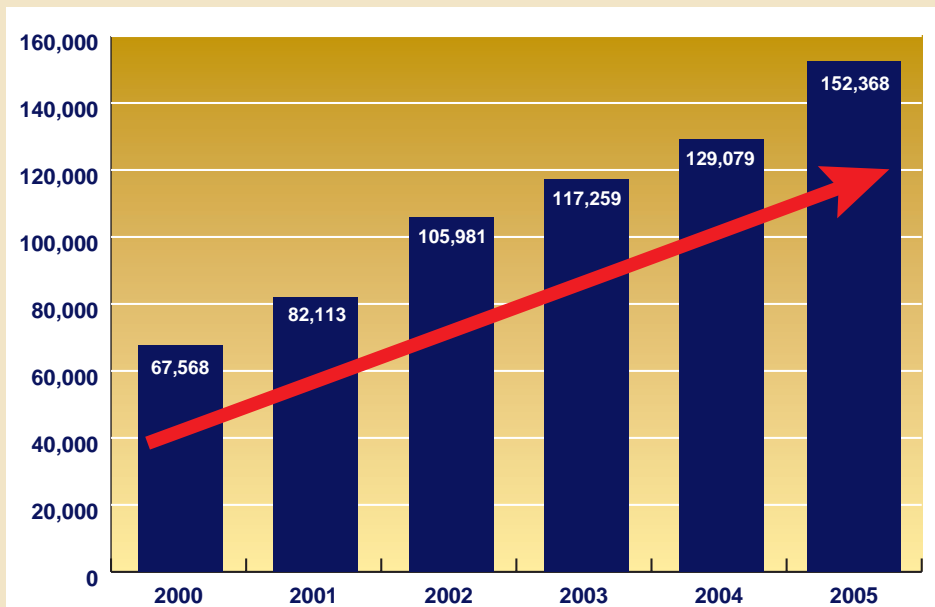
State	Complaints per 100,000
Arizona	147.8
Nevada	120.0
California	113.5
Texas	110.6
Florida	98.3

Source: Federal Trade Commission.

Methamphetamine use appears to be stable; however, treatment for methamphetamine abuse has more than doubled since 2000. Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) show that the number of past month methamphetamine users remained relatively stable at approximately 0.7 million between 2002 and 2006, the latest year for which such data are available. NSDUH data also show that rates of past year use for

methamphetamine were relatively stable between 2002 (0.7%) and 2006 (0.8%) for individuals aged 12 and older. Despite apparently stable rates of use, methamphetamine-related admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities increased each year from 2000 (67,568) to 2005 (152,368), according to the latest data available from the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) (see Chart 5). A likely contributor to the rise in methamphetamine treatment admissions is the increase in availability of Mexican ice methamphetamine that has been occurring in the United States since approximately 2001. Ice methamphetamine typically is a more pure form of methamphetamine that is usually smoked. According to reporting from the National Institutes of Health, smoking methamphetamine results in a more rapid onset of addiction to the drug than does snorting or ingesting. The result is quite likely a higher percentage of addicted users who would be seeking treatment for addiction within the methamphetamine user population.

Chart 5. Number of Primary Methamphetamine Treatment Admissions to Publicly Funded Treatment Facilities, 2000–2005



Treatment admissions for methamphetamine have significantly increased since 2000, more than doubling from 67,568 in 2000 to 152,368 in 2005.

Source: Treatment Episode Data Set.



Flavored methamphetamine has emerged in some western drug markets. Law enforcement and treatment providers in Nevada and California have reported the distribution and/or abuse of flavored methamphetamine. In February 2007 the Nevada Department of Public Safety issued a report advising that pink, strawberry-flavored methamphetamine had been seized a month earlier in Carson City. The report described the drug, called Strawberry Quick, as small, pink chunks. In March 2007 NDIC FPSs received reports from public and private treatment providers in central and northern California indicating that some teenagers were abusing red, cherry-flavored methamphetamine, called go-fast. A number of the teenagers administered the drug by placing small pieces under their tongues or along their gums and allowing the pieces to dissolve. Additionally, some of the teenage abusers reported purchasing the cherry-flavored methamphetamine from Hispanic gang members in Stockton and Sacramento, California.

Some law enforcement and public health officials believe that flavors, which may mask the usually bitter taste of methamphetamine, could make the drug more attractive to young methamphetamine abusers who are just beginning to use the drug; however, the officials do not believe that long-term methamphetamine addicts, who are physically dependent on the drug, would seek out flavored methamphetamine because of taste. Flavoring would be effective only in oral administration or inhalation; smoking or injection would render the flavoring useless. Limited reporting from other areas of the United States indicates that other flavorings have been added to methamphetamine, including cola, orange, chocolate, and root beer.

In response to reports that methamphetamine may have been flavored to enhance the drug's appeal to young people, Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA) and Senator Chuck Grassley (IA) introduced legislation in the U.S. Senate on April 25, 2007. The Senate Bill (S. 1211), entitled "Saving Kids from Dangerous Drugs Act of 2007," is intended to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide enhanced penalties for marketing controlled substances to minors. In particular, the bill would double the maximum penalties applicable to drug crimes if a criminal defendant manufactured, offered, distributed, or possessed with intent to distribute a controlled substance that is flavored, colored, packaged, or otherwise altered in a way that is designed to make the substance more appealing to a person under the age of 21.

Intelligence Gaps

Production estimates and information regarding production potential and laboratory seizures in foreign source areas such as Canada, Mexico, and Southeast Asia are very limited. As a result, it is difficult to precisely estimate the relative influence of foreign methamphetamine production on U.S. drug markets.

Law enforcement reporting in the Mid-Atlantic, New England, and New York/New Jersey Regions suggests an increase in methamphetamine distribution by Canada-based Asian DTOs; however, detailed information on the extent of their operations is somewhat limited. Asian DTOs typically operate within highly insular Asian communities in Canada and the United States that are very difficult for law enforcement to investigate and infiltrate.



Preliminary data for 2007 indicate that the amount of methamphetamine seized on the Southwest Border has decreased since 2006; however, it is unclear if decreased seizures are the result of decreased methamphetamine production in Mexico. NSS data show that the amount of methamphetamine seized on the Southwest Border as of November 27, 2007 (1,935.90 kg), was much lower than the amount seized in 2006 (2,880.76 kg). Although there is sometimes a delay in entering seizure records, the difference in seizure amounts from 2006 to 2007 appears to be significant. The causes of the potential decrease in methamphetamine seizures on the Southwest Border are unclear; however, the decreased seizure amount may be an indication of decreased production in Mexico, just as increased seizure amounts from 2002 through 2005 coincided directly with rising production in Mexico.

Predictive Estimates

Bulk ephedrine smuggling through Colombia and Central America into Mexico may increase in the near term. U.S. Department of State reporting indicates that Colombian DTOs are smuggling ephedrine shipments into Colombia for subsequent sale to Mexican DTOs. Detailed information on the extent of their operations is limited; however, this practice of smuggling ephedrine from Colombia, through Central America, to Mexico will very likely escalate as the government of Mexico further reduces legal importation of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Also of concern is the potential for Colombian DTOs to produce methamphetamine on a large scale if Mexico becomes unable to maintain a production level sufficient to meet U.S. demand.

Asian drug trafficking groups may increase methamphetamine distribution in the United States. Canada-based Asian groups are reportedly producing increasing amounts of methamphetamine in Canada for distribution in that country as well as to other areas such as Australia and Japan. According to Canadian law enforcement officials, these groups have only distributed limited quantities of Canadian methamphetamine in the United States. However, if they continue to increase methamphetamine production levels, these groups may use MDMA or marijuana trafficking networks in the United States to increase their distribution of Canadian methamphetamine in U.S. drug markets, particularly undeveloped markets or markets experiencing decreased methamphetamine availability and higher prices.

The nation may be exposed to additional forms of methamphetamine-related identity theft and fraud as methamphetamine abusers and distributors find new ways to exploit stolen identification information. Methamphetamine abusers may begin to use stolen identities to seek treatment for methamphetamine-related illnesses or may sell identities to individuals for their use in seeking medical treatment, prescription drugs, and even insurance payouts from a health insurance provider. The effects of such medical identity theft parallel those of financial identity theft; however, in addition to financial losses, victims' medical records could be altered without their permission. Incorrect entries in a person's medical record could lead to exclusion from certain types of employment, preclusion from acquiring health insurance, misdiagnoses, injury, and even death if the victim receives medical care based on incorrect information in his or her medical records.



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Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Region Methamphetamine Summaries

The following regional summaries provide strategic overviews of the methamphetamine situation in each of the nine Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) regions, highlighting significant trends and law enforcement concerns relating to the trafficking and abuse of the drug. The summaries were prepared through detailed analysis of recent law enforcement reporting, information obtained through interviews with law enforcement and public health officials, OCDETF case files, and currently available statistical data.

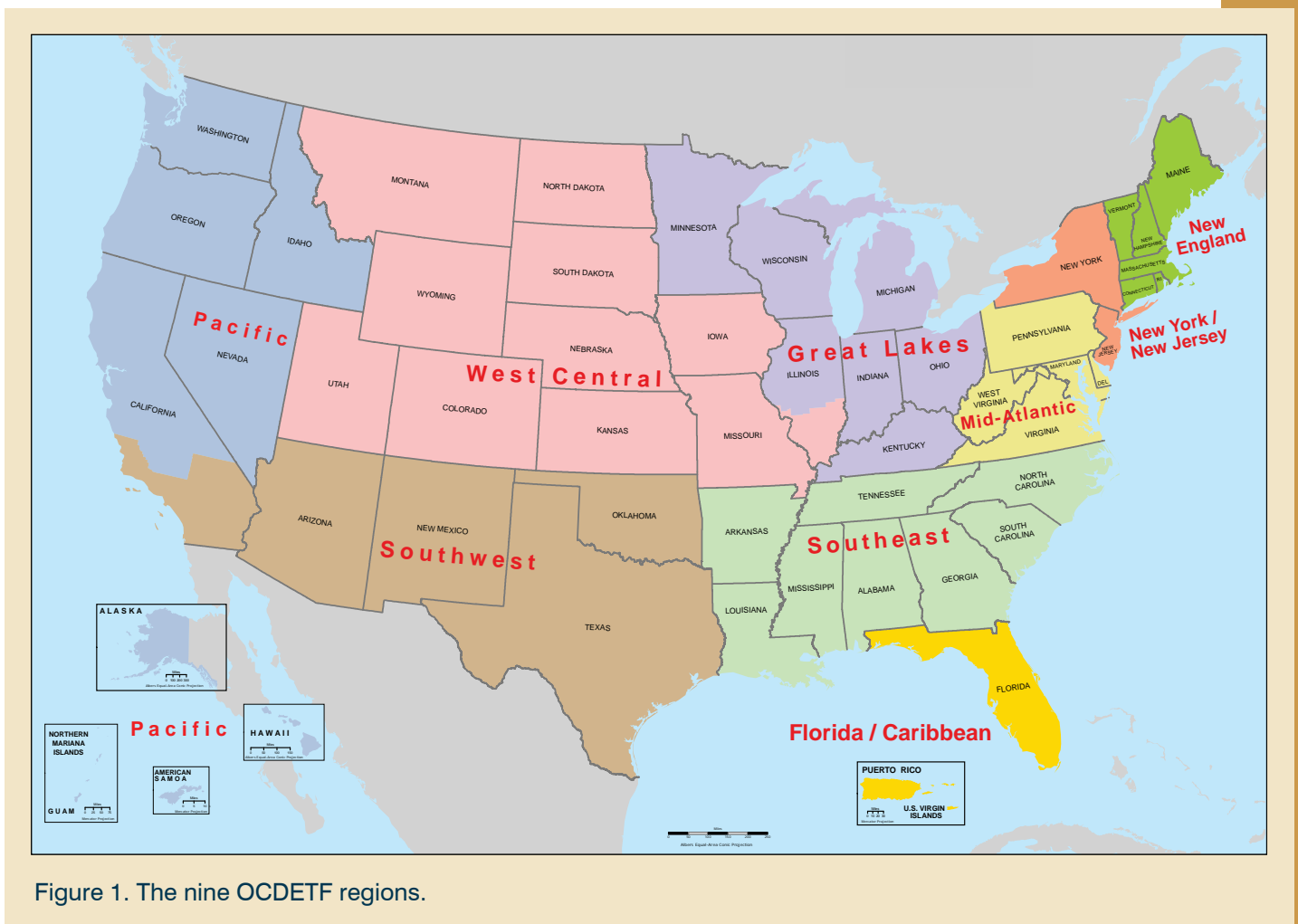


Figure 1. The nine OCDETF regions.



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Florida/Caribbean OCDETF Region

Methamphetamine, particularly ice methamphetamine, is a significant threat to Florida. Ice methamphetamine distribution and abuse are rising in Florida. While cocaine is generally identified by law enforcement officials as the greatest drug threat to the Florida/Caribbean Region, ice methamphetamine has emerged as the greatest drug threat to many rural areas of Florida, particularly those areas where Mexican DTOs and criminal groups are aggressively marketing the drug. Additionally, the latest available treatment data for Florida reveal a significant overall increase in the number of treatment admissions to publicly funded facilities for amphetamine (including methamphetamine) in recent years (see Table 2 in Appendix B).

Mexican DTOs have expanded their distribution operations in Florida and have supplanted many local midlevel and retail dealers in the state. Mexican DTOs have expanded their methamphetamine distribution networks in Florida, particularly in Orlando and Tampa—markets previously supplied by local distributors. Law enforcement reporting from these cities indicates a rising prevalence of Mexican DTOs at all levels of methamphetamine distribution and a concurrent increase in the availability of ice methamphetamine. In fact, law enforcement reporting reveals that ice methamphetamine now is the predominant form of the drug in Florida. Mexican DTOs and criminal groups are the predominant wholesale and retail distributors of ice methamphetamine in the state; they also supply the drug to Caucasian criminal groups, OMGs

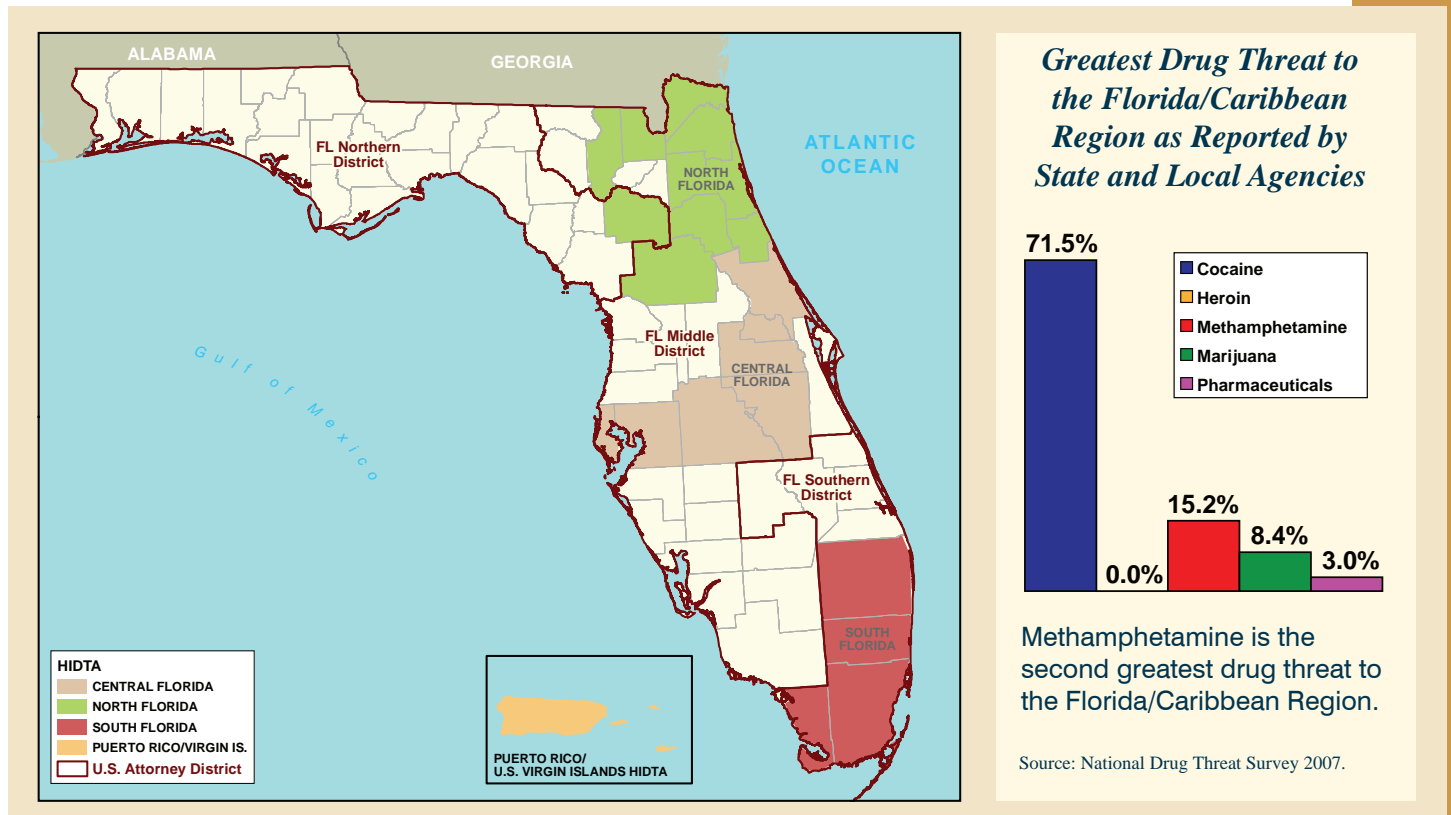


Figure 2. The Florida/Caribbean Region.



and, to a lesser extent, African American criminal groups and gangs for distribution within the region.

State and federal precursor chemical controls and sustained law enforcement pressure continue to drive down methamphetamine production levels in Florida. Methamphetamine production in Florida appears to be decreasing according to NSS data—the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized

by law enforcement in the state decreased from 200 in 2005 to 148 in 2006; 71 laboratories have been seized in the region as of November 27, 2007. The decrease in production most likely is the result of several factors, including state and federal precursor chemical restrictions enacted since 2004, law enforcement pressure, increasing public awareness, and the increasing availability of Mexican ice methamphetamine.



Great Lakes OCDETF Region

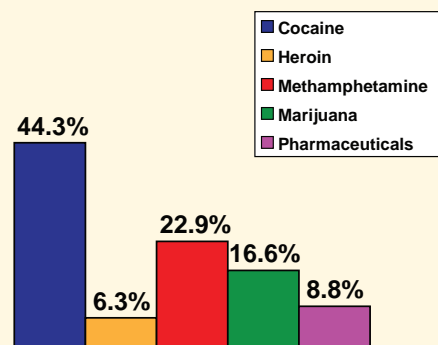
Methamphetamine abuse in the region is at high levels, particularly in rural areas of the region. The latest available treatment data indicate that the number of amphetamine-related (including methamphetamine) admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities in the region increased significantly in recent years (see Table 2 in Appendix B). Methamphetamine abuse is most profound in rural communities and is not as prevalent in metropolitan areas.

Over the past 2 years, precursor chemical control legislation in every state of the region has contributed to a significant decline in methamphetamine production levels. According to NSS data, the number of reported methamphetamine laboratory seizures in the

Great Lakes Region decreased significantly from 1,209 in 2002 to 933 in 2006; 582 laboratories have been seized in the region through November 27, 2007. According to law enforcement officials, a large percentage of this decrease resulted from the inability of small-scale laboratory operators to obtain precursor chemicals necessary for methamphetamine production from retail locations. To this end, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin currently schedule ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, and all states in the region have point-of-sale restrictions, including restrictions on quantity, packaging, or display. Other factors contributing to the decline in production include aggressive law enforcement efforts, public awareness campaigns, and rising availability of Mexican ice methamphetamine.



Greatest Drug Threat to the Great Lakes Region as Reported by State and Local Agencies



Methamphetamine is the second greatest drug threat to the Great Lakes Region.

Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2007.

Figure 3. The Great Lakes Region.



Mexican ice methamphetamine availability is increasing in many areas of the region. Declining local methamphetamine production is being offset by an increase in the availability of Mexican ice methamphetamine. Mexican DTOs are the primary suppliers of ice methamphetamine to distribution centers in the region, including Chicago, Indianapolis, and Minneapolis-St. Paul. Rural locations outside of these cities are often used as “stash locations,” where the drug is stored for further distribution to smaller drug markets in and outside the Great Lakes Region.



Mid-Atlantic ODETF Region

Increasing supplies of ice methamphetamine are contributing to rising rates of methamphetamine abuse in the region. Ice methamphetamine availability and abuse are increasing in a number of areas in the region, particularly in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, where law enforcement agencies attribute rising availability and abuse to increasing distribution of ice methamphetamine by Mexican DTOs. Rising availability in the region is evidenced by Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS) data revealing that the amount of methamphetamine seized by federal law enforcement officers in the region increased from 25.5 kilograms in 2002 to 43.7 kilograms in 2006; 12.5 kilograms were seized as of November 1, 2007. Moreover, rising abuse levels are supported by

treatment data indicating that the number of amphetamine-related abuse admissions (including methamphetamine) to publicly funded treatment facilities in the region increased significantly (see Table 2 in Appendix B).

Mexican DTOs are the principal suppliers of ice methamphetamine to the Mid-Atlantic Region. Mexican DTOs transport multipound quantities of ice methamphetamine to the region from Mexico, generally using transshipment locations in southwestern states (primarily California), Pacific states (primarily Nevada), and southeastern states (primarily North Carolina and Georgia). Most of the ice methamphetamine is transported in private or rental vehicles equipped with hidden compartments and, to a lesser extent, by mail and

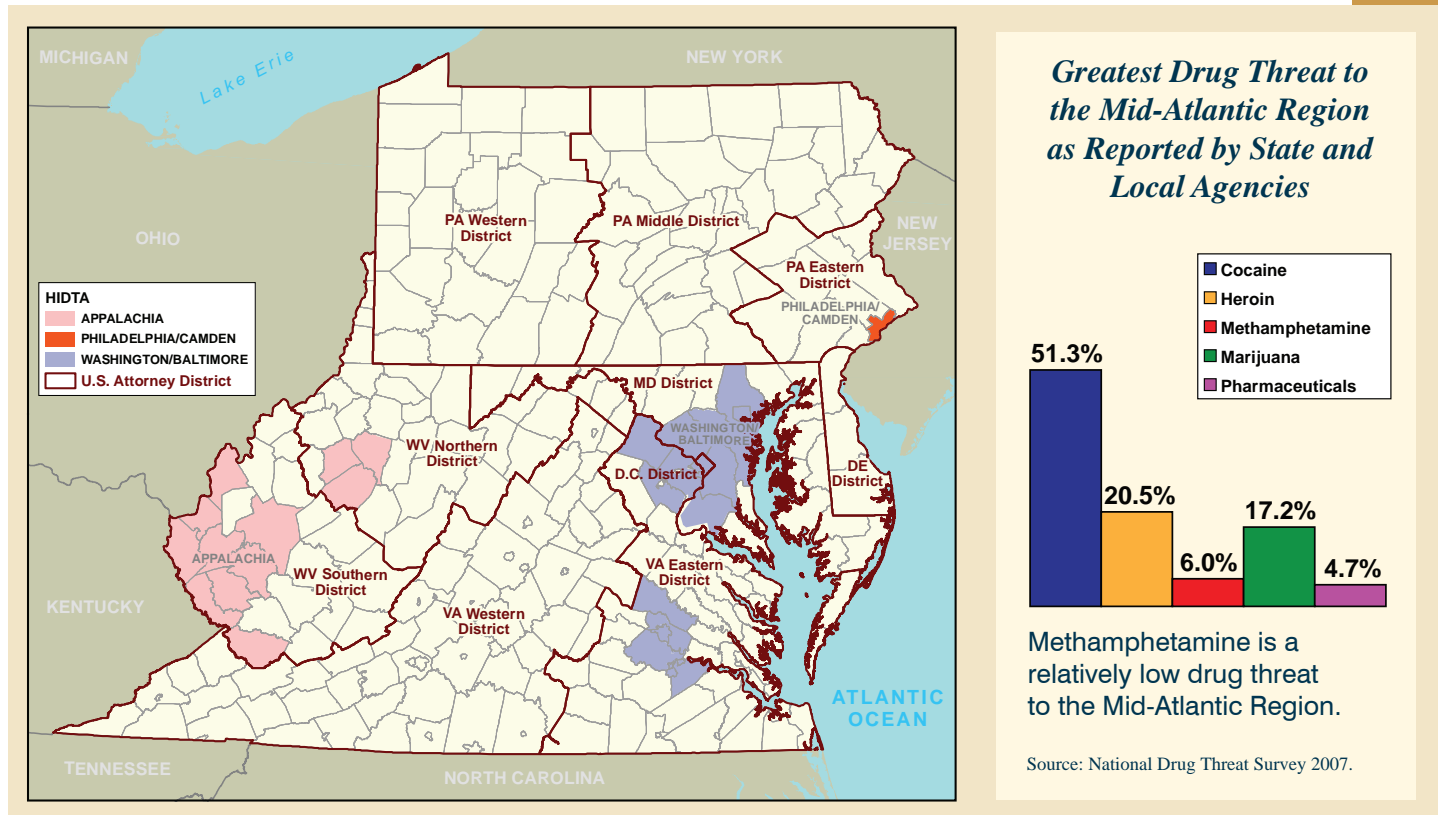


Figure 4. The Mid-Atlantic Region.



parcel delivery services. Mexican DTOs typically supply Hispanic street gangs, Caucasian and Hispanic criminal groups and independent dealers, and OMGs with ice methamphetamine for retail distribution in the region.

Methamphetamine production in the region has diminished; it is a relatively low threat. The threat posed to the Mid-Atlantic Region from methamphetamine production is relatively low. Most of the methamphetamine laboratories discovered in the region are small-scale and are typically operated by methamphetamine abusers who produce gram quantities of the drug for personal use and sale to close associates. Methamphetamine production in the region recently decreased as evidenced by NSS data—the number of laboratories seized by law enforcement officials in the region declined from 233 in 2004 to 109 in 2006; 46 laboratories have been seized in the region as of November 27, 2007. This decline can be attributed to precursor chemical control legislation, aggressive law enforcement efforts, public awareness campaigns, and the rising availability of Mexican ice methamphetamine.



New England OCDETF Region

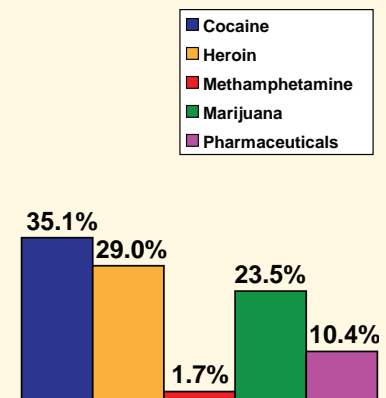
The threat posed to the region by methamphetamine is low; local production is decreasing. Methamphetamine production in the New England Region is low—according to NSS data, the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized in New England decreased from 20 in 2005 to 13 in 2006; 2 laboratories have been seized in the region as of November 27, 2007. One methamphetamine laboratory—seized in Providence—was the first laboratory seized in Rhode Island since 2003. Only gram or personal use quantities could be produced in each of the methamphetamine laboratories seized in 2006 and 2007. Additionally,

amphetamine-related (including methamphetamine) admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities were relatively low in recent years as compared with other regions (see Table 2 in Appendix B).

Ice methamphetamine availability is limited within New England. Mexican DTOs transport small quantities of ice methamphetamine to New England; such transportation is limited because there is little demand for the drug in the area. New England is one of the few areas of the nation in which ice methamphetamine is rarely abused.



Greatest Drug Threat to the New England Region as Reported by State and Local Agencies



Methamphetamine is a relatively low drug threat to the New England Region.

Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2007.

Figure 5. The New England Region.



Vietnamese traffickers are beginning to produce and distribute methamphetamine.

According to law enforcement reporting, some Canada-based Vietnamese traffickers are beginning to transition from producing high-potency marijuana to producing methamphetamine in Canada, primarily Ontario, transporting it across the U.S.–Canada border, and distributing it in drug markets within the region. Additionally, Vietnamese distributors travel to several areas in the United States, including Lowell (MA), and trade powder methamphetamine for cocaine. They then transport the cocaine back to Canada for distribution.



New York/New Jersey OCADETF Region

The threat posed by powder methamphetamine to the New York/New Jersey Region, although low, has increased; abuse of Mexican ice methamphetamine also has increased. The trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine pose a lower threat to the New York/New Jersey Region than cocaine, heroin, and marijuana; however, a modest increase in methamphetamine availability is a growing concern for law enforcement and public health officials. This increase in availability is driven by slowly rising local production of powder methamphetamine and by an influx of high-purity Mexican ice methamphetamine transported into the region by Mexican DTOs.

Methamphetamine-related treatment admissions in the region have been low and stable, according to the most recent treatment data (see Table 2 in Appendix B). However, treatment providers are concerned about a potential increase because ice methamphetamine abuse, previously concentrated among members of the homosexual male population, is gradually spreading beyond this community to the general population. Law enforcement officials in New Jersey report an increase in ice methamphetamine availability in the Atlantic City area (northern New Jersey) and in Burlington and Gloucester Counties (southern New Jersey).

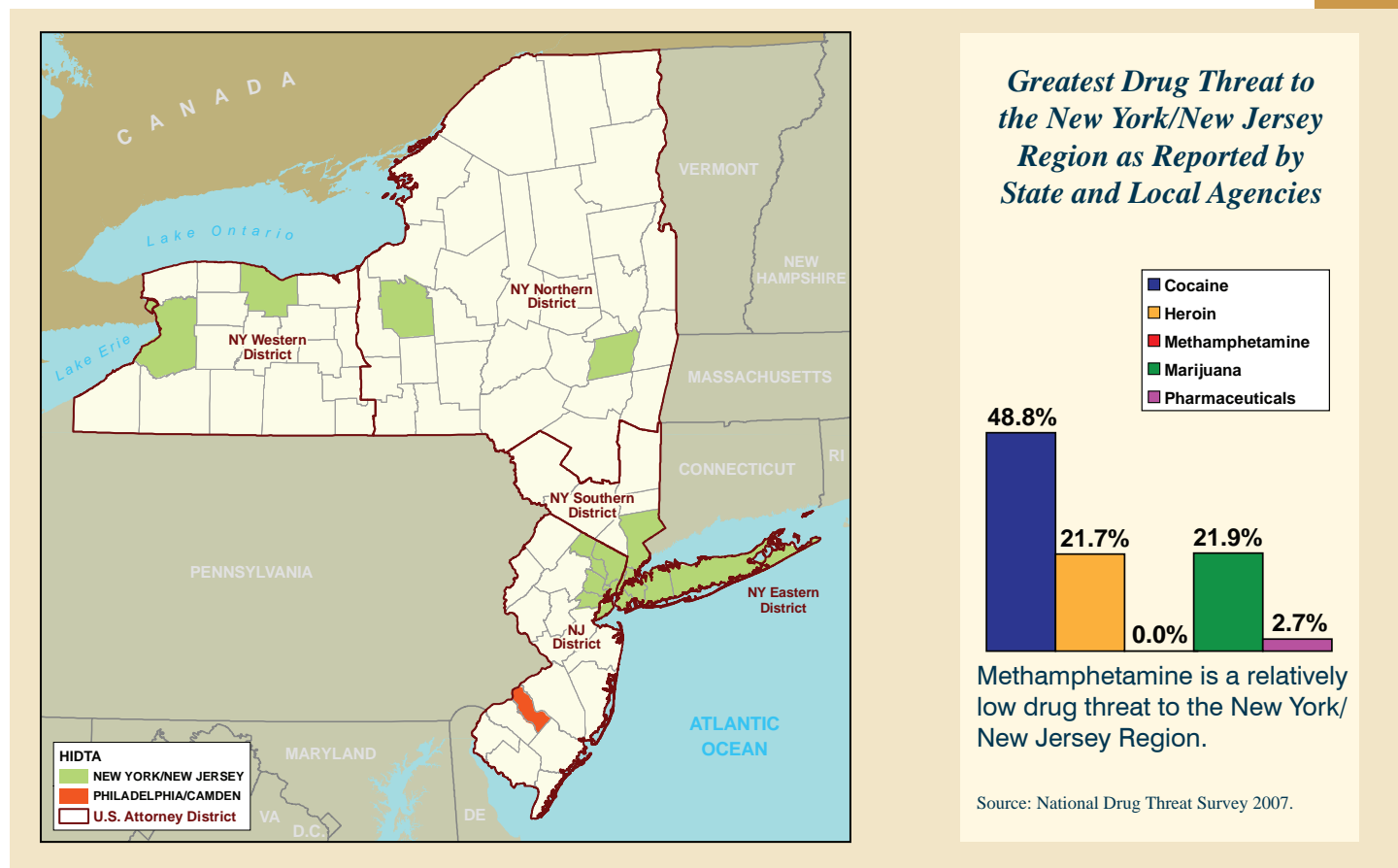


Figure 6. The New York/New Jersey Region.



Methamphetamine production in the region is low but may be rising. Although laboratory seizure data reveal only a few methamphetamine laboratory seizures over the past several years, law enforcement intelligence and investigative information indicate that production has slowly increased, particularly in rural areas of the region, such as Upstate New York. Most methamphetamine laboratories established in the region are small—quantities produced in these laboratories are only sufficient for personal use and limited distribution. Rural areas in the region reportedly are favored by clandestine laboratory operators because of the reduced risk of detection and the likelihood of a lesser law enforcement presence. However, according to seizure data, some small-scale laboratories have been located in urban locations such as the Bronx, Brooklyn, Long Island, Manhattan, and Queens as well as Westchester County and Camden (NJ). These methamphetamine laboratories are typically small, capable of producing only personal use quantities, and are often set up in private residences and motel rooms. Although methamphetamine production in the region is low, chemicals used to produce methamphetamine frequently are diverted from chemical companies to methamphetamine producers and distributors nationwide. In New Jersey, point-of-sale restriction legislation limits the quantity of precursor chemical products that may be purchased in a single transaction; however, no such legislation exists in New York.

Mexican traffickers are the principal suppliers of methamphetamine to the region; various dealers distribute the drug at the retail level. Mexican DTOs are the primary methamphetamine distributors in the New York/New Jersey Region; they also are responsible for the influx of higher-purity ice methamphetamine to the area. Local Mexican wholesale distributors transport multipound quantities of ice methamphetamine into the region from laboratories in Mexico and California and from transshipment locations in southwestern states and, increasingly, Atlanta. Mexican DTOs are the principal wholesale distributors of methamphetamine in the region, and they, along with Hispanic street gangs, control much of the midlevel and retail distribution in the region's cities and larger towns. Caucasian independent dealers and OMGs are the predominant retail dealers in rural areas of the region, where most methamphetamine is distributed and abused. According to law enforcement officials, OMGs commonly use bars in rural areas of the region as methamphetamine distribution sites. Many OMGs have established relationships with Mexican DTOs in order to gain greater access to ice methamphetamine and expand distribution of the drug.



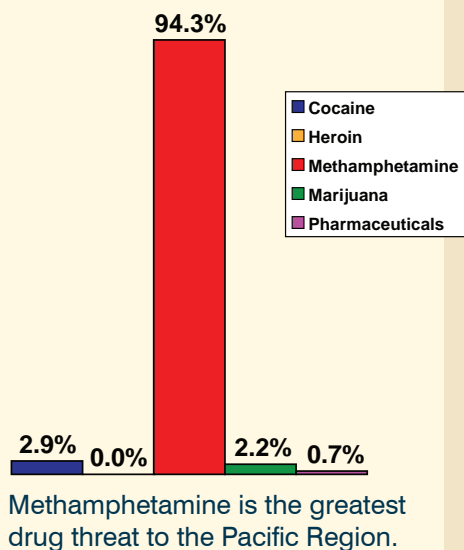
Pacific OCEETF Region

Methamphetamine is the greatest drug threat to the Pacific Region. A majority of law enforcement officials who responded to the NDTs 2007 (94.3 %) identified methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat to their jurisdictions. The nature of this threat is further exemplified by drug seizure and treatment data. According to FDSS, the amount of methamphetamine seized in the region increased each year from 1,889 kilograms in 2005 to 2,440 kilograms in 2006; 1,968 kilograms have been seized in the region as of November 1, 2007. Additionally, according to the most recent treatment data, a significant number of amphetamine-related (including methamphetamine) treatment admissions to publicly funded facilities were recorded in recent years (see Table 2 in Appendix B).

Law enforcement reporting indicates that recent decreases in methamphetamine availability are occurring in many drug markets in the Pacific Region. Several drug markets within the Pacific Region are reportedly experiencing declining methamphetamine availability. Law enforcement agencies in Modesto, Oakland, and Sacramento (CA); Honolulu (HI); Boise (ID); Las Vegas (NV); Portland (OR); and Seattle (WA) recently reported decreases in availability and purity of methamphetamine in their areas, and most reported a concurrent rise in methamphetamine prices during the first 6 months of 2007. Several factors, including declining domestic production, precursor chemical controls, and law enforcement pressure quite likely are contributing to these shortages.



Greatest Drug Threat to the Pacific Region as Reported by State and Local Agencies



Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2007.

Figure 7. The Pacific Region.



Mexican DTOs have augmented declining supplies of locally produced methamphetamine with ice methamphetamine from Mexico. Precursor chemical control legislation, aggressive law enforcement efforts, and public awareness campaigns have decreased the production of methamphetamine throughout the region. As a result, the number of methamphetamine laboratory seizures in the region decreased significantly from 1,717 in 2002 to 247 in 2006, according to NSS data; 106 laboratories have been seized in the region as of November 27, 2007. Small-scale laboratories still exist in the region but are typically capable of producing only limited quantities for personal use or limited distribution—on average, 4 to 7 grams per production cycle. These laboratories are generally operated by independent Caucasian producers. Law enforcement authorities report that a few superlabs still operate in the region; these laboratories, operated by Mexican DTOs, are generally located in the northern and Central Valley areas of California and in Oregon. Mexican DTOs have supplanted the decrease in methamphetamine from local laboratories with large quantities of high-purity ice methamphetamine that they smuggle into the region from Mexico.

Mexican DTOs dominate the transportation and wholesale distribution of methamphetamine in the Pacific Region; various traffickers distribute the drug at the retail level. Mexican DTOs smuggle most of the ice methamphetamine available in the region from Michoacán, Mexico; they also transport additional quantities of the drug throughout the region from production areas in central and southern California. Mexican DTOs are the primary wholesale distributors of most of this methamphetamine; they generally supply Hispanic, Caucasian, and African American traffickers as well as Hispanic and African American street gangs with the drug for retail distribution.

In response to increasing law enforcement pressure, Mexican DTOs have relocated many of their large-scale production operations to rural areas of the region and have conducted phases of production at separate processing areas. According to law enforcement reporting, Mexican DTOs have relocated some of their large-scale production operations to rural areas in northern and central California and Oregon. These DTOs reportedly rent farms or other rural properties for extended periods of time and use them to produce methamphetamine continuously until laboratory operators believe it is no longer safe to operate from the location; some locations are used for several months at a time. Moreover, laboratory operators are increasingly conducting their “cooks” in stages, transferring methamphetamine in solution from a laboratory site to a separate processing area to minimize the loss of completed product should the laboratory be detected.

Methamphetamine producers are disposing of laboratory by-products in increasingly hazardous ways in order to avoid law enforcement detection. Some methamphetamine laboratory operators in the region have recognized that laboratory waste materials provide valuable evidence to law enforcement authorities. As a result, laboratory operators in California’s Central Valley are increasingly setting fire to laboratory dumpsites before abandoning them or burying waste materials on the property around the laboratory site as the waste is produced. Such practices cause wildfire hazards and significant environmental damage that result in tremendous cleanup costs.



Southeast OCEETF Region

Ice methamphetamine has emerged as a serious drug threat to the Southeast Region. Increasing distribution of ice methamphetamine by Mexican DTOs, combined with Atlanta’s position as a principal domestic distribution center, has rendered ice methamphetamine a serious drug threat to the Southeast Region. Mexican ice methamphetamine has become the most prevalent type of methamphetamine available in the region, the result of concerted distribution efforts by Mexican DTOs and decreased local powder methamphetamine production. Methamphetamine is abused at high levels in the Southeast Region; according to treatment data, amphetamine-related admissions (including methamphetamine) to publicly funded treatment facilities increased significantly in recent years (see Table 2 in Appendix B). Most methamphetamine is abused by Caucasians;

however, indicators in Atlanta suggest a growing level of methamphetamine abuse among African Americans. Moreover, law enforcement officials report that methamphetamine abuse is increasing in lower-income areas where crack cocaine traditionally dominated, in part because of the drug’s rapidly increasing availability and long-lasting effects.

Mexican DTOs and criminal groups are the dominant wholesale distributors of ice methamphetamine in the region; African American street gangs are increasingly distributing the drug at the retail level. Mexican DTOs and criminal groups dominate the wholesale distribution of ice methamphetamine in the region. Hispanic (primarily Mexican) and Caucasian DTOs and criminal groups distribute most of the ice methamphetamine available at

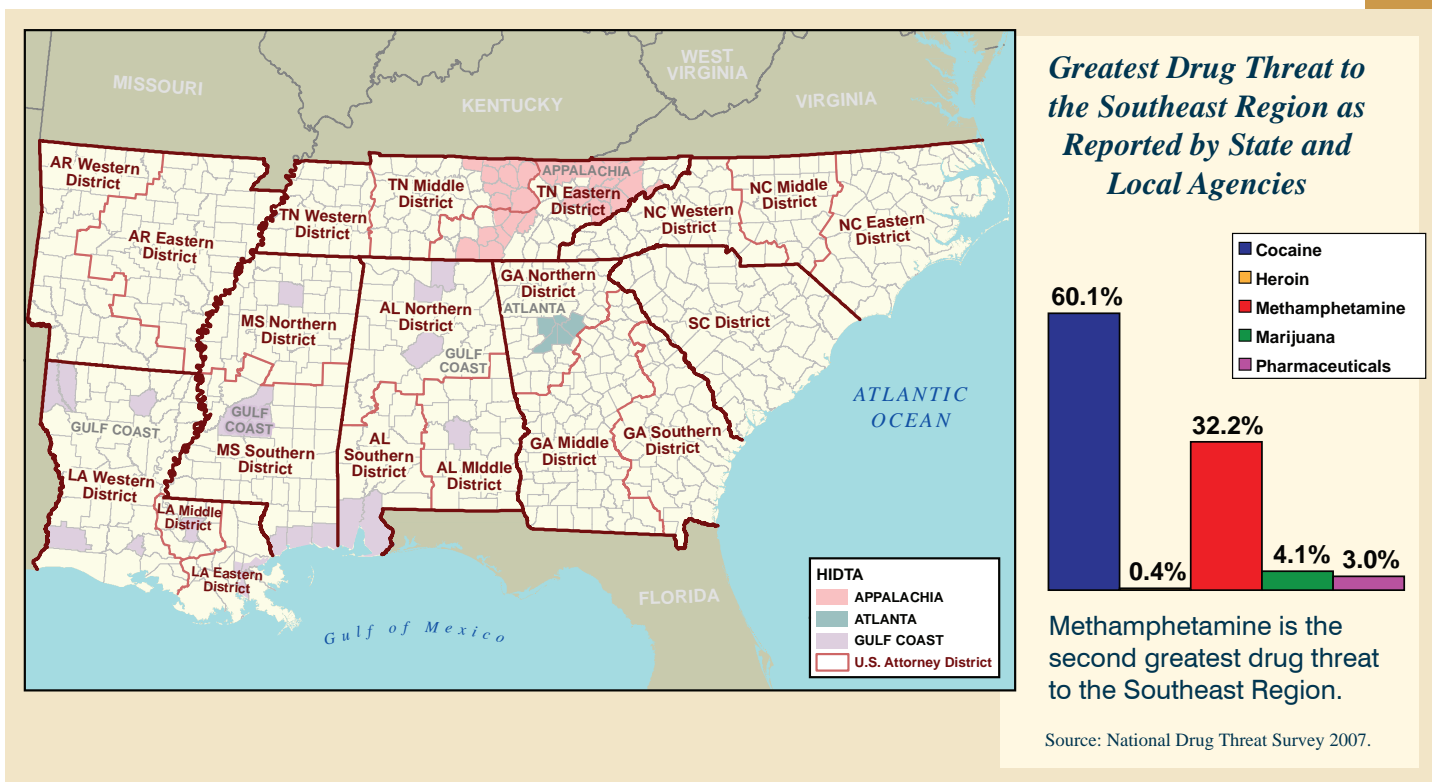


Figure 8. The Southeast Region.



the retail level; however, African American street gangs are increasingly distributing the drug at the retail level as well. Asian criminal groups and members of OMGs also distribute methamphetamine at the retail level, but to a limited extent.

Local powder methamphetamine production has decreased throughout the region.

Increased restrictions on the sale of precursor chemicals such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine implemented throughout the Southeast Region have resulted in drastically decreased local methamphetamine production. According to the latest NSS data, the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized in the region decreased from 1,560 in 2002 to 930 in 2006; 538 laboratories were seized in the region as of November 27, 2007. Additionally, methamphetamine laboratory operators are attempting to bypass precursor chemical restrictions. For instance, Shelby County (TN) law enforcement officials report that methamphetamine producers are increasingly condensing ammonia, a necessary chemical in methamphetamine production. Caucasian criminal groups and local independent dealers are the primary methamphetamine producers in the region.



Southwest ODETF Region

Mexico is the primary source for ice methamphetamine available in the Southwest Region as well as in the rest of the United States. According to law enforcement reporting, Mexican DTO-produced methamphetamine accounts for approximately two-thirds of the ice methamphetamine abused in the United States, most of which is smuggled into the country across the U.S.–Mexico border. The dominance of Mexican ice methamphetamine has enabled Mexican DTOs to monopolize methamphetamine trafficking in the Southwest Region and throughout the United States, including the Pacific, West Central, and Southeast Regions. Mexican DTOs operate large-scale methamphetamine laboratories throughout Mexico, mainly concentrated in the Pacific Coast states of Baja California Norte, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima, Michoacán, and Guerrero. The shift in production of methamphetamine from the United States to Mexico has enabled Mexican DTOs

to monopolize methamphetamine trafficking in the Southwest Region and throughout the United States, including the Pacific, West Central, and Southeast Regions.

California is the primary entry point for ice methamphetamine smuggled into the region from Mexico. According to NSS data, methamphetamine seizures in California have increased significantly over the past few years, increasing from 589 kilograms seized in 2004 to 1,134 in 2005, to 1,737 kilograms in 2006; 946 kilograms of methamphetamine have been seized in California as of November 27, 2007. This pattern is most likely the result of Mexican DTO involvement in methamphetamine trafficking in California. Mexican DTOs have historically controlled many of California’s superlabs and major methamphetamine production facilities; however, in recent years they have transferred most large-scale methamphetamine production operations to Mexico.

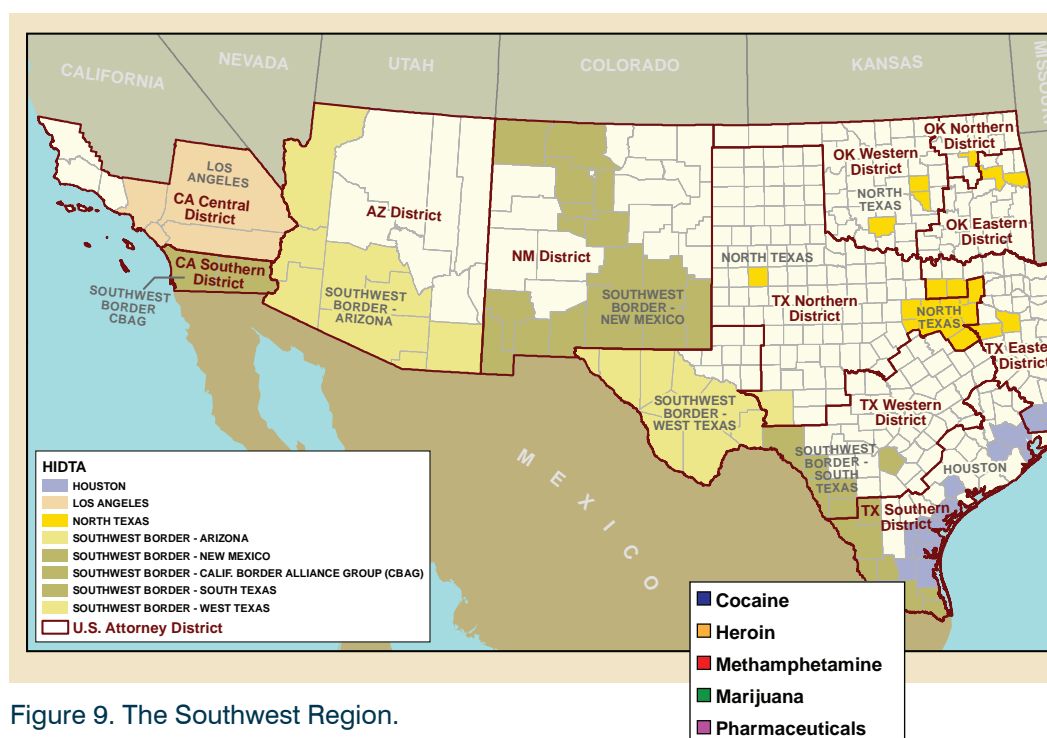
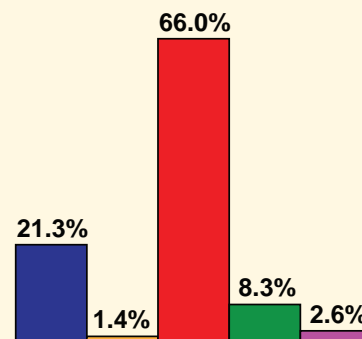


Figure 9. The Southwest Region.

Greatest Drug Threat to the Southwest Region as Reported by State and Local Agencies



Methamphetamine is the greatest drug threat to the Southwest Region.

Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2007.



Many of these DTOs now smuggle methamphetamine into California instead of producing the drug domestically. Despite the change in operations, it appears that these DTOs are using distribution networks that they developed while producing methamphetamine in California. These distribution networks encompass the Pacific, West Central, and Southeast Regions, enabling Mexican DTOs to maintain control of methamphetamine trafficking throughout California and the Southwest Region.

Methamphetamine production is decreasing throughout the region. Methamphetamine production has decreased significantly in the Southwest Region in recent years, largely as a result of successful regulatory efforts to control precursor chemicals as well as successful law enforcement operations. In fact, according to NSS data, methamphetamine laboratory seizures have decreased each year since 2002, from 1,946 in that year to 311 in 2006; 29 laboratories have been seized in the region as of November 27, 2007. Since Oklahoma passed and enacted House Bill 2167 in April 2004, all other states in the Southwest Region have enacted legislation to regulate the sale of ephedrine and/or pseudoephedrine; Oklahoma and New Mexico have scheduled these substances to further restrict their use. As a result, Mexican DTOs have transferred large-scale production operations from California to Mexico. Further, individuals operating small-scale laboratories can no longer obtain the precursor chemicals necessary to produce the drug. Small-scale operators now commonly purchase Mexican ice methamphetamine from local distributors rather than produce the drug. However, methamphetamine production persists throughout the region. Current methamphetamine production in the region primarily supplies quantities sufficient for personal use or limited distribution.

Law enforcement reporting indicates that recent decreases in methamphetamine availability are occurring in many drug markets in the Southwest Region. Several drug markets within the Southwest Region are reportedly experiencing declining methamphetamine availability. Law enforcement agencies in Phoenix (AZ) and Bakersfield, Los Angeles, and San Diego (CA) reported decreases in availability and purity of methamphetamine in their areas, and most reported a concurrent rise in methamphetamine prices during the first 6 months of 2007. Several factors, including declining domestic production, precursor chemical controls, and law enforcement pressure, quite likely are contributing to these shortages.

African American dealers are increasingly involved in methamphetamine abuse and distribution in the region. The demand for and abuse of methamphetamine are expanding beyond traditional Caucasian and Hispanic users throughout the Southwest Region and are emerging among African American individuals. Such expanding use is reflected in treatment data, which reveal an increasing number of amphetamine-related (including methamphetamine) admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities in recent years (see Table 2 in Appendix B). Some African American crack cocaine abusers are switching to methamphetamine. As a result, an increasing number of African American criminal groups, primarily crack cocaine distributors, are distributing methamphetamine in addition to crack cocaine. Moreover, some crack cocaine distributors have switched to solely distributing methamphetamine. This trend has been reported by law enforcement and health officials in southeastern New Mexico; Dallas and Tyler (TX); and Oklahoma City (OK). Law enforcement officials attribute the increasing involvement of African American criminal groups in methamphetamine distribution to increased profit potential; African American dealers are increasing their access to Caucasian and Hispanic consumers by distributing methamphetamine.



West Central ODETF Region

Methamphetamine abuse is of critical concern to law enforcement and public health officials. Methamphetamine poses the most serious drug abuse problem in the West Central Region, largely because of high addiction rates and the abundance of low-cost ice methamphetamine supplied by Mexican traffickers. According to treatment data, amphetamine-related admissions (including those for methamphetamine) to publicly funded treatment facilities in the West Central Region increased significantly in recent years (see Table 2 in Appendix B).

Mexican DTOs have established themselves as the primary methamphetamine source of supply for local and regional methamphetamine distributors. Mexican DTOs

are the dominant wholesale methamphetamine distributors in the West Central Region; they control distribution of the drug to the region's midlevel and retail distributors. According to law enforcement reporting, Mexican DTOs supply at least 70 percent of the methamphetamine available throughout the region. Hispanic criminal groups are the primary midlevel and retail distributors in the region; however, other ethnic criminal groups, independent dealers, street gangs, and OMGs also distribute the drug to varying degrees in the region's retail drug markets. Retail distributors in remote areas of the region often travel to Denver and Salt Lake City to obtain methamphetamine from Mexican DTOs and street gangs for distribution in their communities.

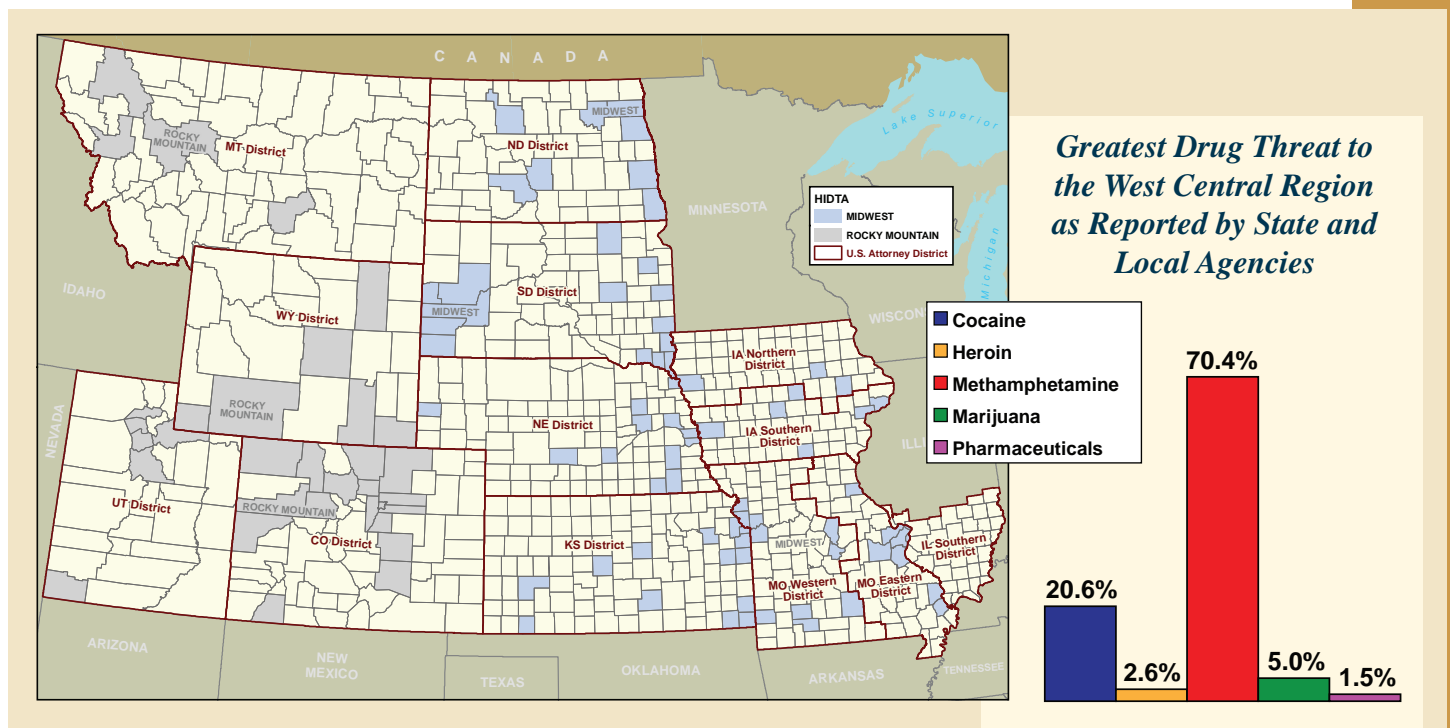


Figure 10. The West Central Region.

Methamphetamine is the greatest drug threat to the West Central Region.

Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2007.



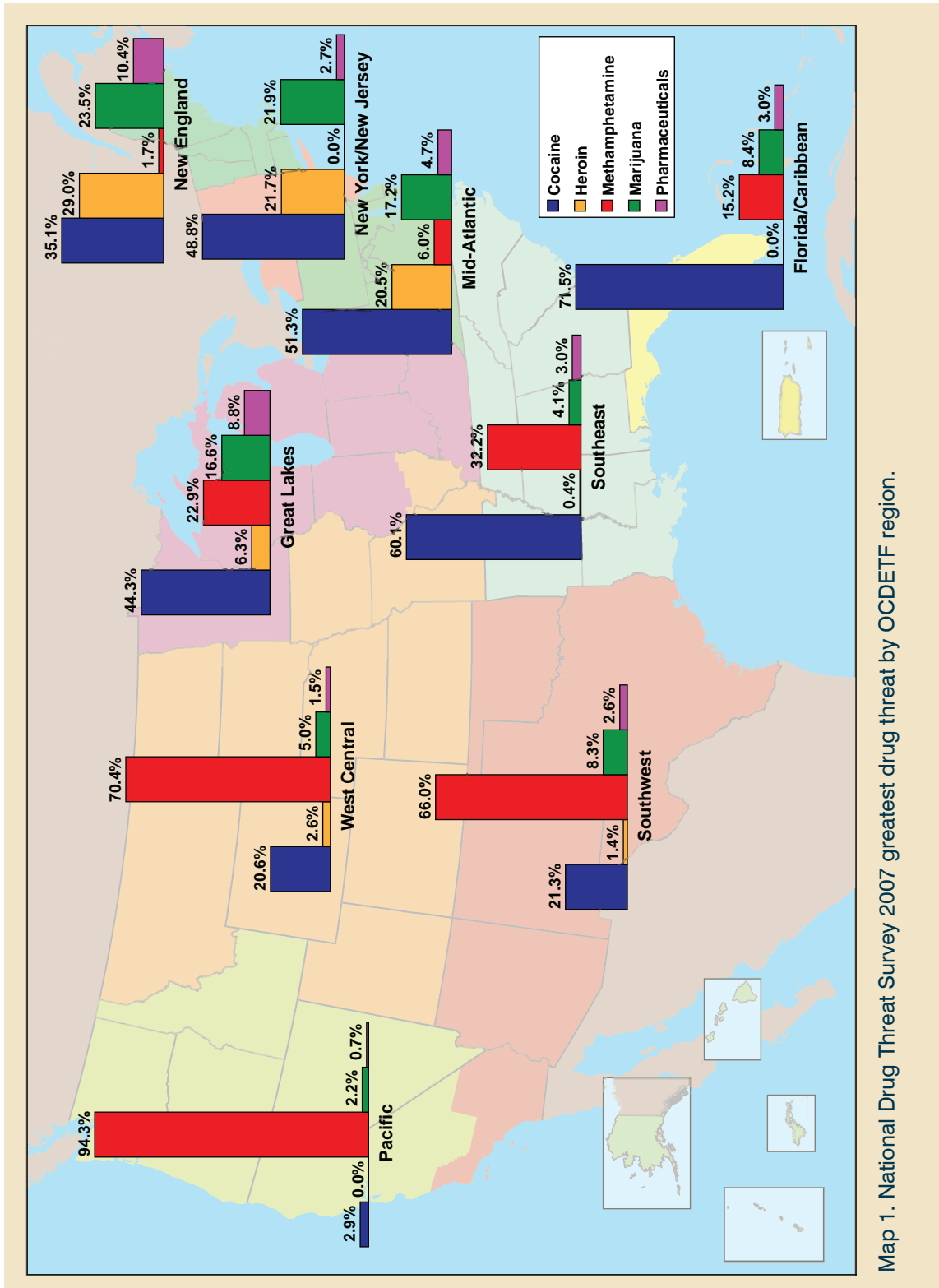
Methamphetamine production is decreasing throughout the region. Methamphetamine production has decreased significantly in the West Central Region in recent years, largely as a result of successful regulatory efforts to control precursor chemicals as well as successful law enforcement operations. In fact, according to NSS data, the number of reported methamphetamine laboratory seizures in the region has decreased from 2,683 in 2004 to 917 in 2006; 594 laboratories have been seized in the region as of November 27, 2007. However, methamphetamine production persists throughout the region. Current methamphetamine production in the region primarily supplies quantities sufficient for personal use or limited distribution.

Some methamphetamine producers in Denver are forming criminal networks to circumvent precursor chemical control laws and maintain their methamphetamine production operations. According to the Denver North Metro Drug Task Force, criminal groups consisting of methamphetamine producers and abusers are forming in Denver to counter the growing dominance of Mexican ice methamphetamine and the legislatively enacted restrictions on the acquisition of pseudoephedrine and other chemicals used in methamphetamine production. These groups are locally based and self-sustaining; they prefer to produce or purchase local methamphetamine rather than use Mexican methamphetamine. They typically have from 12 to 20 members who band together for the purpose of conducting criminal activities with the ultimate purpose of acquiring materials for methamphetamine production and supplying their methamphetamine habits. Crews recruit individuals with specific criminal talents such as auto theft, prescription fraud, identity theft, credit card theft and, in some instances, counterfeiting currency on color printers. Crew members use coun-

terfeit money for subsistence items like food and gas but typically do not use it to purchase pseudoephedrine or other essential items for methamphetamine production.



Appendix A. Map



Map 1. National Drug Threat Survey 2007 greatest drug threat by OCDETF region.



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Appendix B. Tables

Table 1. Trends in Percentage of Past Year Methamphetamine Use, 2002–2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Individuals (12 and older)	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8
Adolescents (12-17)	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Adults (18-25)	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7
Adults (26 and older)	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Table 2. Amphetamine (including Methamphetamine) Treatment Admissions by OCEETF Region 2001–2005

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Florida/Caribbean*	467	741	1,022	1,220	1,458
Great Lakes**	5,444	7,331	10,123	12,371	14,809
Mid-Atlantic	563	792	1,301	1,710	2,849
New England	289	337	313	339	427
New York/New Jersey	591	685	834	865	857
Pacific***	63,375	82,744	83,862	86,388	94,776
Southeast	7,811	10,172	12,398	11,833	13,760
Southwest***	46,540	66,550	70,454	71,596	82,319
West Central**	18,178	20,622	24,273	28,610	32,436

Source: Treatment Episode Data Set.

*The U.S. Virgin Islands do not participate in the Treatment Episode Data Set and were not included in the figures for the Florida/Caribbean Region.

**The state of Illinois is split between the Great Lakes and West Central Regions. Figures for each of those regions include the entire state of Illinois.

*** The state of California is split between the Pacific and Southwest Regions. Figures for each of those regions include the entire state of California.

Table 3. Federal-Wide U.S. Methamphetamine Seizures, in Kilograms, 2002–2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
State	2,504.5	4,138.9	3,900.3	4,772.1	4,589.8
High Seas	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,504.5	4,138.9	3,900.3	4,772.1	4,589.8

Source: Federal-Wide Drug Seizure System.



Table 4. Number of Federal Methamphetamine-Related Arrests, United States, 2002–2006

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
6,231	6,055	5,893	6,090	2,597

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration.

Table 5. Average Purity of Methamphetamine Samples Tested, by Percentage, 2002–2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Kilogram	43	66	78	80	73
Ounce	37	54	58	68	48
Gram	49	59	61	69	51

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration.



Appendix C. Methamphetamine Prices

Table 1. Methamphetamine Prices by State and City—January Through June 2007

State/Territory/District	City	Price in Dollars		
		Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
Alabama	Birmingham	5,500-7,000/lb Ice MX	1,500/oz Ice MX	80-100/g Ice MX 80-100/g LP
	Mobile	12,000-14,000/lb Ice MX	1,600/oz Ice MX	100-140/g Ice MX
	Montgomery	10,000-12,000/lb LP	1,400-1,600/oz Ice MX	120/g Ice MX
Alaska	Anchorage	10,000-20,000/lb Ice MX	1,350-1,800/oz Ice MX, LP	100-150/g Ice MX, LP
Arizona	Phoenix	10,000-15,000/lb 2,500/¼ lb	700-1,500/oz 90/g	50/½ g 20/¼ g
	Tucson	6,500-10,000/lb 4,000-4,500/½ lb	500-600/oz	40-60/g
Arkansas	Fayetteville	13,000-18,500/lb Ice MX	1,300-1,500/oz Ice MX	100/g Ice MX 90-100/g LP
	Fort Smith	12,000-15,000/lb Ice MX	1,200-1,400/oz Ice MX	100/g Ice MX 100/g LP
	Little Rock	12,000-18,000/lb Ice MX	800-1,300/oz Ice MX	60-80/g Ice MX 60-80/g LP
California	Fresno	15,000-20,000/lb Ice	950-1,400/oz Ice	NR
	Los Angeles	15,000/lb Ice 9,000-10,000/lb PM	600-800/oz Ice 100-125/⅛ oz Ice	60-70/⅓ oz Ice 40-50/⅓ oz Ice 20/¼ g Ice
	Sacramento	16,000/lb Ice 2,100-3,600/¼ lb Ice	400-628/oz PM 700-900/oz Ice	NR
	San Diego	9,000-17,000/lb Ice	750-1,250/oz Ice 200-350/¼ oz Ice 140-200/⅛ oz Ice	90-130/⅓ oz PM 40-90/g Ice 20-25/¼ g Ice 10/⅓ g Ice
	San Francisco	10,000-20,000/lb Ice 6,800-7,200/lb PM	810-1,800/oz Ice 750/oz PM	75/g Ice 160-200/⅓ oz Ice 100-120/⅓ oz Ice
Colorado	Colorado Springs	14,000-16,000/lb Ice MX	1,200-1,500/oz Ice MX 500-800/oz PM, LP	100-140/g Ice MX, PM, LP
	Denver	16,000-20,000/lb Ice MX 12,000-15,000/lb PM MX	1,000-1,300/oz Ice MX 50-1,000/oz PM MX	120-150/g Ice MX, PM, LP
Connecticut	Bridgeport	15,000-18,000/lb	2,300/oz	—
	Hartford	—	—	—
	New Haven	—	—	—
Delaware	Wilmington	30,000-36,000/kg PM 14,000-16,000/lb PM	1,200-1,400/oz PM	50-60/g 180-200/8-ball
District of Columbia	Washington	—	100-150/g PM	—



Table 1. Methamphetamine Prices by State and City—January Through June 2007 (Continued)

State/Territory/District	City	Price in Dollars		
		Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
Florida	Jacksonville	16,000/lb	1,000-1,700/oz 1,100/oz Ice	60-70/g
	Miami	15,000-30,000/lb Ice	2,100/oz Ice	—
	Orlando	12,000-15,000/lb PM 9,000-15,000/lb Ice	950-1,600/oz PM 1,800-2,400/oz Ice	15-100/g PM
	Tampa	14,000-18,000/lb Ice 6,000-16,000/lb PM	1,200/oz Ice 600-1,200/oz PM	30-100/g Ice 70-80/g PM
Georgia	Atlanta	10,000-20,000/lb Ice 8,000-12,000/lb DO PM 6,000-10,000/lb MX PM	750-1,600/oz Ice 600-1,400/oz DO PM 900-1,200/oz MX PM	100-120/g Ice 200-250/8-ball Ice 25-80/g MX PM 5-40/g DO PM
	Columbus	4,000-8,000/lb DO, MX PM	1,200-1,500/oz Ice 1,000-1,500/oz DO PM	100-150/g Ice 100-125/g DO, MX PM
	Macon	—	800-1,500/oz Ice	80-100/g Ice 35-135/g MX PM
	Savannah	12,000/lb MX PM 12,000-16,000/lb MX PM	1,000-1,500/oz DO PM 800-1,600/oz Ice	50-100/g MX PM 100-140/g DO PM 100-150/g Ice
Hawaii	Honolulu	20,000-45,000/lb Ice	2,500-3,500/oz Ice 1,000-2,100 ¹ / ₂ oz Ice 500-1,000 ¹ / ₄ oz Ice	200-300/g Ice 50/150 ¹ / ₄ g Ice 300-600 ¹ / ₈ oz Ice 200-400 ¹ / ₁₆ oz Ice
Idaho	Boise	17,000/lb Ice	1,000-1,400/oz Ice	100-120/g Ice
Illinois	Chicago	8,000-16,000/lb Ice	1,000-1,500/oz Ice	150/8-ball Ice 80-100/g Ice 25-30/0.1 g Ice
	Rockford	—	—	NR
	Springfield	—	—	250/8-ball PM 100/g PM
Indiana	Evansville	—	1,400-1,800/oz PM	100/g PM 125/g Ice
	Fort Wayne	12,000-15,000/lb PM 15,000/lb Ice	1,200/oz PM	100/g PM
	Indianapolis	15,000-18,000/lb Ice 7,000-9,000/lb PM	1,500-2,000/oz Ice 500-1,000/oz PM	200/g Ice 100/g PM
	Merrillville	10,000/lb Ice 3,500-7,000/lb PM	400-800/oz PM	50-70/g PM
Iowa	Cedar Rapids	6,000-12,000/lb Ice	900-1,400/oz Ice	100-130/g Ice
	Des Moines	10,000-15,000/lb Ice	1,000-1,400/oz Ice	120-140/g Ice
Kansas	Wichita	10,000-16,000/lb Ice MX 3,500-4,000/lb PM MX	1,000-1,300/oz Ice MX 425-500/oz PM MX	120-140/g Ice MX 60-80/g PM MX



Table 1. Methamphetamine Prices by State and City—January Through June 2007 (Continued)

State/Territory/District	City	Price in Dollars		
		Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
Kentucky	Lexington	6,000-7,000/lb	1,400/oz	100/g
	London	10,000-12,000/lb	1,000/oz	100/g
	Louisville	12,000-14,000/lb	1,800/oz	110-125/g
Louisiana	Baton Rouge	16,000/lb	1,000/oz	100/g 10/du
	New Orleans	16,000/lb	1,400-1,600/oz 250/¼ oz	80/g
	Shreveport	19,000/lb	2,200-2,500/oz	125/g
Maine	Bangor	–	–	200/g PM
	Lewiston	–	–	100-200/g PM 75-150/g LP
	Portland	–	–	–
Maryland	Baltimore	–	–	–
	Hagerstown	–	–	–
Massachusetts	Boston	12,500-16,000/lb 21,000/lb Ice	1,500-3,000/oz Ice 1,250-3,000/oz 1,250-1,400/oz PM 400-500/¼ oz PM	720/8-ball 100-200/g
	Springfield	–	–	–
	Worcester	–	1,500-1,600/oz Ice 1,500-1,600/oz	–
Michigan	Detroit	16,000/lb PM LP	1,200/oz PM LP 1,600-2,200/oz ICE	175/g PM LP 60-65/¼ g Ice
	Grand Rapids	–	800/oz PM LP	100/g PM LP
	Saginaw	–	1,200/oz PM LP	100/g PM LP
Minnesota	Minneapolis	16,000/lb Ice	900-1,700/oz Ice	90-100/g Ice
Mississippi	Gulfport	14,000-15,000/lb Ice MX	1,000-1,400/oz Ice MX	NR
	Jackson	12,000-14,000/lb Ice MX	1,000-1,200/oz Ice MX	100-120/g Ice
	Oxford	–	1,000-1,200/oz Ice MX	150-250/8-ball Ice MX 150-250/8-ball LP 100/g Ice MX 100/g LP
Missouri	Kansas City	12,000/lb Ice MX	1,200-1,500/oz Ice MX	100/g Ice MX
	St. Louis	–	1,500/oz Ice MX	–
Montana	Billings	20,000/lb Ice	1,100-2,000/oz Ice	120-150/g
	Great Falls	10,000-20,000/lb Ice	1,100-1,500/oz PM	120-150/g 80-100/g PM
Nebraska	Grand Island	–	800-1,200/oz Ice MX	80-100/g Ice MX 180-250/8-ball Ice MX
	Omaha	–	600-850/oz Ice MX	–



Table 1. Methamphetamine Prices by State and City—January Through June 2007 (Continued)

State/Territory/District	City	Price in Dollars		
		Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
Nevada	Las Vegas	16,000-18,000/lb Ice	700-850/oz Ice	240 ¹ / ₈ oz Ice 160 ¹ / ₁₆ oz Ice 80-100/g Ice
	Reno	19,200/lb Ice	1,200/oz Ice	100/g Ice
New Hampshire	Concord	–	1,500/oz PM	100/g PM
	Manchester	19,000-20,000/lb	2,200-3,000/oz Ice 1,600-2,500/oz 325-550 ¹ / ₈ oz LP	140-200/g LP 140-200/g
New Jersey	Atlantic City	12,000-24,000/lb PM 9,000-16,000/lb Ice	300-350/8-ball PM	90-100/g Ice
	Camden	12,000-24,000/lb PM 9,000-16,000/lb Ice	2,500/oz PM 900-1,100/oz Ice 300-350/8-ball PM	90-100/g Ice
	Newark	8,000-18,000/lb PM 12,000-17,000/lb Ice	1,000-5,000/oz Ice	200 ¹ / ₈ oz PM 65-80/g PM
New Mexico	Albuquerque	17,000-20,000/kg 10,000/lb	800-1,000/oz	–
	Las Cruces	15,000/kg 7,500/lb	1,000/oz	80/g
New York	Albany	–	900-1,600/oz PM 1,850-2,800/oz Ice	70-200/g PM
	Buffalo	10,000-26,000/lb PM	1,600-2,000/oz PM	65-150/g PM
	New York	13,000-18,000/lb Ice	3,000-7,000/oz Ice 800-1,400/oz PM	130-140/g PM
North Carolina	Charlotte	8,000-15,000/lb MX PM 24,000-26,000/kg Ice 10,000-12,000/lb Ice	1,200-2,000/oz MX PM 1,200/oz Ice	50 ¹ / ₂ g PM 100-125/g MX PM
	Raleigh	12,000-15,000/lb PM	1,200-1,600/oz PM 1,100-1,500/oz Ice	–
	Wilmington	15,000-17,000/lb PM	800-1,200/oz PM	80-100/g PM
North Dakota	Bismarck	22,000/lb Ice 10,000-20,000/lb PM	2,000-2,500/oz Ice 1,600/oz PM	200/g Ice 100/g PM
	Fargo	15,000/lb Ice 6,000-9,000/lb PM	600 ¹ / ₈ oz Ice 275-350 ¹ / ₈ oz PM	80-100 ¹ / ₄ g Ice 50 ¹ / ₄ g PM
Ohio	Cincinnati	–	–	100/g
	Cleveland	15,000/lb	1,000/oz	100/g PM LP
	Columbus	–	1,000-1,200/oz	100-120/g
	Dayton	9,000-10,000/lb	1,200/oz	100/g
	Toledo	–	1,000/oz	100/g
	Youngstown	–	1,500/oz	100/g



Table 1. Methamphetamine Prices by State and City—January Through June 2007 (Continued)

State/Territory/District	City	Price in Dollars		
		Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	16,000-20,000/kg Ice MX 9,000-12,000/lb Ice MX	800-1,200/oz Ice MX	90-110/g Ice MX
	Tulsa	8,500-9,000/lb Ice MX	750-1,000/oz Ice MX	85-120/g Ice MX
Oregon	Eugene	8,500-16,000/lb Ice 4,000-8,000/lb PM	625-1,200/oz Ice 500-700/oz PM	80-100/g Ice 40-100/g PM
	Portland	10,000-16,000/lb Ice 4,000-7,000/lb PM	700-1,200/oz Ice 450-1,000/oz PM	80-100/g Ice 50/g PM
Pennsylvania	Allentown	–	1,700-3,500/oz	100-140/g
	Philadelphia	8,000-20,000/lb PM	700-2,400/oz PM 2,000-2,500/oz Ice 125-175/8-ball PM 350-400/8-ball Ice	42-175/g PM
	Pittsburgh	6,500/lb	1,000-1,300/oz	100/g
Puerto Rico	San Juan	–	–	–
Rhode Island	Providence	–	–	–
South Carolina	Charleston	–	975-1,400/oz PM	100-200/g PM 100-120/g
	Columbia	12,000-15,000/lb PM 15,000-18,000/lb Ice	900-1,100/oz PM 1,100-1,300/oz Ice	80-120/g PM 88-132/g Ice
	Greenville	18,000-22,000/lb PM 18,000-22,000/lb MX PM 25,000-27,000/lb Ice	800-1,200/oz PM 800-1,200/oz MX PM 1,200-1,400/oz Ice	80-100/g PM 80-100/g MX PM 150-250/g Ice
South Dakota	Rapid City	15,000-16,000/lb Ice	2,000-2,400/oz Ice	150/g Ice
	Sioux Falls	9,000-12,000/lb Ice 6,000-12,000/lb PM	1,000-1,500/oz Ice 700-1,200/oz PM	100-150/g Ice 50-100/g PM
Tennessee	Knoxville	9,000-15,000/lb Ice	800-1,500/oz Ice	–
	Memphis	–	1,600-1,800/oz Ice 1,000/oz PM	100-150/g Ice 100/g PM
	Nashville	–	900-1,800/oz Ice	75-100/g Ice
Texas	Alpine	–	–	–
	Dallas	10,000-12,000/lb Ice MX 10,500/lb PM	1,200-1,400/oz Ice MX 600-800/oz PM	100-125/g Ice MX 70-100/g PM
	El Paso	20,000/kg PM 22,000/kg Ice	–	25-50/g PM 30-50/g Ice
	Houston	8,000-15,000/lb Ice 6,000-10,000/lb PM	700-1,500/oz Ice 500-900/oz PM	–
	Midland	16,000/kg PM	800/oz PM	100-120/g PM
	San Antonio	8,000-12,000/lb Ice 16,000-25,000/kg Ice 6,000-10,000/lb PM	500-1,500/oz Ice 500-1,000/oz PM	100-125/g Ice 90-110/g PM



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Table 1. Methamphetamine Prices by State and City—January Through June 2007 (Continued)

State/Territory/District	City	Price in Dollars		
		Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
Utah	Salt Lake City	10,000-18,000/lb Ice MX 9,000-16,000/lb PM MX	900-1,600/oz Ice MX 800-1,400/oz PM MX 100-400/8-ball Ice MX	50-150/1/16 oz Ice MX 40-120/g Ice MX
Vermont	Burlington	–	–	150-180/g Ice
Virginia	Fairfax	–	2,200-2,800/oz PM	–
	Norfolk	15,000-17,000/kg	8,000-9,000/1/2 kg 4,000-5,000/1/4 kg 700-800/oz 350-400/1/2 oz 200-250/1/4 oz 150-250/1/8 oz 125-175/1/16 oz	75-100/g 50/1/2 g 20/1/10 g
	Richmond	–	–	–
	Roanoke	8,000-12,000/lb 750/oz	800-1,000/oz	1,100/oz 150-200/8-ball 80-100/g
	Virginia Beach	28,000-32,000/kg PM 15,000-17,000/1/2 kg PM 13,000-15,000/lb PM 16,000-17,500/lb Ice	8,500-9,500/1/4 kg PM 900-1,000/oz PM 1,000-1,100/oz Ice	500-600/1/2 oz PM 300-350/1/4 oz PM 175-225/8-ball PM 150-200/1/16 oz PM 90-110/g PM
Washington	Seattle	7,000-13,000/lb Ice 3,000-5,000/lb PM	700-1,300/oz Ice 350-800/oz PM	150/g Ice 20-60/g PM
	Spokane	8,000-12,500/lb Ice 4,000-10,000/lb PM	700-1,400/oz Ice 450-1,300/oz PM	80-100/g Ice 40-60/g PM
	Yakima	8,000-15,000/lb Ice 2,500-10,000/lb PM	700-1,200/oz Ice 300-600/oz PM	50-125/g Ice 30/g PM
West Virginia	Charleston	7,000/lb Ice	1,000-1,300/oz Ice	180-200/g Ice 250-300/8-ball Ice
Wisconsin	Green Bay	–	1,000-1,200/oz PM	100/g Ice
	Madison	–	900-1,500/oz PM	150-200/g PM
	Milwaukee	–	700-1,350/oz PM	100/g PM
Wyoming	Cheyenne	10,000-13,500/lb Ice MX 8,000-12,000/lb PM MX	900-2,000/oz Ice MX 900-2,000/oz PM MX 200-400/8-ball Ice MX 200-400/1/8 oz PM MX 175/1/16 oz Ice PM MX	75-125/g PM Ice MX

Source: National Drug Intelligence Center, *National Illicit Drug Prices, June 2007*.



Sources

Numerous state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States provided valuable input to this report through their participation in the National Drug Threat Survey and interviews with NDIC Field Program Specialists. These agencies are too numerous to list individually.

Federal

Executive Office of the President
 Office of National Drug Control Policy
 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
 Appalachia
 Atlanta
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 Domestic Monitor Program
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Newark Field Division
New Orleans Field Division
New York Field Division
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U.S. Government Accountability Office
U.S. Post Office
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U.S. Sentencing Commission

State

State of Arizona

Attorney General's Office

State of California

Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein
Computer and Technology Crime High-Tech Response Teams
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State of Colorado

Denver North Metro Drug Task Force

State of Iowa

Office of Senator Charles E. Grassley

State of Washington

Office of Senator Maria Cantwell

Other Sources

The Council of Better Business Bureaus
National Association of Counties
National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse
Columbia University
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
United Nations
Commodity Trade Statistics Database
International Narcotics Control Board
World Privacy Forum

Main cover photo:

DEA - Ice methamphetamine

Inset photos from top:

Snohomish (Washington) Regional Drug Task Force - Methamphetamine clandestine laboratory precursor chemicals

Grand Forks (North Dakota) Narcotics Task Force - One-bucket meth lab seizure

DEA - Ice methamphetamine crystals with pipe

Snohomish (Washington) Regional Drug Task Force - Methamphetamine clandestine laboratory components and precursor chemicals



National Drug Intelligence Center

319 Washington Street 5th Floor, Johnstown, PA 15901-1622 • (814) 532-4601

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