



Indiana

Drug Threat Assessment



National Drug Intelligence Center
U.S. Department of Justice

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Indiana Drug Threat Assessment

*National Drug Intelligence Center
319 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Johnstown, PA 15901-1622
(814) 532-4601*

Preface

This report is a strategic assessment that addresses the status and outlook of the drug threat in Indiana. Analytical judgment determined the threat posed by each drug type or category, taking into account the most current quantitative and qualitative information on availability, demand, production or cultivation, transportation, and distribution, as well as the effects of a particular drug on abusers and society as a whole. While NDIC sought to incorporate the latest available information, a time lag often exists between collection and publication of data, particularly demand-related data sets. NDIC anticipates that this drug threat assessment will be useful to policymakers, law enforcement personnel, and treatment providers at the federal, state, and local levels because it draws upon a broad range of information sources to describe and analyze the drug threat in Indiana.

Indiana Drug Threat Assessment

Executive Summary

Indiana, particularly the Lake County area, is an ideal drug transportation and distribution center because of its proximity to Chicago and varied transportation infrastructure. Private vehicles, commercial trucks, package delivery services, air parcel delivery services or couriers, and railways are the most common means used to transport drugs through the Lake County area. Mexican drug trafficking organizations transport cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, and heroin and independent criminal groups distribute cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. Organized street gangs such as the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings, as well as local, independent gangs not affiliated with Chicago, control the retail distribution and sale of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Gang-related violent crime, while declining in some urban areas, is increasing in suburban and rural areas as gangs expand their drug markets.

Powdered cocaine and marijuana pose the greatest threats to Indiana. Crack cocaine is a threat, but is not as widespread as powdered cocaine and marijuana. Indiana police and sheriff's departments report increases in cocaine and marijuana-related investigations, arrests, and seizures. Statistics also indicate increases in cocaine and marijuana abuse among arrestees.

The violent criminal activity associated with methamphetamine may rival or exceed that associated with crack cocaine. Methamphetamine abusers behave unpredictably, and their actions endanger law enforcement and contribute to an increase in domestic violence. Methamphetamine is transported from the Southwest Border, California, Chicago, as well as southern Illinois to the Southern District, and most recently, the Northern District of Indiana. Methamphetamine availability is increasing in urban areas—where the traditional drug of choice has been crack cocaine—primarily because of demand for the less expensive, longer euphoric effect associated with methamphetamine.

Cannabis cultivation is an escalating problem and the number of local indoor and outdoor grow operations is increasing. Indiana law enforcement officials report that approximately 25–30 percent of the marijuana available throughout the state is grown locally.

Heroin abuse is increasing, especially in the Lake County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. Mexican drug trafficking organizations are increasing their operations within Indiana, spreading as far east as Fort Wayne and as far south as Indianapolis. Chicago and cities along the Southwest Border are the sources of the heroin supply in the Lake County area.

MDMA and GHB use is a growing concern for authorities. MDMA availability and abuse increased in 2000 and into the early months of 2001, and GHB use was a factor in several rapes and poisonings in Indiana. The increasing popularity of these and other dangerous drugs, especially among young adults and teens attending raves, is expected to cause significant problems in the state, especially in college towns.

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Indiana Drug Threat Assessment

Overview

Indiana is the fourteenth largest state in the nation with a population of 5.9 million people. The northern belt along Lake Michigan is industrialized, while the central and southern areas support a rural, agricultural lifestyle. All the interstates in Indiana cross through Indianapolis, the state's largest city.

Northwestern Indiana, specifically the area covered by the Lake County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), is a distribution center for drugs transported throughout Indiana. Lake County, Indiana's second largest county, is located just 30 miles east of Chicago and consists of approximately 500 square miles. The county's population of 486,308 comprises more than 80 ethnic cultures. The Lake County HIDTA is divided into three areas: the urban, northern area (including Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago); the suburban, central area; and the rural, southern area. The transportation infrastructure of Lake County is varied, consisting of passenger and commercial railroad lines (there are large rail yards in Gary, Hammond, and Munster), the Port of Indiana, several truck depots, and two airports, including the recently expanded Gary Airport. Drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) take advantage of this infrastructure and use the Lake County area as a transshipment point for drugs destined for the Midwest. Mexican DTOs use the

Fast Facts	
Indiana	
Population (1999)	5.9 million
U.S. ranking	14th
Median income (1999)	\$40,929
Unemployment rate (1999)	3%
Land area	36,291 square miles
Shoreline	53 miles
Capital	Indianapolis
Principal cities	Fort Wayne, Gary, Evansville, South Bend
Number of counties	92
Principal industries	Agriculture, production, tourism

area to store and distribute bulk quantities of cocaine, marijuana, and heroin.

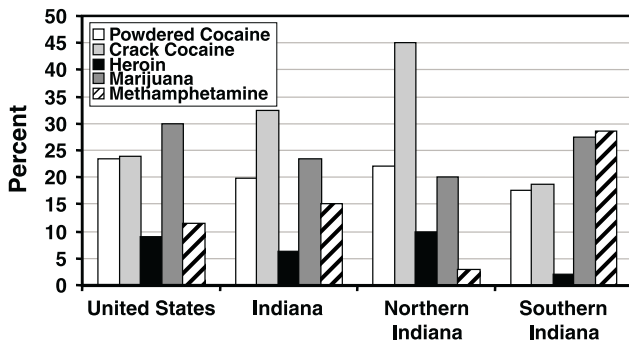
Private and rented vehicles and commercial trucks are the most common means used to transport drugs, although package delivery services, air parcel delivery services or couriers, and railways

also are used. Drug shipments have an excellent chance of reaching a destination because of the volume of private vehicles, trucks, parcels, rail-cars, and ships that transit the area every day.

Indianapolis is a secondary distribution center for the state. Indianapolis is one of the country's leading grain markets and a major livestock and meat processing center. Both I-70, a major east-west route spanning two-thirds of the country, and I-65, the Lake Michigan-Gulf of Mexico link, pass directly through downtown, providing DTOs easy access to the city as well as to other areas of the state. Furthermore, I-69 connects Indianapolis to central and southern Michigan, providing a possible conduit for drug transportation throughout the Great Lakes Region. Indianapolis is also ranked sixteenth in the world for air cargo shipped with 1,107,985 tons per year.

The nature of the drug problem in Indiana varies throughout the state. The primary drug problems in northern and central Indiana are the availability, distribution, and abuse of powdered and crack cocaine. In the central and southern areas, a dramatic increase in the number of methamphetamine laboratories has resulted in increased methamphetamine abuse. Heroin is more readily available in the state's urban areas, and while marijuana is the most commonly abused drug across Indiana, the threat posed by marijuana abuse has not reached the level posed by powdered cocaine.

Chart 1. Federal Sentences by Drug Type, FY1998



Source: U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Federal, state, and local law enforcement officials report that Mexican DTOs are the primary transporters of cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin to Indiana. They obtain supplies directly from Mexico or via California, Florida, and Texas. African American and independent Caucasian criminal groups also transport drugs to Indiana.

Street gangs, including organized gangs such as the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings, as well as local independents dominate street-level distribution of drugs in the Northern District, whereas local or independent street gangs are a more dominant factor in drug distribution throughout the Southern District. The presence of gangs or gang-related activity appears to be increasing. Out of 190 agencies surveyed in 1999 by the Indiana State Police, 87 reported criminal gang activity and another 35 responses suggested

The **Gangster Disciples** is the largest Chicago-based street gang. Members are primarily African American. The gang has been in existence since the early 1960s and its organizational structure is similar to that of a corporation. In Indiana, members sell drugs primarily in low-income, urban areas. The Gangster Disciples has been identified in over 40 states. The Gangster Disciples has been in a state of flux because law enforcement authorities have targeted the group in recent years. Investigations have resulted in indictments and convictions of almost 40 leaders, including Larry Hoover, who had served as "Chairman of the Board" since the early 1970s.

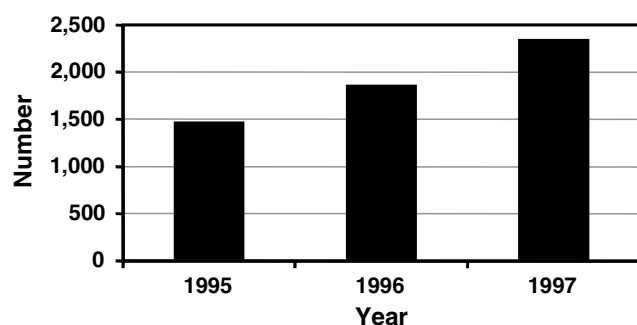
The **Vice Lords** is the oldest street gang in Chicago. Its members are primarily African American. The Vice Lords is divided among three major factions: the Conservative Vice Lords, Traveling Vice Lords, and Four Corner Hustlers. Each faction has its own members and leaders but its organization is more loosely structured than that of the Gangster Disciples.

The **Latin Kings**, also known as the Almighty Latin King Nation, is a primarily Hispanic street gang. It is composed of more than 70 factions operating under an overall leadership structure. The Latin Kings has expanded its drug trafficking to other parts of the state and nationwide.

gang activity was present. The Gangster disciples had the most significant increase in gang migration; in 1999, officials in 32 counties, 13 more than reported in 1998, identified the presence of Gangster Disciples—or one of its many factions—in their areas. Officials in 10 more counties than reported in 1998 identified members of the Latin Kings in their areas. Respondents to the 1999 survey identified members of the Vice Lords in 35 Indiana counties.

A rise in juvenile, gang-related violence over the past 10 years can be attributed, in part, to the rise in gang-related drug distribution. Juvenile drug-related crimes increased in 1999. Most of the Indiana county sheriff's and police departments responding to the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) National Drug Threat Survey 2000, as well as those interviewed by telephone, report that, on average, 40 percent of the drug-related crime in their areas is committed by juveniles. In Gary, an estimated 50-70 primarily juvenile street gangs openly compete for control of more than 300 crack houses. In Indianapolis, an estimated 1,000 to 2,000 gang members compete for control of the drug market in the city.

Chart 2. Juveniles Arrested for Drug Crimes in Indiana, 1995–1997



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Report*, 1997.

Despite increased drug-related activity by juvenile gang members, there has been an overall decline in drug abuse among Indiana youth. The use of marijuana, cocaine, and prescription drugs all decreased from 1998 to 1999, particularly among middle school students. However, abuse levels reported by Indiana youth still exceed the national average for most drugs.

Drug abuse is a significant health, social, public safety, and economic problem in Indiana. Approximately 30,000 rural Indiana residents required publicly funded substance abuse treatment in 1998. According to the Prevention Needs Assessment conducted by the Institute for Drug Abuse Prevention, in 1996 more than 27,000 pregnant women in rural Indiana sought support in substance abuse prevention programs. In the three rural counties included in the assessment, 5.6 percent of newborns tested positive for drugs.

Healthcare and disease statistics also suggest significant drug abuse in Indiana. There has been an increase in the number of HIV diagnoses and AIDS-related deaths associated with the sharing of needles among drug abusers. Rural counties accounted for 16 percent of the new drug-related HIV and AIDS cases in 1997, up from 8 percent in 1995. Of the 86 new HIV cases reported in rural Indiana in 1997, 21 percent involved injection drug use.

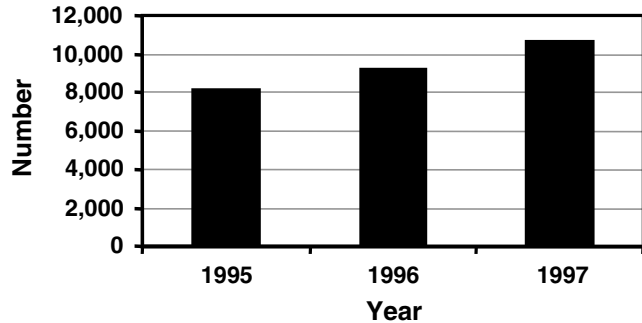
Drug use is widespread among arrestees in Indiana, regardless of the offense. According to the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program, 74 percent of adult arrestees in Indianapolis tested positive for the use of illegal drugs, compared with 67 percent nationwide. The number of juvenile arrestees in urban and rural areas testing positive for drug use is also high. According to the Indiana Youth Institute, the number of juveniles arrested on drug charges statewide increased from 667 in 1990 to 3,159 in 1998.

In 1999, the Indiana Department of Corrections reported that approximately 80 percent of state prisoners had a significant abuse history. The Department's Reception and Diagnostic Center staff and drug abuse counselors assigned to the prison system conservatively suggest that drug abuse is a direct causative factor in up to 50 percent of criminal offenses. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute also reports a significant history of drug abuse among 70 to 80 percent of criminal offenders and estimates that more than 25 percent of adult males are incarcerated for crimes directly related to drugs or alcohol. The Marion County Superior Court reports that of the nearly 11,000 felony cases filed in 1998,

19 percent were drug-related. Drugs were associated with 62 percent of assaults, 52 percent of child abuse incidents, 68 percent of manslaughter charges, and 49 percent of murders.

Drug abuse among prison inmates is also widespread. A study by the Indiana Division of Mental Health estimates that 61 percent—an estimated 15,000 in 1996—of inmates are dependent on alcohol or other drugs. According to the same study, a large number of juvenile detainees abuse drugs: 61 percent abused marijuana and 27 percent abused other drugs. Officials estimate that among state prison inmates who abuse drugs, about half began using them by age 15.

Chart 3. Adults Arrested for Drug Crimes in Indiana, 1995–1997



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Report*, 1997.

Cocaine

The availability of powdered cocaine and the subsequent conversion, distribution, and abuse of crack cocaine are significant drug threats in Indiana. Mexican DTOs are the primary transporters and wholesale distributors of powdered cocaine. Other criminal groups or individuals with family and business ties to the Southwest

Border area also transport, store, and distribute powdered cocaine. African American and Hispanic street gangs as well as independent dealers control crack cocaine retail distribution. Because of the connection with street gangs, crack cocaine is the drug most often associated with violent crime throughout the state.

Abuse

Overall, abuse of crack cocaine is increasing in Indiana, but at a slower rate than in previous years. The U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana reports that crack cocaine continues to dominate the drug market in the district and that the abuse rate is equally formidable. The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana reports that abuse of crack cocaine increased in 2000. ADAM statistics show an 8.5 percent increase in arrestees

testing positive for cocaine abuse, from 30 percent in 1997 to 35 percent in 1998.

Cocaine abuse among youth, however, appears to be declining. According to the 1999 Indiana University Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents study conducted by the Indiana Prevention Resource Center, cocaine abuse decreased among youth in grades 7 through 12.

Availability

The availability of powdered and crack cocaine is increasing in Indiana. Both forms of cocaine are readily available in urban areas and are beginning to spread to smaller communities

and rural areas. The Indianapolis Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) District Office reports that powdered cocaine is available throughout the northern part of the state and crack

cocaine is prevalent in Gary, South Bend, and Fort Wayne. The DEA also reports that crack cocaine is available in Indianapolis and rural southern Indiana. Most of the police departments in smaller cities such as Evansville, Terre Haute, and Bloomington and sheriff's offices in rural counties like St. Joseph, Allen, Delaware, and Vanderburgh report an increase in powdered and crack cocaine availability.

The Fort Wayne Police Department seized 1,678 grams of cocaine in 1998 and 1,992 grams in 1999, an 18 percent increase.

All Indiana law enforcement officials responding to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey report increases in powdered and crack cocaine-related investigations, arrests, and seizures. The Allen and Delaware County Sheriff's Departments and the South Bend Police Department all report that crack-related investigations, arrests, and seizures increased in 1999. U.S. Customs Service (USCS) cocaine seizure events in Indianapolis rose 150 percent, from 6 in 1998 to 15 in 1999. Powdered cocaine samples examined by the Indiana State Crime Laboratory increased 22 percent, from 1,245 in 1998 to 1,522 in 1999, while crack cocaine submissions increased 13 percent,

from 2,012 to 2,273. According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, arrests for crack cocaine offenses in Indiana rose 77 percent, from 35 in 1995 to 62 in 1998.

Price and purity statistics indicate an increase in powdered and crack cocaine availability in Indiana. Powdered and crack cocaine purity levels generally range from 80 to 95 percent, and though relatively stable, cocaine prices decreased slightly from \$90 to \$85 per gram (powder) and from \$25 to \$20 per rock (crack) between 1995 and 1999. The Evansville Police Department reports that powdered cocaine seized in the city in 1999 was routinely 80 percent pure and that, since then, purity levels have increased. Crack purity in Evansville averages 85 to 90 percent. The Marion County Sheriff's Department reports that it routinely seizes cocaine with an average purity of 85 percent, adding that, increasingly, seized cocaine is of even higher purity and in greater quantities. The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department reports that seizures have increased and that cocaine prices have decreased, indicating an increase in cocaine supply. The DEA Chicago Field Division indicates that the availability of powdered and crack cocaine increased in Indiana during the first quarter of 2001.

Violence

Violent criminal activity related to the gang distribution of crack cocaine is a significant problem throughout Indiana, especially in urban areas. Three of the 25 U.S. areas with the highest number of gun-related crimes are located in northwestern Indiana, where street gangs, including the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings, compete for control of the crack cocaine market. Gary, Indiana, was identified as the homicide capital of the United States on numerous occasions during the late 1980s and early 1990s, primarily because of the number of reports of gang warfare. There was one murder per 970 people in Gary in 1997 and more than 70 percent of

those murders were directly related to drug distribution or drug abuse. The Lake County HIDTA identifies more than 300 crack houses in the urban areas within its area of responsibility, and the accessibility of these crack houses as well as open-air drug markets is aggravated by the accessibility of guns. In January 1999, a 6-year-old boy in a car seat was shot and killed after his father stole \$20 worth of crack cocaine from an Indianapolis drug dealer. The father used the boy and another child as "human shields" as he drove away from the angry drug dealer. Drug-related homicides in other areas of Northern Indiana are increasing as gang members migrate and expand operations. For

example, in 1999, several homicides in Kokomo, Indiana, were the result of drug-related gun battles. Smaller cities and towns such as Kokomo are attracting street gangs because drug prices in small towns are generally higher than in urban areas. Homicides in the Southern District have decreased in 2000 and 2001. This may be due in part to the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership—a program designed to reduce violence in the city—and possibly to the control of the retail drug market by local and independent street gangs and not the more organized and violent Chicago-based street gangs.

Crack cocaine distributors use armed counter-surveillance personnel, fortified entrances, canines, and booby traps to secure their drug operations, significantly increasing the threat to law

enforcement officers. The South Bend Police Department reports that crack retail distributors and abusers are committing an increasing number of robberies, homicides, larcenies, and burglaries. In nearby La Porte, two men committed thefts and armed robberies to support their crack habit. Police say both men drove to Gary with the stolen money to buy crack cocaine. The Delaware County Sheriff's Department reports that the crack trade has resulted in an increase in weapons violations, shooting incidents, and random acts of violence. The Indianapolis Police and Marion County Sheriff's Departments report that although the problems associated with crack distribution and consumption affected their areas later than most other cities, they are now experiencing an increase in violent criminal activity, including homicides.

Production

Street gangs normally transport powdered cocaine and convert it to crack cocaine in urban areas. Local conversion reduces the chance of being apprehended with crack cocaine in transit and helps traffickers avoid the stiffer criminal penalties associated with its possession. The conversion normally takes place in the homes of gang members or in stash houses. Most Indiana law enforcement officials responding to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey report that powdered cocaine is converted to crack cocaine in their areas. The Fort Wayne and South Bend

Police Departments report that approximately 80 percent of the powdered cocaine shipped into their areas is converted to crack cocaine, while the Indianapolis and Evansville Police Departments report that at least 90 percent of the powdered cocaine in their areas is converted locally. A Vigo County Drug Task Force detective reports that gangs transport bulk powdered cocaine and convert it into crack cocaine locally for retail distribution, and the Fort Wayne Police Department specifically identifies Mexican criminal groups and independent gangs as involved in crack conversion.

Transportation

Federal, state, and local law enforcement officials, including the Fort Wayne and South Bend Police Departments and the Allen and Marion County Sheriff's Departments, report that Mexican DTOs are the primary cocaine transporters in Indiana. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) states that Mexican DTOs are an ever-increasing threat throughout the state, but particularly in the Indianapolis/Marion County metropolitan area. In

1999, five Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigations targeted Mexican DTOs transporting cocaine from the Southwest Border area to Indiana. One investigation targeted a Mexican cocaine trafficking group based in Brownsville, Texas, which shipped thousands of kilograms of cocaine into the United States on boats and in vehicles. During the first quarter of 2000, the DEA Merrillville Resident

Office seized 442 kilograms of powdered cocaine from a Mexican DTO.

The **Vicente Carrillo-Fuentes organization** operating along the Juarez, Mexico–El Paso, Texas, border is the primary supplier of cocaine to the Great Lakes Region. Primarily a transportation organization, the Carrillo-Fuentes organization directs an extensive air and land network, orchestrating large-scale smuggling of cocaine from South and Central America to the United States via Mexico.

Independent Caucasian groups, street gangs, and to a lesser extent, outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs) also transport powdered cocaine into Indiana, according to state and local law enforcement officials. An Allen County gang investigator reports that the Gangster Disciples and Vice Lords transport cocaine from Chicago and that independent Caucasian dealers and OMGs also transport cocaine into the area. A Gary narcotics detective reports that the Gangster Disciples and the Vice Lords use private vehicles to transport cocaine, while a South Central Narcotics Task Force prosecutor reports that the Vice Lords and a Detroit-based African American gang are the primary cocaine transporters in that area. A 1999 OCDETF investigation uncovered an Indianapolis-based transportation group shipping large quantities of cocaine from Mexico to the Southern District of Indiana for distribution throughout the United States. The group had contacts with an OMG in Indianapolis.

The **Outlaws Motorcycle Club** is partly responsible for the proliferation of cocaine in northwest Indiana as well as Indianapolis. The Outlaws is one of the “Big Four” motorcycle clubs operating in the United States, and it deals mainly in cocaine. The Outlaws was formed in Joliet, Illinois, in 1959 and has approximately 60 chapters in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe. U.S. chapters account for 300 members.

Cocaine transported primarily from Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Florida, and the Southwest Border area is distributed throughout the state

primarily through northwestern Indiana. The Lake County HIDTA reports that Mexican DTOs transport large quantities of powdered cocaine into the area from suppliers in Illinois, Michigan, California, Florida, Texas, or directly from Mexico, and an Indianapolis police detective and the Southern District Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) report that Mexican DTOs transport cocaine into that city mostly from Texas and occasionally from Chicago. The Marion County Sheriff’s Department, the South Bend and Evansville Police Departments and most authorities responding to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey report drugs entering their areas from source areas including Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Brownsville, and Florida. Law enforcement successes have resulted in the conviction of eight men in Indianapolis on federal drug charges. The men obtained cocaine from California, Chicago, and Gary and distributed it to midlevel dealers. Also, a federal grand jury indicted 10 South Bend residents who allegedly participated in a major cocaine and crack distribution ring over 8 years. The group distributed 4,950 kilograms of cocaine in northern Indiana, southwestern Michigan, and the Chicago area.

A 1999 OCDETF investigation uncovered a large-scale cocaine organization distributing multikilogram quantities in the Fort Wayne, Indiana, area. Its source of supply was located in Los Angeles.

Cocaine is transported throughout Indiana in private vehicles, minivans, and recreational vehicles; tractor-trailers are used primarily for bulk shipments. A South Bend man was arrested for cocaine distribution. According to court documents, the man was transporting bulk quantities of cocaine via tractor-trailer from the McAllen, Texas, area to La Porte County. Transportation groups often use false or hidden compartments in vehicles to conceal drugs. Cocaine has been found stashed in duffel bags in the back of rented vehicles, tucked in the side panels of a minivan, taped in the tires of a new car, and hidden in a washing machine in a moving van. For example, in 2000,

Texas Department of Public Safety officials arrested seven people, mostly from northeastern Indiana, on charges of conspiracy to deliver cocaine. The seven were drivers and passengers in a car and minivan, and the cocaine was concealed in duffel bags. The Lake County HIDTA reports that organizations transport powdered cocaine on interstate highways sometimes using numerous vehicles as decoys. The Vigo County Drug Task Force reports that transportation groups use not only vehicles, but also airline passengers concealing drugs either on their person or in their luggage to transport drugs into Indiana.

Distribution

Mexican DTOs are the primary wholesalers of powdered cocaine in Indiana. The DEA Indianapolis Resident Office and the Lake County HIDTA report that Mexican DTOs dominate wholesale cocaine distribution throughout the state and transport most of the cocaine found in northwestern Indiana. The Fort Wayne and South Bend Police Departments, as well as the Allen and Marion County Sheriff's Departments confirm that Mexican DTOs are the primary wholesalers in their areas. Associates and relatives of DTO members transport, store, and distribute powdered cocaine in northwestern Indiana. This area is a major distribution center for bulk cocaine shipments destined for Indiana. Indianapolis is a secondary distribution center for drugs shipped throughout Indiana because of the city's central location and network of highways connecting it not only to the rest of the state but to the entire region. The AUSA for the Southern District of Indiana reports that while some cocaine is transhipped from Chicago, most is shipped directly from the Southwest Border.

Numerous other criminal groups distribute powdered cocaine on the wholesale level, although to a lesser extent. The Indianapolis Police Department reports that independent African American criminal groups play a significant role in wholesale cocaine distribution in the city. These groups typically transport powdered cocaine to the area,

The Muncie Police Department reports that criminal groups use mail services to deliver powdered and crack cocaine to vacant homes where local retail groups collect the drugs for further distribution. A Vigo County Drug Task Force detective reports that statewide, African American gangs use the postal service to transport cocaine into the Terre Haute area. The Drug Task Force detective further notes that some shipments of cocaine are shipped from California through the mail services.

conceal it in storage facilities, and sell it to retail groups that convert it to crack cocaine. The retail groups often distribute crack in areas where the conversion takes place, but they also move the crack cocaine to other stash houses for further distribution and sales. The Chicago-based Gangster Disciples and Vice Lords, as well as the Latin Kings and other Los Angeles-based street gangs, dominate wholesale operations in Vanderburgh, Delaware, Vigo, Madison, Marion, and Evansville Counties. The Gangster Disciples and Vice Lords control cocaine distribution in Gary, and a South Central Narcotics Task Force prosecutor reports that the Vice Lords and a Detroit-based African American gang are the primary cocaine wholesalers in that jurisdiction.

The Vanderburgh, Delaware, Vigo, and Madison County Sheriff's Departments report that statewide gangs such as the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings dominate cocaine wholesale operations in their areas.

Local independent dealers and the Outlaws Motorcycle Club also distribute cocaine on the wholesale level, primarily in smaller cities and rural locations. The Evansville, Allen, Delaware, and Marion County Sheriff's Departments report that Caucasian local independent dealers and the Outlaws Motorcycle Club distribute cocaine at the wholesale level in their areas.

The primary crack retail distributors in the Northern District are organized street gangs such as the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings, as well as local independents; however, local or independent street gangs are a more dominant factor in drug distribution in the Southern District. The Lake County HIDTA reports that gangs, specifically the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, Latin Kings, and Renegades, control crack retail distribution in its area of responsibility. Some of the same street gangs that distribute crack cocaine also distribute powdered cocaine. For example, the Gangster Disciples controls powdered and crack cocaine retail distribution operations in Terre Haute and surrounding areas, and the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and several Hispanic gangs control powdered and crack cocaine retail distribution in Fort Wayne and throughout Allen County. An Allen County investigator reports that members of the Gangster Disciples were recruiting in the suburban and rural areas outside Fort Wayne. The Bloomington Police Department, south of Indianapolis, reports that the Vice Lords travel from Gary—where the Gangster Disciples and Vice Lords control all retail distribution—and Chicago to sell crack.

Local gangs also retail powdered and crack cocaine. The Madison County Drug Task Force reports that most retail distributors are males in their twenties; however, Caucasian distributors retail powdered cocaine, while African American distributors retail crack cocaine. Fort Wayne and Muncie detectives and the Vigo County Drug Task Force report that a mix of Caucasian and African American gangs, usually young males, retail cocaine in their areas. A South Central Narcotics Task Force prosecutor reports that a Detroit-based African American gang is the dominant crack retailer in the area, and an Indianapolis police detective reports that independent African American organizations control crack retail distribution in that city. The Fort Wayne and South Bend Police Departments and the Delaware, Marion and Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Departments report that local gangs retail drugs. A 1999 OCDETF investigation uncovered a violent gang that was

distributing large quantities of powdered and crack cocaine and weapons throughout northwestern Indiana.

Crack retailers from Detroit were arrested by the Anderson Police Department for operating two crack houses on the West Side of town. Another crack house in Anderson was raided resulting in the arrest of one individual from Fort Wayne and another from Detroit.

Crack cocaine retail distribution locations vary throughout Indiana. Local distribution houses or crack houses are a major problem in northeastern Indiana, and crack users from suburban areas and adjacent counties travel to northeastern locations to purchase the drug. A Muncie police detective reports that cocaine retail areas are in southern and eastern Muncie, primarily in and around the city's seven housing projects. Over a 2-month period, the Muncie/Delaware County Drug Task Force raided five crack houses and three other homes belonging to independent criminal groups. An Allen County gang investigator reports that cocaine retail areas are located in the southeastern or southern quadrants of Fort Wayne. These areas are controlled by the Gangster Disciples and Vice Lords, which usually operate from large housing areas in southeastern Fort Wayne. In Terre Haute, the primary drug markets are in the center of the city, primarily in low-income housing areas. Crack retail sales are conducted throughout Bloomington, although usually from apartment complexes in the northwestern and south central areas. An Indianapolis police detective reports that retail crack sales primarily occur on the east side; however, crack is available throughout the city. In Gary, retail crack sales primarily occur in the Bronx/Concord, Glen Park, Midtown, and East Side or Valley areas.

The Lake County HIDTA reports that retail distributors typically sell crack cocaine from their own homes or from abandoned houses. Crack cocaine distributors use armed countersurveillance personnel, fortified entrances, dogs, and booby traps to secure their operations, significantly increasing the threat to law enforcement.

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine is a synthetic stimulant that affects the central nervous system, causing body functions to accelerate. Some short-term effects include hallucinations, violent and aggressive behavior, and paranoia; long-term effects include those mentioned as well as depression. Mexican DTOs transport most methamphetamine to Indiana from California and other Southwest Border states. Methamphetamine production and abuse are expanding from southern Illinois into

primarily rural counties in southwestern Indiana. Although the threat posed by methamphetamine is not as great as that posed by powdered cocaine, the substantial increase in the number of methamphetamine laboratory seizures in Indiana indicates a growing problem that may rival powdered cocaine in the future. Methamphetamine production causes serious safety and environmental concerns.

Abuse

Methamphetamine abuse is increasing in Indiana, particularly in Evansville, Terre Haute, and other southwestern areas. The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District reports that methamphetamine abuse is spreading from rural to more urban areas like Indianapolis. Fifty percent of the drug overdoses in the Lake County HIDTA area of responsibility involved methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine abuse is spread among different user groups. Some people begin using methamphetamine to lose weight, while others use it recreationally to stay energized at rave parties. Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLLEN) member agencies cite a correlation between methamphetamine use and people in certain occupations, reporting high methamphetamine use among service and shift workers such as cocktail waitresses, exotic dancers, truck drivers, and trade workers. A typical methamphetamine user within the MAGLOCLLEN jurisdiction is a Caucasian male, between the ages of 25 and 40, with a low to moderate income. While health officials consider methamphetamine to be a drug used mostly by adult middle-class, blue-collar Caucasians, its popularity is increasing among young

people. MAGLOCLLEN members report that young people are attracted to methamphetamine because they feel the drug causes heightened physical and mental performance.

Methamphetamine abuse among teens in rural areas is increasing. A privately funded study conducted by the Rural Indiana Profile reports that eighth graders in rural settings are 108 percent more likely to use methamphetamine than eighth graders in urban areas. The study also reports that teens have greater access to methamphetamine than do other age groups. The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse reports that lifetime methamphetamine use among twelfth graders rose nearly 6 percent in 1998. In 1992, 62 percent of twelfth graders believed trying methamphetamine once or twice posed a great risk, compared with only 53 percent in 1998.

The Allen County Sheriff's Department reports that they are beginning to see younger adults, usually white males between the ages of 21 and 35, using methamphetamine.

Availability

Methamphetamine availability is increasing as evidenced by increasing production, distribution, and consumption, especially in southwestern Indiana. The DEA Chicago Field Division indicates that methamphetamine is readily available—significantly more so than in 1998—particularly in southwestern Indiana along the Illinois border. DEA also reports a marked increase in laboratory seizures. After studying the popularity of methamphetamine in states such as Missouri, where abuse is increasing and spreading through southern Illinois into southwestern Indiana, Indiana State Police and drug experts are predicting a continuing escalation of methamphetamine availability throughout Indiana. For example, the February 2000 arrest of a rural Hendricks County man for operating a methamphetamine laboratory was the third such arrest in the Metro West area in nearly a month and marked the fifty-fifth laboratory shut down by Indiana State Police in 2000. Seventy-nine percent of those responding to the MAGLOCLEN Methamphetamine Activity Report indicate that methamphetamine availability is increasing.

The DEA Merrillville Resident Office reports that methamphetamine availability in northwestern Indiana is increasing, specifically noting an increase in methamphetamine demand. Merrillville officials believe that availability will continue to increase and become a widespread problem. The Indianapolis Police Department

also reports a significant increase in methamphetamine availability. All Indiana law enforcement officials responding to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey, as well as the Marion, Delaware, and Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Departments, report an increase in methamphetamine-related investigations, arrests, and seizures in 1999. The Fort Wayne Police Department seized more than 1,400 grams of methamphetamine in 1999, an increase over 1998 figures, and the Vigo County Drug Task Force reports that methamphetamine laboratory seizures rose from 0 in 1998, to 26 in 1999, to 40 as of July 2000. According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, arrests for methamphetamine offenses in Indiana rose 81 percent from 16 in 1995 to 29 in 1998.

Methamphetamine prices decreased from \$1,420 per ounce in 1995 to \$1,265 in 1999, indicating increased availability. Overall, purity reached a 4-year low in 1999 most likely because of an increase in the availability of low purity—under 10 percent—Mexican-produced methamphetamine.

The number of methamphetamine laboratories processed by the Indiana State Police forensics laboratory has doubled every year since 1994, with the exception of 1999, when they more than tripled.

Source: *Evansville Courier and Press*, 2 January 2000.

Violence

The potential for methamphetamine-related violence in Indiana exists. Methamphetamine users can be violent and can endanger themselves and those around them, especially when they enter the tweaking stage. Tweaking occurs at the end of a binge when nothing, not even additional methamphetamine, will relieve the users' feelings

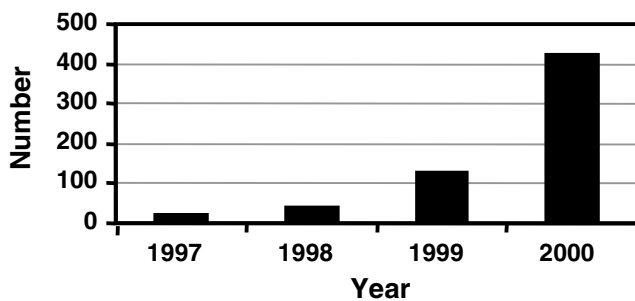
of emptiness and "dysphoria." The tweaking stage is very uncomfortable for users—who often take depressants to ease the unpleasant feelings—and they often are irritable and prone to unpredictable behavior. The Evansville Police Department links the increase in violent acts and crimes in 1999 to methamphetamine abuse.

Production

Methamphetamine production is increasing, especially in rural areas. The Indiana State Police Clandestine Laboratory Entry Team seized 128 methamphetamine laboratories in 1999 and 427 laboratories in 2000. Although the Indiana State Police have discovered laboratories in Angola and Elkhart in northern Indiana, most methamphetamine laboratories seized have been in rural farming areas south of I-70 and west of I-65, particularly along the corridor from Evansville to Bloomington. In Hazleton, an Indiana State Trooper smelled anhydrous ammonia and tracked the odor to an open garage where investigating officers found other chemicals used in methamphetamine production as well as the anhydrous ammonia. The Vigo Country Drug Task Force in Terre Haute reports that 80 percent of the methamphetamine produced in the area is used locally. The South Central Narcotics Task Force also reports that most of the methamphetamine sold in its area is produced locally.

in all of these areas report increases in anhydrous ammonia thefts. A Vigo County detective reports that independent methamphetamine producers are stealing and using anhydrous ammonia not only to produce their own methamphetamine, but also to sell—at \$500 per gallon—to other producers. State Police are asking farmers to watch for thefts of anhydrous ammonia; however, the Vanderburgh County Sheriff’s Department reports an increase in the number of farmers selling the chemical for profit. The former manager of a Montgomery County grain elevator faced charges that he provided anhydrous ammonia to a major production operation from late 1999 to March 2000. The Vanderburgh County Sheriff’s Department reports that methamphetamine producers use fire extinguishers, PVC pipes, and jugs to store anhydrous ammonia and that they set up “box labs” in coolers, boxes, or other containers in the trunks of cars, in the beds of trucks, and in barns.

Chart 4. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in Indiana, 1997–2000



Source: Indiana State Police, 2000.

An associated problem, occurring mostly in rural areas, is the increased theft of anhydrous ammonia—a key ingredient in the Nazi method of methamphetamine production—from farm cooperatives throughout the state, especially in Vigo County. The Nazi method is the production method used primarily in rural areas such as Vigo and Vanderburgh Counties and in the South Central Narcotics Task Force’s jurisdiction; agencies

Indiana officials report that methamphetamine also is produced in urban areas, posing heightened safety concerns because of the proximity of laboratories to the public. The Evansville Police Department reports an increase in methamphetamine laboratory seizures. In one instance, a Pike County probation officer and an Indiana State Police Trooper found ether, lithium strips, drug paraphernalia, a generator, and a small amount of methamphetamine in an Evansville home. According to police, the generator was used to produce hydrogen gas, which is a part of the methamphetamine production process. In Decatur, a man was arrested after police found a methamphetamine laboratory in his home; an environmental cleanup crew was required to remove the hazardous material. A multi-agency task force raided two Lebanon, Indiana, homes and shut down a methamphetamine laboratory that police said was used to produce most of that city’s drug supply. Throughout Terre Haute, methamphetamine laboratories have been found in apartments, basements, houses, and cars and trucks.

Primary Methamphetamine Production Methods

Ephedrine/pseudoephedrine—This method uses the precursors ephedrine/pseudoephedrine, hydriodic acid, and red phosphorus to produce d-methamphetamine. It normally results in large quantities of high-quality methamphetamine.

“Nazi”—This method uses the primary precursor ephedrine/pseudoephedrine and more exotic secondary chemicals including sodium metal and anhydrous ammonia. It produces high-quality, low-quantity d-methamphetamine.

Cold cook—This method uses the primary precursor ephedrine and the secondary precursors iodine and red phosphorus. The reaction is typically catalyzed either by using heat from direct sunlight or by burying the chemicals in containers in hot desert sand. It produces high-quality, low-quantity d-methamphetamine.

P2P—This method uses the precursors phenyl-2-propanone and aluminum to produce lower-quality methamphetamine.

Local independent groups, primarily Caucasian males using the Nazi and ephedrine reduction production methods, are the primary methamphetamine producers, according to Indiana respondents to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey. The South Central Narcotics Task Force reports that the primary producers are Caucasian males between the ages of 20 and 30, while the Vanderburgh County Sheriff’s Department identifies local

independents as the primary methamphetamine producers. Methamphetamine recipes available on the Internet, by word of mouth, and from out-of-state producers, have increased local independent production. Easy access to precursor chemicals makes multiple methods of methamphetamine production possible.

OMGs also produce limited amounts of methamphetamine. Although Indiana respondents to the MAGLOCLEN survey report an increase in the number of independent methamphetamine producers, OMGs remain active in methamphetamine production and distribution, controlling 14 percent of the methamphetamine produced in the Middle-Atlantic/Great Lakes region. Methamphetamine producers working for OMGs typically produce 5 to 10 pounds of methamphetamine per production cycle using the P2P method. The Lake County HIDTA reports that OMGs control a large portion of the methamphetamine produced in its area. A DEA Phoenix Field Division investigation led to the identification of a large-scale, OMG-related methamphetamine production operation in Phoenix and Indianapolis. The methamphetamine was produced in Arizona and shipped to Indianapolis for distribution throughout the Midwest. A 1999 OCDETF investigation uncovered an organization that produced and distributed methamphetamine in the Southern District of Indiana. Members of the organization obtained precursor chemicals from California and traded them for car and motorcycle parts.

Transportation

Mexican DTOs control most of the methamphetamine production laboratories throughout Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico and dominate methamphetamine transportation in Indiana and the Midwest. Most of the Indiana respondents to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey report that Mexican DTOs are the primary methamphetamine transporters in their areas, including the Evansville Police and Allen County Sheriff’s Departments, the latter of which

identifies California and Texas as major methamphetamine source areas. The Indianapolis Police Department reports that Hispanic organizations are the predominant methamphetamine transporters in its jurisdiction. Three 1999 OCDETF investigations uncovered methamphetamine transportation organizations that shipped large quantities of methamphetamine from the Southwest Border to Indiana.

A DEA office investigated a Mexican DTO in Ventura, California, that orchestrated methamphetamine production and sales in the Ventura, Oxnard, Bakersfield, Santa Barbara, and Lompoc, California, areas. The organization transported methamphetamine to Las Vegas, Nevada, and Indianapolis, Indiana.

Independent dealers, and to a lesser extent OMGs, transport methamphetamine primarily obtained from California to Indiana. The Evansville and South Bend Police Departments as well as the Delaware County Sheriff's Department report that local independent dealers are the primary methamphetamine transporters in their areas. In 2000, a California man pleaded guilty to transporting 80 pounds of methamphetamine from California to Cynthiana, Indiana, for distribution in the Evansville area. Most Indiana respondents to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey report that local independent dealers as well as OMGs transport methamphetamine to Indiana. A Vigo County Drug Task Force detective reports that the Diablos and Sons of Silence OMGs are the primary methamphetamine transporters in its area and that the gangs ship the drug from the Southwest Border. The Lake County HIDTA reports that OMGs are involved in transporting methamphetamine into its area. A Phoenix DEA investigation identified a large-scale, OMG-related methamphetamine laboratory

operation in Phoenix and Indianapolis. The methamphetamine was produced in Arizona and shipped to Indianapolis for further distribution in the Midwest.

Twenty-one percent of law enforcement respondents to a MAGLOCLEN survey reported that OMGs transport methamphetamine into Indiana and traffic the drug in their areas.

Methamphetamine transporters primarily use private vehicles, but they also use utility trucks, tractor-trailers, parcel delivery services, and airplanes to ship the drug to Indiana. The Indianapolis Police Department reports that transporters primarily use private vehicles with hidden compartments to ship methamphetamine from Los Angeles, although the department also reports an increase in criminal groups using parcel delivery services to ship methamphetamine into the area. The Evansville Police Department reports that Redding and Riverside, California, are methamphetamine source areas and that transporters use private vehicles, parcel delivery services, and aircraft to transport methamphetamine. For example, a Texas man was arrested in Knox County, Indiana, after police found \$96,000 worth of methamphetamine taped to the underside of the steering column of his car. He was traveling along U.S. Routes 50 and 41.

Distribution

Mexican DTOs are the primary methamphetamine wholesalers in Indiana. The DEA, Lake County HIDTA, and local law enforcement officials report that Mexican DTOs distribute cocaine, marijuana, and heroin in Indiana and use the same distribution networks to facilitate wholesale methamphetamine distribution. The Evansville and Fort Wayne Police Departments as well as the Vigo County Drug Task Force report that Mexican organizations are the primary methamphetamine wholesalers in their areas. The Fort Wayne Police Department further notes that all of

its methamphetamine investigations identified a connection to Mexican DTOs.

Local independent dealers and the Outlaws Motorcycle Club are also methamphetamine wholesale distributors, especially in the Evansville and Terre Haute areas. Local independent dealers are primarily Caucasian males in their twenties. The Vanderburgh and Vigo County Sheriff's Departments and the Evansville Police Department report that local independent dealers, mostly Caucasian males, are the primary

methamphetamine wholesalers in their areas. The MAGLOCLN methamphetamine report states that OMGs distribute methamphetamine throughout the Richmond and Evansville areas, as well as in areas north and east of Fort Wayne. The Outlaws Motorcycle Club, the primary wholesale distributor of methamphetamine in the Fort Wayne Police Department's and Lake County HIDTA's areas of responsibility, most likely uses "puppet clubs" to conduct retail operations to insulate the gang from possible criminal liability. The Vigo County Drug Task Force reports that the Diablos motorcycle gang, a suspected puppet club of the Outlaws gang, and the Sons of Silence motorcycle gang are the main methamphetamine wholesalers in its jurisdiction.

Local independent dealers are the primary methamphetamine retailers in Indiana. Most of the Indiana respondents to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey report that local independent dealers control most methamphetamine retail operations. The Vanderburgh and Delaware County Sheriff's Departments and the South Bend, Evansville, and Owensboro Police Departments report that local independent dealers, primarily Caucasian males, are the main methamphetamine retailers in their areas. The Vigo and Madison County Drug Task Forces report that Caucasian males in their early twenties control most methamphetamine retail operations in their areas. The South Central Narcotics Task Force reports that Caucasian males are the primary methamphetamine retailers, predominantly in rural areas.

Law enforcement officials, including the Fort Wayne Police Department, report that Mexican

criminal groups and OMGs also retail methamphetamine. The Evansville Police Department reports that Mexican DTOs are the primary retailers in its area. The MAGLOCLN Methamphetamine Activity Report indicates that OMGs distribute methamphetamine throughout the Richmond and Evansville areas, as well as north and east of Fort Wayne. The Lake County HIDTA reports that OMGs are involved in retailing methamphetamine in its area.

The Outlaws Motorcycle Club maintains a sophisticated methamphetamine distribution network through its chapters across the state. It controls a large number of associates and puppet clubs that it uses to retail drugs.

Associates are individuals known by club members but who have no standing within the club. They are allowed to hang around the clubhouse, attend parties and, at times, ride with club members. They often are given odd jobs or tasked with drug retail sales. Some associates are well-connected businesspeople whose line of work may be beneficial to the club and its activities. **Puppet clubs** are smaller motorcycle clubs within the sphere of influence of the major club. Members of puppet clubs can attend club meetings and wear a support patch identifying them with the major club. They do menial tasks, perform guard duty, commit violent crimes, and retail drugs, essentially keeping the major club and its members from getting "dirty." Each Outlaws member has at least 5 to 10 associates, and each major chapter maintains 1 to 5 puppet clubs.

Marijuana

Marijuana remains the most readily available, and health officials report, the most commonly abused drug in Indiana. Multikilogram amounts of marijuana are transported to Indiana from the

Southwest Border by Mexican DTOs using the interstate system and the same decoy vehicle methods used to transport cocaine.

Abuse

In 1999, the U.S. Attorneys for the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana reported that

marijuana was the most widely abused drug throughout the state. According to the Indiana

Division of Mental Health, treatment admissions for marijuana abuse increased from 2,526 in 1998 to 3,928 in 1999. In 1998, the Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS) reported the amount of marijuana seized in Indiana (1,062 kg) more than doubled from 1997 (497 kg).

Marijuana abuse by Indiana youth decreased for most grade levels and for most measures of prevalence (previous 30 days, previous year) in 1999. The largest decreases occurred among eighth and tenth graders reporting marijuana use at least once in the previous year. From 1997 to 1999, the percentage of eighth graders decreased from 21 to 17, while the percentage of tenth graders decreased from 35 to 32. High school seniors using marijuana at least once in the previous year remained at 37 percent. Daily marijuana use did not change significantly for any grade level between 1997 and 1999, suggesting that the abuse reductions are occurring among infrequent and casual users but not among those who use the drug more frequently. Overall, the number of marijuana users among sixth- through twelfth-grade students increased from 89,100 in 1992 to 131,900 in 2000.

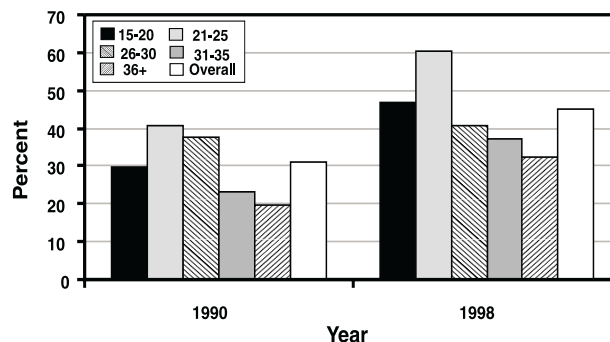
Young people from rural areas of Indiana abuse marijuana more frequently than urban or suburban youth. Marijuana is the drug most commonly abused by youth in rural Indiana, according to Drug Strategies, a nonprofit research institute promoting effective approaches to the nation's

Availability

The availability of marijuana in Indiana has increased since 1995 as indicated by declining prices and rising numbers of Indiana Crime Laboratory cases and related law enforcement actions. Retail prices for marijuana have dropped from \$180 per ounce in 1995 to \$160 in 1999. Marijuana samples examined by the Indiana State Crime Laboratory increased 17 percent from 6,217 in 1998 to 7,323 in 1999. All Indiana respondents to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey report the ready availability of marijuana and increases in marijuana-related investigations, arrests, and seizures. The

drug problem. The Drug Strategies report also indicates that marijuana's popularity is rising. In 1993, 13 percent of rural teenagers reported using marijuana in the previous year; in 1997, that figure increased to 23 percent.

Chart 5. Arrestees Testing Positive for Marijuana in Indianapolis, 1990 and 1998



Source: Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program (ADAM), 1998.

Marijuana use among Indiana arrestees is increasing. There was a significant increase in the number of juvenile arrestees, those 15 to 20 years old, testing positive for marijuana between 1990 (29 percent) and 1998 (47 percent). This may be related to increases in gang activity and juvenile arrests in Indiana. The Indianapolis Police Department reports that two out of every three people arrested in 1998 tested positive for drugs—mostly marijuana. Most arrestees across the state test positive for marijuana.

Benton County Sheriff's Department reports that cannabis grows wild along fence lines and in ditches, readily accessible to roadway pickers. The Indianapolis Police Department reports that marijuana distribution has increased significantly, indicating increased availability. The department believes that because the penalties associated with marijuana are much less severe than those associated with cocaine, some drug organizations are switching to marijuana trafficking. The DEA Merrillville Resident Office reports that Mexican commercial grade as well as domestically grown

marijuana is prevalent throughout its area. The DEA Chicago Field Division indicates that marijuana is readily available from local cultivators as well as from groups active near the Southwest Border.

An increase in the number of indoor and outdoor marijuana grow operations in the state has contributed to the rise in marijuana availability. The DEA estimates that as much as 25–30 percent of the marijuana consumed in Indiana might be grown domestically. There are opportunities for

growers to cultivate cannabis in rural areas, augmenting marijuana supplies transported from the Southwest Border. Fourteen county sheriffs report that indoor cannabis grow operations increased in their areas. Factors influencing the growth of indoor operations are the wealth of information on new growing techniques available on the Internet, and the production of higher THC content marijuana, which commands a higher price.

Violence

Violence associated with the distribution of marijuana, including gang competition for distribution areas, is evident throughout rural and urban Indiana. The Kokomo Police Department reported that a group of marijuana distributors robbed competitors of money and drugs through home invasions. One incident resulted in the murder of a marijuana distributor and the gang rape of his girlfriend. The department further reports that marijuana-related violence is increasing. South Bend police arrested a resident after seizing a considerable amount of marijuana, scales, packaging materials, a loaded tech 9 automatic weapon and a loaded semiautomatic shotgun, and in another instance, they arrested a man and a woman after seizing marijuana and two handguns from their home.

Violence associated with cannabis cultivation is another concern of Indiana law enforcement officers. Domestic cannabis growers often are

heavily armed and commonly use boobytraps and warning devices to protect grow sites from law enforcement authorities and the public. The U.S. Forest Service reports that visitors to public forests may come in contact with booby traps, explosives, trip-wire firing devices, hanging fishhooks, and buried punji stakes if they venture too close to cannabis plots. According to the DEA, the number of weapons seized during cannabis eradication program operations nationwide has more than doubled over the past decade. The Fort Wayne Police Department confiscated guns, drugs, a gas mask, and a bulletproof vest during a house raid, and officers were forced to shoot and kill a pit bull dog guarding a marijuana grow in the basement. A Kimmell, Indiana, man was arrested when drug task force officers found an indoor marijuana grow at his residence. Police removed 18 firearms from a bedroom and found other weapons throughout the house.

Production

Local independent dealers, primarily Caucasians in their early twenties, cultivate most of the cannabis in Indiana; Mexican DTOs and the Outlaws Motorcycle Club also cultivate cannabis, although to a lesser extent. The Benton County Sheriff's Department reports that although Caucasian independent distributors cultivate most of the cannabis, Mexican criminal groups also operate

marijuana grows in its area. The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department reports that Caucasian criminal groups cultivate cannabis and supply a large portion of the marijuana used in the county. The Evansville, South Bend, Lexington, and Owensboro Police Departments and the Delaware County Sheriff's Department report local independent dealers are the primary cannabis

cultivators but that Mexican criminal groups also cultivate cannabis in their areas.

Local marijuana production is steadily increasing. The DEA reports that as much as 25–30 percent of the marijuana distributed in Indiana is domestically grown. The South Central Narcotics Task Force reports that approximately 50 percent of the marijuana available in the area is grown locally, usually in wooded areas or national forests to camouflage the operations. A Vigo County Drug Task Force detective reports that at least 30 percent of the marijuana in the area is domestically grown.

Most of the respondents to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey report an increase in cannabis cultivation. The Indiana State Police reports that cannabis cultivation is so prevalent that they find cannabis every time they search from the air. Police routinely use helicopters equipped with infrared detection devices to locate cannabis grows in homes as well as those hidden in cornrows. The Evansville, South Bend, Owensboro, and Lexington Police Departments and the Delaware County Sheriff's Department report that they have seized outdoor and indoor grows as well as hydroponic operations in their areas. The Benton County Sheriff's Department reports that both indoor and outdoor grow operations have been detected and that cultivators are growing plots in the middle of cornfields, usually

close to a water source. The Warren County Sheriff's Department reports seizures of indoor and outdoor grows, noting that most of the outdoor marijuana grows seized were camouflaged and hidden in cornfields. The Allen County Sheriff's Department reports that indoor and outdoor grows are prevalent and that indoor cultivators often use false walls in their residences to hide the marijuana.

The number of indoor grows is increasing throughout the state, and several seizures of indoor grow operations occurred in 2000. The Auburn Police Department raided a large indoor marijuana grow which netted 120 cultivated plants, the Anderson Police Department netted 2 pounds of marijuana after raiding a residence which housed an indoor grow operation, and Berrien Springs Police raided a home and found 40 marijuana plants worth \$40,000. Also in 2000, a former Muncie, Indiana, police officer was convicted of growing marijuana at his home. State police found 110 marijuana plants growing in a storage shed.

From a helicopter, Indiana State Troopers spotted cannabis growing on a farm near Corydon, Indiana. A search of the barn turned up 1,000 small cannabis plants worth an estimated \$10,000.

Source: *The Courier Journal*, 15 June 2000.

Transportation

Mexican DTOs are responsible for transporting marijuana into Indiana. The Lake County HIDTA and the DEA, as well as many state and local law enforcement agencies, report that Mexican DTOs are the primary transporters of marijuana, most of which originates near the Southwest Border. An Indianapolis police detective and the AUSA of the Southern District of Indiana report that Hispanic organizations are the primary transporters of marijuana shipped directly from the Southwest Border, and to a lesser extent, through Chicago to Indianapolis.

The same groups responsible for transporting bulk shipments of cocaine to Indiana also supply marijuana. These groups maintain family and business ties to the Southwest Border area (primarily Texas) and ship bulk marijuana using the interstates and the same vehicle decoy methods used to transport cocaine. Larger marijuana quantities are transported to the area from Texas or are shipped by common carrier from other states, according to numerous county sheriffs.

Local independent dealers, primarily Caucasian males in their early twenties, OMGs, and the Latin Kings transport large quantities of marijuana to Indiana. The South Central Narcotics Task Force and the Vigo County Drug Task Force report that independent groups, primarily Caucasian males, are the predominant marijuana transporters, while an Indianapolis police detective identifies Caucasian independent dealers as secondary transporters. The Warren and Evansville County Sheriff's Departments report that local independent dealers transport marijuana into their areas. The Marion County Sheriff's Department reports that both local independent dealers and OMGs transport marijuana into its area. A Gary, Indiana, police detective reports that the Latin Kings control all aspects of the marijuana trade in Gary. Gang members obtain marijuana primarily from sources in East Chicago and Hammond, Indiana, as well as from Mexican DTOs based primarily in Texas.

A 1999 OCDETF investigation uncovered a major marijuana smuggling organization based out of Nuevo Laredo and Ciudad Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The organization operated transportation cells in Laredo, Texas, and smuggled multiton quantities of marijuana into the United States from Mexico in tractor-trailers. It had ties to distribution organizations in Indiana and five other states. Six other OCDETF investigations in 1999 uncovered Mexican DTOs transporting large amounts of marijuana from the Southwest Border to Indiana.

Marijuana transportation groups use various methods to ship the drug into Indiana. Marijuana shipments frequently are hidden in private vehicles, tractor-trailers (usually hidden among legitimate cargo), and utility trucks. Two people were arrested in South Bend after law enforcement officials found a duffel bag that contained 18 kilograms of marijuana in the bed of their truck. Investigators suspect the marijuana was part of a larger shipment being transported north from Texas. In another case that was part of a larger investigation of a South Bend

businessman operating a marijuana ring, Illinois police intercepted 495 kilograms of marijuana found in a truck bound for South Bend from Texas. The Vigo County Drug Task Force reports that transportation groups primarily use tractor-trailers and car-haulers (the marijuana is secreted in the trunks of new cars). They also use parcel delivery services. The Evansville Police Department reports that transportation groups use vehicles, tractor-trailers, and parcel delivery services to ship marijuana into the area. Anderson police detectives tracked a 34-kilogram marijuana shipment through the postal service to the home of an Anderson marijuana dealer. In Terre Haute, police seized 725 kilograms of marijuana and 2 kilograms of cocaine as part of a multijurisdictional task force investigation. Police found the drugs during a routine inspection of overnight packages being shipped to Terre Haute.

Operation Jetway is a nationwide drug interdiction program that focuses on illegal drug and currency smuggling through airports, train and bus stations, and parcel facilities. The program is administered from the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC). A Cleveland Operation Jetway Task Force seized 34 kilograms of marijuana from an individual traveling from California to Indianapolis via Cleveland, Ohio. The marijuana was packaged in gift wrap and decorative shelf paper and concealed in his luggage. Another Operation Jetway seizure netted 9 kilograms of marijuana. An individual traveling by bus from Houston, Texas, to South Bend, Indiana, via Little Rock, Arkansas, had the marijuana concealed in carry-on luggage.

Most of the marijuana in Indiana is transported from the Southwest Border area. Law enforcement and intelligence sources report that Mexican marijuana is smuggled into the United States primarily through Texas and Arizona. The Vigo County Drug Task Force and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department report that California, Arizona, Texas, and Mexico are marijuana source areas. The Evansville Police Department reports that the marijuana available in its jurisdiction comes from McAllen and Odessa, Texas. The Wayne County Sheriff's Department conducted

two marijuana transportation investigations in 1999: in one, marijuana was shipped from the Southwest Border area to Philadelphia and then transported by vehicle to Wayne County; in the second, marijuana was shipped in parcel packages from the Southwest Border area to Wayne County. A Harlingen, Texas, Special Investigation Unit uncovered a marijuana distribution group that

used various parcel delivery companies to transport marijuana from the Southwest Border area. Agents found dozens of package receipts at the transporters' residence indicating that from 1997 to 1999 the group mailed at least 96 packages weighing 3,639 pounds. The packages were shipped via parcel post from Harlingen, Texas, to recipients in Indiana and 14 other states.

Distribution

Mexican criminal groups are the primary marijuana wholesalers in Indiana according to the Lake County HIDTA and most of the Indiana respondents to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey. Law enforcement authorities including the Indianapolis, Evansville, Fort Wayne, and South Bend Police Departments and the Marion and Vigo County Drug Task Force confirm that Mexican criminal groups are responsible for marijuana wholesale distribution operations in Indiana. An Indianapolis police detective reports that these criminal groups ship the drug into Indianapolis and place it in storage facilities where another Mexican criminal group packages it for retail sale.

The Allen County Sheriff's Department reports that Caucasian and Mexican criminal groups as well as outlaw motorcycle gangs are responsible for wholesale marijuana distribution, while an Allen County gang investigator includes the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Hispanic gangs as responsible for wholesale marijuana distribution.

The Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and the Latin Kings, as well as local independent dealers primarily in rural areas, conduct wholesale marijuana distribution operations in Indiana. A Gary narcotics detective reports that the Latin Kings control marijuana wholesale distribution operations in Gary. The Fort Wayne Police Department reports that OMGs distribute wholesale marijuana in its area, while the Marion County Sheriff's Department reports that street gangs, OMGs, and local independent dealers wholesale

marijuana in its jurisdiction. The Evansville Police Department reports that local independent dealers dominate marijuana wholesale operations, although street gangs and Mexican criminal organizations also wholesale marijuana in Evansville. The South Central Narcotics Task Force and the Vigo County Drug Task Force report that local independent dealers, primarily Caucasian males, are the primary marijuana wholesalers in their areas.

Chicago- and Detroit-based gangs as well as local independent dealers are the principal marijuana retail distributors in Indiana's urban areas. In rural areas, local independent dealers, primarily Caucasian males in their early twenties, and Mexican criminal groups control marijuana retail operations. The Outlaws Motorcycle Club most likely controls some marijuana retail distribution, primarily through its puppet clubs. The Fort Wayne Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Department report that local independent dealers, street gangs, Mexican criminal groups, and OMGs retail marijuana. These organizations have connections to Los Angeles-, Chicago-, and Detroit-based street gangs as well as to other motorcycle gangs. The South Central Narcotics Task Force reports that local independent dealers, predominantly Caucasian males, are the primary marijuana retailers in its area. The Allen County Sheriff's Department reports that local independent dealers, Mexican criminal groups, and OMGs are responsible for retail marijuana distribution in its area. The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office and the Evansville Police

Department report that local independent dealers with ties to the Mexican Mafia retail marijuana in their areas. A 1999 OCDETF investigation uncovered an Indianapolis-based organization distributing large quantities of marijuana from Mexico throughout the United States but primarily in the Southern District of Indiana. The group had OMG contacts in Indianapolis.

A Gary narcotics detective reports that the Latin Kings controls marijuana retail distribution operations in the city. The gang predominantly retails marijuana in the Black Oak and Glen Oak areas.

Heroin

Heroin distribution and consumption have not been significant problems in Indiana, but recent reports indicate there has been an increase in heroin use, especially in urban areas such as Chesterton, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Hammond, Indianapolis, South Bend, and Valparaiso and especially among youth. Traditionally, Mexican brown powdered and

black tar heroin have been the prevailing types available in the Northern District of Indiana, while Southeast Asian heroin has been more available in the Southern District of Indiana. Mexican DTOs are the primary heroin transporters and wholesale distributors. The Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and other gangs control heroin retail distribution.

Abuse

Heroin abuse and availability are increasing in Chicago which, because of that city's proximity, typically results in increased heroin abuse throughout Indiana. The Chicago Police Department identifies heroin as the second greatest drug threat in its jurisdiction and reports that the threat is increasing. Heroin abuse indicators such as treatment admissions and documented overdoses have been increasing in Chicago for the past decade according to the Community Epidemiology Work Group. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) statistics from 1991 to 1998 also show an increase in the rate of heroin mentions in Chicago. In 1998, Chicago heroin emergency department mentions were five times the national rate. Cook County has more than 23,000 hardcore heroin abusers and there are an estimated 60,000 to 80,000 heroin injectors in the Chicago area. Nearly 70 percent of the heroin abusers in Chicago describe themselves as daily users, more than double the number of crack cocaine users who admit daily use.

Heroin purity levels are higher than ever, sometimes as high as 80 percent, contributing to the increase in abuse. High purity heroin provides users with the option of effectively snorting or smoking the drug, enhancing its appeal to younger users and those who previously may have been hesitant to inject it. The rise in heroin purity also has led to an increase in demand and an increase in the number of heroin addicts. The Evansville Police Department reports that heroin is not readily available on the retail level, but overdoses were reported through local medical care organizations, and the Hamilton County Drug Task Force reports that heroin possession arrests are increasing in frequency.

Mirroring a nationwide trend, the number of young people using heroin is increasing in Indiana. A 1999 study sponsored by the SAMHSA indicates that the number of high school seniors who have abused heroin had doubled in the previous 6 years.

HIV and AIDS infection rates may reflect heroin abuse patterns among African Americans,

particularly males. According to an Indiana State Department of Health Epidemiology Resource Center report, HIV and AIDS disproportionately affect African American males. In 1996, 41 percent of reported AIDS cases in males over age 13 were African Americans. This was the first time the percentage of African Americans with AIDS

surpassed the percentage of Caucasians with AIDS. In Indianapolis, 11 percent of Caucasian men with AIDS were intravenous drug users compared with 31 percent of African American men. The higher rates of HIV infection among African Americans suggest higher rates of heroin abuse by injection.

Availability

Heroin is becoming more readily available in the Lake County HIDTA area of responsibility. Although Mexican brown powdered and black tar heroin are the prevailing types in the area, reports indicate that Southeast Asian heroin is becoming increasingly available in northwestern Indiana. The Fort Wayne Police Department and the Allen and Marion County Sheriff's Departments report that Mexican black tar and brown powdered heroin are the only types available in their jurisdictions while the South Bend Police Department reports that "Mexican white heroin" is occasionally available. In Southern Indiana, Southeast Asian heroin and Mexican brown powdered heroin are the primary types available.

Local law enforcement and state crime laboratory officials report increases in heroin-related investigations, arrests, seizures, and laboratory cases in 1999, indicating a rise in heroin availability. The Lake County Drug Task Force

reports that an increase in arrests indicates a rise in availability. According to a Task Force analyst, the prevalence of heroin is still behind that of cocaine, but heroin is encountered in larger quantities and with increasing frequency. The Allen and Marion County Sheriff's Departments report that heroin-related investigations, arrests, and seizures increased in 1999. Heroin cases examined by the Indiana State Crime Laboratory rose 6 percent from 113 in 1998 to 120 in 1999.

Heroin price and purity levels also indicate increased heroin availability. Heroin prices in Indiana decreased from \$260 per gram in 1995 to \$120 in 2001. Purity levels increased from an average of 44 percent in 1995 to 58 percent in 1999, although samples have been tested up to 95 percent pure. The DEA Chicago Field Division's Trends in the Traffic report for the first quarter of 2001 indicates the increase in heroin purity is continuing.

Violence

Most federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies cite the violent crime associated with gang-related drug trafficking as the most serious criminal threat to the state. Gang migration from northwestern Indiana has increased violent criminal activity in other areas of the state previously unaffected. Gangs are the primary street-level distributors of heroin and other drugs in Indiana.

There are no indications of significant increases in crime or violence related directly to heroin abuse in Indiana. Nonetheless, the highly addictive nature of heroin forces many users to resort to a life of crime. To obtain money to feed their addiction, heroin users often commit theft and burglary and occasionally engage in prostitution.

Production

There is no indication that opium poppies are cultivated or that heroin is produced in Indiana.

Transportation

Mexican DTOs are the primary heroin transporters in Indiana. The Lake County HIDTA reports that Mexican DTOs are primarily responsible for shipping black tar and brown powdered heroin from sources in Chicago or directly from the Southwest Border area. The Allen County Sheriff's Department reports that Chicago is a major source of heroin to its area. The Marion County Sheriff's Department reports that Chicago, Detroit, and the Southwest Border are source areas for heroin transported into its area and that Mexican DTOs are the primary heroin transporters. The Fort Wayne Police Department indicates Mexican and independent African American criminal groups are the primary heroin transporters into Indiana. They further state that Texas and Arizona are primary source areas.

Gangs such as the Gangster Disciples, as well as local and independent gangs/dealers, transport smaller amounts of heroin into Indiana. The AUSA of the Southern District reports that heroin—primarily Southeast Asian—is frequently obtained by independents traveling to Chicago and dealing with a source of supply that is often one level removed from a Nigerian source.

Distribution

Mexican DTOs are responsible for wholesale heroin distribution in Indiana. Chicago-based Mexican distributors associated with Mexico-based DTOs are the source of the black tar and brown powdered heroin that is increasingly available in the Lake County HIDTA. The Fort Wayne Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Department reports that Mexican DTOs are

Independents also are known to obtain their heroin supply from New York. In 1999, a federal grand jury indicted 14 gang members, mostly from Chicago, involved in the largest heroin distribution ring ever uncovered in Indiana's Southern District. Members of the Black Gangster New Breed street gang transported 700 grams of heroin a month to Indianapolis from Chicago using juveniles, senior citizens, and fellow gang members as couriers.

The Herrera Mexican drug trafficking organizations transports large shipments of heroin across the U.S.–Mexico border. Once the drugs are in the United States, they are stored at transshipment points until they can be transported to distribution centers such as Chicago. From Chicago the heroin is distributed to Indiana and other key Midwest states.

Transporters primarily use private vehicles or couriers to transport heroin to the area. Heroin has been discovered concealed in aerosol cans and ceramic pots, in the soles of shoes, and in hidden compartments built into vehicles.

responsible for wholesale heroin distribution in their areas. Mexican DTOs distribute wholesale amounts of heroin for retail sale to Chicago-based gangs operating in northwestern Indiana. Independent dealers, and to a lesser extent, local street gangs, are responsible for most heroin wholesale operations in southern Indiana.

Law enforcement sources indicate gangs control most heroin retail sales in Indiana. Local independent dealers retail small amounts of heroin, primarily in smaller communities. The Fort Wayne Police Department reports that Mexican criminal groups are responsible for retail heroin distribution. The Marion County Sheriff's Department reports that Mexican criminal groups, local independent dealers,

local and Chicago- and Detroit-based street gangs, as well as Caucasian criminal groups are responsible for heroin retail distribution in its jurisdiction. A Gary narcotics detective reports that the midtown area is where most heroin retail sales occur and that older individuals, between the ages of 40 and 50, are the primary heroin retailers in the area.

Other Dangerous Drugs

Other dangerous drugs, such as MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine), ketamine, and GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyrate), are becoming increasingly popular, particularly among young people in urban areas and in college towns

such as Evansville, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Muncie, South Bend, and Terre Haute. The DEA reports that Lake and Porter Counties in north-west Indiana have experienced an explosion in MDMA availability.

Abuse

“Club drugs” and “designer drugs” are general terms for synthetic drugs that have become popular with teenagers and young adults who frequent nightclubs and raves. These drugs include MDMA, ketamine, Rohypnol, GHB, GBL (gamma-butyrolactone), and LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide). The popularity of these drugs has increased in large part because users believe they are not harmful. Many users are experimenting with an extremely dangerous combination of designer drugs, other drugs, and alcohol. National statistics document a sharp increase in the use of MDMA and other club drugs, and Indiana authorities are just beginning to see an increase in club drug use in their state. Designer drug use is increasing in the Southern District of Indiana, and several county sheriff's departments report that MDMA, GHB, and LSD sales, usually conducted by college students, are increasing. A Muncie Police Department detective reports an increase in MDMA and GHB abuse, primarily on a local university campus. The detective also reports that college campus “fads” usually spread to the local high schools and that he expects an increase in designer drug abuse among high school students. The Lake County HIDTA reports that MDMA

abuse, as well as GHB abuse in nightclubs, is on the rise.

Raves are dance events that feature hard pounding techno-music and flashing laser lights. They often are promoted through flyers and advertisements distributed at clubs, in record shops and clothing stores, on college campuses, and over the Internet. Club owners and promoters often sell items that are associated with MDMA use. These include bottled water to prevent dehydration, pacifiers to prevent involuntary teeth clenching, and menthol nasal inhalers, chemical lights, and neon glow sticks, necklaces, and bracelets—all of which enhance the effects of MDMA.

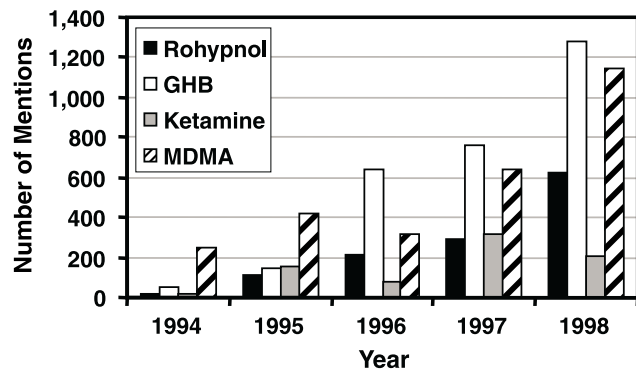
Source: NDIC, *Joint Assessment of MDMA Trafficking Trends*, June 2000.

A South Central Narcotics Task Force prosecutor reports an increase in MDMA abuse, primarily among high school students, as well as an increase in GHB-related incidents. A Vigo County Drug Task Force detective reports that MDMA, GHB, and LSD abuse is increasing, primarily among college students but also among high school students. The detective

reports that younger Caucasian yuppies and Satan worshippers are the primary LSD users in the area. The Delaware County Sheriff's Department reports that college students are the main GHB, MDMA, and LSD users in its jurisdiction, and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department reports GHB use by local college students who also use gel tab LSD.

Following are short descriptions of dangerous synthetic drugs that have emerged as problems in Indiana.

Chart 6. Emergency Room Mentions for Selected Club Drugs in the United States, 1994-1998



Source: Drug Enforcement Administration, *Drug Intelligence Brief, An Overview of Club Drugs*, February 2000.

- MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine), also called ecstasy, XTC, E, X, and Adam, is a synthetic, psychoactive substance with stimulant and mild hallucinogenic properties. Known as the “hug drug” or “feel good” drug, it reduces inhibitions and anxiety and produces feelings of empathy and extreme relaxation. MDMA is taken orally, usually in tablet form, and its effects last approximately 4 to 6 hours. The drug reportedly suppresses the need to eat, drink, or sleep, which enables MDMA users to attend parties or raves that can last 2 to 3 days. The effects of the drug, which short-circuit signals to the brain, often lead to severe dehydration and heat stroke because of the nonstop dancing and activity users participate in at raves. An MDMA overdose is characterized by rapid heartbeat, high blood pressure, faintness, muscle cramping,

panic attack and in more severe cases, loss of consciousness or seizure.

- GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyrate), also known as liquid ecstasy, soap, easy lay, Georgia homeboy, grievous bodily harm, liquid X, and goop, is a central nervous system depressant that was banned by the Food and Drug Administration in 1990. Originally sold in health stores, GHB was marketed as a releasing agent for growth hormones that would stimulate muscle growth. Combining GBL with either sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide produces GHB; recipes are readily available on the Internet. At lower doses, GHB causes drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, and visual disturbances. At higher doses, unconsciousness, seizure, severe respiratory depression, and coma can occur. An overdose usually requires emergency room attention.
- GBL (gamma-butyrolactone), a chemical used in industrial cleaners, is closely related to GHB. GBL is a precursor to GHB and, when ingested alone, metabolizes into GHB. GBL is sold as a dietary supplement and marketed under a variety of exaggerated health claims, from the treatment of insomnia to the reversal of baldness. Its popularity as a club drug has increased as raves and related activities have spread from large metropolitan areas to smaller cities and towns.
- Ketamine, also known as K, Special K, and cat valium, is a disassociative general anesthetic for primarily veterinary use. The only known street source of ketamine is diverted pharmaceutical products. Recent press reports indicate that a significant number of veterinary clinics are being robbed specifically for their ketamine stock. Ketamine liquid can be injected, applied to smokeable material, or consumed in drinks. A powdered form is made by allowing the solvent to evaporate; the resulting white powder, once pulverized, looks very much like cocaine. The powder can be put in drinks, smoked, or injected. Ketamine produces physical effects similar to PCP, with the visual effects of LSD. Users

report a preference for ketamine over PCP or LSD because the effects of ketamine last an hour or less. Use of the drug can cause delirium, amnesia, depression, long-term memory and cognitive difficulties, as well respiratory problems that can be fatal.

- LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), also known as acid, boomers, and yellow sunshines, is a hallucinogen that induces abnormalities in sensory perceptions. The effects of LSD are unpredictable and often depend on the amount taken, the environment in which it is used, and the personality, mood, and expectations of the user. Users may feel the effects within 30 to 90 minutes. The physical effects include dilated pupils, sweating, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, dry mouth, tremors, and increased heart rate, body temperature, and blood pressure. LSD users report body numbness, weakness, or trembling and, often, nausea. Two long-term disorders associated with LSD are persistent psychosis and hallucinogen persisting perception disorder (flashbacks). LSD typically is taken by mouth and is sold in tablet, capsule, and liquid forms as well as on pieces of paper (blotters) that have absorbed the drug.

Prescription drug abuse is also on the rise in Indiana. Officials indicate Ritalin abuse is increasing, especially among high school students. According to the DEA, Ritalin is prescribed four to five times more often in Indiana than it is nationally. In a 1998 Indiana youth survey, 7 percent of Indiana high school students abused Ritalin at least once and 2.5 percent abused it monthly or more frequently.

Availability

MDMA, GHB, and LSD are available throughout the state and supply is increasing. All law enforcement officials responding to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey as well as others interviewed report that the availability of MDMA and LSD is increasing. A South Central Narcotics Task Force prosecutor and an Indianapolis police

Ritalin acts as a stimulant and is typically prescribed for children diagnosed with hyperactivity or Attention Deficit Disorder. Used nonmedically, it is often ground into a powdered and snorted like cocaine or diluted and injected like heroin.

The Indiana State Police report that OxyContin abuse is increasing, particularly in southeastern Indiana. The State Police believe that OxyContin will become at least as big a problem as methamphetamine, adding that a pharmacy in Jackson County is the third largest distributor of oxycodone in the United States. Abuse of hydrocodone and hydromorphone (the prescription drugs most often sold illegally throughout Indiana) is increasing throughout the state.

OxyContin is a trade name product for the generic narcotic oxycodone hydrochloride, an opiate agonist. Opiate agonists provide pain relief by acting on opioid receptors in the spinal cord, brain, and possibly in the tissues directly. Opioids, natural or synthetic classes of drugs that act like morphine, are the most effective pain relievers available. Oxycodone is manufactured by modifying thebaine, an alkaloid found in opium. Oxycodone has a high abuse potential and is prescribed for moderate to high pain relief associated with injuries, bursitis, dislocation, fractures, neuralgia, arthritis, and lower back and cancer pain. It is also used postoperatively and for pain relief after childbirth. Percocet, Percodan, and Tylox are other trade name oxycodone products.

detective report an increase in MDMA and GHB availability. The Muncie Police Department reports that MDMA and GHB are readily available on a local university campus. A Vigo County Drug Task Force detective reports that MDMA is readily available on a university campus as well as in local high schools and that LSD availability

is increasing. The Evansville Police Department reports that LSD, GHB, and Rohypnol are available in the area and that there is an increase in the availability of LSD gel tabs and cubes.

Investigators report that MDMA-related investigations, arrests, and seizures have

increased. The Hamilton County Drug Task Force seized 1,465 dosage units of MDMA in 1999, an increase for the second straight year. MDMA laboratory cases examined by the Indiana State Crime Laboratory increased 340 percent, from 9 in 1998 to 40 in 1999.

Violence

There is usually little violence associated with the use of other dangerous drugs, with the exception of GHB. MDMA is called the “hug drug,” because it produces feelings of friendship and compassion rather than violence. LSD can cause violent “trips,” but it is not known to cause violence among users. LSD trips can include violent and/or bizarre hallucinations, but the effects usually do not extend beyond the user. Psilocybin mushrooms also are hallucinogens and are not known to induce violent behavior. GHB and Rohypnol use, however, often results in violence,

specifically rape. These drugs are used to render victims unconscious; victims usually have no recollection of activity during the unconscious state. The Muncie Police Department reports that in 2000, a local university student ingested GHB, lost consciousness, and was raped. A Vigo County Drug Task Force detective and a Monroe County prosecutor report that there were several GHB-related rapes in 2000, and a South Central Narcotics Task Force prosecutor reports an increase in GHB-related rapes.

Production

According to the Muncie Police Department, MDMA and GHB are produced on a limited basis, primarily on Indiana college campuses; however, most MDMA available in Indiana was produced and shipped from Europe through various ports of entry. Recipes for MDMA and GHB are readily available on the Internet and precursors for production are easy to obtain. Federal authorities are teaming with the Fort Wayne Police Department to educate business owners in the area about the precursors used in MDMA and GHB production. In Evansville, store managers

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department stated that college students were producing GHB on a local campus. The students obtained an ingredient list from the Internet and then bought most of the items from the campus laboratory.

keep a close eye on certain products and inform authorities when such products are stolen. There is also an effort under way to teach young people about the dangers associated with the use of rave drugs such as MDMA, ketamine, and Rohypnol.

Transportation

Local independent dealers, primarily Caucasian males between the ages of 18 and 35, transport other dangerous drugs into Indiana, which are introduced from a number of sources. According

to law enforcement authorities, Chicago and Indianapolis are MDMA source cities. The Hamilton County Drug Task Force reports that Caucasian males between the ages of 18 and 35 are the primary

transporters of MDMA brought into the area from Chicago, while a South Central Narcotics Task Force prosecutor reports that young adults obtain MDMA supplies from Indianapolis. The Fort Wayne Police Department identifies California and locations along the Southwest Border as LSD source areas.

Criminal groups use various methods to ship other dangerous drugs to Indiana. Law enforcement officials report that private vehicles and commercial aircraft are the primary methods used to transport other dangerous drugs to Indiana and that parcel delivery services are a secondary transportation method. A South Central Narcotics Task Force prosecutor reports the interception of a package containing 3,000 MDMA tablets shipped from the Netherlands, routed through Chicago en route to Bloomington, Indiana. Another report indicates that individuals who follow touring bands transport LSD and psilocybin

mushrooms. LSD- and mushroom-related sales increase around concerts or annual college events. LSD, usually produced on the West Coast, most likely is transported to Indiana in personal vehicles or through parcel delivery services. A Vigo County Drug Task Force detective intercepted a large parcel containing psilocybin mushrooms addressed to a Terre Haute man. The Muncie Police Department reports that college students transport LSD and psilocybin mushrooms using mail services and also bring the drugs to Indiana from areas they visit during school breaks.

An Indianapolis police detective reports that Caucasian males between the ages of 20 and 30 are the primary MDMA transporters in the area. He further reports that they obtain their supply from Chicago, Illinois, Florida and Delaware.

Distribution

Local independent dealers—primarily Caucasian males between the ages of 18 and 35—are the primary MDMA and LSD wholesalers in Indiana, according to most of the Indiana respondents to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey and other law enforcement authorities interviewed. A Muncie Police Department detective reports that local university students wholesale most of the MDMA and GHB in the area. The Hamilton County Drug Task Force reports that Caucasian males between the ages of 18 and 35 are wholesaling MDMA, GHB, and LSD in its area. A South Central Narcotics Task Force prosecutor reports that high school students between the ages of 16 and 18 are the primary MDMA wholesalers and that LSD and psilocybin mushrooms are found only during college events or concerts.

Most of the respondents to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey and other subjects interviewed report that local independent dealers, primarily Caucasian males between the ages of 18 and 35,

are the primary retailers of other dangerous drugs, particularly MDMA and LSD. The Hamilton County Drug Task Force reports that Caucasian males between the ages of 18 and 35 are retailing MDMA, LSD, and GHB in its jurisdiction. The Evansville Police Department and the Allen and Marion County Sheriff's Departments report that Caucasian groups are the primary retailers. The Fort Wayne Police Department reports that Caucasian males primarily distribute blotter acid and psychedelic mushrooms. A Muncie Police Department detective reports that local university students retail most of the MDMA and GHB in the area, a typical situation in college towns. A Vigo County Drug Task Force detective reports that college students are selling LSD and MDMA at coffee clubs off campus. A South Central Narcotics Task Force prosecutor reports that high school students between the ages of 16 and 18 are the primary MDMA retailers. In April 2000, a student at Carmel High School, just north of Indianapolis, was charged as an adult for selling approximately

20 hits of LSD to undercover officers. In November 1998, six students at the high school and middle school in Avon, Indiana, were arrested and charged with dealing or possessing LSD. While LSD arrests are not common in Avon, the drug appears to be making a comeback.

Law enforcement sources report that LSD and other designer drugs are found primarily during concert tours. The appearance of certain bands seems to correlate to increases in investigations, arrests, and seizures related to other dangerous drugs. For example, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department reports that distributors of LSD and psilocybin mushrooms apparently follow

specific music bands. One concert resulted in 20 arrests for the two drugs.

Hydrocodone and hydromorphone are the prescription drugs most often sold illegally throughout Indiana. According to law enforcement sources, local healthcare professionals, independent dealers, and the Outlaws Motorcycle Club control illegal prescription retail sales. The Fort Wayne Police Department reports that healthcare professionals retail 30 percent of the hydrocodone and hydromorphone used in its area. The Marion County Sheriff's Department reports that the Outlaws Motorcycle Club and doctor shoppers are the primary hydrocodone and hydromorphone retailers.

Outlook

The Lake County area will continue to serve as a center for the transportation and distribution of cocaine, marijuana, and heroin throughout Indiana, thereby serving as a crucial link between sources of supply and retail distribution operations within the state. Identifying and targeting the key transporters and wholesalers supplying drugs to Indiana through the Lake County area will seriously disrupt drug operations throughout the state.

Gang-controlled crack cocaine retail operations located primarily in Indiana's larger cities will begin to infiltrate smaller communities, resulting in increased violence in those areas. Gangs retail in smaller communities where the powdered and crack cocaine prices are much higher to increase profits and escape law enforcement scrutiny in urban areas. Few small community police forces have the resources to deal with large-scale street gang operations.

Methamphetamine production will increase in Indiana, especially in the southern and south central areas of the state. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of laboratories seized by authorities in Evansville and Terre Haute, where most of the methamphetamine available is produced locally. Production is expected to continue rising in the southern and south central areas and

to expand to areas around Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, and the Lake County HIDTA. Laboratory operations also have increased dramatically in Missouri and southern Illinois, and as law enforcement pressure in these states increases, the producers may relocate to Indiana. More Indiana residents will begin methamphetamine production as they become aware of the lucrative methamphetamine market.

The cultivation of cannabis in indoor and hydroponic grow operations will continue to increase—supporting rising demand. Seizures from indoor grow operations have recently increased throughout Indiana. Most respondents to the 2000 National Drug Threat Survey and law enforcement authorities interviewed reported a rise in indoor grow operations in their areas.

Heroin abuse will continue to increase, spreading from more urban areas such as Gary, Hammond, and Indianapolis, to smaller communities throughout the state. Nigerian criminal groups transport and distribute most of the Southeast Asian heroin available in Wisconsin and Illinois. Expect Nigerian criminal groups to expand their heroin operations from Chicago to northwestern Indiana.

MDMA abuse is increasing in Indiana, and college and high school students are the primary abusers. Most reports indicate MDMA abuse starts among college students and then moves to the local high school population, either through family contact or at parties. Most of the wholesale and retail distributors are young Caucasian males, who most likely are unskilled in drug and covert operations and will be easier to investigate and prosecute. They also are likely to cooperate under law enforcement pressure, bolstering current and future MDMA investigations.

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Southern District of Texas
U.S. Department of the Treasury
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