



Chicago

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

Drug Market Analysis 2009



**NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE CENTER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**





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This assessment is an outgrowth of a partnership between the NDIC and HIDTA Program for preparation of annual assessments depicting drug trafficking trends and developments in HIDTA Program areas. The report has been coordinated with the HIDTA, is limited in scope to HIDTA jurisdictional boundaries, and draws upon a wide variety of sources within those boundaries.



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Preface

This assessment provides a strategic overview of the illicit drug situation in the Chicago High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), highlighting significant trends and law enforcement concerns related to the trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs. The report was prepared through detailed analysis of recent law enforcement reporting, information obtained through interviews with law enforcement and public health officials, and available statistical data. The report is designed to provide policymakers, resource planners, and law enforcement officials with a focused discussion of key drug issues and developments facing the Chicago HIDTA.

Figure 1. Chicago High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



Strategic Drug Threat Developments

- Drug-related gang violence, particularly homicide, increased in Chicago, Illinois, in 2008. According to the Chicago Police Department, gang-related murders in Chicago, often resulting from drug-related disputes, increased 36.3 percent from 2007 (168 murders) through 2008 (229 murders).
- Street gang drug distribution operations are concentrated in urban areas of Chicago; however, suburban law enforcement agencies, many of which lack sufficient resources, report an increasing presence of Chicago gang members who distribute drugs in their jurisdictions. Officials attribute the movement of gang members from Chicago to suburban areas to several factors: the breakdown of traditional hierarchical gang structures, the razing of some large Chicago public housing projects, an abundance of wholesale illicit drug suppliers, and the expectation of high profits from new suburban drug operations.
- Cocaine trafficking and abuse in the Chicago HIDTA region are widespread; however, law enforcement officials reported decreases in wholesale cocaine availability during the second half of 2008, evidenced by increased wholesale cocaine prices and decreased cocaine purity levels.
- The availability of and demand for high-potency marijuana are increasing. Mexican, Asian (primarily Chinese and Vietnamese) and, increasingly, Caucasian drug trafficking groups transport high-potency marijuana to the region from California and Washington. Asian, Albanian, and Caucasian drug traffickers also transport wholesale quantities of the drug to the region from Canada.
- Local indoor cultivation of high-potency cannabis in the region is increasing. Further, indoor cannabis cultivation, primarily among local independent drug traffickers growing a small number of cannabis plants, is more prevalent than it had been in previous years.
- The availability and abuse of MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy) are rising in the Chicago HIDTA region, particularly in African American and Hispanic communities. Rising availability and abuse are most likely the result of increased retail-level distribution by African American and Hispanic street gangs, which are typically supplied by Canada-based Asian traffickers.

HIDTA Overview

The Chicago HIDTA region, composed of Cook, Grundy, Kendall, and Will Counties, comprises more than 6.1 million residents—nearly half of the population of Illinois.¹ The Chicago metropolitan area is one of the nation's largest drug markets and a national-level distribution center for cocaine, heroin, and marijuana available in the Midwest and the eastern United States. Cook County, which includes the city of Chicago, is second only to Los Angeles County, California, as the most populated county in the United States. According to U.S. Census estimates, Kendall County and Will County are two of the fastest-growing counties in the United States; those populations have grown 77.5 percent and 34.1 percent, respectively, from 2000 through 2007.

1. U.S. Census estimates indicate that approximately 47 percent of Illinois residents resided in the Chicago High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) region as of July 1, 2007, the most recent date for which data are available.

The Chicago metropolitan area² is densely populated and ethnically diverse, enabling members of drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), criminal groups, and street gangs to assimilate within communities and conceal their drug trafficking activities. The Mexican community in Chicago, the second-largest of any metropolitan area in the United States, is experiencing substantial growth as a result of ongoing immigration and higher-than-average birth rates. Chicago also has the fifth-largest immigrant population among U.S. metropolitan areas, with approximately 1.4 million immigrants. The largest immigrant populations in the metropolitan area are from Mexico, Poland, and India, while the fastest-growing populations are from Ghana, Nigeria, Russia, Pakistan, and Vietnam. Although ethnic communities are typically concentrated in Cook County, suburban counties are also experiencing substantial growth in immigrant populations.

The region has a highly developed transportation infrastructure that facilitates the continuous movement of licit and illicit goods to and from the area. Chicago is one of the nation's largest trucking centers, principally because of the city's proximity to Interstates 55, 57, 80, 88, 90, and 94, which pass through the metropolitan area. (See Figure 1 on page 1.) These major highways are frequently used by traffickers to transport illicit drugs to Chicago from Mexico and locations along the Southwest Border. Two major international airports, O'Hare and Midway, are located within the HIDTA region; they processed approximately 86 million passengers and approximately 1.4 million tons of cargo during 2008. These major airports are frequently used by traffickers to smuggle illicit drugs into the Chicago area. In addition, Chicago's train, bus, mail, and parcel delivery services are exploited by DTOs, criminal groups, and street gangs to transport drugs and drug proceeds to and from the region.

2. The Chicago metropolitan area includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties.

Drug Threat Overview

The distribution and abuse of cocaine (particularly crack), followed by heroin and marijuana, are the primary drug threats in the Chicago HIDTA region. According to the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS) 2009,³ 69 of the 137 federal, state, and local law enforcement respondents in the Chicago area identify cocaine as the drug that poses the greatest threat to their jurisdictions, 32 respondents identify heroin, and 34 respondents identify marijuana. Large quantities of these drugs are transported to the area by Mexican DTOs and criminal groups, principally from locations along the Southwest Border. In 2008, Chicago HIDTA initiatives reported the seizure of 2,479 kilograms of cocaine, 122 kilograms of heroin, and 10,275 kilograms of marijuana. The HIDTA region has one of the largest illicit drug user populations in the United States. According to the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA), the Chicago HIDTA region accounted for 55.3 percent of all treatment provider services rendered in Illinois in 2007 (the latest year for which such data are available). Mexican DTOs and criminal groups dominate the wholesale transportation and distribution of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana; they typically obtain these drugs directly from DTOs operating in Mexico and provide them to street gang leaders in the region for retail-level distribution. Street gangs are the primary retail distributors of illicit drugs. These gangs regularly engage in violent criminal activities to protect their drug supplies, distribution territories, and illicit drug proceeds.

3. National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS) data for 2009 cited in this report are as of February 12, 2009. NDTS data cited are raw, unweighted responses from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies solicited through either the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) or the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program. Data cited may include responses from agencies that are part of the NDTS 2009 national sample and/or agencies that are part of HIDTA solicitation lists.

Cocaine trafficking and abuse in the Chicago HIDTA region are widespread; however, decreases in cocaine availability at the wholesale level were reported by law enforcement officials during the second half of 2008, as indicated by increased wholesale cocaine prices and decreased cocaine purity levels. Wholesale prices for cocaine in Chicago increased from December 2007 (\$17,000 to \$25,000 per kilogram) to December 2008 (\$25,000 to \$31,000 per kilogram), most likely indicating decreased availability. In addition, cocaine purity levels in the region declined in the second half of 2008, possibly indicating increased cutting of cocaine by traffickers to stretch supplies or increase profits. For example, law enforcement officials reported increased incidents of “re-rocking” facilities located in the HIDTA region. Re-rocking is a process of diluting kilograms of powder cocaine and reforming the cocaine into kilogram bricks with a hydraulic press, making the cocaine appear authentic and uncut.

Heroin supplied by Colombian, Mexican, Nigerian, and other West African traffickers is widely available and abused in the Chicago HIDTA region. Most of the heroin available in the HIDTA region is South American (SA). Colombian DTOs that produce SA heroin increasingly employ Mexican DTOs to transport multikilogram quantities of the drug through Mexico to the HIDTA region. Mexican brown powder heroin and black tar heroin are also available in Chicago, particularly in Hispanic communities. Nigerian and other West African traffickers smuggle multiounce quantities of Southwest Asian (SWA) heroin and, to a much lesser extent, Southeast Asian (SEA) heroin to Chicago on commercial aircraft through various concealment methods and through package delivery services. Street gangs are the principal retail heroin distributors in the region. Law enforcement officials report that a growing number of young heroin abusers travel from suburban areas and neighboring states to the region to purchase heroin,

further contributing to the heroin distribution problem. According to DASA, the number of annual heroin treatment services rendered in the Chicago HIDTA region fluctuated between 2003 and 2007 (the latest year for which such data are available) but increased 16.9 percent (from 28,369 to 33,169) overall. In fact, the increase in heroin treatment provider services in the region outpaced that for any other substance of abuse. (See Figure 2 on page 9.)

Commercial-grade Mexican marijuana is widely available and abused in the Chicago HIDTA region, and the availability of and demand for high-potency marijuana are increasing. Mexican DTOs typically transport commercial-grade marijuana to the region from the Southwest Border, often in multiton quantities, using tractor-trailers. Although most of the marijuana distributed in the HIDTA region is commercial-grade, law enforcement reporting indicates that the demand for, and the distribution and abuse of, high-potency marijuana are increasing. High-potency marijuana is transported by Mexican, Caucasian, and Asian (primarily Chinese and Vietnamese) traffickers to the region from California and Washington. Asian, Albanian, and Caucasian traffickers increasingly transport significant quantities of the drug to the region from Canada. Law enforcement officials also report that increased local cultivation of high-potency cannabis in the region is contributing to rising availability of high-potency marijuana. Indoor cannabis cultivation, primarily among local independent drug traffickers growing a small number of cannabis plants, is more prevalent than it had been in previous years.

Methamphetamine distribution and abuse occur at low levels in the area; however, wholesale quantities of ice methamphetamine transit the Chicago HIDTA region en route to other markets. Mexican DTOs transport wholesale quantities of ice methamphetamine to the region and break them down for further distribution to drug markets in the Midwest. Law enforcement reporting indicates that methamphetamine distribution

and abuse are limited to some Asian abusers and members of gay communities on the North Side of Chicago.

The availability and abuse of MDMA, controlled prescription drugs (CPDs), and other dangerous drugs (ODDs) vary throughout the region. The availability and abuse of MDMA in the HIDTA region are increasing. Asian, Albanian, and Caucasian traffickers transport the drug into the region from Canada. Law enforcement reporting indicates that MDMA is available throughout the region and typically is abused by young Eastern Europeans; however, abuse among individuals in African American and Hispanic communities is expanding, quite likely the result of increased MDMA distribution by African American and Hispanic street gangs. Additionally, law enforcement officials report increased seizures of MDMA tablets adulterated with BZP (N-benzylpiperazine, a controlled prescription stimulant). According to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Canada-based DTOs are increasingly producing adulterated MDMA

Alleged Members of Juárez Cartel Arrested in Chicago Drug Trafficking Investigation

In September 2008, 11 alleged members of the Juárez Cartel were charged in a federal complaint in the Northern District of Illinois, the result of a 10-month investigation into cocaine and marijuana distribution in the Chicago area. According to law enforcement reporting, the DTO smuggled wholesale quantities of cocaine and marijuana from Mexico to Chicago through the Southwest Border. During the investigation three members of the organization were found bound, gagged, and shot to death in a drug stash house in Chicago.

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration; U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Illinois.

tablets, and in some instances, tablets marketed as MDMA contain little, if any MDMA. CPDs and ODDs such as PCP (phencyclidine), LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyrate), khat, and ketamine are available and abused in the region, but to a much lesser extent.

Drug Trafficking Organizations

Mexican DTOs pose the most significant organizational threat to the Chicago HIDTA region; they are the dominant transporters and wholesale distributors of most cocaine, heroin, and marijuana available in the area. These highly organized and compartmentalized drug trafficking groups often have connections to large DTOs in Mexico, from which they receive their drug supplies. They often use familial connections within the large local Mexican population to facilitate and conceal their drug operations. Mexican DTOs operating in Chicago also have drug distribution relationships with high-ranking local street gang members, supplying them with drugs for retail distribution. Mexican DTOs operating in Chicago generally store large quantities of cocaine and marijuana and smaller quantities of heroin and ice methamphetamine in local stash houses for later transportation to other drug markets in the Midwest and the eastern United States.

Other drug trafficking groups also distribute wholesale quantities of illicit drugs in the Chicago HIDTA region. Colombian DTOs distribute cocaine and SA heroin in Chicago; they increasingly contract with Mexican traffickers to smuggle these drugs to the region on their behalf. Asian, Albanian, and Caucasian traffickers transport and distribute wholesale quantities of high-potency Canadian marijuana and MDMA. Nigerian and other West African traffickers are the primary transporters and distributors of SWA and SEA

Drug Trafficking Organizations, Criminal Groups, and Gangs

Drug trafficking organizations are complex organizations with highly defined command-and-control structures that produce, transport, and/or distribute large quantities of one or more illicit drugs.

Criminal groups operating in the United States are numerous and range from small to moderately sized, loosely knit groups that distribute one or more drugs at the retail level and midlevel.

Gangs are defined by the National Alliance of Gang Investigators' Associations as groups or associations of three or more persons with a common identifying sign, symbol, or name, the members of which individually or collectively engage in criminal activity that creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation.

heroin; they smuggle multiounce quantities of heroin through package delivery services and couriers on commercial airlines.

The Chicago HIDTA region has a high concentration of nationally affiliated African American and Hispanic street gangs such as Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings, which maintain unrivaled control over retail drug distribution in the region. According to the Chicago Police Department Gang Investigations Section, approximately 75 street gangs are active in Chicago, with an estimated membership of 100,000. Some street gangs, primarily Hispanic gangs such as Latin Kings, are supplied with wholesale quantities of illicit drugs by Mexican DTOs. Gangs with direct contacts to wholesale sources of supply often operate as midlevel distributors to other street gangs in the region.

Street gang drug distribution operations are concentrated in Chicago; however, many suburban law enforcement agencies in the region report an increasing presence of Chicago gang members in

their jurisdictions, many of whom distribute drugs. Officials attribute the movement of gang members from Chicago to suburban areas to several factors—the breakdown of traditional hierarchical gang structures resulting from law enforcement targeting of gang leaders, the razing of some large Chicago public housing projects, an abundance of wholesale illicit drug suppliers, and the expectation of high profits from new suburban drug operations. Street gang members who have relocated their drug distribution activities to suburban areas run operations that vary from the highly structured and cohesive organizations typically found in Chicago to loosely structured groups that operate independently. These gang members often maintain their gang associations but no longer answer to gang leaders from Chicago or share profits from drug distribution with them.

Production

Illicit drug production in the region is limited to crack cocaine conversion and indoor and outdoor cannabis grow operations. Methamphetamine typically is not produced in the region. According to National Seizure System (NSS) data, no methamphetamine laboratories were seized in the region in 2008.

Powder cocaine is routinely converted to crack cocaine by street gang members in the Chicago HIDTA region. Because of harsh federal criminal penalties associated with trafficking crack cocaine, street gangs and independent dealers typically convert powder cocaine to crack in the vicinity of the intended market to limit exposure to law enforcement operations.

Cannabis cultivation in the region takes place at indoor and outdoor grow sites. Indoor cannabis cultivation, primarily among independent dealers, is more prevalent than it had been in previous years. Outdoor cannabis grows in the region are periodically seized on public lands and on farmlands, typically among corn stalks.

Transportation

The Chicago HIDTA region's highly developed transportation infrastructure is routinely exploited by Mexican DTOs and criminal groups to transport wholesale quantities of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and ice methamphetamine into the region from locations along the Southwest Border. Mexican traffickers typically transport the drugs in private and commercial vehicles, often concealing them in elaborate hidden compartments or commingling them among legitimate freight goods. Mexican DTOs generally store cocaine, heroin, and marijuana in local stash houses for subsequent distribution in the region and for later transportation to other drug markets in the Midwest and the eastern United States. The ice methamphetamine Mexican DTOs transport to the region is usually further transported to midwestern drug markets because of the low demand for the drug in the HIDTA region. Law enforcement officials report that Caucasian traffickers from the region increasingly transport high-potency marijuana from California and Washington to the region in private vehicles. Chinese, Vietnamese, and Albanian traffickers also use commercial and private vehicles to transport significant quantities of MDMA and high-potency marijuana from Canada into the region.

Major international airports in the Chicago HIDTA region are often used by Colombian, Nigerian, and other West African DTOs and criminal groups to transport illicit drugs, particularly heroin, into the region. Colombian traffickers sometimes employ couriers to smuggle small quantities of SA heroin by commercial air into the region. They also smuggle SA heroin into New York and Miami on commercial flights; some of this heroin is further transported by Colombian couriers to Chicago in private vehicles. Nigerian and other West African DTOs use couriers on commercial aircraft to transport small quantities of SWA and SEA heroin from Europe and Canada

to Chicago. Couriers transporting illicit drugs on commercial airlines typically conceal the drugs in their clothing, inside false compartments in their luggage, or by swallowing it.

Traffickers also use other methods to transport drugs into and throughout the region, including mail, package delivery services, and couriers on buses and trains. The Chicago HIDTA Package Interdiction Initiative regularly intercepts parcels containing various illicit drugs, particularly marijuana, from California, Texas, and Washington. It also seizes parcels containing cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine from Arizona, California, and Texas. Traffickers also use couriers on buses and trains to transport illicit drugs and bulk cash into, through, and from the Chicago HIDTA region. Nationwide bus and train companies have terminals in Chicago and offer transportation to other parts of the country, including the Southwest Border and neighboring drug markets. In addition, several bus companies offer direct connections between Chicago and Southwest Border cities with travel times of less than 24 hours.

Distribution

Mexican DTOs and criminal groups dominate wholesale cocaine, heroin, and marijuana distribution in the Chicago HIDTA region; their domination is unlikely to be challenged by other groups in the near term. Mexican traffickers are increasingly expanding their distribution operations to suburban communities in the region, where they also store large drug shipments. The growing Mexican population in suburban areas enables these organizations to conceal their trafficking activities by blending into expanding Hispanic communities. Asian, Albanian, and Caucasian traffickers distribute wholesale quantities of MDMA and high-potency Canadian marijuana in the region.

Retail drug distribution in the region is largely controlled by street gangs. High-ranking street gang members often have access to multiple sources of supply, including Mexican, Colombian, and Nigerian and other West African traffickers, ensuring them a steady supply of drugs for retail distribution. Street corner drug sales in urban areas are the principal means by which retail-level dealers distribute drugs in Chicago. However, over the past few years, the Chicago Police Department's initiatives targeting street corner drug distribution have been successful in reducing open-air markets and associated violent crime in the city. As a result, some retail-level dealers have established operations in outlying suburban communities; this has caused an increase in drug-related crimes in these areas, including robberies, drive-by shootings, and homicides. Many suburban law enforcement agencies report that they are increasingly burdened with the responsibility of combating gang-related criminal activity, often without the necessary resources.

The Chicago HIDTA region serves as a national-level distribution center for illicit drugs available throughout the Midwest and the eastern United States. Some of the illicit drugs (cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and ice methamphetamine) transported to the Chicago area are destined for other drug markets, including those in Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Mexican DTOs transport ice methamphetamine into and through Chicago for eventual distribution in other markets in the Midwest, where local methamphetamine production has declined and demand for the drug remains high. Additionally, distributors and abusers in other states routinely travel to the region to purchase drugs and return to their home locations to distribute them. For example, heroin abusers from northern Indiana and southern Wisconsin often travel to the Chicago HIDTA region to purchase heroin.

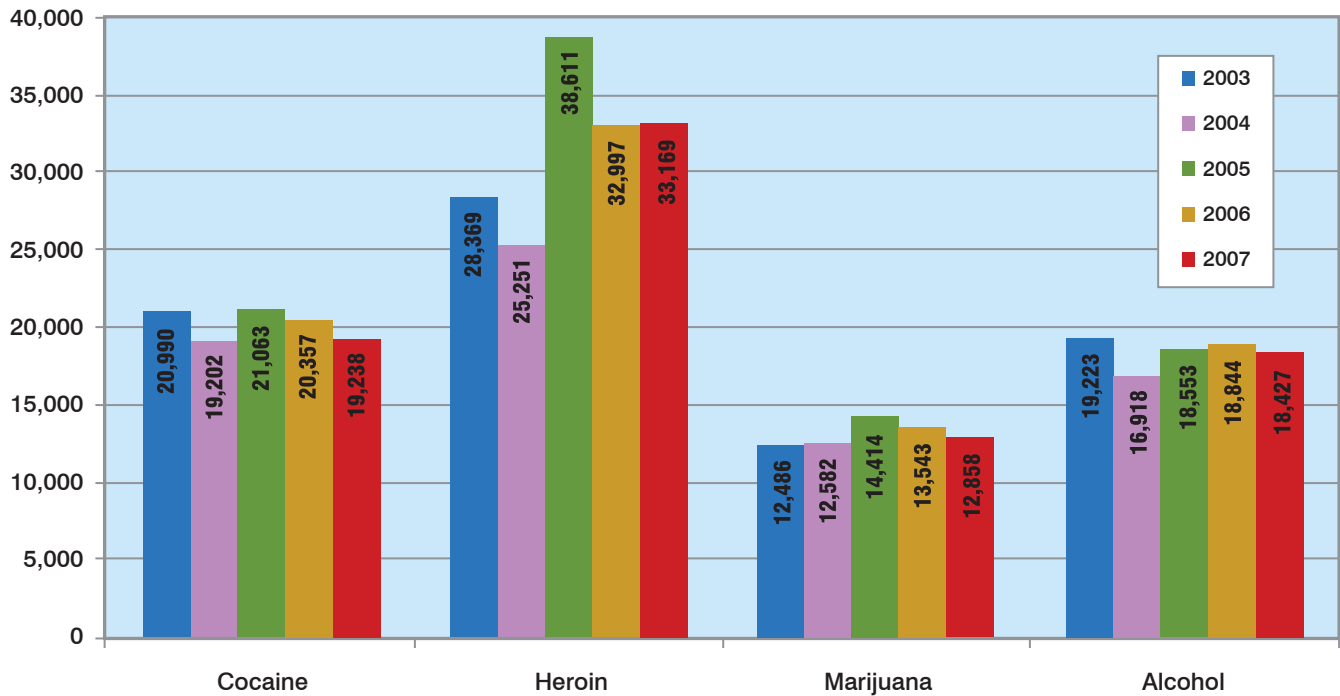
Drug-Related Crime

Drug-related violent crime committed by street gangs is a primary public safety concern for law enforcement officials in the Chicago HIDTA region. Drug-related violence in the area often results from disputes between street gang members vying for control of drug distribution territories or drug and money "rip-offs" of dealers or buyers. When violence does occur, retaliation typically follows, leading to increased hostilities and often homicides. According to the Chicago Police Department, gang-related murders in Chicago increased 36.3 percent from 2007 (168 murders) through 2008 (229 murders). The overall threat of gang violence is elevated by the availability of firearms supplied to Chicago street gang members from associates in states with less stringent gun control laws. Of the 510 murders investigated by the Chicago Police Department in 2008, 80.8 percent involved firearms. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, 55.8 percent of the firearms recovered in Illinois in 2007 were recovered in Chicago. Furthermore, the top out-of-state source for firearms recovered in Illinois is Indiana, where gun control laws are less stringent. Although a large percentage of drug-related gang violence occurs in urban areas, suburban communities are experiencing an increase in such violence.

Abuse

The Chicago HIDTA region has one of the largest drug abuser populations in the United States. The consequences associated with the abuse of heroin and cocaine (both powder and crack) in the HIDTA region are considerably more severe than those associated with the abuse of any other drug. According to DASA, the Chicago HIDTA region accounted for more than half (55.3%) of all treatment provider services received by patients in Illinois in 2007 (the latest year for which such data are available). More

Figure 2. Treatment Provider Services in the Chicago HIDTA Region, by Substance, 2003–2007



Source: Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.

treatment provider services were rendered for heroin (33,169) and cocaine (19,238) in the Chicago HIDTA region than for any other substance of abuse, including alcohol (18,427), in 2007; those figures represent 84.7 percent of all heroin treatment provider services and 61 percent of all cocaine treatment provider services, respectively, for the entire state that year. (See Figure 2.)

Illicit Finance

Law enforcement officials estimate that billions of dollars of illicit drug proceeds are generated in or pass through the Chicago HIDTA region annually. Drug traffickers use the region’s highly developed financial and transportation infrastructures to launder and transport these proceeds to drug source locations, primarily along the Southwest Border. Bulk cash smuggling is the primary method used by traffickers to move drug proceeds from Chicago; however, traffickers also use banks, money services

businesses (MSBs), the Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE), mortgage fraud, and cash-intensive businesses to launder drug proceeds in the region.

Bulk cash derived from illicit drug sales in the HIDTA region and in surrounding drug markets is typically transported to Chicago, where it is consolidated by Mexican DTOs for shipment to locations along the Southwest Border or in Mexico. In 2008, Chicago HIDTA initiatives reported the seizure of \$31,716,000 in cash. Currency is often concealed in hidden compartments in private vehicles or commercial tractor-trailers and, to a lesser extent, transported by couriers on trains and buses. Law enforcement reporting indicates that the use of package delivery services for the shipment of bulk cash may be declining in the Chicago area.

Traffickers in the HIDTA region often use MSBs and bank services such as wire remittances, automated teller machines (ATMs), and Internet banking to move and launder drug

money. Traditional bank accounts are also used by drug traffickers to launder illicit funds; traffickers typically deposit drug proceeds in the Chicago HIDTA region and have associates in other states or other countries withdraw the funds from the account using ATMs. For example, some Mexican traffickers structure cash deposits into bank accounts in Chicago and withdraw the money from ATMs and banks in California, later smuggling it into Mexico. Various MSBs also offer traveler's checks, money orders, and stored value cards, which traffickers use to launder money. Money order purchases under \$3,000 do not require identification, a circumstance that is exploited by traffickers who purchase money orders at multiple locations in amounts under the reporting threshold. The money orders are then sent by courier or package delivery service to other locations (domestic and foreign) for deposit in financial institutions.

Colombian traffickers in the HIDTA region sometimes use the BMPE to launder drug proceeds. In this system, Colombian traffickers receive Colombian pesos in Colombia in exchange for U.S. drug dollars located in the United States. Brokers then sell the U.S. dollars located in the United States at a discount to Colombian merchants, who use the funds to purchase U.S. goods.

Street gang members operate businesses and engage in mortgage fraud schemes to launder drug proceeds. Gang members and other drug traffickers use cash-based businesses such as beauty salons, car washes, and used car lots to commingle drug proceeds with legitimate business revenue. Gang members also employ mortgage fraud schemes that involve straw purchasers and unscrupulous mortgage brokers and appraisers to purchase property at a minimal cost and sell it at a higher value to a third party. Gang members also use drug proceeds to purchase luxury vehicles and jewelry.

Outlook

Mexican DTOs will most likely maintain dominance over most wholesale cocaine, heroin, and marijuana distribution in the Chicago HIDTA region. Mexican DTOs will continue to use their well-established transportation and distribution networks throughout the country to ensure the continued availability of illicit drugs in the HIDTA region and numerous markets supplied from Chicago.

DTOs and independent dealers will quite likely expand indoor cannabis cultivation operations in the HIDTA region and increase transportation of high-potency marijuana to the region to meet increasing demand for the drug and to capitalize on the profit potential of high-potency marijuana distribution.

It is unlikely that ice methamphetamine availability and abuse in the Chicago HIDTA region will increase in the near term. Most efforts by Mexican DTOs to introduce ice methamphetamine to distributors in Chicago have been unsuccessful, partly because of the high profitability associated with crack cocaine and heroin distribution.

The availability and abuse of MDMA and BZP in the HIDTA region will most likely increase in the near term. Asian, Albanian, and Caucasian traffickers are supplying increasing quantities of MDMA to the region from Canada. Consequently, the availability and abuse of BZP, which distributors often sell and promote as an alternative to MDMA, will most likely increase as well.

Sources

Local, State, and Regional

Addison Police Department
 Arlington Heights Police Department
 Barrington Inverness Police Department
 Bedford Park Police Department
 Bellwood Police Department
 Bensenville Police Department
 Berkeley Police Department
 Berwyn Police Department
 Bolingbrook Police Department
 Braidwood Police Department
 Bridgeview Police Department
 Broadview Police Department
 Brookfield Police Department
 Buffalo Grove Police Department
 Burbank Police Department
 Burr Ridge Police Department
 Calumet City Police Department
 Carpentersville Police Department
 Cary Police Department
 Channahon Police
 Chicago Heights Police Department
 Chicago Police Department
 Gang Investigations Section
 Research & Development Division
 Chicago Ridge Police Department
 Cicero Police Department
 Clarendon Hills Police Department
 Cook County Department of Community Supervision and Intervention
 Cook County Sheriff's Police Department
 Crest Hill Police Department
 Crestwood Police Department
 Crete Police Department
 Darien Police Department
 DeKalb Police Department
 Des Plaines Police Department
 DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group
 Elgin Police Department
 Elk Grove Village Police Department
 Elmhurst Police Department
 Elmwood Park Police
 Evanston Police Department
 Evergreen Park Police Department
 Flossmoor Police Department
 Forest Park Police Department
 Forest View Police Department
 Fox Lake Police Department
 Fox River Grove Police Department
 Geneva Police Department
 Glen Ellyn Police
 Glendale Heights Police Department
 Glenview Police Department
 Glenwood Police Department
 Gurnee Police
 Hanover Park Police Department
 Harvard Police Department
 Harvey Police Department
 Hazel Crest Police Department
 Highwood Police Department
 Hodgkins Police Department
 Hoffman Estates Police Department
 Hometown Police Department
 Homewood Police Department
 Illinois Department of Human Services
 Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse
 Bureau of Planning and Performance Management
 Illinois State Police
 Indian Head Park Police Department
 Itasca Police Department
 Joliet Police Department
 Kankakee Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group
 La Grange Police Department
 Lake County Metropolitan Enforcement Group
 Lake County Sheriff's Office
 Lake County State's Attorney's Office
 Lake Forest Police Department
 Lake in the Hills Police Department
 Lansing Police Department
 Lemont Police Department
 Lockport Police Department
 Lynwood Police Department
 Lyons Police Department
 Matteson Police Department
 Maywood Police Department
 McHenry City Police
 McHenry County Sheriff's Office
 Melrose Park Police Department
 Midlothian Police Department
 Mokena Police Department
 Morris Police Department
 Morton Grove Police Department
 Mount Prospect Police Department
 Naperville Police Department
 New Lenox Police Department
 Norridge Police Department
 Northbrook Police Department
 North Central Narcotics Task Force
 North Riverside Police Department
 Oak Brook Police

Oak Forest Police Department
 Oak Lawn Police Department
 Oak Park Police Department
 Orland Hills Police Department
 Orland Park Police Department
 Palatine Police Department
 Park Forest Police Department
 Park Ridge Police Department
 Peotone Police Department
 Posen Police Department
 Riverdale Police Department
 River Forest Police Department
 River Grove Police Department
 Riverside Police Department
 Rockford Police Department
 Rolling Meadows Police Department
 Roselle Police Department
 Sauk Village Police Department
 Schaumburg Police Department
 Shorewood Police Department
 Skokie Police Department
 South Elgin Police Department
 Stone Park Police Department
 Streamwood Police Department
 Summit Police Department
 University Park Police Department
 Vernon Hills Police Department
 Village of Richton Park Police Department
 Village of Stickney Police Department
 Villa Park Police
 Warrenville Police Department
 Wauconda Police Department
 Waukegan Police Department
 Narcotics Enforcement Team
 West Dundee Police Department
 Western Springs Police Department
 Wheeling Police Department
 Will County Sheriff's Department
 Willow Springs Police Department
 Winfield Police Department
 Wood Dale Police Department
 Woodridge Police Department
 Worth Police Department

Federal

Executive Office of the President
 Office of National Drug Control Policy
 Chicago High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
 Consolidated Priority Organization Targets Initiative
 Domestic Highway Enforcement Initiative
 Drug Related Violent Crimes Initiative

Gangs/International Sources of Supply Initiative
 Inner City Street Gang Source of Supply Initiative
 Investigative Support Center
 Management and Coordination Initiative
 Money Laundering & Financial Crimes Initiative
 Package Interdiction Initiative
 Regional Drug Trafficking Organizations/Violent
 Crime/Money Laundering Initiative
 Suburban Narcotics and Gangs/Jail Intelligence/
 Technical Unit Initiative
 Training Initiative
 Tri-County Initiative
 U.S. Census Bureau
 U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
 Chicago Field Division
 U.S. Department of Justice
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
 Criminal Division
 Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force
 Drug Enforcement Administration
 Chicago Field Division
 El Paso Intelligence Center
 National Seizure System
 Heroin Domestic Monitor Program
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Chicago Field Division
 U.S. Attorneys Office
 Northern District of Illinois
 U.S. Department of the Treasury
 Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
 Internal Revenue Service
 Criminal Investigation
 U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
 Police Service
 U.S. Postal Service
 U.S. Postal Inspection Service

Other

Canada Border Services Agency
 Chicago Crime Commission
 Roosevelt University
 Institute for Metropolitan Affairs
 University of Notre Dame
 Institute for Latino Studies

**Questions and comments may be directed to
Great Lakes/Mid-Atlantic Unit, Regional Threat Analysis Branch.**

National Drug Intelligence Center

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LEO <https://www.leo.gov/http://leowcs.leopriv.gov/lesig/ndic/index.htm>