



Lake County

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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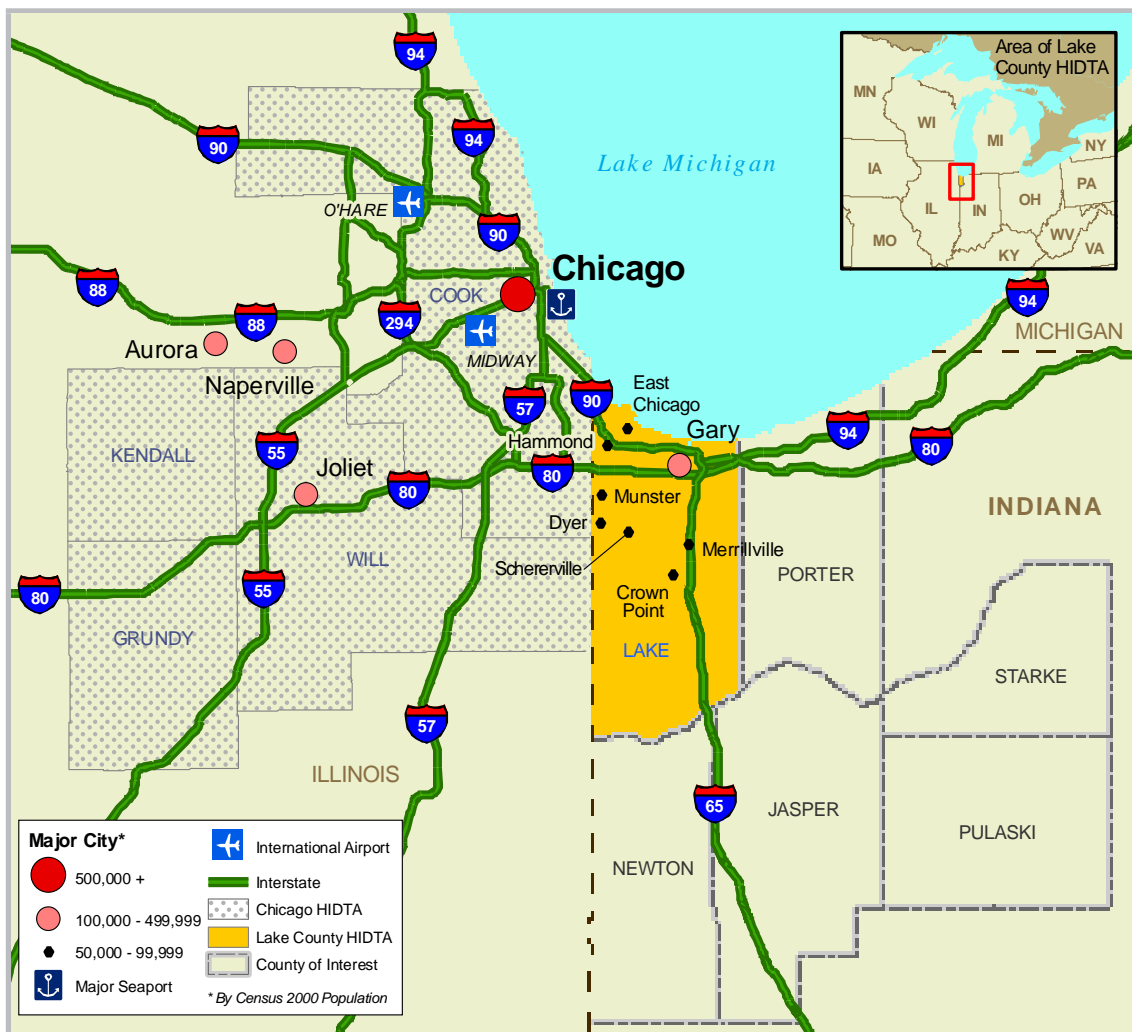
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Preface

This assessment provides a strategic overview of the illicit drug situation in the Lake County 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 Lake County HIDTA.

Figure 1. Lake County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.



Strategic Drug Threat Developments

- The national economic downturn is affecting the retail-level illicit drug market in the Lake County HIDTA region. Law enforcement officials report that illicit drug abusers in economically depressed areas of the HIDTA region are increasingly abusing marijuana because it is relatively inexpensive and easy to obtain. Furthermore, some crack cocaine dealers in Hammond are packaging and selling smaller rocks of crack cocaine at a lower price that customers can afford. This marketing technique is most likely a response to weak economic conditions in the area.
- Fluctuations in wholesale cocaine availability and prices were reported by law enforcement officials in 2008. Increasing wholesale cocaine prices in the second half of 2008 may indicate decreased wholesale availability. Retail-level cocaine availability and prices remained stable.
- Law enforcement officials in the HIDTA region report that the production and availability of and demand for high-potency marijuana are increasing. In 2008 Lake County HIDTA initiatives seized approximately 1,376 cannabis plants from two sophisticated indoor cannabis grows in Schererville and Hammond.
- Chicago-based drug trafficking groups are expanding operations into Lake County. Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and Chicago street gangs have strengthened their transportation and distribution networks in Lake County and other areas of northern Indiana. In 2008 the Lake County Combined Task Force seized a Vietnamese indoor cannabis grow, indicating a possible expansion of Vietnamese marijuana production networks from Chicago to Lake County.

HIDTA Overview

The Lake County HIDTA region consists of Lake County, located in northwestern Indiana adjacent to the Chicago metropolitan area, which has a diverse demographic and socioeconomic composition. (See Figure 1 on page 1.) The northern tier of the county includes the three largest cities—Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago. These cities have relatively high crime rates, significantly low median household incomes, and declining urban environments of abandoned factories and buildings. High levels of drug distribution and abuse take place in the northern tier of the county. Conversely, the southern half of Lake County and neighboring Porter County contain affluent cities and rural communities that have lower crime rates, higher median household incomes, and commercial and residential development. Abusers in southern Lake County and Porter County typically travel to northern cities or to Chicago to purchase cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy).

Several major highways (Interstates 65, 80/94, and 90) intersect in Lake County and are frequently used by traffickers to transport illicit drugs into and through the region from Chicago and directly from Mexico through the Southwest Border. Mexican DTOs are the primary transporters of large shipments of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine from Mexico into and through the region, often en route to drug markets in the Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, and Southeast regions of the United States.

Metropolitan areas in the HIDTA region, particularly Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago, experience high levels of drug distribution and abuse along with gang- and drug-related crime. Costs associated with drug-related criminal activity and drug treatment services are straining limited local law enforcement and healthcare resources. Street gang members, many of whom

are associated with gangs in Chicago, control most retail drug distribution in the region and are ultimately responsible for high levels of crime. Lake County gang members also contribute to violent crime in other cities such as Chicago; Detroit, Michigan; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by supplying firearms to criminal associates in those cities.

A decline in the local economy in 2008 has impacted the illicit retail-level drug market in the Lake County HIDTA region. The unemployment rate in Lake County increased from 5.0 percent in November 2007 to 7.2 percent in November 2008. This increase has resulted in reduced income among many drug users. As a result, law enforcement officials report that the abuse of marijuana has increased because it is relatively inexpensive and easy to obtain. Retail-level crack cocaine dealers also responded to the weak economic situation by packaging and selling smaller rocks of crack cocaine at a lower price that customers can afford. Moreover, the rising unemployment has reduced taxable income leading to local government budget constraints. The budget constraints have led to decreased counterdrug resources, manpower, and overtime for specialized units, including drug units.

Drug Threat Overview

Cocaine, particularly crack, poses the greatest drug threat to the Lake County HIDTA region. Mexican DTOs transport wholesale quantities of powder cocaine to the HIDTA region from Mexico, the Southwest Border area, and Chicago. In addition, street gangs from Chicago supply gang members and independent dealers in the Lake County HIDTA region with wholesale quantities of powder cocaine that is mostly converted to crack locally and distributed by numerous street gangs and independent dealers. In the second half of 2008, law enforcement officials in the HIDTA region reported decreased cocaine availability,

evidenced by increased prices at the wholesale level. Retail-level cocaine availability and prices remained stable during that same period. However, according to law enforcement reporting, the weak local economy has compelled some dealers to sell smaller ten-dollar rocks of crack cocaine that are more affordable to customers than larger twenty-dollar rocks that typically had been sold in previous years. Retail-level distributors, particularly street gangs, engage in violent criminal activity to protect their drug supplies, distribution territories, and illicit drug proceeds, further contributing to the threat posed by cocaine to the region.

Heroin is readily available and abused in the Lake County HIDTA region. Chicago-based Mexican and Colombian drug traffickers control most wholesale heroin transportation to and distribution in to the HIDTA region. Mexican traffickers and street gangs in Lake County obtain heroin from Chicago, Mexico, and the Southwest Border area for distribution in the HIDTA region. Most of the heroin available in the HIDTA region is South American (SA); however, other types, including Southeast Asian (SEA), Southwest Asian (SWA), and Mexican black tar heroin and brown powder heroin are also available. Heroin abusers, particularly young Caucasians from affluent suburban areas in the southern portion of the region and in neighboring Porter County, typically travel to northern cities or Chicago to purchase heroin. In fact, street gangs in Gary operate open-air heroin markets near off-ramps of exits along I-80/94 to accommodate out-of-town heroin abusers who regularly purchase the drug.

Commercial-grade Mexican marijuana is the most widely available and abused illicit drug in Lake County; the availability of and demand for high-potency marijuana are increasing. Mexican DTOs typically transport marijuana, often in multiton quantities, to the region from locations along the Southwest Border and from Chicago, using private vehicles and tractor-trailers. Street

gangs and independent dealers are the principal retail marijuana distributors in the region. Law enforcement officials report that in areas of the HIDTA region where the local economy declined sharply in 2008, individuals began to abuse cheap, commercial-grade marijuana, rather than more expensive drugs. Law enforcement officials also report increased local production of high-potency marijuana, raising availability of the drug in Lake County. For example, in 2008 approximately 1,376 high-potency cannabis plants were seized from indoor grows through Lake County HIDTA initiatives from two grow sites in Schererville and Hammond. In Schererville law enforcement officials seized 776 cannabis plants from a grow site established by a Vietnamese national from Chicago. (See text box.) In Hammond law enforcement officials seized approximately 600 cannabis plants from a grow site established in a residence.

The availability and abuse of methamphetamine, MDMA, and diverted controlled prescription drugs (CPDs) vary throughout the region. Methamphetamine availability and abuse are at low levels in Lake County. Local powder methamphetamine production is limited; some ice methamphetamine is transported through the region by Mexican DTOs for distribution in midwestern markets. Law enforcement officials in the region report increased availability of MDMA. African American and Hispanic street gangs, typically supplied by Canada-based Asian traffickers, are the primary retail-level distributors of MDMA in Lake County. The availability of CPDs such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, and methadone is stable. CPD abuse and distribution have not risen to a high law enforcement priority. Abusers typically obtain CPDs by doctor-shopping and theft (burglaries, armed robberies,



Indoor Cannabis Grow Seized

In August 2008 the Lake County HIDTA Combined Task Force seized 776 cannabis plants from a residence in an affluent Schererville neighborhood. The yard was well-maintained, and it would have appeared to passersby that there were residents in the house. However, the house was unoccupied and almost vacant; it was used solely for the purpose of growing cannabis. Law enforcement officials reported that the cannabis grow operation included high-powered lamps, electronic timers, and multiple transformers. An illegal electrical system installed in the house bypassed the electric meter and tapped directly into a main power feed, thereby eliminating high energy usage readings, large electricity bills, and possible law enforcement scrutiny. Cannabis plants in various stages of growth were grown separately in several rooms of the house. A Vietnamese male from Chicago was arrested and charged with operating the cannabis grow operation. HIDTA officials estimated that the value of the cannabis plants was approximately \$3 million.

Source: Lake County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

employee pilferage, and customer theft) from pharmacies and hospitals. Additionally, some patients with legitimate prescriptions for controlled drugs sell a portion of their prescription or have it stolen by friends, family, or strangers.

Drug Trafficking Organizations

Mexican DTOs based in Chicago and Lake County pose the greatest organized drug trafficking threat to the Lake County HIDTA region. Chicago-based Mexican DTOs have expanded their illicit drug operations into Lake County, using commercial and residential buildings in the county for the storage and transshipment of large quantities of cocaine and marijuana and smaller quantities of heroin and methamphetamine destined for drug markets in the Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, and Southeast Regions of the United States. Mexican traffickers based in Lake County, particularly in East Chicago and Hammond, also transport wholesale quantities of illicit drugs to the HIDTA region from locations along the Southwest Border and from Chicago.

Mexican DTOs and other trafficking groups based in Chicago supply street gangs and independent dealers in Lake County with wholesale quantities of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana for local distribution. Lake County distributors often travel the short distance to Chicago to purchase their illicit drug supplies. Colombian DTOs in Chicago supply cocaine and SA heroin; they often contract with Mexican traffickers to smuggle these drugs to the region on their behalf. Nigerian and other West African traffickers are the primary suppliers of limited quantities of SWA and SEA heroin available in the region; they smuggle multiounce quantities of heroin into Chicago through package delivery services and couriers on commercial airlines. Asian, Albanian, and Caucasian traffickers in Chicago supply local distributors with wholesale quantities of high-potency Canadian

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.

marijuana and MDMA. Some drug traffickers have relocated from Chicago into the HIDTA region, particularly since the late 1990s. This trend continued in 2008, evidenced by the seizure of an indoor cannabis grow in Lake County, operated by a Vietnamese male from Chicago who had relocated to Schererville.

African American and Hispanic street gang members are the primary retail distributors of illicit drugs in metropolitan areas of the HIDTA region, specifically Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago. Street gangs such as Gangster Disciples, Latin Kings, Imperial Gangsters, and Vice Lords obtain wholesale amounts of powder cocaine, heroin, and marijuana from Mexican DTOs operating in Lake County and in Chicago. Distribution of crack cocaine, marijuana, and heroin is the principal source of income for Lake County street gang members.

Street gangs that distribute illicit drugs in Lake County vary in their degree of organization, hierarchical structure, leadership, and use

of technology. Most Lake County gangs are composed of independent dealers who maintain neighborhood gang affiliations and operate in an unorganized and unstructured environment. Members of loosely structured gangs typically focus on generating profits from independent drug distribution operations. They use their gang affiliation to support their illicit activities. For example, members of loosely structured gangs coordinate independent drug distribution operations and use their gang membership to intimidate other dealers, obtain sources of drugs, acquire firearms, or find persons to support the drug operation. Although these distribution groups are run by gang members, profits typically are kept by individual members selling the drugs and are not sent back to the gang leaders. Some gangs in Lake County are more organized, particularly Hispanic gangs located in East Chicago where some have been linked directly to DTOs in Mexico. East Chicago gangs often operate as midlevel suppliers to other gangs operating in Lake County. Moreover, the use of electronic communication and countersurveillance techniques is more common among street gangs in East Chicago than in other areas of the region. For example, members of the East Chicago Police Department routinely encounter audio and video surveillance systems at drug houses in the city.

Lake County street gangs, which include approximately 2,500 members, also have ties to Chicago-based street gangs. For example, Chicago street gangs supply Lake County street gangs with illicit drugs for distribution. Law enforcement authorities report that street gangs in Lake County are not controlled by Chicago-based street gang members; however, gang membership facilitates the distribution of illicit drugs through gang networks. These associations have been strengthened by the razing of several Chicago public housing projects, resulting in the relocation of some Chicago street gang members to Lake County.

Production

Illicit drug production in Lake County is limited to crack conversion, indoor cannabis grow operations and, to a much lesser extent, methamphetamine production. Drug traffickers typically transport powder cocaine in large quantities to Lake County in order to avoid stronger federal criminal penalties associated with crack cocaine trafficking. Once in Lake County, street gang members convert powder cocaine into crack, usually near distribution sites in metropolitan areas. Law enforcement officials report that small indoor cannabis grow operations, typically maintained for personal use, are occasionally seized in the Lake County HIDTA region; however, two large indoor cannabis grows were seized in Lake County in 2008. Methamphetamine production in the Lake County HIDTA region is very limited and typically takes place in rural areas in the southern half of the county. According to National Seizure System (NSS) data, six methamphetamine laboratories were seized in Lake County during the past 5 years; no laboratories were seized in 2008.

Transportation

Lake County's highly developed highway infrastructure and proximity to Chicago, a national-level distribution center for cocaine, heroin, and marijuana, make it an ideal transportation and transshipment center for illicit drugs. Millions of tons of commercial truck freight and more than one million commercial and passenger vehicles transit the HIDTA region each week. Highly organized Mexican DTOs use independent commercial trucks and private vehicles to transport multihundred-kilogram quantities of cocaine and marijuana and multikilogram quantities of heroin and methamphetamine, often concealed in hidden compartments and commingled in shipments of legitimate goods, from locations along the Southwest Border and from Chicago into and through

Lake County. Mexican DTOs increasingly transport polydrug shipments of cocaine, marijuana, and heroin into the Lake County HIDTA region for distribution to markets throughout the eastern United States. Although some quantities of illicit drugs are offloaded in Lake County for local distribution, most are destined for other drug markets. For example, 25 pounds of ice methamphetamine destined for Chicago from Indianapolis, Indiana, were seized by the Lake County Drug Task Force on Interstate 65 in Lake County in March 2008. The ice methamphetamine was concealed inside a hidden compartment of a private vehicle driven by a Mexican male who was accompanied by his wife and three children.

Distribution

Mexican DTOs dominate wholesale cocaine and marijuana distribution in the Lake County HIDTA region. Mexican DTOs supply street gang members and independent dealers in Chicago and Lake County. Wholesale quantities of cocaine and marijuana are generally stored in and distributed from the region; wholesale quantities of heroin and methamphetamine are generally not available in Lake County. Heroin abusers and distributors typically travel to Chicago to obtain smaller quantities of the drug. However, law enforcement officials report that the availability of heroin in Lake County is increasing. Wholesale quantities of illicit drugs entering Lake County generally are offloaded quickly and distributed to midlevel dealers and street gang members. Law enforcement officials report that wholesale quantities of cocaine and marijuana are often transported by Mexican DTOs in tractor-trailers into the HIDTA region; these shipments typically are delivered to warehouses or remote sites where they are unloaded and quickly distributed to multiple drug traffickers.

Street gang members and independent dealers are the primary retail drug distributors in

the Lake County HIDTA region. Open-air drug distribution markets typically are located in the metropolitan areas of Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago. In response to law enforcement initiatives targeting open-air drug markets, dealers frequently change the locations at which they conduct illicit drug transactions. Additionally, retail-level dealers conduct countersurveillance on law enforcement and take precautions to avoid revealing their illegal distribution activities to law enforcement. Street gang members and independent dealers often use multiple cell phones, typically prepaid and push-to-talk phones, to conduct drug transactions.

Drug-Related Crime

High levels of violent and property crime in the Lake County HIDTA region are associated with drug distribution and abuse, particularly in metropolitan areas. The criminal activities of street gangs in the HIDTA region typically extend beyond their drug distribution operations and include violent crimes and property crimes. The relocation to the HIDTA region of some Chicago gang members as a result of the razing of Chicago public housing developments has contributed to the high level of gang- and drug-related crime in the area. Gary is one of the most violent cities in the nation and has one of the highest per capita homicide rates in the United States.

Violent street gangs such as Gangster Disciples, Imperial Gangsters, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings are the principal retail drug distributors in Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago; members routinely engage in violent acts in furtherance of their drug distribution operations. Street gang members commit homicide, kidnapping, robbery, home invasions, and assaults in the 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. Nonetheless, law enforcement officials in the region report that members of different—and sometimes rival—gangs engage in joint drug distribution operations. These gang members, or “renegades,” more frequently set aside gang affiliation for the expectation of high profits from cooperative drug operations.

Gang members in Lake County and many other jurisdictions rely upon firearms to establish and maintain control of drug markets and to protect their drug supplies and proceeds from rival gang members. Semiautomatic handguns are the weapons most often used by gang members; however, law enforcement officials in the Lake County HIDTA region report increases in seizures of assault-type rifles. In 2008 the HIDTA’s Firearms Interdiction Regional Enforcement (FIRE) initiative investigated multiple firearms trafficking operations; most were drug- or gang-related. According to law enforcement officials, the number of firearms seized through the FIRE initiative was higher in 2008 (151 firearms) than the number seized in 2007 (70 firearms).

Street gang members in Lake County often obtain firearms in Indiana, where gun control laws are much less stringent than those in surrounding states. For example, Indiana law does not require a state permit to purchase or possess firearms and does not limit the number of firearms that an individual can purchase. Additionally, street gang members from Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin sometimes recruit Indiana residents to make straw purchases of firearms from gun stores and gun shows in the state. Street gang members also compel or entice their associates to establish Indiana residency for the purpose of making straw purchases of firearms on their behalf. The firearms purchased in Indiana are often supplied to gang members and associates in Chicago, Detroit, and Milwaukee, contributing to violent crime in those cities. Firearms obtained in Indiana can be sold at a premium because it is more difficult to make these purchases in

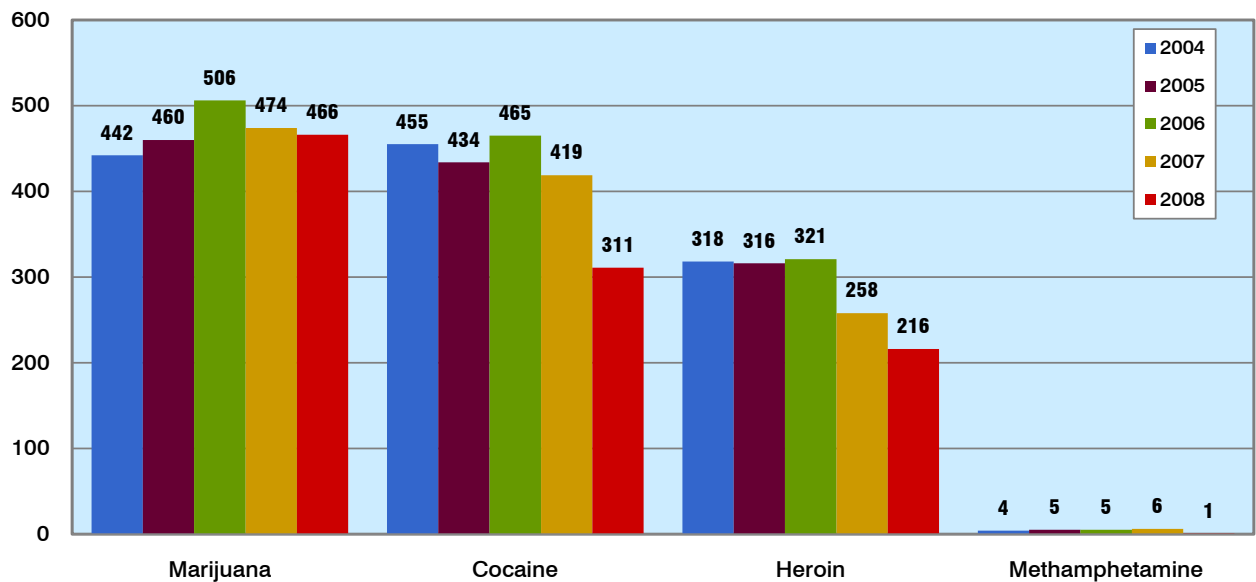
neighboring states. For example, guns obtained through straw purchases in Indiana typically are sold in Illinois for three times the retail price.

Abuse

Marijuana is the most widely abused illicit drug in the Lake County HIDTA region. However, the abuse of cocaine and heroin poses a more significant concern to public health and law enforcement officials because cocaine and heroin are more addictive than marijuana, cost more to treat in publicly funded facilities, require longer treatment stays, and are more commonly associated with violent and property crime. According to the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Department of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA), approximately 46 percent of the individuals who received treatment in Lake County through the Hoosier Assurance Plan (HAP)¹ in 2008 did so for abuse of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. (See Figure 2 on page 9.) Of these individuals, approximately 47 percent reported marijuana as their primary substance of abuse, followed by cocaine (31 percent), heroin (22 percent), and methamphetamine (less than 1 percent). The total number of individuals in Lake County receiving services for marijuana abuse through HAP has remained stable for the last 5 years; however, cocaine- and heroin-related treatment has declined approximately 33 percent for each drug from 2006 through 2008. The decrease in the number of individuals seeking treatment for cocaine and heroin is due in part to an 11 percent decrease in the total number of individuals seeking treatment for chronic addictions in Lake County. However, the reason for the decreases is unclear as there was no decrease in funding or treatment resources, according to DMHA officials.

1. The Hoosier Assurance Plan (HAP) is a mental health services plan funded by the state of Indiana to provide mental health and addiction services to low-income individuals in the state.

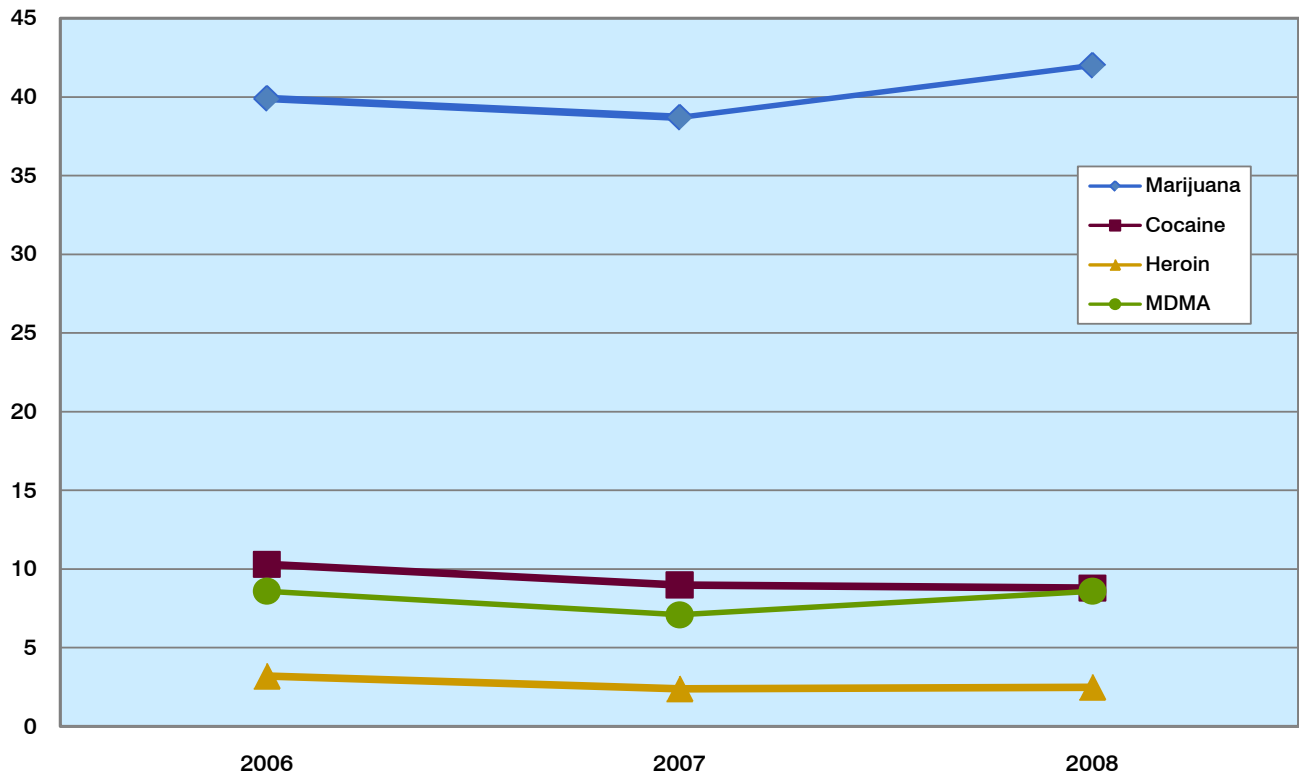
Figure 2. Individuals Receiving Services, Hoosier Assurance Plan, by Drug, Lake County, 2004—2008*



Source: Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Department of Mental Health and Addiction Community Services Data System.

*Data are compiled by state fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

Figure 3. Percentage of Twelfth-Grade Students Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, by Drug, Northwest Region of Indiana, 2006–2008



Source: Indiana Prevention Resource Center.

Drug use rates among adolescents in the Northwest region of Indiana (Lake, Jasper, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke Counties) are significantly higher than statewide rates. According to 2008 survey data from the Indiana Prevention Resource Center (IPRC), twelfth-grade students in the region report higher rates of lifetime, annual, and monthly use of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and MDMA than do their peers statewide. In fact, the reported lifetime, annual, and monthly rates of use for marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and MDMA among twelfth-grade students were higher in the Northwest region than were rates of use in any of the other seven regions in the state. IPRC survey data from 2006 to 2008 of lifetime drug use by twelfth-graders in the Northwest Region show that marijuana is the most widely abused drug among twelfth graders. (See Figure 3 on page 9.) For example, 42.0 percent of twelfth-grade students surveyed in the Northwest region in 2008 indicated that they have used marijuana in their lifetime, much higher than for cocaine (8.8 percent), MDMA (8.6 percent), or heroin (2.5 percent).

Illicit Finance

Drug traffickers in the Lake County HIDTA region launder illicit funds generated by drug sales through a variety of methods. Bulk cash smuggling is the primary method used by Mexican traffickers to move drug proceeds from the HIDTA region to Mexico. Bulk cash is often transported to Chicago for consolidation and concealment in hidden compartments of private and commercial vehicles for eventual transportation to the Southwest Border and Mexico. Money services businesses (MSBs) such as money remitters and check-cashing firms are plentiful in Lake County and are often used by Mexican DTOs to launder drug proceeds. These businesses allow customers to move proceeds outside the United States with relative anonymity in amounts below the threshold set by the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA).

Drug traffickers also purchase small, cash-based businesses such as restaurants, nail salons, auto body shops, and used car lots that they use to commingle illicit proceeds with legitimate funds. Street gang members and independent dealers launder drug proceeds through the purchase of small, cash-based businesses, luxury items, and real estate. In addition, Lake County has four riverboat casinos, where drug traffickers use illicit proceeds to gamble. Traffickers purchase casino chips and later cash them out, reporting the proceeds as winnings and making them appear to be legitimate.

Outlook

Mexican DTOs based in Chicago and Lake County will maintain control over most wholesale cocaine, heroin, and marijuana distribution in the HIDTA region. There are no other DTOs or criminal groups positioned to significantly challenge Mexican DTO dominance over wholesale drug transportation or distribution in Lake County.

Indoor cannabis cultivation in the HIDTA region will most likely increase in order to support increasing demand for marijuana. Additionally, indoor cannabis cultivation will likely become more prevalent on account of the increased accessibility of cannabis grow equipment and growing instructions, particularly through the Internet.

The Lake County HIDTA region will serve as a source of firearms used by street gang members in Lake County and nearby metropolitan areas, including Chicago, Detroit, and Milwaukee. The use of these weapons by gang members and drug traffickers will continue to be a significant threat to law enforcement and the public in these areas.

Sources

Local, State, and Regional

Chicago Police Department
East Chicago Police Department
Gary Police Department
 Narcotics & Vice Unit
Hammond Police Department
Highland Police Department
Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
 Department of Mental Health and Addiction
 Community Services Data System
Indiana State Police
Indiana University Bloomington
 Indiana Prevention Resource Center
Lake County Sheriff's Department
 Lake County Drug Task Force
Porter County Drug Task Force
Schererville Police Department

Federal

Executive Office of the President
 Office of National Drug Control Policy
 Lake County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
 Firearms Interdiction Regional Enforcement
 Gang Response Investigative Team
 Lake County Combined Task Force
 Lake County Intelligence Support Center
U.S. Department of Justice
 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
 Drug Enforcement Administration
 El Paso Intelligence Center
 National Seizure System
 Merrillville Regional Office
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Merrillville Resident Agency
U.S. Department of Labor
 Bureau of Labor Statistics

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**Questions and comments may be directed to
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