



Midwest

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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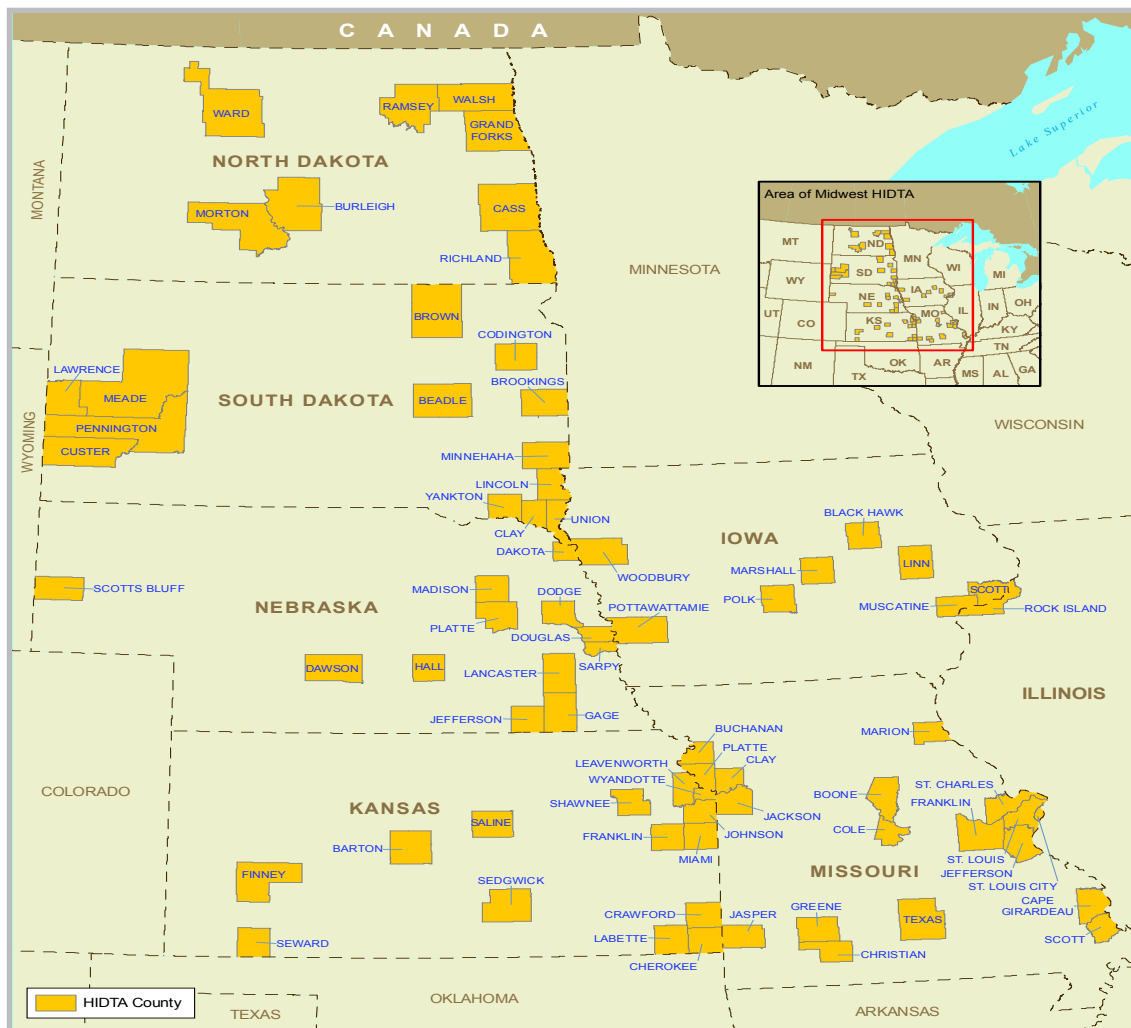
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Preface

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

Figure 1. Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



Strategic Drug Threat Developments

- Some Midwest HIDTA states—particularly Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska—are experiencing a resurgence of local methamphetamine production. Local law enforcement agencies throughout the HIDTA region report that methamphetamine producers are exploiting the region’s lack of centralized reporting on pseudoephedrine purchases by smurfing—buying pseudoephedrine at or below state thresholds from multiple pharmacies and stores until they obtain enough to produce methamphetamine.
- Many HIDTA law enforcement agencies report an increase in the abuse of controlled prescription drugs (CPDs) within the region. Officials with the Overland Park, Kansas, Police Department now regard the abuse of CPDs as the greatest threat in that jurisdiction as a result of a rash of CPD overdoses in 2008.
- Law enforcement officials in Springfield, Missouri; Minot, North Dakota; and Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Watertown, and Brookings County, South Dakota, report an increase in MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy) availability and abuse in 2008.

HIDTA Overview

The Midwest HIDTA region consists of 74 counties in a seven-state area that stretches from North Dakota to Missouri¹ (see [Figure 1 on page 1](#)). The Midwest HIDTA counties are located in the central United States between western and eastern drug markets; they are connected by an extensive transportation infrastructure that makes the HIDTA a significant transshipment area for

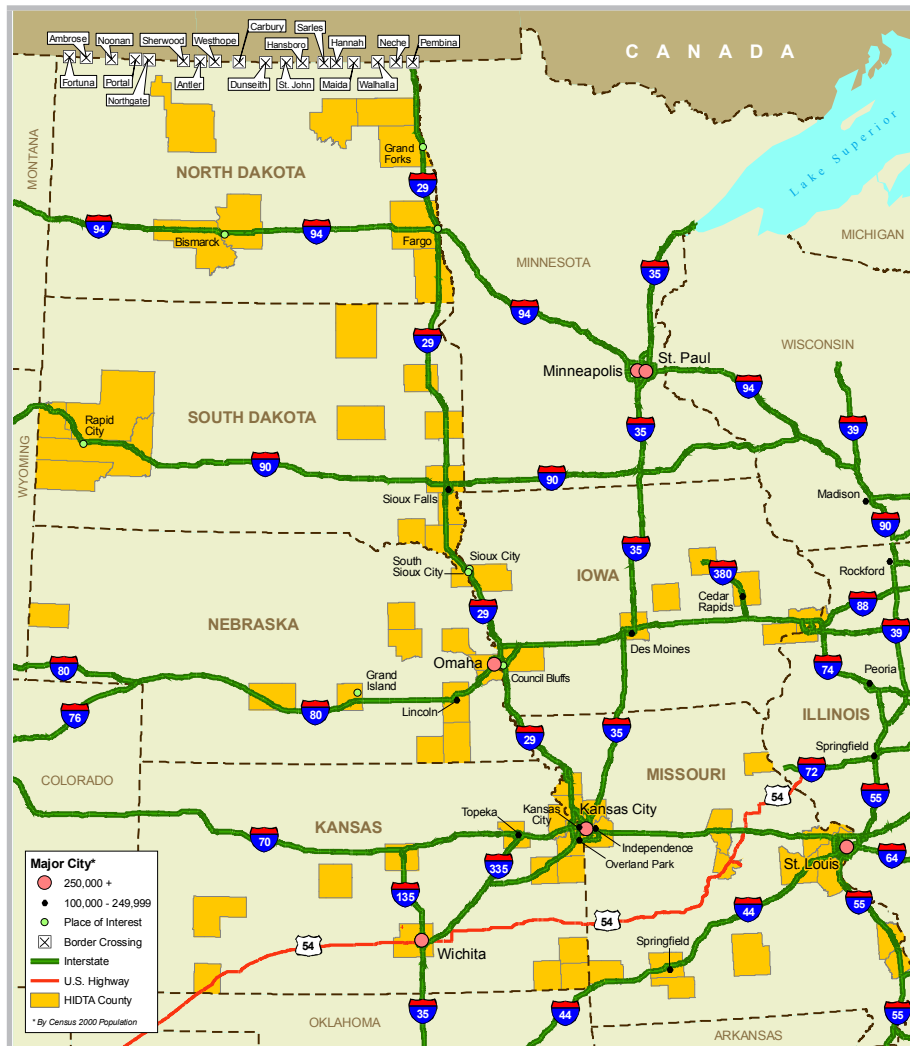
1. The seven states are Illinois (Rock Island County), Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

drug traffickers. Most major interstate highways in the northern United States pass through and intersect in the Midwest HIDTA region, facilitating the transportation of illicit drugs from the U.S.–Mexico (Southwest) border and the U.S.–Canada (Northern) border to drug markets throughout the United States. The region’s primary markets (Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri, as well as Omaha, Nebraska) and secondary markets (Cedar Rapids and Des Moines, Iowa; Fargo/Grand Forks, North Dakota; Sioux City, Iowa/Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Springfield, Missouri; and Wichita, Kansas) serve as distribution centers for major U.S. drug markets as well as smaller rural counties in the HIDTA region.² The widespread distribution and abuse of crack cocaine and ice methamphetamine and associated violence are the primary drug threats in these market areas.

The Midwest HIDTA region is extremely vulnerable to drug trafficking from the Southwest Border because of its connectivity to that region; most illicit drugs used in and transported through the HIDTA enter the United States through the Southwest Border. Mexican traffickers transport drugs into the Midwest HIDTA region from Mexico through distribution hubs in California (Los Angeles) and the Southwest Border area (El Paso and Dallas, Texas, and Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona). Interstate highways are the primary trafficking routes; however, virtually all U.S. highways, state highways, and local roads are used by drug traffickers to transport illicit drugs. Mexican traffickers transport substantial quantities of ice methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, and heroin into and through the HIDTA region for local consumption and en route to national-level markets in the Midwest and Northeast, including Chicago and New York.

2. Primary markets serve as significant transshipment and distribution centers for illicit drugs supplied to markets in multiple regions of the country. Secondary markets supply illicit drugs to smaller markets within a state or neighboring states.

Figure 2. Midwest HIDTA Region Transportation Infrastructure



The Midwest HIDTA region also is vulnerable to drug trafficking from the Northern Border, since North Dakota shares a 300-mile-long border and 18 official land ports of entry (POEs) with Canada. (See Figure 2.) The area between Northern Border POEs is isolated, rural, and rife with opportunities for drug traffickers and criminal groups to smuggle Canadian marijuana, MDMA, and pseudoephedrine and ephedrine (methamphetamine precursor chemicals) into the HIDTA without detection by law enforcement personnel.³

3. Approximately 90 percent of Canada's population is concentrated within 99 miles of the U.S.–Canada border. The 2007 population of the Winnipeg metropolitan area (Manitoba Province's largest city) was 712,700; by contrast, the 2006 population of the entire state of North Dakota was estimated at 636,000.

Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and criminal groups dominate the transportation and wholesale distribution of ice methamphetamine, cocaine, and Mexican marijuana in the area. An increasing illegal and legal Mexican and Central American population in suburban and rural towns has fueled the expansion and dominance of Mexican polydrug trafficking groups that exploit the infrastructure of these growing communities to mask their activities from law enforcement officials and to expand their distribution networks. African American and Hispanic street gangs control most retail drug distribution in the Midwest HIDTA

metropolitan areas and contribute significantly to violent crime in those areas. Local independent dealers are the principal retail distributors in the rural areas of the HIDTA region.

Drug Threat Overview

Widespread methamphetamine distribution and abuse are the greatest threats to the Midwest HIDTA region and are straining local law enforcement, public health, and social services resources in many areas, particularly in rural locales with limited resources. Although local methamphetamine production has declined significantly in most areas of the region, well-established Mexican traffickers are supplying sufficient quantities of ice methamphetamine to meet demand for the drug in most HIDTA cities.

Crack cocaine distribution and abuse are pervasive in urban areas of the HIDTA region, and the drug and its associated crime are serious concerns that have a direct and profound impact on law enforcement and public health resources. Mexican DTOs supply local African American street gangs with powder cocaine that they convert to crack in the area; these gangs control retail distribution of the crack that they manufacture. Additionally, African American street gangs based in Chicago, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; and Minneapolis, Minnesota, transport powder cocaine, crack cocaine, and other illicit drugs to Midwest HIDTA markets in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Street gangs and other crack distributors commonly commit violent crimes including assaults, drive-by shootings, and robberies to protect and expand their drug operations. In addition, local law enforcement agencies in Salina, Kansas, and many agencies in North Dakota and South Dakota report a significant increase in powder cocaine availability during 2008.

Various other illicit drugs are available and abused in the Midwest HIDTA region. Mexican

commercial-grade marijuana is the most widely available and abused illicit drug throughout the HIDTA region. Locally produced marijuana also is available, as is high-potency marijuana produced in Canada; however, most marijuana produced in Canada transits the region en route to other U.S. markets. Heroin availability and abuse are mostly limited to the St. Louis area, where white powder and Mexican black tar are the predominant forms of the drug available. CPDs, MDMA, and other dangerous drugs (ODDs), such as PCP (phencyclidine), pose a lesser threat and are available and abused to varying degrees. However, law enforcement officials in several HIDTA markets, particularly the Kansas City, Kansas, metropolitan area, reported the increasing availability and abuse of Mexican black tar heroin and CPDs in the second and third quarters of 2008. In addition, law enforcement officials in several cities in North Dakota (including Bismarck and Fargo) and South Dakota (Brookings, Madison, Sioux Falls, Watertown, and Yankton) reported an increase in MDMA availability and abuse during the fourth quarter of 2008; in some cases, laboratory testing indicated that the MDMA had been laced with methamphetamine or heroin.

Drug Trafficking Organizations

Mexican DTOs are the primary organizational threat to the Midwest HIDTA region. They exercise great influence over drug markets in the HIDTA region as the predominant transporters and wholesale distributors of ice methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana. These DTOs, often based in Mexico or on the U.S. side of the Southwest Border, manage sophisticated smuggling, transportation, and distribution networks that compartmentalize duties, employ advanced security and communication techniques, gather intelligence, and use violence and intimidation to control organization members and secure smuggling territories. Over the past few years, the

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.

structure of these Mexican DTOs has changed from traditional hierarchical organizations to organizations composed of decentralized networks of interdependent, task-oriented cells. For example, one cell may be responsible for transporting drug shipments, another for distributing drugs within the markets, and yet another for laundering drug proceeds. While the compartmentalized cell structure insulates DTO leaders from law enforcement, the leaders maintain control over market supply (availability and distribution).

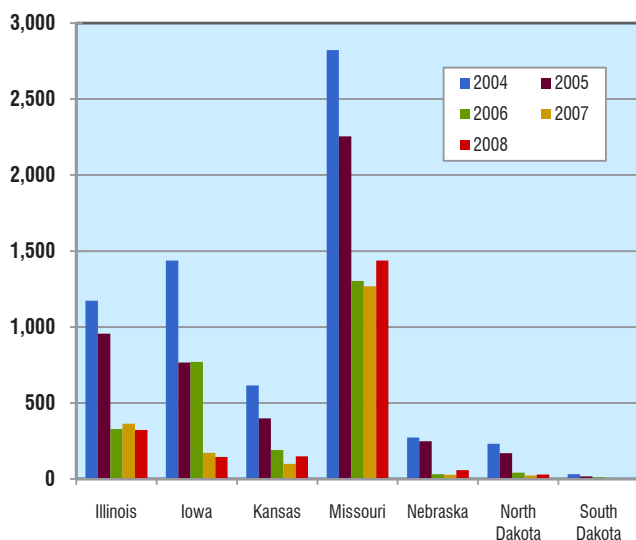
An increasing Hispanic population in the Midwest HIDTA region has facilitated the expansion of Mexican drug trafficking territory. Many Mexican and Central American illegal immigrants have relocated to midwestern towns seeking employment, particularly at meatpacking and poultry processing plants in rural communities in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and North Dakota. Mexican traffickers easily blend with growing Mexican and Central American communities to facilitate their drug trafficking operations

and often use these meatpacking towns as hubs and secondary markets for drug distribution. Small, rural law enforcement agencies, constrained by a lack of resources and cultural and language differences, are often unable to infiltrate these DTOs.

African American and Hispanic street gangs distribute illicit drugs in the HIDTA's metropolitan and outlying areas. African American street gangs (often Bloods and Crips gang factions) dominate distribution of crack cocaine and also distribute retail quantities of marijuana in markets such as Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, Springfield, and Wichita. Sureños⁴ factions (including Florencia 13, also known as F-13) are the predominant Hispanic street gangs operating in the Midwest HIDTA. Hispanic street gangs distribute retail to wholesale quantities of marijuana and retail quantities of methamphetamine in markets such as Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, Wichita, and Cedar Rapids. While some of these street gang members have relocated from California or the Southwest Border and maintain ties with national gangs, many street gangs operating within the HIDTA region are homegrown and have limited connections to nationally affiliated organizations. Members are often difficult to classify or affiliate with one specific gang, and turf boundaries are not clearly defined. In addition, Chicago-based African American street gangs such as Gangster Disciples, Black Peace Stone Nation, and Vice Lords operate in several HIDTA cities, including Cedar Rapids; Columbia, Missouri; Davenport, Iowa; Fargo; Omaha; Sioux City; Sioux Falls; and Springfield, Missouri; however, these gang members typically travel from

4. Sureños and Norteños are affiliations of Hispanic street gangs that initially were formed in the California Department of Corrections by members who wanted to join together to protect themselves from incarcerated street gang members from other areas. Hispanic street gangs in southern California (Bakersfield and points south) were known as Sureños street gangs, while those from central and northern California (north of Bakersfield) were known as Norteños street gangs. Hispanic street gangs operating in the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) typically claim Sureños affiliation but often are not connected to gangs in southern California.

Figure 3. Methamphetamine Clandestine Laboratory Seizures, by Midwest HIDTA State 2004–2008



Source: National Seizure System, data run on January 27, 2009.

Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis, and other markets in order to distribute crack cocaine and then return home. Law enforcement officials in Pennington County, South Dakota, and in Kansas City, Missouri, report that gang members sometimes advertise their drugs on social networking Internet sites such as MySpace and Facebook and also post pictures of themselves posing with drugs and/or weapons. In addition, the Garden City, Kansas, Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) St. Louis Field Division report that gang members use these web sites to network with other members. Law enforcement officials also report increased street gang activity in some HIDTA markets such as Jefferson City, Missouri; Kansas City; St. Louis; and Wichita. Various outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs), including El Forastero, Galloping Goose, Invaders, and Sons of Silence, distribute limited quantities of methamphetamine and marijuana throughout the HIDTA.

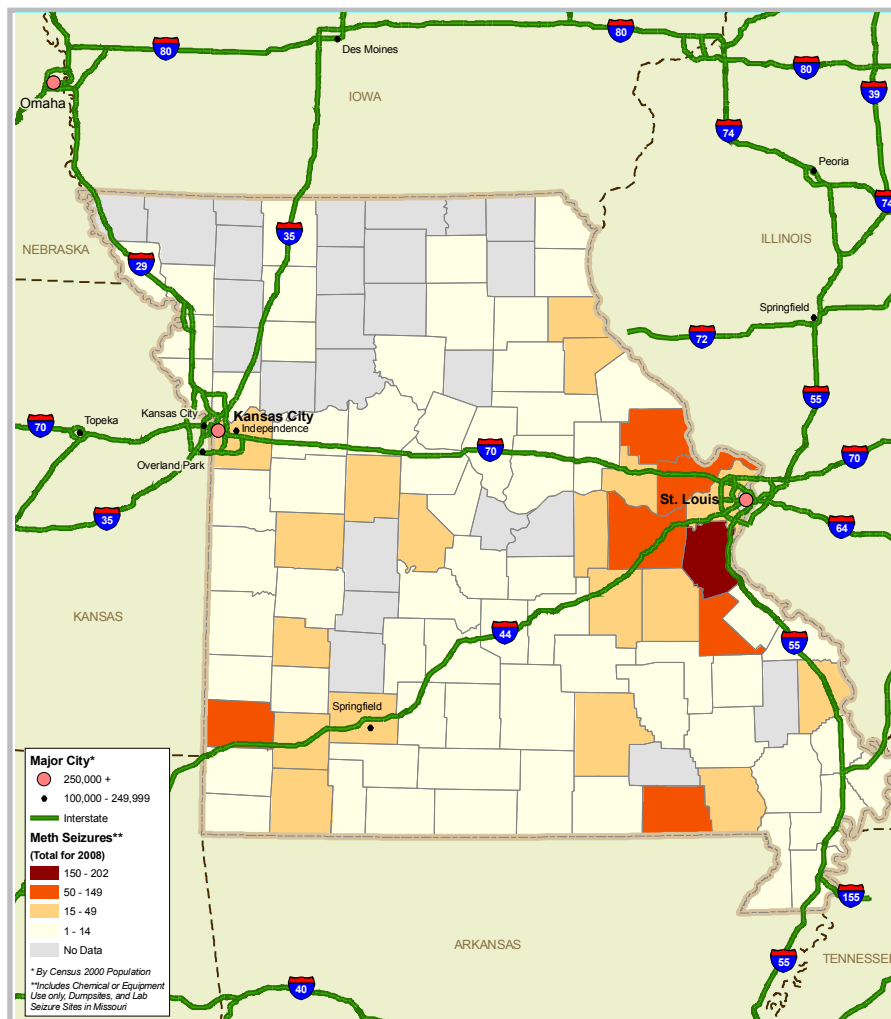
Production

Illicit drug production in the Midwest HIDTA region generally includes methamphetamine production, crack cocaine conversion, and cannabis cultivation. Caucasian independent manufacturers and criminal groups are the primary producers of methamphetamine and marijuana, while African American criminal groups and street gangs dominate crack cocaine conversion. Domestic methamphetamine production has decreased substantially in many areas of the Midwest HIDTA since the passage of precursor control legislation; however, clandestine production continues to represent a significant threat, and law enforcement officials in Iowa and Grand Forks, North Dakota, are reporting the use of mobile methamphetamine laboratories by traffickers. Methamphetamine production in the Midwest HIDTA region represents a greater threat to public safety and the environment than all other illicit drug production, and combating production of the drug consumes vast amounts of public resources. In addition to posing safety

Missouri Precursor Chemical Laws

Despite stringent state precursor chemical control laws, methamphetamine production continues in the HIDTA region because producers are still able to obtain sufficient quantities of pseudoephedrine, albeit with a greater effort. Some state precursor control laws have limited access to pseudoephedrine by listing it as a Schedule V controlled substance, and four Midwest HIDTA states have required sellers to maintain a logbook. However, many states do not have a centralized database of the logs, which hampers law enforcement investigative efforts; many law enforcement agencies must visit each pharmacy and manually gather logbook information—a time-consuming practice. Methamphetamine producers exploit this loophole by smurfing.

Figure 4. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in Missouri by County, 2008



Source: National Seizure System, data run on January 27, 2009.

and environmental hazards, continued methamphetamine production forces local law enforcement agencies to divert funding from battling wholesale- and retail-level distribution organizations to remediate laboratory sites.

While methamphetamine production has decreased substantially in many areas of the Midwest HIDTA, production continues throughout the HIDTA region. Notably, many HIDTA counties in Missouri have experienced a resurgence in methamphetamine production following an initial decrease after the passage of precursor control legislation.

Law enforcement agencies seized more methamphetamine laboratories (1,437) in Missouri in 2008 than in any other state,⁵ a 13.3 percent increase over the number of laboratories seized in Missouri in 2007. (See Figure 3 on page 6.) Most of the methamphetamine laboratories seized in Missouri in 2007 were discovered in southern counties and in the St. Louis metropolitan area; however, 2008 laboratory seizure data reflect a spread throughout the state. (See Figure 4.) In

5. These data (as of January 27, 2009) include all methamphetamine laboratories; dumpsites; and chemicals, glassware, and equipment seized by federal, state, and local authorities and reported to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC).

response to continued methamphetamine production and smurfing, the Missouri General Assembly introduced a bill in 2008 to modify existing recordkeeping for pseudoephedrine products; the law, which went into effect on January 1, 2009, requires replacing existing written logbooks with a centralized electronic database. In addition, several large retailers have begun to cooperate with law enforcement officials in the Eastern District of Missouri to combat smurfing. (See text box.) Law enforcement officials in southeastern Kansas and Nebraska (Lincoln and Omaha as well as Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, and Madison Counties) also report notable increases in local methamphetamine production during 2008.

HIDTA-Funded Initiative Success: Law Enforcement Investigation Leads to Indictment of Smurfers

In response to increasing methamphetamine production, the St. Louis County Precursor Task Force developed a program in partnership with large retailers in the area to target smurfers and thus curtail local methamphetamine production. With funding through the Midwest HIDTA, task force members collated and analyzed 2007 and 2008 pseudoephedrine purchase records to identify individuals who purchased excessive amounts of pseudoephedrine. As a result, federal grand juries in the Eastern District of Missouri indicted 68 defendants in eight cases through August 2008. These individuals contributed to the purchase of more than 141,000 units of pseudoephedrine. The St. Louis County Police Department developed the plan, which was executed with the help of the FBI Safe Streets Task Force; St. Charles County and Jefferson County Drug Task Forces; and the Arnold, Chesterfield, Kirkwood, Maplewood, and St. John Police Departments.

Source: U.S. Attorney Eastern District of Missouri.

Crack cocaine conversion, primarily by African American street gangs, is a significant concern to law enforcement agencies in metropolitan areas such as Columbia; Kansas City; Moline, Illinois; Omaha; St. Louis; Sioux Falls; Springfield; and Topeka and Wichita, Kansas, because of crack's association with high levels of violence and property crime. African American street gangs often obtain powder cocaine from Mexican sources and then convert the cocaine into crack for local sales and further distribution. Limited cannabis cultivation—both indoor and outdoor—takes place throughout the Midwest HIDTA region, but most of the marijuana available in the HIDTA is produced in Mexico.

Transportation

The Midwest HIDTA is a significant transit area for illicit drugs; its central geographic location is widely used by traffickers who transport cocaine, heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine, and other illicit drugs into the area from the Southwest and Northwest⁶ Border regions en route to midwestern and northeastern markets including Chicago and New York. Major interstates that traverse the HIDTA region are Interstates 29, 35, 44, 55, 70, 80, 90, and 94. (See Figure 2 on page 3.) These highways are extensively used by traffickers to transport illicit drugs into and through the HIDTA region. As such, many opportunities exist for the interdiction of drugs and illicit proceeds in the region—and recent seizures on I-80 highlight the usefulness of interdiction programs in the HIDTA region. For example, in September 2008 the Douglas County Sheriff's Department seized approximately \$280,000 on I-80 from a private vehicle en route to Tucson from Springfield, Illinois.

6. Law enforcement officials believe that available arrest and seizure statistics underrepresent the level of smuggling along the U.S.–Canada border.

Investigative information captured from highway seizures reveals that most illicit drug shipments destined for the region originate in Arizona, California, and Texas. Common source cities identified by Kansas Highway Patrol and Missouri Highway Patrol interdiction efforts include El Paso; Los Angeles; Phoenix and Tucson; and San Diego, California.

Mexican DTOs and criminal groups transport most of the ice methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, and Mexican black tar and brown powder heroin available in the HIDTA region. These organizations primarily use commercial and private vehicles with sophisticated hidden compartments to transport these drugs into the region. Mexican DTOs frequently recruit unaffiliated Mexican immigrants living in the region to transport illicit drugs from the Southwest Border to the region, thereby insulating themselves from law enforcement detection in the event of interdiction.

African American, Asian, and Caucasian street gangs, criminal groups, and independent dealers transport powder and crack cocaine, Mexican marijuana, and PCP to the region, but less frequently than in the past. These local, retail-level distributors avoid the risk of interdiction and law enforcement detection by purchasing illicit drugs from Mexican wholesalers in Kansas City, Wichita, and other HIDTA markets. African American street gang members based in Chicago, Detroit, and Minneapolis also transport crack and powder cocaine and marijuana to metropolitan areas in Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Asian trafficking groups transport MDMA and Canadian marijuana into and through the HIDTA region. Additionally, Caucasian trafficking groups transport Mexican and Canadian marijuana, Mexican methamphetamine, and limited quantities of MDMA to the region.

Distribution

Mexican DTOs and criminal groups control the wholesale and much of the midlevel distribution of methamphetamine, powder cocaine,⁷ marijuana, and heroin in the HIDTA region. Most Mexican DTOs and criminal groups do not stockpile drug shipments for extended periods of time but, rather, use vacant stash houses and apartments for short-term storage and distribution to midlevel dealers. Mexican wholesale and midlevel dealers are the primary sources of supply for Caucasian and African American retailers, conducting most sales through referrals and prearranged meetings rather than in open-air settings.

Mexican DTOs have increased ice methamphetamine distribution considerably in the Midwest HIDTA region over the past 4 years, since pseudoephedrine control legislation has reduced domestic methamphetamine availability and created a shortfall in supply. This shortfall has served as an opportunity for Mexican DTOs to meet the demand in the HIDTA's markets with high-quality Mexican ice methamphetamine. Law enforcement agencies in most HIDTA drug markets now report that the vast majority of available methamphetamine is ice methamphetamine; however, several areas (including Salina and Finney County, Kansas; Grand Island and Omaha, Nebraska; Bismarck, North Dakota; and Rapid City, Sioux Falls, and Yankton, South Dakota) reported either decreased ice methamphetamine availability or purity in mid-2008. This decline may be attributed to decreased methamphetamine production in Mexico in 2007 as well as the violence and resulting instability in source-of-supply areas for Mexican DTOs operating in the HIDTA.

7. Powder cocaine availability recently has fluctuated in several of the Midwest HIDTA markets. While law enforcement officials in Garden City, Kansas; Omaha, Nebraska; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, reported significant increases in powder cocaine availability in late 2007 and early 2008, law enforcement officials in Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri, and Wichita, Kansas, reported a decrease in availability. These market fluctuations are most likely due to law enforcement operations along the Southwest Border.

Table 1. Drugs in the Midwest HIDTA, by Retail Distributor and Market, 2009

Drug	Retail Distributor	Market
Methamphetamine	Hispanic street gangs, Caucasian local independent dealers	All markets
Crack cocaine	African American street gangs, independent dealers	All markets
Marijuana	Hispanic street gangs, African American street gangs, Caucasian local independent dealers	All markets
Heroin	African American street gangs, local independent dealers, Caucasian local independent dealers	Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield
PCP	African American street gang members, local independent dealers	Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, Wichita

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration; Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Mexican DTOs use Kansas City and St. Louis as distribution centers to supply illicit drugs to major market areas throughout the United States as well as to supply dealers in the HIDTA region. Mexican traffickers typically offload drug shipments from the Southwest region to these cities, repackage the drugs, and then supply them to markets within the region as well as to major market areas throughout the Midwest, Great Lakes, and Northeast regions. Mexican traffickers distribute cocaine from Kansas City to Chicago; Dayton, Ohio; and Detroit. They also distribute cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine from St. Louis to Chicago and Springfield, Illinois, and to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The convergence of Interstates 44, 55, 64, and 70 in St. Louis and Interstates 29, 35, and 70 in Kansas City provides easy access for distributors to transport illicit drugs to these markets.

Various ethnic street gangs and criminal groups distribute illicit drugs at the retail level. (See Table 1.) Retail crack distribution is conducted primarily by African American street gangs and criminal groups at drug markets in many areas, but aggressive law enforcement efforts have forced some of these distributors to conduct sales from apartments or at controlled locations. Hispanic street gangs distribute methamphetamine and marijuana at the retail level, while Caucasian street gangs, criminal groups,

and local independent dealers distribute methamphetamine, marijuana, and limited quantities of MDMA at the retail level. Asian street gangs and criminal groups distribute varying quantities of MDMA in Des Moines, Iowa; the Kansas City metropolitan area; Springfield; St. Louis; Wichita; and Columbia. Various OMGs such as El Forastero, Galloping Goose, Invaders, and Sons of Silence distribute methamphetamine and marijuana in the HIDTA region.

In order to facilitate drug distribution in the Midwest HIDTA region, particularly at the retail level, traffickers commonly use disposable cell phones. While disposable cell phones have commonly been used by midlevel traffickers in the past, their popularity has increased rapidly among retail-level traffickers because they are relatively cheap and difficult to trace (stores do not require a credit check for their purchase). Traffickers typically use cell phones for a limited time before switching to a new phone with a new number to further reduce the possibility of law enforcement detection. In addition, traffickers often prefer to use text messaging and phones with push-to-talk capabilities in an attempt to thwart law enforcement surveillance.

Drug-Related Crime

High levels of violent and property crime in the HIDTA region are often associated with the distribution and abuse of illicit drugs, particularly crack cocaine and methamphetamine. Crack cocaine and methamphetamine distributors commonly commit violent crimes including assault, carjacking, drive-by shooting, home invasion, robbery, and firearms violation to protect and expand their drug operations. Methamphetamine and crack abuse are often associated with domestic violence and child abuse, and abusers often commit property crimes, such as burglary, forgery, fraud, larceny, and identity theft, to support their addictions.

Abuse

Widespread and sustained methamphetamine abuse is the most critical drug abuse concern throughout the HIDTA. The drug's abuse and associated violence severely strain the resources of public health departments, treatment centers, and social services agencies in the Midwest HIDTA region. Methamphetamine-related domestic violence, child abuse, and child neglect have burdened local foster care systems and social services. Because of methamphetamine's highly addictive nature, longer treatment programs and high recidivism rates encumber treatment centers in the area.

Crack cocaine abuse continues to be a serious problem in many metropolitan areas of the Midwest HIDTA, and powder cocaine abuse increased⁸ in several HIDTA cities, including Salina and Bismarck, during 2008.

8. During 2008, law enforcement officials in several cities (mostly in North Dakota and South Dakota) reported methamphetamine abusers' switching to cocaine abuse; the switch in drug of choice is most likely due to market availability fluctuations as well as successful law enforcement and public safety campaigns that highlighted the dangers of methamphetamine abuse.

Missouri Children Endangered by Father's Methamphetamine Production

On October 16, 2008, a St. Louis area man pleaded guilty in the Eastern District of Missouri to multiple counts involving his conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine—including felony counts of manufacturing methamphetamine on premises where children were present and manufacturing in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine. From 2006 to 2008 the defendant produced methamphetamine at various locations in St. Charles and Franklin Counties. At the time of his arrest, the defendant was in the process of manufacturing methamphetamine in a hotel room with his four children (5-, 6-, and 7-year-olds as well as a 5-month-old baby) present. Officers found various containers of chemicals under a desk, in the shower, and under the bed as well as a diaper bag that contained a syringe and spoon used for ingesting methamphetamine. In addition, the defendant had a prior arrest in December 2007 for the theft and fraudulent use of a stolen credit card. The St. Charles County Regional Drug Task Force, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, and the Franklin County Narcotics Enforcement Unit contributed to the man's apprehension and prosecution.

Source: U.S. Attorney Eastern District of Missouri.

Marijuana abuse is pervasive throughout the Midwest HIDTA region and crosses racial/ethnic lines. However, marijuana abuse poses a lesser concern to public health and law enforcement officials than the abuse of methamphetamine and cocaine—drugs that are more addictive and have a greater potential for overdose. Commercial-grade and high-potency marijuana are available and abused in the region.⁹

9. Illinois Treatment Episode Data Set data for 2007 were not available as of January 5, 2009.

While CPDs are typically abused to varying degrees throughout the HIDTA, several markets report a noticeable increase in such abuse during 2008; oxycodone is the most commonly diverted and abused controlled prescription narcotic.¹⁰

Heroin abuse is largely limited to the St. Louis metropolitan area (where white powder heroin and Mexican black tar heroin are readily available); however, abuse of Mexican black tar heroin and brown powder heroin as well as white powder heroin increased significantly in Springfield during 2008. In addition, several law enforcement agencies in the Kansas City, Kansas, metropolitan area report that Mexican black tar heroin availability and abuse rose significantly during the second half of 2008.

Illicit Finance

Mexican DTOs and criminal groups are the principal drug money launderers in the Midwest HIDTA region. They transport drug proceeds primarily in bulk to other destinations in the United States and Mexico for laundering. Illicit proceeds—including those generated in outlying markets—are consolidated by traffickers within the HIDTA's market areas for shipment to drug source cities, including El Paso and Houston, Texas, and Phoenix and Tucson, as well as to Mexico. Traffickers transport bulk cash primarily via private and commercial vehicles that are often equipped with hidden compartments. For example, in December 2008 the Iowa State Patrol seized over \$1.4 million concealed in the walls of a trailer being pulled by a private vehicle on I-80 en route to Los Angeles from Alberta, Canada. Mexican DTOs and criminal groups also use money services businesses (MSBs) such as money remitters and check cashing firms to

launder drug proceeds. Mexican traffickers in the Midwest HIDTA region also invest drug proceeds in real estate and businesses as well as expensive items, including jewelry and luxury vehicles. They frequently purchase cash-intensive businesses such as bars, jewelry stores, restaurants, and used car lots and commingle drug proceeds with profits generated at the business. In addition, federal law enforcement officials in Fargo, Kansas City, and St. Louis report that some wholesale-level traffickers are also using electronic commerce, such as digital currency, private automated teller machines (ATMs), mobile payments,¹¹ and online payment systems, to launder illicit proceeds.

Retail-level traffickers also launder funds that they derive through illicit drug distribution, albeit to a lesser extent than higher-level traffickers. They often use small, cash-intensive front businesses to commingle illicit proceeds with legitimate funds and purchase real estate, vehicles, luxury items, and businesses with drug proceeds.

Drug Markets

Overview

The Midwest HIDTA region contains several primary drug market areas, including the Kansas City, Omaha, and St. Louis metropolitan areas and a number of secondary markets, including Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Fargo/Grand Forks, Sioux City/Sioux Falls, Springfield, and Wichita. (See Figure 2 on page 3.) Individual market discussions are intended to augment the overall discussion of drug trafficking and abuse in the Midwest HIDTA region, highlighting localized trends and deviations. The general drug situation in the Midwest HIDTA region applies to an individual market unless otherwise stated.

10. Many cities in the Eastern District of Missouri reported an increase in controlled prescription drug (CPD) abuse during 2008. These cities fall within St. Louis's sphere of influence, where heroin abuse is much more prevalent than in other areas of the HIDTA region. This rise in CPD abuse may be due to heroin abusers seeking alternatives.

11. Mobile payments are any payments activated or confirmed by a mobile device, such as a cellular telephone.

Primary Markets

Kansas City, Kansas/Missouri, Area

The Kansas City metropolitan area includes Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte Counties in Missouri and Johnson and Wyandotte Counties in Kansas and has a combined population of almost 1.6 million. Kansas City is located near the geographic center of the United States at the intersection of several of the nation's busiest highways (Interstates 29, 35, and 70), making it a major transshipment point for illicit drugs and drug proceeds to, from, and between significant market areas in the West (Arizona, California, Colorado, Texas), the Midwest (Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska), and the East (Illinois, Michigan, New York).

The Kansas City metropolitan area is also a significant consumer market. Combating crack cocaine distribution and abuse consumes public resources in the inner city of Kansas City, while methamphetamine distribution and abuse are the major drug problems in outlying areas. African American crack distributors frequently obtain powder cocaine for conversion from Mexican and Hispanic midlevel dealers located in the northeast section of Kansas City, Missouri, and from Mexican wholesale and midlevel dealers in Kansas City, Kansas. Mexican wholesale and midlevel dealers are typically supplied by sources in the El Paso and Phoenix areas. Mexican wholesale and midlevel dealers typically distribute methamphetamine in outlying and suburban areas of the metropolitan area; most of the methamphetamine available and abused is Mexican ice methamphetamine. In addition, the Overland Park, Kansas, Police Department reports that CPD abuse has become so problematic that it is now considered the greatest drug threat in that jurisdiction. Oxycodone and hydrocodone are the most commonly abused controlled prescription narcotics, and officials from this police department reported in the third quarter of 2008 that they were investigating an increased number of

CPD overdoses. CPD abuse is increasing, particularly among Caucasians between the ages of 16 and 24.

Drug-related violent crime poses a problem in the Kansas City metropolitan area. African American and Hispanic street gangs are the primary perpetrators, and both rely on illicit drug distribution for revenue. African American gangs are dominant; while many of these gangs claim Bloods or Crips affiliation, they are local and tend to be loosely organized and based on neighborhood affiliations. Hispanic street gangs are increasing in number and are more organized and tied to nationally affiliated gangs such as Sureños and F-13. African American and Hispanic street gangs periodically clash with each other; most violence between them stems from personal animosities, not disputes over drug territories. Additionally, Hispanic gangs are increasing in number and size, and an ongoing rivalry between Sureños and other Hispanic gangs has resulted in frequent assaults and shootings of rival gang members.

Omaha, Nebraska, Area

The Omaha metropolitan area, which includes the city of Omaha and Douglas and Sarpy Counties in Nebraska, and Pottawattamie County in Iowa, is located on the eastern Nebraska border along the Missouri River and has a combined population of over 670,000. Interstates 29 and 80 intersect in Council Bluffs, Iowa, which is adjacent to Omaha, providing drug traffickers with easy access to the Kansas City metropolitan area and national drug markets in California and southwestern states. Omaha is a regional distribution center for illicit drugs—cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana are distributed from Omaha to neighboring states, including Iowa and South Dakota.

Mexican DTOs and criminal groups are the principal transporters and wholesale distributors of most illicit drugs to the Omaha metropolitan

area. These traffickers transport wholesale quantities of methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana to and through Omaha from distribution hubs in the state of Sinaloa, Mexico, and numerous Southwest region cities, including Phoenix, Tucson, San Diego, and Los Angeles. In addition, Mexican DTOs maintain connections throughout many smaller Nebraska towns near Omaha, such as Fremont, Grand Island, Lexington, and Norfolk, where large numbers of Mexican nationals have sought employment in meatpacking and poultry processing plants. Mexican DTOs use their connections in these cities to smuggle illicit drugs into the Omaha metropolitan area.

Mexican DTOs have supplanted locally produced methamphetamine with high-purity Mexican ice methamphetamine in Omaha and surrounding counties. Law enforcement officials in Omaha reported a dramatic increase in ice methamphetamine prices (at the wholesale level, midlevel, and retail level) during the latter part of 2008. While ice methamphetamine availability has remained relatively stable in Omaha, it is likely that traffickers are increasing prices in order to compensate for rising costs associated with transporting the drug across the Southwest Border, such as heightened risk of lost shipments as a result of border violence and enhanced law enforcement interdiction efforts. Law enforcement officials from various metropolitan agencies in the Omaha area reported rising methamphetamine production prior to the spike in prices; however, local methamphetamine production will most likely increase again in the near term as a result of rising ice methamphetamine prices. In addition, if traffickers sustain the current high ice methamphetamine prices, abusers in the Omaha metropolitan area may begin to use powder or crack cocaine rather than ice methamphetamine.

African American and Hispanic street gangs control retail distribution in Omaha. Crack cocaine distribution has increased in Omaha since 2006 as a result of local Bloods and Crips

sets—some with drug connections in Los Angeles—aggressively supplying crack cocaine. Law enforcement officials report that local Bloods members have begun to travel to Des Moines to distribute crack cocaine to expand their operations. In 2007 Mara Salvatrucha (MS 13) was the fastest-growing Hispanic street gang in Omaha; however, successful law enforcement efforts led to federal drug indictments of 52 members and associates in late 2007—and a significant disruption of MS 13 operations.

St. Louis, Missouri, Area

The St. Louis metropolitan area, which includes the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County, is located in east central Missouri along the Mississippi River and has a combined population of more than 1.3 million residents. St. Louis is a significant consumer market and also serves as a transshipment and distribution hub for Mexican traffickers who supply cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine throughout Missouri and to markets in other states, including Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. The convergence of Interstates 44, 55, 64, and 70 in St. Louis provides easy access for distributors to transport illicit drugs from the Southwest Border to St. Louis and markets outside the HIDTA region.

Mexican DTOs have increased their presence in St. Louis and are now the principal transporters and wholesale distributors of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana to the area. Mexican DTOs operating in St. Louis have not yet established the intricate drug distribution networks that other Mexican traffickers have created in market areas such as Kansas City and sometimes must cooperate with local drug traffickers to distribute their drugs, making them vulnerable to law enforcement exposure. Mexican DTOs in St. Louis have primary sources of supply in Phoenix, Tucson and, increasingly, Atlanta, Georgia; they also acquire illicit drugs from sources in Chicago, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, and

Los Angeles. Local law enforcement investigations have also discovered that Mexican traffickers operating in St. Louis frequently have connections in Chicago, Memphis, and New York City. African American street gangs (mostly Crips and Bloods sets) control nearly all retail drug distribution in the city of St. Louis, and African American independent dealers dominate retail distribution in St. Louis County (see Table 1 on page 10). Federal law enforcement officials report that the level of street gang drug activity in St. Louis increased in 2008, and local law enforcement officers report that rivalries among several metropolitan African American gangs have resulted in shootings and homicides in the city.

Heroin and crack distribution and abuse are major drug problems in St. Louis. White powder heroin and Mexican black tar heroin are both available in St. Louis. Investigations in St. Louis have revealed that Chicago is the source of supply for the majority of white powder and black tar heroin available and that Oakland and Sacramento, California, also serve as sources of supply for black tar heroin. Traditionally, St. Louis heroin distributors have been older (in their thirties to forties) local independent dealers; however, in 2007 the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department noted an increase of distributors in their teens. African American street gangs dominate crack distribution, converting most powder cocaine available in the city into crack. However, law enforcement reporting indicates that some dealers are believed to purchase limited quantities of powder cocaine (one-half to 1 ounce) at a time, in an effort to avoid enhanced penalties for crack distribution.

Methamphetamine is rarely encountered in the city of St. Louis, but it is the primary drug problem in surrounding counties, including St. Louis County. Despite statewide pseudoephedrine control legislation, methamphetamine production remains relatively high in eastern Missouri and in

the areas adjacent to St. Louis. (See Figure 4 on page 7.) According to law enforcement officials, laboratory operators in these locations travel to neighboring counties and states to purchase large amounts of precursor chemicals and return to the area to manufacture methamphetamine.

Secondary Markets

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Area

Cedar Rapids is the second-largest city in Iowa and is located in the eastern part of the state on the Cedar River in Linn County, which has a population of over 197,000. Cedar Rapids is primarily a consumer market for illicit drugs, but some cocaine and marijuana are supplied from Cedar Rapids to neighboring cities in Iowa, particularly Cedar Falls, Waterloo, and Dubuque.

Crack cocaine distribution and abuse are significant drug concerns to law enforcement and public health officials in Cedar Rapids. Chicago-based African American street gangs, primarily Latin Kings, Gangster Disciples, and Vice Lords, control the retail distribution of crack cocaine in Cedar Rapids; they also distribute powder cocaine and heroin. Mexican DTOs and criminal groups transport large quantities of methamphetamine to Cedar Rapids by commercial and private vehicles and package delivery services. Mexican DTOs dominate methamphetamine distribution in the market, and the presence of a large, undocumented Hispanic population in the Cedar Rapids area has facilitated this control. Marijuana and powder cocaine are also highly available in the market area. MDMA is available and is transported from New York, California, Spain, and the Netherlands to Cedar Rapids by package delivery services; the drug is used at rave parties.

Des Moines, Iowa, Area

The Des Moines metropolitan area, which includes the city of Des Moines as well as the rest of Polk County, has almost 375,000 residents. The highway infrastructure in the Des Moines area facilitates the transportation of illicit drugs and drug proceeds to and from the area. Interstates 35 and 80 intersect in Polk County northeast of Des Moines and are the principal highways that serve the area. Des Moines is primarily a consumer market, but Mexican DTOs also use Des Moines as a transshipment center for ice methamphetamine destined for northeast markets.

Mexican DTOs are the primary transporters of ice methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana into the area; they use private vehicles to transport the drugs from Mexico, California, Texas, and Arizona. Additionally, African American street gangs from Chicago and the Kansas City metropolitan area transport powder cocaine, crack, and marijuana to Des Moines. They generally transport these drugs to Des Moines in private vehicles, sell the drugs, and return home with the drug proceeds. Moreover, African American street gangs from Detroit have been increasing their influence in Des Moines.

African American and Hispanic street gangs are the primary retail distributors throughout Des Moines. Local African American street gangs are the primary powder cocaine and crack distributors, although Bloods gang members from Omaha have recently begun to travel to Des Moines to distribute crack. These gangs tend to be loosely organized and formed in and around housing developments. Hispanic street gangs tend to be more hierarchical and tied to nationally affiliated gangs such as 18th Street, Latin Kings, and MS 13. Hispanic street gangs distribute cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. Both African American and Hispanic street gangs have used violence in the past to protect their drug territories.

Fargo/Grand Forks, North Dakota, Area

The Fargo/Grand Forks area includes Cass, Grand Forks, Ramsey, Richland, and Walsh Counties in North Dakota. The population of the area's five counties is approximately 215,000, roughly one-third of the total population of the state. The Fargo/Grand Forks area is primarily a consumer market for illicit drugs; however, it does serve as a distribution center for small communities in eastern and central North Dakota.

Cocaine and methamphetamine distribution and abuse are significant drug concerns to law enforcement and public health officials in Fargo and Grand Forks. Mexican criminal groups are the principal transporters and distributors of most illicit drugs in the Fargo/Grand Forks area. African American street gangs from Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Milwaukee are the primary transporters and distributors of crack cocaine in the Fargo/Grand Forks area. (See [Table 1 on page 10.](#)) Federal law enforcement officials in Fargo report an increase in street gang drug distribution during 2008. Powder cocaine availability and abuse in both Fargo and Grand Forks remained steady throughout 2008. However, crack cocaine availability and distribution increased in mid-2008 in Grand Forks. Marijuana is highly available and frequently abused. Despite the Fargo/Grand Forks area's proximity to Canada, Mexican commercial-grade marijuana is more available than Canadian high-potency marijuana. However, the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation reported an increase in Canadian marijuana availability in Fargo during the second half of 2008.

Sioux City, Iowa/Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Area

The Sioux City/Sioux Falls area—which includes Woodbury County, Iowa; Dakota County, Nebraska; and Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties, South Dakota—is located along the I-29 corridor in northwestern Iowa (Sioux City), northeastern Nebraska (South Sioux City), and southeastern South Dakota (Sioux Falls). Sioux City/Sioux Falls is a regional distribution center for methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, and MDMA; these drugs are distributed from the area to markets in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

Mexican criminal groups are the principal transporters of illicit drugs to the Sioux City/Sioux Falls area. They transport wholesale quantities of methamphetamine, marijuana, and powder cocaine, and limited quantities of Mexican black tar heroin to the area from California and Arizona as well as from Omaha. Mexican wholesale traffickers sell methamphetamine and other illicit drugs to Mexican and Caucasian midlevel dealers, who in turn sell the drugs to the area's retail distributors. Caucasian independent dealers are the primary retail distributors in the Sioux City/Sioux Falls area; Mexican and Native American independent dealers also distribute drugs at the retail level, but to a lesser extent.

The distribution and abuse of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and methamphetamine are significant drug problems in the Sioux City/Sioux Falls area and are frequently associated with violent and property crimes. Increasing crack cocaine availability in Sioux City is attributed to an influx of African American street gang members and independent distributors from Chicago, Kansas City, and Minneapolis. For example, a Chicago man who was arrested for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine on February 29, 2008, admitted to selling between one-half and 1 kilogram of crack cocaine in Sioux City during

the 2 weeks prior to his arrest. These traffickers travel to Sioux City, often in private vehicles or commercial buses, to distribute crack cocaine because of the drug's large profit margin in the area—a rock of crack cocaine in Chicago sells for \$15, while a rock of crack cocaine in Sioux Falls sells for approximately \$100. Of note, law enforcement officials in Sioux Falls reported an increase in cocaine availability and a correlated decline in methamphetamine availability during 2008. In addition, law enforcement officials in Sioux City report that Asian criminal groups are establishing large-scale, indoor cannabis grow operations in the metropolitan area.

Springfield, Missouri, Area

Springfield, with a population of more than 150,000, is the county seat of Greene County and is situated along I-44, which connects Springfield to St. Louis and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Springfield is a consumer market and a state distribution center. Cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine are distributed from Springfield to areas throughout Missouri.

Ice methamphetamine and crack cocaine distribution and abuse are major drug threats in Springfield and are frequently associated with violent crimes. A slight increase in high-potency marijuana availability and abuse is attributed to the large college population in Springfield that typically prefers this type of marijuana.

Mexican DTOs and criminal groups are the principal transporters and wholesale distributors of most illicit drugs in Springfield. Mexican traffickers transport wholesale quantities of ice methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana from Phoenix; Bakersfield, California; and Texas to Springfield for distribution. African American local independent dealers, some with street gang affiliations, dominate retail distribution of crack cocaine. African American criminal groups and street gangs in Chicago; Memphis, Tennessee; St. Louis; and

West Memphis, Arkansas, transport cocaine to Springfield for distribution. Crack distributors now conduct transactions at prearranged (and frequently changed) outdoor locations, instead of in houses, to avoid law enforcement detection or surveillance. Since 2005 the number of Gangster Disciples members operating in this market has increased, and law enforcement officials report that these criminals now distribute Mexican black tar heroin in addition to crack cocaine.

Wichita, Kansas, Area

The Wichita metropolitan area (which includes Wichita as well as the rest of Sedgwick County) has more than 450,000 residents and is located in south central Kansas. Situated at the intersection of I-35 and U.S. Highway 54, two major drug transportation routes from the Southwest Border, Wichita is a drug distribution hub as well as a significant consumer market. Mexican DTOs and criminal groups are the principal transporters of most illicit drugs available in Wichita and Sedgwick County. They may be using indirect routes, transporting drugs from the Southwest to Wichita through South Dakota or Nebraska in an effort to avoid detection. Mexican ice methamphetamine, powder cocaine, and marijuana are distributed from Wichita to many southeast and south central Kansas towns.

Mexican DTOs and criminal groups control the wholesale distribution of methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana in Wichita. While these three drugs usually are highly available and widely abused in this market, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Wichita officials reported a noticeable decline in cocaine availability in 2007. African American street gangs and Hispanic local independent dealers and street gangs dominate retail-level drug distribution. Additionally, African American distributors convert most of the powder cocaine available in the area to crack for retail distribution. Asian criminal groups from Canada and Washington transport

MDMA to Wichita, where it is distributed by Asian criminal groups and independent college age users.

Street gang activity is increasing in Wichita. Some of the increased street gang activity and gang-related violence is caused by rival distributors, including Asian street gangs, becoming active in crack cocaine distribution, which was typically controlled by African American criminal groups.

Outlook

Ice methamphetamine availability and abuse will remain the most significant drug-related issues facing the Midwest HIDTA in the near term because of widespread methamphetamine abuse and the high level of violence associated with the drug's distribution and abuse. However, several HIDTA markets—notably Omaha—may experience a shortfall in methamphetamine supply. Moreover, it is likely that pervasive and sustained violence in Mexico will also continue to impact methamphetamine supply and pricing in the HIDTA region.

The Midwest HIDTA may face an increased trafficking threat from its shared border with Canada if chemical controls enacted by the government of Mexico cause a sustained decrease in Mexican methamphetamine production and a shortfall in the supply of methamphetamine in the HIDTA region. Law enforcement officials in some western drug markets have already noted intermittent methamphetamine shortages as a result of law enforcement pressure and chemical controls in the United States and Mexico. Law enforcement officials have also reported that methamphetamine production in Canada has risen in recent years and that they expect increasing supplies of Canadian methamphetamine to flow into areas of the United States, including some markets in the Midwest.

Local methamphetamine production will continue and most likely increase in some areas of the HIDTA. Unless states in the Midwest HIDTA region create centralized databases to track pseudoephedrine purchases, local methamphetamine producers will continue to purchase pseudoephedrine in quantities less than threshold amounts at several locations throughout the region until they acquire enough to manufacture a supply of methamphetamine. Further, methamphetamine producers will continue to search for alternative means of obtaining sufficient precursor chemicals. Law enforcement agencies in HIDTA areas that have experienced a resurgence of methamphetamine laboratories will have to balance budget expenditures between remediating methamphetamine laboratories and targeting DTOs.

Increased street gang activity in some HIDTA markets such as Jefferson City, Kansas City, St. Louis, and Wichita will lead to increased incidents of violent and property crimes. African American and Hispanic street gangs rely on drug revenue, including that generated by crack cocaine and methamphetamine sales, to support their activities and resort to violence in order to protect their operations. This may contribute to rising levels of violence in the Midwest HIDTA region if gangs increasingly compete for drug territory and market share.

CPD abuse and related rising heroin abuse will be significant concerns in the HIDTA region in 2009. Law enforcement reporting indicates that an increasing number of adolescents in several HIDTA states (particularly Kansas)

abuse controlled prescription opioids. Such abuse may lead to an increase in heroin availability and abuse in the HIDTA region as users seeking a cheaper “high” create a demand for heroin of all types. This demand will most likely result in increased heroin-related emergency department admissions, since prescription opioid abusers who switch to heroin are at an increased risk of overdosing—they are accustomed to ingesting consistent quantities of opioids (based on prescription dosage). However, the purity level of heroin varies widely, and these abusers may unintentionally ingest a much larger dose of an opioid (heroin).

The availability and abuse of high-potency marijuana in the Midwest HIDTA region may rise as Asian traffickers increase their production in Manitoba, particularly the Winnipeg area, and as demand for the drug rises in the area. The Fargo/Grand Forks, Sioux City/Sioux Falls, and Omaha markets will be especially vulnerable to this increase, since I-29 connects with Canada’s Manitoba Provincial Highway 75, which passes through Winnipeg. In addition, Asian traffickers from Canada may attempt to increase their market share and control by establishing indoor, high-potency cannabis cultivation operations within the HIDTA region, as they have done in Sioux City.

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 Scott County Sheriff's Office
 Silvis Police Department

Iowa

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 Clinton Police Department
 Coralville Police Department
 Davenport Police Department
 Des Moines Police Department
 Intelligence Unit
 Vice and Illicit Drugs Unit
 Dubuque County Sheriff's Department
 Iowa City Police Department
 Iowa Department of Public Safety
 Division of Illicit Drugs Enforcement
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 Marion Police Department
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 Quad City Metropolitan Enforcement Group
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Kansas

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Lawrence Police Department
 Leavenworth Police Department
 Lenexa Police Department
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Missouri

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 Cole County Sheriff's Office
 Columbia Police Department
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 Florissant Police Department
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Federal Bureau of Investigation
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U.S. Attorneys Office
 Eastern District of Missouri

Other

Midwest Gang Investigators Association
 Iowa Chapter
National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws

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