



NATIONAL METHAMPHETAMINE THREAT ASSESSMENT



NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE CENTER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



2009

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PREFACE

The *National Methamphetamine Threat Assessment 2009* is a national-level strategic assessment of methamphetamine trafficking in the United States. This assessment addresses significant trends in methamphetamine production, transportation, distribution, and abuse. It discusses a wide range of issues, including methamphetamine production in the United States and Mexico and the impact of foreign and domestic methamphetamine production trends on availability of the drug in U.S. drug markets. This assessment draws upon the *National Drug Threat Assessment 2009*, regional drug intelligence products prepared by the National Drug Intelligence Center, and reporting from numerous federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

OVERVIEW

Preliminary 2008 availability and seizure data indicate a strengthening in domestic methamphetamine availability and domestic methamphetamine production, and an increase in the flow of methamphetamine into the United States from Mexico—most likely attributable to the efforts of methamphetamine producers in both countries to reestablish the methamphetamine supply chain in the face of disruptions and shortages that began occurring in early 2007. Throughout 2007 methamphetamine availability decreased in U.S. drug markets, causing instability in the methamphetamine supply chain. Prior to 2007, U.S. drug markets relied on the strong flow of methamphetamine produced in Mexico, a supply system established in 2005 and strengthened in 2006. However, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine restrictions in Mexico resulted in a decrease in methamphetamine production in Mexico and reduced the flow of the drug from Mexico to the United States in 2007 and from January through June 2008. In fact, disruptions in methamphetamine supplies reported in some drug markets in the Pacific, Southwest, and West Central Regions during 2007 and early 2008 were most likely attributable to the decrease in methamphetamine production in Mexico during 2007. By mid-2008,

in response to decreased availability of methamphetamine in many U.S. drug markets, small-scale methamphetamine producers began circumventing national retail pseudoephedrine sales restrictions to produce the drug in many areas of the United States. At the same time, some Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) shifted their production operations from Mexico to the United States, particularly to California. Moreover, after the enactment of import and sales restrictions on pseudoephedrine in Mexico, Mexican DTOs began adapting their operating procedures in several ways, including smuggling restricted chemicals through new routes, importing nonrestricted chemical derivatives instead of precursor chemicals, using alternative production methods, and diverting precursor chemicals from sources in Southeast Asia and South America.

STRATEGIC FINDINGS

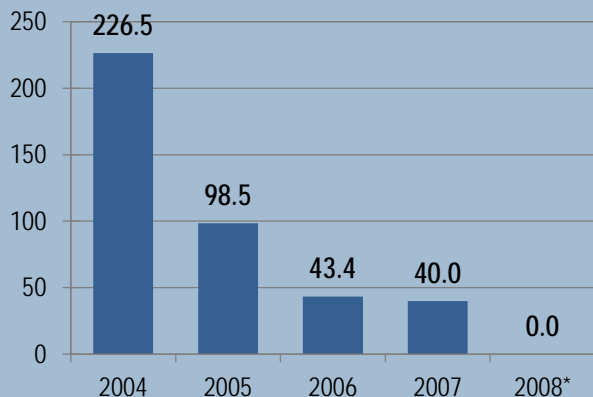
- Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine import restrictions in Mexico contributed to decreased Mexican methamphetamine production in 2007 and early 2008.
- Reduced Mexican methamphetamine production resulted in decreased methamphetamine availability in many U.S. methamphetamine markets in 2007 and, in some markets, during early 2008.
- In addition to that which they divert from source areas in Southeast Asia, Mexican DTOs are increasingly diverting ephedrine and pseudoephedrine from licit sources in South America.
- Methamphetamine availability stabilized and possibly increased after the first half of 2008, quite likely in part because of increasing domestic production of the drug.
- Individuals and criminal groups are increasingly circumventing state and federal pseudoephedrine sales restrictions by making numerous small-quantity pseudoephedrine product purchases from multiple retail outlets.



- National-level drug prevalence data indicate a slight decrease in methamphetamine use; however, treatment admissions for methamphetamine abuse are stable.

Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine import restrictions in Mexico contributed to decreased Mexican methamphetamine production in 2007 and early 2008. In 2005 the government of Mexico (GOM) began implementing progressively increasing restrictions on the importation of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine and other chemicals used for methamphetamine production. In fact, in 2007 the GOM announced a prohibition on ephedrine and pseudoephedrine imports into Mexico for 2008 and a ban on the use of both chemicals in Mexico by 2009 (see Figure 1). Pseudoephedrine import restrictions resulted in a significant decrease in methamphetamine production in Mexico in 2007, evidenced by reduced flow of the drug from Mexico into the United States. National Seizure System (NSS) data show a decrease in the amount of methamphetamine seized along the Southwest Border between 2005 (2,904 kilograms) and 2006 (2,809 kilograms); the decrease continued in 2007, when 1,745 kilograms of the drug were seized, a 37.9 percent decrease from 2006 to 2007. However, preliminary 2008 NSS data show an increase in methamphetamine seizures along the Southwest

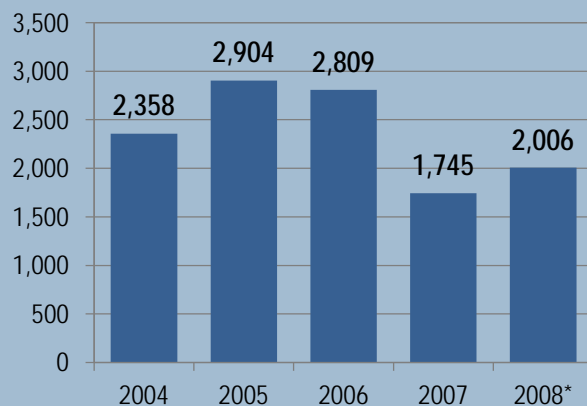
Figure 1. Commercial Pseudoephedrine Imports to Mexico, in Metric Tons, 2004–2008



Source: United Nations.

*GOM target for commercial pseudoephedrine imports for 2008.

Figure 2. Methamphetamine Seizure Amounts Along the Southwest Border, in Kilograms 2004–2008



Source: National Seizure System.

*Data run November 14, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

Border. Through October 2008 the amount of methamphetamine seized at and between Southwest Border ports of entry (POEs) reached 2,006 kilograms, surpassing the 2007 total (see Figure 2, above; see Table 1 in Appendix B).

In response to the GOM's restrictions on the importation of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and other chemicals used for methamphetamine production, Mexican DTOs have altered their chemical diversion and methamphetamine production operations. Since 2006, Mexican DTOs have been importing chemical derivatives and analogues into Mexico to produce precursor chemicals for methamphetamine production and to evade inspection by law enforcement at airports and seaports in Mexico. The importation of chemical derivatives and analogues for the purpose of methamphetamine production is illegal in Mexico; however, such chemicals are frequently smuggled into Mexico by traffickers because inspectors are often unfamiliar with the chemicals and let them pass through POEs. For instance, during 2007 the GOM reported several seizures of large quantities of n-acetyl pseudoephedrine, a chemical used to produce pseudoephedrine. According to GOM reporting, the chemical was intended for use at Mexican methamphetamine production sites.

Limited access to ephedrine and pseudoephedrine has also compelled methamphetamine producers in Mexico to increasingly use alternative methods of production in order to maintain supplies of the drug. According to Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reporting, Mexican DTOs conduct large-scale nonephedrine-based methamphetamine production operations in Mexico, particularly using the phenyl-2-propanone (P2P) method. In fact, the GOM has reported several seizures of phenylacetic acid, a chemical used to produce the methamphetamine precursor chemical P2P. DEA reporting reveals that since 2006, the prevalence of clandestine laboratories in Mexico using nonephedrine-based methods of production has increased. For example, during one week in December 2007, Mexican law enforcement authorities seized two P2P superlabs¹ in Jalisco, Mexico. DEA estimates that the laboratories were capable of producing 5,500 pounds and 1,200 pounds of methamphetamine per month, respectively. Increasing use of the P2P method of methamphetamine production in Mexico is a strong indicator of difficulty on the part of some Mexican methamphetamine producers in acquiring ephedrine or pseudoephedrine that would yield a higher-quality drug.

Reduced Mexican methamphetamine production resulted in decreased methamphetamine availability in many U.S. methamphetamine markets in 2007 and, in some markets, during early 2008. Analysis of drug availability data as well as law enforcement reporting reveals that reduced methamphetamine production in Mexico contributed to disruptions in the supply of methamphetamine in many U.S. drug markets beginning in early 2007 and continuing into 2008. Such disruptions during 2007 were evidenced by rising methamphetamine prices and decreasing purity. According to the System to Retrieve Information From Drug Evidence (STRIDE), the price per pure gram for methamphetamine increased 24 percent (\$148.91 to \$184.09) from January 2007 through

September 2008 (see Figure 1 in Appendix B). STRIDE data also show that average methamphetamine purity decreased 18 percent (56.90 to 52.20 percent pure) during the same period. Moreover, Quest Diagnostics data show that the rate of positive methamphetamine results in workplace drug tests declined steadily through 2007 (see Figure 2 in Appendix B) and, like STRIDE data, indicates instability in methamphetamine supply and availability throughout that period. Quest Diagnostics data show a 38.8 percent decrease in the rate of positive methamphetamine workplace drug tests from the first quarter of 2007 (0.18%) to the fourth quarter of 2007 (0.11%). Methamphetamine seizure data also indicate a reduction in the flow of methamphetamine and decreased availability in 2007. NSS data show that the amount of methamphetamine seized in the United States decreased sharply in 2007, particularly during the third quarter of 2007. In fact, the total amount of methamphetamine seized in 2007 (4,889.24 kg) was 35.7 percent lower than in 2006 (7,608.23 kg). However, the total amount of methamphetamine seized in the United States surpassed the 2007 year-end total by September 2008 (5,903.78 kilograms) and reached 6,335.66 kilograms by the end of October 2008 (see Figure 3 on page 4 and Table 2 in Appendix B).

Law enforcement reporting confirms the supply disruption evidenced by methamphetamine availability data. According to law enforcement reporting, methamphetamine supplies in several drug markets were stretched after June 2007, a situation that persists to date in some drug markets. The reported disruptions occurred at the wholesale level, midlevel, and retail level, particularly in 24 cities in the Pacific, West Central, and Southwest Regions, and in the Great Lakes and Southeast Regions (see Table 3 in Appendix B). Law enforcement reporting indicates that distributors had difficulty obtaining the quantities that they had been able to acquire prior to mid-2007. For instance, law enforcement reporting in August 2008 from agencies in the Pacific Region indicates that some wholesale suppliers who could readily access 20 pounds of methamphetamine before mid-2007 were able to access only 10 pounds. Similarly, some wholesale

1. Superlabs are laboratories capable of producing 10 or more pounds of methamphetamine in a single production cycle.



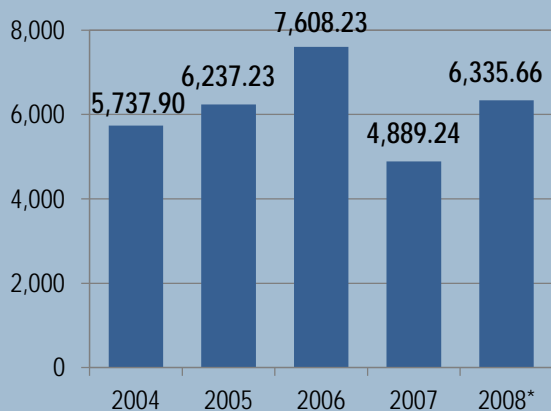
distributors who were supplying 10 pounds prior to mid-2007 were able to supply only 1 to 2 pounds.

In addition to that which they divert from source areas in Southeast Asia, Mexican DTOs are increasingly diverting ephedrine and pseudoephedrine from licit sources in South America. DEA reporting indicates that Mexican DTOs are increasingly using South America as a source and transshipment zone for ephedrine and pseudoephedrine shipments destined for methamphetamine laboratories in Mexico as well as for laboratories tied to Mexican DTOs that are located in South American countries. For instance, the amount of ephedrine imported into Argentina increased from 5 metric tons in 2006 to 26 metric tons in 2007, indicating an increase in such activity in that country. DEA reporting further indicates that Argentine authorities seized an operational methamphetamine laboratory with ties to a Mexican DTO and that methamphetamine previously produced in the laboratory had been transshipped to Mexico for distribution. Seizure data from 2007 and 2008 indicate that ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are smuggled from South American source areas in containerized cargo, aboard commercial flights by couriers, and by mail delivery services.

Methamphetamine availability stabilized and possibly increased after the first half of 2008, quite likely in part because of increasing domestic production of the drug. Methamphetamine availability data reveal that by mid-2008, availability throughout most of the country was beginning to stabilize. STRIDE data show that the price per pure gram for methamphetamine decreased 31 percent (\$267.74 to \$184.09) from the fourth quarter of 2007 to the third quarter of 2008 after four consecutive quarters of price increases (see Figure 1 in Appendix B). STRIDE data also show a 28 percent increase (from 40.90 percent to 52.20 percent) in average methamphetamine purity during the same period. Moreover, NSS data suggest rising methamphetamine availability, since methamphetamine seizure amounts for the first half of 2008 significantly outpaced those reported for the first half of 2007 (see Table 2 in Appendix B) and the first half of 2006, the year with the highest methamphetamine seizure amounts ever reported.

Rising methamphetamine availability in the first half of 2008 coincided with indications of rising domestic methamphetamine production. The number of reported methamphetamine laboratory seizures in the United States decreased each year from 2004 through 2007 (see Figure 4); however, preliminary 2008 data and reporting indicate that

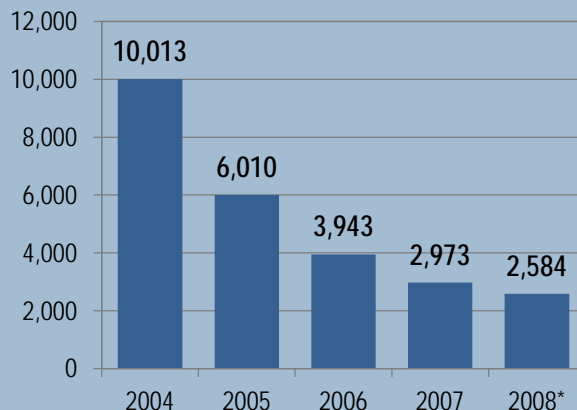
Figure 3. Methamphetamine Seizure Amounts in the United States, in Kilograms, 2004–2008



Source: National Seizure System.

*Data run November 14, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

Figure 4. Reported Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in the United States, 2004–2008



Source: National Seizure System.

*Data run November 14, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

domestic methamphetamine production is increasing in some areas of the country, and laboratory seizures for 2008 are outpacing seizures for 2007. According to preliminary NSS data for 2008, the number of reported methamphetamine laboratory seizures during the first half of 2008 totaled 1,605, compared with 1,475 laboratories seized during the first half of 2007 (see Table 4 in Appendix B). NSS data show that in several states (including Alabama, Arizona, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Wisconsin), methamphetamine laboratory seizures as of July 2008 had already exceeded or were significantly outpacing seizures reported in 2007. For example, NSS data show that more methamphetamine laboratories were seized in Alabama from January through July 2008 (108 laboratories) than were seized in all of 2007 (81 laboratories). Similarly, in Michigan 112 methamphetamine laboratories were seized from January through July 2008, compared with 101 laboratories seized in all of 2007.

Laboratory seizure data also show that the increased number of domestic laboratories seized through October 2008 is attributable primarily to a rise in small-capacity laboratories; however, large-scale methamphetamine production in central California is also increasing. NSS data show that 99 percent (2,570 of 2,584) of seized laboratories were capable of producing less than 1 pound of methamphetamine per production cycle. Nevertheless, reporting from central and southern California law enforcement and intelligence officials indicates that some Mexican DTOs have relocated their methamphetamine production operations to California. The number of superlabs seized in the state through October 2008 (14) exceeded the total number of superlabs seized in all of 2007 (11).

Individuals and criminal groups are increasingly circumventing state and federal pseudoephedrine sales restrictions by making numerous small-quantity pseudoephedrine product purchases from multiple retail outlets.

The increase in domestic methamphetamine production has been accomplished largely by individuals and criminal groups that circumvent

pseudoephedrine sales restrictions by making numerous small-quantity purchases of products that contain pseudoephedrine for use in laboratory operations. This method of acquiring pseudoephedrine is often referred to as “smurfing” (see text box on page 6). Law enforcement reporting from the Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Pacific, Southeast, and Southwest Regions indicates an increase in the incidence of individuals and criminal groups organizing pseudoephedrine smurfing operations and selling the precursor chemicals to methamphetamine producers or trading them for the drug (see Table 1 on page 6). In fact, Central Valley California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) reporting indicates that many operators of methamphetamine laboratories seized in their area, including Mexican DTO-operated superlabs, are producing methamphetamine with pseudoephedrine acquired primarily through smurfing operations in central and southern California, particularly San Diego County. For instance, an October 2007 investigation in Fresno County revealed that two individuals had been conducting daily precursor chemical smurfing operations, soliciting homeless individuals to get into their car and ride from store to store to purchase pseudoephedrine products. In exchange, the couple paid each person approximately \$30 and sometimes gave the individuals alcohol. Evidence seized from the vehicle used in the operation included packages of pseudoephedrine, pharmacy listings torn from an area telephone directory, and several cellular telephones. Similarly, Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force (FMTF) reporting indicates that officers frequently find evidence of pseudoephedrine smurfing, including bags of pseudoephedrine blister packs and thousands of empty blister packs² at laboratory dumpsites in their area. During one pseudoephedrine smurfing investigation in Fresno during April 2008, officers recovered a

2. Blister packs are the most common form of packaging for pseudoephedrine products distributed in the United States, and consist of a clear plastic overlay that houses each pill or dosage unit (2 pills) individually. The clear plastic housing is affixed to a backing that typically is constructed of foil or a combination of foil and paper from which the pills must be removed before use.



Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine Smurfing

Smurfing is a method used by some methamphetamine traffickers to acquire large quantities of precursor chemicals. Methamphetamine producers purchase the chemicals in quantities at or below legal thresholds from multiple retail locations. Methamphetamine producers often enlist the assistance of several friends or associates to increase the speed of the smurfing operations and the quantity of chemicals acquired.

pseudoephedrine products price list, store receipts, pseudoephedrine product packaging, and paper shredders. Officers also discovered bulk quantities of blister packs that had been removed from their paper packaging and placed into plastic shopping bags in 24-gram increments for resale to pseudoephedrine brokers. The recovered price list indicated that each 3.6-gram box of pseudoephedrine-type product was to be sold for no less than \$32 to a pseudoephedrine broker or methamphetamine producer; however, law enforcement reporting from the region shows that the price per package of over-the-counter pseudoephedrine can range as high as \$60. In fact, according to FMTE, the price per pound of over-the-counter pseudoephedrine in California increased to \$7,000 by August 2008, up from approximately \$1,500 in 2006.

National-level drug prevalence data indicate a slight decrease in methamphetamine use; however, treatment admissions for methamphetamine abuse are stable. The latest data available from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) show a statistically significant decrease in the rates of past year use for methamphetamine from 2006 (0.8%) to 2007 (0.5%) for individuals aged 12 and older (see Table 5 in Appendix B). Prevalence of methamphetamine use among adolescents has also trended downward. Monitoring the Future data show decreases in past year use for methamphetamine between 2006 and 2007 among eighth graders (1.8% and 1.1%

Table 1. Cities Reporting an Increase in Pseudoephedrine Smurfing in 2008

Phoenix, Arizona	Indianapolis, Indiana
Los Angeles, California	Fort Scott, Kansas
Oakland, California	Pittsburg, Kansas
San Diego, California	Owensboro, Kentucky
San Francisco, California	Joplin, Missouri
San Jose, California	Kansas City, Missouri
Santa Cruz, California	St. Louis, Missouri
Colorado Springs, Colorado	Columbus, Nebraska
Denver, Colorado	North Platte, Nebraska
Atlanta, Georgia	Statesville, North Carolina
Canton, Georgia	Greenville, South Carolina
Carbondale, Illinois	Tulsa, Oklahoma
Springfield, Illinois	

Source: Federal, state, and local law enforcement reporting.

(statistically significant)), tenth graders (1.8% and 1.6%), and twelfth graders (2.5% and 1.7% (significant)). (See Table 6 in Appendix B.) Additionally, Quest Diagnostics data show that the rate of positive methamphetamine results in workplace drug tests declined 38.8 percent from the first quarter of 2007 (0.18%) to the fourth quarter of 2007 (0.11%) (see Figure 2 in Appendix B). Despite decreases in the prevalence of methamphetamine use, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) data show that the number of methamphetamine-related treatment admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities was relatively high and stable between 2005 (152,698) and 2006 (149,415), the latest year for which such data are available (see Table 7 in Appendix B). Moreover, TEDS data show that the proportion of amphetamine-related (including methamphetamine-related) treatment admissions to all drug-related treatment admissions (in publicly funded treatment facilities) was relatively stable at 8.2 percent in 2005 (152,698 of 1,861,209) and 8.3 percent in 2006 (149,415 of 1,800,717).

INTELLIGENCE GAPS

There are no estimates of the amount of methamphetamine that is smuggled from Canada into the United States. Law enforcement and intelligence reporting indicates that since 2006, Canada-based Asian DTOs, traditional organized crime groups, and outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs) have significantly increased the amount of methamphetamine that they produce and smuggle into the United States for distribution. In fact, law enforcement reporting from officials in the New England states indicates the presence of methamphetamine tablet distribution cells in their area that are supplied by sources in Canada. However, drug seizure data for methamphetamine do not show an increase in seizures at or between U.S.–Canada POEs. Some increase in seizures should have occurred if a significant and increasing flow of methamphetamine from Canada were taking place. Nonetheless, it is possible that an increase in methamphetamine flow from Canada has occurred, but quantities of the drug are undoubtedly entering the United States undetected at the U.S.–Canada border.

OUTLOOK

Domestic methamphetamine production will most likely increase moderately in the near term.

The resurgence of small-scale methamphetamine production, the relocation of some Mexican methamphetamine producers from Mexico to California, and the emergence of large-scale pseudoephedrine smurfing operations throughout the country create conditions conducive to a moderate increase in domestic methamphetamine production, particularly in western states but also in some eastern states. For example, law enforcement reporting indicates that much of the bulk pseudoephedrine compiled through large-scale pseudoephedrine smurfing operations in the Southwest Region is destined for Atlanta, Georgia. A stable supply of bulk ephedrine shipments to Atlanta could result in a significant increase in methamphetamine production in the Southeast Region.

Increasing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine diversion and methamphetamine production on the part of Mexican DTOs in South American countries will quite likely continue in the near term, facilitating both an increase in methamphetamine production in Mexico and the subsequent flow of Mexico-produced methamphetamine into the United States. Conditions at many South American countries and their ports are favorable for ephedrine and pseudoephedrine diversion and smuggling. Such conditions include the high volume of commercial traffic through these countries, the free trade zone, and the lack of precursor chemical regulations. Moreover, many South American ports are susceptible to smuggling activity because of a lack of staffing and automated inspection systems and because of the limitations placed on customs inspectors by free trade zone mandates. As long as such activities are viable, Mexican DTOs will exploit South American sources for methamphetamine precursors and for production of the drug where possible.



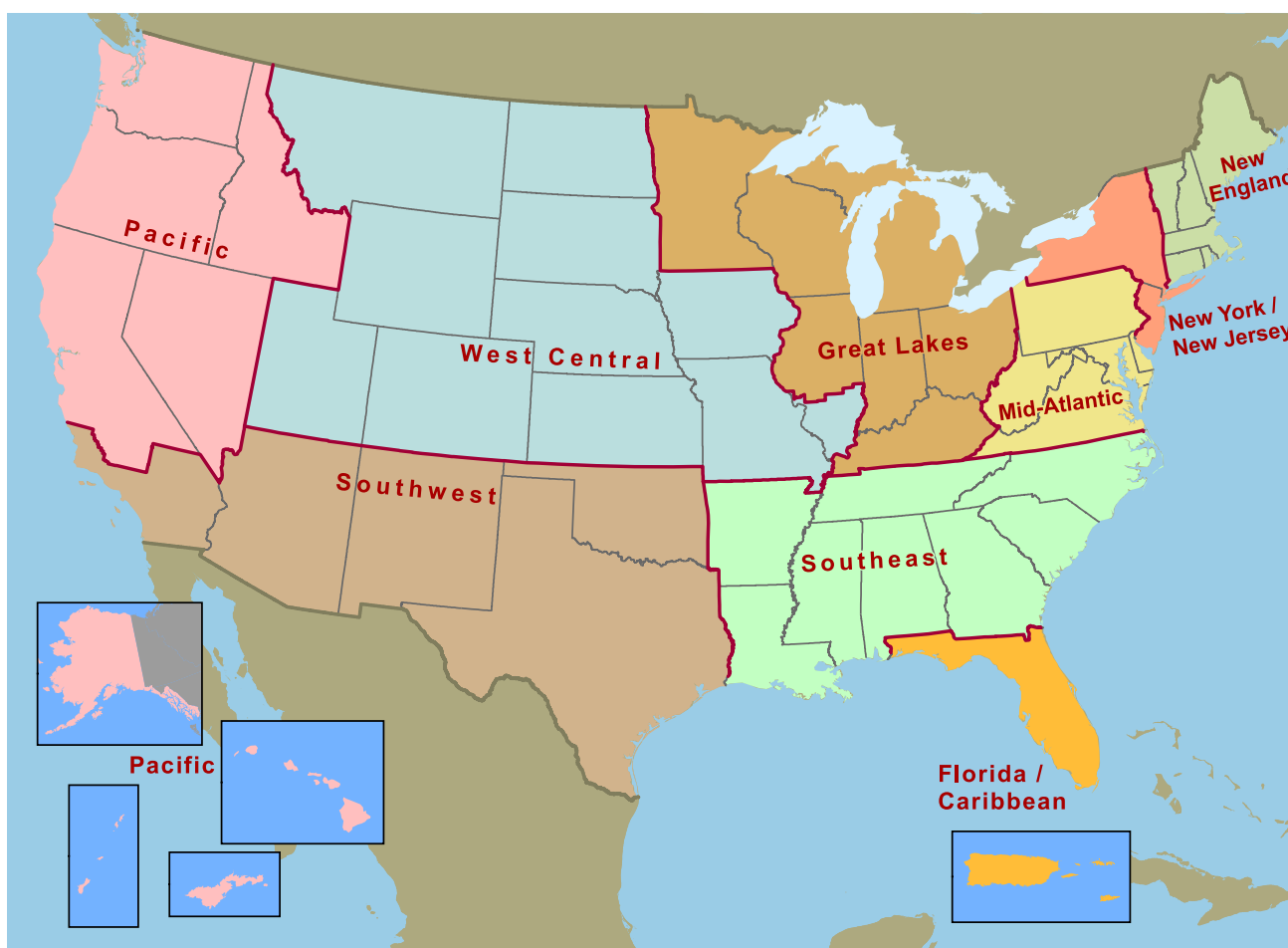
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ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE REGION METHAMPHETAMINE SUMMARIES

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

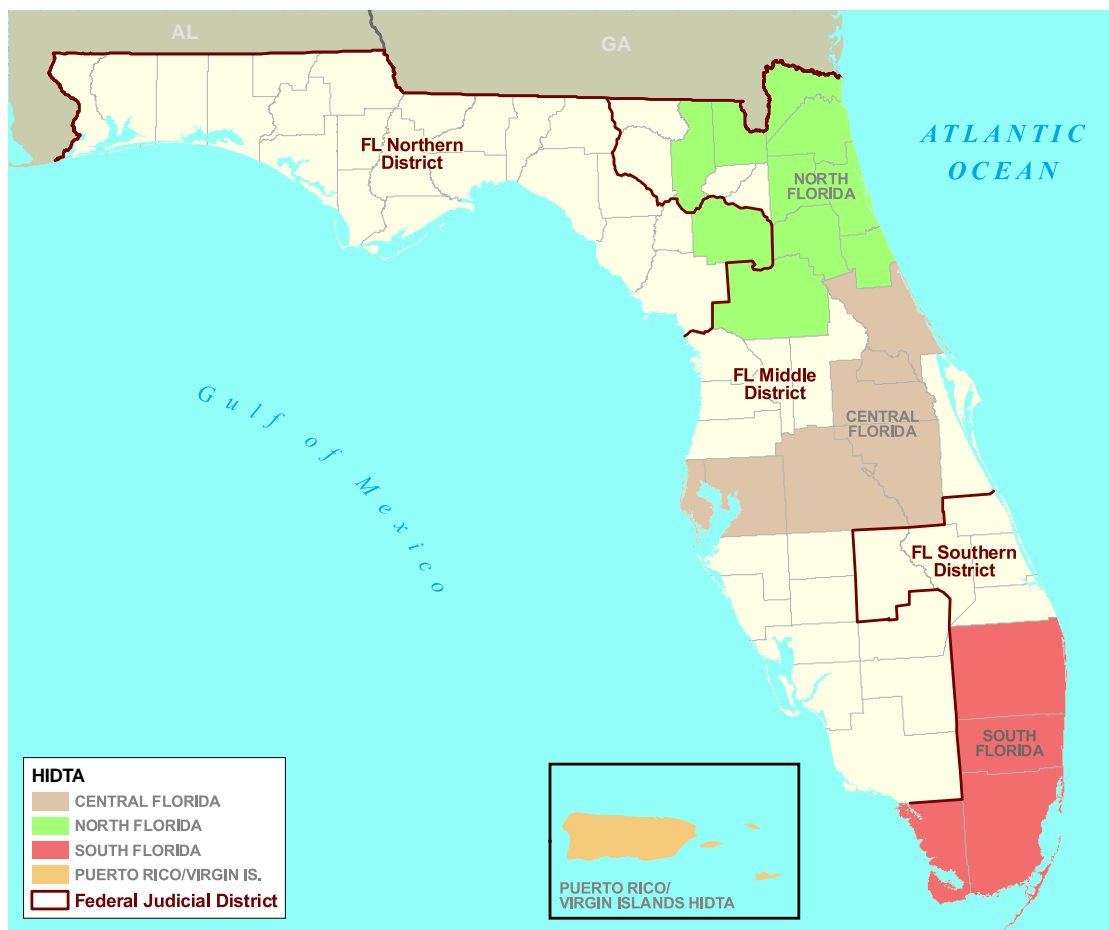
Figure 5. The Nine OCDETF Regions.





FLORIDA/CARIBBEAN OCDETF REGION

Figure 6. Florida/Caribbean OCDETF Region.



Methamphetamine generally poses a low to moderate threat throughout the Florida/Caribbean Region. Law enforcement reporting indicates that methamphetamine poses a lower threat to the Florida/Caribbean Region than cocaine, heroin, pharmaceutical drugs, or marijuana. According to the National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS) 2008, almost 8 percent of law enforcement agencies in the region identify powder methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat in their jurisdictions, and almost 6 percent characterize ice methamphetamine as the same; law enforcement agencies in rural and

suburban areas of Florida more commonly identify methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat in their areas than agencies in urban areas (see [Table 8 in Appendix B](#)). TEDS data indicate that the number of amphetamine-related (including methamphetamine-related) admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities in the Florida/Caribbean Region increased from 1,022 admissions in 2003 to 1,051 in 2006, the latest year for which such data are available (see [Map 1 in Appendix A](#) and [Table 9 in Appendix B](#)).

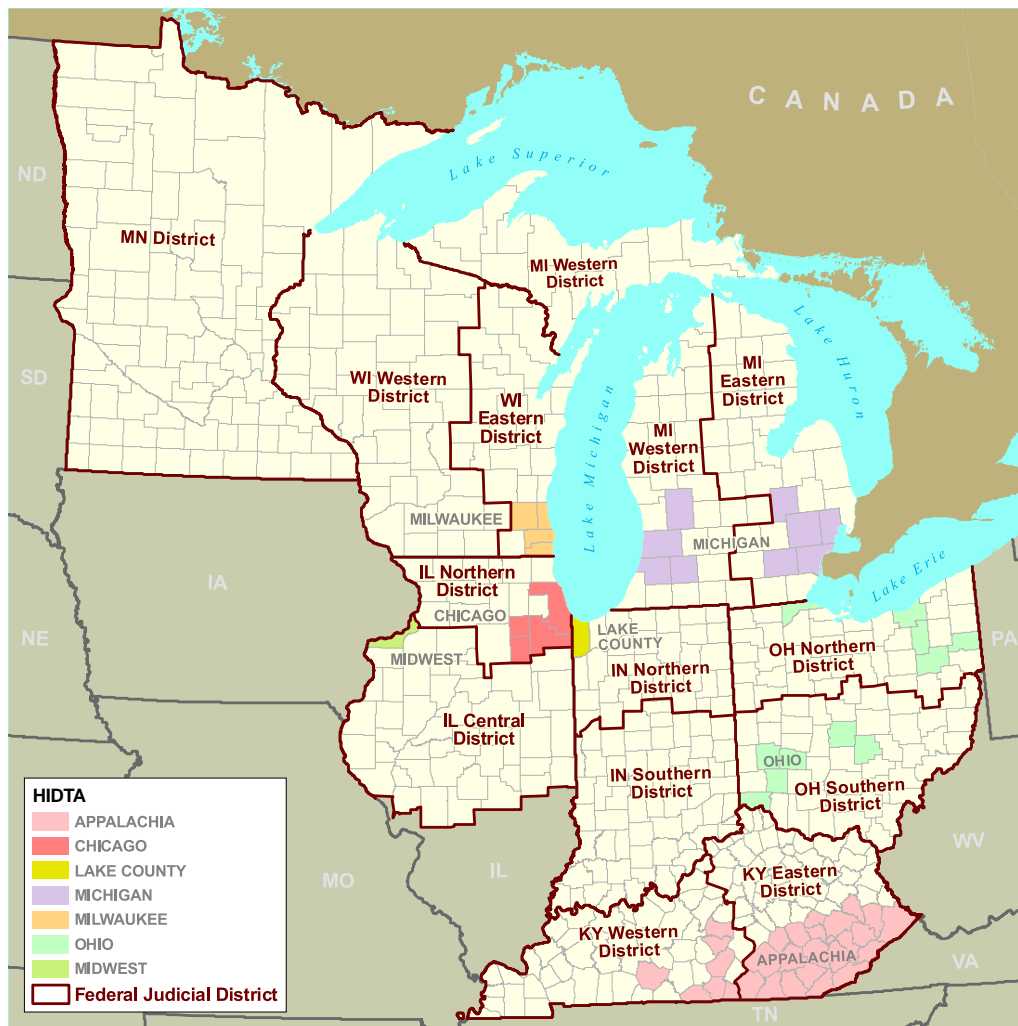
Methamphetamine production in the region is primarily small-scale and is limited. Small-scale powder methamphetamine production occurs in Florida; however, precursor chemical control legislation, aggressive law enforcement efforts, and public awareness campaigns have contributed to limited production levels in the region overall. According to NSS data, the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized in Florida decreased from 215 in 2004 to 99 in 2007; from January through October 2008, 54 laboratories were seized (see Figure 3 in Appendix B). Most of these laboratories were located in the northern and central portions of the state and employed the anhydrous ammonia method (commonly referred to as the Birch or Nazi method) of production. Of the 54 laboratories seized in 2008, one had the capacity to produce between 2 and 9 pounds of methamphetamine per production cycle, nine had the capacity to produce between 2 and 8 ounces, and the remaining 44 could produce no more than 2 ounces.

Mexican DTOs control methamphetamine distribution in Florida. According to law enforcement officials, Mexican DTOs are the predominant distributors of methamphetamine in Florida; they obtain most of their methamphetamine supplies from Mexican DTOs in Atlanta and Southwest Border states. For example, on February 15, 2008, three Mexican nationals were convicted of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine and powder cocaine in the Fort Walton Beach, Niceville, and Destin areas of Florida. One of the individuals was also convicted of using a firearm during a drug trafficking offense and two counts of possession of a firearm by an illegal alien.



GREAT LAKES OCDETF REGION

Figure 7. Great Lakes OCDETF Region.



After decreasing steadily for the last 5 years, methamphetamine production in the Great Lakes Region appears to be increasing. The number of reported methamphetamine laboratory seizures in the Great Lakes Region declined approximately 48 percent from 2004 (1,668) through 2007 (792); however, by mid-October 2008, laboratory seizures in the region had reached 732—on pace to surpass the 2007 total by year’s end (see Figure 4 in Appendix B). Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan accounted for most of the laboratories seized in the region. In fact, Michigan law enforcement officials report

that small-scale methamphetamine producers are finding alternative sources for chemical supplies and are increasingly using the “one-pot” method to produce methamphetamine (see text box on page 13). Local methamphetamine producers are also recruiting smurfs to counter precursor chemical control legislation by purchasing pseudoephedrine in small quantities at multiple locations. For example, in Bowling Green, Kentucky, officials report that methamphetamine producers are recruiting needy individuals, such as single mothers and senior citizens, to visit several stores and purchase

“One-Pot” or “Shake and Bake” Methamphetamine Production

A one-pot methamphetamine laboratory actually uses a variation of the lithium ammonia method of production; however, in the one-pot method, a combination of commonly available chemicals is used to synthesize the anhydrous ammonia essential for methamphetamine production. Cooks using this method are able to produce the drug in approximately 30 minutes at nearly any location by mixing, or “shaking,” ingredients in easily found containers such as a 2-liter plastic soda bottle, as opposed to using other methods that require hours to heat ingredients. Producers often use the one-pot cook while traveling in vehicles and dispose of waste components along roadsides. Discarded plastic bottles may carry residual chemicals that can be toxic, explosive, or flammable.

Methamphetamine-related treatment admissions in the Great Lakes Region peaked in 2005 but overall have more than doubled since 2001.

TEDS data indicate that the number of amphetamine-related (including methamphetamine-related) admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities in the Great Lakes Region rose steadily each year from 2001 (5,444 admissions) to 2005 (14,809 admissions) and then declined in 2006 (12,611 admissions) (see Table 9 in Appendix B).

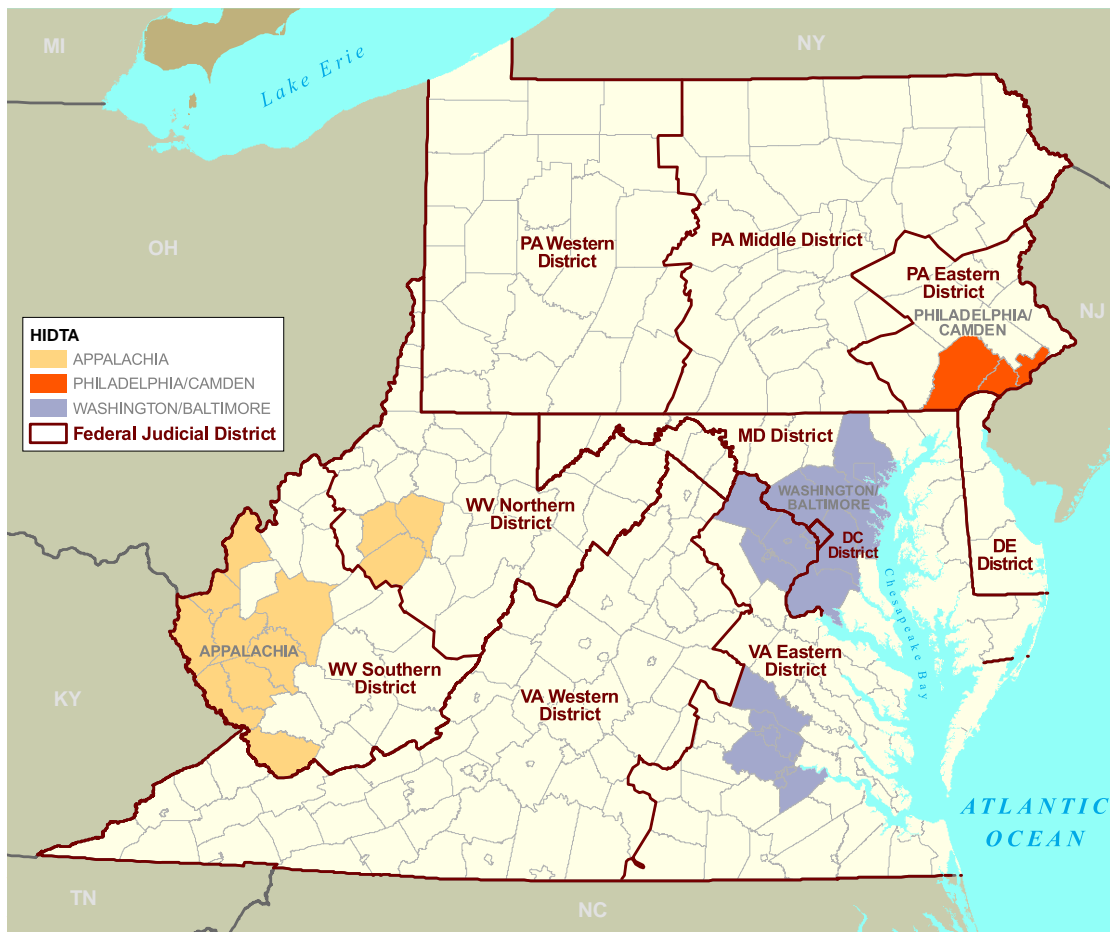
pseudoephedrine below threshold levels for use in methamphetamine production.

Mexican DTOs are increasingly using cities within the Great Lakes Region as methamphetamine distribution points for regional distribution. Mexican DTOs are the primary suppliers of methamphetamine in the Great lakes Region and are increasingly transporting the drug into the area from Mexico and Southwest Border states using private and commercial vehicles and package delivery services. Mexican DTO members initially transport methamphetamine to major drug distribution centers in the region, such as Chicago, Indianapolis, and Minneapolis-St. Paul, and then distribute the drug from these cities to smaller markets, both in and outside the region. For example, a recent OCDETF investigation identified a Mexican DTO that had transported hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine from California to Minnesota for distribution in Minnesota, Illinois, and South Dakota.



MID-ATLANTIC OCDETF REGION

Figure 8. Mid-Atlantic OCDETF Region.



Methamphetamine availability is limited, and abuse of the drug is sporadic in the Mid-Atlantic Region. NDTs 2008 data reveal that more than 62 percent of state and local law enforcement agencies in the Mid-Atlantic Region report that powder methamphetamine availability in their areas is low; 64 percent report that ice methamphetamine availability is low. However, anecdotal law enforcement reporting indicates that methamphetamine is readily available in West Virginia, the Pocono Mountains area of Pennsylvania, southwestern Virginia, and the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia. Law enforcement agen-

cies in these areas report increasing distribution of the drug by Mexican DTOs, which is contributing to rising rates of methamphetamine abuse in these locations. Despite relatively low methamphetamine availability, TEDS data reveal that the number of amphetamine-related treatment admissions (including those for methamphetamine) to publicly funded facilities in the region increased significantly from 2002 (792) through 2006 (1,138), the latest year for which such data are available (see [Table 9 in Appendix B](#)).

Methamphetamine production in the Mid-Atlantic Region appears to be stabilizing at low levels after decreasing steadily since 2004.

According to NDTs 2008 data, more than 55 percent of state and local law enforcement agencies in the Mid-Atlantic Region characterize the level of methamphetamine production in their areas as low; methamphetamine laboratories in the region are typically small-scale and are operated by methamphetamine abusers who produce gram quantities of the drug for personal use or to sell to close associates. On the other hand, many methamphetamine laboratories in the Philadelphia area are operated by members of OMGs, particularly Pagan's and Warlocks, who produce retail quantities of the drug for distribution in the local area. According to NSS data, the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized by law enforcement officials in the region decreased 76 percent from 2004 (232 laboratories) to 2007 (55 laboratories). However, 2008 laboratory seizures in the region reached 42 by mid-October and will quite likely meet or slightly exceed 2007 totals by the end of 2008 (see [Figure 5 in Appendix B](#)). Law enforcement reporting indicates that methamphetamine producers in the region are most active in the northeastern, northwestern, and Pocono regions of Pennsylvania; the southwestern region and the Shenandoah Valley area of Virginia; and West Virginia.

Mexican DTOs are the principal suppliers of methamphetamine to the region. Mexican DTOs typically smuggle methamphetamine to the region from Mexico, usually through transshipment locations in California, Nevada, Georgia, and North Carolina. They generally use private or rental vehicles equipped with hidden compartments and, to a lesser extent, U.S. mail and package delivery services to transport the drug. Mexican DTOs primarily supply Hispanic street gangs, Caucasian and Hispanic criminal groups and independent dealers, and OMGs with methamphetamine for retail distribution in the region. OMGs in some rural locations distribute methamphetamine that they receive from other OMGs outside the region.



NEW ENGLAND OCDETF REGION

Figure 9. New England OCDETF Region



The threat posed to the New England region by methamphetamine trafficking and abuse is low. The trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine in New England remain limited compared with other regions of the United States. Less than 1 percent of state and local law enforcement agencies in the region identify powder methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat to their areas, according to the NDTs 2008 (see Table 8 in Appendix B). TEDS data indicate that the number of amphetamine-related (including methamphetamine related) admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities in the New England Region states represents less than 1 percent of all treatment admissions in the region each year.

Methamphetamine production in the New England Region is limited but appears to be stabilizing after decreasing since 2005. According to NDTs 2008 data, 47.7 percent of state and local law enforcement agencies in the New England Region characterize the level of methamphetamine production in their areas as low to moderate, down from 51.2 percent in 2007. Methamphetamine laboratories in the region are typically small-scale and are operated by methamphetamine abusers who produce gram quantities of the drug for personal use or to sell to close associates. According to NSS data, the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized by law enforcement officials in the region decreased from 17 in 2005 to 3 in 2007;

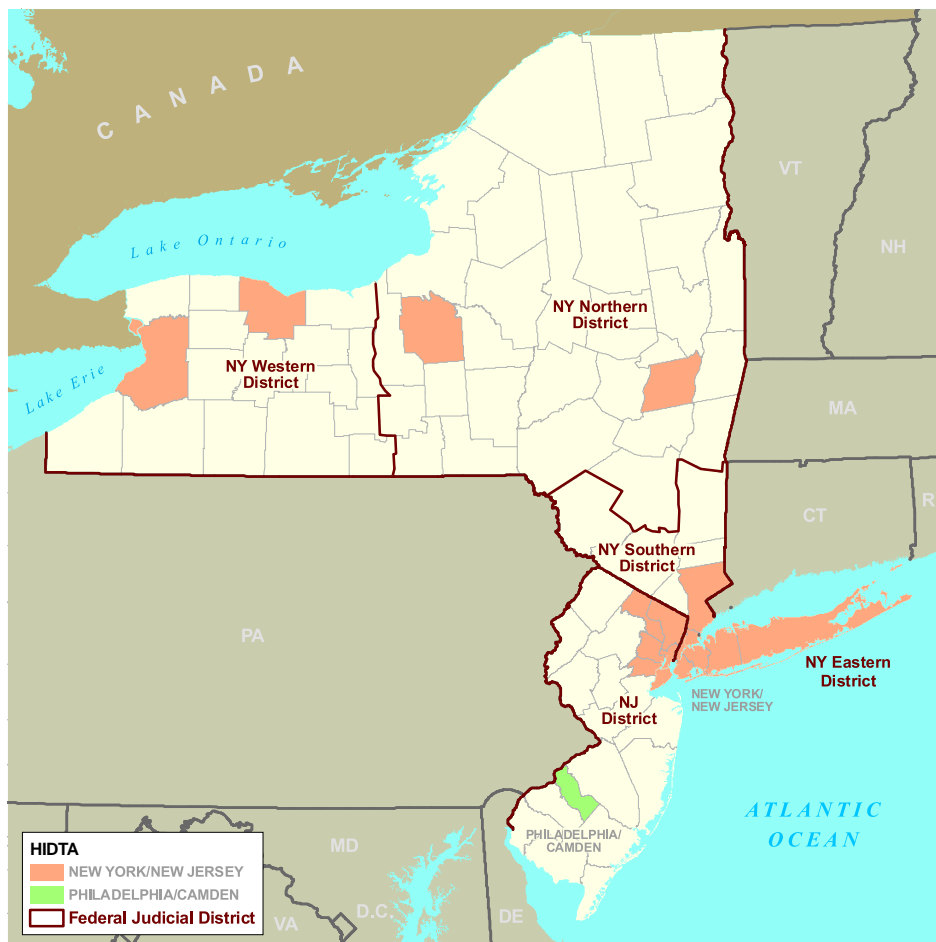
however, 2008 laboratory seizures reached 3 by the end of October and will quite likely exceed 2007 totals by the end of the year (see Figure 6 in Appendix B). Law enforcement reporting indicates that methamphetamine producers in the region are most active in Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire. Laboratory operators typically obtain the precursor chemicals and equipment necessary to manufacture methamphetamine through local purchases and the Internet. Currently, only Maine and Vermont have point-of-sale restrictions that limit access to ephedrine/pseudoephedrine products—the primary precursor chemicals used in methamphetamine production.

Some methamphetamine available in the New England Region is produced by Canada-based Asian DTOs, primarily Chinese and Vietnamese traffickers. Law enforcement reporting reveals that Canada-based Asian DTOs transport methamphetamine that they manufacture in Canada to New England for distribution—including distribution to methamphetamine tablet distribution cells in their area that are supplied by sources in Canada. In doing so, they often use established Canadian marijuana and synthetic drug transportation networks. In July 2008 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrested members of a DTO that had been operating from New Brunswick and Quebec; the organization had been smuggling marijuana and methamphetamine from Canada to the United States, where it was exchanged for cocaine. The cocaine was then transported to Canada. The smuggling activities of the DTO's distribution network extended as far south as West Palm Beach, Florida.



NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY OCDETF REGION

Figure 10. New York/New Jersey OCDETF Region.



The threat posed to the New York/New Jersey Region by methamphetamine is relatively low, although the methamphetamine abuser population is expanding, particularly in New Jersey.

According to the NDTs 2008, less than 10 percent of state and local law enforcement agencies in the region indicate that powder methamphetamine availability in their jurisdictions is moderate to high—significantly lower than the nationwide rate of 44.3 percent. The number reporting moderate to high availability of ice methamphetamine is even lower at 6.5 percent. However, recent indicators suggest that methamphetamine abuse in some

parts of New Jersey may be increasing, particularly among individuals outside established user populations. Abuse of the drug, once concentrated among patrons of some nightclubs in New York City, is now spreading to a wider cross-section of the population, including younger and more affluent abusers. For instance, law enforcement officials in southern New Jersey, particularly the Atlantic City area, report an increase in methamphetamine availability and abuse. TEDS data indicate that the number of amphetamine-related (including methamphetamine related) admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities in the New York/

New Jersey Region increased 15 percent overall from 2002 (685) to 2006 (787) (see Table 9 in Appendix B); the number of admissions in New Jersey increased 9 percent from 172 in 2005 to 188 in 2006, the latest year for which such data are available. Moreover, according to NSS data, the amount of methamphetamine seized in New Jersey increased significantly from 11.24 kilograms in 2006 to 110.86 kilograms in 2007. NSS data further indicate that law enforcement authorities in New Jersey seized 43.86 kilograms of methamphetamine from January through October 2008.

Methamphetamine production is low in the region. Most methamphetamine production activity in the region is concentrated in rural New York. According to NSS data, law enforcement officers in the region seized 63 percent fewer methamphetamine laboratories in 2007 (13) than in 2006 (35) and seized 10 laboratories from January through October 2008 (see Figure 7 in Appendix B). The seized laboratories were generally small, capable of producing only personal use quantities. Laboratory operators active in the region typically acquire the chemicals necessary for methamphetamine production through diversion from chemical companies. Some laboratory operators also acquire chemicals through retail diversion—point-of-sale restrictions in New Jersey limit the quantity of precursor chemical products that may be purchased in a single transaction at retail locations; however, no such legislation exists in New York.

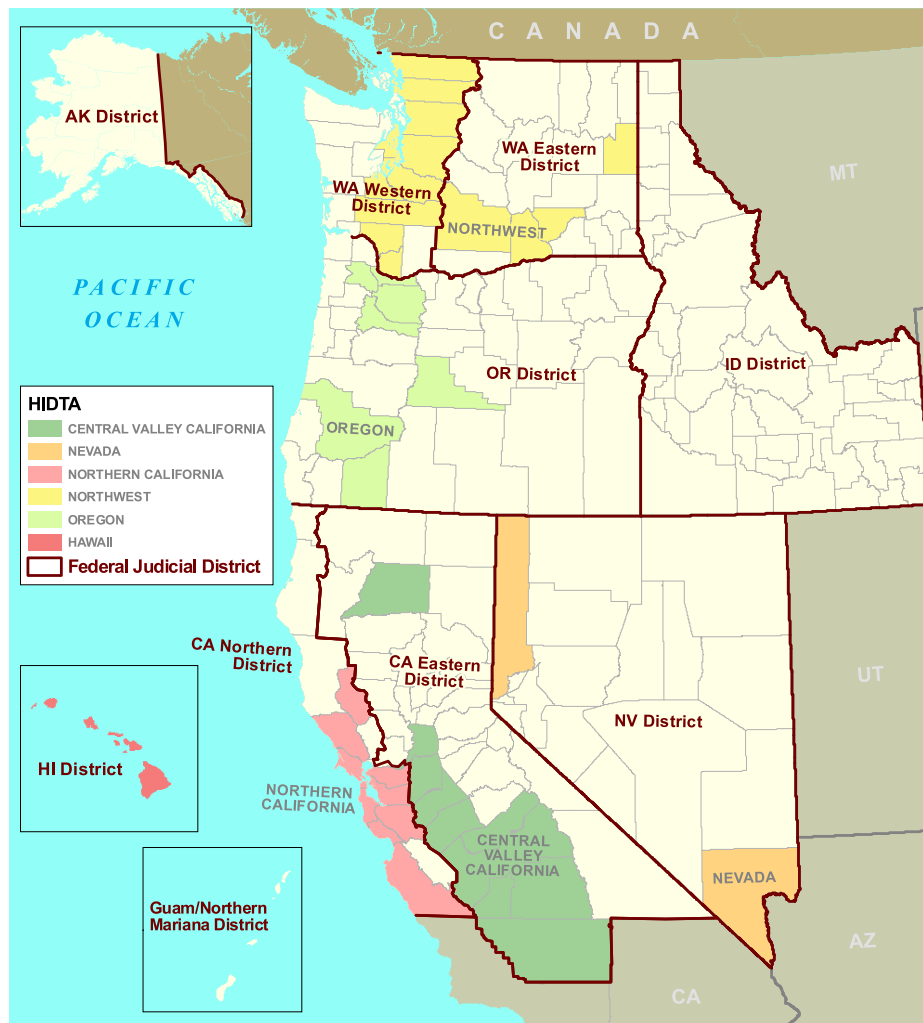
Mexican DTOs are the primary wholesale methamphetamine distributors in the New York/New Jersey Region. Mexican DTOs are increasingly transporting multipound quantities of Mexican methamphetamine to parts of the region, particularly New Jersey, using established transportation networks; they also serve as the principal wholesale methamphetamine distributors in the region. Most of the methamphetamine distributed in the region by Mexican DTOs originates in laboratories in Mexico and is transhipped from locations in Southwest Border states, California and, increasingly Atlanta, Georgia. Mexican traffickers typically transport the drug overland in private and

commercial vehicles that are often equipped with hidden compartments. They also use mail and package delivery services to transport the drug. Mexican DTOs frequently supply methamphetamine to various criminal groups and gangs for retail-level distribution in the region.



PACIFIC OCADETF REGION

Figure 11. Pacific OCADETF Region.



The threat posed to the Pacific Region by methamphetamine exceeds that of all other illicit drugs. According to the NDTs 2008, 87.3 percent of state and local law enforcement agencies in the Pacific Region characterize methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat in their jurisdictions, compared with 29.4 percent of agencies nationwide (see Table 8 in Appendix B). Moreover, law enforcement officials report that most of the

violent and property crime in the region is methamphetamine-related. The threat posed by the transportation, distribution, and abuse of cocaine, heroin, other dangerous drugs (ODDs), MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy), and diverted pharmaceutical drugs varies throughout the Pacific Region, but all of these drugs present significantly less of a threat than methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine trafficking and abuse present significant public safety and health concerns in the Pacific Region. Methamphetamine is widely available and frequently abused throughout the region, and it is the drug most often associated with violent and property crime.³ According to the NDTs 2008, 85.4 percent of state and local law enforcement agencies in the region identify methamphetamine as the drug that most contributes to violent crime in their jurisdictions; 85.6 percent identify it as the drug that most contributes to property crime. Moreover, NSS data reveal that 693.56 kilograms of methamphetamine were seized in the Pacific Region in 2007, and 530.31 kilograms were seized from January through October 2008. In both years California accounted for most of the methamphetamine seized in the region. (See Figure 8 in Appendix B for data on methamphetamine laboratory seizures.) Additionally, TEDS data show that the abuse of amphetamines (including methamphetamine) contributed to more treatment admissions (93,497) to publicly funded facilities in the region than any other illicit drug, including marijuana (47,756), in 2006, the latest year for which such data are available (see Table 9 in Appendix B).

Mexican DTOs are the principal producers, transporters, and wholesale distributors of methamphetamine in the Pacific Region. Mexican traffickers typically smuggle methamphetamine to the region from Mexican DTO-controlled laboratories in Mexico through U.S. POEs at Calexico, San Ysidro, and Otay Mesa, California, and at Douglas and Nogales, Arizona. Mexican DTOs are the primary wholesale distributors of methamphetamine in the region, supplying the drug to midlevel and retail traffickers throughout the area for distribution in local drug markets. They also distribute the drug from the Pacific Region to drug markets throughout the United States. In addition,

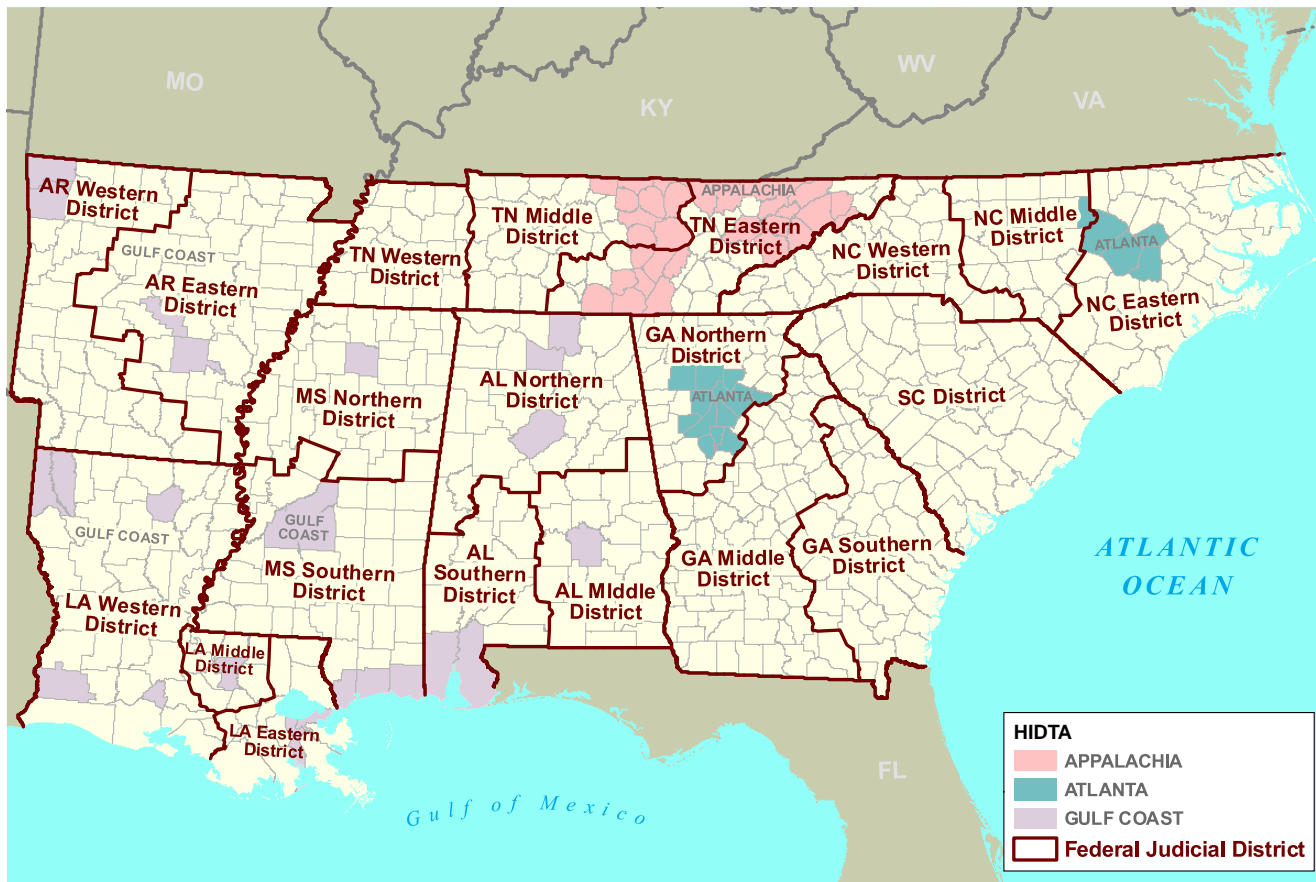
Mexican DTOs operate large-scale methamphetamine laboratories in the northern and Central Valley areas of California, where they produce significant quantities of methamphetamine for regional and national distribution.

3. Most methamphetamine-related violent crime, such as assault and homicide, is perpetrated by members of DTOs, criminal groups, and street gangs in the course of their drug trafficking operations, while most methamphetamine-related property crime, such as burglary, identity theft, and property theft, is committed by methamphetamine abusers seeking funds to purchase the drug.



SOUTHEAST OCDETF REGION

Figure 12. Southeast OCDETF Region.



The trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine, particularly ice methamphetamine, pose a significant drug threat to the Southeast Region. Nineteen percent of law enforcement agencies in the Southeast Region identify ice methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat in their jurisdictions, and almost 8 percent identify powder methamphetamine as the greatest threat in their areas, according to NDTs 2008 data (see Table 8 in Appendix B). TEDS data indicate that in 2006 (the latest year for which data are available), there were 7,503 amphetamine-related (including methamphetamine-related) admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities in the Southeast Region, excluding Georgia—fewer than the number

of admissions for cocaine (26,735), marijuana (22,642), and other opiates (9,115) but greater than the number of heroin-related admissions (1,932) (see Table 9 in Appendix B).

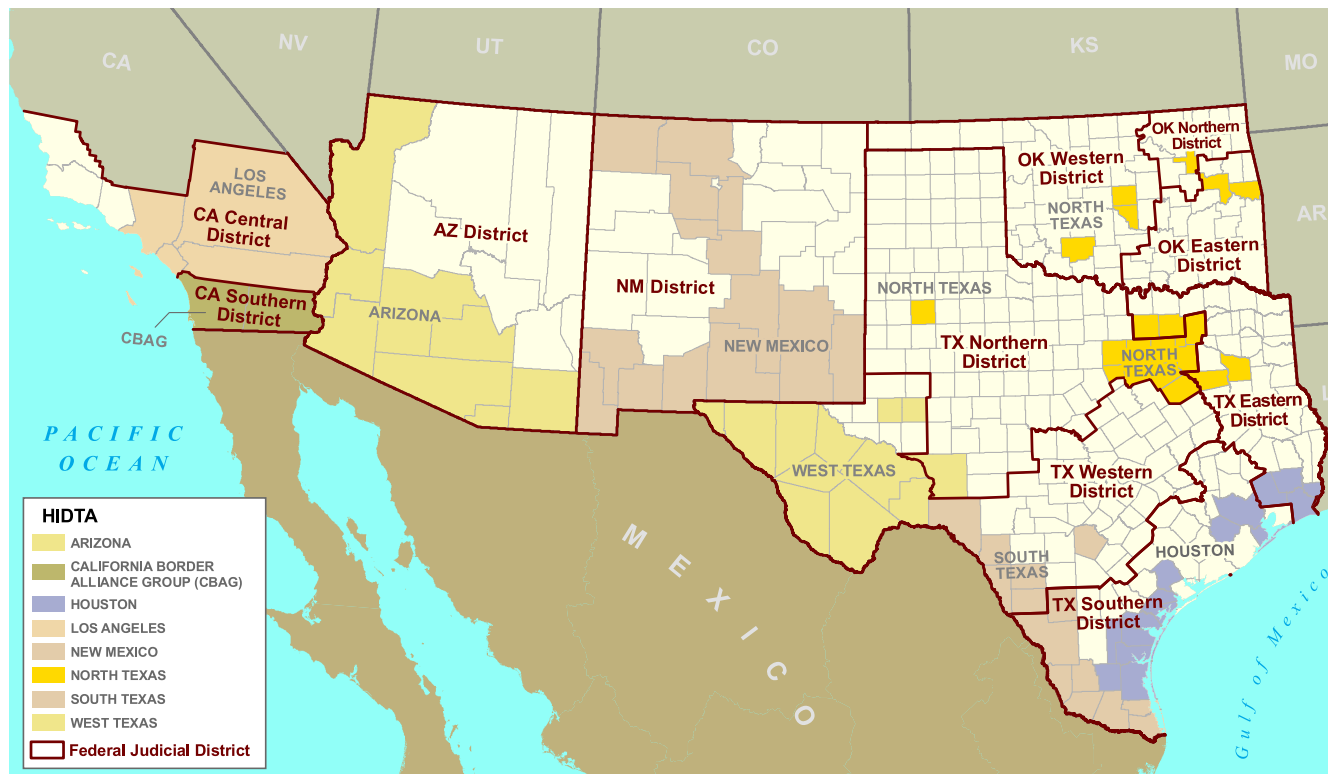
State restrictions enacted on the sale of pseudoephedrine in the region initially contributed to sharp decreases in small-scale methamphetamine production; however, the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized in some areas of the region increased from 2007 through October 2008. The number of reported methamphetamine laboratory seizures in the Southeast Region declined approximately 65 percent from 2004 (2,123) through 2007 (733); however, 2008 seizures reached 720 by the end of October and are

on pace to surpass the 2007 total by year's end (see [Figure 9 in Appendix B](#)). Alabama and Tennessee accounted for most of the laboratories seized in the region. In fact, Alabama law enforcement officials report that small-scale methamphetamine producers are finding alternative sources for chemical supplies and are increasingly using the “shake and bake” or “one pot” method of producing methamphetamine (see [text box on page 13](#)). Law enforcement officers in Talladega County, Alabama, discovered evidence of over 70 one-pot laboratories between October 2007 and May 2008. One-pot-method laboratories have also been seized in urban areas; in May 2008 Louisiana State Police seized a one-pot-method laboratory from a Metairie, Louisiana, residence just outside New Orleans. Local methamphetamine producers are also recruiting smurfs to counter precursor chemical control legislation by purchasing pseudoephedrine in smaller quantities at multiple locations.



SOUTHWEST OCDETF REGION

Figure 13. Southwest OCDETF Region.



Seizure data and law enforcement reporting indicate an overall decline in methamphetamine production in the Southwest Region; however, production in some areas appears to be resurging. Since the enactment of state and federal precursor chemical control regulations in 2004 and the commencement of law enforcement initiatives targeting domestic methamphetamine production, seizures of methamphetamine in the Southwest Region declined approximately 84 percent between 2004 (1,178 kg) and 2007 (182 kg) (see Figure 10 in Appendix B). However, laboratory seizures from January through October 2008 totaled 155 and are on pace to surpass the 2007 total by year's end—the first indication of a stabilization in production levels in the region since 2004. Law enforcement officers in Oklahoma, southern California, and Texas, respectively, seized the largest number of methamphetamine laboratories in the region in 2007 and 2008 (as of the end of October). Despite

the overall decrease, methamphetamine is increasingly being produced in some areas, including Albuquerque, Dallas, Tulsa, and Broken Arrow (Oklahoma), usually by operators at small laboratories that are capable of producing only quantities sufficient for personal use or limited local distribution.

Precursor chemical smurfing is emerging as a source of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine for methamphetamine production in the Southwest Region. Recent law enforcement investigations in Arizona, California, and Oklahoma suggest that organized precursor chemical smurfing organizations are supplying large quantities of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine to methamphetamine laboratory operators. These operations are composed of numerous individuals who make multiple purchases of products containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine from pharmacies, drug stores, and retail outlets.

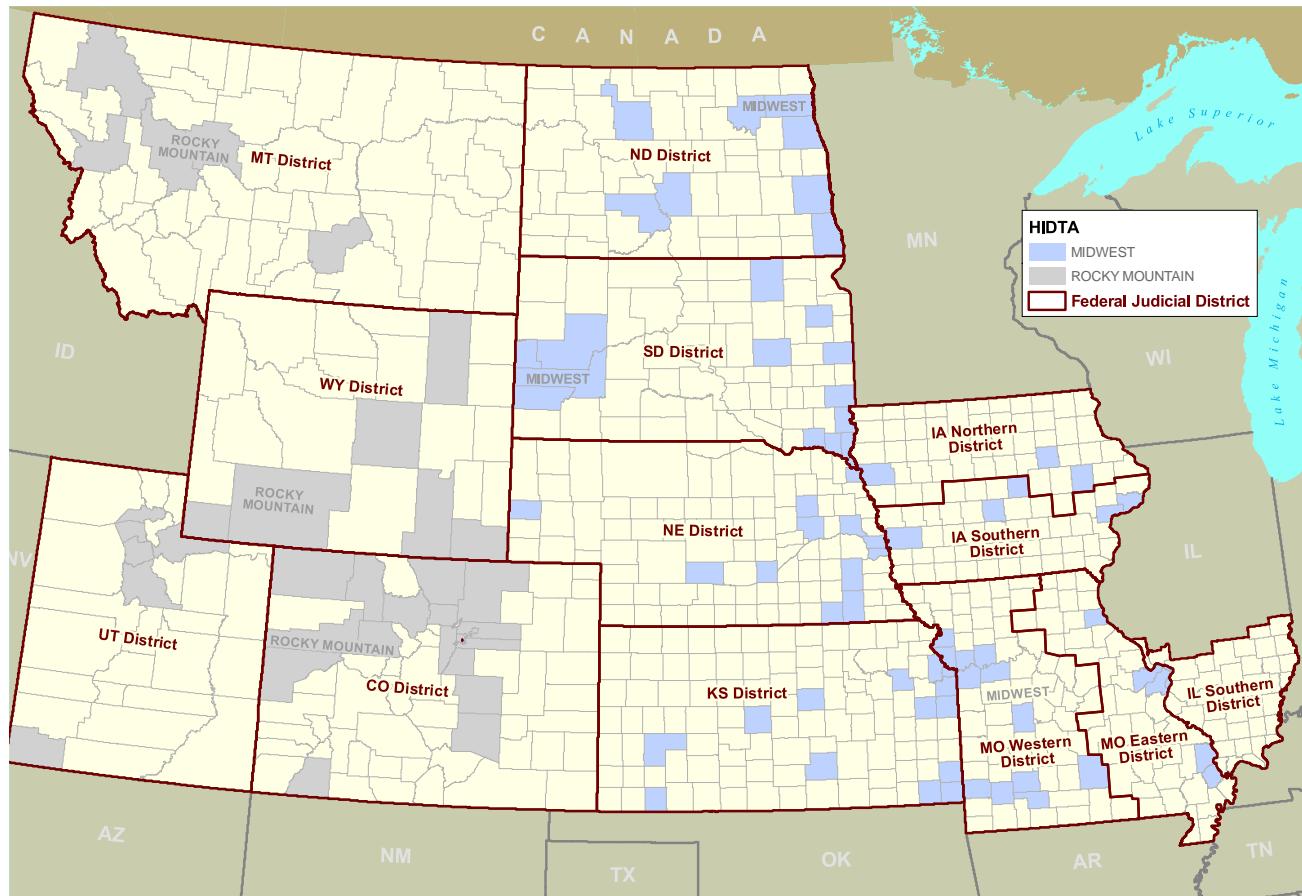
These products are then sold to chemical precursor brokers or directly to methamphetamine laboratory operators.

Some local methamphetamine producers take extraordinary measures to conceal their drug production operations. Methamphetamine producers in the Southwest Region use a variety of tactics to avoid detection by law enforcement officers and fellow producers. Some methamphetamine producers no longer share information about their production capabilities—such as laboratory locations and cooking times—with counterparts or customers. Instead, the producers may provide only rudimentary information and notify their customers only when the drug is available to be picked up or delivered. Other producers take more elaborate measures to conceal their operations, such as building underground laboratories. Moreover, some Mexican DTOs compartmentalize methamphetamine production, performing the various steps of methamphetamine production at different locations in an effort to limit the intelligence that law enforcement officers can obtain during laboratory seizures and to reduce the amount of precursor chemicals and equipment confiscated by officials during seizures. Additionally, methamphetamine producers periodically attempt to destroy fingerprints and other evidence by setting fires to laboratory dumpsites before abandoning the sites, and they often bury laboratory waste as soon as it is produced. Consequently, the remediation costs for laboratory sites are extensive. For example, according to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, methamphetamine laboratory cleanup costs in the nine California counties located in the Southwest OCDETF Region reached \$313,718 in 2007 and accounted for over one-third of the \$845,340 spent for laboratory cleanup in the 58 California counties combined.



WEST CENTRAL OCDETF REGION

Figure 14. West Central OCDETF Region.



Methamphetamine distribution and abuse pose the greatest overall drug threat to the West Central Region. Methamphetamine production, trafficking, and abuse strain local law enforcement, public health, and social services programs throughout the West Central Region, particularly in rural areas. Approximately 60 percent of state and local law enforcement agencies in the West Central region identify methamphetamine as the greatest drug threat in their jurisdictions, according to the NDTs 2008 (see Table 8 in Appendix B); additionally, 62 percent of the region's state and local law enforcement agencies identify methamphetamine as the drug that contributes most to violent crime in their jurisdictions, while almost

64 percent identify it as the drug that contributes most to property crime. Local methamphetamine production in the region declined significantly after peaking in 2003; however, NSS data for 2008 and law enforcement reporting from the area suggest a resurgence in small-scale production activity in many areas of the region.

Mexican DTOs are the principal suppliers of methamphetamine throughout the region. Mexican traffickers supply most of the methamphetamine available in the West Central Region. They transport large quantities of the drug to the area from Mexico (Michoacán, Sinaloa) and southwestern markets including Phoenix and Tucson,

Arizona; Los Angeles, California; and El Paso, Texas, and lesser amounts from Seattle and Yakima, Washington. Mexican and Caucasian criminal groups, Caucasian and Native American local independent dealers and street gangs, and OMGs distribute midlevel and/or retail-level quantities of methamphetamine. Moreover, Hispanic independent dealers and street gangs (such as Sureños, 18th Street, Mara Salvatrucha (MS 13), and Latin Kings) distribute methamphetamine at the retail level in metropolitan areas, including Colorado Springs, Denver, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, and Salt Lake City. Most local independent dealers now distribute methamphetamine obtained from Mexican DTOs operating in their area or nearby market areas. For example, local independents operating in Billings and Cheyenne often travel to Denver and Salt Lake City to purchase the drug from Mexican DTOs and from street gangs' sources of supply.

Methamphetamine production in the West Central Region has decreased substantially since 2003; however, clandestine production poses a significant threat—regional NSS data and law enforcement reporting for 2008 suggest a resurgence in small-scale local production. Methamphetamine production has decreased substantially in many areas of the region after peaking in 2003; however, production continues, particularly in rural areas, and seizure data indicate that regional laboratory seizure totals are on pace to meet or exceed year-end 2007 totals. The number of reported methamphetamine laboratory seizures in the West Central Region declined approximately 71 percent from 2004 (3,055) through 2007 (882); 598 laboratories were seized from January through mid-October 2008 (see Figure 11 in Appendix B). Missouri and, to a lesser but significant extent, Arkansas and Iowa typically account for most of the laboratories seized in the region each year. Law enforcement officials in these areas, as well as many other parts of the region, report that small-scale methamphetamine producers are finding alternative sources for chemical supplies and are increasingly using the one-pot method of production. Methamphetamine production in the region represents

a significant threat to public safety and the environment; children, law enforcement personnel, emergency responders, and those who live at or near methamphetamine production sites have been seriously injured or killed as a result of methamphetamine production. In fact, NSS data indicate that more than 2,500 children were injured at or removed from methamphetamine laboratory sites from 2003 through September 2008. Furthermore, 61 law enforcement officers were injured during that period, and 1 died as a result of exposure at laboratory sites in the region.

Local methamphetamine producers obtain pseudoephedrine through smurfing. Local methamphetamine producers are recruiting smurfs to counter precursor chemical control legislation by purchasing pseudoephedrine in smaller quantities at multiple locations. Despite stringent national and state precursor chemical control laws, methamphetamine production continues in the West Central Region because producers are still able to obtain sufficient quantities of pseudoephedrine—albeit through greater effort. The Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 (Title VII of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, P.L. 109-177) was enacted on March 9, 2006. This act requires all states to have regulated sellers maintain logbooks and set time-sensitive quantity limits on products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine. In addition, some state precursor control laws have further restricted ephedrine/pseudoephedrine sales. However, most West Central Region states do not have a centralized electronic database of sales logs, which greatly hampers law enforcement investigative efforts: many law enforcement agencies must visit each pharmacy and manually gather logbook information—a time-consuming practice.

Methamphetamine availability is generally stable throughout the region; however, several markets in South Dakota and Colorado are experiencing shortages. Most law enforcement officials report a sustained and steady supply of methamphetamine in their areas; however, law enforcement officials in some cities in South Dakota (Aberdeen, Huron, Rapid City, Sioux Falls,

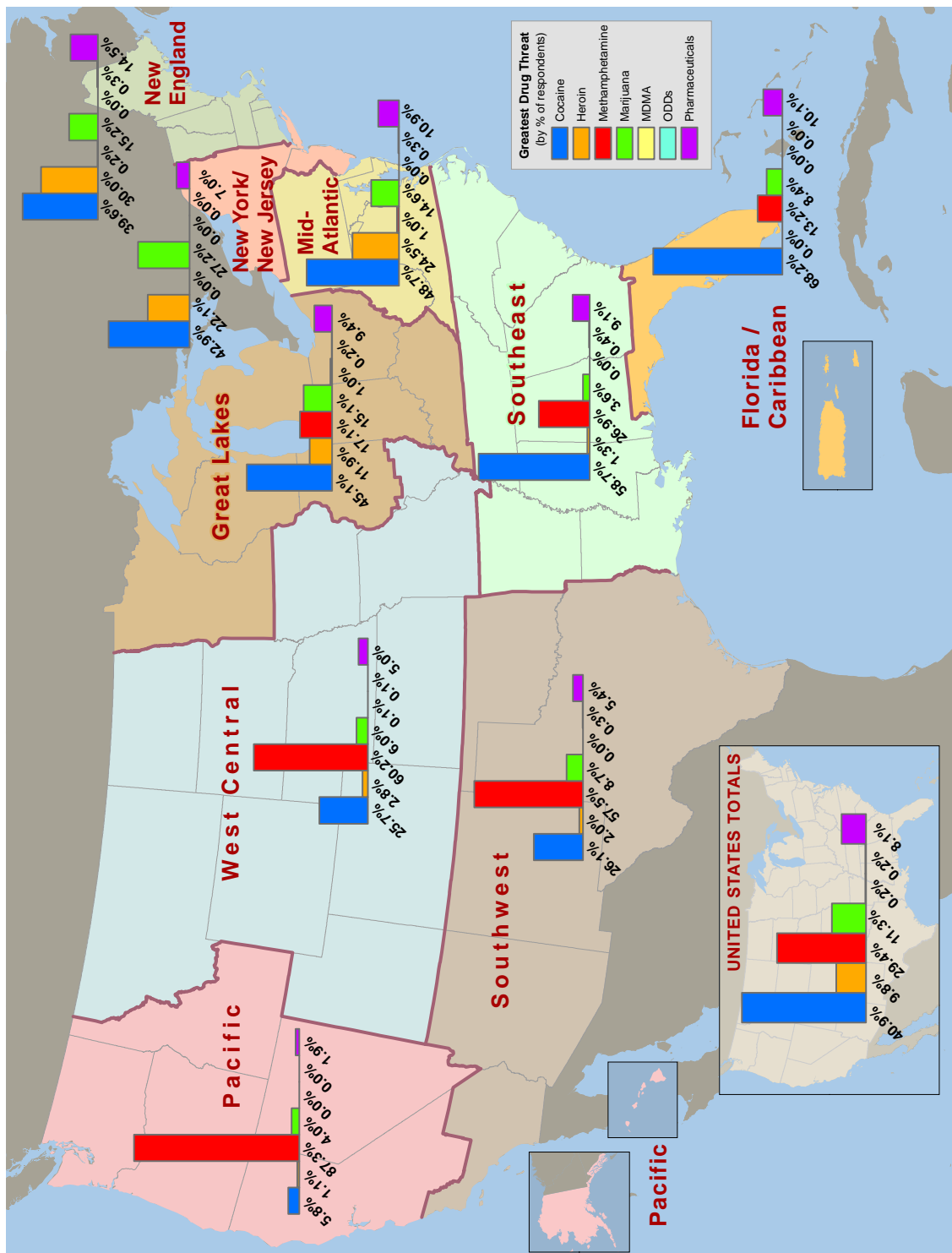


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and Yankton) have reported a decline in availability and distribution through the first two quarters of 2008. In addition, some law enforcement officials in Colorado (Colorado Springs, the Denver Metropolitan area, Grand Junction, and Fort Collins) reported a decrease in methamphetamine availability and purity during the same period.

APPENDIX A. MAP

Map 1. National Drug Threat Survey 2008 Greatest Drug Threat by OCDEF Region.





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APPENDIX B. TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1. Methamphetamine Seizure Amounts Along the Southwest Border, in Kilograms, by Quarter, 2004–2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008*
First quarter	495	600	621	625	361
Second quarter	376	706	618	349	603
Third quarter	852	928	824	329	822
Fourth quarter	635	670	746	442	221
Total	2,358	2,904	2,809	1,745	2,006

Source: National Seizure System.

*Data run November 14, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

Note: Quarter figures may not sum to totals shown because of rounding.

Table 2. Methamphetamine Seizure Amounts in the United States, in Kilograms, by Quarter, 2004–2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008*
First quarter	2,387.95	1,878.57	1,640.09	1,312.56	2,513.76
Second quarter	943.61	1,616.66	1,271.38	1,319.47	1,318.46
Third quarter	1,343.02	1,582.35	2,339.05	997.97	2,071.56
Fourth quarter	1,063.33	1,159.65	2,357.70	1,259.25	431.88
Total	5,737.90	6,237.23	7,608.23	4,889.24	6,335.66

Source: National Seizure System.

Note: Total amounts may not equal the sum of the quarters as a result of rounding.

*Data run November 14, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.



Table 3. Cities Reporting Disruptions in the Methamphetamine Supply Chain June 2007–June 2008

Anchorage, Alaska	Indianapolis, Indiana
Phoenix, Arizona	Kansas City, Missouri
Los Angeles, California	St. Louis, Missouri
Oakland, California	Omaha, Nebraska
San Diego, California	Las Vegas, Nevada
San Francisco, California	Charlotte, North Carolina
Colorado Springs, Colorado	Portland, Oregon
Denver, Colorado	Rapid City, South Dakota
Grand Junction, Colorado	Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Tampa, Florida	Lubbock, Texas
Atlanta, Georgia	Salt Lake City, Utah
Boise, Idaho	Seattle, Washington

Source: Federal, state, and local law enforcement reporting.

Table 4. Reported Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in the United States, 2004–2008*

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008*
First quarter	3,033	2,335	1,392	743	851
Second quarter	2,626	1,661	1,081	732	754
Third quarter	2,329	1,146	772	818	801
Fourth quarter	2,025	868	698	680	178
Total	10,013	6,010	3,943	2,973	2,584

Source: National Seizure System.

*Data run November 14, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

Table 5. Trends in Percentage of Past Year Methamphetamine Use, 2002–2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Individuals (12 and Older)	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.5
Adolescents (12-17)	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5
Adults (18-25)	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.2
Adults (26 and Older)	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Table 6. Adolescent Trends in Percentage of Past Year Methamphetamine Use, 2002–2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
8th Grade	2.2	2.5	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.1
10th Grade	3.9	3.3	3.0	2.9	1.8	1.6
12th Grade	3.6	3.2	3.4	2.5	2.5	1.7

Source: Monitoring the Future.

Table 7. Primary Methamphetamine Treatment Admissions to Publicly Funded Treatment Facilities, 2001–2006

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
78,575	105,981	117,259	126,701	152,698	149,415

Source: Treatment Episode Data Set.

Table 8. Greatest Drug Threat by Region, as Reported by State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Region	Percent Reporting as Greatest Drug Threat by Region												Total*
	Powder Cocaine	Crack Cocaine	Total Cocaine	Heroin	Powder Meth	Ice Meth	Total Meth	Marijuana	MDMA	ODDs	Pharmaceuticals	No Response	
Florida/Caribbean	16.4	51.8	68.2	0.0	7.7	5.5	13.2	8.4	0.0	0.0	10.1	0.0	100.0
Great Lakes	9.7	35.4	45.1	11.9	9.3	7.8	17.1	15.1	1.0	0.2	9.4	0.2	100.0
Mid-Atlantic	9.9	38.8	48.7	24.5	0.5	0.5	1.0	14.6	0.0	0.3	10.9	0.0	100.0
New England	17.4	22.2	39.6	30.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	15.2	0.0	0.3	14.5	0.2	100.0
New York/ New Jersey	11.1	31.8	42.9	22.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.2	0.0	0.0	7.0	0.8	100.0
Pacific	1.3	4.5	5.8	1.1	22.5	64.8	87.3	4.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	100.0
Southeast	3.7	55.0	58.7	1.3	7.8	19.1	26.9	3.6	0.0	0.4	9.1	0.0	100.0
Southwest	9.5	16.6	26.1	2.0	15.3	42.2	57.5	8.7	0.0	0.3	5.4	0.0	100.0
West Central	7.8	17.9	25.7	2.8	25.9	34.3	60.2	6.0	0.1	0.1	5.0	0.0	100.0
United States	8.7	32.2	40.9	9.8	10.3	19.1	29.4	11.3	0.2	0.2	8.1	0.1	100.0

Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2008.

*Sum of percentages may not equal 100.0% because of rounding.



Table 9. Amphetamine (Including Methamphetamine) Treatment Admissions by OCEETF Region, 2001–2006

Region	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Florida/Caribbean*	467	741	1,022	1,220	1,458	1,051
Great Lakes**	5,444	7,331	10,123	12,371	14,809	12,611
Mid-Atlantic	563	792	1,301	1,710	2,849	1,138
New England	289	337	313	339	427	459
New York/New Jersey	591	685	834	865	857	787
Pacific***	63,375	82,744	83,862	85,388	94,776	93,497
Southeast	7,811	10,172	12,398	11,833	13,760	7,503
Southwest***	46,540	66,550	70,454	71,596	82,319	82,903
West Central**	18,178	20,622	24,273	28,610	32,436	28,767

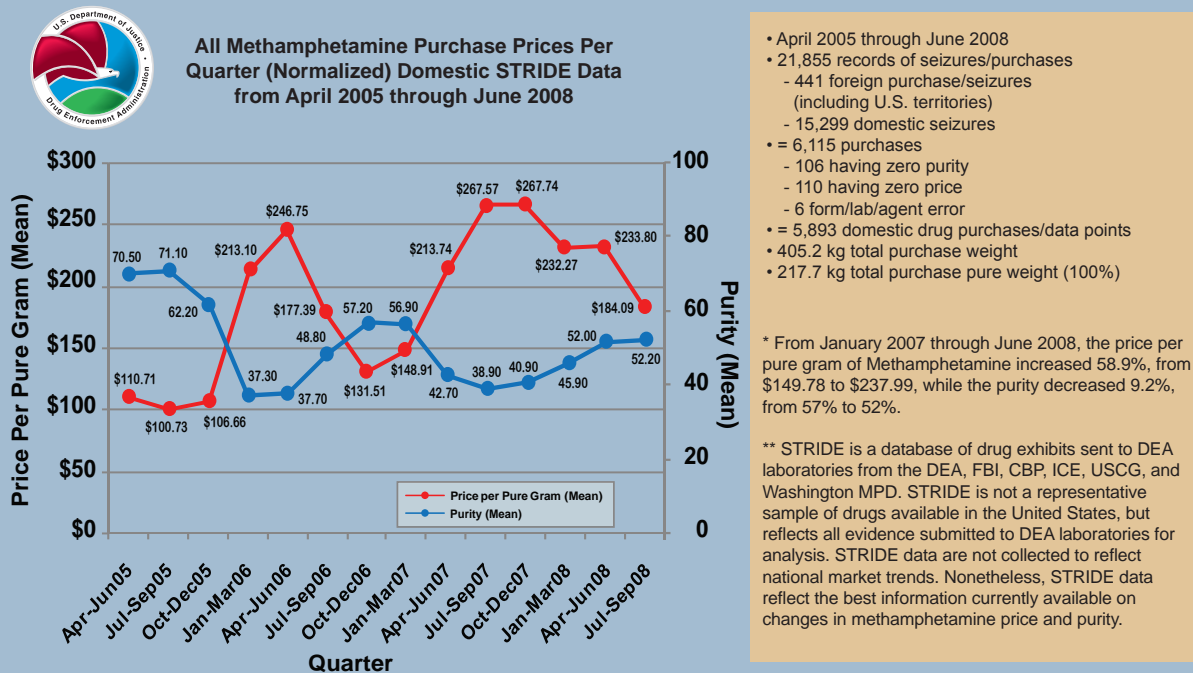
Source: Treatment Episode Data Set.

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

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

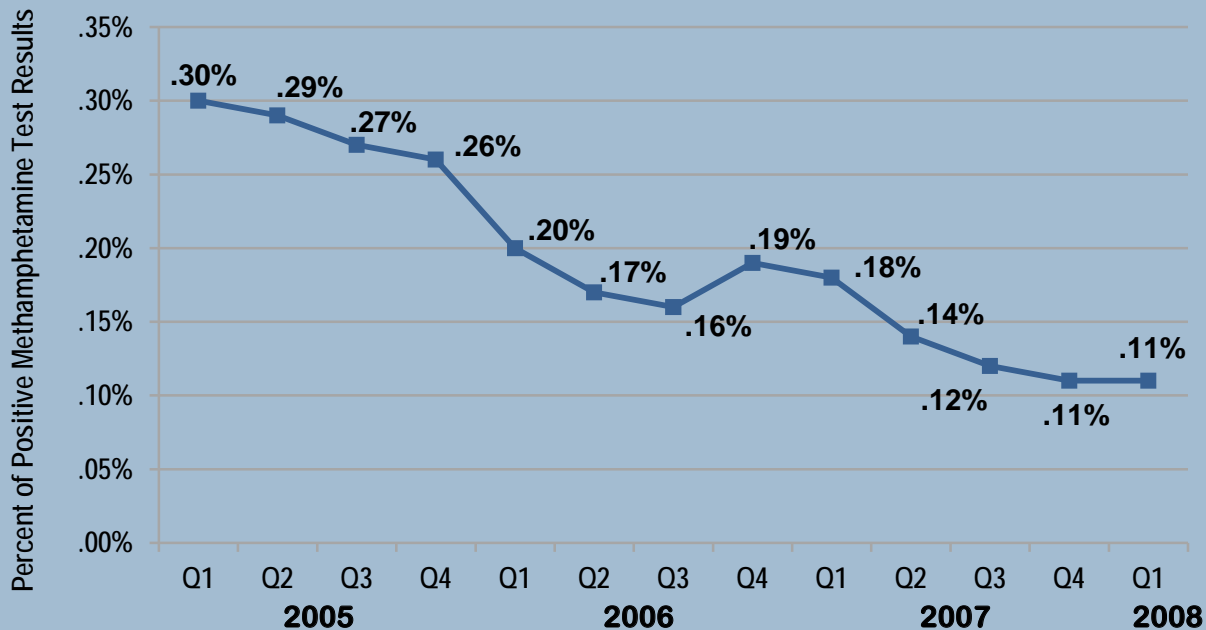
***The state of California is split between the Pacific and Southwest Regions. Figures for each of those regions include the entire state of California.

Figure 1. Methamphetamine Price and Purity, April 2005–September 2008



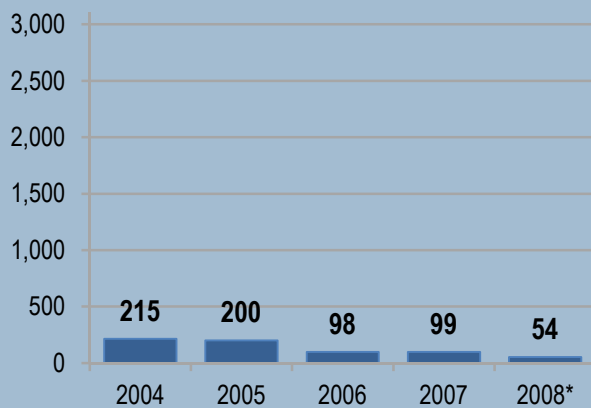
Source: System to Retrieve Information From Drug Evidence.

Figure 2. Nationwide Rates of Positive Methamphetamine Workplace Drug Testing Results, by Quarter, 2005–2008



Source: Quest Diagnostics, Incorporated.

Figure 3. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in the Florida/Caribbean Region 2004–2008

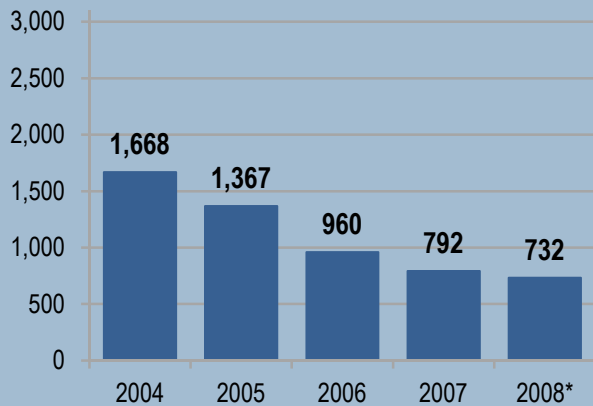


Source: National Seizure System.

*Data run November 4, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

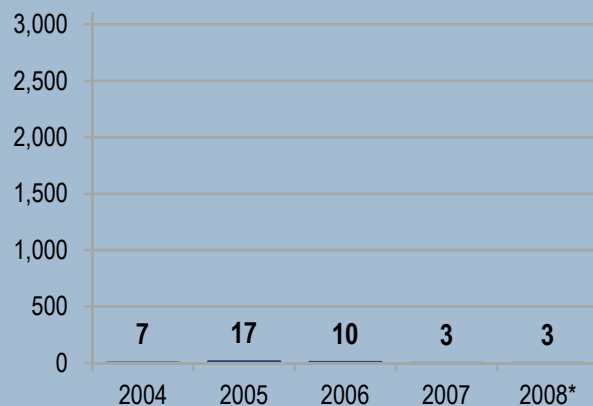


Figure 4. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in the Great Lakes Region, 2004–2008



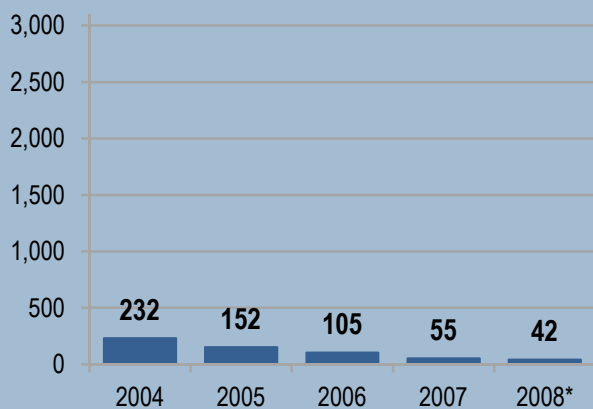
Source: National Seizure System.
*Data run November 4, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

Figure 6. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in the New England Region 2004–2008



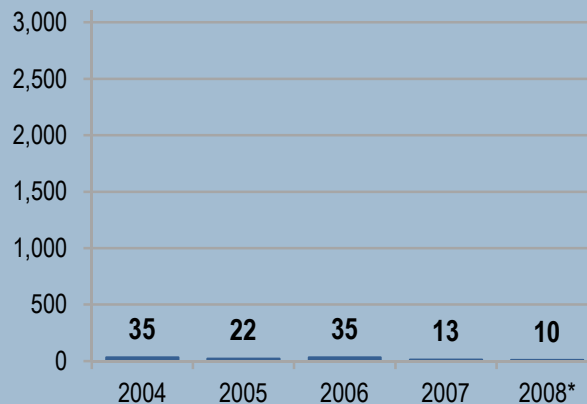
Source: National Seizure System.
*Data run November 4, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

Figure 5. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in the Mid-Atlantic Region, 2004–2008



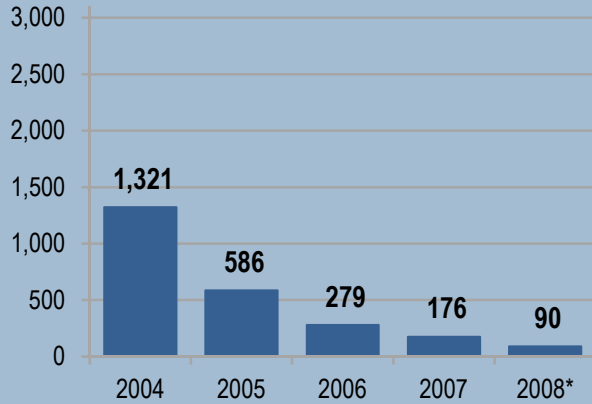
Source: National Seizure System.
*Data run November 4, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

Figure 7. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in the New York/New Jersey Region 2004–2008



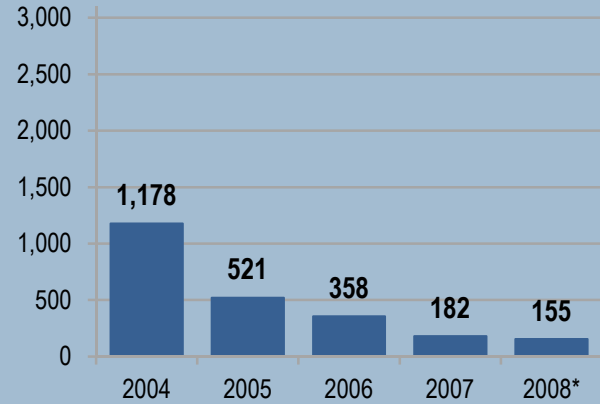
Source: National Seizure System.
*Data run November 4, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

Figure 8. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in the Pacific Region, 2004–2008



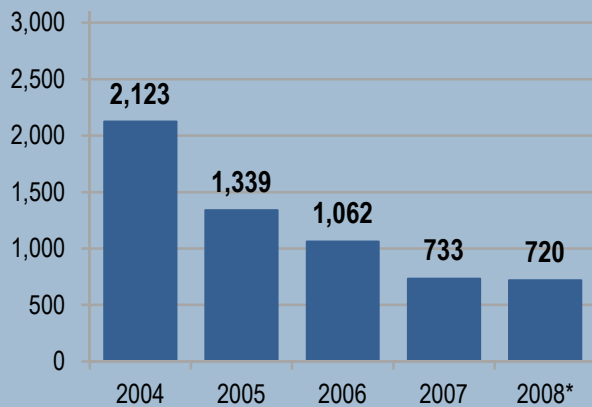
Source: National Seizure System.
*Data run November 4, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

Figure 10. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in the Southwest Region, 2004–2008



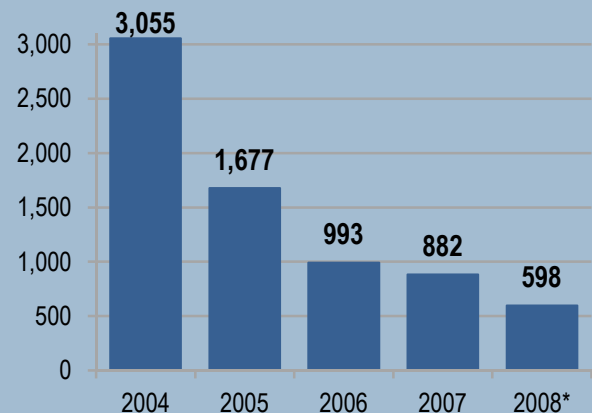
Source: National Seizure System.
*Data run November 4, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

Figure 9. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in the Southeast Region, 2004–2008



Source: National Seizure System.
*Data run November 4, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.

Figure 11. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in the West Central Region, 2004–2008



Source: National Seizure System.
*Data run November 4, 2008; fourth quarter 2008 total is incomplete.



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SOURCES

FEDERAL

- Executive Office of the President
 - Office of National Drug Control Policy
 - High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
 - Appalachia
 - Arizona
 - Atlanta
 - California Border Alliance Group
 - Central Florida
 - Central Valley California
 - Fresno Methamphetamine Task Force
 - Chicago
 - Gulf Coast
 - Hawaii
 - Houston
 - Lake County
 - Los Angeles
 - Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse
 - Michigan
 - Midwest
 - Milwaukee
 - Nevada
 - New England
 - New Mexico
 - New York/New Jersey
 - Northern California
 - North Florida
 - North Texas
 - Northwest
 - Ohio
 - Oregon
 - Philadelphia/Camden
 - Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands
 - Rocky Mountain
 - South Florida
 - South Texas
 - Washington/Baltimore
 - West Texas
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
 - Drug Abuse Warning Network
 - Treatment Episode Data Set
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 - U.S. Customs and Border Protection
 - Office of Border Patrol
 - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- U.S. Department of Justice
 - Drug Enforcement Administration
 - Atlanta Field Division
 - Boston Field Division
 - Chicago Field Division
 - Dallas Field Division
 - Tulsa Resident Office
 - Denver Field Division
 - Colorado Springs Resident Office
 - Detroit Field Division
 - El Paso Field Division
 - El Paso Intelligence Center
 - National Seizure System
 - Federal-Wide Drug Seizure System
 - Los Angeles Field Division
 - Miami Field Division
 - New Jersey Field Division
 - New Orleans Field Division
 - Philadelphia Field Division
 - Phoenix Field Division
 - San Diego Field Division
 - San Francisco Field Division
 - Seattle Field Division
 - St. Louis Field Division
 - System to Retrieve Information from Drug Evidence
 - Washington Field Division



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STATE, LOCAL, AND REGIONAL

ALABAMA

Birmingham Police Department
Calhoun-Cleburne Drug Task Force
Talladega County Drug Task Force

ARIZONA

Phoenix Police Department
Pima County Sheriff's Office
Tucson Counter Narcotics Alliance

ARKANSAS

Little Rock Police Department

CALIFORNIA

Alameda County Drug Task Force
Bay Methamphetamine Task Force
California Department of Toxic Substances Control
Sacramento Police Department
San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center
San Francisco Police Department
Santa Cruz County Narcotics Enforcement Team

COLORADO

Colorado Bureau of Investigation
Denver Police Department
Eagle County Sheriff's Office
Longmont Police Department
Southwest Colorado Drug Task Force

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department

FLORIDA

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

IDAHO

Ada County Sheriff's Department
Boise Area Narcotics and Drug Intervention Task Force

Boise Police Department
Canyon County Sheriff's Office
Idaho State Police
Mountain Home Police Department
Nampa Police Department

ILLINOIS

Cook County Sheriff's Police Department

INDIANA

Indianapolis Metropolitan Drug Task Force

KANSAS

Dodge City Police Department
Finney County Sheriff's Office

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Office of Drug Control and Prevention
Operation UNITE Drug Task Force

MARYLAND

Baltimore Police Department

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Police Department

MICHIGAN

Detroit Police Department

MINNESOTA

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

MISSOURI

Kansas City Police Department
St. Louis County Police Department
St. Louis Police Department

NEBRASKA

Omaha Police Department

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque Police Department
Middle Rio Grande Valley Task Force

NEW YORK

Buffalo Police Department
 New York City Police Department
 New York State Police

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
 Charlotte State Bureau of Investigations

OHIO

Summit County Drug Unit

OKLAHOMA

Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office
 Oklahoma Police Department
 Poteau Police Department
 Tulsa County Sheriff's Office

OREGON

Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team
 Clackamas County Sheriff's Office
 Oregon State Police
 Portland Police Department
 Regional Organized Crime Narcotics Task Force
 Washington County Sheriff's Office
 Westside Interagency Narcotics Team

PENNSYLVANIA

Office of Attorney General
 Bureau of Narcotics Investigation and Drug
 Control
 North Huntingdon
 Philadelphia
 Philadelphia Police Department

TENNESSEE

Memphis Police Department
 Metropolitan Nashville Police Department

TEXAS

Castle Hills Police Department

Corpus Christi Police Department
 Dallas Police Department
 Eagle Pass Police Department
 El Paso County Sheriff's Office
 El Paso Police Department
 Kirby Police Department
 San Antonio Police Department
 Terrell Hills Police Department
 Victoria Police Department
 Wharton County Sheriff's Office
 Windcrest Police Department

UTAH

Salt Lake City Police Department
 Utah Metropolitan Drug Task Force
 Weber-Morgan Narcotics Strike Force

VIRGINIA

Virginia Beach Police Department

WASHINGTON

Clark Skamania Task Force
 Cowlitz Wahkiakum Narcotics Task Force
 King County Sheriff's Office
 Pierce County Sheriff's Office
 Seattle Police Department
 Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force
 Tacoma Police Department
 Washington State Patrol

OTHER

Quest Diagnostics, Incorporated



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COVER PHOTO DEA

Inset photos from left:

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

DEA - Ice methamphetamine crystals

DEA - Powder methamphetamine

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

**Questions and comments may be directed to
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