



## U.S. Department of Justice

National Drug Intelligence Center

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### **National Drug Intelligence Center Releases National Drug Threat Assessment 2011**

WASHINGTON - Today the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) released the *National Drug Threat Assessment 2011 (NDTA 2011)*, detailing drug trafficking and abuse trends within the United States.

The *NDTA 2011* discusses emerging developments related to the trafficking and use of illicit drugs, the non-medical use of controlled prescription drugs (CPDs), and the laundering of proceeds generated through illicit drug sales. It also addresses the role that drug trafficking organizations and organized gangs serve in domestic drug trafficking, the significant role that the Southwest Border plays in the illicit drug trade, and the societal impact of drug abuse.

Significant findings include:

- The illicit trafficking and abuse of drugs present a challenging, dynamic threat to the United States.
- The abuse of several major illicit drugs, including heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine, appears to be increasing, especially among our nation's youth.
- Mexican-based transnational criminal organizations dominate the supply, trafficking, and wholesale distribution of most illicit drugs in the United States.
- The Southwest Border remains the primary gateway for moving illicit drugs into the United States.
- Overall drug availability is increasing.

In preparing the 2011 assessment, NDIC partnered with federal, state, and local agencies in the collection of data and information. NDIC conducted hundreds of field interviews with law enforcement and public health officials regarding all aspects of illicit drug activities in their jurisdictions. Another significant source of data and information is the National Drug Threat Survey. NDIC annually surveys a national, statistically representative sample of almost 3,000 state and local law enforcement agencies. Data from the survey are used to produce national-, regional-, and state-level statistical estimates, which NDIC intelligence analysts employ when preparing the national assessment.

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A copy of the *National Drug Threat Assessment 2011* can be found at:  
<http://www.justice.gov/ndic/pubs44/44849/44849p.pdf>

The National Drug Intelligence Center, a component of the Department of Justice, provides strategic drug-related intelligence, document and computer exploitation support, and training assistance to the drug control, public health, law enforcement, and intelligence communities of the United States in order to reduce the adverse effects of drug trafficking, drug abuse, and other drug-related criminal activity. Additional information about NDIC, a component of the Department of Justice, can be found at: <http://www.justice.gov/ndic/>

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