



Drug Market Analysis

2008

New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE CENTER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



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



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PREFACE

This report provides a strategic overview of the illicit drug situation in the New York/New Jersey (NY/NJ) 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 NY/NJ HIDTA.

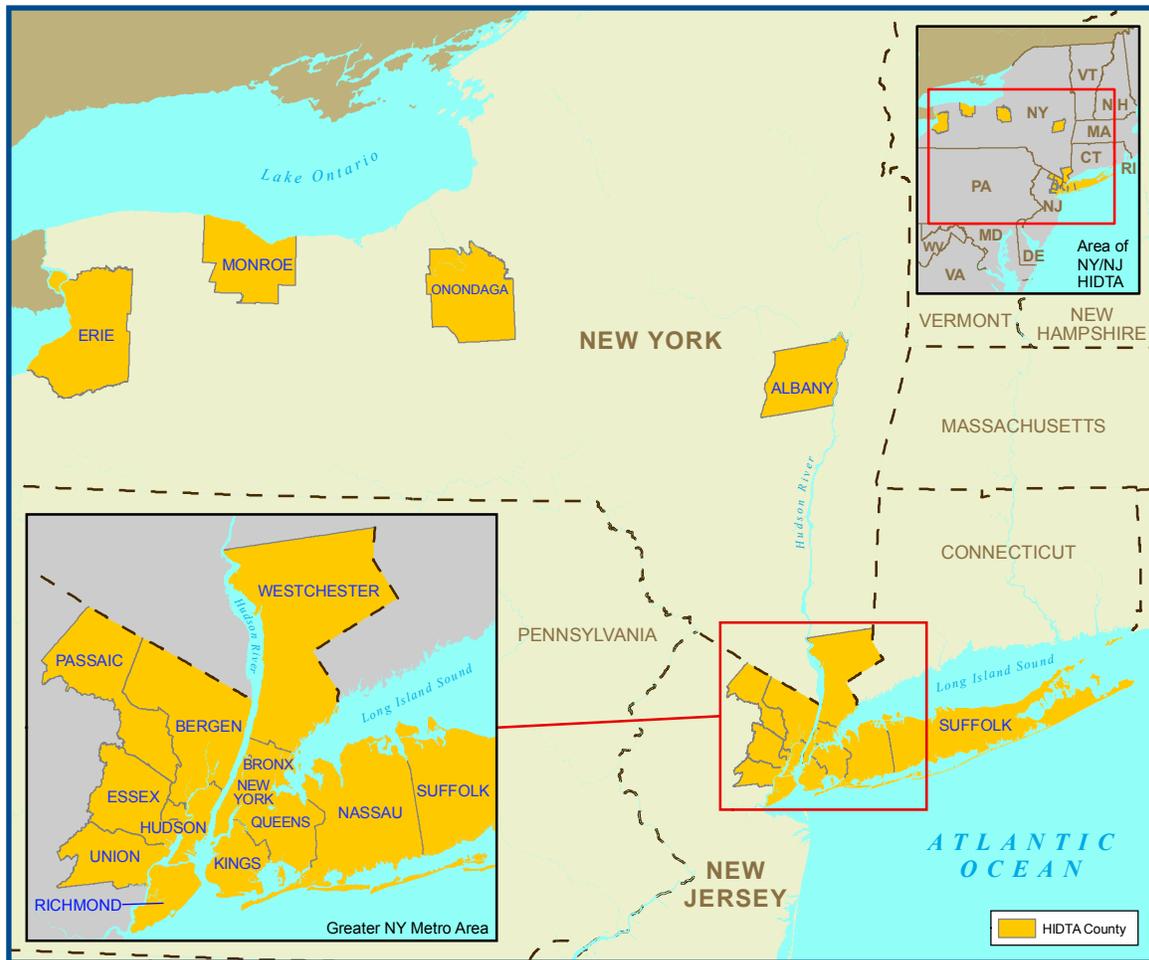


Figure 1. New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.



STRATEGIC DRUG THREAT DEVELOPMENTS

- Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) are becoming more influential in the illicit drug trade in the NY/NJ HIDTA region. They are transporting increasing amounts of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana for Colombian and Dominican DTOs, the predominant cocaine and heroin traffickers in the region. They also are escalating their involvement in the wholesale distribution of illicit drugs in the region, particularly Mexican marijuana, cocaine, and South American (SA) heroin.
- Cocaine availability decreased in the region during the first half of 2007, a likely result of large seizures of cocaine in transit to the United States, successful law enforcement efforts against prominent Mexican DTOs, violent conflicts in Mexico between competing Mexican DTOs, and increased demand for cocaine in non-U.S. markets. After a brief return to preshortage availability levels during the third quarter of 2007, cocaine availability again declined in the latter part of 2007, according to several law enforcement sources. However, some law enforcement officials in the NY/NJ HIDTA region report that availability did not actually decline; instead, some suppliers were insinuating that there were shortages to drive up prices.
- Cocaine shortages during early 2007 prompted many distributors to stretch limited supplies by cutting cocaine with various diluents. To this end, some wholesale distributors advised retail distributors that, because their cocaine was diluted, its purity was lower and not suitable for converting to crack.
- Rising levels of prescription narcotics abuse—particularly among teenagers and young adults—are fueling a heroin abuse problem in the region. Some abusers who become addicted to prescription narcotics are switching to heroin because of the drug's higher availability and lower price.
- Street gang members are increasingly using Internet social networking sites, personal web pages, online communities and forums, and message boards to facilitate their drug trafficking operations, recruit new members, boast about gang membership or related activities, and advertise events and house parties.
- Trinitarios, a Hispanic street gang in the NY/NJ HIDTA region, is establishing a reputation for extreme violence throughout the region. Trinitarios members distribute heroin and cocaine at the retail level in many drug markets within the region.

HIDTA OVERVIEW

The NY/NJ HIDTA region encompasses 17 counties located throughout New York and north-eastern New Jersey. The New York portion of the region consists of the five boroughs of New York City (Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island), the outer two counties of Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk), Westchester County (just north of New York City), and four counties in Upstate¹ New York that were added to the HIDTA region in 2007 (Albany, Erie, Monroe, and Onondaga²). The New Jersey portion consists of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Union Counties.

The NY/NJ HIDTA region is the most ethnically diverse urban area in the United States, a factor that enables many foreign-born criminals to easily assimilate within ethnic communities and mask

1. For the purposes of this report, Upstate New York refers to the area of New York State outside the area of New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County. Areas referred to as being located in western New York (Buffalo, etc.) are included in Upstate New York.

2. The NY/NJ HIDTA recently expanded to include the counties of Albany, Erie, Monroe, and Onondaga in Upstate New York. These counties have been added to the HIDTA region because of their emerging role as key distribution centers for illicit drugs originating in New York City and because of the increasing presence of New York City-based drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) in the counties.

their operations throughout the area.³ Individuals from over 100 countries reside in the New York metropolitan area; almost 2 million of the approximately 8 million New York City residents are foreign-born. Significant numbers of people from drug source and transit countries reside in various parts of the HIDTA region. For instance, the Jackson Heights section of Queens contains the largest Colombian community outside Colombia, and the Washington Heights section of Upper Manhattan—the center of drug activity in the city—is home to a large concentration of Dominican-born residents.

The NY/NJ HIDTA region has a well-developed transportation infrastructure (including interstate highways, international airports, a seaport, and passenger rail and bus services) that is ideally suited for the movement of illicit drugs and drug proceeds to and from the region. Interstate 95, the major north-south route on the east coast, is most frequently used by traffickers to transport illicit drugs to and from New York City. Drug shipments arriving in the NY/NJ HIDTA region typically are divided into smaller quantities for local distribution within the region and transportation to other areas throughout and outside the region. Drugs supplied to Upstate New York are typically transported by traffickers along I-87 and I-90. Illicit drugs also are transported overland to the region from the West Coast, Southwest Border states, and Canada. John F. Kennedy (JFK) International, LaGuardia, and Newark Liberty International Airports offer numerous flights daily to and from the region, and drug traffickers often exploit them to facilitate drug transportation. The Port of New York/New Jersey is the largest container port complex on the east coast of North America and provides opportunities for maritime smuggling. Additionally, New York has an extensive intercity passenger rail system that enables drug traffickers to freely move throughout the city to supply drug markets.

3. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2006 estimated population of the New York metropolitan area is 44 percent Caucasian, 25 percent African American, 28 percent Hispanic, 12 percent Asian and Pacific Islander, and less than 1 percent Native American, Eskimo, or Aleut.

DRUG THREAT OVERVIEW

The NY/NJ HIDTA region is a national distribution center for illicit drugs, primarily cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Multikilogram to metric ton quantities of these drugs are transported to the region from drug source and transit countries such as Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico as well as from domestic locations such as Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the Southwest Border area. Wholesale quantities of illicit drugs that enter the region are typically divided into smaller quantities for further distribution within the region or in drug markets throughout the Northeast, Southeast, and the Midwest.

Cocaine and heroin pose the most significant drug threats to the NY/NJ HIDTA region. Cocaine is the greatest threat to the New York section of the HIDTA region; heroin is the greatest threat to the New Jersey section. Powder cocaine is frequently abused throughout the NY/NJ HIDTA region; crack cocaine distribution poses an increasing threat to New York City and the Upstate New York counties, particularly as a result of the involvement of several violent street gangs in the drug's distribution. Cocaine availability decreased in the region during the first half of 2007, the result of large seizures of cocaine in transit to the United States, successful law enforcement efforts against prominent Mexican DTOs, violent conflicts in Mexico among competing Mexican DTOs, and increased demand for cocaine in non-U.S. markets. Cocaine availability returned to preshortage levels during the third quarter of 2007, but some law enforcement sources report that cocaine availability again declined in the latter part of 2007. Moreover, some law enforcement officials in the NY/NJ HIDTA region report that availability did not actually decline, but that some suppliers were manipulating supply to drive up prices. Heroin is frequently abused in the region, and its abuse has spread to new and younger populations. The number of heroin-related treatment admissions to publicly funded facilities in the region



far exceeds that of any other drug, and heroin milling⁴ is increasing in the HIDTA region.

Other illegal drugs pose a serious threat to the NY/NJ HIDTA region. Marijuana is the most commonly abused drug in the region. High-potency Canadian and locally produced marijuana are increasing in availability throughout the region in large part because of an increasing demand for high-potency marijuana among young people and college students. Crystal methamphetamine⁵ poses a lesser, yet increasing, threat to the HIDTA region; abusers often use Internet bulletin boards and community forums to find and communicate with sources of supply. Diverted pharmaceutical abuse is rising in the NY/NJ HIDTA region, particularly among teens and young adults. MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy) is readily available in the region, primarily through Canada-based Asian sources of supply. Other dangerous drugs (ODDs), such as ketamine and PCP (phencyclidine), pose a relatively low overall threat compared with most other available drugs; however, some law enforcement sources report that ketamine has become a drug of choice in a number of Asian communities in New York.

DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS

Colombian DTOs dominate drug trafficking in the NY/NJ HIDTA region; they regularly obtain multihundred-kilogram quantities of cocaine, SA heroin, and marijuana from sources of supply in Colombia, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic for distribution in and from the area. They often

4. Milling refers to the repackaging of heroin into retail quantities.

5. Law enforcement and treatment authorities in the New York/New Jersey (NY/NJ) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) region use the term crystal methamphetamine to refer both to powder methamphetamine that has been recrystallized and high-purity ice methamphetamine. Recrystallized powder is the form most commonly found in the NY/NJ HIDTA region.

Drug Trafficking Organizations, Criminal Groups, and Gangs

Drug trafficking organizations are complex organizations with highly defined command-and-control structures that produce, transport, and 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 Investigator's 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.

contract with Dominican and Mexican DTOs to transport these drugs from Southwest Border areas to stash locations in outlying suburban communities, including Westchester County and Long Island, New York.

Dominican DTOs, either under contract with Colombian DTOs or acting independently, transport and distribute cocaine and SA heroin in the HIDTA region. They routinely smuggle illicit drugs into and through the region by private and commercial vehicles; however, Dominican DTOs also smuggle cocaine aboard maritime vessels from South America and the Caribbean, and they smuggle heroin using couriers on commercial aircraft that fly into major airports within the region. In July 2007 law enforcement officers arrested the head of a Dominican international drug organization that shipped heroin and cocaine from Colombia through Venezuela to the Dominican Republic and then used young Dominican female couriers to smuggle the drugs to the United States, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, France, and the Netherlands. The couriers typically concealed the drugs in luggage and transported between 3 and

8 kilograms of cocaine and 1 and 3 kilograms of heroin per trip. Additionally, couriers working for Dominican traffickers occasionally smuggle cocaine and heroin into Miami International Airport and then transport the drugs to the NY/NJ HIDTA region in private and commercial vehicles. Dominican organizations are based primarily in the Washington Heights section of Upper Manhattan and serve as midlevel cocaine and heroin distributors to lower-level distributors, principally smaller Dominican criminal groups and street gangs—such as Trinitarios. Additionally, some Dominican DTOs also deliver cocaine and heroin to their regular customers in Upstate New York.

Mexican DTOs are expanding their drug trafficking operations in the HIDTA region. They routinely transport significant quantities of SA heroin, cocaine, and marijuana to the area from Mexico and southwestern states on behalf of Colombian DTOs and occasionally transport marijuana to the region from southwestern states for Jamaican criminal organizations. Mexican DTOs also are increasingly distributing wholesale quantities of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana in the region, particularly to Dominican DTOs in the New York metropolitan area and Upstate New York.

Jamaican DTOs distribute marijuana in the New York metropolitan area. They obtain marijuana supplies from Mexican distributors, either locally or in southwestern drug markets. Additionally, some Jamaican DTOs transport multiton quantities of marijuana to the region from Jamaica aboard conveyances. Jamaican DTOs dominate marijuana distribution in sections of Manhattan and the Bronx, most of Queens (particularly the Jamaican section of southwestern Queens), northern Brooklyn (particularly Bedford, Bushwick, East Flatbush, East New York, and Williamsburg), and sections of northern New Jersey.

Ethnic Chinese DTOs, primarily Fukinese⁶ groups, smuggle Southeast Asian (SEA) heroin into the region within containerized cargo on maritime

6. The term Fukinese refers to individuals from the Fujian province of southeastern China.

Trinitarios Street Gang

The Trinitarios (meaning the Trinity or Special One) street gang was formed as a protection gang for Dominican inmates in New York prisons during the early 1990s. Upon leaving prison, members banded together as a street gang, calling themselves Trinitarios/Trinitarios to separate the gang from other Dominican street gangs, primarily DDP, in New York. While Trinitarios is primarily a Dominican gang, many Puerto Rican and South American members have joined the gang's ranks. Trinitarios members are establishing a reputation for extreme violence throughout the area. Since October 2007, confrontations between Trinitarios and DDP gang members have resulted in the shooting and killing of a youth, three other shootings, and at least nine stabbings and/or slashings. Trinitarios members do not have affiliations with any other gangs and are rivals of Bloods, Crips, DDP, Latin Kings, MS 13, and Ñetas. Trinitarios members are involved in retail-level distribution of heroin and cocaine in the NY/NJ HIDTA region and have reportedly migrated to Alaska, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

conveyances and by couriers aboard commercial aircraft. They supply heroin to Asian street gangs who, in turn, distribute the drug at the retail level.⁷

Street gangs, including Bloods, Crips, Dominicans Don't Play (DDP), Latin Kings, MS 13, Ñetas, and Trinitarios, are serving an increasing role in retail-level drug distribution throughout the NY/NJ HIDTA region. Gang members predominantly sell crack cocaine; however, many sell more than one type of drug, particularly since drug distribution is their primary source of income. Many New York City-based gangs, recognizing the potential for increased profits, now supply drugs to distributors in Upstate New York and northern New Jersey. Increasing gang-related drug distribution in the region has

7. Many of these gangs have realigned themselves with the Fukinese organizations and have adopted names such as Fuk Ching Flying Dragons, Fuk Ching Ghost Shadows, and Fuk Ching Green Dragons.



resulted in a corresponding increase in gang-related violence. For instance, in Newark, New Jersey, more than 13 gang-related homicides were reported in 2007; most had a nexus to drug trafficking.

Numerous other DTOs and criminal groups operate within the NY/NJ HIDTA region (see Appendix C). Afghani, Nigerian, Pakistani, and West African DTOs smuggle Southwest Asian (SWA) heroin into and through the region. Italian organized crime (IOC) members have become more involved with hydroponic marijuana production in and around New York City and are also involved in marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and MDMA distribution in the region. Additionally, Puerto Rican DTOs and criminal groups are involved in cocaine and marijuana smuggling and distribution.

PRODUCTION

Illicit drug production in the HIDTA region largely consists of crack conversion, heroin milling, and cannabis cultivation. African American, Dominican, and Jamaican distributors generally convert powder cocaine to crack—often in small batches near the market in which the drug will be sold. However, according to law enforcement officials, approximately half of the crack sold in Upstate New York HIDTA counties is transported to the area from New York City.

Heroin is often milled in the New York City metropolitan area. Heroin mills are typically located in residential areas of the Bronx, Harlem, and Westchester County. For instance, 15 members of a Bronx-based heroin manufacturing and distribution organization were convicted in June 2007 of narcotics trafficking charges. This organization milled significant quantities of heroin at various locations throughout the Bronx for approximately 4 years. It also laundered millions of dollars in drug proceeds in the course of its operations. The leader of the organization funneled the illicit profits through the Dominican Republic. Heroin mills are a potential vulnerability for trafficking organizations because personnel with knowledge of

trafficking operations are often at these sites, along with substantive evidence (ledgers, phone records, etc.) and substantial quantities of heroin.

Indoor cannabis cultivation is increasing in the HIDTA region. Marijuana trafficking groups typically purchase residences throughout the area to use in hydroponic grow operations. They often gut the houses so that all available space can be used for cannabis cultivation. Grow site operators also generally bypass utility meters to avoid detection through high utility usage. In 2007 the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) seized 17 indoor cannabis grow operations in New York City. The operations ranged in size from 20 to 800 plants and were seized from houses, apartments, and industrial structures. Outdoor cannabis grow sites are not common in the NY/NJ HIDTA region. According to law enforcement officials, low-level members of IOC families produce hydroponic marijuana on Long Island and in Howard Beach in southwestern Queens. They are attracted to marijuana production because of the drug's large profit margin.

Methamphetamine production is very limited in the NY/NJ HIDTA region. The metropolitan nature of the New York City area makes the concealment of laboratories there difficult; however, DEA seized two methamphetamine laboratories within the NY/NJ HIDTA region in 2007.⁸ These laboratories, like most of those seized in the rural areas of the HIDTA region, were small—only personal-use quantities could be produced. Most of the methamphetamine available in the region is produced by Mexican DTOs in Mexico or on the West Coast and then transported, by package delivery services or in personal vehicles, to the HIDTA region for distribution.

8. New York Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) seized 12 methamphetamine laboratories in 2007. In addition to the two seized within the HIDTA region (one laboratory each in Westchester and Erie Counties), seizures were also made in Cayuga, Chemung, Essex, Hamilton, Orleans, Oswego, Tioga (2), Ulster, and Washington Counties.

TRANSPORTATION

Traffickers transport illicit drugs into, throughout, and from the NY/NJ HIDTA region using various modes of transportation. Traffickers primarily transport illicit drugs along the six major interstate highways⁹ and 10 secondary interstates¹⁰ that service the region (see Figure 2 on page 8). Some drug traffickers use indirect routes, such as state routes and back roads, to transport drugs to and through the HIDTA region, largely in an attempt to avoid law enforcement apprehension. Interstate 95, a key overland route along the east coast, connects the NY/NJ HIDTA region to areas in which over a quarter of the U.S. population resides. Additionally, 10 major airports and 10 major seaports are located along the east coast and are easily accessible from I-95. Three international airports—JFK, Newark Liberty, and LaGuardia—are extensively used by traffickers to smuggle illicit drugs into the region, particularly SA heroin. Traffickers also use the Buffalo Niagara International Airport and Albany International Airport to transport drugs into Upstate New York drug markets. The Port of New York/New Jersey is the largest container port complex on the east coast. In 2007 the port handled more than \$166 billion worth of international cargo—more than ever before—from over 150 countries. Law enforcement reporting reveals that traffickers periodically smuggle illicit drugs into the region by maritime conveyances destined for the port. Four major land ports of entry (POEs) are located on the U.S.–Canada border, each accessible through Erie County.¹¹ Traffickers routinely take advantage of overland POEs to smuggle drugs into the region from Canada. Additionally, Amtrak passenger rail service, commuter rail services, the largest subway system in the world, and an extensive network of

9. Interstates 78, 80, 81, 87, 90, and 95.

10. Interstates 190, 278, 280, 287, 295, 390, 495, 684, 878, and 895.

11. These ports of entry (POEs) are the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge and the Peace Bridge (private vehicles and commercial truck traffic), the Whirlpool Bridge, and the Rainbow Bridge (private vehicles only).

buses and taxis provide traffickers with numerous transportation options to and within the area.

Colombian, Dominican, and Mexican DTOs are the primary transporters of illicit drugs in the region. For instance, 11 members of a Colombian DTO operating between New York City and Colombia were arrested in early 2007 for transporting heroin from Colombia to the United States, primarily through Panama and Guatemala. The organization concealed the heroin in trailer hitches, automotive drive shafts, and the beads of beaded beach bags. They also shaped and colored the heroin to look like dried kidney beans and sealed them in cellophane wrappers. Colombian, Dominican, and Mexican DTOs sometimes contract with each other to transport drugs overland from the Southwest Border; they also contract with Caribbean transportation groups to smuggle drugs on maritime conveyances from South America to Florida then onward to the HIDTA region by private and commercial vehicles and commercial aircraft. Colombian and Dominican DTOs also transport drugs by using couriers on commercial aircraft flying directly to the region's major airports or secreting the drugs among containerized cargo shipped into the Port of New York/New Jersey. Mexican DTOs transport drugs primarily overland from the Southwest Border, or they obtain drug supplies from other Mexican DTOs based in Atlanta, Georgia.

Shipments of cocaine and heroin transported to the NY/NJ HIDTA region are either stored by traffickers in suburban residences outside New York City, or are further transported to distributors in Upstate New York. Colombian and Dominican DTOs use drugs stored in stash locations outside New York City to supply the city's midlevel and retail-level dealers; they typically retrieve small amounts of drugs that they can distribute quickly, thereby minimizing the risk of having large quantities of drugs seized by law enforcement. Some New York City-based traffickers also supply drugs directly to distributors in upstate markets, delivering the drugs directly to regular customers in Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse; however, couriers, usually female, and some upstate

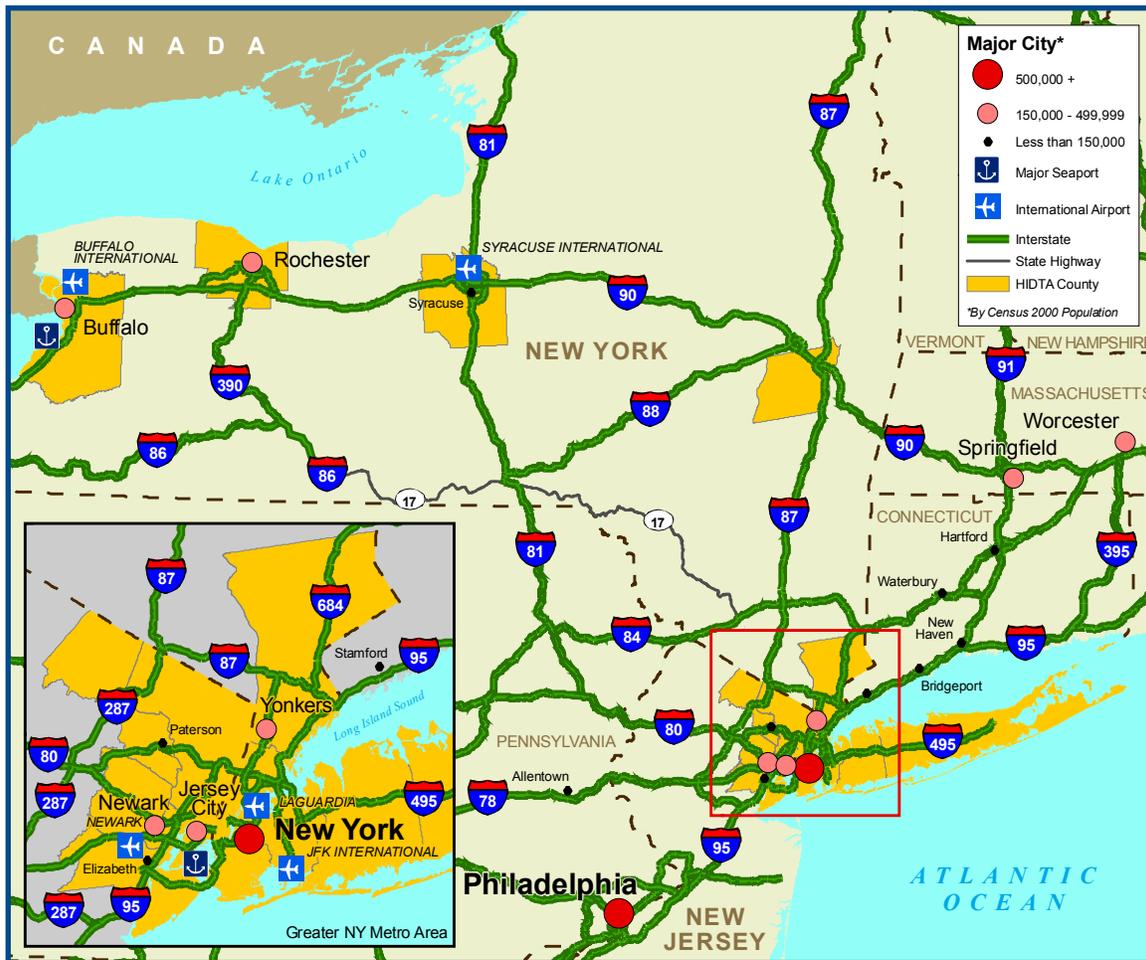


Figure 2. New York/New Jersey HIDTA region transportation infrastructure.

dealers travel to New York City to obtain drug supplies. Additionally, some upstate distributors bypass New York City suppliers entirely by arranging for the transportation of cocaine and heroin to their areas directly from Atlanta; Chicago, Illinois; and various cities in Florida, North Carolina, and Texas. Law enforcement reporting indicates that some cocaine traffickers in Rochester have developed such extensive drug markets that they are bypassing their usual sources of supply in New York City and dealing directly with Mexican traffickers in southwestern states.

Canada-based DTOs, primarily Vietnamese, regularly transport substantial quantities of high-potency hydroponic marijuana from Canada to

northern New York, according to law enforcement reporting. These DTOs often hire East Indian, Pakistani, or Yemeni tractor-trailer drivers to transport multithousand-pound quantities of marijuana, often secreted among legitimate goods, across major POEs, such as the Peace Bridge.¹² Additionally, some East Indian drivers are beginning to purchase marijuana directly from DTOs instead of contracting to transport the drugs on their behalf. The drivers then distribute the drugs to dealers in New York, retaining the sale proceeds themselves. Canada-based traffickers, primarily Asian DTOs, smuggle marijuana by boat and private vehicle and

12. The Peace Bridge spans the Niagara River and connects Buffalo, New York, with Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada.

MDMA by private vehicle from Canada through the St. Regis Mohawk (Akwesasne) Reservation. These DTOs hire residents of the reservation to transport the drugs to distributors in Upstate New York locations, mainly Albany and Syracuse. The upstate distributors then supply the drug to traffickers from New York City, predominantly Dominican distributors, for distribution there.

Some traffickers smuggle drugs to the NY/NJ HIDTA region through the Port of New York/New Jersey aboard maritime vessels. Dominican DTOs smuggle cocaine from South America and the Caribbean and Jamaican DTOs transport marijuana from Jamaica aboard marine conveyances. Additionally, Afghani and Pakistani DTOs smuggle limited quantities of SWA heroin into the NY/NJ HIDTA region in maritime cargo.

Traffickers also use package delivery services and the U.S. mail to ship illicit drugs into the region. Cocaine is occasionally shipped by traffickers to the NY/NJ HIDTA region in 1- to 5-kilogram quantities from Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic. These traffickers prefer to use package delivery services because the shipments can be monitored on the Internet—if a shipment is delayed, the traffickers will often abandon it or refuse delivery, fearing law enforcement detection and intervention.

DISTRIBUTION

The NY/NJ HIDTA region is a national distribution center for illicit drugs, primarily cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. DTOs, criminal groups, and independent dealers of various nationalities and races sell illicit drugs at the retail level, midlevel, and wholesale level in the HIDTA region. (See Table 1 in Appendix C.) Colombian DTOs dominate the wholesale distribution of most illicit drugs in the region. Dominican DTOs, sometimes on behalf of Colombian DTOs and other times working independently, distribute wholesale quantities of cocaine and SA heroin and some MDMA. Mexican DTOs are increasing their involvement in wholesale drug distribution within

the region, particularly the sale of Mexican marijuana, cocaine, and SA heroin. Jamaican DTOs distribute Mexican and Jamaican marijuana at the wholesale level. Retail-level drug trafficking is not controlled by any particular racial/ethnic group but is, instead, conducted by neighborhood-based criminal groups.

Dominican, Hispanic, and African American DTOs dominate wholesale drug distribution in Upstate New York. These DTOs also distribute midlevel and retail-level quantities of most illicit drugs, along with street gangs and independent dealers. Street gang members are the primary retail-level distributors of cocaine and heroin in the upstate counties. Numerous New York City-based DTOs have moved part of their drug operations to upstate counties, expanding their markets and increasing profit margins.

Members of street gangs, criminal groups, and DTOs use a variety of communication methods to conduct their drug operations. Street gang members and other drug distributors in the HIDTA region increasingly use prepaid cellular phones, which can be purchased at a low cost and with relative anonymity—factors that result in frequent disposal of the phones and circumvention of law enforcement communication intercepts. Some gang members prefer cell phones with two-way, direct-connect communication, believing that they are more secure from law enforcement interception. Street gang members increasingly use Internet social networking sites, personal web pages, online communities and forums, and message boards to facilitate their drug trafficking operations, recruit new members, boast about gang membership or related activities, and advertise events and house parties.

DRUG-RELATED CRIME

Drug-related violent crime is increasing in the NY/NJ HIDTA region; it is most often perpetrated by street gang members. They often use firearms to demand respect, defend their turf, or acquire new distribution territories. Law enforcement officials



report that hundreds of small, unaffiliated, neighborhood gangs with members totaling in the thousands operate in the New York metropolitan area. However, larger, more structured street gangs such as Bloods, Crips, DDP, Latin Kings, MS 13, Netas, and Trinitarios also operate in the HIDTA region. The number of gang-related arrests made by the Regional Fugitive Task Force¹³ in 2007 increased to 538 from 430 in 2006 and 246 in 2005. (See Appendix A.)

Bloods is the most prevalent street gang operating in the NY/NJ HIDTA region. Gang membership is reportedly over 5,000; many members are involved in crack, heroin, and marijuana distribution, and a number have been implicated in drive-by shootings, homicides, and weapons trafficking. Bloods members frequently travel to Pennsylvania to obtain guns that they bring back to New York City to trade for drugs. Most recently Bloods members have become involved in home invasions, targeting the homes of known drug distributors as well as homes in more affluent neighborhoods. Some gang members, in order to establish drug distribution operations, have targeted areas in Upstate New York and in rural areas of Pennsylvania and Vermont, areas that have not previously experienced large-scale street gang activity. Additionally, some Bloods members are employed in various capacities by IOC and Albanian DTOs in the HIDTA region.

Trinitarios gang members are involved in heroin and cocaine distribution at the retail level and are establishing a reputation for extreme violence. According to law enforcement officials, Trinitarios members view the gang as a "family," yet the gang has a hierarchy and formal chain of command. Members often carry baseball bats, guns, knives, and machetes and are involved in assaults and home invasions. Trinitarios is a rival of DDP; in October 2007 members of both gangs opened fire on one another, killing a 15-year-old boy and wounding another teen. Trinitarios has

13. The Regional Fugitive Task Force's mission is to apprehend dangerous, violent fugitives in New Jersey/New York metropolitan areas.

infiltrated schools in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens and actively recruits new members from among the students.

Other gangs—Crips, DDP, Latin Kings, and MS 13—also engage in gang-related crime in the NY/NJ HIDTA region. These gangs derive their income primarily from drug distribution, robbery, and weapons trafficking. Crips members typically distribute drugs in various housing projects in New York City. DDP is involved in drug robbery and drug distribution. Latin Kings members are involved in cocaine, heroin, and marijuana trafficking as well as robbery and real estate fraud. MS 13, a violent Salvadoran gang, is involved in drug and weapons trafficking, extortion, and home invasion.

Street gang involvement in drug trafficking in the New Jersey areas of the HIDTA region is increasing and has led to increased violence in the New Jersey portion of the HIDTA region. More than 13 gang-related homicides were reported in Newark in 2007. Street gang members also are involved in armed robberies, assaults, attempted homicides, and property crimes. Gang-related property crimes are often crimes of opportunity or impulse crimes because they are typically committed with little planning, require few resources, generate money quickly, and are generally conducted as a one-time operation.

ABUSE

Heroin, cocaine, and marijuana are abused at particularly high levels throughout the NY/NJ HIDTA region. According to data from the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), the number of heroin-related treatment admissions to publicly funded facilities in the region exceeds those for any other drug (see Table 1). The number of heroin-related treatment admissions declined slightly between 2005 (82,542) and 2006 (80,414), the latest year for which such data are available, but has remained relatively consistent over the past several years. An increasing number of teenagers and young adults are abusing diverted

Table 1. Drug-Related Treatment Admissions to Publicly Funded Facilities in New York and New Jersey, 2003–2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Heroin	85,192	79,025	82,542	80,414
Other opiates	6,307	7,681	8,559	9,333
Cocaine	49,903	50,421	56,827	59,744
Marijuana	43,456	42,913	48,734	50,889
Amphetamines, including methamphetamine	834	865	857	779

Source: Treatment Episode Data Set.

pharmaceuticals in the NY/NJ HIDTA region. Many teens believe that drugs prescribed by a doctor are not as harmful as drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine and, therefore, are not as dangerous. However, treatment providers indicate that the abuse of diverted pharmaceuticals often serves as a gateway for adolescents and young adults to abuse other drugs. For instance, prescription narcotics abusers who become addicted to the drugs often switch to heroin because of the drug’s higher availability and lower price. Similarly, abusers of prescription stimulants sometimes “graduate” to crack cocaine abuse. Cocaine is readily available in the NY/ NJ HIDTA region and is abused at relatively high levels; cocaine-related treatment admissions have increased each year since 2003 and are second only to heroin, according to TEDS data. Marijuana is the most widely available and most commonly abused illicit drug in the region. The availability of high-potency marijuana, both Canadian and locally produced, is increasing in the region, leading to an increasing number of treatment admissions for marijuana abuse.

ILLICIT FINANCE

New York City, as one of the world’s principal financial centers, the economic capital of the United States, and a central market for the international jewelry and precious metals industries, provides diverse money laundering opportunities for

DTOs. Most DTOs operating in New York rely on multiple methods, including bulk cash smuggling, money transmissions through money services businesses (MSBs), structured deposits in traditional depository institutions, front companies, and real estate purchases, to launder illicit drug proceeds.

Traffickers, particularly Mexican DTOs, are increasingly smuggling bulk cash from the NY/ NJ HIDTA region to Mexico in private vehicles and tractor-trailers. Once bulk cash is smuggled into Mexico, it is either deposited by traffickers into Mexican financial institutions, repatriated to the United States for reintroduction into the U.S. financial system, used by traffickers in Mexico for operational expenses, or smuggled in bulk farther south to Guatemala, Panama, Colombia, or other Latin American countries.

Many DTOs in the region use MSBs to launder drug proceeds, frequently in conjunction with bulk cash smuggling. Colombian and Dominican DTOs send significant amounts of money through MSBs in New York to Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and locations in Central and South America. Mexican DTOs often transmit illicit proceeds in structured amounts through MSBs to collection points in Southwest Border states, where the transmissions are cashed, and most of the money is then smuggled across the border. Many MSBs in the Jackson Heights area of New York also are used to facilitate drug money laundering.



New York is a primary location in the United States for Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE)¹⁴ activity, including money pickup operations.¹⁵ Colombian DTOs routinely use the BMPE to launder illicit proceeds generated in the New York/New Jersey HIDTA. A portion of bulk cash smuggled from New York across the Southwest Border is wired to other international locations, such as Panama, Hong Kong, and mainland China for use in the BMPE.

Some DTOs in the HIDTA region also are increasingly structuring¹⁶ cash deposits in unusually small amounts at both traditional financial institutions and MSBs. This technique is similar to traditional structuring,¹⁷ but involves amounts usually under \$1,000 to minimize potential scrutiny and the chance that a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) will be filed by a bank official. For instance, an investigation in New York revealed that an MSB employee structured more than \$83,000 through

money orders and wire transfers in amounts between \$800 and \$900.

Traffickers also exploit traditional depository institutions to facilitate money laundering activity through the use of correspondent bank accounts¹⁸ between international and U.S. banks. Many of the largest international and U.S. banks are located in the NY/NJ HIDTA region; traffickers routinely exploit them by structuring cash deposits into accounts at U.S. banks in New York City and elsewhere, wiring the proceeds through correspondent accounts to U.S. branches of international banks in New York City. The traffickers then wire proceeds to overseas accounts. Additionally, Colombian and Mexican DTOs move drug proceeds through traditional depository institutions by depositing money in U.S. bank accounts and then withdrawing the money locally or in other states or countries from automated teller machines (ATMs); they also move the funds by wire transfer.

Money launderers also use privately owned ATMs to launder illicit drug proceeds. The lack of regulatory measures monitoring these privately owned machines makes them extremely vulnerable to misuse by criminals. Private ATMs are generally placed inside high-traffic businesses in the region and are loaded with drug proceeds. The funds are withdrawn by cardholders, and the ATM owner's bank account is credited electronically for the transaction as well as a service charge.

14. The Black Market Peso Exchange (BMPE) is a system in which Colombian traffickers receive Colombian pesos in Colombia in exchange for U.S. drug proceeds located in the United States. Peso brokers traditionally facilitate this process by selling Colombian trafficker-owned U.S. drug proceeds located in the United States at a discount to Colombian merchants, who use the funds to purchase U.S. goods, typically in free zones.

15. Money pickup operations involve the collection of cash from drug traffickers by workers of peso brokers for placement in the financial system for further use in BMPE-related transactions.

16. A person structures a transaction if that person, acting alone, or in conjunction with or on behalf of other persons, conducts or attempts to conduct one or more transactions in currency, in any amount, at one or more financial institutions, on one or more days, in any manner, for the purpose of evading the reporting requirements under Title 31. "In any manner" includes but is not limited to the breaking down of a single sum of currency exceeding \$10,000 into smaller sums, including sums at or below \$10,000. The transaction or transactions need not exceed the \$10,000 reporting threshold at any single financial institution on any single day in order to constitute structuring within the meaning of this definition.

17. Traditional structuring (see footnote 16) refers to structuring in financial institutions and MSBs. Bank Secrecy Act recordkeeping rules for MSBs require presentation of identification at time of transaction and entry into a wire transfer log for transactions of \$3,000 or greater.

OUTLOOK

Disruptions to traditional cocaine supply routes from Mexico may induce some drug traffickers to use alternate routes, specifically through the Caribbean, in order to deliver cocaine to local distributors. Current Caribbean suppliers also may take advantage of disruptions to established cocaine supply routes by providing alternative

18. A correspondent account enables financial institutions to provide banking services, including interbank funds transfers, to one another.

supply routes, thereby increasing their market shares in the region.

The availability of imported or locally produced, high-potency marijuana will rise to meet increasing demand for the drug in the NY/NJ HIDTA region. Competition among local distributors to meet this demand will spur an increase in year-round production of high-potency marijuana in the region.

Diverted pharmaceutical availability and abuse in the NY/NJ HIDTA region will most likely increase over the next year, driven by the growing popularity of these drugs among teenagers and young adults and the relative ease with which the drugs can be obtained through Internet pharmacies. Abuse of diverted pharmaceuticals will serve as a gateway drug for some adolescents and young adults who will most likely progress to the abuse of other drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

New York City-based DTOs and street gangs will continue to increase their control over retail drug distribution throughout the upstate counties in the HIDTA region. New consumer bases, increased profit margins, and relatively limited law enforcement resources will prompt these groups to expand their illicit drug markets; this expansion will increase competition for market share and cause a corresponding increase in drug-related violence. These DTOs and gangs will increase drug deliveries to regular customers in the upstate areas and send more organization members upstate to distribute drugs on a temporary basis or to establish a permanent market presence. As a result, upstate population centers will grow as drug markets and become distribution centers for the smaller cities and suburban areas around them.

Emerging electronic financial mechanisms, including online and mobile payment systems, will provide drug traffickers in the NY/NJ HIDTA region with additional means to launder illicit proceeds. Online payment systems, including digital currencies, offer anonymity, versatility, and convenience and will continue to gain in popularity with drug money launderers because such systems have a global reach and reduce issues linked to fluctuating exchange rates.



Appendix A. New York/New Jersey HIDTA Region Enforcement Initiatives

The **Regional Intelligence Center (RIC)**, which is led by the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and located at the NY/NJ HIDTA Center in Manhattan, is staffed by representatives from numerous federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The RIC is the central conduit for information-sharing among law enforcement in the New York/New Jersey HIDTA region. The cornerstone of the RIC is the timely and accurate collection, analysis, and dissemination of criminal intelligence, particularly drug intelligence.

The **El Dorado Money Laundering Task Force** is a multiagency task force whose mission is to disrupt, dismantle, or render ineffective organizations involved in the laundering of proceeds from illicit drug trafficking and other financial crimes in the New York metropolitan area. This mission is accomplished by targeting the primary avenues used by drug traffickers to launder drug profits: money services, physical transportation, merchandising, banking and brokerages, and bulk cash. The task force is led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and consists of 178 representatives from various federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The El Dorado Task Force is also part of the High Intensity Financial Crimes Area (HIFCA) Program for the New York metropolitan area.

In calendar year (CY) 2007 the task force reviewed over 48,000 SARs, dismantled 2 and disrupted 35 drug trafficking and money laundering organizations, and seized more than \$25 million. Additionally, the task force seized 494 kilograms of cocaine and 1 kilogram of heroin in 2007.

The **Regional Fugitive Task Force** is led by the U.S. Marshals Service and comprises more than 120 federal, state, county, and local law enforcement officers from 50 law enforcement agencies. The task force's mission is to apprehend dangerous, violent fugitives in New Jersey/New York metropolitan areas.

In CY2007, the task force arrested 5,572 fugitives, of whom 1,097 were charged with drug felonies and 538 were affiliated with gangs. The task force seized 7.2 kilograms of cocaine, 1.7 kilograms of heroin, and 28 kilograms of marijuana.

The **New Jersey Drug Trafficking Organization Task Force** draws together investigators from DEA and state, county, and local law enforcement agencies to disrupt or dismantle major DTOs in New Jersey.

In CY2007, the task force disrupted 14 DTOs and arrested 122 individuals. The task force seized 283 kilograms of cocaine, 33 kilograms of heroin, 5 kilograms of marijuana, and over 75,000 dosage units of MDMA. Additionally, the task force seized more than \$3 million.

The **New York OCDEF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force) Strike Force** comprises investigators from DEA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), ICE, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), U.S. Marshals Service, NYPD, and the New York State Police. Its mission is to disrupt and dismantle major DTOs that have been designated by the U.S. Department of Justice as Consolidated Priority Organization Targets (CPOs), and affiliates operating within the New York metropolitan area.

In CY2007 the task force dismantled 9 DTOs and disrupted 23 others. During CY2007, the task force seized 484 kilograms of cocaine, 122 kilograms of heroin, and 455 kilograms of marijuana. Additionally, task force officers seized over \$24 million.

Appendix B. Profiles of HIDTA Counties in Upstate New York

ALBANY COUNTY

DRUG THREAT

Cocaine, particularly crack, poses the greatest threat to Albany County and the city of Albany. Heroin and marijuana, particularly Canadian hydroponic marijuana, also pose a serious threat to the area. Pharmaceutical drugs pose an increasing threat.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION

Cocaine, both powder and crack, available in Albany County is supplied by Dominican sources in New York City, specifically Washington Heights. Some New York City-based Dominican dealers travel to Albany to deliver multiounce to kilogram quantities of powder cocaine to their regular customers. Additionally, some Albany County distributors, usually Caucasian and African American males, travel to Washington Heights, either in personal vehicles or by bus, to obtain multiounce quantities of powder cocaine for distribution in Albany County. Some African American males obtain crack cocaine from distributors in New York City; however, most purchase powder cocaine that they convert locally to crack.

Heroin abuse has remained stable in Albany County since 2007. Hispanic males and females and some African American males distribute heroin in the area. Most heroin distributors travel to Washington Heights, by private vehicle, bus, or train, and obtain bundles of heroin that they transport to Albany for retail distribution.

Marijuana poses a serious threat to the Albany area. Most marijuana distributors obtain high-potency marijuana from Native American traffickers on the St. Regis Mohawk (Akwesasne)

Reservation on the U.S.–Canada border for distribution in the Albany area. Some law enforcement officials indicate that this higher-potency marijuana often serves as a gateway drug for pharmaceutical abuse by young people and, eventually, heroin abuse.

Diverted pharmaceuticals pose an increasing drug threat in Albany County. Vicodin (hydrocodone), OxyContin (oxycodone), and other opioids, as well as Xanax (alprazolam) are the primary pharmaceuticals abused in Albany County.

SECONDARY MARKETS

Albany serves as a distribution center for crack cocaine in Upstate New York. The city also is a source of supply for powder cocaine, crack, and heroin to smaller cities and towns in surrounding areas as well as Vermont and Massachusetts. Dealers and abusers from surrounding towns travel to Albany to obtain drugs for further distribution or personal use. Some Albany dealers also deliver powder cocaine and crack to their regular customers in these secondary markets. Deals typically take place at prearranged meeting locations in residences or parking lots.

ERIE COUNTY (BUFFALO)

DRUG THREAT

Cocaine, particularly crack, poses the primary drug threat to Erie County and the city of Buffalo. Canadian high-potency, hydroponic marijuana is a serious threat to the area, particularly as Buffalo serves as a significant transshipment point for Canadian marijuana smuggled into the United States. The abuse of heroin and pharmaceutical drugs has increased in the Buffalo area.



SOURCES OF SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION

Hispanic traffickers, particularly Dominican, on the west side of Buffalo and African American traffickers on the east side are the primary distributors of powder cocaine, crack, and heroin in the city. Most of the dealers are males and range from 17 to 50 years of age.

Dominican and African American traffickers are the primary powder cocaine, crack, and heroin distributors in Buffalo. They obtain multi-kilogram quantities of drug supplies from sources of supply in New York City, Atlanta, Detroit, and various cities in Florida. Some local dealers obtain cocaine directly from sources of supply near the Southwest Border.

Heroin traffickers in Buffalo typically use female couriers to transport prepackaged heroin supplies to the local area from New York City.

Pharmaceutical diversion has increased significantly in Buffalo, according to local law enforcement sources. Abusers are obtaining Lortab (hydrocodone) and OxyContin (oxycodone) through traditional diversion methods such as doctor shopping and forged prescriptions. Additionally, law enforcement officials and treatment providers report that many prescription narcotic abusers in the area have progressed to heroin abuse.

SECONDARY MARKETS

Buffalo serves as a source of supply for many secondary markets in Erie County and the surrounding area. Dealers and abusers from surrounding towns and cities such as Amherst, Jamestown, Niagara Falls, and Tonawanda travel to Buffalo to obtain cocaine, heroin, and marijuana supplies for personal use and for further distribution in their respective areas.

Buffalo is a major transshipment point for hydroponic marijuana entering the United States and cocaine entering Canada; the Niagara Frontier Region is the primary transit area for cocaine

entering eastern Canada, according to DEA. Western New York POEs are being increasingly used by Canada-based traffickers for transshipment of marijuana into the United States; a large portion of the marijuana seized in Buffalo is destined for locations outside western New York. The size of hydroponic marijuana shipments to the United States from Canada has increased significantly. Previously, loads shipped through the western New York POEs were several hundred pounds; now most are several thousand pounds.

MONROE COUNTY (ROCHESTER)

DRUG THREAT

Powder cocaine poses the most serious threat to Monroe County and the city of Rochester. Crack cocaine, heroin, and marijuana also pose a significant threat to the city.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION

Rochester-based drug distributors obtain cocaine and heroin primarily from distributors in New York City; however, some obtain cocaine from sources in Houston, Texas, and Atlanta and heroin from sources in Detroit. Local distributors, usually young Dominican males, travel to New York City by private vehicle, often outfitted with sophisticated traps, to purchase illicit drugs for distribution in their areas; some also travel by bus and by train. They obtain multikilogram quantities of cocaine and multiounce quantities of heroin and transport the drugs back to Rochester for distribution to local midlevel and retail-level dealers. Dominican and African American individuals are the primary cocaine and heroin distributors in the area, while young African American males are the primary crack cocaine dealers.

SECONDARY MARKETS

Rochester is a distribution center for powder cocaine, crack, and heroin to cities, towns, and counties within a 40-mile radius of the city, including Corning and Elmira as well as Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates Counties.

SECONDARY MARKETS

Syracuse supplies secondary markets in an approximate 60-mile radius of the city, including Binghamton, Ft. Drum, Oswego, Utica, and Watertown.

ONONDAGA COUNTY (SYRACUSE)

DRUG THREAT

Cocaine, particularly crack, poses the most serious threat to Onondaga County and the city of Syracuse. Marijuana, particularly Canadian hydroponic marijuana, also poses a significant threat. Heroin abuse is increasing in Syracuse, particularly in the city's affluent areas.

SOURCES OF SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION

Syracuse-based drug dealers frequently travel to the Washington Heights section of New York City by private vehicle, bus, and train to obtain multiounce quantities of cocaine and smaller quantities of heroin. Additionally, some female couriers occasionally transport these drugs to Syracuse for local distributors. Heroin is also obtained by local distributors from sources of supply in Rochester and then cut and repackaged for retail distribution locally. Most of the crack cocaine available in the area is converted locally from powder cocaine.

Local distributors acquire high-potency Canadian marijuana from traffickers who smuggle the drug from Canada across the St. Regis Mohawk (Akwesasne) Reservation into the United States.



Appendix C. Drug Distributors in the New York/New Jersey HIDTA Region

Table 1. Illicit Drugs, Drug Distributors, and Associated Levels of Distribution in the New York/New Jersey HIDTA Region

Cocaine Distributors		
Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
African American DTOs Colombian DTOs Dominican DTOs Mexican DTOs Puerto Rican DTOs	African American DTOs, CGs Caucasian DTOs, CGs Colombian DTOs, CGs Dominican DTOs, CGs Jamaican DTOs, CGs Mexican DTOs, CGs Puerto Rican DTOs, CGs Street gangs	African American CGs, INDs Caucasian CGs, INDs Dominican CGs, INDs Jamaican CGs, INDs Mexican CGs, INDs Puerto Rican CGs, INDs Street gangs
Heroin Distributors		
Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
Asian DTOs Colombian DTOs Dominican DTOs Mexican DTOs Pakistani DTOs West African Nigerian DTOs	Asian DTOs, CGs Colombian CGs Dominican DTOs, CGs Mexican DTOs, CGs Pakistani DTOs, CGs West African Nigerian DTOs, CGs	African American CGs, INDs Asian CGs, INDs Dominican CGs, INDs Puerto Rican CGs, INDs Street gangs West African Nigerian CGs, INDs
Marijuana Distributors		
Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
Caucasian DTOs Colombian DTOs Dominican DTOs Jamaican DTOs Mexican DTOs	Caucasian CGs, INDs Colombian CGs Dominican CGs Jamaican CGs, INDs Mexican CGs Street gangs	African American CGs, INDs Caucasian CGs, INDs Dominican CGs, INDs Jamaican CGs, INDs Mexican CGs, INDs Street gangs
MDMA Distributors		
Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
Dominican DTOs	Caucasian CGs Colombian CGs Dominican CGs	African American CGs, INDs Caucasian CGs, INDs Dominican CGs, INDs
Methamphetamine Distributors		
Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
NA	Caucasian CGs, INDs	Caucasian CGs, INDs

(Table continued from previous page.)

**Table 1. Illicit Drugs, Drug Distributors, and Associated Levels of Distribution
 in the New York/New Jersey HIDTA Region**

Diverted Pharmaceutical Distributors		
Wholesale	Midlevel	Retail
NA	Caucasian CGs, INDs	Caucasian CGs, INDs

NA—Not applicable.
 DTOs—Drug trafficking organizations.
 CGs—Criminal groups.
 INDs—Independent dealers.



SOURCES

Local, State, and Regional

- Newark Police Department
- New Jersey Department of Human Services
 - Division of Addiction Services
- New York City Police Department
- New York High Intensity Financial Crimes Area
- New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services
- New York State Police Department
- Port Authority of New York/New Jersey

Federal

- Executive Office of the President
 - Office of National Drug Control Policy
 - High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
 - New York/New Jersey
 - HIDTA Enforcement Task Force
- U.S. Department of Commerce
 - U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Department of Justice
 - Drug Enforcement Administration
 - New Jersey Field Division
 - New York Field Division
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - U.S. Attorneys Offices
 - District of New Jersey
 - Eastern District of New York
 - Northern District of New York
 - Southern District of New York
 - Western District of New York
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
 - Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

Other

- The Association of International Bank Auditors

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