

# **North Texas**

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

# Drug Market Analysis 2009



NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE CENTER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE





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



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# **Preface**

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

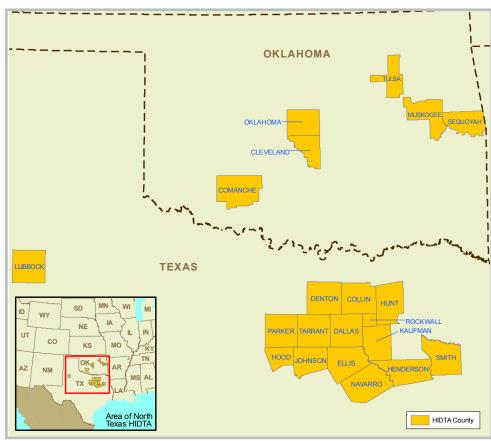


Figure 1. North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

# Strategic Drug Threat Developments

- Drug traffickers both in and outside the North Texas HIDTA region routinely use Dallas/Fort Worth as a major staging area for illicit drugs and a consolidation center for bulk currency and monetary instruments<sup>1</sup> generated through their illicit activities and later smuggled into Mexico for eventual laundering or repatriation.
- Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), particularly those associated with the Gulf Cartel, pose an increasing criminal organizational threat to the North Texas HIDTA region; these organizations are extending their reach and influence in the HIDTA region.
- Local methamphetamine production is increasing in areas of Oklahoma, including Tulsa County, where local abusers are increasingly using a simplified, portable method to produce the drug.
- The abuse of "cheese" heroin—a powdered blend of black tar heroin, acetaminophen, and diphenhydramine—poses an ongoing threat to the North Texas HIDTA region, specifically in Dallas County. In Dallas County the percentage of heroin-related arrests on high school and middle school campuses during the first half of the 2008/2009 (August—December) school year increased 60 percent compared with the same period in the 2007/2008 school year.
- Controlled prescription drug (CPD) abuse poses a major problem in the North Texas HIDTA region, most notably in Oklahoma, where abusers often ingest combinations of

drugs such as Lortab (hydrocodone), Xanax (alprazolam), and Soma (carisoprodol) to achieve a heroin-type euphoria.

#### **HIDTA Overview**

The North Texas HIDTA region—encompassing 15 northern Texas counties (see Figure 1 on page 1), most of which are located in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area, and Cleveland, Comanche, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Sequoyah, and Tulsa Counties in Oklahoma—is a national-level drug transportation and distribution center. Approximately 6.7 million residents (28 percent of the Texas population) reside in the Texas portion of the North Texas HIDTA region, and a significant number of those (more than 4 million) reside in Dallas and Tarrant Counties, which include Dallas and Fort Worth. More than 1.7 million residents (48 percent of the Oklahoma population) reside in the Oklahoma portion of the North Texas HIDTA region, and more than 40 percent reside in Oklahoma County, which includes Oklahoma City.<sup>2</sup>

Drug traffickers often exploit the extensive transportation infrastructure in the North Texas HIDTA region to transport illicit drugs and return drug proceeds to source areas. They primarily transport illicit drugs to the area overland by private vehicle along interstate, U.S., and state highways; they also use commercial vehicles (tractor-trailers) and bus lines to transport illicit drugs. Occasionally drug traffickers use noncommercial aircraft to smuggle illicit drugs from distribution centers, such as Dallas, to drug markets throughout the country because passengers and cargo aboard these conveyances often receive less law enforcement scrutiny than those aboard commercial flights. Drug traffickers also use the U.S. Postal Service and commercial package delivery services to transport illegal drugs and their proceeds.

Monetary instruments include U.S. or foreign coins currently in circulation, currency, traveler's checks in any form, money orders, and negotiable instruments or investment securities in bearer form, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Population numbers are based on U.S. Census annual estimates of population for counties as of July 1, 2007.

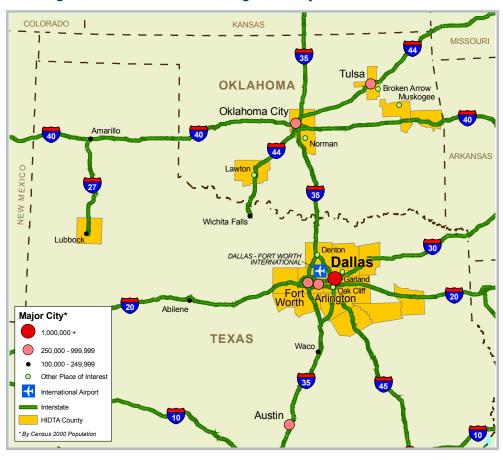


Figure 2. North Texas HIDTA Region Transportation Infrastructure

Interstate 35 is the primary north-south transportation corridor leading directly from the Southwest Border at Laredo—one of the busiest ports of entry (POEs) in the United States—to Dallas/Fort Worth and Oklahoma City. Interstates 40 and 44 pass through Oklahoma City, and Interstates 20, 30, and 45 transit the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area. Interstate 27 extends north from Lubbock and connects with I-40 at Amarillo, Texas. (See Figure 2.) Although I-10 does not traverse any North Texas HIDTA counties, drug traffickers use that route to access I-20, which passes through Dallas/Fort Worth, extends east into South Carolina, and connects with the I-95 corridor, a major north-south route. While a significant portion of the illicit drugs smuggled into the area from Mexico is destined for distribution in the North Texas HIDTA region, the region also

serves as a transshipment point for illicit drugs transported to other U.S. drug markets, including those in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

The North Texas HIDTA region also is home to the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), the busiest airport in Texas; the third-busiest in the world in terms of aircraft movements; the seventh-busiest in the world as measured by passenger traffic; the ninth-busiest international gateway in the United States; and the twenty-seventh-busiest cargo airport in the world. DFW serves approximately 60 million passengers annually and offers nearly 1,900 flights per day. The airport, which is located halfway between the cities of Dallas and Fort

Worth, ranks eighth among U.S. airports for nonstop international air travel and has flights to 135 domestic and 38 international destinations, including Mexico, South America, Canada, Central America, Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean. Approximately 65 percent of all international air cargo in Texas is handled at DFW. The airport is also 4 hours or less by air from every major airport in the continental United States.

# **Drug Threat Overview**

Methamphetamine and cocaine pose the most significant drug threats to the North Texas HIDTA region. Of the 104 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies' respondents to the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS) 2009³ within the North Texas HIDTA Region, 66 identify methamphetamine, most notably ice methamphetamine, as the greatest drug threat to their jurisdictions, and 20 identify cocaine, predominantly crack cocaine. (See Table 1.) Most respondents also indicate that each of these drugs is readily available in their jurisdictions. (See Table 2 on page 5.)

Mexican ice methamphetamine is the dominant form of the drug available in the HIDTA region; however, locally produced powder methamphetamine is becoming increasingly available in some areas of Oklahoma in the HIDTA region—particularly Tulsa County—as well as areas outside the HIDTA region, where law enforcement resources are less concentrated. Overall, powder methamphetamine production in the North Texas HIDTA region has decreased dramatically since 2004 as a result of

Table 1. Greatest Drug Threat in the North Texas HIDTA Region, as Reported by Law Enforcement Agencies

Drug	Oklahoma	Texas	Total
Cocaine (crack)	3	14	17
Cocaine (powder)	1	2	3
Heroin	NR	2	2
Marijuana	4	8	12
Methamphetamine (ice)	6	43	49
Methamphetamine (powder)	5	12	17
Pharmaceuticals	1	2	3
Other	1	NR	1
Total	21	83	104

Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2009. NR–Not reported.

the enactment of state<sup>4</sup> and local precursor chemical control legislation. Cocaine, both powder and crack, continues to be available in the area. Crack cocaine conversion, distribution, and abuse are most problematic in some of the communities within the low-income urban areas of Dallas, Fort Worth, Lawton, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa. Marijuana, usually commercial-grade Mexican marijuana, poses a serious drug threat to the HIDTA region because it is readily available and frequently abused and serves as a significant cash crop for Mexican DTOs. Contributing to this threat is hydroponically grown marijuana, which is in high demand in the region, particularly in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Heroin, primarily Mexican black tar, is available, and the demand for and abuse of cheese heroin<sup>5</sup> remains a serious problem among area youth, particularly in Dallas County. The abuse of diverted CPDsnotably hydrocodone, methadone, and oxycodone products—presents a growing threat to the HIDTA region, particularly in Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties. The distribution and abuse of MDMA

<sup>3.</sup> National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS) data for 2009 cited in this report are as of February 12, 2009. NDTS data cited are raw, unweighted responses from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies solicited through either the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) or the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program. Data cited may include responses from agencies that are part of the NDTS 2009 national sample and/or agencies that are part of HIDTA solicitation lists.

Officials in Oklahoma passed and enacted House Bill 2167 in April 2004, the first legislation of its kind in the United States.

Cheese heroin is a combination of Mexican black tar heroin and over-the-counter cold products containing diphenhydramine and acetaminophen.

Table 2. Drug Availability in the North Texas
HIDTA Region, as Reported by
Law Enforcement Agencies

Drug	Oklahoma	Texas	Total
Cocaine (crack)			
High	11	30	41
Moderate	7	28	35
Low	3	22	25
Cocaine (powder)			
High	5	18	23
Moderate	10	39	49
Low	6	21	27
Heroin			
High	0	6	6
Moderate	4	20	24
Low	16	47	63
Marijuana			
High	19	74	93
Moderate	2	8	10
Low	0	1	1
Methamphetamine (ice)			
High	13	51	64
Moderate	6	21	27
Low	2	10	12
Methamphetamine (powder)			
High	9	26	35
Moderate	7	28	35
Low	4	21	25
MDMA			
High	4	13	17
Moderate	11	36	47
Low	4	29	33
PCP			
High	1	1	2
Moderate	3	4	7
Low	14	56	70

Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2009.

(3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy) poses a growing concern, specifically in the Dallas/Fort Worth suburb of Arlington, but the drug poses a much lesser threat in the North Texas HIDTA region than the threats posed by methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, and heroin. PCP (phencyclidine) is also available, most notably in Dallas, Tulsa, and Muskogee Counties. (See Table 2.)

Marijuana seizure totals resulting from North Texas HIDTA initiatives increased 118 percent overall in 2008 when compared with seizure totals in 2007. In fact, law enforcement officers assigned to North Texas HIDTA task force initiatives seized more commercial-grade and hydroponic marijuana in 2008 than they seized in each of the 2 previous years. Notably, hydroponic marijuana seizure totals increased 156 percent in 2008 when compared with the totals seized in 2007. In addition, law enforcement officers in non-HIDTA-related operations in 2008 seized a considerable number of cannabis plants that were being cultivated at locations within the HIDTA region. (See text box on page 6.) Powder cocaine seizure totals were 15 percent lower in 2008 than in 2007, while the total amount of crack cocaine seized increased during this period. HIDTA task force officers also report that drug seizure totals for heroin and MDMA increased dramatically in 2008, far exceeding the seizure totals for those drugs in each of the 2 previous years. (See Table 3 on page 6.)

#### **Cannabis Grows in the North Texas HIDTA Region**

Grow site operators in the North Texas HIDTA region frequently use remote areas of public lands to cultivate cannabis. For example, in July 2008, Navarro County Sheriff's Office deputies, assisted by Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) air and narcotics division support out of Garland, Texas, discovered more than 10,000 cannabis plants growing at two different northern Navarro County locations. At one of the locations, authorities seized approximately 7,500 cannabis plants from seven fields located about 1 mile from another field where Sheriff's deputies had seized 5,000 plants in June 2008. The seven fields were configured with irrigation systems that pumped water to the plants from a nearby creek. Mexican nationals who tended the cannabis plants lived in tents set up around the fields. In a separate investigation at the second of the two locations, sheriff's deputies seized another 2,500 cannabis plants from a wooded area behind a local residence. In addition, in late September 2008, sheriff's deputies seized more than 2,100 growing and harvested cannabis plants from another northern Navarro County field that was hidden behind a tree line about 100 yards from a rural roadway. Furthermore, in early October 2008, sheriff's deputies discovered nearly 3,000 cannabis plants in a field at another Navarro County location.

Source: Navarro County Sheriff's Office.

Table 3. Drug Seizures, North Texas HIDTA Initiatives, in Kilograms, 2006–2008

Drug	2006	2007	2008
Methamphetamine	314.6	21.6	298.8
Powder	21.8	6.7	29.5
lce	292.8	14.9	269.3
Cocaine	706.2	771.1	660.7
Powder	690.1	768.4	653.4
Crack	16.1	2.7	7.3
Marijuana	9,126.7	4,898.4	10,655.5
Hydroponic	5.1	206.5	529.0
Commercial-grade	7,516.5	4,551.6	10,046.8
Sinsemilla	234.5	140.3	79.7
Not specified	1,370.6	NR	NR
Heroin	2.2	5.1	30.9
Mexican black tar	2.1	2.2	4.6
Mexican brown powder	NR	0.1	19.8
Not specified	0.1	2.8	6.5
MDMA (in dosage units)	7,363.0	19,025.2	100,593.0
OxyContin (in dosage units)	4.0	160.0	386.0
Prescription drugs* (in dosage units)	119.0	783.0	NR

Source: North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

NR-No seizures reported.

<sup>\*</sup>The North Texas HIDTA did not include prescription drugs as a category in 2008.

Powder methamphetamine production levels in the North Texas HIDTA region have declined significantly since 2004, although production of the drug in Tulsa County increased in 2008. National Seizure System (NSS) data indicate that the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized in North Texas HIDTA counties in 2008 (43) increased slightly, when compared with the number of laboratories seized in 2007 (40), but was dramatically lower than the number seized in 2006 (72), 2005 (112), and 2004 (272). (See Table 4.)

The majority of methamphetamine laboratory seizures from 2004 through 2008 occurred in Oklahoma, most notably Tulsa County, where the 5-year total for laboratories seized (205) was more than half the 5-year total for all North Texas HIDTA Oklahoma counties (391) and exceeded the 5-year total for all North Texas HIDTA Texas counties (148). The number of methamphetamine laboratories seized in Tulsa County declined substantially in the years following 2004; however, in 2008 the number of laboratories seized (32) increased 100

Table 4. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures in North Texas HIDTA Counties, 2004–2008\*

Table 4. Methaniphetannile Laboratory Seizures in North Texas Hidia Gounties, 2004–2006									
Texas County	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total			
Collin	3	1	0	0	0	4			
Dallas	11	12	9	0	2	34			
Denton	3	1	0	1	0	5			
Ellis	8	0	0	0	0	8			
Henderson	3	0	0	0	0	3			
Hood	1	1	0	0	0	2			
Hunt	1	0	0	0	0	1			
Johnson	3	1	0	0	0	4			
Kaufman	0	0	0	0	1	1			
Lubbock	6	2	0	0	0	8			
Navarro	0	0	0	1	0	1			
Parker	7	2	0	0	0	9			
Tarrant	46	15	3	3	1	68			
Totals for Texas Counties	92	35	12	5	4	148			
Oklahoma County	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total			
Cleveland	1	0	0	0	0	1			
Comanche	4	3	1	0	0	8			
Muskogee	11	6	6	1	4	28			
Oklahoma	64	12	9	0	0	85			
Sequoyah	6	26	11	18	3	64			
Tulsa	94	30	33	16	32**	205			
Totals for Oklahoma Counties	180	77	60	35	39	391			
North Texas HIDTA Region Totals	272	112	72	40	43	539			

Source: National Seizure System, as of January 23, 2009.

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<sup>\*</sup>Data are for laboratory seizures only (chemical/equipment and dumpsite seizure incidents are excluded). HIDTA counties not listed had no reported laboratory seizures from 2004 through 2008.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Methamphetamine laboratory seizures as reported by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs; data current as of March 31, 2009.

percent when compared with the number seized in 2007 (16). Law enforcement reporting in Oklahoma attributes this increase in laboratory activity in large part to the diluted retail-level quality and increasing price of ice methamphetamine from Mexico, the increased presence of previously convicted methamphetamine laboratory operators who were released from prison, and the ability of producers to obtain precursor chemicals such as pseudoephedrine through "smurfing" operations. All of the laboratories seized in the North Texas HIDTA region in 2008 were small-scale laboratories, capable of producing 1 pound or less per production cycle. Operators of these laboratories usually produce small quantities of methamphetamine for personal use and limited distribution. Nevertheless, most traffickers in the North Texas HIDTA region typically purchase large quantities of ice methamphetamine from Mexican traffickers because it is available and generally easier to obtain than locally produced methamphetamine.

Mexican traffickers supply wholesale quantities of illicit drugs—primarily cocaine, marijuana, ice methamphetamine, and heroin—to the North Texas HIDTA region either through sources in Texas, California, and Arizona or directly from Mexico. Once the traffickers transport the drugs to the HIDTA region, they repackage and transship some of them—particularly cocaine and marijuana—to drug markets throughout the United States, including Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Little Rock, Arkansas; Greer, South Carolina; Kansas City, Kansas; Fayetteville, North Carolina; Memphis, Tennessee; Menasha, Wisconsin; Pikeville, Kentucky; Shreveport, Louisiana; and St. Louis, Missouri. Mexican traffickers usually transport wholesale quantities of ice methamphetamine from

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

the HIDTA region to drug markets located most often in the southeastern United States. They also transport heroin to markets outside the HIDTA region for distribution, particularly to cities in the northeastern United States.

Law enforcement officials supporting North Texas HIDTA initiatives arrested members of 70 DTOs and money laundering organizations (MLOs) (66 and 4, respectively) in 2008; in comparison, law enforcement officials supporting the HIDTA's initiatives in 2006 and 2007 arrested members of 73 DTOs and MLOs in each of those years. According to North Texas HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) data, the majority of the DTOs and MLOs in 2008 included criminals of Hispanic ethnicity who ran international (32—which includes the 4 MLOs), multistate (17), or local (21) drug trafficking operations. Forty-five of the DTOs were polydrug organizations that most often distributed cocaine, marijuana, and ice methamphetamine. (See Table 6 on page 11.)

# **Drug Trafficking Organizations**

Mexican DTOs dominate drug trafficking throughout the North Texas HIDTA region. These criminal organizations have sophisticated command-and-control centers in Mexico and the North Texas area and control most of the drug trafficking operations throughout the Southwest. According to HIDTA data, 32 drug trafficking and money laundering organizations with an international scope of operation were identified as active in the North Texas HIDTA region during 2008. Most of these organizations are Mexican and more than half have been linked to Consolidated Priority Organization Targets (CPOTs). Several major DTOs—including the Gulf, Sinaloa, and

 A Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT) designation is reserved for significant narcotics traffickers who are believed to be the leaders of drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) responsible for the importation of large quantities of narcotics into the United States. Juárez Cartels—are active in the North Texas HIDTA region; however, the Gulf Cartel poses the primary organizational threat to the region.

The Gulf Cartel, whose leadership includes Jorge Eduardo Costilla-Sánchez, Antonio Ezequiel Cárdenas-Guillén, and Heriberto Lazcano-Lazcano, currently poses the greatest drug organizational threat within the North Texas HIDTA region.<sup>8</sup> This cartel maintains control of the lucrative smuggling routes through Nuevo Laredo/Laredo, Reynosa/McAllen, and Matamoros/Brownsville. From these border cities the Gulf Cartel has easy access to the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area.

Heriberto Lazcano-Lazcano, the senior security chief for the Gulf Cartel, is in charge of the Los Zetas enforcement organization. Los Zetas is an internal security arm of the Gulf Cartel. The original Los Zetas consisted of members of the Grupo Aeromovil de Fuerzas Especiales (GAFE), a Mexican Special Forces group trained to locate and apprehend drug traffickers. They were originally recruited in the late 1990s by Osiel Cárdenas-Guillén, then head of the Gulf Cartel, to act as enforcers and security for his organization and its operations. Following the arrest (March 2003) and extradition (January 2007) of Osiel Cárdenas-Guillén, Los Zetas was incorporated into the operations of the Gulf Cartel to the extent that the names Los Zetas and Gulf Cartel became synonymous. Los Zetas has since expanded beyond its enforcement and security services to become fully engaged in trafficking illicit drugs to the United States.

Investigative intelligence indicates that Lazcano-Lazcano's top lieutenant, Miguel Angel Treviño-Morales (reputed commander of the Nuevo Laredo plaza),<sup>9</sup> controls numerous transportation and distribution cells located in the North Texas HIDTA region. Several members of Treviño-Morales's immediate and extended family have resided in the northeastern Texas area for many years. As a result, Treviño-Morales has intimate knowledge of and trusted associates in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, which he exploits to further the drug trafficking operations of the Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas.

Several large-scale investigations that resulted in multiple arrests and drug seizures in 2008 demonstrate the Gulf Cartel's influence over drug trafficking and money laundering activities in the North Texas HIDTA region as well as throughout the United States. Project Reckoning was a 15-month multiagency investigation that targeted the Gulf Cartel and its smuggling operations. As part of Project Reckoning, federal, state, and local law enforcement officers (in the jurisdiction of the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas) conducted Operation Dos Equis and Operation Vertigo, both of which focused on Gulf Cartel members who operated cocaine and methamphetamine trafficking cells in the North Texas area. The two operations resulted in the arrests of more than 30 drug traffickers and the seizure of more than \$1 million in cash, 300 kilograms of cocaine, 360 pounds of ice methamphetamine, numerous weapons, and an explosive device. A second phase of Project Reckoning led to the arrests of more than 40 drug traffickers with links to the Gulf Cartel in several states, including Texas and Oklahoma. Overall, Project Reckoning resulted in hundreds of arrests, the dismantlement or disruption of numerous Gulf Cartel distribution cells, the seizure of thousands of kilograms of illicit drugs, and the indictment of several Gulf Cartel leaders, including federal fugitives (and CPOTs) Ezequiel Cárdenas-Guillén, Jorge Eduardo Costilla-Sánchez, and Heriberto Lazcano-Lazcano.

<sup>8.</sup> In January 2007 the Mexican Government extradited Osiel Cárdenas-Guillén, the former head of the Gulf Cartel, to the United States. Since that time, the Gulf Cartel's leadership structure has undergone an internal struggle, with several individuals vying for control of the cartel. Recent intelligence indicates that the Gulf Cartel may have separated into two organizations: one headed by Jorge Eduardo Costilla-Sánchez and Antonio Ezequiel Cárdenas-Guillén, and the other by Heriberto Lazcano-Lazcano.

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Plaza" refers to a specific city or geographic location along the U.S.—Mexico border that is used to smuggle illicit drugs from Mexico into the United States.

## Drug Trafficking Organizations, Criminal Groups, and Gangs

**Drug trafficking organizations** are complex organizations with highly defined command-and-control structures that produce, transport, and/or distribute large quantities of one or more illicit drugs.

**Criminal groups** operating in the United States are numerous and range from small to moderately sized, loosely knit groups that distribute one or more drugs at the retail level and midlevel.

**Gangs** are defined by the National Alliance of Gang Investigators' Association 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.

Mexican drug traffickers are the dominant group trafficking illicit drugs in the North Texas HIDTA region; however, gangs and criminal groups are also involved at varying levels in drug trafficking activities in the region. (See text box above.) Most street gangs, prison gangs, and outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs) generate income from drug trafficking. Many of the most active gangs in the North Texas HIDTA region are Hispanic and have a propensity for violence. Those include, but are not limited to, gangs listed in Table 5.

Intelligence indicates that Asian criminal groups, primarily Vietnamese, control most of the trafficking and distribution of hydroponic or highpotency marijuana and MDMA in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Laotian criminal groups and gangs are also active in drug trafficking, but not to the level of the Vietnamese criminal groups. Asian criminal groups obtain most hydroponic and high-potency marijuana available in the area from established

Table 5. Active Hispanic Gangs in the Major Drug Markets of the North Texas HIDTA Region, 2008

		Tune
City	Gang	Type
	Eastside Homeboys	Street
	Tango Blast <sup>10</sup>	Prison clique/Street
Dallas	Pleasant Grove Vatos (PGV)	Street
Dallas	Texas Syndicate	Prison
	Varrio North Side (VNS)	Street
	Hermanos de Pistoleros Latinos (HPL)	Prison
	Varrio Centro (VC)	Street
	Varrio Diamond Hill (VDH)	Street
Fort Worth	Southern United Raza Trece (Surtrece)	Street
	Bandidos (Hispanic and Caucasian members)	OMG
011.1	Southside Locos (Sureños)	Street
Oklahoma City	Grande Barrio Centrales (GBC)	Street
Cy	Grande Barrio Locos (Juaritos 387)	Street
	East Side Longos	Street
Tulsa	Juaritos	Street
iuisa	Latin Kings	Street
	Sureños	Street

Source: Law enforcement interviews.

Asian, predominantly Vietnamese, sources of supply operating in California, primarily in the Los Angeles and Santa Cruz areas. However, they also obtain some hydroponic and high-potency marijuana from suppliers in other domestic markets—including Seattle, Washington; Chicago, Illinois; and Houston, Texas—and cultivate cannabis locally for additional quantities of the high-potency drug. Asian gangs are the primary retail-level distributors of hydroponic and high-potency marijuana in the

<sup>10.</sup> The Texas Department of Criminal Justice Correctional Institutions Division reports that Tango Blast is a prison clique—a group of offenders who have little or no structure with vague or few, if any, rules and are involved in illegal activity. Generally these groups are formed along racial or geographic lines. Their underlying motive typically is to control their environment. In some instances, prison cliques evolve into street or prison gangs.

Table 6. Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering Organizations Operating in the North Texas HIDTA, 2008

Scope of	Numb	er of Organiz	ations	Ethnicity/Nationality of	Size of		Counties of		Drug	
Organization	Drug Money Laundering Tota		Total	Organizations	Organizations	Drugs Trafficked	Operation	Drug Source Areas	Destinations	
International	28	4	32	African American, Albanian, Asian, Caucasian, Hispanic, Laotian, Mexican, Vietnamese, multi-ethnic	5 to 70 members	Cocaine, heroin, marijuana, MDMA, methamphetamine	Oklahoma: Oklahoma, Muskogee, Tulsa Texas: Collin, Dallas, Tarrant	Canada, Colombia, Mexico, United States	Texas (Dallas), unknown destinations	
Multistate	17	0	17	African American, Caucasian, Hispanic, Mexican, multi-ethnic	5 to 40 members	Amphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, MDMA	Oklahoma: Oklahoma, Tulsa Texas: Angelina, Dallas, Smith	Mexico, United States (Arizona, California, Oklahoma, Texas)	Unknown destinations	
Local	21	0	21	African American, Asian, Caucasian, Cuban, Hispanic, Mexican, multi-ethnic	5 to 30 members	Cocaine, LSD, marijuana, methamphetamine	Oklahoma: Cleveland, Tulsa Texas: Dallas, Gregg, Smith, Tulsa	Mexico, United States (Oklahoma, Texas), unknown source areas	Texas (Dallas, Smith), unknown destinations	

Source: North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

Dallas/Fort Worth area. These Asian criminal groups and gangs obtain MDMA from Asian sources of supply in the northwestern United States and Vancouver, Canada, for distribution in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. However, since the availability of MDMA in the area exceeds local demand, Asian criminal groups frequently transship the drug to secondary distribution locations, such as Oklahoma City, Norman, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Des Moines, Iowa. To further facilitate the trafficking of MDMA in Oklahoma, some Asian criminal group members are establishing relationships and conducting business with members of African American criminal groups in the Oklahoma City area.

African American criminal groups and gangs are primarily involved in crack cocaine conversion and distribution in the North Texas HIDTA region; however, some of these groups and gangs also distribute other drugs, including PCP, MDMA, and marijuana. (See Table 7 on page 12.) For example, in June 2008, federal prosecutors in the Northern District of Texas indicted 12 members of an African American drug trafficking group that had been operating in Oak Cliff, a suburb of Dallas. This group stored a variety of illicit drugs and their proceeds

in four houses in the area and distributed the drugs from those locations, one of which was within 1,000 feet of a middle school. They distributed gallon quantities of PCP and multipound quantities of marijuana on a monthly basis in the area. They obtained the PCP from a California-based supplier who shipped multiounce quantities of the drug to Dallas through commercial shipping companies. At the time of the suspects' arrests, law enforcement officers seized more than 2 gallons of liquid PCP, approximately 4,000 MDMA tablets, 30 pounds of marijuana, nearly \$30,000 in cash, numerous firearms, and multiple vehicles.

Drug traffickers and gang members operating in the North Texas HIDTA region exploit numerous communication devices and methods to facilitate their illegal activities. They primarily use prepaid cellular telephones, including those equipped with direct connect/push-to-talk capabilities, to communicate with one another and with their customers. Drug traffickers in the North Texas HIDTA region are also increasingly using text messaging to communicate with one another. Many traffickers use prepaid cellular telephones, such as Boost Mobile-branded

lubic 1. Ethinioitics	oi biug irainoking ai	oups luchanicu ili No	idi idadə ilibin illidid	lives, by blug, 2000
Cocaine	Methamphetamine	Heroin	Marijuana	MDMA
African American Albanian Asian Caucasian Colombian Cuban Mexican Vietnamese	African American Asian Caucasian Cuban Mexican Puerto Rican Vietnamese	African American Caucasian Mexican	African American Asian Caucasian Cuban Laotian Mexican Vietnamese	African American Albanian Asian Caucasian Laotian Mexican Puerto Rican Vietnamese

Table 7. Ethnicities of Drug Trafficking Groups Identified in North Texas HIDTA Initiatives, by Drug, 2008

Source: North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

Nextels, 11 because no identification is required when obtaining them. In addition, many models of these phones are inexpensive, making it easy for traffickers to acquire new or multiple phones. Most traffickers and gang members have multiple phones, and for security purposes they generally replace them with new ones every 30 to 45 days or whenever a coconspirator is arrested or detained by police. Many higher-level traffickers compartmentalize their communications, using one phone to talk to sources of supply, lieutenants, or other individuals within their organization and a separate cellular telephone to speak with customers, couriers, or other individuals outside the organization. Lower-level gang members often use their cellular phones to take videos and still pictures of their criminal activities. Some drug traffickers and street gang members also exploit the Internet for drug-related communications, often using free web-based email, such as Hotmail and Yahoo, and Internet sites such as MySpace, Facebook, and YouTube to locate drug distributors, set up drug transactions, promote gang activity, and communicate threats. Gang members in the Oklahoma City area also use

Bebo<sup>12</sup> and BlackPlanet.com<sup>13</sup> Internet sites to actively recruit members and to send coded gang messages documenting gang activity and graffiti.

# Dallas/Fort Worth and Oklahoma City Market Areas

Dallas/Fort Worth and Oklahoma City are the two most significant drug markets in the North Texas HIDTA region. These cities serve as key transshipment and distribution centers for illicit drugs available in the HIDTA region and throughout the United States, particularly in southwestern, midwestern, and eastern drug markets.

## **Dallas/Fort Worth**

#### **Overview**

The Dallas/Fort Worth area is a national-level transportation and distribution center for cocaine, marijuana, ice methamphetamine, and heroin in and outside the North Texas HIDTA region. Mexican DTOs control the transportation of wholesale

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<sup>11.</sup> Boost Mobile is a brand of prepaid cellular telephone service that offers flexible wireless service options (pay by the month, day, or minute) with no contracts or credit checks. Different Boost Mobile phone models offer a variety of features, including walkie-talkie technology; multimedia (picture/video/audio), text, and instant messaging; wireless web access; and GPS (global positioning system) capabilities. These phones are available nationwide at major retail and independent wireless dealer locations.

<sup>12.</sup> Bebo is a popular social networking web site—similar to online sites such as MySpace, Facebook, and YouTube—that is accessible to a worldwide user base. According to Wikipedia, "Bebo" stands for "blog early, blog often." Bebo's users can restrict the information available to others and block access to their pages by unwanted visitors.

BlackPlanet.com is an online niche social network that is popular in the African American community.

quantities of these illicit drugs to the area for distribution. They further transport illicit drugs from the area to major domestic drug markets throughout the country for distribution.

#### **Production**

The production of illicit drugs in the Dallas/ Fort Worth area is generally limited to crack cocaine conversion, cannabis cultivation, and methamphetamine production. According to NSS data, of the four powder methamphetamine laboratories seized in the 15 Texas counties of the North Texas HIDTA in 2008, three were located in the Dallas/ Fort Worth area (two laboratories seized in Dallas County and one in Tarrant County). (See Table 4 on page 7.) All of these laboratories were capable of producing small, personal-use amounts of methamphetamine—Dallas County, 2 ounces or less and Tarrant County, 9 ounces to 1 pound some of which could have been used for limited distribution. Law enforcement reporting indicates that local methamphetamine production appears to be increasing in some non-HIDTA counties in northern Texas; however, this trend has yet to have a significant impact on local production in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

#### **Transportation**

Mexican DTOs smuggle multikilogram to multiton quantities of illicit drugs into the Dallas/ Fort Worth area, usually overland in private and commercial vehicles. They commonly smuggle drug shipments from Mexico into the United States through major POEs, such as El Paso, Laredo, McAllen, and Brownsville, or through smaller towns along the Southwest Border, and then transport the contraband along eastbound or northbound highways to drug markets such as Dallas/Fort Worth for staging purposes and/or distribution. Some DTOs instruct their transporters to drive certain drug shipments from Mexico directly to the Dallas/Fort Worth area before unloading their illicit cargo.

Mexican DTOs also smuggle significant quantities of illicit drugs to and through the Dallas/Fort Worth area using commercial bus lines and mail and package delivery services. Law enforcement reporting indicates that Los Zetas members use commercial buses owned by certain regional bus lines to smuggle drugs to the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Mexican traffickers also use mail and package delivery services to facilitate drug smuggling to the Dallas/Fort Worth area. In January 2009 a package delivery service inadvertently delivered a box containing a 30-pound brick of marijuana to a Denton, Texas, address. The package had been shipped from Pharr, Texas (near the Southwest Border), and addressed to a nonexistent Dallas location. In an attempt to deliver the package, the delivery service diverted it to a similar address in Denton (a city located approximately 40 miles northeast of Dallas), where the recipient of the package, expecting a shipment of tools, discovered the marijuana and turned it over to local police officials.

#### Distribution

Illicit drugs smuggled into the North Texas HIDTA region are usually transported by Mexican traffickers to stash houses in the Dallas/Fort Worth area for local and regional distribution or to locations where the drugs are consolidated and repackaged for distribution and/or transshipment to other drug markets. Mexican DTOs and other trafficking organizations use the Dallas/Fort Worth area to distribute illicit drugs to significant drug markets, particularly those in the southeastern, midwestern, and central United States.

Cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine are available in the Dallas/Fort Worth area; however, while seizures of most of those drugs increased in Dallas County over the past 2 years, such seizures generally decreased in Tarrant County during the same period. According to NSS data, law enforcement officers seized more cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine but less heroin in Dallas County in 2008 than in 2007,

	Table	8. Drug \$	Seizures	in the N	lorth Tex	as HIDT/	A, by Cou	ınty, in K	(ilogram:	s, <mark>2006</mark> –	2008*	
County	Cocaine	(Powder and	d Crack)		Heroin			Marijuana			thamphetam owder and Ic	
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Texas												
Collin	21.35	113.44	7.94	NR	NR	NR	57.15	64.05	405.10	8.61	0.95	1.68
Dallas	762.46	432.41	648.18	17.47	12.66	6.26	6,401.94	3,968.64	8,507.99	91.16	74.23	311.50
Denton	42.75	252.35	4.90	2.77	NR	1.18	1,504.68	100.26	93.52	13.55	2.18	13.59
Ellis	63.00	136.98	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	0.06	NR	NR	NR
Henderson	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Hood	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Hunt	56.00	NR	4.00	NR	NR	NR	6.80	554.29	32.33	NR	0.07	NR
Johnson	NR	0.01	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	0.02	NR	NR
Kaufman	159.31	1.40	1.14	NR	NR	NR	2.27	318.23	601.18	0.52	0.93	0.02
Lubbock	8.61	1.63	3.32	NR	NR	NR	85.78	2,046.60	138.25	1.22	2.85	3.88
Navarro	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	0.06	31.30	NR	NR	0.03	NR
Parker	0.04	23.02	30.30	NR	NR	NR	572.84	4,650.20	613.25	0.05	0.02	5.90
Rockwall	NR	19.98	1.19	NR	NR	NR	NR	57.15	300.21	NR	0.45	0.15
Smith	171.10	78.23	1.71	0.21	NR	NR	50.41	296.19	1,340.36	0.66	5.86	3.44
Tarrant	12.33	32.82	5.00	1.71	6.81	NR	728.81	1,537.04	910.36	27.82	2.15	12.71
Subtotal	1,296.97	1,092.27	707.65	22.17	19.46	7.44	9,410.74	13,623.96	12,942.61	143.62	89.73	352.88
Oklahoma												
Cleveland	NR	23.81	0.27	NR	NR	NR	352.89	210.02	14.74	NR	4.18	0.61
Comanche	NR	NR	2.13	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	31.75	NR	NR	NR
Muskogee	5.00	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	77.11	NR	NR	NR	0.31	NR
Oklahoma	328.26	143.23	19.72	NR	NR	23.13	697.77	549.20	386.33	0.71	13.35	11.88
Sequoyah	4.99	4.26	2.51	1.04	NR	8.16	95.25	786.08	106.82	2.18	0.05	0.01
Tulsa	1.23	NR	7.33	NR	2.86	NR	0.68	0.01	69.86	5.26	4.44	1.08
Subtotal	339.48	171.30	31.96	1.04	2.86	31.30	1,223.70	1,545.30	609.52	8.15	22.32	13.58

Source: National Seizure System, as of January 23, 2009.

1.263.57

1.636.45

38.74

10.634.44

15.169.26

22.32

while law enforcement officers seized decreased amounts of major illicit drugs in Tarrant County during the same period, with the exception of methamphetamine. (See Table 8.) Seizure totals for heroin and methamphetamine in Dallas County followed the overall trend for those drugs in the 15 Texas counties in the HIDTA region—decreased seizure totals for heroin and increased seizure

739.61

23.21

totals for methamphetamine. Cocaine seizure amounts in Dallas County increased 50 percent in 2008 when compared with 2007 seizure amounts but did not follow the overall trend for the Texas counties in the HIDTA region, which experienced a substantial decline (35%) in cocaine amounts seized during the same period. Marijuana seizure amounts in Dallas County increased more than

13.552.13

151.76

366.46

112.05

North

Texas

**HIDTA** 

<sup>\*</sup>NSS data is based on voluntary reporting and may not include all seizures occurring in the North Texas HIDTA region. Subtotals and totals may not agree with individual county seizure amounts as a result of rounding. NR-None reported.

Table 9. Drug Seizures in Dallas and Tarrant Counties in the North Texas HIDTA, in Kilograms, 2006–2008

Drug by County	2006	Percent of Total 2006	2007	Percent of Total 2007	Percent Change 2006–2007	2008	Percent of Total 2008	Percent Change 2007–2008
Cocaine (Powder and	Crack)							
Dallas	762	59	432	40	-43	648	92	50
Tarrant	12	1	33	3	175	5	1	-85
All Texas Counties in North Texas HIDTA	1,297	100	1,092	100	-16	708	100	-35
Heroin								
Dallas	17	77	13	68	-24	6	86	-54
Tarrant	2	9	7	37	250	NR	14	-86
All Texas Counties in North Texas HIDTA	22	100	19	100	-14	7	100	-63
Marijuana								
Dallas	6,402	68	3,969	29	-38	8,508	66	114
Tarrant	729	8	1,537	11	111	910	7	-41
All Texas Counties in North Texas HIDTA	9,411	100	13,624	100	45	12,943	100	-5
Methamphetamine (P	owder and Ic	e)						
Dallas	91	63	74	82	-19	312	88	322
Tarrant	28	19	2	2	-93	13	4	550
All Texas Counties in North Texas HIDTA	144	100	90	100	-38	353	100	292

Source: National Seizure System, data run January 22, 2009. NR-None reported.

100 percent in 2008 when compared with 2007 seizure amounts; however marijuana seizure amounts in the Texas counties of the HIDTA region decreased 5 percent during the same period. (See Table 9.)

Despite the overall decline in heroin seizures in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in 2008, investigative intelligence suggests that the availability of heroin has not decreased. In fact, law enforcement reporting indicates that demand for the drug has increased and suppliers of the drug are keeping up with that demand. Most of the heroin distributed in the Dallas/Fort Worth area is Mexican black tar heroin, some of which is used to make cheese heroin. According to Dallas police officers, street-level dealers

of cheese heroin typically possess between 50 to 100 "balls" or "bumps" of cheese heroin at a time, which they sell for as little as \$2 each or \$10 per gram. Hispanic youths, including some street gang members, are the primary distributors of cheese.

Mexican DTOs are the principal wholesale distributors of methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and marijuana in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, while Asian DTOs are the principal distributors of MDMA and hydroponic marijuana. Local independent distributors as well as members of street gangs, prison gangs, and OMGs make up a significant portion of the midlevel and retail-level drug distributors operating in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The majority of gang-related criminal involvement falls within one of two categories—drug (traffick-

ing and/or use) and violent criminal conduct (most of which is drug-related). As of June 2008 (the latest date for which data are available), the Dallas Police Department Gang Unit had identified 102 street gangs and more than 4,000 documented gang members operating in the city of Dallas. Bloods, Crips, Tango Blast, and East Side Homeboys—the largest Hispanic gang in the Dallas area and one of the most violent—are some of the most prominent street gangs that distribute illicit drugs in the area (see Table 10); however, many other gangs also distribute illicit drugs, usually at the retail level. In addition, as of September 2008 (the latest date for which data are available), law enforcement officers in the Fort Worth area identified 224 documented street gangs, 47 of which are currently active in the jurisdiction. Officials estimate that the total number of gang members in the Fort Worth area ranges from 5,000 to 5,500 members.

#### **Drug-Related Crime**

Local street gangs that distribute illicit drugs also contribute to other criminal activity that occurs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The majority of all street gang activity involves the trafficking of illicit drugs (see Table 10) and/or weapons. In the Dallas area, law enforcement officers report that some violent crime in the city is directly related to street gangs or individuals involved in street gang activity. For example, Tango Blast members in Dallas (estimated to number between 200 and 1,000) have a propensity for violence and often engage in criminal activities, including drug trafficking, auto theft, burglary, illegal immigrant smuggling, home invasion robbery, kidnapping, and murder. Moreover, in 2008, federal prosecutors indicted 14 members of a Dallas-based cell of the Texas Syndicate prison gang under RICO (Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization) statutes for their roles in a criminal conspiracy that included murders and the trafficking of massive quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana in the Dallas area. In August 2008 the leader of the cell was sentenced to life in prison for his role in the conspiracy. This was the first time that federal prosecutors in North Texas had used RICO statutes to dismantle a violent prison gang.

Table 10. Drug Distribution by Gangs in the Dallas/Fort Worth Area, 2008

Gang	Ethnicity	Туре	Drug
Bandidos	Caucasian and Hispanic	OMG	Cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine
Bloods	African American	Street	Cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, PCP
Crips	African American	Street	Cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana, PCP
East Side Homeboys	Hispanic	Street	Methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, marijuana
Hermanos de Pistoleros Latinos (HPL)	Hispanic	Prison	Cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine
Latin Kings	Hispanic	Street	Cocaine, heroin, marijuana
Tango Blast	Hispanic	Prison clique/Street	Cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin
Texas Syndicate	Mexican American	Prison	Cocaine, marijuana, heroin, methamphetamine, MDMA
Untouchable Crips	Asian	Street	MDMA, methamphetamine, marijuana

Source: Law enforcement interviews.

Gang members and other criminals arrested on drug trafficking violations in the Dallas/ Fort Worth area are frequently in possession of firearms, which they either carry to protect their drug supplies/defend their distribution territories or, to a lesser extent, intend to smuggle into Mexico. Many obtain firearms and weapons by burglarizing area businesses, private homes, and vehicles or purchasing them illegally through straw purchasers. Additionally, Mexican criminals are increasingly smuggling stolen and illegally purchased guns, particularly assault rifles, to Mexico for use by DTO enforcers. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) estimates that every year thousands of weapons are smuggled into Mexico. According to an ATF firearms trace study, Texas was the most common source state for firearms recovered in Mexico from 2005 through 2007, and Dallas was among the top U.S. source cities in each of the 3 years. Fort Worth was among the top U.S. source cities in 2005 and 2006. In October 2008 a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper stopped a vehicle on I-35 near Denton (located just north of Dallas and Tarrant Counties) and discovered 17 assault-type rifles, thousands of rounds of ammunition, body armor, and 20 black ski masks. The suspects, who were already under investigation by the ATF for smuggling guns to Mexico, were part of an interstate weapons smuggling operation. Many of the serial numbers on the weapons had been obliterated.

#### **Abuse**

More than half of the adult drug-related treatment admissions in the 15 Texas counties located in the North Texas HIDTA region occurred in Dallas and Tarrant Counties each year from 2006 through 2008. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the number of heroin- and marijuana/hashish-related treatment admissions in Dallas and Tarrant Counties increased overall from 2006 through 2008, while the combined totals for powder cocaine-,

crack cocaine-, and methamphetamine/amphetamine-related admissions decreased during the same period. In 2008 the number of admissions for heroin-related treatment in Dallas and Tarrant Counties exceeded the number of treatment admissions for any other drug category that year. In addition, from 2006 through 2008, approximately 90 percent of all heroin-related treatment admissions reported in Texas counties of the North Texas HIDTA region occurred in Dallas and Tarrant Counties. During the same 3-year period, the combined number of heroin-related treatment admissions in the two counties increased almost 26 percent overall. (See Table 11 on page 18.) These increases are most likely a result of the increasing availability of heroin (primarily Mexican black tar) in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and the addictiveness of the drug.

The demand for and abuse of cheese heroin is a major concern to law enforcement and health officials in the Dallas area. Deaths attributed to the abuse of cheese heroin declined in Dallas County. which includes the Dallas Independent School District (DISD), during the 2007/2008 school year<sup>14</sup> (7 deaths as compared with 16 in 2006/2007 and 7 in 2005/2006); however, deaths related to use of the drug combination continue to be reported. In January of the 2008/2009 school year, two teenage girls died in separate incidents from suspected cheese heroin overdoses. (See Table 12 on page 19.) Drug dealers, often young Hispanics, combine Mexican black tar heroin with crushed cold tablets and then sell the mixture to a customer base that targets primarily school age children. During the second half of the 2007/2008 school year, heroin-related arrests in the DISD began to increase (45 arrests from January through July 2008 as compared with 16 arrests from August through December 2007). During the first half of the 2008/2009 school year (August 2008 through December 2008), heroin-related arrests on DISD campuses (26 arrests) increased

The school year for schools in Dallas County, including those in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD), extends from August 1 through July 31.

Table 11. Adult Drug-Related Treatment Admissions in Texas Counties in the North Texas HIDTA, by Drug, 2006–2008

Drug by County	2006	Percent of Total 2006	2007	Percent of Total 2007	Percent Change 2006–2007	2008	Percent of Total 2008	Percent Change 2007–2008
Powder Cocaine				•				
Dallas	385	50	348	41	-10	281	40	-19
Tarrant	207	27	233	28	13	256	36	10
All Texas Counties in North Texas HIDTA	771	100	840	100	9	706	100	-16
Crack Cocaine								
Dallas	1,388	52	1,277	52	-8	1,097	49	-14
Tarrant	749	28	666	27	-11	670	30	1
All Texas Counties in North Texas HIDTA	2,685	100	2,477	100	-8	2,227	100	-10
Heroin								
Dallas	1,404	64	1,686	67	20	1,708	64	1
Tarrant	524	24	590	24	13	721	27	22
All Texas Counties in North Texas HIDTA	2,183	100	2,504	100	15	2,687	100	7
Marijuana/Hashish								
Dallas	417	30	517	33	24	475	30	-8
Tarrant	336	24	406	26	21	447	28	10
All Texas Counties in North Texas HIDTA	1,406	100	1,578	100	12	1,572	100	0
Methamphetamine/An	nphetamine							
Dallas	716	26	653	25	-9	555	27	-15
Tarrant	905	33	788	31	-13	731	36	-7
All Texas Counties in North Texas HIDTA	2,750	100	2,578	100	-6	2,053	100	-20

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services.

Note: North Texas HIDTA county totals have omitted admissions in any drug category with a frequency of less than 10 as a result of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act confidentiality requirements; therefore, actual totals are slightly higher than those represented.

almost 63 percent when compared with arrests during the same period in 2007 (16 arrests). Even after years of public awareness campaigns addressing the dangers of heroin use, heroin-related arrests during the 2007/2008 school year made up more than 20 percent of all DISD campus drug arrests. For the current school year through February 2009, more than 16 percent of drug arrests on DISD campuses

have been heroin-related. In addition, authorities at residential substance abuse treatment centers in the Dallas area note that there has been no decline in the number of clients under the age of 18 who are being admitted for heroin-related treatment at these facilities. Reporting by treatment authorities and DISD statistics also indicate an increase in the number of females abusing cheese heroin.

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Drug Market Analysis 2009 ARCHIVED North Texas

Table 12. Cheese Heroin-Related Deaths of Youth in Dallas County School Districts 2005/2006–2008/2009\*

School Area		Total			
	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	iotai
Dallas Independent School District (DISD)	2	9	5	2	18
Dallas County**	7	16	7	3	33

Source: Dallas Independent School District Police Department.

#### **Illicit Finance**

The Dallas/Fort Worth area is a primary banking and financial center, making it an attractive area for drug money laundering. The well-developed infrastructure that consists of commercial enterprises, transportation networks, and international financial institutions within the area enhances its appeal to legitimate businesspeople as well as to DTOs, criminal groups, and other drug traffickers who are attempting to launder the significant profits that they generate through their illicit activities.

Drug traffickers in and outside Dallas/Fort Worth routinely use the area as a staging location for bulk quantities of cash and monetary instruments that they generate through their illicit activities. Traffickers based in the Dallas/Fort Worth area typically consolidate drug proceeds generated from the distribution of illicit drugs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and many other drug markets—including New York City; Chicago; Little Rock, Arkansas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Cedar Falls, Iowa; Wichita, Kansas; and Kansas City, Missouri—at the same stash locations they use for drugs prior to smuggling the proceeds in bulk to Mexico for eventual laundering or repatriation.

Drug traffickers in Dallas/Fort Worth commonly launder drug proceeds through front and shell companies, electronic wire transfers, and

structured bank deposits; they also purchase luxury vehicles, jewelry, and residential properties. Law enforcement reporting indicates that some traffickers in the Dallas/Fort Worth area use drug proceeds to purchase properties that they then quickly resell for cash and, potentially, a substantial profit. According to Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) officials, property "flips" typically involve fraudulent appraisals, falsified loan documents, and inflated buyers' incomes. Law enforcement reporting also indicates that an increasing number of Mexican criminal groups are involved in house flipping and mortgage fraud, some of the proceeds of which are laundered through businesses such as night clubs. Some Mexican criminals involved in house flipping scams and mortgage fraud have direct connections to Mexican DTOs. Some money launderers, under the direction of a major DTO, use illicit drug proceeds to buy houses to rent; they collect the monthly rental payments and forward them to the trafficking organization in Mexico.

Drug traffickers in the Dallas/Fort Worth area are also using stored value cards to launder illicit drug proceeds. Legitimate and criminal users of these virtual money cards store funds on the cards in amounts not exceeding the dollar limit set by the issuing authority; however, a complicit issuing authority can

<sup>\*</sup>School year data are current through February 2009.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Includes all public schools within Dallas County, including those in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD).

waive the dollar limit, making these cards attractive to money launderers. Stored value cards can be accessed through the Internet, and no names are associated with the cards, thereby providing a degree of anonymity. The owner of a card can authorize another individual to use the card to withdraw funds without requiring any type of identification at the time of the transaction.

#### **Oklahoma City**

#### **Overview**

Oklahoma City is a significant regionallevel transportation, transshipment, and distribution center for illicit drugs supplied to the North Texas HIDTA region and markets in neighboring states. Mexican DTOs control the transportation of wholesale quantities of most illicit drugs including marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin—to the area for distribution. Mexican DTOs and associates working on their behalf often transship illicit drugs from Oklahoma City to other drug market areas located in and outside the state, primarily in neighboring states and the southeast, for distribution. The interstates and other roadways that traverse Oklahoma City and surrounding areas provide ready access to and from the U.S.-Mexico border through Texas and enhance the attractiveness of the Oklahoma City area to drug traffickers as a significant location for the transportation and transshipment of illicit drugs and drug proceeds. Asian DTOs, based primarily on the West Coast, are the principal suppliers of MDMA and highpotency marijuana in the Oklahoma City area.

#### **Production**

Mexican and local independent traffickers, the principal powder methamphetamine producers in the Oklahoma City area, produce less methamphetamine than they did prior to 2004, when Oklahoma officials first enacted precursor chemical control regulations. Data received from the Oklahoma

Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs indicate that law enforcement officers did not seize any methamphetamine laboratories in Oklahoma County in 2008, a dramatic decline from the 94 laboratories seized in the county in 2004. Despite the decline in seizures of local methamphetamine laboratories, law enforcement officers in Oklahoma report that methamphetamine is increasingly being produced in some areas of the state, particularly Tulsa and Broken Arrow, usually by operators of small laboratories that are capable of producing quantities sufficient only for personal use or limited local distribution. Operators at these local laboratories typically produce methamphetamine using the "Nazi" method; however, in the last quarter of 2008, law enforcement officers reported that methamphetamine producers were increasingly using a simplified but still dangerous method of production—a variation of the old "cold-cook" method and often referred to as the one-pot method. Producers using this method mix pseudoephedrine and other chemicals into a 2-liter container, such as a plastic soda bottle, and then shake the contents of the container, which is then set aside for approximately 1 hour to allow the ingredients to react and produce liquid methamphetamine. This method is rapidly becoming the preferred method used by "mom and pop" laboratory operators because of its speed and portability. Operators often carry the chemical-filled containers in their vehicles and drive around during the reaction process, then dispose of the container and the chemical residue on the side of the road. The increase in this activity is a direct response, in part, to lowerquality ice methamphetamine available at the retail level in Oklahoma and the ability of laboratory operators to acquire the necessary precursors, such as pseudoephedrine, through smurfing activities.

Illicit drug production in the Oklahoma City area is generally limited to crack cocaine conversion and small-scale indoor cannabis cultivation. African American criminals are the primary producers of crack cocaine in Oklahoma City,

typically converting powder cocaine to crack cocaine in the city's low-income neighborhoods as needed for distribution.

#### **Transportation**

Mexican DTOs employ cell members in their transportation networks to smuggle most of the illicit drugs available in Oklahoma City from Mexico through the Laredo and El Paso/Juárez plazas. They typically smuggle drugs overland in private and commercial vehicles equipped with concealed compartments. Law enforcement reporting indicates that trafficking organizations that smuggle drugs along the interstate highways intersecting Oklahoma City are now using older individuals than in the past to transport contraband. In addition, traffickers are also using children and elderly passengers as covers for their illegal activity. For example, in November 2008, law enforcement officers in Oklahoma County arrested a woman driver who was traveling eastbound on I-40 after they discovered more than 25 pounds of heroin concealed inside a suitcase in the woman's vehicle. The driver, who was accompanied by a female passenger and a 9-year-old girl, had a map that had been configured on an Internet mapping site and showed a route that went north and east around Oklahoma City and connected with I-44 east—a route most likely intended to avoid the aggressive interdiction efforts along the highways intersecting the city. The heroin was packaged in 13 compressed bundles that contained packages of shoe-insole-shaped heroin—a current heroin smuggling trend.

To avoid the interdiction teams that monitor many areas of Oklahoma's major highways, traffickers have adjusted their smuggling routes when transporting illicit drugs and drug proceeds to and through the state. In the third quarter of 2008, federal and state law enforcement officers in the Oklahoma City area reported that drug transportation groups were using roadways that

would circumvent Oklahoma and its vigorous highway interdiction operations.

Traffickers transporting illicit drugs and their proceeds to and through the Oklahoma City area use a variety of means to conceal their contraband.

- A July 2008 controlled delivery of two packages sent to an Oklahoma City address led to the arrests of two individuals and the seizure of about 4 kilograms of opium gum. The opium gum was shipped with miscellaneous vehicle parts that included two coiled hoses that contained the drug. Opium gum is the raw product from which heroin is derived.
- In January 2009 a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper conducted a traffic stop on a driver traveling east on I-40. A search of the vehicle disclosed 11 bundles of ice methamphetamine secreted inside an aftermarket compartment built into the exhaust tunnel on the undercarriage of the vehicle. The bundles contained more than 7 kilograms of the drug and were destined for Oklahoma City.
- Oklahoma City law enforcement officers report that they are observing an increase in shipments of high-potency marijuana sent through package delivery services and concealed inside plastic paint-type buckets. The buckets are weighted in such a way that they are comparable to a legitimate 5-gallon container of paint.

When drug shipments reach their intended destinations in the Oklahoma City area, traffickers frequently store the drugs in stash houses located in residential neighborhoods where their family members or friends reside. They often repackage their drug shipments at these locations for further transport and distribution throughout the United States, including Chicago. They use these same stash house locations to store and consolidate bulk quantities of cash and monetary instruments before transporting the illicit funds to Mexico.

#### **Distribution**

Mexican DTOs and criminal groups are significant suppliers of wholesale quantities of illicit drugs in Oklahoma City. They usually obtain their drug supplies, most often cocaine and Mexican ice methamphetamine, from relatives living in Matamoros, Chihuahua, or Sonora, Mexico. Traffickers operating in western Oklahoma generally acquire their illicit drugs from Chihuahua-based suppliers, while traffickers in eastern and southern Oklahoma most often obtain their drug supplies from Matamoros-based suppliers.

African American and Hispanic street gangs are the principal retail-level distributors of illicit drugs in Oklahoma City. Some members of African American and Hispanic street gangs, particularly South Side Locos and Juaritos, work with Mexican DTOs to distribute methamphetamine, cocaine, and other drugs in Oklahoma City. African American street gangs also distribute MDMA and codeinelaced cough syrup to young abusers. Some street gang members who previously distributed only cocaine also distribute methamphetamine. Law enforcement reporting indicates that older African American and Hispanic gang members, usually from the mid-20s to 40 years of age, oversee the street-level distribution in areas controlled by younger gang members.

#### **Drug-Related Crime**

Law enforcement and anecdotal reporting suggests that a significant amount of violent crime in Oklahoma City is directly linked to the trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs and that the level of violence in the city is increasing. The criminal activities of traffickers extend beyond the sale of drugs to include receipt of stolen property, use of counterfeit currency/securities, and other criminal acts. Methamphetamine abusers commit similar crimes to obtain money to support their drug addictions. Similarly, drug users may try to finance their addictions by stealing property, committing

identity theft, credit card fraud, and other criminal activities. In response to this threat, the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Gang Task Force was created in 2006 to combat drug trafficking and its underlying related criminal activity. The members of this task force are the U.S. Attorneys Office, the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), ATF, and Oklahoma City Police Department. This task force, with funding from the Safe Streets program—an FBI violent crime initiative—provides participating local law enforcement agencies, such as the Oklahoma City Police Department, with manpower and financial support to pursue violent gangs through coordinated investigations that are intended to remove gang members from the streets and prosecute them for their criminal activities. Through this coordinated effort, officers attempt to turn violent gang members into cooperating defendants who can provide information relative to unsolved murders, drive-by shootings, and other violent crimes. The work of this task force has resulted in hundreds of arrests and prosecutions of street gang members at the state and federal level.

Gang members often acquire weapons to facilitate their criminal activities. For example, in December 2008, police officers in Oklahoma City arrested a two-tour Iraq war veteran after it was discovered that he was making improvised explosive devices that he intended to sell to gang members and other criminals in the area. Gangs use these devices most likely to intimidate rival gang members or, possibly, law enforcement. Often gangs and extremist groups either encourage members to join the military for combat training or attempt to recruit present and former military members for the skills they acquired while in the military.

#### Abuse

The number of drug-related treatment admissions in Oklahoma County increased each year from 2006 through 2008 for heroin and marijuana

Table 13. Adult Drug-Related Treatment Admissions in Oklahoma Counties in the North Texas HIDTA, by Drug, 2006–2008

Drug by County	2006	Percent of Total 2006	2007	Percent of Total 2007	Percent Change 2006–2007	2008	Percent of Total 2008	Percent Change 2007–2008	
Powder Cocaine									
Oklahoma	126	49	167	55	33	154	57	-8	
All Oklahoma Counties in North Texas HIDTA	258	100	306	100	19	268	100	-12	
Crack Cocaine									
Oklahoma	601	57	545	58	-9	454	60	-17	
All Oklahoma Counties in North Texas HIDTA	1,062	100	940	100	-11	758	100	-19	
Heroin									
Oklahoma	25	52	58	66	132	95	66	64	
All Oklahoma Counties in North Texas HIDTA	48	100	88	100	83	144	100	64	
Marijuana/Hashish									
Oklahoma	563	50	656	54	17	714	56	9	
All Oklahoma Counties in North Texas HIDTA	1,129	100	1,214	100	8	1,270	100	5	
Methamphetamine/Amp	hetamine								
Oklahoma	702	45	673	48	-4	566	52	-16	
All Oklahoma Counties in North Texas HIDTA	1,555	100	1,406	100	-10	1,097	100	-22	
Other Opiates									
Oklahoma	219	46	337	53	54	357	48	6	
All Oklahoma Counties in North Texas HIDTA	475	100	635	100	34	746	100	17	

Source: Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

as well as for other opiates (which includes CPDs such as hydrocodone and oxycodone products). The most significant increase occurred in the number of heroin-related treatment admissions, which almost quadrupled during this 3-year period, increasing from 25 admissions in 2006 to 95 admissions in 2008. Of interest, the increase in heroin-related treatment admissions in Oklahoma County in 2008 coincides with the increase in heroin amounts seized in the North Texas HIDTA region, most notably in Oklahoma County. In addition from 2006 through 2008, marijuana- and other opiate-

related treatment admissions in Oklahoma County increased 27 percent and 63 percent, respectively. In 2008 Oklahoma County accounted for the greatest number of treatment admissions in all six Oklahoma counties in the North Texas HIDTA region for the abuse of heroin (66%), marijuana (56%), and other opiates (48%). Powder cocaine-related treatment admissions in Oklahoma County increased overall (22%) during the 3-year period but decreased by 8 percent in 2008 when compared with admissions in 2007. Crack cocaine- and meth-amphetamine/amphetamine-related treatment

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Table 14. Drug-Related Deaths in Oklahoma and Oklahoma Counties in the North Texas HIDTA 2005–2008

County	Drug-Related Overdose Deaths					
County	2005	2006	2007	2008*		
Cleveland	16	24	20	23		
Comanche	9	7	15	6		
Muskogee	6	8	14	26		
Oklahoma	88	107	123	95		
Sequoyah	7	9	7	3		
Tulsa	161	133	141	123		
All Oklahoma Counties in North Texas HIDTA	287	288	320	276		
All Oklahoma Counties	514	567	565	504		

Source: Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.
\*Drug-related deaths in Oklahoma in 2008 may be higher than noted because Medical Examiner data for the last quarter of 2008 were still being reported as of March 31, 2009, and, therefore, are incomplete.

admissions in Oklahoma County declined each year from 2006 through 2008, decreasing 24 percent and 19 percent overall, respectively, during that period. (See Table 13 on page 23.)

The number of drug-related deaths that occurred in Oklahoma County declined in 2008 after increasing in each of the 3 previous years; the combined total of drug-related deaths in the six Oklahoma counties in the North Texas HIDTA region also declined after increasing each year since at least 2005. In 2008, Oklahoma County accounted for 34 percent of all drug-related deaths that occurred in the HIDTA's six Oklahoma counties and approximately 19 percent of all drug-related deaths that occurred throughout the state of Oklahoma. (See Table 14.) Of the 276 drug-related deaths that occurred in the HIDTA's Oklahoma counties in 2008, more than 80 percent (222 deaths) involved the consumption of CPDs, and approximately 88 percent were accidental or unintentional. Oklahoma County accounted for 33 percent (74 deaths) of all CPD-related deaths reported in the HIDTA's Oklahoma counties in 2008. 15 (See Table 15 on page 25.)

Mexican ice methamphetamine is the predominant form of the drug available and abused in Oklahoma drug markets, including Oklahoma City; however, law enforcement reporting indicates that a limited but increasing amount of locally produced powder methamphetamine is also available and abused. The abuse of crack cocaine increased in 2008, most likely the result of older African American abusers/traffickers resuming their drug activities after serving prison sentences.

CPDs are diverted and abused by an increasing number of users in Oklahoma City and other areas of the state. Lortab (hydrocodone), Xanax (alprazolam), and Soma (carisoprodol) are the primary CPDs of abuse and, when taken in combination, provide abusers with heroin-type euphoria. Other prescription drugs, most notably OxyContin (oxycodone) and methadone, are also preferred drugs of abuse. These drugs are often prescribed by physicians at pain management clinics, which have increased in number throughout the state. Some physicians at these clinics are reportedly prescribing methadone as an alternative to Oxy-Contin because of the adverse publicity linked to OxyContin and the potential risk of addiction or death associated with its use.

Oklahoma has also experienced a growth in the number of methadone treatment programs opened in recent years. Four of these treatment programs, including a Native American methadone clinic, are located in the Oklahoma City area. Through these programs, methadone is dispensed to patients for the treatment of opioid addiction. Some individuals participating in these programs use the methadone to assist in coming down from a methamphetamine high. With the increase in the number of these programs, the potential for abuse and diversion of methadone at these clinics is rising. In addition, the ready availability of diverted methadone in recent

<sup>15.</sup> Death statistics are current as of March 31, 2009.

Table 15. Illicit and Controlled Prescription Drug-Related Deaths	
in Oklahoma and Oklahoma Counties in the North Texas HIDTA Region, 2008	*

	County						State	Percent of Deaths
Drug Type	Cleveland	Comanche	Muskogee	Oklahoma	Sequoyah	Tulsa	Oklahoma	North Texas HIDTA Oklahoma Counties
Illicit	1	1	4	21	0	27	69	78
<b>Controlled Prescription</b>	22	5	22	74	3	96	435	51

Source: Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.

\*Death statistics are current as of March 31, 2009.

years has resulted in a number of deaths throughout the state.

#### **Illicit Finance**

Similar to money laundering trends in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, Mexican DTOs in Oklahoma City typically consolidate bulk quantities of cash and monetary instruments generated from the distribution of illicit drugs in Oklahoma City and many other drug markets prior to smuggling the proceeds in bulk overland into Mexico for eventual laundering. They often transport cash and monetary instruments in the same vehicles used to smuggle illicit drugs to Oklahoma City. According to NSS data, the total amount of bulk cash seized in Oklahoma County in 2008 (\$5,132,493) more than doubled when compared with cash seizures in the county in 2007 (\$2,359,216). Much of the increase in the amount of bulk cash and monetary instruments seized in 2008 can be attributed to successful highway drug interdiction efforts. These efforts, which often are conducted along Interstates 35 and 40, have forced some traffickers to alter their transportation routes, avoiding interstate highways in favor of less heavily monitored state routes.

Drug traffickers in Oklahoma City also use various other means to transfer tens of millions of dollars in illicit drug proceeds to suppliers in Mexico. Some traffickers transfer illicit proceeds from Oklahoma City to Mexico through wire transfers. They also use virtual money (stored value or debit) cards to facilitate the transfer of drug and other criminal proceeds from the Oklahoma City area to Mexico, Colombia, and other South American counties. One investigation in Oklahoma City involved a debit card company, some members of which had been charged with laundering money through the company for a major Colombian drug operation. Some traffickers launder their illicit drug proceeds by traveling to various casinos, where they convert the illegal currency into what appears to be gambling proceeds. In addition, other traffickers smuggle drug proceeds to and from the city through package delivery services.

### **Outlook**

Some law enforcement reporting suggests that the Gulf Cartel—the primary drug organizational threat to the North Texas HIDTA region—and certain members of Los Zetas have broken ranks, allegedly splitting the cartel into two factions. The split would leave Jorge Eduardo Costilla-Sánchez and Antonio Ezequiel Cárdenas-Guillén in charge of the Gulf Cartel and Heriberto Lazcano-Lazcano as the head of a new cartel with Miguel Angel Treviño-Morales as second in command. Given Treviño-Morales's influence within the North Texas HIDTA region, the formation of this new cartel could signal a further rise in prominence of the Dallas/Fort Worth area as a major drug trafficking center.

Because of the continued success of highway interdiction programs in Oklahoma, drug traffickers will continue to vary their transportation methods and techniques and alternate their transportation routes to avoid law enforcement detection, particularly along highways transiting the state that are heavily patrolled by interdiction teams.

It is probable that the availability of locally produced powder methamphetamine in some Oklahoma counties in the North Texas HIDTA region will increase over the next year as former producers of the drug return to their criminal activities after completing prison sentences. Local producers in Oklahoma will quite likely increase their use of the one-pot method of methamphetamine production and set up operations in those smaller communities where law enforcement resources are less concentrated or limited.

The increasing abuse of CPDs in the North Texas HIDTA Oklahoma region will most likely result in an increased heroin abuser population in the area because abuse of CPDs, which is a serious concern in Oklahoma, frequently leads to heroin abuse. As prescription drug abusers are unable to obtain sufficient quantities of those drugs to meet their addiction needs, they may turn to heroin and its increasingly available supply to satisfy those needs.

The current economic decline in the real estate market will not diminish the threat posed by house-flipping money launderers in the Dallas/ Fort Worth area. Members of criminal groups and other money launderers, including a growing number of Mexican drug traffickers, will increasingly take advantage of foreclosed properties in the area to commit mortgage fraud and launder drug proceeds through the purchase of these properties.

# **Sources**

#### Local, State, and Regional

#### Oklahoma

Muskogee Police Department

Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs

Oklahoma City Metropolitan Gang Task Force

Oklahoma City Police Department

Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance

Abuse Services

Oklahoma Highway Patrol

Tulsa County Sheriff's Office

Tulsa Police Department

#### **Texas**

Arlington Police Department

Narcotics Division

Dallas Independent School District Police Department

Dallas Police Department

Gang Unit

Narcotics Division

Fort Worth Police Department

Gang Intelligence and Gang Enforcement Unit

Special Operations Division

Garland Police Department

Irving Police Department

Narcotics Unit

Navarro County Sheriff's Office

Narcotics Division

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Texas Department of Public Safety

Narcotics Unit

Directed Intelligence Group

Drug Intelligence Group

Texas Department of State Health Services

#### **Federal**

Executive Office of the President

Office of National Drug Control Policy

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

North Texas

Regional Intelligence Support Center

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Dallas Field Division

Criminal Division

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force

**Drug Enforcement Administration** 

Dallas Field Division

Oklahoma City Resident Office

Tulsa Resident Office

El Paso Intelligence Center

National Seizure System

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dallas Field Division

U.S. Attorneys Office

Northern District of Texas

Dallas Office

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

Internal Revenue Service

#### Other

Nexus Recovery Center, Incorporated, Dallas, Texas

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# Questions and comments may be directed to Southwest Unit, Regional Threat Analysis Branch.

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