



**U.S. Department of Justice
National Drug Intelligence Center**



Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



Drug Market Analysis 2010

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2010-R0813-029

June 2010

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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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Table of Contents

Strategic Drug Threat Developments	1
HIDTA Overview	3
Drug Threat Overview	3
Drug Trafficking Organizations	4
Production	4
Transportation	5
Distribution	7
Drug-Related Crime	8
Abuse	8
Illicit Finance	9
Outlook	9
Appendix A. Tables	11
Sources	13



Strategic Drug Threat Developments

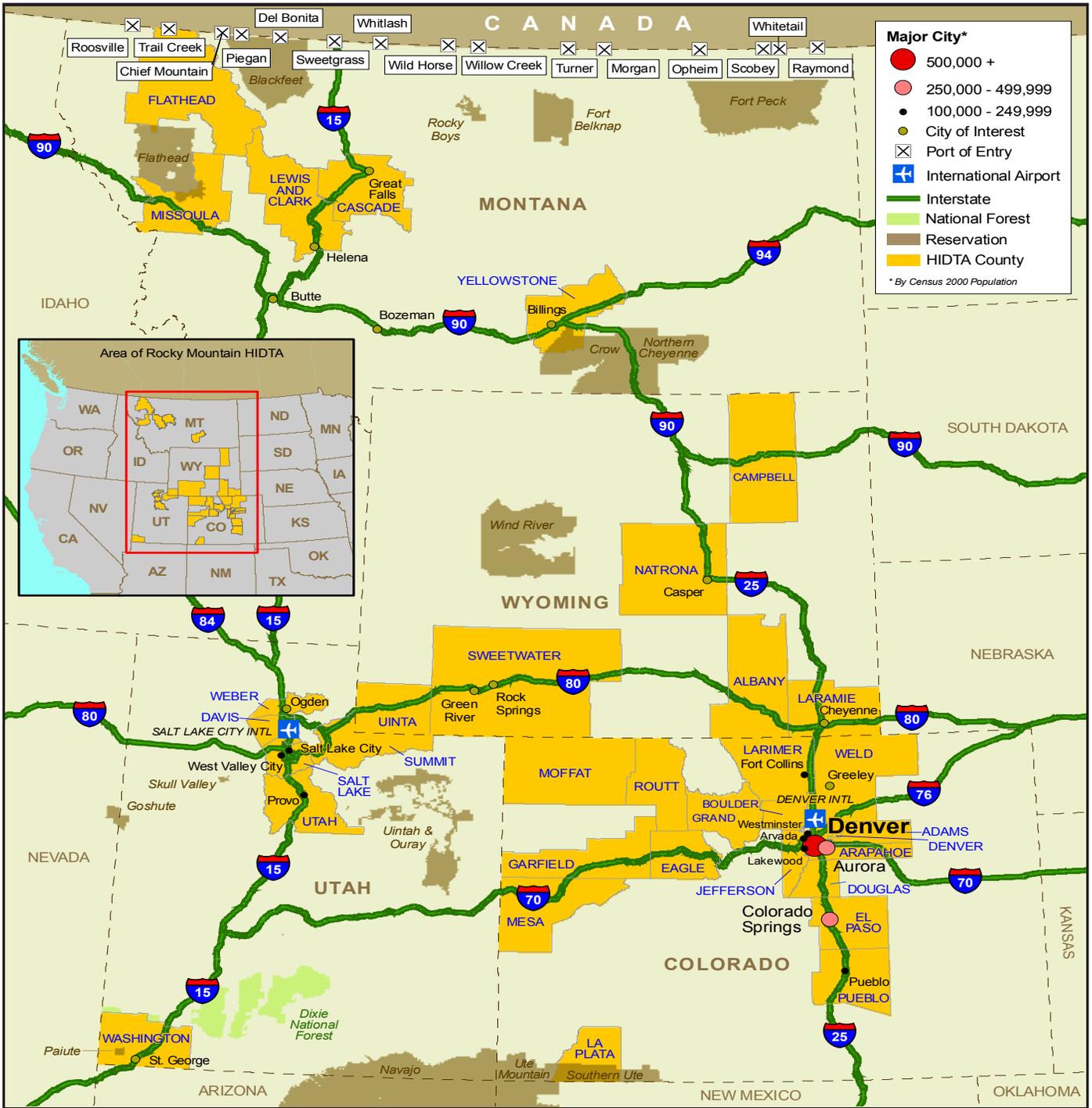
The distribution and abuse of Mexican methamphetamine pose the most significant overall drug threat to the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) region. Secondary drug threats vary throughout the region. For example, cocaine distribution and abuse are most prominent in Colorado, particularly in the Denver area, whereas controlled prescription drugs (CPDs), while widely available throughout the region, pose a greater threat to the Salt Lake City, Utah, area. Heroin abuse in the region is increasing as teens and young adults switch from CPDs to Mexican black tar heroin.

Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) are the principal suppliers of wholesale quantities of methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, and black tar heroin to the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region from locations along the Southwest Border, while West Coast Asian DTOs supply high-potency marijuana and MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy) to the region from sources in Canada.

The following are significant strategic drug threat developments in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region:

- Mexican ice methamphetamine trafficking and abuse are increasing, while domestic methamphetamine production is declining throughout the HIDTA region. Mexican DTOs are capitalizing on declining local methamphetamine production by providing a continuous supply of low-cost, high-purity Mexican methamphetamine. Ice methamphetamine availability is expected to remain at the high levels required to support market demand and mitigate the need for local production of the drug.
- Mexican DTOs are expanding their outdoor cannabis cultivation operations on public lands in the HIDTA region, primarily in Utah and Colorado. In doing so, these DTOs are eliminating transportation costs and reducing the risk of seizure that is inherent in shipping marijuana from Mexico into the United States. Law enforcement eradicated 119,521 plants from national forests in 2009, compared with 44,668 plants in 2008—a 168 percent increase.
- Cocaine availability increased in many areas of the HIDTA region in 2009, eliminating the shortages experienced in 2008. Wholesale cocaine availability increased in Salt Lake City and Ogden, Utah, and Longmont, Colorado. The increased availability of cocaine is expected to continue in the short term.
- CPD abuse is a significant problem in Utah, particularly in Salt Lake City, which has one of the highest prescription drug abuse rates in the nation.
- The demand for Mexican black tar heroin has risen since 2008, primarily among teens and young adults who are transitioning from prescription drugs to black tar heroin because of lower costs and greater accessibility.

Figure 1. Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



HIDTA Overview

The Rocky Mountain HIDTA encompasses 34 designated counties in Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. The region contains large metropolitan areas as well as expansive, sparsely populated areas, including public and tribal lands. (See Figure 1 on page 2.) The HIDTA region is located between major drug source areas in Mexico and Canada and is linked by extensive interstate highways to major domestic drug markets. The region's highway infrastructure and direct access to drug source areas enable drug traffickers to transport significant quantities of ice methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, and heroin into and through the HIDTA region for local consumption and to drug markets throughout the United States. Interstates 15, 25, 70, and 80 are the principal routes used by Mexican traffickers to transport drugs into the region; however, they also use various state and U.S. highways in an attempt to avoid law enforcement interdiction operations. Denver and Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Salt Lake City, Utah, are the three largest metropolitan areas and serve as distribution centers for other regional drug markets, such as Fort Collins, Colorado; Billings, Montana; and Cheyenne, Wyoming, as well as transshipment points for drugs supplied to markets in the Midwest, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic regions.

Rural areas of the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region, including 27 national forests and national grasslands, provide traffickers with an opportunity to avoid detection as they engage in illicit activities such as cannabis cultivation. Additionally, drug smuggling from Canada through remote areas in the northern area of the HIDTA region is a particular concern for law enforcement agencies. The 585-mile U.S.–Canada border in Montana has 15 official ports of entry (POEs),^a as well as hundreds of easily accessible unofficial crossings.

Drug Threat Overview

Methamphetamine distribution and abuse are the greatest drug threats to the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region. According to the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS) 2010,^b 71 of the 96 federal, state, and local law enforcement respondents in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA identify methamphetamine as the drug that poses the greatest threat to their jurisdictions. (See Table A1 in Appendix A.) The availability of Mexican methamphetamine is high, as evidenced by high seizures and declining wholesale prices. HIDTA initiatives seized approximately 340 pounds of methamphetamine in 2009, a slight increase over 2008. Concurrently, the wholesale price for Mexican methamphetamine declined from \$19,000 to \$20,000 per pound in 2008 to \$12,000 to \$20,000 per pound in 2009. Local methamphetamine laboratory seizures in the region are also declining, in part because of the region's precursor chemical laws, which explains the rise in the availability of Mexican methamphetamine to meet local demand for the drug.

Outdoor marijuana cultivation is widespread throughout the region, primarily on public lands in Utah and Colorado. According to law enforcement officials, this situation resulted from a combination of high abuse levels and the exploitation of state medicinal marijuana laws by illegal cannabis cultivators and drug traffickers. Law enforcement eradicated 119,521 plants from national forests in 2009, compared with 44,668 plants in 2008—a 168 percent increase.

Law enforcement reporting indicates that indoor cannabis cultivation is increasing in the HIDTA region, particularly in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, to meet the rising demand for high-potency marijuana and earn the higher profits associated with the more potent form of the drug. According to HIDTA officials, the number of cannabis plants eradicated from indoor grow sites increased slightly from 2005 (5,628 plants) to 2009 (6,840 plants). High-potency marijuana sold for \$250 to \$500 per ounce at the retail level in Salt Lake City, compared with Mexican commercial-grade marijuana that sold for \$60 to \$100 per ounce in 2009.

Cocaine availability has increased in some areas of the region, as evidenced by lower wholesale prices and increased seizures. Wholesale-level cocaine prices in Denver decreased from \$17,500 to \$27,000 per kilogram at the end of 2008 to \$18,000 to \$22,000 per kilogram during the first half of 2009. Law enforcement reporting indicates that cocaine availability increased in Longmont, Colorado, and Ogden and Salt Lake City, Utah. Seizures of cocaine associated with HIDTA initiatives increased 11 percent from 2006 (390 kg) to 2009 (433 kg).

CPDs are readily available and abused throughout the region. NDTS 2010 data show that 84 of the 96 law enforcement agency respondents in the HIDTA region report that CPDs are available at high to moderate levels in their jurisdictions. The

a. The POEs are based on those listed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Border Patrol.

b. NDTS data for 2010 cited in this report are as of March 3, 2010. NDTS data cited are raw, unweighted responses from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies solicited either through NDIC or the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) HIDTA program. Data cited may include responses from agencies that are part of the NDTS 2010 national sample and/or agencies that are part of HIDTA solicitation lists.

most commonly abused CPDs are opioid pain relievers, primarily oxycodone and hydrocodone. CPD abuse is a significant problem in Utah, particularly in Salt Lake City, which has one of the highest prescription drug abuse rates in the nation, according to the Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Admissions to the public treatment system for prescription drug abuse increased from 5 percent of all treatment admissions in 2006 to 8 percent in 2009. This increase is due in part to rising oxycodone/hydrocodone admissions, which have been trending upward since 2006.

The availability of and demand for Mexican black tar heroin have increased since 2008, primarily among teens and young adults, who are switching from prescription opioids to black tar heroin, which is often cheaper and more available. Law enforcement and public health professionals report that heroin distribution and abuse levels are increasing in metropolitan areas of the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region, primarily Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Denver. Abusers find heroin readily available, as evidenced by heroin seizure totals in the region, which increased from almost 11 kilograms in 2008 to 25 kilograms in 2009. Wholesale-level Mexican black tar heroin prices in Denver remained unchanged from 2008, at \$25,000 to \$29,000 per kilogram.

Drug Trafficking Organizations

Mexican DTOs distribute most wholesale quantities of methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin in the region. They obtain these drugs from the Southwest Border area and sources of supply in several areas in Mexico. Mexican DTOs are well organized, extensively networked, and deeply entrenched in many communities throughout the region, which they use as a base of operations for regional- and national-level drug trafficking and money laundering activities. The presence of Mexican DTOs in the HIDTA region is reflected in recent law enforcement investigations that have identified several significant DTOs operating in the region that are associated with major Mexican cartels, particularly La Familia Michoacána and the Sinaloa Cartel. Mexican DTOs maintain alliances with various criminal groups, prison gangs, street gangs, and outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs) to capitalize on the organizational networks that these groups have established in the region. They use these groups to transport, store, package, and distribute illicit drugs and assist in money laundering activities.

Asian DTOs and criminal groups are the primary wholesale distributors of Canadian high-potency marijuana and MDMA in the HIDTA region. These traffickers also operate local indoor cannabis cultivation sites and supply high-potency marijuana and MDMA to other Asian traffickers in Colorado Springs, Denver, and Salt Lake City.

Local and nationally affiliated street gangs as well as prison gangs and OMGs distribute significant quantities of methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and other illicit drugs at the retail level in the region. These gangs are supplied primarily by Mexican traffickers. Street gangs, prison gangs, and OMGs engage in a variety of other criminal activities, including burglary, robbery, theft, assault, and homicide. These gangs often use violence to establish or maintain control of their drug trafficking operations.

The number of DTOs that were targeted, disrupted, or dismantled through Rocky Mountain HIDTA initiatives is considerable. In 2009, HIDTA initiatives targeted 36 international DTOs (10 of which were disrupted or dismantled), 123 multi-state DTOs (56 of which were disrupted or dismantled), and 107 local DTOs (41 of which were disrupted or dismantled). (See [Table A2 in Appendix A.](#)) Moreover, 20 Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT) and 20 Regional Priority Organization Target (RPOT) investigations were conducted in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region in 2009. (See [Table A3 in Appendix A.](#))

Production

Outdoor cannabis cultivation is widespread throughout the region, most notably on public lands in Colorado and Utah. Mexican DTOs, the primary outdoor cultivators, favor public lands because of the added security provided by remote locations. Mexican DTOs typically employ illegal aliens, particularly from Michoacán, Mexico, to tend crop sites, provide protection from intruders (including law enforcement officers), and harvest the cannabis. These cultivators have well-established familial support structures in place and are typically well versed in farming requirements, including cannabis growing techniques. DTO members in Michoacán know most of the relatives of the workers who tend the cultivation sites and, as a result, can intimidate the workers in the United States by threatening to harm or kill their relatives in Mexico.

Mexican growers are increasingly cultivating in areas and employing techniques not traditionally used in the past in an attempt to avoid law enforcement eradication and seizure. For example, Mexican growers are cultivating at different altitudes and planting several smaller plots rather than one large site. The number of plants eradicated from national forest

lands in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region increased from 44,668 plants in 2008 to 119,521 plants in 2009. In August 2009, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies seized 14,500 plants from an outdoor cannabis grow operation in Pike National Forest, Jefferson County, Colorado. Additionally, in September 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and South Metro Drug Task Force seized approximately 4,000 plants from four grow sites located in the Douglas County portion of the Pike National Forest. (See Figure 2 on page 6.)

Indoor cannabis cultivation is increasing in the HIDTA region, particularly in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, to meet the rising demand for high-potency marijuana. According to HIDTA officials, the number of cannabis plants eradicated from indoor grow sites increased slightly from 2005 (5,628 plants) to 2009 (6,840 plants); however, Colorado showed the largest increase (39 percent) from 2005 (3,773) to 2009 (5,232). Increased indoor cannabis cultivation in Colorado is partly attributed to Amendment 20^c, the Medicinal Use of Marijuana, which allows the cultivation, distribution, and use of marijuana. Law enforcement authorities in Colorado report that Amendment 20 has been exploited by seemingly legitimate medical marijuana growers and medical dispensaries that deliberately exceed the prescribed limits for the amount of processed marijuana that may be possessed or the number of plants that may be under cultivation at any one time. Officials from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in Colorado report that investigations of individuals who exploit the law are often complicated by differing views among state, county, and local officials with regard to medical marijuana laws.

Asian criminal groups and local independent dealers are the primary producers of high-potency marijuana from indoor cannabis cultivation sites. Indoor cannabis cultivators typically use advanced growing techniques that include lighting, irrigation systems, chemical fertilizers, and plant cloning. Indoor grow sites typically average fewer plants than outdoor grows and range in size from a single closet to entire houses or larger buildings that are converted into advanced grow operations.

Local methamphetamine production has steadily decreased since 2005, largely as a result of precursor chemical control legislation, successful law enforcement operations, and the increased availability of low-cost Mexican ice methamphetamine. According to National Seizure System (NSS) data, the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region decreased 80 percent from 241 laboratories in 2005 to 47 laboratories in 2009. (See Table 1.)

Table 1. Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizures, Rocky Mountain HIDTA Counties, 2005–2009

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Colorado	151	98	56	40	32
Montana	26	12	8	6	10
Utah	55	34	8	14	5
Wyoming	9	5	8	3	0
Total	241	149	80	63	47

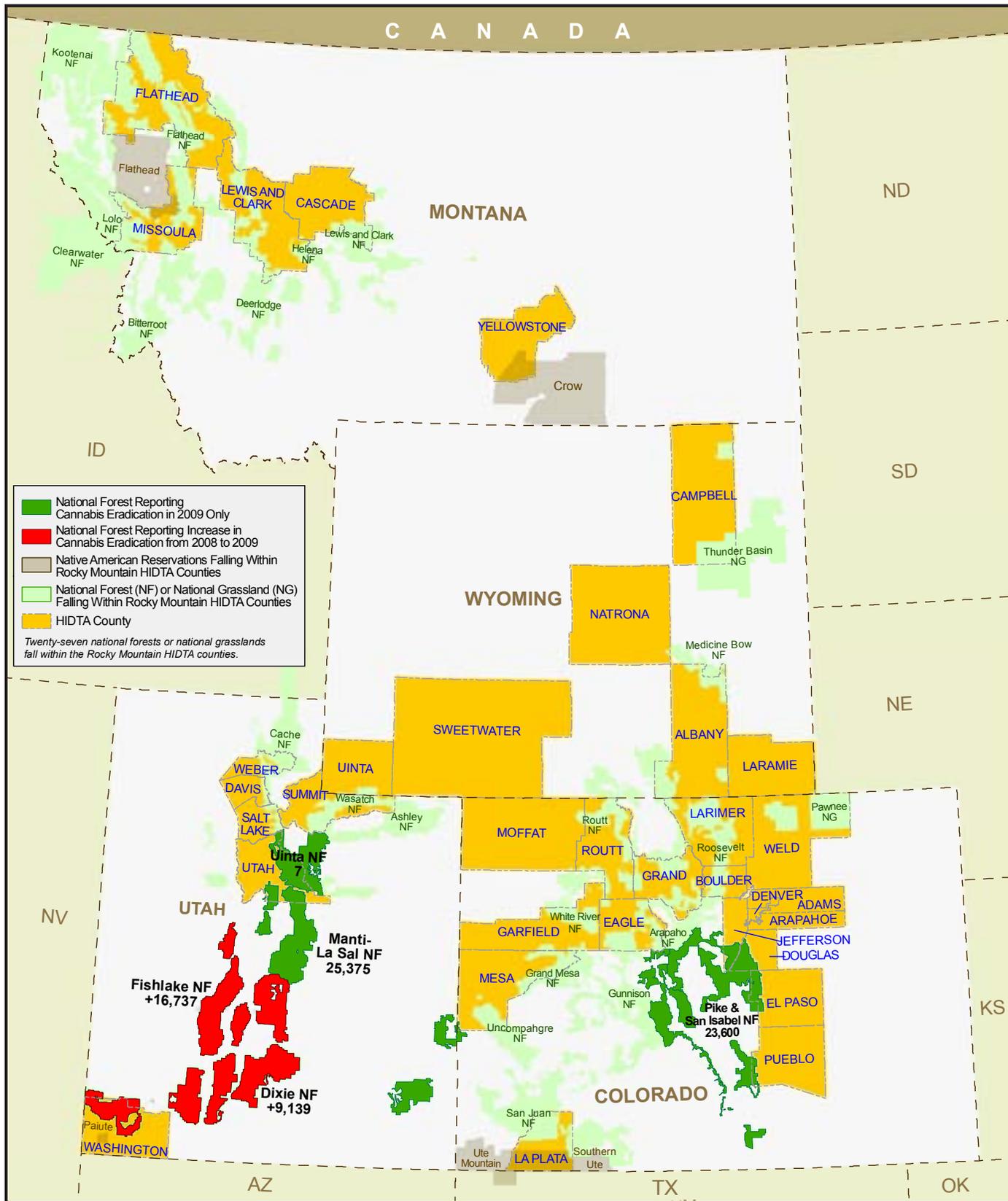
Source: National Seizure System, as of February 1, 2010.

Transportation

The HIDTA region is strategically located between major drug source areas in Mexico and Canada and is linked by interstate highways to major domestic drug markets across the United States. HIDTA officials report that the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region is a key transshipment area, with the majority of illicit drugs destined for other major drug markets. Interstates 15, 25, 70, and 80 are the principal routes used by Mexican traffickers to transport wholesale quantities of illicit drugs into the region from locations along the Southwest Border (primarily Arizona) and central California. Denver, Colorado Springs, and Salt Lake City serve as principal distribution centers for other regional drug markets as well as transshipment centers for drugs supplied to markets in the Midwest and the eastern United States. Mexican DTOs further transport illicit drugs from Denver and Colorado Springs to other markets in the region, such as Billings and Cheyenne. They also use Salt Lake City as a distribution and transshipment center for secondary drug markets in the HIDTA region as well as markets in Arizona, California, and other neighboring states. In 2009, law enforcement officers in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA

c. Amendment 20 allows a patient to possess no more than six marijuana plants, with three or fewer being mature, flowering plants that are producing a usable form of marijuana.

Figure 2. Outdoor Cannabis Cultivation in National Forests in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA



Highway Interdiction program intercepted 390 vehicles transporting illicit drugs. (See Table 2.) For example, in January 2009, the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) seized 587 pounds of marijuana from a private vehicle traveling on I-25 from Las Cruces, New Mexico, to Denver, and in December 2009, the CSP seized 300 pounds of marijuana on I-76 from a private vehicle en route from Tucson, Arizona, to Fort Morgan, Colorado. In April 2009, Utah Highway Patrol officers seized 7 pounds of methamphetamine and \$1,971 from a private vehicle traveling on I-15 from Phoenix, Arizona, to Pasco, Washington. In January 2009, they seized 21 pounds of cocaine from a private vehicle traveling on I-70 from Los Angeles, California, to Rockford, Illinois.

Table 2. Rocky Mountain HIDTA Highway Interdiction Seizures, 2009

	Methamphetamine (Pounds)	Cocaine (Pounds)	Heroin (Pounds)	Marijuana (Pounds)	Club Drugs (Dosage Units)	Hallucinogens (Dosage Units)	Pharmaceuticals (Dosage Units)	Assets Seized	Weapons	Arrests
Colorado	4.09	84.36	3.0	1,880	100	2,716	972	\$683,205	3	84
Montana	1.61	0.32	0	1,170	142	34	337	\$247,511	8	71
Utah	24.82	464.48	0	2,719.50	28,811	5,241	0	\$1,896,731	8	204
Wyoming	4.80	7.85	0	500	15,850	8,232	362	\$215,053	0	75
Total	35.32	557.01	3.0	6,269.50	44,903	16,223	1,671	\$3,042,500	19	434

Source: Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area 2009 Annual Report.

Asian DTOs based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, smuggle thousands of dosage units of MDMA and multipound quantities of high-potency marijuana into the region. Most of the high-potency marijuana and MDMA smuggled across the U.S.–Canada border is transported to distribution centers in Denver; Salt Lake City; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Los Angeles and San Francisco, California. After smuggling drug shipments into the United States, these groups often smuggle powder cocaine and illicit drug proceeds into Canada on the return trip.

Traffickers in the region typically transport drugs in private and commercial vehicles along major interstate highways into and through the region; they also employ couriers to transport illicit drugs on trains, buses, and private and commercial aircraft. Illicit drugs transported in private vehicles are often placed in hidden compartments; drugs transported in commercial vehicles are typically placed in hidden compartments or commingled with legitimate products such as produce, car parts, building materials, or heavy machinery. Some criminal groups ship marijuana, cocaine, and MDMA through the U.S. Postal Service or use package delivery services to reduce transportation costs and seizures and to increase profits. Law enforcement reporting has identified a growing trend whereby couriers on commercial buses transport drugs into the region. For example, in July 2009, Western Colorado Drug Task Force personnel at a Greyhound bus terminal in Grand Junction, Colorado, discovered 75 pounds of marijuana being smuggled by a passenger from California. In August 2009, the Utah Highway Patrol seized 15 pounds of marijuana from a passenger on a Greyhound bus at a truck stop on State Route 19. The passenger stated that she was transporting the drug from Los Angeles to Bismarck, North Dakota.

Distribution

Mexican DTOs operating in the region supply multikilogram quantities of ice methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin that they obtain from source areas in Mexico and California. Mexican DTOs and criminal groups control wholesale distribution and are involved in most midlevel distribution of methamphetamine, powder cocaine, and Mexican black tar heroin, brown powder heroin, and commercial-grade marijuana in the region. Distributors, primarily African American and Caucasians in remote areas of the region, often travel to Denver or Salt Lake City to obtain drugs from Mexican DTOs for distribution in their communities.

Asian DTOs and criminal groups are the primary wholesale suppliers of high-potency marijuana and MDMA in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region. These traffickers supply the drugs principally to Asian retail distributors, mostly Asian street gangs such as Asian Pride or Viet Pride. They also supply Caucasian retail-level distributors in metropolitan areas of the HIDTA region, particularly in Denver and Salt Lake City.

Various ethnic street gangs and criminal groups distribute illicit drugs at the retail level in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region. Hispanic street gangs such as Sureños 13 distribute methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, and heroin

that they obtain from Mexican traffickers. Moreover, law enforcement officials report that Honduran street gangs in Denver and the surrounding area are increasing their involvement in retail drug distribution. Honduran gang members are aggressively moving into retail sales of ice methamphetamine, powder cocaine, and heroin in some remote areas such as Eagle County (100 miles west of Denver). African American criminal groups and street gangs are the primary converters and retail distributors of crack cocaine. They also distribute retail quantities of powder cocaine, heroin, and phencyclidine (PCP) in metropolitan areas of the HIDTA region. Members of OMGs, particularly Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, Outlaws, Bandidos, and Sons of Silence, distribute ice methamphetamine and high-potency marijuana in some areas of the region at the midlevel and retail level. Independent Caucasian dealers distribute high-potency marijuana and CPDs throughout the region.

Drug-Related Crime

Law enforcement reporting indicates that methamphetamine, particularly ice methamphetamine, is the drug that most contributes to violent crime in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region. According to the NDTs 2010, 81 of the 96 state and local law enforcement respondents in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region identify methamphetamine as the drug most associated with violent crime, and 75 respondents report the same for property crime. Law enforcement officials report that armed methamphetamine distributors are a common occurrence, and the risk of violence between law enforcement and drug traffickers increases when methamphetamine is involved.

Marijuana-related violence is escalating in the HIDTA region, primarily in Colorado, where there is an increasing number of violent crimes associated with cultivation sites and medical marijuana dispensaries. The rising prevalence of outdoor grow sites on public lands has resulted in armed confrontations between hikers, hunters, and campers as they inadvertently encounter caretakers at grow sites. In Colorado, the Northern Colorado HIDTA Drug Task Force reports an increase in the number of robberies involving customers and patients at or near marijuana dispensaries during 2009. For example, in December 2009, a man armed with a handgun tried to rob a Denver marijuana dispensary. The suspect was charged with attempted first-degree murder, attempted aggravated robbery, second-degree assault, and possession of a weapon by a previous offender.

CPD-related crime is becoming a significant concern for law enforcement officials in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region. Abusers in the region, primarily Caucasians ranging from 16 to 40 years of age, often obtain these drugs through forged prescriptions, copied or scanned prescriptions, doctor-shopping, unscrupulous physicians, theft from family and friends, or robberies of retail pharmacies and hospitals. For example, the Westminster Fire Station in Colorado reports that narcotics have been stolen from their ambulances as well as from ambulances in neighboring jurisdictions.

Abuse

Methamphetamine is abused at very high levels throughout the HIDTA region, particularly in Utah and Colorado. The abuser population severely strains the resources of public health departments, treatment centers, and social services agencies as they attempt to address methamphetamine-related domestic violence, child abuse, and child neglect. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Treatment Episode Data Set, the number of treatment admissions for amphetamine/methamphetamine in Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming declined approximately 16 percent from 11,179 in 2007 to 9,429 in 2008 (the latest available data). Despite declining treatment admissions, methamphetamine-related admissions remain significantly higher than admissions for most other drugs, except marijuana. (See Table 3 on page 9.) Public health officials report that methamphetamine's highly addictive nature requires longer treatment programs and that these programs require considerable funding. Additionally, high recidivism rates among methamphetamine addicts place additional burdens on public health, law enforcement, and prison officials.

Table 3. Drug-Related Treatment Admissions to Publicly Funded Facilities in Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming, 2008

Amphetamine/ Methamphetamine	Cocaine	Marijuana	Heroin	Other Opiates
9,429	5,694	11,499	3,921	3,392

Source: Treatment Episode Data Set.

Heroin-related treatment admissions to publicly funded facilities increased almost 43 percent from 2,751 in 2004 to 3,921 in 2008 (the latest available data). This increase is largely attributed to prescription drug abusers, primarily teenagers and younger adults, who have switched to abusing heroin because of its ready availability and lower cost. Law enforcement authorities and public health professionals in Ogden, Orem/Provo, Salt Lake City, and St. George, Utah, and in Evanston, Green River, and Rocky Springs, Wyoming, all report increased heroin abuse in their jurisdictions.

A noticeable increase in CPD abuse was reported in several larger markets and many smaller towns and rural counties, especially those in Utah, primarily St. George, Ogden, and West Valley, in 2009. According to the Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, admissions to public treatment centers for prescription drug abuse increased from 5 percent of all treatment admissions in 2006 to 8 percent in 2009. This increase is due in part to an increase in oxycodone or hydrocodone admissions, which increased from 2.2 percent of all admissions in 2006 to 4.0 percent in 2009.

Cocaine abuse remains at high levels throughout most of the region. Crack cocaine abuse remains a serious problem in many metropolitan areas of the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region. Law enforcement reporting indicates that powder cocaine abuse increased in several cities, including Cheyenne; Longmont, Colorado; and Ogden and Salt Lake City in 2009.

Marijuana abuse is pervasive throughout the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region but poses a lesser concern to public health and law enforcement officials than the abuse of methamphetamine and cocaine—drugs that are more addictive and have a greater impact on treatment costs and crime. Admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities for marijuana increased 12 percent from 10,289 in 2004 to 11,499 in 2008.

Illicit Finance

Bulk cash smuggling is the primary method used by Mexican DTOs to move their tens of millions of dollars in drug proceeds from the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region to the Southwest Border. Bulk cash proceeds from drug sales in the HIDTA region and from other domestic drug markets are consolidated in or near Colorado Springs, Denver, and Salt Lake City and later transported to the Southwest Border area and to Mexico. In 2009, law enforcement officers in the HIDTA region reported the seizure of over \$4 million in drug proceeds. The proceeds were usually seized from westbound vehicles en route to areas such as Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Las Vegas.

Traffickers also launder illicit drug proceeds through money services businesses, structured bank deposits, purchases of real estate and luxury items, and cash-intensive businesses. Some traffickers also use third-party individuals to purchase residential properties in urban areas, secure loans for improvements, and launder drug proceeds through loan payments, investments, and rental fees.

Outlook

NDIC analysts expect that the threat posed by the trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine will not diminish in the near term and will remain the most significant drug threat to the Rocky Mountain HIDTA region. Mexican ice methamphetamine availability is expected to remain at the high levels required to support market demand and mitigate the need for local production of the drug. Illicit cannabis cultivation, both outdoor and indoor, is expected to continue to increase to meet the high demand for marijuana. Asian DTOs are expected to increase their production of high-potency marijuana at indoor grow sites, while Mexican DTOs will continue as the dominant outdoor cannabis cultivators. Heroin and CPD abuse, particularly among younger abusers, is expected to further increase over the next year and to remain a significant concern in the HIDTA region.

Appendix A. Tables

Table A1. Greatest Drug Threat to the Rocky Mountain HIDTA Region as Reported by State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, by Number of Respondents

	Ice Methamphetamine	Powder Methamphetamine	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Heroin	Marijuana	MDMA	Controlled Prescription Drugs	Total Responses
Colorado	20	5	1	4	0	2	4	0	36
Montana	6	2	0	2	0	1	0	3	14
Utah	20	5	1	0	5	0	0	1	32
Wyoming	9	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
Total	55	16	3	6	5	3	4	4	96

Source: National Drug Threat Survey 2010.

Table A2. International, Multistate, and Local Drug Trafficking Organizations Targeted, Disrupted, and Dismantled Through Rocky Mountain HIDTA Initiatives, 2005–2009

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTAL
Targeted International Drug Trafficking Organizations	41	26	41	41	36	185
Disrupted International Drug Trafficking Organizations	16	10	15	6	9	56
Dismantled International Drug Trafficking Organizations	3	4	5	4	1	17
Targeted Multi-State Drug Trafficking Organizations	92	61	125	107	123	508
Disrupted Multi-State Drug Trafficking Organizations	20	18	48	42	51	179
Dismantled Multi-State Drug Trafficking Organizations	5	10	12	6	5	38
Targeted Local Drug Trafficking Organizations	116	59	112	128	107	522
Disrupted Local Drug Trafficking Organizations	37	30	28	49	33	177
Dismantled Local Drug Trafficking Organizations	10	7	6	9	8	40

Source: Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area annual reports 2005–2009.

Table A3. Number of CPOT, RPOT, and OCDEF* Investigations Conducted Within the Rocky Mountain HIDTA Region, 2005–2009.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CPOT	9	10	11	13	20
RPOT	12	16	19	12	20
OCDEF	31	38	61	51	38

Source: Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area annual reports 2005–2009.

*Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force

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Sources

Local, State, and Regional

Colorado

Arvada Police Department
 West Metro Drug Task Force
 Aurora Police Department Narcotics
 Colorado State Patrol
 Interdiction Unit
 Delta/Montrose Drug Task Force
 Denver Police Department
 Vice and Drug Control Bureau
 Front Range Task Force
 Golden Police Department
 West Metro Drug Task Force
 Jefferson County District Attorney's Office
 Jefferson County Sheriff's Department
 West Metro Drug Task Force
 Lakewood Police Department
 West Metro Drug Task Force
 Longmont Police Department Drug Unit
 Northern Colorado HIDTA Drug Task Force
 Rifle Police Department
 Two Rivers Drug Enforcement Team
 San Luis Valley Drug Task Force
 South Metro Drug Task Force
 Wheatridge Police Department

Montana

Billings Police Department
 City-County Special Investigations Unit
 Eastern Montana HIDTA Drug Task Force
 Great Falls City Police Department
 Central Montana Drug Task Force
 Helena Police Department
 Missouri River HIDTA Drug Task Force
 Kalispell Police Department
 Northwest Drug Task Force
 Missoula County Sheriff's Office
 Missoula HIDTA
 Missoula Police Department
 Montana Division of Criminal Investigation
 Montana Highway Patrol

Utah

Central Utah Drug Task Force
 Davis County Sheriff's Office
 Davis Metro Narcotics Strike Force
 Iron/Garfield County Drug Task Force
 Logan Police Department
 Morgan County Sheriff's Office
 Weber-Morgan Narcotics Strike Force

North Ogden Police Department
 Weber-Morgan Narcotics Strike Force
 North Salt Lake City Police Department
 Ogden Police Department
 Weber Gang Task Force
 Weber-Morgan Narcotics Strike Force
 Orem Police Department
 Utah County Major Crimes Task Force
 Provo Police Department
 Utah County Major Crimes Task Force
 Riverdale Police Department
 Weber-Morgan Narcotics Strike Force
 Salt Lake City Police Department
 Fusion Center
 Narcotics Unit
 Salt Lake County Gang Unit
 Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office
 Metro Drug Task Force
 South Ogden Police Department
 Weber-Morgan Narcotics Strike Force
 Springville Police Department
 Utah County Major Crimes Task Force
 Utah County Sheriff's Office
 Utah County Major Crimes Task Force
 Utah Department of Health and Human Services
 Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
 Utah Highway Patrol
 Washington County Sheriff's Office
 Washington County Gang Task Force
 Weber-Morgan Narcotics Strike Force

Wyoming

Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation
 Central Enforcement Team
 Northeast Enforcement Team
 Northwest Enforcement Team
 Southeast Enforcement Team
 Southwest Enforcement Team

Federal

Executive Office of the President
 Office of National Drug Control Policy
 Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Forest Service
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
 Office of Applied Studies
 Treatment Episode Data Set

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Havre Sector
Office of Border Patrol
Spokane Sector
Sweetgrass Port of Entry
U.S. Department of Justice
Criminal Division
Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force
Drug Enforcement Administration
Denver Division
Colorado Springs Resident Office
Grand Junction District Office
Salt Lake City District Office
Metro Narcotics Task Force
El Paso Intelligence Center
National Seizure System
Federal Bureau of Investigation
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