

2014 Drug Threat Assessment



**Executive Board Chair
Raymond Parmer**

**Vice Chair
Sheriff Melvin Brisolara**

**Gulf Coast HIDTA Director
Tony Soto**

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Message from the Director

The Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (GC HIDTA) Drug Threat Assessment is produced annually to identify, quantify, and prioritize the nature, extent, and scope of the threat of illegal drugs and its impact on the GC HIDTA region. The GC HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment encompasses a four-state area which include the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi as well as Shelby County, Tennessee. State police agencies oversee the production of state drug threat assessments, which include the drug situation in each state's designated HIDTA counties/parishes.

A multi-agency team from each state prepares and submits a draft drug threat assessment for review and approval by its GC HIDTA State Committee. The GC HIDTA Investigative Support Network (ISN), Network Coordination Group (NCG) compiles and edits each team's draft document into a comprehensive regional threat assessment that encompasses all GC HIDTA counties/parishes. As mentioned in further detail in the Methodology (Section V), the GC HIDTA utilizes drug surveys which are distributed to law enforcement agencies and treatment/prevention professionals. The surveys aid in the collection and analysis of information necessary to quantify the threat and identify trends.

The GC HIDTA Executive Board grants final approval of the regional drug threat assessment. Upon approval, the GC HIDTA drug threat assessment is forwarded to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) as required by program guidance. The GC HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment adheres to the guidelines set forth by ONDCP.

The 2014 GC HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment focuses on six major drug categories: cocaine, methamphetamine, diverted pharmaceuticals, heroin, other dangerous drugs, and marijuana. The identification of trends by drug type as well as the developments and projections for the future are also included in the threat assessment. The threat assessment also identifies the problems posed by the threat and its anticipated impact on the GC HIDTA.

Tony Soto
Gulf Coast HIDTA Director

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II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (GC HIDTA) encompasses a four-state area, comprised of 26 HIDTA designated counties/parishes; eight in Louisiana; seven in Mississippi; six in Alabama; four in Arkansas; and Shelby County, Tennessee. Of the 26 counties/parishes, seven are located along the Gulf Coast. The GC HIDTA region serves as a gateway for drugs entering the United States and is a transit and staging area for drug distribution. The GC HIDTA’s interstate highways are routinely utilized by major drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) to transport assets and drugs to and from the Southwest Border. Accordingly, many of the larger drug and currency seizures are a result of enforcement efforts coordinated by the HIDTA Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) Program. The primary focus of the DHE program is to support the enforcement efforts of the local, state and federal member agencies of the GC HIDTA.

In addition to the region’s geographical proximity to the Southwest Border, other factors contribute to and influence drug-related crimes and social problems including the industrial, cultural, and economic diversity of the region. The drug threat to GC HIDTA designated counties/parishes covers the full spectrum of drugs trafficked and abused, trafficking modalities, and types of criminal organizations. This assessment details the drug threat in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Shelby County, Tennessee.

This document is produced to assist in the planning of enforcement strategies, efficient and effective utilization of available resources, and budgeting and staffing for future operations. The following trends are noteworthy:

<u>DRUG</u>	<u>IMPACT</u>
Cocaine and Crack Cocaine	Most significant threat in the GC HIDTA; leading contributor to violent and property crime
Methamphetamine	Continued significant threat
Pharmaceuticals	High availability; increasing threat
Heroin	Low-moderate threat throughout area; continued high threat in New Orleans and Birmingham areas
Other Dangerous Drugs	Continued increase in synthetic drug abuse; moderate abuse of MDMA
Marijuana	Drug of choice; highly abused; widely available

Cocaine and its derivative, crack cocaine, remain the greatest drug threat in the GC HIDTA. Cocaine is highly available and highly abused across the region. Cocaine was identified by most survey respondents as the main contributor to violent (51 percent) and property (42 percent) crimes.

Cocaine is transported into the GC HIDTA within private and commercial vehicles via the Interstate Highway System, express mail service and commercial and private sea-going vessels by Mexican poly-drug trafficking organizations. Local DTOs, often affiliated with neighborhood criminal groups, are the primary distributor of crack cocaine. Drug traffickers utilize stash houses to elude law enforcement and prevent the forfeiture of personal residences. Twenty-one percent of treatment/prevention facilities across the GC HIDTA report cocaine to be the primary drug of abuse in their area. In Mississippi, 33 percent of treatment/prevention facilities report a high level of abuse of crack cocaine among their clients.

Methamphetamine’s continued presence and abuse is of rising concern to both law enforcement and the public within the GC HIDTA. California, Texas, and Mexico are the primary methamphetamine source

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areas for the region. Law enforcement agencies report a moderate to high availability of ice methamphetamine. The one pot production method, also referred to as shake and bake, is favored by area methamphetamine producers since it requires fewer ingredients and can be easily produced inside a plastic container. To circumvent precursor laws, many methamphetamine producers travel to out-of-state pharmacies, multiple local pharmacies to purchase precursors and have multiple individuals make purchases. These new methods have forced law enforcement officials to counter with their own tactics to disrupt methamphetamine production. In Arkansas, treatment/prevention facilities report a high (75 percent) abuse of powder methamphetamine; as well as a high (63 percent) abuse of ice methamphetamine in the past year.

The diversion, abuse and misuse of pharmaceuticals remain a significant threat to the GC HIDTA. Ninety-one percent of survey participants identified pharmaceuticals as highly available, while six percent reported moderate availability. In some areas, pharmaceuticals are the cause for more drug-related deaths than cocaine, heroin, or other illicit drugs combined. These deaths are attributed to individuals consuming multiple pharmaceuticals or combining them with other illicit drugs and/or alcohol. Law enforcement is concerned that pharmaceuticals may be replacing marijuana as the first drug of choice among young adults. Area youth are now experimenting with pharmaceuticals prior to abusing other illicit drugs because they can be obtained more easily. According to law enforcement, the major sources of diverted pharmaceuticals are DTOs, Internet pharmacies, home medicine cabinets, pain management clinics, and thefts. Abusers within the GC HIDTA continue to travel to Houston area pain management clinics and divert pharmaceuticals back into the area. Treatment/prevention survey participants report 29 percent of abusers obtain pharmaceuticals by doctor shopping. Ninety-one percent of treatment/prevention facility professionals report a high level of abuse of pharmaceuticals, while six percent report a moderate level of abuse.

Heroin trafficking and abuse in the GC HIDTA remains relatively low. However, it is a significant threat in the Greater New Orleans and Birmingham, Alabama areas. Heroin seized in the New Orleans area is typically of South American origin while the majority of heroin found in the remaining GC HIDTA is Mexican brown heroin. Mexican and black DTOs transport heroin in bulk quantities primarily from the Southwest Border. Although Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas have reported an increased availability, they still consider the heroin threat to be moderate to low. Atlanta continues to be a source city, particularly for parts of Alabama. An increase in availability in the Birmingham, Alabama area has resulted in a spike in heroin related overdose deaths in the past 12 months. Thirty-five percent of treatment/prevention facilities within the GC HIDTA report an increase in heroin abuse over the past 12 months.

With the success of law enforcement efforts along the Southwest Border and the increased violence associated with competition between Mexican DTOs, the free flowing supply of cocaine has slowed. Consequently, many black DTOs have switched to heroin as their preferred commodity. With this approach, distributors realize a higher profit margin, while having to transport smaller quantities of product.

The abuse of other dangerous drugs, specifically synthetics, is on the rise. Abuse of MDMA, hallucinogens, inhalants, and anabolic steroids remains steady. Eighteen percent of survey participants ranked MDMA as highly available while 44 percent ranked it as moderately available. Historically, MDMA abuse was limited primarily to college towns due to the abundance of bars and nightclubs. Two continuing trends are the distribution and abuse of MDMA by black abusers and the transportation of MDMA into the GC HIDTA in larger quantities than in previous years. Vietnamese DTOs with connections to supply sources in Canada and the Far East are a major threat.

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The abuse of Cannabinoids and Cathinones, chemically infused herbal mixtures aimed at mimicking the effects of marijuana and LSD, remain a threat in the GC HIDTA region. These drugs are commonly dubbed “synthetic marijuana” or “bath salts” by their users. These products are becoming increasingly popular, particularly among high school students. Sold as herbal incense, products such as K2, Spice, Genie, and Mojo are readily available in head shops and convenience stores throughout the region. Forty-seven percent of treatment facilities surveyed report an increase in synthetic drug abuse over the past 12 months.

Marijuana is considered by many in law enforcement to be the initial drug of abuse; however, data indicates marijuana is competing with pharmaceuticals for this claim within the GC HIDTA. Although marijuana is not considered a primary threat, its availability and abuse is substantial. Ninety-three percent of GC HIDTA Drug Survey participants identified marijuana as highly available with six percent reporting moderate availability.

Marijuana is cultivated indoors and outdoors in all areas of the GC HIDTA. Historically, the majority of grow sites have been located on public lands, federal reserves, clear cuts or on large tracts owned by the timber industry. This trend continues, although law enforcement officials believe marijuana cultivators are moving their operations indoors for several reasons such as attaining a higher THC level, drought affecting portions of the GC HIDTA, and greater profits associated with highly potent marijuana. Mexico-produced marijuana accounts for the majority of the drug available in the GC HIDTA. Marijuana is routinely seized via interdiction stops on the interstates/highways traversing the five-state area. Diverted medical marijuana transported from California, Oregon and Colorado is also emerging in the GC HIDTA.

Drug Trafficking Organizations

The presence of international, multi-state, and local DTOs across the GC HIDTA continue to be a significant threat. Mexican DTOs, in addition to other local and regional organized groups, are primarily responsible for the transportation and distribution of illicit drugs and more recently pharmaceuticals. These groups rely upon organizational strength, violence, coercion, and intimidation to establish and maintain control of illicit drug markets.

Alien Smuggling Organizations (ASO)

Successful law enforcement operations along the Southwest Border (SWB) have impacted the flow of illegal aliens (IA) into and through the GC HIDTA. Nevertheless, alien smuggling organizations (ASO) continue to use the interstate highway system as a transit route through the GC HIDTA to East Coast destinations. Also, many of these IAs establish residency throughout the GC HIDTA. Successful smuggling and transit methods developed by DTOs are mirrored by ASOs both along the SWB as well as inland and vice versa.

Illicit Financing

While bulk transportation of U.S. currency to Mexico remains the most common form of money transmission used by DTOs, law enforcement investigators across the GC HIDTA continue to encounter money laundering methods as well. One major illicit laundering method is the use of cash-intensive businesses such as restaurants, bars, and nightclubs. Other forms of cash-intensive businesses used for money laundering in the GC HIDTA are casinos, the fishing industry, and check-cashing businesses. Casinos have become less popular for laundering money due to the collaborative relationship between casino security and local, state, and federal law enforcement officials. The real estate market is another popular method of money laundering. Mortgage loan fraud remains predominant in the GC HIDTA.

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Money launderers purchase real estate properties to renovate, resell, or rent in order to clean the money. All of these methods make the GC HIDTA conducive for money laundering and other illicit financing.

Federal Express Hub

Express mail /parcel post services have continued to be a popular method of transporting illicit drugs and proceeds utilized by DTOs. DTOs use variations of packaging and concealment methods to thwart law enforcement detection. This allows for quick, reliable, low risk delivery of drugs and currency. Memphis is the home to the world's largest cargo hub, with approximately two million packages transiting the FedEx Hub nightly. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) use sophisticated enforcement protocols to locate suspect packages originating from outside the United States. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) conducts investigations involving domestic currency and drug seizures while HSI conducts investigations regarding international currency seizures. DEA and HSI share responsibility investigating international drug seizures. In addition to federal presence, the Memphis Police Department and Shelby County Sheriff's Office conduct investigations at FedEx in Memphis as part of the Shelby County HIDTA Initiative. The Richland Police Department, a member of the Mississippi Operations Center Mobile Deployment Team, investigates FedEx seizures in Mississippi. The HIDTA-funded Mobile/Baldwin Street Enforcement Team has had great success in parcel post interdictions from Mobile, Alabama area facilities.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE THREAT

As it relates to abuse, violence and drug-related crime, cocaine poses the greatest drug threat within the GC HIDTA followed by methamphetamine and pharmaceuticals. Heroin, marijuana and other dangerous drugs pose a moderate threat. The majority of these drugs are transported into the GC HIDTA from Mexico via the Southwestern Border. DTOs utilize the Interstate Highway System crossing the GC HIDTA as a conduit to move illicit drugs to destination/hub cities in the Midwest and East Coast of the United States.

A. Drugs Trafficked

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine

Cocaine continues as the predominant drug threat in the GC HIDTA. Cocaine, in both powder-form and its smokable base-form (hereafter referred to as crack), is the primary concern of law enforcement agencies. Cocaine and crack cocaine are the leading contributors to both violent and property crime in the region.

Cocaine and crack cocaine continue to be readily available throughout the GC HIDTA. Law enforcement reporting and pricing data indicate that cocaine availability remains stable at levels sufficient to meet market demand throughout most of the region. Using data obtained from both the GC HIDTA Drug Survey and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), prices for powder cocaine range between \$50 and \$200 per gram, and approximately \$20,000 to \$35,000 per kilogram. Crack prices range from \$10 to \$50 per rock and \$700 to \$1,500 per ounce.

Crime and violence associated with cocaine trafficking and abuse is significant in the GC HIDTA. Across the region, cocaine use was identified as the main contributor to violent (51 percent) and property (42 percent) crime.

Coca is neither cultivated nor produced within the GC HIDTA, but originates in South America. After processing in Colombia, cocaine is smuggled into the United States via Mexico. It is then transported into the GC HIDTA via the Southwest Border and Atlanta areas. Wholesale levels are transported into the GC HIDTA by Mexican DTOs with street-level distributors converting powder cocaine into crack cocaine prior to retail distribution.

Methamphetamine

Based on intelligence reports, law enforcement data, and treatment/prevention information, methamphetamine remains a significant threat in the GC HIDTA and contributes to violent and property crime. In Arkansas, methamphetamine is considered the greatest drug threat and is highly available throughout the state. Data from Alabama indicate a significant increase in the methamphetamine threat where it is moderately to highly available. In Louisiana, methamphetamine is the third greatest drug threat.

With the success of Mississippi House Bill 512, the number of methamphetamine lab seizures within the state has continued to decrease since 2010. As a result of these purchasing restrictions of ephedrine products in Mississippi, an increase in precursor ‘smurfing’ has been identified in Louisiana and

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Alabama, particularly the greater Mobile area. Methamphetamine laboratory operators in Mississippi seek out new sources of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in neighboring states. To combat smurfers from Mississippi, the Alabama State Legislature enacted House Bill 363 in 2012 prohibiting the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine to residents from other states requiring a prescription for the drug.

According to BLOC/Watch Center, interdiction seizure quantities in the four state area and Shelby County grew slightly from 106 pounds in 2011 to 110 pounds in 2012.

Methamphetamine is available from two primary sources: locally manufactured, which is usually for personal consumption; and that manufactured in Mexico, which is transported via the Interstate Highway System from the Southwest Border and California in larger, wholesale quantities.

The number of reported traditional methamphetamine laboratories seized in the GC HIDTA decreased in 2012. As state legislatures enact regulations designed to limit access to medications containing precursors and law enforcement continues to develop more sophisticated methods of tracking pharmaceutical purchases. Lab operators have had to alter methods of obtaining the necessary ingredients to produce methamphetamine. Most of the methamphetamine laboratories seized in the region are “one pot” labs, which typically produce less than two ounces of methamphetamine per production cycle.

Analyst Note: Due to the sporadic and underreporting of laboratory seizures, the related data may not accurately reflect lab seizure activity. Due to the expansion of one pot labs, an increase in overall methamphetamine laboratory activity is likely. The GC HIDTA intelligence sub-system has implemented steps to improve lab reporting.

Crime and violence associated with methamphetamine abuse and trafficking is the second leading contributor to both violent and property crime in the GC HIDTA. Twenty-nine percent of law enforcement officials report methamphetamine as the primary contributor to violent crime and 27 percent report it as the primary contributor to property crime in 2012.

Methamphetamine production poses profound risks to the public as well as law enforcement. Law enforcement officials who encounter methamphetamine laboratories risk injury by exposure to hazardous materials during production and booby traps.

The dangers of methamphetamine laboratories affect any person as well as the surrounding areas that may come in contact with the laboratory. In 2012, 68 children were reportedly affected as a result of methamphetamine lab seizures within the GC HIDTA compared to 117 in 2011.

CHILDREN AFFECTED		
	2011	2012
AL	13	12
AR	52	24
LA	5	9
MS	47	23
TOTAL	117	68
Source: El Paso Intelligence Center. Data collected April 22, 2013.		

Diverted Pharmaceuticals

Based on the results of the 2012 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, 91 percent of respondents identified pharmaceuticals as highly available and another six percent reported pharmaceuticals as moderately available. Law enforcement in the GC HIDTA continues to report an increase in pharmaceutical-related

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arrests and seizures particularly hydrocodone (Vicodan, Lorcet, Lortab), alprazolam (Xanax) and oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet). Data suggests that pharmaceuticals may be emerging as the initial drug of abuse among young adults replacing marijuana, alcohol and tobacco. This conclusion is based upon the increase in routine encounters of teenagers in possession of diverted pharmaceuticals by law enforcement and treatment professionals.

The primary sources for diverted pharmaceuticals are DTOs, Internet pharmacies and pain management clinics. The enactment of new regulations for pain management clinics in Louisiana has diminished their standing as a major source of supply in the state. According to treatment/prevention providers in the GC HIDTA region, 29 percent of their clients obtain prescriptions through doctor shopping, while 26 percent purchase from street dealers.

Associated crime and methods of diversion for pharmaceutical drugs include robberies/burglaries, employee theft, doctor shopping, and forged prescriptions. Even though pharmaceuticals are not a leading contributor to crime, these diversion methods are commonly encountered within the GC HIDTA and remain a concern for area law enforcement as they are occurring with increased frequency.

Heroin

Drug survey participants report heroin availability is low and poses a low threat to the region overall; however, heroin is reported as highly available and a significant threat in the New Orleans area. As a result, most heroin-related investigations within the GC HIDTA are conducted in the New Orleans area. Heroin is viewed as one of the most significant drug problems impacting homicides in Orleans Parish. Black DTOs in New Orleans are increasingly switching to heroin distribution as their principle product due to increased profit margins and availability. Heroin-related overdose deaths are a concern due to the growing problem of teenage and young adults abusing heroin in the New Orleans area. The majority of the heroin found in the New Orleans area is of Colombian origin while Mexican brown heroin is usually found in the remaining areas of the GC HIDTA.

Law enforcement agencies in Birmingham, Alabama, and Northern Mississippi have reported an increase in heroin availability and abuse but it does not yet rival that of New Orleans. Law enforcement officials also report that young adults who abuse pharmaceuticals switch to heroin when pharmaceuticals such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone are not available or become too expensive. The Hoover and Huntsville, Alabama Police Departments have witnessed a continued increase in heroin availability. There are two types of heroin found within the GC HIDTA; Colombian and Mexican heroin.

The average purity level for heroin increased in 2012 to 25.5 percent. In 2011, the purity levels averaged 18 percent. (Source: DEA, Domestic Monitoring Program.)

According to New Orleans Police Department, the murder rate in New Orleans is driven by heroin and cocaine trafficking and abuse. Across the remainder of the region, heroin is not a leading contributor to violent (five percent) or property (eight percent) crimes across the GC HIDTA because of its scarcity.

Other Dangerous Drugs (ODDs)

Most drug survey respondents report a low to moderate availability of Other Dangerous Drugs (ODDs) within the GC HIDTA with the exception of Cannabinoids (Spice) and Cathinones (Bath Salts) and

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MDMA. Forty one percent of GC HIDTA drug survey participants reported high availability and 42 percent reported moderate availability of synthetic drugs in the region. MDMA is also widely abused with 18 percent reporting a high availability and 44 percent reporting a moderate availability.

- Synthetic Cannabinoids are commonly referred to as 'synthetic marijuana' because of similar physical characteristics and user effects to marijuana.
- Synthetic Cathinones which mimic drugs like cocaine, ecstasy and LSD are powdered drugs, many known as "Bath Salts", sold under such brand names as "Ivory Wave" or "Purple Wave." These drugs, also sometimes labeled as plant food, contain the synthetic stimulants MDPV, or 3,4-methylenedioxypropylone, and mephedrone.

Availability of Cannabinoids and Cathinones have continued to increase in the GC HIDTA during 2012. These chemical compounds, often legal products, are sold commercially and abused by teenagers and young adults with devastating consequences. These products are becoming increasingly popular, particularly among high school students. Sold as herbal incense, products such as K2, Spice, Mojo and Smiles are available in head shops and convenience stores throughout the region.

Research chemicals developed under the category of phenethylamines are being illicitly distributed for experimental purposes. These drugs mimic the effects of LSD and Ecstasy and are referred to as "synthetic hallucinagens." Street names for specific compounds of these drugs include "Smiles," (2C-I) and its derivative "N-BOMB" (2C-I-NBOMe, 25I-NBOMe). Other derivatives of the drug are 25I and NBOMe-2C-I. These drugs are currently being abused across the Gulf Coast HIDTA and throughout the United States. Phenethylamines became available for sale on the Internet in 2010 and are currently being promoted during concerts and music festivals. According to crime lab professionals, a chemical background is required to manufacture phenethylamines. The ingredients for these drugs can be found and ordered on the Internet. Law enforcement officials report that phenethylamines are being produced in industrial size laboratories overseas and shipped to the United States for distribution.

Law enforcement officials report a low to moderate availability of ODDs but a moderate to high availability of MDMA and synthetic drugs. Several years ago, law enforcement began reporting the importation, distribution and abuse of MDMA had become popular with black violators. Based on interviews with local, state and federal law enforcement and data obtained from the drug survey, this trend continues. Even though MDMA is the most widely abused and widely seized ODD in the GC HIDTA, area law enforcement personnel remain vigilant in their efforts to combat ODDs, such as PCP, LSD, GHB and GBL.

On March 26, 2013, the Gulfport Resident Office (GRO) seized 10 packages containing 11.2 kilograms of "Molly" in Gulfport, Mississippi. Although it has been around for years, "Molly" is a synthetic form of MDMA that has been recently glamorized in songs and public social settings as the newest designer drug. The packages of MDMA Molly were being shipped via the United States Postal Service from China to addresses in Gulfport, Mississippi and were seized prior to delivery.

While ODDs may not be a primary contributor to violent and property crimes, some ODDs are known to cause violent behavior. For example, GHB and Rohypnol are used in drug-facilitated sexual assaults

because of their sedative properties. The abuse of anabolic steroids can cause aggressive behavior, a condition known as “roid rage.”

Marijuana

Marijuana remains the most widely available and abused drug in the GC HIDTA with 93 percent of drug survey respondents identifying it as highly available and six percent as moderately available. Although marijuana is highly available and widely abused, the GC HIDTA places it as a low threat to the area as it relates to violence.

Marijuana, either Mexico-produced or locally grown, is highly available in the GC HIDTA. In many areas of the GC HIDTA, the price has decreased due to its abundant availability. Domestically grown marijuana is produced utilizing different methods, such as indoor and outdoor grow operations. Since indoor grown marijuana is more potent and therefore more lucrative than the Mexico-produced marijuana, many local growers have opted for these types of grow operations. British Columbian (BC) Bud, a term given to high potency marijuana produced in Canada, is available in many areas of the GC HIDTA.

The availability of high-grade and medicinal marijuana within the GC HIDTA has also increased. Law enforcement officials in Arkansas and Louisiana have reported an influx of high-grade marijuana shipments originating from the West Coast states and Colorado.

Violent crime is usually not associated with marijuana abuse in the GC HIDTA; however some marijuana cultivators resort to counter-surveillance, trip wires, and explosives to protect their cultivation sites. Law enforcement officers must remain vigilant during enforcement operations. During the past year, law enforcement did not report any encounters of these techniques by cultivators.

B. Drug Trafficking Organizations and Money Laundering Organizations

Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations

Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) are the primary transporters of cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana into and through the GC HIDTA. Mexican DTOs utilize tractor-trailers, rental or personal vehicles, and mail/package delivery services to transport drugs into and through the region. Because many users abuse multiple drugs, distributors selling cocaine, methamphetamine or marijuana have expanded into other markets oftentimes distributing MDMA and pharmaceuticals. Atlanta remains a major source for mid-level distribution of cocaine, heroin and marijuana in portions of Alabama, while the Southwest Border remains the primary wholesale and mid-level source for the remainder of the GC HIDTA.

Mexican DTOs are highly organized and effectively control the majority of drug movement within Mexico and across the U.S. border into Texas. Interdiction efforts by law enforcement have forced these organizations to seek alternate routes on state highways and scenic routes.

Mexican DTOs continue to dominate the wholesale distribution of cocaine in the four-state area and Shelby County, Tennessee. Kilogram quantities of powder cocaine are transported to numerous distributors operating within the GC HIDTA. Domestic retail cocaine distribution remains controlled by local independent dealers, neighborhood gangs and small ethnic groups.

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The analyses of drug seizures as well as other intelligence indicate bulk methamphetamine distribution in all four states is dominated by Mexican poly-drug trafficking organizations with established transportation routes from the Southwestern Border. Due to an increasing demand for methamphetamine, Mexican DTOs are including this drug to their regular shipments of cocaine and marijuana. According to law enforcement in Alabama, Atlanta remains a distribution hub for methamphetamine and other drugs. California also remains a source for methamphetamine within the GC HIDTA. According to survey data, Caucasian violators are the primary distributors of powder methamphetamine (73 percent) while both Caucasian (61 percent) and Mexican (20 percent) violators distribute ice methamphetamine.

In the GC HIDTA, wholesale heroin distribution is dominated by Mexican DTOs, while black DTOs control retail distribution of the drug.

Marijuana is typically transported into the area via commercial and privately owned vehicles, and to a lesser extent, parcel post services. Mexican DTOs are largely responsible for the transportation of multi-kilogram to multi-hundred kilogram quantity shipments of marijuana into the GC HIDTA via the Southwest Border. Law enforcement data indicate Mexican DTOs are the primary producers/transporters of marijuana in the GC HIDTA, while black transporters are ranked second. Many Caucasian-dominated DTOs are involved in local transportation. High potency marijuana from Canada, known as BC Bud, is transported in and through the GC HIDTA as evidenced by BLOC/Watch Center reports. However, the vast majority of marijuana transported through the area is of Mexican commercial grade. High-grade and medicinal marijuana from California, Colorado and Oregon are being seized by highway enforcement officers with increasing frequency.

Mexican DTOs dominate the wholesale distribution of marijuana within the GC HIDTA as evidenced by seizures and other law enforcement data. Marijuana distribution transcends all socio-economic boundaries and includes independent local dealers, street gangs, and small ethnic groups. High-grade marijuana produced at indoor grow sites within the GC HIDTA is distributed, primarily by Caucasian traffickers.

Black Drug Trafficking Organizations

Black DTOs also participate in the transportation of cocaine into and throughout the GC HIDTA. They are the primary retail distributors of cocaine and marijuana. Black DTOs continue to expand their operations to include distribution of large quantities of MDMA.

Black DTOs are receiving multi-pound quantities of Columbian heroin from Mexican sources in Houston and are transporting the drugs to New Orleans for retail sales. Mexican brown heroin is present throughout the remainder of the GC HIDTA area. The most common unit of heroin sold at the retail level in New Orleans is referred to as a bag or paper (0.3 to 0.5 gram quantities individually wrapped in small foil packages). Retail prices for heroin in New Orleans range from \$250 to \$400 per bundle (25 bags or papers) and remain at \$20 to \$25 a bag or paper. In the remaining GC HIDTA, it retails for \$150 to \$600 per gram (Source: DEA). New Orleans remains the distribution hub for its metropolitan areas.

Asian Drug Trafficking Organizations

In the GC HIDTA, Asian DTOs have made significant inroads in the distribution of imported designer drugs such as MDMA and GHB. Asian DTOs are highly entrenched in money laundering activities, gambling and prostitution.

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Asian DTOs continue to dominate the distribution of MDMA in many coastal communities, while Caucasian and black distributors dominate the distribution of MDMA in the remaining areas.

Street Gangs

All major metropolitan areas in the GC HIDTA have noted some street gang activity. While these gangs may not be highly organized as those operating in larger cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles or New York, they are no less dangerous or violent. In the larger metropolitan areas of Birmingham, Jackson and New Orleans, most street gangs are independent, turf-oriented and control very small areas, in some instances, only a few blocks. Much of the illicit drug trade as well as the associated violence can be attributed to local street gangs. Local gangs are independent and have no affiliation to larger groups or national gangs. They are typically responsible for their own operations. Members of local street gangs usually distribute cocaine/crack, heroin and marijuana, but are increasingly distributing methamphetamine and MDMA.

National street gangs operating within the GC HIDTA include the Gangster Disciples in Mississippi and Alabama. Several gangs utilize the Blood names such as the Goosport Bloods or the Crip name such as the Brownsville Crips in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs)

There are numerous Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) operating in the GC HIDTA. In many instances, these OMGs are support clubs for larger national and international OMGs such as the Hells Angels, Bandidos and Sons of Silence. Due to their organizational structure, secrecy among members and security, these OMGs are difficult to penetrate. Law enforcement sources indicate OMGs operating in the GC HIDTA are involved in the distribution of illicit drugs; primarily cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine. In addition, occurrences of violence and other criminal acts attributed to the OMGs operating in the GC HIDTA include homicide, intimidation, weapons violations, extortion and racketeering.

Bandidos have chapters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Birmingham, Alabama; Biloxi/Gulfport, Mississippi; Huntsville, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; Houma, Louisiana; Lafayette, Louisiana; Lake Charles, Louisiana; Little Rock, Arkansas, Minden, Louisiana; Mobile, Alabama; Montgomery, Alabama; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Shreveport, Louisiana.

Galloping Goose have chapters in New Orleans, Louisiana; and Houma, Louisiana

Pistoleros are a support club for the Bandidos and have chapters in Birmingham, Alabama; DeSoto County, Mississippi; Dothan, Alabama; Forest County, Mississippi; Harrison County, Mississippi; Hinds County, Mississippi; Huntsville, Alabama; Jasper, Alabama; Lauderdale County, Mississippi; Mobile, Alabama; and Montgomery, Alabama;

Sons of Silence have chapters include Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Lake Charles, Louisiana; Little Rock, Arkansas; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Minden, Louisiana.

Money Laundering Organizations

DTOs operating within the GC HIDTA commonly employ money laundering methodologies as a major component of their overall criminal enterprise.

During 2012, an investigation targeting the synthetic cannabinoids industry was initiated in Lafayette, Louisiana. This criminal group included numerous attorneys, locally and nationwide, working directly with the principals involved in illegal activity and a lobbying group operating in San Francisco and Georgia that advised the synthetic cannabinoid industry on how to circumvent state and federal drug laws. Investigators conducted a thorough financial investigation to link all the criminal conspirators to drug trafficking charges.

In September 2012, a true bill was returned by a grand jury in the Western District of Louisiana charging nine defendants with violations of conspiracy to distribute schedule I (analogue), misbranding drugs and 14 counts of money laundering. Assets in excess of \$1.8 million were seized and an asset forfeiture count was included in the indictment of \$20 million. Investigators have identified additional hidden assets and are aggressively seeking forfeiture of real property in Atlanta and Las Vegas.

C. Drug Transportation Methods

The GC HIDTA experiences all categories of drug smuggling methods including air, roadway, package distribution services, railway and marine. Therefore, it is essential to explain each category and its impact on the region.

The four GC HIDTA states and Shelby County, Tennessee contain a total of 289 counties and parishes. Twenty-six parishes/counties are GC HIDTA designated; eight parishes are in Louisiana, seven counties in Mississippi, six counties in Alabama, four counties in Arkansas and Shelby County, Tennessee. The four states encompass a total of 200,162 square miles. The majority is rural and agricultural. The abundance of interstate highways includes major drug corridors such as I-10, I-12, I-20, I-30, I-40, I-49, I-55, I-59, I-65, I-85 and several U.S. highways ideal for DTOs to transport drugs from the Southwest Border into and through the GC HIDTA to lucrative markets in the Midwest and East Coast. The area has several international airports, extensive general aviation airports and many private airstrips allowing DTOs the opportunity to smuggle via aircraft. The GC HIDTA includes over 8,000 miles of coastline and 5.3 million acres of swamp. Thousands of miles of navigable lakes, rivers and bayous allow ample accessibility to various types of watercraft and limited accessibility to cars or trucks. Drug traffickers from Central and

Drugs Seized	Amount Seized (lb/d.u.)
Heroin	7.5 lbs
Cocaine	608 lbs
Marijuana	13,443 lbs
Methamphetamine	70 lbs
Ecstasy	1,374 d.u.
Currency	\$18,418,732
Drugs removed from the marketplace in 2012 by law enforcement highway interdiction efforts as reported to the BLOC/HIDTA Watch Center.	

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South America have established a labyrinth of smuggling routes through the Caribbean and the Southwest Border using a variety of techniques that pose a constant threat to the Gulf Coast.

Land Threat

Despite the real and potential threat from marine and air smuggling, the most significant threat to the GC HIDTA is the use of the Interstate Highway System by DTOs. Overland transportation utilizing private and commercial vehicles is overwhelmingly the most commonly encountered smuggling method in the GC HIDTA. DTOs are most successful utilizing commercial vehicles to transport contraband in large quantities.

Large volumes of drugs originating from the Southwest Border are transported through the GC HIDTA to destinations throughout the United States. This is indicated by the number and size of HIDTA Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) seizures in the past year.

Intelligence gap: The reporting of highway interdiction successes is fragmented because many state and local law enforcement seizures go unreported. Data collection will improve as more law enforcement authorities are trained to report interdiction seizures via EPIC's National Seizure System (NSS).

The east/westbound interstates of 10, 20, 30 and 40 traverse the states and intersect with the major north/southbound interstates of 49, 55, 59 and 65. Most interdiction seizures within the GC HIDTA occur on I-10, as it stretches along the southern United States from Los Angeles, California, to Jacksonville, Florida. Interstate 40 also traverses the entire United States and is the most traveled interstate in the nation, with end points in Barstow, California and Wilmington, North Carolina. The GC HIDTA's central location ensures its roadways are utilized by traffickers from both coasts, since smugglers can easily move their cargo through the GC HIDTA in a one or two-day trip. Trains, buses, and parcel post services are also utilized to transport drugs through the GC HIDTA. Each type of conveyance provides drug traffickers tremendous latitude for concealing contraband.

Express Mail/Parcel Post

The second most popular mode of transportation by DTOs is express mail/parcel post. These shipping methods provide fast, reliable and low risk delivery of illegal drugs. DTOs use variations of packaging and concealment methods to continually thwart law enforcement detection such as fictitious names on the shipping and receiving labels, concealing the drugs with odor such as coffee grounds, or utilizing vacuum-sealed bundles.

The mail system is a particular problem for prescription drugs, which are easily mixed with large-scale legitimate mailings. Considering the huge volume of packages, domestic and international, that are transited throughout the United States, this threat poses a difficult challenge and overwhelms the limited manpower now focused on examining these packages.

One of the GC HIDTA's Mobile Deployment Teams, operating from the Mississippi Operations Center, conducts routine checks on suspicious packages at express mail centers in the Greater Jackson, Mississippi area. This group routinely encounters packages of marijuana shipped in five to 10 pound bundles and, on occasion, shipments of ODDs such as multi-ounces of PCP. Similar operations are conducted with great success by the Mobile/Baldwin Street Enforcement Team in Mobile, Alabama.

Federal Express Hub

The Federal Express (FedEx) hub in Memphis, Tennessee opened in 1973. Currently it encompasses a five mile perimeter with slots for 175 aircraft and 3,000 miles of conveyer belts. Two million packages move through the facility daily. Drugs of all types and currency are commonly shipped in Federal Express packages. Since 2006, more than one million dollars in suspected drug-related cash was seized at the FedEx facility in Shelby County. In addition, hundreds of pounds of marijuana, cocaine, diverted pharmaceuticals, and other drugs were intercepted.

The GC HIDTA-funded Transportation Response and Investigative Support Team (TRIST) focuses on conducting supporting interdiction investigations on the interstate highways of Shelby County, as well as interdiction investigations at the FedEx World Hub, the Memphis International Airport, other parcel shipment services, and in area hotels and motels.

Railways and Bus Lines

Because security measures are not as stringent for commercial bus and railway travelers as they are with commercial airlines, transporting illicit drug and currency is a low cost/low risk method. Luggage often goes unsearched and is not required to be tagged with owner identification. Therefore, a traveler can board a commercial bus with suitcases containing drugs or currency, and should the vehicle be stopped during highway interdiction, the luggage would not be traced back to the smuggler. The drugs or currency are typically seized and the commercial bus and its passengers are free to continue.

During 2012, law enforcement officers seized various drugs during highway interdiction stops involving commercial buses traveling into and through the GC HIDTA. Law enforcement personnel in the GC HIDTA continue to make significant cases when randomly searching commercial bus terminal traffic and railway stations. There are numerous commercial bus companies operating within the GC HIDTA. There are many smaller, independent charter companies that enter the GC HIDTA from bordering states usually transporting tourists to the Gulf Coast area. For example, Shreveport receives carriers from Texas via I-20, as well as carriers out of Mississippi and Arkansas. Lake Charles and Lafayette receive traffic from Houston on I-10.

Commercial Carriers

DTOs continue to exploit the use of commercial carriers in the GC HIDTA because of their ability to transport and conceal large quantities of drugs or currency. Commercial carrier companies involved in the drug trade attempt various techniques to bypass law enforcement detection. The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) requires that all trucking company names be displayed on the door of tractor/trailers. Consequently, some traffickers create fictitious trucking firms or companies for the purpose of appearing to comply with these regulations. In reality, only one or two shipments of drugs are made under the company name before it is discarded or replaced with another. This practice diminishes name recognition by law enforcement. DOT estimates that only half of the tractor/trailers found transporting drugs are actually legitimate registered trucking companies. Common practices among traffickers are to alter or use legitimate DOT numbers and for drivers to use false documentation and identification. Based on interdiction reports, many tractor-trailers found smuggling drugs or currency in the GC HIDTA are registered in South Texas or California. While some of these trucking companies are involved in illegal activities, companies may be legitimate but hire unscrupulous employees.

Air Threat

The GC HIDTA faces a significant threat via commercial air traffic from drug source countries. All states in the GC HIDTA contain an international airport, some are prime locations for drug smuggling activities. However, the regional airports are of greatest concern to law enforcement. Since major airports are required to maintain stringent restrictions and conduct searches, most drug and currency smugglers have opted for private flights to regional and other general aviation airports. Many private and charter planes use regional airports operating in the GC HIDTA either as a refueling location or a distribution point. According to the Air, Marine Operations Center (AMOC), a unit within the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), many private and small commercial air craft travel from Texas and other Southwest Border towns to Atlanta with stops in regional airports in the GC HIDTA. Flights originating from Southern California typically stop in Jackson, Mississippi to refuel or unload passengers before continuing on to their final destination. In addition, aircraft are used to transport illegal aliens from the Southwest Border to communities located within the GC HIDTA. As law enforcement aggressively pursues highway interdiction, smuggling illicit drugs and illegal aliens via aircraft will increase throughout the GC HIDTA.

There are seven international airports within the GC HIDTA that provide direct and connecting flights from drug source countries as well as transit and distribution areas such as Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Memphis and Miami. Of the six internationally designated airports, two are in Alabama (Birmingham and Huntsville), two in Louisiana (Alexandria and New Orleans) and two in Mississippi (Gulfport/Biloxi and Jackson). The Arkansas International Airport is part of the Arkansas Aeroplex, a multi-modal transportation facility. It should be noted that some Arkansas residents conduct their travel via the Memphis International Airport in Memphis, Tennessee.

Marine Threat

The Gulf Coast Border Enforcement Security Task Force (GC BEST) is an all threats task force which was established in the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New Orleans office in 2010 to organize a partnership among the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other federal and local law enforcement agencies along the Mississippi River and the central Gulf Coast regional maritime environment. The GC BEST was recently realigned this year into three separate BESTs: HSI New Orleans BEST, HSI Gulfport BEST, and HSI Mobile BEST. There is participation by federal, state, and local law enforcement that assist HSI agents in aggressively investigating criminal activity and security threats in relation to the maritime environment and intra-coastal threats.

One of the most significant threats within the Port of South Louisiana is at the Port of Gramercy, with vessels arriving from Jamaica weekly. These vessels have been known to transport narcotics by numerous methods to include crew controlled concealment, stowaways, and parasitic under-hull attachments. HSI, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Coast Guard conduct random vessel hull checks at the port using side-scan sonar to interdict smuggling attempts. Stowaways transporting narcotics have also been known to jump off the vessels either mid-stream or dockside.

Vessels traveling from source countries on a weekly basis with cargo to the Port of New Orleans are another major threat. In the past, these vessels have had parasitic containers attached to the exterior hull, where narcotics are harbored. The advantage of smuggling narcotics in containerized shipments lies within the volume of cargo arriving at the port every day and the current capacity of CBP inspectors to inspect only a small percentage.

During 2012, HSI New Orleans BEST received information that a seaman had smuggled narcotics into the United States through Port



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Fouchon, Louisiana. The source advised that the contraband was abandoned in a transport van en route to the New Orleans International Airport.

HSI agents interviewed the transport driver who found a package containing five bricks, which he suspected were narcotics, in the transport van. He then hid the narcotics in his residence in Metairie, Louisiana. Based on the exculpatory statements, Jefferson Parish Louisiana Sheriff's Office (JPSO) BEST member obtained an arrest warrant for the subject. The subject is currently being prosecuted.

In April 2012, HSI agents and CBP officers seized 48.3 kilograms of cocaine located inside two black Nike duffel bags. The bags of cocaine were located in an empty intermodal container and had been discovered by a longshoreman. The container had been offloaded from the M/W MSC Korea, which had been to recent ports of call in Venezuela and Panama.

In October, 2012, 9,405 pills (Valium, Soma, Tramadol, Phenergan, Vicodin and Flexeril) were seized by Carnival cruise line security from a female passenger returning to the Carnival Conquest ship at the port of Belize. The pills were later turned over to New Orleans CBP officers upon arrival. HSI New Orleans agents were subsequently notified and conducted a search of her cabin room. The search yielded marijuana laced with LSD. The passenger admitted to purchasing the "medication" for another female living in Mississippi and receiving monetary compensation.

Over 700,000 passengers travel annually through the Port of New Orleans. There are three cruise lines currently operating out of the port: Carnival, Royal Caribbean and Norwegian Cruise Line. New Orleans is home to four cruise ships currently: Carnival Conquest, Carnival Elation, Norwegian Star and Royal Caribbean Navigator of the Seas. Only ticketed passengers are allowed past checkpoints and no guests are allowed aboard the vessel with the exception of wedding parties and maintenance crew. All checked baggage is scanned and hand-carried items onboard are searched. Security measures regarding crew members and cargo have been increased; however, crew members are allowed to get off the vessel while docked at port. When the river is low, the crew does not have to go through security, so there is an increased threat for smuggling as well as an opportunity for those involved with smuggling to not return to the ship.

D. Marijuana Production

Marijuana, either Mexico-produced or locally grown, is highly available in the GC HIDTA. In many areas of the GC HIDTA, the price has decreased due to its abundant availability. Domestically grown marijuana is produced utilizing different methods, such as indoor or outdoor grow operations. Since indoor grown marijuana is more potent and therefore more lucrative than the Mexico-produced marijuana, many local growers have opted for this type of grow operation. British Columbian (BC) Bud, a term given to high potency marijuana produced in Canada, is available in many areas of the GC HIDTA.

The availability of high-grade and medicinal marijuana within the GC HIDTA has also increased. Law enforcement officials in Arkansas and Louisiana have reported an influx of high-grade marijuana shipments originating from the West Coast, particularly California, Oregon and Colorado.

Although not indigenous to the region, marijuana is grown in all states within the GC HIDTA. The GC HIDTA's temperate climate enables marijuana cultivators to easily grow cannabis that can be intermixed with other crops to deter detection by law enforcement. Cannabis producers continue to cultivate marijuana in national forests, parks, and on other public lands in an attempt to avoid detection and seizure of personal property.

Similarly, indoor local grow operations employ sophisticated means of production and concealment. Indoor marijuana grow operations seized in the GC HIDTA range in size from small closets to entire

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residences. Indoor cannabis cultivation requires diligent oversight because the grower must provide plants with light, heat, humidity and fertilizer.

Intelligence indicates an emerging trend in outdoor marijuana growing operations, particularly in the Southeast. Outdoor marijuana growing operations have traditionally employed very basic cultivating techniques. Mexican DTOs have now begun utilizing more sophisticated approaches to cultivating marijuana in the GC HIDTA region. Employing the successful cultivation methods used by traffickers in Mexico, DTOs are directing workers to reside on-site and tend to the marijuana plants on a daily basis. They use elaborate equipment including irrigation systems, water pumps, portable gas generators, hoses to feed water from uphill reservoirs and nearby streams, portable sprayers as well as advanced chemical and fertilizer applications. Marijuana seeds are purchased in Mexico and subsequently transported to the GC HIDTA for cultivation.

In 2012, Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DEC/SP) seizure data confirmed outdoor marijuana cultivation continues in the GC HIDTA, although it has begun a downward trend. Seizure statistics imply local marijuana cultivation is trending down, partially due to an increase in supply of Mexico-produced and medical marijuana. In Alabama, the DCE/SP reported the seizure of 7,004 marijuana plants compared to 16,690 in 2011. DEC/SP in Louisiana discovered 2,355 plants; a decline from 3,120 in the previous year. Mississippi DCE/SP reported the eradication of 633 plants which yielded 4,981 pounds of marijuana, a decrease from 1,166 in 2011. Arkansas DCE/SP reported 522 plants eradicated throughout the state, down from 50,359 in 2011.

On October 16, 2012, Harrison County, Mississippi Sheriff's deputies discovered two residential homes in Biloxi, Mississippi had been converted to indoor marijuana grow houses. Deputies recovered 372 indoor grown marijuana plants and 21 pounds of processed marijuana.



On February 15, 2013, sheriff's deputies in George County, Mississippi seized a Penske rental truck containing 71- 25 gallon pots containing marijuana roots, stalks and numerous items of marijuana grow house paraphernalia. The driver and both occupants of the truck were identified as Cuban nationals.



Legalization

In 2012, Arkansas voters narrowly defeated a ballot measure that would have made Arkansas the first state in the South to legalize medical marijuana. The measure would have established a system for the cultivation, acquisition and distribution of marijuana for qualifying patients through nonprofit medical marijuana dispensaries. Among the conditions that would have qualified a person to use medical marijuana included cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS and muscle spasms. To qualify, Arkansas residents would have had to obtain a doctor's note indicating that marijuana would benefit them medically. Upon presenting such a note to the state's Department of Health, they would have received a card allowing them either to buy marijuana from authorized dispensaries or grow it themselves if they lived more than five miles from a dispensary. Promoters of this law have made clear their intentions to pursue this agenda in future elections. Many Arkansas marijuana seizures originate in California, Oregon, and Colorado; states that have medical marijuana laws already in place and are of a much higher grade.

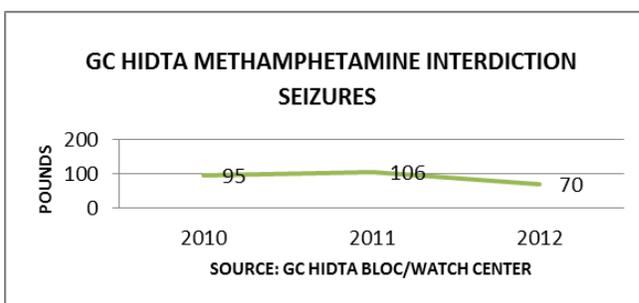
E. Methamphetamine Production

Methamphetamine is available from two primary sources: locally manufactured, which is usually for personal consumption; and that manufactured in Mexico, which is transported via the Interstate Highway System from the Southwest Border and California in larger, wholesale quantities.

The number of reported traditional methamphetamine laboratories seized in the GC HIDTA continued a downward trend in 2012. As state legislatures enact regulations designed to limit access to medications containing precursors and law enforcement continues to develop more sophisticated methods of tracking pharmaceutical purchases, it has altered the way lab operators obtain the necessary ingredients to produce methamphetamine. Most of the methamphetamine laboratories seized in the region are “one pot” labs, which typically produce less than two ounces of methamphetamine per production cycle.

Analyst Note: Due to the sporadic and underreporting of laboratory seizures, the related data may not reflect actual lab seizure activity. It is likely that due to the expansion of one pot labs, an increase in overall methamphetamine laboratory activity would be noted. The GC HIDTA Intelligence sub-system has implemented steps to improve lab reporting.

The availability of precursors such as pseudoephedrine have become limited by newly enacted state laws. Chemicals that are not available at retail stores, such as anhydrous ammonia, are clandestinely produced, purchased or stolen from fixed tanks throughout the GC HIDTA. The number of anhydrous ammonia labs has continued to decrease throughout the GC HIDTA due to the ease of “one pot” labs. Law enforcement continues to see an increase in Mexico-produced methamphetamine.



While there are many methods to produce methamphetamine, the one pot method, also known as shake and bake, is now the preferred production method since it reduces the number of necessary steps in the production process. The precursors are mixed together prior to the addition of ammonia nitrate, the substitute for anhydrous ammonia.

Since state laws require pharmacies to maintain logs of all pseudoephedrine purchases, many producers have established new methods of obtaining precursors including purchases from multiple pharmacies and

traveling to out-of-state pharmacies. These ‘smurfing’ methods enable producers to obtain the necessary ingredients for meth production and avoid legal limits placed on the purchasing of precursor materials.

In 2010, legislators in Mississippi enacted a law requiring a prescription to purchase products containing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine. The law has proven to be effective limiting traditional meth labs in Mississippi; however, law enforcement officers report that Mississippi smurfing groups are now targeting pharmacies in neighboring states such as Alabama and Louisiana, where pseudoephedrine laws are less stringent.

The dangers of methamphetamine laboratories affect persons and the surrounding areas that may come in contact with the laboratory. In 2012, 68 children were reportedly affected as a result of methamphetamine lab seizures within the GC HIDTA compared to 117 in 2011.

CHILDREN AFFECTED		
	2011	2012
AL	13	12
AR	52	24
LA	5	9
MS	47	23
TOTAL	117	68
Source: El Paso Intelligence Center. Data collected April 22, 2013.		

F. Prescription Drug Diversion

The primary sources for diverted pharmaceuticals are DTOs, Internet pharmacies and pain management clinics. The enactment of new regulations for pain management clinics in Louisiana has diminished their standing as a major source of supply in the state. According to treatment/prevention providers in the region, 46 percent of their clients obtain prescriptions through doctor shopping.

DHE seizures of pharmaceuticals continue with increasing frequency and in larger quantities across the GC HIDTA. The source is often from foreign countries, most commonly Mexico; however pain management clinics operating in the Houston area have become a major source for portions of the four-state area, particularly western Louisiana. Mexican DTOs commonly transport pharmaceuticals to the GC HIDTA where they are frequently distributed by Caucasian DTOs. Current intelligence indicates that black street level distributors have become more involved in the distribution of pharmaceuticals.

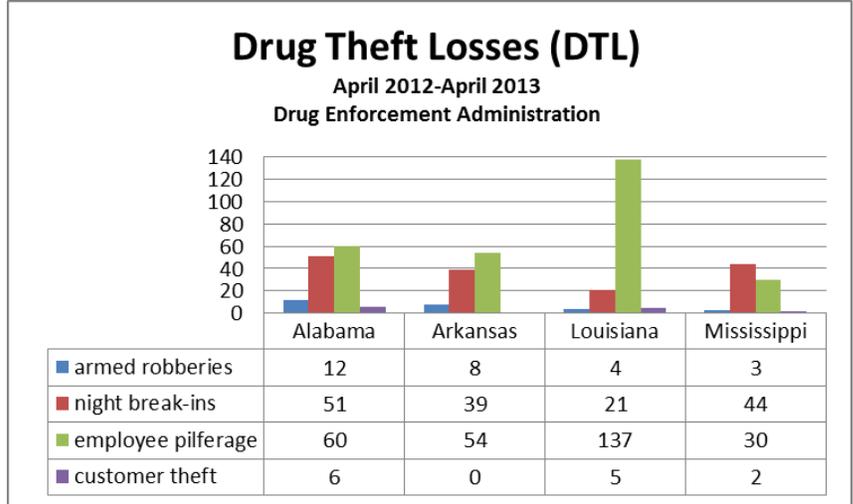
Associated crime and methods of diversion for pharmaceutical drugs include robberies/burglaries, theft from pharmacies, doctor shopping, and forged prescriptions. Even though pharmaceuticals are not a leading contributor to crime, these diversion methods are commonly encountered within the GC HIDTA and are a leading concern for area law enforcement as they are occurring with increased frequency.

There are few pharmaceutical manufacturers in the GC HIDTA which produce licit drugs intended for medicinal purposes. It is the diversion of the pharmaceuticals that is of concern to law enforcement. Currently, there is no indication of pharmaceutical diversion from area manufacturers.

Hydrocodone (43 percent), Oxycodone (22 percent) and Alprazolam (16 percent) are the most commonly abused pharmaceuticals reported by law enforcement officials in 2012. Ninety-one percent of law enforcement officials reported a high availability of pharmaceutical drugs in their area in 2012.

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Several factors contribute to pharmacy drug theft and loss (DTL) in the GC HIDTA. Armed robberies, night break-ins, employee pilferage and customer theft are measured to determine the type of loss in pharmacies (see chart). This prescription drug loss is associated with high prescription drug abuse in the area. As noted in the chart, employee pilferage ranks as the number one factor in pharmacy DTL.



G. Drug Consumption

According to the 2012 drug survey, **cocaine**, as well as its derivative crack, is highly abused throughout the GC HIDTA. In 2012, 21 percent of treatment/prevention professionals in the GC HIDTA report cocaine and crack cocaine as the greatest threat of abuse. Forty-four percent of treatment/prevention professionals reported a high availability of crack cocaine while 41 percent reported moderate availability.

Law enforcement officials report the majority of crack abusers are black (82 percent) while a large percentage of powder cocaine abusers are Caucasian (59 percent). Cocaine abusers encompass a wide range of age and economic status.

Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)								
	Alabama		Arkansas		Louisiana		Mississippi	
	Cocaine (smoked)	Cocaine (other route)						
2007	N/A	N/A	1,382	505	4,846	1,685	1,339	445
2008	N/A	N/A	2,326	958	4,366	1,306	1,200	389
2009	1,942	1,216	1,541	804	4,264	1,085	877	258
2010	2,123	849	769	282	2,860	939	163	63
2011	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,610	982	N/A	N/A

*SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through April 22, 2013.

Analyst Note: Current TEDS information is not available for Shelby County, Tennessee. Data were gathered on April 22, 2013.

According to Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS), the number of patients admitted to licensed or certified drug treatment centers for powder cocaine and crack (smoked) abuse continues to decline in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Facilitators in Alabama report that cocaine is the most psychologically addictive drug in the state. TEDS data for the 2007 and 2008 calendar year are not available for Alabama (see table).

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The Alabama Department of Mental Health reported 2,295 admissions for both powder and crack cocaine in 2012.

Based on TEDS data, the number of patients seeking treatment for **methamphetamine** abuse in Arkansas has continued to decline since 2005. Mississippi also witnessed a significant decrease from 2009 to 2010. Louisiana witnessed a significant increase from 2010 to 2011 (see table).

Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)				
Amphetamines				
	Alabama	Arkansas	Louisiana	Mississippi
2007	N/A	2,605	978	481
2008	N/A	4,334	718	443
2009	1,725	4,037	746	425
2010	2,043	2,544	830	139
2011	N/A	N/A	1011	N/A
<small>*SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through April 22, 2013.</small>				

The Alabama Department of Mental Health reported 1,719 admissions for methamphetamine abuse in 2012; a 16 percent decrease from 2,043 in 2011.

In 2012, 24 percent of treatment/prevention professionals in the GC HIDTA reported methamphetamine as the greatest drug of abuse in their area. Forty-five percent also reported a disruption in methamphetamine admissions due to law enforcement efforts.

Historically, Caucasians are the primary abusers of methamphetamine; however, over time methamphetamine abuse has transcended racial lines. Abuse among the black population is on the rise. Law enforcement reports indicate black DTOs are becoming increasingly involved in the transportation and distribution of methamphetamine. This is evidenced by increased interdiction seizures, investigations, and arrests.

According to Narconon, a drug rehabilitation center in Alabama, drug treatment centers have a difficult time rehabilitating methamphetamine addicts, with a less than 10 percent success rate. Most patients in the facility use Mexico-produced methamphetamine.

Diverted pharmaceuticals are a commonly abused drug in the GC HIDTA. Hydrocodone, alprazolam, and oxycodone are the primary pharmaceuticals of abuse and misuse in the region according to the 2012 GC HIDTA Treatment/Prevention survey. Alabama and Louisiana have both reported a substantial increase in Opana (oxymorphone) in the past 12 months. Opana is similar to morphine and is highly addictive according to treatment/prevention professionals.

Historically, Caucasians were the primary abusers of pharmaceuticals; however, pharmaceutical abuse has traversed racial boundaries. As pharmaceutical use has increased, so too have emergency room visits, overdoses, and overdose-related deaths. The simultaneous abuse of multiple types of pharmaceutical drugs without knowledge of the dangerous and potentially deadly side effects as well as the combination of pharmaceuticals with alcohol accounts for the increase.

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According to TEDS data, the total number of patients seeking treatment at local drug rehabilitation centers for non-heroin opiate addiction (including methadone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone and morphine) significantly increased in Alabama and Louisiana during 2010 (see table), while Mississippi and Arkansas witnessed a decrease. In 2011, Louisiana shows a 30 percent increase in admissions for other opiates.

Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)				
Other Opiates**				
	Alabama	Arkansas	Louisiana	Mississippi
2007	N/A	1217	2,631	631
2008	N/A	2891	2,850	718
2009	2,195	2698	3,179	746
2010	2,788	1708	3,329	222
2011	N/A	N/A	4,328	N/A

**Other Opiates includes: Non-heroin opiates include methadone, codeine, Dilaudid, morphine, Demerol, oxycodone, and any other drug with morphine-like effects.
 *SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS).
 Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through April 22, 2013.

Results from the GC HIDTA treatment/prevention survey reveal a 79 percent increase in pharmaceutical admissions over the past 12 months. According to 29 percent of treatment facilitators, abusers obtain diverted pharmaceuticals by doctor shopping.

In recent years, **heroin** encounters in the GC HIDTA have been primarily observed in parts of Alabama and New Orleans, Louisiana, but are now being reported in northern Mississippi and Arkansas. Alabama reports significant abuse in the Jefferson County (Birmingham) area and its neighbor, Shelby County. Due to a spike in overdoses in these counties, law enforcement agencies in Jefferson and Shelby Counties (Northern District of Alabama) report that heroin is the number one drug threat for their area. Treatment/prevention professionals in Oxford, Mississippi have also reported an increase in intra-venous (IV) heroin use in their area. Similarly, during 2012, several significant heroin investigations were conducted in the Shelby County, Tennessee area.

According to TEDS data, the total number of individuals seeking treatment for opiate abuse significantly increased in Louisiana in 2010 and 2011. Arkansas and Mississippi both reported a decrease from 2009 to 2010. Treatment/prevention professional in Alabama are expecting a substantial increase in their number of admissions for heroin abuse in 2013. A number of treatment/prevention facility professionals (35 percent) reported an increase in heroin admissions over the past 12 months throughout the GC HIDTA.

Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)				
Heroin				
	Alabama	Arkansas	Louisiana	Mississippi
2007	N/A	41	408	65
2008	N/A	104	642	76
2009	209	86	1524	63
2010	216	53	1886	30
2011	N/A	N/A	2,307	N/A

*SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS).
 Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through April 22, 2013.

The purity levels for heroin found in New Orleans have decreased in the past year. The average purity level for 2012 was 17.43 percent. The average purity continues to trend down in the New Orleans area (Source: DEA, Domestic Monitoring Program, 2012). According to DEA, prices for heroin papers range from \$20 to \$25 and from \$100 to \$200 per gram. The majority of heroin available in the New Orleans area is of South American origin.

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Other Dangerous Drugs (ODDs) continue to be moderately abused throughout the GC HIDTA. Traditional MDMA abuse has remained constant, but variations of the drug such as “Molly” (ecstasy and heroin) are on the rise. Synthetic drugs such as Cannabinoids (Spice) and Cathinones (Bath Salts) continue to rise within the region.

Although younger generations continue to be lured to ODDs due to the myth these drugs are safe, the GC HIDTA continues to see an increase in the number of investigations/arrests involving older violators. Abuse of ODDs no longer centers around cities with colleges or universities, but has expanded into smaller urban and rural areas of the GC HIDTA region.

Abuse of synthetic drugs such as Cathinones has resulted in extended hospitalization, episodes of serious psychotic behavior, and in several instances, suicide. Expedited legislative action has been undertaken by state lawmakers across the GC HIDTA in an effort to curtail the availability of these substances.

Results from the GC HIDTA treatment/prevention survey indicate 14 percent of treatment professionals report a high availability of synthetic drugs and 44 percent report moderate availability. Forty-seven percent of treatment/prevention professionals reported an increase in synthetic drug admissions in the past 12 months.

Club Drugs	
MDMA/Ecstasy (methylenedioxymethamphetamine)	
GHB (gamma hydroxybutyrate)	
Ketamine (ketamine hydrochloride)	
Rohypnol (flunitrazepam)	
Hallucinogens	
Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD)	
Phencyclidine (PCP)	
Psilocybin mushrooms	
Anabolic Steroids	
Anadrol (oxymetholone)	
Oxandrin (oxandrolone)	
Dianabol (methandrostenolone)	
Winstrol (stanozolol)	
Deca-Durabolin (nandrolone decanoate)	
Depo-testosterone (testosterone cypionate)	
Inhalants	
Volatile solvents: Paint thinners, gasoline, kerosene, correction fluids, Markers	
Aerosols: Spray paints, hair sprays	
Medical anesthetics: Ether, chloroform, nitrous oxide, propane tanks, refrigerants	
Nitrites: Cyclohexyl nitrite, isoamyl nitrite, and isobutyl nitrite	

Marijuana abuse transcends all racial, social and economic boundaries in the GC HIDTA. It is not uncommon for marijuana to be used or sold in conjunction with other drugs.

According to TEDS data, the number of patients admitted to rehabilitation centers for marijuana abuse has increased in Alabama, while admissions in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi have decreased from 2009 to 2010.

Data from GC HIDTA treatment/prevention professionals in 2012 show a high (91 percent) availability of marijuana.

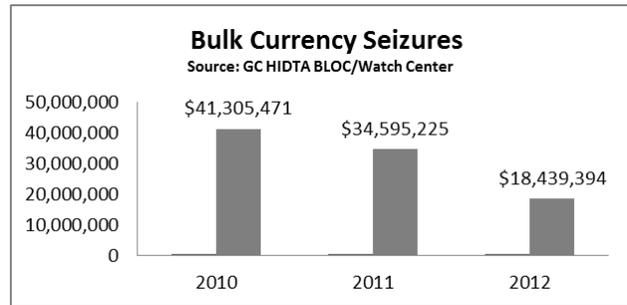
Treatment Episode Data Sets (TEDS)				
Marijuana				
	Alabama	Arkansas	Louisiana	Mississippi
2007	N/A	2,877	5,417	1,527
2008	N/A	5,604	5,713	1,788
2009	6,713	4,596	6,310	1,479
2010	6,993	2,790	6,026	343
2011	N/A	N/A	5,261	N/A

*SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by States to TEDS through April 22, 2013.

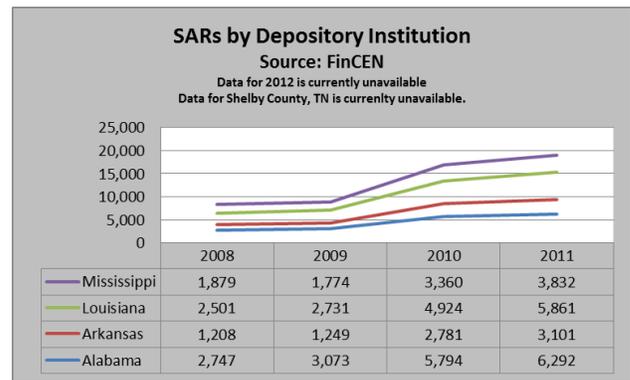
Analyst Note: Treatment/prevention professionals note a 44 percent increase in admissions for marijuana abuse over the past 12 months, which is not reflected in the TEDS information above. Alabama Department of Mental Health data indicate marijuana abuse is a contributing factor reported for 31 percent of the admissions at treatment programs.

H. Illicit Finance

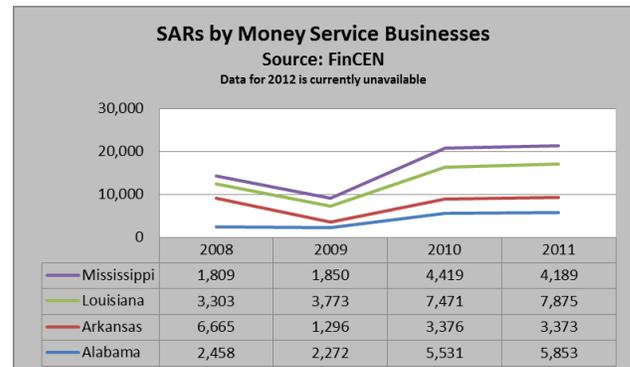
The ultimate goal of DTOs is monetary gain. Current intelligence indicates DTOs, whether local, regional or international, are pursuing more creative and sophisticated methods to conceal drug proceeds in an effort to elude law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies have heightened highway enforcement efforts in an attempt to thwart money-laundering activities by trafficking organizations. Through aggressive, successful law enforcement campaigns, DTOs have been greatly impacted. Nonetheless, money laundering remains a significant threat in the GC HIDTA. The threat is primarily due to the continued operations of drug organizations in the area. These organizations have recognized the area’s diverse money laundering possibilities.



Since most drugs distributed in the GC HIDTA originate outside its borders, trafficking organizations must find efficient and ingenious methods to transfer illicit proceeds to their sources of supply. Most Mexican DTOs use bulk currency shipments as their primary methods of repatriating drug proceeds to their home country. A cottage industry has evolved to service these organizations. They have developed sophisticated methods of concealment in mechanically operated hidden compartments in personal and commercial vehicles to hide drugs and proceeds. These organizations also use more traditional methods to move currency including money wire transmitters. They often turn a blind eye to customers who structure transfers to multiple recipients in order to circumvent required currency reporting requirements.



Other money laundering techniques uncovered in the region include structuring of currency transactions through legitimate banking institutions known as “smurfing,” the use of commercial businesses such as check cashing establishments, pawn shops and casinos; purchases of real estate including automotive detail shops, liquor stores, record stores, restaurants, beauty salons, and the utilization of courier services. Other means in which proceeds are laundered are certificates of deposit used to secure personal loans to acquire assets, purchase assets through legal counsel, and the use of nominees to purchase and/or make substantial improvements to real property. The purchase of real estate under an assumable mortgage where there is no qualification and no credit check is yet another laundering method. Violators often place real property in nominee names in order to hide ownership or origin.



The GC HIDTA has a large fishing/seafood, shipping and tourism industry and long-standing business relationships with source and transit countries. A growing economy has created an environment

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conducive to money laundering. In addition, the GC HIDTA has major interstates, highways, airports and seaports that are used as drug trafficking routes and a coastline that provides easy access without detection. All of these factors enhance the money-laundering environment.

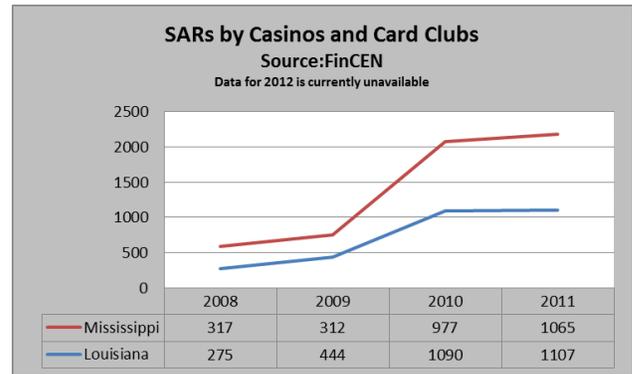
Intelligence reports reveal some members of the seafood industry are heavily involved in smuggling and money laundering. Because it is largely a cash business, the commercial seafood industry affords violators the opportunity to operate within the camouflage of legitimate business practices. Shell companies and businesses are established and maintained for money laundering operations. It is difficult to differentiate fraudulent businesses from legitimate ones and uncover illegal activities.

In coordination with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), the GC HIDTA has detected evidence of money laundering through gambling casinos and financial institutions through examination of Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and Currency Transaction Reports (CTRs). Although assistance by FinCEN helps address the difficulties of tracking wired monies and/or monies moved via financial institutions, the bulk movement of currency out of the United States and into the transit and source countries still remains a problem for law enforcement (see chart below).

Major DTOs operating along the Gulf Coast make extensive use of casinos in Mississippi and Louisiana for money laundering. As the number of casinos increase, so does the amount of money wagered as well as patronage, creating more opportunities for individuals to launder their ill-obtained profits in the fast-paced environment of casino gambling. Casinos are very vulnerable to manipulation by money launderers and tax evaders due their cash volume. Casinos have installed “cash in/ticket out” slot machines. This process makes it very easy for individuals to launder

money through the casino by simply putting money into the slot machine and then cashing out, producing a paper voucher for the money. Launderers then take the voucher to the cashier and receive the amount listed. In most cases, they never actually play the slot machines. Gaming has the potential of having the largest single impact upon laundering and trafficking patterns in the GC HIDTA. Casino security remains vigilant in deterring money-laundering actions by maintaining a working relationship with law enforcement officials. On numerous occasions, casino security members have notified law enforcement authorities of individuals suspected of money laundering via casinos.

Even though casinos and gambling provide an advantageous money-laundering environment, the majority of SARs filed in the GC HIDTA are from money service businesses, such as wire transmitters.



I. Emerging Threats

i. Synthetic drugs

The availability and abuse of Cannabinoids and Cathinones have continued to increase in the GC HIDTA during 2012. These chemical compounds, often legal products, are sold commercially and abused by teenagers and young adults with devastating consequences. These products are becoming increasingly popular, particularly among high school students.

Drug Endangered Children

Methamphetamine labs are the primary threat for children in the GC HIDTA. Because methamphetamine is often manufactured in a residential area, chemicals from lab production pose a threat to the public, especially children. Due a continued decrease in the number of traditional methamphetamine labs in the area, the number of children affected has trended downward (see chart).

CHILDREN AFFECTED		
	2011	2012
AL	13	12
AR	52	24
LA	5	9
MS	47	23
TOTAL	117	68
Source: El Paso Intelligence Center. Data collected April 22, 2013.		

ii. Other Threats

Pharmaceutical drug abuse continues to rise in the GC HIDTA. Mississippi and Shelby County, Tennessee both describe pharmaceutical abuse as the number one drug threat in their area. Due to the high availability of pharmaceuticals and the continued increase in internet pharmacies, doctor shopping and prescription pad theft, pharmaceuticals will be a growing problem throughout the GC HIDTA.

Heroin is also an emerging threat in the GC HIDTA region. Although it has been a growing problem in the New Orleans, Louisiana area for several years and more recently in Birmingham, AL, heroin encounters are now being reported in central and northern Alabama, as well as northern Mississippi, Arkansas and Shelby County, Tennessee.

IV. OUTLOOK

The GC HIDTA serves as an attractive area for DTOs due to its strategic proximity to the Southwest Border, ideal geography, climate, demographics and highway systems which offer opportunities for the transshipment of drugs and currency. For these reasons, the GC HIDTA is a major transit corridor for drug trafficking between the Southwest Border and the Central and Eastern United States. Internal distribution and consumption of drugs and its related violent crime pose major problems to both urban and rural communities throughout the GC HIDTA.

As drug law enforcement efforts focus on the Southwest Border, drug smuggling activities in and around the GC HIDTA will continue to increase. Colombia-based DTOs relinquished control of drug distribution to Mexico-based DTOs who have maintained a major role in the GC HIDTA. The Colombians utilize Mexican traffickers to transport drug shipments across the Southwest Border, through Texas, and into the GC HIDTA. The effectiveness of Mexican military operations and enforcement along the border has contributed to a disruption of traditional smuggling routes. Within the GC HIDTA, Mexico-based poly-drug organizations are the major source of cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and marijuana. The role and influence of Mexico-based DTOs and Atlanta-based Mexican DTOs will continue to evolve and influence the illegal drug trade in the GC HIDTA. Atlanta will remain a source city for illicit drug trafficking to Alabama, Mississippi and Shelby County, Tennessee. Bulk currency movement westward will increase due to high-grade and medicinal marijuana shipments throughout the area. DTOs will utilize waterways in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana to smuggle drugs and bulk currency. Money service businesses and casinos will remain an avenue for money laundering in the GC HIDTA.

State and local law enforcement agree and statistics confirm that the GC HIDTA has a significant drug threat. Cocaine, particularly crack cocaine, is the greatest threat to the GC HIDTA. Methamphetamine is the fastest growing drug threat and has surpassed cocaine in some areas. Methamphetamine manufacturing is causing numerous problems for law enforcement including officer safety and site identification due to the portability of methamphetamine laboratories. A downward trend of traditional methamphetamine labs has been noted. Nevertheless, the upward trend of shake and bake, or one pot labs, is of continued concern to law enforcement. Since all four states and Shelby County, Tennessee have enacted methamphetamine precursor laws, Mexico-based DTOs will continue to increase the quantity of methamphetamine transported into and through the GC HIDTA in an effort to meet the demand. Both Alabama and Louisiana have reported an increase in smurfing efforts due to Mississippi House Bill 512 prohibiting the sale of pseudoephedrine without a prescription. The harmful effect of methamphetamine laboratories on children will plateau due to the decrease in traditional methamphetamine labs throughout the area. The abuse of pharmaceuticals is increasing in threat priority within the GC HIDTA, approaching that of methamphetamine and cocaine. DTOs are becoming more involved in the transportation of pharmaceutical drugs for local distribution because of high demand for these drugs. As evidenced by interdiction seizures and arrests, many pharmaceuticals are smuggled from Mexico through the Southwest Border to locations within the GC HIDTA. Heroin is increasingly the drug of choice in the New Orleans area. Heroin usage throughout Alabama, northern Mississippi and sections of Arkansas will continue to increase. Marijuana is an entry-level drug that is abused by a wide spectrum of the population. Trends show that drugs such as methamphetamine and marijuana, when grown and/or manufactured in the GC HIDTA are not transported out of the area, but are used locally for personal consumption. In 2012, law enforcement reported a significant rise in both high-grade indoor and medicinal marijuana availability, as well as transshipment through the GC HIDTA from California, Oregon and Colorado. Legalization efforts mimicking the failed effort in Arkansas in 2012 will continue throughout the GC HIDTA.

Treatment and prevention facilitators support law enforcement concerns regarding the significant drug threat within the GC HIDTA. Treatment/Prevention professionals reported high abuse of cocaine, methamphetamine and pharmaceuticals across the area. According to clients admitted to these facilities,

there is a high availability of cocaine, methamphetamine, pharmaceuticals and marijuana in the GC HIDTA. A significant number of treatment/prevention professionals reported a disruption in the availability of ice (50 percent) and powder (41 percent) methamphetamine due to law enforcement operations within the past 12 months. Statistics also indicate that most abusers obtain diverted pharmaceuticals from doctors shopping (29 percent), street dealers (26 percent), or friends (21 percent). Increased levels of synthetic drug abuse are being reported by treatment facilities with 82 percent reporting usage of synthetic Cannabinoids and 65 percent reporting abuse of synthetic Cathinones in 2012. Treatment/prevention professionals in Alabama report high marijuana, methamphetamine and crack cocaine abuse, as well as an increase in IV heroin abuse in Jefferson and Shelby County, Alabama. Arkansas treatment/prevention professionals report abusers using methamphetamine and prescription drugs in combination in the state. Long-term effects of synthetic drug abuse have also been reported in Arkansas. Mississippi treatment/prevention providers have noticed an increase in forged prescription, young adults addicted to opiates, and abusers taking synthetic drugs such as Kratom to avoid detection during a drug test.

V. METHODOLOGY

The GC HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment is produced annually to identify, quantify, and prioritize the nature, extent, and scope of the threat of illegal drugs and related issues in the GC HIDTA. The GC HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment encompasses a four-state area including the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Shelby County, Tennessee. State police agencies are responsible for the production of their respective state threat assessment, which includes the drug situation in each state's designated HIDTA counties/parishes.

Each state's multi-agency team prepares and submits a draft drug threat assessment for review and approval by its GC HIDTA State Committee. The GC HIDTA ISN, Network Coordination Group (NCG) compiles and edits the agency's draft documents into a comprehensive regional threat assessment that encompasses all GC HIDTA counties/parishes and the four-state area as a whole.

Each year, threat assessment teams are led by the GC HIDTA ISN, the Alabama Bureau of Investigation, the Arkansas State Police, the Louisiana State Police, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics and Shelby County Sheriff's Office to avoid duplication. Each state agency aids in the collection and analysis of the information necessary to quantify the threat and to identify trafficking trends by requesting information on availability of illicit drugs.

Please refer to Appendix I and Appendix II to review the agency survey respondents. Appendix III identifies the availability of individual drugs as indicated by survey respondents.

This year, treatment and prevention professionals partnered with law enforcement officials to produce the GC HIDTA threat assessment. A separate treatment and prevention survey was distributed to professionals across the GC HIDTA region. Representatives from each of the GC HIDTA states submitted data which was used in this document.

State teams produce their drug threat assessment by utilizing the survey results, open source documents, law enforcement sensitive information from investigative agencies and anecdotal information from reliable sources. Analysts verify information supplied by contributing agencies. Where confirmation of the data or conclusions cannot be made, qualifying statements have been inserted. The draft documents are circulated through appropriate agencies for comments or corrections.

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The GC HIDTA Executive Board grants final approval of the regional threat assessment. It is then forwarded to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The GC HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment adheres to the guidelines set forth by ONDCP.

The 2014 GC HIDTA Drug Threat Assessment focuses on six major drug categories: cocaine, methamphetamine, diverted pharmaceuticals, heroin, other “dangerous drugs,” and marijuana. Each category is presented in detail. The identification of trends, developments and projections for the future by drug type are also included in the threat assessment. In addition, the threat assessment identifies the problems posed by the threat and the anticipated impact on the GC HIDTA.

As in previous years, the threat assessment encompasses events during the entire year.

With regard to the data pertaining to methamphetamine laboratory seizures, a confidence level of low has been assigned. As noted in the threat assessment, due to the sporadic and consistent underreporting of laboratory seizures across the GC HIDTA region, it is difficult to establish, with any certainty, the level of clandestine laboratory activity. Steps have been undertaken to resolve this deficiency.

A high level of confidence has been assigned to the remainder of data used in the preparation of this threat assessment. This includes information from participating federal, state and local agencies as well as data from treatment and prevention professionals across the GC HIDTA region.

The Gulf Coast HIDTA Executive Board has reviewed the status of each of the designated areas in this HIDTA area of responsibility and has determined that each area continues to meet the required statutory criteria for designation.

VI. APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN 2012 GC HIDTA DRUG SURVEY

12th/21st JDTF	Demopolis Police Department
20th Judicial District Drug Crime Task Force	Denham Springs Marshal
21st District Task Force	Denham Springs Police Department
25th Judicial District Task Force	Department of Army Police
3rd JDC Probation	Department of Correction Division of Probation and Parole
Alcohol Beverage Control Board Enforcement	Department of Justice/ FBI
Alabama Alcohol Control Board	Department of Corrections-Probation and Parole
Alabama Attorney General	DeSoto County Sheriff's Department
Alabama Bureau of Investigation Department of Public Safety	Department of Homeland Security/ United States Coast Guard
Alabama Bureau of Investigation	District Attorney's Office
Alabama Department of Public Safety	Department of Corrections- Probation and Parole
AltaPointe Health Systems Inc.	Dothan Police Department
AMTRAK Police	Department of Public Safety Police- Capitol Detail
Arkansas National Guard Counterdrug Program	Department of Public Safety Corrections
Arkansas State Police	Dumas Police Department
Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office	East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office
Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms New Orleans Field Intelligence Group	East Jefferson Levee
Auburn Police Department	Etowah county drug task force
Baker Police Department	Eureka Springs Police
Baldwin County Sheriff's Office	Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office
Bartlett Tennessee Police Department	Fairfield Police Department
Benton Police Department	Family Service Agency
Berwick Police Department	Fisher Police Department
Bessemer Police Department	GC HIDTA
Biloxi Police Department	Gonzales Fire Department
BLOC/GCHIDTA Watch Center	Gramercy Police Department
Boaz Police Department	Hammond Fire Department
Bogalusa Department	Highland Lake Police Department
Bridge House/Grace House	Hodge Police Department
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms	Hoover Police Department
Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office	Hot Springs Police Department
Cameron Sheriff's Office	Huntsville Police Department
Carencro Police Department	Iberia parish Sheriff's Office
Carlyss Fire Department	IRS, Criminal Investigation
City of Auburn	Jacksonville Police Department
Clarksville Police Department	Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Collierville Police Department	Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office
Combined Anti-Drug Task Force	Jonesboro Police Department/2nd Judicial Drug Task Force
Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office	Kenner Police Department
Conway Police Department Narcotics Division	Lafayette Metro Narcotics Task Force
Covington Police Department	Lafayette Parish Narcotics Task Force
Creola Police Department	Lafourche parish Sheriff's Office
Daleville Police Department	
Department of Justice/DEA	
Decatur Police Department	

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Louisiana Army National Guard/Air
LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office
Lauderdale County Drug Task Force
Little Rock Police Department
Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office
Louisiana State Police
Louisiana State Police / Bureau of Investigations
Louisiana State Police Narcotics Section
Louisiana State Police Criminal Investigations
Division Shreveport
Louisiana State University Police Department
Madison City Police Department
Madison County District Attorney's Office
Madison County Sheriff's Department
Millbrook Police Department
Mobile County Sheriff's Office
Mobile Police Department
Monroe Police Department
Montgomery County Sheriff
Montgomery Police Department
Natchitoches Parish Sheriff
Natchitoches Police Department
New Orleans Fire Department
North Little Rock Police Department
Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office
Pearl Police Department
Piedmont Police Department
Pleasant Grove Police Department
Poarch Creek Tribal Police Department
Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office
Pontchartrain Levee District Police Department
Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office
Prattville Police Department
Pulaski County Sheriff's Office
Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office
Ridgeland Police Department
Russellville Police Department
Saint Tammany Sheriff's Office
Searcy Police Department / Central Arkansas
Drug Task Force
Shelby County Drug Enforcement Task Force
Shelby County Sheriff's Office
Sherwood Police Department
Shreveport Police Department
Southeastern Louisiana University Police
Department
Springdale Police Department
St James Parish Sheriff's Office
St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office Special
Investigations Division
St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office
St. John Parish Sheriff Office
St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office
St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Department
St. Martin Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit
St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office
Stac/ Morgan County Sheriff
Sulphur Police Department
Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
Tulane University Police Department
U.S. Attorney's Office Eastern District of
University of Lafayette Police Department
United States Coast Guard
Ville Platte City Police
Vivian Police Department
Washington County
Webster Sheriff Department
West Tennessee Judicial Violent Crime and
Drug Task Force
West Tennessee Drug Task Force

APPENDIX II: PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2012 TREATMENT/PREVENTION SURVEY

A Bridge to Recovery
Alabama Department of Mental Health
AltaPointe
Arkansas Treatment Services, PA
Baptist Health Recover Program
Better Community Development
Birmingham Fellowship House
Cheaha Regional Mental Health Center
Chilton Shelby Mental Health Center
Communicare
Counseling Associates Inc
Crossroads Recovery Center-Region 13
Delta Community Mental Health Services
East Central MHC
Family Service Agency
Gulf Coast Treatment Center
Harbor House, Inc.
Health Resources of Arkansas
Indian Rivers Mental Health Center
Insight Treatment Program, Inc.
JCCEO (Jefferson County Committee for
Economic Development)
Life Help/Outpatient Center
Mental Health Center of Madison County
Mid-South Health Systems
Mississippi State Hospital
Montgomery Metro Treatment Center
Office of the Arkansas Drug Director
Phoenix House, Inc.
Phoenix Youth & Family Services
PRC Prevention Resource Center of Arkansas
Quest Recovery Center
Quest Recovery Center
Recovery Solutions
Region 1 Prevention Resource Center
Region 11 Prevention Resource Center
Region 8
Region I Mental Health Center
Region III Chemical Dependency Services
River Ridge Treatment Center
South Central Louisiana Human Services
Authority
Southeast Arkansas Behavioral Healthcare
System, Inc.
Southwest Alabama Behavioral Health Care
Systems
Southwest Mississippi Mental Health, Region 11
The Bridge Addiction Treatment Centers
Youth Bridge

APPENDIX III: DRUG SURVEY NOTES

ALABAMA

Bessemer Police Department- rise in heroin distribution
Boaz Police Department- increase in Spice being brought in
City of Auburn- THC being extracted and formed into a waxy substance. Molly being sold in powder form. Starting to see low-quality methamphetamine being produced in new areas.
Etowah County Drug Task Force- heroin use increase, crack still number one problem in cities and meth in rural areas
Huntsville Police Department- increase in pharmaceutical diversion, distribution and abuse
Madison County Sheriff's Office- crack rolled up in marijuana cigarettes
Millbrook Police Department- meth is being used and pharmaceutical abuse is increasing
Montgomery Police Department- increase in heroin overdoses
Prattville Police Department- increase in local Spice production

ARKANSAS

Arkansas State Police- increase in violent and property crime
Clarksville Police Department- pharmaceuticals
Conway Police Department- small amounts of Spice and bath salts
Eureka Springs Police Department- Seeing more Mexican ice coming through Texas
Hot Springs Police Department- Increased use of bath salts and meth has resulted in increased violence
Jacksonville Police Department- had two arrests where officers were informed the arrestees took PCP
Sherwood Police Department- gas stations using code words to sell to customers
United States Attorney's Office- increase in Spice, bath salts right behind. Increase in heroin which is unique for Arkansas

LOUISIANA

Ascension Parish Sheriff- Increase in pharmaceuticals.
ATF- increase in heroin overdose deaths
ATF -- New Orleans FIG- Young users are lacing marijuana cigarettes with heroin.
Carencro Police Department- More burglaries, robberies, and thefts to support drug habits. Seeing more and more pills
Combined Anti-Drug Task Force- More Blacks are beginning to use and distribute meth, which has traditionally been a white drug in our area. "Mollies" (MDMA) are beginning to be abused in the area.
Denham Springs Police Department- Heroin mixed with chicken broth cubes or beef broth cubes
Dept. of Corrections-Probation and Parole- Mollies--these are supposedly high quality MDMA tabs
DPS Police- Capitol Detail- I see mostly "copycats" of synthetic drugs, etc.
Evangeline Parish SO- marijuana dipped in PCP, or just 1/4 bottle of PCP being sold to be drank at the cost of \$85
Iberia parish sheriff office- spice being produced in homes via clandestine lab
Iberia parish sheriff's office- Huge increase in spice/k2
Lafayette Metro Narcotics Task Force- -Synthetic marijuana/Spice/K2 manufacturing and sales - Prescription Fraud and Doctor Shopping
Lafayette Parish Narcotics Task Force- Street corner drug dealers are utilizing cell phones to set up deals with users.
LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office- more abuse of pharmaceuticals
Louisiana State Police / Bureau of Investigations- Increased usage in bath salts, synthetic cannabis, and heroin.
Louisiana State Police Narcotics Section - A rise in the usage of heroin
Louisiana State Police- Increase in indoor Marijuana grow houses. Increase in synthetics.
Louisiana State Police- Spice or Potpourri sprayed with liquid methamphetamine

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Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office- Import of ice methamphetamine

Natchitoches Sheriff's Office- We have seen an increase of flavored methamphetamine and an increase in the trafficking/distribution of methamphetamine within the African American communities.

Natchitoches Police Department- Users are paying more for synthetic drugs than for the regular drugs that are available.

Saint Tammany Sheriff's Office- Past year saw increase in synthetic drug sales marketed as traditional drugs. 25I-MB as LSD, bath salts as Ecstasy

Shreveport Police Department- The increase in sells of synthetic marijuana/spice in stores being run by middle-eastern individuals

Southeastern Louisiana University Police Department- "Legal Potpourri" sold in local establishments resulting in behavior similar to users of "bath salts"

ST.BERNARD PARISH Sheriff's Office- drug & money being transported in side ice chest wall

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office- Yellow capsules containing a bath salt chemical

St. John Parish Sheriff Office- Synthetics being sold by convenient stores

St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office- increase in synthetic drug use

St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office- marijuana cigarettes dipped in PCP, Marijuana cigarette smoked with crack Pills being crushed and snorted

St. Martin Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit- Cigarettes dipped in PCP. Called embalming fluid

UL Lafayette Police- marijuana laced with unknown substance has put at least two people in a coma

Vivian Police Department- Urine extraction for meth, shake and bake operations all over.

Webster Sheriff Department- Shake and bake meth.

MISSISSIPPI-

BLOC/GCHIDTA- marijuana grow houses

TENNESSEE-

DHS/USCG- clandestine methamphetamine pot cooking labs on Uninspected and Inspected towing vessels within the Lower Mississippi River network and Arkansas River network.

Shelby County Sheriff's Office- law enforcement has seen an increase in heroin use in the south western Tennessee area due to the reformulation of oxycontin, this has also caused the price of oxycontin to increase approximately 100%. Also the availability of heroin has increased resulting in a decrease in price. Law enforcement has seen an increase in K2 spice and bath salts in the area.

Shelby County Sheriff- Spice and bath salts. Cigarettes dipped in MDMA power.

West TN Drug Task Force- Spice, Bath Salts, and Molly are common in Memphis

APPENDIX IV: TREATMENT SURVEY NOTES

Alabama-

Gulf Coast Treatment Center- Opana has gone from the 4th drug of choice to the second in 18 months.

AL Department of Mental Health - An increase in heroin has been seen in the Jefferson - Shelby county area. Note: Since marijuana possession results in the greatest number of arrests for drug violations, but their maybe other drugs that the person use along with marijuana that may or may not be tracked.

Birmingham Fellowship House- 2012 admissions (urban residential program): Heroin/opiates: 23% Cocaine: 33% Alcohol: 33% Methamphetamine: 3% Other: 8%
Indian Rivers Mental Health Center- increase in heroin, GHB

Insight Treatment Program, Inc.- Although Marijuana, Meth and Crack continue to be most prevalent; I have had a few recent clients who have been charged with possession/use of Heroin, which has been rare over the last several years.

Montgomery Metro Treatment Center- Increase in the use of needles to administer drug regardless of the drug.

Arkansas

Counseling Associates Inc- In my catchment area, it is generally NOT the young adults and teenagers using pharmaceuticals, its adults, mostly uneducated, white and over 40 who are abusing prescription drugs, usually their own prescriptions.

Prevention Resource Center Coordinator for NE AR- Alcohol, Nicotine, and Marijuana are still drugs that have huge health and financial impact on the youth, families, Arkansas, & US

Baptist Health Recover Program- Seeing psychotic side effects and permanent damage from synthetic drugs.

Region 1 Prevention Resource Center- New supplies of marijuana, different from the others

Mid-South Health Systems- The presence and use of drugs has seemed to get worse over the past year. People are becoming more dependent both psychologically and physically on drugs of all different sorts and combinations.

Mississippi

A Bridge to Recovery- Increase in forged scripts, reporting of stealing prescription pads, over the past year I have sent more people for detox for prescription drug abuse than ever before, 304.00 and 304.80 are the 2 diagnosis i see over and over...in past...more alcohol 303.90. Increase in younger individuals with addiction to opiates. Have not seen many clients addicted to meth in the past year.

Substance Abuse Services- The use of IV heroin is on the increase. There seems to be a progression from oral use to drugs that can be injected, usually opioids.

APPENDIX V. DRUG AVAILABILITY

	<i>Powder Cocaine</i>		<i>Crack Cocaine</i>		<i>Powder Meth</i>		<i>Ice Meth</i>		<i>Marijuana</i>	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
High	83	42	134	68	73	37	78	40	183	93
Moderate	84	43	45	23	79	40	71	36	11	6
Low	29	15	16	8	41	21	41	21	1	1
No Answer	0	0	1	1	3	2	6	3	0	0
Not Available	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	196	100%	196	100%	196	100%	196	100%	196	100%

	<i>Heroin</i>		<i>Pharmaceuticals</i>		<i>MDMA</i>		<i>GBL</i>		<i>GHB</i>	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
High	24	12	178	91	35	18	5	3	14	7
Moderate	43	22	12	6	86	44	26	13	31	16
Low	110	56	5	3	73	37	111	57	120	61
No Answer	19	10	1	0	2	1	54	28	31	16
Not Available	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	196	100%	196	100%	196	100%	196	100%	196	100%

	<i>Synthetic Drugs</i>		<i>PCP</i>	
	Count	%	Count	%
High	80	41	10	5
Moderate	83	42	21	11
Low	31	16	118	60
No Answer	0	0	0	0
Not Available	2	1	47	24
	196	100%	196	100%

Source: Gulf Coast HIDTA Intel Division, 2013, data gathered from 2012 GC HIDTA Drug Survey.

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APPENDIX VI: CRIME RATES

The GC HIDTA encompasses a four-state-area that includes Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi as well as Shelby County, Tennessee. Crime statistics are addressed on a state-by-state basis. The following table compares the 2010 FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for certain cities within the HIDTA area with 2011 and preliminary 2012 figure. The preliminary FBI UCR statistics include only the first six months of the year. Included is a percentage of increase or decrease in the quantity of violent crimes reported to law enforcement. The GC HIDTA reviews the drug related crime rates for each state including the violent crimes of homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, rape, and burglary.

Analyst Note: The comprehensive 2010 data for Birmingham, Alabama is currently unavailable; therefore preliminary data is being used. The FBI UCR data was acquired on April 22, 2013. All 2012 data are preliminary.

HIDTA Region or Targeted Areas	Est. Population	Violent Crime Total	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary
Area 1: Baton Rouge, LA							
Total # of each crime in 2010		2,553	69	58	953	1,473	3,973
Total # of each crime in 2011	231,592	2,748	64	51	893	1,460	4,220
% up or down		8	-7	-12	-6	-1	6
Total # of each crime in 2012		1,364	34	35	529	766	1,919
Area 2: Birmingham, AL							
Total # of each crime in 2010*		1,343	20	81	416	826	2,608
Total # of each crime in 2011	213,258	3,163	54	182	1,011	1,916	5,806
% up or down		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total # of each crime in 2012		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Area 3: Fayetteville, AR							
Total # of each crime in 2010	79,237	328	1	55	37	235	465
Total # of each crime in 2011	74,137	299	1	47	38	213	513
% up or down		-9	0	-14	3	-9	10
Total # of each crime in 2012	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Area 4: Gulfport, MS							
Total # of each crime in 2010	70,806	161	6	23	67	65	920
Total # of each crime in 2011	68,049	192	12	22	94	64	944
% up or down		19	100	-4	40	-2	3
Total # of each crime in 2012	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Area 5: Huntsville, AL							
Total # of each crime in 2010	183,357	1,182	12	76	463	631	2,677
Total # of each crime in 2011	180,972	1,518	13	51	405	1,049	2,677
% up or down		28	8	-33	-13	66	0
Total # of each crime in 2012		851	0	46	233	572	1,099
Area 6: Jackson, MS							
Total # of each crime in 2010	174,153	1,718	41	101	1,086	490	4,818
Total # of each crime in 2011	174,170	1,620	52	126	808	634	4,722
% up or down		-6	27	25	-26	29	-2
Total # of each crime in 2012		831	32	61	392	346	2005
Area 7: Little Rock, AR							

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Total # of each crime in 2010	192,922	2,938	25	149	859	1,905	4,241
Total # of each crime in 2011	194,988	2,905	37	161	858	1,849	4,655
% up or down		-1	48	8	0	-3	10
Total # of each crime in 2012		1,225	21	71	337	796	1,960
Area 8: Memphis, TN							
Total # of each crime in 2010	673,650	10,384	89	422	3,236	6,637	13,094
Total # of each crime in 2011	652,725	10,336	117	398	3,083	6,738	13,254
% up or down		0	31	-6	-5	-2	1
Total # of each crime in 2012		5,691	54	212	1,570	3,855	5,814
Area 9: Mobile, AL							
Total # of each crime in 2010	255,178	1,702	25	59	653	985	3,873
Total # of each crime in 2011	251,869	1,619	30	48	637	904	4,058
% up or down		-5	20	-19	-2	-8	5
Total # of each crime in 2012		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Area 10: Montgomery, AL							
Total # of each crime in 2010	203,966	797	25	55	401	316	3,279
Total # of each crime in 2011	206,754	707	31	38	354	284	2,885
% up or down		-11	24	-31	-12	-10	-12
Total # of each crime in 2012		367	13	14	178	162	1,290
Area 11: New Orleans, LA							
Total # of each crime in 2010	356,317	2,593	175	144	953	1,321	3,695
Total # of each crime in 2011	346,974	2,748	200	163	1,059	1,326	3,857
% up or down		6	14	13	11	0	4
Total # of each crime in 2012		1,466	97	72	541	756	1,518
Area 12: Oxford, MS							
Total # of each crime in 2010	18,105	8	0	2	5	1	103
Total # of each crime in 2011		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
% up or down							
Total # of each crime in 2012	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Area 13: Pine Bluff, AR							
Total # of each crime in 2010	49,971	687	7	40	165	475	1,371
Total # of each crime in 2011	49,454	683	12	41	152	478	1,565
% up or down		-1	71	3	-8	1	14
Total # of each crime in 2012	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Area 14: Rogers, AR							
Total # of each crime in 2010	61,417	219	2	50	11	156	NA
Total # of each crime in 2011	56,387	220	1	38	12	169	481
% up or down		0	-50	-24	9	8	NA
Total # of each crime in 2012	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Area 15: Shreveport, LA							
Total # of each crime in 2010	199,311	1,533	26	121	355	1,031	2,616
Total # of each crime in 2011	201,134	1,544	17	121	355	1,051	2,775
% up or down		1	-35	0	0	2	6
Total # of each crime in 2012		756	8	44	180	524	1,215

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APPENDIX VII. THREAT ASSESSMENT ACRONYMS

A		M	
AMOC	Air, Marine Operations Center	MDMA	3-4 Methylenedioxymethamphetamine
B		N	
BLOC	Blue Lightning Operations Center	NCG	Network Coordination Group
C		NDIC	National Drug Intelligence Center
CBP	Customs and Border Protection	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CTR	Currency Transaction Report	NSS	National Seizure System
D		O	
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration	ODDs	Other Dangerous Drugs
DHE	Domestic Highway Enforcement	ONDCP	Office of National Drug Control Policy
DOT	Department of Transportation	OMGs	Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs
DTOs	Drug Trafficking Organizations	P	
E		PCP	Phencyclidine
F		Q	
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation	R	
FINCEN	Financial Crimes Enforcement Network	S	
G		SAR	Suspicious Activity Report
GBL	Gamma Butyrolatone	T	
GC HIDTA	Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area	TEDS	Treatment Episode Data Sets
GHB	Gamma Hydroxybutyrate	U	
H		US	United States
I		UCR	Uniform Crime Report
ISN	Investigative Support Network	V	
J		W	
K		X	
L		Y	
LSD	D-Lysergic Acid Diethylamide	Z	