Primary Drug Threats Identified by HIDTA Directors for Calendar Year 2018
Primary Drug Threats Identified by HIDTA Directors for Calendar Year 2023

[Map showing drug threats across the United States]
Precursor Chemical Flow from China
SINALOA AND CJNG AREAS OF DOMINANT INFLUENCE

- Sinaloa Cartel
- Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG)
- Contested Locations
GLOBAL INFLUENCE OF THE SINALOA AND CJNG CARTELS
The San Diego Imperial Valley HIDTA Region

### Population
- **2021 Census**
  - San Diego County: 3,286,069
  - Imperial County: 179,851
  - SDIHIDTA Region: 3,465,920

### Land Area
- **(Square Miles)**
  - San Diego County: 4,206.63
  - Imperial County: 4,176.60
  - SDIHIDTA Region: 8,383.23

### Pacific Coastline (Miles)
- 70

### International Border with Mexico (Miles)
- 140.4
California-Mexico Border

San Ysidro Port of Entry Is the Busiest Land Border Crossing in Western Hemisphere

Traffic into U.S. through Regional POEs in 2022
- More than 1.4 Million Trucks
- Nearly 27 Million Personal Vehicles, 45 Million Passengers
- More than 14,000 Buses, More than 200,000 Passengers
- More than 14 Million Pedestrians

Border Wall along Otay Mesa, through the San Ysidro Mountains, and near Jacumba
Drug-Related Activities in Mexico and Baja California
Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations

Territories and Conflict Zones of Major Cartels (2021)

Cartel Dominance:
- CJNG
- Sinaloa Cartel
- Local Group

Cartel Conflict Zones:
- CJNG vs. Sinaloa
- CJNG vs. Local Group
- CJNG vs. Zetas
- Sinaloa vs. Juárez Cartel
- Zetas vs. Gulf Cartel
Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations

- Sinaloa Cartel
- Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación (CJNG)
- Arellano Félix Organization (AFO)

Infighting among MDTOs and between Street-Level Drug Distributors in Baja California Leads to High Levels of Violence

Homicides in 2022 in Municipalities along the Border

- 2,052 in Tijuana
- 297 in Mexicali
- 149 in Tecate
Violence in Baja California

August 12, 2022: Burned Vehicle Roadblocks
- Majority in Tijuana
- Attributed to CJNG-Affiliates
- U.S. Consulate Security Alert

Examples of Protection Racket Threatening Notes
- You Have One Hour to Return Our Call or Else. Sincerely/CJNG
Violence in Baja California

May 20, 2023: Shooting at Popular Off-Road Race in Ensenada
- 10 People Killed, Including Three U.S. Citizens and a Minor
- Seized 13 Firearms and More than 200 Spent Rounds of Ammunition
- MDTU Member Allegedly Primary Target

June 12, 2023: Authorities in Tijuana Discover 7 Dead Bodies in Abandoned Truck
- Some Wrapped in Blankets
- Some Hidden under Planks of Wood
- Fuel Gas Canister
- Suspected Disposal Activity
Synthetic Drugs in Mexico

U.S. Government Asked China and Mexico to Increase Enforcement, Collaboration, and Cooperation to Stem Flow of Precursor Chemicals and Synthetic Drugs

Continued Procurement of Precursor Chemicals from China

- January 2023: U.S. Department of the Treasury Sanctioned Three Individuals for Procuring Precursor and Pre-Precursor Chemicals for Sinaloa Cartel from a Chinese Chemical Company
  - Chinese Chemical Company Continues to Operate Despite Being Sanctioned in 2021

- February 2023: U.S. Department of the Treasury Sanctioned Sinaloa Cartel Network for Supplying Fentanyl Precursor Chemicals

- April 2023: U.S. Department of the Treasury Sanctioned a Chinese Chemical Company and Four Chinese Nationals for Supplying Fentanyl Precursor Chemicals
  - N-BOC-4-Piperidone
Examples of Dual-Purpose Chemicals and Fentanyl Precursor Chemicals

- Ephedrine, Ethyl Alcohol, N-Phenyl-4-piperidinamine (4-AP), Propionic Anhydride, Propionyl Chloride, Phenylacetic Acid, 1-Phenyl-2-propanone, Acetone, Hydrochloric Acid, Methylamine, Toluene, Caustic Soda

Pill Press Equipment


Examples of Pill Presses and Dies Used to Manufacture Fentanyl Pills
Synthetic Drugs in Mexico

MDTOs Continue to Evaluate New Methods to Produce Synthetic Drugs

- Increase Profits
- Reduce Potential for Disruption by Using Available Precursor or Pre-Precursor Chemicals
- Identify New Chemicals without Restrictions

Seizures of Multiple Clandestine Laboratories in Sinaloa in 2023

- March 14, 2023: Three Operations, Eight Laboratories, Seized 17 Metric Tons of Methamphetamine, 20 Chemical Synthesis Reactors, and 25 Condensers
- April 2023: Fentanyl Laboratory, Seized 120,000 Kilograms of Fentanyl Pills, 2,861 Kilograms Powder, 37 Kilograms Paste, 80 Liters of Methanol, 25 Kilograms Sorbitol, 1 Industrial Mixer, 1 Industrial Pill Press
Baja California Illicit Drug Activities

Continue to Grow Marijuana and Poppy, Likely at Decreased Rates

Continue to Import Cocaine

Continued Production/Smuggling of Synthetic Drugs in Baja California

- Fentanyl and Methamphetamine Precursor Chemicals
- Methamphetamine Laboratories
- Fentanyl Pill-Press Operations

TV AZTECA

June 2023 Discovery of Methamphetamine Laboratory in Tecate

ZETA TIJUANA

August 2022 Seizure of Fentanyl Precursor from China at Tijuana International Airport

UNCLASSIFIED

FGR

January 2023 Seizure of a Pill Press Operation, 500 Fentanyl Pills, More Than 32 Kilograms Adulterants at Mexicali Property
Synthetic Drugs in Baja California

Synthetic Drugs Labs and Precursor Seizures Based on Openly Available Information
January 2022 – June 2023

Tijuana
2 Fentanyl Precursor Seizures
4 Fentanyl Pill-Making Operations

Playas de Rosarito
1 Methamphetamine Lab Seizure
1 Hydraulic Press Seizure

Tecate
2 Methamphetamine Lab Seizure

Mexicali
1 Fentanyl Pill-Making Operation
1 Methamphetamine Precursor Seizure

Ensenada
1 Methamphetamine Lab Seizures
Synthetic Drugs in Baja California

Synthetic Drugs Labs and Precursor Seizures Based on Openly Available Information
January 2022 – June 2023

**Mexicali**
January 2023 Seizure of Pill-Making Operation, Including:
- 500 Fentanyl Pills
- 25.61 Kilograms of Acetaminophen
- 5.5 Kilograms of Dipyrrone
- 1.2 Kilograms of Calcium Stearate
- 435 Grams of Mannitol
- 2 Liters of Ethyl Alcohol

**Tecate**
June 2023 Seizure of Methamphetamine Lab, Including:
- 200 Kilograms of Methamphetamine
- 4 Bags of Sodium Hydroxide, 7 Bags of Tartaric Acid
- 700 Kilograms of an Unidentified Granular Substance
- 400 Liters of an Unidentified Liquid Precursor Chemical
- Assorted Manufacturing and Processing Equipment
- 6 Marijuana Grows with 27,000 Plants
Smuggling into and through the SDI-HIDTA Region
Smuggling into the SDI HIDTA Region

- Smuggling Liquid Methamphetamine through Ports of Entry
- Smuggling via Recreational Boats and Pangas
- Illicit Drugs Smuggled in Beams of Railcars
- Illicit Drugs Packaged and Mixed with Produce Shipments
- Illicit Drugs Attached to Drone Crossing Border
- Introduction of Colored Fentanyl Pills
- Illicit Drugs Attached to Drone Crossing Border
- Illicit Drugs Packaged and Mixed with Produce Shipments
- Illicit Drugs Smuggled in Beams of Railcars
- Smuggling via Recreational Boats and Pangas
- Smuggling Liquid Methamphetamine through Ports of Entry
Smuggling Via Maritime

Continued Use of Maritime Routes for Human Smuggling, Minimal Drug Smuggling

- Maritime Smuggling Highly Profitable
  - 2021: Fees Ranged Between $12,000 - $15,000
  - 2022: Fees Increased to $20,000

- Maritime Smuggling Events Increased More than 70 Percent between FY2021 and FY2022
  - More Than 660 Maritime Events and Five Deaths in FY2022

- No Consideration for Migrant Safety
  - Vessels Poorly Equipped and Overcrowded
  - November 2022: Panga Capsizes near Imperial Beach, Resulting in 2 Deaths
  - March 2023: Two Pangas near Black’s Beach, One Overturns, Resulting in at least 8 Deaths
Smuggling Via Air

Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Ultralight Aircraft (ULA) for Cross-Border Smuggling

- **September 2022:** Person Arrested with UAS, Firearms, and Ammunition in Baja California near Tecate POE

- **October 2021:** UAS Used to Smuggle 0.57 pounds of Methamphetamine into the United States near Tecate POE

- **October 2021:** Person Arrested at Tijuana House Used to Launch Drug-Laden UAS into SDIHIDTA Region

- **February 2021:** UAS Crashed into Roof of San Ysidro Business with 1 Kilogram of Methamphetamine
Smuggling Via Tunnels

2023: At least Two Obstructed Tunnels Identified in Baja California

- May: Tijuana Tunnel was Incomplete
- February: Mexicali Tunnel was Flooded, Likely to Conceal Exit

May 2022: Completed Sophisticated Tunnel Identified

- Approximately 1,744 Feet Long, 61 Feet Deep, and 4-Feet in Diameter
- Seized 1,762 Pounds of Cocaine, 164 Pounds of Methamphetamine, 3.5 Pounds of Heroin
- Four San Diego Residents Arrested

Additional 2022 Discoveries

- Drainage Tunnel in Tijuana, More Than 100 Migrants Apprehended, No Drugs
- Horizontal Drilling Equipment Seized at Mexicali Property
Smuggling Via Postal/Shipping

Continued Use of Postal and Shipping Services to Distribute Illicit Drugs to Other Areas of the Country

- **February 2023:** San Diego Resident Accused of Distributing More than 10,000 Parcels Containing Anabolic Steroids throughout the United States between June 2022 and August 2022
- **September 2022:** Authorities Dismantle DTO that Smuggled Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and Fentanyl from Mexico into California to Locations in Los Angeles and Used the U.S. Mail to Send the Drugs to Florida
- **December 2021:** Chula Vista Man Sentenced to 71 Months for Distributing 112 Pounds of Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogues via UPS
- **December 2021:** San Diego Resident Indicted for Allegedly Mailing 690 Grams of Methamphetamine to Massachusetts

Seizures Nationwide

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**NARCOTICS SEIZED & WEIGHT**

**FISCAL YEAR 2021** (OCT 2020 - SEPT 2021)

- Meth: 2,143 seizures, 8,700 lbs.
- Cocaine: 1,966 seizures, 5,164 lbs.
- Synthetic Opioids (Fentanyl): 780 seizures, 948 lbs.
- Heroin: 204 seizures, 151 lbs.

**NARCOTICS SEIZED & WEIGHT**

**FISCAL YEAR 2022** (OCTOBER 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2022)

- Meth: 1,632 seizures, 7,729 lbs.
- Cocaine: 1,828 seizures, 5,956 lbs.
- Synthetic Opioids (Fentanyl): 1,305 seizures, 3,213 lbs.
- Heroin: 137 seizures, 157 lbs.
Smuggling Via Ports of Entry

Primary Method for Smuggling Wholesale Amounts of Drugs into the SDIHIDTA Region

- Use of Goods and Produce as Common Concealment Tactic
- Continued Smuggling of Liquid Methamphetamine

256 Pounds of Cocaine Concealed in Decorative Stones at Tecate Cargo POE in January 2023

3,563 Pounds of Methamphetamine in Radish Shipment at Calexico POE in January 2023

858,000 Blue Fentanyl Pills (189.15 Pounds) in Porcelain Sinks at Otay Mesa POE in June 2023

More than 42 Pounds of Colored Fentanyl Pills in Passenger Vehicle Voids at San Ysidro POE in June 2023
Smuggling Via Highways

Primary Method Used to Continue Smuggling Drugs from Border to Other Areas of the United States

Regular Seizures at/near USBP Checkpoints in Region

- Concealed in Vehicle Voids and Compartments, Including Batteries Air Vents, Oil Pans, Dashboards, Center Consoles; in Items in Vehicles, Including Bags; or on Passengers’ Bodies

- Vehicle on Interstate 8 with 250 Pounds of Fentanyl Pills in January 2023
- Vehicle on Interstate 15 with 103 Pounds of Cocaine in November 2022
- 50 Pounds of Fentanyl inside Spare Tire and Battery in August 2022
- 233 Pounds of Methamphetamine on Highway 86 in October 2022
Smuggling ... not worth it!

#FentanylKills

#DontSmuggle
$400 vs. YOUR future?

BAD DEAL!

#FentanylKills #DontSmuggle

$400 vs. YOUR Future?

BAD DEAL!

#DontSmuggle #FentanylKills
Juvenile Smuggling

NARCOTICS SEIZED FROM PEDESTRIAN MINORS

- 89.42%
- 8.31%
- 1.96%
- 0.04%
- 0.27%
Weapons Trafficking

- Some San Diego Gangs and Unaffiliated Criminals Assemble and Sell Firearms and Drugs
  - PMFs, or “Ghost Guns,” Nearly 25 Percent of Firearms Seized by SDPD, Gangs Most Prolific Users of PMFs

- Some MDTOs Leverage U.S.-Based Drug Trafficking Networks to Source Firearms, Parts, and Ammunition
  - Firearms Sourced Using Straw Purchases and Theft
  - MDTOs Smuggle Firearms, Parts, and Ammunition from San Diego and Assemble Them in Baja California

Assorted Firearms, Prescription and Other Drugs Seized from Two San Diego Properties in May 2022

Some of the Firearms and Kits Seized During an Investigation into Gangs Involved in Firearms Trafficking in October 2022
FY2022 CBP Seizures Continued to Increase

- 5.5 Percent Increase in Fentanyl Seized by San Diego Field Office in FY2021
- Fentanyl Seized by San Diego Field Office Represents 56 Percent of Seizures by Southwest Border Field Offices
- Fentanyl Seized in U.S. Border Patrol San Diego and El Centro Sectors Increased 169 Percent from FY2021 to FY2022
- Fentanyl Seized in U.S. Border Patrol San Diego and El Centro Sectors Represents 58 Percent of USBP Seizures along Southwest Border

Continued Increases in Seizure Amounts in FYTD2023
Fentanyl

814 Deaths in San Diego County in 2021 with Fentanyl as a Causative Factor
  - 76 Percent Increase from 2020

High Availability of Fentanyl in Powder Form and Counterfeit Fentanyl Pills

Prices Remain Low

Adulteration of Other Illicit Drugs With Fentanyl
  - Methamphetamine and Cocaine Adulteration at Street Level
  - Drug Consumers Often Unaware
Methamphetamine

756 Deaths in San Diego County in 2021 with Methamphetamine as a Causative Factor

- 37 Percent Increase from 2020

Deaths with Methamphetamine as a Causative Factor that Also Had Fentanyl as a Causative Factor Increased 108 Percent

Prices Remain Low

Percentage of San Diego County Adult Arrestees who Tested Positive for Methamphetamine Remained High in 2021
The Street
Drug Dealing

G. Van & Associates, Inc.
END OF PRESENTATION

Questions?

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