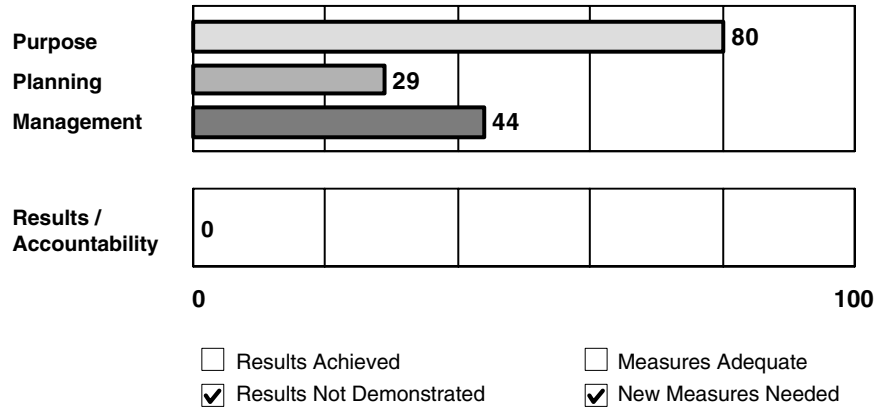


Program: High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

Agency: Office of National Drug Control Policy

Bureau: Office of National Drug Control Policy, activities



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

Key Performance Measure	Year	Target	Actual
Long-term Measure: Measures under development			
Annual Measure: Measures under development			

Rating: Results Not Demonstrated

Program Type: Competitive Grants

Program Summary:

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program awards grants to establish and operate multijurisdictional drug task forces in areas that meet four criteria, including that the "drug-related activities in the area are having a harmful impact in other areas of the country." The program requires shared operational and strategic control of these task forces among participating Federal, State, and local agencies and the Executive Council for the HIDTA.

The assessment found that:

1. The HIDTA program has not established satisfactory long-term performance goals or annual goals. Variants of three goals have been proposed by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). However, one is a composite of several process goals (e.g., "establishing sound fiscal/programmatic management"), a second ("disruption of drug trafficking organizations") has been discarded by ONDCP as not useful, and data reflecting progress toward the third goal ("reduction in drug-related crime") has not been systematically collected and analyzed.
2. The program has not been subjected to an independent comprehensive evaluation of its performance.
3. The HIDTA program appears to have lost its focus. The first five HIDTAs were established in 1990 and still meet the statutory criteria. However, since 1995, 23 additional HIDTAs have been designated, and HIDTAs are now located in 41 of the 50 States. The magnitude of this expansion shows a disregard for the clear intent of the statute, to focus on the Nation's very worst areas.
4. The expansion of the program has taken place despite the absence of: [a] any systematic assessment of its effectiveness; [b] a credible program performance measures; or [c] a strategy to ensure the most efficient use of Federal funds.

In response to these findings, recommended actions include:

1. implementation of a performance measurement system that includes acceptable program outcome goals;
2. development of a process to ensure funding for individual HIDTAs reflects the performance of that HIDTA; and
3. seeking no funding increases for the program until the first recommendations are implemented and the resulting data can be evaluated.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate
206	206	206