Public Safety and Public Health – Forging Partnerships

Office of National Drug Control Policy

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

Drug-Free Communities Support Program

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High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program and Purpose

- Provides assistance to Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in critical drug trafficking regions of the United States
- Fiscal Year 2016 funding level of $250 million
- 28 regional HIDTAs in 48 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington, D.C.
- Achieves its purpose by:
  - Facilitating cooperation among Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement to share intelligence and implement enforcement activities
  - Supporting coordinated law enforcement strategies to reduce the supply of illegal drugs in the United States
- The HIDTA program is not an agency: it is a partnership of Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies
Criteria for HIDTA Designation

To be included in the HIDTA program, it must be demonstrated that:

– Area is a significant center of illegal drug production, manufacturing, importation, or distribution;

– State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies have committed resources to respond to the drug trafficking problem in the area, thereby indicating a determination to respond aggressively to the problem;

– Drug-related activities in the area are having a significant harmful impact in the area and in other areas of the country; and

– Significant increase in allocation of Federal resources is necessary to respond adequately to drug related activities in the area.
The HIDTA program is not an agency—it is a partnership of Federal, state, local and tribal agencies.

Each of the 28 regional HIDTA programs has an executive board that:

- Has an equal number of Federal, state, and local members
- Exercises local discretion, i.e., determines what is funded and where funds are spent
- Identifies the regional and local threats
- Develops a strategy to address threats
- Requests funding for HIDTA initiatives to implement the strategy
- Measures and reports performance
- Hires a HIDTA director to undertake the daily administration of the HIDTA
HIDTA Investigative Support Centers

- Each regional HIDTA program is required to have at least one Intelligence and Information Sharing Initiative.
- The objective of this initiative is to provide actionable, accurate, detailed, and timely drug and criminal intelligence/investigative information and analytical support to HIDTA enforcement initiatives, participating agencies, and other law enforcement agencies.
- Core functions include providing analytical services, developing intelligence products, sharing information, and deconflicting events and cases.
In 2015, the HIDTA Program accomplished the following:

• **2,500** drug trafficking or money laundering organizations disrupted or dismantled

• **$18.6 billion** (wholesale) removed from the marketplace

• **36,000** fugitives apprehended

• **31,000** leads provided to law enforcement agencies across the country

• **98,000** officers, agents, analysts, and support staff trained on drug-related topics
Public Safety and Public Health
Forging Partnerships

• We Know:

  – Drug trafficking brings violence and crime to communities and erodes public safety.

• What Can Be Done:

  – Communities must be strong to resist the influences of drugs. Prevention, the cornerstone of public health, is critical to building community resilience.

  – Alliances among public health, healthcare, education, law enforcement, recreation, and other relevant sectors, at the local, tribal, state, Federal, and binational levels needs to take their missions more holistically if a meaningful level of collective change is to take hold.
Best Practices: We Work Best When We Work Together

• Collaboration with HIDTAs in planning & delivering prevention programs
  • SMEs from the LE field can enhance those programs
  • Accessing them is often difficult
  • HIDTAs may be able to reach out for you

• “Ad hoc” opportunities can lead to lasting partnerships
Best Practices: Examples of Collaborative Efforts

• South Texas HIDTA: Education Service Center Partnership
  – Targets at-risk children through high school by educating school administrators, teachers, counselors, social workers, nurses, bus drivers and parents.
  – Participants learn current teen trends in alcohol and drug use.
  – Provides adults and parents with the skills to identify at-risk students and drug influences in the classroom or at home.

• Community and Faith Based Coalition Partnerships
  – Integrates community development, ecclesiastic alliances and law enforcement to improve communication with neighborhood residents.
  – Inspires Community, Faith and Family values in at-risk youth to rebuild and empower safe neighborhoods.
  – Creates lasting partnerships based on trust and improves the quality of life in targeted areas.
Best Practices: Examples of Collaborative Efforts

• Appalachia HIDTA: No More NAS
  – Partnership between Appalachia HIDTA, the Knoxville Police Department, and the Metropolitan Drug Commission to network with the Born Drug Free Tennessee Campaign, Cherokee Health Systems and University of Tennessee College of Nursing

  – Train obstetrical and gynecological providers in East Tennessee to provide screenings of women of childbearing age for their risk of substance use by using evidence-based screening tools
Best Practices: Examples of Collaborative Efforts

• **Houston HIDTA**: StopHoustonDrugs.org website
  – Improves communication between law enforcement, treatment and prevention professionals
  – Provides platform to post trends, questions and promote better communication between the professions
  – Advertises on billboards and public transportation – cabs and buses
Best Practices: Examples of Collaborative Efforts

• New York/New Jersey HIDTA: Drug Prevention and Awareness
  – Promotes DO NO HARM: “Keeping it Legal and Safe in the Medical Community” New Jersey
    • DEA has joined the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey to promote the education and awareness symposium.
  – Provides an open dialogue with New Jersey’s medical community on the epidemic of prescription drug abuse and their responsibility.
Best Practices:
Examples of Collaborative Efforts

• Wisconsin HIDTA: Safe & Sound

  — Uses a three-pronged strategy to unite residents, youth, law enforcement and community resources to build safe and empowered neighborhoods

  — Integrates youth development, law enforcement, and the community through programs designed to improve the quality of life for Milwaukee residents affected by drugs and crime

  — Takes an integrated team approach by developing
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NORTHWEST HIDTA
Northwest HIDTA Prevention/Treatment Initiatives

• Initiative budgets account for approximately 20% of the total Northwest HIDTA budget

• Drug Court Initiative: 10 partner agencies  
  $390,000 budget

• Prevention/Public Education Initiative: 9 partner agencies  
  $510,000 budget

• Fiduciary:  
  Educational Service District 105
Northwest HIDTA
Prevention Partner Agencies

• Cowlitz County (Cowlitz County Sheriff’s Office)
  — Functional Family Therapy: families with youth involved in Juvenile Court

• Skagit County (United General Hospital)
  — Skagit County Child and Family Consortium: Strengthening Families curriculum
    Educational outreach
    Varsity in Volunteerism

• Spokane County (Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council – GSSAC)
  — The Marijuana Community Presentation
  — The Prescription Drug Community Presentation
  — Community Mobilization

• King County (Seattle Neighborhood Group)
  — Get Off The Streets (GOTS) drug intervention program
  — City of Seattle Drug Market Initiative
  — Educational Outreach

• Snohomish County (Snohomish County Human Services)
  — Snohomish County Opioid Project (SCOP): Community mobilization
    Narcan training/distribution
Northwest HIDTA
Prevention Partner Agencies

• Thurston County (TOGETHER!)
  – Thurston County Drug Action Team convener: Annual statewide conference
  – Community mobilization
  – Educational outreach

• Kitsap County (Kitsap County Juvenile Services Department)
  – Kitsap County Juvenile Services Mentoring Program

• Office of the Washington State Lieutenant Governor
  – Webmaster for the M-Files website; marijuana brochure; Resource Guide

• Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (University of Washington)
  – ADAI Clearinghouse reproduces, orders, catalogs and distributes print and
    electronic drug education material (NW HIDTA, SAMHSA, NIDA, CADCA,
    etc.)
Drugs – Differing Perspectives

• Law Enforcement Professionals Understand Drugs as “Threats”
  – Law enforcement professionals examine the drugs impacting a region in documents entitled “Threat Assessments”
  – HIDTAs ask law enforcement agencies to rank the Threats in their regions in terms of the extent to which they endanger/imperil communities and in regard to their prevalence

• Human Service/Public Health Professionals Understand Drugs in Terms of “Trends”
  – Human service/public health professionals assess the drugs impacting a region on the basis of trends indicated in data sets such as:
    • Emergency Department mentions and hospitalizations
    • Treatment admissions
    • School-based performance/attendance reports
    • Motor vehicle impairment citations and crashes
    • Medical Examiner data
    • Individual surveys
• Prevention Professionals Understand Drugs in Terms of “Risks” and “Resiliencies”
  – **Prevention professionals** assess Risks and Resiliencies in five domains:
    • Individual child/youth
    • Peer
    • Family
    • School
    • Neighborhood/community

  – **Risk factors** include “early initiation of drug use” (individual), “peer substance use” (peer), “family conflict/violence” (family), “low school commitment/attachment” (school) and “community disorganization” or “availability of drugs” (neighborhood/community). **Prevention professionals seek to mitigate risk factors.**

  – **Protective factors** include “coping skills” and “skills for social interaction” (individual), “interaction with prosocial peers” (peer), “opportunities for prosocial involvement with parents” (family), “rewards for prosocial involvement in school” (school) and “rewards for prosocial involvement” (neighborhood/community). **Prevention professional seek to strengthen protective factors.**

  – **Prevention professionals** address each domain by identifying and implementing evidence-based strategies and programs to mitigate risk factors and strengthen protective factors, such as *LifeSkills Training, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Functional Family Therapy*, etc.
In Conclusion: Opportunity is Knocking!

• We take different paths – prevention v. enforcement - but

• We share the same goal: Reduce Drug Abuse

• We have resources each other can benefit from

• Visit: www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/high-intensity-drug-trafficking-areas-program

• Reach out to HIDTA Director in your region
Links to Resources

- **DFCs and HIDTAs**
  - List of all 2015 DFCs
    - https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/Drug-Free-Communities-Support-Program
  - Map of all 2015 DFCs within each HIDTA

- **NIDA**
  - Preventing Drug Use among Children and Adolescents
    - https://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/preventingdruguse_2.pdf
  - National Drug Facts Week
  - Teen Drug Abuse Guidebook
    - http://teens.drugabuse.gov/peerx

- **DEA**
  - Drug Prevention 4 Teens Guidebook

- **SAMHSA**
  - Underage Drinking Resources
    - http://www.samhsa.gov/underage-drinking/partner-resources
  - National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices
    - http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/AboutNREPP.aspx

- **Surgeon General’s Report**
  - Facing Addiction in America
Evidence-Based Prevention Resources

Preventing Drug Use Among Children and Adolescents
National Institute on Drug Abuse - “The Red Book”
http://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/redbook_0.pdf

Drug Prevention 4 Teens
Drug Enforcement Agency
Links to Resources

Infographics

• **Marijuana**

• **Monitoring the Future Infographic**

• **Alcohol Abuse**