



## **HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS (HIDTA) PROGRAM**

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program—created by Congress with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988—provides assistance to Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug trafficking regions of the United States.

The purpose of the program is to reduce drug trafficking and production in the United States by:

- Facilitating cooperation among Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to share information and implement coordinated enforcement activities;
- Enhancing law enforcement intelligence sharing among Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies;
- Providing reliable intelligence to law enforcement agencies to facilitate the design of effective enforcement strategies and operations; and
- Supporting coordinated law enforcement strategies that make the most of available resources to reduce the supply of illegal drugs in designated areas of the United States and in the Nation as a whole.

### **Program Description**

There are currently 28 HIDTAs, encompassing approximately 16 percent of all counties in the United States and 60 percent of the U.S. population. HIDTA-designated counties are located in 47 States as well as Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

At the local level, HIDTAs are directed and guided by Executive Boards composed of an equal number of regional Federal and non-Federal (state, local, and tribal) law enforcement leaders. A central feature of the HIDTA program is the discretion granted to the Executive Boards to design and implement initiatives that confront drug trafficking threats in each HIDTA. This flexibility ensures that each Executive Board can tailor its strategy to local conditions and respond quickly to changes.

Every year, each HIDTA Executive Board assesses the drug trafficking threat in its defined area, develops a strategy to address that threat, designs initiatives to implement the strategy, and proposes funding needed to carry out the initiatives. In order to demonstrate prior year performance, each HIDTA Executive Board also prepares an annual report showing the number of drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) disrupted or dismantled, the total value of

drugs and drug-related assets seized, and the HIDTA's return on investment.<sup>1</sup>

When these data are compiled from all the HDTAs, the overall impact of the program is clear. In 2013, HIDTA initiatives disrupted or dismantled 3,136 DTOs and seized significant quantities of drugs, \$780 million in cash and \$349 million in non-cash assets from drug traffickers, contributing to an overall return of \$78.50 for every dollar invested in the HIDTA program.

<b>Quantities of Drugs Removed from the Marketplace by HIDTA Initiatives in 2013</b>	
<b>Drugs Seized</b>	<b>Kilograms</b>
Marijuana (Processed)	1,499,840
Marijuana Plants (Indoor and Outdoor)	1,413,899
Cocaine Powder (Powder and Crack Cocaine)	50,333
Methamphetamine	15,039
Heroin	41,369
<i>Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) Database, data retrieved November 13, 2014</i>	

## HIDTA Activities

The HIDTA program funds approximately 733 initiatives throughout the country, including:

- Enforcement initiatives comprising multi-agency investigative, interdiction, and prosecution activities;
- Intelligence and information-sharing initiatives;
- Support for programs that provide assistance beyond the core enforcement and intelligence and information-sharing initiatives; and
- Drug use prevention and drug treatment initiatives.

HDTAs work closely with a variety of organizations on prevention initiatives and promote links with drug courts, community coalitions, youth service organizations, public awareness campaigns, and other groups to support initiatives aimed at reducing substance abuse and preventing the initiation of drug use.

The HIDTA program also funds three initiatives that provide support to HDTAs throughout the

Nation by addressing specific drug trafficking concerns:

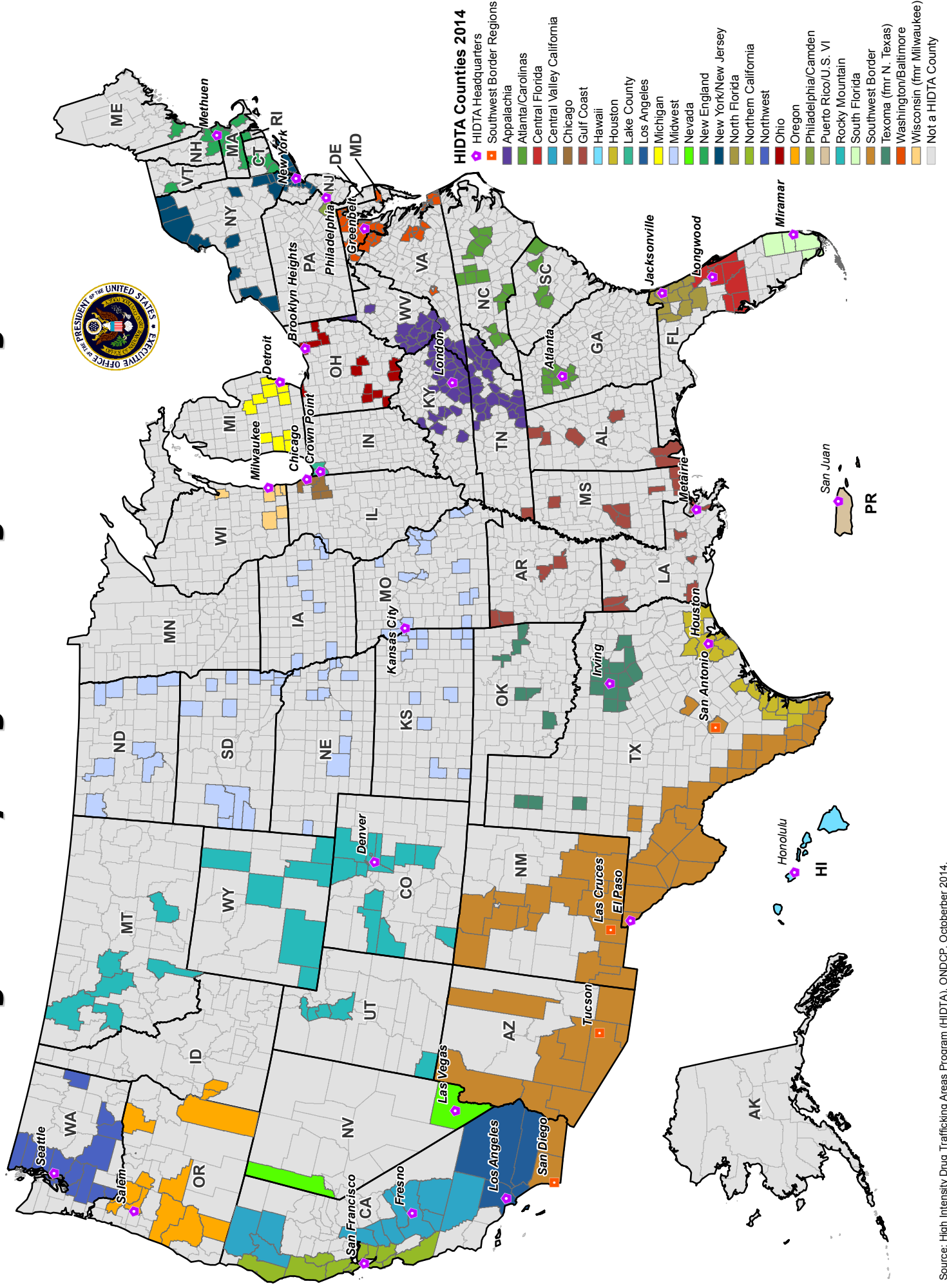
- The Domestic Marijuana Project
- The National Methamphetamine and Pharmaceuticals Initiative
- The Domestic Highway Enforcement initiative

In addition, the HIDTA program has awarded funds for Native American projects in the states of Arizona, California, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Washington.

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<sup>1</sup> The return on investment is calculated by dividing the value of the drugs and drug-related assets a HIDTA seizes by the funding it receives.

# High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program Counties 2014





## **Office of National Drug Control Policy**

**[www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp](http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp)**

### **Online Resources**

#### **ONDCP's HIDTA Web Page**

**<http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/high-intensity-drug-trafficking-areas-program>**

#### **HIDTA Initiatives**

**<http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/hidta-initiatives>**

#### **National HIDTA Assistance Center**

**<http://www.nhac.org/>**

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*ONDCP seeks to foster healthy individuals and safe communities by effectively  
leading the Nation's effort to reduce drug use and its consequences.*