

**USE OF
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA FUNDS
TO COMBAT
METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING**



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Office of National Drug Control Policy
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Section 301 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Reauthorization Act of 2006, Public Law 109-469, ONDCP is providing Congress with this report “describing the use of High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funds to investigate and prosecute organizations and individuals trafficking in methamphetamine in the prior calendar year.”

Specifically, ONDCP is required to provide information regarding: “(A) the number of methamphetamine manufacturing facilities discovered through HIDTA-funded initiatives in the previous fiscal year; (B) the amounts of methamphetamine or listed chemicals seized by HIDTA-funded initiatives in the area during the previous year; and (C) law enforcement intelligence and predictive data from the Drug Enforcement Administration showing patterns and trends in abuse, trafficking, and transportation in methamphetamine and listed chemicals.”

In addition, under Section 301(o)(3), before any funds are awarded to a high intensity drug trafficking area, the Director shall certify that the law enforcement entities participating in that HIDTA are providing laboratory seizure data to the national clandestine laboratory database at the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) (see Attached letters).

HIDTA Program Data Relating to Methamphetamine Seizures and Investigations

The 28 Regional HIDTA Programs located throughout the Nation remain committed to reducing the production, trafficking, and use of methamphetamine. HIDTA-funded initiatives are run by task forces composed of numerous Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement officers. Of the nearly 4,650 methamphetamine laboratories discovered nationwide in 2009, and reported to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), HIDTA-funded initiatives were responsible for fully dismantling approximately 30 percent of them (a total of 1,378 methamphetamine laboratories). In addition to the dollar value of the methamphetamine taken out of production by the dismantling of these laboratories, HIDTA-funded initiatives reported the direct seizure of sufficient quantities of methamphetamine to account for an estimated \$173,285,917 in wholesale value of the drug which was removed from the market in calendar year (CY) 2009.

DEA Intelligence and Predictive Data on Methamphetamine Patterns and Trends

In the domestic arena, DEA contributes to HIDTA-funded initiatives by investigating and responding to methamphetamine labs. Emerging trends show a renewed need for an enhanced attack on methamphetamine labs. Recent history has shown, in the period beginning in 2001, an increase in methamphetamine labs nationwide. This trend peaked in 2004-2005. A strong decline set in at that point, associated with the passage and implementation of the national Combat Methamphetamine Enforcement Act (CMEA). That welcome downward trend appears to have ended. In fact, the number of methamphetamine labs seized nationally has increased from CY 2007 to 2009 (from 3,093 to 4,649). In addition, DEA has noted that, although the individual size of the labs is generally smaller when compared to previous years, the lab sites still present comparable toxic and dangerous situations to individuals and the environment.

Given their increasing number and widespread dispersal, these new small toxic labs (STL) are an increasing threat.

The impact of the CMEA was positive, but there is now evidence that its provisions restricting access to methamphetamine precursors are being subverted. Case investigations and intelligence indicate that individuals, as well as organized groups, are effectively circumventing the law to obtain pseudoephedrine and ephedrine products in amounts that exceed legal limits. These activities are fueling an increase in the domestic production of methamphetamine. Most commonly, potential methamphetamine producers are acquiring precursor chemicals in illicit quantities by a process known as “smurfing.”¹ This process involves buying the products at multiple retail outlets to circumvent individual purchase limits. A related development is a crude methamphetamine production technique known as the “one-pot method.”² This technique enables the producer to capitalize on smaller quantities of precursors and has been linked to the increase in smurfing.

HIDTA-funded initiatives also develop extensive cases that often involve international partners. DEA, as a leading Federal agency in HIDTA initiatives, provides significant intelligence and case analysis to support HIDTA activities against methamphetamine, particularly with Mexico. In addition to domestic STL methamphetamine production, Mexican methamphetamine production has been a significant source of the drug within the United States. Accordingly, the DEA works with the Mexican Government and the international community to target not only methamphetamine producing and trafficking organizations, but organizations responsible for smuggling and diverting precursor chemicals, as well. The DEA has expanded drug intelligence sharing with Mexico and provided training to their police.

DEA further participates, on a global scale, in the Project Prism task force, an international effort under the auspices of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)³. The goal of Project Prism is to assist governments in developing and implementing procedures to effectively monitor and control the global trade in methamphetamine precursors. The work with Project Prism enhances our HIDTA-funded initiatives against trafficking organizations and supports our efforts to track and respond to the illicit importation of methamphetamine precursors.

Cooperation between the DEA and the Department of Homeland Security in supporting investigations into the importation of precursor chemicals into the United States is comparably important to HIDTA-funded initiatives. A recently established collaborative project, the DEA/CBP Port Project, created an automated system to utilize existing databases to identify and target suspect chemical consignments at ports of entry. As of December 31, 2009, this initiative has led to the seizure of approximately 83,121 kilograms of ephedra and 8,023 kilograms of pseudoephedrine and other methamphetamine precursor chemicals.

¹ “smurfing”: refers to the action of going from store to store purchasing the maximum limit allowable under the law of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine products at each store and then pooling these products which will then be provided to a cook.

² The “one-pot” method allows methamphetamine cooks to combine the anhydrous ammonia, the pseudoephedrine or ephedrine tablets, and the reactive metal (i.e. Lithium) into a single container from the beginning of the process. The idea is to reduce the amount of time needed for the overall process. The one-pot method is capable of producing a minimal amount of methamphetamine (usually gram quantities or less).

³ The INCB is the independent and quasi-judicial control organ monitoring the implementation of the United Nations drug control conventions.

HIDTA-funded initiatives, building on the collaborative efforts between the Governments of Mexico and the United States, and enhanced by the multi-agency cooperation and coordination among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, have had a significant impact on methamphetamine production and trafficking.

INTRODUCTION

Several trends in methamphetamine manufacturing became apparent at the end of 2009. Recent history indicates some striking successes against the methamphetamine trade, most often through a combination of organizational attack and restrictions on the supply of essential precursor chemicals. For instance, international restrictions on the movement of bulk pseudoephedrine, a critical methamphetamine precursor which, in 2003/2004, was most often diverted from Canada to methamphetamine “super-lab” production facilities in the United States, led to a rapid decrease in these large production facilities. Methamphetamine purity fell on U.S. streets. However, pseudoephedrine was still available domestically in retail cold remedies, purchases of which fed the rise of small toxic labs. With the passage of the CMEA, and implementation of limits for individual purchases, the number of these small toxic labs plummeted between 2004 and 2007.

However since 2007, meth manufacturers and traffickers have adapted, and the number of STLs is once again on the rise in some states. Small toxic labs frequently depend on a supply of pseudoephedrine from the retail cold-remedy market that is obtained by efforts, often systematic and organized, to circumvent the monitoring and control provisions of the CMEA. Investigations and intelligence have revealed that individuals and organized groups are engaged in activities to obtain pseudoephedrine and ephedrine products in amounts that exceed the CMEA limits (3.6 grams daily sales limit and a cumulative 9 grams in a 30 day period purchase limit). This smurfing activity has been identified by law enforcement during active surveillance and review of log books maintained by retailers. One example of a smurfing investigation identified an organization that was able to purchase over 60 pounds of pseudoephedrine tablets in less than 30 days, by traveling to multiple retail locations such as convenience stores and highway rest stops, which are referred to as the “gray market.”⁴

In addition, the method of methamphetamine production is also changing with the rise of the “one-pot” method. This method enables relatively small quantities of methamphetamine to be made from pseudoephedrine products rather quickly, without the presence of a full laboratory. The nature of the precursor chemicals employed in methamphetamine manufacture is also shifting. In some instances, HIDTAs report a return to the phenyl-2-propanone (P2P) method, which enables production without the need for pseudoephedrine or ephedrine.

More recently, likely in response to the effective restrictions imposed in Mexico on legitimate importation of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, methamphetamine producers are importing phenyl acetic acid, a chemical which enables a derivation of methamphetamine precursors for production, thereby bypassing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine restrictions. Moreover, there is an increase in the smuggling of methamphetamine precursors, including pseudoephedrine, from third-party nations re-routing the chemicals to Mexico in violation of

⁴ “Gray market” is a colloquial term used to describe sales of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine combination products from non-traditional retail outlets such as gas stations, convenience stores, etc.

their import controls. The increasing use of pseudoephedrine contained in pharmaceutical preparations, which are not strictly controlled on the international market in the same manner as bulk pseudoephedrine, is also cause for concern.

The most recent data derived from DEA show that methamphetamine street-level purity is once again on the rise, potentially signaling increased availability.

In response to these developments, the ONDCP/HIDTA-sponsored 2009 National Methamphetamine and Pharmaceuticals Initiative (NMPI) Conference, attended by nearly 400 Federal, state, and local law enforcement officers from around the Nation, directly addressed the troubling trends in domestic methamphetamine production. For example, they explained that in several states, and especially in California, teams of pseudoephedrine purchasers (“smurfers”) are highly organized and often use GPS devices to map out every store location that contains pseudoephedrine for sale. Smurfing is not only feeding small user labs in several communities throughout the United States, but, according to law enforcement investigations and reporting, the organized, drug-gang activities are sufficient to also supply large-scale “super labs” run by drug trafficking organizations in California.

“Smurfing” is one possible explanation for the slight increase in the overall clandestine methamphetamine laboratory seizures in CY 2008. The development by methamphetamine manufacturers/traffickers and users of crude production methods, such as the “one pot method,” has also led to an increase in smurfing. These simple methods, while at times only producing gram to ounce quantities of methamphetamine of questionable quality and purity, require smaller amounts of pseudoephedrine tablets, which are then combined with other household items that are easily obtainable.

The increase in meth production and labs presents related environmental threats, as well. Methamphetamine cooks and producers frequently dump chemical waste in parks, along highways, in neighborhoods, and sometimes down the drain and into public water supplies. Methamphetamine labs pose serious health and safety risks to the public, law enforcement and, most tragically, to children, who sometimes live in these toxic environments and are subjected to physical danger and neglect.

In sum, ONDCP and its partner agencies are concerned that existing Federal laws to control pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, the key precursor chemicals needed to make methamphetamine, are no longer sufficient to deter drug trafficking organizations. Drug producers and traffickers have adapted their methods of operation to circumvent the CMEA. Thus, after an initial decrease in lab incidents following the implementation of the CMEA, lab seizure numbers are on the rise. Domestic methamphetamine production has been increasing since 2007. During the period 2006-2007, the Mexican government’s restriction on precursor chemicals severely disrupted Mexican production capabilities. To compensate for that reduced importation, U.S. production and distribution networks grew to meet domestic demand for the drug by avoiding the precursor restrictions imposed by the CMEA. ONDCP and its law enforcement partners are working to identify effective solutions to this problem which may require additional strategies to augment the CMEA.

SECTION 301 REPORT INFORMATION

A. Number of methamphetamine manufacturing facilities discovered through HIDTA-funded initiatives in the previous fiscal year [Section 301(o)(2)(A)]:

Each Executive Board of the 28 HIDTAs around the country designs its own local strategy to address the major drug trafficking threat in its area of responsibility, while ensuring alignment with the Administration's *National Drug Control Strategy*. In 2006, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) passed a resolution sponsored by the United States requesting governments provide an annual estimate of legal precursor requirements and track the export and import of such precursors. To date, 114 countries and jurisdictions have provided these estimates, greatly improving the international community's understanding of the flow of these chemicals and the potential for diversion. These measures, along with the sustained and coordinated efforts of Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement, have contributed to a 70 percent reduction in domestic methamphetamine laboratory seizures, from a high of 10,037 in CY 2004 to 2,958 in CY 2007, according to data provided by the DEA.

From CY 2007 to 2009, clandestine laboratory seizures and clandestine laboratory incidents (labs, dumpsites, and chemical/equipment/glassware) have increased 33% and 23%, respectively. These figures, while still below the epidemic years of 2002-2005, raise significant concern, as they indicate a clear upward trend, and a reversal of progress made following the implementation of the CMEA and the restrictions imposed by a number of States on purchases of pseudoephedrine.

Trends in Clandestine Laboratory Seizures and Incidents

Events	2007	2009	Change
Lab Seizures	3,093	4,649	33% increase
Total Incidents	6,181	7,985	23% increase

The ONDCP Reauthorization cited above asks for HIDTA-related data from the previous fiscal year. However, in order to provide more current and additional data, the table below shows calendar year information, which is also compatible with the HIDTA Performance Management Program Core Tables. This table displays the number of methamphetamine laboratories, by size, dismantled by HIDTA initiatives in CY 2009. It further includes estimates of the potential value of the methamphetamine produced.

**Size, Number, and Potential Value of HIDTA-Funded Initiative Clandestine
Methamphetamine Laboratories
Dismantled, CY 2009**

Laboratory Size*	Number Dismantled	Potential Value of Methamphetamine Produced++
Less than 2 oz. per batch	956	\$2,770,056.00
2-8 oz. per batch	355	\$2,364,500.00
9-31 oz. per batch	41	\$1,071,000.00
32-159 oz. per batch	13	\$1,502,400.00
10-20 lbs. per batch	7	\$2,217,600.00
More than 20 lbs. per batch	6	\$2,304,000.00
Total	1,378	\$10,229,556.00
<small>* Size of lab indicates the amount of methamphetamine that could be produced in one batch. ++ The Potential Value of Methamphetamine produced is determined by multiplying the batch size in ounces times the number of labs of that production capacity, and the local wholesale value per ounce in the area where the lab was dismantled. Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, HIDTA Performance Management Process Database</small>		

Generally, the production capability of clandestine laboratories seized in 2009 was less than that of laboratories seized in previous years. It should be noted that, prior to the implementation of the CMEA and restrictions by a number of States on pseudoephedrine purchases, more larger labs, labeled super-labs, with a production capacity of 10 pounds per batch or more, were seized predominantly in California and the West Coast. While the numbers of lab seizures are up, the labs being seized are much smaller and produce significantly smaller quantities. However, the threat posed by the smaller labs is as significant as that posed by the larger labs. The smaller labs are usually more dangerous because the cooks are generally less experienced chemists who often have little regard for the safety issues that arise when dealing with explosive and poisonous chemicals. In addition, smaller operations are more likely to endanger children. They also result in dump sites in residential areas, creating a negative environmental impact.

B. Amounts of methamphetamine or listed chemicals seized by HIDTA-funded initiatives in the area during the previous year [Section 301(o)(2)(B)]:

In the course of their investigations, HIDTA-funded initiatives seized substantial amounts of contraband and removed them from the marketplace. One measure of the effect of these actions is the wholesale value of those seizures, which thereby became revenue denied to trafficking organizations. The two tables below display actual amounts of methamphetamine seized in connection with these initiatives in CY 2009; and the amount of other listed chemicals seized. Both tables include the wholesale value of the seizures.

Amount and Wholesale Value of Methamphetamine Removed from the Marketplace by HIDTAs in CY 2009

Drug	Amount Seized (kg)	Wholesale Value
Methamphetamine	2,974.453	\$ 93,259,733.00
Ice ⁵	2,071.393	\$ 80,026,184.00
Total	5,045.846	\$173,285,917.00
<i>Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, HIDTA Performance Management Process Database</i>		

Amount and Wholesale Value of Other listed Chemicals Removed from the Marketplace by HIDTAs in CY 2009

Drug	Amount Seized (kg)	Wholesale Value
Meth Precursor: Ephedrine Hydrochloride	65.730	\$ 177,510.00
Meth Precursor: Iodine	65,306.761	\$ 23,042,869.00
Meth Precursor: Pseudoephedrine	1,237.038	\$ 10,767,849.00
Total	5,045.846	\$33,988,228.00
<i>Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, HIDTA Performance Management Process Database</i>		

In addition to the listed chemicals above, 1,583 dosage units of Pseudoephedrine, with an estimated value of \$2,379,872, were seized.

C. Law enforcement intelligence and predictive data from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) showing patterns and trends in abuse, trafficking, and transportation in methamphetamine and listed chemicals [Section 301(o)(2)(C)]:

Globally, DEA engages in bilateral cooperation with the many countries that produce, manufacture, or act as transit areas for precursor chemicals in an effort to encourage regulatory control of their movement. Domestically, DEA continues to dedicate enforcement, intelligence, and diversion components to disrupt the abuse, trafficking, and transportation of methamphetamine.

Project Prism Task Force

A central example of DEA's international activities to combat methamphetamine trafficking is its participation in the Project Prism Task Force. Project Prism is an international initiative under the auspices of the INCB designed to assist governments in developing and implementing operating procedures to control and more effectively monitor trade in amphetamine-type stimulant precursors to prevent their diversion. Since March 2004, Project

⁵ Ice, also known as crystal methamphetamine, is methamphetamine hydrochloride, which consists of clear chunky crystals resembling ice, and can be inhaled by smoking.

Prism has used pre-export notifications to monitor shipments of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, phenyl-2-propanone, and (3',4'-methylenedioxyphenyl)-2-propanone (MDP2P). There are currently 128 countries and five international organizations participating in this initiative. A highly effective example of their work can be seen in the two phases of a recent Project Prism operation, known as *Ice Block*.

Operation Ice Block – Phase I

In January 2008, the Project Prism Task Force launched *Operation Ice Block*, a voluntary operation focusing on the trade of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, ephedra, and pharmaceutical preparations containing those chemicals, which are exported to the Americas, Africa, and West Asia. The first phase of the operation took place from January 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008, with 54 participating countries.

During the nine-month operational period for *Operation Ice Block*, the authorities of 14 countries or territories provided information to the INCB Secretariat on 2,057 shipments of the chemicals of concern in international trade destined for 60 countries and territories. Of those, 49 notifications were made to Task Force members, due to suspicions the shipments may be illicit. Of the 49 suspicious shipments, 22 were either declared as either known to be, or suspected to be, destined for Mexico. Overall, the 49 shipments contained approximately 52,300 kilograms of pseudoephedrine, 9,800 kilograms of ephedrine, and 37,000 kilograms of P2P.

Mexico has recently instituted measures to eliminate commercial importation of these chemicals for licit purposes, making illicit diversion and Mexican meth production more challenging. Accordingly, to make up for the inability to divert licit chemicals within Mexico, traffickers appear to be smuggling these precursor substances by masking their actual movement internationally.

Analysis of available Project Prism data has identified a trend of trafficking organizations targeting and exploiting other global regions as transshipment locations for precursor chemicals destined for Mexico. Specifically, these regions are located in Central America, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Intelligence suggests Mexico- and Colombia-based operatives have made a concerted effort to establish contacts in Africa and elsewhere for the purpose of obtaining precursor chemicals, likely destined for the Americas, and particularly for Mexico. Additional intelligence suggests that Mexican-based operatives have made concerted efforts to establish operations and contacts in Central and South America, specifically Argentina, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Uruguay, among others, to purchase the chemicals needed to manufacture methamphetamine.

In addition to capitalizing on transshipment of bulk pseudoephedrine and other precursor chemicals, *Operation Ice Block* and DEA investigations further indicate traffickers are obtaining or attempting to obtain precursor chemicals in the form of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine for methamphetamine production. According to DEA's Methamphetamine Profiling Program, samples of methamphetamine seized along the U.S. Southwest border in 2008 confirmed a major portion of the pseudoephedrine supplying the Mexican production market is derived from these formulated pharmaceutical pseudoephedrine tablets. These pharmaceutical preparations are primarily produced in, and supplied by, India.

DEA and Mexican authorities have collaborated in the investigation and shared information stemming from *Operation Ice Block*. DEA continues to work with the Mexican Government and the international community to target organizations responsible for diverting precursor chemicals and producing and trafficking methamphetamine. Mexico has enhanced its Federal Commission for Protection Against Sanitary Risks, which has led to the integration of chemical control under a single department.

Operation PILA – Phase II

The Project Prism Task Force recently launched the second phase of *Operation Ice Block*. Termed *Operation PILA*, this new phase focuses primarily on shipments of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, seeking to identify their source and destination. The operation, which began on July 1, 2009, also tracks international shipments of P2P, phenyl acetic acid, and MDP2P.

In June 2008, the Mexican Government issued a decree that it would not issue any new import permits for ephedrine/pseudoephedrine products or their derivatives. As a result, Mexico has zero pseudoephedrine and ephedrine imports for 2008, and all existing stockpiles have been used or destroyed. In addition, Mexico made the importation, distribution, and possession of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine products illegal. Though the impact of these developments was initially positive, it appears that traffickers are now once again able to secure supplies of illicit precursor chemicals in Mexico. The supplies are coming from other countries such as China and India. From January 2007 through June 2009, the price per pure gram of methamphetamine within the United States decreased more than 10 percent, from \$157.00 to \$141.00, while the purity increased more than 19 percent. Thus, methamphetamine purity levels appear to be rebounding, as evidenced by this rise of average purity from 57 percent up to 68 percent, likely a result of increased methamphetamine production from Mexican and domestic sources.

A further dimension of our efforts to control precursor chemicals consists in partnerships with domestic U. S. agencies. Cooperation between DEA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is of particular importance in investigating the importation of precursor chemicals into the United States. DEA is constantly working on various means to better track precursor chemicals used in the clandestine production of methamphetamine and other illicit synthetic drugs. DEA established a joint program with the DHS/Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in September 2006 to monitor and investigate the importation of precursor chemicals into the United States. The program initially targeted containerized cargo consignments entering U.S. ports, and evolved to monitor air cargo as well. (This project was initially referred to as the DEA-CBP Long Beach Port Project because the prototype arrangement was launched at the port of Long Beach, California).

The project involved establishing an automated profiling system which enabled agents to more effectively utilize existing CBP databases to target suspect chemical consignments. DEA provided CBP with information regarding precursor chemicals, suspect company names, and other intelligence derived from DEA investigations. This information was used by CBP in creating certain rules and conditions upon which to build profiles of importation cargo. These profiles assist in the detection of chemical shipments that may warrant closer inspection.

In February 2008, the CBP moved to centralize and conduct their chemical cargo targeting from their National Targeting Center-Cargo (NTC-C; a CBP-Headquarters component)

in Herndon, VA. DEA has since assigned personnel to the NTC-C. DEA regularly coordinates the development of information to and from the NTC-C, from which the information is then disseminated to domestic and foreign offices for investigation. The program is national in scope, with particularly active engagement between DEA and CBP personnel at the ports in Los Angeles, Newark, Seattle, and Miami. The intelligence and information exchanged between DEA and CBP has significantly enhanced efforts to apprehend imported cargos of illicit chemicals.

As of December 31, 2009, this joint initiative has led to the seizure of approximately:

- 83,121 kilograms of ephedra;
- 8,023 kilograms of pseudoephedrine;
- 500 kilograms of pseudoephedrine HCL;
- 6,365 kilograms of ephedrine mixtures;
- 12 kilograms of ephedrine tablets;
- 841 kilograms of dimethcathinone (a Schedule I controlled substance analog);
- 1,300 kilograms of phenylpropanolamine;
- 218,065 kilograms of iodine;
- 14,350 kilograms of red phosphorous;
- 96,000 kilograms of yellow phosphorous;
- 1 pound (750 tablets) of piperidine;
- 5,000 liters of methylamine anhydrous; and
- one tablet press.

These results are encouraging and, together, the DEA and relevant DHS agencies are now examining other areas where the program could be instituted to track the importation of precursor chemicals.

In addition to coordination with the DHS and international partners, attacking trafficker organizations, and developing information, DEA is also providing training for host-country personnel around the globe. In FY 2009, DEA provided training to 63 Mexican police and other departmental officials in a variety of locations throughout the U.S., Mexico, and Central America. These training initiatives highlighted investigative, enforcement, and regulatory methods related to the reduction of methamphetamine trafficking. In addition, in FY 2009, seven Mexican officials/law enforcement professionals received Clan Lab training from the DEA International Training Section.

Further, in FY 2009, DEA, sometimes working in conjunction with the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, provided or sponsored chemical training to 1,389 foreign partners from 72 nations worldwide. This training consisted of courses such as Chemical Diversion Investigations, Clandestine Laboratory Training, Precursor Chemical Diversion, Chemical Control, and Chemical Awareness and Investigations. These courses provide the fundamentals needed to conduct effective investigations, and emphasize the importance of international collaboration.

Finally, the partnership between the U.S. and Mexico also involves expanded drug information-sharing, including participation of vetted liaisons at EPIC as well as bilateral conferences and meetings.

Certification of Methamphetamine Laboratory Seizure Reporting to El Paso Intelligence Center [Section 301(o)(3)]:

In accordance with the ONDCP Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Director of ONDCP certifies that the law enforcement entities participating in the HIDTA Program are providing laboratory seizure data to the national clandestine laboratory database at EPIC. ONDCP has received confirmation from each of the HIDTA Directors that all clandestine methamphetamine laboratory seizures are being reported to EPIC.

SUMMARY

ONDCP remains committed to reducing methamphetamine manufacturing, trafficking, and use, and has adopted rigorous performance management standards for each of the HIDTAs, requiring them to systematically report all methamphetamine seizures and the results of ongoing investigations. As this report has indicated, the HIDTA Program maintains a specific focus on the methamphetamine issues and ONDCP works with its partners to insure an appropriate level of attention is given to methamphetamine manufacturing, trafficking, and use. The standards the HIDTAs adhere to are an integral part of the Performance Management Process (PMP) to which all HIDTAs must adhere. The PMP has 14 core tables and two of these specifically address methamphetamine issues and provide the data for this report. The PMP Core Table #5 “Drugs Removed” lists drugs removed from the marketplace for the previous calendar year and includes other listed chemicals as noted in this report. The PMP Core Table #9 captures methamphetamine lab seizures by size also as indicated in this report. ONDCP will continue to monitor data trends in methamphetamine production, trafficking, and use, to ensure appropriate strategies are in place to continue recent successes in disrupting and dismantling methamphetamine- and poly-trafficking organizations; reduce the toll that this dangerous drug imposes on the American people; and regain the progress we had previously made.