



2023 IMPACT REPORT

North Central
HIDTA

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas



Our Mission

The HIDTA program is overseen by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, a directive of the Executive Office of the President of the United States. North Central HIDTA is a federal program designed to encourage and support federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to work together in multi-agency task forces in order to reduce specific drug threats in the HIDTA designated region. North Central HIDTA is a national standard for collectively sharing information and partnering, which targets and dismantles the most significant Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) and Money Laundering Organizations (MLOs) posing the greatest threat to the community.



Our History at a Glance



1988

National HIDTA program launches

1998

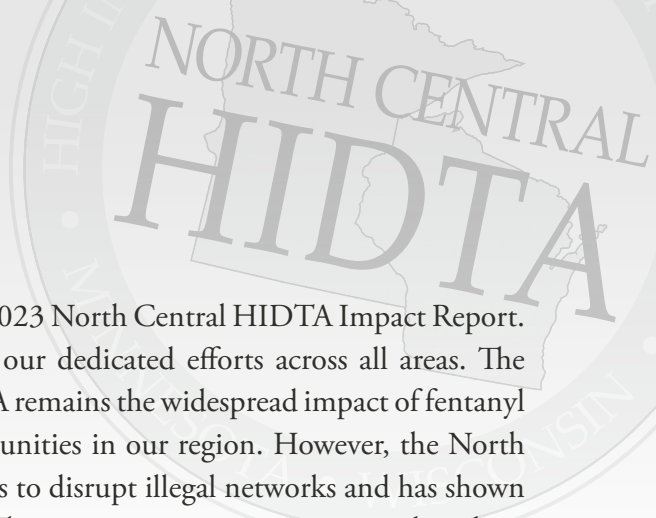
Milwaukee County is designated the first North Central HIDTA county

2016

Minnesota joins the North Central HIDTA

2023

North Central HIDTA now has 39 Initiatives through out Wisconsin and Minnesota



To Our Stakeholders:

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the 2023 North Central HIDTA Impact Report. This report highlights the ongoing success of our dedicated efforts across all areas. The primary threat facing the North Central HIDTA remains the widespread impact of fentanyl and methamphetamine on families and communities in our region. However, the North Central HIDTA has been relentless in its efforts to disrupt illegal networks and has shown remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. The investigators, prosecutors, and analysts who are at the forefront of this battle are facing increasingly violent and sophisticated drug trafficking organizations. Their hard work and dedication have yielded remarkable progress and significant results.

“the North Central HIDTA has been relentless in its efforts to disrupt illegal networks and has shown remarkable resilience in the face of adversity.”

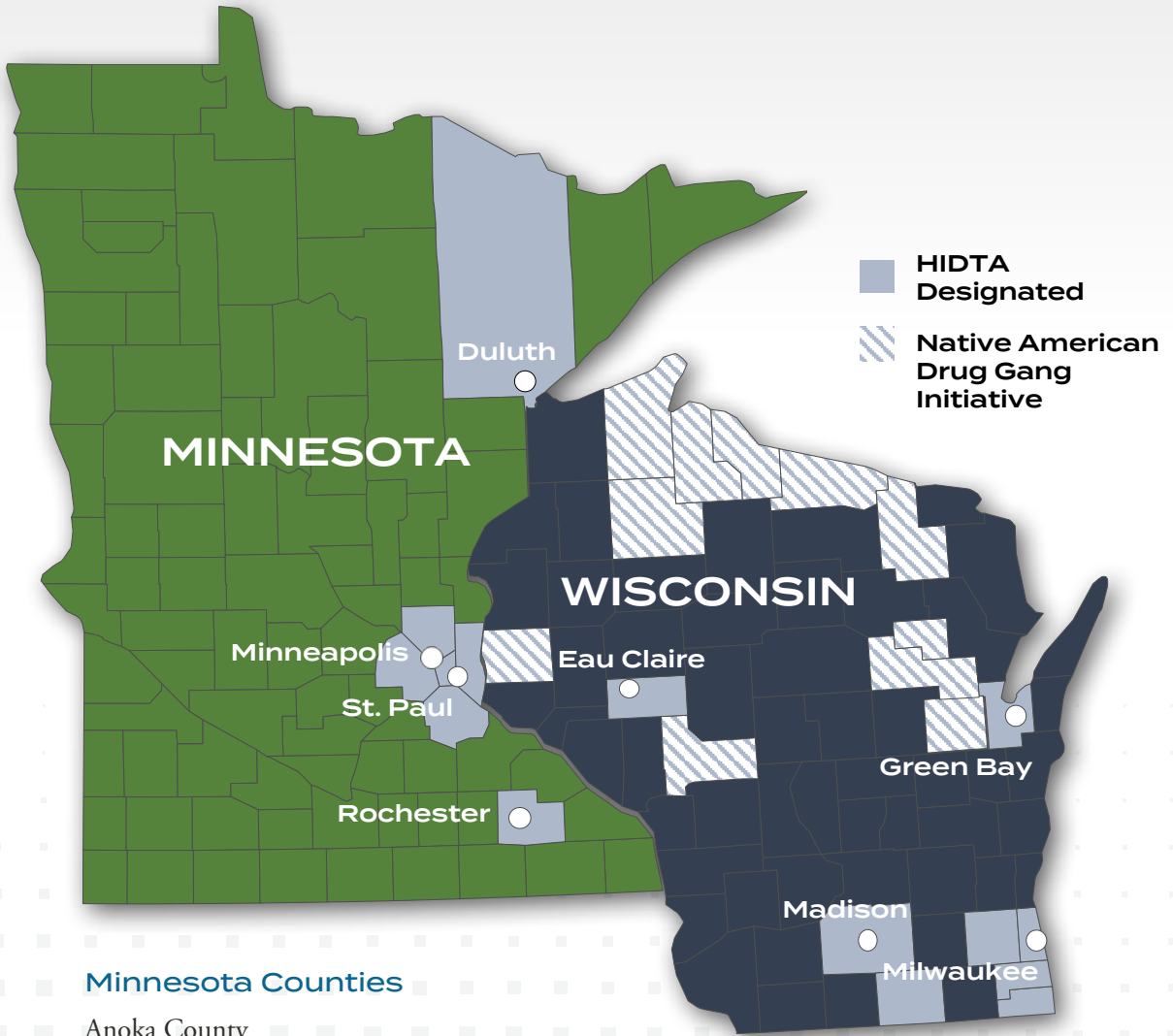
While there are still substantial challenges to overcome, the North Central HIDTA is steadfast in its commitment to keeping our communities safe from the threat posed by fentanyl and methamphetamine. The participating agencies and North Central HIDTA staff have been working collaboratively to create effective strategies and partnerships to further enhance the response to the evolving drug threat.

The North Central HIDTA owes its success to the dedicated Executive Board members from various law enforcement agencies who tirelessly serve the public. This year’s achievements would not have been possible without the Executive Board and personnel who are committed to safeguarding their communities. Their leadership, resources, and partnership have helped make HIDTA one of the most successful programs in the United States. It is a privilege to serve the North Central HIDTA as we work towards dismantling the most violent and prolific drug trafficking organizations in the region.

Ryan T. Shogren
Executive Director

Matt Christenson
Police Chief, MSP Airport Police Department
Current Executive Board Chair

Area of Responsibility



Minnesota Counties

- Anoka County
- Dakota County
- Hennepin County
- Olmsted County
- Ramsey County
- Saint Louis County
- Washington County

Wisconsin Counties

- Brown County
- Dane County
- Eau Claire County
- Kenosha County
- Milwaukee County
- Racine County
- Rock County
- Waukesha County

Awards



Outstanding Group Achievement Award

Minneapolis–St. Paul Airport Police Department's Interdiction Task Force

The Airport PD Interdiction team consists of a Sergeant, four Detectives, three K9s, and one Analyst. They have shown exceptional dedication and investigative skills in narcotics interdiction. In 2023, their efforts resulted in the seizure of narcotics and currency worth over \$11.2 million. Their commitment and results not only set a high standard for narcotics interdiction but also demonstrate their crucial role in enhancing law enforcement capabilities within the HIDTA framework.

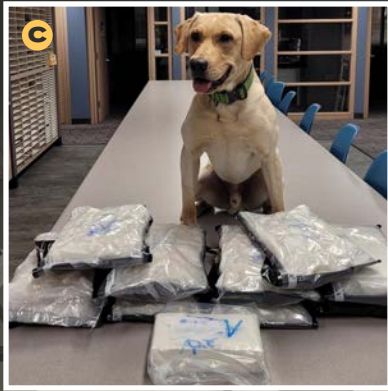


John “Jay” Balchunas Memorial Award

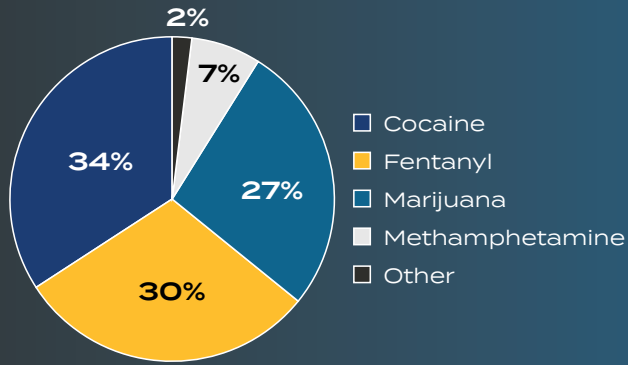
Detective Matthew Cooper
Milwaukee Police Department

Since his assignment to the Opioid Task Force in 2014, Detective Matthew Cooper has demonstrated a relentless work ethic and a “can do” attitude. He has fostered an environment where individual egos and agendas are set aside to collectively combat the common drug threat. Detective Cooper is a talented investigator who focuses on identifying and pursuing sources of supply of fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine, as well as the flow of drug proceeds both within the United States and internationally, while never losing sight of the local impact investigations. Through his tireless work, mentorship and dedication, Detective Cooper has gained the respect of not only his law enforcement peers and supervisors, but also the prosecutors with whom he works.

2023 Snapshot



TOP DRUGS SEIZED



A. Seizure of 231,000 fentanyl pills seized from a parcel. **B.** Package containing 2,427.15 grams of methamphetamine hit on by K9 Murphy in Hibbing, MN. **C.** 45 pounds of methamphetamine and one kilogram of cocaine seized from a parcel by MSP Airport PD's K9 Zippo. **D.** 7.7 kilograms of cocaine, \$240,092 US Currency, 13 firearms seized from a search warrant.





ROI \$8.72

ROI is calculated by adding the value of the drugs seized with the value of the drug related assets seized and dividing it by the amount of funding the HIDTA receives for the program.

4,043 Arrests

1,354 Firearms Seized

5,950 no-cost training hours provided to investigators and analysts

708 analysts, investigators, and support staff assigned to North Central HIDTA initiatives

1,531 cases were supported by both Minnesota & Wisconsin ISCs

\$67,653,489 drug and assets seized

1,267 fugitives apprehended, **57%** with drug charges

6,548 event deconflictions processed

DTOs – Total: 88

- International: 13
- Multi-State: 36
- Local: 39

E. \$362,421 US Currency and assets seized in Greenfield, WI. **F.** 50 pounds of marijuana and three firearms seized from a traffic stop. **G.** 8 pounds of methamphetamine pills seized by the Interdiction Task Force. **H.** 142 kilograms of cocaine, \$244,285, and four guns seized in Jefferson County, WI. **I.** Interdiction stop resulted in 30 Kilograms of fentanyl in Milwaukee, WI.

Minnesota Initiatives

Airport PD Interdiction
Anoka County Drug Task Force
Bloomington PD Interdiction
Border Enforcement Security Task Force
Building Public Awareness
Dakota County Drug Task Force
DEA Interdiction
FBI Safe Streets
Greater Twin Cities Violent Crime Initiative

Hennepin County Drug Task Force
Investigative Support Center (ISC)
Lake Superior Drug Task Force
Major Crimes
Olmsted County Drug Task Force
Ramsey County Drug Task Force
Rochester PD Drug Task Force
St. Paul PD Violent Crime Initiative
Washington County Drug Task Force

Case Highlight

The Washington County Drug Task Force collaborated with the Dakota County Drug Task Force, Ramsey County Drug Task Force, United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) and several other agencies to investigate and identify M-30 fentanyl dealers in the area. The investigation led to the seizure of 280,000 fentanyl pills by USPIS, and an additional 77,000 fentanyl pills seized by the Washington County Drug Task Force. As a result, the large DTO responsible for distributing M-30 fentanyl pills was dismantled and nine federal indictments were issued.



Wisconsin Initiatives

Brown County Drug Task Force
Dane County Drug Task Force
Drug Gang Task Force
Fugitive Task Force
Information Technology
Interdiction
Investigative Support Center (ISC)
Kenosha County Drug Task Force
Ken-Prairie Drug Gang Task Force
Management & Coordination

Native American Drug & Gang Initiative
Opioid Task Force
Prosecution
Racine County Drug Task Force
Rock County Drug Task Force
Safe & Sound
Training
Waukesha County Drug Task Force
West Central Drug Task Force

Case Highlight

The Dane County Drug Task Force worked with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation and the United States Postal Inspection Service to dismantle a fentanyl DTO. The investigators discovered that the DTO was primarily using the U.S. Mail to distribute kilogram quantities of fentanyl tablets. Investigators were then able to initiate wire intercepts on the phones of the main conspirators based in Wisconsin, which helped identify the source of supply and additional distribution cells. The investigation concluded with eight federal indictments and the seizure of approximately four kilograms of fentanyl tablets.



2023 Executive Board

Chairperson

Anna Ruzinski, *United States Marshals Service — Eastern District of WI*

Vice Chairperson

Matt Christenson, *MSP Airport Police Department*

Minnesota

Federal Agencies

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm and Explosives
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Department of Homeland Security – HSI
- United States Attorney’s Office
- Federal Bureau of Investigation – Minneapolis

State and Local Agencies

- Washington County Sheriff’s Office
- MSP Airport Police Department
- Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office
- Rochester Police Department

Wisconsin

Federal Agencies

- Department of Homeland Security – HSI
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- United States Marshal Service – Eastern District
- United States Attorney’s Office
- Federal Bureau of Investigation – Milwaukee

State and Local Agencies

- Wisconsin Department of Justice – DCI
- Brown County Sheriff’s Office
- Milwaukee Police Department
- Eau Claire County Sheriff’s Office
- Wisconsin State Patrol

Table of Organization



Quotes

“Our agency participation in North Central HIDTA facilitates important cross-jurisdictional cooperation and strongly supports our commitment to service.”

Deputy Chief Joshua Lego
St. Paul Police Department

“The partnership between the North Central HIDTA and the Minnesota Army National Guard Counterdrug Task Force has increased collaborative efforts, resource allocation, and improved communication which has enabled better focus and increased results.”

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Krenz
Minnesota National Guard

“HIDTA continues to evolve with the changing dynamics of criminal investigations and effectively uses intelligence to outpace these changes.”

Assistant Special Agent in Charge Aaron Wheeler
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms – Milwaukee Field Office

“HIDTA has been a critical component in combating the drug problem, in particular, the issue with Fentanyl within Rock County.”

Sheriff Curtis Fell
Rock County Sheriff's Office



North Central HIDTA Partners

Anoka County Sheriff's Office
 Anoka Police Department
 Apple Valley Police Department
 Appleton Police Department
 Ashwaubenon Department of Public Safety
 Austin Police Department
 Bad River Tribal Police Department
 Blaine Police Department
 Bloomington Police Department
 Brookfield Police Department
 Brooklyn Center Police Department
 Brooklyn Park Police Department
 Brown County Sheriff's Office
 Buffalo County Sheriff's Department
 Burnsville Police Department
 Champlin Police Department
 Chippewa County Sheriff's Department
 Chippewa Falls Police Department
 Clark County Sheriff's Department
 Clinton Police Department
 Columbia Heights Police Department
 Coon Rapids Police Department
 Cottage Grove Police Department
 Dakota County Sheriff's Office
 Dane County District Attorney's Office
 Dane County Sheriff's Office
 De Pere Police Department
 Dodge County Sheriff's Office
 Duluth Police Department
 Dunn County Sheriff's Department
 Eagan Police Department
 Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department
 Eau Claire Police Department
 Edgerton Police Department
 Evansville Police Department
 Farmington Police Department
 Fillmore County Sheriff's Office
 Forest Lake Police Department
 Fridley Police Department
 Goodhue County Sheriff's Office
 Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife
 Green Bay Police Department
 Greenfield Police Department
 Hastings Police Department
 Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
 Hibbing Police Department

Houston County Sheriff's Office
 Kasson Police Department
 Kenosha County Sheriff's Office
 Kenosha Police Department
 Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Police Department
 Lac du Flambeau Tribal Police Department
 Lake City Police Department
 Lakeville Police Department
 Madison Police Department
 Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office
 Maple Grove Police Department
 Maplewood Police Department
 Medina Police Department
 Menominee Tribal Police Department
 Menomonee Falls Police Department
 Menomonie Police Department
 Metro Airport Commissions Police Department
 Milton Police Department
 Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office
 Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office
 Milwaukee Police Department
 Minneapolis Police Department
 Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
 Minnesota National Guard
 Minnesota State Patrol
 Minnetrista Police Department
 Mounds View Police Department
 Mount Pleasant Police Department
 Mower County Sheriff's Office
 Muskego Police Department
 New Berlin Police Department
 New Brighton Police Department
 Oconomowoc Police Department
 Olmsted County District Attorney's Office
 Olmsted County Sheriff's Office
 Oneida Tribal Police Department
 Orfordville Police Department
 Orono Police Department
 Oshkosh Police Department
 Outagamie County Sheriff's Office
 Pleasant Prairie Police Department
 Racine County Sheriff's Office
 Racine Police Department
 Ramsey County District Attorney's Office
 Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
 Ramsey Police Department

Red Cliff Tribal Police Department
 Red Wing Police Department
 Richfield Police Department
 Rochester Police Department
 Rock County Sheriff's Office
 Rogers Police Department
 Rosemount Police Department
 Roseville Police Department
 Safe & Sound
 Savage Police Department
 Sheboygan Police Department
 South St. Paul Police Department
 St. Croix Tribal Police Department
 St. Louis County Sheriff's Office
 St. Paul Police Department
 Stockbridge Munsee Tribal Police Department
 Superior Police Department
 Town of Beloit Police Department
 Twin Lakes Police Department
 University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
 UW Eau Claire Police Department
 UW Madison Police Department
 UW Stout Police Department
 Village of Eagle Police Department
 Village of Elm Grove Police Department
 Village of Pewaukee Police Department
 Village of Summit Police Department
 Virginia Police Department
 Wabasha County Sheriff's Office
 Washington County Sheriff's Office
 Waukesha County Sheriff's Department
 Waukesha Police Department
 Wauwatosa Police Department
 West Allis Police Department
 West Hennepin Public Safety Department
 West St. Paul Police Department
 White Bear Lake Police Department
 Winona County Sheriff's Office
 Winona Police Department
 Wisconsin Department of Corrections
 Wisconsin Department of Justice - DCI
 Wisconsin National Guard
 Wisconsin State Patrol
 Woodbury Police Department



Main Office | 414-220-4740

Investigative Support Centers

WI 414-220-4773 | MN 612-596-6742

NorthCentralHIDTA.org