OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Executive Office of the President of the United States

North Central HIDTA

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

2025 IMPACT REPORT



northcentralhidta.org

@NCHIDTA

MISSION

A Collaborative Network

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, local and tribal law enforcement agencies to work together in multi-agency task forces 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.



900 POUNDS OF METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZED IN RAMSEY COUNTY, MN

OUR HISTORY AT A GLANCE

1988 National HIDTA program launches

1989 Milwaukee HIDTA is formed

2013 Milwaukee HIDTA expands to Wisconsin HIDTA — five additional counties receive the HIDTA designation

2016 Minnesota joins Wisconsin HIDTA with five counties receiving HIDTA designation

2017 Wisconsin HIDTA changes name to North Central HIDTA

2025 North Central HIDTA encompasses 17 counties throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin

TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

The North Central HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) stands as a testament to the power of collaboration in safeguarding our communities. Through the relentless efforts of our partnering agencies and the personnel assigned to our task forces and initiatives, we continue to make progress in keeping dangerous drugs and crime guns off our streets and out of the communities most affected by crime and violence.

Today, the challenges we face are more complex than ever. Drug Trafficking Organizations are becoming increasingly violent, their operations more sophisticated, and their methods more difficult to detect. They are leveraging advanced technologies, concealing and moving assets through mechanisms such as cryptocurrency, and utilizing increasingly complex transportation routes to distribute illicit drugs and weapons. These evolving threats require constant adaptation, coordination, and resolve.

"The North Central HIDTA is more than a program; it is a collaborative network of dedicated federal, state, local, and tribal partners working together to protect our communities."

Despite these challenges, we continue to overcome them through the unwavering support of our more than 150 participating law enforcement agencies, the hard work and dedication of our initiatives, analysts, and prosecution partners, and the strength of our shared mission. Together, these professionals demonstrate every day what true collaboration and partnership look like. Their commitment ensures that we remain effective in disrupting drug trafficking organizations and protecting the public from illicit drugs.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to our Executive Board and our advisory committees, whose leadership and guidance are instrumental to our success. Their strategic insight helps us identify emerging threats, shape operational priorities, and ensure that our funding is directed where it will have the greatest impact. Our Executive Board strengthens our ability to respond to the evolving threat landscape and public safety challenges.

The North Central HIDTA is more than a program; it is a collaborative network of dedicated federal, state, local, and tribal partners working together to protect our communities. Through partnership, strategy, and determination, the North Central HIDTA will continue to meet these challenges head-on and ensure safer communities for the citizens we serve.



Ryan T. Shogren

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dawanna Witt

Hennepin County Sheriff

CURRENT EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIR

JURISDICTION

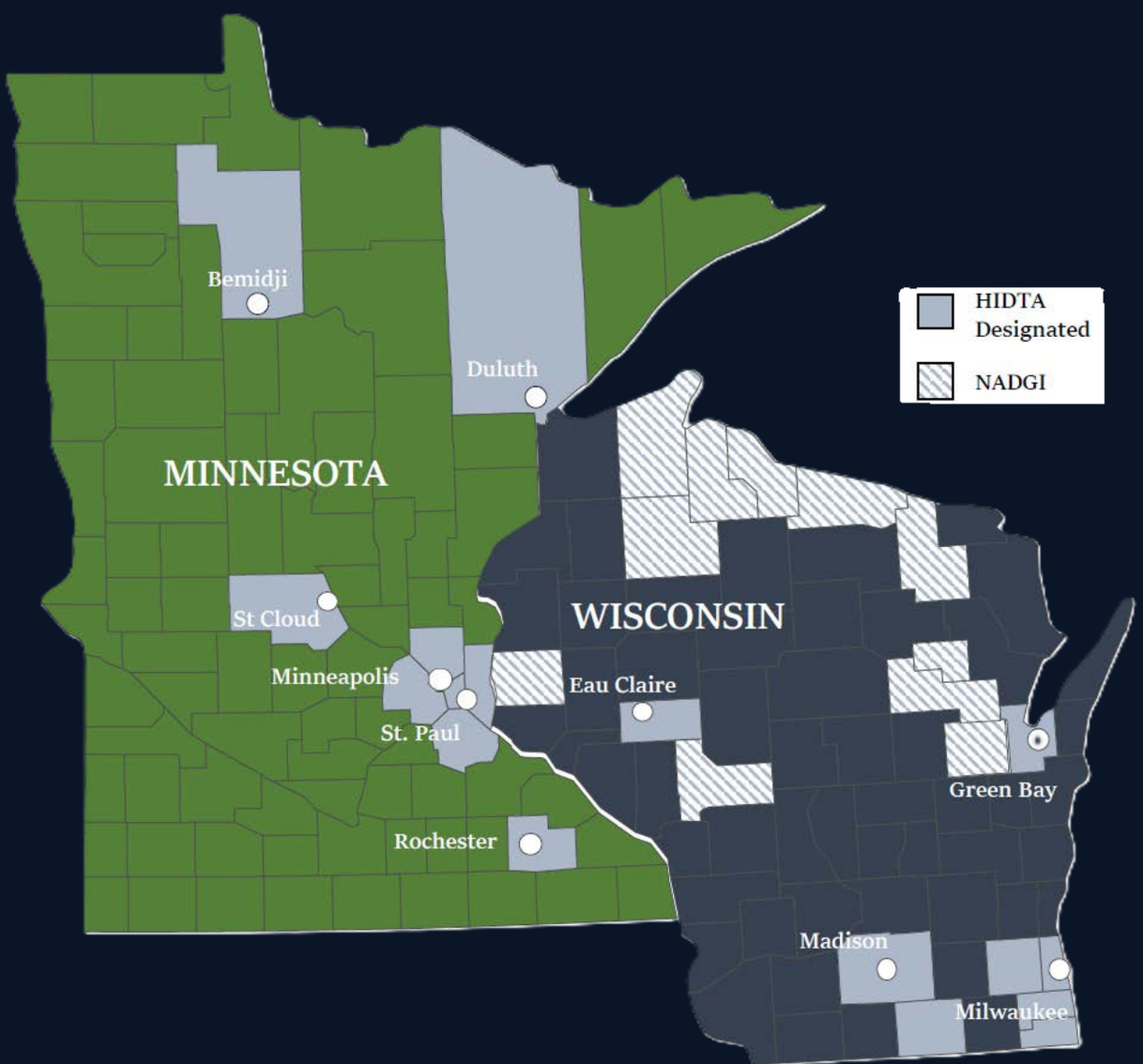
Area of Responsibility

MINNESOTA COUNTIES

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

WISCONSIN COUNTIES

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



RECOGNITION

2025 Awards

Outstanding Group Achievement Award

DEA Major Crimes Task Force
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

From January 1 through December 31, 2025, the HIDTA Major Crimes Task Force conducted 22 active investigations resulting in the arrest of 25 Drug Trafficking Organization members and the seizure of approximately 1,450 pounds of methamphetamine, 9.7 kilograms of cocaine, 69.5 pounds of fentanyl, and $515,851 in drug proceeds. Through extensive collaboration with Homeland Security Investigations, DEA offices in Madison, Mexico City, Bogota, Riverside, and Chicago, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and the North Central HIDTA West Metro Drug Task Force, the team targeted multiple Mexico-based transnational DTOs connected to the CJNG Cartel. Joint investigations disrupted major trafficking networks operating between Mexico, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, resulting in large-scale narcotics seizures, firearms recoveries, and pending federal indictments tied to multi-ton methamphetamine distribution operations.

Jay Balchunas Memorial Award

Sergeant Jacob French
RAMSEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sergeant Jacob French exemplifies the core values and mission of the North Central HIDTA initiative through his sustained investigative excellence, leadership, and unwavering commitment to multi-agency collaboration. The impact of his work is substantial and measurable, leading to the removal of significant quantities of dangerous narcotics, the disruption of violent criminal networks, and the reduction of harm to both citizens and law enforcement personnel. His leadership, mentorship, and supervision have strengthened the capabilities of Ramsey County VCET, ensuring continued success well beyond any single investigation. Sgt. French embodies the spirit of the Special Agent Jay Balchunas Memorial Achievement Award and his dedication and professionalism have made a profound impact on the safety and security of the North Central HIDTA region.

BY THE NUMBERS

2025 Snapshot

KEY METRICS

695 PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO INITIATIVES

1,281 FUGITIVES APPREHENDED — 55% DRUG CHARGES

2,372 EVENT DECONFLICTIONS PROCESSED

2,200 CASES SUPPORTED BY MN & WI ISCS

38,584 NO-COST TRAINING HOURS PROVIDED

18 WIRETAPS AUTHORIZED

$9.15 RETURNED TO TAXPAYERS PER DOLLAR INVESTED

17 COUNTIES IN AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

NOTABLE OPERATIONS & SEIZURES



900 POUNDS OF METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZED IN RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA



200,000 FENTANYL PILLS SEIZED WITH K9 DIEGO BY BROWN COUNTY DTF AND DEA



OVER 9 OUNCES OF COCAINE AND $52,000 SEIZED DURING A TRAFFIC STOP IN WAUKESHA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

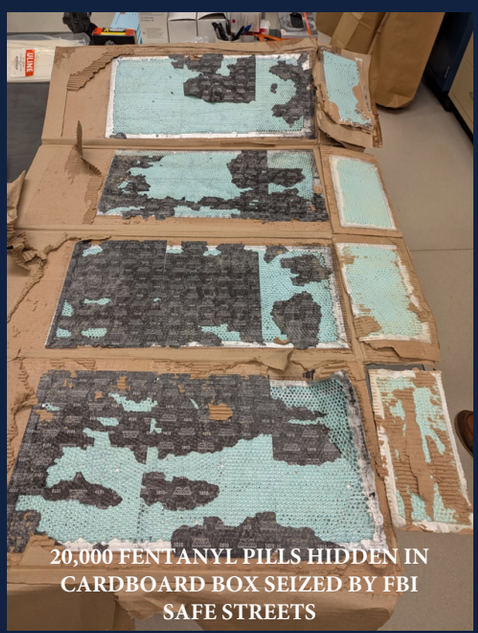


22 KILOGRAMS OF FENTANYL SEIZED BY DEA MINNESOTA

$73.2M
DRUGS & ASSETS SEIZED

7,894
TOTAL ARRESTS

2,022
FIREARMS SEIZED



20,000 FENTANYL PILLS HIDDEN IN CARDBOARD BOX SEIZED BY FBI SAFE STREETS

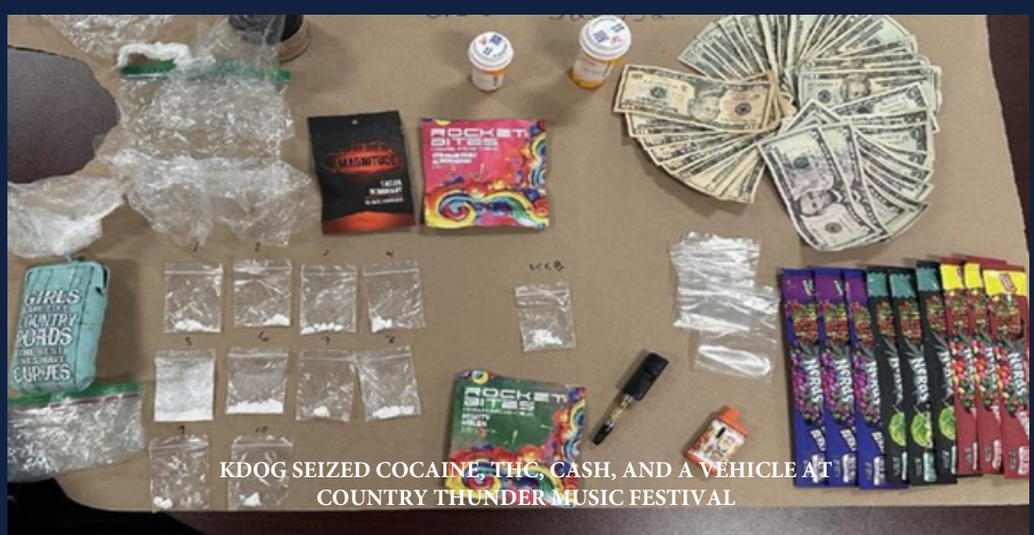
TOP DRUGS

Marijuana	1st
Methamphetamine	2nd
Fentanyl Cocaine	3rd
Crack	4th
Other	5th

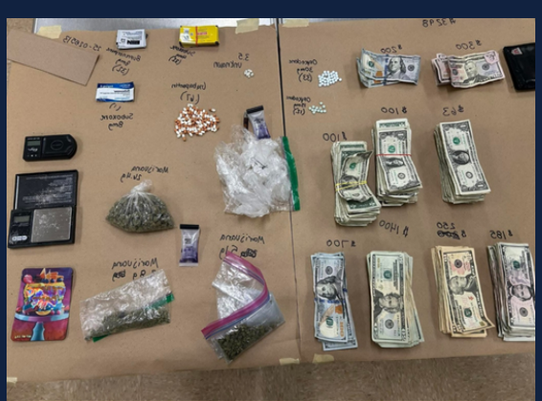
DTOs INTERRUPTED

102

- 61% Local Operations
- 29% Multi-state
- 12% International



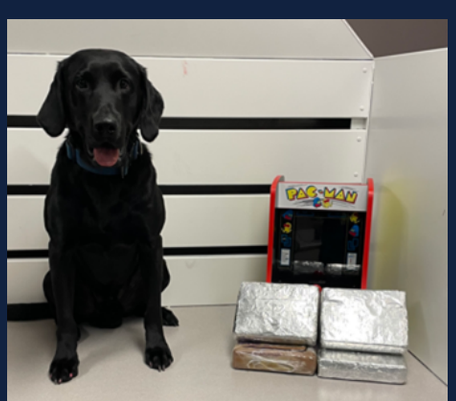
KDQG SEIZED COCAINE, THC, CASH, AND A VEHICLE AT COUNTRY THUNDER MUSIC FESTIVAL



NARCOTICS AND CASHED SEIZED WITH ONE ARRESTED AFTER MILWAUKEE COUNTY PURSUIT



MULTI-DRUG SEIZURE BY THE INTERDICTION TASK FORCE



OVER 10 POUNDS OF FENTANYL WAS DISCOVERED IN A PAC-MAN GAME WITH K9 GOOSE BY THE MSP AIRPORT

INITIATIVES

Minnesota Initiatives

- Airport PD Interdiction
- Anoka County Drug Task Force
- Bloomington PD Interdiction
- Border Enforcement Security Task Force
- Central MN Drug Trafficking Initiative
- 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
- Olmsted County Drug Task Force
- Paul Bunyan 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 · 2025

Lake Superior Violent Offender Task Force

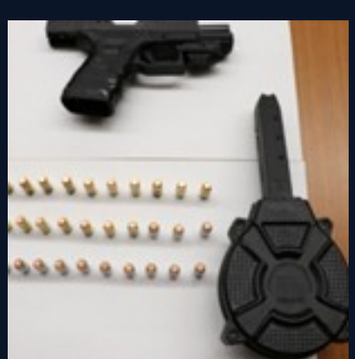
In 2025, the Lake Superior Violent Offender Task Force (LSVOTF), in collaboration with numerous local, state, and federal law enforcement partners, dismantled a violent drug trafficking organization operating in Duluth. The group consisted of members of the national street gang Black P Stone Nation, as well as hybrid gangs known as Rock City and Glock City.

The investigation resulted in a total of 48 arrests and the seizure of 17 firearms. Two of those arrested were listed on the Atlanta Police Department Most Wanted list and were wanted in Atlanta for multiple homicides and carjackings. They were apprehended while selling fentanyl in Duluth.

A third member of the organization was arrested and charged in connection with a gang-ordered homicide. Criminal charges filed against members of the group included Homicide, Aggravated Sale of Fentanyl, Drive-By Shooting, Felony Assault, and Felon in Possession of a Firearm.This coordinated investigation successfully dismantled the Black P Stones' operations in Duluth and throughout the Task Force's jurisdiction, significantly disrupting violent criminal activity and fentanyl distribution in the region.

48	17	2	5
TOTAL ARRESTS	FIREARMS SEIZED	FBI MOST WANTED	CHARGE TYPES

OPERATIONPHOTOS







INITIATIVES

Wisconsin Initiatives

- Brown County Drug Task Force
- Dane County Drug Task Force
- Drug Gang Task Force
- Fugitive Task Force
- 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 and Sound
- Training
- Waukesha County Drug Task Force
- West Central Drug Task Force

CASE HIGHLIGHT · 2025 — OPERATION YELLOW JACKET

DEA Drug Gang Task Force

Beginning in late 2023, DEA Drug Gang Task Force agents and task force officers began targeting a long time Milwaukee based drug trafficker and his multi-state drug trafficking organization (DTO). Investigators quickly determined the DTO was receiving cocaine and fentanyl from Illinois through shipments originating in California and Mexico. Further investigation revealed that several DTO members were large scale drug traffickers with direct connections to the Sinaloa Cartel.

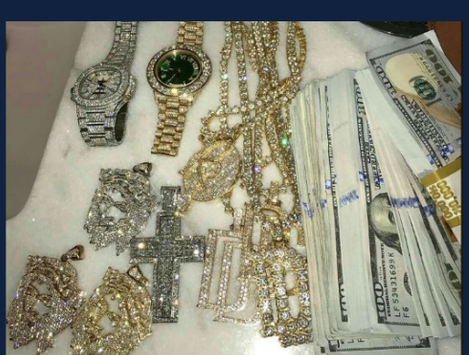
In 2024, an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation, Operation Yellow Jacket, was initiated. The investigative coalition included DEA groups in Arizona, California, and Detroit, along with the Wisconsin State Patrol, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Wisconsin DOJ/DCI, Milwaukee Police Department, and U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. Investigators identified overlapping investigations across the country that were ultimately connected to a larger drug trafficking conspiracy. The investigation expanded throughout 2024 and progressed to a wire intercept investigation in 2025.

In April 2025, the multi-agency team concluded the investigation by arresting the primary target and several additional DTO members and seizing significant quantities of controlled substances, firearms, and drug proceeds, effectively dismantling the DTO. In total, 14 individuals were federally charged, and investigators seized six kilograms of fentanyl, one kilogram of cocaine, one kilogram of heroin, 20 firearms, including a sawed-off shotgun and fully automatic Glock handgun, and a significant amount of drug proceeds.

14	6 kg	1 kg	20
FEDERAL CHARGES	FENTANYL	COCAINE	FIREARMS

OPERATIONPHOTOS





GOVERNANCE

Executive Board & Table of Organization

CHAIRPERSON
Travis Riddle
Bureau of ATF & Explosives

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dawanna Witt
Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

MINNESOTA

FEDERAL

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- DHS – Homeland Security Investigations United States
- Attorney's Office
- Federal Bureau of Investigation

STATE & LOCAL

- Duluth Police Department
- Minneapolis Airport Police Department
- MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
- Washington County Sheriff's Office

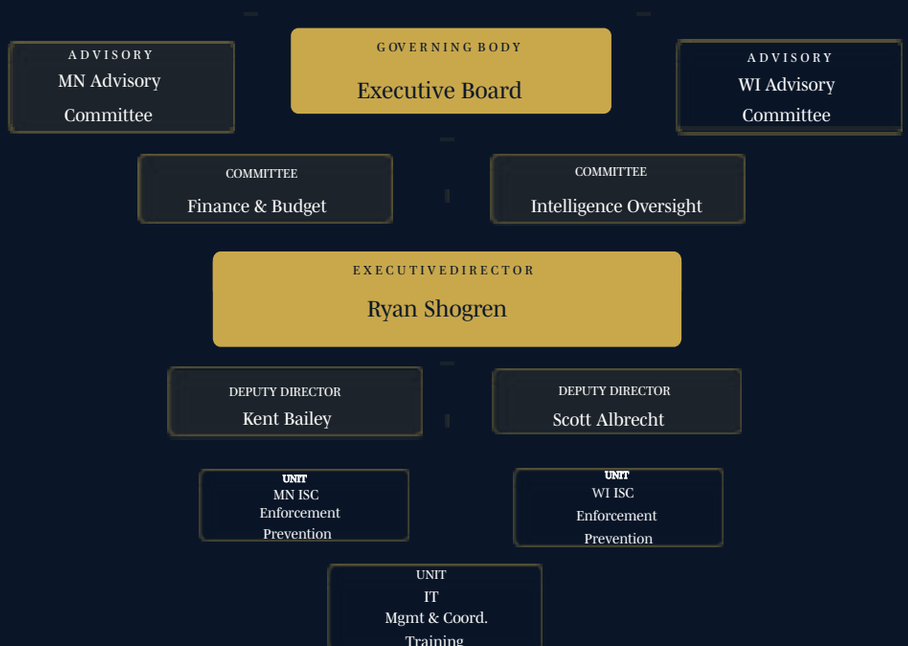
WISCONSIN

FEDERAL

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- DHS – Homeland Security Investigations
- United States Attorney's Office
- US Marshal Service - Eastern District

STATE & LOCAL

- Brown County Sheriff's Office
- Milwaukee Police Department
- Wisconsin Department of Justice - DCI
- Rock County Sheriff's Office
- Waukesha County Sheriff's Office



PARTNER VOICES

What Our Partners Are Saying

"The support provided by the North Central HIDTA is a key factor in the success DEA and our partner agencies have had in targeting, disrupting and dismantling the Mexican cartels responsible for trafficking fentanyl into our communities. State, local, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies have tremendous respect for one another. Each component brings a unique specialty to the table and together, we make a noticeable difference in the communities we serve and protect."

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE DUSTIN GILLESPIE · DEA OMAHA FIELD DIVISION

"North Central HIDTA is the perfect example of how through collaboration and coordination we can achieve success in removing dangerous drugs, weapons, and felons from our communities. This enables us to create safer and healthier neighborhoods throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota."

ANNA RUZINSKI · US MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

"The support we receive from North Central HIDTA has been instrumental in allowing us to reduce narcotics trafficking in Ramsey County and the violent crime that goes with it. We rely on HIDTA funding to enhance our inter-agency collaboration and our cross-jurisdictional enforcement efforts."

SHERIFF BOB FLETCHER · RAMSEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (MN)

"The Waukesha Sheriff's Office has partnered with HIDTA since the early 2000's and this partnership has been a major drug enforcement force multiplier in Waukesha and in the Midwest."

SHERIFF ERIC SEVERSON · WAUKESHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (WI)

North Central HIDTA Agency Partners

150+ AGENCIES PARTICIPATING

FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS

LOCAL & TRIBAL AGENCY PARTNERS

Anoka Co. Sheriff's Office
Anoka Police Dept.
Apple Valley Police Dept.
Appleton Police Dept.
Arrowhead Regional Corrections
Ashwaubenon Public Safety
Austin Police Dept.
Beloit Police Dept.
Beltrami Co. Sheriff's Office
Bemidji Police Dept.
Benton Co. Sheriff's Office
Blaine Police Dept.
Bloomington Police Dept.
Brookfield Police Dept.
Brooklyn Center Police
Brooklyn Park Police
Brown Co. Sheriff's Office
Buffalo Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Burnsville Police Dept.
Champlin Police Dept.
Chippewa Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Chippewa Falls Police Dept.
Clark Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Clinton Police Dept.
Columbia Heights Police
Coon Rapids Police Dept.
Dakota Co. District Attorney
Dane Co. Sheriff's Office
De Pere Police Dept.
Duluth Police Dept.
Dunn Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Eagan Police Dept.
Eau Claire Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Eau Claire Police Dept.
Eden Prairie Police Dept.
Edina Police Dept.
Evansville Police Dept.
Farmington Police Dept.
Fillmore Co. Sheriff's Office
Forest Lake Police Dept.
Goodhue Co. Sheriff's Office
Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife
Green Bay Police Dept.
Hastings Police Dept.
Hennepin Co. Sheriff's Office
Hibbing Police Dept.
Ho Chunk Tribal Police
Hopkins Police Dept.
Houston Co. Sheriff's Office
Kasson Police Dept.
Kenosha Co. Sheriff's Office
Kenosha Police Dept.
Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Police
Lac du Flambeau Tribal Police
Lake City Police Dept.
Lakeville Police Dept.
Leech Lake Police Dept.
Madison Police Dept.
Manitowoc Co. Sheriff's Office
Maple Grove Police Dept.
Maplewood Police Dept.
Medina Police Dept.
Menominee Tribal Police
Menomonee Falls Police
Menomonie Police Dept.
Milwaukee Co. District Attorney
Milwaukee Co. Sheriff's Office
Milwaukee Police Dept.
Minneapolis Metro Airport Police
Minneapolis Police Dept.
MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
MN Dept. of Health
Minnesota National Guard
Minnesota State Patrol
Minnetonka Police Dept.
Minnetrista Police Dept.
Morrison Co. Sheriff's Office
Mounds View Police Dept.
Mount Pleasant Police Dept.
Mower Co. Sheriff's Office
New Brighton Police Dept.
Olmsted Co. District Attorney
Olmsted Co. Sheriff's Office
Oneida Tribal Police
Orfordville Police Dept.
Orono Police Dept.
Oshkosh Police Dept.
Outagamie Co. Sheriff's Office
Pleasant Prairie Police
Racine Co. Sheriff's Office
Racine Police Dept.
Ramsey Co. District Attorney
Ramsey Co. Sheriff's Office
Ramsey Police Dept.
Red Cliff Tribal Police
Red Lake Police Dept.
Red Wing Police Dept.
Richfield Police Dept.
Rochester Police Dept.
Rock Co. Sheriff's Office
Rogers Police Dept.
Rosemount Police Dept.
Roseville Police Dept.
Safe & Sound
Sartell Police Dept.
Savage Police Dept.
Sheboygan Police Dept.
Sherburne Co. Sheriff's Office
Sokaogon Community Police
South St. Paul Police Dept.
St. Cloud Police Dept.
St. Croix Tribal Police
St. Louis Co. Sheriff's Office
St. Louis Park Police Dept.
St. Paul Police Dept.
Stearns Co. Sheriff's Office
Stockbridge Munsee Tribal Police
Twin Lakes Police Dept.
UW–Milwaukee Police
UW Eau Claire Police Dept.
Village of Pewaukee Police
Village of Summit Police
Virginia Police Dept.
Wabasha Co. Sheriff's Office
Washington Co. Sheriff's Office
Waukesha Co. Sheriff's Office
Waukesha Police Dept.
Wauwatosa Police Dept.
West Allis Police Dept.
West Hennepin Public Safety
West St. Paul Police Dept.
White Bear Lake Police Dept.
Winona Co. Sheriff's Office
Winona Police Dept.
WI Dept. of Corrections
Wisconsin DOJ – DCI
Wisconsin National Guard
Wisconsin State Patrol
Woodbury Police Dept.