

U.S. Department of Justice National Drug Intelligence Center



# Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



# **Drug Market Analysis 2011**

#### **Source Summary Statement**

(U) The National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) has high confidence in this drug market analysis as it is based on multiple sources of information that have proved highly reliable in prior NDIC, law enforcement, and intelligence community reporting. Quantitative data, including seizure, eradication, and arrest statistics, were drawn from data sets maintained by federal, state, or local government agencies. Discussions of the prevalence and consequences of drug abuse are based on published reports from U.S. Government agencies and interviews with public health officials deemed reliable because of their expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of drug abuse. Trends and patterns related to drug production, trafficking, and abuse were identified through detailed analysis of coordinated counterdrug agency reporting and information. NDIC intelligence analysts and field intelligence officers obtained this information through numerous interviews with law enforcement and public health officials (federal, state, and local) in whom NDIC has a high level of confidence based on previous contact and reporting, their recognized expertise, and their professional standing and reputation within the U.S. counterdrug community. This report was reviewed and corroborated by law enforcement officials who have jurisdiction in the Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and possess an expert knowledge of its drug situation.



U.S. Department of Justice National Drug Intelligence Center



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## **Drug Market Analysis 2011**

This assessment is an outgrowth of a partnership between the NDIC and HIDTA Program for preparation of annual assessments depicting drug trafficking trends and developments in HIDTA Program areas. The report has been coordinated with the HIDTA, is limited in scope to HIDTA jurisdictional boundaries, and draws upon a wide variety of sources within those boundaries.

Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

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Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



## **Executive Summary**

The overall drug threat to the Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) remained relatively consistent over the past year. Hawaii HIDTA officials report that ice methamphetamine, marijuana, controlled prescription drugs (CPDs), cocaine, and heroin are their leading drug concerns.<sup>1</sup> Ice methamphetamine poses the greatest drug threat to the state as Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and local criminal groups continue to supply the drug to the state from sources in Mexico and U.S. western states, principally California and Nevada.<sup>2</sup> Cannabis cultivators continue to exploit Hawaii's state medical marijuana laws to conduct illegal grows.<sup>a</sup> Marijuana abusers are also taking advantage of these laws, resulting in a dramatic increase in the number of individuals registering for medical marijuana certificates. The threat posed by CPDs is increasing and presents a growing concern for law enforcement officials in the state. Cocaine, heroin, and other dangerous drugs (ODDs), principally MDMA (3,4-methylene-dioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy), are persistent problems as well.

Key issues identified in the Hawaii HIDTA region include the following:

- Ice methamphetamine poses the greatest drug threat to Hawaii because of widespread availability fueled by Mexican DTOs and local criminal groups that continue to supply the drug to the state from Mexico and U.S. western states.
- Illegal cannabis cultivation and the resulting marijuana production and distribution continue at high levels throughout Hawaii, generating millions of dollars in illicit proceeds. Cannabis cultivators continue to exploit Hawaii's medical marijuana laws.<sup>3</sup>
- Methamphetamine and marijuana are consuming more drug treatment resources in Hawaii than all other drugs combined.
- The threat posed by CPDs to Hawaii is increasing, as evidenced by high availability and rising abuse of the drugs.

a. Despite Hawaii law, cannabis cultivation, marijuana production, and marijuana abuse are illegal under federal law.

#### Key Issues<sup>b</sup>

Ice methamphetamine poses the greatest drug threat to Hawaii because of widespread availability<sup>4</sup> fueled by Mexican DTOs and local criminal groups that continue to supply the drug to the state from Mexico and U.S. western states.

The impact to Hawaiian communities from the trafficking and abuse of ice methamphetamine is greater than that for any other drug.<sup>5</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS) 2011<sup>°</sup> data reveal that all five law enforcement agency respondents in the Hawaii HIDTA region report that ice methamphetamine is the greatest drug threat in their jurisdictions.<sup>6</sup> These respondents also report that ice methamphetamine is the drug that most contributes to violent and property crime in their areas.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the Western States Information Network (WSIN) indicates that the number of drug-related critical events<sup>d</sup> attributed to ice methamphetamine far exceed the number of critical events for any other drug.<sup>8</sup> For example, there were 2,612 drug-related critical events in 2010, of which 1,334 (51 percent) were methamphetamine-related.<sup>9</sup> (See Table B1 in Appendix B.)

Law enforcement reporting, NDTS 2011 results, and price and seizure data suggest that ice methamphetamine is available at high levels and that availability increased from 2008 through 2010.<sup>10</sup> NDTS 2011 data reveal that all law enforcement agency respondents in the Hawaii HIDTA region report that ice methamphetamine is available at high levels in their jurisdictions.<sup>11</sup> High and increasing methamphetamine availability is further evidenced by decreasing prices and increasing seizures.<sup>12</sup> Wholesale-level prices for ice methamphetamine in Hawaii decreased overall from 2008 (\$25,000 to \$50,000 per pound) to 2009 (\$28,000 to \$42,000 per pound) through 2010 (\$24,000 to \$32,000 per pound).<sup>13</sup> In addition, Hawaii HIDTA initiatives seized almost 87 kilograms of ice methamphetamine in 2008, 112 kilograms in 2009, and 125 kilograms in 2010.<sup>14</sup> (See Table 1 on page 3 and Table B2 in Appendix B.)

Mexican DTOs supply the ice methamphetamine available in the state.<sup>15</sup> Mexican traffickers obtain ice methamphetamine from sources operating in Mexico and U.S. western states, including California and Nevada.<sup>16</sup> Traffickers transport ice methamphetamine into Hawaii using couriers aboard commercial air flights and parcel shipments arriving at the Honolulu International Airport on Oahu, as well as shipping containers transporting cargo such as vehicles.<sup>17</sup> Most ice methamphetamine shipments are intended for distribution and consumption on Oahu and the neighboring islands.<sup>18</sup> However, traffickers also use Hawaii as a transshipment point for Mexican ice methamphetamine transported to the Pacific Basin, primarily Guam.<sup>19</sup> Ice methamphetamine is not typically produced in Hawaii; although in 2010, two small clandestine laboratories that were capable of producing small amounts for individual users were seized.<sup>20</sup> No methamphetamine laboratories were seized in Hawaii from 2007 through 2009.<sup>21</sup>

b. For a general overview of the drug threat in the Hawaii HIDTA region, see Appendix A.

c. The NDTS is conducted annually by NDIC to solicit information from a representative sample of state and local law enforcement agencies. NDIC uses this information to produce national, regional, and state estimates of various aspects of drug trafficking activities. NDTS data reflect agencies' perceptions based on their analysis of criminal activities that occurred within their juris-dictions during the past year. NDTS 2011 data cited in this report are raw, unweighted responses from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies solicited through either NDIC or the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), HIDTA program as of February 24, 2011.

d. WSIN defines a critical event as a law enforcement activity that requires law enforcement agents or officers to respond to a predetermined location to conduct a proactive investigation.

Drugs Seized	Amount Seized (in Kilograms)	Wholesale Value
Marijuana	1,316.053	\$14,474,962
Marijuana Plants (Outdoors)*	47,021.78 (estimated 103,572 plants)	\$503,024,566
Marijuana Plants (Indoors)*	462.423 (estimated 1,019 plants)	\$5,646,184
Cocaine (Powder)	24.944	\$935,400
Cocaine (Crack)	0.468	\$26,676
Methamphetamine (Powder)	0	0
Methamphetamine (Ice)	125.096	\$6,880,280
Heroin	2.59	\$166,050
MDMA (Dosage Units)	5,271	\$131,775

# Table 1. Quantity and Wholesale Value of Drugs Removed from the Marketplaceby the Hawaii HIDTA, 2010

Source: Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, March 2011.

\*ONDCP estimates that each seized marijuana plant equals 0.454 kilograms of marijuana.

# Illegal cannabis cultivation and the resulting marijuana production and distribution continue at high levels throughout Hawaii, generating millions of dollars in illicit proceeds. Cannabis cultivators continue to exploit Hawaii's medical marijuana laws.<sup>22</sup>

Illegal cannabis cultivation operations at both outdoor and indoor grow sites are pervasive throughout Hawaii.<sup>23</sup> HIDTA officials report that cannabis continues to be cultivated at high levels throughout the state, and the high level of cannabis eradication supports their reporting.<sup>24</sup> Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP) data indicate that 97,333 cannabis plants were eradicated from outdoor and indoor grow sites in Hawaii in 2010, an increase from the 51,532 plants eradicated in 2009.<sup>25</sup> While the number of cannabis plants eradicated increased almost 89 percent from 2009 through 2010, the number of plants eradicated in the state remains significantly lower than the number of plants eradicated in 2007 (139,089).<sup>26</sup> (See Table B2 in Appendix B.) Law enforcement officials report that the overall decrease observed in the state, particularly since 2007, is largely related to the constraints placed upon law enforcement eradication efforts-not a decrease in cannabis cultivation and subsequent marijuana production in the state.<sup>27</sup> For example, Hawaii HIDTA and Hawaii County Police Department officials report that the decrease in the number of cannabis plants eradicated since 2007 can be partially attributed to opposition on the Big Island<sup>e</sup> to federally funded cannabis eradication programs and locally enacted codes that impeded law enforcement efforts to effectively monitor and eradicate illegal grows.<sup>f, 28</sup> Moreover, HIDTA law enforcement officials report that high levels of cannabis cultivation and subsequent marijuana production have resulted in continued high levels of marijuana

e. The Island of Hawaii (Hawaii County) is commonly referred to as the Big Island.

f. In May 2008, the Hawaii County Council on the Big Island voted not to accept federal funding from DCE/SP for state and local law enforcement aerial surveillance and eradication. The council cited complaints from many residents who reportedly opposed the program because low-flying helicopter missions would violate their privacy and disrupt rural life. In addition, the council established a county ordinance (Hawaii County Code, Section 14, Article 16) making cannabis the lowest drug priority for county law enforcement officers.

availability in Hawaii, particularly on the Big Island.<sup>29</sup> (See text box.) NDTS 2011 data support this contention—all law enforcement agency respondents in the Hawaii HIDTA region report that marijuana is available at high levels in their jurisdictions.<sup>30</sup> Moreover, law enforcement officials report that illicit cannabis cultivation and subsequent marijuana production and distribution in the state generate millions of dollars in illicit proceeds.<sup>31</sup> To illustrate, Hawaii HIDTA initiatives seized more than 94,000 kilograms of marijuana plants with an estimated wholesale value of more than \$508 million. (See Table 1 on page 3.) In addition, most of the marijuana produced from the cannabis cultivated in the state is intended for local consumption.<sup>32</sup>

#### Cannabis Cultivation and Distribution Organization Disrupted on the Big Island

In July 2010, law enforcement officers arrested 14 members, including the leader, of a cannabis cultivation and distribution organization that masqueraded as a religious group that purportedly viewed marijuana as a sacramental herb.<sup>33</sup> The organization began operating its ministry on the Big Island in June 2000. During the investigation, officers determined that the organization solicited "donations" of \$400 for each ounce of marijuana distributed to members, which is also the average retail price in Hawaii. These "donations" generated revenues of more than \$1 million per year. At the conclusion of the investigation, law enforcement officers seized 3,000 cannabis plants, 33 pounds of processed marijuana, 9 weapons, \$30,000 in currency, and 4 properties valued at more than \$1 million, in addition to numerous items used for indoor and outdoor cannabis cultivation.<sup>34</sup>

Sources: Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area; U.S. Attorney, District of Hawaii.

Illegal cannabis cultivation has a long history in Hawaii.<sup>35</sup> For example, cannabis has been cultivated outdoors in the state for decades because the tropical climate and accessibility to natural water sources is conducive to year-round cultivation.<sup>36</sup> NDTS 2011 data reveal that all five law enforcement agency respondents in the Hawaii HIDTA region indicate that cannabis is grown outdoors in their jurisdictions.<sup>37</sup> Most outdoor cannabis cultivation takes place on the Big Island, Maui, Kauai, and Oahu, particularly in areas controlled by the state's Department of Land and Natural Resources on the Big Island and Maui.<sup>38</sup> Cannabis is also cultivated at indoor grow sites throughout the state—all law enforcement agency respondents in their jurisdictions.<sup>39</sup> Indoor cannabis cultivators generally use growing techniques that include lighting and irrigation systems, chemical fertilizers, and plant cloning.<sup>40</sup> Indoor grow sites typically average fewer plants than outdoor grows and range in size from a single closet to entire houses or larger buildings that are converted into grow operations.<sup>41</sup> Grow sites are operated primarily by local independent dealers and criminal groups of various ethnicities including Asian, Caucasian, and Pacific Islander.<sup>42</sup>

Cannabis cultivators continue to exploit Hawaii's medical marijuana laws to conduct illegal grows, resulting in a dramatic increase in the number individuals registering for medical marijuana certificates.<sup>43</sup> For example, the number of medical marijuana registrants for the state increased 260 percent from 2006 (2,241 individuals) through 2010 (8,067 individuals).<sup>44</sup> Additionally, on the Big Island—where most illicit cannabis cultivation takes place—there were 3,779 medical marijuana registrants as of March 2011;<sup>45</sup> however, only 13.6 percent of the state's population

resides there.<sup>g, 46</sup> Law enforcement officials report that they often find medical marijuana certificates while serving search and arrest warrants and seize far more cannabis plants and processed marijuana than allowed by state law.<sup>47</sup> Moreover, law enforcement officials routinely report that cannabis cultivators believe Hawaii has marijuana-friendly laws, resulting in a low risk of arrest and prosecution for illicit cannabis cultivation.<sup>48</sup>

#### Methamphetamine and marijuana are consuming more drug treatment resources in Hawaii than all other drugs combined.

Law enforcement officials indicate that methamphetamine and marijuana are available at high levels and these drugs remain a significant drug abuse problem on the islands.<sup>49</sup> For example, Hawaii medical examiner data reveal that the number of overdose deaths in Hawaii associated with methamphetamine, used alone or combined with other drugs, accounted for 34 of the 107 drug overdose deaths from January 1, 2010, to March 19, 2011 (the only period that data were available for inclusion in this report).<sup>50</sup> The implications of methamphetamine and marijuana abuse are further illustrated by drug treatment data.<sup>51</sup> There were more substance abuse admissions to publicly funded treatment facilities for these drugs in Hawaii during 2010 than admissions for cocaine, heroin, and other opiates, according to Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) data.<sup>52</sup> (See Table B4 in Appendix B.) The number of amphetamine (including methamphetamine-related) treatment admissions remains elevated despite an overall decrease in the number of such admissions from 2006 (2,181) through 2010 (1,834).<sup>53</sup> The number of marijuana-related treatment admissions trended upward, increasing nearly 27 percent from 2006 (1,621) through 2010 (2,051).<sup>54</sup> Adolescents and young adults (12 to 20 years old) accounted for nearly 80 percent of all marijuana-related treatment admissions during that period.<sup>55</sup> The costs associated with drug abuse, particularly methamphetamine abuse, are quite high, placing a significant burden on public health funding.<sup>56</sup> For example, a 2009 RAND Corporation study completed for the Hawaii Meth Project<sup>h</sup> estimated that annual health care costs related to methamphetamine abuse in Hawaii are more than \$700 million; comparable estimates for marijuana abuse were not available.<sup>57</sup>

# The threat posed by CPDs to Hawaii is increasing, as evidenced by high availability and rising abuse of the drugs.

Drug Enforcement Administration and Hawaii HIDTA officials report that CPDs pose an increasing threat to Hawaii.<sup>58</sup> CPDs, particularly prescription opioid pain relievers and benzodiazepines, are a growing concern to law enforcement officials because the drugs are available at high levels<sup>59</sup> and abuse is rising.<sup>60</sup> Drug treatment data also suggest rising CPD abuse.<sup>61</sup> The number of other opiate-related<sup>1</sup> treatment admissions in Hawaii has trended upward over the last 5 years, increasing 81 percent from 135 admissions in 2006 to 244 admissions in 2010.<sup>62</sup> Moreover, Hawaii medical examiner data reveal that the number of deaths in Hawaii associated with CPDs, used alone or combined with alcohol or other drugs, accounted for 69 of the 107 drug-related overdose deaths

g. In 2010, there were 7,687 registered medical marijuana patients in Hawaii, with 3,779 registered in Hawaii County on the Big Island. According to 2010 U.S. Census data, Hawaii has a total population of more than 1.36 million, of which 185,079 reside on the Big Island.

h. The Meth Project is a privately funded prevention program focused on reducing methamphetamine abuse through public service messages, public policy, and community outreach.

i. TEDs data report that the "other opiates" category includes admissions for nonprescription use of methadone, codeine, morphine, oxycodone, hydromorphone, meperidine, opium, and other drugs with morphine-like effects.

from January 1, 2010, to March 19, 2011.<sup>63</sup> CPDs are most frequently obtained from unscrupulous physicians who prescribe and pharmacies that dispense large quantities of CPDs to customers who have no legitimate need.<sup>64</sup> The most commonly diverted and abused CPDs include opioid pain relievers such as oxycodone products.<sup>65</sup> CPDs are abused by members of all demographics in the state.<sup>66</sup>

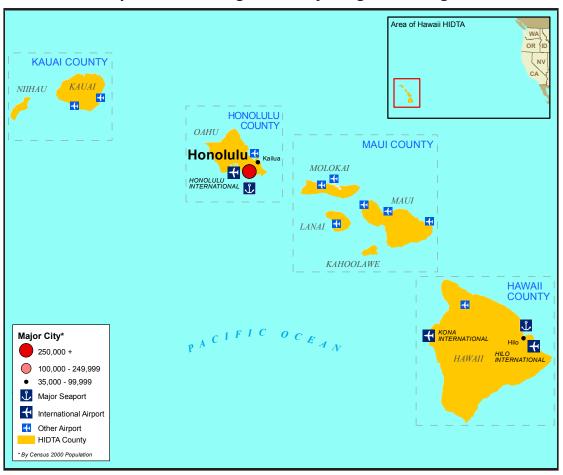
## Outlook

NDIC assesses with high confidence<sup>i</sup> that the trafficking and abuse of ice methamphetamine will remain the most significant drug threats to Hawaii in the near term. Mexican DTOs' dominance over ice methamphetamine distribution in Hawaii will remain unchallenged as no other trafficking group appears to have the sources of supply or organizational structure to replace them.

NDIC assesses with high confidence that the Hawaii HIDTA region will remain a significant cannabis cultivation and marijuana production area. The demand for marijuana in the state is strong and there are no indications that this will change in the near term. Illegal cannabis cultivators will continue to exploit the state's medical marijuana laws to conduct and expand their illicit cultivation and distribution operations.

j. High Confidence generally indicates that the judgments are based on high-quality information or that the nature of the issue makes it possible to render a solid judgment. Medium Confidence generally means that the information is credibly sourced and plausible but can be interpreted in various ways, or is not of sufficient quality or corroborated sufficiently to warrant a higher level of confidence. Low Confidence generally means that the information is too fragmented or poorly corroborated to make a solid analytic inference, or that there are significant concerns or problems with the sources.

## **Appendix A. Hawaii HIDTA Region Overview**



#### Map A1. Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

The Hawaii HIDTA region encompasses the eight main islands<sup>k</sup> (see Map A1) of the state, including a 1,500-mile chain of islets that span more than 6,400 square miles in the north central Pacific Ocean. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the West Coast of the continental United States (CONUS) and is between it and the Pacific countries of Oceania.<sup>1</sup> Regionally, Hawaii is a gateway to Pacific Rim countries and Asia. International airports and maritime ports, as well as a developed transportation infrastructure, facilitate not only the efficient flow of legitimate commerce, but also the transshipment and distribution of illicit drugs and drug proceeds into and through the state.<sup>67</sup>

Hawaii has a total population of more than 1.36 million, approximately 70 percent of whom reside in the city of Honolulu on the island of Oahu.<sup>68</sup> Honolulu is Hawaii's principal port of entry for travelers, mail, and cargo. The movement of passengers and commodities is facilitated by an international airport, an international postal facility, and two of the state's busiest commercial harbors. The diverse, largely transient (tourist) population of Hawaii provides a large customer

k. The eight main islands are Hawaii (the Big Island), Kahoolawe, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, Niihau, and Oahu.

I. Oceania, with an estimated population of 3.1 million, is a region consisting of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, as well as the thousands of coral atolls and volcanic islands in the South Pacific Ocean.

base and a heightened degree of anonymity for various drug traffickers and criminal groups operating in the state.<sup>69</sup> Consequently, Honolulu is the primary transshipment point for drugs and drug proceeds to and through the state and influences the drug situation on each of the other populated islands of the state.<sup>70</sup>

Drug traffickers exploit Hawaii's heavy reliance on the importation of consumer goods by air and maritime conveyances to transport illicit drugs to the state.<sup>71</sup> Most illicit drugs are transported into the Honolulu International Airport on Oahu through the international postal facility or by couriers aboard commercial flights.<sup>72</sup> While most of the illicit drugs transported to Oahu are abused there, some drugs are transported on interisland flights to neighboring islands for subsequent distribution.<sup>73</sup> Additionally, five of the eight islands have direct flight service to and from major cities on the U.S. mainland, Asia, and Canada.<sup>74</sup>

The maritime conveyance of illicit drugs in transit to and from the CONUS is perhaps the most significant intelligence gap with regard to the drug situation in Hawaii and a great concern among federal, state, and local law enforcement.<sup>75</sup> Hawaii's system of commercial harbors consists of 10 harbors on six islands through which the majority of the commercial goods are imported to the state.<sup>76</sup> Limited information and resources make detection and interdiction efforts at these facilities extremely challenging for law enforcement officials.<sup>77</sup>

Mexican DTOs are the primary wholesale drug distributors in Hawaii while local traffickers are the primary midlevel and retail-level distributors.<sup>78</sup> Mexican DTOs routinely transport multikilogram quantities of ice methamphetamine as well as smaller quantities of powder cocaine and Mexican black tar heroin from sources in Mexico and U.S. western states through couriers on commercial air flights, parcel delivery services, and shipping containers transporting cargo such as vehicles.<sup>79</sup> Hawaii HIDTA law enforcement officials have noted an increased presence of Mexican DTOs operating in the region that supply midlevel and retail-level distributors.<sup>80</sup> Midlevel and retail-level drug sales are primarily conducted by local Caucasian distributors and members of local Pacific Islander groups.<sup>81</sup> These groups are typically composed of native Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Hispanic, and Caucasian individuals who were born and raised in Hawaii and share either familial or close social ties.<sup>82</sup> Local traffickers also travel to U.S. western states to purchase drugs directly from Mexican DTOs.<sup>83</sup> To illustrate, a midlevel trafficker in Maui routinely traveled to the West Coast of the CONUS and purchased multipound quantities of ice methamphetamine and cocaine from members of a Mexican DTO operating in Tulare. California.<sup>84</sup> The Maui trafficker would then return to Maui with the drugs concealed inside plastic containers of creatine (a nutritional supplement) that were hidden inside his checked luggage.<sup>85</sup> In August 2010, two members of the Mexican DTO were sentenced for their roles in supplying ice methamphetamine and cocaine to the Maui trafficker.<sup>86</sup>

Ice methamphetamine and marijuana are the principal drug threats to Hawaii.<sup>87</sup> Widespread trafficking and abuse of these drugs are unparalleled by any other illicit drug in the region.<sup>88</sup> Methamphetamine remains the greatest drug threat to the state.<sup>89</sup> Decreasing methamphetamine prices and increasing seizures suggest that ice methamphetamine is available at high levels and that availability increased from 2008 through 2010.<sup>90</sup> Cannabis cultivation and the resulting marijuana production, distribution, and abuse pose serious concerns to law enforcement officers.<sup>91</sup>

Cannabis is grown at outdoor and indoor cultivation sites in the region by Asian, Caucasian and local Pacific Islander criminal groups and independent dealers.<sup>92</sup> High-potency marijuana is most popular among abusers.<sup>93</sup> In Honolulu at midyear 2010, wholesale prices for locally produced hydroponic marijuana were \$3,000 to \$6,000 per pound.<sup>94</sup> In addition, Hawaii HIDTA Airport Interdiction initiatives routinely seize packages containing processed marijuana received from parcel delivery services that were shipped from independent traffickers in U.S. western states.<sup>95</sup>

CPDs pose a growing concern to Hawaii because they are widely available<sup>96</sup> and increasingly abused.<sup>97</sup> CPDs are most frequently obtained from unscrupulous physicians who prescribe and pharmacies that dispense large quantities of CPDs to customers who have no legitimate need.<sup>98</sup> The most commonly diverted and abused CPDs include opioid pain relievers such as oxycodone products.<sup>99</sup> Moreover, the number of other opiate-related treatment admissions has trended upward over the last 5 years, increasing 81 percent from 135 admissions in 2006 to 244 admissions in 2010.<sup>100</sup> CPDs are abused by members of all demographics in the state.<sup>101</sup>

The distribution and abuse of cocaine, heroin, and other dangerous drugs continue to be persistent problems to the state, but these drugs pose a lower threat than ice methamphetamine, marijuana, and CPDs.<sup>102</sup> Mexican DTOs and criminal groups supply small quantities of Mexican black tar heroin and powder cocaine to local retailers operating in the state.<sup>103</sup> Pacific Islander and other local independent dealers are the primary retail level distributors of black tar heroin that is packaged in balloons or papers containing one-eighth to one-quarter gram.<sup>104</sup> Retail heroin distribution commonly occurs within tightly knit communities and is sold from private residences.<sup>105</sup> Powder cocaine is most available on the islands of Oahu and Maui, while crack cocaine is most available in the Chinatown area of Oahu.<sup>106</sup> Crack cocaine is converted on a limited basis at or near distribution sites on an as-needed basis, typically in ounce quantities, by local street-level distributors.<sup>107</sup> MDMA is available and abused in the state.<sup>108</sup> The drug is distributed primarily in nightclubs within the Waikiki district of Honolulu by Asian criminal groups and street gangs.<sup>109</sup> Availability of synthetic cannabinoids decreased in the state after they were brought under state scheduling in 2009 and federal scheduling in 2011.<sup>110</sup>

Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

## **Appendix B. Tables**

#### Table B1. Western States Information Network Drug-Related Critical Incidents, 2009–2010

Drug Type	2009	2010
Methamphetamine	1,148	1,334
Marijuana	439	347
Cocaine	224	121
Heroin	11	10
Hallucinogen (MDMA)	27	31

Source: Western States Information Network.

#### Table B2. Drugs Seized in the Hawaii HIDTA Region, in Kilograms, 2006–2010

Drugs Seized	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Marijuana	122.393	402.904	369.830	8,026.488**	1,316.053
Marijuana Plants (Outdoors)*	92,102.511 (estimated 202,869 plants)	60,380.182 (estimated 132,999 plants)	51,327.319 (estimated 113,056 plants)	29,671.445 (estimated 65,356 plants)	47,021.78 (estimated 103,572 plants)
Marijuana Plants (Indoors)*	0	3,485.261 (estimated 7,677 plants)	1,463.492 (estimated 3,224 plants)	326.985 (estimated 720 plants)	462.423 (estimated 1,019 plants)
Cocaine (Powder)	35.691	26.925	30.166	15.552	24.944
Cocaine (Crack)	0.442	0.672	0.346	0.095	0.468
Methamphetamine (Powder)	0.994	0	0.292	0	0
Methamphetamine (Ice)	81.368	66.620	86.860	111.671	125.096
Heroin	0.769	0.199	3.018	1.428	2.59
MDMA (Dosage Units)	1,650	5,622	7,042	1,449	5,271

Source: Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, March 2010.

\*The ONDCP estimates that each seized marijuana plant equals 0.454 kilograms of marijuana.

\*\*The reason for the substantial increase in the amount of marijuana seized from 2008 through 2009 is unknown.

# Table B3. Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program, State of Hawaii,2007–2010

Category	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cultivated Plants (Outdoor)	131,355	102,398	47,159	96,623
Cultivated Plants (Indoor)	7,734	373	4,373	710
Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated	139,089	102,771	51,532	97,333
Bulk Processed Marijuana in Pounds	429	107	377	115
Number of Arrests	600	57	604	119
Number of Weapons Seized	51	7	39	23

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration, Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.

# Table B4. Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions to Publicly Funded Facilities, Hawaii,2006–2010

Drug Type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Amphetamines (Including Methamphetamine)	2,181	2,184	1,918	1,982	1,834
Marijuana	1,621	1,782	1,961	2,005	2,051
Cocaine (Smoked and Other Route)	302	245	246	216	153
Heroin	160	148	144	129	104
Other opiates*	135	173	195	210	244
Other Drugs (Including Hallucinogens, PCP, Other Stimulants, Tranquilizers, Sedatives, and Inhalants)	28	31	49	50	46
Alcohol (Only and with Secondary Drug)	2,021	2,353	2,822	2,578	2,126
Other/Unknown	70	76	75	105	58
Total	6,518	6,992	7,410	7,275	6,616

Source: Treatment Episode Data Set, data run date June 13, 2011.

\* TEDs data report that the "other opiates" category includes admissions for nonprescription use of methadone, codeine, morphine, oxycodone,

hydromorphone, meperidine, opium, and other drugs with morphine-like effects.

## **Endnotes**

- 1. Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), response to the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) Request for Information (RFI), June 3, 2011.
- 2. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Los Angeles Division, response to NDIC RFI, June 9, 2011; Hawaii HIDTA, response to NDIC RFI, June 3, 2011.
- 3. Hawaii HIDTA, *2011 Threat Assessment and Strategy*, p. 13; Hawaii State Department of Public Safety, Narcotics Enforcement Division data; Hawaii County Police Department (PD), interview by NDIC intelligence analyst (IA), March 21, 2011.
- 4. Hawaii HIDTA, response to NDIC RFI, June 3, 2011.
- NDIC, National Drug Threat Survey (NDTS), 2011; Western States Information Network (WSIN), drug data, 2010; Hawaii HIDTA, 2011 Threat Assessment and Strategy, p. 1; Hawaii HIDTA, HI-Impact Task Force Commanders, interview by NDIC IA, March 21–24, 2011.
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