



MISSISSIPPI BUREAU OF NARCOTICS DRUG THREAT ASSESSMENT

March 2025

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Bureau of Narcotics
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MISSISSIPPI BUREAU OF NARCOTICS

DRUG THREAT ASSESSMENT

MARCH 2025

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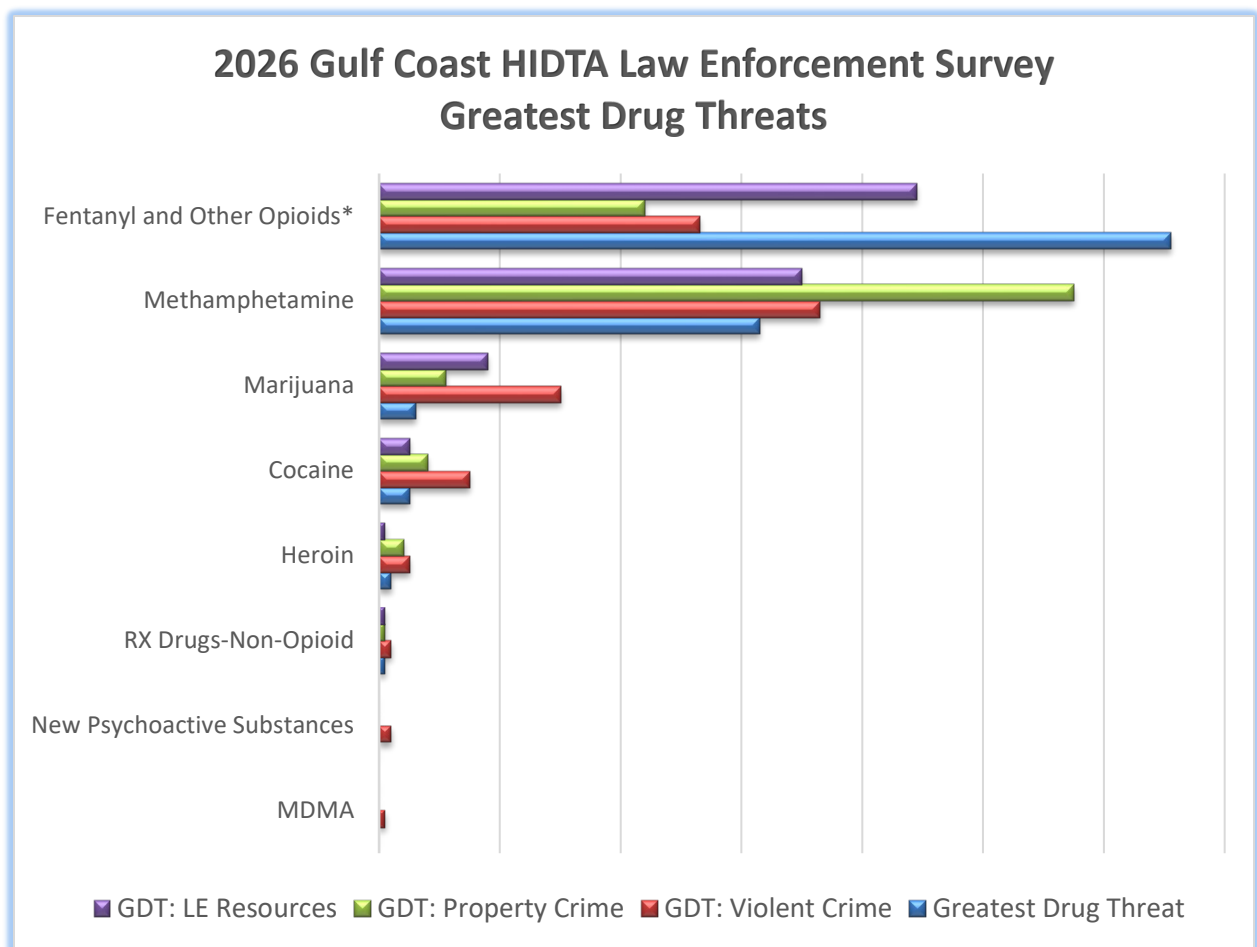
I. SCOPE

The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN) Drug Threat Assessment is produced each year to identify, quantify, and prioritize the nature, extent, and scope of the threat of illegal drugs and related crimes in Mississippi. It examines the illicit drug marketplace and threats posed by drug trafficking and money laundering organizations within the state, along with additional contributing factors including geographic location, types of industries, and cultural and economic diversities that may enhance access to illicit drugs. It is also intended to help policymakers, law enforcement and community leaders understand the nature and extent of drug problems in Mississippi, enabling them to formulate effective strategies to allocate resources appropriately to address those challenges. This document fulfills grant requirements issued by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and has been approved by the Gulf Coast HIDTA Executive Board.

(Data throughout this document is preliminary due to delayed reporting and backlogged crime lab results)

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DRUG THREATS IN MISSISSIPPI



Fentanyl & Other Opioids

Illegally manufactured synthetic opioids pose the greatest drug threat in Mississippi. Fentanyl is the most common, but drug traffickers are adapting their fentanyl production methods in response to increased law enforcement pressure on precursor chemical supply chains. This includes modifying existing chemicals and substituting alternative substances. Some of these illicit opioids can have potencies up to 10,000 times greater than morphine and 100 times greater than fentanyl. While fentanyl is linked to a significant number of overdoses, these other synthetic opioids have also been detected in recent years. MBN has seized fentanyl in various forms, including powder, pills, and liquids. Fentanyl is frequently found adulterated with other drugs, such as opioids, stimulants, depressants, and hallucinogens. Sources of fentanyl in Mississippi include both in-state production and trafficking from outside the state, primarily through mail and during vehicle interdictions.

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine remains a major drug threat in Mississippi due to its significant impact on public safety. The 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Survey data confirms that methamphetamine is a primary driver of both violent and property crime across the state. High demand for methamphetamine persists, while trafficking, distribution, and transportation within the region have either increased or remained stable. The readily available supply of methamphetamine exacerbates these concerns. This is further evidenced by unprecedented levels of methamphetamine seizures by the MBN in 2024. Compared to the previous year, 2024 seizures surged by 72%, and a staggering 163% increase is observed compared to 2022. This dramatic rise in seizures strongly indicates a significant increase in the availability and trafficking of this dangerous drug within the region. Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) are the primary source of methamphetamine production and distribution in Mississippi. While smaller domestic clandestine labs also produce and distribute methamphetamine, their output is significantly less. Retail distribution is primarily handled by street gangs and local independent dealers who are often supplied by Mexican DTOs. However, independent producers also distribute smaller amounts of their own product.

Marijuana

The increasing availability of high-potency THC products, the potential for adulteration with other substances, and the growing appeal of marijuana among younger populations contribute to a significant and evolving drug threat. Furthermore, the implementation of the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act (SB 2095) has presented new challenges for law enforcement, including the enforcement of complex regulations and the allocation of resources to ensure public safety. Even with this new program, Mississippi still sees cultivated marijuana and THC products, like edibles, oils, wax, and hashish, transported to Mississippi from legal dispensaries in other states and from Mexico. Since passing the Act, seizure of illegal marijuana increased 234% in 2023 and 81% in 2024 and the increase is even higher when compared to the previous five years.

Heroin

Heroin seizures in 2024 showed a slight increase compared to 2023, however, they remain significantly lower than in previous years. Despite the decrease in seizures, heroin continues to

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pose a significant threat. A concerning trend is the high prevalence of fentanyl-laced heroin, significantly increasing the risk of overdose. White heroin remains the most common type encountered in Mississippi, although MBN also seized brown heroin and black tar heroin in 2024

Cocaine

While cocaine seizures declined in 2024 compared to the previous year, there was an increase in both the number of MBN cases involving cocaine and the number of individuals admitted for cocaine-related substance abuse. Cocaine's highly addictive nature, its neurotoxic effects, and its strong association with violent crime, gangs, and drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) solidify it as a persistent and significant threat to public safety. Most of the cocaine entering Mississippi is trafficked by American and Mexican DTOs through Texas and other Southwest Border states. Distribution within the state is primarily conducted by criminal groups, street gangs, and independent dealers

Diverted Pharmaceuticals

In 2024, there was an increase in cases involving the diversion of prescription pharmaceuticals, particularly depressants and stimulants. Conversely, seizures of prescription opioids and prescription drug overdose fatalities decreased. A concerning trend was an increase in pharmacy burglaries. Pharmaceutical diversion remains the primary method of obtaining prescription drugs illegally. However, the internet and the trafficking of pharmaceuticals into the state via vehicles or postal services also contribute to the illicit drug supply. The threat of pharmaceutical diversion is exacerbated by the involvement of drug trafficking organizations, corrupt medical professionals, and the increasing frequency of pharmacy burglaries.

New Psychoactive Substances

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), often referred to as "designer drugs," and plant-based hallucinogens pose a significant and evolving threat. These substances are often manufactured clandestinely to mimic the effects of other illicit drugs, such as marijuana and LSD. The unpredictable potency and potential for unknown or harmful ingredients within these substances pose significant health risks. Furthermore, NPS can be highly addictive and are readily accessible through various channels, including gas stations, adult stores, smoke shops, and online platforms. In 2024, there was a notable increase in LSD and PCP seizures compared to previous years. MBN statistics indicate an increase in MDMA seizures as well, however, a significant portion of these substances have been submitted for laboratory analysis, and the results are pending. Therefore, some of these substances may be identified as methamphetamine upon further analysis.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL AND RELATED THREATS

GEOGRAPHY

The transporting of illegal drugs into and through Mississippi has been a significant problem for law enforcement for numerous years. Mississippi is ideally suited with its interstate system, deep water and river ports, and air and rail systems as the “Crossroads of the South” to facilitate drug movement from the South Texas/Mexico area and Gulf ports to the entire Midwest and Eastern United States. The state is comprised of 82 counties, located within 47,233 square miles, the majority offering rural agricultural areas. Mississippi has 62 miles of coastline extending from Louisiana to Alabama. Mississippi lies within 500 miles of more than 115 million consumers and 136 major metropolitan areas. Mississippi has an elaborate system of interstate highways and major thoroughfares that make traveling to these metropolitan areas quick and easy. Just like every other state, Mississippi has commercial bus lines that service the state. Mississippi also has seven passenger airports, and numerous small or private air strips located within the state. In Mississippi alone, primary rail carriers on the nearly 3,000 miles of train track include the Illinois Central Railroad, Kansas City Southern, Burlington Northern, Columbus & Greenville Railroad Company, and Norfolk Southern System. Amtrak passenger service to and from New Orleans, Louisiana to Chicago, Illinois transits the entire state with major stops in-state providing yet another conduit for transporting and distributing large quantities of all types of drugs.

HIGHWAY INTERDICTION IN MISSISSIPPI



Mississippi's numerous highways provide easy avenues to circumvent primary weigh stations situated along the Interstate System. Most drugs transit the state eastbound and northbound, originating in source areas of the Southwest Border and the West Coast. Currency and other forms of proceeds normally move across the state in a westbound direction, destined for the drug source areas. With the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) came additional considerations for detection of drug smuggling organizations. A 2024 Freight Waves article, "*Top 5 US-Mexico trade stories of 2024*," highlights the significant growth in trade and traffic between the United States and Mexico. Mexico has become the United States' leading trading partner, exceeding both China and Canada in total trade volume. However, this surge in trade is accompanied by persistent challenges, including cargo theft targeting carriers and truck driver labor disputes.

In fiscal year 2024, the Gulf Coast HIDTA/BLOC Watch Center documented 94 drug-related and 38

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currency-related incidents on Mississippi highways, primarily along interstates. Mississippi cross-designated officers made significant seizures, including 3,198 pounds of marijuana, 452 pounds of THC products and over 1 million dosage units, 70 pounds of cocaine, 49 pounds of methamphetamine and 70 pounds of fentanyl.

Law enforcement actions resulted in the seizure of over \$2 million in U.S. currency, 20 vehicles, and 23 weapons. 2 stolen vehicles and 6 stolen weapons were also recovered. 88 arrests were made, along with 23 stops involving 28 undocumented individuals and 61 stops involving known drug trafficking organization (DTO) or gang members. Most of these stops and seizures occurred on interstate highways. These actions led to the identification of numerous targets and subsequent investigations, some of which have already resulted in the identification and arrest of multiple DTO members.

Most highway interdiction seizures made in Mississippi were transient loads of drugs passing through the state to other areas of the country. However, intelligence reveals that shipments of drugs destined for Mississippi are being interdicted in other states such as Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. Most of the vehicles intercepted in 2024 were third party vehicles, but the use of rental vehicles, freight companies, parcel services, and the United States Postal Service is an issue as well.

Interstate	Cocaine	Marijuana	Methamphetamine	Fentanyl	Currency Seized
I-10	39	296	.51	22.45	\$1,179,117.00
I-20	28	672	44	22	\$577,938.00
I-55	0	.25	0	0	\$108,538
I-59	0	0	3.13	.000001	\$30,399.02
<i>Drug amounts are in pounds</i>					

Mississippi Seizures by Interstate Highways; Source: Gulf Coast HIDTA/BLOC Watch Center

Mississippi's Interstate Highway System is the favored route for drug traffickers moving illegal substances into and through the state, due to the unrestricted access it provides. While Mississippi has four major interstates and nine major highways, and law enforcement actively patrols these roads, including a growing number of specialized drug interdiction units, limited budgets and resources hinder efforts to fully combat drug smuggling on the state's highways.

The four major interstates that connect Mississippi to major metropolitan areas in the U.S. are:

- I-55 stretches the entire length of the state offering a straight route from the Gulf Coast to Chicago and other northeastern cities with high demands for illegal drugs.
- I-20 runs the width of the state providing an easy route from the West Coast drug-producing cities to the East Coast.
- I-55 and I-20 intersect in Jackson providing many transportation possibilities to drug traffickers.

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- I-59 joins I-20 in Meridian and intersects I-10 in Louisiana.
- I-10 follows the coastal area of Mississippi giving traffickers access to Birmingham, Mobile, New Orleans, Houston, Montgomery, Miami, Atlanta, and other major drug distribution areas in the southeast.
- Mississippi Highway 78 has changed to Interstate 22 which runs through North Mississippi from Memphis, Tennessee into Alabama and Hwy 67.
- I-69, also called the “NAFTA Superhighway, is proposed to run from Texas to Michigan to help trade with Mexico and Canada. A portion runs through Mississippi at the Tunica and De Soto County line along MS 713 near Tunica along a rural route to I-55 at the south end of I-239 near Hernando. The route runs concurrently with I-55 to Memphis.
- I-269 in Mississippi was completed in October 2018. It begins at an interchange with I-69 near Hernando and travels eastward towards Byhalia and has an interchange with I-22. It then turns northeasterly toward Tennessee to TN 385. I-269 serves as a bypass around Memphis, TN.
- I-14 is a proposed interstate that is to run from West Texas through Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama and ends in Georgia. It will help link military bases across these states and help economic growth in these areas. In Mississippi, it will run from Natchez to Laurel and Meridian.

Along with the convenience of interstates, Mississippi also has numerous state highways that provide drug traffickers with a variety of avenues of approach to their target areas. State highways 51, 61, 45 and 49 run north/south, and highways 6, 26, 72, 78, 80, 82, 84, 90 and 98 run east/west. These highways intersect the interstates and permit additional opportunities for drug traffickers to transport their drugs undetected.

DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the United States Census Bureau, as of July 1, 2024, the population of Mississippi was estimated to be 2,943,045. The population has grown only modestly since the estimate for the previous year, but it is a decrease from 2020. Mississippi currently has a population growth rate of 0.30%, which is one of the slowest in the nation. The population of the state of Mississippi consists of about 51.5% of the population being female, while 48.5% were male. Likewise, 58.7% of the population is Caucasian and 37.8% of the population is Black. Overall, the Hispanic population in Mississippi is steadily growing. The Hispanic or Latino population in Mississippi makes up 3.9%. Those that identify as American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islanders, and those that identify as two or more races only make up about 3.5% of the population in Mississippi.

Mississippi has 82 counties, and Hinds County is the most populous with 237,085 residents. This county includes the state capital and most populous city, Jackson. However, Hinds County has experienced a population decline of 3.52% since 2010, despite comprising 7.94% of the state's total population. The second most populous county is Harrison County with 206,650 people, followed by DeSoto County with 182,001. In contrast to Hinds County, both Harrison and DeSoto counties have seen double-digit population growth since 2010, with increases of 10.01% and 12.50%, respectively. DeSoto County also stands out as the most densely populated county in Mississippi, with 989.71 people per square mile

ECONOMICS

Mississippi's population in 2024 reflects a -0.3% annualized decline over the past five years, ranking it 47th among US states for growth. Mississippi businesses employed 1,142,386 people in 2024, with average annual employment growth of 0.5%. The leading employment sectors are Manufacturing, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, and Healthcare and Social Assistance, while the unemployment rate was 2.9% in 2024. By revenue, the largest industries are Hospitals contributing \$11.4 billion, new car dealers contributing \$8.8 billion, and commercial banking contributing \$7.8 billion. The state's largest employers are Walmart Inc. with 25,926 employees, the State of Mississippi with 23,561 employees, and Toyota Motor Corp with 8,700 employees. The healthcare and social assistance, retail trade, and accommodation and food services sectors were the largest contributors to Mississippi employment in 2024, accounting for 44.3% of the state's total employment.

Agriculture is a cornerstone, employing about 17.4% of the state's workforce and featuring top commodities like poultry, soybeans, rice, cotton, and feed grains. Notably, Mississippi leads the nation in catfish production and is a top 10 producer of pulpwood, sweet potatoes, cotton, pine lumber, broilers, rice and peanuts.

The Mississippi Lottery was created to fund infrastructure and education across the state. Through June 30, 2028, the first \$80 million in net proceeds annually will go towards the State's Highway Fund for highway and bridge repair, renovation, and maintenance. Any proceeds exceeding \$80 million in a fiscal year will be deposited into the Education Enhancement Fund, supporting early childhood learning, classroom supplies, and other educational initiatives. According to mslotteryhome.com, the Mississippi Lottery Corporation generated \$477,581,306 in gross sales during the fiscal year, with a final transfer of \$125,102,375 to the state for FY24. In addition to its draw-style games, high-jackpot offerings, and growing selection of scratch-off tickets, the Mississippi Lottery launched Lotto America with EZ-Match on May 12, 2024. This in-state feature allows players to win up to \$500 instantly.

IV. MISSISSIPPI DRUG THREATS

OVERALL SCOPE OF DRUG THREATS

Illicit fentanyl poses a significant threat to public health and safety. Fentanyl-laced substances and emerging synthetic opioids are a significant concern. The affordability and accessibility of fentanyl have significantly reduced prescription opioid and heroin seizures, Methamphetamine remains a major concern due to its high accessibility, its association with violent and property crimes, and the strain it places on law enforcement resources. The legalization of marijuana and the evolving marijuana market, characterized by high-THC products and increasing appeal to young people, presents a growing challenge. Cocaine numbers are increasing, and it continues to be a significant threat, driven by its high addiction rate and the violence associated with its trafficking networks. The abuse of prescription drugs persists as a serious public health issue. The seizure of prescription opioids is down but the seizure of depressants, stimulants and steroids is up along with overdoses involving non-opioid prescription drugs. The constantly evolving nature of synthetic drugs

presents an ongoing challenge for law enforcement agencies. Organized crime, including street gangs and more sophisticated criminal networks, continues to thrive, adapting its strategies to evade detection and exploit the illegal drug trade. In response to these challenges, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN) established the Violent Crimes Task Force in August 2022. This collaborative effort aims to enhance law enforcement capabilities in North Mississippi by assisting local law enforcement agencies with investigating crimes committed by violent offenders involving guns, drugs, terroristic threats, sex trafficking, and human trafficking.

FENTANYL AND OTHER OPIOIDS

ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT

Fentanyl is the fastest growing threat in the state of Mississippi. Fentanyl is so cheaply manufactured that it is being used to cut other illicit substances to further the profits of drug dealers and trafficking organizations. More than two-thirds of the respondents to the 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey said that drug trafficking and availability of fentanyl increased in 2024. Nearly 71% of respondents ranked fentanyl and other opioids, as the greatest drug threat facing Mississippi.



ABUSE

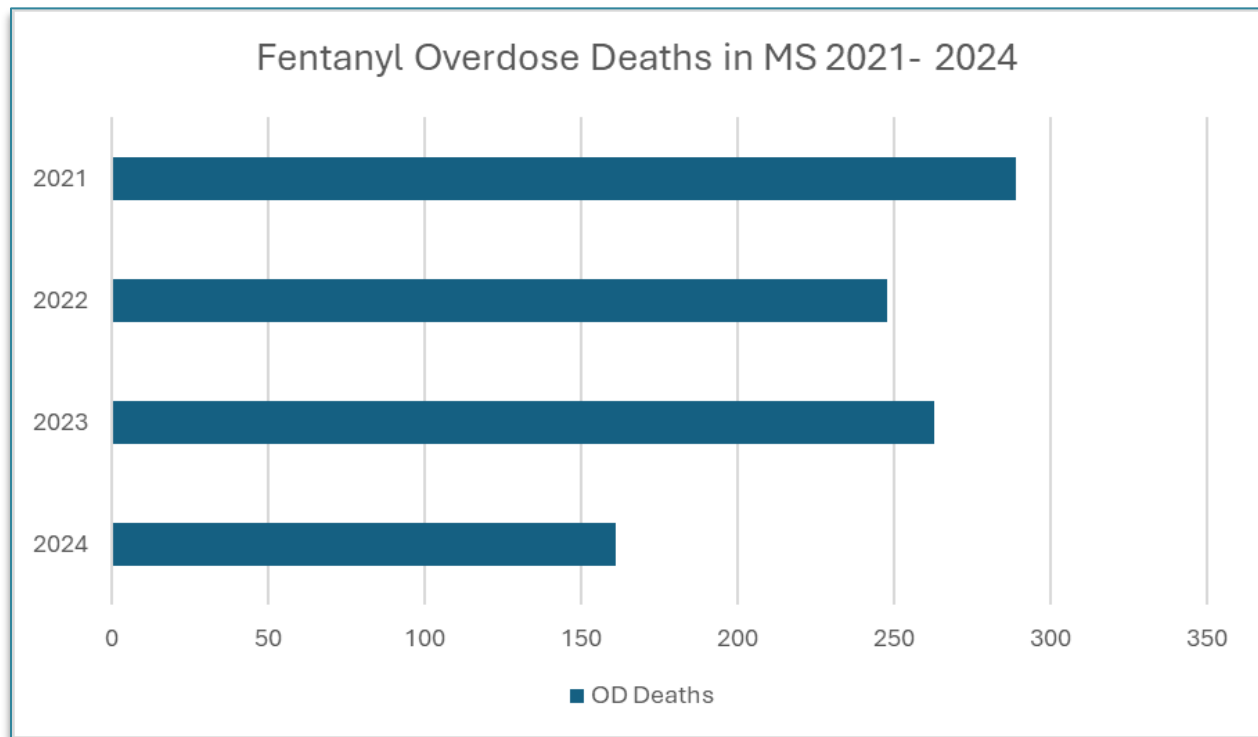
A rapid increase in the prescribing of opioids started in the 1990s led to the current opioid epidemic. With prescription opioids now being harder to obtain, fentanyl and other illicit opioids are more in demand. Cartels and many local drug dealers are cutting other drugs with fentanyl and selling on the street to increase profits. These drug distributors are selling fentanyl laced counterfeit pills that appear to be Oxycodone, Xanax, Percocet, or other similar drugs, causing overdose deaths involving fentanyl to rise.



In 2024, there were 161 overdose deaths involving fentanyl and its analogues reported to MBN. This represents a drop of 39% from 2023. Fentanyl and its analogues were involved in 54% of overdose deaths reported to MBN. This drop is likely due to the availability of naloxone and fentanyl test strips. There were at least 263

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overdose deaths involving fentanyl in 2023. There are still overdose deaths that have not been reported, and crime lab results that have not been completed. Although this number is up from last year's threat assessment, further increases are possible. There were at least 248 overdose deaths involving fentanyl in 2022, which is approximately 63% of all the overdose deaths reported for 2022. There were at least 289 overdose deaths involving fentanyl in 2021, which is approximately 58% of all the overdose deaths reported for 2021. Out of total opioid deaths, fentanyl was involved in approximately 80% for 2021 and 2022, 86% for 2023, and 97% as reported to MBN.



AVAILABILITY

MBN has seen a steady increase in the number of cases initiated involving fentanyl over the past four years. MBN initiated 241 cases involving fentanyl in 2024 compared to 130 cases in 2023, 66 cases in 2022, 39 cases in 2021, and 19 cases in 2020. 95 arrests were made by MBN for fentanyl related charges including sale and possession during 2024. MBN is also noticing an increase in the numbers of cases where other drugs, particularly counterfeit prescription pills, have been determined to contain fentanyl. As expected, the counterfeit drugs were believed to be some other drug, but crime lab results indicated the presence of fentanyl. In 2024, MBN seized over 13,000 grams of fentanyl and over 27,000 dosage units of fentanyl as counterfeit pills.

The use of fentanyl appears to be increasing due to the increase in availability. According to the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH), 344 people sought treatment for fentanyl as their primary substance from January 1 through December 31, 2024. Fentanyl is a major factor in substance abuse cases reported by DMH. The Mississippi Forensics Laboratory analyzed 194 cases of fentanyl during the calendar year for 2023, which may have been submitted for drug analysis prior to 2023.

PRODUCTION



Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that can be prescribed to treat patients with chronic pain or severe pain following surgery. It is a Schedule II controlled substance like morphine but 50 to 100 times more potent. Transdermal patches or lozenges are prescribed forms of fentanyl, which can be diverted for misuse and abuse. Fentanyl is also illicitly manufactured primarily in foreign clandestine labs and smuggled through Mexico to the United States. Fentanyl is

being mixed with other illicit drugs like methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin to increase the potency of those drugs and is sold as powders, nasal sprays, and counterfeit prescription opioids pills. Counterfeit pills are made without any official supervision or quality control so often counterfeit pills contain lethal doses of fentanyl. A lethal dose of fentanyl may be as small as 2 mg for an adult. 2 mg of fentanyl is comparable in mass to 10-20 grains of salt. According to DEA, 42% of pills tested for fentanyl contain a lethal dose. There is significant risk that illegal drugs have been intentionally contaminated with fentanyl increasing the possibility of death.

TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION

China and Mexico are the largest producers of fentanyl that makes its way into the United States. Fentanyl is smuggled into the United States via shipping containers, mail or across the U.S. Mexico border. Once in the US, fentanyl is transported into and through Mississippi via three major routes: Interstate 10, Interstate 20, and Interstate 55.

ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Fentanyl related violence is increasing in Mississippi. To further their drug activities and protect their turf, gangs and drug trafficking organizations commit violent crimes such as assault, burglary, homicide, and robbery. It is common to locate multiple firearms during investigations associated with fentanyl. In the state of Mississippi, local drug dealers and/or regional drug traffickers are dangerous because of the suspects' possible gang and drug cartel affiliations. Abusers are commonly known to crimes to purchase these drugs.



METHAMPHETAMINE

ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT

Methamphetamine poses a continuing and substantial drug threat to Mississippi. Its connection to violent and property crimes, the involvement of Mexican drug cartels, and the serious short- and long-term health consequences, including a rise in overdoses, are of great concern. The shift from locally produced methamphetamine to highly potent versions manufactured in Mexican "super labs" has changed the landscape of the drug's availability and impact. The increased potency and purity, along with a lower cost, make it more accessible. Furthermore, the practice of mixing methamphetamine with other dangerous drugs is likely a significant factor in the rising number of overdoses involving the substance. In 2024, 44 % of overdoses reported to MBN involved methamphetamine.

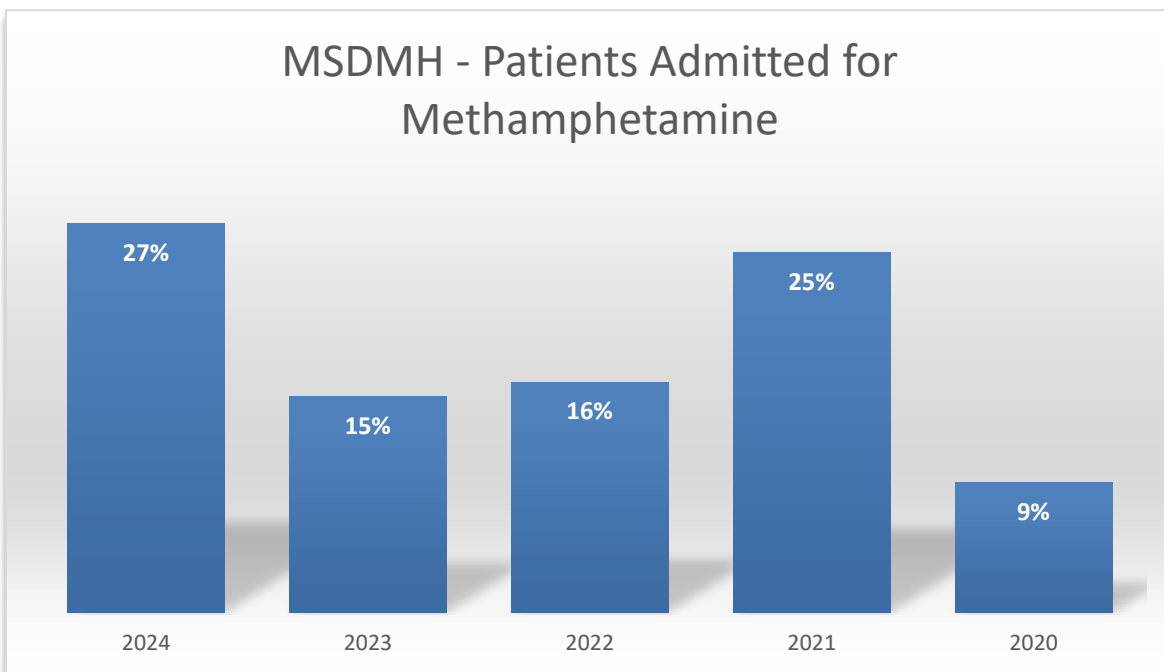
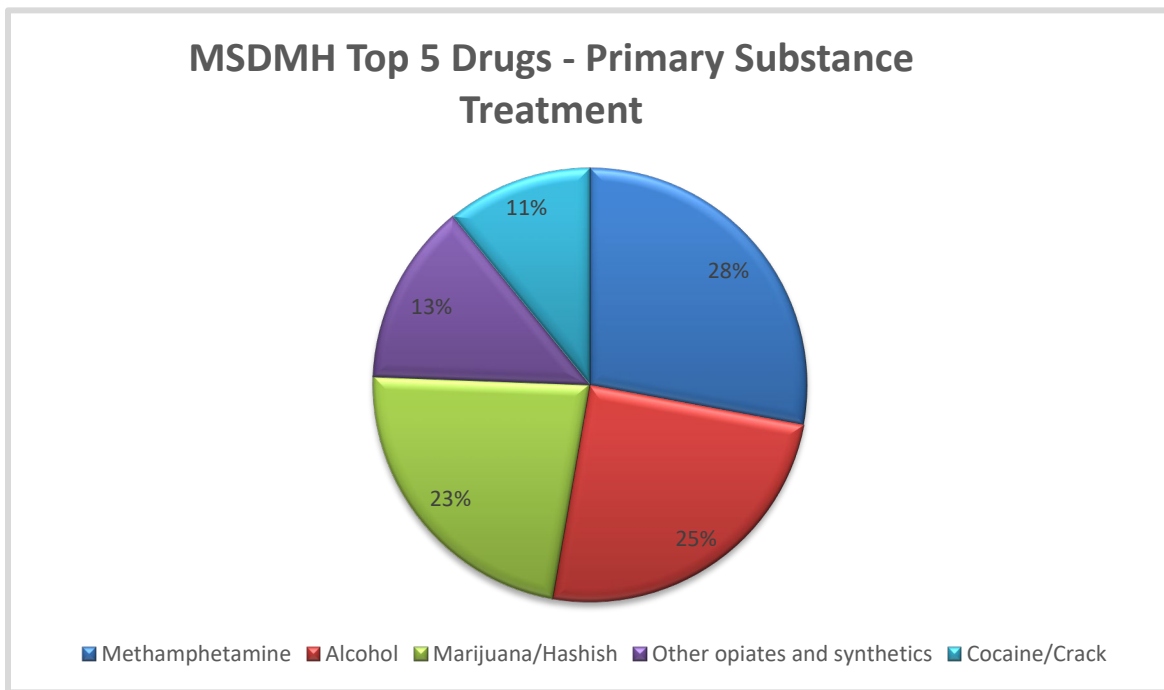


ABUSE

Almost all the methamphetamine in Mississippi, and the United States, comes from Mexico. This form of methamphetamine, also called P2P methamphetamine, is a highly addictive and destructive stimulant. The potential for a higher concentration of the d-isomer, which intensifies psychoactive effects, exists, however, potency can fluctuate significantly between batches. The article "What is P2P Meth?", Treatment Magazine, 24 March 2022, states, "Whereas previous versions of meth produced feelings of euphoria, alertness and elevated mood, P2P seems to drive users toward isolation and neurological descent—paranoia, psychosis, delusions, hallucinations—while precipitating more rapid physical deterioration." The potential for a higher concentration of the d-isomer, which intensifies psychoactive effects, exists; however, potency can fluctuate significantly between batches.

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According to the 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Drug Treatment and Prevention Survey, 88% of respondents reported that the level of use for methamphetamine was high and 12% reported that the level of use was mild. Respondents also reported that methamphetamine was considered the second most significant threat, following fentanyl and other opioids. The Mississippi Department of Health reported 710 individuals (27%) were admitted for methamphetamine abuse as a primary substance in 2024. This is an increase in patient admittance when compared to the past several years, although 2021 was close.



AVAILABILITY



Due to its abundance and low cost, methamphetamine is in high demand among distributors because of its purity, which results in continuous and desirable "highs" for their customers or users. Illicit methamphetamine smuggled by Mexican cartel members is highly addictive and widely available throughout the state. The Mexican drug cartels, particularly the Sinaloa Drug Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), control the wholesale trafficking of methamphetamine and other drugs in the United States. Drug trafficking organizations at the national, regional, and local levels are heavily involved in methamphetamine distribution.

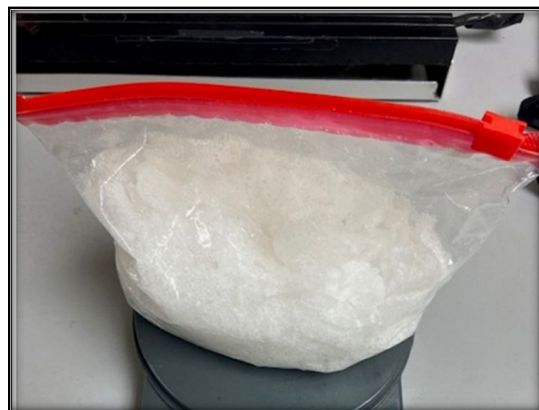
The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics initiated a total of 1,067 cases involving methamphetamine in 2024. This is an increase from 2023, which had a total of 991 methamphetamine cases. The numbers for 2023 and 2024 could be subject to adjustments based on the return of crime labs. Methamphetamine cases initiated in 2024 by MBN involved the seizure of approximately 599 combined pounds of solid methamphetamine, 362 milliliters of methamphetamine in solution, and 6,485.00 dosage units of methamphetamine.

ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Investigating drug traffickers has become increasingly dangerous due to the suspects' potential ties to drug cartels and gangs. Methamphetamine manufacturers and abusers display agitation and paranoia. This creates situations where violence is more likely to occur. When methamphetamine is created locally, or "homemade," in clandestine laboratories, violence is typically linked to weapons and booby-traps aimed at police enforcement personnel carrying out their official tasks.

PRODUCTION

Most methamphetamine found in Mississippi is manufactured in Mexico in super labs. This method utilizes less-regulated industrial chemicals like phenylacetic acid (PAA). Clandestine labs also favor the P2P method due to its straightforward process and capacity for large-scale production. The Methamphetamine Profiling Program (MPP), run by the DEA's Special Testing and Research Laboratory, examines illicit methamphetamine samples to identify



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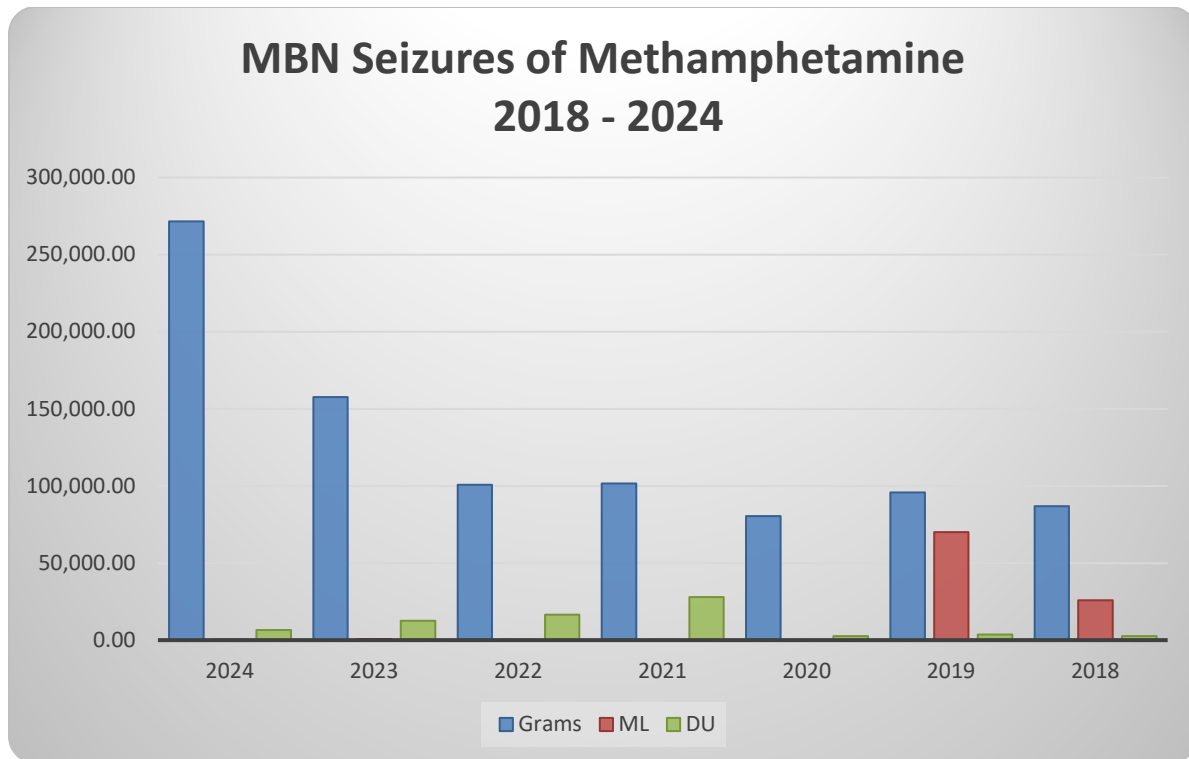
purity levels, cutting agents, precursor chemicals, and the synthesis route used. According to the CY 2022 report, released on September 11, 2024, the MPP analyzed 116 Southeast Region samples, and all were produced using the P2P method. The lowest purity for the samples from Mississippi was 75.7 and the highest purity was 99.6.

Some methamphetamine is still produced locally. The most popular local manufacturing method is a simpler one-pot synthesis, sometimes referred to as a "shake and bake" or "mom and pop" lab. Since methamphetamine can only be produced in tiny batches with this production method, pseudoephedrine limits are less effective. Additionally, the process uses fewer ingredients, which makes it easier to obtain without raising red flags and is quicker to finish with fewer steps. To raise awareness and ensure safety, crushed pseudoephedrine tablets are placed in a non-pressurized container containing ammonium nitrate, water, and a hydrophobic solvent such as Coleman fuel or automotive starting fluid, followed by lye and lithium strips. The hydrogen chloride gas produced by the reaction of salt and sulfuric acid is subsequently utilized to extract crystals for purification. The container must be "burped" on a regular basis to avoid failure due to accumulating pressure, as exposure of the lithium to water can cause a flash fire; thus, an abandoned reaction poses a serious risk to the public as well as first responders such as law enforcement officers and firefighters. In 2024, MBN had three cases involving one methamphetamine one-pot lab and two cases with precursors for a methamphetamine lab.



TRANSPORTATION

Methamphetamine is smuggled into the state typically in disguised compartments on passenger, commercial, and rail vehicles. Individuals and criminal organizations also regularly utilize the US Postal Service and next-day delivery services. The 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey respondents indicated that Caucasian American, Black American and Hispanics are all involved in the transportation of methamphetamine. According to Gulf Coast HIDTA/BLOC data, participating agencies seized approximately 49 pounds of methamphetamine in the fiscal year 2024. Most of the encounters involved a passenger car, pickup, SUV or van and the subject of the interdiction stop was either Asian or Black. Respondents of the 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey reported that Caucasian Americans, Black Americans and Mexicans were all involved in the transportation of methamphetamine.



DISTRIBUTION

While methamphetamine production and distribution were historically linked to Asian criminal groups and outlaw motorcycle gangs, Mexican drug-trafficking organizations have dominated since the 1990s. These organizations maintain extensive distribution networks across the United States and established drug transportation routes from Mexico. Methamphetamine is mostly controlled by the same major organizations that manufacture and transport other illegal drugs from Mexico to the United States.

Independent dealers and local drug trafficking organizations continue to traffic methamphetamine throughout Mississippi. Although initial distribution was concentrated in specific areas like truck stops and rural regions, methamphetamine is now distributed across all settings and by all races and genders. Distributors try to adapt their delivery methods to accommodate individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Street-level and mid-level dealers are aware that to support their lifestyles, they need to find innovative methods to grow their clientele. Distributors are also looking for ways to engage with the constantly shifting consumer base. End-user choices have led to the continued availability of pressed pills, liquid, and powder forms of methamphetamine. There were 683 arrests made by MBN for methamphetamine related charges including sale, possession, and manufacture during 2024.

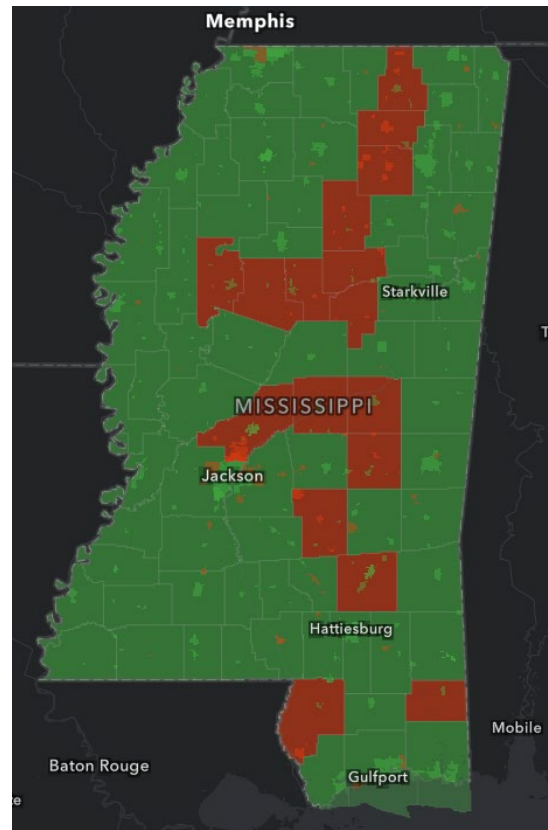
MARIJUANA

ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT



The decriminalization of marijuana across the United States has contributed to a more relaxed public view of the substance. This shift in perception, coupled with rising THC levels in cannabis products and a rapidly expanding market, raises concerns about potential risks. While not inherently dangerous in all cases, the increased availability of high-potency products, combined with a possible desensitization to the potential harm of marijuana use, creates conditions that could increase the likelihood of negative consequences for some individuals.

Mississippi became the 37th state to legalize cannabis for medical use through the passing of Senate Bill 2095 (or the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act) on February 2, 2022. The Mississippi Department of Revenue has been tasked with licensing, regulating, and enforcing the law for medical cannabis dispensaries. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Enforcement Division of the Mississippi Department of Revenue is the point division within the Department for licensing and regulating dispensaries. It is also responsible for enforcing medical cannabis laws as they apply to the proper purchase, sale, and distribution of medical cannabis at dispensaries. As of April 1, 2024, 80 cities and 17 counties in Mississippi opted out of having medical marijuana dispensaries. (Mississippi Department of Revenue, Dispensary Opt-Out Map)



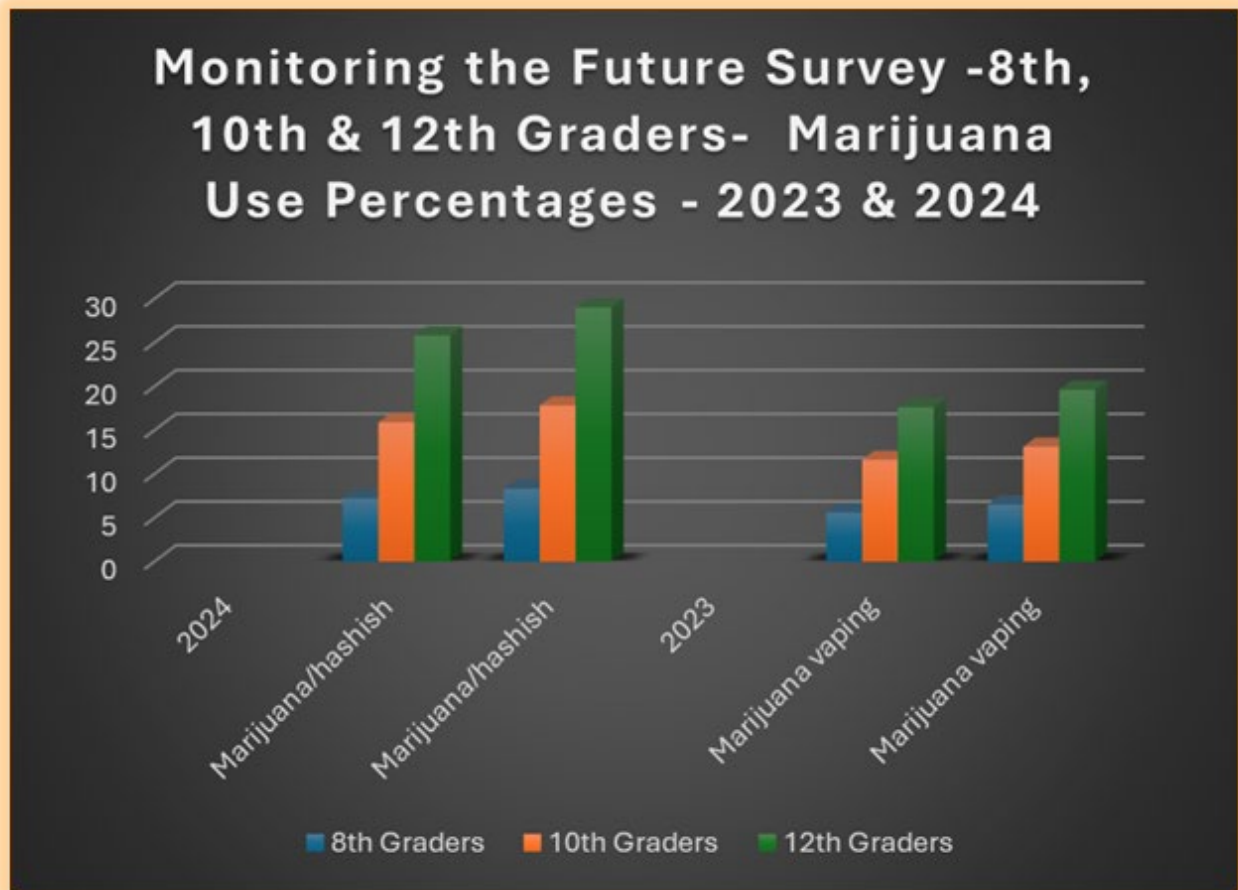
ABUSE

A new study analyzing four decades of national survey data reveals that daily or near-daily marijuana use is now more prevalent in the U.S. than similarly frequent alcohol consumption. While alcohol remains more widely used overall, 2022 marked the first time intensive marijuana use surpassed high-frequency drinking. The study, based on the National Survey on Drug Use and Health and published in the journal *Addiction*, found that about 40% of current marijuana users consume it daily or near daily, a pattern more akin to tobacco use than typical alcohol consumption. The prevalence of cannabis use in the U.S. has mirrored policy changes over time, decreasing when restrictions are tighter and increasing when policies are more lenient.



Public perception of marijuana's harmful effects is declining, a trend that substance abuse professionals suggest stems from the drug's changing legal status. According to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics (NCDAS), marijuana use carries inherent health risks that include increased risk of stroke and heart attack, negative impacts on cognitive function in young people, a higher risk of schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, suicide ideation, and harm to fetal brain development. More people in Mississippi are being admitted for treatment of marijuana as the predominant substance of abuse each year. In 2024, marijuana was second, only to methamphetamine, as a primary substance for people admitted for illegal drug use, according to the MSDMH 2024 Cumulative Data Report. This is a substantial increase over people admitted in 2023 and 2022. The group with the largest amount admitted for marijuana use were males between the age of 26 and 45 with females in the same age range following. The group with the lowest admitted patients were males and females 66 years of age and over.

Each year, the Monitoring the Future survey, funded by National Institutes of Health, is administered to students in grades eight, ten, and twelve who self-report their substance use habits over various timeframes, including the past 30 days, past 12 months, and lifetime. Monitoring the Future researchers gathered 24,257 surveys from students enrolled in 272 public and private schools in the US in 2024. In the past year, marijuana use among students in 8th, 10th, and 12th grades declined across all measured timeframes, although overall use remains substantial. 7.2% of eighth graders, 15.9% of tenth graders, and 25.8% of twelfth graders reported using cannabis and 5.6% of eighth graders, 11.6% of tenth graders, and 17.6% of twelfth graders reported vaping cannabis in 2024. In comparison, 8.3% of eighth graders, 17.8% of tenth graders, and 29% of twelfth graders reported using cannabis and 6.5% of eighth graders, 13.1% of tenth graders, and 19.6% of twelfth graders reported vaping cannabis in 2023.



AVAILABILITY

Marijuana availability in Mississippi has risen compared to previous years. While some marijuana still originates from Mexico, much of it comes from states where medical and/or recreational use is legal. This influx coincides with the growing number of states legalizing marijuana. Currently, 47 states, along with Washington D.C. and three territories, have legalized medical marijuana, and 24 states have legalized recreational use. Despite these state-level changes, marijuana remains federally illegal, classified by the DEA as a Schedule I drug with no accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.

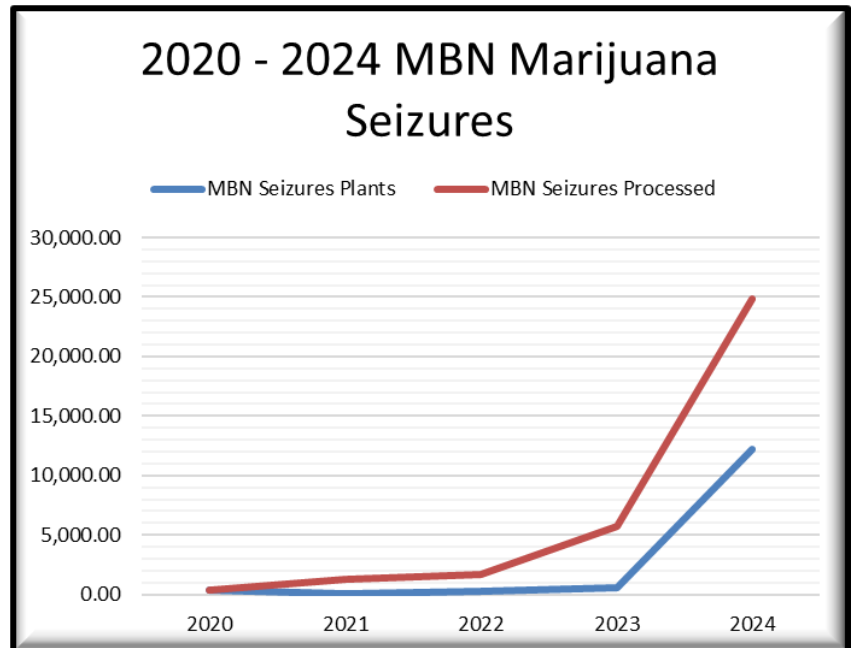
Legend:

- Legalized
- Medical and Decriminalized
- Medical
- Decriminalized
- CBD with THC Only
- Fully illegal

The Mississippi Medical Cannabis Program within the Mississippi Department of Health is responsible for patients and caregivers: for the use of medical cannabis as directed by a medical professional; medical practitioners: to certify patients for medical cannabis use, facilities: cannabis cultivation, processing and testing; and services: cannabis transportation and waste disposal. In 2024, MSDH approved 28,533 new patient registrations out of a total 38,908 applications received and MSDH approved 20,281 patient renewal registrations out of 24,074 applications received. As of December 30, 2024, there were a total of 49,626 total patient cardholders in Mississippi. There were 182 caregiver applications approved, 63 caregiver renewal applications approved, with a total of 247 caregivers and 258 registered certifying practitioners.

20

Legalized medical marijuana states have become a source for marijuana distributed on the black market. This is reflected in Mississippi, where 75% of respondents to the 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey report high marijuana availability. This perception aligns with seizure data. The El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) National Seizure System reports a 190% increase in processed marijuana seizures between 2020 and 2024 for Mississippi. MBN's data shows an even more dramatic surge, with MBN seizures increasing from just over 330 pounds of processed marijuana in 2020 to over 24,000 pounds in 2024. While the increase was less steep in earlier years, the trend has consistently been upward, as shown in the following graph.



ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE



Violent crime is not associated with marijuana in Mississippi. However, some marijuana producers and distributors will submit to violent crimes to protect their product. Cannabis growers for example, will often resort to counter-surveillance, trip wires and explosives to protect their crop from theft or seizure. In other states, marijuana retail distributors have been known to carry weapons to protect their merchandise and to guard

against potential robberies during marijuana transactions. Mexican marijuana DTOs are reputed to be the most violent in the world. There were 196 MBN cases involving marijuana in 2024 where weapons were seized.

PRODUCTION

There are three types of marijuana markets in the United States: illicit markets, state-approved medical marijuana, and state-approved recreational/personal-use markets. Each market operates differently and can be best described independently. Marijuana is grown utilizing different

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methods such as indoor, outdoor and hydroponic grow operations. Over the past few years, indoor grow operations were on the decline in Mississippi. These operations range in size from a small closet to entire residences. Indoor cannabis cultivation requires diligent oversight. In order to produce a healthy plant, growers must provide their crops with light, heat, humidity, and fertilizer. Indoor grow operations also employ sophisticated means of production and concealment. Organizations often purchase homes in neighborhoods with mid to high-level income residents. Residential indoor operations are capable of producing marijuana crops four or more times in one year.

In 2024, MBN DCE/SP seized approximately 24,804 bulk pounds of marijuana and 12,185 plants. Four outdoor grows and six indoor grows were eradicated, \$318,152.45 in currency and 131 firearms were seized and 106 arrests were made. 843 MBN cases involved marijuana in 2024; of those, 244 were traffic stops and 407 were possession cases.

TRANSPORTATION

Most marijuana is transported by vehicle or mailed in packages utilizing parcel services like United States Postal Service, FedEx, UPS, and other parcel services. In 2024, MBN had 7 package interdiction cases involving marijuana but had 244 traffic stop cases involving marijuana. According to the FY 2024 Gulf Coast HIDTA/BLOC Watch Center report, most of the marijuana interdicted on Mississippi highways and interstates was transported in cars, SUV's and pickup trucks, either personal or rental; however, drug traffickers often use commercial semi-trucks and tractor-trailers. The 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey respondents reported that 71% of marijuana is transported by Black Americans.

DISTRIBUTION

For drug traffickers, the potential profits from widespread distribution, combined with a perceived low risk of incarceration, continue to make marijuana an attractive commodity. Street gangs, more organized gangs, and drug trafficking organizations are all involved in the distribution of marijuana. Mexican drug traffickers are also involved in the distribution. Sixty-six percent (66%) of the 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey respondents reported the wholesale distribution of marijuana in 2024 was by Black Americans and eighty-one (81%) of the respondents reported that the retail distribution was by Black Americans. Marijuana produced in the United States is trafficked into Mississippi, from states where production is legal.

TRENDS

The Mississippi medical cannabis program will likely lead to an increase in abuse and availability rates. Medical marijuana legislation has led to an increase in marijuana seizures in states that enacted medical cannabis programs. As more states move to legalize medical and recreational marijuana, domestic production and trafficking will increase. This will likely allow criminal and drug trafficking organizations to take advantage of state legality. According to the National Drug Threat Assessment 2024, Asian organized crime groups, particularly Chinese, are increasingly involved, funding and operating large-scale illegal grows, often disguised as legitimate businesses. These illicit operations generate substantial profits used to fund other criminal activities like drug trafficking, money laundering, and human trafficking. Furthermore, these sites are often protected

by violence, booby traps, and the exploitation of human trafficking victims. In 2024, MBN had 7 cases involving Asians, mostly in the southern regions. 2,150 pounds of marijuana was seized on related traffic stops or on search warrants.

POWDER AND CRACK COCAINE

ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT

Cocaine availability and local distribution have increased, as shown by a rise in investigations and seizures. Although opioid misuse is more prevalent, the highly addictive nature and damaging effects of cocaine still present a serious public health threat. The use and sale of cocaine, in any form, fuels criminal activity, especially violent crime, posing a dangerous and difficult problem for communities and law enforcement in Mississippi.

ABUSE

Cocaine trafficking and abuse transcend racial and socioeconomic boundaries, affecting individuals across all 82 counties in Mississippi. While crack cocaine remains prevalent among black communities in both urban and rural areas, cocaine use and misuse are not confined to any specific demographic group or geographic location.

During 2024, MBN arrested a total of 186 individuals for sale and possession of cocaine. This was approximately 13% of all the drug related arrests by MBN in 2024. This is an increase compared to 129 arrests for cocaine in 2023 and 112 arrests for cocaine in 2022.



Data from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health reveals a concerning rise in primary cocaine abuse admissions. In 2024, 276 individuals sought treatment for cocaine as their primary substance of abuse, compared to 196 in 2023 and 195 in 2022. While these cocaine-related admissions represent just over 10% of total treatment admissions in 2024, the increase is notable. Of those 276 individuals, 46% were between 26 and 45 years old, and 44% were between 46 and 65. Significantly, 2024 marks the first time in several years that the younger age group (26-45) surpassed the older group (46-65) in cocaine-related treatment admissions.

AVAILABILITY

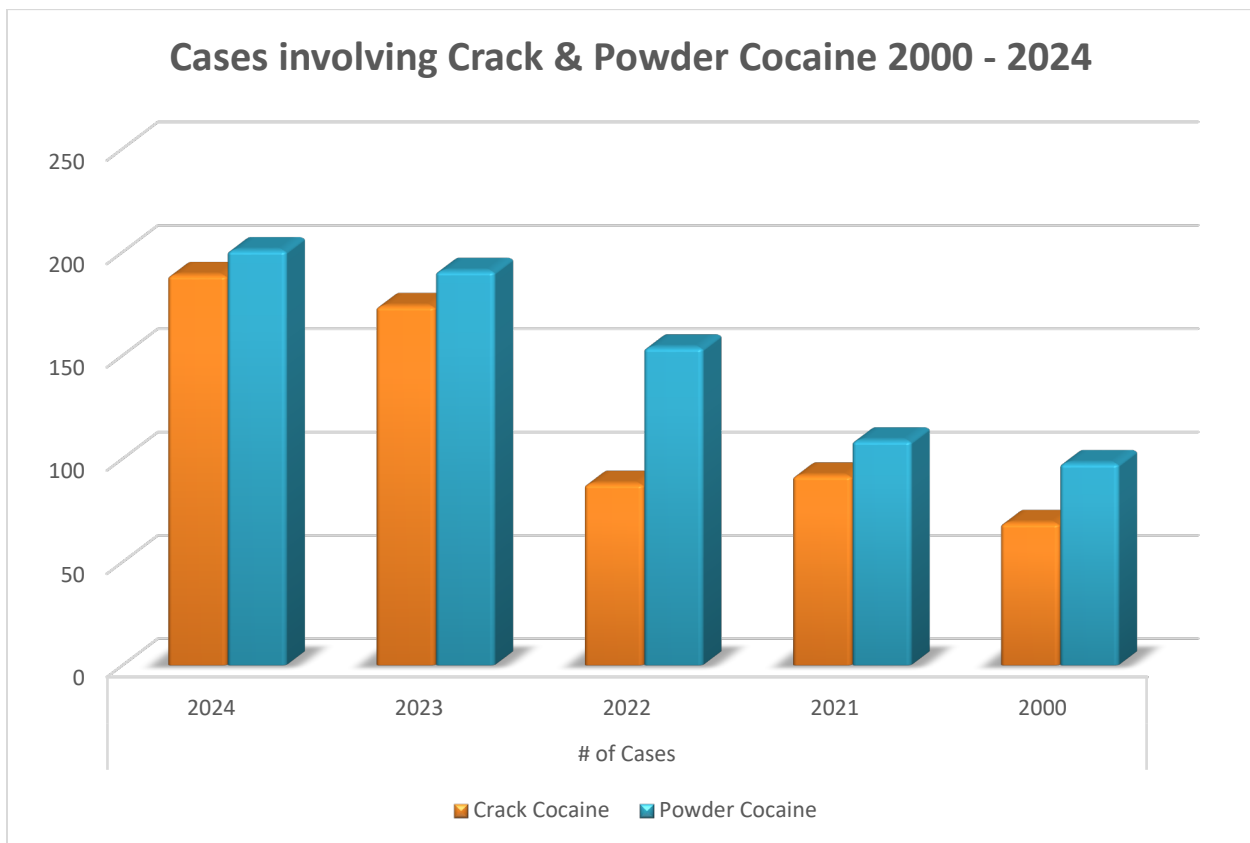
In Mississippi, there's been a notable uptick in cocaine availability and local distribution, as evidenced by the increased number of investigations and seizures. This suggests that law

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enforcement is encountering more cocaine, indicating a potential rise in supply.

MBN cases involving cocaine have steadily increased over the past several years. In 2024, approximately 12% of all MBN drug cases were for cases involving powder cocaine and crack cocaine. There were 189 cases involving crack cocaine and 201 involving powder cocaine in 2024 compared to 174 cases involving crack cocaine and 191 cases involving powder cocaine in 2023 and 88 cases involving crack cocaine and 154 cases involving powder cocaine in 2022 and even less in the previous 2 years.

MBN seizures of powder cocaine in 2024 were down 69% from 2023 but there was still an increase from previous years, though crack cocaine has stayed close in numbers. In 2024 MBN purchased or seized 32,694 grams of powder cocaine and 1,358 grams of crack cocaine. MBN reported 107,269 grams of powder cocaine and 1,205 grams of crack cocaine during 2023 and 11,255 grams of powder cocaine and 1,210 of crack cocaine during 2022.



Most of the 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey respondents reported that cocaine availability was either high or moderate in 2024 and most reported that the amount encountered has either increased or remained the same.

ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Crack and powder cocaine are significant problems for Mississippi's residents and law enforcement. Cocaine has been responsible for some violence and criminal activity in Mississippi.

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Cocaine abusers commit thefts and robberies to fund their addictions. Cocaine retail distributors have been known to carry weapons to protect their merchandise and to guard against potential robberies during cocaine transactions. Mexican cocaine DTOs are reputed to be among the most violent in the world.

PRODUCTION

Cocaine is derived from the coca plant, which is primarily grown in the Andean region of South America. The countries with the most significant coca cultivation are Columbia, Peru and Bolivia. Colombia is the world's leading producer of coca and cocaine, Peru is another major cultivator of coca, and a significant source of cocaine production and Bolivia also cultivates coca, although to a lesser extent than Colombia and Peru. While these countries are the primary sources of coca cultivation, it's important to note that the processing of coca leaves into cocaine often occurs in clandestine laboratories within these countries or in neighboring regions.



TRANSPORTATION

Most cocaine entering the United States, including Mississippi, originates from Mexico and transits through the Southwest Border in large quantities. Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) play a dominant role in this transportation. Within Mississippi, cocaine is primarily distributed by Mexican or Black American DTOs, often moving from source cities like Houston and Dallas in Texas via personal vehicles or commercial trucks along major highways like I-10, I-55, I-59, and I-20. Concealment methods vary, including hidden compartments in vehicles and electronically controlled false compartments. Additionally, personal carry-on luggage on buses and parcel services are used for transport. Mississippi distributors sometimes travel to Texas to obtain cocaine directly, but Mexican DTOs also utilize "mules" - individuals solely tasked with transporting the drugs - for delivery within the state.

During fiscal year 2024, the Gulf Coast HIDTA/BLOC Watch Center reported 69.91 pounds of cocaine seized during 14 traffic stops, primarily conducted by local agencies on Mississippi interstates and state highways. This contrasts with 423 pounds seized in calendar year 2023, 445 pounds in 2022, and 190 pounds in fiscal year 2021. In 2024, interdiction stops reported by the Center involved cocaine originating from Texas, Florida, South Carolina, California, and Mississippi, and destined for Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, California, Louisiana, and Mississippi. According to the 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey, respondents indicated that cocaine is primarily transported by Black Americans, and that trafficking patterns have remained largely consistent with previous years.

DISTRIBUTION



Independent drug trafficking organizations dominate local cocaine distribution in Mississippi. Large seizures, sometimes exceeding 20 kilograms, occur within the state, often involving shipments destined for cities like Chicago and Atlanta. Commercial courier services, such as trucking companies, independent truckers, and parcel services, are commonly used to transport both drugs into the state and drug proceeds out. Cocaine primarily enters Mississippi through

Texas. Upon arrival, local suppliers frequently "cut" the cocaine, diluting it with other substances to maximize profits. Distribution occurs at various levels, from gram to ounce quantities, and powder cocaine is often converted into crack cocaine for street-level sales. The 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey reveals that nearly all respondents identify Black Americans as the primary wholesale distributors of cocaine, with most also citing them as the main retail distributors.

HEROIN

ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT

Heroin continues to be a threat in Mississippi and in surrounding states, but it is on the decline. The price of heroin has decreased over the past several years as the purity of heroin has increased. Fentanyl is so cheaply manufactured that it is being used to cut with heroin and other opioids to further the profits of drug dealers and trafficking organizations.

MBN Agents worked 32 cases involving heroin in 2024. This is a slight increase from 2023 with 22 heroin cases. MBN seized over 100 grams of heroin, 8 dosage units and .4 milliliters of heroin in 2024 as compared to 95 grams of heroin in 2023, and 12,881 grams of heroin in 2022. During the past several years, brown heroin has been the predominant form of heroin seen in Mississippi; However, in 2024, white heroin is the predominant form. In 2024, MBN seized 49.30 grams of brown heroin, 100.35 grams and 8 dosage units of white heroin and 3.68 grams and .4 milliliters of black tar heroin. According to the 2026 Gulf Coast HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey, respondents said the availability of heroin has decreased or stayed the same in the past year. Additionally, almost all respondents said that the demand has either stayed the same or decreased.



ABUSE

A rapid increase in the prescribing of opioids, started in the 1990s, led to an opioid epidemic. Cartels and some local drug dealers are cutting heroin with fentanyl and selling on the street to increase profits. There were approximately 10 overdose deaths involving heroin in 2024 that were reported to MBN. There are still overdose deaths that have not been reported, as well as crime lab results that have not been completed, whereas this number could rise. There were at least 13 overdose deaths involving heroin in 2023 and 34 overdose deaths involving heroin in 2022.

According to the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH), 41 people sought treatment for heroin as their primary substance from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. It was also reported that 20 people were treated for heroin as a secondary substance during 2024. This is a decrease from the previous three years. In 2023, 111 people were treated for heroin as a primary substance as compared to 166 admissions in 2022 and 341 admissions in 2021.



The use of heroin appears to be decreasing, due in part to the increase in fentanyl availability. Though the number of cases initiated by MBN have fluctuated and decreased since 2022, it is important to note that of these cases, those individuals found to be in possession of heroin routinely had other controlled substances present, to include marijuana. 7 arrests were made by MBN of the 19 offenders for heroin related charges including sale and possession during 2024. The Mississippi Forensics Laboratory analyzed approximately 25 cases of heroin alone and approximately 46 cases of heroin combined with some other type of substance during the calendar year of 2024. Some of these cases that were analyzed may have been submitted for drug analysis prior to 2024.

PRODUCTION

Heroin is an opioid derived from morphine which comes from the poppy plant. Heroin generally comes in three different forms in the United States: powder, black tar, and pills. Powder heroin comes in brown and white. White powder heroin is usually the most desirable and originates in Southeast and Southwest Asia. Brown powder originates from Mexico and is darker in color and is usually less powerful. Black tar heroin, which has a black sticky appearance, almost exclusively comes from Mexico and South America. The third, least common form of heroin is pill form. These are often sold in gel capsules or made with pill presses and mixed with other powders like powdered lactose, quinine, and baby laxative. Usually, these pills mimic an opiate pill. Pills are usually the cheapest and lowest-quality form of the drug.

TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Mexican DTOs dominate the trafficking of Mexican black tar heroin and Mexican brown powder heroin. Most of the heroin distributed in the United States comes across the southwest border and is controlled by Mexican Cartels. White powder heroin originates in Southeast and Southwest Asia. Heroin is typically transported by private and commercial vehicles from Mexico, and then across the United States from California and other southwestern states. Once in the U.S., heroin is transported into and through Mississippi via three major routes: Interstate 10, Interstate 20, and Interstate 55.



ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Heroin violence is minimal in Mississippi. However, gangs that are associated with selling small quantities of heroin, commit violent crimes including: assault, burglary, homicide, and robbery, to further their drug activities and to protect their turf. Most of the violent crimes that occur in Mississippi are not directly attributed to heroin use and distribution. It is not uncommon to locate multiple firearms during investigations associated with abusers to manufacturers to street-level dealers to traffickers. It is of great importance to repeat that local drug dealers and/or regional drug traffickers are dangerous because of the suspects' possible gang and drug cartel affiliations. Violence is prevalent when drug abusers are robbed while trying to purchase their drug of choice from drug dealers. Abusers are more closely associated with theft of items to be converted to cash to purchase these drugs.

DIVERTED PHARMACEUTICALS

ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT

Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion, also referred to as Pharmaceutical Diversion, is when prescription medications are used by someone other than for whom they were intended or used in a manner other than prescribed. The use and abuse of diverted pharmaceuticals is a serious problem that affects the health, social and economic welfare of all communities, not only in Mississippi but all over the country. MBN, along with its law enforcement and regulatory partners routinely investigate and make arrests are made for prescription fraud and forgery, pharmaceutical theft, illegal possession of pharmaceutical medications, and the illicit distribution of these medications in Mississippi. These diversion and distribution of pharmaceutical investigations involve all segments of society including, not just limited to “drug dealers” but also, lawyers, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, doctors, nurses, businessmen, housewives and others. Pharmaceuticals are still a central drug threat in Mississippi.

ABUSE

Prescription medication abuse can be best illustrated by the number of cases involving diverted medications and/or even based on the Mississippi Prescription Monitoring Program's (MS PMP) provisional data. The illicit diversion of pharmaceutical drugs, such as hydrocodone (brand names: Vicodin, Norco, etc.), oxycodone (Percocet, OxyContin, etc.), dextroamphetamine (Adderall), tramadol (Ultram), alprazolam (Xanax), zolpidem (Ambien), clonazepam (Klonopin), methylphenidate (Concerta, Ritalin, Metadate CD), and similar medications are of major concern to law enforcement in Mississippi. Also, MBN has seen that users have begun to crush pills, like Adderall and time-delayed release capsules, and snort them in an effort to expedite the high. MBN continues to partner with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration's Tactical Diversion Squad in Mississippi to identify trends, criminal activity, and mitigate the abuse by Mississippians and others.

MBN initiated a total of 2,564 cases in the calendar year 2024. Of these cases, 192 involved prescription narcotics (ex. hydrocodone), 75 cases involved prescription depressants (ex. alprazolam), and 34 involved prescription stimulants (ex. Amphetamine). MBN arrested a total of 97 individuals for pharmaceutical related cases involving sale, possession, and prescription forgery. According to the 2024 Mississippi Drug Threat Assessment, MBN initiated 231 investigations involving prescription drugs in Calendar Year 2023. Of these cases, 181 cases involved prescription narcotics, 54 cases involved prescription depressants, and 23 prescription stimulants. Similarly, MBN initiated 286 investigations involving prescription drugs in Calendar Year 2022. Of these 232 cases involved prescription narcotics, 61 cases involved prescription depressants, and 31 cases involved prescription stimulants. Looking at Calendar Year 2021, MBN initiated 308 cases involving pharmaceuticals, whereas the majority of the cases involved prescription narcotics, followed by prescription depressants, and then prescription stimulants. Prescription forgeries, thefts, possession, and distribution are the primary means MBN initiates investigations involving diverted pharmaceuticals.

The Mississippi Prescription Monitoring Program (MS PMP), which is housed under the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy, maintains a wealth of data as it relates to medications that are prescribed and dispensed. This valuable program provides a litmus test of current drugs that are being prescribed, and more than likely, being abused and diverted into the black market.

According to the MS PMP, the "Top 10" medications prescribed in Mississippi during Calendar Year 2024 reflected a slight change from Calendar Year 2023. During Calendar Year 2024, hydrocodone continues to be the most prescribed medication followed by dextroamphetamine, whereas oxycodone, tramadol, and alprazolam fall in line to edge out the "top five". During Calendar Year 2023, hydrocodone was the top prescribed medication followed by oxycodone, dextroamphetamine, tramadol, and alprazolam. Looking at Calendar Year 2022, hydrocodone was the most prescribed medication followed by dextroamphetamine, oxycodone, tramadol, and alprazolam. During Calendar Years 2021 and 2020, hydrocodone was the most prescribed medication followed by oxycodone, dextroamphetamine, tramadol, and alprazolam. For more detailed information, please see the images below.

Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

Calendar Year 2024	Prescription Count	Quantity
HYDROCODONE	1,008,768	51,620,813
DEXTROAMPHETAMINE	602,008	30,493,430
OXYCODONE	532,072	33,363,638
TRAMADOL	360,576	19,693,163
ALPRAZOLAM	324,252	17,252,052
ZOLPIDEM	291,912	9,927,727
METHYLPHENIDATE	263,863	10,695,775
CLONAZEPAM	237,000	12,295,544
PREGAMBLIN	216,362	16,861,986
BUPRENORPHINE	198,665	8,109,891

Calendar Year 2023	Prescription Count	Quantity
HYDROCODONE	1,034,316	53,929,037
OXYCODONE	514,159	32,159,877
DEXTROAMPHETAMINE	513,162	26,631,383
TRAMADOL	366,287	20,294,738
ALPRAZOLAM	329,967	17,778,489
ZOLPIDEM	299,818	10,094,610
METHYLPHENIDATE	265,192	10,673,730
CLONAZEPAM	238,845	12,498,132
PREGAMBLIN	204,655	15,857,956
BUPRENORPHINE	195,715	7,545,259

Calendar Year 2022	Prescription Count	Quantity
HYDROCODONE	1,064,543	55,767,409
DEXTROAMPHETAMINE	499,697	25,351,788
OXYCODONE	496,615	31,327,224
TRAMADOL	369,172	20,856,433
ALPRAZOLAM	336,461	18,219,772
ZOLPIDEM	304,151	10,189,814
METHYLPHENIDATE	244,703	9,740,955
CLONAZEPAM	244,390	12,921,858
BUPRENORPHINE	195,434	7,213,060
PREGABALIN	195,223	14,966,893

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Calendar Year 2021	Prescription Count	Quantity
HYDROCODONE	1,116,851	57,793,491
OXYCODONE	484,687	30,383,905
DEXTROAMPHETAMINE	447,096	23,026,210
TRAMADOL	391,098	22,060,590
ALPRAZOLAM	347,514	18,976,396
ZOLPIDEM	315,508	10,429,214
CLONAZEPAM	254,407	13,475,688
METHYLPHENIDATE	217,604	8,644,954
BUPRENORPHINE	199,523	7,086,007
AMPHETAMINE	192,696	6,120,818

Calendar Year 2020	Prescription Count	Quantity
HYDROCODONE	1,126,988	59,326,513
OXYCODONE	463,280	29,424,293
DEXTROAMPHETAMINE	405,130	21,070,818
TRAMADOL	402,935	22,984,144
ALPRAZOLAM	359,932	19,599,828
ZOLPIDEM	325,196	10,663,432
CLONAZEPAM	260,657	13,758,790
BUPRENORPHINE	211,389	6,741,264
METHYLPHENIDATE	205,374	8,389,264
AMPHETAMINE	191,094	6,021,171

AVAILABILITY

Some methods of obtaining pharmaceuticals include: 1) legitimately obtaining prescriptions then diverting a portion for abuse or financial gain, 2) being given by, bought from, or taken from a friend or relative, 3) stealing physician's prescription pads, 4) producing counterfeit prescriptions, 5) purchasing from internet pharmacies, and 6) calling pharmacists impersonating a medical provider. Some abusers go from practitioner to practitioner for the same medical condition to obtain multiple prescriptions for personal use and/or distribution. MBN also identifies practitioners who willingly help individuals abuse prescription drugs by writing prescriptions when there is no medical need, usually associated with some personal gain. Other abusers steal prescription blanks, manufactured prescriptions, or call-in prescriptions to secure quantities to support their habit. Some practitioners willingly help individuals abuse prescription drugs by writing prescriptions when there is no medical need. MBN continues to see intrastate and interstate organized crime groups who utilize high quality fraudulently manufactured prescriptions to secure large quantities of pharmaceuticals to illegally distribute inside and outside of Mississippi's borders.

INTERNET PHARMACIES

It's crucial to be aware of the significant risks associated with purchasing pharmaceuticals from unregulated online pharmacies. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has consistently warned about the potential for dangerous and even fatal consequences. Here's a more detailed breakdown of the risks and how to identify potentially unsafe online pharmacies:

Risks Associated with Unregulated Online Pharmacies:

- Counterfeit, Contaminated, Expired, or Unsafe Medications:
 - These medications may contain the wrong ingredients, incorrect dosages, or harmful substances.
 - Lack of quality control in unregulated facilities can lead to contamination with bacteria, mold, or other hazardous materials.
 - Expired medications may have reduced efficacy or become toxic.
- Adverse Side Effects and Drug Interactions:
 - Without proper medical oversight, you risk severe side effects or dangerous interactions with other medications you're taking.
 - A lack of consultation with a licensed pharmacist can prevent the identification of potential drug interactions.
- Compromised Personal and Financial Security:
 - Unregulated websites may steal your credit card information, social security number, or other sensitive data.
 - This information can be used for identity theft or other fraudulent activities.
- Increased Risk of Spam and Scams:
 - Providing your contact information to these websites can lead to a barrage of unwanted phone calls, emails, and text messages.
 - These contact methods are often used to further scams and attempt to gain more of your personal information.
- Lack of Proper Medical Oversight:
 - Legitimate online pharmacies require a valid prescription from a licensed healthcare provider. This ensures that the medication is appropriate for your
 - Without this oversight, you risk misdiagnosis, inappropriate treatment, and potentially serious health complications.
- Risk of Addiction and Abuse:
 - Unregulated online pharmacies often sell controlled substances without a prescription, increasing the risk of addiction and abuse.

Identifying Potentially Unsafe Online Pharmacies:

- No Prescription Required: Legitimate pharmacies always require a valid prescription.
- Lack of Contact Information: A reputable pharmacy will provide a physical address, phone number, and other contact details.
- Extremely Low Prices: Prices that are too good to be true are often a red flag.
- Payment Methods: Requiring upfront payment by credit card or cash on delivery (COD) instead of accepting insurance is a warning sign.

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- Limited Medication Selection: Focusing primarily on controlled substances is a common tactic of illegal online pharmacies.
- Suspicious Delivery Practices: Offering to deliver to a post office box or other locations to avoid detection is a clear indication of illegal activity.
- Misleading Information: Providing false information about the legality of purchasing medications from foreign countries is a deceptive practice.
- No VIPPS certification: The Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites (VIPPS) program, run by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), certifies online pharmacies that meet specific safety and quality standards. Look for the VIPPS seal.

Additional Risks from Foreign Pharmacies:

- Mexican and Southwest Border Pharmacies:
 - As highlighted by media reports, counterfeit medications are a growing concern in some Mexican pharmacies, particularly in tourist areas.
 - These medications pose the same risks as those from unregulated online pharmacies: contamination, incorrect dosages, and dangerous ingredients.
 - The lack of regulatory oversight in some foreign pharmacies increases the risk of obtaining unsafe medications.
- International Supply Chain Issues:
 - Medications obtained from foreign sources may have been stored or transported improperly, further compromising their safety.
 - The international supply chain can be complex, making it difficult to trace the origin and quality of medications.

Enforcement and Public Safety:

- Organizations like the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the FDA are actively working to combat the illegal distribution of pharmaceuticals.
- These agencies collaborate to investigate and prosecute individuals and organizations involved in the sale of counterfeit and unsafe medications.

It is always best to obtain your medications from a licensed pharmacy with a valid prescription from your doctor.

ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Pharmacy burglaries, armed robberies of pharmacies, healthcare fraud, and other criminal activity are directly associated with pharmaceutical drug diversion. The most common criminal activity is prescription forgery and fraud, as well as “doctor shopping”, whereas the medications are from pharmacies with legitimate supply chains with less overall risk. Due to the increase in technology and collective experience, criminals exploit the manners in which citizens legally get medicines from pharmacies from simple, time proven methods to manufacturing authentic-looking prescriptions. Both have been found to successfully achieve unlawful acquisitions. If medications are not obtained from the legitimate supply chain, what kind of pills are really being obtained? Are

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the pills stolen from pharmacies, the wholesale drug distributors, imported from non-U.S. regulated entities, or counterfeit?

Local independent dealers and abusers, who might be one and the same, commit crimes against property, such as burglary and theft. These individuals burglarize pharmacies and the homes of legitimate prescription holders to obtain drugs. Pharmacy employees also are known to steal products directly from the shelves, to self-medicate or provide to drug dealers. Intrastate and Interstate criminal groups are involved in drug-targeted burglaries. The threat of diverted pharmaceutical medication is enhanced through drug-targeted burglaries and robberies, which adds threats of violence and acts of violence into the mix

Pharmacy burglaries, armed robberies of pharmacies, healthcare fraud, and other criminal activity are directly associated with pharmaceutical drug diversion. The most common criminal activity is prescription forgery and fraud, as well as “doctor shopping”, whereas the medications are sourced

In 2024, Mississippi saw a dramatic surge in pharmacy burglaries, with 48 pharmacies targeted. This represents a significant increase from 2023, which saw only nine incidents. Previous years recorded 14 burglaries in 2022, 22 in 2021, and 45 in 2020. It's important to note that these figures represent the total number of pharmacies targeted, regardless of whether entry was gained or medications were stolen. The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN) continues to prioritize educating pharmacy employees on best practices to deter these crimes across the state.

The dangers associated with pharmaceutical diversion extend beyond property crimes. Crimes against persons, including assault and murder, are also a significant concern. Individuals involved in pharmaceutical abuse or dealing, whether as victims or perpetrators, face heightened risks. Abusers, often obtaining pills from diverse sources, and dealers engaged in criminal drug activity, can become victims of fatal violence. Conversely, they can also become perpetrators of murder through the use of deadly force. Law enforcement officers, particularly MBN Agents, are acutely aware of the potential for violence during pharmaceutical diversion investigations. They recognize the inherent risk of facing individuals capable of employing deadly force

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation of diverted pharmaceuticals is usually by privately owned vehicles and parcel service businesses. MBN executed and/or responded to 691 interdiction stops in 2024, of which 93 resulted in the seizure of diverted pharmaceuticals. According to the 2024 MBN Drug Threat Assessment, MBN was involved in 674 interdiction stops in 2023, resulting in the seizure of diverted pharmaceuticals in 86 of the stops. During 2022, 156 out of 784 stops resulted in the seizure of diverted pharmaceuticals. MBN participated in 733 interdiction stops that resulted in the seizure of diverted pharmaceuticals in 141 of the encounters in 2021. Similarly, 93 out of the 587 interdiction stops resulted in the seizure of diverted pharmaceuticals in 2020. As with previous years, MBN participates in investigations when packages are intercepted from the United States Postal Service, FedEx, UPS, and other parcel services that are found to contain illegal drugs, including diverted pharmaceuticals.

DISTRIBUTION

Most diverted pharmaceuticals in Mississippi are for individual use, especially when involving self-medicating by healthcare professionals and others. Occasionally, violators will sell pharmaceuticals obtained through legitimate and diverted means as a way of supplementing their own habit. Users also obtain pharmaceuticals through pain clinics throughout the state. While MBN is seeing a decrease in the number of general practitioners' issuing opioid prescriptions, the prescriptions written by doctors at pain management clinics has increased substantially. Pharmaceuticals are readily available through a variety of legitimate means, and illicit sources, such as local "drug dealers"

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT

Terms like "herbal highs," "herbal psychoactive substances," "novel psychoactive substances," "research chemicals," "designer drugs," and novel psychoactive substances "NPS" have all been used to refer to substances that have been engineered to replicate the effects of illegal drugs that are regulated or scheduled. Out of all NPS, synthetic cathinones and synthetic cannabinoids are the most misused. Apart from being extensively accessible via the internet, social media, specialty shops, and on the street, these chemicals can also be easily found in petrol stations, adult stores, and smoke shops. Most imported from China. Several classes of NPS are commonly encountered, including synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, MDMA (ecstasy), GHB, LSD, DMT, PCP, psilocybin (mushrooms), benzodiazepines, and opioids.



ABUSE

NPS that are equally addictive and detrimental to society as other opioids, methamphetamine, and cocaine. NPS are mostly promoted to young individuals and the homeless community but can be used by people of all ages. While some are used frequently by a select few users, new drugs frequently surface briefly before going away once again. Since drug tests frequently fail to detect all NPS, NPS may be especially appealing to drug users who are subject to drug screening, such as prisoners, parolees, and probationers. The lack of knowledge of the composition and strength of the substance being eaten is one of the most concerning features of NPS. MBN has seen some NPS in toxicology reports for some overdose victims.

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS (SPICE)

Although they connect to the body's cannabinoid receptors, synthetic cannabinoids are not the same as the naturally occurring cannabinoids found in cannabis plants. There are several ways to use or

consume synthetic cannabinoids, such as: 1) spray or soak a plant or other base material before smoking it; 2) suspending it in an oil form to use in e-cigarettes; or 3) pressing it into fake prescription tablets. Sometimes, inaccurately, the mixture of substance, oil, or tablet is called synthetic marijuana.



MBN initiated 24 cases involving synthetic cannabinoid in 2024 which resulted in 14 arrests and the seizure of 4121.45 grams, and 163 milliliters. In contrast, 13 cases involving synthetic cannabinoids in 2023, which resulted in 6 arrests and the seizure of 6,958 containers, 7,108 grams, and 210 milliliters. In 2022, MBN initiated 17 cases involving synthetic cannabinoids, 3 people were arrested, 142 containers, 281 grams, 266 milliliters, and 2 dosage units of the drug were seized. In 2021, MBN initiated 44 cases, made 4 arrests, and seized 407 containers, 1644 grams, 1418 milliliters and 320 dosage units of the substance.

MDMA (ECSTASY)



MDMA, often known as ecstasy or methyldioxymethamphetamine, is a psychoactive substance that is used recreationally. It produces feelings of enhanced energy, pleasure, emotional warmth, and skewed sensory and temporal perception. Chemically, it is comparable to both stimulants and hallucinogens. Although it was first well-liked by nightclub goers and "raves," the substance is now more widely used and goes by the names Molly and Ecstasy.

In 2024, there were 120 occurrences that resulted in arrests and the seizure of roughly 25,288 grams and 5850 dosage units of MDMA. In 2023, there were 123 occurrences that resulted in 52 arrests and the seizure of roughly 1,540 grams and 14,287 dosage units of MDMA. This is comparable to data from 2022, when MBN initiated 74 cases that led to 43 arrests and the seizure of 3,057 grams and roughly 15,277 dosage units of MDMA. In 2021, there were 65 cases initiated, 51 arrests, and the seizure of 3,386 grams and about 23,499 dosage units.



OTHER HALLUCINOGENS

In 2024, MBN initiated 22 cases involving hallucinogens. 6 dosage units were seized, and 6890 grams of other hallucinogens were seized. In 2023, MBN initiated 27 cases involving hallucinogens and seized 355 pounds of mostly psilocybin mushrooms, 82 dosage units of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and 2 milliliters of phencyclidine (PCP). Compared to 9 in 2022 and 7 in 2021, there has been a significant increase in cases.



Acid, commonly known as lysergic acid diethylamide, or LSD, is a psychedelic substance that is well-known for its hallucinogenic effects. These effects can include altered awareness of one's surroundings, thoughts, and moods, as well as real feeling but unreal sensations and visuals. LSD is primarily offered on the black market as a recreational drug in the form of tiny tablets known as "microdots," capsules, or squares of gelatin called "windowpanes." Occasionally, it is mixed with absorbent paper and then cut into tiny pieces that are adorned with patterns or animated figures,

dubbed "loony toons." LSD can be injected, however, it is usually eaten or held under the tongue.

One member of a polyphyletic group of mushrooms that can contain both psilocin and other psychedelic substances is the psilocybin mushroom. Mushrooms can cause euphoria, altered thought processes, closed and open-eye images, synesthesia, an altered sense of time, and spiritual experiences when taken or brewed into a tea.

AVAILABILITY

Although the internet is the most popular source for NPS. Individuals continue to seek NPS in stores offering adult products, smoking and drug supplies, and in gas stations and convenience stores. This poses a risk because these substances are unregulated and products that appear to be identical but are sold in stores may contain entirely different amounts of cannabinoids, cathinones, or other substances, or they may be contaminated with other substances like fentanyl.

There are several different types of novel psychoactive substances (NPS) that are reappearing in the United States. They are sometimes called "new substances" the media, but these substances were developed as early as the 1950's and have been seen in the United States starting in 1999.

Nitazenes, a class of potent synthetic opioids that are derived from benzylbenzimidazole. Nitazenes were developed in the 1950s but have never been approved for medical use in the US. Some of the substances that fall into this category include butonitazene, etodesnitazine, flunitazene, isotonitazene (Iso), metonitazene, and N-pyrrolidino etonitazene (Pyro). They have psychoactive effects similar to morphine, oxycodone, heroin and fentanyl. Some are 10 times stronger than fentanyl, and while naloxone can reverse overdoses, multiple doses may be required. These substances are often found mixed with other drugs, and their presence is undetectable by standard drug tests. While nitazene deaths are not widely tracked, they are increasingly appearing

in toxicology reports. Seven nitazenes were temporarily classified as Schedule I drugs, but this expired in April 2024.

Bromazolam, a novel benzodiazepine, is reappearing in the illicit drug market. Developed in the 1970s but never approved for medical use, bromazolam is structurally related to Xanax. It first appeared in the illicit drug supply in Sweden in 2016 and the US in 2019, with cases increasing significantly in 2021. Currently unscheduled federally, though some states have classified it as a controlled substance, bromazolam is typically sold online as tablets or powder, often mixed with other drugs like fentanyl or found in counterfeit Xanax pills. Limited scientific information exists about its effects, but anecdotal reports suggest sedative and hypnotic properties, with users reporting muscle relaxation and pain relief. While found in post-mortem samples, its contribution to deaths is unclear due to polydrug use. Further research may lead to more states and the federal government scheduling bromazolam.

Finally, tianeptine is an unapproved drug sold as a dietary supplement despite being a mu-opioid receptor agonist. Structurally similar to tricyclic antidepressants, tianeptine is available in gas stations and online, often marketed for pain and stress relief. However, it carries a risk of dependence and addiction, with withdrawal symptoms similar to opioid withdrawal. Overdoses can be reversed with naloxone, and its accessibility has led to it being nicknamed "gas station heroin." While not FDA-approved, tianeptine is sold as a dietary supplement in the United States under brand names like "Zaza Red," "TD Red," and "Tianna." Tianeptine use is increasing, with some viewing it as a potential opioid alternative.

ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Nationwide overdose deaths and violent incidents have been connected to the use of synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones. The use of steroids, PCP, bath salts, and other synthetic drugs has also been connected to violence. NPS can cause victims to lose their memories, get confused, or become amnesic, which can make it harder to prosecute them. Sales have shifted closer to the streets as law enforcement and policymakers have started to target shops selling synthetic cannabis.

PRODUCTION

NPS are synthetic substances that are designed to replicate the effects of other illegal drugs. They are generated from chemicals and do not require any plant material. A lack of standards means that consumers frequently aren't sure what they're getting. For instance, synthetic cannabis, which is frequently imported from China, is marketed in vibrant packaging meant to bolster the notion that it is "safe" to consume. Despite being created in 1912 by a German pharmaceutical business, MDMA's primary source of supply is currently less clear. It takes laboratory equipment and knowledge of organic chemistry to manufacture LSD. NPS that has already been synthesized is widely accessible in China and other Asian and European nations. It is frequently sent by mail carriers for domestic processing and packaging.

TRANSPORTATION

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Privately owned cars and online parcel delivery services like the United States Postal Service (USPS), Federal Express (FedEx), and United Parcel Service (UPS) are typically used for the transportation of these different hallucinogens and synthetics.

DISTRIBUTION

In addition to being widely accessible online, gas stations and smoke shops are selling an increasing amount of NPS. Synthetic cannabis is now widely available for purchase as vape oils or legal e-liquids. The sales of these e-liquids are moving toward street sales as law enforcement pursues these kinds of stores. The distribution of MDMA and LSD usually takes place at private events and in the vicinity of college and high school campuses. These illegal narcotics are also distributed by certain Mississippi street gang members.

V. DRUG OVERDOSES

The Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, Section 41-29-159 (2012), requires that healthcare providers, coroners, and law enforcement officers notify the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics of all drug overdose deaths or suspected drug overdose deaths within 24 hours. Similarly, Section 41-61-59 (2012) mandates that MBN is informed of deaths that are caused by drug overdose or believed to be caused by drug overdose.

2024 – 314 cases reported involving 297 individuals experienced fatal overdoses. (*as of 3/5/25*)

2023 – 400 cases reported involving 400 individuals experienced fatal overdoses.

2022 - 395 cases reported involving 395 individuals experienced fatal overdoses.

2021 - 493 cases reported involving 496 individuals experienced fatal overdoses.

(Intelligence Division note: Although many coroners are reporting these deaths since the passage of this bill, there is no penalty for failure to report an overdose. Therefore, these figures may not be an accurate reflection of the actual number of overdose deaths in the State of Mississippi.)

MBN speculates that the distribution of NARCAN® (naloxone HCl) to first responders has resulted in a reduction of deaths secondary to drug (opiates) overdoses in our state. NARCAN® (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray is used for the treatment of an opioid emergency or a possible opioid overdose with signs of breathing problems and severe sleepiness or not being able to respond. These statistics by no means represent the alarming numbers of non-fatal overdose cases not reported to MBN that, by speculation, could be in the thousands.

The misuse of and addiction to opioids, including prescription pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, is a serious national crisis that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare. Pew, www.pewtrusts.org, estimated in August 2021 that the total "economic burden" of opioid overdose, misuse, and dependence in the United States costs \$141.8 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice

involvement.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the opioid overdose epidemic has occurred in three waves. They identify Wave One as an increase in prescription opioid overdose deaths in 1999. Wave Two began in 2010, with an increase in heroin overdose deaths. Wave Three began in 2013, with an increase in synthetic overdose deaths. Some say the United States is still in Wave Three and that Wave Four is just around the corner. Fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, and non-opioid synthetic substances continue to make their way into the United States. Furthermore, municipal, state, and federal analyses are revealing new classifications of synthetic chemicals. Some of these drugs are synthetic benzodiazepines. Additionally, counterfeit substances continue to plague our communities, whereas medications that are not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for medical use in this country are being consumed by Americans on American soil.

VI. ILLICIT FINANCE



Terrorist groups are on the rise, finding novel ways to fund their activities. Drug and human trafficking organizations are employing both established and innovative methods to evade detection domestically and internationally. Cybercriminals are perpetrating large-scale online fraud, corrupt individuals are exploiting anonymous transactions, and nation-states are involved in ransomware attacks and the financing of weapons proliferation. Illicit finance poses a significant threat to U.S. national security, prosperity, and democracy. The U.S. anti-money laundering/countering financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime must constantly adapt to these evolving threats. While progress has been made, vulnerabilities remain, and law enforcement needs the necessary tools to deny illicit actors funding. The 2024 National Strategy for Combating Terrorist and Other Illicit Financing arrives at a critical juncture, with terrorist groups, criminal organizations, cybercriminals, corrupt actors, and nation-states all posing significant challenges. However, the U.S. has also made significant strides, including operationalizing the Beneficial Ownership Information E-Filing System and proposing regulations to increase transparency in real estate and investment advising. This strategy outlines the government's goals and priorities for the next two years, focusing on strengthening laws, regulations, strategies, technology, communication, and personnel to ensure the AML/CFT regime can effectively combat illicit finance in a dynamic environment.

The deadly fentanyl crisis in the US is intertwined with money laundering facilitated by legal loopholes unique to the American system. Mexican cartels, like the Sinaloa Cartel, produce the drug, receiving hundreds of billions of dollars annually. This illicit revenue is laundered through

fake companies, complex accounting, and services shielded by attorney-client privilege, according to a U.S. Treasury assessment. "Factureros," or billers, create false invoices to further obscure the money trail. The ENABLERS Act, a bipartisan bill aiming to close these loopholes by classifying lawyers as "financial institutions," has faced opposition from the American Bar Association. The bill is still working its way through Congress toward the President's desk.

China's growing global influence has coincided with the expansion of its criminal networks, bringing them, and their international ties (like those with the Sinaloa Cartel), to the forefront of U.S. policy, particularly due to the fentanyl crisis. These groups are increasingly dominant in money laundering, even supplanting the Black Peso Market for Mexican cartels. Beyond drugs and money laundering, their activities are intensifying at the U.S.-Mexico border. Key concerns in 2024 include: the impact of China's support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the presence of Chinese and Russian criminal groups in each other's countries; potential violent clashes between Chinese and Mexican cartels as the latter expand methamphetamine smuggling in East Asia; and whether Chinese groups will increase synthetic drug trafficking into Europe or cede the market to Mexican cartels. Finally, China-linked criminal groups should be a priority for interagency Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigations.

FINANCE/MONEY LAUNDERING

Established in 1990, FinCEN analyzes Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) data to aid law enforcement in combating money laundering. The BSA's reporting requirements create a financial trail for investigators. FinCEN's expertise lies in deciphering complex money laundering schemes and uncovering hidden information within this data. Laundered money can move through various channels, from banks and casinos to international transfers, using tactics ranging from sophisticated financial transactions to simple currency smuggling. FinCEN analyzes this information, drawing from a vast database, to support investigations. Protecting the privacy of this data is a paramount concern for the agency. FinCEN also facilitates information sharing between agencies with related investigations.

Money laundering itself is a sophisticated process that involves hiding the illicit ownership or source of funds, often through a variety of financial crimes such as fraud, corruption, drug trafficking, tax evasion, and terrorism. In financial markets, this means that illicit actors exploit both traditional banking systems and emerging digital financial platforms to move, hide, and legitimize criminal proceeds. For instance, the case of New York-area pharmacy owners who fraudulently billed Medicare for expensive cancer drugs highlights how money laundering can be masked through legitimate financial transactions. Similarly, Credit Suisse's involvement in laundering money for a Bulgarian criminal organization through bank transfers underscores the crucial role financial institutions play in facilitating or preventing illicit transactions.

The scale of money laundering globally is staggering, with estimates suggesting that between \$800 billion and \$2 trillion are laundered each year. The United States is responsible for a significant portion of this, accounting for at least \$300 billion annually, or roughly 15% to 38% of global illicit financial flows. From a financial analysis perspective, this underscores a fundamental risk to the U.S. economy and financial system, which is deeply interconnected with international markets. Despite the considerable efforts to combat these illicit flows, studies reveal that 90% of

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money laundering crimes go unreported. Even though 91.1% of investigations result in imprisonment, the reality is that the vast majority of these financial crimes remain undetected and unresolved. For instance, only 990 money laundering cases were reported in 2019, highlighting a significant gap between the scale of illicit financial activities and their actual legal enforcement.

This underreporting and under-enforcement reflect systemic weaknesses in financial oversight and reporting mechanisms. The complexity of global finance, particularly the increasing use of digital currencies and financial technology, presents further challenges for detecting and preventing money laundering. Strengthening financial monitoring systems, improving cross-border collaboration, and leveraging emerging technologies will be crucial to closing this gap and enhancing the effectiveness of anti-money laundering efforts. Ultimately, the fight against money laundering requires an ongoing, adaptive approach that addresses both the vulnerabilities within the financial system and the ever-evolving tactics of criminal actors.

In 2024, MBN seized \$326,074.00 in illicit funds during criminal interdiction stops and other investigations of drug traffickers. MBN agents assisted other agencies with the seizure of approximately \$559,656.69. According to Gulf Coast HIDTA/BLOC data, participating agencies seized approximately \$2,000,672.02 in bulk currency from drug violators in Mississippi for the fiscal year 2024 and EPIC's National Seizure System reported \$4,044,119.00 for the calendar year. The seizure of these funds has greatly impacted the drug trade within the state.

Law enforcement utilizes the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN) to assist in identifying assets of drug dealers. The Suspicious Activity Report (SAR), Currency Transaction Report (CTR) and Currency Transaction Report for Casinos (CTR-C) are the most utilized by law enforcement. Although FINCEN helps address the difficulties of tracking wired monies and/or monies moved via financial institution, the bulk movement of currency out of the United States and into the transit and source countries remains a problem for law enforcement.

VII. TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

The devastating consequences of drug use know no geographic, economic, social, or ethnic boundaries. Each year hundreds of thousands of people around the globe – rich, poor, educated, illiterate, male, female, and even young children – die from substance use disorders, and many are victims of drug-fueled violence (state.gov). The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN) has played a vital role in the defense against the abuse, misuse, sale, and trafficking of controlled substances since 1971. During the “war on drug,” MBN has taken a collaborative approach to enhance public health and public safety by establishing and expanding purposeful partnerships with other disciplines such as the Mississippi Public Health Institute, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, the Mississippi State Department of Health, and other entities, both public and private. These agencies and entities work together to build a focus on treatment programs and initiatives that enhance the lives of those who need treatment for substance abuse or other medical issues and the prevention of drug abuse and misuse while promoting public awareness and



education. Mississippi can provide treatment and prevention relating to substance abuse, mental health, or other medical issues as rapidly as possible through collaborative efforts of entities such as these.

TREATMENT

“The Mississippi Department of Health administers the public system of substance use assessment, referral, prevention, treatment, and recovery support services for individuals in Mississippi. Service providers include state-operated programs, regional Community Mental Health Centers, and other non-profit community-based programs. The overall goal of the state’s substance use disorder service system is to provide quality care within a continuum of accessible, community-based services, including prevention, outpatient, withdrawal management, intensive outpatient, high-intensity and low-intensity residential treatment, opioid treatment services and recovery support” (dmh.ms.gov). Inpatient chemical dependency units for female inpatients (25 beds) are located at the Mississippi State Hospital (msh.state.ms.us) and for male inpatients (50 beds) are located at the East Mississippi State Hospital (emsh.ms.gov). These Community Mental Health Centers operate Substance Use Services by providing the following (Department of Mental Health Information Booklet):



- Prevention Services
- Employee Assistance Programs
- Individual, Group, and Family Counseling
- Recovery Support Services
- Primary Residential Services (Including Withdrawal Management)
- Transitional Residential Services
- Vocational Counseling
- Mobile Crisis Response Teams

The Substance Use Disorder Services applies person-centered recovery for everyone. This program uses the combination of Dialectical Behavior Therapy and the 12 Step Recovery Model for patients to develop a relapse prevention plan, coping skills, and social support.

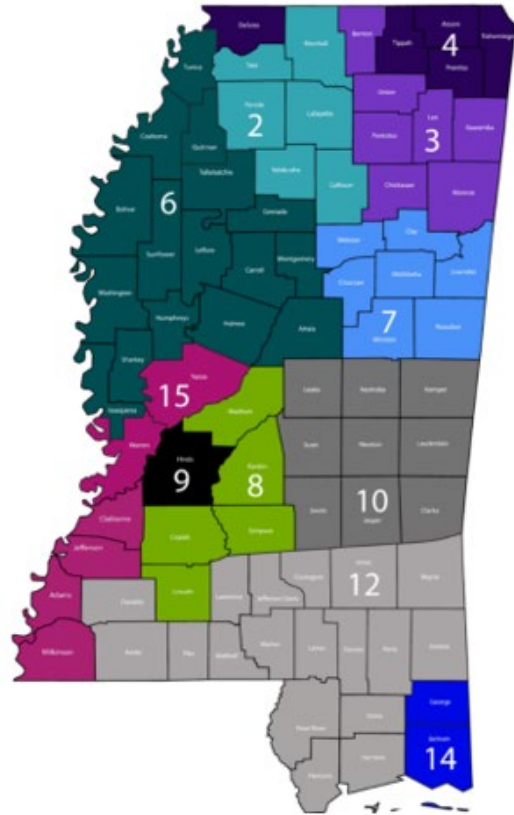
Funded by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and provided by the Community Mental Health Centers, the Mobile Crisis Response Teams work closely with law enforcement to provide guidance and support to both children and adults experiencing a mental health crisis. According to the Mississippi Department of Mental Health’s website (dmh.ms.gov), “a Mobile Crisis Response Teams can help people who are experiencing a situation where the person’s behavioral health needs exceed the person’s resources to effectively handle the circumstances. Teams consist of

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mental health professionals who can provide support to people experiencing a mental health, alcohol and drug, or intellectual and development disabilities crisis.” More information regarding the Mobile Crisis Response Team is available online (mentalhealthms.com/mobile-crisis-response-teams) or by calling the toll-free numbers listed.

Mobile Crisis Response Teams

REGION 2
888-837-7521
REGION 3
888-255-9986
REGION 4
888-287-4443
REGION 6
888-453-6216
REGION 7
888-886-8505
REGION 8
877-657-4098
REGION 9
601-955-6381
REGION 10
800-803-0245
REGION 12 (NORTH TEAM)
888-330-7772
Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jeff Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Wayne
REGION 12 (WEST TEAM)
877-353-8689
Amite, Franklin, Lawrence, Pike, Walthall
REGION 12 (COAST TEAM)
800-681-0798
Hancock, Harrison, Stone
REGION 14
888-497-0690
REGION 15
888-558-2077
Adams, Claiborne, Jefferson, Warren, Wilkinson, Yazoo



The Mississippi State Department of Health has a program which focuses specifically on opioid and prescription drug abuse. According to the Mississippi State Department of Health website (msdh.ms.gov), “the Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Program works to prevent overdose deaths in Mississippi and end the drug overdose epidemic in the state.” Naloxone, aka Narcan,

when given in time to those suffering from an opioid overdose can reverse the effects of drugs, including heroin, fentanyl, and other prescription opioid medications. Naloxone is available upon request at pharmacies and through the Mississippi State Department of Health. Individuals can request Naloxone kits at no cost and learn more about this life-saving medication by visiting the Mississippi Public Health Institute website (odfree.org).



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State of Mississippi Administrative Office of Courts website, “an intervention court is a special court given the responsibility to handle cases involving drug-using offenders through comprehensive supervision, drug testing, treatment services and immediate sanctions and incentives” (courts.ms.gov). Everyone enrolled into the intervention courts must submit to and successfully complete long-term treatment and counseling, sanctions, incentives, and frequent court appearances. Intervention courts benefit graduates not only by resulting in charges being dismissed, charges reduced, lesser penalties, or a combination of these, but also by rehabilitating them, allowing them to obtain the means to restore their lives (courts.ms.gov).



The Intervention Court model consists of the key components listed below (courts.ms.gov).

- Incorporating drug testing into case processing.
- Creating a non-adversarial relationship between the defendant and the court.
- Identifying defendants in need of treatment and referring them to treatment as soon as possible after arrest.
- Providing access to a continuum of treatment and rehabilitation services.
- Monitoring abstinence through frequent, mandatory drug testing.
- Establishing a coordinated strategy to govern Intervention Court responses to participants' compliance.
- Maintaining judicial interaction with each Intervention Court participant.
- Monitoring and evaluating program goals and gauging their effectiveness.
- Continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective Intervention Court planning, implementation, and operations.
- Forging partnerships among Intervention Courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations to generate local support and enhance Intervention Court effectiveness.

The Mississippi Administration of Courts recently reported 41 drug courts. This includes 23 adult felony drug courts, 4 adult misdemeanor drug courts, 14 juvenile drug courts, and 4 family drug courts.

PREVENTION

Created by a collaboration between the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, the Mississippi Public Health Initiative, the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy, and the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the Mississippi Opioid and Heroin Data Collaborative delivers a wide range of data in a collaborative effort to provide insight to Mississippi's opioid and heroin abuse problem. “This report summarizes data on opioid prescriptions dispenses in Mississippi, fatal drug overdoses reported to the Mississippi Bureau of

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Narcotics, naloxone administrations by Emergency Medical Services for suspected overdoses, drug-related arrests, and treatment services for opioid-related disorders within facilities certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health” (msdh.ms.gov; Provisional Data Report). “The goal of this report is to provide timely and accurate information to the public and policy makers on key indicators measuring the scope of the opioid epidemic in Mississippi” (msdh.ms.gov; Provisional Data Report).

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), also known as the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), continues to prevent drug abuse in Mississippi. This program “is an electronic database that tracks controlled substance prescriptions in a state. PDMPs can provide health authorities timely information about prescribing and patient behaviors that contribute to the epidemic and facilitate a nimble and targeted response” (cdc.gov).



Mississippi Prescription Monitoring Program

“The Mississippi Prescription Monitoring Program (MS PMP) is an electronic tracking program managed by the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy to aid practitioners and dispensers in providing proper pharmaceutical care relating to controlled substances” (pmp.mbp.ms.gov). Due to the legalization of medicinal marijuana in the State of Mississippi, healthcare providers are required to use the MS PMP to report medical cannabis every 24 hours (pmp.mbp.ms.gov; Data Submission Guide for Medical Cannabis Dispensers).

Grant funding by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and the Mississippi Partnership Projects allows access and the utilization of prescription drop boxes in the State of Mississippi. These drop boxes located throughout the state have been made available for citizens to dispose of expired or unwanted prescriptions. According to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety website, there are 36 drop boxes located at the state agencies listed below (dps.ms.gov).



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- Bay St. Louis Police Department
- Biloxi Police Department
- Brandon Police Department
- Byram Police Department
- Columbus Police Department
- D'Iberville Police Department
- Gulfport Police Department
- Jackson Police Department – JPD Headquarters
- Jackson Police Department – Precinct 1
- Jackson Police Department – Precinct 2
- Jackson Police Department – Precinct 3
- Jackson Police Department – Precinct 4
- Kemper County School District
- Long Beach Police Department
- Louisville Police Department
- McComb Police Department
- MHP – Batesville
- MHP – Biloxi
- MHP – Brookhaven
- MHP – Hattiesburg
- MHP – Jackson I-55
- MHP – Meridian
- MHP – Pearl
- MHP – Starkville
- MHP – Tupelo
- Moss Point Police Department
- MSU Campus Police Department
- Ocean Springs Police Department
- Oxford Police Department
- Pascagoula Police Department
- Pass Christian Police Department
- Pearl Police Department
- Ridgeland Police Department
- Smith County Sheriff's Department
- Vicksburg Police Department
- Waveland Police Department

In conjunction with treatment initiatives and collaborative working groups, MBN seeks to create and expand programs that are focused on prevention. Some of the initiatives include the Drug Demand Reduction Program, which aims to promote public awareness and education across the state. This program also engages in working group meetings on a bi-weekly basis to discuss current issues, advances, and ideas to improve and expand prevention and treatment opportunities.

As has been stated before, societal problems cannot be addressed merely by enforcement efforts by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement is only one approach to societal issues. A collaborative approach through joining law enforcement, public health, mental health, treatment, and other professions together to share data across this variety of disciplines is being practiced in Mississippi by public and private entities. These collaborative efforts allow for timely and relevant information to be shared across multiple disciplines and found by the public in multiple formats, to include being found through queries of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Mississippi State Department of Health, and partnerships.



VIII. STREET AND OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

STREET GANGS



Mississippi's legal definition of a "street gang," "gang," "organized gang," or "criminal street gang" is defined as any combination, confederation, alliance, network, conspiracy, understanding, or other similar conjoining, in law or in fact, of three (3) or more persons with an established hierarchy that, through its membership or through the agency of any member, engages in felonious criminal activity.

"Street gang member" or "gang member" means any person who actually and in fact belongs to a gang, and any person who knowingly acts in the capacity of an agent for or accessory to, or is legally accountable for, or voluntarily associates himself with a gang-related criminal activity, whether in a preparatory, executory or cover-up phase of any activity, or who knowingly performs, aids or abets any such activity. This sets the street gangs apart from any other type of group. Street gangs are turf oriented and will go to great lengths to protect their territory. Experts say teens joining young is all too common; gangs recruit children as young as eight years old. Social media and the use of apps continue to be primary means of communication, promotion, and conducting business. Gangs focus on integration and acceptance in the community. Based on conversations among law enforcement officers, juvenile cliques, that identify themselves as a group or gang, are a serious problem in Mississippi and a variety of crimes can be attributed to these groups. It is important to recognize that neighborhood-based gangs pose the highest rate of significant threat for violent crimes in the United States, versus national-level street gangs, prison gangs, and outlaw motorcycle gangs, according to www.dosomething.org.

The long term, loosely organized street gangs threaten increase their role in trafficking drugs, particularly involving the smuggling of drugs into the United States and develop relationships with international criminal organizations and drug-trafficking organizations (DTOs).

The formation of neighborhood hybrid gangs and cliques contributes to the large variation of gang subsets within the state. Hybrid gangs are new youth gangs engaged in illegal activities. Such gangs are found throughout the United States. Unlike traditional gangs based on race or neighborhood loyalty, the new generations of gangsters are devoted to making money through illegal activities such as drugs, robbery, and prostitution.

Hybrid gang culture is characterized by mixed racial and ethnic participation within a single gang, participation in multiple gangs by a single individual, vague rules and codes of conduct or gang members, the use of symbols and colors from multiple gangs, collaboration by rival gangs in criminal activities, and the merger of smaller gangs into larger ones. (US Dept of Justice; Office of Justice Programs).

Hybrid gangs are characterized by their young, multi-ethnic, mixed-gender demographics, fluid gang affiliation and their use of social media. Members are typically between 14 and 19 years old. Groups of youth started getting together “and essentially creating their own gang monikers” to commit crimes like shoplifting, armed robbery, aggravated assault, drive-by shootings, and others. Hybrid gangs are difficult to track, identify, and target as they are transient and continuously evolving (The Tucson Police Department’s Gang Investigative Unit)



Hybrid gangs modify traditional gang culture with their personal interpretations and agendas. Presently, hybrid gangs have become a big criminal and societal problem in local communities. These young adults are trying to find somewhere to fit in, find something to identify with.



Cliques are semi-autonomous and not necessarily tied to a formal structure, which allows them to a certain level of independence in controlling their criminal portfolios. Their illegal activities include micro-trafficking, car theft, prostitution, human smuggling, human trafficking, firearms trafficking, hitmen for hire, money laundering and extortion. Extortion and local drug trafficking are their most significant sources of income. The clique definition refers to a group that sticks together and typically follows a well-defined set of rules and includes a leader. The members of a clique share common interests, but they can be restrictive to outsiders.

The cliques’ degree of independence varies and is dependent on geography, the social fabric, and the political makeup of the places where each operates. It can be contingent on the personal histories of the heads of each clique and their relationship to other gang leaders. Vast differences in the size of cliques and their respective criminal sophistication are also due, in part, to their semi-independent status. People see cliques as a way to gain popularity, importance, or respect.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) indicates there are now over 1.4 million gang members involved in the 33,000 active gangs inside the United States. These gangs consist of violent street gangs, motorcycle gangs, and prison gangs. Some of the most dangerous gangs in the United States are Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Latin Kings, Crips, 18th Street Gang, Bloods, Nuestra Familia, Mexican Mafia, and Aryan Brotherhood. Six of those ten have been identified in

Mississippi: MS-13, Latin Kings, Crips, Bloods, Mexican Mafia and Aryan Brotherhood. The southernmost counties in Mississippi are influenced by the Simon City Royals, Gangster Disciples, Latin Kings, Vice Lords and Subsets.

The **Simon City Royals** have expanded their influence across the Southern United States. Especially the states of Mississippi and Alabama. They are reportedly one of four of the most prominent gangs in Mississippi. The other three are the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords and Aryan Brotherhood of Mississippi.



Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter offer free live streaming services that gangs utilize. It has been reported that gang members use these streaming services to identify real time locations of targeted individuals for assault or retaliation. Various social media platforms, such as Snapchat, Instagram, and Facebook are utilized to advertise various illicit drugs. Additionally, these groups utilize encrypted messaging apps, such as WhatsApp and Signal, to communicate. Online payment systems, such as PayPal, Venmo, Cash App, and Green Dot, are facilitating payment arrangements among individuals and groups

for illicit drugs. Sellers and buyers often communicate in code by using emojis, hashtags, and acronyms to make transactions.

The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics initiated 80 cases associated with gang affiliations in the year 2024 compared to 144 cases associated with gang affiliations in the year 2023. This shows a decrease in the number of cases initiated in the year 2024 compared to 2023. There were 88 cases initiated in the year 2022 compared to 37 in the year 2021 and 36 cases initiated in the year 2020. Gangs were charged with possession of drugs, including but not limited to, fentanyl, powder and crack cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. Charges also stemmed from sale of Fentanyl, methamphetamine, trafficking of marijuana and MDMA (Ecstasy), possession of narcotics, possession of depressants and possession of firearm by convicted felon.

	# of Gangs	Total Cases	Total Subjects	Total Arrests	Total Charges
2020 Totals	5	36	49	16	88
2021 Totals	4	37	44	14	74
2022 Totals	8	88	130	69	167
2023 Totals	8	144	130	69	167
2024 Totals	9	80	94	36	142

In 2024, MBN encountered the following gangs across the state. Gangster Disciples and the Vice Lords affiliations were the most encountered gangs for 2024. Simon City Royals were encountered on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and Central Mississippi Region and in the Northern Mississippi Region.

Throughout Mississippi, gangs use graffiti markings to identify their turf. Ages of identified gang members range from 13 years of age to 50 plus. In 2023, MBN Agents initiated more investigations involving gang members. From conversations with Mississippi law enforcement partners, gang activity continues to involve an increasing number of juveniles.

Gangs	Total Cases	Total Subjects	Total Arrests	Total Charges
Aryan Brotherhood	4	4	3	6
Black Gangster Disciples	5	7	3	12
Four Corner Hustlers	6	3	3	10
Gangster Disciples	28	38	14	54
Hoover Crips	5	4	1	8
Latin Kings	2	4	1	7
Rolling 60's	3	1	0	3
Simon City Royals	13	10	5	18
Vice Lords	14	19	7	24

Gangster Disciples



Known Gangster Disciples graffiti has been reportedly seen on US military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan. Gang members have also begun to infiltrate police departments, using tactics and information they learn there to both outsmart and confront law enforcement and rival gangs.

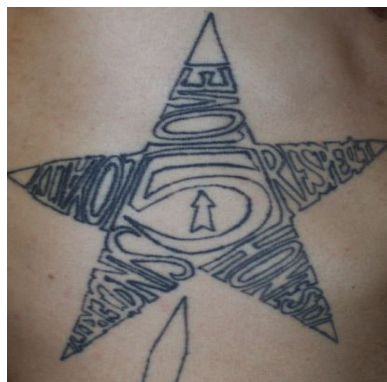
Gang members are also using technology to monitor, target, and conduct counter-surveillance of law enforcement. Utilizing such tools as the internet, smartphones, drones, GPS devices, confidential informants, VoIP, PlayStation and Xbox, gang members can identify, locate, and disrupt law enforcement operations.

Gangster Disciples "represent" with the colors black and blue. Gang members are known to wear Georgetown Hoyas, Florida Gators, and Duke Blue Devils apparel. The predominant symbol used to represent them is the six-pointed Star of David (✡). The symbol pays homage to founder David Barksdale. The Gangster Disciples are active in 110 cities and in 31 states, predominantly in the midwestern and southeastern United States. Their most notable criminal activities include drug trafficking, robbery, extortion, murder, and prostitution.



Symbols often used to characterize the Vice Lords are hats cocked to the left side, rabbits wearing a bow tie (The Playboy logo), martini glasses, gloves, top hats, canes, five-point stars (points representing Love, Truth, Peace, Freedom and Justice), crescent moons, pitchforks pointing down, broken hearts with wings, pyramids with eyes above them, and five-point crowns. Their criminal activities include drug trafficking, robbery, extortion, fraud, money laundering, boosting and murder.

Red is the color for Bloods, although some sets may use green. Bloods refer to each other as Dawg, Damu, or Piru. Numbers and symbols depend on a set affiliation. The word "Piru" refers to the original Blood gang. Bloods use a crossed out "c" in words as disrespect for Crips. The word MOB means "Money Over Bitches." Bloods are comprised of approximately 15,000 to 20,000 members. Criminal activities include drug trafficking, robbery, murder, burglary, prostitution, theft and extortion.



The Crips are one of the largest and most violent associations of street gangs in the United States with an estimated 30,000 to 35,000 members. The Crips are a primarily black gang. Crips will misspell words in an attempt to avoid using certain letter combinations that are viewed as disrespectful to the vandalizing gang. For instance, the letters "C" and "K" together stand for "Crip Killer," therefore, the Crips will avoid using this letter combination and instead spell words that would normally end in "-ck" with two "C's" so that the word "luck" is spelled "lucc." Crips represent themselves by wearing

blue; some sets may dress in purple. Crips refer to each other as Cuzz or Loc which itself is sometimes used as a moniker for Crip. "Crab" is the most disrespectful epithet to call a Crip and can warrant fatal retaliation. Numbers and symbols depend on set affiliation. Crips use the letter "c" in place of "b" as a way of disrespecting the rival gang, Bloods. Crips call themselves "Blood Killas" (BK) and wear British Knight (BK) tennis shoes. Criminal activities include drug trafficking, robbery, murder, burglary, prostitution, and theft.

Symbols common to the Black P. (Prince) Nation, or the Black P. Stones, are a pyramid with 21 bricks, rising sun, eye, number 7, five-point star, and the crescent moon. Their colors are red, black and green. They have approximately 30,000 to 42,000 members nationwide. The Black P. Stones are also allied with the Almighty Latin Kings Nation, the most organized Hispanic street gang in the U.S., known for murder, drug trafficking, and robberies. The BPSN finances itself through an array of criminal activities including drug trafficking, robbery, extortion, murder and domestic terrorism.





The Simon City Royals have expanded their influence across the Southern United States. Especially the states of Mississippi and Alabama. The Simon City Royals are one of the predominant gangs in Mississippi. They were formally the Almighty Simon City Royal Nation. The Simon City Royals are now an affiliate of the All Folk Nation. As of 2003, Royal recruits in Mississippi are required to be sponsored by a member, serve a six-month probationary period (during which time they are referred to as "prospects"), and ultimately declare a lifetime commitment to the gang. The Simon City Royals have recently made a notable split creating a new

set known as Sip City or Thirteen Dreams (a 501(c)(3) organization). Simon City Royals' symbols include a shield with an R for Royal, 6-pointed star, cross, 3-pointed crown and the royal knight. This organization is represented by the colors black, white and blue. Criminal activities include dealing of illegal drugs and other contraband, particularly in prison where members are incarcerated. They are also involved in racketeering and loan sharking.

The Latin Kings (also known as the Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation) is the most sizable Hispanic and Latino street gang across the globe. The gang was founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1954. The colors for the Latin Kings are black and gold. This gang makes use of a 5 or 3-point "sacred crown," drawings of a lion and/or the "King Master," and the acronyms LK, ALK, ALKN, ALKQN. Unlike most street gangs, the acceptance of female members is commonplace in most factions. The Latin Kings comprised of 20,000-35,000 members within the U.S. and up to 50,000 globally. The Latin Kings have 160 chapters operating in 34 states in the U.S. The Latin kings conduct wide-scale racketeering activities within their spheres of influence and drug



trafficking of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Criminal activities include battery, extortion, robbery, murder, arms trafficking and drug trafficking.



The Aryan Brotherhood (AB), also known as the Brand, is a white supremacist prison gang and organized crime syndicate in the United States with roughly 20,000 members. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the gang makes up less than one-tenth of a percent of the prison population, but it is responsible for as many as 20% of the murders in the federal prison system. Throughout the state of Mississippi, there are approximately 400 known Aryan Brotherhood members consisting mostly of young

Caucasian males. The Mississippi Brotherhood calls itself “the Family” and is ruled by a three-man “Wheel” that divides the state into nine zones. The Wheel appoints a captain to oversee each zone and prison, with a network of sergeants-at-arms who enforce order and discipline, a treasurer to handle finances and numerous soldiers. Recruits are in “prospect status” for six months before they can be assigned a “blood in mission.” The gang was disrupted in 2016 when 42 members and associates were convicted of racketeering conspiracy, murder, and conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Representations common to the Aryan Brotherhood are: “Aryan Brotherhood,” “AB,” 666, Nazi symbolism such as SS, sig runes, and swastikas, as well as shamrocks and Celtic iconography. Criminal activities include drug trafficking, extortion, inmate prostitution and murder-for-hire.



Currently, law enforcement’s most concerning street gang is Mara Salvatrucha, known as MS-13. With approximately 10,000 members in the United States, MS-13 is notorious for its propensity for vicious violence. Initiation requires committing murder and many gang members have been convicted of homicide, some using machetes to behead their victims. Most of the gang is ethnically composed of Central Americans (mostly Salvadorans) who are active in urban and suburban areas. Traditionally, MS-13 gang members wear Chicago Bulls hats in the gang’s official colors blue & white, but members in Massachusetts have been known to wear Chicago Bulls hats in a variety of different colors to avoid identification. MS-13 gang members commonly use Chicago Bulls apparel to

identify themselves. Tattoos common to the MS-13 are "MS," "Salvatrucha," "devil horns," the name of their clique, and more. MS-13 utilizes a system of hand signs for purposes of identification and communication. One of the most commonly displayed is the "devil's head" which forms an 'M' when displayed upside down. The hand sign is like the same symbol commonly seen displayed by heavy metal musicians and their fans. Founders of Mara Salvatrucha borrowed the hand sign after attending concerts of heavy metal bands. Criminal activities include drug trafficking, robbery, larceny, human trafficking, extortion, illegal immigration, murder, prostitution, racketeering, battery, kidnapping and arms trafficking. MS-13 members are involved in the smuggling of illicit drugs into the United States, primarily powdered cocaine and marijuana.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast has a population of Asian gangs in the Harrison, Hancock, and Jackson County areas. Some of the Asian gangs known to authorities are: The Dragon Family/Royal Family, True Viet Boys (TVB), and the Viet Boyz (2202 VBZ). Junior members are called “Baby Gangsters” (aka “Boy Gangsters”; “Tiny Baby Gangsters”). The Dragon Family is a known rival of the Viet Boyz. The dragon is most often used to symbolize these gangs. The revenue from organized crime comes mainly from the extortion of brothels, prostitution, money laundering, the distribution of narcotics, and counterfeit merchandise. Criminal activities include extortion, counterfeiting, prostitution, money laundering, drug trafficking, racketeering, murder, assault, robbery, arms trafficking, auto theft, and burglary.

The Viet Boys are known as one of the most violent Asian gangs. They are typically known for their stubbornness and protecting their turf. They have approximately 1,300 to 2,000 members. This gang was created by Cambodians to protect their own people from getting attacked by Mexican gang members. The gang is allied with the Crips. Criminal activities include drug trafficking, robbery, assault, burglary, theft, homicide, and gambling.



The Mexican Mafia, also known as La Eme, has an estimated membership of between 350 and 400 validated members, comprised primarily of United States citizens and Mexican Nationals. The Mexican Mafia did not originate in



Mexico and is entirely a U.S. criminal prison organization. Tattoos common to the Mexican Mafia are symbols which include images of a black hand. The gang's primary symbol, which is often used in tattoos by members, is the national symbol of Mexico (eagle and a snake) atop a flaming circle over crossed knives. The number 13 is used to show allegiance to the Mexican Mafia. M is the 13th letter of the alphabet. Even though homosexuals are barred from entry into the gang, they are engaged heavily in homosexual prostitution in the prison system. Criminal activities both inside and outside the

prison system involve extorting drug distributors outside prison and distributing various narcotics within and outside the penitentiary. The Mexican Mafia's main source of income is extorting drug distributors outside prison and distributing methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and marijuana within the prison systems and on the outside streets. Criminal activities include: murder, money laundering, arms trafficking, drug trafficking, kidnapping, pandering, racketeering, extortion, human trafficking, illegal immigration, fraud and illegal gambling.



OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS



At the present time, Mississippi has three international Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG) which are the Sons of Silence, the Vagos and the Bandidos. The Bandidos and the Sons of Silence were the dominant OMG clubs in Mississippi and were two of the “Big Five OMG’s” in the nation. The “Big Five” consists of the five most notorious and violent motorcycle gangs in the United States. The Bandidos have chapters in the state located on the Gulf Coast, Jackson, Meridian, and North Mississippi. According to the American Motorcycle Association, 99% of motorcycle riders are law abiding citizens; thus, only one percent of all motorcycles are affiliated with a gang.

The FBI asserts that OMG’s support themselves primarily through drug dealing, trafficking in stolen goods, and extortion. They typically fight over territory and the illegal drug trade and collect \$1 billion in illegal income annually.

Many jurisdictions have reported an increase in overall Motorcycle Club and Outlaw Motorcycle Gang activity in recent years. This activity has centered on increasing membership by patching



smaller clubs into larger clubs. In some instances, support clubs have been used to increase the visual effect of a dominant club when it rides through an area. Clubs are also displaying colors and support stickers on motor vehicles.

According to the Mississippi Confederation of Clubs, the Bandidos OMG has chapter a in Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, and Meridian. The Bandidos are one of the five main OMGs that pose a serious national domestic threat and conduct much of the criminal activity linked to OMGs. It is not uncommon to observe colors, decals, and other identifiers while in the

communities. The Bandidos MC, also known as the Bandido Nation, is an OMG formed in Texas in 1966 and based in Houston. The Bandidos MC has approximately 2,000 members, and 303 chapters located in 22 countries. The Bandidos MC has 90 chapters located in the United States alone, through which they commit mass racketeering and drug distribution activities across the country. The Bandidos MC conducts drug trafficking, arms trafficking, prostitution, extortion, money laundering and murder.



The Pistoleros are a support club, or gang, for the Bandidos with

five chapters in Mississippi located in Desoto, Lauderdale, Forest, Hinds and Harrison Counties. OMGs strive to initiate young members with no criminal history for the purpose of acquiring a gun permit or to purchase weapons. The criminal activities are the same as the majority of other OMG's which include drug distribution, stolen motorcycles, money laundering, other Racketeer Influenced Organizations, and Continuing Criminal Enterprise type violations.



The Sons of Silence OMG became a full charter chapter in Rankin County in October 2008. As with most other gangs, a chapter must have five members to receive full status as a chapter. MBN intelligence has identified three members of the Sons of Silence OMG in Rankin and Scott Counties. The Sons of Silence's logo is an American eagle superimposed over the letter "A" (similar to, and taken from, the Anheuser-Busch logo) flying under an arch and their motto is "donec mors non separat ", Latin for "until death separates us."

The Galloping Goose motto is: "Often Tested, Always Faithful". Their colors are purple and gold and their patch consists of a set of legs running. The torso on top of the set of legs is a large hand with the middle finger extended. In the background of the patch you can see an outhouse, this links back to an outhouse which used to be towed on a trailer in the club's early years when they went on runs. The patch has purple writing on a gold background. The Galloping Goose OMG is a one percent club and their rules of behavior sometimes include violent crimes.

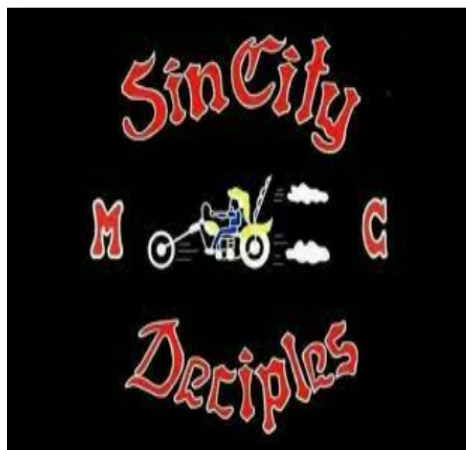


The Vagos' (also known as the Green Nation) motto is: "We Give What We Get." The Vagos arrived in Mississippi in 2011 and began wearing nomad cuts. They are an international one



percent OMG founded in California. Vagos MC has an estimated 900 patched members in 87 chapters in the United States. The Vagos Motorcycle Club patch consists of the Norse god of Mischief, Loki. He is depicted riding a motorcycle. One of the Vagos Motorcycle Club abbreviations is 22, referencing the 22nd letter of the alphabet. The Vagos Motorcycle Club color is green, which links back to the Mexican heritage of the Vagos Motorcycle Club founder. Vagos' also use the motto "VFFV," meaning "Vagos Forever Forever Vagos." Vagos MC is known for narcotics distribution, motorcycle theft, racketeering, and illegal weapons possession.

In 2013, the Iron Coffins initiated a local chapter in North Mississippi near Tupelo. The Iron Coffins originated out of Ohio in the 1960s and have chapters in several states in the Midwest, and now in Southern States. The Iron Coffins use the acronym "ICFFIC" which translates to "Iron Coffins Forever Forever Iron Coffins." The patch consists of a skeleton riding a motorcycle with wings. A biker displaying a 13 patch symbolizes that the biker either smokes marijuana, deals in it, or has a contact for methamphetamine. 666 displayed on a patch or tattoo, symbolizes the mark of Satan. 69 displayed on a patch or tattoo is symbolic of the well-known sexual position.



The Sin City Deciples motto is Death before Dishonor. The Club also uses the abbreviation of "DFFD," which stands for "Deciples Forever Forever Deciples." Though most club members are black, the club is open to all men, regardless of race or color. The club is known to have approximately 4,900 members including some military veterans. Members ride Harley Davidson Motorcycles. Members pride themselves on the tight knit brotherhood they have developed over years of riding with each other from state to state. The term "1934 Express" is also used, relating to the 19th, 3rd and 4th letters of the alphabet (S, C, D) for Sin City Deciples.



The Outcast Motorcycle Club is a black one percenter motorcycle club founded in Detroit, Michigan in 1969. They are an all-black one percenter motorcycle club. After starting their Mother Chapter in Detroit, Michigan, they have grown to over 30 chapters in cities throughout the US. They do not have any chapters internationally. The Outcast Motorcycle Club patch is made up of a laughing skull, which has teeth and possibly cornrows. Behind the skull is an iron cross. The Outcast motto is “We Ride For Peace,” making note of the spelling of the word “piece,” rather than “peace.” Also used by the Outcast Motorcycle Club is the acronym of “OFFO,” which stands for Outcast Forever, Forever Outcast. The Outcast Motorcycle

Gang, which has 67 chapters across Mafia and allies of the Bloodsuckers and Loyal Inc. “1934 Express” is also used, relating to the 19th, 3rd and 4th letters of the alphabet (S, C, D) for Sin City Deciples.

IX. OUTLOOK

The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN) and other law enforcement agencies face an enormous challenge in protecting the citizens of Mississippi and its neighboring states. State and local law enforcement agree, and statistics confirm that Mississippi has a significant drug problem. Fentanyl and other opioids continue to be the biggest issue due to the number of fentanyl related overdoses and new and reemerging synthetic opioids being seen as fentanyl becomes harder to obtain. The growing prevalence of methamphetamine, which is displacing drugs like MDMA, presents a danger, amplified by the influence of Mexican drug cartels. The increasing legalization of marijuana across states is having a growing impact on law enforcement, medical professionals, legal experts, and communities. Cocaine is increasingly available in Mississippi and cocaine's high addictiveness and harmful effects, coupled with its link to violent crime, still make it a significant public health and law enforcement challenge. There has been a decline in heroin use, likely connected to the increased availability of fentanyl, but heroin is always a threat. Diverted pharmaceuticals admissions and seizures are down but there has been a huge increase in the number of pharmacy burglaries. Cases and arrests involving some New Psychoactive Substances increased in 2024, making it a growing threat. Drug Trafficking Organizations continue to utilize established distribution routes in Mississippi dealing in bulk shipments.

TRENDS

- The importation, distribution and seizure of methamphetamine “ICE” from outside the state, continues to increase and is readily available.
- Vaping continues its popularity among Mississippi’s youth.
- Illegal marijuana grown in other states will continue to be imported into Mississippi. As more states legalize marijuana, the number of marijuana seizures will grow.

- Diverted pharmaceutical abuse remains constant as the number of pharmacy burglaries increases.
- New and reemerging synthetic opioids will continue to make their way into Mississippi and will be involved in more overdoses.
- Activity on the Dark Web, where subjects avoid traceable transactions of currency and drugs, continues to grow in Mississippi.
- Criminals will continue to adapt and create new ways to traffic illegal narcotics and launder and hide their proceeds.

DEVELOPMENTS

- The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics continues to strengthen its coalition with the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy, Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi Department of Mental Health, and the Mississippi Public Health Institute to help combat drug abuse in the state.
- MBN continues to expand partnerships in the criminal justice field, the medical community, social services, and substance abuse and mental health for combined approaches and solutions to help reduce the increasing problem of drug use and abuse in the State of Mississippi.
- Prior restrictions on ephedrine/pseudoephedrine, an essential component for the production of methamphetamine, have been decreased, whereas the medications will be available over the counter (OTC) and more readily available for the illicit production of methamphetamine.
- MBN has created and continues to expand the Demand Reduction Unit, which is a training and education initiative to keep citizens and other law enforcement entities updated on trends seen across the state.
- Industrial hemp farms, or hemp grows, are continuing to increase in Mississippi.
- Law enforcement, the medical community and communities continue to evolve and adapt with
- The Mississippi Legislature passed a law to allow Medical Marijuana in January 2022
- MBN is continuing to work with the medical community to combat public health and safety issues, such as heroin/fentanyl use and prescription drug abuse.

PREDICTIONS

- Vaping will become the most popular way for Mississippi's youth to consume drugs.
- Money laundering will increasingly become harder to discover due to the numerous methods of transferring funds digitally over the internet.
- More drug dealers and traffickers will use virtual currency in efforts to avoid cash seizures from law enforcement.

- An increase and expansion in the use of technology, such as encrypted apps, to conceal drug involved/related communications to thwart law enforcement's efforts to protect public safety and public health.
- MBN expects Mississippi to experience the diversion of Medical Marijuana and continue to adapt to the changes in medicinal and recreational marijuana laws.
- The production of new chemicals and compositions for manufacturing synthetic fentanyl and other synthetic substances will increase.
- Narcotics will continue to be primarily trafficked across the state via interstate transportation, using both private and public carriers, as well as the postal service.
- Mississippi will continue to see more people in treatment programs for methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana.
- There will be an increase in availability of counterfeit substances across the state as the demand for pharmaceuticals continues to climb.
- Abuse of synthetic drugs will continue to increase as people seek to obtain a legal high.
- Fentanyl will continue to be a desired drug, even though its use can be fatal,

X. METHODOLOGY

The Mississippi Drug Threat Assessment is produced annually by MBN's Intelligence Division to identify and quantify the nature, extent, and scope of the threat of illegal drugs and related issues in Mississippi. This document includes information from previous MBN Drug Threat Assessments, surveys from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, open-source documents, law enforcement sensitive information from other investigative agencies, internet websites, and anecdotal information from other reliable sources.

In preparation of this report, MBN Intelligence Analysts collected and analyzed the information required to quantify the threat and identify trafficking trends. The specific drug categories presented in the Mississippi Drug Threat Assessment are fentanyl and other opioids, methamphetamine, marijuana, powder and crack cocaine, heroin, diverted pharmaceuticals, and new psychoactive substances. The identification of specific intelligence gaps and projections for the future by drug type are also included. In addition, the Drug Threat Assessment identifies problems posed by the threat, the actions being taken by participating agencies, and the anticipated impact on the state.

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XII. DRUG PRICES ACROSS MISSISSIPPI

Drug Type	Weight	Jackson	Greenwood	Oxford	Tupelo	Starkville	Meridian	Hattiesburg	Gulfport	McComb
Powder Cocaine	Gram	\$60-\$100	\$80-100	\$60-120	\$100	\$80-100	\$60-80	\$100-120	\$100	\$50
	Eight-Ball	\$175	\$200-250	\$150-250	\$175-225	\$250	\$100-200	\$250-300	\$200	\$160
	Ounce	\$1,000-1,200	\$850	\$1,000-1,200	\$900-1,100	\$1,000	\$1,000-1,200	\$1,000-1,200	\$700	\$700
	¼ Kilo	\$5,000	\$6,000-10,000	\$6,000-9,000	\$4,800-6,500	\$6,200	\$7,000-8,000	\$7,000-10,000	\$5,000	N/A
	½ Kilo	\$9,000	\$14,000-19,000	\$15,000	\$9,000-12,000	\$14,000-\$15,000	\$15,000-\$16,000	\$15,000-19,000	\$9,000	N/A
	Kilogram	\$16,000	\$34,000-37,000	\$30,000-37,000	\$18,000-24,000	\$21,000	\$30,000-32,000	\$32,000-36,000	\$32,000-36,000	N/A
Crack Cocaine	Rock	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20
	Gram	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$80-100	\$80-100	\$100	\$100	\$40
	Eight-Ball	\$200-225	\$200-250	\$150 – 175	\$175-250	\$150	\$200-250	\$200	\$200	\$140
	Ounce	\$1,000-1,200	\$750-1,000	\$1,000	\$900-1,100	\$800-1,000	\$1,000-1,300	\$1,400-1,800	\$700	\$700
	¼ Kilo	\$5,000-8,000	\$5,000-8,000	\$6,500	\$6,800-8,500	\$6,500	\$8,000	\$7,000-10,000	\$6,000	N/A
	Kilogram	\$30,000-34,000	\$25,000 - 30,000	\$28,000-36,000	\$28,000	\$27,000-30,000	\$30,000-34,000	\$30,000-34,000	\$30,000	N/A
Marijuana	Dime Bag	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
	20-Sack	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20
	¼ Ounce	\$35	\$35-40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$35-40	\$40	\$35	N/A
	Ounce	\$100	\$60-120	\$100-150	\$80-140	\$80	\$60-100	\$50-100	\$100	\$400 high \$250 med \$60 low
	¼ Pound	\$400	\$125-450	\$350	\$180-200	\$250-350	\$250	\$200-300	\$200	N/A
	½ Pound	\$800	\$220-800	\$600-700	\$250-300	\$500-600	\$450	\$250-450	\$450	N/A
	Pound	\$1,200	\$600-800	\$1,000-1,200	\$800-1,200	\$800-1,200	\$800-1,000	\$500-700	\$600	N/A
LSD	Dosage Unit	N/A	\$10	\$10-15	\$12	\$10-12	\$10	\$5-10	N/A	N/A
MDMA	Dosage Unit	N/A	\$2-3	\$25-40	\$25-40	\$25-35	\$2	\$1-2	\$12-15	N/A
Fentanyl	Gram	N/A	\$100-150	\$150-250	N/A	N/A	\$200	N/A	\$100	\$200
	Dosage Unit	N/A	\$15.25	\$2.00-35	N/A	\$5-30	N/A	\$12	\$10-25	N/A

Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

Drug Type	Weight	Jackson	Greenwood	Oxford	Tupelo	Starkville	Meridian	Hattiesburg	Gulfport	McComb
Meth	Gram	\$50	\$20	\$50-75	\$80-100	\$80-100	\$50-60	\$30-40	\$30	\$20
	Eight-Ball	\$150	\$60-100	\$150-200	\$150-200	\$150-250	\$100-120	\$75-150	\$75-150	\$80
	Ounce	\$425	\$150-200	\$400-700	\$700-1,100	\$1,100	\$250-450	\$80-100	\$250	\$250
	Pound	\$6,000	\$1,200-2,000	N/A	\$12,000-15,000	\$12,000-15,000	\$1,900 2,200	\$2,000-4,000	\$2,000-3,500	\$2,000
Heroin	Gram	\$250	\$100 - 120	\$200-250	\$222-250	\$250	\$200-250	\$125-200	\$100-200	\$200
	Ounce	\$4,000	\$2,500	\$1,750-3,000	\$3,000	\$1,750-2,000	\$4,000	\$1,800	\$2,200	\$400-500
	¼ Kilo	N/A	\$15,000-18,000	\$15,000-18,000	\$15,000-18,000	\$15,7500	N/A	\$12,000-16,000	N/A	N/A
	1 Kilo	\$120,000	\$80,000-85,000	\$70,000-75,000	\$30,000-50,000	\$63,000	N/A	\$45,000-65,000	N/A	N/A