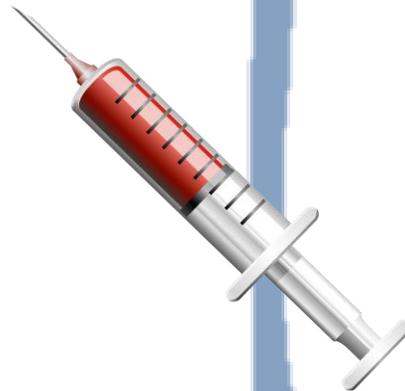




# DRUG THREAT ASSESSMENT

March 2019



**State of Mississippi  
Department of Public Safety  
Bureau of Narcotics  
Intelligence Division**

**Director  
John Dowdy**

**MISSISSIPPI BUREAU OF NARCOTICS  
DRUG THREAT ASSESSMENT  
MARCH 2019**

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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This assessment is produced each year to inform law enforcement agencies, legislators, and citizens of current and potential illicit concerns that exist in Mississippi and to assist in the planning of enforcement strategies and effective utilization of available resources for future operations. The Mississippi Drug Threat Assessment, which is produced by the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN), identifies the most significant criminal drug activity and drug threats faced by law enforcement and the citizens of this state. Contributing factors include geographic location, types of industries, cultural and economic diversities. It is our hope that the information contained in this report is instrumental in the counterdrug initiatives that impact the communities, the state of Mississippi, and the United States of America. As a result of statistical data from drug case production, toxicology reports of overdose deaths, and treatment and prevention information, Mississippi continues to fight the seemingly never-ending war on drugs.

### DRUG THREATS IN MISSISSIPPI

Methamphetamine (ICE)	→	Primary drug threat
Opioids	→	Primary drug threat
Cocaine	→	Increasing drug threat
Marijuana	→	Gateway drug
New Psychoactive	→	Continues to increase

- **Methamphetamine** is the primary drug threat in Mississippi due to its increasing availability, the rapid growth of abuse and the violent crime it generates. Methamphetamine (ICE), produced in and transported from Mexico, is the most accessible form in Mississippi while clandestine methamphetamine labs are almost non-existent. The distribution in Mississippi is done mostly by Caucasian criminal groups while Black American independent groups are becoming increasingly involved in the use and distribution of methamphetamine (ICE).
- **Opioids** are still a primary drug threat in Mississippi. The number of prescriptions being written is down but more potent drugs are being prescribed along with longer prescription durations. The diversion of pharmaceutical drugs is still the most common means for obtaining prescription drugs illegally but prescription drugs are still being bought through internet pharmacies with the risk of receiving counterfeit, contaminated, expired or unsafe pharmaceuticals. People who are addicted to prescription opiates are increasingly switching to heroin because it is more available, affordable, and provides a more intense high than prescription opiates. The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN) has seen a significant increase in white and brown heroin seizures over the past year and has also made several major purchases throughout the state. The majority of drug overdose deaths in the state of

Mississippi are caused by opioid abuse. The use and treatment of heroin and overdose deaths related to heroin and heroin combined with fentanyl have increased over the past few years.

- **Marijuana** is the most frequently abused and abundantly available drug in Mississippi. Marijuana continues to be the most commonly used drug in Mississippi. Intelligence indicates it is the gateway drug for teens and young adults who are beginning to experiment with drugs. This is evident by the large number of marijuana arrests on college campuses. Although treatment data indicates admission rates for marijuana abuse are moderate, abuse continues to be widespread. A higher grade of marijuana and new hybrids are more available due to modern indoor cultivation techniques, influence of Vietnamese DTOs, American DTOs and sources in Canada. Also, now that many states have legalized marijuana, higher quality marijuana is being shipped all over the country from states like Colorado and Washington.
- **Cocaine** case and seizure numbers have been decreasing over the past couple of years but it is a constant drug threat in Mississippi due to the availability of the drug, its high addiction rate, and its propensity for violence. Cocaine is available and frequently distributed across the state and cocaine abuse is reported in both rural and urban areas. Most crack cocaine available on the streets of Mississippi has been converted from powdered cocaine within the state for retail sale.
- **New Psychedelic** drugs, although not as significant a threat as the aforementioned drugs, are a growing concern in Mississippi and are equally addictive and devastating as pharmaceuticals and methamphetamine. These substances are available on the internet and at local convenient stores. Synthetic cannabinoids have become more popular over the past few years and are seen in local vape shops selling “CBD oil” as an alternative to marijuana. MDMA was once most prevalent and popular of the “club drugs” in Mississippi, but is becoming more prevalent in a wider range of people.

## II. ENVIRONMENTAL AND RELATED THREATS

### GEOGRAPHY

The transporting of illegal drugs into and through Mississippi has been a significant problem for law enforcement for a number of 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 as 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. The majority of 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. Trade and traffic with Mexico has increased significantly. The opportunities to smuggle drugs from Mexico have increased and will continue to increase drastically. According to the Gulf Coast HIDTA's Watch Center there were 89 drug and 49 currency related incidents reported on Mississippi highways during 2018. All major highways in Mississippi were included in these incidents. Mississippi Cross-Designated Officers made 31 seizures of marijuana totaling 359 pounds; 10 seizures of cocaine totaling 206 pounds; 9 seizures of methamphetamine totaling 115 pounds and 1 seizure of liquid methamphetamine totaling 19 gallons; 2 seizures of heroin totaling 9.12 pounds; 49 currency seizures totaling \$3,740,700.00 in U.S. Currency. There were 89 drug seizures; 17

vehicle seizures; 16 weapons seizures and 143 arrests. There were 8 stops involving 51 aliens.

As a result of these stops, many targets were identified and active investigations were conducted. Some of the investigations have already resulted in the identification and arrests of numerous members of known DTOs.

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 Louisiana and Texas. These out-of-state highway interdiction stops indicate that Mississippi-based trucking companies and out-of-state trucking companies are transporting drugs into Mississippi. Increased use of rental vehicles, freight companies, parcel services, and the United States Postal Service is an issue as well.

Drug trafficking patterns indicate the Interstate Highway System is the preferred method of transporting illegal drugs into and through Mississippi. The Interstate System provides unrestrained access for movement through the state. Mississippi has four major interstates and nine major highways. Law enforcement officials actively patrol these roadways. In addition, an increasing number of departments have personnel specifically assigned to intercept drug smugglers. Budgetary concerns and resource availability impair a full-scale effort to intercept drug shipments on Mississippi 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.
- 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 is scheduled to change to Interstate 22 which runs through North Mississippi from Memphis, Tennessee into Alabama and Hwy 67, opened in Harrison County in 2009, runs from Highway 49 in Saucier to I-10 in Biloxi.
- 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 end 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.

Because the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) requires that all trucking company names are displayed on the door of the tractor, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports that some traffickers create trucking firms or companies for the purpose of appearing to comply with these regulations. In reality, only one or two shipments of drugs are made under the company name before it is discarded or replaced with another. This practice prevents any chance of name recognition by law enforcement. DOT estimates that only half of the tractor-trailers from which drug seizures are made are actually legitimate trucking companies. Common practices among traffickers are to alter or use someone else's DOT numbers and for drivers to use false documentation and identification. Mississippi is the home of several drug trafficking organizations that utilize trucking companies as independent drug transporters catering to key cities. Mississippi is also the home of a major international poultry industry and lumber industry that transports commodities via local independent commercial truck lines all over the United States. Intelligence reveals that numerous Mississippi trucking companies are the major transporters of assets for several DTOs in the state. These companies may or

may not be independent from the drug trafficking organizations - essentially, hauling the drugs into the state and charging transportation fees. This practice attempts to shield the organization from the shipment of drugs, if discovered. Intelligence also indicates that the DTOs are paying “up-front” for the shipment of drugs, but do not necessarily own the entire load.

## ***DEMOGRAPHICS***

According to the United States Census Bureau, in 2010 there were an estimated 2,993,780 people residing in Mississippi, with about 51% of the population being female, while 49% were male. Likewise, 59% of the population is white and 37% of the population is black or African American. Overall, the Mexican population in Mississippi is steadily growing. The Hispanic or Latino population in Mississippi makes up 3%. 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 % of the population in Mississippi.

Mississippi is ranked 34th in population in the United States. This estimate shows a 0.4% decrease in 2017. The population density of the state is 63.5 people per square mile, ranked 32nd largest density in the United States.

By the year 2020, the population will reach approximately 3.06 million people. By the year 2025, the population will reach approximately 3.1 million people. The population growth expectations consistently show that the female population will be greater than the male population.

## ***ECONOMICS***

According to the United States Census Bureau, the estimated 2017 national household median income was \$56,358 per year; the median household income in Mississippi for the same time period was \$40,528 according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. The unemployment rate for Mississippi as of December 2017 was 4.6% compared to a national rate of 4.1%, with Jefferson County being the highest at 10.9%.

Mississippi’s fertile soil and temperate climate make it an ideal state for agriculture. Nurseries, greenhouses, farms producing sweet potatoes, watermelons and other vegetables, plus many other alternative farming operations contribute greatly to the revenue produced by Mississippi’s agriculture industry.

Agriculture is Mississippi’s number one industry, employing 30% of the state’s workforce either directly or indirectly. Agriculture in Mississippi is a \$7.04 billion dollar industry. There are approximately 37,000 farms in the state covering 10.9 million acres. The average size farm is composed of 263 acres. Agriculture makes a significant contribution to all 82 counties. The top five agricultural crops in Mississippi are poultry, forestry, soy beans, cotton and corn.

Mississippi ranks first in total U.S. catfish production contributing more than 75% of all catfish consumed in the nation. Mississippi has about 102,000 acres of U.S. farm-raised catfish

with an annual income of over \$300 million dollars. The catfish industry employs more than 8,000 people.

Humphreys County has approximately 117 catfish farms with over 35,000 acres of U.S. farm-raised catfish, making it the top production county in the United States. This catfish acreage is more than any other single state in the U.S. Pure, fresh water comes from underground wells. Ponds are stocked with 6,000 catfish to the acre. Mississippi farm-raised catfish are fed a “puffed” high-protein floating food pellet, a mixture of soybeans, corn, wheat, vitamins, minerals and fish meal produced by feed mills located in the Mississippi Delta. Catfish are harvested every week of the year. Continental Tire is set to open a plant in Clinton soon.

In the past 50 years, Mississippi has diversified its economy by concentrating more heavily on industrial activities, attracting a broader spectrum of business, industrial and technical operations. The space shuttles’ main engines are test-fired at the Stennis Space Center in Hancock County, and Peavey Electronics in Meridian leads the world in the manufacture of musical amplification. Other key businesses in Mississippi include Toyota and Nissan. Both opened in the last ten years and have created approximately 6,000 jobs, with more expected in the next five years. The Nissan plant is currently expanding its operation which will create several more jobs for the citizens of this state.

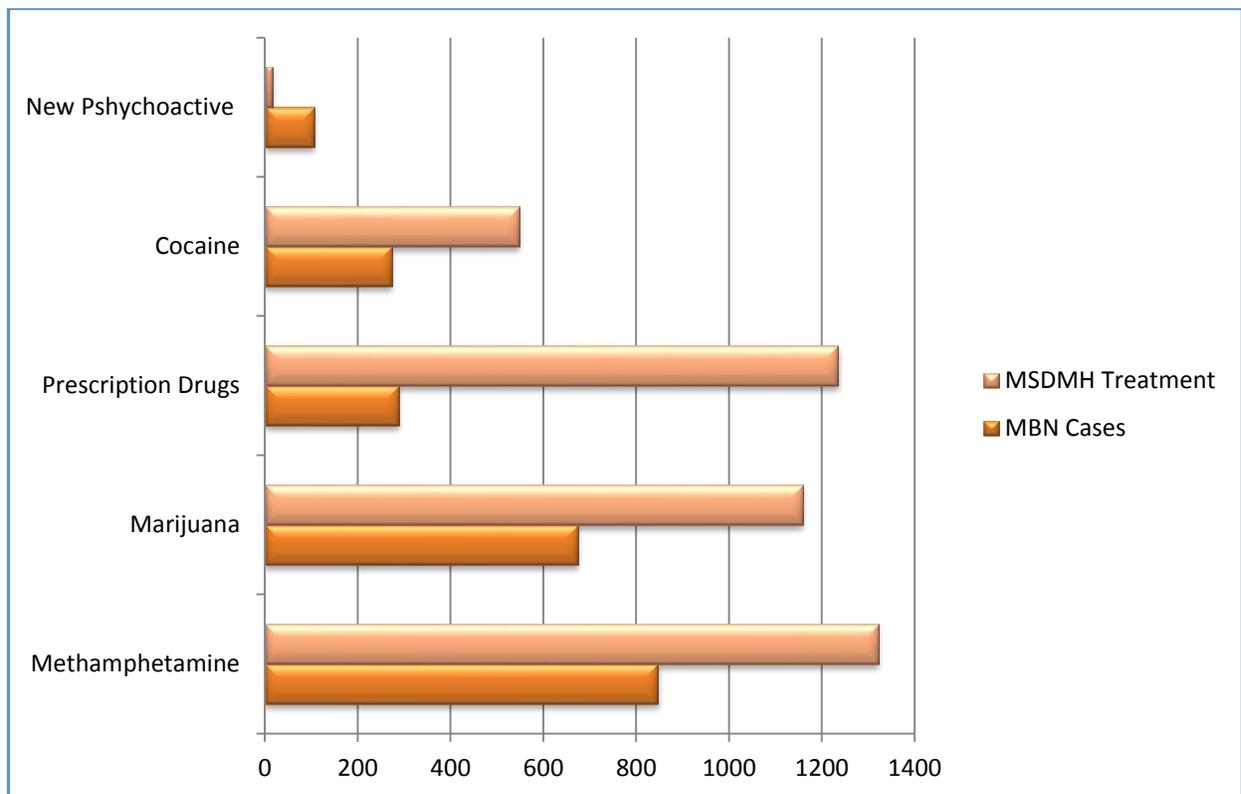
Casinos and resorts located along the Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast have brought the state increased prosperity and worldwide recognition. With the emergence of these casino resorts and championship golf courses, the state has grown into a world-class tourist destination. Mississippi casinos offer non-stop gaming, top-name entertainment and affordable luxury accommodations.

According to the Mississippi Gaming Commission, there are currently 28 licensed casinos in Mississippi. These casinos had gross revenue of approximately \$2.08 billion dollars in 2017. These figures do not include the Silver Star Resort & Casino in Philadelphia, Mississippi, which is run by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and is not subject to state gaming regulations.

### III. MISSISSIPPI DRUG THREATS

#### OVERALL SCOPE OF DRUG THREATS

Methamphetamine is considered the most dominant threat in Mississippi because of the steadily increasing infiltration of “ICE” into this state and the country. Methamphetamine has become more prominent due to the increase in price and inaccessibility of cocaine. Prescription drugs are still a major threat, particularly with the opioid epidemic and the increase in overdose deaths due to prescription drugs. Heroin has gained more popularity and has become a major threat to Mississippi. Opioid addicts are turning to heroin because of the cheaper cost and availability. Marijuana continues to be widely abused in Mississippi and is seen as larger threat. Cocaine, particularly crack cocaine, is still considered to be a major drug threat facing the state of Mississippi. Abuse of synthetic drugs such as Spice and bath salts are a constant battle for law enforcement with new synthetic drugs being developed continually. There has also been an influx of synthetic cannabinoids due to “CBD oil” being sold in local vape shops.



## ***METHAMPHETAMINE***

### ***ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT***

The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program funded a methamphetamine initiative in Mississippi until April 1, 2013. The initiative provided Mississippi with equipped and trained agents dedicated to dismantling methamphetamine organizations and improving law enforcement efforts. The focus of the initiative was to investigate illicit manufacturing and distribution of methamphetamine, and provide First Responder Methamphetamine training to other state and local law enforcement agencies on procedures to follow if a methamphetamine lab is encountered. Currently, Mississippi is participating in the container program sponsored by DEA for cleanup and disposal of meth lab debris.

Normally, methamphetamine has the appearance of white, crystalline powder. Methamphetamine is usually manufactured using a combination of several household products and over-the-counter supplies. Although the manufacturing efficiency of methamphetamine has decreased, there has been an increase in the number of “ice” (Mexican methamphetamine described by its clear, crystalline appearance) related cases in Mississippi due to the infiltration of Mexican TCOs (Transnational Criminal Organizations). Law Enforcement has subsequently linked “ice” methamphetamine to “super labs” in Mexico after the arrests of cartel members throughout Mississippi in multiple meth investigations. Ice is generally about twice as potent as homemade meth and is about eighty percent in purity.



*Mexican methamphetamine "Ice" showing its "ice-like" appearance*

### ***ABUSE***

Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics issued a total of 788 methamphetamine cases in 2018. This is a decrease from 2017, which had a total of 895 Methamphetamine cases. Meth cases initiated during 2018 by MBN involved the seizure of over 191 combined pounds of solid methamphetamine, over 25 liters of liquid methamphetamine, and approximately 1,283 individual dosage units of methamphetamine. There were 451 arrests made by MBN for methamphetamine related charges including sale, possession, and manufacture during 2018.

The MS Department of Health reported 1,322 people were admitted for methamphetamine abuse in 2018. This is a slight decrease from 2017, in which 1,374 individuals were admitted for abuse of methamphetamine. 75% of these admissions were between the ages of 26 and 45. 19-25 years of age was the second largest age group that had admissions of methamphetamine abuse. This age group accounted for 14% of admissions.

Due to the purity level of the Mexico-produced methamphetamine “ice,” the potential for long-term abuse has increased. Law enforcement has noted that methamphetamine demand and distribution has spread into White, African American, and Hispanic communities.

### ***AVAILABILITY***

The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, supported by other law enforcement agencies, introduced legislation that was passed by the Mississippi House and Senate that classified products containing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine as a Schedule II controlled substance. Since the passing of House Bill 512, Mississippi has seen a drastic decrease in the local manufacture of methamphetamine, active meth labs, meth dump sites, and chemical glassware seizures.

In 2018, 1 meth lab and 1 meth lab dump site were seized in Mississippi. In comparison, 2 meth labs were seized in 2017, 2 meth lab dump sites in 2016 and 15 meth lab dump sites in 2015. Despite the decrease in the number of meth labs over the past several years, the number of methamphetamine related cases is still significant in Mississippi. According to the Justice Department’s National Drug Assessment, Mexico remains a main source of supply for meth consumed in the United States.

### ***ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE***

Investigating drug traffickers has become more dangerous because of the suspects’ possible affiliations with drug cartels and gangs. Meth manufacturers, as well as abusers, display a level of agitation and paranoia with the use of methamphetamine. This leads to situations where violence is more likely to occur. National Drug Threat Assessment respondents also reported methamphetamine as one of the drugs that most contributes to both violent crime and property crime, with heroin contributing more to property crime. Law enforcement officers are required to wear protective clothing and breathing equipment when investigating illicit methamphetamine labs. Booby-traps and firearms are also a concern at meth lab sites. As part of MS Senate Bill 2575, enacted into law in July 2005, a sentencing enhancement was added for violators who possess firearms and/or booby traps on premises or property during an investigation or at the time of arrest.

If a methamphetamine laboratory is discovered, too often, children are present. Children present during the manufacturing process are exposed to dangerous chemicals and are typically related to the laboratory owners and manufacturers.

### ***PRODUCTION***

Local clandestine methamphetamine laboratories create public safety and environmental hazards that demand a law enforcement response. The “Shake and Bake” or “One Pot” method were once the most common manufacturing method found in Mississippi, but have declined dramatically over the past several year due to the increased popularity of Mexican produced methamphetamine “ice” and the passing of Mississippi’s pseudoephedrine law. In an effort to increase or maximize methamphetamine production and minimize detection by law enforcement, violators used the “One Pot” method to reduce steps in manufacturing. The

“One Pot” method is a variation of the Nazi method or Ammonia-Lithium reduction method. In this method, all of the ingredients are mixed together simultaneously, and anhydrous ammonia is substituted for ammonium nitrate.

Common manufacturing sites for local labs include the trunks of cars, truck beds, apartments or motel rooms, and remote outdoor locations. Meth manufacturing poses environmental and health concerns such as fire or explosion and public exposure to chemicals and hazardous waste from laboratory sites discarded on farms and rural or suburban areas.



In 2016, Mexican TCOs had a significant impact in southern Mississippi with Ice linked to “super labs” in Mexico. These super labs can meet the high demand for Ice faster than small-time local meth manufacturing. Super labs can produce 10 pounds of ice every 24 hours compared to a home meth lab that can produce several ounces of meth, according to a Government Accountability Office report addressed to Congress. Ice is about twice as potent as homemade meth, taking a smaller quantity of ice to get the “rush” the stimulant provides.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Traditionally, methamphetamine distributors have been outlaw motorcycle gangs and other independent trafficking groups. While these groups still produce meth, clandestine laboratories in Southwest Border states and Mexico are now the primary source of supply for methamphetamine available in Mississippi. Methamphetamine ice manufactured in Mexico is



*Methamphetamine concealed inside a speaker in a vehicle*

transported into and through Mississippi via the West Coast and the Southwest Border and is controlled primarily by the same major organizations that produce/traffic other illicit drugs from Mexico to the US. The most common method of transporting methamphetamine is within concealed compartments in passenger, commercial, and rail vehicles. The United States Postal Service and next-day delivery services are also commonly utilized.

### **DISTRIBUTION**

Generally, methamphetamine is distributed by local drug trafficking organizations across Mississippi and by independent dealers. Methamphetamine distribution often occurs around truck stops, clubs, low-to-medium income apartments, mobile home parks, hotels, restaurant parking lots, and rural areas. Distribution has migrated and occurred in upper-income housing areas, as well.

## ***OPIOIDS (Diverted Pharmaceuticals, Heroin & Fentanyl)***

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### ***ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT***

Opioids are a dangerous combination to include diverted pharmaceuticals, heroin and fentanyl. Opioids are an increasing threat in the state of Mississippi. The use and abuse of opioids is a serious problem, not only in Mississippi but all over the county, which affects the health, social and economic welfare of all communities. It is believed the onset of prescription drug abuse and the rising cost associated with prescription opioids has brought heroin to the forefront of the drug concerns in Mississippi. Over the past 3 years, the amount of heroin seized by MBN has increased significantly and heroin overdoses have risen every year over the past 5 years. Fentanyl, heroin's synthetic cousin, is an increasing concern to the narcotics enforcement community. Fentanyl is much stronger in potency than heroin, leading to lethal doses being taken. Fentanyl is most commonly mixed with white powder heroin or is sold disguised as white powder heroin.

### ***ABUSE***

Although not as many opioid prescriptions are being written by as many prescribers, the strength level and duration of the prescription has increased while most prescriptions are coming from a concentrated number of doctors. Also, MBN has seen that users have begun to crush pills and snort them in an effort to expedite the high. In talking with addicts, MBN has found that most heroin users began by crushing and injecting oxycodone (typically a legitimate prescription) before graduating to heroin. Heroin use is on the rise because it is cheaper to buy on-the-street than prescription opiates, such as, oxycodone, hydrocodone, and morphine. The demand for, and use of heroin is being driven by both the increasing availability of heroin in the U.S. market and the increasing difficulty in obtaining controlled prescription drugs.

Mississippi Department of Mental Health reported during the year 2018 there were 1,530 individuals treated for opioids as a primary substance with the main age group being males between the ages of 26 and 45. Approximately 72% of admissions for opioids were for individuals between the ages of 26 to 45. In 2018, Mississippi had 209 opioid overdoses resulting in death.

### ***DIVERTED PHARMACEUTICALS***

Pharmaceutical Diversion is when prescription medications are used by someone other than for whom they were intended or else used in a manner other than prescribed. The illicit diversion of pharmaceutical drugs, such as hydrocodone (brand names: Vicodin, Norco, etc.), oxycodone (Percocet, OxyContin, etc.), alprazolam (Xanax), oxymorphone (Opana), and methadone are of major concern to law enforcement in Mississippi. Cases are brought against and arrests are made for the diversion and distribution of pharmaceuticals in Mississippi including, not just your typical "drug dealers" but also, lawyers, pharmacists, pharmacy

technicians, doctors, nurses, businessmen, housewives and others. Pharmaceuticals are still a central drug threat in Mississippi. MBN has established a Pharmaceutical Diversion Unit to investigate the increasing numbers of diverted pharmaceuticals and the increasing number of overdose related cases throughout the state. MBN has also partnered with DEA's Tactical Diversion Unit based in Jackson, Mississippi. MBN initiated 238 cases involving pharmaceuticals, and arrested a total of 173 individuals for pharmaceutical related cases involving sale, possession, and prescription forgery in 2018. This is decrease from 2017 where MBN initiated 407 cases and arrested 372 individuals.

## ***HEROIN***

Heroin continues to grow as an even more dominant threat in Mississippi and across the nation. Over the past 3 years, the amount of heroin seized by MBN has increased significantly and heroin overdoses have risen every year over the past 5 years. In 2018, there was a slight decrease in the amount of heroin cases when compared to those cases in 2016 and 2017 but a substantial increase in the amount of heroin seized when compared to the cases from the past 4 years. During 2018, MBN initiated 69 cases involving heroin. These cases resulted in the seizure of 46.37 grams of black tar heroin, 22,300 grams of brown heroin, and 39,868 grams of white heroin. There were 75 cases involving heroin in 2016 and 75 in 2017. In 2016 MBN seized 0.91 grams of black tar heroin, 170 grams of brown heroin and 311 grams of white heroin and in 2017, MBN seized 1,060.22 grams of black tar heroin, 1,111.96 grams of brown heroin and 88.17 grams of white heroin.



*7 grams of brown heroin that was bought in North Mississippi in 2018*

## ***FENTANYL***

Fentanyl, heroin's synthetic cousin, is an increasing concern to the narcotics enforcement community. Fentanyl is much stronger in potency than heroin, leading to lethal doses being taken. Fentanyl is often mixed with heroin and sold as a more potent form of heroin or laced with other illicit drugs, typically pressed prescription opioids, making it extremely dangerous to the unsuspecting abuser. According to the DEA, fentanyl, up to 50 times more potent than heroin, is extremely dangerous to law enforcement and anyone else who may come into contact with it. As a result, it represents an unusual hazard for law enforcement. In 2018, MBN made 9 cases and 5 arrests compared to 2017, where MBN made 6 cases and 4 arrests involving fentanyl.

## ***AVAILABILITY***

Some methods of obtaining prescription opioids 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 physician. Some abusers go from doctor to doctor for the same problem, to obtain duplicate prescriptions, while some physicians willingly help individuals abuse prescription drugs by writing prescriptions when there is no medical need. MBN often identifies individuals who travel outside the state to Louisiana, Texas, and Florida to visit pain management clinics in order to obtain large quantities of pharmaceuticals to illegally distribute in Mississippi.



Most of the heroin and/or fentanyl seizures in 2018 resulted from interdiction stops and search warrants, although there were a number of buys made from local independent dealers across the state. MBN had 26 buy cases in 2018 resulting in the seizure of approximately 254 grams of heroin, 8 involving fentanyl. These dealers usually have only smaller quantities in their possession although several larger buys were made in north and central Mississippi. In 2018 and 2017, brown heroin was the predominant form of heroin available, while in 2016 and 2014

white powder heroin was seen most throughout the state. Black tar heroin was the principal form in 2015. These changes could be a result of many different circumstances, such as, changes in the users, changes with the market, or changes with the product availability.

### ***INTERNET PHARMACIES***

According to the FDA, purchasing pharmaceuticals from online pharmacies can have dangerous or deadly consequences. Some of the risks of purchasing from an online pharmacy are:

- Receiving counterfeit, contaminated, expired or unsafe pharmaceuticals
  - Putting yourself at risk for adverse side-effects, especially with other medications being taken
  - Jeopardizing the security of your personal and financial information
  - Opening yourself up to an overwhelming amount of spam phone calls and emails
- An easy way to determine if the online pharmacy is high risk is if they:
- Do not require a prescription
  - Do not provide contact information such as an address or phone number
  - Advertise extremely low prices
  - Fail to participate in any insurance plan, instead, requiring payment up front by credit card or cash on delivery (C.O.D.)
  - Offer a limited selection of medications for sale, mostly controlled substances
  - Are willing to deliver drugs to a post office box or other location to avoid detection by authorities
  - Deceptively and inaccurately advise about the law and why it is permissible to obtain controlled pharmaceutical substances from foreign countries via the internet

Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics' Diversion Unit is currently working in conjunction with DEA to combat the illegal distribution of pharmaceuticals in the state from sources nationally and internationally.

## ***PRODUCTION***

Heroin is an extremely addictive drug that is derived from the resin of poppy plants. Opium is removed from the plant and refined to make morphine then further modified to become heroin. Opium is not cultivated, nor is heroin produced in Mississippi.

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. In 2018, MBN had one case involving heroin pills in capsule form. This case was in the northern part of the state.

## ***ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE***



MBN's Pharmacy Burglary Unit is continuing to solve the growing epidemic of pharmacy burglaries across the state. In 2018, there were a total of 25 (down from 36 in 2017) pharmacy burglaries in Mississippi, 7 of which were attempted burglaries. Pharmacy burglaries decreased in 2017 compared to 2016 with 51 total pharmacy burglaries across the state.

Heroin-related violence is minimal in Mississippi. However, gangs that are associated with selling small quantities of heroin and other drugs, commit violent crimes including: assault, burglary, homicide and robbery, to further their drug activities and to protect their turf. Most of the violent crime that occurs in Mississippi is not directly attributed to heroin use or distribution. Heroin was once the scourge of the inner city, it then moved into the suburbs with middle-aged white women experiencing some of the largest jumps in use. As of 2017, it appears heroin is making its way back into the larger cities.

In recent years, heroin has been contaminated with Fentanyl; this mixture is quickly becoming the cause for numerous deaths across the United States. As a result the opioid crisis is continuously increasing, in part because of the new types of drugs and mixtures finding their way on to the streets. In 2018, MBN had 18 cases and 27 overdoses, in which fentanyl was detected either alone or combined with heroin. There were 24 cases in 2017 and 12 cases in 2016. The mixture of heroin and fentanyl allows heroin to be diluted in order to expand the drug further while still providing users with a strong drug effect.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation of opioids is usually by privately owned vehicles and parcel service businesses. MBN executed and/or responded to 616 interdiction stops in 2018, of which 101 resulted in the seizure of diverted pharmaceuticals. In 2018, most of the larger quantities of heroin were intercepted on traffic stops in personal vehicles while there were only 3 packages of heroin intercepted in the mail. Two of the largest heroin seizures in 2018 were intercepted on traffic stops in Rankin County. 51 pounds and 32 pounds of white heroin were seized, both originating from Texas. The next largest seizure was 24 pounds of brown heroin seized in a search warrant in Gulfport, MS. In 2018, the Gulf Coast HIDTA Watch Center reported a total of 9.12 pounds of heroin seized during 2 traffic stops on Mississippi interstates and state highways. MBN has also intercepted numerous packages and seized opioids from the United States Postal Service, Federal Express, United Parcel Service and others.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

Most opioids in Mississippi are for individual use. Occasionally, violators will sell pharmaceuticals obtained through legitimate and diverted means as a way of supplementing their own habit. Users also obtain opioids 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. By following a person's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) history, it has become evident which prescribers are problematic. Often the PMP of an overdose victim will lead you straight to an over-prescriber. Some doctors are even prescribing controlled substances through the internet to patients who have never been examined.

The majority of the heroin distributed in the United States comes across the southwest border and is mostly controlled by Mexican criminal organizations until it reaches the United States. In Mississippi, heroin in the central and southern regions is believed to come from Texas, New Orleans and recently Atlanta, while northern Mississippi is supplied by dealers in the Memphis and Chicago areas. It is then distributed by local drug trafficking organizations. In 2018, most of the



*51 pounds of heroin seized during a traffic stop on January 22, 2018 in*

heroin distribution cases were made in the region surrounding Jackson and the second region with the most heroin cases was the coast of Mississippi. These numbers correlate with the amount of overdose cases and hold the highest volume of heroin investigations.

Fentanyl is regularly found to be a component of heroin seized in Mississippi. Drug traffickers in the U.S. receive a majority of the fentanyl and other synthetic opioids from China and Mexico. Fentanyl from Mexico is commonly of low quality. China-sourced fentanyl arrives through the mail and is difficult for law enforcement to detect (Drug Enforcement Agency).



*Deadly doses of heroin, fentanyl and carfentanyl are displayed by the Kensington Police Service in Prince Edward Island, Canada, to compare the potency of each drug.*

## MARIJUANA

### ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT

Marijuana is the most trafficked, widely abused, and readily available illicit drug in Mississippi. The drug is considered a “gateway” to the world of illicit drug abuse. Relaxed public perception of harm, popularization by the media, and groups advocating legalization contribute to the nationwide resurgence in marijuana’s popularity. At this time, marijuana has not been legalized for recreational use in Mississippi but there are legislative measures being pressed for medical use.

Marijuana has become legal for medical use in over 30 states across the United States. Recreational use of marijuana has been legalized in eight states and the District of Columbia. There were multiple cases in 2018 where marijuana was seized originating from states that have legalized the use of marijuana, including, but not limited to, Washington, California and Colorado.



The cultivation, trafficking, and use of marijuana have a negative impact on many aspects of our lives, from public health to national security transportation, the environment, and educational attainment.

During 2018, MBN seized approximately 882 pounds of processed marijuana, seized over 69,504 marijuana plants, and initiated 663 cases involving marijuana for the year. MBN arrested 287 individuals in 2017 and 241 in 2018 for marijuana violations. MBN seized approximately 3,619 pounds of Marijuana and initiated 574 cases involving marijuana in 2017. When compared to previous years marijuana availability has increased in Mississippi, in part to marijuana being diverted from other states where it’s legal to possess.

### ABUSE

Marijuana continues to be commonly abused across all social, ethnic, financial, and educational lines. Marijuana use is widespread among young adults while adolescent acceptance and illicit use is increasing. This increase could be contributed to the growing number of adolescents who believe marijuana is not harmful, a trend that substance abuse professionals suggest stems from the drug’s changing legal status in states such as Colorado and Washington. According to the Mississippi Department of Education, more than 970 students were expelled or suspended from public schools for drug related offences during the 2017-2018 school year. This is approximately a 5% increase from the previous school year.

## ***AVAILABILITY***

Marijuana smuggled into the United States from Mexico and Latin American source areas accounts for most of the marijuana available in Mississippi. Marijuana produced in Mexico remains the most widely available. Some high-potency marijuana enters the U.S. drug market from Canada and other states which have legalized the medicinal use of marijuana; however imports appear to be decreasing as producers shift operations to the U.S. side of the border. Recent U.S. drug law enforcement reports suggest an increase in the availability of domestically grown marijuana.

The sheer volume of distribution and trans-shipment is indicated by historical seizures. Most of these seizures are of South American or Mexican origin; however, Mississippi continues to be a prime growing area for domestically produced marijuana.

Prices for commercial-grade marijuana have remained relatively stable over the past decade, ranging from approximately \$400 to \$900 per pound in U.S. Southwest Border areas to between \$700 to \$1,000 per pound in the Midwest and Northeastern United States. Prices in Mississippi range from \$400 to \$900 per pound.

“Purple Haze” marijuana is a strain of sativa cannabis which is named for its purple stained buds. “Purple Haze” contains highly elevated levels of THC. Three strains of “Purp” are Regular, Diesel and Kush, all of which have been seized in Mississippi. Prices for “Purp” vary from \$2,000 – \$3,500 per pound in Mississippi. Intelligence indicates that “purple haze” is being transported to Mississippi from California and Oregon.

## ***ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE***

Violent crime is generally not associated with marijuana abuse in Mississippi; however, some marijuana producers and distributors occasionally commit violent crimes. Cannabis growers’ intent on protecting their crop from seizure or theft sometimes resort to protective devices such as booby traps in order to deter intruders. Marijuana retail distributors have been known to carry weapons to protect their merchandise and to guard against potential robberies during marijuana transactions. Mexican marijuana DTO’s are reputed to be the most violent in the world.

## ***PRODUCTION***



In 2018, MBN's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP) seized approximately 69,504 marijuana plants spread across approximately 12 acres in Jefferson Davis County, MS. MBN reports this was the largest outdoor grow found in the state's history. The estimated value of this grow equated to approximately \$70 million. The Mississippi National Guard's Raid Unit and Counter Drug Task Force assist MBN in its marijuana eradication program by providing air support, surveillance, and thermal imaging. Local growers use sophisticated means of production and concealment, both indoor and outdoor, to grow marijuana. Most of these plants are found on public lands, primarily national forests and land owned by timber companies. National forests, state parks and other public property are also utilized because there is a lesser probability of being identified and arrested, and to avoid the seizure and potential forfeiture of real property.

Indoor marijuana grow operations have been on the decline in Mississippi over the last few years. The mode of operation for these organizations is to purchase a home in a neighborhood with mid to high level income residents. Trends show the houses are operated on a daily basis by either Asians or Mexicans living in the area. Typically, seizures from these houses range from 50 to 100 marijuana plants, totaling up to \$100,000 in value. These operations are capable of producing marijuana crops four or more times in one year.

### ***TRANSPORTATION***

Mexico-produced marijuana enters the country primarily in Arizona, California, and south Texas, while high-potency Canadian marijuana is usually smuggled through and between points of entry in Washington, Michigan, New York, and Vermont. Both forms of marijuana are distributed nationally. Similarly, domestically produced marijuana is transported from grow sites to markets nationwide.

Mississippi continues to be a major trans-shipment point of bulk marijuana from the Southwest Border. Intelligence and seizures have shown that marijuana in 50 to multi-thousand pound quantities destined for markets along the East Coast is transported through Mississippi on a daily basis. The proceeds of this traffic are returned to Mexico through Mississippi via I-10, I-59, I-55 and I-20. Drug traffickers are also utilizing parcel delivery services to transport drugs. MBN conducted numerous controlled deliveries of marijuana via parcel service in 2018.



13 pounds of marijuana was seized on July 25, 2018 on a traffic stop by MPH in Itawamba County, MS.

## DISTRIBUTION

Mexico is the traditional source of supply for marijuana distributed in Mississippi. Marijuana is imported into Mississippi, usually via Texas from Mexico, by small organizations, in 10 to 20 kilogram quantities at a time. Private vehicle is the preferred method of transportation for these quantities. Larger loads of 100 to 1,000 kilograms quantities have been seized in the state usually transported in commercial vehicles. Marijuana is distributed by all socio-economic classes ranging from street level dealers to major distributors.

## TRENDS



As more states are beginning to legalize recreational marijuana, new marijuana consumption trends are emerging in Mississippi. Edibles such as gummy candy containing THC is a growing trend and threat MBN has been seeing this year. THC wax and vape cartridges are also gaining popularity in states where marijuana is legal and making its way to Mississippi as well.

Most of these units are making their way to Mississippi through the United States Postal Service coming from places like California and Colorado. Some violators are making trips to these states and sending home marijuana edibles, while others order them off the internet or have a source that mails it to them.



Edibles are beginning to appear in high schools and amongst younger kids as they resemble your everyday gummy candy. It is causing a potential health hazard as these children are not aware of the amount of THC they are actually consuming. The popularity of the edibles, waxes, and vape cartridges is steadily growing; MBN predicts it will be a growing trend Mississippi will continue to see more of in the future.



## **COCAINE AND CRACK COCAINE**

### **ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT**

Since 2007, cocaine numbers have drastically dropped in Mississippi due to drug organizations expanding their drug trafficking to include drugs like ice methamphetamine and heroin, although the decline has been less dramatic over the past couple of years. MBN initiated cocaine cases continued to decline in 2018, yet the amount of seizures, especially powder cocaine seizures, increased. In spite of the fact that MBN cocaine case numbers are low, national statistics are trending towards an increase in demand. In 2018 alone, DEA, working with domestic and international partners, seized 1.7+ million pounds of cocaine. Cocaine still remains a dangerous and problematic drug in communities and for law enforcement across the state. The use and/or sale of cocaine can be linked directly and indirectly to crimes, especially violent crimes.

### **ABUSE**

In Mississippi, cocaine is illicitly trafficked and abused by people from all racial and socioeconomic groups throughout the state's 82 counties. Crack cocaine remains the drug of choice among users and traffickers in the African American population in both urban and rural areas of Mississippi; however, the use and abuse of cocaine is not limited to any one geographic area or ethnic group.

In 2018, Mississippi saw a decrease in the number of cocaine cases and cocaine abusers but saw a significant increase in the amount of cocaine seizures. In 2018, approximately 11% of all MBN drug cases initiated were for cocaine. There were 230 MBN cases involving crack and powder cocaine in 2018 compared to 295 cases in 2017 and 313 cases in 2016. MBN agents purchased or seized approximately 142 pounds of cocaine during 2018. This is a decrease compared to 208 pounds in 2017.

During 2018, MBN arrested a total of 120 individuals for sale and possession of cocaine. This was approximately 11% of all the drug related arrests by MBN in 2017. This was a decrease compared to 204 arrests for cocaine in 2017 and a decrease for 189 arrests for cocaine in 2016.

In 2018, the Gulf Coast HIDTA Watch Center reported a total of 206 pounds of cocaine seized during 10 traffic stops, primarily from local agency traffic stops on Mississippi interstates and state highways. This also was a very significant decrease compared to the number of HIDTA seizures over the past several years.

Treatment data from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health shows that 547 people were admitted for cocaine abuse in 2018. This is a significant increase compared to 434 people admitted in 2017. Of the 547 people, 46% (252) were between 26 and 45 years of age and 25% (136) were between 46 and 65 years of age.

Treatment data from the Mississippi Department of Mental Health shows that 434 people were

admitted for cocaine abuse in 2016. This is a significant decrease compared to 833 people admitted in 2015. Of the 434 people, 52% (228) were between 26 and 45 years of age and 36% (158) were between 46 and 65 years of age.

### ***AVAILABILITY***



*57 grams of powder cocaine bought in Lauderdale County in February 2018.*

Most of the high-level (wholesale) crack cocaine trade in Mississippi is controlled by African Americans, many of whom are members or affiliates of groups or gangs such as the “Vice Lords,” “Gangster Disciples,” “Wood Street Players,” the “Four Corner Hustlers,” and the “North End Boys.” Unique to the Mississippi Gulf Coast counties of Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson are the Vietnamese gangs involved in drug trafficking. These Vietnamese gangs, primarily operating in the Biloxi area, are heavily involved in the distribution of

powder cocaine and the club drug ecstasy. The primary cocaine sources for these Vietnamese dealers are located in Texas, Canada, and California. Vietnamese dealers are known to supply some of the African American dealers with powder cocaine, which is then converted into crack cocaine for local sale.

Mexican traffickers are loosely organized in Mississippi, but are believed to be associated with large Mexican DTOs operating in Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas. Overall, the Mexican population in Mississippi is steadily growing, and the presence of Mexican DTOs is increasing in rural agricultural areas of the state.

### ***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. Cocaine abusers commit thefts and robberies in order 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 produced almost exclusively in northern and western South America with Columbia as the main producer of illegal cocaine coming to the United States. Cocaine is not cultivated nor is it produced in Mississippi. Some crack cocaine is transported to Mississippi from neighboring states; however, most crack cocaine is converted locally prior to retail distribution.

## TRANSPORTATION

Mexican DTO's dominate cocaine transportation into the United States. The majority of cocaine entering the United States is transported across the Southwest Border via Mexico in kilogram quantities. Most of the cocaine found in Mississippi is primarily transported by Mexican or black American DTOs via Texas and the Southwest Border. Cocaine is transported primarily in powder form and is commonly transported from the main source cities of Houston and Dallas to local wholesale distributors in Mississippi, most often via personal vehicles or commercial trucks on I-10, I-55, I-59 and I-20. There are a variety of concealment methods such as false compartments inside the quarter-panels of the vehicles. Additionally, cocaine is often found inside electronically controlled false compartments in vehicles. Cocaine is transported into Mississippi by personal carry-on luggage via commercial and private buses, and also through parcel services. Mississippi distributors often travel to Texas to obtain cocaine or rely on the Mexican DTOs through "mules," to deliver cocaine to Mississippi. Los Angeles, Memphis, Chicago, Atlanta and Miami are secondary source cities for the cocaine found in Mississippi.



*69 pounds of powder cocaine seized during a traffic stop of an eighteen wheeler on January 9, 2018 in Hancock County, MS.*

## DISTRIBUTION

Most of the local distribution in the state is controlled by miscellaneous independent drug trafficking organizations and is transported into the state in 2 to 10 kilogram quantities. Loads of 20 kilograms and greater have been seized in the state, largely bound for Chicago or Atlanta. There is also widespread use of commercial courier services, such as commercial truck lines, independent truckers, and parcel service businesses to transport drugs into the state and ship currency out. A bulk of Mississippi's cocaine supply comes in through Texas. Mississippi distributors

often travel to Texas to obtain cocaine or rely on the Mexican DTOs through "mules" to deliver cocaine to Mississippi. Los Angeles, Memphis, Chicago, Atlanta and Miami are secondary source cities for the Cocaine found in Mississippi.

Once cocaine is brought into Mississippi, local suppliers tend to mix or "cut" the cocaine with a variety of substances in order to increase the amount of the cocaine, which in turn increases their profit. Cocaine dealers then distribute the "cut" cocaine in weights ranging from grams to ounces. Local dealers often convert powder cocaine into crack cocaine to be distributed by street level dealers. Crack cocaine distributors are mostly African Americans, while powder cocaine distributors include Caucasian Americans and other ethnic groups.

## ***NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES***

### ***ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT***

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), research chemicals (RC), designer drugs or “herbal highs,” are terms that have all been used to describe drugs that have been created to mimic the effects of scheduled or controlled illicit drugs. Synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones are most commonly abused amongst all NPS. Despite the fact that these substances are referred to as “new,” it is not that they are newly created substances, but rather newly abused and encountered on the illicit market. Moreover, many NPS’ existences have been previously documented in scientific and regulatory communities. In addition to the wide availability of these substances online, they’re also readily available in gas stations, adult stores, and smoke shops. NPS include, but are not limited to: synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, MDMA (Ecstasy), GHB, LSD, DMT, PCP, psilocybin mushrooms and anabolic steroids

### ***ABUSE***

NPS are a variety of other dangerous drugs that are equally addictive and just as devastating to society despite the fact that opioids, marijuana, methamphetamine and cocaine receive a great deal of attention through enforcement efforts and media outlets. Although they remain popular among all age groups, NPS are typically marketed toward young adults as well as the homeless population. While some are used regularly among a small group of users, new substances often appear quickly and disappear again. NPS may be particularly attractive to drug users that are subjected to drug screening, such as inmates, parolees, and probationers, as drug screens often do not have the ability to identify all NPS. One of the most troubling aspects of NPS is the lack of awareness of the content and potency of the substance being consumed.



### ***SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS (SPICE)***

Synthetic cannabinoids are a class of chemicals that bind to cannabinoid receptors in the body, but they are different from the natural cannabinoids in the cannabis plants. Synthetic cannabinoids can be used/consumed in a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, 1) being sprayed or otherwise soaked into a plant or other base material then typically smoked, 2) suspended in an oil form to be used in e-cigarettes or, 3) pressed into counterfeit prescription pills. The blend of material, oil, or pill is sometimes misleadingly referred to as synthetic marijuana. MBN initiated 31 cases involving synthetic cannabinoids during 2018. These cases resulted in 9 arrests and the seizure of approximately 189 bottles, 9,415 milliliters and 5.3

kilograms of the substance. This is a notable increase, mostly due to the large raid on local vape shops selling “CBD oil,” compared to 2017, when 19 cases were initiated, 13 arrests were made and 14.84 kilograms were seized.

### ***SYNTHETIC CATHINONES (STIMULANTS)***

In Mississippi synthetic cathinones are mostly referred to as “bath salts,” and are human-made stimulants. Synthetic cathinones can also be consumed in pill or capsule form. Users can also smoke or insufflate them. In 2017 MBN initiated 2 cases involving synthetic stimulants (bath salts) resulting in 2 arrests and the seizure of 2.43 grams of the illicit substance. 2018 resulted in a slight decrease as no cases were initiated.

### ***MDMA (ECSTASY)***

3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) is a psychoactive drug used recreationally. It is chemically similar to both stimulants and hallucinogens, producing feelings of increased energy, pleasure, emotional warmth, and distorted sensory and time perception. While it was initially popular in the nightclub scene and at “raves,” the drug now affects a broader range of people and is often referred to as Molly and Ecstasy. MBN initiated 59 cases in 2018 resulting in 51 arrests and seized approximately 3,644.5 dosage units and 582.89 grams of MDMA. This is an increase from 2017 where 49 cases were opened and approximately 35,714 dosage units and 24.8 grams were seized or purchased.



### ***ANABOLIC STEROIDS***

Anabolic steroids are synthetic variations of the male sex hormone testosterone. Some common names for anabolic steroids are Gear, Juice, Roids, and Stackers. During 2018, MBN initiated 8 cases, made 7 arrests and seized 14 bottles, 1,200 dosage units, 1,051.5 grams and 255.5 milliliters of steroids. This is a drastic decrease from 2017 where MBN initiated 23 cases involving steroids, one of which was the largest clandestine steroid lab in MBN history, valued at more than \$200,000. Those 23 cases resulted in 12 arrests and the seizure of more than 3,142 dosage units, 5.19 kilograms, 4,372 milliliters, and 130 vials of steroids.

### ***OTHER HALLUCINOGENS***

MBN initiated 8 cases involving other hallucinogens in 2018, broken down as follows: 2 for PCP, 3 for LSD, 2 for psilocybin mushrooms, and 1 for DMT. This was only a slight decrease from 2017, where 12 cases had been initiated.

Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), also known as acid, is a psychedelic drug known for its psychological effects, which may include altered awareness of one's surroundings, perceptions, and feelings as well as sensations and images that seem real though they are not. Used mainly

as a recreational drug, LSD is sold on the street in small tablets (“microdots”), capsules or gelatin squares (“window panes”). It is sometimes added to absorbent paper, which is then divided into small squares decorated with designs or cartoon characters (“loony toons”). LSD is typically either swallowed or held under the tongue, but can also be injected. In 2018, 3 cases involving LSD were initiated resulting in 1 arrest and the seizure of 52 dosage units. That is only a slight difference from 2017, where 37.5 dosage units of LSD were seized or purchased, with 2 arrests being made.



Phencyclidine (PCP), also known as Angel Dust, is a recreational dissociative drug. Formerly used as an anesthetic agent. PCP exhibits hallucinogenic effects. As a recreational drug, PCP may be ingested, smoked, or inhaled. Agents initiated 2 cases, made 2 arrests and seized 7,436 milliliters of PCP in 2018. That was an increase from 2017 which resulted in the seizure of 7.4 milliliters and 1 arrest during the initiation of 1 case for the year.

Psilocybin mushrooms are one of a polyphyletic group of mushrooms that contain any of various psychedelic compounds including psilocybin, psilocin, and baeocystin. When consumed or brewed into a tea, mushrooms can produce a state of euphoria, altered thinking processes, closed and open-eye visuals, synesthesia, an altered sense of time, and spiritual experiences. MBN initiated 2 cases, making 2 arrests and seizing 4 containers, 2 plants and 3.5 grams of mushrooms in 2018, compared to 5 cases, 2 arrests and the seizure of 40 grams in 2017.

N, N-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) is a tryptamine molecule which occurs in many plants and animals. It can be consumed as a psychedelic drug and has historically been prepared by various cultures for ritual purposes as an entheogen. DMT is illegal in most countries. Agents initiated 1 case, made 1 arrest and seized 510 grams in 2018, while no cases were initiated involving DMT in 2017.

### ***AVAILABILITY***

While the most common way to obtain NPS is through the internet, they are also readily available at college campuses, night clubs, and rave parties, especially MDMA and LSD. People continue to seek NPS out in gas stations/convenience stores, adult stores, smoke and drug paraphernalia shops. The danger in this lies in the fact that these substances are not regulated and because of the variations in contents, two seemingly identical products sold in stores may have two completely different cannabinoids, cathinones, etc. inside them.

## ***ASSOCIATED CRIME AND VIOLENCE***

The use of synthetic cathinones and synthetic cannabinoids has been linked to violence and overdose deaths across the country. Violence has also been linked to the use of other synthetic drugs such as bath salts, PCP, and steroids. GHB can cause memory lapse, confusion, or amnesia in victims which can lead to difficulty in prosecutions. As law enforcement and policy makers have begun to target stores selling synthetic cannabinoids, sales have moved more towards the streets.

## ***PRODUCTION***



NPS are all created substances, from chemicals requiring no plant material, and are made to mimic the effects of other illicit drugs. Due to a lack in standardization, people often don't really know what they're getting. For example, synthetic cannabinoids, which are often obtained from China, are sold in colorful packaging, designed to support the belief of synthetic cannabinoids being "safe" for use. While MDMA was initially developed by a German pharmaceutical company in 1912, presently its main source of production is more ambiguous. Manufacturing LSD requires laboratory

equipment and experience in the field of organic chemistry. According to the DEA, "as these substances are widely available in China and other Asian and European countries, most U.S.-based traffickers can purchase the drugs already synthesized and have them shipped through mail carriers to perform final processing and packaging on the substances domestically."

## ***TRANSPORTATION***

Transportation of these various hallucinogens and synthetics is usually via privately owned vehicles and through the internet via parcel delivery service.

## ***DISTRIBUTION***

Besides the wide availability via the internet, more and more NPS are being sold in gas stations and smoke shops. There has been an influx of synthetic cannabinoids being marketed as legal e-liquids or vape oils. As law enforcement targets these types of shops, the sales of these e-liquids are making their way towards street sales. MDMA and LSD distribution typically occur at private parties and close to high school and college campuses. Some street gang members in Mississippi also distribute these illicit substances.

## **IV. DRUG OVERDOSES**

In 2018, Mississippi Coroners reported to MBN 342 Drug Related Overdose deaths that occurred in 59 counties. Of the 342 reported Drug Related Overdose Deaths, 209 were directly related to opioids (heroin, fentanyl, prescriptions, etc.); 133 involved traces of cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, etc. Compliance with reporting overdose deaths continues to be haphazard in some areas. As a result, Senate Bill 2264 was passed in 2007 to require healthcare providers, coroners, and law enforcement officers to notify the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics of all drug overdose deaths within 24 hours. According to a 2016 report; *Prescription Drug Abuse: Strategies to Stop the Epidemic*, Mississippi was ranked 30th highest drug overdose mortality rate in the United States, with 11.4 per 100,000 people suffering drug overdose fatalities.

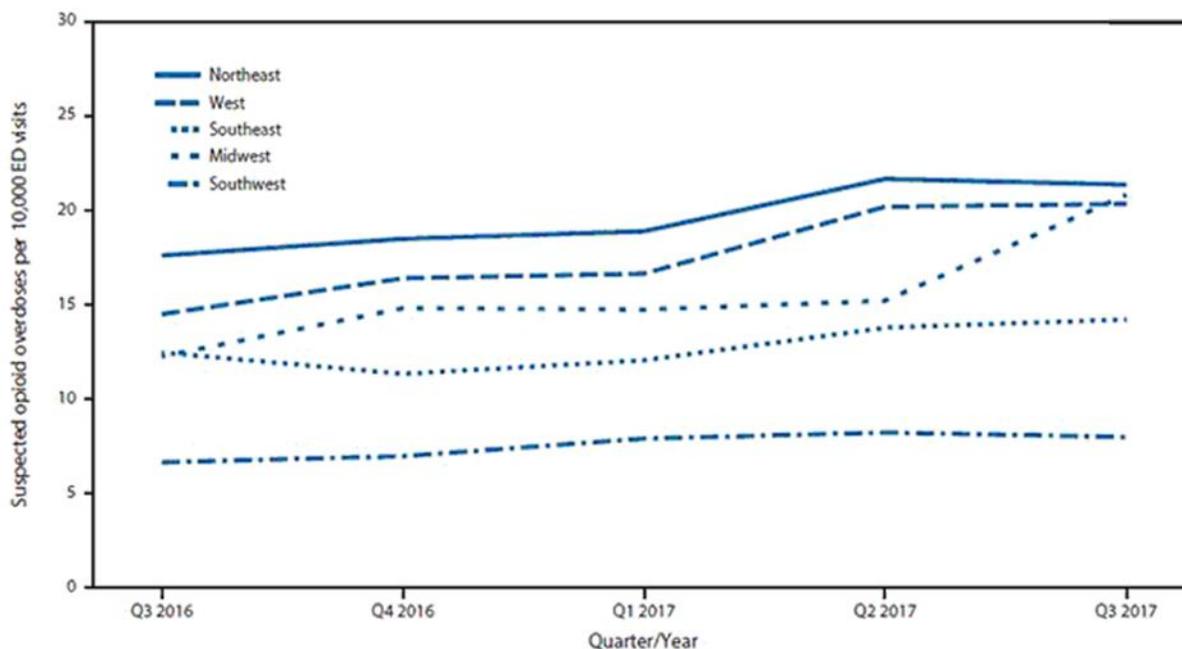
According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (Opioid Overdose Crisis, revised January 2019), every day, more than 130 people in the United States die after overdosing on opioids. The misuse of and addiction to opioids—including prescription pain relievers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl—is a serious national crisis that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the total "economic burden" of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement.

### **How did this happen?**

In the late 1990s, pharmaceutical companies reassured the medical community that patients would not become addicted to prescription opioid pain relievers, and healthcare providers began to prescribe them at greater rates. This subsequently led to widespread diversion and misuse of these medications before it became clear that these medications could indeed be highly addictive. Opioid overdose rates began to increase. In 2017, more than 47,000 Americans died as a result of an opioid overdose, including prescription opioids, heroin, and illicitly manufactured fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid. That same year, an estimated 1.7 million people in the United States suffered from substance use disorders related to prescription opioid pain relievers, and 652,000 suffered from a heroin use disorder (not mutually exclusive).

### **What do we know about the opioid crisis?**

- Roughly 21 to 29 percent of patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse them.
- Between 8 and 12 percent develop an opioid use disorder.
- An estimated 4 to 6 percent who misuse prescription opioids transition to heroin.
- About 80 percent of people who use heroin first misused prescription opioids.
- Opioid overdoses increased 30 percent from July 2016 through September 2017 in 52 areas in 45 states.
- The Midwestern region saw opioid overdoses increase 70 percent from July 2016 through September 2017.
- Opioid overdoses in large cities increase by 54 percent in 16 states.



**Quarterly rate of suspected opioid overdose, by US region**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CHART: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>

Analyst note: Although many coroners have begun 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.

## V. ILLICIT FINANCE

The Chief of Criminal Investigative Division stated in a statement before the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee in Washington, D. C. that the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crimes estimates that annual illicit proceeds total more than \$2 trillion globally, and proceeds of crime generated in the United States were estimated to total approximately \$300 billion in 2010 or about two percent of the overall U.S. economy at that time. In 2017 the Trump Administration stated that the Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI) launched a multinational Terrorist Financing Targeting Center in the Middle East to focus their efforts on disrupting the financial and support networks that enable terrorist. TFI along with FinCEN and various other agencies were created to protect the integrity of the American financial system and target illicit activity. Most terrorists use drugs as their main source of revenue. Billions of dollars are laundered each year thru drug traffickers operating in the United States. Cash can easily be concealed and transported in large quantities such as vehicles, boats, aircraft, 18 wheelers, hidden compartments, packages shipped to private residences or even individuals. Drug dealers/ criminals attempt to smuggle bulk cash and drugs daily across the US using these techniques. There are no current estimates for the annual amount of money either laundered domestically or smuggled out of the United States. The U.S. anti-money laundering (AML), USA Patriot Act and law enforcement have made it more difficult to place drug proceeds in financial institutions.



Fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, U-47700 Pink, Spice, marijuana, methamphetamine, prescription drugs and “other dangerous drugs” is still the most challenging problem facing drug law enforcement. Cash sources from illicit income could include other criminal acts such as human smuggling, illegal gambling, and prostitution. However drug trafficking is probably the most significant single source of illicit cash. The detection of revenue gained has proven to be a great trial for law enforcement within the state of MS. However, in several cases, law enforcement has been able to identify bank accounts, businesses, property, and other assets owned and ill-gotten by DTOs.

### ***FINANCE/MONEY LAUNDERING***

Almost every significant drug seizure and/or violation primarily involves a financial violation. According to current intelligence, DTOs are pursuing more creative and sophisticated methods to conceal drug proceeds in an effort to elude law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies have heightened interdiction efforts in an attempt to thwart money-laundering activities such as bulk currency transport of these trafficking organizations. Through aggressive and successful campaigns, these groups have been greatly impacted by enforcement activities. Nonetheless, money laundering is a significant threat in the state. The threat is primarily due to the continued surfacing of DTOs in the area.

Since most drugs distributed in the state originate outside the area, DTOs must find efficient and ingenious methods to pay their sources of supply such as the use of non-bank financial institutions. Some wire remitters represent co-conspirators in money laundering while others

turn a blind-eye to customers who fragment transmissions to multiple payees in order to circumvent currency reporting.

In addition to wire remitters, DTOs also transport bulk currency back through the organization. Some DTOs use this as their primary method while others use it as a stopgap method when their usual methods are disrupted. Bulk currency is often transported westbound via vehicle or container.

The state has a large fishing/seafood industry, shipping industry, tourism industry, and long-standing business relationships with source and transit countries, as well as a growing economy that has created an environment conducive to money laundering. In addition, the state has major interstates, highways, airports, and seaports used as drug trafficking routes and a coastline that provides easy access without detection.

Current investigations indicate that money laundering techniques uncovered in the region include outbound bulk shipments of cash; structuring of currency transactions at legitimate banking institutions known as "smurfing"; the use of commercial businesses such as check cashing establishments, pawn shops, and casinos; purchases of real estate such as automotive detail shops, liquor stores, record stores, restaurants and beauty salons; and the utilization of courier services most of which are cash businesses. Other means in which proceeds are laundered are through purchases of gift cards, green dot cards, certificates of deposits to secure personal loans for use in acquiring assets, purchasing assets through legal counsel, and the use of nominees to purchase and/or make substantial improvements to real property. The purchase of real estate under an assumable mortgage where there is no qualification and no credit check is yet another laundering method. Violators often place real property in nominee names or corporations in order to hide their true owner and origin.

In 2018, MBN responded to 631 traffic stops conducted by the Mississippi Highway Patrol and various local and state agencies. Of those, 25 stops resulted in the seizure of illicit funds. MBN seized \$962,435 in U.S. currency from drug violators within the state. Agents assisted other agencies with the seizure of approximately \$1,237,588. According to Gulf Cost HIDTA participating agencies seized approximately \$2,200,023 from drug violators in Mississippi.

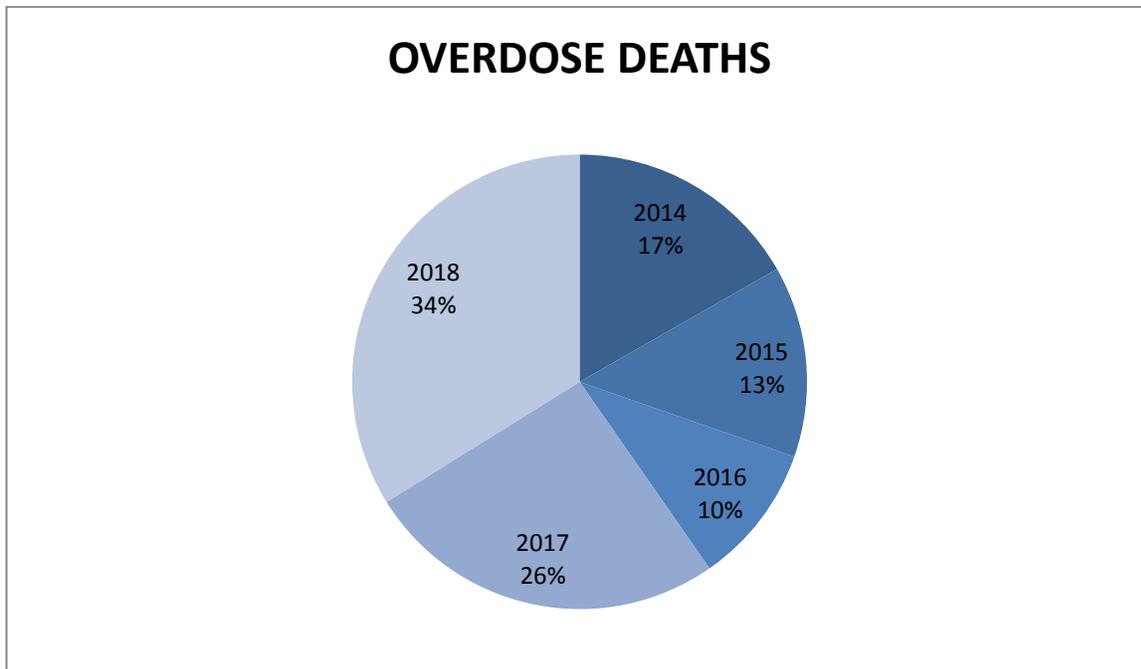
Law enforcement utilizes the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) to assist in identifying assets of drug dealers. The Suspicious Activity Report (SAR), Currency Transaction Report (CTR) and Currency Transaction Report for Casinos (CTR-C) are the most common utilized by law enforcement. Although 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 still remains a problem for law enforcement.

## VI. TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

PMP Aware is a prescription monitoring solution that provides state government agencies with accurate, real-time data, compliant with their regulations. The system has been re-modified to better serve physicians, dentists, pharmacists and law enforcement.

The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) has been a very useful tool for the state of Mississippi. They are active in 42 states and territories. Every controlled substance prescribed state-wide, is entered into PMP Aware database in real time allowing for earlier identification and intervention. In 2017 the system was updated (or given a new interface), to make it more user friendly.

Mississippi has had a steady increase in deaths due to prescription drug use. A simple PMP can tell a doctor if a patient is doctor shopping, how many prescriptions that individual had filled within a year, doctor's name and what prescription drug was prescribed. In 2018 there were 2,740,278 requests from the PMP data base, over 22,400 registered users and over 500,000 prescriptions reported each month.



\*Overdose deaths from 2014 to 2018 as reported to MBN

To help citizens dispose of their expired or unwanted prescriptions, the Mississippi Partnership Project has created prescription drop boxes in certain areas. Since 2017, 22 prescription drop boxes have been provided through Stand Up, Mississippi grant funding by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. MBN has provided an additional 9 drop boxes located at various Mississippi Highway Patrol locations. Mississippians now have access to prescription drop boxes at 36 different law enforcement agencies and schools (listed on next page) throughout the state, with plans for additional purchases.

Bay ST Louis P D	JPD-Precinct 1	MHP-Batesville	MHP-Tupelo	Ridgeland P D
Biloxi P D	JPD-Precinct 2	MHP-Biloxi	Moss Point	Smith County S O
Brandon P D	JPD-Precinct 3	MHP-Brookhaven	MSU Campus P D	Vicksburg P D
Byram PD	JPD-Precinct 4	MHP-Hattiesburg	Ocean Springs P D	Waveland P D
Columbus P D	Kemper County School	MHP-Jackson I-55	Oxford P D	
D 'Iberville P D	Long Beach P D	MHP-Meridian	Pascagoula P D	
Gulfport P D	Louisville P D	MHP-Pearl	Pass Christian P D	
JPD-Headquarters	McComb P D	MHP-Starkville	Pearl P D	

## *TREATMENT*

According to Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) Substance Use Services, they operate 50 inpatient adult substance use beds (25 male and 25 female). They are a person-centered recovery program which utilizes the integration of Dialectal Behavior Therapy and the 12 Step Recovery Model. Their goal is to actively engage patients in creating an individualized relapse prevention plan based on insights, coping skills, and social support gained through treatment. MSH provides a primary substance use program for adolescents who are engaging in harmful drug or alcohol use behaviors. The program employs evidence-based individual and group behavioral health interventions grounded in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Motivational Enhancement, as well as the 12 Step Recovery Model. In addition to targeting substance use behaviors, the program helps adolescents with presenting co-occurring diagnoses, family/relational problems, and impactful traumatic experiences. The Child and Adolescent Service operate 36 beds for psychiatric treatment for children and adolescents, and substance use treatment for adolescents. There is no set number of beds reserved for substance use treatment in the unit. The beds are filled according to need.

Currently, Mississippi has 40 drug courts. These include 22 adult felony drug courts, 3 adult misdemeanor drug courts, 12 juvenile drug courts and 3 family drug courts. Mississippi drug courts had 757 graduates in 2017. July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018 Drug Court had the following Graduates: Adult felony - 482 graduates; Adult misdemeanor –86 graduates; Juvenile – 171 graduates and Family drug court – 33 graduates.

## VII. GANGS 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 or more persons with an established hierarchy that, through its membership or through the agency of any member, engages in felonious criminal 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.



The Federal Bureau of Investigation indicates there are now over 1.4 million gang members involved in the 33,000 active gangs inside the United States. The number of gang members in the U.S. has increased by 40% since 2009. The 10 most dangerous gangs in the United States are (1) Mara Salvatrucha (aka MS-13), (2) Latin Kings, (3) Crips, (4) 18th Street Gang, (5) Hells Angels, (6) Bloods, (7) Mongols, (8) Nuestra Familia, (9) Mexican Mafia, and (10) Aryan Brotherhood. Six of these

gangs have been identified in Mississippi which includes MS-13, Latin Kings, Crips, Bloods, Mexican Mafia and the Aryan Brotherhood.

According to Statistic Brain.com the percent of gangs involved in the following activities in the U.S. are: Drug trafficking 63%, Assault 44%, Threats/Intimidation 41%, Robbery 38%, Burglary 29%, Weapons Trafficking 27%, Larceny/Theft 25%, and Motor Vehicle Theft 22%.

According to November 2018 source reporting, gang members utilized live social media streaming services to identify the real time location of individuals who were then targeted by the gang member for an assault or retaliation. Once an individual was targeted, the gang member monitored the targeted individual's social media pages for a live stream. Once a live stream was posted, the gang member determined where the individual was located, and then arrived at the location to conduct the assault. Various social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter offer free live streaming services.

Six of southern the most counties of Harrison, Hancock, Stone, Jackson, George and Greene counties are experiencing gangs operating in their counties. These gangs which are the Simon City Royals, Gangster Disciples, Latin Kings, Vice Lord and Subsets, and Black Gangster Disciples are known to commit property crimes, home invasions, assaults, drug operations, kidnappings and other violent crimes, including murders.

The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics initiated 41 cases with defendants with gang affiliations in the year of 2017 compared to 42 cases with defendants with gang affiliations in the year of 2018. Arrested were members from the Aryan Brotherhood and was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine; or Possession with Intent to Deliver Methamphetamine, and Possession

of Rx Depressants. Members of the Gangster Disciples had charges ranging from Sale of Power Cocaine, Crack Cocaine, Sale of Methamphetamine and Sale of Marijuana. One member of the Latin King was arrested for Possession of Methamphetamine. Members of the Simon City Royals were arrested for Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession with Intent to Deliver Methamphetamine, Possession of Firearms by Convicted Felon, Possession of Narcotics, and Possession of Marijuana. Members of the Vice Lords were arrested for Possession and Sale of Power Cocaine, Possession and Possession with Intent to Deliver Methamphetamine, Possession of Heroin, Possession and Possession with Intent to Deliver Marijuana.

	# OF GANGS	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL SUBJECTS	TOTAL ARRESTS	TOTAL CHARGES
2017 TOTALS	7	41	59	37	79
2018 TOTALS	8	42	46	18	60

In Mississippi, gangs exist from the rural towns to the larger municipal areas and use graffiti markings to identify their turf. Ages of identified gang members range from 13 years of age to 50 plus. In 2017, the MS Department of Corrections advised they have documented 11,917 gang members which equals 62% of the population.

**Gangster Disciples:** The Gangster Disciples have a membership of approximately 40,000-55,000 members in the U.S. A recent trend by gang members is to join the military. Gang members receive combat training among other skills and bring these skills home with them to teach other members in their gang. They also have access to weapons and other tools of destruction which can be used by other members. Gangster Disciples have been documented in the U.S. military, found in both U.S. and overseas bases. Graffiti characteristic of the Gangster Disciples has been reportedly seen in U.S. 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, and GPS devices, dual agent 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 or Duke Blue Devils clothing. Common clothing items include a shirt or a sweater with Lil Jo Jo quotes and pictures on it. Most common quotes are "3Hunnak and "Jo Jo's world". The predominant symbol this criminal gang makes use of is the six-pointed Star of David (☆). The symbol pays homage to founder David Barksdale.

Criminal activities include: drug trafficking, robbery, extortion, murder and prostitution.



**Vice Lords:** Symbols common to the Vice Lords are a hat cocked to the left side, rabbit wearing a bow tie (The Playboy logo), martini glass, glove, top hat, cane and five-point star (the five points represent Love, Truth, Peace, Freedom and Justice), crescent moon, pitchfork pointing down, broken heart with wings (the heart with wings is a sign of disrespect), pyramid with an eye above it, and a six crown. They have approximately 30,000 – 35,000 members.

Vice Lords are using local juveniles and the music industry for recruitment. (Reported by Harrison County, Mississippi Sheriff's

Office.)

Criminal activities include: drug trafficking, robbery, extortion, fraud, money laundering and murder.



**Simon City Royals:** One of the predominant gangs in Mississippi is known as the Simon City Royals, formally the Almighty Simon City Royal Nation, which are affiliated with a Chicago street gang instituted in the late 1950s known as Simon City, a greaser gang. Even today, it is widely noted by the media, and city, state and federal officials and was once the largest Caucasian gang with approximately 10,000 to 15,000 members. The Simon City Royals are now an affiliate of the All Folk Nation.

In 2003, Royal recruits in Mississippi must 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, in the past few years, have made a notable split creating a new set know as Sip City or Thirteen Dreams; a 501(c)(3) organization.



Photograph of the Mississippi SRC patch

The Simon City Royals continue to pose a significant threat to public safety in Biloxi, Mississippi due to the sheer numbers of members along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Forty percent of their attributed crime in 2016 was directly related to drug violations and 30 percent of violent and property crimes. (Reported by Biloxi, Mississippi Police Department)

Symbols common to the Simon City Royals are a shield with an R for Royal, 6-point stars, the cross, 3-point crowns and the royal knight. They changed their traditional colors of black and royal blue for the historic color scheme to 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.



**Mara Salvatrucha:** One gang that has law enforcement authorities the most concerned is the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13). There are currently chapters of MS-13 in 42 states with over 10,000 members. The MS-13 has been known to cause physical harm and death to those who try to cross them. There are members in South and North Mississippi. The MS-13 is a transnational criminal gang that was first seen in Los Angeles and has spread to other parts of the United States. The majority of the gang is ethnically composed of Central Americans (mostly Salvadorans) and are active in urban and suburban areas. Traditionally MS-13 gang members wore

Chicago Bulls hats in the gang's official colors blue & white; members in Massachusetts began wearing Chicago Bulls hats in a variety of different colors in an attempt to avoid identification. MS-13 gang members commonly use the Chicago Bulls logo on other clothing to identify himself as MS-13.

Tattoos common to the MS 13 are "MS", "Salvatrucha", the "Devil Horns," the name of their clique, and other symbols. MS 13 utilize a system of hand signs for purposes of identification and communication. One of the most commonly displayed is the "devil's head" which forms a 'M' when displayed upside down. The hand sign is similar to 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.

**Mexican Mafia:** 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. The Mexican Mafia did not originate in Mexico and is entirely a U.S. criminal prison organization. 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 are extorting drug distributors outside prison and distributing various narcotics within and outside the prison system.



Criminal activities include: murder, money laundering, arms trafficking, drug trafficking, kidnapping, pandering, racketeering, extortion, human trafficking, illegal immigration, fraud and illegal gambling.

**Sureno:** A Sureno is a Latino gang member who belongs to a street gang that identifies with, and is subservient to, the Mexican Mafia. Surenos use the number 13 which represents the thirteenth letter of the alphabet, the letter M, in order to pay allegiance to the Mexican Mafia.

They are soldiers for the Mexican Mafia, and further their organized criminal enterprises.



Symbols common to the Sureno are Sur, XIII, X3, 13, SUR 13, Uno Tres, Trece and 3-dots, Surenos use tattoos with the number 13, Sureno, Sur, South Sider, or Kanpol. Surenos identify with the colors blue and gray.

Criminal activities include: human smuggling, murder, drug trafficking, extortion, assault, theft, robbery, fraud, and arms trafficking.

**Black P. Nation:** 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. The colors are red, black and green. They have approximately 30,000 – 42,000 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 & domestic terrorism.

**Crips:** 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 African-American 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 “Cs” so that the word “luck” is spelled “lucc.”

The color blue is commonly used by the Crips, though some sets may use the color 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” in writing in disrespect for Bloods. Crips call themselves “Blood Killas” (BK) and wear British Knight (BK) tennis shoes.

Criminal activities include: drug trafficking, robbery, extortion, murder, burglary, prostitution, and theft.

**Bloods:** The color 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 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.” They have approximately 15,000 to 20,000 members.

Criminal activities include: drug trafficking, robbery, murder, burglary, prostitution, theft and extortion.



**Latin Kings:** Colors for the Latin Kings are black and gold. This gang makes use of a 5 or 3-point “sacred crown”, writings of LK, ALK, ALKN, ALKQN; and drawings of the Lion and/or the King Master. January 6 is Kings Holy Day, the 1st week in March is known as Kings Week, and Puerto Rican Day parades held in June.

Criminal activities include: battery, extortion, robbery, murder, arms trafficking and drug trafficking.



Mississippi AB patch

**Aryan Brotherhood:** The Aryan Brotherhood (AB), also known as the Brand, is a white supremacist prison gang and organized crime syndicate in the United States with about 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 white 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.



Symbols and designs commonly include the words “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.



**Asian Gangs:** The Mississippi Gulf Coast has a population of Asian gangs in the Harrison, Hancock, and Jackson county area. 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 a common symbol to the Dragon Family. This is a predominantly Vietnamese gang. The revenue from organized crime comes mainly from the extortion of brothels, prostitution, money laundering, the

distribution of narcotics, and counterfeiting merchandise. At street-level, the gang is involved in a wide range of crimes that included murder, robbery, and car theft.



Criminal activities include: extortion, counterfeiting, prostitution, money laundering, drug trafficking, racketeering, murder, assault, robbery, arms trafficking, auto theft, and burglary.

Symbol common to the Viet Boyz is also a dragon.

They 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.

## ***OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS***



**Unclassified**  
**(U) 1% patch**  
**worn on the**  
**front or back of**  
**the colors**

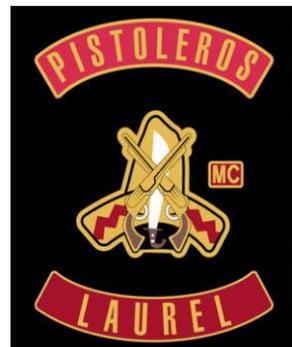
At the present time, Mississippi has two international Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG) which are the Sons of Silence and the Vagos. The Bandidos are no longer affiliated with international clubs. The Bandidos and the Sons of Silence are the dominant OMG clubs in Mississippi. The Bandidos and the Sons of Silence were two of the “Big Five OMGs” in the nation. The Big Five consists of the five most notorious and violent motorcycle gangs in the United States. The Bandidos have three chapters in the state located on the Gulf Coast, Jackson, and North Mississippi. According to the American Motorcycle Association, 99 percent of motorcycle riders are law abiding citizens; thus, only one percent of all motorcycles are affiliated with a gang.

The FBI asserts that OMGs 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.



**Pistoleros:** The Pistoleros are a support 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 most other OMGs which include drug distribution, stolen motorcycles, money laundering, other Racketeer Influenced Organizations, and Continuing Criminal Enterprise type violations.



**Sons of Silence:** 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."

**Galloping Goose:** The Galloping Goose motto is "Often Tested, Always Faithful". The Galloping Goose Motorcycle Club's colors are purple and gold. The Galloping Goose Motorcycle Club's patch consists of a set of legs running. The torso on top of the set of legs is a large hand with the index 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 is purple writing on a gold background.



Galloping Goose OMG is recruiting for a chapter in Picayune, Mississippi. The Galloping Goose OMG is a one percent club and the club's rules of behavior sometimes include violent crimes.

**Vagos:** 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. The Vagos' are an international one percent OMG and, as of late, have been involved in deadly confrontations with the Hells Angels. The Sons of Silence (SOS) of Mississippi confronted Vagos members at a local bar and the Sons of Silence members took a set of Vagos colors and assaulted the member.

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's abbreviations is 22, as the 22nd letter in the alphabet is the letter "V."

The Vagos Motorcycle Club's 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."

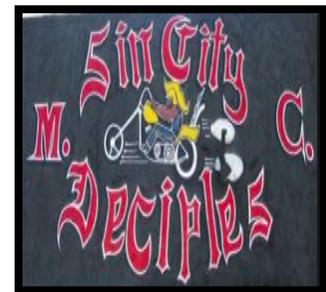
**Iron Coffins:** In 2013, the Iron Coffins initiated a local chapter in North Mississippi near Tupelo. The Iron Coffins originated out of Ohio in the 1960s and have chapters in several states in the Midwest, and now in southern states.



The Iron Coffins use the acronym "ICFFIC" which stands for "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 contacts for methamphetamine. 666 displayed on a patch or tattoo, symbolizes the mark of Satan. 69 displayed on a patch or tattoo symbolizes that the wearer has committed cunnilingus or fellatio with witnesses present, having been in prison.

**Sin City Deciples:** 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 for having a large number of over 4900 street gang members and having extensive contact network with these gangs as well as a high percentage of 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.



**Outcast MC:** Outcast MC 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 currently 30 chapters in cities throughout the USA. 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 the iron cross.

The Outcast motto is “We Ride For Piece”, 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.

## **VIII. OUTLOOK**

The illicit drug market in the United States is one of the most profitable in the world. As such, it attracts the most ruthless, sophisticated, and aggressive drug traffickers. Drug law enforcement agencies face an enormous challenge in protecting citizens. State and local law enforcement agree, and statistics confirm, that Mississippi has a significant drug problem. Methamphetamine (ICE) is a major problem in the state, while diverted pharmaceuticals are holding at a close second with a fast growing heroin ranking third. These are followed by marijuana, cocaine, and new psychoactive substances. Even though methamphetamine manufacturing has declined in the state, there continues to be an increase in the transportation and distribution of Mexico-produced methamphetamine. Cocaine has taken a back seat to marijuana in Mississippi. Marijuana, as we all know is the gateway/starter drug that is abused by a wide spectrum of the population. Trends indicate that marijuana, which is grown and/or manufactured in-state, is not transported out-of-state but is used locally in addition to the vast quantities imported from other areas like California, Colorado, and Washington. Likewise, the increased use and abuse of fentanyl has become an increasing issue that continues to be a growing concern in Mississippi. Over the past few years, fentanyl has claimed more lives in this state than in years prior. Mexican and other DTOs continue to establish distribution routes in Mississippi dealing in bulk shipments. Mississippi is experiencing a dramatic increase in the use of heroin.

### **TRENDS**

- Diverted pharmaceutical abuse remains constant.
- The importation and distribution of methamphetamine from outside the state continues to increase, as well as the seizure of methamphetamine “ICE”.
- Previously, Caucasians primarily dealt methamphetamine; now independent African American dealers are more involved in the distribution and sale of methamphetamine and other dangerous drugs. They see it as a lucrative means of making money.
- Dealers have found a means to stretch their supply of meth by processing it in a way similar to that of crack cocaine by the process of adding additional chemical reagents and recrystallization.
- Heroin abuse and distribution remains a growing threat. Mississippi is experiencing a steady increase in the transportation of heroin through the state coming from other states, such as Louisiana, Illinois, and Tennessee.
- Overdose deaths related to heroin and heroin laced with fentanyl will continue to increase because of the cheaper cost and availability of the drug.
- Mississippi law enforcement will continue to see heroin sold in both small and large quantities in the Northwest, Delta area, Central, and Coastal Mississippi.
- The presence of higher grade marijuana has driven the price and popularity of marijuana higher than in previous years.
- The emergence of synthetic drugs used as alternative means of getting high increased steadily.
- Activity on the Dark Web, where subjects avoid traceable transactions of currency and drugs has hit Mississippi.
- Children present during the drug manufacturing process are exposed to dangerous chemicals.

## ***DEVELOPMENTS***

- The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) has made it easier to track illegally diverted pharmaceuticals.
- The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics has formed a coalition with the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy, Mississippi Department of Health, Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Mississippi Department of Public Safety, and the Mississippi Crime Lab to help combat the Opioid Epidemic in this state.
- MBN wants to develop a unit that focuses solely on opioid use and abuse.
- MBN and MDMH have staged prescription drug drop boxes at every Mississippi Highway Patrol Office and several Police Departments and Sheriff Departments across the state for citizens to discard their unwanted/unused prescription drugs.
- 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***

- Money laundering will increase due to the influence of Mexican DTOs and bulk shipments of illegal drugs and currency.
- More drug dealers/traffickers will use virtual currency in efforts to avoid cash seizures from law enforcement.
- Marijuana will continue to be the most available drug of abuse in Mississippi. The introduction of more potent forms of this drug (i.e., BC Bud, Purple Haze, hydroponic and cloned) will increase the threat of addiction and abuse.
- The increased production of new chemicals and compositions for manufacturing synthetic fentanyl will increase.
- Marijuana cakes and snacks will continue to increase in popularity and abuse.
- Interstate transportation using private and public carriers and domestic aircraft will continue to be the primary method of trans-shipping narcotics across the state.
- Trafficking of diverted pharmaceuticals will increase from out-of-state pursuant to the implementation of the Prescription Monitoring Program.
- Increases in counterfeit substances across the state as the demand for pharmaceuticals increases.
- Abuse of synthetic drugs will continue to increase as people seek to obtain that legal high.
- Heroin will become increasingly popular in the state, thus causing a rise in heroin related overdose deaths.
- More and more drugs will be abused utilizing vape pens.

## ***IX. 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 diverted pharmaceuticals, cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin, and other 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.

## **X. SOURCES:**

The following served as sources in the preparation of this document:

2019 GC HIDTA Drug Survey  
Alcorn State University Campus Police American Gaming Association  
Blue Lightning Operations Center (BLOC)  
Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Services for the Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Bureau of Labor and Statistics  
California Department of Justice, Methamphetamine Website CBC News  
Commercial Appeal  
<https://courts.ms.gov/trialcourts/drugcourt>  
Department of Defense Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6)  
Department of Homeland Security  
Department of Justice  
Department of Labor Statistics  
Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)  
Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)  
Drugfreeworld.org  
Drug Identification Bible Drugs in Modern Society  
<http://www.dmh.ms.gov/alcohol-and-drug-services>  
Drugs, Society and Human Behavior  
El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC)  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Bureau of Investigation National Gang Report 2015  
Federal Drug Administration  
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)  
Florida Department of Corrections  
Hattiesburg American Newspaper  
HSI Boston Intelligence; Gang Intelligence Bulletin  
<Http://Gravesassociates.com>  
Gulf Coast HIDTA  
<http://pressroom.mississippi.org/index.php> <http://www.mdac.state.ms.us>  
<http://medicalmarijuana.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000881>  
Internal Revenue Service  
Louisiana State Police  
Mississippi Association of Gang Investigators Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics  
<http://www.mbp.state.ms.us/mbop/pharmacy>  
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Mississippi Department of Corrections  
Mississippi Department of Employment Securities  
Mississippi Department of Human Services  
Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drugs  
Mississippi Department of Public Safety  
Mississippi Department of Revenue  
Mississippi Department of Transportation Mississippi Division of Tourism  
Mississippi Gaming Commission

Mississippi Highway Patrol  
Mississippi National Guard  
Mississippi News Now  
Mississippi State University Campus Police  
MSAIC State Gang Threat Assessment 2017  
MS News Now Gang update – 2-18-2013  
Mississippi Valley State University Campus Police  
National Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Information Center  
National Center of Disease Control  
National Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University  
National Gang Intelligence Center Report 2013  
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Community Drug Alert Bulletin National Institute  
on National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIDA Infobox  
Newsweek 6-22-2016 Issue  
Office of National Drug Control Policy  
One Percenter Motorcycle Clubs  
Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Assessment 2018  
PoliceOne.com  
Purdue Pharma  
Regional Organized Crime Information Center Street Drugs  
Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Report SAMHSA Statistics Website  
Statistic Brain.com  
Uniform Crime Reports Services  
United States Census Bureau  
U. S. Coast Guard  
U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
U. S. Department of Health and Human  
U. S. Department of Justice  
U. S. Department of the Treasury  
U. S. Postal Inspectors  
University of Mississippi Campus Police  
Wikipedia – The Free Encyclopedia  
Youth Infrastructure Coalition – Interstate 14

**XI. 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	\$100	\$100-120	\$100	\$50
	Eight-Ball	\$175	\$200-250	\$150-250	\$175-225	\$250	\$250	\$250-300	\$200	\$160
	Ounce	\$1,000-1,200	\$850	\$1000-1,200	\$900-1,100	\$1000	\$800-1,000	\$1,000-1,200	\$700	\$1000
	¼ Kilo	\$5,000	\$6,000-10,000	\$6,000-9,000	\$4,800-6,500	\$6,200	\$6,500	\$7,000-10,000		
	½ Kilo	\$9,000	\$14,000-19,000	\$15,000	\$9,000-12,000	\$14,000-15,000	\$9,000	\$15,000-19,000		
	Kilogram	\$16,000	\$25,000-30,000	\$30,000-37,000	\$18,000-24,000	\$21,000	\$18,000-20,000	\$32,000-36,000	\$18,000-22,000	
Crack Cocaine	Rock	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20		\$20
	Gram	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$80-100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$40
	Eight-Ball	\$200-225	\$200-250	\$150 – 175	\$175-250	\$150	\$250	\$200	\$200	\$140
	Ounce	\$1,000-1,200	\$750-1,000	\$1,000	\$900-1,100	\$800-1,000	\$1,000	\$1,400-1,800	\$700	\$750
	¼ Kilo	\$5,000-\$8,000	\$5,000-8,000	\$6,500	\$6,800-\$8,500	\$6,500	\$8,000	\$7,000-10,000		
	Kilogram	\$30,000-34,000	\$25,000 - 30,000	\$28,000-36,000	\$28,000	\$27,000-30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000 -34,000		
Marijuana	Dime Bag	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10		\$10
	20-Sack	20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20		\$20
	¼ Ounce	\$35	\$35-40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$35-40	\$40		
	Ounce	\$100	\$60-120	\$100-150	\$80-140	\$80	\$80-100	\$50-100	\$100	\$400 high \$250 med \$60 low
	¼ Pound	\$400	\$125-450	\$350	\$180-200	\$250-350	\$250	\$200-300		
	½ Pound	\$800	\$220-800	\$600-700	\$250-300	\$500-600	\$450	\$250-450		
	Pound	\$1,200	\$600-800	\$1000-1,200	\$800-1,200	\$800-1,200	\$800-1,000	\$500-700	\$600	
BC BUD	Ounce	\$250	350-850	\$500-600	\$400	\$500	\$400- 600	\$150-200		
	¼ Pound	\$700-1,200	\$700-2,500	\$1000-2,000	\$1,500	\$1,500-1,600	\$1,500- 1,600	\$1,000-1,200		
	½ Pound	\$1,200-1,500	\$1,500-4,000	\$2500-3,500	\$3,500	\$3,000-3,200	\$3,000- 3,200	\$1,500-2,000		
	Pound	\$3,000	\$5,000-5,500	\$5,000-7,000	\$5,000-\$7,000	\$5,100	\$4,500- 5,000	\$3,000-3,500		

*Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics*

LSD	Dosage Unit		\$10	\$10-15	\$12	\$10-12	\$10	\$5-10	N/A	
MDMA	Dosage Unit		\$10- 20	\$25-40	\$25-40	\$25-35	\$25	\$5-25	\$12-15	\$5-10
Meth	Gram	\$50	\$50-60	\$50-75	\$80-100	\$80-100	\$100	\$30-60	\$80	\$50
	Eight-Ball	\$150	\$150-200	\$150-200	\$150-200	\$150-250	\$250	\$75-150	\$150	\$160
	Ounce	\$425	\$325-500	\$400-700	\$700-1,100	\$1,100	\$1,000	\$250-550	\$600	\$1,000
	Pound	\$6,000	\$5,000-8,000	N/A	\$12,000-15,000	\$12,000-15,000	\$12,000-15,000	\$2,000-4,000	\$5,500	
Heroin	Gram	\$250	\$20 for tin foil pack	\$200-250	\$222-250	\$250.00	N/A	\$100-200	\$200	\$200
	Ounce	\$4,000	N/A	\$1,750-3,000	\$3,000	\$1,750-2,000	N/A	\$1,400-2,200	\$2,400	N/A
	¼ Kilo			\$15,000-18,000	\$15,000-18,000	\$15,7500		\$12,000-16,000		
	1 Kilo	\$120,000		\$70,000-75,000	\$30,000-50,000	\$63,000		\$45,000-65,000		