

UNCLASSIFIED



2022 Annual Drug Report

November 13, 2023

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I. Purpose:

Wisconsin Statute §961.565 dictates that the governor and attorney general shall submit a joint report to the legislature “describing the activities in this state during the previous year to enforce the laws regulating controlled substances.”ⁱ In accordance, this report outlines narcotics investigation activities throughout the state of Wisconsin for calendar year 2022. It describes general arrest data, drug types, and case numbers, and identifies various law enforcement agencies with units dedicated to narcotics enforcement throughout the state. It describes the role of local, state, and federal law enforcement organizations in narcotics investigations throughout Wisconsin during 2022.

II. Drug Enforcement in Wisconsin:

The Wisconsin Department of Justice’s (DOJ’s) Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis (BJIA), and the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories (WSCL), housed in the Division of Forensic Sciences (DFS), provided important information for this report. The data from BJIA provides the most consistent information about annual arrest numbers according to crime types created by the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI’s) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Additionally, it allows for consistent data compilation for arrest numbers regarding possession and sale of illicit drugs. The WSCL measures the specific types of drugs identified in cases submitted for analysis. The comprehensive arrest numbers from BJIA and specific drugs per case from WSCL provides foundational data about drug enforcement trends within the state of Wisconsin. The data within this report does not reflect incidents in which a federal agency held the primary reporting jurisdiction over a local agency.

III. Drug Arrests Reported in 2022:

BJIA data reflects UCR standards used by the FBI Consistent with practices across numerous law enforcement agencies, UCR drug-related arrests involve:

- Violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances.
- The unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance.
- Violations of state and local laws, specifically those relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, manufacturing, and making of narcotic drugs.

UCR data conveys the most comprehensive and accurate information for Wisconsin arrest data, despite some challenges. Particularly, the way UCR data is recorded and categorized makes trend analysis difficult for comparing specific, different drugs.

UCR categorizes information on arrests for drug abuse violations based on the narcotics involved but does not break down arrests by the specific drug type or legal status. For example, cocaine (illegal), heroin (illegal), and morphine (legal when prescribed) are all included under the same category, “opium or cocaine and their derivatives.” In addition, when reporting UCR statistics, agencies must include all arrests for violations including attempts, and sub-categorize them into sale/manufacturing and possession.¹

When querying the BJIA UCR dashboard, one may notice that drug arrest numbers of past years have changed slightly from the date they were originally extracted for the purpose of this report. When a new year of data is made available on the dashboard, the previous years that are displayed are refreshed at the same time. This can cause slight changes in the data due to law enforcement agencies retrospectively making updates to previous years data. However, for the purpose of this report, we will continue to keep past years data as they were when it was first extracted from the UCR dashboard to maintain continuity between past and present publications of this report.

In Wisconsin, agencies’ use of UCR reporting systems continued an ongoing shift away from Summary Based Reporting (SBR) to Incident Based Reporting (IBR). This larger shift to IBR is related to FBI reporting requirements that encourage units to transition as SBR is gradually discontinued. In the meantime, both IBR and SBR continue to exist under the general UCR system. From 2021-2022, the number of Wisconsin agencies certified as IBR reporters increased from 370 to 380. There are 33 more agencies that are currently in the transition process.ⁱⁱ Other than the continued ongoing shift towards IBR, no other significant changes occurred in 2022 regarding UCR drug categories or how UCR data is measured.

¹ This report relies on numbers that combine arrests of adults with juveniles, to deliver a comprehensive assessment of statewide trends.

Figure A: Wisconsin UCR Reported Drug Arrests (2018 – 2022)ⁱⁱⁱ

| Total Arrests | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Amount Change 2021-22 | % Change 2021-22 | 4-year Average 2021-22 | 2022 v. Average 2018-21 | 2022 % Change v. Annual avg 2018-21 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Drug Sale - Opium/Cocaine | 1,118 | 842 | 602 | 576 | 538 | -38 | -6.6% | 784.5 | -246.5 | -31.4% |
| Drug Sale - Marijuana | 1,828 | 1,350 | 1,084 | 885 | 792 | -93 | -10.5% | 1,286.8 | -494.8 | -38.4% |
| Drug Sale - Synthetic | 346 | 239 | 200 | 130 | 141 | 11 | 8.5% | 228.8 | -87.8 | -38.4% |
| Drug Sale - Other Dangerous | 1,241 | 1,251 | 824 | 794 | 734 | -60 | -7.6% | 1,027.5 | -293.5 | -28.6% |
| Drug Possession - Opium/Cocaine | 2,987 | 2,784 | 2,474 | 2,803 | 2,597 | -206 | -7.3% | 2,762.0 | -165.0 | -6.0% |
| Drug Possession - Marijuana | 17,444 | 14,786 | 11,624 | 12,397 | 12,882 | 485 | 3.9% | 14,062.8 | -1,180.8 | -8.4% |
| Drug Possession - Synthetic | 1,615 | 1,476 | 1,330 | 1,020 | 1,075 | 55 | 5.4% | 1,360.3 | -285.3 | -21.0% |
| Drug Possession - Other Dangerous | 4,417 | 4,352 | 4,508 | 6,158 | 5,618 | -540 | -8.8% | 4,858.8 | 759.3 | 15.6% |
| Drug - Unknown | 497 | 597 | 432 | 528 | 403 | -125 | -23.7% | 513.5 | -110.5 | -21.5% |
| Total Drug Arrests - Sale | 4,533 | 3,682 | 2,710 | 2,385 | 2,205 | -180 | -7.5% | 3,327.5 | -1,122.5 | -33.7% |
| Total Drug Arrests - Possession | 26,463 | 23,398 | 19,936 | 22,378 | 22,172 | -206 | -0.9% | 23,043.8 | -871.8 | -3.8% |
| Total Drug Arrests | 31,493 | 27,677 | 23,078 | 25,291 | 24,780 | -511 | -2.0% | 26,884.8 | -2,104.8 | -7.8% |

Arrests for possession were more than ten times greater than arrests for sale. Of the total 24,780 drug arrests, 22,172 (89.4%) were for possession compared to 2,205 arrests for sale (8.9%). The total arrests for sale in 2022 represent a 33.7% decrease compared with the four-year average from 2018-2021.^{iv}

Marijuana-related arrests accounted for 55% of all other drug arrest types. Arrests in 2022 for marijuana drug sales (792) and possession (12,882) represented 55.2% of all annual drug arrests. Arrests for marijuana possession is over twice the amount of the next closest category, “Drug Possession- Other Dangerous” with 5,618 arrests.^v

The category of “Drug Sale-Synthetic” had an 8.5% increase in arrests from 2021 to 2022.

The category of “Drug-Unknown” represents the largest percentage decrease relative to other categories. The total of “Unknown” drugs at 403 remains small relative to other categories, however it continues to impact our study.

IV. Drug Types Identified in Referred Cases in 2022

Data from the WSCL reflects standards used by the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS).^{vi} This report relies on the WSCL for relaying the information to create an itemized table of specific drug cases during 2022. Also, the presence of multiple drugs in a single case or a single drug across multiple cases can make interpretations difficult in some circumstances or alter some of the statistics. In addition, maximum weight thresholds for samples may alter how much is tested. Therefore, WSCL data represents the number of times a specific drug was identified in any case, with generalizable results, but not absolute accuracy or complete comprehensiveness.^{vii} Acknowledging these considerations, WSCL data remains the best source for specific data about types of drugs identified in Wisconsin cases for 2022.

Figure B: WSCL Case Numbers by Drug Type, (2018 – 2022)^{viii}

| Drug Type | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2021-2022 Change | 2021-2022 % Change | 2022 v. 2018-2021 Average (%) |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cocaine | 1,600 | 1,353 | 884 | 808 | 927 | 119 | 14.7% | -20.2% |
| Heroin | 1,326 | 955 | 679 | 590 | 369 | -221 | -37.5% | -58.4% |
| Prescription Opioids | 508 | 373 | 340 | 197 | 208 | 11 | 5.6% | -41.3% |
| Marijuana (THC) | 2,419 | 1,815 | 1,082 | 1,244 | 1,219 | -25 | -2.0% | -25.7% |
| Methamphetamine | 1,951 | 1,819 | 1,569 | 1,782 | 1,587 | -195 | -10.9% | -10.9% |
| Fentanyl and Analogs | 679 | 724 | 788 | 914 | 885 | -29 | -3.2% | 14.0% |
| Synthetic Hallucinogens Analogs | 229 | 200 | 154 | 161 | 134 | -27 | -16.8% | -28.0% |
| Ketamine | 15 | 16 | 17 | 9 | 23 | 14 | 155.6% | 61.4% |
| Total | 8,727 | 7,255 | 5,513 | 5,705 | 5,352 | -353 | -6.2% | -21.3% |

Methamphetamine continues to represent the highest number of samples tested. Compared with the four-year average from 2018-2021 (1,780), methamphetamine tests in 2022 were approximately 10.9% less. Although the number of tests has decreased this past year, methamphetamine continues to be the most encountered illicit drug in Wisconsin.^{ix}

Heroin samples decreased by 37.5% in 2022. The number of heroin tests continues to decrease over the last five years.^x

Fentanyl-related cases continue to remain prevalent. Compared with the four-year average from 2018-2021 (776.3), fentanyl-related tests increased by 14.0%.^{xi}

Prescription Opioids increased by 5.6% in 2022. In previous publications of this report, only Oxycodone, Hydrocodone and Hydromorphone were included. Due to changes in drug trends, it was deemed appropriate to include other relevant opioids.

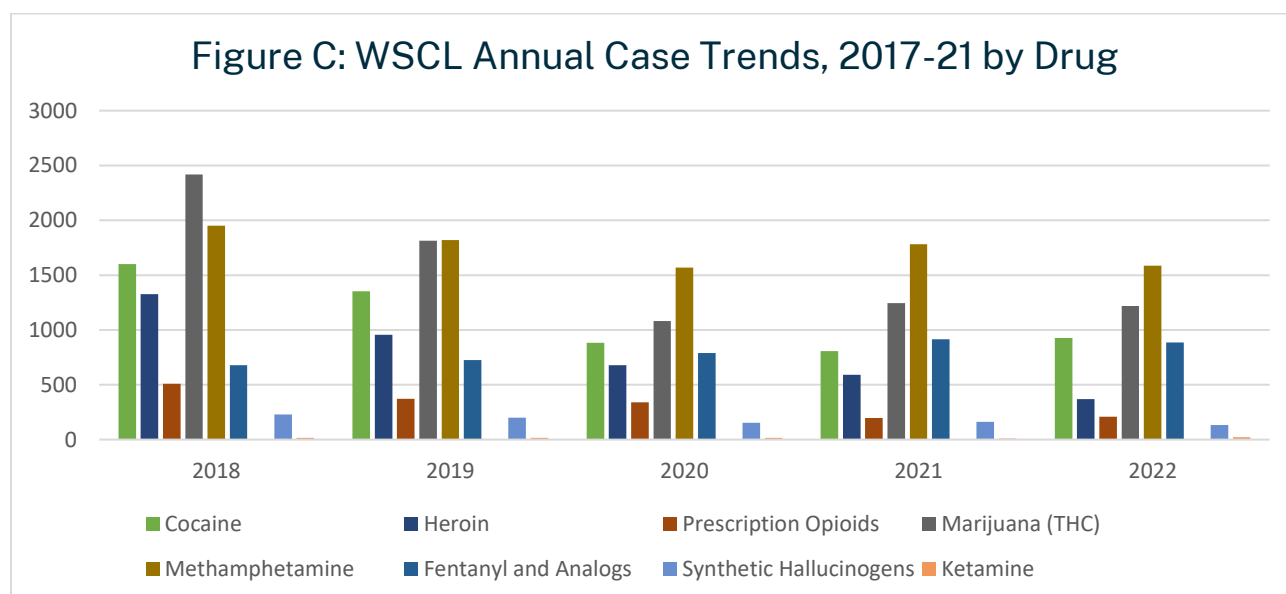


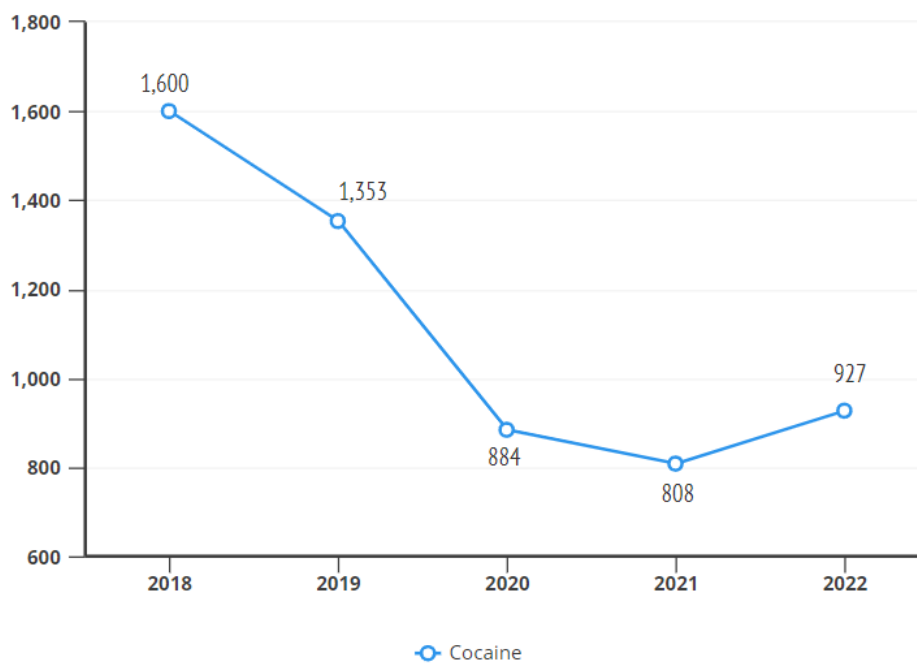
Figure C Note: WSCL maintains up to date information on drug cases at <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dfs/chemistry/wscl-drug-cases>.

V. Specific drug type descriptions and data comparison:

Cocaine: is a powerfully addictive stimulant drug made from coca plant leaves. Short-term effects of cocaine include increased energy, irritability, hypersensitivity, and paranoia.^{xii} Cocaine can be powder or base form, both of which are included in this category.

After four consecutive years of decline, the number of cases increased by 14.7% in 2022.^{xiii}

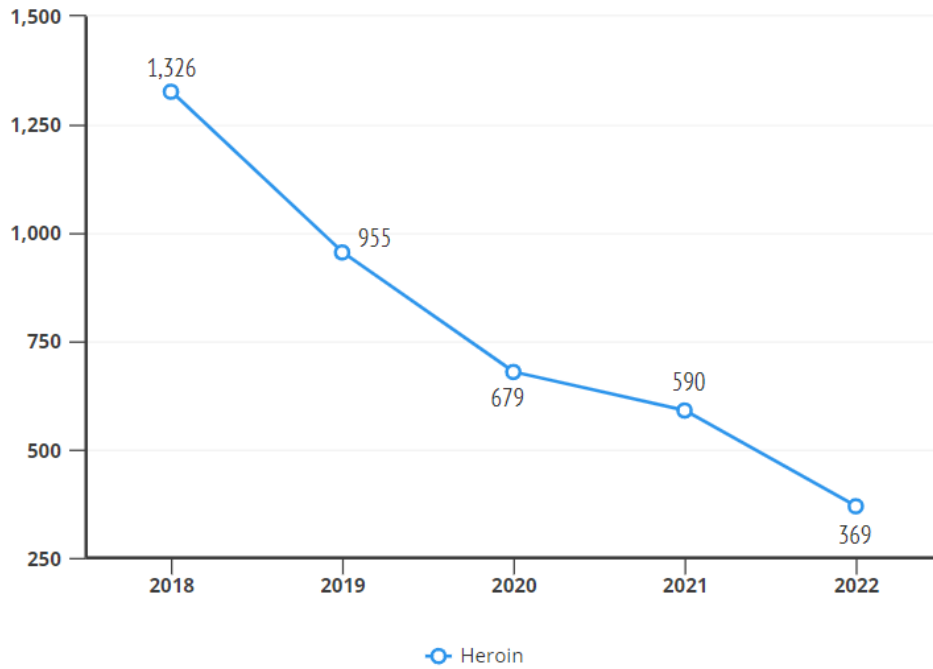
Figure D: Cocaine, 2018 – 2022



Heroin: is a highly addictive opioid drug derived from morphine, a naturally occurring substance in various poppy plants. The short-term effects of heroin include a surge of pleasure, clouded mental functioning, dry mouth, and nausea. Heroin usually appears as a white or brown powder, or as a sticky, black substance.^{xiv}

Within the past 5 years, heroin tests have continued to decline, resulting in a 58.4% decrease.^{xv}

Figure E: Heroin 2018 – 2022

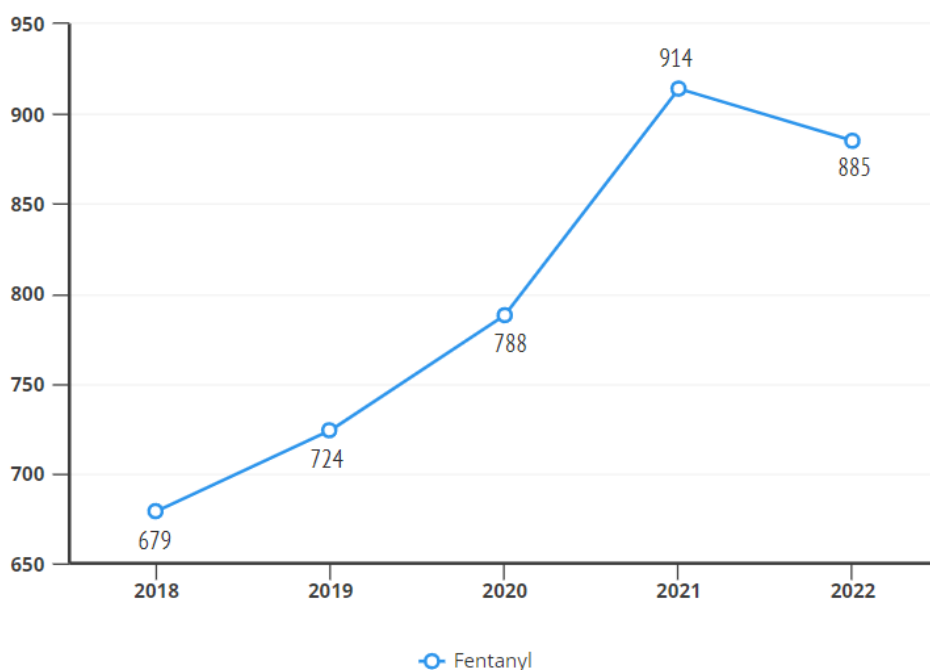


Fentanyl: is a very powerful synthetic opioid that can be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine or heroin. As stated by the National Institute of Health, “synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, are now the most common drugs involved in drug overdose deaths in the United States.” When fentanyl is prescribed by a doctor, it is given as a shot, a patch, or as lozenges. Illegally used fentanyl is sold as a powder, dropped onto blotter paper, put in eye droppers and nasal sprays, or made into pills. It is commonly known that fentanyl is often being mixed with other drugs, such as cocaine and heroin. Fentanyl side effects include extreme happiness, sedation, confusion, and drowsiness. In Wisconsin, fentanyl and fentanyl analogs – compounds structurally derived from fentanyl with small differences in chemical formula – present a significant concern with increased appearances over the last several years.

xvi

Comparing the 2022 data to the four-year mean average shows a 14.0% increase.^{xvii}

Figure F: Fentanyl 2018 - 2022



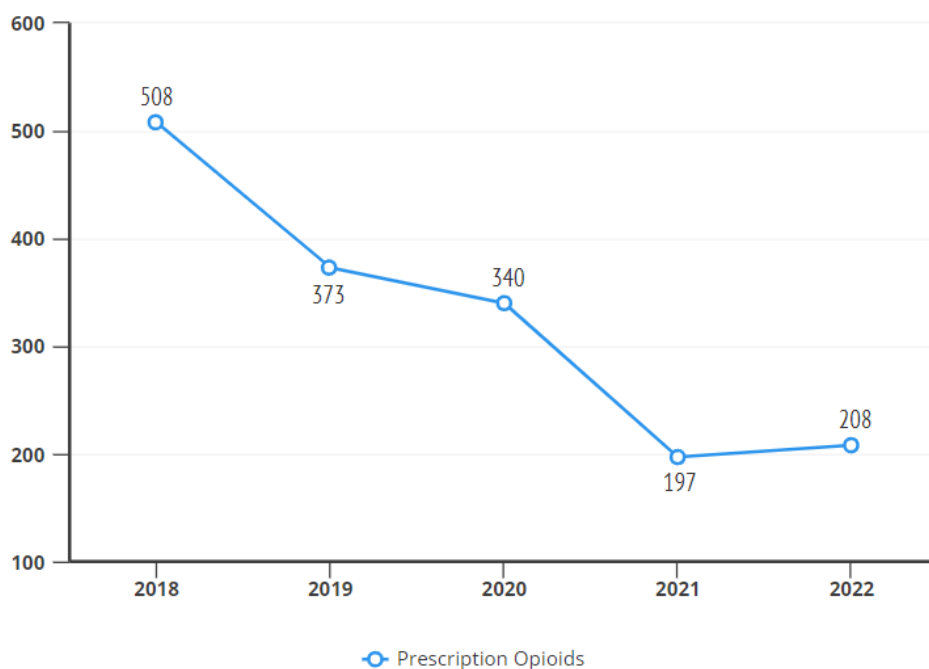
Prescription Drug Misuse: The misuse of prescription drugs is defined as taking a medication that is not prescribed to that individual, even if for a legitimate reason such as pain, or simply taking it to feel euphoria. Nationwide, there are three classes of medication that are most misused: opioids, central nervous system depressants, and stimulants.^{xviii}

- **Opioids** continue to pose a concern for prescription misuse in Wisconsin, with two main variants identified most frequently in WSCL cases. **Hydrocodone** is often prescribed for dental and injury-related pain. The analgesic potency is

like morphine, with numerous brand and generic variants. **Oxycodone** is a semi-synthetic opioid derived from the poppy plant. The most common effects of this drug are euphoria and feelings of relaxation, causing a high potential for drug abuse.^{xix}

- For this year's report, it was critical to include all relevant prescription opioids. Oxycodone and Hydrocodone remain the most prevalent of opioid cases.^{xx}

Figure G: Prescription Opioids 2018 -2022



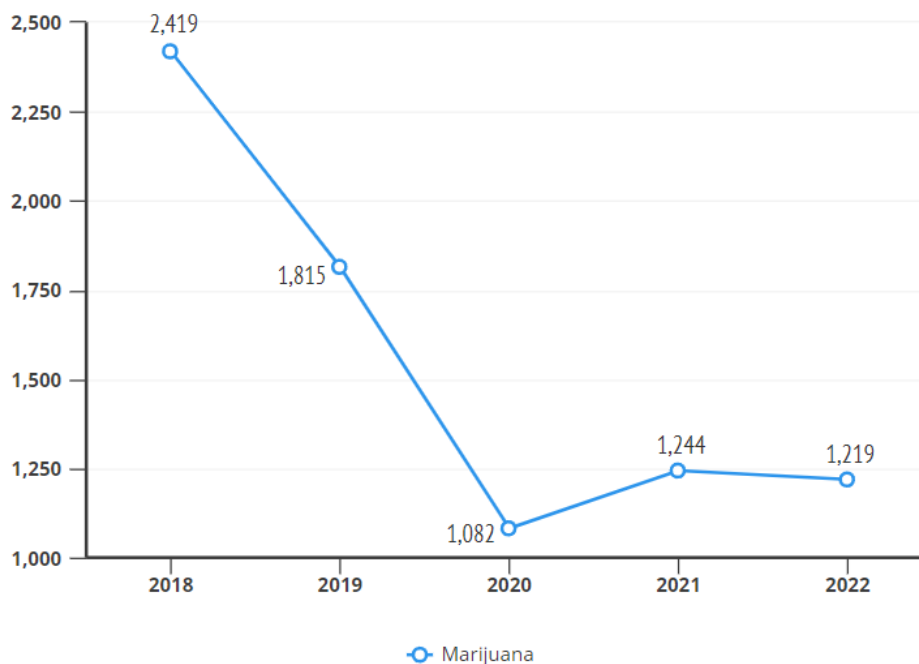
The Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, or ePDMP, is an online database that houses data about the controlled substance prescriptions dispensed in Wisconsin. In 2022, the ePDMP recorded a total of 1,929 events reported to them by law enforcement agencies.^{xxi} These events are reported when a law enforcement officer receives notice of a stolen controlled substance prescription; reasonably suspects that a violation of the Controlled Substances Act involving prescription drugs has occurred; believes someone is undergoing or has recently experienced an opioid-related overdose; or believes someone has died as a result of using a narcotic drug. On average 48.2% of the reports submitted to ePDMP in 2022 were for non-fatal opioid-related overdose events.^{xxii}

Marijuana: refers to the dried leaves, flowers, stems and seeds from the cannabis plant *Cannabis sativa* or *Cannabis indica*. The plant contains the chemical delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).^{xxiii} The National Survey on Drug Use and Health found

that marijuana is one of the most used drugs in the United States and there are many states where its use is legal.

For the fourth year in a row, marijuana represented the second-largest drug category in 2022, at 1,219 tests. 2022's total number of marijuana tests is a 25.7% decrease from the 2018-2021 four-year average.^{xxiv}

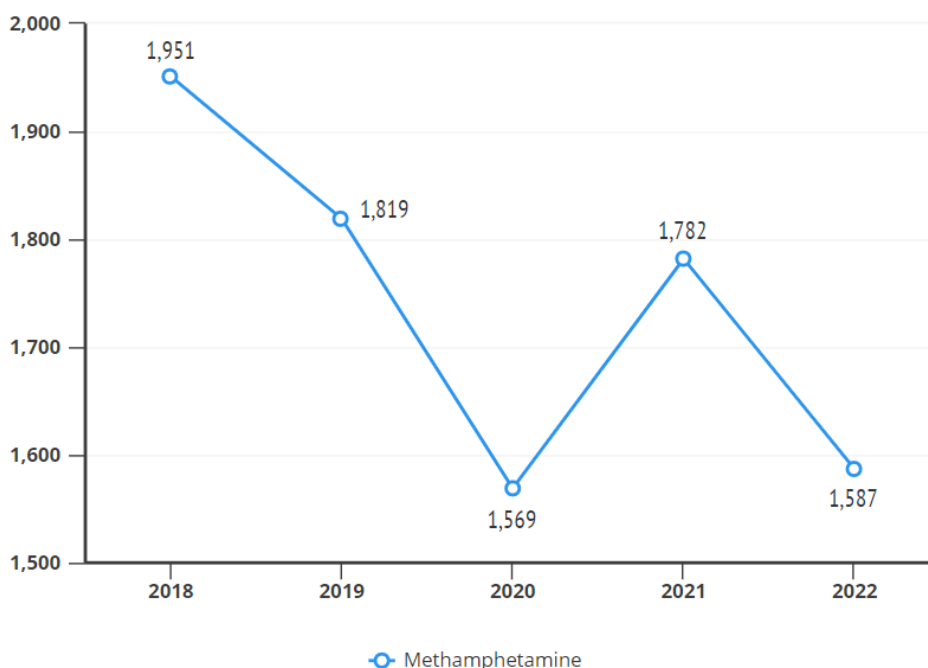
Figure H: Marijuana 2018 - 2022



Methamphetamine: is an extremely powerful, highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system. Methamphetamine takes the form of a white, odorless, bitter-tasting powder, or pill, while crystal meth resembles glass fragments or blue-white rocks.^{xxv} This drug can be smoked, swallowed, snorted, and injected. Methamphetamine's quick effects may cause people to take repeated doses, for multiple days, with binging and crashing.

Methamphetamine represented the highest number of tests compared to other drugs in 2022. The number of methamphetamine tests in 2022 represents a 10.9% decrease from the four-year mean.^{xxvi}

Figure I: Methamphetamine 2018 - 2022

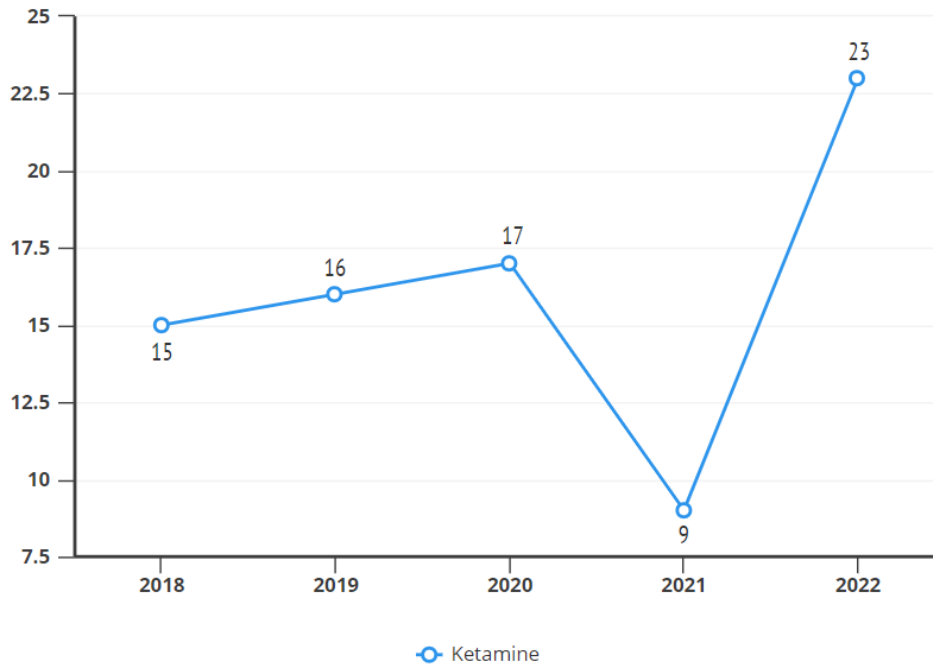


Synthetic Opioids: are chemically manufactured drugs linked to many deaths in the United States. These substances act and target the brain in the same way natural opioids do to produce analgesic effects. The general effects of synthetic opioids are relaxation, pain relief, a euphoric state, confusion, and dizziness. Many of these synthetic opioids are more potent than natural opioids and have the potential to increase fatal overdoses. These drugs are most prevalent in tablets, mimicking pharmaceutical opioid products, and powder form.^{xxvii}

- **Ketamine:** is a general, short-acting anesthetic with hallucinogenic effects. It causes people to feel disconnected and at a loss of control, to include sedation, immobility, and amnesia, likely contributing to its use to facilitate sexual assault. Ketamine can be injected, snorted, or mixed into drinks.^{xxviii}

Despite low numbers of reported cases, ketamine remains a persistent concern for recreational abuse and facilitation of sexual assault in Wisconsin.^{xxix}

Figure J: Ketamine 2018 - 2022



Xylazine: has quickly become an emerging threat nationwide, causing an increase in addiction and overdose deaths. Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer and is not approved by the FDA for human consumption. Studies have shown xylazine is often added to illicit opioids, including fentanyl, leading to an enhanced euphoric effect. Because Xylazine is a non-opioid, the opioid antagonist (Naloxone) has no effect during an overdose.^{xxx}

VI. Organizations for Narcotics Enforcement in Wisconsin

Organizations across local, state, and federal levels combine to enforce the laws regulating controlled substances throughout Wisconsin. This collective arrangement combines different types of functional specialties as well as geographic responsibilities to provide the diverse capabilities essential for narcotics enforcement.

Numerous drug task forces operate across the state, and many receive state or federal grant funds to enforce drug-related laws. State grants include the COPS

Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF)^{xxxii} and the COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP).^{xxxiii} Federal grants most notably include the federal Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).^{xxxiii} Administered by Wisconsin DOJ's Division of Law Enforcement Services, a strategic plan shapes JAG funding priorities and resources including:

- Initiatives to reduce drug crime by allocating resources to multijurisdictional drug enforcement task forces that actively enforce illegal drug manufacturing and distributing laws; that support crime prevention programs; that initiate and implement information sharing; and that allow for effective communication and collaboration among outside law enforcement jurisdictions.^{xxxiv}
- In Wisconsin, eighteen multi-jurisdictional drug task forces receive federal funding via the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. These efforts cover fifty six of the seventy-two counties, as well as eleven Native American Reservations.^{xxxv}

VII. Drug Task Forces in Wisconsin 2022

Brown County Drug Task Force enforces drug violations and narcotics trafficking in the Brown County area. The participating agencies include the Brown County Sheriff's Office, Green Bay Police Department, De Pere Police Department and Ashwaubenon Public Safety.^{xxxvi}

Central Area Drug Enforcement Group has a primary function of combatting controlled substance sales and distributions within Marathon County. This narcotics task force includes all police agencies in the county.^{xxxvii}

Central Wisconsin Narcotics Task Force enforces narcotics violations in Marathon, Lincoln, and Portage counties. The task force is based out of the Marathon County Sheriff's Office, and includes the Everest Metro Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, State Patrol, DCI, Wisconsin State Patrol, Wisconsin National Guard, and Wausau Police Department. The team primarily focuses on larger drug conspiracy cases and seeks federal prosecution.^{xxxviii}

Central Wisconsin Drug Task Force is comprised of the Waushara, Marquette, Green Lake, Portage, Adams, Juneau, Waupaca, and Wood County Sheriff's Departments, as well as the Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point, Berlin, and Grand Rapids Police Departments. The combined effort fights drug abuse and distribution throughout multiple counties.^{xxxix}

Dane County Narcotics and Drug Task Force's goal is to combat the illegal distribution and sale of controlled substances within Dane County. Participating agencies include the Madison Police Department, Dane County

Sheriff's Office, the UW-Madison Police Department, DCI, and the Wisconsin National Guard Counter Drug Program.^{xi}

Kenosha Drug Operations Group enforces drug violations in Kenosha County. This drug task force includes personnel from the Kenosha County Sheriff's Office and the Twin Lakes Police Department.^{xli}

Kenosha Police Department Special Investigations Unit focuses on drug violations within Kenosha County. This task force includes personnel from the Kenosha Police Department, the Pleasant Prairie Police Department and the A.T.F.^{xlii}

Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (LWAM) consists of narcotics investigators employed by the state and local police departments within Outagamie, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, and Calumet counties. The mission of LWAM is to stop the illegal manufacture, distribution, sale, and use of controlled substances.^{xliii}

Manitowoc County Metro Drug Unit enforces drug violations in the Manitowoc County area. This includes the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office, Manitowoc Police Department, Two Rivers Police Department and Kiel Police Department.^{xliv}

Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group (MMDEG) aids in drug investigations throughout the Milwaukee County area.^{xlv}

North Central Drug Enforcement Group is responsible for investigating prescription drug and narcotics violations within the counties of Oneida, Langlade, Lincoln, Price, Taylor, and Vilas.^{xlvi}

Northeast Tri-County Drug Enforcement Group enforces drug violations in Forest, Florence, Marinette, Oconto, Langlade, Menominee, and Shawano counties.^{xlvii}

Native American Drug and Gang Initiative (NADGI) Tribal Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional group aiming to combat and reduce drug and criminal activity on tribal reservations. This group is composed of nine Wisconsin tribal law enforcement agencies and three sheriff departments that share information and investigative resources.^{xlviii}

Northwest Area Crime Unit enforces drug violations in Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Sawyer, and Washburn counties.^{xlix}

Prairie du Chien Police Department Drug Enforcement Unit covers drug violations in the city of Prairie du Chien.^l

Richland-Iowa-Grant Drug Task Force is assigned to investigate and combat drug trafficking and abuse in Iowa, Grant, and Richland counties.^{li}

Rock County Drug Task Force combats illegal drug activity within the Rock County area.^{lii}

Southeast Area Drug Operations Group (SEADOG) continues to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of drug violations in Dodge, Jefferson, Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties.^{liii}

Sheboygan County Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement Group (MEG Unit) is assigned to investigate narcotics trafficking within Sheboygan County. The Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department and the Plymouth Police Department provide personnel to the group, while other jurisdictions can supply resources.^{liv}

Saint Croix Valley Drug Task Force enforces drug violations in Pierce, Polk, and Saint Croix counties.^{lv}

State-Line Area Narcotics Team (SLANT) is a cooperative effort involving Wisconsin and Illinois law enforcement agencies to combat drug violations between the state lines. Three Wisconsin agencies are members of SLANT. These agencies include the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office, the Green County Sheriff's Office, and the Monroe Police Department.^{lvi}

Washington County Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Unit combats illegal drug sales, cultivation, and distribution. The drug unit also gathers, processes, and disseminates drug intelligence to other agencies and the community.^{lvii}

Waukesha County Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Unit (Metro) is a cooperative effort in fighting drugs and drug dealings within Waukesha County. The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department has administered the unit, and has worked with state, local and federal agencies.^{lviii}

West Central Drug Task Force consists of representatives from six counties: Clark, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Dunn, Buffalo, and Pepin counties. This task force focuses on illegal drug activity and response within these counties. The task force also includes Wisconsin State Patrol, DCI, and the Universities of Stout and Eau Claire.^{lix}

West Central Metropolitan Enforcement Group enforces drug violations within Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon counties.^{lx}

Single County Law Enforcement Drug Task Forces:

Barron/Rusk County; Columbia County; Crawford County; Door County; Jefferson County; Kewaunee County; Ozaukee County; Sauk County; Walworth County.^{lxi}

Additional Drug Task Forces in Wisconsin include, but are not limited to:

South Central Wisconsin Gang Task Force is a task force formed with the FBI Safe Street Violent Crimes Initiative. A national collaborative effort with

federal, state, and local law enforcement to investigate violations of racketeering, drug trafficking, and firearm violations.^{lxii}

Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Gang Task Force and the **Milwaukee Area Safe Streets Task Force (MASSTF)** are task forces formed with the FBI Safe Streets Violent Crimes Initiative. These forces focus on drug trafficking with a national collaborative effort.^{lxiii}

VIII. State Drug Enforcement Initiatives

Multiple state agencies combat drug crimes in Wisconsin to include, but not limited to, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the Wisconsin State Patrol, and the Wisconsin National Guard.

Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) represents the interests of the state of Wisconsin in court and provides advice to state law enforcement officers and agencies regarding their legal rights and responsibilities. It also possesses several law enforcement duties. In 2022, efforts included:

Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). State statutes assign certain active law enforcement duties to DOJ, typically involving crimes statewide in nature, importance, or influence. These responsibilities are addressed by DCI, charged with a purely criminal investigative mission and function. DCI employs special agents who are sworn law enforcement officers with statewide jurisdiction charged to enforce state laws. DCI also has civilian analysts for intelligence and criminal case support, as well as digital evidence examiners. DCI has regional field offices in the areas of Madison, Milwaukee, Appleton, Eau Claire, and Wausau. Additionally, supervisors and staff work at the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in Milwaukee, and the Lake Winnebago Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (LWAM) around the Fox Valley. Special agents, analysts, and staff work as a team to investigate various types of crime, to include large-scale, multi-jurisdictional drug trafficking.^{lxiv} DCI also oversees the following drug programs and specialized units:

Cannabis Enforcement and Suppression Effort (CEASE) is a law enforcement program managed by DCI and funded by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).^{lxv} It aims to reduce cultivated and non-cultivated marijuana throughout Wisconsin by supporting federal, state, and local law enforcement agency efforts to curb marijuana cultivation, distribution, and use.^{lxvi} CEASE's primary goal is to augment local law enforcement by compiling statewide statistics and intelligence data and distributing funds, equipment, and information. The participants include sheriff departments, drug task forces, Wisconsin State Patrol, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, the Civil Air Patrol, and the Wisconsin National Guard.

Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement and Response (CLEAR) Team responds to callouts for clandestine, illegal labs, often those associated with methamphetamine, DMT, opioid conversion, or explosives. Personnel are certified, trained, and equipped for this specialized role, augmented by federal, municipal, and county law enforcement with similarly trained personnel. The CLEAR Team has an investigative element capable of a Level A response, which is the highest threat level response pertaining to chemical exposures. The CLEAR Team also maintains a tactical response element for serving warrants on clandestine lab locations.^{lxvii}

Department of Justice's Methamphetamine Initiative has placed an emphasis on traditional illicit drug trafficking routes for methamphetamine. Much of the methamphetamine available in Wisconsin has come from Mexico, transported to Wisconsin from California and other southwest border states.^{lxviii}

Wisconsin Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (WI DEC) focuses on protecting children that are exposed to dangerous drug environments, often from a parent or caregiver.^{lxix} WI DEC uses a multi-disciplinary approach through law enforcement, human services, prosecutors, the medical community, health departments, probation and parole, schools, treatment centers, non-profit groups, and concerned community members.^{lxx}

Technical Services Unit (TSU) provides specialized investigative, tactical, and surveillance support to federal, state, local, tribal, and campus law enforcement partners across the state on a wide range of criminal cases.^{lxxi} Equipment used by TSU often is too expensive for many organizations to independently own and maintain, and therefore, is offered to law enforcement free of charge.

Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center (WSIC) is Wisconsin's designated primary intelligence fusion center and serves as a focal point for information sharing in the state. As a member of the national network of fusion centers, WSIC works closely with federal, state, local, tribal, and campus law enforcement partners along with fire service, emergency management, public health, military, and private sector security agencies to foster information-sharing related to topics that include drug trends and trafficking. WSIC provides a variety of services, including but not limited to criminal case support, specialized intelligence-gathering, and analytical products.^{lxxii} WSIC may access national criminal intelligence information and provide finished tactical, operational, and strategic intelligence products, on a variety of topics including drugs.

ACISS Case Management System. Acquired in 2004 and administered by DCI, ACISS is an automated, central, web-based records

management system (RMS) and data sharing system. ACISS allows drug task forces to share certain key data with other participating agencies including the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the Wisconsin High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). ACISS provides tools and a shared system for documenting investigative activities for multi-jurisdictional task forces for major cases including gang and drug investigations, and a standard means for task forces to gather and maintain statistics on activities. Wisconsin was the first state to implement a statewide shared case management system involving drug task forces with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners.

One of the functions of the **Division of Forensic Sciences (DFS)** is providing technical assistance to the criminal justice system in the investigation of criminal matters.^{lxxiii} The scientific staff are tasked with the recognition, recovery, and maintenance of evidence integrity; analysis of physical evidence; preparation of confidential reports of laboratory findings; and expert witness testimony. Laboratory staff also train criminal justice and academic partners in forensic science and the processing of major crime scenes.

Drug Identification: Chemical and instrumental analysis and identification of suspected controlled substances, narcotics, pharmaceuticals, and other ingredients.

WSCL Drug Cases This dashboard provides a distinct count of WSCL cases in which the selected drug type was listed as one of the substances identified and the date in which the case was closed (when the case had a report issued) falls within the year that was selected.^{lxxiv}

Wisconsin State Patrol (WSP), part of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, WSP continues to emphasize public safety through, but not limited to, traffic law enforcement, commercial motor vehicle inspections, educational outreach, criminal interdiction, mutual aid/assistance, civil disturbance response, aerial support, technical crash reconstruction, and dignitary protection.^{lxxv} The WSP also is charged with combatting crime and terrorism.^{lxxvi} WSP is tasked to locate, identify, and apprehend people using the interstate corridors and state highways for criminal acts, violations which often include illegal drugs and narcotics.

Criminal interdiction component of the WSP includes an “all threats, and all hazards, all crimes” approach to have officers trained to identify suspicious behavior and other indications of illegal activity, especially during traffic stops for routine offenses.^{lxxvii}

K-9 teams assist WSP troopers and inspectors to detect drugs that are transported, sold, and used in Wisconsin. K-9 teams throughout the state may be requested by local, county, and state partners to assist with narcotics investigations.^{lxxviii} The teams also include explosive-detection K-9’s, often

used for planned events such as VIP visits, large scale sporting events, and emergency responses to bomb threats.^{lxxxix}

Wisconsin National Guard Counterdrug Program (CDP). Since 1992 the CDP has worked with law enforcement agencies, schools, and community organizations to reduce the supply and demand for illegal drugs.^{lxxx} Through partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies, CDP provides specialized personnel and resources at no cost, and may support law enforcement agencies in counter-narcoterrorism activities. CDP priorities are to disrupt the flow of illegal drugs and illicit finances within Wisconsin; to deter drug trafficking organizations' ability to transport drugs and illicit finances utilizing interstate transportation; to maximize impact and support to Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) cases focusing on heroin in the state; and to focus analyst support on financial investigations within federal agencies and state fusion centers.^{lxxxi} Examples include:

Counterdrug Case Support Analysts assist law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin by helping to develop narcotics investigations into complete and prosecutable cases. In 2022, counterdrug analysts supported drug-related cases across 12 agencies.^{lxxxii}

Aviation Support: RC-26B and UH-72A surveillance aircrafts and crews assist law enforcement investigations against criminal organizations and persons trafficking illicit drugs. In 2022, RC-26B crews assisted counterdrug missions of 18 law enforcement agencies, 11 within Wisconsin and 7 out of state.

IX. Federal Drug Programs and Law Enforcement in Wisconsin

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is the parent agency of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and others.^{lxxxiii}

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) aims to protect communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, acts of terrorism, and the illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products.^{lxxxiv} Field offices are in Milwaukee and Madison.^{lxxxv}

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) enforces controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States. It brings to the criminal and civil justice systems those involved in the growing, manufacture, or distribution of controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the U.S. The DEA recommends and supports non-law enforcement programs aimed at reducing the availability of illicit controlled substances on the domestic and international markets.^{lxxxvi} In Wisconsin, DEA is based out of the Chicago Division, with a District Office in Milwaukee and resident offices in Madison and Green Bay.^{lxxxvii}

DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Day and the **National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day** aim to provide safe, convenient, responsible means for disposing prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications.^{lxxxviii} Wisconsin ranked number one throughout the country for the most prescription medication collected during the fall 2022 Drug Take Back, collecting 54,040 pounds of unwanted medications, . Wisconsin has collected a total of 1,093,445 pounds of unwanted medications since Drug Take Back began in 2010.

DEA Tactical Diversion Squads (TDS) combine DEA resources with those of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in an innovative effort to investigate, disrupt, and dismantle those suspected of violating the Controlled Substances Act or other appropriate federal, state, or local statutes pertaining to the diversion of illicit pharmaceutical controlled substances or listed chemicals. The Wisconsin TDS office is in Milwaukee.^{lxxxix} TDS includes DEA Special Agents, DEA Diversion Investigators, and task force officers from the Greenfield Police Department, Milwaukee Police Department, Racine Police Department, and DCI.^{xc}

DEA Authorized Central Storage (ACS) Program assists state and local law enforcement with cleanups of clandestine methamphetamine drug laboratories. The program focuses on small cleanups under the 220-pound hazardous waste threshold for Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) status as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). DEA administers and oversees the implementation and management of the ACS Program in states that have joined the program. All participating states are provided with initial startup supplies and equipment and continuing support and training from DEA. Wisconsin DCI possesses 7 container sites.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) works to combat criminal and security threats around the globe including organized crime and drug trafficking. FBI jurisdiction covers more than 200 categories of federal law, generally falling under nine priorities including national security and criminal acts. For this report, the criminal priority of interest is to combat transnational organized crime, gangs, and related drug state crimes.^{xc} The FBI regional office in Milwaukee works with satellite offices in Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, and Wausau.^{xcii} The FBI has three task forces which target drugs in WI: The Southwestern Regional Gang Task Force, Southcentral Regional Gang Task Force, and the Central Wisconsin Narcotics Task Force.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the parent agency for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. DHS is tasked with securing the nation from a variety of threats, including threats related to drug trafficking.^{xciii}

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is charged with keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. while facilitating lawful international travel and trade.^{xciv} In Wisconsin, CBP works out of the Chicago Field Operation Office with a satellite office in Milwaukee and is responsible for ports of entry that include Appleton, Green Bay, Milwaukee, and Racine.^{xcv}

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducts criminal and civil enforcement of federal laws governing border control, customs, trade, and immigration.^{xcvi} ICE enforces a wide range of criminal statutes including Title 18 and Title 19 of the U.S. Code, addressing smuggling and customs violations. ICE also enforces provisions of Title 21 related to the importation, distribution, manufacture, and possession of illegal narcotics.^{xcvii} ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) combat criminals illegally exploiting U.S. travel, trade, financial, and immigration systems, to include cross-border criminal activity related to narcotics and weapons smuggling/trafficking.^{xcviii} HSI for Wisconsin is based out of the Chicago Field Operation Office with a satellite office in Milwaukee.^{xcix}

United States Postal Service (USPS) Postal Inspectors throughout the United States and at international locations investigate crimes that illegally use the Postal System to transport illicit contraband. These inspectors work closely with law enforcement agencies, attorneys, and prosecutors to investigate cases.^c DCI Special Agents collaborate with USPS Postal Inspector Task Forces to combat drug trafficking in Wisconsin.

X. Additional Drug Related Efforts

The Federal Government awards competitive grants to help states in their efforts to reduce drug use and its harmful consequences.

North Central High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) is one of 33 HIDTAs throughout the country.^{ci} HIDTA's aid federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in countering drug trafficking. Designated in 1998 and administered by the DEA, Wisconsin's HIDTA aims to apply enhanced intelligence processes, operational coordination, and prosecution to reduce organized drug distribution, drug related violent crime, and money laundering, and the demand for illegal drugs across the state.^{cii} North Central HIDTA includes 30 law enforcement agencies and covers approximately half of the state's population.^{ciii} North Central HIDTA covers Brown, Eau Claire, Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, and Waukesha counties, as well as seven counties in Minnesota. It is headquartered in Milwaukee.^{civ}

The Safe and Sound Initiative, part of the Wisconsin HIDTA, grew out of the weed and seed program of the 1980s. It is an integral part of Milwaukee's strategy to reduce drug related violent crime through targeted law enforcement, community building, and proactive engagement of youth and

activities, which increase prosocial skills and behaviors, and teach drug, gang, gun, and crime resistance.^{cv} Safe and Sound was founded with the theory that improvements in public safety require the combination of law enforcement, community organizing, and youth development.^{cvi}

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services' Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP) provides information about controlled substance prescriptions dispensed in the state.^{cvi} It contains data from pharmacies and practitioners, such as physicians and dentists. In 2022, healthcare users made over 8,811,329 patient queries in the Wisconsin ePDMP, 9% more than 2021.^{cvi}

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