

WASHINGTON / BALTIMORE

A photograph of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., taken at sunset. The monument is illuminated and stands prominently against a sky with orange and purple hues. The reflecting pool in the foreground shows the monument's reflection, flanked by green lawns and trees.

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG
TRAFFICKING AREA PROGRAM

WASHINGTON / BALTIMORE

HIDTA

HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA

Serving the District
of Columbia, Maryland,
Virginia, and
West Virginia



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| What is HIDTA? | 4 |
| Washington/Baltimore Region | 5 |
| Washington/Baltimore HIDTA Leadership..... | 6 |
| Executive Board Leadership | 7 |
| Executive Board Members | 8 |
| Employee Spotlight: Mike Hutton | 9 |
| Law Enforcement | 11 |
| Outstanding Washington/Baltimore HIDTA Investigations | 13 |
| Case Explorer | 15 |
| Crime Gun Intelligence Center | 16 |
| Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) | 18 |
| W/B HIDTA Training | 19 |
| Treatment Services | 20 |
| Prevention | 21 |
| Treatment & Prevention Spotlight | 22 |
| Washington/Baltimore HIDTA Executive Staff | 24 |
| Our Financial Partners | 25 |

WHAT IS HIDTA?

The U.S. Congress created the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. Its mission is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs in the United States by assisting federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement entities participating in the HIDTA Program to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations, with particular emphasis on drug trafficking regions that have harmful effects on other parts of the United States.

In 1994, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) designated 13 jurisdictions in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia as a HIDTA region. Since then, the Washington/Baltimore (W/B) HIDTA's boundaries have expanded to include 29 counties and 12 cities in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Each of the 33 HIDTA Programs across the country shares two goals as part of the National HIDTA Program:



1. **Disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or money laundering organizations**
2. **Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives**



VISION

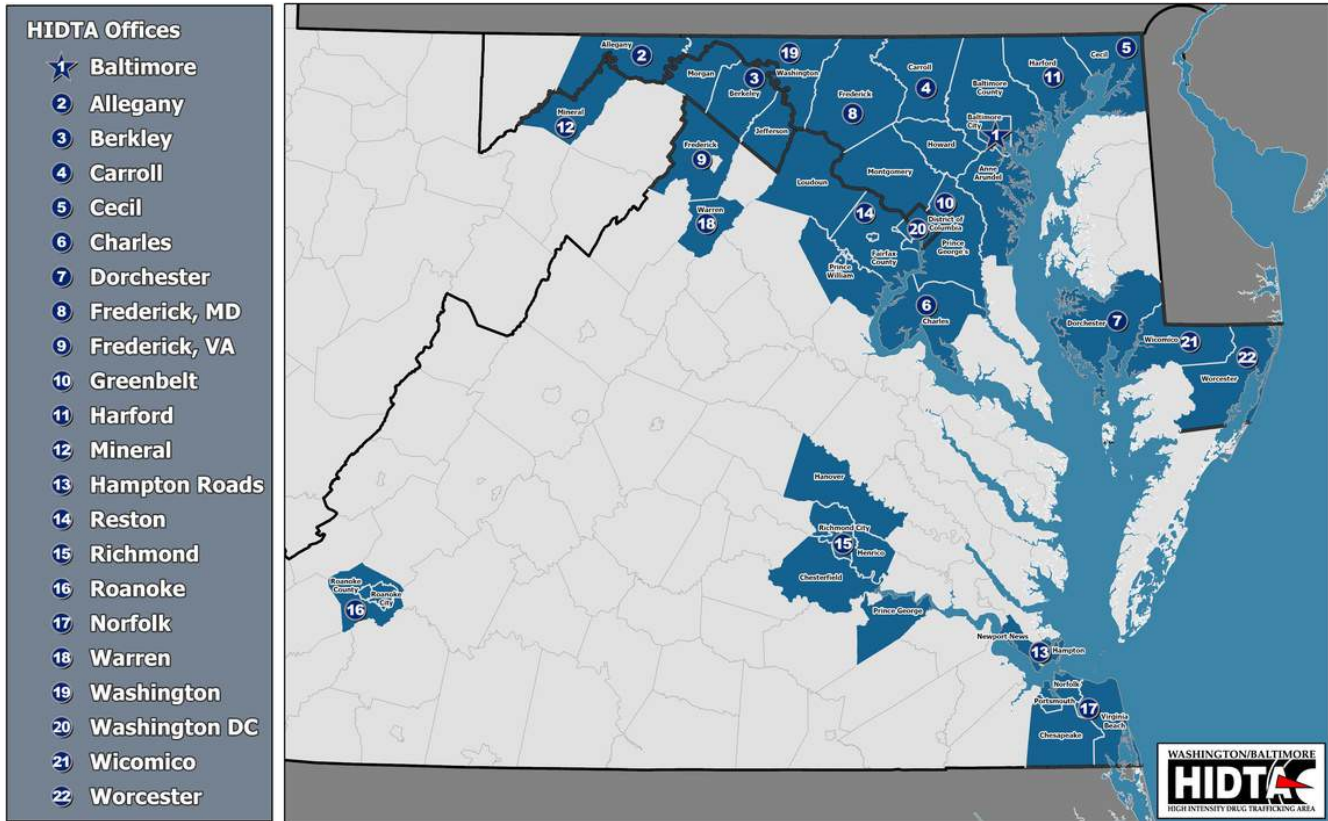
Within the next five years, our efforts to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking and money laundering organizations, provide treatment resources, and develop drug prevention programs will save lives and strengthen communities and families in the W/B HIDTA region.

MISSION

To reduce drug trafficking and misuse by improving interagency collaboration, promoting accurate and timely information and intelligence sharing, and providing specialized training and other resources to law enforcement, intelligence, prevention, and treatment initiatives.

To accomplish its mission, the W/B HIDTA will strategically apply its resources to initiatives designed to save lives, prevent the initiation and continuation of drug misuse, and apprehend drug traffickers and money launderers.

WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE HIDTA REGION



The W/B HIDTA encompasses 12,099 square miles and serves as home to approximately 12 million people—including 100% of the population in the District of Columbia, 93% in Maryland, 62% in Virginia, and 12% in West Virginia.

Though the W/B HIDTA area has never served as a major gateway for illegal drugs into the United States, it has evolved as a distribution hub for the Mid-Atlantic states.

Federal, state, and local law enforcement officials responding to the 2025 W/B HIDTA Threat Assessment Survey for Law Enforcement identified fentanyl, powder and crack cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana as the primary drug threats in their communities. With the exception of fentanyl and methamphetamine, these drugs have been long-standing major threats in the W/B HIDTA area. The ample drug misuse and drug-related crime that occurs in the W/B HIDTA region necessitates a continued, strategically-focused, and comprehensive approach to saving lives, preventing the initiation and continuance of drug misuse, and apprehending drug traffickers and money launderers.

WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE HIDTA LEADERSHIP

An executive board comprised of federal, state, and local representatives from law enforcement, public safety, treatment, prevention, and criminal justice agencies from across the region, and an executive director lead the W/B HIDTA. The executive board assesses the drug threats found in the region; develops a strategy to address the threats; designs initiatives to implement the strategy; and proposes funding.



JEFF BEESON

Executive Director

Director Jeff Beeson was chosen to serve as the W/B HIDTA executive director in January 2024. He previously served as deputy director of the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA for eight years. During that time, he oversaw the development and expansion of significant HIDTA programs including ODMAP and Case Explorer. He worked on national legislation and supported efforts to grow and expand the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA program.

His efforts to support the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) and formalize the HIDTA Information Technology Committee have broadened the scope of HIDTA and our abilities to support drug investigations. Prior to joining the W/B HIDTA, Director Beeson served as assistant vice president for applied research at Towson University, overseeing a portfolio of state and federal grants and contracts supporting workforce and public safety initiatives.

He was appointed to several positions within Maryland state government, including the Maryland Department of Public Safety. Director Beeson began his career as a staff member in the Office of U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski of Maryland.

EXECUTIVE BOARD LEADERSHIP



IVAN BATES

*Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office;
Chair, Executive Board*

Ivan J. Bates was sworn in as the 26th State's Attorney for Baltimore City on January 3, 2023. He is a successful attorney, strong leader, respected community advocate, and dedicated family man with more than 25 years of experience as both a prosecutor and defense attorney.

Mr. Bates began his law career working as an assistant state's attorney for Baltimore City. He was privileged to serve as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge David B. Mitchell, who inspired and mentored him. In 2006, Mr. Bates established his own mid-sized firm where he built a successful practice, mentored rising attorneys, and built a reputable team of legal experts. Mr. Bates also appeared in every Court in the State of Maryland and had the opportunity to represent clients in federal court in Maryland, San Francisco, and Northern Virginia.

As Baltimore City State's Attorney, Mr. Bates is prioritizing holding violent offenders accountable, and focusing on restoring safety, justice, truth, and equality to his beloved City of Baltimore. He is working tirelessly to build bridges for a better Baltimore and create the city he envisions for his young daughter London, his entire family, and every family in Baltimore.

TONI CROSBY

*Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms, and Explosives, Baltimore Field Office;
Vice-Chair, Executive Board*

In January 2022, Toni M. Crosby was selected as the Special Agent in Charge of the Baltimore Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). As the Special Agent in Charge, she is responsible for overseeing all ATF criminal enforcement and regulatory operations in Maryland and Delaware.

The Special Agents under Mrs. Crosby's leadership focus investigations on violent criminal organizations, illegal use of firearms, firearms trafficking, criminal arson and explosives incidents, and more. Additionally, Industry Operations Investigators under her leadership oversee the inspection of more than 3,200 federal firearms licensees and over 80 explosives licensees/permittees within the Baltimore Field Division area of responsibility.



WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE HIDTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

CHAIR

Ivan Bates

State's Attorney's Office
Baltimore City

VICE CHAIR

Toni Crosby

Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol,
Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
Baltimore Field Office

FEDERAL MEMBERS

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| U.S. Attorney Jessica D. Aber U.S. Attorney's Office Eastern District of Virginia | U.S. Attorney Erek Barron U.S. Attorney's Office District of Maryland | Special Agent in Charge Toni Crosby Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives | U.S. Marshal Robert Dixon U.S. Marshals Service District of Columbia |
| Special Agent in Charge Jarod Forget Drug Enforcement Administration | Special Agent in Charge Derek Gordon ICE-Homeland Security Investigations Washington, D.C. Division | U.S. Attorney Matthew Graves U.S. Attorney's Office District of Columbia | Special Agent in Charge Michael McCarthy ICE-Homeland Security Investigations Maryland |
| Special Agent in Charge Wayne Jacobs Federal Bureau of Investigation | Special Agent in Charge Anthony Spotswood Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives | U.S. Attorney Christopher Kavanaugh U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Virginia | U.S. Marshal Shannon Saylor U.S. Marshals Service Eastern District of Virginia |
| U.S. Marshal Clinton Fuchs U.S. Marshals Service District of Maryland | Special Agent in Charge William DelBagno Federal Bureau of Investigation Baltimore Field Division | U.S. Postal Inspector in Charge Damon Wood U.S. Postal Inspection Service Washington Division | U.S. Attorney William Ihlenfeld U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of West Virginia |

STATE AND LOCAL MEMBERS

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Chief Malik Aziz Prince George's County Police Department | Ivan Bates State's Attorney's Office Baltimore City | Colonel Roland Butler Maryland State Police | Colonel J.C. Chambers West Virginia State Police |
| Sheriff Michael Chapman Loudoun County Sheriff's Office | Chief Rick Edwards Richmond Police Department | Sheriff Jeffery Gahler Harford County Sheriff's Office | Chief Erin Gibbons Martinsburg Police Department |
| Executive Director Dorothy Lennig Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention & Policy | Chief Charles Penn Arlington County Police Department | Chief Michael Poindexter Roanoke County Police Department | Secretary Carolyn Scruggs MD Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services |
| Colonel Garry Settle Virginia State Police | Chief Pamela Smith Metropolitan Police Department | Bureau Chief Suzanne Somerville Arlington County Behavioral Healthcare Division | Chief Jimmie Wideman Hampton Police Division |
| Police Commissioner Richard Worley Baltimore Police Department | | | |

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Mike Hutton, Chief Architect



Michael “Mike” Hutton has been a cornerstone of the W/B HIDTA’s technical evolution since 2001, when he joined as a software developer to build the first version of Case Explorer. Over the years, he has served in multiple roles—including W/B HIDTA’s Network Operations Center (NOC) Deputy Program Manager and Senior Developer—and now serves as Chief Architect, guiding the design and development of some of HIDTA’s most impactful tools.

Mike’s belief that technology can solve complex government and law enforcement challenges has fueled his commitment to the HIDTA mission. Erik Shumaker, Deputy Director of the Network Operations Center, stated, “Mike has played a pivotal role in the development and expansion of Case Explorer through three generations, and in the continued advancement of the Performance Management Process (PMP), which drives core program

outcomes. He was also on the ground floor for the creation of ODMAP, helping turn a concept into a nationally collaborative platform that’s been used in the fight against the overdose epidemic.”

“MIKE POSSESSES A PASSION AND DEDICATION TO ACHIEVE OUR MISSION. HIS FOCUS HAS BEEN TO HARNESS OUR TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT EFFICIENCY AND SERVE THE NEEDS OF OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS. HIS WORK HAS ESTABLISHED A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE W/B HIDTA.”

-W/B HIDTA Executive Director Jeff Beeson

Leading a high-performing team of developers, QA analysts, and designers, Mike has helped to build the W/B HIDTA’s reputation for innovation. He has also contributed his expertise to national-level committees on deconfliction and inter-agency collaboration. His leadership emphasizes agility, creative problem-solving, and technical excellence—and he credits much of that success to the people he works alongside every day, from his internal development team to the broader NOC, program managers, and senior leadership.

In April 2025, Mike received the Outstanding HIDTA Support award from the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA in recognition of his exceptional contributions over the past year. The award reflects his behind-the-scenes leadership on multiple high-priority initiatives and his consistent ability to deliver complex technical solutions that support the mission.



The recognition also highlights the trust and respect he's earned across the organization. Known for his steady presence and collaborative approach, Mike's impact extends beyond individual projects—he's helped shape the technical direction of W/B HIDTA and strengthened partnerships that are essential to its long-term success.

“NO TWO DAYS ARE THE SAME AND THAT IS WHAT MAKES IT EXCITING. OUR TEAM GETS TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF SOMETHING THAT REALLY MATTERS.”

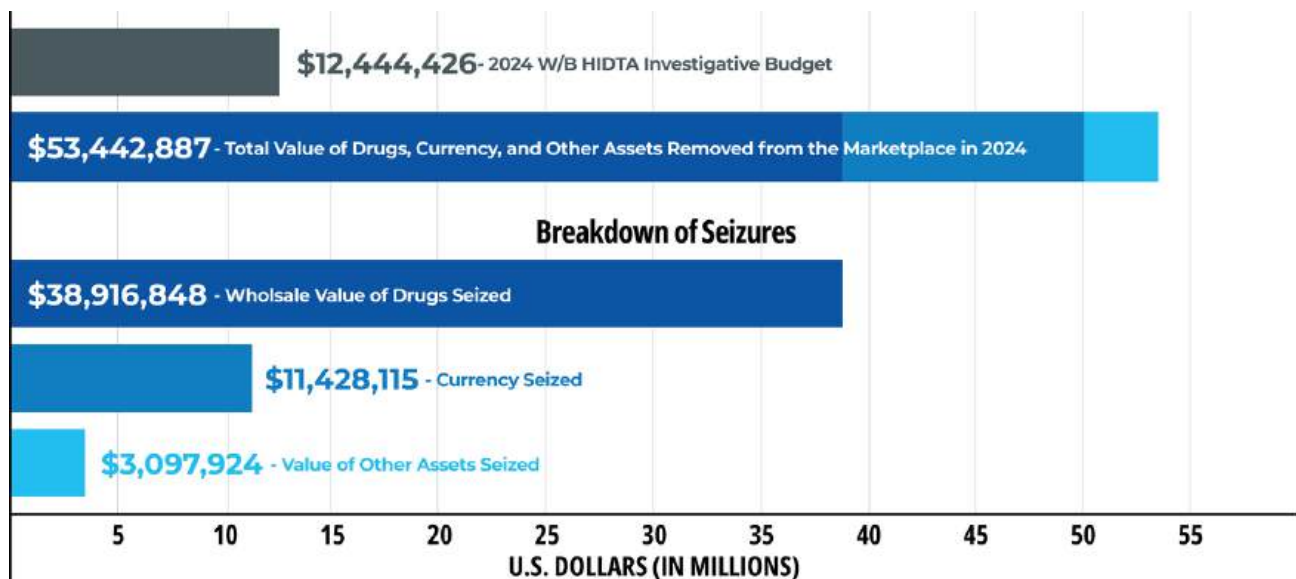
-Mike Hutton

Mike holds a B.S. in Information Technology from Rochester Institute of Technology and an M.S. in Software Engineering from the University of Maryland. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family, boating, playing guitar, and flying drones—when he's not solving problems with code.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The W/B HIDTA invested \$12,444,426 to support 41 multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional law enforcement initiatives, including two prosecutor initiatives in 2024. These initiatives focused on identifying and disrupting/dismantling drug trafficking organizations and money laundering organizations. The return on investment for these activities, calculated as the ratio of the W/B HIDTA's investigative budget to the wholesale value of drugs, money and other assets seized from traffickers was \$4.29 for every HIDTA dollar spent.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT: **\$4.29**



In 2024, federal, state, and local law enforcement officers from over 119 agencies worked in HIDTA-funded initiatives, which were collocated in 22 sites across the region using Case Explorer software developed by the W/B HIDTA.

Through the use of Case Explorer, W/B HIDTA initiatives deconflicted shared contacts involving 91 drug trafficking and/or money laundering organizations; and over 1996 events.



ELIMINATING DRUG TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION

W/B HIDTA-sponsored law enforcement initiatives disrupted or dismantled 122 drug trafficking/money laundering organizations, to include:

11

INTERNATIONAL DRUG
TRAFFICKING
ORGANIZATIONS

65

MULTI-STATE DRUG
TRAFFICKING
ORGANIZATIONS

46

LOCAL DRUG
TRAFFICKING
ORGANIZATIONS

DRUGS REMOVED FROM THE MARKETPLACE



FENTANYL

91 KG; 632,454 D.U.



PRESCRIPTION NARCOTICS

1.49 KG; 13,747 D.U.



COCAINE HCL/CRACK

584 KG; 1,263 D.U.



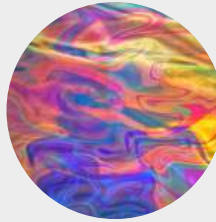
PRESCRIPTION CNS DEPRESSANTS

0.1 KG; 1,748 D.U.



MARIJUANA/CANNABIS

2,572 KG; 42 D.U.



SYNTHETIC HALLUCINOGENS

136 KG; 24,420 D.U.



METHAMPHETAMINE

270 KG; 18,739 D.U.



HEROIN

7 KG; 1,556 D.U.

OUTSTANDING W/B HIDTA INVESTIGATIONS

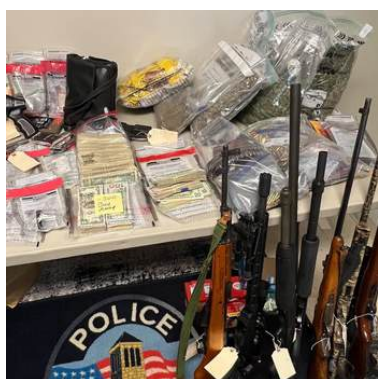
BERKELEY AND JEFFERSON COUNTY DRUG INITIATIVE

Operation Ballgame was an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation focused on a violent criminal enterprise operating in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. The investigation began with traffic stops/arrests, then led to seizures of blue powder fentanyl capsules, and the development of confidential human sources. During the investigation, 82 co-conspirators were indicted.



Operation Ballgame resulted in the seizure of nine kilograms of fentanyl/heroin, 500 grams of cocaine, 500 grams of crystal methamphetamine, a large amount of crack cocaine, and \$250,000 in cash and other assets. These arrests disrupted the fentanyl supply chain to the Northern District of West Virginia, which resulted in a decrease in fentanyl availability and a reduction in fentanyl-related incidents, making the community safer.

NORTHWEST VIRGINIA REGIONAL DRUG GANG INITIATIVE



In 2024 a W/B HIDTA initiative comprised of several Virginia sheriff's departments, police departments, and the Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation Culpeper Field Office conducted a nine-month investigation that resulted in a large seizure of drugs, three firearms, and \$16,033 in U.S. currency. Multiple search warrants executed at businesses and residences in the town of Front Royal and Warren County, and a business in Prince William County, ended with the seizure of 19,032 products containing THC, with a street value of \$932,602.

ROANOKE VALLEY REGIONAL DRUG INITIATIVE

A several-year narcotics investigation by the Roanoke City (VA) Police Department, Virginia State Police, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration culminated in the execution of two federal search warrants that targeted two individuals suspected of large-scale drug trafficking in Roanoke City. During the searches, investigators seized eight kilograms of suspected cocaine, and two kilograms of suspected fentanyl. Following the search warrants, both suspects were charged with Possession with Intent to Distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine.

INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT CENTER PROVIDES ANALYTICAL SERVICES FOR CURTIS BAY DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION INVESTIGATION

The W/B HIDTA Investigative Support Center provided support, including phone data analysis, to a long-term investigation in South Baltimore. The investigation involved the Baltimore City Mayor's Office, Baltimore Police Department, the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. This successful investigation resulted in the charging of 11 individuals with illegal firearm possession and fentanyl distribution. It also resulted in the seizure of nine firearms—including two with illegal Glock switches; 503 grams of cocaine; 200 grams of fentanyl; 1 ballistic vest; and over \$20,00 in U.S. currency.

BERKLEY/JEFFERSON COUNTY DRUG INITIATIVE - TRES AMIGOS

The W/B HIDTA-supported Berkeley/Jefferson County (WV) Drug Initiative spearheaded an investigation which resulted in the dismantling of two drug trafficking organizations, including one with ties to the transnational Sinaloa Drug Cartel, after a federal grand jury indicted 25 people in mid-2024.

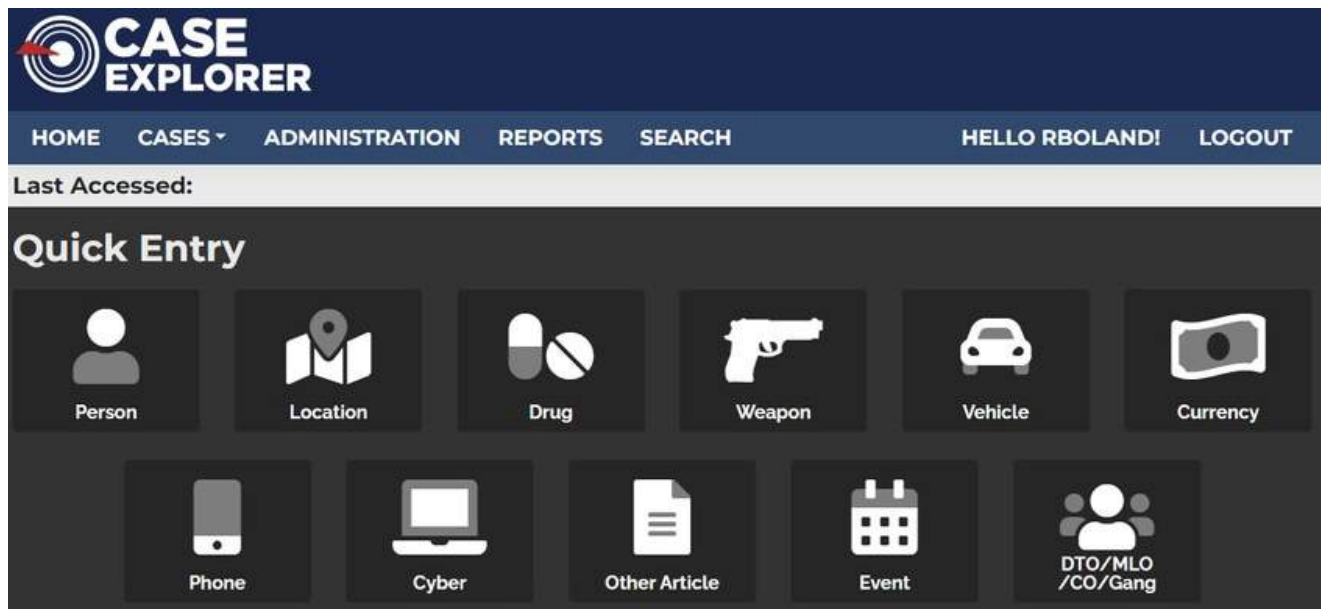
Those indicted were operating a large-scale fentanyl and cocaine trafficking operation in Martinsburg, WV. The investigation included close coordination with federal law enforcement agents in Chicago and Northern California.



Then U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia William Ihlenfeld commented on the investigation in a press release from his office, stating, "These transnational organizations will operate anywhere that there is profit to be made, including here in our region. Fortunately, we have one of the best drug task forces in the country to push back against dangerous groups like this one."



CASE EXPLORER



Case Explorer (CE) is a web-based tool that provides event and target deconfliction, case management, and investigative data matching. In addition to increasing officer safety and operational effectiveness, it is free to all law enforcement. It supports the entry of case data, criminal intelligence, and unconfirmed tip data. CE complies with CALEA Standard 46.3.8 Event Deconfliction Standards.

Recognized as one of three nationwide deconfliction services, CE software interfaces with other event deconfliction systems to provide nationwide event deconfliction. It also works with the HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) Program, the nationally recognized Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) through ODFORM, and the Communications Analysis Portal (CAP) to streamline data entry, allowing law enforcement to enter data in one system and perform deconfliction.

5,576

CASE EXPLORER USERS
NATIONWIDE

1,378

UNIQUE PARENT AGENCIES
USING CASE EXPLORER

283,291

INVESTIGATIVE
MATCHES

78,447

EVENTS
DECONFLICTED

CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER (CGIC)

The W/B HIDTA Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) is a collaborative initiative in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) focused on violent crime reduction. Funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), its mission is to support criminal investigations by collecting, evaluating, and analyzing information to produce tactical and operational intelligence products and other analytical services, striving for intelligence-led investigations



The CGIC focuses on organized groups, gangs and armed drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) who are engaged in violent acts, firearms offenses, and/or who use drug trafficking as a primary source of income. The CGIC team has proven to be very efficient and effective. In 2024, W/B HIDTA initiatives recovered 529 firearms, of which 22 were linked to shootings. The following are examples of success stories resulting from the CGIC's efforts:

- January 2024: An Eastern Shore of Maryland-based W/B HIDTA initiative recovered a Heckler & Kich .40 caliber firearm, with a last-known point of retail sale in West Virginia, as part of an ongoing investigation. This firearm was test fired and linked to a shots fired call and two nonfatal shootings in the Baltimore metro area.
- April 2024: a Western Maryland-based W/B HIDTA initiative recovered a Taurus 9mm firearm, with a last-known point of retail sale in Tennessee. This firearm was test fired and linked to a burglary, shots fired call, and property damage in Western Maryland.
- October 2024: A Southern Maryland-based W/B HIDTA initiative recovered a Micro Draco 7.62mm firearm. The firearm was test fired and linked to a homicide that occurred in Washington, DC in 2022.

Upon the seizure of a firearm by a W/B HIDTA initiative, the CGIC ensures the firearm is traced to identify the purchaser and possessor, along with a ballistic examination to link shootings to crime scenes. Together, the ATF and W/B HIDTA provide personnel and equipment to support the CGIC, which is available to all jurisdictions in the W/B HIDTA region. The CGIC's priorities are evaluated based on four areas:



1. Organized criminal groups involved in National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) leads (Ballistics)

2. Communities impacted by firearms offenses, including shootings and other violent crimes

3. Straw purchasers, firearms traffickers, and other sources of crime guns

4. Field support to increase the use of crime gun intelligence (CGI) across the W/B HIDTA region, including

- **Investigative lead development and dissemination**
- **Technical support and training for firearms tracing, NIBIN, and CGI**

The W/B HIDTA has made the CGIC a priority to serve initiatives and law enforcement agencies in the region in order to reduce violence by providing resources, timely intelligence, and case support.



OVERDOSE DETECTION MAPPING APPLICATION PROGRAM (ODMAP)

The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) is a near real-time suspected overdose event web application that maps and visualizes suspected overdose events to support public safety and public health efforts. ODMAP provides cross-jurisdictional data that provides agencies the critical information they need to mobilize an immediate response when sudden increases in overdoses, new drug threats, or changes in drug trends occur.

“YAKIMA COUNTY, LIKE MUCH OF THE NATION, HAS EXPERIENCED A DRASTIC UPTICK IN THE NUMBER OF ILLICIT DRUG OVERDOSES. WE NEED SOLUTIONS, AND WE QUICKLY IDENTIFIED A TACTIC THAT WOULD HELP GUIDE US TO SOLUTIONS: ODMAP. ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OVERDOSES WILL ALLOW US TO KNOW EXACTLY THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM, GIVING US DIRECTION ON WHERE AND HOW TO DIRECT RESOURCES. THE SOLUTION TO THIS CRISIS CANNOT BE FOUND WITHOUT REAL AND ACCURATE INFORMATION ON WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING,”

- Yakima County, Washington Sheriff Robert Udell

All agencies sign a participation agreement that is designed to protect the data within the system. Agency personnel can then begin uploading data in near real-time through a variety of methodologies. They can also get access to the National Map, which allows select users to view nationwide data and create custom visualizations. ODMAP is only available to federal, state, local, and tribal government agencies serving the interests of public safety and public health.

“ALL MUNICIPALITIES CAN BENEFIT FROM UNDERSTANDING HOW THE OPIOID CRISIS IS SPECIFICALLY IMPACTING THEIR COMMUNITY,” SAID FINE. “BY ENSURING OPIOID OVERDOSE DATA IS HANDLED PROPERLY AND IS USED TO GUIDE PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES, ILLINOIS COMMUNITIES CAN BETTER SERVE VULNERABLE RESIDENTS AS WELL AS FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

-IL State Senator Lisa Fine talking about her work on House Bill 3645 which expands ODMAP throughout IL



5,312

AGENCIES APPROVED
TO PARTICIPATE IN ODMAP

1,490

AGENCIES SUBMITTED
OVERDOSE EVENTS TO ODMAP

1,449

AVERAGE NUMBER OF
OVERDOSE ENTER PER DAY

57,681

DRUG OVERDOSE
SPIKE ALERTS SENT

WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE TRAINING

The W/B HIDTA funded and supported 29,215 hours of training for its law enforcement, analytical, and management resources, to include:

18,094 **5,105** **6,016**

HOURS OF ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING TO 674
STUDENTS

HOURS OF ANALYTICAL
TRAINING TO 611
STUDENTS

HOURS OF MANAGEMENT
TRAINING TO 304
STUDENTS



When surveyed two months after they received the training:



94%

OF THE STUDENTS RESPONDED THAT
THE TRAINING COURSE IMPROVED THEIR
KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES
NEEDED TO PERFORM THEIR JOBS



82%

RESPONDED THAT THEY USED THE
KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES
THEY ACQUIRED IN THE TRAINING
COURSE

TREATMENT SERVICES

The primary purpose of W/B HIDTA treatment funding is to support integration of evidence-based treatment strategies into systems of care within communities across the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA region. Strategies are based on scientific principles of effective interventions across assessment, early intervention, treatment and recovery components. Each treatment program is unique and designed to meet the needs of the population served.

W/B HIDTA funds support programs that:

1. Address identified gaps in substance use prevention, early intervention, or treatment systems,
2. Increase access to substance use disorder treatment in criminal/juvenile justice systems,
3. Expand existing community-based substance use prevention, early intervention, or treatment strategies,
4. Enhance or strengthen current strategies with additional evidence-based interventions, and
5. Implement and evaluate innovative strategies to address unique prevention, early intervention, or treatment needs in HIDTA communities.



From January through December 2024, W/B HIDTA expended \$2,357,267 to fund adult treatment programs that serviced 3,150 clients. Of those, 1,023 clients have successfully completed treatment so far, and 1,413 have continued treatment into 2025. Over 55% of clients successfully completed treatment, and 23% of clients were discharged before completion. Comparatively, approximately half of U.S. states have treatment completion rates of less than 42% (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration's Treatment Episodes Data Set).

W/B HIDTA TREATMENT GRANTEES:

Maryland

- Behavioral Health Leadership Institute
- Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore
- Brooke's House

West Virginia

- Berkeley County CATALIST Program
- Berkeley County Day Report Center

Virginia

- City of Alexandria
- Arlington County
- CATALIST Valley Health
- Fairfax County Alcohol Substance Abuse Services
- Fairfax County Sheriff's Department STAR 360 Program
- Northern Shenandoah Substance Abuse Coalition
- Prince William County Treatment Program
- City of Richmond

PREVENTION

The W/B HIDTA invested \$463,122 in 2024 to support prevention activities. Funded initiatives are designed to prevent onset or escalation of substance use in youth across the region by coordinating community and local government resources to foster protective factors, decrease risk factors, build skills, and connect youth and caregivers to appropriate levels of care.

Prevention initiatives include law enforcement partnerships with schools and community organizations. A nexus has been formed among law enforcement and other public and private sector program elements, with an ongoing effort to expand alternative funding to enhance the W/B HIDTA's prevention component.

Funding supports on one or more of the following purposes:

- Strengthening youth, parent, and teacher resiliency
- Developing social and emotional competence in youth
- Offering concrete support, early intervention, or referral services in times of need
- Developing healthy and supportive social connections
- Providing education on parenting and child development
- Offering unique prevention services to W/B HIDTA high-risk communities based on community needs assessments
- Promoting healthy decision making

The W/B HIDTA funded prevention initiatives are:

- Badges for Baseball
 - Richmond, VA
 - Baltimore, MD
 - Roanoke, VA
- Prince William County (VA) Prevention
- The Martinsburg Initiative, Martinsburg, WV



TREATMENT & PREVENTION SPOTLIGHT

ADDICTIONS CORRECTIONS TREATMENT PROGRAM

The W/B HIDTA sponsors and supports the Arlington County, VA Addictions Corrections Treatment (ACT) Program and Re-Entry Program, which provides substance use treatment for inmates, including group and individual treatment, individualized aftercare plans, and motivational interviewing. ACT specifically closes a treatment gap by providing treatment for clients with a substance use dependence diagnosis who are incarcerated. Funding from the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA aids the program in its goals to reduce recidivism and prepare participants for re-entry, equipping them with the necessary skills and support to be successful.

The nine-month long program provides a variety of services to help individuals grow a deeper understanding of their substance use disorder, develop coping skills and recovery skills, and grow their support network. This support includes rebuilding trust and connection with family members, working with a peer recovery specialist, and connecting with others in the program.

ACT recognizes and values the importance of keeping up to date with evidence-based strategies that have shown positive results for their population. It provides extensive training to staff and is always exploring strategies that will enhance treatment outcomes. Washington/Baltimore HIDTA funding can be used for residents from outside of Arlington, which is critical, as the majority of participants are from other counties. This supports participants fully, from entry to post release.

“WHAT I LOVE MOST ABOUT THE PROGRAM IS THE COHORT PIECE. THEY GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER. OFTEN, THEY BUILD A SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT THEY USE WHEN THEY LEAVE THE FACILITY. THEY SUPPORT EACH OTHER, GO TO MEETINGS TOGETHER, AND PULL EACH OTHER UP THROUGH HARD TIMES.”

-Bureau Director, Arlington Co. Dept. of Human Services. Suzanne Somerville

“WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE HIDTA HAS FUNDED EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT STRATEGIES IN ARLINGTON COUNTY FOR MANY YEARS. THEY ARE VERY THOUGHTFUL IN THEIR APPROACH, AND THEIR OUTCOMES DEMONSTRATE IT IS PAYING OFF.”

-W/B HIDTA Deputy Director, Treatment and Prevention, Lora Peppard, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC

ACT recently hired a new Assistant Program Manager who is excited to strengthen the program, and to collaborate with participants to see what is working and what is not. It stays on top of drug trends, and meets with law enforcement regularly to discuss the substances that are being seen in the community to make any needed adjustments. ACT's focus on staying current with trends and evidence-based strategies, along with providing critical support and detailed planning for discharge and post release, allows the program to meaningfully and positively impact participants' lives.

A DIVISION FOR ADVANCING PREVENTION AND TREATMENT (ADAPT)



ADAPT, a W/B HIDTA initiative, operationalizes the HIDTA Prevention Strategy, uniting HIDTA prevention programming across the nation. It assists HDTAs with translating, implementing, and evaluating substance use prevention strategies within their unique communities. In 2024, ADAPT provided the following, among other resources and forms of assistance:

- Individual technical assistance to individuals and organizations on topics related to designing, implementing, and evaluating substance use prevention activities informed by the best-available evidence
- The 2024 HIDTA Prevention Summit, which focused on school-based prevention
- A winter campaign, “Mind the Message,” which supported communities in learning and applying the best-available evidence for sharing substance-related information with youth ages 11-18 to prevent unintended consequences
- A campaign workshop to support prevention professionals in applying a social norms framework to share information about substances to youth ages 11-18
- A learning community for 10 middle schools across the country who participated in a social norms media campaign
- The Prevention Post quarterly newsletter designed to keep HIDTA communities up-to-date with the latest advances in prevention science, resources, events, and opportunities in the field
- Technical webinars on: 1) Powering Prevention with Developmental Theory; and 2) The role of Parenting in Substance Use Prevention.

“ADAPT’s training and technical assistance activities have significantly enhanced our prevention work by refining our strategic focus and aligning our efforts with best practices in upstream prevention.” - HIDTA Director feedback from ADAPT Annual Survey



5,100
VIEWS OF
ADAPT EVENTS

894
TOTAL HOURS
WATCHED

262
CHANNEL
SUBSCRIBERS

WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE HIDTA

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Jeff Beeson

Executive Director

Tom Carr

PMP Project Director

John Cook

Chief of Staff

Deputy Director

Gary W. Hartman

Deputy Director

Law Enforcement

Lora Peppard, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC

Deputy Director

Treatment/Prevention

Director, ADAPT

Sherae Lonick

Chief Financial Officer

Deputy Director

Finance/Human Resources

Erik Shumaker

Deputy Director

Network Operations Center

Corey Comen

Program Manager

Investigative Support Center

Amy Johnson

Deputy Finance Program Manager

Finance/Human Resources

Veronica Pallutch

PMP Coordinator/Executive Assistant

Lisa Wiederlight

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Ramona Boland

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