

HIDTA DESIGNATED - 2015



Canyon County Drug Trends

This report summarizes major trends related to illicit drug use and trafficking in Canyon County, Idaho based on available open-source statistics and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) supported law enforcement efforts.

County Snapshot

Canyon County is nearly 587 square miles and is considered part of the Greater Boise metropolitan area, also known as the Treasure Valley. Based on census data reported by the United States Census Bureau, Canyon County is home to an estimated 251,065 residents, which is 13% of the state's population and the second most populous county in Idaho.⁸ This report summarizes the impact of illicit drug use and trafficking throughout the county.

Based on law enforcement and public health data reported during 2023, methamphetamine and fentanyl continue to impact communities throughout Canyon County. According to law enforcement officers recently surveyed, the most significant drug threat is methamphetamine, followed by fentanyl, and cocaine. The availability of methamphetamine and fentanyl remains high and has a large community impact, while heroin has significantly decreased, but this has yet to be directly connected to the increase in fentanyl beyond anecdotal information.

Fatal and non-fatal overdose incidents continue to impact communities in Idaho from pill and powder forms of fentanyl present in the illicit drug supply lines. Informal reporting by law enforcement and public health partners indicates people who use drugs (PWUD) desire to use fentanyl in powder form continues to be popular due to the unpredictable dosing of fentanyl in pill form. According to harm reduction partners, the PWUD community reports concern over the number of overdoses related to pill use and believes the powder is safer, allowing for more control over consistent dosing. Rising seizures of powder fentanyl throughout the United States and the presence in the local drug supply reflect this change in fentanyl use and add additional public health and safety concerns throughout the county.

Drug Availability and Use Trends

Substance use disorders in Idaho continue to impact communities through the rising number of deaths related to drug use. According to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare website, drug-induced deaths in the state rose 8% between 2021 (353) and 2022 (381), with preliminary reporting of 251 deaths occurring as of September 2023.⁹ Fentanyl was identified in 188 overdose deaths in 2022, up 24% from the 152 deaths reported in 2021. Methamphetamine was identified in 133 overdose deaths and when combined with fentanyl numbers, the two were identified in nearly 87% of reported overdose deaths in 2022. Preliminary numbers published in November 2023 identified 148 fentanyl-related deaths so far in 2023 in the state, a slight decrease from the same time frame in 2022 (164) but is expected to rise once the 2023 coroner report data is finalized. County-level overdose death numbers were not available at the time of this publication.

In 2023 task force officers seized 31.8 kilograms of methamphetamine, 2,393 fentanyl pills, less than 1 kilogram of powder fentanyl and cocaine along with 21 kilograms of bulk illicit marijuana (see Figure 1, page 2). In addition

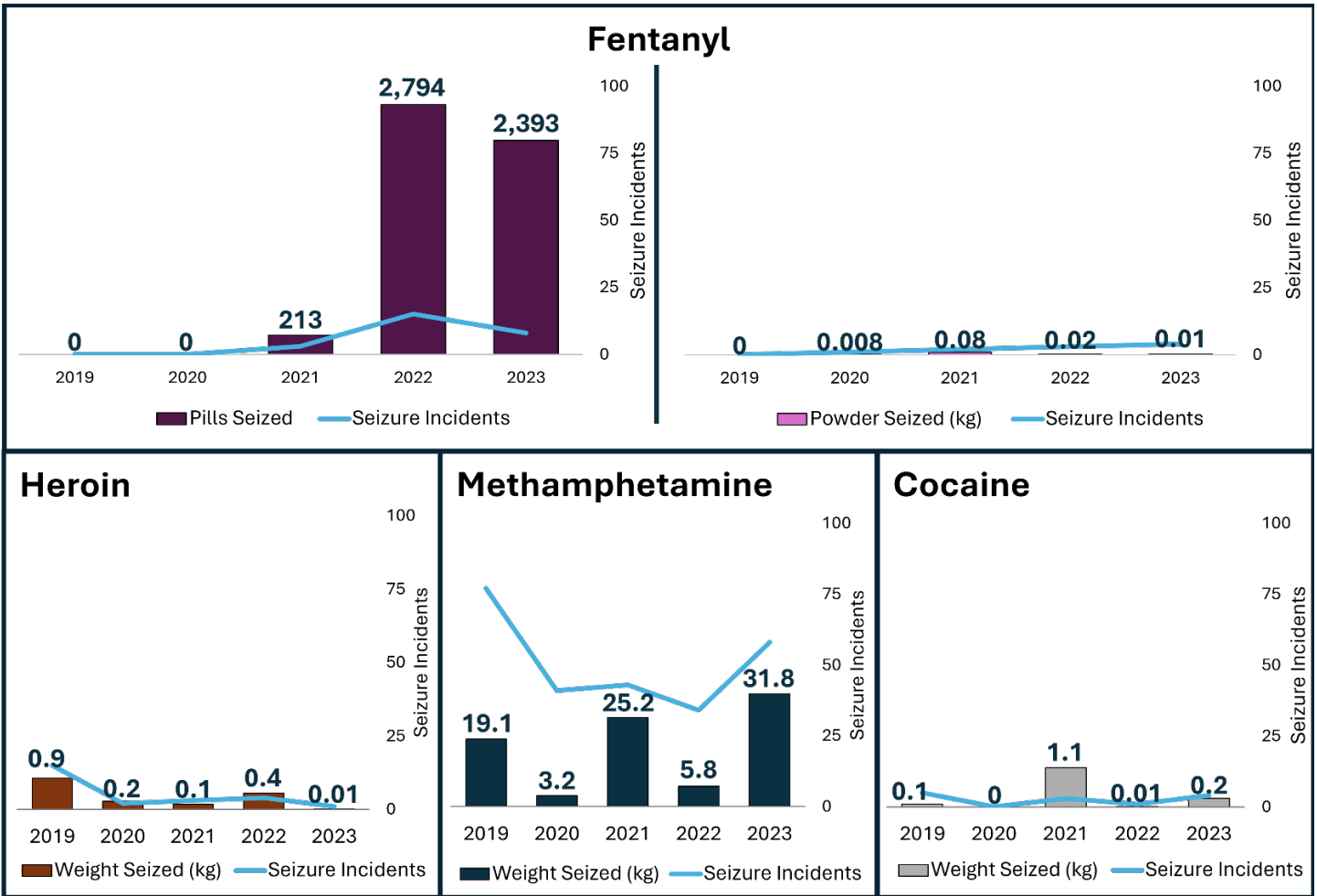
⁸ [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: United States](#)

⁹ [Drug Overdose Prevention Program | Idaho – Idaho Department of Health and Welfare – Accessed 2/1/24](#)

to the drugs seized task force officers conducted 16 drug-related arrests and seized 27 firearms. Cash and asset seizures conducted by the ISP DHE and DEA Boise Task Force (DEA-Boise) are captured under the statewide initiatives and not broken out by location in the HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP).

Figure 1

Total of Illicit Drugs Seized by Idaho HIDTA Designated Enforcement Initiatives



Source: Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) – Accessed 01/31/24

Drug Trafficking Trends

Mexico continues to be the primary source country for methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin, and transited cocaine trafficked throughout Canyon County. Once across the southwest border of the United States, narcotics are transported through California and Arizona to the neighboring northern states. From active drug investigations and survey responses, areas such as Spokane, Washington, and Salt Lake City, Utah have been identified as local supply areas for many of the HIDTA task forces operating in Canyon County.

In 2023, the FBI Treasure Valley Metro Safe Streets Task Force and the newly formed City-County Narcotics Unit / FBI Task Force each investigated one drug trafficking organization respectfully. Both DTOs were locally operated and involved in trafficking methamphetamine. The DTO investigated by the FBI was identified as a violent gang-affiliated organization.

Current Countywide Efforts

Within Canyon County, the FBI Treasure Valley Metro Safe Streets Task Force which transitioned into the City-County Narcotics Unit FBI Task Force is the HIDTA-designated task force that receives federal funding and support from the HIDTA program. Along with enforcement efforts by this task force, two statewide HIDTA initiatives assist in investigations throughout the county and coordinate efforts with other HIDTA task forces. ISP DHE conducts interdiction efforts throughout the state and coordinates with other HIDTA task forces to assist in long-term investigations, while DEA Boise conducts drug investigations throughout the state and coordinates with other HIDTA task forces and law enforcement agencies in Canyon County.

In addition to the enforcement initiatives, the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA program provides resources and support for a public health analyst, funded by the Center for Disease Control Foundation, and a drug intelligence officer who collaborate to bring public health and law enforcement partners together focusing on overdose reduction and responses to overdoses as a part of the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) and prevention. Through this cooperative effort these professional fields, which have traditionally operated separately, work to increase the sharing of real-time trends and emerging drug threats that impact communities.

Outlook

The fentanyl crisis continues to increase across the nation which is consistent throughout Idaho and Canyon County. With supply and demand increasing annually and a consistent supply of methamphetamine and cocaine, the need for resources to support law enforcement efforts is critical. This support includes the focus on supply reduction through law enforcement efforts and public health's focus on demand reduction through prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. Participation by local, state, and federal law enforcement in multi-agency task force initiatives combined with federal resources has proven to be successful in targeting organizations responsible for importing and trafficking illicit drugs within the state. Cooperative efforts through public safety and prevention messaging among public health and law enforcement are necessary to help provide residents with timely information and resources to combat the drug threats facing all communities in Canyon County.

Your feedback regarding this report is important to us and is a measured performance metric.

Please complete and submit the brief survey by following this link: [ISACC Strategic Report Survey](#)

This product was created by the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Information Sharing and Analytical Coordination Center (ISACC)