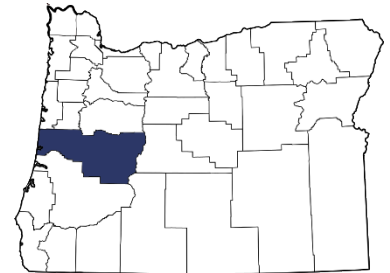




Lane County Drug Trends

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



HIDTA DESIGNATED - 2010

County Snapshot

Lane County is nearly 4,554 square miles and sits along the Interstate 5 corridor and is home to the University of Oregon in the city of Eugene. Based on census data reported by the United States Census Bureau, Lane County is home to an estimated 382,353 residents, which is 9% of the state's population, making it the fourth most populous county in the state.²⁹ 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, fentanyl and methamphetamine continue to impact communities throughout Lane County. According to law enforcement survey data, fentanyl and methamphetamine remain the principal drug threats in the county due to high availability and high demand. Fentanyl has significantly increased in use and availability in the county, impacting local communities as overdose incidents continue to rise. Lane County continues to be one of the primary production locations for illicit marijuana in the state. Heroin and cocaine availability have remained unchanged over the past year and is still available.

Fatal and non-fatal overdose incidents continue to impact communities in Oregon 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

According to statistics provided by the OHA using the SUDORS, unintentional drug overdose deaths in Lane County have continued to rise over the past several years.³⁰ In 2020, 88 drug overdose deaths were confirmed, and continued to rise, reaching a high of 171 total drug overdose deaths in 2022. During the first half of the year 2023, 103 drug overdose deaths have been confirmed and the number is anticipated to increase as mortality data for 2023 is completed.

HIDTA-designated task forces in Lane County seized an annual average of 110 kilograms of methamphetamine each year between 2018 and 2023.³¹ Counterfeit pills containing fentanyl emerged as a threat during this same time, with 92,449 pills seized in 2023. Beginning in 2021, task forces began seizing notable quantities of powder fentanyl with nearly 12.5 kilograms seized in 2023. Cocaine has continued to rise over the past five years, but seizures remain relatively low with 1.9 kilograms seized in 2023 (see Figure 1, page 2). Heroin seizures continue

²⁹ [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: United States](#)

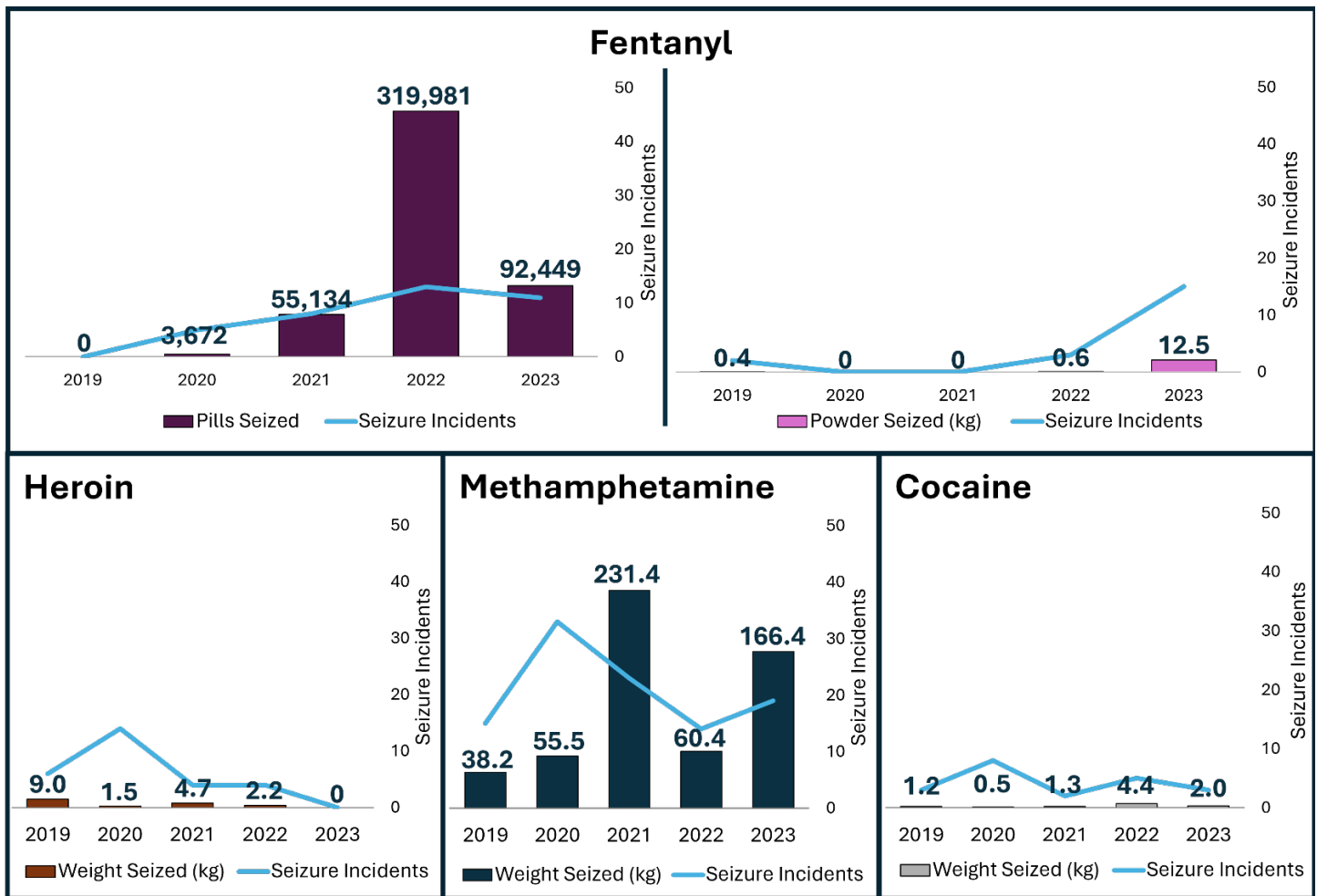
³⁰ [CDC's State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System \(SUDORS\) | Drug Overdose | CDC Injury Center](#) – Oregon Health Authority

³¹ HIDTA Designated Task Forces: Refer to the Current Countywide Efforts section of this report.

to decline with no reported seizures during 2023. Illicit marijuana seizures decreased with 2.8 kilograms of bulk marijuana and 16,000 plants seized during 2023 compared to 2022 when 2,145 kilograms of bulk and 17,772 plants were seized.

In addition to drug seizures, HIDTA task force officers conducted 30 drug-related arrests. Cash and assets seized in Lane County by the DEA Eugene Resident Office (DEA-Eugene) and Oregon State Police (OSP) Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) 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 Oregon 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 area for methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin, and transited cocaine that is trafficked throughout the state. Once across the southwest border of the United States, illicit drugs are transported through California and Arizona to Oregon either directly or through the neighboring states of California and Washington. From active drug investigations and survey responses, areas such as California and Arizona have been identified as local supply areas for many of the HIDTA task forces operating in the county.

DEA-Eugene dismantled one drug trafficking organization (DTO) in 2023, trafficking fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine. The organization was identified as being international in scope with operation connections to Mexico and reported to be violent.

Current Countywide Efforts

Within Lane County, DEA-Eugene 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. OSP DHE and the United States Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force (USMS FTF) assist with highway interdiction and fugitive apprehension in coordination with DEA-Eugene and other law enforcement agencies in Lane 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 also consistent throughout Oregon and Lane 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 Lane 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)