



New England HIDTA & the Heroin Response Strategy

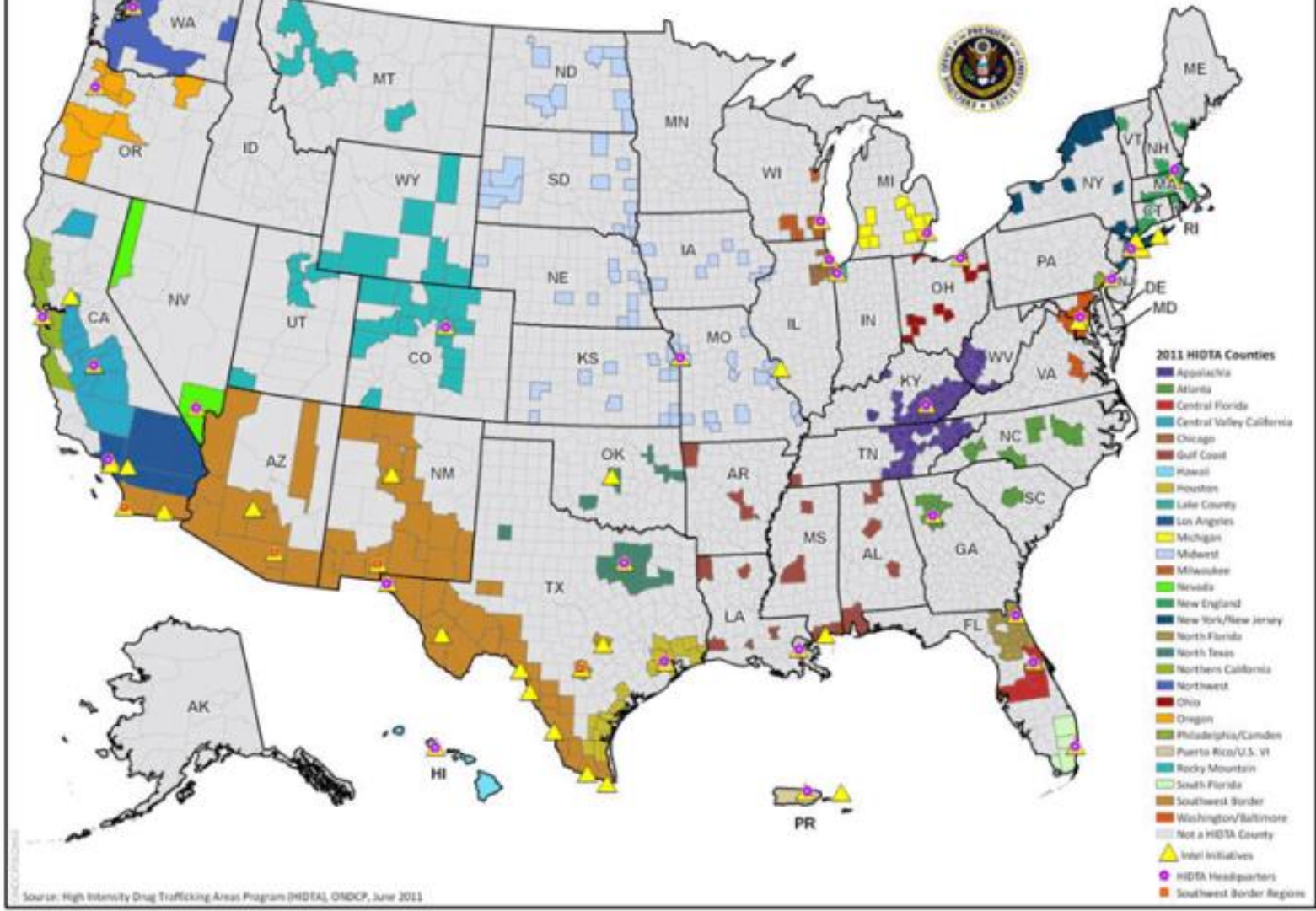


HIDTA – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

- Created by Congress in 1988 – Anti-Drug Abuse Act
- Federal program funded by Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
- Facilitates cooperation among federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to share intelligence, reduce supply of illegal drugs in their designated areas
- Currently there are 28 HIDTAs, covering 60% of US population
 - HIDTA counties are located in 48 states

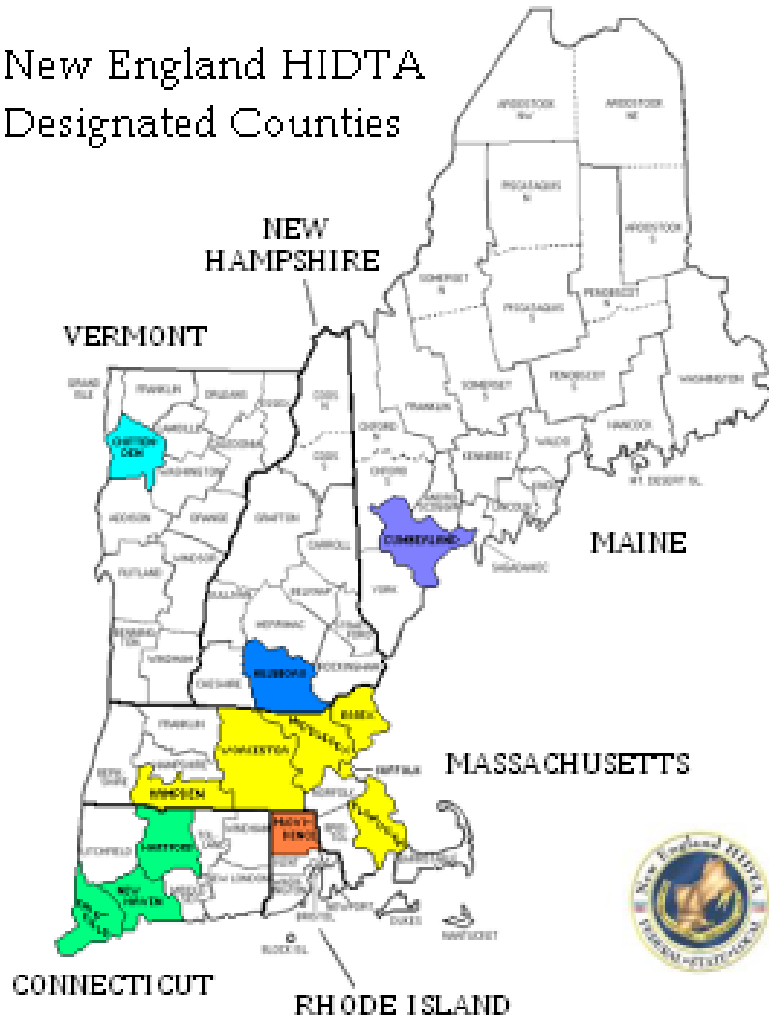


High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program Counties 2011 with Intelligence and Information Sharing Initiative Locations



New England HIDTA

New England HIDTA Designated Counties



- Designated in 1999
- **Heroin Response Strategy** – response to New England’s greatest drug threat, heroin and prescription opioids
 - HRS also includes Appalachia, NY/NJ, Washington/Baltimore, and Philadelphia/Camden HIDTAs
 - Drug Intelligence Officers and Public Health Analysts hired for each state in participating HIDTAs
- Seven agencies from Maine participate with NEHIDTA: Auburn, Lewiston, Portland, and Scarborough PDs; MDEA; State Police; Town of Scarborough



Heroin Response Strategy: Maine

- Maine Information and Analysis Center, Augusta
- **Drug Intelligence Officer:** Jim Minkowsky
 - Implement Hidden Trafficker Program/overdose tracking
 - Maintain health/safety contacts
 - Facilitate public health/safety contacts
- **Public Health Analyst:** Monica St. Clair
 - Identify gaps in drug overdose death data
 - Enhance surveillance of drug use indicators
 - Facilitate public health/safety contacts
- **PHA/DIO Collaboration**
 - Distribute trafficking and overdose information
 - Gather/analyze interdisciplinary information
 - Recommend regional and state specific strategies



Public Health Contribution

- In first year, focusing on gathering *Mortality, Emergency Department, and EMS* data
- Facilitating collaboration between public health entities and law enforcement – acting as point of contact for Maine law enforcement agencies
- Raise awareness of heroin/opioid epidemic from multiple perspectives – MIAC DMI bulletin
- Identify gaps in data, roadblocks to accessing data, quality of data
- Eventually want to turn data into actionable information; aggregate data into individual data



Works In Progress

- *Since January:*
 - Established contacts with: Dept. of Health, SAMHS, OCME, Northern New England Poison Center, EMS
 - Receiving EMS data on monthly basis – Naloxone Administrations, Overdose Responses
 - Receiving monthly/quarterly suspected drug overdose data from OCME
 - Ongoing collaboration with SAMHS, CDC
 - Pursuing Syndromic Surveillance, Treatment, and PDMP data
 - Developing initiative to create a substance abuse presentation for use in Maine schools
 - Researching recreational marijuana legalization effects



Thank you!

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