



PRESS RELEASE

July 13, 2022

Butte County through the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force has been designated the newest county in the nation to be considered a Federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) today announced the addition of six counties to the ONDCP-funded High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program. Butte County will join with 12 existing counties in Central Valley California HIDTA.

Butte County District Attorney and BINTF Board Chairperson Mike Ramsey said the designation will provide Butte County new federal resources to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking locally and regionally. “We are very grateful for this designation and it will greatly assist in our efforts to blunt the effects of the deadly drugs we see in our community.”

This was a competitive grant designation in which Butte County and only five other counties nationwide (all east of the Mississippi River) were chosen out of approximately 50 other counties who had applied for the grant this year. Ramsey said, “It is a testament to the quality of the agents at BINTF and local law enforcement’s commitment to stop the scourge of drugs in our community.” As noted in previous BINTF press releases to the community, BINTF has documented the increasing death rate over the past few years from methamphetamine and fentanyl overdoses.

Below please attached the White House announcement.

The White House Announces Newly Designated High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas to Provide New Resources to Disrupt and Dismantle Drug Trafficking

Designations Support President Biden’s Strategy to Beat the Overdose Epidemic by Deploying New Resources to Disproportionately Affected Areas

WASHINGTON, D.C.— To support President Biden’s [National Drug Control Strategy](#), the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Dr. Rahul Gupta today announced the addition of six counties to the ONDCP-funded High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program.

The newly designated counties are:

5 Gillick Way, Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 538-2261

Butte County Probation • Butte County District Attorney • Butte County Sheriff • California Highway Patrol • Chico Police
Gridley-Biggs Police • Oroville Police • Paradise Police

- Butte County, California (joining the Central Valley California HIDTA)
- Vigo County, Indiana (joining the Indiana HIDTA)
- Cumberland County, New Jersey (joining the Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA)
- Salem County, New Jersey (joining the Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA)
- Schenectady County, New York (joining the New York/New Jersey HIDTA)
- Lawrence County, Pennsylvania (joining the Ohio HIDTA)

“Drug trafficking operations threaten the health and safety of our communities,” said **ONDCP Director Dr. Rahul Gupta**. “That is why disrupting and dismantling these operations and their profits is a key focus of President Biden’s Strategy to beat the overdose epidemic. By newly designating these counties as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, we will ensure our local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement officers have the resources they need to reduce the supply of illicit drugs like fentanyl, prevent overdoses, and save lives.”

The HIDTA program supports regional law enforcement efforts in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. The addition of these six counties to the HIDTA program will allow additional resources to be deployed to areas disproportionately affected by drug trafficking and overdoses.

Some prominent examples from these new designations include Vigo County which encompasses the city of Terre Haute. Cumberland County is also facing a high overdose rate. Recently, it was ranked in the top three counties per capita for most naloxone deployed by emergency medical services and law enforcement. Incorporating all six of these counties in the HIDTA program will allow for more resources to be deployed to these areas.

President Biden’s FY 2023 budget calls for a historic \$293.5 million in funding for the HIDTA program, which is managed by ONDCP. In April, Dr. Gupta announced \$275 million for HIDTA Program providing additional resources to 33 regional HIDTAs. The funding also supports public health and public safety partnerships like the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) – a partnership between the HIDTA program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that works to reduce overdoses. Specifically, ORS brings together drug intelligence officers and public health analysts at the local and regional level to share information and develop evidence-based intervention and support services that reduce overdoses including law enforcement-led linkages to care, use data to alert and respond to overdose spikes, and ensure access to naloxone.

For a map of HIDTA Program Counties, please click [HERE](#).

Read the Biden-Harris Administration’s inaugural National Drug Control Strategy [HERE](#).

Read the fact sheet on the Strategy [HERE](#).

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