



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**

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CONTACT: STEPHEN E. SCHATZ
(202) 395-5744 / (202) 340-3054 (c)

**NEW COUNTIES DESIGNATED AS
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS
- FEDERAL FUNDS TO ASSIST LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS
TO DISRUPT & DISMANTLE DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS -**

(Washington, D.C.) - Today, John P. Walters, Director of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), announced the designation of 26 new counties as part of ONDCP's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program. The HIDTA program facilitates coordination and cooperation in drug control efforts among Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies in an effort to reduce drug trafficking and use throughout the United States.

The 26 new HIDTA counties are located in Arkansas, California, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas. The newly designated HIDTA counties have demonstrated that: their location is a significant center of illegal drug production, manufacturing, importation, or distribution; State, local and Tribal law enforcement agencies have committed resources to respond to the drug trafficking problem, thereby indicating a determination to respond aggressively to the problem; drug-related activities in the area are having a significant harmful impact in the area, and in other areas of the country; and a significant increase in allocation of Federal resources is necessary to respond adequately to drug-related activities in the area. As participants in the HIDTA program, the counties will be eligible to receive additional financial resources, as well as equipment and technology.

"The designation of new counties into the HIDTA program will help leverage the important work already being done at the State and local levels," said Director Walters. "The law enforcement professionals working on the streets of our communities understand the unique drug threats faced by their regions, and they are best positioned to develop solutions that eliminate the harms caused by the illegal drug trade. The collaborative approach of the HIDTA program creates a system of shared intelligence and resources, and helps disrupt and dismantle criminal drug trafficking organizations operating in the United States and abroad."

The HIDTA program designates regions which exhibit serious drug trafficking problems and harmfully impact other areas of the country. The HIDTA program provides additional Federal resources to those areas to help eliminate or reduce drug trafficking and its harmful consequences. Law enforcement organizations within HIDTAs assess drug trafficking problems and design specific initiatives and strategies to reduce or eliminate the production, manufacture, transportation, distribution and chronic use of illegal drugs and money laundering.

There are 28 regions throughout the country designated as HIDTAs. HIDTA counties compromise approximately 14 percent of U.S counties, and are present in 45 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

THE NEWLY DESIGNATED HIDTA COUNTIES ARE:

Appalachia HIDTA

Kentucky	Letcher County
Tennessee	Hamilton County Washington County

Atlanta HIDTA

Georgia	Barrow County Bartow County Cherokee County Clayton County Douglas County Fayette County Forsyth County Henry County
North Carolina	Durham County Johnston County Wake County Wayne County Wilson County

Central Valley California HIDTA

California	Shasta County
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Gulf Coast HIDTA

Arkansas	Benton County Jefferson County Pulaski County Washington County
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Midwest HIDTA

Illinois	Rock Island County
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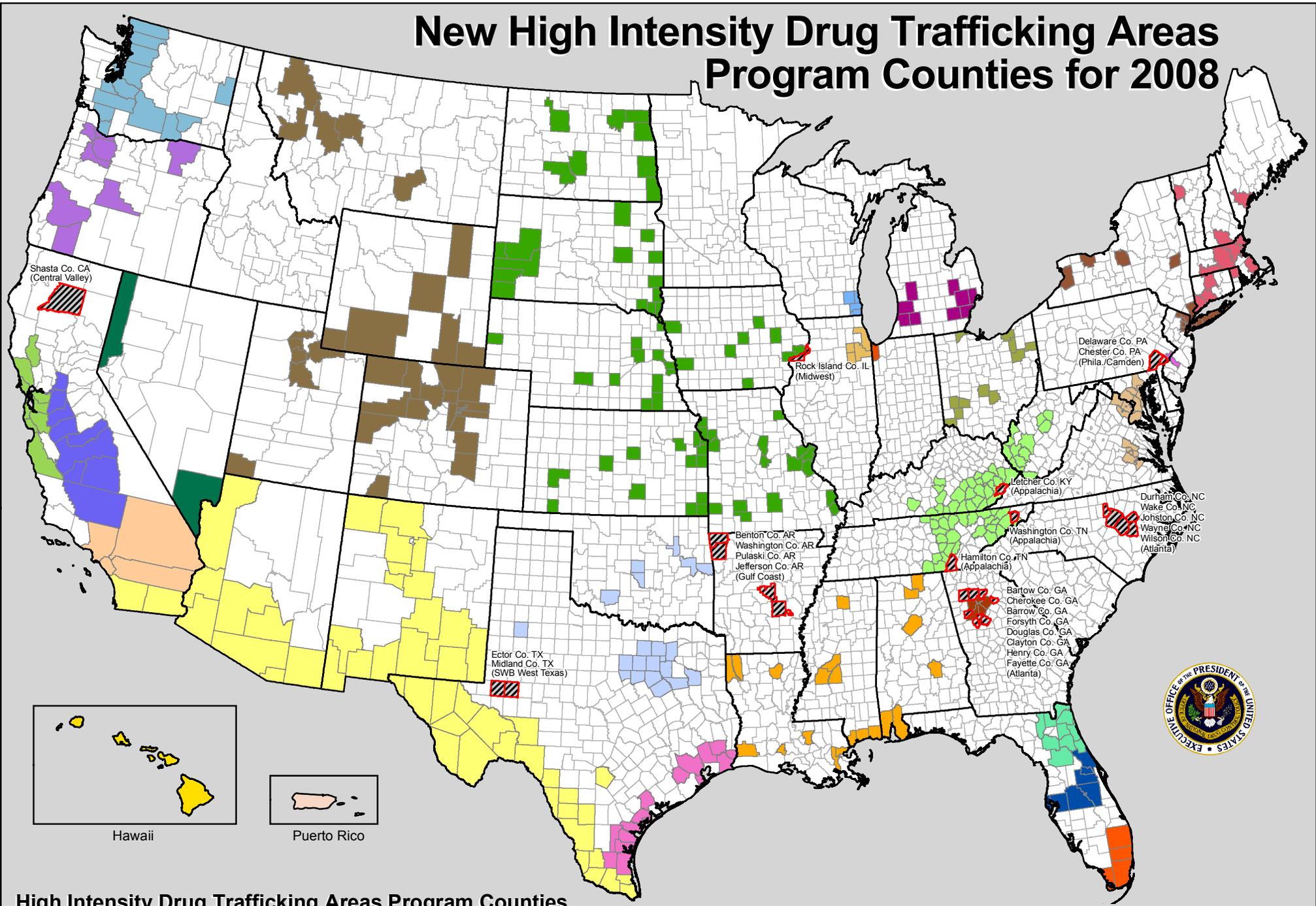
Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA

Pennsylvania	Chester County Delaware County
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Southwest Border West Texas Region HIDTA

Texas	Ector County Midland County
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New High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program Counties for 2008



High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program Counties

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| New HIDTA Counties | Central Valley California | Houston | Midwest | New York/New Jersey | Northwest | Rocky Mountain | Not a HIDTA County |
| Appalachia | Chicago | Lake County | Milwaukee | North Florida | Ohio | South Florida | State Boundaries |
| Atlanta | Gulf Coast | Los Angeles | Nevada | North Texas | Oregon | Southwest Border | |
| Central Florida | Hawaii | Michigan | New England | Northern California | Philadelphia/Camden | Washington/Baltimore | |