

Southwest Narcotics Task Force

Counties of: Adams, Billings, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope, Stark

Cities of: Belfield, Dickinson, Medora

North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation



2023 SWNTF Summary

The SWNTF initiated 131 cases/investigations in 2023. These cases resulted in 69 arrests throughout our service area, with several additional charges pending laboratory results. Agents assigned to the SWNTF conducted 32 community presentations on various drug/law enforcement related topics. These presentations were conducted for school staff and students, emergency responders, recurrent training for law enforcement, and community organizations. The SWNTF through our partnership with the Dickinson Police Department conducted 757 (2022-504) intelligence reports in 2023. These were performed through our intelligence analyst that supports both agencies.

In total in 2023, the SWNTF seized 3,654 grams of methamphetamine directly from individuals in southwest North Dakota or those trafficking it into our area. The SWNTF seized 36,520 grams of marijuana in 2023. None of this marijuana was identified as legally prescribed in North Dakota and was most often encountered when investigating crimes related to other substances. In 2023 the SWNTF, like most jurisdictions in the nation, continued to see a rise in cases involving opiates. This unfortunately led to multiple overdoses throughout the region. Fortunately, in a majority of cases the administration of Narcan by bystanders and/or responding officers saved lives and prevented more fatal instances. The most prevalent drug

involved in overdoses in the area is fentanyl. In 2023, the SWNTF seized 3,549 units of fentanyl or 35,490 individual dosage units. Each dosage unit has the potential to be a fatal dose of the drug.

The SWNTF worked closely with our federal law enforcement partners and were able to federally indict multiple individuals responsible for the trafficking of illicit substances into our region. A number of these cases are still ongoing but have already resulted in the federal prosecution of individuals trafficking large amounts of controlled substances into our region from the southern border.

The SWNTF successfully dismantled two active clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in 2023. Clandestine laboratories present a wide array of hazards to first responders and the public and are very infrequent given the improvements in monitoring precursor chemicals and the availability of methamphetamine manufactured outside the US. The safe dismantling of laboratories requires specialized training and equipment. They also require vast amounts of support from local and state emergency services.

In 2024, the SWNTF will continue to prioritize the targeting of drug trafficking organizations that have ties to our region with a focus on cases that have a marked impact on the flow of illicit substances into our region. The SWNTF is going into 2024 with an experienced group of agents who have collectively established proactive goals consistent with the mission and values of the SWNTF. The SWNTF will continue to strive to deliver the highest standard of assistance to our partner agencies as well as the communities we serve.

2023 Summary

Total cases- 131 cases/Investigations (2022-122)

Community presentations- 32 (2022-24)

Intel Reports- 757 (2022-504)

Total arrests- 69 (2022-38)

Total methamphetamine seized- 3,654g (2021-3,185g)

Total marijuana seized- 36,520g (2022-26,038g)

Total cocaine- 272g (2022-13g)

Total fentanyl (includes powder and pills)-3,549 units containing 35,490 Dosage Units (2022-1559U-15,590 DU)

Total heroin- 3g containing 30 Dosage Units (2022-0g)

Total Psilocybin- 54g (2022-4g)

Total MDMA-0 units (2022-2U)

Total other controlled pills- 499 units (2021-350U)

Total SWNTF Overdose Investigations- 17 requiring hospitalization with 3 being fatal (2022-29 hospitalizations with 4 fatal)