

ALABAMA

2026 DRUG THREAT ASSESSMENT



Prepared by:
Alabama Operations Center / Gulf Coast HIDTA
Montgomery, Alabama
March 7, 2025

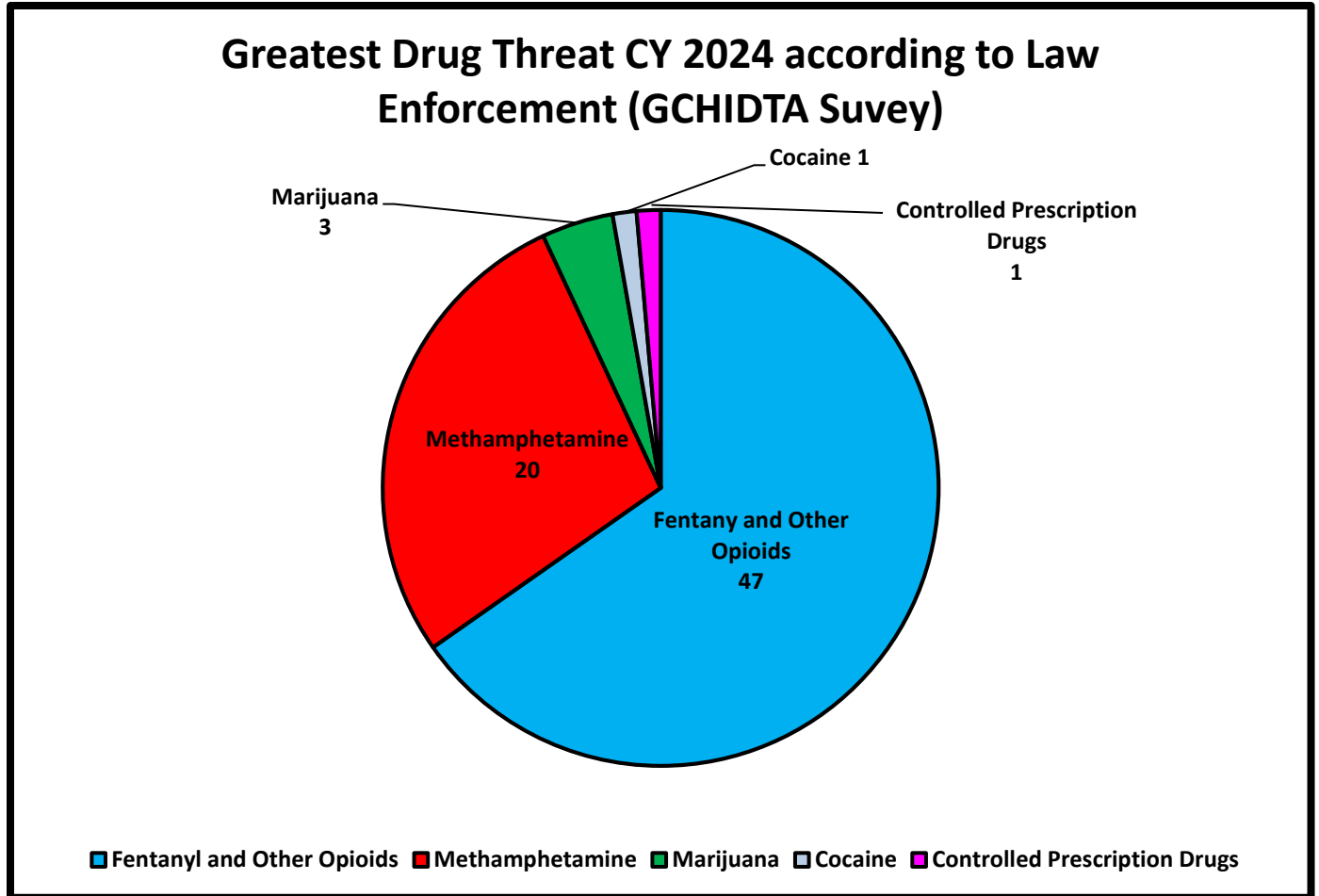
TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Executive Summary -----	pg. 3
II.	Environment and Other Related Risks -----	pg. 8
	A. Demographics/Cultural Diversity	
	B. Economics	
	C. Other	
III.	Overview	
	A. Overall Scope of Drug Threat -----	pg. 10
	B. Fentanyl and other Opioids -----	pg. 13
	1. Assessment of the Threat	
	2. Abuse	
	3. Availability	
	4. Associated Crime and Violence	
	5. Production	
	6. Transportation	
	7. Distribution	
	C. Methamphetamine -----	pg. 15
	1. Assessment of the Threat	
	2. Abuse	
	3. Availability	
	4. Associated Crime and Violence	
	5. Production	
	6. Transportation	
	7. Distribution	
	D. Marijuana -----	pg. 17
	E. Cocaine -----	pg. 19
	F. Heroin -----	pg. 21
	G. Controlled Prescription Drugs -----	pg. 23
	H. New Psychoactive Substances -----	pg. 27
IV.	Drug Trafficking Organization -----	pg. 29
	Illicit Finance -----	pg. 30
V.	Outlook -----	pg. 31
VI.	Methodology -----	pg. 32
VII.	Appendices, Tables & / or Addenda -----	pg. 33
	Safety concerns/Trends -----	pg. 34
	Map of Survey answers -----	pg. 35-37
	Additional Sources -----	pg. 38
	Drug Prices -----	pg. 39-40

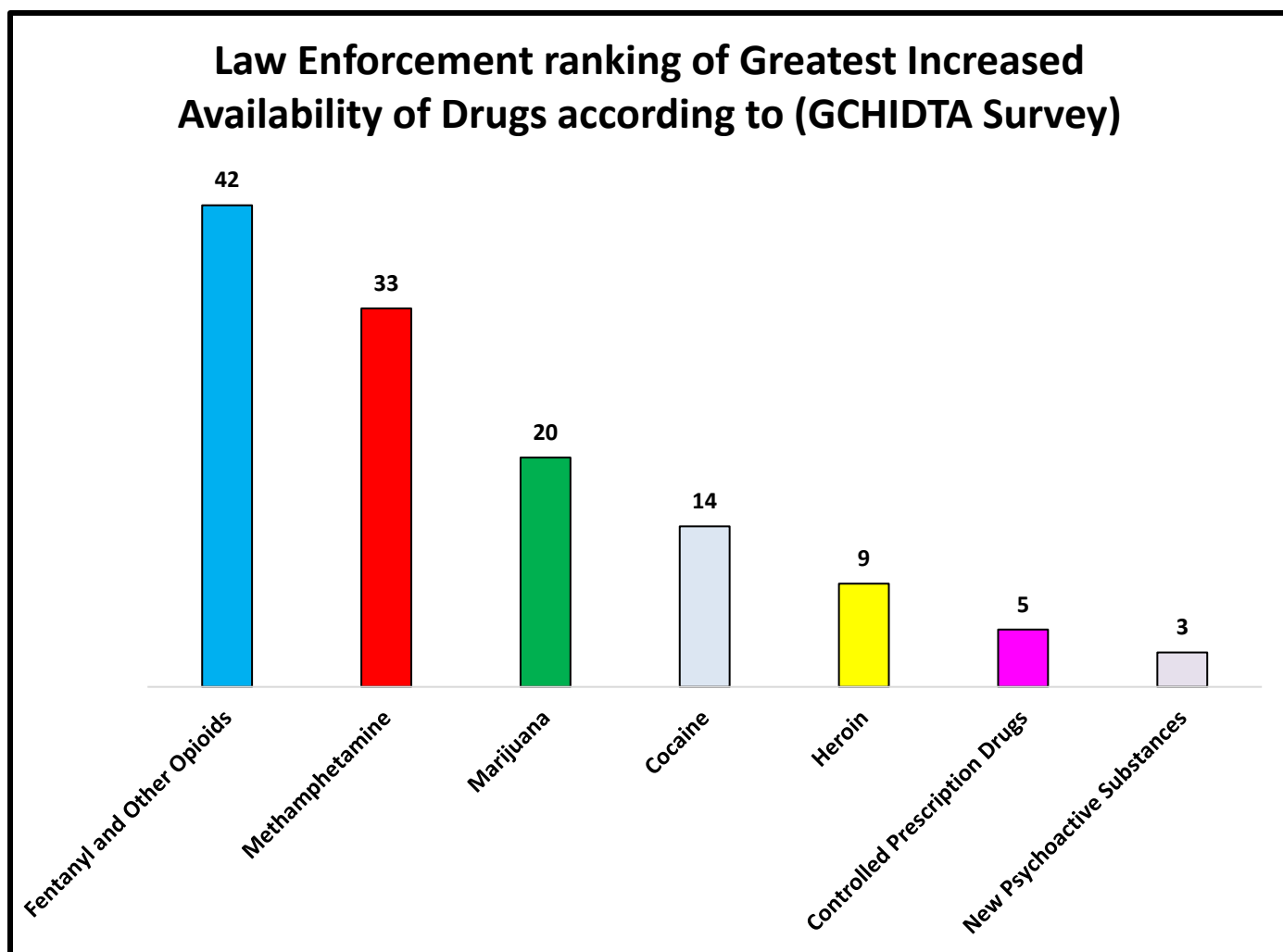
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alabama is in a convenient location for drug traffickers, with the Mexican border to the southwest and major drug distribution centers to the east. The main interstate roads through Alabama also make it quite easy to travel and distribute drugs in the State.

The diagram below depicts the greatest drug threat as documented by results from the 2026 GC HIDTA law enforcement survey respondents. There were 72 law enforcement respondents across Alabama that answered the greatest drug threat question. This year fentanyl and other opioids was recorded once again as the number one greatest drug threat across the State. (A map showing responses per agency/location is listed in the appendix).



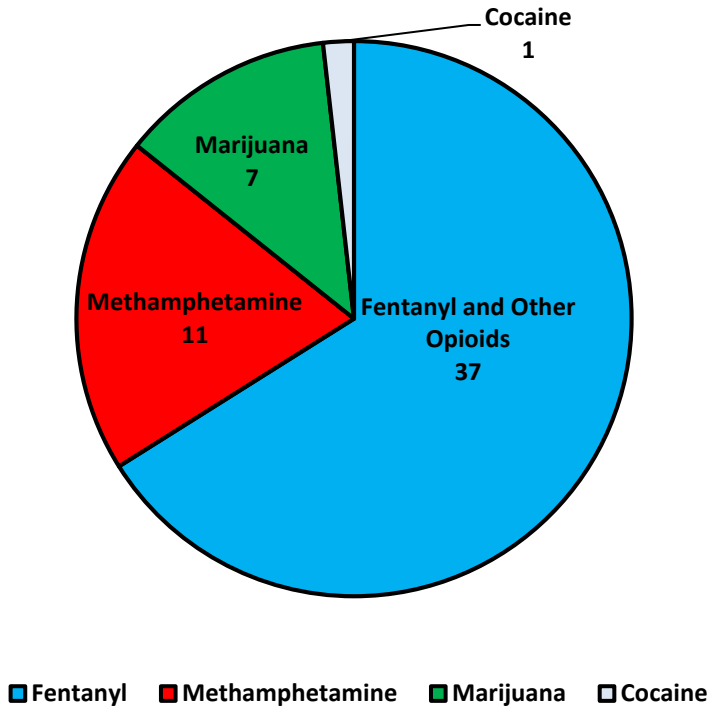
According to the law enforcement respondents on the Survey, the following is what they consider to be the drugs increasing as most available in their part of the State. This ranking is based on each drug and using only the increased category per drug and per law enforcement respondent.



This section intentionally left blank.

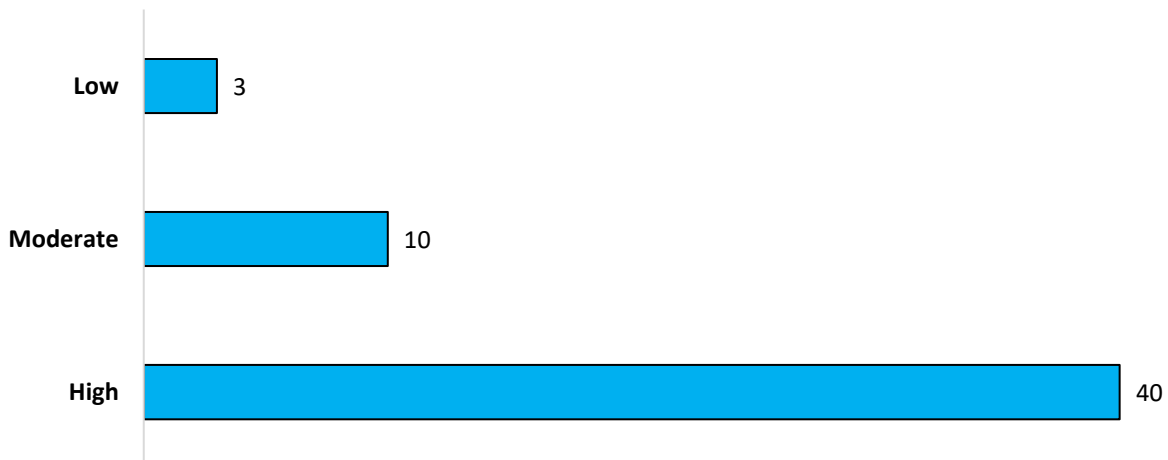
According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Treatment Survey, fentanyl and other opioids are again considered the greatest threat in Alabama. Methamphetamine was next, followed by marijuana, and cocaine. (See Chart below). Marijuana went ahead of cocaine not only with treatment personnel but also with law enforcement when ranking the greatest drug threats for the State.

Greatest Drug Threat according to Treatment Personnel CY 2024 (GCHIDTA Survey)



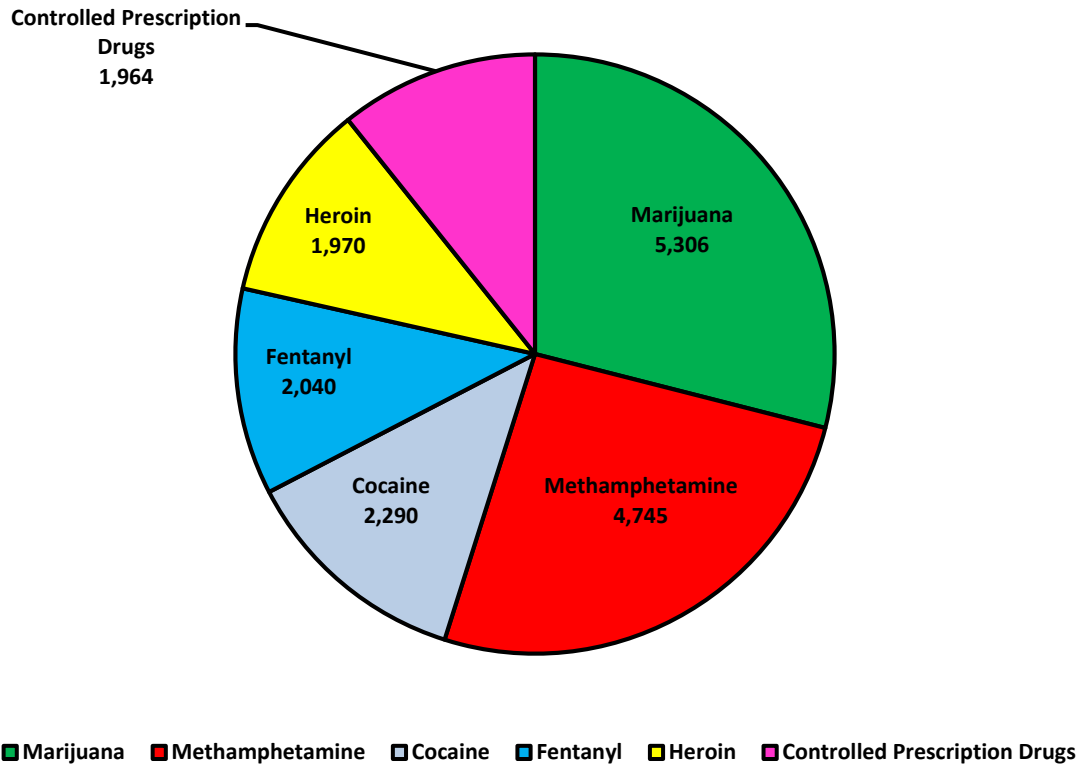
The Treatment answers on the Survey that requested the level of Fentanyl use for 2024 has exceeded what was recorded the previous year in 2023.

Fentanyl and Other Opioids usage CY 2024 according to Treatment Personnel

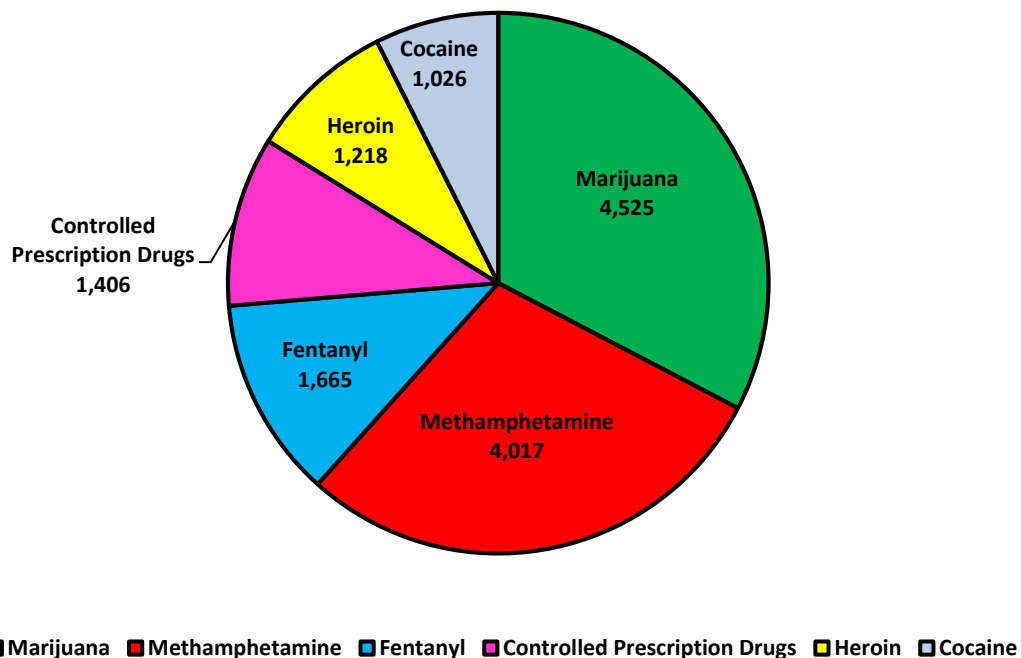


According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, marijuana was the illegal drug most commonly attributed to treatment admissions in 2024, followed by methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, and controlled prescription drugs. Treatment admissions have increased in every category, especially cocaine which showed a huge increase. The following diagrams depict the treatment admissions for 2023, and 2024.

2024 Mental Health Admissions



2023 Mental Health Admissions



- **Fentanyl and other Opioids**

According to the 2025 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, both law enforcement respondents, and treatment respondents ranked fentanyl above methamphetamine as the drug of greatest threat. The overdose death rate in Jefferson county (the most populous county in the State), showed fentanyl overdose cases have greatly decreased by over 41%. For the first time since fentanyl became a drug of interest in Alabama's drug threat assessment, the overdose rate statewide has seen a decrease. The overdose death rate statewide has decreased by over 29%.

- **Methamphetamine**

Methamphetamine was reported as the second greatest drug threat by law enforcement, and treatment respondents. Methamphetamine was also reported as the greatest contributor to violent crime, as well as property crime, according to law enforcement respondents to the survey.

- **Heroin**

Heroin was not ranked by law enforcement or treatment respondents as a drug of threat for Alabama in 2024. The Alabama Department of Mental Health reports heroin as the fifth most abused illegal drug based on treatment admissions, but the numbers have shown an increase from last year.

- **Controlled Prescription Drugs**

Hydrocodone (lortab and vicodin) and oxycodone (oxycontin, roxycontin) continue to be the most frequently abused pharmaceutical drugs in Alabama as reported by mental health admission data from the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Alprazolam (Xanax) and Buprenorphine (Suboxone) are also heavily abused. Pharmaceutical diversion remains the primary method of obtaining pharmaceuticals; however, pharmaceuticals transported into the state by vehicle or postal packaging also persists. Only five law enforcement respondents ranked controlled prescription drugs as having increased availability.

- **Cocaine**

Cocaine remains available in Alabama; however, cocaine is listed by both law enforcement, and treatment respondents on the survey as a drug of low threat in Alabama. Treatment personnel also listed the use of cocaine as moderate too low for 2024. Cocaine has seen a large increase of individuals being admitted into mental health facilities for 2024. According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health admissions data, cocaine had 1,264 more individuals admitted in 2024 as opposed to 2023.

- **Marijuana**

Law enforcement respondents, as well as treatment respondents reported marijuana as the third greatest drug threat in Alabama, behind fentanyl, and methamphetamine. The Alabama Department of Mental Health lists marijuana as the number one illegal drug according to treatment admissions. The actual marijuana related mental health treatment admissions increased from 4,525 admissions in 2023 to 5,306 in 2024. Marijuana is also still reported as a contributor to both violent, and property crime, as reported by law enforcement respondents.

- **New Psychoactive Substances**

The Alabama Department of Mental Health, has very few admissions this year of gamma hydroxybutyric (GHB) and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). The Department of Forensic Sciences does show a decrease of synthetic cannabinoids in Alabama. Synthetic cannabinoids have seen decreases in almost every substance reviewed with the exception of 5F-ADB which only increased by 4.

- **Money Laundering**
Money laundering across Alabama will always be found with individuals trying to hide drug proceeds. FINCEN reported the most suspicious activity reports (SARs) filed in Alabama in 2024 were from Depository Institutions. The second highest group of SARs were filed by the Money Service Businesses. The primary reason on the Depository Institutions was due to high check transactions, and checks falling below the CTR threshold. The primary reason for Money Service Businesses was due to transactions below BSA recordkeeping threshold.

II. ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER RELATED RISKS

A. Demographic Factors/Cultural Diversity

The United States (U.S.) Census Bureau population estimate for Alabama in July of 2024 was 5,157,699 residents. This represents an increase of 49,231 individuals from the population documented in 2023.

2024 Population Race Estimates	
White	68.9%
Black	26.6%
Hispanic or Latino	5.7%
Two or more races	2%
Asian	1.6%
American Indian, Alaskan native	.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

B. Economics

According to the 2024 U.S. Census Bureau estimates, Alabama’s median income is \$62,027 per year. Alabama’s leading employers include retail sales, and health care professions.

This section intentionally left blank.

C. Geography

Alabama covers 50,647.13 square in land miles, making it the 24th largest state in the nation. The primary interstates in Alabama include: I-10, I-20, I-59, I-65 & I-85, consisting of 904 miles of interstate highways. According to EPIC statistics, the top seizure interstate reported (not all report locations to EPIC) was I-65 with 10 stops.



III. DRUG THREATS AND OVERVIEW

A. Overall Scope of Drug Threat

According to law enforcement, and treatment respondents, answering the GC HIDTA Drug Survey, fentanyl is still ranked as the greatest drug threat in Alabama. The fentanyl overdose data statewide has finally begun to see a decrease in overdose deaths. Methamphetamine is still continuing to be attributed to property, and violent crime in the State. Controlled prescription drugs, marijuana, cocaine, and new psychoactive drugs are listed as available but not as dangerous as fentanyl or methamphetamine. Heroin, once considered a huge threat has continued to see a decrease in overdoses, and mental health admissions. The new psychoactive drugs have also seen a decrease according to what forensics and mental health officials have noted. The most frequent form of communication in drug transactions between wholesale and retail distribution according to the GC HIDTA Drug Survey is by way of Whats App. The most prominent places where DTO's obtain the drugs seen in Alabama, are mainly from across the southwest border.

The chart below shows the total amount of drugs, and cash/assets seized for DEA offices, and HIDTA offices, as well as ALEA/SBI in Alabama for fiscal year 2024. The drugs seized, includes all drug categories.

ALL DRUGS	2,827.55 KG, 11,427 D.U.
CASH/ASSET VALUE	\$5,274,837.31

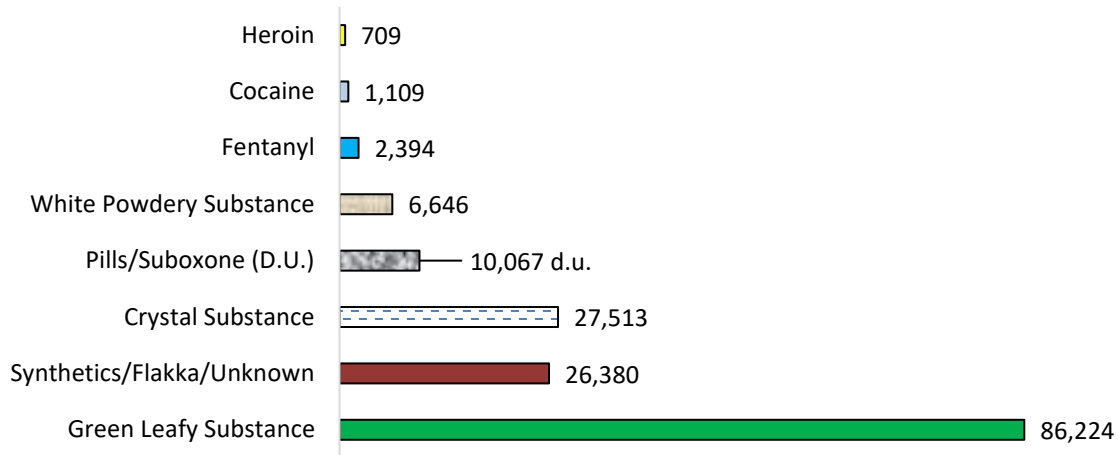
Reported in the table below are the total amounts of cash and drugs as reported to EPIC, concerning traffic stops and investigations in Alabama for CY 2024.

MARIJUANA	1037.87 kg, 184 d.u.
FENTANYL	26.77 kg, 9,284 d.u.
METHAMPHETAMINE	300.90 kg
COCAINE	253.81 kg
HEROIN	16.18 kg
DIVERTED PHARMACEUTICALS	550.65 kg, 7,278 d.u., 5,264.08 mL
CURRENCY	\$1,884,637.00

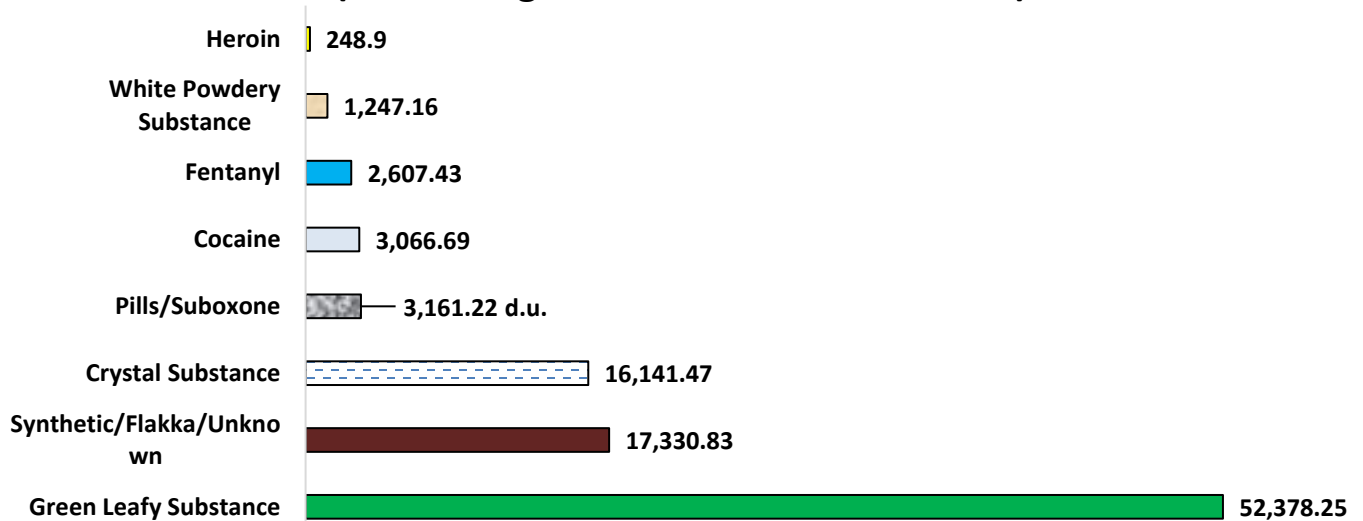
The **AFCARS** (The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System) in Alabama keeps track of children that unfortunately have to be removed at times from homes due to one or both parents drug abuse. Drug abuse in Alabama and how it affects children is a constant statistic to consider when looking at how drugs affect the community. Fortunately, Alabama did see a decrease in children having to be removed due to drugs in 2024. The number of children removed went from 1,495 in 2023 down to 1,301 in 2024.

Multiple drugs are confiscated yearly in the prison system of Alabama. According to the Department of Corrections the charts below depict several types of substances that were seized in the prison system in 2023 and 2024. (The amounts are in grams with the exception of the pills/Suboxone, which is in dosage units). **The only drugs that showed an increase was cocaine, and fentanyl.**

CY 2023 Drugs Confiscated in the Correctional System (Gram weights unless otherwise noted)

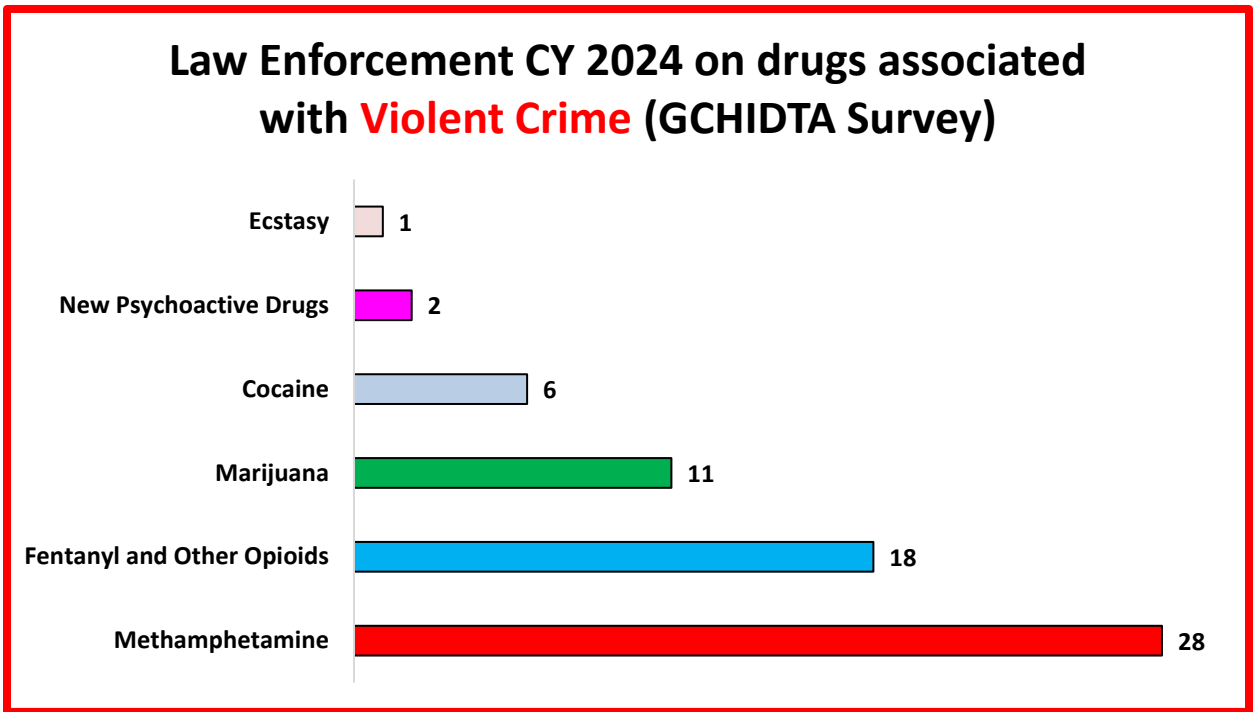


CY 2024 Drugs Confiscated in the Correctional System (Gram weights unless otherwise noted)

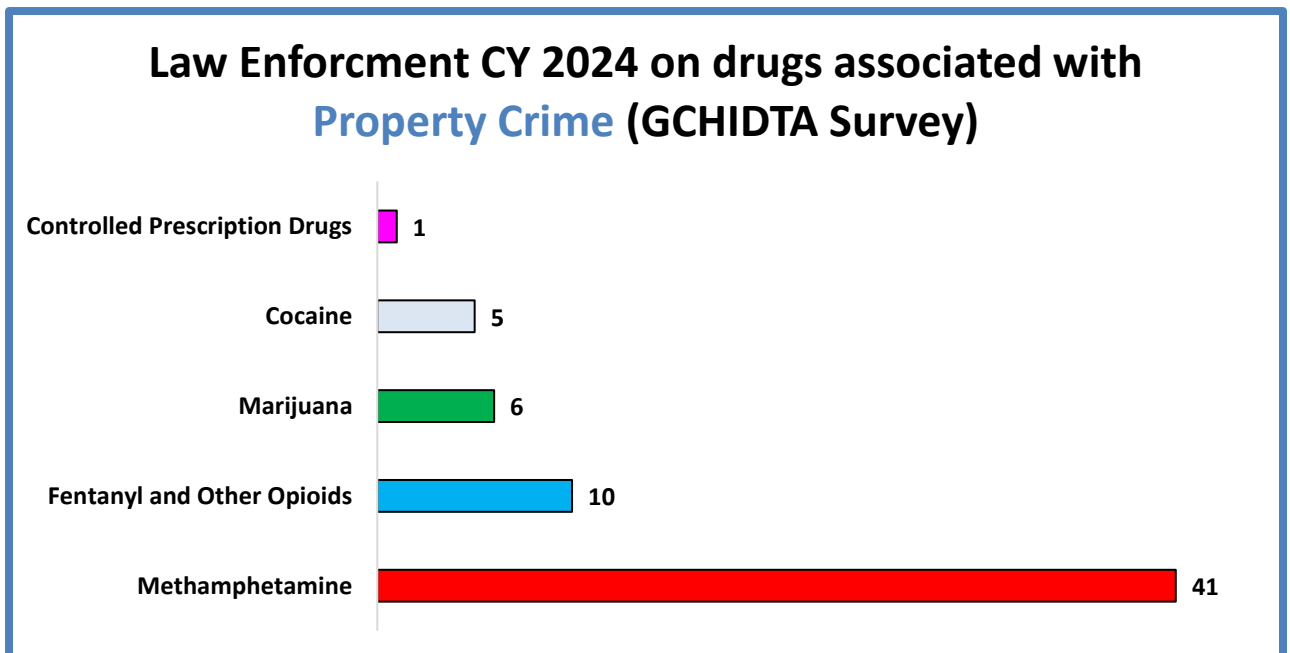


Based on data gathered from the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, the graphs below depict drugs most frequently associated with violent crime and property crime in Alabama per number of law enforcement respondents. The majority of law enforcement respondents indicated both violent and property crime is most closely associated with methamphetamine use within their jurisdictions.

DRUG MOST OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH **VIOLENT** CRIME in ALABAMA



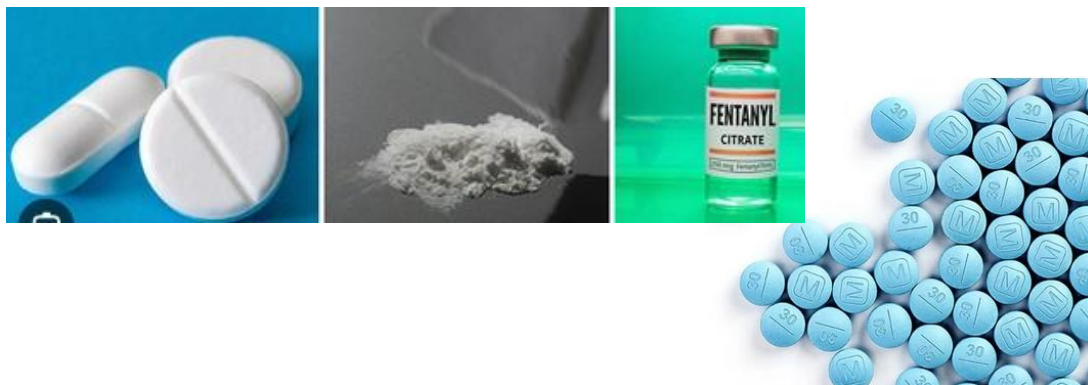
DRUG MOST OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH **PROPERTY** CRIME in ALABAMA



B. Fentanyl and other Opioids

1. Assessment of the Threat

According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, there were 2,040 admissions into treatment centers for the abuse of fentanyl in 2024 compared to 1,665 in 2023. Fentanyl is seeing a decrease in overdose deaths statewide, however, the mental health admissions attributed to fentanyl are continuing to increase throughout the State. In 2024, EPIC reported 26.76 kilograms, and 9,284 dosage units of fentanyl seized in investigations, and traffic stops in Alabama. Fentanyl has been seen in the form of counterfeit pills as well as mixed in with multiple other drugs.



2. Abuse

According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey taken by law enforcement, Black Americans are the primary wholesale, and retail distributors of fentanyl and other opioids. The table listed below documents statewide overdose fentanyl deaths. In Jefferson County alone, the fentanyl overdose death rate showed a drastic reduction in overdose deaths from 386 in 2023, to 253 in 2024.

FENTANYL OVERDOSE ONLY DEATHS 2024	
All Counties (excluding Jefferson County)	541
Jefferson County	253
TOTAL STATEWIDE	794

*Statewide overdose could be greater since all results have not been processed at the time of this report.

3. Availability

Fentanyl and other opioids were reported as the drug with the greatest increase in availability according to law enforcement, over 62 percent of respondents reporting a high availability in Alabama. Additionally, over 75 percent of treatment and prevention respondents reported a high level of use of fentanyl. Fentanyl is most commonly combined with cocaine, and controlled prescription drugs, but has been seen with heroin, methamphetamine, and marijuana as reported by law enforcement.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

Fentanyl and other opioids were ranked as the second greatest contributor to violent crime and property crime by law enforcement in Alabama. According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, law enforcement did put fentanyl second to methamphetamine on violent crime, while a lower number of respondents associated fentanyl with property crime.

5. Production

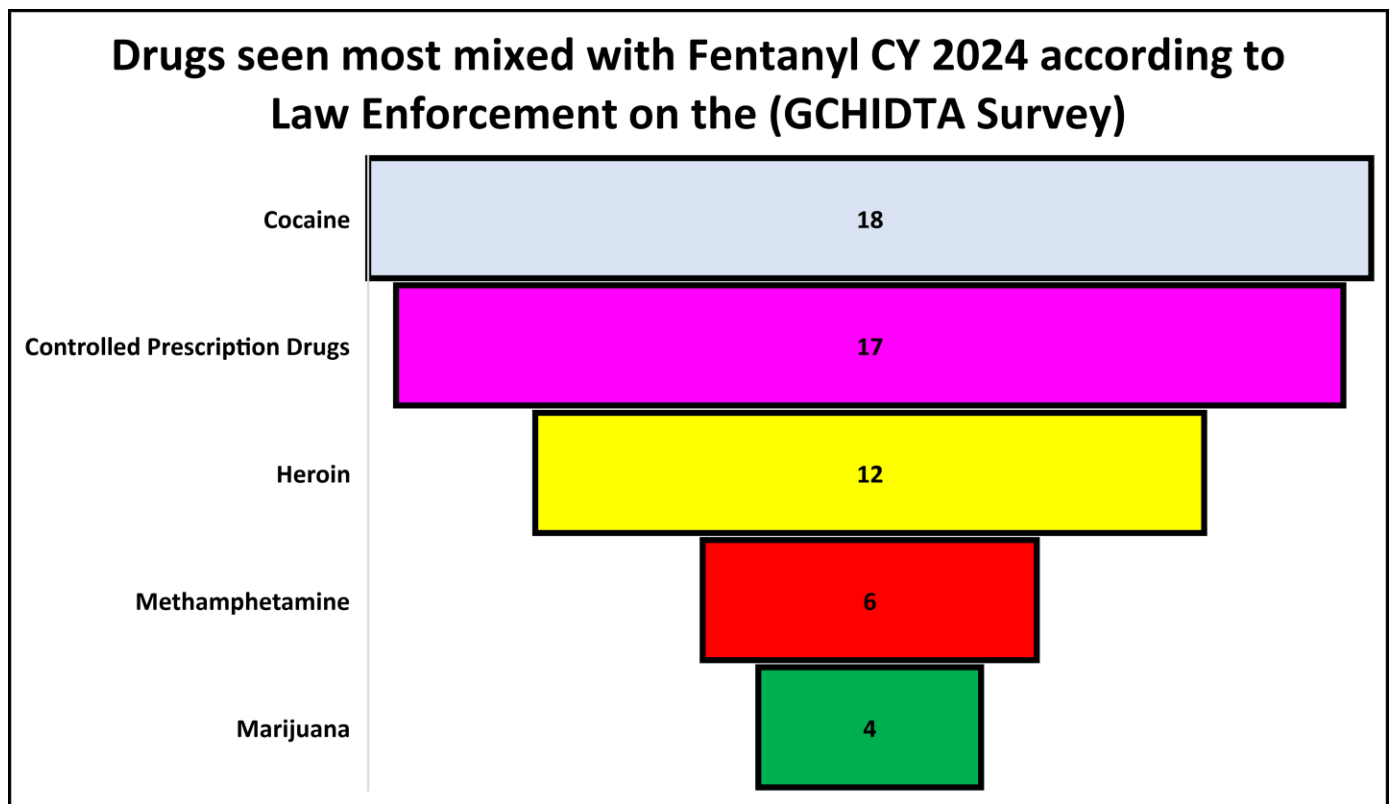
Fentanyl and other opioids are not produced in Alabama. Most of these opioids abused in Alabama are transported from out of state and/or across the border. On the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, fentanyl continues to be seen as mixed with other drugs. (see chart below).

6. Transportation

The majority of the law enforcement respondents on the GC HIDTA Drug Survey reported an increase in fentanyl transportation, which duplicates the response from last year. Over the past 12 months law enforcement response on the survey listed Caucasian American DTOs as the primary responsible group for the transportation of fentanyl and other opioids in Alabama. In 2024, EPIC traffic stops reported 1.29 kilograms, and 5 dosage units of fentanyl and other opioids seized in Alabama.

7. Distribution

According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, Black American DTOs are primarily responsible for the wholesale and retail distribution of fentanyl and other opioids, followed by Caucasian American DTOs.



C. Methamphetamine

1. Assessment of Threat

Methamphetamine is the second greatest drug threat in Alabama, following fentanyl and other opioids according to the law enforcement drug survey. Treatment and prevention respondents also reported methamphetamine as the second greatest drug threat. Methamphetamine continues to be reported as the greatest contributor to violent crime, property crime, according to the law enforcement survey answers. According to EPIC, there were 300.89 kilograms of methamphetamine seized through investigations, and traffic stops in Alabama in 2024.



2. Abuse

According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, 4,745 individuals sought treatment at state operated or funded institutions for abuse of methamphetamine in calendar year 2024. The results of methamphetamine/amphetamine found in the blood from traffic fatalities according to the Department of Forensic Science showed an increase 66 in 2023 to 94 in 2024

The NPLEX (National Precursor Log Exchange) reports the following data for Alabama in years 2023 and 2024 concerning the precursors used in methamphetamine production. There was a decrease in total grams sold as well as total grams blocked, however, the purchase activity, and total boxes sold and blocked box purchases did rise.

Data Years	Total Purchase Activity	Total Grams Sold	Total Boxes Sold	Blocked Box Purchases	Total Grams Blocked
2024 NPLEX total of amphetamine/products	632,885	1,319,604	649,651	25,463	65,739
2023 NPLEX total of amphetamine/products	621,563	1,324,889	637,730	23,160	84,688

3. Availability

The majority of methamphetamine seen in Alabama is transported into the area via the Interstate Highway System. Most of what is seen in Alabama is generally from the Southwest Border. The availability of methamphetamine continues to remain high in Alabama.

The 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey showed 33 law enforcement respondents indicating methamphetamine availability as increased or the same as last year (chart below). Treatment survey respondents also responded stating a high methamphetamine use.

Methamphetamine Availability according to LE	
Increased	33
Same	33
Decreased	2

Methamphetamine price is most often determined based on location within the state. According to law enforcement across the State, methamphetamine prices range from \$25 a gram up to \$6,000 a kilogram.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

In 2024, methamphetamine was still identified by law enforcement as the leading drug contributing to property crime, and violent crime.

5. Production

According to EPIC, there were no labs reported in Alabama for CY 2024. Most of the methamphetamine seized on the highways and in DTO investigations is Mexico-produced methamphetamine which is transported into the state.

6. Transportation

According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, Caucasian American DTOs are the transportation of methamphetamine into Alabama. EPIC reported 300.89 kilograms of methamphetamine seized in Alabama traffic stops, and investigations in 2024.

7. Distribution

Results from the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey indicates that Caucasian Americans are responsible for the wholesale and retail distribution of methamphetamine.

D. Marijuana

1. Assessment of the Threat

Marijuana is the second most used and available illegal drug in the state, followed by methamphetamine. Alabama has not legalized marijuana for recreational use but there are measures for medical use CBD in place. As of the writing of this report the medical cannabis system is not yet fully functional in the State. According to the statute in Alabama, the commission can award up to 12 cultivator licenses, 4 processor licenses, 4 dispensary licenses, and 5 integrated facility licenses. There is also an unspecified number of secure transport and state testing laboratory licenses that can be issued. With Alabama's weather, marijuana can be grown indoors, outdoors, and hydroponically. According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, marijuana is primarily distributed by black Americans.



2. Abuse

Marijuana has a very high usage rate according to treatment personnel on the CY 2024 GCHIDTA Survey in Alabama. The Alabama Department of Mental Health reported 5,306 individuals seeking treatment from marijuana in 2024.

3. Availability

Marijuana is available from three primary sources: locally produced marijuana, marijuana produced in states that allow the production, and Mexican produced marijuana. Most marijuana encountered in Alabama is transported via the interstate highway system. Law Enforcement ranked marijuana behind methamphetamine as most available according to the GCHIDTA Survey.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

Based on the law enforcement survey respondents, marijuana is now considered the third ranked drug leading to violent crime or property crime. This does represent a rise from previous years.

5. Production

The temperatures in Alabama certainly allow for marijuana to be grown outdoors. The Marijuana Eradication team coordinated by ALEA also encounters indoor grows in the State as well. According to EPIC, there were 1,029.39 kilos of marijuana seized in investigations, and traffic stops in Alabama in 2024. The tables shown on the following page show results of the marijuana eradication team seizures and hours flown in 2024.

FLIGHT HOURS FLOWN	COUNTIES
226.8	23

MARIJUANA ERADICATION 2024		
OUTDOOR		
GROW SITES	PLANTS SEIZED	ARRESTS
0	429	5
INDOOR		
GROW SITES	PLANTS SEIZED	ARRESTS
0	21	14

6. Transportation

For CY 2024 most marijuana seized in Alabama occurred from investigations. EPIC reported a total of 497.94 kilograms seized in traffic stops in Alabama in 2024. According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, Black American DTOs are the primary transporters of marijuana in Alabama. The origination points are mainly from the state of California.

7. Distribution

According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, marijuana is distributed primarily by Black American DTOs.

This section intentionally left blank.

E. Cocaine

1. Assessment of Threat

Cocaine, both powder and crack, continue to pose a threat to Alabama according to the GC HIDTA law enforcement and treatment survey respondents. Cocaine related mental health admissions showed over a 76% increase in 2024.



2. Abuse

According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, 2,290 individuals sought treatment for cocaine abuse in 2024, showing an increase of 1,264 individuals from 2023. On the GC HIDTA law enforcement survey, respondents listed cocaine as the most prevalent drug mixed in with fentanyl

3. Availability

Cocaine is available throughout the state. The majority of the respondents to the survey reported the availability of cocaine was stayed the same as the previous year. The 2026 GC HIDTA law enforcement survey responses indicated cocaine availability in Alabama is as follows:

Cocaine Availability according to LE	
	Number of Respondents
Increased	14
Decreased	9
Same	41

The price of cocaine (crack and powder), ranges from \$56 per gram to \$32,000 per kilogram as reported by law enforcement.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

The crime and violence associated with cocaine continues to be less of a threat compared to methamphetamine and fentanyl according to law enforcement in Alabama.

5. Production

Coca is not cultivated nor is cocaine produced within Alabama, but rather originates in South America, and is transported into Alabama via hub cities along the Southwest Border, and through Atlanta. Wholesale levels of cocaine are generally sold in powder form with street level retailers converting the powder cocaine to crack cocaine prior to retail.

6. Transportation

Black American DTOs are primarily responsible for the majority of the powder and crack cocaine transported into Alabama. Cocaine is transported to the area overland in private and commercial vehicles. According to EPIC they reported 253.81 kilograms of cocaine seized from Alabama traffic stops, and investigations in 2024.

7. Distribution

According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, Black American DTOs dominate the wholesale and retail distribution of crack and powder cocaine.

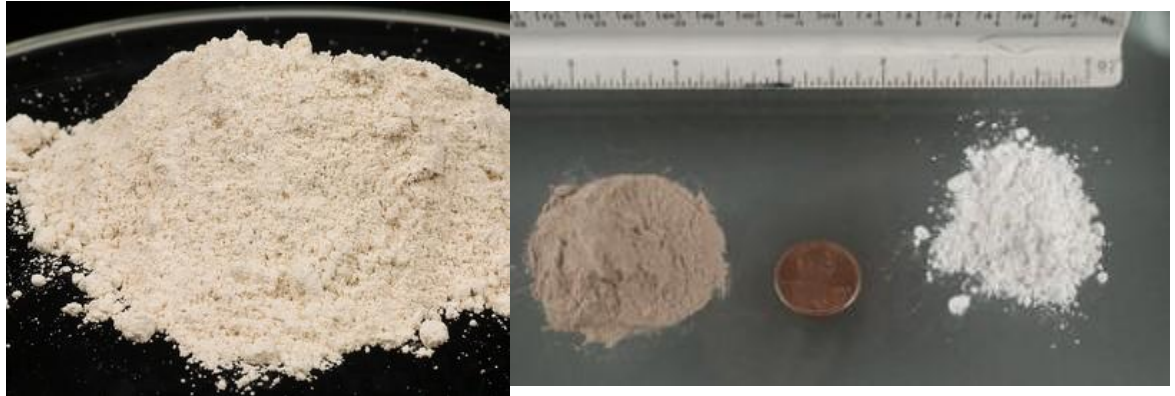
This section intentionally left blank.

F. Heroin

1. Assessment of the Threat

Heroin is a highly addictive drug processed from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of certain varieties of poppy plants.

Heroin comes in several forms, the main forms being “black tar” from Mexico (found primarily in the western United States) and white/brown powder from south of the border (primarily sold in the Southeast). Most of the heroin encountered in Alabama is in the powder form.



Heroin abuse and death is showing a continued decrease statewide in Alabama. The charts listed below show documented heroin deaths statewide for 2024 and 2023.

For calendar year 2024, Jefferson County forensics as well as the Department of Forensic Sciences show large decreases in heroin overdose deaths statewide.

HEROIN OVERDOSE DEATHS 2024	
All Counties (excluding Jefferson County)	15
Jefferson County	5
TOTAL STATEWIDE	20

HEROIN OVERDOSE DEATHS 2023	
All Counties (excluding Jefferson County)	34
Jefferson County	17
TOTAL STATEWIDE	51

2. Abuse

Alabama continues to see individuals seeking treatment for heroin abuse. According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, 1,970 individuals sought treatment for heroin abuse in 2024. The overdose numbers for heroin continue to be low, but the mental health admissions continue to rise.

3. Availability

The majority of law enforcement respondents to the GC HIDTA Drug Survey reported a remained the same status, in availability of heroin, while only 9 reported an increase in heroin availability. Heroin prices range from \$100 a gram to \$3,000 an ounce.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, heroin was not listed as a contributor of violent crime, or property crime in Alabama.

5. Production

Opium is not cultivated nor is heroin produced in Alabama. Heroin is produced primarily in Mexico, South America, Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Southwest Asia.

6. Transportation

Caucasian American DTOs were listed as the primary transporters of heroin to Alabama according to the GC HIDTA Drug Survey. Heroin is primarily transported to Alabama overland via private, commercial, and rental vehicles. EPIC reported in 2024 a total of 16.17 kilograms seized from traffic stops, and investigations, in Alabama.

7. Distribution

The 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey respondents indicated that Black American DTOs are the primary distributors of heroin.

This section intentionally left blank.

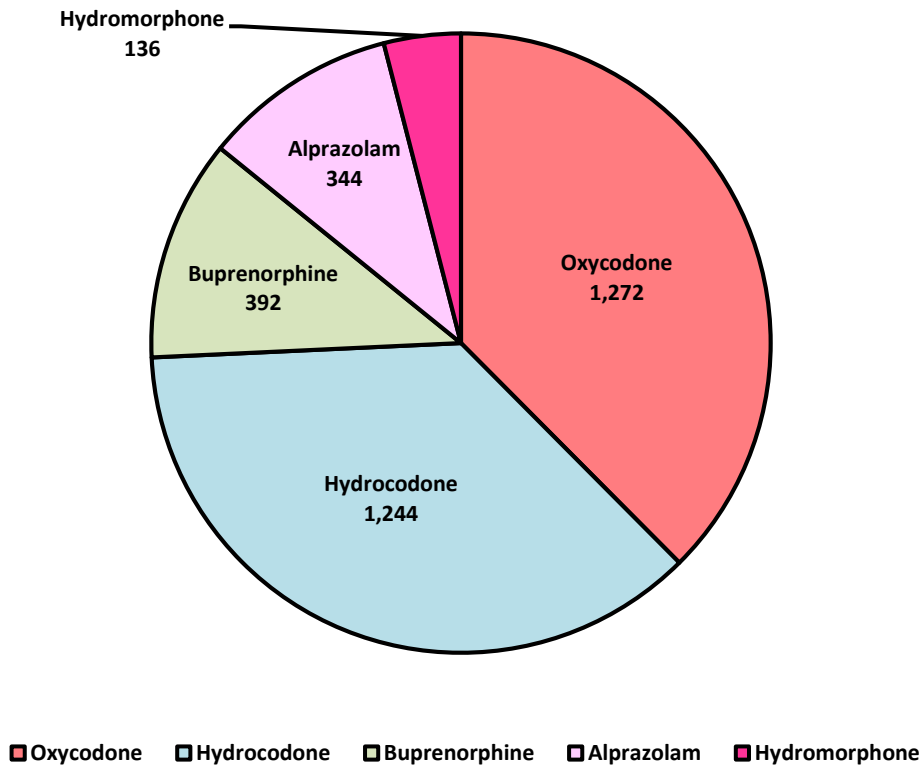
G. Controlled Prescription Drugs

1. Assessment of the Threat

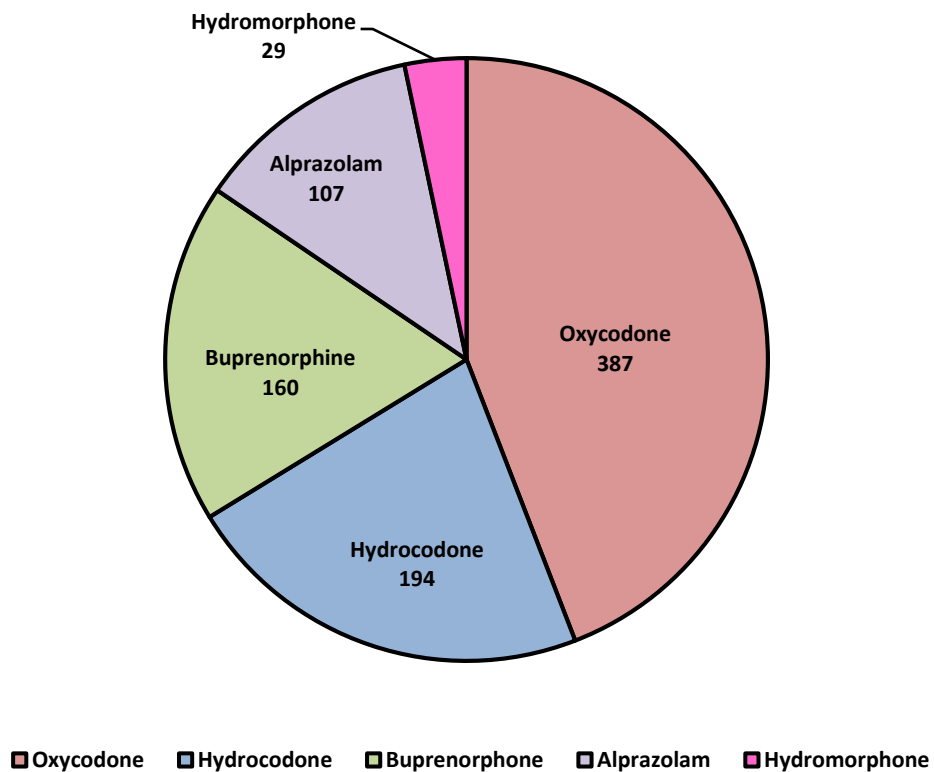
Oxycontin and hydrocodone are still the two most frequently abused controlled prescription drugs (CPDs) according to Mental Health statistics. There were 1,272 admissions to treatment centers attributed to oxycodone in 2024, representing an increase of 885 admissions from 2023. Hydrocodone also increased going from 194 in 2023 to 1,244 in 2024. The number of mental health treatment admissions for each of the pharmaceutical drugs listed in the charts on the next page show increases in every drug shown. According to law enforcement Caucasian American groups are still the primary distributors of controlled prescription drugs.



2024 Mental Health Admissions



2023 Mental Health Admissions



In 2024, the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences analyzed the following number of cases related to pharmaceuticals seen in overdose deaths, and DUI results:

RESULTS

• Alprazolam (Xanax):	144
• Codeine	21
• Dihydrocodeinone (Hydrocodone)	175
• Fentanyl	664
• Oxycodone	111

2. Abuse

According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey respondents, Caucasian American DTOs are the primary retail distributors of CPDs. According to the Alabama Department of Public Health, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, there were 10,422,636 prescriptions written in 2024 for Schedule 2-4 which shows an increase of 89,584 prescriptions written over the past year in Alabama. The chart listed on the following page shows the statistics as broken down by the last two years and the Category/Schedule of drugs.

YEAR	CATEGORY	RECIPIENT COUNT	RX COUNT	QTY DISPENSED	DAYS OF SUPPLY
2024	C2	1,133,737	5,381,980	279,400,809	123,741,154
2024	C3	218,955	1,183,686	40,963,903	33,901,395
2024	C4	719,732	3,856,970	185,514,124	105,643,231
2023	C2	1,139,367	5,255,579	276,745,481	119,816,903
2023	C3	203,339	1,101,436	39,195,525	31,018,983
2023	C4	748,075	3,976,037	192,427,514	108,926,030

As listed on the DEA website the following controlled substance definitions describe the basic or parent chemical and do not necessarily describe the salts, isomers and salts of isomers, esters, ethers and derivatives which may also be classified as controlled substances. These lists are intended as general references and are not comprehensive listings of all controlled substances.

Schedule II (C2 on chart above) substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with a high potential for abuse, less abuse potential than Schedule I drugs, with use potentially leading to severe psychological or physical dependence. These drugs are also considered dangerous. Some examples of Schedule II drugs are:

Cocaine, methamphetamine, methadone, hydromorphone (Dilaudid), meperidine (Demerol), oxycodone (OxyContin), fentanyl, Dexedrine, Adderall, and Ritalin

Schedule III (C3 on chart above) substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with a moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence. Schedule III drugs abuse potential is less than Schedule I and Schedule II drugs but more than Schedule IV.

Combination products with less than 15 milligrams of hydrocodone per dosage unit (Vicodin), Products containing less than 90 milligrams of codeine per dosage unit (Tylenol with codeine), ketamine, anabolic steroids, testosterone

Schedule IV (C4 on chart above) substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with a low potential for abuse and low risk of dependence. Some examples of Schedule IV drugs are:

Xanax, Soma, Darvon, Darvocet, Valium, Ativan, Talwin, Ambien

3. Availability

According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, the majority of law enforcement respondents reported CPDs as Moderately available in Alabama. They also stated that the availability had mostly stayed the same as last year.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Survey, only a very small number of law enforcement respondents indicated that CPDs contributed to property crimes or violent crimes in Alabama.

5. Production

There are several pharmaceutical companies located in Alabama. Generics Bidco I, LLC, dba Qualitest Pharmaceuticals, Inc. which manufactures and sells prescription and over-the-counter products is located in Huntsville. Oxford Pharmaceuticals which manufactures generic drugs is located in Birmingham. According the GC HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey, the majority of controlled prescription drugs originate here in Alabama. These answers are very likely where the drugs were seized, and not necessarily where they are manufactured.

6. Transportation

CPDs are primarily transported by private and commercial vehicles. Caucasian American DTOs have been identified as transporting the majority of diverted pharmaceuticals into Alabama. In 2024, EPIC traffic stops, and investigations, reported 7,278 dosage units, 52,264.08 milliliters, and 550.65 kilograms seized in Alabama.

7. Distribution

The majority of respondents of the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey reported Caucasian American DTOs as the primary wholesale and retail distributors of CPDs in Alabama. Unfortunately, there are many seizures in Alabama that contain counterfeit prescription drugs. According to the treatment survey the number one counterfeit drug seized in 2024 was Oxycodone. Law enforcement listed Xanax as the number one counterfeit drug they seized in 2024.

H. New Psychoactive Substances

1. Assessment of the Threat

New Psychoactive substances which includes PCP, LSD, GBL, and GHB are not seen as a major threat in Alabama currently. Synthetic cannabinoids continue to change in their chemical makeup which can cause quite a dangerous problem when used. The synthetic cannabinoids are drugs that are made up of mind-altering substances intended to produce a high like that of marijuana. These types of drugs act on the same brain receptors as THC and CBD do, however, since they are man-made and can be a mixture of chemicals, they can become very dangerous once ingested.



2. Abuse

The presence of LSD and MDMA continues to be available in Alabama according to the Mental Health Admissions data. Synthetic cannabinoids have not shown a large presence in the admission data for 2024. According to EPIC, 4.10 kilograms and 252 dosage units of new psychoactive drugs were seized in Alabama from investigations and traffic stops in 2024.

3. Availability

The majority of law enforcement respondents from the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey reported new psychoactive substances as being the same availability as the previous year. The Department of Forensic Sciences only showed one synthetic cannabinoid showing a slight increase and that was 5F-ADB, which went from 1 in 2023 to 5 in 2024.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

New psychoactive substances are rarely reported as associated to violent or property crime, however, according to the GC HIDTA Drug Survey, two respondents did state it contributed to violent crime.

5. Production

There is no evidence of new psychoactive drugs being produced in Alabama.

6. Transportation

According to the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, Caucasian American DTOs are listed as the transporters of new psychoactive substances. These DTOs transport via the highways and mail as the main source of transportation.

7. Distribution

Black American DTOs are listed as the main retail distributors of new psychoactive substances according to GCHIDTA Survey. The most prominent areas for distribution continue to be social functions of the younger generation; however, there continues to be individual dealers that sell new psychoactive substances on the street as well.

This section intentionally left blank.

IV. DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION

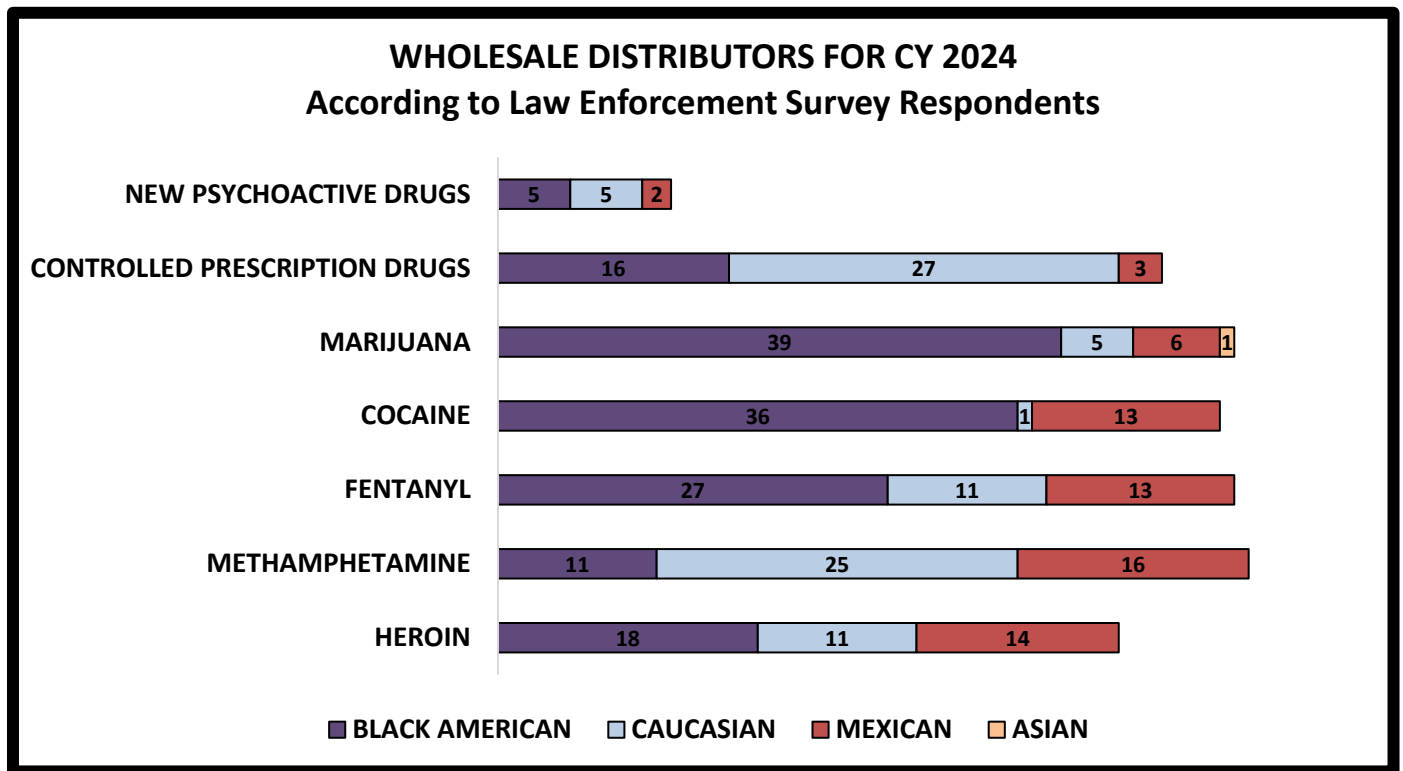
Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) are the primary subjects who control the main drug distribution details in a defined area whether it be locally, regionally, nationally or internationally. Within Alabama, these groups can vary widely depending on where the source of the drug, and who or how that particular drug is distributed in a specific area.

a. Sources of Drugs

Fentanyl is mostly encountered transported from Mexico into Alabama, however, the state with the biggest distribution location for Alabama is Georgia. According to law enforcements respondents from the survey, the availability of fentanyl is the highest in their area. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, nationwide the source of fentanyl is ultimately Mexico. Marijuana according to the GC HIDTA Survey is sourced from California. Diverted pharmaceuticals as well as new psychoactive drugs are sourced from any available avenue but according to treatment survey respondents, a street dealer is the most used by abusers.

b. Groups in Alabama distributing the drugs

The following chart documents the main criminal groups according to law enforcement respondents responsible for the wholesale distribution of drugs in Alabama. As the chart below documents, Black American DTOs and Caucasian DTOs are responsible for most of the drug categories, however Mexican DTOs do show a large presence in heroin, fentanyl, and marijuana. Methamphetamine, and controlled prescription drugs, are primarily the Caucasian American DTOs. While Black American DTOs are primarily responsible for fentanyl, marijuana, and cocaine.



V. ILLICIT FINANCE

DTOs always look for ways to hide their illegal currency from law enforcement. The top SAR Activity for Alabama in 2024 was the Depository Institutions. Money Service businesses via SAR reports are standing at number two for Alabama. According to EPIC the currency seizures from traffic stops and investigations for Alabama in 2024 totaled \$1,884,637.00. Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA/SBI) reported 975,532.47 currency seized for 2024.

Suspicious Activity Reports

FinCEN reported 110 SARS filed by casinos and card clubs in Alabama in 2024, which shows a decrease from 2023. The SAR totals as reported to FinCen in the categories below have shown decreases with the exception of SAR (Casino/Card Clubs), and SAR (Depository Institutions). The chart below shows the SAR reports for Alabama as reported to FinCEN during calendar years 2023 and 2024.

FinCEN Suspicious Activity Reports 2023-2024		
	2023	2024
SAR-C (Casino and Card Clubs)	144	110
SAR-DI (Depository Institution)	28,313	29,733
SAR MSB (Money Service Businesses)	11,441	9,693
SAR (Other business)	143	0

The Depository Institutions, and the Money Service Businesses continue to top the list in Alabama when it comes to SAR filings. The Depository Institutions show the most filed SARS for 2024. The below chart explains the top reasons for the SARS filed by Depository Institutions, and Money Service Businesses in Alabama. The characteristic of Other suspicious activities did show a slight increase from 2,459 in 2023 to 2,505 in 2024, while all other categories did show a decrease.

Top Characteristics listed on SARS filed for Money Service Business	
Transaction(s) Below BSA Recordkeeping Threshold	4,182
Two or more individuals working together	3,301
Suspicious use of multiple transaction locations	2,513
Other suspicious activities	2,505

Top Characteristics listed on SARS filed for Depository Institutions	
Check	14,378
Transaction(s) below CTR Threshold	6,471
Suspicion Concerning the Source of Funds	5,037
Counterfeit Instrument	4,780

VI. OUTLOOK

Based on the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, fentanyl is still considered to be the most significant drug threat in Alabama for law enforcement respondents, and treatment and prevention respondents. Based on 2024 data from forensic statistics, fentanyl has finally seen a decrease in deaths statewide. Marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, and controlled prescription drugs show increases in mental health admissions, however, cocaine increased more than the other drugs for 2024. Methamphetamine continues to remain the number one drug for its contribution to violent and property crime in Alabama. Heroin although not reported by law enforcement nor treatment personnel as a drug threat in 2024, does show increased mental health admissions. Marijuana will continue to be widely available and in high demand in Alabama as marijuana related mental health admissions continue to increase, and law enforcement continues to seize large quantities of the drug.

The southwest border along with Atlanta, Georgia, will remain the primary distribution point for most drugs coming into Alabama. With marijuana, the main distribution source was documented as California.

Oxycodone, and hydrocodone continue to remain the primary CPDs most frequently abused. Other dangerous drugs such as xylazine is now more of a threat than the synthetic cannabinoids, hallucinogens, and other designer drugs in Alabama. Xylazine a pain-relieving tranquilizer frequently mixed with other drugs saw drastic increases across the country in 2023. The Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences showed xylazine as being the largest increase in all of their toxicology case types in 2024. ****xylazine was added as a regular drug to be tested for in October of 2023 in Alabama, which could account for the drastic increase in numbers.**

The main communication of drug distributors in Alabama continues to be WhatsApp according to the GCHIDTA Survey. Illegal drug transactions will probably also continue to take place via the internet and dark web. All virtual currencies that are used to obtain drugs will continue to pose a challenging avenue for law enforcement in Alabama.

This section intentionally left blank.

VII. METHODOLOGY

In December 1996, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) designated 12 counties/parishes across Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama as the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (GC HIDTA); additional counties/parishes were designated at later dates. In 2008, the GC HIDTA added four additional designated counties located in Arkansas and in 2010 the county of Shelby Tennessee was added. Northwest Florida became a member of the Gulf Coast HIDTA in 2016. Combined, the six states serve as a gateway/throughway for drugs crossing into the United States and as a transit and staging zone for drug distribution.

The 2026 Alabama Drug Threat Assessment details the drug categories of fentanyl and other opioids, methamphetamine, heroin, controlled prescription drugs, cocaine, marijuana, and new psychoactive substances. Also included within the threat assessment are details on drug admissions/treatment given at various mental health facilities located across the state as well as statistics from several agencies that handles forensics and overdoses.

Sources used to create this assessment include statistics from the 2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA), Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, Alabama Department of Mental Health, Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Department of Human Resources and various law enforcement agencies who contributed individual statistics from their area.

This section intentionally left blank.

VIII. APPENDICES, TABLES AND ADDENDUMS

The following two charts includes totals accounting for all traffic stops reported to EPIC in CY 2024

EPIC Total Traffic Stops in Alabama for 2024 with currency, illegal drugs, controlled prescription drugs, and/or drug paraphernalia seized
113

EPIC 2024 Total of each drug and currency seized in stops	
Methamphetamine	83.96 kilos
Marijuana	497.94 kilos, 152 gummies
Cocaine	126.48 kilos
Heroin	7.55 kilos
Fentanyl	1.29 kilos, 5 d.u.
Controlled Prescription Drugs	.11 kilos, 292 d.u.
Other Dangerous Drugs	.594 kilos, 16 d.u., 8 bags
Currency	603,759.00 dollars

This section intentionally left blank.

SAFETY CONCERNS / TRENDS/ OF VARIOUS DRUGS SEEN IN ALABAMA or SURROUNDING STATES or NATIONWIDE

Medetomidine

Medetomidine is a veterinary analgesic which has been seen in the northeast mixed in with various drugs in the U.S.. Medetomidine is much more powerful than xylazine and can be very dangerous since it is not an opioid which makes Naloxone useless if it is the only drug a person has overdosed on. Several drug mixtures that contained medetomidine did contain xylazine and fentanyl. States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, and Florida have detected medetomidine in labs. Medetomidine is usually found as a white crystalline powder but can be mixed with an injectable solution.

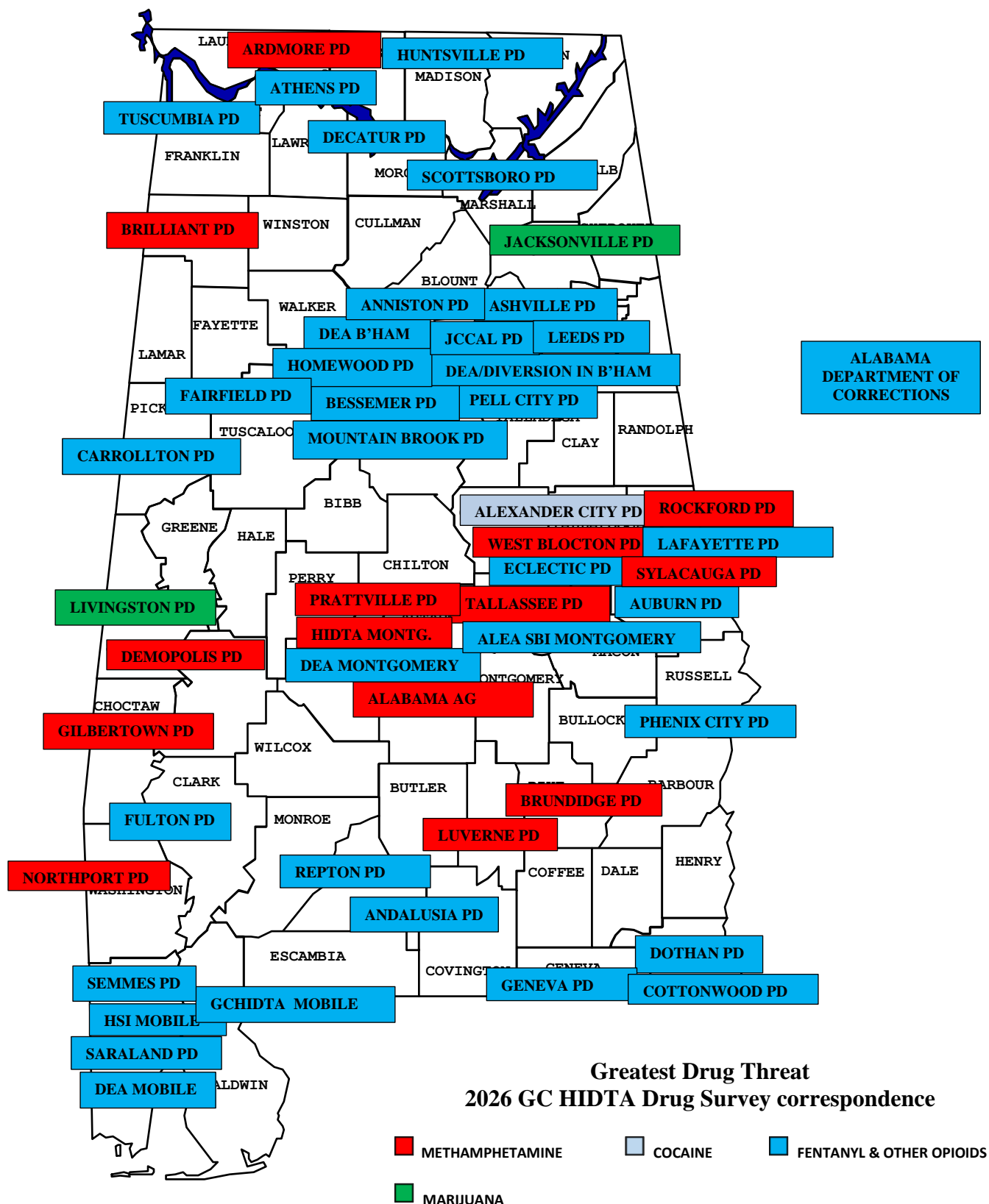


Pink Cocaine

Pink cocaine is a powdered mixture of substances which is dyed pink. Pink cocaine has been known to be called tusi. DEA labs across the country have noted combinations of Ketamine and MDMA; Methamphetamine with Ketamine, and MDMA; Cocaine and fentanyl; Fentanyl and xylazine. Effects of this drug could be very dangerous depending on not only the drug combination but how much of each drug is used.



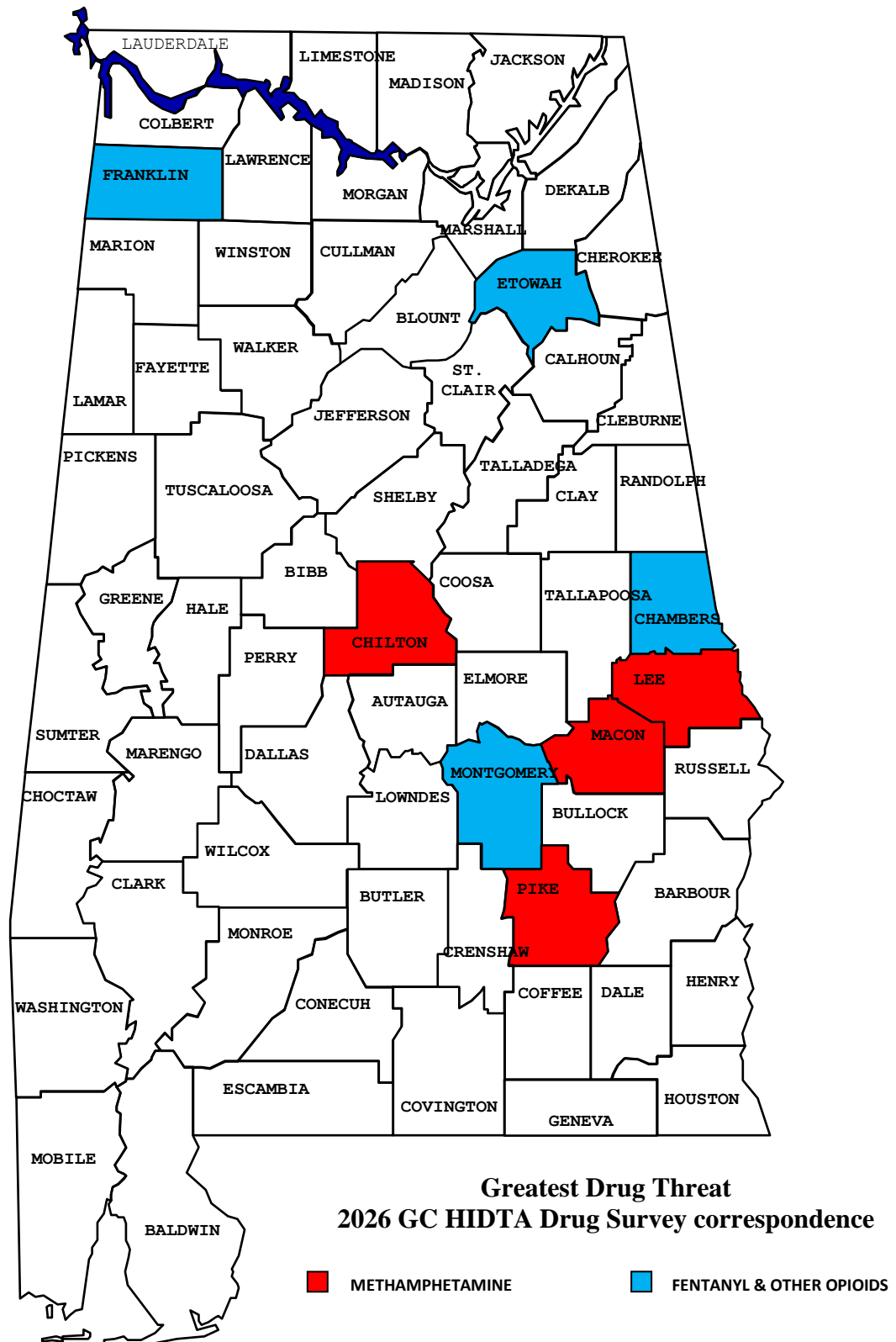
2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey with Alabama PD/DTF/Board Agencies



***If there is more than one answer per agency, then the answer with the most is recorded, or if only two are presented, then the first response is used.**

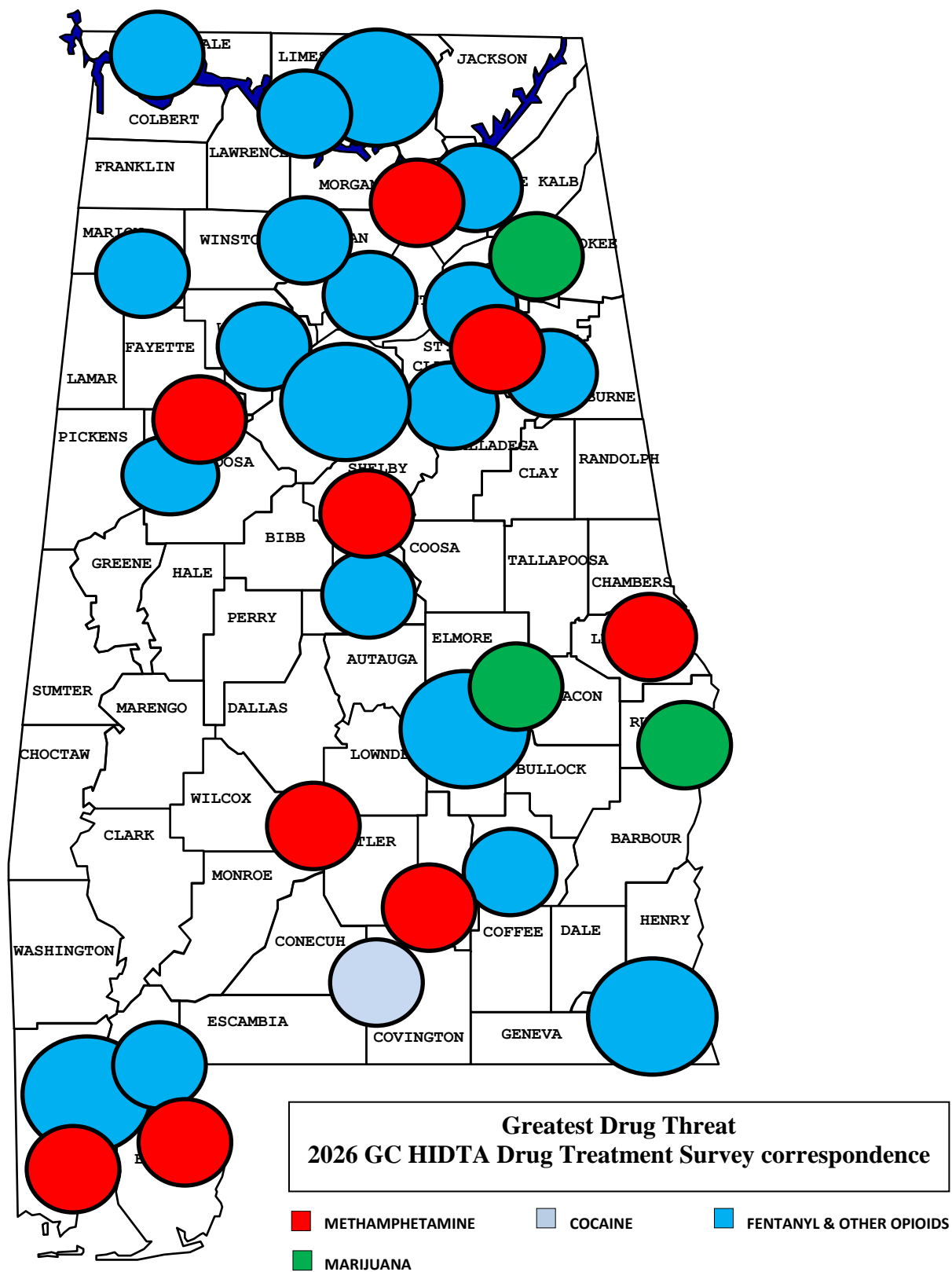
2026 GC HIDTA Drug Survey

County Sheriff Offices



*If there is more than one answer per agency, then the answer with the most is recorded, or if only two are presented, then the first response is used.

2026 GC HIDTA Treatment and Prevention Survey



*If there is more than one answer per center, then the answer with the most is recorded, or if only two are presented, then the first response is used.

**Due to privacy issues the actual names of the treatment centers participating in the Survey have been hidden from the map.

A. Additional Sources

The following agencies contributed additional sources to the Alabama Drug Threat Assessment:

Alabama Department of Corrections (DOC)
Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences
Alabama Department of Human Resources
Alabama Department of Mental Health
Alabama Department of Public Health
Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA)
Jefferson County Coroner's Office
Drug Enforcement Administration / HIDTA
El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC)
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)
NPLeX Dashboard Report
U.S. Census Bureau

This section intentionally left blank.

B. Illicit Drug Prices for Alabama (2024 prices)

Cocaine (Crack)

State/Territory/District City
Price in Dollars

	Gram	Ounce
Birmingham	60	N/A
Mobile	56-100	900-1,300
Montgomery	60-80	1,000
Huntsville	N/A	700

Cocaine (Powder)

State/Territory/District City
Price in Dollars

	Gram	Ounce	Kilogram
Birmingham	60-75	900	31,000-32,000
Mobile	80-100	1,100-1,400	27,000-28,000
Montgomery	80-100	1,200	16,500 -17,000
Huntsville	N/A	1,000	N/A

Methamphetamine

State/Territory/District City
Price in Dollars

	Gram	Ounce	Pound	Kilogram
Birmingham	30-50	150-200	800	N/A
Mobile	90-100	150-200	2,000-3,200	3,000-6,000
Montgomery	25-30	150-250	1,500-2,500	4,000-5,000
Huntsville	N/A	150	N/A	N/A

High Grade Marijuana

State/Territory/District City
Price in Dollars

	Gram	Ounce	Pound
Birmingham	20	200	1,500-2,000
Mobile	N/A	130-200	1,500-2,200
Montgomery	10	150-200	1,200-1,500
Huntsville	N/A	N/A	N/A

Heroin (Brown)

State/Territory/District City

Price in Dollars

	Gram	Ounce	Kilogram
Birmingham	100-150	2,500	N/A
Mobile	125-175	1,900-3,000	N/A
Montgomery	N/A	N/A	N/A
Huntsville	N/A	2,500	N/A

Fentanyl

State/Territory/District City

Price in Dollars

	Pill	Gram	Ounce	Kilogram
Birmingham	N/A	100-150	2,500	N/A
Mobile	2	50	1,200-1,400	N/A
Montgomery	10-20	50-70	1,500	N/A
Huntsville	N/A	N/A	1,200	N/A

MDMA

State/Territory/District City

Price in Dollars

	Dosage/Unit
Birmingham	1
Mobile	1-5
Montgomery	2
Huntsville	1

Spice / K2 (Synthetic Cannabinoids)

State/Territory/District City

Price in Dollars

	Package
Birmingham	N/A
Mobile	3-5
Montgomery	N/A
Huntsville	N/A

LSD

State/Territory/District City

Price in Dollars

	Tablets	Full Sheet
Birmingham	N/A	N/A
Mobile	N/A	N/A
Montgomery	N/A	
Huntsville	N/A	N/A