



DEA BULLETIN



(U) Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization's Influence on the New York Drug Trade

(U) This DEA Bulletin is based on preliminary reporting and may be subject to updating as additional information becomes available.

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(U) Event

(U//DSEN) Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) have significant influence on the drug trade in the New York area. Mexican DTOs, along with Dominican and Colombian DTOs, are the most prominent organizations involved in the transportation and wholesale distribution of drugs in New York State. Mexican DTOs have a substantial impact on drug trafficking in the New York area as they continue to be sources of supply for cocaine, heroin, marijuana and crystal methamphetamine for already established drug trafficking networks operating in the area. The illegal drug proceeds are sent back to Mexico via multiple routes, such as bulk shipment, banking institutions, and body carriers.

(U) Significance

(U//DSEN) The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) New York Division currently has 33 priority target investigations linked to a Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT), with 88 percent (29) linked to Mexican CPOTS. More than half (18) of the CPOTS are connected to the Sinaloa Cartel. This may indicate that Mexican cartels, especially the Sinaloa Cartel, have substantial influence on the New York drug market.

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(U) Details

(U//DSEN) Mexican DTOs are sources for cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and crystal methamphetamine for New York-based DTOs. The Mexican DTOs are often involved in the transportation of these drug shipments to the New York area. DEA reporting reveals that Mexican DTOs primarily supply Dominican distribution cells in New York. The Mexican DTOs are also known to have dealt with Colombian and African American traffickers, as well as other groups. Mexican DTOs primarily deal with Dominicans in New York because of their strong presence in the drug trade. In a recent New York Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation, agents seized five kilograms of Mexican brown heroin (transported from Mexico to New York) from an active heroin mill operated by Dominican traffickers in the Bronx, New York.

(U//DSEN) DEA reporting indicates that members of the Mexican DTOs typically have not resided in New York but are present in New York to oversee or deliver drug shipments or to receive drug proceeds. However, several recent investigations have revealed members of Mexican DTOs reside in New York, or plan to reside in New York, with the intent to expand or establish a customer base. DEA reporting from one New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force investigation revealed that a Mexican DTO supplied a New York-based Dominican DTO with crystal methamphetamine. Two Mexican DTO members had established residency in New York to build a customer base. DEA reporting indicates that upon the arrest of the Dominican DTO members, the Mexican DTO members in New York returned to the West Coast.

(U//DSEN) The influence of Mexican DTO's on drug trafficking in New York can also be seen from the Division's seizures of black tar heroin and crystal methamphetamine. Although the quantities seized pale in comparison to cocaine and powdered heroin, seizures of these drugs are no longer uncommon. New York has a limited customer base for black tar heroin and crystal methamphetamine as indicated by the Division's cases. However, investigations indicate that Mexican DTOs continue to look for new customers in the New York area.

(U//DSEN) The 2010 United States Census indicates that the Mexican population of New York has been growing rapidly, nearly doubling since 2000. At current rates of growth, by 2020 the Mexican population will surpass Dominicans and Puerto Ricans to become New York's largest Hispanic group. It appears likely that Mexican influence will remain strong in the New York area for the foreseeable future.

(U) This product was prepared by the DEA New York Division. Comments and questions may be addressed to the Chief, Analysis and Production Section at dea.onsi@usdoj.gov.