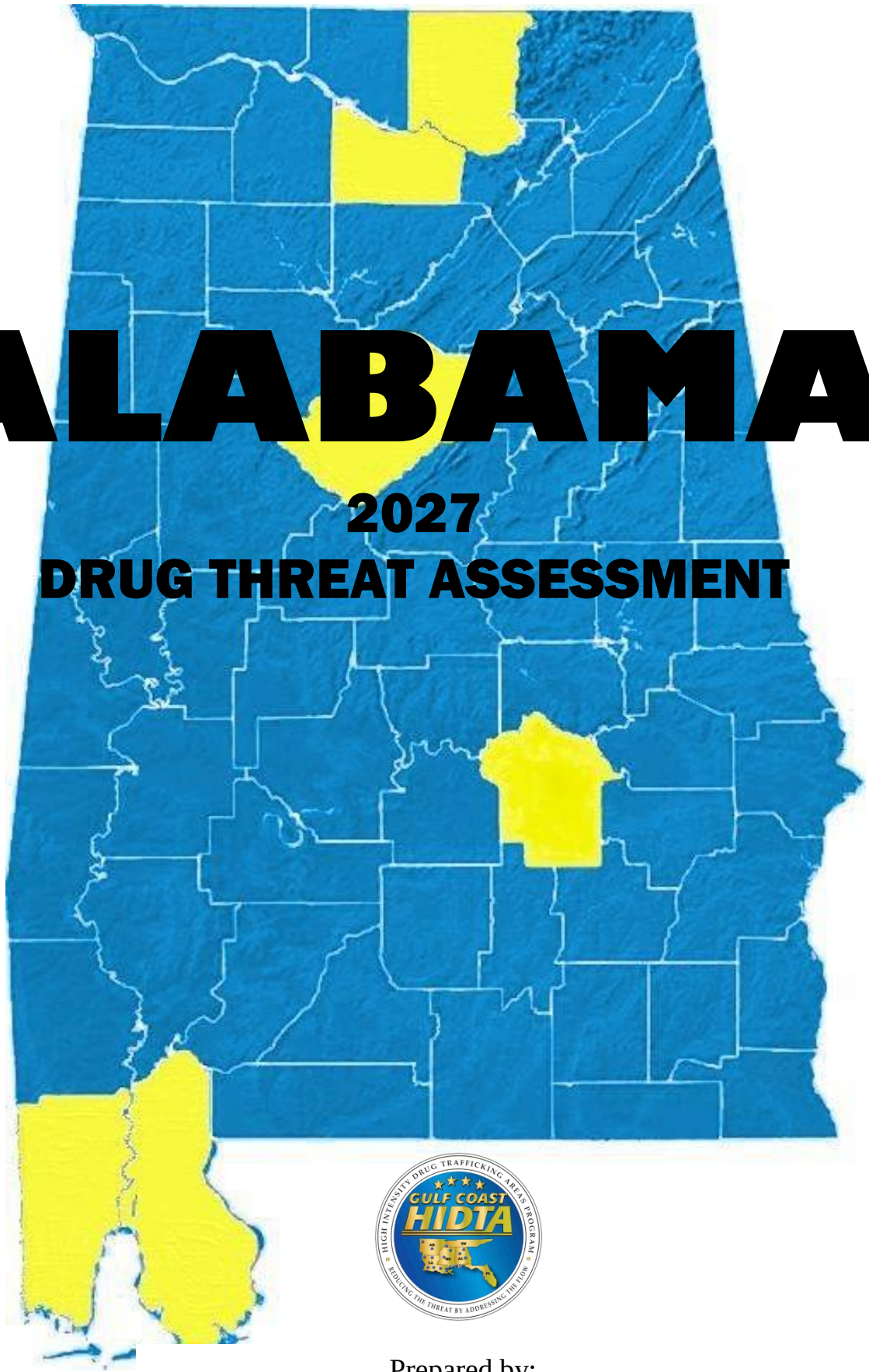


ALABAMA

2027
DRUG THREAT ASSESSMENT

Prepared by:
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Montgomery, Alabama
March 6, 2026

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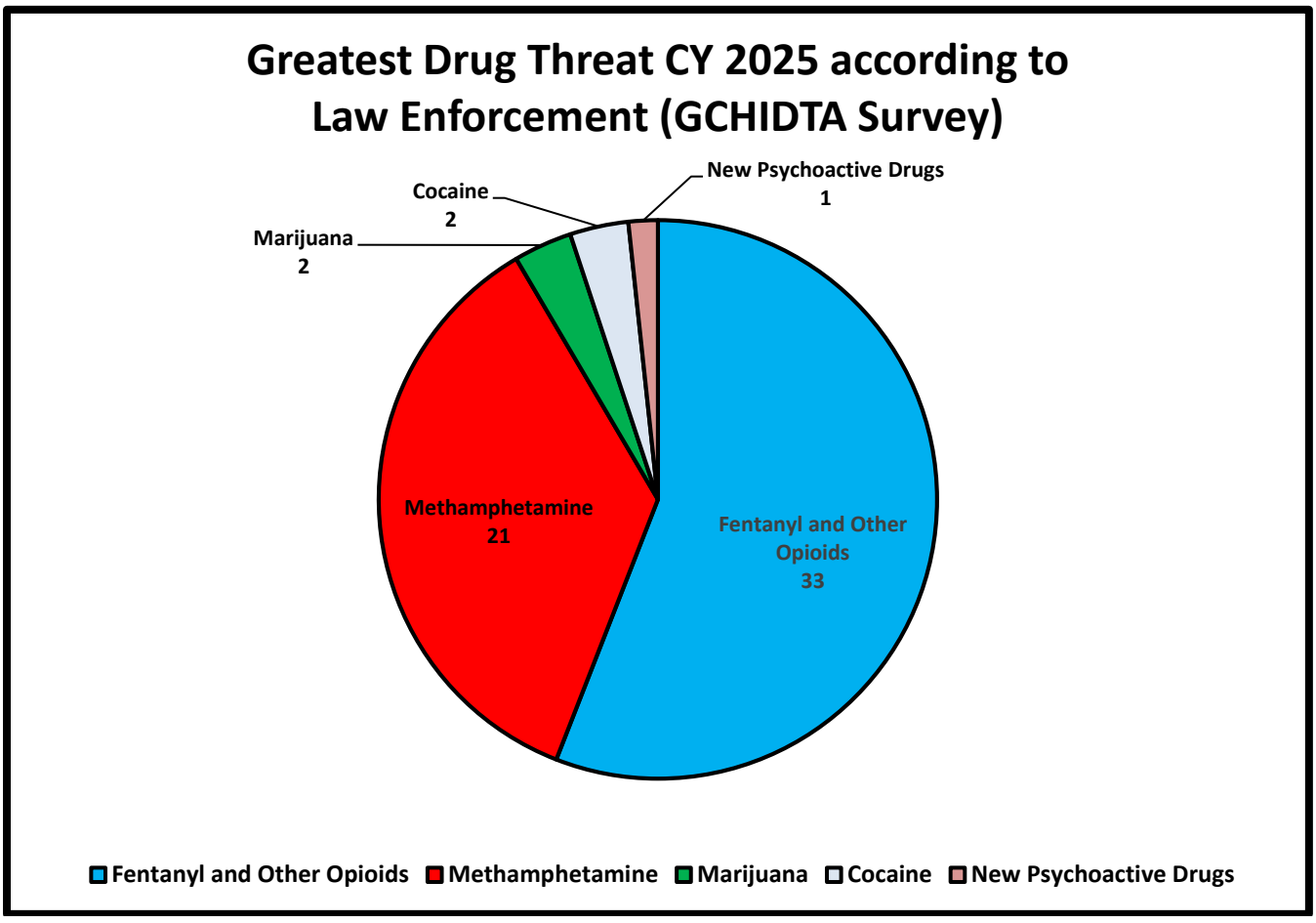
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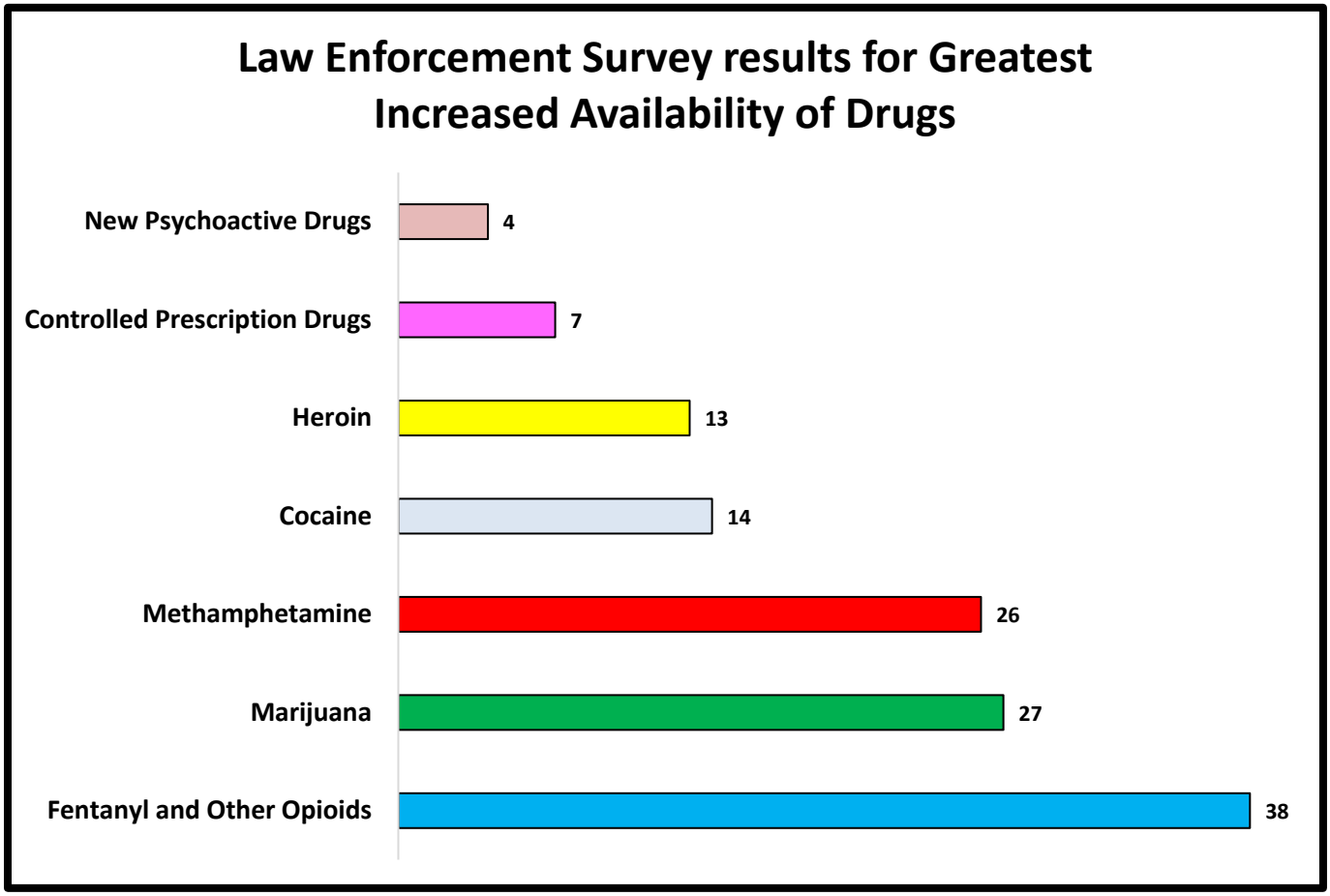
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alabama with its close location to major drug distribution centers to the east, and with a quick travel to the Southwest border, makes it very convenient to drug traffickers. The main interstate roads through Alabama also make it quite easy to travel and distribute drugs in the State.

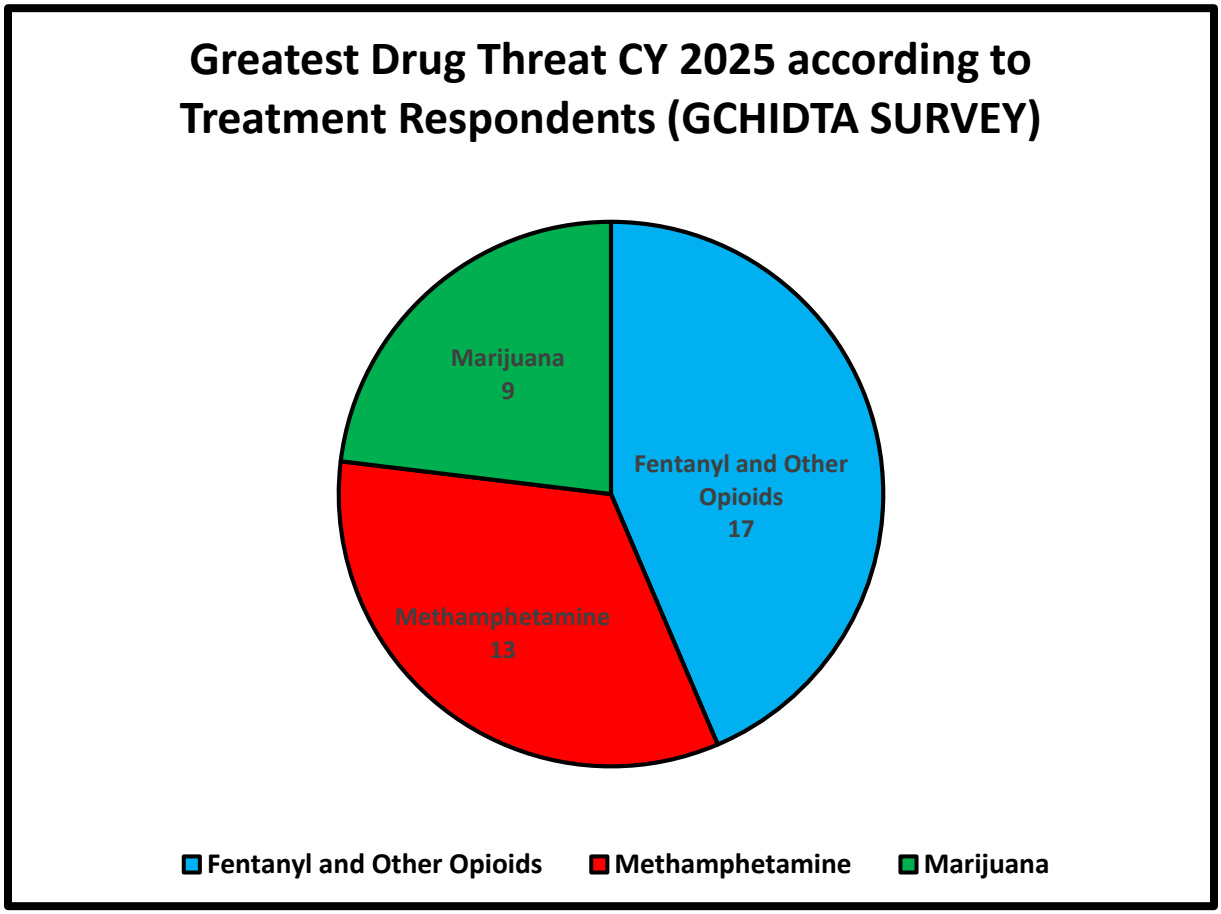
The diagram below depicts the greatest drug threat as documented by results from the 2027 GC HIDTA law enforcement survey respondents. There were 59 law enforcement respondents across Alabama that answered the greatest drug threat question. This year fentanyl and other opioids was recorded once again as the number one greatest drug threat across the State. (A map showing responses per agency/location is listed in the appendix).



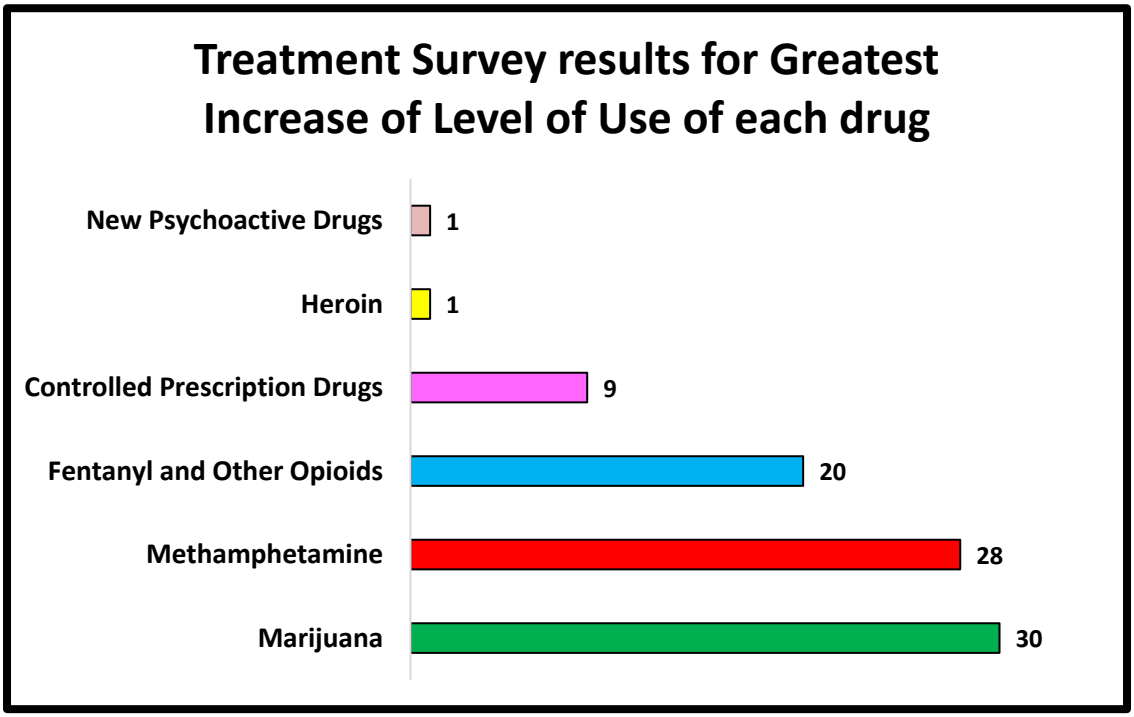
According to the law enforcement respondents on the Survey, the following is what they consider to be the drugs increasing as most available in their part of the State. This ranking is based on each drug and using only the increased category per drug and per law enforcement respondent.



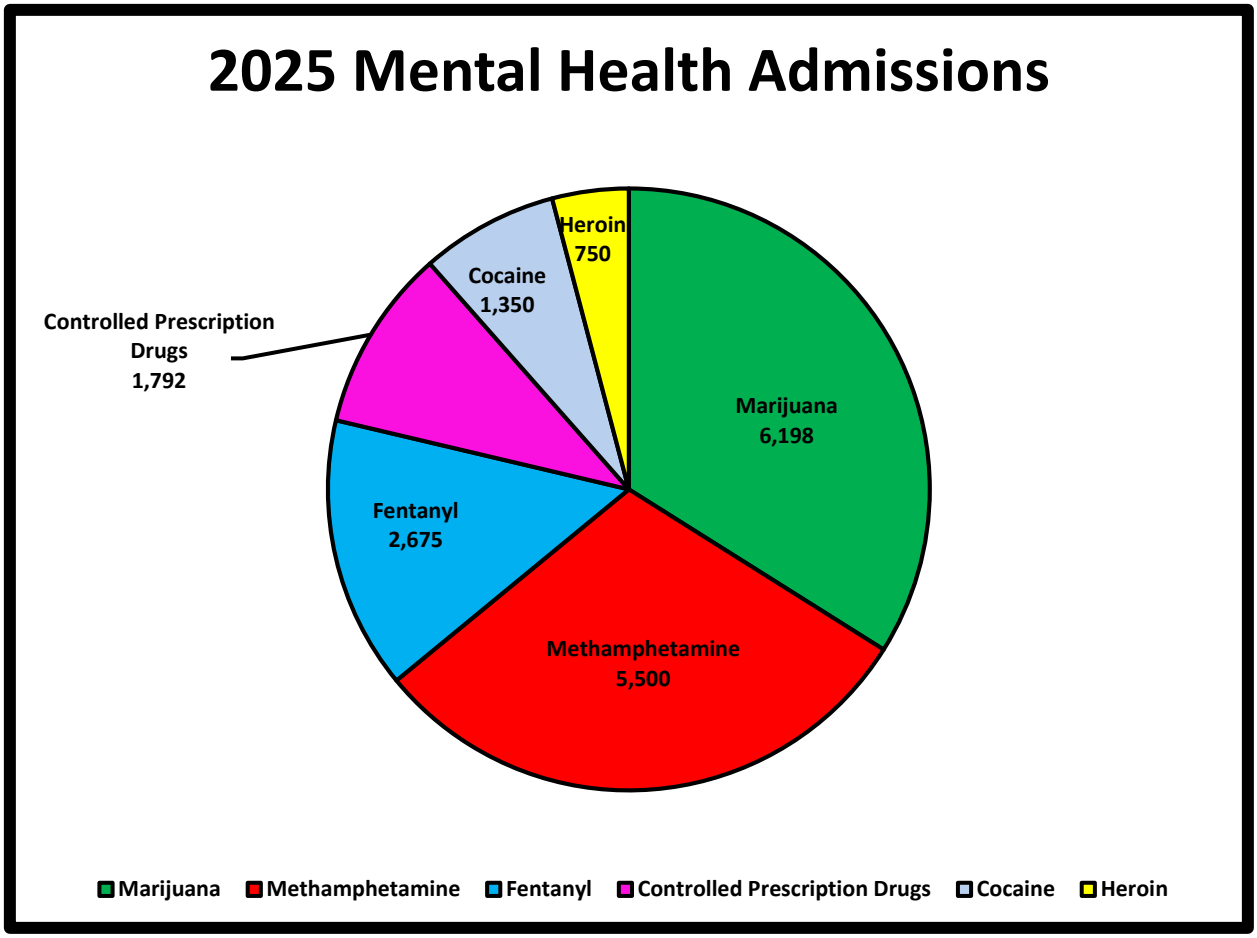
According to the 2027 GC HIDTA Treatment Survey, fentanyl and other opioids are again considered the greatest threat in Alabama. Methamphetamine was next, followed by marijuana. These three drugs were the only ones listed as threats by the 39 treatment respondents. (See Chart below).

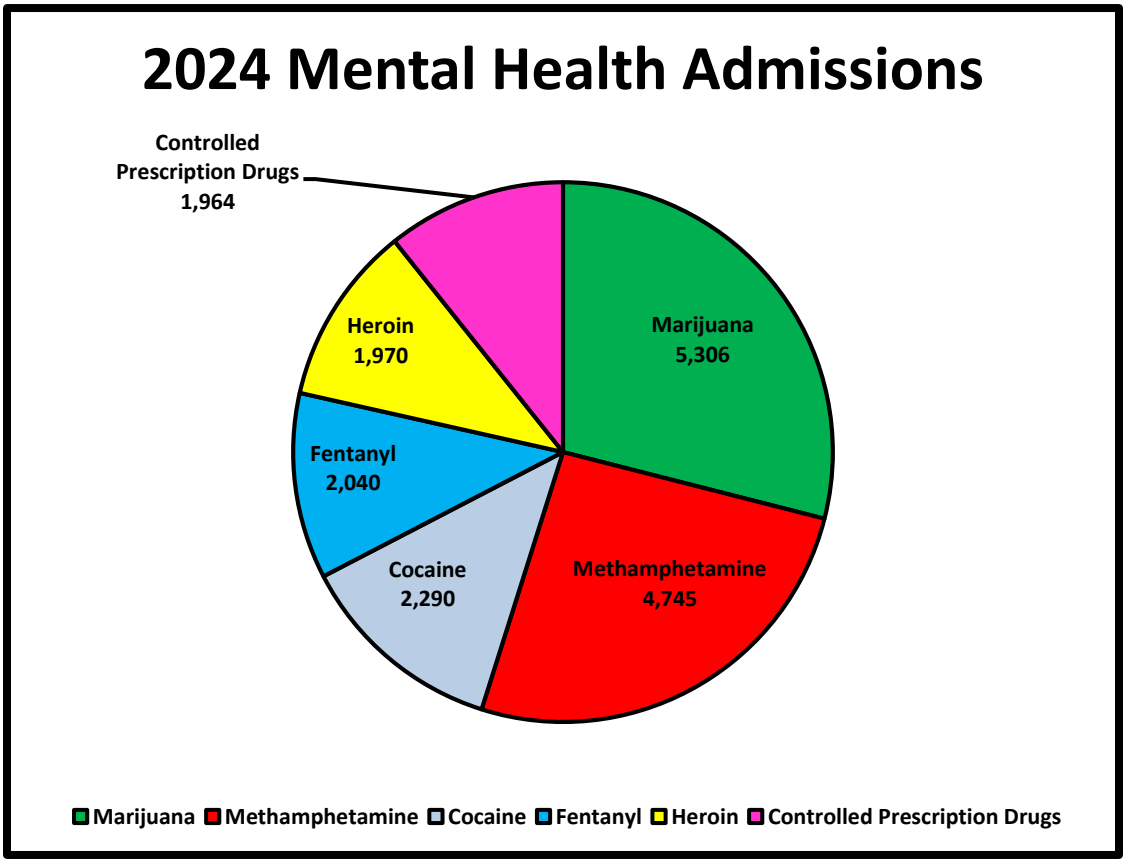


According to treatment survey respondents, marijuana and methamphetamine did show the largest increase of use.



According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, marijuana was still the illegal drug most commonly attributed to treatment admissions in 2025, followed by methamphetamine, fentanyl, controlled prescription drugs, cocaine, and heroin. Treatment admissions have increased over the year with marijuana, methamphetamine, and fentanyl. The tables below depict the treatment admissions for 2024, and 2025.





- **Fentanyl and other Opioids**
  According to the 2027 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 49. The overdose death rate statewide has decreased by over 42%. This is very encouraging to see overdose deaths decrease, however, the drug still remains a threat statewide.

- **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**
  Law enforcement and treatment respondents did not list heroin as a drug of threat for Alabama in 2025, however, a percentage of law enforcement respondents did list it as increasing in use. The Alabama Department of Mental Health reports heroin as the sixth most abused illegal drug based on treatment admissions, but the numbers do show a huge decrease 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. According to overdose data in Alabama, oxycodone, and oxymorphone were the only prescription drugs with an increase of deaths from 2024 to 2025. 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 seven law enforcement respondents ranked controlled prescription drugs as having increased availability.

- **Cocaine**
  Cocaine remains available in Alabama; however, cocaine was listed as a small threat by law enforcement, while treatment respondents did not even consider it at all to be a drug of greatest threat. Cocaine has seen a big decrease of individuals being admitted into mental health facilities for 2025. According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health admissions data, cocaine admissions showed 940 less clients for 2025

- **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 continues to show an increase from 5,306 admissions in 2024 to 6,198 in 2025. 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 decreases in all synthetic cannabinoids in Alabama from last year, with the exception of 5F-ADB which increased by 11.

- **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 2025 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. There was a revised census to the July of 2024 which slightly changed the race
estimates below.

2024 Population Race Estimates	
White	68.7%
Black	26.5%
Hispanic or Latino	6%
Two or more races	2.1%
Asian	1.7%
American Indian, Alaskan native	.8%
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.

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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 7 stops. There were multiple stops on rural roads this year.



III. DRUG THREATS AND OVERVIEW

A. Overall Scope of Drug Threat

According to law enforcement, and treatment respondents, answering the 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, fentanyl is still ranked as the greatest drug threat in Alabama. The fentanyl overdose data statewide continues to see a decrease in overdose deaths. Methamphetamine is still continuing to be ranked first when it comes to being attributed to property, and violent crime in the State. 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 decreases 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, and Atlanta, GA.

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 calendar year 2025. The drugs seized, includes all drug categories.

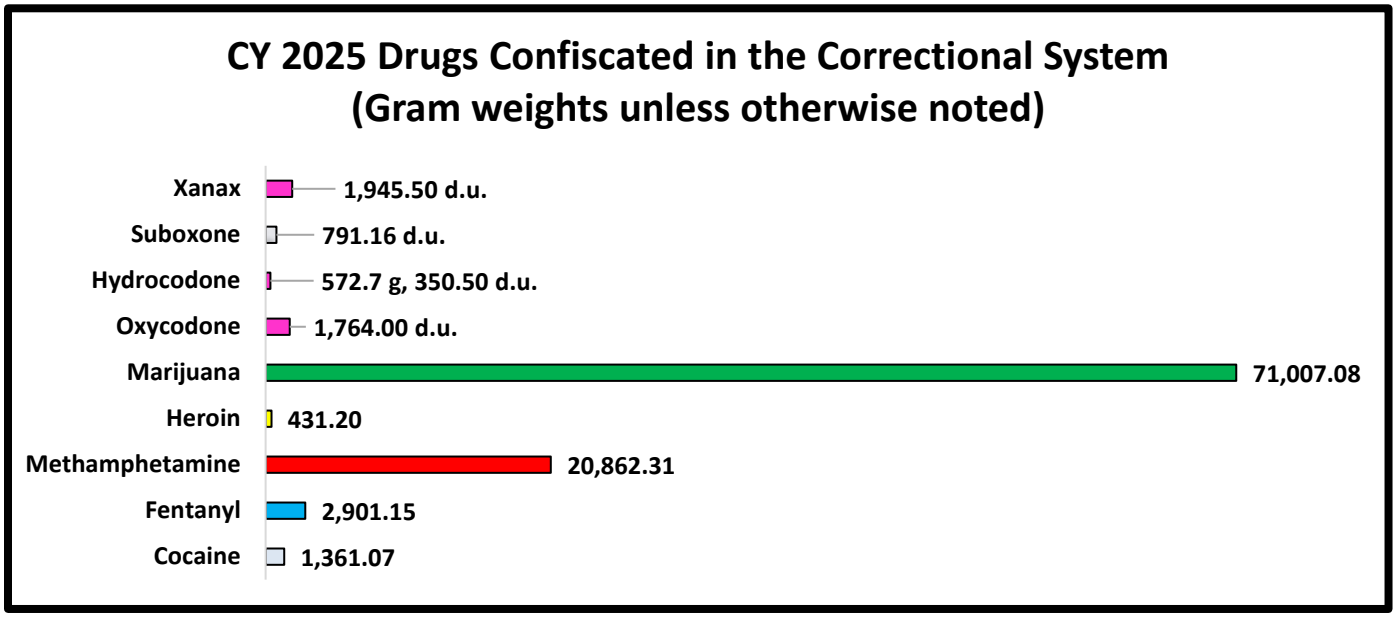
ALL DRUGS	**5,996.54 KG, approx.. 37,000 D.U.**
CASH/ASSET VALUE	**$5,489,332.18**

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 2025. All types of each particular drug are combined for the totals of that drug.

MARIJUANA	**891.103 kg, 135 d.u. 20 mL**
FENTANYL	**33.952 kg, 1,369 d.u.**
METHAMPHETAMINE	**309.137 kg**
COCAINE	**371.347 kg**
HEROIN	**4.12 kg**
DIVERTED PHARMACEUTICALS	**7.69 kg, 36,809 d.u., 289.82 mL**
CURRENCY	**$3,934,884.00**

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. Alabama did see a slight increase in children having to be removed due to drugs in 2025. The number of children removed went from 1,301 in 2024, to 1,306 in 2025.
******Note: Children can have more than one entry to care reason in addition to drugs.**

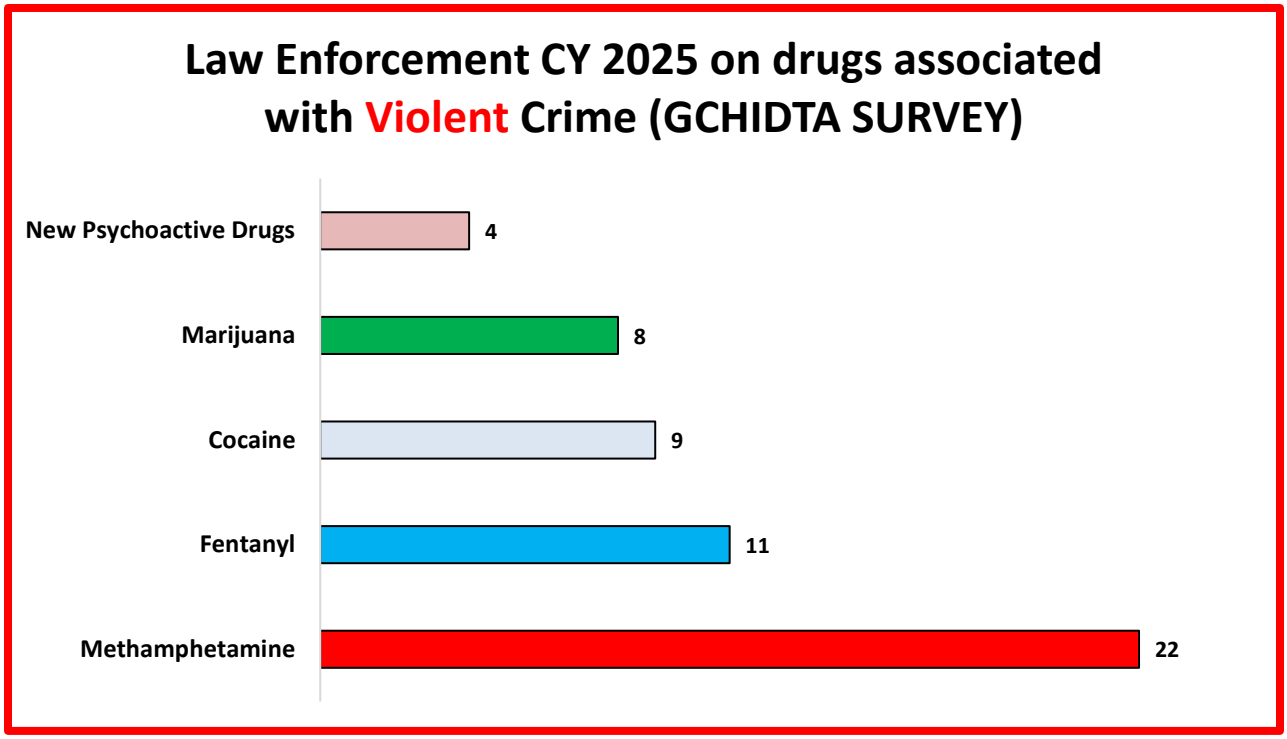
Multiple drugs are confiscated yearly in the prison system of Alabama. According to the Department of Corrections the chart below depicts several drugs that were seized in the prison system in 2025. (The amounts are in grams with the exception of dosage units (d.u.)). **Marijuana like the year before is the most seized drug.**



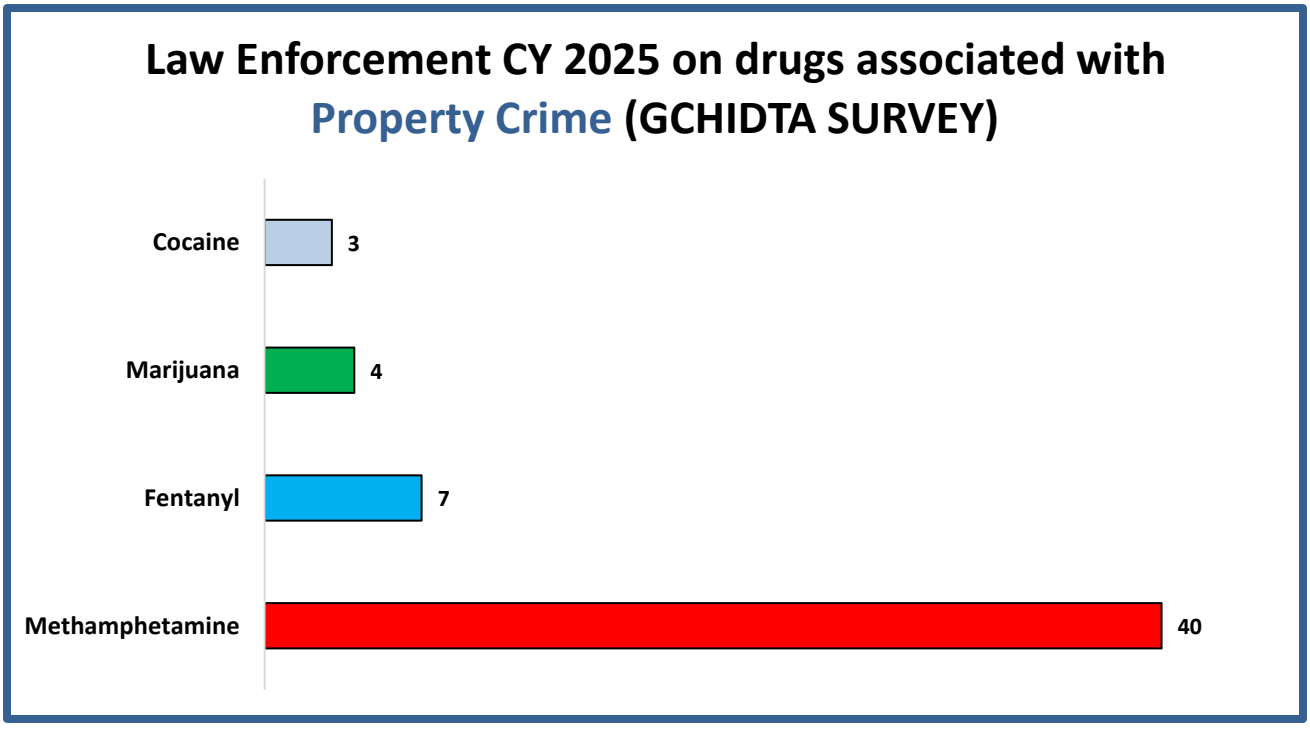
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Based on data gathered from the 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, the graphs below depict drugs most frequently associated with violent crime and property crime in Alabama per number of law enforcement respondents. The majority of law enforcement respondents 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 2,675 admissions into treatment centers for the abuse of fentanyl in 2025 compared to 2,040 in 2024. Fentanyl is continuing to see a decrease in overdose deaths statewide, however, the mental health admissions attributed to fentanyl are continuing to increase throughout the State. In 2025, EPIC reported 33.952 kilograms, and 1,369 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 2027 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 once again showed a drastic reduction in overdose deaths from 253 in 2024, to 130 in 2025. All counties, excluding Jefferson, also showed a big decrease from 541 in 2024, to 313 in 2025.

FENTANYL OVERDOSE ONLY DEATHS 2025	
All Counties (excluding Jefferson County)	313
Jefferson County	130
TOTAL STATEWIDE	**443**

3. Availability

Fentanyl and other opioids were reported as the drug with the greatest increase in availability according to law enforcement, 38 respondents reporting an increase in availability in Alabama. Additionally, 20 out of 35 respondents of treatment and prevention 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, and methamphetamine, as reported by law enforcement in the chart on the next page.

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 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, law enforcement did put fentanyl as second to methamphetamine on violent crime, and property crime but with quite a large margin of difference from methamphetamine in both areas.

5. Production

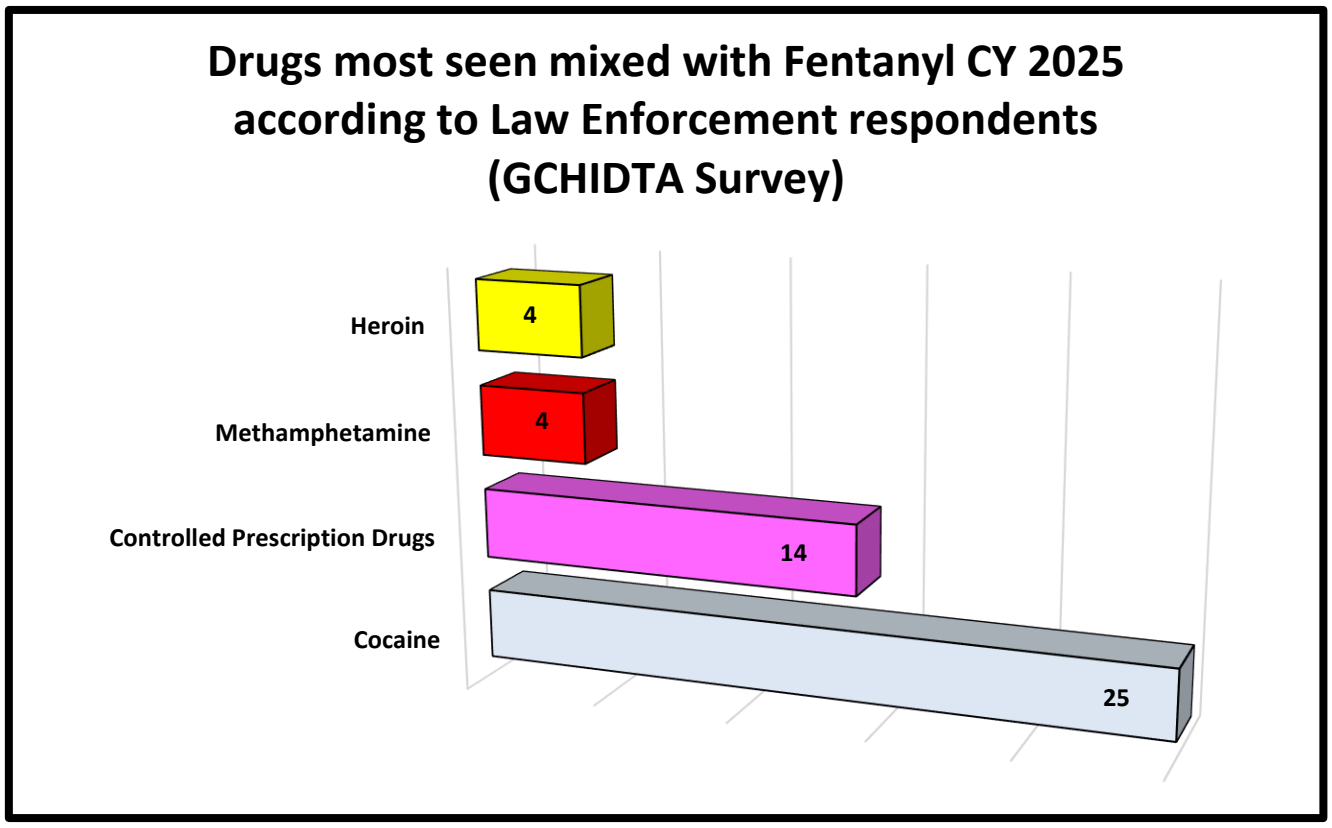
Fentanyl and other opioids are not produced in Alabama. Most of these opioids abused in Alabama are transported from out of state and/or across the border. On the 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, fentanyl continues to be seen as mixed with other drugs. (see chart below).

6. Transportation

The majority of the law enforcement respondents on the GC HIDTA Drug Survey reported an increase in fentanyl encounters (seizures, drug cases) for 2025. Over the past 12 months law enforcement response on the survey listed Caucasian American DTOs, tied with Black American DTOs as the primary responsible groups for the transportation of fentanyl and other opioids in Alabama.

7. Distribution

According to the 2027 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 on the retail distribution, and Mexican DTOs on the wholesale distribution.



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 309.137 kilograms of methamphetamine seized through investigations, and traffic stops in Alabama in 2025.





2. Abuse

According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, 5,500 individuals sought treatment at state operated or funded institutions for abuse of methamphetamine in calendar year 2025. The results of methamphetamine/amphetamine found in the blood from traffic fatalities according to the Department of Forensic Science showed a decrease from 94 in 2024, to 80 in 2025.

The NPLEX (National Precursor Log Exchange) reports the following data for Alabama in years 2024 and 2025 concerning the precursors used in methamphetamine production. There was a decrease in all categories monitored by total purchase activity, total boxes sold, as well as blocked box purchases, which is very encouraging.

Data Years	Total Purchase Activity	Total Boxes Sold	Blocked Box Purchases
2024 NPLEX total of amphetamine/products	632,885	649,651	25,463
2025 NPLEX total of amphetamine/products	630,026	638,043	22,215

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, while showing no decrease in Alabama.

The 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey showed 26 law enforcement respondents indicating methamphetamine availability as increased, and 26 as the same as last year (chart below). Treatment survey respondents also responded stating a high methamphetamine use.

Methamphetamine Availability according to LE	
Increased	26
Same	26
Decreased	0

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 $4,500 a kilogram.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

In 2025 like 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 2025. 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 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, Caucasian American DTOs are the main group responsible for the transportation of methamphetamine into Alabama. EPIC reported 309.14 kilograms of methamphetamine seized in Alabama traffic stops, and investigations in 2025.

7. Distribution

Results from the 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey indicates that Mexicans are responsible for the wholesale distribution, while Black Americans are responsible for the retail distribution of methamphetamine.

D. Marijuana

1. Assessment of the Threat

Marijuana is the 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 Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission has approved three dispensary licenses, with a possible fourth being approved soon. With Alabama's weather, marijuana can be grown indoors, outdoors, and hydroponically. According to the 2027 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 2027 GCHIDTA Survey in Alabama. The Alabama Department of Mental Health reported 6,198 individuals seeking treatment from marijuana in 2025, which includes 892 more clients than 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 second behind fentanyl as the most increased available drug according to the GCHIDTA Survey.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

Based on the law enforcement survey respondents, marijuana is considered the third ranked drug leading to property crime and the fourth ranked drug contributing to violent crime.

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 891.103 kilos of marijuana seized in investigations, and traffic stops in Alabama in 2025. The tables shown on the following page show results of the marijuana eradication team seizures and hours flown in 2025, which includes a much larger seized and arrest total especially in the indoor table.

FLIGHT HOURS FLOWN	COUNTIES
264.5	25

MARIJUANA ERADICATION 2025		
OUTDOOR		
GROW SITES	PLANTS SEIZED	ARRESTS
10	1202	8
INDOOR		
GROW SITES	PLANTS SEIZED	ARRESTS
0	2127	55

6. Transportation

For CY 2025 most marijuana seized in Alabama occurred from investigations. EPIC reported a total of 347.68 kilograms seized in traffic stops in Alabama in 2025. According to the 2027 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 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, marijuana is distributed primarily by Black American DTOs.

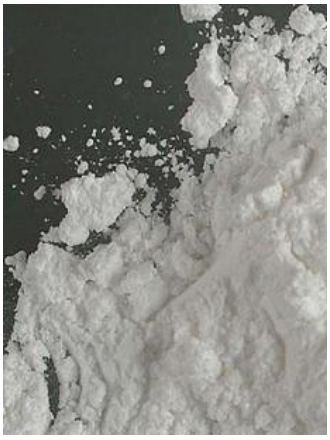
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E. Cocaine

1. Assessment of Threat

Cocaine, both powder and crack, continue to pose a threat to Alabama according to the GC HIDTA law enforcement survey respondents. Cocaine related mental health admissions showed a decrease from 2,290 clients in 2024 to 1,350 clients in 2025.





2. Abuse

According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, 940 less admissions were made in 2025 than in 2024. 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 the same as the previous year. The 2027 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	3
Same	38

The price of cocaine (crack and powder), ranges from $60-90 per gram to $16,750-31,500 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 371.347 kilograms of cocaine seized from Alabama traffic stops, and investigations in 2025.

7. Distribution

According to the 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, Black American DTOs dominate the wholesale and retail distribution of crack and powder cocaine.

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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 2025.

For calendar year 2025, Jefferson County forensics as well as the Department of Forensic Sciences showed 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 2025	
All Counties (excluding Jefferson County)	8
Jefferson County	3
TOTAL STATEWIDE	**11**

2. Abuse

Alabama continues to see individuals seeking treatment for heroin abuse. According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, 750 individuals sought treatment for heroin abuse in 2025, which does show a huge decrease of 1,220 admissions reported in 2024. The overdose numbers for heroin also continue to be low.

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 13 reported an increase in heroin availability. Heroin prices range from $125-150 a gram to $2,450-2,000 an ounce.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

According to the 2027 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 2025 a total of 4.12 kilograms seized from traffic stops, and investigations, in Alabama.

7. Distribution

The 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey respondents indicated that Black American DTOs are the primary distributors of heroin.

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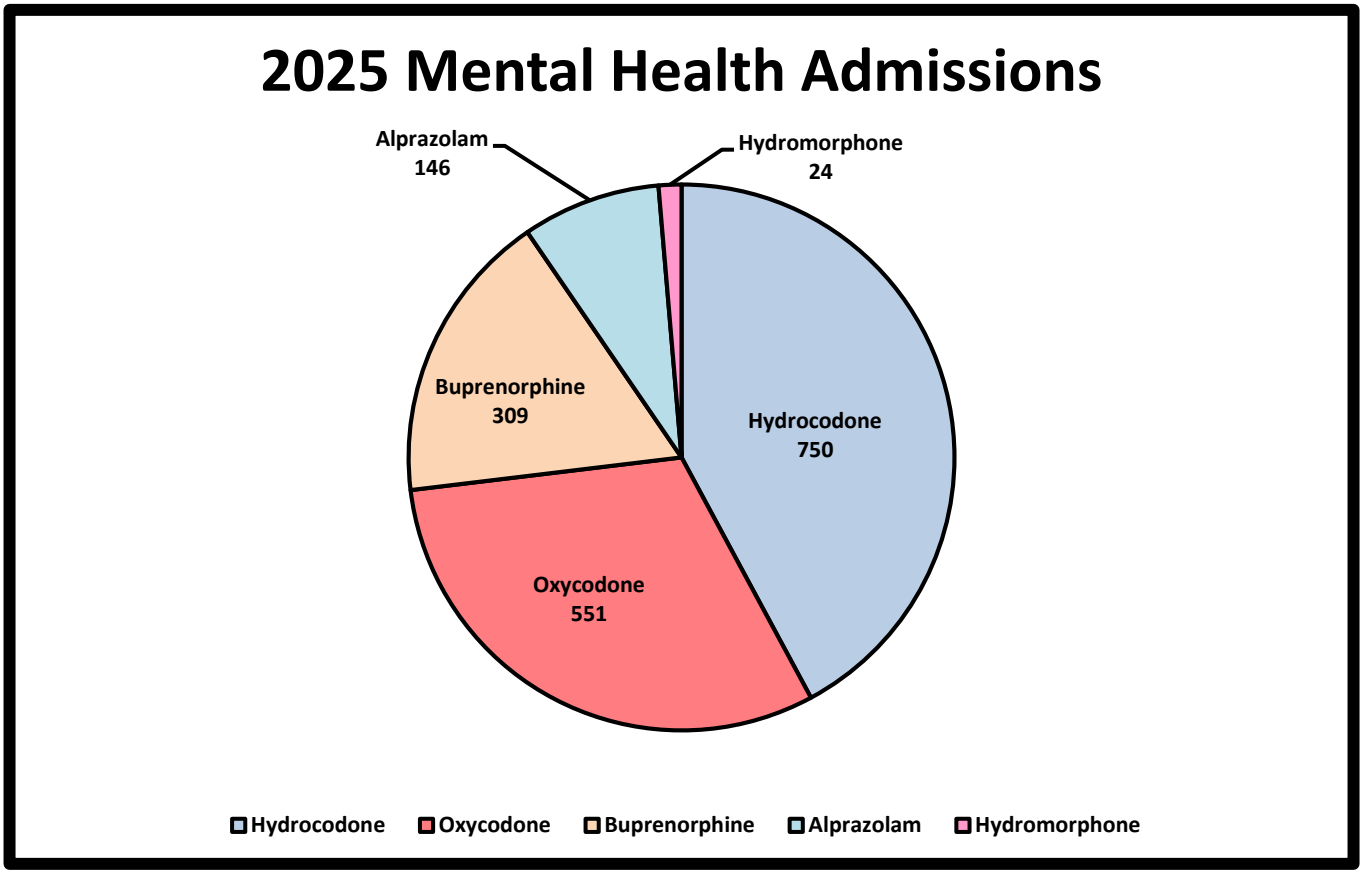
G. Controlled Prescription Drugs

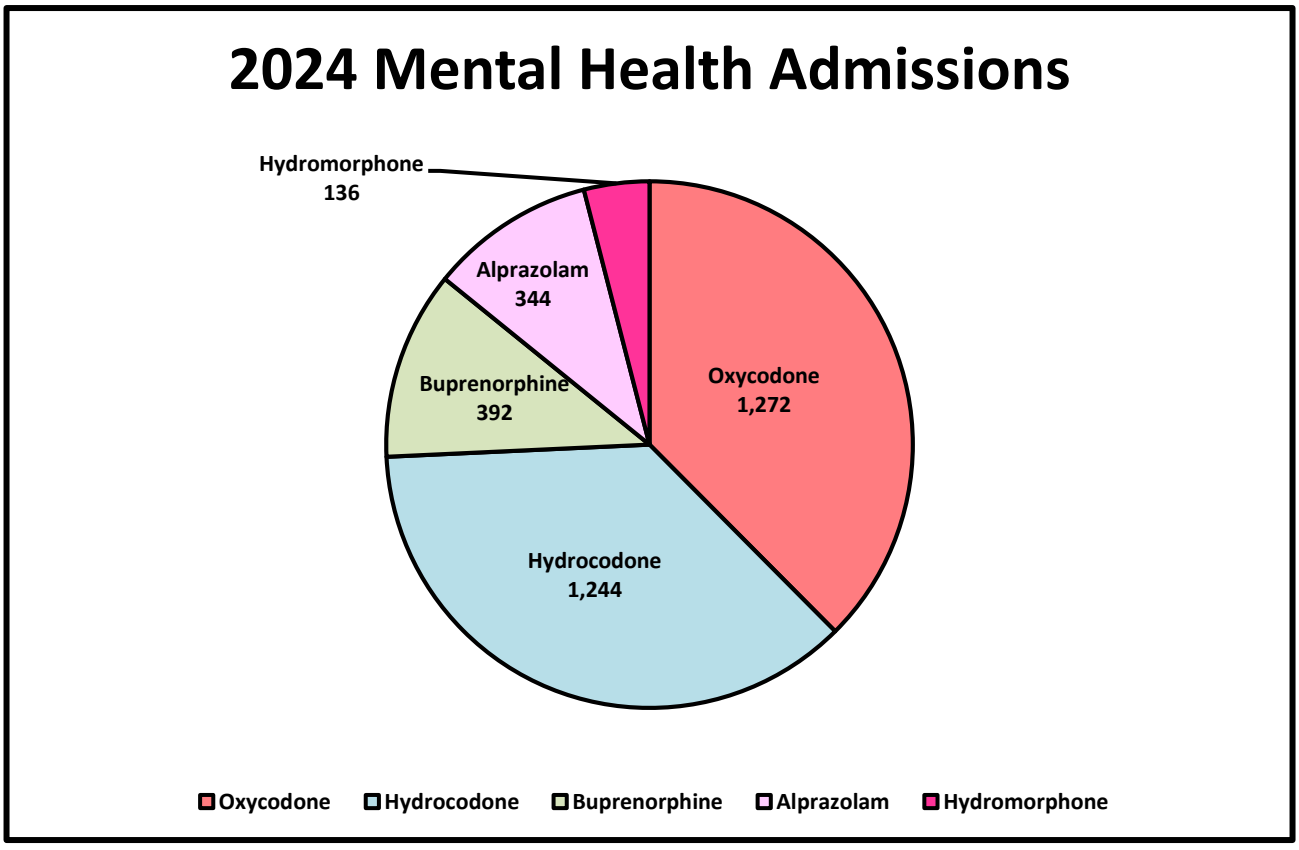
1. Assessment of the Threat

Oxycontin and hydrocodone are still the two most frequently abused controlled prescription drugs (CPDs) according to Mental Health statistics. There were 750 admissions to treatment centers attributed to hydrocodone in 2025, representing a decrease of 494 admissions from 2024. Oxycodone also decreased going from 1,272 in 2024 to 551 in 2025. The number of mental health treatment admissions for each of the pharmaceutical drugs listed in the charts on the next page show decreases in every drug shown. According to law enforcement survey respondents, Caucasian American groups are still the primary distributors of controlled prescription drugs.






2025 Mental Health Admissions
Alprazolam
146
Hydromorphone
24
Buprenorphine
309
Hydrocodone
750
Oxycodone
551
Hydrocodone
Oxycodone
Buprenorphine
Alprazolam
Hydromorphone


2024 Mental Health Admissions
Hydromorphone
136
Alprazolam
344
Buprenorphine
392
Oxycodone
1,272
Hydrocodone
1,244
Oxycodone
Hydrocodone
Buprenorphine
Alprazolam
Hydromorphone

In 2025, the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences analyzed the following number of cases related to pharmaceuticals seen traffic deaths:

	RESULTS
• Alprazolam (Xanax):	13
• Dihydrocodeinone (Hydrocodone)	23
• Fentanyl	11
• Oxycodone	10

2. Abuse

According to the 2027 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, and 10,410,010 prescriptions written in 2025 which does show a decrease of 12,626 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
2025	C2	1,132,878	5,514,991	283,111,238	128,510,742
2025	C3	221,599	1,213,895	41,070,202	36,274,021
2025	C4	690,314	3,681,124	175,333,325	100,665,215

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 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, the majority of law enforcement respondents reported CPDs as Moderately available in Alabama. Of the 55 respondents on the survey only 12 stated the availability was high.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

According to the 2027 GC HIDTA Survey, no law enforcement respondents indicated that CPDs contributed to property crimes or violent crimes in Alabama.

5. Production

There are two 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, and 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 2025, EPIC traffic stops, and investigations, reported 36,809 dosage units, 289.82 milliliters, and 7.69 kilograms seized in Alabama.

7. Distribution

The majority of respondents of the 2027 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 law enforcement survey respondents, the number one counterfeit drug seized in 2025 was alprazolam, but closely followed by oxycodone.

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 shown a presence in the admission data for 2025, as seen from 106 admissions reported. According to EPIC, 15.59 kilograms and 64 dosage units of new psychoactive drugs were seized in Alabama from investigations and traffic stops in 2025.

3. Availability

The majority of law enforcement respondents from the 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey reported new psychoactive substances as being moderately available. The Department of Forensic Sciences only showed one synthetic cannabinoid which continues to increase and that was 5F-ADB, which went from 5 in 2024, to 16 in 2025.

4. Associated Crime and Violence

New psychoactive substances are rarely reported as associated to violent or property crime, however, according to the 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, four 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 2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey, Caucasian American DTOs are listed as the transporters of new psychoactive substances, while Black American DTOs are listed as the primary groups for ecstasy and molly. These DTOs transport via the highways and mail as the main source of transportation.

7. Distribution

Caucasian DTOs are listed as the main retail distributors of new psychoactive substances as well as ecstasy, and GHB according to 2027 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.

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IV. DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION

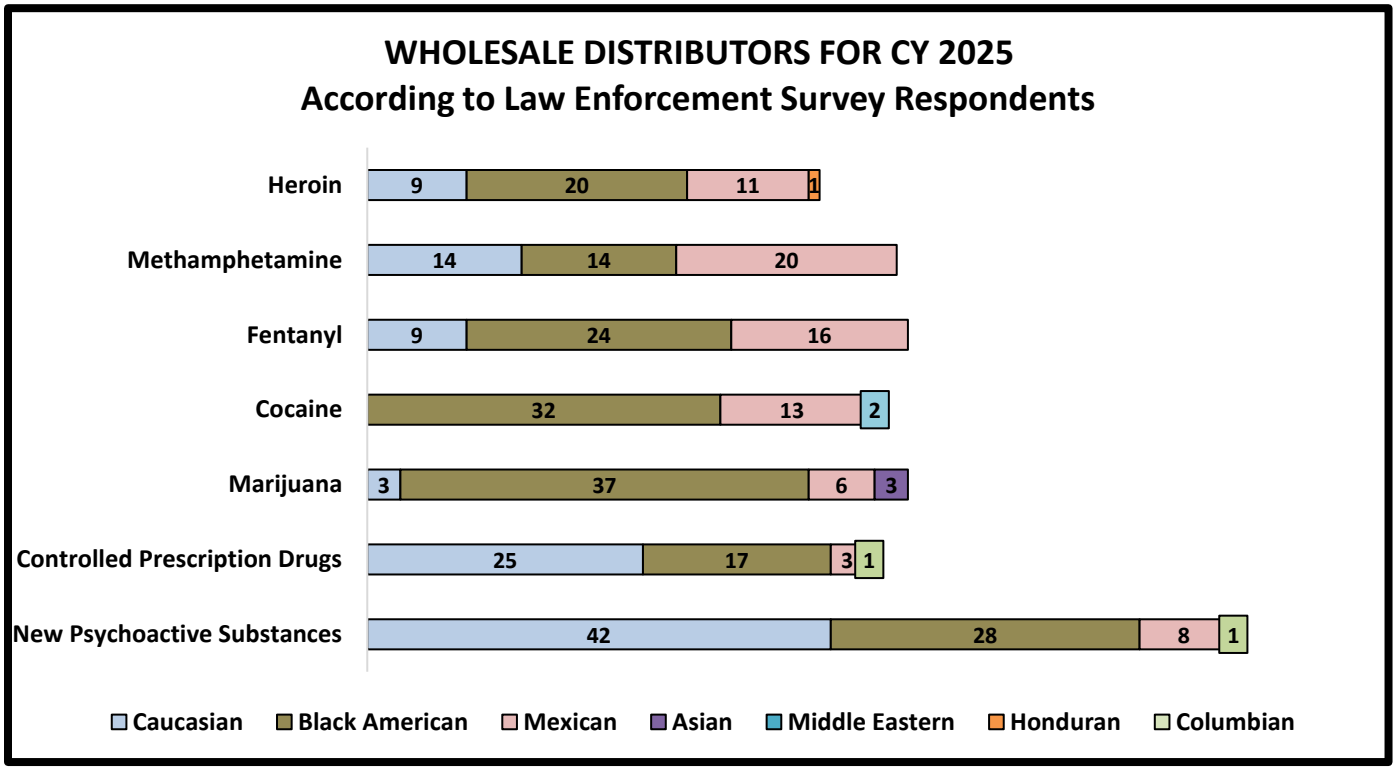
Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) are the primary subjects who control the main drug distribution details in a defined area whether it be locally, regionally, nationally or internationally. Within Alabama, these groups can vary widely depending on where the source of the drug, and who or how that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

a. Sources of Drugs

Fentanyl is mostly encountered transported from Mexico into Alabama, however, the location with the biggest distribution location for Alabama is Atlanta, Georgia. According to law enforcements respondents from the survey, the availability of fentanyl is the highest in their area. Marijuana according to the GC HIDTA Survey is sourced from California. Diverted pharmaceuticals 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 the largest presence in methamphetamine. Controlled prescription drugs, and new psychoactive drugs are primarily the Caucasian American DTOs, however, they are tied with Black American DTOs for methamphetamine. While Black American DTOs are primarily responsible for heroin, 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 2025 totaled $3,934,884.00, which showed a large increase of 2,050,247.00 more in currency seized than in 2024. Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA/SBI) reported 561,822.45 currency seized for 2025.

Suspicious Activity Reports

FinCEN reported 98 SARS filed by casinos and card clubs in Alabama in 2025, which shows a slight decrease from 2024. The SAR totals as reported to FinCen in the categories below have shown decreases with the exception of SAR (Depository Institutions), and SAR (Other business). The chart below shows the SAR reports for Alabama as reported to FinCEN during calendar years 2024 and 2025.

FinCEN Suspicious Activity Reports 2024-2025		
	2025	**2024**
SAR-C (Casino and Card Clubs)	98	110
SAR-DI (Depository Institution)	38,475	29,733
SAR MSB (Money Service Businesses)	8,946	9,693
SAR (Other business)	216	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 2025. The below chart explains the top reasons for the SARS filed by Depository Institutions, and Money Service Businesses in Alabama. The largest increase of SAR characteristics, was on the Depository Institutions which happened on the Check filing which went from 14,378 in 2024 to 21,410 in 2025.

Top Characteristics listed on SARS filed for Money Service Business	
Transaction(s) Below BSA Recordkeeping Threshold	**3,437**
Two or more individuals working together	**3,120**
Other Suspicious Activities	**2,177**
Other Fraud (Type)	**2,161**

Top Characteristics listed on SARS filed for Depository Institutions	
Check	**21,410**
Transaction(s) below CTR Threshold	**7,083**
Suspicion Concerning the Source of Funds	**5,283**
Suspicion EFT-Wire Transfers	**4,778**

VI. OUTLOOK

Based on the 2027 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 2025 data from forensic statistics, fentanyl overdoes continue to show decreases statewide. Marijuana, and methamphetamine, continue to show increases in mental health admissions while cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, and controlled prescription drugs show decreases in mental health admissions. 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 2025, does show a reduced amount of 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 Texas, and 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. Synthetic cannabinoids, hallucinogens, and other designer drugs in Alabama continue to show up especially in quick shop stores, which can become dangerous especially for the younger generation who are unaware of the legality or affect these types drugs present.

The main communication of drug distributors in Alabama continues to be WhatsApp, and FB Messenger 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.

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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 2027 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 handle 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.

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VIII. APPENDICES, TABLES AND ADDENDUMS

The following two charts includes totals accounting for all traffic stops reported to EPIC in CY 2025

EPIC Total Traffic Stops in Alabama for 2025 with currency, illegal drugs, controlled prescription drugs, and/or drug paraphernalia seized
156

EPIC 2025 Total of each drug and currency seized in stops	
Methamphetamine	66.66 kilos
Marijuana	347.68 kilos, 20 mL
Cocaine	185.48 kilos
Heroin	.0297 kilos
Fentanyl	9.939 kilos, 1000 d.u.
Controlled Prescription Drugs	.287 kilos, 479 d.u., 289.82 mL
Other Dangerous Drugs	.644 kilos
Currency	1,358,266.00 dollars

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

7Tabz – 7-hydroxymitragynine

These tablets are often labeled as natural kratom leaf, which can draw people into taking them, but scientists have found that they do affect the brain in similar ways like prescription opioids like oxycodone or morphine. This product has been seen in Alabama according to our treatment folks. It seems a main problem with this drug is that sometimes the concentration of kratom varies widely and it has been seen in other parts of the country mixed with other dangerous opioids like nitazenes. This drug has caused a lot of overdoses in the country.

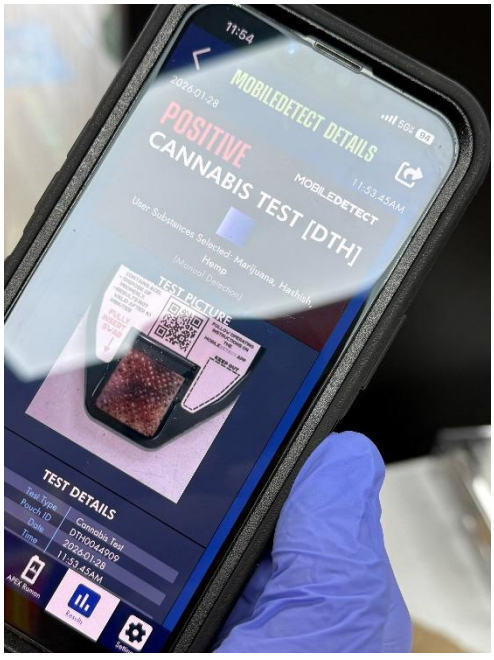


Shroom Rolls

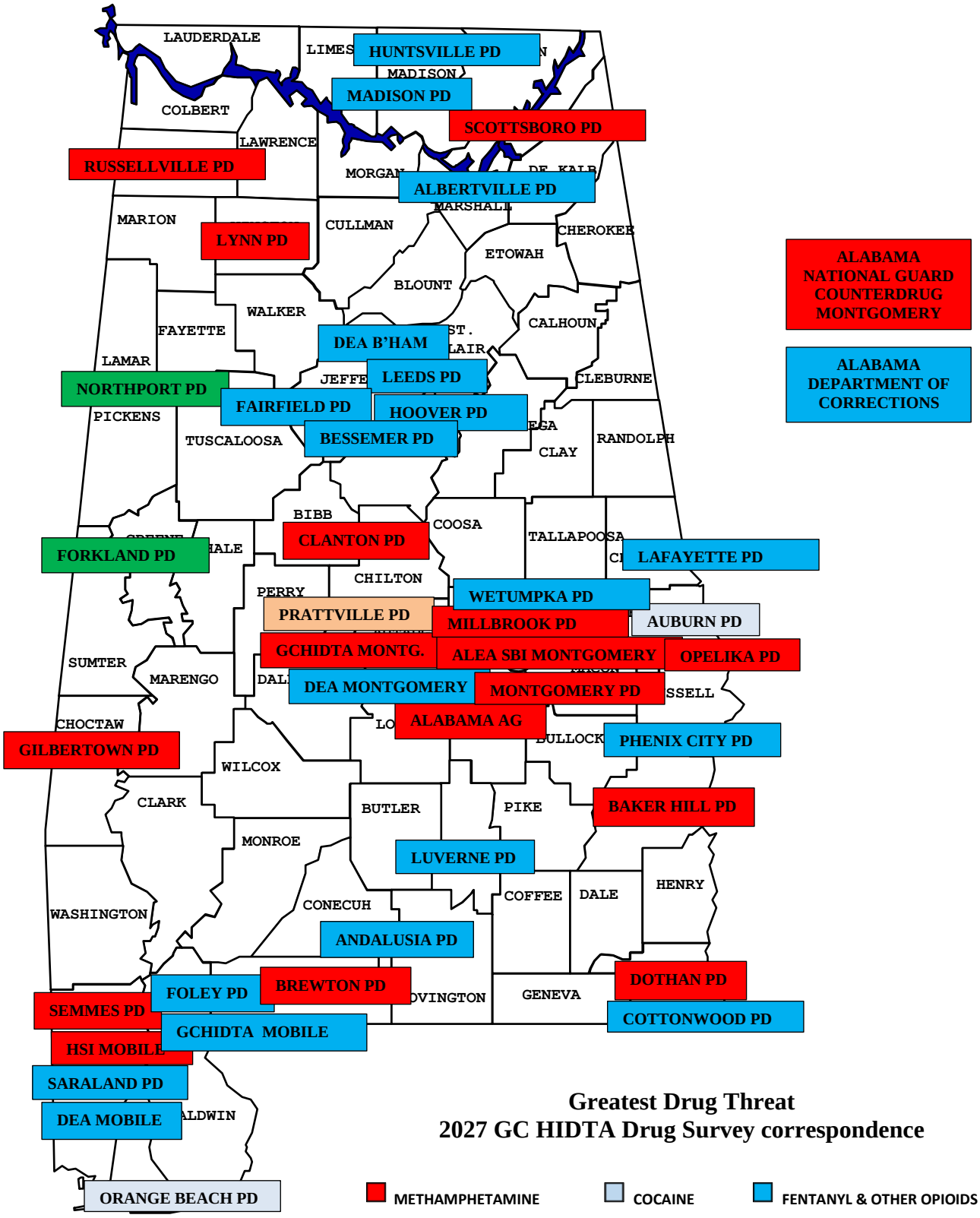
Shroom Rolls have been seen in Alabama being sold at gas stations. This product which is sold in different flavors has a strong smell of marijuana. On a recent seizure of the drug, it did test positive for marijuana. The new hemp law effective for Alabama on January 1, 2026 does prohibit any part of the hemp plant, or any compound, concentrate, extract, isolate, or resin derived from hemp.





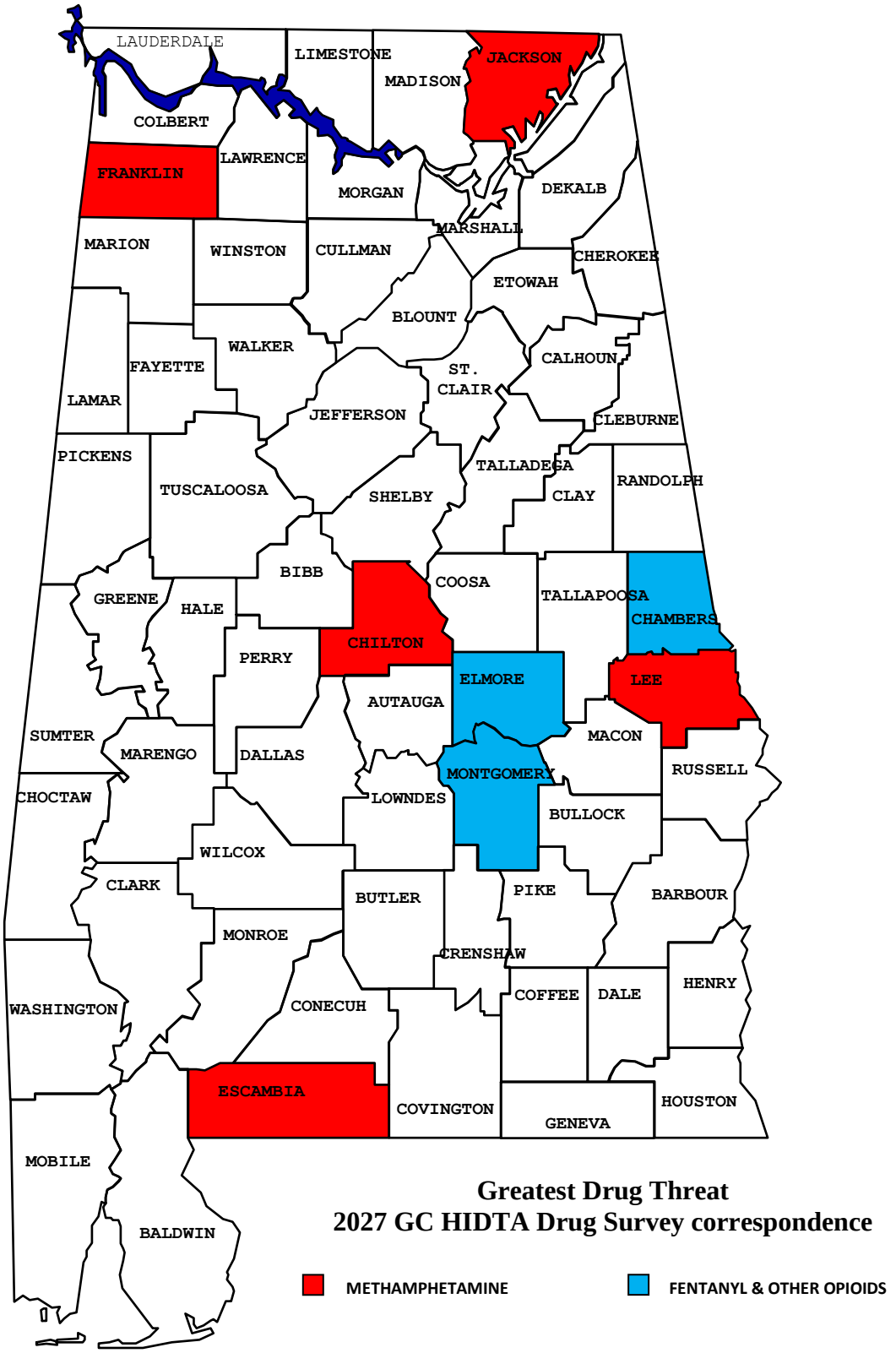


2027 GC HIDTA Drug Survey with Alabama PD/DTF/Board Agencies



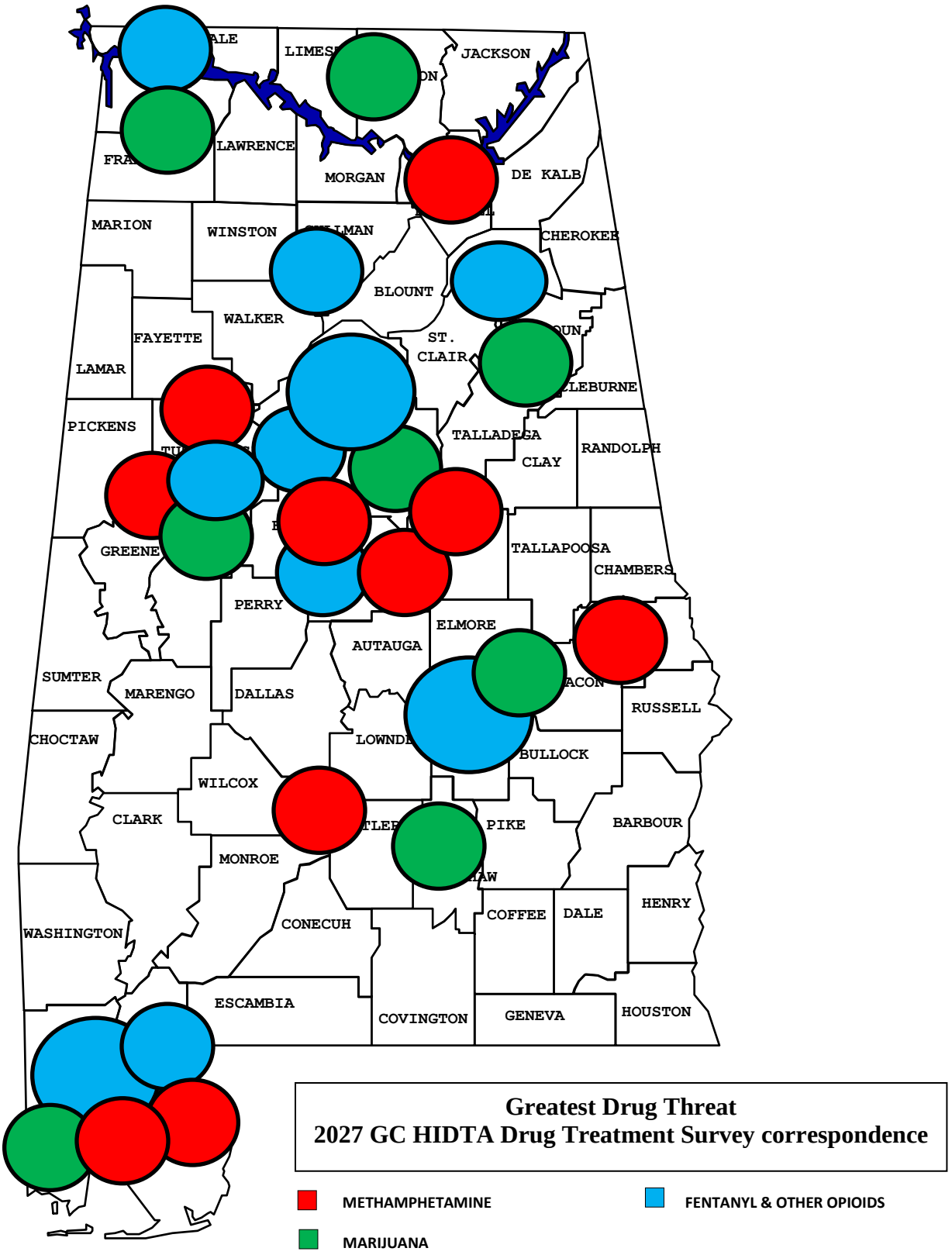
*If there is more than one answer per agency, then the answer with the most is recorded, or if only two are presented, then the first response is used.

2027 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.**

2027 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

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B. Illicit Drug Prices for Alabama (2025 prices)

Cocaine (Crack)

State/Territory/District City
Price in Dollars

	Gram	Ounce
Birmingham	60	N/A
Mobile	78	1,100
Montgomery	70	1,000
Huntsville	N/A	700

Cocaine (Powder)

State/Territory/District City
Price in Dollars

	Gram	Ounce	Kilogram
Birmingham	67.50	900	31,500
Mobile	90	500-1,250	27,500
Montgomery	90	1,200	16,750 -17,000
Huntsville	N/A	1,000	N/A

Methamphetamine

State/Territory/District City
Price in Dollars

	Gram	Ounce	Pound	Kilogram
Birmingham	40	N/A	800	N/A
Mobile	25-95	175-500	2,200-2,900	3,500-4,500
Montgomery	25-30	200-600	2,000-2,700	4,500
Huntsville	N/A	150	N/A	N/A

High Grade Marijuana

State/Territory/District City
Price in Dollars

	Gram	Ounce	Pound
Birmingham	20	200	1,750
Mobile	N/A	165	1,850
Montgomery	10	120-175	1,350
Huntsville	N/A	N/A	N/A

Heroin (Brown)

State/Territory/District City
Price in Dollars

	Gram	Ounce	Kilogram
Birmingham	125	2,500	N/A
Mobile	150	2,450	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	125	2,500	N/A
Mobile	N/A	50	1,300	N/A
Montgomery	10-16	150-300	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	3
Montgomery	2
Huntsville	1

Spice / K2 (Synthetic Cannabinoids)

State/Territory/District City
Price in Dollars

	Package
Birmingham	N/A
Mobile	4
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