

# North Florida HIDTA

## High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



# Newsletter

First Quarter 2026

## Director's Notes

The first quarter of 2026 has been a period of remarkable momentum. From two productive trips to Washington, D.C.—highlighted by several key meetings with legislators on Capitol Hill—we continue to advance our mission and strengthen our legislative presence.

One of our most significant operational milestones this quarter was the launch of the Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF) Intel Hub. After extensive planning, the Hub is now operational and collocated with the ISC and Fusion Center at the North Florida HIDTA. This strategic alignment marks a new chapter in our commitment to seamless partnership and regional collaboration.

Our Training Division also broke new ground in March by hosting our inaugural “AI in Law Enforcement” course. Given the exceptional turnout and high demand, we are already planning future sessions to ensure our partners stay ahead of emerging technologies. We also completed our Annual Initiative Reviews, meeting individually with our Commanders to finalize their strategic metrics for 2027.

In closing, I would like to once again congratulate our incoming North Florida HIDTA Executive Board leadership: Chairman Tim Hemker (HSI ASAC) and Vice Chairman Steven Harris (FHP Major), who will officially assume their roles at our upcoming May meeting. A big thank you to our outgoing Chair Michelle Cook (CCSO Sheriff) for her exceptional service and guidance over the past two years on our Board. The continued success of our HIDTA is a direct reflection of this caliber of leadership and the unwavering dedication of all our members, commanders, and staff.

North Florida HIDTA Director: Robert P. Peryam

## Inside this Issue

- Director's Notes
- North Florida HIDTA Drug Seizure Data
- North Florida HIDTA DHE Seizure Data
- North Florida HIDTA DTO Data
- Initiative Case Highlights
- ODMAP Corner
- Training Announcements

## North Florida HIDTA Initiatives

- CADET Combined Alachua Drug Enforcement Team
- CADRE Capital Area Drug Response and Evaluation
- FAST Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team
- GATEWAY Columbia County Initiative
- MLIII Maritime & Land Investigation and Interdiction Initiative
- NFHTF North Florida HIDTA Task Force
- NFHISC North Florida HIDTA Investigative Support Center
- NODITF Narcotics Overdose Death Investigation Task Force
- PDDDS Pharmaceutical Diversion and Designer Drug Squad
- TRAINING
- TRICOUNTY Initiative
- UDEST Unified Drug Enforcement Strike Team
- VCNTF Violent Crime and Narcotics Task Force
- VCGTF Violent Crime and Gangs/Guns Task Force

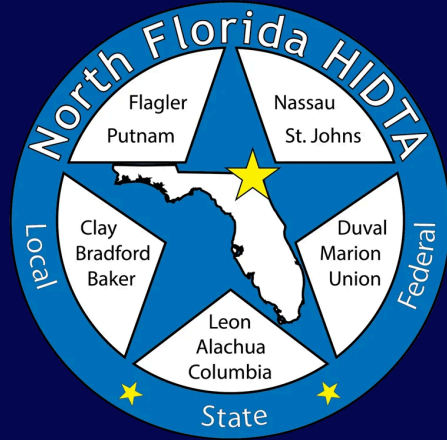
## Executive Board Chair

HSI ASAC Tim Hemker

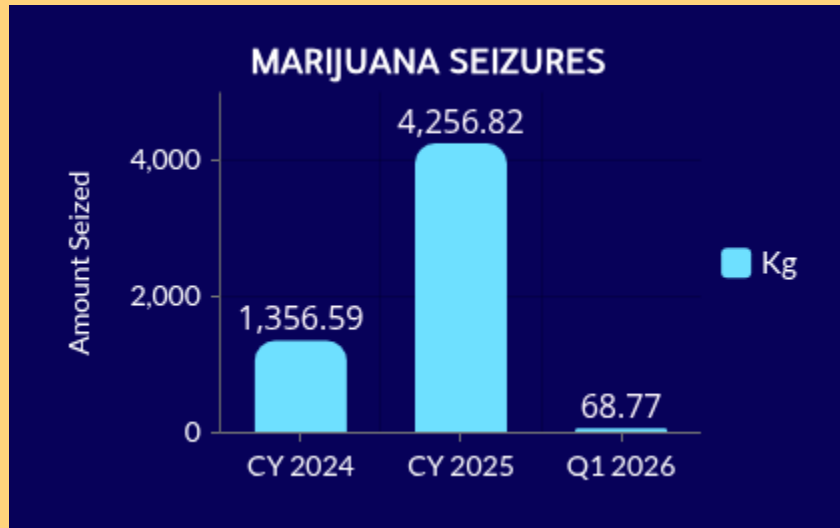
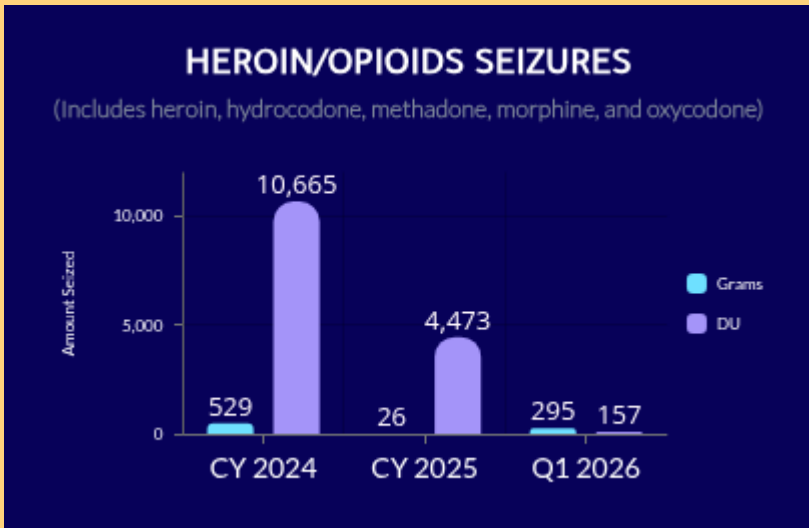
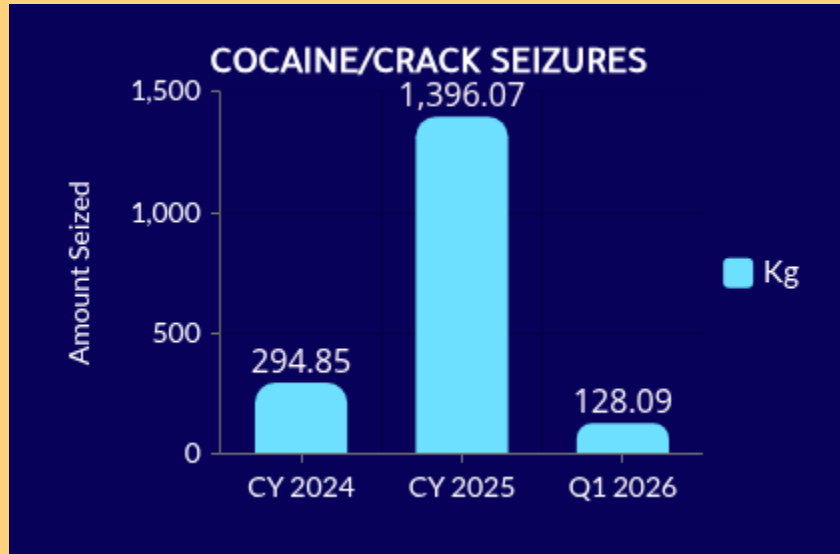
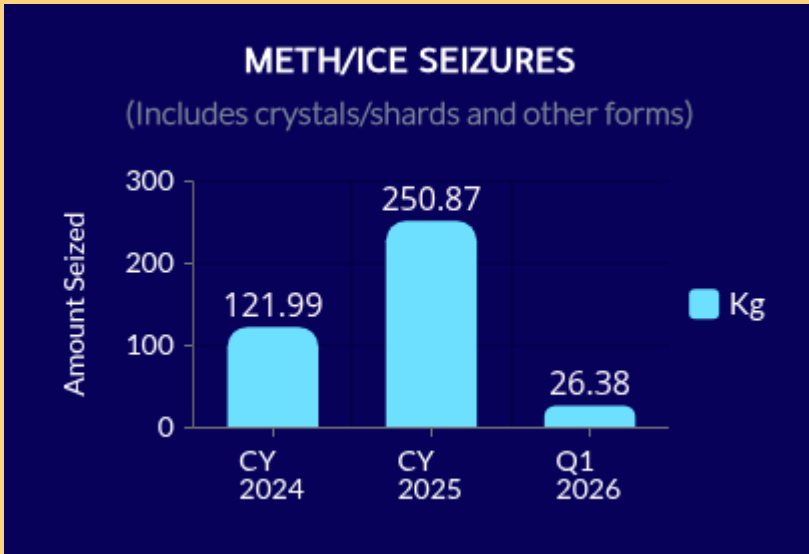
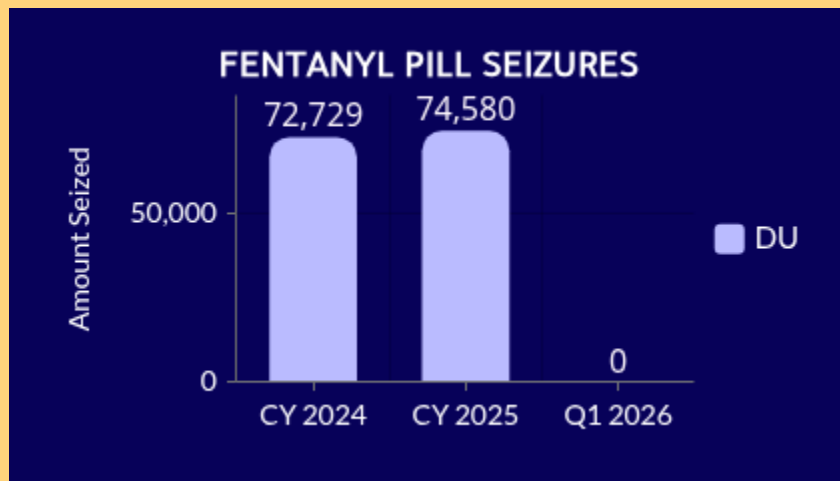
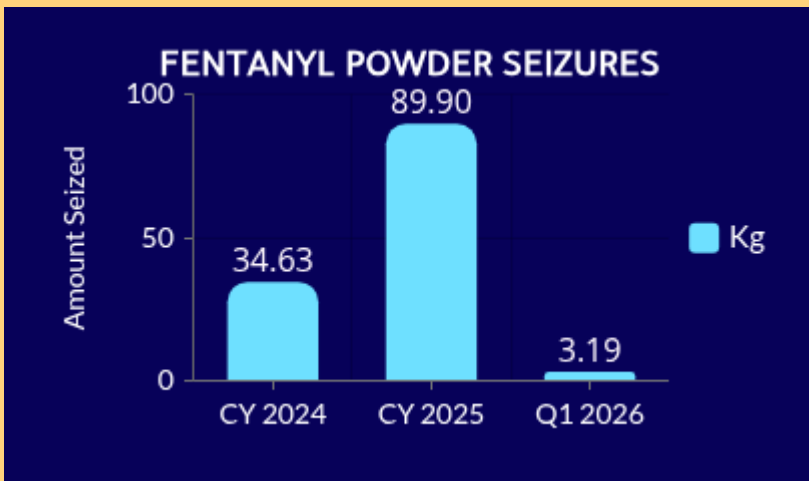
## Executive Board Vice Chair

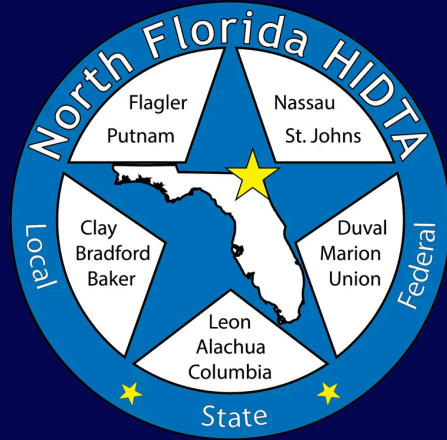
FHP Major Steven Harris

Visit North Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area  
<https://www.nfhidta.org/>



# North Florida HIDTA Drug Seizure Data





# North Florida HIDTA DHE Seizure Data

## Q1 2026 DHE Totals:

**DHE Operations: 6**

**Drug Seizures: 26.08 kilograms & 29 DUs**

**Drug Seizure Value: \$135,320**

**Asset Seizure Value: \$380,007**

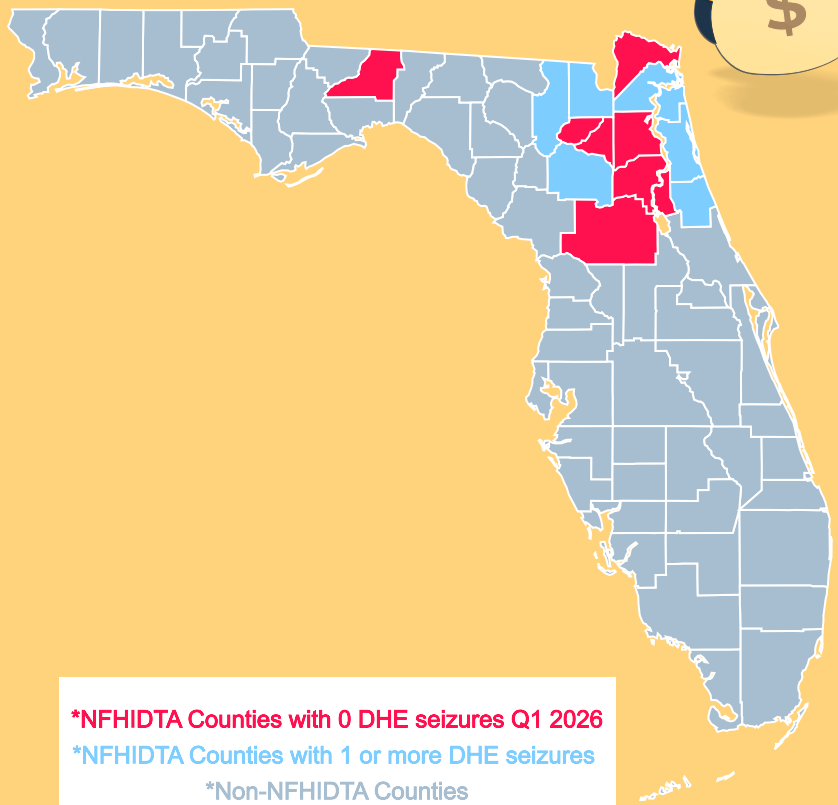
Data Source PMP, April 7, 2026

(U) During Q1, marijuana was the top drug seized, totaling 22.25 kilograms, followed by cocaine/crack (2.27 kg), prescription drugs (22 du and 0.74 kg), and meth/ice (0.24 kg). Marijuana was the most commonly seized drug with 34 seizure incidents, followed by cocaine/crack with 13 seizure incidents and 10 meth/ice seizure incidents. There were 4 cash seizure incidents, totaling \$380,007, where \$300K was the largest cash seizure. It was made in Alachua County, originated in Georgia, and was destined for Miami-Dade. There were 7 firearms seized as well.

(U) There were 50 drug seizure incidents that occurred in Alachua County, 6 in Baker, 5 in Camden, 1 in Columbia, 11 in Duval, 1 in Flagler, and 1 in St. Johns.

(U) Of the 75 drug seizure incidents, there were 6 source states listed: Florida (30), Georgia (6), Illinois (3), New Jersey (1), Oklahoma (1), and Wisconsin (2). There were 32 seizure incidents where no source state was listed.

(U) There were 9 counties in Florida that were listed as destination areas: Alachua (14), Columbia (1), Duval (1), Hillsborough (3), Leon (3), Levy (1), Orange (6), Pinellas (1), and Polk (2). There were 43 seizure incidents where no destination was listed.

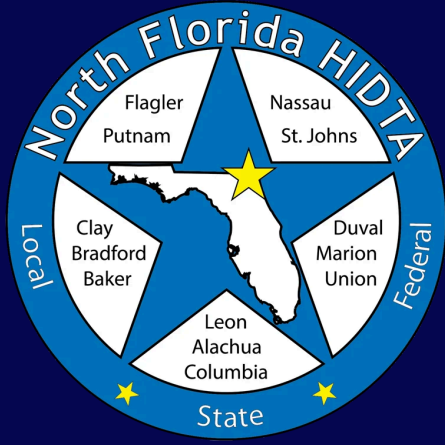


\*NFHIDTA Counties with 0 DHE seizures Q1 2026  
 \*NFHIDTA Counties with 1 or more DHE seizures  
 \*Non-NFHIDTA Counties

NFHIDTA County	# of DHE Drug Seizures
Alachua	50 (3 Cash)
Baker	6
Camden	5
Columbia	1
Duval	11 (1 Cash)
Flagler	1
St Johns	1

Data Source: PMP, April 7, 2026  
UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED

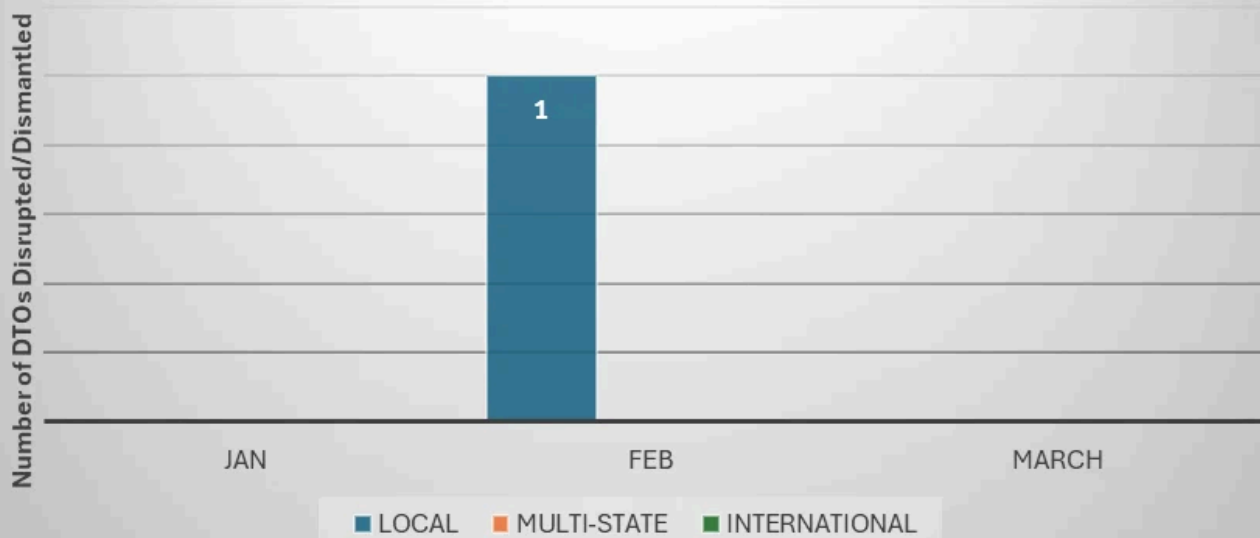


# North Florida HIDTA DTO Data

**(U) Q1 2026 DTOs Opened\* by Scope**



**(U) Q1 2026 DTOs Disrupted/Dismantled**

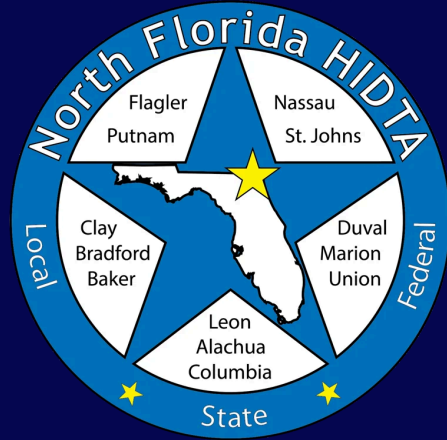


**(U) DTOs Opened\* in Q1 2026 by NFHIDTA**

HIDTA County	Drugs Trafficked	Source Area	Op Scope
Duval	Alprazolam, Promethazine	North FL	Local
Duval	Alprazolam	USA	Local

\*Includes only those DTOs/MLOs that were opened during the specified date range, and does not account for other DTOs/MLOs being worked that were opened prior.

Data Source: PMP, April 7, 2026



# Initiative Case Highlights

## (U) CADRE

(U) During Q1 2026, North Florida HIDTA's Capital Area Drug Response and Evaluation (CADRE) initiative conducted a criminal investigation into a suspected methamphetamine trafficker within Leon County, Florida. A confidential source (CS) was able to successfully introduce an undercover detective (UC) to the target. During the investigation, the UC was able to purchase crack cocaine and a trafficking amount of methamphetamine. Additional buy/walk operations were conducted resulting in further purchases of crack and meth from the target's residence.

(U) A search warrant was obtained and executed on the target's residence, which resulted in additional crack and meth seizures. Approximately 50 grams of methamphetamine and 14 grams of crack cocaine were seized.

(U) The target was charged with multiple narcotics sales in addition to Trafficking in Methamphetamine.



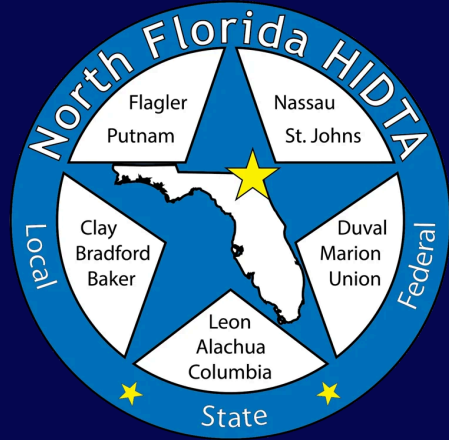
(U) On November 18, 2025, the Pharmaceutical Diversion and Designer Drug Squad (PDDDS) responded to Ascension St. Vincent's Southside in reference to an individual attempting to obtain substances by fraud. Upon arrival, detectives interviewed the complainant, a doctor at the hospital, who recognized the suspect from Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County the previous day. The doctor explained that the suspect had used a different alias the prior day to obtain prescription medication.

## (U) PDDDS

(U) Detectives attempted to interview the suspect, who provided false information. Further investigation revealed the suspect's true identity, and officers located the suspect's vehicle, which was parked at the hospital. Detectives observed multiple bottles of medication in plain view inside the vehicle, with similar aliases listed on the labels.

(U) When confronted with this information, the suspect admitted during the interview that she had been providing false information to obtain controlled prescriptions.

(U) Due to information obtained during the investigation, detectives coordinated with patrol officers regarding children who had been left unattended at the suspect's home. Patrol's investigation led to additional charges related to the living conditions to which the juveniles were being subjected.

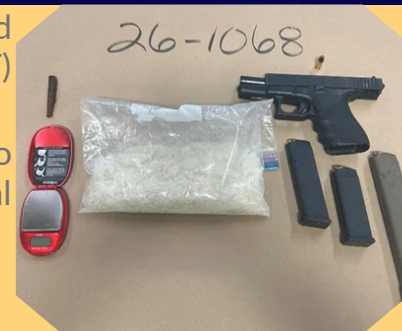


# Initiative Case Highlights Cont.

## (U) UDEST

(U) On January 13th, 2026, the Unified Drug Enforcement Strike Team (UDEST) began investigating a subject involved in

the sale of methamphetamine. UDEST developed a confidential source (CS) to facilitate controlled narcotic transactions with the subject resulting in several successful large methamphetamine purchases.



(U) On February 18, 2026, UDEST had the CS arrange a one-pound purchase of crystal methamphetamine for a final controlled narcotic deal, which was planned to be a buy/bust operation. The controlled narcotic deal was arranged by the CS and the subject. UDEST along with other agencies responded to the meeting location and began covert surveillance, waiting on the subject's arrival. Once the subject arrived and was identified, the assisting units conducted a take-down on the subject. The subject was successfully taken into custody after a brief foot pursuit. Approximately 385 grams of crystal methamphetamine, a loaded Glock 19 handgun, and 1.5 grams of marijuana were seized from the subject's vehicle.

(U) The subject was placed under arrest for the following charges: Armed trafficking in methamphetamine, x2 counts trafficking in methamphetamine, conspiracy- trafficking in methamphetamine, unlawful use of a two-way device, possession of vehicle while trafficking in narcotics, possession of marijuana less than 20 grams, and resisting without violence. Total amount of methamphetamine seized: 524.5 grams.

## (U) VCNTF

(U) In June 2025, the Violent Crimes and Narcotics Task Force (VCNTF) began an investigation aimed at

dismantling a prolific illegal drug distribution ring in Jacksonville, Florida. The group was responsible for receiving multiple kilograms of cocaine, methamphetamine, and fentanyl monthly, which was then distributed to lower-level dealers throughout Jacksonville. Further investigation revealed the sources of these drugs originated in both Mexico and California, coming through Philadelphia, Detroit, and Tennessee on its way to Jacksonville. The DTO network spanned from Mexico, California, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Tennessee, and Florida and was directly connected to the Sinaloa and New Generation Cartels in Mexico.



(U) With the cooperation of numerous agencies, VCNTF concluded the investigation in February 2026 with the execution of four search warrants and multiple interdiction traffic stops. A courier was identified and stopped coming from California, and 30 kilograms of cocaine was found in a sophisticated trap system built into the floor of a hunting style dog box located in the bed of his

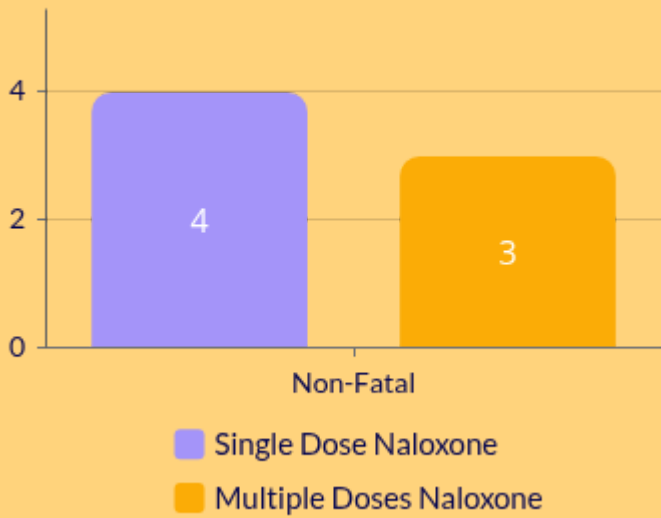
truck, which could hold over 60 kilograms of cocaine. This investigation revealed that this organization was responsible for the distribution of over 1,500 kilograms a year. This case resulted in five DTOs disrupted/dismantled, seven arrests, over 20 arrest warrants issued, and 40 kilograms of cocaine, \$291,753, 12 firearms, and three vehicles seized.



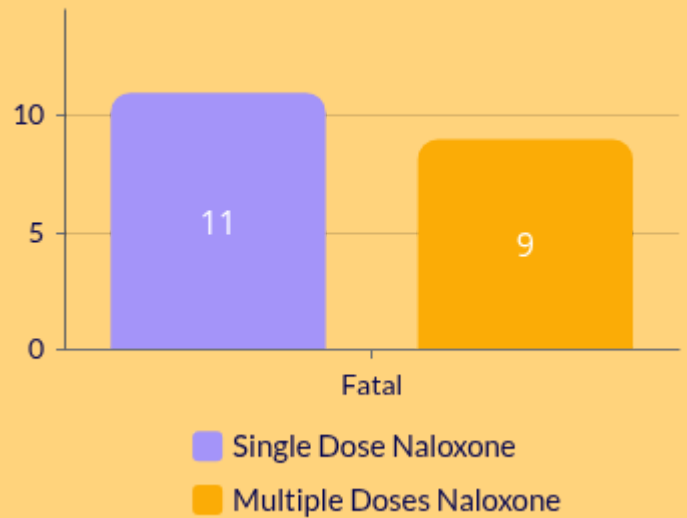
# ODMAP Corner

## (U) Q1 2026: Non-Fatal and Fatal Overdoses with Naloxone Administration

### (U) NON-FATAL

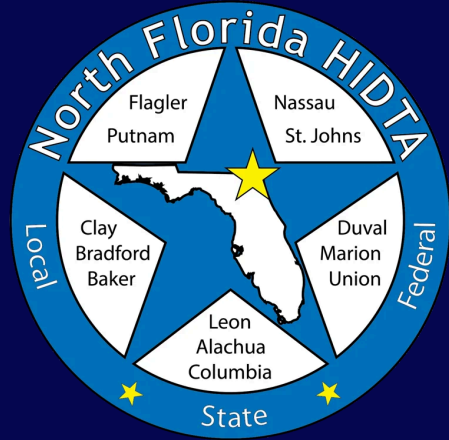


### (U) FATAL



County	All Suspected Fatal Overdoses for Q1 2026
Alachua	2
Baker	0
Bradford	1
Clay	0
Columbia	1
Duval	5
Flagler	1
Leon	0
Marion	3
Nassau	0
Putnam	2
St. Johns	9
Union	0

\*NOTE: Data provided from ODMAP is not necessarily indicative of an *illicit drug* overdose, and a fatal overdose in ODMAP is a dead-on-arrival and does not necessarily indicate that is the accurate number for a fatal overdose. Further, ODMAP software is designed to identify and eliminate duplicate entries; however, multiple agencies have entry access, and some duplicates may occur. Therefore, in an attempt to avoid possible duplication, only data entered by the Department of Health was used. While this should reduce or eliminate duplicate entries, the data in the above table may omit any non-DOH unique entries and should be viewed as potentially incomplete.



# Training Announcements

## May 5 & 6, 2026 Advanced Informant Management

Now you're working drug cases and your boss wants you to get some informants. Where do they come from? How do you recruit informants? While informants can be the lifeblood of narcotic investigations, they are also one of the greatest dangers. Improper informant management can lead to dismissed cases, officer dismissals, and even criminal charges against police. This 2-day advanced class gives Narcotic Investigators the necessary tools to recruit and utilize Informants to their full capacity. Instruction includes identifying Informant motives, proper documentation, debriefing skills & techniques, with an emphasis on officer liability and safety. Students will learn how to properly debrief and document informant interactions and court preparation. Practical exercises with students will highlight the importance of these skills. The following blocks of instruction are included: Informants vs. Sources of Information; Identifying Motivations; Informant Identification and Documentation; Case Development & Informant Roles; and Informants Role in Undercover Investigations. Upon completion of this class, students will be able to: Identify, recruit and manage confidential informants, successfully initiate and develop drug investigations, understand the liabilities associated with informant utilization, and understand the necessities of thorough and proper informant documentation.

## May 18, 2026 Patrol Assisting Narcotics

Patrol assisting Narcotics course is an 8 hour class for patrol or task force officers who are looking to expand their knowledge of narcotics investigations, and the tasks patrol and task force officers are asked to perform in conjunction with those investigations. The class includes different types of traffic stops routinely asked for by narcotics such as interdiction stops, rip stops, Intel stops, etc. It will also cover terminology, terms and criteria for different types of narcotics investigations, and how that relates to Intel and information desired from the investigatory stops.

## June 1 & 2, 2026 Interrogation for Narcotic Officers - Elements for a Successful Interview

Many criminal organizations within the United States are specially trained to evade and deceive law enforcement officers when questioned. The ability to gain information from individuals involved in criminal activity is essential to any successful prosecution. This course is designed to enable federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement professionals to enhance their ability to gain information and determine the truth about criminal activity through the interview and interrogation process. It teaches specialized skills that enable detection of deception through non-verbal and verbal communication with both theory and practical application.

### To Register for Training:

1. Log into <https://registration.nhac.org>
2. Username and Password-Class
3. Select **North Florida HIDTA**
4. **Click to view Training Events**
5. Select **Event Name** by date of training.
6. Fill in HOTT Online Application.
7. Select **Complete Registration**.
8. Save the application number for further use if necessary. You will receive an email indicating your online registration has been received.