

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Welcome to the new Ohio HIDTA website! Our team has worked diligently on updating this website to bring more information to the public and to our law enforcement partners. I am hopeful you will find this to be easy to use and navigate.

In January 2026, I joined the Ohio HIDTA as the new Executive Director. Prior to taking on this position, I served 27 years with the United States Marshals Service, spending most of my career in Northern Ohio where I ultimately served as the Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal. Throughout my career, I had the privilege of working with both the Ohio HIDTA and the Houston HIDTA, where I learned the value of the HIDTA Program and how it benefits the agencies involved and ultimately the communities we serve.

I am now excited to lead the Ohio HIDTA into the future as we take on new challenges and continue to find innovative ways to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations. I am privileged to join a team of great professionals here at the Ohio HIDTA, who are all proud to serve this ever-important cause. The Ohio HIDTA currently supports 39 law enforcement task forces across Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and Northern Kentucky. We support these task forces with critical funding, investigative analytical support, innovative training, information technology resources, and a deconfliction platform.

Our mission is of critical importance. We have lost too many loved ones to the deadly poisons distributed in our communities by heartless criminals, both foreign and domestic. The trafficking of illegal narcotics has had a detrimental effect on our nation, destroying families, neighborhoods, and so many lives. Illegal narcotics trafficking often brings death from lethal doses, but also from the violence that always accompanies drug trafficking. Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and Northern Kentucky are no exception to these unfortunate truths. These deadly drugs affect our cities and our rural communities.

We at the Ohio HIDTA are committed to continue the battle against illegal narcotics and focus our resources on the mission of dismantling and disrupting those drug trafficking organizations that bring these poisons to our communities.

Thank you for visiting our website. I hope you take this opportunity to learn more about the HIDTA Program and the great work that our team does for this critical mission.

*Andrew Deserto
Executive Director
Ohio HIDTA*