

DEA Mission

The mission of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States and bring to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States, or any other competent jurisdiction, those organizations and principal members of organizations, involved in the growing, manufacture, or distribution of controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States; and to recommend and support non-enforcement programs aimed at reducing the availability of illicit controlled substances on the domestic and international markets.

Major Functions

The major functions of DEA are:

Enforcement and Prevention

- Investigate and prepare for the prosecution of major violators of controlled substances laws operating domestically and internationally, including those involved in gangs and who perpetrate violence within U.S. communities and linked to regional cells, global drug cartel networks, as well as narco-terrorism organizations.
- Coordinate with federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement counterparts through task forces, mutual investigations, information sharing, resource sharing, de-confliction, and training, all of which serve to extend DEA's capabilities and limited resources.

- Coordinate with foreign governments through bilateral counter-drug investigations and capacity-building activities with host nation counterparts.
- Prevent, detect, and investigate the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals and listed chemicals from legitimate sources **while ensuring an adequate and uninterrupted supply for legitimate medical, commercial, and scientific needs.**
- Perform community outreach through local partnerships that help communities counter recurring drug and violent crime problems that can resurface after drug enforcement actions.
- Deny drug revenues and ill-gotten gains to drug trafficking organizations in order to disrupt trafficking activities and reduce drug availability.