



# SOUTHWEST METRO DRUG TASK FORCE

2ND QUARTER 2018

## NOTABLE CASES

### CASE #1

This quarter, the SWMDTF assisted the DEA in apprehending a meth DTO operating in the area. Upon completion of the case, which included multiple search warrants, traffic stops, and tactical planning, 9 arrests were made in total. \$15000 in US currency, one vehicle, and 2 firearms were forfeited, and 29 pounds of methamphetamine and 2 pounds of marijuana were seized. It was later learned that one of the suspects arrested has been a federal fugitive since 2011.

### CASE #2

In mid-April, Agents executed a search warrant in Hutchinson that resulted in large seizures, including 160.9 grams of cocaine, 604.4 grams of marijuana, and 4.3 grams of mushrooms. Agents also forfeited \$30860 in US currency. Various items indicating drug sales were also located by Agents. Two suspects in this case were not present during the search warrant and have not yet been located by Law Enforcement at this time.

### CASE #3

In mid-May, Agents conducted a hotel interdiction after receiving information stating that there was heroin present in the room. With the assistance of the Bloomington Drug Task Force, Agents observed activity consistent with narcotics sales. A traffic stop was initiated and one suspect was arrested. Shortly after, the second suspect was also arrested after attempting to leave the hotel. Agents seized 6.78 grams of heroin, 13.52 grams of meth, and 1.75 Alprazolam pills.

## WHAT IS THE SWMDTF SEEING?

Recently, studies have been done in Colorado showing the impact of marijuana legalization in their communities by the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) with worrying results.

According to their studies, marijuana related traffic deaths increased by 48% in a 3-year average (2013-2015). During the same time all traffic deaths increased 11%. Marijuana-related traffic deaths increased from 71 to 115 persons after it was legalized in 2013, and in 2009 marijuana-related traffic deaths represented 10% of traffic fatalities; however, by 2015, that number doubled to 21%.

Additionally, since marijuana legalization, marijuana use increased by 20% among youth in the two-year average (2013-2014) prior to legalization. Meanwhile, nationally, youth marijuana use declined by 4% during the same time. Colorado youth "past month" marijuana use for 2013-2014 was 74% higher than the national average compared to 39% higher in 2011-2012.

RMHIDTA's study also showed that Colorado Emergency Department visits per year related to marijuana increased—in 2013, 14148 visits were made and in 2014 that number increased to 18255 visits. Hospitalizations related to marijuana in 2012 totaled to 6715. This number increased in 2013 to 8272, and in 2014 total hospitalizations related to marijuana were at 11439.

If you'd like to learn more about RMHIDTA's reports on marijuana legalization, click [here!](#)

## SWMDTF

### COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

Presentations Given	Total Attendance
5	320

The SWMDTF believes that knowledge is the best line of defense against drug abuse.

### Got a tip?

The SWMDTF is reminding residents in communities across McLeod, Carver, Scott, and a portion of Hennepin Counties that the tip411 system is a safe, easy, instant, and 100% anonymous way to share information to aid law enforcement in investigations and help prevent crime. Anyone with a cell phone may send an anonymous tip by texting the word SWMTIP and their message to 847411 (tip411).

