



2019

Greater New Orleans Situational Drug Report

Gulf Coast HIDTA

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Scope

The purpose of the Greater New Orleans Situational Drug Report is to identify current and emerging drug trends within the New Orleans metropolitan area. The report intends to deliver accurate and timely strategic intelligence to assist law enforcement agencies in the development of drug enforcement strategies, as well as drug treatment and prevention organizations in the development of drug prevention and mitigation strategies. This assessment provides an overview of the region's primary drug threats. By examining the availability, abuse, associated crime and violence, production, transportation, and distribution of these drugs, it is the hope of the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (GC HIDTA) that this document will aid in understanding local drug trends.

Region

As defined by the United States Census Bureau, the New Orleans-Metairie, LA metropolitan statistical area is comprised of eight parishes: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany.¹ This is the largest metropolitan area of Louisiana, with approximately 1.27 million residents.² The Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain geographically divide this area. The Mississippi River separates the area south of Lake Pontchartrain into two distinct socio-cultural East Bank and West Bank communities. The area north of Lake Pontchartrain is colloquially known as the North Shore. The majority of the regional population resides on the East Bank.

Overview

Heroin is considered the greatest drug threat to Greater New Orleans (GNO), according to local respondents to the 2020 GC HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey (hereafter referred to as the Law Enforcement Survey). It is ranked closely as the second greatest drug threat by respondents of the 2020 GC HIDTA Drug Treatment and Prevention Survey (hereafter referred to as the Treatment and Prevention Survey). Heroin is the drug most related to property crime by Law Enforcement Survey respondents. New Orleans continues to be a heroin source city for Southeast Louisiana and Southern Mississippi. Heroin is responsible for a significant portion of the area's violent and property crimes. Respondents to the Treatment and Prevention Survey rated heroin as the drug with the highest level of use and the highest increase inpatient admission rate over the past 12 months.

Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are considered the second greatest drug threat. In recent years, fentanyl and its analogues have frequently been found in samples of heroin and counterfeit pharmaceuticals. Twenty-one percent of Law Enforcement Survey respondents reported fentanyl as their greatest drug threat. Forty-three percent claimed an increase in availability and demand over the past 12 months. Reports of fentanyl overdoses outside of the major cities in the Gulf Coast indicate that its use, both alone and as a cutting agent, is now common.

Marijuana, ranked the third greatest drug threat by Law Enforcement Survey respondents, is the most available and abused drug in GNO. Much of the marijuana available in Southeast Louisiana is the product of indoor cultivation. This production method is partially responsible for the increased potency, as cultivators are able to modify the surrounding environment to foster higher levels of THC. Increased potency enhances the risk of adverse or unpredictable reaction in users, as well as the risk of addiction. Seventy-two percent of respondents to the Treatment and Prevention Survey reported high levels of marijuana use in their areas. Although the majority of treatment and prevention participants stated that inpatient admissions had remained the same since the previous year, 35 percent had clients that reported greater availability of high-potency marijuana.

Although methamphetamine is considered to be the greatest drug threat in the GC HIDTA and Louisiana as a whole, the negative effects of heroin and fentanyl and influx of marijuana outweigh those of

methamphetamine in GNO. Thirty-five percent of Law Enforcement Survey respondents reported an increase in availability over the last 12 months and 64 percent of Treatment and Prevention Survey respondents reported a moderate level of use in their area. The increase of methamphetamine's transportation into the region has reduced the difficulty of obtaining it. The majority of treatment and prevention participants reported that inpatient admissions for methamphetamine had remained the same over the last 12 months.

The abuse, diversion, and misuse of controlled prescription drugs (CPDs) are common in GNO. Sixty-one percent of the Law Enforcement Survey participants identified CPDs as remaining the same in availability and 70 percent report remaining the same in demand as the previous year. Forty-eight percent of the Treatment and Prevention Survey respondents reported a high level of CPD use in their area, with Hydrocodone, pharmaceutical-grade fentanyl and hydrocodone representing the most commonly diverted CPDs in GNO. Respondents to the Treatment and Prevention Survey indicated that the main sources of diverted pharmaceuticals are family members, friends, and street dealers.

Cocaine and its derivative, crack cocaine, remain a threat to GNO. The majority of Law Enforcement Survey respondents indicate the availability and demand of cocaine has remained the same over the past 12 months. The majority (68 percent) of surveyed treatment and prevention professionals report that inpatient admissions have remained the same as last year. Although cocaine did not represent one of the primary drug threats to GNO in 2018, it was the primary drug contributing to violent crime identified by Law Enforcement Survey respondents.

New psychoactive substance (NPS) abuse in GNO is relatively low. There are three main categories of NPSs: synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, and phenethylamines. Synthetic cannabinoids are comprised of various plant materials that are coated with chemicals to produce a strong intoxicating effect. Synthetic cathinones have stimulant properties related to the cathinone drug class and the effects are similar to drugs such as methamphetamine, MDMA, or cocaine. Synthetic phenethylamines mimic popular hallucinogens and can be found in powder and liquid forms. The most notable versions of synthetic phenethylamines are "N-bomb" and "Smiles." While NPSs are not a primary contributor to violent and property crime, some of these drugs are known to cause violent behavior. Synthetic cathinones, phenethylamines, and PCP have been known to cause severe aggression in certain instances. Other synthetics, such as GHB or Rohypnol, are used in drug-facilitated sexual assaults because of their sedative properties.

Heroin

A. Availability

The availability of heroin in Louisiana has increased for the past several years. Southeast Louisiana, particularly the New Orleans area, has experienced a surge in heroin availability. Thirty-nine percent of law enforcement responses taken from the Law Enforcement Survey reported heroin availability, as well as demand, as increasing during 2018. According to statistics from the Louisiana State Police, a total of 27.66 pounds of heroin were seized across the state in 2018, compared to 70.16 pounds in 2017 and 33.73 pounds seized in 2016.^a Heroin sold on the street is typically in "bag" or "paper" quantities, with the occasional bundle reported in GNO.

B. Abuse

Heroin abuse is not limited to a single age group or ethnicity. Thirty-nine percent of respondents to the Law Enforcement Survey ranked the demand as increasing during 2018. Eighty-four percent of respondents to

^a Large domestic highway enforcement seizures may impact annual seizure statistics reported.

the Treatment and Prevention Survey report a high level of use in their area and 64 percent reported an inpatient admission increase. This is the highest level of use and increase in inpatient admissions among drugs ranked by Treatment and Prevention Survey respondents.

It is likely that many of the new and current users of heroin were once prescription drug users. Using the results from the Treatment and Prevention Survey, more than one-quarter of respondents reported that their clients have switched from prescription opioids to heroin. This may be due to a decrease in availability of prescription opioids, the rise in pharmaceutical prices, or the lesser cost of heroin in comparison. While the size of the heroin user population is smaller than that of other major drugs, heroin is much more deadly.

The Louisiana Department of Health reported 120 heroin-involved deaths across Louisiana for the first three quarters of 2018, 37 which occurred in Jefferson Parish, 17 in St. Tammany Parish, and five in Orleans Parish.^b Compared to 170 heroin-involved deaths in Louisiana in all of 2017, including 59 in Jefferson Parish, 27 in St. Tammany Parish, and 24 in Orleans Parish.³

As a result of the increasing overdoses caused by the use of heroin and other opioids in both GNO and the rest of the United States, many law enforcement officers are now trained in the administration of naloxone. Naloxone is a medication used to block the effects of opioids and is especially useful in the prevention of opioid-related overdoses. The medication can be administered via intramuscular or intravenous injection, in addition to an intranasal spray. New Orleans EMS, Police, and Fire departments collectively administered 1,207 doses in 2018.⁴ Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office reported administering 74 Naloxone doses in 2018.⁵

C. Production

Neither opium nor heroin are cultivated or produced in Louisiana. Heroin is produced primarily in four source regions: South America, Mexico, Southeast Asia, and Southwest Asia. It generally moves across the Southwest Border of the United States (SWB), and is trafficked into the Houston area, where it is transported to (and through) New Orleans.

D. Transportation

Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) are the chief source for heroin in GNO and DTOs transport the drug into the region through private vehicles, commercial parcel delivery services, passenger buses, and maritime vessels from the SWB and Colombian ports. The majority of Law Enforcement Survey respondents indicated that Black American criminal groups are primarily responsible for the transportation, wholesale distribution, and retail distribution of heroin in the region.

Fentanyl and Other Opioids

A. Availability

Over the course of a few years, fentanyl and other opioids have exploded in popularity. Whether users are actively seeking out fentanyl and its analogues or are unaware of these drugs in their heroin supply, the presence of fentanyl has increased dramatically. Twenty-one percent of respondents to the Law Enforcement Survey ranked fentanyl and other opioids as the greatest drug threat and 43 percent reported an increase in availability and demand in 2018. Rising availability rates for fentanyl and other opioids may be due to the ease of purchasing these drugs online via the Dark Web. High production levels of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues in China, and the variety of international mail carrier services contribute in the ease of obtaining these dangerous drugs.

^b Third quarter 2018 statistics from the Louisiana Department of Health are preliminary. Fourth quarter 2018 statistics were unavailable as of July 2019.

In an effort to combat the increase in availability and demand of fentanyl, in August 2018, Louisiana enacted an amendment to House Bill 165, which strengthens the criminal penalties for the manufacture, distribution, and possession with intent to distribute fentanyl and fentanyl analogues.⁶

B. Abuse

Seventy-two percent of respondents to the Treatment and Prevention Survey reported a high level of fentanyl and other opioid use in their area. Furthermore, 60 percent stated an increase in inpatient admissions for fentanyl and other opioids.

It is of increasing concern for law enforcement and treatment and prevention professionals in recent years because of its high potency. Pharmaceutically, it is allotted on a microgram scale, as a dose of two milligrams or more is considered lethal to humans. The New Orleans metropolitan area continues to report an increase in the amount of fentanyl analogues found mixed in with heroin or marketed as heroin outright. In many cases, fentanyl is used in combination with another drug or disguised as something else altogether. Fentanyl-laced heroin is worsening the national overdose crisis as numerous drug dealers are using fentanyl to increase the potency of diluted heroin in order to minimize costs and maximize profit margins.

The Louisiana Department of Health reported 164 synthetic opioid-involved deaths across Louisiana for the first three quarters of 2018, 55 which occurred in Jefferson Parish, 18 in St. Tammany Parish, and eight in Orleans Parish.^c Compared to 154 synthetic opioid-involved deaths in Louisiana in all of 2017, including 67 in Jefferson Parish, 22 in St. Tammany Parish, and 12 in Orleans Parish.⁷ The Orleans Parish Coroner's Office reported in 2018, 106 of 208 accidental drug-related deaths involved fentanyl, compared to 87 in 2017 and 48 in 2016.⁸ Fentanyl and other opioid-related deaths are likely much higher than reported, as many coroner's offices and state laboratories do not test for fentanyl and its analogues unless specifically requested.

C. Production

There are no reported clandestine fentanyl laboratories in GNO.

D. Transportation

A significant portion of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, and other opioids are shipped into GNO from Chinese clandestine laboratories. The most successful laboratories are able to adapt to the changes in the United States Customs and Border Protection's screening processes to ensure their product is delivered to the customer. Chinese manufacturers utilize a global delivery system known as the Express Mail Service (EMS). This system will transport a package to its destination using the postal services of each country along the way. Using the EMS, packages are shipped either directly from China to the United States or through European countries that the United States Postal Inspection Service deems as low risk.⁹ Additionally, the United States Postal Service is a popular method of trafficking drugs because the agency is not required to collect advanced electronic data, which is the basic package information.¹⁰

In an effort to halt fentanyl shipments into the region, in August 2018, law enforcement agencies based in New Orleans completed an investigation into a China-based fentanyl supplier, "Diana." Between November 2017 and January 2018, more than 20 million doses of fentanyl bound for the United States were seized and 21 people were arrested.¹¹

^c Third quarter 2018 statistics from the Louisiana Department of Health are preliminary. Fourth quarter 2018 statistics were unavailable as of July 2019. Synthetic Opioids include prescription drugs (e.g., tramadol and fentanyl), as well as illicit fentanyl analogues.

Marijuana

A. Availability

Marijuana is the third greatest drug threat reported by Law Enforcement Survey respondents and ranked equally with heroin for the drug utilizing the greatest law enforcement resources. Marijuana is the most widely available drug in GNO with 70 percent of respondents to the Law Enforcement Survey indicating a high level of availability. Additionally, 26 percent of respondents reported an increase in marijuana availability over the past 12 months. Data from the Law Enforcement Survey indicates domestically-produced and BC Bud marijuana are the most commonly encountered forms in the area.

In 2018, Louisiana enacted legislation to provide patients with access to medical marijuana. Louisiana State University and Southern University agricultural centers, the only legal growers of medical marijuana for the state, each contracted with an outside company to cultivate and produce the drug. The leading regulatory agency, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, reported that as of June 19, 2019, medical marijuana was still unavailable to patients due to laboratory testing.¹² Nine pharmacies were appointed to distribute the drug, including three serving the New Orleans-Metairie, LA metropolitan statistical area.¹³ Abuse and availability rates for marijuana in GNO will likely increase as a result of this endeavor.

In June 2019, Louisiana enacted legislation to authorize the production of industrial hemp farming. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry oversees the regulation of hemp production, issuing licenses to farmers, tracking production, reporting to the United States Department of Agriculture, and testing THC levels to ensure no plants have a THC content over 0.3 percent. The legislation also legalized the sale of hemp-derived cannabidiol (i.e., CBD) products that do not exceed 0.3 percent THC. The Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control began issuing retailers permits to sell CBD products. The law prohibits CBD products in alcoholic beverages, in food products, or that can be inhaled.¹⁴

B. Abuse

Marijuana is the most commonly abused drug in GNO. Its use transcends all racial, social, and economic boundaries. Seventy-two percent of treatment and prevention personnel reported a high level of use in their area. Many treatment and prevention personnel across the region also report that marijuana is used in combination with a host of other drugs. These include, but are not limited to, heroin, cocaine, CPDs, and alcohol.

C. Production

Louisiana's temperate climate enables marijuana cultivators to illegally grow their own plants during most of the year. Most locally grown marijuana is intended for in-state consumption. Marijuana is typically grown outdoors in small plots with five to ten plants scattered throughout an acre to avoid aerial detection. Local criminals using outdoor grow sites use sophisticated means of production and concealment. Outdoor grow sites are often found on public land in an effort to avoid seizure of personal property and the plants are often embedded within other groups of crops to disguise their distinguishable features. Indoor marijuana growing techniques are the preferred methods for growers seeking a high potency, high quality product. Indoor grows range in size from small closets to large warehouses. Violent crime is typically not associated with marijuana abuse in the GC HIDTA; however, some marijuana cultivators resort to counter-surveillance, trip wires, and explosives to protect their cultivation sites. Law enforcement officers must remain vigilant during enforcement operations to avoid potential injury.

D. Transportation

Marijuana that is not cultivated in GNO is often transported via private vehicles from western states, as they produce high-grade recreational and medical marijuana. Law Enforcement Survey data indicates that

that California, Texas, Colorado, and Washington State are responsible for the majority of high-grade or medical marijuana found in GNO. Statistics from highway interdictions confirm that marijuana is the most commonly seized illicit drug in Louisiana. Increases in drug seizures on highways in Louisiana, and on extensions of those highways in the neighboring states of Texas and Mississippi, indicate that the problem is not abating, despite increased law enforcement attention. Mail carrier services are also utilized and make up a large percentage of seized packages.

Methamphetamine

A. Availability

Thirty-five percent of Law Enforcement Survey respondents indicated an increase in methamphetamine availability in 2018. Methamphetamine is available from two primary sources: methamphetamine manufactured in Mexico and locally produced methamphetamine intended for personal consumption.

B. Abuse

Methamphetamine trafficking and abuse significantly contribute to both violent and property crime in GNO. Thirty percent of respondents to the Law Enforcement Survey believe the demand for methamphetamine has increased over the past year. Majority of Treatment and Prevention Survey respondents claimed a moderate level of methamphetamine use (64 percent) and inpatient admissions as remaining the same as last year (52 percent). The Orleans Parish Coroner's Office reported in 2018, 29 of 208 accidental drug-related deaths involved methamphetamines/amphetamines, compared to 14 in 2017 and 18 in 2016.¹⁵

C. Production

The use of the one-pot methamphetamine production method continues as the restrictions on the purchase of pseudoephedrine remain the same. Respondents to the Law Enforcement Survey reported no encounters or a decrease in encounters of one-pot, traditional, and methamphetamine conversion laboratories in 2018. This data supports the idea that the majority of methamphetamine is now imported from Mexico. Mexico-produced methamphetamine is transported via the Interstate Highway System from the SWB and California in larger, wholesale quantities.

D. Transportation

The high-purity methamphetamine often found in GNO is typically of Mexican origin. Drug traffickers transport methamphetamine from their Houston, TX and Dallas, TX distribution hubs along the eastbound interstates into the local region.

Controlled Prescription Drugs

A. Availability

CPDs are obtained illicitly via many different methods, including theft, forgery, fraud, internet pharmacies, pain management clinics, and selling extra pills. Local respondents to the Treatment and Prevention Survey claimed that their clients obtained CPDs through family members, friends, and street dealers more than any other sources. The majority (57 percent) of Law Enforcement Survey respondents report a moderate level of availability for CPDs.

In order to lower the abuse and diversion of opioid medications, Act 76 of the 2017 Legislative Session was passed. The bill requires licensed opioid prescribers to enroll in Louisiana's Prescription Monitoring

Program to verify if patients have other active opioid prescriptions, as well as complete continuing medical education related to CPD diversion, prescribing, and treatment practices.¹⁶

B. Abuse

CPDs are some of the most frequently abused drugs in GNO. Forty-eight percent of respondents to the Treatment and Prevention Survey indicated a high level of use and 52 percent reported a moderate level of abuse. Hydrocodone and pharmaceutical-grade fentanyl were reported as the most commonly diverted CPDs, followed by Oxycodone and Suboxone. Pharmaceutical-grade fentanyl, Hydrocodone, and Oxycodone had the highest rates of inpatient admission increases in 2018 in GNO.

C. Production

While there may be pharmaceutical companies operating within GNO, the production and manufacture of CPDs occurs outside of the area.

D. Transportation

CPDs that are not prescribed and/or diverted within GNO are most commonly transported via private vehicles and mail carrier services.

Cocaine

A. Availability

While cocaine (powder and crack) is not as prevalent as it once was, it remains a constant threat to both law enforcement and drug treatment and prevention organizations. Cocaine was the primary drug contributing to violent crime identified by Law Enforcement Survey respondents. Thirty-nine percent of Law Enforcement Survey respondents indicated a moderate level of availability and 74 percent indicated the same availability rate as last year. The increase in cocaine production across South America is responsible for the recent surge in supply within the United States. This is corroborated by increased highway interdiction and United States point of entry seizure amounts.

B. Abuse

Seventy-two percent of Treatment and Prevention Survey respondents ranked cocaine use as moderate. Additionally, 68 percent of respondents reported that inpatient admissions for cocaine have stayed the same. Cocaine demand has remained the same in the past year, according to 65 percent of Law Enforcement Survey respondents. Cocaine is commonly used in combination with a variety of other drugs, with alcohol, marijuana, and heroin being the most common. The Orleans Parish Coroner's Office reported in 2018, 108 of 208 accidental drug-related deaths involved cocaine, compared to 116 in 2017 and 105 in 2016.¹⁷

C. Production

Coca is neither cultivated nor produced within GNO. The coca plant is native to South America and cocaine seized in the United States overwhelmingly originates from Colombia.

D. Transportation

After processing in Colombia, cocaine is smuggled into the United States via Mexico. It is then transported into GNO via the SWB and Atlanta, GA.

New Psychoactive Substances

A. Availability

Synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones are most commonly sold in headshops, gas stations, and convenience stores. Phenethylamines are often illicitly distributed for experimental purposes and became available on the Internet around 2010. Synthetic cannabinoid, cathinone, and phenethylamine products are often labeled “not for human consumption” and are sold in colorful packaging and bottles to attract consumers. The majority (26 percent) of the Law Enforcement Survey respondents reported the availability of NPSs as low, as well as the same availability over the past 12 months. For MDMA in particular, the majority (26 percent) of respondents reported availability as low and the majority (57 percent) reported MDMA as the same availability over the past 12 months.

B. Abuse

NPSs are said to have no legitimate industrial or medical use. The misuse of these drugs in the past decade represents an ongoing public health and safety threat. Forty-four percent of Treatment and Prevention Survey respondents categorize NPS use as moderate and another 44 percent categorize NPS use as low. Sixty-eight percent of treatment and prevention professionals report NPS inpatient admissions as remaining the same over the past 12 months. Thirty-five percent of Law Enforcement Survey respondents report the same demand of NPSs as the previous year.

Product inconsistency poses a serious concern for those who abuse NPSs. Importers and retail traffickers care little about the chemical makeup of their product or how it may impact a user. Those who use NPSs risk their physical and mental health when consuming these substances, as they are unregulated and can vary in potency with each batch.

C. Production

According to crime lab professionals, a chemistry background is required to manufacture phenethylamines. Law enforcement officials report that phenethylamines are usually produced in industrial size laboratories overseas.

D. Transportation

NPSs are typically transported to United States markets from overseas laboratories.

Forecast

Heroin continues to be the primary drug threat to GNO. Heroin abuse will likely continue at its current rate because of its high levels of abuse, demand, and distribution. New Orleans’ standing as the regional heroin marketplace also ensures a steady incoming supply. In the past several years, fentanyl and other opioids have increasingly been found in samples of heroin and counterfeit pharmaceuticals. The increased availability and distribution of fentanyl and other opioids is responsible for the increasing overdose death rate. More consumers will be able to purchase fentanyl products with the advent of the Dark Web. Marijuana is likely to remain the most abused drug in GNO, as Louisiana moves towards the availability of medical marijuana, as well as hemp and CBD products. Despite the decrease in domestic methamphetamine production, its abuse and availability remain a concern. Mexican-based DTOs will continue to supply high purity, low-cost methamphetamine to United States markets. The abuse and diversion of CPDs are widespread in GNO. Act 76 of the 2017 Legislative Session may reduce CPD availability in the near future, possibly forcing some opioid abusers to turn to heroin. Although regional cocaine use is moderate, and less of a concern than in previous years, violent crime surrounds both its abuse and distribution. Increased South American coca production will likely keep domestic cocaine supply high.

NPS abuse in GNO is likely to remain low and will continue to be popular among individuals who are regularly drug tested.

Methodology

The GNO Situational Drug report was produced to identify, quantify, and prioritize the nature, extent, and scope of the threat of illegal drugs and related issues in the New Orleans region during calendar year 2018. A variety of state and local agencies assisted in the collection and analysis of the information necessary to quantify the threat, and to identify trafficking trends, by requesting information on availability of illicit drugs.

This report utilized the 2020 Gulf Coast HIDTA Law Enforcement Survey, the 2020 Gulf Coast HIDTA Drug Treatment and Prevention Survey, open source documents, law enforcement sensitive information from investigative agencies, and anecdotal information from reliable sources. Only the survey responses from GNO were used in the above analysis. A moderate level of confidence has been assigned to both the Law Enforcement Survey and Treatment and Prevention Survey results as they do not represent the entirety of the New Orleans region. For all intents and purposes, GNO is represented in this document by the following cities in Southeast Louisiana: Avondale, Chalmette, Covington, Delcambre, Gramercy, Gretna, Harvey, Kenner, Luling, Marrero, Metairie, New Orleans, and Slidell.

The GNO Situational Drug Report focuses on seven major drug categories: heroin, fentanyl and other opioids, marijuana, methamphetamine, controlled prescription drugs, cocaine, and new psychoactive substances. Each category is presented in detail and identifies trends, developments, and anticipated impacts on the area.

In this report, estimative language is used to express the probability that an event of development will happen. The below chart details how expressions of likelihood correlate with percentages of chance:

Quantifying the Likelihood of Occurrence						
Almost no chance	Very unlikely	Unlikely	Roughly even chance	Likely	Very likely	Almost certainly
1-5%	5-20%	20-45%	45-55%	55-80%	80-95%	95-99%

Assessments are supported by information that varies in quality and sourcing. The levels of confidence ascribed to assessments are as follows:

Defining Confidence Levels		
Low Confidence	Moderate Confidence	High Confidence
- The nature of the issue may not be knowable (e.g., complex or future-oriented) - Uncorroborated information from marginal-to-good sources - High potential for deception - Key assumptions are critical to analysis - Mostly weak inferences	- The nature of the issue is knowable or sufficient evidence minimizes uncertainty - Partially corroborated information from good sources - Moderate potential for deception - Assumptions are potentially critical to analysis	- The nature of the issue is knowable - Well-corroborated information from proven sources - Low potential for deception - Assumptions are not critical to analysis - Undisputed reasoning

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