



# ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

## NEWS RELEASE

*Brendan F. Kelly - Director*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE ANNOUNCES 2021 DRUG ENFORCEMENT SEIZED NEARLY 400% MORE FENTANYL, OVER 260% MORE HEROIN, OVER 190% MORE METH**  
**Combined Illegal Drugs Seized Valued at \$71 Million in FY 2021**

Chicago, IL – Citing the urgent need to address the continued epidemic of opioid and meth addiction across the state, Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly announced today that ISP Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) dramatically increased the percentage of dangerous drugs and weapons seized in FY 2021, recovering illegal drugs valued at approximately \$71,000,000.

“Through the strong state, local and federal partnerships of the MEG units, drug enforcement across our state is focused on apprehending violent, drug-trafficking criminals profiting off the pain of those losing loved ones to dangerous drugs” stated Illinois State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly. “The ISP is thankful for the community-based partnerships like those of the MEG units because it leads to a more united, more effective front pushing back against these merchants of misery causing of this ongoing epidemic.”

The Illinois State Police (ISP) Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) are on the front lines of narcotic enforcement strategies, prevention, and treatment strategies. MEGs represent a collaborative effort among state, federal, and local law enforcement agencies to enforce Illinois drug laws and investigate street gang activity. MEGs partner with the Statewide Terrorism Intelligence Center (STIC) and Illinois National Guard Counterdrug analysts to reduce crime through intelligence led policing which focuses enforcement efforts on felony level drug distribution and trafficking. MEGs partner with community groups, health organizations, and local stakeholders to address and prevent substance abuse disorders affecting communities throughout Illinois.

During FY21, MEG agents in nine different units opened approximately 1,404 investigations and closed approximately 1,131 cases, with approximately 1,247 ongoing investigations. MEG agents made 2,229 seizures of illegally possessed cannabis, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, fentanyl and carfentanyl, heroin, LSD, methamphetamine, pharmaceuticals, psilocybin and other dangerous drugs with an estimated street value of just under \$71,100,000, resulting in 878 arrests for either delivery or possession of those illegal substances. They also made 68 gang-crime related arrests.

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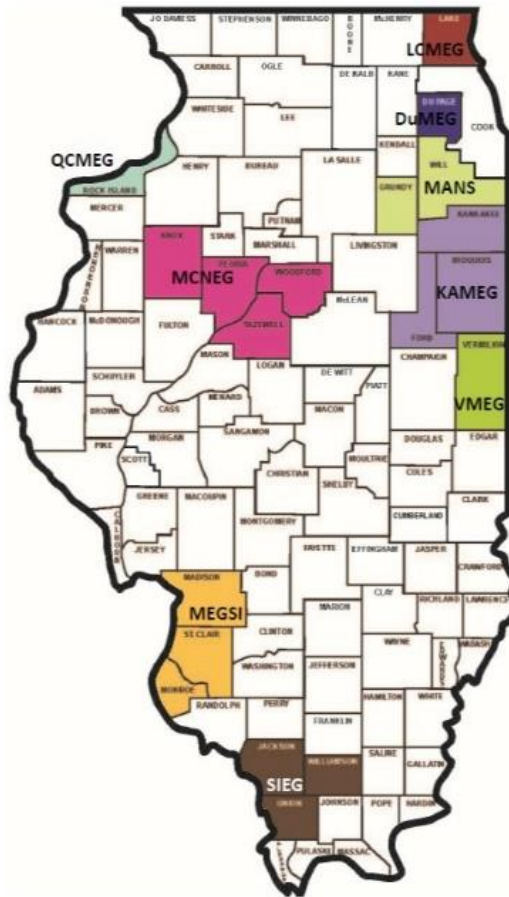
A 2017 report by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) concluded MEG units were effective at making proportionally more felony and manufacture/delivery arrests than their local counterparts alone. Applying the principles and conclusions of this report has the MEG units concentrating their efforts on felony trafficking investigations and arrests rather than personal users. This key focus on felony level drug offenses paves the way for the education and treatment programs to function effectively by breaking the cycle of drug addiction.

In their efforts to address and prevent substance abuse, MEG Agents also partnered with and/or provided prevention and education seminars to the following community groups: DuPage County Prevention Leadership Team, DuPage County Heroin/Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force, Citizens Police Academy at Glendale Heights Police Department, Life Tough Kids youth group, Kankakee Area Pledge for Life Partnership, Riverside Medical Center, Kankakee County Opioid Task Force, Boy Scouts of America, Grundy County Area Vocational Center, Behavioral Health Alliance of Will and Grundy County, Chestnut Health and Treatment Center, Kettler Behavioral Health Services, Gateway Foundation Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center, The JOLT Foundation, Dunlap School Program, Peoria Fire Department Methamphetamine Lab Education, Rock Island Council on Addictions, Massac County Drug Awareness Coalition, Herrin High School, Williamson County Sheriff's Department Drug Court Program, and various other community groups, schools, police departments and treatment organizations.

Kelly noted that effective January 1, 2022, the statute governing the MEGs was amended by the Illinois General Assembly to expand their jurisdiction to include the investigation and enforcement of human trafficking, firearms offenses, and violations of the Firearm Owners Identification Card (FOID) Act. This will enable the MEGs to better prioritize operations in the on-going effort to reduce drug-related violent crime in metropolitan areas within the State of Illinois.

In FY20, nine MEGs received a total of \$1,170,000 in funding. Funding was derived from Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds, State Asset Forfeiture Funds, and Drug Traffic Prevention Funds (DTPF).

Illinois' nine (9) MEGs encompass 20 counties as depicted in the map below. They are DuPage County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (DuMeg), Joliet Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad (JMANS), Kankakee Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (KAMEG), Lake County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (LCMEG), Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois (MEGSI), Multi-County Narcotics Enforcement Group (MCNEG), Quad Cities Metropolitan Enforcement Group (QCMEG), Southern Illinois Enforcement Group (SIEG), and Vermillion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (VMEG). Each MEG is overseen by a policy board composed of ISP officers, elected officials, and chief law enforcement officers or their designees.



### STATEWIDE MEG TOTALS

Drugs Seized*	FY20	FY21	Change
Cocaine	45,605.68	64,703.23	41.88%
Edibles/Vapes (Illegally Possessed)	136,501.73	363,875.82	166.57%
Fentanyl/Carfentanyl	3,158.21	15,676.77	396.38%
Heroin	6,770.72	24,584.55	263.10%
LSD	2,160.80	32,941.95	1,424.53%
Methamphetamine	29,390.41	85,381.01	190.51%
Other Dangerous Drugs	22,295.39	104,065.57	366.76%
Pharmaceuticals	5,031.25	7,887.08	56.76%
Psilocybin	651.40	14,171.09	2,075.48
*Amounts may represent drug weight or quantity, or a combination thereof			
 Weapons Seized	 FY20	 FY21	 Change
	213	258	21.13%

During FY21, on the enforcement front, DuPage County MEG (DuMEG) agents opened approximately 259 investigations and closed approximately 246 cases, with approximately 96 ongoing investigations. DuMEG agents made 483 seizures of illegally possessed cannabis, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, fentanyl and carfentanil, heroin, LSD, methamphetamine, pharmaceuticals, psilocybin and other dangerous drugs with an estimated street value of just over \$42,000,000.00, while making 110 arrests for either delivery or possession of those illegal substances. They also made 22 gang-crime related arrests and seized 39 firearms.

### DuMEG TOTALS

<b>Drugs Seized*</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Cannabis (Illegally Possessed)</b>	73,011.35	5,861,682.14	7,928.45%
<b>Cocaine</b>	20,703.04	52,087.98	151.60%
<b>Edibles/Vapes (Illegal Possessed)</b>	9,234.00	265,933.02	2,779.93%
<b>Heroin</b>	241.45	1,148.30	375.59%
<b>Methamphetamine</b>	491.12	14,275.25	2,806.67%
<b>Other Dangerous Drugs</b>	628.20	2,570.25	309.15%
<b>Pharmaceuticals</b>	460.00	2,282.00	396.09%
<b>Psilocybin</b>	349.80	13,053.58	3,631.73%
<b>*Amounts may represent drug weight or quantity, or a combination thereof</b>			
<b>Weapons Seized</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>Change</b>
	10	39	190%

During FY21, on the enforcement front, Joliet MANS (JMANS) agents, which covers Grundy and Will Counties, opened approximately 212 investigations and closed approximately 218 cases, with approximately 121 ongoing investigations. JMANS agents made 385 seizures of illegally possessed cannabis, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, fentanyl and carfentanil, heroin, LSD, methamphetamine, pharmaceuticals, psilocybin and other dangerous drugs with an estimated street value of just over \$10,400,000.00, while making 124 arrests for either delivery or possession of those illegal substances. JMANS agents also made 10 gang-related arrests and seized 42 weapons.

### JMANS TOTALS

<b>Drugs Seized*</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Cocaine</b>	4,668.77	9,205.16	97.16%
<b>Heroin</b>	4,078.43	10,742.30	163.39%
<b>LSD</b>	102.00	833.00	716.67%
<b>Methamphetamine</b>	15,560.94	25,535.71	64.10%
<b>Pharmaceuticals</b>	118.00	1,754.00	1,386.44%
<b>*Amounts may represent drug weight or quantity, or a combination thereof</b>			

## ADD FOUR / MEG

During FY21, on the enforcement front, Kankakee Area MEG (KAMEG) agents, which cover Iroquois, Ford, and Kankakee Counties, opened approximately 147 investigations and closed approximately 100 cases, with approximately 38 ongoing investigations. KAMEG agents made 142 seizures of illegally possessed cannabis, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, fentanyl and carfentanyl, heroin, LSD, methamphetamine, pharmaceuticals, psilocybin and other dangerous drugs with an estimated street value of just over \$5,388,000, while making 163 arrests for either delivery or possession of those illegal substances. They also made 17 gang-crime related arrests and seized 35 weapons.

### KAMEG TOTALS

<b>Drugs Seized*</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Cannabis (Illegally Possessed)</b>	2,452.50	373,815.20	15,142.21%
<b>Fentanyl/Carfentanyl</b>	9.00	721.20	7,913.33%
<b>Heroin</b>	23.80	10,762.10	45,118.91%
<b>Methamphetamine</b>	37.60	122.00	224.47%
<b>Other Dangerous Drugs</b>	0.00	486.70	NC

**\*Amounts may represent drug weight or quantity, or a combination thereof**

During FY21, on the enforcement front, Lake County MEG (LCMEG) agents opened approximately 87 investigations and closed approximately 73 cases, with approximately 15 ongoing investigations. LCMEG agents made 76 seizures of illegally possessed cannabis, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, fentanyl and carfentanyl, heroin, LSD, methamphetamine, pharmaceuticals, psilocybin and other dangerous drugs with an estimated street value of just over \$3,000,000, while making 44 arrests for either delivery or possession of those illegal substances. They also made 10 gang-crime related arrests and seized 61 weapons.

### LCMEG TOTALS

<b>Drugs Seized*</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Cannabis (Illegally Possessed)</b>	21,538.00	91,203.10	323.65%
<b>Cocaine</b>	55.30	1,144.30	1,969.26%
<b>Heroin</b>	75.72	1,642.42	2,069.07%
<b>LSD</b>	42.00	825.00	1,864.29%
<b>Methamphetamine</b>	49.14	2,103.73	4,181.09%
<b>Other Dangerous Drugs</b>	4,896.10	20,308.80	314.80%
<b>Psilocybin</b>	149.00	602.10	304.09%

**\*Amounts may represent drug weight or quantity, or a combination thereof**

<b>Weapons Seized</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>Change</b>
	12	61	408.33%

During FY21, on the enforcement front, Vermilion County MEG (VMEG) agents opened approximately 188 investigations and closed approximately 197 cases, with approximately 107 ongoing investigations. VMEG agents made 225 seizures of illegally possessed cannabis, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, fentanyl and carfentanyl, heroin, LSD, methamphetamine, pharmaceuticals, psilocybin and other dangerous drugs with an estimated street value of just over \$1,300,000, while making 95 arrests for either delivery or possession of those illegal substances. They also made 8 gang-crime related arrests and seized 16 weapons.

## VMEG TOTALS

<b>Drugs Seized*</b>	<b>FY20</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Edibles/Vapes (Illegally Possessed)</b>	634.00	2,295.00	261.99%
<b>LSD</b>	0.80	219.00	2,725.00%
<b>Methamphetamine</b>	2,565.00	10,509.00	309.71%
<b>Other Dangerous Drugs</b>	25.00	500.00	1,900%
<b>Pharmaceuticals</b>	151.00	500.00	231.13%

**\*Amounts may represent drug weight or quantity, or a combination thereof**

The Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) Office of Communication and Information (OCI) video recording of the press event can be found by clicking on this link:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/cms/agency/media/video/pages/videos.aspx>

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