

Introduction:

What Is Drug Trafficking?

- The crime of selling, transporting, or illegally importing unlawful controlled substances, such as heroin, cocaine, marijuana, or other illegal drugs.
- It is also known as drug distribution.

Why Is Drug Trafficking An Issue In The United States?

- Undermines border security.
- Inflicts harm in communities.
- Threatens the stability of our allies around the world.
- The drugs that are being smuggled into the United States are the reason for the national epidemic regarding drug problems.
- Deaths throughout the country can be related to the illicit substances that are coming into the United States.

Presentation of Data:

From The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

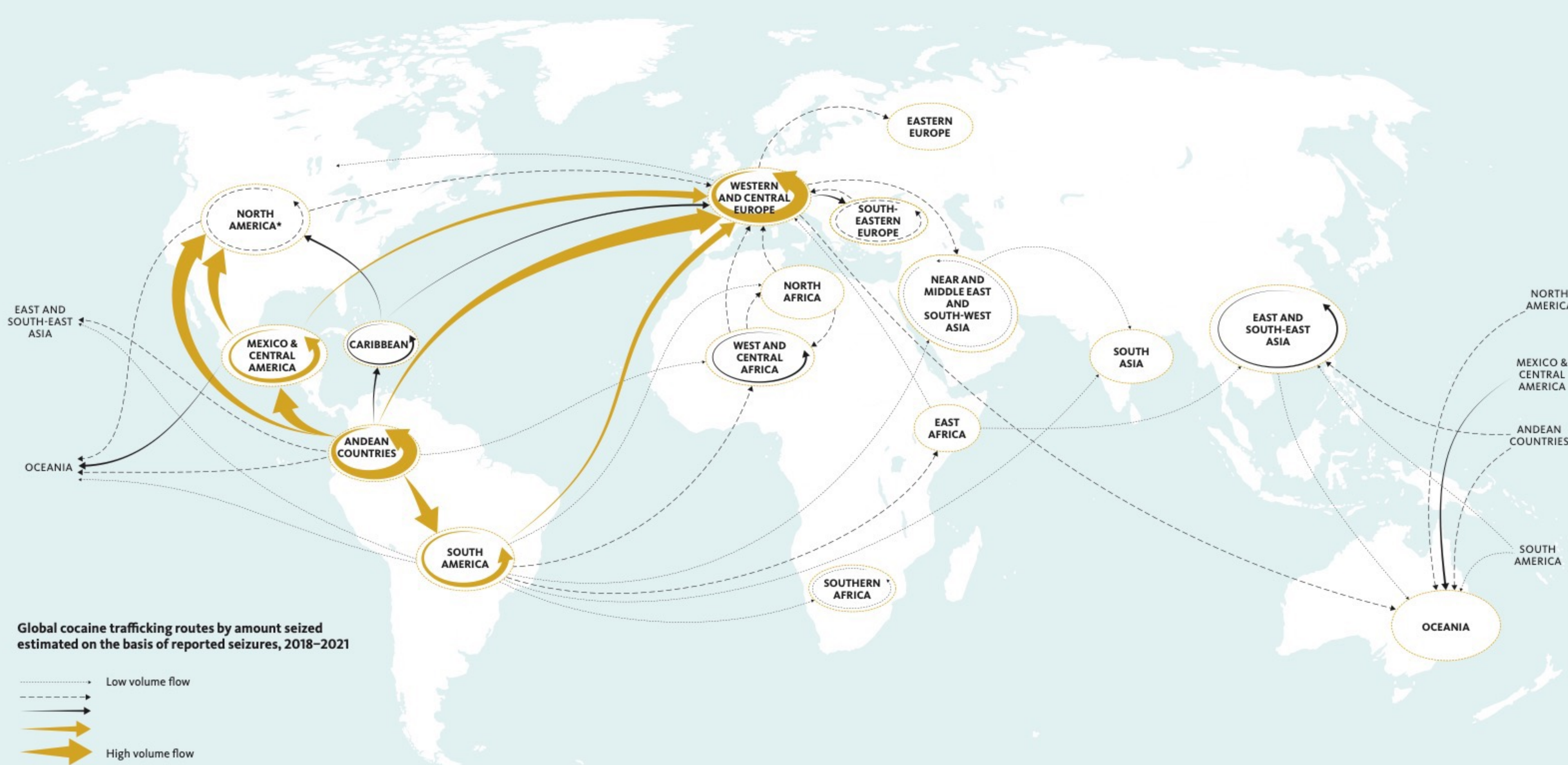
- Cocaine is one of the most heavily trafficked drugs that enters the United States.
- Since 1984, cocaine has been trafficked into the United States by Mexico and other South American countries.
- Types of cocaine: crack cocaine, coca paste/refined cocaine base, cocaine hydrochloride, smokeable forms of cocaine, coca leaf, other coca/cocaine type drugs, and non-specified cocaine.

Drug Name	Year	Quantity in Kg
Crack* cocaine	2020	146,12137
Crack* cocaine	2020	0,0181
Coca paste/refined cocaine base	2020	0,0364
Coca paste/refined cocaine base	2020	963,24209
Cocaine hydrochloride	2020	149231
Other smokable forms of cocaine (consumer products such as basuco, merla, paco, pasta base, etc.)	2020	1025,12037
Coca leaf	2020	1799,7142
Other coca/cocaine-type drugs	2020	247,90733
Other coca/cocaine-type drugs	2020	39,8492
Other coca/cocaine-type drugs	2020	237,80612
Crack* cocaine	2019	153
Coca leaf	2019	328
Non-specified cocaine	2019	187018
Crack* cocaine	2018	936
Crack* cocaine	2018	22
Coca paste/refined cocaine base	2018	131
Coca paste/refined cocaine base	2018	483
Coca paste/refined cocaine base	2018	2
Coca leaf	2018	258
Non-specified cocaine	2018	192080
Coca leaf	2017	123
Non-specified cocaine	2017	236966

Drug Trafficking in the United States: What Drugs Are Smuggled and Where Do They Come From?

By: Cassidy Viersma

Main cocaine trafficking flows as described by reported seizures, 2018–2021



Sources: UNODC.

The size of the route is based on the total amount seized on that route, according to the information on trafficking routes provided by Member States in the annual report questionnaire, individual drug seizures and other official documents, over the 2018–2021 period. The routes are determined on the basis of reported country of departure/ transit and destination in these sources. As such, they need to be considered as broadly indicative of existing trafficking routes while several secondary routes may not be reflected. Route arrows represent the direction of trafficking; origins of the arrows indicate either the area of departure or the one of last provenance, end points of arrows indicate either the area of consumption or the one of next destination of trafficking. Therefore, the trafficking origin may not reflect the country in which the substance was produced. Please see the Methodology section of this document.

* North America excluding Mexico.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Literature Review:

- This topic is prevalent in the United States, currently, because drug trafficking happens every day and it is an issue that needs to be controlled.
- Scholars have found that drug seizures happening by the U.S. Border Patrol were having little to no impact on the drug problem in the United States.
- Parts of the literature discuss the main source countries of illicit substances.
- The other section of the literature considers how drugs are smuggled and trafficked throughout the United States.
- As stated in the scholarly literature, drugs can now be sold online which is different from selling in person.
- The scholarly literature is robust in where the illegal substances come from but is limited in how to prevent smuggling overall.
- This study would extend a line of research, and this is important because the information about where the trafficked drugs come from, where they go, what drugs are most prevalent in drug smuggling, how they are smuggled into the United States, and the common or uncommon routes of drug trafficking would all be compiled together.

Analysis:

Production Countries and Their Drugs

- Bolivia, Columbia, Peru
 - Cocaine
- Mexico and China
 - Illicit Opioids, Heroin, Fentanyl
- Mexico
 - Methamphetamines
- Mexico, United States, Canada, Jamaica
 - Marijuana
- China, Asian countries, European countries
 - New Psychoactive Substances
- Online Drug Sites

How Are Drugs Smuggled Into The United States?

- Across the borders of Mexico and Canada
- Commercial trucks
- Private vehicles
- Rental vehicles
- ATVs
- Aircrafts
- Maritime vessels – commercial and noncommercial
- Couriers on foot
- Container ships
- Cruise ships
- Commercial fishing vessels
- Recreational vessels
- Go-fast boats
- Self-propelled semisubmersibles
- Postal services
- Trafficking organizations distribute illicit drugs from stash locations to traffickers.
- Traffickers purchase the drugs and then transport the shipments to distribution areas.
- Transporters/sellers are hired for moving drug shipments and they operate in cells throughout the United States.



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