MCCA-MCSA TRP

NORTH AMERICAN THREAT PICTURE

TRP METHODOLOGY

A top threat issue is identified based on six different impact categories: police perception; public perception; impact on the community/neighborhood; economic impact; impact on police resources; and law enforcements' impact on the threat.

BROAD AGENCY PARTICIPATION | The project lead identifies participants across the agency with operational and overall understanding of the agency's threat issues.

COMMON UNDERSTANDING | Participants meet to review background materials to ensure a common agency understanding of threat issues and definitions and the process for scoring and justifying findings.

THREAT RANKING and JUSTIFICATION | Participants initially work independently to rank the 21 threat issues based on existing information and what they know today – current cases, trends, statistics, intelligence, and experiences can all be used to justify rankings. A Threat Justification Matrix is one tool provided to agencies, which they can use to assign numerical values to six different impact categories to generate a ranking of the issues. The group convenes at the end to discuss findings and agree on any adjustments.

REVIEW AND FINAL RANKING | The executive staff from each command come together to discuss their findings with the chief executive (Chief/Sheriff) and determine the final rankings.

2020 US MCCA THREAT PICTURE

Top Threat Issues of Major City Law Enforcement Agencies

Threat Review and Prioritization (TRP) Background

Beginning in 2017, the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) and the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) Intelligence Commanders Group (ICG), with the support of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), developed the ICG Threat Review and Prioritization (TRP) process to establish a National Threat Picture (NTP) among all member agencies. Sixty-four MCCA member agencies participated in this process for the third year in a row.

2020 Threat Picture: An Overview for MCCA

Core policing concerns continue to comprise the top issues for the second year in a row. Violent Crime with Firearms overwhelmingly remained the number one ranked issue. All 21 threat issues are important to MCCA member agencies, regardless of ranking. The national priority rankings may not be indicative of individual agency results.

TABLE IS UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

VIOLENT CRIME WITH FIREARMS
- 92% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- 42% ranked this issue number one.
- #1 issue for all three regions.

  Defined as any violent crime, excluding homicides, that involves the use of a firearm, which may include but is not limited to car-jacking, home invasion, armed robbery, aggravated assault, etc.

CRIMINAL GANGS AND CREWS
- 65% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- 11% ranked this issue number one.
- #2 in the Western and Eastern regions; #3 in the Central region.

  Defined as any organization that meets the reporting jurisdiction's legal definition of a gang, engaging in criminal activity, as defined by the jurisdiction's penal code, excluding any gang that can be primarily thought of as a prison gang.

HOMICIDES
- 62% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- 15% ranked this issue number one.
- Rose one position (to #2) in the Central region, and one place (to #3) in the Eastern region; remained stable (#8) in the Western region.

  Defined as the deliberate and unlawful killing of one person by another by any means, including but not limited to firearms, edged weapons, blunt force trauma, etc. The connection of the offender or victim to any organized gang, group, or organization is not relevant.

DRUG TRAFFICKING AND PROLIFERATION
- 57% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- #5 in the Western region; #4 in the Central region; and #5 for the Eastern region.

  Defined as the trafficking and proliferation of drugs; may include large-scale sale, production, and/or distribution of illegal drugs. Individuals may be affiliated with an organized gang or operate independently.

DRUG USER DERIVATIVE CRIME
- 42% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- 11% ranked this issue number one.
- Fell slightly (to #3) in the Western region; remained stable in the Central (#5) and Eastern (#6) regions.

  Defined as crimes committed by drug users to either support their habits or due to the influence of drugs. Includes but is not limited to robberies, break-ins, assaults, and impaired driving. These crimes are not for the furtherance of gang activity but rather are directly related to supporting drug habits.

2020 MCCA THREAT PICTURE 21 Priority Threat Issues

RANK			THREAT ISSUE
2018	2019	2020	
1	1	1	VIOLENT CRIME WITH FIREARMS
8	2	2	CRIMINAL GANGS AND CREWS
5	6	3	HOMICIDES
3	4	4	DRUG TRAFFICKING AND PROLIFERATION
2	3	5	DRUG USER DERIVATIVE CRIMES
4	5	6	OPIOID EPIDEMIC
7	7	7	VIOLENT CRIME WITHOUT FIREARMS
9	9	8	CRIMINAL ACTS AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT
6	8	9	NON-VIOLENT CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS
10	10	10	SEX CRIMES
16	15	11	DOMESTIC TERRORISM
14	13	12	CYBER CRIMES
13	12	13	GUN TRAFFICKING AND PROLIFERATION
11	11	14	FINANCIAL CRIMES/FRAUD
12	14	15	ORGANIZED THEFT
18	17	16	ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS
15	16	17	HUMAN TRAFFICKING
17	18	18	HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMISM
19	19	19	FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS
21	21	20	HUMAN SMUGGLING
20	20	21	PRISON/JAIL GANGS

18	19	20	US WESTERN REGION
2	2	1	Violent Crime With Firearms
8	3	2	Criminal Gangs and Crews
1	1	3	Drug User Derivative Crime
4	5	4	Drug Trafficking and Proliferation
7	8	5	Homicides
6	7	6	Opioid Epidemic
5	6	7	Violent Crime Without Firearms
3	4	8	Non-Violent Criminal Violations
9	10	9	Criminal Acts Against Law Enforcement
10	9	10	Sex Crimes

Includes AZ, CA, CO, HI, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA

18	19	20	US CENTRAL REGION
1	1	1	Violent Crime With Firearms
4	3	2	Homicides
7	2	3	Criminal Gangs and Crews
2	4	4	Drug Trafficking and Proliferation
3	5	5	Drug User Derivative Crime
5	6	6	Violent Crime Without Firearms
9	8	7	Criminal Acts Against Law Enforcement
6	7	8	Non-Violent Criminal Violations
8	9	9	Opioid Epidemic
10	11	10	Sex Crimes

Includes IL, KS, LA, MN, MO, NE, OK, TN, TX, WI

18	19	20	US EASTERN REGION
1	1	1	Violent Crime With Firearms
5	4	2	Homicides
7	3	3	Criminal Gangs and Crews
2	2	4	Opioid Epidemic
3	6	5	Drug Trafficking and Proliferation
4	5	6	Drug User Derivative Crime
9	9	7	Criminal Acts Against Law Enforcement
8	7	8	Violent Crime Without Firearms
6	8	9	Non-Violent Criminal Violations
17	14	10	Domestic Terrorism

Includes DC, FL, GA, IN, KY, MA, MD, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, VA

19	20	CANADA (All Regions)
1	1	Opioid Epidemic
3	2	Violent Crime With Firearms
4	3	Drug Trafficking and Proliferation
4	5	Criminal Gangs and Crews
6	5	Drug User Derivative Crime
2	6	Organized Crime Groups
9	7	Non-Violent Criminal Violations
11	8	Sex Crimes
7	9	Cyber Crimes
10	10	Violent Crime Without Firearms

Includes Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal, Ottawa, Peel Regional, Toronto, Vancouver, York
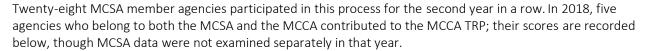
KEY TRENDS

■ **Rankings in 2020 were very consistent with 2019**, despite a drop in participation.[1] This suggests participating agencies have a relatively stable problem set, and an accurate understanding and assessment of the impacts of each issue, year-over-year. One-third of the issues did not change position. Half of the remaining issues moved only one position; it is unknown if this reflects a change in the volume of activity, or displacement by issues being up-ranked.

■ **Violent Crime with Firearms remains the defining issue for MCCA agencies**, capturing the number one position nationally for the third year in a row. The Eastern and Central regions have consistently ranked this issue number one in all three years; the Western region up-ranked the issue into the number one position in 2020, displacing Drug User Derivative Crime.

■ **Domestic Terrorism saw the largest rank rise, likely capturing concerns related to the exploitation of civil unrest by violent actors espousing a variety of extremist ideologies.** Homegrown Violent Extremism and Foreign Terrorist Organizations remained in the bottom four ranks, a realistic acknowledgement of the low-frequency nature of foreign-led or inspired terrorist activity compared to the day-to-day impact of common criminal activity.

■ **Homicides saw the second-largest rank rise** (from six to three), **but regional shifts were smaller.** Homicides rose in place in both the Eastern and Central regions but remained unchanged in the West.

■ **Gang, drug, and addiction-related issues stabilized,** suggesting a positive impact from mitigation and intervention strategies implemented since 2018. The Opioid Epidemic fell one position (to #6) while the ranks for Criminal Gangs and Crews, Drug Trafficking, and Violent Crime Without Firearms did not change in 2020.

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[1] Reduced participation in 2020 is likely due to resource demands and constraints imposed by the confluence of COVID-19-related staffing/operational changes, ongoing civil unrest, and response to public calls for mission/funding recalibration

2020 MCSA THREAT PICTURE

Top Threat Issues of Major County Sheriff Agencies

Twenty-eight MCSA member agencies participated in this process for the second year in a row. In 2018, five agencies who belong to both the MCSA and the MCCA contributed to the MCCA TRP; their scores are recorded below, though MCSA data were not examined separately in that year.

2020 National Threat Picture: An Overview for MCSA

Core policing concerns continue to comprise the top issues for the second year in a row. The Opioid Epidemic and Violent Crime With Firearms tied for first place in 2020. The Opioid Epidemic is listed first due to its consistent prior first-place ranking. All 21 threat issues are important to MCSA member agencies, regardless of ranking. The national priority rankings may not be indicative of individual agency results.

2020 US MCSA THREAT PICTURE
21 Priority Threat Issues

RANK			THREAT ISSUE
2018	2019	2020	
1	1	1	**OPIOID EPIDEMIC**
3	5	1	**VIOLENT CRIME WITH FIREARMS**
5	2	3	**DRUG USER DERIVATIVE CRIME**
2	3	4	**DRUG TRAFFICKING AND PROLIFERATION**
7	4	5	**NON-VIOLENT CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS**
4	6	6	**CRIMINAL GANGS AND CREWS**
8	7	7	**VIOLENT CRIME WITHOUT FIREARMS**
6	11	8	**HOMICIDES**
9	10	9	**CRIMINAL ACTS AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT**
13	8	10	**FINANCIAL CRIMES/FRAUD**
10	12	11	SEX CRIMES
18	9	12	CYBER CRIMES
19	13	13	ORGANIZED THEFT
16	16	14	DOMESTIC TERRORISM
11	14	15	HUMAN TRAFFICKING
15	19	16	GUN TRAFFICKING AND PROLIFERATION
12	15	17	ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS
14	18	18	HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMISM
20	17	19	PRISON/JAIL GANGS
17	21	20	FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS
21	20	21	HUMAN SMUGGLING

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

- 68% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- 18% ranked this issue number one.
- Remained #1 in the Eastern region; fell three places (to #6) in the Western region, and one spot (to #2) in the Central region.

The Opioid Epidemic comprises heroin, synthetic Fentanyl, and prescription drugs. Includes but is not limited to opioid overdose deaths, distribution, criminal activity, production, etc.

VIOLENT CRIME WITH FIREARMS

- 57% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- 21% ranked this issue number one.
- Rose four places (to #1) in the Central region; rose two spots (to #4) in the Western region; remained unchanged (at #5) in the Eastern region.

Defined as any violent crime, excluding homicides, that involves the use of a firearm, which may include but is not limited to car-jacking, home invasion, armed robbery, aggravated assault, etc.

DRUG USER DERIVATIVE CRIME

- 61% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- 21% ranked this issue number one.
- #1 in the Western and Eastern regions; fell seven places (to #9) in the Central region.

Defined as crimes committed by drug users to either support their habits or due to the influence of drugs. Includes but is not limited to robberies, break-ins, assaults, and impaired driving. These crimes are not for the furtherance of gang activity, but rather are directly related to supporting drug habits.

DRUG TRAFFICKING AND PROLIFERATION

- 61% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- Fell seven positions (to #9) in the Central region; unchanged in both the Western (#1) and Eastern (#2) regions.

Defined as the trafficking and proliferation of drugs; may include large-scale sale, production, and/or distribution of illegal drugs. Individuals may be affiliated with an organized gang or operate independently.

NON-VIOLENT CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS

- 46% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- Fell four places (to #7) in the Central region; unchanged in both the Western (#2) and Eastern (#4) regions.

Defined as non-violent local criminal violations, violations of city ordinances, and property crime/theft. Includes vehicle break-ins, theft of property (from vehicles or homes), vandalism, vagrancy, etc., where the victim was not threatened and may or may not have been present during the crime.

18	19	20	WESTERN REGION
7	1	1	Drug User Derivative Crime
10	2	2	Non-Violent Criminal Violations
2	4	3	Drug Trafficking and Proliferation
1	6	4	Violent Crime With Firearms
3	5	5	Criminal Gangs and Crews
5	3	6	Opioid Epidemic
4	12	7	Homicides
6	7	8	Violent Crime Without Firearms
19	9	9	Financial Crimes/Fraud
8	11	10	Criminal Acts Against Law Enforcement

Includes AZ, CA, NV, OR

18	19	20	CENTRAL REGION
-	5	1	Violent Crime With Firearms
-	1	2	Opioid Epidemic
-	4	3	Drug Trafficking and Proliferation
-	7	4	Criminal Gangs and Crews
-	8	5	Criminal Acts Against Law Enforcement
-	13	6	Homicides
-	3	7	Non-Violent Criminal Violations
-	6	8	Violent Crime Without Firearms
-	2	9	Drug User Derivative Crime
-	11	10	Sex Crimes

Includes IL, LA, NE, WI, TX

18	19	20	EASTERN REGION
1	1	1	Opioid Epidemic
2	2	2	Drug User Derivative Crime
4	3	3	Drug Trafficking and Proliferation
6	4	4	Non-Violent Criminal Violations
5	5	5	Violent Crime With Firearms
7	7	6	Financial Crimes/Fraud
3	6	7	Criminal Gangs and Crews
11	8	8	Violent Crime Without Firearms
18	11	9	Cyber Crimes
13	9	10	Criminal Acts Against Law Enforcement

Includes GA, FL, MI, NY, SC, VA

KEY TRENDS

■ **Rankings in 2020 were very consistent with 2019**, despite a drop in participation.[2] This suggests participating agencies have a relatively stable problem set, and an accurate understanding and assessment of the impacts of each issue, year-over-year. Half of the issues moved only one position in 2020; it is unknown if this reflects a change in the volume of activity, or displacement by issues being up-ranked.

■ **Gun violence and related issues rose sharply in 2020**. Violent Crime With Firearms rose four positions to tie the Opioid Epidemic for first place. Homicides and Gun Trafficking and Proliferation also rose, though there were regional differences. Homicides rose steeply in the Central (up seven, to #6) and Western (up five, to #7) regions, but fell slightly (down two, to #12) in the Eastern region. Violent Crime With Firearms followed in tandem, with the largest rise (up four, to #1) recorded in the Central region, and smaller movement (up two, to #4) in the Western region, with no change (at #5) in the Eastern region.

■ **The Opioid Epidemic remains a defining concern for the MCSA, particularly in the Eastern region, but gang, drug, and addiction-related issues have stabilized,** suggesting a positive impact from mitigation and intervention strategies implemented since 2018. Other top-five issues that likely correlate with the Opioid Epidemic fell (improved) slightly in 2020, including Drug User Derivative Crime, Drug Trafficking and Proliferation, and Non-Violent Criminal Violations. Criminal Gangs and Crews, in sixth position, did not change. As in 2019, the Opioid Epidemic remains a larger concern in the Eastern region, where it remained in first place; it fell slightly in the Central region, and more noticeably in the Western region.

■ **Terrorism concerns rose slightly**, driven by the up-ranking of Domestic Terrorism (from 16 to 14). Homegrown Violent Extremism and Foreign Terrorist Organizations remained in the bottom four ranks, a realistic acknowledgement of the low-frequency nature of terrorist activity, compared to the day-to-day impact of common criminal activity.

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[2] Reduced participation in 2020 is likely due to resource demands and constraints imposed by the confluence of COVID-19-related staffing/operational changes, ongoing civil unrest, and response to public calls for mission/funding recalibration