

South Dakota Edward Byrne Jag 2025 Strategic Plan Annual Update

CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES:

The State of South Dakota's Department of Public Safety (DPS) issued our 2024-2025 Strategic Plan based on information from stakeholders and information gathered for our annual statewide threat assessment prepared by the South Dakota Fusion Center (SDFC). Our Criminal Justice Service's Division funds programs for victim's services programs which allow our JAG funds to be focused on our local law enforcement agencies where we have set our priorities for them to combat drug use, general crime, organized crime, or cybercrime.

FUNDING ADJUSTMENT:

South Dakota adjusts Byrne Jag funding through a flexible, needs-based approach that prioritizes current public-safety demands. The state reallocates funds within programs, such as shifting between equipment, supplies and personnel, to address operational gaps, while maintaining consistent support for core functions.

It's anticipated that similar JAG program areas would continue to be funded, such as law enforcement, prosecution and courts, and technology. The state is always willing to fund other program areas if they align with the State's priorities and are reasonable requests based on the amount of limited funding that is provided to the state.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

South Dakota's FY 2025 Byrne Jag Annual Plan Update identifies continued law enforcement need in the areas listed below. Law enforcement agencies across the state, particularly in rural and under-resourced jurisdictions, continue to face challenges associated with methamphetamine and other controlled substance trafficking, drug-related criminal activity, and the need for sustained multi-jurisdictional enforcement and interdiction efforts. In addition, violent crime (including assaults, weapons offenses, and repeat offender activity) remains a priority requiring investigative support, officer safety equipment, training, and coordinated case response. Agencies also report ongoing concerns related to theft, burglary, property crime, fraud schemes and financially motivated offenses, which increasingly involve digital evidence and cross-jurisdictional investigation. Emerging cyber threats including cyber-enabled fraud, data exploitation, online criminal activity, and technology-based victimization continue to strain local agency capacity, particularly where specialized personnel and forensic tools are limited. South Dakota also recognizes the continuing need to strengthen intelligence-sharing, threat assessment, and interagency coordination capabilities to identify and respond to potential violent extreme lone actors and other evolving threats to public safety. Byrne Jag funding remains critical to supporting equipment, technology, training, intelligence functions, task force operations, and collaborative enforcement strategies necessary to address these priority law enforcement needs statewide.

During the 2025 Annual Threat Assessment, law enforcement partners identified these top threats as having the most impact on their area of responsibility:

- Illicit Drug Use and Trafficking
- Violent Crime
- Theft – Property and Financial/Fraud
- Cyber Threats
- Violent Extremist Lone Actors

Illicit Drug Use and Trafficking

The SDFC assesses illicit drug use and trafficking - particularly involving methamphetamine and fentanyl because of its associated criminal activity and nexus to drug overdoses, almost certainly poses a high threat to the State of South Dakota over the next 12-18 months. Illicit drug use and trafficking, and its associated criminal activity, remains the primary public safety threat to South Dakota. Continued demand, availability, and high profits, especially on reservations, will continue to lead to increased usage and will almost certainly impact violent crime rates and lead to overdose occurrences.

Per the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) 2025 Threat Assessment:

- Due to the nexus to drug poisoning deaths, fentanyl is considered the greatest drug threat to the Midwest HIDTA region.
- Methamphetamine and cocaine are the region's second and third-greatest threats, respectively.
- Drug trafficking activities in the Midwest HIDTA region pose significant threats to public health and safety as these activities are a driving force of both violent and property crimes.
- Adulterants such as xylazine and medetomidine are of concern in the area as they have an increased impact on poisoning deaths.
- The trend continues of mixing fentanyl and other synthetic opioids into other drugs in the region's illicit drug supply, specifically cocaine and methamphetamine.

Drug Seized (Grams)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Marijuana	409,336	883,495	422,579	228,950	454,588	11,806,305
Methamphetamine	62,957	213,144	113,920	108,742	103,826	144,360
Cocaine	2,535	148,655	3,685	8,275	7,567	4,545
Fentanyl	732	4,679	12,211	6,727	9,272	1,280
Heroin	861	5,738	316	131	278	142

Per the DEA, the cartels typically work with U.S.-based drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and violent gangs to distribute drugs throughout the country. We further assess local trafficking will continue to be primarily orchestrated by local and multi-state DTOs rather than directly by international DTOs. Through Midwest HIDTA initiatives in South Dakota, four international DTOs were identified in 2025. Although international DTOs do have a presence in the Midwest (primarily the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel), these Mexican cartels more often facilitate supply while relying on local DTOs (including gangs) for wholesale distribution and street-level sales.

In 2024, 99 DTOs were identified in South Dakota; of these 19 were determined to be violent, posing a significant threat. As compared to 2018, the percentage of violent DTOs in South Dakota has increased from 14 percent to 19 percent. Multi-state DTOs continue to be the most common DTO type encountered by Midwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives. Twenty-five percent of multi-state DTOs were linked to California; other commonly linked states include Illinois, Colorado, Arizona, Iowa, and Texas. Of the 99 DTOs identified in South Dakota, 82 were multi-state DTOs

Violent Crime

When surveying South Dakota law enforcement partners, violent crime remains one of the top threats identified to their AOR. Violent crime including assaults and those with weapons remain a concern. Increased gang activity positively correlates with rates of violent crime and impacts on communities in which gangs operate. Cyber tips on Internet crimes against children continue to rise dramatically and strain law enforcement resources. We also received increased concern with driving under the influence, as it does pose a danger to others.

The SDFC reviewed South Dakota statewide data of NIBRS reporting on violent crime offenses from 2021-2025. The number of overall offenses is down 28.5 percent from those reported in 2024. There were decreases in all major categories reviewed, except Rape/Sodomy, which was nearly no change from the previous year. As compared to 2021, there was an overall 28 percent decrease; the only category showing an increase was Murder/Nonnegligent Homicides.

Violent Crime Categories	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Murder/Nonnegligent Manslaughter	20	21	25	45	32
Kidnapping/Abduction	140	148	105	140	110
Rape & Sodomy	476	444	365	400	403
Robbery	174	236	187	210	162
Aggravated Assault	2,109	2,176	2,084	2,136	1,939
Total Violent Crime Offenses	3,667	3,807	3,451	3,701	2,646

Theft, Property/Financial Fraud

The SDFC assesses that theft activity, both property and financial, will almost certainly remain a moderate threat and poses persistent threat to the families of South Dakota over the next 12-18 months. It is very likely a variety of fraud offenses, particularly those targeting or facilitated by cryptocurrency, will continue to increase over the next 12-18 months. We are cognizant that theft reports are a primary call type that law enforcement responds to and recognize the workload and difficulty obtaining a successful case closure to some of these types of cases.

Overall property theft-type offenses remained consistent from 2021-2024, however, 2025 showed the first considerable decrease; overall offenses decreased by 13.6 percent from 2024 and each category reviewed registered decreases. Motor Vehicle Thefts continued its downward trend, decreasing by 27 percent from 2024.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Burglary	2,227	2,318	1,823	1,787	1,412
Larceny	10,959	12,218	10,725	11,437	10,160
Stolen Property	310	320	298	253	225
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,008	2,198	2,160	1,721	1,253
Total Theft Offenses	15,504	17,054	15,006	15,105	13,050

Overall fraud-type offenses also remained consistent, however, 2025 showed an overall 11.5 percent increase. Aside from 2023, the Fraud Offense code specifically has seen gradual increases over the past five years. In-depth breakdowns of data to identify specific types of cases would be beneficial to monitor for future trending. We anticipate that detailed case types would show more trend towards fraud cases involving cryptocurrency and/or more sophisticated banking schemes/scams.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fraud	1,825	1,886	1,620	1,975	2,197
Counterfeiting/Forgery	610	552	508	445	461
Embezzlement	183	232	210	193	185
Total Theft Offenses	2,618	2,670	2,338	2,548	2,843

Cyber Threats

For South Dakota, the biggest cyber threats are not just generic cybercrime. They are the threat most likely to disrupt state/local government services, rural critical infrastructure, schools, healthcare and small public-sector partners.

Cyber Incidents Reported to the SDFC:

- FY24 - 112
- FY25 - 103

Most relevant cyber threats are:

1. Ransomware targeting state, county, and municipal government
2. Phishing/BEC and credential theft against public-sector users
3. Critical infrastructure attacks on rural/wastewater and utilities
4. K-12 and higher-ed cyber incidents, especially via third-party platforms
5. Healthcare and vendor/supply-chain compromises affecting rural providers.

The SDFC assesses with high confidence that cybercrime and cyber threats to South Dakota, including critical infrastructure, public and private entities, citizens, and visitors, will almost certainly continue be a persistent and high threat for the foreseeable future. Cyber threat actors, including financially motivated cyber criminals, opportunistic cyber threat actors, hacktivists, and nation-state actors will likely continue to pose enduring threats to critical infrastructure, public and private entities, citizens, and visitors, utilizing evolving methods and capabilities to compromise the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of systems, networks, and data. Criminal and threat actors will likely continue to target

organizations they view as data-rich, financially strong, and containing known vulnerabilities.

The cyber threat landscape is expected to continue to increase in complexity and sophistication as cyber threat actors and cybercriminals incorporate evolving tactics, including those associated with social engineering and artificial intelligence (AI) that allow for exploitation of human systems and propagation through business email compromise (BEC), phishing, fraud/scams, and ransomware, and other malicious activities.

Terrorism and Violent Extremism

The SDFC assesses lone actors and small groups of domestic violent extremists (DVEs) and homegrown violent extremists (HVEs), driven by a diverse range of ideologies and grievances, poses the most likely terrorism threat to South Dakota over the next 12 months. We assess that acts of targeted violence would most likely be directed at large or high-profile gatherings, schools, faith-based institutions, LGBTQIA+ events, law enforcement, government facilities and/or critical infrastructure facilities. Although we have no information on specific or credible threats to South Dakota from these types of lone offenders, such actor's unpredictable radicalization timeline and ability to act with little or no warning, the difficulties in detecting their preoperational planning and behaviors, and their ability to cause significant casualties or physical damage make them the most dangerous threat to South Dakota. The SDFC remains vigilant about the sustained interest of lone offender extremists to target large or high-profile gatherings.

Escalating political tensions, actions, and the ongoing publication of inspirational material will likely continue to motivate individuals subscribing to domestic violent extremist ideologies to attack major events or critical infrastructure in the US, and possibly in South Dakota over the next 12 months. Tactics, techniques, and procedures associated with planning and executing acts of targeted violence continue to be shared on the internet. Familiarization with materials that are shared out, as well as with past significant attacks, can help law enforcement identify indicators, insignia, and possible motivators when working cases.

The SDFC assesses lone offenders following racially or ethnically motivated violent extremist (REMVE) ideology likely pose the most significant DVE threat to South Dakota. Nationally, of the identified DVE groups, REMVEs have shown to be the most common perpetrators of DVE attacks and plots and have been responsible for the largest number of fatalities (related to a DVE group). Ongoing controversial political and social issues will likely continue to motivate individuals subscribing to REMVE ideologies to act on violent tendencies towards people and critical infrastructure, especially against the electric sector.

While there are identified REMVE groups, affiliates, and/or members operating and living in South Dakota, there are no known active threats in the state and membership is minimal.

2023 Hate Crime Statistics for South Dakota*

Bias Motivation Categories by Year

Bias Motivation Category	2021	2022	2023
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry	15	11	6
Religion	2	2	1
Sexual Orientation	9	6	3
Disability	0	0	0
Gender	2	0	1
Gender Identity	0	0	0
<u>Total:</u>	28	19	11

South Dakota reported that overall criminal offenses increased 1.21% in 2024 compared with 2023 but then decreased 6.03% in 2025 compared with 2024. This suggests some stabilization in total reported crime, but not necessarily a reduction in the complexity or severity of criminal justice needs. Even with the 2025 decrease, agencies continue to manage high-demand areas such as drug enforcement, violent crime response, and rural service delivery.

- Overall Crime declined in 2025 after increasing in 2024
- Overdose deaths increased in 2024, reinforcing drug-threat priorities
- Methamphetamine remains the leading overdose drug, while fentanyl remains a major threat
- Cyber-enabled fraud and internet-based victimization appear increasingly significant
- Internet crimes against children have become more visible enforcement priority
- Correctional and institutional safety concerns have become more visible

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DPS awards the local portion of the funding out in one-time grant projects. Funding for the 2022 JAG award was closed on September 30, 2025, and those projects are highlighted in green on the JAG Allocation Report.

PREVIOUS YEAR FUNDING DECISIONS

During calendar 2025, to catch up on our local funding opportunities, the State put out two Notice of Funding Opportunities, one for the 2023 Jag funds in February of 2025 and one for 2024 Jag funds in August 2025. The Jag Allocation Report includes the projects that have been awarded by purpose area in the last year:

JAG Allocation Report

Purpose Area	Grant Year	Name	Award Amount
Law Enforcement	2022	ballistic helmets/shields, training	26,046
Law Enforcement	2022	pistol project/SWAT equip/plate carriers - SDHP	256,253
Law Enforcement	2022	Lifesavers Conference/remote spike strips	24,210
Law Enforcement	2022	forensic software	30,000
Law Enforcement	2022	in-car camera system update	30,000
Law Enforcement	2022	ruggedized laptops	19,250
Law Enforcement	2022	printers/DL readers/motorola radios	22,040
Law Enforcement	2022	mobile routers	4,893
Law Enforcement	2022	mobile command trailer	42,000
Law Enforcement	2022	night ride pro-SL spotlights	29,500
Law Enforcement	2022	DCI - Drug Task Force	424,505
Law Enforcement	2023	crime scene response trailer	4,300
Law Enforcement	2023	body armor	3,208
Law Enforcement	2023	dash camera system	23,000
Law Enforcement	2023	mobile CAD system	8,790
Law Enforcement	2023	body armor vests, ppe, MDTs	15,500
Law Enforcement	2023	radio headsets/ballistic shields	32,317
Law Enforcement	2023	routers and antennas	20,000
Law Enforcement	2023	shooting range update, storage trailer	198,373
Law Enforcement	2023	BAC Machine	72,074
Law Enforcement	2023	dispatch center update	53,598
Law Enforcement	2023	pistol/rifle project replacement - SDHP	145,541
Law Enforcement	2023	DCI - Drug Task Force	298,380
Law Enforcement	2023	interview room camera system	11,119
Law Enforcement	2023	laptops/docking stations	14,179
Law Enforcement	2024	mobile radio update	23,689
Law Enforcement	2024	in-car camera system update	60,000
Law Enforcement	2024	body/dash camera purchase	60,000
Law Enforcement	2024	portable radio purchase	20,371
Law Enforcement	2024	portable radio purchase	19,076
Law Enforcement	2024	3D crime scene scanner	117,745
Law Enforcement	2024	mobile radio project	9,868
		Total Law Enforcement Programs	2,119,825
Prosecution and Court	2022	ATG - Local Prosecutors	86,820
Prosecution and Court	2023	ATG - Local Prosecutors	135,201
		Total Prosecution and Court Programs	222,021
Planning, Evaluation and Technology Improvement	2023	evidence drying cabinet	10,781
Planning, Evaluation and Technology Improvement	2024	Fusion Center - portal system upgrade	90,000
		Total Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement	100,781

Conclusion

South Dakota has continued to use funding to help cover operating expenses of the Division of Criminal Investigation's Drug Task Force and the Attorney General's Local drug prosecutors. These efforts allow the Attorney General's office to enhance proactive counter drug initiatives. Also having deputy Attorney General's prosecuting the crimes relieves the counties of much of the prosecutorial costs which relieves the counties from the burden of those expenses.

The funds have also helped to purchase equipment needed for the State Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol is available to augment small, rural departments in times of emergency, collaborate with local officers in highway safety initiatives, work to interdict drug traffickers and impaired drivers, and investigate serious traffic crashes throughout the state.

The local portion of the funding has helped our city and county law enforcement agencies to purchase equipment when they have seen tight operating budgets. Many of projects funded have occurred within the midsize agencies across the state. These are the agencies large enough to provide full law enforcement services to their communities yet not the large metro areas where there is a broader tax base. It is these counties who feel budget restraints the most and where much of the Byrne Jag funding has enhanced police services. The larger agencies that leverage the Byrne JAG program purchase equipment that becomes a shared resource in their regions.

DPS continues to use a collaborative effort with local, state and federal partners as we seek to reduce, respond to, and investigate criminal activity. The Byrne Jag funds will continue to provide agencies the needed tools to assist in their efforts to keep South Dakota and our communities a safe place in which to live, work, visit and raise a family.