

Field Narcotics Intelligence

Turning every field scan into a drug market intelligence signal

Introduction

Identifying a substance answers one question: what is this? Knowing its purity, cutting agents, and mixture composition, tracked across time and geography, answers a different question entirely: what is the drug market doing, where is it shifting, and where should command focus next?

Purity Is a Drug Market Intelligence Signal

Identity tells officers what they seized. Purity tells command what is happening in the supply chain.

For cocaine and methamphetamine, a single purity reading is useful. A pattern of purity readings, accumulated across dozens of officers and hundreds of scans, becomes something different: a near-real-time picture of drug market dynamics that no other field tool creates.

Five intelligence outputs emerge from purity data at scale:

- Supply pressure: purity falling across multiple regions signals interdiction impact, scarcity, or new cutting behavior at the wholesale level.
- Market level: high-purity samples appear near importation and upper-tier distribution. Low-purity samples indicate retail dilution. Purity at the point of seizure helps locate a sample in the supply chain.
- Geographic profiling: sustained purity increase in one corridor with stability elsewhere may indicate a distinct trafficking route, a new distributor network, or local processing behavior.

- Early warning: field purity data moves faster than lab-confirmed datasets. Operational decisions do not wait for confirmatory lab results that can take days or longer.
- Threat assessment: meth purity spikes affect overdose risk and trafficking prioritization. Cocaine purity shifts signal changing adulteration practices or new product batches reaching the street.

From a single data point to a network picture

Purity alone is useful. Purity combined with substance identity, cutting agent, location, date, and agency becomes operational intelligence. Purity plus cutting-agent patterns across jurisdictions can become network intelligence.



