

Synergy between the North Sumatra Regional Police and the National Narcotics Agency of North Sumatra Province in Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Illegal Drugs

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Abstract. *In order to combat illicit narcotics trafficking in the Medan area—the provincial capital and the region with the highest level of narcotics circulation in North Sumatra—this study will examine the elements that help and those that hurt the cooperation between the North Sumatra Regional Police (Polda North Sumatra) and the National Narcotics Agency of North Sumatra Province (BNNP North Sumatra). This qualitative study confirmed the existence of operational synergy in the drug prevention, eradication, abuse, and illicit trafficking programs, as well as in the disclosure of large drug networks in combination, the existence of clear legal fees regarding cooperation between institutions, and a common vision.*

Keywords: *BNNP; Illegal Drugs; Regional Police; Narcotics.*

1. Introduction

The 1945 Constitutional Amendments were one of the measures enacted in 1997 and 1998. Several sections of the Constitution were amended as a result. Consequently, the 1945 Constitution underwent four revisions in just four years (1999–2002). As a result of these revisions, the constitutional structure of the Republic of Indonesia underwent significant changes. Many saw this as a step towards constitutional reform (Journal of Legal Dynamics, 2014).

Narcotics and illicit drug trafficking, a type of extreme crime, impacts many aspects of national and state life. Narcotics crimes not only threaten individual health but also have serious implications for social stability, national security, and the sustainability of national development. The nation's competitiveness at the

national and global levels can be weakened by the systematic use and distribution of narcotics, which has the potential to damage the quality of human resources, particularly the younger generation. Therefore, eradicating drug trafficking is a top national priority that requires the full involvement of all sectors of society.

The Indonesian people have decided that the best way to run their country is based on the principle of a state based on the rule of law. Everything done at the national and state levels must be in accordance with the law, given this decision. By this, we mean the proclamation of the Indonesian Constitution as a state based on the rule of law (Janpatar Simamora, 2024).

In line with the expansion of globalization and information technology, illicit drug trafficking networks have undergone significant transformations, both in terms of distribution patterns, smuggling methods, and organizational structures. Drug trafficking is no longer carried out conventionally, but rather through organized networks involving various parties across regions and even countries. Increasingly sophisticated modus operandi, such as the use of strategic transportation routes, digital technology-based transactions, and the involvement of international syndicates, have made law enforcement efforts against drug crimes increasingly complex. This situation demands a countermeasure strategy that goes beyond (Satyanagara, Y., & Khotimah, 2024).

From a legal perspective, addictive substances that pose a high risk to public health and life are generally categorized as narcotics and psychotropics. Both types of substances have been explicitly classified and categorized by law. However, the development and distribution of addictive substances is proceeding rapidly in line with advances in technology and chemical synthesis methods. As a result, law enforcement officers frequently discover various new addictive substances not yet listed on the list of narcotics or psychotropics explicitly prohibited by law (Muhammad Hatta, 2022).

oriented solely on repressive measures, but also prioritizing a collaborative and integrated approach between institutions that have the authority to combat narcotics.

Several national agencies collaborate to combat drug trafficking, but the two most important are the Regional Police and the National Narcotics Agency (BNN). The BNNP, or Provincial National Narcotics Agency, is part of this. The Regional Police (Polri) is primarily tasked with investigating, prosecuting, and enforcing criminal law against those who commit drug-related offenses, under statutory regulations. The BNNP, on the other hand, has broader authority, encompassing coordination of regional drug control policies, rehabilitation of drug abusers, and prevention and eradication efforts. The BNNP is a development of the BNN at the provincial level. With these complementary authorities, synergy between the Regional Police and the BNNP is a crucial prerequisite for ensuring effective countermeasures against illicit drug trafficking.

Synergy between law enforcement agencies in the context of counternarcotics is not only defined as formal cooperation, but also encompasses alignment of vision, policy integration, intelligence exchange, and the implementation of integrated operational measures. Without optimal synergy, the potential for overlapping authority, sectoral egos, and information fragmentation is highly likely, which can ultimately hamper the effectiveness of law enforcement. Therefore, strengthening coordination and cooperation between the Regional Police and the National Narcotics Agency (BNNP) is crucial in creating an effective, efficient, and sustainable narcotics counternarcotics system.

North Sumatra Province faces serious challenges related to illicit drug trafficking. Its strategic geographic location, proximity to international trade routes, and high population mobility make it vulnerable to exploitation as a drug entry and distribution route. Medan, in particular, as the center of government and economic activity in North Sumatra, is characterized as a metropolitan city with a high level of urbanization. This situation creates opportunities for drug trafficking networks to expand and target various segments of society. Several large-scale drug cases uncovered within the jurisdiction of the Medan Regional Police demonstrate that this region is a key hub in the illicit drug trafficking chain in Indonesia.

The high rate of drug abuse and trafficking within the Medan Regional Police jurisdiction reflects that the challenges facing law enforcement are not getting easier, but rather increasingly complex. Drug trafficking networks often exploit social vulnerabilities, economic factors, and weak oversight in several sectors to carry out their illegal activities (Soekanto, Soerjono, 2023).

In such conditions, efforts to combat narcotics cannot be carried out partially by one institution alone, but require intensive and continuous cooperation between the Medan Regional Police and the North Sumatra BNNP, both in the aspects of action, prevention, and rehabilitation.

Collaboration between the Medan Regional Police and the North Sumatra National Narcotics Agency (BNNP) takes various forms, including the exchange of data and intelligence information, joint operations, coordination in investigations and inquiries, and the implementation of community-based prevention programs. However, in practice, the synergy between the two institutions does not always run optimally. Various obstacles remain, such as limited resources, differences in operational procedures, and challenges in inter-agency coordination, which have the potential to hinder the effectiveness of countering illicit drug trafficking.

Based on this description, research on the synergy between the Medan Regional Police and the National Narcotics Agency (BNNP) in combating illicit drug trafficking is crucial. This study aims to examine in depth the forms and mechanisms of synergy between the Medan Regional Police and the North Sumatra BNNP, identify obstacles encountered in its implementation, and

formulate efforts to optimize this synergy to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement and combating illicit drug trafficking in North Sumatra (Lolong, C. R, 2020).

2. Research Methods

The research method is the basic framework used by the author to understand, know, study, and analyze the legal problems studied systematically that can be scientifically accounted for. The North Sumatra Regional Police and the North Sumatra Provincial Narcotics Agency collaborate in combating drug trafficking and illegal narcotics, and this study uses empirical legal research (juridical sociology) to analyze their collaboration. This research is sourced from various sources, including primary and secondary materials. The author interviewed officers from the North Sumatra Provincial Narcotics Agency (BNNP) and the North Sumatra Regional Police to collect the main data used in this study, namely to Mr. Aipda Hendra Susanto, SH (Ba Bagbinopsnal Ditresnarkoba) as a representative of the North Sumatra Regional Police Chief, and to Mr. Kombes Pol. Dr. Bahtiar Marpaung, SH, S.Sos., M.Hum (Acting Head of the Karimun Regency BNN) as a representative of the North Sumatra BNNP (Muladi and Barda Nawawi Arief, 2023).

And the secondary data comes from laws and regulations that are directly related to the authority, duties, and synergy between institutions in combating narcotics crimes, namely Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning narcotics contained in Article 4, Article 54, Article 64, and Article 70, this law is the main basis for research because it regulates comprehensively about combating narcotics, the following laws and regulations also give authority to the North Sumatra Regional Police to conduct drug investigations, interrogate suspects, and file charges against the responsible parties: "Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia (Article 13, 14 paragraph (1) letter g, 15 paragraph (1)), Presidential Regulation Number 23 of 2010 concerning the National Narcotics Agency (Articles 2, 3, and 25), and Presidential Instruction Number 2 of 2010 concerning the National Action Plan for P4GN, which increases cooperation between institutions such as the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) and the Police." Furthermore, legal literature, particularly that relating to criminal justice, criminal proceedings, and criminal law. Official documents and reports from the Regional Police and the BNN organization relating to the handling of drug cases.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. A Form of Synergy Between the North Sumatra Regional Police and the North Sumatra National Narcotics Agency in Efforts to Combat Illegal Drug Trafficking in North Sumatra Province

North Sumatra is a major entry point for drugs due to its long and open coastline. Without synergy, sectoral egos can hinder the speed of enforcement (Muhammad

Zulkarnain, 2025). North Sumatra is highly vulnerable because it borders the Strait of Malacca. This route is frequently used by international syndicates (such as the "Golden Peacock" network) to smuggle methamphetamine from Malaysia. With coordination, the North Sumatra Regional Police can focus on large-scale law enforcement, while the National Narcotics Agency (BNNP) strengthens prevention and community empowerment aspects (North Sumatra Regional Police, 2024).

Presidential Instruction 2 of 2020, which is part of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Narcotics Abuse and Illegal Trafficking (P4GN), and informal agreements, form the basis for this collaboration. The North Sumatra Regional Police (Polda Sumut) acts as general law enforcement, with personnel reaching down to the Polsek (Sector Police) level (Bhabinkamtibmas) (Sudjono, 2023). The North Sumatra BNNP acts as a referral institution (leading sector) which has special authority in coordinating prevention and rehabilitation (National Narcotics Agency of North Sumatra Province, 2023).

The most crucial synergy occurs at the level of structured information exchange. North Sumatra is a "battleground" for international syndicates due to its geographic location directly bordering the Strait of Malacca. Based on the latest operational data in the North Sumatra region, collaboration between the North Sumatra Regional Police (Polda) and the North Sumatra Provincial National Narcotics Agency (BNNP) has yielded several strategic achievements (National Security Journal, 2026).

The most obvious form of synergy is seen in Joint Operations. Given North Sumatra's long coastline and numerous "rat ports," the Regional Police and the National Narcotics Agency (BNNP) frequently share intelligence to conduct raids and maintain tight surveillance at vulnerable points like airports and ports (National Security Journal, 2026).

Synergy doesn't stop at arrests. Through the Community Development Unit (Binmas) and the Prevention Division (BNN), these two institutions are conducting extensive outreach. Collaboration aims to empower village communities to resist the influx of dealers and align the narrative on the dangers of narcotics to reach Generation Z in North Sumatra. The North Sumatra Regional Police frequently refer drug abusers, who are purely victims, to the BNNP for assessment through the Integrated Assessment Team (TAT).

According to the results of an interview by the North Sumatra Regional Police Narcotics Directorate, which said that

coordination between the regional police and the BNN in taking action, the regional police and the BNN coordinate very well and the North Sumatra regional police have a program called GSM (Grebek Sarang Narkoba) and this program is run by several agencies, and the regional police ask for assistance from agencies, and the regional police ask for assistance from other agencies, namely the BNN,

the TNI and the local government, so the coordination is very good so they are both fighting drugs, for example on Jermal, a place where drug circulation is still massive and there it requires very large forces and requires personnel from the BNN and units at the regional police level, namely the Medan Police and the TNI to prevent unwanted things.

Within the framework of cooperation between the Regional Police and the National Narcotics Agency of North Sumatra Province, several initiatives are implemented. For example, within the North Sumatra Regional Police, specifically within the Narcotics Investigation Directorate (Ditresnarkoba), an annual action plan is developed to address the drug problem in the province. These action plans include:

1. Administrative numbering (Investigation and Investigation activities);
2. Filing of case files
3. Analyzing the case
4. Carrying out case title
5. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of investigations and inquiries
6. Agenda for incoming official letters/notes
7. Sending official letters/notes
8. E-Investigation Management (EMP) data entry
9. Carrying out counseling activities on the dangers of drug abuse in the context of rehabilitation
10. Making monthly reports on Drug Crimes and monthly Analysis/Evaluation
11. Creating Quarterly Reports and Quarterly Anev
12. Making Semester Reports and Semester Evaluation, as well as
13. Supervision of Drug Research Function, EMP Application.

The thirteen action plans implemented by the North Sumatra Regional Police, one requires the cooperation of the North Sumatra National Narcotics Agency (BNPB) in numbers 5 and 9. This primarily concerns preventing drug abuse in the province, which targets the community. The BNPB also has a similar role in preventing rampant drug abuse in the province.

Law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and courts are all part of the government infrastructure responsible for enforcing criminal law. These law enforcement officers then investigate the crime, the prosecutor files the charges, the case goes to trial, and the judge issues a verdict (Janpatar Simamora, 2020).

3.2. Factors That Support and Inhibit Synergy Between the North Sumatra Regional Police in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in Medan City

Whether for medical purposes such as therapy or treatment or for scientific research leading to the development of narcotics, narcotics are essential. Unauthorized use will undoubtedly have a negative impact on public health.

Therefore, monitoring drug use is crucial because drugs are easily accessible on the black market. According to Law Number 1 of 2026 concerning Narcotics, it is crucial for the public and law enforcement officers to collaborate in joint monitoring.

Darji Darmodiharjo and Shidarta state that the goal of combating drug abuse is to achieve what is required by law. At least we recognize, in their words, that justice (*grechtigheit*) and benefit (*zweekmassigheit*) are the two primary goals of lawmaking.

The current drug trafficking epidemic in our country is directly caused by the reckless actions of a small number of individuals, who have introduced drugs into the world and are endangering the health of future generations through their impact on the central nervous system, immune system, and cognitive capacity. The Indonesian nation risks losing its future if this trend continues; the country's young generation is already being negatively impacted.

Rather than protecting individuals, community members, or crime victims, investigators, who are law enforcement officers tasked with solving drug cases or implementing repressive measures, often prioritize achieving predetermined targets based on the number of crimes uncovered and resolved (Crimes Cleared). Furthermore, victims of drug crimes are often neglected by investigators. This is because investigators do not fully understand the nature of drug crimes. Why? Because drug laws and regulations treat victims the same way they treat perpetrators: as perpetrators. However, there is a clear distinction between perpetrators and victims in criminal law. Even victims of drug crimes are involved in investigations, and there is no clear legal protection for victims at the investigative level.

A new strategy known as restorative justice has emerged in modern criminal law. The conventional criminal justice system, which prioritizes punishment, has shortcomings, and this concept emerged as a solution. Over time, the retributive model—the foundation of law enforcement—has proven its inability to provide a holistic sense of justice to society, especially to crime victims. The state is portrayed as the sole victim within the retributive framework because justice is seen as an affront to the state (Janpatar Simamora, 2025).

RECAPITULATION OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE OF THE NORTH SUMATRA REGIONAL POLICE DRUG OFFICE IN 2023, 2024, and 2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF RETORATIVE JUSTICE	
YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES
2023	81
2024	89
2025	173

Source: Aipda.Hendra Susanto, SH, Ba Bagbinopsnal, Ditretnarkoba Polda Sumut.

DATA ON NARCOTICS TRAFFIC CASES IN 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025

DATA ON NARCOTICS TRAFFIC CASES	
YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES
2023	36 Cases
2024	71 Cases
2025	56 Cases

Source: Senior Commissioner of Police Bahtiar Marpaung, SH, S.Sos., M.Hum. (Acting Head of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) of Karimun Regency).

4. Conclusion

Solid operational synergy is not just a slogan, but rather a tangible manifestation of joint operations. The North Sumatra Regional Police and the North Sumatra National Narcotics Agency (BNNP) routinely conduct joint drug raids. This synergy transcends regional boundaries (involving the Aceh BNNP) and sectoral boundaries, demonstrating the effectiveness of integrated command in disrupting drug syndicate networks. Synergy encompasses supply reduction (arrests of syndicates, seizures of large amounts of evidence) and demand reduction (rehabilitation for drug abuse). Lack of public awareness of drugs is one of the main challenges facing the North Sumatra National Narcotics Agency (BNN) in its efforts to eradicate drug abuse. Lack of public awareness of the environment also hampers drug abuse prevention initiatives. No one cares about others, and many are afraid to speak out about drug use. Therefore, community assistance from the North Sumatra BNN and the North Sumatra Regional Police is urgently needed to address drug abuse cases in North Sumatra.

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