

Article Title**Effectiveness of Narcotics Investigations in Central Sulawesi: A Procedural and Evidentiary Assessment under KUHAP and the Narcotics Law****Author (s)****Firmansyah Fality**

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the effectiveness of narcotics crime investigations within the jurisdiction of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police through a procedural and evidentiary lens. Narcotics crimes pose a serious and evolving threat, requiring law enforcement responses that are legally sound, professional, and outcome-oriented. Using an empirical juridical approach with a descriptive-analytical design, the research analyzes the implementation of investigative stages, from inquiry, case exposition, to formal investigation, under Indonesia's Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP), the Narcotics Law, the Police Law, and Police Regulation No. 6 of 2019. Primary data were collected through interviews with narcotics investigators and questionnaires capturing perceptions of investigative effectiveness, while secondary data were drawn from legislation, scholarly literature, and prior studies. The findings indicate that, although procedural compliance and case-completion rates are relatively high, particularly in high-burden areas such as Palu City, investigative effectiveness is constrained by limited personnel capacity, uneven technical expertise, low public literacy on narcotics, and risks of intimidation against investigators. These constraints contribute to a gap between administrative outputs and perceived social impact. The study concludes that investigative effectiveness should be measured not merely by arrest numbers or case completion, but by procedural integrity, evidentiary resilience, human rights protection, and tangible disruption of narcotics networks.

Keywords: Narcotics Investigation; Investigative Effectiveness; Criminal Procedure; Evidence

INTRODUCTION

Narcotics crimes constitute a serious threat to public health, social order, and regional security. This form of crime is dynamic, organized, and frequently exploits interregional networks. Such conditions require law enforcement that is swift, professional, and measurable (Wijaya & Ruslie, 2024). The investigation stage becomes a decisive point, as the quality of evidence and the determination of suspects are constructed at this phase. Accordingly, the focus of this discussion is directed toward assessing the effectiveness of investigative practices in combating narcotics crimes within the jurisdiction of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police.

The principal legal framework governing investigations in Indonesia is Law No. 8 of 1981 on the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP). KUHAP regulates definitions, authorities, and the limits of investigators' actions so that every measure has a clear legal basis. The principle of due process of law applies to every stage, from initial actions to case filing (Winoto, 2025). KUHAP also emphasizes respect for the rights of suspects and witnesses as part of human rights protection. Compliance with KUHAP is therefore an essential prerequisite to ensure that investigative outcomes are lawful and accountable before the court (Setyadi & Masyhar, 2025).

Beyond KUHAP, narcotics crime investigations have a specific legal basis in Law No. 35 of 2009 on Narcotics. This statute regulates the material aspects of narcotics offenses while also providing provisions that affect case-handling procedures. These

special norms strengthen the state's position in combating illicit trafficking and narcotics abuse (Permana & Zarzani, 2024, June). They are also relevant in differentiating the handling of users, dealers, and organized networks. Consequently, investigative effectiveness can be assessed by the ability to consistently translate the provisions of KUHAP and the Narcotics Law into practice.

Police authority in law enforcement is further supported by Law No. 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police. This law affirms the functions of the Police in maintaining security and public order, enforcing the law, and providing protection and services. The position of police investigators thus obtains juridical legitimacy to conduct inquiry and investigation in accordance with established procedures. This norm ensures that investigative actions are not merely administrative practices, but statutory mandates. Effective investigative performance must therefore reflect the professional and integrity-based execution of this mandate (Romanov, *et al*, 2021).

Investigative effectiveness can be measured from procedural certainty starting at the earliest stage, namely inquiry. KUHAP positions inquiry as a step to ascertain whether a criminal event has occurred. This stage determines whether initial information is sufficient to be elevated to formal investigation. In narcotics cases, the early stage often requires special techniques because narcotics trafficking tends to be covert. Accurate inquiry reduces the risk of misdirected enforcement and strengthens the accuracy of case construction (Wulandari, Marbun & Hutabarat, 2025).

Regulation of the Chief of the Indonesian National Police No. 6 of 2019 on Criminal Investigation serves as an important technical guideline for investigators. This regulation outlines the scope of inquiry, operational techniques, and administrative management of investigations (Sianipar & Debora, 2026).. Crime scene processing, observation, interviews, surveillance, undercover operations, tracking, and document analysis are positioned as methods of information gathering. These guidelines enable investigators to work more systematically and in a standardized manner across units. Consistent application of this regulation is an indicator of effectiveness, as it minimizes procedural deviations and improves investigative quality (Mofokeng & Aphane, 2022).

The case exposition (gelar perkara) mechanism constitutes a crucial transition point from inquiry to investigation. Police Regulation No. 6 of 2019 directs case exposition to assess whether an incident is reasonably suspected to constitute a criminal offense. Its outcome determines whether a case is discontinued, proceeded with, or transferred if it falls outside police authority. Proper implementation of case exposition enhances objectivity and strengthens investigator accountability. This filtering function supports effectiveness by preventing weak cases from entering the investigation stage without sufficient basis (Swantoro, 2023).

The investigation stage aims to clarify the criminal act and identify suspects through the collection of evidence. KUHAP regulates examination, summons, arrest, detention, search, seizure, and case filing, subject to formal and material requirements. Precision in formal aspects prevents objections at trial that could weaken the case. Precision in material aspects strengthens the linkage between events, evidence, and the involvement of perpetrators. Investigative effectiveness is achieved when evidence is complete, coherent, and capable of supporting proof in court (Permatasari, *et al*, 2022).

Institutional coordination is a critical aspect of narcotics cases due to the involvement of both the National Police and the National Narcotics Agency (BNN). Article 84 of Law No. 35 of 2009 mandates written notification of the commencement of investigations between police and BNN investigators. This provision is relevant to preventing overlapping case handling and strengthening information exchange. Coordination also supports broader network dismantling strategies through joint efforts. Investigative effectiveness increases when such coordination is implemented consistently and not merely as an administrative formality (Mulyadi, *et al*, 2023).

Effectiveness may also be assessed through quantitative case resolution achievements and the substantive quality of outcomes. Field data from sampled regions in Central Sulawesi show variations in case numbers and suspects across areas. Palu City records the highest number of cases and suspects compared to other districts. This variation reflects differing regional vulnerability characteristics and the need for adaptive investigative strategies. Effectiveness is achieved when high caseloads can still be managed with careful evidentiary scrutiny and procedural orderliness.

Case resolution rates generally reflect investigators' capacity to complete investigations within a given year. Resolution percentages in several sampled regions average above 80 percent, indicating relatively sound administrative performance. However, these figures must be read alongside the quality of evidence and the durability of case files at the prosecution stage. Evidentiary constraints are often the reason cases remain unresolved within the year, making evidence-gathering strategies crucial. True effectiveness is not merely the number of closed cases, but the strength of proof that withstands judicial scrutiny (Prince, Lum & Koper, 2021).

Effectiveness cannot be separated from human rights principles and fair treatment in criminal proceedings. Law No. 39 of 1999 on Human Rights provides a normative reference that law enforcement must respect human dignity. KUHAP also offers control mechanisms, such as pretrial review, to test the legality of arrest, detention, and termination of investigations. These controls compel investigators to act in an orderly, procedure-based manner. Effectiveness in a rule-of-law context thus means firm enforcement that continues to respect fundamental rights (Marynchy, 2024).

Structural constraints in the form of limited personnel affect investigators' ability to cover extensive jurisdictions. An imbalance between personnel numbers and population size creates high workloads and potential task overlap. This condition affects supervision intensity, response speed, and case depth. Conversely, effectiveness can be improved through sound case management, clear task allocation, and strengthened operational support. Capacity building thus becomes an essential component of strategies to maintain effectiveness in high-burden areas (Liederbach, Fritsch & Womack, 2011).

Human resource quality also determines effectiveness, as narcotics cases require specialized expertise. Education and training in narcotics investigation are needed to understand modus operandi, undercover techniques, and evidence management. While Police Regulation No. 6 of 2019 provides guidelines, these must be supported by technical skills in the field. Limited training opportunities can result in uneven investigative quality among investigators. Effectiveness increases when continuous training becomes an institutional policy rather than an incidental activity (Arny, *et al*, 2025).

Social constraints in the form of low public knowledge about narcotics affect early detection and prevention. Limited literacy prevents some community members from recognizing narcotics characteristics or distribution patterns. Consequently, information reaching law enforcement is often delayed or incomplete. Outreach, public education, and police-community partnerships are therefore essential strategies to support enforcement. Investigative effectiveness is strengthened when communities act as information partners rather than merely objects of enforcement.

The risk of intimidation or threats against investigators can disrupt operations and jeopardize personnel safety. Investigators who serve as witnesses in court may be easily identified by criminal networks. This situation complicates repeated undercover operations and increases risks to investigators and their families. Internal protection, security support, and strengthened operational risk management must therefore be prioritized. Effective investigation requires a sense of security for personnel so that professional work is not hindered by external pressure.

Budgetary support is another key determinant of effectiveness, as narcotics investigations require field operations, laboratory testing, and evidence management. Without logistical support, investigative actions such as surveillance, tracking, and controlled delivery cannot be optimally conducted. Budget availability is also linked to information technology infrastructure for monitoring communications and financial flows. Adequate funding improves evidence quality and accelerates case completion. Ultimately, effectiveness depends on alignment between workload demands and available resources.

Investigative effectiveness is also shaped by investigator integrity and accountability. Administrative orderliness, procedural transparency, and adherence to ethical standards are crucial for maintaining public trust. Internal supervision and periodic evaluation help prevent deviations, including abuse of authority. In narcotics cases, integrity is particularly critical because such crimes often involve money and powerful networks capable of influencing officials. Sustainable effectiveness is only possible when law enforcement operates in a clean and professional manner.

Considering the regulatory framework and field data, investigations within the jurisdiction of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police may be regarded as “effective” when three main criteria are met. The first is procedural compliance with KUHAP, the Narcotics Law, the Police Law, and Police Regulation No. 6 of 2019. The second is strong evidentiary achievement, reflected in case resolution and the durability of case files through prosecution. The third is the capacity to overcome structural, social, and security challenges through policies strengthening personnel, budgets, training, and investigator protection. Under these criteria, effectiveness is understood not merely as the number of arrests, but as the success of a lawful, professional investigative system that produces tangible impacts in suppressing narcotics circulation.

METHOD

This study employs an empirical juridical approach with a descriptive-analytical research design. The juridical approach is used to examine the legal provisions governing the investigation of narcotics crimes, particularly Law No. 8 of 1981 on the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP), Law No. 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, Law No. 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police, and Regulation of the Chief of the Indonesian National Police No. 6 of 2019 on Criminal Investigation. The empirical approach is applied to directly observe the implementation of these norms in investigative practice within the jurisdiction of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police. This study aims to assess the effectiveness of investigative practices by comparing normative provisions with their practical implementation in the field. With its descriptive-analytical nature, the research not only describes factual conditions but also analyzes the interrelationship between legal rules, investigative practices, and the obstacles faced by law enforcement officials.

The data sources in this study consist of primary data and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through interviews with investigators from the Narcotics Directorate of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police and other relevant parties, as well as through questionnaires distributed to respondents to capture perceptions of investigative effectiveness. Secondary data were derived from primary legal materials in the form of legislation, secondary legal materials such as books, scholarly journals, and previous research findings, as well as relevant tertiary legal materials. Data collection techniques included interviews, questionnaires, document studies, and

literature reviews. The collected data were analyzed qualitatively, drawing conclusions based on patterns, trends, and the conformity between legal norms and investigative practices, in order to provide a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of narcotics crime investigations within the jurisdiction of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Effectiveness of Narcotics Investigations in Central Sulawesi: Procedure, Evidence, and Enforcement Outcomes

The implementation of investigations in combating narcotics crimes within the jurisdiction of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police (Polda Sulawesi Tengah) must be understood as law-enforcement work that requires procedural accuracy and evidentiary resilience. Narcotics investigations essentially follow the general framework of criminal procedure, but they have specific characteristics because narcotics distribution tends to be clandestine, organized, and adaptive. The primary normative basis is Law Number 8 of 1981 on Criminal Procedure (KUHAP) as the procedural guideline. The special regulatory framework is strengthened by Law Number 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, which governs substantive aspects and several technical provisions. The institutional legitimacy of Police investigators (Polri) is also affirmed in Law Number 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police (Rifaldi & Pawennei, 2024).

Under KUHAP, an investigation (penyidikan) is defined as a series of actions by investigators to search for and collect evidence in order to clarify the criminal act and identify the suspect. This definitional norm positions proof as the core of investigative work, so the quality of the case file is largely determined at this stage. Respect for procedure becomes crucial because investigative actions directly relate to restrictions on citizens' rights, such as arrest, detention, search, and seizure. Legal control is also available through the pretrial (praperadilan) mechanism, which examines the legality of certain actions in the criminal process. Therefore, the success of an investigation should not be measured only by the number of arrests, but by the conformity of actions with KUHAP and the strength of evidence in court (Kurniawatie, 2025).

The handling of criminal cases always begins with an inquiry (penyelidikan) and then continues to an investigation (penyidikan). The inquiry functions to confirm whether an event suspected as a crime actually constitutes a criminal incident, thus serving as the gateway to a more formal process. In the narcotics context, this early stage is crucial because initial information often comes from public reports, intelligence, or field findings that still require verification. KUHAP places inquiry as the initial work to determine whether a crime exists, while investigation moves toward fulfilling evidentiary requirements and identifying suspects. Practice at Polda Sulawesi Tengah shows that the accuracy of inquiry affects the correctness of case construction and prevents misdirected enforcement actions.

Technical guidance for inquiry and investigation within Polri refers to Regulation of the Chief of the Indonesian National Police (Perkap) Number 6 of 2019 on Criminal Investigations. This regulation sets standards on the scope of inquiry, operational techniques, and administrative governance of investigations. The strength of Perkap 6/2019 lies in standardizing procedures so that each work unit conducts processes systematically and with proper documentation. This standardization is important in narcotics cases because proof often depends on a chain of interrelated actions from the earliest stage. Consistent application of Perkap is an indicator of investigative governance quality, especially in preventing procedural defects that could weaken a case.

The scope of inquiry under Perkap 6/2019 includes techniques commonly used in narcotics cases, including crime scene processing, observation, interviews, surveillance, undercover operations, tracking, and document research and analysis. These techniques indicate that narcotics inquiry cannot rely on a single method, but requires a combination of strategies. Network complexity and transaction patterns compel investigators to map relationships among perpetrators, witnesses, evidence, locations, and distribution flows. Inquiry targets also demonstrate a broad orientation, ranging from persons, objects, places, and events to activities. Thus, inquiry at Polda Sulawesi Tengah functions as a “verification” process oriented toward collecting information that can be elevated into evidence.

Crime scene processing (TKP) is important because in many narcotics cases the “scene” is not always a single fixed location. The TKP may be the transaction site, storage location, handover point, or the arrest location that occurs rapidly. In processing the crime scene, investigators seek to gather indications, physical evidence, and the identities of relevant parties to strengthen the inquiry direction. This process also emphasizes identifying the relationship among witnesses, suspects, and evidence so that the narrative does not fragment. A picture of the modus operandi begins to form at this stage, including communication patterns and methods of packaging or concealing narcotics. Careful crime scene processing helps prevent the loss of early traces that are often decisive for later proof.

Observation is a technique whereby investigators monitor specific objects, places, or environments to obtain information. In narcotics cases, observation often targets vulnerable points, suspected transaction locations, or individuals believed to be part of a network. Observation also supplements initial information that remains partial, such as transaction hours or movement patterns. This technique encourages investigators to develop working hypotheses gradually and not hastily escalate the case status. Measured observation helps ensure that subsequent actions such as surveillance or undercover work are directed at the correct targets.

Interviews in the inquiry stage serve as a clarification instrument to answer the basic elements of an event. Interviews may be conducted covertly or openly,

depending on security and confidentiality needs. Key questions include who the actor is, what happened, where it occurred, with what means it was done, why it happened, how it was done, and when it occurred. Answers form a chronological framework and guide investigators in determining the focus of evidence gathering. In narcotics contexts, interviews can also reveal social networks, transaction patterns, or intermediaries involved.

Surveillance is used to follow individuals suspected as perpetrators or individuals who can lead to the perpetrators. The main goal is to understand the perpetrator's activities, habits, environment, and network more comprehensively. Surveillance is also used to follow distribution routes or identify storage locations for criminal proceeds. This technique is important because narcotics networks often operate in cell systems, so field actors may not know the controlling figures. Effective surveillance produces a relational map that can be converted into more targeted enforcement strategies.

Undercover operations are sensitive and risky, yet often effective in narcotics trafficking cases. Undercover work involves infiltrating certain environments without revealing identity to obtain information or evidentiary material. In narcotics practice, this can take the form of an undercover buy as a prospective buyer, controlled delivery to follow distribution to a specific location, or raid planning execution combining infiltration and enforcement action. These techniques require procedural discipline and risk management because small mistakes can endanger personnel and compromise the operation. Therefore, undercover work must be supported by proper documentation and strong internal coordination.

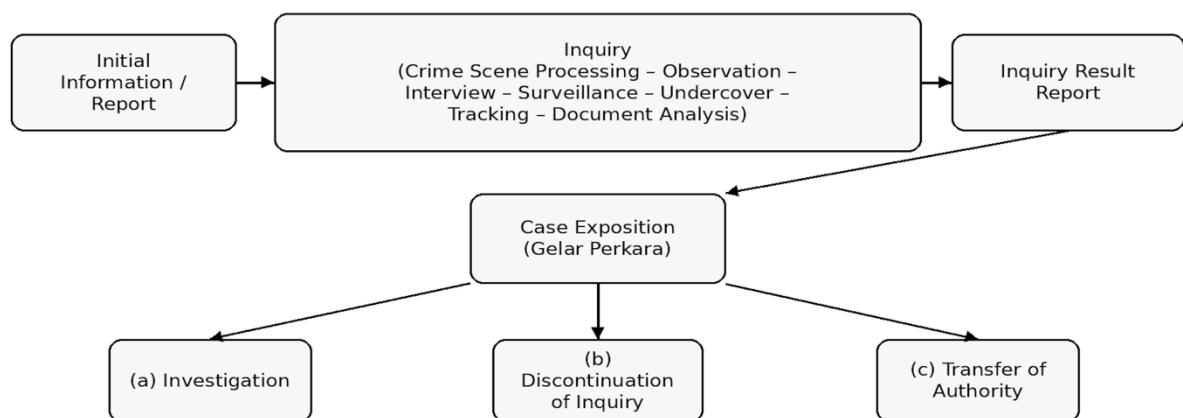
Tracking marks a shift toward the use of information technology in narcotics inquiry. Tracking can be carried out to follow a suspect's whereabouts through communication traces, movement patterns, or digital data that are legally available. Cross-agency cooperation is also needed, including coordination with relevant institutions or international networks if cross-border indications exist. Tracking financial flows suspected to originate from criminal proceeds is key to identifying controlling actors and cutting the network's economic chain. The effectiveness of tracking depends heavily on technical capacity, infrastructure, and the precision of the legal basis for action.

Document research and analysis complements technical inquiry through the collection of transaction and communication data. Documents analyzed may include banking transactions, shipping records, mobile communication data, or other relevant digital traces. Document analysis helps construct the anatomy of the case, including command flows, payment patterns, and distribution routes. At this stage, investigators build an "evidentiary narrative" connecting field events to the network structure. In this way, document analysis transforms information into a construction closer to evidentiary standards.

The entire inquiry sequence confirms that investigators work to determine whether an event constitutes a narcotics crime or not. This aligns with the function of inquiry as a verification stage before more formal investigative actions are initiated. Under Perkap 6/2019, inquiry targets include persons, objects, places, events, and activities, giving investigators comprehensive operational scope. The results are then recorded in a written inquiry report containing time and place, inquiry activities, results, obstacles, and opinions and recommendations. The report is signed by the head of the inquiry team as internal accountability and a basis for further decisions.

The transition from inquiry to investigation is conducted through a **case exposition (gelar perkara)** mechanism as directed in Perkap 6/2019. Case exposition evaluates whether an event is suspected to be a crime or not, serving as a control point for the quality of information and initial evidence. The exposition may decide the case proceeds to investigation, is discontinued, or is transferred if it falls outside Polri's authority. This mechanism prevents criminalization, wrong targeting, or investigations initiated without sufficient grounds. It also strengthens objectivity because decisions are based on collective, documented assessment rather than a single party. Thus, case exposition strengthens investigative legitimacy and reduces potential procedural defects from the outset.

Figure 1. Inquiry–Case Exposition–Investigation Flow (Procedural Scheme)



The investigation stage is then carried out to search for and collect evidence that clarifies the crime and identifies the suspect. At this stage, KUHAP is the main reference because it regulates examination, summons, arrest, detention, search, seizure, and case-file preparation. Narcotics investigations require extra rigor because physical evidence, chain of custody, and each actor's role linkage must be proven systematically. Investigative success depends on connecting field actions with orderly investigative administration. Weakness in any element can result in fragile proof, even if an arrest has been made.

Specifically for narcotics cases, Law Number 35 of 2009 emphasizes institutional coordination between Polri and BNN. Article 84 requires written notification of the

commencement of investigation between Polri investigators and BNN investigators, and it applies reciprocally. This notification is strategic because narcotics crimes often involve cross-regional networks and require information exchange. Coordination also prevents overlapping case handling that can hinder enforcement effectiveness. When coordination works, disclosures can target not only field actors but also larger network structures.

Field data from five sample areas in Central Sulawesi provide a quantitative picture of narcotics and psychotropics trends. Palu City ranks highest in cumulative cases, followed by Donggala, Tojo Una-Una, Banggai, and Poso. This suggests higher risk concentration in the city due to population mobility, transportation access, and larger markets. Variation among regencies indicates regional characteristics influence distribution patterns and handling. These figures inform analysis of investigative workload and the need for adaptive investigative strategies.

Table 1. Number of Narcotics and Psychotropics Cases (2020–2023; period up to August 2024)

No.	Research Area	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
1	Palu City	97	139	217	228	681
2	Donggala Regency	19	24	36	49	128
3	Tojo Una-Una Regency	20	31	18	16	85
4	Poso Regency	11	17	12	9	49
5	Banggai Regency	8	14	12	24	58

The pattern in Table 4 shows a consistent increase in Palu City from 2020 to 2023. Donggala rises gradually, though far below Palu City. Tojo Una-Una declines after 2021, while Poso declines in 2023. Banggai rises sharply in 2023 compared with 2022, suggesting shifts in network dynamics or increased enforcement intensity. Trend analysis affects priority setting for inquiry operations, personnel reinforcement, and hot-spot mapping.

Figure 2. Illustration of Total Case Comparison (based on Table 4)



The number of suspects across sample areas shows that one case can involve multiple persons; therefore, case totals do not always match suspect totals. Palu City again has the highest cumulative number of suspects. Donggala and Tojo Una-Una are in the middle, while Poso and Banggai are lower. Comparing suspect totals helps interpret network intensity and group involvement. The data is also relevant for

measuring needs for examinations, detention capacity, and investigative administrative support.

Table 2. Number of Suspects in Narcotics and Psychotropics Cases (2020–2023; period up to August 2024)

No.	Research Area	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
1	Palu City	87	132	172	209	600
2	Donggala Regency	17	21	30	38	106
3	Tojo Una-Una Regency	12	27	16	4	59
4	Poso Regency	9	13	11	8	41
5	Banggai Regency	3	6	10	14	33

Compared with case totals, Palu City has the largest handling scale for both cases and suspects. The suspect increase may reflect intensified enforcement or increased network involvement. Tojo Una-Una drops sharply in 2023, which may reflect reduced incidents or shifting strategies. Poso declines gradually, while Banggai rises in 2023. These dynamics show that investigative effectiveness must be read in the context of changing crime patterns and regional handling capacities.

Investigative performance is also reflected in how many cases are completed at the investigation stage. Completed-case data indicates the ability to finalize files within a period. Palu City remains highest, consistent with its heavy burden. Donggala is lower, while Tojo Una-Una, Poso, and Banggai are relatively close. Completion data should be read alongside evidentiary conditions, as many cases are delayed due to insufficient evidence.

Table 3. Number of Narcotics and Psychotropics Cases Completed at the Investigation Stage (2020–2023; period up to August 2024)

No.	Research Area	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
1	Palu City	66	97	130	147	440
2	Donggala Regency	10	17	24	26	77
3	Tojo Una-Una Regency	8	11	5	8	32
4	Poso Regency	8	9	13	7	37
5	Banggai Regency	4	2	18	11	35

A completion-rate percentage provides a fairer picture by comparing total cases and completed cases in the same year. In the research data, average completion rates in most areas exceed 80%, suggesting adequate organizational capacity. Poso has the highest average, while Banggai is the lowest. Differences may reflect workload variation, evidence availability, and field-operation intensity. Percentage analysis supports comparative evaluation across regions.

Table 4. Case Completion Rate (Average 2020–2023; period up to August 2024)

Research Area	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average
Palu City	84.62	97.04	99.57	90.60	92.96
Donggala Regency	88.89	70.83	88.89	92.59	85.30
Tojo Una-Una Regency	90.00	90.00	87.50	85.71	88.30
Poso Regency	100.00	100.00	91.67	81.82	93.37
Banggai Regency	50.00	66.67	81.82	91.67	72.54

Interpretation requires caution because high percentages may reflect low case volume. Poso's percentage is highest, but its case count is lowest, making completion more achievable. Palu City's case burden is very high, yet it maintains strong completion rates, indicating productivity under heavy workload. Banggai's lower rate may indicate evidentiary, personnel, or logistical challenges. Field findings also note that unfinished cases in the running year often result from insufficient evidence, making evidentiary strengthening central.

A frequently cited obstacle is limited personnel, both quantitatively and qualitatively. A low police-to-population ratio increases workload and can cause overlapping assignments. Limited specialized narcotics training also affects technical capacity, especially against evolving modus operandi. Limited personnel creates risks of delays and reduced oversight intensity. This constraint reduces effectiveness, particularly in operations requiring time and manpower such as surveillance, undercover work, and tracking.

Respondent perceptions show that personnel limitations significantly affect suppression efforts. The majority chose "influential," indicating personnel problems are considered a major barrier. This aligns with organizational logic: investigative burdens rise with case trends and network complexity. Personnel shortages also affect the ability to prepare case administration promptly and accurately. Thus, the personnel issue is not merely numerical but also involves competence and workload distribution.

Table 5. Impact of Personnel Limitations

No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Influential	80	80
2	Less Influential	15	15
3	Not Influential	5	5
Total		100	100

A strong social obstacle is low public knowledge about narcotics and psychotropics characteristics. When communities cannot recognize forms, traits, or trafficking patterns, early detection weakens. Reports reaching authorities may be late or incomplete, complicating network mapping. This affects inquiry because techniques require sufficiently strong initial information. Public literacy improvement through outreach is needed so prevention and disclosure can reinforce each other.

Respondent perceptions also place public literacy as a highly influential barrier. The “influential” percentage is very high, supporting the need for broader and more sustained educational programs. Outreach functions as a preventive measure that supports investigation by increasing the quantity and quality of reports and community vigilance. Prevention supports repression rather than standing apart from it. Therefore, strong investigations require active partnerships between law enforcement and communities.

Table 6. Impact of Limited Public Knowledge of Narcotics/Psychotropics Characteristics

No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Influential	85	85
2	Less Influential	10	10
3	Not Influential	5	5
Total		100	100

Another obstacle is the risk of terror or intimidation against investigators, especially because investigators often serve as witnesses in court. This can expose identities, making future undercover buys more difficult. Networks may use trials to identify investigators involved in arrests. This risk affects safety and operational effectiveness, especially where networks are interconnected. Personnel protection and operational risk management are essential so investigations are not obstructed by external pressure.

Respondents also consider intimidation influential. Although some assess it as less or not influential, the existence of risk alone warrants policy attention due to officer safety and operational continuity. Strengthening internal support, improving courtroom security, and tactical personnel rotation can mitigate risks.

Table 8. Impact of Investigator Intimidation/Terror

No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Influential	75	75
2	Less Influential	15	15
3	Not Influential	10	10
Total		100	100

Solutions emphasized include providing rewards for investigators who uncover major cases, adding personnel, and increasing narcotics investigation budgets. Rewards can sustain motivation but must be governed by accountability to avoid encouraging excessive actions. Personnel increases address workload and long-duration operations. Budget increases are necessary for operational costs, technology, and laboratory testing. These measures should be combined with training so increased staffing translates into improved competence.

Survey results on perceived effectiveness show dominance of “less effective.” This suggests a gap between administrative achievements (such as high completion rates) and public/respondent perceptions of quality and impact. Social effectiveness is not only about file completion but also reduced circulation, improved security, and fewer new cases. Negative perceptions may result from personnel limitations, low public literacy, and intimidation risks affecting operational quality. This supports systemic strengthening rather than merely increasing enforcement volume.

Table 9. Respondents’ Assessment of Law Enforcement Effectiveness in Combating Narcotics in the Jurisdiction of Central Sulawesi Regional Police

No.	Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Effective	15	15
2	Less Effective	80	80
3	Not Effective	5	5
	Total	100	100

The gap between formal indicators and perceived effectiveness must be explained so conclusions are not contradictory. High completion rates show capacity to finish investigations but do not automatically mean prevention works or networks weaken. High new-case numbers, especially in Palu City, can lead to perceptions that enforcement does not deter or reduce supply. Narcotics control requires a dual strategy: evidence-based repression and community-based prevention. This balance can bridge administrative outputs and social impact.

Evidence quality is the most decisive factor for improving substantive effectiveness. Field findings indicate many unfinished cases result from insufficient evidence. This highlights the need to strengthen inquiry techniques such as document analysis, tracking, and surveillance so proof does not rely solely on confessions or arrests. Strengthening Polri-BNN coordination under Article 84 can expand intelligence access and accelerate evidence fulfillment. Strong evidence produces case files more resilient in court, making enforcement impacts more tangible.

Human-rights protection must be maintained throughout the investigative process, including narcotics cases that often require swift action. Law Number 39 of 1999 on Human Rights provides general principles that enforcement must respect human dignity. KUHAP also sets limits and procedures so rights restrictions are lawful and proportionate. Procedural compliance strengthens legitimacy because outcomes are more defensible. Legitimacy prevents distrust that could weaken public support. Therefore, effectiveness should be understood as both legally effective and socially acceptable.

In summary, narcotics investigations in the jurisdiction of Polda Sulawesi Tengah show a clear procedural structure, from inquiry and case exposition to formal

investigation. Quantitative data shows high case and suspect burdens—particularly in Palu City, with case completion rates in many areas above 80%. Key obstacles include personnel limitations, low public literacy, and intimidation risks, all considered significant by respondents. Recommendations point to strengthening human resources, budgets, specialized training, risk mitigation, community partnerships, and Polri-BNN coordination. With these measures, investigative effectiveness is expected to appear not only in case-file completion figures but also in reduced circulation and improved public security.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The supervisory strategy implemented by the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) of Maros Regency in addressing electoral crimes is carried out through a preventive approach, stage-based supervision, risk-based patrols, and early enforcement through the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Sentra Gakkumdu), coordinated hierarchically down to the polling station (TPS) level. This strategy has been relatively effective in suppressing overt violations and strengthening supervisory coordination; however, it remains constrained by limited resources, a permissive culture toward vote-buying, and weak preliminary evidence and criminal proof. At the same time, the enforcement of electoral crime laws in Maros Regency is influenced by interrelated structural, technical, and cultural factors, particularly weak preliminary evidence, delayed reporting, socio-political pressure, limited resources, and low public legal literacy, which cause many reports to fail to proceed to the prosecution stage. These conditions demonstrate that effective and sustainable electoral law enforcement requires strengthening institutional and supervisory capacity, enhancing public legal literacy, providing greater protection for supervisors and witnesses, optimizing operational and technological support, and reinforcing sustained public participation in election oversight.

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