Wanted List-Based Drug Law Enforcement: Effective Strategy or Mere Formality?

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Original Article

Abstract

The widespread abuse of narcotics in Indonesia represents a multifaceted issue, significantly exacerbated by weaknesses within the law enforcement system—particularly in the arrest of individuals listed on the Wanted Persons List (DPO). This study aims to (1) identify the legal procedures for determining DPO status, (2) evaluate the strategies and operational challenges involved in the arrest process, and (3) analyze the role of information technology and inter-agency cooperation in enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement. Employing an empirical juridical method with a qualitative approach, the research draws upon document analysis and in-depth interviews with law enforcement personnel. The findings reveal that, although the legal foundation for determining DPO status is well established, its implementation is hindered by structural barriers, limited inter-agency coordination, and the suboptimal application of digital technologies. The study concludes by underscoring the urgent need for the integration of digital systems, the reinforcement of cross-institutional collaboration, and the enhancement of human resource capacity to effectively support the eradication of narcotics-related crimes in Indonesia.

Keywords: *Wanted Persons List, Narcotics Offenses, Law Enforcement, Information Technology*

Abstrak

Maraknya penyalahgunaan narkotika di Indonesia merupakan masalah kompleks yang dipengaruhi oleh lemahnya sistem penegakan hukum, khususnya dalam penangkapan tersangka yang telah masuk Daftar Pencarian Orang (DPO). Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi prosedur hukum penetapan DPO, mengevaluasi strategi dan kendala operasional dalam proses penangkapan, serta menganalisis peran teknologi informasi dan kerja sama antar lembaga dalam meningkatkan efektivitas penegakan hukum. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah yuridis empiris dengan pendekatan kualitatif melalui studi dokumen dan wawancara dengan aparat penegak hukum. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penetapan DPO telah memiliki dasar hukum yang jelas, namun implementasinya masih menghadapi kendala struktural, kelemahan koordinasi, dan belum optimalnya pemanfaatan teknologi. Kesimpulan penelitian ini menegaskan perlunya integrasi sistem digital, penguatan kerja sama lintas lembaga, dan peningkatan kapasitas sumber daya manusia guna mendukung pemberantasan tindak pidana narkotika secara efektif.

Kata kunci: *Daftar Pencarian Orang, Narkotika, Penegakan Hukum, Teknologi Informasi*

1. INTRODUCTION

Crime is a social phenomenon intrinsically linked to the evolving dynamics of human life. Its manifestation extends beyond conventional forms, now encompassing increasingly complex, sophisticated, and organized patterns. One particularly serious and persistent threat to Indonesia's legal framework and national security is narcotics-related crime. This category of crime not only harms individuals—both users and victims—but also undermines social cohesion, economic stability, and even the political foundations of the state. Consequently, narcotics crime is widely recognized as both a transnational and extraordinary crime.

Indonesia's strategic geographic position as an archipelagic nation along major international trade routes renders it especially vulnerable to illicit drug trafficking. The expansion of cross-border drug syndicates has significantly complicated efforts to enforce the law against such offenses. According to data from the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), more than 3.6 million individuals were identified as drug users in Indonesia as of 2021.[1] This statistic not only highlights the high prevalence of drug abuse but also signals the growing pervasiveness of drug-related crimes across various age groups, social classes, and geographic regions.

One of the most formidable challenges in narcotics law enforcement is apprehending suspects listed on the Wanted Persons List (Daftar Pencarian Orang/DPO). These individuals are frequently embedded within sophisticated criminal networks equipped with substantial resources, technological access, and logistical capabilities, allowing them to evade law enforcement. They often employ tactics such as rapid relocation, identity concealment, or transnational flight to avoid prosecution. This underscores the urgent need to reassess and enhance conventional approaches to locating and arresting narcotics fugitives.

The designation of an individual as a DPO constitutes a repressive legal measure taken by investigators when a suspect fails to comply with lawful summons. This action is grounded in provisions of Indonesia's Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP) and its implementing regulations. Nevertheless, in practice, the pursuit of DPO suspects encounters a host of challenges, including limited personnel, inadequate technological infrastructure, weak inter-agency coordination, and insufficient community engagement in supporting legal enforcement efforts. As a result, many DPOs evade immediate capture and continue engaging in illicit activities, thereby exacerbating crime rates and undermining the authority of the law.

In the digital era, these enforcement obstacles should, in principle, be mitigated by the strategic use of advanced information technologies. Tools such as geographic

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[1] Badan Narkotika Nasional Republik Indonesia, "Hindari Narkotika Cerdaskan Generasi Muda Bangsa," Badan Narkotika Nasional Republik Indonesia, 2022, https://bnn.go.id/hindari-narkotika-cerdaskan-generasi-muda-bangsa/.

information systems (GIS), big data analytics, and digital surveillance software offer the potential to significantly enhance officers' ability to detect and locate fugitives. However, the deployment of such technologies remains inconsistent and is not yet fully integrated into the operational frameworks of regional and national law enforcement institutions. Furthermore, inter-agency collaboration—between the Police, BNN, Prosecutor's Office, and relevant ministries—often remains fragmented, lacking the cohesive and sustainable synergy necessary for comprehensive action.

Crucially, effective enforcement against narcotics crime—especially in tracking and arresting DPOs—cannot rely solely on the state. Active community involvement is indispensable. Civic participation in reporting suspicious activity, sharing information, and monitoring local environments is vital to establishing a functional, community-based policing model. However, current levels of public legal awareness and engagement remain low, due in part to inadequate legal education and outreach efforts by law enforcement agencies.

The phenomenon of narcotics-related crime in Indonesia has been extensively examined from both normative and empirical perspectives. For instance, Waldiansah and Djanggih analyzed the low effectiveness of drug law enforcement in the Majene Police Department, attributing it to legal limitations, insufficient personnel, and inadequate supporting infrastructure.[2] In a related study, Indriyani et al. highlighted the need to optimize the prosecutorial intelligence function in apprehending drug convicts listed on the Wanted Persons List (DPO), while also identifying technical and coordination-related challenges encountered in practice.[3] From a transnational viewpoint, Natasya and Yuniasih explored the efforts of NCB-Interpol Indonesia in establishing cross-border security cooperation to combat drug trafficking in the Malacca Strait region, underscoring the relevance of a transnational framework and the strategic utilization of information technology.[4] At the local level, Yuliana et al. described multiple obstacles in the investigation of drug offenses involving minors in Pinrang Regency, including role conflicts among investigators and limited community engagement.[5]

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[2]   Waldiansah Waldiansah and Hardianto Djanggih, "Efektivitas Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Narkotika Di Kabupaten Majene," *Journal of Lex Theory* 4, no. 2 (2023): 317–22, https://pasca-umi.ac.id/index.php/jlt/article/view/1575.

[3]   Dwi Nova Indriyani, I Nyoman Gede Sugiartha, and Ni Made Sukaryati Karma, "Optimalisasi Intelijen Kejaksaan Dalam Pelaksanaan Penanganan Tangkap Buron Dpo Terpidana Tindak Pidana Narkotika Dan Pencucian Uang: Studi Kasus Kejaksaan Negeri Denpasar," *Jurnal Konstruksi Hukum* 4, no. 2 (2023): 166–71, https://doi.org/10.22225/jkh.4.2.6795.166-171.

[4]   Alya Natasya and Tulus Yuniasih, "NCB-Interpol Indonesia Dalam Penanganan Permasalahan Narkotika Lintas Batas Di Selat Malaka 2020-2022," *Balcony: Budi Luhur Journal of Contemporary Diplomacy* 7, no. 1 (2023): 51–64, https://jom.fisip.budiluhur.ac.id/balcony/article/view/394.

[5]   Yuliana Yuliana, Anwar Parawangi, and Muhammad Tahir, "Efektivitas Kinerja Penanganan Tindak Pidana Narkoba Anak Di Bawah Umur Pada Kepolisian Resort Kabupaten Pinrang," *Kajian Ilmiah Mahasiswa Administrasi Publik* 2, no. 5 (2021): 1827–41, https://doi.org/10.26618/kimap.v2i5.5423.

Further research by Rahman et al. in Bone Regency found that the implementation of police functions in combating drug abuse remained ineffective due to shortages in human resources, logistical support, and operational funding.[6] Amanda et al. emphasized the critical role of community participation and transparency within the justice system in enhancing the efficacy of drug case management.[7] In the urban context of Surabaya, Kristiyani and Cornelis examined the application of preemptive, preventive, and repressive policing strategies pursuant to Articles 114 and 127 of Indonesia's Narcotics Law, advocating for a balanced enforcement approach complemented by community-based education.[8] Meanwhile, Hapsari investigated the philosophical and sociocultural dimensions of imposing the death penalty for narcotics crimes, revealing how cultural norms and local conceptions of justice influence sentencing practices.[9]

Despite the broad scope of existing research on narcotics law enforcement and eradication efforts, there remains a significant gap in scholarly work that specifically focuses on the effectiveness of arresting drug crime suspects already designated as DPOs in Indonesia. While Remi and Hadi have addressed the procedural aspects of determining and locating DPOs within police practices, their analysis remains largely descriptive and procedural, lacking a holistic inquiry into the multidimensional factors involved—including technological infrastructure, resource availability, inter-agency coordination, and public participation.[10]

This review reveals a critical gap in empirical research that systematically explores the multifaceted determinants influencing the effectiveness of arresting narcotics suspects listed as DPOs, particularly through a multidisciplinary lens that incorporates legal, institutional, technological, and societal dimensions. The originality of the present study lies in its integrated approach, combining structural and operational analysis of law enforcement mechanisms with an evaluation of the potential role of information technology in managing narcotics-related DPO cases.

[6] Abdul Rahman, Lauddin Marsuni, and Aan Aswari, "Efektivitas Pelaksanaan Fungsi Kepolisian Terhadap Tindak Pidana Penyalahgunaan Narkotika," *Journal of Lex Theory* 5, no. 2 (2024): 537–51, http://pasca-umi.ac.id/index.php/jlt/article/view/1765.

[7] Niken Dwi Amanda et al., "Analisis Penanganan Kasus Narkoba Ditinjau Dari Perspektif Hukum Dan Masyarakat," *Media Hukum Indonesia* 2, no. 2 (2024): 249–58, https://ojs.daarulhuda.or.id/index.php/MHI/article/view/356.

[8] Marlina Kristiyani and Vieta Imelda Cornelis, "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Narkotika Di Wilayah Hukum Kepolisian Resor Kota Besar Surabaya," *Binamulia Hukum* 12, no. 1 (2023): 201–211, https://doi.org/10.37893/jbh.v12i1.331.

[9] Ifahda Pratama Hapsari, "Efektivitas Penerapan Pidana Mati Terhadap Tindak Pidana Narkotika Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Justiciabelen* 1, no. 2 (2018): 241–251, https://doi.org/10.30587/justiciabelen.v1i2.831.

[10] Muhammad Remi and Ainal Hadi, "Penyidikan Terhadap Permufakatan Jahat Melakukan Tindak Pidana Prekursor Narkotika: Suatu Penelitian Di Wilayah Hukum Polresta Banda Aceh," *Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa: Bidang Hukum Pidana* 4, no. 2 (2020): 201–16, https://jim.usk.ac.id/pidana/article/view/16625.

Accordingly, this study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the factors affecting the effectiveness of apprehending narcotics suspects on the Wanted Persons List in Indonesia. The specific objectives are as follows:

1) To identify the legal procedures governing the designation of DPO status for narcotics crime suspects;
2) To evaluate current strategies and operational-technical challenges encountered by law enforcement in the search and arrest of DPO suspects;
3) To analyze the contribution of information technology and inter-agency collaboration in enhancing the effectiveness of arrest operations.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs an empirical legal approach, which views law not merely as a set of normative rules, but as a social phenomenon reflected in actual behavior within society. This approach is particularly appropriate given the study's focus on assessing the effectiveness of arresting narcotics suspects listed on the Wanted Persons List (DPO). Accordingly, it necessitates the collection of primary data from the operational practices of law enforcement agencies, particularly the police. By adopting this approach, the study seeks to explore the gap between legal norms and their practical implementation, while identifying the factors that influence the success or failure of DPO arrest operations in the field.

The research design is descriptive-analytical, aiming to provide a comprehensive and systematic account of the procedures for DPO designation, the strategies employed by law enforcement officers, and the structural and operational challenges encountered. Primary data were collected through interviews with narcotics investigators and relevant community stakeholders. Secondary data were obtained through a literature review of applicable legislation, institutional technical guidelines, official documents, and scholarly publications. The research site was concentrated in the jurisdiction of Penjaringan Police Sector of North Jakarta, selected due to the high incidence of narcotics-related DPOs and the intensity of enforcement activities in the area.

Data analysis was conducted qualitatively through a process of data reduction, thematic presentation, and inductive reasoning. To ensure the validity and reliability of the findings, triangulation techniques involving multiple sources and methods were employed to assess the consistency and objectivity of the collected data. The findings of this study are expected to offer both empirical and normative contributions to the refinement of law enforcement strategies in addressing narcotics-related crimes in Indonesia.

3. RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Legal Procedures for Determining DPO Status for Narcotics Crime Suspects

This study aims to identify and analyze the legal procedures involved in designating narcotics crime suspects as individuals on the Wanted Persons List (DPO) in Indonesia. The analysis focuses on formal legal provisions, the technical implementation by law enforcement authorities, and the structural and operational challenges that influence the overall effectiveness of the process. Based on interviews conducted with narcotics unit investigators and a review of relevant legal documents, the process of assigning DPO status to narcotics suspects follows several stages:

1) Suspect Determination
   In accordance with Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP), an individual is designated as a suspect based on at least two valid pieces of evidence and the outcome of a case conference. If the suspect fails to respond appropriately to two official summonses, the procedure advances to the next stage.

2) Issuance of an Arrest Warrant
   Pursuant to Articles 17 and 18 of KUHAP, investigators issue an arrest warrant, which must include legal justification, supporting evidence, and indications of the suspect's likely location.

3) DPO Designation
   If the suspect cannot be located at any known address and is deemed to have absconded, the investigator prepares a case progress report and formally recommends DPO designation. The DPO documentation includes the suspect's name, complete personal identification, physical characteristics, recent photographs, and details of the suspected offense.

4) Publication and Dissemination of the DPO
   The DPO is disseminated through both internal police channels and public media. In some cases, announcements are also made via social media to reach a broader audience. Investigators coordinate with the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), the Directorate General of Immigration, Interpol, and other relevant institutions to support dissemination and enforcement.

5) Pursuit and Arrest Efforts
   Once a DPO has been issued, authorities initiate tracking operations using various methods, including intelligence networks, informants, and digital tools such as big data analysis and social media monitoring.

6) Revocation of DPO Status
   DPO status is revoked under specific circumstances, including the arrest or death of the suspect, or a court decision that annuls the suspect's legal status.

This study finds that the procedure for designating DPO status for narcotics crime suspects is legally well-founded through the provisions of KUHAP and the internal operational regulations of the Indonesian National Police. However, its practical implementation remains highly dependent on the quality of suspect data, inter-agency coordination, and the availability of qualified personnel and technological infrastructure. Many DPOs remain at large due to inaccurate or outdated suspect data and inadequate dissemination of information to the public.

These findings are consistent with prior studies. Remi and Hadi noted ongoing procedural and operational challenges in locating DPO suspects.[11] Similarly, Rahman et al. highlighted the limited effectiveness of police operations in combating narcotics crimes due to resource constraints.[12] However, unlike earlier research which primarily emphasized the repressive or institutional aspects of drug enforcement, this study places a particular focus on formal legal procedures and the role of information technology in enhancing the DPO system.

From a social perspective, the widespread incidence of drug abuse in Indonesia is closely linked to weaknesses in law enforcement. The DPO designation mechanism should serve as a strategic tool to suppress narcotics network activities.[13] Nevertheless, technical and coordination barriers continue to limit its impact. Key weaknesses include poor data accuracy, inadequate tracking technologies, and underutilization of DPO mechanisms in cross-regional and international monitoring systems. Additionally, community participation in reporting DPO suspects remains low due to insufficient public outreach and the lack of legal protection for informants. These issues highlight the urgent need to adopt a more participatory and integrated approach in addressing drug-related offenses.

This study affirms that while the normative framework for DPO designation is already established, its implementation is hindered by structural barriers. To enhance the system's effectiveness, reforms should focus on the following three areas:

1) Legal Reinforcement and Procedural Standardization
   There is a need to strengthen the legal foundation and ensure uniform technical procedures for DPO designation across all jurisdictions in Indonesia to avoid inconsistencies in field implementation.
2) Capacity Building and Technological Integration

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[11] Remi and Hadi.

[12] Rahman, Marsuni, and Aswari, "Efektivitas Pelaksanaan Fungsi Kepolisian Terhadap Tindak Pidana Penyalahgunaan Narkotika."

[13] Putri Rumondang Siagian et al., "Tinjauan Yuridis Tentang Larangan Pengajuan Praperadilan Oleh Orang Yang Berstatus Daftar Pencarian Orang (DPO)," *Iuris Studia: Jurnal Kajian Hukum* 2, no. 3 (2021): 581–90, https://doi.org/10.55357/is.v2i3.177.

Improving human resources and leveraging advanced information technologies—such as automated tracking systems, integrated databases, and big data-driven predictive analytics—can significantly enhance operational efficiency.

3) Inter-agency Collaboration and Public Participation

Developing systematic cross-institutional coordination and encouraging community engagement through public legal education, secure digital reporting platforms, and legal protections for whistleblowers are essential for a more responsive and inclusive enforcement strategy.

3.2. Technical-Operational Strategies and Constraints Faced by Law Enforcement Officers in the Search and Arrest of DPO Suspects

This study seeks to comprehensively evaluate the strategies employed by law enforcement agencies in locating and arresting narcotics crime suspects listed on the Wanted Persons List (DPO), while also identifying key technical and operational constraints that undermine the effectiveness of these efforts. The central aim is to uncover structural, resource-based, and technological factors that either facilitate or hinder the success of law enforcement in this context. Findings from field interviews, analysis of legal documents, and direct observation within police units reveal that the strategic framework for apprehending DPO suspects is built around five primary pillars: 1) enhancing the accuracy and quality of DPO data; 2) strengthening inter-agency coordination; 3) utilizing technology and intelligence capabilities; 4) implementing risk-based arrest operations; and 5) encouraging public participation through accessible reporting mechanisms.

However, the practical implementation of these strategies continues to face a series of persistent challenges:

1) Poor Data Quality

Many DPO records are outdated, particularly with respect to photographs and the last known addresses of suspects, which significantly impedes the tracking process.

2) Weak Inter-Agency Coordination

The handling of DPO cases is often obstructed by institutional silos and inter-agency rivalries—particularly between the National Police, the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), and the Prosecutor's Office—resulting in a reluctance to share data or engage in joint operations.

3) Unintegrated Technology Systems

Despite the availability of tools such as big data analytics, facial recognition, and GPS-based surveillance, technological utilization remains limited due to budgetary constraints and a shortage of digitally competent personnel.

4) Complex Criminal Networks

DPO suspects frequently operate within well-organized networks that provide logistical support and shield them from law enforcement efforts, making apprehension significantly more difficult.

5) Minimal Community Engagement

Fear of retaliation, lack of legal protections for whistleblowers, and limited public awareness deter community members from reporting the whereabouts of DPO suspects.

This study finds that although the arrest strategy is conceptually comprehensive, its uneven implementation undermines overall effectiveness. The most significant barriers include the absence of integrated information systems, inadequate inter-agency coordination, insufficient operational budgets, and limited human resource capacity. These obstacles contribute to the persistently high failure rate in apprehending DPO narcotics suspects.

These findings are consistent with previous research. Rahman et al. underscore the inadequacy of human and financial resources in supporting effective police functions[14], while Waldiansah and Djanggih highlight the need for improved training in enforcement strategy and data management.[15] This study expands on those findings by pinpointing critical failures in digital reporting mechanisms and the lack of interoperable databases among law enforcement agencies as major contributors to inefficiencies in locating suspects.

A robust enforcement strategy alone cannot produce significant outcomes without adequate resources and a culture of inter-agency collaboration. Fragmented data management and institutional rivalries have inadvertently reinforced the resilience of drug networks. In addition, although sophisticated surveillance technologies are available, they are often underutilized or deployed merely as symbolic tools. Community participation, which could serve as a vital asset in DPO apprehension, is severely limited due to the absence of legal safeguards for informants and insufficient public education regarding citizen roles in supporting law enforcement.[16] This study affirms several critical insights:

1) The existing strategies for locating and arresting DPO suspects are not fully effective, primarily due to inaccurate suspect data and the lack of a unified information system.

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[14] Rahman, Marsuni, and Aswari, "Efektivitas Pelaksanaan Fungsi Kepolisian Terhadap Tindak Pidana Penyalahgunaan Narkotika."

[15] Waldiansah and Djanggih, "Efektivitas Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Narkotika Di Kabupaten Majene."

[16] Ade Adhari, *Pembaharuan Sistem Hukum Pelaksanaan Pidana* (Yogyakarta: Deepublish, 2020).

2) Coordination challenges among law enforcement institutions remain a major obstacle, underscoring the need for national-level regulatory frameworks that mandate real-time data interoperability and collaboration.

3) Technological integration must be enhanced, supported by increased investment in digital infrastructure and capacity building through training in data analytics, surveillance technologies, and intelligence-led policing.

4) Public engagement must be systematically facilitated, with legal protections for informants and community outreach programs to raise awareness about the strategic importance of civilian cooperation.

5) Efforts to combat narcotics crimes must transcend sectoral boundaries, evolving into a comprehensive national agenda supported by all levels of government, with active international collaboration in transnational cases.

In summary, this study not only provides a detailed empirical mapping of the operational challenges in the apprehension of DPO narcotics suspects, but also offers policy-relevant recommendations for systemic reform. A more responsive, cooperative, and adaptive law enforcement model is urgently needed to address the complex and evolving landscape of drug-related crimes in Indonesia.

3.3. The Role of Information Technology and Inter-Agency Cooperation in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Arrests

This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the role of information technology and inter-agency cooperation in enhancing the effectiveness of arresting narcotics crime suspects listed on the Wanted Persons List (DPO) in Indonesia. The primary focus is on the utilization of digital systems, cross-sectoral coordination platforms, and national and international synergies to address the complex and transnational nature of narcotics-related offenses. Based on interviews with narcotics investigators and a review of operational documents and digital tools employed in law enforcement, the following key findings emerged:

1) Implementation of Information Technology (IT)
    Digital technologies have been applied in various aspects of criminal investigations, including the Investigation Information System (SIP), facial recognition systems, integrated CCTV tracking, and digital DPO database management. However, deployment and system integration remain inconsistent across regions.

2) Use of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
    Although initial steps have been taken to adopt big data analytics and AI tools, their use remains limited. These technologies have not been fully optimized for mapping narcotics distribution networks or tracking DPO suspects via digital

behavioral patterns, such as communication footprints, financial transactions, and social media activity.

3) Fragmented Cross-Agency Platforms

Platforms such as E-LIDIK, used by the police, function largely within institutional silos and lack effective integration across agencies, resulting in data redundancy and outdated records.

4) National and International Cooperation

Existing cooperation frameworks—both at the national level (e.g., between the National Police, BNN, Prosecutor's Office, Immigration, and Customs) and international level (e.g., with Interpol and UNODC)—are formalized through memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and joint operations. However, implementation is hindered by system incompatibilities, institutional rivalries, and delayed access to critical information.

5) Digital Community Reporting Systems

Applications such as the POLRI Super App and lapor.go.id have facilitated public reporting of DPO suspects. Nevertheless, public engagement remains low, largely due to distrust, fear of retaliation, and concerns about legal consequences.

The study reveals that while the integration of information technology contributes significantly to the processes of locating and arresting narcotics-related DPO suspects, its full potential remains underutilized. This is primarily due to limited technical human resources, poor interoperability among institutional systems, and inadequate data updating practices. On the other hand, both horizontal (domestic) and vertical (international) cooperation play crucial roles in law enforcement efforts that span across jurisdictions, yet continue to be undermined by technical coordination issues and fragmented information management.

These findings are consistent with previous research. For instance, Natasya and Yuniasih emphasized the importance of transboundary cooperation in the Malacca Strait using the IMBAS-CEPAT application.[17] Indriyani et al. noted the suboptimal role of prosecutorial intelligence in tracking DPOs due to technological and capacity constraints.[18] This study adds to the literature by highlighting the importance of integrated digital systems and advocating for cloud-based, inter-agency data platforms. The role of information technology in law enforcement has evolved from being a complementary tool to an essential requirement for confronting adaptive and

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[17] Natasya and Yuniasih, "NCB-Interpol Indonesia Dalam Penanganan Permasalahan Narkotika Lintas Batas Di Selat Malaka 2020-2022."

[18] Indriyani, Sugiartha, and Karma, "Optimalisasi Intelijen Kejaksaan Dalam Pelaksanaan Penanganan Tangkap Buron Dpo Terpidana Tindak Pidana Narkotika Dan Pencucian Uang: Studi Kasus Kejaksaan Negeri Denpasar."

transnational narcotics crimes.[19] However, high-end technologies alone cannot guarantee success. Without competent personnel and a robust framework for coordination, such systems become static and ineffective.[20] This study also finds that reliance on conventional mechanisms remains prevalent, even in cases that clearly demand a digital intelligence approach.

Further, weaknesses in inter-agency cooperation slow down critical decision-making and operational response. Institutional silos, absence of standardized protocols, and the lack of a unified national data infrastructure result in fragmented and reactive enforcement. These findings reinforce the argument that digital transformation in law enforcement must be accompanied by institutional and regulatory reforms.[21] This study confirms the following key conclusions:

1) Information technology plays a pivotal role in expediting the identification, monitoring, and arrest of narcotics-related DPO suspects, but its effectiveness depends on integrated systems, high-quality data, and skilled personnel.
2) Inter-agency cooperation—both national and international—is a strategic necessity, which should be enhanced through the development of interoperable digital platforms, standardized protocols, and real-time cross-sectoral information sharing.
3) Strengthening digital-based public reporting mechanisms is essential, and should include legal safeguards and user-friendly access to encourage citizen participation.
4) Policy reform in IT utilization within the law enforcement system must aim to establish a national digital legal ecosystem, capable of integrating DPO data across all institutional levels—from local police stations to global enforcement bodies such as Interpol.

The results of this study contribute to the ongoing discourse on strengthening Indonesia's legal and institutional capacity to combat narcotics-related crimes. It advocates for a sustainable, technology-driven, and synergistic enforcement model—one that is responsive to the dynamic and increasingly complex challenges of narcotics control in the digital era.

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[19] Lynda Asiana, "The Use of Information Technology in Searching Transnational Crime," in *The 2nd International Conference of Law, Government and Social Justice* (Dordrecht: Atlantis Press, 2020), 32–42, https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.201209.265; Roderic G. Broadhurst, "Developments in the Global Law Enforcement of Cyber-Crime," *Policing An International Journal* 29, no. 3 (2006): 1–29, https://doi.org/10.1108/13639510610684674.

[20] Bernardo Henrique Leso, Marcelo Nogueira Cortimiglia, and Antonio Ghezzi, "The Contribution of Organizational Culture, Structure, And Leadership Factors in the Digital Transformation of SMES: A Mixed-Methods Approach," *Cognition, Technology & Work* 26, no. 4 (2023): 151–179, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10111-022-00714-2.

[21] Syarifuddin Syarifuddin et al., "Reformasi Hukum Di Era Digital: Tantangan Dan Peluang Di Indonesia," *Indonesian Research Journal on Education* 4, no. 4 (2024): 3206–15, https://doi.org/10.31004/irje.v4i4.1685.

4. CONCLUSION

This study aims to: (1) identify the legal procedures involved in designating narcotics crime suspects as individuals on the Wanted Persons List (DPO); (2) evaluate the strategies and technical-operational challenges encountered by law enforcement officers in locating and apprehending DPO suspects; and (3) analyze the role of information technology and inter-agency cooperation in enhancing the effectiveness of arrest operations. The findings indicate that while the legal framework for determining DPO status is normatively grounded in the Criminal Procedure Code and internal technical regulations, its implementation remains inconsistent across regions. This inconsistency is often attributed to poor data accuracy, infrequent updates, and limited dissemination of legal procedures.

The strategies currently in place for searching and arresting suspects tend to be formalistic and are not sufficiently supported by field-level technical capabilities—particularly in relation to intelligence utilization, digital surveillance systems, and cross-sectoral coordination. Information technology has demonstrated potential in facilitating the identification and tracking of suspects, yet its application remains suboptimal due to limited system interoperability and insufficient training of human resources. Inter-agency cooperation, both at the national and international levels, continues to face obstacles stemming from institutional silos and the lack of a unified, real-time integrated data platform.

This study highlights the critical need for policy integration, reform of digital law enforcement infrastructure, and capacity-building initiatives focused on human resources and technology. The significance of this research lies in its contribution to providing both empirical and normative mappings of structural weaknesses within the current DPO management system for narcotics cases, and in offering data-driven recommendations for policy formulation. However, the study is limited by the geographic scope of the research and restricted access to comprehensive statistical data. Future studies are therefore recommended to explore big data- and AI-based digitalization models for DPO tracking, as well as to conduct evaluative analyses of inter-agency policy implementation at the national level.

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