

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

**Ohio Multi-Jurisdictional
Law Enforcement Task Force
2001-2007 Trend Data**



OHIO MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE 2001 TO 2007 TREND DATA

This report presents data from Ohio law enforcement task forces funded through the JAG/Byrne grant program. The data were reported in performance reports submitted to OCJS by the task forces. All references to years in this report are calendar years. Most of the data are presented as averages per task force in order to correct for the changing number of Byrne-funded task forces from year to year. The report is organized in four sections:

- I. Overview of Ohio's Task Forces**
- II. Investigations and Arrests**
- III. Drugs Removed**
- IV. Criminal Asset Seizures and Forfeitures**

Each section begins with performance highlights and is followed by more detailed information.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

The number of reported arrests increased from 6,228 in 2006 to 9,165 arrests for 2007. This resulted in the average number of arrests per task force increasing from 240 to 340. For the 2007 reporting period the largest one-year increase in drugs removed were heroin, LSD, and methamphetamine. The pharmaceutical drugs that contributed to the largest number of units seized and diverted in the same reporting period were Hydrocodone and Oxycodone.

I. Overview of Ohio's Task Forces

TASK FORCE OVERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

The number of JAG/Byrne funded task forces fluctuated from a high of 35 in 2001 to 27 in the most recent reporting period. Byrne funding for task forces decreased by 53 percent from 2001 to 2006. In 2006 and 2007 there was an upward trend in the JAG/ Byrne allocations to the State of Ohio, which was anticipated to continue into the 2008 funding cycle. However, the preliminary 2008 JAG/Byrne allocation estimate for Ohio decreased indicates an approximate 79 percent decrease from 2007. The 2008 allocation is the lowest amount the state has received since it began administering the grant program. During 2007 the task forces achieved 100 percent performance data reporting. This information is reported in **Table 1**.

Table 1
Performance Report Submissions

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of task forces reporting	35	32	25	26	26	26 [†]	27
Number of reports submitted*	123	123	49	47	52	52	54
Reporting rate	88%	96%	98%	90%	100%	100%	100%

* Task forces submitted performance reports quarterly during 2001 and 2002 and semi-annually from 2003 through 2007.

[†] 27 task forces were funded and active during CY 2006. However, Columbiana County report as part of the Mahoning County task force as they had in prior years. For consistency, per task force means are calculated in terms of 26 task forces for CY 2006, but in CY 2007 the per task force means are calculated in terms of 27 task forces.

II. Investigations and Arrests

INVESTIGATIONS AND ARRESTS HIGHLIGHTS

The average number of new investigations per task force in 2007 dipped slightly from 2006 yet the average number of arrests per task force rose from 240 to 340.

New Investigations

Table 2 presents the total number of new investigations (7,586) and the average number per task force (281) during 2007. Both figures are slightly down from the figures reported in 2006, but both are the third largest total. A total of 48,674 new investigations have been reported for the seven-year period, an average of 247 investigations per task force per year. The task forces also report providing assistance in cross-agency collaboration to non-task force agencies and assisting in 868 non-task force investigations during 2007.

Table 2
New Task Force Investigations

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of new investigations reported	5,713	5,529	6,066	7,039	8,407	8,334	7,586
Average number of new investigations per task force per year	163	173	243	271	323	321	281

Arrests

The number of arrests and the average per task force during 2007 are covered in **Table 3**. Despite fewer investigations, the number of arrests and the average number per task force increased 42 percent from 2006. There have been a total of 39,997 arrests during the seven-year period, an average of 203 arrests per task force per year.

Table 3
Task Force Arrests

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of arrests reported	4,248	3,995	4,659	5,158	6,544	6,228	9,165
Average number of arrests per task force per year	121	125	186	198	252	240	340

Enforcement by Ohio's task forces resulted in 3,999 persons charged with felony offenses during 2007. The largest group of arrestees was charged with Felony 5 offenses. However, 819 arrestees were charged with Felonies 1 or 2. Data on felony arrests are presented in **Table 4**.

Table 4
Task Force Arrestees Charged with Felony Offenses 2007

	Number of offenders	Percent of offenders charged with felonies
Felony 1	434	11%
Felony 2	385	10%
Felony 3	655	16%
Felony 4	1,012	25%
Felony 5	1,513	38%

III. Drugs Removed

DRUGS REMOVED HIGHLIGHTS

2007 was an unusual year in terms of the drugs removed by the task forces. The amounts of cocaine, crack, and marijuana all decreased from 2006. However, the amounts of heroin, LSD, and methamphetamine increased substantially from 2006.

Amount of Drugs Removed

Table 5 presents the total amount of drugs removed statewide by all task forces in operation during the respective years. This table focuses on the non-pharmaceutical drugs that are of most current interest (presentation of pharmaceutical drugs is in **Table 9**). The amounts of the three most common drugs - cocaine, crack, and marijuana - all decreased from 2006. However, the amounts of three less common drugs increased substantially from 2006. The percent increase for heroin and LSD were very similar (243 percent and 246 percent respectively). The amount of methamphetamine increased 591 percent. Some task force commanders indicate that increasing amounts of methamphetamine are from foreign sources and decreasing amounts are from labs in Ohio.

Table 5
Type and Amount of Drugs Removed*†

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cocaine	46,930 grams	192,633 grams	41,803 grams	184,029 grams	231,735 grams	433,904 grams	271,477 grams
Crack	14,972 grams	10,207 grams	8,651 grams	5,722 grams	78,726 grams	128,347 grams	11,802 grams
Marijuana	9,455 pounds	497 pounds	16,877 pounds	6,322 pounds	27,640 pounds	35,111 pounds	14,784 pounds
	6,209 plants	30,388 plants	11,501 plants	9,214 plants	12,176 plants	15,205 plants	12,896 plants
Heroin	3,471 grams	948 grams	2,440 grams	11,288 grams	4,251 grams	1,777 grams	6,090 grams
LSD	1,606 DUs	5,693 DUs	524 DUs	929 DUs	2,026 DUs	1,385 DUs	4,798 DUs
Methamphetamine or amphetamine	595 grams	8,192 grams	1,625 grams	4,940 grams	7,522 grams	928 grams	6,412 grams

* In this and succeeding tables, "DUs" are the number of dosage units.

† If drugs were reported as DUs but the preferred unit was grams, the DUs were converted to grams at the rate of 1 DU = 0.2 grams.

Average Amount of Drugs Removed

The average amount of drugs removed per task force per year is presented in **Table 6**. Trends in drug removal per task force are better assessed from this table than from Table 5 because it corrects for changes in the number of JAG/ Byrne-funded task forces. The trends from 2006 to 2007 still indicate decreases in cocaine, crack, and marijuana, and increases in heroin, LSD, and methamphetamine when the data are analyzed this way.

**Table 6
Type and Average Amount of Drugs Removed*†**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cocaine	1,341 grams	6,020 grams	1,672 grams	7,078 grams	8,913 grams	16,689 grams	10,055 grams
Crack	428 grams	319 grams	346 grams	220 grams	3,028 grams	4,936 grams	437 grams
Marijuana	270 pounds	16 pounds	675 pounds	243 pounds	1,063 pounds	1,350 pounds	548 pounds
	177 plants	950 plants	460 plants	354 plants	468 plants	585 plants	478 plants
Heroin	99 grams	30 grams	98 grams	434 grams	164 grams	68 grams	226 grams
LSD	46 DUs	178 DUs	21 DUs	36 DUs	78 DUs	53 DUs	178 DUs
Methamphetamine or amphetamine	17 grams	256 grams	65 grams	190 grams	289 grams	36 grams	238 grams

* Data in this table are the average amounts of drugs removed per task force. This corrects for the number of task forces reporting performance data each year.

† If drugs were reported as DUs but the preferred unit was grams, the DUs were converted to grams at the rate of 1 DU = 0.2 grams.

Percent Change in Amount of Drugs Removed

The change in the amounts of drugs removed from 2001 through 2007 is presented in **Table 7**. The largest percent increase over the seven years was methamphetamine followed by cocaine. The amounts of all drugs increased during the period.

**Table 7
Average Amount of Drugs Removed per Task Force Over the Seven-Year Period* †**

	2001	2007	Percent change 2001 through 2007
Cocaine	1,341 grams	10,055 grams	+650%
Crack	428 grams	437grams	+2%
Marijuana	270 pounds	548 pounds	+103%
	177 plants	478 plants	+170%
Heroin	99 grams	226 grams	+128%
LSD	46 DUs	178 DUs	+287%
Methamphetamine or amphetamine	17 grams	238 grams	+1,300%

* Data in this table are the average amounts of drugs removed per task force. This corrects for the number of task forces reporting performance data each year.

† If drugs were reported as DUs but the preferred unit was grams, the DUs were converted to grams at the rate of 1 DU = 0.2 grams.

Total and Average Drugs Removed per Task Force

Table 8 presents the averages per task force cover the entire seven-year period. For example, 1,402,511 grams of cocaine were reported for 2001 through 2007. This is an average of 7,119 grams per task force per year over the seven years.

**Table 8
Drug Removals 2001-2007**

	Total drugs removed 2001 through 2007	Average amount per task force per year 2001 through 2007
Cocaine	1,402,511 grams	7,119 grams
Crack	258,427 grams	1,312 grams
Marijuana	110,686 pounds 97,589 plants	562 pounds 495 plants
Heroin	30,265 grams	154 grams
LSD	16,961 DUs	86 DUs
Methamphetamine or amphetamine	30,214 grams	153 grams

Pharmaceutical Diversion: Drugs Removed

Ohio's task forces are actively involved in investigating pharmaceutical diversion and arresting offenders. Diversion refers to the amount of prescription drugs that have been diverted as a result of the efforts of the task forces. The number of units diverted can be reflective of the amount of drugs that did not make it on to the streets because chemicals necessary for the manufacturing of the drugs was seized. Other examples of drugs diverted would be cases that involve doctor shopping, forged or altered prescriptions, health facility thefts, and other deceptions where the prescription drugs involved have already been illegally diverted and are not recoverable.

Prior to 2005 pharmaceutical data were collected as either "purchased" or "seized." However, task forces commanders said that using "seized" and "diverted" more accurately reflects impact on illicit pharmaceuticals. This change was made in 2005. Since "purchased" and "diverted" are not the same, comparisons to years prior to 2005 would be misleading.

The amounts of pharmaceutical drugs seized and diverted from 2005 through 2007 are presented in **Table 9**.

Pharmaceuticals cover such a broad range of drugs that come in and out of favor that it is difficult to find any general pattern. The two drugs that have consistently been the largest quantities seized and diverted have been Hydrocodone (aka Vicodin or Loritab) and Oxycodone (aka Percocet or OxyContin).

Table 9
Type and Amount of Pharmaceutical Drugs Removed in 2005-2007

	2005 Units		2006 Units		2007 Units	
	Seized	Diverted	Seized	Diverted	Seized	Diverted
Amphetamine mixture (Adderall)	393	60	71	6,108	273	11,436
Carisoprodol (Soma)	357	867	297	6,504	195	68,093
Diazepam (Valium)	1,831	4,412	196	4,127	351	7,069
Hydrocodone (Vicodin/Loritab)	24,223	58,372	1,645	48,608	6,427	239,102
Lorazepam (Ativan)	2,018	2,090	242	632	1,053	2,935
Methadone (Liquid/Wafers/Pills)	1,029	7,667	4,600	770	954	2,912
Methylphenidate (Ritalin)	28	135	40	180	139	2,049
Morphine (MS Contin/Kadian)	394	5,607	195	1,856	351	4,603
Oxycodone (Percocet/OxyContin)	10,236	40,295	2,334	41,917	17,741	131,267
Phentemine (Adipex/Fastin/Ionamin)	5,505	6,452	1,989	4,156	0	1,640
Propoxyphene (Darvocet)	1,050	3,945	90	640	32	1,397
Tramadol (Ultram)	331	10,373	663	17,381	1,015	13,515

Percent Change in Amount of Pharmaceutical Drugs Seized and Diverted

The change in the total units of pharmaceutical drugs seized and diverted from 2005 through 2007 is presented in **Table 10**. The greatest percent increase has been Carisoprodol (a.k.a.—Soma), the amphetamine mixture Adderall, and Methylphenidate (aka Ritalin), each increasing over 1,000 percent.

Table 10
Total Amount of Pharmaceutical Drugs Seized and Diverted Over the Three-Year Period

	Total units 2005 through 2007	Percent change total units 2005 through 2007
Amphetamine mixture (Adderall)	18,341	+2,485%
Carisoprodol (Soma)	76,313	+5,479%
Diazepam (Valium)	17,986	+19%
Hydrocodone (Vicodin/Loritab)	378,377	+197%
Lorazepam (Ativan)	8,970	-3%
Methadone (Liquid/Wafers/Pills)	17,932	-56%
Methylphenidate (Ritalin)	2,571	+1,242%
Morphine (MS Contin/Kadian)	13,006	-17%
Oxycodone (Percocet/OxyContin)	243,790	+195%
Phentemine (Adipex/Fastin/Ionamin)	19,742	-86%
Propoxyphene (Darvocet)	7,154	-71%
Tramadol (Ultram)	43,278	+36%

IV. Criminal Asset Seizures and Forfeitures

SEIZURES AND FORFEITURES HIGHLIGHTS

There is substantial variation from year to year in the estimated amount of criminal assets seized and forfeited. A couple of factors drive this variation. First, the normal pattern for most task forces is a low level of steady criminal assets punctuated by occasional large busts. Second, it can take years for asset forfeiture cases to work their way through the legal system. Thus, a year of exceptional asset seizures may not be reflected in forfeiture totals for one, two, or three years. The estimated amount of criminal assets seized during 2007 increased from 2006. The value of criminal assets forfeited in 2007 decreased from 2006. Criminal asset seizures and forfeitures is the third major indicator of task force effectiveness, along with arrests and the amounts of drugs removed.

Value of Criminal Asset Seizures and Forfeitures

Table 11 presents the estimated value of criminal asset seizures and the actual value of criminal asset forfeitures reported for each of the seven years. Asset seizures in 2007 were up from 2006 levels.

Table 11
Criminal Asset Seizures and Forfeitures

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Criminal assets seized	\$3,349,665	\$7,500,805	\$4,546,633	\$7,075,142	\$14,221,218	\$4,945,037	\$6,842,931
Criminal assets forfeited	\$887,965	\$2,006,350	\$751,910	\$1,681,938	\$2,448,286	\$2,313,751	\$1,234,295

Average Seizures and Forfeitures per Task Force

The average amount of criminal asset seizures and forfeitures per task force per year are covered in **Table 12**. Both the amount of asset seizures and forfeitures per task force in 2007 reflects the overall changes from 2006. This table is a better presentation regarding task force activity than Table 11 because it controls for the number of task forces in operation.

Table 12
Average Criminal Asset Seizures and Forfeitures per Task Force per Year

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Average criminal assets seized per task force per year	\$95,705	\$234,400	\$181,865	\$272,121	\$546,970	\$190,194	\$253,442
Average criminal assets forfeited per task force per year	\$25,370	\$62,698	\$30,076	\$64,690	\$94,165	\$88,990	\$44,715

Percent Change in the Value of Seizures and Forfeitures

The percent change from 2001 to 2007 in the estimated value of criminal asset seizures and actual value of criminal asset forfeitures are presented in **Table 13**.

Table 13
Change in Average Criminal Assets per Task Force During the Seven-Year Period

	2001	2007	Percent change 2001 to 2007
Average estimated criminal assets seized per task force per year	\$95,705	\$253,442	+165%
Average criminal assets forfeited per task force per year	\$25,370	\$44,715	+76%

Criminal Asset Seizures by Type

Table 14 shows that currency accounted for the largest portion of criminal asset seizures every year except 2001 and 2006. Real property accounted for the largest estimated value in these two years.

Table 14
Average Criminal Asset Seizures by Type*

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Motor vehicles	25%	10%	25%	26%	11%	22%	16%
Currency	29%	47%	55%	58%	49%	35%	47%
Financial instruments	5%	<1%	<1%	<1%	9%	0%	0%
Real property	38%	16%	16%	13%	30%	43%	36%
Other	2%	27%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%

* Totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

Criminal Asset Forfeitures by Type

Currency was the largest category for criminal asset forfeitures all seven years as shown in **Table 15**. Indeed, currency accounted for over half of all forfeitures each year.

Table 15
Average Criminal Asset Forfeitures by Type*

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Motor vehicles	11%	9%	22%	13%	7%	14%	13%
Currency	80%	65%	57%	83%	86%	58%	67%
Financial instruments	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Real property	6%	25%	19%	3%	7%	28%	19%
Other	3%	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%

* Totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

Total and Average Criminal Asset Seizures and Forfeitures

The data presented in **Table 16** covers the whole of the seven-year period for both estimated criminal asset seizures and forfeitures.

Table 16
Total Criminal Asset Seizures and Forfeitures

	Criminal assets 2001 through 2007	Average criminal assets per task force 2001 through 2007
Criminal assets seized	\$48,481,431	\$246,099
Criminal assets forfeited	\$11,324,495	\$57,485