

2014

# Ohio Multi- Jurisdictional Task Force Report

Katherine Bubeleva, B.S.

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services  
1970 West Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43223



## Overview of Ohio's Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces

The Office of Criminal Justice Services provides federal and state grant funds to Ohio's multi-jurisdictional task forces. Ohio's multi-jurisdictional task forces generally consist of representatives from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. They tend to target mid- to upper-level drug trafficking and organized criminal activity for which it would be difficult for any one jurisdiction to build a case. In this way, they are not duplicative of individual agencies, but are seen as a crucial addition to local law enforcement.

Funding for multi-jurisdictional task forces is available through OCJS from two primary sources—the federal Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and the state Drug Law Enforcement Fund. Task forces are eligible to apply under both programs. In CY 2014, 28 task forces received Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants totaling over \$1.3 million and 38 task forces received Drug Law Enforcement Fund Grants totaling over \$4.9 million.

As a requirement of the JAG and Drug Law Enforcement Fund grants, task forces submitted two semi-annual performance reports highlighting their activities and accomplishments for calendar year (CY) 2014. This report documents the activities and accomplishments of 38 task forces during CY 2014. All 38 task forces submitted at least one semi-annual report, and 36 task forces submitted two semi-annual reports. This report focuses on street (i.e., non-pharmaceutical) drug activity, pharmaceutical drug diversion, seizures and forfeitures, and other non-drug task force activities.

## Street Drug Activity

### New Cases

Thirty-eight task forces worked a total of 10,772 new cases in 2014. A case is defined as having a significant potential for prosecution. For this report, cases are based on individuals, not charges.

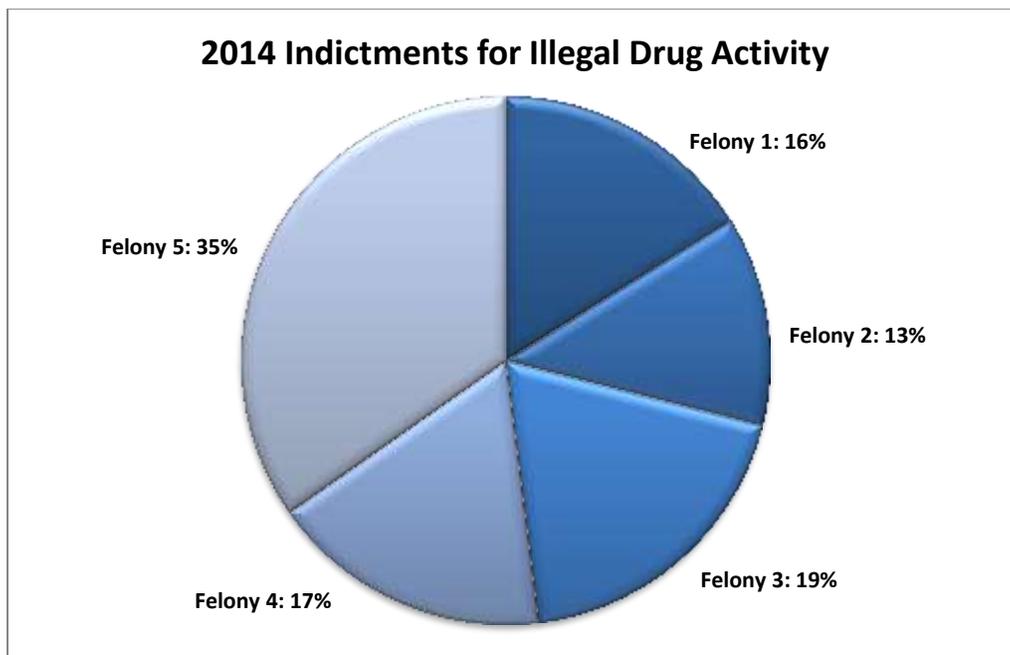
### Search Warrants

The task forces executed a total of 3,925 search warrants. Search warrants include court-authorized warrants for homes, cars, and wiretaps.

### Indictments

The task forces indicted 5,997 individuals. Of these, 5,565 were non-federal indictments and 432 were federal indictments.

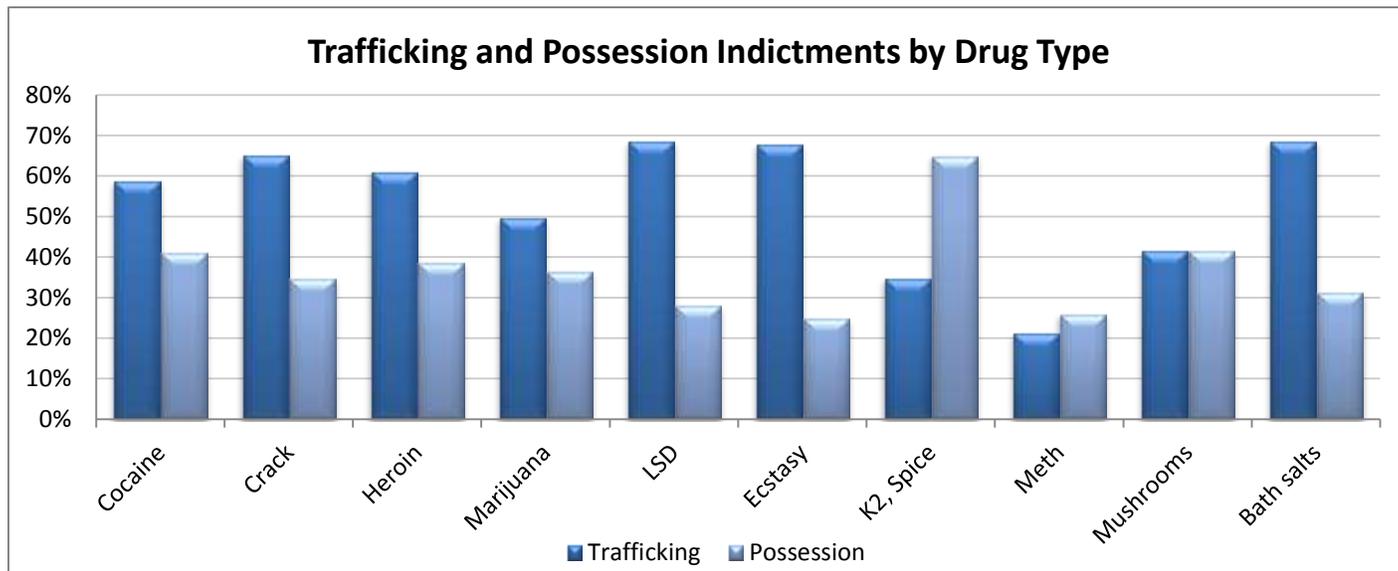
Indictments were also reported by felony level. The following chart shows a breakdown of the highest felony level for which persons were indicted. Across all indictments, 48 percent were Felony 1, Felony 2, or Felony 3 indictments.



Indictments were broken down by type of drug and type of drug crime (cultivation, manufacturing/chemical assembly, possession, trafficking). Lower-level charges are often part of building a case for more severe charges. Task forces were asked to report on all indictments, not just the highest charge. The majority of indictments were for trafficking (N=3,217), followed by possession (N=2,292). Manufacturing/chemical assembly accounted for approximately 12 percent of illegal drug

indictments (N=756), but was specific primarily to methamphetamine. Likewise, cultivation (N=121) was primarily tied to marijuana.

The following chart identifies the two main types of illegal drug indictments, trafficking and possession, by drug type. With the exception of synthetic hallucinogens (K2, spice), methamphetamine and mushrooms, trafficking made up between 50 percent and 70 percent of indictments across the remaining drugs.



### Drugs Removed by Task Force

Task forces reported on the total amount of drugs they took off the streets in 2014. The following table shows that the greatest quantity of drug seized was marijuana (processed and plants). This was followed by cocaine. In addition, there were 949 meth labs dismantled during the year.

Street Drugs Removed		
	Amount	Median Price per Unit
Cocaine *	206,168 grams	\$100/gram
Crack	3,332 grams	\$100/gram
Heroin	112,169 grams	\$150/gram
Marijuana-processed	14,125 pounds	\$1,540/pound
Marijuana-plants	15,484 plants	\$1,000/plant
LSD	1,671 UD	\$10/UD
Ecstasy	9,266 UD	\$20/UD
	3.7 grams powder	
Synthetic hallucinogen (K2,spice)	1,741 grams	\$25/gram
	555 packages	\$20/package
Methamphetamine	68,331 grams	\$100/gram

Psilocybin mushrooms	2,110 grams	\$25/gram
Bath salts	2,827 grams	\$100/gram

\* One task force included crack in their cocaine amount.

### ***Pharmaceutical Diversion***

Diversion is defined as any criminal act involving a prescription drug. Thirteen of the 38 task forces reported having a dedicated diversion unit or diversion officer(s) as of December 31, 2014. The median number of officers assigned full-time to a diversion unit was one.

Across all task forces, only four task forces did not report initiating at least one diversion investigation during the year. During 2014, 1,261 pharmaceutical cases were initiated. Unsurprisingly, task forces with a dedicated diversion unit/officer worked more pharmaceutical investigations than those without a dedicated unit/officer. Task forces with a dedicated diversion unit/officer worked 60% of the total pharmaceutical investigations in 2014. The median number of cases for those with a dedicated diversion unit/officer was 57, whereas the median number of cases for those without a dedicated diversion unit/officer was 10.

### ***Investigations and Indictments***

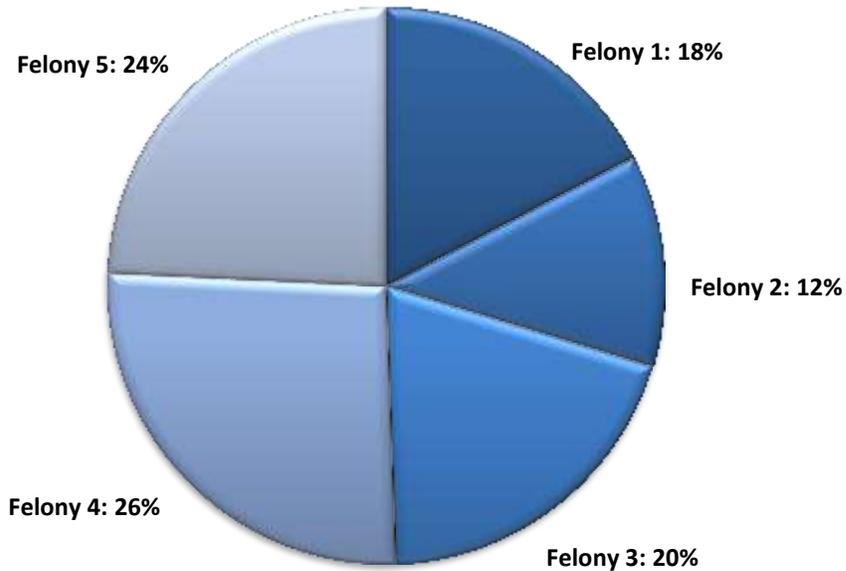
From the 1,261 pharmaceutical investigations initiated in 2014, 716 (57%) individuals were indicted. Fifty-five cases involved health care fraud, and of these there were 51 indictments.

Task forces were also asked to identify different types of health care professionals investigated and indicted. During 2014, there were 135 identified health care professionals investigated and 90 health care professionals indicted for pharmaceutical crimes. Of the 90 health care professionals that were indicted for pharmaceutical crimes in 2014, 64% were nurses.

<b>Investigated and Indicted Health Care Professionals</b>		
	<b>Investigated</b>	<b>Indicted</b>
Physicians	42	19
Physician Assistants	10	5
Pharmacists	5	2
Pharmacy Technicians	7	6
Nurses	68	58
Dentists	3	0
Veterinarians	0	0

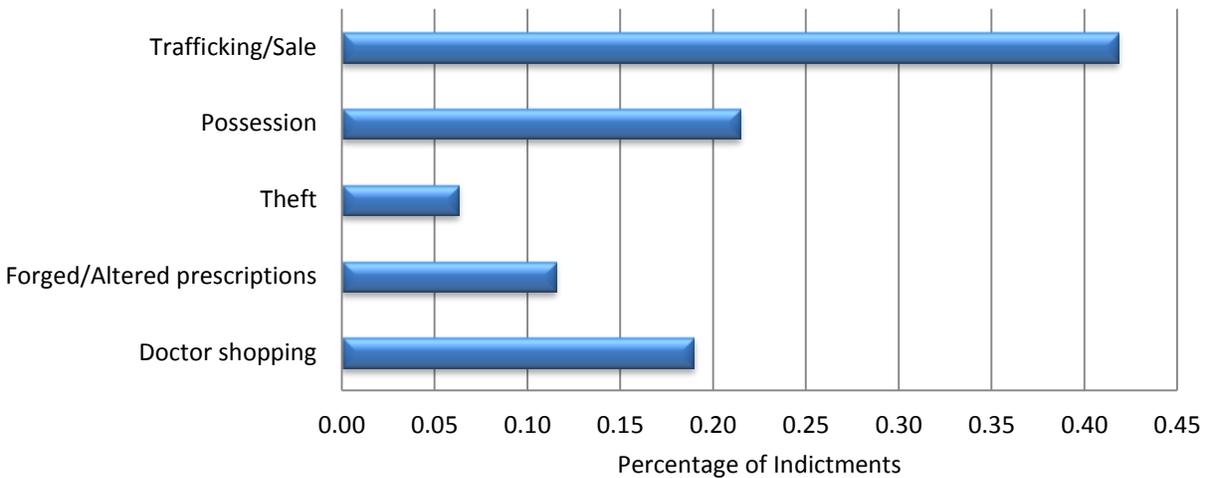
Task forces indicated indictments by felony level. Fifty percent were Felony 1, Felony 2, or Felony 3 indictments in 2014.

## Pharmaceutical Drug Indictments



Individuals were indicted for a variety of crimes, including possession, trafficking or sale, theft, forged or altered prescriptions, and doctor shopping. All crimes (not just the most serious crime) in which the individual was indicted were reported. In 2014, there were a total of 1,047 pharmaceutical drug crime indictments for the crimes listed in the following table. Over 40% of indictments were for the trafficking or sale of prescription drugs.

## Pharmaceutical Drug Crime Indictments



Looking at indictments by crime type and drug type, the data shows that overall Oxycodone-ER, Oxycodone-IR, Alprazolam and Hydrocodone were the four drugs for which there were the most indictments. In 2014, there were a total of 439 indictments for prescription drug trafficking or sale. Of those 439 indictments, 34% were for the trafficking or sale of Oxycodone-IR.

Indictments by Crime Type and Drug Type					
	Trafficking/Sale	Possession	Theft	Forgery	Doctor Shopping
Oxycodone-ER	77	31	1	10	9
Oxycodone-IR	151	55	14	42	44
Alprazolam	51	24	3	8	12
Hydrocodone	45	30	4	36	52

### Drugs Removed

The following table identifies the reported drugs removed upon indictment. Task forces distinguished between drugs seized and diverted. *Diverted* reflects the amount of prescription drugs that have been identified as diverted dosage units during an investigation, but never seized. Dosage units are reported, with the number of task forces reporting the amounts seized and diverted in parentheses. Alprazolam, Hydrocodone, Lorazepam and Oxycodone-IR had the highest number of prescription drug seizures. Alprazolam, Hydrocodone, Oxycodone-ER and Oxycodone-IR had the highest number of prescription drug diversions.

Prescription Drugs Seized and/or Diverted		
	Amount seized	Amount diverted
Alprazolam (Xanax)	5,454 (26)	63,356 (18)
Amphetamine mixture (Adderall)	885 (18)	11,811 (14)
Buprenorphine (Subutex, Suboxone)	1,212 (21)	3,965 (5)
Butorphanol Tartrate (Stadol NS)	0	0
Carisprodol (Soma)	189 (3)	2,629 (4)
Clonazepam (Klonopin)	1,091 (15)	3,826 (9)
Codeine (Tylenol #3, Tylenol #4, cough syrup)	175 (6)	6,366 (4)
Dextroamphetamine (Dextrostat, ProCentra, Dexedrine)	12 (1)	10 (1)
Diazepam (Valium)	469 (13)	5,014 (9)
Fentanyl, fentanyl citrate (duragesic patches, Actiq, Fentora)	178 (12)	727 (5)
Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet)	5,324 (26)	74,524 (22)
Hydrocodone Bitartrate (Zohydro ER)	151 (3)	39,858 (1)
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	48 (2)	1,819 (4)
Lorazepam (Ativan)	3,588 (8)	11,817 (11)
Meperidine (Demerol)	0	10 (1)
Methadone (liquid/wafers/pills)	2,952 (9)	4,921 (5)
Methylphenidate (Ritalin)	30 (2)	72 (1)

Morphine (MS Contin, EMBEDA, Kadian)	840 (12)	2,636 (6)
Oxycodone—ER (Oxycontin)	3,409 (17)	81,006 (9)
Oxycodone—IR (Percocet, Percodan, Roxicet, Roxicodone)	26,386 (28)	295,509 (18)
Oxymorphone (Opana)	169 (9)	0
Phentermine (Adipex-P, Fastin, Ionamin)	16 (3)	0
Tramadol (Ultram, Ultracet)	1,810 (7)	44,157 (13)
Zolpidem Tartrate (Ambien)	1 (1)	5,556 (6)

In addition, drug task forces submitted information on other drugs they seized or diverted in their region. They include the following:

- Benzatropine
- Buspirone
- Cialis
- Cyclobenzaprine
- DMT-1
- Endocet
- Flexeril
- Gabapentin
- Ibuprofen
- Lisinopril
- Metaxalone
- Methocarbamol
- Naproxen
- Norco
- Propofol
- Pseudoephedrine
- Rozerem
- Seroquel
- Steroids
- Suboxone
- Temazepam
- Tizanidine
- Trazodone
- Tussionex
- Viagra
- Vicoprofen
- Vyvanse
- Wellbutrin

### *Nasal Naloxone Administration*

Three task forces reported using nasal naloxone during CY 2014. A total of 85 administrations were provided. Additionally, during the second half of 2014, task forces also provided the number of saves after usage of nasal naloxone. Out of 45 administrations during the second half of 2014, there were 42 saves reported.

## ***Criminal Assets Seized and Forfeited***

The following table identifies the type, number, and value of criminal assets seized and forfeited by drug task forces in 2014. Asset seizure generally refers to the seizure of drug-related assets that have been used to facilitate drug trafficking or are derived from drug trafficking. The estimated value of all assets seized was over \$17.6 million. Asset forfeiture refers to those seized assets proven in court to have been used to facilitate drug trafficking or derived from drug trafficking and are thus forfeited to government entities. The estimated value of all assets forfeited was nearly \$5.7 million.

<b>Task Force Seizures and Forfeitures</b>				
	<b>Number seized</b>	<b>Amount seized</b>	<b>Number forfeited</b>	<b>Amount forfeited</b>
<b>Vehicles</b>	400	\$2,923,198	211	\$1,421,970
<b>Currency</b>	*	\$13,219,771	*	\$3,656,643
<b>Real estate</b>	14	\$1,135,300	5	\$280,098
<b>Electronics</b>	333	\$142,953	104	\$49,399
<b>Other</b>	238	\$188,173	180	\$261,488

\*Some task forces only reported the total amount of currency seized and forfeited.

## ***Other Task Force Activity***

### ***New Non-Drug Cases***

Ohio's multi-jurisdictional task forces engaged in 1,540 investigations in which the focus was something other than drug-related crime. Examples of non-drug cases that task forces have either initiated or assisted with include:

- Abduction/kidnaping
- Arson
- Attempted murder
- Bank robbery
- Burglary/B&E
- Child abuse/endangering
- Counterfeiting/forgery
- Felonious assault/assault
- Gambling
- Home invasion
- Homicide/suspicious deaths
- Identity theft
- Illegal use of food stamps
- Inducing panic
- Internet crimes against children
- Involuntary manslaughter
- Liquor/tobacco violations
- Missing person
- Money laundering
- Murder for hire
- Pornography
- Probation violation
- Prostitution
- Receiving stolen property
- Robbery
- Search warrants
- Sex crimes/Internet sex crimes
- Solicitation
- Surveillance
- Theft
- Violent fugitive apprehension

### ***Firearms Confiscated***

A total of 1,701 firearms were confiscated by the task forces in 2014.

### ***Presentations and Trainings***

All thirty-eight task forces reported providing presentations and/or trainings on drug-related issues during the year. A total of 778 presentations were given to approximately 45,421 attendees, with an average of 58 attendees per presentation.