

2016

Ohio Multi- Jurisdictional Task Force Report

Lydia Hoogerhyde, B.A.

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 2016, 29 task forces received Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants totaling over \$1.2 million and 340 task forces received Drug Law Enforcement Fund Grants totaling over \$5.5 million.

As a requirement of the JAG and DLEF grants, task forces submitted semi-annual reports highlighting their activities and accomplishments during CY 2016. Forty-one task forces submitted reports for the January 2016-June 2016 reporting period, and 39 task forces submitted reports for the July 2016-December 2016 reporting period. This report focuses on street (i.e., non-pharmaceutical) drug activity, pharmaceutical drug diversion, seizures and forfeitures, and other activities.

Street Drug Activity

New Cases

Ohio's drug task forces worked a total of 9,550 new cases in 2016. Forty-one task forces reported working 5,009 new cases during the first half of the year and 39 of the task forces worked 4,541 new cases during the second half of the year. 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 3,715 search warrants. Search warrants include court ordered warrants, GPS attachments, cell phone analyses and searches completed on people, places and things where drugs and additional contraband may be recovered during task force investigative activity.

Indictments

The task forces indicted 4,991 individuals. Of these, 4,742 were non-federal indictments and 249 were federal indictments.

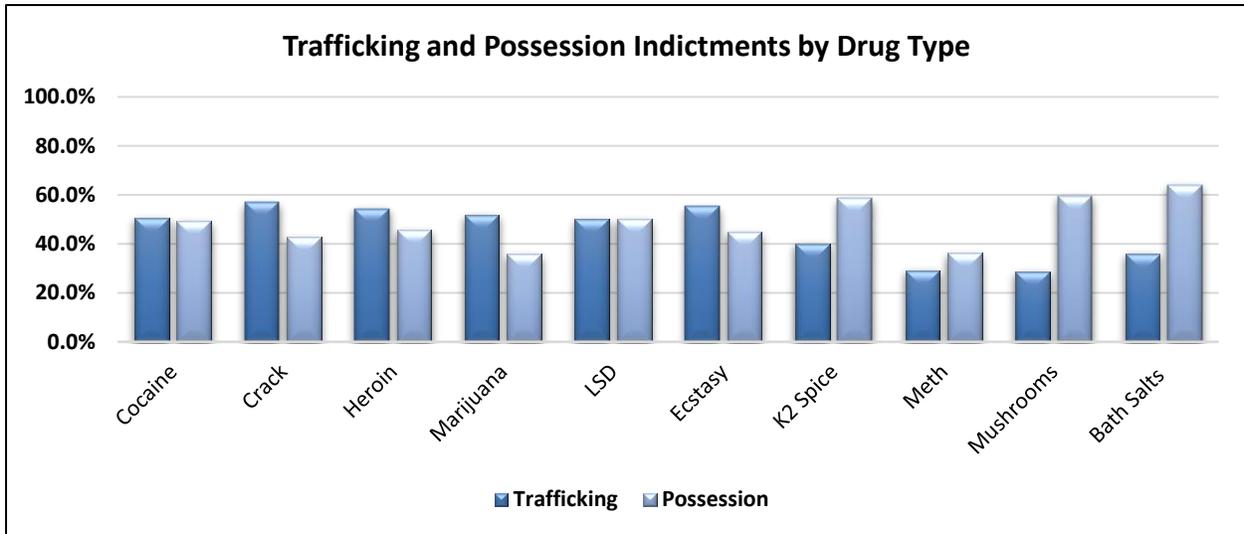
Indictments were also reported by felony level. The following chart shows a breakdown of the highest felony level for which persons were indicted. Across all indictments, nearly 44 percent were Felony 1, Felony 2, or Felony 3 indictments.



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=3,042), followed by possession (N=2,730). Manufacturing/chemical assembly accounted for approximately 7 percent of illegal drug indictments (N=452), but was primarily to methamphetamine (94%). Likewise, cultivation (N=103) was primarily tied to marijuana (96%).

The following chart identifies the two main types of illegal drug indictments, trafficking and possession, by drug type. With the exception of hallucinogens (K2/Spice), methamphetamine, mushrooms and bath salts trafficking made up between 50 percent and 60 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 2016. The following table shows that significant quantities of marijuana (processed and plants), cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine were seized.

Street Drugs Removed		
	Amount	Median Price per Unit
Cocaine	238,750 grams	\$100.00/gram
Crack	5,701 grams	\$100.00/gram
Heroin	98,387 grams	\$137.50/gram
Marijuana-processed	26,079 pounds	\$1,500.00/pound
Marijuana-plants	11,120 plants	\$1,000.00/plant
LSD	3,855 UD	\$12.50/UD
Ecstasy	4,869 UD	\$21.34/UD
Synthetic hallucinogen (K2,spice)	1,389 grams	\$23.75/gram
Methamphetamine	92,147 grams	\$100/gram
Psilocybin mushrooms	6,385 grams	\$46.25/gram
Bath salts	639 grams	\$35.00/gram

* One task force included crack in their cocaine amount

Other drugs seized include non-pharmaceutical grade fentanyl, heroin cut with fentanyl, carfentanil, PCP, THC, hash, butane hash oil, GBL, DMT, methylfentanyl, ethylone, NBOME and DMBDB.

Methamphetamine Labs

Six hundred and forty-six meth labs were discovered by the taskforces during the year. Of these, they identified 301 active “one pot” meth labs and 507 discarded “one pot” labs at crime scenes. The term “one pot” refers to a specific method of cooking methamphetamine using limited materials.

Pharmaceutical Diversion

Diversion is defined as any criminal act involving a prescription drug. As of December 31, 2016, there were 14 full time diversion officers and one part-time officer assigned to a diversion unit.

During 2016, 910 pharmaceutical cases were initiated. Task forces with a dedicated diversion unit/officer worked 46% of the pharmaceutical investigations. The median number of cases for those with a dedicated diversion unit/officer was 14, whereas the median number of cases for those without a dedicated diversion unit/officer was four.

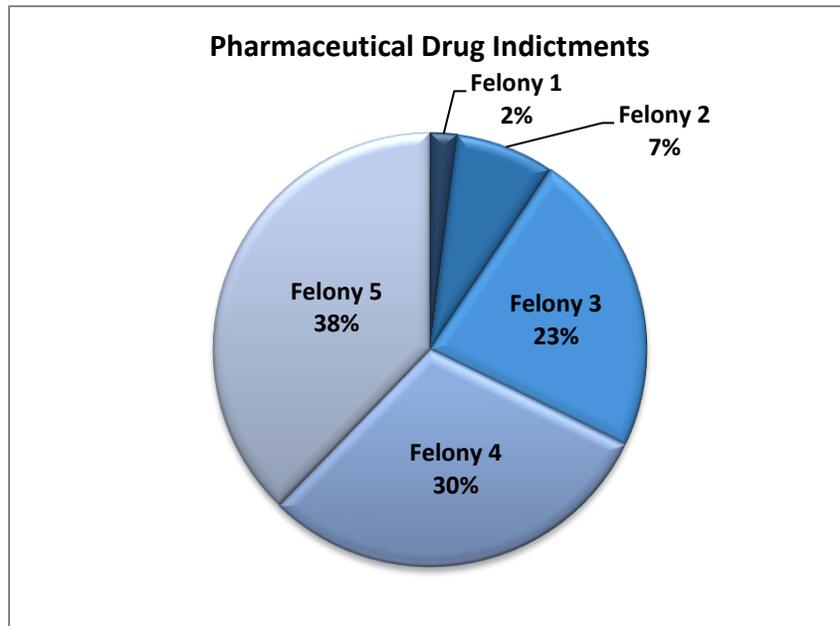
Investigations and Indictments

In 2016, there were a total of 910 pharmaceutical investigations initiated and 563 (62%) of those investigations lead to criminal indictments.

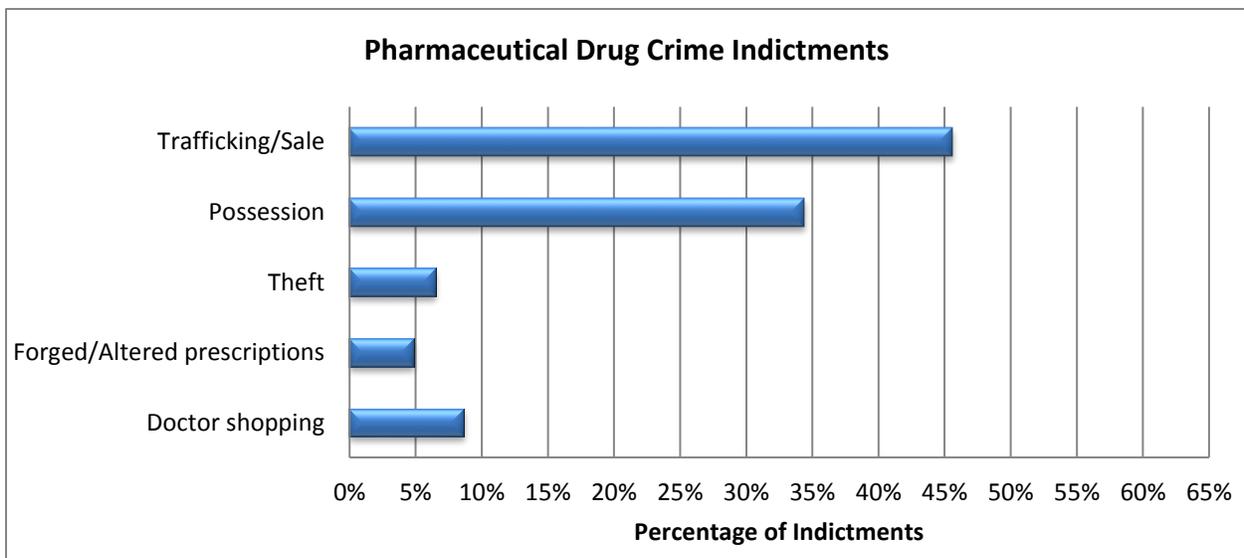
Task forces were asked to identify different types of health care professionals investigated and indicted. During 2016, 71 health care professionals were investigated and 37 health care professionals indicted for pharmaceutical crimes. Of the 37 health care professionals that were indicted for pharmaceutical crimes in 2016, 78% were nurses.

Investigated and Indicted Health Care Professionals		
	Investigated	Indicted
Physicians	12	1
Physician Assistants	6	4
Pharmacists	0	0
Pharmacy Technicians	2	2
Nurses	46	29
Dentists	5	1
Veterinarians	0	0

Task forces indicated indictments by felony level. Thirty-two percent were Felony 1, Felony 2, or Felony 3 indictments during 2016.



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 2016, there were a total of 1,134 pharmaceutical drug crime indictments for these crimes. 46% of the indictments were for the trafficking or sale of prescription drugs.



Looking at indictments by crime type and drug type, the data shows that overall; Oxycodone-ER, Oxycodone-IR, Alprazolam, Hydrocodone, Buprenorphine and Tramadol were the five drugs for which there were the most indictments in 2016. There were a total of 517 indictments for prescription drug trafficking or sale. Of those 517 indictments, 29% were for the trafficking or sale of Oxycodone-IR.

Indictments by Crime Type and Drug Type					
	Trafficking/Sale	Possession	Theft	Forgery	Doctor Shopping
Oxycodone-IR	149	90	24	11	26
Alprazolam	81	38	1	0	6
Hydrocodone	39	42	5	10	15
Buprenorphine	62	21	0	0	0
Tramadol	25	40	4	1	9
Oxycodone-ER	27	24	13	7	7

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. Alprazolam, Oxycodone-IR and Tramadol had the highest number of prescription drug seizures. Oxycodone-ER, Oxycodone-IR and Tramadol had the highest number of prescription drug diversions.

Prescription Drugs Seized and/or Diverted		
	Amount seized	Amount diverted
Alprazolam (Xanax)	17,968 UD	23,985 UD
Amphetamine mixture (Adderall)	641 UD	7,275 UD
Buprenorphine (Subutex, Suboxone)	1,471 UD	12,981 UD
Butorphanol Tartrate (Stadol NS)	63 UD	0
Carisprodol (Soma)	32 UD	1,890 UD
Clonazepam (Klonopin)	272 UD	1,687 UD
Codeine (Tylenol #3, Tylenol #4, cough syrup)	44 UD	7,014 UD
Diazepam (Valium)	746 UD	2,725 UD
Fentanyl, fentanyl citrate (duragesic patches, Actiq, Fentora)	92 UD	10 UD
Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet)	3,314 UD	19,709 UD
Hydrocodone Bitartrate (Zohydro ER)	22 UD	35 UD
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	11 UD	343 UD
Lorazepam (Ativan)	40 UD	1,271 UD
Meperidine (Demerol)	3 UD	8 UD
Methadone (liquid/wafers/pills)	367 UD	2790 UD
Methylphenidate (Ritalin)	207 UD	2,424 UD
Morphine (MS Contin, EMBEDA, Kadian)	238 UD	131 UD
Oxycodone—ER (Oxycontin)	2,290 UD	77,112 UD
Oxycodone—IR (Percocet, Percodan, Roxicet, Roxicodone)	13,246 UD	29,559 UD

Oxymorphone (Opana)	210 UD	0
Phentermine (Adipex-P, Fastin, Ionamin)	0	180 UD
Tramadol (Ultram, Ultracet)	53,586 UD	29,769 UD
Zolpidem Tartrate (Ambien)	6 UD	240 UD

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

- Antibiotics
- Atropine
- Benzodiazepine
- Buspirone
- Citalopram
- Cyclobenzaprine
- Darvocet
- Dormin
- Fioricet
- Fiorinal
- Furosemide
- Gabapentin
- Hydroxyzine
- Ibuprofen
- Methocarbamol
- Modafinil
- Nandrodex
- Phenobarbital
- Promethazine and Codeine Mixture
- Pregabalin
- Oxazepam
- Quetiapine/Seroquel
- Steroids
- Sucralfate
- Sustanon
- Tizanidine
- Trazadone
- Zoloft
- Zovirax

Nasal Naloxone Administration

Twelve task forces reported using nasal naloxone during 2016. A total of 152 administrations were provided. Additionally task forces were asked to provide the number of saves after the use of nasal naloxone. Out of 152 administrations during 2015, there were 143 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 2016. 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 nearly \$14.9 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 over \$5.7 million.

Task Force Seizures and Forfeitures				
	Number seized	Amount seized	Number forfeited	Amount forfeited
Vehicles	371	\$2,634,001	118	\$852,652
Currency	*	\$11,041,855	*	\$4,653,815
Real estate	12	\$856,300	3	\$80,000
Electronics	605	\$48,269	595	\$16,751
Other	158	\$315,865	27	\$101,986

*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 1,453 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:

- Aggravated assault
- Arson
- Burglary
- Child abuse (physical and sexual)
- Child pornography
- Counterfeiting
- Cold case investigations
- Embezzlement
- Extortion
- Felony vandalism
- Gambling
- Gang investigation
- Hacking offenses
- Homicide
- Human trafficking
- Illicit massage parlors
- Intimidation of witness
- Involuntary manslaughter
- Kidnapping
- Liquor/tobacco violations
- Missing person
- Money laundering
- Motor vehicle theft
- Prostitution
- Public corruption
- Rape
- Robbery (multiple bank robberies)
- Sex crimes (sexual imposition and voyeurism)
- Shoplifting

- Solicitation
- Theft
- Traffic offenses
- Underage alcohol sales
- Vandalism
- Warrant service
- Weapons offenses

Firearms Confiscated

A total of 1,591 firearms were confiscated by the task forces in 2016.

Presentations and Trainings

In 2016, all but one task force reported providing presentations and/or trainings on drug-related issues. A total of 987 presentations were given to approximately 57,106 attendees, with an average of 58 attendees per presentation.