

Alaska State Troopers Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement



2004 Annual Drug Report



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Introduction

The Alaska State Troopers, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement in authoring this publication, has endeavored to represent the drug situation in Alaska in a manner that provides the broadest possible picture of the true situation.

There are numerous agencies that conduct drug investigations in Alaska. While some agencies have a less formal relationship, most work closely with the Alaska State Troopers. In order to properly represent the true drug situation in Alaska, statistics from agencies other than those that participate in Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement are included in this report. Information provided by all sources should be considered when attempting to measure how drugs are impacting the citizens of this state.

We believe that all of this material is vital when analyzing the needs of the state in the arena of drug enforcement.



Our Mission

Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement

The Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE) provides a leadership role in coordinating law enforcement's efforts to reduce the availability of alcohol and controlled substances throughout Alaska. ABADE recognizes that a successful alcohol and drug program depends upon a unified effort blending traditional law enforcement techniques with demand reduction programs that address educational, social, and community concerns.

ABADE's mission is to:

- ❖ Interdict and seize alcohol and controlled substances that are illegally distributed throughout Alaska.
- ❖ Identify and arrest distributors of controlled substances and illegal alcohol.
- ❖ Provide training and investigative support to criminal justice agencies.
- ❖ Support and participate in public education programs.



Staffing and Support

Using a combination of federal and state funding, ABADE consisted of twenty-seven (27) State Trooper investigators and twelve (12) civilian clerical personnel for the majority of 2004. ABADE recognizes that because of Alaska's geographical vastness and ethnic diversity, no single law enforcement agency is capable of handling the drug and alcohol problems alone. ABADE encourages cooperative efforts between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and has taken a leadership role in fostering and developing many of these cooperative arrangements through multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency efforts. The ABADE headquarters office in Anchorage supports six (6) investigative teams throughout the state. These teams are broken down by region as follows:

Alaska Interdiction Task Force (DEA sponsored)

Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team

Mat-Su Drug Narcotics Enforcement Team

Major Offenders Unit

Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team

Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team

The Alaska National Guard Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP) provides additional support in several ABADE units. They provide operational resources, which include, but are not limited to manpower, equipment, and logistical support to federal, state, and local law enforcement throughout Alaska. Financed under a special congressional appropriation, there is no cost to the state of Alaska for the CDSP. This program contributes numerous resources not normally available to law enforcement agencies for assistance specific to drug investigations.

ABADE participates with and receives assistance from several investigative agencies involved in drug enforcement. These agencies include the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as well as other state and local agencies.



Nature of the Drug Problem

Members of Alaska's law enforcement community and others who are part of Alaska's criminal justice system have long known that the greatest contributing factor to violent crimes, including domestic violence and sexual assault, is drug and alcohol abuse. It is also widely recognized that many of the accidental deaths that occur in Alaska are related to alcohol use. This is especially true in the western regions of the state.

While there is no question that many aspects of the drug and alcohol problem are unique to Alaska, ABADE strives to provide a continuing and coordinated effort that not only meets the needs of Alaska, but is also dovetailed with the National Drug Control Strategy. The Strategy underscores the social and economic costs to society and was developed to provide general guidance and a framework for federal, state, and local agencies in developing a counter drug effort. The Strategy's established goals are:

- Educate and enable America's youth to reject illegal drugs as well as alcohol and tobacco.
- Increase the safety of America's citizens by substantially reducing drug-related crime and violence.
- Reduce health and social costs to the public of illegal drug use.
- Shield America's air, land and sea frontiers from the drug threat.
- Break foreign and domestic drug sources of supply.

The National Institute of Justice's Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program tracks trends in the prevalence and type of drug use among booked arrestees in urban areas. This data has played an important role in assembling the national picture of drug abuse in the arrestee population and has been a central component in studying the links between drug use and crime.

The last data available for these types of statistics are for calendar year 2003 and were found in an article published by the Alaska Justice Forum. Research conducted by ADAM continues to show several very serious trends. This data represents only males screened at one correctional facility.

There were a total of 943 male arrestees screened for being under the influence of drugs and alcohol at time of booking. Among those screened, 10.4% were under 21, while over 40.3% were 36 years of age or older. These age percentages do not seem to dovetail with the normal expectations since such a large percent of those arrested are over 36 years of age.

When arrested, 25.4% of the 943 arrestees tested positive for cocaine, 52% tested positive for marijuana and 12.1% tested positive for alcohol.

The primary reason that these persons were arrested is not indicated in the ADAM report, but a strong inference can certainly be made that among arrestees, the use of drugs is prevalent. Another interesting statistic reveals that among those interviewed 37.8% admitted to using cocaine in the last 12 months and 62.5% admitted to using marijuana in the last 12 months.

While there are no ADAM type statistics on hand to indicate drug or alcohol use among arrestees in the more rural areas of Alaska, there is certainly strong evidence that alcohol is a very large contributor to the reasons that rural citizens are arrested.



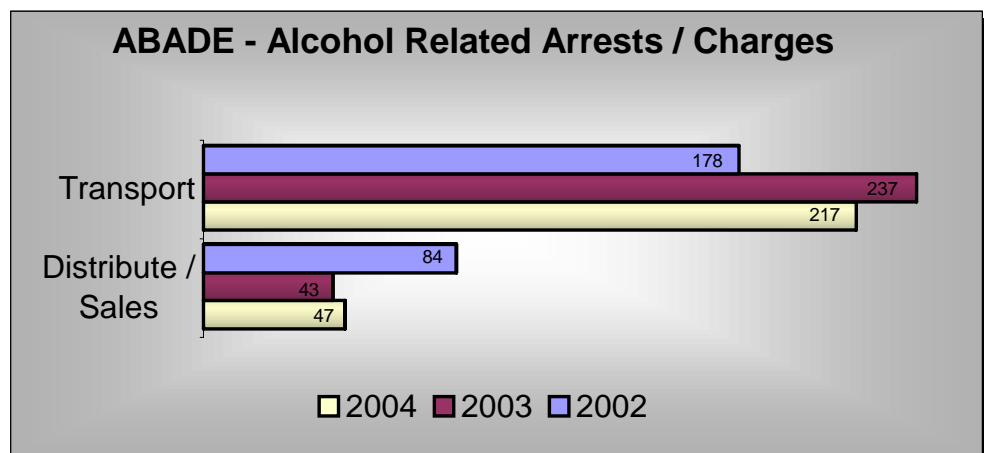
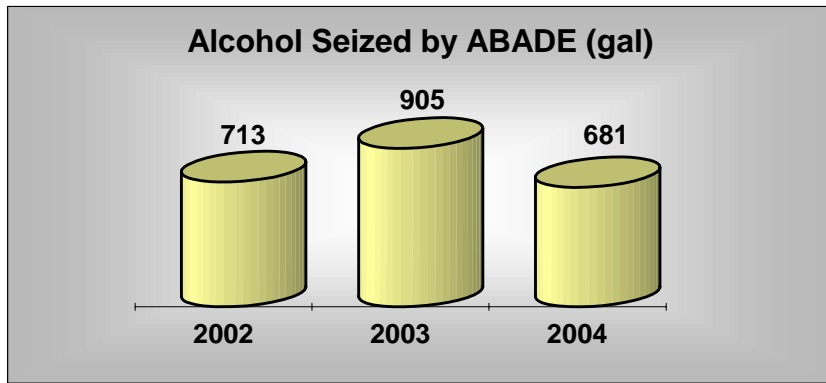
Drugs of Choice

Alcohol, cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and pharmaceuticals have been identified as the primary substances of abuse and are the focus of most law enforcement efforts. During 2004, methamphetamine use and manufacturing have increased significantly. Another area of significant increase was the use of prescription drugs, many of which are obtained with fraudulent prescriptions. Other drugs such as LSD, Ecstasy and designer and/or “club” drugs were also cause for concern.

Alcohol

Alaska's criminal justice professionals recognize that alcohol is the primary substance of abuse in Alaska and is the leading cause of violent, suicidal, and accidental deaths, especially in rural areas. Currently, 122 communities have voted in favor of local option statutes prohibiting the sale, importation, and/or possession of alcohol. Because alcohol remains legal in many areas of Alaska, illegal bootlegging activities continue to be a problem in the local option communities. Alcohol is easily transported to the villages via the U.S. Postal Service, local air carriers, private aircraft, boat, snow machines and express mailing services. Bootlegging alcohol has become a very lucrative business in rural Alaska.

The Alaska State Troopers applied for and received federal funding for five investigators whose function is focused on alcohol issues. During most of 2004, all five investigators dedicated 100% of their time to alcohol investigations.



The economics of the illegal sales of alcohol is staggering. A bootlegger can purchase a 750-milliliter bottle of alcohol legally for \$10 or less in an urban liquor store. The same bottle of alcohol in Bethel, Kotzebue or Barrow may sell for \$50. In the more remote communities, alcohol can easily sell for \$150 to over \$300 per bottle depending on the supply and demand. The initial purchase for the bootlegger involves a minimal cash investment, a maximum cash return with little threat of being caught or criminally charged. A dollar-for-dollar comparison of alcohol and drugs purchased in Anchorage and then sold in many Alaskan villages breaks down as follows:

Substance	Investment	Return *
Cocaine	\$1.00	\$1.50
Marijuana	\$1.00	\$4.00
Alcohol	\$1.00	\$15.00

* Calculated at \$150 per bottle



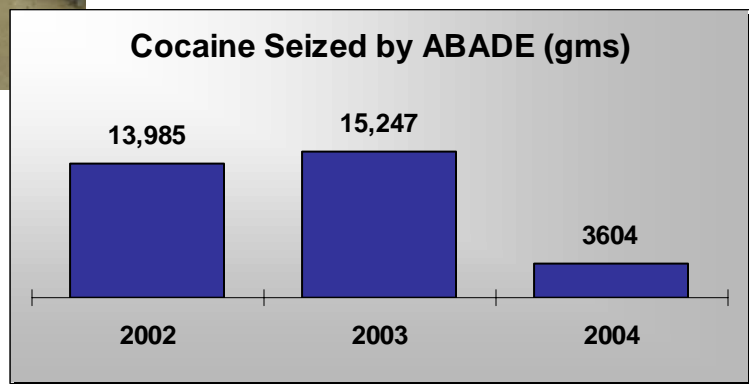
Cocaine

Cocaine continues to be a lucrative drug for sale and use in Alaska. Cocaine is readily available in most areas of the state and is seen with great frequency in powder form and crack cocaine in the major urban areas such as Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Cocaine is brought into Alaska concealed on passengers or in luggage through ports of entry such as the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, and it is also shipped via the US Post Office or commercial parcel companies such as FedEx or UPS.

The cocaine brought into Alaska is typically packaged in kilogram quantities and later broken down by dealers into smaller quantities for retail sale. In powder form, it is normally sold in gram quantities for \$100-150 and its primary method of ingestion is by snorting.

Crack dealers use a process involving powder cocaine, water, baking soda and heat to produce crack cocaine, which is then sold in small rocks for \$20. The primary method of use for crack is by smoking.



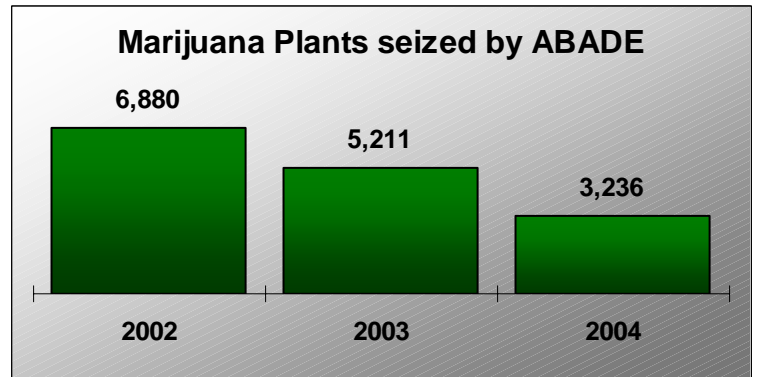
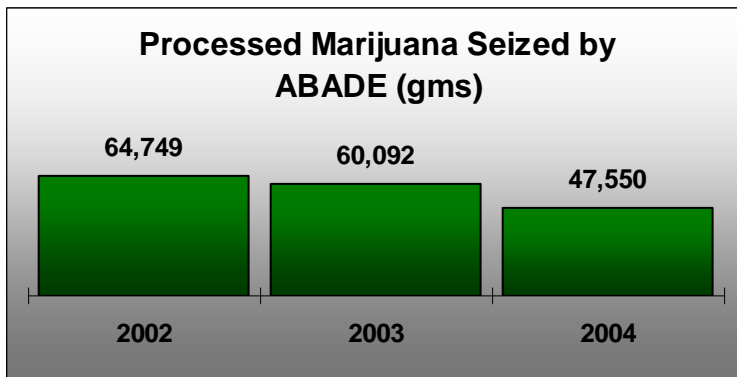
Marijuana

Marijuana is available throughout the state and is viewed as a gateway drug to other drugs for young adults and teenagers. Demand for Alaskan-grown marijuana continues to be high as a result of its exceptional tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content. Because Alaskan produced marijuana is extremely high quality; Alaska is considered a marijuana exporting state.

During 2004, the investigation of commercial marijuana cultivations were diminished due to the increased use and manufacturing of methamphetamine. In addition, recent Alaska court decisions, like Noy and Crocker, have diminished the ability of the investigators to obtain search warrants for marijuana cultivations.

However, ABADE teams continue to find extremely sophisticated indoor growing operations. Most commercial marijuana grows take place along the road system in the south central part of Alaska from Anchorage to Fairbanks. The Mat-Su Valley area is the "Marijuana Growing Capital of Alaska", followed by Fairbanks and the Kenai Peninsula. It is not unusual for sites to be located in homes with hidden or underground rooms specifically designed for the cultivation of marijuana. These rooms are often equipped with surveillance cameras and state-of-the-art timers controlling temperature, lighting, water, humidity and air purifiers.

In some parts of the state, the local economy is directly affected by the influx of money from illegally produced marijuana. Proceeds from marijuana production are used for a multitude of purchases including fuel, grow equipment/supplies, utilities, vehicles, ATV's and building materials.



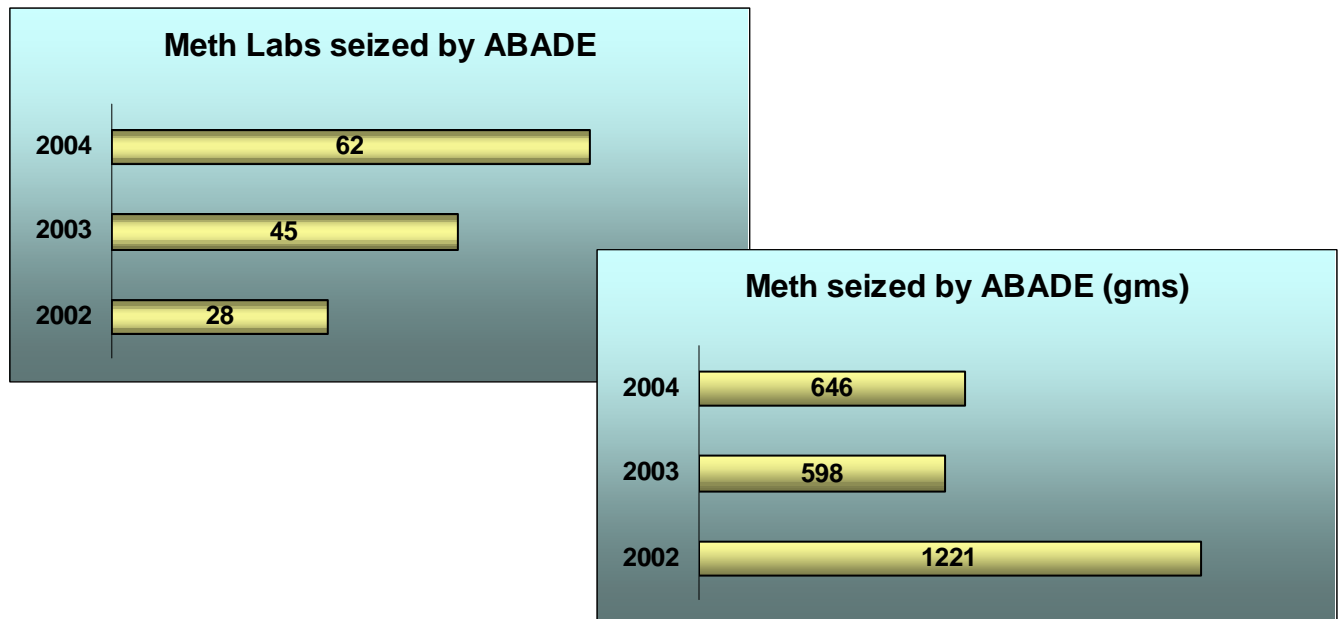
Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine use and manufacturing continues to be on the rise throughout the United States including Alaska. The manufacture and distribution of meth has reached alarming proportions. Methamphetamine, also known as meth, speed, crank, crystal and ice, produces an increase in energy and alertness, and a decrease in appetite. The effects, which also include an intense rush, can last up to 12 hours. It can be smoked, snorted, injected, or taken orally. The most frequent method of use is injection.

The DEA continues to conduct training in Alaska so that police officers will have the skills, knowledge, and tools to safely investigate suspected clandestine laboratories. There is now a sizable cadre of trained officers across the state. These officers are available to assist in the eradication of clandestine laboratories. They consist of federal, state, and local officers. In order to stay compliant with OSHA regulations, these members require annual re-certification as well as constant replacement of one time use equipment. In July 2004, 14 ABADE members were meth lab certified during training sponsored by CDSP.

Additionally, DEA has been extremely helpful in assisting in the cost of gross clean-up at clandestine lab sites. This requires a certified clean-up company to respond to the scene of each location, containerize larger items as well as the containers of chemical. These containers are then transported to a location for safe long-term storage and/or destruction.

Methamphetamine laboratories are being operated increasingly in single and multi-family residences in many neighborhoods. In addition to meth labs producing illegal, often deadly drugs, the clandestine nature of the manufacturing process and the presence of ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and toxic chemicals at the sites, have resulted in explosions, fires, toxic fumes, and irreparable damage to human health and to the environment. On several occasions in 2002, 2003, and again in 2004 labs were also discovered in hotel/motel rooms. Frequently children are found residing within clan lab sites.



Some of the commonly available items used in the manufacturing of meth include, Ephedrine or pseudoephedrine (found in cold/allergy tablets), lithium batteries, starter fluid, rock/table salt, matchbooks, coffee filters, acetone, aluminum foil and assorted kitchen glassware.

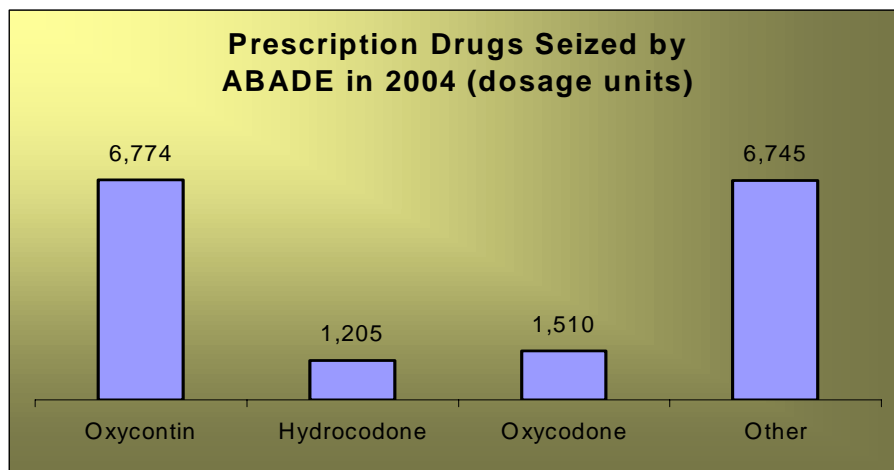
The methamphetamine problem in Alaska has certain peculiarities depending upon the region of the state in which the problem is located. The Anchorage, Mat-Su, Kenai Peninsula, and Fairbanks areas have a significant problem with clandestine labs that produce methamphetamine that is consumed in the local area. Southeast Alaska, specifically Ketchikan and Juneau, tend to have relatively large amounts of methamphetamine arrive already in a processed and usable form. The same tends to be true for coastal commercial fishery related communities.

Prescription Drugs

The sale and abuse of prescription drugs such as Oxycontin, Oxycodone, Methadone, Hydrocodone continue to be an issue in 2004. These drugs are being sought after for their pharmaceutical purity and ability to alter the central nervous system. With the identification of this increasing health hazard, statistics have been put into place for capturing the true impact anticipated in the upcoming years. Not only does the abuse of prescription drugs create a health hazard for the users, it creates a financial tragedy in the communities. The drugs vary in price and can cost anywhere from one dollar per milligram to two dollars per milligram depending on availability. With the increased demand for the drugs and a shortening of supply, many abusers may not have the money or insurance to pay for their addiction. Thus increasing property and violent crimes in the communities to pay for the drugs. It has been reported that tens of thousands of dollars are being spent to feed this growing abuse and addiction.

Prescription drugs have been linked to the following crimes; homicide, assault, prescription fraud, home invasion thefts and pharmacy robberies. People who are addicted to prescription facilitate their addiction by doctor shopping, pharmacy shopping, forgery, and purchasing the drugs via the Internet.

It is the intent of the ABADE to increase pressure on those involved in the non-medical use, abuse, and sales of these addictive drugs. It has been said in the past that once problems of this sort have taken a toehold in the community, the community is at great risk for social decay from within. It has been and will continue to be the intent and purpose of the ABADE program not to allow that to happen in Alaska.



Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement Overviews

During the year of 2003, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) underwent substantial changes. One such change was the restructuring of the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU). With that restructuring, SDEU became the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE). ABADE, previously assigned to "I" Detachment, is now its own detachment. ABADE's program has expanded and been enhanced throughout the state. The command staff has grown from the traditional commander only to a commander and a deputy commander. During 2004, manning has been increased with the addition of three investigators and two administrative support personnel.

The six teams that comprise the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement are spread throughout the state. Each team works hand-in-hand with the local law enforcement agencies and, in most locations, with the federal law enforcement agencies. The map below shows these teams and their area of responsibility.



Alaska Interdiction Task Force

The importance of the narcotics interdiction effort at key locations is constantly being reaffirmed and the Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF) continued its success in making large seizures of US Currency, cocaine, crack, methamphetamine and other controlled substances during 2004.

The AITF is a federally funded task force sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The AITF is responsible for investigations that involve drug trafficking at various ports of entry to include passengers and luggage arriving at airport terminals, packages and cargo shipped through parcel delivery services, and commercial cargo carriers. AITF is strategically located in Anchorage near the Ted Stevens International Airport, allowing the unit easy access to the airport and shipping companies where most passengers and parcels arrive.

Cocaine primarily comes into Alaska through the Anchorage airport from various source cities in the lower 48 states. Various methods are used to transport cocaine, such as concealing it in carry-on luggage, secured underneath clothing, or hidden in shoes, just to name a few. It is also imported and distributed through parcel express companies and the U.S. Postal Service. With the increase in airport security since September 11, drug traffickers have shifted their transportation methods and started to use parcel and cargo delivery services on a more frequent basis. Members of the AITF have worked diligently to develop working relationships with key business in this industry.

AITF team members consist of a DEA group supervisor, two DEA agents, two Alaska State Troopers, an Anchorage Police officer, an Airport Public Safety officer, one ICE agent four members of the National Guard Counterdrug Support Program (CDSP) and an AST administrative clerk.

In addition to the cocaine seizures, the AITF seized significant amounts of U.S. currency as it was leaving Alaska through the airport. The currency is commonly found to be the proceeds of drug trafficking.

The amount of cocaine detected and interdicted in the last several years in Anchorage clearly indicates that the illegal possession, sale, and use of cocaine in Alaska is a significant problem. There are organizations with international connections moving very large quantities of controlled substances and drug related monies across the country and state.

During 2004, AITF made several large seizures of US Currency as well as multi-kilo seizures of opium being shipped to Alaska from Asia.

Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team

The primary area of responsibility for the Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team is interior Alaska, which includes Fairbanks and the surrounding area, north to Barrow, and east to the Canadian border. This team is made up of one AST sergeant, two AST investigators, and a Fairbanks Police Department investigator. The Fairbanks team also works closely with two DEA agents assigned to the Fairbanks area. DEA compliments the teams' investigative ability by additional manpower, resources and the possibility of federal prosecution of drug traffickers.

Their focus varies from the identification and investigation of street level dealers of crack cocaine to the investigation of large distributors of powder cocaine. Of significant concern in the Fairbanks area is the continuing threat of manufacturing, use, and distribution of methamphetamine. Clandestine methamphetamine laboratories are prevalent in the Fairbanks area and are being operated increasingly in or near single and multi-family homes, where public health and safety is at an extremely high risk. Marijuana cultivation also continues to be a problem in the Fairbanks area. During 2004, the team eradicated 9 meth labs and 13 marijuana grows.

In May, investigators received information that a vehicle was driving from Fairbanks to Anchorage with a large amount of cocaine. Unit members and DEA stopped the vehicle and a search of the vehicle resulted in a seizure of 400 grams of cocaine, one gram of crack, and three handguns. The three male occupants were arrested.

In July, Fairbanks Airport Police received information that a male subject was arriving at the Fairbanks International Airport carrying a large quantity of prescription drugs. Contact was made with the suspect and 998 Oxycodone tablets and 1.5 grams of methamphetamine were seized. Members of the Fairbanks unit assisted with the execution of the search warrants in relation and follow-up to the case.

In August, the Fairbanks unit, with assistance from DEA, University of Alaska Fairbanks Police Department and the Fairbanks Police Department served two separate search warrants and a knock-and-talk on suspected marijuana grow sites. Three marijuana grows with a total of 502 marijuana plants were seized as well as \$3,609 in cash and one shotgun. The investigation revealed that all three grows were being operated by the same group of defendants.

In October, Fairbanks unit investigators began assisting the Fairbanks Police Department with the surveillance of a homicide suspect. The Fairbanks unit investigators, Fairbanks city detectives, the FBI and DEA conducted a traffic stop on a subject related to the homicide victim after investigators witnessed a suspected drug deal. The individual was found to have approximately 210 grams of cocaine on his person as well as at his residence. A 2001 GMC pickup truck and \$14,000 in cash was seized. The suspect then worked for the investigators and purchased 1,134 grams of cocaine from another suspect. The suspect was arrested and a 1999 Ford Mustang was seized as evidence.

Mat-Su Drug Enforcement Team

The Mat-Su Drug Enforcement Team focuses on drug investigations within the Matanuska-Susitna region to include Palmer, Wasilla, Talkeetna, Glennallen, Valdez, and Cordova. The team is comprised of one AST sergeant, two AST investigators, one officer from the Palmer Police Department, one officer from the Wasilla Police Department, and one individual from CDSP. The Mat-Su team works closely with the local police departments and the uniformed patrol section of the Alaska State Troopers to educate, train, and support their efforts related to drug enforcement.

This team's primary enforcement duties have shifted from marijuana cultivation to the investigation of meth labs. However, the Mat-Su region still comprises the bulk of marijuana related seizures throughout Alaska and has long been recognized as the primary area of marijuana cultivation and distribution in the state.

The production of methamphetamine in illegal clandestine laboratories continues to be a significant problem across the Mat-Su area. During 2004 the number of meth labs tripled to 37, compared to 10 labs in 2003. The rise in the number of seized meth labs indicates that meth use and manufacturing is a steadily growing problem in the Mat-Su area. ABADE is continually analyzing this situation and adjusting resources as needed to maintain an aggressive enforcement effort.

In February, the Mat-Su Team executed a search warrant in Wasilla. A commercial marijuana cultivation operation was discovered. Investigators seized 128 live marijuana plants. Also seized during the search warrant were scales, grow equipment, processed marijuana, suspected cocaine, firearms and various drug paraphernalia. The processed marijuana had a weight of 7.49 pounds with a street value estimated at approximately \$30,000.

Also in February the Mat-Su Team served a search warrant and seized a commercial marijuana cultivation operation consisting of 120 live plants. Investigators also seized processed marijuana, related grow equipment, scales and drug paraphernalia. One person was arrested and charged with four counts of Misconduct Involving a Controlled Substance in the 4th degree and three counts of contributing to the delinquency of minor.

In May, the Mat-Su unit executed a search warrant on a suspected meth lab at the Goldminer Hotel in downtown Palmer. This investigation started after a suspicious fire was discovered in a City of Palmer garbage truck. It appeared that the fire was started from the chemicals from a meth lab. Further investigation led investigators to the Goldminer Hotel where two suspects were discovered in the process of manufacturing methamphetamine. Both suspects were arrested at the scene.

In April, troopers with 'B' Detachment located a possible meth lab in Wasilla. A search was obtained for the residence and one of the largest meth labs seized during 2004 was discovered in the crawl space of the residence. Also found at the time of the search warrant was a loaded 9mm pistol and an illegally sawed off shotgun. Both suspects were located and arrested for the manufacturing of methamphetamine.

In October, the Mat-Su Unit along with investigators from DEA, the Anchorage Interdiction Task Force, Palmer Alaska Bureau of Investigation and Palmer Patrol executed a search warrant in Wasilla. Investigators delivered a parcel containing approximately 20 grams of crystal methamphetamine that was shipped from Arizona to the Wasilla address. Upon execution of the search warrant investigators seized approximately one ounce of methamphetamine, packaging used for distribution, digital scales and \$1,200 in US Currency. Firearms and miscellaneous drug paraphernalia was also seized. Two suspects were arrested at the residence.

Major Offender Unit

During 2003, the Department of Public Safety reinstated a statewide Major Offenders Unit. Ultimately the unit is located in Anchorage, but would have the ability to travel and conduct long-term drug and alcohol investigations anywhere in the state, targeting major offenders. Once the unit becomes established, AST plans to invite other agencies, such as, DEA, and the Anchorage Police Department to participate. The Major Offenders Unit is co-located with the Alaska Interdiction Task Force, allowing for better communication and cooperation between the units.

During most of 2004, the Major Offender Unit consisted of 2 to 3 investigators supervised by an Officer In Charge. The members worked to support other ABADE units when available and also assisted the Alaska Bureau of Investigations.

Late in 2004, the unit was completed with the assignment of a sergeant and two additional investigators, which brought the unit to a total of five investigators. In addition, an administrative clerk was added as well as a part-time prosecutor from the Department of Law. The prosecutor has been assigned to assist with legal questions, case development assistance and prosecution of drug and alcohol cases. The unit has been actively investigating several cases around the state.

Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team

The primary responsibility for drug enforcement in southeast Alaska lies with the Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team (SEANET). This team is composed of one AST sergeant, two Juneau Police Department officers, all located in Juneau and one AST investigator located in Ketchikan. SEANET also works closely with officers from the Ketchikan, Sitka, Wrangell, Yakutat, Craig, Haines, Skagway, Hoonah and Petersburg Police Departments. The teams focus ranges from street level dealers to major offenders. Some of the investigative methods used by this team include interdiction activities and undercover operations. This program works hand-in-hand with the **SouthEast Alaska Cities Against Drugs (SEACAD)** project that is oversighted by the Sitka Police Department.

Of particular note in Southeast Alaska is the quick rise in the availability, sales, possession, and use of methamphetamine. It appears that most of the substance is introduced into the region in a powder form, having been manufactured at other locations and imported into Southeast Alaska.

In June SEANET seized 1,679 grams of cocaine with a street value of approximately \$120,000 from a vehicle shipped to Juneau on a barge from Seattle, Washington. Two suspects have been charged.

Also in June, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) made contact with four individuals on a 20-foot skiff after information was provided by SEANET Juneau. The RCMP arrested 3 U.S. citizens at the scene for possession of 4 ounces of cocaine, 6 pounds of marijuana and 200 grams of Psilocybin mushrooms. The fourth suspect, a Canadian citizen, escape from the scene on foot.

In September, SEANET in Juneau discovered 2,203 grams of narcotics hidden on a vehicle being shipped from Seattle to Juneau on the Alaska Marine Highway Ferry system. This investigation led to the arrest of 3 people in Juneau who were attempting to import 495 grams of cocaine, 444 grams of methamphetamine and 1,097 grams of cocaine base (crack). Follow up investigation led to the delivery of a kilo of cocaine in Seattle and the arrest of another suspect.

On 9/16/04, SEANET Ketchikan completed a two-month investigation resulting in the seizure of 266 Oxycontin pills with a street value of approximately \$4,095

On 10/28/04, SEANET and Juneau Police Department seized \$13,100 in cash. The cash was suspected of being proceeds from drug sales. A residential search warrant resulted in the seizure of a stolen Tech-9 semi-auto pistol.

On 11/03/04, SEANET Juneau intercepted 5 pounds of marijuana being shipped from Seattle, Washington and \$28,000 in cash. The suspect had hidden the marijuana inside a new washing machine that was shipped to Juneau. One suspect was arrested.

Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT)

This team's area of responsibility is Alaska's west coast, to include: Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Kodiak, Dillingham, the Aleutian Chain, and the Kenai Peninsula. For most of 2003, the WAANT team consisted of one AST sergeant and two AST investigators in Anchorage; one AST investigator and one officer from Soldotna Police Department in Soldotna; one AST investigator and one officer from Bethel Police Department in Bethel; one AST investigator in Kodiak, working with two investigators from Kodiak Police Department.

One of the positions in Bethel and one in Anchorage are dedicated specifically to alcohol interdiction and investigations. During 2003, three troopers previously assigned to "C" Detachment were reassigned to the WAANT unit. These three investigators, located in Bethel, Nome and Kotzebue will focus on alcohol interdictions.

Due to the vast number of local option communities in Western Alaska, a large portion of this team's principal focus is on alcohol enforcement. They target smugglers and bootleggers through undercover operations and interdictions.

Two common methods of importing alcohol and illegal drugs into rural communities are via the U.S. Postal system and local airlines. Alcohol shipped legally to regional hubs such as Nome, Bethel, and Kotzebue is then illegally distributed to local option communities that have banned alcohol or have limited the possession of alcohol under the local option laws of Alaska.

Because much of the alcohol and drugs being sold illegally in Alaska are shipped through the U.S. mail, the U.S. Postal Inspectors Service conducts interdictions with direct support from CDSP. These efforts consist mainly of US Postal Inspectors assisted by CDSP members monitoring packages en route to outlying villages and communities through the Anchorage postal hub facility. Suspicious packages are brought to the attention of the Postal Inspectors, who then decide how best to investigate the shipment.

The investigations of many of these seizures are coordinated through AST and/or other local law enforcement entities. The Postal Inspectors office relies heavily on support from ABADE. This support includes resources like scent detection canines, intelligence information and follow-up efforts. Not only do these resources assist in the seizure, they also help successfully investigate and prosecute those involved in alcohol bootlegging and drug trafficking.

In other WAANT areas of responsibility, the team has conducted long term undercover operations in Kodiak, Soldotna and Seward. Investigations vary from marijuana grows and meth labs to drug distributors dealing marijuana, meth, cocaine and prescription drugs.

In January, WAANT investigators in Anchorage discovered a suspicious box being shipped to Kotzebue. Investigators received consent to open the box and 4 pounds of marijuana was seized.

In February, investigators seized 5 bottles of alcohol being imported into the local option community of Selawik. As a result, a 2003 Polaris snow machine was also seized.

A contact at the Kotzebue airport resulted in the seizure of 94 grams of marijuana and the service of a search warrant. During the search investigators discovered 130 blasting caps, 500 feet of time/fuse cord and a small amount of C4 explosives. Also seized were 39 seal bombs, 28 rifles, 10 handguns, 8 shotguns and a 37mm gas gun.

In July, Kotzebue investigators saw a person loading alcohol into a vehicle at the airport. The vehicle operator drove to an 18-foot boat where the suspect loaded and hid the alcohol on the boat. The alcohol was being delivered to the local option community of Kivalina. Property seized from the investigation included the boat valued at \$8500, the vehicle valued at \$12,000 along with 60 cans of beer and 14 bottles of alcohol. The alcohol was valued at \$5100. Three suspects were arrested in this case.

In August, Soldotna WAANT investigators served a search warrant on a residence suspected of having a marijuana grow. Over 100 marijuana plants were discovered in several underground storage units. The property, consisting of a two-story, structure was seized and forfeiture proceedings were begun against the owner by DEA in Anchorage. One person was arrested in this case.

A contact at the Kotzebue airport led to the service of a search warrant at a known marijuana distributor's residence. The search resulted in the seizure of 3 Skidoo snow machines, one Honda 4 wheeler, a 20-foot Bayliner boat, one 16-foot Lund boat and other property totaling approximately \$49,000. In addition, \$11,975 in cash and 18 firearms were seized and 5 suspects were arrested.



DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Anchorage is deeply involved in working with all state and local drug units to enhance and facilitate investigations of major offenders throughout Anchorage.

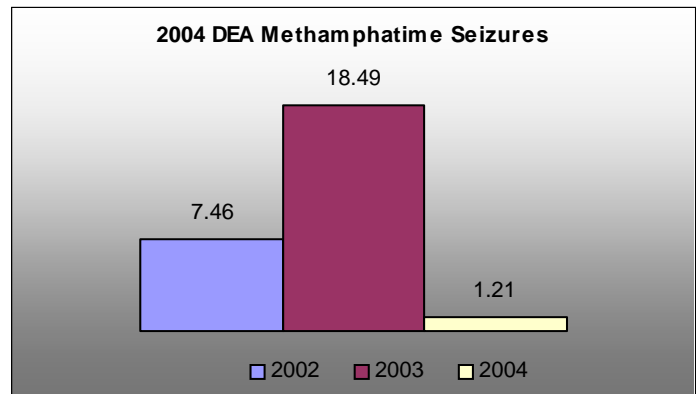
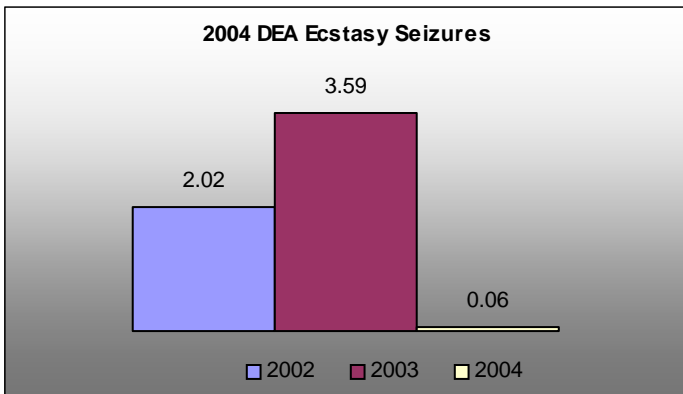
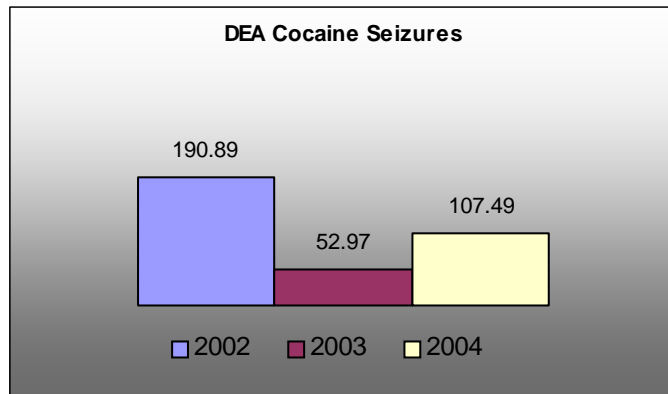
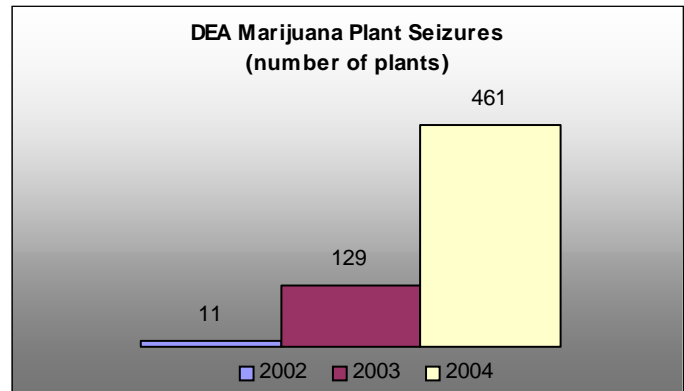
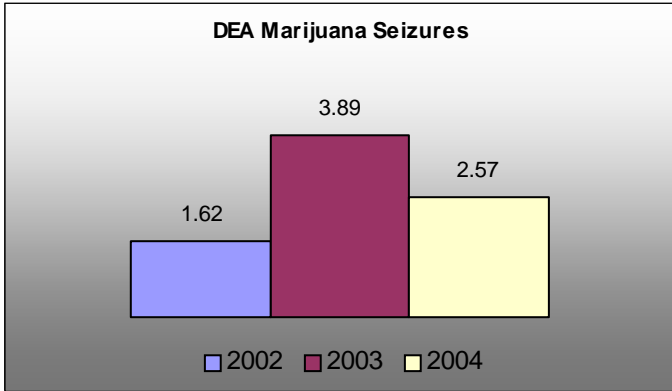
The DEA has added several Special Agents to Alaska in the last few years to support the entire state of Alaska, including two positions in Fairbanks that work hand-in-hand with the Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement to investigate a wide variety of drug related crimes in and around the area.

They are the host agency for the Alaska Interdiction Task Force, a joint effort involving DEA, AST, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Police, Anchorage Police Department, Postal Inspectors, CDSP, and several other agencies as needed.

DEA continues to furnish training to state and local officers to include topics related to clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. DEA provided the funds for members of the Alaska Interdiction Task Force and other law enforcement personnel to be trained and get re-certified in clandestine laboratory safety and investigations. In addition, they have facilitated participation of troopers in a Drug Unit Commanders Academy held in Quantico, Virginia. The DEA Anchorage office is also currently planning additional training to state and local law enforcement personnel through a DEA sanctioned "Two-Week Basic Drug Enforcement School."

DEA continues to facilitate forfeiture proceedings related to assets and funds seized as a result of criminal investigations and drug trafficking. This effort allows state and local law enforcement agencies to receive a portion of the assets seized, which in turn funds additional criminal investigations.

Seizure Statistics for DEA Anchorage



Emerging Trends in 2004

The most significant trend in 2004 continues to be the explosion in the manufacturing and abuse of methamphetamine throughout Alaska. The number of illicit methamphetamine labs has continued to rise since 2002 when 29 labs were seized statewide, 66 labs were seized in 2003 and 80 labs were seized in 2004. Due to the volatile chemicals involved, investigators need to be trained and certified and wear hazardous material protective gear when responding to methamphetamine labs. Several residential fires were reported this year were caused by the manufacturing of methamphetamine. Also during 2004, several methamphetamine labs were discovered inside hotel/motel rooms creating chemical and fire hazards for other civilians that also occupy the buildings. Violent crime related to methamphetamine manufacturing and usage also appears to be on the rise. During the year there were several homicides that have been connected to methamphetamine. The sale and abuse of methamphetamine is as much on the rise as the number of meth labs.

A trend that continues from year to year is the illegal transport of alcohol and drugs to villages throughout Alaska. ABADE will continue to aggressively pursue and investigate the illegal possession, shipment and sale of alcohol in local option communities and other illegal drugs throughout Alaska. With funding from federal sources, as well as traditional program funds, the dedication to the task of pursuing bootleggers and drug dealers has been expanded and enhanced. Between the efforts of ABADE, Alaska State Troopers, Village Public Safety Officers, local law enforcement, federal agencies and the promised support of Governor Frank Murkowski, we will strive to decrease the alcohol and drug problem within the State of Alaska.

Summary

The Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement, with its unique ability to interdict and investigate cases across the state, recognizes that drug abuse is not confined to any one geographical location or any economic strata in our state. Drug and alcohol abuse affects all Alaskans, despite social, ethnic, racial and economic barriers.

The Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement is committed to working with all interested agencies in the fight against substance abuse throughout the state by using innovative concepts to deal with the illegal sale and distribution of alcohol and drugs. We are also committed to focusing on increased awareness and knowledge of drug abuse through educational presentations to the Public Safety Academy and in public forums, such as schools, service organizations and other community groups.



The 2004 Annual Drug Report is a publication of the Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement. It can be accessed via the Department of Public Safety Internet site therefore there is no publication cost and is intended to inform Alaskans about the type and frequency of drug related crime reported in Alaska during 2004.

The Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement supplied the majority of information and photos presented in this report. Additional data was obtained from Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) publications, the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) and the Alaska Justice Forum.

