

Alaska State Troopers

Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit

2001 Drug Report





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Introduction

The Alaska State Troopers Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit, in authoring this publication, will endeavor to represent the drug situation in Alaska in a manner that provides the broadest possible picture of the true situation.

There are several 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 situation, statistics from agencies other than those that participate in Statewide Drug Enforcement teams are included in this report. Information provided by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Customs, Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) and the Anchorage Police Department (APD) 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.



The Mission

Statewide Drug Enforcement

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

SDEU's mission is to:

- ▣ Interdict and seize controlled substances and alcohol that are being illegally distributed throughout the state.
- ▣ Identify and investigate illegal distributors of controlled substances and 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, SDEU consisted of fifteen (15) State Trooper investigators and seven (7) civilian clerical personnel for the majority of 2001. Near the end of the year, two additional investigator positions were assigned that are dedicated to illegal alcohol issues. SDEU recognizes that because of Alaska's geographical vastness and ethnic diversity, no single law enforcement agency is capable of handling the drug problem alone. SDEU encourages cooperative efforts between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and has taken a leadership role in fostering and developing these cooperative arrangements through multi-jurisdictional/multi-agency efforts.



The SDEU headquarters office in Anchorage supports five (5) investigative teams throughout the state. These teams are broken down by region as follows:

- ▣ Airport Interdiction Team
- ▣ Fairbanks Areawide Narcotics Team
- ▣ Mat-Su Drug Enforcement Team
- ▣ Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team
- ▣ Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team

The Alaska National Guard Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP) provides additional support. They provide operational resources to include 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 man-hours, specialized equipment and aircraft not normally available to law enforcement agencies for assistance specific to drug investigations.

SDEU participates with and receives assistance from several investigative agencies involved in drug enforcement. These agencies include the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), U.S. Customs, 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, SDEU strives to provide for 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.

According to the research conducted in 2000 found in the Fall 2001 publication of the *Alaska Justice Forum*, nearly 69 percent of males arrested in Anchorage, between the ages of 15 and 20, tested positive for marijuana use. Males between 21 and 25 years of age tested positive for marijuana over 47 percent of the time.

In that same research, it was discovered that among males 26 to 30 years of age, 23 percent tested positive for cocaine. Among males 36 years

and over, 27 percent were tested positive for cocaine.

Research regarding females arrested in Anchorage showed that nearly 43 percent of the females between the ages of 15 and 20 tested positive for marijuana use. That use stayed above 25 percent for ages 21 to 30. Cocaine use among arrested females is even more surprising. Of the females, ages 21 to 25, cocaine was detected nearly 27 percent of the time; ages 26 to 30, over 33 percent of the time; and ages 31 to 35, over 41 percent of the time.

Statistics provided by the Alaska State Medical Examiner's office show 1,094 deaths in calendar year 2001. Toxicology screens were completed on 369 of those deaths. It was determined that excessive alcohol and/or alcohol/drug abuse were direct contributors to the deaths of 31% of those tested.



Drugs of Choice

In Alaska, alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana have been identified as the three primary substances of abuse and are the focus of most law enforcement efforts. Methamphetamine use is increasing significantly, and other drugs such as pharmaceuticals or prescription drugs, LSD, and new designer drugs are also of concern.

Alcohol

Alaska's criminal justice professionals recognize that alcohol is the primary substance of abuse in Alaska and is the leading cause of violence and accidental deaths, especially in rural areas. Currently, over 100 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 have taken hold in the local option communities. Because alcohol is easily transported to the villages via the U.S. Postal Service, local air carriers, private aircraft and express mailing services, bootlegging alcohol has become a very lucrative business in the state of Alaska.



Alcohol shipped via U.S. Mail

Because of the obvious need for additional enforcement of illegal alcohol activities in western Alaska, the Alaska State Troopers have applied for and received federal funding for five investigators whose function will be focused on alcohol issues. Two of the investigators will be subordinate to SDEU, dedicating 100% of their

time to alcohol investigations. The other three positions will be uniformed officers assigned to "C" Detachment with half of their time dedicated to illegal alcohol investigations and the other half of their time dedicated to community policing efforts in an attempt to reduce alcohol use and abuse in the rural communities.

The economics of the illegal sales of alcohol is staggering. A bootlegger can purchase alcohol legally at ten dollars for a 750-milliliter bottle 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 sell for as much as \$150 per bottle. The initial purchase for the bootlegger involves a minimal cash investment and a maximum cash return. 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

Cocaine

Cocaine remains a lucrative drug for sale and use in Alaska. It 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

The cocaine is typically packaged in kilogram quantities and later broken down by dealers to gram quantities for retail sales. 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 powder cocaine,

water, baking soda and heat to produce crack cocaine, which is sold in small rocks for \$20. The primary method of use 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 a marijuana exporting state. Extremely sophisticated indoor growing operations have been identified primarily in the Mat-Su region. It is not unusual for sites to be located in homes with underground rooms designed for the cultivation of marijuana and equipped with surveillance cameras and state-of-the-art timers controlling temperature, lighting, and water. In some parts of the state, the local economy is directly affected by the influx of money from the illegal production of marijuana. Proceeds from marijuana production are used for a multitude of purchases including, but not limited to - fuel, grow equipment/supplies, utilities, and building materials.

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine use is on the rise throughout the United States, Alaska being no exception. 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.

Because the number of clandestine laboratories eradicated in 2000 more than doubled over 1999 figures, SDEU arranged with DEA to conduct training in Alaska so that police officers would have the skills, knowledge, and tools to safely

investigate suspected clandestine laboratories. The training involved over 50 officers from federal, state, and local agencies.



*2001 Law Enforcement
Clandestine Lab training*

As a result of the aggressive stance taken towards clandestine labs, several were eradicated shortly after the training was received. Those involved have been arrested, indicted, and have either pled to the charges or are still pending adjudication. The number of labs subsequently detected in Alaska has dropped from 50 in 2000 to just 21 in 2001.

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.

Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Environmental Conservation concerning locations that may be contaminated as the result of an illegal clandestine lab operation. There have also been discussions addressing the issue of the re-occupation of contaminated residences. Currently there is no regulatory agency that governs the standards to which a contaminated location must be cleaned up.

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 in those communities already in a processed and usable form. The same tends to be true for coastal commercial fishery related communities.



Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team

The importance of a narcotics interdiction effort at key locations has been reaffirmed during 2001. The Airport Interdiction Team has continued to make large seizures of cocaine, crack, and other controlled substances. For the majority of the year, they consisted of an AST sergeant, one AST investigator who was also assigned as the AST Scent Detection Canine handler, an Airport Police investigator, normally one or two Special Agents from the DEA, and two personnel from the CDSP. The Airport Interdiction Team is responsible for investigations that involve drug trafficking at various ports of entry to include passengers and luggage arriving at airport terminals, as well as packages and cargo shipped through parcel facilities and commercial cargo carriers. They are based in Anchorage, since most passengers and packages arrive at facilities located at, or near the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. The Airport Interdiction Team has been extremely successful in its efforts to interdict drugs, primarily cocaine.

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.

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

Based on the amount of cocaine detected and interdicted in the last several years in Anchorage, there are clear indications that the illegal possession, sale, and use of cocaine in Alaska are a significant problem. There are large organizations with nationwide connections moving very large amount of cocaine and drug

Alaska State Troopers Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit Activities

The five teams that comprise the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit 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 five teams are depicted on this map.



- Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team
- Fairbanks Areawide Narcotics Team
- ❖ Mat-Su Drug Enforcement Team
- β Southeast Alaska Narcotics Team
- ◆ Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team

** No AST investigator; one Kotzebue officer*

related monies across the country and state.

During 2001, the Airport Interdiction Team has continued to make a large number of seizures of cocaine and other drugs arriving in Alaska through the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. While there was certainly a reduction in drug smuggling immediately after the events of September 11, the smuggling organizations were back to business as usual by November.

The Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team arrested or charged a total of 47 persons for smuggling drugs into and around the state of Alaska in 2001.

Late in 2001, SDEU entered into an agreement with DEA that designated the Airport Interdiction Team as an Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF). This effort will continue to be supervised by an AST sergeant along with the current manpower assets. The AITF, when fully developed, will involve additional DEA assets, U.S. Customs, INS, and the Anchorage Police Department.

Among all of the seizures made, some of particular interest occurred during the month of March 2001. Over 5 kilos (11 pounds) of cocaine was seized between three separate interdiction efforts. All of this cocaine was arriving from California.

Again in May, and all from California, they seized 4.5 Kilos (9.9 pounds) of cocaine in three separate shipments.

On July 4, 1.5 kilos (3.3 Pounds) of cocaine was seized from a male and a female passenger who had hidden the drugs in the diaper bag of the infant that was also traveling with them.

The Airport Interdiction Team saw the first indications of something that has since become more routine. They seized 1 kilo (2.2 pounds) of crack cocaine as it arrived from California. Until recently, large shipments of crack cocaine were rare.

In November, while they were assisting in the investigation of 13 kilos (28.6 pounds) of cocaine detected by DEA as it moved from California to Anchorage, the Airport Interdiction Team contacted two women arriving from Miami. During the course of that contact, it was discovered that the women were smuggling 1,788 tablets of Ecstasy. While there is no shortage of Ecstasy on the streets of Anchorage, this was one of the first interdictions of a large shipment arriving in Alaska.



Ecstasy photo used in SDEU Drug Education Presentation



Fairbanks Areawide Narcotics Team

The primary area of responsibility for the Fairbanks Areawide 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. Their focus varies from the identification and investigation of street level dealers of crack to the investigation of large distributors of 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.

This year has brought a variety of accomplishments to the Fairbanks team,

including the eradication of five meth labs.

One search warrant execution at a residence in downtown Fairbanks, just a short distance from the courthouse revealed a large clandestine methamphetamine laboratory. The operation was producing methamphetamine using anhydrous ammonia, a method rarely seen in Alaska. There was a large amount of chemist type glassware that was apparently stolen from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Processed pre-packaged amounts of methamphetamine were also discovered at the location, as was evidence of child pornography.

During May, June, and July, the team conducted an undercover operation that netted 10 defendants on multiple counts of cocaine sales.

In June, the team, while working with the Fairbanks Police Department, DEA, FBI, IRS, and the INS arrested an individual who is believed to have been involved in criminal enterprises for over two decades. The defendant operated local massage parlors in addition to his drug activities. A total of 102 counts of various criminal charges were brought against the subject by authorities to include money laundering, racketeering, drug sales, and prostitution.

In October, they seized 845 grams (1.8 pounds) of cocaine as a suspect arrived at the Fairbanks Airport. The subject jumped into a cab to avoid contact, but Fairbanks Airport Police subsequently stopped the vehicle. The cab driver pointed out where the subject had ejected his luggage from the vehicle. The cocaine was found inside the luggage.



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 three individuals from CDSP.

This team's primary enforcement duties are marijuana cultivation, with more than 90% of their work directly related to marijuana grows. The Mat-Su region comprised 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 of Alaska.



Commercial marijuana grow

The Mat-Su Drug Team continued its aggressive marijuana grow eradication efforts during this year. A total of 86 marijuana grows were eradicated in the Mat-Su area. It has been fully realized that marijuana grows are not just large city or bedroom community problems. Some of the grows eradicated by the Mat-Su Drug Team this year were well off the beaten path that required snowmachines plus helicopter and all-terrain vehicle support from the CDSP. One location required the use of riverboats to transit to the grow location which was over two hours down river from the nearest landing. Of particular note is the eradication of 319 plants from three structures on a family homestead in the Montana Creek area.

In fall of 2001, an emphasis was placed on responding to the information that had been received from citizens reporting the locations of suspected marijuana grows. A total of 26 grows were eradicated, the largest being a 990 plant grow in the community of Big Lake.

The production of methamphetamine in illegal clandestine laboratories was a significant problem across the Mat-Su area. While the number of laboratories discovered did not rise to the levels feared, a total of 9 labs were discovered and eradicated.



Methamphetamine lab components

At one location it was discovered that a full-size Ford van had been buried near a residence. The van contained a fully operational methamphetamine lab, which was producing a batch of the drug when investigators arrived. The van was accessed via a tunnel connected to a nearby workshop.

In another case, when law enforcement investigators executed a search warrant at a residence near Wasilla, the neighbors approached the officers indicating how grateful they were that the suspects had been arrested. The suspects had been terrorizing the entire subdivision for several days in a methamphetamine induced frenzy that included driving up and down the street while sitting on the hood of their vehicle and shooting weapons in the air. The suspects were also seen shooting at what turned out to be drug induced hallucinations in their back yard in the days prior to their arrest. The Division of Family and Youth Services removed three children from this meth lab location.



Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team

Primary responsibility for drug enforcement in southeast Alaska lies with the Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team. This team is composed of one AST sergeant and two Juneau Police Department officers, who work closely with officers from the Ketchikan, Sitka, Wrangell, Yakutat, Craig, Haines, Skagway, Hoonah and Petersburg Police Departments. The team's focus ranges from street level dealers to major offenders. Some of the investigative methods used by this team include interdiction activities and undercover operations.

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 another location.

The drug enforcement team in Juneau uncovered information in December that led to the execution of a search warrant in that city. Nearly eleven (11) ounces of methamphetamine was discovered.

A case of note in Juneau involved the arrest of a suspect after it was discovered that he possessed over 19 grams of heroin and 44 grams of cocaine.

In yet another case in Juneau, a suspect was arrested after he received a postal package containing heroin and fentanyl patches. Found at the residence was a 35 plant marijuana grow, over 1/2 pound of processed marijuana, \$9,400 in cash, 561 valium tablets, and four weapons.

An investigation in Ketchikan in early December revealed four ounces of methamphetamine and a long-term distribution ring. One person will be charged in that case.



**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 2001, they consisted of one AST sergeant and one AST investigator 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 investigators from Kodiak Police Department; and one officer from Kotzebue Police Department assigned to the Kotzebue WAANT office.

Near the end of 2001, the unit gained an additional investigator in Anchorage and another in Bethel that will be focused 100% on illegal alcohol interdiction efforts.

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 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 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.



Kilo of cocaine concealed in an upholstered cushion

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 the SDEU in the form of a scent detection canine, intelligence, and follow-up efforts to not only accomplish these seizures, but to successfully investigate and prosecute those involved in illegal alcohol bootlegging and drug trafficking.

In other WAANT areas of responsibility, the team has conducted long term undercover operations in Kodiak that resulted in the arrest of cocaine dealers, has facilitated undercover operations in Seward that resulted in a significant cocaine dealer being arrested, and eradicated 27 marijuana grow operations in Kenai Peninsula communities.



STATEWIDE DRUG ENFORCEMENT UNIT 2001 STATISTICS

Recognizing that not all drug activity in the state of Alaska is reported to the Alaska State Troopers, the following statistics are an accumulation of the activities and seizures involving the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit, AST Detachments, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. These numbers do not include the Anchorage Police Department, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, or U.S. Customs.

TOTAL CASES	2000	2001
Drug / Alcohol Cases	2,727	3,115

ARRESTS BY ACTIVITY	2000	2001
Possession	288	265
Distribution / Sell	132	135
Transportation	189	173
Marijuana Cultivation	120	148
Meth Manufacturing	26	23
Usage / Buying (drugs)	9	3
Other	4	12
TOTAL ARRESTS	768	759
Total # of Repeat Offenders	268	291

SUBSTANCES SEIZED	2000	2001
Cocaine/Crack (pounds)	113	63.62
Marijuana Plants	11,617	8,821*
Marijuana (processed-pounds)	124.8	87.49
Methamphetamine (pounds)	.66	1.74
Ecstasy-MDMA (tablets)	not reported	1,788
Alcohol (gallons)	585.7	429.75
Heroin (pounds)	.05	.08
LSD (dosage units)	506	10
Mushrooms (pounds)	1.2	.45
Opium (pounds)	.18	.35

* Reduction to the most usable form would produce approximately 300 pounds of marketable marijuana.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has added several Special Agents to Alaska in the last several years. Two of these agents are located in Fairbanks and work hand-in-hand with the Alaska State Troopers Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit, investigating a wide variety of drug related crimes.

DEA in Anchorage is deeply involved in working with all state and local drug units to enhance and facilitate investigations of major offenders. They actively participate with the Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team. As reported elsewhere in this report, DEA has been coordinating with the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit to form a task force focused on interdiction efforts.

As indicated in their statistics, DEA has seized large amounts of cocaine, mostly as a result of information developed about shipments of the substance en route to Alaska. Of special note is the fact that other DEA units have seized a significant amount of cocaine, 33 pounds to be exact, that were destined for Alaska, but were intercepted at other locations. Between the AST Airport Interdiction Team, the DEA in Alaska, and DEA at other locations, over 150 pounds of cocaine were seized this year en route to or arriving in Anchorage. That amount of cocaine has a potential street value of \$6.7 million dollars.

Also of special interest is DEA's willingness to furnish training to state and local officers on topics related to clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. DEA facilitated the training of over 50 officers in Anchorage in June 2001. Additionally, DEA bore the cost of several troopers and officers attending meth lab related training at the DEA's training facility in Quantico, Virginia. They also furnished each of these officers with a full compliment of lab related equipment at the conclusion of their training.

DEA has provided the funds for members of the Airport Interdiction Team to travel for training in Washington, D.C., and they have also facilitated

participation of a trooper in a Drug Unit Commanders Academy held in Quantico, Virginia.

DEA has facilitated numerous forfeiture proceedings related to assets and funds seized as a result of criminal investigations into drug trafficking. This effort allows state and local enforcement units to receive a portion of the assets seized, which in turn funds additional criminal investigations.

The Drug Enforcement Administration continues to develop a strong role in the overall drug enforcement effort in Alaska.



DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
2001 STATISTICS

CASES / ARRESTS	Anchorage	Fairbanks
Arrested/Charged	53	28

SUBSTANCES SEIZED	Anchorage	Fairbanks
Cocaine/Crack (pounds)	70.2	0
Marijuana Plants	187	0
Marijuana (processed-pounds)	.13	11.64
Methamphetamine (pounds)	0	2.32
Ecstasy-MDMA (pounds)	1.9	0
Opium (pounds)	61.17	0

OUT-OF-STATE CASES LINKED TO ALASKA	Anchorage	Fairbanks
Cocaine/Crack (pounds)*	33.06	0

* These seizures by DEA investigators working within the airport detail in Ontario, California and Portland, Oregon seized 33 pounds of cocaine that was en route to Alaska

U.S. CUSTOMS 2001 STATISTICS

The United States Customs service is an intricate part of the drug enforcement effort in the State of Alaska. The service has members at numerous locations around the state, but a large portion of their effort is at the international air cargo hubs located on the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. Primarily Federal Express and United Parcel Service handle shipments from all over the Pacific Rim area. The shipments transit Anchorage en route to their final destinations.

No picture of the overall drug situation in Alaska would be complete without including the seizure of controlled substances transiting Alaska through these facilities. Frequently these shipments, after being detected in Anchorage, are then investigated at their final destinations. Of particular note are the number of anabolic steroids and prescription drugs seized.



SUBSTANCES SEIZED	2001
Marijuana (processed-pounds)	26.3
Methamphetamine (pounds)	1.82
Ecstasy-MDMA (tablets)	300
Heroin (pounds)	.02
Opium (pounds)	17.68
Anabolic Steroids (tablets, grams and/or vials)	262,646 *
Other Controlled Substances (i.e. - prescriptions)	17,302 **

* Schedule III Controlled Substance under Federal Statutes

** Schedule IV Controlled Substance under Federal Statutes

U.S. POSTAL INSPECTORS 2001 STATISTICS

SDEU enjoys an excellent symbiotic relationship with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

With assistance from the Alaska National Guard Counter Drug Support Program, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service frequently identifies packages of drugs and alcohol transiting about Alaska through the U.S. Postal Service.

Once these packages have been identified, the Postal Inspectors will coordinate with the SDEU to facilitate an investigation into the illegal nature of the shipment. Often this effort will consist of direct involvement by an investigator of the unit, but on occasion, it will be simply coordinating between local law enforcement agencies and the Postal Inspectors to insure that proper follow-up investigation does occur.

The Postal Inspectors have been a tremendous ally in identifying and seizing illegal shipments of alcohol through the postal facilities. Prior years statistics include alcohol seized that was destined

for non-local option areas. During 2001, the investigative methods available to the Postal Inspectors were modified. As a result, the amount of alcohol seized from postal facilities has declined. In spite of that change, the Postal Inspectors remain a major component in the effort to curb the illegal distribution of alcohol in local option communities.

The Postal Inspectors also actively seek out shipments of illegal drugs through their system and continue to enjoy very good success in that effort. SDEU has a long history of supplying scent detection canine support to the Postal Inspectors, in addition to the investigative support that is routinely provided.

In analyzing the seizure statistics provided by the U.S. Postal Inspectors, it must be realized that some of their statistics will have been duplicated or co-mingled with the seizures of other investigative units.

SUBSTANCES SEIZED	2000	2001
Cocaine/Crack (pounds)	7.43	1.86
Marijuana (processed-pounds)	27.76	19.67
Methamphetamine (pounds)	.34	.42
Ecstasy-MDMA (tablets)	not reported	73
Alcohol (gallons)	319.76	162.97
Heroin (pounds)	.02	.12
LSD (dosage unit)	not reported	20 ml *
Mushrooms (pounds)	.93	.24
Anabolic Steroids (tablets, grams and/or vials)	1344	not reported

* This measurement is the liquid weight and it is undetermined the total number of 'hits' this amount of liquid could potentially produce

ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2001 STATISTICS

The Anchorage Police Department (APD) has several entities that are involved in drug enforcement. The department's Metro team is focused full-time on drug related investigations of all types. These cases can range from street level drug dealer up to and including major offenders. They successfully eradicated 4 methamphetamine labs within the city. The department also has members who participate in an FBI hosted Safe Streets Task Force which emphasizes enforcement of drug and weapons laws in order to suppress street crimes and violence. Additionally, the patrol section of APD is always in a position to detect and investigate cases involving drug law violations at any given time.

During 2001, APD received 2221 calls for service related to drugs. Of those calls, 1,079 police reports were initiated. A total of 662 persons were arrested on a total of 812 drug charges.

Of special interest during 2001 was a joint investigation conducted between APD and the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms agency of the U.S. Treasury Department. A group of males from the Dominican Republic were investigated as a

major source of cocaine in Anchorage. The investigation resulted in the arrest of 7 defendants who were charged with a variety of federal drug and weapons offenses. Seized at the time of arrest was 54 ounces of cocaine, 13 guns, and over \$77,000 in U.S. Currency.

The Anchorage Police Department, working with other agencies, has attempted repeatedly to investigate the underground world of raves. Ecstasy is widely distributed at these events. Young members of the military attend these events, as do many other youths of the community. To date, APD has been unsuccessful in identifying the source of the drugs and putting an end to this illegal activity. The department has changed tactics and is now coordinating with city officials in not allowing permits for raves and thereby limiting the distribution of Ecstasy.



SUBSTANCES SEIZED	2000	2001
Cocaine/Crack (pounds)	12	28
Marijuana Plants	2,184	307
Marijuana (processed-pounds)	64.4	65.1
Methamphetamine (pounds)	.46	1.26
Ecstasy-MDMA (tablets)	not reported	414
Heroin (pounds)	.09	.09
LSD (dosage unit)	1,276	128.73*
Opium (pounds)	69	.05

* This measurement is the liquid weight and it is undetermined the total number of 'hits' this amount of liquid could potentially produce

FAIRBANKS POLICE DEPARTMENT 2001 STATISTICS

The Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) has a member that participates within the Alaska State Troopers Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit. In addition to that effort, FPD received federal funding for a Street Level Drug Suppression Team.

The Drug Suppression Team has been active in targeting street level drug dealers. The unit varies its activities from working informants, to conducting intensive uniform enforcement efforts targeting drug activities, to more typical drug investigative techniques.

The unit conducted 111 traffic stops in the course

of their efforts. They executed 22 search warrants, eradicated one marijuana grow, and conducted 30 police/citizen investigatory contacts. They also performed 17 public appearances in an effort to educate members of the community about drug related topics.



CASES / ARRESTS	2001
Arrested / Charged	40

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL SEIZED	2001
Cocaine/Crack (pounds)	.16
Marijuana Plants	40
Marijuana (processed-pounds)	1.17
Methamphetamine (pounds)	.06

Drug and Alcohol Highlights and Trends

- In calendar year 2001, almost 200 pounds of cocaine were seized, as it was en route to, arriving in, or being possessed in Anchorage. This statistics indicates that Anchorage, and possibly other cities that are supplied by sources in Anchorage, have a huge cocaine appetite. The monies associated with this ongoing criminal enterprise can only be described as enormous. SDEU will continue to aggressively pursue those involved in transporting cocaine into Alaska, especially now with the formation of the Alaska Interdiction Task Force.
- The formation of the Alaska Interdiction Task Force, consisting of State Troopers, DEA, INS, U.S. Customs, Airport Police, and CDSP, indicates that seizures of controlled substances coming into Alaska or moving about Alaska are expected to continue to rise. This task force, while primarily targeted against airports, will have the capability to investigate and interdict drugs at any location within Alaska. Such efforts may range from highway interdiction efforts, port interdiction, sea borne interdiction, and border crossings.
- Alcohol is the number one drug of choice by Alaskans. It is the most abused and the most destructive substance found in the western villages of the state. The Alaska State Troopers have taken the initiative in seeking additional funding and now have two full-time investigators dedicated to just illegal alcohol investigations. In hopes of lowering the demand for alcohol at the local level, three uniformed troopers will split their time between conducting alcohol investigations and performing community policing in selected villages.
- Due to changes governing the manner in which the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is able to conduct interdiction efforts in targeting

illegal alcohol shipments to rural Alaska, the seizure of alcohol shipments to western villages through the postal facilities has dropped significantly.

- Some communities in Southeast Alaska have developed a thirst for methamphetamine. This is being evaluated and resources will be allocated to the enforcement effort as soon they become available.
- During calendar year 2001, SDEU took an aggressive role in requesting and coordinating training in order to limit the influx of clandestine laboratories that was rapidly becoming a problem in year 2000. It seems that the effort has been successful, at least for now. The number of reported and identified labs has fallen from 50 in 2000 to 21 in 2001. When a lab is located, it receives the full attention of the drug enforcement units. This aggressive pursuit of clandestine laboratories will continue in the coming years.
- SDEU will continue to take the lead in developing efforts within communities to solicit the cooperation of local merchants in helping to identify individuals involved in the illegal production of methamphetamine. Such efforts are essential to a successful clandestine laboratory eradication program. SDEU will also continue to work with civic, school, or other groups that desire education or information on ways to prevent the spread of methamphetamine within their communities.
- SDEU will continue its efforts to suppress the increasing use of designer drugs, such as Ecstasy, at events like raves and festivals.
- Marijuana production is a major drug enforcement issue in many locations. In the Mat-Su region, it is the most commonly detected illegal drug related activity. The number of people involved seems to grow each year. It is believed among the illegal producers of marijuana that the potential financial gain far out weighs the potential

penalties that they may be subjected to if discovered and convicted.

- The Alaska State Troopers will continue to work with DEA diversion investigators to identify and investigate the illegal distribution of prescription drugs. This is a rising problem that has historically received little attention.
- As evidenced by the research referenced early in this report, the number of persons under the influence of some type of controlled substance when arrested is a clear indication that a strong connection can be made between the use of illegal substances and other crimes. It is especially noteworthy that in some categories, females are just as likely to be under the influence of a controlled substance as are males.



Meth Lab Team executing search warrant on suspected lab located in parked boat

Summary

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

The Alaska State Troopers, Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit is committed to working with any interested agency in the fight against substance abuse throughout the state using innovative concepts to deal with the illegal sale and distribution of 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 majority of information and all of the photos presented in this report were supplied by the Alaska State Troopers Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit. 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.

The 2001 Annual Drug Report is a publication of the Alaska State Troopers Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit. It was created to 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 2001.