

# Alaska State Troopers Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement



2008 Annual Drug Report



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## Table of Contents

Introduction ..... 3

Our Mission ..... 3

Staffing and Support ..... 4

Nature of Alaska’s Drug Problem..... 5

Drugs of Choice ..... 6

    Alcohol ..... 7

    Cocaine ..... 8

    Marijuana ..... 9

    Methamphetamine ..... 10

    Prescription Drugs..... 12

ABADE Unit Overview ..... 13

    Alaska Interdiction Task Force ..... 14

    Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team ..... 15

    Major Offender Unit..... 17

    Mat-Su Drug Enforcement Team ..... 18

    South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team ..... 19

    Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs..... 20

    Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team ..... 22

    Canine Unit ..... 24

DEA Anchorage Narrative & Statistics ..... 25

Anchorage Police Department ..... 26

Juneau Police Department..... 28

Unalaska Police Department ..... 29

Valdez Police Department ..... 30

Emerging Trends in 2008..... 31

    Pacific Region Trends ..... 31

    Alaska Trends ..... 33

Summary..... 35



## 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 including as much information from all agencies involved in drug enforcement in Alaska is vital when analyzing the needs of the state in the arena of drug enforcement. However, it is important to note that the numbers alone should not be the sole source from which to make a complete assessment of the true drug situation in Alaska. To get the truest picture of the drug situation within Alaska we have attempted to take into account the anecdotal information gathered from conversations with those investigators on the frontlines of Alaska's war and drugs.

## 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

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. Using a combination of federal and state funding, ABADE helps to fund a number of multi-jurisdictional forces around the state. 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 eight (8) investigative teams throughout the state. These teams are broken down by region as follows:

Alaska Interdiction Task Force (DEA sponsored)

Anchorage Enforcement Group (DEA sponsored)

Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team

Major Offender Unit

Mat-Su Drug Narcotics Enforcement Team

South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team

Southeast Cities Against Drugs Task Force

Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team

The Alaska National Guard Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP) provides additional personnel 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 CDSP personnel support. 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 US Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATF) and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). ABADE also works closely with other law enforcement agencies on a state and local level.



## Nature of Alaska's Drug and Alcohol 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 and is clearly shown through statistics drawn from the Alaska State Trooper case management system. Of all cases initiated by the Alaska State Troopers in 2008, 45% involved drugs and/or alcohol.

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 from illegal drug use.
- Shield America's air, land and sea frontiers from the drug threat.
- Disrupt foreign and domestic drug sources of supply.



## 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 2008, law enforcement officials continue to see methamphetamine use and manufacturing as a significant problem. However, perhaps just as significant is the abuse and sales of prescription drugs and the resurgence of the abuse of heroin in the urban areas. Alcohol and marijuana continue to be the overwhelming drugs of choice for Western Alaska.



## **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, 108 communities have voted in favor of local option statutes prohibiting the sale, importation, and/or possession of all 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 US Postal Service, local air carriers, private aircraft, boat, snow machines and express mailing services. Bootlegging alcohol of all types 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. In 2008, these five ABADE investigators along with three additional investigators continued to act as cross deputized United States Postal Inspector. This program is the only one of its kind in the United States. Through this collaborative effort, for the first time ever ABADE seized more than a thousand gallons of illegal alcohol. We believe this has had a positive effect in many rural communities.

The economics of the illegal sales of alcohol is staggering. For example, 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 resold in many Alaskan villages breaks down as follows:

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Investment</b>	<b>Return *</b>
Cocaine	\$1.00	\$1.50
Marijuana	\$1.00	\$4.00
Alcohol	\$1.00	\$15.00

\* Calculated at \$150 per bottle

### **Alcohol seized by ABADE (gallons)**

<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
709	881.41	1029

### **Alcohol related charges/arrests by ABADE**

<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
312	628	517



## **Cocaine**

Cocaine continues to be a widely used and lucrative drug for sale 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.

The statistics below show powder and crack cocaine seizures reported to and seized by ABADE in Alaska during 2008. These numbers do not include seizures made by the DEA Anchorage Enforcement Group, Anchorage Police Department, Juneau Police Department, Ketchikan Police Department or Unalaska Police Department. Seizures made by the Alaska Interdiction Task Force are also included in the statistics for the Drug Enforcement Administration on page 25.

### **Cocaine seized by ABADE (kilos)**

<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
21.44	41.55	19.54

### **Cocaine related charges/arrests by ABADE**

<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
182	216	187





## ***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. However, there is also a significant market for "BC Bud" brought into Alaska from British Columbia, Canada.

ABADE teams continue to find extremely sophisticated indoor growing operations. Most commercial marijuana growing operations are found in communities along Alaska's road system. For the first time in many years the Fairbanks area led the state in identified and eradicated marijuana grows, followed by the Mat-Su Valley 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. Many grows are found during and/or after fires. Also, many lease/rental and abandoned houses are damaged by the remodeling and humidity of a grow operation.

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.

### **Marijuana seized by ABADE (pounds)**

<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
763	145.47	253.09

### **Marijuana related charges/arrests by ABADE**

<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
1,132	1,108	852

### **Marijuana grows eradicated by ABADE**

<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
103	93	72



## ***Methamphetamine***

Methamphetamine use continues to be an issue throughout the United States including Alaska. 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, have been reported to last up to 36 hours. It can be smoked, snorted, injected, or taken orally.

DEA continues to conduct training in Alaska so that federal, state and local law enforcement 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 meth labs. In order to stay compliant with OSHA regulations, clan lab trained officers are required to attend annual re-certification as well as maintain the equipment and supplies needed for eradication of clandestine methamphetamine labs.

DEA has been extremely helpful in assisting in the cost of 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.

In 2008, the number of meth labs discovered in Alaska has remained relatively low at twelve. However, the meth labs discovered continue to be present 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. Frequently children are found residing in meth lab sites and many continue to live in dangerous environments. In 2008, 25% of the meth labs identified had minors present. Loaded firearms are also frequently found at these meth labs, which increases the danger to children living in these residences.

### **Meth Labs seized by ABADE**

<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
18	11	12

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.

With the decrease in meth labs we have observed an increase in the volume of processed meth that is being imported from source cities into Alaska. Throughout Alaska there is a trend to have somewhat large amounts of methamphetamine arrive already in a processed and usable form. The same tends to be true for coastal commercial fishery related communities.



**Meth seized by ABADE (grams)**

2006	2007	2008
7,971.06	3,952.30	3,849.63

**Meth related charges/arrests by ABADE**

2006	2007	2008
117	144	138

For information and ideas regarding the response towards the meth epidemic in parts of the United States, go to [www.montanameth.org](http://www.montanameth.org), [www.mfiles.org](http://www.mfiles.org).



## ***Prescription Drugs***

The sale and abuse of prescription drugs such as Oxycontin/Oxycodone, Methadone, and Hydrocodone continued to be an issue in 2008. Throughout the state we have seen a significant increase in the illegal prescription drug trade. When compared to the number of illegal prescription drugs seized in 2005, ABADE has witnessed a seven fold increase in 2008. These drugs are sought for their pharmaceutical purity and ability to alter the central nervous system. 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 these communities. 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 drugs facilitate their addiction by doctor shopping, pharmacy shopping, forgery, and purchasing the drugs via the Internet. Law enforcement is especially concerned for the welfare of particularly vulnerable populations such as the elderly and those with severe long-term illnesses such as cancer.

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, by applying tried and true narcotics investigation techniques, and when ever prudent partnering with the DEA to charge these crimes in the federal system.

### **Hydrocodone seized by ABADE (dosage units)**

<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
521	432	534

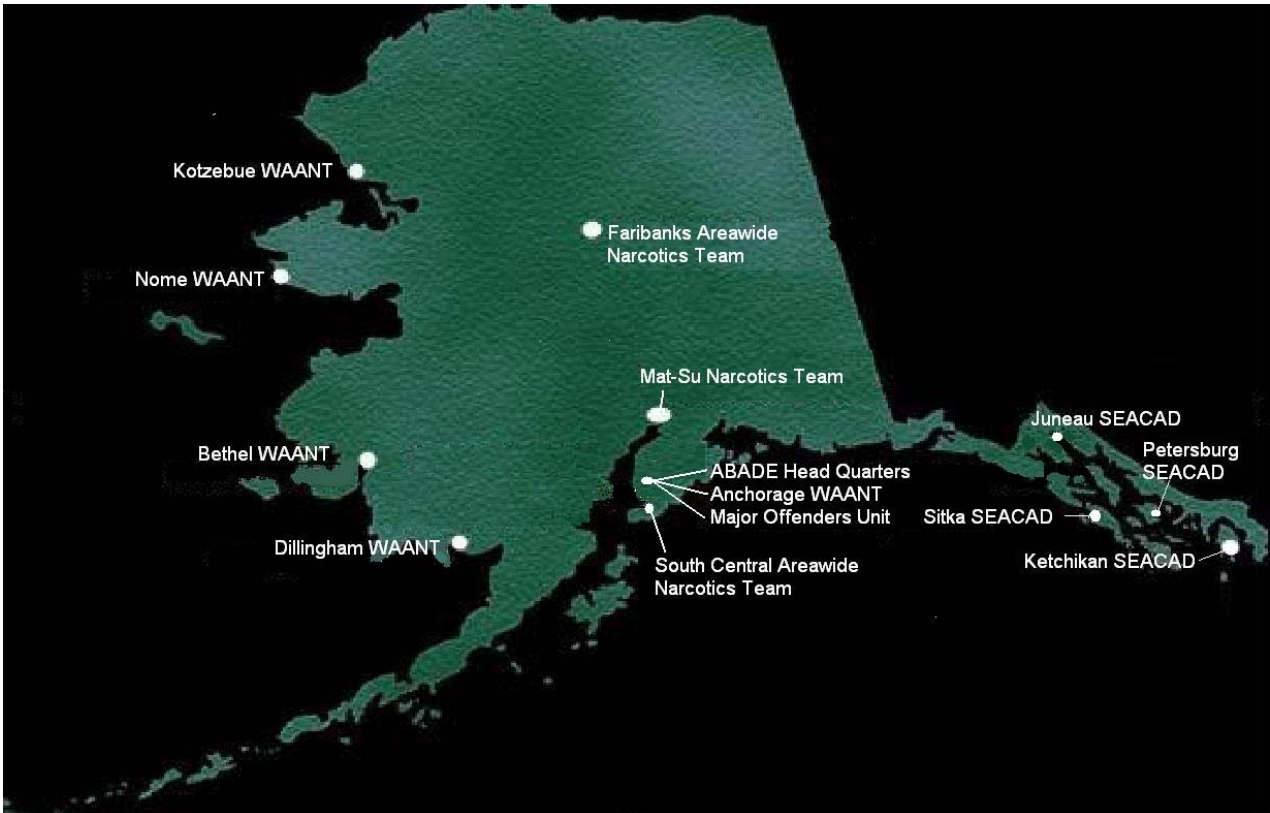
### **Oxycontin/Oxycodone seized by ABADE (dosage units)**

<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
1,589	2,176.50	2,970.50



# Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement Overviews

The map below gives a visual overview of the seven teams and their areas of responsibility that comprise the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement. Each team works hand-in-hand with local law enforcement agencies and, in most locations, also with federal law enforcement agencies.



## ***Alaska Interdiction Task Force***

The Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF) is a federally funded task force sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The Alaska State Troopers turned over supervision of the task force to the DEA in July 2002. Prior to that the unit was known as the Airport Interdiction Task Force and the unit's primary mission was focused solely on airport interdiction efforts. The AITF is now 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. The 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.

The AITF team members consist of a DEA group supervisor, two DEA agents, two Alaska State Trooper investigator / K9 handlers, one Anchorage Police officer, one Airport Public Safety officer, one Immigration & Customs Enforcement agent, one member of the National Guard Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP) and an AST criminal justice technician.



## ***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, a Fairbanks Police Department officer, a North Pole Police Department officer, an AST criminal justice technician and a member of the National Guard Counter Drug Support Program. In 2008 an Alaska State Trooper Narcotics detection canine was added to the team.

The ABADE Fairbanks team works closely with Chief Dan Hoffman of the Fairbanks Police Department and Chief Lindhag of the North Pole Police Department as well as the uniformed patrol section of the Alaska State Troopers to educate, train, and support their efforts related to drug enforcement. The Fairbanks team also works closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agents assigned to the Fairbanks area. DEA and ATF complement the teams' investigative ability by providing 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.

During 2008, there was a complete turn over in personnel within the Fairbanks unit and in spite of the tremendous learning curve the team faced they continued to be one of ABADE's most productive units.

In 2008, the ABADE Fairbanks Unit initiated 874 cases, which is 165 more cases than in 2007, and well over twice as many cases than were initiated in 2005. During 2008, the ABADE Fairbanks team forwarded 364 charges on 151 defendants to either the federal or state courts for prosecution.

The trafficking and cultivation of marijuana continues to be largest issue the ABADE Fairbanks team faced in 2008. This is evident by the fact that there were more marijuana grows eradicated in and around Fairbanks this year than in any other location in the state.

All though the vast majority of cases in 2008 continued to address the trafficking of marijuana, the Fairbanks team recognized and aggressively tackled a significant increase in alcohol exportation cases to local option communities in rural Alaska. This doubled their previous years number of charges forwarded to the District Attorney's office.

In 2008, working closely with the Fairbanks Police Department traffic team, the Fairbanks team began identifying areas known for or frequented by the illegal drug trafficking culture. Once an area is identified both the uniformed and undercover officers saturate the area with aggressive focused law enforcement efforts. These efforts have been greatly



successful in disrupting the drug trade in those areas. The effort has also been helpful in identifying a number of lower level drug suppliers in the community that have in some cases lead to prosecution.

In total for 2008, the ABADE Fairbanks team seized a total of \$4,471,151 worth of illegal narcotics in and around the Fairbanks area. In addition, they also seized \$87,360 worth of alcohol destined for local option communities in Western Alaska.





## ***Major Offenders Unit***

The Major Offenders Unit (MOU) focuses on major alcohol and drug distributors statewide. The team has been historically comprised of one AST sergeant, four AST investigators, an AST criminal justice technician, and a full-time prosecutor from the Department of Law. The unit is also supported by a member of the Alaska National Guard Counter Drug Support Program.

The MOU works independently and supports other ABADE units as well as local departments and federal agencies as needed. Nearly every investigator has been clan lab certified and is called upon to respond to various locations to assist in dismantling clandestine methamphetamine labs

Co-located with the Alaska Interdiction Task Force in Anchorage, the Major Offenders Unit shares a close working relationship with DEA as well as IRS, BATF, ICE, and the FBI.

In 2008, the team was faced with some significant manning issues. One of the investigators was activated to the National Guard and will remain so until August of 2009. Another member was reassigned to the DEA sponsored task force, the Alaska Enforcement Group. In addition, the full-time prosecutor was also reassigned to other duties and was only recently replaced. These personnel changes left the unit with only two investigators and a sergeant. Despite the personnel issues the team remained effective, serving as a force multiplier all over the state utilizing their particular skill set and training to accomplish what otherwise would not have been possible.

One such incident mission was the planning and executing of an undercover operation that would lead to the capture and arrest of a fugitive running from an outstanding homicide warrant. This individual had a history of violence, was a former member of the Hells Angel motorcycle gang, a convicted violent felon, and a person known for carrying weapons. The unit utilized their resources, and in spite of the suspect's attempts to alter his appearance, identified the location of the individual in a remote location near Chitna, Alaska. Disguised as workmen, the team along with members of the Mat-Su Drug Enforcement team, spent several days observing and plotting for the safest opportunity to take this dangerous suspect into custody. Recognizing their opportunity in late March, the team caught the suspect by surprise when they stopped him in a remote location outside of Chitna. He was taken into custody without incident. Until this point the suspect had been on the run for several months and would not have likely been apprehended if not for the clandestine skills of the Major Offenders Unit.



## ***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 Palmer Police Department officer, one Wasilla Police Department officer, an AST criminal justice technician and one member of the National Guard Counter Drug Support Program. The ABADE Mat-Su team works closely with Chief Russ Boatright of the Palmer Police Department and Chief Angella Long of the Wasilla Police Department as well as 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 clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. 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.

In 2008, the Mat-Su team focused efforts on a number of long-term complex investigations. They successfully purchased numerous drugs from local dealers to include cocaine, heroin, and prescription pills. The Mat-Su team initiated 593 drug related cases in 2008 and filed 359 drug related criminal charges with the court system.

Over the last few years the Mat-Su team has made a concerted effort to reduce the meth labs in the Mat-Su Valley. In 2008, some progress to that end was made by reducing the methamphetamine labs to only four and one methcathinone lab, the first of its kind found in Alaska.

In 2008, as in many other urban communities throughout Alaska, heroin has proven to be one of the most prevalent drugs in the Mat-Su Valley. In 2008, 285.28 grams of heroin, more than \$100,000 worth, was seized by the Mat-Su Drug Enforcement Team. When compared to the 16.3 grams seized in 2005, this clearly illustrates the resurgence of heroin into today's urban drug culture.

In addition to the increase in the heroin trade the Mat-Su Valley continues to see numerous marijuana grows, ranging from relatively small grows of twenty plants to grows containing over five hundred plants. Second to only the Fairbanks area in the number of grows eradicated this year, these two areas are responsible for well over 75% of the grows eradicated statewide.

In total for 2008, the Mat-Su Drug team seized more than \$5,372,000 worth of illegal narcotics from in and around the Mat-Su Valley.



## ***South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team***

Prior to 2005, this unit was part of the Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT) and initially consisted of one AST investigator and one officer from the Soldotna Police Department. With the assignment of a new AST sergeant position in April of 2005, this unit now operates as a separate unit within ABADE that consists of one AST sergeant, one AST investigator, one Soldotna Police Department Officer supplied by Chief John Lucking, one part time Kenai Police Department Officer supplied by Chief Gus Sandahl and one AST criminal justice technician. Communities within its area of responsibility are located on the Kenai Peninsula (Homer, Soldotna, Kenai, and Seward), Kodiak Island as well as Girdwood and Whittier. The unit is dedicated to work closely with the local police departments in these communities and the uniformed patrol units of the Alaska State Troopers to educate and support their efforts in drug enforcement. The unit has also provided drug education to other agencies such as Juvenile Services and the Office of Children Services regarding drug endangered children as well as drug and methamphetamine clandestine lab identification.

This unit's enforcement duties range from street level drug sales to interdiction of methamphetamine manufacturing organizations. This year the unit has had undercover operations in Seward, Homer, Kenai, Soldotna, Kasilof and Girdwood. Investigations vary from commercial marijuana grows, the manufacture of methamphetamine to the distribution of marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine and prescription drugs.

In 2008, as in other parts of the state, the South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team had to deal with significant personnel shortages. In mid 2008, the AST investigator was reassigned to patrol unit in Soldotna, the position remains vacant. Around the same time the Kenai Police Department officer was also reassigned to patrol. This position remains vacant due to Kenai Police Department manning shortages. As of December 2008, the Soldotna Police Department investigator position is also vacant. This left the AST sergeant as the only full time investigator. In an attempt to provide support to the unit, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers temporarily assigned an investigator. However, this investigator will return to his responsibilities as an Alaska Wildlife Trooper in May 2009.

Despite shortage of personnel the SCAN team did not see significant reductions in their effectiveness. They initiated 579 cases, resulting in 424 criminal charges being forwarded to the District Attorney's office. The vast number of their investigations addressed the trafficking of marijuana with methamphetamine and cocaine running second and third respectively.

The most noteworthy trend on the Kenai Peninsula however is the tremendous increase in the illegal use of prescription medication. Four times as many prescription medications were seized in 2008 compared to what was seized in 2007. Oxycontin and Oxycodone seizures alone doubled in 2008.

In 2008, the SCAN team seized a total of \$1,088,607 worth of illegal narcotics in and around the Kenai Peninsula.



## ***Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs***

Formerly known as the Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team (SEANET), the group changed its name to the Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs (SEACAD) to simplify some long existing misconceptions about the task force arrangement in Southeast Alaska. In 2008, both Juneau Police Department and Ketchikan Police Department formed their own narcotics units that work independent of the SEACAD task force. Although both departments remain members of SEACAD board, each department is responsible for their particular unit's activity.

Even with the additional police department narcotics units, the primary responsibility for drug enforcement in Southeast Alaska remains with the SEACAD task force. This team is comprised of four offices. One is located in Juneau and consists of one AST sergeant, and a criminal justice technician. The office in Ketchikan consists of one AST investigator. The office in Sitka houses one Sitka Police Department officer and the office in Petersburg has one Petersburg Police Department officer. The AST sergeant oversees and works hand-in-hand with the Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs (SEACAD) project that is headed by Chief Sheldon Schmitt of the Sitka Police Department. Chief Schmitt along with Chief Dale Stone of the Petersburg Police Department provides narcotics officers to work alongside the AST investigators to focus on street level dealers, major offenders, and manufacturing. Some of the investigative methods used by this team include interdiction activities and undercover operations.

In early 2008, personnel moves left SEACAD without an AST sergeant. The Deputy Commander of ABADE volunteered to take over the operational control of the unit until an AST sergeant could be identified. In July of 2008, an AST sergeant was named and began working out of the Juneau office. Faced with the reduction of personnel by Juneau and Ketchikan Police Departments decision to remove their investigators from the task force and form their own units, and the replacement of the two remaining municipal officers with new untrained narcotics officers, the sergeant has been able to establish himself and the new team as the primary enforcement agency in Southeast Alaska.

The newly formed SEACAD team has worked diligently to establish cooperating working relationships with federal, state and local authorities. Since August, SEACAD has participated in three multiagency operations. The first operation occurred in August which involved two SEACAD members assisting Ketchikan Police Department, DEA and US Marshalls with locating and arresting individuals on charges of selling heroin in the Ketchikan area. The second operation involved two SEACAD members assisting US Fish and Wildlife, NOAA and Alaska Wildlife Troopers with investigating suspected poachers who were also involved in using and selling drugs in Ketchikan and on Prince of Wales Island. The third operation occurred in November where SEACAD members participated in a joint operation to conduct parcel interdictions at FedEx, UPS and the US Post Office in Juneau. This joint operation consisted of Juneau Police Department, Valdez Police Department, the US Postal Inspectors and the Alaska Interdiction Task Force.

They have also worked on a number of large marijuana seizure cases. The most notable of these being a seizure in October where over five pounds of marijuana valued at over \$90,000 and assets over \$25,000 were seized from a residence in Sitka in October. Sitka Police Department played a significant role in the investigation and seizure of the



marijuana. A case in November involved a seizure of over 2 ounces of heroin and over 2 ounces of cocaine from an individual traveling through the Ketchikan Airport. This seizure had a street value of over \$24,000. Also in November, while conducting parcel interdiction in Juneau, 95 Oxycontin tablets bound for Ketchikan with a street value estimated at \$17,000.

Though cocaine, heroin and marijuana continue to be sold throughout Southeast Alaska, Oxycontin use and sales are on the rise. Oxycontin tablets (80mg) are sold for between \$120 and \$160 a tablet, which is a significant increase over the street value of the same tablet in Anchorage or the Mat-Su Valley.

In spite of the turn over and reduction of personnel, the SEACAD task force was responsible for seizing \$865,834 worth of illegal narcotics in and around Southeast Alaska.



## ***Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team***

This team's primary area of responsibility is Alaska's western region, to include Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Dillingham and the Aleutian Chain. For most of 2008, the WAANT consisted of one AST sergeant and two AST investigators in Anchorage, three AST investigators in Bethel, one AST investigator in Nome, one AST investigator in Dillingham, one AST investigator in Kotzebue and local police officers in Kotzebue and Dillingham. In addition, the unit also has criminal justice technicians in Anchorage and Bethel.

One of the positions in Bethel and one in Anchorage are dedicated specifically to alcohol interdiction and investigations. During all of 2008, a narcotics detection K9 was primarily stationed in Bethel, but worked in many of the hub communities in Western Alaska.

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

As in previous years, the two most common methods of importing alcohol and illegal drugs into rural communities are via the US 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 US mail, the US Postal Inspectors Service conducts interdictions with direct support from AST and CDSP. These efforts consist of US Postal Inspectors assisted by AST investigators and CDSP personnel monitoring packages en route to outlying villages and communities through postal facilities in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Bethel. 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 does this support assist in the seizure, it also helps successfully investigate and prosecute those involved in alcohol bootlegging and drug trafficking.

The cross deputation of AST WAANT team members by the Postal Inspectors Office occurred in 2007 and continued in 2008. This cross deputation has given WAANT investigators additional authority to conduct investigations involving postal parcels. In 2008, WAANT investigators, working closely with the US Postal Inspectors, intercepted a shipment of ten pounds of marijuana headed to Barrow. The shipper was prosecuted and found guilty in federal court and is awaiting sentencing. Through this program of cross-deputation, alcohol seizures with a street value of \$90,165 and illicit drugs with a street value of \$925,640, were interdicted in 2008 that might otherwise have been missed.

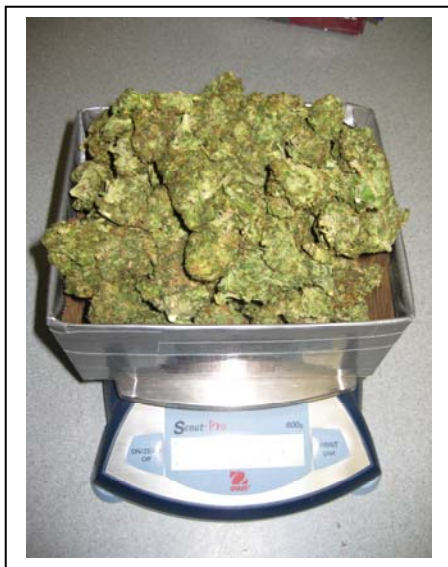


Alcohol and marijuana continue to be the overwhelming drugs of choice for Western Alaska. WAANT continues to see mostly opportunistic sellers of alcohol with no real organizational structure to target. A growing problem related to bootlegging is the solicitation by some in local option communities to individuals in Anchorage to purchase and ship alcohol. Deposits placed into individuals' bank accounts as payment have become the norm for these transactions, making it increasingly difficult to investigate these cases. In spite of the evolving bootlegging trade, for this first time ever ABADE seized more than a thousand gallons of bootlegged alcohol. The 1029 gallons seized is equivalent to 5194 - 750 ml bottles or approximately 205 five-gallon buckets.

In November 2008, WAANT investigators served a search warrant on a residence in Selawick, resulting in an initial seizure of 19.5 gallons of homebrew alcohol, 365 pounds of sugar 20 pounds of yeast and other items associated with the production of alcohol. A return to the same address by WAANT investigators resulted in an additional seizure of 11 gallons of homebrew alcohol. Both occupants of the residence were arrested.

Also in November, WAANT investigators conducted an investigation in the village of Togiak. This investigation resulted in the seizure of 48 bottles of distilled spirits with the bottles ranging in size from 200ml to 1.25 liters. Also seized, was a keg of beer and several bottles of wine. The male suspect was arrested on felony alcohol sales charges and additionally charged in federal court for the illegal possession of walrus ivory.

In total for 2008, WAANT seized a total of \$1,528,621 worth of illegal narcotics destined for Western Alaska. In addition, they also seized \$422,593 worth of alcohol destined for local option communities in Western Alaska.



Village of Kiana



## ***Alaska State Trooper Canine Unit***

The Alaska State Troopers Canine Unit currently consists of four dual-purpose canine teams and four single-purpose drug detection canine teams. The dual-purpose canine teams are assigned in Anchor Point, Fairbanks, Klawock and the Mat-Su Valley. The teams function as patrol troopers first and as canine teams secondarily. The dual-purpose canine teams works as both a patrol canine team as well as a drug detection canine teams. As a dual-purpose canine team they are proficient in man tracking, suspect apprehension, building searches, area searches, and drug detection searches. The single-purpose canine teams work solely as a drug detection canine team. The drug detection canines are stationed out of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Bethel, but will respond to any location in the state.

In addition to training Alaska State Trooper's canines, in 2008 the unit supported and trained canine teams for Fairbanks Police Department, Fairbanks Airport Police and Fire Department, North Slope Borough Public Safety, Kenai Police Department, Kodiak Police Department, Valdez Police Department, Sitka Police Department, and the National Guard Counter Drug Support Program. The Alaska State Troopers offer eight days of training every quarter that is open to all police departments with canine teams wishing to attend. In addition the Alaska State Troopers Canine Unit offers and annual certifications for canine teams for both patrol canine teams as well as drug detection canine teams.

In 2008, the Alaska State Troopers Canine Unit was directly involved in 112 felony arrests, 46 misdemeanor arrests, the seizure of 685 grams of heroin, 14,512 grams of cocaine, 487 grams of methamphetamine, 37,762 grams of marijuana and \$973,371.00 cash from drug proceeds.







## DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Alaska is broken down into the Anchorage District Office (DO) and the Fairbanks Post of Duty. The Anchorage DO is broken down into the Enforcement Group (EG) and the Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF). Both Groups operate as Task Forces (TF), in that they are comprised of DEA Agents as well as officers from other departments. The EG has federally deputized TF Officers from the Anchorage Police Department (PD) while the AITF, which is housed at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, consists of federally deputized TF Officers from the Alaska State Troopers (AST), Anchorage PD, Airport Police, as well as several other federal agencies as needed. The Alaska National Guard Counter Drug Support Program supports the DEA throughout the entire state.

The DEA in Alaska is deeply involved in working with all state and local drug units to enhance and facilitate investigations of major offenders throughout Alaska. The DEA is collocated with both the Anchorage PD Drug Enforcement Unit, as well as the AST Major Offenders Unit, in DEA facilities in Anchorage.

The DEA continues to furnish training to state and local agencies. The DEA provided funding for law enforcement personnel to be trained and re-certified in clandestine laboratory investigations as well as narcotics investigations. The DEA hosted a two-week Basic Drug Enforcement School which was attended by officers from throughout the entire state as well as a leadership course for drug supervisors. The DEA also provided funding for disposal of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories and marijuana eradication operations.

The 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. During calendar year 2007, the Anchorage DEA DO was involved in cases responsible for the seizure of over \$2.8 million in drug-related assets and proceeds.

### Drug seizures by DEA

	<b>Cocaine</b> (kilos)	<b>Heroin</b> (kilos)	<b>Marijuana</b> (lbs)	<b>Meth</b> (lbs)
2006	28.91	.20	937.33	7.93
2007	54.80	1.10	135.58	10.60
2008	11	4.2	106.86	.95



# Anchorage Police Department



The following information is a summary of the illicit drugs currently having the greatest impact within the Municipality of Anchorage. It is not a complete list of all drugs that local law enforcement come in contact with, rather it is a compilation of those that are most frequently seen by drug enforcement investigators in the city of Anchorage.

Over the last two to three years, heroin has become one of the more popular abused drugs within the Municipality of Anchorage. In 2008 the trend is consistent, although slightly behind, the Lower 48, which has also experienced an increase in heroin use. In recent months APD narcotics investigators have responded to numerous heroin overdose calls, and researched current trends, based on both police reports and confidential informant information. To date, eleven citizens have died due to heroin overdoses. These numbers may be greater, as many of the deaths are reported as possible cardiac arrests, rather than a drug overdose. We are working closely with the State Medical Examiner's office to confirm cause of death and obtain toxicology from the victims. In order to accurately obtain proper documentation of heroin overdose cases, APD Dispatch is now re-classifying "medic assist" calls to "drug overdose" when the officer determines heroin is involved.

It is the purity of the heroin that is believed to be the problem with the overdoses. Tolerance levels play into the occurrence of overdoses as well, which has been proven multiple times when detectives have spoken with individuals who have overdosed, yet someone with them, taking the same amount, did not. The OD victim, more often than not, was an infrequent or returning user.

Contrary to heroin stereotypes, this drug is not a "60's drug" or one that involves only that age group (which would now be in their 60's – 70's). Some common factors we have found are:

- The users were all young, ranging in ages of 15-28
- The majority of users are Caucasian
- The users predominately consume approximately 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a gram of tar (Mexican black tar) heroin
- Most overdoses happened at either places of work, public places (bathrooms, parks) and or privately owned vehicles
- The users usually consume their drugs with a partner and purchased the drugs from another user



- All of the users were transported to Providence Hospital for treatment (Narcanon)
- Interviews conducted with users or their family members revealed the users started using Oxycontin (obtained through their parents or friends) at a young age (high school) and within weeks graduated to heroin use
- Most first time users consumed heroin by ingesting it as smoke, but within weeks started using by IV. ***They become addicted to heroin prior to or just after graduating high school.***

Most users will decline or not seek proper medical treatment; rather they will attempt to get clean on their own. They are known to self-medicate using Buprenorphine, commonly referred to as Suboxone or Subutex or Methadone, purchased on the streets illegally. Methadone is quickly becoming a drug of choice for heroin users who are unable to obtain heroin, with an increase of overdoses seen recently.

Heroin has similar effects to Oxycodone, commonly referred to as Oxycontin, and is both cheaper and easier to obtain than Oxy. To put it in perspective, one 80 mg Oxy pill sells for \$120.00 (street value); 1/10 gram of heroin, which is a single-use dose, sells for \$50.00. Many heroin users are cutting the 1/10 gram (often referred to as a 'nifty') to 1/20 gram, due to the purity.

The other drugs common within the Municipality of Anchorage are:

- Cocaine, both powder and hard (crack).
- Methamphetamine use has declined in recent years; active labs are also on the decline statewide
- Ecstasy (MDMA or Methylenedioxymethamphetamine) has remained level in both supply and demand
- Drug detectives recently seized tablets that were believed to be Ecstasy, and were determined to be BZP.
  - BZP (BENZYLPIPERAZINE) is a Schedule I controlled substance (federally)
  - It is manufactured in the form of children's vitamins, such as Bart Simpson, Transformers and Ninja Turtles.
  - BZP is alleged to be ten times stronger than MDMA
  - Benzylpiperazine was first synthesized in 1944 as a potential antiparasitic agent. It was subsequently shown to possess antidepressant activity and amphetamine-like effects
  - *Currently there is NO state law that regulates the sale, use or distribution of BZP.*
- Prescription drug abuse – Oxycontin, Methadone, and Xanax – is on the rise, after a downward trend several years ago.



# Juneau Police Department Metro Drug Unit



The Juneau Police Department Metro Drug Unit has two officers devoted full-time to drug investigations in Juneau. Metro conducts controlled buys and participates with other federal and state agencies to combat illicit drug activity in Juneau. Juneau continues to have significant Oxycontin and cocaine importation via smuggling in parcels and air travelers. In Juneau, Oxycontin commands a high price averaging \$160 per 80mg pill. This creates the potential for significant profit for those successfully smuggling from the Lower 48. The methamphetamine market appears to have remained flat, with reports of manufacture and distribution comparably low with the availability of Oxycontin. Several cases have tied property crimes and violent crimes to drug activity in the community. The Juneau Police Department will continue to devote resources to the fight against illegal drug activity.

## May - December 2008

	Cocaine (grams)	Heroin (grams)	Oxycontin (DU)	Methadone (DU)	Marijuana (grams)	Methamphetamine (grams)
<b>Metro</b>	438.81	2	35	125	379.5	
<b>Patrol</b>	5.6	3.13	46	18	213.77	0.5



# Unalaska Department of Public Safety



During the calendar year of 2008, the Unalaska Department of Public Safety fielded approximately 39 service calls regarding illegal drugs. The service calls range from people abusing marijuana to a clandestine methamphetamine lab being constructed.

Due to the remoteness of Unalaska the illegal drugs must be shipped to the Island. This methods employed include; shipping smaller amounts through the US Mail, on cargo vessels hidden in normal cargo such as grocery orders, transporting on fishing vessels and shipping in on local air carriers from Anchorage.

While cocaine continues to be the primary illegal drug of choice within the fishing community, officers have noted an increase in the abuse of prescription medications and marijuana with the local residents. Methamphetamine and heroin continue to be problems, but to a lesser degree than cocaine.

The Department struggles with conducting undercover investigations partly because of the difficulty in enlisting an informant within the community. Officers have filed charges this year related to the possession and or distribution of illegal drugs that include heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana and prescription medications.



# Valdez Police Department



Valdez police officers work closely with the ABADE Mat-Su Drug Enforcement Team enforcing drug laws within the community of Valdez. The Valdez Police Department has 11 sworn officers that include one investigator and a uniformed officer with a drug enforcement trained canine. Over the past several years and with the assistance of the Mat-Su team, the Valdez Police Department has put together several large felony drug investigations that netted seizures of cash, vehicles and drugs.

A recent trend for the community of Valdez is the dramatic increase in the distribution of diverted pharmaceuticals.

Also, of note this year in Valdez was the discovery of the first methcathinone lab in the state of Alaska.

## **2008 Overview**

The Valdez Police Department had nine cases where there was seizure of marijuana and that resulted in criminal charges. Two of these cases involved marijuana grows.

There were five cases involving seizures of diverted pharmaceuticals that resulted in criminal charges. These pharmaceuticals included Methadone, Clonazepam, Morphine Sulfate, Adderall, Dronabinol, and Xanax.



## Emerging Trends in 2008

It is the intent of this section to familiarize the reader with some current and anticipated trends within Alaska. To do so it is important to look at the current Pacific Region picture as Alaska tends to follow suit in the following years. The National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) breaks the nation down into nine regions. The Pacific Region is made up of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam and Northern and Central California.

### PACIFIC REGION TRENDS

#### **Methamphetamine**

According to the NDIC's 2008 Drug Threat Assessment, methamphetamine is the greatest threat to the Pacific Region. They report that although the domestic production of methamphetamine has declined over the region in large part due to the regulation of precursor chemicals use in its production; it is widely available throughout the region. It is further reported that the majority of methamphetamine within the region is supplied by Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) entering the country through the ports of entry and along the United States - Mexico borders.

#### **Powder Cocaine**

The NDIC identifies powder cocaine as a significant issue in the Pacific Region as well. Also supplied to the United States by Mexican DTOs, the DTOs supply independent dealers and street gangs with the powder cocaine that they often times process into crack cocaine prior to distribution.

#### **Marijuana**

Marijuana is the most widely available and commonly abused drug throughout the Pacific Region. The Pacific Region leads the country in marijuana cultivation.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

There are two areas of particular interest that appear to be coming up on the national front. The first of these is the use of THC extraction techniques to utilize more of the marijuana plant to remove more THC from the by product or "shake". This idea is not a new one, but is gaining in prominence.

The second area of interest is in the abuse of Salvia Divinorum. The use of Salvia, as it is often called, gets its origin in the religious ceremonies of the Mazateca Indians and in recent years the abuse of this plant has begun to gain in popularity in the United States.

#### **THC Extraction**

THC extraction seems to be growing in popularity for a number of reasons. It is perceived as being "more healthy" than smoking marijuana and the claim is that there is no cancer



causing carcinogens. There is also very little smell unlike smoking marijuana. Because there is no harsh smoke, there is no irritation to the lungs, and no tar to stain teeth and fingers. But what may be the most attractive reason to those that use the drug is the fact that up to five times more THC enters the bloodstream and the cost associated with that high is much cheaper. For those that grow marijuana it allows them to get more THC out of the marijuana leaves or "shake". Since the marijuana bud holds most of the THC it is usually sold as is. With THC extraction the leaves that hold a relatively lesser amount of THC can be utilized.

Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the main active compound found in the marijuana plant. THC extraction simply refers to the process used to extract the compound from the rest of the plant. Usually the process includes the use of a solvent passing through the marijuana plant, stripping it of the THC and being collected in a glass dish. When the solvent has later evaporated it leaves behind a sticky dark substance known as hashish oil which can contain up to 70% THC. This is a much higher concentration of THC than when it is in plant form. Of samples tested from 1995 to present the average THC content in marijuana cultivated in Alaska is 10.72%. The national average of THC content in marijuana from 1995 to 2006 is 6.70%<sup>1</sup>. The level of THC in marijuana is largely dependent on the quality of the plant strain and the quality of cultivation.

Once the hashish oil is collected, which requires scrapping it from the bottom of the glassware with a razor blade, it can be ingested in a number of ways, from placing it on a cigarette, inhaling the vapors after heating it up, or placing it in food. The health consequence associated with ingesting hashish oil is elevated since the THC levels are so much higher, not to mention the added consequences or ingesting the solvents used in the THC extraction process.

The possession or manufacture of hashish is prohibited in Alaska. It is a class C felony to be in possession of three or more grams of hashish; any lesser amount would be charged as an A misdemeanor. The manufacture of hashish is a class B felony which carries a penalty of up to 10 years in jail and/or up to \$100,000 fine.

### **Salvia Divinorum and Salvinorin A**

The DEA Office of Diversion Control describes *Salvia divinorum* as a perennial herb in the mint family, only found naturally in the Sierra Mazateca region of Oaxaca, Mexico, the plant, can grow to over three feet in height, has large green leaves, hollow square stems and white flowers with purple calyces.<sup>2</sup> Although it has only been found naturally growing in Oaxaca, Mexico, the plant can also be grown successfully outside of this region. Sought for its hallucinogenic properties, the plant found its origins of use with the shamans of Mazateca Indians in certain religious ceremonies.

According to a National Survey on Drug Use and Health Report published by SAMHSA in February 2008, it is estimated that 1.8 million persons aged 12 or older have used *Salvia divinorum* in their lifetime. Approximately 750,000 did so in the past year. Use was more common among young adults (18-25 years old) as opposed to older adults (>26 years of

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs25/25921/marijuan.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.dea.gov/diversion.usdoj.gov/drugs\\_concern/salvia\\_d/salvia\\_d.htm](http://www.dea.gov/diversion.usdoj.gov/drugs_concern/salvia_d/salvia_d.htm)





age). Young adults were 3 times more likely than youths aged 12 to 17 to have used *Salvia divinorum* in the past year. Use is more common in males than females.<sup>3</sup>

The active element of *Salvia divinorum* has been identified as salvinorin A. Ingested much like marijuana, the users perception of reality is distorted. The Center for Substance Abuse Research reports that during intense hallucinations, the user may have sensations of traveling through time and space, of floating or flying; sensations of twisting and spinning, heaviness or lightness of the body, and "soreness". Less intense effects (that occur only when the eyes are closed) include visual hallucinations of various patterns and shapes. The hallucinogenic visions produced by this herb terminate when interrupted by noise or light.<sup>4</sup>

Currently, neither *Salvia divinorum* nor any of its components, including salvinorin A, are controlled under the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA). However, a number of states have placed controls on *Salvia divinorum* and/or salvinorin A. As of November 2008, thirteen states have enacted legislation placing regulatory controls on *Salvia divinorum* and/or salvinorin A. Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Virginia have placed *Salvia divinorum* and/or salvinorin A into Schedule I of state law. California, Louisiana, Maine and Tennessee enacted other forms of legislation restricting the distribution of the plant. States in which legislative bills proposing regulatory controls died are Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, South Carolina, and Utah. Legislative bills proposing regulatory controls are pending in Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin.

## ALASKA TRENDS

### **Methamphetamine**

In July of 2006, pseudoephedrine regulations were adopted by the State of Alaska. This armed law enforcement professionals with a valuable tool to combat meth labs in the state. The table below shows the number of reported meth labs seized by ABADE.

**Reported Meth Labs Seized in Alaska**

<b>2004</b>	<b>2005*</b>	<b>2006*</b>	<b>2007*</b>	<b>2008*</b>
80	42	18	11	12

\* Statistic represents labs seized by ABADE only.

As previously mentioned in this publication, methamphetamine abuse remains a significant issue within Alaska. Although the number of labs has remained relatively low, it appears that the use and abuse of the drug lingers.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k8/hallucinogens/hallucinogens.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/drugs/salvia.asp>



## Heroin

The number of heroin seizures in our urban areas continues to grow. In 2008, 4970.18 grams of heroin was seized statewide. ABADE recognizes that there has been an increase in the availability of heroin throughout state but particularly in the urban areas. The table below shows the increase in the heroin seized by ABADE investigators from 2005 to 2008.

### Reported Heroin Seized in Alaska

(reported in grams)

2005	2006	2007	2008
18.80	646.57	1,129.70	4,970.18

## Prescription Medication

More and more, pharmaceutical medications are being abused and sold. ABADE has witnessed significant increases in the number of pills seized in 2008. It is believed that the largest portion of these medications is being obtained through illegal means. The table below shows the dramatic increase in prescription drug seizures since 2005.

### Prescription drugs seized by ABADE (dosage units)

2005	2006	2007	2008
1,529.50	1,179	1,862.50	3,054.50



# 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.

We also recognize that the ill-gotten gains of drug traffickers and alcohol smugglers promote an increase in lawlessness of all types. This lawlessness is not isolated to the use of controlled substances. It includes, but is not limited to, burglary, theft, domestic violence assaults and murder. By the eradication of such activity and the arrest of those who would profit off the misery of others, we will make Alaska and the communities therein a much better and safer place to live and raise a family. The Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement, along with our partner agencies throughout the state, diligently dedicate our resources and energy toward that goal.

The 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.



## Resources:

**Office of National Drug Control Policy** <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/index.html>

**Office of Diversion Control** <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/index.html>

**National Drug Intelligence Center** <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/>

**Center for Substance Abuse Research** <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/>

**U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services** <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nhsda.htm>

*The 2008 Annual Drug Report is authored by 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. It is intended to inform Alaskans about the type and frequency of drug related crime reported in Alaska during 2008.*

*The Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement supplied the majority of information and photos presented in this report. Statistical data was provided by the Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement and the Drug Enforcement Administration.*

