

Alaska State Troopers Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement



2005 Annual Drug Report



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Introduction

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

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

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

Our Mission

Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement

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

ABADE's mission is to:

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



Staffing and Support

Using a combination of federal and state funding, ABADE consisted of twenty-seven (27) State Trooper investigators and twelve (12) civilian clerical personnel for 2005. ABADE recognizes that because of Alaska's geographical vastness and ethnic diversity, no single law enforcement agency is capable of handling the drug and alcohol problems alone. ABADE encourages cooperative efforts between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and has taken a leadership role in fostering and developing many of these cooperative arrangements through multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency efforts. The ABADE headquarters office in Anchorage supports seven (7) investigative teams throughout the state. These teams are broken down by region as follows:

Alaska Interdiction Task Force (DEA sponsored)

Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team

Major Offender Unit

Mat-Su Drug Narcotics Enforcement Team

South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team

Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team

Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team

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

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



Nature of the Drug Problem

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Drugs of Choice

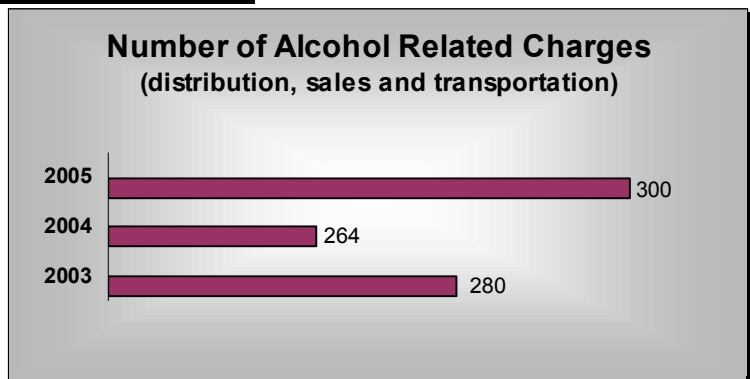
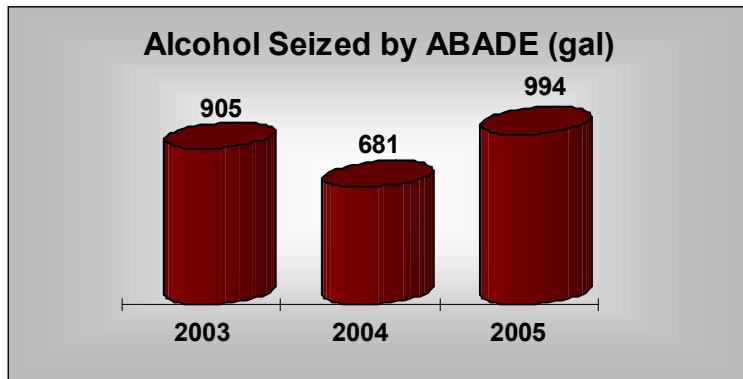
Alcohol, cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and pharmaceuticals have been identified as the primary substances of abuse and are the focus of most law enforcement efforts. During 2005, law enforcement officials continue to see methamphetamine use and manufacturing as a significant problem. Another area of significant interest is the abuse of prescription drugs, many of which are obtained with fraudulent prescriptions. Other drugs such as LSD, Ecstasy and designer and/or “club” drugs were also cause for concern.



Alcohol

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

The Alaska State Troopers applied for and received federal funding for five investigators whose function is focused on alcohol issues. During 2005, all five investigators dedicated 100% of their time to alcohol investigations. This resulted in alcohol seizures for 2005 reaching an all time high of 994 gallons. We believe this has had a positive effect in many rural communities. Our beliefs were confirmed in the village of Quinigahak. After serving a search warrant and making a number of seizures, the residence of this Western Alaska village commented to investigators that assaults of any kind were non-existent for almost three weeks. Overall in 2005, the numbers of Homicides, Assaults, Sexual Assaults, Suicides and Accidental Deaths have decreased in every category. It is also believed that there is a correlation between the record alcohol seizures for 2005, and the decrease in the number of the above mentioned crimes.



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

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

* Calculated at \$150 per bottle



Cocaine

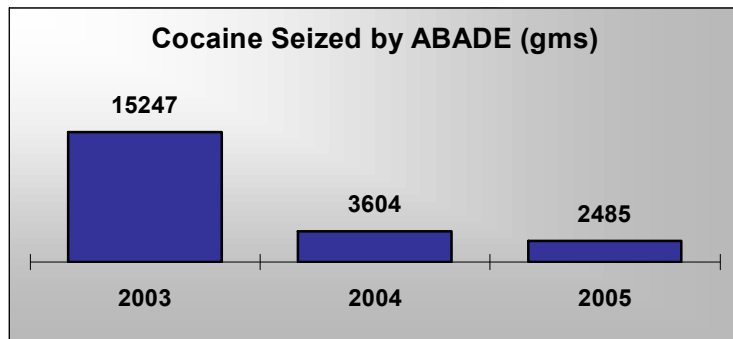
Cocaine continues to be a lucrative drug for sale and use in Alaska. Cocaine is readily available in most areas of the state and is seen with great frequency in powder form and crack cocaine in the major urban areas such as Anchorage and Fairbanks.

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

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

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

The graph below shows powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in Alaska. The statistics for 2003, indicate all cocaine seizures reported to ABADE, including seizures made by the DEA sponsored Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF). The statistics for 2004 and 2005 do not include seizures made by the AITF. These seizures are included in the statistics page for the Drug Enforcement Administration.



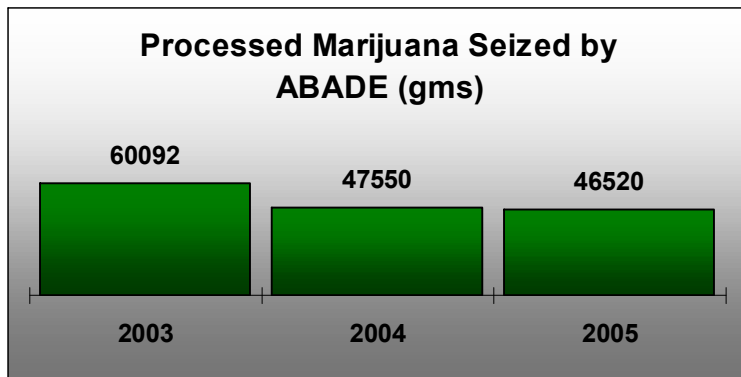
Marijuana

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

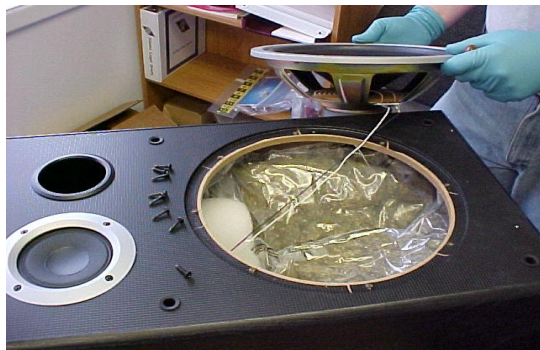
During 2004, the investigation of commercial marijuana cultivations were diminished due to the increased use and manufacturing of methamphetamine. In addition, recent Alaska court decisions, like Noy and Crocker, have diminished the ability of the investigators to obtain search warrants for marijuana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

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

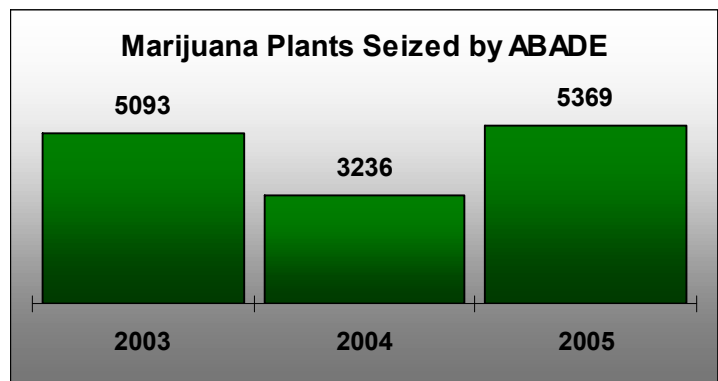
In some parts of the state, the local economy is directly affected by the influx of money from illegally produced marijuana. Proceeds from marijuana production are used for a multitude of purchases including fuel, grow equipment/supplies, utilities, vehicles, ATV's and building materials.



Marijuana hidden in children's cloths



Marijuana hidden in a stereo speaker



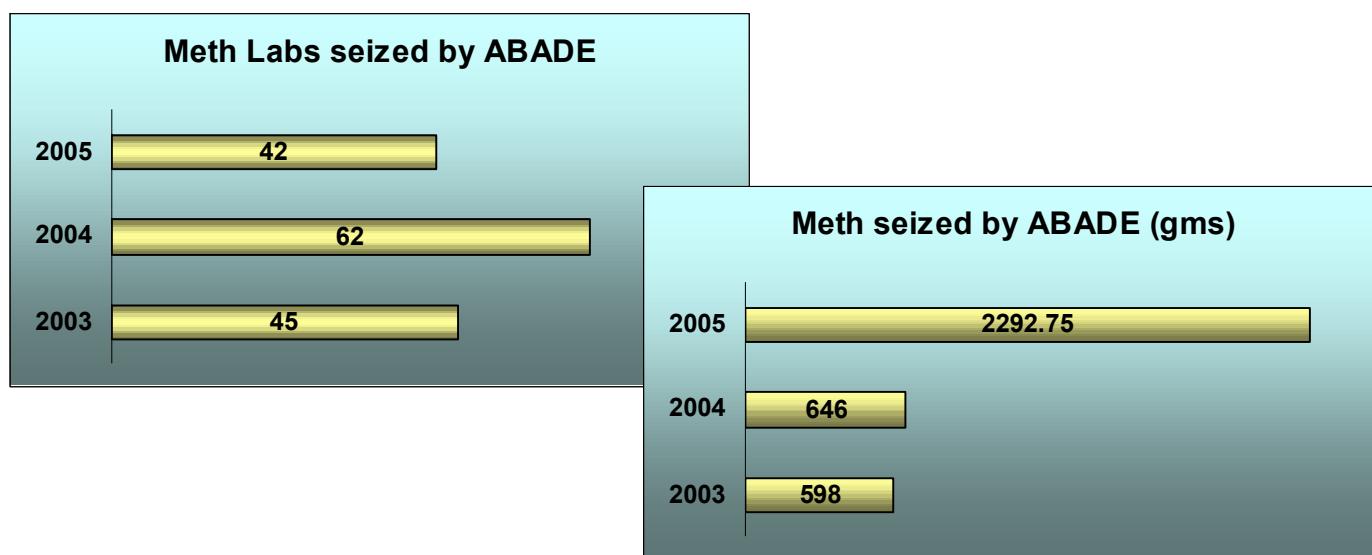
Methamphetamine

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

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

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

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



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

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



Prescription Drugs

The sale and abuse of prescription drugs such as Oxycontin, Oxycodone, Methadone, Hydrocodone continue to be an issue in 2005. These drugs are being sought after for their pharmaceutical purity and ability to alter the central nervous system. With the identification of this increasing health hazard, statistics have been put into place for capturing the true impact anticipated in the upcoming years. Not only does the abuse of prescription drugs create a health hazard for the users, it creates a financial tragedy in the communities. The drugs vary in price and can cost anywhere from one dollar per milligram to two dollars per milligram depending on availability. With the increased demand for the drugs and a shortening of supply, many abusers may not have the money or insurance to pay for their addiction. Thus increasing property and violent crimes in the communities to pay for the drugs. It has been reported that tens of thousands of dollars are being spent to feed this growing abuse and addiction.

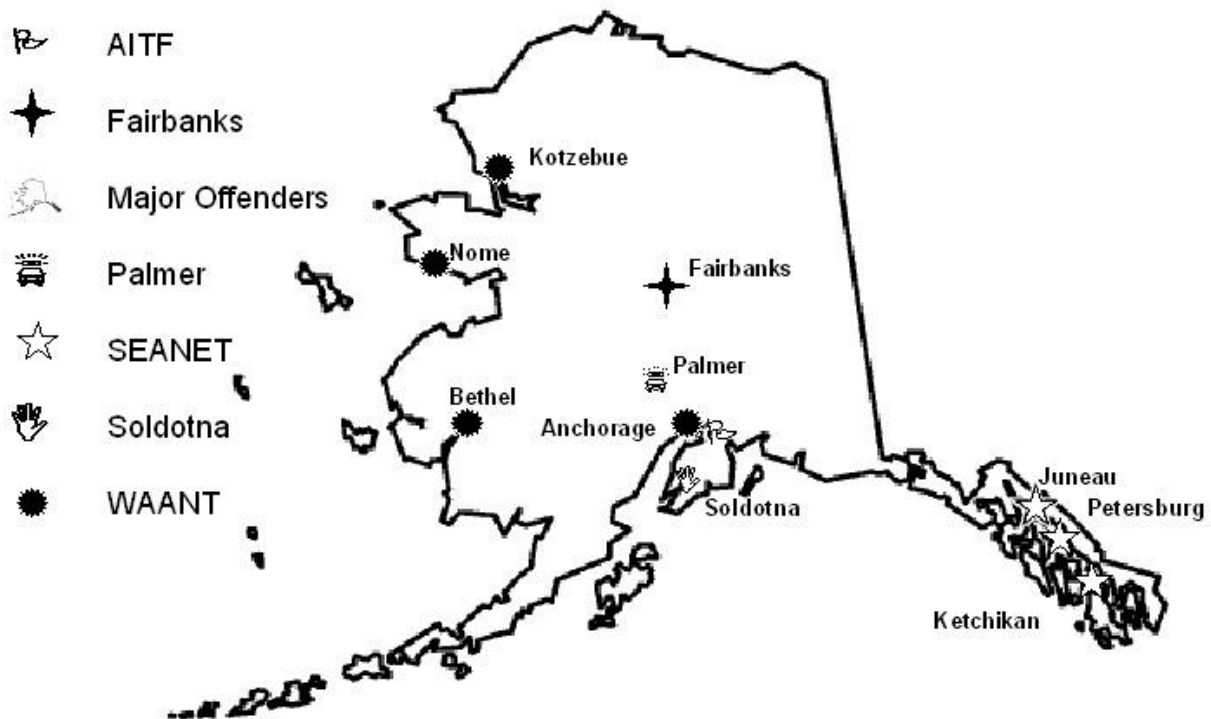
Prescription drugs have been linked to the following crimes; homicide, assault, prescription fraud, home invasion thefts and pharmacy robberies. People who are addicted to prescription drugs facilitate their addiction by doctor shopping, pharmacy shopping, forgery, and purchasing the drugs via the Internet.

It is the intent of the ABADE to increase pressure on those involved in the non-medical use, abuse, and sales of these addictive drugs.

Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement Overviews

During 2003, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) underwent substantial changes. One such change was the restructuring of the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU). With that restructuring, SDEU became the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE). ABADE, previously assigned to "1" Detachment, is now its own detachment. ABADE's program has expanded and been enhanced throughout the state. The command staff has grown from the traditional commander only to a commander and a deputy commander. During 2004 and 2005, manning has been increased with the addition of three investigators and two administrative support personnel. Additionally in 2005, the Soldotna office of the WAANT unit was established as its own unit and is now known as the South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team.

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



Alaska Interdiction Task Force

The importance of the narcotics interdiction effort at key locations is constantly being reaffirmed and the Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF) continued its success in making large seizures of US Currency, cocaine, crack, methamphetamine and other controlled substances during 2005.

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

Cocaine primarily comes into Alaska through the Anchorage airport, parcel delivery services and the US Post office from various source cities in the lower 48 states. Various methods are used to transport cocaine, such as concealing it in carry-on luggage, secured underneath clothing, or hidden in shoes, just to name a few. It is also imported and distributed through parcel express companies and the U.S. Postal Service. With the increase in airport security since September 11, 2001, drug traffickers have shifted their transportation methods and started to use parcel and cargo delivery services on a more frequent basis. Members of the AITF have worked diligently to develop working relationships with key business in this industry.

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

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

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

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 investigator and an AST administrative clerk. The Fairbanks team also works closely with one DEA agent, and one ATF agent assigned to the Fairbanks area. DEA and ATF compliment the teams' investigative ability by additional manpower, resources, and the possibility of federal prosecution of drug traffickers. In 2005, a scent detection canine, "Kilo", was assigned to this unit.

Their focus varies from the identification and investigation of street level dealers of crack cocaine to the investigation of large distributors of powder cocaine. Of significant concern in the Fairbanks area is the continuing threat of manufacturing, use, and distribution of methamphetamine. Clandestine methamphetamine laboratories are prevalent in the Fairbanks area and are being operated increasingly in or near single and multi-family homes, where public health and safety is at an extremely high risk. Marijuana cultivation also continues to be a problem in the Fairbanks area. During 2005, the team eradicated 7 meth labs and 20 marijuana grows. Listed below are some of this team's significant investigations.

In January, investigators wrapped up an investigation utilizing a single informant over a period of three months, which resulted in search warrant services at three different residences. Seven people were arrested and charged with various counts of MICS 3, and one of the seven is currently has federal charges stemming from the operation. Associates of some of the above defendants attacked the confidential informant utilized in this operation. Four people were subsequently charged with attempted 1st degree murder.

In February, investigators received an anonymous report of a meth lab at the Aspen Hotel. After making contact with the occupants of the hotel room, a clandestine lab was located. All occupants were removed from the room including a 4-year-old child who was sleeping on the floor next to a "gas generator", a homemade device used to generate an acidic gas during the meth manufacturing process. This was the third time this child had been found in a meth lab. Also in February, investigators along with DEA also concluded a large scale cocaine investigation in which 3 kilograms of cocaine, and approximately \$17,000 in cash was seized.

In March, investigators conducted numerous cocaine buys, and dismantled several marijuana grow operations. Investigators also traveled to Barrow and assisted with three search warrant services resulting in multiple arrest.

In April, investigators dismantled numerous marijuana grows and a meth lab.

In May, investigators contacted a resident in the Salcha area after receiving a request from the Office of Child Services (OCS) to conduct a welfare check on two children who were reported to be living at the residence where methamphetamine reportedly being produced. The resident allowed investigators into the threshold of his residence where the odor of

methamphetamine was detected. Both children were removed from the residence and taken into custody by OCS. A large number of chemicals, and unknown multi-layer liquids were removed from the home.

In June, investigators conducted several meth buys utilizing confidential informants, and dismantled a marijuana grow.

In July, investigators conducted numerous cocaine buys utilizing confidential informants and dismantled two marijuana grows, one of which resulted in the seizure of a custom motorcycle. Investigators also recovered approximately \$30,000 in stolen property resulting from informant information, and investigation.

In August, investigators conducted multiple cocaine and methamphetamine purchases utilizing confidential informants. Investigators also served a search warrant on a local drug dealer's house resulting in the seizure of approximately 2 ounces of marijuana and about 30 grams of cocaine along with 4 firearms.

In September, investigators assisted the Airport Police with a suspect contact. K-9 Kilo was utilized and subsequently \$52,590 in cash was seized along with a small amount of marijuana. Investigators also conducted multiple cocaine purchase utilizing confidential informants, and dismantled two large marijuana grows, and a small meth lab in Tok.

In October, investigators assisted DEA with the controlled delivery of 2 ounces of cocaine to a local Fairbanks resident. Approximately 56 grams of methamphetamine, 208 grams of marijuana and about \$4,000 in cash were seized. Four people were arrested for various offenses. Investigators also were summonsed at the request of patrol officers to a residence formally owned by a deceased Hells Angel. Upon arrival a search warrant was obtained and \$17,600 in cash was seized along with 1 ounce of meth. Approximately \$27,500 in stolen property was recovered as the result of informant information and investigation.

In November, investigators conducted multiple search warrant services and conducted numerous arrests in conjunction with some of the above mention drug purchases. During one of the search warrant services \$38,848 in cash and 23 ounces of cocaine was seized along with 14 guns. One of the seized weapons was a fully automatic and suppressed submachine gun. A subsequent search warrant service related to the above, a business with approximately \$100,000 in inventory and two vehicles were seized. Also during the month of November, investigators purchased cocaine on multiple occasions and seized 178 marijuana plants. Investigators were summonsed to a traffic stop by patrol officers where \$14,000 in cash and approximately 40 grams of crack cocaine were seized. A subsequent search warrant was obtained approximately 96 grams of powder, 6 grams of crack cocaine, and approximately \$7,400 in cash was seized.

In December, subsequent to traffic stop by AST Patrol, team members served a search warrant in the city of Fairbanks. Approximately 12 ounces of cocaine, and \$14,100 in cash was seized as well as approximately \$5,000 in electronics and a Suburban. In addition, K-9 Kilo, at the request of Fairbanks Police Department, conducted a sniff on a vehicle in which 2 ounces of cocaine was located.

As a result of a traffic stop by a Fairbanks patrol trooper, ABADE seized \$54,000 in cash and approximately ½ ounce of methamphetamine which was hidden in the vehicle and packaged for sale.

Throughout the year, investigators put on numerous presentations for the community and local agencies addressing methamphetamine and the overall drug problems in the Fairbanks Area. Investigators have also conducted numerous agency assists with OCS in regards to reports of harm to children, involving drug use and production by the parents.

Major Offender Unit

During 2005, the Department of Public Safety maintained the Major Offenders Unit, which was reinstated in 2003. The unit was fully staffed for most of the year, which includes a sergeant who supervises four investigators, an administrative clerk, and a full-time prosecutor from the Department of Law.

Earlier in 2005, the unit concluded an investigation in Juneau and initiated an investigation in Kotzebue, which lasted nearly four months. As a result of that investigation there were seventeen defendants on multiple charges of Misconduct Involving a Controlled Substance. The unit also served five search warrants, which resulted in the seizure of alcohol, controlled substances and firearms.

The Major Offenders Unit continues to assist other ABADE units as needed. Nearly every investigator is Clan Lab Certified and is called upon to respond to various locations to assist in dismantling Clan Labs. Recently the Bethel WAANT investigator conducted an investigation which lead him to a source of supply in Anchorage. The Major Offenders Unit picked up the investigation in Anchorage and worked it with that WAANT investigator to a successful conclusion.

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

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, one individual from CDSP and one administrative clerk. The Mat-Su team works closely with the local police departments and the uniformed patrol section of the Alaska State Troopers to educate, train, and support their efforts related to drug enforcement. During 2005, the Mat-Su team gained scent detection canine "Rocco".

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

The production of methamphetamine in illegal clandestine laboratories continues to be a significant problem across the Mat-Su area. During 2004 the number of meth labs tripled to 37, compared to 10 labs in 2003. In 2005 the number of meth labs remained high, but dropped slightly to 27. The number of seized meth labs indicates that meth use and manufacturing continues to be problem in the Mat-Su area. ABADE is continually analyzing this situation and adjusting resources as needed to maintain an aggressive enforcement effort. Listed below are some of the unit's significant investigations.

In March, the Mat-Su team executed a search warrant at a Wasilla residence. A commercial marijuana grow consisting of 66 marijuana plants, approximately 1.94 lbs. processed marijuana, and \$1,786 in cash were seized. The execution of a subsequent search warrant at the residence resulted in an additional \$93,000 in cash being seized. Search warrants for bank records and utility records at MTA, MEA and Enstar Gas resulted in the seizure of large amounts of money held on credit with the utility companies. A total of \$113,129 in cash was seized and transferred to U.S. Marshals. The Mat-Su team also applied for forfeiture of the residence which was last appraised at \$340,000.

In October, the Mat-Su team executed four search warrants served at three locations in Butte where two active meth labs and one box lab were seized. There were four arrests and three young children were taken into state custody. Meth product was seized and the weight is pending lab results. Two additional search warrants were served for DNA on two defendants.

In December, the Mat-Su team responded to a residence in Talkeetna where patrol had found a deceased male subject. A search warrant was subsequently obtained and a total of 1082 Marijuana plants, 26 light systems, and scales, were seized from the basement and garage of the residence. Two ATV's, a trailer, and a Ford diesel truck, valued at over \$40,000 were seized. In addition the Mat-Su team applied for forfeiture of the residence. The residence was last appraised at over \$110,000 before the last improvements on the property. The investigation lead the Mat-Su team to a related marijuana grow operation in the Wasilla area. The grow operation was similar in design to the Talkeetna grow and consisted of 233 marijuana plants. Six firearms were also seized from the residence.

During the year, the Mat-Su team has also been purchasing cocaine from local dealers as well as from dealers in the more remote outlying areas. Those cases are still under investigation.



South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team

This is a newly formed unit, which initially consisted of one AST investigator and one officer from the Soldotna Police Department. Due to a lack of Byrne Grant funding, the Soldotna Police Department pulled its officer out of the unit in March. A new AST sergeant position was assigned in April. Communities within its area of responsibility are located on the Kenai Peninsula (Homer, Soldotna, Kenai, 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 the street level drug sales to manufacturing methamphetamine. 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 and the distribution of marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and prescription drugs.

During 2005, the unit investigated and dismantled 21 marijuana grows resulting in over 1,173 marijuana plants being seized. The dried processed weight of these plants was 45.98 pounds, which amounts to approximately \$183,800 in street value. Also seized from these locations were processed marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine and other illegal prescription drugs, as well as several firearms and cash.

Investigators received information regarding a woman filling her prescriptions in another area in the state and then selling them in the Kenai/Soldotna area. During the investigation, a search warrant was executed and several prescription medications were found and two persons were charged.

An investigation into the sales of prescription pills began in February with several controlled purchases being made during that month and into the month of April. Information learned from the ongoing investigation led to a prescription pill smuggling investigation which culminated in April with an arrest at the Anchorage International Airport and seizure of \$9,000 street value of prescription pills.

The rising number of reports and complaints of person(s) purchasing precursors for the manufacture of methamphetamine reveals that methamphetamine use and manufacturing is a growing significant problem on the Kenai Peninsula. The unit continues to receive investigative leads regarding methamphetamine production; however, due to the limited number of personnel assigned, the unit has been unable to respond to the investigative leads as aggressively as it would like. Five methamphetamine labs were discovered on the Kenai Peninsula. Two of the labs were box-type labs, one was a mobile lab, two others were inactive and one was dumped near an elementary school. The unit responded to these labs where they disassembled and disposed of the meth lab components.

In the future the unit intends to continue to work closely with other agencies including DEA and ATF and local police departments. It is determined to place more confidential informants in the outlying communities to gather drug intelligence for future investigations and address the concerns of those communities.

Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team

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

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

SEANET

Petersburg SEACAD assisted the Petersburg Police Department with an investigation into the distribution of methamphetamine. The service of 4 search warrants resulted in the seizure of the following items: 6 ounces of methamphetamine, 2 ounces of marijuana, assorted paraphernalia, and a truck. The Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement and the United States Forest Service assisted in this investigation.

SEANET, in cooperation with the United States Postal Inspectors conducted a postal interdiction investigation in Ketchikan. The investigation resulted in the seizure of a package containing 2.5 ounces of methamphetamine. The methamphetamine was shipped from Eugene, Oregon.

SEANET and the Craig Police Department conducted a meth lab investigation. The method of manufacture was Anhydrous Ammonia and the lab was located in an apartment complex.

SEANET and the Ketchikan Police Department conducted an investigation into the distribution of marijuana. Investigators served a search warrant and seized 3.3 lbs. of marijuana and \$25,317 in suspected drug proceeds. The marijuana was imported from Canada.

SEANET in cooperation with the United States Postal Inspectors conducted a postal interdiction investigation in Ketchikan. The investigation resulted in a search warrant service at a residence and the seizure of a package. Investigators seized 9.21 ounces of methamphetamine and \$8,375 dollars in suspected drug proceeds.

SEANET in cooperation with SEACAD and the Sitka Police Department conducted an investigation into the sales and distribution of cocaine and methamphetamine. This investigation was concluded with the service of two search warrants, and the arrest of three suspects. Investigators seized the following items: cocaine, methamphetamine, \$2,300 in suspected drugs proceeds, wildlife parts of federally protected bird species (migratory and raptors), firearms including 39 handguns, shotguns, and rifles. The investigation and prosecution was assisted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, and the United States Attorney's Office.

SEANET assisted the FBI with the service of a search warrant during an investigation into the distribution of Oxycontin in Juneau. Investigators seized the following: one shotgun, two pistols, nine rifles, and \$7,700 in suspected drug proceeds, documents and equipment for manufacturing false identification.

SEANET assisted the Wrangell Police Department in the investigation of a meth lab and seizure of a 'H' cylinder of Anhydrous Ammonia (275 lbs). The scene was located on SOA Forestry lands approximately 17 miles outside of town. This investigation also led to the service of a search warrant on a boat in Wrangell Harbor and the seizure of additional evidence. The Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement, United States Forest Service, and SEACAD assisted in this investigation.

SEANET in cooperation with SEACAD and the Haines Police Department conducted an investigation into the distribution of Psilocybin mushrooms. A search warrant was served at a residence where a commercial Psilocybin mushroom grow operation was seized. The grow included 205 grams of Psilocybin mushrooms, grow paraphernalia, and four firearms.

SEANET in cooperation with the Ketchikan Police Department served a search warrant at a residence. Investigators seized 1.12 lbs. of marijuana and \$16,887 dollars in suspected drug proceeds.

SEANET in cooperation with the Juneau Police Department conducted an interdiction investigation that resulted in the seizure of 16 lbs. of marijuana. The marijuana was shipped from California.

Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT)

This team's primary area of responsibility is Alaska's west coast, to include: Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Dillingham and the Aleutian Chain. For most of 2005, the WAANT consisted of one AST sergeant and two AST investigators in Anchorage; two AST investigators and one local police officer in Bethel; one AST investigator in Nome, and one AST investigator and a local police officer in Kotzebue.

One of the positions in Bethel and one in Anchorage are dedicated specifically to alcohol interdiction and investigations.

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.

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

Because much of the alcohol and drugs being sold illegally in Alaska are shipped through the U.S. mail, the U.S. Postal Inspectors Service conducts interdictions with direct support from AST and CDSP. These efforts consist of US Postal Inspectors assisted by AST and CDSP members 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 do these resources assist in the seizure, they also help successfully investigate and prosecute those involved in alcohol bootlegging and drug trafficking.

In other WAANT operations, the team has conducted numerous investigations in Anchorage and in the communities of western Alaska. Investigations ranged from major bootlegging operations to marijuana grows and meth labs. Criminal cases related to the distribution of illegal drugs including marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine and prescription medications were also investigated.

The following examples are typical of the cases investigated by WAANT members during 2005.

In January, WAANT investigators conducted an investigation into the distribution of marijuana in the community of Quinhagak. The investigation resulted in the seizure of over \$17,000 in cash, a pound of marijuana and two rifles. Four individuals were charged in this case.

In February, WAANT investigators in Bethel seized 22 bottles of distilled spirits being sent to an individual in the community. The individual was charged with the sale of alcoholic beverages without a license.

In March, WAANT investigators in Anchorage working as part of a postal interdiction operation, seized 468 grams of marijuana which was being mailed to an individual in Kivalina. During the same operation, investigators seized another 86 grams of marijuana being mailed to an individual in Nelson Lagoon.

In April, WAANT investigators in Anchorage seized 2 bottles (750ml) of alcohol hidden inside bags of dog food being sent to the community of Saint Mary's via a local air cargo carrier.

In May, WAANT investigators seized 18 bottles (750ml) of alcohol being sent to Bethel via a local air cargo carrier after it was determined that the shipper and recipient names were both fraudulent.

In June, WAANT investigators acting on a tip contacted a male subject at the airport. The subsequent investigation resulted in the seizure of 698 grams of marijuana from the individual's baggage.

In July, WAANT investigators seized approximately one pound of marijuana from a male subject contacted at the Bethel airport as he arrived from Anchorage.

In August, an individual was arrested by WAANT investigators after he was found to be transporting 22 bottles of distilled spirits to the community of Savoonga.

In September, a male subject was arrested by a WAANT investigator in Nome after being found attempting to import 7 - 750 ml bottles of alcohol into the community of Shishmaref.

In October, a WAANT investigator in Nome seized 41 bottles (750ml) of alcohol destined for Elim.

In November, WAANT investigators in Kotzebue searched a home pursuant to a search warrant and seized 73 grams of cocaine, 177 grams of marijuana and over \$7,000 in cash. Two individuals were arrested in this case.

In December, WAANT investigators in Bethel acting on a tip, seized 3 pounds of marijuana from an individual at the Bethel Airport.



DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

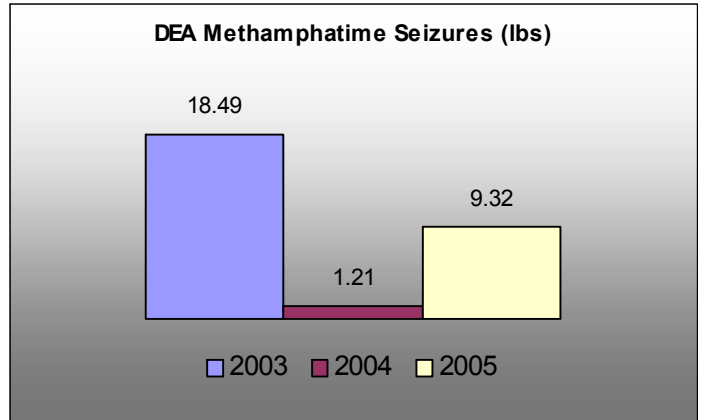
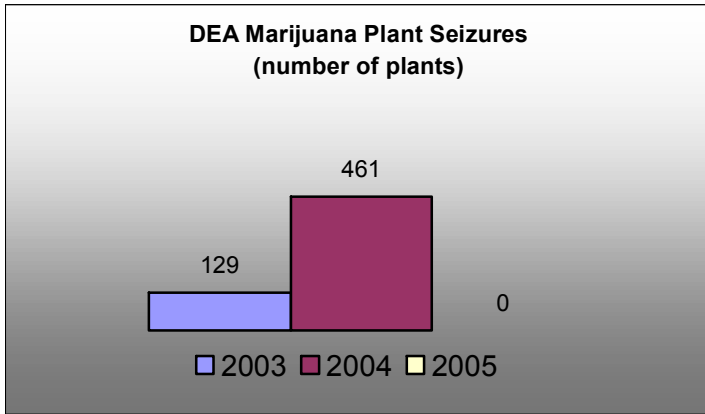
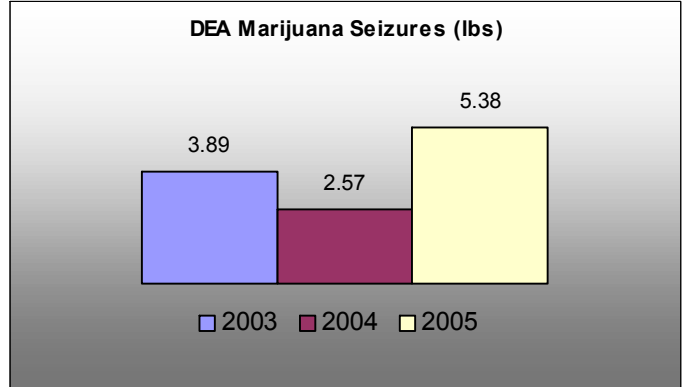
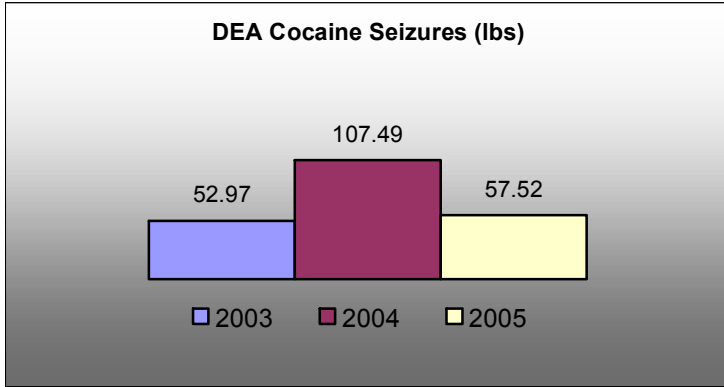
The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Alaska is broken down into the Anchorage District Office (DO) and the Fairbanks Post of Duty (POD). The Anchorage DO is broken down into the Enforcement Group (EG) and the Alaska Interdiction Group (AIG). Both Groups operate as a Task Force (TF). The EG has federally deputized TF Officers from the Anchorage Police Department (PD) while the AIG, 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 PD, as well as several other federal agencies as needed. The Alaska Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP) 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 houses both the Anchorage PD Metro Narcotics Unit as well as the AST Major Offenders Unit (MOU) in DEA facilities in Anchorage.

DEA continues to furnish training to state and local agencies. DEA provided funding for law enforcement personnel to be trained and re-certified in clandestine laboratory investigations as well as narcotics investigations. 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. DEA also provided funding for disposal of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories and marijuana eradication operations.

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

Seizure Statistics for DEA Anchorage



Emerging Trends in 2005

The most significant trend for 2005 continues to be the manufacturing and abuse of methamphetamine throughout Alaska. The table below shows the number of reported meth labs seized in Alaska.

Reported Methamphetamine Labs Seized				
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 *
23	29	66	80	42

*2005 statistic represents labs seized by ABADE only.

Due to the volatile chemicals involved, investigators need to be trained and certified and wear hazardous material protective gear when responding to methamphetamine labs. Several residential fires were reported this year were caused by the manufacturing of methamphetamine. Methamphetamine labs continue to be discovered inside hotel/motel rooms creating chemical and fire hazards for other civilians that also occupy the buildings. Violent crime related to methamphetamine manufacturing and usage also appears to be on the rise. During the year there were several homicides that have been connected to methamphetamine. The sale and abuse of methamphetamine is as much on the rise as the number of meth labs.

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



Summary

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

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



The 2005 Annual Drug Report is a publication of the Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement. It can be accessed via the Department of Public Safety Internet site therefore there is no publication cost. It is intended to inform Alaskans about the type and frequency of drug related crime reported in Alaska during 2005.

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