

# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

STATEWIDE DRUG ENFORCEMENT UNIT



# 2017

ANNUAL DRUG REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

The Alaska State Troopers' Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU) has authored this publication as a collaborative endeavor with other departments and agencies to assist decision makers and stakeholders. This year's report provides the reader with context for understanding the negative impact which illicit substances, and corresponding criminality, have on Alaska.

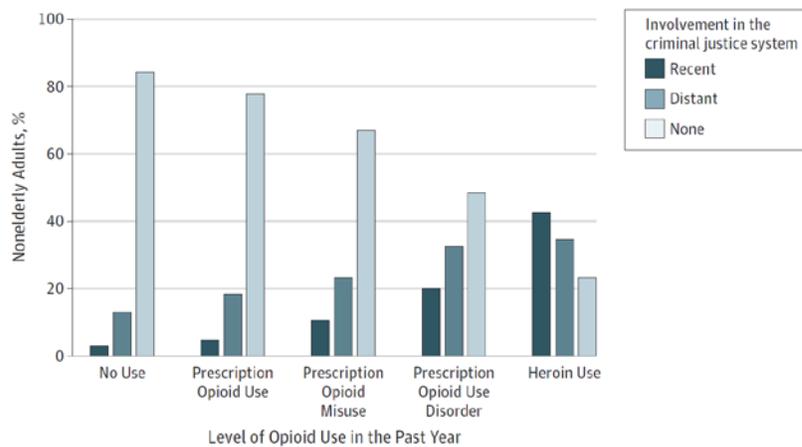
This report summarizes the previous year's law enforcement efforts and the trends experienced by those agencies. This report does not examine causation, addiction, education, or treatment.

Illicit drug trafficking, misuse, and abuse of illicit substances contributes to a great deal of the criminality in and out of the state (Winkelman, Chang, & Binswanger, 2018). Nearly every local, tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agency conducts investigations into drug crime and, to a lesser extent, alcohol crimes. As in the past, the Alaska State Troopers' SDEU, in an attempt to represent the extent of the illicit drug and alcohol problem, asked all partner agencies statewide to contribute their data to this report. Not every agency provided information. The provided data was put into a standardized format for ease of review and comparative analysis. Inquiries about location-specific data attributed to a particular source should be directed to the source agency whenever possible.

At the beginning of 2018, the Alaska State Troopers (AST), in conjunction with other stakeholders with drug enforcement authority, submitted an application to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) at the White House for a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designation for Alaska. The petition was granted, providing Alaskan drug enforcement initiatives to increase focus on drug trafficking.

The HIDTA initiatives will provide resources to further develop the already collaborative capabilities of all stakeholders focusing on enforcement, information sharing, support, prevention, and coordination of resources and manpower to combat the illicit poly-drug problems in Alaska for years to come. It will be another milestone in the SDEU's recent push to enhance cooperative alliances between all stakeholders concerned with community safety, security, health, and wellness.

Figure. Criminal Justice Involvement by Level of Opioid Use in the United States, 2015-2016



Individuals with a prescription opioid use disorder or heroin use have significantly more contact with the criminal justice system than those who do not. Criminal justice system contact increases with opioid use. (Winkelman, Chang, & Binswanger, 2018)

## OUR MISSION

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SDEU is a State statute-mandated enforcement unit within the Division of Alaska State Troopers under the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS). As an enforcement body among different bureaus, detachments, and units within AST, SDEU's specific assignment is to provide services designed to deter, detect, and interdict traffickers and trafficked illicit controlled substances and alcohol. Components of prevention and education are incorporated into this drug enforcement mission as part of DPS' fundamental services.

### **AS 18.65.085 Narcotic Drugs and Alcohol Enforcement**

There is established in the Department of Public Safety, division of state troopers, a narcotic drugs and alcohol enforcement unit for the purpose of investigating and combating the illicit sale and distribution of narcotic drugs and alcoholic beverages in the state. Enforcement of the alcoholic beverage control laws shall focus primarily on the investigation, apprehension, and conviction of persons who violate AS [04.11.010](#) by selling, importing, or possessing alcoholic beverages in violation of a local option adopted by a municipality or established village under AS [04.11.491](#).

SDEU cooperates and collaborates with a myriad of the federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners as well as other stakeholders. Cooperation amongst law enforcement entities tends to build the collective capacity and capability for detection, interdiction, and apprehension of the criminal elements profiting off other people's misery through trafficking in illicit drugs and alcohol.

Drug trafficking is not simply a law enforcement issue. Illicit drug and alcohol demand and abuse issues are extremely complex. It is imperative that the ancillary effects of drug abuse are scrutinized as social ills and problems worthy of collaborative efforts. SDEU recognizes other stakeholders have valuable insight and capabilities that can be leveraged towards evidence-based efforts for mitigating the problem.

SDEU has fostered and improved working relationships with other departments and agencies. SDEU seeks to enter into joint ventures with entities that have vested interests in providing services to people impacted by the drug abuse crisis in order to discover new ways of tackling the problem. Fostering these partnerships in a broader collective can improve the capacity of stakeholders to provide statewide services to the public. Ultimately, the goal is to make drug-trafficking an unattractive enterprise and reduce the negative impact of illicit controlled substances and alcohol abuse.

### SDEU's Mission:

- 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

In 2017, the Division of Alaska State Troopers continued experiencing reductions in personnel. Despite this, SDEU developed strategies to increase interdiction effectiveness with an emphasis on building up the Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team (AAIT). Alaskan communities are seriously impacted by the drugs transiting through the Anchorage International Airport into their populace. In an effort to address this crucial issue, at the end of 2016, SDEU acquired new office space for AAIT at the Anchorage International Airport. At the beginning of 2017, we increased the size of the office space to accommodate new members added to the team. Agreements were also drafted for additional member agencies to be added in the future.

Another obstacle faced in 2017 was a pause in the Federal Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding experienced while a federal lawsuit was being resolved. The JAG funding restriction created a shortfall in mid-year for three smaller sub-grantee police departments. SDEU took steps to enable these partners to continue their drug enforcement efforts until the JAG funding was restored.

SDEU recognizes that because of Alaska's geographical vastness, no single law enforcement agency is capable of handling the drug and alcohol issues alone. With that in mind, the SDEU will continue entering into collaborative and cooperative partnerships with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies whenever possible. These agency partnerships expand SDEU's capability within the partnerships to effectively interdict drug and alcohol traffickers.



The federal investigative agencies SDEU collaborates with 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 (BATFE); Department of Homeland Security (DHS), to include Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

## DRUG MISUSED and ABUSED

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Alcohol, heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, prescription drugs, and illegal marijuana continue to be the primary substances abused by Alaskans.

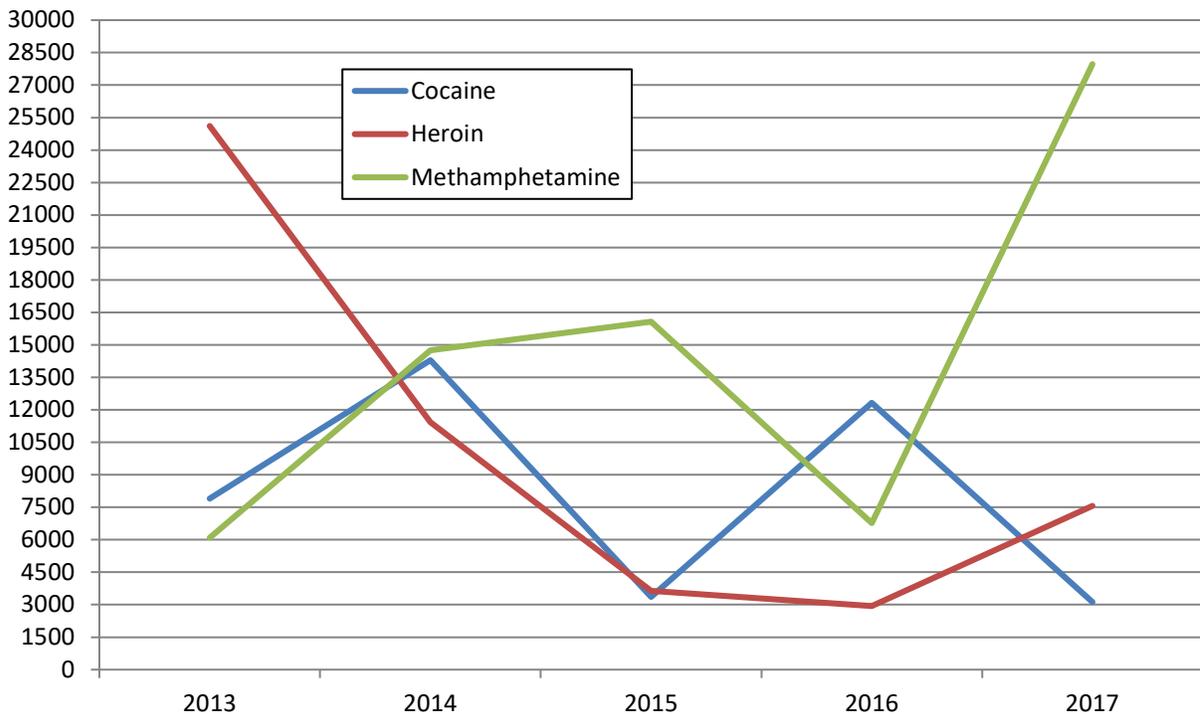
Due in part to the frequency of opioid abuse overdoses have increased in the last year. One of the mitigating responses to the overdose crisis according to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, since January of 2017 there have been 11,000 Naloxone opioid overdose antidote kits distributed in Alaska through project HOPE. Opioid abuse as a high-priority issue was highlighted in February 2017 when Gov. Bill Walker declared an opioid state disaster in Alaska. Yet, Alaska's addiction issues continue to correlate with a poly-substance abuse trend within the state.

The number of incidents involving street drugs has taxed first responder resources of communities. Citizens are speaking out about the relationship between drug use and property crime, calling for solutions from policymakers and police forces alike (Staser, 2017).

Other synthesized chemical compounds and exotic psychoactive herbs, such as Bath-salts, Zombie, Khat, Kratom, and Krokodil (desomorphine), continue to be imported and sold online and clandestinely in smoke shops. A recent and deadly phenomenon on the rise is the availability of synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl and Carfentanil and its isomers (Hull-Jilly & Gibson, 2016).

In 2017, alcohol remains the primary substance of abuse attributable to death, followed by opioids and methamphetamine (Pachoe, 2018). SDEU alcohol seizures have increased over the last year. However, AST as a whole has also seized thousands of grams of methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine over the years attempting to remove the economic engine driving the various traffickers and criminal organizations throughout the state.

## Alaska State Trooper Drug Seizures (grams) 2013 - 2017



This graph is inclusive of all seizure incidents across the spectrum of all AST Detachments and Bureaus, including SDEU.

The Alaska State Troopers, primarily SDEU Investigators, distributed (according to OSMAP records) over 1,100 Naloxone kits and in some cases helped assemble the overdose rescue kits. SDEU's priority was to train law enforcement in the use of and provide overdose rescue kits to as many of the State's Law enforcement officers as possible. On occasion, when asked, SDEU provided training to civic groups. Over 20 lives have been saved by the Alaska's law enforcement community utilizing rescue kits AST had distributed.

Just prior to publishing this report the SDEU through AST initiated a program where each post will be supplied with the individual pill disposal bags. They are a drug disposal and deactivation system that is environmentally friendly. The easy to use bags are proven to neutralize pills, liquids, and patches. They can be used to dispose of the unused and unwanted medication. With statistics found on the internet suggesting 75 - 80% of heroin users began with pain medication, often diverted and abused, disposing of surplus medication can mean less is available to be diverted and abused.

## ALCOHOL

Alcohol continues to be the most abused substance in Alaska. According to the State of Alaska Epidemiology Bulletin dated May 7, 2018, Alaskans experience higher rates of alcohol-attributable mortality compared to most other states, and twice as many deaths are alcohol-attributable each year as methamphetamine and opioid deaths combined (Pachoe, 2018). The abuse of alcohol also continues to be a prominent factor in violence against persons, suicide, and accidental death. Between 2006–2016, 47,427 alcohol-attributable criminal justice convictions occurred in Alaska, which represents 18% of all convictions during that time period (Pachoe, 2018). In 2017, 109 communities prohibited sale, importation, and/or possession of alcoholic beverages through “local option ordinances”. Local option ordinances are voter-approved by individual communities and enforced by the SDEU under the state criminal authority. This is supported by Alaska Statute/Title IV provisions under AS [04.11.491](#) and includes specific statutes such as:

**AS [04.11.499](#) | Importation of alcoholic beverages into local option area**

- Misdemeanor** if less than 10.5 liters of distilled spirits, 24 liters of wine, or 12 gallons of malt beverages.
- C felony** if exceeds amounts listed above – AS [04.16.200\(e\)](#)
- One may not knowingly send, transport, or bring alcoholic beverages into a municipality or established village that has voted to prohibit importation.

**AS [04.11.501\(a\)](#) | Possession of alcoholic beverages in local option area**

- \$1,000 fine and forfeiture of alcohol – AS [04.16.205\(a\)](#)
- One may not knowingly possess alcoholic beverages in a municipality or established village that has voted to ban possession.

Alcohol is frequently trafficked into Alaskan villages via local air carriers, private aircraft, boats, and snow-machines. Bootlegging alcohol (smuggling into local option communities designated dry or damp) remains one of Alaska’s most lucrative criminal enterprises. The U.S. Postal Service is often utilized as unwitting carriers, as are air taxis. The United States Postal Inspector’s Office continues to support a unique Alaskan initiative where SDEU’s WAANT investigators are cross-deputized and provided with particular authority to conduct postal investigations involving alcohol mailed to Western Alaska.

### SDEU Alcohol Statistics

*Alcohol Seized (Gallons)*

2015	2016	2017
357	378	589

*Alcohol Title IV Charges/Criminal Arrests*

2015	2016	2017
196	225	335



Bootlegged alcohol seized from luggage at the airport headed to Western Alaska



## HEROIN

Heroin is a highly addictive drug derived from morphine which is obtained from the opium poppy. It is a “downer” or depressant that affects the pleasure systems of the brain and interferes with a user’s ability to perceive pain. It takes on a variety of forms. It can be a powder varying from white to dark brown in color or a tar-like substance.

Heroin can be used in a variety of ways depending on the user’s preference and the purity of the product. It can be injected into a vein or muscle, smoked in a water pipe or standard pipe, mixed into a marijuana joint or regular cigarette, inhaled as smoke through a straw, or snorted as a powder via the nose.

The short term effects of heroin appear soon after a single dose and typically last a few hours. After an injection of heroin, users report a surge of euphoria accompanied by a warm flushing of the skin, a dry mouth, and heavy extremities.

Heroin use is not isolated to the urban areas of Alaska. Heroin, like many illicit substances is primarily imported into Alaska via the postal service, parcels services, luggage and body carries, and on Alaska’s common carrier air lines which continues to be a problematic conduit. In remote communities and locations above the Arctic Circle, a drug dealer can charge \$800.00 - \$1,000.00 per gram. This is a significantly higher price than drugs command in other areas of Alaska and the continental U.S. Heroin use crosses socio-economic boundaries and tends to drive theft crime.

### SDEU Heroin Statistics

#### *Heroin Seized (Grams)*

2015	2016	2017
3,026	2,227	7,061

#### *Heroin Charges/Arrests*

2015	2016	2017
233	155	149



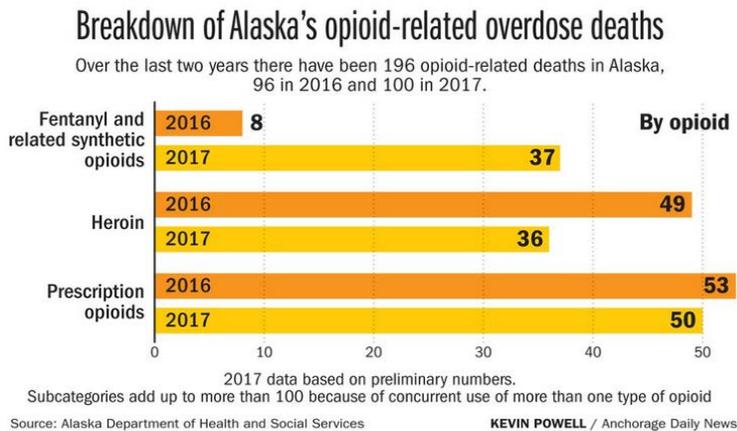
Chart representing various weights and the average size of a dose of black tar heroin.

## SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

Fentanyl can be a legal painkiller and anesthetic for therapeutic use. However, fentanyl can be diverted into the illicit market. The illicit manufacturing of the drug and many of the fentanyl analogs have become prevalent on the black market. Fentanyl is listed as a Schedule II narcotic. It is abused by drug users for its analgesic and euphoric properties. Fentanyl is potent (approximately 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine) and is often used by drug dealers to increase the mass volume of heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine products. Fentanyl metabolizes at a high rate; when combined with other illicit drugs it can increase the rate at which the entire compound metabolizes. For the user, this may necessitate higher consumption to maintain a desired physiological effect, which in turn can increase a dealer's profit margin

In 2017, the synthetic opioid fentanyl and its analogs were increasingly interdicted by law enforcement in Alaska. In June of 2017 APD seized 25.27 grams, and an additional 23.2 Fentanyl was interdicted in the stream of commerce on its way to Alaska. Fentanyl is regularly found to be a component of heroin seized in Alaska. The combined total of fentanyl seized in Alaska during 2017 amounted to 24,235 potential lethal fentanyl doses using DEA's 2 milligram dose estimate. Drug traffickers in the U.S. receive a majority of the fentanyl and other synthetic opioids from

China and Mexico. Fentanyl from Mexico is commonly of low quality. China-sourced fentanyl arrives through the mail and is difficult for law enforcement to detect (Drug Enforcement Agency, 2017).



Statistics produced by the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services statistics documented more than a quadrupled increase in fentanyl overdoses during 2017 (Theriault Boots, Alaska fentanyl overdose deaths more than quadrupled in 2017, 2018). Fentanyl is difficult to quantify as it is often "cut" with other drugs and not typically sold individually.

With increasing regularity, heroin found in Alaska is cut with the synthetic opioid fentanyl. This substantially increases the drugs lethality making it a factor in overdose deaths in Alaska.



[https://www.dea.gov/pr/multimedia-library/image-gallery/images\\_fentanyl.shtml](https://www.dea.gov/pr/multimedia-library/image-gallery/images_fentanyl.shtml)

## METHAMPHETAMINE

Methamphetamine use in Alaska, as well as the rest of the United States, continues and amounts interdicted have increased. Methamphetamine is known by different names: meth, speed, crank, crystal, and ice. It produces an increase in energy and alertness and a decrease in appetite. The effects, which include an intense rush, have been reported to last up to 36 hours. It can be smoked, snorted, injected, or taken orally.

In previous years, methamphetamine labs have been discovered in single and multi-family residences in many neighborhoods and rural locations. In addition to meth labs producing illegal—and often deadly—drugs and by-products, 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. The collection of hazardous materials associated with the seizure of a methamphetamine lab requires certified clean-up professionals to respond to the location to collect and containerize large items as well as various chemicals found at the site.

The number of methamphetamine labs encountered in recent years in Alaska is statistically null. However, cheap methamphetamine manufactured in “super labs” in Mexico continues to be imported into the state of Alaska. In 2017, overdose deaths related to methamphetamine use surged four-fold (State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 2017).

### SDEU Meth Statistics

#### *Meth Labs Seized*

2015	2016	2017
3	1	3

#### *Meth Seized (Grams)*

2015	2016	2017
15,300	5,434	24,909

#### *Meth Related Charges/Arrests*

2015	2016	2017
225	145	180

For information on Alaska State DEC Clandestine Drug Lab clean up requirements:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/methlab.aspx>

Information on property sites in Alaska where illegal drug manufacturing occurred can be found at:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/SPAR/PublicMVC/PublicDrugLabs/>

For more information regarding methamphetamine in Alaska education and awareness, go to:

[http://www.epi.alaska.gov/bulletins/docs/rr2017\\_04.pdf](http://www.epi.alaska.gov/bulletins/docs/rr2017_04.pdf)

[http://dhss.alaska.gov/News/Documents/press/2017/Methamphetamine\\_PR\\_110717.pdf](http://dhss.alaska.gov/News/Documents/press/2017/Methamphetamine_PR_110717.pdf)



2017 AST/SDEU Interdiction seizures of Methamphetamine

## PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The increased availability of opioid-based medication remains a high-priority concern. In October 2017, the state of Alaska filed a lawsuit against the pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma, claiming the company violated state consumer protection laws with “years of aggressive and misleading marketing that minimized the risk of addiction in pursuit of profit” (Therault Boots, 2017).

Research shows that 80% of heroin users in treatment started their addiction through the use of prescription medication (NIDA, 2018). Prescription drugs are desirable due to their quality-controlled pharmaceutical purity; a user knows exactly what they are going to get in each dose. An individual that abuses prescription pain medication is 40 times more likely to develop a heroin addiction (Jones, Logan, Gladden, & Bohm, 2015).



Seized Oxycodone smuggled via crayon box

Prescription opioid use has been linked to a higher level of involvement with the criminal justice system (Winkelman, Chang, & Binswanger, 2018). People who are addicted to prescription drugs facilitate their addiction by doctor shopping, pharmacy shopping, forgery, and purchasing drugs via the internet and the “dark web”.



In September 2017 alone, the Department of Homeland Security intercepted 15,360 tablets of Tramadol, a synthetic opioid analgesic, destined for locations in Alaska from Singapore. In addition, 4,000 tablets of Etizolam and 1,817 tablets of Xanax were seized by SDEU in 2017.

Pictured left is one illicit package seized in December 2017 of Tramadol tablets. The prescription pills were in the process of being trafficked to several other locations in Alaska.

### SDEU Prescription Drug Statistics

#### *Hydrocodone Seized (Dosage Units)*

2015	2016	2017
1,257	16	64

#### *OxyContin/Oxycodone Seized (Dosage Units)*

2015	2016	2017
255	4,552	339

#### *All Other Prescription Drugs Seized (Dosage Units)*

2015	2016	2017
697	1,182	3,467

## COCAINE

Although the popularity of cocaine had seen a slight decline in the recent past, the drug is still for sale and being abused in Alaska. Cocaine, in the powder form, can be found in most areas of the state. In the major urban areas of Anchorage and Fairbanks, crack cocaine is more prominent than cocaine in the powder form. The common methods of ingesting cocaine include snorting the powder, smoking (crack form), and intravenous.



Cocaine is brought into Alaska through ports of entry, such as the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport on common carrier airlines, concealed on passengers or in luggage. It is also shipped via the US Postal Service or through commercial parcel companies such as FedEx, DHL Express, or UPS (U.S. Attorney's Office, 2016).

Cocaine brought into Alaska is typically packaged in kilogram quantities and later broken down by dealers into smaller quantities for retail sales. In powder form, cocaine is usually sold in gram quantities. In the rural areas the price for a gram of cocaine is \$100.00- \$150.00. In remote locations and Island communities and locations above the Arctic Circle a drug dealer can easily charge \$800.00 - \$1,000.00 per gram.

The statistics below show powder and crack cocaine seized by all task forces where SDEU investigators are assigned.

### SDEU Cocaine Statistics

#### *Cocaine Seized (Grams)*

2015	2016	2017
2,903	12,274	2,845

#### *Cocaine Related Charges/Arrests*

2015	2016	2017
20	26	42



A kilogram of cocaine seized in Anchorage

## MARIJUANA

Personal recreational marijuana use and possession became legal in Alaska on February 24, 2015, as determined by voters through the passage of Ballot Measure 2 (State of Alaska Division of Public Health, 2018).

The percentage of high school students who have ever used marijuana declined 3% between 2007 (45%) and 2017 (42%). In 2017, Alaska Native high school students were the most likely to have ever used marijuana (56%). The percentage of female high school students who ever used marijuana increased 9% between 2015 (35%) and 2017 (44%). The percentage of high school students who first tried marijuana before age 13 has not changed from 2007 (12%) to 2017 (11%), though females and Alaskan Natives in this age group first trying marijuana is still increasing (Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention, 2018).

SDEU continues to find illegal indoor marijuana growing operations. Individuals continue to traffic marijuana outside of legal parameters and airport interdictions for illicit marijuana are common.

### SDEU Marijuana Statistics *Processed Marijuana Seized (Grams)*

2015	2016	2017
54,105	106,957	40,370

### *Marijuana Related Charges/Arrests*

2015	2016	2017
290	155	123

### *Marijuana Grows Eradicated*

2015	2016	2017
18	11	5

### *Marijuana Plants Seized*

2015	2016	2017
1,871	1,838	274



Marijuana smuggled in luggage going to western Alaska 2017



Smuggler with marijuana taped to his body

## ALASKA TRENDS

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Alaska's secluded remoteness, geographical vastness, and sparse law enforcement resources continue to be factors that reduce the chance of recognizing and detecting illicit drug trafficking.

Distance from transportation hubs significantly increases the price of illicit substances, offering an attractive market for drug-related activity from outside the state. That same distance presents a challenge to law enforcement to cover Alaska's largely rural areas, which are increasingly becoming targets for drug-traffickers. As of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, there were 389 authorized commissioned trooper positions. However the number of filled positions filled were 262 Alaska State Troopers and an estimated 77 Alaska Wildlife Troopers leaving 50 vacancies to be filled..

The Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) 2017 National Drug Threat Assessment indicates that Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) continue to maintain the greatest control of drug trafficking in the United States (Drug Enforcement Agency, 2017). The DEA predicts that Mexican TCOs will increase their influence over the marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin markets in the U.S.

Illegal drugs are imported into Anchorage and are then distributed throughout the Southcentral and Interior Regions. Distribution of drugs from Anchorage to other parts of the Southcentral Region is achieved primarily by the Glenn Highway and Parks Highway north to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and then by air to the villages that are not connected to the road system. The majority of the towns and villages in Alaska are geographically separated from the main road system by mountains, rivers, rough terrain, other topographical features, and sheer distance.

A majority of the towns and villages in the Interior Region are not connected to the road system and thus rely on planes to travel throughout the region. The region also serves as the end point for the Alaska Railroad, which along with tractor trailer shipments mainly from Anchorage, allows for multiple methods for drugs to enter the region undetected. There are also numerous waterways connecting villages in the region, thereby providing another means for drug distribution. However, drugs are primarily imported into the region through the available mail services, which due to the sheer volume of incoming parcels and limited resources, investigators are unable to adequately interdict the incoming mail.

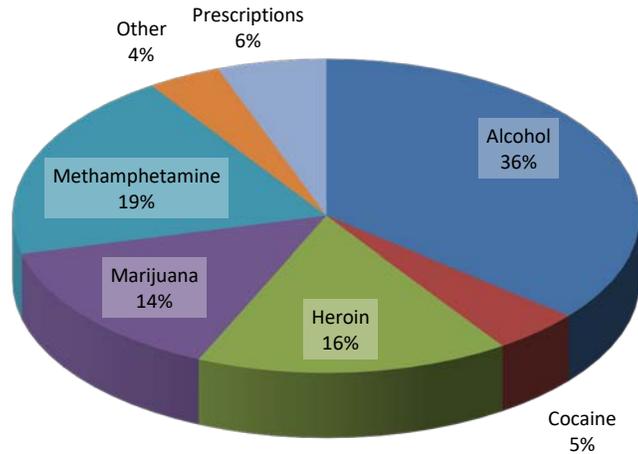
In the Southeast Region, illicit drug importation often takes place via prominent large commercial air carriers in the area, mail, and the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). Juneau and Ketchikan are two transportation hubs where drug-related activity spreads to other small communities in Southeast Alaska. The pattern of trafficking is similar to patterns in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. Importation of drugs through the AMHS is unique to this region, as the ferry systems is Southeast's substitute for a highway. Drugs on the ferries have been found secreted in cargo, vehicles, and on persons. Gaps in travel documentation and law enforcement presence allows for relative ease of trafficking drugs from outside of Alaska into the Southeast region. Ocean shipping and the AMHS provides Southeast with two significant means of importing illicit drugs into the area that are not prevalent in the Southcentral and Interior regions.

Traffickers from the Lower 48 and other locations are smuggling the drugs to Alaska utilizing a variety of methods that include common carrier shipping, major airlines and smaller regional air carriers, postal and package services, as well as body carrying. The proceeds of illicit drug sales are often flown back to the source locations. Traffickers continue to reap worthwhile profits while exploiting our diminished enforcement resources, especially in rural communities (McCollough, 2018).

## SDEU CHARGES AND ARRESTS SUMMARY 2017

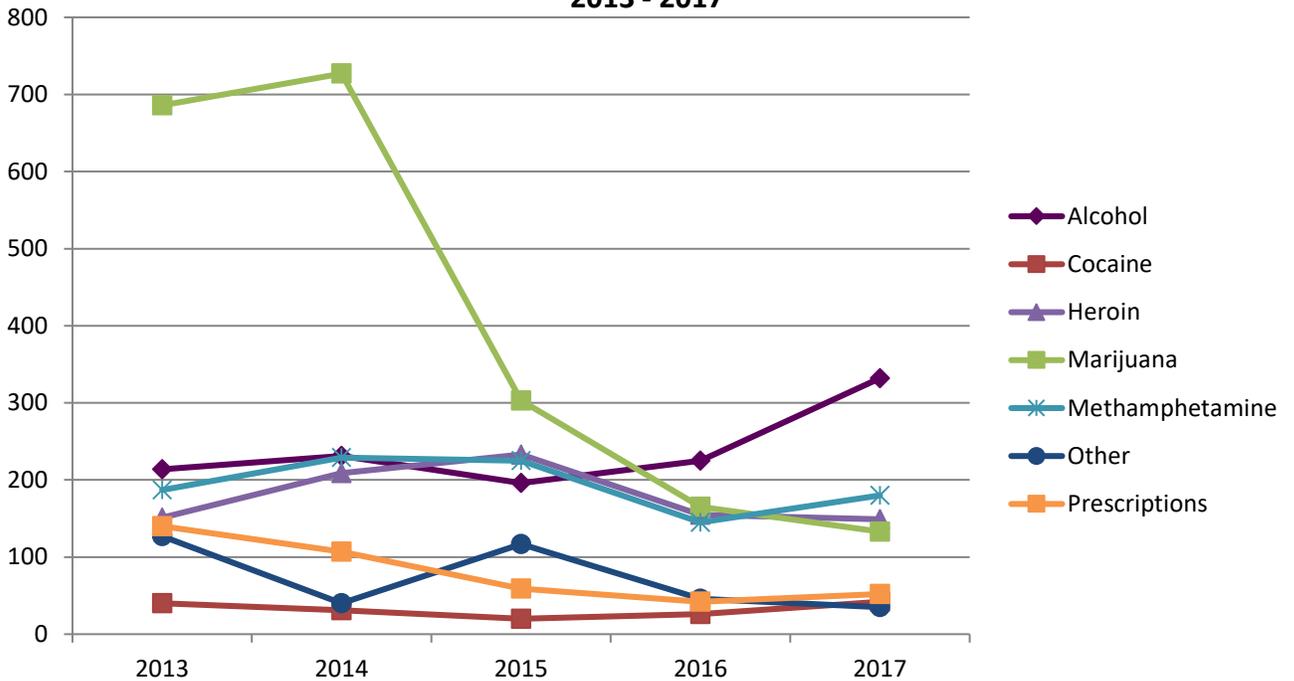
In 2017, SDEU made a total of 923 charges and arrests. This is a 14.8% increase over the 804 charges and arrests in 2016.

### SDEU Charges and Arrests 2017



Alcohol was the most common charge or arrest by far (n = 332), with methamphetamine (n = 180), heroin (n = 149), and marijuana (n = 133) following behind. Other, which includes hallucinogens, was the least common charge or arrest (n = 35).

### SDEU Charges and Arrests by Substance 2013 - 2017

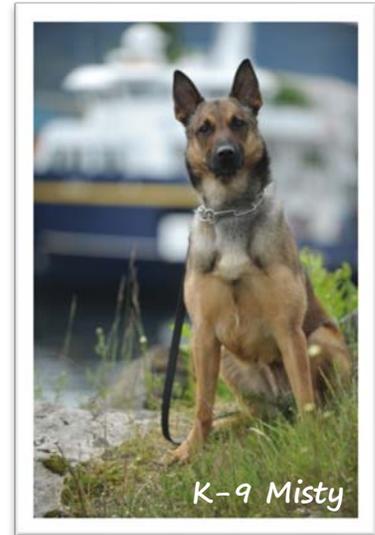


\*Statistics represent charges and arrests by SDEU only. Charges and arrests quantify the charges and/or the arrests that resulted from a case investigation. It does not account for those incidents where charges were not sustained or dismissed, and it includes tallies of arrest made as the result of an investigation.

## SDEU CANINE TEAMS

In 2017, the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit retained three sole-purpose canine teams based out of the Anchorage DEA Task Force, the Mat-Su Narcotics Enforcement Team, and the Ketchikan office of Southeast Alaska Cities against Drugs (SEACAD). These canine teams respond to drug-related incidents all across the state. Our drug-sniffing canines are utilized to support Alaska State Troopers and local Alaskan law enforcement agencies, as well as provide assistance to federal agencies such as the DEA, FBI – Safe Streets Task Force, and U.S. Postal Service.

The AST Canine Unit experienced many changes in 2017. The unit sustained the loss of K9 Rico who was killed in the line of duty in March 2017. However, growth was also experienced with the completion of two scent detections training academies and the addition of four canine teams who replaced losses suffered in 2016. One of these teams was attached to the Department of Corrections and the other three teams to SDEU. Lastly, two additional AST canine instructors were added to assist with future canine training academies and maintenance training sessions.



In addition to training AST canines, this unit supported and trained canine teams for a number of other departments in 2017, including the Department of Corrections, North Slope Borough Police Department, Fairbanks Police Department, Anchorage Airport Police and Fire Department, and Wasilla Police Department. AST offers eight days of training sessions semi-annually, open to all police departments with canine teams wishing to attend. In addition, the AST Canine Unit offers annual certifications for canine teams for both patrol and drug detection canine teams.

The scent detection canine teams are frequently called to assist other agencies. The results of those individual efforts are reported in the responsible agencies seizure report, if provided. Because not all agencies provided

seizure data, the following paragraph is a “stand alone” summary of the scent detection canine activity for 2017.

In 2017, the SDEU Canine Teams were directly involved in 89 felony arrests, 23 misdemeanor arrests, the seizure of 7,824.19 grams of heroin, 4,757.35 grams of cocaine, 17,766.35 grams of methamphetamine, 6,020.32 grams of marijuana and \$330,918.00 cash from drug proceeds.

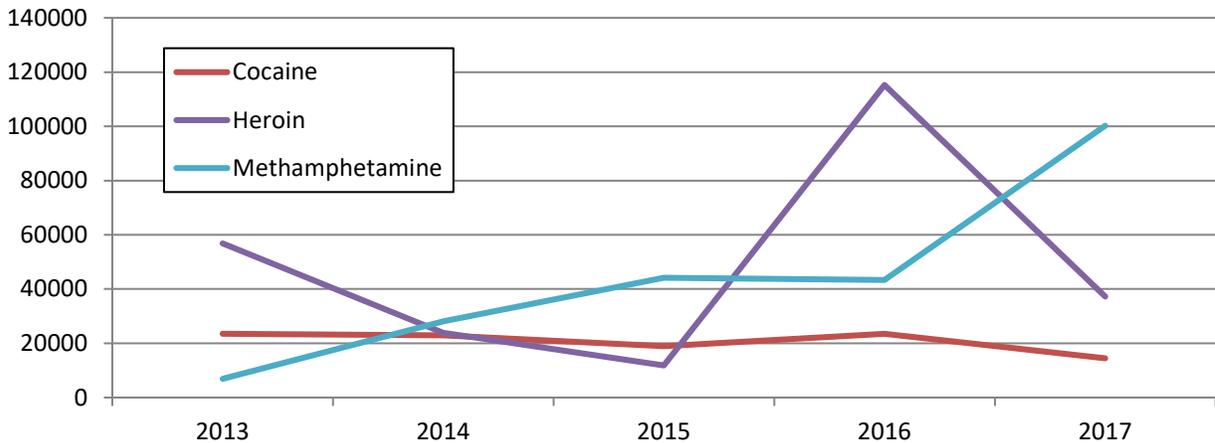


## ALASKA DRUG SEIZURES

Below are the cumulative totals of the top three drug types seized in Alaska across all contributing agencies. All measurements are in grams.

Agency	Cocaine	Heroin	Methamphetamine	Grand Total
Anchorage Airport FPD	4.00	33.00	40.00	77.00
Anchorage PD	4,755.73	8,248.14	5,795.72	18,799.59
AST Detachments	276.12	506.59	3,061.44	3,844.15
AST SDEU	2,845.19	7,061.30	24,908.98	34,815.47
Bristol Bay PD	-	-	5.00	5.00
Craig PD	-	1.00	3.50	4.50
DEA	2,080.00	15,590.00	38,860.00	56,530.00
Dillingham DPS	16.70	48.10	25.10	89.90
Fairbanks PD	324.66	4.17	58.50	387.33
FBI	2,674.40	942.40	5,286.36	8,903.16
Fort Wainwright CID	87.70	4.00	-	91.70
Homer PD	-	8.35	14.28	22.63
HSI	149.70	2,644.40	16,946.20	19,740.30
Juneau PD	1,121.00	1,065.00	3,903.00	6,089.00
Kenai PD	2.29	68.31	64.02	134.62
Kodiak PD	117.88	765.78	812.27	1,695.93
North Slope Borough PD	1.42	1.40	2.00	4.82
Seward PD	0.30	1.10	14.10	15.50
Soldotna PD	-	22.36	148.85	171.21
Unalaska DPS	-	1.00	131.00	132.00
Wasilla PD	11.20	248.00	150.00	409.20
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14,468.29</b>	<b>37,264.40</b>	<b>100,230.32</b>	<b>151,963.01</b>

### Alaska State Trooper Seizures (grams) 2013 - 2017



This graph inclusive of the three illicit substance seizures reported by agencies for the given years.



## ***DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION***

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The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is committed to working with all federal, state, and local drug units in the State of Alaska in the effort to enhance and facilitate investigations of drug trafficking throughout the state.

The DEA mission in Alaska is headed by a Special Agent in Charge located in Seattle, Washington, with local oversight delegated to an Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) located in Anchorage, Alaska. The ASAC manages the two DEA offices in the state: the Anchorage District Office and the Fairbanks Post of Duty. Each office is comprised of DEA Special Agents, as well as other federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, all responsible for enforcing the Controlled Substances Act.

The DEA has resources to support investigations and can assist with obtaining federal prosecutions in jurisdictions outside of Anchorage and Fairbanks when requested.

### **DEA 360 Strategy**

Since 2015, the DEA has utilized a “360 Strategy” as a means to address issues related to heroin, prescription drugs, and violent crime. The program serves as a model for communities struggling to break cycle of drug trafficking, abuse and violence.

The DEA 360 Strategy comprises a three-fold approach to fighting drug traffickers:

- Provide DEA leadership with coordinated DEA enforcement actions targeting all levels of drug trafficking organizations and violent gangs supplying drugs in our neighborhoods, as we have been doing with ongoing law enforcement operations.
- Have a long-lasting impact by engaging drug manufacturers, wholesalers, practitioners, and pharmacists to increase awareness of the heroin and prescription drug problem and push for responsible prescribing and use of these medications throughout the medical community.
- Change attitudes through community outreach and partnership with local organizations following DEA enforcement actions to equip and empower communities with the tools to fight the heroin and prescription drug epidemic.

The short term goal of the 360 Strategy is to provide as much information, in many different forms, as possible to reach young people. Officials will work to form a “community alliance” that

will comprise key leaders from law enforcement, prevention, treatment, the judicial system, education, business, government, civic organizations, faith communities, media, social services and others to form the core of a long-term group to help carry the prevention and treatment messages to the local population during the critical post-operation timeframe.

As part of this strategy, in October 2017, the DEA and the Fairbanks Native Association co-hosted the “Fairbanks Opioid Summit”. This event addressed concerns regarding opioid abuse and provided Alaskans with the education and resources necessary to combat the threat. Another “Opioid Summit” will occur in Fairbanks during the latter part of October 2018.

### **National Prescription Drug Take Back Program**

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. In an effort to address this problem, the DEA, in conjunction with state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, work together collaboratively to provide a venue for persons who want to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. This effort has proven to be a huge success in removing potentially dangerous prescription drugs, particularly controlled substances, from our nation’s medicine cabinets.

In Calendar Year (CY) 2017, the DEA Take Back Program collected 7,858 pounds of expired/unused prescription medicine at collection sites throughout the State of Alaska.

Please check the following website for an announcement regarding the next Take Back Event: [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html)

### **Top Five DEA Drug Seizures in Alaska for CY 2017**

**This data may reflect drug seizures made by DEA and made by other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in joint DEA investigations and may be subject to change.**

<b>Controlled Substance Seized</b>	<b>Amount Seized</b>
Methamphetamine	38.86 Kilograms
Marijuana	20.19 Kilograms
Heroin	15.59 Kilograms
Cocaine	2.08 Kilograms
Controlled Pharmaceuticals**	1.36 Kilograms

\*\* Controlled Pharmaceuticals = Any Schedule II - V controlled substance that is typically prescribed. This may include, but not limited to, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Benzodiazepines, Opioid Treatment Pharmaceuticals, etc.

### **DEA Tip Line**

Report any violation of the Controlled Substances Act through the DEA website: <http://www.dea.gov>



## ALASKA FBI SAFE STREETS TASK FORCE

**Background:** In 1991, the FBI started the Safe Streets Initiative. This combined subject matter experts from federal, state, and local law enforcement alongside local and federal prosecutors. The objective was to identify, investigate, and prosecute the most violent offenders, criminal enterprises and gangs in their jurisdictional areas. Prosecution at a state or federal level was determined by one simple factor – what avenue would provide the maximum sentencing for these violent offenders. This approach was so successful it has spawned multiple “Safe Streets” task forces to include those that specifically formulated to address violent gangs, violent incident crimes, and violent crimes against children.

**Mission:** The Alaska Safe Streets Task Force (SSTF) is dedicated to working with its state and local partners to identify, disrupt, and dismantle violent criminal organizations, violent gangs, individual repeat violent offenders, and violent drug trafficking organizations. The critical component in the Safe Streets Initiatives is to direct the task forces expertise and resources against the communities “worst of the worst”. While the SSTF will conduct seizures of illegally gained assets and illegal narcotics as required by law, success is not measured in this manner nor by quantities of seizures. The SSTF rates success via disruption and dismantlement of violent organizations and long term sentencing of repeat violent offenders as well as overall positive community impact throughout Alaska.

**Members:** The FBI currently operates the Safe Streets Violent Gang Task Force with members from Anchorage Police Department (3), Juneau PD (1), Kodiak PD (3), Petersburg PD (1), the ATF (1) and the US Coast Guard Investigative Service (USCGIS) (2). Associate (or part-time) members include the DEA, Kenai PD, Alaska State Troopers, and IRS. The FBI has approximately 10 Special Agents working SSTF matters.

Statistical Accomplishments	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
Indictments	17	36	55
*Arrests	40	26/36	48
Weapons	19	16	94
Intel Products	28	37	21
**Disruption	11	9	21
***Dismantlement	1	3	3

\*This represents a period starting in October 2016 through February of 2016 (less than 5 months)

\*\*Disruptions are critical SSTF statistical accomplishment which represents a LE action that “disrupts” daily activities of a criminal enterprise (CE) and/or Violent Gang.

\*\*\*Dismantlement is the premiere task force statistical accomplishment and is the goal of every SSTF investigation. Dismantlement is claimed only when every member of the CE and/or Violent Gang has been convicted or maximum sentence achieved such as life on a primary subject.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Methamphetamine	5,286.36 grams	\$1,585,908.00
Marijuana	4.31 grams	\$86.20
Heroin	942.4 grams	\$282,720.00
Cocaine	2,674.4 grams	\$267,440.00
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED*:</b>		<b>\$2,136,154.20</b>

\*Drug values can vary due to amount sold at a time, airport and postal interdictions, and drug values based upon intended destination. The street value’s listed above were estimated using the Anchorage street values collected by AST.



## UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

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### SEATTLE DIVISION

As one of the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agencies, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) is mandated to safeguard the entire Postal Service system which includes more than 600,000 employees who process and deliver the mail and millions of customers who use it. U.S. Postal Inspectors protect the U.S. Postal Service, and its employees, infrastructure, and customers; enforce more than 200 federal statutes that defend the nation's mail system from illegal or dangerous use; and ensure public trust in the mail.

The current Inspection Service staff in Alaska includes a Team Leader, five (5) Postal Inspectors, and an administrative support technician. USPIS has already started the process to backfill their sixth position in order to increase the current complement on hand and further maintain the scope of our activities in Alaska which includes, among other things, narcotics investigations. The Alaska team is responsible for investigating all violations of federal law that utilize the US Mail or affect the U.S. Post Office. These violations include burglaries of Post Offices, assaults on employees, Mail Fraud, Mail Theft and the distribution of illegal substances through the U.S. Mail.

Since 2012, the Inspection Service proactively seeks illegal drug shipments in the mail by conducting ongoing and routine narcotics interdictions in several locations including South East (SE) Alaska. The agency recognizes that a multijurisdictional approach is essential in addressing the flow of illegal narcotics to and from as well as within Alaska. USPIS has worked, and will, continue to work closely with its partners in law enforcement to combat the drug problem in Alaska; not by going after the addict, but by devoting valuable resources in investigating the dealer, suppliers, and drug trafficking organizations. While working together with Law Enforcement partners in Alaska, USPIS has also supplemented personnel resources from around the country in Seattle for periods at a time to assist with ridding the mail of illicit drug trafficking destined for SE Alaska. Seattle is the gateway for mail originating from the lower 48 states, as well as international mail parcels destined for SE Alaska. Postal Inspectors have collaborated in these operations with the FBI, DEA, HSI, Alaska State Troopers, Juneau PD, Sitka PD, SEACAD, Petersburg PD, Ketchikan PD, Skagway PD, and others. These efforts have been successful as Postal Inspectors, together with partners in Law Enforcement, have made numerous arrests annually, and have seized quantities of illegal narcotics, cash profits, weapons, and other contraband related to these investigations. Law Enforcement agencies also pool valuable intelligence and continue to adjust resources jointly as criminals rotate their methods of entry and distribution of drugs in Alaska. The Inspection Service is proud to announce that because of these efforts it has been able to place an Inspector in Juneau, AK, for an extended detail.

In addition to the attention the USPIS has given to SE Alaska, the Inspection Service regularly conducts profiling operations throughout the rest of the state, including, but not limited to, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Barrow. It has and will continue to partner with all Law Enforcement partners to not only search for illegal drug shipments, but also alcohol.

Inspectors have traveled regularly to villages, North Slope Borough, Fairbanks, and locally in Anchorage to assist the community in ridding illegal narcotics and alcohol from their villages. The state of Alaska continues to see and struggle with epidemic levels of drug and alcohol abuse that has been ravaging and disrupting villages. The Postal Service has no interest in being the unwitting accomplice to anyone using the U.S. Mail to distribute illegal drugs, alcohol, or

paraphernalia. The Inspection Service is committed to the mission and will continue all efforts together with our Law Enforcement Partners to rid the mail of illicit trafficking of drugs and alcohol, preserve the integrity of the mail, and most importantly, provide a safe environment for postal employees and Postal Service customers – the American public.

## *HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS*

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HSI is the principal investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, responsible for investigating transnational crime and threats, specifically those criminal organizations that exploit the global infrastructure through which international trade, travel, and finance move.

HSI investigates, disrupts, and dismantles terrorist, transnational, and other criminal organizations that threaten or seek to exploit the customs and immigration laws of the United States.

HSI investigates violations of laws pertaining to border security, homeland security, and public safety — all of HSI’s mission sets have a nexus to those three areas. HSI targets organizations and individuals smuggling drugs into the United States. Opioids, heroin, and other dangerous illegal drugs are a threat to our communities.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value*
Cocaine	149.7 grams	\$14,970.00
Heroin	2,644.4 grams	\$793,320.00
Marijuana	1,701 grams	\$34,020.00
Methamphetamine	16,946.2 grams	\$5,083,860.00
Opium	4,803.5 grams	Unknown
Other Drugs, Prescriptions, Chemicals	7,243.9 grams	Unknown
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$57,200.00</b>

\*Drug values can vary due to amount sold at a time, airport and postal interdictions, and drug values based upon intended destination. The street value’s listed above were estimated using the Anchorage street values collected by AST.

## ***ANCHORAGE AIRPORT POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT***

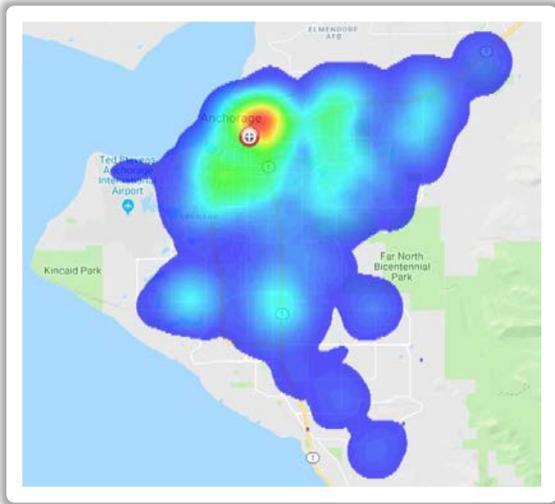
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Anchorage Airport Police and Fire is responsible for law enforcement and aircraft rescue firefighting at the Anchorage International Airport. All officers are certified by the Alaska Police Standards Council. Additional training includes firefighting certifications as well as emergency trauma technician certification. In 2017 the Airport Police received its first narcotics K9 to help combat the drug problem in Alaska. Other specialized duties include: Water rescue team, explosive disposal team, statewide drug detail, and DEA task force officer.

<b>Substance Seized</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Total Street Value*</b>
Marijuana	992 grams	\$19,840.00
Marijuana Concentrate	110 grams	\$2,200.00
Hashish Oil	65 grams	\$1,300.00
Methamphetamine	40 grams	\$800.00
Heroin	33 grams	\$9,900.00
Cocaine	4 grams	\$600.00
MDMA	8 grams	Unknown
Oxycodone	15 pills	\$300.00
Hydrocodone	50 pills	\$1,000.00
Alprazolam	22 pills	\$440.00
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$36,380.00</b>

## ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Anchorage Police Department (APD) serves a growing population of over 300,000 residents in an area of varying terrain that comprises nearly 200 square miles. The department has grown by more than thirty percent over the last ten years in response to the population increase. With an authorized strength of 514 sworn and civilian positions, APD is the largest law enforcement agency in the state.



Pictured is a heat map of drug or narcotic violations in Anchorage in 2017. Blue is low density and red is high density, with the majority of violations in the downtown area. (Courtesy of Lexis Nexis)

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Cocaine/Crack	4,755.73 grams	\$713,359.50
Hash/Hash Oil	23.66 grams	\$1,183.00
Heroin	8,248.14 grams	\$2,474,442.00
Marijuana	90,477.42 grams	\$517,013.83
LSD	13.72 grams	\$274.40
Mushrooms	58.96 grams	\$884.40
Meth	5,795.72 grams	\$579,572.00
Prescription	157,989.87 grams	Variable at \$2.00/mg
Prescription (Pills)	8,781 pills	\$175,620.00
Other	1,017.40 grams	Unknown
Unknown	7,982.56 grams	Unknown
Unknown (Pills)	519 pills	Unknown
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$4,462,349.13</b>

\*Drug values can vary due to amount sold at a time, airport and postal interdictions, and drug values based upon intended destination. The street value's listed above were estimated using Anchorage street values.

## **BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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Located on the Alaska Peninsula in southwestern Alaska at the head of Kvichak Bay, Bristol Bay Borough was organized in 1962 and is Alaska's oldest borough. The year-round population of 1200 can spike to over 15,000 in the late spring and summer months due to job opportunities related to the world's largest commercial Sockeye Salmon fishery. King Salmon serves as a hub for most of the Alaska Peninsula.

In addition to providing police services for Bristol Bay Borough, which is comprised of the communities of King Salmon, Naknek and South Naknek, the Bristol Bay Borough Police Department dispatches for police, Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, the Fire Department, EMTs, and after hours for Katmai National Park Rangers.

The Bristol Bay Borough Police Department responded to 115 incidents in 2017 that were called in specifically identifying alcohol or a person identified as intoxicated by the reporting party as the main reason for the call. These calls ranged from individuals refusing to leave liquor establishments or bars, to intoxicated individuals in public, and even the theft of alcohol from a local liquor store, underage drinking, Report Every Dangerous Driver Immediately (REDDI) reports, and intoxicated individuals in the roadways. The Bristol Bay Borough Police Department made 7 DUI arrests during the year 2017.

The Bristol Bay Borough Police Department continues to see drug use and drug abuse throughout the community. Black tar heroin seems to be on the rise in the borough just like it is everywhere else. The Bristol Bay Borough Police Department also is seeing an influx in methamphetamine use. Marijuana is quite abundant in this community, as well and the use of spice still surfaces from time to time. Many marijuana violations consisted of individuals thinking that since marijuana was legalized it was okay to use the drug in public with disregard to others.

Bristol Bay Borough Police Department also responded to one incident in 2017 that involved a female abusing prescription or over the counter medication in the attempts to commit suicide.

<b>Substance Seized</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Total Street Value</b>
Marijuana	2-3 Pounds	\$56,700.00
Methamphetamine	5 grams	\$500.00
Spice	2 grams	Unknown
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$57,200.00</b>

## *CRAIG POLICE DEPARTMENT*

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The city of Craig is located on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast and is surrounded by the Tongass National Forest. The island is the third largest in the U.S. Craig Police Department (CPD) serves an 11.5 square mile area, with a population that varies between 2,000 and 6,000 depending on commercial and charter fishing, and tourism. The 24-hour dispatch center is the only one on the island and provides varied services for multiple agencies. The dispatch center handles an average of over 21,000 calls for service annually and operates a five-cell jail facility.

Forty-one (41) persons arrested or charged with PTR/P (Petition to Revoke Probation).

Several packages were intercepted containing large amounts of pills, heroin, methamphetamine, and marijuana. No controlled deliveries were made in Craig.

In 2017, CPD saw a large increase of drug paraphernalia during investigations, traffic stops, and while serving search warrants. Items found included needles, tin foil with burn residue, meth pipes, and marijuana pipes.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Heroin	1.0 grams	\$1,000.00
Meth	3.5 grams	\$525.00
Marijuana	4.0 grams	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$1,625.00</b>

## *DILLINGHAM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY*

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Dillingham is the western Bristol Bay regional hub community. It has a year-round population base of 2,500, which increases to over 5,000 people during the summer commercial fishing season. It is the home of most governmental agencies in the region, the regional hospital, and the airport, which is the main entry point into the region from Anchorage and beyond.

The Dillingham Police provides service to a 22 square mile area. Dispatch handles communication for police, Fire, EMS, and AST.

In 2017, the Dillingham Police made four drug-related arrests with seven drug charges. Four search warrants were served in relation to those arrests.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Heroin	48.1 grams	\$48,100.00
Meth	25.1 grams	\$15,120.00
Cocaine	16.7 grams	\$3,340.00
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$65,565.40</b>

## *FAIRBANKS POLICE DEPARTMENT*

Fairbanks, the Golden Heart City, was founded in 1902 as a trading post in the Tanana Valley. With the discovery of gold that same year, a boom followed and Fairbanks became a service center supporting nearby gold mining operations. The regional Dispatch Center, formerly a component of Fairbanks Police Department, was reorganized into its own department in 2006.

In 2017, Fairbanks Police Department made 25 drug-related arrests with 32 drug charges.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Amphetamines/Methamphetamines	58.5 grams	\$11,700.00
Cocaine (All Forms Except Crack)	324.66 grams	\$32,466.00
Heroin	4.17 grams	\$2,085.00
Marijuana	2,025.05 grams	\$40,501.00
Psychedelic Mushrooms	146.26 grams	\$5,850.40
Other Drugs	96 dosage units	\$4,800.00
Other Narcotics	5 dosage units	\$100.00
Oxycodone	5 dosage units	\$100.00
Other Medications	96 dosage units	\$4,800.00
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$97,502.40</b>

## *HOMER POLICE DEPARTMENT*

Homer is located on the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula along Kachemak Bay. The city limits cover about 21 square miles with a population of 5,000. The major industry is fishing, along with various types of construction and tourism. The police department provides dispatch service to the Homer and Anchor Point fire departments, EMT services and rescue units, Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, State Park Rangers, harbor officers, and the public works department.

In 2017, HPD made 30 drug-related arrests with 34 drug charges. Seven search warrants were serviced in relation to these arrests.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Methamphetamine	14.275 grams	\$5,710.00
Heroin	8.35 grams	\$2,922.50
Marijuana	40.5 grams	\$1,215.00
Codeine Cough Syrup	1 bottle	Unknown
Nitroglycerin Pills	23 tablets	\$115.00
Hydrochloride Pills	13 tablets	\$325.00
Suboxone Strip (8mg/2mg)	18 strips	\$450.00
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$10,737.50</b>

\*Drug values can vary due to amount sold at a time, airport and postal interdictions, and drug values based upon intended destination. The street value's listed above were estimated using Soldotna/Kenai street values as reported by AST's South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team.

## *JUNEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT*

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The Juneau Police Department provides general police services to the citizens of Juneau, Alaska covering an area of 3,081 square miles and population nearing 32,000. The department consists of two divisions: Administrative Support Services and Operations. Within these divisions, there are six units: Patrol, Criminal Investigations Unit, Drug Enforcement Unit, Community Service, Records and Dispatch. The department also maintains specialized teams: Special Weapons and Tactical (SWAT), Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) and Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT).

The Drug Enforcement Unit initiated 82 cases in 2017 with ten controlled buys, 30 agency assists, and 16 interdictions. Additionally, 28 warrants were served and 11 defendants were charged with 18 crimes.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Marijuana	551 grams	\$14,838.00
Heroin	1,065 grams	\$527,273.00
Methamphetamine	3,903 grams	\$1,065,590.00
Cocaine	1,121 grams	\$140,125.00
Hashish	79 grams	\$6,442.00
Psilocybin	5 grams	\$500.00
MDMA	5 dosage units	\$240.00
LSD	3 dosage units	\$75.00
Fentanyl	1 dosage unit	\$100.00
Oxycodone	501 dosage units	\$24,050.00
Hydrocodone	273 dosage units	\$20,520.00
Buprenorphine (Suboxone/Subutex)	15 dosage units	\$413.00
Dextroamphetamine	1 dosage unit	\$20.00
Clonazepam	93 dosage units	\$1,828.00
Diazepam	75 dosage units	\$1,126.00
Zolpidem	10 dosage units	\$100.00
Alprazolam	62 dosage units	\$1,240.00
Naloxone	2 dosage units	\$50.00
Lidocaine	7 dosage units	\$35.00
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$1,804,565.00</b>

## *KENAI POLICE DEPARTMENT*

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Kenai lies on the east shore of Cook Inlet at the mouth of the Kenai River. The city of Kenai has a base population of 7,100, expanding during the summer months with tourists and an active commercial fishing industry. The community also acts as a base for the local oil industry, both on and offshore. The Kenai Police Department was formed in 1969. Community programs include D.A.R.E., Crime Stoppers, Neighborhood Watch, and Business Watch.

In 2017, the Kenai Police Department (KPD) investigated 58 drug related incidents resulting in 121 drug related charges. In many cases, there were multiple types of controlled substances that were located during a single investigation. KPD investigated 23 heroin related calls, resulting in the seizure of 68.31g of heroin. KPD also investigated 28 methamphetamine related calls, resulting in the seizure of 64.02g of methamphetamine. KPD investigated 17 cases involving marijuana. A total of 527.33g of illegal marijuana was seized. Additionally, a total of 2.29g of cocaine and an assortment of prescription controlled substances were seized.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Cocaine	2.29 grams	\$229.00
Heroin	68.31 grams	\$23,908.50
Methamphetamine	64.02 grams	\$25,608.00
Marijuana	527.33 grams	\$15,819.90
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$65,565.40</b>

\*Drug values can vary due to amount sold at a time, airport and postal interdictions, and drug values based upon intended destination. The street value's listed above were estimated using Soldotna/Kenai street values as reported by AST's South Central Area wide Narcotics Team.

## *KODIAK POLICE DEPARTMENT*

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The Kodiak Island Borough is home to over 13,000 people and covers nearly 5,000 square miles. Kodiak Island is the second largest island in the United States. The Kodiak Police Department (KPD) provides the City of Kodiak with law enforcement services twenty-four hours a day. KPD operates the only Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in the Kodiak Island Borough, which provides communications support and dispatch services to all police, fire and EMS agencies on Kodiak. KPD also operates the largest and busiest community jail in the State of Alaska.

Heroin and methamphetamine use is rampant in Kodiak. In 2017 Kodiak saw a substantial increase in heroin overdoses, and the arrival of fentanyl. The social issues caused by drug addiction had a major impact in the community. In response, KPD worked even more closely with USCG Investigative Services, State Troopers and other federal agencies to stem the flow of controlled substances. KPD Detectives were part of the FBI's Safe Streets Taskforce, and during this time they were also participants in a long term federal drug investigation (OCDEFT) that targeted prominent drug dealers in Kodiak. Several major drug busts, conducted by those agencies in Kodiak, are not included in the statistics below. KPD still seized approximately 11.5 pounds of drugs in 2017; with an estimated Kodiak street value of over 1.5 million dollars reflecting the rising costs of the drugs.

Statistics for drug cases, arrests/charges, and search warrants seemed more subjective in 2017. With the impact of Alaska SB 91 and our involvement in the federal taskforces, exact numbers were harder to tabulate. KPD detectives worked over two dozen felony cases; separate from the OCDEFT indictments that followed the conclusion of that drug investigation. KPD patrol officers dealt often with drug investigations that no longer reached felony prosecution levels, and a disproportionate number of all our drug investigations involved firearms.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Heroin	765.78 grams	\$1,148,670.00
Methamphetamine	812.27 grams	\$324,908.00
Cocaine	117.88 grams	\$35,364.00
Marijuana	3,538.14 grams	\$45,680.00
KHAT	58.2 grams	Unknown
Prescription Drugs (pills)	8 units	\$800.00
Suboxone	9.5 units	\$715.50
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$1,556,038.50</b>

\*Drug values can vary due to amount sold at a time, airport and postal interdictions, and drug values based upon intended destination. The street value's listed above were estimated using Kodiak street values as reported by AST's South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team.

## *NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT*

The boundaries of the North Slope Borough became effective June 2, 1986. The North Slope Borough Police Department serves the communities of the North Slope Borough which covers an area of 94,763 sq. miles and consists of eight villages plus Deadhorse, Alaska with a total resident population of approximately 8,356. The Prudhoe Bay oil production facilities located in Deadhorse Alaska has a working population of approximately 9515.

The North Slope Borough Police Department has two personnel assigned to regional Task Forces in Anchorage, Alaska, one serving on a State lead Task Force and the other on a Federal-lead Task Force. Additionally we have one personnel assigned to a Federal Task Force in Fairbanks, Alaska.

In 2017, the North Slope Borough investigated 38 drug related incidents within our Borough communities that resulted in seizures. In many cases there were multiple types of controlled substances that were seized in a single investigation.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Cocaine	1.4 grams	\$365.00
Heroin	1.4 grams	\$1,400.00
Methamphetamine	2.0 grams	\$1,000.00
Tramadol	33 units	\$495.00
Gabapentin	33 units	\$1,320.00
Marijuana	2,905.0 grams	\$313,838.00
Hashish Oil	618.9 grams	\$61,890.00
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$380,308.00</b>

## *SEWARD POLICE DEPARTMENT*

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Seward is located at the head of Resurrection Bay, with a population of 2,800 people. Seward is the site of Spring Creek Correctional Facility, a maximum security institution, and the terminus for the Alaska Railroad. Each Fourth of July, hundreds of runners participate in the grueling Mount Marathon Race, which is possibly the toughest race on the American continent.

Seward Police Department (SPD) provides dispatch service for Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corps, three fire departments, AST, Coast Guard, Forest Service, Park Service, National Marine Fisheries, Harbor Master, and Seward Public Utilities. The agency is the hub in all emergency situations, coordinating all emergency services and civil defense. The department is also responsible for running the Seward Community Jail.

In 2017, Seward Police Department made 12 drug related arrests with 20 drug charges and served four search warrants in relation to these arrests.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Hydrocodone (\$1/mg)	43 tablets (10 mg)	\$43.00
Marijuana (\$14.5/g)	52.5 grams	\$761.25
Methamphetamine (\$160/g)	14.1 grams	\$2,256.00
Testosterone (\$1/mg)	30 mg	\$30.00
Heroin(\$600/g)	1.1 grams	\$660.00
Cocaine (\$100/g)	0.3 grams	\$30.00
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$3,780.25</b>

## *SOLDOTNA POLICE DEPARTMENT*

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With a population of just over 4,000 people, Soldotna is one of only four first-class cities on Alaska's scenic Kenai Peninsula. Our town is also the Borough seat and the primary business hub for the surrounding area. In response to the needs of a growing community, the Soldotna Police Department was established in 1969. The Soldotna Police Department programs include D.A.R.E. and Explorers. The Department has fourteen commissioned officers.

The Soldotna Police Department responded to approximately 43 drug related complaints in 2017. The most significant drugs in these incidents were heroin, meth, and marijuana as indicated in the table below. Of interest there was a significant rise in marijuana cases against underage users in 2017. For 2015 there were eight cases. For 2016 there were four cases. 2017 jumped up to 12 cases.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Marijuana	46.22 grams	\$1,386.60
Marijuana oil	4.0 ml	\$120.00
Methamphetamine	88.85 grams	\$35,540.00
Methamphetamine (liquid)	60 units	\$24,000.00
Heroin (Black)	10.56 grams	\$3,696.00
Brown Heroin	11.8 ml (from loaded needles)	\$4,130.00
Clonazepam	5 pills	\$125.00
Alprazolam	4 pills	\$100.00
Clonidine	8 pills	\$200.00
Lorazepam	4.5 pills	\$112.50
Oxymorphone Hydrochloride	3 pill	\$75.00
Oxycodone	3 pills	\$60.00
Vicodin	3 pills	\$75.00
Nandrolone	3,000 mg	\$75.00
Testosterone	4,000 mg	\$100.00
Methlyphenidate	1 pill	\$25.00
Buprenorphine (Suboxone)	1 pill	\$25.00
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$69,845.10</b>

\*Drug values can vary due to amount sold at a time, airport and postal interdictions, and drug values based upon intended destination. The street value's listed above were estimated using Soldotna/Kenai street values as reported by AST's South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team.

## *UNALASKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY*

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Unalaska Department of Public Safety (UDPS) serves the City of Unalaska and International Port of Dutch Harbor. Unalaska is home to proximately 4,700 permanent residents and a vast transient population of an estimated 6,000 or more. Unalaska is located approximately 800 miles south west from Anchorage in the Aleutians Islands. The Port of Dutch Harbor is recognized as the #1 fishing port in the nation in regards to quantity of fish caught. The community is further economically supported by the maritime cargo industry.

UDPS consists of Police, Corrections, Communications, Fire/EMS and a DMV office. The Police Division has 16 sworn positions but has seen significant staffing shortages. The shortages have affected Public Safety's ability to dedicate officers and hours to drug investigations; however, patrol officers have had success in combating crimes relating to drugs.

Unalaska Police investigated 18 drug specific cases and many other investigations were found to have a drug nexus. Additionally, Unalaska Police made seven drug-related arrests, with a total of 20 drug-related charges. UDPS recognizes that three of these investigations included significant drug seizures; first being a case in which a federally convicted methamphetamines dealer was selling large amounts of marijuana to the local youth. The second and third investigations both yielded large methamphetamines seizures in which firearms were possessed in furtherance of the drug crimes. Firearm seizures included handguns and rifles.

The department's secure and anonymous drug disposal program continues to be popular for residents and visitors of the community. The local street value for illegal drugs seized during the past year is approximately \$37,000.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Heroin	1 gram	-
Marijuana	343 grams	-
THC Edibles	156 grams	-
Hash Oil	130 grams	-
Prescription Medications	100+ pills	-
<b>APPROXIMATE VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$37,000.00</b>

### *WASILLA POLICE DEPARTMENT*

The Wasilla Police Department (WPD) was established in 1993. WPD serves a city population of about 10,497; however, the Mat-Su Borough has created an area population of nearly 100,000, many of whom utilize City services on a daily basis. WPD continues to be involved in many community projects such as Youth Court, Police Reserves, School Resource Officer, and regional multi-disciplinary teams.

In 2017, Wasilla Police Department made 133 drug-related arrests with 203 drug charges and served 61 search warrants in relation to these arrests.

Substance Seized	Total Amount	Total Street Value
Cocaine	11.2 gm	\$1,680.00
Heroin	248 gm	\$42,160.00
Methamphetamines	150 gm	\$15,000.00
Narc Prescriptions	320.5 pills	\$8,012.50
Narc Films/Patches	36.25 films	\$906.25
Other Drugs	863.5 pills	\$21,587.50
Marijuana	291.24 gm	Unknown
Marijuana edibles	442 units	Unknown
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED:</b>		<b>\$89,346.25</b>

\*Total value of drugs seized does not include legal drugs

## SUMMARY

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The Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU) is tasked with the enforcement of drug and alcohol laws throughout the State of Alaska. SDEU derives its manpower from direct staffing, collaborative agreements with local departments and tribal entities, as well as Task Force Officers (TFO) assigned and partnered with Federal agencies. SDEU both leads and participates in interdiction and investigations of illicit controlled substances statewide as well as alcohol importation and distribution into local option communities.

This report provides information on controlled and regulated substances most commonly trafficked and abused within the state that cost and cause the greatest amount of harm to Alaskans. The report begins with alcohol, the substance with the highest attributable death rate in Alaska, and a factor frequently seen in many law enforcement contacts (Pachoe, 2018). Marijuana is still mentioned in the report as it is still encountered under prohibited terms of manufacturing, shipping, and sales.

The report enumerates arrests by the SDEU and tallies the number of state charges as of the release date of this report. To provide further context to the information in the report derived from law enforcement information and statistics, the report also contains information from a variety of community-oriented researchers and organizations. Whenever information presented in the report has been based on research, the intent has been to credit the source of the information used.

### Alaska HIDTA Designation

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designation that Alaska received through the Office of National Drug Control Policy is the first stand-alone designation for any state in nineteen years. Alaska's HIDTA designation will provide additional resources to mitigate the negative impact of illicit drug trafficking on our State.

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, as amended, requires the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to consider four critical areas in determining whether a particular geographic region qualifies as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Specifically, these critical areas are the extent to which (A) the area is a significant center of illegal drug production, manufacturing, importation, or distribution; (B) state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies have committed resources to respond to the drug trafficking problem in the area, thereby indicating a determination to respond aggressively to the problem; (C) drug-related activities in the area are having a significant harmful impact in the area, and in other areas of the country; and (D) a significant increase in allocation of Federal resources is necessary to respond adequately to drug-related activities in the area. The State of Alaska's illicit drug issues and our response to those issues met the four statutory requirements for Alaska to become a stand-alone HIDTA.

The hope for HIDTA in Alaska is perhaps best described by the leader of a valued partner in Alaska's interdiction and enforcement. Rear Admiral McAllister of the U.S. Coast Guard wrote: "The sharing of limited resources to enhance intelligence, investigations, and operations, and to develop a unified strategy, is especially important as we address the growing opioid epidemic and other multi-modal illicit drug trafficking throughout Alaska." Alaska stands strong in the battle against illicit drug trafficking and its mission to ensure public safety.

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