

Alaska State Troopers Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement



2003 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 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-four (24) State Trooper investigators and seven (7) civilian clerical personnel for the majority of 2003. ABADE recognizes that because of Alaska's geographical vastness and ethnic diversity, no single law enforcement agency is capable of handling the drug and alcohol problems alone. ABADE encourages cooperative efforts between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and has taken a leadership role in fostering and developing many of these cooperative arrangements through multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency efforts. The ABADE headquarters office in Anchorage supports six (6) investigative teams throughout the state. These teams are broken down by region as follows:

Alaska Interdiction Task Force (DEA sponsored)

Fairbanks Areawide Narcotics Team

Mat-Su Drug Narcotics Enforcement Team

Major Offenders Unit

Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team

Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team

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

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



Nature of the Drug Problem

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

While there is no question that many aspects of the drug and alcohol problem are unique to Alaska, 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 plays 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.

According to an article published by the Alaska Justice Forum in the winter of 2003, research conducted by ADAM finds that in Anchorage during 2001, several very serious trends are clearly visible.

Among the 571 male arrestees screened, 12 percent were between 15 and 20 years of age, while over 41 percent were 36 years of age or older. These age brackets 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, over 19 percent of the 571 arrestees tested positive for cocaine. Over 38 percent tested positive for marijuana.

A total of 122 female arrestees were surveyed. Among those females, 15.6 percent were between 15 and 20 years of age. Just slightly over 40 percent were 36 years of age or older. Cocaine was detected among 22.8 percent of the female arrestees while marijuana was present in 30.7 percent of the arrestees.

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.

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 2003, methamphetamine use and manufacturing have increased significantly. Another area of significant increase was the use of prescription drugs, many of which are obtained with fraudulent prescriptions. Other drugs such as LSD, Ecstasy and other designer and/or "club" drugs were also cause for concern.



Vacuum sealed marijuana



Alcohol pictured represents one seizure



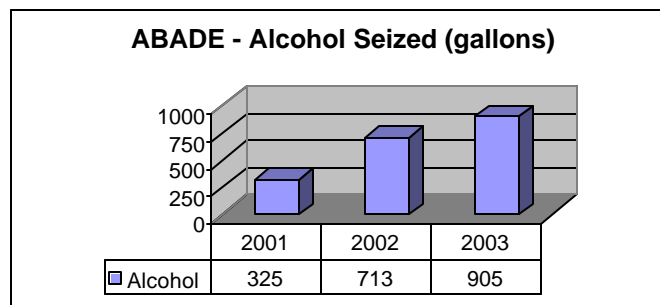
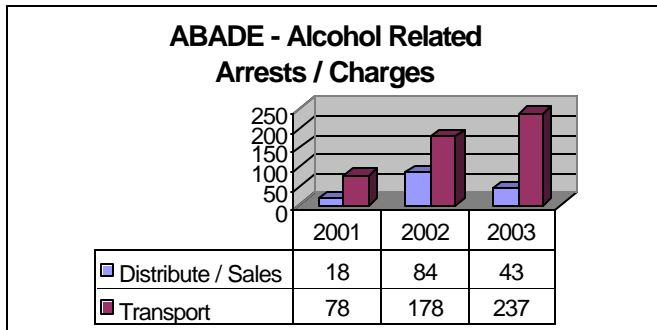
Cocaine packaged in bindles

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 rural Alaska.

The Alaska State Troopers applied for and received federal funding for five investigators whose function is focused on alcohol issues. During most of 2003, two of the investigators were subordinate to ABADE, dedicating 100% of their time to alcohol investigations. The other three positions were uniformed troopers assigned to "C" Detachment in Western Alaska with half of their time dedicated to illegal alcohol investigations and the other half dedicated to community policing efforts in an attempt to reduce alcohol use and abuse in the rural communities.

In the fall of 2003 the three uniformed troopers were reassigned from "C" Detachment to ABADE to focus 100% of their time on alcohol investigations. The community policing duties were reassigned to the 42 uniformed troopers in "C" Detachment.



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 sell for as much as \$150 per bottle. The initial purchase for the bootlegger involves a minimal cash investment, a maximum cash return with little threat of being caught or criminally charged. A dollar-for-dollar comparison of alcohol and drugs purchased in Anchorage and then sold in many Alaskan villages breaks down as follows:

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



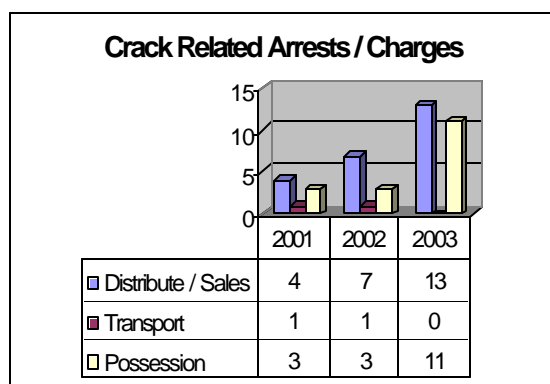
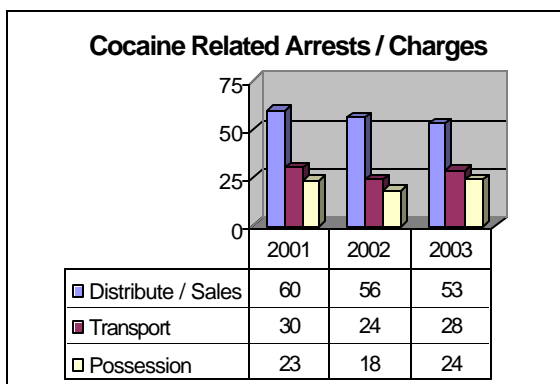
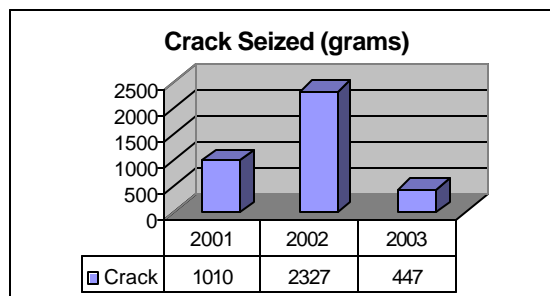
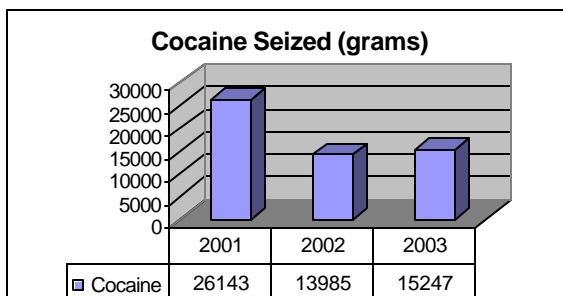
Cocaine

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.



Cocaine wrapped in plastic hidden in a cold cream jar

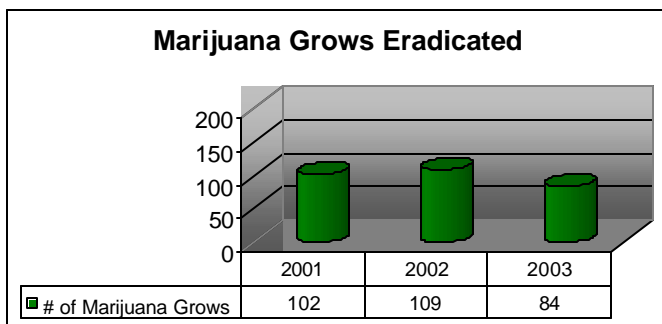


Marijuana

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.

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.

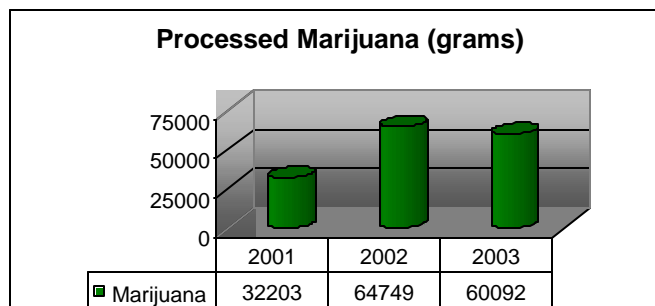
In some parts of the state, the local economy is directly affected by the influx of money from illegally produced marijuana. Proceeds from marijuana production are used for a multitude of purchases including fuel, grow equipment/supplies, utilities, vehicles, ATV's and building materials.



Marijuana hidden in empty beer cans



Vacuum sealed marijuana hidden in a spare tire



Methamphetamine

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

The DEA continues to conduct training in Alaska so that police officers will have the skills, knowledge, and tools to safely investigate suspected clandestine laboratories. There is now a sizable cadre of trained officers across the state. These officers are available to assist in the eradication of clandestine laboratories. They consist of federal, state, and local officers. In order to stay compliant with OSHA regulations, these members require annual re-certification as well as constant replacement of one time use equipment. In March 2003, 50 Alaska Peace officers were re-certified.

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.

A total of 50 clandestine laboratories were discovered in Alaska in 2000. As a result of aggressive training and subsequent enforcement effort, the number of labs discovered in 2001 dropped to 21. Statistics show that the number is again on the rise. In 2002, a total of 32 clandestine laboratories were discovered in Alaska and in 2003, 66 clan labs were discovered.

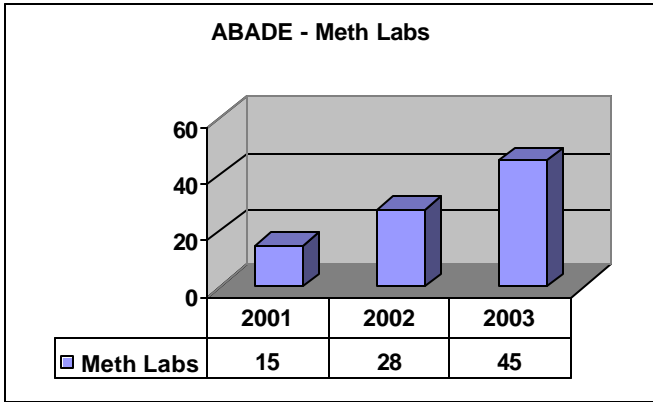
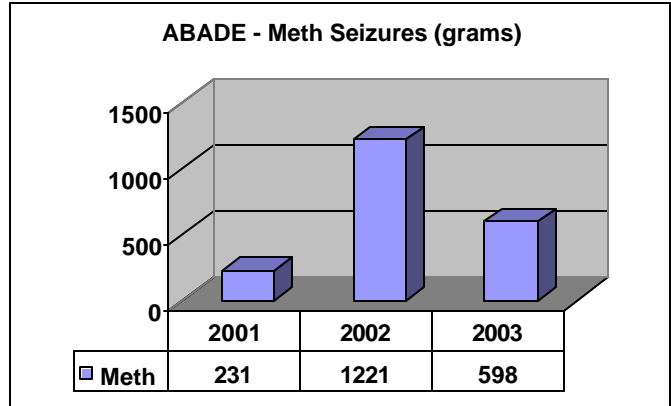
Methamphetamine laboratories are being operated increasingly in single and multi-family residences in many neighborhoods. In addition to meth labs producing illegal, often deadly drugs, the clandestine nature of the manufacturing process and the presence of ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and toxic chemicals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

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

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



Remnants of a meth lab



Chemicals and items used in a meth lab

Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement Overviews

During the year of 2003, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) underwent substantial changes. One such change was the restructuring of the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU). With that restructuring, SDEU became the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE). ABADE, previously assigned to "I" Detachment, is now its own detachment. ABADE's program has expanded and been enhanced throughout the state. The command staff has grown from the traditional commander only to a commander and a deputy commander. Manning has been increased with the reassignment of three "C" Detachment alcohol investigators to the Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT) and the reinstatement of a Major Offender Unit.

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



Alaska Interdiction Task Force

The importance of the narcotics interdiction effort at key locations is constantly being reaffirmed and the Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF) continued its success in making large seizures of cash, cocaine, crack, methamphetamine and other controlled substances during 2003.

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

Cocaine primarily comes into Alaska through the Anchorage airport from various source cities in the lower 48 states. Various methods are used to transport cocaine, such as concealing it in carry-on luggage, secured underneath clothing, or hidden in shoes, just to name a few. It is also imported and distributed through parcel express companies and the U.S. Postal Service. With the increase in airport security since 9/11, drug traffickers have shifted their transportation methods and started to use parcel and cargo delivery services on a more frequent basis. Members of the AITF have worked diligently to develop working relationships with key business in this industry.

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

In addition to the cocaine seizures, the AITF seized significant amounts of U.S. currency as it was leaving Alaska through the airport. The cash 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 nationwide connections moving very large quantities of cocaine and drug related monies across the country and state.



Marijuana hidden in frozen meat being shipped via a local cargo company

Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team

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

Their focus varies from the identification and investigation of street level dealers of crack cocaine to the investigation of large distributors of powder cocaine. Of significant concern in the Fairbanks area is the continuing threat of manufacturing, use, and distribution of methamphetamine. Clandestine methamphetamine laboratories are prevalent in the Fairbanks area and are being operated increasingly in or near single and multi-family homes, where public health and safety is at an extremely high risk. Marijuana cultivation also continues to be a problem in the Fairbanks area. During 2003 the team eradicated 22 meth labs and 16 marijuana grows.

In February, the unit responded to a fire at the Aspen Hotel. The fire was caused by two individuals operating a meth lab in their room. Both were identified and criminally charged. One individual was contacted again in March for making meth in another hotel room.

In August, the unit assisted DEA with the seizure of 1.3 kilos of cocaine. The unit also conducted a "controlled delivery" of 5.2 pounds of marijuana with the U.S. Postal Inspectors. During the search warrant service another 1.8 pounds of marijuana was discovered along with 77 grams of mushrooms.

Also in August the unit executed a search warrant and recovered 118 marijuana plants, 18 firearms, \$24,000 in cash and a 2000 pick-up truck.

In September, the Fairbanks office of ABADE completed a seven-month investigation into the illegal sale of alcohol and marijuana by a University of Alaska Fairbanks Economics professor. The professor transported 60 bottles of alcohol and marijuana to Barrow in his Piper Supercub, and sold the alcohol and marijuana to an undercover State Trooper. The undercover trooper negotiated another purchase of over six ounces of marijuana from the professor in Fairbanks. At the conclusion of the investigation, ABADE seized the Supercub, a 1997 Ford Pickup, multiple weapons, and 21 growing marijuana plants from the professor's residence. He was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol and drug related crimes.

In December 2003, a postal package containing a kilo of cocaine, destined for Fairbanks was intercepted by the AITF unit in Anchorage. A controlled delivery was conducted by the Fairbanks team. One suspect was arrested, \$10,000 in cash and a 2001 pick-up was seized. DEA participated in this investigation and federal charges are pending.

Mat-Su Drug Enforcement Team

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

This team's primary enforcement duties are marijuana cultivation, with more than 80% of their work directly related to marijuana grows. The Mat-Su region 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 Mat-Su Drug team continued its aggressive marijuana grow eradication efforts during 2003, eradicating more than 44 marijuana grows and seizing over 3800 plants. Marijuana grows are not just large city or bedroom community problems.

The production of methamphetamine in illegal clandestine laboratories was also a significant problem across the Mat-Su area. During 2003, 10 meth labs were eradicated, compared to 6 labs in 2002. The rise in the number of seized meth labs indicates that meth use and manufacturing is a steadily growing problem in the Mat-Su area. ABADE is continually analyzing this situation and adjusting resources as needed to maintain an aggressive enforcement effort.

In February, the Mat-Su team investigated a large commercial marijuana growing operation in Wasilla. Based on information provided by Palmer patrol, investigators obtained a search warrant and discovered the operation in the crawl space of the residence. There were 2,034 marijuana plants and 441 un-rooted starter plants seized. After drying and processing, the marijuana had a weight of 6.64 pounds. Several recreational vehicles valued over \$17,000 were suspected of being purchased with proceeds from the operation and were subsequently seized.

During October, the Mat-Su team concluded two long-term investigations into the illegal trafficking of prescription medications, cocaine, psilocybin mushrooms, and weapons. ABADE worked in conjunction with Palmer AST, Palmer Police Department, Wasilla Police Department, Counter Drug Support Program, and the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). As a result of the combined effort, 27 arrest warrants were obtained for drug and weapons charges throughout the Mat-Su Valley. ABADE coordinated the use of over 60 state, federal and local law enforcement personnel to serve 20 search warrant on two separate days. As a result, over \$20,000 in cash, 45 weapons, and 5 vehicles were seized.

The Mat-Su team also utilized funds provided by the Alcohol Beverage Control Board for conducting alcohol sales compliance checks. These efforts are conducted at liquor package stores in order to detect whether the facilities are selling alcohol to underage customers.

Major Offender Unit

During 2003, the Department of Public Safety reinstated a statewide Major Offenders Unit. Ultimately, the unit will consist of a state trooper sergeant, 4 state trooper investigators, and a prosecuting attorney may be assigned to help the unit with any legal issues. The unit would be located in Anchorage, but would have the ability to travel and conduct long-term drug and alcohol investigations anywhere in the state, targeting major offenders. Once the unit becomes established, AST will invite other agencies, such as, DEA, and the Anchorage Police Department to participate. AST will base the Major Offenders Unit in the same Anchorage location as the Alaska Interdiction Task Force, allowing better communication and cooperation between the units.

At this time the unit consists of three state trooper investigators. Since its inception the Major Offenders Unit has initiated investigations into major drug distributors in Alaska. Although only three investigators are currently assigned to the unit, the team has worked closely with the following ABADE units to support the goals of ABADE - the Mat-Su Unit, the Fairbanks Unit, and the WAANT Unit in Soldotna and Seward. In addition, the team worked closely with the Alaska Bureau of Investigation (ABI) assisting in several homicide investigations throughout the state, including a "cold case" unsolved homicide.



Marijuana hidden in bag of chips



Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team

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

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

In January, SEANET assisted DEA, U.S. Customs, U.S. Postal Inspectors, and SEACAD with delivery of 456 grams of cocaine in Juneau, two suspect were identified and federally charged with drug possession/importation. The cocaine was shipped from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

In February, SEANET seized 149 grams of cocaine from a suspect traveling on the Alaska Marine Highway vessel M/V Matanuska. Four days later a second search was conducted and 249.5 grams of cocaine was seized along with 25 Oxycontin tablets and 41 tables of Hydrocodone. One person was arrested.

In March, SEACAD completed an undercover operation during the execution of a search warrant discovered 4 grams of cocaine, 2037 grams of marijuana, 24.3 grams of heroin, 10 grams of mushrooms, 341 tables of prescription drugs, 48 live marijuana plants, 5 firearms and \$4,600 in cash. Three people were indicted in this investigation.

In April, SEANET Ketchikan seized approximately 10 pounds of marijuana and \$3,790 in cash.

In August, SEANET assisted DEA in contacting two suspects traveling from California to Juneau and seized 460 grams on methamphetamine.

In August, SEANET assisted by DEA and the SEATAC Task Force seized 648 grams of cocaine, 9 grams of mushrooms, and \$4,441 in cash. Two suspects were arrested in Juneau and the narcotic source in Seattle was identified.

In October, SEANET working with the U.S. Postal Service and DEA seized several packages containing drugs. In one case two suspects were federally charged with importing 186 grams of methamphetamine. In the other case 543 Oxycontin tables were seized ranging from 20 to 80mgs, for a total of 27,840mgs. Two suspects were arrested.

Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team **(WAANT)**

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

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

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

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

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

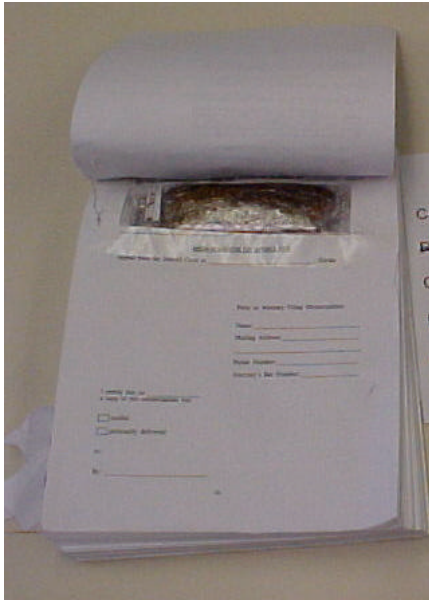
The investigation of many of these seizures are coordinated through AST and/or other local law enforcement entities. The Postal Inspectors office relies heavily on support from ABADE. This support includes resources like scent detection canines, intelligence information and follow-up efforts. Not only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

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

During 2003 WAANT produced the following statistics for the year:

The unit seized 19 in-door marijuana grows, resulting in the seizure of 609 marijuana plants.

They investigated 10 of the 45 methamphetamine labs seized by ABADE during the year. A total of 2,117 liters of hard liquor, 799 liters of beer, 322 liters of wine and 103 liters of other (generally homebrewed beer) were seized during 2003. The estimated street value of alcohol seized was approximately \$324,700. The unit seized 440 grams of cocaine and 549 prescription drug pills/tablets.



Marijuana hidden in cutout compartment of legal documents going to a correctional facility





DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

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

DEA in Anchorage is deeply involved in working with all state and local drug units to enhance and facilitate investigations of major offenders. They are the host agency for the Alaska Interdiction Task Force, a joint effort involving DEA, AST, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Police, Anchorage Police Department, Postal Inspectors, CDSP, and several other agencies as needed.

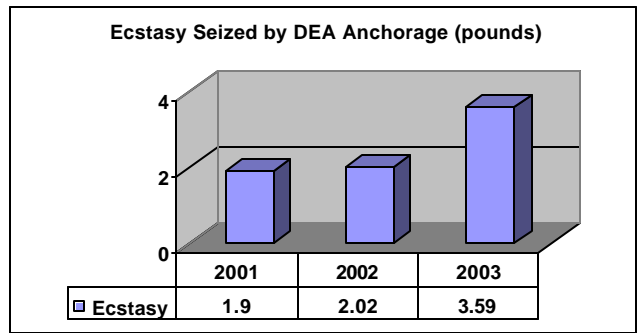
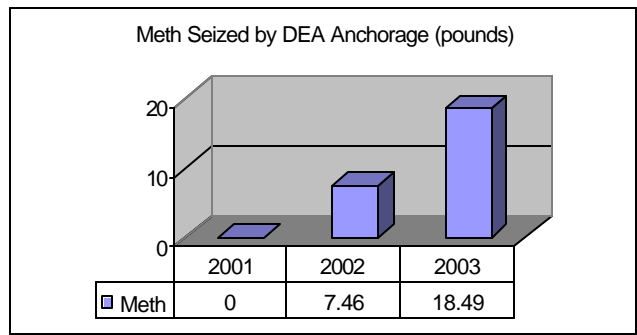
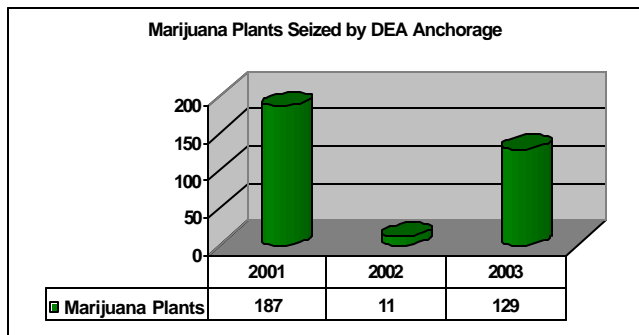
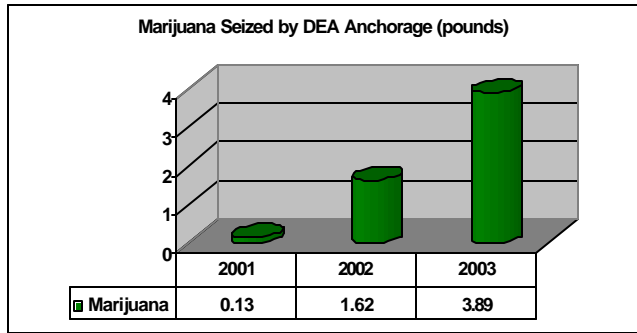
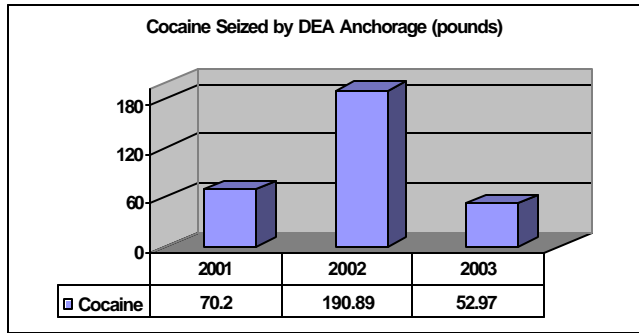
DEA continued to furnish training to state and local officers on topics related to clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. Like last year, DEA bore the cost of several troopers and officers attending meth lab related training at the DEA's training facility in Quantico, Virginia. DEA's training was somewhat diminished during 2003, due in part to DEA's use of a two-year training cycle.

DEA has provided the funds for members of the Alaska Interdiction Task Force to travel for training in Washington, D.C., and they have also facilitated participation of more troopers in a Drug Unit Commanders Academy held in Quantico, Virginia.

DEA continues to facilitate forfeiture proceedings related to assets and funds seized as a result of criminal investigations into 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.

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

Seizure Statistics for DEA Anchorage





BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES



During 2003, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) worked closely with the various ABADE units on numerous cases involving controlled substances, firearms and explosives. ATF and the Mat-Su Unit worked a joint investigation during the summer and fall of 2003, resulting in the service of 20 search warrants, 27 arrest warrants, and the seizure of over \$20,000.00 in U.S. currency, 5 vehicles and over 40 weapons, many of which were stolen.

ATF is the lead federal agency behind the Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) initiative, which allows for federal prosecution of certain crimes involving weapons and drugs. Types of investigations worked by PSN include: prohibited persons possessing a fire arm such as felons; illegal aliens, drug users, domestic abusers, and fugitives; persons in possession of stolen firearms, or firearms with obliterated serial numbers; persons carrying firearms during drug trafficking or federal violent crimes and a number of other firearm related crimes.

Investigation completed and adopted under ATF Project Safe Neighborhood allows for stiffer penalties for criminal convictions, where the average federal conviction is 8 years in federal prison.



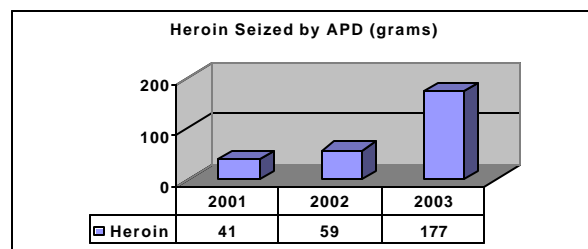
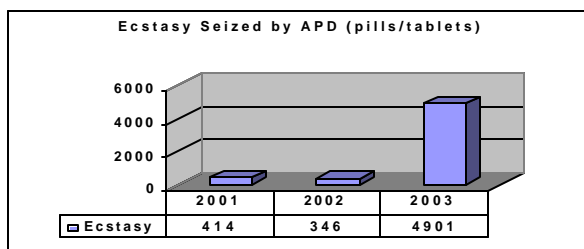
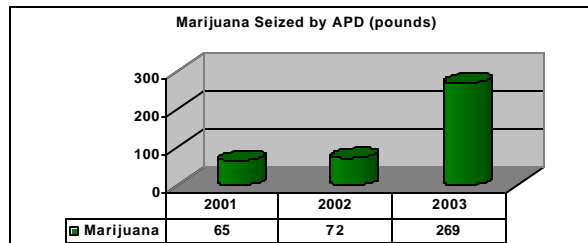
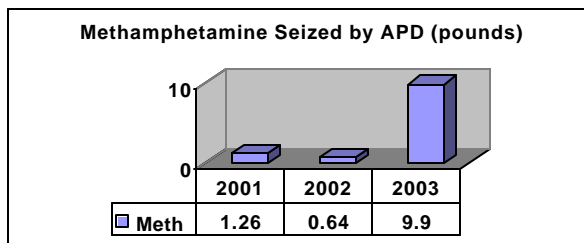
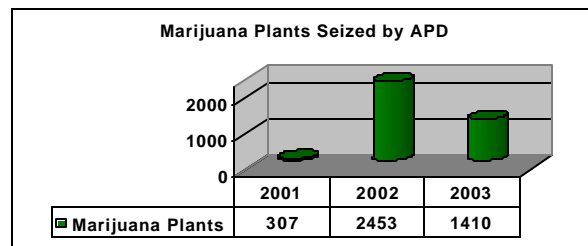
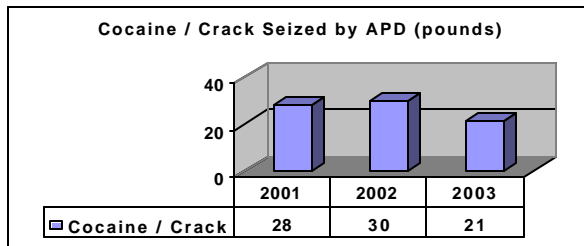


ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Anchorage Police Department (APD) reports another eventful year. The APD Drug Enforcement Unit, the Special Assignment and the Patrol Division had a total of 2,250 calls for service in 2003. Of those calls, 1199 reports were written, 845 people were arrested and 956 drug charges were filed. This year there were 15 meth labs seized and dismantled and 1,410 marijuana plants were seized from 33 marijuana grows.

Anchorage is seeing an increase in methamphetamine and Ecstasy being imported from the lower 48 and beyond. One case in point, DEA was brought in on a case initiated by APD that had rapidly grew beyond APD's resources. That case was brought to a successful conclusion and 26 people were arrested on conspiracy and other drug charges. Seizures in that case included approximately \$60,000 in cash, 1.8 pounds of meth powder, 6.5 pounds of crystal meth, 2 kilos of cocaine and 4,000 tablets of Ecstasy.





U.S. POSTAL INSPECTORS



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

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

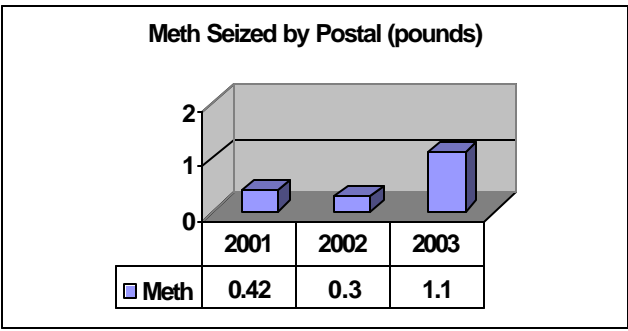
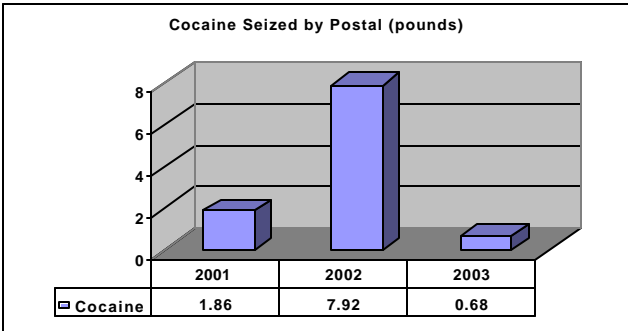
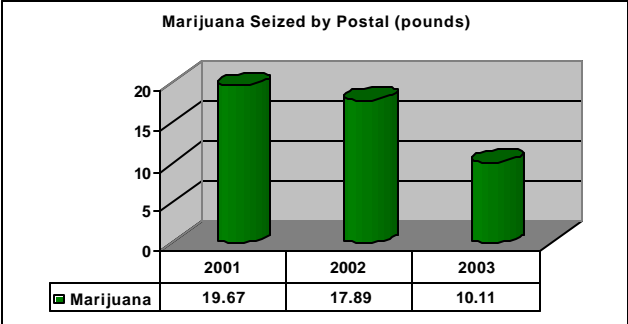
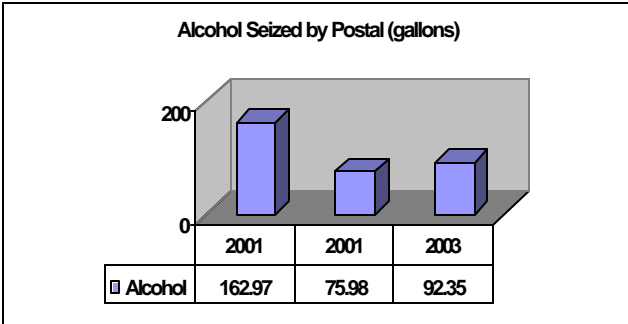
The Postal Inspectors have been a tremendous ally in identifying and seizing illegal shipments of alcohol through the postal facilities. Postal Inspectors remain a major component in the on-going effort to curb the illegal distribution of alcohol in local option communities.

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

In analyzing the seizure statistics provided by the U.S. Postal Inspectors, it is important to consider that some of their statistics may have been duplicated or co-mingled with the seizures of other investigative units.

During August 2003, the Postal Inspection Service and ABADE members participated in "Operation Safe Village". Approximately 30 Postal Inspectors traveled to Alaska from various US cities to assist in this investigation. Over 100 bottles of illegal alcohol was seized and six suspects were indicted on federal charges.

US Postal Statistics for 2003



Emerging Trends in 2004

The most obvious trend emerging across the state is the explosion of non-medical use, abuse, and sales of prescription drugs (Oxycontin, Methadone, Hydrocodone). These drugs are being sought after for their pharmaceutical purity and ability to alter the central nervous system. Because this is an emerging trend, statistics have not been tracked for previous years. With the identification of this increasing health hazard, steps have been put into place for capturing the true impact anticipated in the upcoming years. While the statistics are not available, it is known to the communities, law enforcement and civilian that the problem will continue to increase. 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. How are the abusers obtaining these pharmaceutical grade prescription drugs? Several routes of obtaining these drugs have been identified; prescription fraud, home invasion thefts, pharmacy robberies, doctor shopping, pharmacy shopping, forgery, and via the Internet to name a few.

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

ABADE will continue to 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.



Seized guns, cocaine and US currency

The 2003 Annual Drug Report is a publication of the Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement. It can be accessed via the Department of Public Safety Internet site therefore there is no publication cost and is intended to inform Alaskans about the type and frequency of drug related crime reported in Alaska during 2003.

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.

