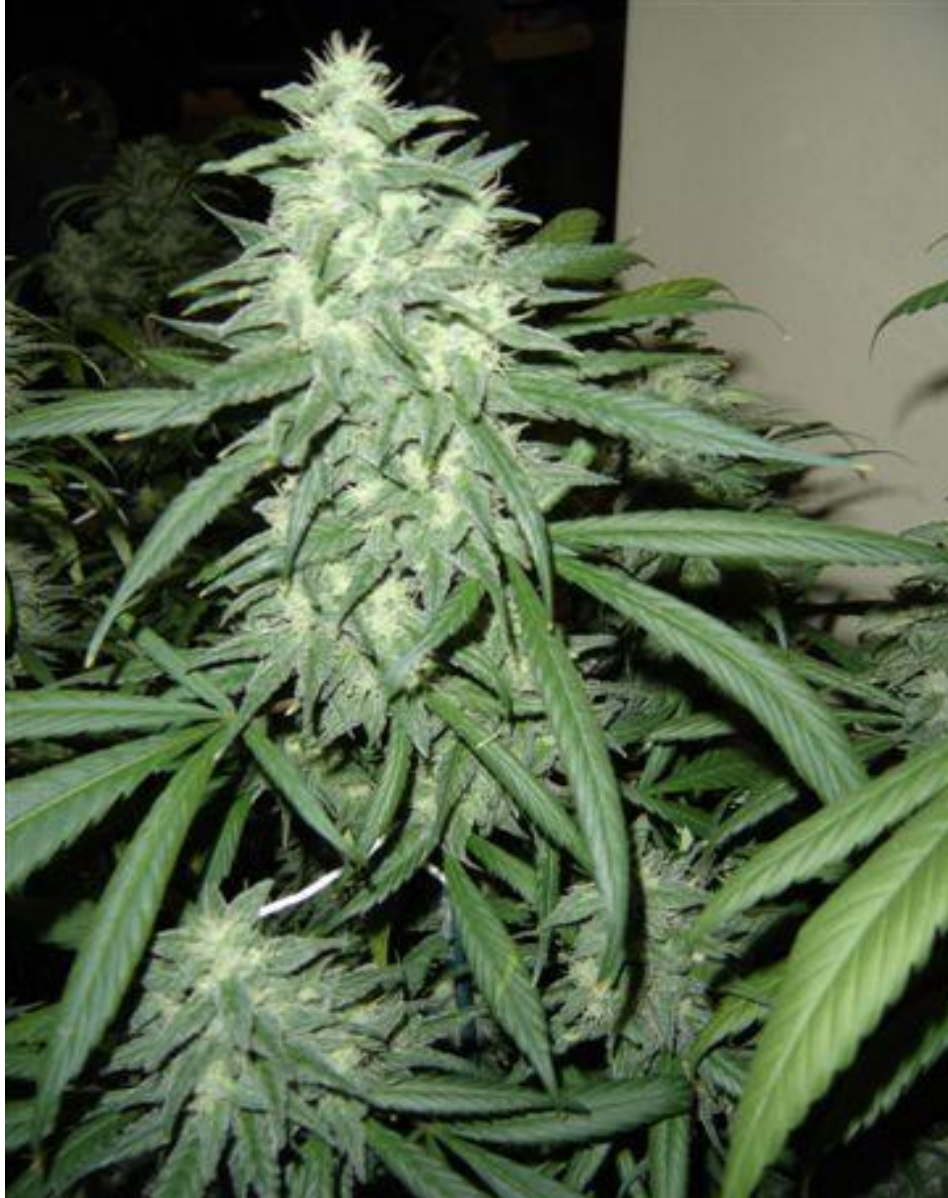


**Alaska State Troopers
Alaska Bureau of Alcohol
and Drug Enforcement**



2006 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 including as much information from all agencies involved in drug enforcement in Alaska is vital when analyzing the needs of the state in the arena of drug enforcement.

Our Mission

Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement

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

ABADE's mission is to:

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



Staffing and Support

Using a combination of federal and state funding, ABADE consisted of twenty-seven (27) State Trooper investigators and thirteen (13) civilian administrative and technical support personnel for 2006. ABADE recognizes that because of Alaska's geographical vastness and ethnic diversity, no single law enforcement agency is capable of handling the drug and alcohol problems alone. ABADE encourages cooperative efforts between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and has taken a leadership role in fostering and developing many of these cooperative arrangements through multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency efforts. The ABADE headquarters office in Anchorage supports seven (7) investigative teams throughout the state. These teams are broken down by region as follows:

Alaska Interdiction Task Force (DEA sponsored)

Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team

Major Offender Unit

Mat-Su Drug Narcotics Enforcement Team

South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team

Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team

Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team

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

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



Nature of Alaska's Drug and Alcohol Problem

Members of Alaska's law enforcement community and others who are part of Alaska's criminal justice system have long known that the greatest contributing factor to violent crimes, including domestic violence and sexual assault, is drug and alcohol abuse. It is also widely recognized that many of the accidental deaths that occur in Alaska are related to alcohol use. This is especially true in the western regions of the state. This is clearly shown through statistics drawn from the Alaska State Trooper case management system. Of all cases initiated in by the Alaska State Troopers 2006, 43% involved drugs and/or alcohol.

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

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



Drugs of Choice

Alcohol, cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and pharmaceuticals have been identified as the primary substances of abuse and are the focus of most law enforcement efforts. During 2006, law enforcement officials continue to see methamphetamine use and manufacturing as a significant problem. Another area of significant interest is the abuse of prescription drugs, many of which are obtained with fraudulent prescriptions. Other drugs such as LSD, Ecstasy and designer and/or “club” drugs were also cause for concern.



Alcohol

Alaska's criminal justice professionals recognize that alcohol is the primary substance of abuse in Alaska and is the leading cause of violent, suicidal, and accidental deaths, especially in rural areas. Currently, 108 communities have voted in favor of local option statutes prohibiting the sale, importation, and/or possession of all alcohol. Because alcohol remains legal in many areas of Alaska, illegal bootlegging activities continue to be a problem in the local option communities. Alcohol is easily transported to the villages via the U.S. Postal Service, local air carriers, private aircraft, boat, snow machines and express mailing services. Bootlegging alcohol of all types has become a very lucrative business in rural Alaska.

The Alaska State Troopers applied for and received federal funding for five investigators whose function is focused on alcohol issues. During 2006, all five investigators dedicated 100% of their time to alcohol investigations. This resulted in alcohol seizures for 2006 of approximately 708 gallons. We believe this has had a positive effect in many rural communities.

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

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

* Calculated at \$150 per bottle

Alcohol seized by ABADE (gallons)

2004	2005	2006
681	994	709

Alcohol related charges/arrests by ABADE

2004	2005	2006
311	384	312



Cocaine

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

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

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

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

The graph below shows powder cocaine and crack cocaine seized in Alaska. The statistics indicate all cocaine seizures reported to and seized by ABADE with the exception of those seizures made by the DEA sponsored Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF). These seizures are included in the statistics for the Drug Enforcement Administration on page 22.

Cocaine seized by ABADE (kilos)

2004	2005	2006
39.36	27.87	21.44

Cocaine related charges/arrests by ABADE

2004	2005	2006
162	194	182



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 growing operations are found in communities along Alaska's road system. 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 2006, ABADE was successful in dismantling an international marijuana smuggling operation responsible for bringing thousands of pounds of marijuana referred to as "BC Bud" into Alaska from British Columbia.

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

Marijuana seized by ABADE (pounds)

2004	2005	2006
107	105	763

Marijuana related charges/arrests by ABADE

2004	2005	2006
675	706	1,132



Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine use continues to be on the rise throughout the United States including Alaska. The manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine 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.

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 meth labs. 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.

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

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

Meth Labs seized by ABADE

2004	2005	2006
62	42	18

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 meth 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.



Meth seized by ABADE (grams)

2004	2005	2006
1,758.94	2,782.74	7,971.06

Meth related charges/arrests by ABADE

2004	2005	2006
132	234	117

For information and ideas regarding the response towards the meth epidemic in parts of the United States, go to www.montanameth.org, www.mfiles.org.



Prescription Drugs

The sale and abuse of prescription drugs such as Oxycontin/Oxycodone, Methadone, Hydrocodone continued to be an issue in 2006. These drugs are being sought after for their pharmaceutical purity and ability to alter the central nervous system. With the identification of this increasing health hazard, statistics have been put into place for capturing the true impact anticipated in the upcoming years. Not only does the abuse of prescription drugs create a health hazard for the users, it creates a financial tragedy in the communities. The drugs vary in price and can cost anywhere from one dollar per milligram to two dollars per milligram depending on availability. With the increased demand for the drugs and a shortening of supply, many abusers may not have the money or insurance to pay for their addiction. Thus increasing property and violent crimes in these communities. It has been reported that tens of thousands of dollars are being spent to feed this growing abuse and addiction.

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

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

Hydrocodone seized by ABADE (dosage units)

2004	2005	2006
1205	64	521

Oxycontin/Oxycodone seized by ABADE (dosage units)

2004	2005	2006
8,284	435	1,589

Other prescription drugs seized by ABADE (dosage units)

2004	2005	2006
6,745	1,782	1,179



Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement Overviews

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



Alaska Interdiction Task Force

The importance of the narcotics interdiction effort at key locations is continually being reaffirmed. The Alaska Interdiction Task Force (AITF) continued its success in making large seizures of U.S. currency, cocaine, crack, methamphetamine and other controlled substances during 2006.

The AITF is a federally funded task force sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). It is comprised of a DEA group supervisor, two DEA agents, two Alaska State Troopers, an Anchorage Police officer, an Airport Public Safety officer and four members of the National Guard Counterdrug Support Program (CDSP) and an AST Criminal Justice Technician.

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.

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

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



Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team

The primary area of responsibility for the Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team is interior Alaska, which includes Fairbanks and the surrounding area, north to Barrow, and east to the Canadian border. This team is made up of one AST Sergeant, two AST Investigators, and a Fairbanks Police Department Investigator. The Fairbanks team also works closely with one DEA agent, and one ATF agent assigned to the Fairbanks area. DEA and ATF compliment the teams' investigative ability by additional manpower, resources, and the possibility of federal prosecution of drug traffickers.

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.

In January, FAIM investigators received an anonymous tip that there was a marijuana grow at a North Pole residence. As a result, 76 marijuana plants were seized as well as precursors for making methamphetamine.

In February, FAIM investigators received a call from a local pharmacy stating they were missing a large quantity of Vicodin, approximately 15,000 pills within the last six months. After investigating the missing Vicodin an employee of the pharmacy was arrested and charged. She had 170 pills on her when she was arrested.

In March, FAIM investigators served a search warrant on a known drug house in Fairbanks and seized approximately four ounces of cocaine and three weapons.

In August, FAIM investigators assisted AST patrol on a traffic stop. Canine Kilo alerted on the vehicle and consent to search was granted and 9.1 ounces of meth was seized. Also during August, FAIM investigators participated in an investigation of a marijuana grow in Tok. Upon service of a search warrant, 295 marijuana plants and processed marijuana were seized along with \$251,590 in cash, six ounces of gold and five firearms. FAIM investigators also assisted DEA, ATF and CDSP with the service of several search warrants in connection with a six-month long investigation on a known drug dealer in the Fairbanks area. They served search warrants on the residences and business and seized 1.5 kilos of cocaine and \$11,820 in cash.

In November, FAIM investigators responded to a Fairbanks residence to assist adult probation with a probation search. The assistance was requested because the probationer had been arrested twice previously for operating meth labs. The search of the residence led to five search warrants being obtained for the residence and vehicles. A meth lab and lab related items were seized from two of the vehicles.



Major Offender Unit

During 2006, the Major Offender Unit (MOU) was fully staffed until late spring. This included a full time prosecutor from the Department of Law. Later in the spring the MOU experienced a turnover in personnel when the then sergeant promoted to the lieutenant position within ABADE. Two additional investigators separated from the MOU, one transferring and one retiring. The prosecutor resigned from service with the Department of Law at approximately the same time. The promotion from within the MOU of an investigator to sergeant left the MOU with three investigator vacancies. At years end, the MOU filled one investigator position with a transfer of an ABADE investigator in from the WAANT unit. One other investigator position has been filled with the investigator due to arrive in April of 2007.

The MOU initiated a substantial marijuana smuggling case. Because of the scope and size of the case, it was adopted as a federal DEA case with multiple federal agencies assisting. This case was an Anchorage based international marijuana drug trafficking and money-laundering ring with elements in the lower forty-eight, Canada, and Europe. The alleged individuals involved were also indicted in a conspiracy that included violence related to the disappearance of the original ring leader who is believed to have been murdered by key figures in the drug trafficking organization. At the time of the arrests, 300 pounds of marijuana was seized with an estimated historical weight of 10,000 pounds. Several million dollars in assets were seized and there are 17 people under Federal Grand Jury indictment.

The MOU also conducted an operation in Dillingham, Alaska that lasted seven months. Two investigators in an undercover capacity began living and working in Dillingham. As a result of the investigation and the cooperation of the WAANT unit and the Dillingham Department of Public Safety, ten individuals involved in controlled substance sales were indicted and arrested.

The MOU has continued to work closely with the Alaska Interdiction Task Force and capitalized on the force multiplying effects of working closely with the DEA, ATF, ICE and the FBI. When ever possible the MOU has also lent manpower and experience to other ABADE units.



Mat-Su Drug Enforcement Team

The Mat-Su Drug Enforcement Team focuses on drug investigations within the Matanuska-Susitna region to include Palmer, Wasilla, Talkeetna, Glennallen, Valdez, and Cordova. The team is comprised of one AST sergeant, two AST investigators, one officer from the Palmer Police Department, one officer from the Wasilla Police Department, one individual from CDSP, and one clerical support person. 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.

The Mat-Su team balances its enforcement efforts between all types of drugs, with a large percentage of it's time concentrated between marijuana and methamphetamine. The Mat-Su region still comprises the bulk of marijuana related seizures throughout Alaska and has long been recognized as the primary area of marijuana cultivation and distribution in the state. The Mat-Su area has seen an increase in prescription pill abuse as well as a tendency toward marijuana grow co-ops as opposed to large grows under one roof. The marijuana grow co-op often has multiple growers growing marijuana for one person.

In February, the Mat-Su team served three search warrants in reference to a controlled delivery. The package contained seven ounces of heroin. One ounce of marijuana, three grams of cocaine, two grams of crushed Methadone, and \$2,129.43 were also found at the residence.

In August, the Mat-Su team started an investigation of a marijuana grow co-op. The case resulted in five marijuana grows at five separate locations. A total of 401 marijuana plants, Psilocybin mushrooms, guns, and cash were located during the search warrant services. Six defendants were charged in conjunction with the case. One of the defendants was a repeat offender from a 2005 case.

In September, the Mat-Su team served a search warrant at a residence in Wasilla. A quarter pound of cocaine, 41 marijuana plants, and numerous pills were seized.

In November, after receiving multiple tips from local pharmacy's, the Mat-Su team simultaneously executed search warrants on two residences in Wasilla. An adult male had been obtaining numerous prescription medications to include Roxycodone, Oxycodone, and Methadone by using various forms of government issued photo ID's. Forged prescriptions, forged birth certificates, questionable death certificates, and a large number of signed and notarized blank official documents and certificates were seized. In addition, pills, a scale, ten weapons, and one stolen weapon were also seized

In November, the Mat-Su team started an investigation of a marijuana grow co-op. The case resulted in five warrants being served in the Mat-Su Valley and two warrants served in Bethel. Over 19 pounds of processed marijuana and 173 marijuana plants were located in the Mat-Su Valley. Additional marijuana was located in Bethel.



South Central Area-wide Narcotics Team

The South Central Area-wide Narcotics team consists of one AST sergeant, one AST investigator, and one officer each from the Soldotna Police Department and the Kenai Police Department. Communities within its area of responsibility are mainly located on the Kenai Peninsula (Homer, Soldotna, Kenai, and Seward), however, Girdwood and the communities on Kodiak Island are represented as well. The unit is dedicated to closely working with the local police departments and the uniformed patrol units of the Alaska State Troopers to support their efforts in drug enforcement. The unit also provides drug education to other agencies and community groups regarding drug abuse and methamphetamine clandestine lab identification.

During 2006, the unit investigated and dismantled 31 marijuana grows resulting in 1,664 marijuana plants being seized worth a street value of \$3,328,000. Processed marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, other illegal prescription drugs, large amounts of cash, and a significant number of firearms were also seized from these locations.

SCAN investigators traveled to Kodiak on several occasions to assist the Kodiak Police Department with drug investigations. One investigation culminated with the seizure of \$11,690 cash, cocaine, and opium. Another resulted in the seizure of 41 marijuana plants and 1.43 pounds of processed marijuana.

SCAN investigators traveled to Girdwood numerous times to assist in four controlled buys of marijuana and cocaine and two marijuana grows yielding 34 marijuana plants.

Reports and complaints of person(s) purchasing precursors for the manufacture of methamphetamine reveals there is a growing problem on the Kenai Peninsula. With the passage of House Bill 149, the unit began an inspection of pseudoephedrine logbooks at the local pharmacies that yielded the discovery of a meth lab. Other investigations also resulted in the discovery and clean up of two additional meth labs and two boxed meth labs.



Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team

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

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



Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team

This team's primary area of responsibility is Alaska's Western region, to include: Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Dillingham and the Aleutian Chain. For most of 2006, the WAANT consisted of one AST sergeant and two AST investigators in Anchorage; two AST investigators and one local police officer in Bethel; one AST investigator in Nome, and one AST investigator and a local police officer in Kotzebue. An additional AST investigator was added in Dillingham in September of 2006, and a Dillingham Police Department officer was added to the unit in December.

One of the positions in Bethel and one in Anchorage are dedicated specifically to alcohol interdiction and investigations. During a portion of 2006, a narcotics detection canine was assigned to the Bethel unit.

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

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

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

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

Currently, a process of cross deputation of AST WANNT team members by the Postal Inspectors Office is underway. It is expected that this process will be completed in early 2007 giving WAANT investigators additional authority to conduct investigations involving postal parcels.

In other WAANT operations, the team has conducted numerous investigations in Anchorage and in the communities of western Alaska. Investigations ranged from major bootlegging operations to marijuana grows and distribution operations. Criminal cases



related to the distribution of illegal drugs including marijuana, Psilocybin, cocaine and prescription medications were also investigated.

The following examples are typical of the cases investigated by WAANT members during 2006.

In January, WAANT investigators seized over five pounds of marijuana in several different criminal cases investigated in Anchorage, Bethel and Nome.

In February, WAANT investigators seized 131-750ml bottles of alcohol in a number of different cases in Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue and Anchorage.

In April, WAANT investigators in Bethel were given a tip that a male subject was traveling from Anchorage to Bethel with narcotics. When Investigators contacted the suspect at the local airport, the canine alerted on his luggage for the presence of narcotics. Investigators seized the luggage and the person and applied for a search warrant. The search resulted in the seizure of four pounds of marijuana, 142 grams of cocaine, \$27,000 in cash. Investigators executed search warrants at the male's home in Bethel and on two safes which belonged to the individual. These searches resulted in seizure of an additional \$62,000 cash, and 38 more pounds of marijuana.

In May, WAANT investigators in Anchorage identified a suspicious box being shipped on a local cargo carrier to Barrow. The box was later found to contain a Hummer toy car with approximately 670 grams of marijuana hidden underneath the seat of the toy.

In June, WAANT investigators in Bethel assisted St. Mary's Troopers in an investigation which resulted in the seizure of 10 pounds of marijuana, an ATV, a video monitor system, 1400 packs of cigarettes, computer/scanners for forged ID's, 27-750ml bottles of distilled spirits, and 103 -1.75 L bottles of home brew sold for \$300 a bottle.

In July, WAANT investigators served a search warrant on luggage resulting in the seizure of 45 - 24-ounce water bottles containing alcohol. The traveler was destined for St. Marys where the alcohol had a street value of \$6,750. Additionally, the suspect in the case was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

In August, a WAANT investigator in Anchorage contacted an adult male based on a tip he may be transporting alcohol on a charter he had booked to Marshall. When contacted, a consent search resulted in 138 -750 ml bottles of alcohol being seized.

Also in August, WAANT Investigators from Bethel executed a search warrant on property near Devil's Elbow. Investigators seized 18 marijuana plants, 5.5 pounds of processed marijuana, and approximately \$15,000 worth of marijuana grow equipment.

In December, WAANT investigators served a search warrant on a woman's residence in Kotzebue. The search resulted in the seizure of cocaine from the residence. Later, after the woman was arrested additional cocaine was discovered hidden on her person.





DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

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

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

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

DEA continues to facilitate forfeiture proceedings related to assets and funds seized as a result of criminal investigations and drug trafficking. This effort allows state and local law enforcement agencies to receive a portion of the assets seized, which in turn funds additional criminal investigations. During calendar year 2006, the Anchorage DEA DO was involved in cases responsible for the seizure of over eleven million dollars in drug-related assets and proceeds.

Drug seizures by DEA

	Cocaine (kilos)	Marijuana (lbs)	Meth (lbs)
2004	48.75	2.57	1.21
2005	26.09	5.38	9.32
2006	28.91	937.33	7.93



Emerging Trends in 2006

The most significant trend for 2006, continues to be the manufacturing and abuse of methamphetamine throughout Alaska. In July of 2006, pseudoephedrine regulations were adopted by the State of Alaska. This armed law enforcement professionals with a valuable tool to combat meth labs in the state. The table below shows the number of reported meth labs seized by ABADE.

Reported Meth Labs Seized in Alaska

2002	2003	2004	2005 *	2006 *
29	66	80	42	18

* Statistic represents labs seized by ABADE only.

In 2006, we have seen the number of reported meth labs in the state cut in half. We believe this is due to the combination of increased enforcement efforts coupled with newly adopted pseudoephedrine restrictions. However, meth labs continued to be discovered inside hotel/motel rooms creating chemical and fire hazards for other civilians that also occupy the buildings. Due to the volatile chemicals involved, investigators need to be trained and certified and wear hazardous material protective gear when responding to meth labs. Violent crime related to meth usage also appears to be on the rise. Although there has been a 50% decrease in the number of reported meth labs in 2006, we have seen an increase in the amount of imported meth from source cities.



Summary

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

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



The 2006 Annual Drug Report is a publication of the Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement. It can be accessed via the Department of Public Safety Internet site therefore there is no publication cost. It is intended to inform Alaskans about the type and frequency of drug related crime reported in Alaska during 2006.

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.

