

2019 Annual Drug Report

JANUARY 2020



SDEU Teams

ANCHORAGE AIRPORT INTERDICTION TEAM | FAIRBANKS AREA-WIDE NARCOTICS TEAM
MAT-SU NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM | SOUTHCENTRAL AREA-WIDE NARCOTICS TEAM
SOUTHEAST ALASKA CITIES AGAINST DRUGS | WESTERN ALASKA ALCOHOL AND NARCOTICS TEAM

The number of arrests made

In 2019, SDEU initiated 2,438 cases and totaled 596 charges and arrests¹. Seizure amounts determine if a charge will be tried in state or federal court. The cases that meet the federal threshold (Appendix C) are forwarded to the US Attorney’s Office for prosecution. Defendants convicted in federal court typically receive longer sentences than when prosecuted in state court. The number of cases that are tried in federal court are not tracked; thus, the total number of charges, incidents, and individuals arrested by SDEU are not fully represented.

The kind, amount, and value of narcotic drugs and alcoholic beverages seized

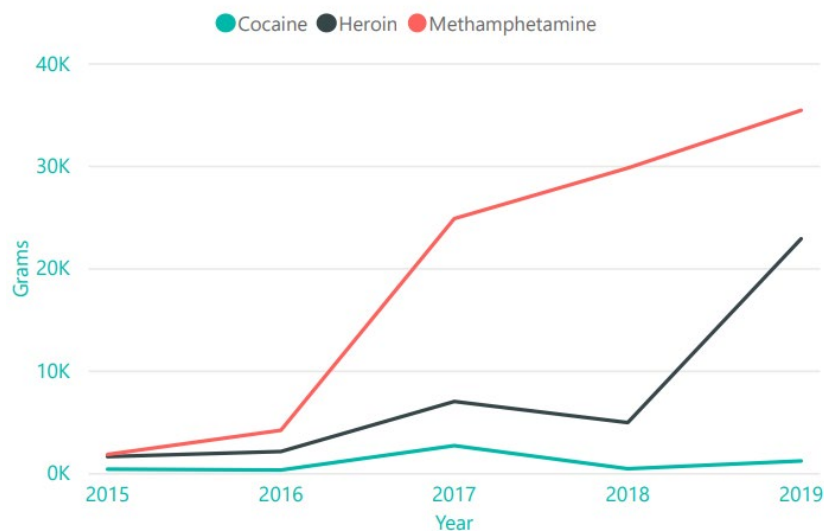
In 2019, SDEU seized in descending quantity: methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana, prescription pills/tablets, alcohol, hash/hash oil, cocaine, marijuana plants, mushrooms, Oxycontin/oxycodone, ecstasy/MDMA, hydrocodone, crack cocaine, LSD, and prescription liquid.

From 2015-2019, there was a significant increase in the number of heroin and prescription pills seized. It is important to note that this is the first time in five years that heroin seizures outnumbered marijuana seizures (not including plants).²

2015-2019 Total Seizures in Grams (unless otherwise noted) by Year and Type

Seizure Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Alcohol bottles	1,772	1,812	3,399	1,558	2,322
Alcohol liters	1,353	1,432	2,561	1,245	1,796
Cocaine	455	372	2,750	497	1,256
Hash/Hash oil	2,380	769	7,792	5,018	1,658
Heroin	1,680	2,177	7,061	5,001	22,943
Marijuana	50,413	93,469	40,370	23,873	22,808
Marijuana plants	1,871	1,838	274	227	332
Methamphetamine	1,890	4,249	24,909	29,844	35,481
Prescription pills	972	955	3,732	1,814	8,053

2015-2019 Drug Seizures



¹ Charge and arrest data provided by SDEU monthly reports

² Seizure data provided by SDEU monthly reports

The disparity between prices in the contiguous United States and Alaska presents an incentive for drug trafficking organizations to import and distribute drugs into and throughout the state. Moreover, there is a strong correlation between distance from a regional hub and price – the further a drug or alcohol is trafficked from a regional hub the greater the retail price. SDEU reports the following drug prices for methamphetamine, opioids, cocaine, prescription pills, and marijuana:

- An ounce of methamphetamine ranges from \$400 - \$2,500; a tenth of a gram ranges from \$100 - \$500; a gram ranges from \$80 - \$1,000; and an 8-ball (approximately 3.5 grams or 1/8 ounce) sells for approximately \$400.
- An ounce of heroin ranges from \$1,200 - \$4,000; a tenth of a gram ranges from \$100 - \$200; and a gram ranges from \$200 - \$1,000.
- An ounce of cocaine ranges from \$800 - \$2,300; \$300 for an eighth of an ounce; and \$100 - \$150 for a gram. Cocaine prices are unknown in Sand Point, King Cove, and Ketchikan.
- Prescription drugs sell for \$1 - \$3 per milligram across the state. Prices are unknown in Sand Point, King Cove, Fairbanks, Barrow, the North Slope Borough, and Juneau. In Bethel, Nome, and Kotzebue prescription drugs are selling for \$2 a milligram for opiates, while tramadol and non-opiates are selling for \$10 a pill.
- Marijuana sells for \$2,500 - \$3,000 a pound; \$20 - \$40 a gram; \$100 a gram for hash/dabs/BHO; \$100 - \$180 for an eighth of an ounce; and \$850 for an ounce.

Beginning in 2020, the Alaska High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program will collect the value of all narcotic drugs seized.

The sentences received by narcotic drug and alcohol offenders

In 2019, sentences received by narcotic drug and alcohol offenders were: no disposition (449), guilty (132), dismissed (111), suspended imposition of sentence (7), suspended entry of judgment (5), and not prosecuted (1). Sentences in 2019 for alcohol- and/or drug-related convictions were on average: 840 days of probation, 219 days in jail, 204 days in jail suspended, 90 days of license revoked/suspended, 52 total days in jail, and 6 days of community work. In 2019, there was a total of \$9,779 in restitution; \$2,221 in fines; \$1,925 in total fines; and \$1,967 in fines suspended.

The following charts depict 2015-2019 alcohol and drug offense dispositions, offense fines, and offense sentences. A charge may be initially presented in state court and later adopted in federal court; these dispositions would show as a dismissal. The following chart only represents state court dispositions.

2015-2019 Alcohol and Drug Offense Dispositions

Offense Type	Calendar Year	GUILTY	CONVICTION SET-ASIDE	SUSP ENTRY JUDGMENT	SUSP IMPOS SENTENCE	REDUCED TO VIOLATION	DISMISSED	NO TRUE BILL	NO DISPOSITION	NOT PROSECUTED
Alcohol	2015	123				1	104		6	7
Drug	2015	256	22	1	19		715		30	33
Alcohol	2016	102		1	1		110		18	5
Drug	2016	186	9	1	7		482	5	61	13
Alcohol	2017	127				1	161	1	24	
Drug	2017	170	5	2	4		357	2	52	16
Alcohol	2018	95		1	1	4	114		29	2
Drug	2018	147	1		10		204	1	119	4
Alcohol	2019	32		3	1		16		58	
Drug	2019	100		2	6		95		391	1

2015-2019 Alcohol and Drug Offense Sentences in Average Number of Days

RequestCategory	CalendarYear	Jail	JailSuspended	Probation	CommunityWork
Alcohol	2019	49	54	316	1
Drug	2019	170	150	524	5
Alcohol	2018	53	59	377	3
Drug	2018	253	190	532	3
Alcohol	2017	41	58	362	2
Drug	2017	352	245	586	7
Alcohol	2016	148	113	522	9
Drug	2016	493	375	724	7
Alcohol	2015	123	100	670	7
Drug	2015	702	437	985	6

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2015-2019 Alcohol and Drug Offense Sentences in Total Fines

Offense Type	Calendar Year	Fine	Fine Suspended	Restitution
Alcohol	2015	\$2,154	\$1,109	\$1,703
Drug	2015	\$1,640	\$1,538	\$4,333
Alcohol	2016	\$2,273	\$2,510	
Drug	2016	\$1,375	\$1,286	\$1,488
Alcohol	2017	\$1,756	\$1,750	
Drug	2017	\$1,327	\$1,202	\$357
Alcohol	2018	\$1,701	\$1,500	
Drug	2018	\$1,556	\$1,860	\$3,160
Alcohol	2019	\$1,435	\$1,500	
Drug	2019	\$786	\$467	\$9,779

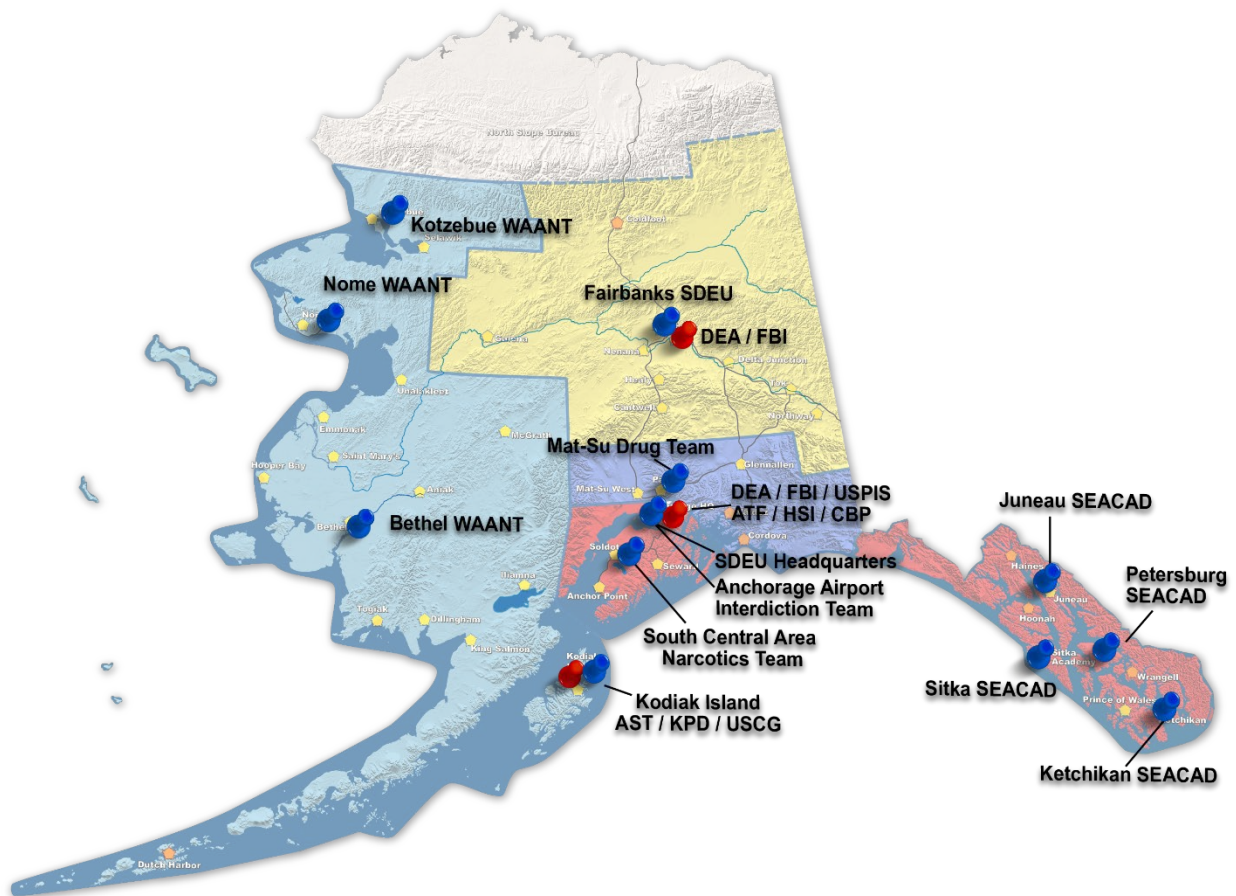
An overall view of the narcotic drug and illicit alcohol problem in the state

Due to the revised annual drug report format, the *2019 Annual Drug Report* is submitted alongside the *2018 Annual Drug Report*. To increase the timeliness and efficiency of these reports, there is no longer a year lag between data collection and the production of the report. Despite the different data supplied for both reporting years, the overall drug outlook continues to be the same as 2018.

The Alaska HIDTA was designated on May 1, 2018 and the Alaska HIDTA executive board authorized funding and the creation of initiatives to begin on October 1, 2018 to align with the beginning of the new federal fiscal year. The Alaska HIDTA Petition identified a need for better coordination, cooperation, efficiency, effectiveness, funding, and a desire to obtain a better picture of the drug market in Alaska.

³ December 2019 data is incomplete as of January 10, 2020. Data provided by Alaska Public Safety Information Network (APSIN) as of January 10, 2020. Sentencing information is not solely SDEU data, as APSIN is not able to break the data up by units within the Department of Public Safety (DPS). This data represents sentencing for all narcotic drug and alcohol offenders for all units with DPS.

The petition identified three main areas of importation and distribution of illegal drugs – Juneau, Fairbanks, and Anchorage – which serve as regional hubs for the southeast, interior, and southcentral regions of the state, respectively. Following the state's judicial district boundaries, the three proposed and later designated areas are the Interior, Southcentral, and Southeast Regions. The three enforcement initiatives align with the three designated areas and build from the existing SDEU task forces: Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Task Force (FANT) (Interior Region), Southcentral Area-wide Narcotics Task Force (SCAN) (Southcentral Region), and Southeast Alaska Communities Against Drugs (SEACAD) (Southeast Region).



Appendix A

AS 18.65.085. Narcotic Drugs and Alcohol Enforcement

(a) 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.

(b) The commissioner of public safety shall prepare a report concerning the activities of the narcotic drugs and alcohol enforcement unit. The commissioner shall notify the legislature on the first day of each regular session that the report is available. The report must include, but is not limited to, the number of arrests made, the kind, amount, and value of narcotic drugs and alcoholic beverages seized, the sentences received by narcotic drug and alcohol offenders, and an overall view of the narcotic drug and illicit alcohol problem in the state.

(c) The Department of Public Safety may establish and administer a reward program, and provide grants to municipalities, established villages, and, at the request of a municipality or established village, to a nonprofit association that administers a village public safety officer program, for reward programs leading to the 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.

Appendix B

[Anchorage Airport Interdiction Team \(AAIT\)](#)

AAIT focuses on drug interdictions at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. AAIT is comprised of members of the Alaska State Troopers (AST), Anchorage Airport Police, Anchorage Police Department (APD), North Slope Borough Police, Sand Point Police, FBI, and DEA.

[Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team \(FANT\)](#)

FANT focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in the Interior Region, Utqiagvik, and east to Canada. FANT is comprised of AST, Fairbanks Police Department, and the North Pole Police Department. FANT works closely with the FBI; DEA; United States Marshals; BATFE; and local, state, and military agencies within the region.

[Mat-Su Drug Narcotics Enforcement Team](#)

The Mat-Su team focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The team is comprised of AST and works jointly with APD, FBI, DEA, BATFE, and the Department of Homeland Security Investigations.

[Southcentral Area-wide Narcotics Team \(SCAN\)](#)

SCAN focuses on drug interdictions and investigations on the Kenai Peninsula. SCAN is comprised of AST and the Kenai Police Department, and works closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

[Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs \(SEACAD\)](#)

SEACAD focuses on drug interdictions and investigations in Southeast Alaska. SEACAD provides investigative support to Petersburg, Wrangell, Craig, Klawock, Yakutat, Juneau, Hoonah, Sitka, Haines, Skagway, Cordova, and Ketchikan police departments. SEACAD is comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and works closely with law enforcement agencies in the lower 48 and Canada.

[Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team \(WAANT\)](#)

WAANT focuses predominately on alcohol enforcement in Western Alaska, as well as drug interdictions and investigations. WAANT is comprised of AST, Kotzebue Police, Bethel Police, and Kodiak Police, and works closely with the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS). Beginning in 2007, WAANT investigators are cross deputized with (USPIS).

Appendix C

FEDERAL TRAFFICKING PENALTIES—MARIJUANA

DRUG	QUANTITY	1st OFFENSE	2nd OFFENSE *
Marijuana (Schedule I)	1,000 kg or more marijuana mixture; or 1,000 or more marijuana plants	Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs., or more than life. Fine not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if other than an individual.	Not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if other than an individual.
Marijuana (Schedule I)	100 kg to 999 kg marijuana mixture; or 100 to 999 marijuana plants	Not less than 5 yrs. or more than 40 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if other than an individual.	Not less than 10 yrs. or more than life. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75million if other than an individual.
Marijuana (Schedule I)	More than 10 kgs hashish; 50 to 99 kg marijuana mixture More than 1 kg of hashish oil; 50 to 99 marijuana plants	Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, not less than 20 yrs. or more than life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if other than an individual.	Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if other than an individual.
Marijuana (Schedule I)	Less than 50 kilograms marijuana (but does not include 50 or more marijuana plants regardless of weight) 1 to 49 marijuana plants;	Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000, \$1 million if other than an individual.	Not more than 10 yrs. Fine \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than individual.
Hashish (Schedule I)	10 kg or less		
Hashish Oil (Schedule I)	1 kg or less		

*The minimum sentence for a violation after two or more prior convictions for a felony drug offense have become final is a mandatory term of life imprisonment without release and a fine up to \$20 million if an individual and \$75 million if other than an individual.

FEDERAL TRAFFICKING PENALTIES⁴

DRUG/SCHEDULE	QUANTITY	PENALTIES	QUANTITY	PENALTIES
Cocaine (Schedule II)	500–4999 grams mixture	First Offense: Not less than 5 yrs, and not more than 40 yrs. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 or more than life. Fine of not more than \$5 million if an individual, \$25 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not less than 10 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$8 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual.	5 kgs or more mixture	First Offense: Not less than 10 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 or more than life. Fine of not more than \$10 million if an individual, \$50 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not less than 20 yrs, and not more than life. If death or serious injury, life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual. 2 or More Prior Offenses: Life imprisonment. Fine of not more than \$20 million if an individual, \$75 million if not an individual.
Cocaine Base (Schedule II)	28–279 grams mixture		280 grams or more mixture	
Fentanyl (Schedule II)	40–399 grams mixture		400 grams or more mixture	
Fentanyl Analogue (Schedule I)	10–99 grams mixture		100 grams or more mixture	
Heroin (Schedule I)	100–999 grams mixture		1 kg or more mixture	
LSD (Schedule I)	1–9 grams mixture		10 grams or more mixture	
Methamphetamine (Schedule II)	5–49 grams pure or 50–499 grams mixture		50 grams or more pure or 500 grams or more mixture	
PCP (Schedule II)	10–99 grams pure or 100–999 grams mixture		100 gm or more pure or 1 kg or more mixture	
PENALTIES				
Other Schedule I & II drugs (and any drug product containing Gamma Hydroxybutyric Acid)	Any amount	First Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not less than 20 yrs, or more than life. Fine \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 30 yrs. If death or serious bodily injury, life imprisonment. Fine \$2 million if an individual, \$10 million if not an individual.		
Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV)	1 gram			
Other Schedule III drugs	Any amount	First Offense: Not more than 10 years. If death or serious injury, not more than 15 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2.5 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 20 yrs. If death or serious injury, not more than 30 yrs. Fine not more than \$1 million if an individual, \$5 million if not an individual.		
All other Schedule IV drugs	Any amount	First Offense: Not more than 5 yrs. Fine not more than \$250,000 if an individual, \$1 million if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 10 yrs. Fine not more than \$500,000 if an individual, \$2 million if other than an individual.		
Flunitrazepam (Schedule IV)	Other than 1 gram or more			
All Schedule V drugs	Any amount	First Offense: Not more than 1 yr. Fine not more than \$100,000 if an individual, \$250,000 if not an individual. Second Offense: Not more than 4 yrs. Fine not more than \$200,000 if an individual, \$500,000 if not an individual.		

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration. (2017). *Drugs of Abuse* [PDF]. Accessed January 21, 2020.