SB

237

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral

DATE: 1/13/06

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: _____

Judiciary Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 237

SB 237 ADDITIONAL JUDGES FOR THIRD DISTRICT

"An Act increasing the number of superior court judges designated for the third judicial district, to provide additional superior court judges at Anchorage, Palmer, and Kenai; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

[ ] be **replaced** with _____ **CS** _____ (_____)

[ ] adopt **previous** _____ **CS** _____ (_____)

[ ] attached amendment(s)

[ ] adopt Letter of Intent by _____ _____ Committee

[ ] further referral to _____ Committee

CS Senate Bill:
[ ] Same Title
[ ] New Title

SCS House Bill:
[ ] Same Title
[ ] Technical Title Change
[ ] New Title w/ SCR #_____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

[ ] **APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note**

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	X			
	X			
	Y			
CHAIR: Ralph Seekins	✓			

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

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State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
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MEMORANDUM February 9, 2006

SUBJECT: Need for title change CSSB 237(JUD)
(Work Order No. 24-GS2077\G)

TO: Senator Ralph Seekins
Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Attn: Brian Hove

FROM: Dennis C. Bailey
Legislative Counsel

This memo accompanies the CSSB 237(JUD). Please note that the changes create a conflict between the title and the content of the bill. Because the committee deleted the intent provisions of the bill in the form as introduced, retaining reference in the bill title in the committee substitute to "additional superior court judges at Anchorage, Palmer, Kenai, and Fairbanks" is not consistent with the content of the committee substitute. The title should be amended to omit references to the designated cities.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

DCB:med
06-110.med

Enclosure

ALASKA STATE SENATE

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
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119 N. Cushman, Suite 201
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
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Senator_Ralph_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Senator Ralph Seekins, Chairman

Senate Bill 237 Letter of Intent

February 9, 2006

The legislature finds that the Alaska Court System has experienced a steady multi-year trend in the growth of the criminal caseload. Much of the growth in criminal caseload has occurred in Anchorage, Palmer, Kenai, and Fairbanks in part due to rapid increases in population in some areas. For example, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough had a 77 percent increase in population from 1990 to 2004 and a 29 percent increase in felony case filings for fiscal year 2004 alone. Overall, felony criminal case filings with the court have increased by approximately 20 percent from fiscal year 2002 to fiscal year 2004.

Felony criminal cases are typically the most complex and time intensive criminal cases that the Alaska Court System handles. Over the years, these cases have become even more complex and therefore time consuming due to changes in the nature of criminal cases and the use of scientific evidence in a greater number of cases. Additionally, increased participation by victims and other new court procedures have resulted in cases requiring more actual courtroom time prior to resolution. Felony criminal cases are becoming back-logged to a degree that undermines the criminal justice system.

Prosecutors, law enforcement and others who regularly appear before the Alaska Court System recognize that additional superior court judges are essential for the efficient handling of the felony caseload. The legislature finds that justice will be better served for victims, defendants and the general public if the court system has the resources necessary for efficient processing of these cases.

Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that the additional superior court judges authorized by this bill be assigned to criminal matters, or be utilized by the court system in a manner that will allow criminal matters to be more efficiently processed by the court.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: CSSB 237 (JUD)
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Alaska Judicial Council
Title: Addition of Six Superior Court Judges
RDU: Alaska Judicial Council
Component: Alaska Judicial Council
Sponsor: Senate Rules Committee
Requester: Governor
Component No.

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel	18.0	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Contractual	53.1	7.0	6.9	9.0	7.6	6.9
Supplies	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**71.9**	**9.4**	**9.2**	**11.4**	**9.9**	**9.2**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	71.9	9.4	9.2	11.4	9.9	9.2
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**71.9**	**9.4**	**9.2**	**11.4**	**9.9**	**9.2**

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill adds six new superior court judges: two in Palmer, two in Anchorage, one in Fairbanks, and one in Kenai. This fiscal note reflects the costs of soliciting, investigating, and screening applicants to fill the positions in FY 07; the costs of filling subsequent vacancies in these positions (amortized over 12 years, the average term for a superior court judge); and the costs of evaluating these judges and making retention recommendations to the public (initial appearance on ballot in November 2010 and every six years thereafter).

Prepared by: Larry Cohn, Executive Director
Phone 907-279-2526, ext. 1
Division
Date/Time 2/9/06 3:45 PM
Approved by: Larry Cohn, Executive Director
Date 2/9/2006
Agency: Alaska Judicial Council

Alaska Judicial Council **Fiscal Note**
Fiscal Note Calculation for SB 237
2/9/2006

	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Travel						
Judicial Council Travel - Selection meetings	18,000	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250
Subtotal Travel	**18,000**	**2,250**	**2,250**	**2,250**	**2,250**	**2,250**
Contractual						
Printing and mail processing of vacancy announcements	5,024	523	523	523	523	523
Printing and mail processing of selection surveys	9,360	1,170	1,170	1,170	1,170	1,170
Printing of juror survey cards for retention evaluation	0	150	0	0	0	0
Electronic hosting of online selection surveys	8,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Analysis of selection survey data	29 287	3,999	3,999	3,999	3,999	3,999
Analysis of retention survey data	0	0	0	1,420	0	0
Advertising of Council selection meetings	1,200	150	150	150	150	150
Advertising to solicit public comment re: retention	0	0	0	700	0	0
Advertising Council retention recommendations	0	0	0	0	700	0
Applicant credit histories	184	26	26	50	26	26
Subtotal Contractual	**53,055**	**7,018**	**6,868**	**9,012**	**7,568**	**6,868**
Supplies						
Paper for surveys	856	117	117	180	117	117
Subtotal Supplies	**856**	**117**	**117**	**180**	**117**	**117**
Subtotal Operating Expenditures	**71,911**	**9,385**	**9,235**	**11,442**	**9,935**	**9,235**
Grand Total All Expenditure Categories	**71,911**	**9,385**	**9,235**	**11,442**	**9,935**	**9,235**

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: #1 Amended
Bill Version: CSCB 237(JUD)
(S) Publish Date: 2/9/2006

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Trial Courts

Title: Addition of Six Superior Court Judges
RDU: Alaska Court System
Component: Trial Courts

Sponsor: Senate Rules Committee
Requester: Governor
Component No.:

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services	2,091.1	2,091.1	2,091.1	2,091.1	2,091.1	2,091.1
Travel	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8
Contractual	84.6	96.6	96.6	96.6	96.6	96.6
Supplies	339.4	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING & CAPITAL	**2,537.9**	**2,234.5**	**2,234.5**	**2,234.5**	**2,234.5**	**2,234.5**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	**5,741.3**					
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	8,279.2	2,234.5	2,234.5	2,234.5	2,234.5	2,234.5
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**8,279.2**	**2,234.5**	**2,234.5**	**2,234.5**	**2,234.5**	**2,234.5**

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	24	24	24	24	24	24
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill adds six new superior court judges: two in Palmer, two in Anchorage, one in Kenai and one in Fairbanks. This fiscal note reflects the operating and capital costs of these new positions and the necessary support staff.

Prepared by: C.S. Christensen III, Deputy Administrative Director — Phone 463-4736
Division: Alaska Court System — Date/Time 2/9/06 8:53 AM
Approved by: Stephanie Cole, Administrative Director — Date 2/9/2006
Agency: Alaska Court System

(Revised 9/7/2005 OMB)

Alaska Court System **Fiscal Note #1 Amended**

Fiscal Note Calculation for CSCB 237(JUD)

2/9/2006

Personal Services:	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
Superior Court Judge, Anchorage, (2 pos), 82A	365,200	365,200	365,200	365,200	365,200	365,200
Law Clerk, Anchorage, (2 pos), 13D	105,200	105,200	105,200	105,200	105,200	105,200
In-Court, Anchorage, (2 pos), 12A	107,200	107,200	107,200	107,200	107,200	107,200
Administrative Asst, Anchorage, (2 pos), 12A	107,200	107,200	107,200	107,200	107,200	107,200
Superior Court Judge, Palmer, (2 pos), 82A	365,200	365,200	365,200	365,200	365,200	365,200
Law Clerk, Palmer, (2 pos), 13D	108,200	108,200	108,200	108,200	108,200	108,200
In-Court, Palmer, (2 pos), 12A	109,800	109,800	109,800	109,800	109,800	109,800
Administrative Assistant, Palmer, (2 pos), 12A	109,800	109,800	109,800	109,800	109,800	109,800
Superior Court Judge, Kenai, 82A	182,600	182,600	182,600	182,600	182,600	182,600
Law Clerk, Kenai, 13D	55,700	55,700	55,700	55,700	55,700	55,700
In-Court, Kenai, 12A	56,400	56,400	56,400	56,400	56,400	56,400
Administrative Assistant, Kenai, 12A	56,400	56,400	56,400	56,400	56,400	56,400
Superior Court Judge, Fairbanks, 82A	184,100	184,100	184,100	184,100	184,100	184,100
Law Clerk, Fairbanks, 13D	59,100	59,100	59,100	59,100	59,100	59,100
In-Court, Fairbanks, 12A	59,500	59,500	59,500	59,500	59,500	59,500
Administrative Assistant, Fairbanks, 12A	59,500	59,500	59,500	59,500	59,500	59,500
Subtotal Personal Services	2,091,100	2,091,100	2,091,100	2,091,100	2,091,100	2,091,100
Travel:						
3rd District Circuit Travel (one week per month)	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400
4th District Circuit Travel (one week per month)	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400
Subtotal Travel	22,800	22,800	22,800	22,800	22,800	22,800
Contractual:						
Software Maintenance and Network Costs	21,600	21,600	21,600	21,600	21,600	21,600
Software Licensing	48,000					
Moving Costs Related to Expansion of Court Facilities	15,000					
Maintenance & Utilities Costs		75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Subtotal Contractual Services	84,600	96,600	96,600	96,600	96,600	96,600
Supplies:						
Operating Supplies @$1,000/position	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
Furniture & Computers for New Positions	117,000					
Jury Room Furniture	26,500					
Courtroom Equipment	171,900					
Subtotal Supplies	339,400	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
Subtotal Operating Expenditures	2,537,900	2,234,500	2,234,500	2,234,500	2,234,500	2,234,500
Capital Expenditures[1]						
Anchorage Remodel	270,600					
Kenai Remodel/Expansion	5,180,400					
Fairbanks Remodel/Expansion	290,300					
Subtotal Capital Expenditures	5,741,300	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total All Expenditure Categories	8,279,200	2,234,500	2,234,500	2,234,500	2,234,500	2,234,500

[1] Accommodating two additional superior court judges in Anchorage is most effectively accomplished by remodeling for three additional courtrooms and associated space in the Boney Courthouse. The Kenai courthouse is presently exceeding designed capacity. The design of the Kenai courthouse is similar to that of Palmer, which is presently undergoing renovation and will accommodate the new positions requested. Two new courtrooms and associated space for Kenai, however, must be added. The Fairbanks funding will be used to complete chambers and staff offices on the fifth floor of the Rabinowitz Courthouse.

SB 237

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US

P.O. BOX 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 13, 2006

The Honorable Ben Stevens
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill that would add a total of four Superior Court judge positions to the third judicial district in the state court system.

As Alaska's population grows, the demand on the court system from both civil and criminal cases increases. The population growth does not occur uniformly throughout the state. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough had a 77 percent increase in population from 1990 to 2004 and a 39 percent increase in felony case filings for fiscal year 2004. The Palmer court is perhaps the most overcrowded court in the system.

The impact on the court system of felony criminal cases is very burdensome. Criminal cases, particularly violent felony criminal cases, are often the most complex and time-sensitive types of cases handled by the court system. They are also the most likely type of case to proceed to a time-consuming trial. Time is of the essence to both the victims of crimes waiting for justice to be served and the accused seeking resolution to the criminal charges.

The additional Superior Court judge positions provided for under this bill are essential to the efficient operation of the court system.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely yours,

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

SENATE BILL NO. 237

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Introduced: 1/13/06
Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act increasing the number of superior court judges designated for the third judicial district, to provide additional superior court judges at Anchorage, Palmer, and Kenai; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds that

(1) the Alaska Court System has experienced a steady multi-year trend in the growth of the criminal caseload;

(2) much of the growth in the criminal caseload has occurred in Anchorage, Palmer, and Kenai, due to rapid increases in population in these areas; for example, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough had a 77 percent increase in population from 1990 to 2004 and a 39 percent increase in felony case filings for fiscal year 2004 alone;

(3) felony criminal case filings with the court have increased by

approximately 20 percent from fiscal year 2002 to fiscal year 2004 and felony criminal cases are typically the most complex and time-intensive criminal cases that the Alaska Court System handles; and

(4) it is recognized by prosecutors, law enforcement, and others who regularly appear before the Alaska Court System that additional superior court judges to handle criminal matters in those areas are essential for an efficient handling of the matters.

(b) It is the intent of the legislature that the four additional superior court judges authorized for the third judicial district by this Act be assigned to criminal matters, and be assigned as follows:

(1) Anchorage, ~~two~~;

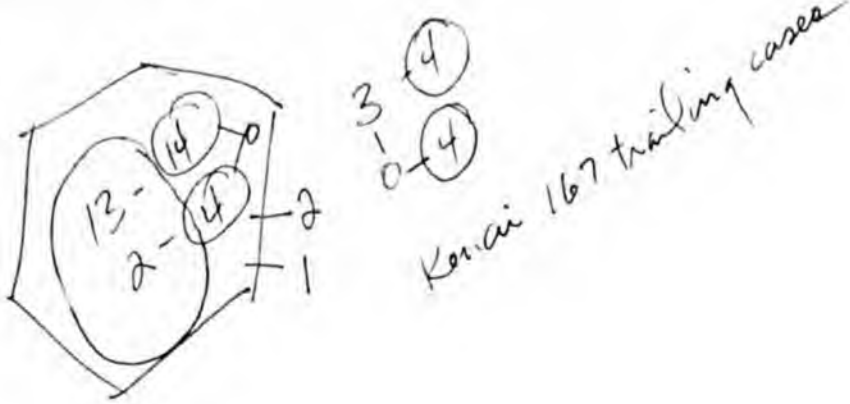
(2) Palmer, ~~one~~;

(3) Kenai, one.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 22.10.120 is amended to read:

Sec. 22.10.120. Number of judges. The superior court consists of 38 [34] judges, five of whom shall be judges in the first judicial district, three of whom shall be judges in the second judicial district, 23 [19] of whom shall be judges in the third judicial district, and ~~seven~~ of whom shall be judges in the fourth judicial district. At the time of submitting the name of nominees to the governor to fill a vacancy on the superior court bench, the judicial council shall also designate the district in which the appointee is to reside and serve.

* **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2006.



FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: SB 237
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: OOG
Title "An Act increasing the number of superior court judges designated for the third judicial...."
RDU Elections
Component Elections
Sponsor Senate Rules Committee
Requester Governor
Component No. 21

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note. Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual				6.0		
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**6.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF				6.0		
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**6.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill adds four new superior court judges: one in Palmer, two in Anchorage, and one in Kenai. If the judges are appointed in 2007, they would be subject to an initial retention election in 2010 (AS 15.35.060). This amount reflects the costs associated with printing the judicial candidate pages in the Official Election Pamphlet, as required by AS 15.58.

Prepared by: Ed Sasser, Election Administrative Supervisor
Phone 465-3051
Division Division of Elections
Date/Time 2/8/2006 11.54pm
Approved by: Whitney Brewster, Director
Date 2/8/2006
Agency Office of the Lt. Governor, Division of Elections

(Revised 9/7/2005 OMB)

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: SB 237
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Alaska Judicial Council

Title: Addition of Four Superior Court Judges
RDU: Alaska Judicial Council
Component: Alaska Judicial Council

Sponsor: Senate Rules Committee
Requester: Governor
Component No.

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel	13.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Contractual	41.3	4.8	4.7	5.9	5.2	4.7
Supplies	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**55.5**	**6.4**	**6.3**	**7.5**	**6.8**	**6.3**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	55.5	6.4	6.3	7.5	6.8	6.3
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**55.5**	**6.4**	**6.3**	**7.5**	**6.8**	**6.3**

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill adds four new superior court judges: one in Palmer, two in Anchorage, and one in Kenai. This fiscal note reflects the costs of soliciting, investigating, and screening applicants to fill the positions in FY 07; the costs of filling subsequent vacancies in these positions (amortized over 12 years, the average term for a superior court judge); and the costs of evaluating these judges and making retention recommendations to the public (initial appearance on ballot in November 2010 and every six years thereafter).

Prepared by: Larry Cohn, Executive Director
Phone 907-279-2526, ext. 1
Division
Date/Time 1/18/06 12:00 AM

Approved by: Larry Cohn, Executive Director
Date 1/18/2006
Agency: Alaska Judicial Council

Alaska Judicial Council **Fiscal Note**
Fiscal Note Calculation for SB 237
1/18/2006

	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Travel						
Judicial Council travel - selection meetings	13,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Subtotal Travel	**13,500**	**1,500**	**1,500**	**1,500**	**1,500**	**1,500**
Contractual						
Printing and mail processing of vacancy announcements	3,768	419	419	419	419	419
Printing and mail processing of selection surveys	7,020	780	780	780	780	780
Printing of juror survey cards for retention evaluation	0	100	0	0	0	0
Electronic hosting of online selection surveys	6,000	667	667	667	667	667
Analysis of selection survey data	23,487	2,736	2,736	2,736	2,736	2,736
Analysis of retention survey data	0	0	0	711	0	0
Advertising of Council selection meetings	900	100	100	100	100	100
Advertising to solicit public comment re: retention	0	0	0	500	0	0
Advertising Council retention recommendations	0	0	0	0	500	0
Applicant credit histories	148	18	18	18	18	18
Subtotal Contractual	**41,323**	**4,820**	**4,720**	**5,931**	**5,220**	**4,720**
Supplies						
Paper for surveys	676	79	79	79	79	79
Subtotal Supplies	**676**	**79**	**79**	**79**	**79**	**79**
Subtotal Operating Expenditures	**55,499**	**6,399**	**6,299**	**7,510**	**6,799**	**6,299**
Grand Total All Expenditure Categories	**55,499**	**6,399**	**6,299**	**7,510**	**6,799**	**6,299**

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: SB 237
(S) Publish Date: 2/13/2006

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Trial Courts

Title: Addition of Four Superior Court Judges
RDU: Alaska Court System
Component: Trial Courts

Sponsor: Senate Rules Committee
Requester: Governor
Component No.:

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services	1,382.4	1,382.4	1,382.4	1,382.4	1,382.4	1,382.4
Travel	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4
Contractual	61.4	89.4	89.4	89.4	89.4	89.4
Supplies	262.5	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING & CAPITAL	**1,717.7**	**1,499.2**	**1,499.2**	**1,499.2**	**1,499.2**	**1,499.2**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	**5,451.0**					
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	7,168.7	1,499.2	1,499.2	1,499.2	1,499.2	1,499.2
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**7,168.7**	**1,499.2**	**1,499.2**	**1,499.2**	**1,499.2**	**1,499.2**

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	16	16	16	16	16	16
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill adds four new superior court judges: one in Palmer, two in Anchorage, and one in Kenai. This fiscal note reflects the operating and capital costs of these new positions and the necessary support staff.

Prepared by: C.S. Christensen III, Deputy Administrative Director
Phone: 463-4736
Division: Alaska Court System
Date/Time: 1/23/06 11:20 AM

Approved by: Stephanie Cole, Administrative Director
Date: 1/13/2006
Agency: Alaska Court System

0077

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version:
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Law

Title: An Act increasing the number of Superior Court Judges in the 3rd Judicial District.
RDU: Criminal Division
Component: Criminal Justice Litigation

Sponsor: Rules Committee
Requester: Governor
Component No.

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

The bill increases the number of superior court judges designated for the third judicial district by adding two (2) in Anchorage, one (1) in Palmer and one (1) in Kenai. The Department of Law does not anticipate a fiscal impact from passage of this legislation.

Prepared by: Robert Meiners, Deputy Director
Phone 465-5427
Division: Administrative Services Division
Date/Time 12/30/05 3:12 PM
Approved by: Robert Meiners for David W. Marquez, Attorney General
Date 12/30/2005
Agency: Department of Law

(Revised 9/7/2005 OMB)

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Number of cases overwhelms justice system in the Valley

EXPANSION: Police, court, prosecutors all overworked; some relief is developing.

By KYLE HOPKINS
Anchorage Daily News

(Published: December 21, 2005)

Patrick Kelley listens to his attorney Rachel Levitt during a pretrial hearing in October at the Palmer Courthouse. A planned expansion may reduce the backlog of Valley cases, but officials say it doesn't address the future. *(Photo by STEPHEN NOWERS / Anchorage Daily News)*

PALMER -- When the brimming courthouse filled with new cases about four times the rate of the rest of Alaska, the court system in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough began to spring leaks.

Some minor crimes go unpunished and other misdemeanor cases are in danger of being dismissed if it takes police too long to finish paperwork, according to a supervisor at the local Office of Public Advocacy, police and Alaska State Troopers in Mat-Su, and the Palmer district attorney.

The crush of work for cops, lawyers and the court changed public policy this year. In October, the Wasilla City Council approved a new rule requiring shoplifters to pay up to $300 fines because, police say, the state stopped prosecuting many of the theft suspects they arrest.

The fines are meant to deter thieves and work like a traffic ticket rather than turn into a full-blown criminal case, Wasilla Police Chief Don Savage said. Palmer Police Chief Russ Boatright hopes to do the same thing in his town.

Police and troopers say other minor misdemeanors like disorderly conduct also sometimes go unprosecuted.

With methamphetamine and murders to worry about, Palmer District Attorney Roman Kalytiak concedes that burdened prosecutors have shrugged off certain shoplifting crimes this year to make time for other cases. Still, he said, it's not a blanket policy and it's unfair to obsess over a few ignored thefts.

"It's sort of like someone talking about the lack of donuts in New Orleans after Katrina," he said.

Demand on courts is growing across the state, but the bustling Mat-Su easily sets the pace according to the Alaska Court System 2004 annual report.

Between 2003 and 2004, the number of new felony cases filed statewide grew by 10 percent. In comparison, the volume of felony cases filed at the Palmer courthouse rose by 38 percent, or nearly four times as fast, the report states.

Superior court and district court filings in Palmer also jumped by 9 percent and 11 percent, compared with 2 percent and 3 percent statewide.

The 2005 tally so far is about 3,500 cases, on par with 2004, said Teresa Shaw, Palmer's clerk of

court. But what those numbers hide, Shaw said, is that while misdemeanor cases may or may not be on the rise, the rate of time-consuming felony filings likely continues to climb.

The congestion reaches every level of the justice system.

"Our calendar is horribly jammed," said Judge Eric Smith, one of two superior court judges at the courthouse.

The number of small-claims filings this year appears to have doubled, said Tammy Chandler, deputy clerk for the court's civil department. Each ticket issued is a considered a separate traffic case. About 5,000 more of those cases were filed this year than last, she said.

Kalytiak expects more trial and grand jury activity in 2006, a trend that started in the second half of this year.

The 44-year-old district attorney talked about caseloads Thursday morning in his office along the Palmer-Wasilla Highway as he waited for a verdict on the trial of a Valley man accused of shooting a friend.

A former Michigan prosecutor, Kalytiak has worked in Palmer for eight years. He was appointed district attorney in 1999 by then-Gov. Tony Knowles.

Kalytiak served as lead prosecutor on the day's murder case.

Eight prosecutors work in the Palmer district attorney's office -- one spot is vacant and another job will be added in 2006.

The prosecutors have been asked to handle about 450 to 500 cases each this year, Kalytiak said.

At a recent public safety meeting in Palmer, the city police chief said it seems that defense attorneys outnumber prosecutors in the Mat-Su by about three to one. In reality, nine public defenders work in the Mat-Su; another four lawyers with the Office of Public Advocacy represent defendants when the public defender's office has a potential conflict of interest. That doesn't count private attorneys. A direct comparison between the number of defenders and prosecutors may be like apples and oranges because each job holds different duties and jurisdictions.

The defense lawyers, prosecutors, police and troopers are all busy in the Valley, which threatens to let misdemeanor suspects off the hook.

Some authorities take so long to file police reports that crimes are in danger of being dismissed by the district attorney, said Rachel Levitt, supervising attorney for the Office of Public Advocacy in Palmer.

In the past, defense lawyers and prosecutors had an informal agreement. The defense wouldn't push for a speedy indictment, which allowed time to reach a possible plea agreement before starting a lengthy court process, Levitt sa

But that deal disintegrated as police reports sometimes took months to arrive after an arrest. Without timely reports, she said, "the courts get further and further clogged with cases that can't move forward."

In the fall, Kalytiak said he e-mailed local law enforcement, asking them to file the reports within 30 days. The worst-case scenario for police was that if they didn't get the paperwork in on time,

their case could be dismissed.

That deadline is a challenge for Alaska State Troopers patrolling the Valley, albeit one the agency is striving to meet, said Capt. Dennis Casanovas, commander of the Mat-Su detachment.

Each trooper has about 30 pending reports to write between racing to car crashes and other emergencies, Casanovas said. The backlog was 20 reports each just a few months ago.

"I am already working them about 24 hours of overtime every month," Casanovas said.

In October he offered his detachment another two days of overtime a month solely to catch up on police reports, he said. Almost his entire patrol staff accepted.

"How much more can I ask them to do?" Casanovas said.

The trooper captain had another question: what if everyone arrested, or whom authorities had enough evidence to arrest, actually filed through the court system? The court barely has room for the workload as it is.

The first phase of a new courthouse expansion is expected to begin early next year. The project will add two courtrooms and two judicial chambers, said Shaw, the clerk of court.

Kalytiak, the district attorney, said the expansion would help, but only for a while.

"It seems like it would meet the immediate needs," he said. "But it doesn't really look too far into the future."

Contact reporter Kyle Hopkins at khopkins@adn.com or call 352-6710.

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Valley growth gains speed

POPULATION: The number of new arrivals beats number of births.

By KYLE HOPKINS
Anchorage Daily News

(Published: January 27, 2006)

WASILLA -- In 2005, the Valley's population boom grew louder.

Hundreds left Anchorage for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, making it the largest growth center in Alaska. Population numbers elsewhere in the state were flat, for the most part, according to the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The Mat-Su population expanded by about 5 percent to more than 74,000 people last year, the state reported in a new count, done with the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Anchorage population, meantime, grew by only 0.1 percent -- the city's lowest growth rate in nearly a decade.

Nearly 2,900 people arrived in the Valley in 2005, about the same number that left Anchorage that year, said state demographer Greg Williams. About half of all those who left Anchorage settled in the Mat-Su, he said.

For principal Betty Romine of Valley Christian Schools, along the crowded Palmer-Wasilla Highway, the sound of population growth is the crunch of car against car.

"You hear the metal against metal," she said.

John Turnage, owner of Top of the World Autobody, right across the road from the school, said traffic along the Palmer-Wasilla Highway has doubled in the past decade.

It's been good for business. But Turnage has heard a familiar drumbeat of complaints about the Valley growth: that Anchorage is crowding into the Mat-Su and everyone will have to move toward Talkeetna to get a little space.

Home inspector Bill Bruu sits on the Mat-Su Borough platting board. He said he's been keeping an unofficial count of the new subdivisions planned for the Valley.

For the last three years, he said, enough new lots have been created to justify a new elementary school every month, assuming someone with two children built a home for each lot.

Fewer than 20,000 people lived in the Mat-Su in 1980, according to the state. The borough planning director, Murph O'Brien, says the population here is expected to swell to more than 160,000 within the next 20 years, even if no one builds a Knik Arm bridge.

"The implication on services -- schools, transportation, public safety -- it's staggering," O'Brien said.

The Mat-Su is the only place in the state where the growth comes mostly from new arrivals rather than births, according to the report, released Wednesday. The borough continued as the fastest-growing area in Alaska, and it even gained momentum in 2005, eclipsing a 15-year average of 4 percent growth per year.

Though the Valley is regarded for its cheap land and housing when compared with the Anchorage market, home prices in the core area are on the rise.

Not long ago, $180,000 bought one of the higher-end homes in the region, said Barbara Hocker, president of the Valley Board of Realtors. Now, she said, "if you want a nice home, you're going to be spending around $225,000."

The hottest of Mat-Su hot spots may be the Knik-Fairview area south of Wasilla. The population there expanded by about 10 percent in 2005 to more than 10,000 people, larger than Kenai, Sitka or Kodiak.

By contrast, there was little growth statewide.

The population of the Gulf Coast region, including the Kenai Peninsula, Valdez, Cordova and Kodiak, was 74,904, not much changed from the year before. Similarly, the Southwest region stayed practically flat, at 39,979 in 2005. The area includes the Aleutians, Dillingham and Bethel areas. Northern Alaska, with Nome and Kotzebue and Barrow, dipped slightly to 23,669.

In the Southeast, the Juneau population rose slightly last year, but smaller towns dependent on logging lost people, Williams said.

Overall, the population in Southeast fell by 0.6 percent, or more than 2,200 people, between 2000 and 2005, according to the state.

The Interior, according to state economist Neal Fried, benefited from a relatively strong economy and healthy construction industry. The Fairbanks and North Star Borough population increased by more than 2,000 people, 2.5 percent, from 2004 to 2005. The regional total was 102,005.

State estimates show 1,364 more people moved out of Alaska than into the state last year. Because of births, Alaska's population rose slightly from approximately 657,700 to roughly 663,600.

Newcomers to Alaska most likely settled in either Anchorage or the Mat-Su, which combined for 89 percent of the state's population growth, according to the state Labor Department.

Contact reporter Kyle Hopkins at khopkins@adn.com or call 352-6710.

SEE THE REPORT: Go online.

www.adn.com SURVEY: Income growth among Alaska's poorest 20 percent outpaced that of the richest 20 percent in the 1980s and 1990s.

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Alaska Court System

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State of the Judiciary

February 23, 2005

Chief Justice Alex Bryner

President Stevens, Speaker Harris, Senators, Representatives, and guests. Thank you for this opportunity to report on the state of Alaska's judiciary. Let me start with some introductions. Three members of the Supreme Court are here with me today. Justice Robert Eastaugh has served on our court since 1994. He was raised in Juneau, where his father and grandfather both practiced law and were leaders of the legal community. Justice Eastaugh heads the Supreme Court's Fairness and Access Committee, and serves on our Appellate Rules Committee. Justice Dana Fabe is here as well. Justice Fabe was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1996, becoming the first woman on Alaska's Supreme Court and, four years later, the first woman to serve as Chief Justice. She founded and continues to head the Alaska Supreme Court Outreach Commission; she also heads the Supreme Court's Civil Rules Committee and is a Board Member of the American Judicature Society. Before joining the Supreme Court, Justice Fabe served on the superior court in Anchorage since 1988. The third Supreme Court Justice with us today is Justice Walter Carpeneti, our member from Juneau. Before being appointed to the Supreme Court in 1998, Justice Carpeneti served on the superior court in Juneau from 1981. He heads the Supreme Court's Judicial Education Committee.

I'd also like to introduce the Court's Administrative Director, Stephanie Cole, and two members of our senior staff. Stephanie Cole has served in the Court System for 28 years and has been our Director since 1997. Deputy Director Chris Christensen is here today too; as is Administrative Attorney, Doug Wooliver. As many of you who have worked with Stephanie, Chris, and Doug already know, they are talented, hard working, and dedicated members of the court system team, and we appreciate their unflagging efforts.

And I'd further like to extend greetings and regrets on behalf of Justice Warren Matthews, who is holding down the fort in Anchorage today. Justice Matthews has been a member of the Supreme Court for 27 years and has served two prior stints as Chief Justice; he is the court's longest serving current member.

Let me turn now to the issue at hand, the state of the Judiciary. This is my second chance to appear before you as Chief Justice; and my appearance marks the 33rd time that a chief justice has come before the Legislature to present this report. I'm happy to report again that the state of our judiciary is strong and sound. Alaska's trial judges rank among the best in the nation; we have

an effective and efficient unified statewide system of judicial administration, an enlightened and comprehensive set of legal codes, a modern and vibrant state constitution, and a proven, uniquely effective system of judicial selection -- one that is nationally recognized as a model for nominating talented and independent judges on the basis of merit.

Much of the credit for our strong system belongs with Alaska's Legislature. As chief justice, I often see my counterparts in other states, and I know that they regard Alaska's tradition of cooperation and communication among its three branches of government as a rare strength. Our three branches of government have always reached beyond their individual interests and sought to cooperate for Alaska's common good. I want to thank the Legislature for your past help to Alaska's judiciary and urge your continued support.

Now let me give you a quick snapshot of the Alaska Court System today. The court system has offices in 44 locations throughout Alaska, ranging from our 353,000 square-foot headquarters in Anchorage to our 160 square-foot complex in Unalakleet. The constitution divides Alaska into four judicial districts; they are managed by four able and dedicated presiding superior court judges: Judge Larry Weeks has managed the first judicial district since 1992; Judge Michael Jeffery of Barrow has presided over the second judicial district since 1994; Judge Dan Hensley in Anchorage has overseen the third judicial district since 2002; and Judge Niesje Steinkruger in Fairbanks has served as presiding judge for the fourth judicial district since 2003. In addition to juggling their own judicial workloads, these judges manage caseload distribution, case calendaring and myriad day- to-day administrative concerns arising in their districts; they serve by annual appointment of the chief justice, and get no extra compensation for their efforts. I thank them all for their extraordinary dedication.
Statewide, our system encompasses about 750 employees; only about 62 of them are justices or judges; and about 39 more are magistrates. The vast majority are clerical and technical workers. In fact, 61% work at range 14 or below -- most of them in busy trial-court settings. These employees form the backbone of our system and deserve our recognition. They work hard for their pay, and the Legislature has recognized this by treating them equally to similarly classified executive branch employees. We thank you for this support and request that it continue.

Though our judicial system forms a separate, co-equal branch of Alaska's government, its size is tiny by comparison to Alaska's two other branches: our annual spending accounts for less than 1% of the state's total operating budget. Yet last year the court system absorbed more than 150,000 new cases. Although these filings determine our workload, we have little control over how many new cases are filed. We are a reactive system: we must always be prepared to meet new demands, and have a constitutional duty to accept all properly filed cases. Last year we continued to see steady caseload growth. The superior court experienced a 2% statewide increase in filings, while the district court saw a 3% increase. But we had a 10% increase in felony filings, which include our most complex criminal cases. They are the most likely of all cases to proceed to trial, and they require quick handling. So this increase has had a disproportionately large impact on our operations.

The most striking and rapid growth by far has centered in the Mat-Su Valley. Last year alone, superior court filings in the Palmer court increased by 9% and district court filings by 22%. This continues a multi-year trend and makes Palmer the most overcrowded court in our system. Despite your generous past support, Palmer's rapidly growing caseload outpaces the court

system's resources, as well as the resources of other related state agencies. Built in 1988 and enlarged in 1999, the Palmer courthouse has again run out of space to meet current demands; and it has little capacity to expand. Last year our Palmer court had days when there were more trials in progress than available courtrooms. So as a pilot project, Palmer is now holding court in the evenings and on weekends. The Mat-Su Valley will continue to grow rapidly. Our Palmer court will need to grow, too. And we need to start planning and building for that now. As a first step, we will be asking for your help this year in increasing Palmer staffing levels and funding additional space; and in the next legislative session we expect we will need authorization for a new superior court judge in Palmer.

This snapshot I've just given doesn't fully capture the dynamics of our courts. Although our courts adhere to the formal traditions of the adversary process, they are also responding to the changing needs of Alaska. As we encounter increasingly serious and widespread societal problems, our courts search for new and better ways to deliver justice. Many of our efforts have received your active and enthusiastic support.

For several years, legislators have joined in helping us establish therapeutic courts, which address the crippling problems of repeated criminal behavior associated with addictions, mental disabilities, and family disintegration. Therapeutic courts do not abandon the traditional values of our justice system, but use a team approach to reach beyond the limits of traditional justice. They require extensive resources and the ongoing cooperation of all of the court's institutional partners. Any weak link in this therapeutic chain can halt the court's efforts and leave its defendants stranded. Our therapeutic court judges have had to work hard to keep everybody on track. And they have had occasional setbacks. But there can be little doubt that their hard work has been worthwhile.

When all agencies cooperate, the long term rewards of therapeutic courts are unrivaled. Our latest program evaluations demonstrate that therapeutic courts can and do work. Program graduates are becoming productive members of society, overcoming years of repeated criminal behavior. They are now supporting their families, holding down jobs, and contributing to our society. They are breaking down the revolving door of the conventional system.

We currently have eight therapeutic court programs operating or starting up; seven are in Anchorage, and the eighth is in Bethel. Four more are in the planning stages. They will be in Palmer, Fairbanks, Ketchikan and Juneau. These programs would not be possible without the active participation and financial support of agencies and organizations like Partners for Progress, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Highway Safety Office and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. All of these participants deserve recognition and thanks for their steadfast support of our therapeutic courts. Many legislators have also supported our therapeutic court, and likewise deserve our thanks. We owe special thanks to Representative Norm Rokeberg, who has worked tirelessly to support our alcohol courts, and to Senator Lyda Green, who has enthusiastically supported our mental health courts in both Anchorage and Palmer.

I also need to thank the many judges who volunteer so much of their own time and talents to these efforts. Two in particular deserve special recognition. Anchorage District Court Judge Stephanie Rhoades oversees the Anchorage Mental Health Court,

which diverts chronic misdemeanor offenders with mental disabilities from jail into less costly and much more effective treatment programs. Judge Rhoades has long been recognized for her innovative efforts and her dedication to cultivating therapeutic justice principles throughout the Alaska Court System. Last year Judge Rhoades received a national award from the Foundation for the Improvement of Justice for her pioneering work with mental health courts in Alaska. This prize included a cash award of $10,000, which Judge Rhoades generously donated to a fund for the emergency needs of her mental health court's participants.

Another pioneer in our therapeutic court efforts, Anchorage District Court Judge James Wanamaker, retired from the bench just last month, after almost 12 years of service. He's turning 70, and the Alaska Constitution requires judges to retire at that age. Jim Wanamaker was the first judge in Alaska to propose a therapeutic court program. He went on to establish and run the Anchorage Municipal Wellness Court, which has had unique success and serves as a model for new programs, both in Alaska and nationwide. Judge Wanamaker deserves our lasting recognition and thanks for his gifts to our therapeutic court program. His loss is a hard blow to our system, but I'm glad to report that he will continue helping the system as a member of the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Therapeutic Courts.

A different example of how new approaches can make a big difference is our Family Law Self-Help Center. Our traditional system assumes that people will have lawyers, so it's no surprise that traditional courtrooms abound with formal rules and technical requirements. But the assumption that most litigants have lawyers no longer holds true. As our society has grown and become more complex, more people have relied on our courts. At the same time, the costs of legal representation -- like medical costs and most other kinds of professional services -- have skyrocketed. So we now find a tremendous -- and constantly growing -- number of people coming to court without lawyers.

This tide of self-represented litigants imposes great costs on our system. Court clerks have to spend time away from their regular jobs to deal with incomplete or defective paperwork, try to answer technical questions, and explain court procedures. Many self-represented litigants come to trial unprepared and confused, causing their cases to be rescheduled or their trials to consume hours of unnecessary courtroom time. Meanwhile, parties with lawyers in larger and more complicated cases have to wait in the wings because there's not enough judge time available to hear their trials.

These problems loom especially large in family law cases. And that's where our Family Law Self-Help Center fits into the picture. Center Director Katherine Alteneder and her staff make it their job to guide self-represented litigants through the intricate web of the system. They are not legal advocates and do not give legal advice or involve themselves in the merits of these cases. The Center's staff focuses instead on providing the written forms and information parties will need to present their cases in a way that complies with procedural rules, so that their cases can be decided on the merits. Although the Center is located in Anchorage, its staff helps people statewide through an innovative combination of direct, telephonic, and Internet services. About 250 people receive direct services from the Center each month, and countless others obtain information and forms on line. The Center's work has proved especially valuable in rural areas, where lawyers are scarce and people often have no choice but to go it alone. Last year, the Self-Help Center received national acclaim for the excellence of its service and the number of people it helps statewide.

On another front, the court system is continuing to identify areas of dispute that can be resolved outside the courtroom. We support several small mediation projects, funded through federal grants or run by volunteers. The Child Custody and Mediation Project, for example, operates in many locations, helping families with child custody or visitation problems who cannot afford the services of private mediators. This project received 117 referrals last year; and 68% of the cases it mediated reached agreement on some or all issues. Similarly, the Child In Need of Aid Mediation and Family Group Conferencing Program offers mediation and family group conferencing throughout the state in Child-In-Need-of-Aid cases. Eighty-eight percent of the cases it handled resulted in agreement on some or all issues.

At a different level, but in a similar vein, the Alaska Supreme Court's appellate settlement program promotes early settlements in appeals. In June 2003 retired Superior Court Judge Elaine Andrews agreed to head our appellate settlement program. Together with retired federal Bankruptcy Judge Herb Ross, Judge Andrews screens new appeals for likely settlement prospects. In the first year of the program, they selected 49 cases for settlement efforts, and 25 of them settled -- a success rate of about 51%. These are cases that would ordinarily have required a lengthy and expensive briefing process and a formal written decision by all five of the Supreme Court's justices. We are very grateful to Judges Andrews and Ross.

The various projects I have just described point to many areas where efficient and effective alternatives exist to our traditional model of formal adjudication. We intend to keep moving in these directions whenever they can improve our system of justice.

Now I'd like to report on some work in progress and some future changes. First, we are continuing to deploy our new Courtview case management system, an ambitious, multi-year project that will integrate our court system's separate locations into a statewide information network. This system has been generously funded by the Legislature through two capital appropriations, in 2001 and 2002; we greatly appreciate your support. Our implementation of the project is being ably guided by Deputy Administrative Director Christine Johnson and Technology Director Debbie Cook. I'd like to thank them both for their efforts. So far, we have installed Courtview in Palmer, Anchorage and Fairbanks. When fully implemented, Courtview will serve as a statewide collection point and crossroads for justice information.

The coming year also promises to bring continuing changes to the membership of our judiciary. In recent years we have seen unprecedented changes. Four judges retired last year: Superior Court Judge John Reese in Anchorage; District Court Judge Francis Neville in Homer; District Court Judge Peter Froehlich in Juneau, and District Court Judge James Wanamaker of Anchorage. We were also saddened by the death last September of District Court Judge Samuel Adams of Anchorage. With these departures, our bench loses nearly 60 years of accumulated experience. And in Fairbanks, Superior Court Judge Richard Savell has announced that he is retiring later this Spring. At the same time, we have welcomed the many new judges appointed to our bench by Governor Murkowski: Craig Stowers to the Superior Court in Anchorage, John Wolfe to the District Court in Palmer, David Landry to the District Court in Kenai, Pat Hanley to the District Court in Anchorage, Dan Schally to the District Court in Valdez, and Keith Levy to the District Court in Juneau. Additionally, we are awaiting a new round of Council nominations for open seats in Homer, Fairbanks, and Anchorage.

The trend signaled by these changes deserves careful reflection. Over Alaska's first forty-three years after statehood, we filled an average of four judicial vacancies per year. Yet during the past three years, we have seen vacancies double to eight per year. In the nine months between August 2004 and March of this year, we will have nominated judges for nine vacancies -- a rate of one per month.

This growing number of judicial appointments had its most immediate impact on the Alaska Judicial Council, the body charged by our constitution with screening prospective judges and nominating the most qualified applicants for appointment by the Governor. The Council has six unpaid members, who volunteer the time they spend on their duties; they are headed by the Alaska Supreme Court's Chief Justice, who votes only to break a tie. In keeping with our Constitution, the Council operates independently of the court system and other branches of government, relying on a small budget and staff of its own. The sudden and unexpected growth of judicial openings has stretched the Council's financial resources, and individual Council members have also felt the strain. In the seven months ending this March, Council members will have spent fourteen full days interviewing judicial applicants in seven different locations.

Alaska's constitutionally prescribed system of nominating judges according to merit is recognized nationally as a model for judicial selection and enjoys wide support from the citizens of Alaska. The Judicial Council is committed to excellence and is doing a fine job. But the growing number of judicial openings means that the Council needs the Legislature's support more than ever. Because an experienced and independent judiciary is indispensable to Alaska, I urge you to recognize the importance of continuing to support the work of the Council.

The fast pace of judicial appointments highlights another changing feature of Alaska's judiciary: When Alaska first attained statehood, it was common for attorneys to be appointed to all levels of the bench at a very early age. Chief Justice Jay Rabinowitz was appointed to the Supreme Court at age 38, after having served on the superior court since he was 33; Chief Justice George Boney was also appointed to the Supreme Court at the age of 38. But Alaska is no longer a new state. The men and women applying to become judges are generally older and considerably more experienced as lawyers. So far, we have been fortunate in attracting judicial applicants from this select pool of proven and experienced lawyers. There can be no doubt that Alaska's judicial system has traditionally been strong; this tradition continues to attract strong applicants. Yet we cannot bank on tradition alone for the future. If we want to draw tomorrow's judges from the leaders of our legal profession -- especially from those practicing in the private sector -- we cannot realistically offer them salaries that may soon rank among the last in the nation.

Historically, the salaries of our state superior court judges were set to approximate those of their federal counterparts, United States District Court judges. In fact, for a time our federal judges looked to Alaska's superior court as a benchmark. In 1982 Alaska's superior court salaries placed Alaska first in the nation. But federal salaries began a steady rise in the 1980s; so did judicial pay in most other states. Alaska now ranks near the bottom of the national average. When adjusted for cost of living, Alaska's judicial salaries place our state 49th. And today Federal District Court judges earn almost fifty percent more than our superior court judges. In fact no member of Alaska's judiciary earns nearly as much as federal magistrates -- the lowest positions

among federal judicial officers.

This may not be a popular issue; but it needs to be raised before Alaska slips even further. My overriding concern is for the future of our institution. If we blind ourselves to the problem, we may ultimately deprive our state of a balanced bench -- one that includes judges drawn from the top sectors of legal practice, where many attorneys are undoubtedly eager to serve the public as judges, but few could afford the economic penalty of being appointed. Our government is built on respect for the law. But we can't expect the public to respect the law unless we treat our institutions of justice -- our judges -- as worthy of the public trust inherent in their duties. So I respectfully ask you to consider realigning Alaska's judicial salaries to keep pace with the norm prevailing in federal and state courts around the nation.

This brings me to the last points I'd like to cover in my report: our ongoing efforts to enhance community participation in Alaska's system of justice. For some time now, the court system has focused on the need to treat Alaska jurors more humanely. We expect to continue our efforts to improve the way we treat and recognize jurors. After all, citizens who respond for jury duty play a core role in our justice system -- and often at tremendous sacrifice: time away from a job, from family and normal routines, as well as many other serious inconveniences. In the past, our government sometimes took this service for granted. As a result, jury duty is now too often seen as an unwelcome demand. To restore vitality to our system, we need to acknowledge the importance of jury service and make sure that we recognize jurors for their valuable contributions. To this end, the court system is striving to lighten the burden of jury service by reducing the time that jurors are subject to being called, allowing greater scheduling flexibility, avoiding unnecessary delays, and addressing growing concerns relating to juror privacy and safety. I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize all Alaskans who have responded to a jury summons, and to thank each of you personally for your valuable contributions.

Another recent court system project illustrates further benefits to be gained by involving Alaska's communities in issues of justice. Last year the Alaska Court System conducted five regional forums called "Children in Alaska's Courts" in Barrow, Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks and Bethel. A Supreme Court Justice attended at each location. Aided by a grant from the State Justice Institute, these forums invited professional and public feedback to tell us what works and what doesn't in our efforts to deal with the thousands of cases affecting Alaska's children that we hear every year in our courts. More than 300 concerned Alaskans participated in these forums. And I would like to thank Senator Gary Wilken, who personally took part in the Fairbanks forum. By holding these forums, we identified many new issues, heard many specific suggestions for improving our system in each community, and gained valuable ideas for reviewing and upgrading our statewide practices to ensure that our justice system meets the highest attainable standards.

In the final analysis our experience with the "Children in Alaska's Courts" forums captures my vision of the Alaska Court System in the future: a strong, fair, and accessible system that brings equal justice to all Alaskans, always stands ready to listen, and constantly strives to do better.

That completes my report. Thank you for your attention.

Rev. 23 February 2005

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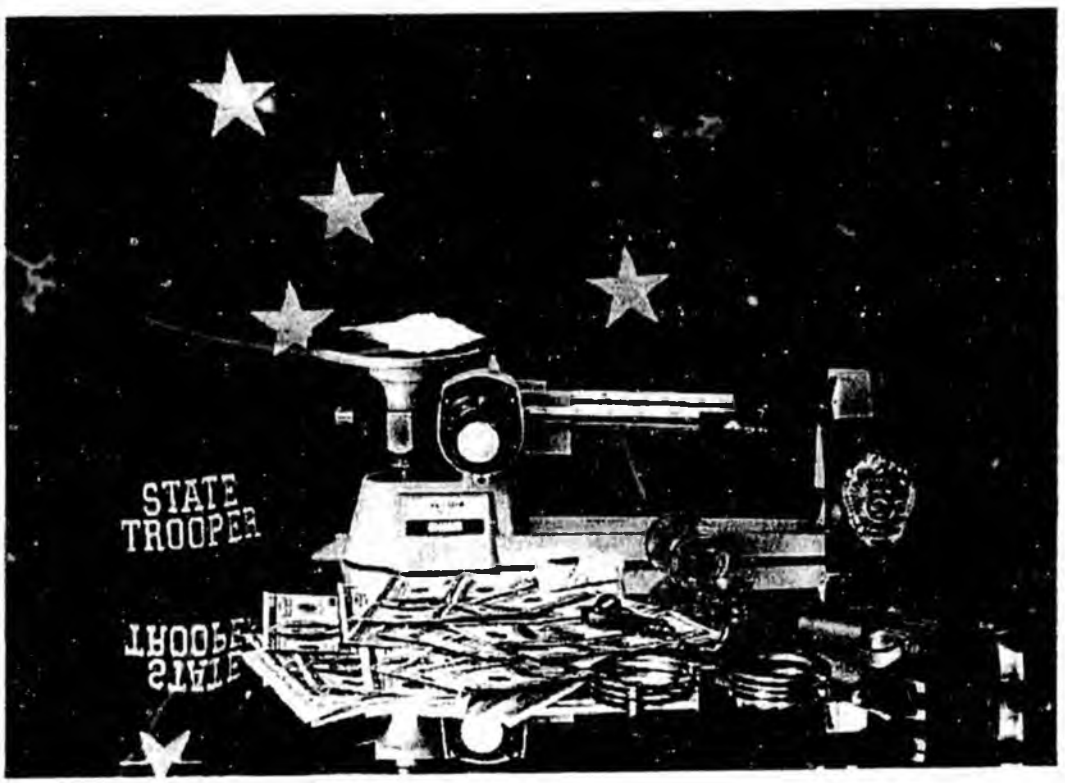
Alaska State Troopers
Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement



2003 Annual Drug Report

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 Form 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.[illegible] percent were between 15 and 20 years of age. Just slightly over 4[illegible] 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

Cocaine packaged in bindles

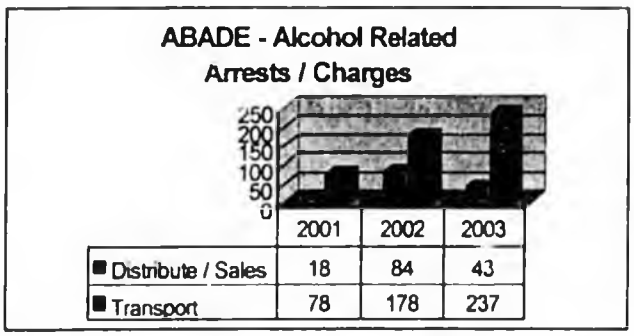
Alcohol pictured represents one seizure

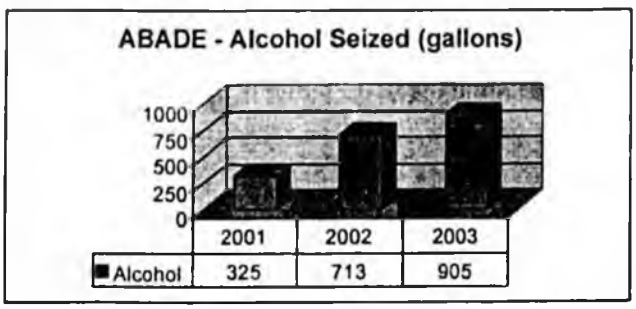
Alcohol

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

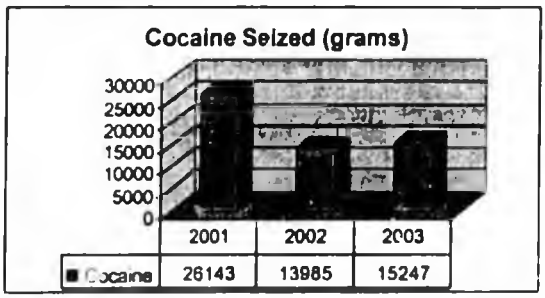
Cocaine

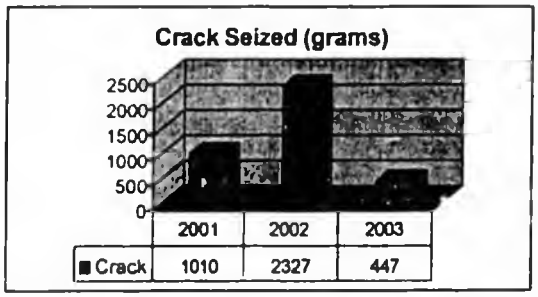
Cocaine continues to be a lucrative drug for sale and use in Alaska. Cocaine is readily available in most areas of the state and is seen with great frequency in powder form and crack cocaine in the major urban areas such as Anchorage and Fairbanks.

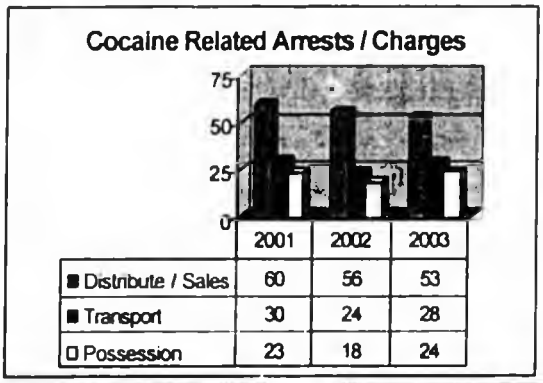
Cocaine is brought into Alaska concealed on passengers or in luggage through ports of entry such as the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, and it is also shipped via the US Post Office or commercial parcel companies such as FedEx or UPS.

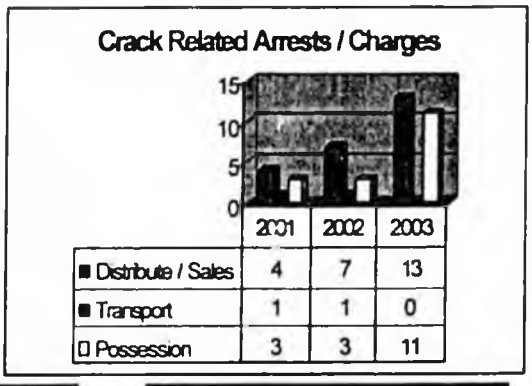
The cocaine brought into Alaska is typically packaged in kilogram quantities and later broken down by dealers into smaller quantities for retail sale. In powder form, it is normally sold in gram quantities for $100-150 and its primary method of ingestion is by snorting.

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.









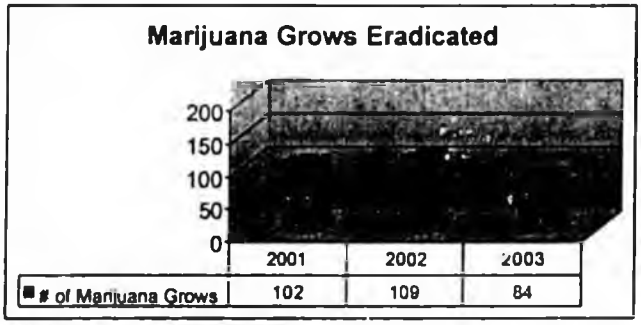
Cocaine wrapped in plastic hidden in a cold cream jar

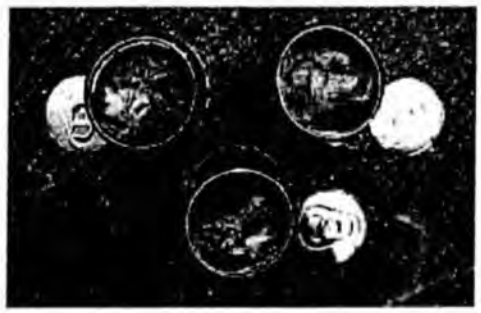
Marijuana

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.

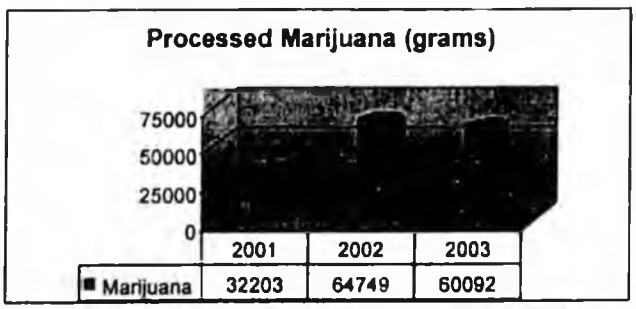
In some parts of the state, the local economy is directly affected by the influx of money from illegally produced marijuana. Proceeds from marijuana production are used for a multitude of purchases including fuel, grow equipment/supplies, utilities, vehicles, ATV's and building materials.





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.

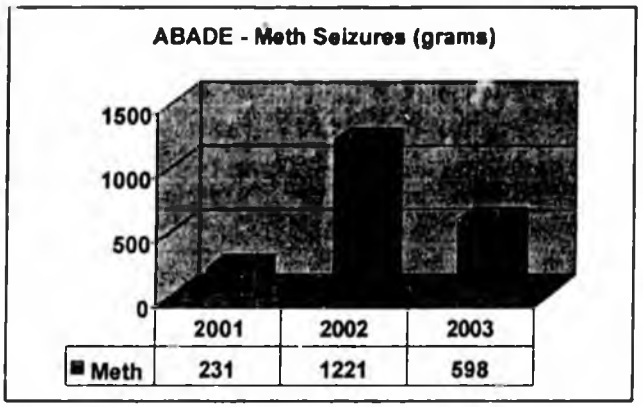
A total of 50 clandestine laboratories were discovered in Alaska in 2000. As a result of aggressive training and subsequent enforcement effort, the number of labs discovered in 2001 dropped to 21. Statistics show that the number is again on the rise. In 2002, a total of 32 clandestine laboratories were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

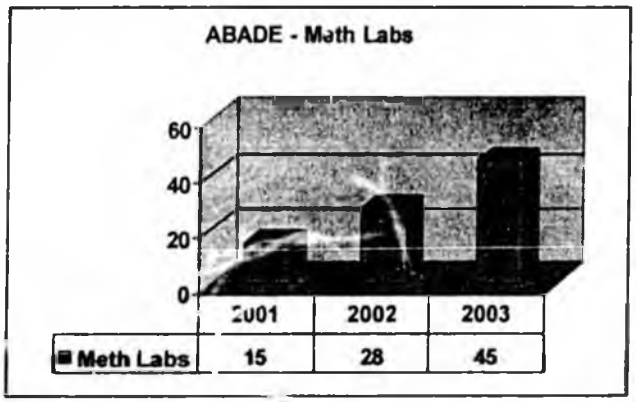
Methamphetamine laboratories are being operated increasingly in single and multi-family residences in many neighborhoods. In addition to meth labs producing illegal, often deadly drugs, the clandestine nature of the manufacturing process and the presence of ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and toxic chemicals 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 reinstitution 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.

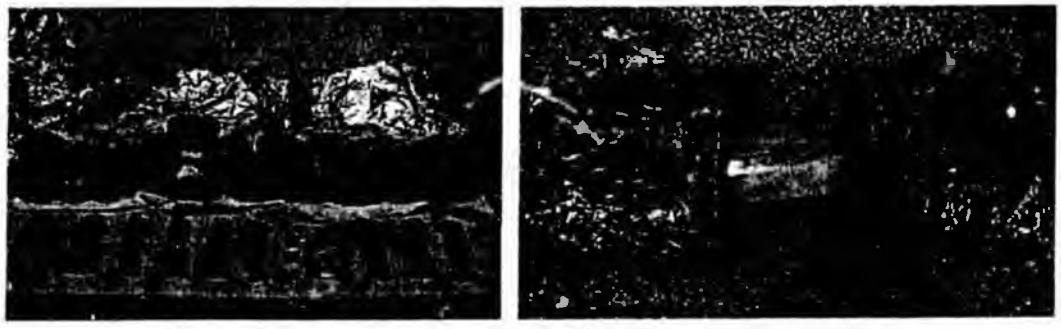
The AITF is a federally funded task force sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The AITF is responsible for investigations that involve drug trafficking at various ports of entry to include passengers and luggage arriving at airport terminals, packages and cargo shipped through 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 oversighted 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 methamphetamin
A total of 2,117 liters of hard liquor, 799 liters o
other (generally homebrewed beer) were seized
of alcohol seized was approximately $324,700.
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.

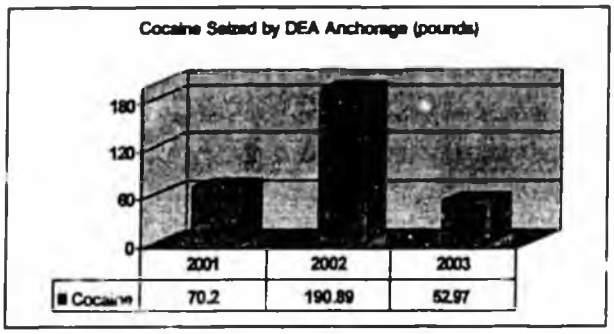
DEA continued to furnish training to state and local officers on topics related to clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. Like last year, DEA bore the cost of several troopers and officers attending meth lab related training at the DEA's training facility in Quantico, Virginia. DEA's training was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

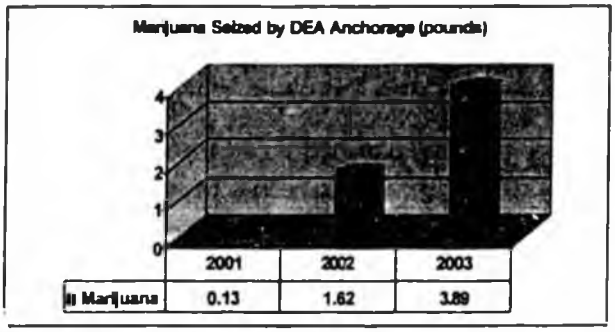
DEA has provided the funds for members of the Alaska Interdiction Task Force to travel for training in Washington, D.C., and they have also facilitated participation of more troopers in a Drug Unit Commanders Academy held in Quantico, Virginia.

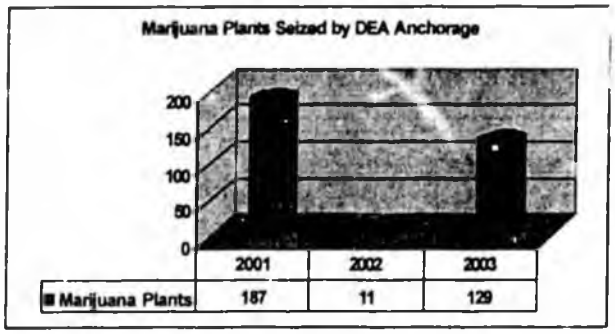
DEA continues to facilitate forfeiture proceedings related to assets and funds seized as a result of criminal investigations into drug trafficking. This effort allows state and local law enforcement agencies to receive a portion of the assets seized, which in turn funds additional criminal investigations.

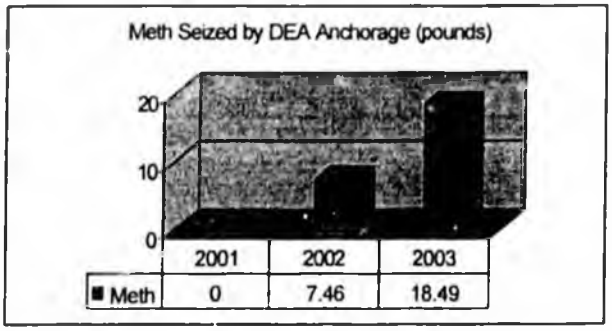
The Drug Enforcement Administration continues to develop a strong role in the overall drug enforcement effort in Alaska.

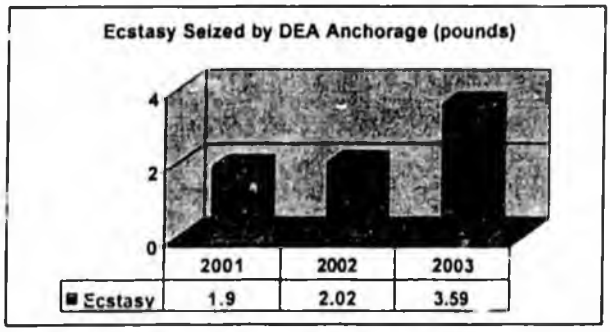
Seizure Statistics for DEA Anchorage











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.

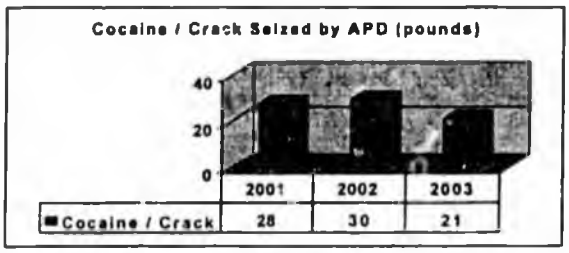
ATF is the lead federal agency behind the Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) initiative, which allows for federal prosecution of certain crimes involving weapons and drugs. Types of investigations worked by PSN include: prohibited persons possessing a fire arm such as felons; illegal aliens, drug users, 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.

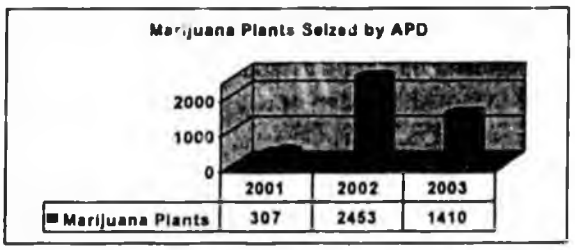
Investigation completed and adopted under ATF Project Safe Neighborhood allows for stiffer penalties for criminal convictions, where the average federal conviction is 8 years in federal prison.

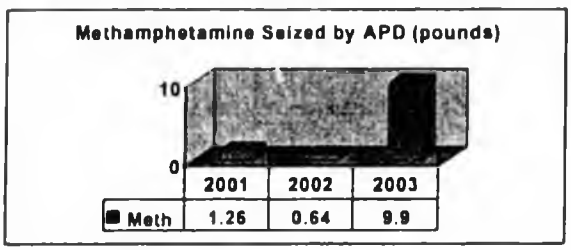
ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

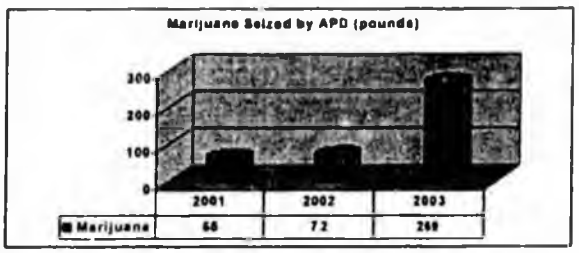
The Anchorage Police Department (APD) reports another eventful year. The APD Drug Enforcement Unit, the Special Assignment and the Patrol Division had a total of 2,250 calls for service in 2003. Of those calls, 1199 reports were written, 845 people were arrested and 956 drug charges were filed. This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

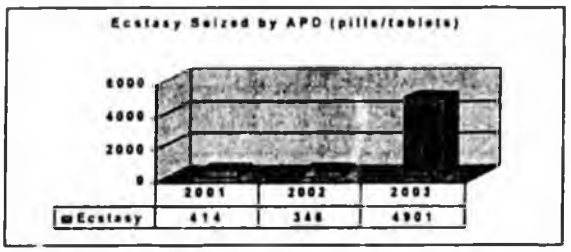
Anchorage is seeing an increase in methamphetamine and Ecstasy being imported from the lower 48 and beyond. One case in point, DEA was brought in on a case initiated by APD that had rapidly grew beyond APD's resources. That case was brought to a successful conclusion and 26 people were arrested on conspiracy 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.

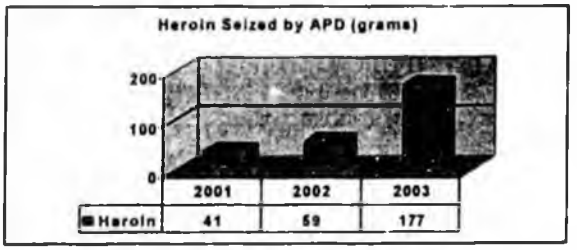












U.S. POSTAL INSPECTORS

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.

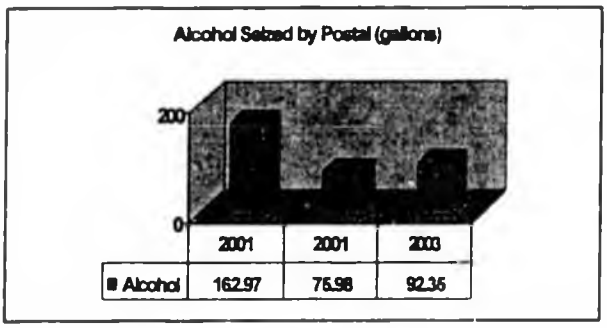
The Postal Inspectors have been a tremendous ally in identifying and seizing illegal shipments of alcohol through the postal facilities. Postal Inspectors remain a major component in the on-going effort to curb the illegal distribution of alcohol in local option communities.

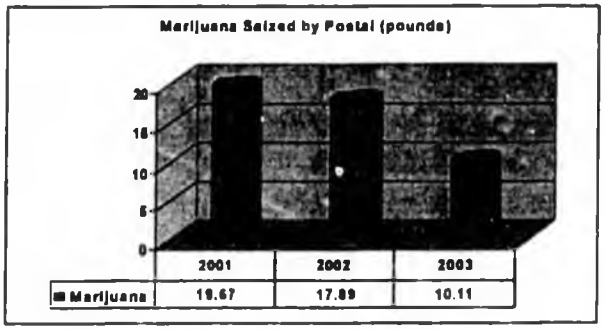
The Postal Inspectors also actively seek out shipments of illegal drugs through their system and continue to enjoy very good success in that effort. ABADE has a long history of supplying scent detection canine support to the Postal Inspectors, in addition to the investigative support that is routinely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

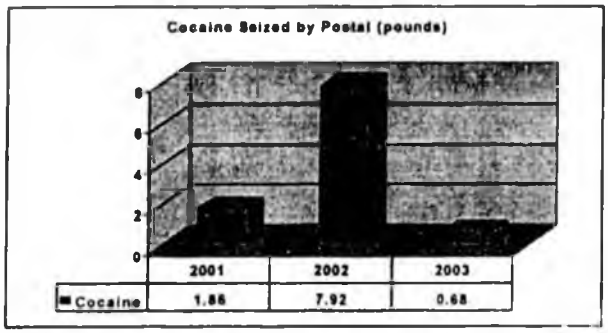
In analyzing the seizure statistics provided by the U.S. Postal Inspectors, it is important to consider that some of their statistics may have been duplicated or co-mingled with the seizures of other investigative units.

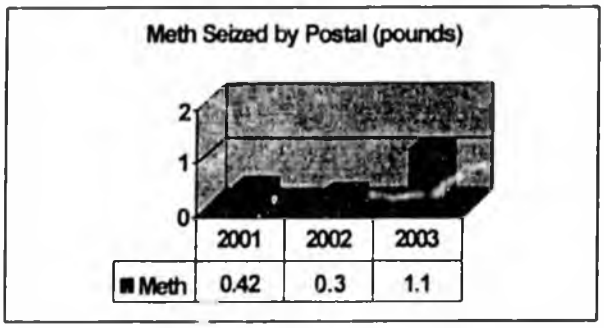
During August 2003, the Postal Inspection Service and ABADE members participated in "Operation Safe Village". Approximately 30 Postal Inspectors traveled to Alaska from various US cities to assist in this investigation. Over 100 bottles of illegal alcohol was seized and six suspects were indicted on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

2004
ANNUAL REPORT

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

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STEPHANIE J. COLE
Administrative Director

Alaska Court System

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FAX (907) 264-0881

I am pleased to transmit the Alaska Court System's Annual Report for fiscal year 2004.

The Alaska Court System continues to experience steady, moderate caseload growth. Overall, as compared with the previous year, case filings increased by 2% in the superior courts and 3% in the district courts. However, certain categories of cases increased more dramatically. Felony filings have increased 10% statewide since fiscal year 2003, and these filings have shown a 20% increase over the period of the last two years. Felony filings represent cases that have a higher than average trial rate, so this type of increase has a disproportionately high impact on the court system.

We also continue to see incredible growth in the caseload in the Palmer court, which is associated with continuing rapid growth in the population of the Matanuska-Susitna region. In this last fiscal year, superior court filings increased by 9% in Palmer. Felony filings increased by 38%. In the district court, filings increased by 11%. It is clear that the justice system will need to focus on meeting the burgeoning needs of this region. In the Palmer court, the demand for judicial services has overtaken and passed the capacity of the court to provide them. Palmer is now conducting a pilot project of holding court in the evenings and on weekends, since the court facility does not have an adequate number of courtrooms in which to hold hearings and trials. The court system is seeking additional staffing and facility resources for Palmer.

We are continuing to improve our services through increased efficiencies and innovation. Our therapeutic court projects, our mediation projects, and our Family Law Self-Help Center are all examples of the Alaska Court System's efforts to improve court operations and to meet the justice needs of Alaskans.

The judges and employees of the Alaska Court System will continue to strive to provide the people of the State of Alaska with a responsive, efficient and accessible court system.

Sincerely,

Stephanie J. Cole

Stephanie J. Cole
Administrative Director

SUPERIOR COURT JURISDICTION

The superior court has the authority to hear all cases, both civil and criminal, properly brought before the state courts (with the very limited exception of matters taken directly to the supreme court). However, the superior court does not routinely hear cases which may be brought in the district court (a court of limited jurisdiction).

The superior court:

- is a trial court for both criminal and civil cases
- serves as an APPELLATE COURT for appeals from civil and criminal cases which have been tried in the district court
- hears cases involving CHILDREN who have committed crimes or who are abused or neglected
- hears cases involving the PROPERTY OF DECEASED OR INCOMPETENT PERSONS
- hears cases involving INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT of persons to institutions for the mentally ill
- handles DOMESTIC RELATIONS matters

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction. There are 34 superior court judgeships located throughout the state. Each superior court seat is located in one of Alaska's four judicial districts. The boundaries of the four districts are defined by state statute. The judicial districts define the boundaries for judicial retention elections at which voters indicate their approval or rejection of judges and justices.

In January of each year, the chief justice of the supreme court designates a superior court judge from each of Alaska's four judicial districts to serve as presiding judge for a term of one calendar year. The presiding judge, in addition to regular judicial duties, is responsible for the administration of the trial courts within the district, including assignment of cases, supervision of court personnel, efficient handling of court business and appointment of magistrates.

Retirements: Anchorage Superior Court Judge John Reese retired on August 31, 2004.

judgeships, the Alaska Public Defender and administrative tax law judges. Second, it evaluates judges standing for retention and publicizes information on judges and its retention recommendations. Third, the constitution requires the council to do research to improve what the constitution refers to as "the administration of justice."

The judicial council is comprised of the chief justice (who serves as chairperson and ex officio member), three attorney members appointed by the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association and three non-attorney members appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the state legislature in joint session. Council members serve six-year terms.

The Alaska Judicial Council, which must report to the Alaska State Legislature and the Alaska Supreme Court at least once every two years, is assisted by an executive director and support staff.

For more information on the Alaska Judicial Council, call (907) 279-2526 or visit the Council's Internet site at www.aic.state.ak.us.

BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS

The Alaska Legislature annually appropriates monies for the operation of the Alaska Court System. A statewide budget for all trial courts, the appellate courts and court administration is prepared centrally by the administrative office.

The budget process for the court system begins with the submission of budget requests by the trial and appellate courts to the administrative director. The requests are reviewed with teach judicial district's area court administrator and the clerk of the appellate courts. Then, these requests are modified to conform to the overall court budget plan. The court's budget request is reviewed and approved by the supreme court. Following legislative review and appropriation, funds are then allocated to the judicial districts, the appellate courts and the administrative offices.

Since fiscal year 1994, the court has experienced an average annual growth rate of approximately 2.5% in its funding base. The court's FY 04 approved operating budget increased by $1,723,300 from the FY 03 level. The additional funding was needed for increased health benefit costs, lease expenses, security screening, wide area network costs, grant-funded programs and to address staffing requirements within the Palmer court. The court system's budget represents approximately 1.0% of the State's operating budget.

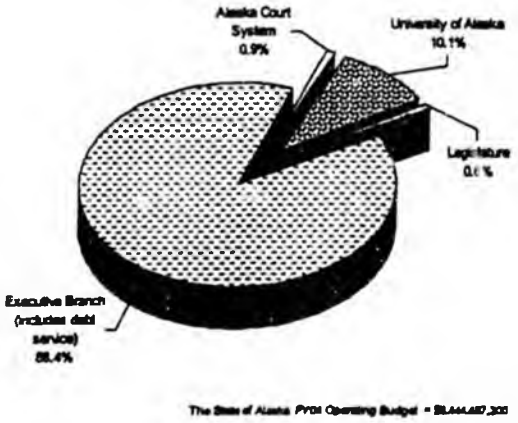
The actual expenditures incurred by the court system during fiscal year 2004 were $55,381,600. These expenditures were incurred as follows: Administration, $6,658,900; Appellate Courts, $4,279,100; and Trial Courts, $44,443,600. Trial Courts total includes expenses of $444,800 funded through federal agencies and $1,021,100 funded through interagency receipts.

Personnel costs of $42,506,100, represent approximately 77% of the total operating budget. Expenses for rent, maintenance, utilities, janitorial services and insurance on court facilities in fifty-seven locations across the state amounted to $5,042,600. Jury fees totaled $892, 500. Due to the distances between courts, approximately $1,123,400 was spent for travel including

judicial, administrative, conference and juror transportation and living expenses. Other operating expenses of the court, including commodities, phones, postage, equipment rental, leasehold improvements and new equipment make up approximately $5,817,000 of the annual expenditures.

Revenues generated by the courts are deposited in the state general fund, except those originating from municipal ordinance violations which are disbursed to the respective municipalities. During fiscal year 2004, the court system collected $7,662,100 in revenues. Revenues from fines and forfeitures totaled $4,733,200. Civil case filing fees ($150 superior court, $90 district court, $40 small claims) totaled $2,510,900. Clerical fees (notary, transcript, copies) and other miscellaneous receipts amounted to $292,900. Cost recoveries totaled $113,700 and interest on investments totaled $11,400.

State of Alaska
Fiscal Year 2004
Percentage of Operating Budget



Year in Review

Statistical Summaries

Filings: During FY04, 151,662 cases were filed in the trial courts, a 2.9% increase over the 147,396 filing in FY03.

Dispositions: The trial courts disposed of 148,999 cases in FY04, a 2.6% increase over 145,234 dispositions in FY03.

Felony and Misdemeanor Cases in the Anchorage Courts: In FY04, Anchorage changed its method of counting felony and misdemeanor cases. In most courts, the original charging document determines the case type. If the charging document includes any felony charges, then the case is listed as a felony case. The case type remains "Felony" even if all the felony charges are eventually reduced to misdemeanors. Until FY04, Anchorage did not follow this practice. Instead, if the original charges in a case were reduced from felonies to misdemeanors in the district court, Anchorage changed the case type from "Felony" to "Misdemeanor." This resulted in a significant undercounting of felony cases in Anchorage compared to other courts. Anchorage adopted the new counting method in October 2003, when the new trial court case management system was installed in the court.

Because of the change in counting methods, this report does not compare FY04 criminal case filings to criminal case filing data from prior years. If Anchorage had continued to use the same counting method used in prior years, statewide felony filings would have shown a 4 percent increase between FY02 and FY04 and a 2 percent increase between FY03 and FY04. Misdemeanor filings would have shown an 8 percent increase between FY02 and FY04 and 2 percent decrease between FY03 and FY04.

Felony Cases Initiated in the District Courts: A chart that shows felony cases initiated in the district courts has been included for the first time this year. This chart is provided for informational purposes only. The numbers are not included in the district court totals, but must be considered when evaluating the workload of the district courts.

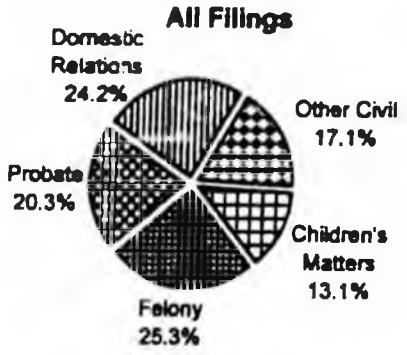
Computerized & Non-Computerized Courts: In some previous annual reports the district courts were categorized as "higher volume" and "lower volume" courts. They are now listed as "computerized" or "non-computerized" courts. The computerized courts have their own computer systems into which case information is entered. A computer tape is sent to the court system's administrative offices as the end of each quarter, and detailed statistical data is extracted and compiled. The non-computerized courts submit their statistics manually on case assignment sheets, which record only case filing and disposition dates.

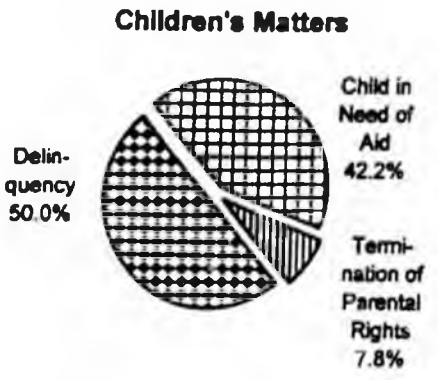
Table II
Superior Court Filings & Dispositions Comparison
FY 03 to FY 04

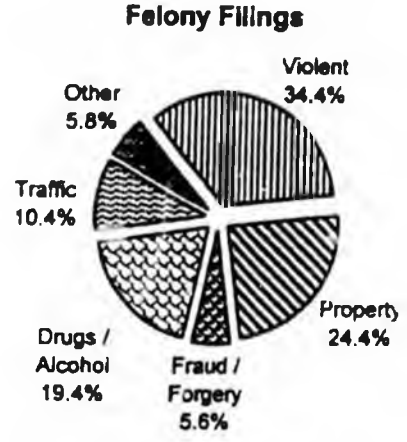
Court	Filings	Change from FY 03 Filings	Dispositions	Change from FY 03 Dispositions	Ratio of Dispositions to Filings	
					FY 03	FY 04
Anchorage	8,832	5%	9,044	5%	102%	102%
Barrow	203	6%	215	8%	105%	106%
Bethel	1,004	-1%	809	-2%	81%	81%
Dillingham	271	-16%	299	23%	75%	110%
Fairbanks	2,780	4%	2,747	-6%	109%	99%
Juneau	1,061	4%	1,058	-5%	110%	100%
Kenai	1,257	9%	992	3%	83%	79%
Ketchikan	673	-2%	648	-12%	107%	96%
Kodiak	489	8%	496	20%	92%	101%
Kotzebue	328	-1%	285	-9%	95%	87%
Nome	334	-14%	372	3%	93%	111%
Palmer	1,628	9%	1,469	16%	85%	90%
Petersburg	73	1%	54	-35%	115%	74%
Sitka	233	19%	216	10%	100%	93%
Valdez	137	15%	120	10%	92%	88%
Wrangell	63	21%	53	-28%	142%	84%
Total	19,366	4%	18,877	2%	99%	98%
1st District	2,103	4%	2,029	-8%	109%	97%
2nd District	865	-5%	872	0%	96%	101%
3rd District	12,614	6%	12,420	7%	97%	99%
4th District	3,784	2%	3,556	-5%	101%	94%

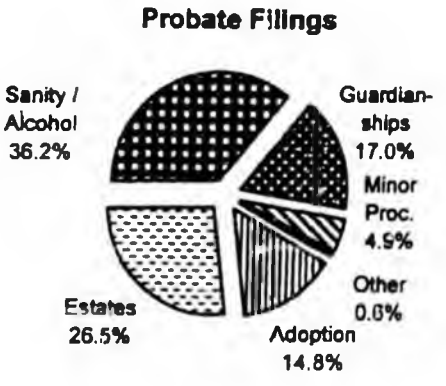
Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

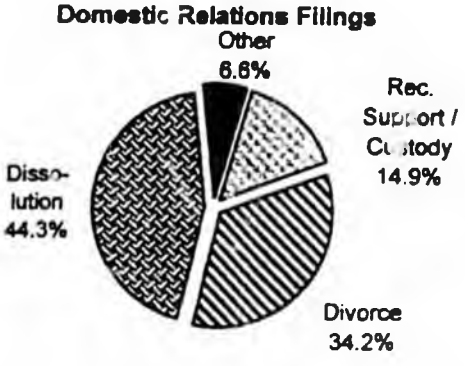
Table IV
Superior Courts
Composition of Filings
FY 04











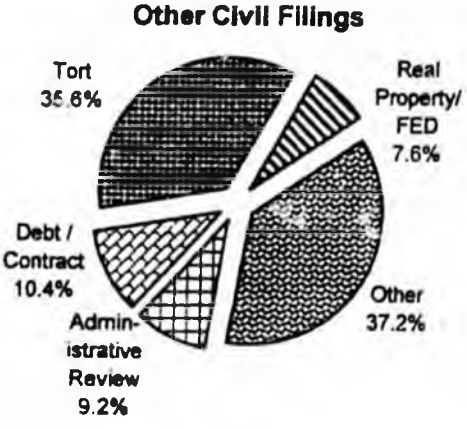


Table IV analyzes the types of cases filed in superior court during FY 04. Felony case filings are now the major case filing type comprising 25.3% of total case filings. Domestic Relations are now second with 24.2% of the filings. Please note that all domestic violence/stalking cases are now being reported in the district court case filing totals.

Alaska Court Locations
Summary of Population
As of July 1, 2003

Court	Population			Change 2000 to 2003	% of Statewide Total
	Census[1] 2000	Estimated[2] 1/22/04	Change		
Anchorage	260,283	274,003	13,720	5.3%	42.2%
Barrow	7,385	7,234	-151	-2.0%	1.1%
Bethel	14,969	15,706	737	4.9%	2.4%
Cordova	2,480	2,424	-56	-2.3%	0.4%
Craig	4,653	4,156	-497	-10.7%	0.6%
Delta Junction	3,723	3,997	274	7.4%	0.6%
Dillingham	4,922	4,912	-10	-0.2%	0.8%
Fairbanks	82,840	82,214	-626	-0.8%	12.7%
Glennallen	3,231	3,151	-80	-2.5%	0.5%
Haines	2,392	2,327	-65	-2.7%	0.4%
Healy	1,526	1,385	-141	-9.2%	0.2%
Homer	8,845	9,117	272	3.1%	1.4%
Juneau	30,711	31,283	572	1.9%	4.8%
Kenai	35,976	37,084	1,108	3.1%	5.7%
Ketchikan	15,563	14,993	-570	-3.7%	2.3%
Kodiak	13,913	13,811	-102	-0.7%	2.1%
Kotzebue	7,208	7,301	93	1.3%	1.1%
Naknek	1,258	1,105	-153	-12.2%	0.2%
Nenana	1,131	1,248	117	10.3%	0.2%
Nome	9,196	9,370	174	1.9%	1.4%
Palmer	61,145	69,101	7,956	13.0%	10.7%
Petersburg	3,550	3,333	-217	-6.1%	0.5%
Seward	4,870	5,019	149	3.1%	0.8%
Sitka	8,835	8,891	56	0.6%	1.4%
Tok	2,451	1,925	526	-21.5%	0.3%
Unalaska	6,591	6,362	-229	-3.5%	1.0%
Valdez	4,302	4,378	76	1.8%	0.7%
Wrangell	2,424	2,341	-83	-3.4%	0.4%
Non-Comp. Cts.[3]	20,559	20,647	88	0.4%	3.2%
Total	626,932	648,818	21,886	3.5%	100.0%
1st District	73,082	71,841	-1,241	-1.7%	11.0%
2nd District	23,789	23,905	116	0.5%	3.7%
3rd District	409,569	432,502	22,933	5.6%	66.7%
4th District	120,492	120,570	78	0.1%	18.6%

[1] US Census Bureau 4/1/2001

[2] Alaska Department of Labor Estimates

[3] Non-Comp. Cts. = Courts that are not computerized.

Alaska Court Locations
Distribution of Population, Police and Lawyers
As of June 30, 2004

Location	Population July 1 2003	Total Number Police[1]	Police per Thousand Population	Total Number of Lawyers[2]	Lawyers per Thousand Population
Anchorage	274,003	394	1.4	1,516	5.5
Barrow	7,234	43	5.9	8	1.1
Bethel	15,706	37	2.4	34	2.2
Cordova	2,424	8	3.3	-	-
Craig	4,156	12	2.9	-	-
Delta Junction	3,997	5	1.3	1	0.3
Dillingham	4,912	12	2.4	5	1.0
Fairbanks	82,214	106	1.3	192	2.3
Glennallen	3,151	6	1.9	-	-
Haines	2,327	8	3.4	3	1.3
Healy	1,385	4	2.9	-	-
Homer	9,117	19	2.1	12	1.3
Juneau	31,283	61	1.9	233	7.4
Kenai	37,084	65	1.8	44	1.2
Ketchikan	14,993	35	2.3	39	2.6
Kodiak	13,811	34	2.5	20	1.4
Kotzebue	7,301	15	2.1	3	0.4
Naknek	1,105	9	8.1	-	-
Nenana	1,248	3	2.4	-	-
Nome	9,370	17	1.8	10	1.1
Palmer	69,101	101	1.5	77	1.1
Petersburg	3,333	10	3.0	2	0.6
Seward	5,019	15	3.0	4	0.8
Sitka	8,891	66	7.4	19	2.1
Tok	1,925	6	3.1	1	0.5
Unalaska	6,362	18	2.8	-	-
Valdez	4,378	12	2.7	3	0.7
Wrangell	2,341	8	3.4	-	-
Non-Comp. Cts.[3]	20,647	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Total	648,818	1,129	1.7	2,226	3.4
1st District	71,841	200	2.8	296	4.1
2nd District	23,905	75	3.1	21	0.9
3rd District	432,502	693	1.6	1,681	3.9
4th District	120,570	161	1.3	228	1.9

[1] Per local police department & State Department of Public Safety. Does not include Airport police.

[2] Per Alaska Bar Association.

[3] Non-Comp. Cts. = Courts that are not computerized.

Alaska Trial Courts
Authorized Non-Judicial Positions
FY 04

Court	Positions by Range[1]					% of Statewide Total
	Below 10	10 Through 12	13 Through 16	Over 16	Total	
Anchorage	13	136	36	9	194	43.6%
Barrow		4	3	1	8	1.8%
Bethel		10	4		14	3.1%
Cordova		1	1		2	0.4%
Craig		2	1		3	0.7%
Delta Junction		1			1	0.2%
Dillingham		3	1		4	0.9%
Fairbanks	5	46	15	5	71	16.0%
Glennallen		1	1		2	0.4%
Haines		1			1	0.2%
Healy		1			1	0.2%
Homer		3	1		4	0.9%
Juneau	1	20	6	2	29	6.5%
Kenai		16	3	1	20	4.5%
Ketchikan		10	3	2	15	3.4%
Kodiak		6	2		8	1.8%
Kotzebue		5	2		7	1.6%
Naknek					0	0.0%
Nenana		1			1	0.2%
Nome		5	2		7	1.6%
Palmer		22	4	1	27	6.1%
Petersburg		1	1		2	0.4%
Seward		3			3	0.7%
Sitka		4	2		6	1.3%
Tok		1			1	0.2%
Unalaska		2			2	0.4%
Valdez		1	1		2	0.4%
Wrangell		2			2	0.4%
Non-Comp. Cts.[2]	2	6	0	0	8	1.8%
Total	21	314	89	21	445	100.0%
1st District	1	41	13	4	59	13.3%
2nd District	0	14	7	1	22	4.9%
3rd District	14	194	50	11	269	60.4%
4th District	6	65	19	5	95	21.3%

[1] Includes part-time employees

[2] Non-Comp. Cts. = Courts that are not computerized.

Alaska Trial Courts
Distribution of Population, Costs, Judicial Positions, Filings & Dispositions
FY 04

Location	Percentage of Statewide Statistics				
	Population	Operating Costs	Judicial Positions	Case Filings	Case Dispositions
Anchorage	42.2%	37.0%	27.3%	41.7%	41.3%
Barrow	1.1%	3.1%	1.7%	0.8%	0.9%
Bethel	2.4%	4.5%	3.3%	2.1%	2.0%
Cordova	0.4%	0.7%	0.8%	0.2%	0.2%
Craig	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%	0.5%	0.5%
Delta Junction	0.6%	0.4%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%
Dillingham	0.8%	1.5%	1.7%	0.9%	0.9%
Fairbanks	12.7%	16.2%	9.9%	10.7%	11.2%
Glennallen	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
Haines	0.4%	0.3%	0.8%	0.1%	0.1%
Healy	0.2%	0.2%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%
Homer	1.4%	1.1%	0.8%	1.6%	1.7%
Juneau	4.8%	5.3%	3.3%	5.0%	5.1%
Kenai	5.7%	4.5%	3.3%	8.0%	7.8%
Ketchikan	2.3%	3.5%	3.3%	2.9%	3.0%
Kodiak	2.1%	1.7%	1.7%	2.0%	2.2%
Kotzebue	1.1%	2.5%	1.7%	0.9%	0.9%
Naknek	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%	0.2%	0.2%
Nenana	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%	0.6%
Nome	1.4%	2.3%	1.7%	1.0%	1.1%
Palmer	10.7%	5.4%	4.1%	12.0%	11.6%
Petersburg	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	0.3%	0.3%
Seward	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%	1.3%	1.3%
Sitka	1.4%	1.4%	1.7%	1.0%	1.0%
Tok	0.3%	0.5%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%
Unalaska	1.0%	0.7%	0.8%	0.5%	0.5%
Valdez	0.7%	0.4%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
Wrangell	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%	0.2%	0.2%
Non-Comp. Cts.[1]	3.2%	2.8%	24.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
1st District	11.1%	13.3%	15.7%	10.3%	10.7%
2nd District	3.7%	8.2%	9.9%	3.0%	3.1%
[illegible] District	66.7%	54.7%	47.9%	70.0%	69.3%
[illegible]	18.6%	23.8%	26.3%	16.6%	16.9%

Alaska Trial Courts
Statewide Dispositions & Dispositions per Judicial Position
FY 04

Location	Superior Court	District Court	Total	% of State-wide Total	Dispositions per Judicial Pos.[2]
Anchorage	9,044	52,547	61,591	41.3%	1,866.4
Barrow	215	1,098	1,313	0.9%	656.5
Bethel	809	2,146	2,955	2.0%	738.8
Cordova		368	368	0.2%	368.0
Craig		806	806	0.5%	806.0
Delta Junction		891	891	0.6%	891.0
Dillingham	299	1,114	1,413	0.9%	706.5
Fairbanks	2,747	13,869	16,616	11.2%	1,384.7
Glennallen		1,047	1,047	0.7%	1,047.0
Haines		173	173	0.1%	173.0
Healy		1,406	1,406	0.9%	1,406.0
Homer		2,474	2,474	1.7%	2,474.0
Juneau	1,058	6,562	7,620	5.1%	1,905.0
Kenai	992	10,570	11,562	7.8%	2,890.5
Ketchikan	648	3,838	4,486	3.0%	1,121.5
Kodiak	496	2,847	3,343	2.2%	1,671.5
Kotzebue	285	998	1,283	0.9%	641.5
Naknek		347	347	0.2%	347.0
Nenana		918	918	0.6%	N/A
Nome	372	1,291	1,663	1.1%	831.5
Palmer	1,469	15,823	17,292	11.6%	3,458.4
Petersburg	54	336	390	0.3%	390.0
Seward		1,888	1,888	1.3%	1,888.0
Sitka	216	1,243	1,459	1.0%	729.5
Tok		580	580	0.4%	580.0
Unalaska		801	801	0.5%	801.0
Valdez	120	849	969	0.7%	969.0
Wrangell	53	264	317	0.2%	317.0
Non-Comp. Cts.[1]		3,028	3,028	2.0%	104.4
Total	18,877	130,122	148,999	100.0%	1,231.4
1st District	2,029	13,894	15,923	10.7%	838.1
2nd District	872	3,680	4,552	3.1%	379.3
3rd District	12,420	90,874	103,294	69.3%	1,780.9
4th District	3,556	21,674	25,230	16.9%	788.4

N/A = No Resident Judicial Officer

[1] Non-Comp. Cts. = Courts that are not computerized.

[2] Judge, Magistrate or Master

Superior Courts
Summary of Case Filings[1]
FY 02 - FY 04

Court	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	Change	
				FY 02 to FY 04	FY 03 to FY 04
Anchorage	8,209	8,411	8,832	N/A	N/A
Barrow	263	191	203	-23%	6%
Bethel	889	1,013	1,004	13%	-1%
Dillingham	249	323	271	9%	-16%
Fairbanks	2,658	2,679	2,780	5%	4%
Juneau	1,065	1,018	1,061	0%	4%
Kenai	1,068	1,154	1,257	18%	9%
Ketchikan	662	690	673	2%	-2%
Kodiak	367	451	489	33%	8%
Kotzebue	430	330	328	-24%	-1%
Nome	370	390	334	-10%	-14%
Palmer	1,430	1,495	1,628	14%	9%
Petersburg	75	72	73	-3%	1%
Sitka	224	196	233	4%	19%
Valdez	108	119	137	27%	15%
Wrangell	76	52	63	-17%	21%
Total	18,143	18,584	19,366	N/A	N/A
1st District	2,102	2,028	2,103	0%	4%
2nd District	1,063	911	865	-19%	-5%
3rd District	11,431	11,953	12,614	N/A	N/A
4th District	3,547	3,692	3,784	7%	2%

[1]Does not include domestic relations, probate, and children's matters filed in district court sites without superior courts.
N/A - Comparison to prior years is not possible because Anchorage changed its method of counting felony and misdemeanor cases in FY04. See page 51 for further explanation.

Superior Courts
Composition of Case Filings
FY 04

Court	Felony[1]	Civil[2]				Total
		Probate	Domestic Relations	Other	Children's Matters	
Anchorage	1,787	1,661	2,415	1,832	1,137	8,832
Barrow	59	29	25	17	73	203
Bethel	427	204	67	93	213	1,004
Dillingham	136	38	22	41	34	271
Fairbanks	473	893	799	389	226	2,780
Juneau	191	276	238	224	132	1,061
Kenai	434	245	274	159	145	1,257
Ketchikan	199	157	144	86	87	673
Kodiak	102	57	82	141	107	489
Kotzebue	197	35	19	14	63	328
Nome	152	43	51	21	67	334
Palmer	594	184	422	227	201	1,628
Petersburg	20	16	16	11	10	73
Sitka	37	73	71	35	17	233
Valdez	69	11	35	10	12	137
Wrangell	10	14	14	10	15	63
Total	4,887	3,936	4,694	3,310	2,539	19,366
% of Total	25.3	20.3	24.2	17.1	13.1	100.0
1st District	457	536	483	366	261	2,103
2nd District	408	107	95	52	203	865
3rd District	3,122	2,196	3,250	2,410	1,636	12,614
4th District	900	1,097	866	482	439	3,784

[1]Includes both felony cases initiated in the superior court and felony cases initiated in the district court.

[2]Domestic relations, probate, and children's matters are accepted in some district court sites without superior courts. To determine total filings in these case categories, it is necessary to add the filings in the superior court and the filings in the district court. See chart S-60 for district court filings.

Superior Courts
Composition of Case Dispositions
FY 04

Court	Felony[1]	Civil				Total
		Probate	Domestic Relations	Other	Children's Matters	
Anchorage	1,615	1,639	2,306	1,758	1,726	9,044
Barrow	68	29	29	20	69	215
Bethel	401	114	59	102	133	809
Dillingham	151	29	21	36	62	299
Fairbanks	484	839	799	386	239	2,747
Juneau	173	275	249	242	119	1,058
Kenai	353	126	231	144	138	992
Ketchikan	182	155	142	85	84	648
Kodiak	92	47	94	144	119	496
Kotzebue	165	26	21	18	55	285
Nome	157	46	46	37	86	372
Palmer	464	139	373	193	300	1,469
Petersburg	19	8	14	6	7	54
Sitka	34	65	56	38	23	216
Valdez	51	13	34	13	9	120
Wrangell	6	11	13	15	8	53
Total	4,415	3,561	4,487	3,237	3,177	18,877
% of Total	23.4	18.9	23.8	17.1	16.8	100.0
1st District	414	514	474	386	241	2,029
2nd District	390	101	96	75	210	872
3rd District	2,726	1,993	3,059	2,288	2,354	12,420
4th District	885	953	858	488	372	3,556

[1]Includes both felony cases initiated in the superior court and felony cases initiated in the district court.

Superior Courts
Felony Case Composition of Filings[1]
FY 04

Court	Case Type						Total
	Violent	Property	Fraud / Forgery	Drugs / Alcohol	Traffic	Other	
Anchorage	614	477	96	310	131	159	1,787
Barrow	30	13	0	8	6	2	59
Bethel	201	95	17	73	28	13	427
Dillingham	65	34	3	16	14	4	136
Fairbanks	119	131	34	103	70	16	473
Juneau	65	45	24	26	23	3	191
Kenai	135	101	26	72	71	27	434
Ketchikan	52	51	15	56	14	11	199
Kodiak	50	16	11	17	3	5	102
Kotzebue	76	38	9	55	12	7	197
Nome	67	30	7	34	7	7	152
Palmer	154	121	21	159	120	19	594
Petersburg	4	8	2	2	4	0	20
Sitka	16	13	1	3	4	0	37
Valdez	30	15	4	13	3	4	69
Wrangell	5	1	1	2	0	1	10
Total	1,683	1,189	273	949	510	283	4,887
% of Total	34.4	24.4	5.6	19.4	10.4	5.8	100.0
1st District	142	118	43	89	45	20	457
2nd District	173	81	16	97	25	16	408
3rd District	1,048	764	163	587	342	218	3,122
4th District	320	226	51	176	98	29	900

[1] Includes both felony cases initiated in the superior court and felony cases initiated in the district court.

Superior Courts
Felony Case Dispositions[1]
FY 02 - FY 04

Court	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	Change FY 02 to FY 04	Change FY 03 to FY 04
Anchorage	1,175	1,058	1,615	N/A	N/A
Barrow	84	60	68	-19%	13%
Bethel	251	332	401	60%	21%
Dillingham	114	115	151	32%	31%
Fairbanks	375	499	484	29%	-3%
Juneau	185	212	173	-6%	-18%
Kenai	265	251	353	33%	41%
Ketchikan	192	204	182	-5%	-11%
Kodiak	85	86	92	8%	7%
Kotzebue	136	150	165	21%	10%
Nome	122	168	157	29%	-7%
Palmer	371	421	464	25%	10%
Petersburg	16	17	19	19%	12%
Sitka	56	47	34	-39%	-28%
Valdez	40	45	51	28%	13%
Wrangell	13	25	6	See note 2	
Total	3,480	3,690	4,415	N/A	N/A
1st District	462	505	414	-10%	-18%
2nd District	342	378	390	14%	3%
3rd District	2,050	1,976	2,726	N/A	N/A
4th District	626	831	885	41%	6%

[1]Includes both felony cases initiated in the superior court and felony cases initiated in the district court.

[2]Numbers 10 or less are not statistically compared

N/A - Comparison to prior years is not possible because Anchorage changed its method of counting felony and misdemeanor cases in FY04. See page 51 for further explanation.

Alaska State Troopers
Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement

2004 Annual Drug Report

2004 Annual Drug Report

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Introduction

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

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

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

Our Mission

Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement

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

ABADE's mission is to:

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

Staffing and Support

Using a combination of federal and state funding, ABADE consisted of twenty-seven (27) State Trooper investigators and twelve (12) civilian clerical personnel for the majority of 2004. 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 Area-wide 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), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as well as other state and local agencies.

Nature of the Drug Problem

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

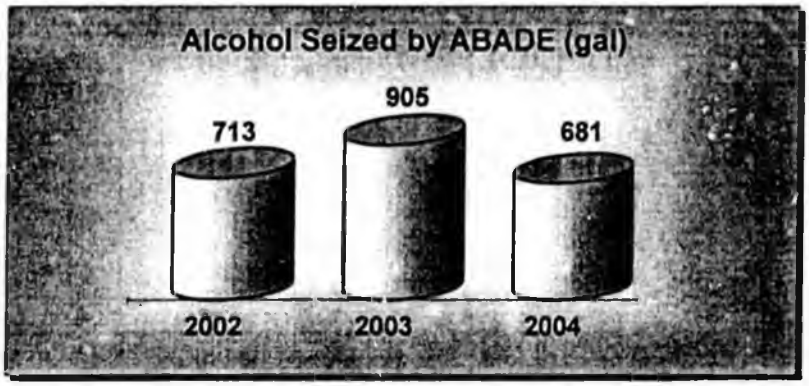
Drugs of Choice

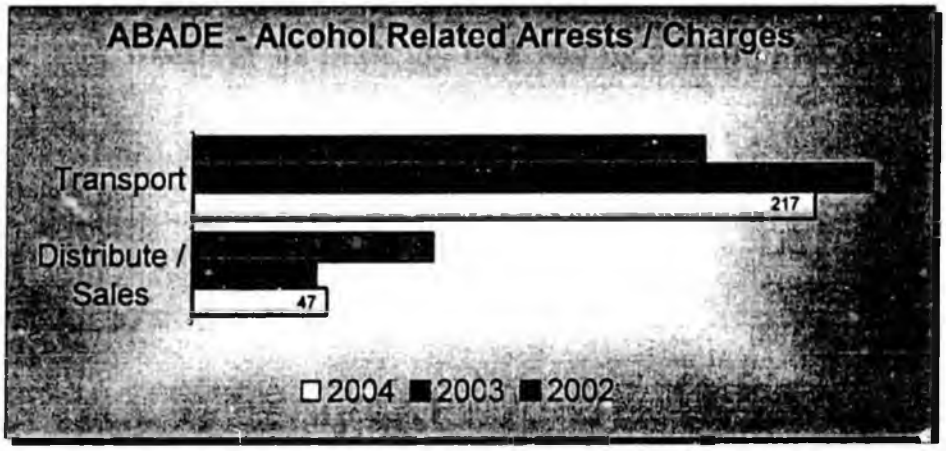
Alcohol, cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and pharmaceuticals have been identified as the primary substances of abuse and are the focus of most law enforcement efforts. During 2004, methamphetamine use and manufacturing have increased significantly. Another area of significant increase was the use of prescription drugs, many of which are obtained with fraudulent prescriptions. Other drugs such as LSD, Ecstasy and designer and/or "club" drugs were also cause for concern.

Alcohol

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

The Alaska State Troopers applied for and received federal funding for five investigators whose function is focused on alcohol issues. During most of 2004, all five investigators dedicated 100% of their time to alcohol investigations.

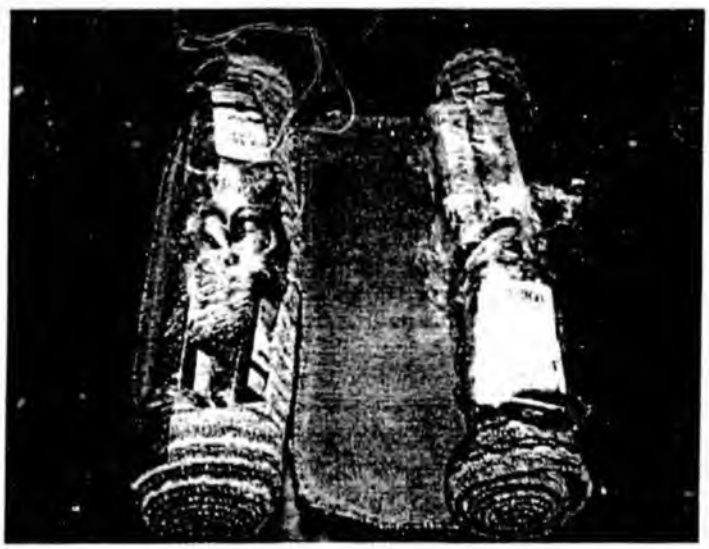




The economics of the illegal sales of alcohol is staggering. A bootlegger can purchase a 750-milliliter bottle of alcohol legally for $10 or less in an urban liquor store. The same bottle of alcohol in Bethel, Kotzebue or Barrow may sell for $50. In the more remote communities, alcohol can easily sell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

* Calculated at $150 per bottle



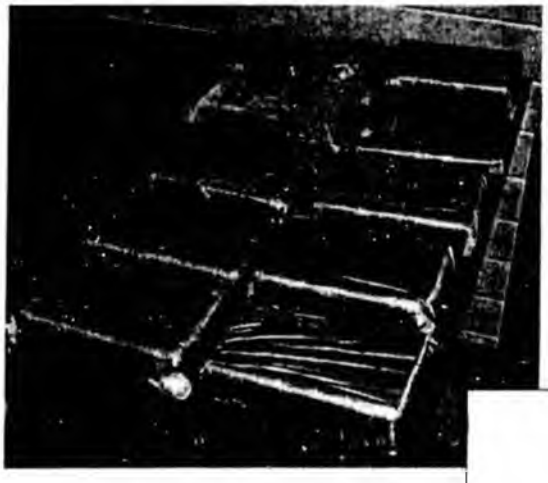
Cocaine

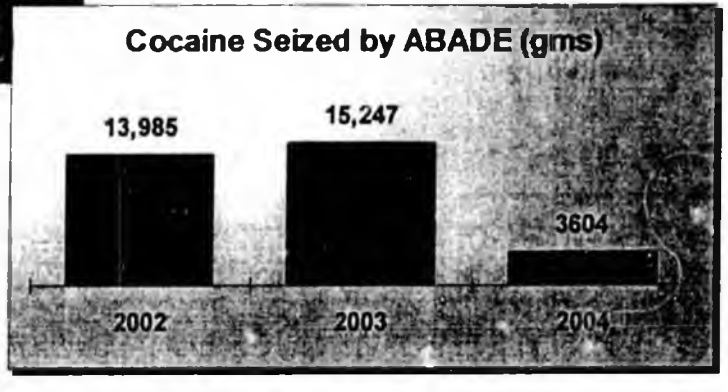
Cocaine continues to be a lucrative drug for sale and use in Alaska. Cocaine is readily available in most areas of the state and is seen with great frequency in powder form and crack cocaine in the major urban areas such as Anchorage and Fairbanks.

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

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

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





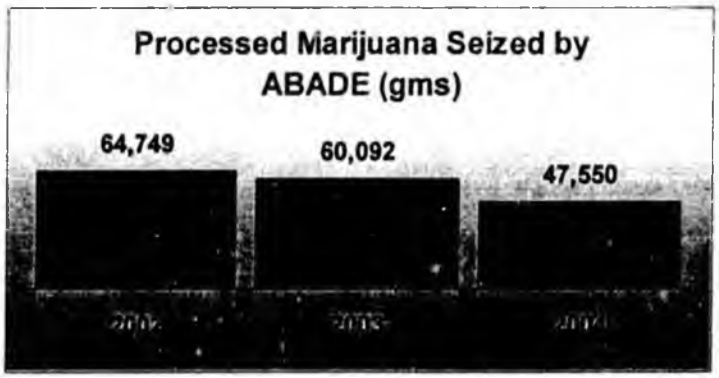
Marijuana

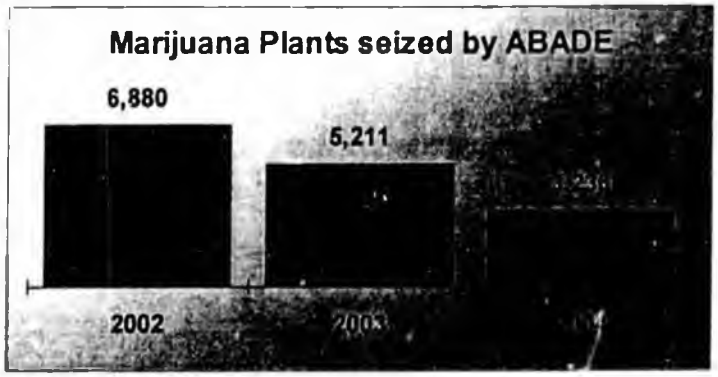
Marijuana is available throughout the state and is viewed as a gateway drug to other drugs for young adults and teenagers. Demand for Alaskan-grown marijuana continues to be high as a result of its exceptional tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content. Because Alaskan produced marijuana is extremely high quality;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

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

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

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





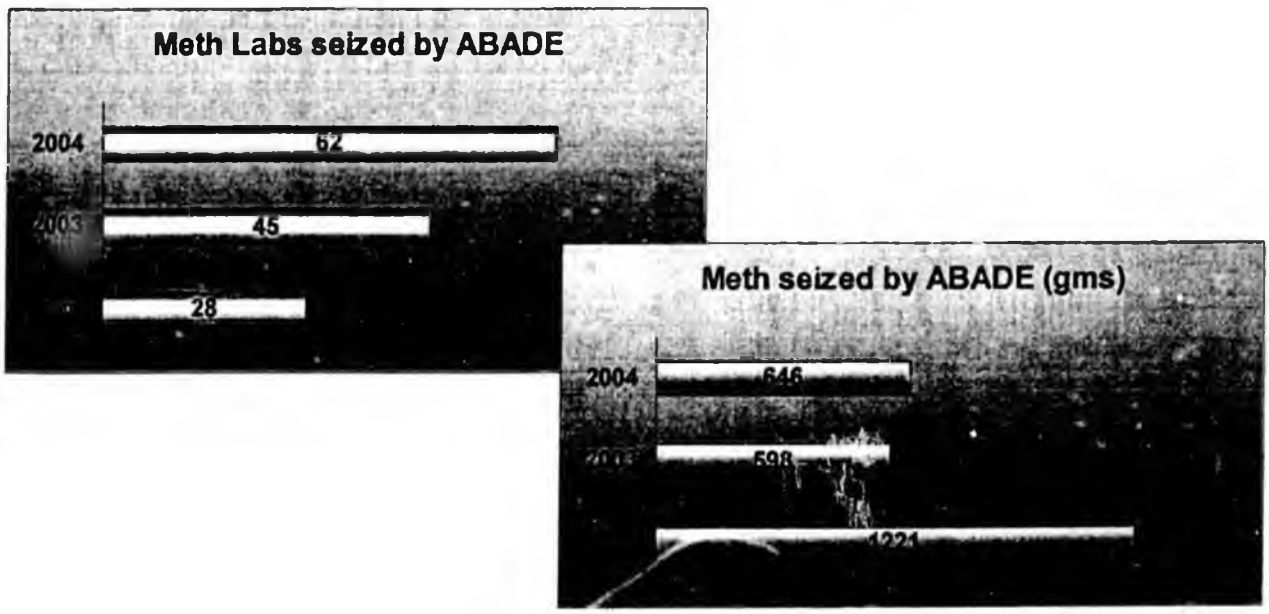
Methamphetamine

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 July 2004, 14 ABADE members were meth lab certified during training sponsored by CDSP.

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

Methamphetamine laboratories are being operated increasingly in single and multi-family residences in many neighborhoods. In addition to meth labs producing illegal, often deadly drugs, the clandestine nature of the manufacturing process and the presence of ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and toxic chemicals at the sites, have resulted in explosions, fires, toxic fumes, and irreparable damage to human health and to the environment. On several occasions in 2002, 2003, and again in 2004 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.

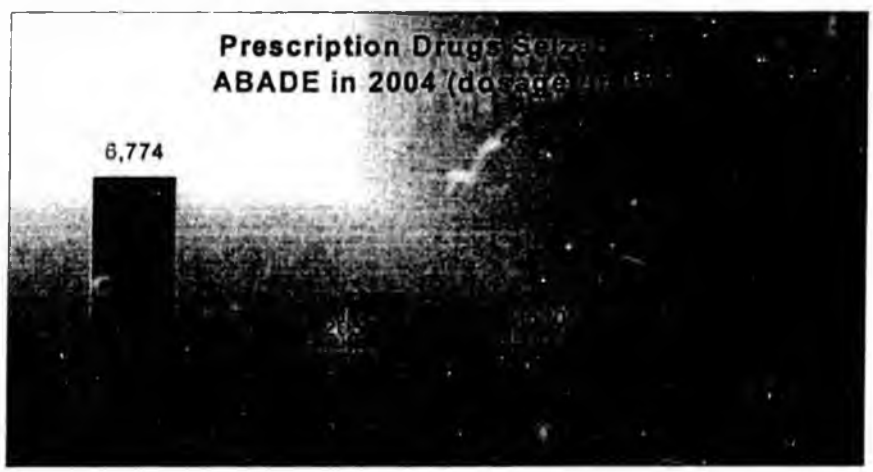
The methamphetamine problem in Alaska has certain peculiarities depending upon the region of the state in which the problem is located. The Anchorage, Mat-Su, Kenai Peninsula, and Fairbanks areas have a significant problem with clandestine labs that produce methamphetamine that is consumed in the local 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.

Prescription Drugs

The sale and abuse of prescription drugs such as Oxycontin, Oxycodone, Methadone, Hydrocodone continue to be an issue in 2004. These drugs are being sought after for their pharmaceutical purity and ability to alter the central nervous system. With the identification of this increasing health hazard, statistics have been put into place for capturing the true impact anticipated in the upcoming years. Not only does the abuse of prescription drugs create a health hazard for the users, it creates a financial tragedy in the communities. The drugs vary in price and can cost anywhere from one dollar per milligram to two dollars per milligram depending on availability. With the increased demand for the drugs and a shortening of supply, many abusers may not have the money or insurance to pay for their addiction. Thus increasing property and violent crimes in the communities to pay for the drugs. It has been reported that tens of thousands of dollars are being spent to feed this growing abuse and addiction.

Prescription drugs have been linked to the following crimes; homicide, assault, prescription fraud, home invasion thefts and pharmacy robberies. People who are addicted to prescription facilitate their addition 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. It has been said in the past that once problems of this sort have 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.



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. During 2004, manning has been increased with the addition of three investigators and two administrative support personnel.

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 US Currency, cocaine, crack, methamphetamine and other controlled substances during 2004.

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

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

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

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

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

During 2004, AITF made several large seizures of US Currency as well as multi-kilo seizures of opium being shipped to Alaska from Asia.

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 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 2004, the team eradicated 9 meth labs and 13 marijuana grows.

In May, investigators received information that a vehicle was driving from Fairbanks to Anchorage with a large amount of cocaine. Unit members and DEA stopped the vehicle and a search of the vehicle resulted in a seizure of 400 grams of cocaine, one gram of crack, and three handguns. The three male occupants were arrested.

In July, Fairbanks Airport Police received information that a male subject was arriving at the Fairbanks International Airport carrying a large quantity of prescription drugs. Contact was made with the suspect and 998 Oxycodone tablets and 1.5 grams of methamphetamine were seized. Members of the Fairbanks unit assisted with the execution of the search warrants in relation and follow-up to the case.

In August, the Fairbanks unit, with assistance from DEA, University of Alaska Fairbanks Police Department and the Fairbanks Police Department served two separate search warrants and a knock-and-talk on suspected marijuana grow sites. Three marijuana grows with a total of 502 marijuana plants were seized as well as $3,609 in cash and one shotgun. The investigation revealed that all three grows were being operated by the same group of defendants.

In October, Fairbanks unit investigators began assisting the Fairbanks Police Department with the surveillance of a homicide suspect. The Fairbanks unit investigators, Fairbanks city detectives, the FBI and DEA conducted a traffic stop on a subject related to the homicide victim after investigators witnessed a suspected drug deal. The individual was found to have approximately 210 grams of cocaine on his person as well as at his residence. A 2001 GMC pickup truck and $14,000 in cash was seized. The suspect then worked for the investigators and purchased 1,134 grams of cocaine from another suspect. The suspect was arrested and a 1999 Ford Mustang was seized as evidence.

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

The production of methamphetamine in illegal clandestine laboratories continues to be a significant problem across the Mat-Su area. During 2004 the number of meth labs tripled to 37, compared to 10 labs in 2003. 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 executed a search warrant in Wasilla. A commercial marijuana cultivation operation was discovered. Investigators seized 128 live marijuana plants. Also seized during the search warrant were scales, grow equipment, processed marijuana, suspected cocaine, firearms and various drug paraphernalia. The processed marijuana had a weight of 7.49 pounds with a street value estimated at approximately $30,000.

Also in February the Mat-Su Team served a search warrant and seized a commercial marijuana cultivation operation consisting of 120 live plants. Investigators also seized processed marijuana, related grow equipment, scales and drug paraphernalia. One person was arrested and charged with four counts of Misconduct Involving a Controlled Substance in the 4th degree and three counts of contributing to the delinquency of minor.

In May, the Mat-Su unit executed a search warrant on a suspected meth lab at the Goldminer Hotel in downtown Palmer. This investigation started after a suspicious fire was discovered in a City of Palmer garbage truck. It appeared that the fire was started from the chemicals from a meth lab. Further investigation led investigators to the Goldminer Hotel where two suspects were discovered in the process of manufacturing methamphetamine. Both suspects were arrested at the scene.

In April, troopers with 'B' Detachment located a possible meth lab in Wasilla. A search was obtained for the residence and one of the largest meth labs seized during 2004 was discovered in the crawl space of the residence. Also found at the time of the search warrant was a loaded 9mm pistol and an illegally sawed off shotgun. Both suspects were located and arrested for the manufacturing of methamphetamine.

In October, the Mat-Su Unit along with investigators from DEA, the Anchorage Interdiction Task Force, Palmer Alaska Bureau of Investigation and Palmer Patrol executed a search warrant in Wasilla. Investigators delivered a parcel containing approximately 20 grams of crystal methamphetamine that was shipped from Arizona to the Wasilla address. Upon execution of the search warrant investigators seized approximately one ounce of methamphetamine, packaging used for distribution, digital scales and $1,200 in US Currency. Firearms and miscellaneous drug paraphernalia was also seized. Two suspects were arrested at the residence.

Major Offender Unit

During 2003, the Department of Public Safety reinstated a statewide Major Offenders Unit. Ultimately the unit is located in Anchorage, but would has 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 plans to invite other agencies, such as, DEA, and the Anchorage Police Department to participate. The Major Offenders Unit is co-located with the Alaska Interdiction Task Force, allowing for better communication and cooperation between the units.

During most of 2004, the Major Offender Unit consisted of 2 to 3 investigators supervised by an Officer In Charge. The members worked to support other ABADE units when available and also assisted the Alaska Bureau of Investigations.

Late in 2004, the unit was completed with the assignment of a sergeant and two additional investigators, which brought the unit to a total of five investigators. In addition, an administrative clerk was added as well as a part-time prosecutor from the Department of Law. The prosecutor has been assigned to assist with legal questions, case development assistance and prosecution of drug and alcohol cases. The unit has been actively investigating several cases around the state.

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 oversighted 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 June SEANET seized 1,679 grams of cocaine with a street value of approximately $120,000 from a vehicle shipped to Juneau on a barge from Seattle, Washington. Two suspects have been charged.

Also in June, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) made contact with four individuals on a 20-foot skiff after information was provided by SEANET Juneau. The RCMP arrested 3 U.S. citizens at the scene for possession of 4 ounces of cocaine, 6 pounds of marijuana and 200 grams of Psilocybin mushrooms. The forth suspect, a Canadian citizen, escape from the scene on foot.

In September, SEANET in Juneau discovered 2,203 grams of narcotics hidden on a vehicle being shipped from Seattle to Juneau on the Alaska Marine Highway Ferry system. This investigation led to the arrest of 3 people in Juneau who were attempting to import 495 grams of cocaine, 444 grams of methamphetamine and 1,097 grams of cocaine base (crack). Follow up investigation led to the delivery of a kilo of cocaine in Seattle and the arrest of another suspect.

On 9/16/04, SEANET Ketchikan completed a two-month investigation resulting in the seizure of 266 Oxycontin pills with a street value of approximately $4,095

On 10/28/04, SEANET and Juneau Police Department seized $13,100 in cash. The cash was suspected of being proceeds from drug sales. A residential search warrant resulted in the seizure of a stolen Tech-9 semi-auto pistol.

On 11/03/04, SEANET Juneau intercepted 5 pounds of marijuana being shipped from Seattle, Washington and $28,000 in cash. The suspect had hidden the marijuana inside a new washing machine that was shipped to Juneau. One suspect was 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 investigations of many of these seizures are coordinated through AST and/or other local law enforcement entities. The Postal Inspectors office relies heavily on support from ABADE. This support includes resources like scent detection canines, intelligence information and follow-up efforts. Not only do these resources assist in the seizure, they also help successfully investigate and prosecute those involved in alcohol bootlegging and drug trafficking.

In other WAANT 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.

In January, WAANT investigators in Anchorage discovered a suspicious box being shipped to Kotzebue. Investigators received consent to open the box and 4 pounds of marijuana was seized.

In February, investigators seized 5 bottles of alcohol being imported into the local option community of Selawik. As a result, a 2003 Polaris snow machine was also seized.

A contact at the Kotzebue airport resulted in the seizure of 94 grams of marijuana and the service of a search warrant. During the search investigators discovered130 blasting caps, 500 feet of time/fuse cord and a small amount of C4 explosives. Also seized were 39 seal bombs, 28 rifles, 10 handguns, 8 shotguns and a 37mm gas gun.

In July, Kotzebue investigators saw a person loading alcohol into a vehicle at the airport. The vehicle operator drove to an 18-foot boat where the suspect loaded and hid the alcohol on the boat. The alcohol was being delivered to the local option community of Kivalina. Property seized from the investigation included the boat valued at $8500, the vehicle valued at $12,000 along with 60 cans of beer and 14 bottles of alcohol. The alcohol was valued at $5100. Three suspects were arrested in this case.

In August, Soldotna WAANT investigators served a search warrant on a residence suspected of having a marijuana grow. Over 100 marijuana plants were discovered in several underground storage units. The property, consisting of a two-story, structure was seized and forfeiture proceedings were begun against the owner by DEA in Anchorage. One person was arrested in this case.

A contact at the Kotzebue airport led to the service of a search warrant at a known marijuana distributor's residence. The search resulted in the seizure of 3 Skidoo snow machines, one Honda 4 wheeler, a 20-foot Bayliner boat, one 16-foot Lund boat and other property totaling approximately $49,000. In addition, $11,975 in cash and 18 firearms were seized and 5 suspects were arrested.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Anchorage is deeply involved in working with all state and local drug units to enhance and facilitate investigations of major offenders throughout Anchorage.

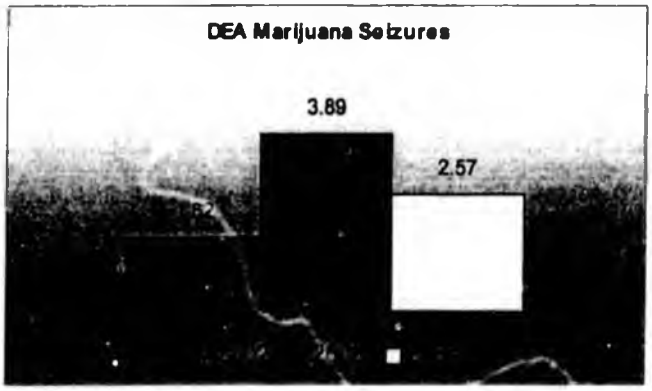
The DEA has added several Special Agents to Alaska in the last few years to support the entire state of Alaska, including two positions in Fairbanks that work hand-in-hand with the Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement to investigate a wide variety of drug related crimes in and around the area.

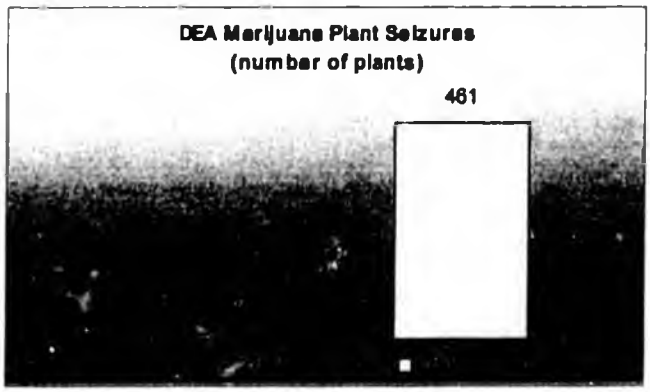
They are the host agency for the Alaska Interdiction Task Force, a joint effort involving DEA, AST, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Police, Anchorage Police Department, Postal Inspectors, CDSP, and several other agencies as needed.

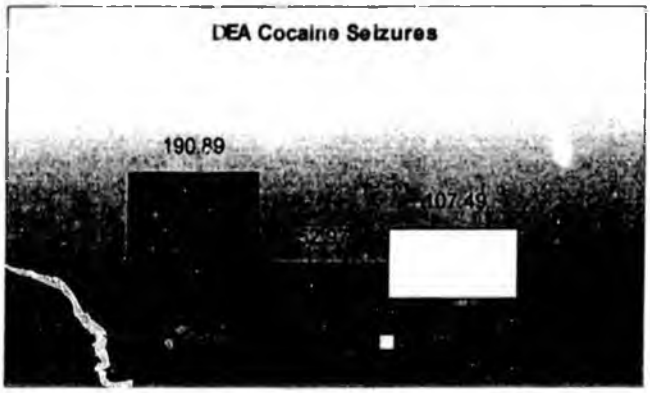
DEA continues to furnish training to state and local officers to include topics related to clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. DEA provided the funds for members of the Alaska Interdiction Task Force and other law enforcement personnel to be trained and get re-certified in clandestine laboratory safety and investigations. In addition, and they have facilitated participation of troopers in a Drug Unit Commanders Academy held in Quantico, Virginia. The DEA Anchorage office is also currently planning additional training to state and local law enforcement personnel through a DEA sanctioned "Two-Week Basic Drug Enforcement School."

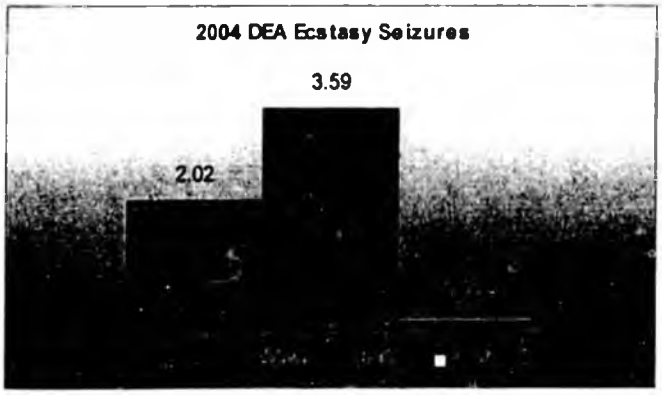
DEA continues to facilitate forfeiture proceedings related to assets and funds seized as a result of criminal investigations and drug trafficking. This effort allows state and local law enforcement agencies to receive a portion of the assets seized, which in turn funds additional criminal investigations.

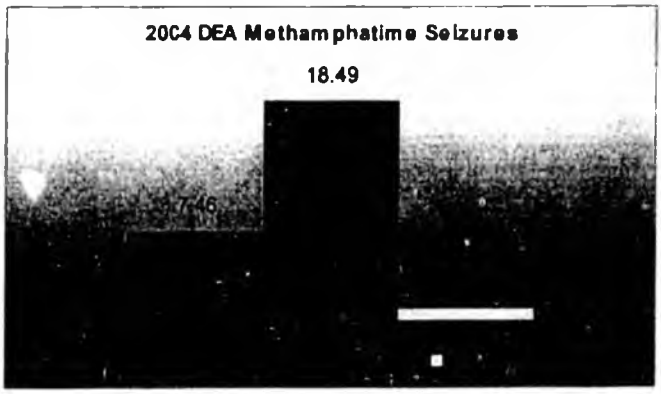
Seizure Statistics for DEA Anchorage











Emerging Trends in 2004

The most significant trend in 2004 continues to be the explosion in the manufacturing and abuse of methamphetamine throughout Alaska. The number of illicit methamphetamine labs has continued to rise since 2002 when 29 labs were seized statewide, 66 labs were seized in 2003 and 80 labs were seized in 2004. Due to the volatile chemicals involved, investigators need to be trained and certified and wear hazardous material protective gear when responding to methamphetamine labs. Several residential fires were reported this year were caused by the manufacturing of methamphetamine. Also during 2004, several methamphetamine labs were discovered inside hotel/motel rooms creating chemical and fire hazards for other civilians that also occupy the buildings. Violent crime related to methamphetamine manufacturing and usage also appears to be on the rise. During the year there were several homicides that have been connected to methamphetamine. The sale and abuse of methamphetamine is as much on the rise as the number of meth labs.

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

Summary

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

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

The 2004 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 2004.

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.

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Alaska

Profile of Drug Indicators

October 2005

ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Alaska

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics

- Population (2004 American Community Survey): 635,963[1]
- Race/ethnicity (2004 American Community Survey): 67.1% white; 3.3% black/African American; 12.6% American Indian/Alaska Native; 4.4% Asian; 0.5% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 7.1% two or more races; 4.8% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)[2]

Politics

- Governor: Frank Murkowski[3]
- Lt. Governor: Loren Leman[4]
- Attorney General: David Marquez[5]
- U.S. Senate: Lisa Murkowski (R), Ted Stevens (R)[6]
- U.S. House of Representatives: Don Young (R)[7]
- Capital: Juneau[8]

Programs/Initiatives

- Executive Office for Weed and Seed[9]
  The Russian Jack/East Anchorage area of Anchorage has been designated an official Weed and Seed site. This is the only Weed and Seed site in Alaska.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2004, there were 31 arrests for murder in Alaska.[10]

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Alaska, 2004

Offense	Under Age 18	Total All Ages
Murder	4	31
Forcible rape	13	82
Robbery	26	134
Aggravated assault	135	238
Burglary	233	543
Larceny	999	3,020
Motor vehicle theft	155	395
Drug abuse violations	327	1,786
DWI	98	5,104
Liquor laws	358	1,467
Total of all arrests*	4,520	36,864

* "All arrests" also includes those offenses not found in table

- During 2004, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported making 73 arrests for drug violations in Alaska.[11]

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Alaska, 2000-2004

Year	Arrests
2000	83
2001	72
2002	99
2003	97
2004	73

- During 2003, there were 1,269 adult arrests for drug possession in Alaska.[12]

Number of Drug Arrests, Alaska, 2003

Type of Drug Offense	Under Age 18	18 Years and Over
Sale/manufacturing	62	485
Narcotics	39	160
Marijuana	19	194
Synthetic narcotic	3	99
Other non-narcotic	1	32
Possession	371	1,269
Narcotics	135	210
Marijuana	216	957
Synthetic narcotic	13	30
Other non-narcotic	7	72

Drugs

- Cocaine
  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. Powder cocaine usually sells for $100-$150/gram and is primarily ingested by snorting. Crack cocaine is sold in small rock quantities for $20 and is usually smoked.[13]
- Heroin
  Much of the heroin user population in Alaska is now illegally acquiring and using OxyContin.[14]
- Marijuana
  Marijuana is available throughout Alaska. There is a high demand for Alaskan-grown marijuana because of its high THC content.[15] Alaska state law allows for the use of marijuana for medical purposes under certain conditions.[16]
- Methamphetamine
  During 2004, methamphetamine use and manufacturing increased significantly in Alaska.[17] Availability of meth is increasing, both from local labs and from meth transported into the state. Alaska is experiencing an increase in the availability of crystal methamphetamine.[18]

- Club Drugs
  MDMA is a growing threat throughout Alaska. LSD remains available in the state, primarily in university areas.[19]
- Other Drugs
  Alaska is one of the top five purchasing states for five of the top twelve diverted drugs, including fentanyl, d-amphetamine, oxycodone, methadone and meperidine. Benzodiazepines are also widely abused in Alaska.[20]
- Based on 2002-2004 data, an average of 265,000 Alaskans (52.6%) aged 12 or older reported lifetime use of marijuana. Additionally, 133,000 Alaskans reported lifetime use of psychotherapeutic drugs without a doctor's orders.[21]

Number/Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, Alaska, 2002-2004 Data

	Lifetime Use		Past Year Use		Past Month Use	
Drug Type	#	%	#	%	#	%
Marijuana/hashish	265,000	52.6%	84,000	16.6%	54,000	10.7%
Cocaine	114,000	22.7	15,000	2.9	4,000	0.8
Crack	25,000	4.9	4,000	0.8	1,000	0.2
Heroin	14,000	2.7	1,000	0.1	<1,000	0.1
Hallucinogens	122,000	24.1	15,000	3.0	4,000	0.8
LSD	90,000	17.9	2,000	0.4	<1,000	0.1
PCP	23,000	4.5	1,000	0.1	<1,000	0.0
Ecstasy	19,000	3.9	5,000	0.9	1,000	0.2
Inhalants	70,000	13.8	6,000	1.3	2,000	0.4
Non-med. use of psych.	133,000	26.4	32,000	6.4	15,000	3.0
Pain relievers	79,000	15.7	28,000	5.5	11,000	2.3
OxyContin	5,000	2.7	1,000	0.7	1,000	0.3
Tranquilizers	48,000	9.6	9,000	1.8	3,000	0.6
Stimulants	73,000	14.5	6,000	1.2	3,000	0.5
Methamphetamine	50,000	10.0	3,000	0.6	1,000	0.2
Sedatives	30,000	6.0	2,000	0.3	1,000	0.2
Any illicit drug	291,000	57.8	100,000	19.8	63,000	12.4

Juveniles

- Approximately 13.1% of Alaska high school students surveyed in 2003 reported using marijuana before age 13. This is up from 11.8% in 1995.[22]
- Approximately 6.5% of Alaska high school students surveyed in 2003 reported using marijuana on school property at least once within the 30 days preceding the survey.[23]
- Among Alaska high school students surveyed during 2003, 47.5% reported using marijuana at least once during their lives. During 1995, approximately 48.4% of students reported lifetime marijuana use.[24]

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Alaska, 1995 and 2003

	1995	2003
Lifetime marijuana use	48.4%	47.5%
Current marijuana use	28.7	23.9
Lifetime cocaine use	8.2	6.6
Current cocaine use	2.6	2.6
Lifetime inhalant use	22.2	10.2
Current inhalant use*	n/a	2.4
Lifetime heroin use*	n/a	1.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use*	n/a	5.9
Lifetime ecstasy use*	n/a	6.2
Lifetime steroid use	3.9	3.5
Ever injected illegal drug	2.0	1.7

* question not asked in 1995

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2004, there were 1,896 full-time law enforcement employees in Alaska (1,213 officers and 683 civilians).[25]
- Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE)[26]
  The Alaska State Troopers ABADE program coordinates law enforcement efforts to reduce the availability of illicit drugs and alcohol throughout the state. ABADE consists of 6 investigative teams:
  - Alaska Interdiction Task Force: located in Anchorage, members of this unit investigate drug trafficking at various points of entry.
  - Fairbanks Area-wide Narcotics Team: the primary area of responsibility for this team is interior Alaska.
  - Mat-Su Drug Narcotics Enforcement Team: this unit focuses on investigations within the Matanuska-Susitna region.
  - Southeast Alaska Narcotics Enforcement Team: the focus of this team ranges from street level dealers to major offenders.
  - Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team: this team is responsible for Alaska's west coast.
  - Major Offenders Unit: located in Anchorage, members of this unit travel and conduct long-term drug/alcohol investigations throughout Alaska.
- Counter Drug Support Program (CDSP)[27]
  The Alaska National Guard CDSP provides assistance in several ABADE units. CDSP provides operational resources, such as manpower, equipment, and logistical support to Federal, state, and local law enforcement throughout the state.

Trafficking and Seizures

- Due to its close proximity to the Pacific Rim and its shared border with Canada, Alaska is a transshipment point for drugs.[28]
- Opium is transshipped through Alaska from the Far East/Pacific Rim countries.[29]
- There are numerous cocaine trafficking organizations in Alaska. Some of the largest organizations include Mexican and Dominican groups.[30]

- During 2004, the DEA and state and local authorities in Alaska reported 48 methamphetamine lab seizures.[31]

Number of Methamphetamine Lab Seizures, Alaska, 2000-2004

Year	# Seized
2000	26
2001	15
2002	33
2003	35
2004	48

- Approximately 220 kilograms of cocaine were seized by Federal agencies in Alaska during 2004.[32]

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Alaska, 2004

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	220.7 kilograms
Heroin	2.0 kilograms
Methamphetamine	0.7 kilograms
Marijuana	3.2 kilograms
MDMA	6 tablets

- During 2004, ABADE units seized 6,774 dosage units (du) of OxyContin.[33]

Drugs Seized by ABADE Units, Alaska, 2002-2004

Drug Type	2002	2003	2004
Cocaine (grams)	13,985	15,247	3,604
Processed marijuana (grams)	64,749	60,062	47,550
Marijuana plants	6,880	5,211	3,236
Methamphetamine labs	28	45	62
Methamphetamine (grams)	1,221	598	646
OxyContin (du)	n/a	n/a	6,774
Hydrocodone (du)	n/a	n/a	1,205
Oxycodone (du)	n/a	n/a	1,510
Other prescription drug (du)	n/a	n/a	6,745

- During 2003, approximately 7,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Alaska under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.[34]

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated/Seized, Alaska, 2003

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		
Eradicated Plots	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	Total Plants Eradicated
4	74	111	7,276	7,350

Courts

- Drug Courts[35]
  As of September 29, 2005, there were 21 drug courts in existence or being planned in Alaska. Nine drug courts had been operating for more than 2 years and 12 were being planned at that time.
- During FY 2003, 28.8% of the Federally-sentenced defendants in Alaska had committed a drug offense. Nearly half (46.7%) of the drug offenses involved powder cocaine.[36]

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Cases, Alaska, FY 2003

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Cocaine – crack	10	22.2%
Cocaine – powder	21	46.7
Heroin	2	4.4
Marijuana	3	6.7
Methamphetamine	5	11.1
Other	4	8.9

Corrections

- On December 31, 2003, there were 175 offenders with drug offenses as their most serious charge in Alaska institutions.[37]

Offense Class of Offenders in Institutions, Alaska, December 31, 2003

Offense	#	%
Alcohol	357	9.5%
Drugs	175	4.7
Person	1,159	31.0
Property	464	12.4
Public order/administration	328	8.8
Parole/probation violators	477	12.8
Non-registerable sex offenders	7	0.2
Registerable sex offenders	550	14.7
Traffic/driving	146	3.9
Weapons	80	2.1
Total	3,743	100.0

- On December 31, 2003, there were 5,046 offenders on probation or parole in Alaska.[38]
- There were 870 offenders in Alaska Community Residential Centers (CRCs) on December 31, 2003.[39]

Offense Class of Offenders in CRCs, Alaska, December 31, 2003

Offense	# of Offenders
Alcohol	212
Drugs	68
Person	196
Property	119
Public order/administration	95
Parole/probation violators	96
Non-registerable sex offenders	2
Registerable sex offenders	9
Traffic/driving	58
Weapons	21
Total	870

Consequences of Use

- During 2004, authorities reported that there were 14 children affected by methamphetamine laboratories in Alaska.[40]

Treatment

- There were 4,006 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Alaska in 2003.[41] During 2002, there were 5,145 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Alaska.[42] There were 3,986 admissions during 2001.[43]

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Alaska, 2001-2003

	2001		2002		2003	
Drug Type	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	1,896	47.6%	2,779	54.0%	2,108	52.6%
Alc. w/ second. drug	1,269	31.8	1,421	27.6	1,155	28.8
Cocaine – smoked	150	3.8	130	2.5	71	1.8
Cocaine – other route	99	2.5	92	1.8	70	1.7
Marijuana	391	9.8	460	8.9	363	9.1
Heroin	17	0.4	20	0.4	16	0.4
Other opiates	54	1.4	115	2.2	106	2.6
PCP	n/a	n/a	1	0.0	1	0.0
Hallucinogens	4	0.1	3	0.1	1	0.0
Amphetamines	50	1.3	80	1.6	70	1.7
Other stimulants	2	0.1	n/a	n/a	1	0.0
Tranquilizers	7	0.2	7	0.1	9	0.2
Sedatives	12	0.3	5	0.1	2	0.0
Inhalants	4	0.1	4	0.1	2	0.0
Other/none specified	31	0.8	28	0.5	31	0.8
Total	3,9[illegible]	100.0	5,145	100.0	4,006	100.0

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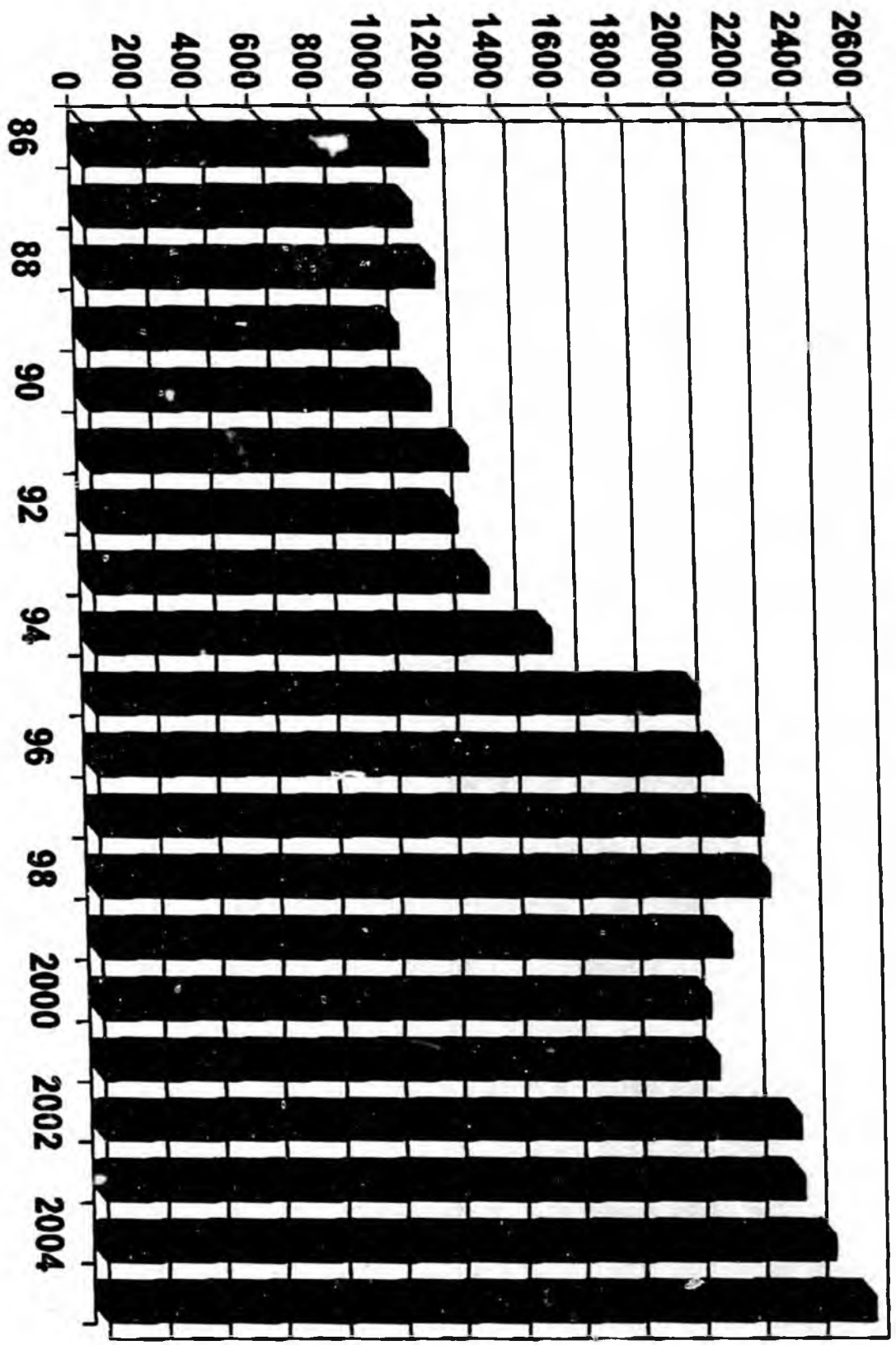
FELONY CASES



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