

2013

Ohio Multi- Jurisdictional Task Force Report

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Overview of Ohio's Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces

The Office of Criminal Justice Services provides federal and state grant funds to Ohio's multi-jurisdictional task forces. Ohio's multi-jurisdictional task forces generally consist of representatives from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. They tend to target mid- to upper-level drug trafficking and organized criminal activity for which it would be difficult for any one jurisdiction to build a case. In this way, they are not duplicative of individual agencies, but are seen as a crucial addition to local law enforcement.

Funding for multi-jurisdictional task forces is available through OCJS from two primary sources—the federal Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and the state Drug Law Enforcement Fund. Task forces are eligible to apply under both programs. In CY 2013, 26 task forces received Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants totaling over \$1.6 million and 38 task forces received Drug Law Enforcement Fund Grants totaling over \$4.9 million.

As a requirement of the JAG and Drug Law Enforcement Fund grants, task forces submitted two semi-annual performance reports highlighting their activities and accomplishments for calendar year (CY) 2013. This report documents the activities and accomplishments of 38 task forces during CY 2013. All 38 task forces submitted at least one semi-annual report, and 33 task forces submitted two semi-annual reports. This report focuses on street (i.e., non-pharmaceutical) drug activity, pharmaceutical drug diversion, seizures and forfeitures, and other non-drug task force activities.

Street Drug Activity

New Cases

Thirty-eight task forces worked a total of 9,481 new cases in 2013. A case is defined as having a significant potential for prosecution. For this report, cases are based on individuals, not charges.

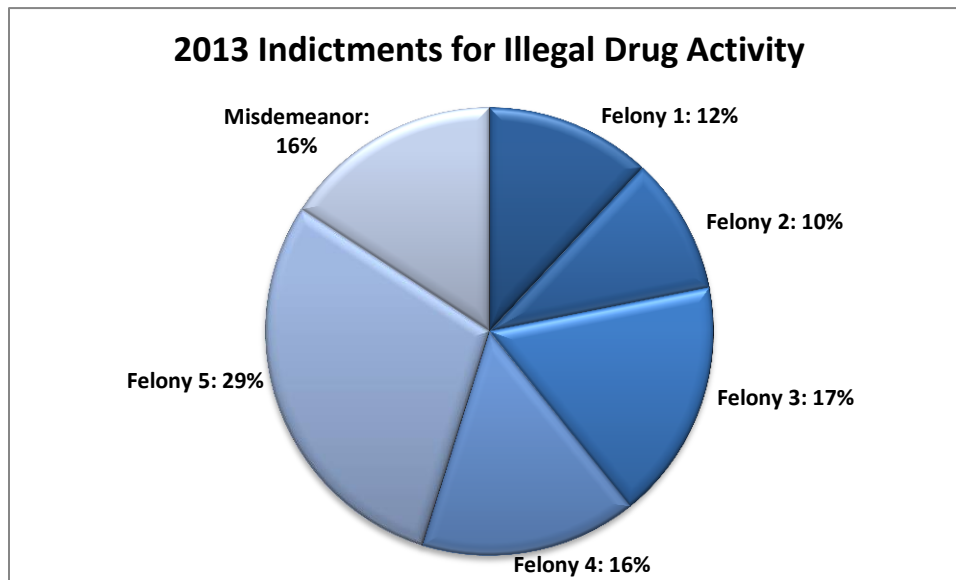
Search Warrants

The task forces executed a total of 3,463 search warrants. Search warrants include court-authorized warrants for homes, cars, and wiretaps.

Indictments

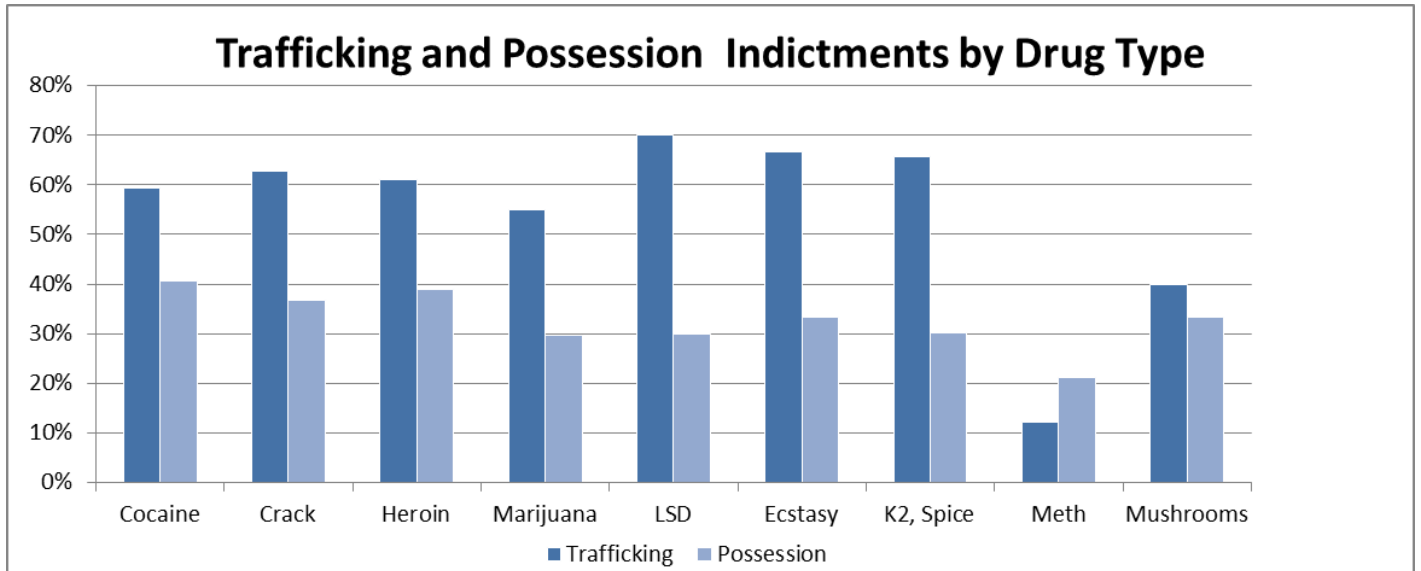
The task forces indicted 5,332 individuals. Of these, 4,980 were non-federal indictments and 352 were federal indictments.

Indictments were also reported by felony level. The following chart shows a breakdown of the highest felony level for which persons were indicted. Eighty-four percent of indictments were for felonies. Across all indictments, 39 percent were Felony 1, Felony 2, or Felony 3 indictments, suggesting that in general the task forces were focused on upper-level criminal activity.



Indictments were broken down by type of drug and type of drug crime (cultivation, manufacturing/chemical assembly, possession, trafficking). Lower-level charges are often part of building a case for more severe charges. Task forces were asked to report on all indictments, not just the highest charge. The majority of indictments were for trafficking (N=2,741), followed by possession (N=1,789). Manufacturing/chemical assembly accounted for approximately 10 percent of illegal drug indictments (N=533), but was specific primarily to methamphetamine. Likewise, cultivation (N=163) was primarily tied to marijuana.

The following chart identifies the two main types of illegal drug indictments, trafficking and possession, by drug type. With the exception of methamphetamine and mushrooms, trafficking made up between 55 percent and 70 percent of indictments across the remaining drugs.



Drugs Removed by Task Force

Task forces reported on the total amount of drugs they took off the streets in 2013. The following table shows that the greatest quantity of drug seized was marijuana (processed and plants). This was followed by synthetic hallucinogens. In addition, there were 589 meth labs dismantled during the year.

Street Drugs Removed		
	Amount	Median Price per Unit
Cocaine	189,481 grams	\$100/gram
Crack	12,244 grams	\$100/gram
Heroin	80,139 grams	\$150/gram
	221 UD	
	540 hits	
Marijuana-processed	20,648 pounds	\$1,407/pound
Marijuana-plants	13,079 plants	\$1,000/plant
LSD	2,814 UD	\$10/UD
Ecstasy	12,012 UD	\$15/UD
Methamphetamine	38,233 grams	\$100/gram
Psilocybin mushrooms	231,352 grams	\$15/gram
Bath salts	71,679 grams	\$40/gram
Synthetic hallucinogen (K2,spice)	433,518 grams	\$15/gram
		\$75.00/packet

Pharmaceutical Diversion

Diversion is defined as any criminal act involving a prescription drug. Fourteen of the 38 task forces reported having a dedicated diversion unit or diversion officer(s) as of December 31, 2013. The median number of officers assigned full-time to a diversion unit was one.

Across all task forces, only eight task forces did not report initiating at least one diversion investigation during the year. During 2013, 1,201 pharmaceutical cases were initiated. Unsurprisingly, task forces with a dedicated diversion unit/officer worked more pharmaceutical investigations than those without a dedicated unit/officer. Task forces with a dedicated diversion unit/officer worked 62% of the total pharmaceutical investigations in 2013. The median number of cases for those with a dedicated diversion unit/officer was 44, whereas the median number of cases for those without a dedicated diversion unit/officer was 5.

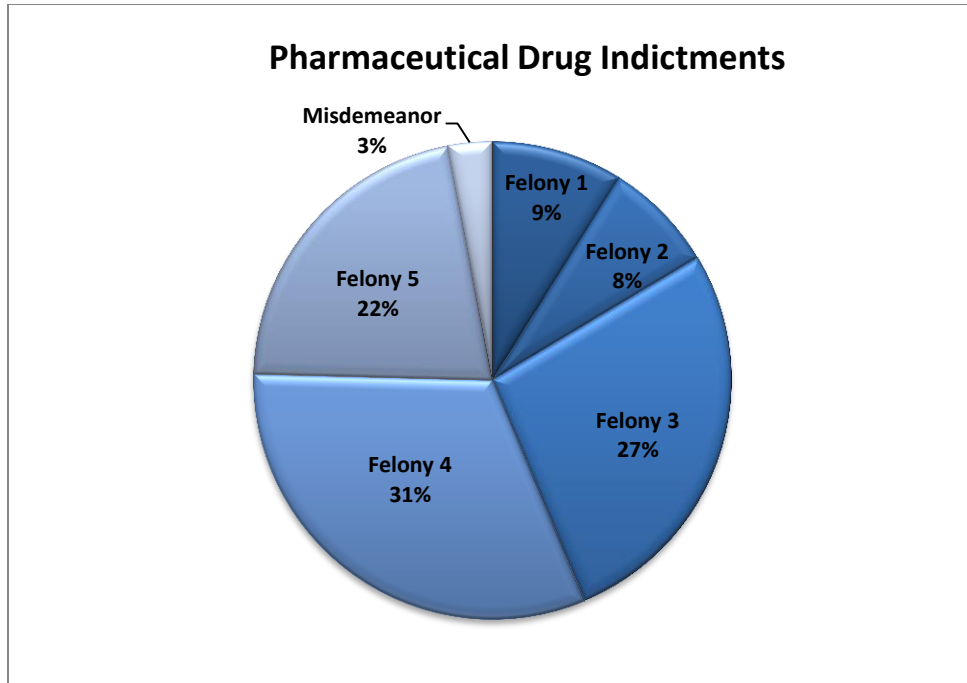
Investigations and Indictments

In 2013, there were a total of 1,201 pharmaceutical investigations initiated and 672 (56%) of those investigations lead to criminal indictments. Of the 1,201 pharmaceutical investigations, 77 were cases involving health care fraud. Of those cases involving health care fraud, there were 24 indictments.

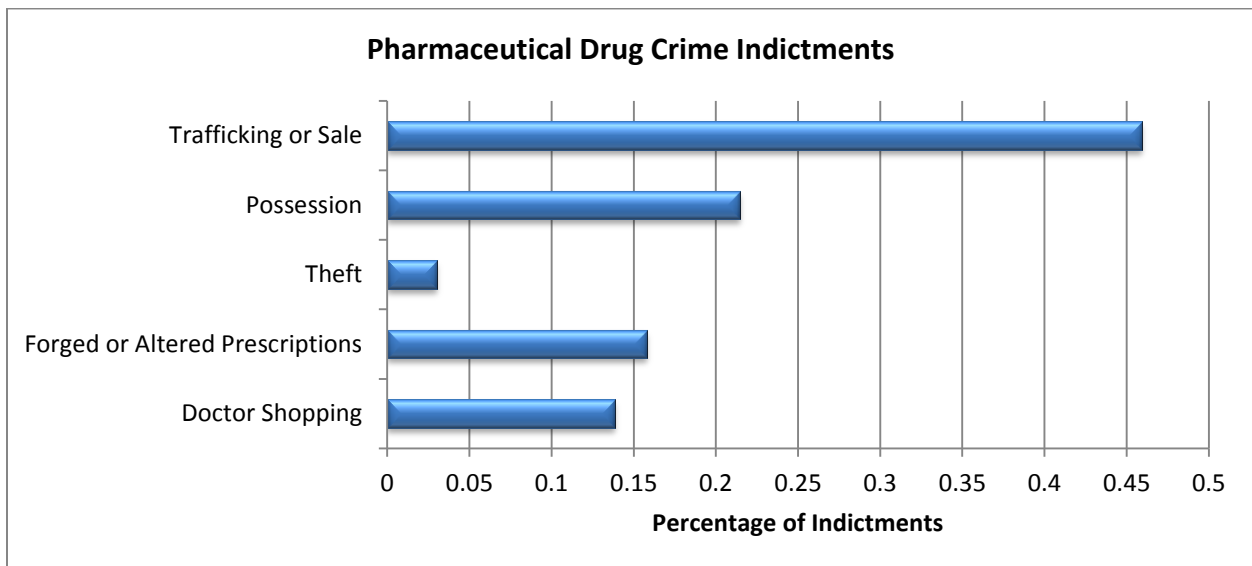
Task forces were also asked to identify different types of health care professionals investigated and indicted. During 2013, there were 88 identified health care professionals investigated and 31 health care professionals indicted for pharmaceutical crimes. Of the 31 health care professionals that were indicted for pharmaceutical crimes in 2013, 81% were nurses.

Investigated and Indicted Health Care Professionals		
	Investigated	Indicted
Physicians	38	4
Pharmacists	5	2
Nurses	45	25
Dentists	0	0
Veterinarians	0	0

Task forces indicated indictments by felony level. Forty-four percent were Felony 1, Felony 2, or Felony 3 indictments in 2013.



Individuals were indicted for a variety of crimes, including possession, trafficking or sale, theft, forged or altered prescriptions, and doctor shopping. All crimes (not just the most serious crime) in which the individual was indicted were reported. In 2013, there were a total of 1,290 pharmaceutical drug crime indictments for the crimes listed above. Nearly half of indictments were for the trafficking or sale of prescription drugs.



Looking at indictments by crime type and drug type, the data shows that overall; Oxycodone-ER, Oxycodone-IR, Alprazolam and Hydrocodone were the four drugs for which there were the most indictments. In 2013, there were a total of 584 indictments for prescription drug trafficking. Of those 584 indictments, 41% were for the trafficking of Oxycodone-IR.

Indictments by Crime Type and Drug Type					
	Trafficking	Possession	Theft	Forgery	Doctor Shop
Oxycodone-ER	44	11	2	31	3
Oxycodone-IR	237	95	8	50	71
Alprazolam	48	36	4	3	5
Hydrocodone	68	53	10	68	40

Drugs Removed

The following table identifies the most commonly reported drugs removed upon indictment. Task forces distinguished between drugs seized and diverted. *Diverted* reflects the amount of prescription drugs that have been identified as diverted dosage units during an investigation, but never seized. Dosage units are reported, with the number of task forces reporting the amounts seized and diverted in parentheses. Alprazolam, Hydrocodone Oxycodone-ER and Oxycodone-IR had the highest number of prescription drug seizures. Alprazolam, Hydrocodone, Oxycodone-IR and Tramadol had the highest number of prescription drug diversions.

Prescription Drugs Seized and/or Diverted		
	Amount seized	Amount diverted
Alprazolam (Xanax)	2,487 (26)	26,961 (14)
Amphetamine mixture (Adderall)	800 (12)	8,291 (8)
Buprenorphine (Subutex, Suboxone)	953(29)	4,445 (8)
Butorphanol Tartrate (Stadol NS)	0	0
Carisoprodol (Soma)	130 (2)	2,680 (2)
Clonazepam (Klonopin)	335 (12)	2,052 (5)
Dextroamphetamine	6 (1)	0
Codeine (Tylenol #3, Tylenol #4, cough syrup)	191 (3)	10,616 (8)
Diazepam (Valium)	847 (13)	6,956 (6)
Fentanyl, fentanyl citrate (duragesic patches, Actiq, Fentora)	116 (8)	457 (6)
Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet)	13,709 (25)	182,433 (17)
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	389 (8)	3,721 (4)
Lorazepam (Ativan)	176 (5)	5,486 (3)
Meperidine (Demerol)	0	34 (1)
Methadone (liquid/wafers/pills)	185 (8)	3,150 (3)
Methylphenidate (Ritalin)	57 (4)	2,422 (2)
Morphine (MS Contin, EMBEDA, Kadian)	305 (15)	1,713 (8)

Oxycodone—ER (Oxycontin)	2,909 (17)	9,895 (9)
Oxycodone—IR (Percocet, Percodan, Roxicet, Roxicodone)	11,824 (33)	424,710 (16)
Oxymorphone (Opana)	258 (9)	1,961 (4)
Pheneratamine (Adipex-P, Fastin, Ionamin)	109 (2)	225 (1)
Tramadol (Ultram, Ultracet)	314 (10)	36,588 (10)
Zolpidem Tartrate (Ambien)	36 (2)	7,092 (5)

In addition, drug task forces submitted information on other drugs they seized or diverted in their region. They include the following:

- Amoxicillin
- Demerol
- Flexeril
- Hydromet
- Klonopin
- Lexapro
- Lithium
- Lyrica
- Marional
- Naproxine
- Paroxetine
- Pherergan
- Risperdal
- Seraquil
- Steroids
- Suboxone
- Testosterone
- Trazodone
- Wellbutrin

Criminal Assets Seized and Forfeited

The following table identifies the type, number, and value of criminal assets seized and forfeited by drug task forces in 2013. Asset seizure generally refers to the seizure of drug-related assets that have been used to facilitate drug trafficking or are derived from drug trafficking. The estimated value of all assets seized was over \$18.3 million. Asset forfeiture refers to those seized assets proven in court to have been used to facilitate drug trafficking or derived from drug trafficking and are thus forfeited to government entities. The estimated value of all assets forfeited was nearly \$4.7 million.

Task Force Seizures and Forfeitures				
	Number seized	Amount seized	Number forfeited	Amount forfeited
Vehicles	314	\$2,510,171	117	\$533,382
Currency	*	\$14,971,626	*	\$3,953,910
Real estate	12	\$504,134	6	\$103,079
Electronics	450	\$104,642	147	\$66,011
Other	227	\$221,296	9	\$29,283

*Some task forces only reported the total amount of currency seized and forfeited.

Other Task Force Activity

New Non-Drug Cases

Ohio's multi-jurisdictional task forces engaged in 1,726 investigations in which the focus was something other than drug-related crime. Examples of non-drug cases that task forces have either initiated or assisted with include:

- Abduction/Kidnaping
- Arson
- Attorney misconduct
- Burglary/B&E
- Child abuse/endangering
- Child porn/internet crimes against children
- Copper theft
- Counterfeiting/forgery
- Disorderly conduct
- Domestic violence
- Engaging in corrupt activity
- Felonious assault/assault
- Fraud
- Gambling
- Gangs/militia groups
- Homicide/suspicious deaths
- Human trafficking
- Indecent exposure
- Intimidation of witness
- Liquor/tobacco violations
- Money laundering
- Prostitution
- Receiving stolen property
- Robbery
- Sex crimes
- Stolen checks
- Theft
- Weapons violations

Firearms Confiscated

A total of 1,607 firearms were confiscated by the task forces in 2013.

Presentations and Trainings

Thirty-four of the thirty-eight task forces reported providing presentations and/or trainings on drug-related issues. A total of 723 presentations were given to 30,943 attendees, with an average of nearly 43 attendees per presentation.