

2011 Ohio Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Report



Lisa Shoaf, Ph.D.

June 2012

Ohio Office of Criminal
Justice Services

1970 West Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43223



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 resources—the federal Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and the state Drug Law Enforcement Fund. Task forces could apply for both grants. In 2011, 27 task forces received JAG funding for over \$2 million. Thirty-seven task forces received Drug Law Enforcement Fund grants totaling over \$4.9 million. In addition, a few small grants were provided to agencies for special issues such as prescription drug investigations and meth cleanup.

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 2011. This report documents the activities and accomplishments of 30 task forces during CY 2011. 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 task forces worked a total of 8,714 new cases in 2011. A case is defined as having a significant potential for prosecution. For this report, cases are based on individuals, not charges.

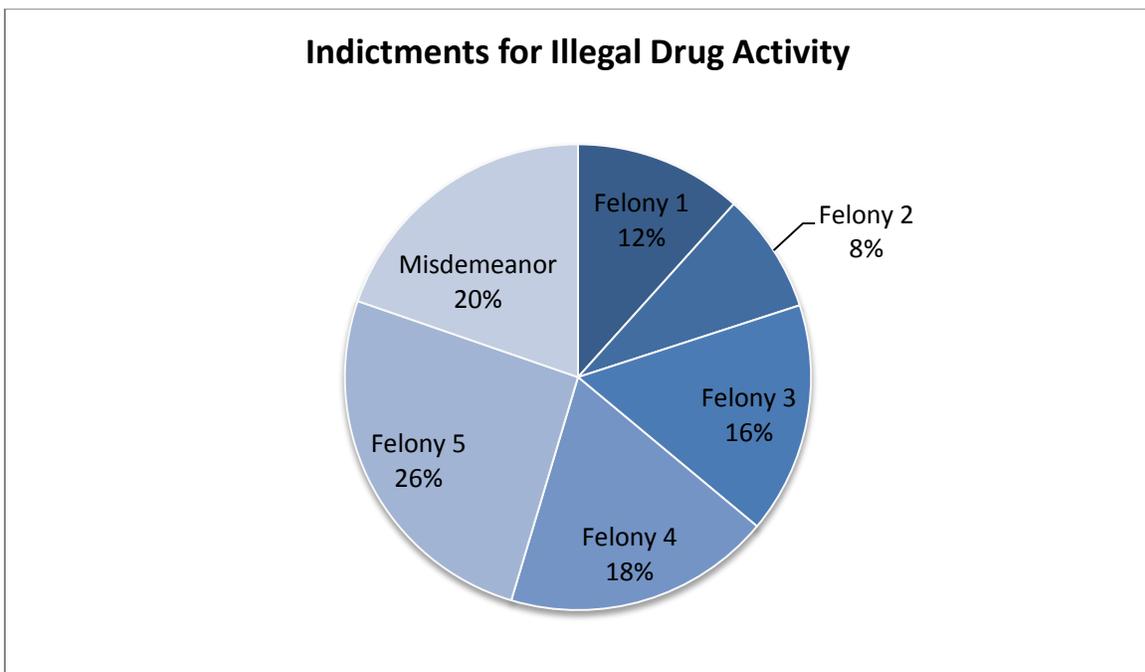
Search Warrants

The task forces executed a total of 2,729 search warrants. This includes paper search warrants, paper warrants on cars, vehicle searches in which drugs are found, and property consent searches.

Indictments

The task forces indicted 4,260 individuals. Of these, 4,001 were non-federal indictments and 259 were federal indictments.

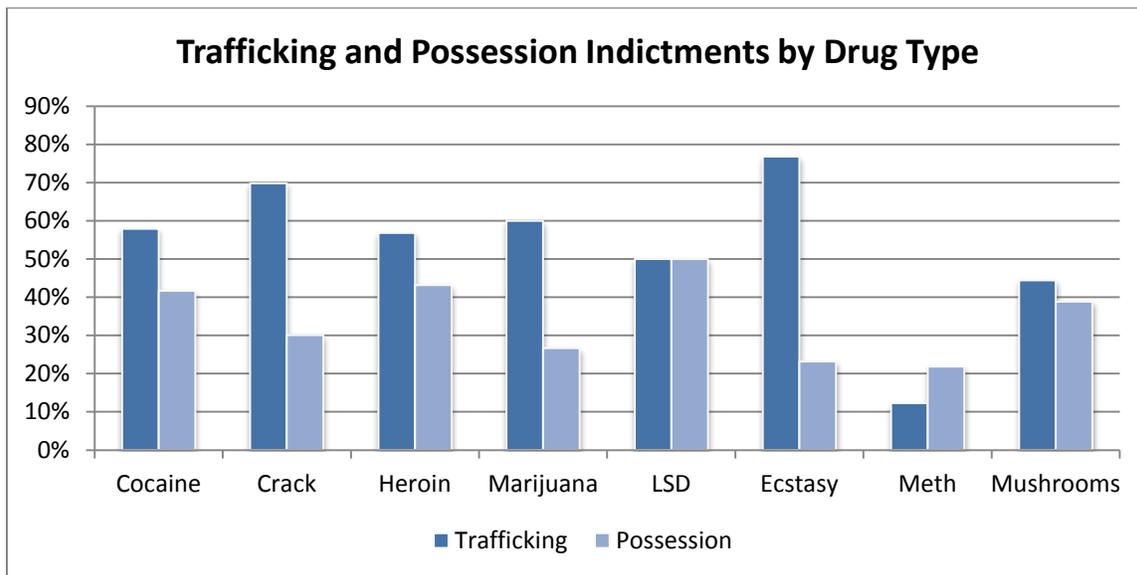
Indictments were also reported by felony level. The following chart shows a breakdown of the highest felony level for which persons were indicted. Roughly 80 percent of indictments were for felonies, suggesting that in general the task forces were focused on upper-level criminal activity.



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=2,375), followed by possession (N=1,462). Manufacturing/chemical assembly accounted for approximately seven percent of illegal drug

indictments (N=316), but was specific primarily to methamphetamine. Likewise, cultivation (N=135) was solely 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 50 percent and 80 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 2011. The following table shows that the greatest quantity of drug seized was marijuana (processed and plants). This was followed by cocaine.

Street Drugs Removed		
	Amount	Median Price per Unit
Cocaine	191,223 grams	\$95.00/gram
Crack	50,814 grams	\$97.50/gram
Heroin	55,436 grams	\$106.49/gram
	96 UD	
Marijuana-processed	49,793 pounds	\$1,275/pound
Marijuana-plants	12,494 plants	\$1,000/plant
LSD	1,003 UD	\$8.50/UD
Ecstasy	6,801 UD	\$17.50/UD
Methamphetamine	24,549 grams	\$100/gram
Psilocybin mushrooms	3,578 grams	\$12.12/gram

Pharmaceutical Diversion

Diversion is defined as any criminal act involving a prescription drug. Fourteen of the 30 task forces reported having a dedicated diversion unit or diversion officer(s). The median number of officers assigned full-time to a diversion unit was one.

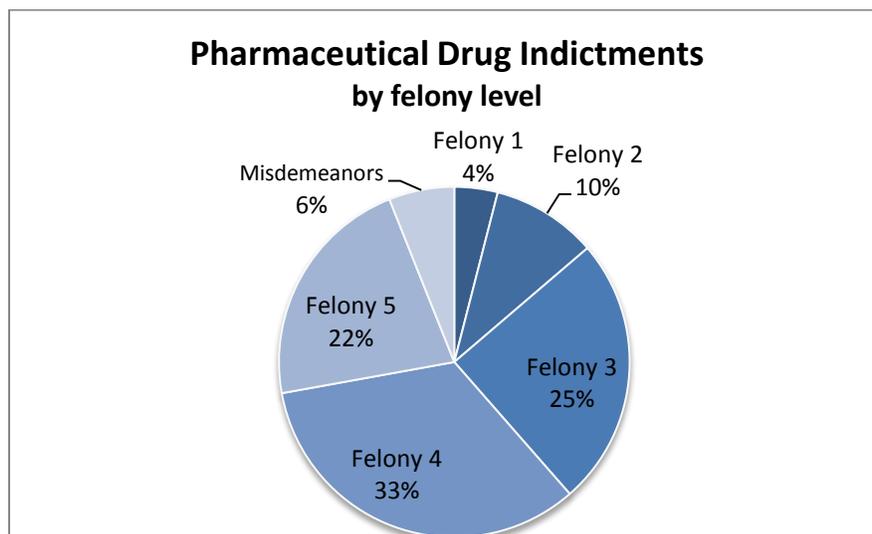
Across all task forces, all but one task force reported working at least one diversion investigation during the year. During 2011, 1,651 pharmaceutical cases were initiated, corresponding to a median of 46 cases per task force. Unsurprisingly, task forces with a dedicated diversion unit/officer worked more pharmaceutical investigations than those without a dedicated unit/officer. The median number of cases for those with a dedicated diversion unit/officer was 66.5, whereas the median number of cases for those without a dedicated diversion unit/officer was 18.5.

Investigations and Indictments

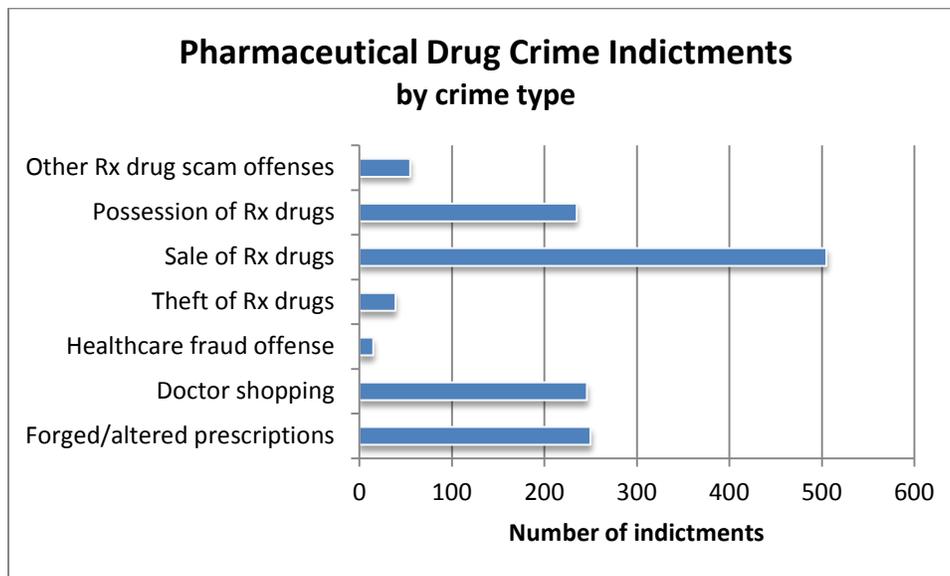
Task forces were asked to identify different types of health care professionals investigated and indicted. During 2011, there were 87 identified health care professionals investigated and 43 health care professionals indicted for pharmaceutical crimes.

Investigated and Indicted Health Care Professionals		
	Investigated	Indicted
Physicians	31	10
Pharmacists	5	2
Nurses	48	31
Dentists	3	0
Veterinarians	0	0

Task forces indicated indictments by felony level. Thirty-nine percent were Felony 1, Felony 2, or Felony 3 indictments.



Individuals were indicted for a variety of crimes, including possession, sale, or theft of prescription drugs, healthcare fraud, doctor shopping, forged/altered prescriptions, and other drug scams. All crimes (not just the most serious crime) in which the individual was indicted were reported. The majority of indictments were for the sale of prescription drugs.



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.

Prescription Drugs Seized and/or Diverted		
	Amount seized	Amount diverted
Alprazolam (Xanax)	11,060	119,568
Amphetamine mixture (Adderall)	614	2,310
Buprenorphine (Subutex, Suboxone)	541	7,787
Carisoprodol (Soma)	4,214	7,628
Clonazepam (Klonopin)	438	15,825
Codeine (Tylenol #3, Tylenol #4, cough syrup)	179	7,281
Dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine)	950	0
Diazepam (Valium)	904	15,735
Fentanyl, fentanyl citrate (duragesic patches, Actiq, Fentora)	217	1,883
Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet)	23,449	218,153
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	602	5,845
Lorazepam (Ativan)	1,351	6,789
Meperidine (Demerol)	8	33

Methadone (liquid/wafers/pills)	1,458	36,005
Methylphenidate (Ritalin)	2,174	15,261
Morphine (MS Contin, EMBEDA, Kadian)	2,441	20,359
Oxycodone—ER (Oxycontin)	21,053	75,857
Oxycodone—IR (Percocet, Percodan, Roxicet, Roxicodone)	68,197	279,522
Oxymorphone (Opana)	871	2,559
Pentazocine (Talwin)	30	747
Pheneratamine (Adipex-P, Fastin, Ionamin)	674	330
Tramadol (Ultram, Ultracet)	1,392	33,280
Triazolam (Halcion)	3	300
Zolpidem Tartrate (Ambien)	46	3,210

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

- Allopurinol
- Amantadine HCL
- Amiotriopetyline HCL
- Amphetsalt
- Anavar
- Baclofen
- Celebrex
- Chantix
- Chlorzoxazone
- Ciprofloxacin
- Codeine
- Cyclobenzaprine HCL
- Cyclobenzaprint
- Darvocet
- Depakote
- Diphenhydramine
- Docustate
- Flexeril
- Focalin
- Gabapentin
- Hydrochloride
- Hydroxyzine
- Ibuprofen
- IC Promethazine
- Lamorigine
- Lyrica
- Maxalt MLT
- Meloxicam
- Midrin
- Mylan
- Neurotonin
- Oxandrolone
- Oxcarbazepine
- Promethazine
- Propoxyphen/Acetaminophen
- Pseudoephedrine
- Ranitidine
- Seroquel
- Steroids
- Temazepam
- Temazepam HCL
- Tizidine
- Tussionex
- Valtrex
- Viagra
- Vyvanse

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 2011. 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 nearly \$11.9 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 over \$4.1 million.

Task Force Seizures and Forfeitures				
	Number seized	Amount seized	Number forfeited	Amount forfeited
Vehicles	261	\$2,142,709	192	\$754,028
Currency	*	\$8,517,863	*	\$3,217,389
Real estate	11	\$884,945	7	\$128,747
Electronics	381	\$130,585	45	\$20,912
Other	193	\$199,776	38	\$21,575

*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 numerous 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:

- Robbery
- Burglary/breaking and entering
- Murder/attempted murder
- Illegal/stolen firearms
- Weapons violations
- Gambling
- Warrant service
- Obstructing justice
- Forgery
- Assault
- Fraud
- Theft in office
- Tampering with evidence/records
- Counterfeit money
- Money laundering
- Passing bad checks
- Impersonating a police officer
- Internet crimes against children/child porn
- Underage sales
- Prostitution/johns
- Smuggling
- Sex crimes
- Explosives
- Dumping waste

Firearms Confiscated

A total of 1,427 firearms were confiscated by the task forces in 2011.

Presentations and Trainings

Twenty-five of the 30 task forces reported providing presentations and/or trainings on drug-related issues. A total of 578 presentations were given to 26,248 attendees, an average of 45.4 attendees per presentation.