



**2016 – 2020  
OKLAHOMA STATE STRATEGY  
for the  
Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant**

**Oklahoma District Attorneys Council**

Federal Grants Division  
421 N.W. 13<sup>th</sup>, Suite 290  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103  
405/264-5008  
405/264-5095 Fax  
DAC-Grants@dac.state.ok.us

**Suzanne McClain Atwood**  
Executive Coordinator

**Stephanie Lowery**  
Federal Grants Division Director

**Jerry George**  
Grant Programs Specialist

**2016 – 2020**  
**OKLAHOMA STATE STRATEGY**  
**For The**  
**Edward Byrne Memorial**  
**Justice Assistance Grant**

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**2016 - 2020 OKLAHOMA STATE STRATEGY**  
**For The**  
**Edward Byrne Memorial**  
**Justice Assistance Grant**

## I. JAG STATE STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Since 1986, the District Attorneys Council (DAC) has served as the state administering agency for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. The DAC utilizes a board that is charged with providing general oversight for the JAG Program, developing the state strategy, prioritizing purpose areas for funding, reviewing grant proposals, and determining awards. Comprised of 16 voting and non-voting members, the JAG Board represents a cross section of state and federal criminal justice agencies in Oklahoma as well as partner agencies and organizations. Federal representatives on the Board serve as non-voting members. A list of the members that serve on the JAG Board and the agencies they represent can be found in the Appendix.

Through the dedication and knowledge of these professionals, strategies and approaches have been developed and executed to prevent, as well as control, drug and violent crimes, and serious offenders. In this capacity, the Board, through the JAG Program, leverages federal funding in order to marshal the State's resources in responding to these criminal justice issues.

JAG funds may be used to support state and local initiatives allowed under seven purpose areas approved in the grant. The broad legislatively authorized purpose areas are flexible to enable states to target resources where the need is the greatest. The purpose areas are:

- *Purpose Area 1 – Law Enforcement Programs*
- *Purpose Area 2 – Court/Prosecution Programs*
- *Purpose Area 3 – Prevention and Education Programs*
- *Purpose Area 4 – Corrections and Community Corrections Programs*
- *Purpose Area 5 – Drug Treatment Programs*
- *Purpose Area 6 – Planning, Evaluation and Technology Improvement Programs*
- *Purpose Area 7 – Crime Victim and Witness Programs (Other Than Compensation)*

Since JAG was reformulated in 2005, Oklahoma funding levels for the grant program have been irregular, ranging from a high in 2005 of approximately \$4.5 million, to a low in 2008 of \$1.6 million. In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided a one-time boost to funding of the JAG Program: Oklahoma was awarded \$16,394,796. In 2014, the 5% PREA penalty was initiated along with the 10% SORNA penalty against JAG funds. The 2015 JAG award for Oklahoma totaled \$2,286,866, the PREA award totaled \$77,289, and the SORNA award totaled \$80,000. In order to receive JAG Program funding, states must develop a State Strategy which guides the spending under this federal grant program. States are encouraged to utilize a community engagement

model which provides stakeholders an opportunity to provide input. In 2015, the development of the 2016-2020 Justice Assistance Grant State Strategy was initiated.

A survey was developed and sent to criminal justice professionals, as well as allied professionals, throughout the state to obtain a broad array of input. Ninety-one (91) responses were received. In addition to the survey, the DAC Federal Grants Division staff in the DAC compiled current and pertinent data for the JAG Board to review in conjunction with the information from the survey.

Data was collected from a variety of sources on drug usage in Oklahoma, the availability and cost of the primary drugs of choice in the state, and the sources of supply. Information was also gathered on treatment admissions resulting from drug use. Data on trends in juvenile crime, arrests, trends in prison population, and gang-related crimes was compiled as well. By obtaining this information, the priority areas for funding through the JAG Program were identified.

After a careful examination and review of the data and the survey results, the JAG Board made informed decisions concerning the most effective and efficient usage of the limited resources dedicated toward reducing illegal drugs and violent crime in Oklahoma.

For the 2016 – 2020 State Strategy, the following goals were established:  
(2012-2016 Priorities)

1. Reduce the importation, manufacturing, trafficking, distribution, and possession of illegal drugs and controlled substances throughout the state;
2. Reduce the violence related to gangs through prevention, enforcement, and prosecution;
3. Assist local law enforcement through the procurement of equipment as prioritized by the JAG Board;
4. Encourage innovative law enforcement projects that address violent crime control that improves the functioning of the criminal justice system;
5. Encourage innovative prosecution projects that address drugs and violent crime control that improves the functioning of the criminal justice system;
6. Encourage innovative prevention projects that address drugs and violent crime control that improves the functioning of the criminal justice system;
7. Improve the integration of criminal history records between criminal justice agencies; and,
8. Reduce prison recidivism by providing effective drug and alcohol treatment for incarcerated juvenile and/or adult offenders.

**2016 - 2020 OKLAHOMA STATE STRATEGY**  
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## II. OKLAHOMA CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

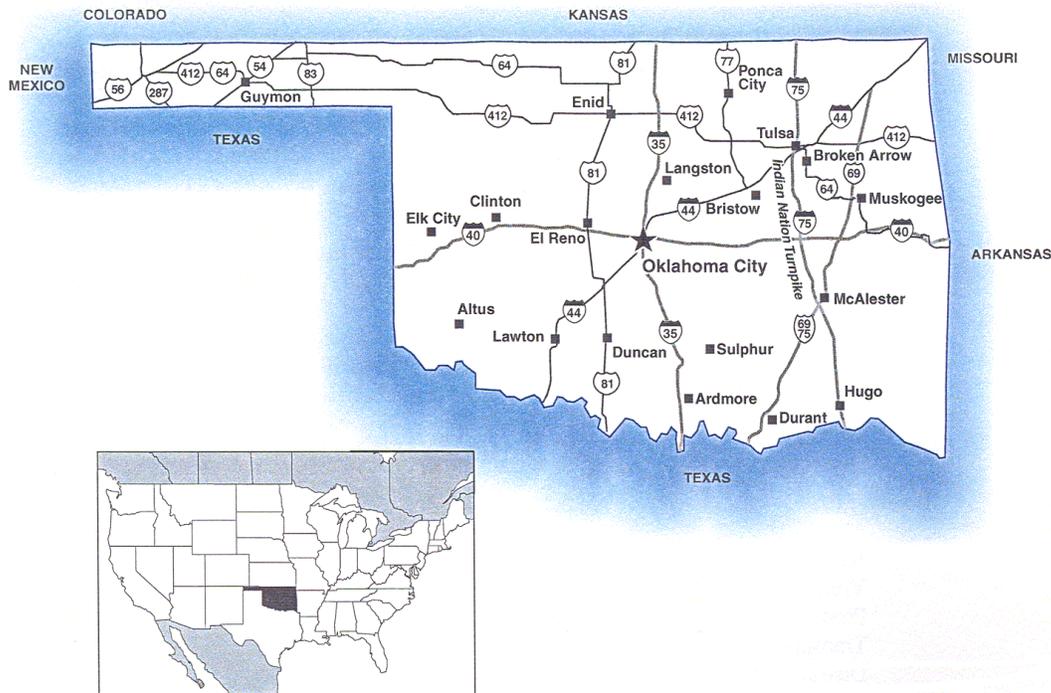
According to 2014 estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, Oklahoma ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in population, with approximately 3.9 million residents. Since 2010, Oklahoma has experienced a 3.4% growth rate. Approximately 75.1% of the population in Oklahoma is Caucasian, 9.0% is American Indian, 7.7% is African American, 9.8% is Hispanic or Latino, and 2.1% is Asian. The remaining less than 6% of the population are some other race or a combination of one or more races.

In 2013, the median income in Oklahoma was \$45,339 which is significantly less than the national median income of \$53,046. Additionally, 16.9% of Oklahoma's population is below the poverty level compared with 15.4% nationally. The principal industries in the State include manufacturing, mineral and energy exploration, and energy production; however, Oklahoma is considered a rural state and farming is a considerable focus of the economy. When comparing the number of persons per square mile to that of the United States, Oklahoma has 54.7 persons per square mile compared to an average of 87.4 persons per square mile for the rest of the nation.

Oklahoma has 77 counties and supports two metropolitan areas. Oklahoma City, the capital, is located in the center of the state and has a population in excess of 620,000. According to the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau data, Tulsa, located in the northeastern part of the state, has a population exceeding 399,000. Other major cities include Ardmore, Enid, Lawton, Norman, and Muskogee.

Oklahoma is the 18<sup>th</sup> largest state with a land area of 68,667 square miles. The State has over 4,400 miles of river, lake shoreline, and forests that cover approximately 24% of Oklahoma. The major highways are Interstates 35, 40, and 44 and U.S. Highways 54, 56, 64, 69, 75, 81, 83, 287, and 412. Interstate 35, U.S. 69/75, and U.S. 81 are the primary north-south routes and I-40 is the main east-west route. Interstate 44 extends from the Texas-Oklahoma border to the Oklahoma-Missouri border. Oklahoma is bordered by Colorado and Kansas to the north, Missouri and Arkansas to the east, New Mexico to the west, and Texas to the south and west.

The central locality of Oklahoma in relation to the rest of the nation the close proximity of Oklahoma to the Mexican border, and the extensive transportation infrastructure, including the interstate highways, public and private airports, rail lines, and two river ports, increases the transportation of illegal drugs through the state. Most drugs are transported via private and commercial vehicles; however, with 149 public airports, private and commercial aircraft are also used to transport drugs into the state.



## A. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES

In Oklahoma, there are a number of state agencies that comprise the criminal justice system. Some states have a combined public safety and statewide investigative agency; however, in Oklahoma separate agencies exist to carry out these functions. The overall structure of the state criminal justice system in Oklahoma tends toward many individual agencies that focus on a specific mission rather than a few agencies with multi-faceted missions. As a result, cooperation and collaboration is an essential component to the success of the JAG Grant. The following state criminal justice agencies serve as collaborative partners on the Justice Assistance Grant Board in implementing the Byrne JAG Program.

### ***District Attorneys Council (DAC)***

The mission of DAC is to strengthen the criminal justice system in Oklahoma by providing a professional organization for the education, training, and coordination of technical efforts of all state prosecutors. There are 27 elected district attorneys in the state that represent between one (1) and five (5) counties each. DAC provides administrative and support functions for the 27 District Attorney Districts through five Divisions: 1) the Executive Division; 2) the Finance Division; 3) Information Technology Division; 4) Victim Services Division; and, 5) the Federal Grants Division. DAC responsibilities include:

- Presenting issues of importance to the District Attorneys system to the Governor, Legislature, and other policy makers;
- Coordinating continuing legal education for attorneys within the District Attorney system;

- Providing legal research to District Attorneys' offices;
- Handling all aspects of payroll and insurance for employees of the District Attorney system;
- Aiding individual districts with budget and account balance information;
- Managing systems information technology services for the District Attorney system, including the installation of a system-wide prosecutor case management system, web-site and e-mail administration, acquisition and installation of computer equipment, and technical assistance and support;
- Administrating all aspects of the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, the Sexual Assault Examination Fund, and other victim services; and,
- Serving as the state-administering agency for the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) Grant, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant, Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Grant, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant, Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement (NFSIA) Grant, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Grant, Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), and Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

### ***Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces***

While every law enforcement agency addresses drugs and violent crime, the largest and most active drug enforcement entity is the 13 task forces that operate throughout the state. In 2009, the most of the task forces expanded their scope to become Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces (DVCTFS) in order to be more representative of the types of cases that they were already working. Currently, there are 12 multijurisdictional Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces (DVCTFs) and one Drug Task Force (DTF) operating in the state that are supported with JAG funds. Since drugs and violent crimes go hand in hand, all task forces investigate both drug and violent crimes.

All thirteen multijurisdictional drug task forces are operated by District Attorneys. The multijurisdictional drug and violent crime task forces have been the primary priority for funding through the Justice Assistance Grant Program since its inception.

The multijurisdictional drug task forces integrate local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to enhance interagency coordination and collaboration, increase intelligence sharing, and facilitate investigations of drugs and violent crimes. Each drug task force focuses on a specific geographical district. Twenty-nine investigators are assigned to the drug task forces along with several Assistant District Attorneys. Local law enforcement officers are also available to assist the drug task forces pursuant to interagency agreements.

### ***Office of the Attorney General (OAG)***

The mission of the OAG is to represent Oklahoma by serving and protecting citizens, the government, and the law. OAG provides legal advice to state officers, boards, commissions, and agencies, and represents the State of Oklahoma, state officers, boards and agencies in litigation. The following are specialized divisions within the OAG: Administration, Criminal Appeals, General Counsel, Litigation, Medicaid Fraud Control, Multi-County Grand Jury, Public Protection, Public Utility Regulation, Victim Services, and Workers Compensation Fraud.

### ***Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control (OBNDCC)***

The OBNDCC is a law enforcement and regulatory agency whose goal is to minimize the abuse of controlled substances through law enforcement measures directed at drug trafficking, illicit drug

manufacturing, major suppliers of illicit drugs, and prescription drug issues. The mission of OBNDDC is to enforce the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substance Act as outlined in Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes, to train and assist local law enforcement agencies, and to compile drug related statistics. OBNDDC provides a leadership role for law enforcement throughout the state for investigative efforts directed toward the illegal use of controlled dangerous substances.

### ***Oklahoma Department of Corrections (DOC)***

The mission of DOC is to protect the public, the employees, and the offenders through the provision of professionally managed correctional services pursuant to orders of the court, applicable statutes, and Board of Corrections policy. The department offers a range of correctional options including institutionalization, community programs, community supervision, treatment, and other rehabilitation programs that will best serve the needs of Oklahoma and the individual offender to enhance the offender's ability to establish a productive and law-abiding lifestyle. The department administers its programs in an equitable manner in the least restrictive environment, consistent with public safety.

### ***Oklahoma Department of Public Safety (DPS)***

DPS is a multi-service safety and law enforcement agency. The mission of DPS is to provide a safe and secure environment for the public through courteous, quality and professional services. DPS is responsible for policing all state roads and highways as well as lakes and river shores. Security and law enforcement activities are conducted to protect the public. The department is also responsible for licensing of motor vehicle operators and maintaining records of license holders. Administrative activities reduce the number of unsafe or uninsured drivers. These activities include the enforcement of Implied Consent, Bail Bonds, Points System, Medical Aspects, and Financial Responsibility statutes. Vehicle safety and hazardous waste is regulated by vehicle inspection, and size and weight laws. Communications and information access for department members and law enforcement agencies statewide are achieved through the telecommunications system maintained by the department. Several thousand apprehensions and tens of millions of dollars in property are recovered annually through the system. The federally mandated Oklahoma Highway Safety Office (OHSO) promotes safety on the state's highways through education, enforcement, and engineering projects.

### ***Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI)***

OSBI is the general investigative agency for the State of Oklahoma. OSBI provides services in support of law enforcement throughout the state. OSBI's statutory requirements include:

- Maintaining scientific laboratories to assist in the discovery and detection of criminal activity.
- Maintaining fingerprint and other identification files.
- Operating teletype, mobile, radio, or other communications systems.
- Conducting schools and training programs for individuals associated with any aspect of law enforcement, investigation, and detection of crimes.
- When requested, assisting law enforcement and district attorneys in solving crimes.
- Investigating and detecting criminal activity as requested by the Governor.
- Maintaining a Uniform Crime Reporting system, including collecting and correlating information, compiling statistics on the volume and nature of crime and the administration of criminal justice in Oklahoma.

## **Office of Homeland Security (OHS)**

The mission of OHS is to develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive statewide strategy to secure the State of Oklahoma from terrorism, from public health emergencies, cyber terrorism, from weapons of mass destruction, and to perform other duties assigned to it by the Governor. The responsibilities of OHS include:

- Representing the State of Oklahoma with federal agencies, other states and national entities;
- Coordinating and preparing applications for federal funds related to Homeland Security;
- Developing and implementing the State Homeland Security Plan;
- Developing and implementing Homeland Security Responses;
- Coordinating Homeland Security efforts within the State of Oklahoma;
- Providing staff support to the Governor's Security and Preparedness Executive Panel, the Homeland Security Executive Committee, and various working groups;
- Developing and implementing a Comprehensive First Responder Homeland Security Program;
- Developing a Comprehensive Training Program on Homeland Security efforts;
- Serving as a resource to local agencies in Homeland Security efforts; and,
- Serving as a resource to the public in Homeland Security efforts.



## B. CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERS

There are a number of other state agencies and private, non-profit agencies that are integral components and have missions related to improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Oklahoma.

### ***Office of the Governor***

In 2010, the Honorable Mary Fallin became the first woman elected to the Office of the Governor in Oklahoma. She was reelected in 2014. As the Chief Executive Officer, Governor Fallin is the ex-officio Commander-in-Chief of the Oklahoma National Guard when not called into federal use. The Governor's responsibilities include the yearly "State of the State" address, submitting the annual state budget, ensuring that state laws are enforced, and that the peace is preserved.

### ***Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)***

AOC oversees the business function of the judicial branch of government including financial accounting, payroll and benefits, alternate dispute resolution, judicial education, public information, and the monitoring of legislative developments affecting the court system. The AOC also administers a computer system for case tracking, legal information, and legal research to serve the Courts, the Bar Association, and the people of Oklahoma.

### ***Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA)***

The mission of OJA is to provide prevention education, treatment services, and secure facilities for juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system in order to promote public safety and reduce juvenile delinquency. OJA serves as the state planning and coordinating agency for statewide juvenile justice and delinquency prevention services. OJA provides court intake, probation and parole services for delinquent children, delinquency prevention programs, and the collection and dissemination of information related to juvenile justice.

### ***Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)***

OCME is statutorily mandated to investigate sudden, unexpected, and suspicious deaths. The mission of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is to protect the public health and safety of Oklahomans through the scientific investigation of deaths as defined by state statutes. This process involves scene investigation and medicolegal autopsy (including radiology, toxicology, histology, and microbiology) complementing the activities of law enforcement agencies, district attorneys, and public health officials.

### ***Local and Tribal Law Enforcement***

Local law enforcement is an important partner in the JAG Program. In Oklahoma, each of the 77 counties has an elected Sheriff. In addition, there are approximately 480 local law enforcement agencies and 23 tribal law enforcement agencies. Throughout the state, there are approximately 13,500 full time and reserve law enforcement officers.

### ***Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP)***

The mission of OACP is to promote excellence in law enforcement through professional development, ethical standards, technical support, and communication with all law enforcement administrators, management staff, and line personnel. The OACP interacts with all levels of federal, state, municipal, campus, and tribal criminal justice agencies, as well as advocacy groups representing all ethnicities and persons who are touched by crime and victimization, to bring about enlistment and training of qualified persons into the police profession. OACP makes recommendations that enhance the effectiveness of police agencies and organizations for the mutual benefit of law enforcement, citizens, and the agencies of the state, and encourages the adherence of all police officers to the highest professional standards of conduct.

### ***Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS)***

ODMHSAS provides a vast range of services to Oklahomans who are affected by mental illness and substance abuse. By collaborating with multiple state agencies, advocacy organizations, consumers, family members, providers, community leaders and elected officials, the Department continues to evolve to meet the needs of Oklahomans across the lifespan. ODMHSAS is comprised of three primary programs - mental health services, substance abuse services, and prevention services. In FY 13, the Department provided services to more than 79,000 individuals. Services statewide are available through a network of provider and community based programs that include community mental health centers (CMHCs), substance abuse treatment facilities, prevention organizations and specialty providers, including housing, faith based, and consumer and family operated programs. According to ODMHSAS, there are currently 45 adult drug courts serving 73 counties, 7 juvenile drug courts, 13 mental health courts serving 16 counties, several drug courts with veteran's dockets, and 6 family drug courts operating in the state.

### ***Oklahoma Sheriff's Association (OSA)***

The mission of the OSA is to maintain the 77 Sheriffs' Offices throughout the state by offering training and education, developing laws and policies that promote public safety, and providing technical and informational support to assist the Sheriffs of Oklahoma in providing effective and quality law enforcement services to the citizens of Oklahoma.

### ***Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE)***

OSDE works to improve student success through service to schools, parents, and students. They provide leadership for education reform and regulation/deregulation of state and federal laws to help students succeed. Administrative Services carries out the administration duties of the agency and provides support for the services of the various divisions. Accreditation/Standards Services oversees school accreditation standards while supporting deregulation of schools. Federal Fiscal Services directs programs that are primarily federally funded and serves specialized needs of local school districts. Financial Services distributes state funds to local school districts, in addition to collecting data regarding student attendance, valuations, budgets, and student transfers. Professional Services coordinates the certification and continuing education of professional educators. School Improvement Services implements the mandated core curriculum through workshops on grant and program management, curriculum development and implementation, instruction, remediation and assessment plans.

## C. FEDERAL AND NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY PARTNERS

In addition to state criminal justice agencies, other state agencies, and private, non-profit partner agencies, there are also federal and national partners that have an important role in fulfilling the mission of the Justice Assistance Grant.

### ***Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)***

The mission of DEA is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States and bring to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States, or any other competent jurisdiction, those organizations and principal members of organizations, involved in the growing, manufacture, or distribution of controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States; and to recommend and support non-enforcement programs aimed at reducing the availability of illicit controlled substance on the domestic and international markets.

### ***Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)***

BJA, which funds the Justice Assistance Grant, is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Community Capacity Development Office, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. The mission of BJA is to support law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA provides leadership, services, and funding to America's communities by:

- Emphasizing local control;
- Building relationships in the field;
- Provide training and technical assistance in support of efforts to prevent crime, drug abuse, and violence at the national, state, and local levels;
- Developing collaborations and partnerships;
- Promoting capacity building through planning;
- Streamlining the administration of grants;
- Increasing training and technical assistance;
- Requiring accountability of projects;
- Encouraging innovation; and,
- Communicating the value of justice efforts to decision makers at every level.

### ***National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)***

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), based in Washington, D.C, was founded in 1971 and is the national voice in shaping and implementing criminal justice policy. Guided by a 17-member Board of Directors who represent all facets of the criminal and juvenile justice community, as well as an Advisory Board comprised of the state administering agencies of the Justice Assistance Grant program, NCJA serves as the formal mechanism for informing the Congress of state, tribal, and local criminal and juvenile justice needs and accomplishments. NCJA works to promote a balanced approach to communities' complex public safety and criminal and juvenile justice system problems.

Through collaboration with practitioners and policymakers, NCJA also communicates state, tribal and local views on crime prevention and control to federal executive and other public and private agencies at all levels.

### ***United States Attorneys' Offices***

The United States Attorneys serve as the nation's principal litigators under the direction of the Attorney General. The 94 U.S. Attorneys are stationed throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. U.S. Attorneys are appointed by, and serve at the discretion of, the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the United States Senate. Each U.S. Attorney is the chief federal law enforcement officer of the United States within his or her particular jurisdiction.

U.S. Attorneys conduct most of the trial work in which the United States is a party. They have three (3) statutory responsibilities under Title 28, Section 547 of the United States Code: 1) the prosecution of criminal cases brought by the Federal Government; 2) the prosecution and defense of civil cases in which the United States is a party; and, 3) the collection of debts owed the Federal Government which are administratively uncollectible.

Although the distribution of caseload varies between districts, each U.S. Attorney's office deals with every category of case and handles a mixture of simple and complex litigation. Each U.S. Attorney exercises wide discretion in the use of his/her resources to further the priorities of the local jurisdictions and needs of their communities.

### III. OVERVIEW OF THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

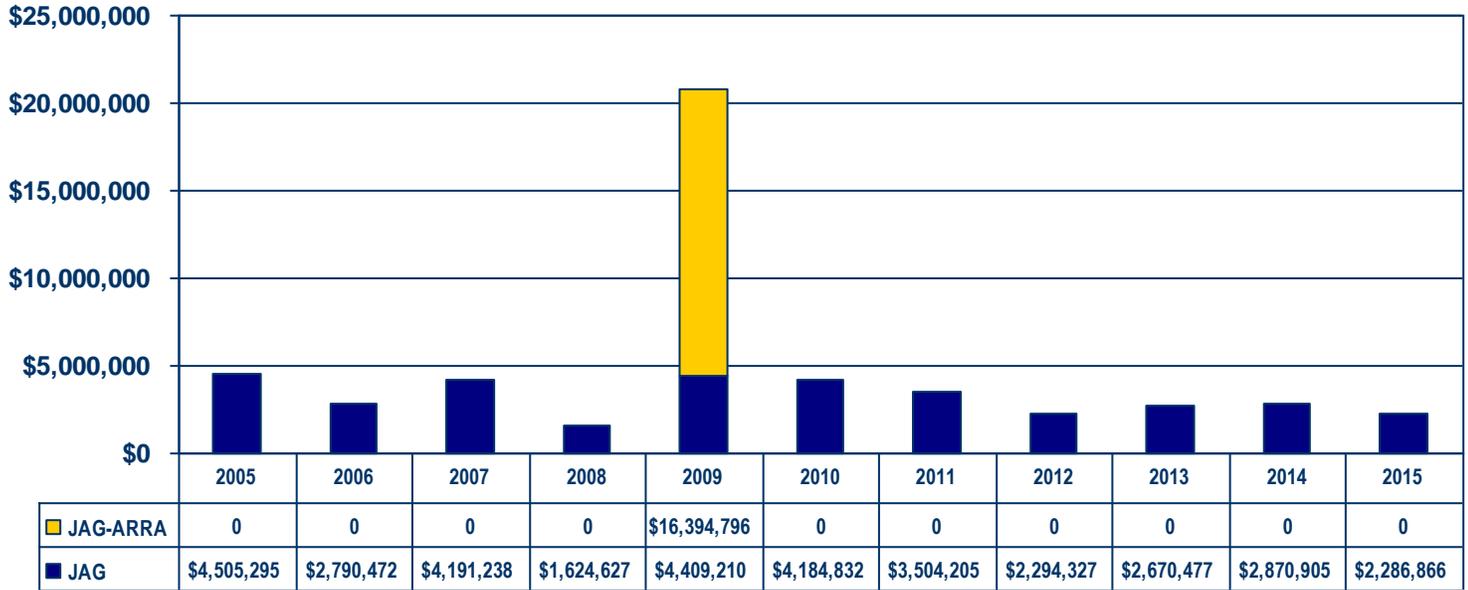
Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The JAG Program provides states and units of local governments with the critical funding necessary to support multiple program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education programs, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, crime victim and witness initiatives, and planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs that improve the criminal justice system.

Fiscal Year 2016 marks the 30th year of federal funding for the JAG Program. Designated by the Governor, the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council (DAC) has served as the state administering agency since the first Byrne Grant was awarded in 1986. The Federal Grants Division within the DAC serves as the point of contact for the State of Oklahoma to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in administering the grant program. The responsibilities of the Federal Grants Division include:

- Preparing the application for the federal grant funds;
- Providing staff support to the JAG Board;
- Developing and distributing the grant application notice and the grant applications;
- Reviewing and making recommendations to the Board regarding the funding for submitted grant applications;
- Receiving funds from BJA and disbursing the funds to the subgrantees throughout the grant cycle;
- Evaluating and monitoring subgrantees' compliance in meeting fiscal and programmatic requirements;
- Providing guidance and technical assistance to subgrantees;
- Collecting statistical data from the subgrantees to assess program effectiveness and provide information to BJA; and,
- Preparing and submitting the required progress, financial, and evaluation reports to BJA.

In 2005, BJA replaced two federal grant programs, the Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant with the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Since the JAG Program was reformulated, the funding that the State of Oklahoma receives through the JAG Program has fluctuated significantly due to cuts in federal funding with a high in 2005 of approximately \$4.5 million to a low in 2008 of \$1.6 million. In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided a one-time boost to the funding of the JAG Program, which resulted in Oklahoma receiving an additional \$16,394,796 in funding. The chart below identifies Oklahoma's funding levels for the Byrne JAG grant since 2005. Since 2012, the funds have been somewhat stable, but the PREA and SORNA penalties take away from available funds.

## Byrne JAG Funding in Oklahoma 2005-2015



## IV. JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT BOARD

### A. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Comprised of 16 voting and non-voting members, the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Board represents a cross section of state and federal criminal justice agencies in Oklahoma as well as partner agencies and organizations. The federal representatives on the Board serve as non-voting members.

The JAG Board meets quarterly throughout the year to provide oversight to the District Attorneys Council, Federal Grants Division in administering the JAG Program. The Board is charged with developing the state strategy, prioritizing purpose areas for funding, reviewing grant proposals, and determining awards for the JAG Program. The following agencies have representatives that serve on the JAG Board:

#### ***Voting Members***

- A District Attorney
- Office of Juvenile Affairs
- Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police
- Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control
- Oklahoma Department of Corrections
- Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Oklahoma Department of Public Safety
- Oklahoma District Attorneys Council
- Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association
- Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
- The Office of the Attorney General
- The Office of the Governor

#### ***Non-Voting Members***

- Drug Enforcement Agency
- U.S. Attorney for the Western, Eastern and Northern Districts of Oklahoma

Due to the dedicated and knowledgeable representatives that serve on the JAG Board, strategies and approaches have been developed and executed to improve the criminal justice system. In this capacity, the Board, through the JAG Program, leverages federal funding in order to marshal the State's resources. A list of the members serving on the JAG Board may be found in Appendix A.

## B. STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

To receive JAG Program funding, states must develop a four-year State Strategy that guides funding priorities and spending. States are encouraged to utilize a community engagement model that provides stakeholders an opportunity to provide input. In 2015, the JAG Board began developing the 2016-2020 Justice Assistance Grant State Strategy.

Initially, staff in the District Attorneys Council Federal Grants Division developed two surveys. The first survey was sent to criminal justice professionals as well as allied professionals throughout the state in order to obtain feedback for the seven purpose areas. The survey was reviewed by the Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center, the National Criminal Justice Association, then reviewed and approved by the JAG Board in February 2015.

In August 2015, the JAG Strategy Plan Survey was implemented via Survey Monkey so that respondents could easily provide input and the results summarized. The first notice of the survey was disseminated on August 21, 2015. A second reminder requesting completion of the survey was sent on September 2<sup>nd</sup> with notice of a September 9<sup>th</sup> closing date. The results are provided in detail in the next section.

A second survey, the JAG Local Law Enforcement Survey, specifically targeted to law enforcement. The purpose of the survey was to obtain information regarding the types of equipment needed by local law enforcement. A federal requirement of the Justice Assistance Grant is to make funds available to a list of eligible units of local government. The list of eligible agencies is determined by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. To be eligible, agencies must have directly submitted UCR crime data to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation for three of the past ten years. In addition, these agencies meet a set threshold for violent crime in their community, and were not eligible for a direct award from BJA.

The JAG Board established that this funding be directed toward equipment only. In addition, the JAG Board determines the type of equipment that will be approved. The JAG Local Law Enforcement survey was also implemented via Survey Monkey. The first notice of the survey was disseminated on January 29, 2015. The results will be reviewed in detail in the next section.

In addition to the surveys, the Federal Grants Division staff compiled current and pertinent data for the JAG Board to review. Data was collected from a variety of sources on drug usage in Oklahoma, the availability and cost of the primary drugs of choice in the state, and the sources of supply. Information was also gathered on treatment admissions and deaths resulting from drug use. Data on trends in juvenile crime, arrests, trends in prison population, and gang related crimes was compiled. By obtaining this information, the priority areas for funding through the JAG Program can be identified.

## V. JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT SURVEY RESULTS

### A. OVERVIEW OF THE JAG STRATEGY PLAN SURVEY

In September 2014, a survey was developed in an effort to obtain a broad spectrum of input from criminal justice professionals throughout the state. The purpose of the survey was to assist the JAG Board with the development of the 2016-2020 Justice Assistance Grant Strategic Plan. Historically, the JAG Board has obtained such input through a public forum where presentations and comments are provided to the Board by criminal justice professionals and other partners. While the interaction between the interested professionals and the JAG Board has been important and beneficial, it limited the number of professionals that could provide information to the Board. For others, the time constraints to travel as well as travel costs presented hardships for those who wished to attend the public hearing. The survey format allowed a broader range of professionals to provide input without time and travel costs.

### B. METHODOLOGY OF THE JAG STRATEGY PLAN SURVEY

The survey contained two segments. The first section of the survey was designed to obtain feedback on five broad “projects areas” in each of the seven allowed purpose areas under the JAG Program. Respondents were asked to rank these project areas on a rating scale from first to fifth in order of importance. An example of a project area would be Drug Enforcement Projects under Purpose Area I: Law Enforcement Program. This type of question was repeated for each of the remaining six purpose areas. For example:

*Question 4: Other than general funding for your agency, please rank in order of importance the areas of need for Purpose Area I – Law Enforcement Programs:*

- *Drug Enforcement Projects*
- *Gang and Gun Enforcement Projects*
- *Interoperable Communication Projects*
- *Prescription Drug Projects*
- *Violent Crime Projects*

The second segment of the survey focused on obtaining input on each of the previously established goals identified in the 2012-2016 State Strategy. Respondents were asked to rank each goal on a scale from Extremely Important to Extremely Unimportant. For instance,

*Question 11: In a previous strategic plan, funding to reduce the importation, manufacture, distribution, and possession of illegal drugs and controlled substances throughout the state has been one of the goals identified by the JAG Board. When considering the needs in your community or service area, how important is this goal?*

To ensure the most accurate information, the survey stated that answers to the survey would remain confidential and anonymous. No specific identifying information was required to respond and no efforts would be made to identify any respondent. One of the main goals of the survey was to cast the widest net possible to obtain input from a broad array of criminal justice professionals and allied professionals throughout the state. To do this, the survey announcement was widely distributed to criminal justice professionals and allied partners, including police departments, sheriff's offices, prosecution offices (district attorneys, assistant district attorneys, investigators, and victim witness personnel), community-based victim service agencies, the state correctional agency, the juvenile service agency, the courts, subcommittee members of the JAG Board related to forensic science and criminal history information, and current JAG and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant recipients.

Additionally, DAC encouraged everyone who received the survey announcement to forward the survey link to anyone they thought might be interested in responding. This means that DAC may have initially sent the announcement to one or two people within an agency and those recipients may have forwarded the announcement to everyone else in that agency.

Because of this, determining the exact response rate of the survey is difficult to calculate. The response rate, also known as completion rate or return rate, is computed based on the number of people who answered the survey divided by the number of people who received the survey invitation or announcement.

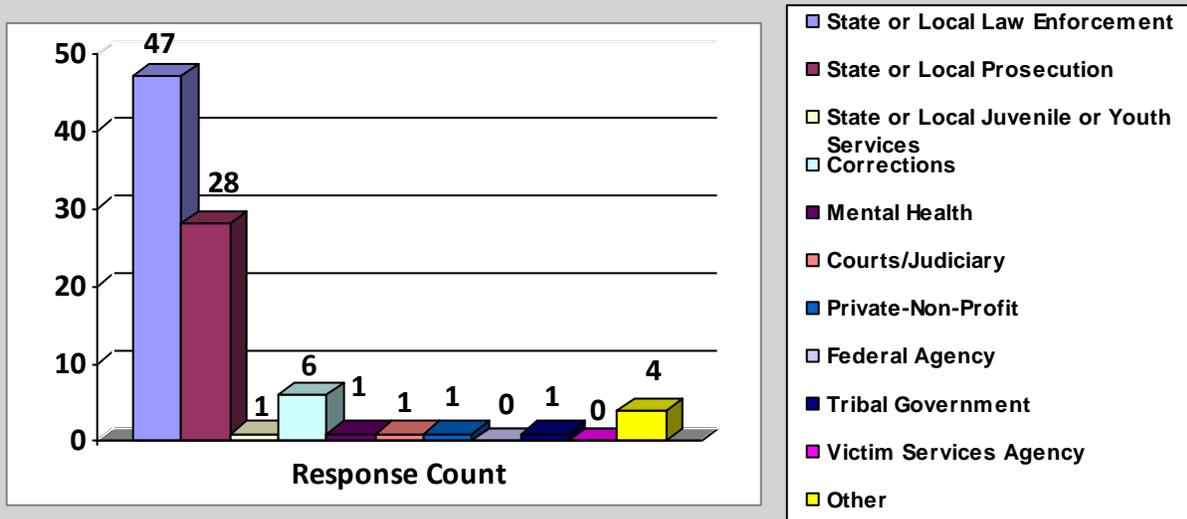
However, in absence of a specific response rate, the total number of responses received, the distribution of responses, and the variety of professional fields identified can be used to determine if the survey provided the information needed to make informed decisions about funding.

## C. SURVEY RESULTS OF THE JAG STRATEGY PLAN SURVEY

Staff received a total of 91 completed surveys. Most respondents (48%) were from a rural area. Twenty-four percent (24%) identified themselves as living in an urban area and 28% indicated that their community was both urban and rural.

Of those who responded to the survey, the majority (51.7%) were from state or local law enforcement. The second highest response rate, with 31.9%, was state or local prosecution offices. The remaining respondents were individuals from corrections, mental health, courts or the judiciary, tribal, and, local or state government. Of the respondents, 75 were not a representative or a designee on the JAG Board. Sixteen of the thirty members and/or designees on the JAG Board responded to the survey.

### JAG Survey Respondents

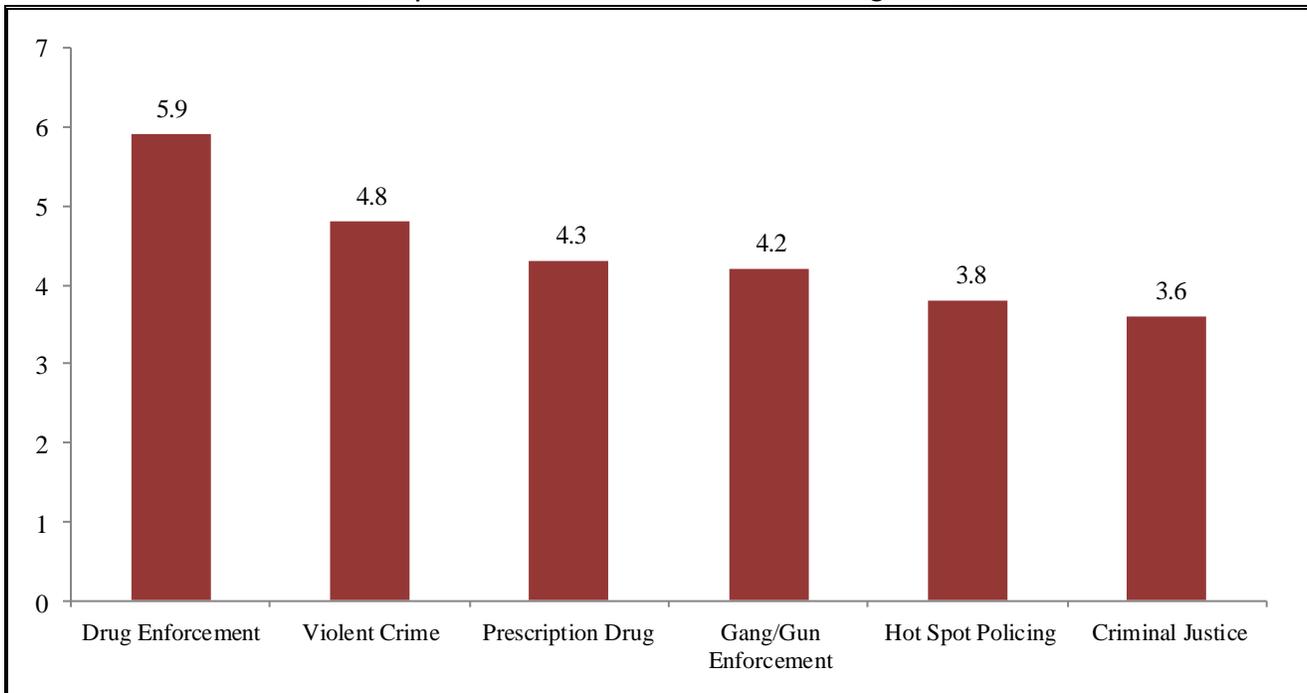


### Purpose Area I: Law Enforcement Programs

In this category, 67 respondents provided input and 24 respondents did not answer the question. The top-ranked area of importance was Drug Enforcement Programs.

Nearly 47% identified Drug Enforcement Projects as the most needed. This was followed by Violent Crime Projects, Prescription Drug Projects, Gang and Gun Enforcement Projects, and Interoperable Communications Projects, respectively. The following chart identifies the average ranking of each of the project areas in this category on a scale of one to six, with six as the highest.

### Purpose Area I: Law Enforcement Programs



**Comments:**

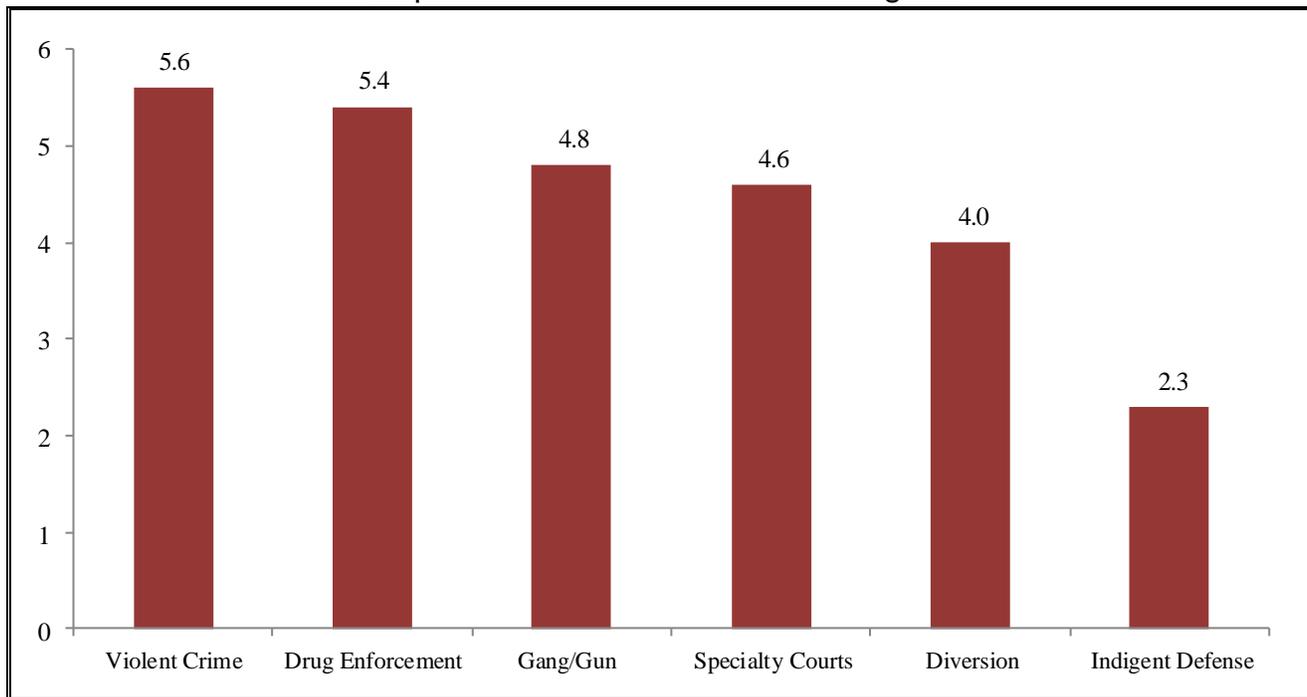
Other Project Areas identified in the Comments Section included:

- Drug treatment, prevention, and education programs
- Substance abuse and other offender programming
- Mentally ill persons in county jails
- Mental health issues
- Education on drug abuse awareness

**Purpose Area 2: Court/Prosecution Programs**

In this category, 64 respondents provided input and 27 respondents did not answer the question. The highest ranked response in this category was Violent Crime Prosecution Projects. Over 41% of the respondents ranked this project area first. Violent Crime Projects were followed by Gun/Gang Prosecution Projects, Specialty Court Projects, and, Drug Enforcement Projects.

Purpose Area 2: Court/Prosecution Programs



**Comments:**

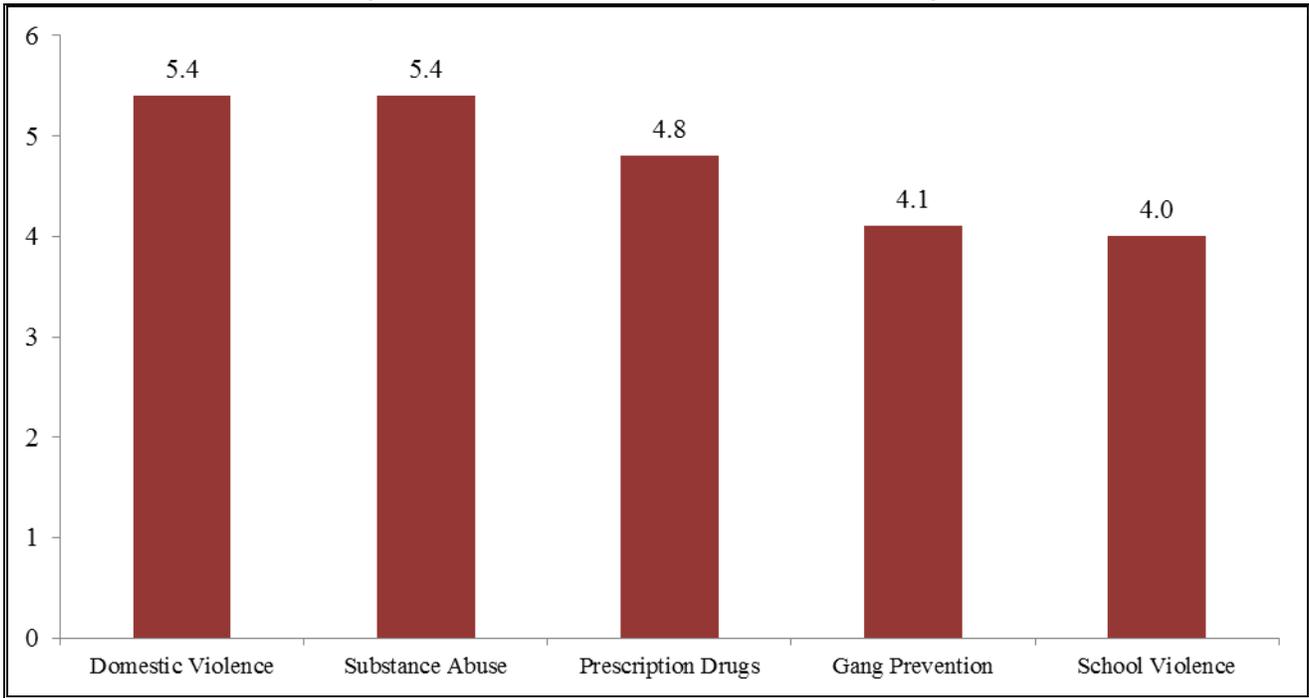
Other Project Areas identified in the Comments Section included:

- Re-entry court projects
- Substance abuse programming

### Purpose Area 3: Prevention and Education Programs

In this category, 65 respondents provided input and 26 respondents did not answer the question. The highest ranked response in this category was Substance Abuse Prevention Projects. This project area was followed by Domestic Violence Projects and Prescription Drug Prevention Projects; School Violence Projects; and Gang Prevention Projects.

Purpose Area 3: Prevention and Education Programs



**Comments:**

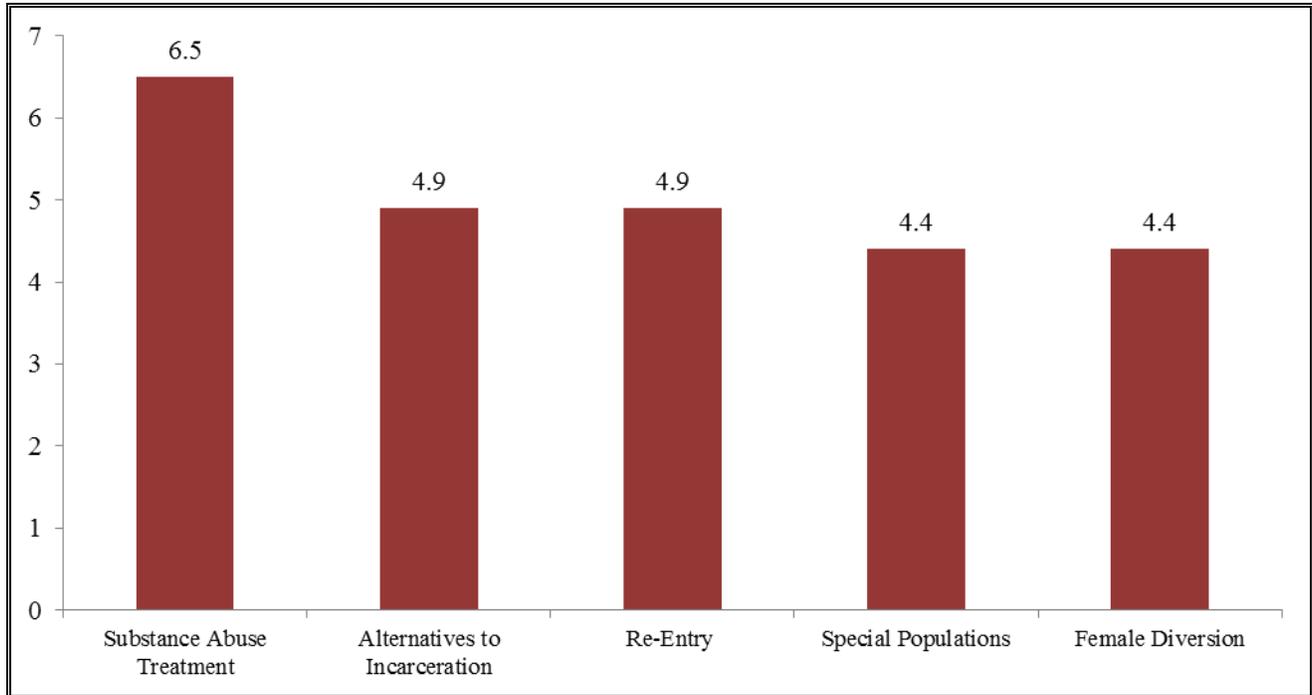
No comments were received for this question.

### **Purpose Area 4: Corrections/Community Corrections Programs**

Sixty-three respondents provided input and 28 respondents did not answer the question. By a substantial margin, Substance Abuse Treatment for Incarcerated Offenders was ranked first as a project area for funding. The following areas ranked second through fifth: 2) Swift and Certain Sanctions; 3) Post Imprisonment Supervision and Probation Projects; 4) Re-Entry Projects; and, 5) Female Offender Diversion Projects.

The following chart identifies the average rating of each of the project areas in this category.

Purpose Area 4: Prevention and Education Programs



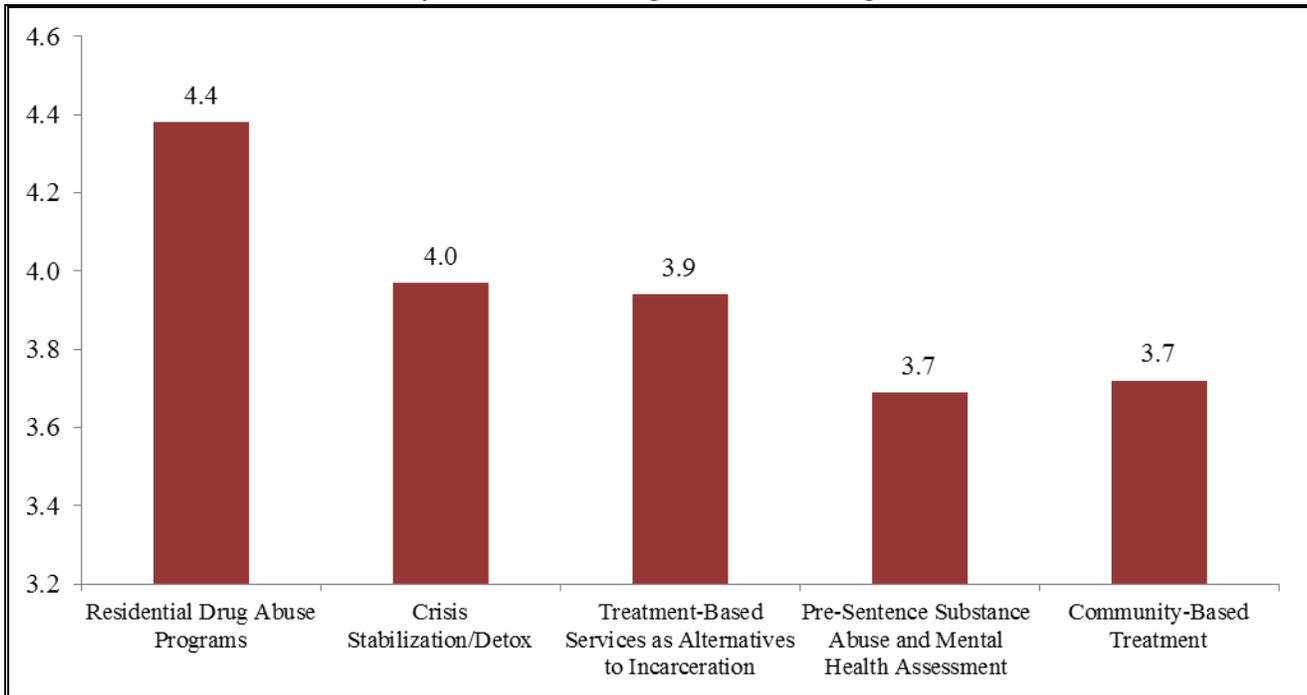
**Comments:**

No comments were received for this question.

## Purpose Area 5: Drug Treatment Programs

In this category, 63 respondents provided input while 28 did not answer the question. By a significant margin, the area of need with the highest ranking was Corrections-Based Treatment Projects, closely followed by Crisis Stabilization/Detox Programs. Treatment Based Services for Alternatives to Incarceration Projects was ranked third, followed by Pre-sentence Substance Abuse and Mental Health Assessment Treatment Projects and Pre-sentence Substance Abuse and Community Based Treatment Projects.

Purpose Area 5: Drug Treatment Programs



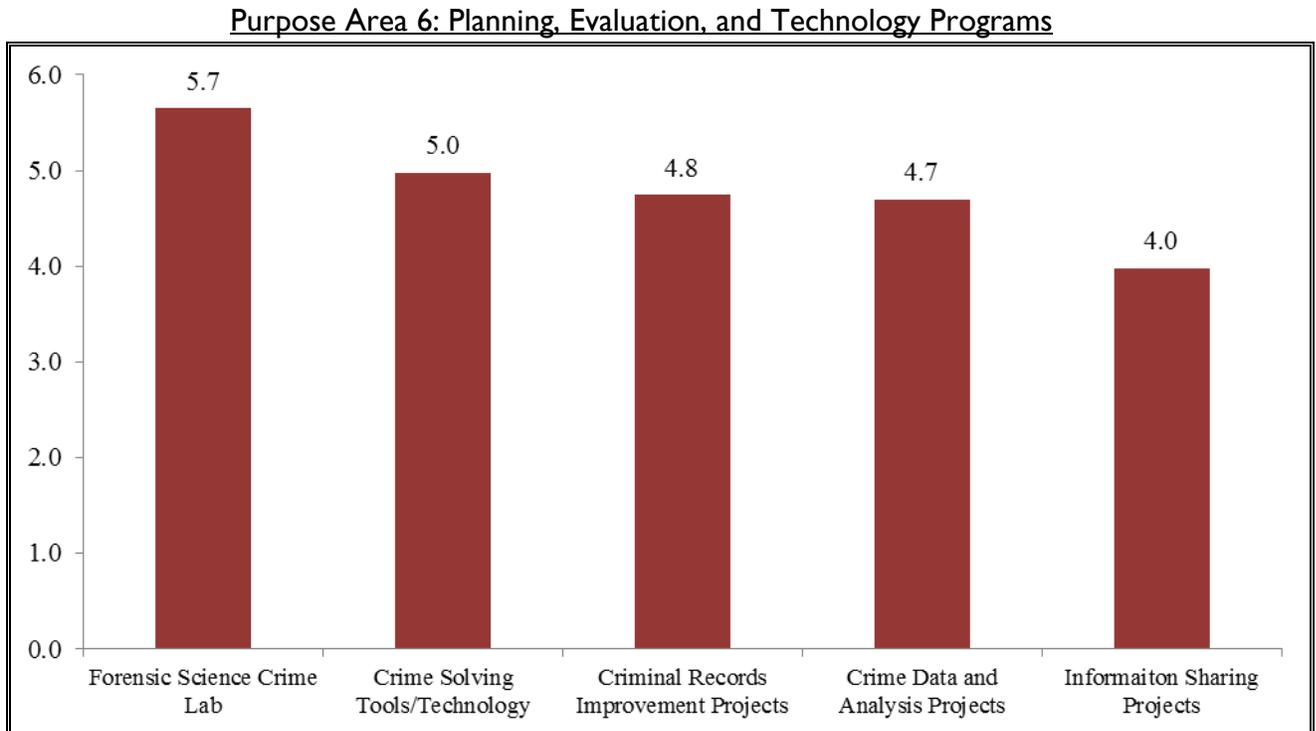
### Comments:

No comments were received for this question.

## Purpose Area 6: Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Programs

In this category, 63 respondents provided input and 28 respondents did not answer the question. The areas of importance in this Purpose Area ranked as follows:

1. Forensic Science Crime Lab Projects
2. Crime Solving Tools and Technology Projects
3. Criminal Records Improvement Projects
4. Crime Data and Analysis Projects
5. Information Sharing Projects



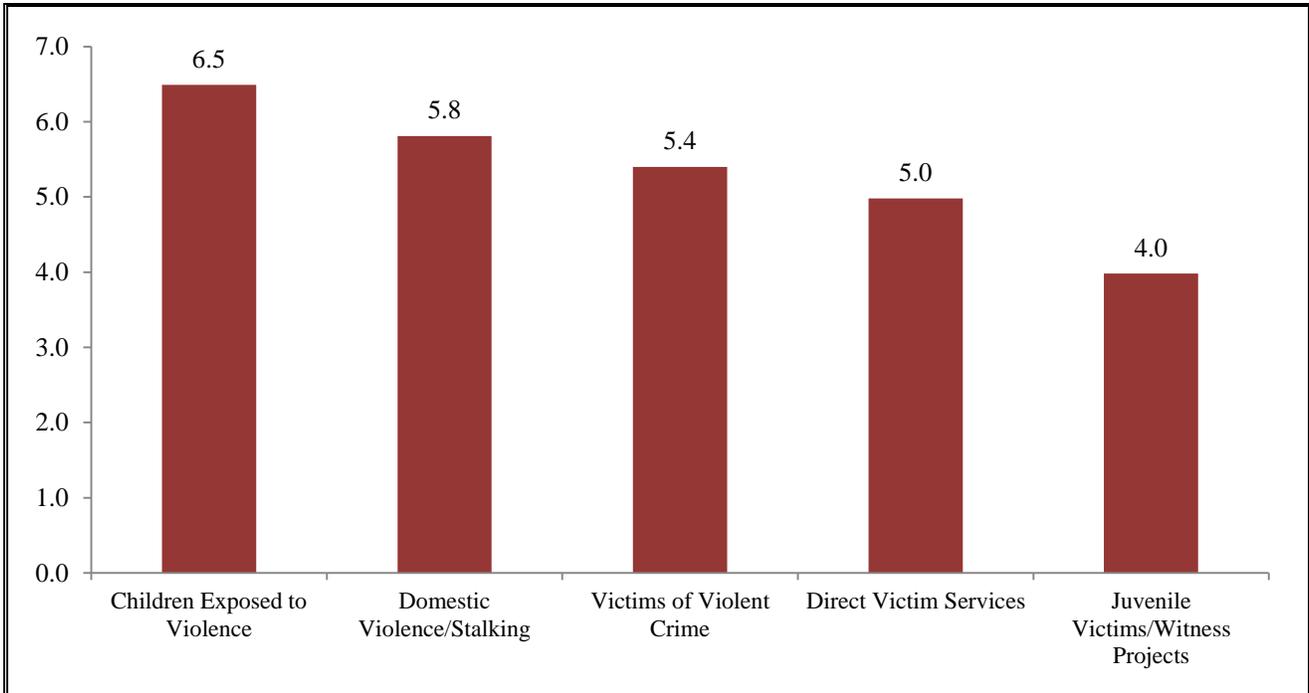
### **Comments:**

No comments were received for this question.

### **Purpose Area 7: Crime Victim and Witness Programs (other than crime victim compensation)**

In this category, 63 respondents provided input while 28 respondents did not answer the question. The highest response in this category was Children Exposed to Violence Projects, followed by Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and/or Stalking Projects. The project area identified as third was Victims of Violent Crime Projects, fourth was Crime Victim Services, i.e., Advocacy, Accompaniment Projects, and fifth was Juvenile Victims/Witnesses Projects.

**Purpose Area 7: Crime Victim and Witness Programs**

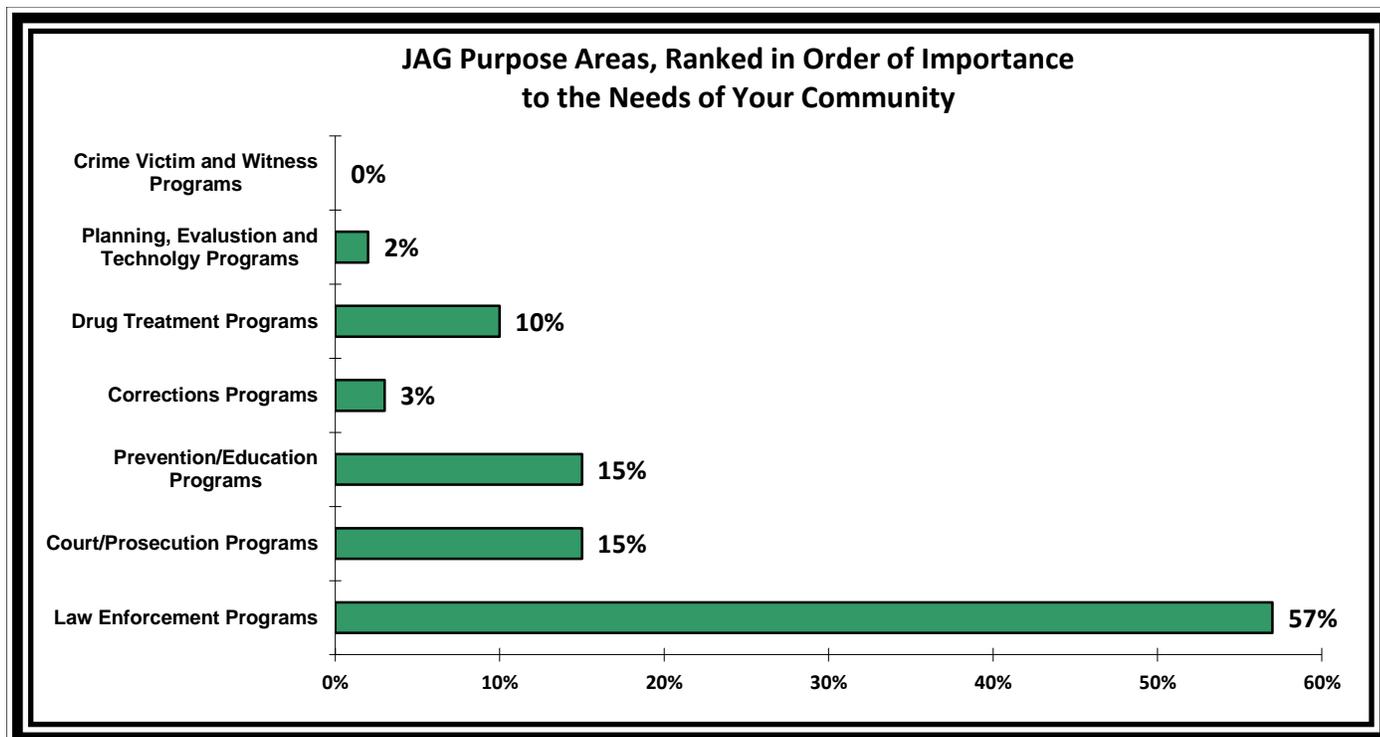


**Comments:**

No comments were received for this question.

## JAG Purpose Areas Order of Importance

The final question asked respondents to rank the order of importance of the seven JAG purpose areas based on community needs. The overwhelming response was Law Enforcement Programs with 57% ranked as the most important.



Respondents were provided the option of identifying additional goals that were not listed above. 64 respondents provided input to this question, while 27 did not answer the question. Eighty-nine percent (89%) identified that there were no additional goals. It should be noted, however, that a large number of the responses were general comments rather than suggested goals. Comments such as: “fund prevention and treatment not prosecution and arrest” or “the effectiveness of funded programs in considering continued funding” was listed. Some of these comments are already included within the goals above or were general comments. Of the additional comments, the JAG Board may consider the following:

- New strategies for dealing with substance abuse/mental health issues without incarceration with treatment in the community.
- Funding of a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) team for domestic disasters in high felon urban areas.
- Funds for technological equipment which would allow smaller agencies to become more responsive and able to identify trends locally.
- Support funding for mental health in the women population of county jails.

## D. OVERVIEW OF THE JAG LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SURVEY

A second survey was developed to specifically target law enforcement in order to obtain information regarding the types of equipment needed by local law enforcement agencies. A federal requirement of JAG is to make funds available to a list of eligible units of local government. The list of eligible agencies, as determined by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, included entities that have directly submitted UCR crime data to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) for three (3) of the past ten years. In addition, these agencies meet a set threshold for violent crime in their community, and were not eligible for a direct award from BJA.

Historically, the JAG Board has established that this funding be directed toward equipment only. In addition, the JAG Board determines the type of equipment which will be approved. The JAG Local Law Enforcement survey was also implemented via Survey Monkey. The first notice of the survey was disseminated on January 29, 2015. The results will be reviewed in detail in the next section.

## E. METHODOLOGY OF THE JAG LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SURVEY

The survey was designed to obtain feedback on the type of equipment that is needed in the field. Respondents were asked to rank categories of equipment in order of importance from one being most important to ten being least important.

The survey was widely distributed to applicants of the most recent JAG LLE grant. In addition, the survey was forwarded by the Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association, and the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police. It was requested that these organizations forward the survey to their members. In turn, any respondent to the survey was also encouraged to forward the survey.

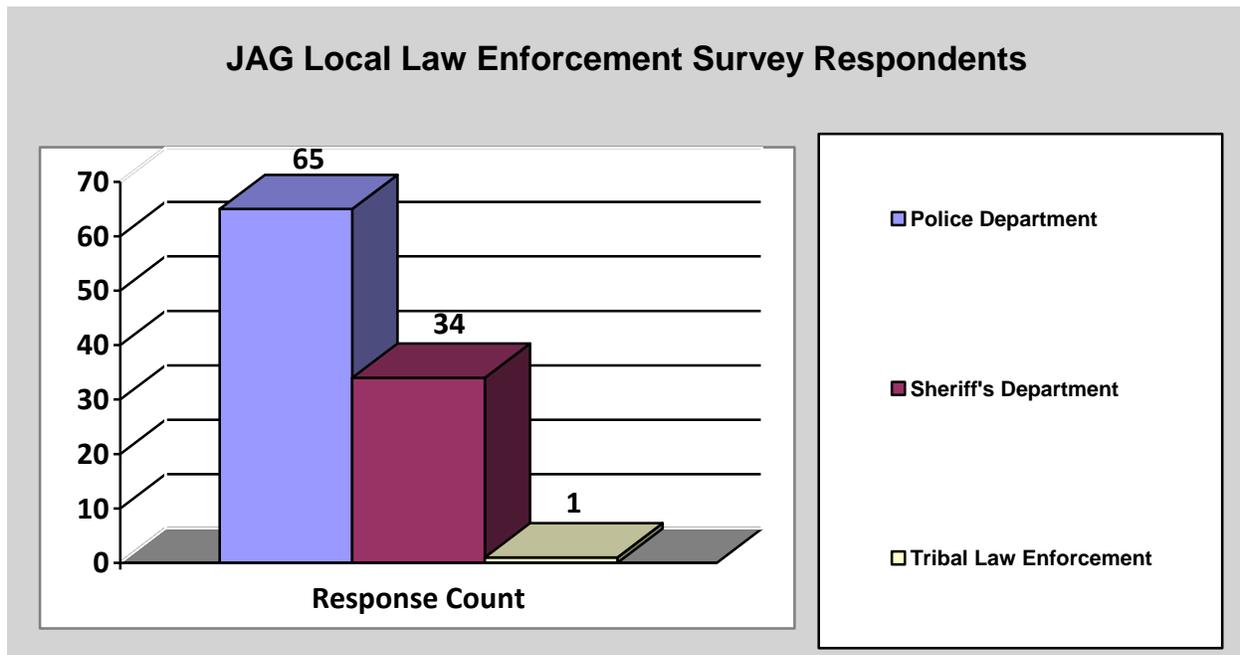
Because of this wide dissemination, determining the exact response rate of the survey is difficult. The response rate, also known as completion rate or return rate, is computed based on the number of people who answered the survey divided by the number of people who received the survey invitation or announcement.

However, in absence of a specific response rate, the total number of responses received, the distribution of responses, and the wide variety of professional fields identified can be used to determine if the objective of achieving a broad array of input was met.

## F. SURVEY RESULTS OF THE JAG LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SURVEY

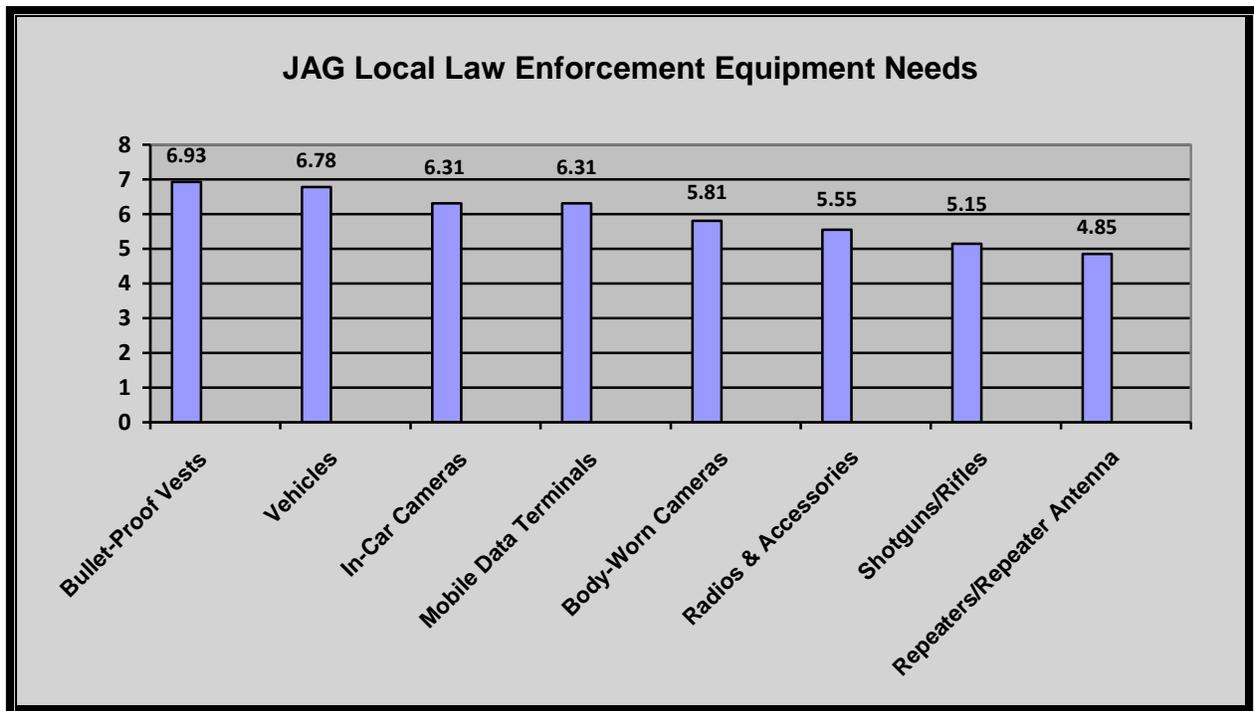
A total of 173 responses were received with the majority, 44% of the respondents from a rural area. Nineteen percent (19%) identified themselves as living in an urban area and 37% indicated that their community was both urban and rural.

Sixty-five percent (65%) indicated their agency was a police department, 34% were from sheriff departments, and 1% was tribal law enforcement. The majority (65) of the respondents indicated that they were an officer and 45 indicated they were the Chief of Police or the Sheriff; while, the remaining respondents were a deputy, reserve deputy, and various other positions. Over 43% had received a JAG Local Law Enforcement Equipment grant within the past five (5) years. Eighty (80) responses indicated they did not know if their agency received a grant in the last six (6) years.



### Equipment Needs

Respondents were asked to rank the type of equipment that is most needed in their community. The equipment ranked most needed was Bullet-Proof Vests, closely followed by Vehicles. In-Car Cameras and Mobile Data Terminals tied for third most need equipment.



**Comments:**

Respondents had the option of adding additional equipment that was not listed. The following equipment was identified. The number in parenthesis indicates the number of times it was listed.

- Tasers (2)
- Thermal Imagers (1)
- Hand-held Radar Units (1)
- Safes (1)
- Funds for Firing Ranges (1)

## VI. DATA REVIEW

### **PURPOSE AREA ONE: LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS**

#### **Overview**

The primary purpose of the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) is to prevent and control crime. At the very core of this goal are initiatives which provide, expand, or enhance the abilities of law enforcement.

According to the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET), Oklahoma has 749 local police and 77 sheriffs' departments and 23 tribal law enforcement agencies as well as several state agencies that have law enforcement functions. Throughout the state, there are 13,535 full time and reserve police officers and sheriff's deputies responsible for covering more than 68,000 square miles in Oklahoma. In order to protect the public it is critical that local, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies have the resources needed to successfully perform their duties.

The majority of local jurisdictions in Oklahoma continue to contend with shrinking budgets and limited financial resources, hindrances that negatively impact their ability to fulfill their responsibilities. The considerable reduction in federal funding through the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security in the past several years has made the situation increasingly more difficult.

In a time when technology is progressing rapidly and where state and federal law enforcement agencies are generally able to take advantage of the latest technological advancements, local law enforcement is struggling to maintain the basics. It is not uncommon for rural law enforcement to deal with significantly aging fleets and equipment that has not been replenished and is past its prime usage.

In addition to supporting the need for equipment for law enforcement, the JAG Board has focused on initiatives that address both drugs and violent crime. The following data and information is provided to assist the JAG Board in setting goals and objectives for this purpose area.

#### **VIOLENT CRIME IN OKLAHOMA**

Over the last several years, the national rate of violent crime has dropped. While Oklahoma has also realized a drop in violent crime, it is less robust than the national average. In 2014, Oklahoma experienced a 6.2 % decrease in violent crime. ***In essence, Oklahoma's reduction in violent crime is not keeping pace with the national decrease in violent crime.***

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) is responsible for the collection of Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data. OSBI's UCR Report publishes data for both violent and non-violent crimes annually. Law enforcement agencies throughout the state provide data to OSBI. The results serve as one of many indicators of the state crime trends. The following information is obtained from

the four (4) offenses which comprise the Violent Crime Index. These offenses include: 1) Murder; 2) Rape; 3) Robbery; and 4) Aggravated Assault.

According to UCR data between 1996 and 1999, there was a steady decline in the number of violent crimes reported in Oklahoma. From 2000 through 2007, the number of violent crime remained relatively stable. However, in 2008, the violent crime increased to levels not seen since 1996. From 2009-2011, there was drop in violent crime follow by a small increase in 2012. In 2013, the state saw a decrease of 7.3% and in 2014, a decrease of 6.2%. The numbers of violent crime dropped from 18,270 in 2012 to 15,557 in 2014.

**VIOLENT CRIME IN OKLAHOMA  
1996-2013**

**Murder**

In 2014, Oklahoma had 29 fewer murders than in 2013, for a total of 178. This represented a 14% decrease. Comanche County had the highest per capita rate of murder at 8.80 per 100,000 people. Tulsa County was second at 6.24 and Oklahoma County ended the year at 6.24 homicides per 100,000 people. The remaining counties were near or below the overall state per capita rate of 4.59 homicides per 100,000 people.

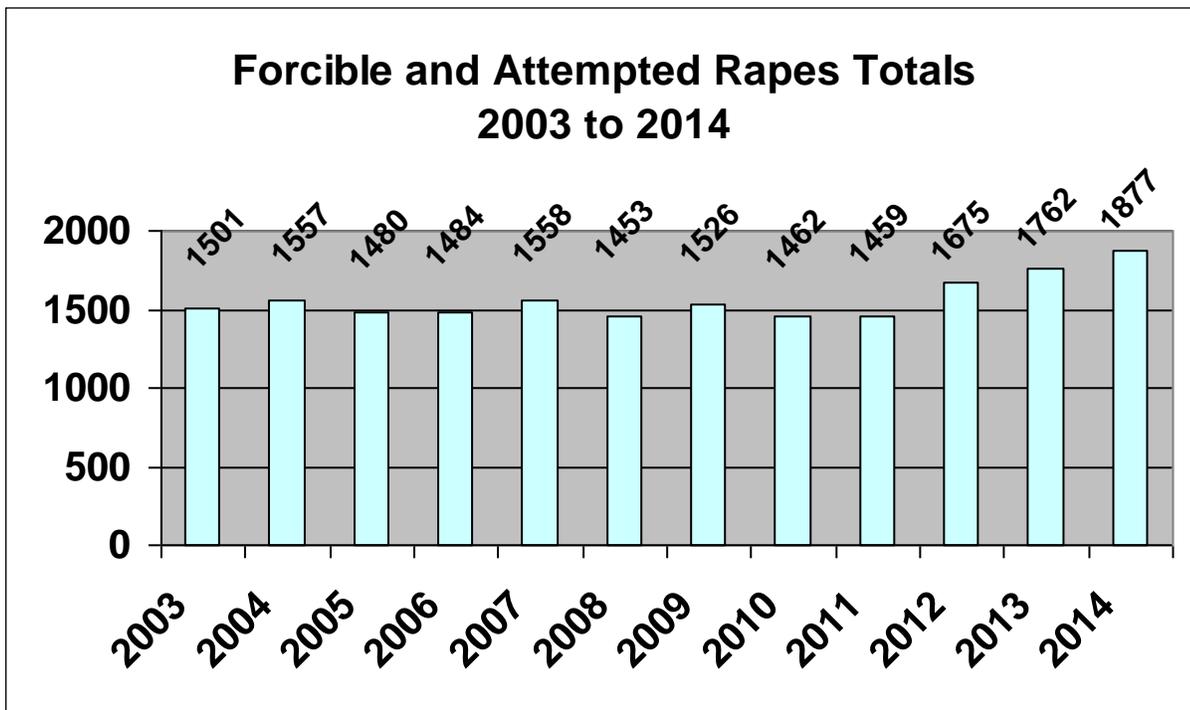
According to the OSBI, the 20 to 24-year old age group accounted for the highest percentage of murder victims with 29 victims. This was followed by the 30 to 34 year-olds with 25 victims, and 25 to 29-year-olds, with 23 victims. Male victims outnumber female victims approximately two to one. Murders accounted for 1.1% of all violent crimes.

Firearms were employed in 60.1% of all reported murders. The use of a knife or other cutting device was involved in 17.4% of the murders. The murder of one family member by another accounted for 20.8% of all murders. Of the 178 offenses, 27 homicides resulted from a spouse, ex-spouse, girlfriend or boyfriend, killing their intimate partner.

**Rape**

Rape is defined as “the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without consent from the victim.” Statutory rapes reported to law enforcement are not included in this crime category. - Forcible rape differs from other violent crime in that the victim, in many cases, is hesitant to report the offense to the police. It should be noted that because the crime of rape is so significantly underreported, this data is under representative of the true picture of rape in Oklahoma.

<b>MURDERS IN OKLAHOMA 1996 - 2013</b>	
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1996	223
1997	229
1998	204
1999	231
2000	181
2001	185
2002	163
2003	206
2004	187
2005	187
2006	207
2007	222
2008	212
2009	229
2010	191
2011	219
2012	219
2013	207
2014	178



UCR data divides rape into (1) rape by force and (2) attempts to rape. In 2014, law enforcement reported 1,877 reported forcible rapes *and* attempted rapes.

This crime accounted for approximately 11.9% of all violent crimes that were reported. A total of 597 rapes were cleared by arrest or exceptional means, resulting in a clearance rate of 31.8%.

### Robbery

Robbery is defined as “the felonious and forcible taking of property from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by violence or putting the person in fear and against his or her will.”

Law enforcement also reports weapon type for robberies using the following categories: gun, knife or cutting instrument, other dangerous weapon, and strong-arm robbery.

Law enforcement reported 3,028 robberies in 2014. Robberies accounted for 19.1% of all reported violent crimes and 2.3% of all index crimes. There were 964 robberies cleared, resulting in a clearance rate of 31.8%.

The highest percentage of persons arrested for robbery (47.0%) was in the 18 to 24 -year olds. The largest number of offenses, 882 or 29.1%, occurred on the residence (anywhere on the premises), followed by robberies on the highway. Armed robbery with any type of weapon occurred in 63.0% of the offenses.

### Aggravated Assault

Aggravated assault is defined as “an unlawful attack or an attempt to attack through force or violence to do physical injury to another”. An aggravated assault may be committed with a gun, knife, or other cutting instrument, other dangerous weapon, or through the aggravated use of hands, fists, or feet.

All assaults where no weapon is used and which results in minor injuries are classified as non-aggravated and are not counted in the index crime totals.

In 2014, law enforcement reported 10,804 aggravated assaults. Aggravated assaults account for 68.0% of all violent crimes and 8.3% of the index crimes. A total of 5,380 aggravated assaults were cleared by arrest or exceptional means, representing a clearance rate of 49.8%. The 18 year-old to 24 year-old age group accounted for 23.6% of the persons arrested for aggravated assault.

## **DRUG MARKET ANALYSIS AND DRUG-RELATED CRIME IN OKLAHOMA**

According to the 2014 National Drug Threat Assessment Summary, the number of methamphetamine laboratories seized in Mexico has increased significantly since 2008, and methamphetamine seizures at the southwest Border increased more than three-fold over the last five years. Methamphetamine produced in Mexico has extremely high purity and potency levels. In 2012, purity levels averaged close to 90 percent, while prices remained low and stable.

Marijuana is still the most widely available and commonly abused illicit drug in the United States. The 2014 National Drug Threat Assessment Summary states that 80 percent of responding agencies reported the availability of marijuana was high in their jurisdiction. This problem is compounded with the large-scale importation from Mexico along with the legalized marijuana and “medical marijuana” initiatives.

According to the 2011 North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) report to Congress, the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area is an area recognized as a national distribution center for illicit drugs, due to its proximity to the United States/Mexican border and the multiple transportation routes available. Law enforcement investigations show that Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) are the primary supplier of wholesale quantities of methamphetamines, powder cocaine, commercial grade marijuana, and black tar heroin. These DTOs use “cell heads” in Dallas and Oklahoma City to manage the wholesale narcotic distribution within these markets. The North Texas HIDTA encompasses 15 northern Texas Counties and six Oklahoma counties. The National Seizure System data for 2009 indicated that illicit drugs originating from within the North Texas HIDTA were destined for states such as Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

As a major supplier of wholesale quantities of illicit drugs, some DTOs work with members of African American and Hispanic Street gangs to distribute methamphetamine, marijuana, and cocaine at the retail level. Several of the JAG funded task forces are reporting that a large DTO is operating from behind prison walls. These same task forces are in the process of combining investigations and joining forces with the DEA and other investigative agencies to address this issue.

Eighty-nine percent of all illicit drug arrests by the task forces in Oklahoma from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 involved either methamphetamine or marijuana.

### **Drug Arrests in Oklahoma**

Historically, one of the primary focuses of the JAG funding has been drug task forces. In 2009, the majority of the task forces expanded their scope to become Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces (DVCTFs) in order to be reflective of the actual work that was being accomplished with the JAG Funds. A drug and violent crime task force is defined as “a multijurisdictional task force that includes (a) full-time officers; (b) from a variety of different law enforcement agencies; (c) within a specific geographic region; (d) that conduct drug and violent crime investigations and drug enforcement activities; and (e) that conduct investigations across a geographic region that spans individual

departmental jurisdiction.”

In addition to investigating drug enforcement cases, the DVCTFs have also investigated the following types of cases: 1) Homicides; 2) Shooting with Intent to Kill; 3) Sexual Assault; 4) Child Physical and Sexual Abuse; 5) Explosives; 6) Robberies; 7) Property Crimes; 8) Arson; 9) Kidnapping; and, 10) Human Trafficking.

In Oklahoma, like the rest of the nation, law enforcement budgets are increasingly strained, especially in rural areas. Law enforcement officers in small towns, cities, and counties are staffed at bare minimum. DVCTFs assist local law enforcement by lending expertise in the drug enforcement and violent crime areas.

In the 2012-2013 grant year, 19 multijurisdictional DVCTFs were funded. Due to a federal reduction in funds in the 2013-2014 grant year, the number of task forces was reduced to 13. In an effort to maximize funds available for 2013-2014, the Board only funded personnel and benefits for investigators, prosecutors, and /or project directors. In the 2014-2015 grant year, with virtually the same amount of available funds, the same logic was applied. Only personnel and benefits were funded, and again, only investigators, prosecutors, and/or project directors were funded in order to keep the 13 task forces funded.

While the current JAG recipients are still implementing their grant programs, a look at the accomplishments of the task forces in 2014 indicated that the task forces reported a total of 1,782 arrests during the grant period. Of these arrests, 935, or 61%, were arrested for methamphetamine, or methamphetamine-related violations, compared to 28% arrested for marijuana violations. Arrests for amphetamine and/or methamphetamine have ranked the highest in the number of arrests, followed by marijuana since 2006. In 2013, these two drugs accounted for 89% of the total number of drug arrests.

**Persons Arrested By Task Forces for Illegal Substance and Violation  
July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2015**

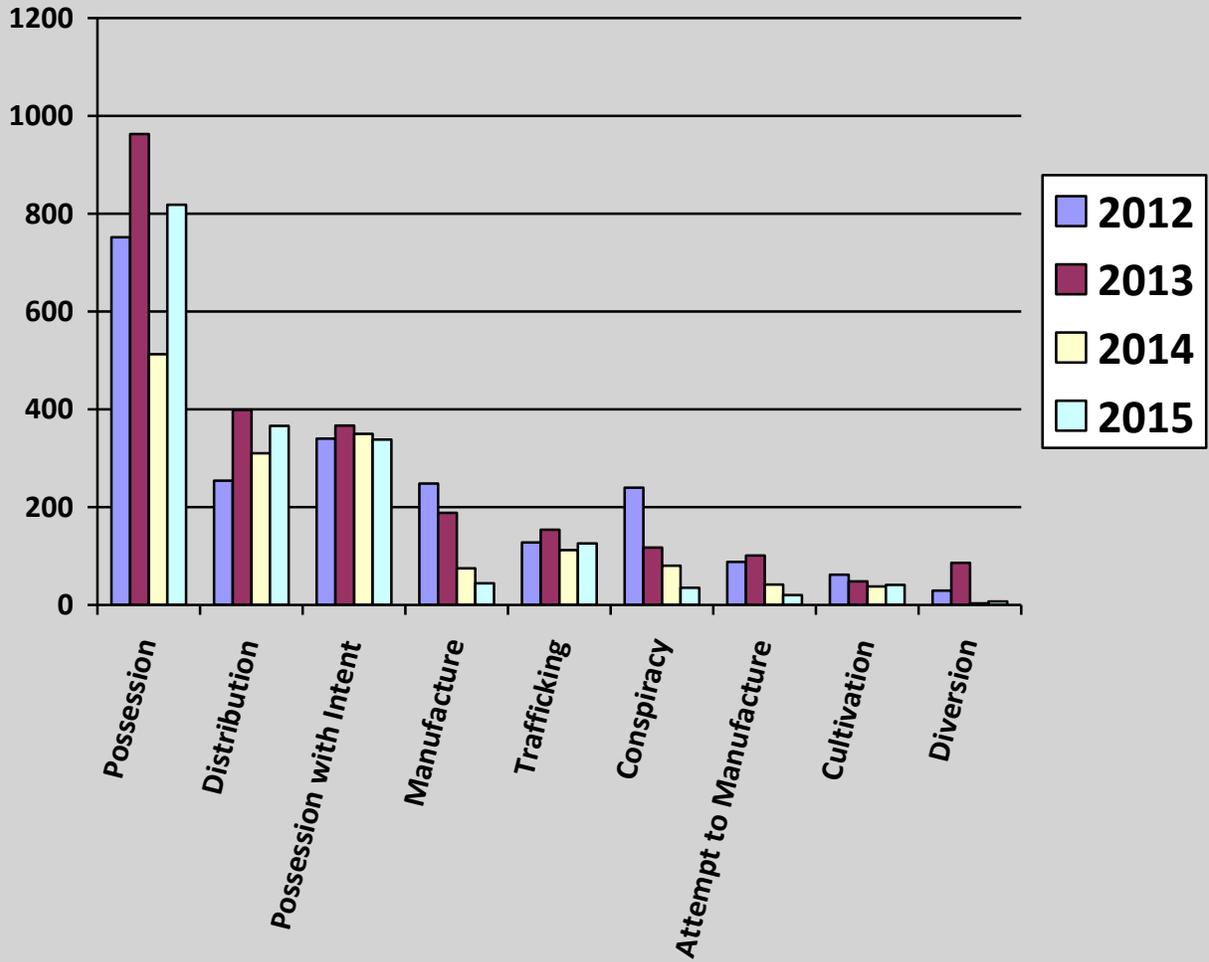
<b>Drug</b>	<b>Possession</b>	<b>Possession with intent</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Manufacture</b>	<b>Conspiracy</b>	<b>Cultivation</b>	<b>Diversion</b>	<b>Attempt to Manufacture</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage of Arrests by Substance</b>
Amphetamine Methamphetamine	1,337	601	365	731	550	329	0	64	251	<b>4,228</b>	<b>55%</b>
Marijuana	1,087	367	54	170	0	44	175	0	0	<b>1,897</b>	<b>25%</b>
Cocaine-all except Crack	47	41	31	36	2	16	0	0	0	<b>173</b>	<b>2%</b>
Pharmaceuticals	385	123	10	322	4	21	0	87	0	<b>952</b>	<b>12%</b>
Crack Cocaine	34	24	31	55	4	53	0	0	0	<b>201</b>	<b>3%</b>
Heroin	75	34	11	23	0	3	14	0	0	<b>160</b>	<b>2%</b>
Designer Drugs Such as Ecstasy	45	23	1	21	0	8	0	0	0	<b>98</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>7,709</b>	
<b>Percent of Arrests by Violation</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

However, an extremely important trend is found in a three-year comparison, which indicates that there is an increase in the number of arrests by DVCTFs for more serious drug-related crimes, such as possession with intent and distribution. The cost of some drugs such as methamphetamine has dropped due to the Mexican Cartel; there is very little manufacturing right now. The marijuana market is almost exclusively either medical marijuana or from states where it is legal.

Eighty percent of the drug arrests involve methamphetamine or marijuana. Both illegal pharmaceuticals and heroin is on the rise. Illegal prescriptions are easy to obtain and very profitable, while the cost of heroin is relatively low and becoming more accessible in Oklahoma.

**For all drug related activity, 39% of the arrests were for possession.** Drug task forces typically do not focus on simple possession offenses, but sometimes these types of cases occur as a result of executing search warrants at dwellings which may be occupied by several individuals. Also, persons arrested for possession are encouraged to work with the investigators in an effort to locate the source of the drugs.

**COMPARISON OF PERSONS ARRESTED BY  
DRUG-RELATED ACTIVITY  
2011-2015**



The Drug Task Forces seized a significant amount of illegal drugs in their investigations from July 2011 to June 2015. The following chart outlines 97% of the drug arrests since July 2011. Based on current street drug values, task forces seized **\$22,021,020** in illegal drugs.

<b>TYPE OF DRUGS SEIZED</b>	<b>AMOUNT OF DRUGS SEIZED</b>	<b>ALTERNATE EXAMPLE</b>	<b>OSBI ESTIMATED STREET VALUE</b>	<b>LOCAL STREET VALUE</b>
Crack Cocaine	13 pounds	<b>A sack of potatoes.</b>	\$45,000 per pound x 13 pounds	\$585,000
Cocaine	73 pounds	<b>An average 10 year old child.</b>	\$20,000 per pound x 73 pounds	\$1,460,000
Amphetamine/ Methamphetamine	529 pounds	<b>The weight of a Grizzly bear.</b>	\$17,000 per pound x 529 pounds	\$8,993,000
Marijuana	7,355 pounds	<b>The weight of two compact vehicles.</b>	\$1,500 per pound x 7,355 pounds	\$11,032,500
Diverted Pharmaceuticals	31,052 dosage units (pills)	<b>One pill a day for 88 years.</b>	\$10 per dosage unit x 31,052 units	\$310,520
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$22,381,020</b>

A very important element of DVCTFs is the **integration of their services** with the local law enforcement system **within their community**. Many local law enforcement agencies rely heavily not only on the DVCTF's expertise but their manpower and equipment. Throughout the state, the task force investigators provided assistance in 16,308 incidents to local law enforcement during the four-year period. Examples of assistance include helping an agency write or serve search or arrest warrants, manhunts, photographing crime scenes, sharing intelligence, lending surveillance equipment, conducting interviews or interrogations, completing field tests on suspected contraband, etc. The technical assistance and expertise provided by the Drug Task Forces is invaluable to local law enforcement. In addition to making arrests and providing assistance to local law enforcement, task force investigators:

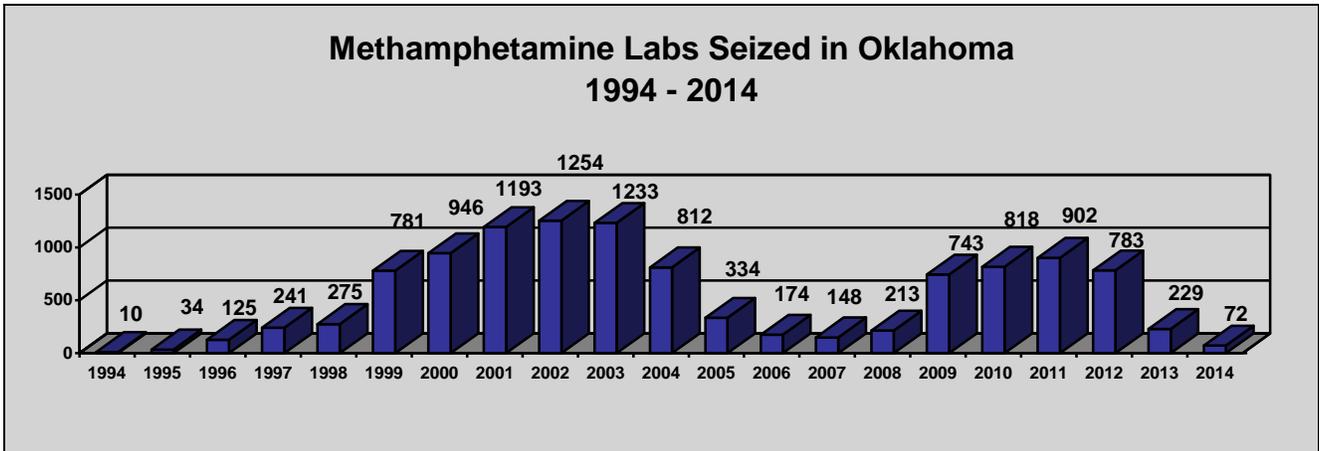
- Served **2,510 search warrants**;
- Responded to **654 lab seizures**;
- Assisted **124 minors** at the scenes;
- Provided **657 drug-awareness and drug prevention programs** throughout the state;
- Provided **training for 22,680 community members and or professionals**; and,
- Provided **training for 5,072 law enforcement professionals**.

The North Texas HIDTA reports that the most significant drug threat to the North Texas region (which includes Oklahoma) is methamphetamine. Many think that the methamphetamine problem had been addressed with the passage of Oklahoma's pseudoephedrine control bill in 2004. Certainly, a

significant decline, nearly 90%, in the number of methamphetamine lab seizures was realized between 2005 and 2008.

However, in 2008, there was a steady increase in the number of methamphetamine lab seizures. The reason for the increase was a new methamphetamine recipe that uses smaller amounts of pseudoephedrine, thus allowing meth cooks to avoid Oklahoma’s pseudoephedrine purchase limits. Known as the “One Pot” or “Shake and Bake” lab, this new recipe was responsible for the increase in meth lab seizures: 213 labs in 2008, 743 labs in 2009, 818 in 2010, 902 in 2011 and 783 in 2012. However, in 2013 there was a decrease in methamphetamine labs seized with 229 and only 72 labs seized in the 2014 grant year.

The decrease in methamphetamine labs is due, at least in part to stricter policing of pseudoephedrine sales and a corresponding drop in the price of Mexican methamphetamine. This is causing a rise in the importation of Mexican Cartel methamphetamine, which will be more difficult and dangerous to detect and control.



## **PURPOSE AREA TWO: PROSECUTION AND COURT PROGRAMS**

### **Overview**

Traditionally, criminal court in the U.S. is an adversarial system in which those accused of crime take part in a truth-finding process involving a prosecutor, a defense attorney, and a judge. The prosecutor's primary function is to seek justice and protect the public safety and welfare of the community. The prosecutor is an advocate for justice, the victim, and the community they serve. Their obligation is to protect the innocent, convict the guilty, guard the rights of the accused, and enforce the rights of the public. It sometimes takes a creative approach to meet all these goals and expectations. In recent years, especially with drug crimes, prosecutors have begun to test new techniques for not just prosecuting the cases presented, but to try to break the cycle of crime. This has ushered in a new era of cooperation with defense attorneys.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees those accused of committing a crime have the right to the "assistance of counsel" and a defense attorney's primary responsibility is make sure offenders' rights have not been violated and that they are afforded due process. However, they also see the need to break the cycle of crime and recognize their clients need an advocate as much as they need a lawyer. Alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders that involve treatment programs for drug and mental health issues are a workable, cost-effective alternative to jail or prison.

Some cases which meet specific criteria are assigned to Specialty or "Problem-Solving" Courts within the criminal court system. These specialty courts focus on the needs of a particular group of offenders or victims. They are designed to address the root causes of crime by focusing on the underlying problems of litigants which may not be addressed in a traditional court setting. There are a number of specialty courts currently operating in Oklahoma, including adult and juvenile drug courts, mental health courts, veterans' drug court, and family drug courts.

When the adversarial system is balanced and functioning smoothly, offenders receive the services they need to increase the likelihood they will not reoffend, and jails and prisons are not used for supervision of offenders who are more appropriately managed in the community. While the JAG Program is one of the very few federal grant programs which support the efforts of local law enforcement, it is also in place to recognize the necessity of collaboration and cooperation within all aspects of the criminal justice system in order to improve public safety. The JAG Program's second purpose area focuses on prosecution and court programs that complement the enhanced efforts made by law enforcement.

### **PROSECUTION**

In Oklahoma, the District Attorneys represent between one and five counties in their individual districts. In addition to the 27 elected District Attorneys, there are 294 prosecutors, 103 investigators, 27 victim-witness coordinators, and more than 535 support staff, which include numerous victim-witness assistants, within the District Attorneys' system throughout the state.

The purpose of the District Attorneys' system is to represent the State in the prosecution of criminal offenses. "While the underlying methods have remained virtually unchanged since our

nation’s founding, criminal courts have evolved over time through new laws, court decisions, and a new approach to crime fighting, ultimately moving toward a system that is more equitable and efficient,” according to the National Criminal Justice Association.

In 2014, there were over 94,000 cases filed by Oklahoma’s District Attorneys. All of the District Attorney Offices, except Oklahoma and Tulsa counties, utilize JustWare Case Management software. Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties utilize separate management systems.

According to data from JustWare, 68,278 cases were filed by prosecutors in the 75 participating counties in 2014. Tulsa County filed 13,670 cases, including 6,592 felonies and 7,078 misdemeanors. Oklahoma County filed 12,884 cases, including 8,764 felonies and 4,120 misdemeanors.

Oklahoma Felony and Misdemeanor Filings 2014	
Tulsa County	13,670
Oklahoma County	12,884
All Other Counties	68,278
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94,832</b>

### **CAPITAL CRIME IN OKLAHOMA**

Oklahoma is comprised of 25 rural District Attorney districts and 2 metropolitan District Attorney districts, Oklahoma and Tulsa counties. The 25 rural district attorney districts represent 75 of the 77 counties in Oklahoma. As is the case with all criminal cases, capital murder cases are generally handled by the individual District Attorney's office where the criminal charges are filed. . These are complex and emotionally challenging cases with the prosecutor, judge and jury each having a part in determining whether a particular murder should be punished with death.

Capital murder cases routinely involve a myriad of complex issues such as evidentiary issues dealing with the collection, preservation and testing of biological evidence, identification and interrogation related issues, intellectual disabilities or mental illness issues, etc. Moreover, pursuant to Title 21, Section 701.13, an appeal is mandatory in capital litigation cases. Due to the nature of these cases, the cases are highly scrutinized on appeal, a process that generally takes years. When error is found, the passage of time, erosion of memory, and dispersion of witnesses makes retrial extremely challenging and costly. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance these cases be handled correctly all the way through the process by well-trained judges, prosecutors and investigators.

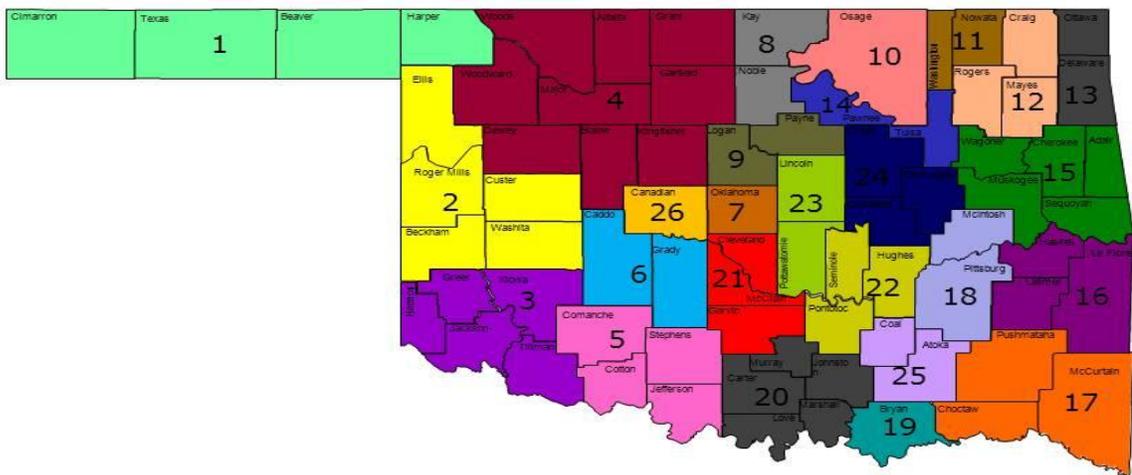
Unfortunately, the experience level of the prosecutors handling these cases varies widely. Not only is experience in handling capital and homicide cases a major concern, the resources available to assist rural prosecutors are extremely limited in a majority of the district attorney districts. To further complicate matters, the statewide district attorney's system has suffered a three percent (3%) reduction in state appropriated dollars since FY 2016. Consequently, Oklahoma's statewide district attorney system desperately needs centralized resources to aid prosecutors in the proper handling of capital murder cases from the initial determination to seek the death penalty through trial.

Training of prosecutors, law enforcement, judges and defense attorneys, is also pivotal to ensure these multifaceted cases are appropriately handled with the knowledge, expertise and skill warranted.

## COURTS

Oklahoma's 77 counties are divided into 26 judicial districts. Similar to district attorney districts, judicial districts vary in size from one county in a district to a district with nine counties. The number of judges in the districts range in number from three judges in very rural and small districts to as many as thirty-four in the districts that include Oklahoma City and Tulsa. In some instances, the judicial districts in Oklahoma are the same as the District Attorney district; however, in others, the judicial districts can vary slightly from the District Attorney districts.

### Oklahoma Judicial Court Districts



According to the 2014 Annual Report from the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, there were 543,576 cases filed in the 26 Judicial Districts. These totals not only include felony and misdemeanor cases, but also civil cases, small claims, divorce, protective orders, all other domestic cases, adoptions, probate, mental health cases, guardianship cases, marriage licenses, other licenses, traffic cases, and juvenile cases, as well.

Additionally, these totals do not factor in the cases still pending from previous years. When added to the new filings, the caseloads are staggering. Three Judicial Districts had over 70,000 cases pending in each of their districts at the beginning of FY 14, with one Judicial District having almost 110,000 cases pending.

## SPECIALTY COURTS

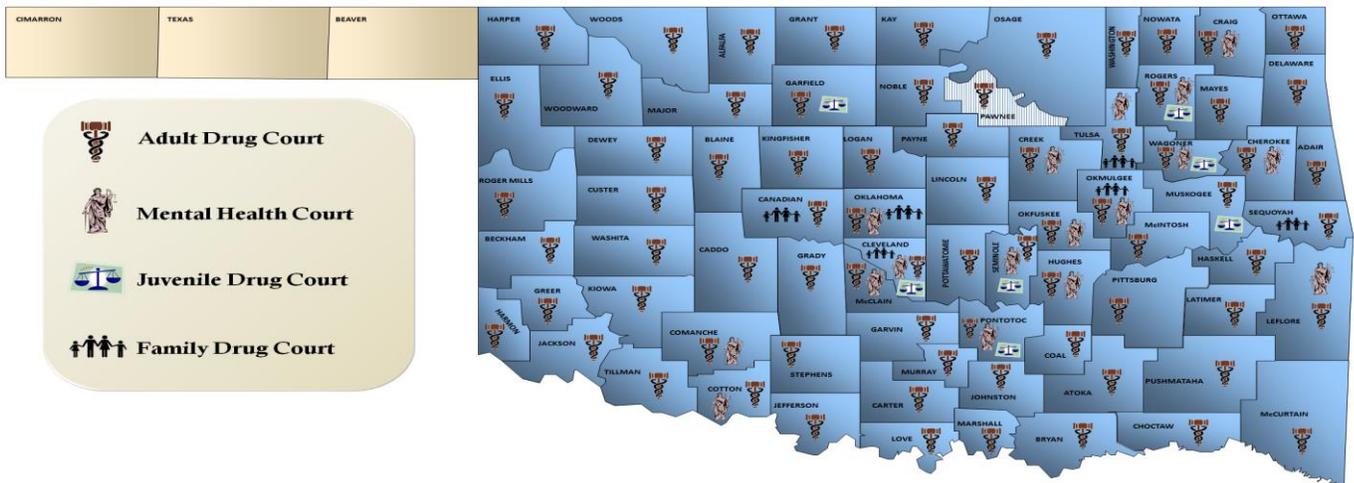
The first drug court, supported by Byrne JAG funding, was developed in 1989 in Dade County, Florida, as a way to stop the revolving door of drug addiction and crime. The approach has been replicated in more than 2,500 drug courts nationwide, and the model used as a springboard for other specialty courts. These include domestic violence, mental health, reentry, veterans, DWI, community,

and gun courts. Some jurisdictions are also seeing results from specialty courts related to sexual offenses courts, elder courts, and gambling courts.

Oklahoma supports a number of specialty courts, or problem-solving courts, including adult and juvenile drug courts, mental health courts, veteran’s drug court, and family drug courts. Specialty courts increase the likelihood of rehabilitation for the offender or protection of the victim; unlog the criminal docket; reduce prison overcrowding; and, ultimately, improve public safety. Although specialty courts vary among jurisdictions, they each include the overarching principles of judicial oversight; individualized assessments; enhanced communication and collaboration between and among court and allied professionals, social service providers and the community; specialized training for staff; increased accountability for the offender; appropriate sanctions and incentives; and, data analysis that measures outcomes.

According to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS), there are currently 45 adult drug courts serving 73 counties, 7 juvenile drug courts, 13 mental health courts serving 16 counties, several drug courts with veteran's dockets, and 6 family drug courts operating in the state. Several task force investigators are permanent members of their local drug court. These investigators aid in compliance checks and often refer offenders to drug court.

## Drug Courts & Mental Health Courts FY2015



Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

As is indicated by the number, drug courts are generally well established in Oklahoma. However, mental health courts and veteran’s drug courts are relatively new. The Oklahoma Department of Corrections 2014 Annual Report indicated 16,092 offenders have mental health needs - 75% of female offenders and 53% of male offenders. In addition, 57% of inmates diagnosed with a mental illness were incarcerated for non-violent offenses. The Oklahoma County Jail population includes as many as 500 persons with a mental illness at any one time while Tulsa County Jail has at least 200.

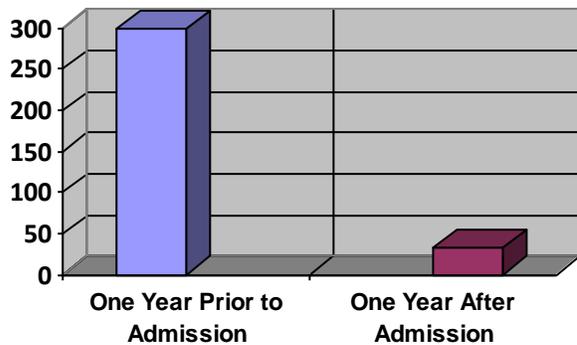
The Oklahoma Department of Corrections identified the average annual cost to house an inmate with mental health needs is \$23,000, while the average annual cost for mental health court is \$5,400. This amounts to a savings of \$17,600 per year per participant. Additionally, mental health court programs decrease unemployment, decrease jail days, and decrease inpatient hospitalization days, leading to further savings.

The goals of mental health courts are to break the cycle of worsening mental illness resulting in criminal behavior and to provide effective treatment options instead of using criminal sanctions for offenders with mental illnesses.

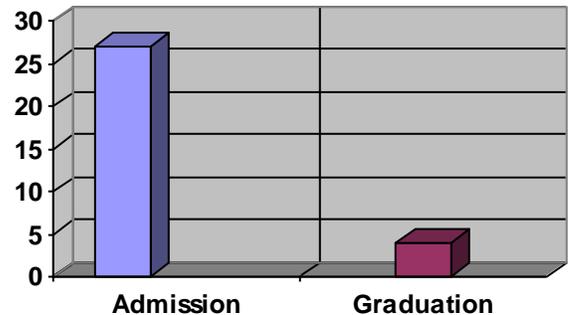
To be eligible to participate in this specialty court, offenders must have a mental illness, along with a current criminal offense (or are facing revocation), and no prior violent charges. Mental health court is a voluntary program in which defendants are given the option of taking their case through the normal channels of the criminal justice system or pleading into the mental health court program.

Mental health courts are currently operating in 16 counties in Oklahoma and as of January 2014, there were 426 participants enrolled in mental health courts around the State. Outcome comparisons for graduates between entry into the program and graduation show measurable differences in several areas like unemployment, days spent in inpatient settings, arrests, and number of days spent in jail.

**Number of Arrests**



**Unemployment Percentage Rates**



## **PURPOSE AREA THREE: PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

### **Overview**

In Oklahoma the juvenile justice system is separate from the adult criminal justice system. Unlike adult systems, juvenile justice services not only respond to youthful offenders but they also implement creative and innovative ways to prevent at-risk juveniles from sliding into delinquent behavior, like gang activity and drug use, that will bring them into contact with the criminal justice system.

A large body of research indicates that education and prevention programs targeted at at-risk youth can prevent them from participating in delinquent activities, in particular programs that target either individuals, families, or an entire community. According to the DOJ, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency (OJJDP), national placement rates declined from 1997 to 2010, although not all states experienced a decline in their residential placement populations. Detention rates increased in about one-quarter of the states, while rates declined in the other three-quarters. Almost 9 out of 10 (88 percent) of the states had lower commitment rates in 2010 than in 1997.

Research shows that the adolescent brain is not fully developed in judgment, problem solving, and decision making capacities. Because youth respond more readily to treatment and are more easily influenced and amenable to restorative and rehabilitative approaches, they are also more responsive to prevention and education programs that are introduced at or slightly before the developmental points at which they begin to predict later problem behaviors. In addition, family and community-based approaches to youth have been found to be more cost-efficient. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy estimates that it costs \$5,000 annually to provide youth with family and community-based therapies, compared to approximately \$88,000 annually for incarceration. Incarcerated youth also need more protection than adults. Juveniles in secure facilities are at heightened risk of physical and sexual assault and emotional injury. OJJDP has also found that youth in adult courts are more likely to reoffend, reoffend more quickly, and reoffend more severely than those treated in juvenile justice system for the same type of offense and with similar prior records. Federal law requires states to maintain a separate system for court-involved youth apart from adult criminal justice systems and programs.

### **JUVENILE JUSTICE IN OKLAHOMA**

The Oklahoma Legislature passed the Juvenile Reform Act (H.B. 2640) in 1994 creating the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) effective July 1, 1995. This legislation also created the Youthful Offender Act to provide swift justice for serious and habitual juvenile offenders from between the ages of 15 to 17. Through innovative programs, increased community involvement, and an enhanced, open relationship with the judiciary, a new era of juvenile justice was underway in Oklahoma.

OJA currently has 8 districts in the state. This number reflects a reduction from 11 districts in 2009. Budget cuts have had a major impact on the agency and forced changes in personnel, programs, and facilities in recent years. In FY 2010, OJA closed the Thunderbird Academy, in addition to two other facilities, and reduced available beds by a third. Several community-based services were also reduced



OJA includes several options for services when dealing with juveniles in the criminal justice system including, residential services, non-residential services, detention, and community-based programs. Statistics on the number of juveniles sentenced to probation programs or detention centers follow the trend indicated by the types of crimes, felonies or misdemeanors, being referred to OJA in that there are more juveniles being sentenced to probation than detention.

## **GANG PREVENTION**

Youth join gangs for protection, enjoyment, respect, money, or because of a friend or associate that is in a gang. Research from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) indicates that youth make the conscious choice to join a gang during adolescence and they do not always choose serious, violent gangs. Instead they choose “starter gangs” that are either cliques or sets of more violent gangs, or they choose completely independent entities with no affiliation to larger gangs. These starter gangs usually engage in minor delinquent behaviors. Starter gangs are typically very unstable, as adolescents move from peer group to peer group and many researchers view this early gang activity as a social network instead of any kind of criminal organization. However, the early affiliation can determine future actions.

There are two factors that contribute to the decision to enter, stay, or progress in a gang: 1) attraction and 2) risk factors. Many think gangs “recruit” their members through coercion. However, most young people who join gangs are attracted to the gang lifestyle. Gangs are social systems that have parties, provide a group to “hang out,” use drugs, and meet members of the opposite sex. When it comes to the outside influences on the choice to join a gang, many adolescents join for protection. Another important influence is family members or friends who are already gang members. There are several personal risk factors that can make certain children and adolescents more likely to join gangs. These include antisocial behavior, alcohol and drug use, mental health problems, victimization, and negative life events. Preventing these kids from gang activity requires early education and intervention.

In 2012, there were an estimated 30,700 gangs (an increase from 29,900 in 2011) and 850,000 gang members (an increase from 782,500 in 2011) throughout 3,100 jurisdictions with gang problems (down from 3,300 in 2011). The number of reported gang-related homicides increased 20 percent from 1,824 in 2011 to 2,363 in 2012.

<b>Area Type</b>	<b>Youth Gang Activity Reported in 2012</b>	<b>Youth Gang Activity Consistently Reported 2008-2012</b>
Larger cities	85.6	79.4
Suburban counties	49.5	37.8
Smaller cities	25.4	20.3
Rural counties	16.0	9.8

Eighty-seven percent responded to the 2012 National Youth Gang Survey. In 2012, gangs were active in slightly less than 30 percent of the responding jurisdictions. This estimate has declined slightly over the past 4 consecutive years and is at the lowest point in nearly a decade. The decline from 2011 to 2012 can be almost solely attributed to the drop in smaller cities, where gang prevalence has decreased nearly 10 percentage points since 2010. Across jurisdiction types, prevalence rates of gang

activity followed a marked decline in the late 1990s, increased in the early 2000s, and, with the exception of smaller cities, have generally stabilized in recent years.

One of the strongest risk factors for gang membership is associating with peers who engage in delinquent activities. Aggressive and antisocial teens begin to affiliate with one another when they are young and they continue a pattern of aggressive friendships through adolescence. This is one of the strongest predictors of future gang activity in youth. Coupled with community conditions that are conducive to gang development and activity, the already aggressive and antisocial youth will gravitate toward gang activities. Gangs are more likely to be found in high-crime and disadvantaged neighborhoods where their presence usually increases the level of criminal activity, catches the attention of the neighborhood kids, and makes firearms and drugs available. One or two risk factors in a single child may not indicate a propensity for gang activity; however, there is a cumulative effect – the more risk factors there are, the greater the risk of a negative outcome. It is important to note that no matter how many risk factors exist they do not *cause* kids to join gangs.

OJJDP promotes a balance of prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies when targeting four groups of gang involvement:

**Group 1:** These are the serious, chronic and most violent gang and non-gang offenders. These may be fewer in number, but they commit the largest amount of crimes. **Strategy:** Targeted enforcement and prosecution because of their high-level of involvement in crime and violence.

**Group 2:** These are the gang-involved youth and their friends. This will be a larger population. They are involved in significant levels of gang activity, but are not committing crimes in high numbers. **Strategy:** Intensive treatment services and supervision that include group therapy, family therapy, mentoring, and behavior therapy.

**Group 3:** These are the high-risk youth ages 7 to 14. They have displayed early signs of delinquency and an elevated risk for gang membership, but have not yet become gang involved. **Strategy:** Less intensive services than those in Group 2, but more individualized than those for Group 4.

**Group 4:** This is all of the kids living where gangs are present. **Strategy:** Primary prevention services and includes outreach to the entire population of an area with high crime rates and gang activity.

## Gang Prevention and Intervention Strategies



According to OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model, there are five strategies to decrease gang-related activities:

**Community Mobilization:** Involvement of local citizens, including former gang-involved youth, community groups, agencies, and coordination of programs and staff functions within and across agencies.

**Opportunities Provision:** Development of a variety of specific education, training, and employment programs targeting gang-involved youth.

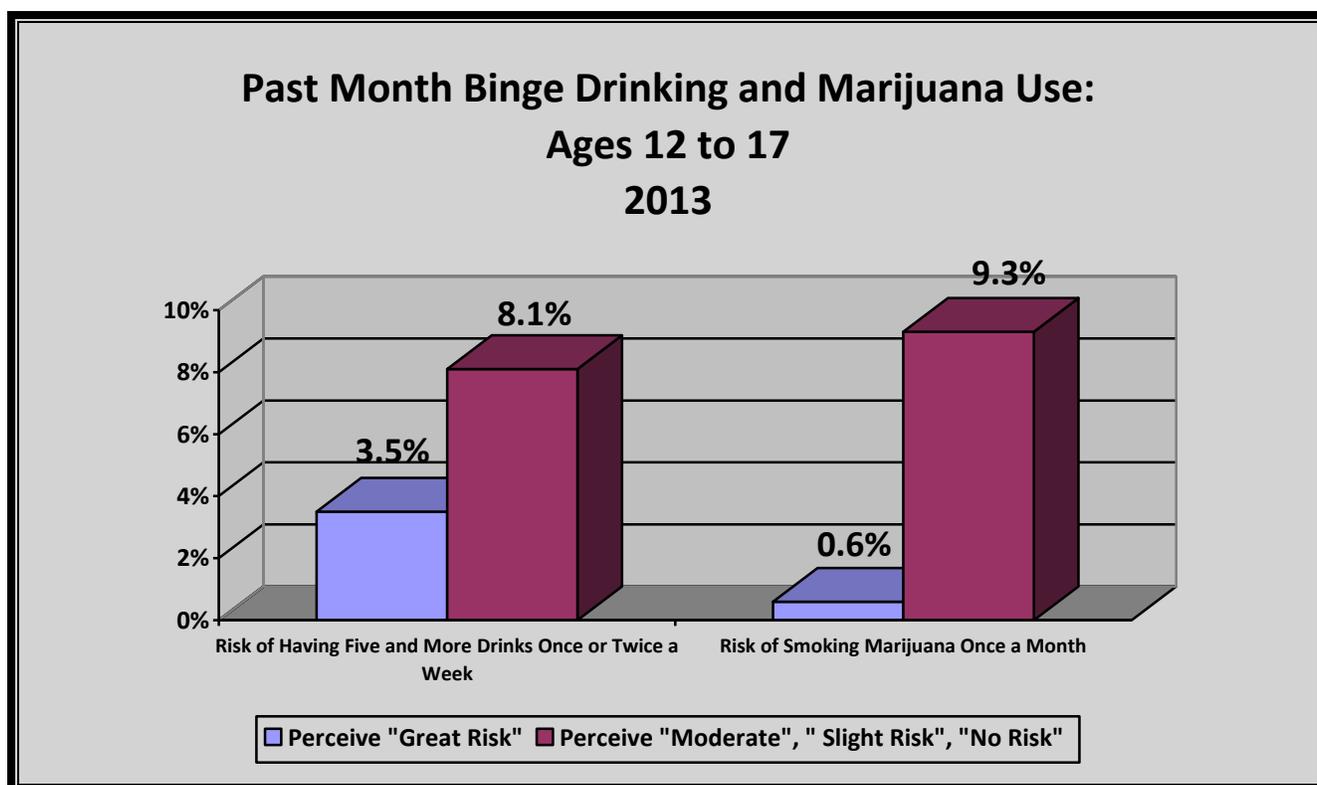
**Social Intervention:** Involving youth-serving agencies, schools, grassroots groups, faith based organizations, police, and other juvenile/criminal justice organizations in "reaching out" to gang-involved youth and their families, and linking them with the conventional world and needed services.

**Suppression:** Formal and informal social control procedures, including close supervision and monitoring of gang-involved youth by agencies of the juvenile/criminal justice system and also by community-based agencies, schools, and grassroots groups.

**Organizational Change and Development:** Development and implementation of policies and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources, within and across agencies, to better address the gang program.

## DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO PREVENTION

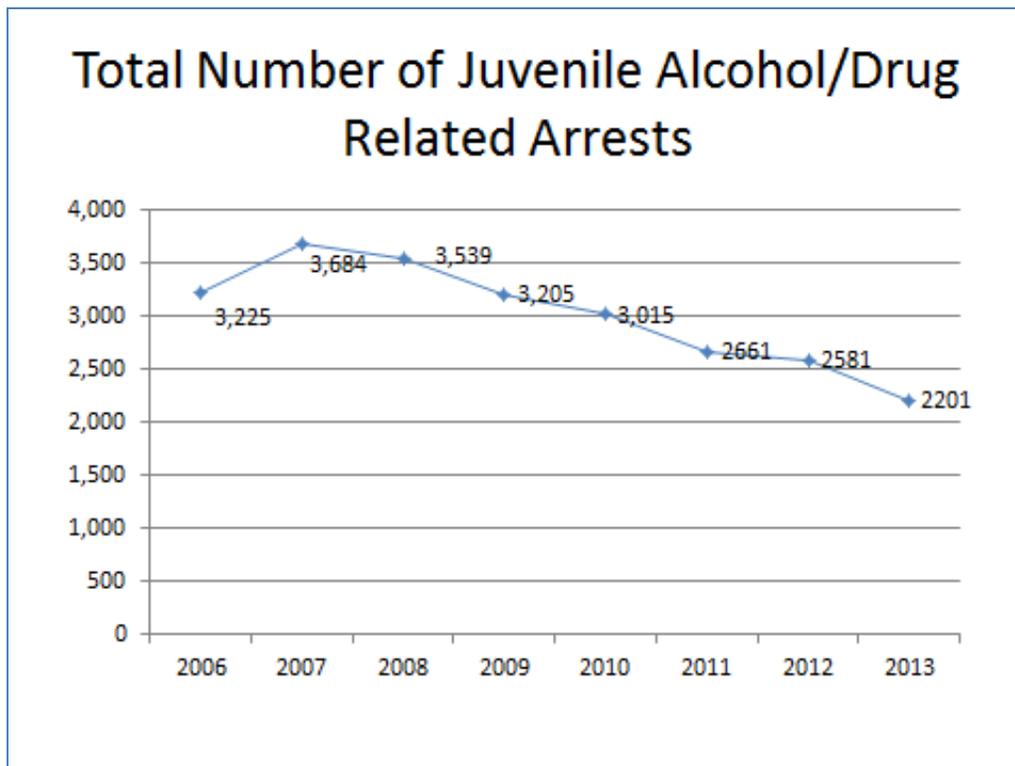
According to the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Summary of National Findings, one factor that influences whether or not a youth will use drugs is very similar to the decision to join a gang. Do they think the use of drugs will harm them and if so, to what extent? The lower the perception of “great risk” of harm, the greater the possibilities for drug use. The most concerning statistic gleaned from the survey indicated that the perception of risk in using drugs, whether it was marijuana or heroin, has significantly decreased since 2002. Not surprisingly, the reported use of different drugs increases as the perception of risk decreases. For example, the percentage of youth aged 12 to 17 indicating great risk in smoking marijuana once a month decreased from 34.4 percent in 2007 to 24.2 percent in 2013. These shifts in perception and increases in drug use come despite reports from 72.6% of respondents aged 12 to 17 who reported they had seen or heard prevention messages in school in 2013. On the other hand, only 10.0% of the same age group reported seeing any kind of prevention messages outside of the school setting in 2013.



The percentage of youth aged 12 to 17 indicating great risk in smoking marijuana once a month decreased from 34.5% in 2007 to 30% in 2012 and then to 24.2% in 2013, and the rate of youth perceiving great risk to smoking marijuana once or twice a week also decreased from 54.7% to 39.5% in 2013. The prevalence in marijuana use among that age group grew from 6.7% in 2008 to 7.4% in 2010 and then to 8.1% in 2013. More concerning are the rates of risk perception for other dangerous drugs like heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine. They all saw a decrease from 2002 to 2013.

Risk Perception from 2002 to 2013		
Drug	2002	2013
Heroin	82.5%	79.8%
Cocaine	79.8%	78.4%
LSD	76.2%	69.7%
Marijuana	51.5%	39.5%

Research suggests kids and teens that get into fights and participate in other delinquent behaviors are more likely to also use illicit drugs as opposed to kids who do not use drugs. For instance, in 2013, 17.7% of youth aged 12 to 17 reported that they had gotten into a serious fight at school or at work in the past year; 11.0% had taken part in a group-against-group fight; 5.1% attacked others in at least one instance with the intent to harm or seriously hurt them; 3.4% had carried a handgun at least once; 2.8% had, at least once, stolen or tried to steal something worth more than \$50; and 2.4% sold illegal drugs in the past year. The 2013 rates for taking part in a group-against-group fight and for stealing or trying to steal something worth more than \$50 among youth aged 12 to 17 were lower than the 2012 rates. In Oklahoma, there were 3,015 alcohol/drug-related arrests of juveniles in 2010. This is a slight decrease over 2009 and continues a downward trend that started in 2006. Alcohol/drug-related arrests continued to decline down to 2,201 in 2013.



The emerging trend among youth is the misuse of prescription drugs. There have not been major statistical changes in nonmedical pain reliever use from 2002 to 2009. After 2009 the trend decreased through 2013, but there are other trends that indicate a growing problem. The initiation rate for nonmedical pain reliever use is second only to marijuana, with nearly 2 million new nonmedical users per year since 2002. Over 500,000 of those people reported never using any other types of illicit drugs. These large numbers do include adult users; however, most teens take pain relievers they find in the medicine cabinets in their own homes or from those of their friends. The increased number of users increases the availability. Per the 2015 National Drug Threat Assessment, nearly 53% of persons 12 or older reported that they got pain relievers from a friend or relative for free while another 14.6% said they purchased or took them from a relative or friend.

Research has shown that substance abuse by adolescents can be prevented through interventions involving risk and protective factors associated with the onset of escalation of use. Interventions to prevent substance abuse are usually designed to decrease the influence of risk factors and enhance protective factors. There are several evidence-based substance abuse prevention programs in place across the country. One of the most prominent examples is the Project ALERT Program.

In 2014, 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the last month:

- 9.0% used alcohol
- 8.7% used e-cigarettes
- 6.5% used marijuana
- 4.0% smoked cigarettes
- 2.7% have been drunk
- 2.2% used inhalants

Project ALERT gives middle school-age children insight and skills for resisting substance abuse. It is included on the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices. In 2015 there were 540 teachers in Oklahoma currently trained in the Project ALERT curriculum. The curriculum was designed, developed, and tested for over 10 years by RAND Drug Policy Research Center. Program successes include:

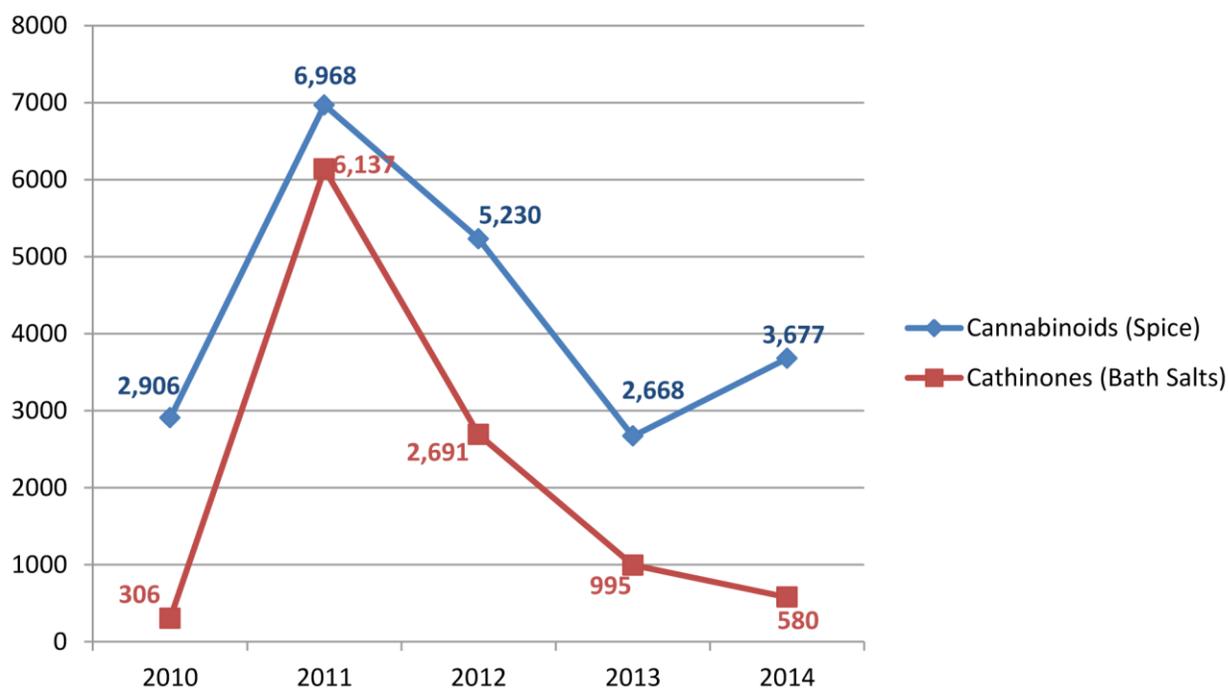
- 24% lower alcohol misuse scores
- 23% lower tobacco use
- 20% reduction of highest-risk early drinkers
- 26% decrease in current marijuana use

The program is designed to help motivate kids and teens to avoid using drugs and teach the skills they need to resist peer pressure. It includes 11 lessons the first year and three (3) the second year. Lessons include small-group activities, question-and-answer sessions, role-playing, and skills practice to engage student participation. The goals are to help students understand the risks of drug use, recognize the benefits of nonuse, and resist pressure to try or use drugs.

The scarcity of school-based, and especially community-based, prevention programs is one of the biggest challenges to making real community changes. Models for effective prevention and intervention programs have been successfully implemented through the federal grant programs such as Project Safe Neighborhoods and Weed and Seed programs.

Over the last several years, there has been an ever increasing rise in the availability and use of synthetic drugs, especially synthetic cannabinoids, commonly known as “Spice” and “K2”. Synthetic cannabinoid use remains prevalent throughout the United States. Synthetic cannabinoids are the fourth most popular drug used among 8th graders (after marijuana, inhalants, and amphetamines), the third most popular drug used among 10th graders (after marijuana and amphetamines) and the fourth most popular drug used among 12th graders (after marijuana, amphetamines, and Adderall®). In the most current Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey data, the percent of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders surveyed who used synthetic cannabinoids declined from 6.4 percent in 2013 to 4.8 percent in 2014.

This chart shows the number of calls to the American Association of Poison Control Centers from 2010 to 2014.



In 2014, two convenient store owners in northeast Oklahoma were convicted for selling synthetic marijuana. This was only the second conviction in the United States and the first in Oklahoma for selling synthetics. Both store owners face years in prison and possible forfeiture of over a \$1,000,000. The case is still in the appeal process.

While many do not think of tobacco as an illegal drug, it becomes illegal when used by those underage. The number of youth aged 12 or older who smoked cigarettes for the first time within the past 12 months was approximately 2.1 million in 2013. This averages to about 5,700 new cigarette smokes every day.

## **PURPOSE AREA FOUR: CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAM**

### **Overview**

Until recently, an individual convicted of a crime and sentenced to jail or prison would serve that time, and upon release, be given a bus ticket and pocket change and returned to the community. Beginning in the 1980s, with the crack cocaine epidemic and stricter sentencing laws, large numbers of non-violent drug offenders were incarcerated, ultimately leading to jail and prison overcrowding, spiraling corrections costs, and rising demands for finding new approaches to address addiction and criminal behavior. In 2014, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that 1 in 110 adults were in prison in the United States and that 1 in 51 adults were under some form of correctional control. In some states, the cost of the correctional system exceeds the cost of the higher education system.

Community corrections are an overarching term that refers to the supervision of offenders in almost all settings except prison, jail, or secure detention. The term also covers the supervision of, and services provided to, offenders returning to the community after incarceration. Community corrections rely on a valid risk assessment for each offender which provides a roadmap about the strategies that will be most effective for the individual offender and most likely will protect public safety. Often, the court or supervising agency imposes conditions and treatment requirements on the offender that must be met for him or her to remain in the community.

Parole is a type of community correction that imposes conditions or restrictions on an offender following a prison sentence. In contrast, probation may be imposed without a convicted person having been incarcerated. These types of community corrections are also commonly called aftercare, supervised release, or reentry. A parolee risks additional sanctions or a return to incarceration for violating the conditions of parole.

Some convicted offenders spend their sentences under some form of community supervision to participate in pretrial diversion programs, probation, parole, reentry programs, or other community corrections options that reduce recidivism and save taxpayer dollars. Moreover, even when offenders are sent to jail or prison, successful reentry into the community is critical to reducing recidivism.

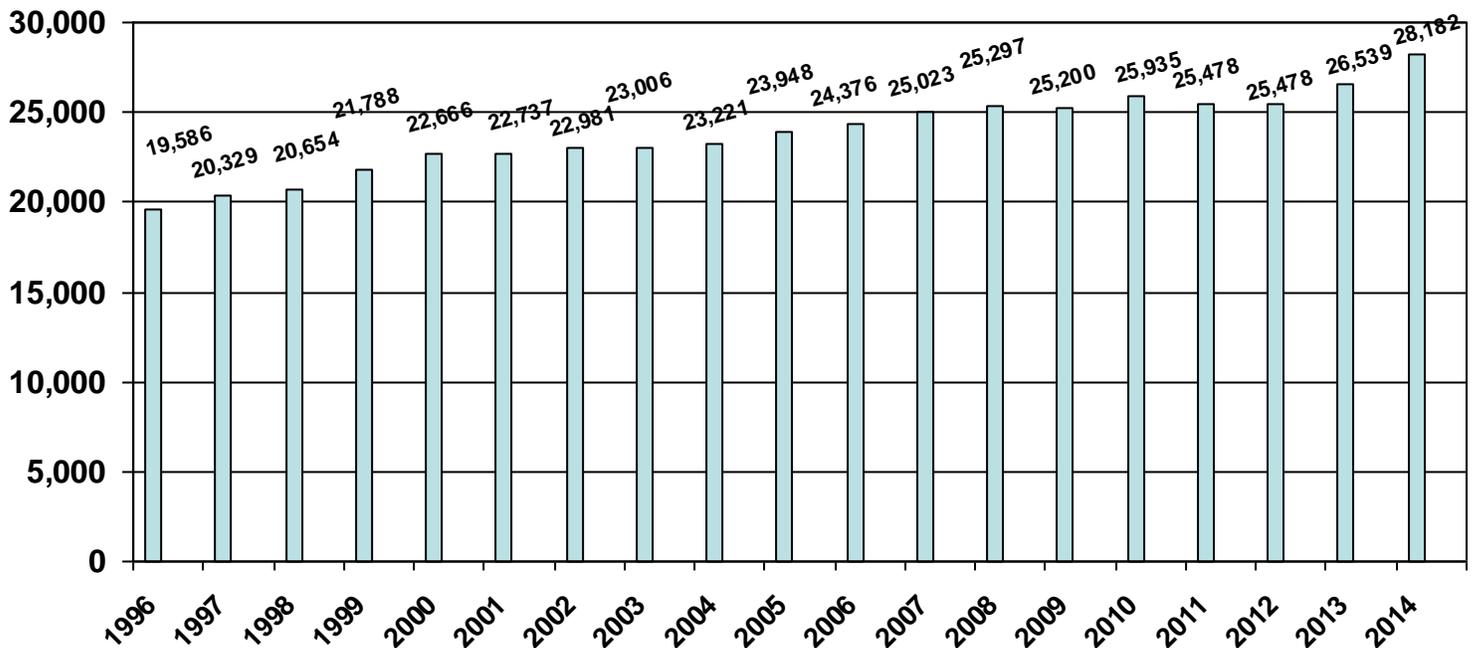
After the minimum sentence is served, the offender may be offered parole, which is an option to serve the remaining sentence outside of prison, under the supervision of a parole officer, generally employed by the state corrections agency. As part of a parole program, some offenders will live in a community-based residential program or a residential reentry center before returning home but others will return immediately to the community. These community-based residential settings offer a step-down from state or federal prison and provide an opportunity to receive treatment, enter a work release program, facilitate family reunification, and other reentry oriented activities. They also serve as “halfway back” options and provide graduated sanctions for probation and parole violators.

## INCARCERATION RATES

Prison populations across the country have decreased since 2007 on an average of 1.0% each year. The prison population in Oklahoma increased every year until 2007 when the prison population leveled off. Historically, one of the reasons for the increasing prison population is due to certain offenders that are required to serve 85% of their sentences. This is a result of a 1996 killing spree by an offender who was on an early release program. Lawmakers subsequently passed laws that forced certain offenders to serve at least 85% of their sentences. Given this change, time served for violent offenders is increasing.

## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

### Actual Inmate Population

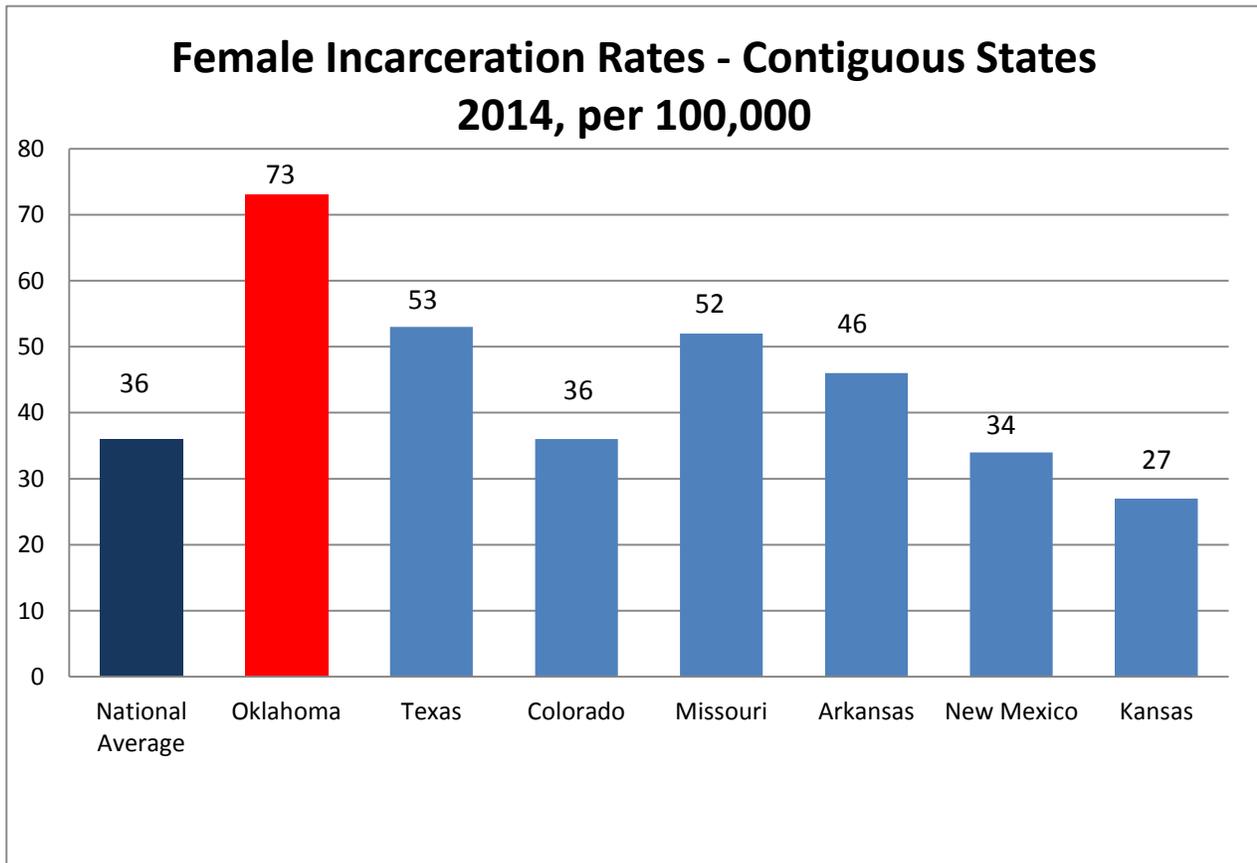


Oklahoma incarcerates women at a rate almost double that of the national average. Out of every 100,000 people, Oklahoma incarcerates 73 women, both state and federal. The national average is 36. Additionally, Oklahoma surpasses all nearby states in female incarceration rates. This is a huge financial burden on the Oklahoma Department of Correction's resources.

In order to develop strategies to reduce incarceration and recidivism rates, officials must understand unique challenges faced by female offenders. Women share common situations that lead to incarceration, like family dysfunction and instability, trauma and violence, and substance abuse. Additionally, female offenders experience economic issues, relationships, and mental health issues.

Over 61% of women within the DOC system in Oklahoma reported they came from homes with divorced parents. The same percent reported they were reared by someone in their home with an alcohol and/or drug problems were reported in 46.8% of their childhood homes. Over 47% of female

offenders reported mental health issues in the home and 52.5% reported they ran away from home before the age of 18.



Trauma and Violence in Childhood	
Child Physical and/or Sexual Abuse	66.4%
Father Violent in the Home	42.9%
Mother Violent in the Home	28.6%
Trauma and Violence in Adulthood	
Domestic Violence	71.1%
Rape Past the Age of 18	36.2%
Received Abuse Counseling	39.5%

Black and Native American women are disproportionately represented in the prison system in Oklahoma. Black women make up only 7.6% of the population in Oklahoma, but they make up 23.4% of the prison population. Native American women represent 7.9% of the overall population in Oklahoma, but they comprise 13% of the prison population.

Nearly 80% of Oklahoma’s incarcerated women are non-violent offenders, including crimes related to drug abuse, the distribution of controlled substances, prostitution and property crimes.

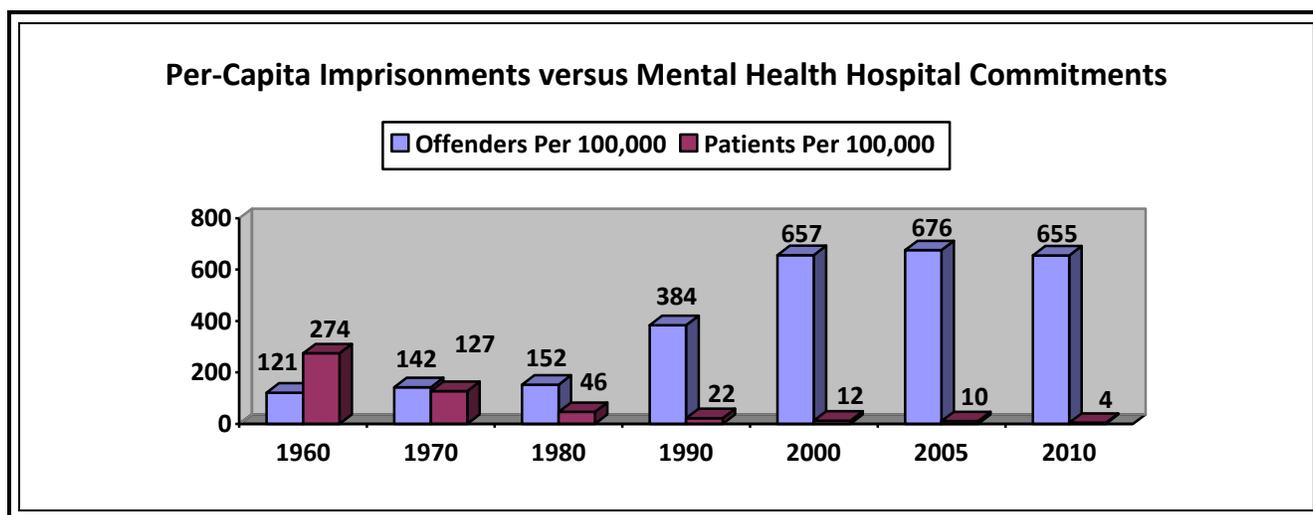
## SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FOR INCARCERATED OFFENDERS

One of the core components of DOC is providing appropriate services to offenders in custody in order to reduce recidivism. One of those services is drug and alcohol treatment. According to the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (DOC), there were 28,182 offenders in custody in 2014. Of those, 14,401 were identified as having a need for substance abuse treatment. This represents over 51% of the total number of incarcerated offenders. DOC reports that 1,993 offenders participated in a substance abuse treatment program with 931 successfully completing. The substance abuse treatment programs utilize a cognitive behavioral modality of delivery to address addiction and abuse. Treatment programs are from four to twelve months in duration depending on the individualized needs of the offender. Participation data is collected and analyzed to ensure effectiveness of treatment programming.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, at least 95% of all State prisoners will be released from prison at some point and nearly 80% will be released to parole supervision. Untreated substance abuse offenders are more likely to relapse and return to criminal behavior. This often results in re-arrest and re-incarceration, jeopardizing public safety, and taxing the criminal justice system. Treatment while the offender is incarcerated is the best option. With the significant reduction in federal funding of the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant, there is a need for continued or increased funding under the JAG Program.

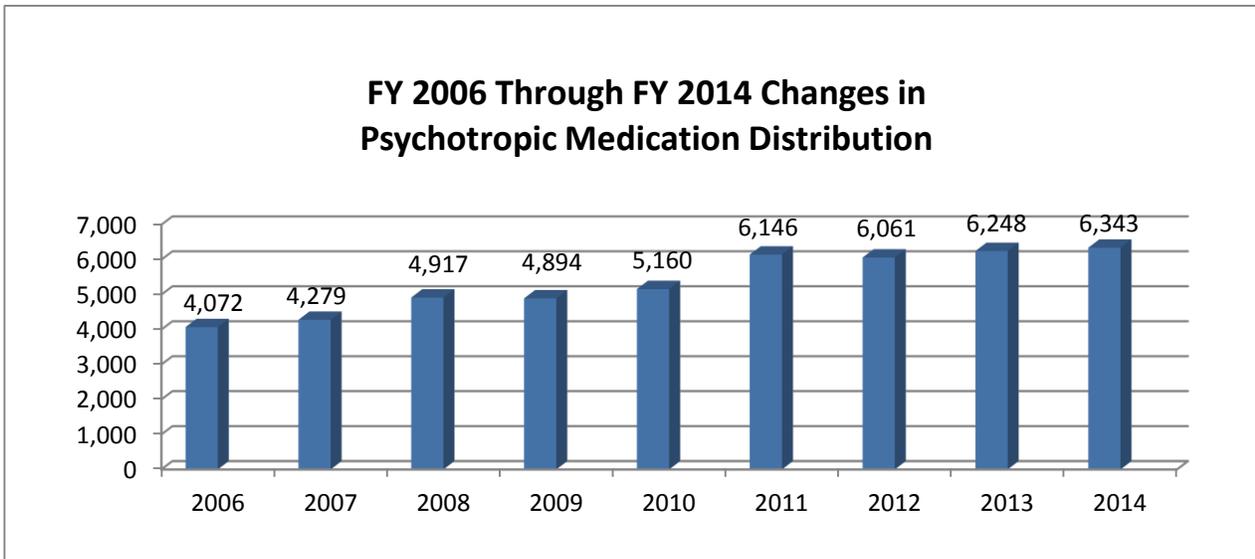
## MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AMONG INCARCERATED OFFENDERS

The closure of state mental health hospital beds continues to impact the increasing number and percentage of offenders with serious mental illness who enter the state prisons. One indicator of this increase is the fact that the number of offenders incarcerated in DOC increased 20% from FY1998 to FY2010, while the number of incarcerated offenders requiring psychotropic medications increased 292%. Approximately 6,500 of the 25,949 incarcerated offenders in FY 2010 have been diagnosed with a serious mental health problem and approximately 5,000 require and consent to psychotropic medications. The chart below is another dramatic picture of the fact that significant decreases in the rate of citizens committed to state mental health hospitals occurred at the same time the incarceration rate significantly increased.



Offenders with mental health problems continue to be increasingly overrepresented in the prisons in Oklahoma. In 2014, 57% of the prison population has a history or current symptoms of a mental illness, 33% have current symptoms of a mental illness and 1% currently has serious developmental or cognitive disability.

With continued budget constraints, the number of beds available for mental health treatment continues to fall and the number of offenders entering the prison system continues to increase. The number of offenders on psychotropic drugs has increased 56% since 2006 as shown on the chart below.



## **PURPOSE AREA FIVE: DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

### **Overview**

Addiction to alcohol or other drugs is a devastating public health problem that has a unique and substantial impact on the nation's criminal justice system. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) estimates alcohol and drugs are implicated in an estimated 80% of offenses leading to incarceration in the United States. They also estimate: 80% of offenders abuse drugs or alcohol; nearly 50% of inmates are clinically addicted; and approximately 60% of individuals arrested for most crimes test positive for illegal drugs at the time of arrest.

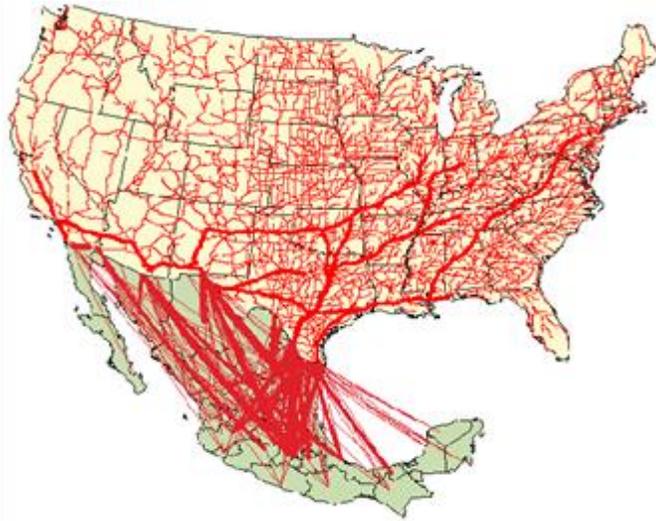
It is estimated that about half of state and federal prisoners meet the criteria for drug abuse and dependence and yet fewer than 20 percent who need treatment receive it.

For many in the criminal justice system, preventing future crime and re-arrest after discharge is impossible without treatment of addiction. Approximately 95% of inmates return to alcohol and drug use after release from prison, and 60 - 80% of drug abusers commit a new crime (typically related to drugs) after release from prison. Treatment offers the best alternative for interrupting the criminal justice cycle for offenders with drug and alcohol problems. Research has shown that treatment works -- people can and do recover from addiction, maintaining abstinence from alcohol and drugs. Research has also shown that as substance abuse declines, so does criminal behavior. Jail or prison should be a place where people can get the help they need. Treatment also saves money. One study found that each dollar spent on substance abuse treatment saved \$5.60 in terms of fewer arrests, incarcerations, food stamp use, and less child welfare and medical costs. Since, criminal behavior decreases as alcohol and drug use decrease, it follows that drug prevention and treatment will save valuable tax dollars.

### **DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE IN OKLAHOMA**

While all types of illegal drugs are available and abused in Oklahoma, certain drugs, such as methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana represents the predominant illegal drug problem. General drug usage in Oklahoma has been documented through a number of sources including a State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2011-2012 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health that identified slightly less than 8% of Oklahoma residents aged 12 years and older abused an illicit drug at least once a month prior to the survey.

According to the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN), Mexican drug trafficking organizations and Mexican criminal groups use Oklahoma's transportation infrastructure to transport methamphetamine, powdered cocaine, marijuana, and heroin. The close proximity of Oklahoma to the Mexican border, as well as the centrality of Oklahoma to the rest of the United States, significantly contributes to the highway transportation of drugs into and through the state. Other criminal groups, such as street gangs, independent dealers, and outlaw motorcycle gangs also distribute illicit drugs in Oklahoma. However, these groups are not operating at the sophisticated level of Mexican trafficking organizations.



## **Marijuana**

Marijuana is still the most widely available and commonly abused illicit drug in the United States. The 2014 National Drug Threat Assessment Summary states that 80 percent of responding agencies reported the availability of marijuana was high in their jurisdiction. This problem is compounded with the large-scale importation from Mexico along with the legalized marijuana and “medical marijuana” initiatives.

Because of the state’s central location to other major metropolitan cities in all directions, Oklahoma is often a transshipment point. Other criminal groups are also involved in the retail distribution of marijuana, such as gangs, criminal groups, motorcycle gangs, and independent dealers.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) through the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) found that the admissions to publicly funded treatment units for marijuana have remained fairly stable from 2001 to 2005. Since 2005, the number of admissions for marijuana was at a six-year low of 2,755 admissions but has steadily increased through 2008 and then begins to drop until 2014 where there is a 5.5% increase.

Year	Marijuana Admissions	Percent +/-
2001	2,832	---
2002	3,005	6.1%
2003	2,878	-4.2%
2004	2,931	1.8%
2005	2,755	-6.0%
2006	2,900	5.2%
2007	3,227	11.2%
2008	3,557	10.2%
2009	3,675	3.3%
2010	2,972	-19.1%
2011	2,833	-4.6%
2012	2,650	-6.4%
2013	2,497	-5.7%
2014	2,635	5.5%

## Methamphetamine

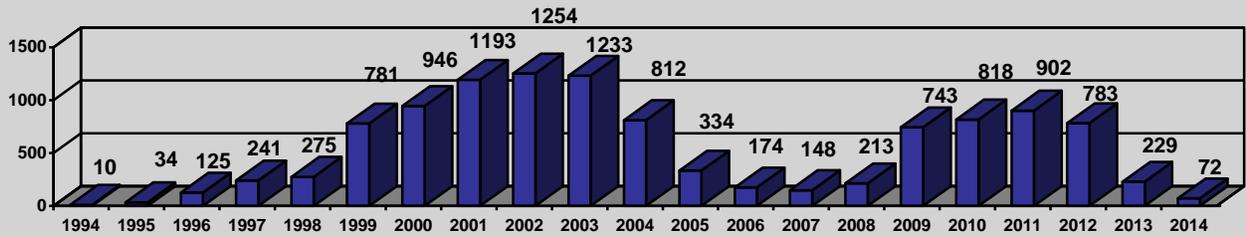
According to the 2015 National Drug Threat Assessment, methamphetamine seizures, survey data, price and purity data, and law enforcement reporting, methamphetamine continues to be readily available throughout the United States. Most of the methamphetamine available in the United States is clandestinely produced in Mexico and smuggled across the Southwest border. Although domestic production does occur at small levels, it has declined, most likely due to restrictions on precursor chemicals in the United States and the increasing availability of high-purity, high-potency Mexican methamphetamine.

The North Texas HIDTA reports that the most significant drug threat to the North Texas region (which includes Oklahoma) is methamphetamine. Many think the methamphetamine problem had been addressed with the passage of Oklahoma’s pseudoephedrine control bill in 2004. While there has been a significant decline in the number of traditional meth labs (nearly 90%), criminals have developed a new way to make methamphetamine.

Known as a “One Pot” or “Shake and Bake” lab, this new recipe may have contributed to the increase in the number of meth labs around the State with 213 labs in 2008, 743 labs in 2009, 818 in 2010, 902 in 2011 and 783 in 2012. In 2013, Oklahoma experienced a decrease in the number of meth labs seized by law enforcement with 229 and only 72 labs seized in 2014.

The decrease in the number of methamphetamine labs is due, at least in part to the stricter policing of pseudoephedrine sales and a corresponding drop in the price of Mexican methamphetamine. Consequently, Oklahoma is experiencing an increase in the amount of methamphetamine imported by the Mexican Cartel.

### Methamphetamine Labs Seized in Oklahoma 1994 - 2014



Methamphetamine tablets are the newest thing and are often produced using a mixture of powder methamphetamine and caffeine. Methamphetamine in tablet form is often found in Asia and while it is uncommon in the United States there have been seizures in California, Kentucky, and Texas. For example, in December 2014, the DEA Houston FD and the Harris County Sheriff's Office arrested four individuals and seized approximately 20,000 methamphetamine pills and two industrial pill presses.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) reported that in 1993 Oklahoma had 92 methamphetamine addiction admissions to publicly-funded treatment units. In 2005, the number of admissions for meth addiction was at its highest at 4,055. Even while the number of labs was dropping, the supply was increasing from the Mexican Cartels. A decrease was seen between 2006 and 2011; however a large increase in admissions reoccurred in 2012 and has remained steady in 2013 and 2014.

Year	Methamphetamine Admissions	Percentage of Increase or Decrease
2001	3,231	---
2002	3,442	6.5%
2003	3,445	0
2004	3,876	12.5%
2005	4,055	4.6%
2006	3,728	-9.2%
2007	3,365	-9.0%
2008	2,687	-8.0%
2009	2,965	1.0%
2010	2,728	-8.0%
2011	2,687	-1.6%
2012	2,965	11.0%
2013	3,267	11.0%
2014	3,578	10.9%

According to researchers, the need for methamphetamine addiction treatment is critical. Generally, the treatment for meth addiction is not different from that provided to other stimulant addicted individuals; however, the treatment needs to be longer than is typical. Research indicates that the long-term impact of meth on brain function and behavior suggests that longer treatment may be necessary.

## **Crack and Powder Cocaine**

Cocaine is powerful stimulant acting directly on the limbic system, the brain's pleasure center. Cocaine creates a short-lived, but intense, state of euphoria and hyperactivity. Crack cocaine is a highly-addictive crystalline powder produced from cocaine.

Per the 2015 National Drug Assessment, cocaine availability in the United States appeared to have stabilized at "new normal" levels in 2014— still well below the availability levels observed prior to 2007, when cocaine availability first began to decline significantly. Use indicators also show a steady decline in cocaine use in the United States when compared to the previous 10 years. Most of the cocaine smuggled into the United States is transported over the Southwest border with a smaller percentage transported through the Caribbean corridor. Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) continue to dominate the cocaine transportation infrastructure in the United States with little to no competition.

The availability of cocaine in the United States remained at historically lower levels in 2014, but appears relatively stable when compared to the previous seven (7) years, at what can be considered the "new normal."

From 2000 to 2004, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) through the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) determined that the admission to publicly funded treatment units for cocaine addiction was increasing. In 2005, the number decreased to just over 2,000 admissions which reflected a 4% reduction. Since 2009, admissions have steadily declined to only 304 in 2014.

Year	Cocaine Admissions	Percentage of Increase or Decrease
2000	1,345	---
2001	1,654	18.7%
2002	1,751	5.5%
2003	1,711	-2.3%
2004	2,146	20.3%
2005	2,057	-4.3%
2006	1,837	-11.9%
2007	1,727	-6.3%
2008	1,525	-13.2%
2009	1,126	-35.4%
2010	619	-46.1%
2011	577	-7.8%
2012	448	-22.4%
2013	318	-29.1%
2014	304	-4.5%

## Heroin

The threat posed by heroin in the United States is serious and has increased since 2007. Heroin is available in larger quantities, used by a larger number of people, and is causing an increasing number of overdose deaths. Increased demand for, and use of, heroin is being driven by both increasing availability of heroin in the US market and by some prescription drug abusers using heroin. Controlled prescription drug abusers who begin using heroin do so chiefly because of price differences, but also because of availability, and the reformulation of OxyContin®, a commonly abused prescription opioid.

From 2000 to 2009, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) through the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) stated that the admission to publicly funded treatment units for heroin addiction has continually fluctuated. In 2006, the number decreased to 85, the lowest number in 10 years, but the admission rate is on the rise due to the increasing supply and use of heroin.

Year	Heroin Admissions	Percent +/-
2000	139	---
2001	182	30.9%
2002	134	-35.8%
2003	154	14.9%
2004	135	-12.3%
2005	93	-31.1%
2006	85	-9.4%
2007	118	72%
2008	199	59.2%
2009	246	80.8%
2010	184	-25.3%
2011	225	12.2%
2012	240	10.6%
2013	320	13.3%
2014	342	10.7%

## **DIVERTED PHARMACEUTICALS**

According to the 2015 National Drug Threat Survey, 15% of respondents nationwide indicated that Controlled Prescription Drugs (CPD) were the greatest drug threat in their area. The threat posed by CPD abuse is prevalent, and every year since 2002 the number of deaths attributable to CPDs has outpaced those for cocaine and heroin combined. While recent data suggest that abuse of these drugs has lessened in some areas, the number of individuals reporting current use of CPDs is more than those reporting use of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, MDMA (Ecstasy), and PCP combined. With the slightly declining abuse levels of CPDs, data indicate there is a corresponding increase in heroin use. Many CPD abusers begin using heroin as a cheaper alternative to the high price of illicit CPDs or when they are unable to obtain prescription drugs.

The most commonly diverted pharmaceuticals in Oklahoma are oxycodone, commonly prescribed as OxyContin, Percodan, Percocet, Alprazolam (commonly prescribed as Xanax), Tylox, and hydrocodone, (commonly prescribed as Lortab, Loricet, and Vicodin).

The Oklahoma Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) was created to deter the abuse of prescription drugs. The statute requires all dispensers of Schedule II, III, IV, and V controlled substances to submit prescription information to OBN within five minutes of the time that the controlled substance is dispensed.

By the end of FY 2015, JAG funded task forces reported 952 arrests for diverted prescription drugs. Over 31,000 pills were seized with an estimated street value of \$310,500.

## DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE IN YOUTH

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collects information on health-risk behaviors contributing to the leading causes of death, illness, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. CDC officials collect the data using the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), which is a self-reported survey method. In 2013, CDC collected data from 1,474 students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Using survey responses, officials calculated Oklahoma statewide estimates. Key findings included:

- Nearly 68% of students had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life. This was a statistically significant decrease from 78.6% in 2003.
- Almost 19% of students had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, before age 13 years. This was a statistically significant decrease from 26.8% in 2003.
- Thirty-four percent (34.9%) of students had at least one 1 drink of alcohol on one or more of the 30 days before the survey. This was a statistically significant decrease from 47.8% in 2003.
- Of those students who reported consuming alcohol, 21.8% consumed five or more drinks in a row (or within a couple of hours), on one or more of the 30 days before the survey. This was a statistically significant decrease from 34.0% in 2003.
- Over 35% of students used marijuana one (1) or more times during their life. This was a statistically significant decrease from 42.5% in 2003.
- Over Six percent (6.4%) of students had tried marijuana for the first time before age 13 years. This was a statistically significant decrease from 11.1% in 2003.
- Twenty percent (20.7%) of students used marijuana one (1) or more times during the 30 days before the survey. This was a statistically significant decrease from 22.0% in 2003.
- Nearly 8% of students had sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high one or more times during their life.
- Just about five percent (5.2%) of students used methamphetamines one (1) or more times during their life. This was a statistically significant decrease from 9.9% in 2003.
- Slightly more than 5% of students used ecstasy one (1) or more times during their life.

Almost 14% of students were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug by someone on school property during the 12 months before the survey. This was a statistically significant decrease from 22.2% in 2003.

## **PURPOSE AREA SIX: PLANNING, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS**

### **Overview**

According to a report from the National Criminal Justice Association, the use of technology plays an increasingly significant role throughout the criminal justice system, especially in the areas of criminal history integration, monitoring of criminals, and forensic science. Data communication provides real time coordination of public safety activities and delivers information to law enforcement officers and other criminal justice professionals in the field. Surveillance technology opens new possibilities for the detection of crime and the monitoring of criminal offenders. Forensic science has become an expected standard for law enforcement investigations as well as the prosecution of offenders.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY INTEGRATION**

It is a given that individual criminal justice agencies must collect and maintain electronic criminal history data but it is equally imperative that this information be shared among the many municipal, state, tribal, and federal agencies that share the responsibility for public safety. At every stage of the criminal justice system from the point of arrest through sentencing and disposition, there is a need to access and share criminal history information. For example, law enforcement must quickly and accurately establish the identity of someone who has been detained in order to determine if that person is wanted on other charges, represents a danger to the officer or the public, is currently on probation, or a myriad of other factors that might contribute to the outcome of the encounter. Prosecutors must have accurate information in order to make charging decisions. Judges must determine bail, disposition, and sentencing, and correctional officers need information to evaluate and classify those that have been convicted and sentenced to serve time for their crimes. Throughout the criminal justice system, information obtained by individual agencies needs to be shared and integrated with the other agencies.

*Integration among criminal justice agencies is **not** an easy task. Integration does not occur with a simple push of a button. There is no established product or service that can be purchased to make integration occur easily.*

In a report issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, integration is defined “as the electronic sharing of information by two (2) or more distinct justice entities within a system.” The objectives of integration are to: 1) improve public safety; 2) eliminate duplicate data entry or data entry errors; 3) access critical information at key decision points; 4) provide timely sharing of complete, timely, and accurate data; 5) maximize resources; 6) improve retrieval response time; and 7) to improve operational effectiveness of existing systems. **Professionals within the criminal justice system recognize the importance of continuing to expand the sharing capabilities of criminal history records among justice and public safety entities as well as other governmental agencies.**

Integration among criminal justice agencies is not an easy task and does not occur with a simple push of a button. There is no established product or service that can be purchased to make integration occur easily. There are significant differences among the criminal justice agencies. Computer systems of the numerous municipal, state, and federal agencies vary from simplistic to complex systems, old to current and up-to-date systems. In order to continue toward the goal of integration, it is important to identify needs, prioritize projects, establish a plan, and link systems to enable them to communicate at various critical exchange points. This process allows the individual criminal justice agency to maintain their own data security and determine which data items are shared electronically, as well as with whom and when.

More than ever, Oklahoma is focused on developing an integrated criminal justice system. Officials continue to place an emphasis on the integration of data systems used by criminal justice agencies. An increasing emphasis has been placed on the integration of data among agencies. It is recognized that the lack of access to criminal history records information, the untimely reporting of disposition data, and the lack of complete criminal history records only serves to negatively impact public safety as well as public safety professionals. Today, the technology currently exists to eliminate these gaps.

The Criminal Justice Information Sharing (CJIS) Task Force, a subcommittee of the JAG Board, recently finalized the 2015-2016 Criminal History Information Improvement Plan. The mission of the CJIS Task Force is to improve public safety and the criminal justice system by providing continued leadership and guidance in the evolving efforts to collect, disseminate, and integrate accurate, timely, and complete criminal history and sex offender records in Oklahoma.

The CJIS Task Force has identified the following goals and objectives.

Goals	High Priority	Moderate Priority	Low Priority
1. Support the Administrative Office of the Courts case management consolidation initiative which will improve the reporting of disposition data and establish interface exchanges.	X		
2. Improve arrest record automation and fingerprint data submissions, including the collection of missing disposition records and ensuring that Sheriff's departments throughout the state have a Livescan which electronically reports to the repository.	X		
3. Establish a statewide system for domestic violence protective orders.		X	
4. Establish a statewide system for district court and municipal warrants.		X	
5. Increase participation in the National Criminal Background Check System (NICS) reporting by passing state legislation which enables mental health records to be reported to NICS.	X		

6. Update and enhance the adult and juvenile sex offender registries.		X	
7. Formalize the process and utilization of the Methamphetamine Registry.		X	
8. Continue to identify and implement data exchanges between criminal justice agencies, including the current exchanges identified by the Administrative Office of the Courts.	X		
9. Improve disposition records at the repository by automating the reporting of Oklahoma County criminal history data.	X		
10. Improve the validation processes by Sheriff's Office and Police Departments for the reporting of statewide warrants in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).		X	
11. Reduce delays in processing traffic citations.			X
12. Expand the interface between the Department of Corrections and the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics on the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.		X	

### **FORENSIC SCIENCE AND TOXICOLOGY MEDICAL EXAMINER SERVICES**

The purpose of the Oklahoma State Plan for the Improvement of Forensic Science and Toxicology Medical Examiner Services is to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic sciences and toxicology examiner services for the criminal justice system in Oklahoma and to reduce the backlog of forensic science cases. The original plan was developed in 2002 prior to the submission of the Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program. The Plan was updated and approved in 2006, in 2010, and again in 2015.

In November 2005, the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006 became law. Under the terms of the statute, Congress authorized “the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct a study on forensic science, as described in the Senate report.” The Forensic Science Committee charged with performing the study completed and issued its report “Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward” in the fall of 2009. The report was evaluated by members of Oklahoma’s Forensic Science Improvement Task Force and recommendations issued in the report were considered with the update of Oklahoma’s State Plan. The Plan contains information about the 13 recommendations issued in the NAS report and discusses Oklahoma’s position in relation to those recommendations.

### **OVERVIEW OF FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES IN OKLAHOMA**

In a forensic science lab, there are a number of different disciplines. These may include:

1. Biology;
2. Controlled Substances;
3. Latent Prints;

4. Toxicology;
5. Firearms and Tool Marks;
6. Questioned Documents;
7. Trace Evidence; and,
8. Digital and Multimedia Evidence.

Currently, there are six forensic labs operating within the state accredited to provide services. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) has five labs strategically located around the State. . Oklahoma City Police Department and the Tulsa Police Department also have forensic labs.

Several smaller law enforcement agencies throughout the state operate Latent Print labs. Ardmore Police Department and Norman Police Department are nationally accredited to provide latent print services.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has the sole responsibility for investigating sudden, unexpected, and suspicious deaths. This process involves scene investigation and medicolegal autopsy (including radiology, toxicology, histology, and microbiology), complementing the activities of law enforcement agencies, district attorneys, and public health officials.

The following chart identifies the accredited labs and the specific discipline for which they are accredited.

AGENCY	Biology	Controlled Substances	Firearms/ Tool Marks	Latent Prints	Questioned Documents	Toxicology	Trace Evidence
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner						X	
Oklahoma City Police Department	X	X	X	X		X	
Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation	X	X	X	X		X	X
Tulsa Police Department	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ardmore Police Department				X			
Norman Police Department				X			

The standard of accreditation is viewed as a positive measure, as it encourages uniform criteria, standards, and operational practices for forensic labs throughout the state. **Oklahoma is only one of four states in the nation (along with Texas, Maryland, and New York) to require forensic labs to be accredited.** As such, each of the forensic labs earned accreditation from the American Society of Crime Lab Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB). Standards include:

1. Self-evaluation by applicant laboratory;
2. Application and supporting documents filed by applicant laboratory;
3. On-site inspection by a team of trained inspectors;
4. Inspection report considered by ASCLD/Laboratory Accreditation Board;
5. One year to remedy deficiencies before final decision by the Board, if required;
6. Accreditation review completed by the laboratory annually; and,
7. Full re-inspection required every five (5) years.

Accreditation is one part of a laboratory's quality assurance program which should also include peer review, proficiency testing, continuing education, and other programs to help the laboratory provide better overall service to the criminal justice system. Further, it should be noted that in 2010 and 2011 many of the ASCLD/LAB Legacy accredited labs in Oklahoma were reaccredited under the International accreditation program. The International program was designed to enable labs throughout the world to operate under the same accreditation standards. This program introduces more customer-focused standards, increased application fees and inspection costs, and is much more stringent than the current Legacy program.

The 2015 State Plan for the Improvement of Forensic Science and Toxicology Medical Examiner Services identifies several areas of financial need. These are:

- 1) Maintaining Accreditation
- 2) Maintaining Equipment and Instrumentation
- 3) Ensuring Continuing Education and Training for Personnel

### **Maintaining Accreditation**

To meet the requirements of accreditation, it is often necessary for agencies to create new positions or to modify the responsibilities of existing personnel. These new roles include those of Quality Assurance Manager, Safety Manager, and Quality Control Manager. The additional tasks associated with these roles add burdens to already overworked employees and can increase personnel costs for agencies. Additionally, to meet the accreditation standards, instrumentation inventories must be developed; continuing education documents for employees must be kept; facilities must be maintained; and technical and quality manuals must be current. Therefore, once accreditation is attained, the laboratory must continue to focus efforts and expend resources on maintaining it.

It is important to note that while the result improves the quality of the forensic science services, it can also contribute to the backlog of cases. The new responsibilities must be balanced with the analysis of forensic evidence, which can be difficult. The agencies are finding that being accredited requires forensic lab staff to complete significantly more paperwork as a result of the added processes and procedures, while staffing levels remain the same and caseloads are continuing to increase.

In addition to these requirements, there are also financial costs associated with accreditation that the forensic lab must bear. The annual fees for accreditation, for example, can range from \$4,500 to \$11,000. There are also on-site inspection costs which are anticipated to be approximately \$40,000 for the OSBI alone in 2014.

### **Maintaining Equipment and Instrumentation**

The procurement and maintenance of equipment is an extremely critical factor for a forensic lab and is an ongoing expenditure in the budget. The intricate equipment used in forensic science analysis must be maintained to ensure accurate results and often improve the timeliness of the forensic science services. There is also a frequent need for equipment to be upgraded. As with any field involving technology, forensic science technology is rapidly changing and improving. Equipment in a forensic lab is becoming more automated, requiring fewer routine procedures by forensic analysts. This not only improves the timeliness of services, it can reduce case backlog and the possibility of human error.

Best practices for a forensic lab suggest the establishment of an Instrumentation Plan. The Instrumentation Plan identifies the date of purchase of the equipment, the projected period of time for usability for the specified equipment based on rate of usage and manufacturer's recommendations, and the timeline for replacement and/or updating the equipment.

A major challenge facing all forensic labs is that equipment for any forensic science discipline is costly, not only to purchase, but also to maintain. The price of equipment can range anywhere from \$2,000 to \$300,000. For example, a comparison microscope used in ballistics costs approximately \$60,000, and the price of a Gas Chromatograph – Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS) varies between \$120,000 and \$145,000. A scanning electron with an energy dispersive microscope spectrometer which can magnify up to 500,000 times and is used to analyze gunshot residue, may cost up to \$300,000. In addition to the cost of the equipment are the required maintenance contracts. Generally, maintenance contracts on equipment cost at least ten percent (10%) of the original cost of the equipment. The accredited forensic labs have maintenance costs on the equipment which run from a minimum of \$8,000 to \$300,000 for a larger facility.

Although this forensic laboratory equipment is extremely expensive, it is critical for labs to consider securing instrumentation, computer equipment, and software that allows for faster analyses. To illustrate, an older generation of a GC-MS, often referred to as the workhorse of a forensic lab, required a sample injection by the analyst; therefore, the instrument would only process samples while the analyst was present. However, a newer model with an auto sampler will process up to 100 samples during one set up. Using the newer model, the analysts' hands-on time is greatly reduced. This allows samples to be analyzed day or night, thus reducing the backlog and the time it takes to get results. Old or slower equipment that may still be in use can create backlogs in a department with large caseloads.

In addition to replacing antiquated equipment, there is the issue of planned termination of support by the manufacturer that labs must manage. Once the manufacturer's support ends, repair of the instrumentation may not be possible at all (in the event that the manufacturer no longer carries the parts necessary to make the repairs) or the repair could be so costly that it is cost prohibitive for the lab. Manufacturers only support old equipment for a finite period of time and after that time the equipment is no longer usable. At the end of a service life of an instrument, labs must purchase a newer model. The acquisition of a newer model can sometimes require software upgrades as well.

There are instances where some equipment can only be run by specific software which is located on an aging computer. The equipment may be still viable but the software is outdated and is no longer compatible with newer computer systems.

In other instances, when aging equipment is still used, it can be difficult, if not impossible to locate a replacement part when one is needed or to identify trained personnel who are able to work on the aging equipment. Finally, maintenance contracts typically do not support older equipment; therefore, any costs required to perform the work must be covered in full by the lab.

The inability to update or purchase equipment due to a lack of funds significantly impacts a lab's ability to process cases. Labs are faced with the dilemma of securing new funding or of cutting funds needed for other services and programs in order to update/maintain instrumentation. As evidence of the high costs associated with maintaining instrumentation, by 2011, the majority of instruments used by the

OSBI's Drug and Toxicology disciplines will no longer be supported by the manufacturer. These instruments must be replaced, and it is estimated that it will cost \$1,300,770.30 to do so (based on current costs).

### **Ensuring Continuing Education and Training for Personnel**

Under ASCLD/LAB accreditation standards, a stringent Training Plan for each forensic discipline is required. Accredited labs must maintain specific levels of training for all staff. This is especially true in the DNA discipline. Because of the rapid changes that continue to occur in this discipline, DNA analysts are federally required to receive a minimum of eight (8) hours of training each year.

The acceptable venues for training are limited and are often not available within Oklahoma. Because of this, analysts are required to travel out-of-state to obtain continuing education. Additionally, the cost to attend this training can be considerable with registration fees generally ranging from \$50 to \$1300 per analyst, which places an ongoing financial burden on the laboratory. Funding for training is often reduced or eliminated when budgets are tight; although training is still required in order to maintain accreditation.

## **PURPOSE AREA SEVEN: CRIME VICTIM AND WITNESS PROGRAMS (OTHER THAN COMPENSATION)**

### **Overview**

The concept of victim support services within the criminal justice system began in the 1960's. Early research and surveys identified that a significant number of crimes were not being reported to police because the victims simply did not trust the system. Slowly, the criminal justice system recognized the need to assist the direct crime victims that suffer physical or psychological injury or the dependents of a deceased crime victim. It wasn't until 2004 that the Justice for All Act gave victims of crime several rights, including the ability to be heard at every stage of prosecution.

Currently, the primary source of federal funding for victim services is provided through the Federal Crime Victims Fund, administered by Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, which in 2015 had a balance of over \$10 billion from remittance of federal criminal fines, penalties, and special assessments. No tax payer dollars go into the Fund. In Oklahoma, the federal funds are administered by the Victims Division at the District Attorneys Council. These dollars partially fund both the Crime Victims Compensation Program and the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Program. In 2015, \$3,551,909 was paid out in Crime Victim Compensation claims and \$789,576 was paid out in Sexual Assault Forensic Examination claims.

Victims of crime in Oklahoma are served through a number of agencies and organizations. The funding of such services is through the implementation of the Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA) Grant. The VOCA Grant is also administered by the Victims Division at the District Attorneys Council. The VOCA Grant is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime. Pursuant to federal requirements, priority for funding is given to applicants that serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and un-served/underserved victims. Federal regulations require that each of these service areas receive a minimum of 10% of the total grant funds.

In 2015, VOCA funds were awarded to 145 recipients across the state totaling \$13,724,873. The award was divided as follows: 37% to domestic violence and sexual assault organizations; 20% to organizations whose primary clients are children; 19% to District Attorney's Offices; 10% to Court Appointed Special Advocacy (CASA) organizations; 9% to Native American tribes; 3% to law enforcement agencies; and 2% to other.

According to the National Criminal Justice Association, some states use JAG funding to expand and supplement the support provided to victims through the Crime Victims Fund, primarily by funding initiatives such as anti-human trafficking task forces, prevention programs for the exploitation of seniors, support services to victims of domestic violence and families of homicide victims, fraud hotlines, cybercrime initiatives, witness protection programs, DNA and cold case analysis, and crime information centers. JAG also funds youth and family services, youth mentoring, juvenile and adult diversion programs, care for victims with mental illnesses, counseling, and advocacy. Further, JAG funded multi-jurisdictional task forces work collaboratively with victim and social service organizations to identify victims and convict the perpetrators.

## CRIME VICTIMS

In 2010, the Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center at the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation conducted the first statewide crime victimization survey. The purpose of the Oklahoma Crime Victimization Survey (OCVS) was to generate statewide crime estimates for Oklahoma. It is very similar to the National Crime Victimization Survey, which measures the amount and kinds of crime a household encounters during a six-month period preceding the interview. Respondents are surveyed twice a year each year for three (3) years. Over 60,000 families participated in the survey and based on their responses, national rates were extrapolated. In Oklahoma, researchers also developed estimates based on a sample of the population. Estimates calculated from this survey were based on a sample of 200 adults. As a result of this survey, researchers gained a better understanding of Oklahomans' perceptions of crime and their opinions of the criminal justice system. In 2011, researchers plan to conduct another victimization survey with a sample of 1,000 adults, but the survey was not published. The Statistical Analysis Center is currently conducting a new Oklahoma Crime Victimization Survey to be published in the future. The most important statistic the 2010 survey captured is the extent of crimes not reported to law enforcement and why victims don't report them.

The results of the 2010 Oklahoma survey indicated that twenty-four percent (24%) of the participants reported that they were a victim of at least one crime. Most crimes that occurred were reported to law enforcement; overall the victim filed a police report 50% of the time. According to respondents, an estimated 62% of violent and property crimes were reported to law enforcement in 2010, including 100% of motor vehicle thefts, 89% of burglaries, 54% of simple assaults, and 38% of larceny/thefts.

Additionally, highlights from the OCVS include:

- Over one-fourth of the 200 respondents think criminal justice funding should be directed at prevention and education.
- Thirty-five percent (35%) believe drugs and alcohol are most responsible for crime in their community.
- Oklahomans are satisfied with the efforts of law enforcement.
- Overall, Oklahomans feel safe in their community.

Respondents in a 2010 national survey reported an estimated 96,000 violent crimes and 468,000 property crimes. This includes thousands of unreported incidents. It is also important to note that summary reporting in Oklahoma is organized where the most serious crimes committed during a single incident is reported for official statistics. Lessor counts are typically not recorded.

In 2010, 46.7% of all incidents in the state occurred in Oklahoma and Tulsa counties. Nearly half, 49.5%, of all incidents occurred in the summer. Almost all crimes occurred either near the victim's home or inside the home. Oklahomans list an estimated \$1 billion in stolen and damaged property in 2010. Victims in Oklahoma were predominantly married, white, non-Hispanic females, who were at least 40 years old. Almost 75% of the victims knew their perpetrators and 12.9% said they were at least casual acquaintances.

Victims cited several reasons for not reporting crimes to law enforcement. The most common reason was a belief that law enforcement would be inefficient or ineffective. Many reported that they

considered the crime a personal matter and nearly 21% reported they “took care of it (themselves).” Many more said they considered the crime too minor to report or could not prove that a crime had taken place. Still others, 11%, said they did not want the perpetrator to get into trouble.

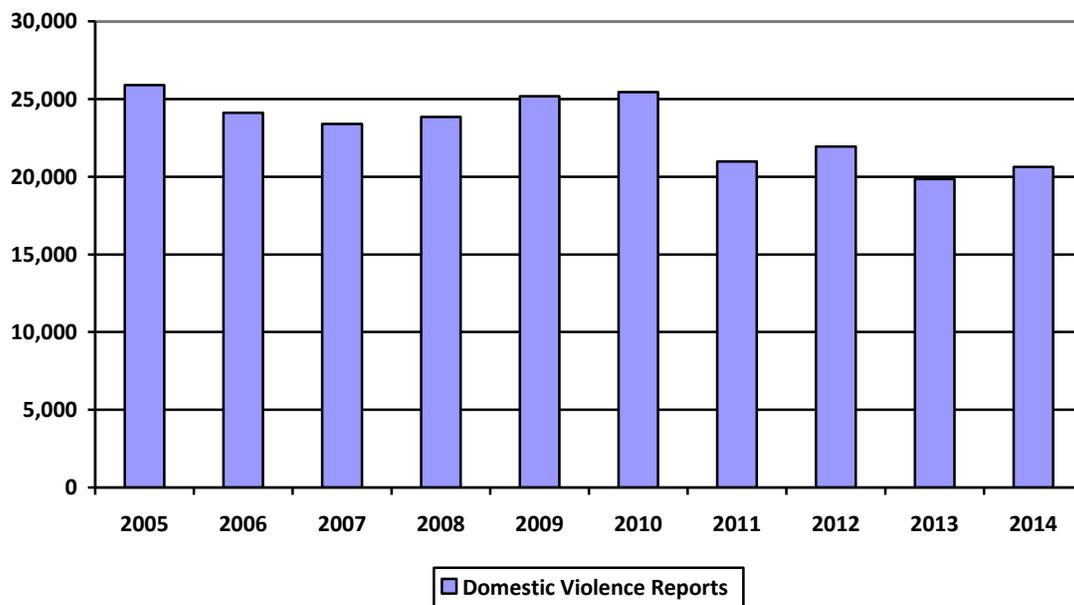
## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence homicides continue to plague Oklahoma. From 1998 to 2014, 1,255 men, women, and children have died as a result of domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma. Oklahoma was ranked #15 in the country for women murdered by men in 2010 and in 2014; Oklahoma had climbed to #3 nationally. The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (DVFRB), a division of the Victim Services Unit in the Office of the Attorney General, has been reviewing cases statewide for a decade looking for indicators or “red flags” in the cases that, if handled differently, might have changed the outcome. These red flags spark system-wide changes either through something as simple as implementation or as formal as legislative action.

As a result, the DVFRB has seen systems become more aware and responsive to the needs of victims and has been the driving force behind the implementation of laws that improve the ability of victims and the system to protect and better collaborate at all levels across the state. However, even with a decade of work behind them, Oklahoma still saw 53 domestic murders in 2012, 49 in 2013, and 47 in 2014.

According to UCR data for Oklahoma, domestic violence assault and battery crimes peaked in 2005 at 25,893. Rates dropped off for the following three years and then re-peaked in 2010. Domestic violence assault and battery reported incidents dropped again in 2011 and remained steady since that time.

**Domestic Violence Reports 2005-2014**



## COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAMS

One of the most successful strategies implemented to battle domestic violence and sexual assault in Oklahoma has been the implementation of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor and Coordinated Community Response Project. The project, funded through a discretionary grant awarded to the District Attorneys Council, started in 2007 with a goal of developing six (6) Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Teams to respond to domestic violence in Oklahoma. By the end of the first year of the grant, there were almost 19 CCR Teams in place. The project was so successful, federal funding was renewed in subsequent years. In 2012 the continuing project was expanded to include additional focus on the response to sexual assault through the development of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs). As of 2015, there are 36 well-functioning CCR teams in Oklahoma. One (1) team is a tribal CCR team and 25 of the teams include tribal members. There are six (6) stand-alone SARTs and 13 of the CCR teams address both domestic violence and sexual assault. Four (4) new CCR teams are still in the development stage and four (4) teams are currently working to develop a specialized High Risk Team to reduce domestic violence homicides. All of these teams, comprised of representatives from victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, batterer's intervention, probation and parole, and forensic nurse examiners impact the criminal justice system across 36 Oklahoma counties at the local level. The CCR teams improve the safety of domestic and sexual violence victims and advance offender accountability. CCR teams also develop protocols and procedures that enable agencies to work together. They also review cases for professionals from different disciplines, giving them an opportunity to talk, resolve problems, and make changes within the system in order to improve the community's response to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor (DVSARP) serves as a resource for prosecutors by providing technical assistance and consultation to 70 prosecutors throughout the state on issues of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The position also develops, coordinates, and/or facilitates training for more than 400 prosecutors and other allied professionals, including the judiciary, law enforcement, dispatchers, medical personnel, victim advocates, victim witness coordinators, and correctional/probation and parole personnel. The DVSARP remains continually updated on current legislation and national best practices in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to develop and distribute information and resources for prosecutors throughout the state to enhance the arrest and prosecution policies and procedures for responding to these complex cases.

The project also funds a full-time Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Specialist. In implementing the project, the CCR Specialist provides technical assistance and consultation to existing SART and CCR Teams and assists developing teams. The program provides SART and CCR Team Trainings for over 300 team members and provides technical assistance and consultation to team coordinators via phone, fax, and email in the form of research, national best practices, team dynamics, innovative processes and procedures, and systemic changes to ensure victim safety and offender accountability. The coordinator works with the DVSARP to provide training for other professionals, including the judiciary, law enforcement, victim advocates, victim witness coordinators, medical personnel, correctional/probation and parole personnel, and dispatchers.

Coordinated community response brings together not only the professionals that respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, but includes laypersons, community leaders, faith leaders, and others, to address these crimes in their communities. The purpose of a coordinated

community response is to develop a climate within the community where victims are safe and offenders are held accountable. A coordinated community response is not the sole responsibility of the domestic violence and sexual assault service providers, but of the whole community.

## VII. JAG PROGRAM PRIORITIES

After a careful examination and review of the data and the survey results, the JAG Board made informed decisions concerning the most effective and efficient usage of the limited resources dedicated toward reducing drugs and violent crime in Oklahoma.

For the 2016 – 2020 State Strategy, the following goals were established:

1. Reduce the importation, manufacturing, trafficking, distribution, and possession of illegal drugs and controlled substances throughout the state;
2. Reduce the violence related to gangs through prevention, enforcement, and prosecution;
3. Assist local law enforcement through the procurement of equipment as prioritized by the JAG Board;
4. Encourage innovative law enforcement projects that address violent crime control that improves the functioning of the criminal justice system;
5. Encourage innovative prosecution projects that address drugs and violent crime control that improves the functioning of the criminal justice system;
6. Encourage innovative prevention projects that address drugs and violent crime control that improves the functioning of the criminal justice system;
7. Improve the integration of criminal history records between criminal justice agencies; and,
8. Reduce prison recidivism by providing effective drug and alcohol treatment for incarcerated juvenile and/or adult offenders.

## APPENDIX A

### JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT BOARD

#### **Voting Members**

#### **Suzanne McClain Atwood, Executive Coordinator**

District Attorneys Council

Richard Smothermon, Designee

#### **Rob Barris**

District Attorney – District 25

Jason Hicks, Designee

#### **Steven Buck, Executive Director**

Office of Juvenile Affairs

Jim Adams, Designee

#### **The Honorable Mary Fallin, Governor**

State of Oklahoma

Jennifer Chance, Designee

#### **Stan Florence, Director**

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations

Charles Curtis, Designee

#### **Joe M. Allbaugh, Interim Director**

Department of Corrections

Lesia Miser, Designee

Clint Castleberry, Designee

#### **Scott Pruitt, Attorney General**

Office of the Attorney General

Megan Tilly, Designee

#### **Michael C. Thompson, Commissioner**

Department of Public Safety

Gerald Davidson, Designee

#### **John Scully, Director**

Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control

**John Whetsel, Sheriff**

Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department  
Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association  
Major Ricky Barrow, Designee  
Captain David Baisden, Designee

**Terri White, Commissioner**

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health  
David Wright, Designee

**Chuck Foley, Chief**

Mustang Police Department  
Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police  
George Haralson, Designee

**Non-Voting Members**

**The Honorable Sanford Coates**

U.S. Attorney for the Western District  
Ashley Altshuler, Designee

**The Honorable Danny Williams**

U.S. Attorney for the Northern District  
Allen Litchfield, Designee

**The Honorable Mark F. Green**

U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District  
Doug Horn, Designee

**Assistant Special Agent in Charge Rich Salter**

Drug Enforcement Administration

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