

**2006 OKLAHOMA PROGRAM NARRATIVE  
For The  
Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant**

**EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT**

The Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), was established to streamline justice funding and grant administration through the merger of the Edward Byrne Formula Grant and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. The purpose of the JAG Program is to allow states to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on local needs and conditions. Grant funds may support programs under six (6) broad purpose areas.

The purpose areas of the JAG Program define the nature and scope of the programs and projects that might be funded under it. These purpose areas include:

- 1) Law Enforcement Programs
- 2) Prosecution and Court Programs
- 3) Prevention and Education Programs
- 4) Corrections and Community Corrections Programs
- 5) Drug Treatment Programs
- 6) Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement Programs

**STATE ADMINISTERING AGENCY**

The Oklahoma District Attorneys Council (DAC) has served as the state-administering agency since the first Byrne Grant was awarded in 1986. Designated by the Governor, the Federal Grants Division within the DAC serves as the point of contact for the State of Oklahoma to 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 application forms
- Receiving and coordinating the distribution of the grant applications to the Board for review

- 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 compliance of subgrantees in meeting state and federal 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
- Preparing and submitting the required progress, financial, and evaluation reports to BJA

## JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT BOARD

Comprised of 17 voting and non-voting members, the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Board represents a cross section of criminal justice agencies in Oklahoma. The Board meets quarterly and is charged with prioritizing purpose areas for funding, reviewing grant proposals, and determining awards for the JAG Program.

Through the dedicated and knowledgeable representatives that serve on the JAG Board, strategies and approaches have been developed and executed to prevent as well as control violent and drug-related 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 drugs and violent crime.

The members and attending designees of the JAG Board are:

### **Voting Members**

**John David Luton, Chairperson**

District Attorney – District 15

**Lonnie Wright, Director**

Bureau of Narcotics Dangerous Drug Control

**Justin Jones, Director**

Department of Corrections

Bill McCollum, Designee

**Sandy Garrett, Superintendent**

Department of Education

Gayle Jones, Designee

**Terry Cline, Commissioner**

Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
David Wright, Designee

**Kevin Ward, Commissioner**

Department of Public Safety

**Suzanne McClain Atwood, Executive Coordinator**

District Attorneys Council

**Richard Kirby**

Governor Brad Henry's Representative

**Richard DeLaughter, Director**

Office of Juvenile Affairs  
Terry Smith, Designee

**Drew Edmondson, Attorney General**

Office of the Attorney General  
Joel-Lyn McCormick, Designee

**Chief Fred Savage**

Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police

**Sheriff John Whetsel**

Oklahoma Sheriffs Association

**DeWade Langley, Director**

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation  
Tom Jordan, Designee

**Non-Voting Members**

**John Richter**

U.S. Attorney for the Western District

**David O'Meilia**

U.S. Attorney for the Northern District

**Sheldon Sperling**

U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District

**Jim Akagi**

Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
Drug Enforcement Administration

# ANALYSIS OF NEED

## **Overview**

In developing the proposed activities for the period of 2004 – 2008, a comprehensive and thorough review of data was conducted in 2003, with an update of information conducted in early 2005. Data was collected from a variety of reliable sources and includes information 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, convictions, and sentencing for drug and alcohol related crimes and violent offenses, trends in prison population and gang related crimes was compiled. After reviewing this information, the JAG Board set the priority areas for funding through the JAG Program.

## ***Drug Use in Oklahoma***

While all types of illegal drugs are available and abused in Oklahoma, certain drugs, such as methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana are a more predominant problem. General drug usage in Oklahoma has been documented through a number of sources, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA) through the National Survey on Drug Use and Health for 2002 and 2003. In Oklahoma, the survey indicated that between 7.60% and 8.74% of persons 12 years of age and older had used illicit drugs within the past month. The percentage increased when narrowing the focus to persons between the ages of 12 and 17. The survey indicated that 11.4% to 12.23% of all persons between these ages had used illicit drugs within the past month.

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. One of the mechanisms for the collection of this data is through the Youth Behavior Survey (YRBS), a self-reported surveillance method. In the spring of 2003, the first statewide YRBS survey was conducted in Oklahoma. Thirty-six (36) of the 46 randomly selected high schools participated in the effort with a total of 1,391 students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade participating in the survey. The results of the 2003 YRBS were sufficient to permit the results to be generalized to the entire Oklahoma public high school population.

The following results highlight the prevalence of risk behaviors related to alcohol and drug use reported by Oklahoma high school students in the spring of 2003:

- Almost half of all students (47.8%) drank alcohol during the thirty days preceding the survey.
- About one-third of all students (34.0%) drank 5 or more drinks within a two-hour period at least once during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- Twenty-two percent (22%) of all students reported using marijuana during the thirty days preceding the survey.
- More than half of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade male students have tried marijuana.
- One in seven male students in grade 11 (14.3%) have used methamphetamines.

- More than 3% (3.4%) of high school students reported using cocaine, including powder, crack, or freebase.
- Almost thirteen percent (12.8%) of male students in grade 11 have used cocaine.
- Nearly a quarter (22.8%) of students have been offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property during the past 12 months.

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health conducted a computer-assisted telephone interviewing survey in 1999 using a random-digit-dialing process to complete 7,200 interviews. The questionnaire that was used was developed by the National Technical Center for Substance Abuse Needs Assessment. Interviews were limited to residential phones in Oklahoma, excluding multi-person dwellings, such as military barracks and dormitories. Questions concerning commonly used drugs, such as alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, sedatives, stimulants, and inhalants, were used in the survey.

The following findings resulted from the survey:

- Concerning lifetime use of illicit drugs, marijuana was by far the most prevalent drug used (32.9%) followed by stimulants (9.2%). When the time period was narrowed, marijuana was still the most prevalent drug of choice for the last 18 months and for the last 30 days.
- Persons in the 30-44 age category showed the highest lifetime use for “any illicit drug” (53.8%). However, for use in the last 18 months and last 30 days, 18-29 year olds had the highest prevalence.
- Although their rates of use were not much higher than those of other race groups, Native Americans reported the highest illicit drug use for all three time periods – lifetime, last 18 months, and last 30 days.

While these results would indicate that marijuana is a more common problem, from 1999 to 2004, Oklahoma experienced an epidemic in the manufacturing, use, and distribution of methamphetamine. The state’s methamphetamine crisis stems from three problems:

1. The steadily increasing importation of methamphetamine into the region by organized drug trafficking groups.
2. The clandestine manufacturing of methamphetamine by users/dealers in the small “mom and pop” labs; and,
3. The demand for methamphetamine.

### ***Methamphetamine***

From 1994 to 2002, there was a 12,000% increase in the number of meth lab seizures in Oklahoma. In 2002, there was a peak of 1,255 seized labs and a slight decrease to 1,235 labs in 2003. In 2002, the Statewide Drug Threat Assessment prepared by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and

Dangerous Drugs Control (OBNDCC), Oklahoma ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the number of clandestine laboratory seizures. In 2004, Oklahoma dropped to 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the number of methamphetamine lab seizures according to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC).

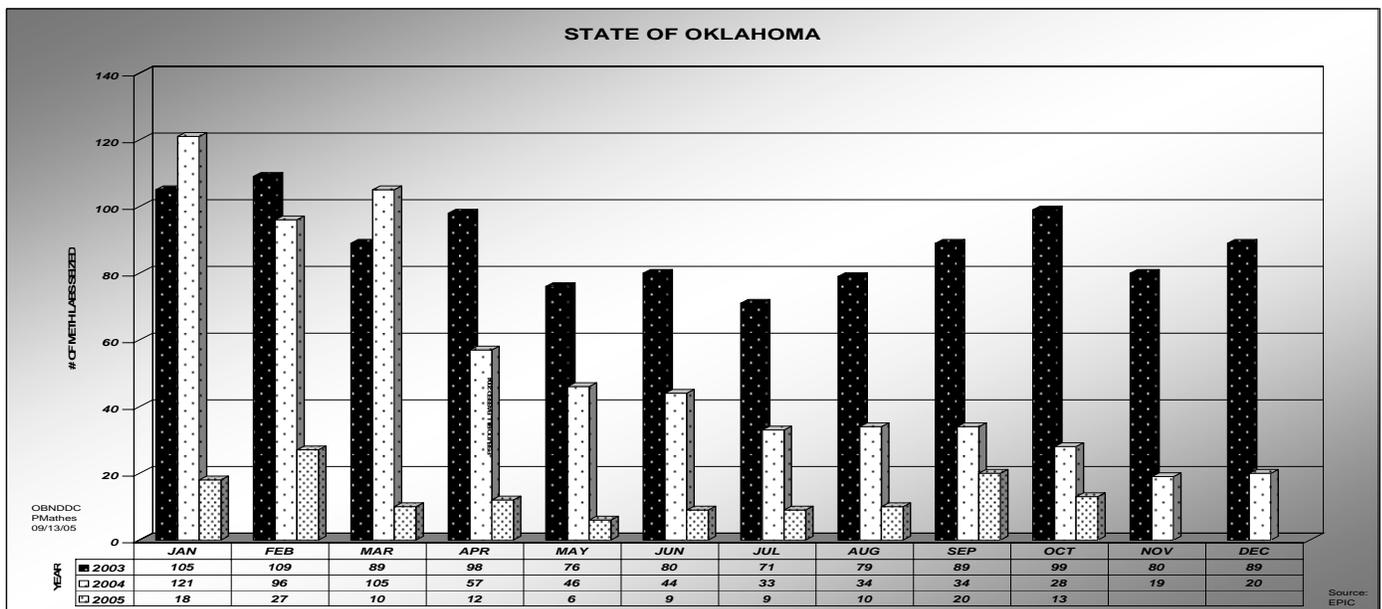
However, Oklahoma has realized a significant decline in methamphetamine labs after the 2004 passage of the Pseudoephedrine Control Bill. House Bill 2176 unanimously passed both the Oklahoma House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Brad Henry. The bill resulted from a two-day interim study in the House of Representatives in which law enforcement, prosecutors, and mental health professionals came together to address the meth lab problem in the state and identify serious solutions to what had become an epidemic in Oklahoma.

The bill is also known as the “Nik Green, Rocky Eales, and Matthew Evans Act”, named after three Oklahoma Highway Patrol Troopers killed in the line of duty in meth related cases. The bill placed pseudoephedrine tablets as a Schedule V controlled substance requiring photo identification and signature prior to sale at a licensed Oklahoma pharmacy. Gel caps, liquid caps, and liquid preparations are exempt from this law. The law requires that pharmacies ensure clients may not exceed the limit of 9 grams in a 30-day period without a prescription.

Evidence indicates that the remaining labs that are being seized are utilizing pseudoephedrine which has been purchased out of state or “smurfed” from local pharmacies. Currently, in Oklahoma pharmacies are not linked by a central database to track pseudoephedrine purchases. This allows those involved in the manufacturing of methamphetamine to go from pharmacy to pharmacy purchasing the 9-gram limit from each pharmacy. This is known as smurfing.

In 2004, with the passage off HB2176, the number of labs seized dropped to 637, a 48% reduction. As of October 2005, only 134 labs have been seized. With only two months remaining, it is estimated Oklahoma will realize an 85% reduction in labs seized compared to 2003.

### Number of Methamphetamine Labs Seized in Oklahoma



The measure has been so successful that as many as 24 other states have adopted legislation modeled after HB 2176 and have been experiencing similar results. Eleven other states are in the process. Federal legislation is being considered.

Governor Henry wants to build on Oklahoma's success in battling the meth epidemic. He has proposed strengthening the state's landmark anti-meth law. During the 2005 Legislative session, Governor Henry is urged the Legislature to authorize an online statewide database system that will link pharmacies. The database will prevent circumvention of the law by allowing pharmacies to check whether a customer has already purchased the maximum limit of 9 grams of pseudoephedrine in a 30-day period that is allowed by law. This system will also monitor Schedule II, III, and IV prescriptions.

While the Pseudoephedrine Control Bill has had a tremendous impact, it has not completely eliminated the methamphetamine manufacturing problem. Oklahoma continues to seize meth labs and must maintain a properly trained and equipped drug enforcement body to safely manage the remaining problem.

Previously, the types of seized labs were small operations that produced one ounce or less of methamphetamine per production cycle. However, since the passage of HB2176, the number of these small "mom and pop" labs have significantly decreased.

The manufacturing of methamphetamine is a simple process. Producing meth does not require any special knowledge or expertise in chemistry. The manufacturing process can be easily acquired over the Internet or is often taught by other "cooks". The main ingredient, or precursor of meth, is pseudoephedrine. Pseudoephedrine is less readily available than prior to the passage of HB2176; however, meth manufacturers are currently going to bordering states to obtain bulk quantities of cold medicine in order to manufacture meth. Other ingredients include lithium batteries, lighter fluid, and drain cleaner.

One of the most popular meth production methods is the Birch reduction method, also known as the Nazi method. This process involves anhydrous ammonia and is a fairly simple process. It requires less than one hour to produce a finished product that is approximately 95% pure. In Eastern Oklahoma, the most common method is the hydriodic acid/red phosphorus method. Using this process, methamphetamine is produced in just over three hours and is approximately 90% pure. Generally, for each one pound of meth that is produced, five to seven pounds of toxic waste is generated.

The theft of anhydrous ammonia, for use in the production of meth, is a significant problem in the state. Anhydrous ammonia is a liquid fertilizer that is being used by meth cooks to convert pseudoephedrine from cold medicine into a methamphetamine base. Thieves are stealing anhydrous ammonia from farmers' tanks as well as from several pipelines that run through the state. One anhydrous ammonia pipeline runs for approximately 117 miles from Enid to Tulsa. This pipeline has been struck so many times that workers buried the line's sample sites and removed the release valves to inhibit theft. However, with thousands of square miles of farmland in the state, it is difficult for law enforcement officers to catch the constant flow of thieves that flock to the tanks and pipelines.

Methamphetamine labs are easily assembled and have been found in every site imaginable. Labs are common in private residences, motels, sheds, and garages. Yet, the number of "mobile labs" has

increased. Mobile labs are set up in vehicles and trailers which transport the lab from one place to another.

While the cost of meth varies according to several factors, such as the purity of the drug, the region in which it is sold, and the source of the drug product (local manufacturer versus a wholesale distributor) and the availability, the average cost in Oklahoma is approximately \$65 to \$90 for a gram of methamphetamine and \$8,500 to \$15,000 per pound. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Dallas Division, which has oversight in Oklahoma, the price of methamphetamine has remained stable from 2000 to 2002.

The cost for the clean-up for the methamphetamine production sites is high. In 1999, the DEA estimated that the average clean-up cost per site in Oklahoma was \$2,500. In 2002, the DEA, state and local clean-up costs exceeded \$850,000.

Prior to the passage of HB2176, the most common type of meth in Oklahoma was powdered meth. Unfortunately, law enforcement officers across the state are responding to the importation of crystal meth, a colorless, odorless, smokable form of meth. Crystal methamphetamine is commonly known on the street as ice. Ice is methamphetamine which has gone through a purification process changing it from powder to crystal form with a purity level of 80% or greater. Due to the purity, ice has a higher street value and greater addictive properties. The purity of ice makes it attractive to street level distribution groups due to its ability to be cut up to four times before distribution. Since the diminution of local clandestine labs, street level distribution groups are relying on the importation of crystal meth by drug trafficking organizations.

While law enforcement most often responds to domestically produced meth, it is also imported into the state in an already processed form. Once dominated by motorcycle gangs, other criminal organizations are now the primary wholesalers of meth and other drugs. Approximately 20 Mexican drug trafficking organizations have been identified by the DEA as operating in the Midwest.

According to the OBNDDC, 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.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA), in 1993 Oklahoma had 92 methamphetamine addiction admissions to publicly-funded treatment units. In 2002, the number of admissions was 3,442. Over the course of the past nine years, there has been a 3,600% increase in the number of admissions for methamphetamine addition.

For the most recent six years (1997 – 2002), the number of methamphetamine related admissions to publicly-funded facilities in Oklahoma ebbed and surged. A significant increase in admissions was seen in 2000, 2001, and 2002, after a low of 1,857 in 1999. The number of admissions for 2002 is the highest in the last six years at 3,447 admissions and a 6.6% increase over the previous year.

Year	Methamphetamine/Amphetamine Admissions	Percentage of Increase or Decrease
1997	2,191	----
1998	1,928	-12%
1999	1,857	-3%
2000	2,587	39%
2001	3,231	25%
2002	3,447	6.6%

From 1992 to 2002, the proportion of admissions for the abuse of methamphetamine/amphetamine and other stimulants increased from 1% of the total number of admissions to 7%. 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.

In 1996 the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) identified 39 deaths in Oklahoma City in which methamphetamine was a contributing factor but not necessarily the primary cause of death. In 2000, this number increased to 56. In twelve of the 56 deaths, methamphetamine was the only drug detected. The remaining 44 deaths involved methamphetamine in addition to one or more other types of drugs. In 2000, the number of methamphetamine deaths was the second largest category of all types of recorded drugs and alcohol combination deaths, representing 29% of the total. The number of methamphetamine deaths was preceded only by narcotic analgesics.

### **Cocaine**

Powdered cocaine and crack cocaine continue to be readily available and pose a significant drug problem in Oklahoma, although it is not as predominant of a problem as methamphetamine. Cocaine is generally not produced in the state but is primarily transported by Mexican drug trafficking organizations and Mexican criminal groups. Independent dealers, as well as African American and Hispanic Street gangs, are also involved in the distribution of cocaine. Generally, cocaine is shipped into or through the state via private and rental vehicles.

After the powdered cocaine is transported, it can be changed to crack cocaine through a conversion process. This conversion process converts the cocaine back to a relatively pure base state so it can be suitable for smoking. This method of preparation does not involve the use of heated volatile substances and consequently eliminates the dangers of fire and explosion that can occur in conventional freebasing. After conversion, the product is sold in ready-to-smoke powder. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the euphoric effect produced by smoking crack cocaine is far more intense than if ingested through snorting, and is at least equal to, if not greater than, the effect obtained through injection.

As with all other drugs the cost of powder and crack cocaine will differ depending on a number of variables. According to the Dallas Division of the DEA, the price of powder cocaine has remained stable from 2000 to 2002. The average cost for powdered cocaine in Oklahoma is approximately \$80 to \$100 for a gram, \$750 to \$1,200 for an ounce, and \$14,000 to \$24,000 per kilogram. With crack cocaine, the average price for a “rock” is approximately \$5 to \$50. An ounce of crack cocaine will generally cost between \$750 and \$1000.

In the past six years, the admissions to publicly funded treatment units for cocaine addiction have been decreasing. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) through the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), Oklahoma peaked in 1997 with 1,982 admissions for cocaine treatment and dropped to a low of 1,345 admissions in 2000. However, in 2002, admissions increased 6% over the previous year and climbed to 1,751 admissions.

Year	Cocaine Admissions	Percentage of Increase or Decrease
1997	1,982	----
1998	1616	-19%
1999	1350	-17%
2000	1,345	0%
2001	1,654	23%
2002	1,751	6%

## **Marijuana**

Marijuana is readily available and frequently abused throughout the state. Marijuana is imported from Mexico by Mexican drug trafficking organizations and cartels in combination with a number of other illegal drugs. Because of the state's central location to other major metropolitan areas in all directions, Oklahoma is often a transshipment point. Other criminal groups are also involved in the retail distribution of marijuana, such as African American, Caucasian criminal groups, motorcycle gangs, street gangs, and independent dealers.

Some marijuana is grown in-state; however, due to an intense and ongoing focus by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Control (OBNDCC) cultivated crops in the state have decreased tremendously.

For the past ten years, OBNDCC has used air assault techniques to eradicate cultivated marijuana. The program incorporates assistance from local law enforcement, in addition to other state and federal enforcement agencies. The program involves teams of officers who rappel into marijuana fields, seize the plants, make arrests, and conduct the necessary investigations on the growers. OBNDCC also focuses on wild-growing marijuana by using backpack herbicide spray tanks.

According to the Dallas Division of the DEA the price of marijuana has remained stable from 2000 to 2002. Commercial grade marijuana throughout the state sells for approximately \$75 to \$120 per ounce or \$500 to \$1,200 per pound.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) through the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), the admissions to publicly funded treatment units for marijuana have remained fairly stable from 1997 to 2000. In 2001, the number of admissions for marijuana spiked to 2,832, a 25% increase over the previous year. In 2002, the number of admissions for marijuana increased to 3,005, a 6% increase over the number of admissions in 2001.

Year	Marijuana Admissions	Percentage of Increase or Decrease
1997	2,423	-----
1998	2,128	-14%
1999	2,018	-5%
2000	2,261	11%
2001	2,832	25%
2002	3,005	6%

### **Diverted Pharmaceuticals**

According to the North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), another trend that needs to be addressed is diverted pharmaceutical drugs. In late 2002, the North Texas HIDTA incorporated six counties in Oklahoma into their coverage area. The North Texas HIDTA is a national transshipment and distribution region for drugs arriving from Mexico and destined for northern Texas, Oklahoma, and other areas in the country.

Although pharmaceutical diversion has not received as much attention and publicity as the abuse of other drugs, it is a substantial and growing problem. The most common methods of diversion of pharmaceutical controlled substances is the illegal and indiscriminate prescribing of controlled substances, “doctor shopping” by offenders who obtain prescriptions for the same pharmaceuticals from several physicians, forged prescriptions, pharmacy theft, and obtaining controlled substances for personal use by health care professionals by way of fraud.

The most commonly diverted pharmaceuticals in Oklahoma are oxycodone, commonly prescribed as OxyContin, Percodan, Percocet, and Tylox, and hydrocodone, commonly prescribed as Lortab, Lorcet, and Vicodin. According to the DEA, Oklahoma ranks the highest in the nation for the purchase of pharmaceutical drugs containing hydrocodone. Unfortunately, oxycodone is also on the rise. During the past three years in Oklahoma, there has been a 221% increase in the shipment of pharmaceuticals containing oxycodone into the state.

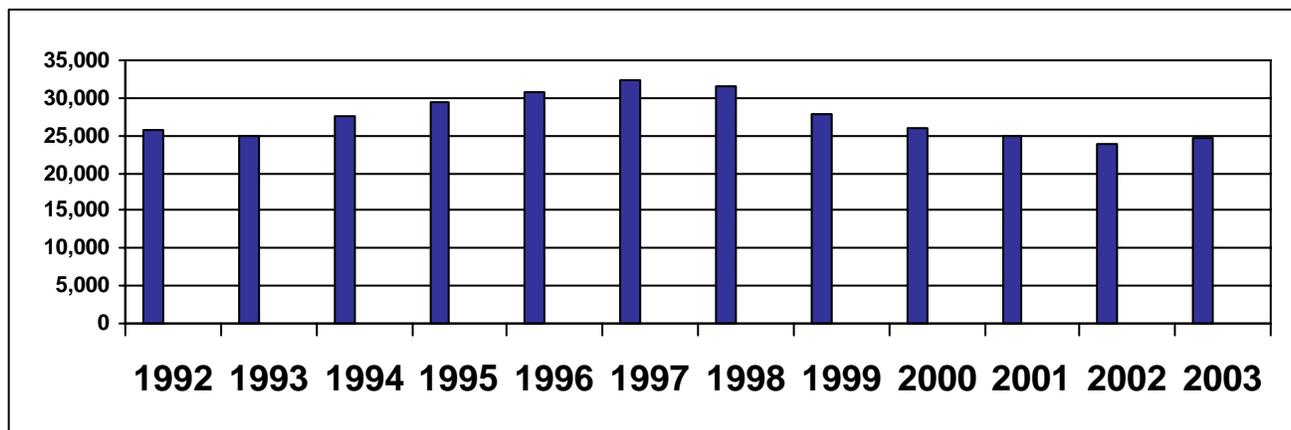
The Internet has become a source for pharmaceutical drugs. In 2000, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Control (OBNDCC) began an investigation into an illegal hydrocodone operation. Approximately 230,000 dosage units of hydrocodone were seized from a pharmacy in Norman, Oklahoma. Unfortunately, the diverters, through illegal filling of 5,293 prescriptions had already distributed over 400,000 dosage units of hydrocodone.

Of the 755 drug-related deaths that occurred from January 2000 to July 2002, 13%, or 98, were from hydrocodone and 11%, or 83, were from oxycodone.

### **Juvenile Crime**

Since 1992, the number of arrests for juveniles has surged and then ebbed, according to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Report. Juvenile crime hit a peak in 1997 with 32,283 arrests and has been declining since that time. In 2003, there were 24,684 juvenile arrests, an increase of 3% from 2002. In 2003, juveniles accounted for 14.8% of all persons arrested for all crimes.

## TOTAL JUVENILE ARRESTS 1992-2003



Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, 2003 Uniform Crime Report.

The top five arrest offenses for juveniles in 2003 were:

1. Larceny Theft, except for motor vehicles – 4662 Arrests
2. All Other Offenses – 3370 Arrests
3. Runaway – 3181 Arrests
4. Curfew and Loitering Law Violations - 3103 Arrests
5. Total Possession, including marijuana, opium, cocaine, and all other drugs – 1694 Arrests

Juvenile alcohol related arrests, which includes driving under the influence, drunkenness, and other liquor law violations, accounted for 1,904. This is the lowest number of arrests since 1994. There has been a 9.5% decrease from 2000 for drug related arrests. In 2003, 1,876 juveniles were arrested on drug related charges.

In 1998, Oklahoma passed the Youthful Offender Act. If a juvenile commits crimes, such as Murder in the First Degree, Murder in the Second Degree, Manslaughter, and Robbery, under Oklahoma law, they can be charged as a Youthful Offender. As of the close of FY2003, 543 juveniles have been convicted as Youthful Offenders as reported by the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA). In Fiscal Year 2003, 109 juveniles were convicted as Youthful Offenders. Thirty-six (36) were sentenced to the Department of Corrections. Of the remaining, 459 were placed in the custody of OJA and 48 placed under the supervision of OJA.

In looking at a ten-year comparison of the types of crimes committed by juveniles between 1994 and 2003, a 36.3% decrease in the number of violent crimes occurred compared to a 129.7% increase for drug-related arrests. A 10.5% increase in alcohol arrests for juveniles was also experienced between 1994 and 2003. During this ten year span, juvenile weapons law violations decreased significantly from a high in 1994 of 624 arrests to 325 in 2003, representing a 92% decrease.

### **Arrests**

According to the 2003 Statewide Felony Sentencing Report produced by the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center, in 1994, there were 11,321 drug arrests in Oklahoma. In 2003, ten years later, there were 21,169 arrests for drug sales, manufacturing, and possession. This represents an

87% increase in drug crime arrests. During this same time period, the Uniform Crime Report for index crime arrests, which includes the most violent crimes, has remained relatively stable over the past ten years, with 16,754 arrests in 2003.

One of the reasons for the drop in violent crimes may be connected to the drug task forces. Local law enforcement is generally under funded and does not and has not had the manpower to address the proliferation of methamphetamine in Oklahoma. As a result, drug task forces have undertaken a primary role in the investigation of drug related crimes throughout the state. With drug task forces attending to the drug-related crimes, the investigations are more focused and arrests more abundant. In turn, local law enforcement has more time to attend to the more serious violent crimes in their communities. In addition, drug offenders do not just commit drug-related crimes. There is a connection between drug offenders and the violent crimes that are committed. In a study of one drug task force where 30 crack cocaine dealers were arrested, the violent crime in that area went down 50% during the next year according to a study conducted by the FBI. This division of responsibility between law enforcement has served the state well and increased arrests for drug sales, manufacturing, possession, and trafficking.

### ***Prison Population***

As is true with the rest of the nation, the prison population in Oklahoma has increased every year since 1980. Even with the decrease in the crime rates during the 1990's the prison population has steadily increased every year for the past two decades. This is, in part, because the State now has few mechanisms to control the prison population. Many of the controls that were once available were eliminated after a 1996 killing spree by an offender on an early release program. In addition, lawmakers passed laws that forced certain offenders to serve at least 85% of their sentences. Given this change, time served for violent offenders is increasing. According to the Department of Corrections, at the end of calendar year 2004 there were 23,260 inmates in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

### ***Conviction and Sentencing Information for Drug and Alcohol Offenses***

From 1995 to 2004, prison receptions for drug crimes which include possession, distribution, manufacturing, and trafficking almost doubled as reported in the 2003 Statewide Felony Sentencing Report by the Criminal Justice Resource Center. Over the past ten years, while the general public's knowledge has increased about the illegal use of drugs, tolerance has decreased.

In 2003, the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center reported 20,093 total individual offenders were convicted in the 77 county district courts. Of that number, drug possession accounted for 23.7% of all convictions, drug distribution accounted for 10%, drug manufacturing account for 4.2% drug trafficking accounted for .8%, and other drug convictions accounted for 2.4%.

The majority of offenders who were convicted of drug possession or drug distribution received a probationary sentence (36%). Thirty-one percent (31%) received a prison sentence and 33% received a jail sentence.

When convictions for the six top offense categories were examined from 2000 to 2003, drug possession convictions were up 3% from 21% to 24% during that four year period and drug distribution remained relatively stable at 10%.

## **Violent Offenses**

In reviewing the number of violent crimes over the past ten years, there was a steady upward trend in the total number of violent crimes reported between 1994 and 1995. This trend significantly reversed in 1996 with a decline of 18.5% from 1995 to 2003.

According to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation through the 2003 Uniform Crime Report, there was an overall 1% increase from 2002 to 2003 for all violent crimes, including murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. In that same time period, there were 206 murders across the state which is a 26.4% increase over the previous year. The crime of rape was down 4.6% from the previous year, robbery increased by 8.7%, and aggravated assault decreased by .5% from 2002 to 2003.

## **Youth and Criminal Gang Activity**

Generally, a youth gang is a self-formed association of peers identified by a gang name and having a specific sense of identity, such as style of clothing, graffiti, and/or hand signs. The members' ages in youth gangs can vary, with some members as young as 10 years old and ranging up to 24 years old. Youth gangs tend to be more prevalent in larger cities, defined as having populations of over 100,000. However, a number of smaller jurisdictions in Oklahoma identify problems with gang activity. The most significant gang activity, though, occurs in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, the largest communities in the state.

Beginning in about 1985 and continuing through mid-1990, the data suggests that the number of cities and counties experiencing youth gang problems increased substantially. Since that time, the rate of gang activities has stabilized. Unfortunately, the 2002 National Youth Gang Survey identified a slight increase in the prevalence of gang activity compared to 2001. This data is consistent with gang-related activities occurring in Oklahoma. Within the past year, Oklahoma City and Tulsa have both experienced an increase in the number of gang related crimes and incidents.

The specific number of youth involved in gangs in Oklahoma is difficult to determine. The prevalence of youth gang membership varies by locality and is typically higher in areas with long-standing gang problems. National estimates, established through surveys with youth, indicate that a low of 11% to a high of 30% of all youth are involved in gangs.

Since 1992, the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office began keeping records on all gang members. From 1992 to 2003, over 3,200 individuals have been identified claiming association to over 433 different gang sets in Tulsa County alone. As of 2003, there are 1,803 known active individuals involved, in varying degrees, with criminal street gangs. Active gang members are identified as those who are not in prison and have demonstrated some activity in the last two years. Since 1992, female gang members comprise 9% of the identified gang members.

Interviews with gang members indicate that the reasons behind joining a gang are generally not conscious and vary with the individual youth. It is suggested that one of the many reasons for joining a gang is the identity that is obtained through the gang culture. Often, gang members perceive that by joining a gang there is protection against the outside world. This may very well be true when multiple rival gangs operate within a community. Protection from violence and attack is provided through gang membership and involvement.

Studies also indicate that a family structure is often lacking in the lives of the youth that become involved with gangs. If a sense of family is lacking, the closeness and protection that would typically be available within the family is instead offered through gang involvement. This is often more attractive than any negative consequences that may be a result of gang association. There is often an intimidation factor involved, as well. Young new members may be forced to join in order to fend off assaults and threats of assaults, either to themselves or family members.

Gang activity is not just an issue of territorial control but also involves a lucrative drug market. During July 2004 through June 2005, the Tulsa Police Department's Gang Task Force had 66 active cases and initiated 155 new cases. As a result of the investigations, the Gang Task Force seized approximately 3.5 pounds of crack cocaine, 1.8 pounds of methamphetamine, 17.7 pounds of cocaine, 93 grams of heroin, and 317 pounds of marijuana, and 24 guns were seized. These drugs had a street value of \$673,740 according to the Drug Enforcement Agency.

Gang activity is a serious issue, especially in the metropolitan areas of the state. The Tulsa Gang Task Force recently completed a two-year investigation of the Hoover Crips Gang. The investigation was a collaborative effort among the U.S. Attorneys Office of the Northern District of Oklahoma, the ATF, and the Tulsa Police Department's Gang Task Force Unit and Homicide Division. This lengthy investigation resulted in a 147-count indictment of 13 Hoover Crips gang members or individuals who were a part of the criminal enterprise with that gang. The indictments contained allegations of racketeering, drug dealing, firearms crimes, and even murder. This was the first ever Federal RICO case prosecuted in the Northern District of Oklahoma. The indictments were announced on June 22, 2005. As of August 19<sup>th</sup>, all 13 indicted individuals were in custody.

## SELECTED PRIORITIES

In order to develop a four-year plan and identify priorities for funding, the JAG Board reviewed a variety of current, valid, and pertinent data. In addition, the Board conducted an examination of the positive progress occurring in various areas of the criminal justice system, completed an individual survey on priorities for funding, and obtained input from a statewide Public Hearing in 2003.

After a careful review of the data and analysis, the JAG Board was able to make informed decisions concerning the most effective and efficient usage of the limited resources dedicated toward reducing drugs and violent crime in Oklahoma.

### **Goals and Objectives**

For 2005 – 2008, the following goals were established:

1. Through multijurisdictional drug task forces, encourage, assist, foster, and promote the prevention, control, and eradication of illegal importation, manufacture, distribution, possession, and improper use of illegal drugs and controlled substances, especially methamphetamines
2. Reduce the trafficking of illegal drugs and narcotics in and through the state

3. Educate and improve coordination with the general public, professional and educational, civic, charitable, and religious groups, and other entities on the prevention, detection, control and eradication of illegal drugs and controlled substances, especially methamphetamine
4. Enhance the public and officer safety by funding equipment to local law enforcement jurisdictions
5. Improve the completeness, accuracy and the access of criminal history and disposition information through the increased use of technology, with a special emphasis on integration efforts
6. Continue efforts toward the development and implementation of a state plan for criminal justice information systems integration
7. Improve the quality, credibility, timeliness of forensic science services for the criminal justice system
8. Address law enforcement programs that relate to gangs or youth at risk of gang involvement
9. Reduce recidivism by providing effective drug and alcohol treatment for adult and juvenile offenders
10. Provide training to law enforcement on demand reduction education programs for youth
11. Improve the operational effectiveness of law enforcement through the use of crime analysis techniques, street sales enforcement, schoolyard violator programs, and gang-related and low-income housing drug-control programs

### **Priorities for Funding**

To meet these goals, the JAG Board prioritized the following purpose areas for funding.

Priority	Purpose Areas
1	1
2	2, 3, 4, 5, 6

## STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

### **Overview**

After conducting a thorough review of the data, the following section identifies the types of programs that are needed.

### ***Disrupting the Local Drug Market Through Multijurisdictional Drug Task Forces***

Because the manufacturing, distribution, and use of methamphetamine has been so prevalent in Oklahoma, nearly every law enforcement agency has had to respond to meth lab investigations. However, the single largest drug enforcement body in Oklahoma is the multijurisdictional drug task forces. There are over 60 investigators in the field and another 30 law enforcement officers that are co-opted through interagency agreements on either a part-time or full-time basis. These investigators are specifically focused on the control and eradication of illegal importation, manufacture, possession, distribution, and improper use of illegal drugs and controlled substances in the state.

From 1999 to 2004, there was a dramatic proliferation of methamphetamine throughout the state. Drug task forces were forced to change the focus in order to respond to the meth lab epidemic. As a result, drug task forces significantly reduced the number of proactive investigations of primary sources of major drug suppliers in lieu of reacting to small local cells of independent manufacturers and users.

Local meth manufacturers are generally not a part of major distribution networks, but simply produce enough for themselves and a few close associates. These offenders do, nevertheless, cause a number of major public safety problems. Because of the chemicals involved, meth labs pose a dangerous environmental problem due to explosions and fires resulting from dangerous chemicals used in the production of meth and the resulting toxic waste byproducts. It is estimated that for every pound of meth that is produced, an average of five to six pounds of toxic waste is also produced.

In addition, the behavioral symptoms associated with methamphetamine use include violent behavior, paranoia, an inability to sleep, and auditory hallucinations. Meth users are considered to be unpredictable and dangerous. These symptoms increase the risk of child abuse and neglect and domestic violence. As result of the environmental and characteristics associated with meth, it has remained a major concern of local police and drug task forces.

The multi-faceted capabilities of drug task forces create a unique localized drug enforcement response as well as an effective statewide approach. According to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, one of the twelve critical elements for drug task force success is the prosecutor serving as the lead agency. District Attorneys are able to forge local alliances, pool resources, and facilitate the sharing of tactical and strategic drug intelligence information in order to customize a regional response to drug enforcement and drug education issues in their respective districts.

Through the drug task forces, collaborative relationships among rural law enforcement agencies are continually fostered to achieve the maximum impact on the drug problem. Law enforcement agencies that participate on drug task forces often range from those with limited abilities to provide drug enforcement for their communities to those that cannot provide any type of drug enforcement efforts. Most local law enforcement agencies participate with drug task forces to the extent that resources permit, and in exchange, expect the drug task force to provide local drug enforcement for them.

Over the past four years, the drug task forces in Oklahoma have become a more organized statewide structure. There are 22 drug task forces operating in the state; however, through the statewide Drug Task Force Coordinator and the quarterly drug task force meetings, the task forces have come together to combine resources, share information, and create a comprehensive statewide drug enforcement strategy. The quarterly meetings are interactive in nature providing for group discussion, the presentation of current and relevant information, up-to-date training, and exposure to leaders of other law enforcement agencies and related organizations in order to keep drug task forces informed and to understand their role and collective efforts.

In addition to the quarterly meetings, a Drug Task Force Advisory Committee has been established. The state was divided into six regions and a representative from each region was elected to serve a two-year term. The Advisory Committee meets as needed and provides input to the District Attorneys Council on issues impacting drug task forces.

Since the passage of HB2176 and the reduction of clandestine meth lab seizures, drug task forces are now returning to investigations involving primary sources of supply. Drug task forces play a vital role for state and federal drug enforcement agencies. Frequently, drug task forces are requested to provide manpower and essential drug intelligence to state and federal agencies in order to assist with investigations that have wider implications. In the reverse situation, there are times when drug task forces develop leads at the local level that ultimately involve state and federal agencies in cases that have state, national, and/or international implications.

Drug task forces have had to devote resources to local methamphetamine laboratory investigations that mostly yield addicted users. This required response to meth lab investigations generally limited investigators from directing resources toward Mexican drug trafficking organizations. Now, however, the drug task forces will be able to target the drug trafficking organizations. Mexican drug trafficking organizations are widely known to be expanding unchecked throughout the state and are becoming entrenched as primary sources of drug supply in most jurisdictions.

### ***Disrupting Local Availability By Removing Primary Supply Organizations***

Due to Oklahoma's closeness to the Mexican border and the fact that it is largely comprised of rural jurisdictions, it is attractive to Mexican drug trafficking organizations. A number of these organizations have taken advantage of law enforcement's focus on the meth manufacturing epidemic to set up undetected stash houses and distribution networks in secluded areas of the state. The Mexican drug trafficking organizations prefer secluded rural areas where law enforcement funding is at its lowest minimizing their chances of being discovered.

The State of Oklahoma will continue to utilize the multijurisdictional drug task forces as the primary responder to control the drug crimes of manufacturing, possession, distribution, and improper use of illegal drugs and controlled substances at the local level as well as work in tandem with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control (OBNDDC) through the Wire Intercept Project to address international importation cases. The goal of this project is to reduce the local availability of illicit drugs by removing complete supply organizations in a manner that precludes their reconstruction and reorganization.

The Wire Intercept Program uses traditional drug enforcement methods such as undercover techniques, surveillance, and search and seizures but is augmented with court ordered wiretaps and electronic data intercepts to secure evidence against co-conspirators of selected targeted organizations. Generally, the investigations target the upper echelons of major drug distribution networks. These highly placed individuals often control major Mexican distribution networks that are responsible for supplying local distributors and retailers. The identities of these individuals are often not known or are insulated from traditional investigative methods and are only uncovered through the wiretap operations. The project employs six bilingual Hispanic agents and three bilingual transcriber typists that complement a cadre of seasoned drug agents.

The project targets wire intercepts that are directed at Spanish speaking Mexican wholesale organizations and Mexican supply sources. The project develops targets internally as well as accepting target proposals from other agencies and drug task forces.

### ***Targeting Domestic Sources of Controlled and Illegal Substances***

As of July 2003, any business or individual who is a manufacturer, wholesaler, or distributor of any product containing pseudoephedrine is required to register with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control (OBNDDC) as a result of the passage of legislation. Failure to obtain registration is a crime and punishable by a fine up to \$10,000.

Under Oklahoma State Law, it is unlawful for any person to knowingly sell, transfer, distribute, or dispense any product containing pseudoephedrine if the person knows that the purchaser will use the product as a precursor to manufacture methamphetamine or if the person sells, transfers, distributes or dispenses the product with reckless disregard as to how the product will be used. OBNDDC will now be able to track and monitor the distribution of pseudoephedrine in the state to discover any diversion of pseudoephedrine. It is anticipated that targeting domestic sources of controlled and illegal substances, especially pseudoephedrine, will be an important component in responding to the methamphetamine problem in the state.

### ***Integrating of Criminal Justice Systems in the State***

In 1992, as a result of the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) establishment of a funding stream within the Byrne Grant Program to improve the criminal history records and records systems, a task force under the Drug and Violent Crime Grant Board was established. The mission of the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) Task Force is to improve public safety by collecting, disseminating, and integrating the state's criminal history and sex offender record systems. It is critical that this process address the accurate and timely reporting of records. Through the CJIS Task Force, the key criminal justice agencies meet monthly to discuss, plan, strategize, and review progress regarding the improvement of criminal history records and the further efforts toward integration among the agencies.

To achieve the goals of the CJIS Task Force, infrastructure within the state agencies and local governments first had to be established. Funding from the Byrne Grant funding assisted with this effort. Since the infrastructure of the state agencies has been built, the focus is shifting to integration among state agencies. Some JAG funds, along with the National Criminal History Improvement Program and Department of Homeland Security funds, are being used for this purpose.

### ***Enhancing Forensic Labs to Assist the Criminal Justice System in Responding to Drug and Violent Crimes***

Rather than a single agency that conducts all forensic science services in the state, in Oklahoma numerous law enforcement agencies provide services in one or more of the eight disciplines of forensic sciences. These disciplines include:

1. Biology - DNA and Serology
2. Controlled Substances
3. Firearms and Tool Marks
4. Latent Prints
5. Marijuana Identification
6. Questioned Documents
7. Trace Evidence
8. Toxicology

Currently, there are 17 forensic labs operating in the state. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation has six labs involving multiple disciplines. These laboratories operate regionally throughout the state, including Oklahoma City (2), Lawton, Enid, Tahlequah, and McAlester. In addition, the Oklahoma City Police Department and the Tulsa Police Department, the two major metropolitan jurisdictions in the state, have forensic labs with multiple disciplines.

Four police departments operate a Latent Print Lab in the communities of Broken Arrow, Lawton, Enid, and Stillwater. Four police departments operate Latent Print and Marijuana Identification labs. These labs are located in the Norman Police Department, Ardmore Police Department, Midwest City Police Department, and the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office. The Oklahoma County District Attorneys Office has a Questioned Documents lab. 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.

In an effort to improve the quality of forensic science services provided to the criminal justice system throughout the state, Governor Brad Henry signed legislation on May 9, 2003, which required all labs operating and established to be accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors – Lab Accreditation Board (ASCLD-LAB) or the American Board of Forensic Toxicologists (ABFT) by July 1, 2005.

As set forth in the legislation, a forensic lab is defined as a lab operated by the state or any unit of local government of a municipality, county, city, or any other local government that examines physical evidence in criminal matters and provides opinion testimony in a court of law in forensic disciplines accredited by ASCLD-LAB. Any testimony, results, reports, or evidence of forensic analysis produced on behalf of the prosecution in a criminal trial will be produced by a lab that is ASCLD-LAB accredited.

The statute exempts latent print identification that is performed by an International Association for Identification (IAI) certified latent print examiner and marijuana identification using methods generally accepted in the forensic field that are approved by a forensic laboratory accredited by ASCLD-LAB in controlled substances.

Since the passing of the legislation, five laboratories have received ASCLD-LAB or ABFT accreditation. These five labs are in addition to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation who had received accreditation prior to the legislation. The accredited labs are:

1. Broken Arrow Police Department
2. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
3. Oklahoma City Police Department
4. Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office
5. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
6. Tulsa Police Department

It is anticipated that a sixth lab, the Ardmore Police Department, will receive accreditation in January 2006.

## ***Alternative Sentencing to Address Prison Overcrowding and Treatment Needs of Adult and Juvenile Drug and Alcohol Offenders***

While the success of the drug task forces in the investigation and prosecution of drug related cases is positive for the state in terms of disrupting the market, the success has placed a significant burden on the Department of Corrections. The State of Oklahoma continues to explore alternative sanctions programs to meet the treatment needs of adult and juvenile drug- and alcohol-dependent offenders. By exploring this alternative, it is anticipated that the incarceration rates for low level offenders will be addressed.

One of the successful endeavors in treating offenders has been achieved through Drug Courts. Drug Courts are special courts that handle cases involving non-violent drug using offenders through supervision and treatment. Drug Courts offer a choice for individuals whose criminal justice involvement stems from alcohol or drug use. An individual must plead guilty to a specified drug related charge in order to enter Drug Court. In exchange for successful completion of the treatment program, the court may dismiss the original charge, reduce or set aside a sentence, offer a lesser penalty, or offer a combination in accordance with a plea agreement. In addition, the offender must successfully complete a drug treatment program, be subjected to frequent drug testing, and intense judicial supervision. While compliance rests completely with the offender, immediate sanctions are instituted if the rules of Drug Court are not followed. Typical sanctions include jail, community service, recommendations for termination from the program, and rephasing in the program for requiring longer treatment.

There are numerous on-going research projects to determine the effectiveness of Drug Courts. Many look toward recidivism data to determine the success of Drug Courts; however, this can be a dangerous determination as recidivism depends on a variety of factors, including the drug population served, policing strategies, prosecution strategies, parole and probation policies, local crime rates, drug markets, unemployment levels, housing availability, and treatment services available. A national study commissioned by the National Institute of Justice to measure the average recidivism rate for Drug Court graduates estimates that within one year after graduation, 16.4% of Drug Court graduates had been rearrested and charged with a serious offense. A serious offense is defined as any arrest and charge with a crime that carries a sentence of at least one year upon conviction. Within two years, the recidivism rate increases to 27.5%. There is a strong correlation between the type of offender served by Drug Courts and the recidivism data. Drug Courts with the lowest recidivism data tend to accept offenders with the least severe problems, including participants whose primary drug used is alcohol or marijuana. In contrast, Drug Courts with the highest recidivism rates tend to accept offenders who are primarily addicted to cocaine and heroin.

With continuing research on the effectiveness of drug courts, it is believed that this is a successful approach in addressing the treatment needs of adult and juvenile drug- and alcohol-dependent offenders and a program to provide alternatives to detention, jail, and prison for persons who pose no danger to the community. In addition, there may be other proven programs that will address these goals.

## ***Addressing Juvenile Crime***

Over the past five years, the number of arrests of juveniles has declined. The top offenses for juvenile crime include larceny theft, except for motor vehicles, curfew and loitering violations, runaways, and possession of illegal substances, including marijuana, opium, cocaine, and all other drugs.

## ***Responding to Gang Related Crimes***

Although both large and small communities throughout Oklahoma identify problems with gang activity, the most significant gang activity occurs in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, the largest communities in the state. There are a number of federal programs that assist law enforcement and prosecutors with efforts to deal with gang-related criminal activity. Federal programs include the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

## ***Officer Training for Drug Awareness Resistance Education to Prevent Drug Use***

While intervention is critical, prevention is also important. A number of years ago, the State of Oklahoma funded individual Drug Awareness Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) programs throughout the state. Because other federal funding was available to support these programs, the focus shifted toward funding statewide training of officers providing the school-based prevention program.

Prevention is an important aspect in securing the future health, safety, and security of children and is a building block to reduce crime and violence in society. In the last five years, the well being of schools has been threatened by a set of related and growing problems, such as drug and alcohol abuse and violence committed in schools by students. The D.A.R.E. Curriculum, a school based prevention program, provides children with the information and skills needed to live drug- and violence-free lives. The D.A.R.E. Program encompasses a curriculum for the elementary school level, middle school level, and high school level.

In recent years, some studies have suggested that the D.A.R.E. Program isn't effective. As a result of this criticism, a major revision of the D.A.R.E. Curriculum was undertaken. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded the development and evaluation of a new curriculum for D.A.R.E. for the middle and high school components. D.A.R.E. America funded the revision of the elementary curriculum. The new curriculum incorporates up-to-date evidence and research-based strategies for drug abuse prevention programming developed by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The first findings on the modified curriculum indicate that it improves students' decision making-skills, drug refusal skills, and beliefs that drug use is socially inappropriate.

The D.A.R.E. Program is taught by law enforcement officers that have been certified after attending a two-week training program. The officers may be school resource officers or law enforcement officers assigned to a particular school. After certification, officers must be recertified annually by attending an 8-hour conference, in-service training, or national conference.

## **COORDINATION**

The efforts to coordinate the JAG Grant with other federal programs continue from efforts established through the Byrne Grant. There is improved coordination between federal grant programs and the various Boards that provide oversight as well as increased collaboration with other state agencies that implement or receive federal funding in an effort to reduce duplication and maximize resources.

### **Training for Board Members**

During 2004, informal training was conducted with the various Boards that provide oversight to specific grant programs administered by the District Attorneys Council. These Boards included the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Board, the Drug and Violent Crime Grant Board, the Forensic Sciences Improvement Task Force, and the Violence Against Women Act Grant Board. The goal of the informal training sessions was to educate each board about the various grant programs implemented by the District Attorneys Council and the grants' purpose areas. It has been a successful endeavor in creating a broader vision for the use of all federal grant funds.

As a result, increased coordination occurred between the Paul Coverdale National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act (NFSIA) Grant and the Byrne Grant. After receiving a formula and discretionary grant from the National Institute of Justice through the NFSIA Grant, the Forensic Sciences Improvement Task Force was placed under the purview of the Byrne Grant. In all likelihood, this collaboration will continue under the JAG Board, as well. The JAG Board is charged with overseeing the JAG Grant and any remaining issues with the Byrne and Local Law Enforcement Block Grants.

### **Office of Homeland Security**

In August of 2004 the Office of Homeland Security provided a presentation to the then Drug and Violent Crime Grant Board in order to educate the Board on the overall responsibilities of the Office, as well as, the focuses of the grant programs under their leadership. Through this presentation and subsequent discussions with the Office of Homeland Security, a greater understanding was achieved and any potential duplication of efforts was eliminated.

In addition, discussions are occurring with the Office of Homeland Security on how drug task forces can be utilized as a point of contact in the event of a terrorist attack or other primary response situations.

### **COPS Grant**

The COPS Grant assists Drug Task Forces in a number of ways. First, all drug task force personnel and law enforcement officers assigned to a Drug Task Force are required to attend training on responding to the seizure or closure of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. This training is offered through the DEA and the Midwest Counter Drug Training Center (MCTC) made available through COPS Grant funding. The training includes information on the use of specialized protective and safety equipment based on OSHA requirements. In addition, through the DEA, Drug Task Forces are able to obtain approximately \$3,000 worth of equipment, including a self-contained breathing apparatus, an air monitor, protective clothing, and sampling equipment.

A second collaborative effort is in the process of development with COPS Grant funding and the Drug Task Forces. The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control (OBNDDC) was awarded a COPS Grant and has elected to use nearly one-half of the award to establish a Canister Program in the state. The Canister Program will provide a hazardous waste storage facility in Districts throughout the state, which corresponds with the drug task force regions. OBNDDC will provide a 10'x10' facility where hazardous waste from clandestine methamphetamine labs can be stored for up to one week if properly packaged with a required EPIC lab tracker number.

As a result of this effort, the time spent by drug task forces in waiting for qualified disposal personnel to remove all chemicals and associated glassware, equipment, and contaminated materials and waste from the sites of each seized laboratory will be *significantly* reduced and the processes and procedures

in meth lab clean up for the state will be *significantly* enhanced. It is anticipated that the Canister Program will be operational throughout the state within the next twelve months.

### **North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area**

In late 2002, six counties in Oklahoma were incorporated into the area of coverage of the North Texas High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). The area covered by the North Texas HIDTA is a national transshipment and distribution region for drugs arriving from Mexico and destined for northern Texas, Oklahoma, and other areas in the country. In an effort to collaborate with the efforts of the North Texas HIDTA, the Drug Task Force Coordinator attends and participates in the quarterly meetings as a representative of the drug task forces throughout the state.

Oklahoma's HIDTA project recently implemented a Deconfliction program. The Deconfliction program is a computer based program which monitors search warrants, controlled buys, and "reverse buys" to prevent local law enforcement agencies, drug task forces, and federal agencies from unknowingly encountering each other during planned activities. The deconfliction program has a 24 hours/7 days a week monitoring service where drug task forces can query this information for a specific locality prior to a planned event. This allows for further collaboration between state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies.

Further efforts of collaboration are occurring between the North Texas HIDTA and the OBNDDC through the Wire Intercept Project. Funded by the Byrne Grant, the Wire Intercept Project runs the pin registers for HIDTA, assists with surveillance efforts, debriefs Spanish-speaking informants, and runs intelligence information through their database to gather more history on specific targets.

### **Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center**

The Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center (CTAC), a Division of the Office of the National Drug Control Policy, administers a Technology Transfer Program. The Technology Transfer Program provides, at no cost to agencies, equipment and training for deployments and operations. All equipment is transferred to each recipient agency and becomes the permanent property of that organization. OBNDDC has been able to secure most of the equipment for the Wire Intercept Project, funded under the Byrne Grant, from the CTAC. Further, many of the Drug Task Forces have also obtained equipment from CTAC, including night vision equipment, fiber optic scopes, electronic monitoring devices, and thermal imaging cameras.

### **Organized Crime Enforcement Task Force**

The Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) is a federal drug enforcement program that focuses attention and resources on the disruption and dismantling of major drug trafficking organizations. OCDETF provides a framework for federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to work together to target well-established and complex organizations that direct, finance, or engage in illegal narcotics trafficking and related crimes, such as money laundering, tax violations, public corruption, illegal immigrations, weapons violations, and violent crimes. The Drug Task Forces are attentive to cases that may integrate into the OCDETF Program. Once, Drug Task Forces identify offenders in their community that fit the criteria for OCDETF, an Assistant United States Attorney is contacted. Drug Task Forces throughout the state are actively filing cases under the OCDETF Project.

### **Project Safe Neighborhoods**

Led by the 94 United States Attorneys throughout the country, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a comprehensive initiative to reduce gun crime in America by bringing together resources from the local, state and federal levels. The goal is to create safer neighborhoods by reducing gun violence and then sustaining the reduction.

As a part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, the Drug Task Forces have been trained by the Office of the United States Attorneys in all three districts in order to become a part of the solution in reducing firearms violence in their communities. Drug Task Forces throughout the state are actively filing cases under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Projects.

### **Institute for Intergovernmental Research**

In 2004, several efforts were initiated in order to improve the coordination between local and state resources as well as to further the knowledge and expertise of law enforcement within the state. An initiative to provide training to local law enforcement occurred through collaborative efforts with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR).

IIR provides local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies with assistance needed to implement changes that promote greater governmental effectiveness. One of IIR's projects is the Center for Task Force Training which provides a workshop on *Methamphetamine Investigation Management*. The focus of the workshop is to address the operational aspects of managing methamphetamine investigations, as well as the education of officers on problem areas specific to these types of investigations.

IIR held the *Methamphetamine Investigation Management Workshop* on March 23-24, 2005, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Approximately 70 law enforcement and drug task force personnel were in attendance from 46 different jurisdictions across the state. The DAC co-sponsored the event by publicizing the training to law enforcement personnel and drug task forces throughout the state. DAC also facilitated attendance by paying for the overnight lodging for 16 law enforcement officers.

The *BJA SLATT Narcotics Task Force Anti-Terrorism Briefing* through IIR is scheduled to be presented in Oklahoma City on January 26, 2005. Currently, there are over 60 law enforcement personnel pre-enrolled to attend. The DAC is working with the IIR to implement this training.

The *BJA Criminal Intelligence System Operating System Policies Workshop* through IIR is scheduled to be presented in Oklahoma City on March 9, 2005. The DAC is working with the IIR to implement this training, as well.

### **Association of Oklahoma Narcotics Enforcers**

Since drug task forces continue to be the primary approach to combat Oklahoma's growing drug problem, a second effort between local law enforcement agencies and the drug task forces was initiated. In 2004 and 2005, Byrne administrative funds were used to provide local law enforcement officers with the opportunity to attend a premier, state of the art training on narcotics enforcement. In 2005, this four-day annual training was sponsored by the Association of Oklahoma Narcotics Enforcers (A-ONE) and was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The DAC paid for the registration fees and lodging expenses for one task force member and one local law enforcement officer from each of the 22 drug task forces. Overwhelmingly, the drug task forces report that attending this

training with their local law enforcement counterparts significantly improved relationships more than any other effort ever undertaken.