

Oklahoma Bureau Of Narcotics And Dangerous Drugs Control Annual Report 2003
Commission Members

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control (OBN) Commission is a statutory advisory board of seven members, who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate. They meet quarterly or more often if necessary to provide oversight and direction for Bureau operations, provide a forum for citizen complaints against the Bureau or its personnel, and appoint the Director, as needed. (Upon Director Malcom Atwoods's retirement March 31, 2003, members appointed Lonnie Wright as director effective July 1, 2003). Members are informed about legislation, policies, major investigations, seizures and forfeitures, agency assists, the Marijuana Eradication Program, Oklahoma Schedule Two Abuse Reduction (OSTAR) Program, media, education, training, budget, disciplinary and personnel matters, and lawsuits. The following members served on the OBN Commission in 2003:

Police Chief Member:

Joe Lester, (Chairman until 7/31/03) Norman, Congressional District 4
Re-appointed by Governor Keating - term ending 12/31/2003. He resigned 7/31/03.

Phil Cotton, Norman, Congressional District 4
Appointed by Governor Henry on interim basis-terms ending 12/31/03 and 12/31/10, succeeding Joe Lester.

Sheriff Member:

Kenny Stradley, Lawton, Congressional District 4
Re-appointed by Governor Keating - term ending 12/31/2008, succeeding himself.

District Attorney Member:

Tim Harris, Tulsa, Congressional District 1
Appointed by Governor Keating - term ending 12/31/2004, succeeding Don Wood.

Lay Members:

Pete Cordova, Oklahoma City, Congressional District 6
Appointed by Governor Keating to a term ending 12/31/2005, succeeding Ernest Daffer.

Ted Jones, Claremore, Congressional District 2
Appointed by Governor Keating to a term ending 12/31/2009, succeeding Jimmie Sue Hill
Appointment withdrawn by Governor Henry.

Donald Van Alstine, Muskogee, Congressional District 2

Appointed by Governor Henry to a term ending 12/31/2009, succeeding Ted Jones.

Warren K. Doc Jordan (Vice-Chairman), Oklahoma City, Congressional District 5
Re-appointed by Governor Keating - term ending 12/31/2007, succeeding himself.

Peggy Wichert, Yukon, Congressional District 5
Re-appointed by Governor Keating - term ending 12/31/2006, succeeding herself.

OBN Mission and Office Locations

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control (OBN) was created in 1975 by the Oklahoma State Legislature. Its mission is to enforce and investigate violations of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes, to provide drug enforcement support and training to all of law enforcement within the state, and to compile drug-related statistics.

During 2003, Oklahoma City headquarters and five district offices were staffed by 97 employees, including 60 Agents providing statewide drug investigation coverage and 37 civilians (support personnel). To conform with the areas already designed by District Attorney Drug Task Forces, OBNDD redrew boundaries serviced by district offices. Consequently, some district offices become responsible for new counties in 2003.

Oklahoma City Office District #1	Tulsa Office District #2	Lawton Office District #3	Woodward Office District #4	McAlester Office District #5	Ardmore Office District #6
Blaine	Adair	Caddo	Alfalfa	Choctaw	Atoka
Canadian	Cherokee	Comanche	Beaver	Haskell	Bryan
Cleveland	Craig	Cotton	Beckham	Hughes	Carter
Garfield	Creek	Grady	Cimarron	Latimer	Coal
Garvin	Delaware	Greer	Custer	LeFlore	Johnston
Grant	Mayes	Harmon	Dewey	McCurtain	Love
Kay	Muskogee	Jackson	Ellis	McIntosh	Marshall
Kingfisher	Nowata	Jefferson	Harper	Okmulgee	Murray
Lincoln	Okfuskee	Kiowa	Major	Pittsburg	
Logan	Osage	Stephens	Roger Mills	Pontotoc	
McClain	Ottawa	Tillman	Texas	Pushmataha	
Noble	Pawnee		Washita	Seminole	
Oklahoma	Rogers		Woods		
Payne	Sequoyah		Woodward		
Pottawatomie	Tulsa				
	Wagoner				
	Washington				

Public Information/Education Officer

The Public Information Officer (PIO) is responsible for a variety of duties, including providing news releases and making statements to the media regarding OBN activities, providing drug awareness programs to schools and other groups, organizing drug/career information booths at job/health fairs, and serving as OBN's Grievance Officer, Affirmative Action Officer, and OBN's Legislative Liaison, as well as agency United Way and U.S. Savings Bonds Coordinator. Drug abuse publications are prepared and distributed by the PIO to citizens throughout the state. Data related to media and public appearances can be found in the Statistical Profile section of the Annual Report. Any group interested in drug awareness programs should contact the Public Information Officer at (405) 530-3124 or (800) 522-8031.

During 2003, the Public Information Officer helped maintain the OBN web page which provides such materials as OBN history, drug information, police training and news releases. The web site was launched on July 1, 1998 and has had more than 178,000 visitors since going on line, including 48,000 in 2003. The web site can be accessed at <http://www.obn.state.ok.us/> .

Legislation

In 2003, legislation was passed on several items important to OBN. One measure increased fees for a Narcotics Registration from \$35 to \$70 per year. OBN had not increased the fee since 1985. The reason OBN doubled the fee to \$70 was to bring the cost to the same level that narcotics handlers pay for a federal DEA registration

OBN also got a measure passed which would register all wholesalers and distributors of pseudoephedrine. The bill required these groups to maintain records of all pseudoephedrine, and keep them separate and available for inspection upon request by OBN. Failure to do so could result in the loss of their registration, as well as possible criminal and civil penalties.

Legal Section

The Legal Section is staffed by two full-time attorneys who serve respectively as General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel to the Bureau, as well as a Legal Secretary. This division represents the Bureau, its Director, and the OBN Commission in all State Court forfeiture proceedings, administrative hearings, and all other actions in which the Bureau is a party.

The Legal Section also advises the Director, members of the Commission, and Agents on Bureau Rules and Regulations, interagency leases and agreements, and proposed legislation. Additionally, the Bureau attorneys advise Agents on search and seizure, arrests, and other criminal law and procedure matters, and assist District Attorneys in the prosecution of suspected violators of Oklahoma's drug laws. They also issue administrative subpoenas for records and documents to aid Agents in their investigations, and in fact during 2003, 620 such subpoenas were issued.

The Legal Section is also closely involved in obtaining and executing Court Orders authorizing wiretaps of those suspected of trafficking in illegal drugs. These cases require constant legal advice and oversight from their very early stages, and the Bureau General Counsel devotes approximately 75% of his time to these highly technical but imminently useful investigations.

Forfeitures

Much of the litigation done by the Legal Section on behalf of the Bureau is in the area of civil forfeitures. Under both State and Federal law, vehicles, weapons, real property, and other items are forfeitable if used to facilitate the commission of a drug crime or if purchased with drug proceeds. Additionally, any money traceable to a drug transaction and any money found in close proximity to drugs also is forfeitable.

The Legal Section files and prosecutes those cases in State Court. During 2003, approximately 99 forfeiture actions were closed. As a result, a variety of property was ordered forfeited to the Bureau and/or other law enforcement agencies including the following: \$92,194.45 in currency awarded to the Bureau, \$517,852.08 in currency awarded to other law enforcement, 16 vehicles awarded to the Bureau, as well as 67 weapons. OBN also awarded 9 weapons and 4 vehicles to other agencies.

In addition to the above, a variety of miscellaneous property including cellular telephones, televisions, scales, night vision optics, scanners, video monitors, tools, a computer and equipment, a flat bed trailers, boat and boat trailer, a lawn mower, and other types of personal property were awarded to the Bureau and/or other agencies as a result of forfeiture cases filed and prosecuted by the Legal Section.

Fiscal Section

The Fiscal Section is responsible for all of the agency's financial activities. This includes preparing a Budget Work Program and Budget Request, coordinating with legislative staff, and overseeing the expenditures of the agency. This sections monitors and reports on all federal grants in the agency, coordinating with both the District Attorneys Council and the Drug Enforcement Administration on expenditure procedures and guidelines. The agency payroll and official time and leave records are also processed in this section.

Personnel Officer

The Personnel Officer manages the application of laws regulating employment practices in equal employment opportunity and Affirmative Action, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Oklahoma Personnel Act, and Oklahoma Merit Rules for Employment. The principles of equal employment opportunity apply to all employment and personnel actions.

Technical assistance and guidance on personnel matters are given to all Bureau employees, other agencies, and the general public. The Personnel Officer oversees recruitment, placement, classification, employee service evaluations, insurance, retirement, and deferred compensation benefits.

Property Section

The Property Section is responsible for all agency inventories, including federal grant property, agent equipment, and all forfeited property and items. This section works closely with the Legal Section in responding to court orders and record keeping of property. The release of property, whether processed through Central Purchasing or directly through an outside auction, is organized in the Property Section.

Diversion Division

The Diversion Division of OBN investigates cases in which legally manufactured and distributed pharmaceutical controlled substances are diverted into an illegal market. Agents are trained to conduct complex investigations and audit professional handlers of controlled drugs. Because of the regulatory nature of these kinds of controlled substances, Agents work on both criminal and administrative cases.

Oklahoma Schedule Two Abuse Reduction (OSTAR)

The Diversion Division is also responsible for the Oklahoma Schedule Two Abuse Reduction System (OSTAR). OSTAR is a computerized tracking system for all Schedule II prescriptions filled in the state. The system is used to enhance the work effectiveness for Agents, assist local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, and coordinate activities with various health regulatory boards which have been able to ensure that some of their probationary practitioners are complying with administrative orders. In cases of doctor scamming, officers are able to present district attorneys with more complete information, resulting in more successful prosecutions.

Professional Training

The Diversion Division continually provides statewide training programs for professionals who work with controlled substances. Typically, these sessions advise doctors and pharmacists about current scams, new laws, and general methods to combat diversion crimes. This kind of training is invaluable in deterring crime and helps solidify the excellent working relationships between OBN and the medical community.

Administrative Hearings

An important function of the OBN Diversion Division is to protect public safety by regulating the medical professionals allowed to prescribe or dispense controlled substances. When a medical professional is found guilty of mismanaging controlled drugs, in addition to possible criminal prosecution, the OBN Diversion Division sends out an order to show cause. These administrative hearings are designed to determine whether or not a medical professional can continue to prescribe or dispense controlled drugs. This privilege may be revoked, suspended, denied, or limited in some manner.

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Registration

OBN's Diversion Division also oversees the Registration Section. This area is responsible for licensing and regulating those individuals legally empowered to possess, dispense, distribute, administer, or manufacture controlled drugs. This group includes physicians, pharmacies, researchers, and drug detector dog handlers who use drugs to train their animals.

In 2003, the Registration Section maintained 17,866 registrants in Oklahoma. Of the 17,866 registrants, 4,967 were up for renewal, 4,107 of those were renewed, 860 were inactivated, 1,267 were new registrations, and the remainder were not up for renewal this year. From those registrants, 8,286 were Medical Doctors, 1,875 were Osteopathic Doctors, 1,959 were Dentists, 1,286 were Veterinarians, 465 were Optometrists, 100 were Podiatrists, 440 were Advance Practice Nurses, 616 were Physician Assistants, 627 were Dog Handlers, 93 were Scientific Researchers, 34 were Analytical Labs, 44 were Distributors, 1,492 were Pharmacies, 217 were Hospitals, 6 were Clinical Detoxification/Maintenance Centers, 1 was a manufacturer and 325 were pseudoephedrine distributor applicants.

This section also compiles disciplinary documentation of registrants, should violations of laws or regulations mandate such disciplinary action. Close liaison is maintained with various professional health regulatory boards and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. Show Cause Hearings, held to determine whether disciplinary action is required on a registrant's narcotic permit, are coordinated with the OBN General Counsel and the Diversion Division.

Records and Communications

The Records Section is the central repository for agency case reports. Records staff assign case numbers, create computer indexes of agency reports, file reports, and retrieve and disseminate copies of reports upon request. It also oversees the Bureau's computer network and data management.

The Communications Section consists of Dispatchers who operate a 24-hour-a-day communication center at OBN headquarters in Oklahoma City. This center maintains statewide radio communication with mobilized field Agents, provides law enforcement services information to field Agents, provides Bureau records to other police agencies, and passes messages to the Bureau Agents. Dispatchers serve as the agency receptionists after business hours, on weekends, and holidays.

Training Section

This section is responsible for Agent in-service training and career development planning, plus training other law enforcement officers throughout Oklahoma in drug enforcement, identification, and drug awareness. In 2003, Agents taught numerous one-day schools for state and local police agencies.

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These figures can be found in the Statistical Profile of the Annual Report. At OBN's two-week Narcotic Investigators Schools, held in Oklahoma City, more than 50 Federal, State, and local law enforcement representatives were trained in the latest and most efficient techniques for drug enforcement.

The OBN Training Section assisted with a DEA Air Assault School and a Rappel Master Course at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma where Rappel Masters were trained for OBN, county task forces, and many other counter-drug operations. This section also provides firearms training for OBN Agents, as well as outside departments who wish to use OBN's computerized Firearms Training System (FATS) machine.

Wire Intercept Division

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Wire Intercept Division utilizes wire tap and pen register techniques in conjunction with traditional drug enforcement investigative methods to address prioritized significant drug trafficking organizations.

The Wire Intercept Division is completely capable of working bilingual (Spanish/English) investigations and thus able to successfully engage Hispanic groups responsible for supplying local consumers with marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine.

Funding for the Wire Intercept Division is by a Bureau of Justice Assistance matching block grant. The grant is administered by the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council. Additional personnel is provided to the division by the Oklahoma Military Department Counter Narcotics Program and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Enforcement Division

The Enforcement Division contains Agents at each district office and at headquarters who primarily enforce Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes and applicable federal statutes under Title 21 of the United States Code. The Agents not only conduct small undercover drug purchases, but also investigate multi-jurisdictional complex conspiracy cases, which require criminal investigative expertise. Marijuana eradication is a primary duty for Enforcement Agents; however, because of new, simpler methamphetamine recipes surfacing, these Agents are spending greater amounts of time investigating the manufacturing and sale of domestically-produced methamphetamine. Data outlining the dramatic rise in methamphetamine labs can be found in the Statistical Profile of the Annual Report.

Marijuana Eradication

This was the tenth year in which Air Assault techniques were used to eradicate cultivated marijuana. Headed by OBN, the eradication program relies on a task force concept with numerous other states, federal, and local law enforcement agencies receiving air assault training at Camp Gruber in Braggs, Oklahoma. The program involves teams of officers who rappel into marijuana fields, seize the plants, make arrests and conduct necessary investigations on the growers. The program has been recognized nationally as one of the most successful eradication operations in the United States. Data located in the Statistical Profile of the Annual Report supports this position.

The Enforcement Section also focuses on wild-growing marijuana. In 2003, OBN once again used personnel equipped with backpack herbicide spray tanks to eradicate wild marijuana. Aerial spray eradication has also been implemented using a helicopter to apply the herbicide. OBN uses "Round-Up" weed-killer laced with a red or purple dye to indicate which plants have been treated. The spray operation has saved time, money and is proven to be environmentally safe. Additionally, spraying the plants has resulted in a larger plant kill ratio than the previous cut-and-burn method, thus preventing OBN from having to return to the same fields year after year. Data on the wild-growing eradication program also is located in the Statistical Profile of the Annual Report.

In addition to enforcement of Title 63, the OBN Enforcement Section oversees the use of the Bureau's airplane. OBN's Queen Air Beechcraft 65 provides cost-effective transportation for agency personnel by saving time and money over commercial flights or driving. It also is utilized for air surveillance, search and rescue, transporting equipment, and in spotting missions during marijuana eradication season. The Enforcement Section also has two licensed polygraph examiners who conduct tests for OBN as well as other law enforcement agencies in Oklahoma.

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Drug Detector Dog Unit

Bureau Drug Detector Dog Handlers use their assigned canines to assist Bureau Agents and other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Use of certified drug detector dogs frequently allow a search warrant to be obtained, where it would otherwise be impossible. Particularly useful in search situations, these canines locate well-hidden illegal drugs and drug-tainted currency, which may have been undetected by officers.

Canine drug interdiction efforts have consistently resulted in the initiation of investigations leading to the arrests and convictions of drug carriers and the seizure of illegal drugs and related assets. Many of these investigations involve multiple agencies and are multi-state in nature. Bureau canines are also used for demonstrations and searches at public schools, as requested by administrators, in order to find hidden drugs and provide a deterrent effect. OBN dog handlers annually test and certify all of the Drug Detector dogs throughout the state for the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET).

In 2003, OBN acquired four new drug dogs as part of a program designed to be more aggressive in stopping the flow of drug trafficking on Oklahoma roads and highways. The OBN Highway Interdiction Unit is working in a cooperative effort with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

Statistical Profile

Of

OBN Activities

In

2003

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OBN Monthly Media Report for Calendar Year 2003

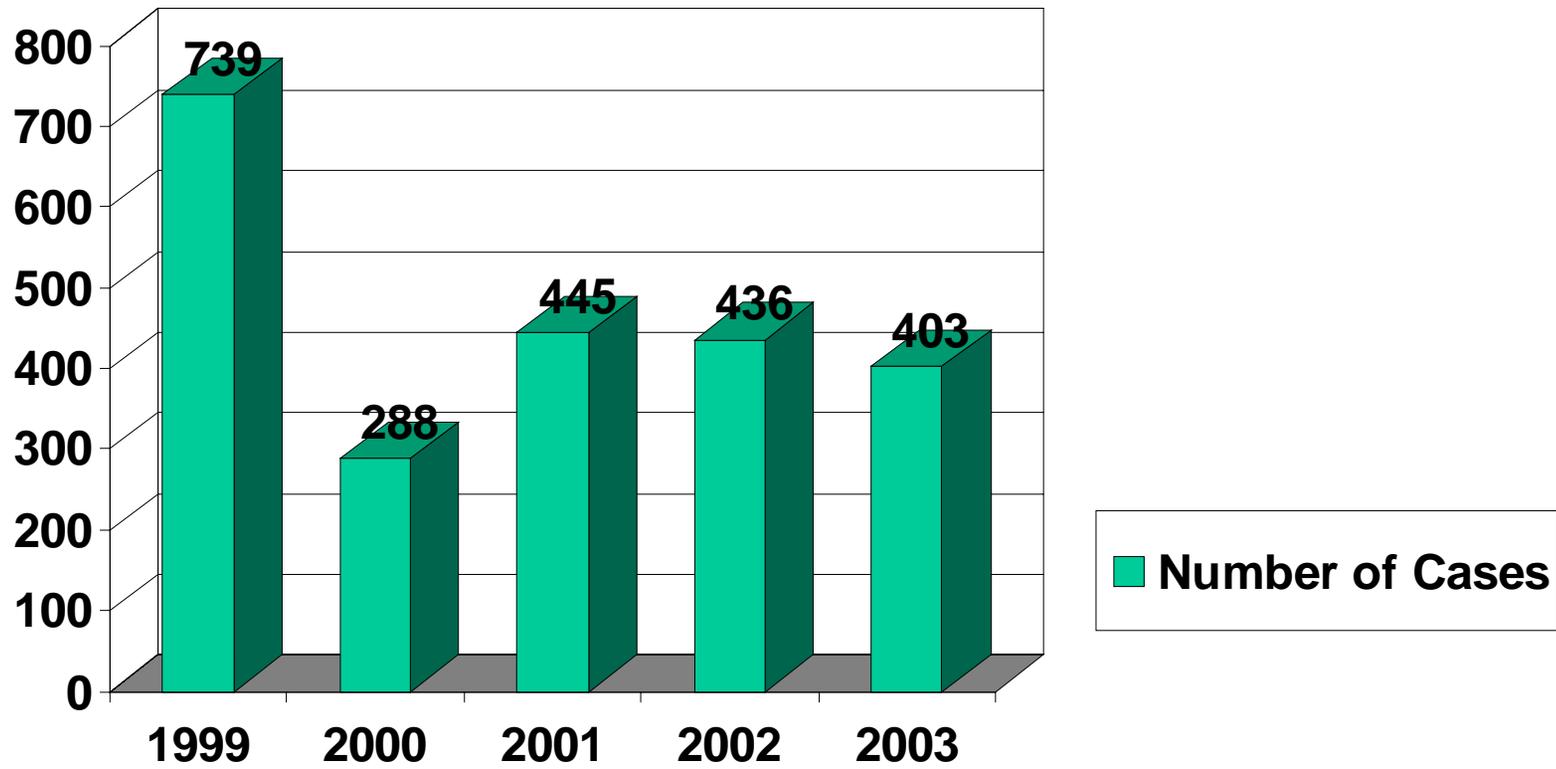
Month	Newspapers	Television Stations	Radio Stations	Total Interviews	Total People Reached
January	2	2	2	6	2,140,000
February	1	1	0	2	975,000
March	5	0	2	7	1,380,000
April	7	0	0	7	1,180,000
May	14	18	15	47	4,995,000
June	18	18	15	51	4,636,000
July	40	25	17	82	9,925,000
August	8	6	10	24	2,919,500
September	10	7	9	26	2,120,500
October	10	13	7	30	6,636,000
November	7	6	4	17	1,630,500
December	0	5	11	16	3,765,000
Year-End Totals	122	101	92	315	42,302,500

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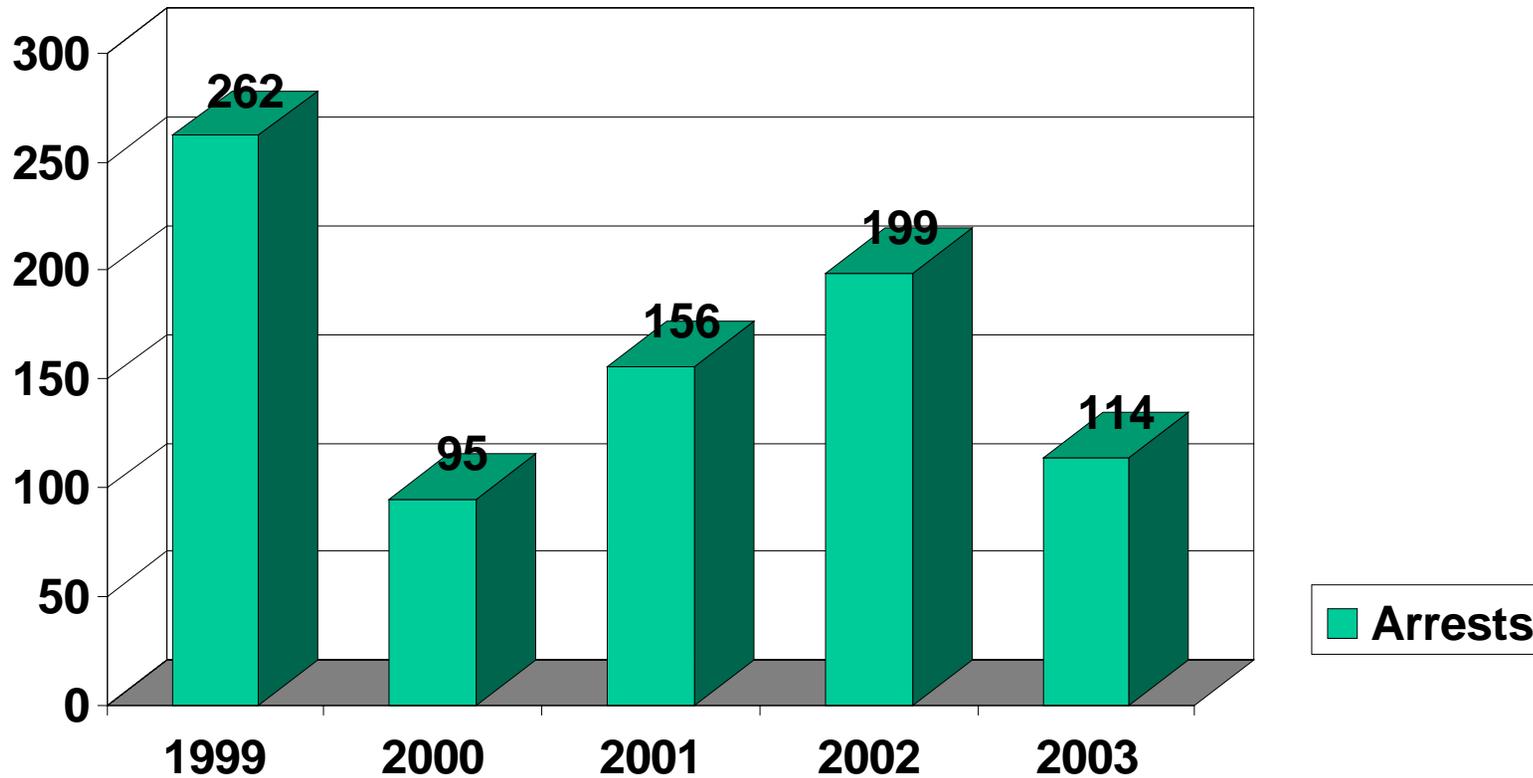
OBN Public Appearances for Calendar Year 2003

Month	Law Enforcement		Medical		School		Church, Civic, Other		Total Programs	Total Audience
	# of Programs	# in Audience	# of Programs	# in Audience	# of Programs	# in Audience	# of Programs	# in Audience	# of Programs	# in Audience
January	3	227	2	10	6	435	3	92	18	644
February	1	490	2	225	9	481	5	155	18	1,351
March	4	207	1	6	6	517	6	770	17	1,500
April	5	136	1	35	13	1,571	9	514	28	2,256
May	4	157			3	85	6	345	13	587
June	2	45			2	40	6	370	10	455
July	3	63					3	150	6	213
August	4	96			1	25	1	55	6	186
September	4	105			5	225	7	298	15	628
October	15	639			14	1,811	5	220	35	2,767
November	1	63	1	85	8	695	4	185	14	1,028
December	2	153	1	175	2	290	4	350	9	968
Year-End Totals	49	2,381	8	536	69	6,175	59	3,504	189	12,583

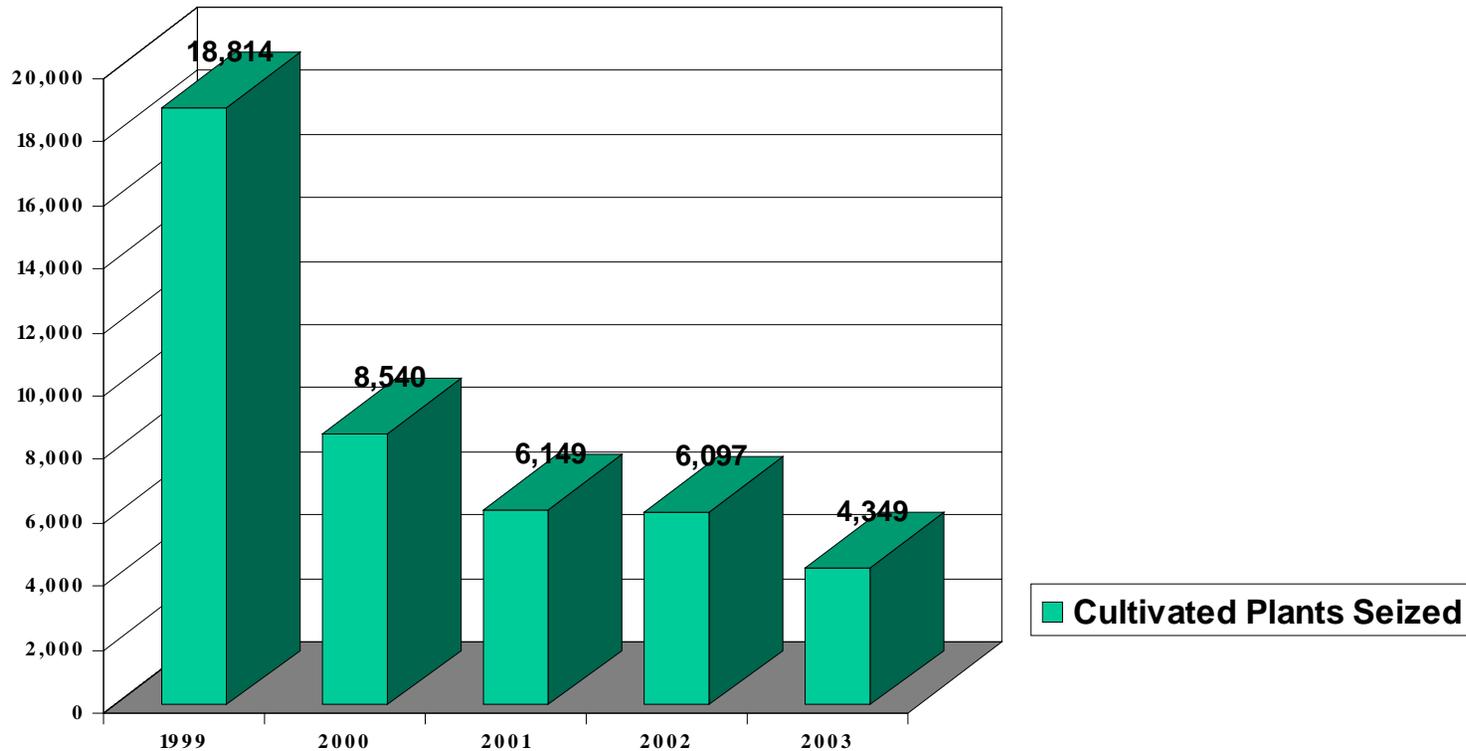
Cases Initiated



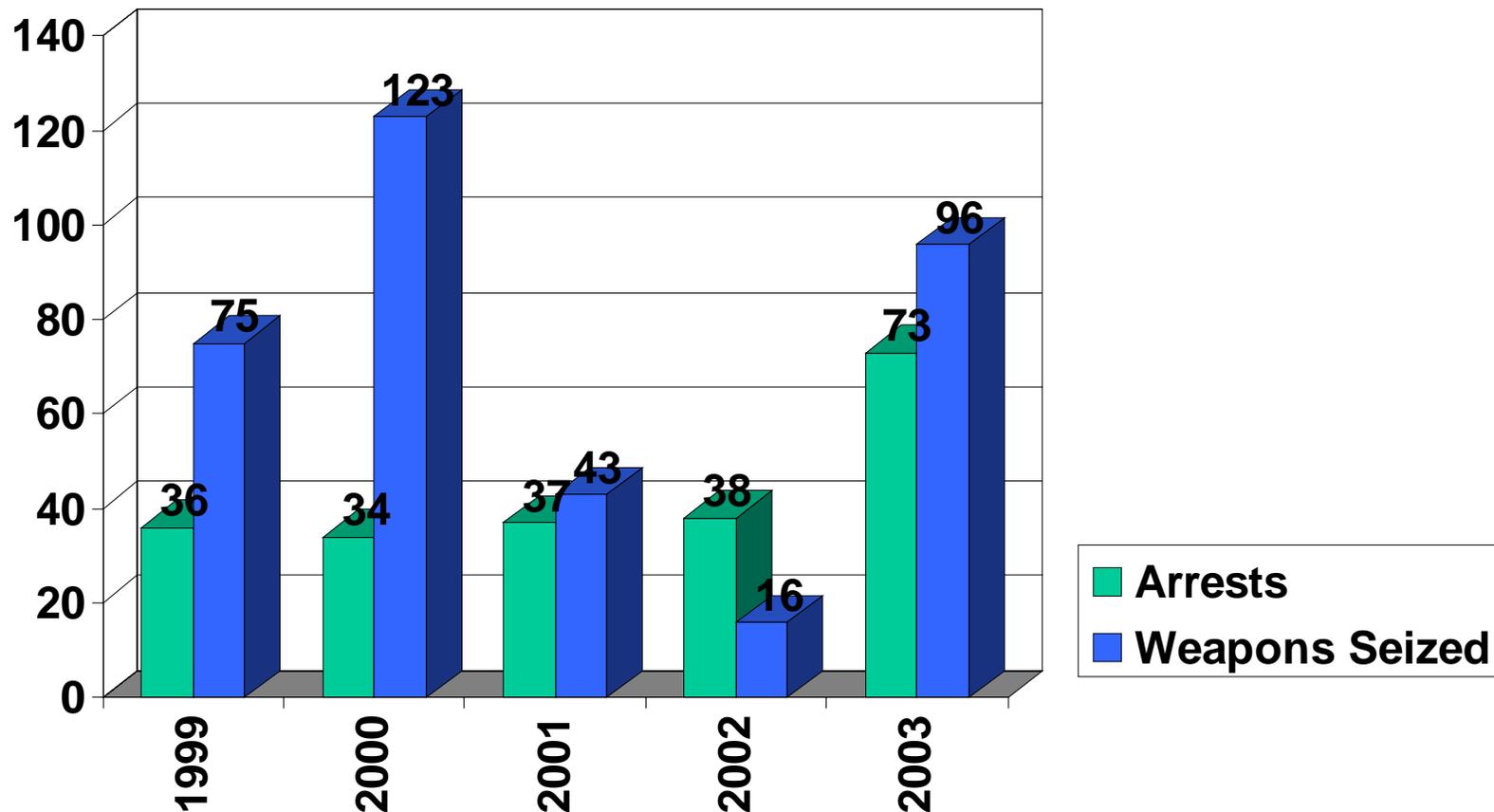
Total Agency Arrests



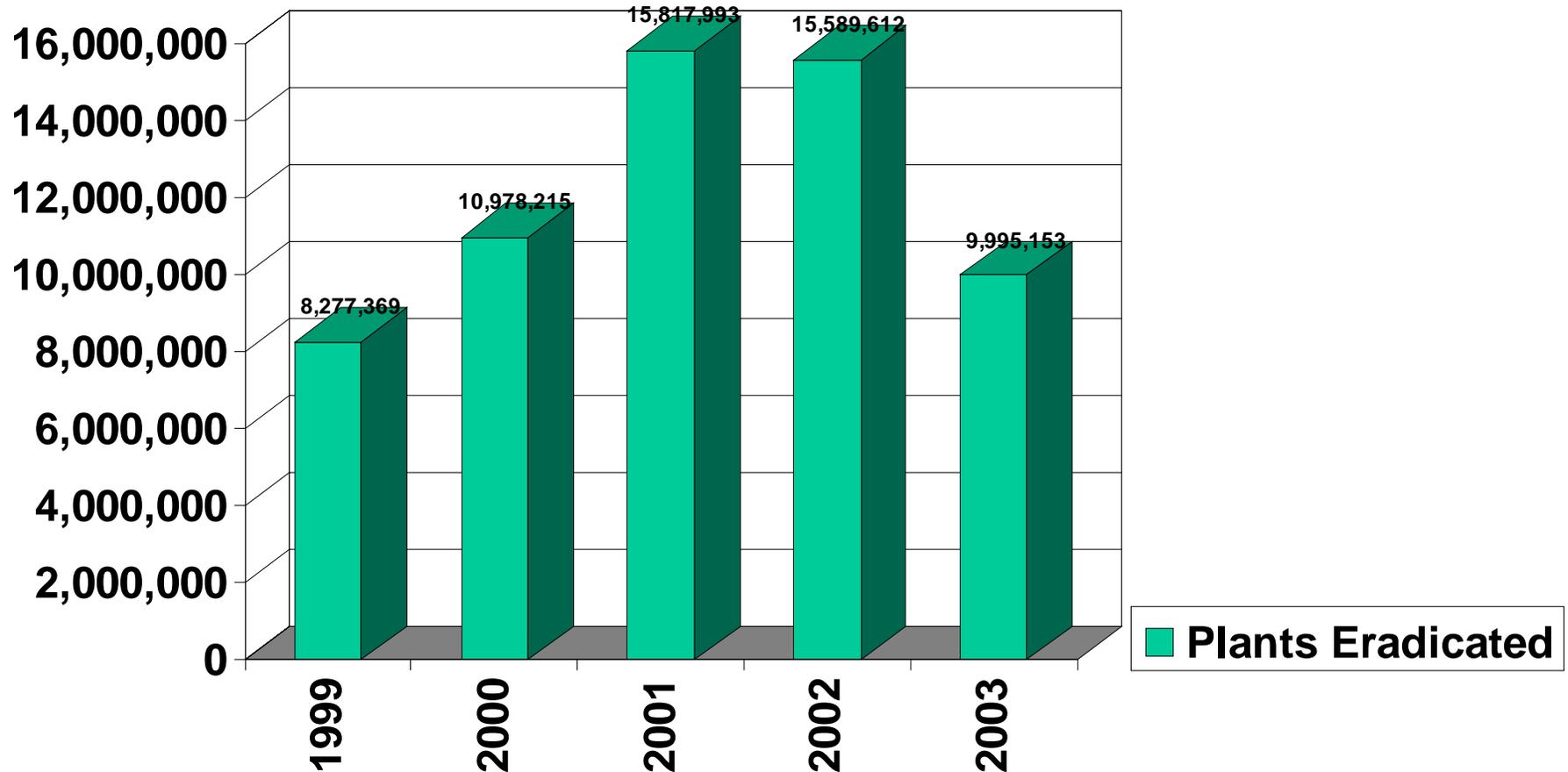
Statewide Marijuana Eradication Task Force Statistics



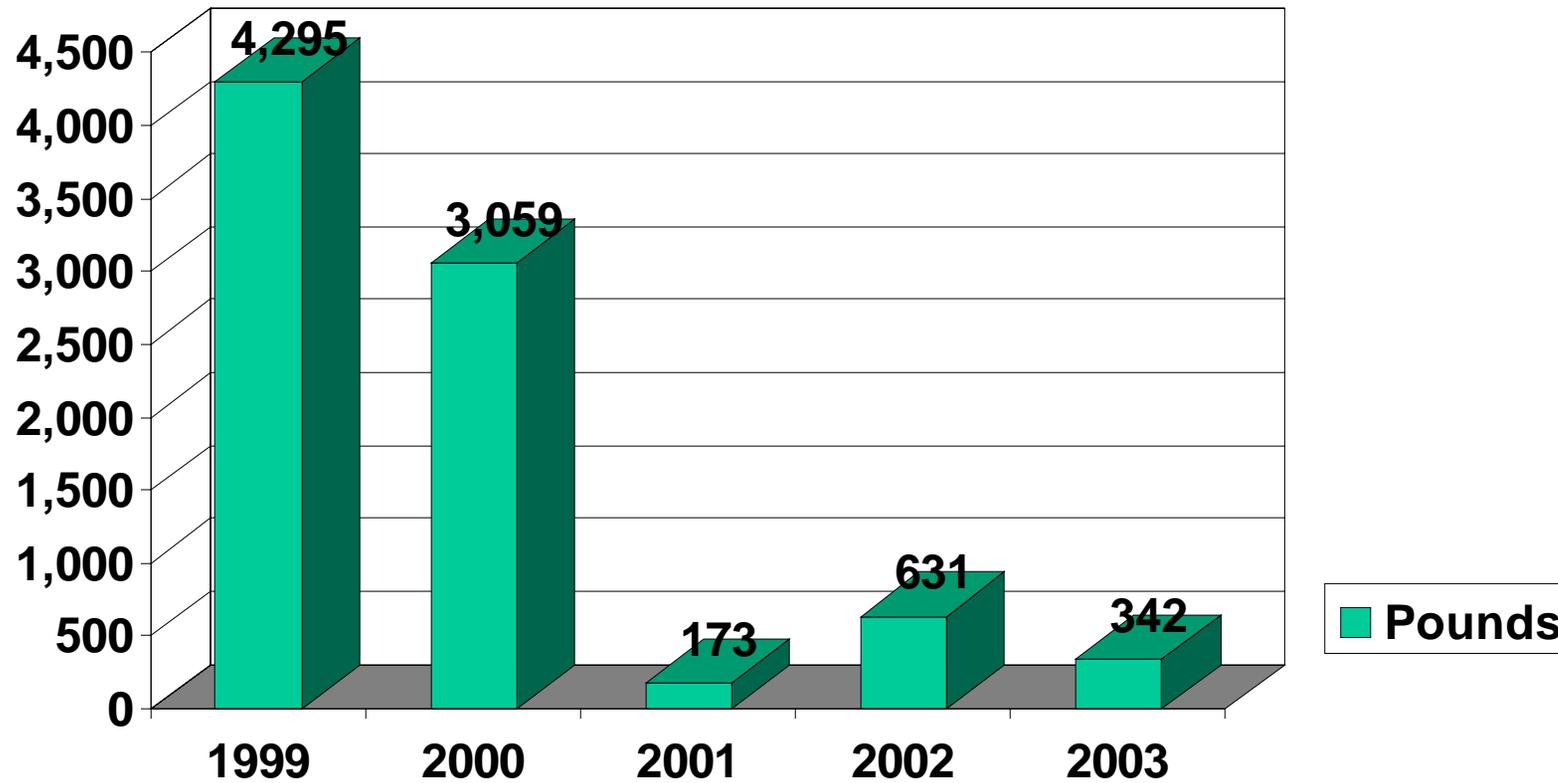
Statewide Marijuana Eradication Task Force Statistics (cont.)



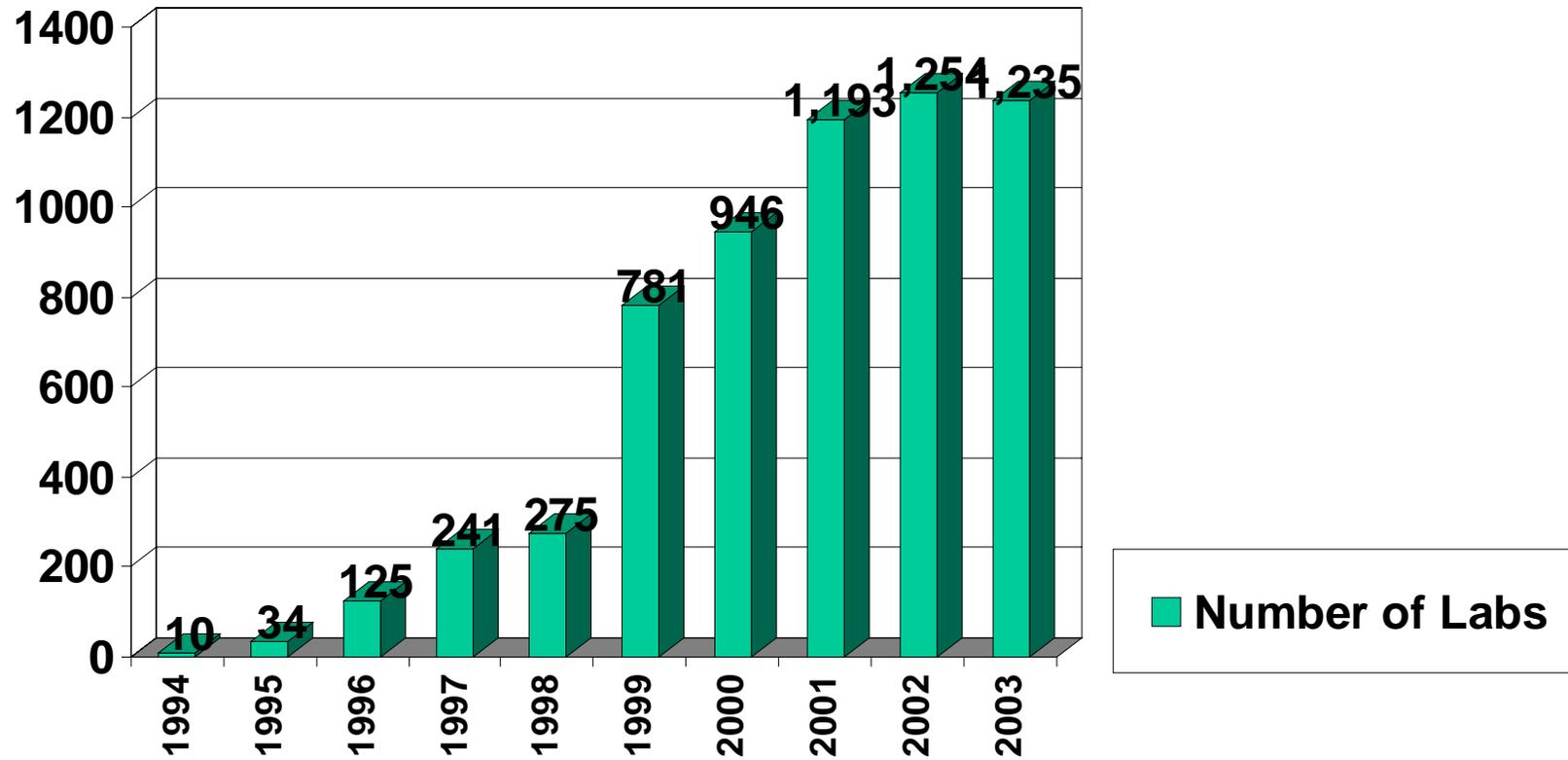
Wild-growing Marijuana Eradication Statistics



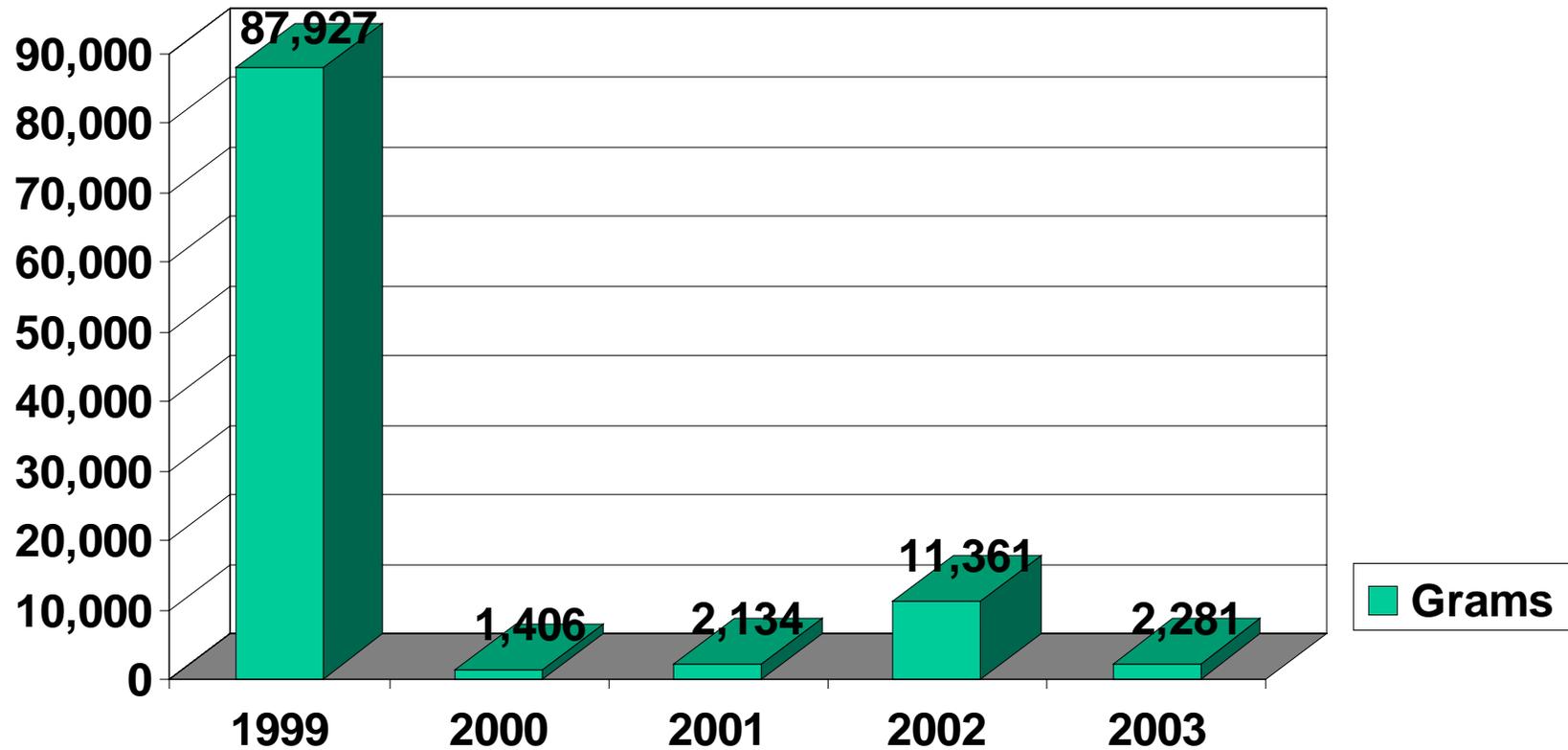
Marijuana Purchased and Seized



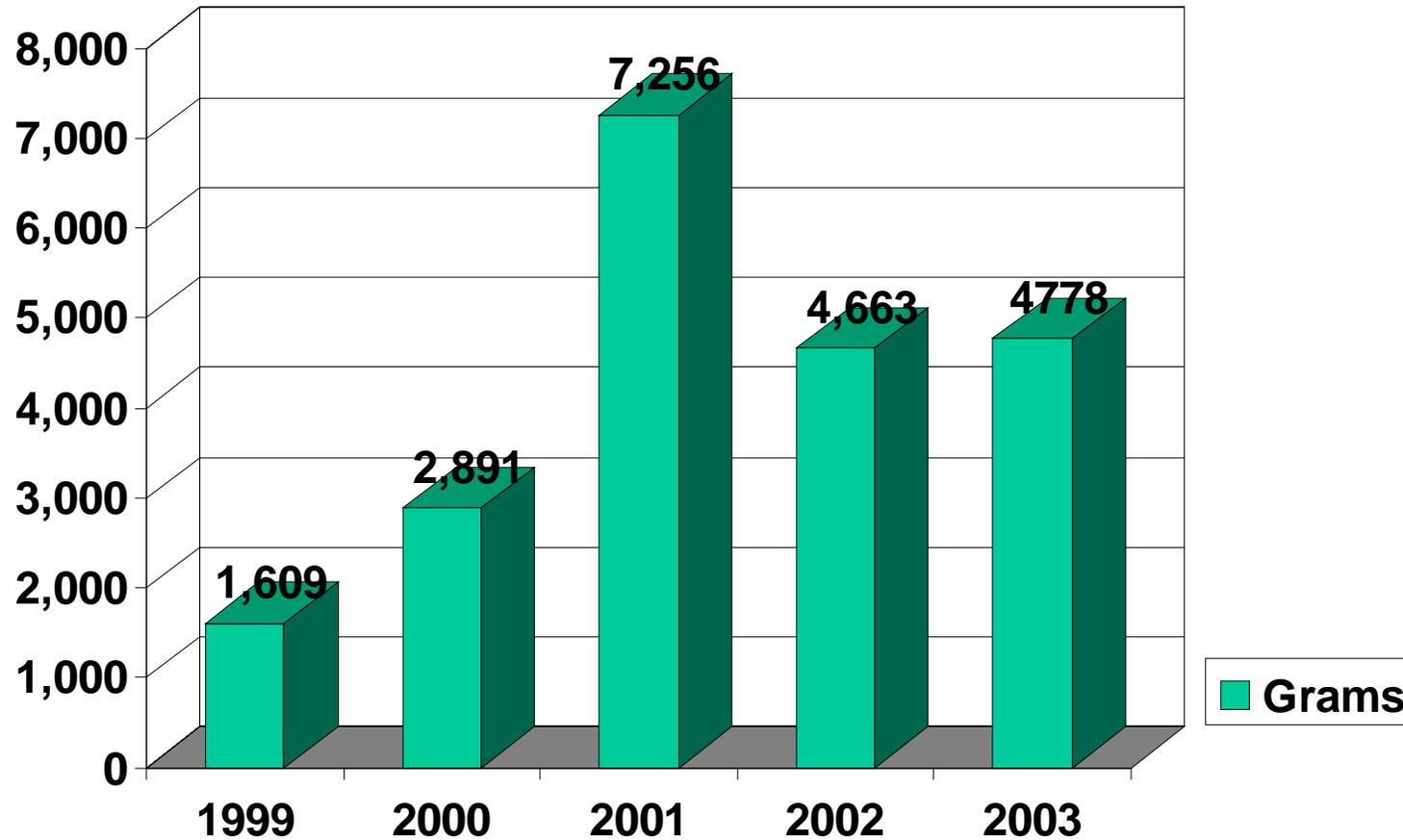
Methamphetamine Labs Seized



Amphetamine & Methamphetamine Purchased & Seized



Cocaine Purchased & Seized



Crack Purchased & Seized

