

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force  
Calendar Year 2007 Report



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**Summary of law enforcement task force accomplishments**

Ohio's 27 law enforcement task forces accomplished 9,165 arrests, resulting in 3,999 individuals charged with felony offenses. Ohio's drug markets were impacted by the task forces seizing 271,477 grams of cocaine, 11,802 grams of crack, 14,784 pounds of processed marijuana and 12,896 marijuana plants. Ohio's task forces also hit criminal enterprise by seizing \$6,842,931 in criminal assets.

In addition to the quantities of arrests, drugs, and assets, the task forces also participated in efforts to improve Ohio's justice system. These efforts included providing assistance to non-task force agencies and assisting in *non-task force* investigations. In 2007, the Ohio's law enforcement task forces participated and provided assistance in 868 non-task force, cross-agency collaborations that dealt with issues such as identity theft, gang activity, and theft.

<b>Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force 2007 Summary Statistics</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Calendar Year 2007 Totals</b>
New cases initiated	7,586*
Arrests	9,165
Cocaine seized	271,477 grams
Crack seized	11,802 grams
Marijuana seized	14,784 pounds
Marijuana plants seized	12,896 plants
Heroin seized	6,090 grams
Methamphetamine seized	6,412 grams
Criminal assets seized	\$6,842,931
Criminal assets forfeited	\$1,234,295

\*This number reflects both new drug cases initiated (N=7,555) and new gang cases initiated (N=31)

## New cases initiated

Ohio's law enforcement task forces are designed to identify, investigate and arrest mid- to upper-level drug traffickers and violent offenders. The goal is not to supplant, but to supplement regular law enforcement by addressing offenders operating in a multi-jurisdictional region. These offenders are often difficult to identify by an agency working only within one jurisdiction.

In order to make arrests, Ohio's task forces must first identify and investigate offenders operating across jurisdictional boundaries. During 2007, the task forces reported 7,555 new drug related cases initiated, an average of 280 per task force per year. Eleven percent of the new drug cases involved pharmaceuticals and 89 percent were non-pharmaceutical drug cases. Additionally, the task forces assisted in 868 non-drug investigations, and 31 gang investigations for a total of 899 non-drug investigations. Altogether, Ohio's task forces were involved in 8,454 cases during 2007, an average of 313 per task force.

<b>New Cases Calendar Year 2007</b>	
<b>Type of Case Initiated</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
Number of new pharmaceutical cases initiated	872
Number of new non-pharmaceutical drug cases initiated	6,683
Number of non-drug investigations assisted *	899

*\*This number reflects both non-drug investigations (N=868) and gang investigations (N=31)*

## Arrests

The investigations resulted in a reported 9,165 arrests during 2007. This is an average of 340 arrests per task force per year. Eighty-seven percent of all arrests were for non-pharmaceutical drugs. Pharmaceuticals accounted for four percent of all arrests, non-drug arrests accounted for eight percent of all arrests, and gang arrests accounted for less than one percent of all arrests. Ninety-six percent of drug-related arrests only were for non-pharmaceutical drugs.

<b>Arrests Calendar Year 2007</b>	
<b>Type of Arrest</b>	<b>Number of Arrests</b>
Number of pharmaceutical arrests	365
Number of non-pharmaceutical drug arrests	8,008
Number of non-drug arrests	752
Number of gang arrests	40

## Arrestees

Enforcement by Ohio's task forces resulted in 3,999 persons charged with felony offenses. The largest group of offenders was involved in Level 5 felonies. However, 434 offenders were charged with Level 1 felonies.

<b>Arrestees Charged with Felony Offenses Calendar Year 2007</b>		
<b>Felony Level</b>	<b>Number of Offenders</b>	<b>Percent of Offenders Charged with Felonies</b>
Felony 1	434	11%
Felony 2	385	10%
Felony 3	655	16%
Felony 4	1,012	25%
Felony 5	1,513	38%

Demographic data was available on 4,562 of the arrestees. As in the past, males were the vast majority (78 percent) of those arrested by Ohio's task forces. Only six percent of those arrested were juveniles. The majority of those arrested were Caucasians. Thirty-four percent of those arrested had a prior drug offense, 11 percent had a prior property offense, and 19 percent had a prior violent offense.

<b>Demographics of Arrestees Calendar Year 2007</b>		
<b>Demographic Category</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of All Arrestees</b>
Female	998	22%
Male	3,564	78%
Juveniles	275	6%
African-American	1,813	40%
Caucasian	2,603	57%
Latino	197	4%
Other	41	<1%
Prior drug offense	1,570	34%
Prior property offense	507	11%
Prior violent offense	886	19%

## Drugs removed

During the course of investigations, Ohio's drug task forces sometime buy drugs as part of building the case. Drugs are also frequently seized when arrests are made. The following table presents the amount of non-pharmaceutical drugs removed from Ohio's streets through purchase and seizure by the task forces during 2007. Ohio saw the largest increases in heroin and methamphetamine seized from 2006 to 2007. In 2006, Ohio's law enforcement task forces seized only 1,777 grams of heroin, and 928 grams of methamphetamine. In 2007, they seized 6,090 grams of heroin, and 6,412 grams of methamphetamine, representing a 243% increase in heroin, and a 590% increase in methamphetamine seizures.

Type and Amount of Non-Pharmaceutical Drugs Removed Calendar Year 2007	
Type of Non-Pharmaceutical Drug	Amount of Drug Removed
Cocaine	271,477 grams
Crack	11,802 grams
Ecstasy	11,001 dosage units
Heroin	6,090 grams
LSD	4,798 dosage units
Marijuana (processed)	14,784 pounds
Marijuana plants	12,896 plants
Methamphetamine	6,412 grams
Mushrooms	16,101 units
Other	60,474 grams

Ohio's task forces are actively involved in pharmaceutical diversion<sup>1</sup>. During 2007, Hydrocodone (Vicodin/Loritab) and Oxycodone (Percocet/OxyContin) comprised the bulk of diverted pharmaceutical drugs involving the task forces.

Type and Amount of Pharmaceutical Drugs Calendar Year 2007		
Type of Drug	Units Seized	Units Diverted
Ultram/Ultracet/Phentermine (Adipex/Fastin/Ionamin)	0	1,640
Amphetamine mixture (Adderall)	273	11,436
Carisoprodol (Soma)	195	68,093
Diazepam (Valium)	351	7,069
Fentanyl (Duragesic Patches/Actiq/Liquid)	23	461
Hydrocodone (Vicodin/Loritab)	6,427	239,102

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<sup>1</sup> Diversion refers to the amount of prescription drugs that have been diverted as a result of the efforts of the task forces. The number of units diverted can be reflective of the amount of drugs that did not make it on to the streets because chemicals necessary for the manufacturing of the drugs were seized. Other examples of drugs diverted would be cases that involve doctor shopping, forged or altered prescriptions, health facility thefts, and other deceptions where the prescription drugs involved have already been illegally diverted, and are not recoverable.

<b>Type and Amount of Pharmaceutical Drugs Calendar Year 2007</b>		
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	44	606
Lorazepam (Ativan)	1,053	2,935
Meperidine (Demerol)	17	28
Methadone (Liquid/Wafers/Pills)	954	2,912
Methylphenidate (Ritalin)	139	2,049
Morphine (MS Contin/Kadian)	351	4,603
Oxycodone (Percocet/OxyContin)	17,741	131,267
Pentazocine (Talwin)	0	0
Phentermine (Adipex/Fastin/Ionamin)	7,102	4,603
Propoxyphene (Darvocet)	32	1,397
Tramadol (Ultram)	1,015	13,515

### Asset seizures and forfeitures

Assets gained through criminal activity can be seized by Ohio's task forces. Seized criminal assets may then be forfeited to the task forces. Criminal asset seizure and forfeiture can cause significant damage to criminal enterprises.

<b>Criminal Asset Seizures and Forfeitures Calendar Year 2007</b>	
<b>Criminal Assets</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Criminal assets seized, estimated value	\$6,842,931
Criminal assets forfeited, actual value	\$1,234,295

Criminal assets worth more than six million dollars in estimated value were seized for real property, currency, and motor vehicles. Currency was by far the largest category for criminal assets actually forfeited and/or seized by the task forces. The only other types of forfeitures accounting for more than \$100,000 were motor vehicles and real property.

<b>Average Criminal Asset Forfeitures and Seizures by Type Calendar Year 2007</b>				
<b>Type</b>	<b>Forfeiture Amount</b>	<b>Percent of Forfeitures</b>	<b>Seizure Amount</b>	<b>Percent of Seizures</b>
Currency	\$827,225	67%	\$3,246,441	47%
Financial instruments	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Motor vehicles	\$166,266	13%	\$1,091,285	16%
Real property	\$233,822	19%	\$2,433,350	36%
Other	\$6,982	<1%	\$71,855	1%