



Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

**A Summary of Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task
Force Activities during Federal Fiscal Years 2005
and 2006**

**Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Office of Grants and Research
Division of Research and Policy Analysis
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This document was prepared by the Research and Policy Analysis Unit of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS).

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Executive Summary

This report is intended to provide a general overview of the activities of the Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force (MJTF) Program funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program during federal fiscal years (FFY) 2005 and 2006. The data analyzed were collected through quarterly reports submitted by each task force (see Appendix for sample quarterly report). The goal of the MJTF Program is to integrate federal, state, and local law enforcement with prosecutors in order to identify, arrest, and prosecute persons engaged in drug related crime.¹ The following are some highlights from FFY 2005 and FFY 2006.

	Number of Task Forces Funded	Total Grant Amount	Average Grant per Task Force
FFY 2005	25	\$1,547,500	\$63,140
FFY 2006	24	\$1,482,250	\$61,760

- In FFY 2005, the task forces included law enforcement representatives from 181 Massachusetts cities, serving a population of 4,244,859 or 66% of the total population of Massachusetts. In FFY 2006, the drug task forces included law enforcement representatives from 171 Massachusetts cities, serving a population of 4,149,807 or 64% of the total population of Massachusetts.²
- A total of 5,821 investigations were conducted during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006.
- The task forces reported that nearly \$7.5 million in currency was seized and over \$700,000 in currency was forfeited during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006.
- The task forces reported that over 11,159 drug and weapons related charges were filed as a result of drug task force activities during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006.

Key Findings for FFY 2005 and FFY 2006		
	Total	Average per task force per year
Total Investigations	5,821	119
Drug Transactions	5,373	117
Search Warrants	1,578	32
Arrest Warrants	3,311	71
Currency Seized	\$7,470,154	\$150,015
Currency Forfeited	\$701,460	\$15,650
Weapons Seized	1,044	23
Charges	11,159	233

¹ Bureau of Justice Assistance website. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/byrnepurpose.html>. Accessed 08/24/07.

² Population was calculated using Census 2005 and 2006 estimates from www.census.gov.

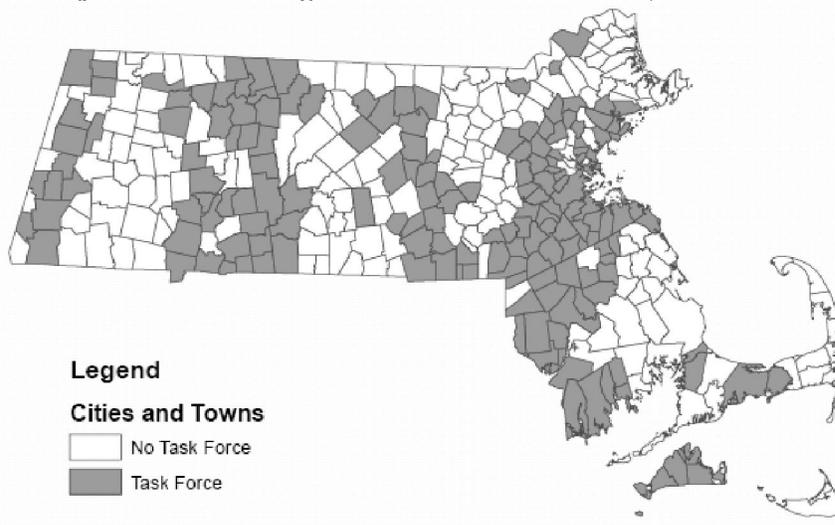
Introduction

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) is responsible for administering the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program. The Byrne JAG Program allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime in order to improve the criminal justice system.³ The Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force Program (MJTF) falls under one of six Byrne JAG Program focus areas. Massachusetts drug task forces rely on collaboration between law enforcement and prosecution to identify, arrest, and prosecute persons engaged in drug-related crime. Participating agencies share resources and information to disrupt cross jurisdictional drug crime and the flow of illicit drugs.

In federal fiscal year 2005, 25 drug task forces were funded through the Byrne JAG Program; in FFY 2006, 24 drug task forces were funded. FFY 2005 covered the period of October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005 and FFY 2006 covered the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. In FFY 2005, grants ranged from \$6,000 to \$110,000 and the average grant amount was \$63,140. These drug task forces included 181 Massachusetts cities, serving a population of 4,244,859 or 66% of the total population in Massachusetts. In FFY 2006, grants ranged from \$17,500 to \$110,000 and the average grant amount was \$61,760. These drug task forces included 171 Massachusetts cities, serving a population of 4,149,807 or 64% of the total population in Massachusetts.⁴

Many task forces also included representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, Immigration-Customs Enforcement, Massachusetts State Police, sheriffs' departments and district attorneys' offices. Below is a map which shows the Massachusetts cities and towns that were assisted by the MJTF Program during FFY 2006.

Multi-jurisdictional drug task force cities and towns, FFY 2006



³ Bureau of Justice Assistance website. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/jag.html>. Accessed 08/24/07.

⁴ Population was calculated using Census 2005 and 2006 estimates from www.census.gov.

This report is intended to provide a general overview of the activities of the multi-jurisdictional drug task forces during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006. The data analyzed in this report were collected through quarterly reports submitted by each task force to EOPSS (see Appendix for sample quarterly report). Twenty-three of the 25 task forces operating in FFY 2005 submitted quarterly reports to EOPSS. Each of the 24 task forces operating in FFY 2006 submitted quarterly reports to EOPSS.

Data analyzed in this report represent the activities of the drug task forces in Massachusetts and are not meant to characterize all illegal drug activity in the State. Although it is impossible to know the exact distribution and magnitude of illegal drugs in Massachusetts, quarterly report data from the drug task forces can illuminate problem areas and help task forces better understand task force activities in other parts of the State.

Determining Award Amounts

In order to increase the state-level effectiveness of Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force Program funding, in FFY 2005 EOPSS changed their methods for determining award amounts. EOPSS began establishing award amounts more heavily based on the drug problem of the applicant communities. Four items are included in the need-based assessment: population, drug possession arrests, drug sale/manufacturing arrests, and drug treatment admissions. EOPSS will continue to use data-driven assessments to help determine the award amounts for the drug task forces in future years.

Investigations

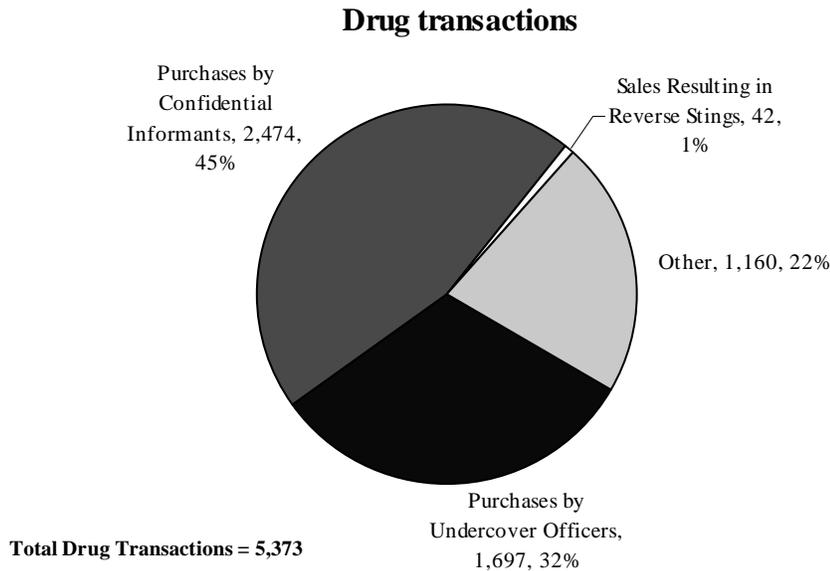
The task forces reported conducting 5,821 investigations during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006, an average of 119 investigations per task force per year. Of the investigations, approximately 59% or 3,423 were new investigations.⁵

Task force investigations

Total Investigations	5,821	New Investigations	3,423
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Drug Transactions

During FFY 2005 and FFY 2006, the task forces reported 5,373 drug transactions. For the task forces that reported information on the types of drug transactions, purchases made by confidential informants were the most frequently reported type of drug transaction (45%), followed by purchases made by undercover officers (32%). Only one percent of the drug transactions reported were sales resulting in reverse stings.⁶



⁵ Data on new investigations were only available from 150 of 179 quarterly reports because of reporting problems.

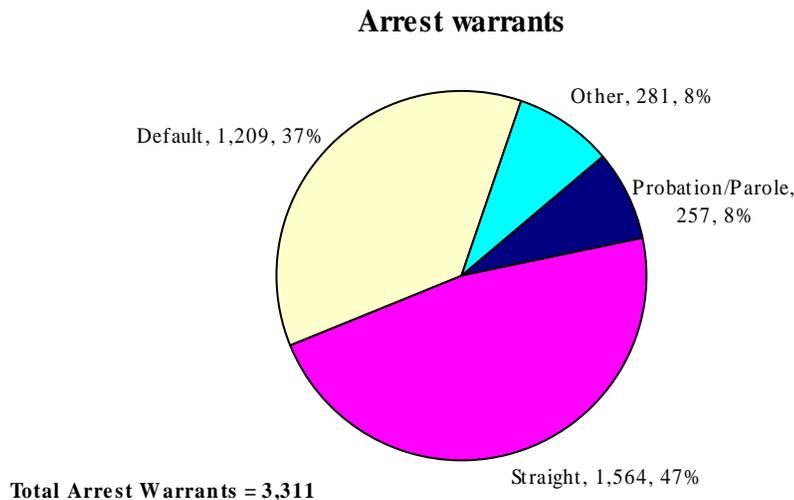
⁶ Data on types of drug transactions were only available from 150 of 179 quarterly reports because of reporting problems.

Search Warrants

The task forces reported that a total of 1,578 search warrants were executed in connection with task force activities during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006, an average of 32 per task force per year. Approximately 97% of the warrants were non-electronic search warrants compared to only 3% electronic warrants.

Arrests

The task forces reported executing 3,311 arrest warrants during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006, an average of 71 per task force per year. The majority of the warrants executed were straight warrants (47%), while the second most common type of arrest warrant executed was a default warrant (37%). In addition, the task forces reported that a total of 3,855 non-warrant arrests were made during the year.⁷



Multi-Agency Collaborations

In FFY 2005, approximately 96% of all the task forces reported working with other task forces or agencies outside those named in the memorandum of agreement on investigations during the year. In FFY 2006, all of the task forces collaborated with outside task forces or agencies. The most frequently cited collaborative activities included intelligence sharing and the sharing of equipment and manpower.

⁷ Data on non-arrest warrants were only available from 150 of 179 quarterly reports because of reporting problems.

Currency Seized and Forfeited

Collectively, nearly \$7.5 million in currency seizures were reported by the task forces during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006 as a result of task force activities. In addition, over \$700,000 in currency forfeitures were reported by the task forces during those same years.

Currency seized and forfeited

Total Currency Seized	\$7,470,154	Average per Task Force per Year	\$150,015
Total Currency Forfeited	\$701,460	Average per Task Force per Year	\$15,650

Other Assets Seized or Forfeited

In addition to currency, the task forces also reported seizing almost \$4 million in other assets during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006 (e.g. property, motor vehicles, etc.). Over \$1 million in forfeitures other than currency were reported by the task forces as a result of task force activities.

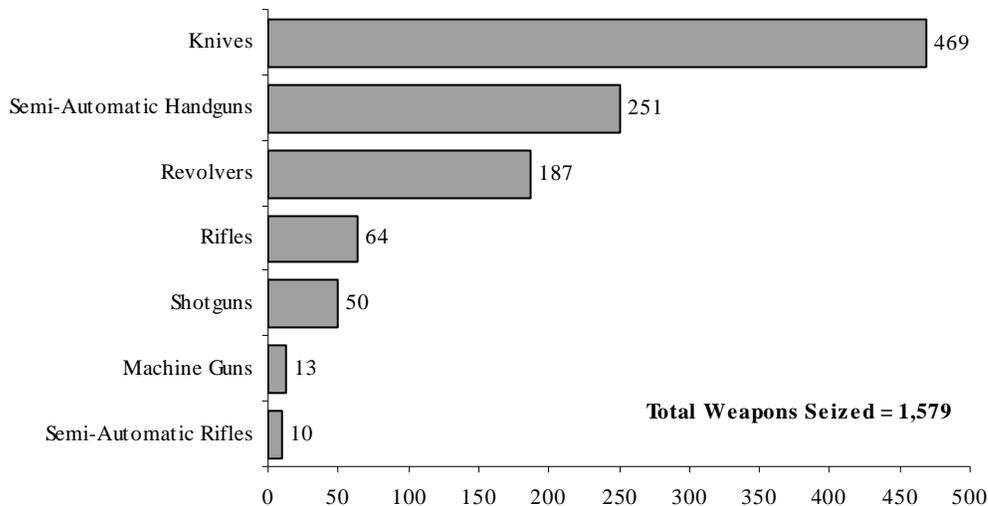
Assets seized and forfeited

Total Assets Seized (other than currency)	\$3,969,647	Total Assets Forfeited (other than currency)	\$1,276,037
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Weapons Seized

The task forces reported seizing 1,579 weapons during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006. Four hundred and sixty-nine knives were seized compared to 575 guns. Types of weapons are broken out in the chart below. Not included in the chart are 535 weapon seizures reported in the “other weapons” category, which consisted mainly of ammunition.

Weapons seized



Drug Seizures

Every task force that submitted quarterly report data during the two year period reported seizing cocaine and marijuana. Many of the task forces also reported seizing heroin and OxyContin. Only five task forces reported seizing methamphetamines during the two year period. The median seizure and seizure range are displayed in the table below to show the wide range of seizure amounts for each drug and where the median falls within that range.⁸

Approximately 81% of task forces reported seizing drug paraphernalia during the time period. Reports show that during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006, 634 scales and 3,560 syringes were seized.

Drug seizures during FFY 05 and FFY 06

Drug Seized	% of Task Forces with Seizures	Total Amount Seized	Median Amount Seized per Task Force	Range of Seizure Totals
Cocaine	100%	639,054 gm	956 gm	14-376,425 gm
Marijuana	100%	72,909 oz	233 oz	4-44,002 oz
Heroin	93%	8,194 DU 85,726 gm	63 DU 163 gm	0-2,447 DU 0-65,615 gm
Crack	93%	8,764 gm	241 gm	0-1,289 gm
OxyContin	89%	34,229 DU	300 DU	0-14,946 DU
MDMA	63%	374,140 DU	180 DU	0-300,500 DU
Percoset	67%	5,314 DU	40 DU	0-2,025 DU
Vicodin	48%	5,462 DU	52 DU	0-3,900 DU
Methamphetamine	19%	2,638 gm	18 gm	0-2,595 gm
Drug Paraphernalia Seized				
Syringes	81%	3,560	45	0-1,596
Scales	81%	634	14	0-148

gm = grams oz= ounces DU = dosage units

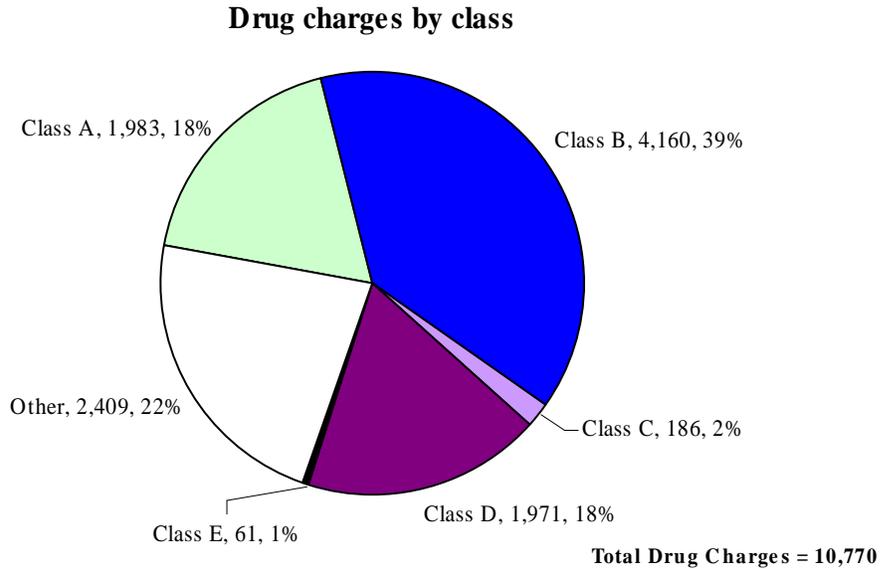
*Note: The median calculation only includes task forces that seized that particular drug or drug paraphernalia. Essex and Hampden counties both seized bags of heroin that are not calculated in the heroin totals.

⁸ In some cases, one drug is reported in multiple units of measurement (e.g., heroin seizures were reported in two different ways: dosage units and grams). This makes it very difficult to determine which drug was seized in the largest quantity.

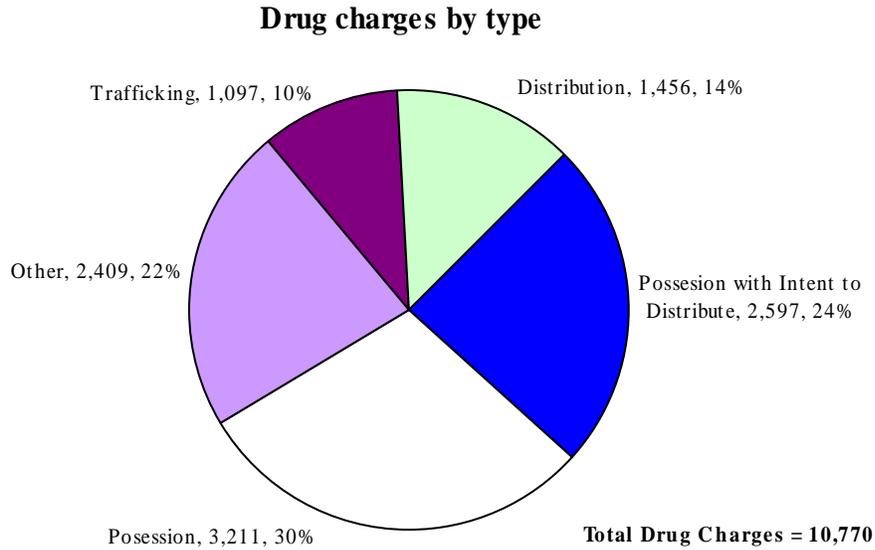
Drug Charges

The task forces reported that 10,770 drug charges were filed as a result of task force activities during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006. State charges made up 95% (or 10,253) of the charges filed while only 5% (or 517) charges were federal charges.

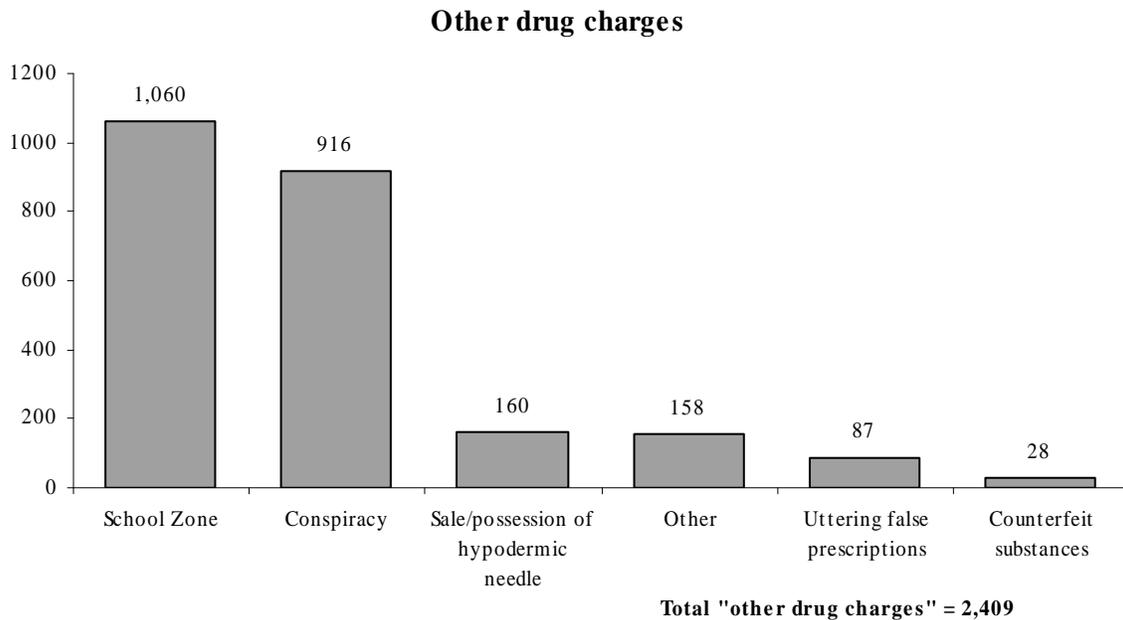
Of the drug charges filed by the task forces during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006, Class B drugs, which include Cocaine, Crack, Morphine, MDMA, and OxyContin, were the most commonly reported drug charges filed (39%). Other drug charges, which include school zone, conspiracy, sale/possession of a hypodermic needle, uttering false prescriptions, and counterfeit substances, were the second most commonly filed drug charges (22%). Class A drugs, which include Heroin, Ketamine, and GHB, and Class D drugs, which include Marijuana and Phenobarbital, were the third and fourth most common drug charges filed (18% each). Class E drugs, which include other prescriptions, were the least commonly filed drug charges (1%).



Another way to look at drug charges is by type of charge rather than drug class. When analyzed by type of drug charges filed, possession and possession with intent to distribute were the most commonly reported charges and, when combined, made up over half of the 10,770 total charges during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006 (54%). Drug trafficking was the least commonly reported charge filed (10%).



The other drug charges category made up almost one quarter of the total drug charges, and can be further broken down into the offense types below. School zone and conspiracy were by far the most commonly reported charges among the other drug charges category (44% and 38%, respectively).



Weapons Charges

The task forces reported that 389 weapons charges were filed due to task force arrests during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006. Approximately 91% of the reported weapons charges were for possession of a rifle/shotgun or firearm. The next most commonly reported weapons charges were use of a firearm with an obliterated serial number during a felony (4%) and possession of a sawed-off shotgun or machine gun (3%).

Firearms/Weapons Charges

	Number of Charges	Percent of Charges
Possession of a rifle/shotgun or firearm	356	91.5%
Use of firearm with obliterated serial number during felony	15	4%
Possession of a sawed-off shotgun or machine gun	10	3%
Trafficking in firearms	6	1.5%
Possession/use of body armor during a felony	1	0.3%
Possession/distribution/use of a silencer	1	0.3%
Total	389	100%

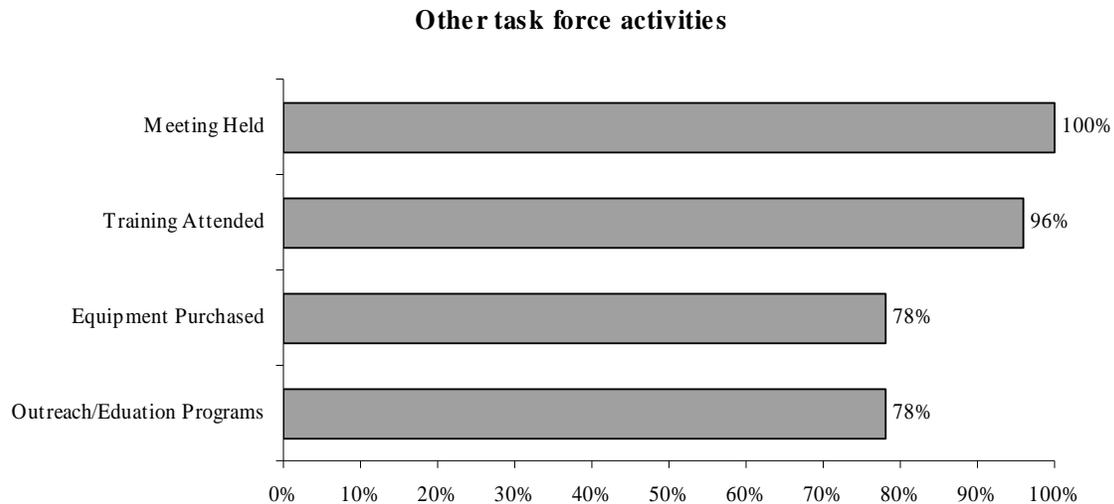
Other Task Force Operations

During FFY 2005 and FFY 2006, the task forces reported utilizing 2,045 confidential informants for intelligence or performance of controlled buys. During this same time period, task forces reported that 1,426 task force operations crossed legal jurisdictions.

Other Task Force Activities

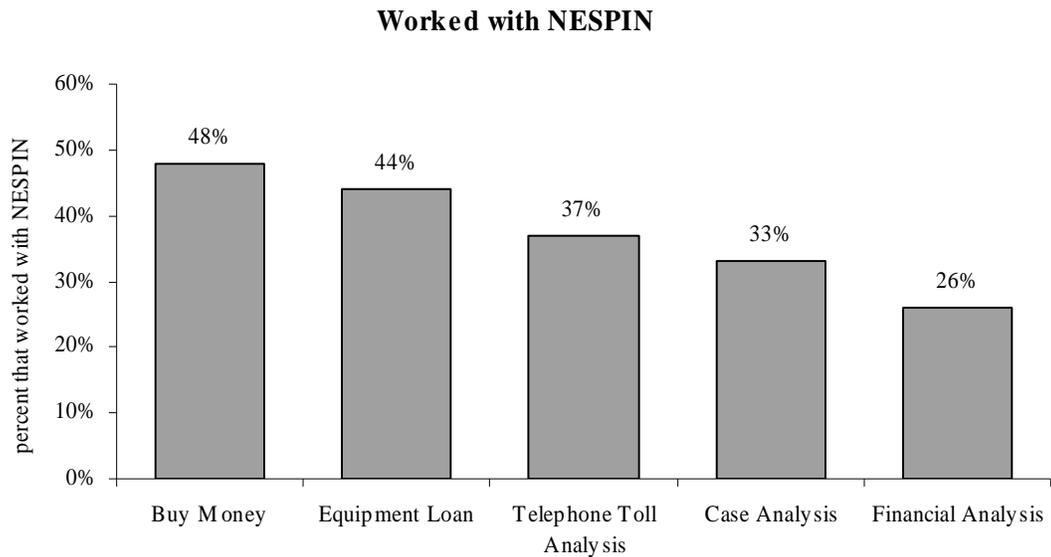
The task forces reported that 356 civil procedures were initiated as a result of task force activities during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006; an average of seven per task force per year (civil procedures include evictions, civil commitments, and abatements).

During FFY 2005 and FFY 2006, all of the task forces reported holding meetings (100%) and nearly all attended a training (96%). Additionally, 78% of task forces reported participating in outreach or educational programs where they played a teaching role and 78% also reported purchasing equipment during this time.



The New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN) is one of six geographical regions of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program. RISS is a federally-funded program administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and is comprised of regional centers that share intelligence and coordinate efforts against criminal networks that operate in many locations across jurisdictional lines.⁹

Over half of the task forces (56%) reported working with NESPIN on at least one activity during FFY 2005 and FFY 2006. Buy money was the most commonly reported activity (48%), followed closely by equipment loans (44%). Financial analysis was the least commonly reported activity (26%).¹⁰



⁹ Institute for Intergovernmental Research website. <http://www.iir.com/RISS/>. Accessed 08/24/07.

¹⁰ Data on equipment loan were only available from 150 of 179 quarterly reports because of reporting problems.

Trends

The task forces were asked to describe any significant trends related to drug costs, drug packaging, drug sources, and methamphetamine use and sources. No notable cost trends were reported in FFY 2006. In regards to packaging trends, 6 out of the 22 task forces who reported trends (or 27%) reported seeing heroin being packaged in glassine baggies or plastic bags. Approximately 86% of task forces did not report any methamphetamine trends. Over 40% of task forces reported seeing motor vehicle hides and 27% reported an increase in prescription drugs.

New York City was the most commonly cited drug source, mentioned by 45% of task forces. Rhode Island was the second most commonly cited drug source, indicated by 32% of the task forces. Boston was also commonly cited with 27% of task forces indicating that Boston was a drug source for their area.

Drug sources

Source	Percent of task forces that reported
New York City	45%
Rhode Island	32%
Boston	27%
Springfield	14%
Lowell	14%
Lynn	14%
Lawrence	9%
Worcester	9%

References

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U.S Census Bureau, Population Division. "Subcounty Population Estimates, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006." http://www.census.gov/popest/cities/files/SUB-EST2006_25.csv. (Accessed July 16, 2007.)

Appendix

Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety Programs Division
Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Formula Grant Program
Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force FFY 2005 Quarterly Report

Lead Agency:		
Task Force Name:		
Report Completed By:	Phone:	Date Completed:

	Period From	Report Due
___ 1 st Quarter	October 1 st -December 31 st	January 15, 2005
___ 2 nd Quarter	January 1 st -March 31 st	April 15, 2005
___ 3 rd Quarter	April 1 st -June 30 th	July 15, 2005
___ 4 th Quarter	July 1 st -September 30 th	October 15, 2005

Instructions: Please provide information that reflects Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force activities for **this quarter only**. Please provide information that reflects **activities of the Task Force only** and not the collective activities of participating agencies. Task Force activities mean that representatives or resources from **at least two** Task Force agencies were involved.

Part I. Task Force Operations –

1. How many investigations were conducted by the Task Force during this quarter?
(Note: Include investigations initiated this quarter that either remain active or were closed this quarter, as well as ongoing investigations from previous quarters that either remain active or were closed this quarter. In addition to long-range distribution cases, investigations may include street rips, surveillance, overdose investigations, and other collateral criminal investigations. **Do not include individual drug transactions in this question.**)

Total Investigations

2. Of the total number of investigations in question 1, how many began during this quarter?

New Investigations

3. How many drug transactions were conducted by the Task Force during the quarter?

Purchases made by Undercover Officers	
Purchases made by Confidential Informants	
Drug sales/ashes resulting in Reverse Stings	
Total Drug Transactions	

4. How many search warrants were executed in connection with Task Force investigations during the quarter?

Search Warrants (non-electronic)	
Search Warrants (electronic)	

5. How many arrest warrants were executed by the Task Force during the quarter?

Probation / Parole Warrants	
Straight Warrants	
Default Warrants	
Other (specify)	
Total Arrest Warrants	

6. How many non-warrant arrests were made by the Task Force during this quarter?

Note that arrests made by officers assigned to the Task Force following a cold surveillance, and arrests made by officers subsequent to information or intelligence generated by the Task Force may be included. Arrests made from inadvertent discoveries should not be included (e.g., a street arrest after a FIO or after a routine car stop).

7. How many Confidential Informants (new and existing) were utilized for intelligence or performance of controlled buys by the Task Force this quarter?	
8. How many Task Force operations crossed legal jurisdictions? (e.g., across local, state, or federal levels)	
9. Please describe any investigations, transactions or operations that were particularly extensive or that you wish to highlight.	

Part II. Multi-Agency Collaboration

10. Did the Task Force work with other Task Forces or agencies, outside of those named in the MOA, on investigations? (circle one)	Yes / No
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11. If yes on question 10, please list the names of the other Task Forces or agencies.
12. If yes on question 10, please describe the reasons behind the collaboration(s), such as the flow of drugs from other cities or states, or sharing of equipment, personnel, or intelligence.

Part III. Trends

Please describe any trends and their significance related to:

Drug costs:
Drug packaging:
Drug sources (could be other cities, other states, other countries, etc.):
Methamphetamine use and sources:
Other trends (e.g., prescription drugs, automobile “hides,” raves, etc.):

Part IV. Asset Seizures and Forfeitures

13. How much currency was seized by the Task Force during this quarter?	\$
14. How much currency was forfeited to the Task Force during this quarter?	\$

15. How many weapons were seized by the Task Force during this quarter?

Revolvers	
Semi-Automatic Handguns	
Rifles	
Semi-Automatic Rifles	
Shotguns	
Machine Guns	
Knives / Cutting Devices	
Other (specify)	
Total Weapons	

16. List other Task Force asset seizures or forfeitures during this quarter (e.g., property and motor vehicles).

Item	Seizures		Forfeitures	
	Number	\$ Value	Number	\$ Value

Part V. Drug Seizures

Please indicate drugs seized by the Task Force during this quarter in the Quantity column. If exact weights/counts are not available, please provide a reasonable estimate. If a drug that was seized this quarter does not appear in the chart, please specify in the Other category.

Measurement Conversion		
Grams= # of ounces x 28.3495 # of pounds x 453.592 # of kilograms x 1000	Pounds= # of kilograms x 2.2046 # of ounces x 0.0625 # of grams x .002205	Dosage Unit (DU) refers to the standard definitions of an individual average dose, such as a dot, pill, bag, capsule, etc., based on local convention.

Class A	Quantity
Heroin	DU/gm (circle one)
Ketamine	gm
GHB	DU
Other (Specify):	
Class B	
Cocaine	gm
Crack	gm
Morphine	gm
LSD	DU
MDMA (Ecstasy)	DU
Fentanyl	DU
PCP	DU
Barbiturates	DU
Amphetamines	DU
Quaaludes	DU
Demerol	DU
Methadone	DU
Codeine B	DU
Hydromorphone	DU
Percodan/Percocet	DU
OxyContin	DU
Roxicet	DU
Tylox	DU
Other (specify):	

Class C	Quantity
THC	gm
Mescaline	gm
MDA	gm
Doriden	DU
Diazepam	DU
Codeine C	DU
Klonopin	DU
Librium	DU
Valium	DU
Xanax	DU
Peyote	DU
Psilocybin/ Mushrooms	DU
Vicodin	DU
Other Hydrocodone	DU
Other (specify):	
Class D	
Marijuana	oz
Phenobarbital	DU
Other (specify):	
Class E	
Other prescriptions (specify)	
Drug Paraphernalia	
Type	Quantity
Syringes	
Scales	
Other (specify):	

Part VI. Charges and Prosecutions

Please indicate the number of state and federal charges that were filed due to Task Force arrests during this quarter.

Drug Class	Primary Charges	State Charges	Federal Charges
Class A	Trafficking		
	Distribution		
	Possession with intent to distribute		
	Possession		
Class B	Trafficking		
	Distribution		
	Possession with intent to distribute		
	Possession		
Class C	Distribution		
	Possession with intent to distribute		
	Possession		
Class D	Trafficking		
	Distribution		
	Possession with intent to distribute		
	Possession		
Class E	Distribution		
	Possession with intent to distribute		
Other Drug Offenses	Conspiracy		
	Counterfeit substances		
	Sale/possession of hypodermic needle and syringe		
	Uttering false prescription		
	School zone		
	Other offenses (specify)		

	State Charges	Number of State Charges
Firearms / Weapons Offenses	Possession of a rifle/shotgun or firearm	
	Possession of a sawed-off shotgun or machine gun	
	Possession/distribution/use of a silencer	
	Possession/use of body armor during a commission of a felony	
	Use of a firearm with obliterated serial number during the commission of a felony	
	Trafficking in firearms	

17. Please describe any successful prosecutions (motions or dispositions), raids, or sweeps during this quarter.

Part VII. Other Activities

18. How many civil procedures were initiated by the Task Force during this quarter? (e.g., evictions, civil commitments, abatements)	
Describe the civil procedures that were initiated.	

19. Has any equipment been purchased during the quarter?	Yes / No
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If yes, please describe what it is, how it has been used and how it will make an impact.

20. Did the Task Force hold meetings during the quarter?	Yes / No
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If yes, please describe meetings or attach the agendas.

21. Did Task Force members attend training during the quarter?	Yes / No
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If yes, please describe.

22. Did Task Force members participate in any outreach or educational programs where they played a teaching role during the quarter?	Yes / No
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If yes, please describe.

23. During the quarter, has the Task Force worked with NESPIN on:	
Financial analysis	Yes / No
Telephone toll analysis	Yes / No
Case analysis	Yes / No
Buy money	Yes / No
Equipment loan	Yes / No

Please attach any Task Force publications, press releases, or additional narrative if necessary, from this quarter.

This report is due 15 days after the quarter closes.

Please send both the Quarterly Financial and Evaluation Reports to:

Tracy Brown, Grant Manager
 Executive Office of Public Safety
 Programs Division
 Ten Park Plaza
 Suite 3720
 Boston, MA 02116

Telephone: (617) 617-725-3353
 Fax: (617) 725-0260 or (617) 725-0261