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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MAINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY



ANNUAL REPORT  
2017

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A STATEWIDE DRUG TASK FORCE

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**INDEX**

Executive Summary..... 3

Introduction..... 4

Task Forces ..... 5

Funding..... 11

Maine’s Drug Threat..... 13

Accomplishments & Challenges ..... 14

Productivity ..... 16

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

### I. Executive Summary

All Maine communities are affected by drug use and abuse. The availability of illegal drugs, diverted prescription medications, related crime, medical and legal costs and the lives they impact are evidence of this. An effective enforcement program that disrupts the drug market is required to undermine the ability of drug suppliers to meet, expand, and profit from drug demand. This effort strengthens the State's ability to support prevention efforts by making initiation to drug use more difficult and contributes to treatment efforts by eroding the ability of users to sustain their habits and to alternatively seek treatment. The Maine Drug Enforcement Agency through its regional multi-jurisdictional task forces is the lead state agency in confronting drug trafficking crime.

Maine Drug Enforcement, as a cornerstone of the State's enforcement strategy to address drug trafficking, provides the administrative platform for the effective and efficient use of limited resources through partnerships with federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement agencies. It is through Maine Drug Enforcement that the skills, expertise, and experience of officers assigned to its task force groups are brought together as a statewide drug task force. Maine Drug Enforcement has applied its investigative resources to the ongoing heroin, fentanyl, other opiate, cocaine and methamphetamine threat.

Highlights of 2017 activity, productivity, and cost-effectiveness by Maine Drug Enforcement District Task Forces include **coordinating information sharing** and **assisting numerous departments**, participated in **awareness and prevention efforts**, conducted **750 drug offense** investigations, the **participation of 47 law enforcement agencies** and **74 federal, state, and local public safety members** comprise the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, participated in **awareness and prevention efforts**, removed **97 firearms** connected to illegal activity, made **569 drug-related arrests**, seized over **\$800,000 in illegally gained cash and assets** from drug traffickers, and removed over **\$2 million value illicit drugs** from the marketplace.

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT

## **II. Introduction**

Maine Drug Enforcement provides a central administrative structure for the establishment, coordination and oversight of specialized narcotics and narcotics-related investigative units within the State of Maine through a multi-jurisdictional drug task force approach. The investigative component of its task forces is comprised of law enforcement officers drawn from state, county, local and tribal law enforcement agencies. Maine Drug Enforcement operates two field divisions with four task force groups in each division thereby providing drug law enforcement throughout all of Maine's sixteen counties so as to effectively address the upper and mid-level drug dealers that operate below the interest of the Federal law enforcement authorities that focus on international, interstate and substantial violators, and the street level efforts that focus on the small dealers and those caught in possession

Every Maine Drug Enforcement's District Task Force (DTF) office works closely with the Maine State Police, the sheriffs' offices, and area police departments. Geography, population and caseload require that good working relationships, partnerships, communication, and information exchanges with all drug investigative entities working together to maximize the utilization of limited resources and personnel.

Maine Drug Enforcement has applied its investigative resources to the ongoing heroin, fentanyl, other opiate, cocaine and methamphetamine threat. Maine Drug Enforcement Task Force Supervisors engage in dynamic casework utilizing the most sophisticated investigative techniques to dismantle drug trafficking organizations throughout Maine.

Maine Drug Enforcement employs a Records Management System (RMS) to report and manage its investigations. The statewide RMS permits the interconnectivity of all Maine Drug Enforcement case information among its eight (8) task force groups. Case and intelligence analysis is critical in the Department's goal to strengthen heroin, other opiate and other drug-related intelligence and information sharing and ensure that there is adequate analytical support to meet policy and investigative requirements as we aggressively pursue drug reduction efforts.

Maine Drug Enforcement employs a toll-free telephone number, reporting form on its website and a Smartphone application (both iOS and Android) for the receipt of drug tips by the public. All information is documented and forwarded to the task force supervisor having jurisdiction for review.

Maine Drug Enforcement has very detailed and encompassing policies and procedures serving to guide its investigations. Policy and procedures cover such topic areas including, but not limited to, source management, controlled buys, evidence management, surveillance, etc.

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Maine Drug Enforcement drug seizures are documented internally and reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) National Seizure System (NSS). Representatives of Maine Drug Enforcement have also attended regional and national conferences and meetings to keep abreast of the current national and regional trends and to share observations of Maine's experiences.

### **III. Task Forces**

Maine Drug Enforcement is one of nine bureaus of the Maine Department of Public Safety with a statutory charge of addressing the threat to the health and safety of Maine's residents resulting from the distribution and manufacture of drugs into, out of and within the State. The task force was created by the Intergovernmental Drug Enforcement Act of 1987 and was reaffirmed by the state legislature in 1992 (25 M.R.S. Chapter 353). The Public Safety Commissioner is charged with establishing and operating within the MDEA such regional investigative task forces as the Commissioner determines, in consultation with the MDEA Advisory Board, are required for effective drug law enforcement throughout the State.

The investigative component of each task force is comprised of law enforcement officers drawn from municipal, county, tribal and state law enforcement agencies – all with statewide authority. Maine Drug Enforcement's budget funds the salary and benefits of 49 officers from 36 law enforcement agencies. By statute their salary is established as that of a Maine State Police detective, sergeant or lieutenant depending upon their assignment within Maine Drug Enforcement. This full reimbursement allows the assigning agency to replace the officer assigned to the task force. Of the 49 positions, 43 are funded through the State of Maine General Fund and 6 through the U.S. Department of Justice Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program.

Maine Drug Enforcement's partnership effort does not end there. This central approach to drug law enforcement in Maine has resulted in 4 law enforcement agencies assigning a total of 6 officers full-time to a task force group to address the drug trafficking problem in their jurisdictional area with no reimbursement of the officers' salary or fringe benefits. Another 8 law enforcement agencies assign an officer to develop drug investigations in their jurisdiction while working closely with Maine Drug Enforcement staff and adhering to Maine Drug Enforcement policy and procedures. Maine Drug Enforcement also enjoys the assignment of 3 Federal agents to its Aroostook and Downeast District Task Forces that share an international border with Canada. In addition, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (USDEA) has a Post of Duty for the northern section of Maine housed within Maine Drug Enforcement's North Central District Task Force office with 2 special agents who work daily with Maine Drug Enforcement's special agents. Maine Drug Enforcement works collaboratively with the USDEA's Portland, ME Resident Office and the New England High

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT

Intensity Drug Trafficking Area initiative (Southern Maine Task Force) that is led by USDEA assigning agents on a case by case basis for joint operations.

Maine Drug Enforcement works closely with the Maine Attorney General's Office in the development and prosecution of targeted drug cases in nine of Maine's sixteen counties with the local District Attorney prosecuting Maine Drug Enforcement cases in the remaining counties.

Maine Drug Enforcement task force commanders, supervisors and agents are recognized throughout the Maine law enforcement community for their considerable expertise in the investigation of drug trafficking organizations and the fostering of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement collaboration. Maine Drug Enforcement staff engage in community and professional outreach representing the Maine Drug Enforcement and their agency to increase awareness of the heroin, fentanyl, and other opioid challenge.

Maine Drug Enforcement task force commanders and supervisors monitor case investigations to establish priorities and investigative focus aimed at producing qualitative and quantifiable results consistent with the mission, goals and objectives of Maine Drug Enforcement.

Maine Drug Enforcement task force supervisors utilize the services provided by the Regional Information Sharing System for event deconfliction requests – RISS SAFE. All task force operation plans require a deconfliction number prior to approval by supervisory personnel. This operational requirement enhances information sharing and investigation coordination ensuring a higher level of officer safety.

Maine Drug Enforcement has frequent interaction with the Maine Information & Analysis Center and New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Heroin Response Strategy representatives for the sharing of intelligence information impacting Maine and New England.

Maine Drug Enforcement coordinates with the Maine State Police to identify and disrupt drug traffickers that utilize the interstate highways and secondary roads to smuggle drugs into and transport drugs throughout the state.

**Administration:** Maine Drug Enforcement provides a central administrative structure for the establishment, coordination and oversight of specialized narcotics and narcotics-related investigative units within the State of Maine through a multi-jurisdictional drug task force approach. The director, a law enforcement officer, serves as the administrator reporting directly to the Commissioner of Public Safety.

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Maine Drug Enforcement operates two field divisions with four task force groups in each division thereby providing drug law enforcement throughout all of Maine's sixteen counties. Each division is led by a task force commander. Division 1 encompasses York, Cumberland, Western and Mid-Coast District Task Force led by a Portland Police Department lieutenant. Division 2 encompasses South Central, North Central, Downeast, and Aroostook District Task Force is led by an Aroostook County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant.

Maine Drug operates a central evidence facility serving both Divisions for the long-term care and custody through disposition of all evidence that is obtained. The Evidence Division is led by a Cumberland County Sheriff's Office deputy.

Maine Drug Enforcement has two full-time Department of Public Safety non-sworn administrative associates to support its operations. These positions are funded by the state with one in Augusta and the other in Bangor. In addition, the National Guard Bureau's Counterdrug Program assigns 6 investigative case support analysts in support of Maine Drug Enforcement's task force operations and mission.

### **York District Task Force**

The task force is located at 86 York Street, Kennebunk staffed by 7 full-time collocated members. Full-time members included: 1 Biddeford Police Department Sergeant, 1 Biddeford Police Department Officer, 1 Kennebunk Police Department Officers, 1 Old Orchard Beach Police Department Officer, 1 Saco Police Department Officer, 1 York County Sheriff's Office Deputy, and 1 National Guard Analyst.

To All the Members of MDEA,  
Concerning the drug bust on or about October 23 (2017) on Ledgestone Court in Sanford.  
Please know how much you are all appreciated for your professionalism, diligence and putting your lives at risk during these events. We all know things can go bad, very easy.  
Thanks to all, we have our neighborhood back, and the threat of others are gone.  
As you move on to the next case, you all stay safe.  
Thank you All!

Signed: The Neighborhood

### **Cumberland District Task Force**

The task force is located at 312 Canco Road, Portland staffed by 8 full-time collocated members. Full-time members included: 1 Portland Police Department Sergeant, 1 Gorham Police Department Officer, 1 Cumberland County Sheriff's Office Deputy, 2 Portland Police Department Officers, 1 Scarborough Police Department Officer, 1 South



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT

Portland Police Department Officer, and 1 Westbrook Police Department Officer. A Portland Police Department Officer and Westbrook Police Department Officer operate on a case-by-case basis with this task force.

### **Western District Task Force**

The task force is located at 65 Central Avenue, Lewiston staffed by 8 full-time collocated members. Full-time members included: 1 Lewiston Police Department Sergeant, 2 Auburn Police Department Officers, 1 Jay Police Department Officer, 1 Lewiston Police Department Officer, 1 Oxford County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant, 1 Rumford Police Department Officer, and 1 National Guard Analyst. A Norway Police Department Officer operates on a case-by-case basis with this task force.

### **Mid-Coast District Task Force**

The task force is located at 41 Buttermilk Lane, Thomaston staffed by 6 full-time collocated members. Full-time members included: 1 Rockland Police Department Sergeant, 1 Belfast Police Department Officer, 1 Knox County Sheriff's Office Deputy, 1 Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Deputy, 1 Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office Deputy, and 1 National Guard Analyst. A Bath Police Department Officer and Brunswick Police Department Officer operate on a case-by-case basis with this task force.

### **South Central District Task Force**

The task force is located at 36 Hospital Street, Augusta staffed by 8 full-time collocated members. Full-time members included: 1 Kennebec County Sheriff's Office Sergeant, 1 Augusta Police Department Officer, 1 Kennebec County Sheriff's Office Deputy, 1 Piscataquis County Sheriff's Office Deputy, 1 Skowhegan Police Department Officer, 1 Somerset County Sheriff's Office Deputy, 1 Waterville Police Department Officer, and 1 National Guard Analyst. An Augusta Police Department Detective and Oakland Police Department Captain operate on a case-by-case basis with this task force.

### **North Central District Task Force**

The task force is located at 106 Hogan Road, Bangor staffed by 7 full-time collocated members. Full-time members included: 1 Bangor Police Department Sergeant, 1 Bangor Police Department Officer, 1 Brewer Police Department Officer, 1 Hampden Police Department Officer, 2 Penobscot County Sheriff's Office Deputies, 1 University of Maine-Orono Police Department Officer, and 1 Department of Public Safety Administrative Assistant. A Maine State Police Troop Detective operates on a case-by-case basis with this task force. During the summer months, the University of Maine also assigns a detective to the task force.

### **Downeast District Task Force**

The task force is located at 190 Bangor Road, Ellsworth staffed by 9 full-time collocated members. Full-time members included: 1 Hancock County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant, 1 Bar Harbor Police Department Officer, 2 Hancock County Sheriff's Office Deputies, 1

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Ellsworth Police Department Officer, 1 U.S. Border Patrol Agent, 2 Washington County Sheriff's Office Deputies, and 1 National Guard Analyst. A Maine State Police Troop Detective operates on a case-by-case basis with this task force.

### **Aroostook District Task Force**

The task force is located at 25 School Street, Houlton staffed by 8 full-time collocated members. Full-time members included: 1 Aroostook County Sheriff's Office Sergeant, 2 Aroostook County Sheriff's Office Deputies, 1 Houlton Police Department Officer, 1 Presque Isle Police Department Officer, 1 U.S. Border Patrol Agent, 1 U.S. Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent, and 1 National Guard Analyst.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT

**Maine Drug Enforcement Mission Statement**

The mission of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency is to reduce the distribution, availability and use of illicit drugs through a collaborative statewide drug enforcement effort.

**Maine Drug Enforcement Vision Statement**

Reduce drug availability by eliminating or disrupting drug trafficking organizations; strengthen state drug law enforcement structure; protect the state’s borders by stemming the flow of drugs into and through Maine; strengthen intelligence and information sharing; enhance collaboration and coordination with all law enforcement agencies; and establish effective partnerships with other state agencies.

**Special Agent Christopher M. Gardiner – University of Maine-Orono Police Department**

Washington D.C. – At the 21st Annual ATF Awards Ceremony in Augusta 2017, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives honored Maine Drug Enforcement Special Agent Chris Gardner, posthumously, for his work on a federal firearms and drug investigation dubbed “Operation Blood Red”.

Each year one case is selected from all cases investigated by ATF across the country to receive the Director's Award. In the ceremony attended by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Acting Director Thomas Brandon noted that “Operation Blood Red” involved the arrest and prosecution of members and associates of a very violent New Haven, Connecticut street gang, “The Red Side Guerilla Brims”. The gang had been involved in acts of violence, including murder, firearms trafficking and drug trafficking in New Haven, CT. and Bangor, ME. The operation netted approximately 32 arrests between Maine and Connecticut, including 7 for homicide. The arrests included one of the gang’s leaders, who pleaded guilty to charges stemming from his illegal conduct in Maine and Connecticut, including several homicides.

The illegal activity charged, stemmed from the sale of heroin and crack cocaine, along with the illegal acquisition of firearms, both through “straw” purchases made from a Bangor area gun dealer and those which were traded for drugs. The firearms were then transported out of state and used by gang members in felony crimes in New Haven and elsewhere. All the indictments resulted in convictions. Honored with Gardner for his exceptional work was an Assistant U.S. Attorney from the District of Maine (Bangor), several ATF agents, members of the New Haven Police Department’s Violent Crimes Task Force, along with three Assistant U.S. Attorneys from the District of Connecticut.

Special Agent Gardner died suddenly November 2016 as a direct result of complications from surgery to repair an injury he suffered in the line of duty. Gardner, a 27-year veteran Detective Sergeant with the University of Maine Police Department in Orono, had been on assignment with the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency for 10 years prior to his death. He was 47.

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

### **IV. Funding**

Maine Drug Enforcement's funding sources are a General Fund allocation, Federal Fund – Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program and US Department of Justice Community Oriented Police Service's Anti-Heroin Task Force and Anti-Methamphetamine Program grant awards – and Special Revenue Fund – equitable shared forfeited drug assets from its many drug trafficking investigations. The state and local assistance federal monies reimburse the local department for the assigned officer's salary and benefits permitting the department to replace that officer at the local level, and in effect placing more officers in Maine communities.

Initially Maine applied JAG funds in support of a statewide multi-jurisdictional task force agency and complementary prosecution support of the Maine Office of the Attorney General (AG) to overcome obstacles to full-local and tribal participation in the number of operating task forces to realize full statewide coverage. Over the years that funding source has decreased so that in 2017 only six special agent positions are funded through this program.

Maine Drug Enforcement develops investigations working closely with drug prosecution assistant attorney generals. This model achieves a high level of coordination and intelligence sharing within a Maine Drug Enforcement district drug task force area between the AG, District Attorney's Office, and law enforcement agencies. This coordinated effort results in a large volume of high quality felony drug cases.

During 2017, Maine Drug Enforcement managed a U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Police Service's Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) and Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP) grant award.

The CAMP award (2014AMWX0009) of \$905,102 funded the addition of four new sworn investigative personnel, and acquisition of equipment, technology, supplies and training that assists Maine Drug Enforcement in its goal to reduce methamphetamine production in the State of Maine by enabling its Clandestine Drug Laboratory Enforcement Team to respond to suspected drug labs in a safe, effective manner, and properly collect evidence needed for successful prosecution.

The AHTF award (2015HPW0005) of \$389,160 funded the enhancement of Maine Drug Enforcement's ability to investigate and respond to heroin and other opioid drug-related incidents through the purchase of equipment/technology, purchase of supplies, investigative overtime and other associated costs.

In late 2017, Maine Drug Enforcement made application and was selected to receive another AHTF award (2017HPWX0003) of \$525,569. Focusing on the heroin and other opioid drugs, Maine Drug Enforcement will work with the Maine State Police and where applicable other law enforcement first responders in the investigation of drug overdose death and serious injury-related incidents with an emphasis on developing cases that identify the source of the

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT

heroin or other opioid that contributed to the death/serious injury. The award will fund fifteen TruNarc™ analyzers and training for the field identification of narcotics and dangerous drugs with ten issued to the Maine State Police, six Cellebrite UFED Touch II units and training to speed the capture of forensic intelligence and evidence from mobile devices augmenting the two units already employed by Maine Drug Enforcement, and investigative overtime.

<b>STATE FY2016-17</b>	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Wages & Benefits	250,156	-	-	250,156
Services Not State	3,838,731	37,753	745,635	4,622,119
Services State	60,720	96	-	60,816
Travel-In State	3,978	4,660	-	8,638
Travel-Out State	-	6,490	-	6,490
State Vehicle Operation	2,385	499	-	2,884
Rents	547,375	124,842	-	675,101
Insurance	23,211	12,860	-	36,071
General Operations	21,258	74,409	-	95,667
Training	75	1,450	-	1,525
Commodities	555	1,685	-	2,240
Technology	205,649	140,123	8,406	354,178
Clothing	-	1,349	-	1,349
Equipment	(420)	31,447	96,135	127,162
Office & Other Supplies	26,595	24,429	14,593	65,617
Transfers	-	2,890	1,692	4,582
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,979,829</b>	<b>464,983</b>	<b>875,464</b>	<b>6,320,276</b>

*The data for table and chart above is from the State financial system of actual expenditures for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.*

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

### **V. Maine's Drug Threat**

The 2017 Drug Threat Assessment, as prepared by the New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NEHIDTA) Investigative Support Center (ISC) and approved by the NEHIDTA Executive Board, outlines that the overall drug threat to the NEHIDTA increased over the past year. The top drug threats to New England in 2017 included heroin, fentanyl, and controlled prescription drugs. In 2016, the threat associated with heroin and fentanyl became increasingly interrelated. Samples of purported heroin now contain significant amounts of fentanyl, making it difficult to distinguish between the two drugs absent laboratory analysis. Both heroin and fentanyl contributed to an increase in opioid-related fatalities across New England in 2016, as reflected by medical examiner data in all six states. Cumberland County, the most populous county in Maine, is a NEHIDTA designated county. MDEA participated in the development of the 2017 NEHIDTA ISC's Drug Threat Assessment.

In summary, the threat assessment identified heroin trafficking and its consumption remaining as a high threat due to its widespread availability through all New England states, low cost, high incidence of addiction, association to other criminal activities, and negative economic impact. The high demand for heroin coupled with its relatively low price resulted in spikes of its usage and overdoses.

Regarding other opioids, the threat assessment outlined a significant overlap between heroin and prescription opioid user groups in New England, and its threat as substantial in New England. This overlap is due in part to the comparatively inexpensive price of heroin, higher availability of heroin, and decrease in supply of controlled prescription drugs. While a variety of controlled pharmaceuticals are available for illicit purchase, oxycodone and (to a lesser extent) hydrocodone products are the preferred opioid analgesics. Detoxification and maintenance-assisted drugs such as Methadone and Buprenorphine are also being diverted. Pain clinics in the southern New England states continue to be targeted by fraudulent prescription rings while employee pilferage from pharmacies remains the most frequently occurring method of diversion.

A high profit margin is encouraging out-of-state drug distributors and their organizations to establish distribution networks in Maine. Previously, these organizations would travel to Maine with a modest amount of drug, rent a motel room and sell their product for a day or two then either leave the state to return another day or receive multi-ounce quantities of drugs every few days. That trend has been replaced with the distributors traveling to Maine with kilogram quantities. The distributors then supply local distributors who are often addicts themselves. These dealers collect their money and re-supply the local distributor. This activity decreases the risk to the out-of-state distributors of encountering law enforcement in undercover capacities. It also alleviates single location seizures of the drugs

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT

and cash in instances of law enforcement intervention. Absent the presence of out-of-state based and supplied traffickers in their communities, area drug dealers are still able to get in the car and drive to southern New England source cities to obtain drugs for transportation into Maine.

Drug-related violence continues. Debriefings of defendants and intelligence information continue to indicate the propensity for violence in drug trafficking networks. This is especially true in cases involving robbery of drugs and cash, and the collection of outstanding drug debts. The violent collection of drug debts through intimidation, weapons display, and severe beatings appears to be quite prevalent, especially relating to cocaine and crack distribution. The possession and use of firearms and sometimes their exchange for drugs is a reminder of the threat these groups pose to Maine. Violence among street gangs is increasing in the New England Region, particularly violence associated with territorial disputes.

### **VI. Accomplishments & Challenges**

Operating in a task force environment has its accomplishments while also having distinct challenges. Personnel are constantly rotating in and out of the task force groups creating training challenges and impacting abilities to further long-term more complex investigations. Advances in technology and adaptations by the drug trafficking groups present another set of distinct challenges. At the same time, equipment necessary to fulfill Maine Drug Enforcement's mission have been obtained and some of the most significant drug seizures have taken place.

#### **Accomplishments:**

Investigative successes resulting from a more focused "targeting" approach by the task force groups have led to significant cases and removal of drugs from Maine's communities.

Cumberland District Task Force arrested eleven out-of-state dealers that led to several major federal investigations.

A two-year North Central District Task Force heroin/cocaine investigation with USDEA led to the arrest of two defendants that face ten-year mandatory minimum charged with conspiracy to distribute more than 5-kilograms of heroin and another 5-kilograms of cocaine base.

A methamphetamine investigation led by the Aroostook District Task Force has resulted in the seizure of over 1.4-kilograms methamphetamine to date with this investigation possibly resulting in the largest-documented methamphetamine case in Maine history.

A three-month investigation by the York District Task Force led to two arrests and the largest seizure of heroin – 1.7-kilograms – in Maine history. From this same event, another kilogram was seized in Massachusetts by USDEA.

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

A Mid-Coast/York District Task Forces investigation led to the seizure of 0.5-kilogram of cocaine, 0.75-kilogram of heroin and the arrest of a Maine resident and three Massachusetts-based suppliers.

The Western District Task Force dismantled a drug trafficking ring responsible for the importation of kilogram quantities of heroin and cocaine base from Massachusetts into the Oxford County region.

Finally, a Downeast District Task Force investigation led to the arrest of two defendants and seizure of more than 400 counterfeit oxycodone tablets that in fact contained fentanyl.

### **New technology:**

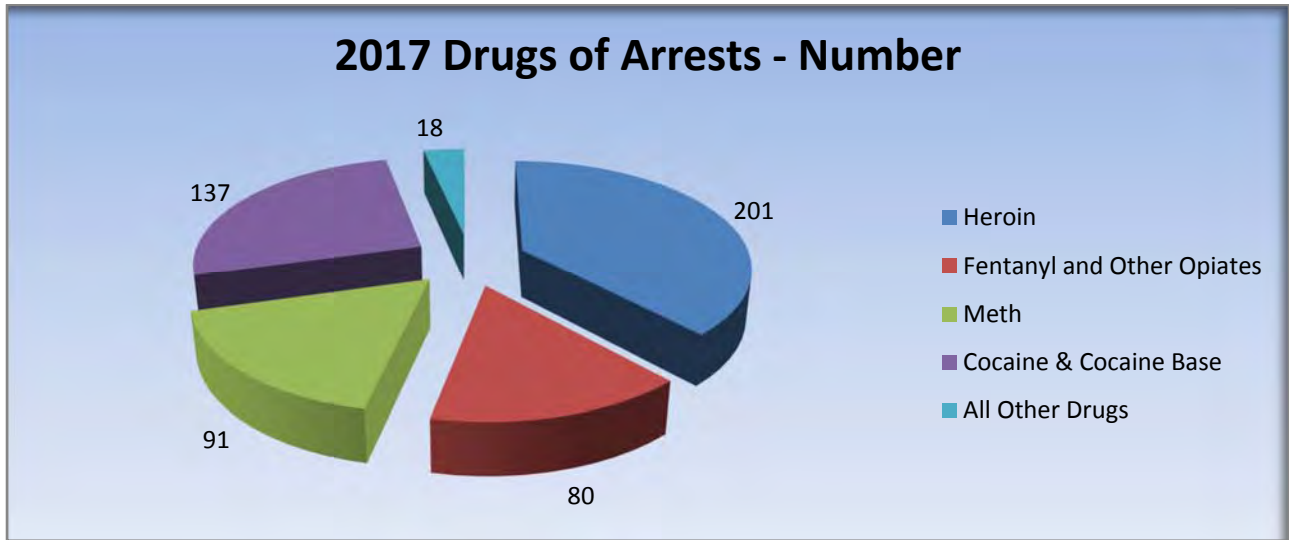
Money counters with the ability to record serial numbers; new generation of covert audio devices; new records management system; new generation of GPS tracking devices; and additional TruNarc™ handheld narcotics ID analyzers.

### **Challenges:**

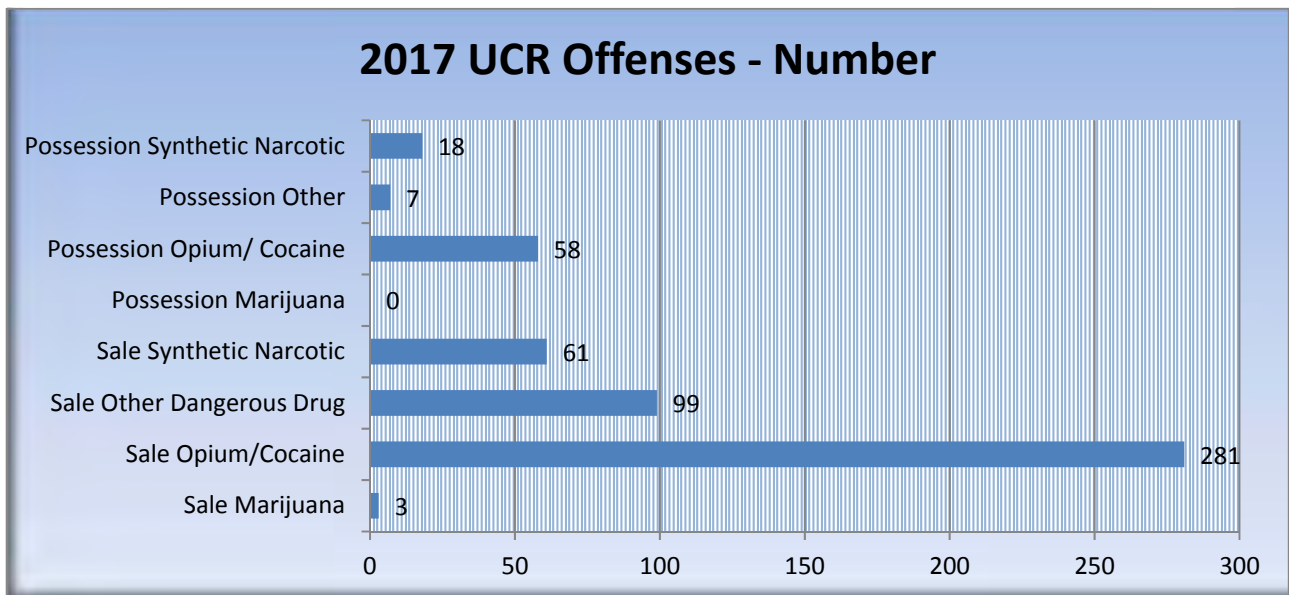
Training and implementation of the new records management system; creating partnerships and stronger working relationships with state and local law enforcement agencies in source cities of drugs to enhance Maine Drug Enforcement's ability to dismantle drug trafficking groups operating in Maine; develop special agents with the desire and skills necessary to pursue long-term and more complex investigations to have a greater impact on drug availability in Maine; lack the analytical support staff to maximize investigative capacity;



**VII. Productivity**



*Heroin, fentanyl, and all other opiate drugs represent 53% of all drug offenses, followed by cocaine and cocaine base at 26%, methamphetamine at 17% and all other drugs (marijuana, tranquilizers and so-called bath salts) the remaining 3%.*



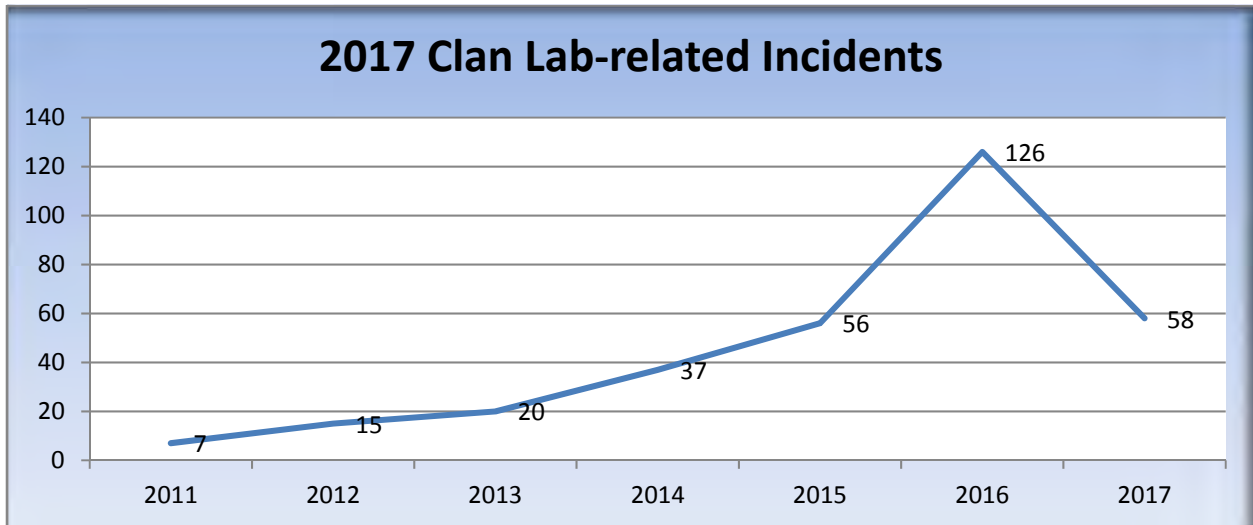
## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

### **2017 DRUG SEIZURES**

- 1,717GM Fentanyl
- 5,362GM Heroin
- 2,585GM Cocaine Powder
- 1,694GM Cocaine Base (Crack)
- 166GM Methamphetamine
- 5,119DU prescription drug narcotics (Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Methadone, etc.)
- 6,013DU other controlled prescription drugs (Benzodiazepines, Methylphenidates, etc.)
- Other drug seizures included:
  - o 6,794GM and 219PLANTS Marijuana; and
  - o 398GM of LSD, MDMA, Cannabinoids, Cathinones, Psilocybin, and PCP.

### **Drug Offense Investigations Initiated:**

<i>Drug Offense Category</i>	<i>2017 Totals</i>
Hallucinogen	10
Heroin	314
Fentanyl and Other Opiate Drugs	86
Cocaine	234
Marijuana	1
Amphetamine	103
Barbiturate	1
Fraud Obtaining Prescription Drugs	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>750</b>

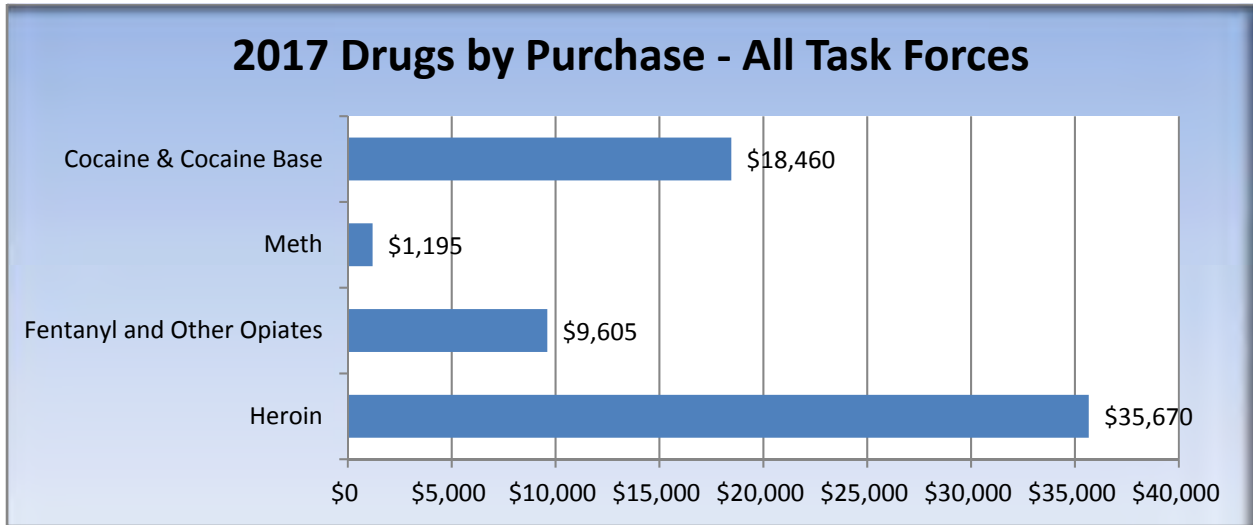


Although overall levels of amphetamine trafficking and abuse remained low compared to other illicit drugs to date, methamphetamine production occurs primarily in Maine as compared to the other New England states and in the form of “one-pot” laboratories.

In 2016, the highest number of lab incidents was recorded in Maine – 126. This significant increase over the number of incidents discovered in 2015 may have been due to increased awareness among the public and law enforcement. For 2017, Maine has experienced a significant reduction in lab incidents. A 2015 U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Police Services Combat Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP) grant funded officer positions, training, equipment and investigative overtime. Of the 58 incidents, 36 involved active labs where children were present in 7 of those. Lab incidents have occurred in counties from Aroostook to York with the largest number discovered in Penobscot County. Aroostook – 11; Cumberland, Kennebec, Oxford, Sagadahoc, and Washington – 1 each; Hancock, Lincoln, and Piscataquis – 2 each; Penobscot – 29; Waldo – 4; and York – 3.

In 2017, the Aroostook County District Attorney’s Office embarked on a project requesting that Aroostook County pharmacies voluntarily employ the practice of only selling pseudoephedrine products with a prescription. This resulted in methamphetamine lab-related incidents dropping from 58 in 2016.

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



### **Outputs:**

<i>Category</i>	<i>2017</i>
Calls for Service - Number	2,717
Drug Offense Investigations Initiated	749
Judicial Search Warrants Served	238
Clandestine Lab-related Incidents	58
Overtime Hours	1,644
Firearms Seized (Handguns/Long)	32/65
Street Cost of Drugs Seized	\$2,953,393
# and Value of Assets Seized	13 - \$158,797
# and Total of Currency Seizures	152 - \$645,158

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT



MYPD  
MY POLICE DEPARTMENT