



Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

A Summary of Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force Activities in Federal Fiscal Year 2005

**Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety
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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 (EOPS) through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program during federal fiscal year 2005. The data analyzed were collected through quarterly reports submitted by each task force (see Appendix for sample quarterly report). The goal of the Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force 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.

- 25 drug task forces were funded through the JAG program in FFY 2005.²
- The drug 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.³
- The task forces reported conducting an average of 131 investigations during the year.
- The task forces reported over \$2 million currency seized and over \$400,000 currency forfeited in FFY 2005.
- The task forces reported that over 5,400 drug and weapons related charges were filed as a result of drug task force activities during the year.

Key Findings for FFY 2005		
	Total	Average per task force per year
Total Investigations	2,819	131
Drug Transactions	2,643	127
Search Warrants	703	32
Arrest Warrants	1,643	79
Currency Seized	\$2,120,622	\$93,150
Currency Forfeited	\$408,327	\$19,815
Weapons Seized	552	26
Charges	5,409	256
Total number of drug task forces funded	25	
Total amount of grant funds awarded	\$1,578,500	\$63,140

¹ Bureau of Justice Assistance website. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/byrnepurpose.html>. Accessed 7/6/06.

² Twenty-three of the 25 drug task forces submitted quarterly reports to EOPS during FFY 2005.

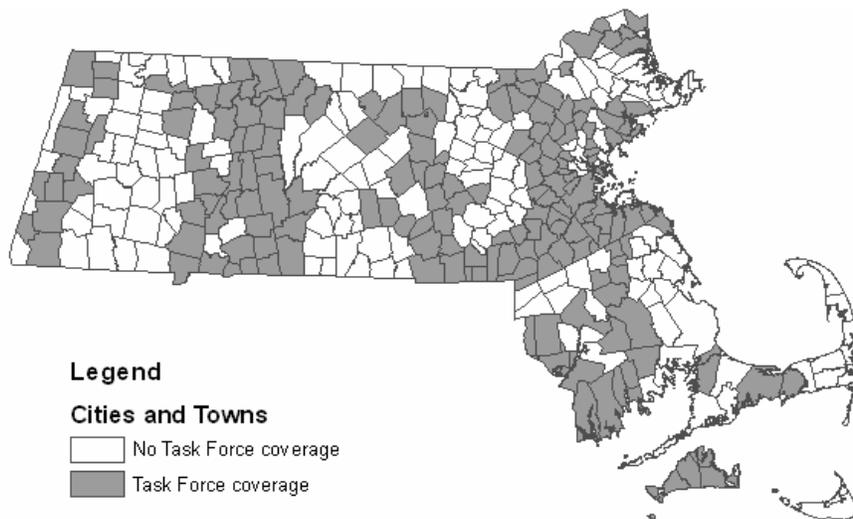
³ Population was calculated using Census 2005 estimates.

Introduction

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPS) is responsible for administering the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. The 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.⁴ The Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force Program (MJTF) falls under one of six 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 JAG grant program. FFY 2005 covered the period October 1, 2004 through September 30, 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.⁵ 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 Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force Program in FFY 2005.

Multi-jurisdictional drug task force cities and towns, FFY 2005



⁴ Bureau of Justice Assistance website. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/jag.html>. Accessed 10/2/06.

⁵ Population was calculated using Census 2005 estimates from www.census.gov.

This report is intended to provide a general overview of the activities of the drug task forces during FFY 2005. The data analyzed in this report were collected through quarterly reports submitted by each task force to EOPS (see Appendix for sample quarterly report). Twenty-three of the 25 task forces operating in FFY 2005 submitted quarterly reports to EOPS. A total of 84 quarterly reports were submitted out of a possible 100. The analyses in this report are organized into the following sections: task force operations, seizures and forfeitures, drug and firearm charges, other task force activities, and trends.

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, EOPS determined award amounts in part based on the drug problem of partnering communities. Four items were included in the need-based assessment: population, drug possession arrests, drug sale/manufacturing arrests, and drug treatment admissions. Compared to the previous year, almost half of the drug task forces received additional funding and no drug task force received less funding. EOPS will continue to use data-driven assessments to help determine the award amounts for the drug task forces in future years.

Investigations

The drug task forces reported conducting 2,819 investigations in FFY 2005, an average of 131 investigations per task force. Of the investigations, over 50% or 1,500 were new investigations.⁶

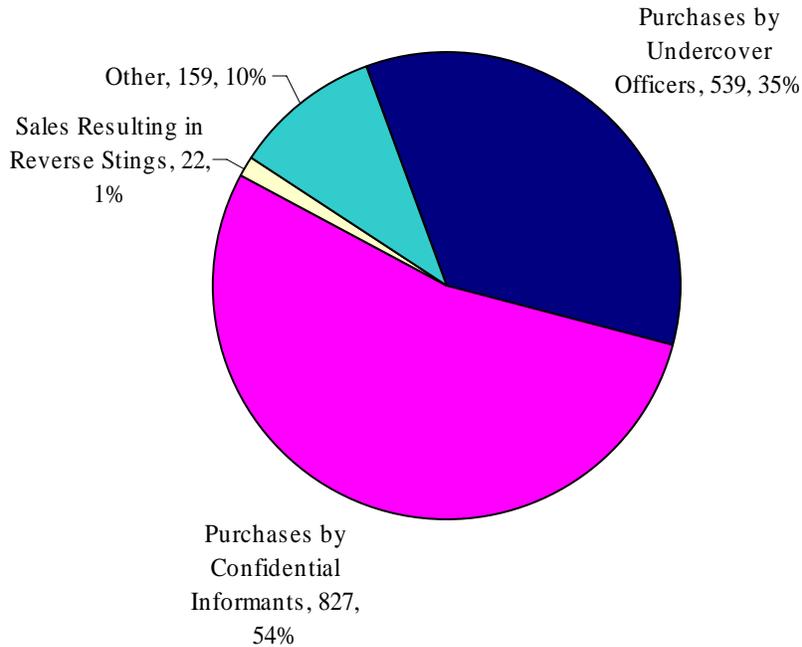
Task force investigations

Total Investigations	2,819	New Investigations	1,500
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Drug Transactions

During the year, the drug task forces reported 2,643 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 (54%), followed by purchases made by undercover officers (35%). Only one percent of the drug transactions reported were sales resulting in reverse stings.⁷

Drug transactions



⁶ Data on new investigations were only available from 55 of 84 quarterly reports because of reporting problems.

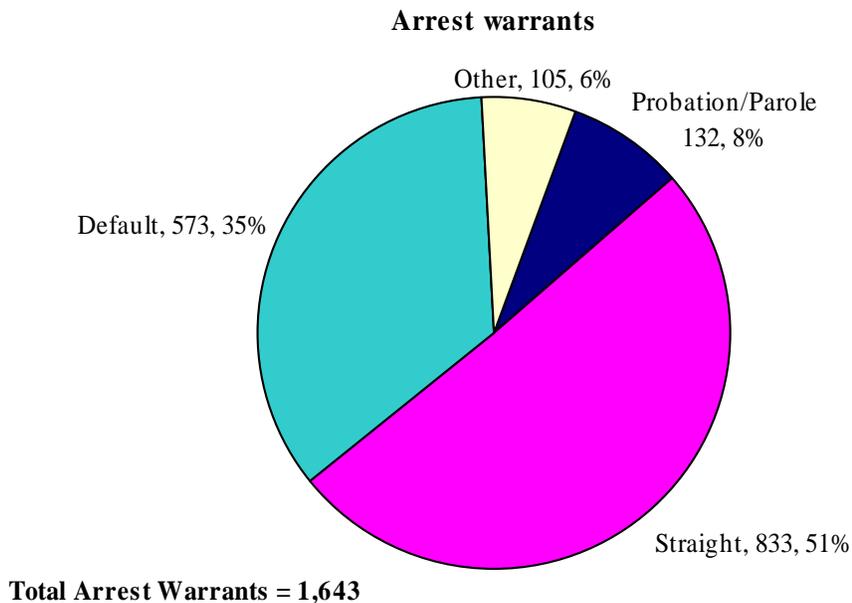
⁷ Data on types of drug transactions were only available from 55 of 84 quarterly reports because of reporting problems.

Search Warrants

The task forces reported that a total of 703 search warrants were executed in connection with task force activities during the year, an average of 32 per task force. Approximately 96% of the warrants were non-electronic search warrants compared to only 4% electronic warrants.

Arrests

The task forces reported executing 1,643 arrest warrants in FFY 2005, an average of 79 per task force. Over half of the warrants executed were straight warrants (51%). The second most common type of arrest warrant executed was default warrant (35%). In addition, the task forces reported that a total of 1,671 non-warrant arrests were made during the year.⁸



Multi-Agency Collaborations

Approximately 96% of the task forces reported working with other task forces or agencies outside those named in the memorandum of agreement on investigations during the year. The most frequently cited collaborative activities included intelligence sharing and the sharing of equipment and manpower.

⁸ Data on non-warrant arrests were only available from 55 of 84 quarterly reports because of reporting problems.

Other Task Force Operations

In FFY 2005, the task forces reported utilizing 1,028 Confidential Informants for intelligence or performance of controlled buys. During this same year, task forces reported that 756 task force operations crossed legal jurisdictions.

Currency Seized and Forfeited

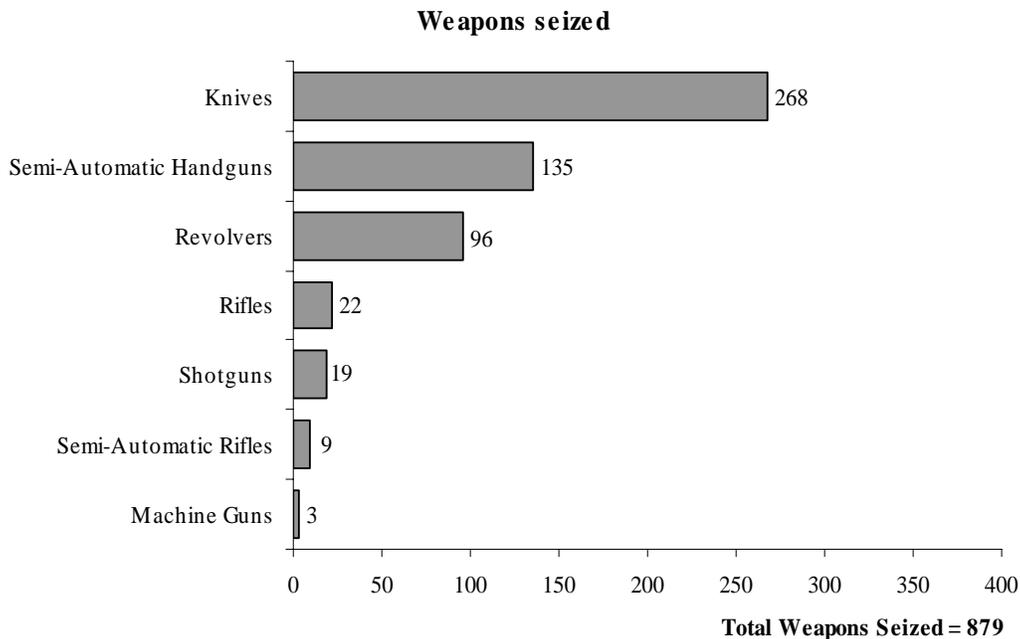
Collectively, over \$2 million in currency seizures were reported by the task forces in FFY 2005 as a result of task force activities. In addition, over \$400,000 in currency forfeitures were reported by the task forces during the year.

Currency seized and forfeited

Total Currency Seized	\$2,120,622	Average per task force	\$93,150
Total Currency Forfeited	\$408,327	Average per task force	\$19,815

Weapons Seized

The task forces reported seizing 879 weapons in FFY 2005. Two hundred sixty-eight knives were seized compared to 284 guns. Types of guns are broken out in the chart below. Not included in the chart below are 327 weapon seizures reported in the “other weapons” category, which consisted mainly of ammunition.



Other Assets Seized or Forfeited

In addition to currency, the drug task forces also reporting seizing almost \$2 million in other assets during the year (e.g., property, motor vehicles, etc.). Over \$1 million in other asset forfeitures were reported by the task forces as a result of task force activities.

Assets seized and forfeited

Total Other Assets Seized	\$1,979,003	Average per task force	\$58,952
Total Other Assets Forfeited	\$1,075,107	Average per task force	\$25,694

Drug Seizures

Every task force that submitted quarterly report data during the year reported seizing cocaine and marijuana. Many of the task forces also reported seizing heroin and OxyContin in FFY 2005. Only three task forces reported seizing methamphetamine during the year. 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.

Approximately 83% of drug task forces reported seizing drug paraphernalia during the year. Reports show that in FFY 2005 over 300 scales and 1,300 syringes were seized.⁹

Drug seizures

Drug Seized	# of Task Forces with Seizures	Total Amount Seized	Median Amount Seized per Task Force per Yr	Range of Annual Seizure Totals
Cocaine	23	183,501 gm	370 gm	10 - 84,767 gm
Marijuana	23	13,081 oz	94 oz	4 - 6,519 oz
Heroin ⁹	21	2,156 DU 56,193 gm	180 DU 45 gm	0 - 495 DU 0 - 51,773 gm
OxyContin	21	21,014 DU	130 DU	0 - 13,128 DU
Crack	17	2,734 gm	94 gm	0 - 595 gm
MDMA (Ecstasy)	12	174,534 DU	66 DU	0 - 150,500 DU
Methamphetamine	3	1,649 gm	8 gm	0 - 1,642 gm

Drug Paraphernalia Seized

Scales	19	301	8	0 - 81
Syringes	18	1,371	36	0 - 416

gm = grams oz = ounces DU = dosage units

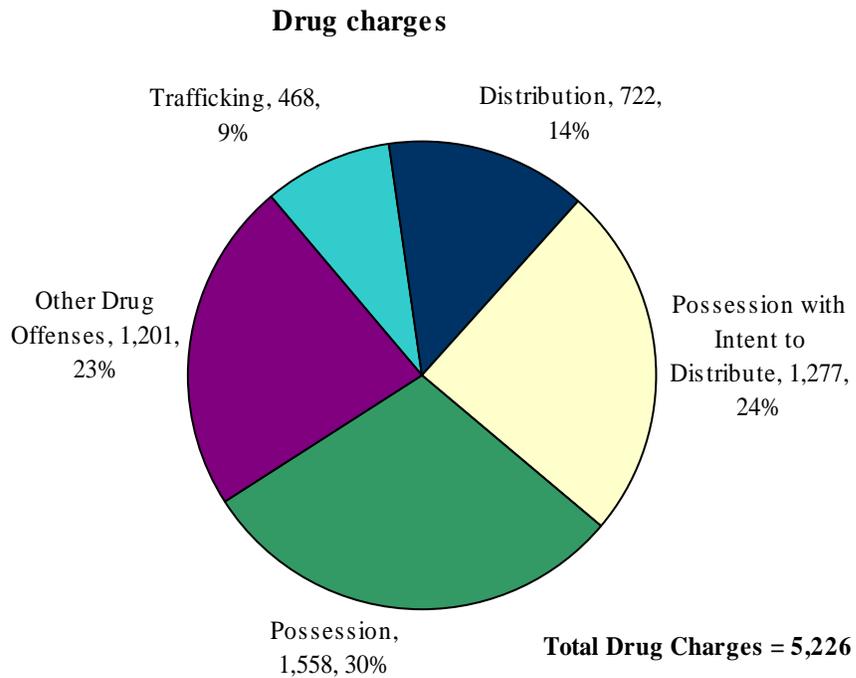
Note: The median calculation only includes task forces that seized that particular drug.

⁹ 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

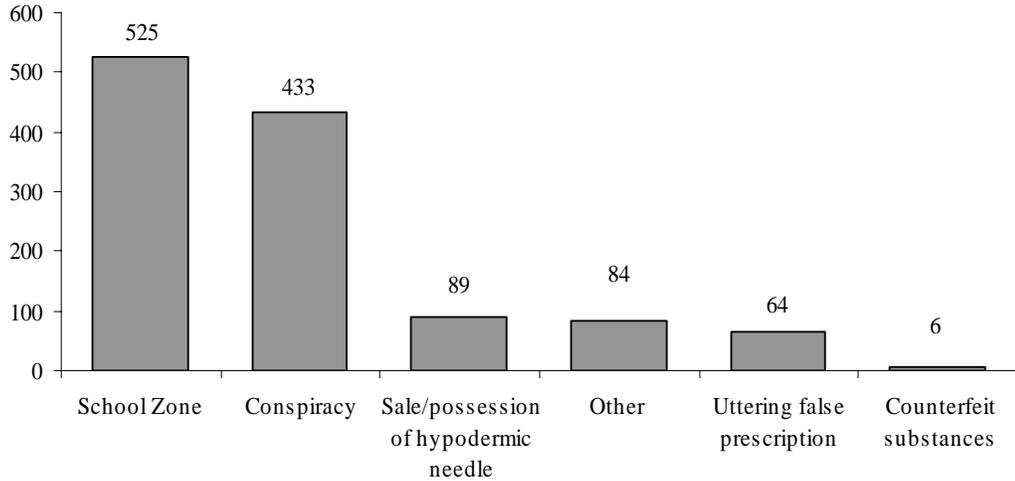
The task forces reported that 5,226 drug charges were filed as a result of drug task force activities in FFY 2005. State charges made up 93% or 4,854 of the charges filed while only 7% or 372 charges were federal charges.

Possession and *possession with intent to distribute* were the most commonly reported charges and when combined made up over half of the 5,226 total charges in FFY 2005 (54%). *Drug trafficking* was the least commonly reported charge filed (9%).



The *other drug offense* 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 offense* category (44% and 36% of the other drug offenses, respectively).

Other drug offenses



Total "other drug offenses" = 1,201

Weapons Charges

The task forces reported that 183 weapons charges were filed due to task force arrests in FFY 2005. Approximately 91% of the reported weapons charges were for *possession of a rifle/shotgun or firearm*. *Use of a firearm with an obliterated serial number during a felony* (5%) and *Possession of a sawed-off shotgun or machine gun* (4%) were also charges reported by the task forces.

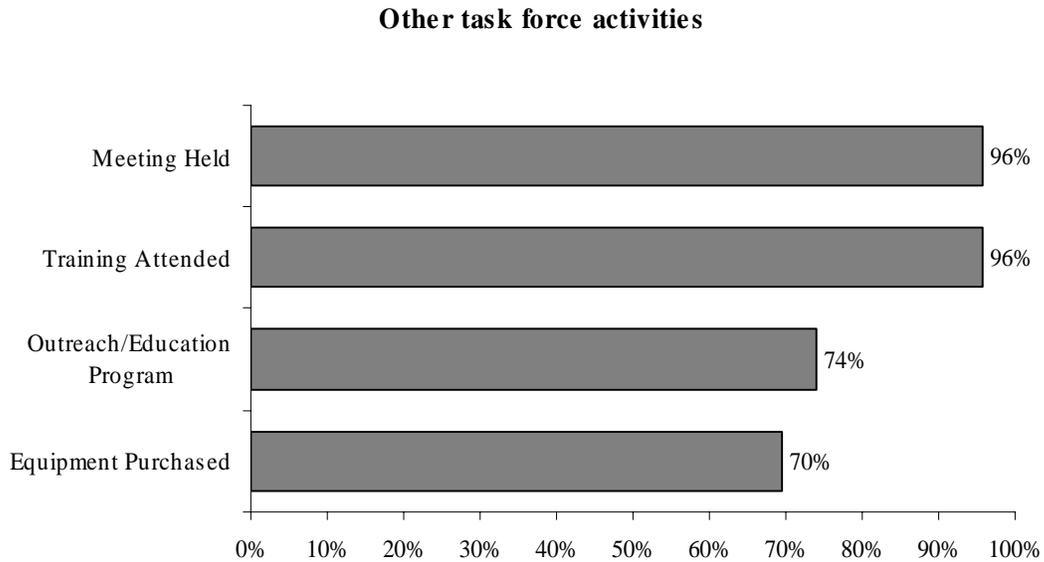
Firearms/Weapons Charges

Weapons Offense	Number of Charges	Percent of Charges
Possession of a rifle/shotgun or firearm	167	91%
Use of firearm with obliterated serial number during felony	9	5%
Possession of a sawed-off shotgun or machine gun	7	4%
Possession/distribution/use of a silencer	0	0%
Possession/use of body armor during a felony	0	0%
Trafficking in firearms	0	0%
Total	183	100%

Other Task Force Activities

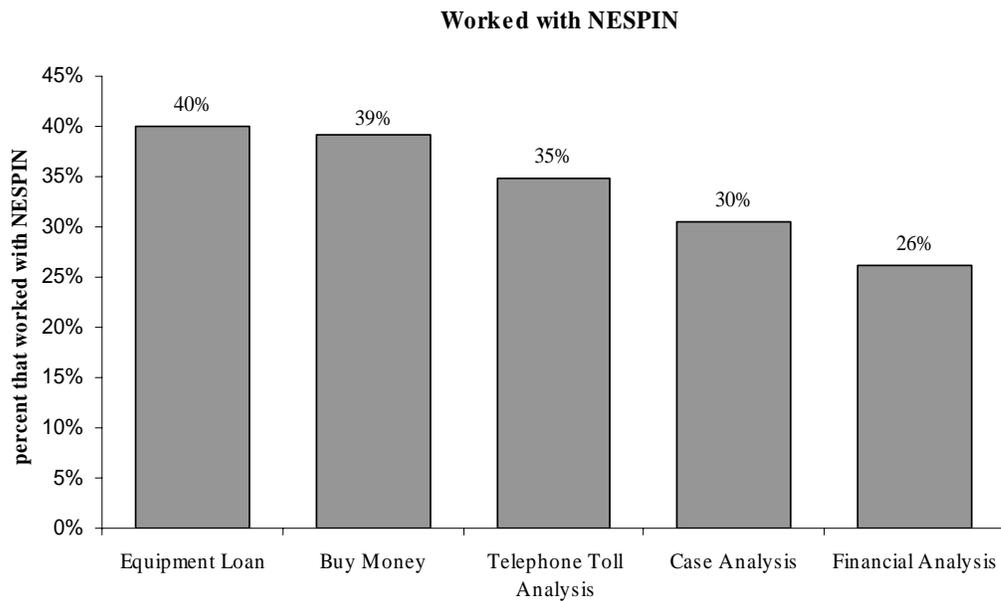
The task forces reported that 178 civil procedures were initiated as a result of task force activities during the year; an average of nine per task force (civil procedures include evictions, civil commitments, and abatements).

During FFY 2005, nearly all of the task forces reported holding meetings and attending trainings (96%). Additionally, 74% of task forces reported participating in outreach or educational programs where they played a teaching role and 70% reported purchasing equipment during the year.



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.¹⁰

Over half of the task forces (56%) reported working with NESPIN on at least one activity during the year. Equipment loan was the most commonly reported activity (40%) and financial analysis was the least commonly reported (26%).¹¹



¹⁰ Institute for Intergovernmental Research website. <http://www.iir.com/RISS/>. Accessed 7/10/06.

¹¹ Data on equipment loan were only available from 55 of 84 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 or packaging trends were reported. The use of magic markers to conceal cocaine was mentioned, as well as seeing heroin packaged more like cocaine. Approximately, 78% of task forces did not report any methamphetamine trends although a slight increase in methamphetamine was noted in the Boston and Lowell areas. Nearly half of the task forces reported seeing motor vehicle hides and almost a third reported that OxyContin was a significant problem in their area. Overall, very few changes in costs, packaging, or sources were reported by task forces in FFY 2005.

New York City was the most commonly cited drug source, mentioned by 39% of task forces. Boston was also commonly cited with 30% 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	39%
Boston	30%
Lawrence	22%
Lowell	22%
Lynn	22%
Brockton	13%
Worcester	13%
Springfield	9%

References

Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2006. "Byrne Formula Purpose Areas." <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/byrnepurpose.html>. (Accessed July 6, 2006.)

Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. 2006. "Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program." <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/jag.html>. (Accessed October 2, 2006.)

Institute for Intergovernmental Research. 2006. "Regional Information Sharing Systems Program" <http://www.iir.com/RISS>. (Accessed July 10, 2006.)

U.S Census Bureau, Population Division. 2006. "Subcounty Population Estimates, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005" http://www.census.gov/popest/cities/files/SUB-EST2005_25.csv. (Accessed June 20, 2006.)

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)	
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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