



January to June 2014 Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force Semi-Annual Report Summary

December 2014

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Introduction

In addition to federal reporting requirements, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council requires multi-Jurisdictional drug task force (MJDTFs) agencies awarded grant funds under the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant to submit activity reports on a semi-annual basis. These MJDTFs combat drug crime through partnerships between the Sheriff's Offices of two or more counties and the police departments of the major cities in at least one of those counties. CJCC funds 17 such task forces, most of which also include Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents as command staff. This report summarizes task force activity for the first six months of the Calendar Year 2014.

Investigation

Type of Investigation	Number of Investigation
MJDTF Investigation Initiated	2,212
MJDTF Assistance-Rendered Investigation	1,608
TOTAL	3,820

The 17 CJCC funded multi-jurisdictional drug task forces conducted a total of 3,820 investigations, 58% of which were initiated by the MJDTFs.

Arrests

Level of Arrest	Number of Arrest Incidents	Number of People Arrested
Street Level	886	1,014
Mid Level	255	316
Upper Level	54	54
TOTAL	1,195	1,384

During January to June 2014, MJDTFs made 1,195 arrests during which 1,384 people were arrested. Nearly 75% of these arrests were for street-level drug offenses¹. The remaining 26% of arrests were for mostly mid-level drug offenses² (21%) and few upper-level³ arrests were made (5%). That means that for every mid- or upper level arrest MJDTFs made in these six months, they made almost 3 street level arrests. Almost all of the offenders who were arrested are adults.

Among these arrested offenders, 120 (9%) have previous weapons charges within the past 5 years, and 173 (13%) have previous history of violent crime.

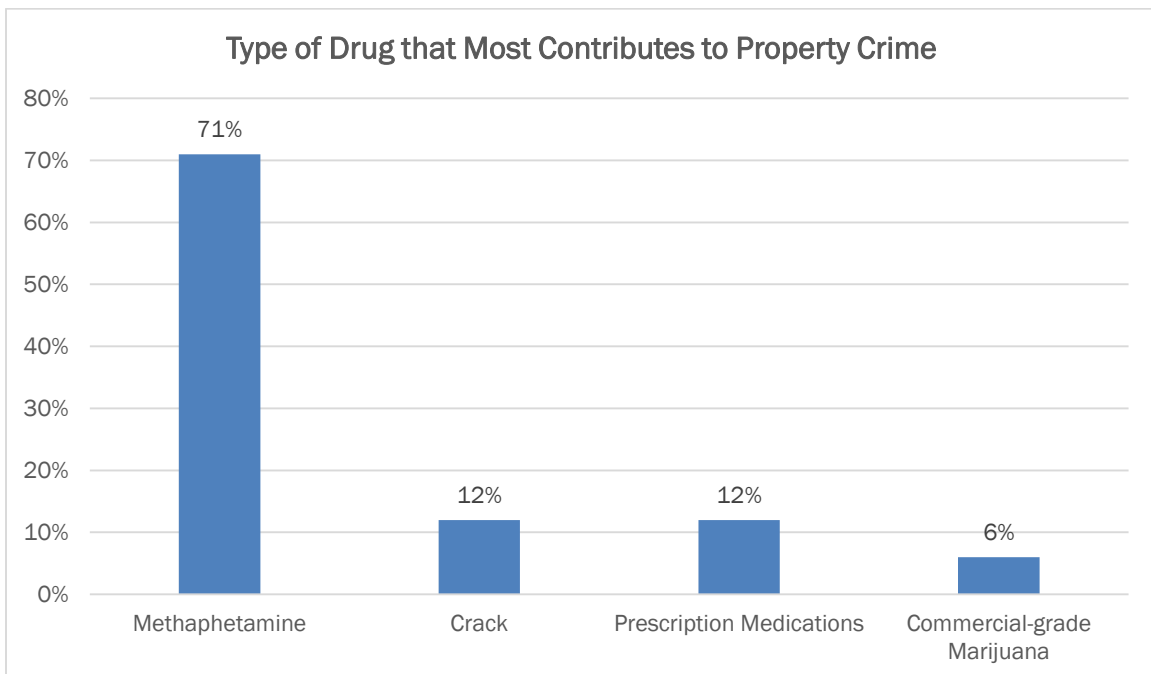
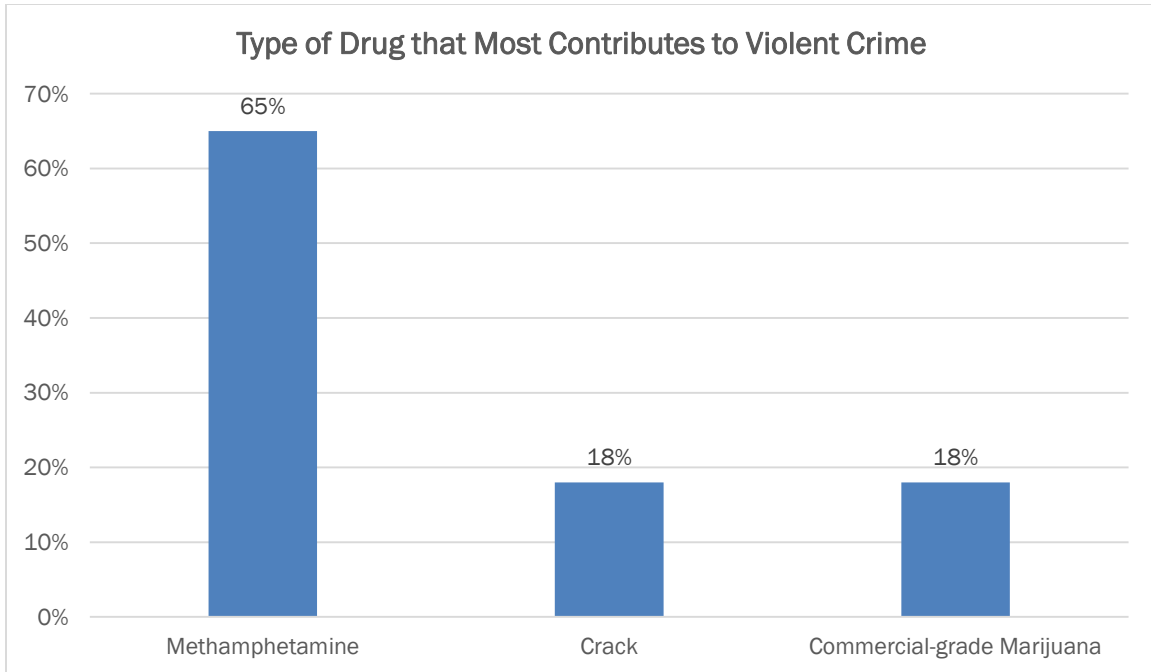
¹ Street-level: An individual at this level typically conducts illicit drug transactions that involve the purchase or sale of marijuana not to exceed one ounce or \$100 in value. The purchase or sale of other illicit drugs (e.g., crack, powder cocaine, methamphetamine, etc.) typically will not exceed one gram. Street-level dealers are the primary suppliers of illicit drug abusers.

² Mid-level: An individual at this level typically conducts illicit drug transactions that involve the purchase or sale of multiple pounds of marijuana and multiple ounces of crack, powder cocaine, and methamphetamine. The value of these transactions can go up to \$1,000 for crack, powder cocaine and methamphetamine and up to \$5,000 for marijuana. Mid-level drug distributors normally operate within a loosely defined group, and may supply both street-level dealers and illicit drug.

³ Upper-level: An individual at this level typically conducts illicit drug transactions that involve the purchase or sale of hundreds of pounds of marijuana and multiple pounds or kilograms of crack, powder cocaine and methamphetamine. An upper-level drug dealer is typically associated with a highly-defined and organized trafficking network.

Drugs that DTFs Identified as Contributing to Crime

Sixty-five percent of MJDTFs indicated that methamphetamine is the drug that most contributes to violent crime and property crime in their jurisdictions. The next two most common drugs reported as contributing to violent or property crime are crack and commercial-grade marijuana.



Charges

During the first six months of 2014, MJDTF's filed 2,097 charges of which over 70% were felony drug charges. Nearly 20% of the charges MJDTFs brought were misdemeanor drug charges and the rest were non-drug related.

Type of Charges	Number of Charges
Felony	1,470
Misdemeanor	391
Non-Drug Related	236
TOTAL	2,097

Prosecution

The table below shows the total number of defendants who the MJDTFs arrested and were accepted for state and/or federal prosecution in the reporting period. Close to 97% of the defendants were prosecuted by the state. Over 90% of MJDTF arrestees were prosecuted in either state or federal court.

Prosecution Type	Number of Defendants
State	1,228
Federal	33
Both	10
TOTAL	1,271

Amount of Drugs Seized in Grams

Type of Drug	Total Amount (In Grams)
Commercial-grade Marijuana	800,528
Hydroponic Marijuana	312,799
Cocaine	159,839
Meth (e.g., ICE, Crystal, etc.)	26,351
Prescription Medications	18,727
Crack	3,717
Other	2,724
Psilocybin	373
Heroin	62
Ecstasy/MDMA	38
Salvia	30
Acid	10
TOTAL	1,325,198

In the first 6 months in CY2014, the 17 CJCC-funded multi-jurisdictional drug task forces seized a total of 1,325,198 grams of drugs. Marijuana – both commercial grade and hydroponic – was the most commonly seized drug. For each gram of all other drugs seized, DTFs seized 5 grams of marijuana. Following marijuana, cocaine, meth and prescription medications are the most commonly seized drugs.

The MJDTFs removed illicit drugs in 70 of Georgia’s 159 counties. The top four counties in which the largest amount of drugs were seized are Fulton (364,508 grams), Chatham (195,623 grams), Heard (182,249) and Baldwin (112,702).

The table below presents the top 10 counties in which the largest quantities of marijuana were seized.

County	Amount of Marijuana Seized (in grams)
Fulton	363,244
Heard	182,096
Baldwin	112,158
Meriwether	77,590
Banks	54,435
Rabun	51,756
Chatham	36,184
Towns	34,494
Gilmer	22,600
Pickens	19,816

Pill Box Drop Program

Approximately half of the MJDTFs have a pill box program. In total, 29,718 pounds of pills were collected in the first six months of 2014.

Undercover Buys

Fifteen out of the 17 MJDTFs engaged in 447 undercover buys in this reporting period.

Drug Unit Price

Illicit Drugs

The table below compares the unit price for the illicit drugs bought through undercover buys in the MJDTFs’ service areas to the GBI standardized drug values for fiscal year 2015.

Illicit Drug Type	Unit	Price (Average)	GBI Standardized Value
Heroin	1/10 Gram	\$40	-
	1 Gram	\$138	\$400
	1 Kilo	No Undercover Buy Conducted at This Unit	\$150,000
Cocaine	1 Gram	\$149	\$100
	1 Ounce	\$1,100	\$1,000
	1 Kilo	No Undercover Buy Conducted at This Unit	\$30,000
Crack	1 Rock	\$58	\$40
	1 Ounce	\$1,150	\$850
Commercial-grade Marijuana	1 Ounce	\$145	\$125
	1 Pound	\$ 1,133	\$1,200
Hydroponic Marijuana	1 Ounce	\$531	-
	1 Pound	\$2,945	\$5,000
Meth (Crystal, ICE)	1 Gram	\$117	\$110
	1 Ounce	\$1,560	\$1,600
	1 Kilo	No Undercover Buy Conducted at This Unit	-
Ecstasy/MDMA	1 Tablet	\$40	\$20
	1 Jar (100 Tablets)	No Undercover Buy Conducted at This Unit	-

Prescription Medications

The table below demonstrates the unit price for the prescription drugs bought through undercover buys in the MJDTFs' service areas.

Prescription Drug Type	Unit	Price (Average)
Oxycodone	10 mg	\$3
	20 mg	\$46
	40 mg	\$30
	80 mg	\$45
Vicodin	5 mg	No Undercover Buy Conducted at This Unit
	7.5 mg	No Undercover Buy Conducted at This Unit
	10 mg	\$10
Xanax	1 mg	\$5
	2 mg	\$8
Lortab	5 mg	\$5
	7.5 mg	No Undercover Buy Conducted at This Unit
	10 mg	\$14
Hallucinogenic Drug Type		
Salvia	1 Ounce	\$150
Psilocybin	1/4 Ounce	No Undercover Buy Conducted at This Unit
	1 Ounce	No Undercover Buy Conducted at This Unit
	1 Pound	No Undercover Buy Conducted at This Unit
Acid	1 Unit	\$10
	1,000 Units	No Undercover Buy Conducted at This Unit

Warrants, Seizures and Forfeitures

In this reporting period, CJCC funded Drug Task Force agencies served 373 search warrants and conducted 315 fourth amendment searches. The table below demonstrates the outcomes for DTF-executed warrants. On average, 1 search warrant led to at least 2 outcomes. Fewer than 6% of all executed warrants lead to “nothing at all.”

Warrants Led to	Number of Warrants
Drug Seizures	267
Arrests	251
Actionable Intelligence	148
Cash Asset Seizures	89
Firearm seizures	60
Property Seizures	51
Nothing At All	22
TOTAL	888

Interdictions

MJDTF agencies performed a total of 185 interdictions during this reporting period. The most common type of interdiction that MJDTF’s performed was dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking organizations. Over 20% of MJDTF interdictions involved destroying drug labs and close to 20% involved in dismantling marijuana-growing operations.

Type of Drug Operations	Number of Interdictions
Drug trafficking organizations disrupted	69
Drug trafficking organizations dismantled	40
Drug Labs Destroyed	40
Marijuana-growing operations dismantled	36

Seven out of the 17 MJDTFs reported that there are open-air drug markets in the area that they serve, and all of them target these open-air drug markets. A total of 188 people were arrested from these markets, which represents 14% of the people arrested by MJDTFs in this reporting period.

Training & Outreach

During this reporting period, Drug Task Force agencies presented or provided training to a variety of individuals and/or groups, which included 3,558 students in 32 schools, 823 civic groups’ members in 30 groups, 9 community meetings and 2 community outreach sessions.

Three of the MJDTFs have a curriculum for the school outreach sessions. They presented booklets and facts regarding the dangers of drug usage, commonly abused drugs, and the dangers of pharmaceutical drugs and their proper disposal.

Individuals and /or Groups	Number of Training DTF Provided
Schools	32
Students	3,558
Civic Groups (e.g., Boys & Girls Club, etc.)	30
Civic Groups Members	823
Community Meeting	9
Community Outreach sessions	2

K9 Task Force

Three K-9 task Force agencies received funding from CJCC in this reporting period. In total, they trained 11 handlers and conducted a variety of searches. The three most common searches conducted were: Vehicle searches (989), Interdiction and Road Checks (326), and Bombs/Explosive Detection (162). In total, K9 units conducted 1,649 searches across the state. In addition to these searches, K9 units also conducted 6 demos.

K-9 Activities	Number of Activities
Vehicle Searches	989
Interdiction and Road Checks	326
Bombs/Explosive Detection	162
Building Searches	96
School Searches	41
Firearms Detection	19
Human Scent Detection	11
Number of Handlers Trained	11
Demos	6
Street Sweeps	5
Drug-free Workplace Searches	0