

**DRUG & VIOLENT CRIME TASK FORCES**  
**2011 Annual Report**

**March 2011**

**Prepared by the Office of Justice Programs – Minnesota Department of Public Safety**

## BACKGROUND

**Narcotics Task Forces** – Since 1988, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs has funded multijurisdictional narcotics task forces with a portion of its annual Edward Byrne Memorial Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. One of the purposes of the funding is to support programs that integrate federal, state and local drug law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to conduct effective multijurisdictional investigations and prosecutions. For many years, Minnesota’s drug task forces received \$2.6 million in federal funding each year.

The 2005 Minnesota Legislature passed legislation to improve coordination of gang and drug enforcement efforts throughout the state. To ensure an effective outcome, the legislature established a **GANG AND DRUG OVERSIGHT COUNCIL** (“Council”) to provide guidance related to the investigation and prosecution of gang and drug crime. One of the Council’s primary responsibilities was to establish multijurisdictional task forces to combat gang and drug crime throughout the state. At the same time, the Minnesota legislature appropriated state funding for task force efforts to fund statewide gang enforcement efforts and to replace the rapidly and dramatically declining federal resources used for drug enforcement.

Subsequently, the 2010 Minnesota Legislature established the **VIOLENT CRIMES COORDINATING COUNCIL (VCCC)** to provide guidance related to the investigation and prosecution of gang crime, drug crime and related violent crime. The Council is comprised of 19 voting members that represent federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecution agencies and includes four citizen members. The council provides direction and oversight to the multijurisdictional task forces and enforcement teams located throughout the state. This new council replaced the Gang and Drug Oversight Council that had been in existence since 2005.

The council’s primary duty is to “develop an overall strategy to ameliorate the harm caused to the public by gang and drug crime within the State of Minnesota”. In addition, the council works closely with the Commissioner of Public Safety and is charged with additional responsibilities:

- The development of an operating procedures and policies manual to guide gang and drug investigation;
- The identification and recommendation of an individual to serve as the statewide gang and drug coordinator;
- The development of grant eligibility criteria and application review process;
- The recommendation for multijurisdictional task force funding termination for those not operating in a manner consistent with the best interest of the state or the public;
- The development of processes to collect and share investigative data;
- The development of policies to prohibit the improper use of personal characteristics to target individuals for law enforcement, prosecution or forfeiture actions; and ,
- The adoption of objective criteria and identifying characteristics for use in determining whether individuals are or may be members of gangs involved in criminal activity.

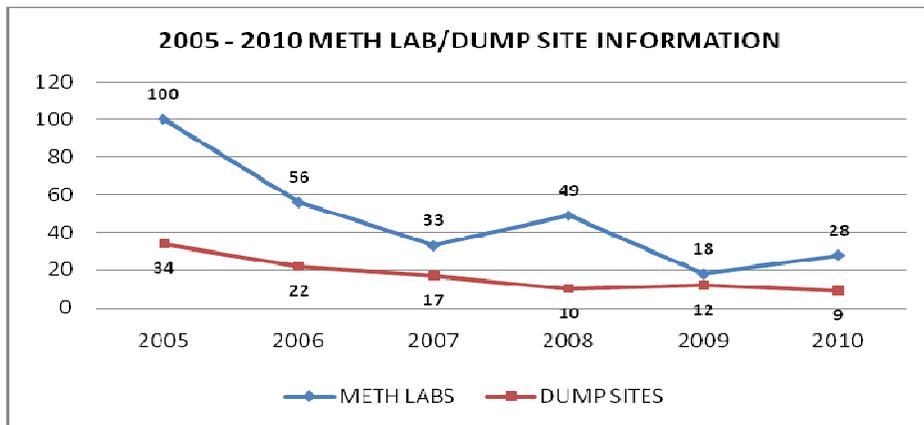
There are currently twenty-four funded task forces that span sixty-five counties. The task forces are staffed by over 200 investigators from over 120 individual agencies. Funding available for SFY 11 was \$4,975,147 with 85% of the funding coming from state general funds. Annual grant amounts range from \$35,000 to \$518,500. The work of the task force teams is supported by an appointed Statewide Gang and Drug Coordinator; an experienced sworn officer who provides training, monitoring and technical assistance services to all funded task forces. Task force officers also sought to develop their own professional skills, completing 11,775 hours of POST certified training in 2010.

### STATEWIDE THREAT ASSESSMENT

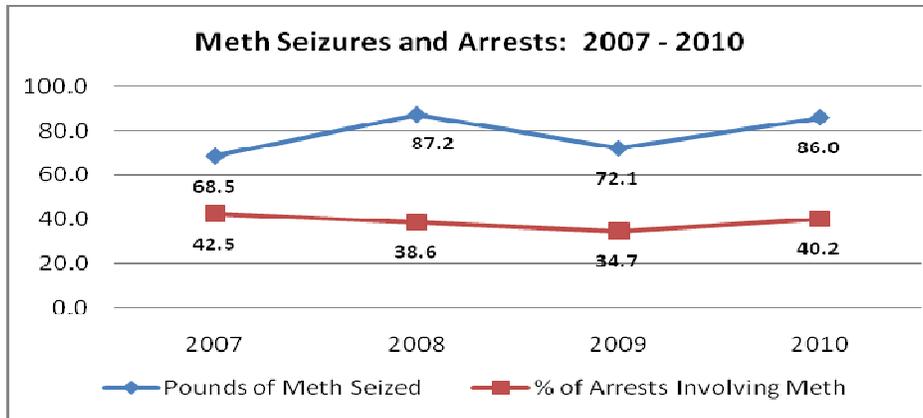
As a part of their application for funding that was completed in the Fall of 2009, each task force was asked to comment on the current threats and emerging trends they were facing within their service area. They also report on emerging trends when they prepare extensive quarterly narrative reports submitted to the office of Justice Programs. A summary follows.

### DRUG ASSESSMENT

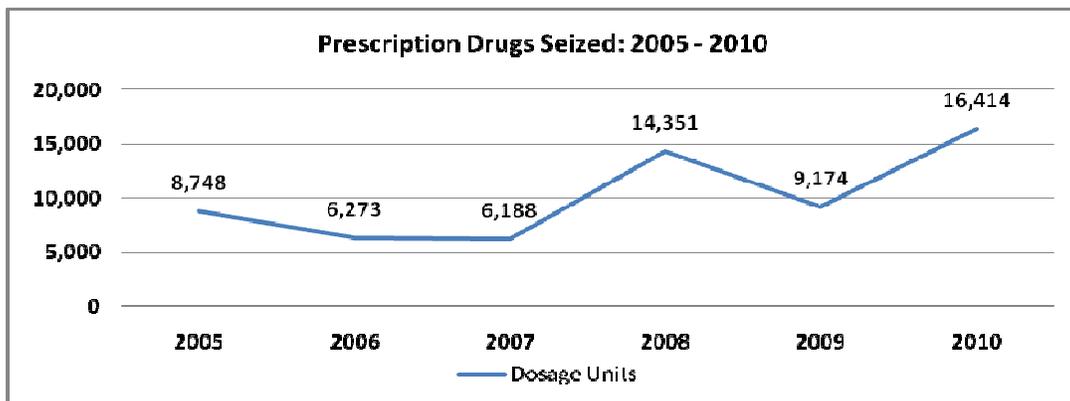
The wide spread production of methamphetamine has continued to taper off, with all regions reporting significant drops in lab seizures since 2004. The reduction over time is largely attributed to legislation restricting access to precursor ingredients needed in the production of methamphetamine. Use by minors has also decreased dramatically due to the success of anti-methamphetamine advertising campaigns. However, many regions are now reporting smaller scale production of methamphetamine in remote areas or in mobile labs producing quantities for personal use. The year 2010 indicated a slight upward trend.



Despite the reduction in the manufacture of methamphetamine, it continues to be the greatest concern for many of the task force regions in the state. Increasingly, large quantities of high grade methamphetamine being trafficked into the area from the southwest U.S. and Mexico. Evidence of intravenous use of methamphetamine has increased in some task force areas. This all comes along with high rates of property crimes, child abuse and neglect, and the drain on social services agencies that are seeing families affected by addiction to methamphetamine.



The abuse and illegal sale of pharmaceutical drugs, such as OxyContin, has also significantly increased. Seizures and arrests involve both pills and fentanyl patches. This has been a particular problem on Indian reservations in the northern part of the state. In fact, both the White Earth and Red Lake nations have recently declared public health emergencies related to prescription drug abuse. In 2005, prescription drugs were involved in 4.5% of drug arrests and that number increased to 14.3% in 2010. Task forces have reported some significant sale cases where large quantities of OxyContin have been sold. At an average cost of \$1.00/milligram, there is a high profit margin on the sale of the drug. Illicit sellers are getting their product from forged prescriptions, “doctor shopping”, paid procurers of the drug and pharmacy burglaries. There have been an alarming number of minors and young adults abusing prescription medications. Individuals often take it from household medicine cabinets or receive it or buy it from friends.

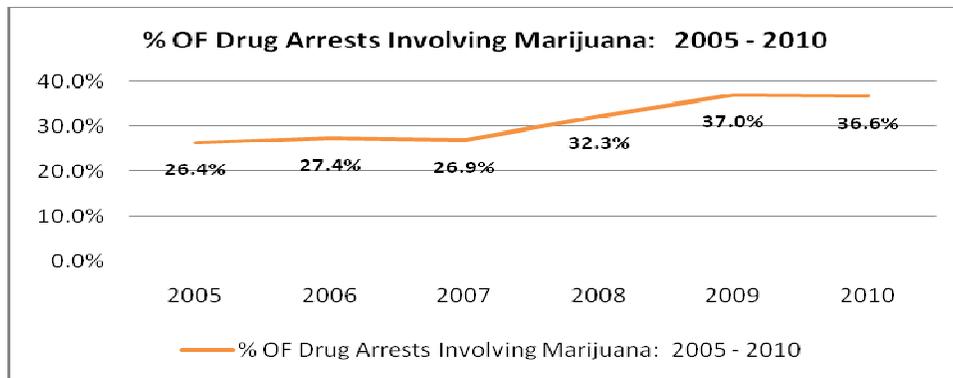


NOTE: Chart does not include 83,746 pills seized in 2009 from an internet pharmacy.

Historically, increases in the abuse of prescription pain killers including OxyContin; morphine; codeine; and fentanyl patches, reduces the demand for heroin. Despite this, investigators have seen an increase in the trafficking and use of heroin. Heroin arrests increased 116% from 2008 to 2010. Minnesota has been identified as the state that has the lowest price and highest purity of heroin available. Heroin overdose deaths and hospital emergency room visits related to heroin were at a very high level in 2009. Past use of heroin by 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Minnesota is above the national average. Marijuana is undoubtedly the most commonly abused and readily available drug throughout the state. It is cultivated locally and imported from Canada and source states along

the border with Mexico. As such, the importation and local cultivation of marijuana continues to be a significant target for task forces primarily with high volume trafficking and the dismantling of grow operations. The sale of marijuana is very profitable and is often associated with violence. According to the local Drug Enforcement Administration office, an ounce of fairly low quality Mexican marijuana retails for \$150 - \$175. The lack of serious criminal consequences for cultivators and sellers of marijuana makes it difficult to disrupt the supply of this very available drug.

In terms of local production, indoor marijuana grow operations are becoming more prevalent, and operations are often more sophisticated than seen in the past. Nationwide, the environmental and health hazards of such operations are becoming apparent. The potency of marijuana has risen with higher concentrations of THC found in seized samples. Task forces have also reported an increase in the street price of marijuana.



While crack cocaine continues to be a fairly common drug of abuse it is declining in popularity for distribution and use throughout the state. The amounts encountered by task forces are not at previous levels and the cost has increased significantly. However, cocaine and crack cocaine are more prevalent in the Mankato, Rochester and Duluth areas. In these areas, the importation and distribution of the drug is often gang related. In Greater Minnesota, the principal wholesale distribution centers for cocaine and crack cocaine are Minneapolis, Chicago and Detroit.

Other substances have also presented challenges for law enforcement in 2010.

- Over 1,000 pounds of khat was seized by task forces in 2010, but absent significant penalties for the importation of the drug, few arrests follow.
- Synthetic marijuana products (K2, Spice, Blade, Red X Dawn, etc.) have been found in many parts of the state and have become increasingly popular, particularly among teens and young adults. These products consist of plant material that has been coated with chemicals that claim to mimic THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, and are sold at a variety of retail outlets, in head shops, and over the Internet. These products that can cause serious side effects for users. There have been an increasing number of reports from poison control centers, hospitals and law enforcement regarding these products.

- Mephedrone is also being sold in both the metro and greater Minnesota areas. This is a synthetic stimulant. It is reportedly manufactured in China and is chemically similar to the compounds found in khat. It comes in the form of tablets or a powder, which users can swallow, snort or inject, producing similar effects to MDMA, amphetamines and cocaine. In the USA it can be sold legally if labeled as 'plant food' or 'bath salts'.

## **GANG AND VIOLENT CRIME ASSESSMENT**

Gang activity and violence related to the sale and distribution of narcotics is growing, especially in rural areas, according to many task force reports. Aside from narcotics violations, weapons violations appear to be the criminal activity of choice. Prostitution and other forms of human trafficking and victimization of women are also an operating procedure for some street gangs.

The primary distributors of the three most common drugs (cocaine, meth and marijuana) are Mexican drug trafficking organizations. As a result, illegal drugs are present in increasing amounts. These organizations are well documented as using extreme violence to advance their interests in Mexico as well as increasing violence in the southwest US. Some of these organizations have connections to the La Familia gang and there are multiple cells operating within the northern portion of Dakota County. It is only logical that their presence will continue to grow in the twin cities area.

Many regions are reporting intensified recruiting efforts by gangs, and many gang members from major metropolitan areas such as Chicago, Minneapolis and Detroit are moving into rural regions for criminal purposes. The Sureños 13 is the fastest growing gang in Minnesota. This is a gang that has a history of violence and connections to drug cartels in South America. Another growing gang threat in Minnesota, particularly within the Twin Cities and Rochester areas, is from the evolution of Somali gangs. Somali gangs are believed to be responsible for crimes ranging from drive by shootings to drug activity. It has been difficult for law enforcement to penetrate these gangs due to the very much closed network that they establish.

Outlaw motorcycle gangs operate throughout the state and prison based gang members reside in many parts of the state. For example, the Supreme White Power "SWP" prison gang members are now living in the Iron Range area after recently being paroled. This group poses a serious safety threat to the area as they have a high propensity for violence and has suspected ties to the use and sale of methamphetamine. One of the SWP members was arrested in the City of Virginia and is in custody awaiting trial on murder charges for a stabbing death.

Native gangs pose significant threats on tribal lands and in parts of the Twin Cities. There has been a significant increase in gang violence in the state and local areas involving the Native Mob and associates. During the past 12-18 months Native Mob members and associates have been the victim of drive-by shootings, assaults and other violence. It has been reported that as older members of the Native Mob are being released from prison the gang is becoming more structured and organized throughout the state. This is substantiated by Department of Corrections

investigations and informant information. There has also been an increase in 'council' meetings for the Native Mob across the state.

Both metro and rural task forces are experiencing an increase in the size and violence of hybrid gangs as they attempt to gain power. Individuals may join one or more of these loosely affiliated "gangs" that have no hierarchy or code of conduct. In the case of hybrid gangs, rival gang members are more apt to work together in criminal endeavors. The metro area reports that currently, gangs tend to be smaller and more factionalized with violence becoming less about drug territory and more about on-going feuds.

Violence in the community has increased and in many cases is violence for the sake of violence. Task forces report increases in armed robberies and burglaries. The frequency of weapons seized during investigations continues to increase. High capacity guns are not unique. It is not unusual for some gang members, particularly members of outlaw motorcycle gangs, to have a permit to carry a firearm. The firearm issue has resulted in task forces using a variety of tactics to promote officer and community safety. Whenever possible, suspects that have potential to be violent or have access to weapons are arrested in tightly controlled situations. Removal of gun permits through felony criminal charges is a strategy used to disrupt assignments and structures within gangs.

## **BENEFITS OF THE TASK FORCE MODEL**

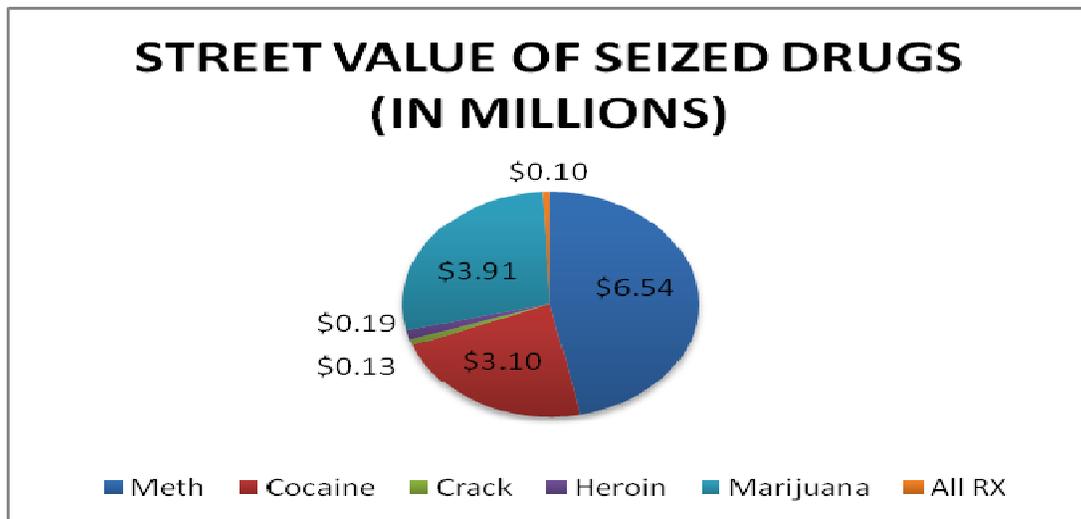
In their regular reporting, task forces provide testimony and examples of the benefits of the task force approach and examples of how collaboration has fostered success. In the words of one task force commander, "We also have had some luck in identifying out-of-the-area sources and pass that information on to other task forces and agencies or collaborate with them on continuing the investigation. Collaborating with other law enforcement fosters information and resource sharing and creates relationships that are mutually beneficial." The situation in the past where there was competition for good cases has been replaced by cooperation. Data from 2010 indicate the highest degree of cooperation ever experienced with over 1,500 cases worked collaboratively with another law enforcement entity.

In previous examinations of the task force model as employed in Minnesota, the following were identified as benefits: (1) The level of expertise and knowledge increases when you combine a variety of experience and training in one location; (2) Task force officers have access to training not readily available to officers on other assignments; (3) When officers return to their home agencies, they take that experience, training and their resources back to their departments; (4) Co-location provides for constant communication between task force members and helps to build rapport, trust and solid relationships. It also provides an atmosphere where a wide variety of techniques and experiences can be consulted while discussing and planning investigative activities; (5) Task forces frequently provide assistance and resources to other law enforcement agencies during other non-drug investigations. That assistance is usually welcomed by other agencies, and helps task forces produce positive results and create a favorable image within the law enforcement community.

## RESULTS OF 2010 TASK FORCE OPERATIONS

The following is a summary of task force results throughout the state.

**Drug Enforcement** - In calendar year 2010, task forces made 3,382 arrests for narcotics violations with 93% of the arrests at a felony-level. Individuals prosecuted at the federal level numbered 195. Of the arrests, 40% involved methamphetamine, 36.6% involved marijuana, 14.3% involved prescription drugs and 17.6% involved cocaine/crack cocaine. In the course of their investigations, task forces seized 28 methamphetamine labs, 28 pounds of cocaine/crack cocaine, 86 pounds of methamphetamine, one half pound of heroin, 1,102 dosage units of ecstasy, over 16,000 dosage units of prescription drugs, 1,284 pounds of marijuana and 7,618 cultivated marijuana plants. Firearm seizures totaled 662. In addition to drug arrests, task force officers made 307 arrests for other criminal activity.



*TOTAL of \$14 million including all task forces, VOTF's and the St. Cloud MGSF*

Results since 2007 indicate that task forces are improving and addressing what the program intends: major cases that have the potential to significantly affect drug trafficking and related crimes within their regions. The year 2007 saw the highest results ever in terms of: percentage of felony arrests and the percentage of cases prosecuted federally. In 2009, the highest percentage of drug arrests for "sales" was attained. Working these complex cases requires collaboration with other task forces, as well as other local, state and federal agencies. Data from 2010 indicates that approximately 45% of all the cases worked by task forces were done in cooperation with another local, state or federal law enforcement entity.

**St. Cloud Metro Gang Strike Force** - This multijurisdictional effort between the City of St. Cloud and Sherburne County began in 2007. In its fourth year of operation, this unit reports 85 felony-level drug arrests. Forty-six of the individuals arrested were confirmed gang members. Seventeen additional arrests were made for felony-level violent offenses and fourteen of those arrested were confirmed gang members. Thirty-five additional arrests were made for non-felony drug arrests, non-violent Part I offenses and other Part II offenses. Probation violation or outstanding warrants

accounted for twenty-three arrests. In the course of their work they executed 24 search warrants, seized 32 firearms, and took quantities of crack, marijuana and meth off the streets. They responded to 51 requests for assistance from other agencies and expended over 450 person hours in doing so. In addition to their enforcement duties they gave many presentations to a variety of audiences.

The SCMGSF notes a continuing trend of older gang members returning to the community. Most of these gang members have been released from prison in the recent past. Some of these older gang members are resuming the distribution of narcotics. In one quarter of 2010, some of these recently released gang members were involved in five shootings. In addition to responding to violations of the law, the strike force is working with local probation officers to keep track of the location and activity of these gang members and to get their probation revoked if they violate probation conditions.

**Gang Specialists Assigned to Task Forces** - In 2010, there were 10 task forces outside the metro area that had a total of 18 assigned gang officers. In addition, 3 suburban task forces added gang and violent crime specialists to ensure that specialized gang knowledge was not lost with the demise of the Metro Gang Strike Force. Other metro agencies also incorporated gang specialists to their task forces. These officers worked hand in hand with the drug agents and their specialized knowledge of gangs, gang crimes and gang members enhanced the work of the task forces. Specifically, of the arrests noted above under “drug enforcement,” 116 of the arrests were of suspected or confirmed gang members. Of the non-drug arrests noted, there were 37 violent Part I crimes, 4 non-violent Part I crimes and 3 Part II crimes committed by suspected or confirmed gang members. In addition, 9 individuals were arrested for outstanding warrants or probation violation. Eleven of those arrested were charged federally. Forty-four handguns were seized from the individuals noted above.

**Violent Offender Task Forces** - Newly funded in 2008 were two task forces in Hennepin County that target violent offenders. The Violent Offender Task Forces (VOTFs) were started as a new strategy in combating violent crimes that was increasing in some neighborhoods in Minneapolis and the surrounding suburbs.

Analyses of the problem showed clearly that the vast majority of the violence was due to guns and drugs but, more importantly, that the same individuals were at the core of the problem time and time again. An overloaded system was ineffectively dealing with the same repeat violent offenders continually engaged in narcotics trafficking, gang activity and related violence.

To deal with these challenges, task forces were formed that consist of local and federal investigators and prosecutors. The rationale behind the VOTFs is: rather than target a specific crime (i.e. narcotics, robbery, etc.), target the individuals who are repeatedly causing the violent crimes. The methods of investigation in these cases are lengthy, complex and resource intensive. In 2010, the Minneapolis VOTF was reconfigured as a FBI “Safe Streets” task force and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the St. Paul Police Department joined the effort.

In 2010, the two Violent Offender Task Forces demonstrated meaningful results. In many instances they work cases jointly. The VOTFs executed 216 search warrants and seized 152 firearms, including 45 handguns and 49 semi-automatic weapons. Substantial amounts of narcotics were also seized including: 16.9 pounds of cocaine and crack cocaine, 66 pounds of marijuana, 38.44 pounds of methamphetamine, 1.9 pounds of heroin and over 15,000 doses of ecstasy. They arrested 251 individuals for narcotics violations, of which 89 were confirmed gang members. Thirty-five individuals were arrested for violent crimes and 20 were confirmed gang members. Ninety-eight of the individuals arrested were accepted for federal prosecution. Of those that are federally indicted, almost all dependents plead guilty to crimes that will result in sentences averaging ten years. In addition to their own arrests, the two VOTFs participated in the arrests of other individuals while responding to requests for assistance from other law enforcement entities.

There are several excellent examples of the impact that the VOTFs are having on the quality of life and crime within neighborhoods in the metro area. The Safe Streets initiative developed information in two separate instances where murders were planned and overt acts to carry out the murders were made. In both instances, officers conducted surveillance on the suspects in order to ascertain the veracity of the information. Using advanced, investigative techniques, officers worked with other local units and agencies and disrupted the murder plots. Guns were recovered and arrests were made.

“Operation Family Ties” is a case that was worked jointly by the two VOTFs. The violent, criminal gang it addressed had been making resurgence in Minneapolis since it was hit hard by law enforcement in the late 1990’s. The reason this violent gang was targeted by Safe Streets was due to the gang’s stated desire to reorganize after many of its leaders were getting out of prison. Hennepin County VOTF was of particular benefit in the investigation as the gang was not only talking about re-establishing their former gang territory through the use of violence, but expanding their territory to other parts of Minneapolis and the northern suburbs.

**Prevention and Education** -It is important to note that beyond their objective of combating drug trafficking through law enforcement, task force officers spent a significant amount of time educating other criminal justice personnel, health professionals, teachers, parents and members of the public about drugs and gangs. In the words of one task force, “officers gave five presentations to community groups, schools, and law enforcement and news agencies. These presentations are an opportunity to inform the public of our presence and give rudimentary training on drug and gang activity in the task force area. We also work with local law enforcement to keep them abreast of gang activity, drug trends, and legal updates pertaining to narcotics and search and seizure”. In 2010, task force officers made 443 presentations with a total attendance of 16,509 people.

Task force personnel also participate in many local initiatives aimed at reducing the demand for drugs and sharing enforcement strategies to address emerging issues. For example the task force in Polk County was compelled to respond when the County Attorney’s Office noted that approximately 50% of felony drug possession crimes being prosecuted in 2010 were prescription

related. The Pine to Prairie Task Force has developed a strategy in response to the increasing prescription drug problem in the area: Working with local health care providers to create “prescription drug-seeker” policy; conducting interviews with cooperating defendants to ascertain the “bigger picture” of the prescription drug problem; collaborating with the county attorney’s office to obtain successful prosecution of defendants selling prescription pills; and sharing information learned from interviews and investigations with local law enforcement officers and public officials.

Another example is that in response to an emerging trend, the Southwest Metro Task Force produced a PowerPoint slide show educating people about synthetic marijuana and the problems and dangers associated with its use. It has been presented to the emergency room staff at one of the local hospitals and was shared with local school liaison officers. It was subsequently presented to the counselors at a local high school who then showed it to the all of the 9th grade health classes. At their request, it was presented to one of the local city councils who are acting on banning the substances.

Last, but not least, task force officers also engage in prevention in a very personal way. The following are just a few examples:

- Six Minneapolis officers assigned to Safe Streets are active in youth sports and activities to promote prevention activities and serve as positive role models. The activities included: hockey, baseball, football, camping, fishing and academic activities.
- One of the Paul Bunyan Task Force officers is the coach for the local football team. Many of the kids on this team are from dysfunctional families, have learning disabilities and may have a history of problems at school. The officer has been a positive influence on these boys and is more than just a coach to them. He also participated in the local area national night out: a community activity that promotes interaction with law enforcement.
- The BLLRR Task Force commander continues to do his radio talk show "Twenty Minutes with the Task Force." Most recently he discussed the widespread abuse of prescription drugs.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Gang and Drug Case Summaries
- Map of 2011 Drug and Violent Crime Enforcement Teams
  - List of 2010 - 2011 Task Force Grants
  - List of Violent Crime Coordinating Council Members

## GANG and DRUG CASE SUMMARIES

**The following are selected summaries of completed or active investigations. These are examples as to the types of investigations and types of illegal activities being committed by different criminal elements throughout the state.**

The **Dakota County Task Force**, along with Eagan and Apple Valley Police Departments, conducted a joint investigation involving stolen property and narcotics. Two search warrants were executed. Stolen property valued over \$250,000, 6 grams methamphetamine, marijuana, and \$1,300 currency were seized. The **Dakota County Task Force** also assisted the Apple Valley Police Department in the recovery of 4,039 doses of Vicodin, 809 doses Hydrocortisone, and numerous other controlled prescription medication that were stolen during a burglary of a drug store in Cannon Falls. Two suspects were arrested.

In December 2010, the **Southeast Minnesota Task Force** arrested 14 suspects after a 7 month investigation. The task force had 17 First Degree Drug Sales complaints approved for the sale of cocaine. Twelve of the suspects have been identified as Black P-Stone or Black Disciples gang members. Gang members were purchasing large amounts of cocaine in Chicago and Minneapolis. This operation took some significant criminals off of the streets of Rochester and the entire task force area.

During the fall of 2010, the **Buffalo Ridge Task Force** and ATF joined forces to recover stolen firearms in the Worthington area. The burglary, which included the theft of 42 firearms, took place at a Vail, IA gun store on May 31, 2010. Early in the investigation, the primary suspects, who were identified as Norteno gang members, were arrested and federally indicted on bank robbery charges. They had robbed a Rushmore, MN Bank in an effort to raise enough funds to repay drug debts. Four suspects were identified and arrested at a Worthington residence. Cash from the bank robbery and two firearms were located and seized. Within a few days, a shooting was investigated at a Worthington residence. The uninjured occupants of the house were linked to those suspected in the bank robbery. Further investigation by the task force led to two long guns being located that were buried in the yard; five handguns in a plastic bag hidden under a tree ; two SKS assault rifles and magazines located in a body of water in southern Nobles County; and additional weapons and narcotics located at the scene during subsequent search warrants.

**Paul Bunyan Task Force** officers were involved in the successful rescue of a child hostage and subsequent arrest of the suspect at a house in Bemidji. Officers had just finished a drug deal in Bemidji when the call was received and they were all in a position to act as perimeter cover officers and eventually make entry into the residence.

Agents of the **North Central Task Force** executed a search warrant at an apartment in Onamia. During the execution of the search warrant, a half pound of marijuana was found along with drug paraphernalia. Children were also present in the apartment along with marijuana smoke and Mille Lacs Family Services was called in to deal with the endangered children. The suspect and his girlfriend were both charged in Mille Lacs District Court with the drugs and child endangerment.

**Pine to Prairie Task Force** officers were requested to investigate a suspected methamphetamine lab 6 miles north of East Grand Forks. The case was worked in collaboration with other agencies in conducting the investigation and task force officers processed the methamphetamine lab. The investigation resulted in one arrest for First Degree-Manufacture of Methamphetamine. The investigation indicated the suspect had “cooked” meth approximately 50 to 100 times throughout 2009 within three different northwest Minnesota counties.

**Paul Bunyan Task Force** officers spent many hours investigating gang-related shootings on the Leech Lake and White Earth Reservations. They worked with investigators from several agencies during the course of building a case against the shooters at Leech Lake and two people have currently been charged with attempted murder. We hope to enhance the charges with “crime to benefit a gang”. The task force gang officer and a DOC investigator have obtained information that this shooting took place at the direction of Native Mob leaders and was retaliation for prior conflict between the Mob and victim. The shootings have demonstrated an increased propensity of the Native Mob to settle its’ problems by violence.

An **Anoka-Hennepin Task Force** investigation into a suspected drug dealer in Coon Rapids led to a search warrant. The results of the search were three arrests, two children placed, and the seizure of 51 grams of marijuana, 24 ecstasy pills, 46 diazepam pills, \$1,354 in cash and two handguns.

The **Boundary Waters Task Force** reports that there have been two deaths in the communities of Hibbing and Gilbert directly related to pill overdoses and the Gilbert police, a member of the BWDTF, arrested 7 juveniles that were selling prescription pills inside the junior high school. The task force remains focused on fighting this problem and have charges currently pending against 16 more individuals for illegal pill sales.

**Central Minnesota Task Force** investigators concluded an investigation into the distribution of crack cocaine by local gang members. Three known gang members and a number of previously unidentified female associates were responsible for a crack cocaine delivery operation. One of the defendants, a violent felon, was arrested in the possession of a loaded revolver during a crack deal. This person was already out on bail for possession of a handgun by a felon at the time of his arrest. This case has been presented to the United States Attorney’s Office for possible charges.

A **Red River Valley Task Force** officer had a ten day jury trial in federal court which resulted in guilty verdicts for three upper tier traffickers of methamphetamine. These defendants were indicted under Operation “Abrasion” and were responsible for approximately 40 pounds of methamphetamine trafficked into the region. One defendant was the president of the “Dakota Riders Motorcycle Club” based in Bismarck, North Dakota.

In December, the **Lake Superior Task Force** concluded a methamphetamine/pill sales case on a high profile local dealer with two search warrants. The first warrant resulted in seizure of methamphetamine, heroin, Opana pills, \$754 cash and 2 firearms. A second warrant yielded seizure of third firearm and large amount of ammunition. Charges were presented and the case adopted in the federal system.

In the City of Willmar, a **CEE-VI Task Force** drug agent bought 200 prescription pills at one time from two female individuals while there were small children in the vehicle. In addition to drug charges there were also child endangerment charges.

Members of the **South Central Task Force** teamed with members of the MN BCA, MN State Patrol (K-9 and Truck Enforcement), DEA, and our local agencies for an interdiction project. This was a coordinated effort along I-35 and I-90, with the State Patrol opening an old scale site for enforcement efforts on large trucks. Well over 200 traffic stops were conducted by officers, deputies and troopers as well as a large number of trucks at the scale site. Numerous citations for license violations, speed, seatbelt, insurance, illegal drugs and paraphernalia were issued. There was also a 40 pound marijuana seizure from the trunk of a car that was on a semi car hauler. A controlled delivery of the marijuana was later conducted near the University of Minnesota and three additional suspects were apprehended.

The **Minnesota River Valley Task Force** wrapped up a marijuana investigation involving a known Gangster Disciple gang member in the St. Peter area after he sold marijuana at a local recreation center while pushing his 9 month old baby in a stroller. Also, what agents believed to be a simple marijuana search warrant in St. James turned into something a lot more complex after several items of child pornography were discovered. The local police executed a separate search warrant and removed a high volume of evidence in that case.

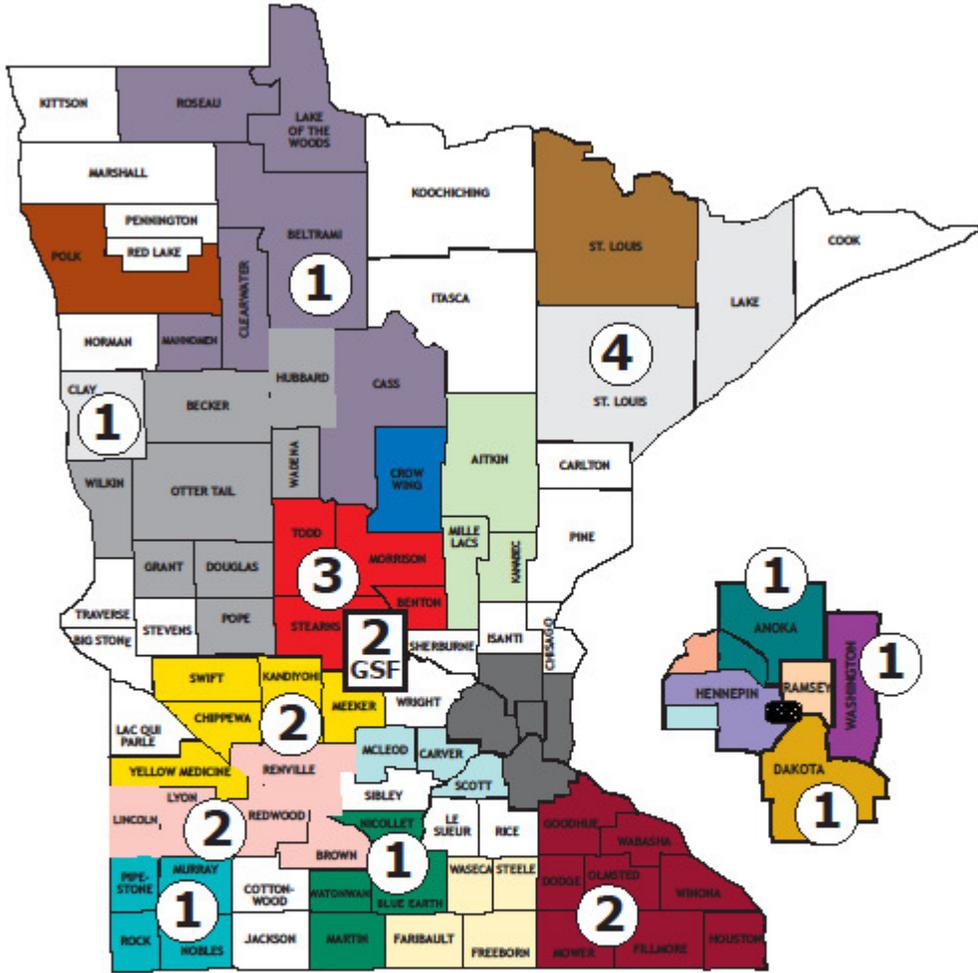
The **Lakes Area Drug Investigation Division (LADID)** was able to arrest a large supplier of methamphetamine in the Crow Wing County area as a result of citizen concerns and good police work. A concerned citizen had been supplying license plate numbers of people frequenting a house of a known drug dealer. Agents installed a GPS tracker and conducted garbage pulls on the suspect. Through the use of uniformed officers and drug interdiction techniques, LADID obtained a search warrant for the residence which resulted in the seizure of 2 ounces of methamphetamine. The suspect provided useful information about drug trafficking in Crow Wing County.

The **Northwest Metro Task Force** had a large cocaine seizure during the third quarter of 2010. A suspect was identified that was believed to be a cocaine dealer. A GPS tracker was placed on the suspect's car and eventually the suspect was seen going to Dallas, Texas then turning around after staying there for only about an hour and coming home. The task force found the suspect entering Minnesota and with the assistance of the Minnesota State Patrol made a traffic stop on the suspect. During the stop just over one pound of cocaine was recovered. Follow up search warrants turned up more cocaine and a large amount of cash.

**Ramsey County Violent Crime Enforcement Team** officers completed an investigation on a mid-level methamphetamine dealer who is a member of a local outlaw motorcycle gang. Through the use of an undercover officer, several ounces of methamphetamine were purchased from the target. Search warrants were executed and additional meth, 10 pounds of marijuana and 2 handguns were recovered. The target has an extensive criminal history and is a registered sex offender.

# 2011 Drug and Violent Crime Enforcement Teams

Department of Public Safety  
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS



NARCOTICS TASK FORCES (listed north to south and west to east):

- |   |                                     |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Paul Bunyan Narcotics Task Force  | C.E.E. VI Narcotics Task Force      | Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force                            |
| Boundary Waters Drug Task Force   | Southwest Metro Drug Task Force     | MN River Valley Drug Task Force                          |
| Lake Superior Drug Task Force   | Anoka-Hennepin Narcotics Task Force | South Central MN Drug Task Force                         |
| Pine to Prairie Drug Task Force   | Northwest Metro Drug Task Force     | South East MN Drug Task Force                            |
| County Shared by:<br>Red River Valley, ND and<br>West Central MN Drug Task Forces | Washington County Drug Task Force   | Area not in a Task Force                                 |
| West Central MN Drug Task Force   | Hennepin County VCET                | Minneapolis/St. Paul Safe Streets Task Force             |
| Lakes Area Drug Task Force  | Ramsey County VCET                  | <b>GANG TASK FORCE AND OUTSTATE DEPLOYMENT:</b>          |
| Central Minnesota MCJU  | Dakota County Drug Task Force       | St. Cloud Metro Gang Strike Force                        |
| North Central Task Force  | Brown/Lyon/Redwood Task Force       | Number of gang officers assigned in drug task force area |

**GRANTS FOR DRUG AND VIOLENT OFFENDER TASK FORCES: January 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011**

<b>Task Force</b>	<b>Fiscal Agent</b>	<b>2010 Grant</b>	<b>Grant for 1/1/11 - 6/30/11</b>	<b>New Total Award</b>
Anoka-Hennepin TF	Anoka County Sheriff's Office	\$290,000	\$141,375	\$431,375
B-L-L-R-R Task Force	New Ulm Police Department	\$175,000	\$86,625	\$261,625
Boundary Waters TF	St. Louis County Sheriff's Office	\$100,000	\$49,500	\$149,500
Buffalo Ridge TF	Worthington Police Department	\$200,000	\$97,500	\$297,500
CEE-VI TF	Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office	\$210,000	\$102,375	\$312,375
Central MN MCIU	Central Minnesota Major Crimes Investigation Unit	\$295,000	\$143,813	\$438,813
Dakota County TF	City of Eagan	\$310,000	\$138,938	\$448,938
East Metro VCET	Ramsey County Sheriff's Office	\$530,000	\$253,500	\$783,500
Hennepin County VOTF	Hennepin County Sheriff's Office	\$470,000	\$229,125	\$699,125
Lake Superior TF	Duluth Police Department	\$335,000	\$163,313	\$498,313
Lakes Area TF	Crow Wing Co Sheriff's Office	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$52,500
MN River Valley TF	No. Mankato Police Department	\$150,000	\$74,250	\$224,250
North Central TF	Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office	\$62,500	\$30,938	\$93,438
Northwest Metro VCET	St. Louis Park Police Dept.	\$90,000	\$44,550	\$134,550
Paul Bunyan TF	Beltrami County Sheriff's Office	\$297,768	\$145,162	\$442,930
Pine To Prairie TF	Crookston Police Department	\$125,000	\$61,875	\$186,875
Red River Valley TF	Moorhead Police Department	\$125,000	\$61,875	\$186,875
St. Cloud Metro GSF	St. Cloud Police Department	\$100,000	\$49,500	\$149,500
South Central TF	Owatonna Police Department	\$160,000	\$79,200	\$239,200
Southeast MN TF	Olmsted County Sheriff's Office	\$200,000	\$97,500	\$297,500
Southwest Metro TF	Shakopee Police Department	\$85,000	\$42,075	\$127,075
Washington County TF	Washington Co Sheriff's Office	\$135,000	\$66,825	\$201,825
West Central TF	Douglas County Sheriff's Office	\$160,000	\$79,200	\$239,200
Safe Streets Task Force	Minneapolis Police	\$250,000	\$75,000	\$325,000
Safe Streets Task Force	St. Paul Police	\$147,000	\$75,000	\$222,000
Statewide Prosecution	Attorney General's Office	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$75,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,087,268</b>	<b>\$2,431,513</b>	<b>\$7,518,781</b>

**MINNESOTA VIOLENT CRIME COORDINATING COUNCIL (January 2011)**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>
Acting Superintendent	David Bjerga	Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
U.S. Attorney	B. Todd Jones	District of Minnesota
Deputy Attorney General	David Voigt	Office of the Attorney General
Asst. Chief <b>(VICE CHAIR)</b>	Ken Reed	St. Paul Police Department
Chief	Tim Dolan	Minneapolis Police Department
Chief	Mike Goldstein	Plymouth Police Department
Chief <b>(CHAIR)</b>	Dana Waldron	Virginia Police Department
Sheriff	Rich Stanek	Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff	Matt Bostrom	Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff	Bill Hutton	Washington County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff	Rodney Bartsh	Wabasha County Sheriff's Office
Director	Cari Gerlicher	MN Department of Corrections - Office of Special Investigations
Assistant County Attorney	Hilary Caligiuri	Hennepin County Attorney's Office
Assistant County Attorney	Benjamin Bejar	Rice County Attorney's Office
Chief	Garr Pemberton	Leech Lake Tribal Police
Mr.	Hector Garcia	Chicano Latino Affairs Council
Ms.	Nicole Matthews	Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition
<b>LEGAL COUNSEL</b>		
Asst. Attorney General	John Gross	Office of the Attorney General