

Huron Undercover Narcotics Team

2008 Annual Report



## Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

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## Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

# Overview

The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team (HUNT) was established in 1990 as a multi-jurisdictional task force. The mission of the team is the enforcement of controlled substance laws, and the associated criminal activity, in the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle, in Northeastern Michigan. It is operated under the direction of the HUNT Board of Directors, consisting of the prosecuting attorneys and top law enforcement officials in the four counties and the 7th District of the Michigan State Police.

The team consists of five detectives/undercover officers from local police agencies, as well as a detective sergeant and a detective lieutenant from the Michigan State Police. All of these detectives have been specifically trained in narcotics and special investigations, undercover operations, surveillance, and raid entry.

During its 18 years of service, HUNT has removed over 6.2 million dollars worth of illegal drugs from the streets of the community, as well as 302 illegal firearms. 2,469 investigations have been initiated resulting in the arrests of 1,359 felons, 376 misdemeanants, and 202 fugitives.

The team maintains a web site at [www.huntteam.net](http://www.huntteam.net), where information can be gleaned regarding controlled substance use/abuse, annual reports, press releases, and anonymous tips can be left regarding narcotics activity. During 2008, 114 anonymous tips were received via the web site, some of which resulted in significant investigations and arrests.

The following pages reflect the team's accomplishments during the year 2008 and highlight some of the significant activity.



## Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

# Board of Directors

Chairman	Tom Weichel Prosecuting Attorney, Alcona County
Vice Chairman	F/Lt. Mike Caldwell Alpena Post Commander, Michigan State Police
Legal Advisor	Rick Steiger Prosecuting Attorney, Presque Isle County
Secretary/Treasurer	Steve Kieliszewski Sheriff, Alpena County
	Doug Atchison Sheriff, Alcona County
	Doug Baum Sheriff, Montmorency County
	Terri Case Prosecuting Attorney, Montmorency County
	James Gibson Chief, Onaway Police Department
	Dennis Grenkowicz Prosecuting Attorney, Alpena County
	Robert Paschke Sheriff, Presque Isle County
	Matthew Quaine Chief, Rogers City Police Department
	Captain Tim Rod 7th District Commander, Michigan State Police
	Kim Miller Chief, Alpena City Police Department

# Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

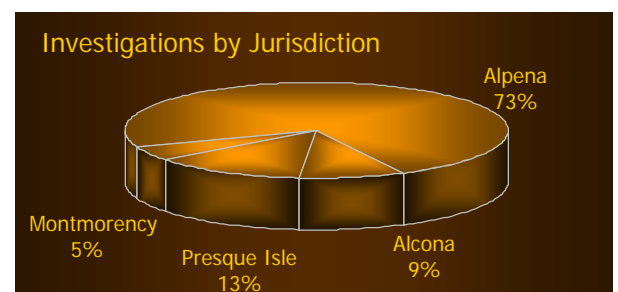
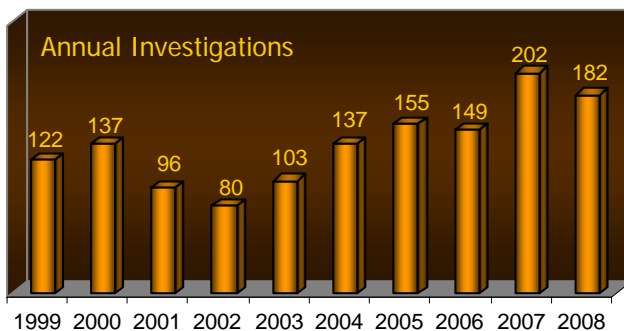
## Investigations

HUNT initiated 182 new investigations in 2008, which is 25% over the average for the past ten years. 139 of those investigations were drug related, with the distribution of marijuana being the most commonly found in our area. In addition to the drug related cases, 20 cases involved the location and arrest of fugitives, 10 cases were providing assistance to other departments, and 12 were investigations such as larceny of scrap metal, intimidation/stalking, possession and sale of a short-barreled shot gun, solicitation for arson, sex offender registration violations, etc.

Throughout the year HUNT worked cases jointly with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), The Alpena City Police Department, the Michigan State Police, the Presque Isle County Sheriff Department, the Alpena County Sheriff Department, and the Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group (STING).

165 people have been arrested as a result of those investigations, with 11 still pending arrests, providing an arrest to case ratio of 97%.

Cocaine Delivery	3
Cocaine Possession	1
Heroin Delivery	5
Heroin Possession	1
Marijuana Delivery	71
Marijuana Manufacturing	13
Marijuana Possession	18
Methadone Delivery	4
Morphine Delivery	1
Morphine Possession	2
Oxycodone Delivery	2
Vicodin Delivery	1
Other Drug Delivery	4
Drug Paraphernalia Possession	1
Overdose	4
Prescription Fraud	7
Unlawfully Prescribing Controlled Substances	1





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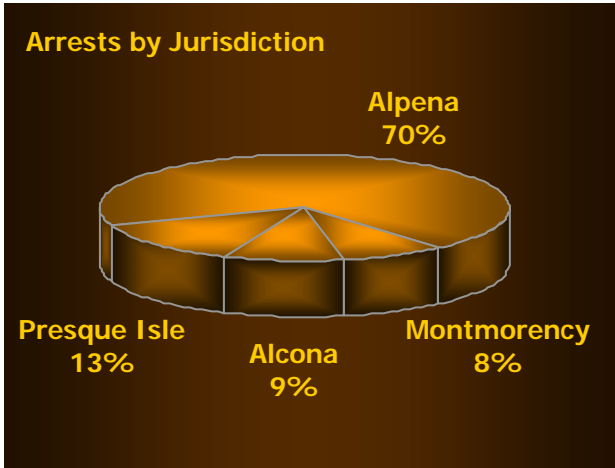
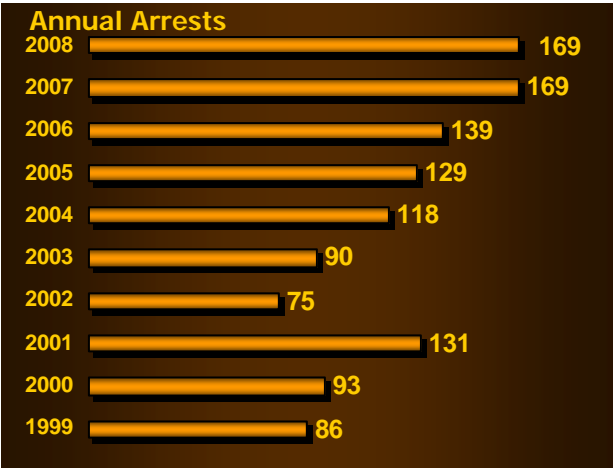
## Persons Arrested

HUNT made 169 arrests in 2008, the same number that were arrested in 2007, and 29% over the average for the past ten years.

Of those arrested, 39% were repeat drug offenders, and 45% were habitual criminal offenders.

For reporting purposes, HUNT counts one arrest for each separate instance in which a person is arrested. Because a person may be arrested multiple times during the year, the arrest data does not necessarily reflect the number of individuals arrested.

Total persons arrested	169
Male	138
Female	31
Over 18	155
Under 18	14
On Parole at time of Arrest	5
On Probation at time of Arrest	30
Out on Bond at time of Arrest	11
Repeat Drug Offenders	66
Habitual Criminal Offenders	76



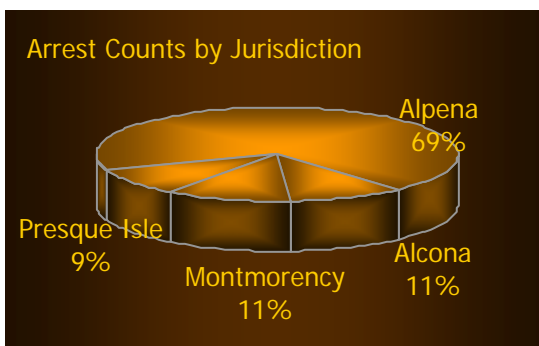
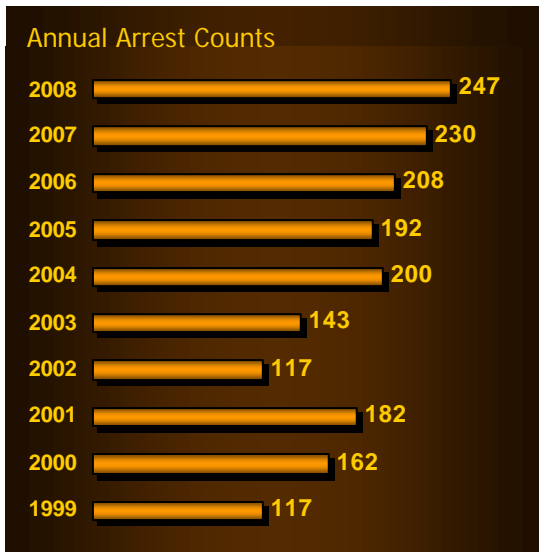


# Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

## Arrest Counts

Of the 247 arrest counts, 183 were felony charges, 33 were misdemeanor, and 31 were fugitives. 199 of these were drug related as listed at the right. The others included possess/sell a short-barreled shotgun, minor in possession, absconding, solicitation for arson, unregistered pistol, witness intimidation, larceny, and various others.

Delivery of Cocaine	6
Delivery of Crack	1
Delivery of Heroin	8
Delivery of Marijuana	111
Delivery of Methadone	8
Delivery of Morphine	4
Delivery of Oxycodone	2
Delivery of Vicodin	2
Delivery of Other Substances	4
Possession of Cocaine	1
Possession of Hydromorphone	1
Possession of Marijuana	25
Possession of Methadone	1
Possession of Morphine	2
Possession of Vicodin	1
Manufacture Marijuana	9
Prescription Fraud	8
Maintaining a Drug House	2
Deliver Controlled Substance Causing Death	3



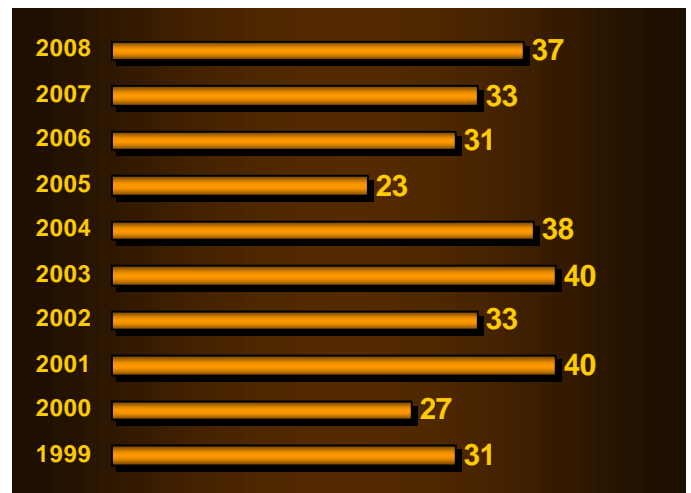


## Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

### Search Warrants

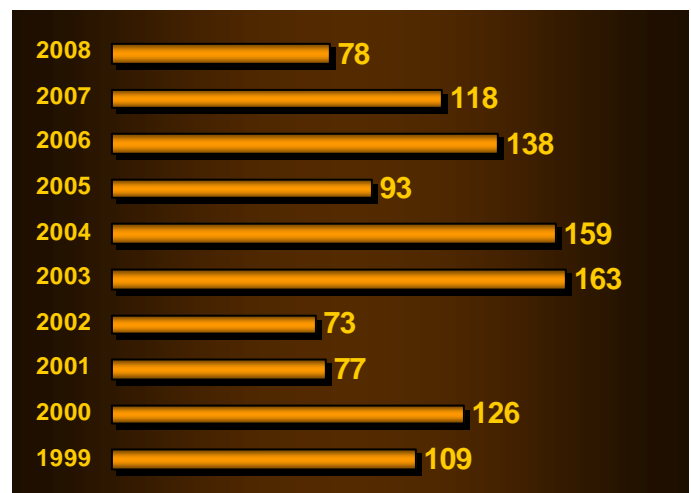
HUNT conducted 37 search warrants in 2008, 11% over the past ten year average. Most of the search warrants were conducted to obtain evidence of narcotics crimes, while some were conducted for medical records and/or blood samples in overdose cases.

6 minor children were present during those search warrants, with follow-up reports being sent to Protective Services. 6 illegal firearms were also seized.



### Intelligence Reports

78 Intelligence Reports were entered into the Statewide Information System (STATIS) in 2008. STATIS is a computerized system for the sharing of criminal investigatory information among state, federal, county, and local law enforcement agencies.







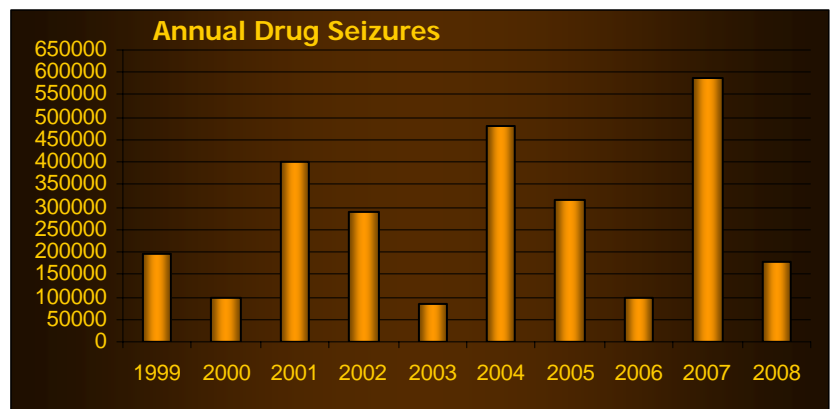
## Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

# Drug Seizures

HUNT seized \$177,500 worth of illegal drugs during 2008, which is 35% below the average for the past ten years. Drugs are seized throughout the year by means of controlled/undercover purchases, possession during traffic stops, search warrants, HEMP (Help Eliminate Marijuana Planting) flights, consent searches, etc.

HEMP flights during 2008 revealed a lower than average number of marijuana plots growing in our coverage area, resulting in the lesser than average value of drugs seized. This could be the result of fewer plots being grown, visibility/weather during the flights, number of choppers conducting the flights, etc. The 2007 HEMP flights uncovered over 400 plants in 13 separate plots and resulted in the arrest of 15 people. The knowledge of those arrests and the consequences of such, may have been a deterrent for those considering growing marijuana in 2008.

<i>Drug</i>	<i>Seizures</i>	<i>Street Value</i>
Cocaine	14.6 grams	1,606
Crack Cocaine	5.8 grams	638
Heroin	9 grams	2,700
Marijuana Plants	148	148,000
Marijuana (processed)	11.1	11,100
Methadone	410 units	6,150
Morphine	331 units	4,965
Oxycodone	1 unit	20
Vicodin	227	1,133
Other Drugs	416 units	1,188
Total Street Value of Drugs Seized		\$177,500





## Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

### Property Seizures

HUNT seized \$186,760 worth of property during the year. This property consisted of 25 vehicles, \$32,299 in cash, and other items used to facilitate drug trafficking operations. Some of these items when the related criminal case has been adjudicated, will be sold at public auction, some will be destroyed, some retained by HUNT, and some will be returned in settlement agreements.



### Forfeiture Proceeds

\$40,008 in forfeiture proceeds were adjudicated during the year. These proceeds were obtained through public sale of seized items, retention of seized funds, and settlement agreements. Some of the adjudicated property was seized during the previous year, and some during 2008.





## Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

# Significant Activity

### SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN PURCHASED

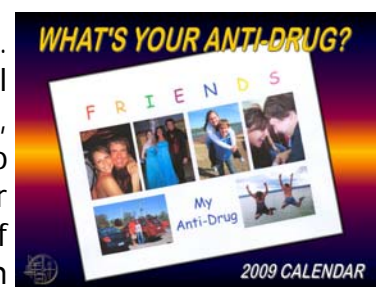
In January of 2008, a HUNT detective became aware that a sawed-off shotgun was available for sale. Arrangements were made for an informant to purchase the shotgun while under direct surveillance of HUNT officers. Following the controlled purchase, the suspect was immediately taken into custody and charged with possession and sale of a sawed-off shotgun. During a subsequent interview,



the suspect admitted that he had a significant amount of marijuana stored in the basement of his home. Officers then went to the home, with the suspect, who turned over an approximate half pound of marijuana, all packaged in individual baggies, ready for street sale. Also found within the home was a baggie containing a small amount of cocaine. In addition to the possession and sale of a sawed-off shotgun, the suspect was charged with two counts delivery of marijuana (from a previous HUNT case), one count possess with intent to deliver marijuana, and one count possession of cocaine. The suspect plead guilty to all counts and was sentenced to 17 months to 4 years in boot camp.

### POSTER CONTEST

In May of 2008, HUNT held “The HUNT is On... For Artwork” poster contest. High school students from Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle Counties were invited to participate in the contest by creating a poster with an anti-drug theme, using any media of their choosing. 12 winners were chosen with first, second, and third places being awarded cash prizes and medals. The other 9 winners (no order chosen) were awarded Wal-Mart gift cards and medals. The 12 winning posters were then compiled into a 2009 calendar, which was printed in the fall and calendars distributed in all four counties.



## *Significant Activity - Continued*

### **HEROIN OVERDOSE FATALITY**

In March of 2008, the Alpena Police Department turned an overdose case over to the HUNT Team. The victim in the case was a 25 year old female who had passed away as a result of a heroin/fentanyl overdose. HUNT detectives began an investigation, and interviewed numerous people regarding the events leading up to the victim's death. It was determined that the victim, along with 3 other females, had enlisted the help of a friend in the city of Alpena, to procure heroin. Two of the girls and the enlisted friend then travelled to a residence in Alpena Township where the friend purchased 4 packets of heroin for the girls, utilizing money that the girls had provided. The heroin was given to the girls, who, after reuniting with the other two back in the city of Alpena, went to a location where they would ingest the heroin. The first to inject herself, almost immediately became unresponsive, and was in full respiratory arrest prior to the arrival of emergency personnel. As a result of the HUNT investigation, it was determined that there were two co-conspirators involved in selling the heroin (later determined to be laced with fentanyl) from the residence in Alpena Township. Both have been arrested and charged with delivery of a controlled substance causing death, as has the friend who facilitated the delivery.

### **STOLEN VEHICLE RECOVERED**

In June of 2008, a HUNT detective was in contact with a confidential informant who advised that he/she had information regarding three vehicles that had been stolen in the Alpena area. The detective, having been aware of the vehicle thefts, obtained names of the alleged thieves as well as other pertinent information regarding all three vehicles. The informant advised that following the theft of one of the vehicles, it had been driven into the river, at the boat launch off Second Street in Alpena. The HUNT detective then made arrangements for the Michigan State Police Dive Team to respond to the area and search for the vehicle. The dive resulted in the recovery of one of the stolen vehicles, which was removed from the river and later turned over to the officer who was in charge of the original vehicle theft investigation. Information regarding the other two stolen vehicles was passed on to the respective police departments handling those investigations.



## Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

# Significant Activity - Continued

### SOLICITATION FOR ARSON/ DELIVERY OF MORPHINE

In late February of 2008, a HUNT officer learned of an individual from downstate, who owned hunting property in Presque Isle County, and was attempting to solicit someone to burn down his hunting camp. Officers eventually were able to record a telephone conversation in which the suspect discussed a deal to give the arsonist (undercover officer) a large quantity of morphine pills and a lawn mower prior to the arson, and \$1,000.00 in cash following receipt of his insurance payment. The suspect advised that he would be travelling to the Presque Isle area within the next week, and would bring the morphine pills to provide to the arsonist. Before the meeting took place, officers were advised that the hunting camp had burned down. The investigation and audio recording were then turned over to the Presque Isle County Sheriff Department arson investigator who continued the investigation.

In the mean time, HUNT officers had opportunity to conduct a controlled purchase of morphine from the same suspect. A confidential informant was able to purchase 71 morphine pills from the suspect for six hundred dollars (\$600.00). Following the controlled purchase, the suspect was arrested for delivery of morphine, and the money recovered. A search of the suspect's vehicle resulted in the seizure of an additional 256 morphine pills as well as 354 methadone pills. The suspect's vehicle was also seized under the narcotics forfeiture statute.



The suspect later plead guilty to solicitation for arson as well as delivery of morphine. While he was awaiting sentencing, he was involved in a stand-off with police at his downstate residence, and ultimately took his own life.

*Methadone, an increasingly popular prescription drug diverted to the illegal drug culture, and one of the most common causes of overdose deaths in our area.*

## Significant Activity - Continued

### HEROIN DISTRIBUTION UNCOVERED

In November of 2008, HUNT officers received an anonymous tip regarding a subject who had travelled to the Saginaw area to procure heroin that was intended to be transported back to Alpena and distributed. Additionally, the tip was that a second subject had travelled to Saginaw with the suspect, and that this person had overdosed while in Saginaw and been admitted to the hospital, therefore the suspect would be returning to the Alpena area alone.



HUNT officers were familiar with both of the subjects the tipster named, and knew them to be involved in the drug culture in the Alpena area. Officers then established surveillance along the U.S. 23 corridor, in an effort to observe the suspect's vehicle as it returned to the area. The vehicle was in fact spotted,



and surveilled as it returned to the city of Alpena. Officers then made contact with the driver who was in possession of a quantity of heroin, some of which she admitted to intending to sell, and some she intended to inject herself. During a subsequent interview, the suspect admitted that she was a frequent heroin user, and that she had been making regular trips downstate to obtain heroin, which she would then transport back to Alpena to sell, in order to support her habit. She also admitted that her passenger who had accompanied her to the Saginaw area, had "fallen down" while in Saginaw, and been taken to the hospital by ambulance.

The suspect was arrested and charged with possession with intent to deliver heroin.



## Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

# Funding Sources

Alcona County	64,354
Alpena City	81,387
Alpena County	69,689
Montmorency County	21,263
Presque Isle County	73,489
Alpena Township	1,000
Sanborn Township	500
Michigan State Police	279,451
O.D.C.P. Grant	164,999
Forfeiture Proceeds	28,336
Interest	4,572
Restitution	4,461
Recovered Funds	5,033
Stipends	825

Total Operating Costs \$799,359

*\* The above figures reflect the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008*



## Huron Undercover Narcotics Team 2008 Annual Report

# Commander's Message

As commander of the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team, I respectfully present the 2008 Annual Report. 2008 was a busy year for the team, with the total new investigations being up 25% over the past ten year average and the arrested persons being up 29% over the same time period.

The team was able to investigate the narcotics trafficking cases as they arose, as well as 7 prescription fraud cases (a relatively new and time intensive investigation), several overdose cases, and one unlawfully prescribing controlled substances case. That case, involving a local doctor, is still active in the court system, and led to the inclusion of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Community Health, and an investigator from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan.

The team was able to provide assistance to other police agencies on cases such as conspiracy to commit arson, larceny of scrap metal, recovery of stolen vehicles, assault and battery, and 31 fugitive location/arrests.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the team, and the efforts of each of the officers who are dedicated to the reduction of narcotics crimes and the associated criminal activity. I would like to thank each of those officers, as well as our neighboring police agencies and prosecutors who join in our efforts and provide assistance in our endeavors as needed. As commander of the team, I will strive to continue every effort to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in Northeastern Michigan.

Sincerely,



D/Lt. Rick Schultz  
Team Commander