



Huron Undercover Narcotics Team
Annual Report



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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Law enforcement has seen some incredible changes over the recent years, agencies have reached all time lows in staffing. The reaction to Covid 19 and the subsequent restrictions negatively affected policing, jails and the court system, backing up cases for several years. Public perception of policing has deteriorated, social media has erupted with fallacies of abuse of power and the treatment of the public by officers. Many things have come together to create an era where interest in the profession has all but ceased. The inability for our partner agencies to fully staff their departments has inhibited the quantity of investigations, as our manpower is at an all-time low.

Prior to the outbreak of Covid 19 the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team averaged 11,400 officer hours. In 2022 there was only 8,900 hours of service provided to the citizens of our coverage area.

Despite these issues, the quality of the team's investigations has only increased.

Team members have adapted technology, ingenuity and downright tenacity while tackling our never-ending endeavor to disrupt the introduction of narcotics to northeast Michigan. We have followed drug dealers to Bay City, Saginaw, and Flint all to arrest them on their return to our area. We have partnered with other narcotics groups to interdict shipments, all with great success. A team member traveled to Tennessee to testify at the Federal trial of a subject that attempted to establish a nation-wide drug empire.

I would like to thank those that continue to recognize the need for HUNT and the service we provide. It is a privilege to serve as commander of HUNT.

D/Lt. Stuart Sharp, Team Commander

ABOUT US

The Huron Undercover Narcotics Team (HUNT) is a multi-jurisdictional task force governed under an inter-local Agreement between the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle, the cities of Alpena and Rogers City, and the Michigan State Police. The Board of Directors is comprised of members from each of those entities, as is the Advisory Board.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1

Disrupt the availability of illegal drugs, specifically heroin, fentanyl, prescription opiates, methamphetamine, and cocaine.

Objectives:

- Reduce deaths and serious injury from drug overdoses
- Reduce toll on community caused by drug trafficking
- Reduce and solve drug related criminal activity

GOAL 2:

Provide other agency assistance/ awareness and public awareness

Objectives:

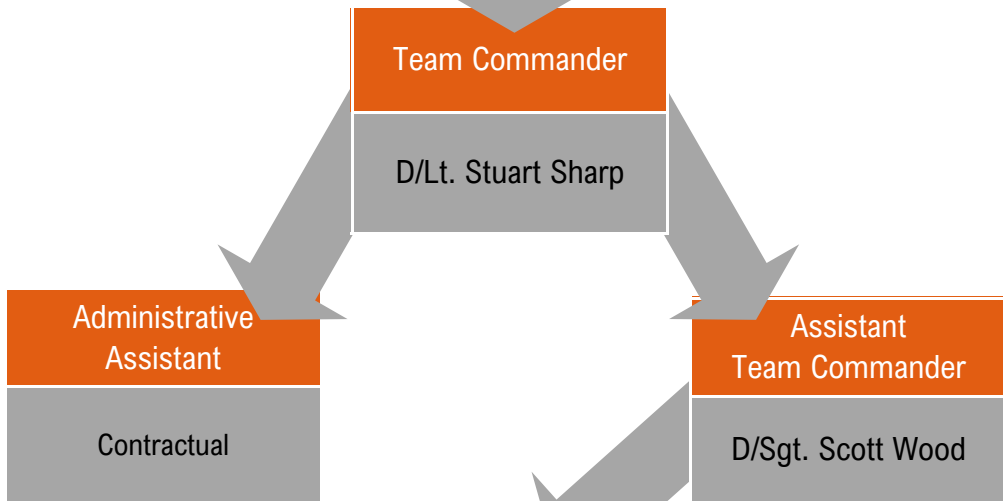
- Provide detective support/assistance to partner agencies.
- Provide drug trend information to other agencies.
- Increase public awareness of drug trends and drug/lab identification.

MEMBER PARTICIPATION

Member Entity	Advisory Board Member	Funding	In-Kind Provisions
Alcona County	Carolyn Brummund	\$8,000	
Alpena City	Matt Waligora	\$8,000	One Full-Time Officer
Alpena County	Bill Peterson	\$8,000	Fiduciary Services
Michigan State Police			4 Full-time Officers, Office Space, Utilities
Montmorency County	Robert Stacey	\$8,000	One Full-Time Officer
Presque Isle County	Carl Altman	\$8,000	One Full-Time Officer
Rogers City	Ken Bielas	\$5,000	

* Additional funding \$146,122 from Byrne Jag Grant

ORG CHART

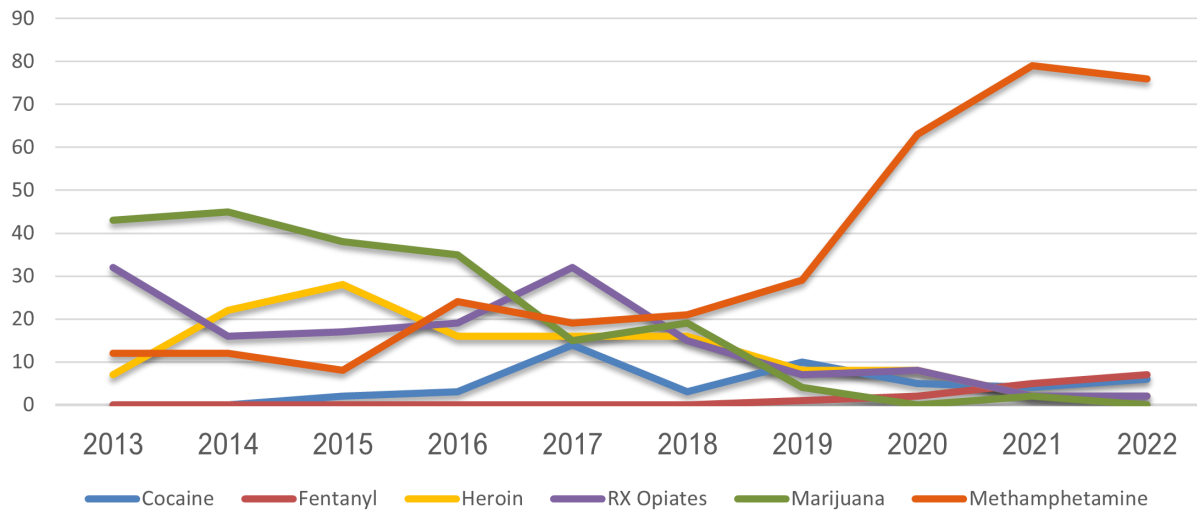


INVESTIGAT

76% OF HUNT'S DRUG CASES INVOLVED

TRENDS

The chart to the right shows percentages of substances involved in HUNT drug cases over the past 10 years. Methamphetamine rises significantly, while Fentanyl also increases.



46

DRUG-RELATED INVESTIGATIONS SUBSTANCES INVOLVED

Methamphetamine	35
Cocaine	3
Fentanyl	3
Gabapentin	3
Heroin	1
Suboxone	1

9

FUGITIVE LOCATION / ARREST

Nine investigations were initiated pertaining to the location and arrest of wanted fugitives, with 12 individuals being located and arrested.

4

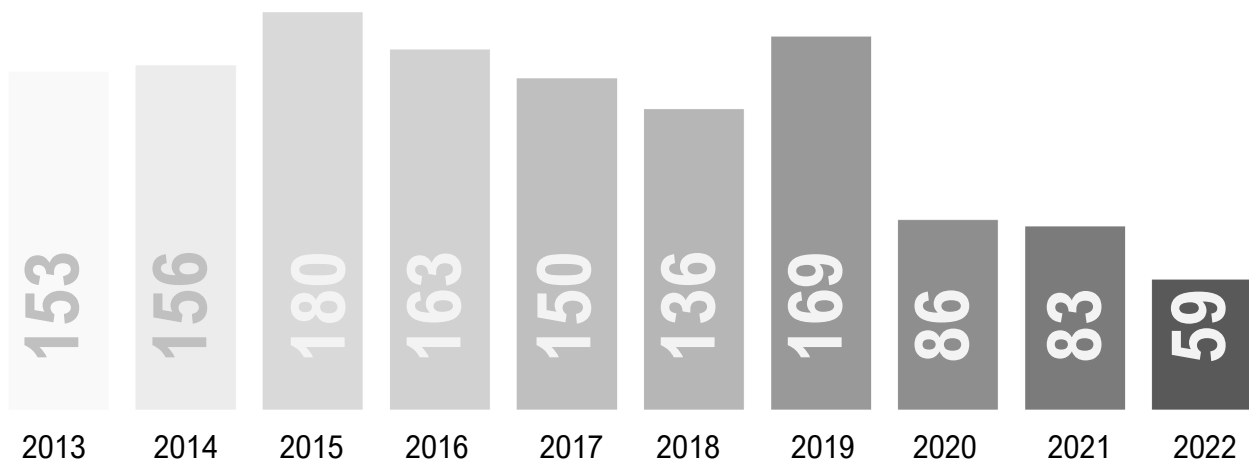
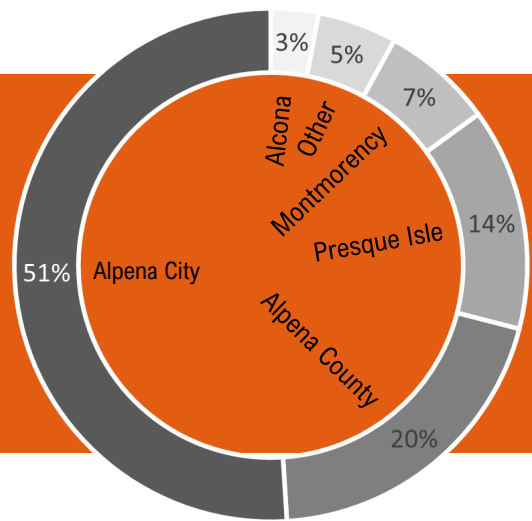
NON-DRUG RELATED CASES

HUNT was able to assist other agencies on a barricaded gunman case, a juvenile runaway case, and initiated new cases on felony firearms, obstructing justice and operating while impaired.

IONS

METHAMPHETAMINE

INVESTIGATIONS BY JURISDICTION

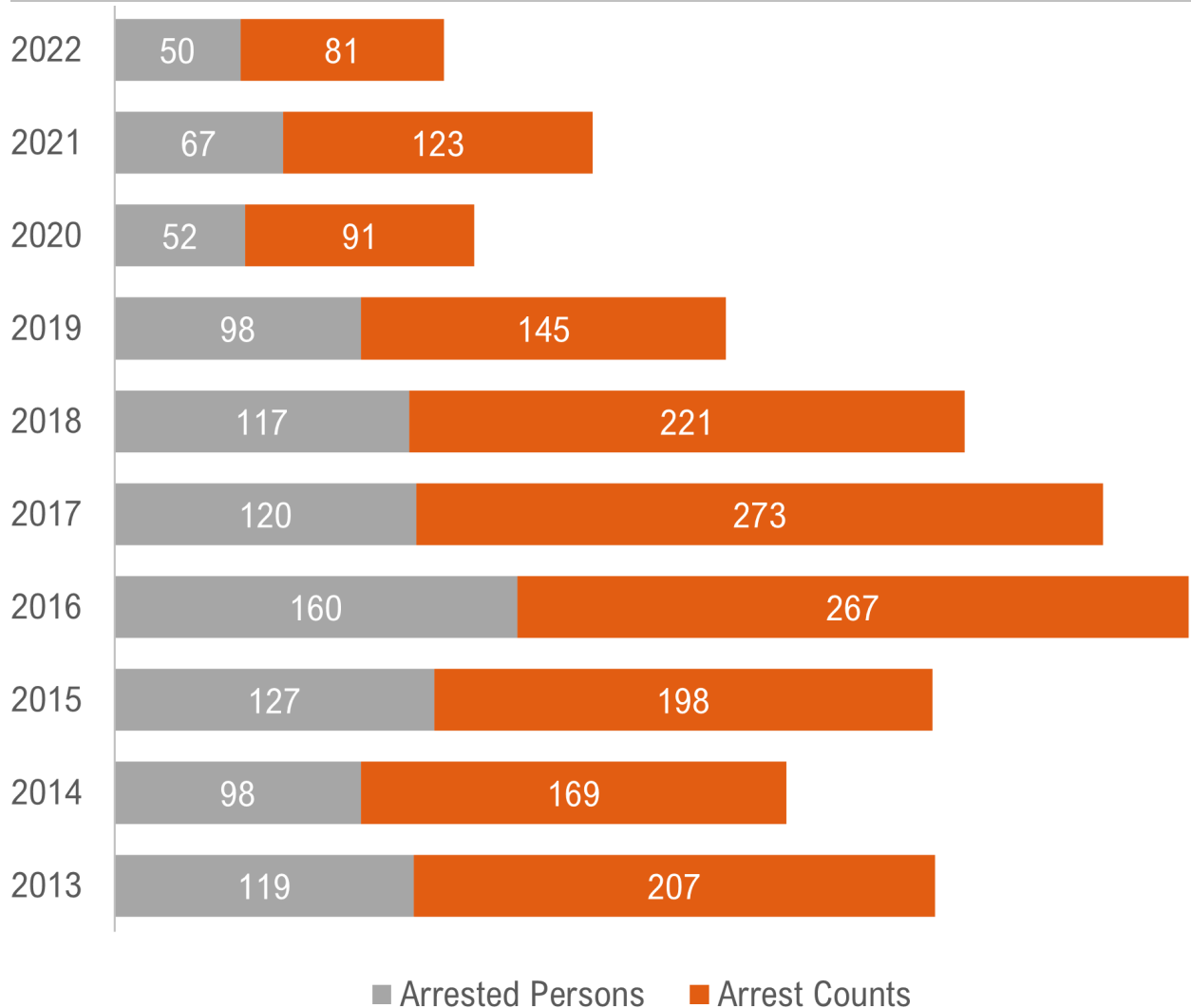


TOTAL ANNUAL INVESTIGATIONS

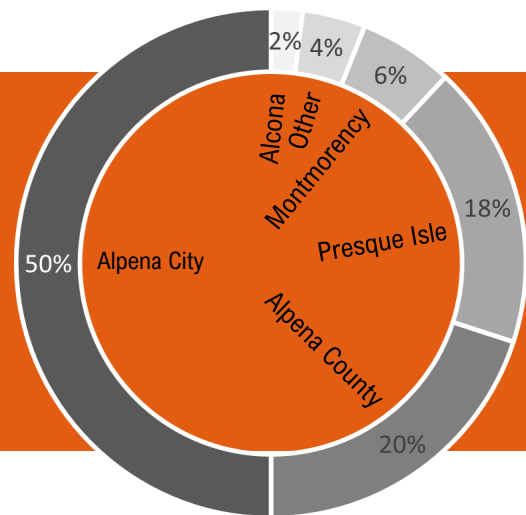
ARRESTS

50 PEOPLE ARRESTED ON 81 COUNTS

TOTAL ANNUAL ARRESTS



ARRESTS BY JURISDICTION

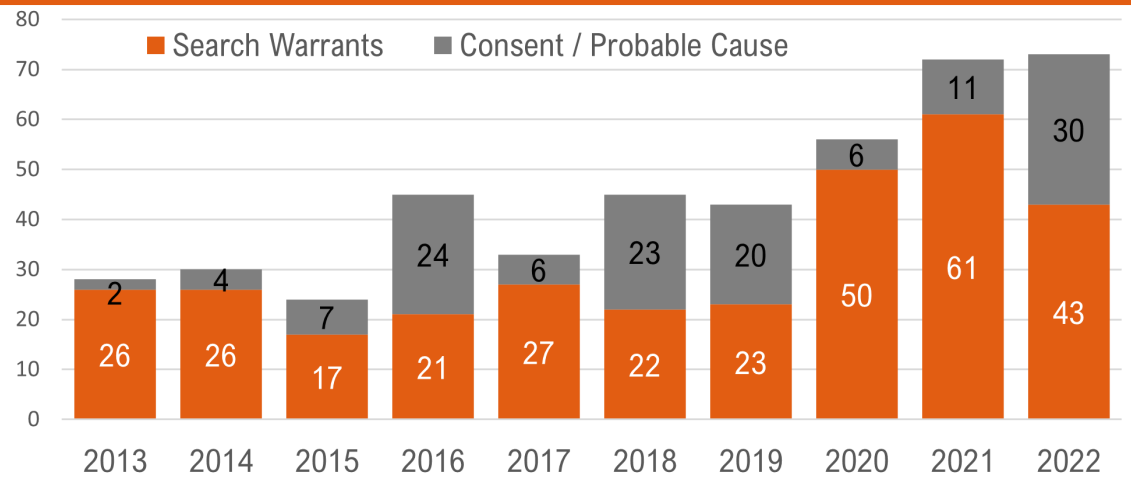


HUNT ARREST TIERS

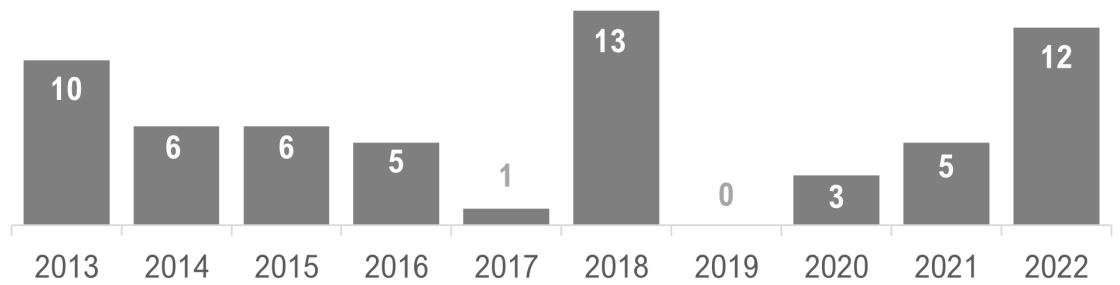
	Quantity of Drugs Involved / Circumstances	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Tier 1	Less than 20 grams or 10 units	20	27	18	22	20	19
Tier 2	20-49 grams or 10-99 units / including weapons / habitual offender / conspiracy	58	40	29	13	25	11
Tier 3	50-399 grams or 100-999 units / resulting in overdose death	6	4	2	2	10	6
Tier 4	over 400 grams or 1,000 units	3	0	0	1	0	2
	Fugitive and Other Non-Drug Related Arrests	33	46	49	14	12	12

SEARCHES

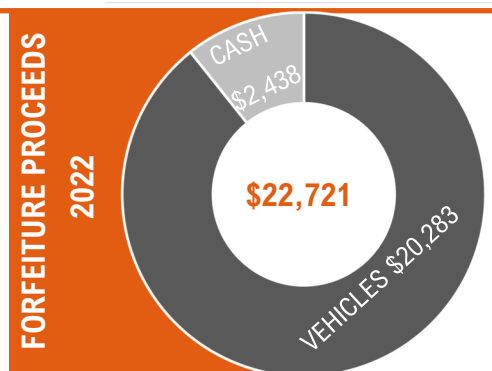
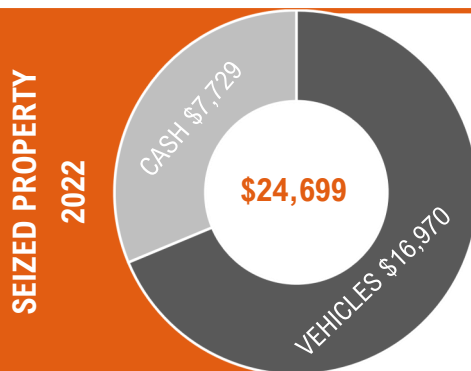
SEARCHES



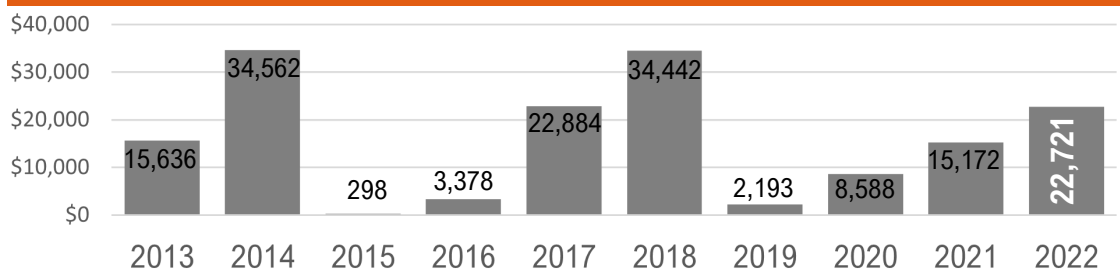
FIREARMS SEIZED



FORFEITURE



FORFEITURE PROCEEDS—10 YEARS



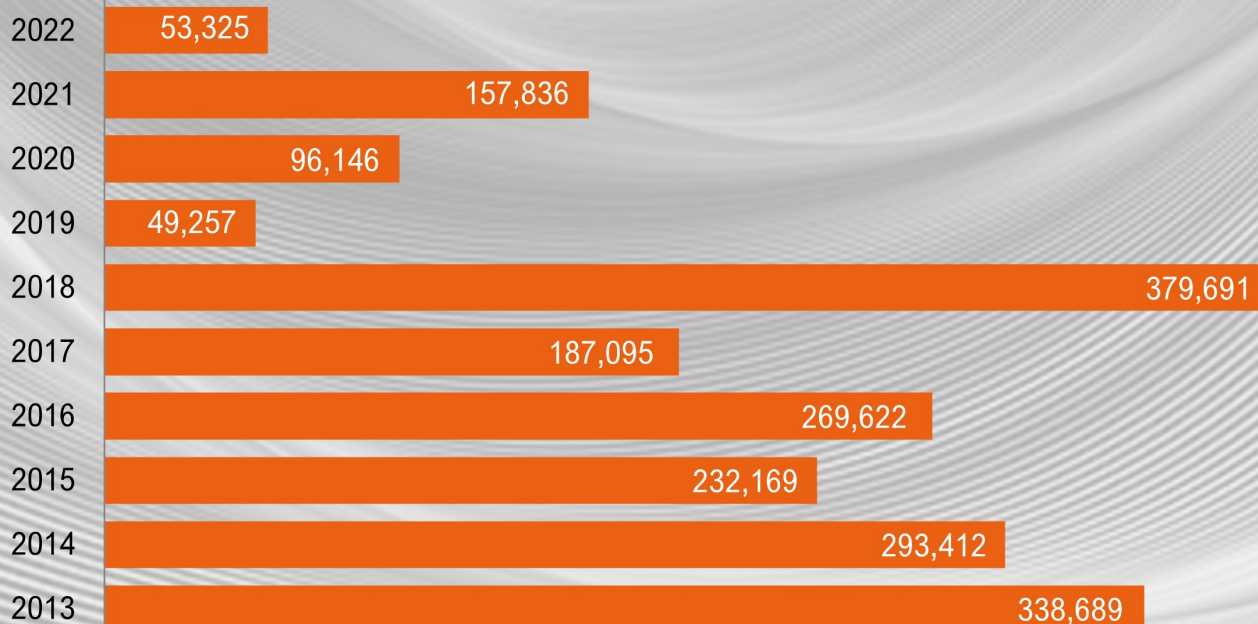
(Forfeiture proceeds may include the sale of items that were seized during previous years)

SEIZURES

DRUGS SEIZED 2022

DRUG	QUANTITY	STREET VALUE
Cocaine	1.6 Grams	160
Fentanyl	7.5 Grams	750
Gabapentin	83 Units	166
Hallucinogens	18.6 Grams	1,116
Heroin	22.5 Grams	5,625
Marijuana	310.9 Grams	3,109
Methamphetamine	368.11 Grams	36811
Prescription Opiates	70 Units	711
Synthetics	451 Grams	4,510
Non-Scheduled Substances	64 Units, 302 Grams	367
		53,325

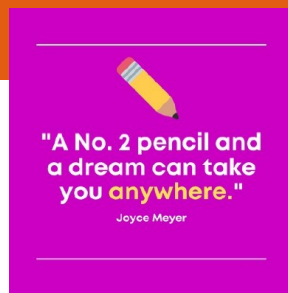
STREET VALUE OF DRUGS SEIZED, PAST 10 YEARS



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TEEN OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

HUNT's Teen Outreach Campaign is intended to promote self esteem in teens as a deterrent from making bad choices that can lead to drug use/abuse. During 2022 the campaign ran from July through September and consisted of 45 ads/posts on Instagram and Facebook. The ads focused on girls and boys age 13-18, and ran throughout Northeast Michigan (7th District). The final report on the campaign showed that the ads reached 263,000 people with 1,237 engagements (clicking on the ad to go to the page or "liking/following" the page). Below is a sample of the ads that ran.



HUNT continues to maintain a web site at www.huntteam.net. The site provides information and resources related to drug use/abuse treatment as well as an avenue to provide anonymous tips.

During 2022, the site was visited 770 times with a total of 111 anonymous tips being sent to HUNT detectives.

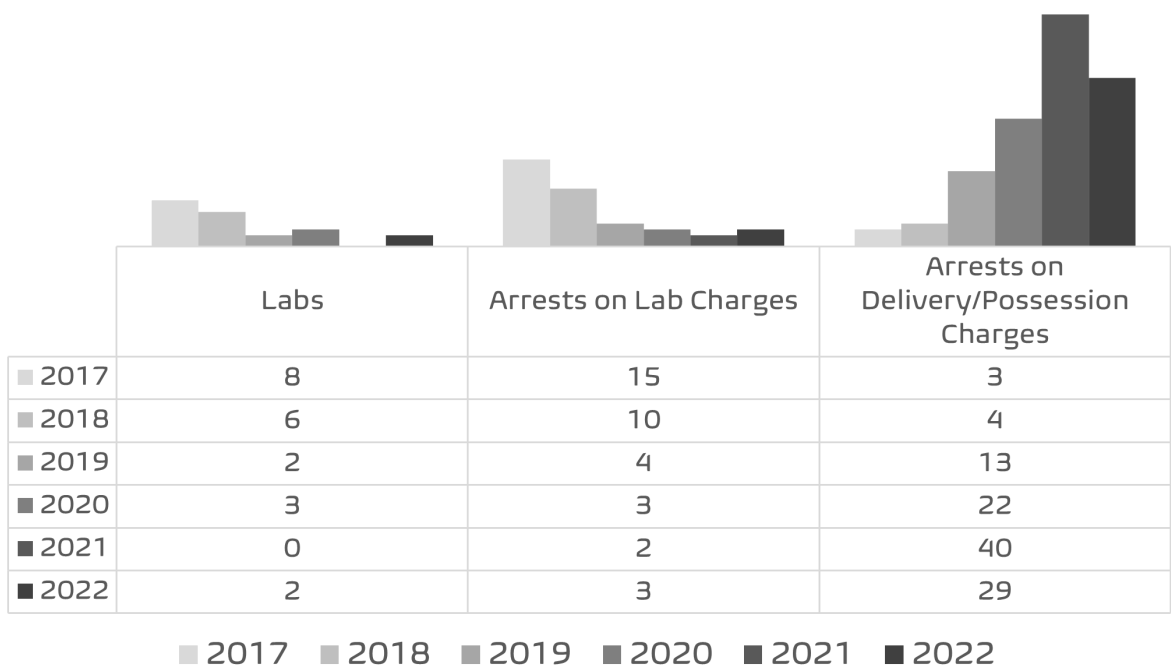
CRYSTAL METH



Crystal meth continues to be the most prevalent drug seized/investigated by the team. The drug is highly addictive and its use is known to cause combative, violent behavior as well as paranoia, anxiety, confusion, and insomnia.

Local meth labs have decreased over the past several years with the trafficking of the drug from Mexican criminal groups being the more common means of obtaining the drug. In Michigan, the bulk of the drug lands in the larger cities such as Saginaw, Flint, and Detroit, and is then distributed through criminal networks until it reaches the streets of our area. During 2022 meth was the focus of 76% of the team's drug related investigations.

METH STATS



SIGNIFICAN



In December of 2021, HUNT detectives were contacted by Homeland Security Agents who were investigating a drug trafficking organization being run from inside a federal prison in Tennessee. The subject of their investigation was the president of the Tennessee State Aryan Nation, the largest prison gang operating in the Tennessee State correctional system. Aryan Nation members are known for carrying out violent crimes both inside and outside of prison.

Homeland Security Agents had become aware of a female who had relocated to Alpena, Michigan and was growing marijuana for this Aryan Nation president. The plants were to be grown in Alpena, where it was thought they'd be undetected, and then transported back to Tennessee for processing and distribution.

HUNT detectives were able to establish surveillance on the Alpena residence and observed as the marijuana plants were being loaded into a U-Haul for transport. Subsequent traffic stops were conducted on the U-Haul and another vehicle, resulting in the arrest of the Alpena female as well as a Tennessee resident who had come to Alpena to help with the transport.

One HUNT detective later travelled to Tennessee to testify in the trial of the Aryan Nation President who was ultimately convicted of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, conspiracy to distribute marijuana, and money laundering. He was sentenced in 2022 to an additional life sentence (he was already serving a life sentence from a 1996 murder), and was ordered to forfeit 1.26 million dollars which "represented his illegal proceeds."

While HUNT was attempting to locate an individual who was wanted on an outstanding warrant, a traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle in which the wanted individual was the back seat passenger. After taking the man into custody, a search of the vehicle resulted in the location of methamphetamine within a diaper bag that had been next to the arrestee in the back seat. The child, also in the vehicle with the parents having no knowledge of the drugs being secreted in the diaper bag. The individual was charged with possession of methamphetamine, which was later dismissed when he was sentenced to 2-20 years for charges from a 2021 HUNT case.

T ACTIVITY

In March of 2022 HUNT detectives became aware of an individual who had 7 outstanding warrants for his arrest. These warrants were for failure to appear and contempt of court for previous charges/convictions stemming from the Alpena City Police Department, the Alpena County Sheriff Department, the Michigan State Police, and the Huron Undercover Narcotics Team.

HUNT detectives were able to establish through surveillance techniques that this individual was travelling northbound on I-75 toward Gaylord where he currently resided. HUNT coordinated efforts with the Hometown Security Team in Gaylord and the Michigan State Police in Gaylord to conduct a traffic stop. The traffic stop was subsequently successful, with the individual being found in possession of 4.3 grams of a substance he admitted was carfentanil that he had just purchased in Flint.

He was transported back to Alpena to face his outstanding charges and was later charged in Otsego County with possession of the carfentanil as well as habitual offender and second or subsequent offense.



In early 2022, with the assistance of a confidential informant, HUNT conducted a controlled purchase of methamphetamine in Lewiston. The subject of this investigation lived in Grayling, and the STING Team had an open investigation in Crawford County as well. HUNT's controlled purchase resulted in the charge of delivery of methamphetamine in Montmorency County which the subject plead to and was sentenced in November to 4-20 years in prison. In Crawford County, he was charged with three counts of the same and was sentenced to 6-30 years.



SIGNIFICAN



HUNT has arrested the subject of this investigation 4 times in the past, all of which carried prison sentences. In 1995 he was sentenced to 5-8 years for delivery of LSD and marijuana. In 2004 he was sentenced to 2 ½ to 15 years for possession of heroin. In 2007 he was sentenced to 5-20 years for delivery of meth, and in 2019 he was sentenced to 1 ½ - 20 years for delivery of heroin, for which he was released in September of 2021.

In early 2022 HUNT began receiving information about this individual trafficking meth, fentanyl, heroin, and Suboxone from his residence (the same residence as the 2019 case) in the city of Alpena. An investigation ensued involving surveillance of the residence which resulted in a traffic stop on a vehicle leaving the residence, with the driver being charged with OUID and found during a blood analysis to have amphetamines, fentanyl, oxycodone, and meth in her system. There was an investigation by the Alpena Police Department of an overdose that occurred at this residence as well as other information regarding the distribution of narcotics and drug overdose incidents. Also, a traffic stop was conducted by the Michigan State Police, on a vehicle driven by this individual, when he was found to be in possession of methamphetamine.

In June of 2022, HUNT coordinated a traffic stop on the subject after he left his residence, and found 3 ½ grams of meth, a quantity of cash, and someone else's Bridge card in the vehicle. HUNT was able to obtain a search warrant for the residence where another 3 ½ grams of meth was found, along with a substantial quantity of cash, drug paraphernalia, numerous Suboxone and other prescription opiates, a quantity of a marijuana/fentanyl mixture, and 451 grams of an imitation controlled substance.

The subject was arrested and charged with possession with intent to deliver meth, possession with intent to deliver fentanyl, possession with intent to deliver an imitation substance, and maintaining a drug house, as well as habitual offender, 3rd offense. At the time of this writing, the court case is still ongoing.

T ACTIVITY

In September, HUNT embarked on a joint investigation with SANE detectives to infiltrate a drug trafficking conspiracy in Onaway. A SANE officer conducted two undercover purchases of methamphetamine from an Onaway resident. During his conversations with the suspect, he was able to determine that the suspect's source for the meth was a local woman nearby. He was able to arrange for a third purchase in which the suspect would have to obtain the meth from his source. Surveillance at the source's residence resulted in the observance of a vehicle registered to a Saginaw address pulling into the drive and leaving a short time later. A traffic stop was conducted on the Saginaw vehicle which was occupied by 2 people believed to be regional dealers, both having a substantial amount of cash on their person, both containing some of the funds used by the SANE officer during the undercover purchases. A search warrant was then conducted at the local source's residence where a quantity of cash was located that also contained SANE funds utilized during the undercover purchases, a quantity of meth, and glass pipes. The local source was charged with delivery of meth, possession of meth, and maintaining a drug house. The two from Saginaw were each charged with delivery of meth. The original seller who sold the meth to the SANE officer was charged with 2 counts delivery of meth by the SANE team.



HUNT had information regarding two individuals from Alpena distributing methamphetamine. An investigation ensued and eventual surveillance established that the couple was travelling downstate, presumably to obtain methamphetamine for distribution in Alpena. The vehicle was noted to leave the suspects' residence in Alpena, travel to the Saginaw area where it made several stops, and then travel back northbound. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle in Alcona County where both of the suspects were identified as occupants. Within the vehicle was over 46 grams of crystal meth and over 9 grams of heroin. A search warrant was then executed at their residence in Alpena where an additional 9 grams of methamphetamine was seized, as well as 2 firearms, almost 3 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, digital scales, and packaging materials.

Both subjects were charged in Alcona County with possession with intent to deliver meth, possession with intent to deliver heroin, and conspiracy to deliver both. Both were charged in Alpena with possession with intent to deliver meth, felony firearms, and maintaining a drug house. At the time of this writing, the court cases are still ongoing.



Huron Undercover Narcotics Team

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