

MISSISSIPPI CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH UNIT

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AN EVALUATION  
OF DRUG CONTROL  
PROGRAMS  
IN MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH UNIT

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**An Evaluation of Drug Control Programs  
in Mississippi**

**Mississippi Crime and Justice Research Unit  
Social Science Research Center  
Mississippi State University**

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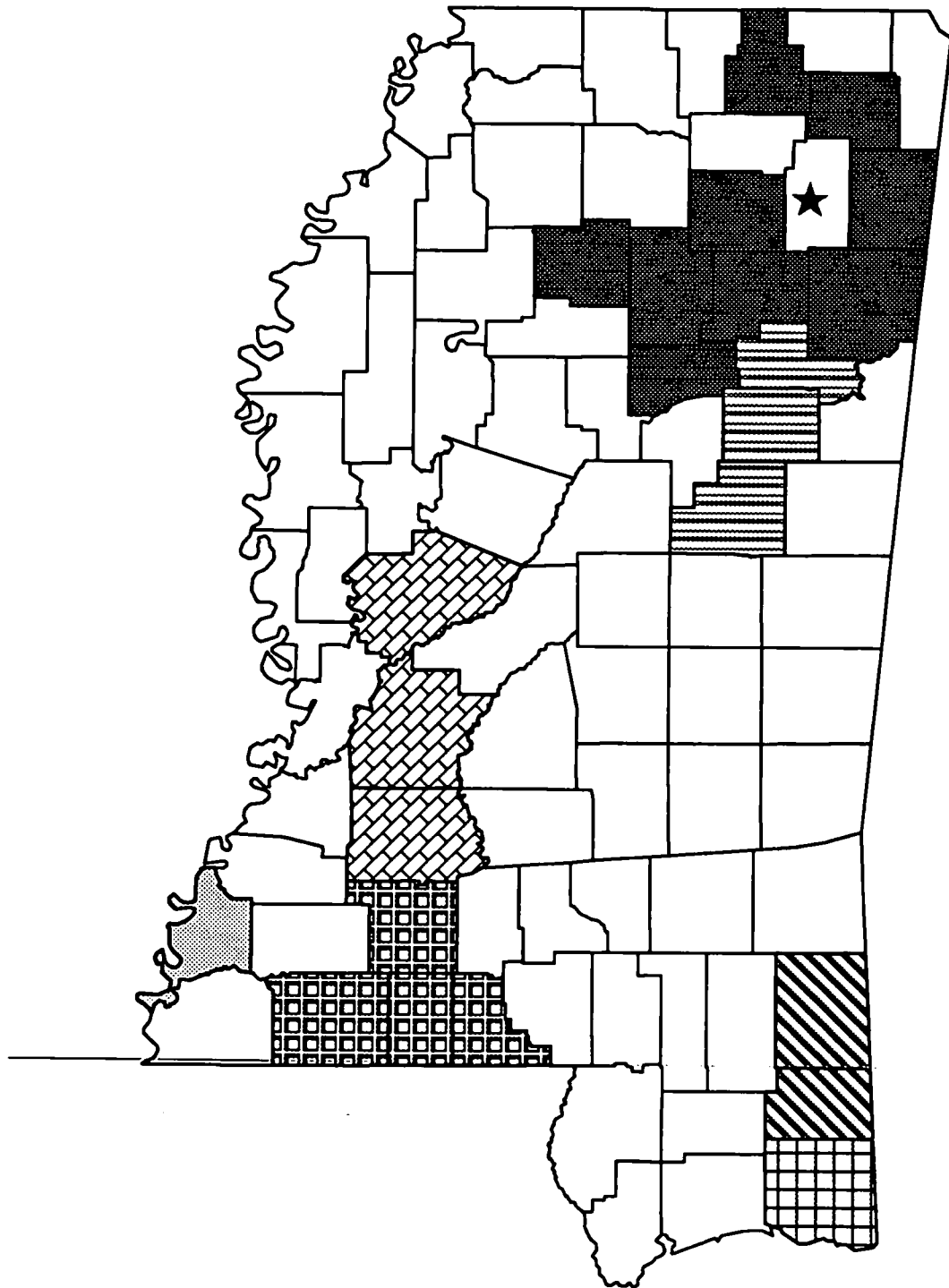
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# Mississippi's Multijurisdictional Drug Task Forces



## **Introduction**

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (pub.L. 100-690) was made law on November 18, 1988. The law established a grant program for the purpose of implementing drug control and system improvement initiatives at state and national levels. The formula grant was to assist states and units of local governments in developing and implementing drug control projects which offer a high probability of improving the functions of the criminal justice system with special emphasis on a nationwide drug control strategy.

The act also includes a mandate which requires each funded program to include an evaluation component (National Institute of Justice, 1989:ix). There were some exceptions to this rule. The Act permitted some exclusions under the following conditions: 1) "The program is not of sufficient size to justify a full evaluation report; or 2) the program is designed primarily to provide material resources and supplies, such as laboratory equipment" (National Institute of Justice, 1989:ix).

Section 522 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 includes the responsibilities of states in terms of annual reports to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) on the results of their evaluation studies. Section 522(a)(1) requires each state to provide a summary of their grant activities and an assessment of the impact of their programs on the various identified needs in their statewide drug strategy. The Bureau of Justice Assistance's chief concern is to determine the extent to which the estate's strategies

accomplish their stated goals and meet the performance expectations of the following groups:

- ◆ Responsible officials
- ◆ Interest groups
- ◆ The public

The evaluation of Mississippi's multijurisdictional drug task forces was designed to determine the extent to which the units were accomplishing their goals and meeting the expectations of at least two of the identified groups, local residents (the public) and task force officers and directors (responsible officials).

The remainder of this report is divided into seven sections corresponding to each task force included in this year's evaluation. It should be noted at the outset that data are presented for prior years of task force activity. The evaluation included the following multiple outcome or performance measures:

- 1) Performance Measure I: Measures of residents' perceptions of drug-related crimes in the target areas were used to determine the impact of the task forces on drugs and crime. Residents' baseline responses were compared to those obtained from the previous years' surveys. This analysis enables policy makers to determine changes in residents' perceptions regarding issues related to drugs and drug related crimes.

2) Performance Measure II: Data obtained from monthly performance reports were used to measure the amount of drugs confiscated, property seized, and number of arrests for illegal possession, illegal sales, and manufacturing of controlled substances in the task force jurisdictions. The evaluator, in cooperation with the task force representatives, developed a reporting form in January of 1992.

3) Performance Measure III: Task force officers' perceptions regarding the impact of the units on drug-related crime in the target areas were obtained via a mail questionnaire. It was assumed that the task force officers were in the best positions to answer questions about drug-related crime trends in the target areas.

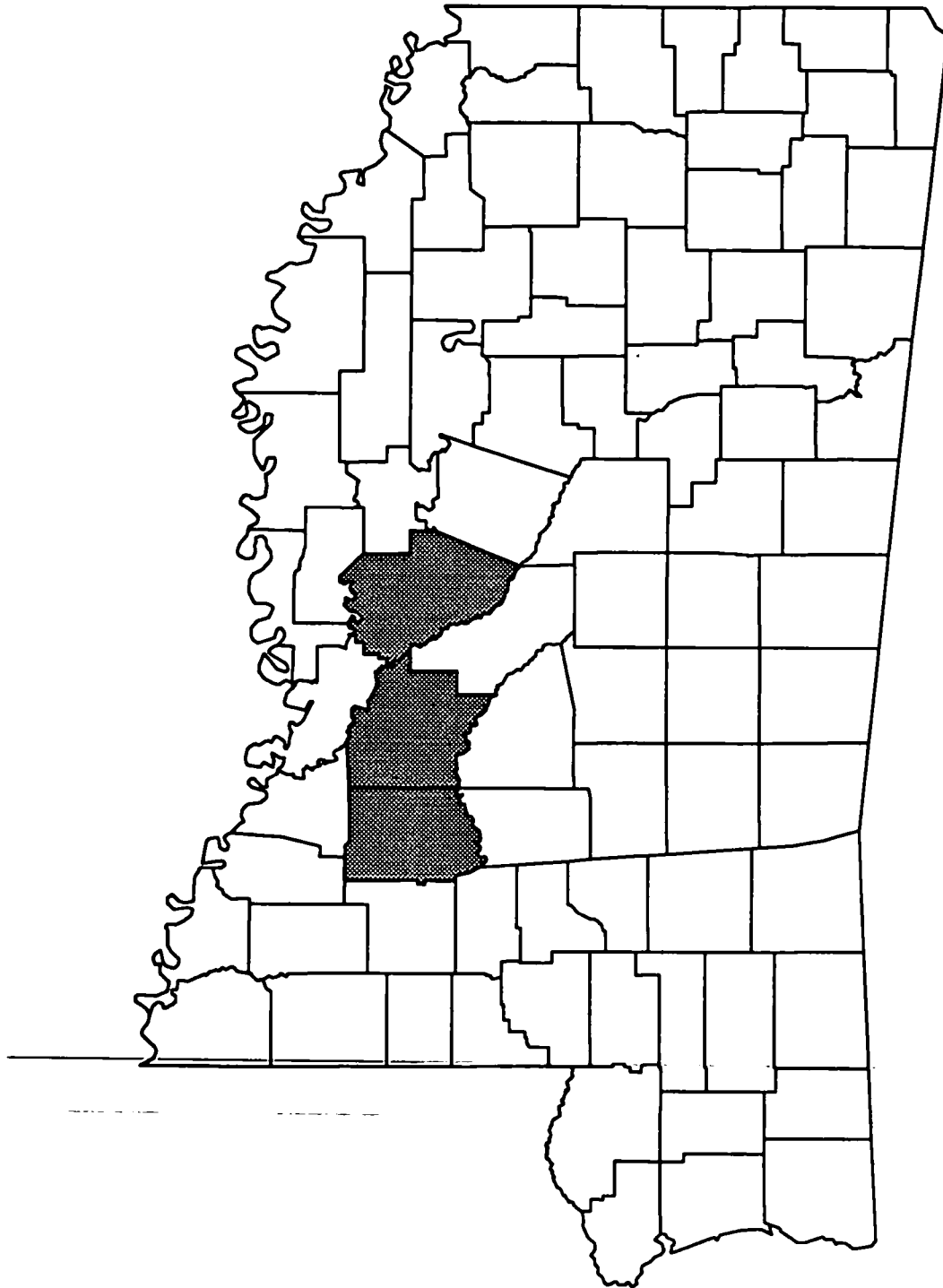
The evaluation results are presented in this format as to avoid any direct comparisons between the task forces as such would essentially be invalid given that the task forces vary in regard to the size of their target jurisdictions, the size of the staff, the prevalence of equipment, and the task forces' length of operation. Readers of this report are strongly discouraged from attempting to compare the results presented here across each task force.

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**RESULTS:**  
**SURVEY OF TASK FORCES**

# Hinds-Copiah-Yazoo Counties

Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force



## **HINDS-COPIAH-YAZOO COUNTIES**

### **Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force Evaluation**

This task force encompasses Hinds, Copiah, and Yazoo Counties and is located in Southwest Mississippi. It includes Jackson, the largest municipality in the state. The population total for Hinds, Copiah, and Yazoo Counties combined is 311,570.

Approximately 331 Mississippi residents were included in the baseline evaluation. Multijurisdictional drug task forces are expected to increase the deterrent effect of the criminal justice system by enhancing the likelihood of arrests of drug traffickers. In order to assess the extent to which the general public in the Hinds-Copiah-Yazoo task force jurisdiction perceived that law enforcement would catch drug pushers, residents were asked: "How likely is it that someone would get caught selling drugs" (see Table 1). Those who perceive that drug dealers have a good chance of being caught account for 27.2 percent of residents surveyed in the Hinds-Copiah-Yazoo area. This is a 5.8 percent increase from 1993, and a 7.8 percent decrease from 1991, which was the first year the survey was administered.

Similar patterns exist between those respondents who believe it is "somewhat likely" to be arrested for selling drugs, and those who believe it is "unlikely" to be arrested. In 1994, those reporting a "somewhat likely" chance of arrest decreased 22.0 percent from 1993, and 12.3 percent from 1991. For those reporting an "unlikely" chance of being arrested, 1994 experienced a 14.9 percent increase from 1993, and a 15.7 percent increase from 1991 (see Table 1).

**Table 1: Likelihood of Being Arrested for Selling Drugs**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Very Likely	35.0	22.6	21.4	27.2	+ 5.8	- 7.8
Somewhat Likely	60.1	66.7	69.8	47.8	- 22.0	- 12.3
Unlikely	3.0	5.5	3.8	18.7	+ 14.9	+ 15.7
Don't Know	2.0	5.2	5.0	6.0	+ 1.0	+ 4.0

Residents of this task force area were also asked about the quality of police services and police protection. The results of this analysis drastically changed from 1993 (see Table 2). Those rating the quality of police protection as "good" decreased by 14.8 percent from 1993; conversely, those rating the protection as "poor" increased 14.1 percent from 1993. These differences were surpassed only by the increase of 16.5 percent realized between 1991 and 1994 (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Rating of Police Protection**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Good	46.5	40.7	55.3	40.5	- 14.8	- 6.0
Fair	48.5	51.0	39.6	39.3	- 0.3	- 9.2
Poor	2.0	4.8	4.4	18.5	+ 14.1	+ 16.5
Don't Know /Refused	3.0	3.5	0.7	1.8	+ 1.1	- 1.2



In those areas in which multijurisdictional drug task forces were operating, it was hypothesized that the percent of residents reporting fear of personal and property crimes would decrease over time. To assess the validity of the hypothesis, the following items were included on the survey: "I worry a great deal about my personal safety from crime and criminals," and "I worry a great deal about the safety of my property from crime and criminals."

**Table 3:       Worry About Personal Safety**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	70.3	73.9	75.5	73.4	- 2.1	+ 3.1
No	29.0	25.8	24.5	26.3	+ 1.8	- 2.7
Don't Know	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.3	+ 0.3	- 0.4

**Table 4:       Worry About the Safety of My Property**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	76.6	75.8	77.4	79.5	+ 2.1	+ 2.9
No	22.4	23.5	22.0	20.6	- 1.4	- 1.8
Don't Know	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.0	- 0.6	- 1.0

As can be seen in Table 3, 73.4 percent admit concern about personal safety, compared to 75.5 percent in 1993 and 70.3 percent in 1991. This is an indicator that perhaps fear of personal safety is beginning to decline. Conversely, Table 4 shows

that concern over the safety of property is on the rise, with 79.5 percent of 1994 respondents stating it was a concern, and only 20.6 percent expressing no concern.

To determine the extent of the awareness of the existence of area drug task forces, respondents were asked if there was a drug task force in their county. Only 38.7 percent of those surveyed knew of the existence of a drug task force in their county. This is a 28.3 percent decrease from 1993, and a 17.7 percent decrease from Year 1 (1991).

**Table 5: Is There a Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force in Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	56.1	59.7	66.7	38.4	- 28.3	- 17.7
No	12.5	13.9	10.1	18.4	+ 8.3	+ 5.9
Don't Know	31.4	26.5	23.3	43.2	+ 19.9	+ 11.8

Community safety was also analyzed in this survey. Respondents were asked to determine the extent of safety today compared to that of three years ago. Response categories and percentages can be seen in Table 6. The results indicate that while the percentage of those feeling the community is safer today has steadily increased over the four years, the number of respondents who have stated it is "not as safe" have fluctuated from Year 1 (1991) to Year 4 (1994) resulting in a cumulative 16.5 percent increase (see Table 6).

**Table 6: Is Community Safer Today than Three Years Ago?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Safer	4.6	5.2	6.3	6.6	+ 0.3	+ 2.0
About as Safe	50.8	33.9	43.4	34.1	- 9.3	- 16.7
Not as Safe	40.6	58.7	49.1	57.1	+ 8.0	+ 16.5
Don't Know	4.0	2.3	1.3	1.8	+ 0.5	- 2.2

Respondents were also questioned about drug-related crime trends for the last year. As shown in Table 7, 41.4 percent of the sample in 1994 felt that crime trends had increased over the past year. This is a 7.4 percent decrease from 1993, and a 7.0 percent decrease from 1991. Also significant is that the percentage of those who feel crime trends have decreased has steadily increased since 1991 (see Table 7).

**Table 7: Drug-Related Crime Trends in the Last Year In Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Increased	48.8	57.7	48.4	41.4	- 7.0	- 7.4
Stay Same	34.7	28.4	38.4	37.8	- 0.6	+ 3.1
Decreased	4.3	4.2	5.0	5.7	+ 0.7	+ 1.4
Don't Know	12.2	9.7	8.2	15.1	+ 6.9	+ 2.9

## Performance Measure II: Monthly Performance Measure

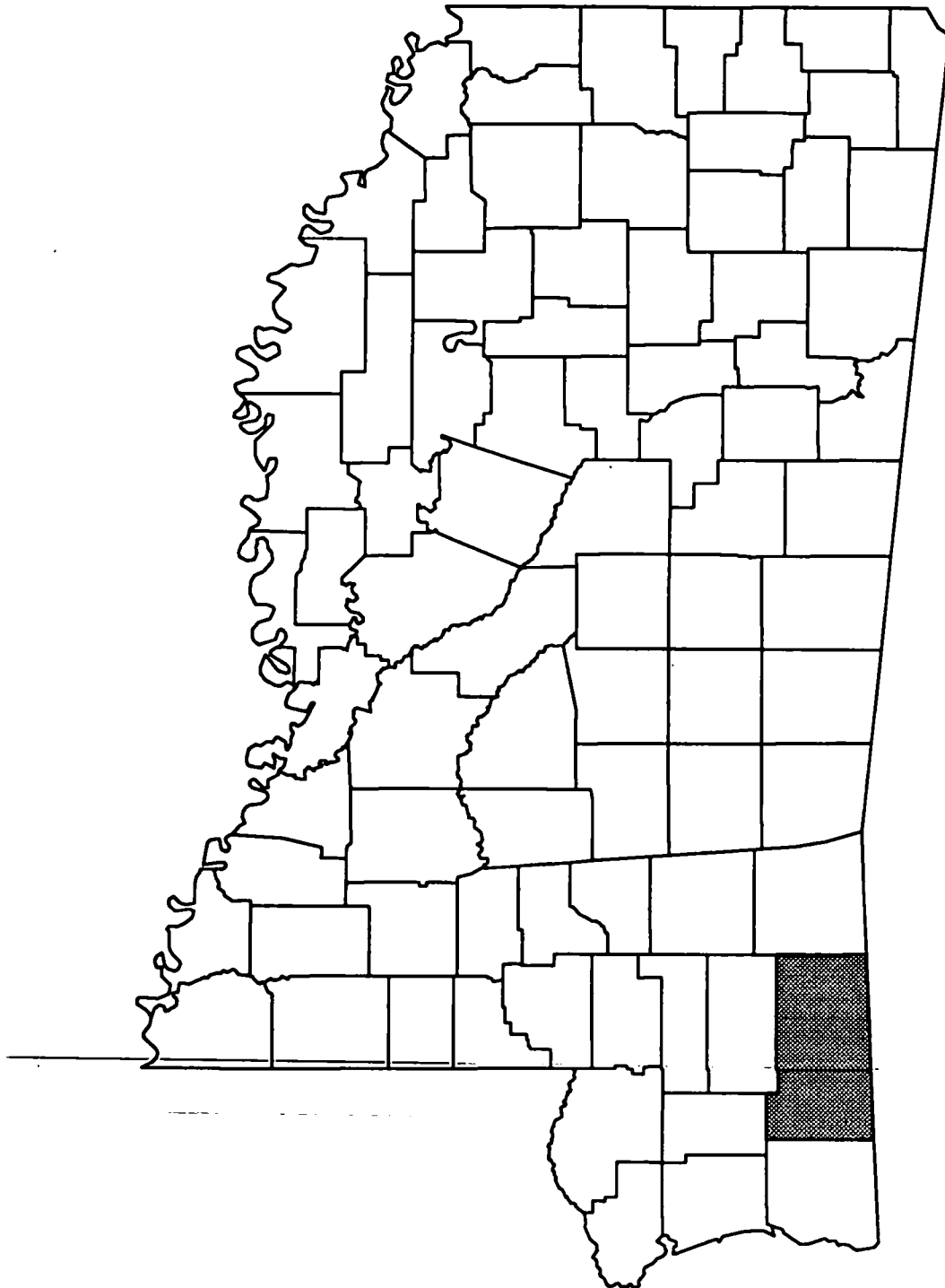
The Hinds-Copiah-Yazoo Task Force submitted reports covering a two month period (see Table 8). During those two months they did not arrest anyone for criminal manufacturing, also they did not apprehend anyone for illegal sales; however, they did arrest nineteen offenders for illegal possession. No one was charged with criminal manufacturing, thirteen individuals were charged with illegal sales, while twenty-one people were charged with illegal possession. The task force managed to seize seventy-five ounces of marijuana, 290.4 grams of powdered cocaine. No marijuana plants were seized during the time covered by the reports.

Table 8. Hinds-Copiah-Yazoo Task Force's Performance Measures

<b>ARRESTS</b>	
Manufacturing	0
Illegal Sales	0
Illegal Possession	19
<b>CHARGES</b>	
Manufacturing	0
Illegal Sales	13
Illegal Possession	21
<b>DRUGS SEIZED</b>	
Marijuana	75 ounces
Marijuana Plants	0 plants
Powdered Cocaine	290.4 grams

# George-Greene Counties

Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force



## **GREENE-GEORGE COUNTIES**

### **Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force Evaluation**

The task force for this area was established in October 1991. The counties encompass approximately 1,191 miles and are located in the Southeast region of the state. The total population is about 26,893, with roughly 13,427 females and 13,466 males. The data presented for the Greene-George task force area reflect public perceptions of the task force's crime control efforts and are based on telephone interviews of approximately 108 residents in the target area.

In an attempt to assess the extent to which residents in the target area perceived that law enforcement personnel would catch drug pushers, respondents were asked: "How likely is it that someone would get caught selling drugs?" Percentages in Table 9 show that a larger percentage (56.4%) of respondents in 1994 believe that it is "somewhat likely" rather than "very likely" or "unlikely" that drug pushers would be arrested. This is a 11.3 percent decrease from the previous year's survey (see Table 9).

**Table 9: Likelihood of Being Arrested for Selling Drugs**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Very Likely	32.7	24.8	21.5	28.7	+ 7.2	- 4.0
Somewhat Likely	55.4	63.9	67.7	56.4	- 11.3	+ 1.0
Unlikely	6.9	9.5	9.2	5.6	- 3.6	- 1.3
Don't Know	5.0	1.9	1.5	9.3	+ 7.8	+ 4.3

The quality of police services and police protection was also a point of interest in this analysis. Responses to this question are shown in Table 10. Those rating police protection as "good" has remained relatively stable for the four years. However, the percentage of residents rating police services as "fair" and "poor" has changed significantly from 1993 to 1994, with a 16.8 percent decrease and a 15.1 percent increase, respectively (see Table 10).

**Table 10: Rating of Police Protection**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Good	26.8	25.8	26.1	25.9	- 0.2	- 0.9
Fair	44.6	48.6	67.7	50.9	- 16.8	+ 6.3
Poor	28.6	20.0	6.2	21.3	+ 15.1	- 7.3
Don't Know /Refused	0.0	5.7	0.0	1.9	+ 1.9	+ 1.9

Once again, researchers hypothesized that the percent of residents reporting fear of personal and property crimes would decrease over time for those areas where multijurisdictional drug task forces were operating. Two questions were included in the survey to assess the validity of this hypothesis. The results are shown in Tables 11 and 12.

**Table 11: Worry About Personal Safety**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	54.5	63.8	52.3	74.1	+ 21.8	+ 19.6
No	44.5	36.2	47.7	26.0	- 21.7	- 18.5
Don't Know	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	- 1.0

**Table 12: Worry About the Safety of My Property**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	69.3	68.5	56.9	76.0	+ 19.1	+ 6.7
No	30.7	29.5	43.1	24.0	- 19.1	- 6.7
Don't Know	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

When responding to the statement "I worry about my personal safety," 1994 data revealed a dramatic change in the perceptions of Greene-George residents. The respondents answering affirmatively increased by 21.8 percent between 1993 and 1994, and by 19.6 percent between 1991 and 1994 (see Table 11). When referring to the safety of property, the same pattern can be seen (see Table 12). an increase of 19.1 percent occurred between 1993 and 1994, and a 6.7 percent increase between 1991 and 1994.

—The extent to which residents in the target area were aware of their drug task force was also determined in this study. This was accomplished by asking each



respondent "Is there a multijurisdictional drug task force in your county?" As Table 13 shows, the percent of residents who reported that they were aware of the task force decreased by 5.7 percent between 1993 and 1994; however, this total increased by 24.4 percent since 1991. This indicates a considerably greater community knowledge regarding task force operations since the first survey was done in 1991.

**Table 13: Is There a Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force in Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	37.6	53.3	67.7	62.0	- 5.7	+ 24.4
No	27.7	18.1	18.5	17.6	- 12.5	- 10.1
Don't Know	34.7	28.6	13.8	20.4	+ 6.6	- 14.3

Residents were also asked about the safety of their communities today compared to three years ago (see Table 14). Percentages for those responding both "safer" and "about as safe" decreased between 1991 and 1994, and between 1993 and 1994. For those responding "not as safe," increases of 3.2 percent and 21.2 percent occurred between 1993 and 1994 and 1991 and 1994, respectively (see Table 14).

Finally, respondents were asked about drug-related crime trends for the past year (see Table 15). The most frequent response for 1993 was that it had stayed the same (50.8%), while for 1994 the most frequent response was that it had increased

(42.6%). Only 1.9 percent of respondents felt that the drug-related crime trend had decreased over the past year, compared to zero percent in 1993 (see Table 15).

**Table 14: Is Community Safer Today than Three Years Ago?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Safer	7.9	0.0	4.6	2.8	- 1.8	- 5.1
About as Safe	59.4	36.2	47.7	42.6	- 5.1	- 16.8
Not as Safe	29.7	60.0	47.7	50.9	+ 3.2	+ 21.2
Don't Know	3.0	3.8	0.0	3.7	+ 3.7	+ 0.7

**Table 15: Drug-Related Crime Trends in the Last Year In Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Increased	38.6	53.3	47.7	42.6	- 5.1	+ 4.0
Stay Same	41.6	35.2	50.8	39.8	- 11.0	- 1.8
Decreased	3.0	1.9	0.0	1.9	+ 1.9	- 1.1
Don't Know	16.8	9.5	1.5	15.7	+ 14.2	- 1.1

### **Performance Measure II: Monthly Performance Measure**

The George-Greene Task Force's objective performance was taken from reports covering an eight month period (see Table 16). There were two arrests for criminal manufacturing, twenty-two arrests for illegal sales, and sixty-three arrests

for illegal possession. With regard to charges, there were two reported for criminal manufacturing, eight for illegal sales and nineteen for illegal possession.

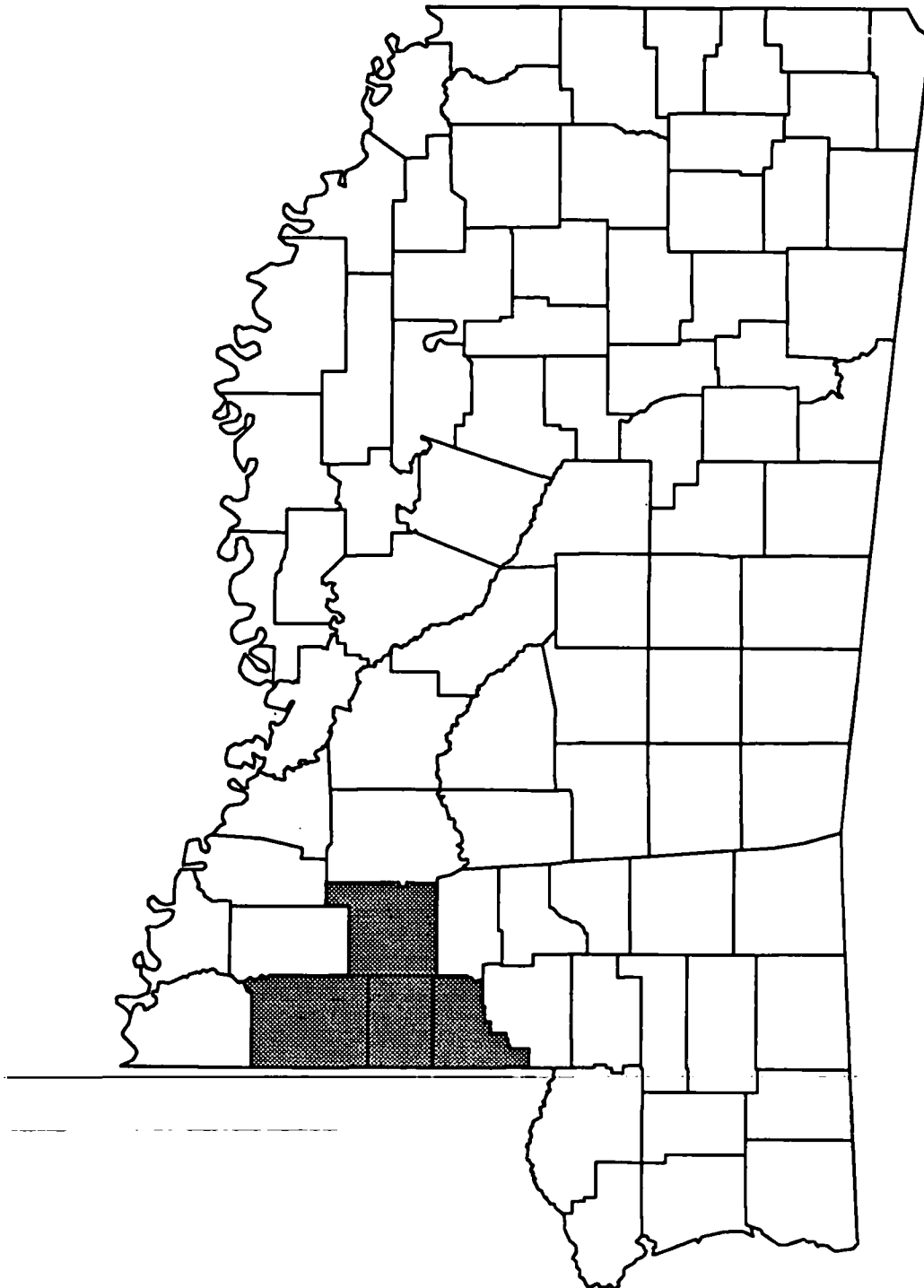
The task force reported seizing 1,075 ounces of marijuana and fifty-two marijuana plants. Also reported seized were twenty-one and one-half grams of powdered cocaine.

**Table 16. George-Greene Counties Drug Task Force's Performance Measures**

<b>ARRESTS</b>	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Illegal Sales</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Illegal Possession</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>CHARGES</b>	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Illegal Sales</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Illegal Possession</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>DRUGS SEIZED</b>	
<b>Marijuana</b>	<b>1075 ounces</b>
<b>Marijuana Plants</b>	<b>52 plants</b>
<b>Powdered Cocaine</b>	<b>21.5 Grams</b>

# Lincoln-Pike-Walthall-Amite Counties

Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force



## LINCOLN-PIKE-WALTHALL-AMITE COUNTIES

### Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force Evaluation

During 1993 this task force did not include Amite County. Also, during 1992 Franklin County was part of the task force but withdrew subsequent to the 1993 final report. The results presented in the following section are based on telephone survey responses from 126 residents served by the task force.

The perceptions of residents in the Lincoln-Pike-Walthall-Amite area pertaining to law enforcement effectiveness were addressed in this study by asking respondents "How likely is it that someone would get caught selling drugs?" This question was used to assess the extent to which residents in the target area perceived that law enforcement would catch drug pushers (see Table 17).

Table 17: Likelihood of Being Arrested for Selling Drugs

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Very Likely	30.4	24.3	17.9	33.3	+ 15.4	+ 2.9
Somewhat Likely	57.8	56.3	71.6	53.2	- 18.4	- 4.6
Unlikely	5.9	13.6	7.5	9.5	+ 2.0	+ 3.6
Don't Know	5.9	5.8	3.0	4.0	+ 1.0	- 1.9

The perceptions of respondents in the Lincoln-Pike-Walthall-Amite task force area have improved somewhat since 1993, with 33.3 percent stating a "very likely"

chance of catching pushers. This is a 15.4 percent increase from 1993. Although an increase did occur between 1993 and 1994 for those perceiving an "unlikely" chance of being caught, it was only a slight one (2.0 percentage points) (see Table 17).

As shown in Table 18, residents were also asked to rate police services and police protection in their area. From 1991 to 1994, the percentage of respondents reporting that police protection was "good" decreased by 5.7 percentage points, and by 16.8 percent between 1993 and 1994. There was also a substantial change for the rating of "poor." Between 1991 and 1994, this rating increased by 8.3 percentage points; and between 1993 and 1994, this rating increased by 21.5 percent (see Table 18).

**Table 18: Rating of Police Protection**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Good	38.2	56.3	49.3	32.5	- 16.8	- 5.7
Fair	44.1	33.0	49.2	42.1	- 7.1	- 2.0
Poor	14.7	10.7	1.5	23.0	+ 21.5	+ 8.3
Don't Know /Refused	2.9	0.0	0.0	2.4	+ 2.4	- 0.5

In those areas in which multijurisdictional drug task forces were operating, it was hypothesized that the percent of residents reporting fear of personal and property

crimes would decrease over time. Tables 19 and 20 show the questions and response categories used to assess the validity of this hypothesis.

In terms of personal safety, the changes between 1991 and 1994 and between 1993 and 1994 were relatively equal. For those responding "Yes" to the statement "I worry about my personal safety," there was a 13.2 percent increase between 1991 and 1994, and a 7.3 percent increase between 1993 and 1994. For those responding "No" to the statement, the changes were approximately the same but in the opposite direction (see Table 19). In terms of property crimes, an increase of 8.6 percent occurred between 1991 and 1994 for those responding in the affirmative; while a decrease of 9.3 occurred for those responding negatively (see Table 20).

**Table 19: Worry About Personal Safety**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	59.8	64.1	65.7	73.0	+ 7.3	+ 13.2
No	40.2	35.9	34.3	26.9	- 7.4	- 13.3

**Table 20: Worry About the Safety of My Property**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	67.6	71.8	70.1	76.2	+ 6.1	+ 8.6
No	32.3	28.2	29.9	23.0	- 6.9	- 9.3
Don't Know	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	+ 0.8	+ 0.8

To determine the extent to which residents in the target area were aware of their drug task force, the following question was asked: "Is there a multijurisdictional drug task force in your county?" As Table 21 shows, more than half (57.1%) of the respondents are aware of the task force. This is a decrease of 13.0 percent since 1993, but an increase of 3.2 percent since the first survey in 1991. Just over one-third of the sample stated they "don't know" about the task force.

**Table 21: Is There a Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force in Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	53.9	54.4	70.1	57.1	- 13.0	+ 3.2
No	20.6	13.6	6.0	7.9	+ 1.9	- 12.7
Don't Know	25.5	32.0	23.9	34.9	+ 11.0	+ 9.4

In terms of community safety, the results of the analysis show that whereas most respondents in 1991 felt that their community was "about as safe" as it was three years prior, each year following shows the majority perceiving their community to be "not as safe" as it was three years prior (see Table 22). In 1994, 65.9 percent of the sample responded that their community wasn't as safe as three years earlier. This is an increase of 30.6 percent between 1991 and 1994, and a 9.2 percent increase between 1993 and 1994 (see Table 22).



**Table 22: Is Community Safer Today than Three Years Ago?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
<b>Safer</b>	7.8	3.9	3.0	2.4	- 0.6	- 5.4
<b>About as Safe</b>	54.9	32.0	38.8	27.8	- 11.0	- 27.1
<b>Not as Safe</b>	35.3	60.2	56.7	65.9	+ 9.2	+ 30.6
<b>Don't Know</b>	2.0	3.9	1.5	4.0	+ 2.5	+ 2.0

Respondents were also asked whether they thought drug-related crime had increased, decreased, or stayed the same within the last year (see Table 23). Between 1991 and 1994 the number of residents who perceived an increase in such crimes rose 26.0 percentage points, while those perceiving that the rate of these crimes has stayed the same decreased by 26.4 percentage points. Only 4.8 percent of the respondents in 1994 believe drug-related crime trends have decreased in the last year (see Table 23).

**Table 23: Drug-Related Crime Trends in the Last Year In Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
<b>Increased</b>	34.3	48.5	55.2	60.3	+ 5.1	+ 26.0
<b>Stay Same</b>	51.0	35.9	37.3	24.6	- 12.7	- 26.4
<b>Decreased</b>	2.9	4.9	4.5	4.8	+ 0.3	+ 1.9
<b>Don't Know</b>	11.8	10.7	3.0	10.3	+ 7.3	- 1.5

## Performance Measure II: Monthly Performance Measure

The Pike-Lincoln-Wathall-Amite Drug Task Force submitted performance reports for each of the twelve months during the 1994 drug task force year. During this time there were seven arrests for criminal manufacturing, forty-eight arrests for illegal sales, and 105 arrests for illegal possession. They reported seven charges of criminal manufacturing, one hundred twenty-seven charges of illegal sales, and one hundred eighteen charges of illegal possession.

The excellent reporting and outstanding arrest records were accompanied by substantial seizures. The task force reported seizing 5,419.3 ounces of marijuana, and seven hundred forty-one marijuana plants. Also seized were six hundred thirty-seven grams of powdered cocaine.

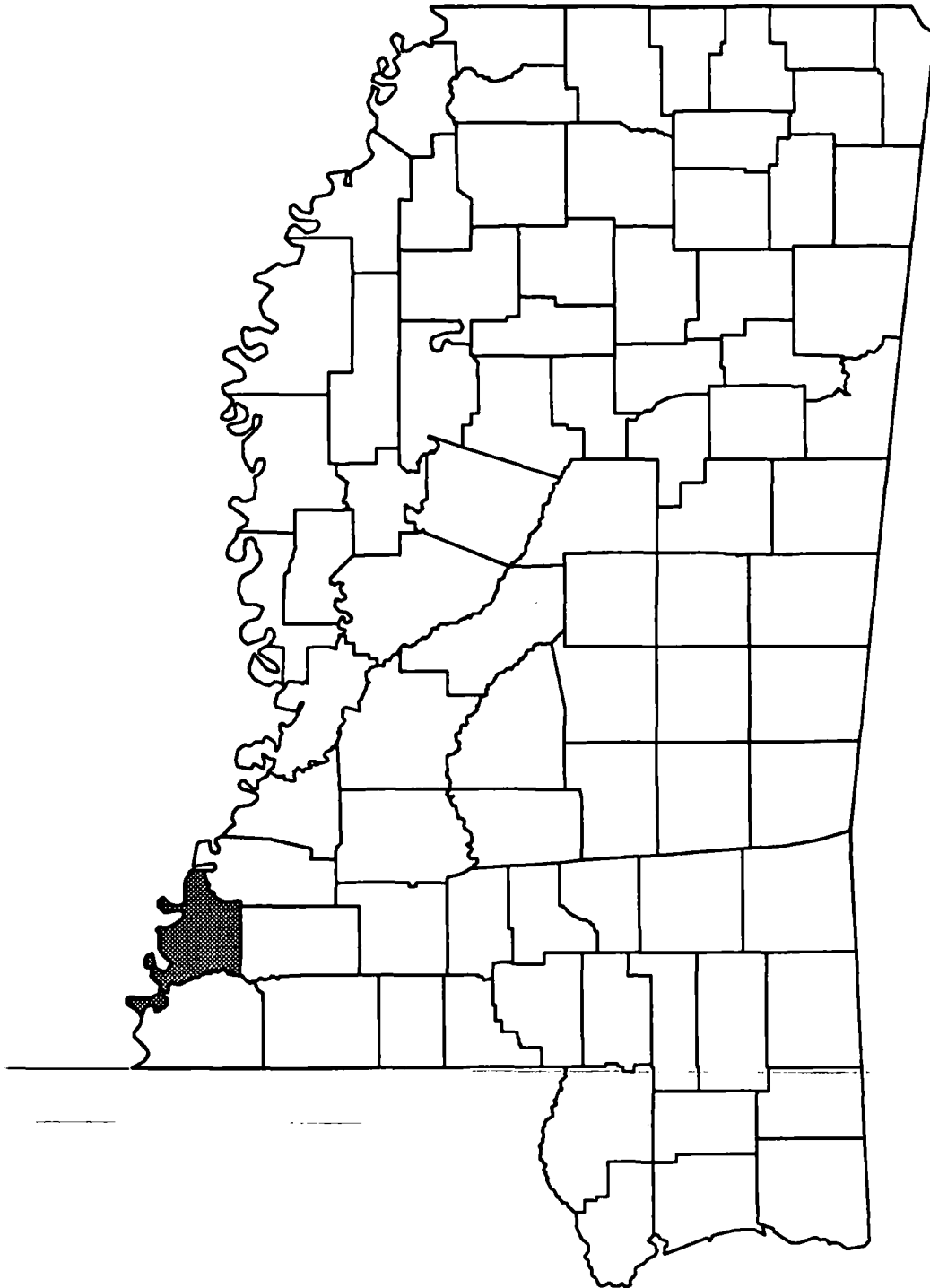
Table 24.

Pike-Lincoln-Wathall-Amite Drug Task Force's Performance Measures

<b>ARRESTS</b>	
Manufacturing	7
Illegal Sales	48
Illegal Possession	105
<b>CHARGES</b>	
Manufacturing	7
Illegal Sales	127
Illegal Possession	118
<b>DRUGS SEIZED</b>	
Marijuana	5419.3 ounces
Marijuana Plants	741 plants
Powdered Cocaine	637 Grams

# Adams County

## Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force



## **ADAMS COUNTY**

### **Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force Evaluation**

The Adams County multijurisdictional drug task force was in its sixth year of operations when this evaluation was conducted. Adams County is located in southwest Mississippi and encompasses 460.29 square miles. There are approximately 16,270 males and 19,086 females in the target area, comprising a total population of 35,356. The data presented below are based on responses obtained through telephone interviews with 109 Adams County residents.

To assess the extent to which residents in the target area believe that drug pushers would be arrested, respondents were asked: "How likely is it that someone would get caught selling drugs?" As shown in Table 25, the percent of residents who perceived that drug dealers had a good chance of being caught in 1994 decreased 14.7 percent from 1991, and 3.8 percent from 1993. However, those perceiving a "somewhat likely" chance increased 11.9 percent between 1991 and 1994. No noticeable changes occurred for those respondents reporting an "unlikely" chance of drug dealers being arrested (see Table 25).

The quality of police protection was also rated by residents of Adams County (see Table 26). In 1994, 42.2 percent of respondents rated police protection as "Good," and 46.8 percent rated it as "Fair." These are slight increases since 1991, and slight decreases since 1993 (see Table 26).

**Table 25: Likelihood of Being Arrested for Selling Drugs**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Very Likely	41.3	24.5	30.4	26.6	- 3.8	- 14.7
Somewhat Likely	49.6	62.8	60.7	61.5	+ 0.8	+ 11.9
Unlikely	5.5	7.8	5.4	5.5	+ 0.1	0.0
Don't Know	3.7	4.9	3.6	6.4	+ 2.8	+ 2.7

**Table 26: Rating of Police Protection**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Good	41.3	43.1	42.8	42.2	- 0.6	+ 0.9
Fair	41.3	40.2	55.4	46.8	- 8.6	+ 5.5
Poor	11.9	7.8	1.8	8.3	+ 6.5	- 3.6
Don't Know /Refused	5.5	8.8	0.0	2.8	+ 2.8	- 2.7

It is hypothesized that the percentage of residents reporting fear of personal and property crimes would decrease over time in those areas where multijurisdictional drug task forces operate. To test the validity of this hypothesis, respondents were asked if they worried about their personal safety and the safety of their property (see Tables 27 and 28). Results for 1994 indicate that the majority of respondents (68.8%) do worry about their personal safety as well as the safety of their property (70.7%). As can be

seen in Tables 27 and 28, since 1993's survey a slightly larger percentage of residents have indicated they do not worry about personal or property safety; whereas between 1991 and 1994 a slight increase occurred in the percentage of those indicating they do worry about personal and property safety.

**Table 27: Worry About Personal Safety**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	59.6	59.8	71.4	68.8	- 2.6	+ 9.2
No	40.4	40.2	28.6	31.1	+ 2.5	- 9.3

**Table 28: Worry About the Safety of My Property**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	62.4	64.7	75.0	70.7	- 4.3	+ 8.3
No	37.6	33.4	25.0	29.3	+ 4.3	- 8.3
Don't Know	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

To determine the degree of awareness of the existence of the multijurisdictional drug task forces, residents were asked: "Is there a multijurisdictional drug task force in your county?" A majority of respondents (68.8%) in 1994 indicated they knew of the task force (see Table 29). This figure is down 16.9 percent from 1993, but up 7.3 percent from 1991.

Residents were also asked about changes in the level of safety within their community in the last three years (see Table 30). In 1991, the majority (47.7%) felt that their community was "about as safe" as three years prior. For the next three years,

**Table 29: Is There a Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force in Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	61.5	72.5	85.7	68.8	- 16.9	+ 7.3
No	13.8	6.9	5.4	4.6	- 0.8	- 9.2
Don't Know	24.8	20.6	8.9	26.6	+ 17.7	+ 1.8

however, the majority (66.7% for 1992, 57.1% for 1993, and 61.5% for 1994) indicated that their community was "not as safe" as three years before. This is a 26.6 percent increase between 1991 and 1994 (see Table 30).

**Table 30: Is Community Safer Today than Three Years Ago?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Safer	10.1	4.9	5.4	3.7	- 1.7	- 6.4
About as Safe	47.7	26.5	35.7	29.4	- 6.3	- 18.3
Not as Safe	34.9	66.7	57.1	61.5	+ 4.4	+ 26.6
Don't Know	7.3	2.0	1.8	5.5	+ 3.7	- 1.8

Finally, Adams County residents were asked about their perceptions regarding drug-related crime trends (see Table 31). A very small percentage (3.7%) perceive a decrease in these crimes in their area for 1994. Most respondents (62.4%) in 1994 felt the trends had increased in the past year. This is a 23.0 percent increase since 1991, and only a 1.7 percent increase since 1993.

**Table 31: Drug-Related Crime Trends in the Last Year In Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Increased	39.4	72.5	60.7	62.4	+ 1.7	+ 23.0
Stay Same	42.2	17.6	30.4	26.6	- 3.8	- 15.6
Decreased	2.8	3.9	3.6	3.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Don't Know	15.6	5.9	5.4	7.3	+ 1.9	- 8.3

#### **Performance Measure II: Monthly Performance Measure**

Adams County Task Force submitted only four monthly reports during the entire twelve month period. These reports were incomplete and as a result yielded little useful data. There were no arrests for criminal manufacturing, six arrests for illegal sales, and 6 arrests for illegal possession. No detainees were charged for manufacturing, illegal sales, or illegal possession (see Table 32).

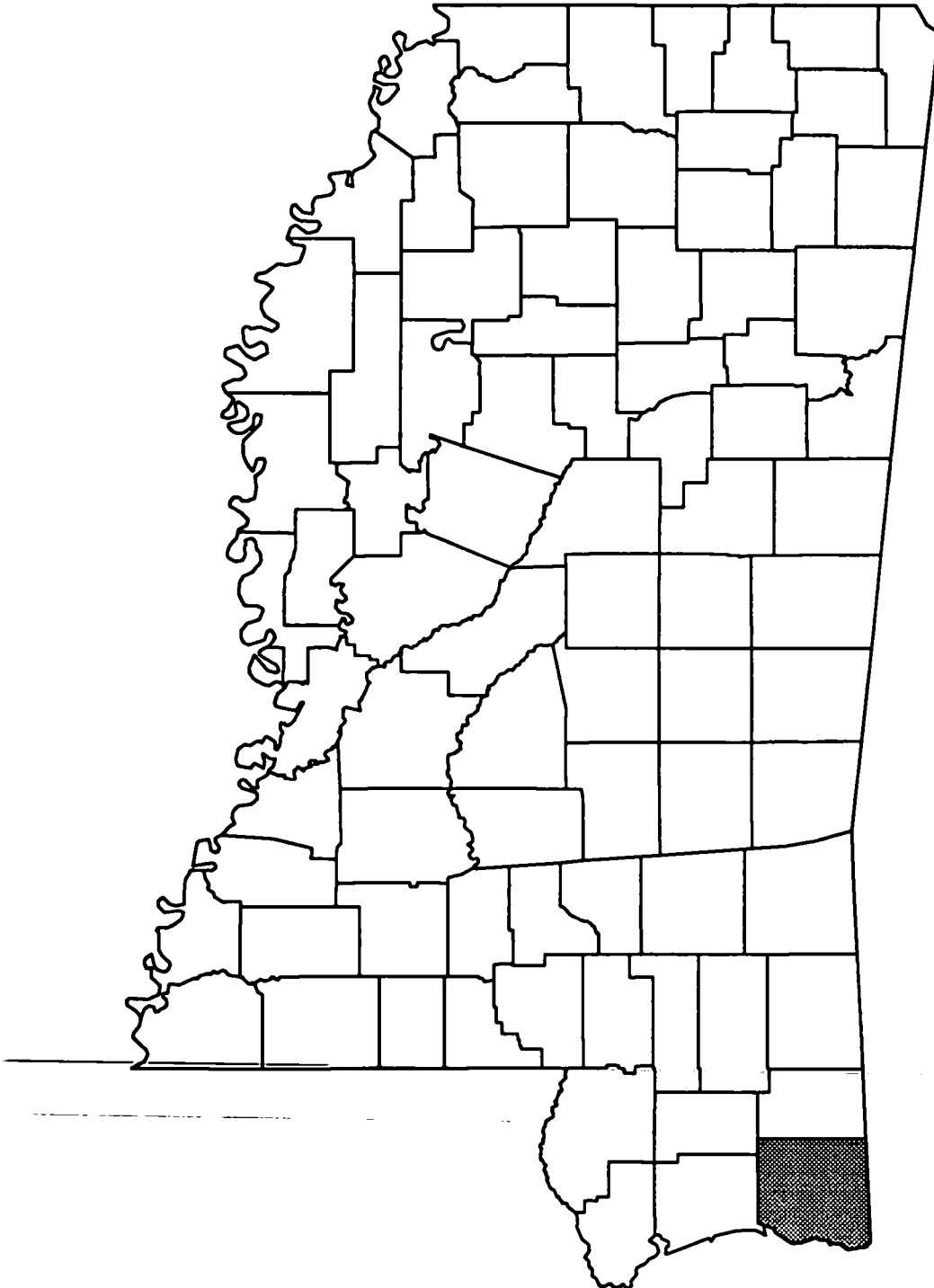


**Table 32. Adams County Drug Task Force's Performance Measures**

<b>ARRESTS</b>	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Illegal Sales</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Illegal Possession</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CHARGES</b>	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Illegal Sales</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Illegal Possession</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>DRUGS SEIZED</b>	
<b>Marijuana</b>	<b>100.3 ounces</b>
<b>Marijuana Plants</b>	<b>0 plants</b>
<b>Powdered Cocaine</b>	<b>11.9 grams</b>

# Jackson County

## Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force



## **JACKSON COUNTY**

### **Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force Evaluation**

This drug task force is in its fifth year of operation. Jackson County is located in the extreme southeastern corner of the state, and covers approximately 726 square miles. The county's total population is about 115,000 residents. The data in this section are based on responses obtained from 123 residents living within the task force area.

In order to assess the extent to which residents in the target area perceived that law enforcement would catch drug pushers, residents of Jackson County were questioned as to the likelihood that someone would get caught selling drugs in their area. The results in Table 33 reveal that public perceptions regarding the likelihood of arrest have decreased since 1993. The majority of respondents for 1991 (61.2%), 1992 (66.7%), 1993 (67.1%), and 1994 (65.0%) thought it only "somewhat likely" that someone would get arrested for selling drugs.

The quality of police protection was also rated by residents of Jackson County (see Table 34). The total percentage rating police services as "fair" decreased 10.3 percent between 1993 and 1994, and 16.7 percent between 1991 and 1994. However, those respondents rating police protection as "good" increased significantly (12.1 percentage points) between 1991 and 1994, and slightly between 1993 and 1994 (see Table 34).

**Table 33: Likelihood of Being Arrested for Selling Drugs**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Very Likely	31.1	22.5	23.6	22.0	- 1.6	- 9.1
Somewhat Likely	61.2	66.7	67.1	65.0	- 2.1	+ 3.8
Unlikely	4.9	5.9	9.1	9.8	+ 0.7	+ 4.9
Don't Know	2.9	4.9	0.0	3.3	+ 3.3	+ 0.4

**Table 34: Rating of Police Protection**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Good	50.5	61.8	63.7	62.6	- 1.1	+ 12.1
Fair	42.7	34.3	36.3	26.0	- 10.3	- 16.7
Poor	6.8	2.9	0.0	9.8	+ 9.8	+ 3.0
Don't Know /Refused	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.6	+ 1.6	+ 1.6

To assess the validity of the hypothesis that the percentage of residents reporting fear of personal and property crimes would decrease over time, residents were first asked if they worried about their personal safety, and secondly if they worried about the safety of their property (see Tables 35 and 36).

In terms of personal crimes, the majority of residents for each year (71.8%, 71.6%, 58.2%, and 65.9%, respectively) stated they did worry about their personal safety; however, this sentiment has decreased by 5.9 percent since the first

**Table 35: Worry About Personal Safety**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	71.8	71.6	58.2	65.9	+ 7.7	- 5.9
No	27.2	28.4	41.8	34.1	- 7.7	+ 6.9
Don't Know	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	- 1.0

evaluation in 1991 (see Table 36). The same is true for the concern of property safety, with most residents stating they do worry about the safety of their property. Almost 70 percent of the respondents in 1994 responded in the affirmative, a 3.7 percent increase from 1993 and a 6.6 percent decrease since 1991 (see Table 36).

**Table 36: Worry About the Safety of My Property**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	75.7	75.5	65.4	69.1	+ 3.7	- 6.6
No	24.3	24.5	34.6	30.9	- 3.7	+ 6.6

Jackson County residents were also asked if a multijurisdictional drug task force existed in their area. As shown in Table 37, nearly three-fourths of the respondents (74%) were aware of the task force's operations. This is a 9.9 percent increase from 1991, and a 13.3 percent decrease between 1993 and 1994. An approximate 6.0 percent decrease occurred between 1991 and 1994 for those respondents who were not aware of the task force in their area (see Table 37).

**Table 37: Is There a Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force in Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	64.1	84.3	87.3	74.0	- 13.3	+ 9.9
No	11.7	2.0	3.6	5.7	+ 2.1	- 6.0
Don't Know	24.3	13.7	9.1	20.3	+ 11.2	- 4.0

When assessing the perceptions of residents pertaining to community safety, it was indicated that the largest percentage feel their community is "not as safe" as three years prior (see Table 38). Only 3.3 percent of the residents surveyed indicated their community was "safer" than before. This is a 2.2 percent decrease since 1993, and an 8.4 percent decrease since 1991 (see Table 38).

**Table 38: Is Community Safer Today than Three Years Ago?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
<b>Safer</b>	11.7	4.9	5.5	3.3	- 2.2	- 8.4
<b>About as Safe</b>	39.8	35.3	49.1	38.2	- 10.9	- 1.6
<b>Not as Safe</b>	43.7	58.8	43.6	56.9	+ 13.3	+ 13.2
<b>Don't Know</b>	4.9	1.0	1.8	1.6	- 0.2	- 3.3

Finally, residents were asked their perceptions on the level of drug-related crime in their area in the past year (see Table 39). Just over half (51.2%) of those surveyed reported that drug-related crimes had "increased" in their area. This is a 16.7 percent increase over the 34.5 percent in 1993 who perceived an increase. More importantly, only 4.9 percent of the respondents felt that these crimes had "decreased" in the last year. Although this is a small increase from the 1993 figure (3.6%), it is a 1.9 percent decrease since the first evaluation of the task forces in 1991 (see Table 39).

**Table 39: Drug-Related Crime Trends in the Last Year In Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
<b>Increased</b>	50.5	52.9	34.5	51.2	+ 16.7	+ 0.7
<b>Stay Same</b>	33.0	31.4	54.5	35.0	- 19.5	+ 2.0
<b>Decreased</b>	6.8	6.9	3.6	4.9	+ 1.3	- 1.9
<b>Don't Know</b>	9.7	8.8	7.3	8.9	+ 1.6	- 0.8

## Performance Measure II: Monthly Performance Measure

Data covering ten months were submitted by the Jackson County Task Force (see Table 40). During this time they reported no arrests for criminal manufacturing, illegal sales, and reported fifty-seven arrests for illegal possession.

They reported charging two individuals with criminal manufacturing, one hundred fifty-seven people with illegal sales, but did not charge anyone with illegal possession. They reported 1,376.1 ounces of marijuana, 1,116.7 grams of powdered cocaine, and two hundred forty-eight marijuana plants.

Table 40. Jackson County Task Force's Performance Measures

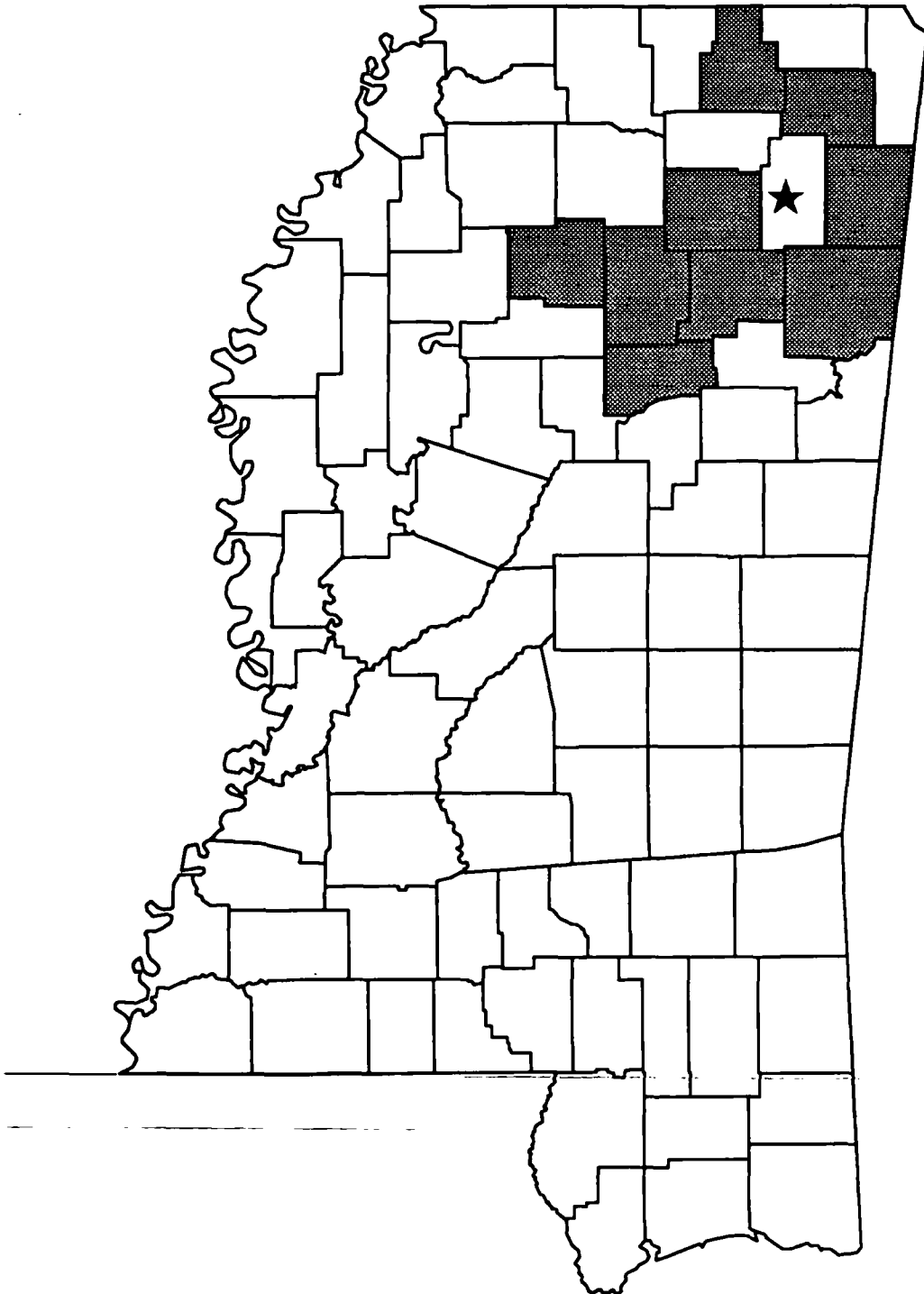
<b>ARRESTS</b>	
Manufacturing	0
Illegal Sales	0
Illegal Possession	57
<b>CHARGES</b>	
Manufacturing	2
Illegal Sales	157
Illegal Possession	0
<b>DRUGS SEIZED</b>	
Marijuana	1376.1 ounces
Marijuana Plants	248 plants
Powdered Cocaine	1116.7 grams



# North Mississippi Narcotics

Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force

Nine Counties and the City of Tupelo



## **North Mississippi Narcotics**

### **Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force Evaluation**

North Mississippi Narcotics is a multijurisdictional task force that covers Calhoun, Chickasaw, Itawamba, Monroe, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tippah, Webster, and Yalobusha counties. The task force also covers the City of Tupelo. The coverage of these nine counties and the City of Tupelo make this the largest jurisdiction in the study.

The first assessment concerns residents' perceptions of the likelihood of being arrested for selling drugs (see Table 41). The percentage of residents who perceived that drug dealers were "very likely" to be arrested decreased 16.7 percent between 1991 and 1994. Those perceiving it "somewhat likely" of catching dealers increased 8.6 percent between 1991 and 1994, and decreased 11.7 percent from 1993 to 1994. An increase of 3.5 percent occurred between 1991 and 1994 and between 1993 and 1994 for residents stating it "unlikely" that dealers would be arrested for selling drugs (see Table 41).

Lee County residents were also asked about the quality of police protection in the target area (see Table 42). The percentage of residents reporting that the level of police protection was "good" increased by 7.7 percent between 1991 and 1994, and by 4.7 percent between 1993 and 1994. Approximately 6.4 percent of the sample in 1994 indicated a "poor" rating of police protection. This is a 2.6 percent increase over the

1993 figure of 3.8 percent; however, a 4.0 percent decrease has occurred since 1991 (see Table 42).

**Table 41: Likelihood of Being Arrested for Selling Drugs**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Very Likely	38.7	25.0	21.2	22.0	+ 0.8	- 16.7
Somewhat Likely	52.8	64.4	73.1	61.4	- 11.7	+ 8.6
Unlikely	3.8	7.7	3.8	7.3	+ 3.5	+ 3.5
Don't Know	4.7	2.9	1.9	9.2	+ 7.3	+ 4.5

**Table 42: Rating of Police Protection**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Good	54.7	61.6	57.7	62.4	+ 4.7	+ 7.7
Fair	28.3	31.7	38.4	27.5	- 10.9	- 0.8
Poor	10.4	5.8	3.8	6.4	+ 2.6	- 4.0
Don't Know /Refused	6.6	1.0	0.0	3.7	+ 3.7	- 2.9

Two questions were included on the survey to assess the perceptions of Lee County residents regarding their concern for personal and property safety (see Tables 43 and 44). The hypothesis was made by the researchers that the percent of residents

reporting fear of personal and property crimes would decrease over time in those areas in which multijurisdictional drug task forces were operating.

When referring to personal safety, 69.7 percent of the residents included in the survey indicated they worry about their personal safety (see Table 43). This is a small decrease from the 73.1 percent in 1993. Those who responded negatively to the question comprise 30.3 percent of the sample, which is a 3.4 percent increase from the previous year's survey (see Table 43).

**Table 43: Worry About Personal Safety**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	64.1	69.2	73.1	69.7	- 3.4	+ 5.6
No	34.9	30.8	26.9	30.3	+ 3.4	- 4.6
Don't Know	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	- 0.9

With regard to respondent's concern about the safety of their property, Lee County residents seemed less concerned than in previous years (see Table 44). Approximately 72.5 percent of 1994 respondents admitted to concern for property safety, a 10.2 percent decrease from 1993 and a 7.7 percent decrease since 1991. The percentage of those stating they did not worry about the safety of their property (27.5%) occurred in 1994 (see Table 44). This percentage is higher than any of the previous years' negative responses.

Residents were also asked "Is there a multijurisdictional drug task force in your county?" As Table 45 indicates, a majority (74.3%) are aware of the task force operations in their area. This number is down 8.4 percent from 1993 and 1.2 percent from the first year of analyses. A small 2.8 percent of the residents surveyed were not aware of the task force in their area (see Table 45).

**Table 44: Worry About the Safety of My Property**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	80.2	80.8	82.7	72.5	- 10.2	- 7.7
No	18.9	19.2	17.3	27.5	+ 10.2	+ 8.6
Don't Know	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	- 0.9

**Table 45: Is There a Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force in Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Yes	75.5	70.2	82.7	74.3	- 8.4	- 1.2
No	6.6	5.8	1.9	2.8	+ 0.9	- 3.8
Don't Know	17.9	24.0	15.4	22.9	+ 7.5	+ 5.0

When asked about community safety, only 3.7 percent of the residents reported their community was "safer" than it was three years ago (see Table 46). Although this is a small increase over the 1993 figure of 1.9 percent, it is a significant decrease of 7.6

percent from the first evaluation in 1991. The percentage (26.6%) of those residents perceiving their community as "about as safe" has also decreased. Between 1991 and 1994, this number decreased by 29.1 percentage points; and between 1993 and 1994, this total decreased by 17.6 percent (see Table 46). Another significant difference occurred for those responding their community was "not as safe" as three years prior (68.8%). This total surpassed 1991 figures by 39.6 percent and 1993 figures by 16.9 percentage points, indicating that Lee County residents feel safe in their community in 1994 than in any of the previous years.

**Table 46: Is Community Safer Today than Three Years Ago?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Safer	11.3	7.7	1.9	3.7	+ 1.8	- 7.6
About as Safe	55.7	37.5	44.2	26.6	- 17.6	- 29.1
Not as Safe	29.2	49.0	51.9	68.8	+ 16.9	+ 39.6
Don't Know	3.8	5.8	1.9	0.9	- 1.0	- 2.9

Respondents were also questioned about drug-related crime trends for the last year. As shown in Table 47, 56.0 percent of the sample in 1994 indicated that crime

**Table 47: Drug-Related Crime Trends in the Last Year In Area?**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1991-94
Increased	42.5	54.8	53.8	56.0	+ 2.2	+ 13.5
Stay Same	38.7	31.7	38.5	35.8	- 2.7	- 2.9
Decreased	2.8	5.8	3.8	1.8	- 2.0	- 1.0
Don't Know	16.0	7.7	3.8	6.4	+ 2.6	- 9.6

trends had increased over the past year. This is a 2.2 percent increase from 1993, and a 13.5 percent decrease from 1991. The percentage of those residents who viewed the crimes as staying the same has remained constant over the past four years (see Table 47).

## Performance Measure II: Monthly Performance Measure

North Mississippi Narcotics Unit reported data for eleven of the twelve months (see Table 48). During this time they reported making nine arrests for criminal manufacturing, seventy-two arrests for illegal sales, and three hundred and eighty-one arrests for illegal possession. Nineteen individuals were charged with criminal manufacturing, two hundred seventy-six with illegal sales, and three hundred ninety-three with illegal possession. The task force reported seizing 1,001.1 ounces of marijuana, six hundred fifty-eight marijuana plants, and 558.3 grams of powdered cocaine.

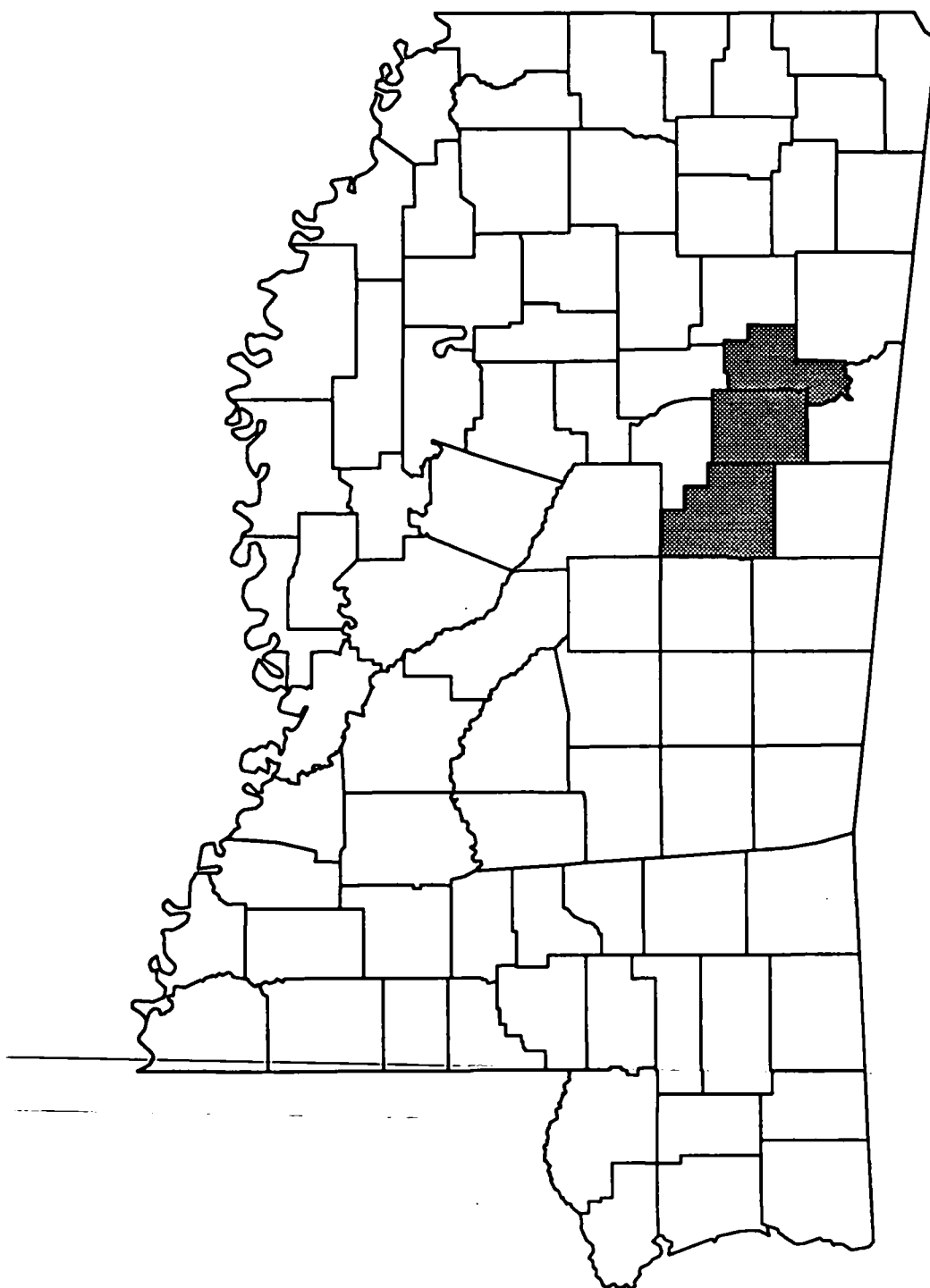
Table 48. North Mississippi Narcotics Drug Task Force's Performance Measures

<b>ARRESTS</b>	
Manufacturing	9
Illegal Sales	72
Illegal Possession	381
<b>CHARGES</b>	
Manufacturing	19
Illegal Sales	276
Illegal Possession	393
<b>DRUGS SEIZED</b>	
Marijuana	1001.1 ounces
Marijuana Plants	658 plants
Powdered Cocaine	558.3 grams



# Winston-Clay-Oktribbeha Counties

Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force



## WINSTON-CLAY-OKTIBBEHA

### Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force Evaluation

The Winston-Clay-Oktibbeha Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force, or the Tri-County Narcotics Task Force, is located in the East Central region of the state and covers almost 1,484 square miles. The population of the area is approximately 78,830. There are 38,141 males and 40,696 females served by this unit. The data for this evaluation were gathered through telephone interviews with 125 residents in the tri-county area. This task force has been evaluated only two years prior to this year, unlike the previously discussed task forces which were evaluated for three years prior.

To assess the extent to which residents in the target area perceived that law enforcement would catch drug pushers, they were asked: "How likely is it that someone would get caught selling drugs?" The results in Table 49 reveal that the majority of residents in the area (64%) stated that it was "somewhat likely" that a drug dealer would be arrested. This was a 13.5 percent increase over 1992, and a 2.0

Table 49: Likelihood of Being Arrested for Selling Drugs

	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1992-94
Very Likely	22.9	24.2	22.4	- 1.8	- 0.5
Somewhat Likely	50.5	62.0	64.0	+ 2.0	+ 13.5
Unlikely	19.0	6.9	8.8	+ 1.9	- 10.2
Don't Know	7.6	6.9	4.8	- 2.1	- 2.8

percentage point increase since 1993. Only 8.8 percent of the sample indicated it is "unlikely" that someone would be arrested for selling drugs. This is a 10.2 percent decrease since 1992 (see Table 49).

Residents were also asked about the quality of police protection and services within the task force area (see Table 50). From 1992 to 1994, the percentage of respondents reporting that police protection was "poor" increased by 15.0 percentage points. From 1993 to 1994 alone this figure increased by 10.8 percentage points. Adding to the overall perception, numbers for both "good" and "fair" responses decreased by 1994 (see Table 50).

**Table 50: Rating of Police Protection**

	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1992-94
Good	47.5	44.8	47.2	+ 2.4	- 0.3
Fair	50.5	46.6	32.0	- 14.6	- 18.5
Poor	1.0	5.2	16.0	+ 10.8	+ 15.0
Don't Know /Refused	1.0	3.4	4.8	+ 1.4	+ 3.8

Personal safety and property safety were also a concern in this study (see Tables 51 and 52). As shown in Table 51, the majority (66.4%) of respondents do worry about their personal safety. This total has escalated from the 55.2 percent in 1993, and rose only 2.6 percent since 1992. The percentage of those with negative

responses in 1994 (32.8%) was lower than both 1992 (35.2%) and 1993 (44.8%) figures.

**Table 51:      Worry About Personal Safety**

	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1992-94
Yes	63.8	55.2	66.4	+ 11.2	+ 2.6
No	35.2	44.8	32.8	- 12.0	- 2.4
Don't Know	1.0	0.0	0.8	+ 0.8	- 0.2

**Table 52:      Worry About the Safety of My Property**

	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1992-94
Yes	64.8	60.3	72.0	+ 11.7	+ 7.2
No	34.2	39.7	28.0	- 11.7	- 6.2
Don't Know	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	- 1.0

Approximately 72.0 percent of Tri-County residents indicated they worried about the safety of their property (see Table 52). This is a 7.2 percent increase since 1992, and an 11.7 percent increase since 1993. Also, a smaller percentage of 1994 respondents than 1992 or 1993 respondents indicated they were not concerned with the safety of their property (see Table 52).

In order for multijurisdictional drug task forces to be as effective as possible, the general public must be aware of their presence. To determine the extent to which

residents in the target area were aware of the drug task force, they were asked: "Is there a multijurisdictional drug task force in your county?" The percent of residents who reported they were aware of the task force decreased by 6.8 percent between 1993 and 1994, and increased only 1.8 percent from 1992 to 1994 (see Table 53).

**Table 53: Is There a Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force in Area?**

	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1992-94
<b>Yes</b>	63.8	72.4	65.6	- 6.8	+ 1.8
<b>No</b>	13.3	6.9	4.0	- 2.9	- 9.3
<b>Don't Know</b>	22.9	20.7	30.4	+ 9.7	+ 7.5

In terms of community safety, respondents were asked whether their community was "safer," "about as safe," or "not as safe" as compared to three years ago (see Table 54). The results indicated that most respondents (60.0%) believe their community is not as safe as it used to be. This figure has increased 13.4 percent since 1993, and 9.5 percent since 1992, indicating an increased fear of crime in this area.

**Table 54: Is Community Safer Today than Three Years Ago?**

	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1992-94
Safer	5.7	5.2	4.8	- 0.4	- 0.9
About as Safe	42.9	48.3	29.6	- 18.7	- 13.3
Not as Safe	50.5	46.6	60.0	+ 13.4	+ 9.5
Don't Know	1.0	0.0	5.6	+ 5.6	+ 4.6

Respondents were also asked whether drug-related crime trends had "increased," "decreased," or "stayed the same" in the last year (see Table 55). The most frequent response for each of the three years of the study was that it had increased. The percent of residents who stated that these crimes had increased rose 9.4 percent between 1993 and 1994, decreasing only 2.0 percent from 1992 to 1994.

**Table 55: Drug-Related Crime Trends in the Last Year In Area?**

	1992	1993	1994	% Point Change 1993-94	% Point Change 1992-94
Increased	56.2	46.6	56.0	+ 9.4	- 0.2
Stay Same	30.5	44.8	27.2	- 17.6	- 3.3
Decreased	1.9	5.2	2.4	- 2.8	+ 0.5
Don't Know	11.4	3.4	14.4	+ 11.0	+ 3.0

## Performance Measure II: Monthly Performance Measure

The Tri-County Drug Task Force submitted reports for seven months during the last reporting year. During that year they made two arrests for criminal manufacturing, two arrests for illegal sales, and thirty-six arrests for illegal possession. They did not charge anyone with criminal manufacturing, they charged twenty-six individuals with illegal sales, and no one was charged with illegal possession. Sixteen ounces of marijuana were seized as was one marijuana plant. The Tri-County officers also seized 0.10 grams of powdered cocaine (see Table 56).

Table 56. Tri-County Drug Task Force's Performance Measures

<b>ARRESTS</b>	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Illegal Sales</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Illegal Possession</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>CHARGES</b>	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Illegal Sales</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Illegal Possession</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>DRUGS SEIZED</b>	
<b>Marijuana</b>	<b>16 ounces</b>
<b>Marijuana Plants</b>	<b>1 plants</b>
<b>Powdered Cocaine</b>	<b>0.1 grams</b>

**PERFORMANCE MEASURE III**

**SURVEY OF TASK FORCE OFFICERS**



## **INTRODUCTION**

Each year, Mississippi's drug task force officers not only fight the war against drugs, but also the crimes that the drug trade generates. Members of these task forces possess information regarding drug-related arrests, drug seizures, prosecution trends, and gang-related problems in their jurisdictions. The following survey results were gathered from task force officers in Mississippi. The task force officer survey is one of three methods used to evaluate Mississippi's multijurisdictional drug task forces.

### **Data Collection and Method**

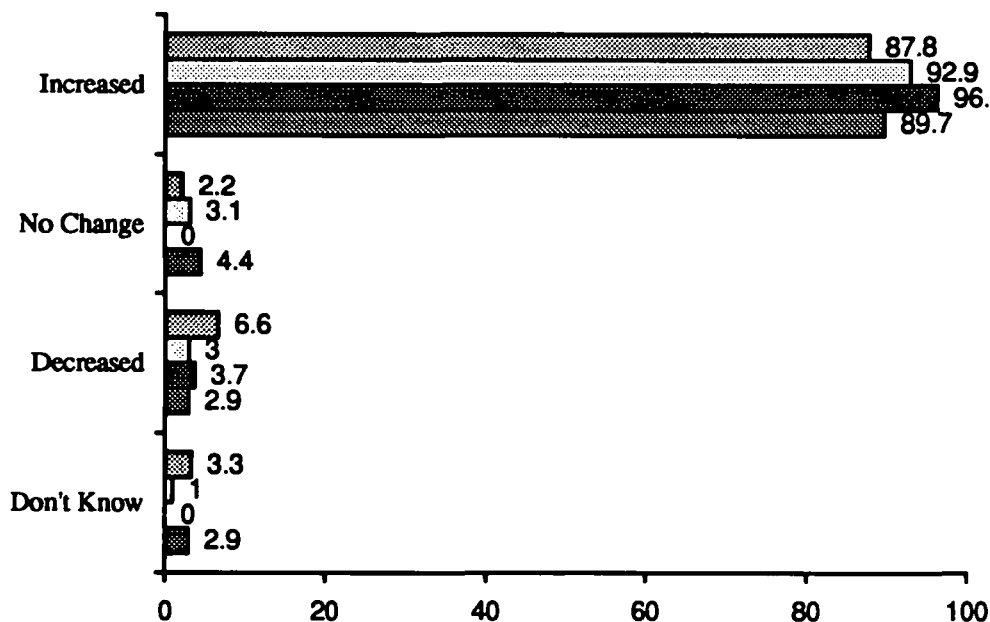
The data for the Year 4 evaluation were collected by Research Scientists in the Mississippi Crime and Justice Research Unit (MCJRU) at Mississippi State University. The format of the questionnaires remained the same as the previous three years (1991-1993). These surveys were mailed to 160 multijurisdictional drug task force supervisors and officers during the Spring of 1994. Ninety surveys were returned completed, yielding a 56.2 percent response rate. The main objective of the survey was to obtain and measure the perceptions of the drug task force officers relating to drug-related and gang-related crimes in their jurisdictions. Perceptions for selected items are compared to the three previous, annually completed surveys.

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## Drug Seizures

Task force supervisors and officers were asked to indicate how the number of drug seizures in their jurisdiction had changed since the development of their drug task force (Figure 1). This same question was asked of respondents for Years 1, 2, and 3. For Year 4, 87.8 percent of the respondents indicated that the number of drug seizures had increased since the formation of the task force. This is a 5.1 percent decrease from Year 3, a 8.5 percent decrease from Year 2, and a 1.9 percent decrease from Year 1. Just 6.6 percent of respondents perceived a decrease in the number of drug seizures for Year 4, a 3.3 percent increase from Year 3, a 2.9 percent increase from Year 2, and a 3.7 percent increase from Year 1. Just 6.6 percent of respondents perceived a decrease in the number of drug seizures for Year 4, a 3.3 percent increase from Year 3, a 2.9 percent increase from Year 2, and a 3.7 percent increase from Year 1.

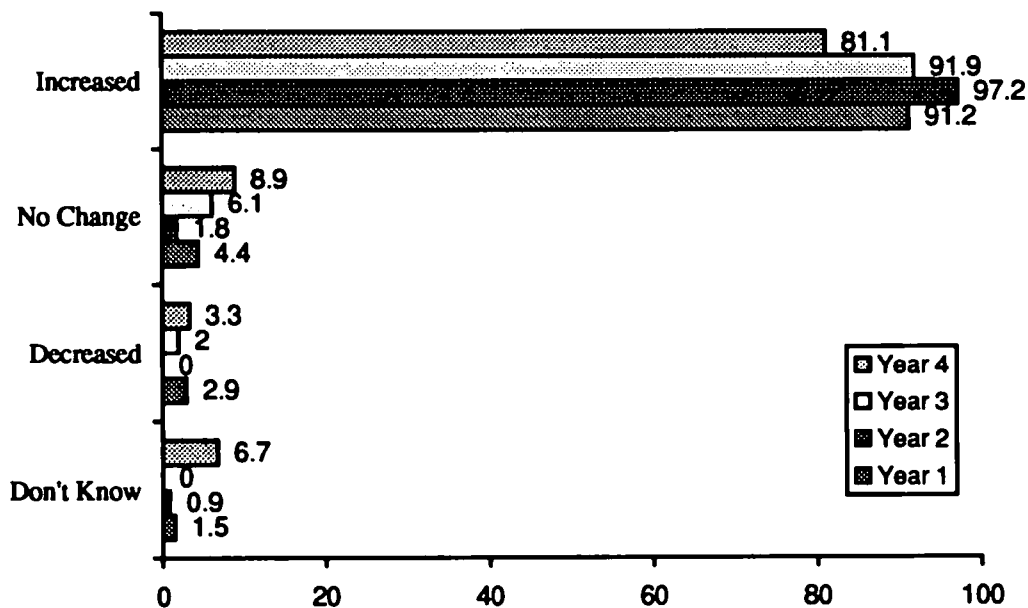
Fig. 1 Rates of Drug Seizures 1991-1994



## Street Level Drug Dealer Arrests

Task force officers were also asked about the number of street level drug dealers who have been arrested (Figure 2). For Year 4, 81.1 percent of the officers perceived an increase in the number of arrests. This is 10.8 percent less than Year 3, 16.1 percent less than Year 2, and a 10.1 percent fewer officers who reported an increase in arrests from Year 1. Almost 9 percent of Year 4 respondents felt there had been no change in the amount of arrests for street level drug dealers. This is slightly higher than the 6.1 percent of respondents in Year 3, and much higher than the 1.8 percent in Year 2.

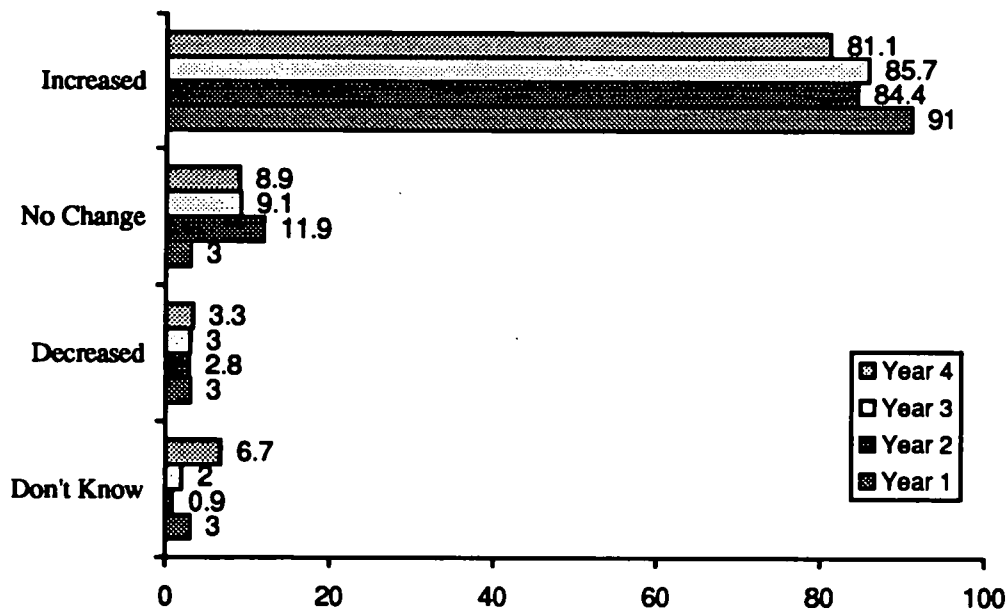
Fig. 2 Street Level Drug Dealer Arrests 1991-1994



### Street Level Drug Dealer Prosecutions

Respondents were also asked their opinion about the number of prosecutions of street level drug dealers (Figure 3). Results indicated that 81.1 percent of the officers perceived that the number of prosecutions had increased during Year 4. This percent is slightly down from Year 3 (85.7 percent) and Year 2 (84.4 percent). However, there has been an almost 10 percentage point drop from Year 1 to Year 4. The number of officers who thought that there had either been no change or a decrease in the amount of prosecutions of street level drug dealers have roughly remained the same over the last 3 years.

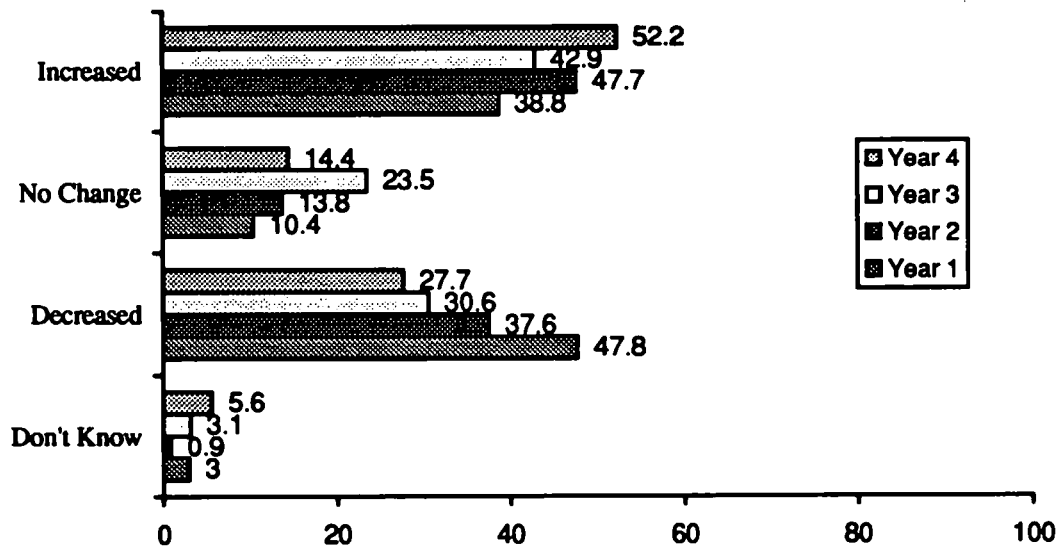
Fig. 3 Street Level Drug Dealer Prosecutions 1991-1994



## Drug Dealing

Task force supervisors and officers were asked to indicate their perceived changes in the extent of drug dealing within their jurisdiction since the formation of the multijurisdictional drug task force (Figure 4). Officers who believed that drug

Fig. 4 Perceived Changes in Extent of Drug Dealing Within Each Jurisdiction 1991-1994

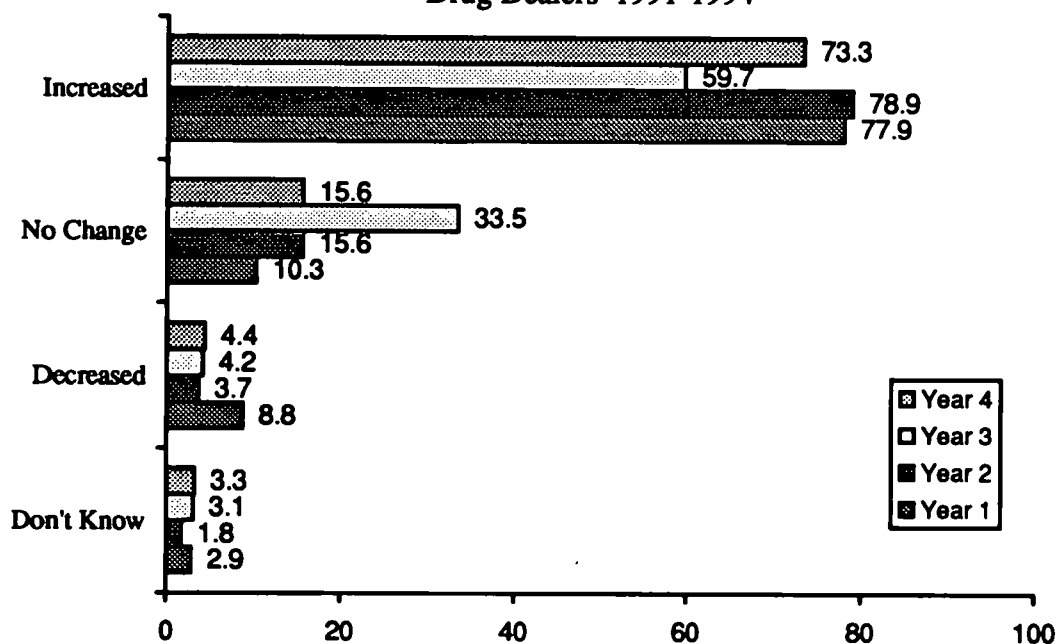


dealing had increased within their jurisdiction accounted for 52.2 percent of the total surveyed. This is a 9.2 percentage point increase since Year 3, a 4.5 percent increase since Year 2, and a 13.4 percentage point increase since Year 1. A lesser percentage (27.7 percent) of Year 4 respondents than of Year 3 (30.6 percent), Year 2 (37.6 percent), or Year 1 (47.8 percent) respondents believed that drug dealing in their jurisdiction had decreased. Also, the amount of respondents in Year 4 who reported that there had been no change in drug dealing has decreased since Year 3 by 9.1 percent.

## High Level Dealer Arrests

Over 73.3 percent of the respondents for Year 4 thought that the number of arrests involving high level drug dealers had increased (Figure 5). This is a 13.6 percent increase over Year 3 (59.7 percent). Also, the number of respondents who believed that no change occurred has greatly decreased. In Year 3, 33.5 percent of the respondents perceived that there had been no change in the number of arrests involving high level drug dealers. However, in Year 4, only 15.6 percent of the respondents perceived no change. This is a 17.9 percent decrease in one year.

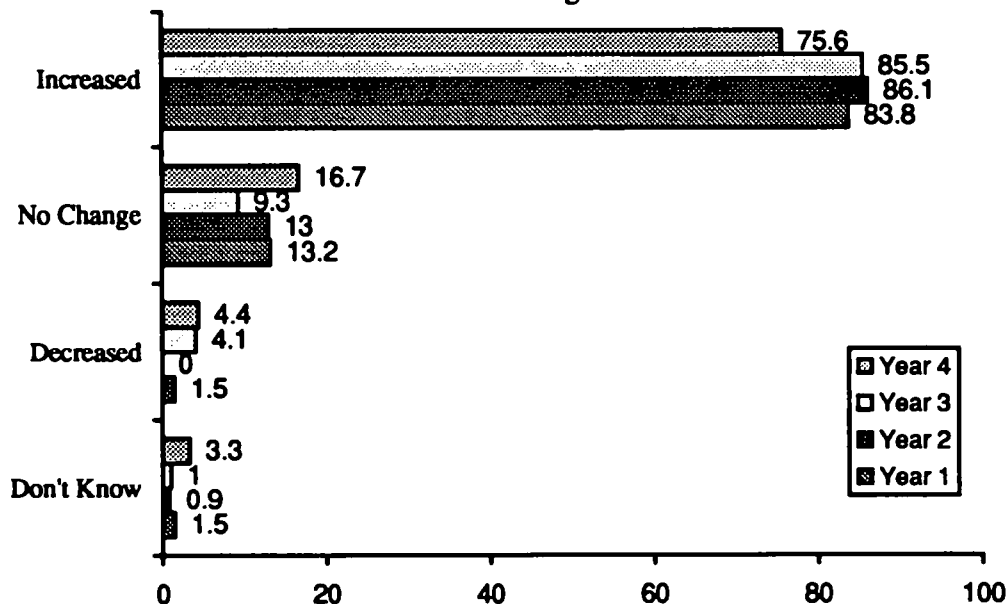
Fig. 5 Perceived Change in Number of Arrests Involving High Level Drug Dealers 1991-1994



## Quality of Communication Between Law Enforcement Agencies

Officers of each drug task force were asked to give their opinions about the quality of communication between law enforcement agencies (LEA). For the first three years of the study the number of respondents who perceived an increase in the quality of communications remained constant (Figure 6). However, Year 4 showed an almost 9.9 percent decrease in the number of respondents who believed that the quality of LEAs was increasing. Also, 16.7 percent of the respondents felt that there had been no change. This is a 7.4 percent increase since Year 3, a 3.7 percent increase since Year 2, and a 3.5 percentage point increase since Year 1.

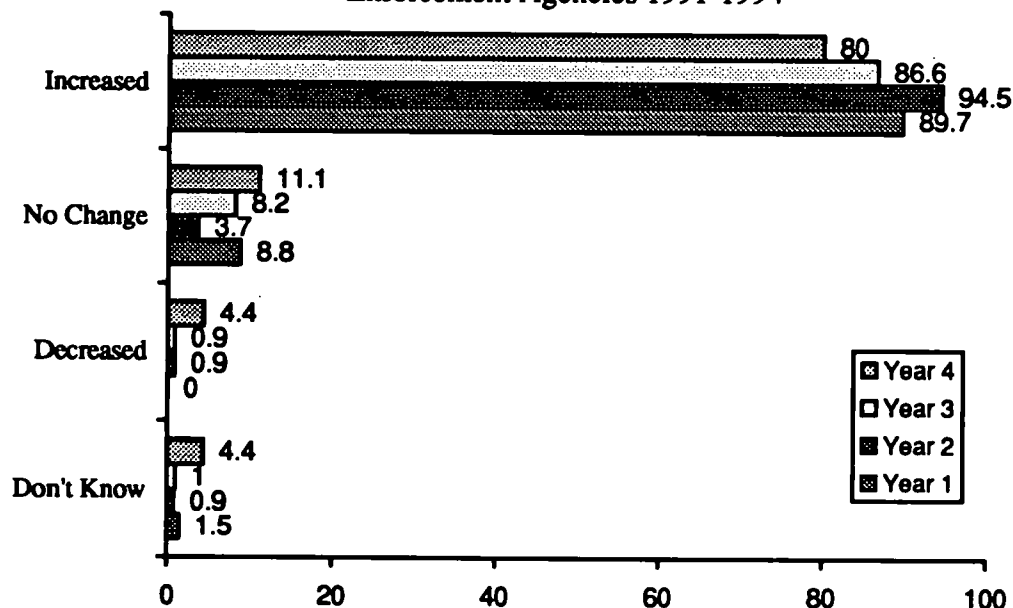
Fig. 6 Perceived Change in Quality of Communications Between Law Enforcement Agencies 1991-1994



## Amount of Cooperation Between Law Enforcement Agencies

Respondents were also asked about the extent to which they believed that there was cooperation between law enforcement agencies (Figure 7). According to Year 4 results, 4.4 percent of the respondents felt that the cooperation has decreased. This is an increase of 3.5 percent since the formation of drug task forces. The number of respondents who felt that the law enforcement agencies have increased cooperation fell to 80 percent. This is a 6.6 percent drop from the previous year.

Fig. 7 Perceived Change in Extent of Cooperation Between Law Enforcement Agencies 1991-1994

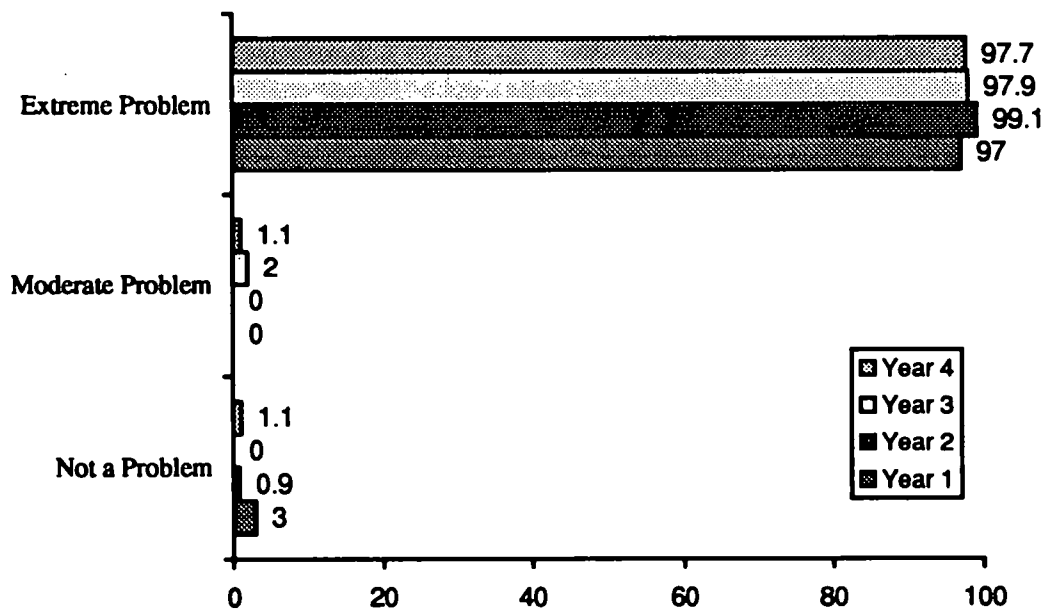




## Seriousness of Crack Cocaine Problem

The problem of crack cocaine was rated by each officer surveyed as being "not a problem," a "moderate problem," or an "extreme problem" within their jurisdiction (Figure 8). The percentage of officers who felt that it is an extreme problem has remained constant over the last four years. Just 1.1 percent of the officers felt that crack cocaine was not a problem in their jurisdiction. This is a 1.1 percent increase since Year 3. Officers consider crack cocaine a problem to some degree in every jurisdiction.

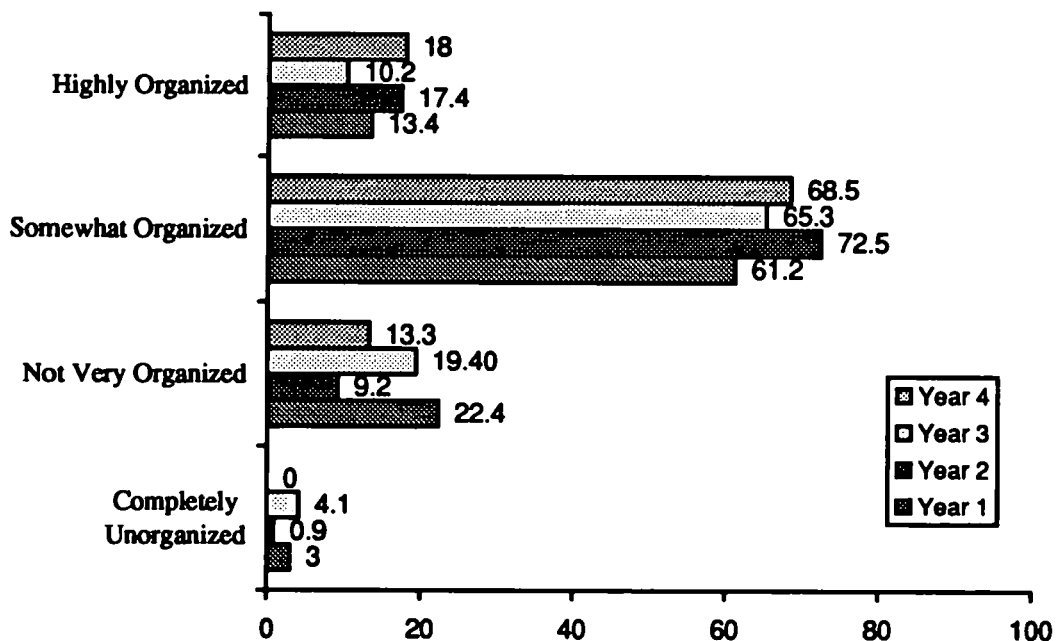
Fig. 8 Perceived Seriousness of Crack Cocaine Problem 1991-1994



## Characteristics of Organized Drug Activity

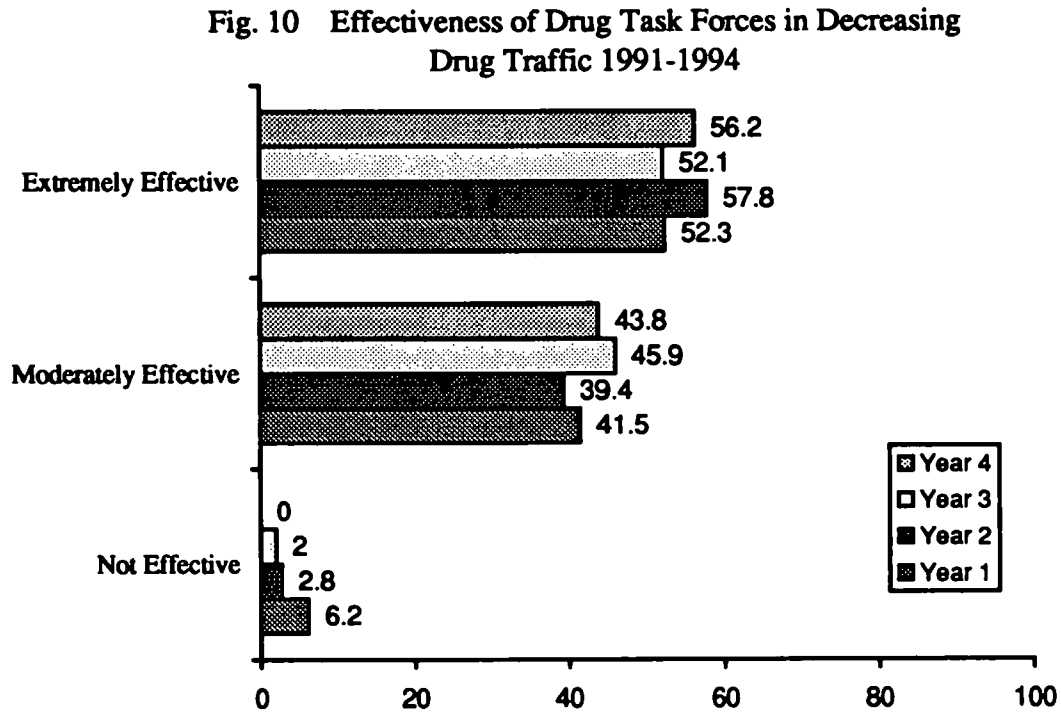
Task force officers surveyed rated the drug activity in their jurisdiction on a scale from "highly organized" to "completely unorganized" (Figure 9). The number of officers who believe that drug activity is highly organized has increased to 18 percent. This is a 7.8 percent increase over Year 3. Another significant variation occurred among the percentages of officers for all four years who felt drug activity was not very organized in their areas. In year 1 this percentage was 22.4, dropping to a low 9.2 percent in Year 2, and increasing to 19.4 percent for Year 3. However, Year 4 has shown a decrease to 13.3 percent.

Fig. 9 Perceived Degree of Organized Drug Activity 1991-1994



## Drug Task Forces' Effectiveness in Decreasing Drug Traffic

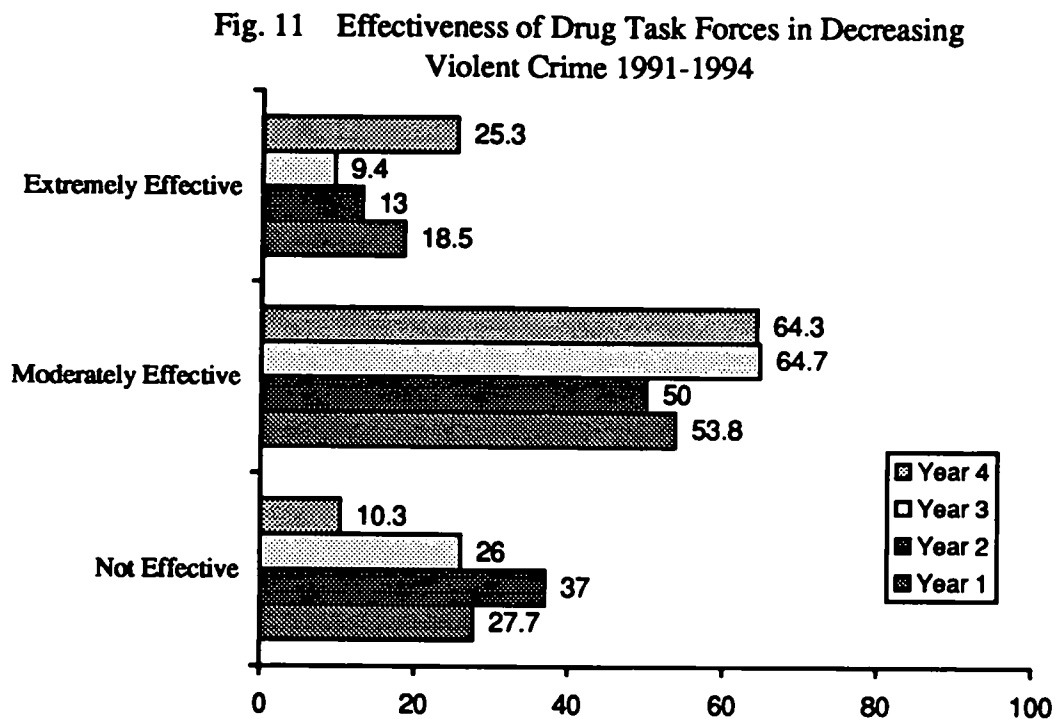
Task force officers rated the effectiveness of their drug task force in decreasing the amount of drug trafficking in their areas (Figure 10). Response categories included "not effective," "moderately effective," and "extremely effective." The percentage of



officers who felt that the task force has not been effective has steadily declined since the first year. During the first year, 6.2 percent felt the task force was not effective in decreasing drug trafficking. This number fell to 2.8 percent in Year 2, 2 percent in Year 3, and 0 percent in Year 4. Thus, all of those surveyed in Year 4 felt that the task force has at least moderate effect on decreasing the amount of drug trafficking.

## Drug Task Forces' Effectiveness in Decreasing Violent Crime

Each task force officer also rated the effectiveness of drug task forces on decreasing violent crimes (Figure 11). Year 4 showed some dramatic results. For example, 25.3 percent of the officers thought that the task force was extremely effective in decreasing violent crime. This is up 15.9 percentage points from Year 3, 12.3 percentage points from Year 2, and 6.8 percentage points from Year 1. Also

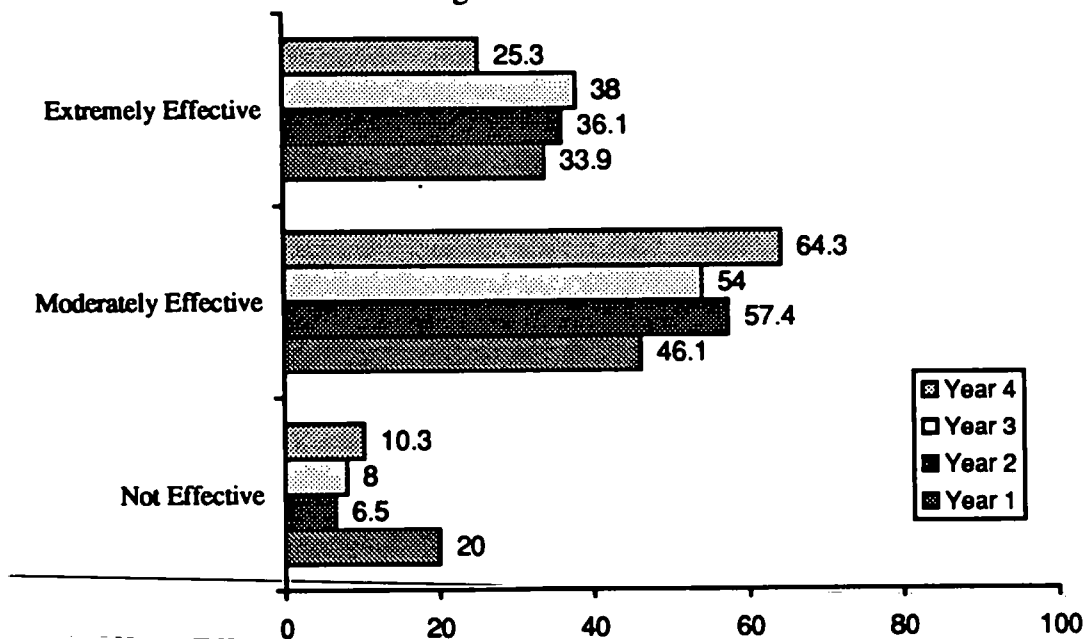


important to note is the amount of officers who felt that the task force is not effective in decreasing violent crime. In Year 2, 37 percent of officers believed that it was not effective; whereas, in Year 4, only 10.3 percent believed that the task force is not effective in decreasing violent crime.

## Drug Task Forces' Effectiveness in Decreasing Drug Related Crime

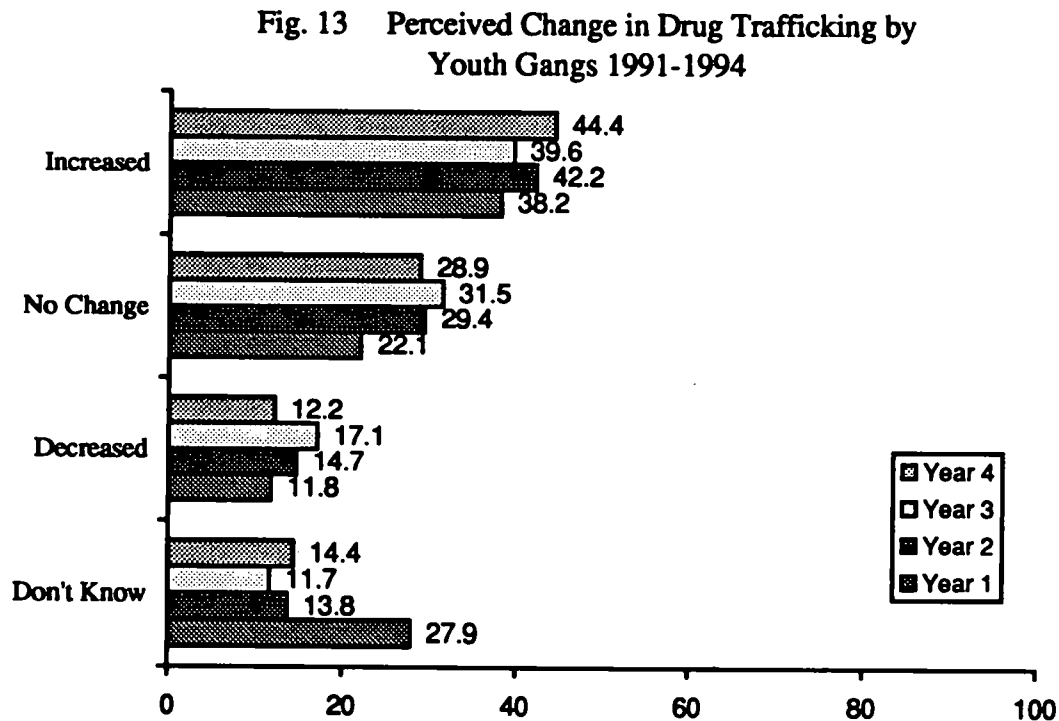
Each task force officer also rated their effectiveness in reducing the rate of drug related crime in its jurisdiction (Figure 12). The percent who perceived it as extremely effective decreased from previous years. In Year 4, only 25.3 percent of the officers perceived that the drug task forces were extremely effective. This is a 12.7 percent decrease since Year 3, a 10.8 percent decrease since Year 2, and a 8.6 percent decrease since Year 1. Also, the number of officers who believed that the task force is not effective in decreasing drug related crime has increased since Year 2. Over 10 percent of the officers felt that the task force is not effective compared to only 8 percent in Year 3.

Fig. 12 Effectiveness of Drug Task Forces in Decreasing Drug Related Crime 1991-1994



## Drug Trafficking By Youth Gangs

In response to the question pertaining to the amount of drug trafficking by youth gangs, 44.4 percent of Year 4 respondents indicated an increase in trafficking (Figure 13). This is a 4.8 percent increase from Year 3, a 2.2 percent increase from Year 2, and a 6.2 percent increase from Year 1. The number of respondents who

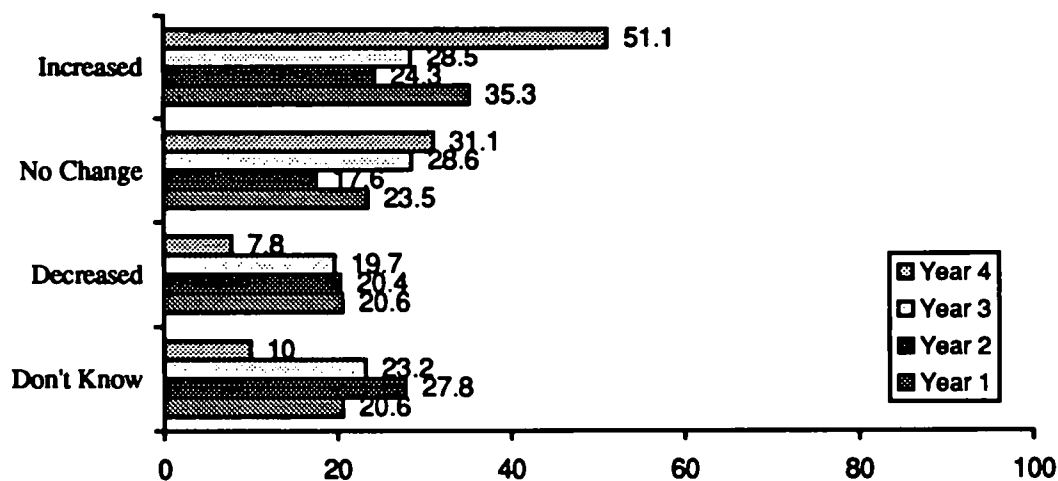


perceived that there has been a decrease in drug trafficking by youth gangs have decreased. Only 12.2 percent of Year 4 respondents believed that there has been a decrease, compared to 17.1 percent of Year 3 respondents.

## Gang-Related Crime

Officers were also asked their opinion on the amount of gang-related crime in their jurisdictions (Figure 14). The most striking result was the percentage of respondents who felt that there had been an increase. In Year 4, 51.1 percent of respondents perceived an increase in gang-related crime. This is a 22.6 percent increase since Year 3, a 26.8 percent increase since Year 2, and a 15.8 percent increase since Year 1. Also important to note is the percent of respondents who felt

Fig. 14 Perceived Change in Gang Related Crime 1991-1994



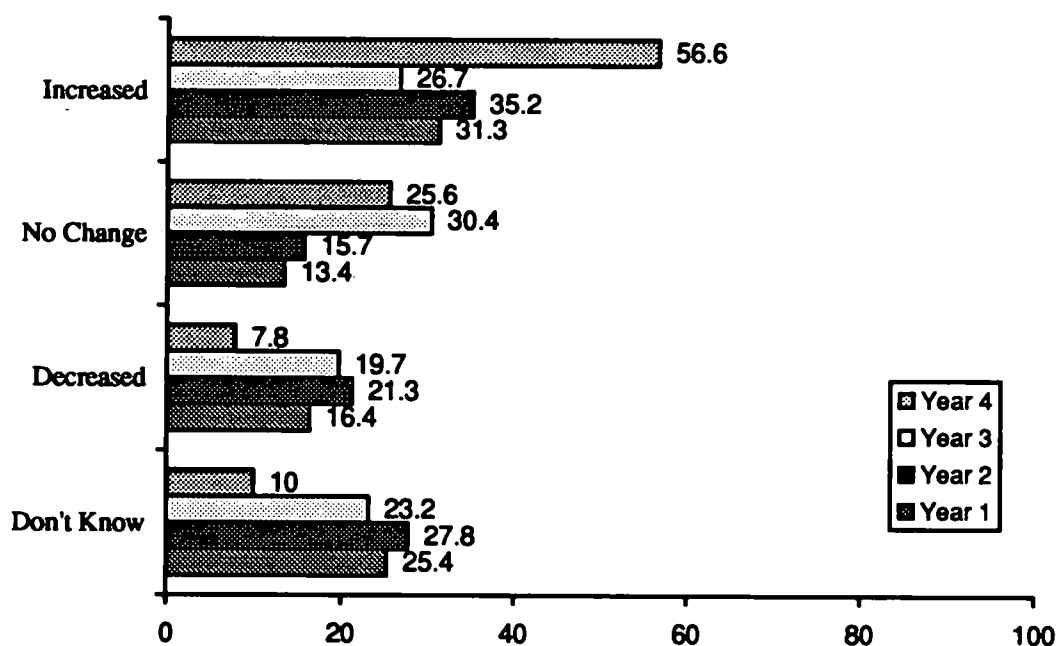
there has been a decrease of gang-related crime. Only 7.8 percent of Year 4 respondents perceived a decrease compared to 19.7 percent of Year 3 respondents.

This is an 11.9 percentage point decrease in one year.

## Gang-Related Violent Crime

Members of each task force were also asked their opinion about the amount of gang-related violent crime during the fourth year of operation (Figure 15). Results indicated that 56.6 percent of the officers believed the amount of gang-related violent crime had increased during Year 4. This is a 29.9 percent increase from Year 3. Also significant is the fact that only 7.8 percent of the task force officers surveyed in Year 4 felt that the amount of gang-related violent crime had decreased compared to 19.7 percent of respondents from Year 3.

Fig. 15 Perceived Change in Gang Related Violent Crime 1991-1994





## OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

## Summary and Conclusions

The primary objective of Mississippi's Multijurisdictional Drug Task Forces is to decrease the magnitude of drug-related crimes in the state. Strategically located around the state, these task forces are the specialized units charged with controlling the manufacturing, distribution, use, and abuse of controlled substances in the target areas.

To determine the multijurisdictional drug task forces impact on drug-related crimes, the evaluators designed a study to obtain at least three distinct categories of performance measures. Those performance measures were in the form of a survey of residents in the target areas; a survey of the task force officers; and monthly task force reports. With these performance measures in hand, evaluators can largely determine the extent to which the state's drug control strategies meet the performance expectations of public officials and Mississippi residents.

With regard to the general public assessment of state drug control strategies, the results of the statewide drug control survey provides measures of residents' perceptions of drug-related crime in their communities. It was hypothesized that residents in areas where Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force's (MJDTF) efforts are successful would respond positively when asked to address issues including the likelihood of getting arrested for selling drugs; rating of police; concerns about personal safety; safety of the community; drug-related crime trends; and awareness of task force activities. The latter is expected to serve

as a deterrent. Hence, in those areas where an overwhelming majority of the residents surveyed stated that a MJDTF is operating, it was predicted that the percent indicating that the likelihood of getting caught while selling drugs in the area would increase over time.

The results of the residents' survey indicate that for the majority of the task force areas there was little change in the percentage of people who would rate police protection as "Good." It is very important to note that in most cases 85-90 percent of the sample population indicated that they were afforded at least "Fair" protection by the police. Interestingly though, a large majority, 66-79 percent of the respondents answered "Yes" to the questions regarding whether they worry about personal and property safety. The fact that many respondents indicate that the police are affording them protection, and yet are still worried about safety of their person and possessions, is quite intriguing.

The one item which in the past has been used as a barometer of the climate in the task force areas is the question: "Is your community safer than it was three years ago?" No significant change in the percentage of respondents in each of the response categories were found. The majority of each and every jurisdictions' respondents replied that the community was "Not as Safe" as it had been three years prior. This same type of trend was noticed when reviewing the responses to the question: "Drug-related crime trends in the last year in your area have: 1) Increased 2) Stayed Same 3) Decreased, or 4) Don't know." Again over 50% of

the respondents in every jurisdiction reported that the level of drug-related crime had increased. This seems to be a puzzling conclusion since the vast majority of respondents reported having reasonable police protection.

Examining the respondents' answers to the above questions, it is revealed that people are satisfied with the level of police protection. However, the same respondents also indicate that their community is less safe than three years ago. The respondents also say that they perceive drug-related crime to be increasing. In short, people feel less safe than three years ago. They also think drug-related crime is increasing, but the police are doing an adequate job of battling the crime.

The task force officers are surveyed annually to determine their perceptions of various aspects of the "War on Drugs." The opinions of these officers are considered valuable because they see the drugs and the effects of the drugs on the community on a daily basis. This experience gives them many insights which the typical citizen does not have; coupling this, with the fact that the task force personnel are trained observers, they are an excellent source of information on the drug problem in general and an even more valuable asset when examining their respective areas in particular.

As the front-line defense against drugs in Mississippi, the MJDTF officers have a first hand view of the drug problem and of the drug-related crime problem. This year's survey results show that the vast majority of officers indicated the level of seizures, arrests, and prosecutions have increased across the board.

However, 52.2 percent of the officers responded that the drug dealing had increased in their task force areas over the last year. Despite the best efforts of the law enforcement officers and increasing performance from the law enforcement agencies, drug sales are increasing according to the officers.

The officers indicated almost unanimously (97.7%) that "Crack Cocaine" is an "Extreme Problem." Eighty-six percent of the responding officers indicated that drug dealing was at least somewhat organized. According to 73.3% of the officers, drug trafficking by youth gangs had either increased or remained the same; also, 82.2 percent of the responses indicated gang-related crime and gang-related violent crime had either increased or remained at a constant level. Despite these negative findings with regards to the gang-related offenses, the officers overwhelmingly indicated that the cooperation (80% reported an increase) and communication (75.6% reported an increase) between the various law enforcement agencies have increased. Even though the cooperation and communication between agencies are reported to be increasing, the overwhelming amount of drug and gang-related activity is increasing at a more substantial rate. The result of which is a loss of ground by the enforcement agencies despite their tremendous strides toward combating the problems, both direct and indirect, associated with Mississippi's drug problems.

Violent crimes and drug-related crimes were two areas which most of the officers (over 60 percent in each) indicated that they were only moderately

effective in controlling. Perhaps this is because the types of offenses targeted by the agencies these officers work for are mainly interested in controlling the manufacturing, trafficking, and distribution of the illegal substances. The multijurisdictional drug task forces do not always have assets or the mission to stop and investigate violence. Other agencies do, however, have this as a primary mission. Perhaps questions about violent crime should be asked of officers who devote the majority of their time to combating violence and related types of crime, to include the various police departments, the sheriffs' patrols, and the Mississippi highway patrol.

The final type of performance measure used was monthly progress reports. These reports include the number of arrests and charges for each manufacturing, distributing, and possession of controlled substances. Also, included in the monthly reports are the amounts of seizures, both drug and material objects, to include vehicles, property, and money. These reports show that the task forces are achieving outstanding success in their efforts to combat drug-related crimes. Enormous seizures are reported and numerous arrests are made with many charges arising from these arrests, yet the drug trade continues. There is no question that these officers are interdicting many drugs which would have otherwise reached users from pre-teens to mature adults. However, it is also apparent that the drug trade is not being stopped, and by the officers' indications the situations in their

RESEARCH

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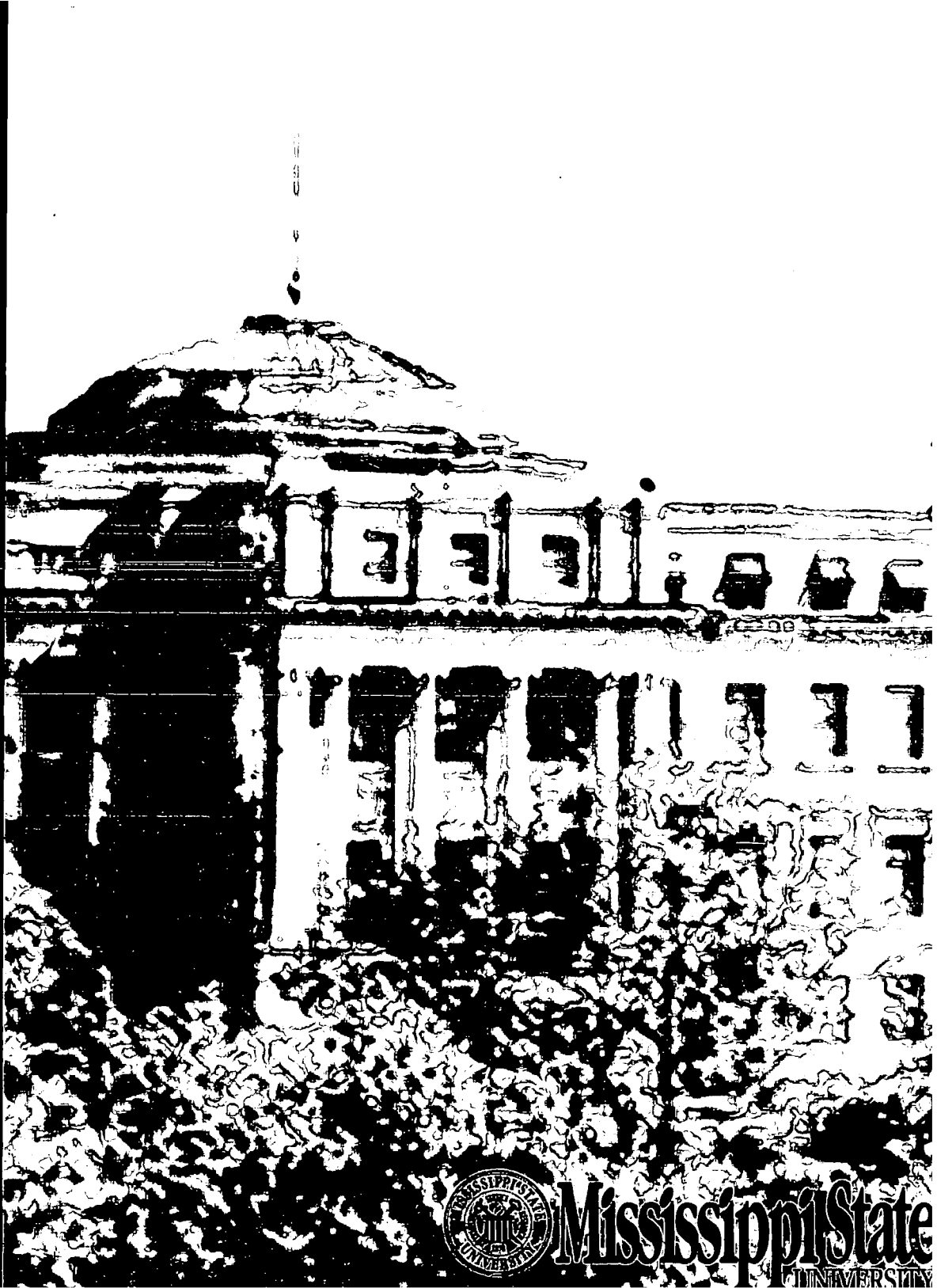
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