

PHARMACEUTICAL DIVERSION UNIT

The Pharmaceutical Diversion Unit primarily focuses on both adults and juveniles who illegally obtain controlled prescription drugs. In 2003, the Pharmaceutical Diversion Unit investigated 244 cases, closing 236 cases resulting in 118 arrests for a case clearance rate of 98%. The investigations conducted during 2003 by the Pharmaceutical Diversion Unit resulted in drug seizures totaling an estimated street value of \$3,220, and the subsequent forfeited asset seizures of \$178 in cash.

The Unit continues to work jointly with other local jurisdictions and nearby states to conduct investigations and provide their expertise through training. The Pharmaceutical Diversion Unit also works closely with the Board of Quality Assurance to investigate new cases involving health care professionals who abuse their access to pharmaceuticals. Recognizing the expertise of the Anne Arundel County Police Department's Pharmaceutical Diversion Unit in conducting diversion investigations, the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) frequently seeks the Unit's assistance with information contained in the NADDI quarterly newsletter.

VICE UNIT

The Vice Unit is responsible for the enforcement of prostitution, lewd behavior, gambling, liquor, and tobacco law violations. During 2003, the Vice Unit investigated 136 cases, closing 134 cases resulting in 157 arrests for a clearance rate of 99%. Throughout the year, prostitution enforcement efforts resulted in numerous arrests in areas known for such activity. In addition, several massage parlors and Internet-based escort services offering sex were investigated and shut down permanently, with several arrests made and the seizure of money and computer equipment. The Vice Unit also investigated gambling and use of tobacco by minors through Operation C.A.R.E., originally established by the Vice Unit in 1996. The Vice Unit investigations conducted during 2003 resulted in drug seizures totaling an estimated street value of \$25,070, and the subsequent forfeited asset seizures of \$152,057 in cash, four vehicles, and four guns.

ASSET SEIZURE UNIT

The Asset Seizure Unit currently consists of one detective responsible for managing all of the vehicles seized by members of the Department. The Unit meets regularly with members of the State's Attorney's Office to discuss vehicles that may qualify for forfeiture and helps to prepare the necessary paperwork incorporated with the Forfeiture Order and title transfer. The Unit maintains both seized vehicle lots at Headquarters and is utilized when additional personnel are needed for a particular detail or specific operation. The team is also responsible for forfeiture investigations and keeping sworn personnel apprised of current forfeiture case law.

For 2003, the Asset Seizure Unit documented 64 vehicles seized by the Department. There were 43 vehicles seized during 2003 or from prior years that were returned to registered owners or other lien holders in return for \$24,325 in fees paid to Anne Arundel County. Additionally, 58 vehicles were presented to the Chief of Police for institution of forfeiture proceedings. Subsequently, 17 Forfeiture Orders were obtained for title transfer to Anne Arundel County and subsequent disposal/use.