Drug trafficking riskier in Oakland

Drug trafficking was riskier, cost-lier and more dangerous in 1989 than it was in the previous year, accord-ing to statistics released by the Oak-land County Narcotic Enforcement Team.

More people were arrested and processing maney and property was

Team.

More people were arrested and more guns, money and property was seized in 1995 than in the previous 12 months, according to figures in the annual NET report, released Friday. The higher figures are a reflection of increased police activity, not necessarily a barometer of drug use throughout the county, said state Police LL. Dorothy K. McAilen. "We don't really know how wide-spread drug use really is." said McAilen, commander of NET, which has 29 officers from the Oakland County Sherff's Department, the Michigan State Police and communities like Farmington Hills, Southfield, Troy and west Bloomfield. That we do get a good idea of police activity from these figures."

caturity from these figures."

FIGURES TELL drug users loudy and clearly that Oakland County is convened to specifically probe into the narcotics traffic and unsupersix loudes atins as a sergeant in Livingston and Washieneaw counties and the county for months of 1989, but during that time it was responsible for attempt the controlles units in Detropolete threet marcotics units in Detropolete threet marcotics units in Detropolete to the correlated with figures on the number people hospitalized for overdoses, the number admitted to treatment centers, attitudes and police commitment, said Donal L. Reisig, director of the Mitchigan Office of Drug Agencies.

"Mere number seldom tell the story," said Reisig, who was appointed Michigan's drug cara after a legal career that included service as a presented of the Michigan Office of Drug Agencies.

"Some communities will have zero drug arrests," Reisig said. "But that the story is the story of the promise of luminoity of the country's most potent weapon in the country's most potent weapon of such time time to war on dust provide the country's most potent weapon in the country's most purpose country most purpose country most purpose country most purpose country most purpose count

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occasi i mean they have zero aring usgother communities may have
bundreds of nickel-dime arrests. But
that doesn't mean their drug use is
As Michigan drug ezar, Redsig is
closely linked with numerous narrosites investigations. He hadri seen the
most recent NET figures, but Heisig
said he is familiar with similar annual reports around the state.
"We believe the level of drug usogge across the state is flat," he said.
We believe its relatively high, but
not necessarily on the upswing, We
can only get fragments of the total
picture."

FRAGMENTS of the picture painted by the 1989 NET figures show an active drug scene that is getting more costly and more risky, almost from month to month, said McAllen.

almost from month to month, said McAllen.

The risk of getting caught and convicted is even greater, she said, because of the Oakland County grand jury convened to specifically probe into the narcotics traffic and unsolved murders.

The grand jury was in session for only four months of 1989, but during that time it was responsible for at least 15 indictments, according to Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson.

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DI TR (AT 1875 AMB) 1987) They Asping (Arm of Fisher Bookleg) BLE (MITTEL DEELES) AND ATTOMAS — Hintened Armed (Souther Clare Label MON 1984) Toom 18 ga (Barrofold Last Phendry and S. Migrock

home turf, according to NE1 assistics.

"We can't pretend that our drug problem is from Flint, Detroit or elsewhere," said McAllen, who lives in Oakland County. "It's from hera round as."

HERE ARE OTHER parts of the narcotics picture in Oakland County as indicated by NET figures for 1999:

Although many of the drug ar-rests were in Pontlac and the urban-ized southern portion of Oakland, at least 5 percent were in rural areas like Springfield, Brandon and Oxford

like Springfield, Brandon and Oxford townships.

That shows drug traffic is not an exclusively urban problem, McAllen said, it's on the farm as well as on the streets.

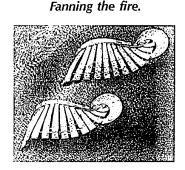
Although NET officers have not encountered any machine guns. McAllen said the weapons setzed are more sophisticated as well as murerous. "We used to see a lot of cheap Saturday night specials," she

said. "Now we see expensive, highpowered rilles and pistol — many
with scopes."

Weapons are a matter of showmanship with young dealers, she
said, "part of the macho Image to
impress people. With experienced,
high-volume dealers, guns are a
matter of protection — not against
police, but against other dealers who
may rob them."

Because of higher risks — arrest as well as robbery by other
dealers — pushers are more leery of
strangers, and take more time to
size up a prospective buyer before
making a sale, McAllen said.
"A year ago, dealers would trip all
over themselves to sell to us," she
said. "Now they're more cautious,
more suspicious."

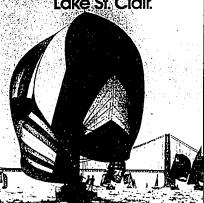
The said of the reason
one NET statistic is down in 1889
compared with the previous year,
she said.
Purchases and scieures of drugs
were down – 405 in 1898, compared
with 452 in 1988, for a decline of
about 10 percent.



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Drug Activity in Oakland County

A comparison of 1988 and 1989 statistics

	1988	1989	PERCENT
rug Arrests	204	237	+16
earch Warrants Exec	tuted 52	101	+95
urchases and Seizur	es 452	405	-10
irearms Seized	42	68	+61
ash Seized	\$146,044	\$2,305,920	\$2.1 million
ehicles Seized	11	37	+236
Residences Seized	2	5	+150

Source Oakland County Narcotic Enforcement Team



