

JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

OUTCOME EVALUATION REPORT

Evaluation Completed By:

California State University, Chico Research Foundation

Summary of Programs

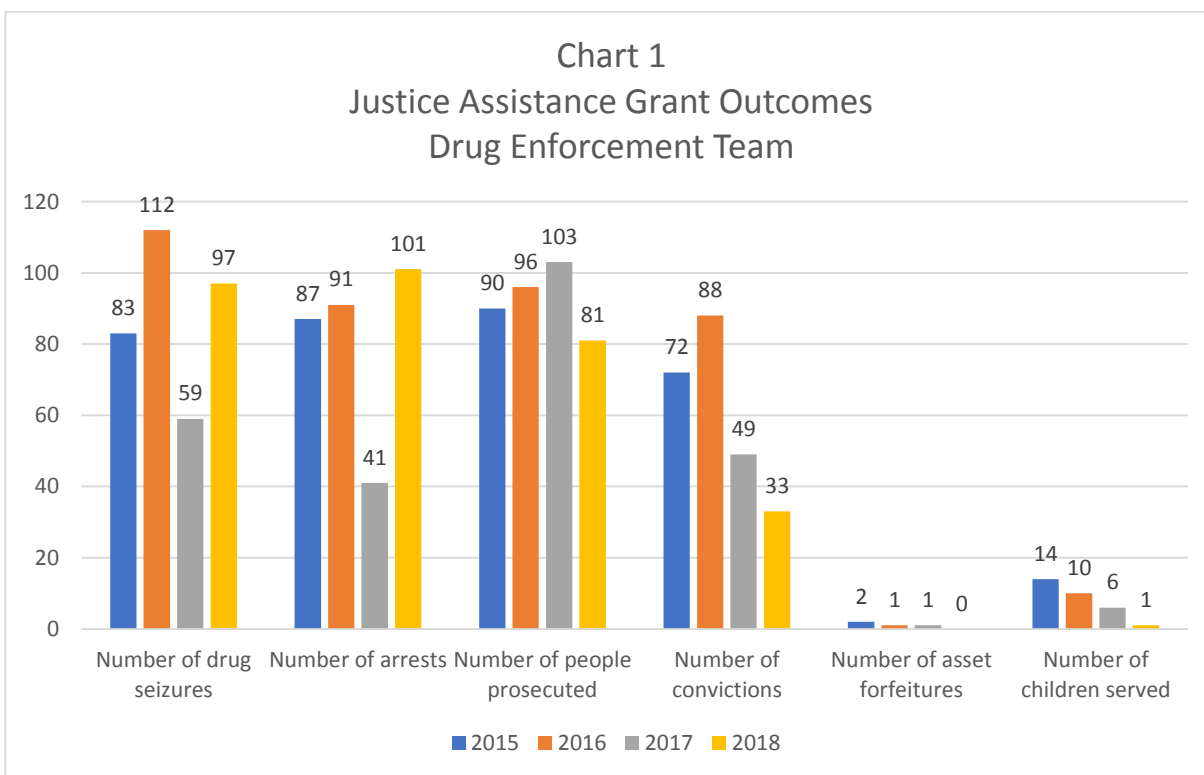
The Justice Assistance Grant Program for Mariposa County identified two overlapping areas in need of intervention, establishing the Drug Enforcement Team to target narcotic sales, distribution and manufacturing, and Project School Climate to target substance abuse, delinquency and school violence. The approach was a multi-jurisdictional collaboration involving the Mariposa County Probation Department and local law enforcement officers, the District Attorney's Office, and Mariposa Unified School District (MUSD) teachers and staff. The primary role of the Drug Enforcement Team was to identify illegal marijuana grow and distribution operations and eliminate these operations through increased prosecution and subsequent deterrence. The primary role of Project School Climate was to reduce school violence and delinquency issues through a Positive Behavioral Intervention. This was to be accomplished through employing a behavioral specialist trained in trauma-informed best practices in teaching and student management.

The Drug Enforcement Team approach accomplished many of the goals outlined, including: eliminating narcotics operations, specifically illegal marijuana distribution operation; targeted prosecution and conviction of narcotics operations; identifying children at risk of child endangerment; and targeted prosecution of individuals charged with child endangerment. The drug enforcement team confiscated over 200,000 marijuana plants and over 135,000 grams of marijuana, seized nearly \$40,000 in assets, and prosecuted between 86 and 93 percent of those arrested over the life of the program. Conviction rates were high over the life over the program, years with lower conviction levels reflect instances where lower level offenders were offered diversion dispositions. Prosecution and conviction rates of those charged with child endangerment were very high over the span of the program. Of the 19 cases considered for prosecution, all were prosecuted and all but one ended with a conviction.

The Project School Climate approach reduced student truancy rates as well as the total numbers of days students missed school, of teacher reports of misbehavior, and of suspensions over the span of the program. The approach did not increase grade point averages overall as expected. The limited impact of the program on student grades were likely associated with staffing difficulties. MUSD faced high turnover rates in several positions, and administrators faced challenges related to staffing a behavioral specialist in rural Mariposa County. Administrators successfully retained a TOSA (teacher on special assignment) teacher, who continues to serve the county.

Outcome Evaluation: Drug Enforcement Team

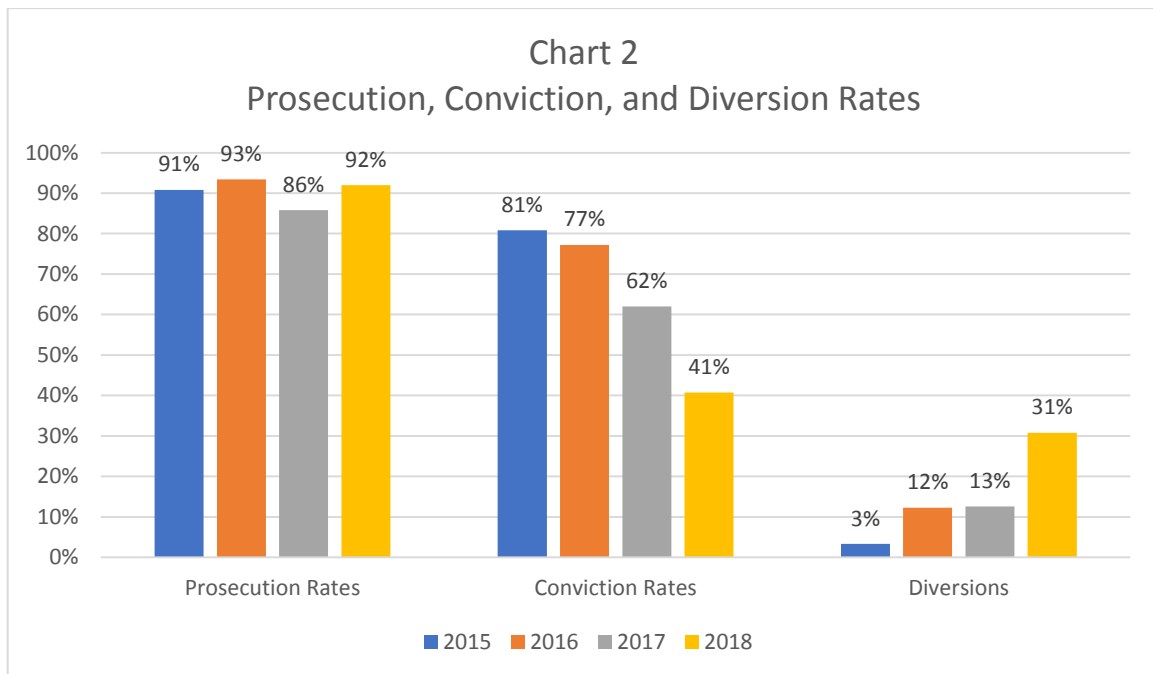
Outcome measures of the impact of the Drug Enforcement Team including drug arrests, drug and asset seizures, prosecutions and convictions of offenders, as well as the number of children identified as likely victims of child endangerment are reported. A number of calculations are conducted and reported, including percent increases or decreases for most categories from year to year and over the span of the program. Rates are also reported where relevant. Highlights of the Justice Assistance Grant Outcomes for the Drug Enforcement Team are depicted in Chart 1 below. Chart 1 shows the total numbers of drug seizures, arrests, people prosecuted, convictions, asset forfeitures, and children served for years 2015-2018. See Appendix A, Table 1, for raw numbers and how convictions are defined.



I. Prosecution Rates Remained Relatively Steady & Conviction Rates Decreased

Prosecution rates were relatively high and maintained similar levels over the span of the program. Of the 399 people considered for prosecution in Mariposa County during the JAG program, 363 were prosecuted, for a rate of approximately 91 percent. Prosecution rates fluctuated only slightly, from 91 percent in 2015, to 93 percent in 2016, to 86 percent in 2017, and back up to 92 percent in 2018.

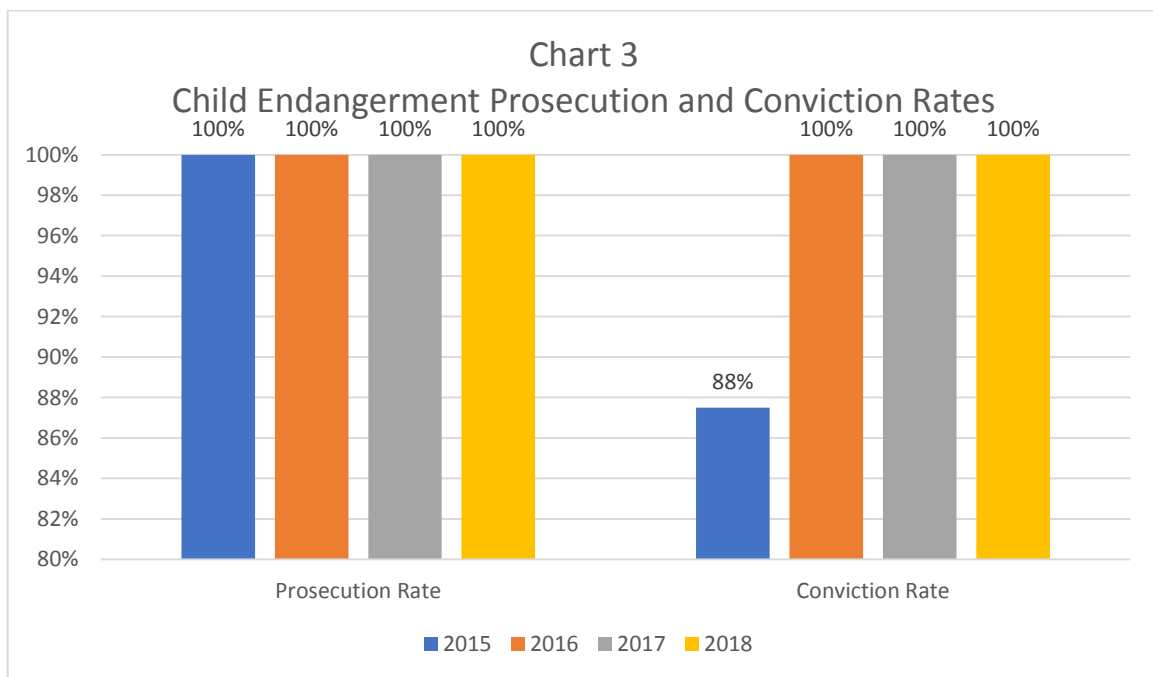
Conviction rates decreased over the span of the program, from a rate of approximately 81 percent in 2015, to 77 percent in 2016, 62 percent in 2017 and finally 41 percent in 2018. Reductions in conviction levels, however, do *not* suggest a lack of attention to drug or child endangerment cases or poor prosecutor performance. A great deal of the change in conviction rates appears related to the use of Penal Code 1000, a pretrial diversion program for drug crimes involving simple possession. Under traditional prosecution and sentencing schemes, prosecutors would likely have had high conviction rates in processing these offenders, but the diversion of a drug offender through PC 1000 is not considered a conviction. About three percent of those prosecuted in 2015 received diversion as a disposition, compared to approximately 12 percent in 2016, 13 percent in 2017, and nearly 31 percent in 2018. See Chart 2 below for prosecution, conviction and drug diversion rates.



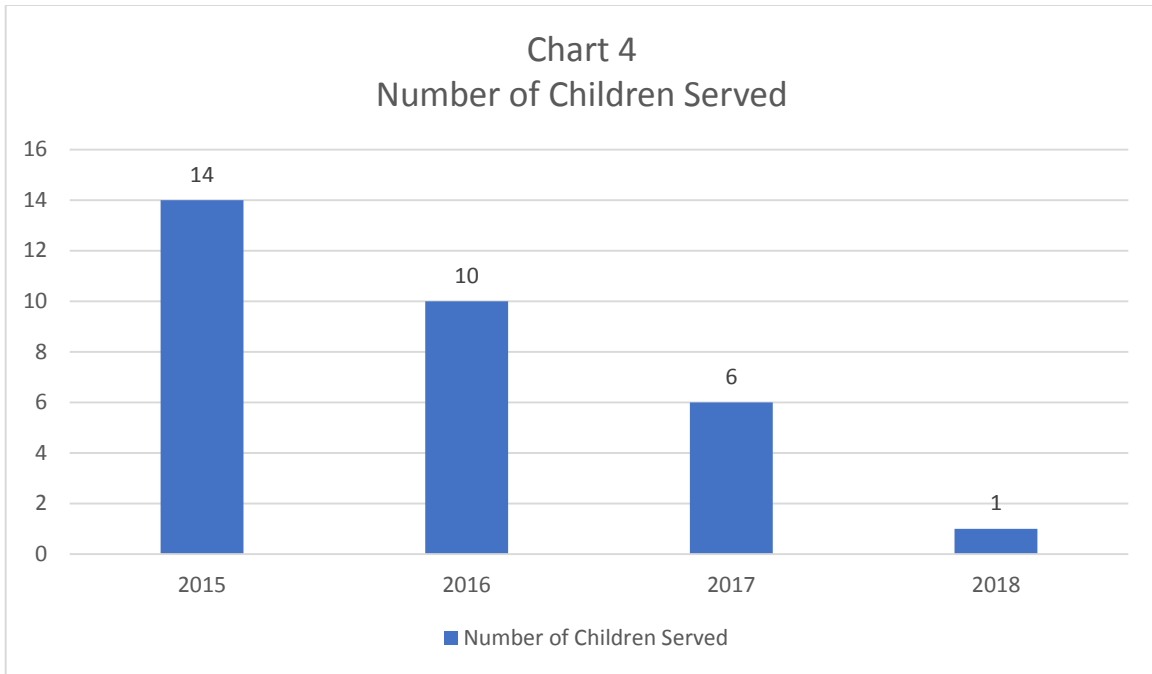
II. Child Endangerment Prosecution & Conviction Rates High & Number of Children Served Decreased

An important component of the overall grant program involved identifying children who may be at risk of endangerment and making appropriate social service referrals or prosecuting guardians or others who put children at risk. Prosecution and conviction rates for those individuals are higher than rates for drug charges and other offenses.

Of the eight child endangerment cases considered in 2015, eight were prosecuted and all but one ended with convictions. Of the six cases considered in 2016, all were prosecuted and convicted. Of the three in 2017, all were prosecuted and convicted, and of the two in 2018, both were prosecuted and convicted. Chart 3 below illustrates these conviction rates.



From 2015 to 2016, the number of children served decreased from 14 to 10, indicating about a 29 percent reduction. From 2016 to 2017, the number of children served decreased from 10 to 6, a 40 percent reduction. From 2017 to 2018, the number of children served decreased from 6 to 1, reflecting a reduction of about 83 percent. The number of children served decreased about 93 percent over the span of the program.



As prosecution and conviction rates evidence, reductions in children served does not suggest a lack of attention to such cases. Percent decrease in the number of children served may reflect *more* success, in that child endangerment offenders have been put on warning or prosecuted and have been effectively deterred.

III. Number of Drug Searches & Drug Seizures Fluctuated

The Drug Enforcement Team, instituted to eradicate illegal marijuana gardens and distribution operations, focused primarily on seizing marijuana plants and related products but also confiscated other drugs in the process of accomplishing their primary mission. From 2015 to 2016, the number of drug searches conducted by the Drug Enforcement Team increased approximately 5 percent. From 2016 to 2017, the number of drug seizures decreased approximately 45 percent. From 2017 to 2018, the number of drug seizures increased about 85 percent. The number of drug searches increased seven percent over the life of the program. See Table 2 below for raw numbers.

Table 2

Drug Enforcement Team Searches, Seizures, Arrests by Year			
Year	Searches	Seizures	Arrests
2015	118	83	87
2016	124	112	91
2017	68	59	41
2018	126	97	101
Total	438	351	323

From 2015 to 2016, the number of drug seizures increased approximately 35 percent. From 2016 to 2017, the number of drug seizures decreased approximately 47 percent. From 2017 to 2018, the number of drug seizures increased approximately 64 percent. The number of drug seizures increased about 17 percent over the span of the program.

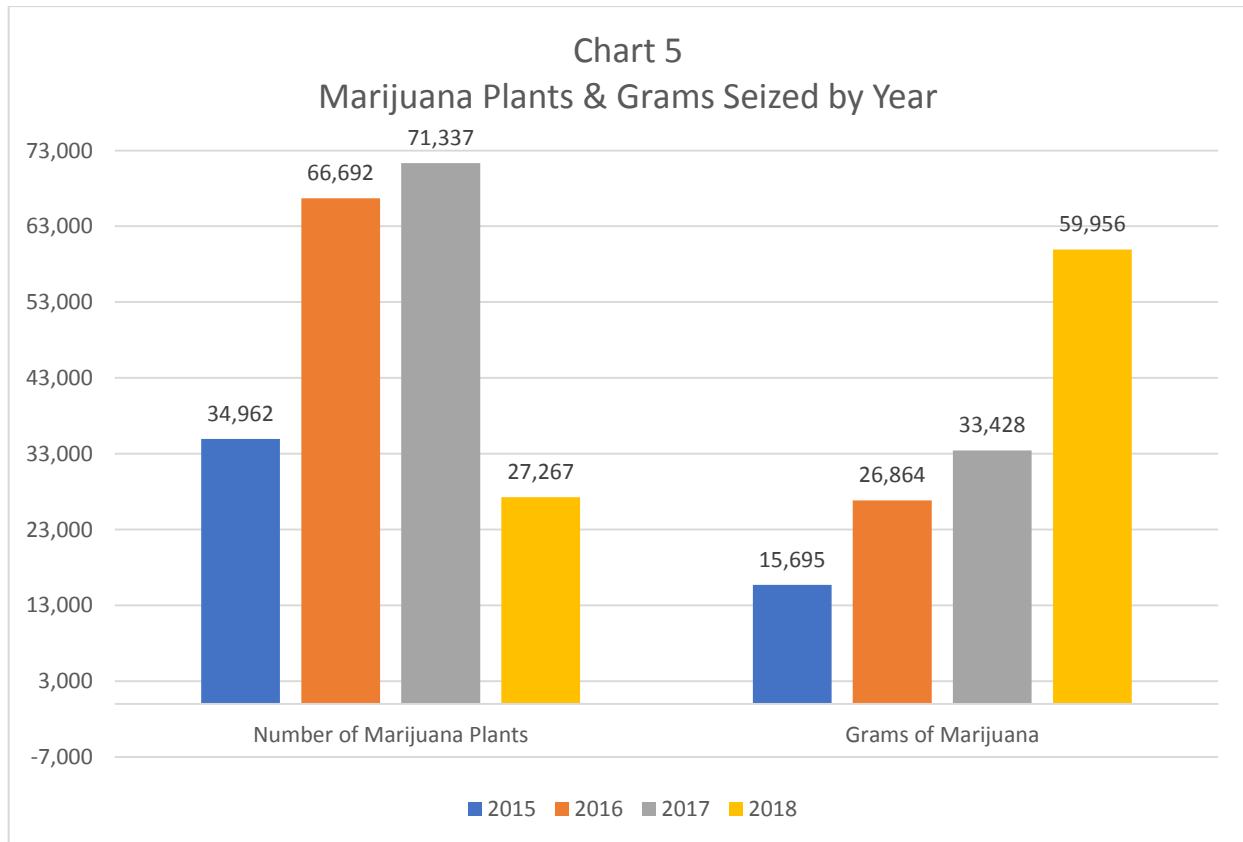
Percent increase or decrease in the number of drug searches and seizures may not accurately reflect the success or failure of the drug coalition. County population levels and composition may change over time, making it difficult to precisely determine the true impact of the program. Decreases in numbers of searches, seizures, and amount of drug seized could even indicate a *more* successful effort, as targeting and prosecution of drug producers and manufacturers, dealers, and users should eventually reduce the need for interdiction efforts. Another important consideration that resulted in lower amounts of drugs seized during 2017 compared to other years, and a smaller increase in the amount seized in 2018 than might otherwise have been expected, is the impact of fires that ravaged Mariposa County during the summers of 2017 and 2018. Several fires burned thousands of acres of land in the summer and fall of 2017 and the summer of 2018, expending enormous manpower hours that otherwise would have been spent on the Drug Enforcement Team, and extinguishing illegal product that would have been targeted for seizure.

A better measure of program success may be the total amount of marijuana plants and products eradicated or seized given the program's focus on illegal marijuana

grow eradication. See Table 3 below for total numbers of marijuana plants and related products seized and Chart 5 for plants and grams of marijuana seized by year.

Table 3:

Total Number Seized over Program Span	
Total number of marijuana plants	200,258
Total grams marijuana	135,943
Total grams kief	152
Total grams hash	18
Total grams shake	38,098
Total grams oil	28



In the process of eliminating illegal marijuana grow and distribution operations, the Drug Enforcement Team also uncovered multiple types of drugs in varying quantities. In the process of confiscating illegal marijuana products, they also confiscated prescription drugs, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, LSD, mushrooms, and MDMA. Lab materials and weapons were also seized. See Table 4 for other drugs and weapons seized over the span of the program.

Table 4:

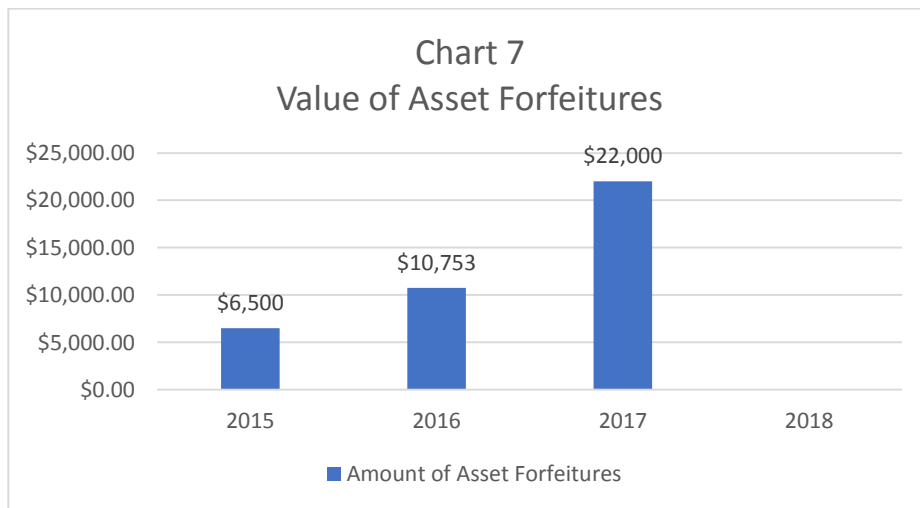
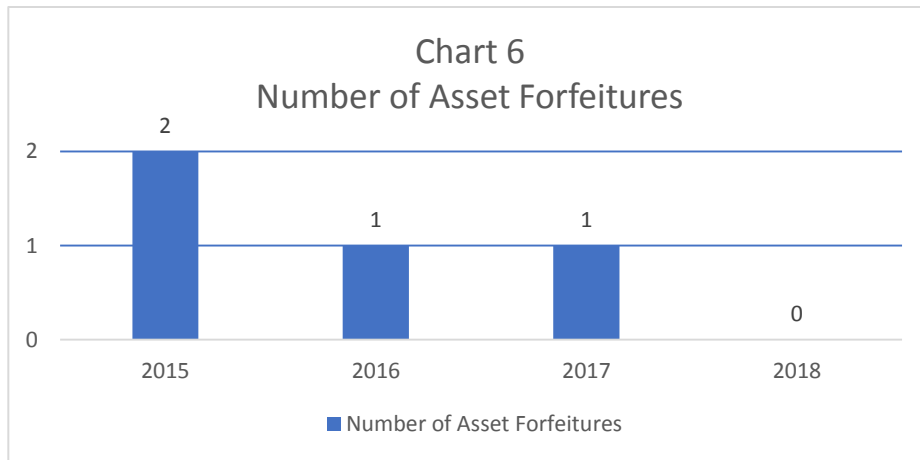
Totals of all Other Drug and Weapon Seizures over Program Span	
Total number of pills	250
Total grams meth	634.1
Total grams cocaine	77.1
Total grams heroin	0.1
Total grams LSD	0.7
Total grams mushrooms	623.9
Total grams MDMA	6.2
Lab materials for hash oil	1
Other: 700mg Lidoderm 5% Patch	40
Weapons	35

IV. Amount of Asset Forfeitures Generally Increased & Number of Asset Forfeiture Seizures Decreased

The number of asset forfeitures decreased from 2 to 1 from 2015 to 2016, reflecting a 50 percent decrease. There was one asset forfeiture in both 2016 and 2017, reflecting no percent change. The number of asset forfeitures decreased from 1 to 0 from 2017 to 2018, reflecting a 100 percent reduction. Only the first three quarters of activity from 2018 were reported, so these calculations may change once the fourth quarter activity is reported. See Chart 6 below for numbers and amounts of asset forfeitures by year.

The value amount of the assets seized increased each year from 2015 to 2017, but no asset seizures have been reported for 2018. The value of asset forfeitures increased from 2015 to 2016 by approximately 65 percent, increased from 2016 to 2017 by about 105 percent, and decreased 100 percent from 2017 to 2018. Over the span of the program, asset forfeiture amounts decreased from a value of \$6,500 in 2015 to zero

given the lack of forfeitures in 2018, reflecting a 100 percent decrease. The relatively low value of forfeitures reflects the type of narcotic eradication program rather than a lack of effort on the part of law enforcement officers. Busts of marijuana grow and distribution operations typically do not result in high value asset forfeitures. See Chart 7 for the value of the forfeitures in each year.



Outcome Evaluation: School Climate Project

Outcome measures of behavioral data such as grade point averages, truancy, teacher reports, and suspensions were calculated, including change over the span of the program, and the impact of the behavior modification and student support provided by a behavioral specialist. Percent reductions in teacher reports of poor behavior, suspensions and trancies were calculated, as were reductions in truancy rates and total number of days missed. Reductions indicate a positive impact of the School Climate Project, as reflected below in the “Student Suspensions & Teacher Reports of Poor Behavior Decreased” and “Truancy Decreased” sections. Overall impacts of the program on grades were less pronounced, as grade point averages slightly declined over the span of the program.

The main intervention in the School Climate Project was the employment of a behavioral specialist and TOSA (Teacher On Special Assignment) teacher. A behavioral specialist was hired in 2015, but was not retained and a new behavioral specialist was hired in 2016, but also was not retained. Considering the difficulty of staffing a behavioral specialist position in rural Mariposa county and the needs of the student body, administrators identified a more flexible position that would meet their needs and therefore hired a TOSA teacher in 2017. The TOSA teacher continues to serve Mariposa County schools. Teacher reports of poor behavior and suspensions of students in Academic Year 2016-17 are compared with those same data in Academic Year 2017-18, and where provided, in Academic Year 2018-19, to determine the impact of the improved environment created by the behavioral specialist. Changes from the initiation of the program and its conclusion are calculated as well. Grade point averages of students are similarly compared, and additional calculations are made comparing Fall semester with Spring semester averages for the years data were provided. Percent changes are calculated for all School Climate Project data.

I. Student Suspensions & Teacher Reports of Poor Behavior Decreased

The number of suspensions reduced from 13 suspensions in Academic Year 2016-17 to 5 suspensions in Academic Year 2017-18, reflecting about a 62 percent reduction. Suspensions reduced from 5 in 2017-18 to 2 suspensions in academic year 2018-19, reflecting a 60 percent reduction. From Academic Year 2016-17 to Academic Year 2018-19, suspensions reduced about 85 percent. There was only one juvenile from one of the other years who was suspended in a subsequent year, though there were two students who were suspended twice within a year (one in 2016-17, one in 2017-18), and one student who withdrew from school and did not serve the second

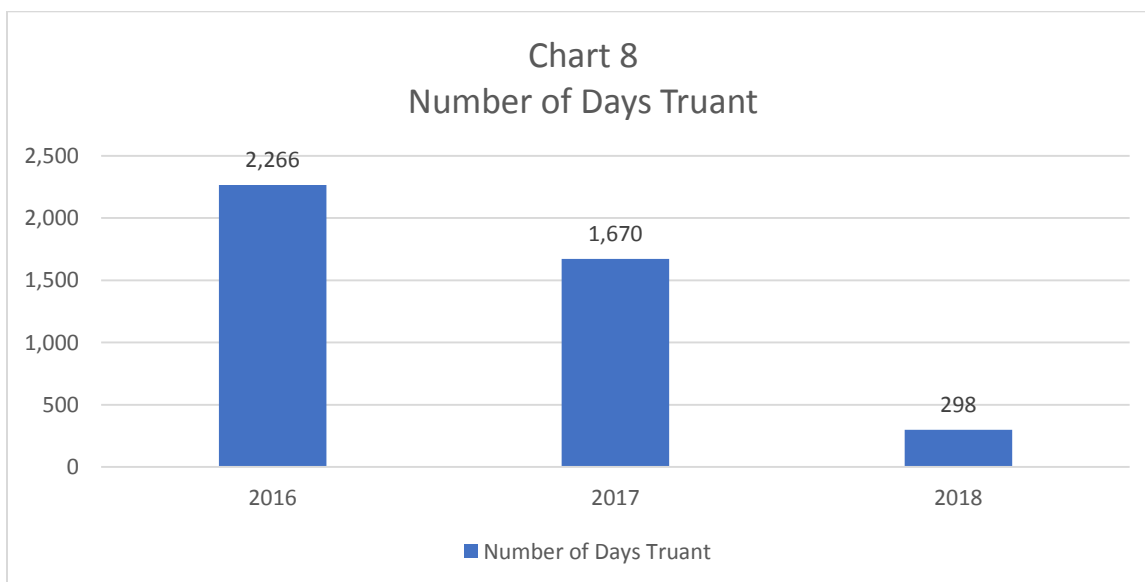
suspension in 2016-17. This student is the one who was suspended twice within that same year.

The number of teacher reports of misbehavior in Academic Year 2016-17 reduced from 17 to 6 in Academic Year 2017-18, reflecting about a 65 percent reduction, and reduced from 6 to 1 in Academic Year 2018-19, reflecting an approximately 83 percent reduction. From Academic Year 2016-17 to Academic Year 2018-19, teacher reports reduced 170 percent.

II. Truancy Decreased

The number of days students were truant reduced from 2,266 in Academic Year 2016-17 to 1,670 in Academic Year 2017-18, reflecting about a 26 percent reduction. The number of days students were truant reduced from 1,670 to 298 in Academic Year 2018-2019, reflecting about an 82 percent reduction. From 2016 to 2018, truancy reduced about 87 percent. However, 2018 truancy records only reflect days truant during the Fall of 2018 and some students were not enrolled in subsequent years. Therefore, the reduction impact of the School Climate Project was likely smaller than is evidenced by these calculations. See Chart 5 for numbers of truancies in each year.

A better measure of the impact of the program may be truancy rates. Rates of truancy also decreased. Truancy rates for Academic Year 2016-17 are about 13 per student, rates for Academic Year 2017-18 are approximately 10, and rates for Fall 2018 are less than two. Given that only data for Fall 2018 of Academic Year 2018-19 exist thus far, the reduction in truancy rates between Year 2016-17 and 2017-18 is the best measure of the positive impact Project School Climate has had on student absenteeism.



III. Grade Point Averages Slightly Decreased

From the Fall of Academic Year 2016-17 to the Spring of year 2016-17, students' grade point average fell from 2.86 to 2.66, reflecting a decrease of about 7 percent. The grade point average From Fall of Academic Year 2017-18 to Spring of Academic Year 2017-18, grade point average fell from 2.57 in the Fall to 2.33 in the Spring, reflecting about a 9 percent decrease. The grade point average from Spring of 2018 to Fall of 2018 fell from 2.33 to 2.31, less than a one percent decrease.

The grade point average overall decreased from 2.76 in Academic Year 2016-17 to 2.45 in Academic Year 2017-18, reflecting an approximately 11 percent decrease. It decreased from a GPA of 2.45 in Academic Year 17-18 to 2.31 in Fall 2018, reflecting a decrease of six percent. Over the span of the program, grade point average fell 16 percent.

Appendix A

Table 1 includes the total numbers of drug seizures, arrests, people prosecuted, convictions, asset forfeitures, children served for years 2015-2018.

Definition of “convicted” used: All dispositions/sentences that the Office of the District Attorney entered as the following were considered convictions: “CDC”; “Formal”; “Jail”; “Summary”; “Fines”; “Multiple”; and “VOP warrant.” “Summary” constitutes a summary probation. “VOP warrant” constitutes a warrant issued for a violation of probation.

All dispositions/sentences listed as the following were treated as prosecutions, but not convictions: “open, warrant”; “active, open” “PC1000”; “FTA, not disposed”; “dismissed”; “DEJ”; “VOD warrant.” “Open, warrant” constitutes that an arrest should be made if the person comes into contact with an officer but is not actively being pursued. “Active, open” constitutes an active case. “PC 1000” generally constitutes diversion to drug treatment. “FTA, not disposed” constitutes a failure to appear. “DEJ” constitutes Deferred Entry of Judgment, and generally is applied to those who plead “no contendere” and typically attend drug treatment. “VOD warrant” constitutes a violation of diversion.

Table 1:

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of drug seizures	83	112	59	39
Number of arrests	87	91	68	52
Number of people prosecuted	90	96	103	81
Number of convictions	72	88	49	33
Number of asset forfeitures	2	1	1	0
Number of children served	14	10	6	1