



Technology Transition Workshop | *Nancy Crump*

***Phoenix Police Department
Controlled Substances
Field Identification Program***

Agenda

- History of the program
- Program goals and criteria
- How does it work?
- Does it actually work? (statistics)
- Why does it work?
- Challenges
- Current state of the program
- Conclusion

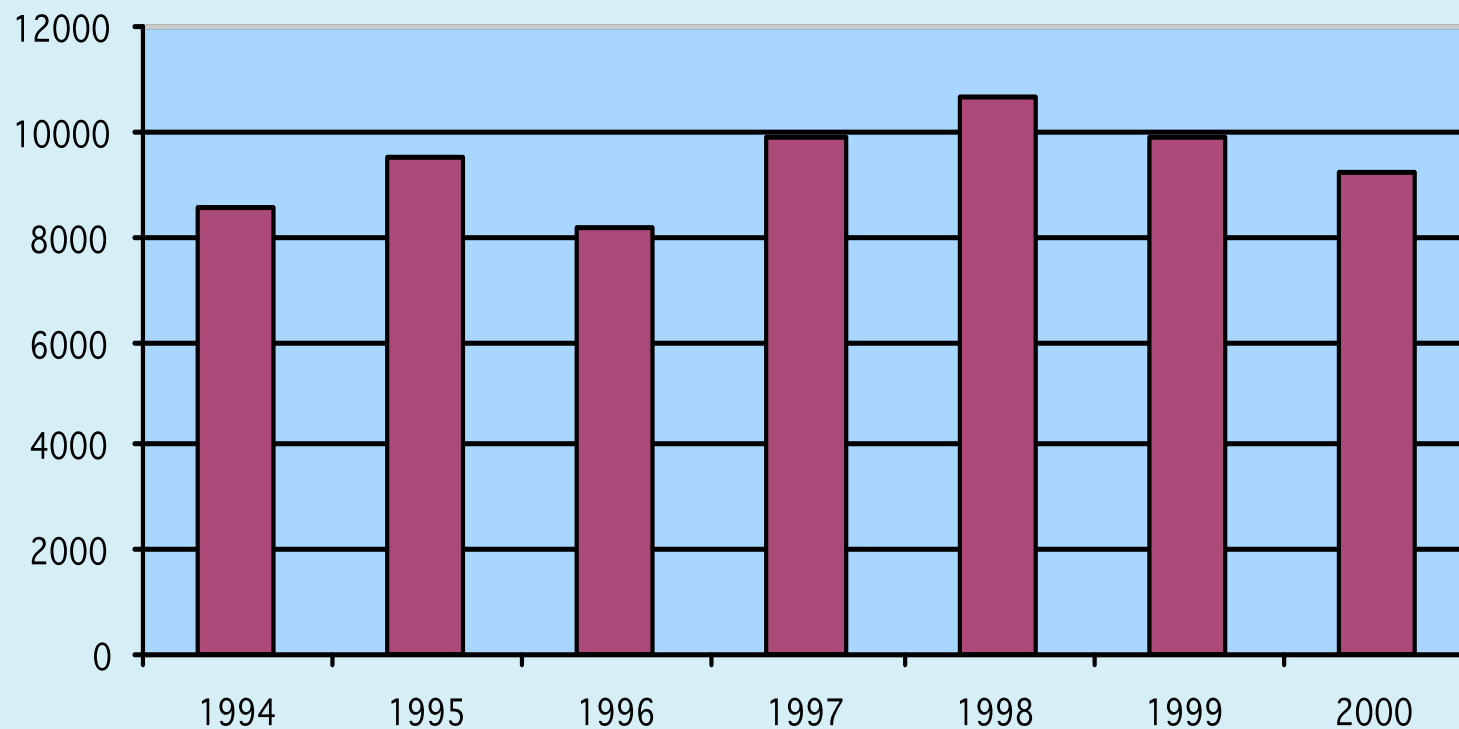
Why Did Phoenix PD Implement a Field Identification Program?

- Requests for service far exceeded the crime lab's capability
- Limited resources and personnel
- "Requested" by the Maricopa County Attorney's Office

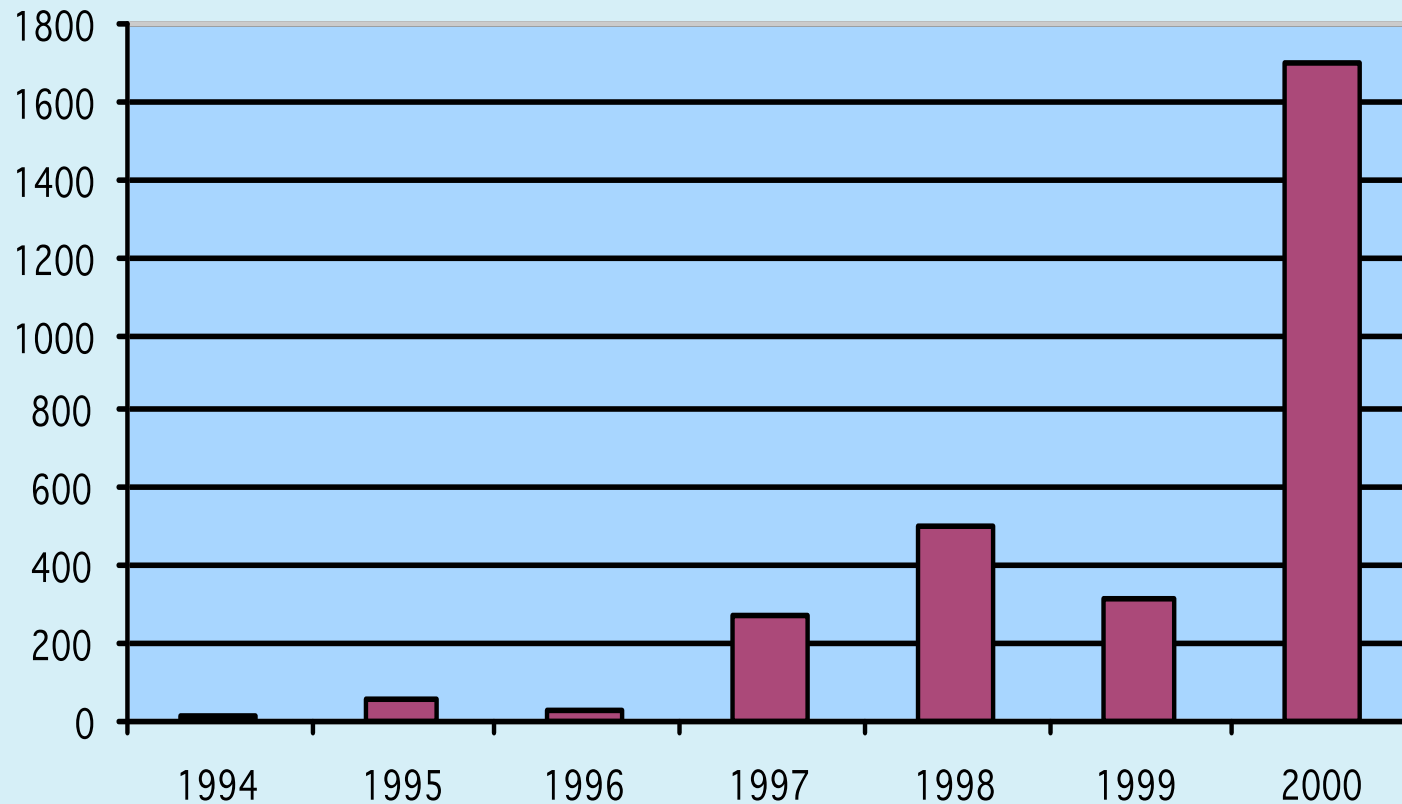
Underlying Issues

- Controlled substances case load
- Increased complexity of cases received
- Controlled substances backlog (pending cases)

Laboratory Requests for Service Received Prior to the Field ID Program



Pending Cases Prior to Field ID Program



Technology
Transition Workshop



History of Phoenix PD Field ID Program

- Program was started in AZ in 1996
- Began at the AZ DPS
- PPD started as pilot program in 2000
- Expanded to drug possession cases throughout the department
- Used in cases containing marijuana, cocaine powder, cocaine base, and methamphetamine

Phoenix PD Field ID Program Goals

- Expedite the adjudication of drug cases
- Reduce the number of simple possession type drug cases submitted to the crime lab

PPD Field ID Program Criteria

- Initially only simple possession cases
 - No “possession for sale” or “sale of” cases
- Direct Entry Certified for PACE (PPD RMS)
 - This is the program “gate keeper”
- PPD started as pilot program in 2000
- Officer must be available to test drug evidence for non-certified officers
- Must re-certify annually

In the Beginning . . .

- Created training program by adding to AZ DPS content
- Two-day training course
- PPD pilot program initiated in June 2000
 - One precinct, 15 officers
- Expanded department-wide in 2001
 - Certified 262 officers

How Does the Field ID Program Work?

- Specially trained officers (CSOs) perform testing in the field using commercially available test kits
 - Marijuana
 - Cocaine
 - Cocaine base (crack)
 - Methamphetamine

How Does the Field ID Program Work?

- Officer creates an affidavit after successful test
- Affidavit is used for preliminary hearing and charging
- The MCAO files charges without a full laboratory analysis

Field Testing Report or Affidavit

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

SUPPLEMENT

PAGE NUMBER: 3

DR NUMBER: 2002 22024899 1

Field Drug Testing Report: Marijuana

Invoice #: 3025227

Items: Descriptions:

0002 MARIJUANA TESTED IN THE FIELD BY OFC 6978.MARIJUAN

0003 MARIJUANA TESTED IN THE FIELD BY OFC 6978.6 1X1 IN

0004 MARIJUANA TESTED IN THE FIELD BY OFC 6978.2 SANDWI

Results:

The result(s) of chemical field test(s) indicate(s) the presence of marijuana, in a usable condition, for the above listed item[s].

Certification:

I certify that I have successfully completed training from the Phoenix Police Department Crime Laboratory in the use and interpretation of chemical field tests for controlled substances. I am a sworn officer with the Phoenix Police Department and will be available to testify in a court of law as to my findings in this case.

If trial proceedings are required for the adjudication of this matter, an analysis will be performed by the Phoenix Police Department Crime Laboratory, and a written report will be provided. Please notify the Crime Laboratory referencing this DR number at least four weeks prior to the start of the trial.

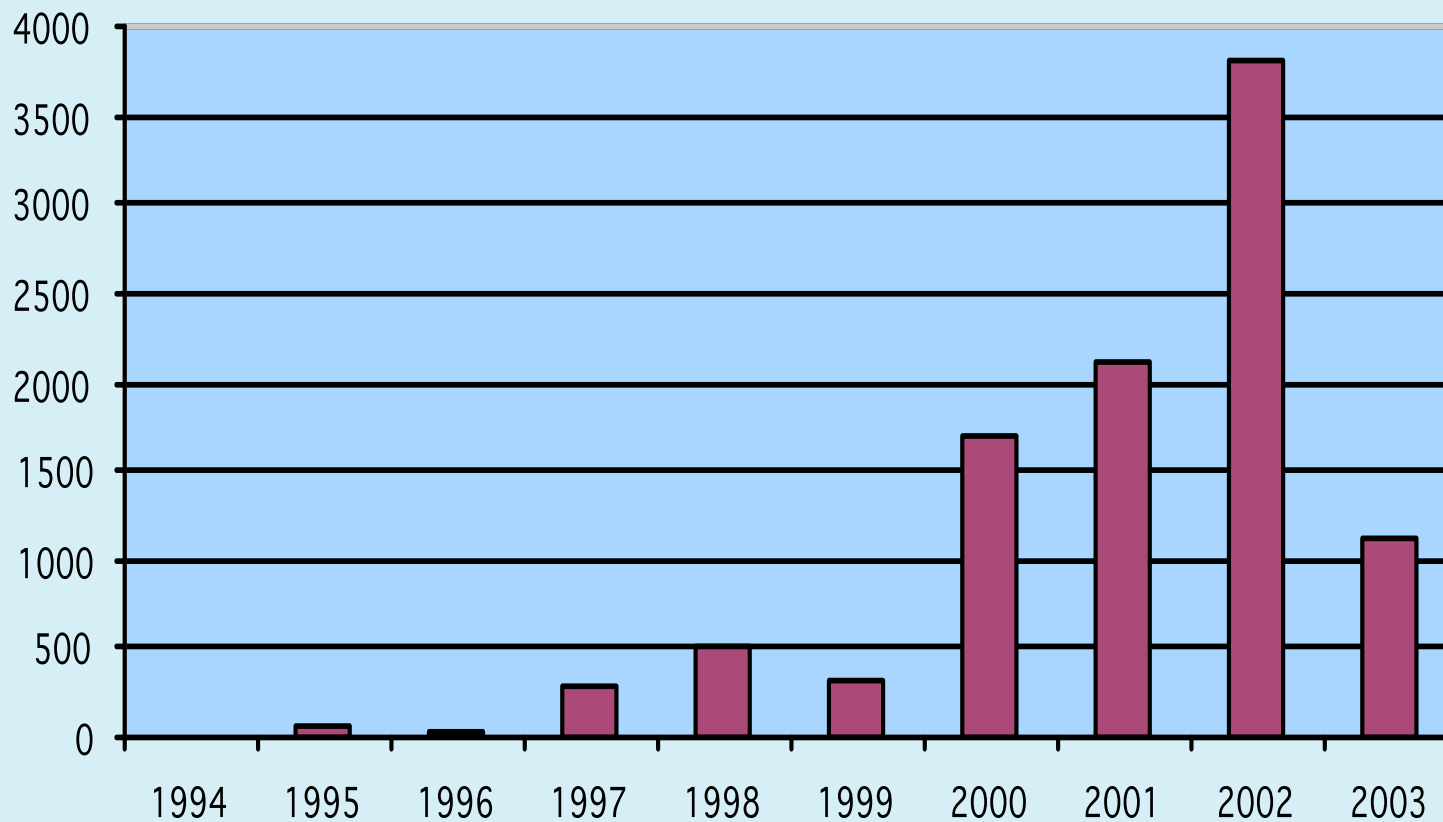
Technology
Transition Workshop



Special Projects – Backlog Reduction

- Trained Drug Enforcement Bureau detectives
 - 2003
- Light Duty Officers
- 1,704 items tested in ~ 1,400 cases
- Support from the PPD and MCAO

Backlog Reduction Program – 2003



Technology
Transition Workshop



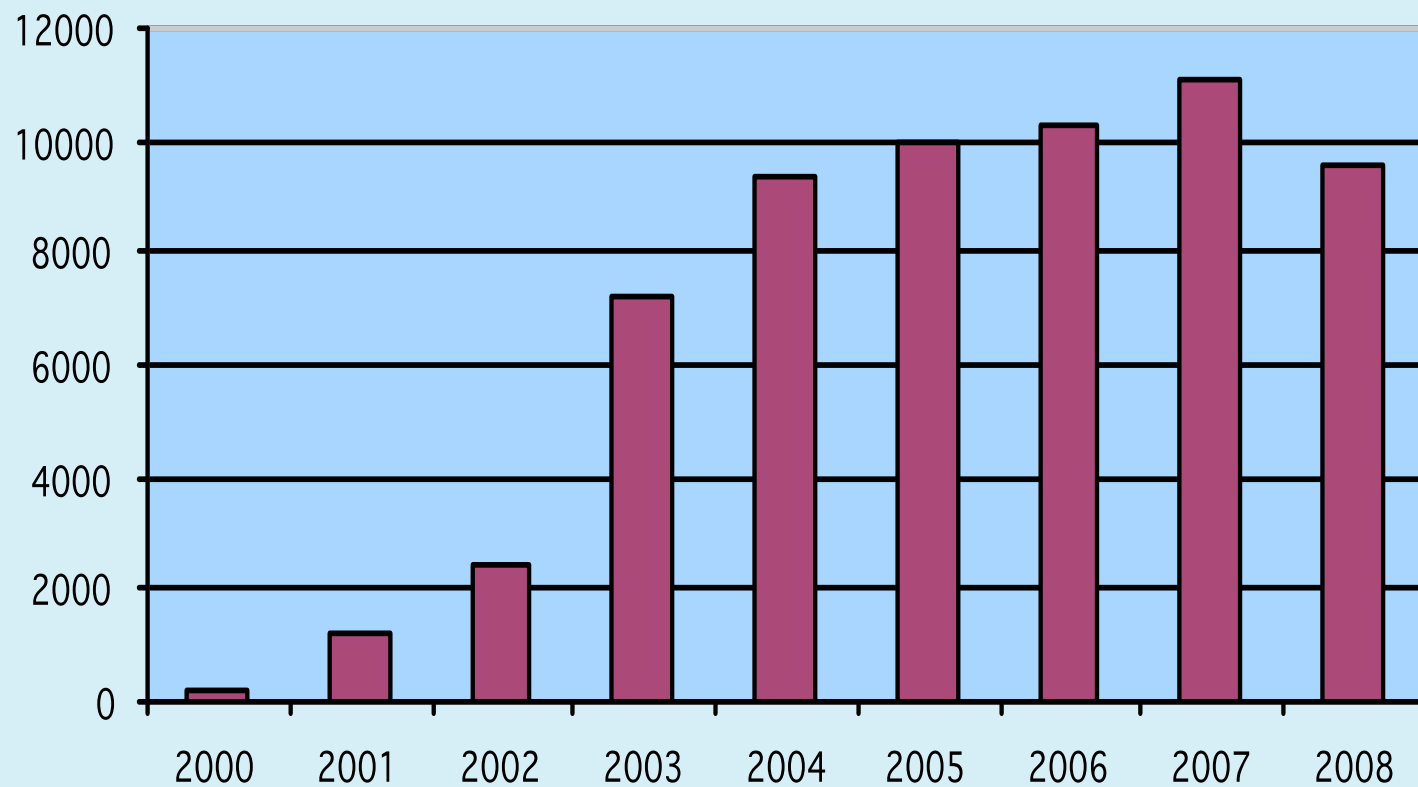
Ongoing Backlog Reduction

- Light Duty Officers
 - 4 from 2004 – 2007
- Officers have tested ~ 3,750 eligible items
- Also perform case research

Has the Field ID Program Achieved the Goals?

- **Question:** Does the PPD Field ID Program really work?
- **Answer:** Let's look at the statistics

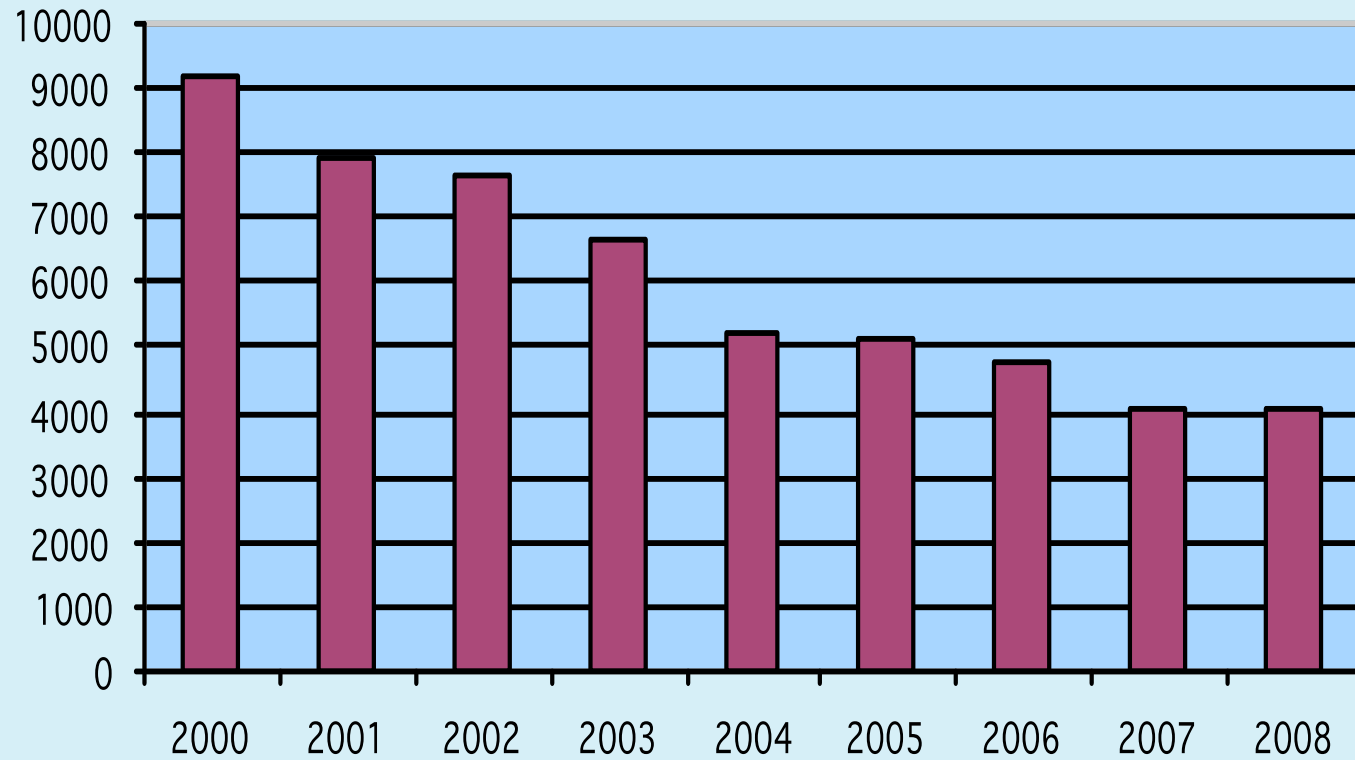
Field Drug Tests Performed



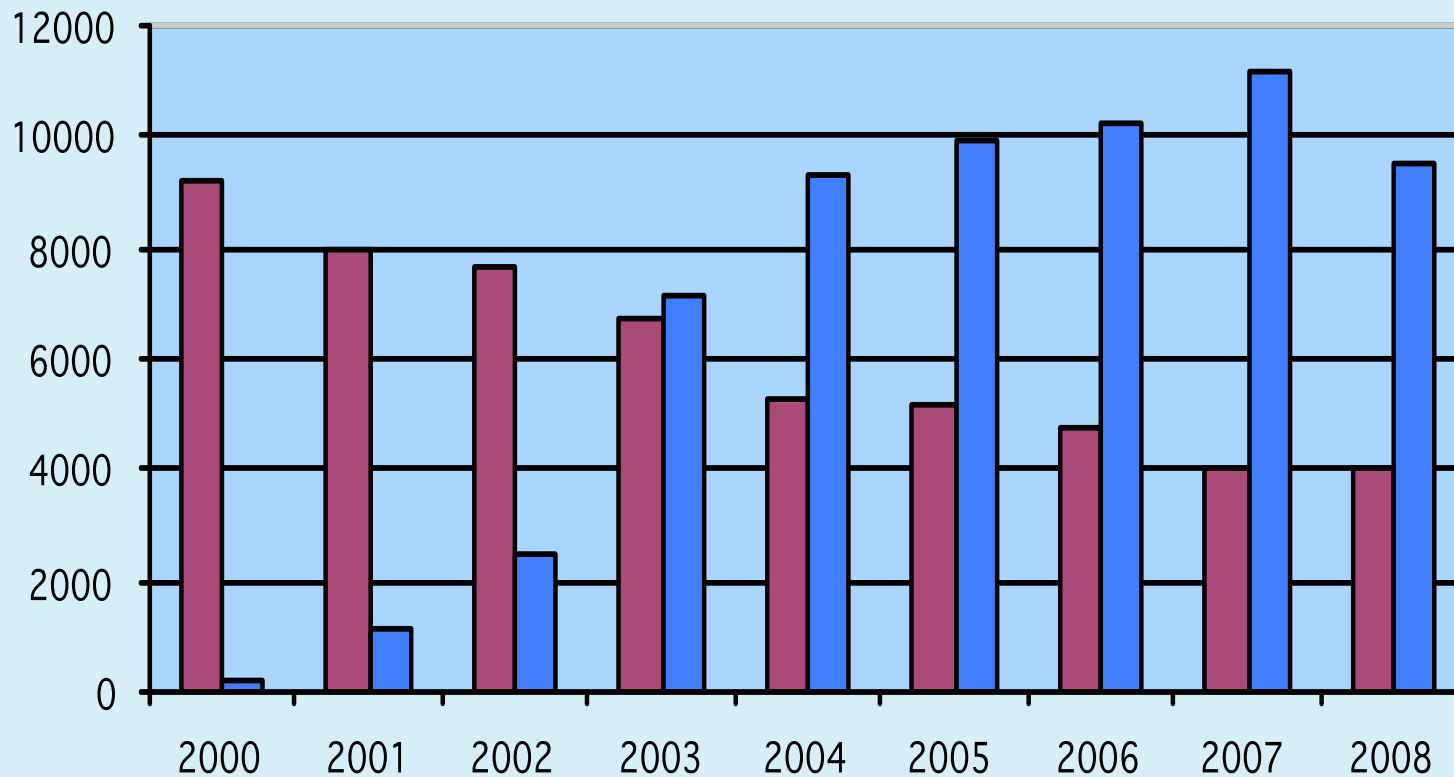
Technology
Transition Workshop



Crime Lab Drug Requests



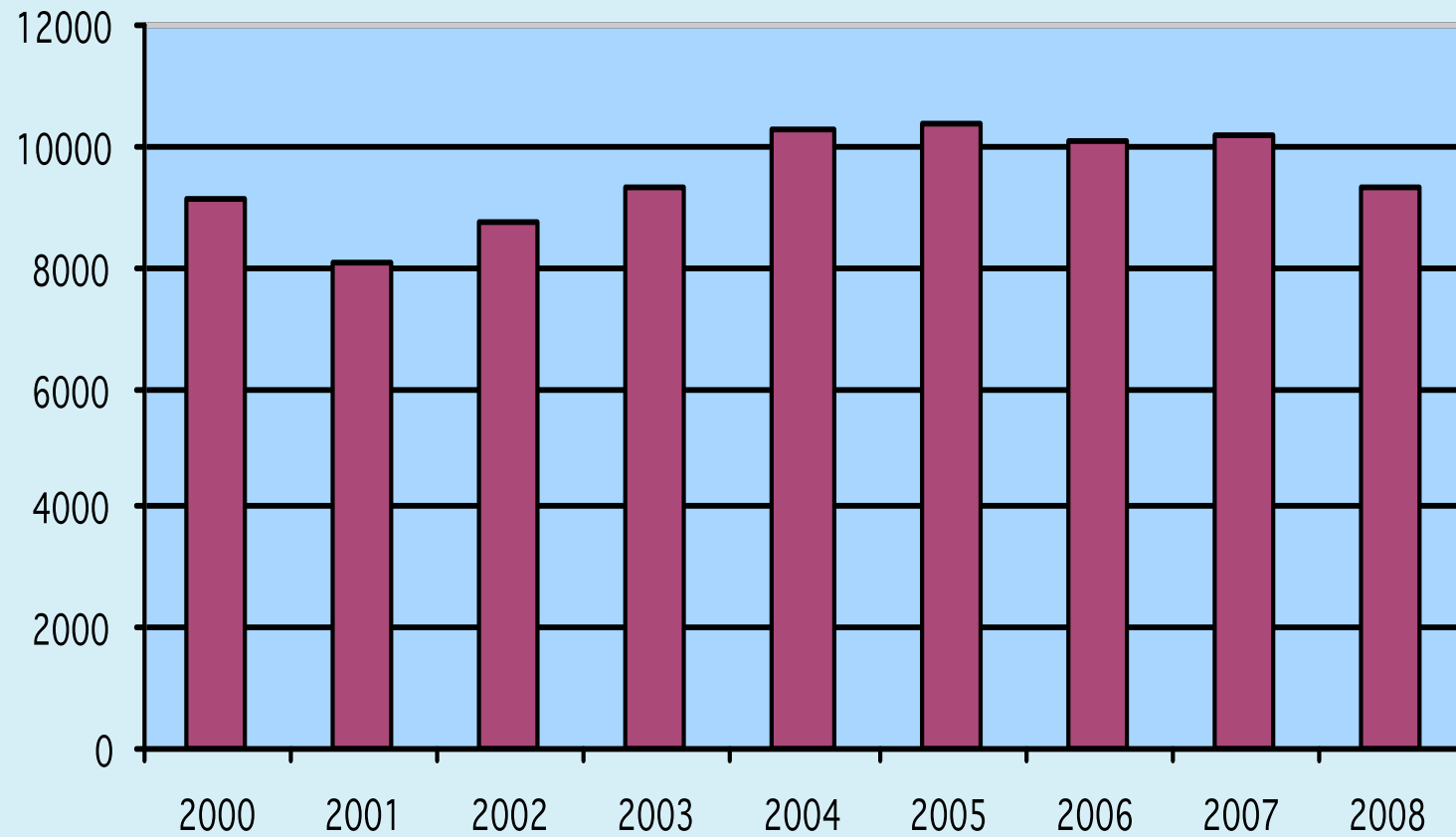
Crime Lab Drug Requests vs. Field Drug Tests Performed



■ Drug requests
■ Field identifications

Technology
Transition Workshop 

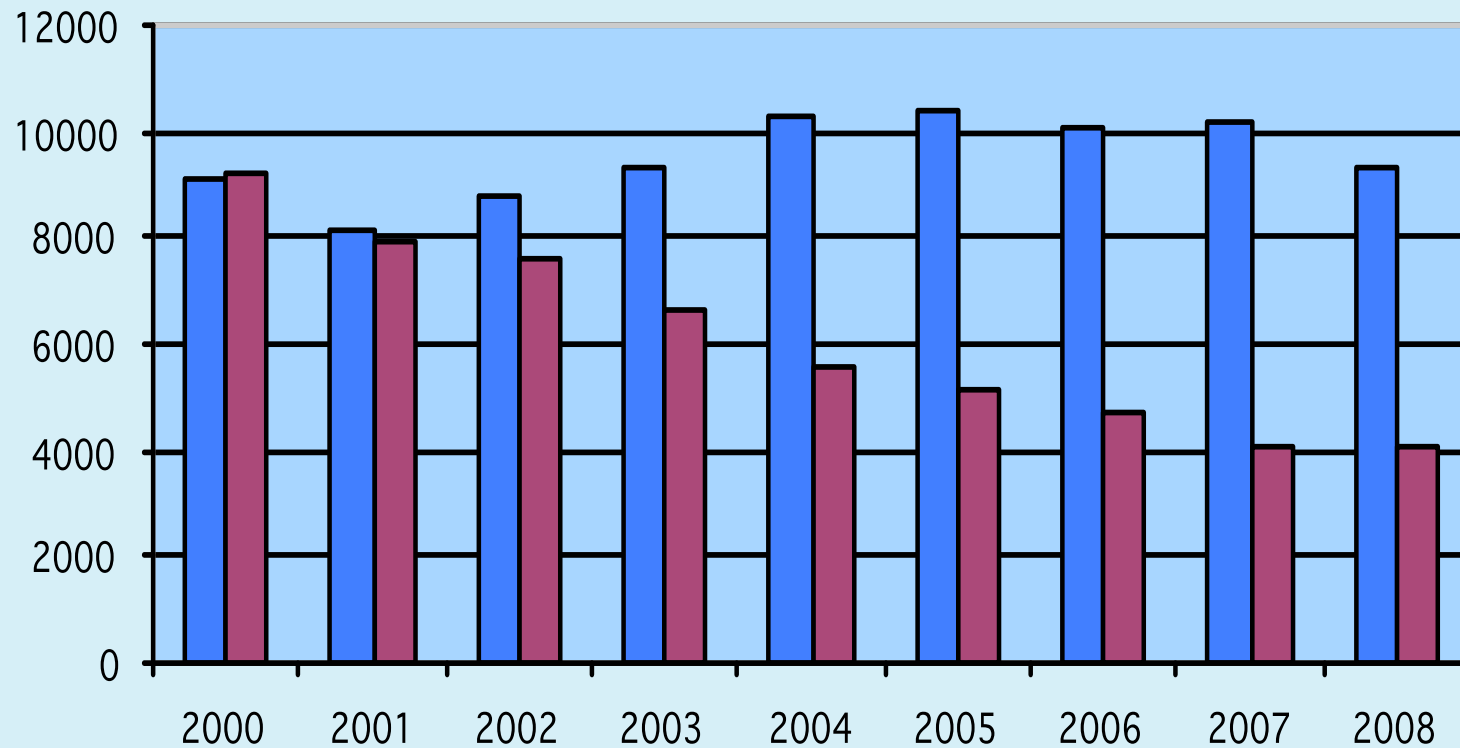
PPD Drug Reports



Technology
Transition Workshop



PPD Drug Reports vs. Drug Lab Requests



■ Lab requests
■ PPD drug reports

Technology
Transition Workshop



Why Does the PPD Field ID Program Work?

- Dedicated officers
- Dedicated trainers
- Support from the department
- Support and continuous communication with MCAO
- Quality assurance monitoring
- Required annual recertification

PPD Field ID Quality Assurance Program

- Statistical data generated
- Minimum of one (1) item or case/officer/year
- Overall minimum of five percent (5%) of field ID cases reanalyzed
- Full lab analysis for superior court and jail sentences on pleas
- Corrective action/additional training when needed
- Actively communicate with CSOs

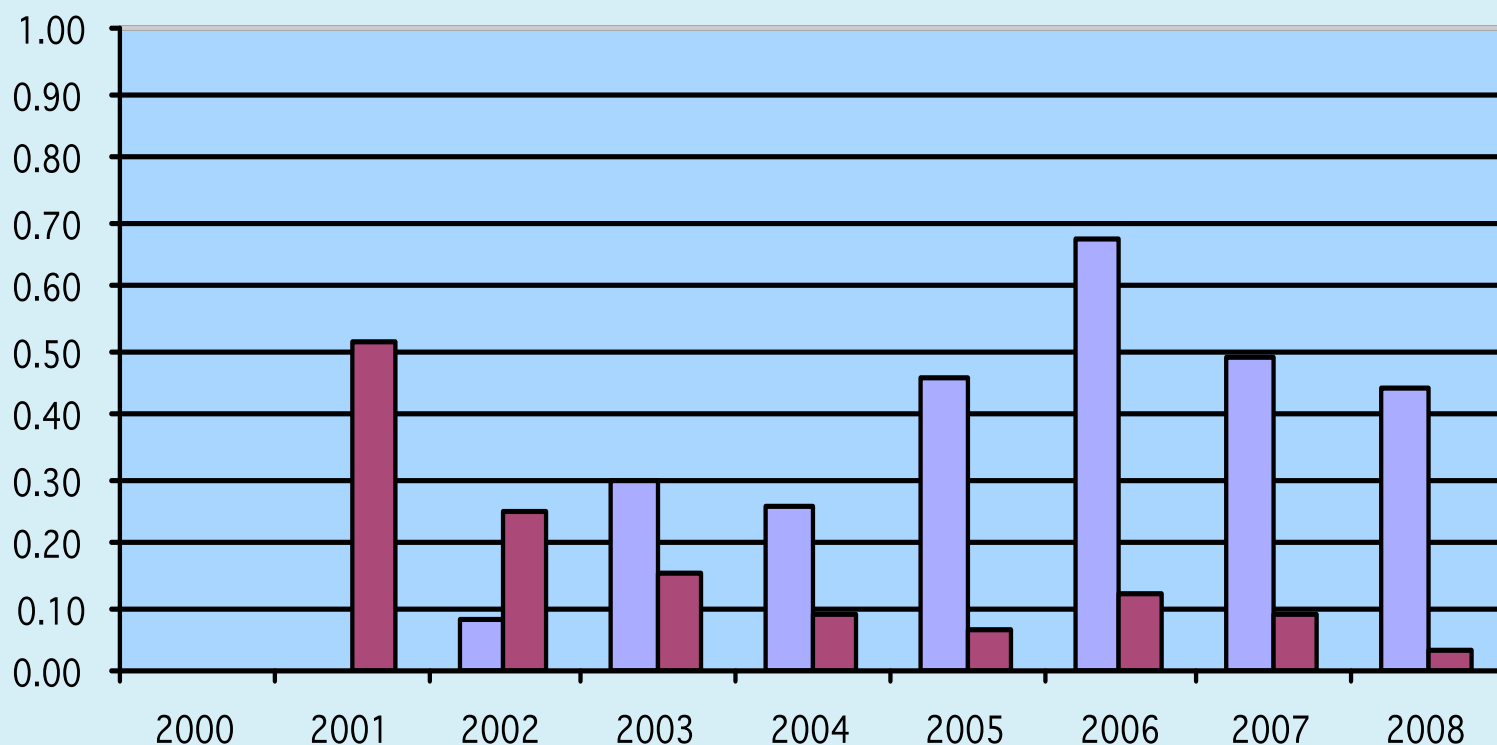
Challenges

- Officer participation and coverage
- Maintaining a quality work product
- Program maintenance

Maintaining A Quality Work Product

- Quality issues identified
 - Misidentifications
 - Cocaine “form” inconsistencies
 - Paperwork issues
- Suspension of permissions
- Additional training to reinstate

Quality Issues Identified



As a percentage of total IDs:

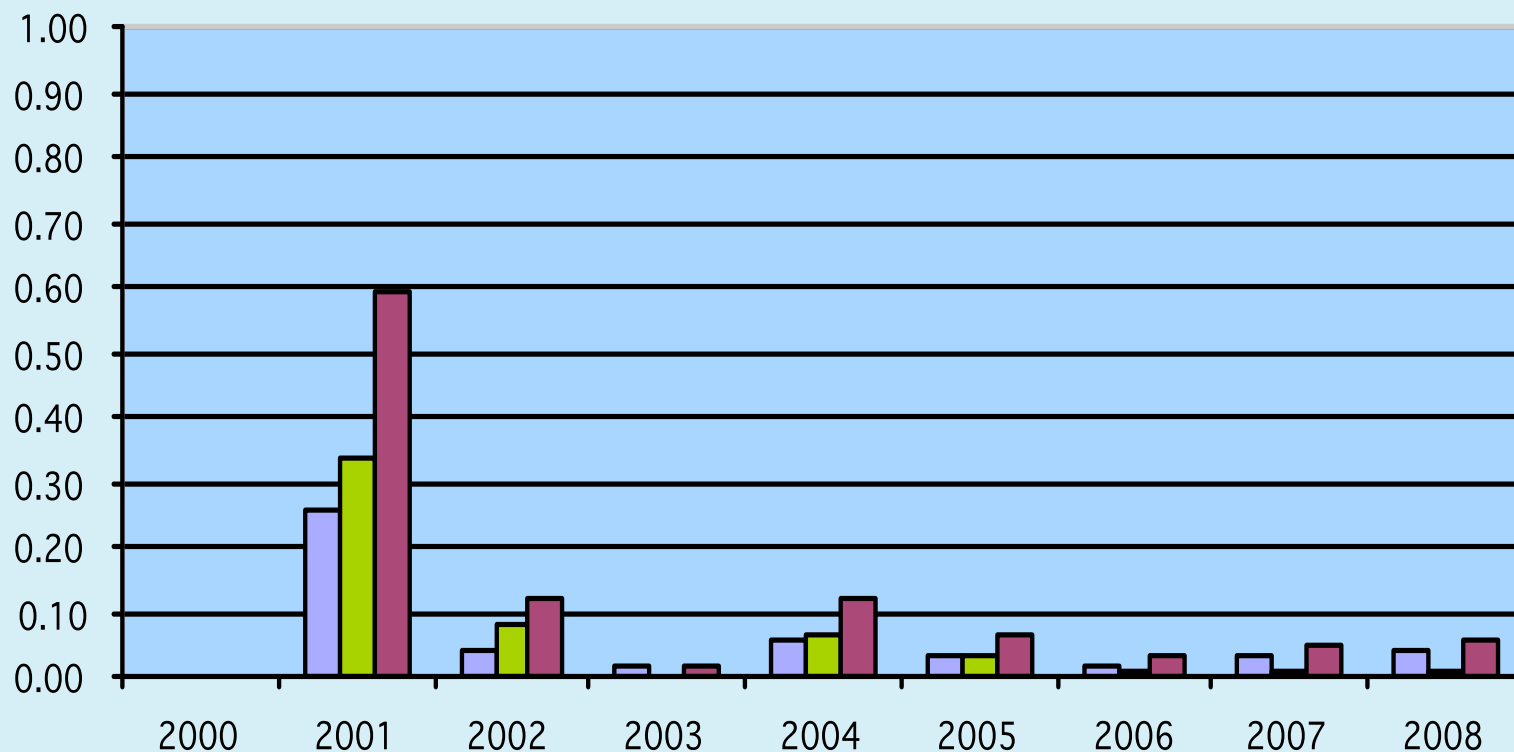
■ Paperwork errors

■ Cocaine form inconsistencies

Technology
Transition Workshop



Quality Issues Identified



As a percentage of total IDs:

- No drug present misidentification
- "Other" drug present misidentifications
- Total misidentifications

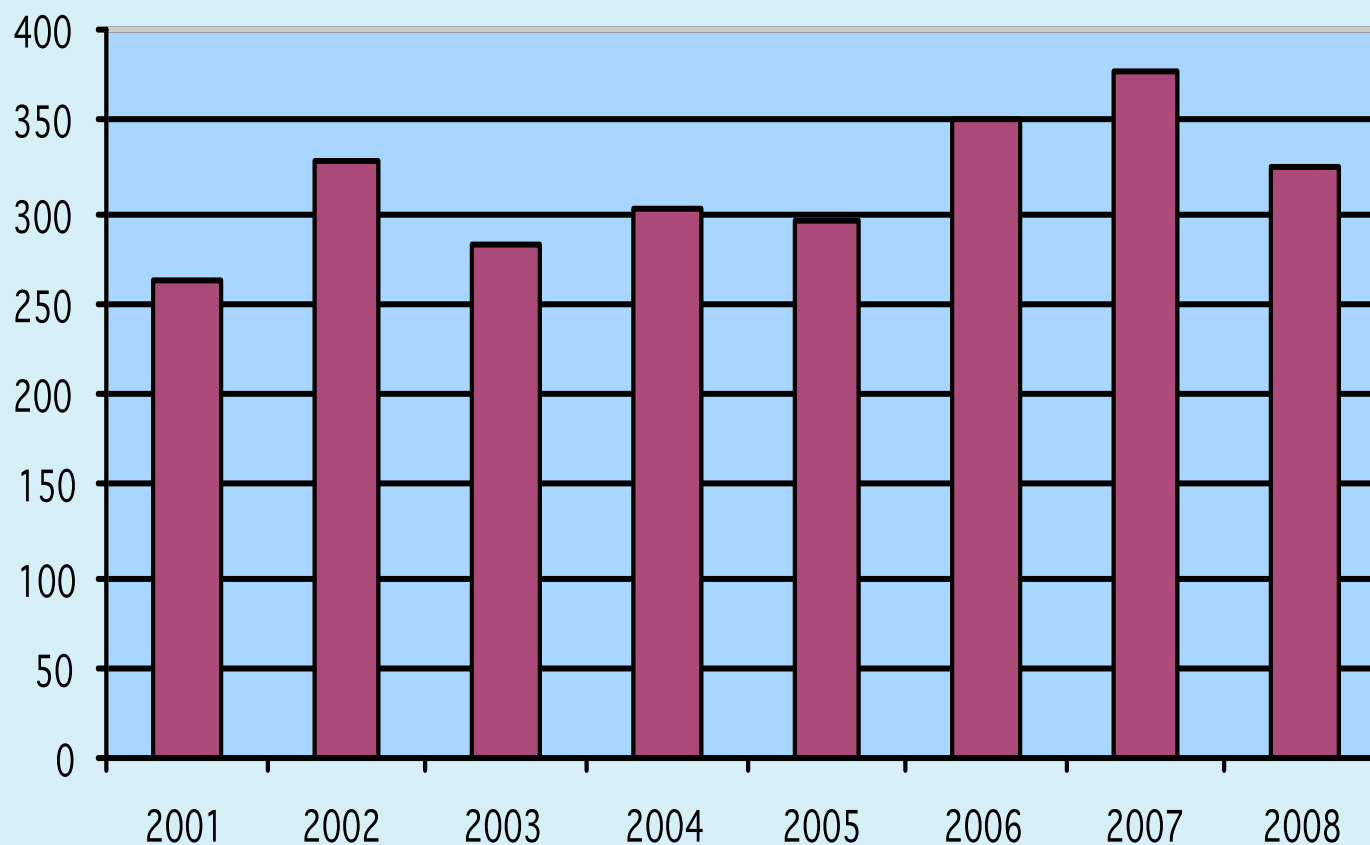
Program Maintenance

- Continually training new officers
- Monitoring coverage
- Goal of 300 certified officers
- Continual quality monitoring

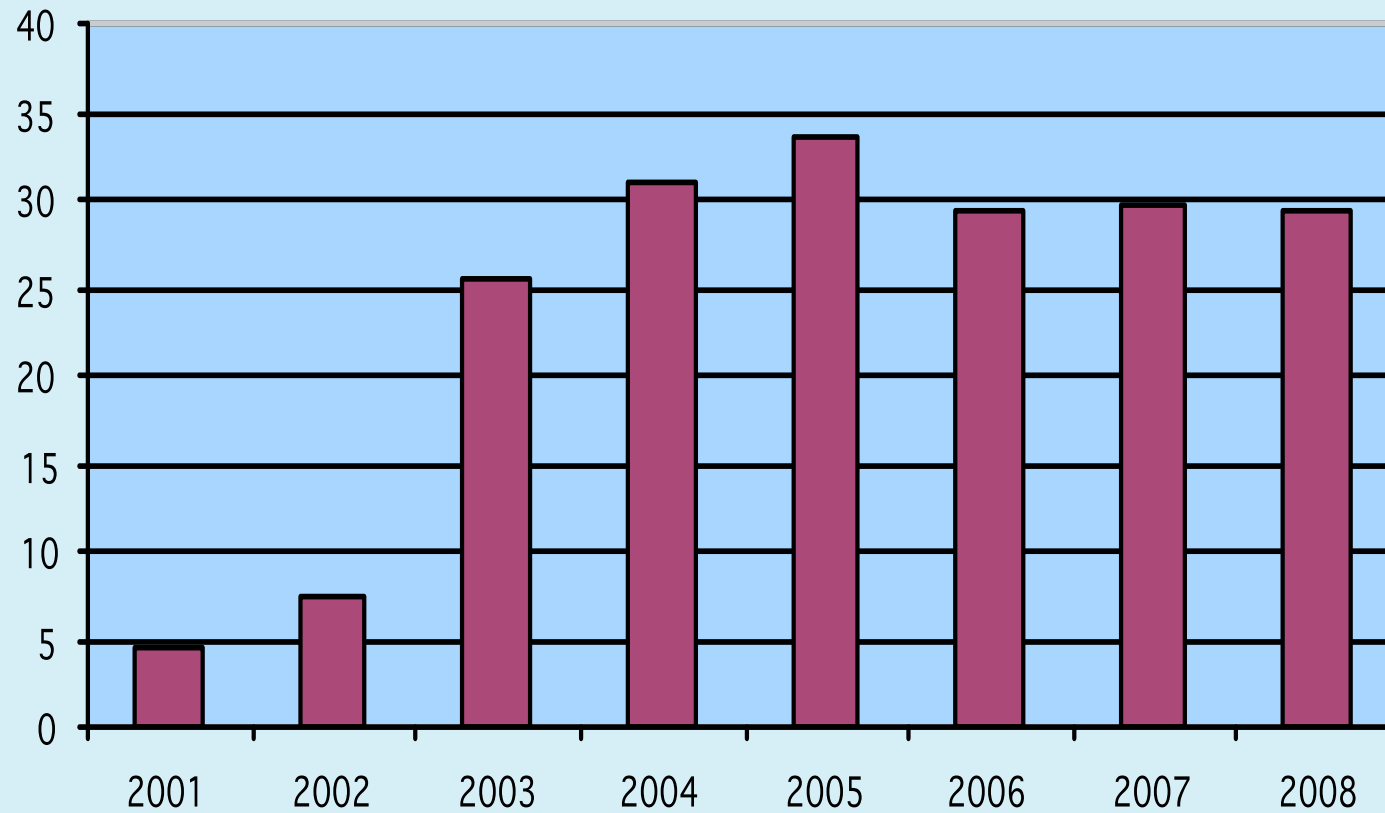
Current State of PPD Field ID Program

- Can be used on any item suspected of being MJ, cocaine (powder or base) or methamphetamine
- Weight and/or charge determines follow-up by crime laboratory
- Sentencing may determine follow-up
- Testimony training added
- Re-certification training used to give additional drug information as well

Number of Certified Officers



Average Field IDs Performed per Officer



Benefits Realized from Implementing PPD Field ID Program

- Phoenix police officers
 - More efficient impounding on drug cases
 - Reduced holdover time
 - More efficient preliminary hearings
- Controlled Substances Lab
 - Reduced caseload
- MCAO
 - Faster charging and adjudication processes

Conclusion

- PPD Field ID Programs Benefits
 - Certified officers
 - Controlled substances lab
 - Police department
 - MCAO
 - Community

Contact Information

Nancy Crump
Phoenix Police Department
Laboratory Services Bureau
621 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003
(602) 534-8750
nancy.crump@phoenix.gov

Note: All graphics and images contained within
this presentation are courtesy of Nancy Crump.