



# COPS

Community Oriented Policing Services  
U.S. Department of Justice

## Successful Practices & Strategies

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# Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office

Jefferson, Ohio

[www.ashtabulacountysheriff.org](http://www.ashtabulacountysheriff.org)

Community policing element

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Problem/issue

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Problem Solving

Drug trafficking

### Community policing strategies implemented

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The Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) takes a "proactive" approach by acting upon tips, examining pharmaceutical logs, doing knock and talk encounters on suspected meth houses, using social media as a tool, and being aware of those persons involved in this type of activity prior to and after being released from incarceration, including information sharing among local law enforcement agencies. The ACSO is proactive with traffic enforcement in high crime (drug) areas, resulting at times in mobile meth labs and users being discovered.

Due to the high incidence of meth use and manufacturing in the area, in 2007 the ACSO partnered with the Ohio Attorney General, City of Akron, and Highland and Clermont Counties and was awarded a meth enforcement grant from the COPS Office that allowed the ACSO to work overtime on the problem, to buy equipment necessary for enforcement, and to partner with the state's Attorney General's office and other Ohio communities to combat the meth problem in the area. The Ohio Attorney General was able to introduce and pass legislation on the limits of pseudoephedrine purchases and on documenting the names and birthdates of people purchasing these over the counter drugs from "mom and pop" stores and chain pharmacies and placing those names on records that can be accessed by law enforcement through a database, or manual search of the records when requested, thus allowing the ACSO to cross check names with local meth users and manufacturers.

The current COPS Hiring Grant has allowed the ACSO to maintain its shift strengths and enhance its Drug Task Force with experienced officers to combat this and other drug problems. The ACSO has also expanded its partnership with the local mental health board in an attempt to reduce recidivism through assessment and behavioral changes of those whose lives and criminal conduct involve drug crimes.

### Change and/or impact as a result of these community policing efforts

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As a result, 62 clandestine meth labs have been found and eradicated, and 154 felony arrests have been made for manufacturing and possessing chemicals to manufacture, thus preventing deaths, injuries, and other crimes related to these activities. Additionally, the ACSO has partnered with local mental health



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and drug treatment providers to conduct substance abuse treatment programs in the ACSO's jail for individuals sentenced for drug-related offenses, with the emphasis on re-entry to reduce recidivism for drug offenses.

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