



## WEST VIRGINIA DRUG CONTROL UPDATE

*This report reflects significant trends, data, and major issues relating to drugs in the State of West Virginia.*

### West Virginia At-a-Glance:

- In 2009-2010, West Virginia was one of the top ten states for rates of drug-use in several categories, including: past-month use of illicit drugs other than marijuana among persons age 12 or older; past-month use of illicit drugs other than marijuana among young adults age 18-25; past-year nonmedical pain reliever use among young adults age 18-25; illicit drug dependence among persons age 12 or older; and illicit drug dependence among young adults age 18-25.

*Source:* National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2009-2010.

- Approximately 8.4 percent of West Virginia residents reported past-month illicit drug use; the national average was 8.82 percent.
- In 2009, the rate of drug-induced deaths in West Virginia was higher than the national average. From 2004-2008 three West Virginia counties ranked in the top ten for rates of drug poisoning deaths in the nation. These counties include the highest (58.7 deaths per 100,000 population in Wyoming County), the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest (58.1 deaths per 100,000 population in McDowell County), and the 8<sup>th</sup> highest (45.1 deaths per 100,000 population in Logan County).
- In 2010, the percentage of drug treatment admission rates in West Virginia for non-heroin opiates reached 59 percent.

## Drug Use Trends in West Virginia

**Drug Use in West Virginia:** The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provides national and state-level data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs (including non-medical use of prescription drugs), and mental health in the United States. In the most recent Survey, 8.4 percent of West Virginia residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.82 percent. Additionally, 4.18 percent of West Virginia residents reported using an illicit drug other than marijuana in the past month (the national average was 3.6 percent).

*Source:* Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2009-2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA11-4641/SMA11-4641.pdf>

**Drug-Induced Deaths:** As a direct consequence of drug use, 235 persons died in West Virginia in 2009. This is compared to the number of persons in West Virginia who died from motor vehicle accidents (373) and firearms (251) in the same year. West Virginia drug-induced deaths (12.9 per 100,000 population) exceeded the national rate (12.8 per 100,000).

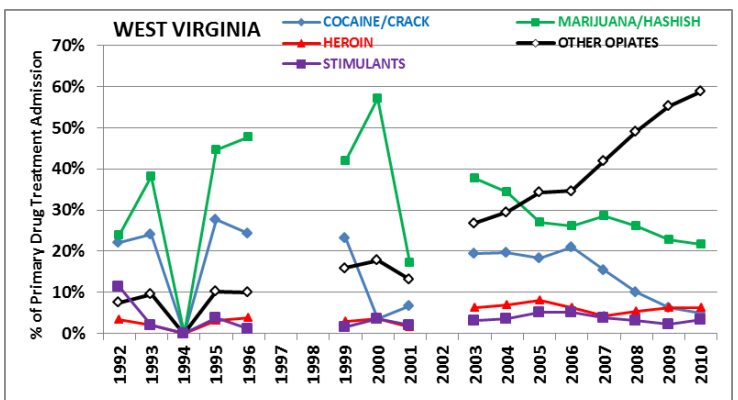
*Source:* WONDER online databases: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/cmf-icd10.html>

## Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Data

**West Virginia Primary Treatment Admissions:** The graph on the right depicts substance abuse primary treatment admissions in West Virginia from 1992 to 2010. The data show that “other” opiates (including prescription drugs) are the most commonly cited drugs among primary drug treatment admissions in the state.

*Source:* Treatment Episode Data Set, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/DASIS.aspx#teds>

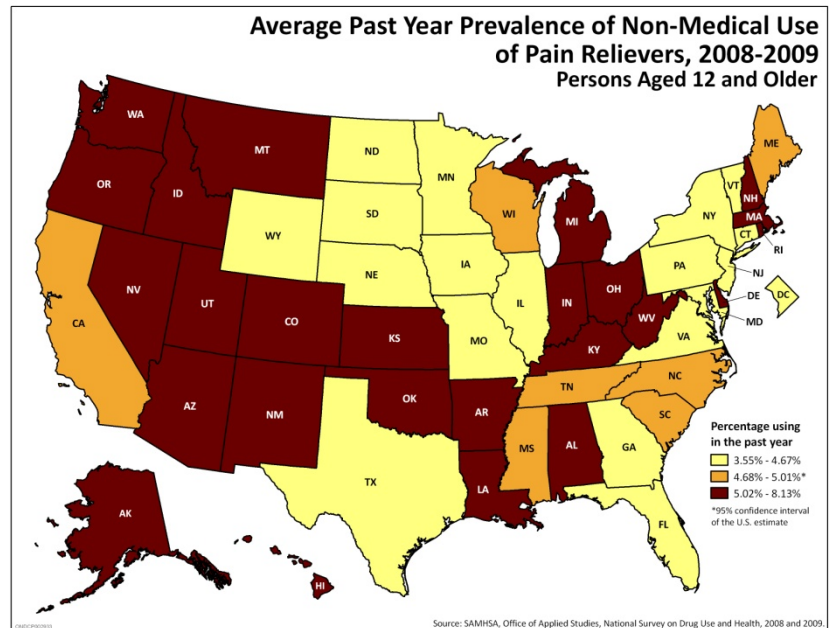
Note: The Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) does not display 1997-1998, 2002, or 2011 data for West Virginia.



# Prescription Drug Abuse

## ONDCP's Efforts to Combat Prescription Drug Abuse

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the Nation. The Administration's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan, entitled **"Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis,"** provides a national framework for reducing prescription drug diversion and abuse by supporting the expansion of state-based prescription drug monitoring programs; recommending secure, more convenient, and environmentally responsible disposal methods to remove expired, unused, or unneeded medications from the home; supporting education for patients and healthcare providers; and reducing the prevalence of pill mills and doctor shopping through enforcement efforts.



### **State-Level Action: Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)**

PDMPs track controlled substances prescribed by authorized practitioners and dispensed by pharmacies. PDMPs serve a number of functions, including assisting in patient care, providing early warning signs of drug epidemics, and detecting drug diversion and insurance fraud. Forty-one states have operational PDMP programs established by state legislation and funded by a combination of state and Federal funds. An additional 9 states and territories have a prescription drug monitoring program authorized, but not yet operational. Adequate resourcing, increasing the number of states with operational PDMPs, and development of state-to-state information-sharing systems would significantly help reduce prescription drug diversion and abuse.

West Virginia's **Prescription Drug Monitoring Program** was established in 1995 by the state Board of Pharmacy for the monitoring of Schedule II-IV Controlled Substances. Data collection occurs once per week and collects an average of 3.3 prescriptions annually. West Virginia received grants to fund its PDMP under the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Grants, administered by the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance, in 2002 and 2004.

Source: National Association for State Model Drug Laws. <http://www.namsdl.org/resources/West%20Virginia1.pdf>

### **State-Level Action: Drug Take-Back Programs**

A comprehensive plan to address prescription drug abuse must include proper disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired medications. Providing individuals with a secure and convenient way to dispose of controlled substances will help prevent diversion and abuse of these substances and demonstrate sound environmental stewardship. Federal rulemaking is underway and will further enhance the viability and scope of state and community take-back programs. In the meantime, states are encouraged to work with the DEA to conduct additional take-back events and educate the public about safe and effective drug return and disposal.

## Drugged Driving

### ONDCP Action on Drugged Driving

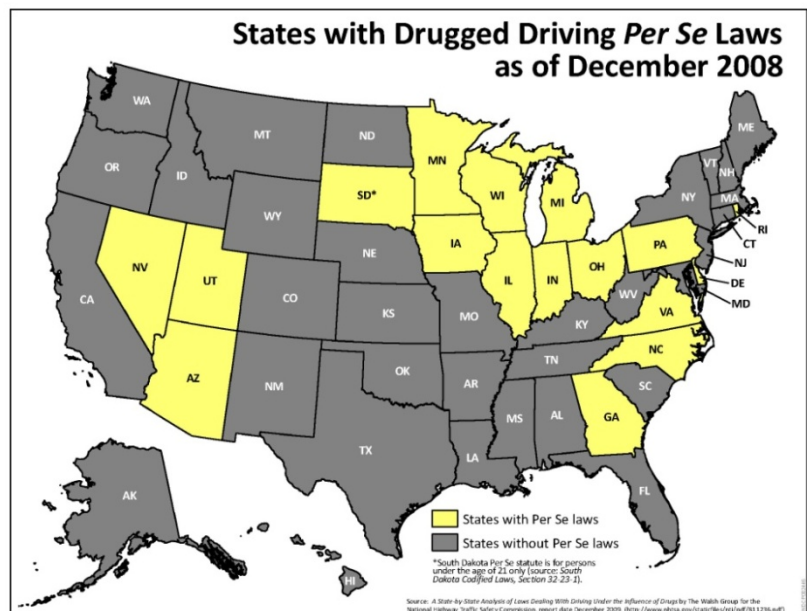
In 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that one in eight weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illicit drugs. According to recent Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) data, one in three motor vehicle fatalities (33 percent) with known drug test results tested positive for drugs in 2009. Recognizing this growing problem, ONDCP is working to raise awareness of the dangers of drugged driving, provide increased training to law enforcement in identifying drugged drivers, and encourage states to consider *Per Se* laws to facilitate effective enforcement and prosecution of those who drive with drugs in their systems.

### State-Level Action: Enacting *Per Se* Standards for Impairment

Although all 50 states have laws against drugged driving, law enforcement often lacks adequate tools to enforce and prosecute drugged driving. ONDCP encourages states to develop and implement *Per Se* standards for impairment that make it illegal to drive a vehicle after taking illegal drugs. This is the same standard used successfully for 12 million commercial drivers in the United States over the past two decades. *Per Se* standards have been adopted in 17 states.

**West Virginia does not currently have a *Per Se* standard,** but West Virginia State law (§17C-5-2) prohibits driving under the influence by any person “under the influence of any controlled substance” or “any other drug.” In addition, it is a misdemeanor to both drive a vehicle or knowingly permit your own vehicle to be driven by “any person who is a habitual user of narcotic drugs or amphetamine or any derivative thereof.” Legal entitlement or prescription to use a controlled substance is not a defense for driving under the influence.

Source: *A State-by-State Analysis of Laws Dealing With Driving Under the Influence of Drugs*, by the Walsh Group for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, December 2009.



## ONDCP Support for Community-Based Prevention

### National Anti-Drug Media Campaign

ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign provides consistent and credible messages (including in Native American and Alaska Native communities) to young people about drug use and its consequences. *Above the Influence*, a major component of the Campaign, informs and inspires youth to reject illicit drugs and drinking via a mix of national and local advertising vehicles. The Campaign, in close partnership with local community-based, youth-serving organizations, also conducts teen-targeted *Above the Influence* activities to assist local groups with youth drug prevention work in their respective communities.

**The Drug Free Communities Program:** Recognizing that local problems require local solutions, Drug Free Communities (DFC) organizations mobilize communities to prevent youth drug use by creating local data-driven strategies to reduce drug use in the community. ONDCP works to foster the growth of new coalitions and support existing coalitions through the DFC grants. In FY 2012, the following West Virginia coalitions received grants from ONDCP:

- Brooke Hancock Drug Prevention Coalition
- Cabell County Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership
- Creating Opportunities for Youth
- Jackson County Anti-Drug Coalition
- Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition
- Morgan County Partnership, Inc.
- Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention
- Strong Through Our Plan (the S.T.O.P.) Coalition

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy  
[http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee\\_map.html](http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee_map.html)

## ONDCP High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) County Info

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program enhances and coordinates drug control efforts among local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies. In designated HIDTA counties, the program provides agencies with coordination, equipment, technology, and additional resources to combat drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in critical regions of the United States.

### HIDTA Counties in West Virginia:

**Appalachia HIDTA:** Boone, Brooke, Cabell, Hancock, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Ohio, Putnam and Wayne counties.

- The Appalachia HIDTA supports five multi-agency task forces in West Virginia whose mission is to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations operating in the designated HIDTA counties.
  - *Huntington Violent Crimes/Drug Task Force:* focuses on major organizations that traffic in marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and diverted pharmaceuticals.
  - *Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team:* investigates family-based or loosely knit trafficking organization involved in marijuana cultivation, clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, and diversion of pharmaceuticals in southern West Virginia.
  - *U.S. 119 Drug and Violent Crime Task Force:* focuses on drug trafficking organizations, with specific emphasis on the four primary drugs affecting the region: cannabis, OxyContin, cocaine, and cocaine base.
  - *West Virginia DEA HIDTA Task Force:* focuses on locally based mid- to upper-level drug trafficking organizations with local, multi-state, or international operations.
  - *West Virginia Eradication Initiative:* focuses on reducing the availability of marijuana in the region and beyond.



## Federal Grant Awards Available to Reduce Drug Use in the State of West Virginia

The Federal Government awards competitive grants to help states in their efforts to reduce drug use and its harmful consequences. In FY 2012, direct support was provided to state and local governments, schools, and law enforcement organizations in your state for this purpose. Some Federal grant programs are dedicated to reducing drug use and its harmful consequences while others can be used for reducing drug use or for other purposes. In FY 2012, your State received support under the grant programs shown below.

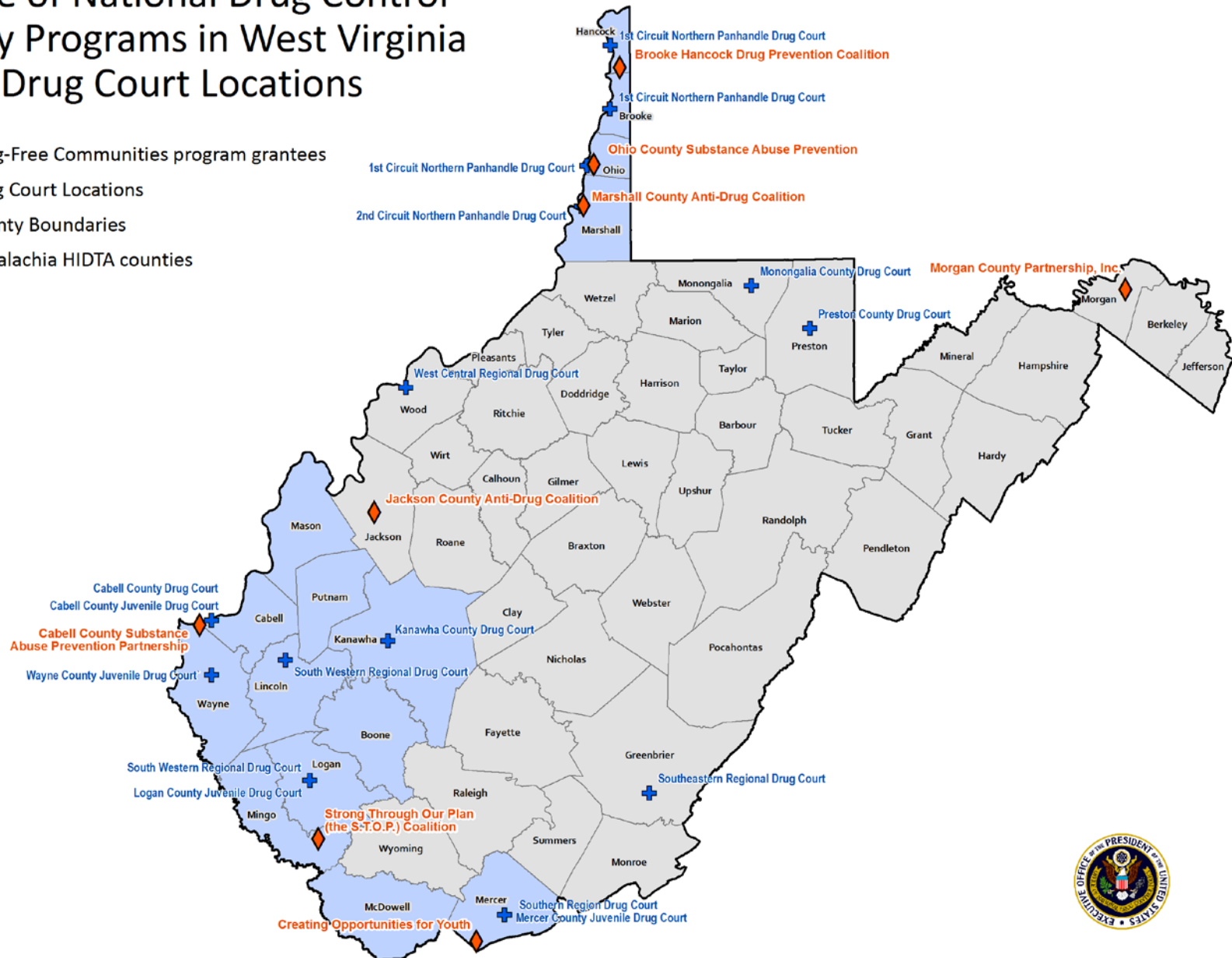
Federal Grant Awards That Help Reduce the Availability and Misuse Of Drugs In The State of WV	
Department / Office / Program Name	2012
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	<b>\$ 8,196,033</b>
<b>National Institute of Food and Agriculture</b>	
Cooperative Extension Service	\$ 8,196,033
<b>Department of Defense</b>	<b>\$ 35,500</b>
<b>The Army</b>	
National Guard Challenge Program	\$ 35,500
<b>Department of Education</b>	<b>\$ 9,227,751</b>
<b>Office of Elementary and Secondary Education</b>	
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs	\$ 2,129,417
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	\$ 7,098,334
<b>Department of Health and Human Services</b>	<b>\$ 65,420,242</b>
<b>Administration for Children and Families</b>	
Promoting Safe and Stable Families	\$ 2,481,488
Transitional Living for Homeless Youth	\$ 371,761
<b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</b>	
Medical Assistance Program - Grants to States for Medicaid To Treat Substance Abuse	\$ 44,212,672
<b>National Institutes of Health</b>	
Alcohol Research Programs	\$ 351,500
Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Programs	\$ 1,446,866
<b>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</b>	
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse	\$ 8,644,366
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	\$ 300,000
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance	\$ 6,461,589
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Electronic Health Record (EHR) Integration	\$ 450,000
<b>Health Resources and Services Administration</b>	
Healthy Start Initiative	\$ 700,000
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>	<b>\$ 8,119,282</b>
<b>Community Planning and Development</b>	
Emergency Shelter Grants Program	\$ 922,698
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	\$ 2,361,576
Shelter Plus Care	\$ 903,897
Supportive Housing Program	\$ 3,931,111
<b>Department of Justice</b>	<b>\$ 3,059,863</b>
<b>Office of Justice Programs</b>	
Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program	\$ 475,698
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	\$ 1,918,585
Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Discretionary Grants Program	\$ 88,075
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants	\$ 191,109
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Allocation to States	\$ 320,000
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	\$ 66,396
<b>Department of Labor</b>	<b>\$ 3,103,739</b>
<b>Employment and Training Administration</b>	
Reintegration of Ex-Offenders	\$ 1,267,796
Youthbuild	\$ 1,835,943
<b>Department of Transportation</b>	<b>\$ 953,248</b>
<b>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration</b>	

<b>Federal Grant Awards That Help Reduce the Availability and Misuse Of Drugs In The State of WV</b>	
<b>Department / Office / Program Name</b>	<b>2012</b>
Alcohol Impaired Driving Countermeasures Incentive Grants I	\$ 953,248
<b>Department of Veteran's Affairs</b>	<b>\$ 754,344</b>
<b>Veterans Health Administration</b>	
VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program	\$ 754,344
<b>Executive Office of The President</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>
<b>Office of National Drug Control Policy</b>	
Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grants	\$ 1,000,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 99,870,002</b>

Files updated January, 2013.

# Office of National Drug Control Policy Programs in West Virginia with Drug Court Locations

- ◆ Drug-Free Communities program grantees
- + Drug Court Locations
- County Boundaries
- Appalachia HIDTA counties



Source: National Drug Court Institute and ONDCP, September 2012

ONDCP003111