

Analysis of Actions Against Registrants by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs: 2000-2009



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Introduction:

The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (Bureau), a statutory agency, is mandated with the enforcement of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Title 63 contains the Uniform Controlled Substance Act. The Bureau provides a leadership role in Oklahoma for the investigative effort directed toward the illegal use of controlled dangerous substances. The Bureau maintains offices five district offices and headquarters in Oklahoma City. Agents at each of the offices are trained to conduct complex investigations and audit professional handlers of controlled drugs. Agents work on both criminal and administrative cases.

Rationale for and Objective of the Study:

The Bureau has administrative oversight regarding registrants and has the power to revoke, suspension, and/or place on probation a registration. In addition, the Bureau may fine a registrant, enter into an agreed order that may restrict prescriptive authority, require drug screens or registrant rehabilitation participation. The purpose of this research project was to review relevant aspects of actions taken by the Bureau against those registered with the Bureau.

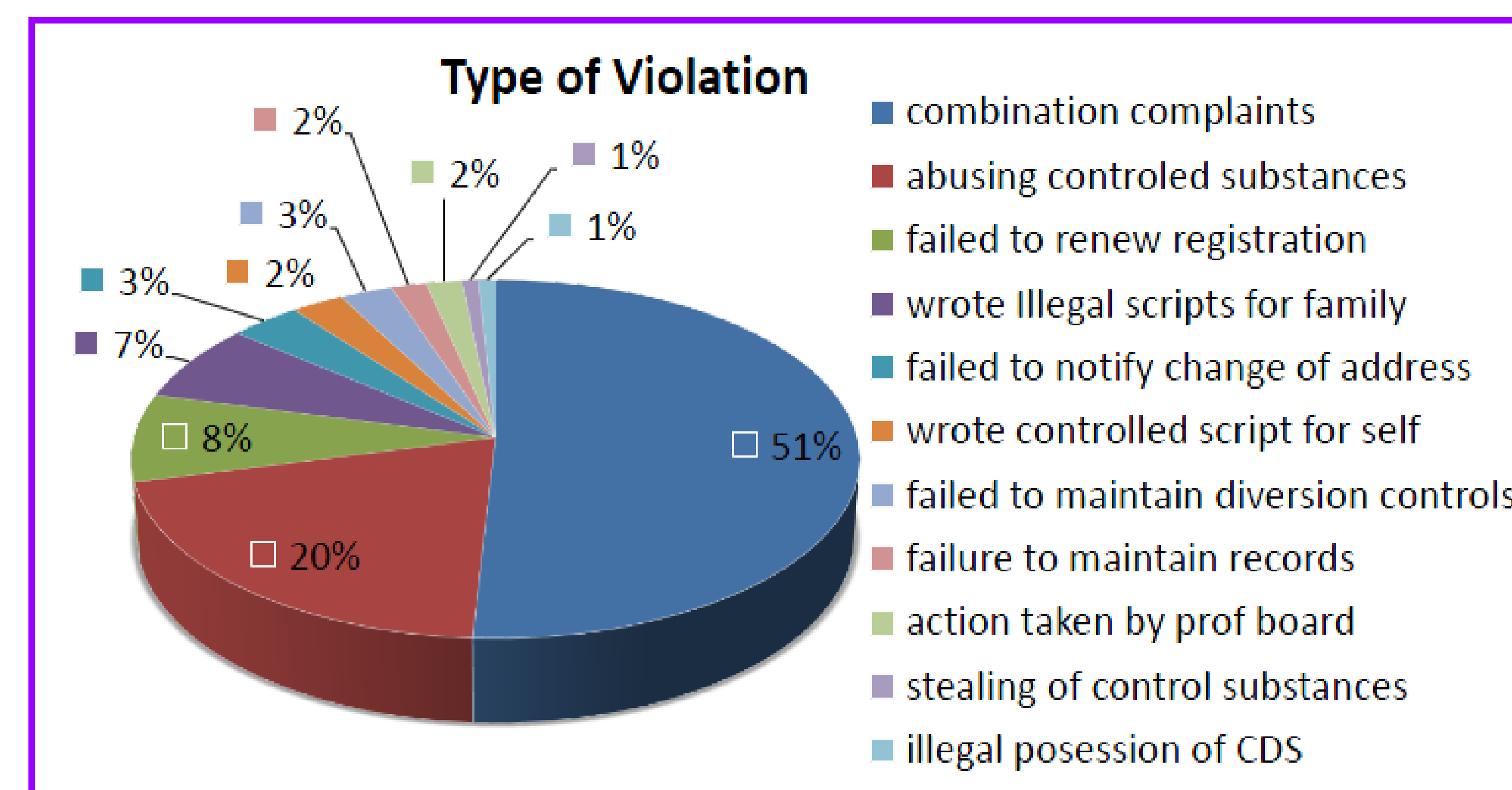
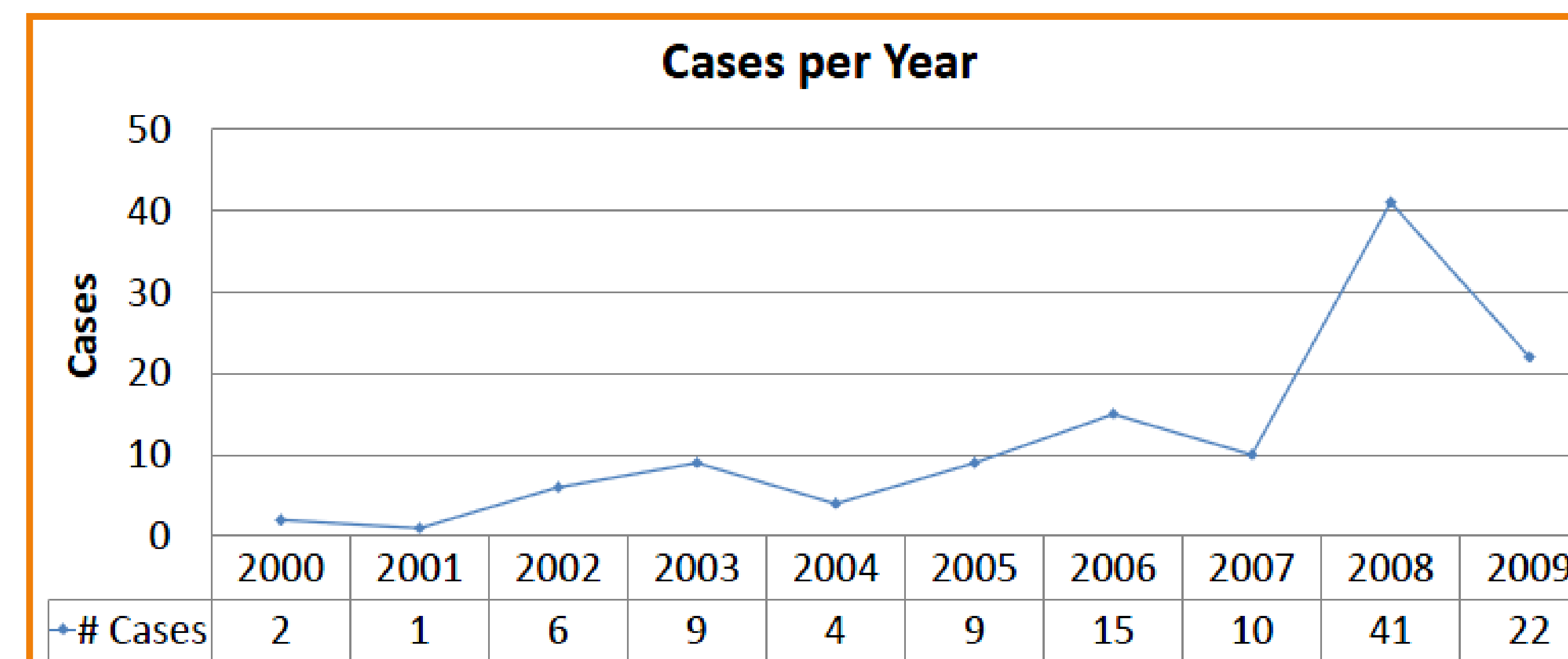
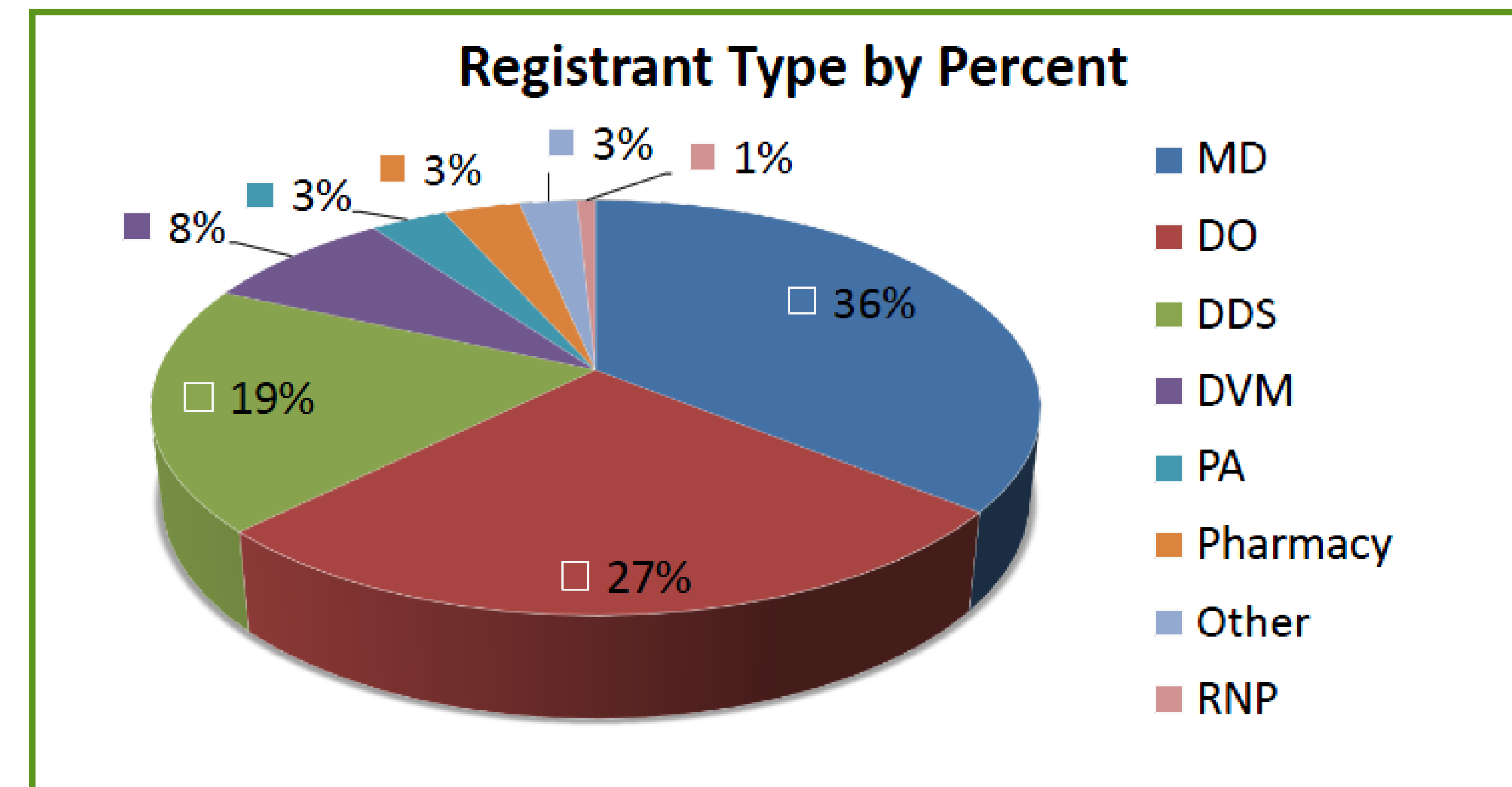
Methods:

Investigating faculty and students visited the Bureau offices in Oklahoma City on numerous occasions to review all files from 2000-2009. Copies were made of documented actions taken by the Bureau. Students reviewed each of the documents and coded relevant information based upon a code key created by the faculty and students. Students then entered the coded information into Excel and the combined data were exported to an SPSS V 17.0 table for all the twenty categories being reviewed. For the largely nominal data, a frequency analysis with accompanying basic statistics was used to generate the results. Excel was used to produce the majority of the charts and graphs.

Acknowledgments:

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Results:

For the 119 cases extracted, almost half occurred in 2008-2009. Three-fourths of the registrants were male.

MDs, DOs, and DDSs comprised 70 percent of all registrants.

Almost all the cases were agreed orders.

Half of the cases involved multiple complaints, and abusing controlled substances was the most common single complaint.

Three-fourths of the cases resulted in a combination of penalties with a financial penalty the most frequent result. The average financial penalty was \$3600, ranging to \$22,500.

Sixty-four percent resulted in probation, with 60 months being the most frequent period.

In a third of the cases, the registrant was restricted in some way from writing schedule drugs.

Eleven percent of the cases were suspended, while four percent of the registrants had their license revoked.

Almost one-third of the registrants had to do regular drug screens, and ten percent were put under an impaired professional contract.

Conclusion:

For the largely male sample, three professions made up most of the registrants. Most registrants were charged with multiple complaints and resulted in multiple penalties, almost all involving a fine. Most cases ended in probation, and few licenses were revoked. Some registrants faced restrictions on writing schedule prescriptions, had to do regular drug screens, and a small group were placed under an impaired health care professional contract. About half the cases occurred over a two-year period at the end of the decade.

