County Data on Civil Asset Forfeiture in Alabama

This study examined all civil asset forfeiture cases filed in 14 Alabama counties during 2015. The 1,110 cases comprised 70 percent of all such cases filed that year. Of those cases, there were final dispositions in 827 by October 2017, resulting in nearly \$2.2 million being awarded to agencies in those counties. The following county data is arranged in order of the counties that received the most cash in forfeiture cases.



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JEFFERSON COUNTY

A major story in 2015 was the seizure of \$333,564 from a defendant who pleaded guilty to drug trafficking. Though the federal government took over the criminal case, the forfeiture of cash, guns and property went through state court. In 77% of all cases linked to criminal charges, the person charged was black (county is 43% black). In 48% of the cases where criminal charges were filed against the property owner, the offense involved marijuana.





WHERE THE MONEY WENT

| City of Pleasant Grove Police Department | \$318,793 |
|---|-----------|
| Birmingham Police Department | \$110,414 |
| Irondale Police Department | \$65,660 |
| Jefferson County District Attorney | \$62,111 |
| Vestavia Hills Police Department | \$29,978 |
| Jefferson County District Attorney-Bessemer | \$22,122 |
| Homewood Police Department | \$16,773 |
| Hueytown Police Department | \$15,975 |
| Hoover Police Department | \$10,000 |
| Alabama General Fund | \$12,363 |
| Bessemer Police Department | \$7,891 |
| Jefferson County Sheriff's Office | \$7,270 |

| Alabama State Bar Client Security Fund | \$4,273 |
|---|---------|
| Trussville Police Department | \$3,889 |
| Mountain Brook Police Department | \$2,245 |
| Gardendale Police Department | \$2,143 |
| Shelby County Drug Enforcement Task Force | \$572 |

COUNTIES REVIEWED

Arranged in order of the counties that received the most cash in forfeiture cases.

| 1. Mobile | 5. Houston | 9. Montgomery | 13. Cherokee |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2. Madison | 6. Shelby | 10. St. Clair | 14. Marion |
| | | | 14. Warion |
| 3. Jefferson | 7. Calhoun | 11. Pike | |
| 4. Tuscaloosa | 8. Covington | 12. DeKalb | |