

CONCLUSION

This Blueprint Update provides a summary of this year's contributions and future plans. While advancements in technology can improve capabilities tremendously, these improvements are useless when an agency is unable to acquire existing technology because of budget limitations. The union of the R&D program with the TTP has allowed over 4,000 state and local agencies to overcome that obstacle.

Increasing our knowledge of the causes of addiction and substance abuse is bearing fruit. Images of the interactions of drugs in the brain are leading research scientists to find that many disorders of the nervous system (e.g., Alzheimer's) occur in the same regions of the human brain affected by the abuse of drugs. A program is being

developed by CTAC to provide scientists with the proper equipment and technology to assess potential linkages of drug addiction with the genetic predisposition to other diseases of the brain.

Ongoing, broad-based community support for these programs has led to success. This success demonstrates the commitment and dedication of our federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and the teams of research scientists who devote their talents to solving the causes of drug addiction. These men and women are using advancements in technology to make our streets safer and to develop the knowledge needed to prevent and treat drug abuse on a scale never before imagined.