

Mississippi earns a C- for its civil forfeiture laws:

- Low bar to forfeit: Prosecutors must prove by preponderance of the evidence that property is connected to a crime.
- Stronger protections for the innocent: The government must prove third-party owners knew about criminal activity connected to their property.
- Large profit incentive: 80% of forfeiture proceeds go to law enforcement when only one agency participated in the forfeiture; 100% otherwise.

Recent Reforms

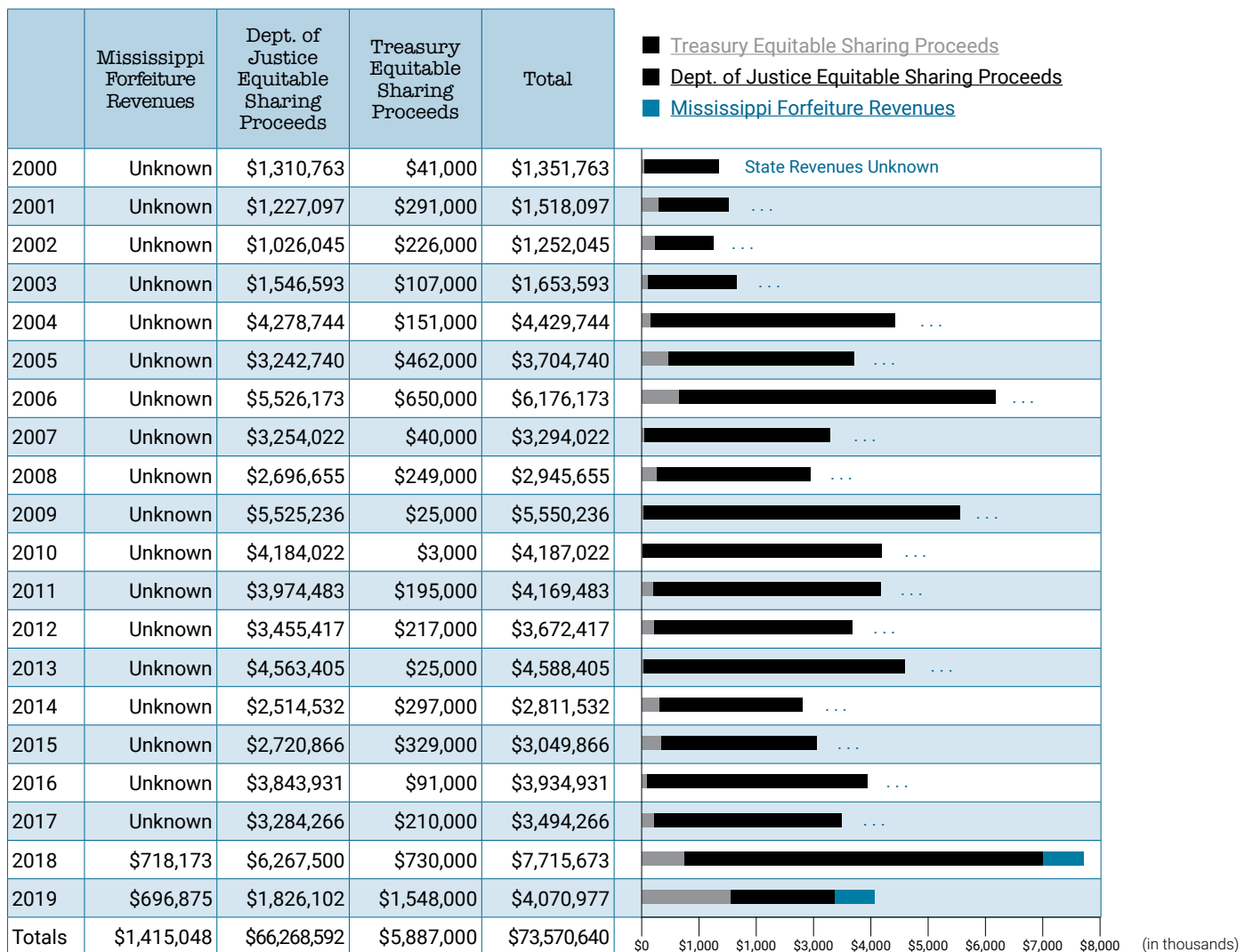
- (2017) HB 812: Adopted new transparency requirements; required law enforcement to obtain warrant within 72 hours of seizing property and request forfeiture within 30 days or tell owners how to retrieve their property.

State and Federal Forfeiture Revenues, 2000–2019

In 2018 and 2019, Mississippi law enforcement agencies forfeited more than \$1 million under state law. Between 2000 and 2019, they generated an additional \$72 million from federal equitable sharing, for a total of at least \$73 million in forfeiture revenue. Mississippi ranks 27th for its participation in the Department of Justice’s equitable sharing program. The state does not prevent state and local agencies from using equitable sharing to circumvent state forfeiture law.

**At least \$73 million
in state and federal
forfeiture revenue**

2000–2019



All revenue figures include both civil and criminal forfeitures. Revenues are not adjusted for inflation.

Mississippi's Forfeiture Transparency and Accountability Report Card

Tracking Seized Property	D+	Accessibility of Forfeiture Records	A
Accounting for Forfeiture Fund Spending	F	Penalties for Failure to File a Report	B
Statewide Forfeiture Reports	F	Financial Audits of Forfeiture Accounts	F

For full transparency and accountability grades, visit www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards.

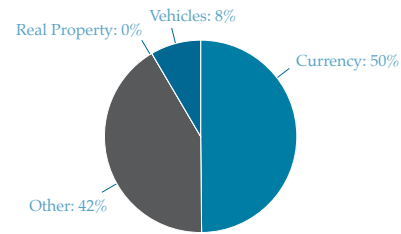
Forfeitures Under Mississippi Law: Key Facts

Median Value



Mississippi does not report property-level data necessary to calculate median forfeiture value.

Property Types



From 2018 to 2019, half of Mississippi's reported forfeitures were of currency.

Civil vs. Criminal

UNKNOWN

Mississippi does not report whether forfeitures are processed under civil or criminal forfeiture law.

Expenditures

UNKNOWN

Mississippi does not report how forfeiture funds are spent.

Data Notes

Property-level data are from the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics' forfeiture search website and represent value of forfeited property. Many agencies do not comply with reporting requirements, and the data lack key property-level criteria needed to calculate forfeited values, so the presented fiscal-year forfeitures are undercounts. Reported forfeitures were too few for further analysis. Equitable sharing data are from DOJ's and Treasury's annual forfeiture reports. Due to differences in reporting and accounting practices, state figures may not match aggregate numbers produced by the state or cover the same 12-month period as the federal data.