



Drugs and Crime Facts

By Tina L. Dorsey
BJS Editor

Marianne W. Zawitz
BJS Website Content Manager

Priscilla Middleton
BJS Digital Information Specialist

NCJ 165148

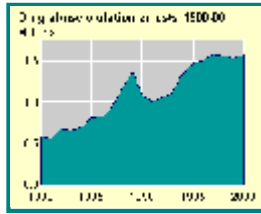
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
810 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20531

John Ashcroft
Attorney General

Office of Justice Programs
World Wide Web site:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>

Bureau of Justice Statistics
World Wide Web site:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

For information contact:
BJS Clearinghouse
1-800-732-3277

[BJS home page](#)[Drugs & Crime page](#)[Related sites](#)

Drugs & Crime Facts

This site summarizes U.S. statistics about drug-related crimes, law enforcement, courts, and corrections from Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and non-BJS sources (See [Drug data produced by BJS](#) below). It updates the information published in *Drugs and Crime Facts, 1994*, (NCJ 154043) and will be revised as new information becomes available. The data provide policymakers, criminal justice practitioners, researchers, and the general public with online access to understandable information on various drug law violations and drug-related law enforcement.

Contents

[Drug use and crime](#)[Drug law violations](#)[Enforcement](#) (arrests, seizures, and operations)[Pretrial release, prosecution, and adjudication](#)[Correctional populations and facilities](#)[Drug treatment under correctional supervision](#)[Drug control budget](#)[Drug use](#) (by youth and the general population)[Public opinion about drugs](#)[Bibliography](#)

To ease printing, a [consolidated version](#) in Adobe Acrobat format (739K) of all of the web pages in *Drugs & Crime Facts* is available for downloading.

Drug data produced by BJS

Most of the information presented here is collected from BJS reports and from other statistical agencies.

The primary sources of information include --

- The [National Crime Victimization Survey](#) (NCVS), which asks victims of personal crimes if they believed the offenders had been using drugs
- The [Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics](#) (LEMAS) program, which produces information on drug-related programs of State and local police agencies
- [Correctional programs](#), which provide data on Federal and State prisoners, jail inmates, and incarcerated youth, including data on their histories of drug use and drug offenses
- The [Federal Justice Statistics Program](#), which collects and publishes detailed data on drug law violators in the Federal justice system
- The [Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics](#), which presents data on drug use in the general population and on public opinion toward drugs and enforcement of drug laws, and

general population and on public opinion toward drugs and enforcement of drug laws, and administrative law enforcement data from agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)

Bureau of Justice Statistics
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/
Send comments to askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov

[OJP Freedom of Information Act page](#)
[Privacy Statement and Disclaimers](#)
Page last revised on *October 28, 2002*



Drug use and crime

At the time of the offense | Drug use at arrest | Prior drug use by offenders

At the time of the offense

- Drug-related crime
- Offenders under the influence at the time of the offense

Drug-related crime

In 1998 an estimated 61,000 convicted jail inmates said they had committed their offense to get money for drugs. Of convicted property and drug offenders, about 1 in 4 had committed their crimes to get money for drugs. A higher percentage of drug offenders in 1996 (24%) than in 1989 (14%) were in jail for a crime committed to raise money for drugs.

Offense	Percent of jail inmates who committed offense to get money for drugs	
	1996	1999
Total	15.8%	13.3%
Violent	8.8	11.5
Property	25.6	24.4
Drugs	23.5	14.0
Public-order	4.2	3.3

Source: BJS, *Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996*, NCJ 164620, April 1998 and *Drug Use, Testing, and Treatment in Jails*, NCJ 179999, May 2000.

In 1997 19% of State prisoners and 16% of Federal inmates said they committed their current offense to obtain money for drugs. These percentages represent a slight increase from 1991, when 17% of State and 10% of Federal prisoners identified drug money as a motive for their current offense.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997*, NCJ 172871, January 1999.

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported that in 2000, 4.4% of the 12,943 homicides in which circumstances were known were narcotics related. Murders that occurred specifically during a narcotics felony, such as drug trafficking or manufacturing, are considered drug related.

Drug-related homicides

Year	Number of homicides	Percent drug related
1987	17,963	4.9%
1988	17,971	5.6
1989	18,954	7.4
1990	20,273	6.7
1991	21,676	6.2
1992	22,716	5.7
1993	23,180	5.5
1994	22,084	5.6
1995	20,232	5.1
1996	16,967	5.0
1997	15,837	5.1
1998	14,276	4.8
1999	12,658	4.5
2000	12,943	4.4

Note: The percentages are based on data from the Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) while the totals are from the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). Not all homicides in the UCR result in reports in the SHR.

Source: Table constructed by ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff from FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

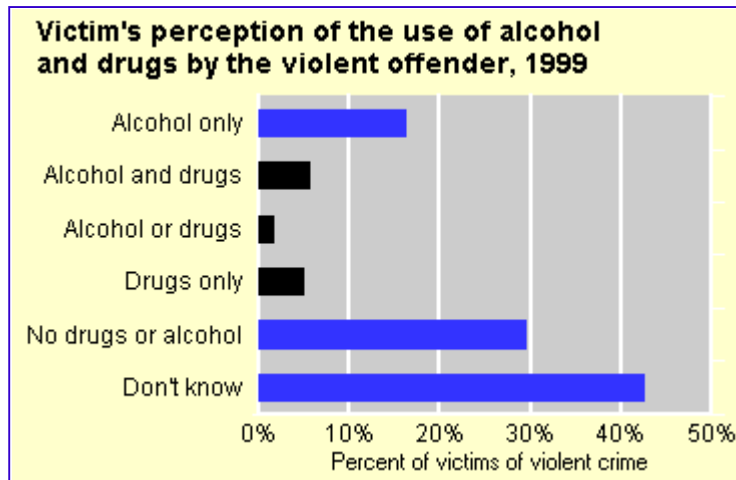
Offenders under the influence at the time of the offense

- **Victim's perception**
 - **Victims of workplace violence**
 - **American Indian victims**
- **Perspectives of probationers, State and Federal prisoners, and jail inmates**

Victim's perception

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), in 1999, there were 7.4 million violent victimizations of residents age 12 or older. Victims of violence were asked to describe whether they perceived the offender to have been drinking or using drugs.

- About 28% of the victims of violence reported that the offender was using drugs, alone or in combination with alcohol.
- Based on victim perceptions, about 1.2 million violent crimes occurred each year in which victims were certain that the offender had been drinking. For about 1 in 4 of these violent victimizations involving alcohol use by the offender, victims believed the offender was also using drugs at the time of the offense.



[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: Table constructed by staff from the U.S. Census Bureau for the *National Crime Victimization Survey*, annually.

Victims of workplace violence

Of workplace victims of violence --

- 35% believed the offender was drinking or using drugs at the time of the incident
- 36% did not know if the offender had been drinking or using drugs
- 27% of all workplace offenders had not been drinking or using drugs

Victims of workplace violence varied in their perception of whether the offender used alcohol or drugs by occupation.

- 47% in law enforcement perceived the offender to be using alcohol or drugs
- 35% in the medical field
- 31% in retail sales

Source: BJS, *Violence in the Workplace, 1993-99*, NCJ 190076, December 2001.

American Indian victims

Alcohol and drug use was a factor in more than half of violent crimes against American Indians.

Substantial differences can be found by race in the reports of victims of violence of their perceptions of drug and alcohol use by offenders. Among those who could describe alcohol or drug use by offenders, American Indian victims of violence were the most likely to report such perceived use by the offender.

Overall, in 55% of American Indian violent victimizations, the victim said the offender was under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or both. The offender's use of alcohol and/or drugs was somewhat less likely in violent crimes committed against whites (44%) or blacks (35%).

**Violent crime, by the perceived drug or alcohol use of the offender
and by race of victim, 1992-96**

Perceived drug or alcohol use by offender

Race of victim	Total	Alcohol	Drugs	Both	Neither
Total	100%	28%	8%	7%	57%
American Indian	100	38	9	8	45
White	100	29	8	7	56
Black	100	21	7	7	65
Asian	100	20	3	2	75

Note: Table excludes those respondents who were unable to report whether or not they perceived the offender to have been using drugs or alcohol.

Source: BJS, *American Indians and Crime*, NCJ 173386, February 1999.

Perspectives of probationers, prisoners, and jail inmates

- **Probationers**
- **Prisoners**
- **Jail inmates**

Probationers

The first national survey of adults on probation, conducted in 1995, reported that 14% of probationers were on drugs when they committed their offense.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 166611, March 1998.

Among probationers, 49% of the mentally ill and 46% of others reported alcohol or drug use at the time of the offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Prisoners

In the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 33% of State prisoners and 22% of Federal prisoners said they had committed their current offense while under the influence of drugs. Drug offenders (42%) and property offenders (37%) reported the highest incidence of drug use at the time of the offense.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997*, NCJ 172871, January 1999.

About 60% of mentally ill and 51% of other inmates in State prison were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of their current offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Abused State inmates were more likely than those reporting no abuse to have been using illegal drugs at the time of their offense. This pattern occurred especially among female inmates. Forty-six percent of the abused women committed their current offense under the influence of illegal drugs.

Among women who were not abused, 32% committed their offense while on drugs.

Source: BJS, *Prior Abuse Reported by Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 172879, April 1999.

According to the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, veterans in State prisons (26%) were less likely than nonveterans (34%) to have been under the influence of drugs while committing their offense. In Federal prisons, about the same percentages of veterans (21%) and nonveterans (34%) reported drug use at the time of their offense.

Source: BJS, *Veterans in Prison or Jail*, NCJ 178888, January 2000.

A third of the parents in State prison reported committing their current offense while under the influence of drugs. Parents were most likely to report the influence of cocaine-based drugs (16%) and marijuana (15%) while committing their crime. About equal percentages of parents in State prison reported the use of opiates (6%) and stimulants (5%) at the time of their offense, while 2% used depressants or hallucinogens.

Thirty-two percent of mothers in State prison reported committing their crime to get drugs or money for drugs, compared to 19% of fathers.

Source: BJS, *Incarcerated Parents and Their Children*, NCJ 182335, August 2000.

Jail inmates

In 1998 an estimated 138,000 convicted jail inmates (36%) were under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense.

Source: BJS, *Drug Use, Testing, and Treatment in Jails*, NCJ 179999, May 2000.

In 1996, those jail inmates convicted of drug trafficking (60%), drug possession (57%), fraud (45%), or robbery (44%) were most likely to have reported to be using drugs at the time of the offense.

Source: BJS, *Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996*, NCJ 164620, April 1998.

According to the *Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 1996*, more than half of prison of the jail inmates with an intimate victim had been drinking or using drugs when they committed the violent crime.

Source: BJS, *Violence by Intimates*, NCJ 167237, March 1998.

Sixty-five percent of mentally ill jail inmates and 57% of other jail inmates were under the influence of both alcohol and drug use at the time of the offense. These percentages were the highest compared to State inmates and probationers.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Based on data from the *1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails*, 29% of veterans and 32% of nonveterans in local jails were under the influence of drugs at the time of offense.

Source: BJS, *Veterans in Prison or Jail*, NCJ 178888, January 2000.

[↑ To the top](#)

Drug use at arrest

In 1999 the *Arrestees Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM)* program collected data from more than 30,000 adult male arrestees in 34 sites and from more than 10,000 adult female arrestees in 32 sites. Data were collected from more than 2,500 juvenile male detainees in 9 sites, and more than 400 juvenile females detainees in 6 sites.

In most sites, about two-thirds of the adult arrestees and more than half of the juvenile arrestees tested positive for at least one drug.

For adult males --

- Marijuana was the drug most frequently detected in 24 of the 34 reporting sites.
- Cocaine was the drug most likely to be detected in the remaining 10 sites.

For adult females --

- Cocaine was the drug most frequently detected in 25 of 32 sites.
- Marijuana was the most frequently detected in 4 of the remaining sites.
- Methamphetamine was the most frequently detected in the 3 remaining sites.

For juveniles --

- Drug test positive rates for juveniles were essentially stable in 1999 compared to 1997 across all 9 sites.
- Juvenile arrestees who currently attended school were less likely to test positive for at least one drug than those juveniles who were not in school. This also held true when drug-positive results were compared for each drug individually.
- Marijuana was the most commonly used drug for both juvenile males and females, with cocaine use a distant second. On average more than half of the juvenile males tested positive for marijuana.

Marijuana

Within any given site, men were generally more likely than women to test positive for marijuana in 1999. In addition, young adults (ages 15 to 20), whether male or female, were the most likely to be involved with marijuana.

For adult arrestees testing positive for marijuana use ranged from --

- 51% in Omaha to 28% in Las Vegas for males.
- 39% in Oklahoma City to 9% in Laredo for females.

A comparison between 1998 and 1999 results in the 23 sites for which trend data are available indicates that marijuana-positive percentages varied across sites.

Cocaine

Overall, cocaine is still found in more than a third of the drug-test results of adult arrestees in 20 sites in 1999.

For adult arrestees testing positive for cocaine use use ranged from --

- 51% in Atlanta to 14% in San Jose for males.
- 65% in New York City to 19% in San Antonio for females.

A comparison between 1998 and 1999 results for which trend data are available indicates that cocaine-positive percentages were unchanged in a majority of the sites.

Methamphetamine

Overall, in any given site, women were generally more likely than men to test positive for methamphetamine in 1999. For adult arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine use use ranged from --

- 28% in Sacramento to 20% in Portland and Spokane for males.
- 36% in San Diego to 22% in Des Moines for females.

A comparison between 1998 and 1999 results for which trend data are available indicates that methamphetamine-positive percentages were nearly the same in most of the sites.

Source: *1999 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees, Arrestees Drug Abuse Monitoring Program (ADAM)*, under the National Institute of Justice, 1999, NCJ 181426, June 2000.

[↑ To the top](#)

Prior drug use by offenders

[Probationers](#) | [Jail inmates](#) | [State and Federal prison inmates](#)

Probationers

In 1995 the first national survey of adults on probation reported --

- nearly 70% of probationers reported past drug use
- 32% said they were using illegal drugs in the month before their offense.

Marijuana (10%) was the most commonly used drug among probationers at the time of the offense.

Prior drug use of adults on probation at the time of offense, by type of drugs, 1995

Type of drug	Percent of adults on probation who were under the influence of drugs at the time of offense
Any drug	14%
Marijuana/hashish	10
Cocaine/crack	4
Heroin and other opiates	1
Barbiturates	1
Stimulants	2
Hallucinogens	1

Note: Excludes 11,712 probationers for whom information on drug use was not provided.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 166611, March 1998.

In 1995 adults age 44 years old or younger on probation (87% of all probationers) reported similar levels of prior drug abuse, and their incidence of drug use was consistently higher than that of older probationers. Over 70% of probationers under age 45 reported some prior drug use, compared to 37% of those age 45 or older. Thirty-five percent of probationers under age 45 -- but 9% of older probationers -- reported drug use in the month before their offense.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 166611, March 1998.

Two-thirds of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) offenders on probation reported using drugs in the past. Among DWI probationers, marijuana (65%) and stimulants (29%) were the most commonly used drugs. Seventeen percent of those on probation reported drug use in the month prior to arrest.

Prior drug use reported by probationers

Level of prior drug use	Percent of probationers	
	DWI offenders	Other offenders
Ever used drugs/a	67.9%	69.9%
Marijuana/hashish	64.6	67.2
Cocaine/crack	28.1	31.7
Heroin/opiates	5.7	8.8
Depressants/b	14.6	15.6
Stimulants/c	28.5	24.4
Hallucinogens/d	19.9	19.6
Ever used drugs regularly/e	55.6%	64.2%
Used drugs in month before arrest	16.6%	35.7%
Used drugs at time of arrest	3.3%	16.1%

a/Other unspecified drugs are included in the totals.

b/Includes barbiturates, tranquilizers, and Quaaludes.

c/Includes amphetamines and methamphetamines.

d/Includes LSD and PCP.

e/Used drugs at least once a week for at least a month.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Among DWI offenders, the most commonly reported experience associated with drug use was domestic disputes:

- 19% of probationers said they had arguments with their family, friends, spouse, or boyfriend/girlfriend while under the influence of drugs.
- About 1 in 10 of those on probation for DWI had been arrested or held in a police station as a result of their drug use.
- 3% of those on probation had lost a job because of their drug use.
- 8% of those on probation said they had been in a physical fight while under the influence of drugs.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Nearly 40% of mentally ill probationers and 30% of other probationers reported using drugs in the month before their offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Jail inmates

Of those inmates held in local jails, only convicted offenders were asked if they had used drugs in the time leading up to their current offense. In 1996, 55% of convicted jail inmates reported they had used illegal drugs during the month before their offense, up from 44% in 1989. Use of marijuana in the month before the offense increased from 28% to 37% and of stimulants from 5% to 10%. Reported cocaine or crack use was stable at about 24%.

Half of inmates in both 1989 and 1996 reported trying cocaine. Overall, 82% of all jail inmates in 1996 said they had ever used an illegal drug, up from 78% in 1989. A higher percentage of jail inmates in 1996 than in 1989 reported ever using for every other type of drug:

- marijuana rose from 71% to 78%;
- stimulants (amphetamine and methamphetamine) from 22% to 34%;
- hallucinogens, including LSD and PCP, from 24% to 32%;
- depressants, including Quaalude, barbiturates, and tranquilizers without a doctor's prescription, from 21% to 30%; and
- heroin or other opiates from 19% to 24%.

Source: BJS, *Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996*, NCJ 164620, April 1998.

Prior drug use of jail inmates, by type of drug, 1996 and 1989

Type of drug	Ever used drugs		Ever used drugs regularly/a		Used drugs in the month before the offense		Used drugs at the time of the offense	
	1996	1989	1996	1989	1996	1989	1996	1989
Any drug	82.4 %	77.7 %	64.2 %	58.0 %	55.0 %	43.8 %	35.6 %	27.0 %
Marijuana	78.2	70.7	54.9	47.8	36.8	28.0	18.5	9.0
Cocaine or crack	50.4	50.4	31.0	30.7	24.1	23.5	15.2	13.7
Heroin or opiates	23.9	18.6	11.8	11.8	8.8	7.2	5.6	4.9
Depressants/c	29.9	21.1	10.4	9.0	5.9	3.9	2.4	1.2
Stimulants/d	33.6	22.1	16.5	12.1	10.4	5.4	6.1	2.2
Hallucinogens/e	32.2	23.7	10.5	9.4	4.6	3.2	1.6	1.6
Inhalants	16.8	--	4.8	--	1.0	--	0.3	--

Note: Detail add to more than total because inmates may have used more than one drug.

--Not reported.

a/ Used drugs at least once week for a month.

b/ Other unspecified drugs are included in the totals.

c/ Includes barbiturates, tranquilizers, and Quaaludes.

d/ Includes amphetamines and methamphetamines.

e/ Includes LSD and PCP.

Source: BJS, *Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996*, NCJ 164620, April 1998.

Over three-quarters of DWI offenders in jail reported using drugs in the past. Among jail inmates held for DWI, marijuana (73%) and cocaine-based drugs including crack (41%) were the most commonly used drugs. Thirty percent of those in jail reported drug use in the month prior to arrest.

Domestic disputes were also one of the most commonly reported experiences associated with drug use:

- 25% of jail inmates said they had arguments with their family, friends, spouse, or boyfriend/girlfriend while under the influence of drugs.
- Nearly 1 in 5 of those in jail for DWI had been arrested or held in a police station as a result of their drug use.
- About 10% of DWI offenders in jail had lost a job because of their drug use.

- About 15% of jail inmates said they had been in a physical fight while under the influence of drugs.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Fifty-eight percent of mentally ill jail inmates and 47% of other jail inmates were using drugs in the month before the offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

In local jails, veterans (81%) reported levels of prior drug use similar to nonveterans (83%), but lower levels (44%) of drug use in the month prior to the offense than nonveterans (50%) in 1997.

Source: BJS, *Veterans in Prison or Jail*, NCJ 178888, January 2000.

State and Federal prison inmates

In the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, over 570,000 of the Nation's prisoners (51%) reported the use of alcohol or drugs while committing their offense.

In 1991, 60% of Federal prisoners reported prior drug use, compared to 79% of State prisoners. In 1997 this gap in prior drug use was narrowed, as the percentage of Federal inmates reporting past drug use rose to 73%, compared to 83% of State inmates. This increase was mostly due to a rise in the percentage of Federal prisoners reporting prior use of marijuana (from 53% in 1991 to 65% in 1997) and cocaine-based drugs (from 37% in 1991 to 45% in 1997).

Most other drug types showed modest increases over this period. A fifth of Federal prisoners had used stimulants and hallucinogens, followed by depressants and opiates, including heroin (both 16%). About 1 in 12 Federal prisoners reported the prior use of inhalants.

Although the proportion of Federal prisoners held for drug offenses rose from 58% in 1991 to 63% in 1997, the percentage of all Federal inmates who reported using drugs in the month before the offense rose more dramatically from 32% to 45%.

The proportion of State prison inmates reporting the past use of cocaine or crack remained stable between 1991 and 1997 --

- Marijuana (77%) use had increased slightly since 1991 (74%), and remained the most commonly used drug.
- Past use of cocaine-based drugs remained unchanged at 49% since 1991.
- Twenty percent of all inmates reported the past use of intravenous drugs, down from 25% in 1991.

Drug use by State prisoners, 1997 and 1991

Type of drug	Percent of inmates who had ever used drugs	
	1997	1991
Any drug	83%	79%
Marijuana	77	74
Cocaine/crack	49	49
Heroin/opiates	24	25
Depressants	24	24
Stimulants	28	30
Hallucinogens	29	27

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997*, NCJ 172871, January 1999.

Nineteen percent of State inmates told interviewers that they had been physically or sexually abused before their current offense. For State prisoners reporting prior abuse, 89% had ever used illegal drugs: 76% of the men and 80% of the women had used them regularly. Of those not reporting prior abuse, 82% had used illegal drugs: 68% of the men and 65% of the women had used them regularly.

Illegal drug use was more common among abused State prison inmates than among those who said they were not abused. An estimated 76% of abused men and 80% of abused women had used illegal drugs regularly, compared to 68% of men and 65% of women who had not been abused.

Current and past violent offenses and past drug use, by whether abused before admission to State prison, 1997

Offense history and drug use	Percent of State prison inmates					
	Reported being abused			Reported being not abused		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Current or past violent offense	70.4%	76.5%	45.0%	60.2 %	61.2%	29.1%
Used an illegal drug						
Ever	88.6%	88.5%	88.9%	81.8%	81.9%	77.4%
Ever regularly	76.3	75.5	79.7	67.9	67.9	65.0
In month before offense	61.4	59.7	68.6	55.3	55.3	54.0
At time of offense	39.6	38.0	46.2	30.7	30.7	32.0

Source: BJS, *Prior Abuse Reported by Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 172879, April 1999.

About 60% of mentally ill State prisoners and 56% of other inmates were using drugs in the month before their offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

In 1997 a majority of parents in State prison reported some type of prior drug use --

- 85% reported any past drug use
- 58% reported use in the month before the current offense.

Nonparents in State prison reported slightly lower levels of prior drug use --

- 80% reported any past drug use
- 55% reported use in the month before the current offense.

**Percent of parents in State
prison who used drugs in the
month before the current
offense, 1997**

Marijuana	39%
Cocaine/crack	27
Heroin/opiates	10
Stimulates	9
Depressants	5
Hallucinogens	3
Inhalants	1

In 1997 mothers in State prison were more likely than fathers to report drug use in the month before their offense: 65% for mothers and 58% for fathers. Cocaine/crack was the most common drug used: 45% for mothers and 26% for fathers.

Nearly half of parents in Federal prison reported using drugs in the month before their offense and 3 in 4 had ever used drugs. Nearly a quarter of parents in Federal prison were under the influence of drugs when committing their offense. Aside from marijuana use (higher among fathers), mothers and fathers in Federal prison reported similar drug use histories.

Source: BJS, *Incarcerated Parents and Their Children*, NCJ 182335, August 2000.

79% of veterans in State prison reported prior drug use during their military service.

**Prior drug use of veterans in State
prison, 1997**

Drug use	Percent of veterans who reported prior drug use	
	Combat	Noncombat
Any prior drug use	69%	82%
In the month before	30	49
Prior use of intravenous drugs	23	25

Vietnam-era veterans varied little from other veterans in State prison concerning prior drug abuse --

- 77% of Vietnam-era veterans compared to 80% of other veterans reported ever using drugs.
- 41% of Vietnam-era veterans compared to 47% of other veterans used drugs in the month before the offense.

Source: BJS, *Veterans in Prison or Jail*, NCJ 178888, January 2000.

Bureau of Justice Statistics
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/
Send comments to askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov

[OJP Freedom of Information Act page](#)
[Privacy Statement and Disclaimers](#)
Page last revised on *May 9, 2002*



Enforcement

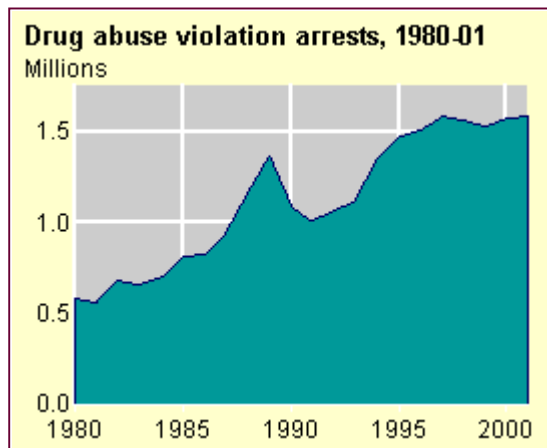
[Arrests and seizures](#) | [Law enforcement operations](#)

Arrests and seizures

- [Arrests](#)
- [Drug seizures](#)

Arrests

Federal, State, and local agencies share responsibility for enforcing the Nation's drug laws, although most arrests are made by State and local authorities. In 2001 the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) estimated that there were 1,586,900 State and local arrests for drug abuse violations in the United States.



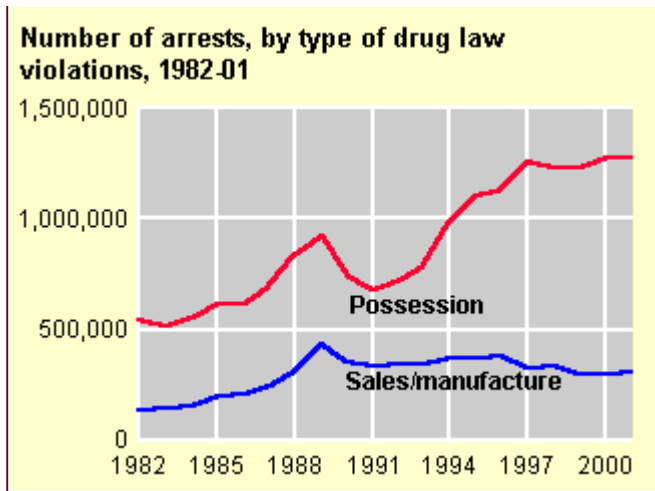
[D]

[Click on the chart to view the data.](#)

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

According to the UCR, drug abuse violations are defined as State and/or local offenses relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, manufacturing, and making of narcotic drugs including opium or cocaine and their derivatives, marijuana, synthetic narcotics, and dangerous nonnarcotic drugs such as barbiturates.

More than four-fifths of drug law violation arrests are for possession violations.

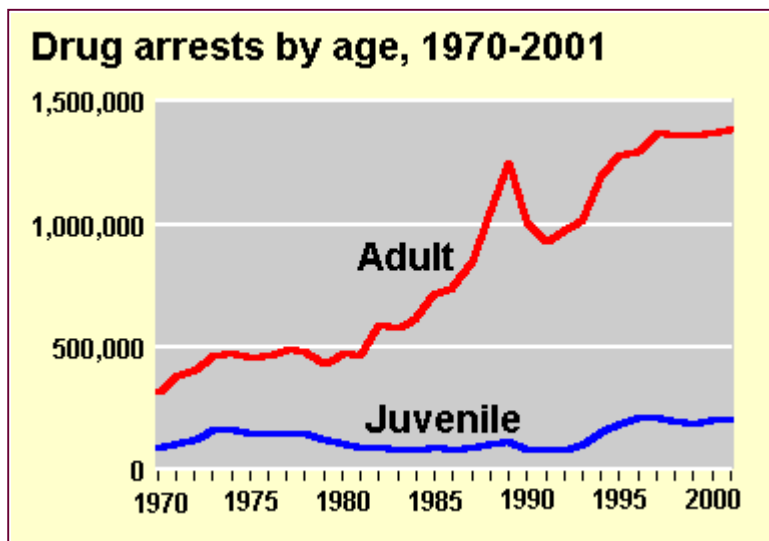


[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

The number of arrests for drug abuse violations changed little from 2000 to 2001; arrests of adults increased slightly and arrests of juveniles decreased slightly. Juveniles are defined as persons under age 18. Adults are defined as persons age 18 or older. In 1987 drug arrests were 7.4% of the total of all arrests reported to the FBI; by 2001, drug arrests had risen to 11.4% of all arrests.



[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

In 2001, according to the UCR, law enforcement agencies nationwide made an estimated 13.7 million arrests for all criminal infractions except traffic violations. Among the specific categories, the highest arrest counts were --

- 1.6 million for drug abuse violations;
- approximately 1.4 million for driving under the influence;
- 1.3 million for simple assaults; and
- 1.2 million for larceny-thefts.

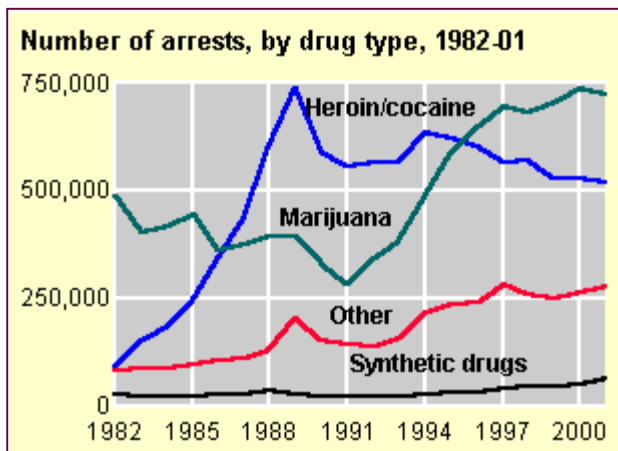
Estimated totals of top 7 arrest offenses, United States, 2001

Type of arrest	Number of arrests*
Total arrests*	13,699,300
Drug abuse violations	1,586,900
Driving under the influence	1,434,900
Simple assaults	1,315,800
Larceny/theft	1,160,800
Disorderly conduct	621,400
Drunkenness	618,700
Liquor laws	610,600

*Arrest totals are based on all reporting agencies and estimates for unreported areas.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

From 1987 to 1995 more drug arrests involved heroin or cocaine than other types of drugs. Since 1996 the number of arrests involving marijuana exceeded that for other types of drugs.



[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

The Northeastern region had a higher proportion of sale/manufacturing drug arrests than the other regions.

Arrests for drug abuse violations, by geographic region, 2001

Type of violations	Percent of arrests for drug abuse violations				
	U.S. total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Total*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Sale/manufacture*	19.4%	27.3%	19.2%	18.3%	16.6%
Heroin or cocaine	9.7	18.8	5.7	10.1	6.2
Marijuana	5.2	6.5	7.5	4.6	4.4
Synthetic or manufactured drugs	1.4	0.9	1.3	2.2	0.8
Other dangerous nonnarcotic drugs	3.1	1.1	4.7	1.5	5.1
Possession*	80.6%	72.7%	80.8%	81.7%	83.4%
Heroin or cocaine	23.1	25.2	13.3	23.5	25.1
Marijuana	40.4	41.6	51.6	48.0	28.5
Synthetic or manufactured drugs	2.7	1.7	2.7	3.5	2.4
Other dangerous nonnarcotic drugs	14.4	4.2	13.1	6.6	27.4

*Because of rounding, percentages may not add to total.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

Drug seizures

Many Federal agencies are involved in removal of illicit drugs from the market. The Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS) reflects the combined drug seizure efforts of the DEA, FBI, U.S. Customs Service, and U.S. Border Patrol within the jurisdiction of the United States, as well as maritime seizures by the U.S. Coast Guard. FDSS eliminates duplicate reporting of a seizure involving more than one Federal agency.

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, as reported in *Fact Sheet: Drug Data Summary*, NCJ 172873, April 1999.

Drug seizures, as reported in the FDSS for fiscal year 1997 through 2000.

Drug	Seizures in pounds			
	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000
Total	1,796,863	2,047,558	2,615,636	2,856,462
Heroin	3,121	3,499	2,732	3,119
Cocaine	252,329	266,029	292,234	234,863
Marijuana	1,488,362	1,777,434	2,318,992	2,594,492
Hashish	53,051	596	1,678	23,988

Note: Table constructed by staff of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS), *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 2000*, NCJ 190251, October 2001.

According to the *Drug Enforcement Administration* (DEA) --

- the Federal government seized 14,560 illegal drug laboratories between fiscal years 1975 and 2000
- in fiscal year 2000, of the 1,901 labs seized, 1,869 (98%) manufactured methamphetamines
- in 2000 the DEA program for eradicating domestic marijuana resulted in the destruction of 2.8

million plants in 40,929 plots, 9,439 arrests, 3,463 weapons seized, and assets seized valued at \$19.3 million.

Source: Data provided by U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration as reported in the BJS, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2000*, NCJ 190251, October 2001.

[↑ To the top](#)

Law enforcement operations

- [Federal agencies](#)
- [State agencies](#)
- [Local agencies](#)
- [Multiagency task forces](#)
- [Drug testing for applicants](#)

Federal agencies

As of June 1998 Federal agencies employed about 83,000 full-time personnel authorized to make arrests and carry firearms, according to data provided by agencies in responses to a Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) survey. Compared with data reported by agencies for June 1996, employment of such personnel in 1998 was up about 8,000, or 11%.

The DEA employed 3,305 officers with the authority to make arrests and carry firearms. These DEA agents primarily investigate major narcotics violators, enforce regulations governing the manufacturing and dispensing of controlled substances, and perform various other functions in support of drug trafficking prevention and control.

The FBI employed 11,285 full-time personnel with arrest and firearms authorities. These agents investigate more than 250 types of Federal crimes. The FBI has concurrent jurisdiction with the DEA over drug offenses under the Controlled Substances Act.

Source: BJS, *Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 1998*, NCJ 177607, February 2000.

State agencies

Among those State agencies with 100 or more officers, 76% operated a full-time drug enforcement unit in 1999.

Local agencies

Of those local agencies with 100 or more officers a large percentage operated a full-time drug enforcement unit in 1999.

**Special drug unit operation participation
of agencies with primary drug
enforcement responsibility:**

Type of agency	Agencies with 100 or more officers
County police	90%
Municipal police departments	99
Sheriffs' departments	95

Source: BJS, *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1999: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers*, NCJ 184481, November 2000.

In 1997 many larger local law enforcement agencies operated special units with personnel assigned full-time to address specific community problems. Eighty percent of local agencies had a full-time unit for drug education in schools.

Source: BJS, *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1997: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers*, NCJ 171681, April 1999.

In 1997 about 7 in 8 local police departments had primary responsibility for the enforcement of drug laws in their jurisdiction. More than 90% of the departments in each population category of 10,000 or more had drug enforcement responsibilities, including all of those serving a population of 250,000 or more. Departments with drug enforcement responsibilities employed 97% of all local police officers.

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000.

In 1997 an estimated 87% of all sheriffs' departments had primary responsibility for drug enforcement in their jurisdiction. More than 90% of departments in jurisdictions with a population of less than 25,000 were responsible for drug enforcement, compared to 59% of those in jurisdictions with 500,000 to 999,999 residents.

Source: BJS, *Sheriffs' Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173428, February 2000.

**Drug enforcement responsibilities of
local police and sheriffs' departments,
by size of population served, 1997**

Type of agency and population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility
Local police departments	
All sizes	88%
1,000,000 or more	100%
500,000-999,999	100
250,000-499,999	100
100,000-249,999	99
50,000-99,999	99
25,000-49,999	95
10,000-24,999	93
2,500-9,999	90
Under 2,500	82
Sheriffs' departments	
All sizes	87%
1,000,000 or more	79%
500,000-999,999	59
250,000-499,999	78
100,000-249,999	79
50,000-99,999	79
25,000-49,999	88
10,000-24,999	92
Under 10,000	93

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000, and *Sheriffs' Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173428, February 2000.

Multiagency task force

About three-fourths of county police (77%), municipal police (76%), and sheriffs' departments (75%) participated in a multi-agency drug enforcement task force during 1997, as did about half of the State police agencies.

Source: BJS, *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1997: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers*, NCJ 171681, April 1999.

In 1997 about a third of local police departments had one or more officers assigned to a multiagency drug enforcement task force. About two-thirds of all local police officers worked for a department that assigned officers to a task force. About 6,200 officers were assigned full time, and another 3,200 on a part-time basis.

The number of officers assigned full time ranged from 27 in departments serving a population of 1 million or more to about 2 in those serving fewer than 50,000 residents.

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000.

In 1997 half of sheriffs' departments, employing two-thirds of all officers, assigned 1 or more officers to a multiagency drug enforcement task force. About 2,900 officers were assigned full time, and 1,100 on a part-time basis. The number of full-time task force officers ranged from 10 in

departments serving 1 million or more residents to 1 in those serving fewer than 10,000 residents.

Source: BJS, *Sheriffs' Departments 1997*, NCJ 173428, February 2000.

**Multiagency drug enforcement task force participation
of local police and sheriffs' departments, by size of
population served, 1997**

Population served	Multiagency drug enforcement task force		
	Percent of agencies participating	Number of officers assigned full time	
		Total	Average*
Local police departments			
All sizes	31%	6,205	2
1,000,000 or more	94%	412	27
500,000-999,999	88	308	15
250,000-499,999	83	345	9
100,000-249,999	82	554	4
50,000-99,999	74	708	3
25,000-49,999	65	699	2
10,000-24,999	50	1,122	2
2,500-9,999	34	1,305	1
Under 2,500	15	750	2
Sheriffs' departments			
All sizes	50%	2,886	2
1,000,000 or more	61%	190	10
500,000-999,999	68	264	7
250,000-499,999	63	254	4
100,000-249,999	76	496	2
50,000-99,999	67	494	2
25,000-49,999	55	515	2
10,000-24,999	46	548	2
Under 10,000	27	124	1

*Excludes agencies not having a unit with full-time officers.

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000 and *Sheriffs' Departments 1997*, NCJ 173428, February 2000

In 1994, 46% of all prosecutors' offices indicated that at least one prosecutor has been a member of a multijurisdictional task force. Of offices on such a task force, 76% indicated drug enforcement to be the goal. In 1992, 30% of prosecutors' offices reported involvement with a multijurisdictional task force. Almost 80% of these offices also were involved with a drug task force.

Source: BJS, *Prosecutors in State Courts, 1992 and 1994*, NCJ 145319, June 1996.

Over 80% of full-time offices in large jurisdictions had at least one prosecutor who served as a member of a multijurisdictional task force. The percentages of full-time large offices with at least one prosecutor serving on a multi-jurisdictional task force were --

Drug	91%
Gang	54
Crime prevention	41
Organized crime	28

Source: BJS, *Prosecutors in State Courts, 1992 and 1994*, NCJ 145319, June 1996.

Drug testing for applicants

State agencies

In 1997, 82% of State agencies with 100 or more officers use drug test screening as one of their procedures for selecting new officer recruits.

Local agencies

In 1997, the majority of local agencies with 100 or more officers use drug test screenings as a part of the selecting procedures for hiring new officer recruits.

Type of local agency	Percent of agencies using drug test screening
County police	100%
Municipal police departments	86
Sheriffs' departments	85

Source: BJS, *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1997: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers*, NCJ 171681, April 1999.

In 1997 about 3 in 5 local police departments had some type of program that authorized the testing of regular field and patrol officers for illegal drug use. These departments employed 84% of all local police officers.

At least 8 in 10 departments in each population category of 25,000 or more had a drug testing program for officers. About 7 in 10 departments serving a population of 2,500 to 24,999, and 5 in 10 departments serving fewer than 2,500 residents did also.

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000.

In 1997 about three-fifths of sheriffs' departments had some type of program that authorized the testing of regular field and patrol officers for illegal drug use. These departments employed 84% of all sheriffs' officers.

Departments serving a population of 100,000 or more were the most likely to have a drug testing program for officers, with percentages in these categories ranging from 77% to 87%. Departments serving a population of less than 10,000 (45%) were the least likely to test any officers for drug use.

Source: BJS, *Sheriffs' Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173428, February 2000.

Drug testing of applicants for sworn positions in local police and sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997

Percent of agencies with a drug testing program

Type of type and population served	Any type of testing program	Mandatory (all are tested)	Random selection process	Use of drugs is suspected
Local police departments (sworn positions)				
All sizes	61%	22%	16%	31%
1,000,000 or more	87%	6%	62%	62%
500,000-999,999	83	8	54	67
250,000-499,999	87	17	41	63
100,000-249,999	85	18	33	60
50,000-99,999	83	21	20	56
25,000-49,999	80	19	18	57
10,000-24,999	73	24	16	44
2,500-9,999	68	26	20	32
Under 2,500	49	20	12	21

Sheriffs' departments (sworn positions)				
All sizes	61%	23%	20%	25%
1,000,000 or more	86%	32%	25%	46%
500,000-999,999	77	16	22	61
250,000-499,999	87	35	16	39
100,000-249,999	83	31	24	40
50,000-99,999	71	29	21	27
25,000-49,999	65	26	23	26
10,000-24,999	56	21	21	20
Under 10,000	45	16	16	19

Note: Some agencies had more than one type of testing.

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000 and *Sheriffs' Departments, 1997* NCJ 173428, February 2000.

[Previous](#)

[Contents](#)

[Next](#)

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)



Pretrial, prosecution, and adjudication

Pretrial release | Prosecution and adjudication

Pretrial release

Federal court

About 60% of Federal drug defendants adjudicated were detained between arrest and adjudication during 1999. Of those defendants released prior to adjudication, about half were released on their own recognizance; more than a quarter after posting bail; 19%, on an unsecured bond; and 4%, under restrictive conditions imposed by the court.

Source: BJS, *Federal Drug Offenders, 1999 with Trends 1984-99*, NCJ 187285, August 2001.

Defendants charged with drug offenses who were released prior to trial and terminated pretrial services during 1999 (29%), were more likely than other defendants to incur at least one violation during the release period.

Source: BJS, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1999*, NCJ 186179, April 2001.

State court

The State Court Processing Statistics (SCPS) program revealed that of persons charged with a felony drug offense in 1998 in the 75 most populous counties --

- 68% were released prior to case disposition
- 27% were held on bail
- 5% were denied bail

**Pretrial status of defendants charged
with drug offenses, 1994-98**

Pretrial status and type of release	1994	1996	1998
Total	100%	100%	100%
Released	66%	66%	68%
Financial total	24%	28%	33%
Surety bond	15	18	23
Deposit bond	5	7	5
Full cash bond	2	1	3
Property bond	1	2	2

Nonfinancial total	39%	37%	34%
Emergency release	3%	1%	--
Detained	34%	34%	32%

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

-- Less than 0.5%.

Source: BJS, *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1998*, NCJ 187232, November 2001.

In 1998, among felony drug defendants, those charged with drug trafficking (63%) were less likely to be released than those charged with other drug offenses (72%).

Percent of felony defendants released before trial, by type of offense, 1994-98

Most serious felony arrest charge	1994	1996	1998
All offenses	62%	63%	64%
Violent offenses			
Murder	21	16	13
Rape	53	51	47
Robbery	43	39	38
Assault	66	66	62
Property offenses			
Burglary	47	47	50
Theft	68	66	73
Drug offenses	66	66	68
Trafficking	61	62	63
Other drug	70	71	72
Public-order offenses	64	71	69

Source: BJS, *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1998*, NCJ 187232, November 2001.

In 1998 detained drug defendants had a median bail amount of \$10,000. Among drug defendants, those charged with drug trafficking (26%) were about twice as likely to have bail set at \$25,000 or more, compared to other drug defendants (14%).

Of felony drug defendants released prior to the disposition of their case, 53% were released within 1 day of their arrest, 82% within 1 week, and 94% within 1 month.

In 1998 of felony drug defendants released before case disposition, 30% failed to make a scheduled court appearance within 1 year. Twenty-two percent of the drug defendants who failed to appear returned to court by the end of the 1-year study period, while 7% remained fugitives. By original arrest offense category, released drug defendants (25%) had the highest rearrest rate. This included 15% of defendants released after being charged with drug trafficking.

Source: BJS, *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1998*, NCJ

187232, November 2001.

[↑ To the top](#)

Prosecution and adjudication

- **Prosecution of drug law violators**
 - **Federal**
 - **State**
 - **Juveniles**
- **Drug-related activities of prosecutors offices**

Prosecution of drug law violators

Federal

As reported in the *1999 Federal Criminal Case Processing*, drug prosecutions have comprised an increasing proportion of the Federal criminal caseload -- from 21% of defendants during 1982 to 36% during 1999.

During 1999, U.S. attorneys initiated investigations involving 37,313 suspects for drug offenses.

Source: BJS, *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1999*, NCJ 186180, February 2001.

Of the suspects referred to U.S. attorneys during 1999, 31% were involved with marijuana; 28%, cocaine powder; 15%, crack cocaine; 15%, methamphetamine; 7%, opiates; and 3%, other drugs.

Sixty-five percent of those charged during 1999 had previously been arrested; 28% had 5 or more prior arrests. Half of those charged had previously been convicted; a third of a felony.

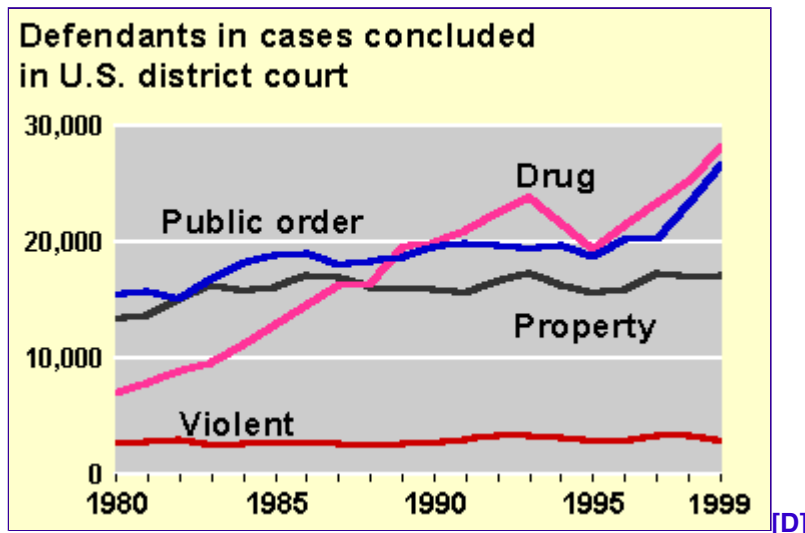
Source: BJS, *Federal Drug Offenders, 1999 with Trends 1984-99*, NCJ 187285, August 2001.

Drug offenders were more likely than others to be prosecuted before U.S. district court judges. U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute 17% of drug offenders investigated during 1999. During 1999, about a third (35%) of those declined for prosecution were referred to other authorities for prosecution.

During 1981 drug defendants accounted for less than a fifth of all Federal prosecutions. During 1999, however, drug defendants accounted for 37% of Federal prosecutions. Between 1981 and 1999 the number of suspects prosecuted for drug offenses increased 8% annually, on average, from 7,576 to 29,306.

Source: BJS, *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1999*, NCJ 186180, February 2001.

Of cases concluded in Federal district court in every year since 1989, there have been more drug cases than other types of cases.



Click on the chart to view the data.

Note: Public order offenses include weapons offenses.

Source: BJS, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics*, annual and *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1999* with trends 1982-99.

Approximately 87% of drug defendants adjudicated during 1999 were convicted, compared to 76% during 1981. More than a quarter (31%) of drug defendants convicted during 1999 were identified as noncitizens; more than half (55%) had at least one prior adult conviction.

Source: BJS, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1999*, NCJ 186179, April 2001.

Under the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, the proportion of defendants sentenced to prison increased from 54% during 1988 to 72% during 1999. The proportion of drug offenders sentenced to prison increased from 79% to 92%.

Prison sentences imposed increased from 55.1 months during 1988 to 58.1 months during 1999. For drug offenses, prison sentences increased from 71.3 months to 75.4 months; for weapons offenses, sentences imposed increased from 52.3 months to 99.5 months.

Source: BJS, *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1999*, NCJ 186180, February 2001.

The U.S. Sentencing Commission reported that mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment applied to approximately 61% of drug defendants sentenced during 1999.

Source: U.S. Sentencing Commission, *1999 Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics*, September 2000.

Drug offenders involved with crack cocaine (114 months), possessing a firearm (133 months), or with extensive prior records (125 months) received the longest prison terms, on average, during 1999.

Twenty-eight percent of convicted Federal drug defendants received a reduced sentence for providing substantial assistance to prosecutors.

Source: BJS, *Federal Drug Offenders, 1999 with Trends 1984-99*, NCJ 187285, August 2001.

Federal drug offenders sentenced during 1986 could expect to serve approximately 58% of the prison sentence imposed. The remaining portion of the sentence was served on parole, provided the offender did not violate any conditions of release. Under the Sentencing Reform Act, defendants are required to serve at least 87% of the prison sentence imposed.

Source: BJS, *Time Served in Prison by Federal Offenders, 1986-97*, NCJ 171682, June 1999.

State

From 1996 to 1998 the estimated numbers for drug traffickers decreased from --

- 322,393 to 286,899 adults arrested for drug trafficking
- 212,504 to 195,183 persons convicted of felony drug trafficking
- 154,977 to 138,580 drug traffickers sentenced to incarceration
- 83,913 to 87,832 drug traffickers sentenced to State prison (or 31 for every 100 drug trafficking arrests).

Of persons convicted of drug trafficking in State courts in 1998 --

- 84% were males
- 43% were between ages 20 and 29.

The racial composition of drug traffickers convicted in State courts changed from 1996 to 1998:

Percent of drug traffickers convicted

	White	Black
1996	43%	56%
1998	42	57

Source: BJS, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1998*, NCJ 190103, October 2001.

In 1998, drug offenders comprised a third of all persons convicted of a felony in State courts. Drug traffickers accounted for 21% of all convicted felons; drug possessors also accounted for 13% of all convicted felons.

- Ninety-five percent of drug trafficking convictions in 1998 resulted from guilty pleas; 2% resulted from jury trials; and 3% from bench trials.
- Seventy-one percent of persons convicted of drug trafficking in 1998 were sentenced to some kind of incarceration: 45% to prison, 26% to jail, and 29% on probation.
- The average prison sentence for persons convicted of drug trafficking was 4½ years, of which the estimated time to be served was less than 2 years.

Felony convictions and sentences relative to the

number of arrests, 1998

Offense	For 100 arrests		
	Felony conviction	Incarcerations	Prison sentences
Murder*	60	57	56
Robbery	44	39	33
Aggravated assault	16	12	8
Burglary	41	31	22
Motor vehicle theft	15	11	6
Drug trafficking	68	48	31

*Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Source: BJS, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1998*, NCJ 190103, October 2001.

In 1998 of persons convicted of drug possession, 36% were sentenced to jail, 29% to prison, and 35% to probation. The average prison sentence was 2 years and 11 months, of which the estimated time to be served was 14 months.

Mean State prison sentence and estimated time to be served in prison, by offenses, 1998

Most serious conviction	Mean State prison sentence	Estimated time to be served/a
Murder/b	263mos.	136mos.
Sexual assault/c	111	62
Robbery	106	54
Aggravated assault	66	38
Burglary	52	24
Larceny/d	37	17
Drug offenses		
Possession	35	14
Trafficking	54	22

a/ Derived by multiplying the percentage of sentence to be served by the mean sentence imposed. Percentages are based on data from 237,443 persons released from State prisons in 1998 (National Corrections Reporting Program, 1998; tables 2-8 and 2-12).

b/ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

c/ Includes rape.

d/ Includes motor vehicle theft.

Source: BJS, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1998*, NCJ 190103, October 2001.

The average (mean) time from arrest to sentencing by trial was 336 days for a drug trafficking

case resulting in a State court conviction in 1998. The average time was 363 days for jury trials, 324 days for bench trials, and 206 days for guilty pleas.

Fewer drug offenders incurred additional penalties in 1998 than in 1996. In 1998, besides being sentenced to incarceration or probation, drug offenders incurred other penalties --

- 22% were ordered to pay a fine
- 6% pay victim restitution
- 6% receive treatment
- 6% perform community service
- 7% comply with some other additional penalty (for example, undergo house arrest or appear periodically for drug testing).

Source: BJS, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1998*, NCJ 190103, October 2001.

Juveniles

In 1997 juvenile courts in the United States processed an estimated 1,755,100 delinquency cases. Delinquency cases involve juveniles charged with violations of the law that would be crimes if committed by adults. The number of delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts increased 48% between 1988 and 1997. During this time period, the number of drug law violation cases (182,400) increased 125%.

In 1997 males accounted for 85% (155,200) of drug law violation cases, compared to 77% of all delinquency cases.

Juveniles under age 16 were responsible for 40% (73,500) of drug law violation cases but almost 60% of delinquency cases in 1997.

Source: OJJDP, *Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Courts, 1997*, Fact Sheet, NCJ FS 200004, March 2000.

In 1997 the proportion of adjudicated cases of a drug offense placed outside the home was under 30% for youth age 15 and 16 or older. Between 1988 and 1997, the use of out-of-home placement for adjudicated delinquency cases involving youth under age 15 declined for drug offense cases.

Source: OJJDP, *Juvenile Court Statistics 1997*, NCJ 180864, May 2000.

Drug-related activities of prosecutors offices

Among the full-time large offices that did have a cross-designated Federal prosecutor, two-thirds prosecuted drug-related cases and about a quarter prosecuted organized crime cases.

About 45% of all offices were involved with community-based drug abuse programs. Of these offices, almost all (96%) were involved with a community-based drug education program, 70% a drug prevention program, and 39% a drug treatment program. The percentages of offices involved with community-based drug abuse programs, by type of office, were --

Full-time large	61%
Full-time small	46
Part-time	42

Almost 90% of all offices had cases in which the sentence involved alcohol and drug rehabilitation or community service. Of offices involved with community-based drug abuse programs, 45% also were involved with the funding of the program through asset forfeiture,

operating budget, or soliciting funds from nongovernmental sources.

Methods of felony prosecution

In 1994 prosecutors' offices used a variety of methods to process cases in their jurisdiction. Sixty-three percent of offices had a diversion program for first-time offenders, and 59% used deferred prosecution. Two-thirds of all offices used vertical prosecution in which a prosecutor stays with a case to disposition. Among these offices, prosecutors reported using this method for --

All cases	41%
Sexual assault	12
Drug	11
Felony only	10
Child abuse	9
Homicide	8

Drug courts

Relatively few of the State court prosecutors' offices (8%) reported that their jurisdiction operated a separate, specialized drug court for processing drug-involved offenders. Drug courts were most frequently operated (41%) in full-time offices in large jurisdictions.

Source: BJS, *Prosecutors in State Courts, 1994*, NCJ 151656, October 1996.

[Previous](#)

[Contents](#)

[Next](#)

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)



Correctional populations and facilities

Correctional populations | Correctional facilities

Correctional populations

- **Probationers**
- **Jail inmates**
- **State prison inmates**
- **Federal prisoners**
- **Juveniles**

Probationers

Probationers are criminal offenders who have been sentenced to a period of correctional supervision in the community. On December 31, 1998, a total of 3,417,613 adult men and women were serving a probation sentenced in the United States. Twenty-four percent of probationers had a drug law violation.

Source: BJS, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 1998*, NCJ 178234, August 1999.

An estimated 16% of mentally ill probationers and 21% of other probationers reported their current offense was a drug offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Jail inmates

In 1996 an estimated 109,200 jail inmates were held for a drug offense, an increase from 87,400 in 1989 and 20,400 in 1983.

The rapid increase in the percentage of jail inmates held for a drug offense during the 1980's slowed in the 1990's. The percentage charged with a drug offense rose from 9% in 1983 to 23% in 1989 but remained at 22% in 1996.

Most serious offense of jail inmates, 1996, 1989, and 1983

Most serious offense	Percent of jail inmates		
	1996	1989	1983
Violent offenses	26.3%	22.5%	30.7%
Murder/a	2.8	2.8	4.1
Assault	11.6	7.2	8.6
Other sexual assault	2.7	2.6	2.0
Property offenses	26.9%	30.0%	38.6%
Burglary	7.6	10.7	14.3

Burglary	7.0	10.7	14.5
Larceny/theft	8.0	7.9	11.7
Drug offenses	22.0%	23.0%	9.3%
Possession	11.5	9.7	4.7
Trafficking	9.2	12.0	4.0
Other drug	1.3	1.3	0.6
Public-order offenses	24.3%	22.8%	20.6%
Driving while intoxicated/b	7.4	8.8	7.0
Drunkenness/c	2.0	1.7	3.4

Note: Excludes inmates for whom offense was unknown.

a/Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

b/Includes public and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

c/Includes drunkenness, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly, morals, and commercialized vice.

Source: BJS, *Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996*, NCJ 164620, April 1998.

Among jail inmates who said they had been tested for HIV/AIDS, those held for drug offenses were the most likely to be HIV positive (3.3%). Drug offenders were twice as likely as violent offenders (1.5%) to report that they tested positive for HIV.

Source: BJS, *HIV in Prisons and Jails, 1995*, NCJ 164260, August 1997.

Local jail inmates testing HIV positive, by offense and prior drug use, 1995-96

Characteristics	Percent of tested jail inmates who reported HIV positive results	
	Tested positive	Ever tested results
Current offense/a		
Violent	61.5%	1.5%
Property	66.3	2.2
Drug	65.7	3.3
Public-order	57.6	1.7
Prior drug use/b		
Never used	52.3%	1.6%
Ever used	65.0	2.3
Used month before offense/c	67.4	3.0
Used needle to inject drugs/d	77.6	4.0
Shared a needle/e	78.6	6.3

a/Excludes jail inmates whose offense was unknown.

b/ Inmates were asked a detailed set of questions about past use of illegal drugs. These drugs included marijuana, barbiturates, methaqualone, tranquilizers (without a doctor's prescription), methamphetamine, other amphetamines, crack, cocaine other than crack, heroin, other opiates, PCP, LSD, inhaled or sniffed substances, and other drugs.

c/ Inmates who were unconvicted (awaiting arraignment, awaiting trial or on trial) were not asked

any questions about drug use during the month before the arrest for which they were current characteristically detained.

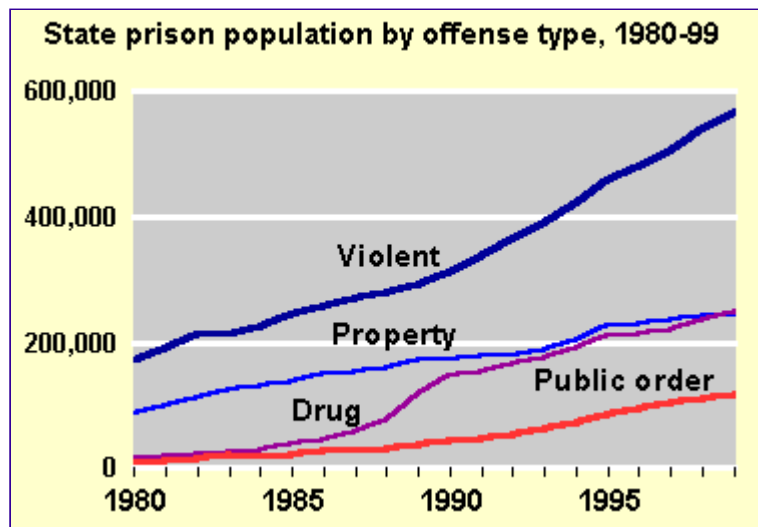
d/ All inmates who reported prior drug use were asked: "Have you ever used a needle to get any drug injected under your skin, into a muscle or into a vein for non-medical reasons?"

e/ Inmates who reported ever using a needle to inject drugs were asked: "Have you ever used a needle that you knew or suspected had been used by someone else for injecting drugs or shared a needle that you had used with someone else?"

Source: BJS, *HIV in Prisons and Jails, 1995*, NCJ 164260, August 1997.

State prison inmates

From 1990 to 1999 the number of drug offenders in State prison increased by 69% from 148,600 to 251,200.



[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: BJS, *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1980-96* and *Prisoners in 2000*

An estimated 251,200 inmates in State prison were held for drug offenses. Between 1990 and 1999 the largest growth of State inmates were violent offenders. During the 9-year period, the number of violent offenders grew 254,100, while the number of drug offenders grew 101,500. As a percentage of the total growth, violent offenders accounted for 51% of the total growth, drug offenders 20%, property offenders 14%, and public-order offenders 15%.

Source: BJS, *Prisoners in 2000*, NCJ 188207, August 2001.

About 13% of mentally ill inmates and 22% of other inmates in State prison were incarcerated for a drug offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

In 1997 parents in State prison were more likely to be serving a sentence for drug offenses (24%) than nonparents (17%). Mothers were more likely than fathers to be sentenced for drug offenses (35% compared to 23% of fathers).

In Federal prison, drug offenses (67%) were the most common type of crime for which parents were serving time in 1997.

Source: BJS, *Incarcerated Parents and Their Children*, NCJ 182335, August 2000.

Those inmates being held on a drug offense in State prisons reported the highest HIV positive rate (2.9%).

State inmates ever tested, by offenses

		Percent HIV Number positive
Violent	360,370	1.9%
Property	178,601	2.4
Drug	164,256	2.9
Public-order	77,049	1.9

Note: Data are from the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails and the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities.

Source: BJS, *1996-1997 Update: HIV/AIDS, STDs, and TB in Correctional Facilities*, NCJ 176344, July 1999.

An estimated 32% of State inmates who reported ever using a needle to inject drugs said they had a medical problem (excluding injury) since admission to prison, compared to 25% of those who did not use a needle.

Inmates who reported ever using a needle to inject drugs reported a higher prevalence of physical impairments or mental conditions. Among State prisoners, about 36% of those who used a needle and 30% of those who did not use a needle to inject drugs reported having some physical impairments or mental condition.

Source: BJS, *Medical Problems of Inmates, 1997*, NCJ 181644, January 2001.

Population by gender

Drug offenders accounted for the largest source of the total growth of female inmates (35%), compared to 19% among male inmates.

Percent of total growth of sentenced prisoners under State jurisdiction, by offense and gender, 1990-99

	Male Female	
Total	100%	100%
Violent	53	28
Property	13	21
Drug	19%	35%
Public-order	15	16

Source: BJS, *Prisoners in 2000*, NCJ 188207, August 2001.

Population by race

The increasing number of drug offenses accounted for 27% of the total growth among black inmates, 15% of the total growth among Hispanic inmates, and 14% of the growth among white inmates.

Total growth of sentenced prisoners under State jurisdiction, by offense, race, and Hispanic origin, 1990-99

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Increase,Percent 1990-99 of total		Increase,Percent 1990-99 of total		Increase,Percent 1990-99 of total	
Total	152,700	100%	238,400	100%	86,800	100%
Violent	71,700	47	120,200	50	50,100	58
Property	28,700	19	27,600	12	9,900	11
Drug	21,100	14	64,900	27	13,400	15
Public-order	31,800	21	25,500	11	13,000	15

Source: BJS, *Prisoners in 2000*, NCJ 188207, August 2001.

Federal prisoners

Prisoners sentenced for drug offenses constitute the largest group of Federal inmates (61%) in 1999, up from 53% in 1990. On September 30, 1999, Federal prisons held 68,360 sentenced drug offenders, compared to 30,470 at yearend 1990.

Source: BJS, *Prisoners in 2000*, NCJ 188207, August 2001.

In 1997, 16% of incarcerated Federal drug offenders reported being an importer, grower, or manufacturer of illicit drugs; 25% reported that they distributed drugs to street-level dealers.

Source: BJS, *Federal Drug Offenders, 1999 with Trends 1984-99*, NCJ 187285, August 2001.

In Federal prison, where the majority of inmates are incarcerated for a drug offense, 40% of those identified as mentally ill and 64% of other Federal inmates were in prison for a drug-related crime.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers*,

NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Juveniles

In October 1997 the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) conducted the new Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP). Based on their findings, 9,286 or (8.8%) of juveniles confined in a facility had committed a drug offense.

Source: OJJDP, *Juvenile Offenders in Residential Placement, 1997*, Fact Sheet, January 1999.

As of September 30, 1994, 124 juvenile delinquents were confined in a State juvenile correctional facility under contract to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. (The Federal Bureau of Prisons does not have its own facilities for juveniles.) Most (64%) were adjudicated delinquent of a violent offense, and 14% were delinquent of a drug offense.

Juvenile delinquents confined by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 1994

Most serious offense	Number	Percent
Total*	124	100.0%
Violent offenses	77	64.7
Property offenses	16	13.4
Drug offenses	17	14.3
Public-order offenses	9	7.6

*Includes cases for which an offense category could not be determined.
Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY system data file, fiscal year ending September 30, 1994 as presented in *Juvenile Delinquents in the Federal Criminal Justice System*, NCJ 163066, January 1997.

During 1994, 102 juvenile delinquents were released by the Federal Bureau of Prisons from a juvenile correctional facility. The average time served was --

- 14 months for all those released
- 21 months for drug offenders
- 17 months for violent offenders.

Source: BJS, *Juvenile Delinquents in the Federal Criminal Justice System*, NCJ 163066, January 1997.

[↑ To the top](#)

Correctional facilities

- **Drug interdiction**
- **Drug testing in jails and prisons**

Drug interdiction

Data from the BJS 1990 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities describe the

various methods used to prevent illegal entry of drugs into prisons and to stop the use of illegal drugs by those under correctional supervision including questioning, patdowns, clothing exchanges, and body cavity searches.

Inmates/residents activities

Most prison facilities patted down inmates and required them to exchange clothes upon admission or any reentry --

- 88% of Federal facilities reported that they patted down new admissions and required them to replace their clothes.
- 78% of confinement facilities and 71% of community-based facilities patted down newly admitted inmates.
- 59% of State confinement facilities and 26% of community-based facilities required them to substitute prison clothes.

At least three-quarters of both State and Federal facilities questioned new admissions about drugs.

Drug interdiction activities for prison inmates/residents, by type of facility, June 1990

Inmate drug interdiction activities	Percent of facilities		
	State		
	Federal confinement	State confinement	Community-based
Inmates at admission			
Verbal questioning	83.8%	74.9%	79.2%
Patdown	87.5	77.7	71.2
Clothing exchange	87.5	59.0	26.0
Body cavity search	61.3	45.1	14.4
Inmates returning from temporary release			
Verbal questioning	72.5%	66.5%	68.0%
Patdown	81.3	79.7	81.6
Clothing exchange	72.5	54.5	29.2
Body cavity search	63.8	47.6	20.4

Source: BJS, *Drug Enforcement and Treatment in Prisons, 1990*, NCJ 134724, July 1992.

Visitors

Staff checked visitors' belongings for drugs in 93% of Federal institutions, clothing exchange 87% of State confinement facilities, and 76% of the community-based. Visitors were patted down for drugs in 51% of Federal prisons, 69% of State confinement institutions, and 40% of community-based facilities.

**Drug interdiction activities for prison visitors,
by type of facility, June 1990**

Visitor drug interdiction activities	Percent of facilities		
	State		
	Federal confinement	State Confinement	Community- based
Verbal questioning	97.5%	78.7%	82.4%
Patdown	51.3	69.4	39.6
Clothing exchange	92.5	87.4	75.6
Body cavity search	27.5	22.4	5.2

Source: BJS, *Drug Enforcement and Treatment in Prisons, 1990*, NCJ 134724, July 1992.

Staff

When reporting to work, staff were patted down in about half of State confinement facilities and in more than a fifth of Federal and State community-based facilities. In over 50% of Federal facilities and 40% of State facilities staff were questioned. Most interdiction activities involving staff were conducted on suspicion of smuggling drugs.

**Drug interdiction activities for prison staff, by type of facility,
June 1990**

Staff drug interdiction activities	Percent of facilities		
	State		
	Federal confinement	State Confinement	Community- based
No reported questioning			
Interdiction activity	17.5%	23.4%	42.0%
Verbal questioning	53.8	43.3	45.2
Patdown	21.3	49.3	24.4

Source: BJS, *Drug Enforcement and Treatment in Prisons, 1990*, NCJ 134724, July 1992.

Drug testing in jails and prisons

Jail inmates and staff | Prisons

Jails

Jail inmates

In 1998 nearly 54% of all inmates (an estimated 318,000 jail inmates) were in jails that tested for illegal drug use.

Jurisdictions selected inmates for testing in various ways:

- 69% tested inmates on indication of use
- 49% selected inmates at random
- 30% specified other criteria for testing, usually testing all offenders who returned to the facility from a temporary absence from custody
- 5% had a policy to test all inmates at admission in 1998

Of jurisdictions that impose legal and administrative sanctions after inmates test positive for drugs --

- 70% take away inmate privileges
- 52% take away good time
- 49% reclassify the offender to a higher security level
- 39% charge the offender with a new offense
- 25% increase drug testing after a positive test
- 20% add time to the inmates sentence for a positive test result

Source: BJS, [*Drug Use, Testing, and Treatment in Jails*](#), NCJ 179999, May 2000.

Jail staff

Drug testing policies to detect and control drug use in jails also include jail employees:

- 1,418 jail jurisdictions (49%) had a policy to test staff for drug use in 1998
- 70% of jail jurisdictions said that all staff (supervisors, administrative staff, corrections officers, and program or treatment personnel) were subject to testing for illegal drug use

Of jail jurisdictions that reported testing staff for drug use --

- About 63% tested at random
- 40% tested on indication of use
- Around 45% used a combination of criteria
- About 41% selected staff at random only
- 15% selected on indication of use only

Jurisdictions usually fired staff or did not hire prospective employees after a positive result on a test for drugs:

- About 71% reported that dismissal was the usual action taken after a positive test result
- 49% used dismissal as the only disciplinary action for an employee

Among the sanctions that permitted jail staff to continue working after a positive test for drugs --

- 29% of jail jurisdictions referred staff either to internal affairs or the police
- 29% referred staff to substance abuse treatment
- About 11% increased drug testing of staff after a positive test
- About 4% of jurisdictions allowed staff to continue to work with restrictions on contact with inmates

Source: BJS, [*Drug Use, Testing, and Treatment in Jails*](#), NCJ 179999, May 2000.

Prisons

Prison inmates

Most prison facilities conducted urine tests upon suspicion of drug use. Twenty percent of all facilities systematically conducted urine tests on all inmates at least once during their confinement.

State and Federal correctional authorities reported data to the BJS 1990 Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities on drug-testing practices in their facilities. About 87% of correctional facilities tested some inmates for illegal drug use between July 1, 1989, and June 30, 1990.

Percent of prison inmates tested for drug use, by criteria for testing and type of facility, June 1990

Characteristics	Type of facility		
	All facilities	Federal confinement	State confinement
Total*	86.7%	100.0%	82.5%
Systematically of everyone at least once	20.0	31.3	12.3
Randomly on samples	62.7	96.3	56.5
On indication of possible drug use	75.8	93.8	74.1
Other criteria	17.3	23.8	18.4

*Detail adds to more than s because some facilities tested on more than one basis.

Source: BJS, *Drug Enforcement and Treatment in Prisons, 1990*, NCJ 134724, July 1992.

[Previous](#)

[Contents](#)

[Next](#)

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)



Drug treatment under correctional supervision

On probation| In jail| In State and Federal prisons

On probation

Almost all probationers (99%) had one or more conditions to their sentence required by the court or probation agency. Among such conditions were drug testing and substance abuse treatment.

Conditions of sentences of adult probationers, by severity of offense, 1995

Condition of sentence	Severity of offense		
	Total	Felony	Misdemeanor
Any condition	98.6%	98.4%	98.9%
Alcohol/drug restrictions	38.2%	48.1%	23.7%
Mandatory drug testing	32.5	43.0	17.1
Remain alcohol/drug free	8.1	10.4	5.2
Substance abuse treatment	41.0%	37.5%	45.7%
Alcohol	29.2	21.3	41.0
Drug	23.0	28.3	14.8
Number of probationers*	2,558,981	1,470,696	982,536

Note: Detail may not sum to total because probationers may have more than one condition on their sentences and totals may include items not shown in the table.

*Excludes 61,579 probationers (2% of all adults on probation) for whom information on conditions of probation was not reported.

Source: BJS, *Characteristics of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 164267, December 1997.

Drug or alcohol treatment was a sentence condition for 41% of adults on probation; 37% had received treatment. An estimated 29% of probationers were required to get treatment for alcohol abuse or dependency and 23% for drug abuse. Drug treatment was required nearly twice as frequently among felons as misdemeanants (28% compared to 15%).

Thirty-two percent of all probationers were subject to mandatory drug testing -- 43% of felons and 17% of misdemeanants.

Source: BJS, *Characteristics of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 164267, December 1997.

Seventeen percent of all probationers reported having participated in a drug treatment program during their probation sentence. The percentage rose as the severity of prior drug use increased. Of those with any past drug use, 25% had received treatment, and the percentage grew to 42% of those using drugs in the month before the offense. A majority of those using drugs at the time of offense reported participation in drug treatment during their current sentence.

Of the individual drug treatment programs, the most common among all probationers were --

- 11% Narcotics/Cocaine Anonymous groups
- 8% drug rehabilitation, and
- 6% outpatient clinics.

The types of treatment programs did not differ according to the level of the probationers' past drug use.

For probationers using drugs in the month prior to the offense, the most common programs were --

- 27% Narcotics/Cocaine Anonymous,
- 20% drug rehabilitation, and
- 17% outpatient clinics.

Nearly a third of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers were currently enrolled in an alcohol or drug treatment program when interviewed. Half of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers said they were treated on their current sentence to probation, and about two-thirds had been treated at some time in their lives.

Treatment history of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers, 1995

Participated in an alcohol or drug treatment program	Percent of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers
Ever	64.2 %
While incarcerated	10.2
Before current sentence	39.8
During current sentence	53.6
Currently in program	30.1
Number of probationers	1,390,572

Note: Probationers may have received treatment at multiple times in the past.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 166611, March 1998.

Since their sentence began, over 40% of DWI offenders on probation who reported using drugs at the time of their offense had participated in drug treatment or programs: 13% of those who reported prior drug use, and 22% of those who were regular drug users.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

[↑ To the top](#)

In Jail

The number of persons under jail supervision who participated in some type of treatment program (drug, alcohol, mental health, and other medical treatment) outside of a jail facility decreased by two-thirds (67%) from 1999 to 2000; 8,500 in 1999 and 5,714 in 2000.

Source: BJS, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2000*, NCJ 185989, March 2001.

Substance abuse treatment includes detoxification, professional counseling, a residential stay, or maintenance drug programs. Other programs include Alcoholic Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and other self-help groups, and drug or alcohol education or awareness. Although jail jurisdictions were unlikely to mandate treatment for inmates after a positive drug test, almost three-quarters provided substance abuse treatment or other programs for their inmates.

In 1998 about 43% of jail jurisdictions provided substance abuse treatment, while 68% provided other programs. Within the specific types of substance abuse programs provided in jails, self-help groups (such as AA, NA, and other peer group counseling) were the most common (64%). About 30% had education or awareness programs.

Overall, 12% of jail jurisdictions provided all types of programs and treatment, and about 22% had only AA, NA, or other self-help programs.

In 1996 based on self-reported information in the jail inmates survey, over half of jail inmates who said they had ever used drugs and those who used regularly had participated in substance abuse treatment or programs in the past. Among convicted inmates 58% of those who had used drugs in the month before the offense and 61% of those who had used drugs at the time of the offense had participated in substance abuse treatment or programs.

Source: BJS, *Drug Use, Testing, and Treatment in Jails*, NCJ 179999, May 2000.

Of DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) offenders in jail who reported using drugs at the time of their offense, 25% reported some type of drug treatment since their admission, as did 7% of those who reported any prior drug use and 9% of those who were regular users.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Veterans

In 1996 veterans' in local jails substance abuse treatment histories were similar to those of other inmates. Since their admission, veterans in local jails reported the same level of participation as nonveterans (10% of both) in substance abuse treatment or programs. Veterans (48%) were also about as likely as other inmates (42%) to report participation in any drug treatment or other programs at some time in their past.

Source: BJS, *Veterans in Prison or Jail*, NCJ 178888, January 2000.

In State and Federal prisons

- **Prisoners' drug treatment experience**
- **Treatment facilities**

Prisoners' drug treatment experience

In 1997, an estimated 340,047 (24.4% of total) State prisoners and 24,729 (24.5% of total) Federal prisoners said that they had participated in either professional substance abuse treatment or other abuse programs since their admission.

A third of State prisoners reported past participation in alcohol or drug abuse treatment, such as time spent in a residential facility, professional counseling, detoxification, or use of a maintenance drug. About 1 in 8 State prisoners had participated in these types of alcohol or drug treatment since their admission to prison.

In both State and Federal prisons, the percentage of inmates who reported being treated for drug abuse since their admission dropped since 1991.

In 1997, 1 in 10 State prisoners reported being treated for drug abuse since admission; a decrease from the 1 in 4 prisoners reporting such treatment in 1991. There was also a drop in the percentage of Federal prisoners (9%) reporting treatment since admission (16% in 1991).

Among both State and Federal prisoners, enrollment in other drug abuse programs, such as self-help or peer groups and drug education classes, had gone up over this period. In 1997, 20% of both State and Federal prisoners reported participation in drug abuse programs during their current prison term, up from 16% of State and 10% of Federal prisoners in 1991. Among those prisoners who used drugs at the time of offense, participation in these programs had risen to 32% of State and 38% of Federal prisoners in 1997, compared to about 25% of each in 1991.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997*, NCJ 172871, January 1999.

Veterans

In both State and Federal prisons, veterans' substance abuse treatment histories were similar to those of other inmates in 1997. Since their admission, veterans in both State and Federal prisons reported similar levels of participation in substance abuse treatment or programs as nonveterans (32% and 28%, respectively). Veterans (59%) were also as likely as other State prisoners (56%) to report participation in any drug treatment or other programs at some time in their past.

Source: BJS, *Veterans in Prison or Jail*, NCJ 178888, January 2000.

Treatment facilities

For both the 1990 and 1995 censuses, facility respondents were mailed a questionnaire that, among other items, asked "What are the functions of this facility?" With nine possible choices of State and Federal correctional facilities, including "alcohol/drug treatment confinement," respondents were requested to check all functions that applied and to circle the function that applied to the largest number of inmates.

The number of correctional facilities that operated primarily as alcohol/drug treatment

institutions nearly doubled from 97 in 1990 to 192 in 1995.

State and Federal authorities, for both confinement and community-based institutions, operated more alcohol and drug treatment facilities in 1995 than in 1990. Among State confinement facilities the number nearly doubled from 93 to 180, and among Federal confinement facilities it rose from 4 to 12. In community-based settings the number of alcohol and drug treatment facilities grew from 20 to 41.

The largest growth in the number of drug and alcohol treatment facilities occurred among minimum security State and Federal facilities, from 27 in 1990 to 66 in 1995. The greatest relative growth of inmates housed in alcohol and drug treatment institutions also occurred among minimum security institutions where the number of persons increased more than 400% from 5,573 in 1990 to 28,604, in 1995. Medium security facilities had the largest growth in the number of inmates in treatment institutions, adding 53,111 inmates from 1990 to 1995.

Overall, in 1995, 97% of the facilities offered counseling. Drug and alcohol counseling was available in nearly 90% of the facilities; psychological, life skills, and psychiatric counseling in 69%; and community adjustment counseling in 67%.

Total number of State and Federal correctional facilities providing counseling programs, midyear 1995

Characteristics	All facilities		
	Total	Confinement	Community-based
All facilities	1,500	1,196	304
With counseling programs	1,451	1,152	299
Drug dependency, counseling, awareness	1,327	1,052	275
Alcohol dependency, counseling, awareness	1,345	1,075	270

Source: BJS, *Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 1995*, NCJ 164266, August 1997.



Drug control budget

[Federal | State](#)

Federal

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Federal spending on drug control programs has increased from \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 1981 to \$18.8 billion (enacted) in fiscal year 2002. In total, funding recommended for FY 2003 is an estimated \$19.2 billion, an increase of \$356.9 million (+1.9 percent) over the FY 2002 enacted level.

	Total Federal drug control budget (in millions)
FY 1981 actual	\$1,531.8
FY 1989 actual	6,663.7
FY 1990 actual	9,758.9
FY 1991 actual	10,957.6
FY 1992 actual	11,565.2
FY 1993 actual	11,936.2
FY 1994 actual	11,962.4
FY 1995 actual	12,981.1
FY 1996 actual	12,988.0
FY 1997 actual	14,353.7
FY 1998 actual	15,178.6
FY 1999 actual	17,124.2
FY 2000 final budget authority	17,817.6
FY 2001 final budget authority	18,095.7
FY 2002 enacted	18,822.8
FY 2003 request	19,179.7

**Fiscal Year 2001 and 2002 Federal drug control budget
by function**

	2001 (in millions)	2002 (in millions)
Total	\$18,095.7	\$18,822.8
Drug abuse treatment	\$2,837.8	\$3,023.2
Drug abuse prevention	2,226.1	2,146.3
Prevention research	352.6	402.4
Treatment research	497.2	564.2
Domestic law enforcement	9,463.8	9,513.1
International	663.2	1,098.8
Interdiction	2,054.9	2,074.8

Source: ONDCP, *FY 2003 National Drug Control Budget*, February 2002 .

[↑ To the top](#)

State

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) released its 3-year study, *Shoveling Up: The Impact of Substance Abuse on State Budgets*, revealing that in 1998 States spent conservatively \$81.3 billion dollars on substance abuse and addiction -- 13.1 percent of the \$620 billion in total State spending. This report found that in 1998 States spent the following amounts to deal with substance abuse --

**State spending for substance abuse,
1998**

	FY1998 (in billions)
Total	\$77.9
Justice	\$30.7
Education	16.5
Health	15.2
Child/family assistance	7.7
Mental health and developmental disabilities	5.9
Public safety	1.5
State workforce	4

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University: *"Shoveling Up: The Impact of Substance Abuse on State Budgets*, January, 2001, press release.

Bureau of Justice Statistics
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/
Send comments to askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov

OJP Freedom of Information Act page
Privacy Statement and Disclaimers
Page last revised on *May 9, 2002*



Drug use

Youth | General population | Workforce

Youth

- **Use**
- **Perceived risk**
- **Student reports of availability of drugs**

Use

The Monitoring the Future Study asked high school seniors, "On how many occasions, if any, have you used drugs or alcohol during the last 12 months or month?"

Reported drug and alcohol use by high school seniors, 2001

Drugs	Used within the last:	
	12 months*	30 days
Alcohol	73.3%	49.8%
Marijuana	37.0	22.4
Stimulants	10.9	5.6
Hallucinogens	8.4	3.2
Other opiates	6.7	3.0
Sedatives	5.7	2.8
Inhalants	4.5	1.7
Tranquilizers	6.5	3.0
Cocaine	4.8	2.1
Steroids	2.4	1.3
Heroin	0.9	0.4

*Including the last month.
 Source: University of Michigan, Drug Use from the *Monitoring the Future National Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings 2001, 2002.*

Self-reports of drug use among high school seniors may under represent drug use among youth of that age because high school dropouts and truants are not included, and these groups may have more involvement with drugs than those who stay in school.

Percent of all college students, 1990-00

Drug use 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000

Marijuana

Daily within last month	1.7%	1.8%	1.6%	1.9%	1.8%	3.7%	2.8%	3.7%	4.0%	4.0%	4.6%
Last month	14.0	14.1	14.6	14.2	15.1	18.6	17.5	17.7	18.6	20.7	20.0
Last year	29.4	26.5	27.7	27.9	29.3	31.2	33.1	31.6	35.9	35.2	34.0

Cocaine

Daily within last month	0.0	*	0.0	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Last month	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.2
Last year	5.6	3.6	3.0	2.7	2.0	3.6	2.9	3.4	4.6	4.6	4.8

* Less than
0.05%

Rates of cocaine use by college students over the previous 5 years had varied between 2.0% of all students in 1994 to 4.8% in 2000, and marijuana use ranged from 29.3% in 1994 to 34.0% in 2000.

Source: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-99 as reported in the **BJS Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 2000**, NCJ 190251, October 2001.

Of high school seniors in 2001 --

- 49.0% reported having ever used marijuana/hashish
- 8.2% reported having ever used cocaine
- 1.8% reported having ever used heroin.

Source: University of Michigan, *Monitoring the Future National Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings 2001, 2002*.

The increase in the use of marijuana has been especially pronounced. Between 1992 and 2001 past-month use of marijuana increased from:

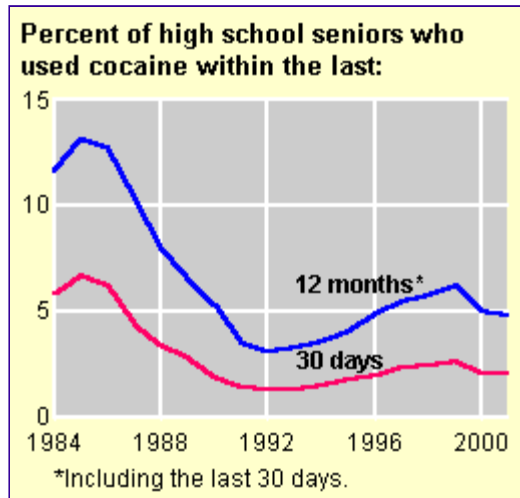
- 12% to 22% among high school seniors.
- 8% to 20% among 10th graders.
- 4% to 9% among 8th graders.

Reported use of marijuana by high school seniors during the past month peaked in 1978 at 37% and declined to its lowest level in 1992 at 12%.

The use of cocaine within the past month of the survey by high school seniors peaked in 1985 at 6.7%, up from 1.9% in 1975 at the survey's inception. Cocaine use declined to a low of 1.3% in 1992 and 1993. In 2001, 2.1% of high school seniors reported past-month cocaine use.

Source: University of Michigan, *Monitoring the Future National Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings 2001, 2002*.

Cocaine use among high school seniors peaked in 1985.



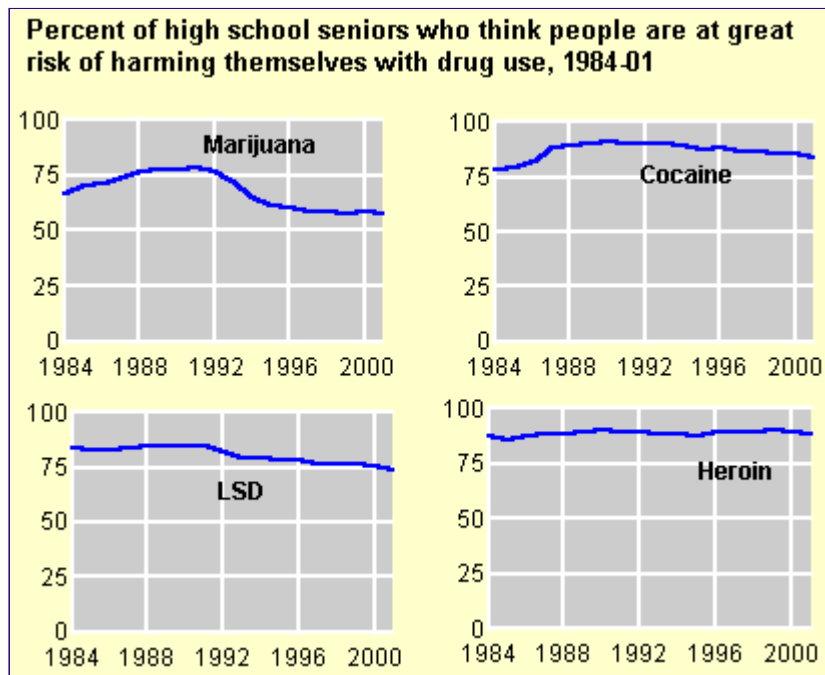
[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: University of Michigan, *Monitoring the Future National Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings 2001, 2002.*

Perceived risk

From 1984 to 2001 the percentage of high school seniors that were asked, "How much do you think people risk harming themselves?" remained virtually stable. Those students answering "great risk" in regular use accounted for the following --



[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: University of Michigan, *Monitoring the Future National Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings 2001, 2002.*

Student reports of availability of drugs

Percent of high school seniors reporting they could obtain drugs fairly easily or very easily, 2001

Marijuana	88.5%
Amphetamines	57.1
Cocaine	46.2
LSD	44.7
Crack	40.2
Barbiturate	35.7
Tranquilizers	33.1
Heroin	32.3
Crystal methamphetamine (ice)	28.3
PCP	27.2
Amyl/butyl nitrites	22.5

Source: University of Michigan, the *Monitoring the Future National Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings 2001*, 2002.

In 1995 and 1997, almost a third of all students in grades 9 through 12 reported someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property. This was an increase from 1993 when a quarter of such students reported that illegal drugs were available to them on school property.

Between 1993 and 1995, males and females reported that illegal drugs were made available to them on school property increased. Males were more likely than females to report that drugs were offered, sold, or given to them on school property. In 1997, males (37%) and females (25%) reported availability of drugs.

Source: BJS jointly with the U.S. Department of Education, *Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2000*, NCJ 184176, October 2000.

In 1989, 63.2% of students ages 12 through 19 reported that marijuana, cocaine, crack, or upper/downers were available at school, according to data in the National Crime Victimization Survey School Crime Supplement. That percentage increased somewhat to 65.3% in 1995.

In 1995 the availability of drugs was reported more often by --

- public schools students (67.2%) than by private school students (48.0%)
- students in higher grades were more likely than students in lower grades in both 1989 and 1995

Similar rates of drug availability were reported by --

- white students (68%) and black students (67%)
- students residing in cities (67%), suburban areas (68%), and nonmetropolitan areas (65%).

Source: BJS, *1989 and 1995 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey: Students Report of School Crime*, NCJ 169607, March 1998.

[↑ To the top](#)

General population

According to data from the 2000 *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration* (SAMHSA) National Household Survey on Drug Abuse --

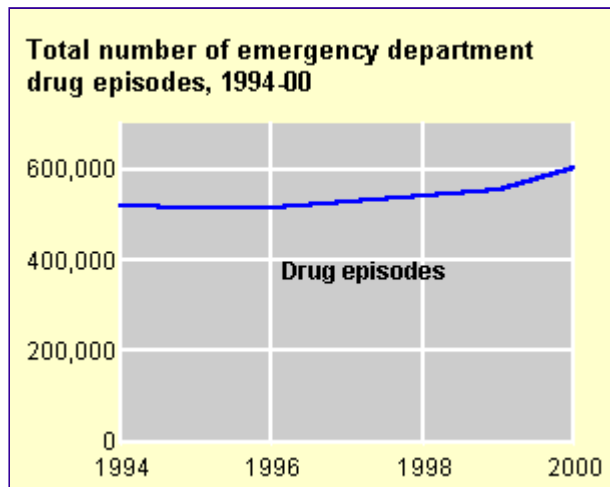
- 87 million Americans age 12 or older (39% of the population) reported illicit drug use at least once in their lifetime
- 11% reported use of a drug within the past year
- 6% reported use of a drug within the past month.

Data from the 2000 survey showed that marijuana and cocaine use is the most prevalent among persons age 18 to 25.

Drug use	Age of respondent, 2000		
	12-17	18-25	26 or older
Marijuana			
Last month	7.2%	13.6%	3.0%
Last year	13.4	23.7	5.0
Cocaine			
Last month	0.6%	1.4%	0.4%
Last year	1.7	4.4	1.0

Source: SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, *2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse*, February 2002.

The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) data do not measure the prevalence of drug use in the population. The DAWN provides information about some of the health-related consequences of drug abuse in the United States, including representative estimates of drug abuse-related emergency department episodes and drug mentions for the coterminous United States and for 21 metropolitan areas. In 2000 the SAMHSA *Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)* reported 601,563 drug-related episodes in hospital emergency departments nationwide, an increase from the 518,521 reported in 1994.



[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

From 1997 to 2000 cocaine was the most common drug reported in emergency department episodes.

Total number of drug mentions in drug abuse-related emergency department episodes, by type of drug, 1997-00

	Cocaine	Heroin	Marijuana
1997	161,083	70,712	64,720
1998	172,011	75,688	76,842
1999	168,751	82,192	87,068
2000	174,881	94,804	96,426

Source: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, *Emergency Department Trends from the Drug Abuse Warning Network Preliminary Estimates January - June 2001 with Revised Estimates 1994-2000, February 2002.*

Source: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, *Emergency Department Trends from the Drug Abuse Warning Network Preliminary Estimates January - June 2001 with Revised Estimates 1994-2000, February 2002.*

The Drug Abuse Warning Network provides information on drug-induced and drug-related deaths identified and submitted to participating death investigation jurisdictions across the United States. In 2000, 137 jurisdictions in 43 metropolitan areas submitted data to DAWN. DAWN cannot provide national estimates of drug abuse-related deaths. Descriptions of drug abuse deaths in the participating metropolitan areas are available in the *Mortality Data from the DAWN, 2000* report.

Source: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, *Mortality Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2000, January 2002.*

Workforce

A study, which focuses on findings from the 1994 and 1997 *National Household Survey of Drug Abuse* reported that --

- 70% of illicit drug users, age 18-49, were employed full-time.
- 6.3 million of full-time workers were illicit drug users.
- 1.6 million of these full-time workers were both illicit drug and heavy alcohol users in the past.

The overall rate of current illicit drug use among full-time employees has fallen from 17.5% in 1985 to a low point 7.4% in 1992. This percentage has remained steady through 1997 (7.7%).

The report found a dramatic shift in current illicit drug users from various establishments. Illicit drug use in --

- Small establishments (1-24 employees) declined from 11% in 1994 to 9% in 1997.
- Mid-size establishments (25-499) increased from slightly more than 5% in 1994 to almost 8% in 1997.
- Large establishments (500 or more) reported the lowest rate of illicit drug use.

There was no change among these workers from 1994 (5.4%) to 1997 (5.8%).

Source: SAMHSA, *Worker Drug Use and Workplace Policies and Programs: Results from 1994 and 1997 NHSDA*, press release, September 1999.

[Previous](#)

[Contents](#)

[Next](#)

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)



Public opinion about drugs

As reported in the *2000 BJS Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*, the percentage of Gallup Poll respondents describing drug abuse as the single most important problem facing our country peaked in 1989:

Date of poll	Drug abuse most serious problem
September 1988	11 %
May 1989	27
November 1989	38
July 1990	18
March 1991	11
March 1992	8
January 1993	6
January 1994	9
January 1995	6
May 1996	10
January 1997	17
April 1998	12
September 1998	9
May 1999	5
March 2000	5
January 2001	7

Among Gallup Poll respondents, the use of drugs was most often mentioned as one of the biggest problems for schools in their communities. Giving that response in 2000 were --

- 9% of public school parents
- 10% of those with no children in school
- 9% of all surveyed.

When asked about spending for various social problems, 59% of the respondents to a 2000 National Opinion Research Center (NORC) Poll said this country is spending too little to deal with drug addiction. In 1996 a Gallup Poll prepared for the Office of National Drug Control Policy respondents were asked how best the government should allocate its resources in its fight against drugs --

- 31% said "stopping drugs from coming into the United States"
- 28% said "having more programs to educate both youth and adults about the dangers of drugs"
- 22% said "more efforts by police action and criminal prosecutor to stop the drug dealers"
- 9% said "putting more drug treatment programs in communities and neighborhoods"
- 6% said "more efforts by police action and criminal prosecutor to stop the people who buy drugs"
- 2% said "building more jails and prisons for drug offenders."

NORC has asked adults (age 18 or older) about legalization of marijuana since 1973. In 2000, 32% believed that marijuana should be made legal, which compared to the peak of 30% in 1978. College freshmen have been surveyed by NORC since 1968. In 2000, 34.2% of those surveyed agreed strongly or somewhat that marijuana should be legalized, down from a peak of 52.9% in 1977 and up from a low of 16.7% in 1989. Of 2000 high school seniors --

- 31.2% felt using marijuana should be legal, compared to the peak of 32.9% feeling that way in 1978 and a low of 14.9% in 1986
- 60.9% reported worrying often or sometimes about drug abuse, up from 65.5% in 1978 and down from 82.6% in 1990.

Source: *The Gallup Report*, National Opinion Research Center, and the **BJS Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 2000**.

Neighborhood crime

In May 1999 the Office of Community Policing Services and the Bureau of Justice Statistics published a joint report on criminal victimization and citizen perception of 12 cities across the United States: Chicago, IL; Kansas City, MO; Knoxville, TN; Los Angeles, CA; Madison, WI; New York, NY; San Diego, CA; Savannah, GA; Spokane, WA; Springfield, MA; Tucson, AZ; and Washington, DC. Residents of these 12 cities were asked various questions about community attitudes, citizen actions to prevent neighborhood crime and attitudes toward the police and community policing.

- Residents who said they were aware of serious crimes in their neighborhood were asked to identify the types of serious crimes that had occurred in their neighborhood over the past 12 months. Of all residents who identified serious crimes, people openly selling drugs (16%) and people openly using drugs (14%) were among the types of crimes that had occurred in their neighborhood.
- Residents were also asked about various activities which may have been present in their neighborhood. They frequently said that illegal public drinking and/or drug use (29%) and public drug sales (24%) were among the activities that existed in their neighborhood.
- Residents who identified a neighborhood condition or activity were asked if any of these condition or activities made them feel less safe in their neighborhood and, if so, which one impacted their feeling of safety the most. Between 17% and 36% of all the residents in each city said the conditions or activities made them feel less safe. Across the cities, public drinking/drug use (15%) and drug sales (17%) were among the conditions that affected residents' sense of safety.

Source: BJS/COPS, *Criminal Victimization and Perceptions of Community Safety in 12 Cities, 1998*, NCJ 173940, May 1999.

-

[Previous](#)

[Contents](#)

[Next](#)

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)



Bibliography

Sources used to produce this document

Executive Office of the President Office of National Drug Control Policy

Fact Sheet: Drug Data Summary, NCJ 172873, April 1999.
FY 2003 National Drug Control Budget, February 2002.

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics

Alcohol and Crime, NCJ 168632, April 1998.
American Indians and Crime, NCJ 173386, February 1999.
Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 1995, NCJ 164266, August 1997.
Characteristics of Adults on Probation, 1995, NCJ 164267, December 1997.
Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1999, NCJ 186179, April 2001.
Criminal Victimization and Perceptions of Community Safety in 12 Cities, 1998, NCJ 173940, May 1999.
Correctional Populations in the United States, 1980-96, annual.
Drug Enforcement and Treatment in Prisons, 1990, NCJ 134724, July 1992.
Drug Use, Testing, and Treatment in Jails, NCJ 179999, May 2000.
DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision, NCJ 172212, June 1999.
Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1999, NCJ 186180, February 2001.
Federal Drug Offenders, 1999 with Trends 1984-99, NCJ 187285, August 2001.
Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 1998, NCJ 177607, February 2000.
Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1998, NCJ 187232, November 2001.
Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1998, NCJ 190103, October 2001.
The Gallup Report, National Opinion Research Center, **BJS Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 1998**.
HIV in Prisons and Jails, 1995, NCJ 164260, August 1997.
Incarcerated Parents and Their Children, NCJ 182335, August 2000.
Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2000, jointly with the U.S. Department of Education, NCJ 184176, October 2000.
Jail Inmates, 1992, NCJ 143284, August, 1993.
Juvenile Delinquents in the Federal Criminal Justice System, NCJ 163066, January 1997.
Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1999: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers, NCJ 184481, November 2000.
Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1997: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officer, NCJ 171681, April 1999.
Local Police Departments, 1997, NCJ 173429, February 2000.
Medical Problems of Inmates, 1997, NCJ 181644, January 2001.
Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers, NCJ 174463, July 1999.
Prior Abuse Reported by Inmates and Probationers, NCJ 172879, April 1999.
Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2000, NCJ 185989, March 2001.
Prisoners in 2000, NCJ 188207, August 2001.
Probation and Parole in the United States, 1998, NCJ 178234, August 1999.

Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996, NCJ 164620, April 1998.
Prosecutors in State Courts, 1992 and 1994, NCJ 145319, June 1996.
Sheriff's Departments, 1997, NCJ 173428, February 2000.
Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2000, NCJ 190251, October 2001.
1989 and 1995 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey: Students Report of School Crime, NCJ 169607, March 1998.
Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995, NCJ 166611, March 1998.
Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997, NCJ 172871, January 1999.
Time Served in Prison by Federal Offenders, 1986-97, NCJ 171682, June 1999.
Veterans in Prison or Jail, NCJ 178888, January 2000.
Violence by Intimates, NCJ 167237, March 1998.
Violence in the Workplace, 1993-99, NCJ 190076, December 2001.

National Institute of Justice

1999 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees, Arrestees Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM), under the National Institute of Justice, 1999, NCJ 181426, June 2000.
1996-1997 Update: HIV/AIDS, STDs, and TB in Correctional Facilities, NCJ 176344, July 1999.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Juvenile Offenders in Residential Placement, 1997, Fact Sheet, January 1999.
Juvenile Court Statistics 1997, NCJ 180864, May 2000.
Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Courts, 1997, Fact Sheet, NCJ FS 200004, March 2000.

U.S. Sentencing Commission

1999 Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics, September 2000.

Drug Enforcement Administration

Federal-Wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS), 1997.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, 1980-99, annually.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

National Institute on Drug Abuse

University of Michigan, *Monitoring the Future National Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings 2001*, 2002.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Office of Applied Studies, *Mortality Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, January 2002.
Office of Applied Studies, *2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse*, February 2002.
Emergency Department Trends from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, Preliminary Estimates January-June 2001 with Revised Estimates 1994 to 2000, February 2002.
Worker Drug Use and Workplace Policies and Programs: Results from 1994 and 1997 NHSDA, press release, September 1999.

National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse

"Shoveling Up: The Impact of Substance Abuse on State Budgets, January, 2001,

press release.

[Previous](#)

[Contents](#)

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)

Bureau of Justice Statistics
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/
Send comments to askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov

[OJP Freedom of Information Act page](#)
[Privacy Statement and Disclaimers](#)
Page last revised on *May 9, 2002*



[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)

**Victim's perception of the use of
alcohol and drugs by the violent
offender, 1999**

	Percent of victims of violent crime
Alcohol only	16.1
Alcohol and drugs	5.5
Alcohol	1.7
Drugs only	4.9
No drugs or alcohol	29.4
Don't know	42.5

Source: Table constructed by staff from
the U.S. Census Bureau for the
National Crime Victimization Survey,
July, 2000.

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)

[BJS home page](#)[Drug and Crime Facts](#)
[Drug law violations - Enforcement](#)[Contents](#)[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)**Total estimated drug
law violation arrests in
the United States,
1980-01**

1980	580,900
1981	559,900
1982	676,000
1983	661,400
1984	708,400
1985	811,400
1986	824,100
1987	937,400
1988	1,155,200
1989	1,361,700
1990	1,089,500
1991	1,010,000
1992	1,066,400
1993	1,126,300
1994	1,351,400
1995	1,476,100
1996	1,506,200
1997	1,583,600
1998	1,559,100
1999	1,532,200
2000	1,579,600
2001	1,586,900

Source: FBI, Crime in the
United States, annual,
Uniform Crime Reports

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)

[BJS home page](#)[Drug and Crime Facts](#)
[Drug law violations - Enforcement](#)[Contents](#)[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)**Estimated number of arrests, by type
of drug law violation, 1982-01**

	Sale/manufacture	Possession
1982	135,200	540,800
1983	145,500	515,900
1984	155,800	552,600
1985	194,700	616,700
1986	206,000	618,100
1987	243,700	693,700
1988	311,900	843,300
1989	435,700	926,000
1990	348,600	740,900
1991	333,300	676,700
1992	341,200	725,200
1993	337,900	788,400
1994	364,900	986,500
1995	369,000	1,107,100
1996	376,600	1,129,700
1997	324,600	1,259,000
1998	330,500	1,228,600
1999	300,300	1,231,900
2000	300,100	1,277,900
2001	307,900	1,279,000

Source: FBI, Crime in the United States,
annual, Uniform Crime Reports

Source: Crime in the United States, annually, Uniform Crime Reports

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)

[BJS home page](#)***Key Facts at a Glance*****Estimated arrests for drug abuse violations by age group, 1970-2001**[Key Facts at a Glance](#)[To the Key facts at a glance chart](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)
[To Drug and Crime Facts chart](#)[Drugs & Crime Facts](#)**Estimated arrests for drug abuse violations by age group, 1970-2001**

Year	Adult	Juvenile
1970	322,300	93,300
1971	383,900	108,100
1972	407,300	120,100
1973	463,600	165,300
1974	474,900	167,200
1975	456,000	145,400
1976	464,100	145,400
1977	493,300	149,400
1978	480,000	148,700
1979	435,600	123,000
1980	471,200	109,700
1981	468,100	91,800
1982	584,900	91,200
1983	583,500	77,900
1984	623,700	84,700
1985	718,600	92,800
1986	742,700	81,400
1987	849,500	87,900
1988	1,050,600	104,600
1989	1,247,800	113,900
1990	1,008,300	81,200
1991	931,900	78,100
1992	980,700	85,700
1993	1,017,800	108,500
1994	1,192,800	158,600
1995	1,285,700	190,400
1996	1,295,100	211,100
1997	1,370,400	213,200
1998	1,360,600	198,500
1999	1,365,100	192,000
2000	1,375,600	203,900
2001	1,384,400	202,500

Source: Crime in the United States,
annual, Uniform Crime Reports

Bureau of Justice Statistics
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/
Send comments to askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov

OJP Freedom of Information Act page
Privacy Statement and Disclaimers
Page last revised on *October 22, 2001*

**Number of arrests, by drug type, 1982-01**

	Total numbers of arrests			
	Heroin/cocaine	Marijuana	Synthetic drugs	Other
1982	87,900	486,700	27,000	81,100
1983	152,100	403,500	19,800	86,000
1984	184,200	418,000	21,300	85,000
1985	243,400	446,300	24,300	97,400
1986	337,900	362,600	24,700	107,100
1987	431,200	375,000	28,100	112,500
1988	600,700	392,800	34,700	127,100
1989	735,300	394,900	27,200	204,300
1990	588,300	326,900	21,800	152,500
1991	555,500	282,800	20,200	141,400
1992	565,200	341,200	21,300	138,600
1993	563,200	382,900	22,500	157,700
1994	635,200	486,500	27,000	216,200
1995	620,000	590,400	29,500	236,200
1996	602,500	647,700	30,100	241,000
1997	565,300	695,200	41,200	283,500
1998	570,600	682,900	45,200	260,400
1999	528,600	704,800	47,500	251,300
2000	529,200	734,500	52,100	262,200
2001	520,500	723,600	65,100	277,700

Source: FBI, Crime in the United States, annual, Uniform Crime Reports

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)



[BJS home page](#)

Key Facts at a Glance

Trends in the types of cases concluded in U.S. district court

[Key Facts at a Glance](#)

[To the Key facts at a glance chart](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)
[To Drug and Crime Facts chart](#)

[Drugs & Crime Facts](#)

Defendants in cases concluded in U.S. district court

	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order*
1980	2,871	13,544	7,119	15,638
1981	3,022	13,851	8,077	15,887
1982	3,111	15,340	8,987	15,301
1983	2,737	16,384	9,774	16,963
1984	2,814	15,969	11,361	18,380
1985	2,871	16,250	12,984	19,009
1986	2,818	17,286	14,746	19,202
1987	2,850	17,175	16,443	18,153
1988	2,697	16,261	16,710	18,524
1989	2,805	16,188	19,750	18,916
1990	2,857	16,128	20,035	19,684
1991	3,124	15,749	21,203	20,115
1992	3,601	16,876	22,728	19,910
1993	3,581	17,440	24,127	19,484
1994	3,367	16,545	21,854	19,907
1995	3,041	15,777	19,569	18,964
1996	3,091	16,149	21,718	20,440
1997	3,482	17,521	23,528	20,361
1998	3,470	17,165	25,500	23,530
1999	3,093	17,321	28,352	26,866

Source: Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, annual and Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1999 with trends 1982-99

Note: Includes all cases handled by U.S. district court judges and Class A misdemeanors handled by U.S. magistrates. Beginning with 1994, the data reported are based on the Federal fiscal year beginning October 1; prior years' data are based on the calendar year.

*Public Order offenses include weapons offenses.

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)



Estimated arrests for drug abuse violations by age group, 1970-99

[To Key facts at a glance chart](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)
[To Drug and Crime Facts chart](#)

Number of persons in custody of State correctional authorities by most serious offense, 1980-98

	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order
1980	173,300	89,300	19,000	12,400
1981	193,300	100,500	21,700	14,600
1982	215,300	114,400	25,300	17,800
1983	214,600	127,100	26,600	24,400
1984	227,300	133,100	31,700	21,900
1985	246,200	140,100	38,900	23,000
1986	258,600	150,200	45,400	28,800
1987	271,300	155,500	57,900	31,300
1988	282,700	161,600	79,100	35,000
1989	293,900	172,700	120,100	39,500
1990	313,600	173,700	148,600	45,500
1991	339,500	180,700	155,200	49,500
1992	369,100	181,600	168,100	56,300
1993	393,500	189,600	177,000	64,000
1994	425,700	207,000	193,500	74,400
1995	459,600	226,600	212,800	86,500
1996	484,800	231,700	216,900	96,000
1997	507,800	236,400	222,100	106,200
1998	545,200	242,900	236,800	113,900

Source: Correctional Populations in the United States, 1996, and Prisoners in 1999

Violent offenses include murder, negligent and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault, extortion, intimidation, criminal endangerment, and other violent offenses.

Property offenses include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, fraud, possession and selling of stolen property, destruction of property, trespassing, vandalism, criminal tampering, and other property offenses.

Drug offenses include possession, manufacturing, trafficking, and other drug offenses.

Public-order offenses include weapons, drunk driving, escape/flight to avoid prosecution, court offenses, obstruction, commercialized vice,

morals and decency charges, liquor law violations, and other public-order offenses.

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)

Bureau of Justice Statistics
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/
Send comments to askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov

OJP Freedom of Information Act page
Privacy Statement and Disclaimers
Page last revised on *April 12, 2001*

[BJS home page](#)[Drug and Crime Facts](#)
[Drug use](#)[Contents](#)[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)**Cocaine use among high school seniors peaked in 1985****Percent of high school seniors who used cocaine within the last:**

Year	12 months	30 days*
1984	11.6	5.8
1985	13.1	6.7
1986	12.7	6.2
1987	10.3	4.3
1988	7.9	3.4
1989	6.5	2.8
1990	5.3	1.9
1991	3.5	1.4
1992	3.1	1.3
1993	3.3	1.3
1994	3.6	1.5
1995	4.0	1.8
1996	4.9	2.0
1997	5.5	2.3
1998	5.7	2.4
1999	6.2	2.6
2000	5.0	2.1
2001	4.8	2.1

Source: University of Michigan,
The Monitoring the Future
National Results on Adolescent
Drug Use: Overview of Key
Findings 2001, 2002.

*Including the last 30 days.

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)

[BJS home page](#)[Drug and Crime Facts](#)
[Drug use](#)[Contents](#)[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)**Percent of high school seniors who think people risk harming themselves with drug use, 1984-2001**

Year	Marijuana	Cocaine	LSD	Heroin
1984	66.9	78.8	83.8	87.2
1985	70.4	79.0	82.9	86.0
1986	71.3	82.2	82.6	87.1
1987	73.5	88.5	83.8	88.7
1988	77.0	89.2	84.2	88.8
1989	77.5	90.2	84.3	89.5
1990	77.8	91.1	84.5	90.2
1991	78.6	90.4	84.3	89.6
1992	76.5	90.2	81.8	89.2
1993	72.5	90.1	79.4	88.3
1994	65.0	89.3	79.1	88.0
1995	60.8	87.9	78.1	87.2
1996	59.9	88.3	77.8	89.5
1997	58.1	87.1	76.6	88.9
1998	58.5	86.3	76.5	89.1
1999	57.4	85.8	76.1	89.9
2000	58.3	86.2	75.9	89.2
2001	57.4	84.1	74.1	88.3

Source: The Monitoring the Future National Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings 2001, 2002

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)

[BJS home page](#)[Drug and Crime Facts](#)
[Drug use](#)[Contents](#)[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)**Total number of emergency
department drug episodes,
1994-00**

Year	Number
1994	518,521
1995	513,633
1996	514,347
1997	527,058
1998	542,544
1999	554,932
2000	601,563

Source: Substance Abuse and
Mental Health Services
Administration Drug Abuse
Warning Network (DAWN) 2000.

[BJS home page](#) | [Top of this page](#)