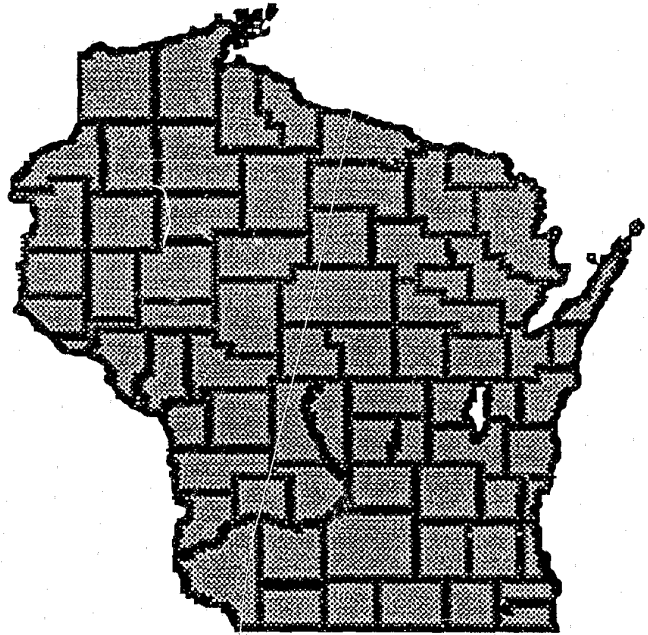


Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance Statistical Analysis Center

DRUG ARRESTS AND JUSTICE SYSTEM



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RESPONSE
15 - 1989

Jerome D. Lacke
Executive Director

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

**Wisconsin Drug Arrests
and
Justice System Response
1985 - 1989**

Prepared By

Thomas G. Eversen
Stephen W. Grohmann

With Contributions By

Keith R. Thompson

September 1990

Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance
Statistical Analysis Center
222 State Street, Second Floor
Madison, Wisconsin 53702
608/266-3323

Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance - Statistical Analysis Center

The Statistical Analysis Center is a program of the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. The Center collects, analyzes, interprets, and disseminates criminal justice data in Wisconsin.

The Center also provides technical assistance to local criminal justice agencies. Further, it provides state and local government with access to federal criminal justice statistical information. The Statistical Analysis Center also promotes the coordination and development of criminal justice statistical systems in Wisconsin.

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Adult drug arrests have increased by 11 percent in the past five years, while juvenile drug arrests have decreased by 24 percent since 1985. A 4.6 percent increase in total drug-related arrests occurred between 1985 and 1989, although total drug arrests have increased 36.2% from 1986 to 1989.
2. A comparison of the figures in tables 1a and 1b show that the number of drug arrests in Milwaukee County had a major affect on the change in the number of drug arrests for the entire state between 1985 and 1989.
3. There was nearly a forty-five percent (44.9%) increase in the number of drug arrests for the sale/manufacture of drugs between 1985 and 1989, while arrests for possession of drugs decreased by approximately seven percent (6.8%). There was a sharp decline (26.5%) in arrests for possession of drugs between 1985 and 1986.
4. In contrast to a decrease in the overall number of state drug sale arrests in 1986, followed by a gradual increase; Milwaukee County showed an increase in the number of drug sale arrests in 1987, with a decrease in 1989. The number of drug possession arrests in Milwaukee County, however, stayed consistent with the number of drug possession arrests for the entire state between 1985 and 1989.
5. For the type of substance arrest category, opium/cocaine arrests showed a dramatic increase of 168 percent (167.9%) between 1985 and 1989, as did the "other" drug arrests group; while marijuana arrests decreased during the entire five year period, they did increase somewhat in 1989.
6. Nearly half the arrests that involved opium/cocaine between 1986 and 1989 were from Milwaukee County. Milwaukee County, as well as the entire state, saw a sharp increase in the number of opium/cocaine arrests between 1987 and 1988. Three-quarters of that increase in opium/cocaine arrests were from Milwaukee County.
7. Increases in both types of opium/cocaine arrests have been fairly consistent over the past five years. Total opium/cocaine arrests have nearly tripled, with an increase of 168 percent between 1985 and 1989.
8. Since the sharp decrease (27.5%) in 1986, total marijuana arrests remained relatively constant up to 1988, with a 17 percent increase in 1989.
9. The number of sales arrests for other drugs increased by nearly fifty percent (46.2%) from 1985 to 1989.
10. There was an increase of over four-fifths (84.6%) of the number of court cases filed for the entire state between 1987 and 1989.
11. The first/readmittance of male and female drug offenders to correctional facilities in Wisconsin increased by 177 percent from 188 in 1985 to 521 in 1989. The majority of that increase of offenders serving drug sentences took place between 1988 and 1989, with an increase of 104 percent.
12. Overall, total drug admissions to county treatment facilities in Wisconsin increased by sixty percent (60.4%) between 1987 and 1989. However, much of this increase was due to an eighty-six percent increase in Milwaukee County drug treatment facilities.

A. INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on drug-related arrests in Wisconsin for the past five years, 1985 through 1989. Drug-related arrests are defined as the unlawful sale/manufacture, possession/use of the following narcotics and drugs:

1. Opium or Cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine).
 2. Marijuana, hashish, etc.
 3. Synthetic narcotics- manufactured narcotics which can cause true drug addiction (demerol, methadones).
 4. Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs (amphetamines, barbituates, hallicinogens).
- Note: These last two categories: synthetic and other drugs are combined as an "other" category in this report.

The five year drug report includes the total number of drug-related arrests in Wisconsin by age of offender, sale/manufacture and possession/use of drugs, and the type of substance. For comparison, Milwaukee County is included in Tables one through three showing the large proportion of drug arrests in that county and the impact on the state totals. There are also accompanying tables and graphs, which present data on the fifteen counties with the most arrests in the State of Wisconsin, information on the number of court cases filed in Milwaukee and the nine other districts throughout Wisconsin, the total number of admissions to a correctional facility for drug violations, and the number of admissions to public county drug treatment facilities.

B. NUMBER OF ADULT AND JUVENILE ARRESTS

Table 1a shows the number of adult, juvenile, and total drug-related arrests for the entire State of Wisconsin.

**Table 1a
Drug-Related Arrests in Wisconsin by Offender
1985 - 1989**

<u>Category</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989 Percent Change</u>
Adult	7,816	6,131	6,543	7,573	8,708	+11.4%
Juvenile	1,840	1,288	1,201	1,277	1,397	-24.1%
Total	9,656	7,419	7,744	8,850	10,105	+4.6%

Adult drug arrests have increased by 11 percent in the past five years, while juvenile drug arrests have decreased by 24 percent since 1985. A 4.6 percent increase in total drug-related arrests occurred between 1985 and 1989, although total drug arrests have increased 36.2% from 1986 to 1989.

Table 1b shows the number of adult, juvenile, and total drug-related arrests in Milwaukee County.

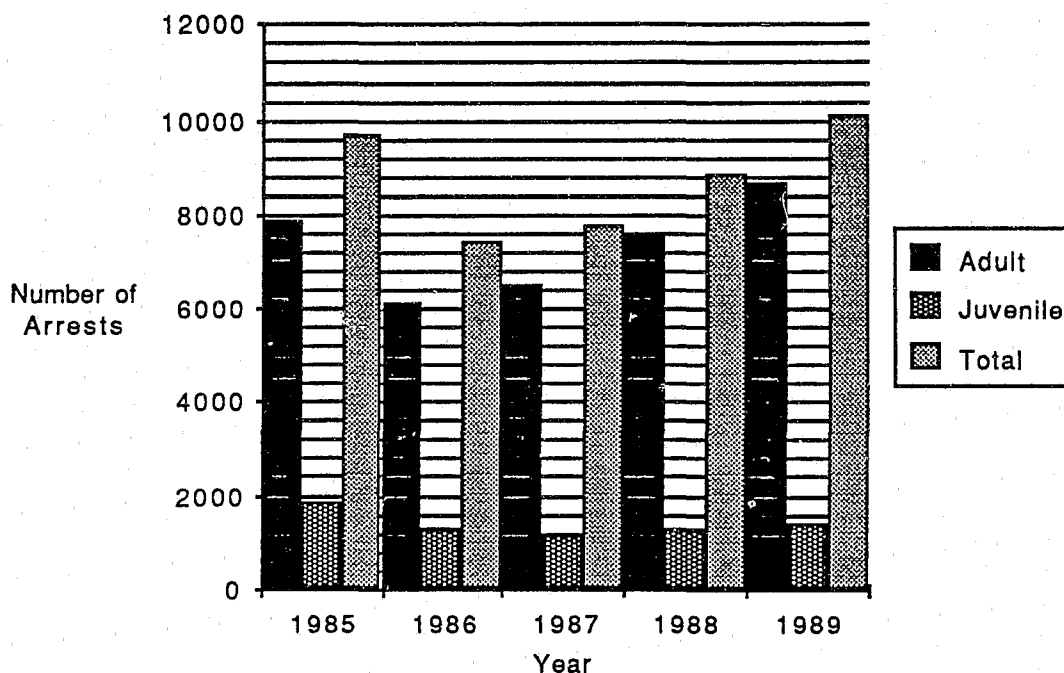
Table 1b
Drug-Related Arrests in Milwaukee County by Offender
1985 - 1989

Category	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1985/1989 Percent Change
Adult	3,231	2,364	2,581	3,494	3,495	+8.2%
Juvenile	651	369	349	436	432	-33.6%
Total	3,882	2,733	2,930	3,930	3,927	+1.2%

A comparison of the figures in tables 1a and 1b show that the number of drug arrests in Milwaukee County had a major affect on the change in the number of drug arrests for the entire state between 1985 and 1989. Milwaukee County accounted for approximately two-fifths (38%) of the total drug-related arrests for the entire State of Wisconsin from 1985 to 1989. The sharp decline in the total number of drug-related arrests for the entire state in 1986 was partly due to Milwaukee County arrests which attributed to half the overall decrease in the state. Total drug-related arrests in Milwaukee County only increased by 1.2% from 1985 to 1989, however compared to the increase for the entire state between 1986 and 1989, Milwaukee County showed an increase of 43.7% comparable to the state's overall increase of 36.2%.

Graph 1 illustrates drug-related arrests of adults and juveniles.

Graph 1
Adult, Juvenile, and Total Drug-Related Arrests: 1985 - 1989



C. SALE AND POSSESSION

Table 2a shows the number of arrests for sale/manufacture and possession of drugs for the State of Wisconsin.

**Table 2a
Drug-Related Arrests in Wisconsin
by Sale and Possession: 1985 - 1989**

<u>Arrest</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989 Percent Change</u>
Sale	2,132	1,887	2,047	2,868	3,090	+44.9%
Possession	7,524	5,532	5,697	5,982	7,015	-6.8%
Total	9,656	7,419	7,744	8,850	10,105	+4.6%

There was nearly a forty-five percent (44.9%) increase in the number of drug arrests for the sale/manufacture of drugs between 1985 and 1989, while arrests for possession of drugs decreased by approximately seven percent (6.8%). There was a sharp decline (26.5%) in arrests for possession of drugs between 1985 and 1986. However, arrests for possession increased by 26.8 percent from 1986 to 1989.

Table 2b shows the number of arrests for sale/manufacture and possession of drugs in Milwaukee County.

**Table 2b
Drug-Related Arrests in Milwaukee County
by Sale and Possession: 1985 - 1989**

<u>Arrest</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989 Percent Change</u>
Sale	745	917	1,023	1,678	1,250	+67.8%
Possession	3,137	1,816	1,907	2,252	2,677	-14.7%
Total	3,882	2,733	2,930	3,930	3,927	+1.2%

The overall number of state drug sale arrests decreased in 1986, followed by a gradual increase. By contrast, Milwaukee County showed an increase in the number of drug sale arrests in 1987, with a decrease in 1989. The number of drug possession arrests in Milwaukee County, however, stayed consistent with the number of drug possession arrests for the entire state between 1985 and 1989.

D. TYPE OF SUBSTANCE

Table 3a shows the distribution of arrests by type of substance for the State of Wisconsin; synthetic drugs are included in the "other" category.

Table 3a
Drug-Related Arrests in Wisconsin
by Type of Substance: 1985 - 1989

<u>Substance</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Opium/Cocaine	1,118	1,188	1,498	2,463	2,995	+167.9%
Marijuana	8,062	5,847	5,687	5,617	6,563	-18.6%
Other	476	384	559	770	547	+14.9%
Total	9,656	7,419	7,744	8,850	10,105	+4.6%

For the type of substance arrest category, opium/cocaine arrests showed a dramatic increase of 168 percent (167.9%) between 1985 and 1989, as did the "other" drug arrests group; while marijuana arrests decreased during the entire five year period, they did increase somewhat in 1989. While a majority of drug arrests were for marijuana during the five years, the percentage of total drug arrests involving opium/cocaine increased from 11.6% in 1985 to 29.6% in 1989.

Table 3b shows the distribution of arrests by type of substance in Milwaukee County; synthetic drugs are included in the "other" category.

Table 3b
Drug-Related Arrests in Milwaukee County
by Type of Substance: 1985 - 1989

<u>Substance</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Opium/Cocaine	413	575	716	1,440	1,493	+261.5%
Marijuana	3,197	1,953	1,919	1,996	2,233	-30.2%
Other	272	205	295	494	201	-26.1%
Total	3,882	2,733	2,930	3,930	3,927	+1.2%

Nearly half the arrests that involved opium/cocaine between 1986 and 1989 were from Milwaukee County. Milwaukee County, as well as the entire state, saw a sharp increase in the number of opium/cocaine arrests between 1987 and 1988. Three-quarters of that increase in opium/cocaine arrests were from Milwaukee County.

Graph 2 illustrates drug-related arrests by type of substance.

Graph 2
Opium/Cocaine, Marijuana, and Other Drugs: 1985 - 1989

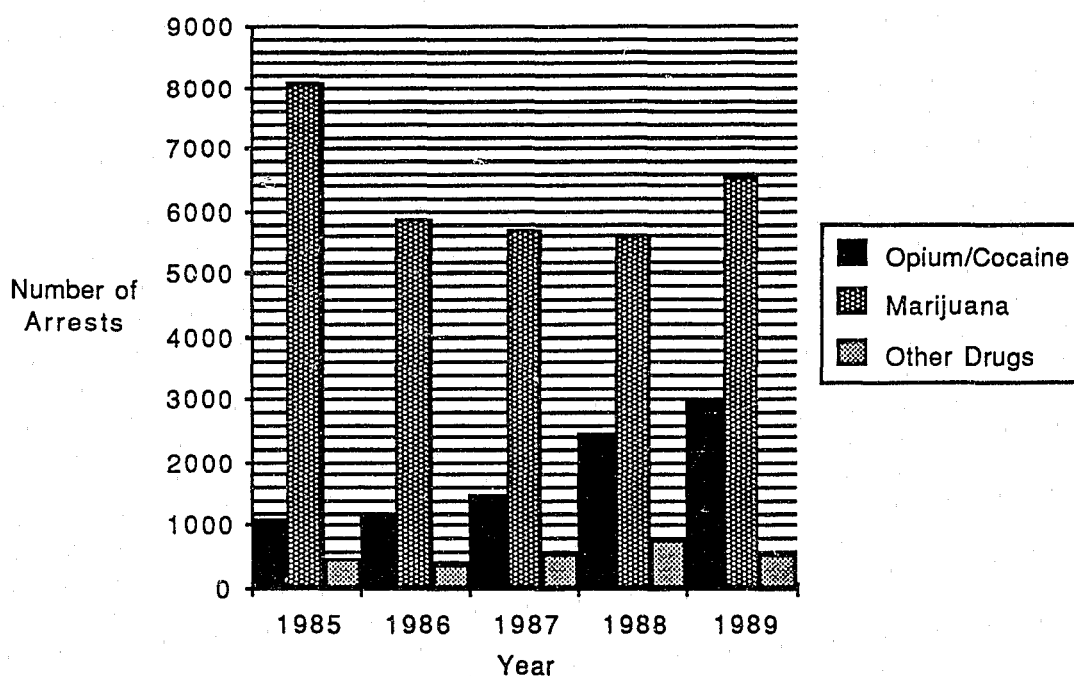


Table 4 breaks down the number of opium/cocaine arrests by sale and possession.

Table 4
Opium/Cocaine Arrests in Wisconsin
1985 - 1989

<u>Arrest</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Sale	524	611	746	1,304	1,587	+202.9%
Possession	594	577	752	1,159	1,408	+137.0%
Total	1,118	1,188	1,498	2,463	2,995	+167.9%

Increases in both types of opium/cocaine arrests have been fairly consistent over the past five years. Total opium/cocaine arrests have nearly tripled, with an increase of 168 percent between 1985 and 1989.

Table 5 shows marijuana arrests for sale and possession.

Table 5
Marijuana Arrests in Wisconsin
1985 - 1989

<u>Arrest</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Sale	1,411	1,090	972	1,054	1,215	-13.9%
Possession	6,651	4,757	4,715	4,563	5,348	-19.6%
Total	8,062	5,847	5,687	5,617	6,563	-18.6%

Since the sharp decrease (27.5%) in 1986, total marijuana arrests remained relatively constant up to 1988, with a 17 percent increase in 1989.

Table 6 shows the number of "other" drug arrests, which includes the synthetic drugs as well.

Table 6
Other Drug Arrests in Wisconsin
1985 - 1989

<u>Arrest</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Sale	197	186	327	510	288	+46.2%
Possession	279	198	230	260	259	-7.2%
Total	476	384	557	770	547	+14.9%

The number of sales arrests for other drugs increased by nearly fifty percent (46.2%) from 1985 to 1989. Arrests for possession of "other" drugs have changed little since 1985.

E. ARRESTS BY COUNTY

Table 7 presents comparative information on 15 counties in Wisconsin for 1985, 1988, and 1989. Counties were selected on the basis of the greatest number of arrests for drug violations in 1989.

Table 7
Drug-Related Arrests by County
1985, 1988, and 1989

County	1985	Percent of total	1988	Percent of Total	1989	Percent of Total	Percent Change 1985 - 1989
Brown	183	1.9	202	2.3	250	2.5	+36.6
Dane	319	3.3	306	3.5	451	4.5	+41.4
Dodge	68	.7	92	1.0	171	1.7	+151.5
Eau Claire	144	1.5	195	2.2	212	2.1	+47.2
Kenosha	493	5.1	294	3.3	412	4.1	-16.4
LaCrosse	156	1.6	114	1.3	171	1.7	+9.6
Manitowoc	63	.6	99	1.1	251	2.5	+298.4
Milwaukee	3,883	40.2	3,930	44.4	3,927	38.9	+1.1
Outagamie	297	3.1	151	1.7	170	1.7	-42.8
Ozaukee	179	1.9	157	1.8	136	1.3	-24.0
Racine	605	6.3	390	4.4	445	4.4	-26.4
Rock	187	1.9	262	3.0	249	2.5	+33.2
Walworth	194	2.0	223	2.5	270	2.7	+39.2
Waukesha	898	9.3	599	6.8	643	6.4	-28.4
Wood	130	1.3	157	1.8	180	1.8	+38.5
Total	7,799	80.8	7,171	81.0	7,938	78.5	+1.8
All Other	1,857	19.2	1,679	19.0	2,167	21.5	+16.7
Total (Arrests)	9,656	100.0	8,850	100.0	10,105	100.0	+4.6

F. STATE COURT ACTIVITY

Table 8 presents the number of sale, possession, and other drug-related felony arrests filed in Court Districts 2 through 10 in Wisconsin. Milwaukee County drug-related felony arrests (District 1) are shown separately because sale, possession, and other arrests were not distinguished. Statewide totals show marked increases in drug-related court cases throughout Wisconsin between 1987 and 1989. District 2-10 data were provided by the Wisconsin State Court Administrator's Office. Milwaukee County data were provided by the Milwaukee County Clerk of Courts office.

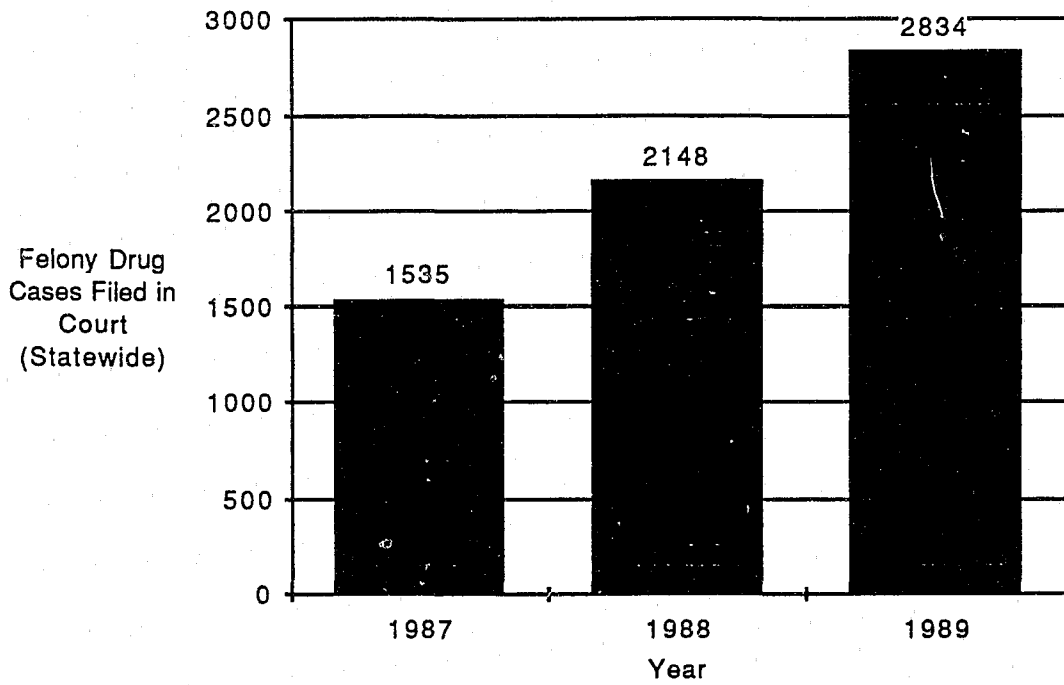
Table 8
Court Case Activity on
Drug-Related Felony Arrests In Wisconsin
1987 - 1989

Year	Cases Filed	Total Disposed	Jury Trial	Guilty Plea Before Trial	Dism. Before Trial	Average Time to Disp. (days)
Dist. 2-10 Total	941	1,059	56	803	174	201
(Sale)	(633)	(728)	(36)	(553)	(120)	(201)
1987 (Possession)	(22)	(248)	(20)	(192)	(31)	(198)
(Other)	(86)	(83)	(0)	(58)	(23)	(212)
Milw. Co. (Dist. 1)	594	539	18	381	43	215
Statewide Total	1,535	1,598	74	1,184	217	207
Dist. 2-10 Total	1,330	1,049	56	762	202	181
(Sale)	(897)	(714)	(35)	(526)	(134)	(178)
1988 (Possession)	(322)	(244)	(19)	(167)	(48)	(198)
(Other)	(111)	(91)	(2)	(69)	(20)	(161)
Milw. Co. (Dist. 1)	818	540	9	371	69	239
Statewide Total	2,148	1,589	65	1,133	271	203
Dist. 2-10 Total	1,925	1,689	86	1,336	231	177
(Sale)	(1,392)	(1,180)	(62)	(954)	(143)	(171)
1989 (Possession)	(397)	(373)	(20)	(281)	(60)	(191)
(Other)	(136)	(136)	(4)	(101)	(28)	(191)
Milw. Co. (Dist. 1)	909	726	26	539	68	281
Statewide Total	2,834	2,415	112	1,875	299	210

There was an increase of over four-fifths (84.6%) of the number of court cases filed for the entire state between 1987 and 1989. Districts 2-10 had over a one hundred percent (104.6%) increase in felony drug arrests filed between 1987 and 1989, while Milwaukee county (District 1) had over a fifty percent (53.0%) increase. While the average time from filing to disposition stayed relatively constant for most of the state, Milwaukee County's disposition time increased by 31 percent from 215 days in 1987 to 281 in 1989. The majority of the court cases filed for all three years were for sale of drugs.

Graph 3 illustrates the increase in statewide felony drug cases filed, as presented in Table 8.

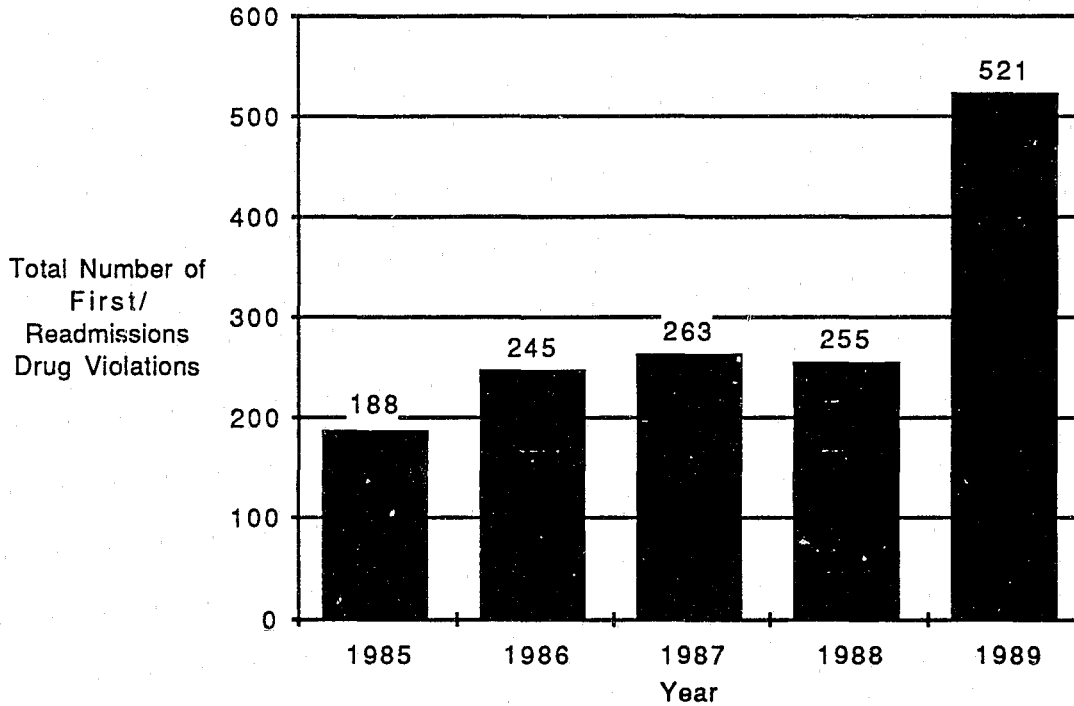
Graph 3
Total Statewide Felony Drug Cases Filed in Court
1987 - 1989



G. CORRECTIONS ADMISSIONS

Graph 4 shows the total admissions to a correctional facility for drug convictions. Corrections data were provided by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

Graph 4
Total Number of First/Readmissions
for Drugs to a Correctional Facility
1985 - 1989

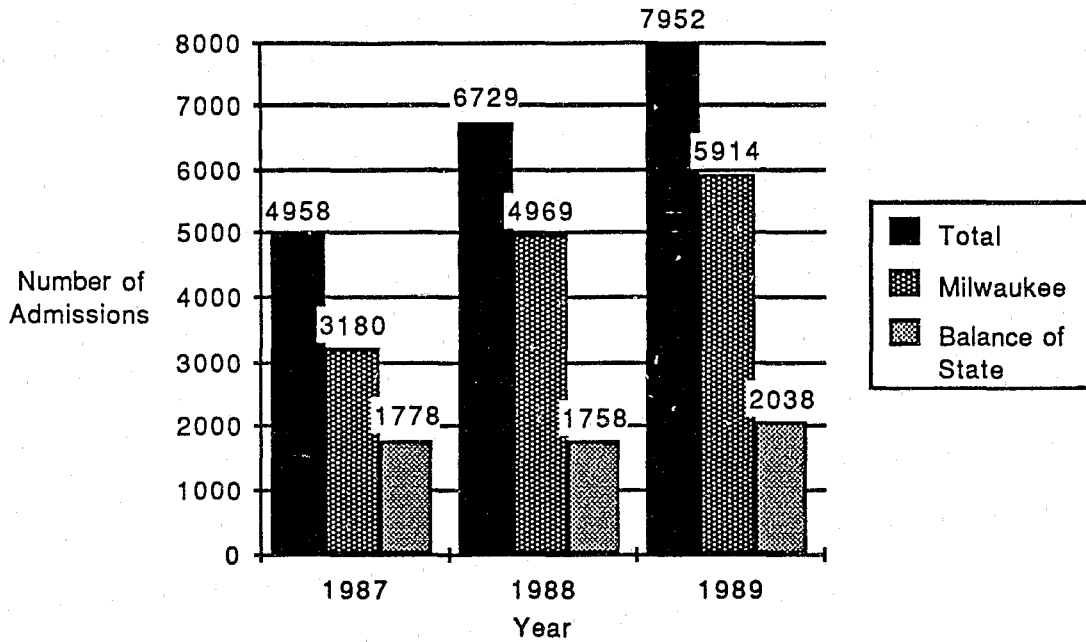


First admissions and readmissions totalled yields the number of offenders sentenced to a Wisconsin correctional facility for a particular year. The first/readmittance of male and female drug offenders to correctional facilities in Wisconsin increased by 177 percent from 188 in 1985 to 521 in 1989. The majority of that increase of offenders serving drug sentences took place between 1988 and 1989, with an increase of 104 percent.

H. ADMISSIONS TO COUNTY DRUG TREATMENT FACILITIES

Graph 5 provides information on the number of admissions to public county drug treatment facilities between 1987 and 1989. Public County drug treatment data were provided by the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services.

**Graph 5
Total Number of Admissions to
Public County Drug Treatment Facilities
1987 - 1989**



Overall, total drug admissions to public county treatment facilities in Wisconsin increased by sixty percent (60.4%) between 1987 and 1989. However, much of this increase was due to an eighty-six percent increase in Milwaukee County drug treatment facilities. The rest (balance) of the counties in the state did not report nearly as high an increase (14.6%) as Milwaukee County between 1987 and 1989. Nearly three-quarters of the drug treatment admissions were from Milwaukee County in 1987 through 1989.