

126833

State of Wisconsin



OFFICE OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

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DRUG ARRESTS IN WISCONSIN

ANNUAL REPORT

1989

126833

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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WISCONSIN UNIFORM CRIME
REPORTING PROGRAM
APRIL, 1990

Executive Summary

1. Total drug arrests increased by 14.1% during 1989.
2. With the exceptions of sale of synthetic narcotics and possession of synthetic narcotics and other drugs, all categories of adult drug arrests showed substantial increases during 1989.
3. With the exceptions of sale of marijuana and other drugs, all categories of juvenile drug arrests showed substantial increases during 1989.
4. While total drug arrests increased by 14.1% in 1989, arrests involving cocaine increased by 21.6%.
5. The percentage of total drug arrests which involve cocaine has more than doubled during the past five years.
6. The number of arrests for sales of drugs have increased steadily since 1986.
7. The proportion of drug arrests for sales violations has increased in recent years, although it declined slightly in 1989.

A. Introduction

This report summarizes information on drug-related arrests made by Wisconsin law enforcement agencies during 1989. Data on drug arrests are collected as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. This report is based upon figures submitted by the 288 law enforcement agencies which contribute UCR information. Since a large proportion of drug arrests are made by the City of Milwaukee Police Department, Appendix A separates drug arrest figures into those made by the Milwaukee Police Department and those made by all other Wisconsin law enforcement agencies.

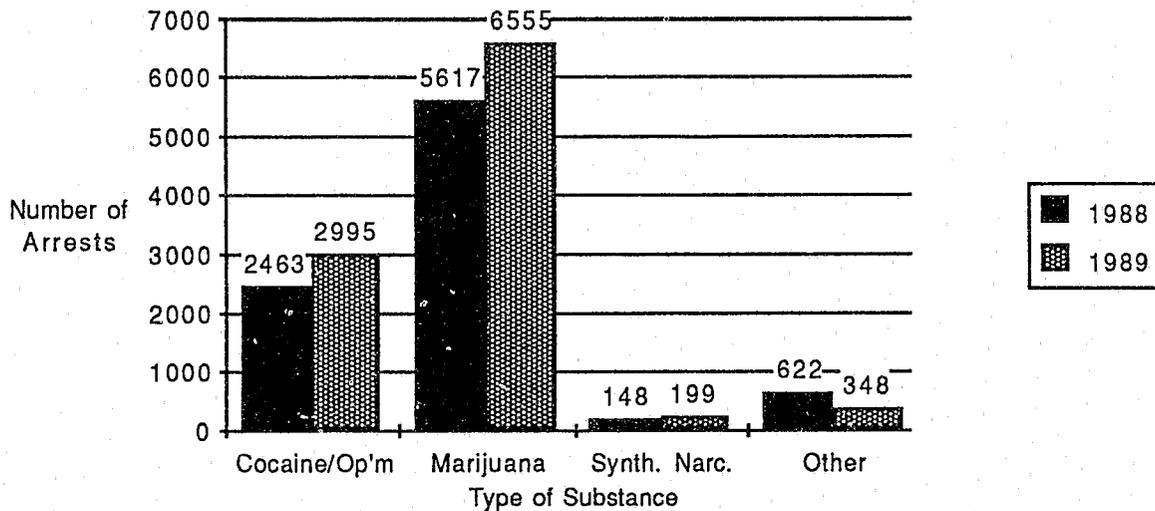
B. Overall Comparison of 1988 and 1989 Arrests

Table 1 and Graph 1 present basic information on drug-related arrests during 1988 and 1989. (Note: UCR definitions for the drug categories are in Appendix B.)

Table 1: Total Drug-Related Arrests, 1988 and 1989

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	2,868	3,090	+7.7%
Opium/Cocaine	1,304	1,587	+21.7%
Marijuana	1,054	1,215	+15.3%
Synthetics	44	88	+100.0%
Other	466	200	-57.1%
POSSESSION	5,982	7,007	+17.1%
Opium/Cocaine	1,159	1,408	+21.5%
Marijuana	4,563	5,340	+17.0%
Synthetics	104	111	+6.7%
Other	156	148	-5.1%
TOTAL	8,850	10,097	+14.1%

Graph 1: Drug Arrests - 1988 and 1989



Total drug arrests increased by 14.1% during 1989. This figure was very similar to the 14.3% increase during 1988.

C. Adult and Juvenile Arrests

Table 2 shows drug arrest patterns for adults during 1988 and 1989.

Table 2: Drug-Related Arrests of Adults, 1988 and 1989

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	2,548	2,767	+8.6%
Opium/Cocaine	1,225	1,472	+20.2%
Marijuana	868	1,057	+21.8%
Synthetics	37	72	+94.6%
Other	418	166	-60.3%
POSSESSION	5,025	5,933	+18.1%
Opium/Cocaine	1,103	1,340	+21.5%
Marijuana	3,687	4,384	+18.9%
Synthetics	99	98	-1.0%
Other	136	111	-18.4%
TOTAL	7,573	8,700	+14.9%

With the exceptions of sale of synthetic narcotics and possession of synthetic narcotics and other drugs, all categories of adult drug arrests showed substantial increases during 1989.

Table 3 shows similar information for juveniles arrested for drug law violations.

Table 3: Drug-Related Arrests of Juveniles, 1988 and 1989

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	320	323	+0.9%
Opium/Cocaine	79	115	+45.6%
Marijuana	186	158	-15.0%
Synthetics	7	16	+128.6%
Other	48	34	-29.2%
POSSESSION	957	1,074	+12.2%
Opium/Cocaine	56	68	+21.4%
Marijuana	876	956	+8.1%
Synthetics	5	13	+160.0%
Other	20	37	+85.0%
TOTAL	1,277	1,397	+9.4%

With the exceptions of sale of marijuana and other drugs, all categories of juvenile drug arrests showed substantial increases during 1989.

D. Type of Drug

During the past ten years, over seventy-five percent of drug-related arrests involved marijuana. However, the proportion of total drug arrests involving cocaine has increased dramatically in recent years. The arrest category used by the UCR Program to identify cocaine is defined as "opium, cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine)." However, law enforcement officials throughout the State agree that the vast majority of offenses in this broad category involve sale or possession of cocaine. Table 4 shows total drug-related arrests during 1988 and 1989. The drug type is divided into cocaine/opium, marijuana and all other categories to highlight differences in arrest patterns.

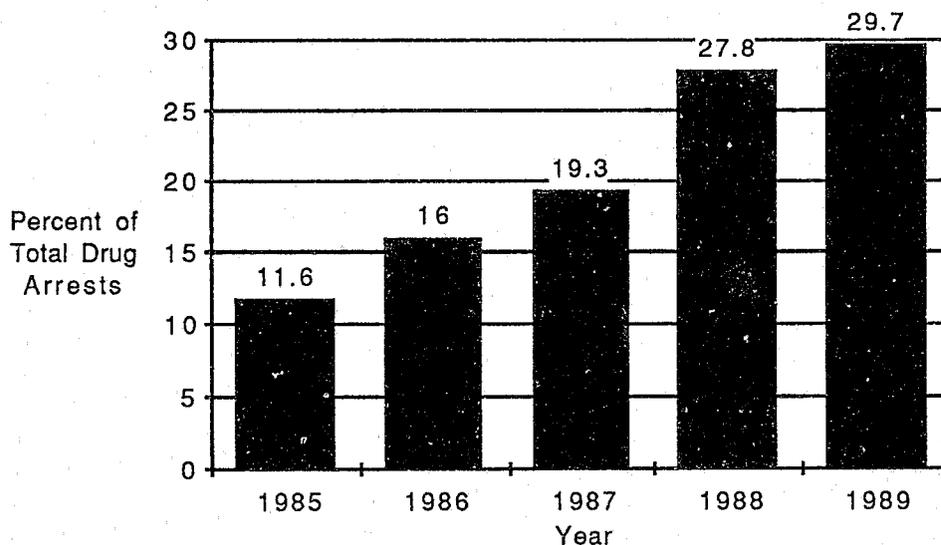
Table 4: Total Arrests by Drug Category, 1988 and 1989

<u>Substance Type</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Cocaine	2,463	2,995	+21.6%
Marijuana	5,617	6,555	+16.7%
All Other / Missing	770	547	-29.0%
Total	8,850	10,097	+14.1%

While total drug arrests increased by 14.1% in 1989, arrests involving cocaine increased by 21.6%.

Graph 2 shows the gradual increase in the proportion of total drug arrests which involve the cocaine/opium category.

Graph 2: Total Cocaine Arrests



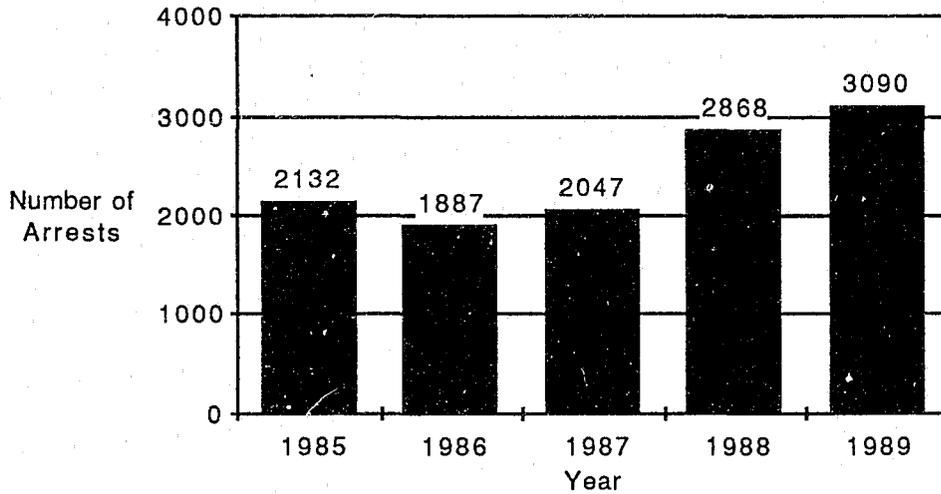
The percentage of total drug arrests which involve cocaine has more than doubled during the past five years.

E. Sale and Possession

Another way to measure the effectiveness of the law enforcement effort with regard to the drug problem is to focus on arrests for sales of drugs.

Graph 3 shows the gradual increase in the number of drug arrests for sales violations during the past five years.

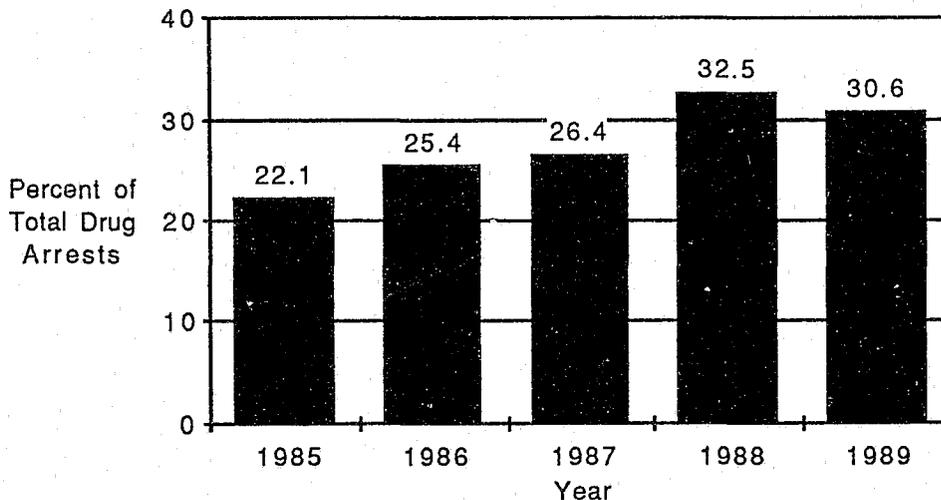
Graph 3: Total Arrests for Sale of Drugs



The number of arrests for sales of drugs have increased steadily since 1986.

Another way evaluating the focus of law enforcement efforts is to measure the proportion of all drug arrests which involve sales violations. Graph 4 shows the proportion of total drug arrests that were for sales violations during the past five years.

Graph 4: Total Arrests for Sale of Drugs



The proportion of drug arrests for sales violations has increased in recent years, although it declined slightly in 1989. Thus, while the number of sales arrests has continued to increase, the sales proportion of all drug arrests leveled off somewhat in 1989.

APPENDIX A

The following tables compare 1988 and 1989 drug arrests for the City of Milwaukee Police Department and all other law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin.

Total Drug-Related Arrests, 1988 and 1989 - Milwaukee Police Department

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	1,203	869	-27.8%
Opium/Cocaine	615	609	-1.0%
Marijuana	192	146	-24.0%
Synthetics	20	23	+15.0%
Other	376	91	-75.8%
POSSESSION	1,109	1,287	+16.0%
Opium/Cocaine	444	499	+12.4%
Marijuana	618	743	+20.2%
Synthetics	15	9	-40.0%
Other	32	36	+12.5%
TOTAL	2,312	2,156	-6.7%

While total drug arrests declined by 6.7% in Milwaukee during 1989, the patterns for sale and possession arrests were quite different.

Total Drug-Related Arrests, 1988 and 1989 - All Other Law Enforcement Agencies

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	1,665	2,221	+33.4%
Opium/Cocaine	689	978	+41.9%
Marijuana	862	1,069	+24.0%
Synthetics	24	65	+170.8%
Other	90	109	+21.1%
POSSESSION	4,873	5,720	+17.4%
Opium/Cocaine	715	909	+27.1%
Marijuana	3,945	4,597	+16.4%
Synthetics	89	102	+14.6%
Other	124	112	-9.7%
TOTAL	6,538	7,941	+21.5%

Total drug-related arrests by non-Milwaukee agencies increased sharply in 1989. Increases were especially noteworthy for sales arrests and arrests involving cocaine.

The percentage of Wisconsin drug arrests accounted for by the City of Milwaukee declined from 26.1% in 1988 to 21.4% in 1989.

APPENDIX B

Drug abuse violations are subdivided into the following categories for both Possession and Sale/Manufacturing offenses.

- a. Opium or cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine)
- b. Marijuana
- c. Synthetic narcotics - manufactured narcotics which can cause true drug addiction (demerol, methadones)
- d. Dangerous nonnarcotic drugs (barbiturates, benzedrine)