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



# Drugs and Crime Facts, 1992

## A summary of drug data published in 1992

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NCJRS

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1600 Research Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 20850  
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**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Office of Justice Programs**  
**Bureau of Justice Statistics**

Lawrence A. Greenfeld  
Acting Director

This report was prepared for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) by the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse under Grant Number MU-CX-K001.

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In BJS, Benjamin H. Renshaw III and Sue A. Lindgren directed the project.

Single copies of any report cited here or any other BJS publication can be ordered from the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse, 1600 Research Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850, toll-free 800-666-3332. Please order using NCJ numbers listed in the source notes, pages 32-33.

Public-use tapes for BJS data sets and other criminal justice data are available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 (1-800-999-0960 or 1-313-763-5010). Please specify the ICPSR number shown in the source notes, pages 32-33, when ordering.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics, an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice is located within the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

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## Drug data produced by BJS

Many BJS programs produce data on drug law enforcement, drug offenders, and drugs and crime. For example —

- the BJS National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) asks victims of personal crimes if they believed the offenders had been using drugs
- the BJS Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) program produces information on drug-related programs of State and local police agencies
- the BJS National Pretrial Reporting Program (NPRP) examines drug law violators' criminal histories and status at time of arrest, pretrial release/detention status, trial appearance, and disposition
- the BJS National Judicial Reporting Program (NJRP) and Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) program compare sentences given to drug offenders with those given to other offenders
- BJS reports on State prisoners, jail inmates, and incarcerated youth including data on their histories of drug use and drug offenses
- the BJS Federal Justice Statistics Program collects and publishes detailed data on drug law violators in the Federal justice system

- the annual BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics* presents data on drug use in the general population and on public opinion toward drugs and enforcement of drug laws.

*Drugs and crime facts, 1992* presents the most current information available relating to drugs and crime published by the BJS in over two dozen different reports through the end of 1992. This publication also highlights other drug data sources frequently used by the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse in responding to requests.

Among BJS reports published in calendar 1992 were the following:

- *Recidivism of felons on probation, 1986-89* (BJS Special Report, February 1992) reports on rearrest rates for felony probationers, including drug offenders, and the impact of special conditions, such as drug treatment and drug testing, on recidivism.
- *Sheriffs' departments 1990* (BJS Bulletin, February 1992) and *State and local police departments, 1990* (BJS Bulletin, February 1992) describe State and local law enforcement agency involvement with laboratory testing of substances and drug education in schools.

- *Women in jail 1989* (BJS Special Report, March 1992) describes characteristics of women in local jails in 1989, featuring their criminal history and drug use history.
- *Prisons and prisoners in the United States* (April 1992) provides an overview on State and Federal correctional statistics including data on the composition of the prison population, sentences, and substance abuse counseling.
- *Census of State and Federal correctional facilities, 1990* (May 1992) reports data on State, Federal, and community-based confinement facilities, including data on drug counseling and drug contraband violations.
- *Compendium of Federal justice statistics, 1989* (May 1992) provides data on Federal offenders for transactions occurring in 1989, including information on charging, pretrial release, adjudication, sentencing, and corrections for Federal drug offenders.
- *Drug enforcement by police and sheriffs' departments, 1990* (BJS Special Report, May 1992) describes drug enforcement activities of State and local law enforcement agencies, including drug seizures, drug testing of arrestees, and drug testing of employees.
- *State drug resources: 1992 National directory* (May 1992) is a comprehensive guide to State and Federal agencies that address drug abuse concerns.
- *Federal sentencing in transition, 1986-90* (BJS Special Report, June 1992) examines Federal sentencing practices during the last half of the 1980's, with emphasis on the impact of sentencing guidelines.
- *Drug enforcement and treatment in prisons, 1990* (BJS Special Report, July 1992) describes methods used by State and Federal correctional facilities to stop the illegal entry of drugs into prisons and use of illegal drugs by inmates and includes statistics on treatment/intervention strategies.
- *Federal criminal case processing, 1980-90: With preliminary data for 1991* (BJS Report, September 1992) presents trend data on Federal case processing, including information on prosecutions, dispositions, and sentencing of Federal drug offenders.
- *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1990: Data for individual State and local agencies with 100 or more officers* (September 1992) includes individual agency data on drug law enforcement operations, such as participation in a multiagency drug task force, asset forfeiture program, and drug testing.

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- *Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1990* (BJS Bulletin, November 1992) describes bail information, court appearance, and pretrial rearrest data for felony drug defendants.

- *National Corrections Reporting Program, 1989* (November 1992) is part of an annual series detailing the characteristics of persons, including drug offenders, admitted to and released from the prison and parole systems in the United States.

- *Criminal victimization in the United States, 1991* (December 1992) reports victimization data, including violent victims' perceptions of substance use by the offender at the time of the offense.

- *National Judicial Reporting Program, 1988* (December 1992) describes the number and characteristics of felons, including drug offenders, convicted in U.S. State courts in 1988 and in the 75 largest counties.

## **Access to current drug data**

This issue of *Drugs and crime facts* summarizes drug data published by BJS in 1992. For an update on continuing analyses of drug data or newly released reports, interested readers may contact the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse or see the order form included at the end of this report. The Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse was established in 1987 to provide policymakers, criminal justice practitioners, researchers, and the general public with ready access to understandable information on drug law violations and drug-related law enforcement. Its products and services are described in detail on pages 30-31. The toll-free line is **1-800-666-3332**.

## Drug use by criminal offenders at the time of offense

In 33% of violent crime victimizations in 1991, victims reported that they believed their assailants were under the influence of drugs or alcohol (table 1). In 46% of violent crime

victimizations, the victim did not know whether the offender was under the influence.

Data from BJS surveys show that a quarter of convicted jail inmates, a third of State prisoners, and two-fifths of youths in long-term, State-operated facilities admit that they were under the influence of an illegal drug at the time of their offense.

**Table 1. Violent offenders under the influence of drugs or alcohol, as perceived by victims, 1991**

Percent of violent crime victimizations where victim perceived the offender to be:  
Under the influence

Type of crime	Total	Not under the influence	Under the influence					Not known if under the influence
			Total	Alcohol only	Drugs only	Both	Not sure which substance	
Crimes of violence	100%	20.9%	33.2%	21.5%	4.2%	5.5%	2.0%	45.9%
Rape	100	15.2	45.3	34.2	3.8*	3.1*	4.2*	39.5
Robbery	100	12.7	26.4	9.8	3.7	4.6	2.3	60.9
Aggravated assault	100	15.3	40.4	25.3	4.3	8.1	2.8	44.3
Simple assault	100	26.5	31.5	22.9	2.4	4.8	1.4	42.0

Note: Percents may not total 100% because of rounding.

\*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: *Criminal victimization in the United States, 1991.*



Among jail inmates in 1989 —

- 44% used drugs in the month before the offense
- 30% used drugs daily in the month before the offense
- 27% used drugs at the time of the offense (table 2).

Jail inmates convicted of drug offenses most frequently reported having been under the influence of

drugs at the time of their offense (39%), followed by convicted burglars (38%) and robbers (36%). Jail inmates convicted of driving while intoxicated (DWI) (12%), assault (14%), and homicide (18%) were the least likely to report having been under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense.

**Table 2. Reported drug use by convicted jail inmates**

Drug type	Percent who used drugs at the time of the offense		Percent who used drugs in the month before the offense	
	1989	1983	1989	1983
Any drug	27.0%	29.6%	43.9%	46.1%
Major drug	18.2%	12.1%	27.7%	18.6%
Cocaine or crack	13.7	5.5	23.6	11.8
Heroin	4.6	5.6	7.0	7.9
LSD	.4	1.3	1.6	3.0
PCP	1.3	1.9	1.7	3.0
Methadone	.5	.6	.6	.8
Other drug	12.0%	22.8%	31.3%	41.8%
Marijuana	9.1	16.9	28.1	38.6
Amphetamines	2.2	4.2	5.4	9.4
Barbiturates	.9	2.9	3.3	5.9
Methaqualone	.3	1.7	.8	3.8
T's and blues*	.2	1.7	2.4	3.0

\*A combination of amphetamines and barbiturates.

Source: *Drugs and jail inmates, 1989.*

In 1986, 54% of all State prison inmates reported that they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol or both at the time they committed the offense for which they were currently sentenced: 17% were under the influence of drugs only, and 18% were under the influence of drugs and alcohol. More than half (52%) of the State prisoners said they had taken illegal drugs during the month before committing the crime, and 43% said they had used drugs on a daily basis in that month.

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of State prison inmates serving time for a violent offense in 1986 reported that either they or their victims were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense. Fifty-four percent of inmates reported using drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense, while nearly 30% of the victims were perceived to be using drugs or alcohol.

Among violent offenders in State prisons —

- 26% of offenders using drugs victimized someone also using drugs
- 40% of offenders who were drinking victimized someone drinking
- 17% of offenders who were drinking and using drugs victimized someone drinking and using drugs.

Nearly 40% of the youth incarcerated in long-term, State-operated facilities in 1987 said they were under the influence of drugs at the time of their offense.

Data from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program revealed that of a sample of males arrested in 24 U.S. cities in 1991, the percent testing positive for any drug ranged from 36% in Omaha, Nebraska, to 75% in San Diego. Among the 21 cities reporting data on female arrestees, the percent of females testing positive for any drug ranged from 45% in San Antonio to 79% in Cleveland.

Sources: *Criminal victimization in the United States, 1991. Drugs and jail inmates, 1989. Profile of State prison inmates, 1986. Survey of youth in custody, 1987. Violent State prisoners and their victims.* U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Drug Use Forecasting program, as reported in Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse Fact sheet: *Drug data summary.*

## Prior drug use by criminal offenders

Data from BJS surveys show that 77.7% of jail inmates, 79.6% of State prisoners, and 82.7% of youth in long-term public juvenile facilities had used drugs at some point in their lives.

Although the overall percentage of jail inmates reporting prior drug use between 1983 and 1989 remained essentially unchanged, a higher proportion of inmates reported prior use of cocaine or crack in 1989 than 1983.

### Prior drug use by jail inmates

Type of drug	Percent of inmates who had ever used drugs	
	1989	1983
Any drug	77.7%	76.1%
Major drug	55.4%	46.2%
Cocaine or crack	50.4	38.0
Heroin	18.2	22.4
LSD	18.6	22.3
PCP	13.9	15.6
Methadone	4.8	6.9
Other drug	71.9%	74.5%
Marijuana	70.7	73.0
Amphetamines	22.1	32.8
Barbiturates	17.2	27.8
Methaqualone	14.7	23.0
T's and blues*	11.0	10.9

\*A combination of amphetamines and barbiturates

In 1986, 28% of State prison inmates reported past drug dependency. The drugs most often mentioned were heroin (14%), cocaine (10%), and marijuana or hashish (9%). An estimated 72% of female inmates

reported past drug use at some time in their lives prior to admission, compared to 80% of male inmates.

For State prisoners who used drugs, the median age at which they began to use —

- any drug was 15
- a major drug was 17
- a major drug regularly was 18.

More than half the State prisoners who had ever used a major drug (heroin, methadone, cocaine, PCP, or LSD) reported that they had not done so until after their first arrest. Nearly 60% of those who had used a major drug regularly said such use began after their first arrest; half of the regular users began more than a year after their first arrest.

Almost 83% of youth in long-term, State-operated juvenile facilities in 1987 reported use of an illegal drug in the past, and 63% had used an illegal drug on a regular basis. The most commonly mentioned drugs were marijuana, cocaine, and amphetamines.

Among drug-using youth in long-term, State-operated juvenile facilities, 19% said they first used drugs before age 10; 38% reported their first use was before age 12.

Sources: *Drugs and jail inmates, 1989. Drug use and crime: State prison inmate survey, 1986. Women in prison. Survey of youth in custody, 1987.*

## Drug-related crime

Overall, 13% of convicted jail inmates in 1989 said they committed their offense to obtain money for drugs. Sixteen percent of black inmates said they committed their offense to get money for drugs, compared to 12% of white inmates. Nearly 1 in 5 convicted female inmates said they committed their offense to get money to buy drugs.

Most serious current offense	Percent of convicted jail inmates who committed their offense for money to buy drugs
All offenses	13.3%
Violent offenses	11.5%
Homicide <sup>a</sup>	2.8
Sexual assault <sup>b</sup>	2.2
Robbery	32.4
Assault	2.7
Other violent <sup>c</sup>	3.1
Property offenses	24.4%
Burglary	31.0
Larceny/theft	27.8
Motor vehicle theft	6.8
Fraud	23.1
Stolen property	15.1
Other property <sup>d</sup>	13.1
Drug offenses	14.0%
Possession	9.6
Trafficking	19.2
Other/unspecified	5.6
Public-order offenses	3.3%
DWI	.7
Other public-order	5.4

<sup>a</sup> Includes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and negligent manslaughter.

<sup>b</sup> Includes rape.

<sup>c</sup> Includes kidnapping.

<sup>d</sup> Includes arson.

Almost a third of those convicted of robbery and burglary committed their crime to obtain money for drugs, as had about a quarter of those in jail for larceny and fraud.

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported that in 1991, 6.2% of the 21,505 homicides in which circumstances were known were narcotics-related. This includes only those murders that occurred specifically during a narcotics felony, such as drug trafficking or manufacturing. Those homicides that involved a narcotics felony and a more serious felony, such as armed robbery, were excluded.

### Drug-related homicides

Year	Number of homicides	Percent drug-related
1986	19,257	3.9%
1987	17,963	4.9
1988	18,269	5.6
1989	18,954	7.4
1990	20,273	6.7
1991	21,505	6.2

Note: Includes only those homicides where circumstances were known. Table constructed by Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse staff from *Crime in the United States, 1991* (FBI), p. 21.

Sources: *Drugs and jail inmates, 1989. Women in jail 1989.* Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1991.*

## Drug law enforcement

Federal, State, and local agencies share responsibility for enforcing the Nation's drug laws, although most arrests are made by State and local authorities. State and local police made an estimated 1 million arrests for drug law violations in 1991, according to the FBI.

### Estimated number of arrests for drug violations reported by State and local police, 1982-91

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sale/man- ufacture</u>	<u>Posses- sion</u>	<u>Total</u>
1982	137,904	538,096	676,000
1983	146,169	515,231	661,400
1984	155,848	552,552	708,400
1985	192,302	619,098	811,400
1986	206,849	617,251	824,100
1987	241,849	695,551	937,400
1988	316,525	838,675	1,155,200
1989	441,191	920,509	1,361,700
1990	344,282	745,218	1,089,500
1991	337,340	672,660	1,010,000
Percent change			
1982-91	144.6%	25.0%	49.4%

Note: Table constructed by Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse staff from Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States*, 1982 through 1991.

As reported in the 1991 BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics* —

- the Federal Government seized 5,963 clandestine drug laboratories between fiscal years 1975 and 1991
- in fiscal year 1991, of the 387 labs seized, 327 (84%) manufactured methamphetamines
- in 1991 the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) program for eradicating domestic marijuana resulted in the destruction of 139 million plants in 42,660 plots, 9,364 arrests, 4,200 weapons seized, and assets seized valued at \$52.8 million
- in fiscal year 1991 DEA confiscated 149,371 pounds of cocaine, 2,464 pounds of heroin, 3 pounds of opium, 235,862 pounds of marijuana, 1.8 million dosage units of hallucinogens, and 29 million dosage units of stimulants
- in fiscal year 1991 the U.S. Customs Service seized 287,520 pounds of marijuana, 169,586 pounds of cocaine, and 2.9 million dosage units of drugs such as LSD and barbiturates
- in 1991 the U.S. Coast Guard confiscated 22,145 pounds of marijuana and 29,033 pounds of cocaine
- in fiscal year 1991 the U.S. Postal Service made 1,468 arrests for mailing controlled substances
- in 1990 State and Federal courts authorized wiretaps in 520 narcotics cases.

Drug seizure data from different Federal agencies should not be added together because in many instances more than one agency participated in the operations. The Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS) reflects the combined drug seizure efforts of the DEA, FBI, and the U.S. Customs Service 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.

The following amounts of drugs were seized in fiscal 1991 by the Federal agencies participating in FDSS:

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Pounds seized</u>
Heroin	3,041
Cocaine	239,048
Marijuana	491,764
Hashish	178,211

Sources: Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1982 through 1991*. The Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Customs Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Postal Service, and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; all as reported in the *BJS Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1991*. Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse, *Fact sheet: Drug data summary*.

## Drug enforcement operations

According to the BJS Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) program, in 1990, about 9,300 local police departments, 2,500 sheriffs' departments, and 34 State police departments, employing over 500,000 full-time officers, had primary responsibility for drug law enforcement.

Drug-related law enforcement activities include making arrests and seizing drugs as well as laboratory testing of drugs, drug education, and drug testing of arrestees and agency employees.

**Law enforcement agencies with primary responsibility for laboratory testing of drugs, by population served and type of agency, 1990**

Population served	Type of agency	
	Local police	Sheriff
All sizes	3%	5%
1 million or more	64	32
500,000-999,999	45	12
250,000-499,999	48	20
100,000-249,999	19	13
50,000-99,999	8	4
25,000-49,999	9	6
10,000-24,999	5	2
Less than 10,000	2	1

Most agencies serving 50,000 or more residents operated a special drug enforcement unit, participated in a multiagency task force, and received money or goods from an asset forfeiture program:

- Special drug units focus on conducting investigations on drug traffickers and drug-related activities in the community.
- To coordinate efforts with other law enforcement agencies to accumulate evidence, most large agencies participate in a multiagency task force. These task forces develop enforcement strategies such as the use of informants, surveillance, and undercover operations.
- Most States have laws that allow the government to seize convicted drug traffickers' assets, such as cash, bank accounts, planes, boats, cars, and homes. Upon payment of outstanding liens, many State laws require that all forfeited assets go to the State and/or local treasury. In some States, law enforcement agencies can keep all property, cash, and proceeds from sales of what is forfeited (table 3).

**Table 3. Drug-related participation by agencies with primary drug enforcement responsibilities, 1990**

Type and size of agency	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility for drug enforcement that:		
	Operate special drug unit	Participate in multiagency task force	Receive money or goods from a drug asset forfeiture program
<b>State police departments</b>	85%	91%	94%
<b>Police departments</b>			
All sizes	25%	51%	38%
1,000,000 or more	93	93	86
500,000-999,999	95	100	96
250,000-499,999	100	87	100
100,000-249,999	96	86	98
50,000-99,999	94	81	95
25,000-49,999	62	82	85
10,000-24,999	36	65	62
2,500-9,999	19	55	33
Under 2,500	5	28	11
<b>Sheriffs' departments</b>			
All sizes	39%	68%	51%
1,000,000 or more	92	95	95
500,000-999,999	90	97	97
250,000-499,999	86	91	94
100,000-249,999	77	86	88
50,000-99,999	75	72	81
25,000-49,999	44	80	53
10,000-24,999	28	66	42
Under 10,000	11	49	27

Note: Table includes only agencies with primary responsibility for drug enforcement.  
Source: *Drug enforcement by police and sheriffs' departments, 1990.*

In 1990 —

- 45% of State police agencies had primary responsibility for laboratory testing of drugs, but only the largest municipal and county agencies tended to have such responsibility
- 90% of municipal police departments with 100 or more officers had special units for drug education in the

schools, while 60% operated special gang units

- 94% of State police departments, 38% of local police, and 51% of sheriffs' departments received money or goods from an asset forfeiture program.



More than 1 in 3 local police and sheriffs' departments and 2 in 3 State police departments reported that at least some of their arrestees were tested for illegal drug use.

One of four local police and sheriffs' departments and 1 of 2 State police departments required applicants for sworn positions to submit to a drug test (table 4).

**Table 4. Employees tested for drugs in a mandatory testing program in local police and sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1990**

Type of agency and population served	Percent of agencies with a mandatory testing program for:				
	Applicants*	Probationary officers	Regular field officers	Candidates for promotion*	Officers in drug-related positions
<b>State police departments</b>	55%	6%	4%	2%	10%
<b>Police departments</b>					
All sizes	26%	4%	2%	2%	3%
1,000,000 or more	79	29	0	21	43
500,000-999,999	71	29	8	18	25
250,000-499,999	85	8	5	14	13
100,000-249,999	63	7	1	7	10
50,000-99,999	71	7	1	9	14
25,000-49,999	52	7	4	6	6
10,000-24,999	44	7	3	2	5
2,500-9,999	25	4	1	1	2
Under 2,500	14	3	2	1	1
<b>Sheriffs' departments</b>					
All sizes	23%	4%	3%	3%	4%
1,000,000 or more	46	0	0	4	10
500,000-999,999	42	5	4	0	7
250,000-499,999	40	7	0	0	6
100,000-249,999	44	3	2	3	6
50,000-99,999	33	5	3	3	5
25,000-49,999	26	7	7	6	7
10,000-24,999	15	2	1	1	2
Under 10,000	14	2	1	1	2

Note: Mandatory programs are those in which all are tested.

\*Sworn positions only.

Sources: *Drug enforcement by police and sheriffs' departments, 1990. State and local police departments, 1990. Sheriffs' departments 1990.*

## Pretrial release of drug defendants

The National Pretrial Reporting Program (NPRP) revealed that of persons charged with a felony drug offense in 1990 in the 75 most populous counties —

- 65% were released prior to case disposition
- 30% were held with bail set
- 5% were held without bail.

The median amount of bail set for a person charged with a drug offense was \$5,000. Defendants charged with a drug offense were more likely to secure release (34%) when bail was set at \$20,000 or more than those charged with a violent offense (26%), public-order offense (25%), or a property offense (21%).

Of felony drug defendants released prior to the disposition of their case, 50% were released within 1 day of their arrest, 79% within 1 week, and 92% within 1 month.

Of felony drug defendants released before case disposition, 26% failed to make a scheduled court appearance within 1 year. Two-thirds of the defendants who failed to appear returned to court by the end of the 1-year study period, while a third remained fugitives.

Twenty percent of released drug defendants were known to have been rearrested while on pretrial release. Nearly half of those rearrested were arrested for a felony drug offense.

Of all released defendants rearrested for a drug offense, 53% were once again granted pretrial release.

### Pretrial status of defendants charged with drug offenses, 1988 and 1990

Pretrial status and type of release	1988	1990
Total	100%	100%
Released	72%	65%
Financial total	36%	28%
Surety	19	18
Full cash	10	7
Deposit	6	3
Other	1	1
Nonfinancial total	36%	35%
Detained	28%	35%

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

### Percent of felony defendants released before trial, by type of offense, 1988 and 1990

Most serious felony arrest charge	Percent released prior to case disposition	
	1988	1990
All offenses	66%	65%
Murder	39	37
Rape	55	54
Robbery	52	51
Assault	69	75
Burglary	53	56
Theft	64	67
Drug offenses	72	65
Sales/trafficking	69	61
Other	75	70
Public-order	70	69

Sources: *Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1990. Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1988.*

## Prosecution and sentencing of Federal drug law violators

The number of suspects prosecuted for drug offenses increased from 7,003 in 1980 to 25,097 in 1990. U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute 19% (6,409) of suspected drug offenders who were investigated in matters closed in 1990, a lower percentage than for offenders suspected of violent offenses (28%), property offenses (44%), and public-order offenses (33%).

The number of persons convicted of violating Federal drug laws rose to 16,311 in 1990 from 5,135 in 1980. This 218% increase exceeded the 59% growth in U.S. district court convictions for all Federal offenses during the same years and accounted for over 64% of the total increase in Federal convictions.

The number of defendants convicted of drug possession offenses increased from 502 in 1980 to 1,301 in 1990 — a 159% increase. Drug possession convictions were 8% of all drug convictions in 1990.

Drug offenses accounted for 17% of all defendants convicted in 1980 and 34% of all defendants convicted in 1990. Drug trafficking offenses alone accounted for 32% of all defendants convicted in 1990. The conviction rate for drug defendants increased from 74% in 1980 to 84% in 1990.

In 1990, 72% of offenders convicted of drug offenses were sentenced to

prison down from 84% in 1989, but unchanged from 72% in 1980.

The average prison sentence for persons charged with Federal drug violations was longer than for all other offenses except violent crimes in 1990.

### Average sentence length for persons sentenced to Federal prisons for drug and non-drug offenses, 1990

All offenses	57.2 mos.
Violent offenses	89.2
Property offenses	22.0
<b>Federal drug offenses</b>	<b>80.9</b>
Trafficking	83.1
Possession	14.9
Public-order offenses	28.3

Drug offenders are receiving longer sentences and are serving a larger percentage of their sentence than in the past. The average Federal prison sentence for drug offenses rose from 58 months in 1985 to 81 months in 1990. The average percent of sentence served until first release increased from 60% in 1985 to 68% in 1990. Contributing to these increases are the sentencing guidelines that went into effect in 1987 and the 1986 and 1988 anti-drug abuse laws which prescribed stiffer sentences and mandatory minimum incarceration terms for Federal offenders.

*Source: Federal criminal case processing, 1980-90 with preliminary data for 1991. Federal sentencing in transition, 1986-90.*

## Prosecution and sentencing of drug law violators in State courts

In the United States in 1988 there were an estimated —

- 287,857 adults arrested for drug trafficking
- 111,950 felony drug trafficking convictions
- 79,503 drug traffickers sentenced to incarceration
- 45,656 drug traffickers sentenced to State prison or 16 for every 100 drug trafficking arrests (table 5).

The number of drug trafficking convictions in State courts increased 46% between 1986 and 1988. In the 75 largest counties, convictions for drug trafficking rose 61% during the same period.

Of persons convicted of drug trafficking in State courts in 1988 —

- 86% were male
- 56% were white, 43% black, and 1% of other races
- the average age was 30
- 51% were between ages 20 and 29.

Ninety-two percent of drug trafficking convictions in 1988 resulted from guilty pleas; 4% resulted from jury trials; and 4% resulted from bench trials.

Drug offenders comprised a third of all persons convicted of a felony in State courts in 1988. Drug traffickers accounted for 17% of all convicted

felons; drug possessors also accounted for 17% of all convicted felons.

Seventy-one percent of persons convicted of drug trafficking in 1988 were sentenced to some kind of incarceration: 30% to jail and 41% to prison; 28% were sentenced to probation. The average prison sentence for persons convicted of drug trafficking was 5 1/2 years, of which the estimated time to be served was 1 year 8 months (table 6).

The average (mean) time from arrest to sentencing was 211 days for a drug trafficking case resulting in a conviction in 1988. The average time was 274 days for jury trials, 323 days for bench trials, and 205 days for guilty pleas.

**Table 5. Disposition of felony arrests in the United States, 1988**

Arrest offense	Con-victed	For 100 arrests:	
		Sentenced to incarceration	
		Total	Prison
Murder*	48	45	43
Rape	47	41	33
Robbery	32	28	24
Aggravated assault	10	7	5
Burglary	33	24	18
<b>Drug trafficking</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>

\*Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.  
Source: *Felony sentences in State courts, 1988.*

**Table 6. Average maximum prison sentence length imposed and estimated time to be served in prison, 1988**

Most serious conviction offense	Average maximum sentence length	Estimated time to be served <sup>a</sup>
Murder <sup>b</sup>	239 mos.	79 mos.
Rape	183	71
Robbery	114	38
Aggravated assault	90	32
Burglary	74	22
Larceny <sup>c</sup>	50	15
Drug trafficking	66	20

<sup>a</sup>Derived by multiplying percentage of sentence actually served by the mean sentence imposed. Percentage of sentence actually served was estimated by the source from table 2-4, *National corrections reporting program, 1985* (NCJ-123522), December 1990.

<sup>b</sup>Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

<sup>c</sup>Includes motor vehicle theft.

Source: *Felony sentences in State courts, 1988*.

Of 27,052 drug offenders sentenced to probation in 1986 in 32 counties across 27 States —

- 61% had a probation sentence combined with a jail term
- 20% were not recommended for probation by the probation department
- 11% were assigned to intensive supervision
- 38% were required to participate in a drug treatment program
- 48% were required to be tested for drug use.

According to probation records, among probationers with known drug problems, 42% were not required to submit to drug testing or participate in drug treatment.

Sources: *Felony sentences in State courts, 1988*. *Recidivism of felons on probation, 1986-89*.

## Drug offenders in correctional populations

The proportion of drug offenders in State prisons increased 144%, from 6% of State prisoners in 1979 to 22% in 1991.

The proportion of drug offenders in local jails increased 147% between 1983 and 1989:

<u>Current offense</u>	<u>Percent of all jail inmates</u>	
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1989</u>
Any drug offense	9%	23%
Trafficking	4	12
Possession/use	5	10
Other drug	1	1

Drug law violators make up a growing share of the Federal prison population:

- 22% of all admissions in fiscal 1980
- 34% of all inmates in fiscal 1986
- 58% of all inmates at the end of calendar 1991.\*

In 1986 persons sentenced for drug trafficking made up 26.1% of State prison inmates with no known prior sentence to probation or incarceration. This was a larger proportion than for any other offense.

\*Updated by Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse from Bureau of Prisons Key Indicators Management Information System, December 29, 1991.

## Offenses of persons in long-term, State-operated juvenile facilities (1987) and State adult prisons (1986)

<u>Current offense</u>	<u>Percent of youth in long-term, State-operated juvenile institutions</u>		<u>Percent of inmates in State prisons</u>
	<u>Under age 18</u>	<u>Age 18 or older</u>	
Violent	39.3%	52.3%	54.6%
Property	45.6	29.0	31.0
<b>Drug</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Public-order	7.2	6.8	5.2
Other	2.4	.6	.7

Note: Other offenses include juvenile status offenses for youth in State institutions.

In 1989, the proportion of juveniles in private juvenile facilities for alcohol and drug offenses was higher than in public facilities, according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, as presented in the 1991 BJS *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*.

## Juveniles held in facilities, by type of offense and type of facility, 1989

<u>Juveniles detained or committed for:</u>	<u>Type of facility</u>	
	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>
Crimes against persons	26%	19%
Crimes against property	41	54
<b>Alcohol and drug offenses</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>
Public-order offenses	5	2
Probation violations	9	2
Other delinquent acts	3	9

Note: Percents may not total 100% because of rounding.

The BJS 1990 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities reported on drug treatment and intervention programs for 1,024 correctional facilities. On June 29,

1990, the 1,024 facilities estimated inmate enrollment in various drug treatment and intervention programs (table 7).

**Table 7. Enrollment in drug treatment and intervention programs, by type of facility, June 29, 1990**

Type of treatment/ intervention program	Type of facility	
	Federal confinement	State Confinement Community-based
Special residential unit within facility	356	7,432 15
Counseling	2,522	42,593 4,584
Education/awareness	5,634	32,427 3,512
Urine surveillance	10,770	37,646 6,349
Detoxification	21	2,864 109
Other	320	2,801 95

Note: Inmates could have participated in more than one program.

Source: *Drug enforcement and treatment in prisons, 1990.*

Sources: *Prisons and prisoners in the United States. Drug law violators, 1980-86: Federal offenses and offenders*, updated by the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse. *Profile of State prison inmates, 1986. Survey of youth in custody, 1987. Profile of jail inmates, 1989. Drugs and jail inmates, 1989.* Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, as reported in the *BJS Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1991. Drug enforcement and treatment in prisons, 1990.*

## Drug enforcement in correctional facilities

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. These methods include drug testing, questioning, patdowns, clothing exchanges, and body cavity searches.

Most prison facilities required new admissions and inmates returning from temporary release to be patted down and required them to exchange their clothing with prison-furnished clothing (table 8).

Interdiction efforts were more stringent in maximum security prisons than in medium or minimum security facilities. All Federal maximum security prisons required clothing exchanges, compared to 81% of Federal medium security prisons and 78% of Federal minimum security facilities.

Prison visitors are also subjected to interdiction activities (table 9). Most visitors were questioned verbally and were subjected to searches of their belongings. Patdowns and body cavity searches were usually conducted if visitors were suspected of carrying drugs or paraphernalia.

**Table 8. Drug interdiction activities for prison inmates/residents, by type of facility, June 1990**

Drug interdiction activity by inmate group	Type of facility		
	Federal confinement	State Confinement	Community-based
<b>Inmates at admission</b>			
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
<b>Inmates returning from temporary release</b>			
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: *Drug enforcement and treatment in prisons, 1990.*



**Table 9. Drug interdiction activities for prison visitors, by type of facility, June 1990**

Interdiction activity	Type of facility	
	Federal confinement	State Confinement Community-based
Verbal questioning	97.5%	78.7% 82.4%
Patdown	51.3	69.4 39.6
Belongings search	92.5	87.4 75.6
Body cavity search	27.5	22.4 5.2

Source: *Drug enforcement and treatment in prisons, 1990.*

To prevent drugs from being brought into facilities, prison staff are subjected to interdiction activities, particularly when under suspicion of drug smuggling. Staff were questioned in 45% of Federal facilities and 23% of State facilities upon suspicion of drug involvement. Staff were patted down on suspicion in 19% of Federal facilities and 14% of State facilities.

The 1990 Census revealed that 7 out of 8 institutions conduct urine tests on inmates to detect drug use.

Of the tests conducted between July 1, 1989, and June 30, 1990, evidence of drug use among State prison inmates was detected in about —

- 1 in 16 tests for marijuana
- 1 in 28 tests for cocaine
- 1 in 50 tests for methamphetamines
- 1 in 75 tests for heroin.

Among tests conducted among Federal prison inmates, positive test results were found in approximately —

- 1 in 100 tests for marijuana
- 1 in 250 tests for cocaine
- 1 in 250 tests for heroin
- 1 in 1,000 tests for methamphetamines.

Most facilities conducted urine tests upon suspicion of drug use (table 10). One in five facilities

systematically conducted urine tests on all inmates at least once during their confinement.

**Table 10. Percent of inmates tested for drug use, by criteria for testing and type of facility, June 1990**

Criteria for inmate drug tests	All facilities	Type of facility		
		Federal confinement	State Confinement	Community-based
Total	87%	100%	83%	98%
Systematically on everyone at least once during stay	20	31	12	46
Randomly on samples	63	96	57	76
On indication of possible drug use	76	94	74	76

Source: *Drug enforcement and treatment in prisons, 1990.*

Source: *Drug enforcement and treatment in prisons, 1990.*

## Recidivism of drug law violators

Of 27,000 drug offenders sentenced to probation in 32 counties across 17 States in 1986, 49% were rearrested for a felony offense within 3 years of sentencing.

<u>Rearrest offense</u>	<u>Percent of drug probationers rearrested</u>
Total	48.9%
Violent offenses	7.4
Property offenses	10.3
Drug offenses	26.7
Trafficking	14.9
Possession	11.8
Weapons offenses	1.0
Other offenses	3.5

Of all probationers rearrested within the 3-year period, 1 out of 3 were arrested for a drug offense.

Drug abusers were more likely to be rearrested than non-abusers:

<u>Drug abuse</u>	<u>Percent of probationers rearrested within 3 years</u>
Non-abuser	36%
Occasional abuser	44
Frequent abuser	55

Compliance with drug testing or drug treatment while on probation indicates a lower likelihood of rearrest:

<u>Special conditions</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Satisfied condition</u>	<u>Did not satisfy condition</u>
Testing or treatment	51%	38%	66%
Testing and treatment	51	36	65
Testing only	53	34	67
Treatment only	47	42	67
No testing or treatment	48	—	—

— Not applicable.

In a separate study, BJS gathered 3 years of criminal history records for a sample of persons released from prison in 1983 in 11 States. The percentage of offenders rearrested within 3 years was:

- 50.4% of drug offenders
- 54.6% of public-order offenders
- 59.6% of violent offenders
- 68.1% of property offenders.

Drug offenses accounted for 14% of new charges against all those rearrested. Among drug violators released from prison, 24.8% were rearrested for a drug offense.

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Percent of drug law violators released from prison in 1983 who within 3 years were</u>	<u>Rearrested</u>	<u>Reconvicted</u>	<u>Reincarcerated</u>
Drug offenses	50.4%	35.3%	30.3%	
Possession	62.8	40.2	36.7	
Trafficking	51.5	34.5	29.4	
Other drug offenses	45.3	34.5	29.1	

Sources: *Recidivism of felons on probation, 1986-89. Recidivism of prisoners released in 1983.*

## Drugs and youth

Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey show that in the first half of 1989, 2 out of 3 students ages 12 to 19 reported availability of drugs at their school.

Availability of drugs was reported more often by —

- public school students (70%) than by private school students (52%)
- students who reported gangs were present at their school (78%) than by students at schools where gangs were not present (66%).

Similar rates of drug availability were reported by —

- white students (69%) and black students (67%)
- students residing in cities (66%), suburban areas (67%), and nonmetropolitan areas (71%).

Many students reported that they could obtain drugs at or near their schools.

- 30% said marijuana was easy to obtain, 27% said it was hard to obtain, and 16% said it was impossible to get.
- 11% said cocaine was easy to obtain and 9% said crack was easy to obtain.

As reported in the 1991 BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, a 1990 national survey of fifth and sixth graders found that —

- 15% knew adults or older kids who tried or who use marijuana; 5% knew of kids their own age who tried or

who use marijuana

- 10% knew adults or older kids who tried or who use cocaine; 2% knew kids their own age who use cocaine or crack
- 90% agreed with the statement "drugs bought on the street are not safe to use"
- 7% said they will probably have tried drugs by the time they enter high school.

As reported in the 1991 BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, of 1991 high school seniors —

- 36.7% reported having ever used marijuana/hashish
- 7.8% reported having ever used cocaine
- 0.9% reported having ever used heroin.

**1991 high school seniors reporting they could obtain drugs fairly easily or very easily**

Marijuana	83.3%
Amphetamines	57.3
Cocaine powder	46.0
Barbiturates	42.4
Tranquilizers	40.8
Crack	39.9
LSD	39.5
Heroin	30.6
PCP	27.6

Reported marijuana use by high school seniors within the previous 12 months fell to 24% in 1991, the lowest level since the survey began in 1975. Similarly, the 14% reporting such use within the last 30 days was also the lowest in the period.

**Reported illegal drug use by high school seniors, 1991**

Drugs	Used within the last:	
	12 months <sup>a</sup>	30 days
Marijuana	23.9%	13.8%
Stimulants <sup>b</sup>	8.2	3.2
Inhalants	6.6	2.4
Hallucinogens	5.8	2.2
Cocaine (other than crack)	3.2	1.2
Other opiates <sup>b</sup>	3.5	1.1
Sedatives <sup>b</sup>	3.6	1.5
Tranquilizers <sup>b</sup>	3.6	1.4
Crack	1.5	.7
Heroin	.4	.2

<sup>a</sup>Including the last 30 days.

<sup>b</sup>Includes only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders.

Self-reports of drug use among high school seniors may underrepresent 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.

**Cocaine use among high school seniors peaked in 1985:**

Year	Used cocaine within the last:	
	12 months*	30 days
1975	5.6%	1.9%
1976	6.0	2.0
1977	7.2	2.9
1978	9.0	3.9
1979	12.0	5.7
1980	12.3	5.2
1981	12.4	5.8
1982	11.5	5.0
1983	11.4	4.9
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

\*Including the last 30 days.

Sources: *School crime*. Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *Smoking, drinking, and illicit drug use among American secondary school students, college students, and young adults, 1975-1991* as reported in *BJS Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1991* and previous editions for trend data.

## Drug use in the general population

According to data from the 1991 National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) National Household Survey on Drug Abuse —

- 75.4 million Americans age 12 or older (37% of the population) reported use of an illicit drug at least once in their lifetime
- 13% reported use of a drug within the past year
- 6% reported use of a drug within the past month.

Data from the 1991 survey show that marijuana and cocaine use is most prevalent among those ages 18 to 34.

Drug use	Age of respondent			
	12-17	18-25	26-34	35+
<b>Marijuana</b>				
Last month	4.3%	13.0%	7.0%	2.1%
Last year	10.1	24.6	14.5	4.2
Lifetime	13.0	50.5	59.5	23.9
<b>Cocaine</b>				
Last month	.4%	2.0%	1.8%	.5%
Last year	1.5	7.7	5.1	1.6
Lifetime	2.4	17.9	25.8	7.0

As reported in the 1991 BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, rates of drug use by college students were among the lowest during the past 10 years (table 11).

**Table 11. Marijuana and cocaine use among college students, 1982-91**

Drug use	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
<b>Marijuana</b>										
Daily within										
last month	4.2%	3.8%	3.6%	3.1%	2.1%	2.3%	1.8%	2.6%	1.7%	1.8%
Last month	26.8	26.2	23.0	23.6	22.3	20.3	16.8	16.3	14.0	14.1
Last year	44.7	45.2	40.7	41.7	40.9	37.0	34.6	33.6	29.4	26.5
<b>Cocaine</b>										
Daily within										
last month	.3%	.1%	.4%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%	0 %	0 %	0 %
Last month	7.9	6.5	7.6	6.9	7.0	4.6	4.2	2.8	1.2	1.0
Last year	17.2	17.3	16.3	17.3	17.1	13.7	10.0	8.2	5.6	3.6

Source: *Drug use among American high school seniors, college students, and young adults* as reported in the BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, 1991.

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Another measure of drug use in the general population is the number of drug-related emergency room episodes and drug-related deaths.

The NIDA Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) reported an estimated 400,079 drug-related episodes in hospital emergency rooms nationwide in 1991, an 8% increase from 371,208 in 1990.

A total of 6,601 deaths related to drug abuse were reported in 1991 by 130 medical examiners in 27 metropolitan areas, a 13% increase from 5,830 in 1990.

Sources: National Institute on Drug Abuse, *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Population estimates 1991*. Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *Smoking, drinking, and illicit drug use among American secondary school students, college students, and young adults, 1975-1991* as reported in the *BJS Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1991*. Drug Abuse Warning Network, as reported in *Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse, Fact sheet: Drug data summary*.

## Public opinion about drugs

As reported in the 1991 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:

<u>Date of poll</u>	<u>Drug abuse most serious problem</u>
January 1985	2%
July 1986	8
April 1987	11
September 1988	11
May 1989	27
November 1989	38
April 1990	30
July 1990	18
March 1991	11
March 1992	8

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 1991 were —

- 17% of public school parents
- 13% of nonpublic school parents
- 24% of those with no children in school
- 22% of all surveyed.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse has sponsored a survey of high school seniors each year since 1975. The 1991 high school seniors were asked, "How much do you think people risk harming themselves?" Those students answering "great risk" in regular use accounted for the following percentages —

- marijuana/hashish, 78.6%, up from a low of 34.9% in 1978
- cocaine, 90.4%, up from a low of 68.2% in 1977 and 1978
- heroin, 89.6%, virtually stable since 1975
- LSD, 84.3%, relatively stable since a low of 79.1% in 1977.

When asked about spending for various social problems, 58% of the respondents to a 1991 National Opinion Research Center (NORC) Poll said this country is spending too little to deal with drug addiction.

In 1990 Gallup Poll respondents were asked how best the government should allocate its resources in its fight against drugs:

- 40% said "teaching young people about the dangers of drugs"
- 28% said "working with foreign governments to stop the export of drugs to this country"
- 19% said "arresting people in this country who sell drugs"
- 5% said "helping drug users to overcome their addiction to drugs"
- 4% said "arresting the people who use drugs."



Gallup Poll respondents were asked, "What is the most important thing that can be done to help reduce crime?" In 1989, the most frequent response was to cut the drug supply (25%), followed by harsher punishment (24%). In 1981, 3% of respondents mentioned cutting the drug supply, while harsher punishment was mentioned by 38% of respondents.

NORC has asked adults (age 18 or older) about legalization of marijuana since 1973. In 1991, 18% believed that marijuana should be made legal, down from a peak of 30% in 1978.

College freshmen have been surveyed by NORC since 1968. In 1991, 20.9% of those surveyed agreed strongly or somewhat that marijuana should be legalized, down from a high of 52.9% in 1977.

Of 1991 high school seniors —

- 18.0% felt using marijuana should be entirely legal, down from 32.9% feeling that way in 1978
- 79.5% reported worrying often or sometimes about drug abuse, up from 65.5% in 1978.

In 1990 a Gallup Poll asked what respondents felt would be the effect of legalizing drugs:

Effect of legalization  
would increase:

Drug use in public schools	65%
The number of addicts	67
The number of drug overdoses	63
Drug-related crime	52

Sources: *The Gallup report*; National Opinion Research Center data made available through the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research; Alexander W. Astin, et al., *The American freshman: Twenty year trends*; Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the future 1975-1991*; Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *Drug use, drinking, and smoking: National survey results from high school, college, and young adult populations, 1975-1988*; all as reported in the BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1991* and *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1990*.

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## Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse

The Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse serves the drugs-and-crime information needs of —

- Federal, State, and local policy-makers
- criminal justice and public health practitioners
- researchers and universities
- private corporations
- the media
- the public.

Special attention is given to the needs of State and local government agencies, especially those seeking data to meet the statistical requirements of the Anti-Drug Abuse Grant Program of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

The Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse responds to requests for current data on —

- illegal drugs
- drug-related crime
- drug law violations
- drug-using offenders in the criminal justice system
- drug treatment for offenders
- the impact of drugs on criminal justice administration.

The Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse is comprised of two components. The clearinghouse component —

- disseminates BJS and other Department of Justice publications relating to drugs and crime

- prepares and distributes fact sheets and selected bibliographies on specific drugs-and-crime topics

- responds to information requests utilizing a bibliographic database of statistical and research reports, books, and journal articles on drugs and crime

- searches the bibliographic database to fill requests for data on specific topics

- advises requesters on data availability and usefulness and on data sources that may meet their needs

- provides statistics and bibliographic citations by mail or telephone

- maintains a reading room where visitors can use the clearinghouse collection of library documents and vertical file items on drugs and crime
- coordinates with Federal, State, and local agencies in identifying other data resources and makes referrals.

The data center component —

- prepared sections of *Drugs, crime, and the justice system: A National report*, a comprehensive multi-year effort that presents drug data from various sources into one easy-to-understand report that will serve as a national resource document when published in spring 1993.

- analyzes existing drug data and prepares special reports

- evaluates existing drug data for statistical quality and usefulness, suggests improvements, and identifies drug data gaps
- prepares special computer tabulations that are not available elsewhere
- identifies and collects new drugs and crime documents to be added to the database the clearinghouse uses to respond to requests.

**During 1992 the Data Center & Clearinghouse —**

- handled over 8,000 requests for information
- expanded the bibliographic database to about 3,200 documents and total library holdings to about 11,000 items
- distributed about 36,000 drugs-and-crime documents, 43% of which were BJS publications
- attended 12 national conferences
- archived the 1992 Drug Control and System Improvement Formula Grant Program applications submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance by the States (State strategies)
- provided technical assistance to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
- worked with other drug-related clearinghouses, including the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (treatment and prevention), the National AIDS Information Clearinghouse, and the Resident Initiatives Drug Information and Strategy Clearinghouse (drugs in public housing)

- contributed to the second edition of *Catalog of selected Federal publications on illegal drug and alcohol abuse* in coordination with the Inter-Agency Working Group of Federal Clearinghouses
- prepared *State drug resources: 1992 National directory* (May 1992), a guide to State and Federal agencies that address drug abuse concerns
- prepared *Drugs and crime facts, 1991* (September 1992), which presents existing BJS data on the subject from diverse BJS reports
- completed *Drugs, crime, and the justice system: A national report* (November 1992), a comprehensive report that presents data from numerous sources that will be available in spring 1993.

The toll-free line for the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse is **1-800-666-3332**. The data center is located at the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) in Research Triangle Park, NC. The clearinghouse is located at Aspen Systems Corporation in Rockville, MD.

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## Source notes

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*National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Population estimates 1991*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1991

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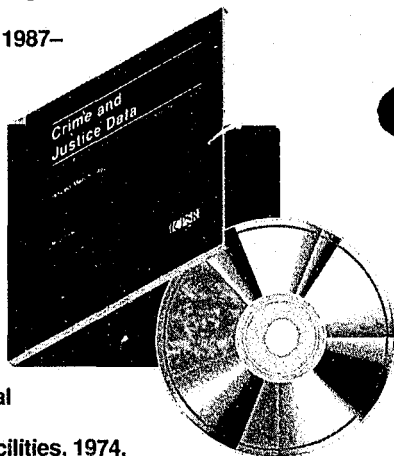
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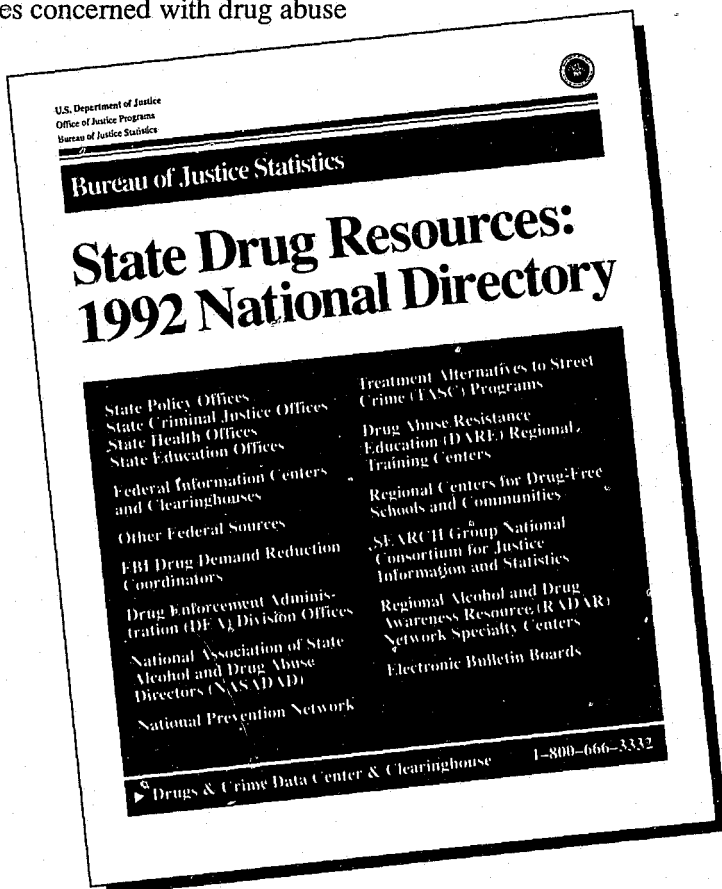


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tells you —

- how much of the increase in prison population from 1986 to 1991 was for drug offenders
- whether drug offenders were more likely male or female, young or old, black, white, or Hispanic
- how long drug offenders were sentenced to prison
- how many prison inmates' parents used drugs
- what types of drugs prison inmates used and whether they used different drugs than the prison inmates surveyed in 1986
- what proportion of prison inmates were under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense compared to those in 1986
- whether drug users were more likely to commit crime for monetary gain than other types of crime
- whether prison inmates were more likely to be using crack or powder cocaine at the time of the offense
- what types of prison inmates used crack cocaine as opposed to powder cocaine or other drugs — were they males, females, blacks, whites, Hispanics, young adults, violent offenders?
- whether gang members sold drugs as a part of gang activities
- how many inmates were in drug treatment or had been in treatment in the past
- what proportion of inmates had injected drugs for nonmedical reasons and how many of these were HIV-positive.

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