



▶ Fact Sheet: Drug Data Summary

February 1998, NCJ-167246

As part of ongoing research, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse has prepared this fact sheet to summarize current drug-related law enforcement, court, and corrections statistics as well as drug use, drug production, and drug control spending information.

Drug use

Drug use in the general population

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 1996 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 74 million (34.8%) of Americans aged 12 and older reported some use of an illicit drug at least once during their lifetime, 10.8% reported use during the past year, and 6.1% reported use in the month before the survey was conducted.

1996 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse past illicit drug use:

<u>Respondent age</u>	<u>Ever used</u>	<u>Past year</u>	<u>Past month</u>
12-17	22.1%	16.7%	9.0%
18-25	48.0	26.8	15.6
26-34	53.1	14.6	8.4
35 and over	29.0	5.3	2.9

For those age 25 and under, an estimated 1.6 million reported using cocaine (including crack) and 9.5 million reported using marijuana at least once within the past year.

For those age 26 and over, 2.4 million reported using cocaine (including crack) and 8.9 million reported using marijuana at least once within the past year.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) 1997 Monitoring the Future Study, 54.3% of high school seniors reported use of an illicit drug at least once in their lives, 42.4% reported use of an illicit drug within the past year, and 26.2% reported use of a drug within the past month.

1997 Monitoring the Future Study: Drug use among high school seniors:

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Ever used</u>	<u>Past year</u>	<u>Past month</u>
Marijuana	49.6%	38.5%	23.7%
Cocaine	8.7	5.5	2.3
Crack	3.9	2.4	0.9
Stimulants	16.5	10.2	4.8
LSD	13.6	8.4	3.1
PCP	3.9	2.3	0.7
Heroin	2.1	1.2	0.5

Emergency department and medical examiner statistics

In 1996, the SAMHSA Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) reported 487,600 drug-related episodes in hospital emergency departments nationwide, which is a significant decrease from the 517,800 reported in 1995. A total of 9,216 drug abuse deaths were reported in 1995 by 145 medical examiners in 41 metropolitan areas. Drug abuse deaths usually involve drug overdoses, but they also include deaths in which drug usage was a contributory factor.

Drug use among arrestees and offenders

The National Institute of Justice's (NIJ's) Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program tests urine samples voluntarily collected from selected adult male arrestees in 23 cities, adult female arrestees in 21 cities, and juvenile male detainees in 12 cities. In 1996, the DUF program found that the percentage of adult male arrestees testing positive for an illicit drug at the time of arrest ranged from 48% in San Jose to 82% in Chicago. Adult female arrestees testing positive ranged from 35% in New Orleans to 83% in Manhattan. Juvenile male detainees testing positive ranged from 38% in Portland to 67% in Washington, D.C.

The 1991 Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Survey of State Prison Inmates reported that 49% of State prison inmates committed their offense under the influence of drugs or alcohol; 17% reported committing their offense to get money to buy drugs.

1991 State prison inmates drug use at the time of offense:

Current offense	Under the influence of			To get money for drugs
	Drugs only	Alcohol only	Both	
All offenses	17%	18%	14%	17%
Violent offenses	12	21	16	12
Property offenses	21	18	14	26
Drug offenses	26	8	10	22
Public-order offenses	10	31	9	5

The 1989 BJS Survey of Inmates in Local Jails reported that 77.7% of inmates had used a drug at some point in their lives. More than half of the inmates reported being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense resulting in their incarceration. Overall, 13.3% of convicted jail inmates said they committed their offense for money to buy drugs.

1989 local jail drug use at the time of offense:

Most serious offense	Under the influence of			To get money for drugs
	Drugs only	Alcohol only	Both	
All offenses	15.4%	29.2%	12.1%	13.3%
Violent offenses	8.8	30.7	16.1	11.5
Property offenses	18.2	17.9	12.8	24.4
Drug offenses	28.6	7.3	12.3	14.0
Public-order offenses	6.4	54.1	9.6	3.3

The 1987 BJS Survey of Youth in Custody in long-term, State-operated juvenile institutions reported on juveniles under 18 who indicated whether they were under the influence of either drugs, alcohol, or both at the time of their offense.

1987 youth in custody drug use at the time of offense:

Most serious offense	Drugs only	Alcohol only	Drugs and alcohol
All offenses	15.7%	8.5%	23.4%
Violent offenses	12.1	8.2	24.2
Property offenses	16.8	9.7	23.1
Drug offenses	34.4	0.0	24.9
Public-order offenses	15.9	7.2	20.6
Juvenile status offenses	15.3	16.5	17.6

Law enforcement

Drug enforcement operations

The 1993 BJS Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey of State and local law enforcement agencies found that 80% of the Nation's local police and sheriffs' departments and 55%

of State police departments had primary responsibility for drug law enforcement in their jurisdictions.

Among those agencies with primary drug enforcement responsibilities, many operate special drug enforcement units or participate in multiagency drug enforcement task forces.

Special drug unit operation and multiagency task force participation of agencies with primary drug enforcement responsibility:

Type of agency	Operation of special drug unit	Participation in multiagency task force
State police departments	96%	96%
All local agencies	30	55
Police departments	26	50
Sheriffs' departments	49	73

Arrests

In 1996, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported an estimated 1,506,200 State and local arrests for drug law violations in the United States.

Estimated arrests for drug offenses:

Year	Total arrests	Sale/manufacturing	Possession	Percent of all arrests
1987	937,400	241,849	695,551	7.4%
1988	1,155,200	316,525	838,675	8.4
1989	1,361,700	441,191	920,509	9.5
1990	1,089,500	344,282	745,218	7.7
1991	1,010,000	337,340	672,660	7.1
1992	1,066,400	338,049	728,351	7.6
1993	1,126,300	334,511	791,789	8.0
1994	1,351,400	360,824	990,576	9.2
1995	1,476,100	367,549	1,108,551	9.8
1996	1,506,200	375,044	1,131,156	9.9

In 1987, drug arrests were 7.4% of the total of all arrests reported to the FBI; by 1996, drug arrests had risen to 9.9% of all arrests.

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 Drug Enforcement Administration (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. The following statistics indicate the total amount of drugs seized in fiscal years 1994 through 1996 by the Federal agencies participating in FDSS:

Seizures in pounds

Drug	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996
Heroin	2,887	2,567	3,378
Cocaine	309,709	234,097	254,191
Marijuana	1,041,425	1,306,895	1,429,922
Hashish	1,625	32,020	33,018

Asset seizures

In fiscal year 1996, the DEA made 13,530 domestic seizures of nondrug property, valued at approximately \$499 million:

Type of asset	Number of seizures	Value
Total	13,530	\$498,874,598
Currency	7,423	275,181,060
Other financial instruments	830	59,627,994
Real property	566	88,387,201
Vehicles	3,095	40,258,366
Vessels	117	8,249,654
Aircraft	17	5,564,100
Other conveyance	133	1,663,878
Other	1,349	19,942,345

Law enforcement officers killed

Of 54 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers killed in 1996, the FBI reported that 3 died during drug-related investigations or activities.

Courts and corrections

Federal offenders

According to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, of the 54,540 defendants convicted in Federal courts between July 1996 and June 1997, 19,360 (36%) defendants were convicted of Federal drug offenses. Of these defendants—

- 17,816 pleaded guilty
- 12 pleaded no contest
- 1,481 were convicted in a jury trial
- 51 were convicted in a bench trial.

Of the 19,360 defendants convicted for drug offenses in the Federal courts—

- 17,718 were sentenced to imprisonment (including 228 defendants receiving sentences of life)
- the average sentence length was 80 months
- 1,556 were sentenced to an average 35.5 months' probation
- 50 were fined; 36 received other sentences, including probation of 4 days or less, no sentence, suspended sentences, and supervisory sentences.

According to the BJS Federal Justice Statistics Program, the average incarceration sentence length imposed on all Federal offenders increased from 44 months in 1980 to 65 months in

1995, while the average sentence imposed on drug offenders increased from 47 months to 85 months during that time.

U.S. district court average sentence length imposed:

Most serious offense of conviction	Months			
	1980	1985	1990	1995*
All offenses	44.3	50.7	57.2	64.5
Violent offenses	125.4	131.2	89.2	92.3
Property offenses	29.4	31.9	22.0	26.4
Drug offenses	47.1	57.5	80.9	85.4
Public-order offenses	24.5	30.6	28.3	51.1

*1995 data is calculated on the fiscal year and excludes misdemeanor offenses. 1980, 1985, 1990 data represent calendar years.

In 1995, Federal offenders who were released from prison for the first time on a sentence imposed in a U.S. district court had served an average of 27 months, which amounted to 90% of the court-imposed sentence. Prisoners sentenced for drug offenses served an average time of 38 months and served 87% of the court-imposed sentence.

Offenders in State courts

According to the BJS National Judicial Reporting Program (NJRP), 165,400 persons were convicted of drug trafficking in 1994. That number is more than twice the number convicted in 1986, the year the survey was first conducted. The NJRP also reported 108,800 convictions for drug possession in 1994. That number is slightly less than the number convicted in 1992 (109,400), the first year possession statistics were reported. Nine out of 10 convictions in 1994 for drug offenses resulted from a guilty plea.

Average sentence lengths for felony drug offense sentences imposed by State courts, 1994:

Most serious conviction offense	Maximum sentence length for felons sentenced to			
	Incarceration Total	Prison	Jail	Probation
All drug offenses	40 mos.	61 mos.	6 mos.	38 mos.
Possession	28	50	4	37
Trafficking	48	66	7	40

Seven out of 10 persons convicted of drug offenses in 1994 were sentenced to incarceration: 25% to jail and 45% to prison. Of felons sent to State prison for drug offenses, the average sentence length was 61 months, of which the estimated time to be served was 22 months.

Corrections

Drug offenders have accounted for an increasing percentage of the population in State and Federal correctional facilities. Drug offenders constituted an estimated 23% of the State prison population in 1995, up from 6% of the population in 1980, 9% in 1985, and 22% in 1990. In Federal correctional

facilities, drug offenders accounted for 60% of the population on October 31, 1997, up from 25% in 1980, 34.3% in 1985, 52% in 1990, but remained stable from 1995 to 1997.

Offenders on probation

The 1995 BJS Survey of Adults on Probation, the first nationally representative survey to collect information on the individual characteristics of adult probationers, found that 21.4% or approximately 560,800 of the adults on probation in 1995 were sentenced for a drug offense. Drug trafficking was the single most frequent offense among felons on probation (15.4%) followed by drug possession (13.1%). Drug or alcohol treatment was a sentence condition for 41% of adults on probation, and 32.5% had mandatory drug testing.

Offense	Percent of adults on probation*		
	Total	Felony	Misdemeanor
Offense			
Violent	17.3%	19.5%	13.5%
Property	28.9	36.6	18.2
Drug	21.4	30.7	7.6
Public order	31.1	12.1	59.6
Drug offense			
Possession	9.8%	13.1%	4.6%
Trafficking	9.7	15.4	1.6
Other/unspecified	1.9	2.3	1.4
Special condition			
Drug testing	32.5%	43.0%	17.1%
Drug/alcohol treatment	41.0	37.5	45.7
Other	26.5	19.5	37.2

* Based on a total of 2,620,560 adult probationers in 1995. Of the 2,620,560, 1,491,670 were felony sentences and 991,161 were misdemeanors.

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.

Criteria used for drug-testing inmates:

Facility conducts urine tests on inmates	All facilities	Federal confinement	State confinement
Total*	86.7%	100.0%	82.5%
Systematically on 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 totals because some facilities tested on more than one basis.

Drug availability

Price and purity

Based on field investigations and laboratory analysis of DEA drug buys and seizures, the DEA's System to Retrieve Information from Drug Evidence (STRIDE) provides national ranges for price and purity estimates for cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Using STRIDE data, the national price per pure gram and purity trends are presented for the years 1981, 1988, 1995, 1996, and first quarter 1997.

Drug type purchase amount	1981 Price / Purity* (per pure gram)	1988 Price / Purity (per pure gram)	1995 Price / Purity (per pure gram)	1996 Price / Purity (per pure gram)	1997 1 st Qtr Price / Purity (per pure gram)
Cocaine					
Purchases of 5 oz. or less	\$275 / 48%	\$105 / 79%	\$101 / 69%	\$95 / 69%	\$87 / 67%
Purchases of 2.5 oz. or less	277 / 47	110 / 79	105 / 69	99 / 69	91 / 68
Purchases of 1 oz. or less	283 / 47	119 / 79	113 / 70	108 / 70	99 / 69
Purchases of 1/8 oz. or less	373 / 47	166 / 79	164 / 71	157 / 74	157 / 73
Heroin					
Purchases of 5 grams or less	\$3,374 / 7%	\$1,835 / 30%	\$1,311 / 46%	\$1,127 / 41%	\$1,175 / 47%
Purchases of 1 oz. or less	3,475 / 8	1,806 / 33	1,273 / 50	1,022 / 45	1,180 / 49
Purchases of 1/2 gram or less	3,852 / 7	1,800 / 36	1,246 / 56	1,017 / 49	984 / 56
Marijuana**					
Purchases of 1 pound or less	\$2.56	\$6.70	\$6.27	\$6.17	\$4.57
Purchases of 1 oz. or less	2.71	7.58	7.69	8.39	5.24

*Dollar figures reflect price per pure gram. One pure gram is approximately 1.5 bulk grams. Price and purity figures are rounded to the nearest whole number. (1 gram = 0.03527 ounce; 28.35 grams = 1 ounce)

** Purity is unknown for marijuana.

Production

According to the U.S. Department of State's 1997 *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report*, Burma was the world's largest producer of opium, Peru led worldwide cultivation of coca leaf, and Colombia led in marijuana cultivation.

Worldwide potential net drug production 1992–1996 (in metric tons):

	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
Opium					
Total	3,389	3,745	3,409	4,165	4,285
Afghanistan	640	685	950	1,250	1,230
India	—	66	82	77	47
Pakistan	175	140	160	155	75
Total SW Asia	815	891	1,192	1,482	1,352
Burma	2,280	2,575	2,030	2,340	2,560
China	—	—	25	19	—
Laos	230	180	85	180	200
Thailand	24	42	17	25	30
Total SE Asia	2,534	2,797	2,157	2,564	2,790
Other countries	40	57	60	119	143
Coca leaf					
Total	333,900	271,700	290,900	309,400	303,600
Bolivia	80,300	84,400	89,800	85,000	75,100
Colombia	29,600	31,700	35,800	40,800	53,800
Peru	223,900	155,500	165,300	183,600	174,700
Ecuador	100	100	—	—	—
Marijuana					
Total	13,208	14,407	13,386	11,489	11,389
Mexico	7,795	6,280	5,540	3,650	3,400
Colombia	1,650	4,125	4,138	4,133	4,133
Other countries	3,763	4,002	3,708	3,706	3,856

Federal drug control spending by function (in millions):

	<u>FY 1981 actual</u>	<u>FY 1989 actual</u>	<u>FY 1991 actual</u>	<u>FY 1992 actual</u>	<u>FY 1995 actual</u>	<u>FY 1996 actual</u>	<u>FY 1997 actual</u>	<u>FY 1998 enacted</u>	<u>FY 1999 requested</u>
Total	1,531.8	6,663.7	10,957.6	11,910.1	13,251.2	13,454.0	15,033.2	15,977.4	17,069.8
Drug treatment	513.8	1,148.2	1,877.3	2,204.7	2,692.0	2,553.8	2,756.2	2,885.6	3,092.2
Drug prevention	86.4	725.4	1,479.2	1,538.7	1,559.1	1,400.7	1,643.3	1,926.4	2,158.8
Criminal justice system	415.6	2,761.4	4,385.6	4,943.0	6,756.9	7,164.9	7,684.4	8,187.2	8,544.0
International	66.8	304.0	633.4	660.4	295.8	289.8	416.7	500.0	548.1
Interdiction	349.7	1,440.7	2,027.9	1,960.2	1,280.1	1,321.0	1,723.3	1,615.3	1,805.2
Research	76.5	230.6	450.1	504.5	542.2	609.3	655.2	679.5	725.1
Intelligence	23.1	53.4	104.1	98.6	125.0	114.5	154.2	183.3	196.5

Drug control budget

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 \$16.0 billion in fiscal year 1998.

ONDCP also reported that State and local governments spent \$15.9 billion on drug control activities during fiscal year 1991, a 13% increase over the \$14.1 billion spent during fiscal year 1990.

State and local spending for drug control, fiscal years 1990 and 1991 (in millions):

	<u>FY 1990</u>	<u>FY 1991</u>
Total drug control	\$14,075	\$15,907
Justice	\$11,525	\$12,619
Police protection	4,035	4,223
Judicial and legal services	1,346	1,449
Corrections	6,045	6,827
Other	100	120
Health and hospitals	2,184	2,784
Education	366	503

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