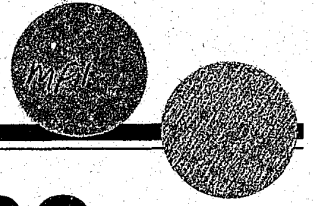




U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration



Crack Cocaine

Overview 1989



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Drug Enforcement Administration
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OCT 10 1989

ACQUISITIONS

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COVER: Numbers 187's refer to the California Criminal Code for homicides. This is often written on walls to signal an assault or to claim credit for a shooting. The figure's hand denotes "gang signing" which identifies gang or "set."

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CRACK/COCAINE

The past several years have witnessed a dramatic increase in the trafficking and use of cocaine. Wholesale and retail prices for cocaine hydrochloride (HCL) have declined, while purity levels for kilogram amounts of cocaine remain 90 percent and higher. Street-level gram purities have risen from 25 percent in 1981 to 70 percent in 1988. Seizures of cocaine HCL by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have increased substantially in the last decade. Approximately 60,000 kilograms were seized in 1988 compared to almost 200 in 1977. Cocaine investigations continue to constitute a major thrust of DEA enforcement activity. Cocaine arrests comprised nearly 65 percent of the DEA's total arrests in 1988.

A by-product of the increased supply and demand for cocaine in the United States has been the evolution of a phenomenon known as "crack." Crack is an inexpensive, highly addictive, physically and emotionally destructive cocaine derivative that is being abused in near epidemic proportions in some communities.

Abundant supplies of high purity cocaine (HCL) for lower prices have made it possible and highly profitable for dealers to develop less expensive cocaine products. Whereas cocaine HCL is available on the street at approximately 70 percent pure per gram at an average cost of \$100, crack is sold at purity levels of 75-90 percent for \$10 per 1/10th of a gram. Never before has any form of cocaine been available at such low cost and high potency.

The availability of crack was first reported in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Houston in 1981. This form of cocaine abuse was considered a localized phenomenon until late 1985. It was then that crack became a serious problem in New York City. Crack cocaine literally exploded on the drug scene during 1986 and was reported available in 28 states and the District of Columbia. It is currently available in almost every state. (See Figure 1)

The use of crack cocaine has evolved, in a few years time, to become a major medical problem. At this time, there is no separation of cocaine (HCL) and crack cocaine statistics. Admissions to cocaine treatment programs as well as cocaine-related emergencies and deaths continue to mount. Estimated cocaine-related hospital emergencies have increased significantly since 1984. (See Figure 2)

The number of Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) cocaine related hospital emergencies reported nationwide during 1987 was the highest yet recorded, increasing by more than 60 percent over the previous year's record total. During 1987, 32,776 cocaine-related hospital emergencies were reported through DAWN, as compared to 18,991 emergencies reported during 1986. Since 1984,

there has been a marked increase in the number of cocaine-related hospital emergencies reported through DAWN nationwide. (See Figure 3)

COCAINE ABUSE INDICATORS, 1984-1988

	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Hospital Emergencies Reported Through the DAWN System	8,201	10,371	18,991	32,776	20,192 *Jan-Sept
Cocaine-Related Deaths (less New York City) data	666	748	1,269	1,805	893 *(1st 6 months data) (est.)

The first reported smoking of cocaine occurred in Peru during early 1976. This South American practice involves smoking coca paste, which is an extract produced during the manufacture of cocaine from coca leaves. From Peru coca paste smoking has spread to Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, and other Latin American countries. Coca paste, also known as cocaine sulfate or basuco, can contain up to 80 percent cocaine sulfate. Other alkaloids that are found in coca leaves are benzoic acid, kerosene, sulfuric acid and other impurities. Coca paste smoking is the most inexpensive form of cocaine abuse because it sells for as little as one dollar per dosage unit. It is usually sprinkled on tobacco or marijuana leaves and smoked. Heavy addiction often results in severe physical and mental disorders primarily because of impurities found in the paste.

Coca paste is prevalent in illicit trafficking where it is intended for conversion into cocaine hydrochloride. It is often smuggled from Peru and Bolivia to laboratories in Colombia, Ecuador, Central America and, more recently, South Florida. It is rarely sold at the user level in the United States and is primarily restricted to upper-level dealers who have technical resources for chemical processing. Sporadic episodes of coca paste smoking, however, have been recently observed in New York, Los Angeles, and Miami. These represent the first incidence of use by foreign nationals involved in cocaine processing and trafficking.

Freebase is the purified base form of cocaine processed from the hydrochloride salt using flammable chemicals, such as ether. It appears as a white, crystalline powder. Freebase was introduced as a method of smoking cocaine in California during

the mid-1970's. During this period, freebase use was generally restricted to hard core abusers who would often spend thousands of dollars smoking freebase in just a few days time. The freebasing of cocaine hydrochloride with ether was a complex chemical process that risked fires or explosions, in addition to being expensive.

In the past year the use of crack has become increasingly prevalent in many metropolitan areas. Crack is also referred to "rock," "base," "freebase," "cooked cocaine," or "gravel." Unlike the processing of freebase crack is made without flammable chemicals like the highly explosive ether. The base form of crack, however, is manufactured by mixing cocaine hydrochloride with either baking soda and water or ammonia and water, thus eliminating the dangers of explosion or fire encountered with traditional freebasing.

Unlike cocaine hydrochloride, crack or other base forms of cocaine, can be heated. The fumes can then be inhaled or smoked, but the hydrochloride must be converted back to a relatively pure base state before it is suitable for smoking.

Cocaine freebase crack differs from crude cocaine base in that freebase (or crack) does not contain companion cocaine alkaloids, solvents or other residue from the leaf extraction process. It can be described as a "backwards" chemical procedure, starting with cocaine hydrochloride that is sold as street cocaine. Through simple chemical procedures, the cocaine alkaloid (benzoylecgonine) is "freed" from the hydrochloride salt, thus yielding cocaine as the "freed" or freebase.

It is important to note that freebase (or crack) and crude cocaine base are both classified as cocaine base. Freebase (or crack) is a cleaner and purer form of cocaine base since it undergoes a double-cleansing process (i.e., from cocaine base to cocaine HCL and back to cocaine base). Crude cocaine base, however, is a less pure form of cocaine base made directly from coca paste.

The smoking of crack is the most efficient way of ingesting cocaine and the crack user receives an almost instantaneous, intense high lasting only a short period of time (usually eight to ten minutes) which is often followed by depression and manic episodes. The user is often in a situation where he must consume larger and larger amounts of crack to even out these extreme periods of crack highs and lows. Therefore, the primary danger

of crack is the drug's ability to cause an extremely rapid and severe addiction that controls the users' behavior and dominates their lives. Many crack users also become addicted to alcohol, tranquilizers, or heroin which are all taken to alleviate the unpleasant side-effects of crack use.

The majority of crack available in the United States was first believed to originate from independent, cottage industry traffickers. DEA investigations in late 1986 and early 1987, however, began to delineate a fundamental change in the structure of crack trafficking. Several large scale trafficking groups, whose structure is beginning to approach that of mid-level cocaine or heroin dealers, have begun to emerge. Their presence (i.e., corruption, homicides) has become apparent as power struggles over drug territory develop among successful, small cottage industry groups, inner-city street gangs, and large-scale Jamaican organizations that attempt to expand their marketing area.

CREATING THE MARKET

Crack cocaine is the fast food of drugs. The consumer is supplied with a ready to use material that can be purchased quickly and for small amounts of money. This opens the consumer market to a wider spectrum of abusers, including youth and the poor. Cases have been documented where users have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars by buying \$10 and \$20 "rocks" over the course of a one year period.

Since it is virtually impossible to produce the amounts of money needed to sustain a crack habit, the frequent or compulsive user is forced into criminal activities, e.g., robbery, drug trafficking, prostitution etc. to generate the needed funds to purchase the drug.

Crack dealers do not need a large central supplier, so going into this business is relatively safe and cost efficient. Organizations that typify the traditional cocaine operations are usually nonexistent in crack sales. The crack sales are usually conducted by various street gang members or "sets."

STREET GANGS

CRIPS GANGS

The Crips gang was initially said to have been formed by Raymond Washington of Los Angeles, California. Their first activity was on a high school campus, in south-central Los Angeles. They were most likely named after the "Tales of the Crypt" movie or a comic book of the same name. Their gang color,

blue, was derived from Washington High School in Los Angeles. Crips generally wear a blue bandanna or handkerchief on their person or blue article of clothing (shirt, shoelace, jacket, hat, belt, hair roller). They often refer to each other as "Cuz." They use the letter "C" to replace the letter "B" in conversations and writings. They don't use the letter "B" because their rival, the Bloods, gang name starts with the letter "B". They write blue graffiti on walls to make boundaries, and sign their messages "CRIPS," "CUZ," "B/K" (Blood Killer) or "P/K" (Piru Killer). They will fight among sets as well as with other gang "sets."

BLOOD GANGS

The Bloods gangs were reportedly founded by Sylvester Scott and Vincent Owen. They were called Compton Pirus from West Pirus Street, and developed to protect themselves from CRIPS. Their gang color, red, was derived from Centennial High School colors in Compton, California. Bloods wear red "rags" or red articles of clothing. They refer to each other as "BLOOD", "PIRU", "C/K". They seldom, if ever, fight among themselves. The Bloods sets are rumored to be the most ruthless of Los Angeles street gangs next to the Crips.

CRIPS AND BLOODS GANG MEMBER PROFILE

1. Black Males 12 to 24 years of age.
Primary Age: 12 - 20 Most Violent Age Group: 14 - 18
Average Age: 18 Shot Callers: Late 20s to Early 30s
(Leaders)
2. Rarely have identification on their person.
3. Use alias names or nicknames.
4. Hairstyles are close cropped or jeri curls.
5. Give local addresses and phone numbers. However, they often use L.A. zip codes and area codes.
6. Clothing is predominantly blue for Crips and red for Bloods/Pirus.
 - a. FILA brand jogging outfits and tennis shoes.
(Fad items that change regularly)
 - b. National baseball/football jackets and caps (usually adhering to gang color themes).

- c. ADIDAS graphic sweatshirts.
 - d. Levis 501 or blue/brown cotton work pants. Pants are worn low on hips called "sagging".
7. Non-verbal communications
- a. Wall writing (graffiti) to communicate hostility, territory boundaries, and respect for dead members. These writings are often the first signs of gang infiltration.
Hand signals that signify gang affiliation (see Diagram 4).
8. Large gold chains and rings.
9. Initially defendants would admit gang affiliations when arrested, however recently they have been reluctant to identify their gang connections.

MENTALITY OF CRIPS AND BLOODS STREET GANGS

Extremely violent.

No remorse when killing innocent by-standers.

Will kill police officers in cold blood; this type of violence brings greater prestige to the shooter.

Philosophy changing from controlling neighborhoods to making large amounts of money.

The more successful drug sets are becoming organized. They operate in a more business-like manner, are profit-oriented, and sophisticated in tactics, i.e., use of computers, and standard business practices.

Crips and Bloods sets are showing signs of cooperating with each other in drug trafficking to promote drug sales and to set up funds for bail and attorneys.

Older members are purchasing legitimate businesses such as car washes, auto painting/body and fender shops, auto dealerships, liquor stores, motels, etc. to launder money.

SETS AND TERRITORY

The two most notorious Los Angeles gangs, the Bloods and Crips, are not really gangs at all. Instead, the names denote legendary confederations among hundreds of subgroups, or "sets". Sets are formed along neighborhood lines, and only a few have more than 100 members (bangers), 20 to 30 members is commonplace.

Leadership is usually collective, and internal organization is rudimentary. One gang expert with the Los Angeles Police Department, Deputy Chief Glenn Levant, states "most sets are as casually organized as a pickup basketball game. Bloods wear red and Crips wear blue; traditionally, each gang member wears or carries (a bandanna) his "rag" to show his colors." (Many gangs also use "signs", which are hand gestures like a letter of the deaf alphabet, for identification when the members are not wearing their colors.) Local variations on the theme are endless, the Crips gangs are almost as likely to fight each other, as they are to fight the Bloods.

The days when rival gangs fought each other only over turf and colors are fading fast. In Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and dozens of other cities, gang conflicts have become a form of urban-guerrilla warfare over drug trafficking. Informers, welshers and competitors are ruthlessly punished, many have been assassinated. Gang turf, which is still demarcated with graffiti in Los Angeles, now involves more than bragging rights; it is sales territory. Some gang graffiti are coded threats. One in south-central Los Angeles reads as follows: "Big Hawk 1987 BSVG c 187." In translation Big Hawk is a gang member's street name; BSVG stands for Blood Stone Villains Gang, a Bloods set. The lower-case c, which is deliberately x'd out, indicated that the writer kills Crips, and the number 187 refers to the section of the California criminal code for murder.

The crack gangs, dealers, posses, or whatever label you wish to apply, have many similar characteristics. Poverty is the seed from which they all develop whether it be in the slums of New York and Los Angeles for the Bloods and Crips or the slums of Kingston, Jamaica. Crime is the ladder, not only to success, but to the next step in the direction of daily survival. The other common characteristic, although not universal, is that their origins are from minority groupings. The third point is youth. For the purpose of this publication, youths are considered anyone up to the age of twenty-five. Socioeconomic factors such as poverty and poor living conditions continue to be the major factors in the recruitment of youth into these gangs.

JAMAICAN GANGS

When one thinks of Jamaicans gangs, one immediately thinks of drugs and guns which are equated with violence. Jamaicans are distributing crack throughout the country in organized gangs called POSSES. The appearance of Jamaican Posses or "Passes" within the United States is thought to have evolved around 1974. Jamaican gangs like the Raetown Boys and the Dunkirk Boys (well organized Jamaican gangs) probably arrived in New York City in 1976. Posses have turned from roles as extortionists and "hitmen" to the trafficking of crack cocaine.

Jamaicans, when they infiltrate a new area, will seek out single black females, with dependants who are generally on public assistance, to facilitate their operations by securing rental cars, leasing apartments and stores to distribute the crack.

Jamaicans are now using letters to code telephone numbers in their address and telephone directories.

Jamaicans also utilize rental cars, buses and AMTRAK trains for their couriers to transport cocaine HCL from large urban areas to other distribution sites in the United States and Canada. Invariably, the cocaine HCL will be converted to crack locally.

The following is an outline of Jamaican Posses:

1. Originated in ghettos of Kingston between 1974 and 1976.
2. Clanish, will not admit non-Jamaicans in inner circle.

Posses based on geographical and political ties:

- Roles:
- 1) Delineate and protect political zones from opposition.
 - 2) Raise funds for affiliated political party through crime.
 - 3) Provide physical protection for drug traffickers.

Independence: Posses are now generally independent from political ties. Money and power are now more important than political allegiance.

Political Parties: Jamaican Labor Party (JLP)
Peoples National Party (PNP)

Largest Posses: Shower (JLP)
Hot Steppers (PNP)

Tolerance: Posses will, on occasion, work together in U.S., but not in Jamaica.

- Ramifications:
- 1) Money from drugs and guns are pouring into Jamaica, creating a false and unstable economic base.
 - 2) A generation of youth are being corrupted.

JAMAICAN POSSES PROFILE

1. Black males of Jamaican decent 17 to 35
2. Recruited in Jamaica
3. Indiscriminate use of high powered weapons
4. Extremely violent behavior
5. Use of rental/lease vehicles, Volvos preferred
6. False identity a rule
7. Headquartered in local Jamaican clubs and restaurants

MAJOR POSSES OPERATING IN THE UNITED STATES

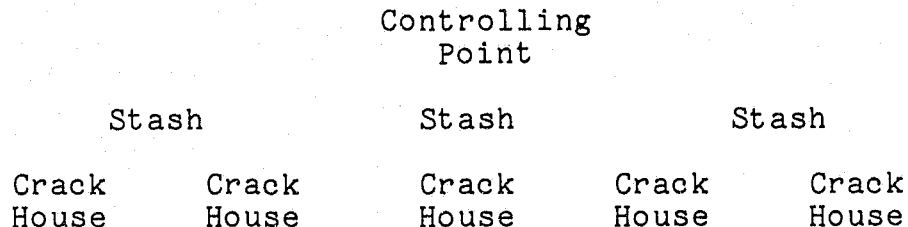
Shower Posse - Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Boston, Cleveland, Dallas, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Seattle, Denver, Kansas City, Atlanta, and Detroit.

Waterhouse Posse - New York, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Miami, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, St. Louis, Kansas City, Houston, and Los Angeles.

Spangler Posse - New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Atlanta, Miami, Houston, Dallas, Cleveland, Los Angeles and Seattle.

Montego Bay Posse - New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Atlanta, Miami, Houston, and Seattle.

The following is a diagram of Jamaican domestic crack distribution methodology:



Jamaicans traditionally import and/or distribute small amounts of cocaine, crack and marijuana. Commercial airlines are the preferred method of shipment of drugs and money. They also utilize Federal Express, rental trucks, rental/lease vehicles, and public transportation.

Couriers: Primarily Jamaican females
Several couriers on each flight (unknown to each other)

Concealment Methods: Body, luggage, packages marked as food items, presents, etc.

Payments to key Posse members: 1) Wire transfer when under \$10,000
2) Courier when over \$10,000

Role of Women: Act as couriers, rent apartments, cars, and utilities in their names, and register cars. As informants, they can be excellent sources of information on selected operations.

Narcotics Distribution: High level dealers don't pay for drugs until after they are sold.

Street dealers recruited from Jamaican/U.S. communities. American Blacks used at lower levels.

Businesses: Garages, music and record shops, auto body repair, Reggae bands, import/export companies, restaurants*, boutiques*, rental car and truck companies.**

* Meeting locations and possible drug outlets

** Used to transport money, drugs, and firearms

In reviewing the 1950's Kefauver Committee conclusions on organized crime, they appear to be very similar to the conclusions one might make concerning gangs distributing crack today. These gangs seem to have the same evolving crime pattern as the traditional organized crime families have had in the past.

The following is a point-by-point comparison of the 1950's Kefauver Committee conclusions on organized crime as compared to the crack gang problem of today.

FINDING AND CONCLUSIONS

Kefauver Committee

1. Organized Crime is entrenched mainly in the large cities.
2. Enforcement and punishment by murder, other violence.
3. Main families maintain a loose control over affiliates.
4. Association is based on ethnic/geographical location.
5. Organized crime groups control and monopolize distribution areas.
6. Organizers, leaders, dons etc. are removed from direct law enforcement action by use of "soliders" or street people.
7. Most profits remain in organization for use by leaders to finance their continuing operation.
8. Large scale narcotics distribution continuously use interstate communication and transportation facilities to conduct their business.
9. Wherever narcotics are openly allowed to be distributed public corruption is likely.

Crack Trafficking Gangs

- Entrenched mainly in large cities, with some rural representation.
- Indiscriminate use of violence to control selling areas; including murder. Operate on a "no innocent bystander" theory.
- Splinter groups in cities outside of cities of origin maintain a loose association with main group/gang.
- Informal association based on ethnic and geographical backgrounds.
- Gangs mark turf with graffiti and/or violence to insure territorial control.
- Gang leaders or founders insulate themselves by the use of youth and/or street people.
- Profits from crack sales finance operations.
- Crack gangs, as a matter of course, use car phones, fax machines, commercial planes and trains to carry out business.
- Crack sales are openly conducted in areas of understaffed and/or underpaid police officers. Corruption is becoming widespread.

SIMILARITIES SHARED BY ORGANIZED CRIME AND THE STREET
NARCOTIC GANGS

1. The Treasury of the United States is being defrauded of large sums of money by these criminal gangs.
2. Lawyers and accountants are still in close contact with criminal gangs or individual gangsters and some of them are violating canons of ethics and may even be an integral part of the criminal conspiracies of their clients.
3. Legitimate businessmen are aiding the interests of the underworld by making their facilities available to criminal enterprises or by awarding valuable franchises and contracts to notorious criminals.

DEA Enforcement Effort

DEA crack teams are now operational in fifteen (15) cities including Minneapolis, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Miami, Fort Myers, Fort Lauderdale, New York City, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, Kansas City, Seattle and Los Angeles.

Formal crack teams have not yet been implemented in Atlanta and Philadelphia since the crack problem is not considered severe in these cities. The crack situation, however, continues to be monitored in the event that these teams may be needed at a later date. St. Louis will establish a crack team in the near future as will Washington, D.C.

DEA is striking at the source. This is being done by operations such as SNOWCAP, BOLIVAR, and CALICO that target the coca-growing countries. The operations are being conducted by DEA agents and elements of the U.S. military in conjunction with the police departments and military of the involved foreign country.

Secondly, DEA is attempting to target drug smugglers with operations such as ALLIANCE and PIPELINE. These operations target drug smuggling groups that operate on the U.S. borders and on the nations highways.

Finally, DEA is targeting established drug organizations and traffickers with DEA Crack Task Forces, BJA funded state and local enforcement task forces, and community support in the area of demand reduction. DEA HQS has established several operations directed at the crack cocaine problem in the form of Special Enforcement Operations (SEO's) and an intelligence project (SEP) that will develop a crack/gang-related data base. These operations are headquarters directed and field division supportive.

DOJ/BJA Crack Task Forces

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 has provided approximately \$150 million to the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant program for fiscal 89 narcotic related programs. DEA submitted a program brief (i.e., concept paper) for the establishment of a crack investigation program to BJA. This brief was incorporated into the BJA grant program and \$1.5 million was made available for the establishment of five (5) Crack Task Forces. Subsequently, BJA Task Forces are established in the following cities: Los Angeles, CA; Houston, TX; Minneapolis, MN; Denver, CO; Detroit, MI; Miami, FL; Baltimore, MD; Nassau County, NY and San Diego, CA (see Figure 5). DEA assists these Task Forces through mutual sharing of timely information on crack trafficking organizations and by attending the periodic meetings of these Task Forces sponsored by BJA. BJA also funds street sales units (local police departments) in New Orleans, LA; Birmingham, AL; Seattle, WA; Long Beach, CA; Orlando, FL; San Antonio, TX; Oakland, CA and Rochester, NY.

State and Local Task Forces

DEA supports six (6) state and local task forces and 12 shared funding task forces in which DEA special agents and officers from state and local law enforcement agencies cooperate on narcotics investigations in order to disrupt the illicit traffic in certain geographic areas. By definition, these task forces are geared to mid-level and street violators. A number of major cities which are experiencing crack problems have these task forces in operation. These state and local task forces were recently enhanced by a \$10 million appropriation under the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986.

Conclusion

Crack cocaine trafficking and abuse have become a serious problem for all law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. Although the problem has spread to rural and suburban areas, crack cocaine remains a predominantly inner-city, urban phenomenon that is mainly confined to minority sections. However, the use of crack is now manifesting itself in all strata of society. Large-scale, interstate trafficking networks controlled by Jamaicans, Haitians and Black street gangs dominate the manufacture and distribution of crack. Prices for this highly addictive form of cocaine base have remained stable and high levels of drug purity have been maintained since crack became prevalent on the American drug scene in early 1986. Kilogram and pound seizures, once the exception, are becoming more common. The cooperative relationships between Federal law enforcement agencies, DEA Crack Teams and state and local task forces have proven highly effective in targeting and immobilizing large-scale distributors and interstate trafficking networks. These cooperative efforts must continue in order to stem the crime and violence spawned by the crack cocaine phenomenon.

APPENDIX A

SYNOPSIS OF DEA FIELD DIVISION RESPONSES ON CRACK COCAINE AS OF JANUARY 1, 1989

Atlanta - Crack is available in adequate consumer quantities throughout the Division and can be classified as a sporadic, retail-level trafficking situation. Georgia and the Carolinas are primarily transit states for crack originating in Florida and destined for the northeastern United States.

Boston - In the New England region, crack is found predominantly in the southern states of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Connecticut, with its proximity to New York City, is experiencing the most significant crack problem in the Field Division. New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine have encountered very little crack use to date. Crack availability has increased in Stamford, CT and is imported from the Bronx, NY. The availability of crack has significantly risen in Providence, RI and is principally controlled by Dominican and Puerto Rican groups there.

Chicago - Chicago does not have a serious crack problem at this time. Sporadic appearances of crack have been reported in North Dakota, Indiana and Wisconsin. Crack houses have recently appeared in South Bend, IN and Peoria, IL. Crack cocaine availability, however, has increased in the Minneapolis-St. Paul areas.

Dallas - Crack remains a serious problem in Dallas, TX. Over 75 crack houses are currently operating in the city. Crack distribution is controlled by a 500-700 member Jamaican controlled cartel. Leaders of at least 27 Jamaican organizations comprising this cartel have been targeted for investigation. The DEA D/FW Airport State and Local Task Force reports the arrest of two (2) or three (3) Jamaican crack or money couriers from Miami and New York on a daily basis. Over 20 Jamaican-related crack homicides have been reported in 1987. The Fort Worth Police Department reports that crack and fortified crack houses are becoming more prevalent. California is the main source for Tulsa, OK. Crack is readily available in Oklahoma City, with West Coast sources of supply.

Denver - Crack availability has increased tremendously in the last six (6) months. The Denver State and Local Task Force, in conjunction with the Denver Police Department, has conducted several crack investigations over the last two (2) years. These investigations revealed that crack houses in the city of Denver were run by Jamaicans with the assistance of locally recruited black females. The price of a retail level dose of crack cocaine

(\$25 for one-tenth of a gram) is one of the highest in the nation. Suburban dealers convert their own cocaine HCL into crack rather than purchasing the substance from Jamaicans in metro Denver.

Detroit - Crack cocaine is readily available in the cities of Detroit and Flint. Limited quantities of crack have been reported in Kentucky and Ohio. Although heroin use is still a problem in Detroit, it is overshadowed by the availability of cocaine HCL and crack. It is estimated that 1,000 crack houses and street corner locations operate in Detroit at any given time. Intelligence information reveals that there are at least six (6) major crack trafficking organizations in the Detroit metro area. One of these groups converts 50 kilos of HCL into crack per week. Crack-related deaths and emergency room mentions have increased dramatically over the past several years.

Houston - The crack problem in the Houston Division has somewhat diminished. The crack problem in the city of Houston is essentially situated in predominantly black neighborhoods. Crack is supplied both locally and from sources in Miami and Los Angeles. The Houston Police Department has made over 580 arrests for crack sale/possessions over the last year. San Antonio is the only other city in the Division which had a crack investigation in the last three (3) years. This investigation involved a small crack house operation.

Los Angeles - Crack is a problem of epidemic proportions in Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Barbara and Las Vegas. Crack is available in multi-kilogram quantities throughout the Los Angeles area. Crack cocaine manufacture and distribution are primarily controlled by black street gangs (the Bloods or the Crips) in south central Los Angeles. Kilogram quantities can be purchased for \$15,500 to \$19,500. The black street gangs have distribution networks throughout the northwestern and southwestern United States. Crack has appeared in Hawaii, but is not considered a serious problem.

Miami - Crack cocaine is readily available on the streets of Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Tampa, several areas in central Florida and the northern Florida cities of Tallahassee and Pensacola. Crack distributors from southern Florida are expanding operations into the Pensacola and Tallahassee area of northern Florida in an attempt to create new markets and/or take over existing crack markets. In FY-87, the Tampa Office participated in 100 crack investigations. The Metro-Dade Police Department reported 577 arrests in FY-87. It is estimated by local authorities that there are over 700 crack houses in Miami. The Ft. Lauderdale Office participated in over 1,500 arrests in FY-87. The Ft. Myers crack team is investigating a 75 member trafficking group that distributes throughout Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and California. DEA Miami has identified two (2) interstate

trafficking networks, one (1) which spreads across Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee, and the other involves the East Coast to New York, extending west through Texas and Nevada to California.

Newark - The Newark Division reports no crack cases in FY-87. The crack situation in New Jersey has leveled off or is on the decline and no city in New Jersey has reported an increase in crack cases or in the use of crack. Crack, once readily available in New Jersey, is now only moderately available in Camden, Trenton, Patterson and Hackensack.

New Orleans - Crack continues to increase in popularity among cocaine abusers, particularly along the Gulf Coast. In Louisiana, metropolitan New Orleans has the largest crack problem. Abuse levels in New Orleans have increased to a level where suppliers are dealing in kilogram quantities. A black street gang (Crips) from Los Angeles has emerged as the main source of crack. The Shreveport Office reports two investigations that resulted in the seizure of 250 grams of crack. The availability of crack has declined in Monroe, Louisiana. The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics reports the greatest increases (crack trafficking) in central and southeastern Mississippi (Gulfport and Pascagoula). A crack group consisting of 80 members was recently immobilized in Mississippi. Pascagoula, Mississippi has reported a five (5) ounce crack seizure which originated in Los Angeles. Crack cocaine availability is on the rise in Alabama; however, the amounts surfacing are believed to be for personal use only.

New York - Crack trafficking and abuse continues to be a serious problem in New York City and the surrounding suburbs. It is available on a limited basis in upstate New York. Several large crack organizations, whose structure approaches that of mid-level cocaine or heroin dealers, have appeared in New York City. The Division is investigating several organizations capable of supplying 10,000 vials of crack per week. Primary crack traffickers are of Dominican origin. During the first seven (7) months of FY-87, the NYCPD made 9,059 crack arrests, accounting for about 72 percent of all cocaine arrests.

Philadelphia - Crack cocaine houses, under control of Jamaican trafficking organizations, are beginning to surface in the Philadelphia Field Division. In early 1987, nearly two thousand vials of crack were seized in two (2) separate raids on crack houses in the city of Philadelphia. The Wilmington Office reports a crack problem in the southern Delaware area. Fifteen crack related arrests and 12 pounds of crack have been seized during 1987. These investigations centered around a Haitian farm labor community. Neither Harrisburg nor Pittsburgh report having a crack problem at this time.

Phoenix - Crack cocaine is available in the public housing areas of Phoenix and is dealt entirely by blacks. Crack is also readily available in Tucson. Crack cocaine in Arizona is supplied by the Crips and Bloods gangs of Los Angeles, California. In June 1987, the Phoenix State and Local Task Force culminated a four (4) month crack investigation that resulted in the arrest of 61 distributors (10 from the Crips gang) and the seizure of 600 grams of crack.

San Diego - There has been a considerable reduction in the involvement of black street gangs in crack distribution and related assaults and murders. This is the result of 35 Narcotics Task Force cases that targeted these gangs for immobilization. One (1) of these also resulted in 100 arrests and immobilized the principal crack gang in San Diego. Crack remains a serious problem in minority enclaves of the city and suburban areas.

San Francisco - Crack continues to be a problem in the San Francisco Bay area. There have been several instances of kilogram-size seizures in San Francisco and Oakland. The Sacramento area has experienced an enormous increase in crack houses and crack seizures. Gang members from Los Angeles have set up distribution systems in Sacramento. Random shootings involving the Crips and Bloods street gangs have occurred in Sacramento.

Seattle - Two (2) cities in the Division have measurable crack cocaine activity: Seattle, WA and Portland, OR. Two gangs, the Bloods and Crips, are attempting to expand their base of operations in these cities. Seattle Police estimate the operation of 50 crack houses at any time and in excess of 100 gang members in the metro area. Portland reports widespread availability of crack cocaine among all ethnic groups.

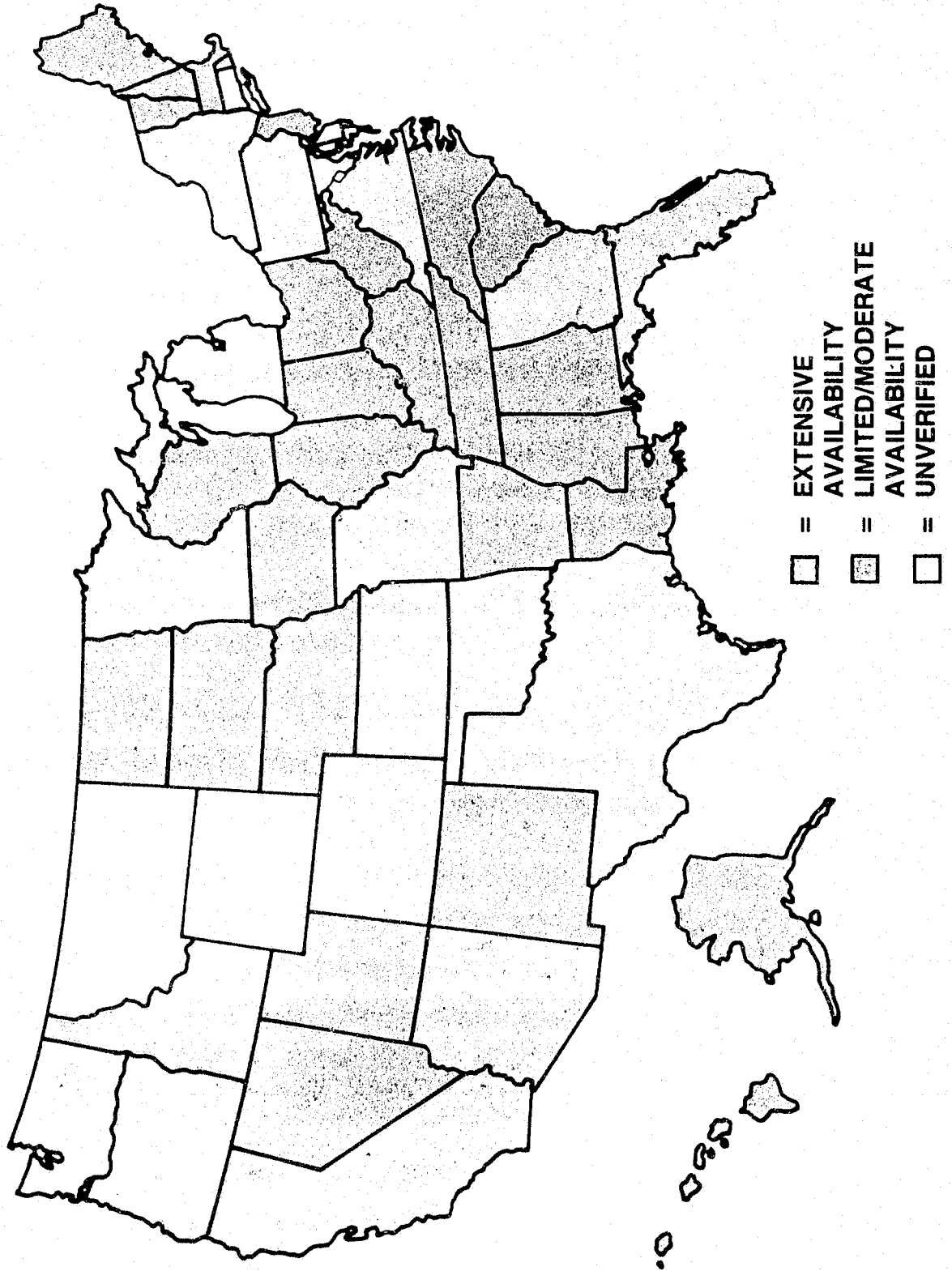
St. Louis - Crack cocaine does not pose a serious problem in St. Louis. The majority of crack arrests and seizures involve low level violators and street level dealers. Crack cocaine is a problem in Kansas City which reports substantial involvement of Jamaican traffickers in the distribution of both crack cocaine and cocaine HCL. Their level of crack distribution ranges from several pounds to several kilograms. Crack houses have been identified in the metropolitan area of Omaha, NE. Ready-made quantities of crack have been imported into the area from Los Angeles.

Washington, D.C. - The presence of crack in the Washington and Baltimore metro areas is not as large scale as first predicted. Currently, there has been some crack activity in the more rural Maryland locations, especially communities with large Haitian and Jamaican migrant worker populations. Haitians and Blacks are the main traffickers in Baltimore City. Crack is readily available

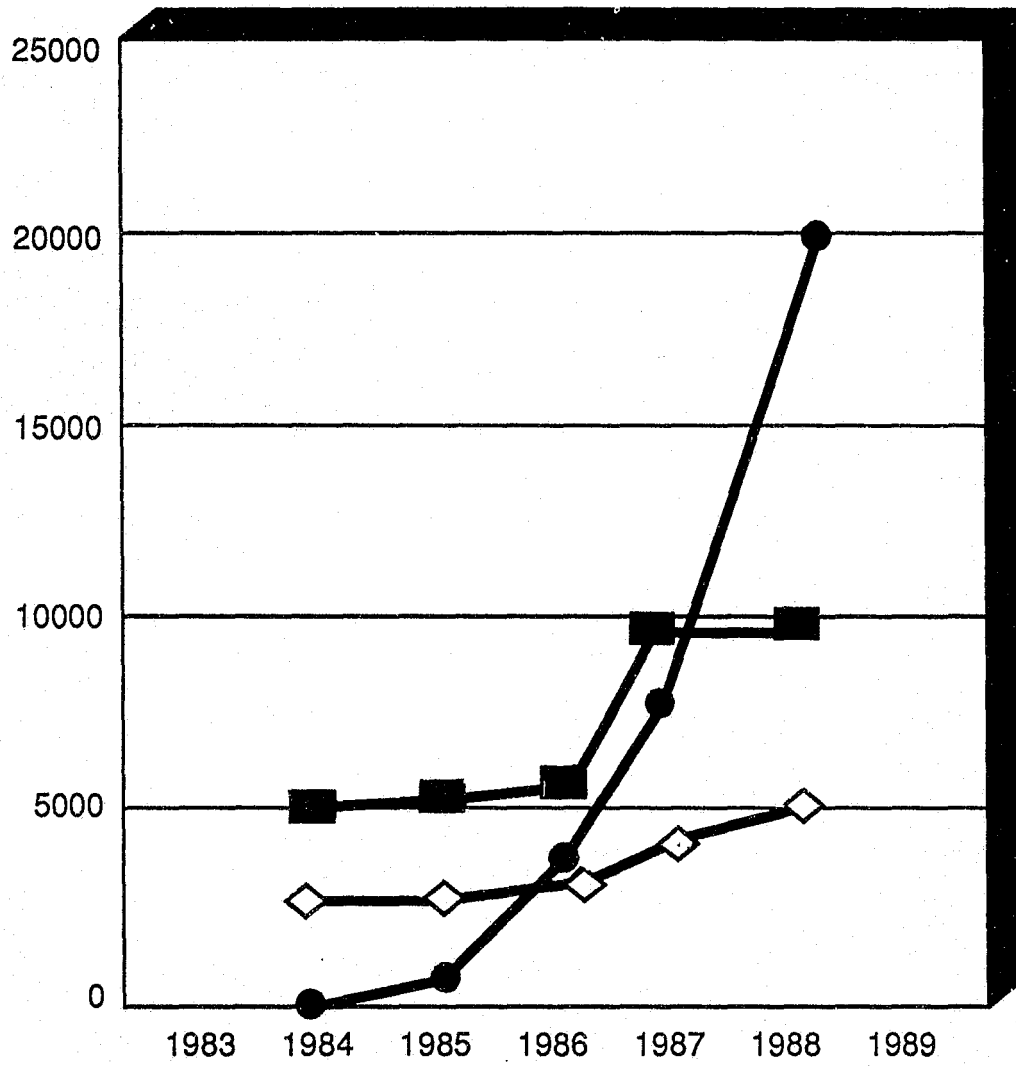
in Salisbury and Hagerstown, MD and Martinsburg, WV. The Washington Office has noted an increase in the transportation of crack into National Airport, with nine (9) arrests noted since June 1987. A trend noted by the Washington Division Office Airport Group is the utilization of juvenile couriers, primarily black teenagers, to transport consignments of crack from New York City. This pattern has also been noted in the Norfolk, VA area. Arlington and Alexandria, VA police have raided several crack houses. Several crack arrests have also been made at the Amtrak Railroad Station in Washington, D.C.

A growing number of Jamaican distributors have entered the cocaine trade in Washington, D.C. They have established crack houses in the greater metropolitan area that may also be supplying the Norfolk and Richmond, VA areas. The violence associated with these drug distribution rings is escalating to alarming levels in the Washington, D.C. area with a number of murders attributed to "turf" battles among rival Jamaican and inner-city black trafficking organizations.

CRACK AVAILABILITY IN THE UNITED STATES CY-1988



Cocaine Related Emergency Room Mentions



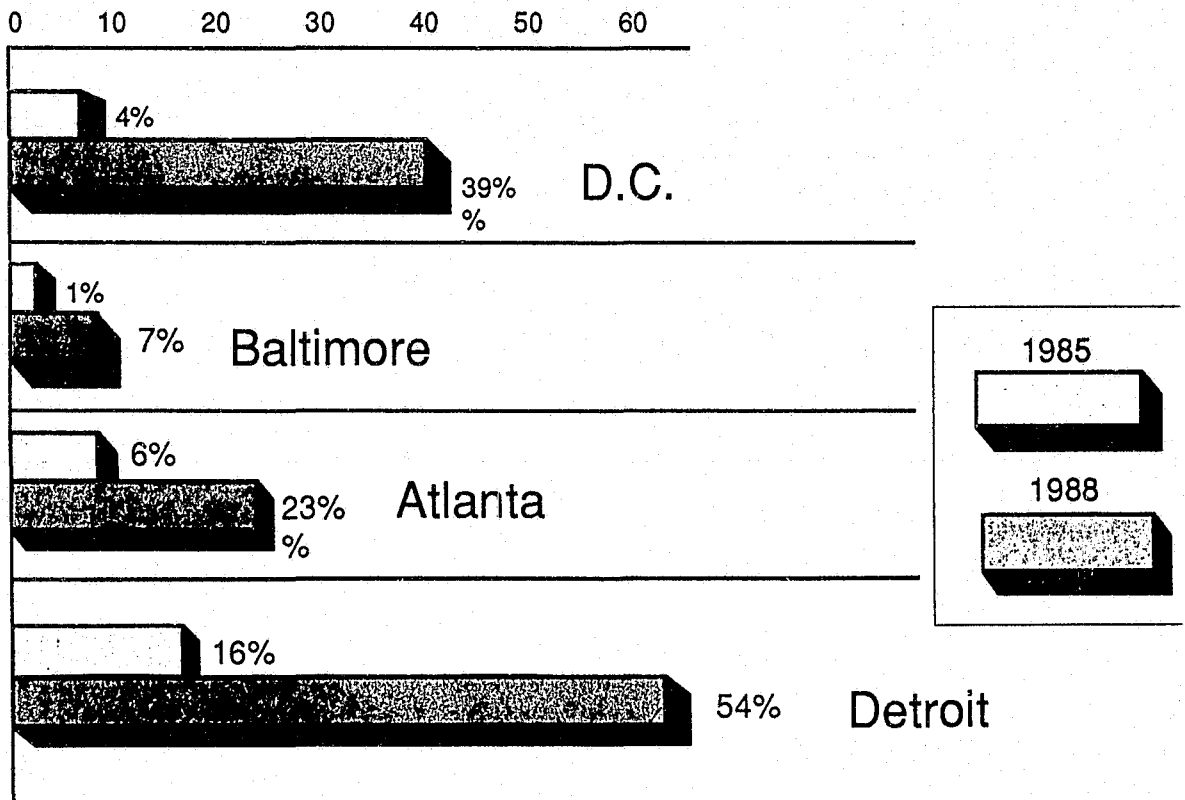
- Snorted
- ◇ Injected
- Smoked

Population Estimates of Cocaine and Crack

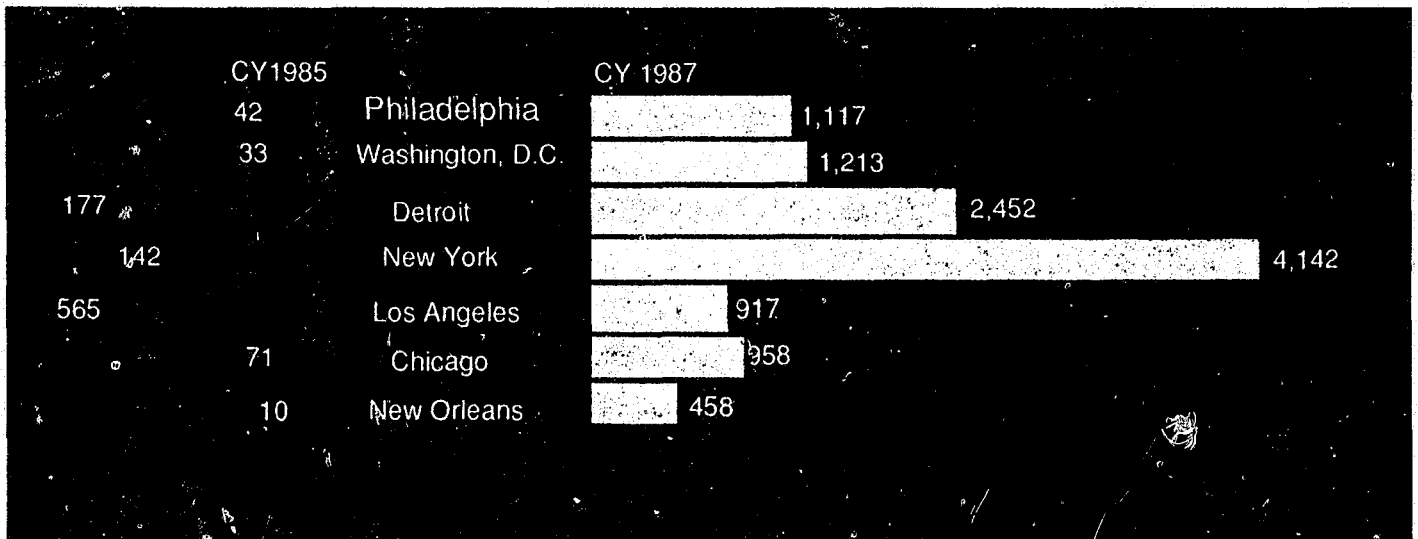
Age:	12 to 17	18 to 25	26 and older	total
Ever used	1.49 million	9.26 million	10.82 million	21.57 million

Crack's Role on Rise in Emergency Room Cases

The percentage of cocaine overdose cases in which crack was the form of cocaine used.



Total Dawn Emergency Room Mentions For Cocaine Smoking



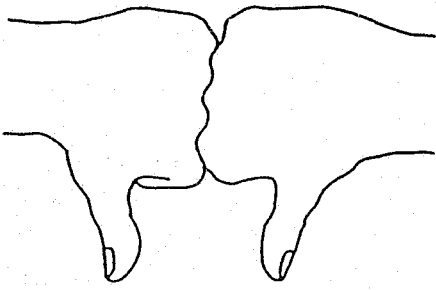
These seven cities accounted for 76% of cocaine smoking ER mentions in 1985 and 81% of cocaine smoking ER mentions in 1987.

Crips and Bloods

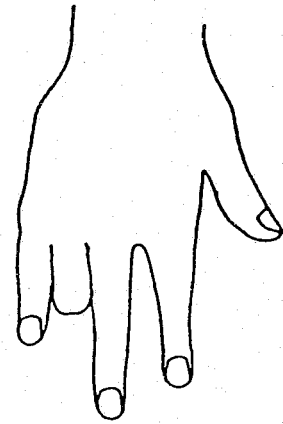
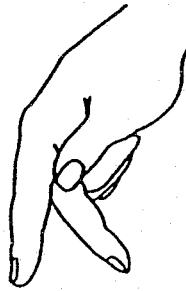
Figure 5

Hand Signs

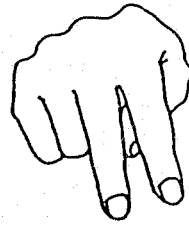
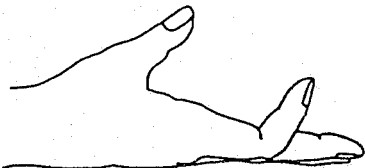
Harlem Godfather Crips.



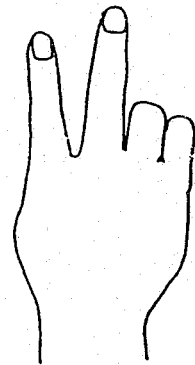
Avalon Gangsteer Crips



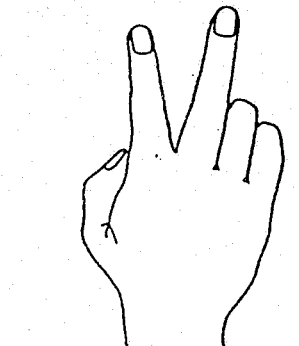
Front St. or Hood Crips



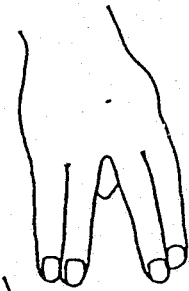
Hoover Crips



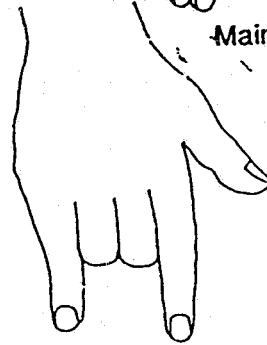
Villians Bloods



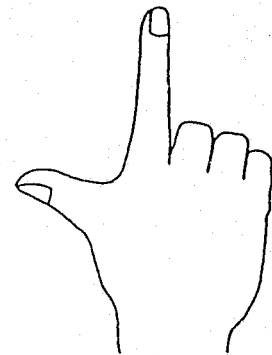
Venice Shore Line Crips



Main St. Crips

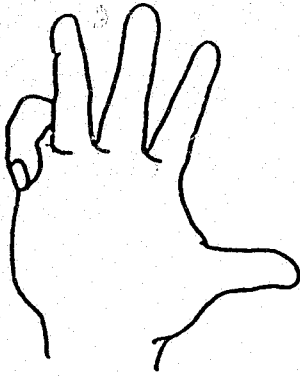


Brim's Bloods

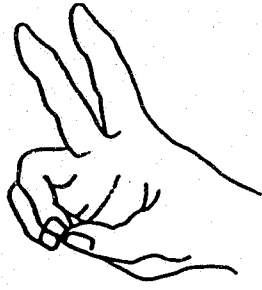


Denver Lanes Bloods

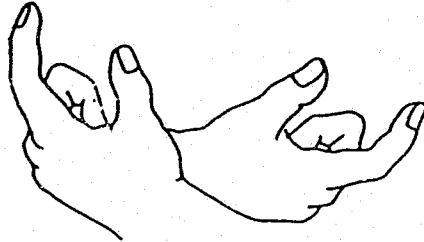
Figure 5



83 St. Gangster Crips

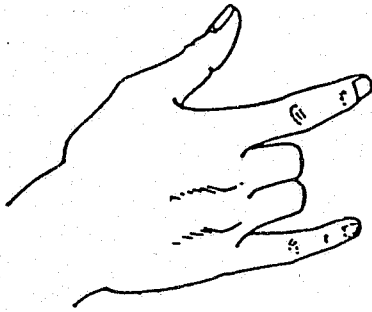


Playboy Gangster Crips

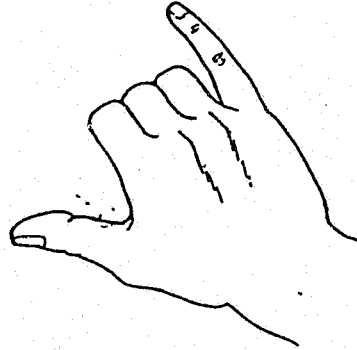


Compton Crips

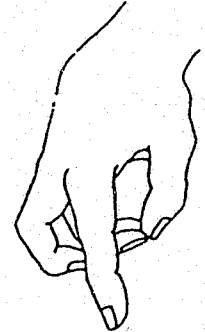
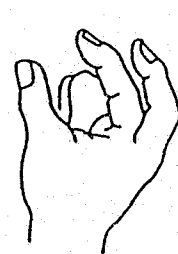
Black-P-Stone Bloods



Neighborhood Bloods

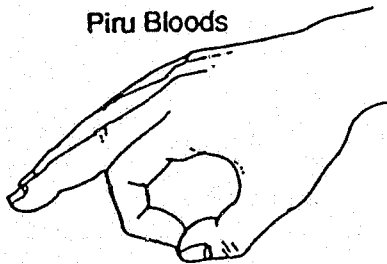


East Coast Crips

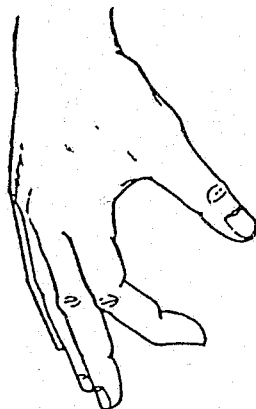


Raymond Ave. Crips

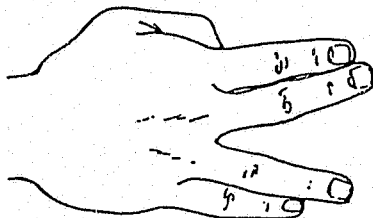
Piru Bloods



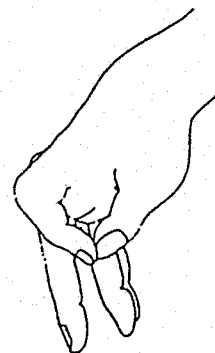
Family Bloods



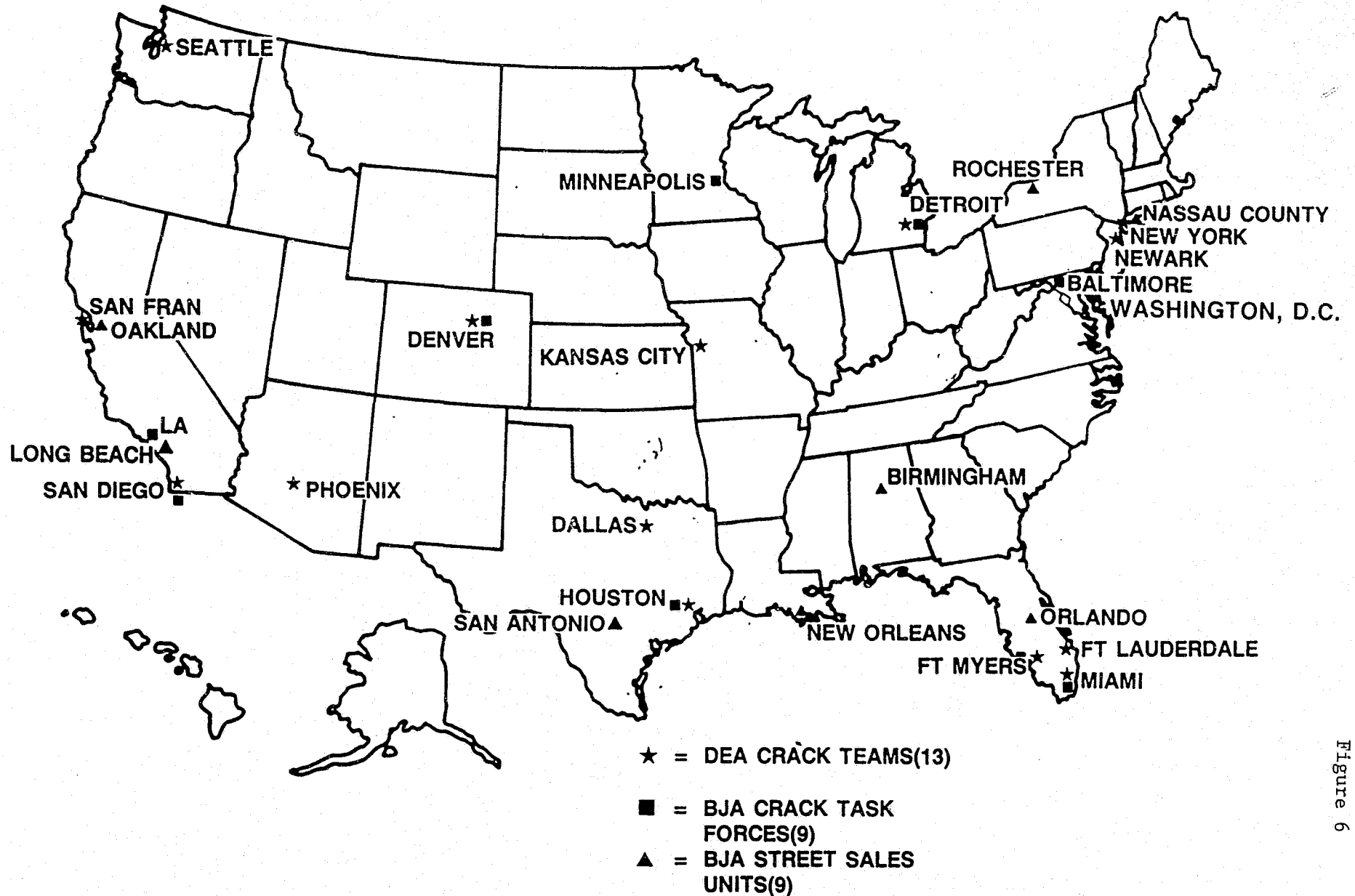
Van Nes Gangster Bloods



90 Ganster or West Coast Crips



LOCATIONS OF DEA CRACK TEAMS AND BJA CRACK TASK FORCES



Appendix B

Supplemental to Synopsis of DEA Field Division Responses on Crack cocaine as of July 1, 1989.

Atlanta

"Crack" cocaine has literally taken over the lower income drug market throughout the State of Georgia, with the largest wholesale volume, in terms of amounts trafficked, in the southeastern sector of the state. The Savannah Resident Office reports that 80 percent of the cocaine traffic within its jurisdiction now through two (2) OCDEF investigations, each of which involve the distribution of approximately 20 kilograms of "crack" per month in the south Georgia area. In each case, cocaine is being imported from Florida in powder form and subsequently converted into crack by local distribution groups.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation recently concluded an eight month "rural county" special enforcement effort utilizing a squad of thirty-seven (37) agents to target drug trafficking within the 147 rural counties of Georgia. There are only twelve (12) counties with more than 100,000 population. The enforcement effort began July 1, 1989 and concluded March 22, 1989. A total of 807 cases were opened: 640 or 79 percent were "crack" cocaine, 152 or 19 percent were cocaine powder and 15 or two percent were other drugs. A total of 160 arrests were made, to date, with 124 or 78 percent for "crack" cocaine, 26 or 16 percent for cocaine powder and 10 or six percent for other drugs.

The State of South Carolina is experiencing an upsurge of "crack" cocaine availability. While cocaine is the primary drug of abuse, crack cocaine is the drug of choice in both rural and metro areas. The Governor has established a Special Enforcement Team of 60 agents - a combined force of state law enforcement agencies - to attack the drug problem. During the six month period, June - December 1988, a total of 845 drug arrests were made with 274 or 30 percent for crack cocaine. Case initiations and arrests between January and April 1989 are significantly higher for crack cocaine.

The State of North Carolina has concluded a six-month intensive enforcement effort in both rural and metro areas. A total of 711 arrests were made with 60 percent for crack cocaine. The crack cocaine problem first developed in 1986 with migrant workers in transit along the I-95 corridor from Florida. Due to the migrant workers moving into farming communities, the crack problem first emerged in these rural communities and spread into the metro centers.

The State of Tennessee is not experiencing the degree of crack cocaine abuse that is prevalent in adjoining states. Crack cocaine is most prevalent in metro areas of Chattanooga and Memphis.

Boston

Crack surfaced in August of 1985, first appearing in Bridgeport,

Connecticut, followed by Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Hartford, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. Crack rapidly spread through the major cities in these states, confined to the Black inner-city areas. Recent intelligence disclosed that out-of-state Black gangs are vying for control of territories for crack distribution. Crack is extremely popular even though cocaine continues to be the drug of choice.

Some of the crack comes from the New York area and some is being converted locally. Crack is transported in the New England area by couriers utilizing motor vehicles, commercial airlines, trains and buses. Crack is packaged in small vials with colored caps (red, blue, orange and green) commonly referred to as "capsules" and lately, packed inside foil gum wrappers or elastic. When crack first surfaced, prices ranged between \$20 and \$40, depending on the length of the vial and the volume of its contents, but prices dropped to as low as \$5.00 in some areas when crack became popular and the availability and distribution of crack had significantly risen in June of 1987.

Massachusetts drug laws changed in 1987. The new statute, aimed at cocaine use, which was then on the rise, called for a mandatory one-year sentence for any person arrested with more than 14 grams of cocaine. Previously, the limit was 28 grams.

Abusers use crack by mixing the crack, a hard-rock substance, with tobacco or marijuana, and smoke it in a water pipe. Another way is placing crack in a pipe and lighting it with a propane lighter; thus crack is inhaled while cooking it. Recent intelligence disclosed that crack sprinkled on marijuana joints and smoke have become popular among some drug users. These joints are called "Woolers."

Boston Metropolitan Area .

Crack cocaine availability is high among Black and Dominican trafficking groups in Boston's Roxbury and Dorchester areas. The crack is obtained in New York City and is transported by cars, buses and trains. Crack is purchased in New York City in multi-hundred lots which are packaged in small vials with blue-red and orange plastic caps. In some instances, crack is converted locally. Activity in crack cocaine centers around low-level personal use among long-time drug users.

Prices for "street-unit" crack ranged from \$20 to \$30 a vial depending on the size and amount.

Cape Cod

In the Spring of 1988, Black violators surfaced as major suppliers of cocaine to the Mid-Cape area. These groups are large and well-organized with the source city being New York City. A cocaine investigation was terminated circa June 1988

with the arrest of three individuals and the seizure of 1,000 vials of crack, the largest seizure of crack to date in southeastern Massachusetts. The price of crack in the Cape area has remained at \$25.00 per vial.

Rhode Island

Some crack is being transported in the New York area and some is being converted locally and is available from sources other than Colombian distributors, principally, Dominicans and Puerto Ricans. Presently, Dominicans in concert with Providence and out-of-state Blacks are controlling the distribution of crack. In the early part of 1988, the Dominicans from Providence had established bases of operation in the public housing projects in the Newport, Rhode Island area and are selling crack and establishing a new market for consumers in the southern part of Rhode Island.

Crack is available in the greater Providence area. The use of crack in Rhode Island appears to have expanded some around June of 1986. The availability and distribution of crack has significantly risen in June of 1987. Crack continues to be available in Rhode Island, but in lesser amounts. The Providence Police Department continues to make crack arrests. Most defendants are Dominican or U.S. Blacks.

The selling price for crack when it surfaced in Rhode Island was \$20 - \$30 per unit (1-3 gm.). The price per unit dropped in June of 1987 to \$5 to \$10 in the metropolitan area. The present price per unit is \$10 to \$15 per unit. Crack can also be purchased in bundles of 10 vials for \$70 - \$90. The vials have different colored caps (red, blue, yellow, green) and crack is often ordered by color by the users. Cap color, in some cases, is the equivalent of a preferred brand name.

Colombians in Rhode Island have been using cocaine in crack form (Bazuca) for some time. The Colombians have made Bazuca generally available in small amounts for personal use and have not been known previously to sell their cocaine in crack form.

Hartford

Crack cocaine emerged in the Hartford area during March of 1986. Unsubstantial intelligence indicates that the street-level purity of crack may begin to fall as new methods of cutting it begin to develop. There have been small seizures of crack by Connecticut State Police in the most southwestern part of the state. Crack appeared to be on the decline in Connecticut in the summer of 1987.

Crack is packaged in capsules (glass or plastic) containing approximately .1 gram. The price for crack in the Hartford area is \$10 per vial and the price in New London is approximately \$20. The price in New York remains at approximately \$5 per capsule,

which explains why the traffickers travel to New York to purchase their crack.

Black and Hispanic traffickers controlled the crack distribution in the Hartford area when it first surfaced. By the summer of 1988 various ethnic groups, Jamaicans (Jamaican Posses) and newly formed gangs from the New York area identified as a Muslim gang and a Black gang called the Brooklyn Troop were vying for control of territories for crack distribution.

Bridgeport, Connecticut

Crack cocaine surfaced in Fairfield County in the summer of 1985 and became readily available in Stamford, Norwalk and Bridgeport. Crack is primarily confined to the Black inner city areas. Crack availability increased in the Stamford area and leveled off in Bridgeport and Norwalk which may be attributed to enforcement and education, the two main approaches to drug prevention. In recent months crack has appeared in other cities in Fairfield County.

The Black crack dealers travel to New York to pick up ready-made crack vials for distribution in Connecticut or cocaine is imported from New York or directly from Miami or Colombia by high-level Hispanic cocaine traffickers and converted into crack in Connecticut. Blacks are still the main sources for crack.

Prices for crack in 1985 were \$10 - \$40 per vial depending on the size and quantity and \$50.00 for jumbo vials. Current prices for crack are \$5 - \$20 per vial and jumbo size vials remain at \$50 per vial.

Concord, New Hampshire

Very little crack cocaine is available and only when processed by local individuals for personal consumption. There is no current intelligence on crack cocaine being brought into the state.

Burlington, Vermont

To date, crack cocaine has been encountered in the Burlington area but not in significant quantities.

Portland, Maine

To date, crack cocaine has not been encountered in Maine thus far.

Chicago

The crack experience within the rural communities of the Chicago

Field Division is mostly insignificant. In these communities, the crack phenomenon is very small as far as abuse and seizure. Abuse appears to be limited to individual use as opposed to distribution networks, and seizures, when occurring, are limited to a few grams. No significant law enforcement or social service agency problems are occurring within these rural communities as a result of the diminutive amount of crack available. The exceptions to this experience have been in the Fort Wayne, Indiana and Springfield, Illinois areas.

As earlier stated, this crack experience of Fort Wayne has repeated itself in a couple of other rural communities. One is the community of Marion, Indiana with a population of about 50,000. Marion is located approximately 50 miles southwest of Fort Wayne and 60 miles northeast of Indianapolis, Indiana. This community is experiencing much the same things that Fort Wayne experience three years ago. Small quantities of crack are being imported into the lower economic areas by residents or former residents of the area. As with Fort Wayne, much of the crack is coming in from the Detroit, Michigan area.

The other rural community being affected by crack lies in the central region of Illinois. This community, located in the operational area of the DEA Springfield office, has had similar traits as Fort Wayne. It has not shown the magnitude of Fort Wayne's experience, but it has the potential of being put in a worse situation in as much as the notorious Chicago street gangs, "Vice Lords" and "Disciples", have been associated with its crack distribution networks. An investigative inquiry is presently being conducted concerning this community's unique crack problem.

Dallas

The DEA Dallas office covers an area encompassing roughly the northern half of Texas extending westward to El Paso, eastward to Texarkana, and northward to include the Panhandle area and the entire State of Oklahoma. The census method of classification establishes "rural" areas as those principally comprising of incorporated and unincorporated towns and villages with a population of less than 2,500. Using this criteria, crack cocaine trafficking within the DEA Dallas Field Division is primarily centered around the lower income, urban Black and Hispanic population.

Communities in Texas experiencing notable cocaine trafficking activity tend to be concentrated in counties comprising roughly of the northeast corner of Texas from Dallas to the Texas/Arkansas border, primarily in the towns of Tyler (population 11,000+) and Gladewater (population 7,000+). Activity is also confined in the northern Panhandle cities to Lubbock (population 200,000+) and Amarillo (population 170,000+). In Tulsa, Oklahoma, crack cocaine is readily available within the Black community and is increasingly becoming a problem in this area and surrounding counties.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has also begun to experienced some crack cocaine activity in its surrounding communities as well as within its own boundaries.

Also, in these two cities the practice of mixing PCP with crack cocaine is becoming a common practice.

Furthermore, intelligence received from law enforcement sources disclose that the number of crack houses and the availability of crack cocaine in Tulsa and Oklahoma City are on the rise and is attributed to the Bloods and Crips gangs from Los Angeles, California. The DEA Oklahoma City Resident Office reports the March 16, 1989 seizure of two ounces of crack cocaine in Enid, Oklahoma (population 50,000+) which is 85 miles to the north of Oklahoma city. A total of 31 violators, including Blacks, Cubans and Anglos, were arrested in connection with this investigation.

As previously stated, trafficking activity of crack cocaine within Oklahoma City and its surrounding communities have been of little significance in proportion to that of other cities comparable in population.

Crack cocaine activity for other areas of the DEA Dallas Field Division are further reported in the following paragraphs.

According to the Gregg County Sheriff's Office in east Texas, there was an 80 percent increase in the number of crack cocaine cases from 1987 to 1988. It was also noted that 153 robberies were reported in 1988 as compared to only 90 the year before. There has been an apparent trend in this area for former cocaine and heroin dealers in the Black community to now deal exclusively in crack cocaine, especially in the east Texas communities of Longview, Kildore, and Gladewater.

Approximately 70 percent of the shooting incidents in Texarkana involving Blacks are attributed to confrontations between crack users and/or dealers. Since January 1, 1989, 20 shootings have been attributed to crack cocaine in the Texarkana area. It is estimated that approximately 50 percent of all shooting incidents are crack-related. As noted by Gregg County, Texarkana robberies by crack users have increased significantly with as many as five occurring in one night.

Tyler (population 128,000+), located in northeast Texas, is currently experiencing a problem with crack cocaine. Approximately four years ago, four Jamaicans from Dallas, Texas arrived in Tyler to establish a crack cocaine operation. Approximately three months later, the organization was disrupted when two were arrested. The others eluded capture and left the area with approximately \$100,000 in profits. However, they left behind their expertise in converting cocaine to crack to 30 or 40 cocaine dealers in the area who promptly took advantage of reaping greater profits from the sale of this form of cocaine.

Today, Tyler, Texas has numerous crack cocaine houses in continual operation and "galleries" in which the substance is consumed. Many of the crack houses maintain and distribute ounce quantities of the drug. The others only have on hand small amounts of crack cocaine at any given time. As with other crack houses in the DEA Dallas Field Division, the crack houses are managed by American blacks. In the past, their suppliers had been alleged members of the Bloods and/or Crips gangs from California. While American Blacks remain the primary source of supply, there has been an influx of Cubans in the Tyler area. The Cubans are beginning to offer higher quality cocaine at cheaper prices and could gain a substantial foothold as major suppliers.

It is estimated that approximately 87 to 88 percent of the crime in the Tyler, Texas area is crack related. Many of the crack cocaine users have a \$250 to \$300 per day cocaine smoking habit. This trafficking is primarily concentrated in Black communities within the City of Tyler. The dealers live outside the city limits, in rural areas, where it is alleged that stashes of cocaine and money are kept.

The northern Texas Panhandle cities of Lubbock and Amarillo are experiencing a crack cocaine problem. During 1988, a Title III operation involving the seizure of three kilograms of cocaine took place. The cocaine, seized at the airport, originated in Los Angeles and was to be processed into crack. Approximately 25 additional arrests were later made in connection with this investigation. The organization was responsible for five slayings, one a triple homicide.

There are currently several crack houses operating on a rotating basis in Lubbock. These are typically motel rooms or empty houses run by American Blacks who are supplied by Cuban wholesalers. Black juveniles are used and have contributed to making it legally difficult to prove a link connecting the contraband with those subjects operating the crack house. Purchasers of crack cocaine tend to be about 50 percent Black 25 percent White, and 25 percent Hispanic. Crack cocaine is not currently a problem in area schools.

Amarillo, Texas is similarly experiencing a crack cocaine problem. Approximately 50 arrests were made in 1988 for possession of distribution of crack. Recently, a half kilogram of cocaine from Los Angeles was seized before it was to be altered and sold as crack. As with Lubbock, Amarillo crack houses are run by American Blacks who sell the majority of their product (approximately 75 percent) to Black buyers.

Denver

There is very little crack cocaine abuse outside the metropolitan areas of Denver and Colorado Springs. Intelligence information indicates crack houses located in Basalt, Colorado

are becoming more common.

There are reportedly a number of crack houses located in the southwest corner of Cheyenne, Wyoming. There are several crack houses reported operating in Ogden, Utah.

Houston

A survey of three rural areas in Southeast Texas has revealed a serious concern over crack cocaine abuse. There appears to be a dramatic increase, particularly in the last four months, in crack seizures and arrests.

According to local law enforcement departments, crack cocaine is being sold openly and brazenly in small quantities on the streets, in parks, and especially near the small college campuses. One particular area finds crack cocaine being abused primarily by young professionals, i.e., bankers, and executives. Another area finds it mainly in the Black community being distributed from local night clubs and bars. In essence no strata of the rural community is exempt from the crack abuse problem.

As is the case in most metropolitan areas, crack cocaine dealers in the rural communities limit their sales to small quantities, although a consistent and readily available supply is on hand.

Los Angeles

Black gangs often control the sale of rock/crack cocaine and are very violent in their operations.

The criminal activities of black street gangs exploded in 1987, with narcotics trafficking contributing to most of the increased violence. Some of the gangs, especially the Crips and Bloods, have transformed themselves into well-organized networks. They are heavily involved in narcotics distribution which has spread throughout the state and across the nation.

Members of street gangs are being recruited into more sophisticated organized crime groups. Law enforcement authorities are concerned that such contact will hasten the maturation of more street gangs into criminal organizations.

In 1987, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) made over 50,000 drug arrests and seized more than seven tons of cocaine which represented 22 percent of all cocaine seized in the nation and 82 percent of the cocaine seized in California.

The LAPD Gang-Related Active Traffickers Suppression (GRATS) Task Force, formed in January 1988, and the special Anti-Gang Task Force, established in February 1988, have collectively effected

7,808 arrests, including 3,801 gang members; closure of 112 "rock houses" and the confiscation of 230 guns.

In a recent study, the National Institute of Justice performed urine drug tests on 656 inmates booked into four Los Angeles County jails during a two-month period. Results showed that 76 percent of the men and 70 percent of the women had drugs in their system. Cocaine was found in 58 percent of the men and 65 percent of the women.

Crack use and arrests have increased dramatically and are often described as epidemic. In the San Jose area, the prices have dropped to about one-third of the early 1987 costs, indicating a tremendous increase in supply. The police department is making 150 to 175 arrests per month for sales, possession and use of crack. Multi-kilo cocaine seizures are common there as well as in Oakland, San Francisco and in San Mateo and Contra Costa Counties. Law enforcement agencies have often observed caravans of three or more cars from Los Angeles transporting drugs with one vehicle carrying the drugs, one as a decoy, and one carrying armed men.

In Sacramento, law enforcement officials busted an average of one "rock house" a day and arrested more than 2,000 individuals in 1987 for sales or possession of cocaine. The San Francisco Police Department's Anti-Narcotics program has nearly 100 officers working full-time on drug enforcement concentrating at least 85 percent of their time on cocaine related crime. The San Francisco District Attorney's Office is prosecuting 75 percent more cocaine cases than a year ago.

Miami

Tampa

The DEA Tampa Resident Office covers nine counties in Florida and each has a crack cocaine problem commensurate with its population. At the present time, cocaine is imported into the Tampa area from foreign sources or the the Miami area. It is reduced to crack cocaine in "mom and pop" laboratories and dried in microwave ovens in the Tampa area. Haitian and Jamaican illegal aliens are, for the most part, responsible for this phase of the operation.

Local Black violators are responsible for local distribution, with some White assistance. Crack users are White and Black, with Hispanics seemingly not following this trend to an appreciable degree at this time.

The DEA Tampa Resident Office estimates the crack problem to be severe in this area. Local police agencies spend 50 to 75 percent of their narcotics manpower in crack investigations.

Orlando

Orlando DEA covers a six county area in the Middle District of Florida. The area has approximately two million in population. Approximately 80 percent of all local drug arrests in this area are for crack cocaine violations. The problem is located in poor Black neighborhoods, and Haitians are directly involved in many of the areas. Many jurisdictions have specific crack cocaine task forces in operation. In sum, crack is the major problem confronting many local departments.

Jacksonville

The DEA Jacksonville, Florida Resident Office has primarily focused its efforts on the prolific crack cocaine problem in its area of responsibility. This area includes Duval County (city of Jacksonville) and six rural counties. The increase in the distribution of crack, both wholesale and retail, has shown a dramatic increase during the past six months. Crack cocaine is the drug of choice in the city of Jacksonville, Florida and outlying rural communities. Jacksonville is the "source" city for crack cocaine which is distributed in the rural communities that lie within one to two hours of driving time.

It should be noted that last year (1988) homicides in the city of Jacksonville ranked the city tenth in the nation per capita (100,000). To this date this year, Duval County (Jacksonville, Florida), there have been a reported 455 homicides which can largely be attributed to the cocaine epidemic. The 45 reported homicides, on the average, equals one homicide every other day.

Current intelligence information has identified individuals involved in a structured crack cocaine distribution organization in the Jacksonville, Florida area believed to be responsible for the distribution of ten to twelve kilograms of crack cocaine on a monthly basis. Intelligence indicates that the top echelon of the organization are Guyanan nationals. Intelligence also shows that this group is actively involved in the acquisition of large numbers of automatic weapons.

Tallahassee

Crack cocaine was first detected by law enforcement agencies in the Tallahassee area of northwestern Florida in early 1985. There were only a few drug related arrests during 1985 involving crack cocaine. Dramatic increases have occurred in the number of crack cocaine arrests during each successive year through 1988 and to date in 1989.

Distinct corresponding increases have also been reported in the number of residential burglaries, armed robberies, and auto thefts. Law enforcement and court officials have estimated that as much as 80 percent of the increase in these crime areas may be attributed to crack cocaine abuse.

"Crack houses" and "crack bars" have become established in

certain areas of Tallahassee, as well as in increasing number of towns and communities throughout adjacent counties. The majority of the crack cocaine clientele come from the black community. Suppliers are primarily black traffickers in the Miami area, many of whom are either Jamaican or closely connected to Jamaican traffickers. Crack cocaine distribution and use is flagrant at many of the locations. Some locations have gained area wide notoriety and have expanded to become distribution points for traffickers in southern Georgia and Alabama.

Marathon

Crack cocaine trafficking is a significant problem throughout the Florida Keys. The main concentrations of abuse are centered in Key Largo, Marathon and Key West. Crack cocaine is sold predominantly in the lower socioeconomic residential areas. The sources of supply for crack cocaine in the Florida Keys are in Homestead, Florida City, Gould, and Miami, Florida.

The various law enforcement agencies in the Florida Keys continuously receive numerous citizen complaints regarding the sales and distribution of crack cocaine, due to the overt operations and the ever increasing magnitude of problems throughout the Florida Keys. Local authorities advise that crack cocaine is the major problem in the Florida Keys. The abuse of crack cocaine is the predominant contributor to the sharp increases in burglaries and other street related property crimes. The Monroe country, Florida Sheriff's Office had 295 drug cases/investigations in 1988 and approximately 95 percent of the cases were crack cocaine.

Panama City

The Panama City, Florida R.O. has responsibility for nine northwest Florida counties, six of which are rural in nature. The population base for the Florida Panhandle is approximately 750,000. A substantial number of crack users come into the three metropolitan areas from surrounding rural counties, many of which border with rural counties in Alabama and Georgia. It is not uncommon to see several Georgia and Alabama license plates at documented crack houses in Panama City, Fort Walton Beach and Pensacola. The growth of crack distribution and the epidemic of crack use in this area is unprecedented.

Crack distribution has been documented in Homes County, a predominantly rural county north of Panama City; in Jackson County (total population 55,000) in the areas of Marianna, Florida, the county seat, and Malone, Florida. Crack sales are documented in rural Walton, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa Counties. Despite aggressive enforcement efforts in the major metropolitan areas, crack cocaine distribution and use continues to grow in this area. If this trend continues, crack cocaine will remain the drug of choice in this area and will be consumed in larger amounts in small rural

communities throughout the Panhandle of Florida. Price for a single dosage (rock) is \$10-\$15. Ounce quantities are easily available at \$1200-\$1300.00. Several pound and kilogram seizures have been made in the metropolitan areas.

Gainesville

Crack cocaine is readily available within the geographic areas of responsibility of the Gainesville Resident Office. There is a large black community in Gainesville where crack cocaine is openly sold in specific locations.

Fort Myers

The DEA Ft. Myers Resident Office's area of responsibility encompasses the following six counties: Sarasota, DeSoto, Hendry, Charlotte, Lee and Collier. Much of the area is rural and a large percentage of the population is involved in agriculture and livestock.

The main source of crack cocaine in Southwest Florida appears to be Ft. Myers, Florida, which is located in Lee County.

Last year the Lee County Sheriff's Office made almost one thousand (1,000) crack related arrests. The Ft. Myers Police Department, located in Lee County, made 293 crack related arrests.

The rural community of DeSoto County last year made 100 felony narcotics arrests of which 94 involved crack cocaine. The largest seizure was one pound which was from the Ft. Myers area.

The little town of Naples, Florida, located in Collier County, made 166 narcotics arrests in 1987, 75 percent of which involved crack cocaine. They made 397 narcotics arrests in 1988, 77 percent of which involved crack. From January through March of this year, they have made 189 arrests which involved crack cocaine. Based on these figures, the Naples Police Department anticipates roughly 700 arrests this year which will involve crack cocaine.

In summary, there is an abundance of crack cocaine in Southwest Florida. The suppliers of the cocaine hydrochloride are generally Latins from Miami, Florida. The cooks and distributors of the crack are mostly black and the buyers cross all ethnic boundaries.

Newark

There has been an increased popularity in the use of crack within the past 18 months in the State of New Jersey. Because of low price and the instant high effect, crack has become more

widespread in the State of New Jersey as opposed to a year ago when only the cities in direct proximity to New York City had the crack problem. In the north, Sussex County reports a minor crack problem whereas Passaic and Bergen counties report a serious crack problem. As we move down the state, rural Warren and Hunterdon counties report a minimal problem, although the more suburban counties of Somerset, Middlesex, Mercer and Monmouth report a significant crack problem. In the above counties, new methods of packaging, exchange programs and selective selling have been discovered. However, counties located in southern New Jersey do not consider crack to be a problem as of yet.

Black and Jamaican gangs are the principal groups involved in street sales and distribution. Caucasians and Hispanics (predominantly Dominicans) are active, but to a lesser degree. The average street price is approximately \$10 per vial, a vial consisting of approximately 1/10 gram. Street distribution dominates the crack scene versus wholesale or crackhouse distribution.

New Orleans

Daily media attention continues to facilitate the documentation of the urban crack problem, particularly drug-related violence within the New Orleans metropolitan area. The rapid expansion of crack trafficking in secondary cities and rural areas within the Division has recently garnered the attention of local law enforcement agencies and the general public. Police departments and sheriff's offices routinely express profound concern over the speed and pervasiveness with which "crack" cocaine has entered their communities.

Louisiana

Shreveport; population 205,815: As one of Louisiana's secondary cities, Shreveport serves as a transit point for airline, bus, and train passengers destined for rural parts of North Louisiana.

September 1988: A "crack" drug deal that went awry resulted in a fatal shooting, gave rise to six hours of rioting, arson, and looting that received national media attention. (Recent editorials predict a return to the violence this summer.)

March 1989: A crack house under investigation by DEA Shreveport and Louisiana State Police was the target of a drive-by shooting. Four occupants of the house, injured by semi-automatic gunfire from a red sportscar, returned gunfire of their own.

Minden; population 15,074: February 1989: Two recent gang-type activities terrorized a local pool hall. Rival crack drug

factions exchanged gunfire and roughed up patrons: two weeks later, another drug faction again opened fire at the same pool hall, and threatened patrons who purchased crack from other drug trafficking factions.

Mississippi

Jackson: population 118,015: March 1989: The DEA Office in Jackson reported four homicides within the past few days, three of which have been linked to crack cocaine. The crack cocaine is being brought into the city from Los Angeles and Florida. Jackson prices vary between \$5-\$10-\$20 depending on the size of the "rock."

Alabama

Birmingham: population 284,413: During calendar year 1988 toxicology findings of the Jefferson County Coroner's Office reflected that the number of violent deaths in which cocaine was present in the bloodstream increased from seven in 1986, to twenty-five in 1987, to forty-five in 1988.

March 1989: The Birmingham Police Department has identified the emergence of Los Angeles based gang activity among local black youths. Crack houses have been raided and resulting seizures have included wholesale quantities of packaged crack cocaine, cash, and multiple weapons. One isolated drive-by shooting resulted in a homicide.

Dothan; population 48,750: Dothan Police reported to DEA Mobile that 40 percent of the 500 drug arrests in 1988 were crack cocaine distribution cases. This town on the Alabama-Florida border has encountered Jamaican posse activity intertwined with their crack cocaine problem.

Selma; population 26,648: The Selma Police Department recently reported to DEA Mobile a dramatic increase in crack activity, stating that cocaine seizures have far surpassed the more traditional marijuana seizures.

Evergreen; population 4,171: A recent joint undercover operation involving DEA Mobile, Alabama Bureau of Investigation, and Conecuh County Sheriff's Office resulted in the arrest of 20 people on crack cocaine charges.

Foley; population 4,003: The FBI recently indicted more than a dozen individuals on crack cocaine charges. Arrestees included Miami-based Cuban nationals.

The Little Rock, Arkansas, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Resident Offices report the existence of crack trafficking in their respective areas, primarily evidenced through small seizures and

arrests at the local level. The cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock have documented crack houses. Neither Little Rock, nor Baton Rouge, report extensive evidence of crack in the rural areas of their territories.

The initial crack situation assessment completed by the New Orleans Field Division in October 1987 documented the emergence of crack trafficking in the four-state area. Although predominant activity occurred in the major and secondary metropolitan areas, there was evidence of crack movement to rural areas (Pascagoula, Mississippi, and Ouachita Parish, Louisiana). The significance of this continued movement lies in the increase in violence now commonplace wherever crack cocaine has become entrenched. The follow-up crack assessment of April 1988, just one year ago, had not yet documented any crack-related homicides in the New Orleans area. One year later, crack-related violence as reached virtually every corner of the Division.

New York

Crack cocaine continues to be widely available and a significant abuse problem in New York City and surrounding suburbs. Crack trafficking was first identified in the fall of 1985, primarily in the Bronx and upper Manhattan. By spring 1986, crack was available in all areas of New York City and the surrounding suburbs.

Initially, crack trafficking was unorganized. The simplicity of the crack conversion process allowed anyone with access to cocaine HCl to manufacture and sell crack cocaine, with some dealers converting as few as three grams of cocaine HCl at a time. Hundreds of "entrepreneurs" began selling crack, each in his own area. However, the immense profits generated by crack sales allowed several smaller crack trafficking organizations to evolve into large, structured organizations that control sales in large areas of one or two boroughs.

Most crack trafficking organizations in New York City have evolved in one of two different ways. Some started off small and continued to grow as they sold an increasing volume of crack. These organizations are structured like traditional drug organizations with organizational heads, distributors, laboratory operators, "runners" and street dealers. These traditionally structured crack organizations owe their growth to market dominance within territorial areas which is maintained and expanded through intimidation and violence, forcing out smaller operators elsewhere. Once dominance is achieved in an area, organizational employees begin crack distribution.

The other type of organizational expansion is through confederation. Confederated groups also are structured with leaders, distributors, lab operators and runners. However, when expanding their territory, they attempt to "take over" the

smaller or sometimes larger group operating in the targeted area. If the smaller group "agrees" to the takeover, it becomes part of the confederated group's street distribution apparatus for that area. Should the smaller group refuse to be taken over, a turf war will begin, often resulting in homicides.

Crack is distributed via wholesale distribution, street distribution and crack houses. The wholesale distribution occurs both with and without vials. Some large-scale groups sell unpackaged crack in pancake or large-chunk form and in ounce, 60-gram, 125-gram, 500-gram and kilogram weights to lower level crack distributors, who then have to "shave" the crack and fill the vials. Other groups will sell wholesale quantities, usually in multiples of 100, of already-filled vials, heat-sealed in plastic bags. Recent reporting indicates 125 grams of unpackaged crack sell for about \$1,000, and wholesale (100-200) vials quantities of packaged crack sell for \$5.00 per vial. Each vial contains from 65 to 135 milligrams of crack, with 100 milligrams about average. However, some law enforcement laboratory directors are now reporting the weight in the vial has been reduced because of New York State's new crack law which lowered the weight needed for felony violations. The retail ("street") price of crack ranges from \$5 to \$20 depending on the size and number of "rocks" in a vial, with the majority of crack sold in \$10 vials. One ounce of cocaine, which costs between \$600-\$1,000, will yield about 370 vials of crack, bringing in about \$3,700, approximately \$1,500 to \$2,400 more per ounce than if this cocaine HCl were sold in grams, currently retailing for \$50-\$80 each.

Crack continues to be distributed on the street, but not as prominently as before. Law enforcement action against some of the more blatant street trafficking has caused most crack retailing to be done indoors from either apartments or abandoned buildings. Crack is often sold from heavily fortified apartments in which the buyer puts money through a small slot in the door and then receives the vials through the slot. A number of crack groups, large and small, control abandoned buildings which they use for crack retailing.

Many crack trafficking organizations in New York have formed along ethnic lines. Dominicans and Black traffickers are currently the two most prominent groups. Dominican organizations are most active in upper Manhattan and the Bronx and they appear to operate at the highest level of the groups. Dominican crack groups are usually well-organized, are vertically integrated and sometimes have international cocaine connections. Black trafficking groups control large areas of crack trafficking in middle-class and inner-city sections of Brooklyn, Queens and parts of the Bronx. Black groups are not usually large or as tightly controlled as Dominican groups, but they do have an established hierarchy and traffic large amounts of crack.

Jamaicans and Haitian crack groups are not as large as the Dominican and Black groups, but they are involved in

significant activity. Jamaican crack groups generally operate in Brooklyn, and some have connections to Jamaican crack gangs in other cities such as Kansas City, Dallas and Houston. Haitian and other ethnic crack trafficking groups have small, lower-level operations only in areas not "claimed" by Dominicans, Blacks or Jamaicans.

CY 1988 NYCP drug arrest figures are not yet available, although estimates project 80,000-90,000 drug arrests for the year, with a comparable rise in crack arrests, approximately 27,000-33,000. Part of this expected increase is from the newly-created NYPD Tactical Narcotic Teams (TNT) that saturate neighborhoods which have high levels of drug, especially crack, activity. The TNT Teams were formed during early 1988, following the assassination of Police Officer Edward Byrne while he was guarding the home of a drug witness in a crack infested area of South Queens.

The newest and most disturbing trend in crack trafficking is the decreasing age of those involved. Some crack trafficking groups are extremely young, as evidenced by the January 22, 1989 arrest of six individuals in Harlem for operating a crack laboratory and distributing crack. The arrestees ranged in age from 15 to 21. Some crack organizations are employing children to assist crack distribution because of the limited law enforcement measures that can be taken against them. On January 16, 1989, Suffolk County Police arrested a ten-year-old and a 13-year-old for selling crack at a known drug location in Wyandanch, Long Island. The ten-year-old had a bag with three \$20 vials of crack, and the youngsters possessed a total of \$226. Three weeks prior, Suffolk County Police arrested an adult, a ten-year-old and a 14-year-old for selling crack at the same location. Undercover officers heard the adult telling the kids what to do, to sell the crack for a certain price and to yell "Five-0" if a police car approached. The two young suspects told police they were making up to \$500 per week selling crack.

St. Louis

In comparing law enforcement intelligence between the DEA St. Louis Division and other jurisdictions, it would appear that gang-members are dealing crack cocaine both in the East St. Louis, Illinois area and the Kansas City, Missouri area, while those trafficking within the St. Louis, Missouri area are dealing in cocaine hydrochloride almost exclusively.

There has been no evidence of gang-members attempting to recruit membership within their particular "Crips" or "Bloods" gang sets in their cocaine trafficking in cities other than their own Los Angeles, California area.

In St. Louis, Missouri, as in other cities, targeted by these individuals, the name of the game is money. Both "Crips" and "Bloods" gang-members have been found dealing cocaine within close proximity of each other, and frequenting the same youth

social gathering spots, without the violent confrontations over "turf" as evident on the West Coast.

There are gang-members observed wearing their "colors" and "signing" (displaying their particular gang affiliation through hand signal), but these individuals appear to be in the minority. For the most part, gang-members discovered by law enforcement officers in this area have been found to dress and conduct themselves no differently than local residents.

As was predicted by law enforcement agencies in the California area, there is a cropping-up of peripheral hangers-on, or "wannabe's" who emulate gang members and effect their style of clothing and mannerisms. The bonafide gang members use the violence mystique associated with their gang for purpose of impressing the local youth, especially those already belonging to the small, fragmented St. Louis area youth gangs.

Obviously, the local market for cocaine and crack has proven to be rather lucrative for these West Coast Gang members, who make the standard offer of "doubling-up" quantities of cocaine at one-half the standard mid-west price.

The older gang members in their 30s and 40s no longer participate in gang activities associated with younger members, but rather supply and direct these youths in transporting cocaine and crack.

San Diego

In conjunction with the significant growth of population in San Diego, California in the past few years, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of street gangs that are distributing crack cocaine and proliferating violence throughout San Diego County. Although many of San Diego's street gangs have been in place for generations, others have sprouted up as a result of the recent migration south of street gang members from Los Angeles, California in search of a quickly expanding poly-drug market in this city. At the present time, there are 23 active San Diego-based street gangs, comprised of approximately 2,050 documented gang members, who have been identified as being involved with narcotics.

In the summer of 1988, the numbers of gang-related murders occurring in San Diego were at an all time high, numbering 21 by mid-September. The previous year's statistics revealed that only six murders attributed to street gangs took place in San Diego in all of 1987. Law enforcement officials determined that semi-automatic weapons were being employed to commit many of these homicides, and that approximately 40 percent of these were incidents of shootings by drug dealers. In attempts to reduce the violence which was taking hold of several neighborhoods where drug distribution was rampant, the San Diego Police Department formed special gang details called gang Suppression Units

consisting of patrol teams, including SWAT officers armed with submachine guns. By the end of last summer, the suppression units succeeded in reducing the numbers of gang-related shootings from 28 in May to only seven in August. Robberies, one of the preferred crimes of gang members, also declined as a result by 18.7 percent.

At this time, A task Force was formed in Los Angeles to address drug trafficking by gangs. Black street gang members were named as principal targets, although intelligence was to be gathered and enforcement action to be taken on all gang members involved in narcotics. Black drug violators of the Crips and Blood sets were cited as a unique problem for the Los Angeles Task Force, which is staffed by approximately 15 different law enforcement agencies in the area.

San Francisco

The DEA San Francisco Division, including the Sacramento Resident Office, the San Jose Resident Office, and the Fresno Resident Office, has not seen abundant evidence of crack cocaine as a major problem among communities in Northern California.

The Sacramento R.O. reports that in the last year, the CAMP program seized a total of 20 pounds of cocaine, of which only a very small percentage was crack. It is noted that rural communities in the northern part of California are involved in the production of marijuana and are trading sinsemilla for cocaine. Cocaine is available in all rural communities of Northern California, and it is anticipated that crack cocaine will make its way into these communities. Presently, there is little evidence of a crack cocaine problem in these rural areas.

In the San Jose area, the Monterrey Post of Duty is currently investigating drug trafficking activities in the rural areas near Soledad, California. These predominantly Mexican communities often deal and abuse heroin and cocaine HCl. When compared to the problem of heroin abuse in these areas, the problem of crack abuse is minimal. Crack cocaine is not as yet considered a major problem in these rural communities.

In the Fresno area, there is little indication of a crack cocaine problem in the rural communities. In the last six months, the county shows a total of 5-6 crack cocaine cases, whereas the city reports upward of 70 cases.

The rural communities in Northern California have not yet experienced an influx of crack into their areas. The crack cocaine problem in Northern California thrives in the major cities. The DEA San Francisco Division primarily sees crack as an overwhelming problem in urban, lower-class black neighborhoods.

Seattle

The Seattle Demand Reduction coordinator reports that high school students from several rural communities have indicated that crack cocaine is available and used by classmates.

The latest information about violent crimes in general in the state of Washington indicates that there continues to be an increase, in spite of all law enforcement efforts. This trend is due largely to the abuse of crack.

Gangs are involved in crack trafficking in Seattle, Tacoma, and other communities in the state, creating a dangerous and complex enforcement problem not faced previously by police agencies. Gang members are heavily armed, well financed, and highly mobile. They resolve disputes and gain control of drug "turf" by using violence and intimidation.

Homicides are the direct result of gang violence. The pattern is establishing itself in the Northwest as well. Seattle police statistics show that eight to ten percent of homicides are normally drug motivated. During the last six months of 1987, 41 percent were drug motivated, many directly related to gang violence. Figures are not available to estimate the percentage of homicides in the rest of Washington State which are drug-related. Information from Pierce County and the Tri-Cities area indicates a dramatic increase in murders related to drugs. Efforts to stop gang activities by strong enforcement have achieved some success; while still significantly above normal, 1988 drug-related homicide figures in Seattle show a downward trend.

Washington, D.C.

In the DEA Washington, D.C. Division, crack is a significant problem in the rural communities and from all current trends it appears to be the drug of choice in most areas.

In West Virginia, the increase of crack is ever rising throughout the state, most notably in rural areas surrounding Charleston (the capital), Morgantown, Martinsburg, Clarksburg, Beckley, Parkersburg, and Wheeling. In the Martinsburg area alone over 70 persons were arrested in 1986-1987 for crack offenses.

The influx of Jamaican crack traffickers from New York and Florida into West Virginia is largely responsible for the transportation of crack to various localities statewide. This ethnic group is also responsible for an ever increasing arsenal of semi-automatic type weapons that are being seized. Jamaicans typically recruit local high school students to fill various rolls in the crack organizations. Continuous purchases of crack by DEA and the local authorities, followed by swift arrests, are taking place in an attempt to prevent these organizations from getting firmly entrenched. DEA and local authorities have major

enforcement activities planned in the near future with the arrest of over 60 crack traffickers scheduled.

Recent intelligence reflects that throughout West Virginia, seizures have ranged from a handful of crack rocks up to eight ounces of pancake type crack, transported to the state from Florida. Local intelligence sources further substantiate that multi-kilogram or larger quantities are being transported into the state predominantly by Jamaicans from New York and Florida.

In the Petersburg, Virginia, area, crack abuse has become a major problem for federal, state and local authorities. The following figures submitted from the Petersburg Police Department speak for themselves. Since May 1, 1988, there has been a total of 923 arrests for narcotics of all types. Approximately 83 percent (760 arrests) involved crack distribution or possession. Of 54 out-of-state defendants arrested for crack violations, 36 were from New York City, six from New Jersey and two from Florida. Forty-eight of the above arrested defendants were 18 or 19 years of age.

In Richmond, Virginia authorities advised they have seized over 2,210 vials of crack since January 1989.

In the rural areas of Maryland, particularly on the lower eastern shore, to include Salisbury and Cambridge, Maryland, local authorities report that crack is the most plentiful narcotic in the county. The western counties of Maryland report an especially high availability of crack. Frederick County authorities advise that because of the demand for crack, cocaine powder is no longer available. In Hagerstown, Maryland, the local authorities report over 100 arrests in 1989, most taking place in the city center. The Washington County Drug Task Force reports a much higher arrest rate for crack violations this year compared to last year. The Allegheny County Drug Task Force based at Cumberland, Maryland reports 30 to 50 arrests this year for crack offenses. In the past the majority of their arrests were for marijuana and a small number for cocaine powder. Authorities in the majority of the rural areas covered by this report have ongoing programs which address crack abuse and trafficking in their communities. The Mid-Atlantic organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force has several major crack investigations on going. Additionally, numerous state and local agencies have set up regional task forces, such as those in Washington County, Maryland, Cecil and Harford County, Maryland, the Maryland Eastern Shore, and the Roanoke, Virginia areas.

In summation, all recent intelligence available reflects significant changes in drug utilization pattern toward more crack cocaine abuse in the rural areas of the Division.

Wilmington, Delaware

At the present time, there are three primary sources of the

cocaine hydrochloride and crack being distributed in Delaware. They can best be characterized as Haitian crack distributors, the Arramingo Avenue connection, and New York entrepreneurs.

DEA, the Delaware State Police, and the Seaford Police Department began encountering crack cocaine in the western part of Sussex County. This area, bordering Maryland's eastern shore, is made up primarily of farming communities. It is believed that Haitian immigrants first come to the area to find employment in the agriculture and poultry processing industries.

Haitian crack distribution has grown from a limited market confined to black Americans to open street selling in at least ten small communities. Most of the distributors are connected to the Haitian community located in the Ft. Pierce, Florida area. All investigative and intelligence efforts have failed to identify a controlling organization in Florida. Instead, the commonality of nationality is believed to provide access to crack by those Haitians now residing in Delaware.

Until recently, the crack was purchased in Florida and then carried to Delaware via private automobiles, trains and buses. current information indicates that Haitians and their associates are now beginning to travel to nearby cities (especially Philadelphia) to purchase cocaine and are converting it to crack upon their return.

Weapons have been seized in nearly every search warrant and arrest executed pursuant to cases involving Haitians. The Delaware State Police and local law enforcement agencies have indicated an increase in both property and violent crimes since the introduction of crack into the area. There has been at least one murder directly associated with crack, when Dorothy Hitchens, an employee at a 24-hour mini-market located near Seaford, was murdered during a robbery perpetrated for the primary purpose of purchasing crack.