



Drugs and Crime Facts

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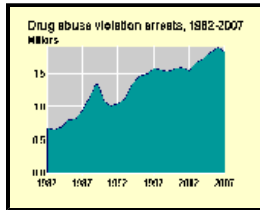
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Drugs and Crime Facts



Drugs & Crime Facts

This site summarizes U.S. statistics about drug-related crimes, law enforcement, courts, and corrections from Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and non-BJS sources (See [Drug data produced by BJS](#) below). It updates the information published in *Drugs and Crime Facts, 1994*, (NCJ 154043) and will be revised as new information becomes available. The data provide policymakers, criminal justice practitioners, researchers, and the general public with online access to understandable information on various drug law violations and drug-related law enforcement.

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To ease printing, a [consolidated version](#) in Adobe Acrobat format (669 KB) of all of the web pages in *Drugs & Crime Facts* is available for downloading.

Drug data produced by BJS

Most of the information presented here is collected from BJS reports and from other statistical

agencies.

The primary sources of information include—

- The [National Crime Victimization Survey](#) (NCVS), which asks victims of personal crimes if they believed the offenders had been using drugs
- The [Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics](#) (LEMAS) program, which produces information on drug-related programs of State and local police agencies
- [Correctional programs](#), which provide data on Federal and State prisoners, jail inmates, and incarcerated youth, including data on their histories of drug use and drug offenses
- The [Federal Justice Statistics Program](#), which collects and publishes detailed data on drug law violators in the Federal justice system
- The [Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics](#), which presents data on drug use in the general population and on public opinion toward drugs and enforcement of drug laws, and administrative law enforcement data from agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug use and crime

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At the time of the offense

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Drug-related crime

In 2004, 17% of state prisoners and 18% of federal inmates said they committed their current offense to obtain money for drugs. These percentages represent a slight increase for federal prisoners (16% in 1997) and a slight decrease for state prisoners (19% in 1997).

Source: BJS, [Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004](#), NCJ 213530, October 2006 and [Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997](#), NCJ 172871, January 1999.

In 2002 about a quarter of convicted property and drug offenders in local jails had committed their crimes to get money for drugs, compared to 5% of violent and public order offenders. Among state prisoners in 2004 the pattern was similar, with property (30%) and drug offenders (26%) more likely to commit their crimes for drug money than violent (10%) and public-order offenders (7%). In federal prisons property offenders (11%) were less than half as likely as drug offenders (25%) to report drug money as a motive in their offenses.

Percent of prison and jail inmates who committed offense to get money for drugs

Offense	<u>Local jail inmates</u>		<u>State prisoners</u>		<u>Federal prisoners</u>	
	2002		2004		2004	
Total	16.4	%	16.6	%	18.4	%
Violent	8.0		9.8		14.8	
Property	26.9		30.3		10.6	
Drugs	24.8		26.4		25.3	
Public-order	5.2		6.9		6.8	

Source: BJS, [Substance Dependence, Abuse, and Treatment of Jail Inmates, 2002](#), NCJ 209588, July 2005 and [Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004](#), NCJ 213530,

October 2006.

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported that in 2007, 3.9% of the 14,831 homicides in which circumstances were known were narcotics related. Murders that occurred specifically during a narcotics felony, such as drug trafficking or manufacturing, are considered drug related.

Drug-related homicides

Year	Number of homicides	Percent drug related
1987	17,963	4.9 %
1988	17,971	5.6
1989	18,954	7.4
1990	20,273	6.7
1991	21,676	6.2
1992	22,716	5.7
1993	23,180	5.5
1994	22,084	5.6
1995	20,232	5.1
1996	16,967	5.0
1997	15,837	5.1
1998	14,276	4.8
1999	13,011	4.5
2000	13,230	4.5
2001	14,061	4.1
2002	14,263	4.7
2003	14,465	4.7
2004	14,210	3.9
2005	14,965	4.0
2006	15,087	5.3
2007	14,831	3.9

Note: The percentages are based on data from the Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) while the totals are from the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). Not all homicides in the UCR result in reports in the SHR.

Source: Table constructed by ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff from FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

Offenders under the influence at the time of the offense

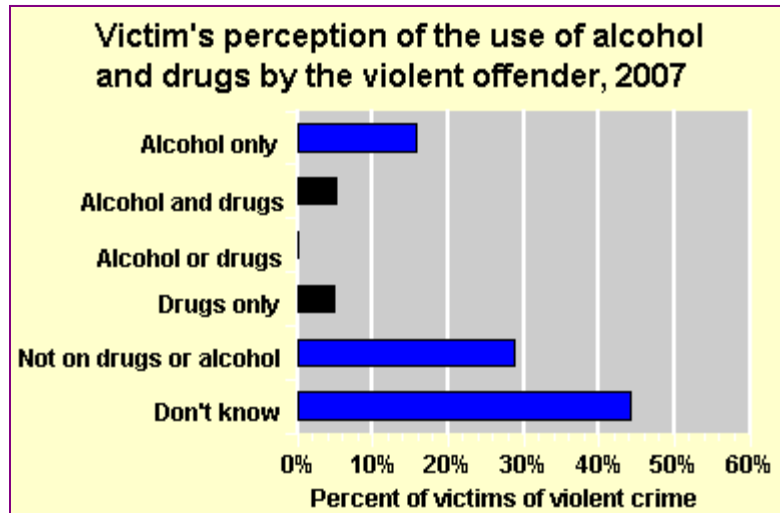
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Victim's perception

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), in 2007, there were 5.2 million violent victimizations of residents age 12 or older. Victims of violence were asked to describe whether they perceived the offender to have been drinking or using drugs.

- About 26% of the victims of violence reported that the offender was using drugs or alcohol.



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Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: BJS, [Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2007, Statistical Tables](#), Table 32.

College student victims

Overall 41% of violent crimes committed against college students and 38% of nonstudents were committed by an offender perceived to be using drugs, 1995-2000. About 2 in 5 of all rape/sexual assaults and about a quarter of all robberies against a college student were committed by an offender perceived to be using drugs.

Source: BJS, [Violent Victimization of College Students, 1995-2000](#), NCJ 196143, December 2003.

Victims of workplace violence

Of workplace victims of violence --

- 35% believed the offender was drinking or using drugs at the time of the incident
- 36% did not know if the offender had been drinking or using drugs
- 27% of all workplace offenders had not been drinking or using drugs

Victims of workplace violence varied in their perception of whether the offender used alcohol or

drugs by occupation.

- 47% in law enforcement perceived the offender to be using alcohol or drugs
- 35% in the medical field
- 31% in retail sales

Source: BJS, [Violence in the Workplace, 1993-99](#), NCJ 190076, December 2001.

American Indian victims

Among victims of violence who were able to describe alcohol or drug use by offenders, American Indians (71%) were more likely than any other racial group to report an offender under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Overall, American Indian victims reported alcohol use by 62% of the offenders, compared to 42% for all races. In violent crimes experienced by American Indians where use was known, 48% of the offender was under the influence of alcohol, 9% were under the influence of drugs, or 14% were under the influence of both.

Violent victimization, by the perceived drug or alcohol use of the offender and by race of victim, 1992-2001

Perceived drug or alcohol use by offender

Race of victim	Total	Alcohol	Drugs	Both	Neither
Total	100 %	33 %	10 %	9 %	49 %
American Indian	100	48	9	14	29
White	100	34	9	9	49
Black	100	26	11	9	55
Asian	100	27	8	6	60

Note: Percents refer to the annual average for 1992-2001. Table excludes those respondents who were unable to report whether or not they perceived the offender to have been using drugs or alcohol.

Source: BJS, [American Indians and Crime, 1992-2002](#), NCJ 203097, December 2004.

Perspectives of probationers, prisoners, and jail inmates

- [Probationers](#)
- [Prisoners](#)
- [Jail inmates](#)

Probationers

The first national survey of adults on probation, conducted in 1995, reported that 14% of probationers were on drugs when they committed their offense.

Source: BJS, [Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995](#), NCJ 166611, March 1998.

Among probationers, 49% of the mentally ill and 46% of others reported alcohol or drug use at the time of the offense.

Source: BJS, [Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers](#), NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Prisoners

In the 2004 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 32% of state prisoners and 26% of federal prisoners said they had committed their current offense while under the influence of drugs. Among state prisoners, drug offenders (44%) and property offenders (39%) reported the highest incidence of drug use at the time of the offense. Among federal prisoners, drug offenders (32%) and violent offenders (24%) were the most likely to report drug use at the time of their crimes.

Source: BJS, [Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004](#), NCJ 213530, October 2006.

About 74% of state prisoners who had a mental health problem and 56% of those without were dependent on or abused alcohol or drugs. By specific type of substance, inmates who had a mental health problem had higher rates of dependence or abuse of drugs than alcohol. Among state prisoners who had a mental health problem, 62% were dependent on or abused drugs and 51% alcohol.

Over a third (37%) of state prisoners who had a mental health problem said they had used drugs at the time of the offense, compared to over a quarter (26%) of state prisoners without a mental problem.

Source: BJS, [Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates](#), NCJ 213600, September 2006.

Abused state inmates were more likely than those reporting no abuse to have been using illegal drugs at the time of their offense. This pattern occurred especially among female inmates. Forty-six percent of the abused women committed their current offense under the influence of illegal drugs. Among women who were not abused, 32% committed their offense while on drugs.

Source: BJS, [Prior Abuse Reported by Inmates and Probationers](#), NCJ 172879, April 1999.

A third of the parents in state prison reported committing their current offense while under the influence of drugs. Parents were most likely to report the influence of cocaine-based drugs (16%) and marijuana (15%) while committing their crime. About equal percentages of parents in state prison reported the use of opiates (6%) and stimulants (5%) at the time of their offense, while 2% used depressants or hallucinogens.

Thirty-two percent of mothers in state prison reported committing their crime to get drugs or money for drugs, compared to 19% of fathers.

Source: BJS, [Incarcerated Parents and Their Children](#), NCJ 182335, August 2000.

Jail inmates

Of inmates held in jail, only convicted offenders were asked if they had used drugs at the time of the offense. In 2002, 29% of convicted inmates reported they had used illegal drugs at the time of the offense, down from 35% in 1996.

Marijuana and cocaine or crack were the most common drugs convicted inmates said they had used at the time of the offense --

- 14% had used marijuana in 2002, down from 18% in 1996.
- 11% had used cocaine or crack, down from 14% in 1996.

In 2002, jail inmates convicted of robbery (56%), weapons violations (56%), burglary (55%), or motor vehicle theft (55%) were most likely to have reported to be using drugs at the time of the offense.

Source: BJS, [Substance Dependence, Abuse, and Treatment of Jail Inmates, 2002](#), NCJ 209588, July 2005.

According to the *Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 1996*, more than half of the jail inmates with an intimate victim had been drinking or using drugs when they committed the violent crime.

Source: BJS, [Violence by Intimates](#), NCJ 167237, March 1998.

Seventy-six percent of jail inmates who had a mental health problem were dependent on or abused alcohol or drugs, compared to 53% of inmates without a mental health problem. This was the highest rate of substance dependence or abuse among all inmates, including state and federal prisoners.

By specific type of substance, jail inmates who had a mental health problem had higher rates of dependence or abuse of drugs than alcohol. An estimated 63% of local jail inmates who had a mental health problem were dependent on or abused drugs, while about 53% were dependent on or abused alcohol. Over a third (34%) of local jail inmates who had a mental health problem said they had used drugs at the time of the offense, compared to a fifth (20%) of jail inmates without a mental problem.

Source: BJS, [Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates](#), NCJ 213600, September 2006.

Based on data from the *1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails*, 29% of veterans and 32% of nonveterans in local jails were under the influence of drugs at the time of offense.

Source: BJS, [Veterans in Prison or Jail](#), NCJ 178888, January 2000.

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Prior drug use by offenders

[Probationers](#) | [Jail inmates](#) | [and federal prison inmates](#)

Probationers

In 1995 the first national survey of adults on probation reported --

- nearly 70% of probationers reported past drug use
- 32% said they were using illegal drugs in the month before their offense.

Marijuana (10%) was the most commonly used drug among probationers at the time of the offense.

Prior drug use of adults on probation at the time of offense, by type of drugs, 1995

Type of drug	Percent of adults on probation who were under the influence of drugs at the time of offense
Any drug	14 %
Marijuana/hashish	10
Cocaine/crack	4
Heroin and other opiates	1
Barbiturates	1
Stimulants	2
Hallucinogens	1

Note: Excludes 11,712 probationers for whom information on drug use was not provided.

Source: BJS, [Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995](#), NCJ 166611, March 1998.

In 1995 adults age 44 years old or younger on probation (87% of all probationers) reported similar levels of prior drug abuse, and their incidence of drug use was consistently higher than that of older probationers. Over 70% of probationers under age 45 reported some prior drug use, compared to 37% of those age 45 or older. Thirty-five percent of probationers under age 45 -- but 9% of older probationers -- reported drug use in the month before their offense.

Source: BJS, [Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995](#), NCJ 166611, March 1998.

Two-thirds of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) offenders on probation reported using drugs in the past. Among DWI probationers, marijuana (65%) and stimulants (29%) were the most commonly used drugs. Seventeen percent of those on probation reported drug use in the month prior to arrest.

Prior drug use reported by probationers

Level of prior drug use	Percent of probationers	
	DWI offenders	Other offenders
Ever used drugs/a	67.9 %	69.9 %
Marijuana/hashish	64.6	67.2
Cocaine/crack	28.1	31.7
Heroin/opiates	5.7	8.8

Depressants/b	14.6	15.6
Stimulants/c	28.5	24.4
Hallucinogens/d	19.9	19.6
Ever used drugs regularly/e	55.6 %	64.2 %
Used drugs in month before arrest	16.6 %	35.7 %
Used drugs at time of arrest	3.3 %	16.1 %

a/Other unspecified drugs are included in the totals.

b/Includes barbiturates, tranquilizers, and Quaaludes.

c/Includes amphetamines and methamphetamines.

d/Includes LSD and PCP.

e/Used drugs at least once a week for at least a month.

Source: BJS, ***DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision***, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Among DWI offenders, the most commonly reported experience associated with drug use was domestic disputes:

- 19% of probationers said they had arguments with their family, friends, spouse, or boyfriend/girlfriend while under the influence of drugs.
- About 1 in 10 of those on probation for DWI had been arrested or held in a police station as a result of their drug use.
- 3% of those on probation had lost a job because of their drug use.
- 8% of those on probation said they had been in a physical fight while under the influence of drugs.

Source: BJS, *[DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision](#)*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Nearly 40% of mentally ill probationers and 30% of other probationers reported using drugs in the month before their offense.

Source: BJS, *[Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers](#)*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Jail inmates

More than two-thirds of local jail inmates (68%) were found to be dependent on drugs or alcohol or abusing them, according to a 2002 survey of men and women held in local jails.

The rate of substance dependence or abuse varied by gender, race, and offense:

- 44% of men and 52% of women were dependent on drugs or alcohol.
- 78% of white, 64% of black, and 59% of Hispanic inmates were dependent on drugs or alcohol or abusing them.
- Inmates convicted of burglary had the highest rate of substance dependence or abuse (85%), followed by inmates convicted of DWI/DUI (82%), weapons violations (79%), and drug possession (75%).
- The lowest rate of substance dependence or abuse was among inmates convicted of sexual assault (50%).

Of those inmates held in local jails, only convicted offenders were asked if they had used drugs in the time leading up to their current offense. In 2002, 55% of convicted jail inmates reported they

had used illegal drugs during the month before their offense, unchanged from 1996.

- marijuana use in the month before the offense increased from 36% to 37%;
- stimulants increased from 10% to 11%; and
- cocaine or crack use decreased from 23% to 21%.

A higher percentage of jail inmates in 2002 than in 1996 reported regular drug use (used drugs at least once a week for at least a month).

Source: BJS, [Substance Dependence, Abuse, and Treatment of Jail Inmates, 2002](#), NCJ 209588, July 2005.

Prior drug use of jail inmates, by type of drug, 2002 and 1996

Type of drug	Ever used drugs		Ever used drugs regularly/a		Used drugs in the month before the offense		Used drugs at the time of the offense	
	2002	1996	2002	1996	2002	1996	2002	1996
Any drug	82.2 %	82.4 %	68.7 %	64.2 %	54.6 %	54.0 %	28.8 %	34.9 %
Marijuana	75.7	78.2	58.5	54.9	37.5	36.0	13.6	18.0
Cocaine or crack	48.1	50.4	30.9	31.0	20.7	22.8	10.6	14.3
Heroin or opiates	20.7	23.9	12.0	11.8	7.8	7.9	4.1	5.1
Depressants/b	21.6	29.9	10.7	10.4	6.1	5.3	2.4	2.2
Stimulants/c	27.8	33.6	17.1	16.5	11.4	9.6	5.2	5.6
Hallucinogens/d	32.4	32.2	13.4	10.5	5.9	4.2	1.6	1.4
Inhalants	12.7	16.8	4.2	4.8	1.0	0.9	0.2	0.3

a/Includes all inmates with a current conviction or with a prior conviction, but no new conviction for the current charge.

b/Used drugs at least once week for a month.

c/Includes barbiturates, tranquilizers, and Quaaludes.

d/Includes amphetamines and methamphetamines.

e/Includes LSD, Ecstasy, and PCP.

Source: BJS, [Substance Dependence, Abuse, and Treatment of Jail Inmates, 2002](#), NCJ 209588, July 2005.

Over three-quarters of DWI offenders in jail reported using drugs in the past. Among jail inmates held for DWI, marijuana (73%) and cocaine-based drugs including crack (41%) were the most commonly used drugs. Thirty percent of those in jail reported drug use in the month prior to arrest.

Domestic disputes were also one of the most commonly reported experiences associated with drug use:

- 25% of jail inmates said they had arguments with their family, friends, spouse, or boyfriend/girlfriend while under the influence of drugs.
- Nearly 1 in 5 of those in jail for DWI had been arrested or held in a police station as a result of their drug use.
- About 10% of DWI offenders in jail had lost a job because of their drug use.
- About 15% of jail inmates said they had been in a physical fight while under the influence of

drugs.

Source: BJS, [DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision](#), NCJ 172212, June 1999.

In the month before the offense, 82% of jail inmates who had a mental health problem, compared to 70% of those without, had used alcohol or drugs. By specific type of substance, jail inmates who had a mental health problem had higher rates of alcohol use in the month before the offense than drug use. Among local jail inmates who had a mental health problem, 81% reported alcohol use in the month before the offense and 62% drug use.

Inmates who had a mental health problem had higher rates of drug use in the month before the offense, compared to those without a mental problem. More than 6 in 10 jail inmates with a mental problem had used drugs in the month before the offense, compared to slightly more than 4 in 10 inmates without a mental problem. Marijuana was the most common drug inmates said they had used in the month before the offense.

Among jail inmates who had a mental health problem, in the month before the offense:

- more than two-fifths (43%) had used marijuana or hashish.
- a quarter (24%) had used cocaine or crack.
- an eighth (12%) had used methamphetamines.

Source: BJS, [Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates](#), NCJ 213600, September 2006.

In local jails, veterans (81%) reported levels of prior drug use similar to nonveterans (83%), but lower levels (44%) of drug use in the month prior to the offense than nonveterans (50%) in 1997.

Source: BJS, [Veterans in Prison or Jail](#), NCJ 178888, January 2000.

State and Federal prison inmates

In 1991, 60% of federal prisoners reported prior drug use, compared to 79% of state prisoners. In 1997 this gap in prior drug use was narrowed, as the percentage of federal inmates reporting past drug use rose to 73%, compared to 83% of state inmates. By 2004 this gap was almost closed, as state prisoner reports of lifetime drug use stayed at 83%, while federal inmates rose to 79%. This increase was mostly due to a rise in the percentage of federal prisoners reporting prior use of marijuana (from 53% in 1991 to 71% in 2004), cocaine/crack (from 37% in 1991 to 44% in 2004), and hallucinogens (from 15% in 1991 to 26% in 2004).

The proportion of state prison inmates reporting the past use of cocaine or crack declined slightly between 1997 (49%) and 2004 (47%). Marijuana use (78%) remained stable since 1997 (77%), and remained the most commonly used drug. Past use of opiates, including heroin (23%) remained almost unchanged since 1997 (24%). Past use of methamphetamine rose from 19% in 1997 to 23% in 2004.

Although the proportion of federal prisoners held for drug offenses dropped from 63% in 1997 to 55% in 2004, the percentage of all federal inmates who reported using drugs in the month before the offense rose from 45% to 50%.

Drug use by state prisoners, 1997 and 2004

Percent of inmates who had ever used drugs

Type of drug	2004	1997
Any drug	83 %	83 %
Marijuana	78	77
Cocaine/crack	47	49
Heroin/opiates	23	24
Depressants	21	24
Stimulants	29	28
Hallucinogens	33	29

Source: BJS, [Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004](#), NCJ 213530, October 2006.

Nineteen percent of state inmates told interviewers that they had been physically or sexually abused before their current offense. For state prisoners reporting prior abuse, 89% had ever used illegal drugs: 76% of the men and 80% of the women had used them regularly. Of those not reporting prior abuse, 82% had used illegal drugs: 68% of the men and 65% of the women had used them regularly.

Illegal drug use was more common among abused state prison inmates than among those who said they were not abused. An estimated 76% of abused men and 80% of abused women had used illegal drugs regularly, compared to 68% of men and 65% of women who had not been abused.

Current and past violent offenses and past drug use, by whether abused before admission to state prison, 1997

Offense history and drug use	Percent of state prison inmates					
	Reported being abused			Reported being not abused		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Current or past violent offense	70.4 %	76.5 %	45.0 %	60.2 %	61.2 %	29.1 %
Used an illegal drug						
Ever	88.6 %	88.5 %	88.9 %	81.8 %	81.9 %	77.4 %
Ever regularly	76.3	75.5	79.7	67.9	67.9	65.0
In month before offense	61.4	59.7	68.6	55.3	55.3	54.0
At time of offense	39.6	38.0	46.2	30.7	30.7	32.0

Source: BJS, [Prior Abuse Reported by Inmates and Probationers](#), NCJ 172879, April 1999.

About 8 in 10 state prisoners who had a mental health problem said they had used alcohol or drugs in the month before the offense, compared to 7 in 10 without a mental problem. State prisoners who had a mental health problem had similar rates of drug (63%) or alcohol (62%) use in the month before the offense.

State prisoners who had a mental health problem (62%) had a higher rate of drug use in the month offense compared to those without a mental health problem (49%). Marijuana was the most common drug inmates said they had used in the month before the offense.

Among state prisoners who had a mental health problem, in the month before the offense:

- 46% had used marijuana or hashish.
- 24% had used cocaine or crack.
- 13% had used methamphetamines.

Source: BJS, [Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates](#), NCJ 213600, September 2006.

In 1997 a majority of parents in state prison reported some type of prior drug use --

- 85% reported any past drug use
- 58% reported use in the month before the current offense.

Nonparents in state prison reported slightly lower levels of prior drug use --

- 80% reported any past drug use
- 55% reported use in the month before the current offense.

Percent of parents in state prison who used drugs in the month before the current offense, 1997

Marijuana	39 %
Cocaine/crack	27
Heroin/opiates	10
Stimulants	9
Depressants	5
Hallucinogens	3
Inhalants	1

In 1997 mothers in state prison were more likely than fathers to report drug use in the month before their offense: 65% for mothers and 58% for fathers. Cocaine/crack was the most common drug used: 45% for mothers and 26% for fathers.

Nearly half of parents in federal prison reported using drugs in the month before their offense and 3 in 4 had ever used drugs. Nearly a quarter of parents in federal prison were under the influence of drugs when committing their offense. Aside from marijuana use (higher among fathers), mothers and fathers in federal prison reported similar drug use histories.

Source: BJS, [Incarcerated Parents and Their Children](#), NCJ 182335, August 2000.

79% of veterans in state prison reported prior drug use during their military service.

Prior drug use of veterans in state prison, 1997

Percent of veterans who reported prior drug use

Drug use	Combat	Noncombat
Any prior drug use	69 %	82 %
In the month before	30	49
Prior use of intravenous drugs	23	25

Vietnam-era veterans drug use histories varied little from Post-Cold War-era veterans in state prison --

- Equal percentages of Vietnam-era and Post-Cold War-era (72%) veterans reported prior drug use.
- 37% of Vietnam-era veterans and 44% of Post-Cold War-era used drugs in the month before the offense.
- 21% of Vietnam-era veterans and 20% of Post-Cold War-era veterans used drugs at the time their offense.

Source: BJS, [Veterans in State and Federal Prison](#), NCJ 217199, May 2004.

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Drug law violations

Enforcement

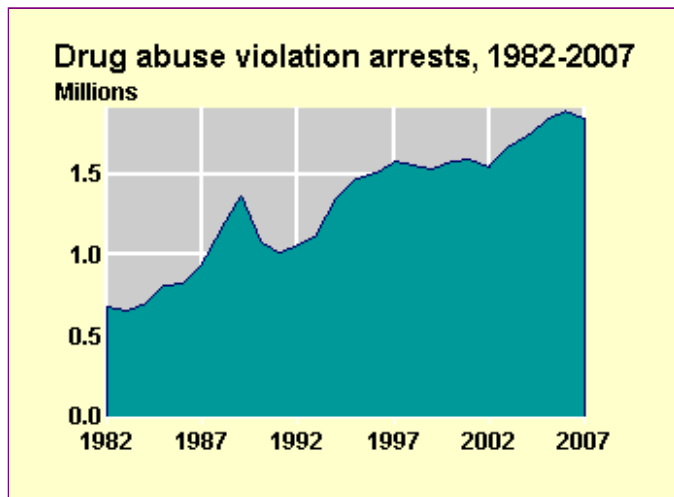
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Arrests and seizures

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Arrests

Federal, state, and local agencies share responsibility for enforcing the Nation's drug laws, although most arrests are made by state and local authorities. In 2007 the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) estimated that there were about 1,841,200 state and local arrests for drug abuse violations in the United States.



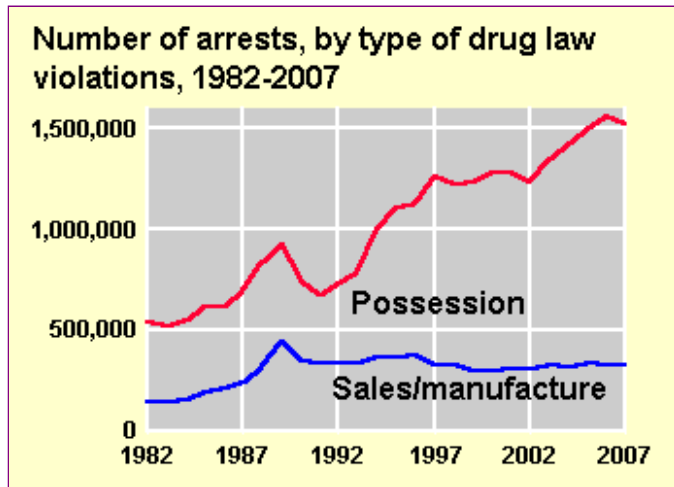
[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, [Crime in the United States](#), annually.

According to the UCR, drug abuse violations are defined as state and/or local offenses relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, manufacturing, and making of narcotic drugs including opium or cocaine and their derivatives, marijuana, synthetic narcotics, and dangerous nonnarcotic drugs such as barbiturates.

More than four-fifths of drug law violation arrests are for possession.



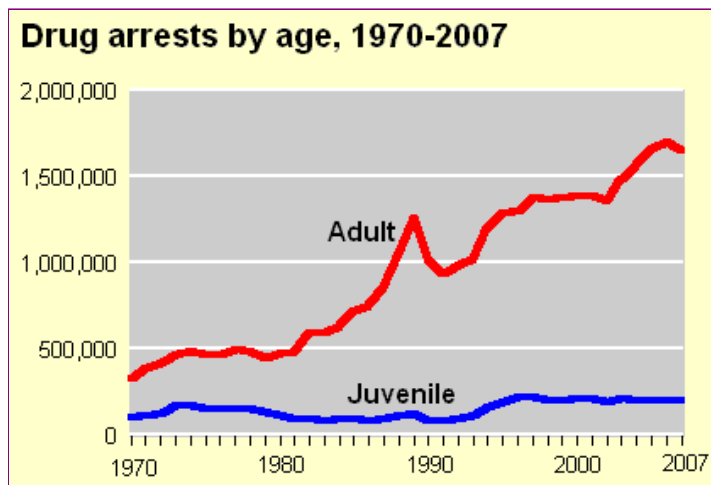
[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, [Crime in the United States](#), annually.

The estimated number of arrests for drug abuse violations has been increasing. Arrests of adults increased in recent years, while arrests of juveniles decreased slightly. Juveniles are defined as persons under age 18. Adults are defined as persons age 18 or older.

In 1987 drug arrests were 7.4% of the total of all arrests reported to the FBI; by 2007, drug arrests had risen to 13.0% of all arrests.



[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, [Crime in the United States](#), annually.

In 2007, according to the UCR, law enforcement agencies nationwide made an estimated 14 million arrests for all criminal infractions except traffic violations. Among the specific categories, the highest arrest counts were --

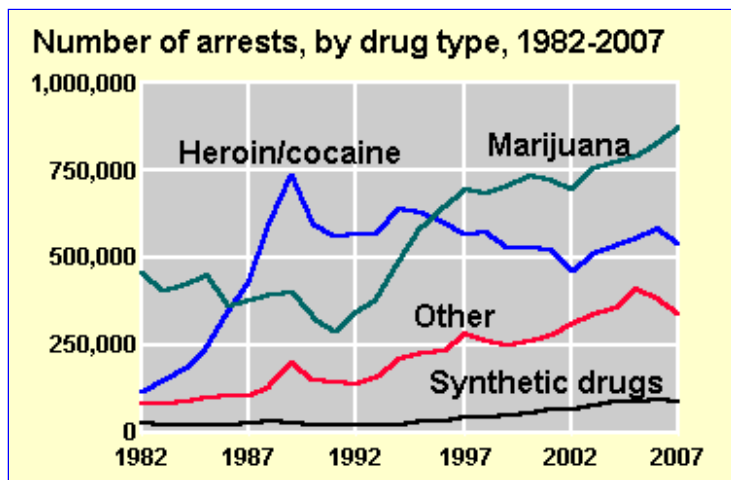
- 1.8 million for drug abuse violations;
- approximately 1.4 million for driving under the influence;
- 1.3 million for simple assaults; and
- 1.2 million for larceny-thefts.

Estimated totals of top seven arrest offenses in the United States, 2007

Type of arrest	Number of arrests*
Total arrests*	14,209,400
Drug abuse violations	1,841,200
Driving under the influence	1,427,500
Simple assaults	1,305,700
Larceny/theft	1,172,800
Disorderly conduct	709,100
Liquor laws	633,600
Drunkenness	589,400

*Arrest totals are based on all reporting agencies and estimates for unreported areas.
 Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

From 1987 to 1995 more drug arrests involved heroin or cocaine than other types of drugs. Since 1996 the number of arrests involving marijuana exceeded that for other types of drugs.



[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

The Northeastern region had a higher proportion of sale/manufacturing drug arrests than the other regions.

Arrests for drug abuse violations, by geographic region, 2007

Type of violations	Percent of arrests for drug abuse violations				
	U.S. total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Total*	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Sale/manufacture*	17.5 %	22.5 %	18.3 %	17.1 %	15.0 %
Heroin or cocaine and their derivatives	7.9	14.2	6.2	7.9	5.5

Marijuana	5.3	5.7	7.7	4.6	4.7
Synthetic or manufactured drugs	1.5	1.1	1.1	2.6	0.7
Other dangerous nonnarcotic drugs	2.8	1.6	3.3	2.0	4.2
Possession*	82.5 %	77.5 %	81.7 %	82.9 %	85.0 %
Heroin or cocaine and their derivatives	21.5	22.3	14.7	22.8	22.7
Marijuana	42.1	44.2	53.1	47.9	29.6
Synthetic or manufactured drugs	3.3	2.3	3.2	4.3	2.8
Other dangerous nonnarcotic drugs	15.6	8.6	10.7	7.8	29.9

*Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, [Crime in the United States](#), annually.

Drug seizures

Many federal agencies are involved in the removal of illicit drugs from the market. The Federal-Wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS) contains information about drug seizures made within the jurisdiction of the United States by the FBI, DEA, U.S. Customs Service (USCS), and U.S. Border Patrol as well as maritime seizures made by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Seizures in pounds

Drug	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Total	2,894,200	2,917,796	2,648,068	2,952,797
Heroin	6,640	4,378	6,874	5,643
Cocaine	248,827	239,576	225,758	245,499
Marijuana	2,614,746	2,673,410	2,415,243	2,700,282
Hashish	23,987	433	193	1,373

Note: Table constructed by staff of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS), [Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 2003](#), NCJ 208756, July 2005.

According to the *Drug Enforcement Administration* (DEA) --

- the federal government seized 16,270 illegal drug laboratories between fiscal years 1975 and 2003
- in fiscal year 2003, of the 420 labs seized, 409 (97%) manufactured methamphetamines
- in 2008 the DEA program for eradicating domestic marijuana resulted in the destruction of 8.0 million plants in 20,120 plots, 8,296 arrests, 5,305 weapons seized, and assets seized valued at \$66 million.

Source: Data provided by U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration as reported in the BJS, [Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online](#), Table 4.38, May 2008 revision and Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program, by State, 2008.

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Law enforcement operations

- [Federal agencies](#)
- [State agencies](#)
- [Local agencies](#)
- [Multiagency task forces](#)
- [Drug testing for applicants](#)

Federal agencies

As of September 2004 federal agencies employed about 105,000 full-time personnel authorized to make arrests and carry firearms in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, according to data provided by agencies in response to a Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) survey. Compared with data reported by agencies for 2002, employment of such personnel increased by 13%.

The DEA employed about 4,400 officers with the authority to make arrests and carry firearms as of September 2004. These DEA agents primarily investigate major narcotics violators, enforce regulations governing the manufacture and dispensing of controlled substances, and perform various other functions to prevent and control drug trafficking.

The FBI employed 12,242 full-time personnel with arrest and firearm authority. These agents investigate more than 200 types of federal crimes. The FBI has concurrent jurisdiction with the DEA over drug offenses under the Controlled Substances Act.

Source: BJS, [Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 2004](#), NCJ 212750, July 2006.

State agencies

Among those state agencies with 100 or more officers, 71% operated a full-time drug enforcement unit in 2000.

Local agencies

Of those local agencies with 100 or more officers a large percentage operated a full-time drug enforcement unit in 2000.

Participation of agencies with primary drug enforcement responsibility:

Type of agency	Agencies with 100 or more officers
County police	87 %
Municipal police departments	79
Sheriffs' offices	69

Source: BJS, [Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 2000: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers](#), NCJ 203350, April 2004.

In 2003 about 9 in 10 local police departments regularly performed drug enforcement functions. More than 90% of the departments in each population category of 2,500 or more had drug enforcement responsibilities, including all of those serving 250,000 or more residents. Departments with drug enforcement responsibilities employed 97% of all local police officers.

Source: BJS, [Local Police Departments 2003](#), NCJ 210118, May 2006.

In 2003, 90% of sheriffs' offices regularly performed drug enforcement functions. More than 80% of the offices in each population category below 250,000 had drug enforcement responsibilities.

Source: BJS, [Sheriffs' Offices 2003](#), NCJ 211361, May 2006.

Drug enforcement responsibilities of local police and sheriffs' offices, by size of population served, 2003

Type of agency and population served	Percent of agencies regularly providing drug enforcement
Local police departments	
All sizes	91 %
1,000,000 or more	100 %
500,000-999,999	100
250,000-499,999	100
100,000-249,999	99
50,000-99,999	96
25,000-49,999	94
10,000-24,999	95
2,500-9,999	92
Under 2,500	87
Sheriffs' offices	
All sizes	90 %
1,000,000 or more	89 %
500,000-999,999	78
250,000-499,999	70
100,000-249,999	81
50,000-99,999	87
25,000-49,999	94
10,000-24,999	94
Under 10,000	91

Source: BJS, [Local Police Departments 2003](#), NCJ 210118, May 2006, and [Sheriffs' Offices 2003](#), NCJ 211361, May 2006.

Multiagency task forces

In 2003 an estimated 23% of local police departments had one or more officers assigned full time to a multiagency drug enforcement task force. About 65% of all local police officers worked for a department that assigned officers to a task force. About 5,959 officers were assigned full time to a

drug task force.

The average number of officers assigned full time ranged from 39 in departments serving a population of 1 million or more to 1 or 2 in those serving fewer than 50,000 residents.

Source: BJS, [Local Police Departments 2003](#), NCJ 210118, May 2006.

In 2003 an estimated 47% of sheriffs' offices had one or more officers assigned full time to a multiagency drug enforcement task force. An estimated 3,477 officers were assigned full time to a drug task force. The average number ranged from 9 in sheriffs' offices serving a population of 1 million or more to 1 in those serving fewer than 10,000 residents.

Source: BJS, [Sheriffs' Offices 2003](#), NCJ 211361, May 2006.

Multiagency drug enforcement task force participation of local police and sheriffs' offices, by size of population served, 2003

Multiagency drug enforcement task forces

Population served	Percent of agencies participating	Number of officers assigned full time	
		Total	Average*
Local police departments			
All sizes	23 %	5,959	2
1,000,000 or more	75 %	484	39
500,000-999,999	89	277	8
250,000-499,999	95	261	6
100,000-249,999	80	557	4
50,000-99,999	75	802	3
25,000-49,999	59	881	2
10,000-24,999	38	1,000	1
2,500-9,999	18	1,132	2
Under 2,500	8	565	1
Sheriffs' offices			
All sizes	47 %	3,477	2
1,000,000 or more	89 %	229	9
500,000-999,999	73	342	7
250,000-499,999	52	262	4
100,000-249,999	73	653	3
50,000-99,999	68	575	2
25,000-49,999	54	678	2
10,000-24,999	41	592	2
Under 10,000	16	145	1

*Excludes agencies not having number assigned full time.

Source: BJS, [Local Police Departments 2003](#), NCJ 210118, May 2006 and [Sheriffs' Offices 2003](#), NCJ

211361, May 2006.

In 1994, 46% of all prosecutors' offices indicated that at least one prosecutor has been a member of a multijurisdictional task force. Of offices on such a task force, 76% indicated drug enforcement to be the goal. In 1992, 30% of prosecutors' offices reported involvement with a multijurisdictional task force. Almost 80% of these offices also were involved with a drug task force.

Source: BJS, [Prosecutors in State Courts, 1992 and 1994](#), NCJ 145319, June 1996.

Over 80% of full-time offices in large jurisdictions had at least one prosecutor who served as a member of a multijurisdictional task force. The percentages of full-time large offices with at least one prosecutor serving on a multi-jurisdictional task force were --

Drug	91 %
Gang	54
Crime prevention	41
Organized crime	28

Source: BJS, [Prosecutors in State Courts, 1992 and 1994](#), NCJ 145319, June 1996.

Drug testing for applicants

State agencies

In 2000, 76% of state agencies with 100 or more officers use drug test screening as one of their procedures for selecting new officer recruits.

Source: BJS, [Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 2000: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officer](#), NCJ 203350, April 2004.

Local agencies

In 2003, at least 8 in 10 departments in each population category of 10,000 or more administered drug tests in the selection of new officer recruits. At least 7 in 10 departments serving a population of 2,500 to 9,999, and 6 in 10 departments serving fewer than 2,500 residents did also.

Source: BJS, [Local Police Departments 2003](#), NCJ 210118, May 2006.

In 2003, sheriffs' offices serving a population of 100,000 or more were the most likely to administered drug tests in the selection of new officer recruits, with percentages in these categories ranging from 78% to 97%. Departments serving a population of under 10,000 (55%) were the least likely to test any officers for drug use.

Source: BJS, [Sheriffs' Offices 2003](#), NCJ 211361, May 2006.

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug law violations

Pretrial, prosecution, and adjudication

[Pretrial release](#) | [Prosecution and adjudication](#)

Pretrial release

Federal court

About 64% of federal drug defendants adjudicated were detained between arrest and adjudication during 2006. Of those defendants released prior to adjudication, 31% received at least one violation while on release; 12% had their release revoked.

Source: BJS, [Federal Justice Statistics 2006, Statistical Tables](#), NCJ 225711, May 2009.

Defendants charged with drug or weapon offenses who were released prior to trial and terminated pretrial services during 2006, were more likely than other defendants to incur at least one violation during the release period (31% and 35%, respectively).

Source: BJS, [Federal Justice Statistics 2006, Statistical Tables](#), NCJ 225711, May 2009.

State court

The State Court Processing Statistics (SCPS) program revealed that of persons charged with a felony drug offense in 2004 in the 75 most populous counties --

- 60% were released prior to case disposition
- 35% were held on bail
- 5% were denied bail

Pretrial status of defendants charged with drug offenses, 1998-2004

**Pretrial status
and type of**

release	1998	2000	2004
Total	100%	100%	100%
Released	68%	64%	60%
Financial total	33%	31%	32%
Surety bond	23	22	24
Deposit bond	5	7	7
Full cash bond	3	1	1
Property bond	2	--	1
Nonfinancial total	34%	33%	28%
Emergency release	--	--	--
Detained	32%	35%	35%

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding

-- Less than 0.5%.

Source: BJS, *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 2004*, NCJ 221152, April 2008.

In 2004, among felony drug defendants, those charged with drug trafficking and other drug offenses were the same to be released (60%) for each.

Percent of felony defendants released before trial, by type of offense, 1998-2004

Most serious felony arrest charge	1998	2000	2004
All offenses	64%	62%	57%
Violent offenses			
Murder	13	13	12
Rape	47	56	52
Robbery	38	44	42
Assault	62	61	55
Property offenses			
Burglary	50	49	46
Theft	73	68	58
Drug offenses	68	64	60
Trafficking	63	62	60
Other drug	72	66	60
Public-order offenses	69	66	65

Source: BJS, *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 2004*, NCJ 221152, April

2008.

In 2004 detained drug defendants had a median bail amount of \$25,000. Among drug defendants, those charged with drug trafficking (23%) were about twice as likely to have bail set at \$50,000 or more, compared to other drug defendants (14%).

Of felony drug defendants released prior to the disposition of their case, 53% were released within 1 day of their arrest, 81% within 1 week, and 93% within 1 month.

In 2004 of felony drug defendants released before case disposition, 24% failed to make a scheduled court appearance within 1 year. Eighteen percent of the drug defendants who failed to appear returned to court by the end of the 1-year study period, while 6% remained fugitives. By original arrest offense category, released drug defendants (21%) had the highest rearrest rate. This included 14% of defendants released after being charged with drug trafficking.

Source: BJS, *[Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 2004](#)*, NCJ 221152, April 2008.

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Prosecution and adjudication

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Prosecution of drug law violators

Federal

U.S. attorneys initiated investigations involving 35,210 suspects for drug offenses in 2006.

Drug defendants comprised 33% of defendants in criminal cases filed in federal court in 2006. Immigration defendants made up 20% of cases filed in 2006.

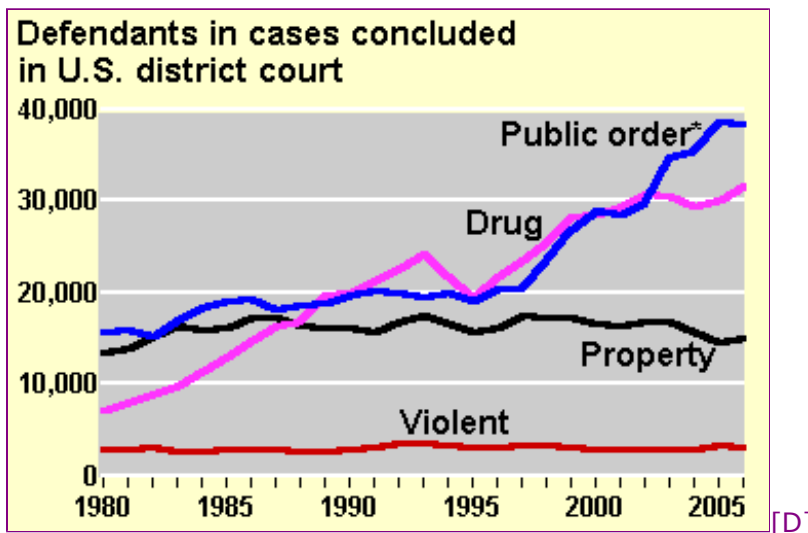
Source: BJS, *[Federal Justice Statistics 2006, Statistical Tables](#)*, NCJ 225711, May 2009.

Drug and weapon offenders were more likely than others to be prosecuted before U.S. district court judges (77% and 69%, respectively). U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute 15% of drug offenders investigated during 2006. During 2006, almost a quarter (24%) of those declined for prosecution were referred to other authorities for prosecution or received an alternative resolution. During 1981 drug defendants accounted for less than a fifth of all federal prosecutions compared to 35% in 2006.

Source: BJS, *[Federal Justice Statistics 2006, Statistical Tables](#)*, NCJ 225711, May

2009.

Of cases concluded in federal district court since 1989, drug and public order cases (includes immigration offenders) have increased at the greatest rate.



Click on the chart to view the data.

Note: Public order offenses include weapons and immigration offenses.
Source: BJS, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics*, annual and [Federal Justice Statistics 2006, Statistical Tables](#), NCJ 225711, May 2009.

Approximately 93% of drug defendants adjudicated during 2006 were convicted, compared to 76% during 1981. Thirty-seven percent of drug defendants convicted during 2005 were identified as noncitizens.

Source: BJS, *Federal Justice Statistics 2005*, NCJ 218524, September 2008 and [Federal Justice Statistics 2006, Statistical Tables](#), NCJ 225711, May 2009.

The proportion of defendants sentenced to prison increased from 54% during 1988 to 80% during 2006. The proportion of drug offenders sentenced to prison increased from 79% to 93%.

Prison sentences imposed increased from an average of 55.1 months during 1988 to 59.7 months during 2006. For drug offenses, prison sentences increased from an average of 71.3 months to 87.2 months; for weapons offenses, sentences imposed increased from 52.3 months to 88.4 months.

Source: BJS, [Federal Justice Statistics 2006, Statistical Tables](#), NCJ 225711, May 2009.

Drug offenders involved with crack cocaine (114 months), possessing a firearm (133 months), or with extensive prior records (125 months) received the longest prison terms, on average, during 1999.

Twenty-eight percent of convicted federal drug defendants received a reduced sentence for

providing substantial assistance to prosecutors.

Source: BJS, [*Federal Drug Offenders, 1999 with Trends 1984-99*](#), NCJ 187285, August 2001.

In addition to the 1,477 defendants charged with money laundering as the primary charge during 2001, money laundering was a secondary offense in 630 cases. Of these 630 cases, the most serious offense charged was drug-related (90%), followed by property (6%), public-order (4%), and violent offenses (1%).

Ninety-two percent of the 623 defendants adjudicated for money laundering as a secondary offense during 2001 were convicted. Of those convicted, 6% of convictions were obtained via trial verdicts. Drug trafficking had the highest rate of conviction (92%).

About 90% of defendants convicted of money laundering as a secondary offense received a prison sentence. Rates of imprisonment varied across the types of offenses (drug offenses, 90%; property offenses, 73%; and public-order offenses, 72%). Defendants with a drug offense as the most serious offense received prison terms with an average 97 months, compared to 44 months for property offenders. Prison terms for public-order offenses (including racketeering/extortion) had an average of 70 months.

Source: BJS, [*Money Laundering Offenders, 1994-2001*](#), NCJ 199574, June 2003.

Federal drug offenders sentenced during 1986 could expect to serve approximately 58% of the prison sentence imposed. The remaining portion of the sentence was served on parole, provided the offender did not violate any conditions of release. Under the Sentencing Reform Act, defendants are required to serve at least 87% of the prison sentence imposed.

Source: BJS, [*Time Served in Prison by Federal Offenders, 1986-97*](#), NCJ 171682, June 1999.

State

In 2004 an estimated --

- 282,590 adults were arrested for drug trafficking
- 201,760 persons were convicted of felony drug trafficking
- 139,210 drug traffickers were sentenced to incarceration
- 78,690 drug traffickers were sentenced to state prison (or 28 for every 100 drug trafficking arrests).

Of persons convicted of drug trafficking in state courts in 2004 --

- 83% were males
- 43% were between ages 20 and 29
- 51% were white
- 47% were black.

In 2004, drug offenders comprised about a third (34%) of all persons convicted of a felony in state courts. Drug traffickers accounted for 19% of all convicted felons; drug possessors also accounted for 15% of all convicted felons.

- Ninety-six percent of drug trafficking convictions in 2004 resulted from guilty pleas; 2% resulted from jury trials; and 2% from bench trials.

- Sixty-nine percent of persons convicted of drug trafficking in 2004 were sentenced to some kind of incarceration: 39% to state prison and 30% to local jail.
- The average prison sentence for persons convicted of drug trafficking was 5 years, of which the estimated time to be served was 2 years and 4 months.

Source: BJS, [State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2004, Statistical Tables](#), NCJ 217995, July 2007.

Felony convictions and sentences in State courts relative to the number of arrests, 2004

Offense	For 100 arrests		
	Felony conviction	Incarcerations	Prison sentences
Murder*	68	63	60
Robbery	46	40	33
Aggravated assault	25	18	11
Burglary	44	33	22
Motor vehicle theft	16	13	6
Drug trafficking	71	49	28

*Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Source: BJS, [State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2004, Statistical Tables](#), NCJ 217995, July 2007.

In 2004 of persons convicted of drug possession, 35% were sentenced to prison, 29% to jail, and 31% to probation. The average prison sentence was 3 years, of which the estimated time to be served was 16 months.

Mean state prison sentence and estimated time to be served in prison, by offenses, 2004

Most serious conviction offense	Mean state prison sentence	Estimated time to be served/a
Murder/b	241 mos.	147 mos.
Sexual assault/c	116	79
Robbery	100	64
Aggravated assault	61	42
Burglary	56	29
Larceny/d	35	20
Drug offenses		
Possession	37	16
Trafficking	60	28

a/ Derived by multiplying the percentage of sentence to be served by the mean sentence imposed.

b/ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

c/ Includes rape.

d/ Includes motor vehicle theft.

Source: BJS, [State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2004, Statistical Tables](#), NCJ 217995, July 2007.

In 2004, besides being sentenced to incarceration or probation, drug offenders incurred other penalties --

- 37% were ordered to pay a fine
- 13% pay victim restitution
- 11% receive treatment
- 11% perform community service
- 11% comply with some other additional penalty (for example, undergo house arrest or appear periodically for drug testing).

Source: BJS, [State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 2004, Statistical Tables](#), NCJ 217995, July 2007.

Juveniles

In 2002 juvenile courts in the United States processed an estimated 1,615,400 delinquency cases. Delinquency cases involve juveniles charged with violations of the law that would be crimes if committed by adults. The number of delinquency cases handled by juvenile courts increased 41% since 1985. During this time period, the number of drug law violation cases (193,200) increased 159%.

Fifty-eight percent of the delinquency cases processed in 2002 involved a juvenile younger than age 16 at referral, compared with 60% in 1990. In 2002, juveniles under age 16 were responsible for 41% (76,600) of drug law violation cases.

Source: OJJDP, [Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, 2002](#), Fact Sheet, NCJ FS 200602, November 2006.

Between 1985 and 2002, the number of delinquency cases in which adjudicated youth were ordered out of the home to some form of residential placement rose 44%. In 2002, 18% of adjudicated delinquency cases involving drug law violations were ordered to residential placement.

In 2002, 8% (35,100) of delinquency cases involving females were for drug offenses. For males 13% (158,100) were drug offense cases.

Source: OJJDP, [Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report](#), NCJ 212906, March 2006.

Drug-related activities of prosecutors' offices

In 2005, 24% of all offices assigned prosecutors to handle community-related activities. Of the offices assigning prosecutors to community-related activities, 37% reported that these prosecutors were located outside of the central prosecutor's offices in places such as the police department or a

community-based office. The types of offenses handled most often by prosecutors assigned to community-related activities were drug crime (81%), violent crime (77%), juvenile crime (53%), and property crime (63%). Over three-fourths of the offices that assigned prosecutors to community-related activities indicated that these prosecutors carried a full caseload.

Source: BJS, [Prosecutors in State Courts, 2005](#), NCJ 213799, July 2006.

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BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug law violations

Correctional populations and facilities

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Correctional populations

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Probationers

Probationers are criminal offenders who have been sentenced to a period of correctional supervision in the community in lieu of incarceration. On December 31, 2007, a total of 4,293,163 adult men and women were serving a probation sentence in the United States. During 2007, the adult probation population grew 1.8%, which represented an increase of 70,802 probationers. Fifty-one percent of all probationers had been convicted of a misdemeanor, 47% of a felony, and 3% of other infractions. Eight in ten (82%) probationers under supervision on December 31, 2007 were supervised for a non-violent offense, including more than a quarter (27%) for a drug offense.

Source: BJS, [Probation and Parole in the United States, 2007 - Statistical Tables](#), NCJ 224707, December 2008. Data collected annually through BJS' probation and parole series beginning in 1980. See [2007 Annual Probation Survey](#) and [2007 Annual Parole Survey](#).

An estimated 16% of mentally ill probationers and 21% of other probationers reported their current offense was a drug offense.

Source: BJS, [Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers](#), NCJ 174463, July 1999. Data collected through the first national survey of adults on probation, which was conducted one time in 1995. See [Survey of Adults on Probation](#).

Jail inmates

In 2002 an estimated 155,900 jail inmates were held for a drug offense, an increase from 114,100

in 1996.

The percentage of jail inmates held for drug offenses rose slightly to 25% in 2002 from 22% in 1996. Drug trafficking accounted for most of the increase.

Most serious offense of jail inmates, 2002, 1996,
and 1989

Most serious offense	Percent of jail inmates		
	2002	1996	1989
Violent offenses	25.4%	26.3%	22.5%
Murder/a	2.0	2.8	2.8
Assault	11.7	11.6	7.2
Other sexual assault	2.8	2.7	2.6
Property offenses	24.4%	26.9%	30.0%
Burglary	6.7	7.6	10.7
Larceny/theft	7.0	8.0	7.9
Drug offenses	24.7%	22.0%	23.0%
Possession	10.8	11.5	9.7
Trafficking	12.1	9.2	12.0
Other drug	1.8	1.3	1.3
Public-order offenses	24.9%	24.3%	22.8%
Driving while intoxicated/b	6.4	7.4	8.8
Drunkenness/c	1.7	2.0	1.7

Note: Excludes inmates for whom offense was unknown.

a/Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

b/Includes public and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

c/Includes drunkenness, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly, morals, and commercialized vice.

Source: BJS, [Profile of Jail Inmates, 2002](#), NCJ 201932, July 2004.

Among jail inmates being held for a drug offense who said they had been tested for HIV/AIDS and reported a result, 1.6% were HIV positive. The percentage of jail inmates reporting that they were HIV positive varied by level of prior drug use.

Source: BJS, [HIV in Prisons and Jails, 2002](#), NCJ 205333, December 2004. Data collected through BJS' national survey of local jail inmates, which is conducted periodically. See [Survey of Inmates in Local Jails](#).

Local jail inmates ever tested for HIV and results, by offense and prior drug use, 2002

Tested jail inmates who reported results

Characteristics	Number	Percent HIV position
Current offense/a		
Violent	90,751	0.7%
Property	95,599	1.8
Drug	96,003	1.6
Public-order	87,374	1.1
Prior drug use/b		
Never used	51,248	0.4%
Ever used	322,617	1.5
Used month before offense/c	162,027	1.5
Used needle to inject drugs/d	66,606	3.2
Shared a needle/e	22,288	7.5

a/Excludes jail inmates whose offense was unknown.

b/ Inmates were asked a detailed set of questions about past use of illegal drugs. These drugs included marijuana, barbiturates, methaqualone, tranquilizers (without a doctor's prescription), methamphetamine, other amphetamines, crack, cocaine other than crack, heroin, other opiates, PCP, LSD, inhaled or sniffed substances, and other drugs.

c/ Inmates who were unconvicted (awaiting arraignment, awaiting trial or on trial) were not asked any questions about drug use during the month before the arrest for which they were currently detained.

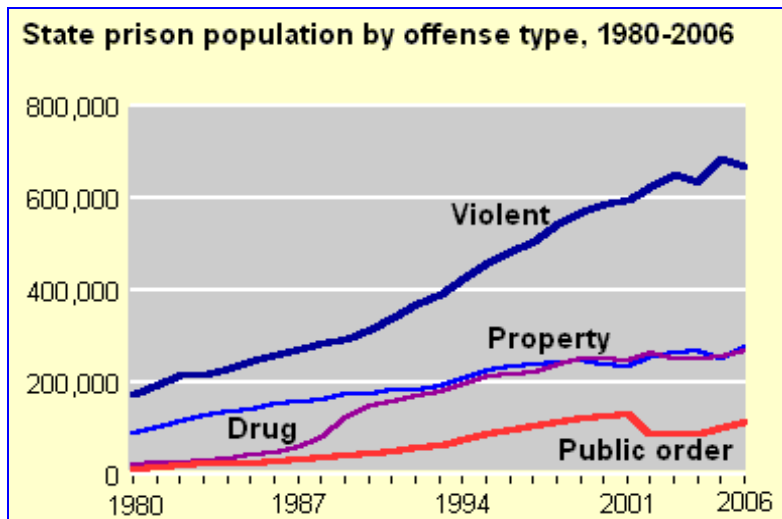
d/ All inmates who reported prior drug use were asked: "Have you ever used a needle to get any drug injected under your skin, into a muscle or into a vein for non-medical reasons?"

e/ Inmates who reported ever using a needle to inject drugs were asked: "Have you ever used a needle that you knew or suspected had been used by someone else for injecting drugs or shared a needle that you had used with someone else?"

Source: BJS, [HIV in Prisons and Jails, 2002](#), NCJ 205333, December 2004.

State prisoners

From 1995 to 2005 the number of drug offenders in state prison increased 40,500 prisoners (19%).



[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: BJS, [Correctional Populations in the United States](#), annually and [Prisoners in 2007](#)

An estimated 1,296,700 sentenced prisoners were under state jurisdiction at yearend 2005. About 53% (687,700) were held for violent offenses, 20% (253,300) for drug offenses, and 19% (248,900) for property offenses.

Source: BJS, [Prisoners in 2007](#), NCJ 224280, December 2008.

About 19% of state prisoners who had a mental health problem and 24% without a mental health problem were incarcerated for a drug offense.

Source: BJS, [Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates](#), NCJ 213600, September 2006. Data collected through BJS' national survey of state prisoners, which is conducted periodically. See [Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities](#).

Among male state prisoners, drug offenders (59%) were more likely than both violent (47%) and property (48%) offenders to report having children. Male drug offenders (59%) in state prison were equally likely as male public-order offenders (60%) in state prison to be a father.

For women held in state prison, drug offenders (63%) were more likely than violent offenders (57%) to be a mother of minor children. Female drug offenders (63%) in state prison were equally likely as both female property and public-order offenders (both 65%) in state prison to be a mother.

Source: BJS, [Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children](#), NCJ 222984, August 2008. Data collected through BJS' national survey of state prisoners, which is conducted periodically. See [Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities](#).

Among state prisoners being held on a drug offense who reported being tested for HIV 1.8% reported being HIV positive.

State inmates ever tested, by offenses

		Percent HIV Number positive
Violent	457,900	1.3%
Property	183,800	2.6
Drug	201,800	1.8
Public-order	110,700	0.9

Note: Data are from the 2004 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities.

Source: BJS, [HIV in Prisons, 2004](#), NCJ 213897, November 2006. Data collected through BJS' national survey of state prisoners, which is conducted periodically. See [Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities](#).

An estimated 60% of state inmates who reported ever using a needle to inject drugs said they had a medical problem (excluding injury) since admission to prison, compared to 40% of those who did not use a needle.

Inmates who reported ever using a needle to inject drugs reported a higher prevalence of physical or mental impairment. Among state prisoners, about 43% of those who used a needle and 35% of those who did not use a needle to inject drugs reported having some physical or mental impairment.

Source: BJS, [Medical Problems of Prisoners](#), NCJ 221740, April 2008. Data collected through BJS' national survey of state prisoners, which is conducted periodically. See [Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities](#).

Population by gender

Violent offenders accounted for the largest proportion of both male (54%) and female (35%) state prisoners at yearend 2005.

Percent of sentenced prisoners under state jurisdiction, by gender and offense, 2005

	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%
Violent	54	35
Property	19	29
Drug	19%	29%
Public-order	8	6
Other/unspecified	.6	1.2

Source: BJS, [Prisoners in](#)

[2007](#), NCJ 224280, December 2008.

Population by race

Over half of white, black, and Hispanic prisoners under state jurisdiction were violent offenders in 2005.

Estimated percent of sentenced prisoners under state jurisdiction, by race and offense, 2005

	White	Black	Hispanic
Total	100%	100%	100%
Violent	50	55	55
Property	24	16	16
Drug	15	23	21
Public-order	9	6	7
Other/unspecified	.8	.5	.5

Source: BJS, [Prisoners in 2007](#), NCJ 224280, December 2008.

Federal prisoners

There were 179,204 sentenced prisoners under federal jurisdiction at yearend 2007. About (53%) (95,446) of federal prisoners were drug offenders. An additional 31% (56,273) prisoners were public-order offenders, held for offenses such as immigration and weapon violations. Between 2000 and 2007, drug offenders represented 45% of the growth in the federal prison population; public-order offenders, 50%.

Source: BJS, [Prisoners in 2007](#), NCJ 224280, December 2008.

In 1997, 16% of incarcerated federal drug offenders reported being an importer, grower, or manufacturer of illicit drugs; 25% reported that they distributed drugs to street-level dealers.

Source: BJS, [Federal Drug Offenders, 1999 with Trends 1984-99](#), NCJ 187285, August 2001.

In federal prison, where the majority of inmates are incarcerated for a drug trafficking offense, about 51% of prisoners who had a mental health problem and 58% without a mental health problem were in prison for a drug offense.

Source: BJS, [Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates](#), NCJ 213600, September 2006. Data collected through BJS' national survey of federal prisoners, which is conducted periodically. See [Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities](#).

Among men held in federal prison, drug offenders (69%) were more likely than both property (54%) and violent (50%) offenders to be a father of minor children. The likelihood of being a mother in federal prison did not vary by offense.

Source: BJS, [Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children](#), NCJ 222984, August 2008. Data collected through BJS' national survey of federal prisoners, which is conducted periodically. See [Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities](#).

Correctional facilities

Juveniles

In 2001, the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, a data collection conducted by the Office of Juveniles Justice and Delinquency (OJJDP), reported that a total of 9,086 juveniles were confined in a facility had committed a drug offense. Of this number, 5,685 juveniles were confined in a public facility and 3,390 in a private facility. The number decreased from 9,882 in 1999.

Source: OJJDP, [Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook](#), FS 200008, 2001.

As of September 30, 1994, 124 juvenile delinquents were confined in a state juvenile correctional facility under contract to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. (The Federal Bureau of Prisons does not have its own facilities for juveniles.) Most (64%) were adjudicated delinquent of a violent offense, and 14% were delinquent of a drug offense.

Juvenile delinquents confined by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 1994

Most serious offense Number Percent

Total*	124	100.0%
Violent offenses	77	64.7
Property offenses	16	13.4
Drug offenses	17	14.3
Public-order offenses	9	7.6

*Includes cases for which an offense category could not be determined.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY system data file, fiscal year ending September 30, 1994 as presented in [Juvenile Delinquents in the Federal Criminal Justice System](#), NCJ 163066, January 1997.

During 1994, 102 juvenile delinquents were released by the Federal Bureau of Prisons from a juvenile correctional facility. The average time served was --

- 14 months for all those released
- 21 months for drug offenders
- 17 months for violent offenders.

Source: BJS, [Juvenile Delinquents in the Federal Criminal Justice System](#), NCJ 163066, January 1997.

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BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug treatment under correctional supervision

[On probation](#) | [In jail](#) | [In State and Federal prisons](#)

On probation

Almost all probationers (99%) had one or more conditions to their sentence required by the court or probation agency. Among such conditions were drug testing and substance abuse treatment.

Conditions of sentences of adult probationers, by severity of offense, 1995

Condition of sentence	Severity of offense		
	Total	Felony	Misdemeanor
Any condition	98.6 %	98.4 %	98.9 %
Alcohol/drug restrictions	38.2 %	48.1 %	23.7 %
Mandatory drug testing	32.5	43.0	17.1
Remain alcohol/drug free	8.1	10.4	5.2
Substance abuse treatment	41.0 %	37.5 %	45.7 %
Alcohol	29.2	21.3	41.0
Drug	23.0	28.3	14.8
Number of probationers*	2,558,981	1,470,696	982,536

Note: Detail may not sum to total because probationers may have more than one condition on their sentences and totals may include items not shown in the table.

*Excludes 61,579 probationers (2% of all adults on probation) for whom information on conditions of probation was not reported.

Source: BJS, [Characteristics of Adults on Probation, 1995](#), NCJ 164267, December 1997.

Drug or alcohol treatment was a sentence condition for 41% of adults on probation; 37% had received treatment. An estimated 29% of probationers were required to get treatment for alcohol abuse or dependency and 23% for drug abuse. Drug treatment was required nearly twice as frequently among felons as misdemeanants (28% compared to 15%).

Thirty-two percent of all probationers were subject to mandatory drug testing -- 43% of felons and 17% of misdemeanants.

Source: BJS, [*Characteristics of Adults on Probation, 1995*](#), NCJ 164267, December 1997.

Seventeen percent of all probationers reported having participated in a drug treatment program during their probation sentence. The percentage rose as the severity of prior drug use increased. Of those with any past drug use, 25% had received treatment, and the percentage grew to 42% of those using drugs in the month before the offense. A majority of those using drugs at the time of offense reported participation in drug treatment during their current sentence.

Of the individual drug treatment programs, the most common among all probationers were --

- 11% narcotics/cocaine anonymous groups
- 8% drug rehabilitation, and
- 6% outpatient clinics.

The types of treatment programs did not differ according to the level of the probationers' past drug use.

For probationers using drugs in the month prior to the offense, the most common programs were -

- 27% narcotics/cocaine anonymous,
- 20% drug rehabilitation, and
- 17% outpatient clinics.

Nearly a third of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers were currently enrolled in an alcohol or drug treatment program when interviewed. Half of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers said they were treated on their current sentence to probation, and about two-thirds had been treated at some time in their lives.

Treatment history of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers, 1995

Participated in an alcohol or drug treatment program	Percent of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers
Ever	64.2 %
While incarcerated	10.2
Before current sentence	39.8
During current sentence	53.6
Currently in program	30.1
Number of probationers	1,390,572

Note: Probationers may have received treatment at multiple times in the past.

Source: BJS, [*Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995*](#), NCJ 166611, March 1998.

Since their sentence began, over 40% of DWI offenders on probation who reported using drugs at the time of their offense had participated in drug treatment or programs: 13% of those who reported prior drug use, and 22% of those who were regular drug users.

Source: BJS, [*DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*](#), NCJ 172212, June 1999.

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In Jail

Substance abuse treatment includes detoxification, professional counseling, a residential stay, or maintenance drug programs. Other programs include Alcoholic Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and other self-help groups, and drug or alcohol education or awareness. Nearly two-thirds of jail inmates who were substance dependent or abusers had participated in treatment or programs in the past. Fifty-two percent had participated while under correctional supervision, up from 43% in 1996.

Among inmates who had been using alcohol or drugs in the month before the offense, participation in treatment or programs while under correctional supervision rose from 39% in 1996 to 47% in 2002.

In 2002, 20% of convicted inmates who were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the offense had participated in treatment/programs after entering jail, up from 17% in 1996. In each year, participation in self-help programs (13%) was the most common activity, followed by education programs (over 5%).

Eighteen percent of jail inmates who met the criteria for drug dependence or abuse and 17% who met the criteria for alcohol dependence or abuse had received treatment since their admission to jail.

Source: BJS, [*Substance Dependence, Abuse, and Treatment of Jail Inmates, 2002*](#), NCJ 209588, July 2005.

Of DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) offenders in jail who reported using drugs at the time of their offense, 25% reported some type of drug treatment since their admission, as did 7% of those who reported any prior drug use and 9% of those who were regular users.

Source: BJS, [*DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*](#), NCJ 172212, June 1999.

In state and federal prisons

- [Prisoners' participation in drug treatment and other drug programs](#)
- [Treatment facilities](#)

Prisoners' participation in drug treatment and other drug programs

Among state inmates who used drugs in the month before the offense, 39% reported taking part in drug treatment or other drug programs since admission, up from 34% in 1997. Federal inmates with recent drug use histories reported a similar increase in drug treatment and program participation, from 39% in 1997 to 45% in 2004.

These increases were the result of an increased percentage of recent drug users taking part in self-help groups, peer counseling and drug abuse education programs. Among state prisoners who had used drugs in the month before their offense, participation in these drug abuse programs since admission rose from 28% in 1997 to 34% in 2004. In federal prison, the comparable figure rose from 32% to 39%. Over the same period, participation in drug treatment with a trained professional remained stable. Among recent drug users in state prison, 14% took part in drug treatment since admission, compared to 15% in 1997. Among federal prisoners who had used drugs in the month before the offense, the percentage taking part in drug treatment was 15% in both years.

As a result of growing state and federal prisoner populations during this period, the increases in the number of inmates taking part in drug abuse programs were more dramatic. In 2004, an estimated 269,200 state prisoners who had used drugs in the month before their crimes reported taking part in drug treatment or other drug programs since admission to prison. This represented a one-third increase since 1997. Among federal inmates, the number of recent drug users who took part in drug treatment or other drug programs rose by nearly 14,000, or 90%, since 1997.

Source: BJS, [Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004](#), NCJ 213530, October 2006.

Treatment facilities

On December 30, 2005, there were 1,821 state and federal correctional facilities nationwide. Drug and alcohol counseling were available in 74% of these facilities. All but two of the 102 federal correctional facilities offered drug or alcohol counseling (98%), compared to 72% of state correctional facilities.

Total number of correctional facilities under state or federal authority that provided counseling programs to inmates, December 30, 2005

Characteristics	All facilities		
	Total	Federal	State
<hr/>			

All facilities	1,821	102	1,719
Facilities providing drug dependency, counseling, awareness programs	1,345	100	1,245
Facilities providing alcohol dependency, counseling, or awareness programs	1,344	100	1,244

Source: BJS, [Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2005](#), NCJ 222182, October 2008.

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BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug control budget

[Federal](#)

Federal

The FY 2004 National Drug Control Budget reflects a significant restructuring from prior years. The drug budget now contains only those expenditures aimed at reducing drug use, rather than those associated with the consequences of drug use. The requested drug control funding amount for FY 2011 is approximately \$15.5 billion. Budget figures presented here reflect this restructuring.

	Total federal drug control budget (in millions)
FY 2002 final	10,781.4
FY 2003 final	11,220.1
FY 2004 final	12,005.6
FY 2005 final	12,784.3
FY 2006 final	13,144.1
FY 2007 final	13,844.1
FY 2008 final	13,275.8
FY 2009 final	15,278.4
FY 2010 enacted	15,031.5
FY 2011 request	15,552.5

Fiscal Years 2008-2010 federal drug control budget
by function (in millions)

	FY 2009 final	FY 2010 enacted	FY 2011 request
Function area			
Total	\$15,278.4	\$15,031.5	\$15,552.5
Treatment with research	\$3,561.9	\$3,745.5	\$3,882.5
Prevention with research	1,854.7	1,514.3	1,717.7
Domestic law enforcement	3,869.4	3,843.5	3,917.3

Interdiction	3,910.2	2,640.1	3,727.0
International	2,082.2	2,288.0	2,308.1

Source: ONDCP, **National Drug Control Budget:
FY 2011 Funding Highlights**, February 2010 .

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BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug use

[Youth](#) | [General population](#) | [Workplace](#)

Youth

- [Use](#)
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- [Student reports of availability of drugs](#)

Use

The Monitoring the Future Study asked high school seniors, "On how many occasions, if any, have you used drugs or alcohol during the last 12 months or month?"

Reported drug and alcohol use by high school seniors, 2008

Drugs	Used within the last:	
	12 months*	30 days
Alcohol	65.5 %	43.1 %
Marijuana	32.4	19.4
Other opiates	9.1	3.8
Stimulants	6.8	2.9
Tranquilizers	6.2	2.6
Hallucinogens	5.9	2.2
Sedatives	5.8	2.8
Cocaine	4.4	1.9
Inhalants	3.8	1.4
Steroids	1.5	1.0
Heroin	0.7	0.4

*Including the last month.

Source: Press release: [Various stimulant drugs show continuing gradual declines among teens in 2008, most illicit drugs hold steady](#), University of Michigan News and Information Services, December 11, 2008. (Acrobat file 767.5 KB)

Self-reports of drug use among high school seniors may under represent drug use among youth of that age because high school dropouts and truants are not included, and these groups may have more involvement with drugs than those who stay in school.

Percent of all college students, 1996-2007

Drug use	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
----------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Marijuana

Daily within

last month	2.8 %	3.7 %	4.0 %	4.0 %	4.6 %	4.5 %	4.1 %	4.7 %	4.5 %	4.0 %	4.3 %	3.5 %
Last month	17.5	17.7	18.6	20.7	20.0	20.2	19.7	19.3	18.9	17.1	16.7	16.8
Last year	33.1	31.6	35.9	35.2	34.0	35.6	34.7	33.7	33.3	33.3	30.2	31.8
Cocaine												
Daily within last month	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %	* %	0.0	0.1 %	* %	* %
Last month	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.9	1.6	1.9	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.7
Last year	2.9	3.4	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.8	5.4	6.6	5.7	5.1	5.4

* Less than 0.05%

Rates of past year cocaine use by college students have varied over the past 11 years from a low of 2.9% in 1996 to a high of 5.4% in 2007. Past year marijuana use has ranged from a low of 33.1% in 1996 to a high of 35.9% in 1998.

Source: University of Michigan, [Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1975-2007, Volume II: College Students and Adults Ages 19-45, 2007](#), October 2008. (Acrobat file 2.13 MB)

Of high school seniors in 2008 --

- 42.6% reported having ever used marijuana/hashish
- 7.2% reported having ever used cocaine
- 1.3% reported having ever used heroin.

Source: University of Michigan, [Monitoring the Future National Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings 2008](#), May 2009. (Acrobat file 971.57 KB)

The increase in the use of marijuana has been especially pronounced. Between 1992 and 2008 past-month use of marijuana increased from:

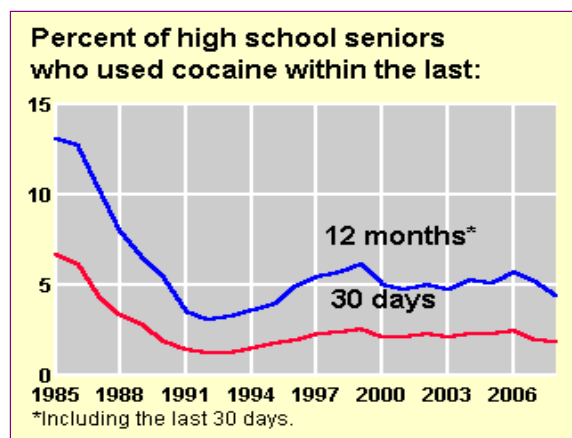
- 12% to 19% among high school seniors.
- 8% to 14% among 10th graders.
- 4% to 6% among 8th graders.

Reported use of marijuana by high school seniors during the past month peaked in 1978 at 37% and declined to its lowest level in 1992 at 12%.

The use of cocaine within the past month of the survey by high school seniors peaked in 1985 at 6.7%, up from 1.9% in 1975 at the survey's inception. Cocaine use declined to a low of 1.3% in 1992 and 1993. In 2008, 1.9% of high school seniors reported past-month cocaine use.

Source: University of Michigan, [Monitoring the Future National Results on Adolescent Drug Use: Overview of Key Findings 2008](#), May 2009. (Acrobat file 971.57 KB)..

Cocaine use among high school seniors peaked in 1985.



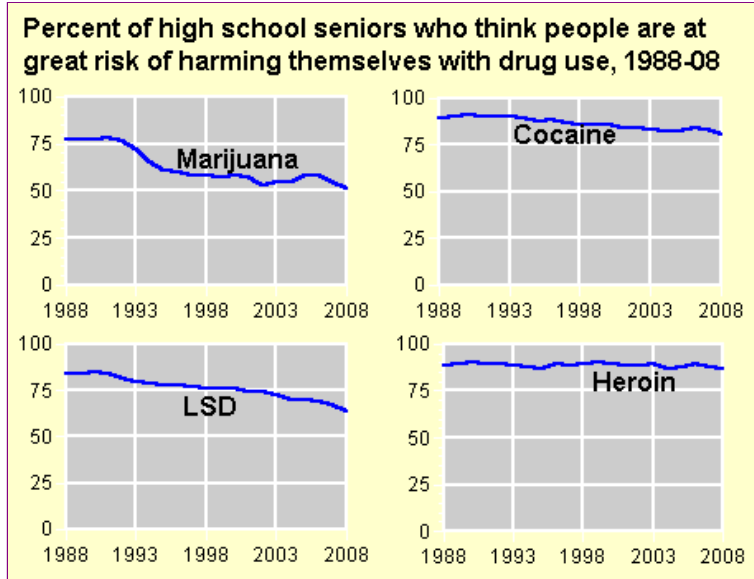
[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: Press release: [Various stimulant drugs show continuing gradual declines among teens in 2008, most illicit drugs hold steady](#), University of Michigan News and Information Services, December 11, 2008. (Acrobat file 767.5 KB)

Perceived risk

From 1988 to 2008 the percentage of high school seniors that were asked, "How much do you think people risk harming themselves?" remained virtually stable. Those students answering "great risk" in regular use accounted for the following --



[D]

Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: Press release: [Various stimulant drugs show continuing gradual declines among teens in 2008, most illicit drugs hold steady](#), University of Michigan News and Information Services, December 11, 2008. (Acrobat file 767.5 KB)

Student reports of availability of drugs

Percent of high school seniors reporting they could obtain drugs fairly easily or very easily, 2008

Marijuana	83.9 %
Amphetamines	47.9
Cocaine	42.4
Barbiturates	38.8
Crack	35.2
LSD	28.5
Heroin	25.4
Crystal methamphetamine	23.3
Tranquilizers	22.4
PCP	20.6
Amyl/butyl nitrites	16.9

Source: Press release: [Various stimulant drugs show continuing gradual declines among teens in 2008, most illicit drugs hold steady](#), University of Michigan News and Information Services, December 11, 2008. (Acrobat file 767.5 KB)

In 2007, 22% of all students in grades 9 through 12 reported someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property. There was no measurable change with the percentage of students who reported that drugs were offered, sold, or given to them at school between 2003 and 2007.

Males were more likely than females to report that drugs were offered, sold, or given to them on school property in each survey year between 1993 and 2007. In 2007, 26% of males and 19% of females reported availability of drugs.

Source: BJS jointly with the U.S. Department of Education, [Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2008](#), NCJ 228478, December 2009.

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General population

According to data from the *2007 National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health* (NSDUH) --

- 114 million Americans age 12 or older (46% of the population) reported illicit drug use at least once in their lifetime
- 14% reported use of a drug within the past year
- 8% reported use of a drug within the past month.

Data from the 2007 survey showed that marijuana and cocaine use is the most prevalent among persons age 18 to 25.

Drug use	Age of respondent, 2006		
	12-17	18-25	26 or older
Marijuana			
Last month	6.7 %	16.4 %	3.9 %
Last year	12.5	27.5	6.8
Cocaine			
Last month	0.4 %	1.7 %	0.7 %
Last year	1.5	6.4	1.7

Source: SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, *2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*, September 2008.

The **Drug Abuse Warning Network** (DAWN) monitors drug-related emergency department (ED) visits for the nation and for selected metropolitan areas. DAWN also collects data on drug-related deaths investigated by medical examiners and coroners in selected metropolitan areas and states. DAWN is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

In 2006, DAWN estimates that 1.7 million emergency visits (ED) were nationwide were associated with drug misuse or abuse.

An estimated 958,164 drug-related emergency department visits involved an illicit drug. Thus, over half (55%) of all the drug misuse/abuse ED visits during the year involved an illicit drug either alone or in combination with other types of drugs. DAWN estimates that:

- Cocaine was involved in 548,608 ED visits.
- Marijuana was involved in 290,563 ED visits.
- Heroin was involved in 189,780 ED visits.
- Stimulants, including amphetamines and methamphetamine, were involved in 107,575 ED visits.
- Other illicit drugs, such as PCP, Ecstasy, and GHB, were much less frequent than any of the above.

Source: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, *Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2006: National Estimates of Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits*. Rockville, MD, 2008.

A DAWN case is any death reviewed by a medical examiner/coroner (ME/C) that was related to recent drug use. DAWN

data include deaths related to drug use, misuse, and abuse and drug-related suicides that were reported by participating death investigation jurisdictions as DAWN cases.

In 2005, 169 jurisdictions in 51 metropolitan areas and 217 jurisdictions in 8 States submitted mortality data to DAWN. The states are Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, and Vermont. DAWN cannot provide national estimates of drug-related deaths.

Descriptions of drug-related deaths in the participation metropolitan areas and States are available in *Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2005: Area Profiles of Drug-Related Mortality*.

In areas that participated in DAWN in both 2004 and 2005, there were increases in drug-related deaths in 19 metropolitan areas and in 5 States. Decreases were reported from 6 metropolitan areas and 1 State (table 3).

Source: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, ***Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2005: Area Profiles of Drug-Related Mortality***. Rockville, MD, May 2009.

Workplace

A study focusing on findings from the 2002 through 2004 *National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health* (NSDUH) reported that --

- 9.4 million (8.2%) of full-time workers were illicit drug users
- 57.5% of illicit drug users, aged 18 to 64, were employed full-time
- Nearly one out of five (19%) workers aged 18 to 25 used illicit drugs during the past month. This was a higher percentage than among the 26 to 34 (10.3%), 35 to 49 (7%), and 50 to 64 (2.6%) age groups.

Drug testing

- A total of 32 million (29.6%) of full-time workers in the United States reported random drug testing in their current employment setting during the study period.
- For each age group, past month illicit drug users were less likely than nonusers to report working for employers who conducted prehire drug or alcohol tests; ages 18 to 25 (29.4 vs. 41.3%); 26 to 34 (32.0 vs. 45.8%), 35 to 49 (34.2 vs. 45.5%), and 50 to 64 (31.3 vs. 41%).

Occupations

- Illicit drug use among full-time employees were most prevalent in food preparation and serving-related occupations (17.4%), followed by construction and extraction occupations (15.1%).
- Among full-time workers, those in protective services occupations were least likely to be illicit drug users (3.4%).

Source: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, ***Worker Substance Use and Workplace Policies and Programs***. DHHS Publication No. (SMA) 07-4273, Analytic Series A-29, Rockville, MD, 2007.

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BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Public opinion about drugs

As reported in the [2003 BJS Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics](#), the percentage of Gallup Poll respondents describing drug abuse as the single most important problem facing our country peaked in 1989:

Date of poll	Drug abuse most serious problem
May 1989	27 %
July 1990	18
March 1991	11
March 1992	8
January 1993	6
January 1994	9
January 1995	6
May 1996	10
January 1997	17
April 1998	12
May 1999	5
March 2000	5
January 2001	7
March 2002	3
February 2003	2
June 2004	1

Among Gallup Poll respondents, the use of drugs was most often mentioned as one of the biggest problems for schools in their communities. Giving that response in 2003 were --

- 7% of public school parents
- 10% of those with no children in school
- 9% of all surveyed.

When asked about spending for various social problems, 56% of the respondents to a 2002 National Opinion Research Center (NORC) Poll said this country is spending too little to deal with drug addiction.

In 2001 the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press reported that respondents were asked the most effective actions the government could take to control the use of drugs --

- 52% said "stop the illegal importation of drugs from other countries"
- 49% said "arrest people who sell illegal drugs in the this country"

- 36% said "provide drug treatment programs for drug users"
- 35% said "educate Americans about the dangers of using illegal drugs"
- 30% said "arrest drug users in the country"

NORC has asked adults (age 18 or older) about legalization of marijuana since 1973. In 2002, 34% believed that marijuana should be made legal, which compared to the peak of 30% in 1978. College freshmen have been surveyed by NORC since 1968. In 2003, 40% of those surveyed agreed strongly or somewhat that marijuana should be legalized, down from a peak of 53% in 1977 and up from a low of 17% in 1989. Of 2003 high school seniors --

- 30% felt using marijuana should be legal, compared to the peak of 33% feeling that way in 1978 and a low of 16% in 1986
- 53% reported worrying often or sometimes about drug abuse, down from 66% in 1978 and 83% in 1990.

Source: *The Gallup Report*, National Opinion Research Center, and the [BJS Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 2003](#).

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BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug and Crime Facts Drug use and crime

[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)

Victim's perception of the use of alcohol and drugs by the violent offender, 2007

	Percent of victims of violent crime
Alcohol only	15.7
Alcohol and drugs	5.1
Alcohol or drugs	0.0
Drugs only	4.9
Not on drugs or alcohol	28.8
Don't know	44.2

Source: Criminal
Victimization in the United
States, 2007, Statistical
Tables, Table 32.

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug and Crime Facts Drug law violations - Enforcement

[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)

Total estimated drug law violation arrests in the United States, 1980-2007

Year	Number of arrests
1980	580,900
1981	559,900
1982	676,000
1983	661,400
1984	708,400
1985	811,400
1986	824,100
1987	937,400
1988	1,155,200
1989	1,361,700
1990	1,089,500
1991	1,010,000
1992	1,066,400
1993	1,126,300
1994	1,351,400
1995	1,476,100
1996	1,506,200
1997	1,583,600
1998	1,559,100
1999	1,532,200
2000	1,579,600
2001	1,586,900
2002	1,538,800
2003	1,678,200
2004	1,745,700
2005	1,846,300
2006	1,889,800
2007	1,841,200

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States, annual

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug and Crime Facts

Drug law violations - Enforcement

[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)

Estimated number of arrests,
by type of drug law violation, 1982-2007

	Sale/manufacture	Possession
1982	137,900	538,100
1983	146,200	515,200
1984	155,800	552,600
1985	192,300	619,100
1986	206,800	617,300
1987	241,800	695,600
1988	316,500	838,700
1989	441,200	920,500
1990	344,300	745,200
1991	337,300	672,700
1992	338,000	728,400
1993	334,500	791,800
1994	360,800	990,600
1995	367,500	1,108,600
1996	375,000	1,131,200
1997	324,600	1,259,000
1998	330,500	1,228,600
1999	298,800	1,233,400
2000	300,100	1,279,500
2001	307,900	1,279,000
2002	303,100	1,235,700
2003	330,600	1,347,600
2004	319,500	1,426,200
2005	337,900	1,508,500
2006	330,700	1,559,100
2007	322,200	1,519,000

Note: Data may not add to published totals due to rounding in calculations.

Source: FBI, Crime in the United States, annual, Uniform Crime Reports

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Key Facts at a Glance

Estimated arrests for drug abuse violations by age group, 1970-2007

[To the Key facts at a glance chart](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)
[To Drug and Crime Facts chart](#)

Estimated arrests for drug abuse violations by age group, 1970-2007

Year	Adult	Juvenile
1970	322,300	93,300
1971	383,900	108,100
1972	407,300	120,100
1973	463,600	165,300
1974	474,900	167,200
1975	456,000	145,400
1976	464,100	145,400
1977	493,300	149,400
1978	480,000	148,700
1979	435,600	123,000
1980	471,200	109,700
1981	468,100	91,800
1982	584,900	91,200
1983	583,500	77,900
1984	623,700	84,700
1985	718,600	92,800
1986	742,700	81,400
1987	849,500	87,900
1988	1,050,600	104,600
1989	1,247,800	113,900
1990	1,008,300	81,200
1991	931,900	78,100
1992	980,700	85,700
1993	1,017,800	108,500
1994	1,192,800	158,600
1995	1,285,700	190,400
1996	1,295,100	211,100
1997	1,370,400	213,200
1998	1,360,600	198,500
1999	1,365,100	192,000

2000	1,375,600	203,900
2001	1,384,400	202,500
2002	1,352,600	186,200
2003	1,476,800	201,400
2004	1,551,500	194,200
2005	1,654,600	191,800
2006	1,693,100	196,700
2007	1,645,500	195,700

Source: Crime in the United States,
annual, Uniform Crime Reports

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug and Crime Facts Drug law violations - Enforcement

[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)

Number of arrests, by drug type, 1982-2007

Year	Heroin/ cocaine	Marijuana	Synthetic drugs	Other
1982	112,900	455,600	24,800	82,900
1983	149,500	406,900	22,300	82,700
1984	181,800	419,400	19,000	88,300
1985	239,400	451,100	19,500	101,400
1986	336,200	361,800	21,400	105,500
1987	427,500	378,700	25,300	105,900
1988	599,500	391,600	31,200	131,700
1989	732,600	399,000	28,600	200,200
1990	591,600	326,900	22,900	148,200
1991	558,500	287,900	22,200	142,400
1992	565,200	342,300	20,300	139,700
1993	566,500	380,700	20,300	158,800
1994	636,500	481,100	23,000	210,800
1995	627,300	589,000	32,500	228,800
1996	599,500	641,600	30,100	235,000
1997	565,300	695,200	41,200	283,500
1998	570,600	682,900	45,200	260,400
1999	528,600	704,800	47,500	251,300
2000	529,200	734,500	52,100	262,200
2001	520,500	723,600	65,100	277,700
2002	463,200	697,100	67,700	307,800
2003	508,500	755,200	77,200	339,000
2004	530,700	771,600	89,000	356,100
2005	557,600	786,500	88,600	411,700
2006	582,100	829,600	92,600	385,500
2007	541,300	872,700	88,400	338,800

Note: Data may not add to published totals due to rounding in calculations.

Source: FBI, Crime in the United States, annually, Uniform Crime Reports

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Key Facts at a Glance

Trends in the types of cases concluded in U.S. district court

[To the Key facts at a glance chart](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)
[To Drug and Crime Facts chart](#)

Defendants in cases concluded in U.S. district court

	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order*
1980	2,871	13,544	7,119	15,638
1981	3,022	13,851	8,077	15,887
1982	3,111	15,340	8,987	15,301
1983	2,737	16,384	9,774	16,963
1984	2,814	15,969	11,361	18,380
1985	2,871	16,250	12,984	19,009
1986	2,818	17,286	14,746	19,202
1987	2,850	17,175	16,443	18,153
1988	2,697	16,261	16,710	18,524
1989	2,805	16,188	19,750	18,916
1990	2,857	16,128	20,035	19,684
1991	3,124	15,749	21,203	20,115
1992	3,601	16,876	22,728	19,910
1993	3,581	17,440	24,127	19,484
1994	3,367	16,545	21,854	19,907
1995	3,041	15,777	19,569	18,964
1996	3,091	16,149	21,718	20,440
1997	3,482	17,521	23,528	20,361
1998	3,470	17,165	25,500	23,530
1999	3,093	17,321	28,352	26,866
2000	2,964	16,664	28,381	28,861
2001	2,977	16,347	29,290	28,450
2002	2,927	16,871	30,775	29,783
2003	3,040	16,868	30,508	34,690
2004	2,962	15,774	29,309	35,346
2005	3,304	14,669	30,129	38,578

Note: Includes all cases handled by U.S. district court judges and Class A misdemeanors handled by U.S. magistrates. Beginning with 1994, the data reported are based on the Federal fiscal year beginning October 1; prior years' data are based on the calendar year.

*Public order offenses include weapons and immigration offenses.

Source: [Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics](#), annual and [Federal Justice Statistics, 2005](#).

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Key Facts at a Glance

Number of persons under jurisdiction of state correctional authorities by most serious offense, 1980-2005

[To Key facts at a glance chart](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)
[To Drug and Crime Facts chart](#)

Number of persons under jurisdiction of state correctional authorities by most serious offense, 1980-2005

	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order
1980	173,300	89,300	19,000	12,400
1981	193,300	100,500	21,700	14,600
1982	215,300	114,400	25,300	17,800
1983	214,600	127,100	26,600	24,400
1984	227,300	133,100	31,700	21,900
1985	246,200	140,100	38,900	23,000
1986	258,600	150,200	45,400	28,800
1987	271,300	155,500	57,900	31,300
1988	282,700	161,600	79,100	35,000
1989	293,900	172,700	120,100	39,500
1990	313,600	173,700	148,600	45,500
1991	339,500	180,700	155,200	49,500
1992	369,100	181,600	168,100	56,300
1993	393,500	189,600	177,000	64,000
1994	425,700	207,000	193,500	74,400
1995	459,600	226,600	212,800	86,500
1996	484,800	231,700	216,900	96,000
1997	507,800	236,400	222,100	106,200
1998	545,200	242,900	236,800	113,900
1999	570,000	245,000	251,200	120,600
2000	589,100	238,500	251,100	124,600
2001	596,100	233,000	246,100	129,900
2002	624,900	253,000	265,100	87,500
2003	650,400	262,000	250,900	86,400
2004	663,700	265,600	249,400	88,900
2005	687,700	248,900	253,300	98,700

Source: Correctional Populations in the United States, 1997, and Prisoners in 2007

Violent offenses include murder, negligent and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault, extortion, intimidation, criminal

endangerment, and other violent offenses.

Property offenses include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, fraud, possession and selling of stolen property, destruction of property, trespassing, vandalism, criminal tampering, and other property offenses.

Drug offenses include possession, manufacturing, trafficking, and other drug offenses.

Public-order offenses include weapons, drunk driving, escape/flight to avoid prosecution, court offenses, obstruction, commercialized vice, morals and decency charges, liquor law violations, and other public-order offenses.

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug and Crime Facts Drug use

[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)

Cocaine use among high school seniors peaked in 1985

**Percent of
high school
seniors who
used cocaine
within the
last:**

Year	Percent of high school seniors who used cocaine within the last:	
	12 months	30 days*
1984	11.6	5.8
1985	13.1	6.7
1986	12.7	6.2
1987	10.3	4.3
1988	7.9	3.4
1989	6.5	2.8
1990	5.3	1.9
1991	3.5	1.4
1992	3.1	1.3
1993	3.3	1.3
1994	3.6	1.5
1995	4.0	1.8
1996	4.9	2.0
1997	5.5	2.3
1998	5.7	2.4
1999	6.2	2.6
2000	5.0	2.1
2001	4.8	2.1
2002	5.0	2.3
2003	4.8	2.1
2004	5.3	2.3
2005	5.1	2.3
2006	5.7	2.5
2007	5.2	2.0

2008

4.4

1.9

Source: University of Michigan,
The Monitoring the Future, Press
release: ***Various stimulant
drugs show continuing
gradual declines among teens
in 2008, most illicit drugs hold
steady*** , December 11, 2008.
*Including the last 30 days.

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drugs and Crime Facts

Drug and Crime Facts

Drug use

[To the chart based on these data](#) | [Download spreadsheet version](#)

Percent of high school seniors who think people risk harming themselves with drug use, 1988-2008

Year	Marijuana	Cocaine	LSD	Heroin
1988	77.0	89.2	84.2	88.8
1989	77.5	90.2	84.3	89.5
1990	77.8	91.1	84.5	90.2
1991	78.6	90.4	84.3	89.6
1992	76.5	90.2	81.8	89.2
1993	72.5	90.1	79.4	88.3
1994	65.0	89.3	79.1	88.0
1995	60.8	87.9	78.1	87.2
1996	59.9	88.3	77.8	89.5
1997	58.1	87.1	76.6	88.9
1998	58.5	86.3	76.5	89.1
1999	57.4	85.8	76.1	89.9
2000	58.3	86.2	75.9	89.2
2001	57.4	84.1	74.1	88.3
2002	53.0	84.5	73.9	88.5
2003	54.9	83.0	72.3	89.3
2004	54.6	82.2	70.2	86.8
2005	58.0	82.8	69.9	87.5
2006	57.9	84.6	69.3	89.7
2007	54.8	83.3	67.3	87.8
2008	51.7	80.7	63.6	86.4

Source: University of Michigan, The Monitoring the Future, Press release: ***Various stimulant drugs show continuing gradual declines among teens in 2008, most illicit drugs hold steady***, University of Michigan News and Information Services, December 11, 2008. (Acrobat file 767.5 KB)