
Drugs and Crime Facts, 1994

A summary of drug data published in 1994

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

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Single copies of any report cited here or any other BJS publication can be ordered from the ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse, National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000, toll-free 800-666-3332. Please order using NCJ numbers listed in the source notes, pages 36-37.

Public-use tapes for BJS data sets and other criminal justice data are available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 (1-800-999-0960 or 1-313-763-5010). Please specify the ICPSR number shown in the source notes, pages 36-37, when ordering.

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Drug data produced by BJS

Many Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) programs produce data on drug law enforcement, drug offenders, and drugs and crime. For example —

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

detailed data on drug law violators in the Federal justice system

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

Drugs and crime facts, 1994 presents the most current information available relating to drugs and crime published by BJS in over two dozen different reports through the end of calendar 1994. This publication also highlights other drug data sources frequently used by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse in responding to requests.

Among other BJS reports published in calendar 1994 were the following:

- *Pretrial release of Federal felony defendants, 1990* (BJS Special Report, February 1994) examines the likelihood of pretrial release, type of release, and pretrial misconduct of Federal defendants, including Federal drug offenders.
- *Women in prison* (BJS Special Report, March 1994) reports on female inmates in State prisons in 1991 including prior drug and alcohol use, needle sharing behaviors, treatment, and prior physical or sexual abuse of drug offenders.

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- *Comparing Federal and State prison inmates, 1991* (September 1994) describes the results of the first joint survey of prisoners held in State and Federal prisons, including data on the proportion of inmates incarcerated for a drug offense, prior drug use, sentence length, prior treatment, use of a weapon, and HIV infection.
 - *Felony sentences in the United States, 1990* (BJS Bulletin, September 1994) compares sentencing statistics on State and Federal courts, including the number of convictions for drug offenses, type of sentence, sentence length, and estimated time to be served.
 - *National Corrections Reporting Program, 1992* (October 1994) is part of an annual series detailing the characteristics of persons, including drug offenders, admitted to and released from the prison and parole systems in the United States.
 - *Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1992* (BJS Bulletin, November 1994) reports on criminal history, pretrial processing, pretrial misconduct, adjudication, and sentencing of felony defendants, including drug offenders, in State courts in large urban counties.
 - *Federal law enforcement officers, 1993* (BJS Bulletin, December 1994) reports on the number of Federal law enforcement officers authorized to carry firearms and arrest offenders, including Federal drug law violators.
 - *Felony sentences in State courts, 1992* (BJS Bulletin, December 1994) reports on the number of felony drug convictions, sentence type and length, and case processing time for drug offenders.
 - *Felony defendants in large urban counties, 1992* (December 1994) describes demographic characteristics, criminal history, pretrial release information, and sentencing for felony offenders, including drug offenders, in the Nation's 75 most populous counties.

Access to current drug data

This issue of *Drugs and crime facts* summarizes drug data published by BJS in 1994 or earlier. For updated analyses of drug data or more recently released reports, readers may contact the ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse or send the order form at the end of this report.

The Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse was established in 1987 by BJS, with funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, to provide policymakers, criminal justice practitioners, researchers, and the general public with ready access to understandable information on drug law violations and drug-related law enforcement. In October 1994, the Clearinghouse became a component of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). ONDCP began funding the Clearinghouse in November 1994. Clearinghouse products and services are described in detail on pages 34-35. The toll-free line is **1-800-666-3332**.

Many of the reports cited in this publication are accessible through the Internet or the NCJRS Electronic Bulletin Board System (*BBS).

The **NCJRS Gopher** provides information from the Office of Justice Programs agencies, as well as the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and provides a direct link to the NCJRS*BBS. The gopher address is: *ncjrs.aspensys.com 71*

Through the **World Wide Web**, NCJRS provides a graphical interface to NCJRS information, as well as to information from other criminal justice resources around the world. The address for the NCJRS World Wide Web page is:
http://ncjrs.aspensys.com:81/ncjrshome.html

First-time users of NCJRS can send an e-mail message to receive a reply outlining the services of NCJRS to:
look@ncjrs.aspensys.com

For technical assistance or specific questions on drugs and crime or other criminal or juvenile justice topics, please send an e-mail to:
askncjrs@aspensys.com

To access the **NCJRS*BBS** through the Internet—

- telnet to: *ncjrspbbs.aspensys.com*
- or
- gopher to: *ncjrs.aspensys.com 71*

To access the **NCJRS*BBS** directly, dial: (301) 738-8895. Modems should be set up to 9600 baud at 8-N-1.

Drug use by offenders at the time of offense

The BJS National Crime Victimization Survey asks victims of the violent crimes of rape, robbery, and assault about their perceptions of the offender's use of alcohol and drugs. In 30% of violent crime victimizations in 1992, victims reported that they believed their assailants were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In

half of violent crime victimizations, the victim did not know whether the offender was under the influence.

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

Violent offenders under the influence of drugs or alcohol, as perceived by victims, 1992

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

Type of crime	Total	Not sure the influence	Under the influence				Not under which substance	if under the influence
			Total	Not known Alcohol only	Drugs only	Both		
Crimes of violence	100%	20.8%	30.2%	18.0%	4.3%	6.1%	1.6%	49.9%
Rape	100	23.1*	38.6	18.2*	8.0*	12.4*	0.0*	38.3
Robbery	100	15.2	24.9	10.8	5.4	6.1	2.6*	59.9
Aggravated assault	100	12.7	31.4	16.7	4.3	8.2	1.8*	55.9
Simple	100	27.2	31.1	21.3	3.7	4.7	1.2	41.8

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

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: Criminal victimization in the United States, 1992.

Among jail inmates in 1989 —

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

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

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

Reported drug use by convicted prison and jail inmates

Drug Type	Percent who used drugs at the time of the offense		Percent who used drugs in the month before the offense	
	1989	1991	1989	1991
	Jail inmates	Prison inmates	Jail inmates	Prison inmates
Any drug	27%	31%	44%	50%
Marijuana	9	11	28	32
Cocaine /crack	14	14	24	25
Heroin/opiates	5	6	7	10

Sources: Drugs and jail inmates, 1989. Survey of State prison inmates, 1991.

In 1991, 49% of all State prison inmates reported that they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol or both at the time they committed the offense for which they were currently sentenced: 17% were under the influence of drugs only, and 14% were under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Half of the State prisoners said they had taken illegal drugs during the month before committing the crime.

Among violent offenders in State prisons —

- 61% said that they or their victims were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense
- 50% reported being under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the offense
- 30% said their victims were under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

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

Data from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program revealed that of a sample of adult males arrested in 23 U.S. cities in 1993, the percent testing positive for any drug ranged from 54% in Omaha and San Jose to 81% in Chicago. Among the 20 cities reporting data on female arrestees, the percent of females testing positive for any drug ranged from 42% in San Antonio to 83% in Manhattan.

Sources: Criminal victimization in the United States, 1992. *Drugs and jail inmates, 1989. Survey of State prison inmates, 1991. Survey of youth in custody, 1987.* U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Drug Use Forecasting 1993 Annual Report on Adult Arrestees.

Prior drug use by offenders

Data from BJS surveys show that 78% of jail inmates in 1989, 79% of State prisoners in 1991, 60% of Federal prisoners in 1991, and 83% of youth in long-term public juvenile facilities in 1987 had used drugs at some point in their lives.

Although drug use by State prison inmates in the month before the offense fell between 1986 and 1991, a higher proportion of inmates reported use of cocaine or crack in 1991 than 1986. One in three inmates who ever used drugs in the past used a needle to inject drugs. Fifteen percent of inmates who had ever used drugs had shared a needle at least once.

Prior drug use by State prison inmates

<u>Type of drug</u>	<u>Percent of inmates who had ever used drugs</u>	
	<u>1986</u>	<u>1991</u>
Any drug	80%	79%
Marijuana	76	74
Cocaine/crack	44	50
Heroin/opiates	26	25

Among 1989 jail inmates who used drugs, the median age at which they began to use —

- any drug was 16
- a major drug (including heroin, crack, cocaine, PCP, LSD, and methadone) was 18
- a major drug regularly was 20.

Sixty percent of jail inmates who ever used any drug reported they had done so more than a year before their first arrest. Of inmates who reported using a major drug regularly, 55% had not done so until after their first arrest.

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

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

Sources: *Drugs and jail inmates, 1989. Survey of State prison inmates, 1991. Comparing Federal and State prison inmates, 1991. Survey of youth in custody, 1987.*

Drug-related crime

Overall, 10% of Federal prison inmates in 1991, 17% of State prison inmates in 1991, and 13% of convicted jail inmates in 1989 said they committed their offense to obtain money for drugs. Twenty percent of Hispanic State prison inmates said they committed their offense to get money for drugs, compared to 15% of white inmates and 17% of black inmates. Twenty-four percent of female inmates said they committed their offense to get money to buy drugs, compared to 16% of male inmates.

Inmates incarcerated for robbery, burglary, larceny, and drug trafficking most often committed their crime to obtain money for drugs. Inmates who committed homicide, sexual assault, assault, and public-order offenses were least likely to commit their offense to obtain money for drugs.

Percent of inmates who committed their offense for money to buy drugs

<u>Most serious current offense</u>	<u>Federal prison inmates, 1991</u>	<u>State prison inmates, 1991</u>	<u>Jail inmates, 1989</u>
All offenses	10%	17%	13%
Violent offenses	18%	12%	12%
Homicide ^a	3	5	3
Sexual assault ^b	0	2	2
Robbery	27	27	32
Assault	2	6	3
Property offenses	9	26	24
Burglary	32	30	31
Larceny/theft	13	31	28
Motor vehicle theft	—	—	7
Drug offenses	9	22	14
Possession	7	16	10
Trafficking	10	25	19
Public-order offenses	6	5	3

^a Includes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, and negligent manslaughter.

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported that in 1993, 5.5% of the 23,271 homicides in which circumstances were known were narcotics-related. This includes only those murders that occurred specifically during a narcotics felony, such as drug trafficking or manufacturing. Those homicides that involved a narcotics felony and a more serious felony, such as armed robbery, were not tabulated as drug-related.

were involved with the killer in a drug relationship.

Sources: *Comparing Federal and State prison inmates, 1991. Survey of State prison inmates, 1991. Drugs and jail inmates, 1989. Women in jail 1989. Murder in large urban counties, 1988.* Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1991 through 1993.*

Drug-related homicides

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of homicides</u>	<u>Percent drug-related</u>
1986	19,257	3.9%
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	23,271	5.5

Note: Includes only those homicides where circumstances were known. Table constructed by ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse staff from *Crime in the United States, 1991 through 1993* (FBI), p. 21.

A study of murder cases disposed in the Nation's 75 most populous counties in 1988 found that circumstances involving illegal drugs, such as a drug scam or dispute over drugs, accounted for 18% of the defendants and 16% of the victims.

In 7% of cases, victims and their killers were both at the murder scene because of drugs. Of victims, 12%

Drug control budget

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Federal drug control budget increased from \$1.5 billion in fiscal 1981 to \$13.2 billion in fiscal 1995.

Total Federal drug control budget

FY 1981 actual	\$ 1,531,800
FY 1989 actual	6,663,700
FY 1990 actual	9,758,900
FY 1991 actual	10,957,600
FY 1992 actual	11,910,100
FY 1993 actual	12,265,300
FY 1994 estimate	12,136,200
FY 1995 requested	13,179,800

Fiscal 1995 Federal drug control budget by function

Total	\$13,179,800
Drug treatment	\$ 2,874,400
Education, community action, and the workplace	2,050,700
Criminal justice system	5,926,900
International	427,800
Interdiction	1,205,600
Research	531,600
Intelligence	162,800

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

State and local spending for drug control, fiscal years 1990 and 1991

	FY 1990	FY 1991
Total	\$14,075,000	\$15,907,000
Justice	\$11,525,000	\$12,619,000
Police protection	4,035,000	4,223,000
Judicial and legal services	1,346,000	1,449,000
Corrections	6,045,000	6,827,000
Other	100,000	120,000
Health and hospitals	\$2,184,000	\$2,784,000
Education	\$ 366,000	\$ 503,000

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, as reported in *Fact sheet: Drug data summary*.

Drug law enforcement

Federal, State, and local agencies share responsibility for enforcing the Nation's drug laws, although most arrests are made by State and local authorities. State and local police made an estimated 1.1 million arrests for drug law violations in 1993, according to the FBI.

Estimated number of arrests for drug violations reported by State and local police, 1984-93

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sale/man- ufacture</u>	<u>Posses- sion</u>	<u>Total</u>
1984	155,848	552,552	708,400
1985	192,302	619,098	811,400
1986	206,849	617,251	824,100
1987	241,849	695,551	937,400
1988	316,525	838,675	1,155,200
1989	441,191	920,509	1,361,700
1990	344,282	745,218	1,089,500
1991	337,340	672,660	1,010,000
1992	338,049	728,351	1,066,400
1993	334,511	791,789	1,126,300
Percent change 1984-93	114.6%	43.3%	59.0%

Note: Table constructed by ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse staff from Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1984 through 1993*.

As reported in the 1993 BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics* —

- the Federal Government seized 6,605 clandestine drug laboratories between fiscal years 1975 and 1993
- in fiscal year 1993, of the 286 labs seized, 237 (83%) manufactured methamphetamines
- in 1993 the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) program for eradicating domestic marijuana resulted in the destruction of 393 million plants in 64,132 plots, 12,397 arrests, 6,062 weapons seized, and assets seized valued at \$52 million
- in fiscal year 1993 DEA confiscated 133,665 pounds of cocaine, 1,590 pounds of heroin, 39 pounds of opium, 314,054 pounds of marijuana, 2.8 million dosage units of hallucinogens, and 80.5 million dosage units of stimulants
- in fiscal year 1993 the DEA completed 16,690 asset seizures valued at \$680 million
- in fiscal year 1993 the U.S. Customs Service seized 507,249 pounds of marijuana, 175,318 pounds of cocaine, and 17.9 million dosage units of drugs such as LSD and barbiturates

- in 1993 the U.S. Coast Guard confiscated 48,441 pounds of marijuana and 32,313 pounds of cocaine
- in fiscal year 1993 the U.S. Postal Service made 2,193 arrests for mailing controlled substances
- in 1992 State and Federal courts authorized wiretaps in 634 narcotics cases.

Sources: Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1984 through 1993*. The Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Customs Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Postal Service, and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; all as reported in the BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1993*. ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse, *Fact sheet: Drug data summary*.

Drug seizure data from different Federal agencies should not be added together because in many instances more than one agency participated in the operations. The Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS) reflects the combined drug seizure efforts of the DEA, FBI, and the U.S. Customs Service within the jurisdiction of the United States, as well as maritime seizures by the U.S. Coast Guard. FDSS eliminates duplicate reporting of a seizure involving more than one Federal agency.

Preliminary data indicate that the following amounts of drugs were seized in fiscal 1993 by the Federal agencies participating in FDSS:

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Pounds seized</u>
Heroin	3,345
Cocaine	238,053
Marijuana	752,114
Hashish	26,080

Drug enforcement operations

As reported in *Federal law enforcement officers, 1993*, as of December 1993, Federal agencies employed about 69,000 full-time personnel authorized to make arrests and carry firearms.

The DEA employed 2,813 full-time agents. These officers investigate major narcotics violators, enforce regulations governing the manufacture and dispensing of controlled substances, and perform a variety of other functions in support of drug trafficking prevention and control.

The FBI employed 10,075 full-time agents. These agents investigate more than 250 types of Federal crimes. The FBI has concurrent jurisdiction with the DEA over drug offenses under the Controlled Substances Act.

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

Drug-related law enforcement activities include making arrests and seizing drugs as well as laboratory

testing of drugs, drug education, and drug testing of arrestees and agency employees.

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

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

Drug-related participation by agencies with primary drug enforcement responsibilities, 1990

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

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

In 1990 —

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

schools, while 60% operated special gang units

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Mandatory programs are those in which all are tested.
*Sworn positions only.

Sources: *Federal law enforcement officers, 1993. Drug enforcement by police and sheriffs' departments, 1990. State and local police departments, 1990. Sheriffs' departments 1990.*

Pretrial release of drug defendants

The National Pretrial Reporting Program (NPRP) revealed that of persons charged with a felony drug offense in 1992 in the 75 most populous counties —

- 68% were released prior to case disposition
- 27% were held with bail set
- 5% were held without bail.

The median amount of bail set for a person charged with a drug offense was \$5,000. Defendants charged with a drug offense were more likely to secure release (29%) when bail was set at \$20,000 or more than those charged with a violent offense (17%), public-order offense (18%), or a property offense (11%).

Of felony drug defendants released prior to the disposition of their case, 51% were released within 1 day of their arrest, 79% within 1 week, and 93% within 1 month.

Of felony drug defendants released before case disposition, 27% failed to make a scheduled court appearance within 1 year. Seventy percent of the defendants who failed to appear returned to court by the end of the 1-year study period, while 30% remained fugitives.

Sixteen percent of released drug defendants were known to have been rearrested while on pretrial release.

Of all released defendants rearrested for a drug offense, 59% were once again granted pretrial release.

Pretrial status of defendants charged with drug offenses, 1988-92

Pretrial status and type of release	1988	1990	1992
Total	100%	100%	100%
Released	72%	65%	68%
Financial total	36%	28%	27%
Surety	19	18	15
Full cash	10	7	7
Deposit	6	3	5
Other	1	1	1
Nonfinancial total	36%	35%	39%
Detained	28%	35%	32%

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

Percent of felony defendants released before trial, by type of offense, 1988-92

Most serious felony arrest charge	Percent released prior to case disposition		
	1988	1990	1992
All offenses	66%	65%	63%
Murder	39	37	24
Rape	55	54	48
Robbery	52	51	50
Assault	69	75	68
Burglary	53	56	51
Theft	64	67	67
Drug offenses	72	65	68
Sales/trafficking	69	61	66
Other	75	70	71
Public-order	70	69	65

Data from the Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP) showed that in 1990, 54% of Federal drug defendants were released prior to case disposition. About half of these releases occurred within 1 day of arrest, 76% within 1 week, and 89% within 1 month.

Pretrial status of Federal defendants charged with drug offenses, 1990

Pretrial status and type of release

Total	100%
Released	54%
Financial*	23
Unsecured bond	23
Recognizance	7
Conditional	1
Detained	46%
Held on bail	10
Denied bail	37

* Includes deposit bond, surety bond, and property bond.

Of Federal drug defendants released prior to case disposition, 18% committed pretrial misconduct—

- 4% failed to appear in court as scheduled
- 4% were rearrested for a new offense
- 11% committed a technical violation, including reporting violations and violations of conditions involving the use of illegal drugs.

Sources: *Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1992. Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1990. Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1988. Pretrial release of Federal felony defendants, 1990.*

Prosecution and sentencing of Federal drug law violators

The number of suspects prosecuted for drug offenses increased from 7,697 in 1981 to 25,663 in 1991. U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute 22.3% (7,814) of suspected drug offenders who were investigated in matters closed in 1991, a lower percentage than for offenders suspected of violent offenses (29.5%), property offenses (48.5%), and public-order offenses (36%).

The number of persons convicted of violating Federal drug laws rose to 17,349 in 1991 from 5,981 in 1981. This 190% increase exceeded the 53% growth in U.S. district court convictions for all Federal offenses during the same years and accounted for over 67% of the total increase in Federal convictions.

The number of defendants convicted of drug possession offenses increased from 498 in 1981 to 1,163 in 1991 — a 134% increase. Drug possession convictions were 7% of all drug convictions in 1991.

Drug offenses accounted for 19% of all defendants convicted in 1981 and 35% of all defendants convicted in 1991. Drug trafficking offenses alone accounted for 33% of all defendants convicted in 1991. The conviction rate for drug defendants increased from 76% in 1981 to 84% in 1991.

The percentage of offenders convicted of drug offenses sentenced

to prison rose from 73% in 1981 to 87% in 1991.

The average prison sentence for persons charged with Federal drug violations was longer than for all other offenses except violent crimes in 1991.

Average sentence length for persons sentenced to Federal prisons for drug and nondrug offenses, 1991

All offenses	62 mos.
Violent offenses	91
Property offenses	21
Federal drug offenses	86
Trafficking	87
Possession	22
Public-order offenses	38

Drug offenders are receiving longer sentences and are serving a larger percentage of their sentence than in the past. The average Federal prison sentence for drug offenses rose from 62 months in 1986 to 86 months in 1991. The average percent of sentence served until first release increased from 60% in 1985 to 68% in 1990. Contributing to these increases are the sentencing guidelines that went into effect in 1987 and the 1986 and 1988 anti-drug abuse laws which prescribed stiffer sentences and mandatory minimum incarceration terms for Federal offenders.

Sources: *Federal drug case processing 1985-91: With preliminary data for 1992. Federal criminal case processing, 1982-91: With preliminary data for 1992. Federal sentencing in transition, 1986-90. Federal criminal case processing, 1980-1987.*

Prosecution and sentencing of drug law violators in State courts

In the United States in 1990 there were an estimated —

- 324,235 adults arrested for drug trafficking
- 168,360 felony drug trafficking convictions
- 129,637 drug traffickers sentenced to incarceration
- 82,496 drug traffickers sentenced to State prison or 25 for every 100 drug trafficking arrests.

According to data from the BJS National Prosecutor Survey Program, in 1992, 1 in 5 State prosecutors' offices had a specialized narcotics unit. Based on statutes enacted in the previous 3 years —

- 23% of the offices prosecuted cases based on recently enacted statutes addressing controlled substances, such as anabolic steroids and precursor chemicals
- 21% prosecuted cases addressing illegal drugs in a school zone
- 9% prosecuted cases for drug possession.

The number of drug trafficking convictions in State courts more than doubled between 1986 and 1990. Of persons convicted of drug trafficking in State courts in 1990 —

- 85% were male
- 42% were white, 57% black, and 1% of other races
- the average age was 30
- 50% were between ages 20 and 29.

Ninety percent of drug trafficking convictions in 1990 resulted from guilty pleas; 4% resulted from jury trials; and 4% resulted from bench trials.

Drug offenders comprised a third of all persons convicted of a felony in State courts in 1990. Drug traffickers accounted for 20% of all convicted felons; drug possessors also accounted for 13% of all convicted felons.

Seventy-seven percent of persons convicted of drug trafficking in 1990 were sentenced to some kind of incarceration: 28% to jail and 49% to prison; 23% were sentenced to probation. The average prison sentence for persons convicted of drug trafficking was 6 years 2 months, of which the estimated time to be served was 1 year 11 months.

Disposition of felony arrests in State courts in the United States, 1990

Arrest offense	Con- victed	For 100 arrests:	
		Total	Sentenced to incarceration State Prison
Murder*	55	52	50
Rape	54	47	36
Robbery	37	33	27
Aggravated assault	13	10	6
Burglary	38	28	20
Drug trafficking	52	40	25

*Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.
Source: *Felony sentences in State courts, 1990.*

Of persons convicted of drug possession, 29% were sentenced to jail, 35% to prison, and 36% to probation. The average prison sentence was 4 years 1 month, of which the estimated time to be served was 13 months.

Mean State prison sentence and estimated time to be served in prison, 1990

Most serious conviction offense	Mean State prison sentence	Estimated time to be served ^a
Murder ^b	243mos. mos.	104
Rape	160	62
Robbery	115	45
Aggravated assault	78	26
Burglary	80	26
Larceny ^c	49	13
Drug offenses	66	19
Trafficking	74	23
Possession	49	13

^aDerived by multiplying percentage of sentence actually served by the mean sentence imposed. Percentage of sentence actually served was estimated by the source from table 2-8, *National corrections reporting program, 1989* (NCJ-138222), November, 1992.

^bIncludes nonnegligent man-slaughter.

^cIncludes motor vehicle theft.

Source: *Felony sentences in State courts, 1990*.

The average (mean) time from arrest to sentencing was 223 days for a drug trafficking case resulting in a State court conviction in 1990. The average time was 286 days for jury trials, 219 days for bench trials, and 221 days for guilty pleas.

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

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

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

Sources: *Felony sentences in State courts, 1990*. *Prosecutors in State courts, 1992*. *Recidivism of felons on probation, 1986-89*.

Drug offenders in correctional populations

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

- drug offenders accounted for 61% of sentenced inmates in Federal prisons in 1993, up from 38% in 1986 and 25% in 1980*
- the proportion of drug offenders in State prisons increased from 9% in 1986 to 21% in 1991
- the proportion of drug offenders in local jails increased from 9% in 1983 to 23% in 1989.

Of State prisoners in 1991:

- 8% were sentenced for drug possession and 13% were sentenced for drug trafficking
- women were more likely to be incarcerated for a drug offense than men (33% versus 21%)
- inmates serving time for drug trafficking accounted for 3% of inmates sentenced to life or death
- blacks were more likely to be serving time for a drug offense than whites (25% versus 12%), but less than Hispanic inmates (33%).

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*Obtained by ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse from Bureau of Prisons Key Indicators Strategic Support System, January 25, 1994.

In 1991, 10% of the 57,661 juveniles detained in public juvenile facilities were committed for drug-related offenses, according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, as presented in the 1993 *BJS Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*.

Juveniles held in facilities, by type of offense, 1991

Juveniles detained or

<u>committed for:</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Delinquent offenses	97%	81%
Offenses against persons	33	20
Property offenses	37	30
Alcohol offenses	1	1
Drug-related offenses	10	5
Public-order offenses	4	5
Other delinquent offenses	12	19
Nondelinquent reasons	3	19

The BJS 1990 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities reported on drug treatment and intervention programs for 1,024 correctional facilities. Prisons may offer many types of drug intervention or treatment: detoxification, counseling, education and or awareness programs, urine surveillance, and treatment in special residential units within the facility –

- Federal facilities reported they could test 33% of inmates for drugs; State confinement facilities, 10%; and community-based facilities, 57%.

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- Counseling was available for 14% of inmates in Federal facilities, 12% in State, and 48% in community-based facilities.
 - Residential treatment program capacity was from 1% to 2% of inmate population for all types of institutions.

Of all Federal inmates, 9% were enrolled in some form of drug treatment on June 29, 1990. Among State prisoners, 14% in confinement facilities were enrolled and 37% in community-based facilities were enrolled. The two most common types of programs for both Federal and State correctional facilities were education and counseling.

According to data from the 1991 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 43% of all inmates had participated in a drug treatment program; 36% received their most recent treatment while incarcerated. Group counseling was the most frequent type of treatment program.

In 1991, about 57% of Federal drug offenders and 52% of drug offenders in state prisons were tested for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). In Federal prisons, property (1.4%) and violent (1.1%) offenders had higher positive HIV rates than drug (0.6%) and public-order offenders (0.6%). In State prisons, drug (3.2%) and property (2.7%) offenders had higher rates than public-order (1.9%) and violent (1.4%) offenders.

Drug using offenders have a higher risk for infection with AIDS –

- 3.2% of Federal inmates and 4.9% of State inmates who used a needle to inject drugs, tested positive
- 5.5% of Federal inmates and 7.1% of State inmates who shared needles to inject drugs, tested positive.

About 4% of drug offenders in Federal prisons and 15% of drug offenders in State prisons who had shared needles, were HIV positive.

Sources: Survey of State prison inmates, 1991. *Profile of State prison inmates, 1986. Profile of jail inmates, 1989. Drugs and jail inmates, 1989.* Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, as reported in the BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1993. Drug enforcement and treatment in prisons, 1990. Comparing Federal and State prison inmates, 1991.*

Drug enforcement in correctional facilities

Data from the BJS 1990 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities describe the various methods used to prevent illegal entry of drugs into prisons and to stop the use of illegal drugs by those under correctional supervision. These methods include drug testing, questioning, patdowns, clothing exchanges, and body cavity searches.

Most prison facilities required new admissions and inmates returning from temporary release to be patted down and required them to exchange their clothing for prison-furnished clothing.

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

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

Drug interdiction activities for prison inmates/residents, by type of facility, June 1990

Drug interdiction activity, by inmate group	Type of facility		
	Federal confinement	State Confinement	Community-based
Inmates at admission			
Verbal questioning	83.8%	74.9%	79.2%
Patdown	87.5	77.7	71.2
Clothing exchange	87.5	59.0	26.0
Body cavity search	61.3	45.1	14.4
Inmates returning from temporary release			
Verbal questioning	72.5%	66.5%	68.0%
Patdown	81.3	79.7	81.6
Clothing exchange	72.5	54.5	29.2
Body cavity search	63.8	47.6	20.4

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

Drug interdiction activities for prison visitors, by type of facility, June 1990

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Most facilities conducted urine tests upon suspicion of drug use. One in five facilities systematically conducted urine tests on all inmates at least once during their confinement.

The 1992 Annual Survey of Jails revealed that 308 out of 503 large jail jurisdictions conducted urinalysis on inmates. Of the 308 jurisdictions testing for drug use, 219 reported testing inmates upon suspicion of drug use, 159 conducted random tests, 153 tested inmates on return from the community, and 35 tested all inmates at least once.

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

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

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

Sources: *Drug enforcement and treatment in prisons, 1990. Jail inmates, 1992.*

Recidivism of drug law violators

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

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

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

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

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

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

Percent of probationers rearrested

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

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

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

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

<u>Reincar- Offense</u>	<u>Percent of drug law violators released from prison in 1983 who within 3 years were</u>		
	<u>Rear-</u>	<u>Recon-</u>	
	<u>rested</u>	<u>victed</u>	<u>cerated</u>
Drug offenses	50.4%	35.3%	30.3%
Possession	62.8	40.2	36.7
Trafficking	51.5	34.5	29.4
Other drug offenses	45.3	34.5	29.1

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

Drugs and youth

The National Institute on Drug Abuse has sponsored a survey of high school seniors each year since 1975. As reported in the 1993 *BJS Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, of 1993 high school seniors —

- 35.3% reported having ever used marijuana/hashish
- 6.1% reported having ever used cocaine
- 1.1% reported having ever used heroin.

1993 high school seniors reporting they could obtain drugs fairly easily or very easily

Marijuana	83.0%
Amphetamines	61.5
LSD	49.2
Cocaine powder	45.4
Barbiturates	44.5
Crack	43.6
Tranquilizers	41.1
Heroin	33.7
PCP	31.7
Crystal methamphetamine (ice)	26.6
Amyl and butyl nitrates	25.9

In 1993, 26% of high school seniors reported use of marijuana within the previous 12 months, up from 21.9% in 1992. Marijuana use within the last 30 days increased from 11.9% in 1992 to 15.5% in 1993.

Reported illegal drug use by high school seniors, 1993

Drugs	Used within the last:	
	12 months ^a	30 days
Marijuana	26.0%	15.5%
Cocaine (other than crack)	2.9	1.2
Crack	1.5	.7
Hallucinogens	7.4	2.7
Heroin	.5	.2
Other opiates ^b	3.6	1.3
Inhalants	7.0	2.5
Stimulants ^b	8.4	3.7
Sedatives ^b	3.4	1.3
Tranquilizers ^b	3.5	1.2
Steroids	1.2	0.7

^aIncluding the last 30 days.

^bIncludes only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders.

Cocaine use among high school seniors peaked in 1985:

Year	Used cocaine within the last:	
	12 months*	30 days
1975	5.6%	1.9%
1976	6.0	2.0
1977	7.2	2.9
1978	9.0	3.9
1979	12.0	5.7
1980	12.3	5.2
1981	12.4	5.8
1982	11.5	5.0
1983	11.4	4.9
1984	11.6	5.8
1985	13.1	6.7
1986	12.7	6.2
1987	10.3	4.3
1988	7.9	3.4
1989	6.5	2.8
1990	5.3	1.9
1991	3.5	1.4
1992	3.1	1.3
1993	3.3	1.3

*Including the last 30 days.

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

The 1993 high school seniors were asked, "How much do you think people risk harming themselves?" Those students answering "great risk" in regular use accounted for the following percentages —

- marijuana, 72.5%, up from a low of 34.9% in 1978, but down from 76.5% in 1992
- cocaine, 90%, up from a low of 68.2% in 1977 and 1978
- heroin, 88.3%, virtually stable since 1975
- LSD, 79.4%, following a low of 79.1% in 1977 and a high of 84.5% in 1990.

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

Availability of drugs was reported more often by —

- public school students (70%) than by private school students (52%)
- students in grades 9 to 12, compared to students in grades 6 to 8.

Similar rates of drug availability were reported by —

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

The survey also showed that most drugs, while available, were difficult to obtain.

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

- 15% knew adults or older kids who tried or who use marijuana; 5% knew kids their own age who tried or who use marijuana
- 10% knew adults or older kids who tried or who use cocaine; 2% knew kids their own age who use cocaine or crack
- 90% agreed with the statement "drugs bought on the street are not safe to use"
- 7% said they will probably have tried drugs by the time they enter high school.

Sources: *School crime*. Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *Smoking, drinking, and illicit drug use among American secondary school students, college students, and young adults, 1975-1993* and NFO Research Inc., *Final report, drug awareness and attitude study* as reported in BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, various editions.

Gangs

About 6% of State prison inmates belonged to a gang prior to incarceration, according to data from the 1991 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities.

Among inmates who were gang members—

- 81% reported past drug use
- 69% said they manufactured, imported, or sold drugs as a group
- 92% reported their gang fought other groups.

Of inmates who reported belonging to a gang before entering prison, 32% were still members at the time of incarceration. On average, they had joined a gang at age 14. Half reported that their gang had 60 or more members.

In 1991, among Federal offenders who had trafficked in, grown, or manufactured illegal drugs or who had managed drug money, 25% said they were a member of a group or organization that engaged in illegal drug activities. About 11% were leaders or middle men in a drug organization. About 9% belonged to organizations with 11 or more members.

Fifteen percent of students ages 12 to 19 reported the presence of street gangs at their school, according to 1989 data from the National Crime Victimization Survey School Crime Supplement. Seventy-eight percent of students who reported gang presence at their school said drugs were available compared to 66% of students who reported gangs were not present.

Students at schools with gangs were more likely to fear an attack both at school and on the way to school and were more likely to avoid certain areas inside the school.

Sources: *Survey of State prison inmates, 1991. Comparing Federal and State prison inmates, 1991. School crime.*

Drug use in the general population

According to data from the 1993 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) National Household Survey on Drug Abuse —

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

Preliminary data from the 1993 survey show that marijuana and cocaine use is most prevalent among those ages 18 to 34.

Drug use	Age of respondent			
	12-17	18-25	26-34	35+
Marijuana				
Last month	4.9%	11.1%	6.7%	1.9%
Last year	10.1	22.9	13.8	4.0
Lifetime	11.6	47.4	59.2	26.6
Cocaine				
Last month	.4%	1.5%	1.0%	.4%
Last year	0.8	5.0	4.4	1.1
Lifetime	1.1	12.5	25.6	8.5

As reported in the 1993 BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, rates of drug use by college students were among the lowest during the past 10 years.

Marijuana and cocaine use among college students, 1984-93

Drug use	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Marijuana										
Daily within										
last month	3.6%	3.1%	2.1%	2.3%	1.8%	2.6%	1.7%	1.8%	1.6%	1.9%
Last month	23.0	23.6	22.3	20.3	16.8	16.3	14.0	14.1	14.6	14.2
Last year	40.7	41.7	40.9	37.0	34.6	33.6	29.4	26.5	27.7	27.9
Cocaine										
Daily within										
last month	.4%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Last month	7.6	6.9	7.0	4.6	4.2	2.8	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.7
Last year	16.3	17.3	17.1	13.7	10.0	8.2	5.6	3.6	3.0	2.7

Source: *Drug use among American high school seniors, college students, and young adults* as reported in the BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, 1993.

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

The SAMHSA Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) reported an estimated 433,493 drug-related episodes in hospital emergency rooms nationwide in 1992, an 10% increase from 393,968 in 1991.

A total of 7,532 deaths related to drug abuse were reported in 1992 by medical examiners in 38 metropolitan areas.

Sources: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, as reported in ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse, *Fact Sheet: Drug data summary*. Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *Smoking, drinking, and illicit drug use among American secondary school students, college students, and young adults, 1984-1993* as reported in the BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1993*. Drug Abuse Warning Network, as reported in *Fact sheet: Drug data summary*.

Public opinion about drugs

As reported in the 1993 BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, the percentage of Gallup Poll respondents describing drug abuse as the single most important problem facing our country peaked in 1989:

<u>Date of poll</u>	<u>Drug abuse most serious problem</u>
January 1985	2%
July 1986	8
April 1987	11
September 1988	11
May 1989	27
November 1989	38
April 1990	30
July 1990	18
March 1991	11
March 1992	8
January 1993	6
January 1994	9

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 1993 were —

- 14% of public school parents
- 9% of nonpublic school parents
- 17% of those with no children in school
- 16% of all surveyed.

When asked about spending for various social problems, 60% of the respondents to a 1993 National Opinion Research Center (NORC) Poll said this country is spending too little to deal with drug addiction.

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

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

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

NORC has asked adults (age 18 or older) about legalization of marijuana since 1973. In 1993, 22% believed that marijuana should be made legal, down from a peak of 30% in 1978.

College freshmen have been surveyed by NORC since 1968. In 1993, 28.2% of those surveyed agreed strongly or somewhat that marijuana should be legalized, down from a high of 52.9% in 1977 and up from a low of 16.7% in 1989.

Of 1993 high school seniors —

- 22.8% felt using marijuana should be legal, down from 32.9% feeling that way in 1978 and up from a low of 14.9% in 1986
- 75.5% reported worrying often or sometimes about drug abuse, up from 65.5% in 1978 and down from 82.6% in 1990.

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

Effect of legalization
would increase:

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

Sources: *The Gallup report*; National Opinion Research Center data made available through the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research; Alexander W. Astin, et al., *The American freshman: Twenty year trends*; Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the future 1975-1992*; Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *Drug use, drinking, and smoking: National survey results from high school, college, and young adult populations, 1975-1988*; all as reported in the BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1993* and earlier editions.

ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse

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

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

The Clearinghouse was established in 1987 to provide special attention to the needs of State and local government agencies, especially those seeking data to meet the statistical requirements of the Anti-Drug Abuse Grant Program of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). In 1994, the Clearinghouse became a component of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, with funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

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

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

The clearinghouse component —

- disseminates ONDCP, BJS and other Department of Justice publications relating to drugs and crime
- prepares and distributes fact sheets and selected bibliographies on specific drugs-and-crime topics
- responds to information requests utilizing a bibliographic database of statistical and research reports, books, and journal articles on drugs and crime
- searches the bibliographic database to fill requests for data on specific topics
- advises requesters on data availability and usefulness and on data sources that may meet their needs
- provides statistics and bibliographic citations by mail or telephone
- maintains a reading room where visitors can use the clearinghouse collection of library documents and vertical file items on drugs and crime
- coordinates with Federal, State, and local agencies in identifying other data resources and makes referrals.

During 1994 the Clearinghouse —

- handled nearly 10,000 requests for information
- expanded the bibliographic database to about 4,500 documents and total library holdings to about 13,000 items

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- distributed about 75,000 drugs-and-crime documents, 33% of which were Clearinghouse products, 12% were BJS publications, and 7% were other Office of Justice Programs publications.
 - attended seven conferences
 - distributed nine publications of the Office of National Drug Control Policy including the *1994 National Drug Control Strategy*, *Pulse Check*, and *Marijuana Situation Assessment*
 - prepared *Drugs and crime facts, 1993* (August 1994), which presents existing BJS data on the subject from diverse BJS reports
 - prepared *State drug resources: 1994 National directory* (September 1994), a guide to State and Federal agencies that address drug abuse concerns.

- prepared the fact sheets *Drug-Related Crime*, *Drug Data Summary*, and *Drug Use Trends*, summarizing up-to-date statistics on the relationship between drugs and crime.

The toll-free line for the ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse is **1-800-666-3332**. The clearinghouse is located at Aspen Systems Corporation, 1600 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD, 20850.

Source notes

Single copies of any report with an NCJ number can be obtained from the ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse, 1600 Research Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850; **800-666-3332**. Most titles are free of charge.

Sources with an ICPSR number have a data set available on data tape, CD-ROM, or diskette. For more information, contact the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, 1-800-999-0960.

Comparing Federal and State prison inmates, 1991, September, 1994, NCJ-145864

Crime in the United States, 1993, Federal Bureau of Investigation, December 1994

Criminal victimization in the United States, 1992, April 1994, NCJ-145125, ICPSR 8864

Drug enforcement and treatment in prisons, 1990 (BJS Special Report), July 1992, NCJ-134724

Drug enforcement by police and sheriffs' departments, 1990 (BJS Special Report), May 1992, NCJ-134505, ICPSR 9749

Drug Use Forecasting 1993 annual report on adult arrestees, National Institute of Justice, November, 1994, NCJ-147411

Drugs and jail inmates, 1989 (BJS Special Report), August 1991, NCJ-130836, ICPSR 9419

Fact sheet: Drug data summary, Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse, July 1994, NCJ-148213

Federal criminal case processing, 1982-1991: With preliminary data for 1992, November 1993, NCJ-144526, ICPSR 9296

Federal criminal case processing, 1980-1987, May 1990, NCJ-120069, ICPSR 9296

Federal drug case processing, 1985-91: With preliminary data for 1992, March 1994, NCJ-144392

Federal law enforcement officers, 1993 (BJS Bulletin), December 1994, NCJ-151166

Federal sentencing in transition, 1986-90 (BJS Special Report), June 1992, NCJ-134727

Felony sentences in State courts, 1990 (BJS Bulletin), March 1993, ICPSR 6038

Jail inmates 1992 (BJS Bulletin), August 1993, NCJ-143284

Murder in large urban counties, 1988 (BJS Special Report), May 1993, NCJ-140614, ICPSR 9907

National Corrections Reporting Program, 1989, November 1992, NCJ-138222, ICPSR 9849

National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Population estimates 1992, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, October 1993

Pretrial release of Federal felony defendants (BJS Special Report), February 1994, NCJ-145322

Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1988 (BJS Bulletin), February 1991, NCJ-127202, ICPSR 9508

Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1992 (BJS Bulletin), November 1994, NCJ-148818, ICPSR 9508

Profile of jail inmates, 1989 (BJS Special Report), April 1991, NCJ-129097, ICPSR 9419

Profile of State prison inmates, 1986 (BJS Special Report), January 1988, NCJ-109926, ICPSR 8711

Prosecutors in State courts, 1992 (BJS Bulletin), December 1993, NCJ-145319, ICPSR 6273

Recidivism of felons on probation, 1986-89 (BJS Special Report), February 1992, NCJ-134177, ICPSR 9574.

Recidivism of prisoners released in 1983 (BJS Special Report), April 1989, NCJ-116261, ICPSR 8875

School crime, September 1991, NCJ-131645, ICPSR 9394

Sheriffs' departments 1990 (BJS Bulletin), February 1992, NCJ-133283, ICPSR 9749

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1993, September 1994, NCJ-148211

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1991, September 1992, NCJ-137369

State and local police departments, 1990 (BJS Bulletin), February 1992, NCJ-133284, ICPSR 9749

Survey of State prison inmates, 1991, March 1993, NCJ-136949, ICPSR 6068

Survey of youth in custody, 1987 (BJS Special Report), September 1988, NCJ-113365, ICPSR 8992

Women in jail 1989 (BJS Special Report), March 1992, NCJ-134732, ICPSR 9419