



Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

Jim Doyle
Governor

David Steingraber
Executive Director

DRUG ARRESTS IN WISCONSIN - 2001



Executive Summary

1. Total drug arrests increased by 2.1 percent during 2001, compared to the increase of 6 percent in 2000 and the decrease of 0.5 percent in 1999.
2. While total arrests for sale offenses increased by 1.1 percent in 2001, total arrests for possession offenses increased by 2.4 percent.
3. While total arrests increased by 2.1 percent in 2001, arrests involving cocaine/opium increased by 3.1 percent, arrests for marijuana declined by 0.1 percent, and arrests for other drugs increased by 14.3 percent.
4. During 2001, 83.5 percent of all those arrested for drug law violations were male, slightly less than the 84.2 male percentage in 2000.
5. Total adult arrests for drug law violations increased by 1.6 percent in 2001.
6. Total juvenile arrests for drug law violations increased by 4 percent in 2001.
7. Both the type of substance and type of activity in drug arrests were strongly related to the race of those arrested. While 81.5 percent of those arrested for marijuana were white, 56.7 percent of those arrested for opium/cocaine violations were black.
8. The total number of arrests for drug law violations increased by 17.9 percent from 1997 to 2001.
9. The juvenile proportion of total drug arrests has remained very stable from 1997 through 2001.
10. After increasing from 1997 to 1998, the opium/cocaine percentage of total drug arrests has declined substantially since 1998.
11. The proportion of total drug arrests which involved sale violations has remained very stable over the past five years.
12. While total drug arrests decreased by 3.9 percent in Milwaukee County from 1999 to 2001, they increased by 12.8 percent in the rest of Wisconsin.
13. The percentage of total Wisconsin drug arrests accounted for by Milwaukee County decreased sharply, from 33.1 percent in 1998 to 24.1 percent during 2001.

A. Introduction

This report summarizes information on drug-related arrests made by Wisconsin law enforcement agencies in 2001. Data on drug arrests are collected as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The report is based upon figures submitted by over 375 law enforcement agencies contributing UCR information. Since a large proportion of drug arrests are made by law enforcement agencies from Milwaukee County, Appendix A separates drug arrest figures into those made by Milwaukee County agencies and those made by all other Wisconsin law enforcement agencies.

B. Comparison of 2000 and 2001 Drug Arrests

1. Total Arrests

Table 1 presents basic information on drug-related arrests during 2000 and 2001. (Note: UCR definitions for the drug categories are delineated in Appendix B).

Table 1: Total Drug-Related Arrests, 2000 and 2001

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	5,222	5,281	+ 1.1
Opium/Cocaine	2,346	2,297	- 2.1
Marijuana	2,318	2,359	+ 1.7
Synthetics	209	214	+ 2.3
Other	349	411	+ 17.7
POSSESSION	19,631	20,102	+ 2.4
Opium/Cocaine	1,860	2,038	+ 9.5
Marijuana	15,416	15,360	- 0.3
Synthetics	366	475	+ 29.7
Other	1,989	2,229	+ 12.1
TOTAL	24,853	25,383	+ 2.1

Total drug arrests increased by 2.1 percent during 2001, compared to the increase of 6 percent in 2000 and the decrease of 0.5 percent in 1999.

While arrests for sale offenses increased by 1.1 percent in 2001, arrests for possession offenses increased by 2.4 percent.

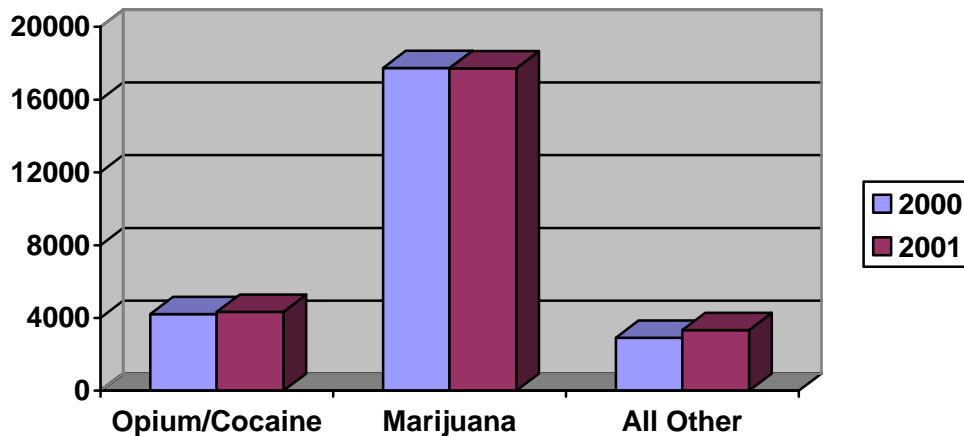
2. Arrests by Drug Type

Table 2 and Graph 1 show total drug-related arrests during 2000 and 2001. Drug type is divided into cocaine/opium, marijuana, and “all other” categories to highlight differences in arrest patterns.

Table 2: Total Arrests by Drug Type, 2000 and 2001

<u>Substance Type</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Opium/Cocaine	4,206	4,335	+ 3.1
Marijuana	17,734	17,719	- 0.1
All Other	2,913	3,329	+ 14.3
Total	24,853	25,383	+ 2.1

Graph 1: Total Drug Arrests by Substance



While total arrests increased by 2.1 percent in 2001, arrests involving cocaine/opium increased by 3.1 percent, arrests for marijuana declined by 0.1 percent, and arrests for other drugs increased by 14.3 percent.

These patterns differed somewhat from the changes in drug arrests from 1999 to 2000. During these two years, arrests for cocaine/opium decreased by 7.9 percent, arrests for marijuana increased by 7.6 percent, and arrests for other drugs increased by 21.6 percent.

3. Arrests by Sex

In 2001, 83.5 percent of all those arrested for drug law violations were male, slightly less than the 84.2 male percentage in 2000. There were minor differences by sex with a regard to arrest patterns – either by type of drug or type of activity (i.e., sale and possession). For example, the male proportion of all sale arrests was 85.2 percent during 2001.

4. Arrests by Age

Table 3 shows drug arrest patterns for adults during 2000 and 2001.

Table 3: Drug-Related Arrests of Adults, 2000 and 2001

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	4,305	4,331	+ 0.6
Opium/Cocaine	2,057	2,006	- 2.4
Marijuana	1,821	1,862	+ 2.2
Synthetics	163	158	- 3.1
Other	264	305	+ 15.5
POSSESSION	14,996	15,276	+ 1.9
Opium/Cocaine	1,706	1,850	+ 8.4
Marijuana	11,590	11,504	- 0.7
Synthetics	266	336	+ 26.3
Other	1,434	1,586	+ 10.6
TOTAL	19,301	19,607	+ 1.6

Total adult arrests for drug law violations increased by 1.6 percent in 2001. While total adult arrests involving cocaine increased by 2.5 percent, arrests involving marijuana decreased by 0.3 percent.

Table 4 shows drug arrest patterns for juveniles during 2000 and 2001.

Table 3: Drug-Related Arrests of Juveniles, 2000 and 2001

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	917	950	+ 3.6
Opium/Cocaine	289	291	+ 0.7
Marijuana	497	497	-
Synthetics	46	56	+21.7
Other	85	106	+ 24.7
POSSESSION	4,635	4,826	+ 4.1
Opium/Cocaine	154	188	+ 22.0
Marijuana	3,826	3,856	+ 0.8
Synthetics	100	139	+ 39.0
Other	555	643	+ 15.8
TOTAL	5,552	5,776	+ 4.0

Total juvenile arrests for drug law violations increased by 1.5 percent in 2001. While total juvenile arrests involving cocaine increased by 8.1 percent, arrests involving marijuana increased by 0.7 percent.

As was true in past years, the largest difference in 2001 arrest patterns between adults and juveniles involved opium/cocaine. While 19.7 percent of total adult arrests involved sale or possession of cocaine, only 8.7 percent of total juvenile arrests involved sale or possession of cocaine.

5. Arrests by Race

Table 5 summarizes the racial breakdown of various arrest categories in 2001. Note: the “Other” racial category includes both American Indians and Asians.

Table 5: Proportion of 2001 Drug Arrest Categories by Race

<u>Drug Arrest Category</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Other</u>
Age			
- Adult	73.7	23.8	2.5
- Juvenile	81.3	15.3	3.3
Sale/Possession			
- Sale	56.9	41.4	1.7
- Possession	80.3	16.8	2.9
Type Substance			
- Opium/Cocaine	42.0	56.7	1.2
- Marijuana	81.5	15.4	3.0
- All Other	86.5	11.0	2.5
Location			
- Milwaukee County	36.8	62.4	0.8
- Remainder of the State	85.2	12.5	2.3
Total Drug Arrests	75.4	21.9	2.7

The total 2001 drug arrestees were 75.4 percent white, 21.9 percent black, and 2.7 percent American Indian or Asian. While the white proportion of total drug arrests increased from 73.6 percent in 2000 to 75.4 percent in 2001, the black proportion of total drug arrests declined from 24.4 percent in 2000 to 21.9 percent in 2001. The decline in the Milwaukee County proportion of total Wisconsin drug arrests (24.9 percent in 2000 to 24.1 percent in 2001) contributed to the overall decline in the proportion of blacks arrested for drug law violations.

Both the type of substance and type of activity in drug arrests were strongly related to the race of those arrested. While 81.5 percent of those arrested for marijuana were white, 56.7 percent of those arrested for cocaine violations were black. And while 80.3 percent of all possession arrests were white, 41.4 percent of all sale violations were black. To summarize, whites were more likely to be arrested for possession rather than sale, more likely to be arrested for marijuana or other drugs rather than cocaine, and were a much higher proportion of non-Milwaukee County arrests. On the other hand, blacks were more likely to be arrested for sale rather than possession, more likely to be arrested for cocaine rather than marijuana or other drug, and were a much higher proportion of Milwaukee County arrests.

C. Trends in Drug Arrests: 1997 - 2001

Table 6 summarizes five year trends in Wisconsin drug arrests.

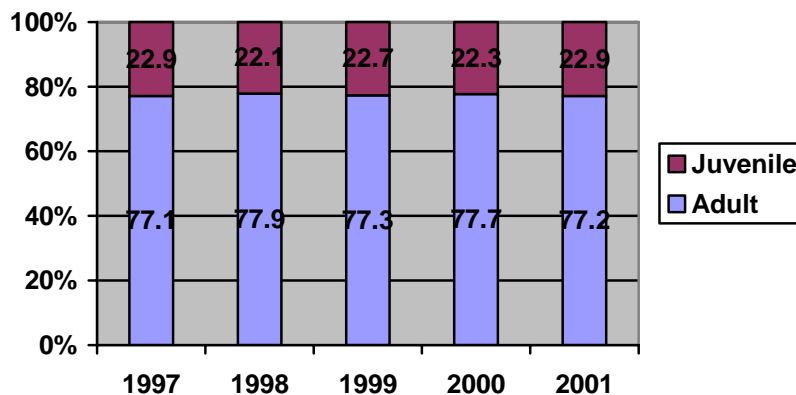
Table 6: Total Drug Arrest by Type of Arrest: 1997 – 2001

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	4,347	4,946	4,807	5,222	5,281	+ 21.5
Opium/Cocaine	1,802	2,419	2,273	2,346	2,297	+ 27.5
Marijuana	2,048	2,052	2,039	2,318	2,359	+ 15.2
Synthetic Narcotics	83	151	127	209	214	+ 157.8
All Other Drugs	414	324	368	349	411	- 0.7
POSSESSION	17,180	18,615	18,641	19,631	20,102	+ 17.0
Opium/Cocaine	2,640	2,808	2,295	1,860	2,038	- 22.8
Marijuana	13,160	14,248	14,445	15,416	15,360	+ 16.7
Synthetic Narcotics	187	177	243	366	475	+ 154.0
All Other Drugs	1,193	1,382	1,658	1,989	2,229	+ 86.8
TOTAL	21,527	23,561	23,448	24,853	25,383	+ 17.9

The total number of arrests for drug law violations increased by 17.9 percent from 1997 to 2001. However, there was a modest difference between the increases for sale and possession.

Graph 2 shows five year trends in the relative proportion of adult and juvenile drug arrests.

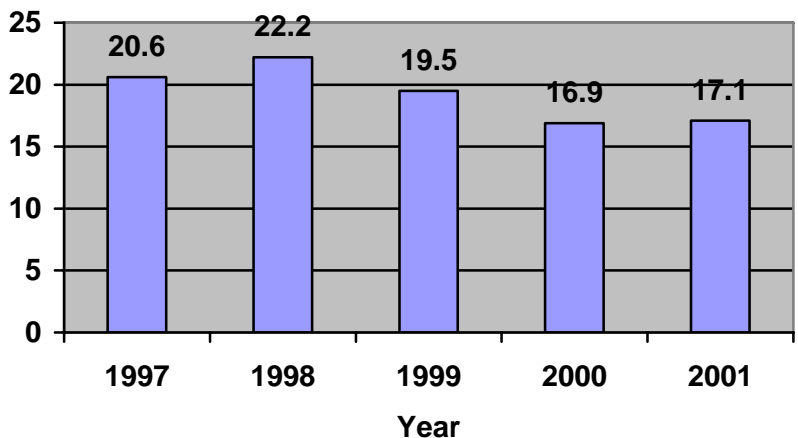
Graph 2: Adult and Juvenile Drug Arrests



The juvenile proportion of total drug arrests has remained very stable from 1997 through 2001.

Graph 3 shows changes in the proportion of total drug arrests which involve the opioid/cocaine category from 1997 through 2001.

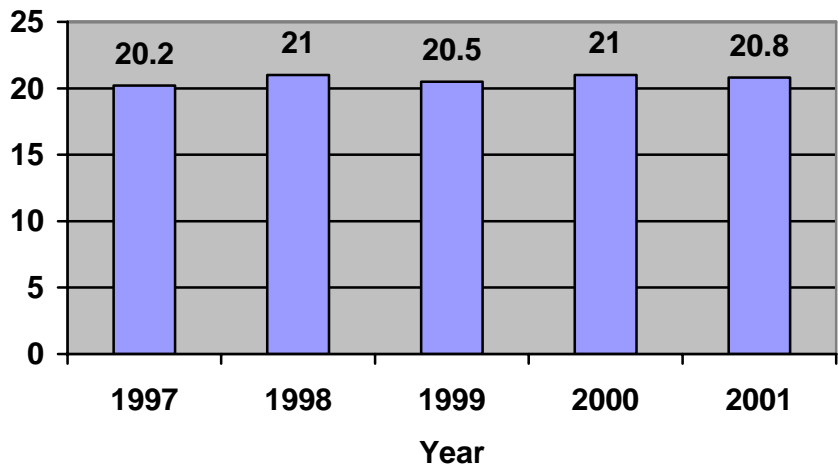
Graph 3: Proportion of Opioid/Cocaine Arrests



After increasing from 1997 to 1998, the opioid/cocaine percentage of total drug arrests has declined substantially since 1998.

Another way of viewing the focus of law enforcement efforts is to measure the proportion of all drug arrests which involve a sales violation. Graph 4 shows the proportion of total drug arrests that were for sale violations during the past five years.

Graph 4: Proportion of Sale Arrests



The proportion of total drug arrests which involved sales violations has remained very stable over the past five years.

Appendix A

The following tables show 1999 through 2001 drug arrests for all law enforcement agencies in Milwaukee County and all other Wisconsin law enforcement agencies.

<u>Total Drug – Related Arrests, 1999 – 2001: Milwaukee County</u>				
<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	1,769	1,964	1,882	+ 6.4
Opium/Cocaine	1,119	1,158	1,111	- 0.7
Marijuana	569	711	699	+ 22.8
Synthetics	14	14	9	- 35.7
Other	67	81	63	- 6.0
POSSESSION	4,588	4,235	4,226	- 7.9
Opium/Cocaine	1,264	1,056	1,115	- 11.8
Marijuana	2,831	2,760	2,535	- 10.4
Synthetics	18	21	25	+ 38.9
Other	475	398	551	+ 16.0
TOTAL	6,357	6,199	6,108	- 3.9

Total drug arrests decreased by 3.9 percent in Milwaukee County from 1999 through 2001. While arrests for sale violations increased by 6.4 percent, arrests for possession violations declined by 7.9 percent.

<u>Total Drug – Related Arrests, 1999 – 2001: All Other Agencies</u>				
<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	3,038	3,258	3,399	+ 11.9
Opium/Cocaine	1,154	1,188	1,186	+ 2.8
Marijuana	1,470	1,607	1,660	+ 12.9
Synthetics	113	195	205	+ 81.4
Other	301	268	348	+ 15.6
POSSESSION	14,053	15,396	15,876	+ 13.0
Opium/Cocaine	1,031	804	923	- 10.5
Marijuana	11,614	12,656	12,825	+ 10.4
Synthetics	225	345	450	+ 100.0
Other	1,183	1,908	1,678	+ 41.8
TOTAL	17,091	18,654	19,275	+ 12.8

Total drug arrests by non-Milwaukee County agencies increased by 12.8 percent from 1999 through 2001. While arrests for sale violations increased by 11.9 percent, arrests for possession violations increased by 13 percent.

While the percentage of total Wisconsin drug arrests accounted for by Milwaukee County was stable from 1995 (32.1 percent) through 1998 (33.1 percent), it has declined to 27.1 percent in 1999, 24.9 percent during 2000, and 24.1 percent in 2001.

Appendix B

Drug abuse violations are subdivided into the following categories for both Possession and Sale/Manufacturing offenses.

- a. Opium or cocaine and their derivatives.
- b. Marijuana
- c. Synthetic Narcotics – manufactured narcotics which can cause true drug addiction (Demerol, methadone).
- d. Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs (barbiturates, Benzedrine)