

Drug Arrests In Wisconsin 2003

Office of Justice Assistance

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A. Introduction

This report summarizes information on drug-related arrests made by Wisconsin law enforcement agencies in 2003. Data on drug arrests are collected as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program and is based upon figures submitted by nearly 370 law enforcement agencies contributing UCR information. Since a large proportion of drug arrests are made by law enforcement agencies from the County of Milwaukee, Appendix A separates drug arrest figures into those made by Milwaukee County law enforcement agencies and those made by all other Wisconsin law enforcement agencies.

B. Comparison of 2002 and 2003 Arrests

1. Total Arrests

Table 1 presents basic information on drug-related arrests during 2002 and 2003. (Note: UCR definitions for the drug categories are delineated in Appendix B).

Table 1: Total Drug-Related Arrests, 2002 and 2003

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	6,243	6,249	+ 0.1
Opium/Cocaine	3,195	1,616	- 49.4
Marijuana	2,401	2,067	-13.9
Synthetics	194	272	+40.2
Other	453	2,294	+ 406.4
POSSESSION	19,531	20,245	+3.7
Opium/Cocaine	2,127	1,627	-23.5
Marijuana	14,572	14,097	- 3.3
Synthetics	608	571	-6.1
Other	2,224	3,950	+77.6
TOTAL	25,774	26,494	+ 2.8

Total drug arrests increased by 2.8 percent during 2003, compared to an increase of 1.5 percent in 2002, and a 2.1 percent increase in 2001. While arrests for sale offenses showed almost no change with an increase of 0.1 percent, arrests for possession offenses increased by 3.7 percent.

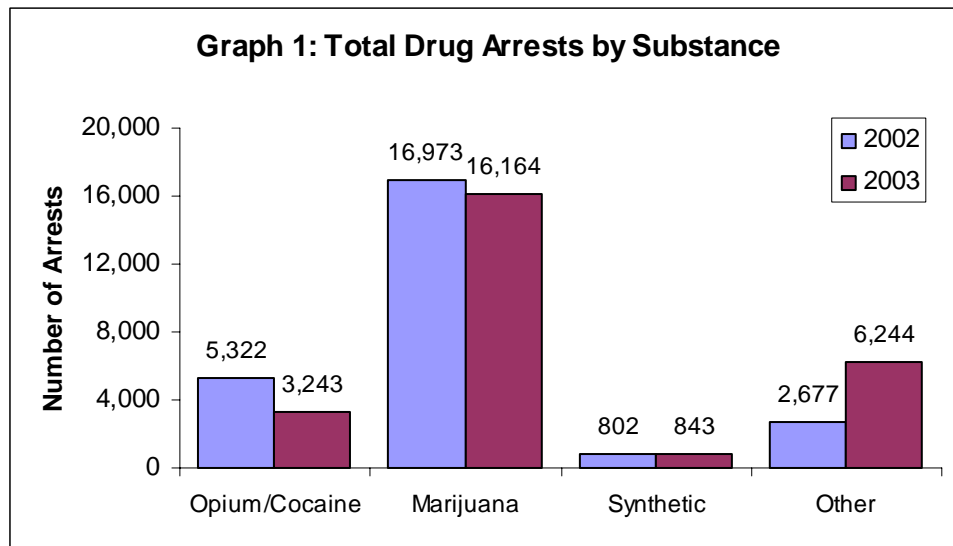
2. Arrests by Drug Type

Table 2 and Graph 1 show total drug-related arrests during 2002 and 2003. 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, 2002 and 2003

<u>Substance Type</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Opium/Cocaine	5,322	3,243	-39.1
Marijuana	16,973	16,164	- 4.8
Synthetic	802	843	+5.1
Other	2,677	6,244	+133.3
Total	25,774	26,494	+ 2.8

While total arrests increased by 2.8 percent in 2003, arrests involving opium/cocaine decreased by 39 percent and arrests for ‘other’ drugs increased by 133.3 percent.



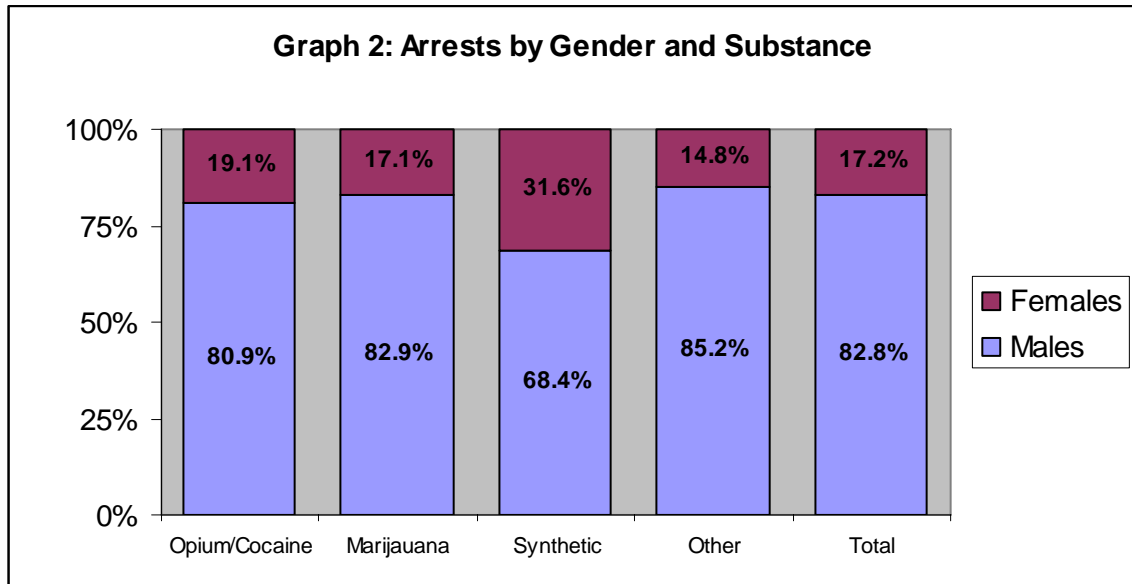
Graph 1 shows that the decreases in both Opium/Cocaine and Marijuana and the relative stability of Synthetic drugs is offset by the large increase in ‘other’ category.

3. Arrests by Gender

During 2003, 82.8 percent of all those arrested for drug law violations were male, almost identical to the 82.6 percent male percentage in 2002. There were a few significant differences by gender with regard to type of drug and age.

Graph 2 shows the stacked percentages of both adults and juveniles by type of substance. Women were also most likely to be arrested for synthetic drugs while men were most likely

to be arrested for marijuana. Women made up 17.9 percent of possession arrests and 15.0 percent of manufacturing and sales compared to men who made up 82.1 percent and 85.0 percent respectively.



4. Arrests by Age

Table 3: Drug-Related Arrests of Adults, 2002 and 2003

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	5,279	5,345	+ 1.3
Opium/Cocaine	2,847	1,486	-47.8
Marijuana	1,967	1,733	-11.9
Synthetics	145	215	+48.3
Other	320	1,911	+ 497.2
POSSESSION	15,024	15,541	+3.4
Opium/Cocaine	1,963	1,498	-23.7
Marijuana	11,057	10,721	- 3.0
Synthetics	462	457	-1.1
Other	1,542	2,865	85.8
BOTH			
Opium/Cocaine	4,810	2,984	-37.8
Marijuana	13,024	12,454	-4.4
Synthetics	607	672	+10.7
Other	1,862	4,776	+156.5
TOTAL	20,303	20,886	+ 2.9

Total adult arrests for drug law violations increased by 2.9 percent in 2003. While arrests involving opium/cocaine sales decreased by 47.8 percent, sales arrests for ‘other’ increased 497.2 percent and sales arrests for synthetics increased 48.3 percent. Possession arrests for opium/cocaine decreased 23.7 percent while possession arrests for the ‘other’ category increased by 85.8 percent.

Table 4: Drug-Related Arrests of Juveniles, 2002 and 2003

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	964	904	- 6.2
Opium/Cocaine	348	130	-62.6
Marijuana	434	334	- 23.0
Synthetics	49	57	+16.3
Other	133	383	+188.0
POSSESSION	4,507	4,704	+4.4
Opium/Cocaine	164	129	- 21.3
Marijuana	3,515	3,376	- 4.0
Synthetics	146	114	-21.9
Other	682	1,085	+ 59.1
BOTH			
Opium/Cocaine	512	259	-49.4
Marijuana	3,949	3,710	-6.1
Synthetics	195	171	-12.3
Other	815	1468	+80.1
TOTAL	5,471	5,608	+2.5

Total juvenile arrests for drug law violations increased by 2.5 percent in 2003. While juvenile arrests for sale and manufacturing violations decreased by 6.2 percent, arrests for possession violations increased by 4.4 percent. While arrests involving opium/cocaine sale decreased 62.6 percent, arrests involving ‘other’ drug sales increased 188.0 percent. Arrests for possession of opium/cocaine and synthetic drugs decreased 21.3 and 21.9 percent respectively. However, these decreases were offset by an increase of 59.1 percent in arrest for sale of ‘other’ drugs.

A recurring trend is the difference between adults and juveniles in regard to sales and manufacturing versus possession arrests. In 2003, 16.1 percent of juveniles were arrested for sales and manufacturing while 25.6 percent of adults were arrested for sales and manufacturing. As was true in past years, the largest difference in 2003 arrest patterns between adults and juveniles involved opium/cocaine. While 14.3 percent of adult arrests involved sale or possession of opium/cocaine, only 4.6 percent of juvenile arrests involved sale or possession of opium/cocaine.

5. Arrests by Race

Table 5 summarizes the racial breakdown of various arrest categories. Note: The “Other” category is comprised of American Indians and Asians.

Table 5: Proportion of 2003 Drug Arrest Categories by Race

<u>Drug Arrest Category</u>	<u>% White</u>	<u>% Black</u>	<u>% Other</u>
Age			
Adult	70.6	27.2	2.3
Juvenile	79.7	17.6	2.7
Sale/Possession			
Sale	50.1	48.5	1.5
Possession	79.4	17.9	2.7
Type Substance			
Opium/Cocaine	55.9	42.9	1.2
Marijuana	85.1	11.9	2.9
Synthetic	86.0	10.9	3.1
Other	46.6	52.0	1.5
Location			
Milwaukee County	<u>39.8</u>	<u>59.5</u>	<u>0.7</u>
Remainder of the State	<u>84.9</u>	<u>11.5</u>	<u>3.5</u>
Total Drug Arrests	72.5(73.1)	25.1(24.1)	2.4(2.8)

The racial composition of the 2003 drug arrestees are as follows: 72.5 percent white, 25.1 percent black, and 2.4 percent were other races. While the white percentage of total drug arrests decreased from 73.1 percent in 2002 to 72.5 percent during 2003, the black percentage of total drug arrests increased from 24.1 percent in 2002 to 25.1 percent during 2003.

The type of substance in drug arrests was strongly related to the race of those arrested. While 85.1 percent of those arrested for marijuana violations were white, 42.9 percent of those arrested for cocaine violations were black. To summarize Table 5, whites were more likely to be arrested for possession rather than sale, more likely to be arrested for marijuana or synthetic drugs rather than opium/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 and manufacturing rather than possession, more likely to be arrested for opium/cocaine or other drugs rather than marijuana or synthetic drugs, and were a much higher proportion of Milwaukee County arrests.

C. Trends in Drug Arrests: 1998 to 2002

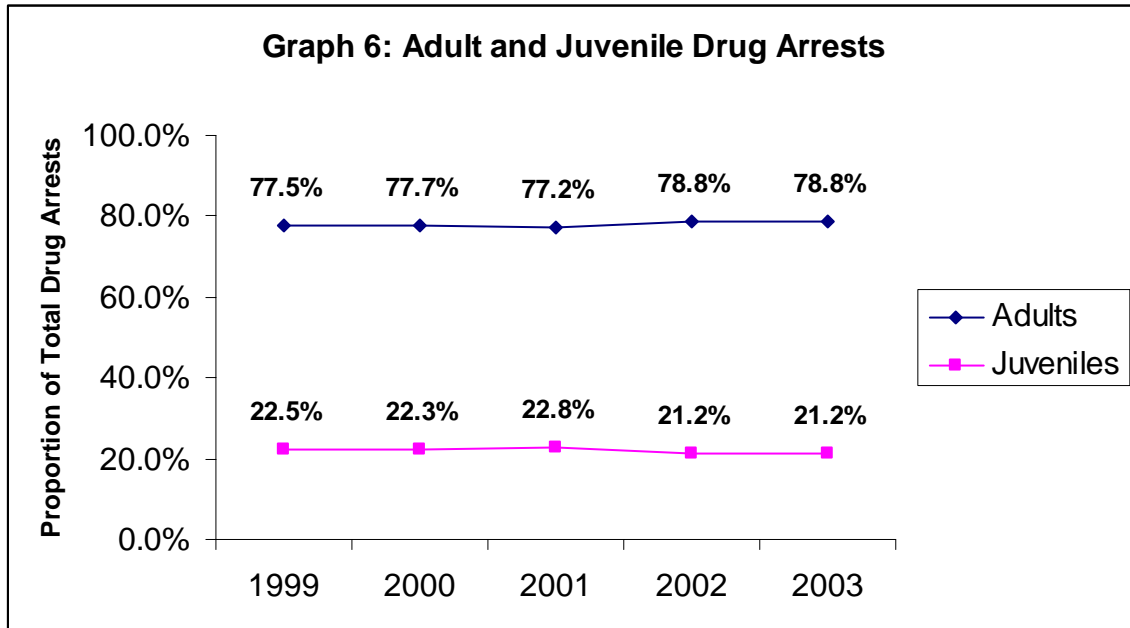
Table 6 summarizes five year trends in Wisconsin drug arrests.

Table 6: Total Drug Arrests by Type of Arrests: 1999 - 2003

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	4,803	5,222	5,281	6,243	6,249	+30.1
Opium/Cocaine	2,273	2,346	2,297	3,195	1,616	-28.9
Marijuana	2,036	2,318	2,359	2,401	2,067	+1.5
Synthetic Narcotics	127	209	214	194	272	+114.2
All Other Drugs	367	349	411	453	2,294	+525.1
POSSESSION	18,522	19,631	20,102	19,531	20,245	+9.3
Opium/Cocaine	2,294	1,860	2,038	2,127	1,627	-29.1
Marijuana	14,329	15,416	15,360	14,572	14,097	-1.6
Synthetic Narcotics	243	366	475	608	571	+135.0
All Other Drugs	1,656	1,989	2,229	2,224	3,950	+138.5
BOTH						
Opium/Cocaine	4,567	4,206	4,335	5,322	3,243	-29.1
Marijuana	16,365	17,734	17,719	16,973	16,164	-1.6
Synthetic Narcotics	370	575	689	802	843	+135.0
All Other Drugs	2,023	2,338	2,640	2,677	6,244	+138.5
TOTAL	23,325	24,853	25,383	25,774	26,494	+13.6

The number of arrests for drug law violations increased by 13.6 percent from 1999 to 2003. However, while arrests for possession violations increased by 9.3 percent, arrests for sales and manufacturing increased by 30.1 percent.

Graph 6 shows five year trends in the relative proportion of adult and juvenile drug arrests.



As Graph 6 shows, the juvenile proportion of total drug arrests has remained very stable from 1999 through 2003.

Appendix A

The following tables show 2001 through 2003 drug arrests for all law enforcement agencies in the County of Milwaukee and all other law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin.

Total Drug-Related Arrests, 2001 to 2003 - County of Milwaukee

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	1,882	2,815	2,905	+54.4
Opium/Cocaine	1,111	1,829	478	-57.0
Marijuana	699	814	389	-44.4
Synthetics	9	20	7	-22.2
Other	63	152	2,031	+3123.8
POSSESSION	4,226	3,939	4,133	-2.2
Opium/Cocaine	1,115	1,070	472	-57.7
Marijuana	2,535	2,199	1,264	-50.1
Synthetics	25	36	23	-8.0
Other	551	634	2,374	+330.9
BOTH				
Opium/Cocaine	2,226	2,899	950	-57.3
Marijuana	3,234	3,013	1,653	-48.9
Synthetics	34	56	30	-11.8
Other	614	786	4,405	+617.4
TOTAL	6,108	6,754	7,038	+15.2

Total drug arrests increased by 15.2 percent in Milwaukee County from 2001 through 2003. While arrests for possession violations declined by 2.2 percent, arrests for sales violations increased by 54.4 percent.

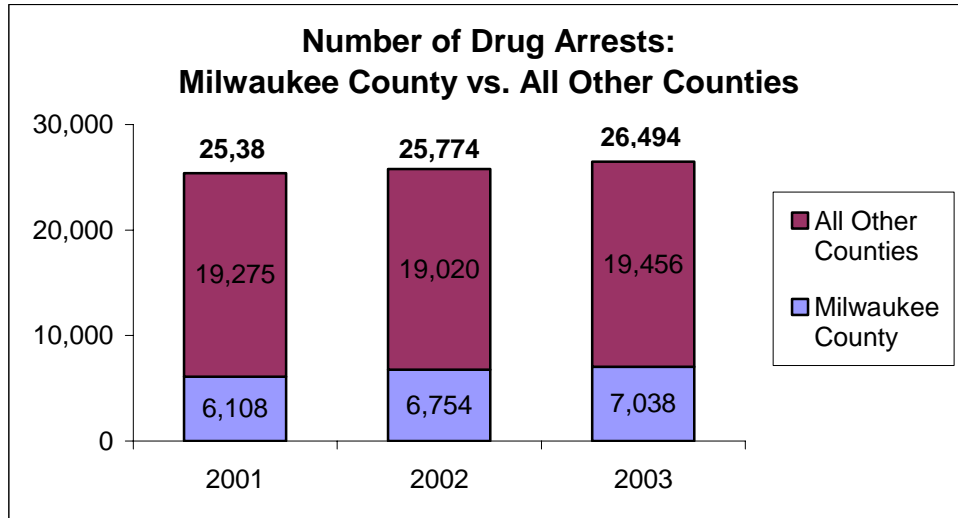
Total Drug-Related Arrests, 2001 to 2003 - All Other Law Enforcement Agencies

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	3,399	3,428	3,344	-1.6
Opium/Cocaine	1,186	1,366	1,138	-4.1
Marijuana	1,660	1,587	1,678	+1.0
Synthetics	205	174	265	+29.3
Other	348	301	263	-24.4
POSSESSION	15,876	15,592	16,112	+1.5
Opium/Cocaine	923	1,057	1155	+25.1
Marijuana	12,825	12,373	12,833	+0.1
Synthetics	450	572	548	+21.8
Other	1,678	1,590	1,576	-6.1
BOTH				
Opium/Cocaine	2,109	2,423	2,293	+8.7
Marijuana	14,485	13,960	14,511	+0.2
Synthetics	655	746	813	+24.1
Other	2,026	1,891	1,839	-9.2
TOTAL	19,275	19,020	19,456	+0.9

Total drug-related arrests by non-Milwaukee County agencies increased by 0.9 percent from 2001 through 2003. While arrests involving synthetic narcotics increased by 29.3 from 2000 through 2002, arrests involving ‘other’ violations decreased by 24.4 percent.

While the percentage of total Wisconsin drug arrests accounted for by Milwaukee County was stable for 2001 (24.1 percent) and 2002 (26.2 percent), it increased to 26.6 percent in 2003.

Graph XXX shows that the total



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 (morphine, heroin, codeine)
- b. Marijuana
- c. Synthetic narcotics - manufactured narcotics which can cause true drug addiction (demerol, methadones)
- d. Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs (barbiturates, benzedrine)