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# Drug Arrests in Wisconsin 1986-1987

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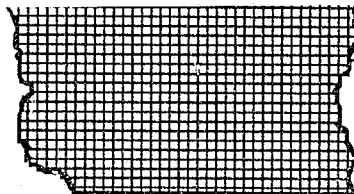
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**Office of Justice Assistance**  
**Wisconsin Statistical Analysis Center**

Ted Meekma  
Executive Director

Tommy G. Thompson  
Governor

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113053



State of Wisconsin \ OFFICE OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

Tommy G. Thompson  
Governor

30 WEST MIFFLIN ST.  
SUITE 330  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53702  
(608) 266-3323

Theodore Meekma  
Executive Director

July, 1988

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to present this report on arrests for drug offenses in Wisconsin in 1986 and 1987. Since 1981, the Wisconsin Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has been maintained as a program of the Office of Justice Assistance. The UCR Program publishes various reports on crime and arrests in Wisconsin.

This report on drug arrests was prepared in response to a great deal of interest in drug offenses at both the state and national levels. Much of this interest is associated with federal funding programs which are part of the overall "war on drugs," including the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986. With funds made available to units of state and local government under the Act, law enforcement in Wisconsin has, so far in 1988, made noteworthy gains in the ability to better enforce drug laws. With continued federal and state funding, I strongly believe that the coordinated state effort now ongoing amongst our law enforcement agencies statewide to combat our serious drug problem will show a significant increase in our drug arrests when this report is published next year.

Even though the number of Wisconsin drug arrests are still significantly lower than the average throughout the nation, it is encouraging to see an increase in our drug arrests for 1987, the first time this has occurred since 1980. The number of adult arrests increased in 1987 for the first time in five years. Several other items in the report are particularly noteworthy:

- Arrests for cocaine or opium-related offenses increased substantially in 1987. This is good news, inasmuch as the health hazards of these drugs have been so well-documented in our state in the last few years, particularly through the efforts of the Cocaine Task Force.
- The percentage of arrests for sale or manufacture of drugs has increased, as compared to arrests for possession. This is good, because we know that the most effective way to reduce use of illegal drugs is to put the suppliers out of business.

More effective drug law enforcement is only one element of Wisconsin's effort to combat drug abuse. Prevention and education programs and treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers are also key elements. Linkage of enforcement efforts with programs in those areas is a major focus in Wisconsin's statewide drug strategy. We hope to develop such linkages even more strongly in the future.

We would like to thank the personnel in all 280 Wisconsin law enforcement agencies who are UCR direct reporters, whose cooperation with the UCR Program made this report possible. We encourage comments on this report and welcome suggestions for other studies based on crime information collected by the Wisconsin UCR Program.

Sincerely,

TED MEEKMA  
Executive Director

NCJRS

AUG 12 1988

ACQUISITIONS

# **Drug Arrests in Wisconsin 1986 - 1987**

Prepared by

Thomas A. Wickeham  
Thomas G. Eversen

July 1988

**Office of Justice Assistance  
Wisconsin Statistical Analysis Center  
30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 330  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702**

## The Wisconsin Statistical Analysis Center

The Wisconsin Statistical Analysis Center is a program of the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. The center collects, analyzes, interprets and disseminates criminal justice data in Wisconsin.

In addition to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, the Center currently operates two on-going statewide data collection programs. The Jail Information System (JIS) collects and analyzes jail data from participating counties in Wisconsin. The Juvenile Detention Information System (JDIS) collects and analyzes information on secure detentions of juveniles in the state.

In addition to operating these programs, the Center also provides technical assistance to local criminal justice agencies. Further, it provides state and local government with access to federal criminal justice statistical information. The Statistical Analysis Center also promotes the coordination and development of criminal justice statistical systems in Wisconsin.

### Acknowledgements

Drug Arrests in Wisconsin 1986 - 1987 is the product of information provided by a variety of agencies. Without the excellent cooperation of the people in these agencies, the publication would not have been possible. The Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance greatly acknowledges the assistance of the administrators of local law enforcement agencies and their staffs, whose efforts made these data available.

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## Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	1
Introduction.....	2
Drug Related Arrests in Wisconsin: 1986 & 1987 .....	3
Number of Arrests and Offender Age .....	3
Sale and Possession .....	3
Type of Substance .....	4
U.S. and Wisconsin Drug-Related Arrests: 1977 & 1986 .....	5
Drug Arrest Characteristics in Wisconsin: 1977, 1985 - 1987.....	6
Number of Arrests.....	6
Age of Offender.....	7
Sale and Possession .....	10
Type of Substance .....	11
Appendices.....	14
Appendix A.....	15
Appendix B.....	16
Appendix C.....	17

## Executive Summary

- \* Despite a significant increase in the number of drug arrests in the United States over the 10 year period from 1977 to 1986, the number of drug arrests in Wisconsin declined.
  
- \* The total number of drug-related arrests in Wisconsin increased in 1987 for the first time since 1980.
  
- \* The number of adult arrests for drug offenses increased in 1987 after a steady decline since 1982. However, the number of juvenile arrests continued to decline in 1987.
  
- \* The percentage of arrests for the sale/manufacture of drugs in 1987 was twice that of 1977.
  
- \* The number of arrests for opium/cocaine increased substantially and steadily since 1977. It increased by 26 percent in 1987 alone. While the number of arrests for marijuana was moderately less than it was in 1977, the number of arrests for other drugs increased dramatically in 1987.
  
- \* For the controlled substance category which includes opium/cocaine, the number of sale-related arrests and arrests for possession were very similar to each other in 1987.
  
- \* The number of arrests for sale of marijuana in 1987 was about equivalent to what it was in 1977, while the number of arrests for possession of marijuana was half of what it was in 1977.

## I. INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to supplement the report Drug Arrests in Wisconsin 1976 - 1985 by presenting similar data on drug-related arrests for 1986 and 1987. Requests for copies of the previous report can be made to Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (OJA). The previous report was published in November 1986, and was provided to all Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) contributors and other interested parties.

Drug-related arrests are defined as the unlawful sale/manufacture, possession/use of the following narcotics and drugs:

- a. Opium or Cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine).
- b. Marijuana, hashish, etc.
- c. Synthetic narcotics - manufactured narcotics which can cause true drug addiction (demerol, methadones).
- d. Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs (amphetamines, barbituates, hallucinogens).

This report is divided into four sections. Following the introduction, the second section contains updated drug arrest information in Wisconsin for 1986 and 1987. Specifically, it includes the total number of drug-related arrests, the number of adults and juveniles arrested, arrests for sale/manufacture or possession of drugs, and the type of substance involved in the arrest. The third section presents a brief comparison of Wisconsin to the United States. The fourth section presents a comparison of drug-related arrests in Wisconsin for 1977, 1985, 1986, and 1987. Appendix A contains a complete breakdown of drug-related arrests for 1977, and 1985 through 1987. Appendix B contains some basic data on drug-related arrests in Wisconsin for 1977 through 1987. Appendix C presents the number of drug arrests in Wisconsin for each county during 1986 and 1987.

When reading this report it is important to note that these data represent only arrests, because the current Uniform Crime Reporting program does not collect information on drug-related offenses. OJA is currently planning the implementation of an incident-based UCR system in Wisconsin. This system will collect data on each crime reported and each arrest made and will enable these two types of information to be linked. Also note that the figures presented in this report are estimates based on about 98 percent of the actual number of reported arrests.

## II. DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS IN WISCONSIN: 1986 & 1987

### A. NUMBER OF ARRESTS AND OFFENDER AGE

Table 1 shows the total number of arrests for drug offenses in Wisconsin for 1986 and 1987, as well as the number of adults and juveniles arrested. The total number of drug-related arrests has increased in 1987. While the number of adult arrests has increased, the number of juvenile arrests has decreased.

Table 1  
Drug-Related Arrests in Wisconsin by  
Offender Age: 1986 & 1987

<u>Age</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Adult	6,131	6,543	+6.7%
Juvenile	1,288	1,201	-6.8%
Total	7,419	7,744	+4.4%

### B. SALE AND POSSESSION

Table 2 shows the distribution of arrests for sale/manufacture and for possession of drugs in Wisconsin for 1986 and 1987. While both sales and possession increased in 1987, sales arrests have increased faster than possession arrests.

Table 2  
Wisconsin Drug-Related Arrests by  
Sale and Possession: 1986 & 1987

<u>Arrest Type</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Sale	1,887	2,047	+8.5%
Possession	5,532	5,697	+3.0%
Total	7,419	7,744	+4.4%



### C. TYPE OF SUBSTANCE

Table 3 shows the distribution of arrests by the type of substance involved. While the number of arrests for Marijuana have decreased in 1987, all other arrests have increased substantially.

**Table 3**  
**Drug-Related Arrests in Wisconsin by**  
**Type of Substance: 1986 & 1987**

<u>Substance Type</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Opium/Cocaine	1,188	1,498	+26.1%
Marijuana	5,847	5,687	-2.7%
Synthetics	131	187	+42.7%
Other	253	372	+47.0%
Total	7,419	7,744	+4.4%

Table 4 shows the number of opium/cocaine arrests by sale and possession. The number of arrests for both sale and possession of opium/cocaine has increased considerably in 1987 with approximately the same number of arrests for sale and for possession.

**Table 4**  
**Opium/Cocaine Arrests in Wisconsin: 1986 & 1987**

<u>Arrest Type</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Sale	611	746	+22.1%
Possession	577	752	+30.3%
Total	1,188	1,498	+26.1%

Table 5 shows the number of marijuana arrests by sale and possession. The total number of marijuana arrests has decreased in Wisconsin in 1987. While both arrests for sales and possession of marijuana have decreased, the number of sales arrests has decreased more than the number of arrests for possession.

**Table 5**  
**Marijuana Arrests in Wisconsin: 1986 & 1987**

<u>Arrest Type</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Sale	1,090	972	-10.8%
Possession	4,757	4,715	-0.9%
Total	5,847	5,687	-2.7%

### III. UNITED STATES AND WISCONSIN DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS: 1977 & 1986

Table 6 presents the total number of drug-related arrests in Wisconsin and the United States for 1977, and 1986 (United States 1987 data are not yet available). While the total number of estimated drug-related arrests in the United States increased considerably between 1977 and 1986, the total number of arrests in Wisconsin declined. This report includes 1977 data to place the current data into perspective and to provide a convenient comparison.

Table 6  
Total Drug Arrests and Percentage Change

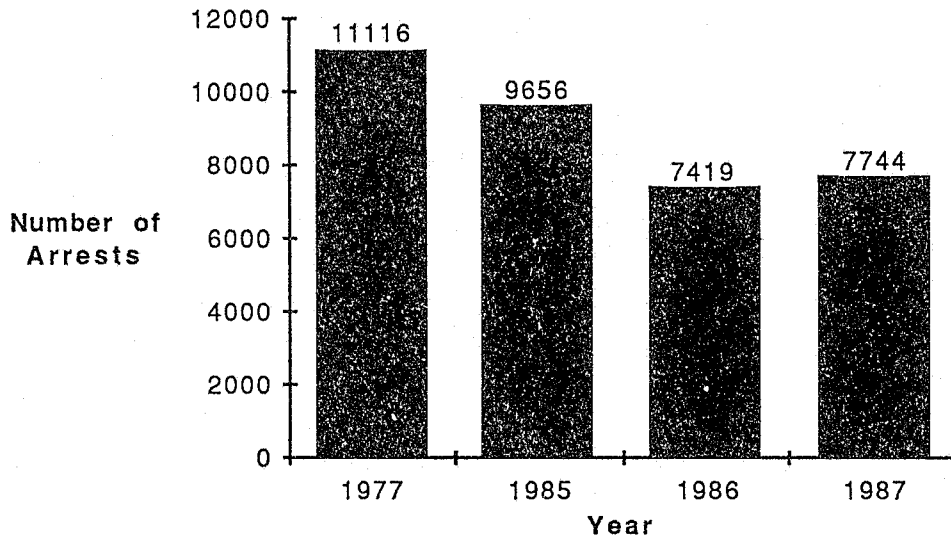
<u>Year</u>	<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>United States</u>
1977	11,116	642,700
1986	7,419	824,100
percent change 1977-1986	-33.3%	+28.2%

#### IV. DRUG ARREST CHARACTERISTICS IN WISCONSIN: 1977, 1985 - 1987

##### A. NUMBER OF ARRESTS

Graph 1 shows the total number of arrests for drug offenses in Wisconsin for 1977, and 1985 through 1987. Note that in this graph and all subsequent graphs the first bar shows 1977 data and the following three bars show 1985 data through 1987. Once again, 1977 data are used as a convenient comparison year to put current data into perspective. For more information on intervening years, see the earlier report or Appendix B.

Graph 1  
Total Drug-Related Arrests in Wisconsin 1977, 1985 - 1987

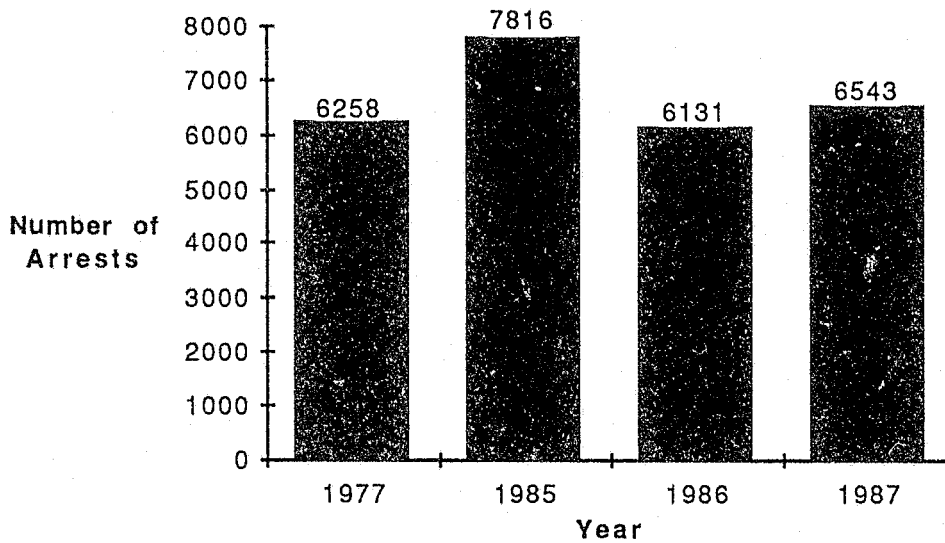


The total number of drug-related arrests has decreased since 1977, but increased slightly in 1987. This increase in 1987 represents the first increase in total arrests since 1980. Appendix B presents some basic drug-related arrest data for 1977 through 1987 which illustrate arrest trends in Wisconsin.

## B. AGE OF OFFENDER

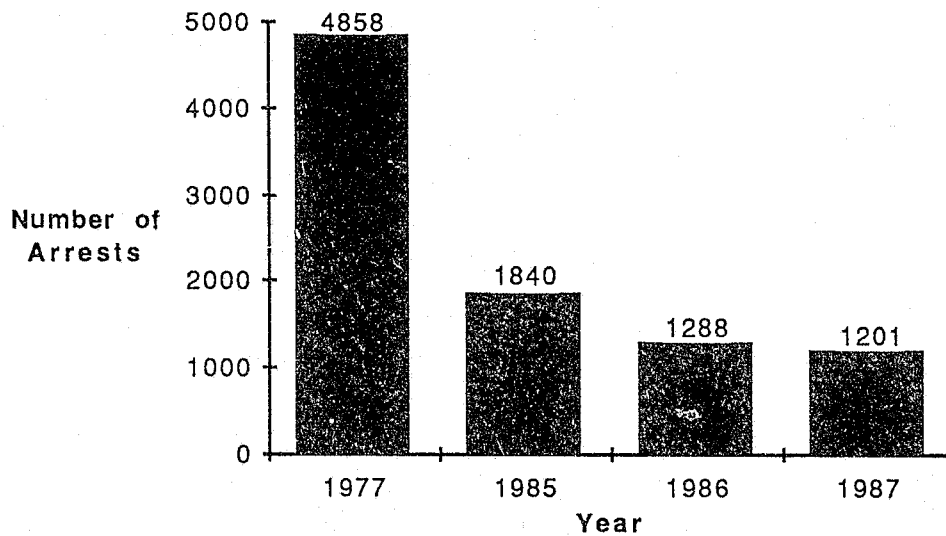
Graph 2 shows the total number of adults (age 18 or older) arrested for drug abuse violations in 1977 and 1985 through 1987. The total number of 1987 adult arrests was near the level it was in 1977, after having decreased since 1985. From 1977 to 1987, adult arrests increased about 5 percent.

**Graph 2**  
**Total Adult Drug Arrests in Wisconsin**



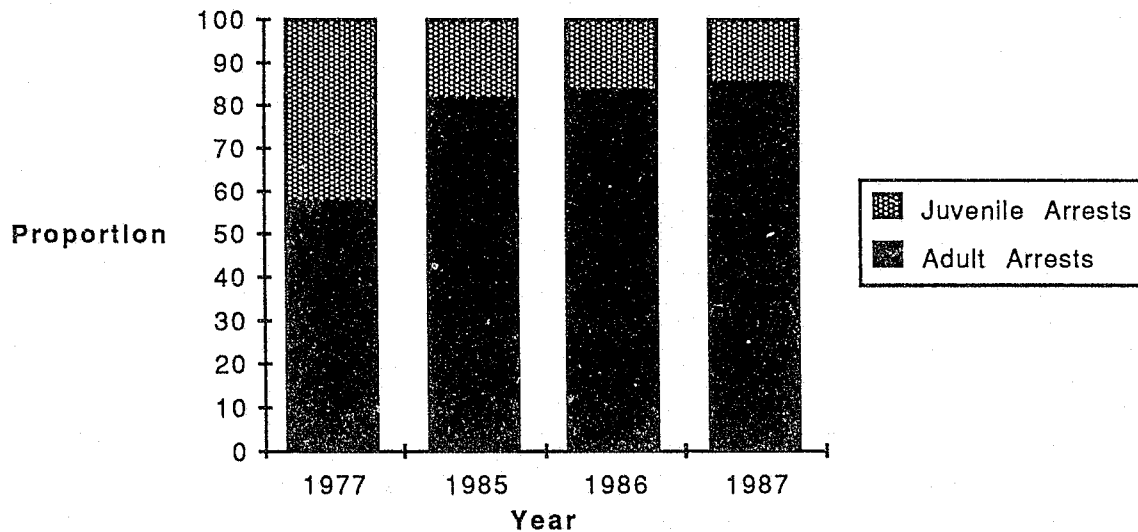
Graph 3 presents similar information for juveniles (age 17 or younger). The total number of juvenile arrests has decreased each year and was substantially smaller in 1987 than 1977. From 1977 to 1987, juvenile arrests decreased 75 percent. The large decrease in juvenile arrests likely is due to a number of factors. Suggested reasons for this decrease include a reduction in the number of juveniles "at risk", changes in patterns of drug abuse, and changes in law enforcement policies regarding drug violations.

**Graph 3**  
**Total Juvenile Drug Arrests in Wisconsin**



Graph 4 and Table 7 show the proportions of adult and juvenile arrests in the total number of arrests in 1977 and 1985 through 1987. The percentage of adult arrests in the total increased from 56 percent in 1977 to 84 percent in 1987.

**Graph 4**  
**Proportions of Juvenile and Adult Arrests**



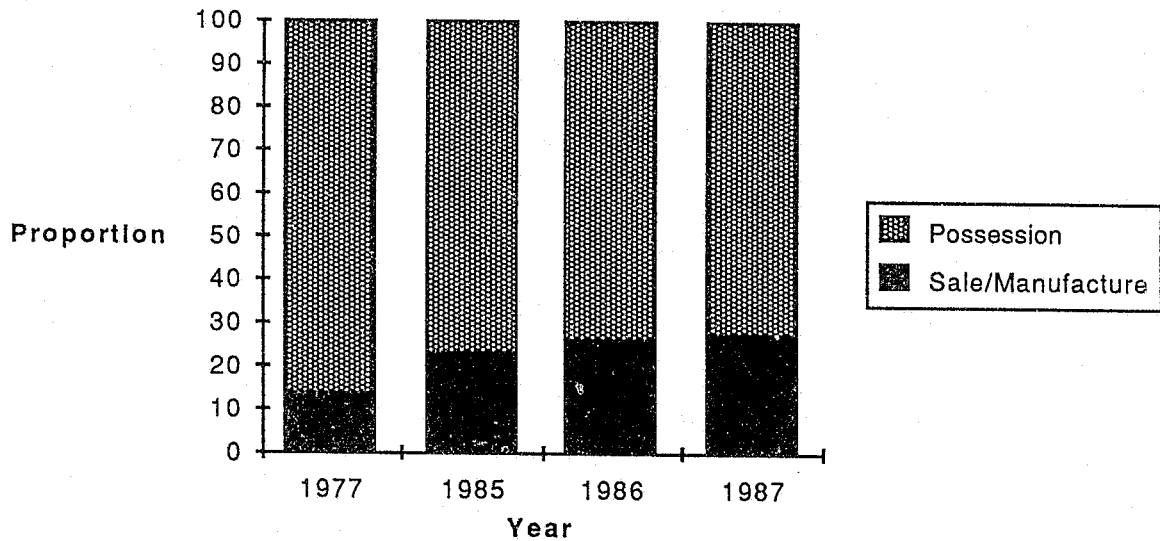
**Table 7**  
**Distribution of Juvenile and Adult Arrests 1977, 1985 - 1987**

<u>Age</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>(%)</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Adult	6,258	(56.3)	7,816	(80.9)	6,131	(82.6)	6,543	(84.5)
Juvenile	4,858	(43.7)	1,840	(19.1)	1,288	(17.4)	1,201	(15.5)
Total	11,116	(100.0)	9,656	(100.0)	7,419	(100.0)	7,744	(100.0)

### C. SALE AND POSSESSION

Graph 5 shows the proportion of arrests for sale/manufacturing and arrests for possession in the total number of arrests in 1977 and 1985 through 1987. The proportion of arrests for sale/manufacture of drugs increased from 13 percent of total drug arrests in 1977 to 26 percent in 1987.

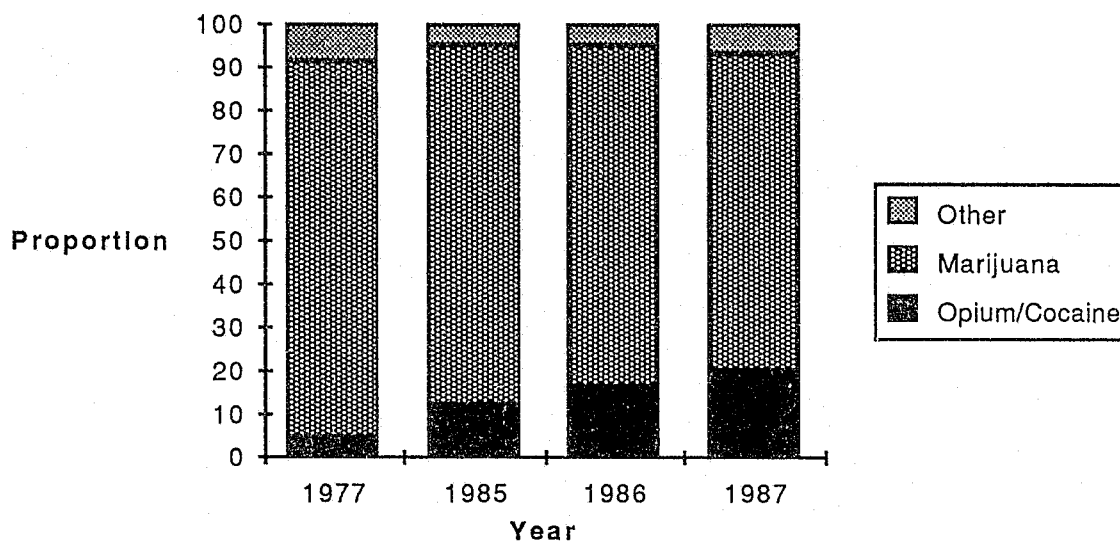
**Graph 5**  
**Proportions of Arrests for Sale and Possession**



## D. TYPE OF SUBSTANCE

Graph 6 and Table 8 compare the proportions of arrests for opium/cocaine, marijuana, and other drugs (synthetic narcotics and other dangerous drugs) for 1977 and 1985 through 1987 in Wisconsin. From 1977 to 1987 the number of opium/cocaine arrests increased 203 percent, while the number of marijuana arrests decreased by 41 percent. The number of arrests in the other category (synthetic narcotics and other dangerous drugs) was 37 percent less in 1987 than 1977, although 1987 did show an increase over 1986.

**Graph 6**  
Arrests by Type of Substance



**Table 8**  
Number of Arrests by Type of Substance 1977, 1985 - 1987

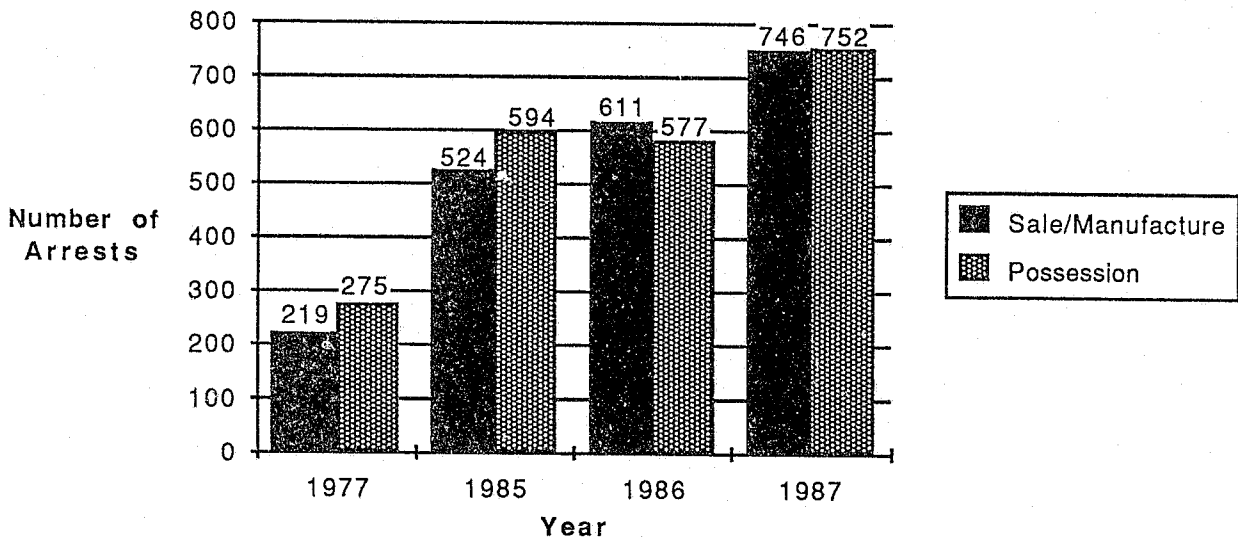
Substance Type	1977	(%)	1985	(%)	1986	(%)	1987	(%)
Opium/Cocaine	494	(4.4)	1,118	(11.6)	1,188	(16.0)	1,498	(19.3)
Marijuana	9,590	(86.3)	8,062	(83.5)	5,847	(78.8)	5,687	(73.4)
Other	1,032	(9.3)	476	(5.0)	384	(5.2)	559	(7.2)
Total	11,116	(100.0)	9,656	(100.1)	7,419	(100.0)	7,744	(99.9)

Note: Some percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding procedures.



Graph 7 and Table 9 show the number of arrests for opium/cocaine for 1977 and 1985 through 1987. The proportion of sale-related arrests and arrests for possession is virtually equal in 1987. The percentage of arrests for the opium/cocaine category in the total number of arrests has increased from 4 percent in 1977 to 19 percent in 1987. It should be noted that law enforcement personnel have indicated that the majority of the arrests in the opium/cocaine category are cocaine arrests.

**Graph 7**  
**Opium/Cocaine Arrests 1977, 1985 - 1987**

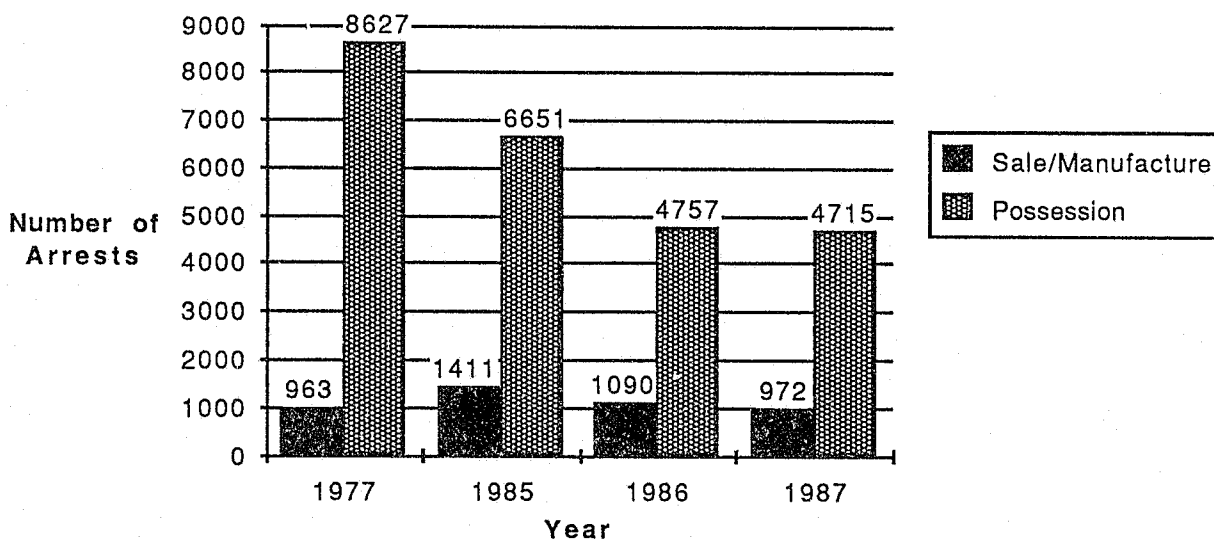


**Table 9**  
**Number of Opium/Cocaine Arrests 1977, 1985 - 1987**

<u>Arrest Type</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
Sale	219	524	611	746
Possession	275	594	577	752
Total	494	1,118	1,188	1,498

Graph 8 and Table 10 show the number of arrests for marijuana for 1977 and 1985 through 1987. The number of arrests for sale of marijuana decreased by 31 percent since 1985, and the number of arrests for possession decreased by 29 percent since 1985. Compared to 1977, the number of arrests in 1987 for sales was one percent greater than 1977 while the number of arrests for possession is 45 percent less than 1977.

**Graph 8**  
**Marijuana Arrests 1977, 1985 - 1987**



**Table 10**  
**Number of Marijuana Arrests 1977, 1985 - 1987**

<u>Arrest Type</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
Sale	963	1,411	1,090	972
Possession	8,627	6,651	4,757	4,715
Total	9,590	8,062	5,847	5,687

## Appendices

## Appendix A

### STATE OF WISCONSIN NUMBER OF ADULT AND JUVENILE DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS (1977, 1985 - 1987)

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
<b>ADULTS</b>				
Sale	1,046	1,853	1,674	1,859
Opium/Cocaine	202	508	596	731
Marijuana	626	1,185	919	835
Synthetic Narcotics	98	63	55	83
Other*	120	97	104	210
Possession	5,212	5,963	4,457	4,684
Opium/Cocaine	230	562	550	718
Marijuana	4,451	5,196	3,744	3,772
Synthetic Narcotics	229	98	61	79
Other*	302	107	102	115
<b>TOTAL ADULT</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>7,816</b>	<b>6,131</b>	<b>6,543</b>
<b>JUVENILES</b>				
Sale	406	279	213	188
Opium/Cocaine	17	16	15	15
Marijuana	337	226	171	137
Synthetic Narcotics	18	12	4	11
Other*	34	25	23	25
Possession	4,452	1,561	1,075	1,013
Opium/Cocaine	45	32	27	34
Marijuana	4,176	1,455	1,013	943
Synthetic Narcotics	98	16	11	14
Other*	133	58	24	22
<b>TOTAL JUVENILE</b>	<b>4,858</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>1,201</b>
<b>TOTAL DRUG ARRESTS</b>	<b>11,116</b>	<b>9,656</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>7,744</b>

\*Includes other dangerous non-narcotic drugs (amphetamines, barbituates, hallucinogens).

## Appendix B

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
 NUMBER OF ADULT AND JUVENILE DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS  
 (1977 - 1987)

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
<b>ADULTS</b>											
Sale	1,046	1,182	1,280	1,229	1,590	1,592	1,656	1,884	1,853	1,674	1,859
Possession	5,212	5,610	5,175	6,697	6,510	6,418	6,502	6,312	5,963	4,457	4,684
<b>TOTAL ADULT</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>6,792</b>	<b>6,455</b>	<b>7,926</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>8,010</b>	<b>8,158</b>	<b>8,196</b>	<b>7,816</b>	<b>6,131</b>	<b>6,543</b>
<b>JUVENILES</b>											
Sale	406	507	402	334	339	278	292	236	279	213	188
Possession	4,452	5,536	4,270	4,135	2,617	2,328	1,983	1,775	1,561	1,075	1,013
<b>TOTAL JUVENILE</b>	<b>4,858</b>	<b>6,043</b>	<b>4,672</b>	<b>4,469</b>	<b>2,956</b>	<b>2,606</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>2,011</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>1,201</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>											
Sale	1,452	1,689	1,682	1,563	1,929	1,870	1,948	2,120	2,132	1,887	2,047
Possession	9,664	11,146	9,445	10,832	9,127	8,746	8,485	8,087	7,524	5,532	5,697
<b>TOTAL DRUG ARRESTS</b>	<b>11,116</b>	<b>12,835</b>	<b>11,127</b>	<b>12,395</b>	<b>11,056</b>	<b>10,616</b>	<b>10,433</b>	<b>10,207</b>	<b>9,656</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>7,744</b>

## Appendix C

### STATE OF WISCONSIN TOTAL NUMBER OF DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS BY COUNTY (1986 - 1987)

<u>County</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Percent Change</u> <u>1986 - 1987</u>
Adams	15	16	+6.7%
Ashland	17	12	-29.4%
Barron	8	8	-
Bayfield	19	21	+10.5%
Brown	165	203	+23.0%
Buffalo	2	10	+400.0%
Burnett	2	2	-
Calumet	25	15	-40.0%
Chippewa	10	18	+80.0%
Clark	22	10	-54.5%
Columbia	47	49	+4.3%
Crawford	2	22	+1000.0%
Dane	271	238	-12.2%
Dodge	92	56	-39.1%
Door	29	15	-48.3%
Douglas	91	92	+1.1%
Dunn	41	44	+7.3%
Eau Claire	110	93	-15.5%
Florence	3	1	-66.7%
Fond Du Lac	112	81	-27.7%
Forest	23	11	-52.2%
Grant	25	23	-8.0%
Green	25	11	-56.0%
Green Lake	1	5	+400.0%
Iowa	3	2	-33.3%
Iron	2	3	+50.0%
Jackson	6	6	-
Jefferson	152	99	-34.9%
Juneau	20	9	-55.0%
Kenosha	405	367	-9.4%
Kewaunee	8	6	-25.0%
La Crosse	96	134	+39.6%
Lafayette	5	2	-60.0%
Langlade	11	25	+127.3%
Lincoln	13	21	+61.5%
Manitowoc	65	78	+20.0%
Marathon	45	85	+88.9%
Marinette	25	88	+252.0%
Marquette	11	5	-54.5%
Menominee	18	0	-100.0%
Milwaukee	2,733	2,930	+7.2%
Monroe	19	39	+105.3%
Oconto	13	19	+46.2%

<u>County</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>Percent Change 1986 - 1987</u>
Oneida	35	36	+2.9%
Outagamie	186	159	-14.5%
Ozaukee	194	173	-10.8%
Pepin	6	0	-100.0%
Pierce	40	39	-2.5%
Polk	9	21	+133.3%
Portage	43	31	-27.9%
Price	12	6	-50.0%
Racine	392	365	-6.9%
Richland	7	20	+185.7%
Rock	188	256	+36.2%
Rusk	8	8	-
St Croix	105	189	+80.0%
Sauk	67	62	-7.5%
Sawyer	10	5	-50.0%
Shawano	24	36	+50.0%
Sheboygan	94	92	-2.1%
Taylor	10	11	+10.0%
Trempealeau	14	10	-28.6%
Vernon	11	23	+109.1%
Vilas	16	7	-56.3%
Walworth	204	234	+14.7%
Washburn	4	8	+100.0%
Washington	89	87	-2.2%
Waukesha	517	564	+9.1%
Waupaca	34	23	-32.4%
Waushara	17	5	-70.6%
Winnebago	164	173	+5.5%
Wood	112	128	+14.3%
<b>State Total</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>7,745*</b>	<b>+4.4%</b>

\*This figure differs from the total arrest figures in Appendices A and B due to different estimation procedures.

This table presents information on total drug arrests for all 72 Wisconsin counties. If additional information is needed by individual law enforcement agencies, please contact Tom Eversen at the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program at (608) 266-7644.