

Drugs and Crime Facts, 1991

A summary of drug data published in 1991

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Bureau of Justice Statistics

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Single copies of any report cited here or any other BJS publications can be ordered from the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse, 1600 Research Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850, toll-free 800-666-3332. Please order using NCJ numbers listed in the source notes, pages 24-25.

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 24-25, when ordering.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics, an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice is part of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

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Drug data produced by BJS

Many 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) and Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) program compare sentences given to drug offenders with those given to other offenders
- BJS reports on 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, 1991 presents the most current information available relating to drugs and crime published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in over two dozen different reports through the end of 1991. This publication also highlights other drug data sources frequently used by the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse in responding to requests.

Among BJS reports published in calendar 1991 were the following:

- *Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1988* (BJS Bulletin, February 1991) examines pretrial release practices and outcomes for felony defendants, including drug offenders, in the Nation's 75 largest counties.
- *Women in prison* (BJS Special Report, March 1991) describes characteristics of women in State prisons in 1986, featuring their criminal history and past drug use.
- *Profile of jail inmates, 1989* (BJS Special Report, April 1991) describes characteristics of jail inmates, including their criminal history, prior drug use and treatment, and family background.

-
- *Tracking offenders, 1988* (BJS Bulletin, June 1991) reports on processing and disposition of drug offenders and other offenders in States participating in the Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) program.
 - *School crime: A National Crime Victimization Survey report* (BJS Report, September 1991) presents nationally representative data on students ages 12 to 19, including information on availability of drugs in schools and drug prevention measures taken at schools.
 - *Drugs and jail inmates, 1989* (BJS Special Report, August 1991) presents data on drug-use histories of 1989 jail inmates, as well as personal characteristics and criminal histories of drug offenders and other offenders.
 - *Correctional populations in the United States, 1989* (BJS Report, October 1991) is a compilation of statistics about offenders, including drug offenders, in various correctional populations in 1989 — including jail inmates, prison inmates, and persons on probation and parole.
 - *Federal criminal case processing, 1980-1989: With preliminary data for 1990* (BJS Report, October 1991) presents detailed data on the processing of cases in the Federal criminal justice system for 1980-1990, including information on prosecutions, dispositions, and sentencing of Federal drug offenders.

Access to current drug data

This issue of *Drugs and crime facts* summarizes BJS drug data published in 1991. For an update on continuing analyses of drug data or newly released reports, interested readers may contact the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse or see the order form included at the end of this report. The Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse was established in 1986 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. Its products and services are described in detail on pages 22-23. The toll-free line is **1-800-666-3332**.

Drug use by criminal offenders at the time of offense

In 36% of violent crime victimizations in 1989, victims reported that they believed their assailants were under the influence of drugs or alcohol (table 1). In 46% of violent crime victimizations, the victim did not know whether the offender was under the influence.

Data from BJS 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.

Table 1. Violent offenders under the influence of drugs or alcohol, as perceived by victims

Type of crime	Total	Percent of violent crime victimizations where victim perceived the offender to be: Not under the influence	Under the influence					Not sure which substance	Not known if under the influence
			Total	Alcohol only	Drugs only	Both			
Crimes of violence	100%	18.1%	36.0%	21.0%	7.6%	5.6%	1.8%	45.9%	
Rape	100	10.6*	37.4	21.2	7.2*	9.0*	0*	52.0	
Robbery	100	12.2	27.4	8.9	12.2	4.5	1.8	60.4	
Aggravated assault	100	13.0	41.2	23.4	9.6	6.4	1.8	45.9	
Simple assault	100	23.5	36.2	24.0	4.8	5.3	1.9	40.4	

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, 1989.*

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 (table 2).

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) were the least likely to report having been under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense (12%), followed by inmates

convicted of assault (14%) and homicide (18%).

Between 1974 and 1986 the proportion of State prisoners —

- under the influence of an illegal drug at the time of the offense for which they were incarcerated grew from 25% to 35%
- under the influence of cocaine at the time of the offense grew from 1% to almost 11%
- under the influence of heroin fell from 16% to 7%.

In 1986, 54% 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

Table 2. Reported drug use by convicted jail inmates at the time of the offense

Drug type	Percent who used drugs at the time of the offense		Percent who used drugs in the month before the offense	
	1989	1983	1989	1983
Any drug	27.0%	29.6%	43.9%	46.1%
Major drug	18.2	12.1	27.7	18.6
Cocaine or crack	13.7	5.5	23.6	11.8
Heroin	4.6	5.6	7.0	7.9
LSD	.4	1.3	1.6	3.0
PCP	1.3	1.9	1.7	3.0
Methadone	.5	.6	.6	.8
Other drug	12.0%	22.8%	31.3%	41.8%
Marijuana	9.1	16.9	28.1	38.6
Amphetamines	2.2	4.2	5.4	9.4
Barbiturates	.9	2.9	3.3	5.9
Methaqualone	.3	1.7	.8	3.8
T's and blues*	.2	1.7	2.4	3.0

* A combination of amphetamines and barbiturates.
Source: *Drugs and jail inmates, 1989.*

sentenced: 17% were under the influence of drugs only, and 18% were under the influence of drugs and alcohol. More than half (52%) of the State prisoners said they had taken illegal drugs during the month before committing the crime, and 43% said they had used drugs on a daily basis in that month.

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of State prison inmates serving time for a violent offense in 1986 reported that either they or their victims were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense. Fifty-four percent of inmates reported using drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense, while nearly 30% of the victims were perceived to be using drugs or alcohol.

Among violent offenders in State prisons —

- 26% of offenders using drugs victimized someone also using drugs
- 40% of offenders who were drinking victimized someone drinking
- 17% of offenders who were drinking and using drugs victimized someone drinking and using 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 males arrested in 23 U.S. cities in 1990, the percent testing positive for any drug ranged from 30% in Omaha, Nebraska to 78% in San Diego. Among the 21 cities reporting data on female arrestees, the percent of females testing positive for any drug ranged from 39% in Indianapolis, Indiana to 76% in Philadelphia.

Sources: Criminal victimization in the United States, 1989. Drugs and jail inmates, 1989. Profile of State prison inmates, 1986. Drug use and crime: State Prison Inmate Survey, 1986. Survey of youth in custody, 1987. Violent State prisoners and their victims. U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Drug Use Forecasting program, as reported in Fact sheet: Drug data summary.

Past drug use by criminal offenders

Data from BJS surveys show that 77.7% of jail inmates, 79.6% of State prisoners, and 82.7% of youth in long-term public juvenile facilities had used drugs at some point in their lives.

Although the overall percentage of jail inmates reporting prior drug use between 1983 and 1989 remained essentially unchanged, a higher proportion of inmates reported prior use of cocaine or crack in 1989 than 1983.

Prior drug use by jail inmates

Type of drug	Percent of inmates who had ever used drugs	
	1989	1983
Any drug	77.7%	76.1%
Major drug	55.4%	46.2%
Cocaine or crack	50.4	38.0
Heroin	18.2	22.4
LSD	18.6	22.3
PCP	13.9	15.6
Methadone	4.8	6.9
Other drug	71.9%	74.5%
Marijuana	70.7	73.0
Amphetamines	22.1	32.8
Barbiturates	17.2	27.8
Methaqualone	14.7	23.0
T's and blues*	11.0	10.9

*A combination of amphetamines and barbiturates

In 1986, 28% of State prison inmates reported past drug dependency. The drugs most often mentioned were heroin (14%), cocaine (10%), and marijuana or hashish (9%). An estimated 72% of female inmates

reported past drug use at some time in their lives prior to admission, compared to 80% of male inmates.

For State prisoners who used drugs, the median age at which they began to use —

- any drug was 15
- a major drug was 17
- a major drug regularly was 18.

More than half the State prisoners who had ever used a major drug (heroin, methadone, cocaine, PCP, or LSD) reported that they had not done so until after their first arrest. Nearly 60% of those who had used a major drug regularly said such use began after their first arrest; half of the regular users began more than a year 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. Drug use and crime: State prison inmate survey, 1986. Women in prison. Survey of youth in custody, 1987.*

Drug-related crime

Overall, 13% of convicted jail inmates in 1989 said they committed their offense to obtain money for drugs. Sixteen percent of black inmates said they committed their offense to get money for drugs, compared to 12% of white inmates.

Most serious current offense	Percent of convicted jail inmates who committed their offense for money to buy drugs
All offenses	13.3%
Violent offenses	11.5%
Homicide ^a	2.8
Sexual assault ^b	2.2
Robbery	32.4
Assault	2.7
Other violent ^c	3.1
Property offenses	24.4%
Burglary	31.0
Larceny/theft	27.8
Motor vehicle theft	6.8
Fraud	23.1
Stolen property	15.1
Other property ^d	13.1
Drug offenses	14.0%
Possession	9.6
Trafficking	19.2
Other/unspecified	5.6
Public-order offenses	3.3%
DWI	.7
Other public-order	5.4

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

^b Includes rape.

^c Includes kidnaping.

^d Includes arson.

Almost a third of those convicted of robbery and burglary committed their crime to obtain money for drugs, as had about a quarter of those in jail for larceny and fraud.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program reported that in 1990, 6.5% of the 20,045 homicides in which circumstances were known were narcotics-related. This includes murders that occur specifically during a narcotics felony, such as drug trafficking or manufacturing, where the narcotics felony was the most serious offense committed at the time of the murder.

Drug-related homicides

Year	Number of homicides	Percent drug-related
1986	19,257	3.9%
1987	17,963	4.9
1988	17,971	5.6
1989	18,954	7.4
1990	20,045	6.5

Note: Table constructed by Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse staff from *Crime in the United States, 1990* (FBI), p. 14.

Sources: *Drugs and jail inmates, 1989*, *Crime in the United States, 1990*, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Drug law enforcement

Federal, State, and local agencies share responsibility for enforcing the Nation's drug laws. State and local authorities make most drug arrests — estimated at nearly 1.1 million in 1990 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Estimated number of adult arrests for drug violations reported by State and local police, 1981-90

Year	Sale/man- ufacture	Posses- sion	Total
1981	93,143	374,913	468,056
1982	119,309	465,541	584,850
1983	128,948	454,526	583,474
1984	137,218	486,501	623,719
1985	170,307	548,290	718,597
1986	186,414	556,273	742,687
1987	219,176	630,345	849,521
1988	287,858	762,718	1,050,576
1989	404,275	843,488	1,247,763
1990	318,638	689,709	1,008,347

Percent
change

1981-90 242.1% 84.0% 115.4%

Note: Table constructed by Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse staff from *Prisoners in 1990* (BJS), *Prisoners in 1988* (BJS), and *Crime in the United States, 1990* (FBI), pp. 173-74 and 184.

Of persons charged with a felony in 1988 in the 75 most populous counties —

- 35% of all arrestees were charged with a drug offense
- 14% for drug sales or trafficking and 21% for other drug offenses
- 65% of persons arrested on drug charges were under age 30.

As reported in the 1990 BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics* —

- the Federal Government seized 5,576 clandestine drug laboratories between 1975 and 1990
- in 1990, of the 549 labs seized, 449 (82%) manufactured methamphetamines
- in 1990 DEA's program for eradicating domestic marijuana resulted in the destruction of 126 million plants in 29,469 plots, 5,729 arrests, 3,210 weapons seized, and assets seized valued at \$38.7 million
- in 1990 DEA confiscated 160,097 pounds of cocaine, 1,405 pounds of heroin, 30 pounds of opium, 311,247 pounds of marijuana, 2.9 million dosage units of hallucinogens, and 144 million dosage units of stimulants
- in 1990 the U.S. Customs Service seized 222,274 pounds of marijuana, 164,703 pounds of cocaine, and 2.3 million dosage units of drugs such as LSD and barbiturates
- in 1990 the U.S. Coast Guard confiscated 62,279 pounds of marijuana and 52,732 pounds of cocaine
- in 1990 the U.S. Postal Service made 1,286 arrests for mailing controlled substances
- in 1989 State and Federal courts authorized wiretaps in 471 narcotics cases.

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.

The following amounts of drugs were seized in fiscal 1990 by the Federal agencies participating in FDSS:

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Pounds seized</u>
Heroin	2,214
Cocaine	233,094
Cannabis	482,948

Law enforcement agencies perform many drug-related functions in addition to seizing illegal drugs and arresting drug law violators:

- in 1987, almost half (47%) 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.
- 78% of municipal police departments serving populations of 250,000 or more had special units for drug education in the schools, and 50% of those serving populations of 1 million or more had some type of drug-screening program.

Law enforcement agencies with primary responsibility for laboratory testing of drugs, by population served and type of agency, 1987

<u>Population served</u>	<u>Type of agency</u>	
	<u>Local police</u>	<u>Sheriff</u>
All sizes	4.3%	7.4%
1 million or more	76.9	35.4
500,000-999,999	48.2	20.1
250,000-499,999	45.3	15.2
100,000-249,999	16.9	14.2
50,000-99,999	17.1	10.4
25,000-49,999	9.6	5.2
10,000-24,999	4.2	4.6
Less than 10,000	2.7	5.6

Sources: *Prisoners in 1990. Prisoners in 1988. Felony defendants in large urban counties, 1988. Crime in the United States 1990*, Federal Bureau of Investigation. 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, 1990. Fact Sheet: Drug Data Summary. Profile of State and local law enforcement agencies, 1987. Police departments in large cities, 1987.*

Pretrial release of drug defendants

The National Pretrial Reporting Program (NPRP) revealed that of persons charged with a felony drug offense in 1988 in the 75 most populous counties —

- 72% were released prior to case disposition
- 26% were held with bail set
- 2% were held without bail.

The median amount of bail set for a person charged with a drug offense was \$3,500. Defendants charged with a drug offense were more likely to secure release (47%) when bail was set at \$20,000 or more than those charged with a public-order offense (32%), a violent offense (26%), or a property offense (24%).

Felony drug defendants with no prior conviction record were more likely to be released before case disposition than felony drug defendants with a prior conviction record. Eighty-two percent of drug defendants with no prior record were released, compared to 73% of those with at least one prior misdemeanor conviction, 58% of those with a prior nonviolent felony conviction, and 62% of those with a prior violent felony conviction.

Of felony drug defendants released prior to the disposition of their case, 43.6% were released within 1 day of their arrest, 80.6% within 1 week, 93.5% within 1 month, and 99.5% within 6 months.

Of felony drug defendants released before case disposition, 28% failed to make a scheduled court appearance, and 19% were known to have been rearrested for a felony while on pretrial release.

Pretrial status of defendants charged with drug offenses, 1988

<u>Pretrial status</u>	<u>Percent of drug offense defendants</u>
Total	100%
Released	72%
Financial total	36%
Surety	19
Full cash	10
Deposit	6
Other	1
Nonfinancial total	36%
Release on recognizance	30
Unsecured bail	7
Detained	28%

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

Percent of felony defendants released before trial and median bail set, by type of offense, 1988

<u>Most serious felony arrest charge</u>	<u>Percent released prior to case disposition</u>	<u>Median bail set</u>
Murder	39%	\$35,000
Rape	55	17,500
Robbery	52	7,500
Assault	69	5,000
Burglary	53	5,000
Theft	64	2,500
Drug offenses	72	3,500
Sales/trafficking	69	5,000
Other	75	2,500

Sources: *Felony defendants in large urban counties, 1986*; *Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1988*.

Prosecution and sentencing of Federal drug law violators

Of all persons or organizations investigated by U.S. attorneys in criminal matters concluded during 1989, 31% were suspected of drug law violations, up from 14% in 1980.

The number of suspects prosecuted for drug offenses increased from 7,003 in 1980 to 24,278 in 1989. U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute 19% (5,974) of suspected drug offenders who were investigated in matters closed in 1989, a lower percentage than for offenders suspected of violent offenses (28%), property offenses (44%), and regulatory offenses (55%).

The number of persons convicted of violating Federal drug laws rose to 15,799 in 1989 from 5,135 in 1980. This 208% increase exceeded the 56% growth in U.S. district court convictions for all Federal offenses during the same years and accounted for over 63% of the total increase in Federal convictions.

The number of defendants convicted of drug possession offenses increased from 502 in 1980 to 1,776 in 1989 — a 254% increase. Drug possession convictions were 11% of all drug convictions in 1989.

Drug offenses accounted for 17% of all defendants convicted in 1980 and 34% of all defendants convicted in 1989. Drug trafficking offenses alone accounted for almost 30% of all defendants convicted in 1989. The

conviction rate for drug defendants increased from 74% in 1980 to 83% in 1989.

In 1989 84% of offenders convicted of drug offenses were sentenced to prison, compared to 72% in 1980.

The average prison sentence for persons charged with Federal drug violations was longer than for all other offenses except violent crimes in 1989.

Average sentence length for persons sentenced to Federal prisons for drug and non-drug offenses, 1989

All offenses	54.5 mos.
Violent offenses	90.6
Fraudulent property offenses	26.1
Other property offenses	25.7
Federal drug offenses	74.9
Trafficking	77.3
Possession	8.1
Regulatory offenses	24.0
Other public-order offenses	28.1

Federal sentences for drug offenses are longer than in the past. The average Federal prison sentence for drug offenses rose from almost 4 years in 1980 to 6 years and 3 months in 1989.

Drug offenders comprised an increasing percentage of all defendants who were sentenced to Federal prison — from 27% in 1980 to 49% in 1989.

Source: *Federal criminal case processing, 1980-89 with preliminary data for 1990.*

Prosecution and sentencing of drug law violators in State courts

In the United States in 1988 there were an estimated —

- 287,857 adults arrested for drug trafficking
- 111,950 felony drug trafficking convictions
- 79,503 drug traffickers sentenced to incarceration
- 45,656 drug traffickers sentenced to State prison or 16 for every 100 drug trafficking arrests (table 3).

Drug offenders comprised a third of all persons convicted of a felony in State courts in 1988. Drug traffickers accounted for 17% of all convicted felons, and drug possessors accounted for 17%.

The number of drug trafficking convictions in State courts increased 46% between 1986 and 1988. In the 75 largest counties, convictions for drug trafficking rose 61% during the same period.

Of persons convicted of drug trafficking in State courts in 1988 —

- 86% were male
- 56% were white, 43% black, and 1% of other races
- the average age was 30
 - 6% were between ages 14 and 19
 - 51% were between 20 and 29
 - 31% were between 30 and 39
 - 9% were between 40 and 49
 - 2% were between 50 and 59
 - 1% were age 60 or older.

Ninety-two percent of drug trafficking convictions in 1988 resulted from guilty pleas; 4% resulted from jury trials; and 4% resulted from bench trials.

Seventy-one percent of persons convicted of drug trafficking in 1988 were sentenced to some kind of incarceration: 30% to jail and 41% to prison; 28% were sentenced to probation. The average sentence length for persons convicted of drug trafficking and sentenced to prison was 5 1/2 years, of which the estimated time to be served was 1 year 8 months (table 4).

The average (mean) time from arrest to sentencing was 211 days for a drug trafficking case resulting in a conviction in 1988. The average time was 274 days for jury trials, 323 days for bench trials, and 205 days for guilty pleas.

Table 3. Disposition of felony arrests in the United States, 1988

Arrest offense	Con- victed	For 100 arrests:	
		Total	Prison
Murder*	48	45	43
Rape	47	41	33
Robbery	32	28	24
Aggravated assault	10	7	5
Burglary	33	24	18
Drug trafficking	39	28	16

*Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.
Source: *Felony sentences in State courts, 1988.*

Convicted felons sentenced by State courts to incarceration, 1988

	Percent of convicted State felons sentenced to incarceration	
	Total	Prison
Murder ^a	95%	91%
Rape	87	69
Robbery	89	75
Aggravated assault	72	45
Burglary	75	54
Larceny ^b	65	39
Drug trafficking	71	41

^aIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

^bIncludes motor vehicle theft.

The Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS program) reports on criminal justice processing of persons arrested for a felony. Of the 145,971 adults arrested for felony drug offenses in the 8 States reporting data in 1988 —

- 80% were prosecuted
- 58% were convicted
- 47% were sentenced to incarceration.

Sources: *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1988. Tracking Offenders, 1988.*

Table 4. Average maximum prison sentence length imposed and estimated time to be served in prison, 1988

Most serious conviction offense	Average maximum sentence length	Estimated time to be served ^a
Murder ^b	239 mos.	79 mos.
Rape	183	71
Robbery	114	38
Aggravated assault	90	32
Burglary	74	22
Larceny ^c	50	15
Drug trafficking	66	20

^aDerived by multiplying percentage of sentence actually served by the mean sentence imposed. Percentage of sentence actually served was estimated from table 2-4, *National Corrections Reporting Program, 1985* (NCJ-123522), December 1990.

^bIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

^cIncludes motor vehicle theft.

Source: *Felony sentences in State courts, 1988.*

Drug offenders in correctional populations

The proportion of drug offenders in local jails increased 147% between 1983 and 1989:

Current offense	Percent of all inmates	
	1983	1989
Any drug offense	9%	23%
Trafficking	4	12
Possession/use	5	10
Other drug	1	1

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

- 22% of all admissions in fiscal 1980
- 34% of all inmates in fiscal 1986
- 58% of all inmates at the end of calendar 1991.*

Between 1979 and 1986 the percentage of inmates in State prison for —

- any drug offense rose from 6.4% to 8.6%
- drug possession rose from 1.6% to 2.9%
- drug trafficking rose from 4.4% to 5.4%.

In 1986 persons sentenced for drug trafficking made up 26.1% of State prison inmates with no known prior sentence to probation or incarceration. This was a larger proportion than for any other offense.

*Updated by Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse from Bureau of Prisons Key Indicators Management Information System, December 29, 1991.

Offenses of persons in long-term, State-operated juvenile facilities (1987) and State adult prisons (1986)

Current offense	Percent of youth in long-term, State-operated juvenile institutions		Percent of inmates in State prisons
	Under age 18	Age 18 or older	
Violent	39.3%	52.3%	54.6%
Property	45.6	29.0	31.0
Drug	5.6	11.3	8.6
Public-order	7.2	6.8	5.2
Other*	2.4	.6	.7

*Includes juvenile status offenses for youth in State institutions.

As reported in the 1990 BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, in 1987, the proportion of juveniles in public facilities for drug offenses was higher than in private facilities.

Juveniles held in facilities, by type of offense and type of facility, 1987

Juveniles detained or committed for:	All	Type of facility	
		Public	Private
Crimes against persons	17%	25%	6%
Crimes against property	33	44	17
Drug offenses	5	7	3
Alcohol and public-order offenses	4	6	2
Probation/parole violations	5	8	1
Other delinquent acts	5	5	5
Non-delinquent reasons	31	6	66

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

In order to estimate the level of offender reinvolvedment with crime upon release from prison, 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% 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.

Percent of drug law violators released from prison in 1983 who within 3 years were —

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Rearrested</u>	<u>Reconvicted</u>	<u>Reincarcerated</u>
Drug offenses	50.4%	35.3%	30.3%
Possession	62.8	40.2	36.7
Trafficking	51.5	34.5	29.4

Sources: *Drug law violators, 1980-86: Federal offenses and offenders*, updated by the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse. *Profile of State prison inmates, 1986. Survey of youth in custody, 1987. Profile of jail inmates, 1989. Drugs and jail inmates, 1989. Recidivism of prisoners released in 1983.* Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, as reported in the *BJS Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1990.*

Drugs and youth

Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey 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%) compared to private school students (52%)
- students who reported gangs were present at their school (78%) compared to students at schools where gangs were not present (66%).

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%).

Many students reported that they could obtain drugs at or near their schools.

- 30% said marijuana was easy to obtain, 27% said it was hard to obtain, and 16% said it was impossible to get.
- 11% said cocaine was easy to obtain and 9% said crack was easy to obtain.

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

- 15% knew adults or older kids who tried or who use marijuana; 5% knew of 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.

As reported in the 1990 *BJS Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics* —

- 40.7% of 1990 high school seniors reported having ever used marijuana/hashish
- 9.4% reported having ever used cocaine
- 1.3% reported having ever used heroin.

1990 high school seniors reporting they could obtain drugs fairly easily or very easily

Marijuana	84.4%
Amphetamines	59.7
Cocaine powder	49.0
Barbiturates	45.9
Crack	42.4
Tranquillizers	44.7
LSD	40.7
Heroin	31.9
PCP	27.7

Reported marijuana use by high school seniors within the previous 12 months fell to 27% in 1990, the lowest level since the survey began in 1975. Similarly, the 14% reporting such use within the last 30 days was also the lowest in the period.

Reported illegal drug use by high school seniors, 1990

Drugs	Used within the last:	
	12 months ^a	30 days
Marijuana	27.0%	14.0%
Stimulants ^b	9.1	3.7
Inhalants	7.5	2.9
Hallucinogens	6.0	2.3
Cocaine (other than crack)	4.6	1.7
Other opiates ^b	4.5	1.5
Sedatives ^b	3.6	1.4
Tranquillizers ^b	3.5	1.2
Crack	1.9	.7
Heroin	.5	.2

^aIncluding the last 30 days.

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

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

Cocaine use among high school seniors peaked in 1985:

Year	Used cocaine within the last:	
	12 months ^a	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

^aIncluding the last 30 days.

Sources: *School crime*. Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *Drug use among American high school seniors, college students, and young adults, 1975-1990* and NFO Research Inc., *Final report: Drug awareness and attitude study*, both as reported in *BJS Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1990* and previous editions for trend data.

Drug use in the general population

According to data from the 1991 National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) National Household Survey on Drug Abuse —

- 75.4 million Americans age 12 and older (37% of the population) reported use of an illicit drug at least once in their lifetime
- 13% reported use of a drug within the past year
- 6% reported use of a drug within the past month.

Data from the 1991 survey show that marijuana and cocaine use are related to age.

Drug use	Age of respondent			
	12-17	18-25	26-34	35+
Marijuana				
Last month	4.3%	13.0%	7.0%	2.1%
Last year	10.1	24.6	14.5	4.2
Lifetime	13.0	50.5	59.5	23.9
Cocaine				
Last month	.4%	2.0%	1.8%	.5%
Last year	1.5	7.7	5.1	1.6
Lifetime	2.4	17.9	25.8	7.0

As reported in the 1990 BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, drug use by college students fell to its lowest point in 1990 since data collection began for this population in 1980 (table 5).

Another measure of drug use in the general population is the number of drug-related emergency room episodes and drug-related deaths. The NIDA Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) reported an estimated 371,208 drug-related episodes in hospital emergency rooms nationwide in 1990, a 13% decrease from 425,904 in 1989.

A total of 5,830 deaths related to drug-abuse were reported in 1990 by 135 medical examiners in 27 metropolitan areas, a 20% decrease from 7,260 in 1989.

Table 5. Marijuana and cocaine use among college students, 1980-90

Drug use	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Marijuana											
Daily within											
last month	7.2%	5.6%	4.2%	3.8%	3.6%	3.1%	2.1%	2.3%	1.8%	2.6%	1.7%
Last month	34.0	33.2	26.8	25.2	23.0	23.6	22.3	20.3	16.8	16.3	14.0
Last year	51.2	51.3	44.7	45.2	40.7	41.7	40.9	37.0	34.6	33.6	29.4
Cocaine											
Daily within											
last month	.2%	.0%	.3%	.1%	.4%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%	.0%	.0%
Last month	6.9	7.3	7.9	6.5	7.6	6.9	7.0	4.6	4.2	2.8	1.2
Last year	16.8	16.0	17.2	17.3	16.3	17.3	17.1	13.7	10.0	8.2	5.6

Source: *Drug use among American high school seniors, college students, and young adults, 1975-1990*, as reported in the *BJS Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1990*.

Sources: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *Drug use among American high school seniors, college students, and young adults, 1975-1990* as reported in the *BJS Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1990*. *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Population estimates 1991*. *Drug Abuse Warning Network: Annual emergency room data, 1990*. *Drug Abuse Warning Network: Annual medical examiner data, 1990*.

Public opinion about drugs

As reported in the 1990 BJS *Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics*, the percentage of Gallup Poll respondents describing drug abuse as the 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

Gallup Poll respondents most often mentioned use of drugs as one of the biggest problems for schools in their communities. Giving that response in 1989 were —

- 30% of public-school parents
- 30% of nonpublic-school parents
- 35% of those with no children in school
- 34% of all surveyed.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse has sponsored a survey of high school seniors each year since 1975. The 1990 high school seniors were asked, "How harmful is the use of drugs?" The percents of those who answered by saying people are taking a "great risk" of harming themselves in regularly using the following were —

- marijuana/hashish, 77.8%, up from 34.9% in 1978

- cocaine, 91.1%, up from a low of 68.2% in 1978
- heroin, 90.2%, virtually stable since 1978
- LSD, 84.5%, up from 81.1% in 1978.

In 1989, 58% of Gallup Poll respondents felt that drugs are the factor most responsible for crime in the United States, compared to 13% of 1981 Gallup Poll respondents. The most frequently mentioned factor in 1981 was unemployment (37%), which was mentioned by 14% of 1989 respondents.

When asked about spending for various social problems, 64% of the respondents to a 1989 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. During that time those who say marijuana should be made legal —

- peaked at 30% in 1978
- fell to 16% in 1990.

College freshmen have been surveyed by NORC since 1968. In 1990, 18.6% of those surveyed agreed strongly or somewhat that marijuana should be legalized, down from a high of 52.9% in 1977.

Of 1990 high school seniors—

- 15.9% felt using marijuana should be entirely legal, down from 32.9% feeling that way in 1978
- 82.6% reported worrying often or sometimes about drug abuse, up from 65.5% in 1978.

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 1975-1990*; 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, 1990*.

Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse

The Drugs & Crime Data Center & 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.

Special attention is given 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).

The Drugs & Crime Data Center & 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 Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse is comprised of two components. The clearinghouse component —

- disseminates BJS and other Department of Justice publications relating to drugs and crime
- distributes data summaries and selected bibliographies on specific drugs-and-crime topics

- maintains 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.

The data center component —

- prepares a comprehensive national report on drugs and crime, compiling drug data from various sources into one easy-to-understand volume to be used as a national resource document
- analyzes existing drug data and prepares special reports
- evaluates existing drug data for statistical quality and usefulness, suggests improvements, and identifies drug data gaps
- prepares special computer tabulations that are not available elsewhere
- prepares annotated bibliographies of new drugs-and-crime reports to be added to the database the clearinghouse uses to respond to requests.

During 1991 the Data Center & Clearinghouse —

- handled about 6,500 requests for information
- expanded the bibliographic database to about 2,700 documents, library holdings to about 1,500 documents, and vertical file items to about 3,500
- distributed about 36,000 drugs-and-crime documents, 43% of which were BJS publications
- attended 12 national conferences
- archived the 1991 Drug Control and System Improvement Formula Grant Program applications submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance by the States (State strategies)
- provided technical assistance to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
- worked with other drug-related clearinghouses, including the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (treatment and prevention), the National AIDS Information Clearinghouse, and the Resident Initiatives Drug Information and Strategy Clearinghouse (drugs in public housing)
- completed the *Catalog of selected Federal publications on illegal drug and alcohol abuse* in coordination with the Inter-Agency Working Group of Federal Clearinghouses
- participated in the startup of an 800 number, 1-800-788-2800, for the Federal Drug, Alcohol, and Crime Clearinghouse Network which serves as a single point of entry for all Federal alcohol and drug clearinghouses

- prepared *Drugs and crime facts, 1990* (August 1991), which presents existing BJS data on the subject from diverse BJS reports

- continued research and writing for a comprehensive report on drugs and crime

- continued data analysis and writing for a series of special reports on various drug-related topics.

The toll-free line for the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse is **1-800-666-3332**. The data center is located at the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) in Research Triangle Park, NC. The clearinghouse is located at Aspen Systems Corporation in Rockville, MD.

Source notes

Single copies of any report with an NCJ number can be obtained free from the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse, 1600 Research Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850; 1-800-666-3332.

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.

Crime in the United States, 1990, Federal Bureau of Investigation, August 1991, ICPSR 9028

Criminal victimization in the United States, 1989, June 1991, NCJ-129391, ICPSR 8864

Drug Abuse Warning Network: Annual emergency room data, 1990, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1990

Drug Abuse Warning Network: Annual medical examiner data, 1990, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1990

Drug law violators, 1980-86: Federal offenses and offenders (BJS Special Report), June 1988, NCJ-111763, ICPSR 9296

Drug use and crime: State Prison Inmate Survey, 1986 (BJS Special Report), July 1988, NCJ-111940, ICPSR 8711

Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse (brochure), November 1989, BC-000133

Drugs and crime facts, 1990, August 1991, NCJ-128662

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

Fact sheet: Drug data summary, Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse, November 1991

Federal criminal case processing, 1980-89: With preliminary data for 1990, October 1991, NCJ-130626, ICPSR 9296

Federal drug data for national policy, May 1990, NCJ-122715

Felony defendants in large urban counties, 1988 (BJS Special Report), April 1990, NCJ-122385, ICPSR 9508

Felony sentences in State courts, 988 (BJS Bulletin), December 1990, NCJ-126923, ICPSR 9449

National Corrections Reporting Program, 1985, December 1990, NCJ-123522, ICPSR 8918

National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Population estimates 1991. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1991

Police departments in large cities, 1987 (BJS Special Report), August 1989, NCJ-119220, ICPSR 9222

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

Prisoners in 1990 (BJS Bulletin), May 1991, NCJ-129198

Prisoners in 1988 (BJS Bulletin), April 1989, NCJ-116315

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

Profile of State and local law enforcement agencies, 1987 (BJS Bulletin), March 1989, NCJ-113949, ICPSR 9222

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

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

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

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1990, September 1991, NCJ-130580

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1986, September 1987, NCJ-105287

State drug resources: A national directory, May 1990, NCJ-122582

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

Tracking Offenders, 1988 (BJS Bulletin), June 1991, NCJ-129861

Violent State prisoners and their victims (BJS Special Report), July 1990, NCJ-124133, ICPSR 8711

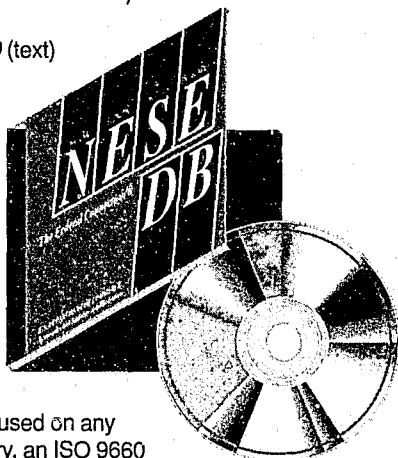
Women in prison (BJS Special Report), March 1991, NCJ-127991, ICPSR 8711

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- *Criminal Victimization in the U.S., 1990* (text and tables)
- *Capital Punishment, 1990* (text)
- *Crime and the Nation's Households, 1990* (text)
- *Drugs and Jail Inmates, 1989* (text)
- *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1988* (text)
- *Female Victims of Violent Crime* (text)
- *Jail Inmates, 1990* (text)
- *Prisoners in 1990* (text)
- *Profile of Jail Inmates* (text)
- *Probation and Parole, 1990* (text)
- *School Crime* (text)
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Single copies of reports are free; use NCJ number to order. Postage and handling are charged for bulk orders of single reports. For single copies of multiple titles, up to 10 titles are free; 11-40 titles \$10; more than 40, \$20; libraries call for special rates.

Public-use tapes of BJS data sets and other criminal justice data are available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (formerly CAJNIC), P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 (toll-free 800-999-0960).

National Crime Victimization Survey

Criminal victimization in the U.S.: 1981 preliminary (press release), NCJ-137218, 4/82
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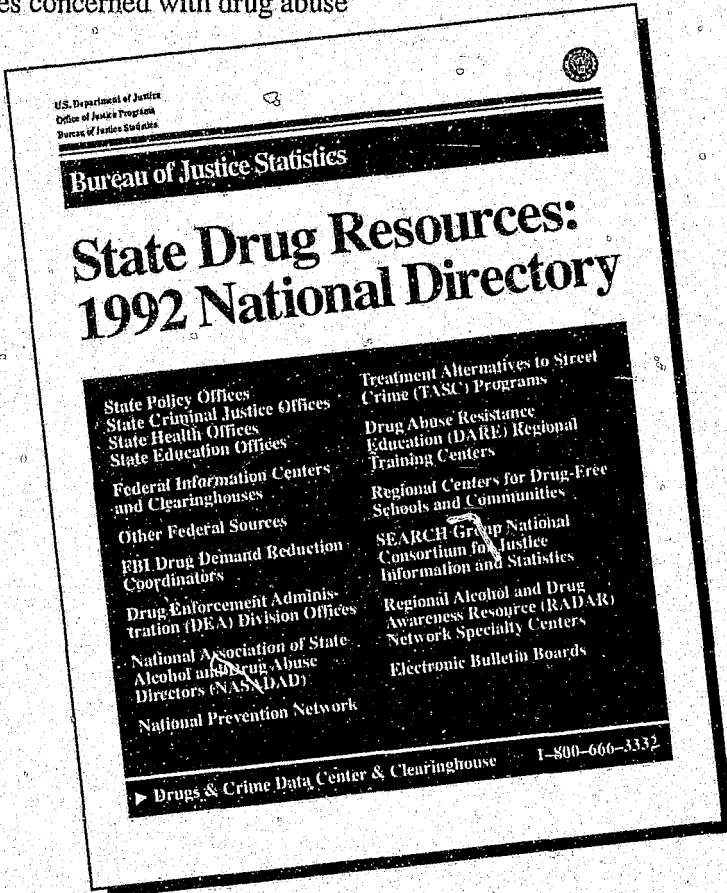
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