



## **Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance**

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# **DRUG ARRESTS IN WISCONSIN - 2000**

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## Executive Summary

1. Total drug arrests decreased by 7.2 percent during 2000, compared to a 0.5 percent decrease in 1999 and 9.4 percent increase in 1998.
2. While arrests for sale offenses increased by 8.3 percent in 2000, arrests for possession offenses increased by 7 percent.
3. While total arrests increased by 7.2 percent in 2000, arrests involving opium/cocaine decreased by 7.9 percent and marijuana arrests increased by 9.2 percent.
4. Males made up 84.2 percent of all those arrested for drug law violations in 2000.
5. Total adult arrests for drug law violations increased by 7.6 percent in 2000.
6. Total juvenile arrests for drug law violations increased by 5.8 percent in 2000.
7. The type of substance in drug arrests was strongly related to the race of those arrested. While 80.3 percent of those arrested for marijuana violations were white, 60.3 percent of those arrested for cocaine violations were black.
8. The total number of arrests for drug law violations increased by 17.4 percent from 1996 through 2000.
9. The juvenile proportion of total drug arrests has remained very stable from 1996 through 2000.
10. After increasing somewhat from 1996 to 1998, the opium/cocaine percentage of total drug arrests declined sharply from 1998 through 2000.
11. After declining from 1996 to 1997, the proportion of total drug arrests involving sale violations has remained very stable.
12. While total drug arrests decreased by 20.5 percent in Milwaukee County from 1998 to 2000, they increased by 20.1 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 24.7 percent during 2000.

## **A. Introduction**

This report summarizes information on drug-related arrests made by Wisconsin law enforcement agencies in 2000. Data on drug arrests are collected as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The report is based upon figures submitted by over 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 1999 and 2000 Arrests**

### **1. Total Arrests**

Table 1 presents basic information on drug-related arrests during 1999 and 2000. (Note: UCR definitions for the drug categories are delineated in Appendix B).

Table 1: Total Drug-Related Arrests, 1999 and 2000

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	4,877	5,280	+ 8.3
Opium/Cocaine	2,320	2,362	+ 1.8
Marijuana	2,062	2,361	+ 14.5
Synthetics	128	205	+ 60.1
Other	367	352	- 4.1
POSSESSION	18,558	19,850	+ 7.0
Opium/Cocaine	2,295	1,888	- 17.7
Marijuana	14,361	15,578	+ 8.5
Synthetics	243	362	+ 49.0
Other	1,659	2,022	+ 21.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,435</b>	<b>25,130</b>	<b>+ 7.2</b>

**Total drug arrests increased by 7.2 percent during 2000, compared to the decrease of 0.5 percent in 1999, and the 9.4 percent increase in 1998.**

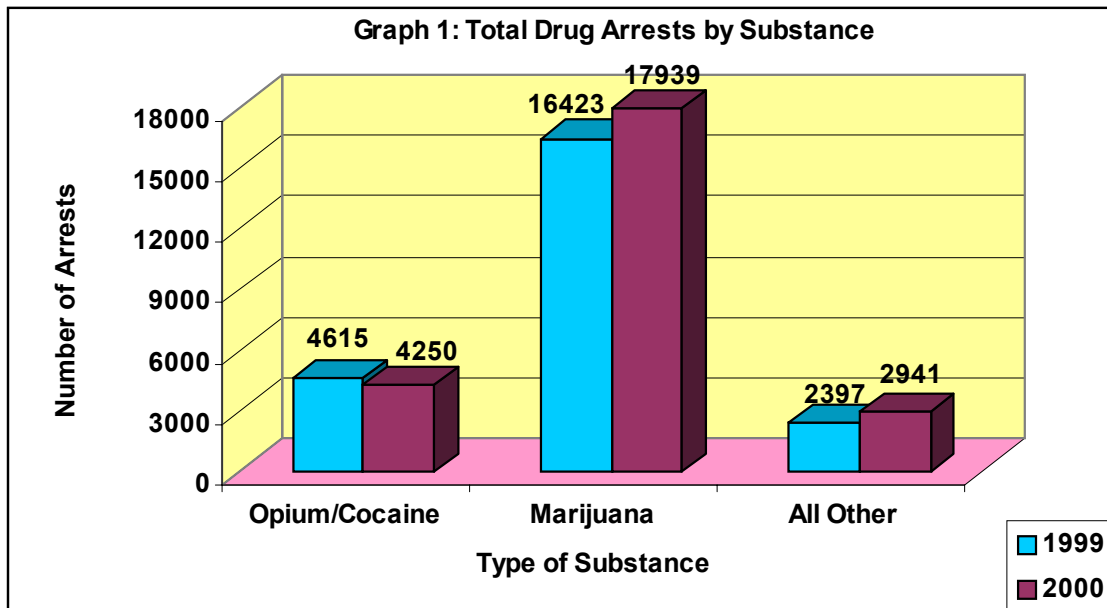
**While arrests for sale offenses increased by 8.3 percent in 2000, arrests for possession offenses increased by 7 percent.**

## 2. Arrests by Drug Type

Table 2 and Graph 1 show total drug-related arrests during 1999 and 2000. 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, 1999 and 2000

<u>Substance Type</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Opium/Cocaine	4,615	4,250	- 7.9
Marijuana	16,423	17,939	+ 9.2
All Other	2,397	2,941	+ 22.7
Total	23,435	25,130	+ 7.2



**While total arrests increased by 7.2 percent in 2000, arrests involving opium/cocaine decreased by 7.9 percent and marijuana arrests increased by 9.2 percent.**

These patterns began earlier, since total opium/cocaine arrests declined by 18.7 from 1998 to 2000, while total marijuana arrests increased by 10 percent from 1998 to 2000. Arrests for the category of “all other” substances increased by 22.7 percent from 1999 to 2000, and increased by 44.6 percent from 1998 to 2000.

## 3. Arrests by Sex

**During 2000, 84.2 percent of all those arrested for drug law violations were male, very similar to the 83.8 percent male percentage in 1999.** There were no notable differences by sex with regard to arrest patterns - either by type of drug or type of activity (i.e., sale and possession).

#### 4. Arrests by Age

Table 3 shows drug arrest patterns for adults during 1999 and 2000.

Table 3: Drug-Related Arrests of Adults, 1999 and 2000

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	3,890	4,350	+ 11.8
Opium/Cocaine	1,943	2,070	+ 6.5
Marijuana	1,631	1,855	+ 13.7
Synthetics	90	159	+ 76.7
Other	226	266	+ 17.7
POSSESSION	14,235	15,160	+ 6.5
Opium/Cocaine	2,127	1,730	- 18.7
Marijuana	10,807	11,712	+ 8.4
Synthetics	181	262	+ 44.8
Other	1,120	1,456	+ 30.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,125</b>	<b>19,510</b>	<b>+ 7.6</b>

**Total adult arrests for drug law violations increased by 7.6 percent in 2000.** While arrests involving cocaine decreased by 6.6 percent, total arrests involving marijuana increased by 9.1 percent.

Table 4 shows similar information for juveniles arrested for drug law violations.

Table 4: Drug-Related Arrests of Juveniles, 1999 and 2000

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	987	930	- 5.8
Opium/Cocaine	377	292	- 22.5
Marijuana	431	506	+ 17.4
Synthetics	38	46	+ 21.0
Other	141	86	- 39.0
POSSESSION	4,323	4,690	+ 8.5
Opium/Cocaine	168	158	- 6.0
Marijuana	3,554	3,866	+ 8.7
Synthetics	62	100	+ 61.3
Other	539	566	+ 5.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,310</b>	<b>5,620</b>	<b>+ 5.8</b>

**Total juvenile arrests for drug law violations increased by 5.8 percent in 2000.** While juvenile arrests for sale violations declined by 17.4 percent, arrests for possession violations increased by 9.7 percent.

As was true in past years, the largest difference in 2000 arrest patterns between adults and juveniles involved opium/cocaine. While 19.5 percent of adult arrests involved sale or possession of opium/cocaine, only 8.0 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 includes both American Indians and Asians.

Table 5: Proportion of 2000 Drug Arrest Categories by Race

<u>Drug Arrest Category</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Other</u>
<b>Age</b>			
- Adult	71.8	26.0	2.2
- Juvenile	78.9	18.7	2.4
<b>Sale/Possession</b>			
- Sale	55.1	43.6	1.3
- Possession	79.4	18.2	2.4
<b>Type Substance</b>			
- Opium/Cocaine	38.7	60.3	1.0
- Marijuana	81.3	16.1	2.6
- All Other	82.9	14.8	2.3
<b>Location</b>			
- Milwaukee County	36.5	62.7	0.8
- Remainder of the State	85.2	12.6	2.4
<b>Total Drug Arrests</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>

The total 2000 drug arrestees were 73.6 percent white, 24.4 percent black, and 2.2 percent American Indian or Asian. While the white percentage of total drug arrests increased from 72.2 percent in 1999 to 73.2 percent during 2000, the black percentage of total drug arrests declined from 25.7 percent in 1999 to 24.4 percent during 2000. The large decline in the Milwaukee County proportion of total Wisconsin drug arrests (33.1 percent in 1998 to 24.7 percent in 2000) largely caused the overall decrease in the proportion of blacks arrested for drug law violations.

**The type of substance in drug arrests was strongly related to the race of those arrested. While 81.3 percent of those arrested for marijuana violations were white, 60.3 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 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 drugs, and were a much higher proportion of Milwaukee County arrests.

**C. Trends in Drug Arrests: 1996 to 2000**

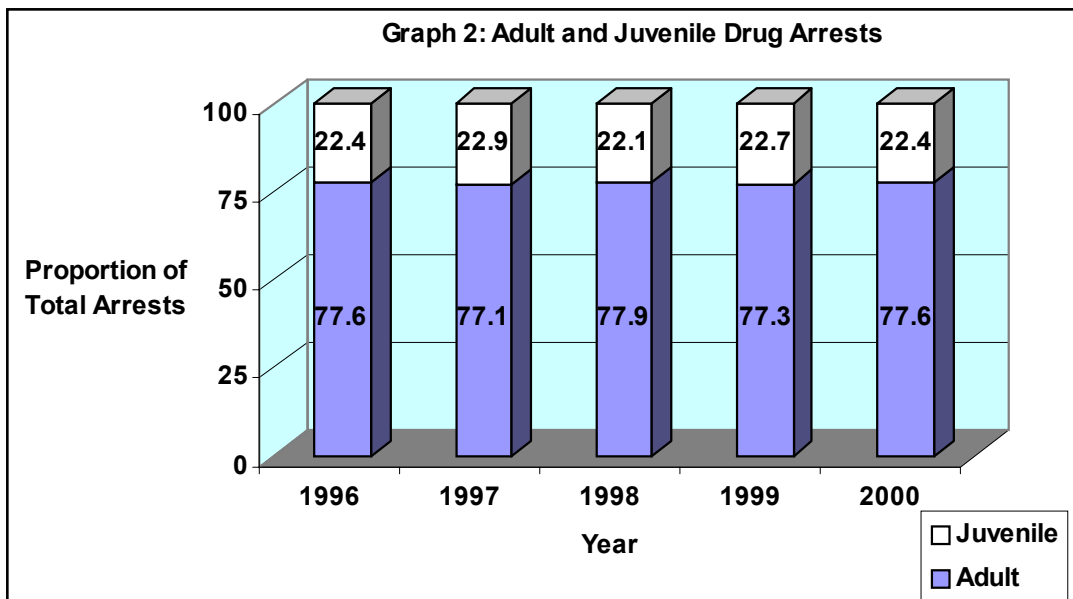
Table 6 summarizes five year trends in Wisconsin drug arrests.

**Table 6: Total Drug Arrests by Type of Arrests; 1996 - 2000**

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
<b>SALE</b>	5,227	4,347	4,946	4,877	5,280	+ 1.0
Opium/Cocaine	2,055	1,802	2,419	2,320	2,362	+ 14.9
Marijuana	1,974	2,048	2,052	2,062	2,361	+ 19.6
Synthetic Narcotics	87	83	151	128	205	+ 135.6
All Other Drugs	1,111	414	324	367	352	- 68.3
<b>POSSESSION</b>	16,185	17,180	18,615	18,558	19,850	+ 22.6
Opium/Cocaine	2,504	2,640	2,808	2,295	1,888	- 24.6
Marijuana	12,403	13,160	14,248	14,361	15,578	+ 25.6
Synthetic Narcotics	164	187	177	243	362	+ 120.7
All Other Drugs	1,114	1,193	1,382	1,659	2,022	+ 81.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,412</b>	<b>21,527</b>	<b>23,561</b>	<b>23,435</b>	<b>25,130</b>	<b>+ 17.4</b>

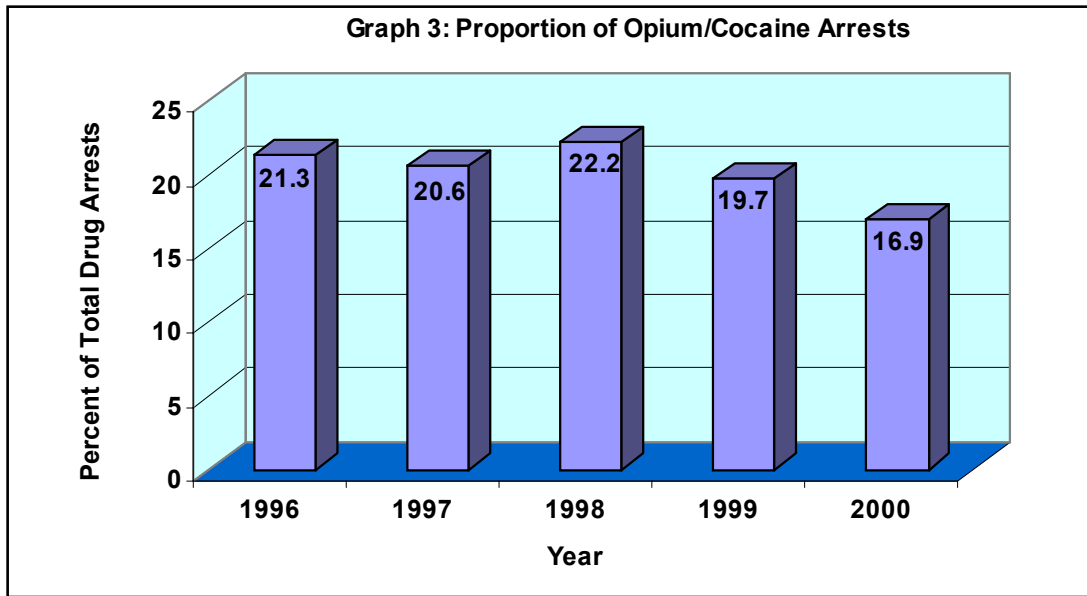
The number of arrests for drug law violations increased by 17.4 percent from 1996 to 2000. However, while arrests for sale violations increased by 1.0 percent, arrests for possession increased by 22.6 percent.

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



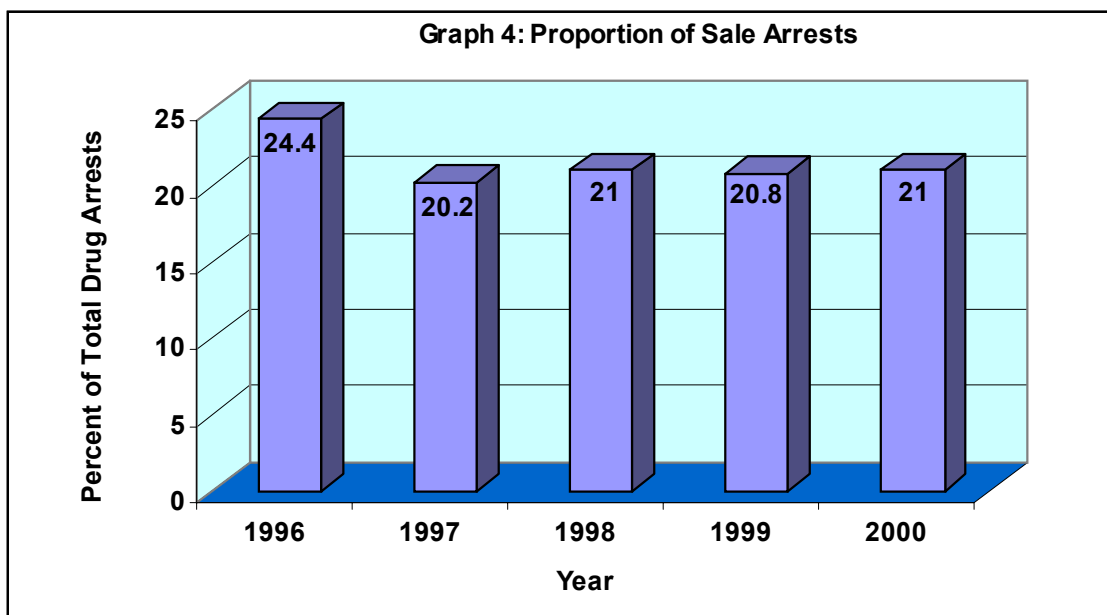
The juvenile proportion of total drug arrests has remained very stable from 1996 through 2000.

Graph 3 shows changes in the proportion of total drug arrests which involve the opium/cocaine category from 1996 through 2000.



After increasing somewhat from 1996 through 1998, the opium/cocaine percentage of total drug arrests declined sharply from 1998 through 2000.

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



After declining from 1996 to 1997, the proportion of total drug arrests which involved sale violations has remained very stable.

## Appendix A

The following tables show 1998 through 2000 drug arrests for all law enforcement agencies in the County of Milwaukee and all other law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin.

### Total Drug-Related Arrests, 1998 to 2000 - County of Milwaukee

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	2,122	1,839	1,964	- 7.4
Opium/Cocaine	1,353	1,166	1,158	- 14.4
Marijuana	684	592	711	+ 3.9
Synthetics	43	32	14	- 67.4
Other	42	49	81	+ 92.8
POSSESSION	5,677	4,587	4,235	- 25.4
Opium/Cocaine	1,904	1,264	1,056	- 44.5
Marijuana	3,466	2,830	2,761	- 20.3
Synthetics	19	18	21	+ 10.5
Other	288	474	397	+ 37.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,799</b>	<b>6,426</b>	<b>6,199</b>	<b>- 20.5</b>

Total drug arrests decreased by 20.5 percent in Milwaukee County from 1998 through 2000. While arrests for sale violations declined by 13.3 percent, arrests for possession violations decreased by 25.4 percent.

### Total Drug-Related Arrests, 1998 to 2000 - All Other Law Enforcement Agencies

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	2,824	3,038	3,316	+ 17.4
Opium/Cocaine	1,066	1,154	1,204	+ 12.9
Marijuana	1,368	1,470	1,650	+ 20.6
Synthetics	108	96	191	+76.8
Other	282	318	271	-3.9
POSSESSION	12,938	13,971	15,615	+ 20.7
Opium/Cocaine	904	1,031	832	- 8.0
Marijuana	10,782	11,531	12,817	+ 18.9
Synthetics	158	225	341	+ 115.8
Other	1,094	1,184	1,625	+ 48.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,762</b>	<b>17,009</b>	<b>18,931</b>	<b>+ 20.1</b>

Total drug-related arrests by non-Milwaukee County agencies increased by 20.1 percent from 1998 through 2000. While arrests involving cocaine increased by 3.2 percent from 1998 through 2000, arrests involving marijuana violations increased by 19.1 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 declined sharply to 24.7 percent in 2000.**

## 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 nonnarcotic drugs (barbiturates, benzedrine)