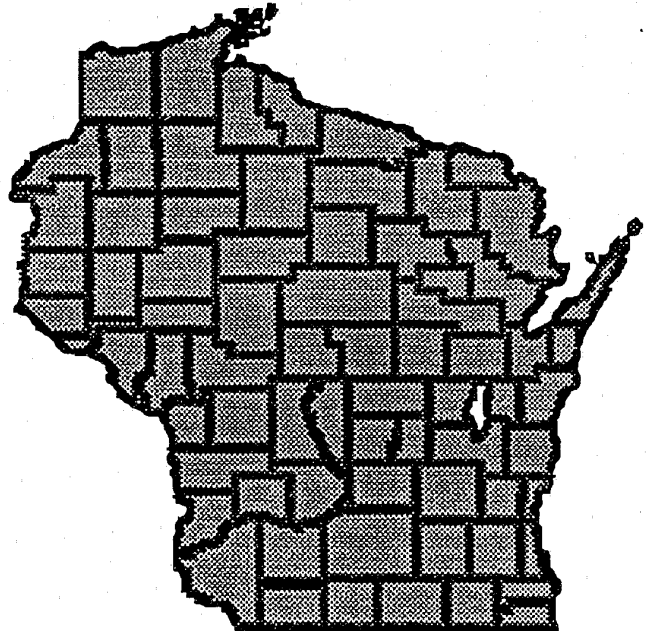




# Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance Statistical Analysis Center

---

DRUG ARRESTS  
AND  
JUSTICE SYSTEM  
RESPONSE  
- 1989



128988

---

Gene D. Lacke  
Executive Director

Tommy G. Thompson  
Governor

**Wisconsin Drug Arrests  
and  
Justice System Response**

**1985 - 1989**

**Prepared By**

**Thomas G. Eversen  
Stephen W. Grohmann**

**With Contributions By**

**Keith R. Thompson**

**September 1990**

**Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance  
Statistical Analysis Center  
222 State Street, Second Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702  
608/266-3323**

## Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance - Statistical Analysis Center

The 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.

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

The Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance and Statistical Analysis Center, wish to express appreciation to the contributors who provided data in preparation of this report.

The data which helped complete this report were provided by: local law enforcement agencies and staff who provided the crime and arrest data; The Wisconsin Department of Corrections and Department of Health and Social Services, the Wisconsin State Court Administrator's Office, and the Milwaukee County Clerk of Courts Office.

128988.

U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by

Wisconsin Office of Justice  
Assistance

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.

Drug Arrests and Justice System Response 1985 -1989 is a publication of the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, Statistical Analysis Center. The Statistical Analysis Center is funded by the State of Wisconsin and, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
Introduction	1
Number of Sale and Possession Arrests	1
Sale and Possession	3
Type of Substance	4
Arrests by County	7
State Court Activity	8
Corrections Admissions	10
Admissions to County Drug Treatment Facilities	11

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Adult drug arrests have increased by 11 percent in the past five years, while juvenile drug arrests have decreased by 24 percent since 1985. A 4.6 percent increase in total drug-related arrests occurred between 1985 and 1989, although total drug arrests have increased 36.2% from 1986 to 1989.

2. A comparison of the figures in tables 1a and 1b show that the number of drug arrests in Milwaukee County had a major affect on the change in the number of drug arrests for the entire state between 1985 and 1989.

3. There was nearly a forty-five percent (44.9%) increase in the number of drug arrests for the sale/manufacture of drugs between 1985 and 1989, while arrests for possession of drugs decreased by approximately seven percent (6.8%). There was a sharp decline (26.5%) in arrests for possession of drugs between 1985 and 1986.

4. In contrast to a decrease in the overall number of state drug sale arrests in 1986, followed by a gradual increase; Milwaukee County showed an increase in the number of drug sale arrests in 1987, with a decrease in 1989. The number of drug possession arrests in Milwaukee County, however, stayed consistent with the number of drug possession arrests for the entire state between 1985 and 1989.

5. For the type of substance arrest category, opium/cocaine arrests showed a dramatic increase of 168 percent (167.9%) between 1985 and 1989, as did the "other" drug arrests group; while marijuana arrests decreased during the entire five year period, they did increase somewhat in 1989.

6. Nearly half the arrests that involved opium/cocaine between 1986 and 1989 were from Milwaukee County. Milwaukee County, as well as the entire state, saw a sharp increase in the number of opium/cocaine arrests between 1987 and 1988. Three-quarters of that increase in opium/cocaine arrests were from Milwaukee County.

7. Increases in both types of opium/cocaine arrests have been fairly consistent over the past five years. Total opium/cocaine arrests have nearly tripled, with an increase of 168 percent between 1985 and 1989.

8. Since the sharp decrease (27.5%) in 1986, total marijuana arrests remained relatively constant up to 1988, with a 17 percent increase in 1989.

9. The number of sales arrests for other drugs increased by nearly fifty percent (46.2%) from 1985 to 1989.

10. There was an increase of over four-fifths (84.6%) of the number of court cases filed for the entire state between 1987 and 1989.

11. The first/readmittance of male and female drug offenders to correctional facilities in Wisconsin increased by 177 percent from 188 in 1985 to 521 in 1989. The majority of that increase of offenders serving drug sentences took place between 1988 and 1989, with an increase of 104 percent.

12. Overall, total drug admissions to county treatment facilities in Wisconsin increased by sixty percent (60.4%) between 1987 and 1989. However, much of this increase was due to an eighty-six percent increase in Milwaukee County drug treatment facilities.

## A. INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on drug-related arrests in Wisconsin for the past five years, 1985 through 1989. Drug-related arrests are defined as the unlawful sale/manufacture, possession/use of the following narcotics and drugs:

1. Opium or Cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine).
  2. Marijuana, hashish, etc.
  3. Synthetic narcotics- manufactured narcotics which can cause true drug addiction (demerol, methadones).
  4. Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs (amphetamines, barbituates, hallicinogens).
- Note: These last two categories: synthetic and other drugs are combined as an "other" category in this report.

The five year drug report includes the total number of drug-related arrests in Wisconsin by age of offender, sale/manufacture and possession/use of drugs, and the type of substance. For comparison, Milwaukee County is included in Tables one through three showing the large proportion of drug arrests in that county and the impact on the state totals. There are also accompanying tables and graphs, which present data on the fifteen counties with the most arrests in the State of Wisconsin, information on the number of court cases filed in Milwaukee and the nine other districts throughout Wisconsin, the total number of admissions to a correctional facility for drug violations, and the number of admissions to public county drug treatment facilities.

## B. NUMBER OF ADULT AND JUVENILE ARRESTS

Table 1a shows the number of adult, juvenile, and total drug-related arrests for the entire State of Wisconsin.

**Table 1a**  
**Drug-Related Arrests in Wisconsin by Offender**  
**1985 - 1989**

<u>Category</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Adult	7,816	6,131	6,543	7,573	8,708	+11.4%
Juvenile	1,840	1,288	1,201	1,277	1,397	-24.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,656</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>7,744</b>	<b>8,850</b>	<b>10,105</b>	<b>+4.6%</b>

Adult drug arrests have increased by 11 percent in the past five years, while juvenile drug arrests have decreased by 24 percent since 1985. A 4.6 percent increase in total drug-related arrests occurred between 1985 and 1989, although total drug arrests have increased 36.2% from 1986 to 1989.

Table 1b shows the number of adult, juvenile, and total drug-related arrests in Milwaukee County.

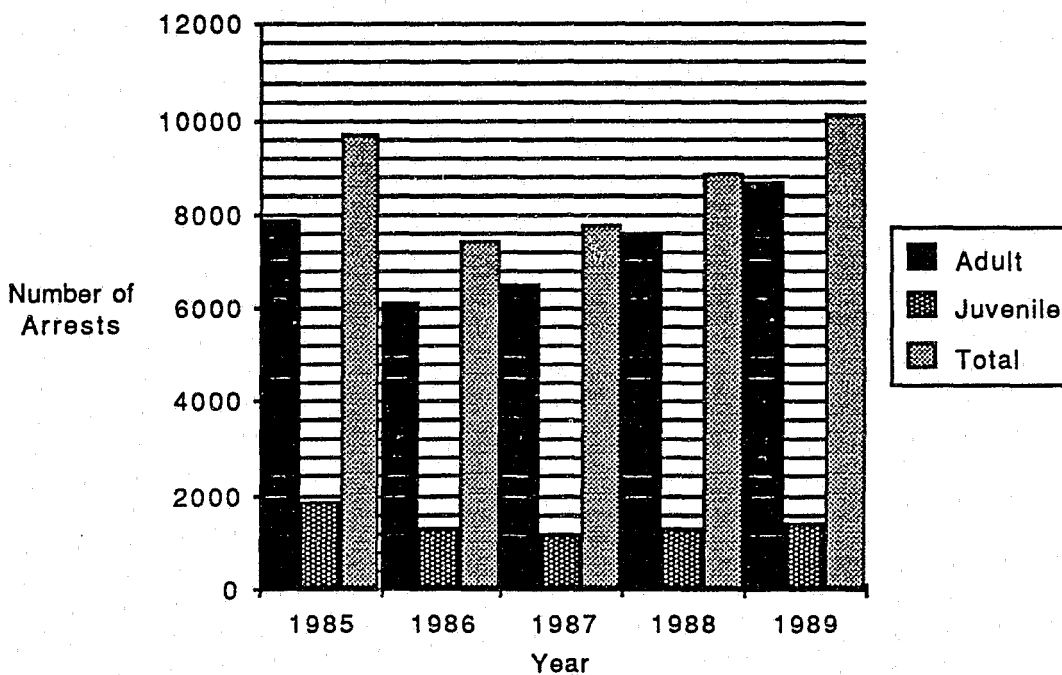
**Table 1b**  
**Drug-Related Arrests in Milwaukee County by Offender**  
**1985 - 1989**

Category	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1985/1989 Percent Change
Adult	3,231	2,364	2,581	3,494	3,495	+8.2%
Juvenile	651	369	349	436	432	-33.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,882</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>2,930</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>+1.2%</b>

A comparison of the figures in tables 1a and 1b show that the number of drug arrests in Milwaukee County had a major affect on the change in the number of drug arrests for the entire state between 1985 and 1989. Milwaukee County accounted for approximately two-fifths (38%) of the total drug-related arrests for the entire State of Wisconsin from 1985 to 1989. The sharp decline in the total number of drug-related arrests for the entire state in 1986 was partly due to Milwaukee County arrests which attributed to half the overall decrease in the state. Total drug-related arrests in Milwaukee County only increased by 1.2% from 1985 to 1989, however compared to the increase for the entire state between 1986 and 1989, Milwaukee County showed an increase of 43.7% comparable to the state's overall increase of 36.2%.

Graph 1 illustrates drug-related arrests of adults and juveniles.

**Graph 1**  
**Adult, Juvenile, and Total Drug-Related Arrests: 1985 - 1989**



**C. SALE AND POSSESSION**

Table 2a shows the number of arrests for sale/manufacture and possession of drugs for the State of Wisconsin.

**Table 2a**  
**Drug-Related Arrests in Wisconsin**  
**by Sale and Possession: 1985 - 1989**

<u>Arrest</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Sale	2,132	1,887	2,047	2,868	3,090	+44.9%
Possession	7,524	5,532	5,697	5,982	7,015	-6.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,656</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>7,744</b>	<b>8,850</b>	<b>10,105</b>	<b>+4.6%</b>

There was nearly a forty-five percent (44.9%) increase in the number of drug arrests for the sale/manufacture of drugs between 1985 and 1989, while arrests for possession of drugs decreased by approximately seven percent (6.8%). There was a sharp decline (26.5%) in arrests for possession of drugs between 1985 and 1986. However, arrests for possession increased by 26.8 percent from 1986 to 1989.

Table 2b shows the number of arrests for sale/manufacture and possession of drugs in Milwaukee County.

**Table 2b**  
**Drug-Related Arrests in Milwaukee County**  
**by Sale and Possession: 1985 - 1989**

<u>Arrest</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Sale	745	917	1,023	1,678	1,250	+67.8%
Possession	3,137	1,816	1,907	2,252	2,677	-14.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,882</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>2,930</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>+1.2%</b>

The overall number of state drug sale arrests decreased in 1986, followed by a gradual increase. By contrast, Milwaukee County showed an increase in the number of drug sale arrests in 1987, with a decrease in 1989. The number of drug possession arrests in Milwaukee County, however, stayed consistent with the number of drug possession arrests for the entire state between 1985 and 1989.



**D. TYPE OF SUBSTANCE**

Table 3a shows the distribution of arrests by type of substance for the State of Wisconsin; synthetic drugs are included in the "other" category.

**Table 3a**  
**Drug-Related Arrests in Wisconsin**  
**by Type of Substance: 1985 - 1989**

<u>Substance</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Opium/Cocaine	1,118	1,188	1,498	2,463	2,995	+167.9%
Marijuana	8,062	5,847	5,687	5,617	6,563	-18.6%
Other	476	384	559	770	547	+14.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,656</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>7,744</b>	<b>8,850</b>	<b>10,105</b>	<b>+4.6%</b>

For the type of substance arrest category, opium/cocaine arrests showed a dramatic increase of 168 percent (167.9%) between 1985 and 1989, as did the "other" drug arrests group; while marijuana arrests decreased during the entire five year period, they did increase somewhat in 1989. While a majority of drug arrests were for marijuana during the five years, the percentage of total drug arrests involving opium/cocaine increased from 11.6% in 1985 to 29.6% in 1989.

Table 3b shows the distribution of arrests by type of substance in Milwaukee County; synthetic drugs are included in the "other" category.

**Table 3b**  
**Drug-Related Arrests in Milwaukee County**  
**by Type of Substance: 1985 - 1989**

<u>Substance</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Opium/Cocaine	413	575	716	1,440	1,493	+261.5%
Marijuana	3,197	1,953	1,919	1,996	2,233	-30.2%
Other	272	205	295	494	201	-26.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,882</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>2,930</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>+1.2%</b>

Nearly half the arrests that involved opium/cocaine between 1986 and 1989 were from Milwaukee County. Milwaukee County, as well as the entire state, saw a sharp increase in the number of opium/cocaine arrests between 1987 and 1988. Three-quarters of that increase in opium/cocaine arrests were from Milwaukee County.

Graph 2 illustrates drug-related arrests by type of substance.

**Graph 2**  
**Opium/Cocaine, Marijuana, and Other Drugs: 1985 - 1989**

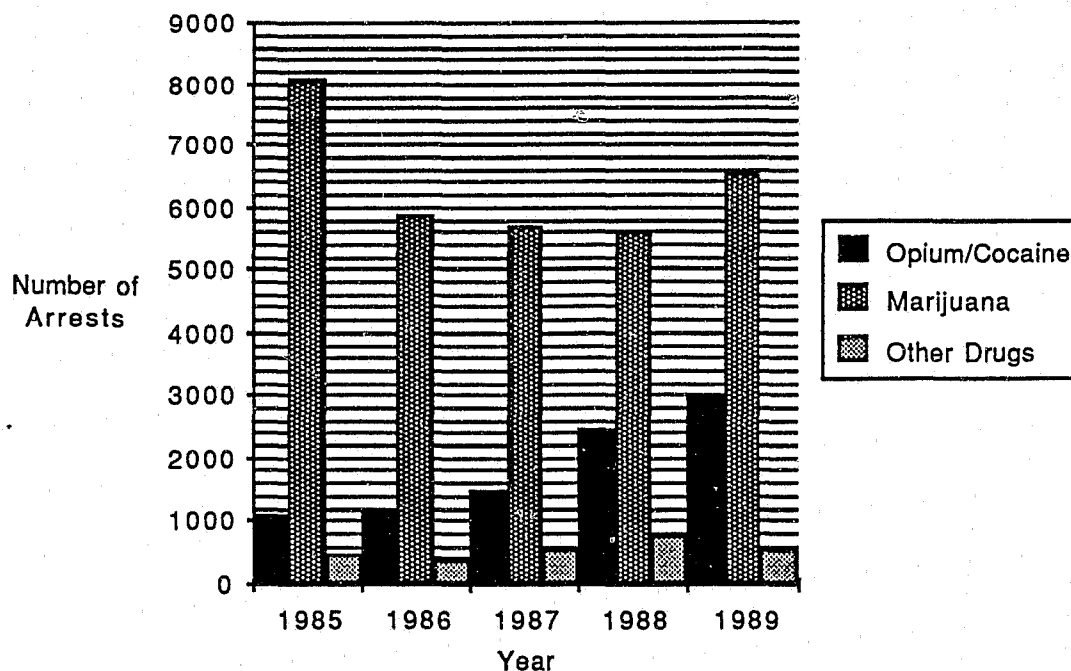


Table 4 breaks down the number of opium/cocaine arrests by sale and possession.

**Table 4**  
**Opium/Cocaine Arrests in Wisconsin**  
**1985 - 1989**

<u>Arrest</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Sale	524	611	746	1,304	1,587	+202.9%
Possession	594	577	752	1,159	1,408	+137.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>2,463</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>+167.9%</b>

Increases in both types of opium/cocaine arrests have been fairly consistent over the past five years. Total opium/cocaine arrests have nearly tripled, with an increase of 168 percent between 1985 and 1989.

Table 5 shows marijuana arrests for sale and possession.

**Table 5**  
**Marijuana Arrests in Wisconsin**  
**1985 - 1989**

<u>Arrest</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Sale	1,411	1,090	972	1,054	1,215	-13.9%
Possession	6,651	4,757	4,715	4,563	5,348	-19.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,062</b>	<b>5,847</b>	<b>5,687</b>	<b>5,617</b>	<b>6,563</b>	<b>-18.6%</b>

Since the sharp decrease (27.5%) in 1986, total marijuana arrests remained relatively constant up to 1988, with a 17 percent increase in 1989.

Table 6 shows the number of "other" drug arrests, which includes the synthetic drugs as well.

**Table 6**  
**Other Drug Arrests in Wisconsin**  
**1985 - 1989**

<u>Arrest</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985/1989</u> <u>Percent Change</u>
Sale	197	186	327	510	288	+46.2%
Possession	279	198	230	260	259	-7.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>+14.9%</b>

The number of sales arrests for other drugs increased by nearly fifty percent (46.2%) from 1985 to 1989. Arrests for possession of "other" drugs have changed little since 1985.

**E. ARRESTS BY COUNTY**

Table 7 presents comparative information on 15 counties in Wisconsin for 1985, 1988, and 1989. Counties were selected on the basis of the greatest number of arrests for drug violations in 1989.

**Table 7**  
**Drug-Related Arrests by County**  
**1985, 1988, and 1989**

<u>County</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>Percent of total</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>	<u>Percent Change 1985 - 1989</u>
Brown	183	1.9	202	2.3	250	2.5	+36.6
Dane	319	3.3	306	3.5	451	4.5	+41.4
Dodge	68	.7	92	1.0	171	1.7	+151.5
Eau Claire	144	1.5	195	2.2	212	2.1	+47.2
Kenosha	493	5.1	294	3.3	412	4.1	-16.4
LaCrosse	156	1.6	114	1.3	171	1.7	+9.6
Manitowoc	63	.6	99	1.1	251	2.5	+298.4
Milwaukee	3,883	40.2	3,930	44.4	3,927	38.9	+1.1
Outagamie	297	3.1	151	1.7	170	1.7	-42.8
Ozaukee	179	1.9	157	1.8	136	1.3	-24.0
Racine	605	6.3	390	4.4	445	4.4	-26.4
Rock	187	1.9	262	3.0	249	2.5	+33.2
Walworth	194	2.0	223	2.5	270	2.7	+39.2
Waukesha	898	9.3	599	6.8	643	6.4	-28.4
Wood	130	1.3	157	1.8	180	1.8	+38.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,799</b>	<b>80.8</b>	<b>7,171</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>7,938</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>+1.8</b>
<b>All Other</b>	<b>1,857</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>+16.7</b>
<b>Total (Arrests)</b>	<b>9,656</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,850</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,105</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+4.6</b>

## F. STATE COURT ACTIVITY

Table 8 presents the number of sale, possession, and other drug-related felony arrests filed in Court Districts 2 through 10 in Wisconsin. Milwaukee County drug-related felony arrests (District 1) are shown separately because sale, possession, and other arrests were not distinguished. Statewide totals show marked increases in drug-related court cases throughout Wisconsin between 1987 and 1989. District 2-10 data were provided by the Wisconsin State Court Administrator's Office. Milwaukee County data were provided by the Milwaukee County Clerk of Courts office.

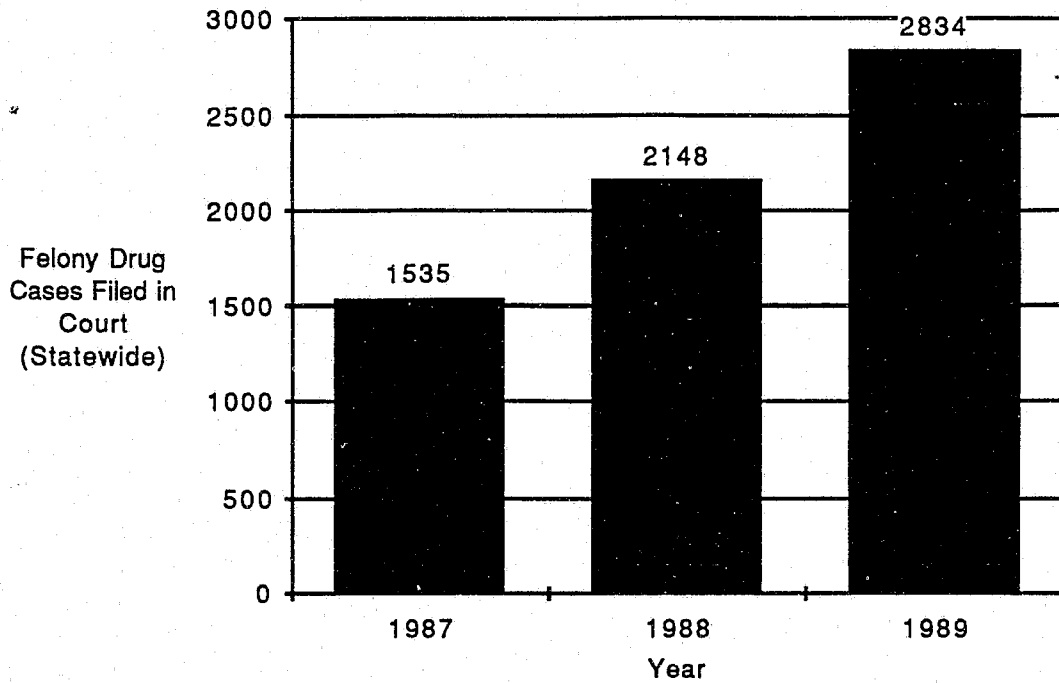
**Table 8**  
**Court Case Activity on**  
**Drug-Related Felony Arrests In Wisconsin**  
**1987 - 1989**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cases Filed</u>	<u>Total Disposed</u>	<u>Jury Trial</u>	<u>Guilty Plea Before Trial</u>	<u>Dism. Before Trial</u>	<u>Average Time to Disp. (days)</u>
Dist. 2-10 Total	941	1,059	56	803	174	201
(Sale)	(633)	(728)	(36)	(553)	(120)	(201)
1987 (Possession)	(22)	(248)	(20)	(192)	(31)	(198)
(Other)	(86)	(83)	(0)	(58)	(23)	(212)
Milw. Co. (Dist. 1)	594	539	18	381	43	215
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>1,598</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>207</b>
Dist. 2-10 Total	1,330	1,049	56	762	202	181
(Sale)	(897)	(714)	(35)	(526)	(134)	(178)
1988 (Possession)	(322)	(244)	(19)	(167)	(48)	(198)
(Other)	(111)	(91)	(2)	(69)	(20)	(161)
Milw. Co. (Dist. 1)	818	540	9	371	69	239
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>1,589</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>203</b>
Dist. 2-10 Total	1,925	1,689	86	1,336	231	177
(Sale)	(1,392)	(1,180)	(62)	(954)	(143)	(171)
1989 (Possession)	(397)	(373)	(20)	(281)	(60)	(191)
(Other)	(136)	(136)	(4)	(101)	(28)	(191)
Milw. Co. (Dist. 1)	909	726	26	539	68	281
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>2,834</b>	<b>2,415</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>1,875</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>210</b>

There was an increase of over four-fifths (84.6%) of the number of court cases filed for the entire state between 1987 and 1989. Districts 2-10 had over a one hundred percent (104.6%) increase in felony drug arrests filed between 1987 and 1989, while Milwaukee county (District 1) had over a fifty percent (53.0%) increase. While the average time from filing to disposition stayed relatively constant for most of the state, Milwaukee County's disposition time increased by 31 percent from 215 days in 1987 to 281 in 1989. The majority of the court cases filed for all three years were for sale of drugs.

Graph 3 illustrates the increase in statewide felony drug cases filed, as presented in Table 8.

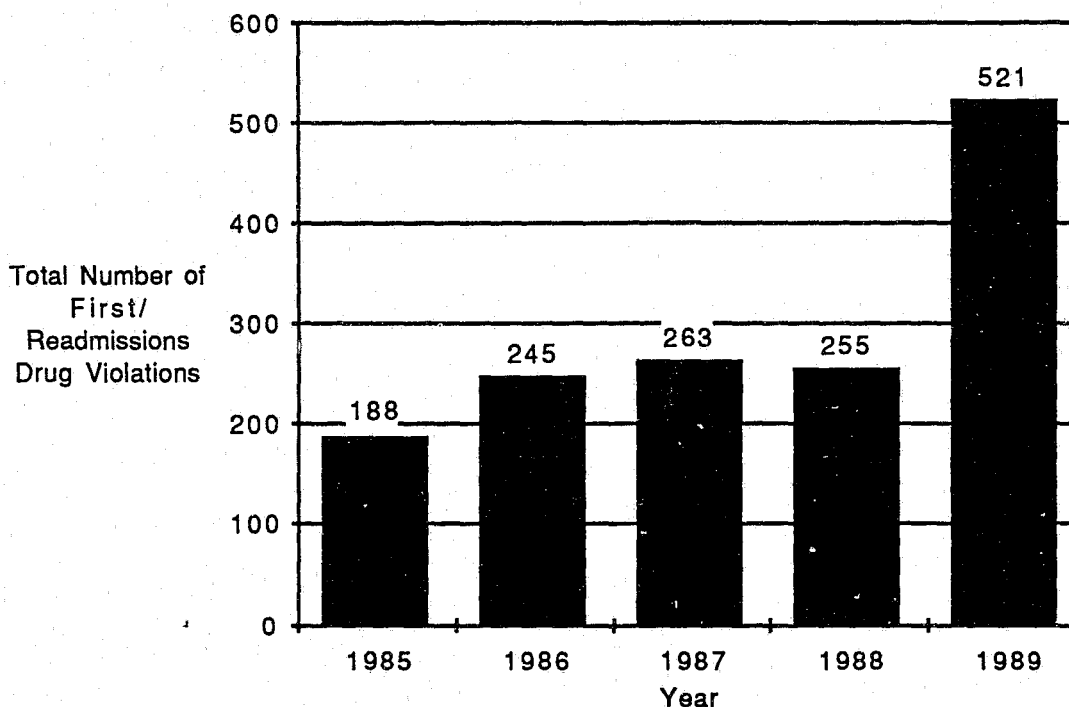
**Graph 3**  
**Total Statewide Felony Drug Cases Filed in Court**  
**1987 - 1989**



### G. CORRECTIONS ADMISSIONS

**Graph 4** shows the total admissions to a correctional facility for drug convictions. Corrections data were provided by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

**Graph 4**  
**Total Number of First/Readmissions**  
**for Drugs to a Correctional Facility**  
**1985 - 1989**

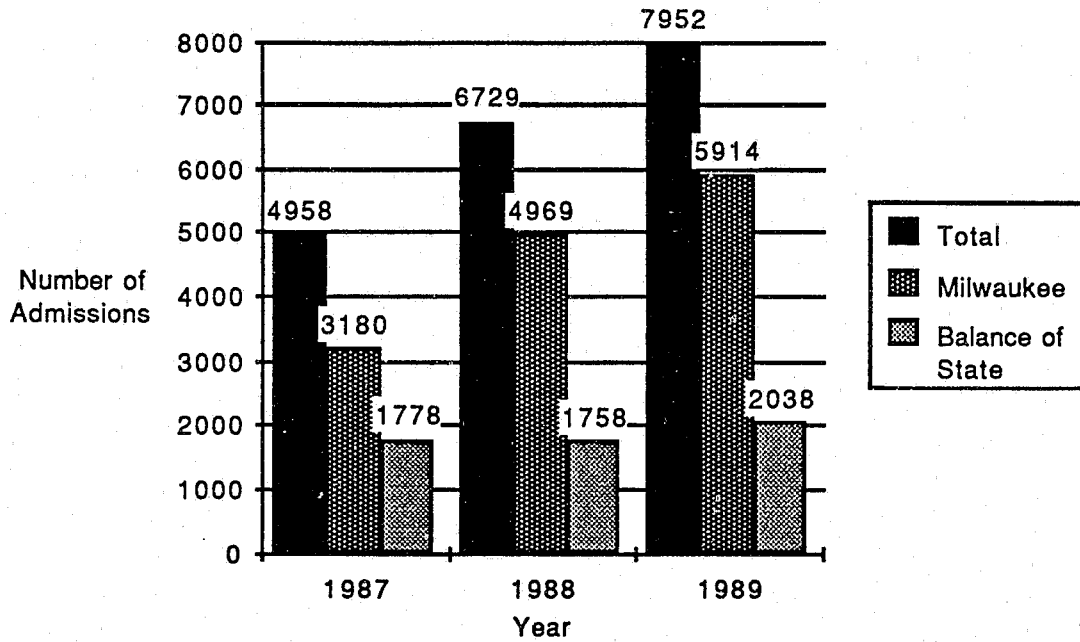


First admissions and readmissions totalled yields the number of offenders sentenced to a Wisconsin correctional facility for a particular year. **The first/readmittance of male and female drug offenders to correctional facilities in Wisconsin increased by 177 percent from 188 in 1985 to 521 in 1989. The majority of that increase of offenders serving drug sentences took place between 1988 and 1989, with an increase of 104 percent.**

**H. ADMISSIONS TO COUNTY DRUG TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Graph 5 provides information on the number of admissions to public county drug treatment facilities between 1987 and 1989. Public County drug treatment data were provided by the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services.

**Graph 5  
Total Number of Admissions to  
Public County Drug Treatment Facilities  
1987 - 1989**



Overall, total drug admissions to public county treatment facilities in Wisconsin increased by sixty percent (60.4%) between 1987 and 1989. However, much of this increase was due to an eighty-six percent increase in Milwaukee County drug treatment facilities. The rest (balance) of the counties in the state did not report nearly as high an increase (14.6%) as Milwaukee County between 1987 and 1989. Nearly three-quarters of the drug treatment admissions were from Milwaukee County in 1987 through 1989.