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State of Wisconsin



OFFICE OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

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DRUG ARRESTS

IN WISCONSIN

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**WISCONSIN OFFICE OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING PROGRAM
OCTOBER 1990**

A. Introduction

This report summarizes information on drug-related arrests made by Wisconsin law enforcement agencies during the first six months of 1990. Data on drug arrests are collected as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. This report is based upon figures submitted by the 295 law enforcement agencies which directly contribute UCR information. Since a large proportion of drug arrests are made by the City of Milwaukee Police Department, Appendix A separates drug arrest figures into those made by the Milwaukee Police Department and those made by all other Wisconsin law enforcement agencies.

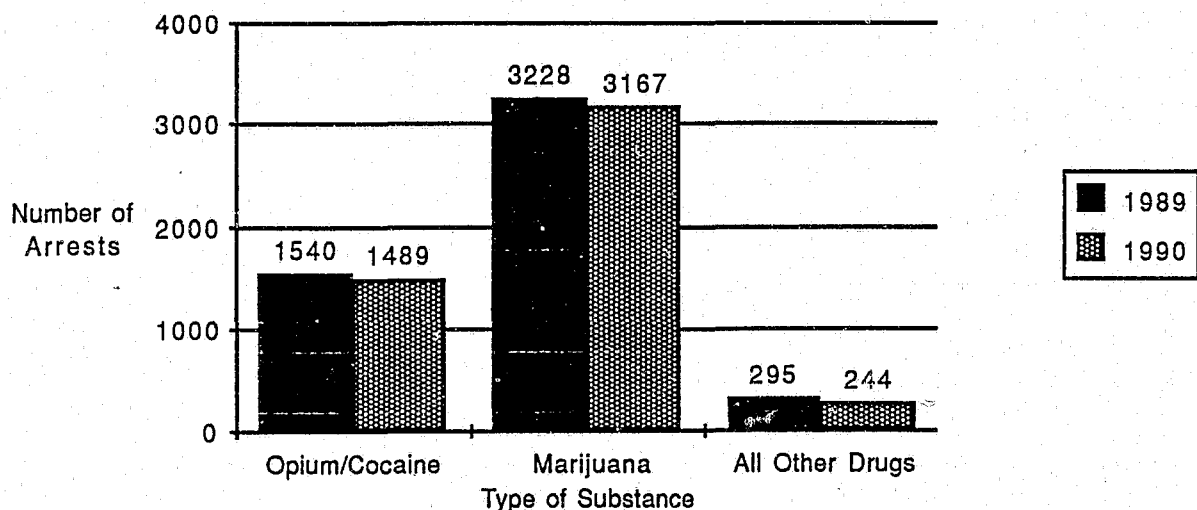
B. Overall Comparison of 1989 and 1990 Arrests

Table 1 and Graph 1 present basic information on drug-related arrests during the first six months of 1989 and 1990. (Note: UCR definitions for the drug categories are in Appendix B.)

Table 1: Total Drug-Related Arrests, First Six Months of 1989 and 1990

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	1,614	1,574	-2.5%
Opium/Cocaine	812	809	-0.4%
Marijuana	638	648	+1.6%
Synthetics	42	74	+76.2%
Other	122	43	-64.8%
POSSESSION	3,449	3,326	-3.6%
Opium/Cocaine	728	680	-6.6%
Marijuana	2,590	2,519	-2.7%
Synthetics	48	57	+18.8%
Other	83	70	-15.7%
TOTAL	5,063	4,900	-3.2%

Graph 1: Drug Arrests, First Half of 1989 and 1990



There were small decreases in arrests for all drug categories in the first half of 1990, except for sale of marijuana together with both sale and possession of synthetic narcotics.

C. Adult and Juvenile Arrests

Table 2 shows drug arrest patterns for adults during during the first half of 1989 and 1990.

Table 2: Drug-Related Arrests of Adults, 1989 and 1990

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	1,428	1,463	+2.4%
Opium/Cocaine	758	773	+2.0%
Marijuana	533	584	+9.6%
Synthetics	37	68	+83.8%
Other	100	38	-62.0%
POSSESSION	2,935	2,965	+1.0%
Opium/Cocaine	700	666	-4.8%
Marijuana	2,129	2,185	+2.6%
Synthetics	43	51	+18.6%
Other	63	63	-
TOTAL	4,363	4,428	+1.5%

Both sale and possession arrests involving adults showed modest increases during the first half of 1990.

Table 3 shows similar information for juveniles arrested for drug law violations in the first six months of 1989 and 1990.

Table 3: Drug-Related Arrests of Juveniles, 1989 and 1990

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	186	111	-40.3%
Opium/Cocaine	54	36	-33.3%
Marijuana	105	64	-39.0%
Synthetics	5	6	+20.0%
Other	22	5	-77.3%
POSSESSION	514	361	-29.8%
Opium/Cocaine	28	14	-50.0%
Marijuana	461	334	-27.5%
Synthetics	5	6	+20.0%
Other	20	7	-65.0%
TOTAL	700	472	-32.6%

With the exception of sale and possession of synthetic narcotics, the number of juvenile arrests for all drug arrest categories decreased during the first six months of 1990.

This decrease in juvenile arrests and increase in adult arrests during 1990 continues a recent trend. From the first half of 1987 to the first half of 1990, total adult drug arrests have increased by 44.5 percent while total juvenile drug arrests have decreased by 5 percent.

D. Type of Drug

During most of the past decade, over seventy-five percent of drug-related arrests involved marijuana. However, the proportion of total drug arrests involving cocaine has increased substantially in recent years. The arrest category used by the UCR Program to identify cocaine is defined as "opium, cocaine and their derivatives (morphine, heroin, codeine)". However, law enforcement officials throughout the State agree that the vast majority of offenses in this broad category are for sale or possession of cocaine.

Table 4 shows total drug-related arrests during the first six months of 1989 and 1990. However, the drug type is divided into cocaine/opium, marijuana and all other categories to highlight differences in arrest patterns.

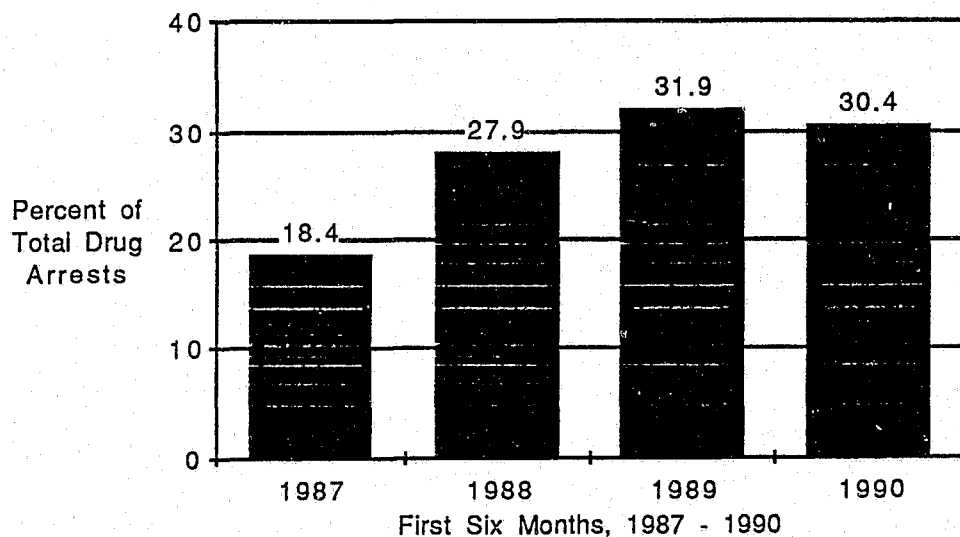
Table 4: Total Arrests by Drug Category, 1989 and 1990

<u>Substance Type</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Cocaine	1,540	1,489	-3.3%
Marijuana	3,228	3,167	-1.9%
All Other	295	244	-17.3%
Total	5,063	4,900	-3.2%

Arrests for all drug categories decreased somewhat in the first half of 1990.

Graph 2 shows recent patterns in the proportion of total drug arrests which involve the cocaine/opium category.

Graph 2: Total Cocaine Arrests



The proportion of total drug arrests involving cocaine increased sharply through 1989, but decreased slightly in 1990.

Table 5 compares information on adults arrested for violations involving cocaine and all other drugs.

Table 5: Adult Cocaine and Non-Cocaine Arrests

<u>Type of Substance</u>	<u>First Half - 1989</u>	<u>First Half - 1990</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Cocaine	1,458	1,439	-1.3%
All Other Drugs	2,905	2,989	+2.9%
Total Adult Arrests	4,363	4,428	+1.5%

While the number of adults arrested for offenses involving cocaine decreased slightly in the first six months of 1990, arrests of adults for offenses involving all other drugs increased by nearly three percent.

Table 6 compares information on juveniles arrested for violations involving cocaine and all other drugs.

Table 6: Juvenile Cocaine and Non-Cocaine Arrests

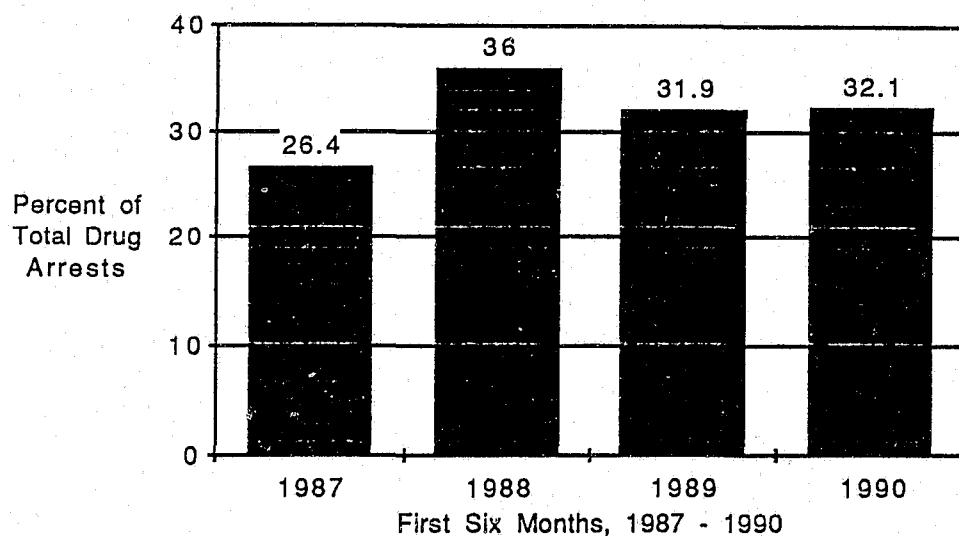
<u>Type of Substance</u>	<u>First Half - 1989</u>	<u>First Half - 1990</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Cocaine	82	50	-39.0%
All Other Drugs	618	422	-31.7%
Total Juvenile Arrests	700	472	-32.6%

The number of juveniles arrested for offenses involving either cocaine or all other drugs decreased dramatically in the first six months of 1990.

E. Sale and Possession

As seen in Table 1, while total arrests for sales violations decreased by 2.5 percent in 1990 arrests for possession violations decreased 3.6 percent. Graph 3 shows the proportion of sales and possession arrests over the past four years.

Graph 3: Total Arrests for Sale of Drugs



While the proportion of total drug arrests for sales violations increased sharply in the first six months of 1988, it declined somewhat in the first half of 1989 and remained relatively stable in the first half of 1990.

F. Summary

This report has analyzed drug-related arrests in Wisconsin during the first six months of 1990 and has compared the figures to those of previous years. Major findings can be summarized as follows:

1. There were small decreases in arrests for all drug categories in the first half of 1990, except for sale of marijuana together with both sale and possession of synthetic narcotics.
2. Both sale and possession arrests involving adults showed modest increases during the first half of 1990.
3. With the exception of sale and possession of synthetic narcotics, the number of juvenile arrests for all drug arrest categories decreased during the first six months of 1990.
4. From the first half of 1987 to the first half of 1990, total adult drug arrests have increased by 44.5 percent while total juvenile drug arrests have decreased by 5 percent.
5. The proportion of total drug arrests involving cocaine increased sharply through 1989, but decreased slightly in 1990.
6. While the number of adults arrested for offenses involving cocaine decreased slightly in the first six months of 1990, arrests of adults for offenses involving all other drugs increased by nearly three percent.
7. The number of juveniles arrested for offenses involving either cocaine or all other drugs decreased dramatically in the first six months of 1990.
8. While the proportion of total drug arrests for sales violations increased sharply in the first six months of 1988, it declined somewhat in the first half of 1989 and remained relatively stable in the first half of 1990.

APPENDIX A

The following tables compare drug arrests in the first six months of 1989 and 1990 for the City of Milwaukee Police Department and all other law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin.

Total Drug-Related Arrests, First Six Months of 1989 and 1990 - Milwaukee Police Department

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	490	540	+10.2%
Opium/Cocaine	329	404	+22.8%
Marijuana	83	106	+27.7%
Synthetics	16	10	-37.5%
Other	62	20	-67.7%
POSSESSION	645	757	+17.4%
Opium/Cocaine	259	290	+12.0%
Marijuana	365	456	+24.9%
Synthetics	7	5	-28.6%
Other	14	6	-57.1%
TOTAL	1,135	1,297	+14.3%

While sales arrests increased by over ten percent in 1990, arrests for possession increased by over seventeen percent. Total arrests for cocaine increased by eighteen percent from 588 in the first half of 1989 to 694 in the first half of 1990.

Total Drug-Related Arrests, First Half of 1989 and 1990 - All Other Law Enforcement Agencies

<u>Arrest Category</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
SALE	1,124	1,034	-8.0%
Opium/Cocaine	483	405	-16.1%
Marijuana	555	542	-2.3%
Synthetics	26	64	+146.2%
Other	60	23	-61.7%
POSSESSION	2,804	2,569	-8.4%
Opium/Cocaine	469	390	-16.8%
Marijuana	2,225	2,063	-7.3%
Synthetics	41	52	+26.8%
Other	69	64	-7.2%
TOTAL	3,928	3,603	-8.3%

Total drug-related arrests by non-Milwaukee agencies decreased by over eight percent in the first half of 1990. The decreases were most notable for the cocaine category, both sale/manufacturing and possession. The non-Milwaukee proportion of total drug arrests decreased from 77.6% in the first half of 1989 to 73.5% in 1990. Similarly, the non-Milwaukee proportion of total cocaine arrests decreased from 61.8% in 1989 to 53.4% in 1990. Also, its proportion of sale/manufacturing arrests decreased from 69.6% in 1989 to 65.6% in 1990.

APPENDIX B

In the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, 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. Dangerous nonnarcotic drugs (barbiturates, benzedrine)