

151502

**5**<sup>th</sup> Edition

Portland, Oregon

July 1994

NCJRS

NOV 29 1994

151502

**U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice**

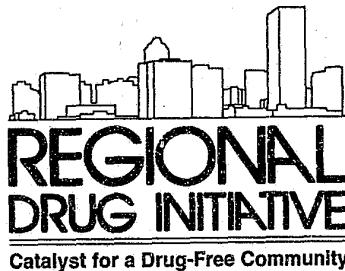
This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by

Regional Drug Initiative

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

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



## **Table of Contents**

<i>Introduction</i>		1
<i>Indicator 1</i>	Drug-Affected Babies	3
<i>Indicator 2</i>	Student Drug Use	5
<i>Indicator 3</i>	Student Alcohol Use	7
<i>Indicator 4</i>	Juvenile Arrests for Drug Offenses	9
<i>Indicator 5</i>	Adult Arrests for Drug Offenses	11
<i>Indicator 6</i>	Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs	13
<i>Indicator 7</i>	Marijuana Plants Seized	15
<i>Indicator 8</i>	Companies with Drug Policies, Drug Testing	17
<i>Indicator 9</i>	Positives in Pre-Employment Drug Testing	19
<i>Indicator 10</i>	People Treated for Substance Abuse Problems	21
<i>Indicator 11</i>	Teen Alcohol-Involved Traffic Deaths	23
<i>Indicator 12</i>	Adult Alcohol-Involved Traffic Deaths	25
<i>Indicator 13</i>	Drug Related-Deaths	27
<i>References</i>		29

Reprinting of this Index in whole or in part is permitted with acknowledgment of the source. The Drug Impact Index was developed by the Regional Drug Initiative and the Western Regional Center For Drug-Free Schools and Communities and first published in Portland, Oregon in June, 1990. This July 1994 version is the fifth edition.

## **Introduction**

The purpose of the Drug Impact Index is to document and illustrate the extent of the local drug problem. It relies on data that already exist through established surveys or standard reporting systems. It is intended to be used by the public for a general assessment of the problem, not as a technical measurement or evaluation device.

No single measure can provide an adequate picture of the impact of drugs on a local community. However, a number of indicators can provide good representations of important aspects of the problem. Indicators were selected for the Index using four major criteria: first, that the indicator is reliable — that it can be measured consistently from year to year; second, that the indicator is valid — that it measures what it intends to measure; third, that it is practical to collect; and fourth, that it provides an accurate representation of a major aspect of the community drug problem.

The RDI Drug Impact Index is an effort to be neither too simple nor too complex. It was not designed to provide precise quantitative measurement, but is intended to provide the reader with a sense of the severity and breadth of the local drug problem. It is also intended to reflect important trends, such as major increases or decreases in illegal drug use or alcohol abuse. Additional indicators may be added to future versions of this Index.

This is the fifth edition of the Drug Impact Index, which was first published in 1990. A companion volume, *Developing a Community Profile: A Handbook for Using Pre-existing Data in Prevention Planning*, describes the process used to develop this Index and provides guidance for communities wishing to develop similar community assessment tools.

### **Technical Note:**

While an overview of all the indicators should provide a general picture of the severity of the drug problem, individual indicators may be influenced by other factors. For example, funding levels may influence arrests and number of people treated.

*For a more comprehensive picture of child welfare in Oregon, call the Child Abuse Hotline, Portland, 503/731-3100 for a copy of The Children's Services Division's Child Abuse Report.*

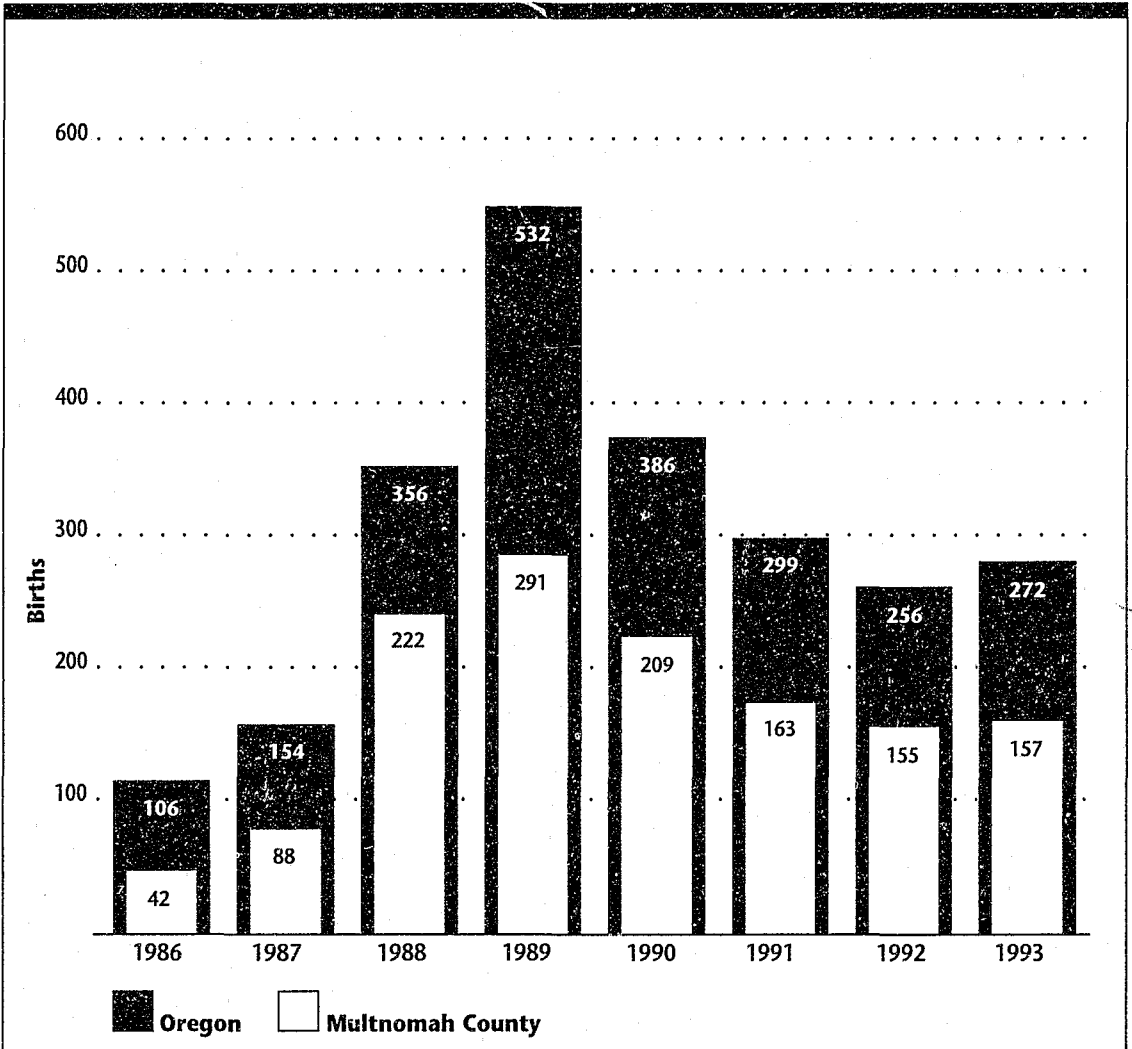
**Expert Opinion:**

“Addiction treatment programs in the community can make a difference. In one program in Portland, 67 babies have been born to mothers who were alcohol and drug free at the time of delivery.”

— a leader of the faith community

Annual number of births of drug-affected babies.

### Drug-Affected Babies: Annual Births



Source: Children's Services Division

#### Remarks:

State and county data increased slightly in 1993, but showed 49% and 46% declines respectively from their 1989 peaks.

#### Technical Note:

The numbers for all years are probably artificially depressed due to underreporting. Underreporting may result from the absence of consistent testing or reporting procedures.

*For information on student drug use,  
contact the Western Center for Drug-Free  
Schools and Communities, 503/275-9486.*

**Expert Opinion:**

*“It’s a really big problem.”*

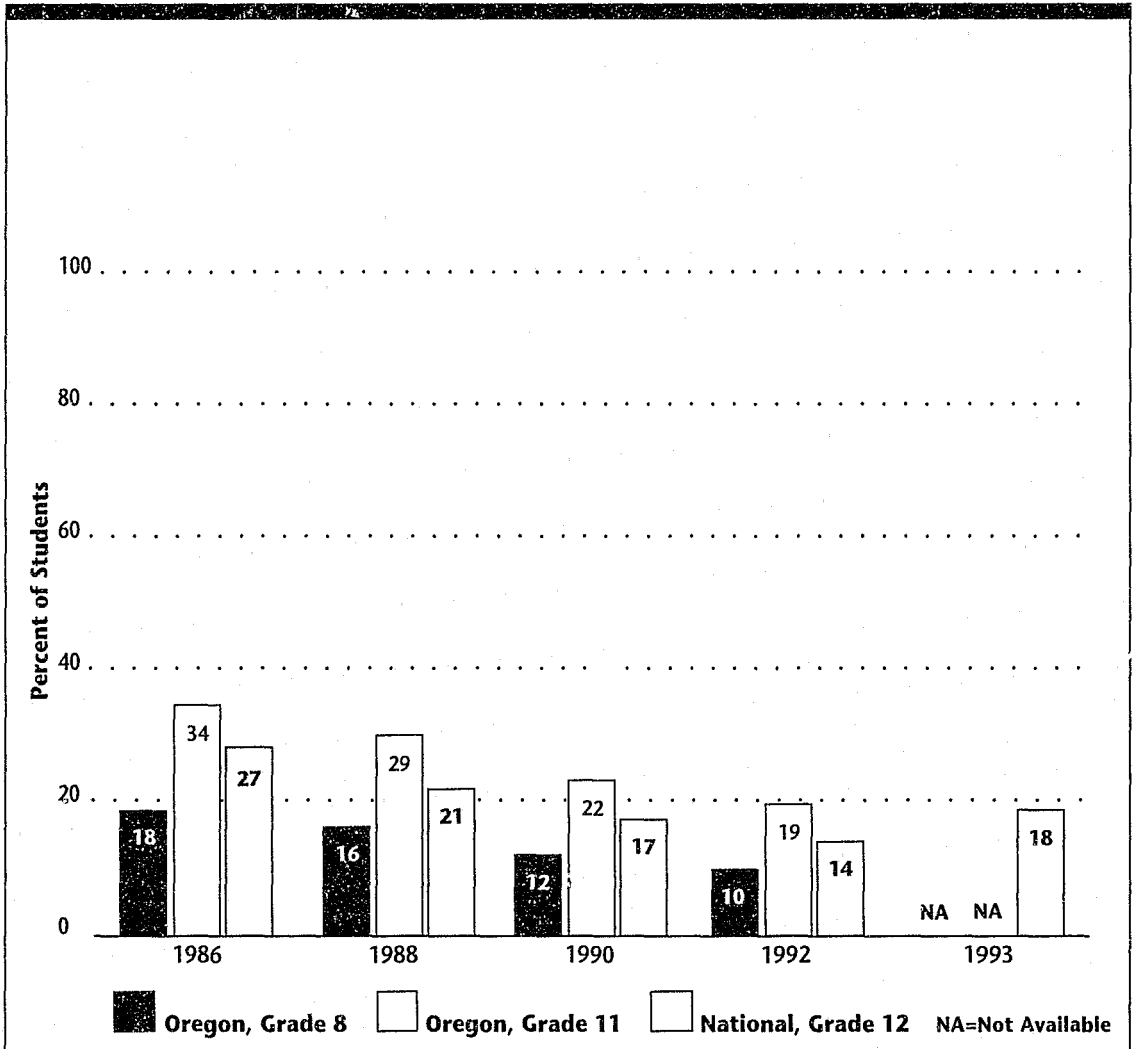
*— a local middle school student*

*“I think prevention really does start with your  
family. My parents are so supportive — a  
strong home life helps a lot.”*

*— a local high school student*

*Prevalence of illegal drug use in the last 30 days among Oregon public school students in grades 8 and 11 and students across the nation in grade 12.*

**Student Drug Use in Last 30 Days**



Sources: Oregon Public School Drug Use Survey; National High School Survey

**Remarks:**

Since 1986, the use of illegal drugs by Oregon 8th and 11th grade students has steadily declined. However, Oregon's 11th graders show consistently higher use rates than high school seniors across the nation.

**Technical Note:**

Oregon data are only available for even-numbered years, while national data are available annually.

*For a comprehensive picture of alcohol's impact in Oregon, order Alcohol and Drugs in Oregon, 1989 published in July 1992 by The Center for Health Statistics, Portland, Oregon, 503/731-4354.*

**Expert Opinion:**

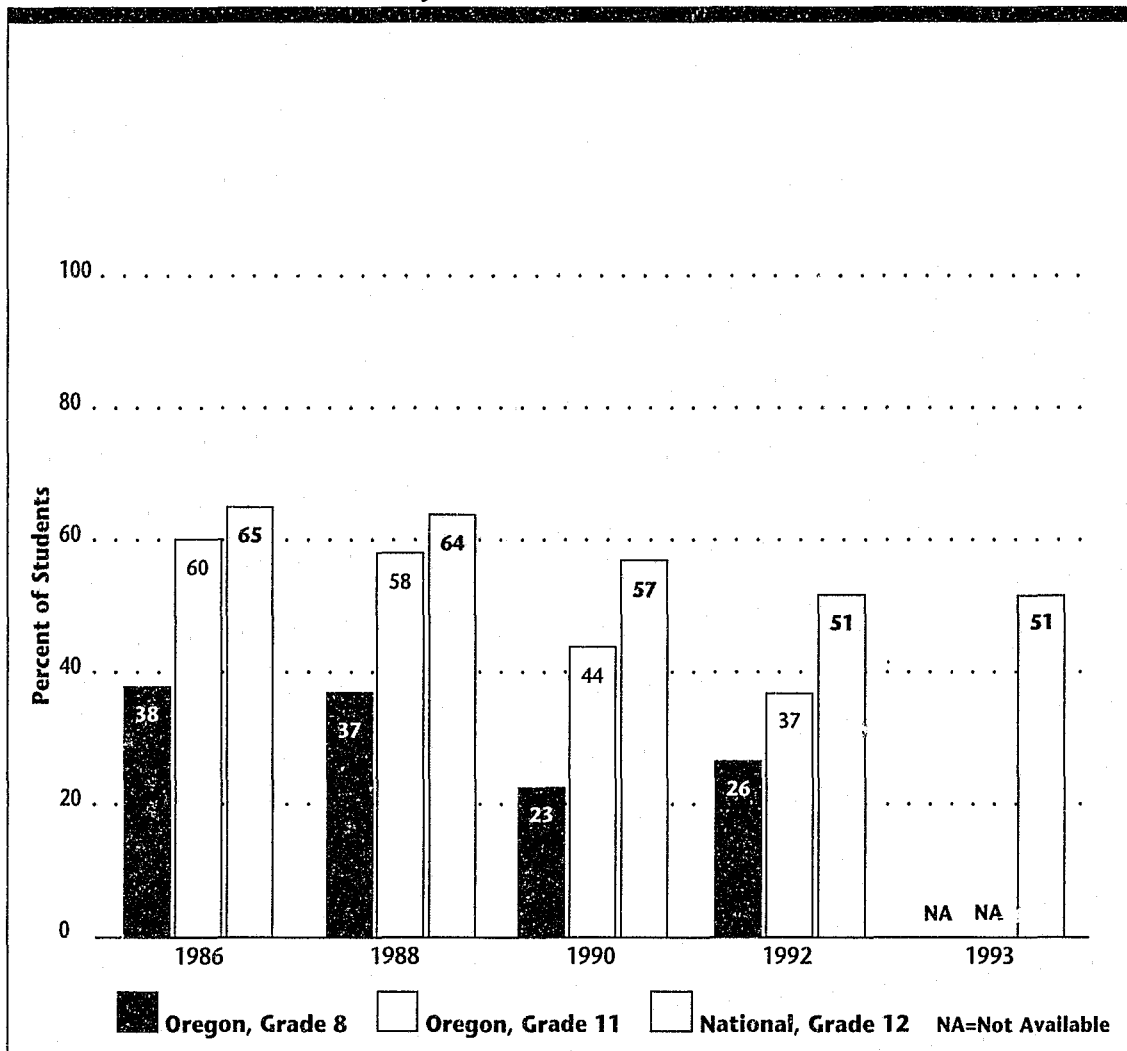
"I guess I think it's wrong, but so many of your friends do it..."

— a local high school student



*Prevalence of alcohol use in the last 30 days among Oregon public school students in grades 8 and 11 and students across the nation in grade 12.*

**Student Alcohol Use in Last 30 Days**



Sources: Oregon Public School Drug Use Survey; National High School Survey.

**Remarks:**

Oregon's 11th grade students have shown consistent declines in alcohol use since 1986. Eighth graders, however, have shown an increase in 1992.

**Technical Note:**

Oregon data are only available for even-numbered years, while national data are available annually.

*For a comprehensive view of Oregon  
crime statistics, order the annual Report  
of Criminal Offenses and Arrests from the  
Law Enforcement Data System in Salem,  
503/378-3057.*

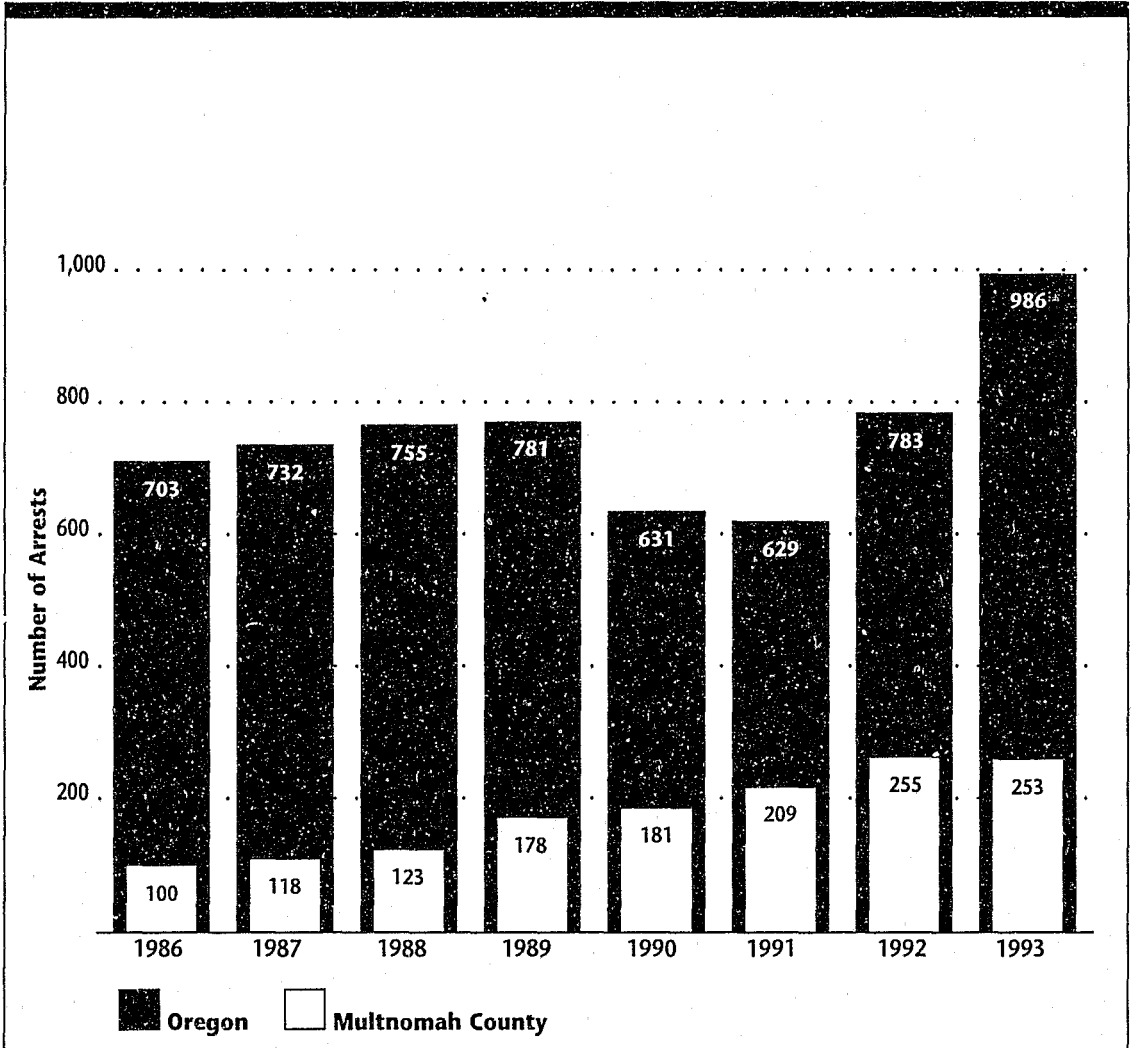
***Expert Opinion:***

*“We need strategies for kids on the fringes,  
strategies to change the conditions they are  
living in. We need human investment  
strategies.”*

*— a juvenile justice worker*

*Number of juvenile arrests for drug offenses.*

**Juvenile Arrests for Drug Offenses**



Source: Law Enforcement Data System

**Remarks:**

The state 1993 level is at a new high. State juvenile arrests for 1993 increased 57% from the 1991 level. County arrests have more than doubled since 1986.

**Technical Note:**

Juvenile arrest data are collected on local, state, and national levels throughout the country.

*For comprehensive background on  
criminal justice issues, order the 800 page  
Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics -  
1992 from Bureau of Justice Statistics  
Clearinghouse, 1-800-723-3277.*

*Drugs, Crime, and the Justice System  
from the Drugs & Crime Data Center &  
Clearinghouse, 1-800-666-3332,  
provides more detailed information  
on illegal drugs.*

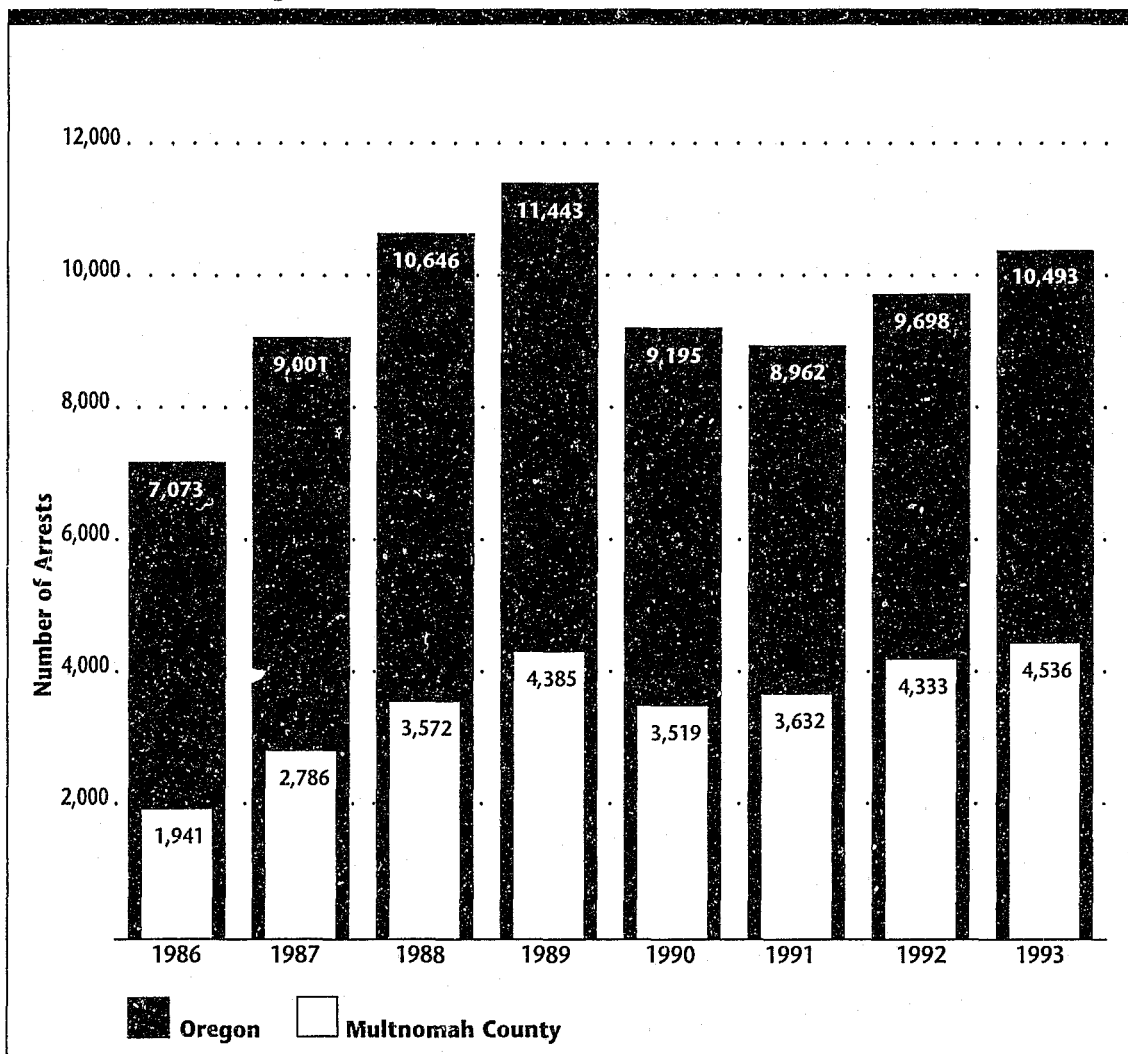
**Expert Opinion:**

*“Being a police officer means working drugs,  
whatever unit you work in.”*

*— a local law enforcement officer*

*Number of adult arrests for drug offenses.*

**Adult Arrests for Drug Offenses**



Source: Law Enforcement Data System

**Remarks:**

County arrests reached a new high in 1993. State arrests in 1993 are at the highest level since 1989.

**Technical Note:**

Adult arrest data are collected on local, state, and national levels throughout the country.

*For more information on Portland Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) data on arrestee drug use, request DUF Facts information sheets from The Regional Drug Initiative (RDI) in Portland, 503/294-7074.*

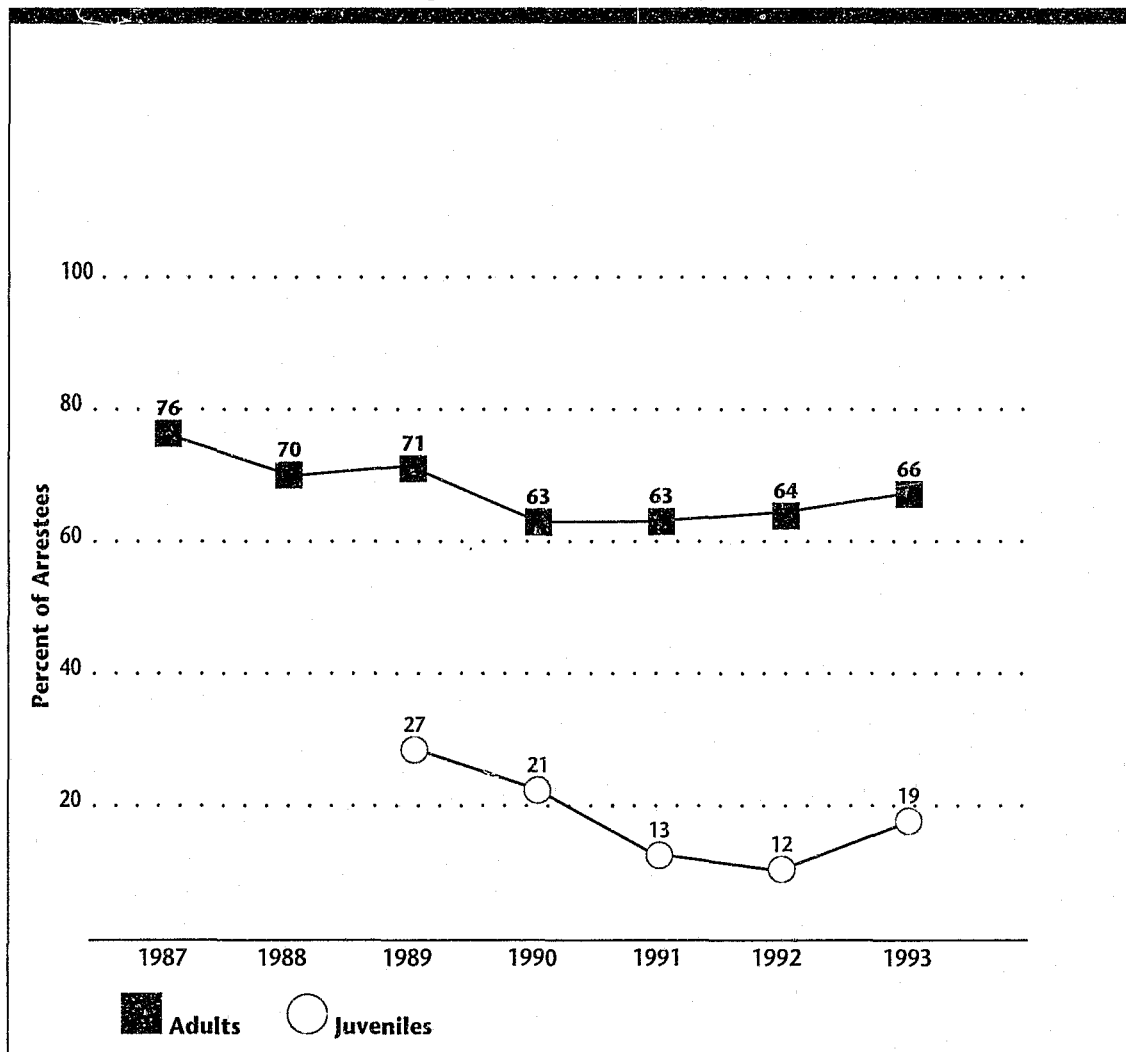
***Expert Opinion:***

*“These high rates show the clear connection between drugs and crime.”*

*— a local criminal justice planner*

Percent of arrestees testing positive for one or more illegal substances.

### Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs - Multnomah County



Source: Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) Project

#### Remarks:

Adult positives have remained essentially the same since 1990. Juvenile positives had declined steadily since 1989 but increased by 58% from 1992 to 1993.

#### Technical Note:

These data summarize voluntary urine samples from arrestees. Data from 1987, the project's first year, include only males. Tests of juvenile arrestees started in 1989. No statewide data are available.

*To learn what your neighborhood is doing  
to prevent crime, contact the Office of  
Neighborhood Associations at  
503/823-4519.*

**Expert Opinion:**

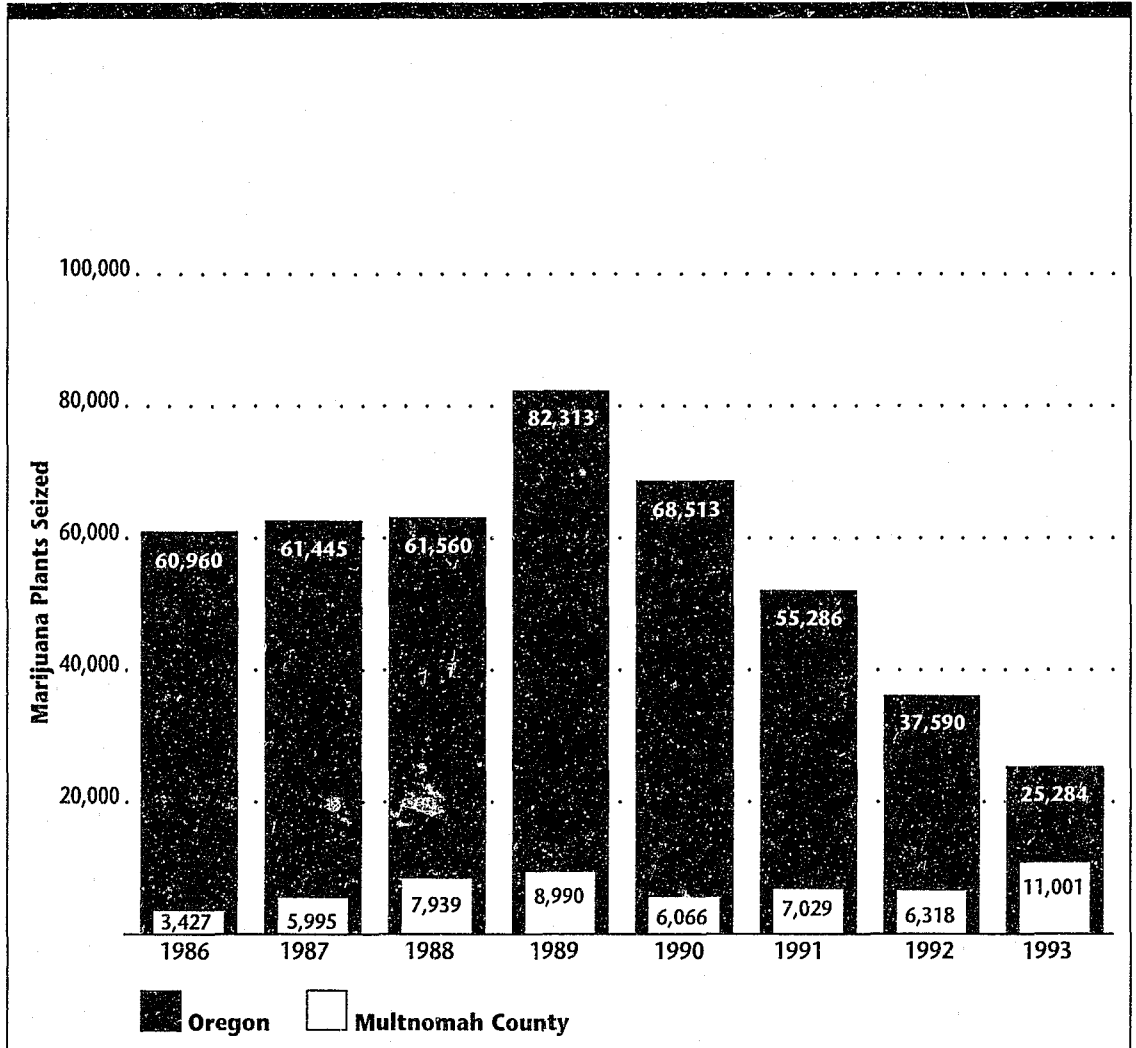
“The average good quality marijuana 20 years ago contained 1% to 2% THC. Today it contains 10% to 20% THC.”

— an Oregon law enforcement officer



*Number of marijuana plants seized.*

**Marijuana Plants Seized**



Source: Western States Information Network (WSIN)

**Remarks:**

Marijuana plants seized statewide increased suddenly in 1989, then dropped steadily through 1993. The number of plants seized in Multnomah County almost doubled in 1993.

**Technical Note:**

Western States Information Network (WSIN) compiles information voluntarily supplied by law enforcement agencies in the western states.

*For information on creating a drug-free workplace or to obtain help with specific workplace problems, call the Regional Drug Initiative, 503/294-7074; Oregon Prevention Resource Center, 1-800-822-6772; or the Oregon Business Council, 503/220-0691.*

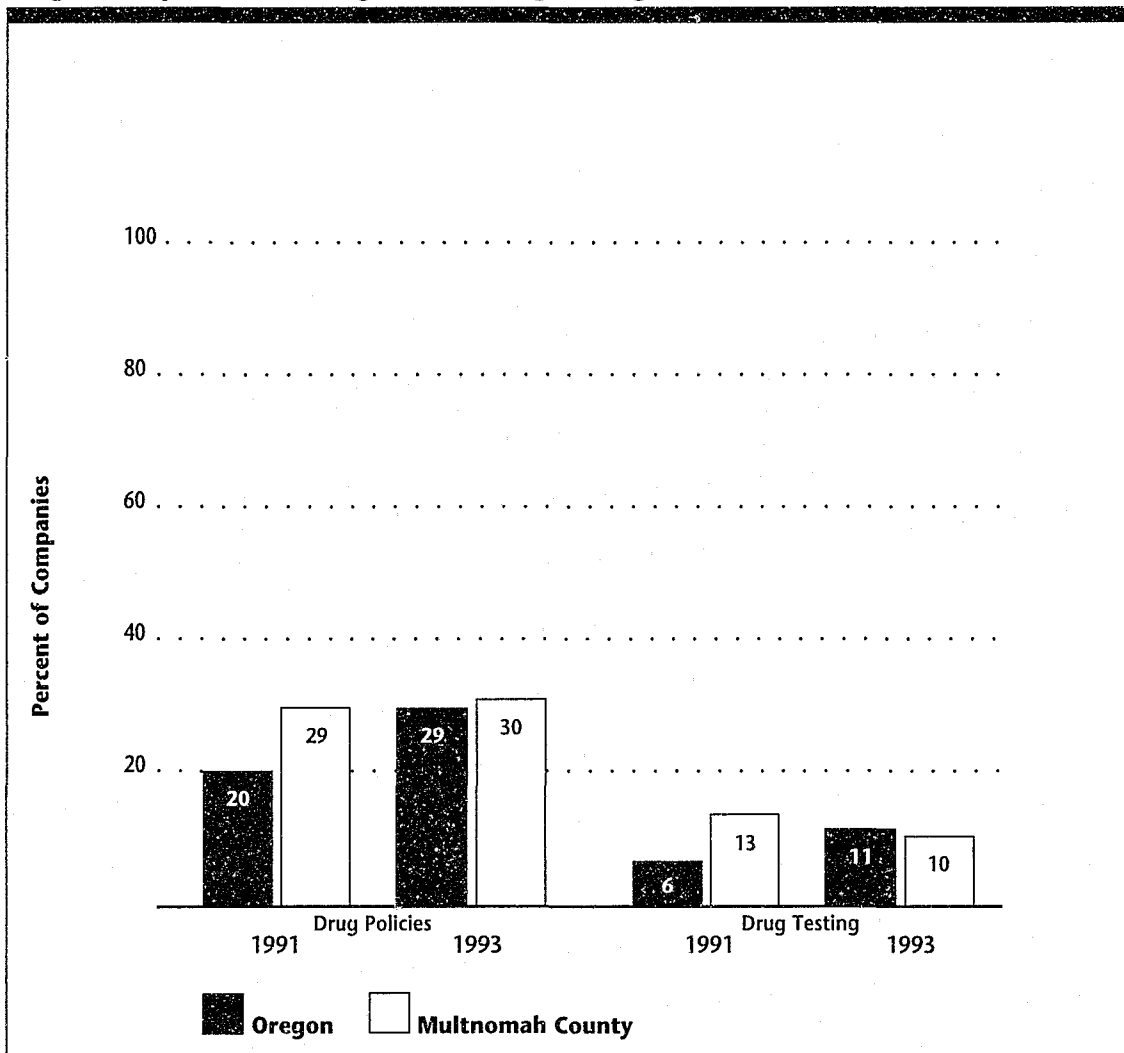
**Expert Opinion:**

“More and more, employers in Oregon are seeing it as their *responsibility* to provide a drug free workplace.”

— *representative of a statewide business organization*

*Percent of Oregon companies with drug policies and with drug testing.*

**Oregon Companies with Drug Policies, Drug Testing**



Source: Oregon Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, Small Business Benchmark Survey

**Remarks:**

Statewide, companies with written drug policies increased from 20% in 1991 to 29% in 1993 and companies with drug testing increased from 6% in 1991 to 11% in 1993.

**Technical Note:**

This survey was first conducted in 1991 and re-administered in 1993. Though only 29-30% of the companies report having drug policies, they are the largest employers. As a result, approximately 73% of Oregon employees work in companies with drug policies.

*For further drug-free workplace  
information call the National Institute for  
Drug Abuse (NIDA) Workplace Helpline  
at 1-800-843-4971.*

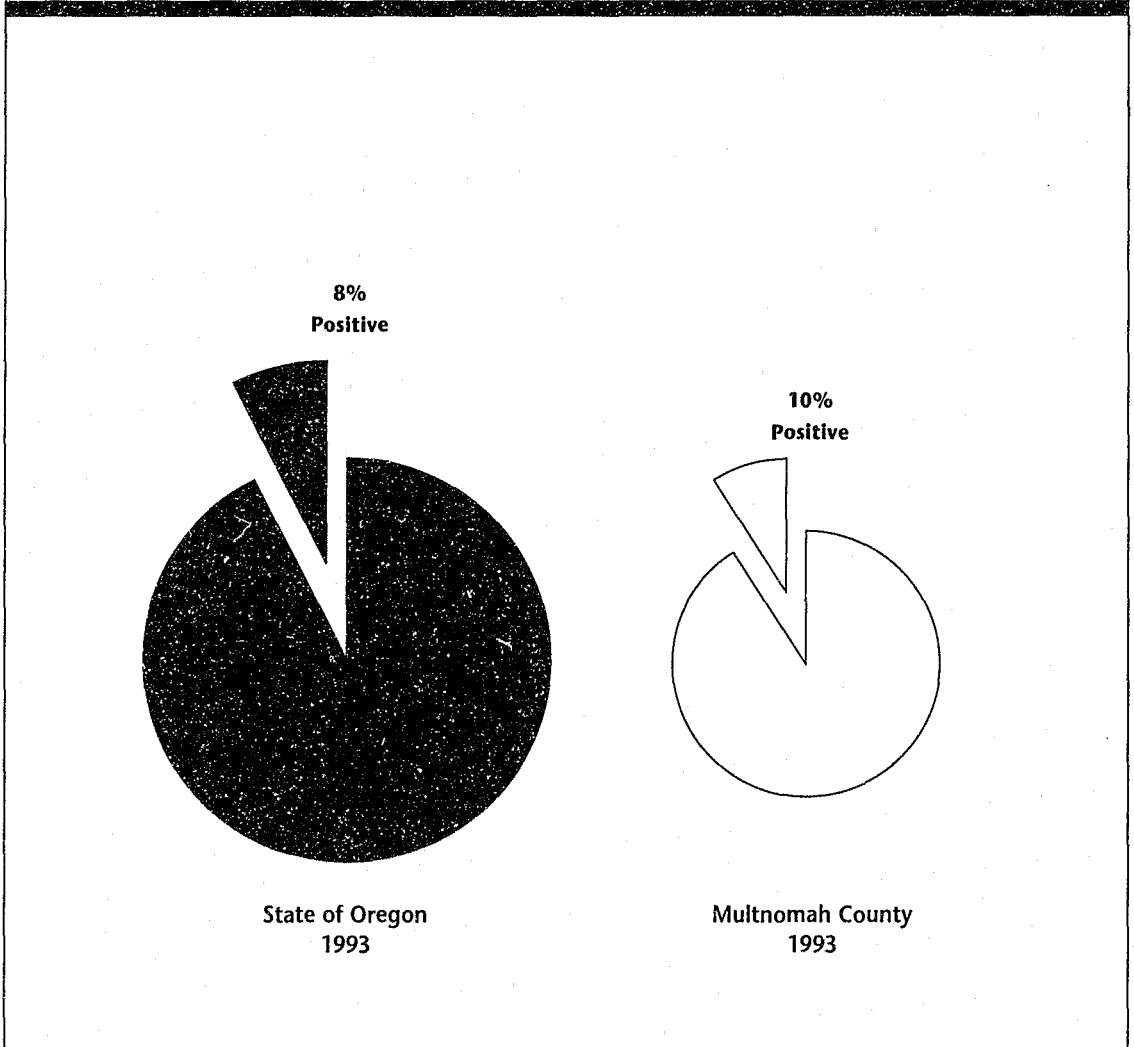
**Expert Opinion:**

“Some people think the drug problem has  
been solved, but these data show we haven't  
conquered it yet.”

— *a drug testing laboratory marketing  
and sales representative*

*Percent of positives in pre-employment drug tests.*

**Positives in Pre-Employment Drug Testing in 1993**



Source: Oregon Medical Laboratories

**Remarks:**

State and county rates have remained essentially unchanged from previous years.

**Technical Note:**

Statewide data are from four large multi-company employer groups who use Oregon Medical Labs (OML) for pre-employment tests. Multnomah County data are from only one of these groups.

*For information about available treatment resources, call the Oregon Partnership Hotlines. In Portland, call 503/232-8083. Elsewhere in Oregon, call 1-800-621-1646.*

*For a brochure on how to "Help A Friend" into treatment, call the Regional Drug Initiative in Portland at 503/294-7074.*

**Expert Opinion:**

*"The key is to provide treatment on demand, but there is a waiting list everywhere."*

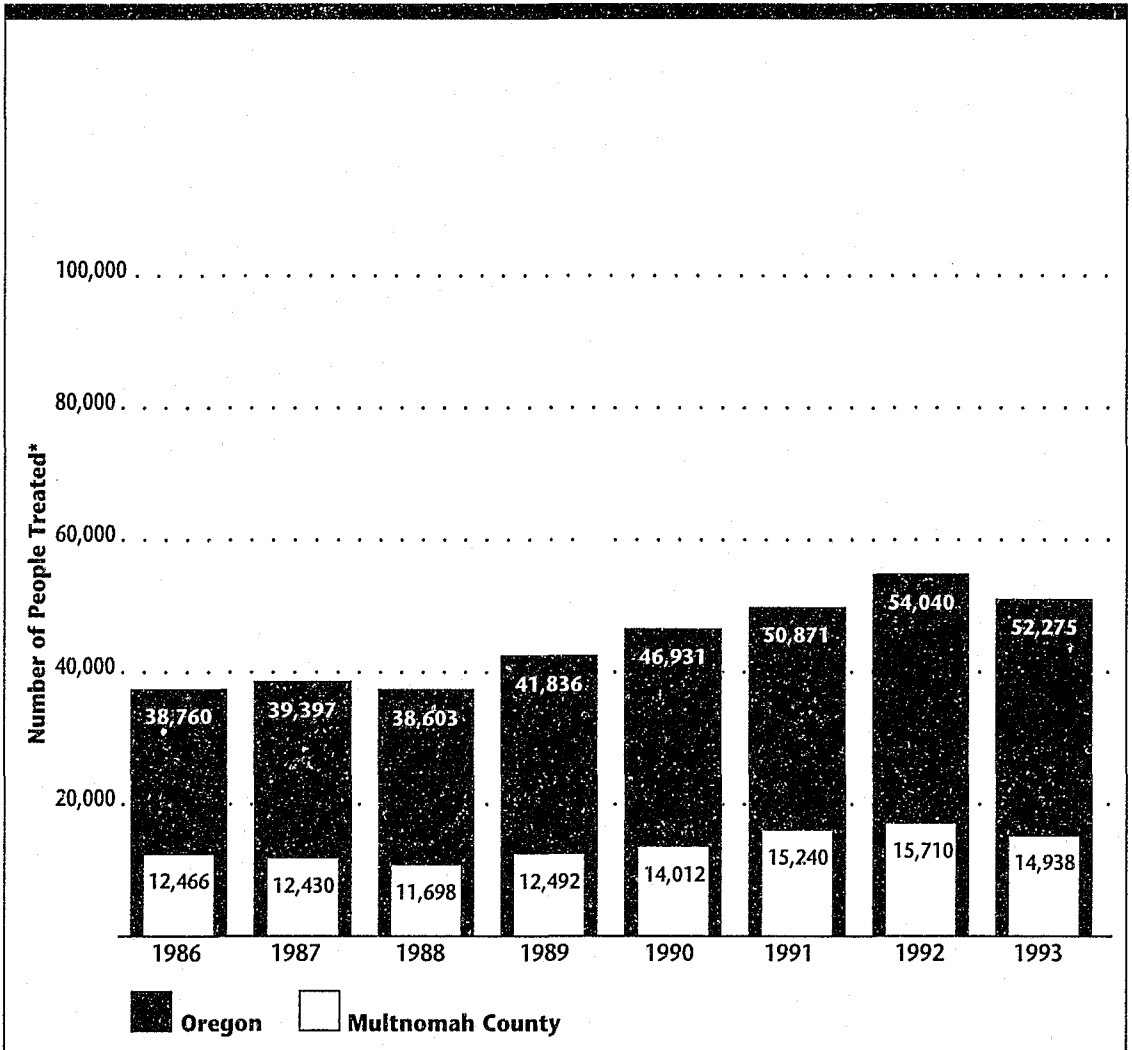
*— a local treatment provider*

*"We need to work in every segment of the community to create a culture of sobriety."*

*— a treatment administrator*

Number of people treated in public programs for alcohol and other drug problems.\*

**Treatment for Substance Abuse Problems - Publicly funded treatment only**



Source: State, County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Offices

\*Duplicated Count

**Remarks:**

The number of people treated statewide and in Multnomah County increased from 1988 to 1992. Minor decreases occurred in 1993.

**Technical Note:**

Types of programs include detox, residential, outpatient, methadone, and DUII. Counts for each program reflect the total number of people served according to the Oregon Client Process Monitoring System (CPMS). The same person will be counted more than once if treated in more than one type of program.

*Contact Mothers against Drunk Driving  
(MADD) at 503/284-6233 to help prevent  
alcohol-involved traffic deaths.*

**Expert Opinion:**

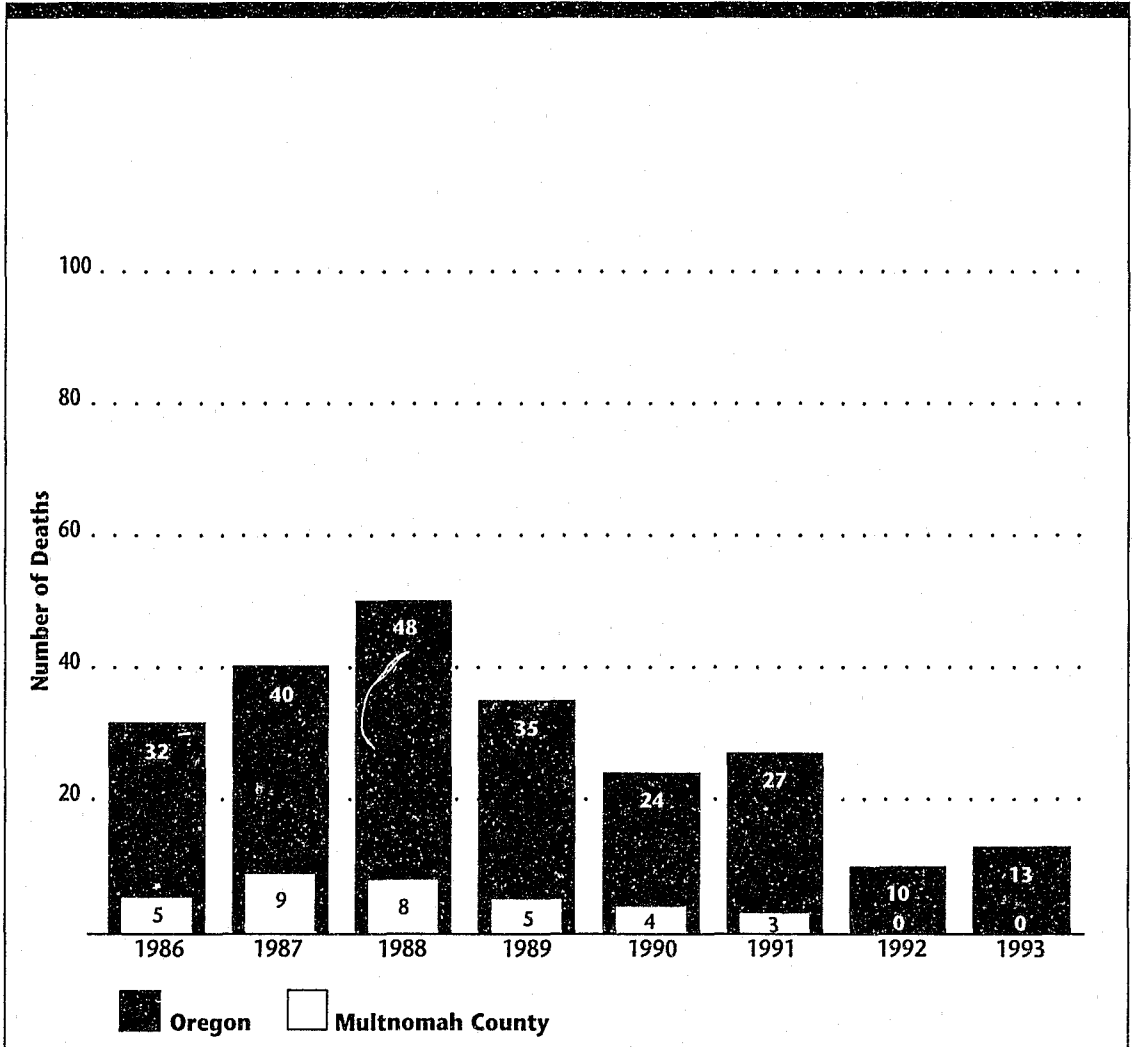
“Motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of teenagers. And those crashes that don’t kill, cripple.”

— Gotcha, Oregon Department of  
Transportation brochure  
#737-3002/2-92/20K



Traffic deaths involving teen drivers who had been drinking.

### Traffic Deaths/Alcohol-Involved Teen Drivers



Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

#### Remarks:

State deaths involving teen drivers who had been drinking declined to slightly over one quarter of the 1988 peak. County deaths dropped from 9 in 1987 to zero.

#### Technical Note:

Data represent all traffic deaths involving a driver age 15-19 with police-reported alcohol involvement or positive test for alcohol. (Other drugs not included.)

*To learn more about how to prevent  
alcohol-related traffic deaths, call the  
Oregon Department of Transportation,  
Traffic Safety Section, 1-800-922-2022.*

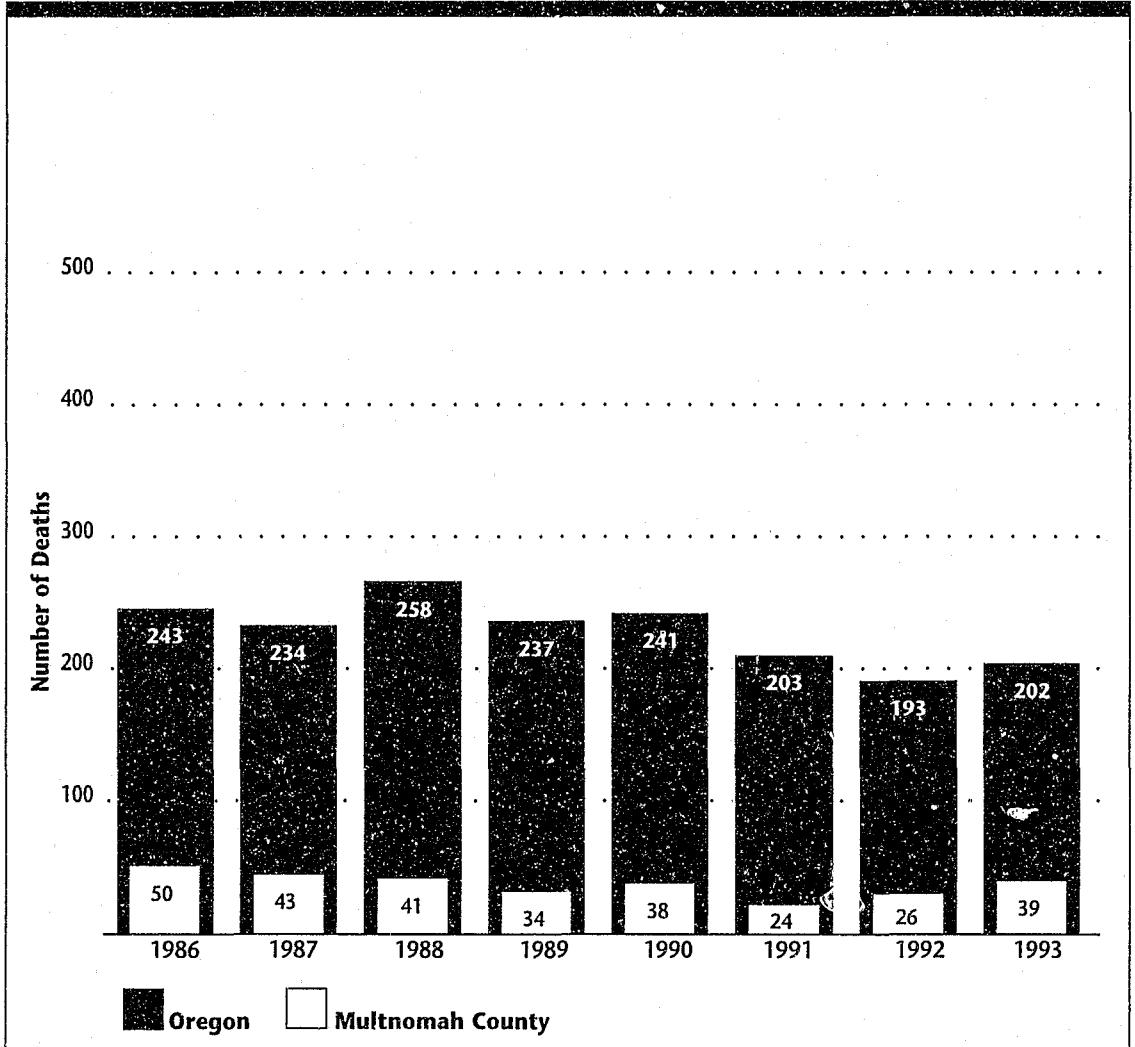
**Expert Opinion:**

“There are still many intoxicated drivers on  
the streets, highways and waterways of  
Multnomah County”

— *Position Paper on DUII enforcement by  
Multnomah County DUII Community  
Advisory Board, 7/93.*

Traffic deaths involving adult drivers who had been drinking.

### Traffic Deaths/Alcohol-Involved Adult Drivers



Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

#### Remarks:

After steady declines in both county and state traffic deaths, increases in both measures occurred in 1993.

#### Technical Note:

Numbers represent vehicle-accident deaths involving a driver, pedestrian, or cyclist reported intoxicated by police or testing positive for blood alcohol, excluding deaths caused by alcohol-involved teen drivers.

*For comprehensive analyses of causes of death in Oregon order Oregon Vital Statistics Report 1990, published July 1992 from Center for Health Statistics in Portland at 503/731-4354.*

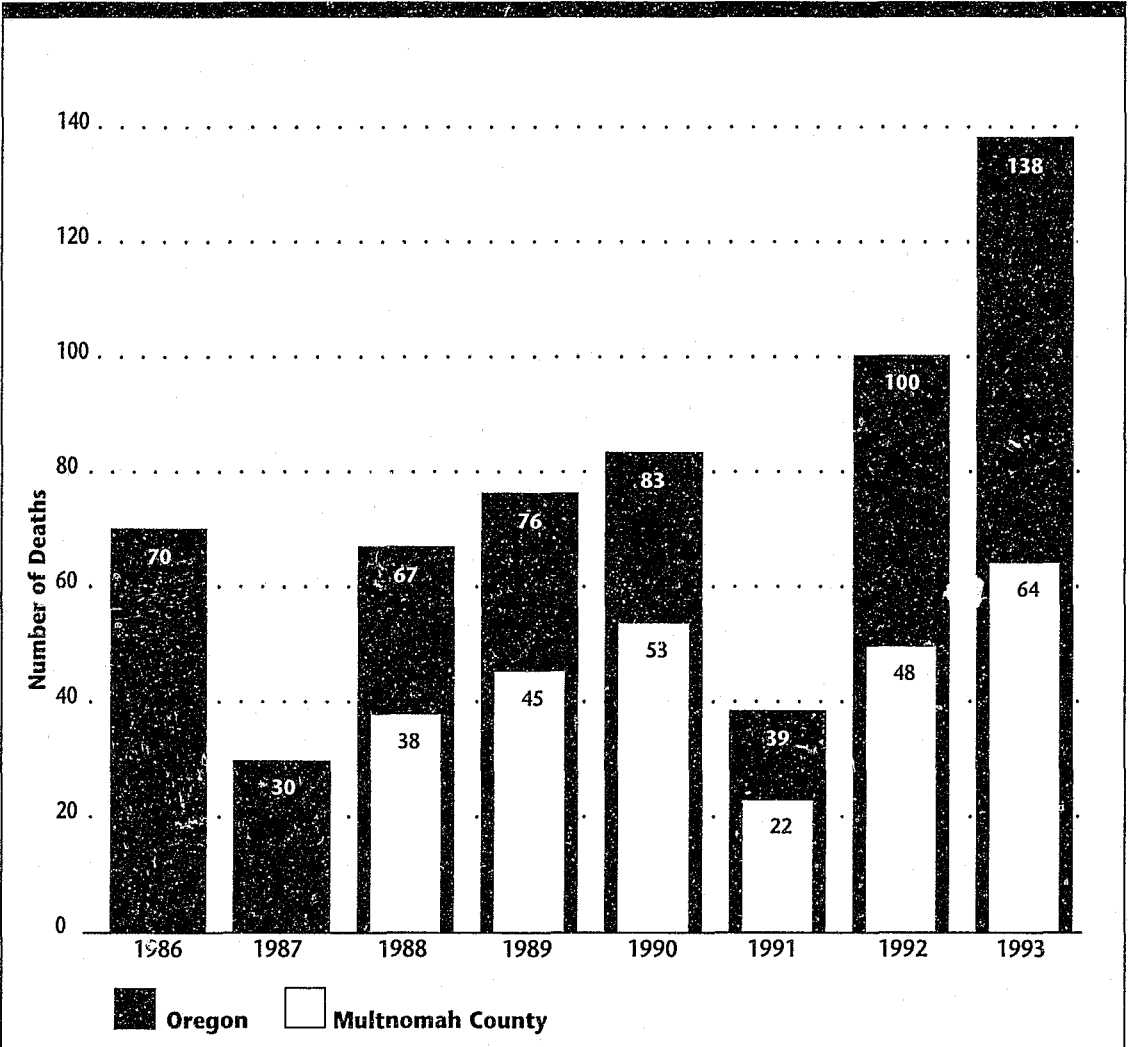
**Expert Opinion:**

“Aggressive law enforcement can interrupt the sale of drugs for a while, but it always seems to come back.”

— a local medical examiner

*Number of drug-related deaths.*

**Drug-Related Deaths**



Source: State Medical Examiner

**Remarks:**

After substantial declines in 1991, drug-related deaths increased dramatically to record levels both statewide and in Multnomah County.

**Technical Note:**

These data reflect the number of deaths resulting from use of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamines, or a combination of those drugs. Most deaths are from heroin.

## References

- Indicator 1* Children's Services Division, Research and Statistics, 198 Commercial Street SE, Salem, Oregon 97310.
- Indicators 2, 3* *The 1992 Oregon Public School Drug Use Survey*, Final Report, by Michael Finigan, for Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, 500 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310; *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1992*, Volume I, NCADI #BKD-117; *HHS News*, January, 1994. Contact National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI), 1-800-729-6686 for national data.
- Indicators 4, 5* Law Enforcement Data System, 155 Cottage Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310.
- Indicator 6* Averages of quarterly "Drug Use Forecasting" (DUF) data from TASC of Oregon, Inc., 1727 NE 13th, Room 202, Portland, Oregon 97212.
- Indicator 7* Oregon Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Division, 240 Cottage Street SE, Salem, Oregon 97310.
- Indicator 8* Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, 500 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310.
- Indicator 9* Personal communication, Dr. Steven Erfurth, Oregon Medical Laboratories, PO Box 972, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0972.
- Indicator 10* Personal communications, Norma Jaeger, Multnomah County Alcohol & Drug Program, 421 SW 5th, 5th Floor, Portland, Oregon 97204 and Clint Goff, Oregon Office of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs, 500 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310.
- Indicators 11, 12* *Oregon Traffic Fatalities/Alcohol Involvement by County and Oregon Drivers Aged 15-19 Involved In Oregon Traffic Fatalities by County* annual data sheets, Fatal Accident Reporting System, Traffic Safety Division, 400 State Library Bldg., Salem, Oregon 97310.
- Indicator 13* Multnomah County Medical Examiner's Office, 301 NE Knott Street, Portland, Oregon 97212.

Order copies of this report or its companion, *Developing a Community Profile: A Handbook for Using Pre-existing Data in Prevention Planning*, from either address on back cover.