

DELAWARE DRUG INDICATORS, 1993

February, 1995

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STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER
60 THE PLAZA
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

ACQUISITIONS

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The statistics in this report were compiled by Jack O'Connell, Director, Charles Huenke, Research Specialist II, and Jorge Rodríguez-Labarca, Research Specialist III.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (CJC-Administration) grant to the Delaware Statistical Analysis Center comprises 15 percent of the agency's budget. The points of view expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the official position of the US Department of Justice.

State of Delaware Document Number: 10-07-03 950101.

Delaware Drug Indicators

Impact Indicators (Source)

1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993

Drug Related Deaths (DHSS: ME)

Total	1	6	8	10	19	17	27	x	x	x
Cocaine	0	1	1	8	14	13	18	x	x	x
Alcohol Combination	0	2	3	1	2	2	1	x	x	x
Other Drug	1	3	4	1	3	2	8	x	x	x

Traffic Deaths (DHSS: ME)

Drug Related	1	0	1	2	2	8	6	x	x	x
Alcohol Related	55	62	80	64	72	56	65	x	x	x

Incidence of Illicit Drug Screens During Pregnancy (MCD)

Pregnancies Screened	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,234	1,097	1,045	975
Positive Illicit Drug Screens	.	.	.	.	.	.	180	164	162	126
Percent Positive for Illicit Drugs	.	.	.	.	.	.	14.6%	14.9%	15.5%	12.9%

Positive Illicit Drug Screens in Emergency Room (MCD)

Total	.	.	.	.	.	498	511	623	690	880
Morphine (Heroin)	.	.	.	.	.	15	42	73	83	88
Cocaine	.	.	.	.	.	366	345	420	425	509
PCP	.	.	.	.	.	8	8	11	38	40
Amphetamines	.	.	.	.	.	6	7	10	7	6
Marijuana	.	.	.	.	.	103	109	109	137	237

Self Reported Monthly Drug Use by 11th Graders (DPI)

Alcohol	.	.	.	.	.	50.1%	48.0%	48.6%	47.0%	45.9%
Marijuana	.	.	.	.	.	13.0%	12.0%	13.8%	11.8%	18.3%
Cocaine or Crack	.	.	.	.	.	2.8%	1.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.5%
Other	.	.	.	.	.	11.6%	8.3%	10.0%	10.9%	12.5%

Delaware Drug Indicators

Process Indicators (Source)

1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993

DUI Arrests (DPS)

Statewide	6,245	6,718	6,029	6,448	6,145	6,659	7,383	6,778	6,954	.
By State Police Only	3,355	3,435	3,499	3,612	3,711	4,134	4,566	4,267	3,717	3,215

Drug Arrests (SBI/SAC)

Total	1,400	1,328	1,214	1,017	1,507	2,230	2,379	2,901	2,641	2,482
Adult	1,129	1,102	1,077	882	1,344	1,934	2,102	2,527	2,346	2,155
Juvenile	271	226	137	135	163	296	277	374	295	327

Cocaine/Opiate Arrests (SBI/SAC)

Total	222	267	370	379	913	1,464	1,596	2,056	1,892	1,350
Adult	216	260	358	362	839	1,297	1,398	1,761	1,687	1,204
Juvenile	6	7	12	17	74	167	198	295	205	146

Medical Examiner Cases (DHSS: ME)

Total Number of Cases	1,496	1,417	981	2,099	1,710	2,451	2,838	3,346	2,943	2,774	
Cases by Most Serious Drug	Heroin	75	58	16	31	79	55	73	111	156	161
	Cocaine	146	113	253	617	867	1,366	1,010	729	605	550
	Crack Cocaine	0	0	0	4	22	138	754	1,505	1,270	947
	LSD	10	10	7	12	8	9	22	20	20	6
	PCP	0	0	0	42	47	52	47	36	48	67
	Methamphetamine	9	9	6	10	7	9	19	17	10	13
	Marijuana	1,143	1,119	622	1,254	590	666	691	762	707	906
	Other	12	11	8	13	9	22	20	13	9	8
	Non-Controlled Substances	102	97	69	116	82	134	202	153	118	116

Drug Offense Admissions to Department of Correction (DOC/SAC)

Detention	286	365	404	417	700	1,072	1,238	1,512	1,237	964
Jail (1 year or less)	32	41	46	57	87	140	193	237	327	402
Prison (more than 1 year)	37	64	121	103	130	201	248	250	318	327

Delaware Drug Indicators

Process Indicators (Source) **1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993**

Adult Alcohol and Drug Treatment Programs (DHSS: DADAMH)

Total Adult Admissions	.	.	5,114	5,745	5,751	5,243	6,237	6,298	5,870	6,094
Total Juvenile Admissions	.	.	230	289	19	20	17	15	29	11
Total Admissions	.	.	5,344	6,034	5,770	5,263	6,254	6,313	5,899	6,105
Non-Residential Admissions	.	.	1,518	1,915	1,525	1,350	2,148	2,089	1,940	2,206
Residential Admissions	.	.	520	588	578	516	627	658	687	773
Detox	.	.	3,306	3,531	3,667	3,397	3,479	3,566	3,272	3,126

Juvenile Alcohol and Drug Treatment Programs (DSCYF: CMHS)

Outpatient	.	.	.	.	509	500	456	469	638	592
Day Treatment	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	31	32
Residential	.	.	.	.	35	54	70	42	46	48

Notes: "x" denotes forthcoming data.
 "." denotes data not available.
 Italicized numbers are estimates.



STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER
60 THE PLAZA
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

TELEPHONE: (302) 739 - 4626
FAX: (302) 739 - 4630

February 14, 1995

TO: Criminal Justice Council and Interested Others
FROM: Jack O'Connell *Jack*
SUBJECT: Delaware Drug Indicators, 1993

Attached is a copy of the Delaware Drug Indicators, 1993. This report tracks the annual changes for the indicators of illicit drug use in Delaware from different perspectives. Where possible historical patterns for these indicators are portrayed between 1984 and 1993. Some of 1993's indicators are summarized below.

Positive illicit drug screens at the Medical Center of Delaware's Emergency Department increased by 27 percent in 1993, which marks the fourth consecutive year of increases since the series started in 1989. In state-administered alcohol and drug treatment programs, adult admissions increased and juvenile admissions decreased.

Drug arrests and the number of cases requiring Medical Examiner identification of illicit drugs decreased for a second straight year -- each by about 6 percent in 1993. During the same time period, however, the number of illicit drug offenders sentenced to jail and prison increased to record levels. In 1993, 729 offenders were sentenced to incarceration -- up 13 percent. Many of the drug offenders sentenced to prison are repeat offenders or probation violators.

Cocaine and crack cocaine remain the highest volume illicit drug. Cocaine mentions in the emergency room increased by 20 percent. Meanwhile the number of cocaine and crack cases handled by the Medical Examiner's Office decreased by 20 percent.

As evidenced by emergency room positive screens and Medical Examiner results, heroin and PCP use continued to increase in 1993, though not as significantly as in previous years. The most significant increases in emergency room positive PCP screens were in combination with cocaine or marijuana.

Marijuana use in Delaware made a comeback in 1993. The Medical Examiner's Office saw a 28 percent increase in marijuana cases and emergency room mentions increased by 73 percent. The emergency room mentions also show a 38 percent increase in poly-drug use involving marijuana. Marijuana appears to be gaining favor among Delaware youths; 11th graders who reported using marijuana at least monthly increased from 12 to 18 percent. Also, while juvenile arrests for cocaine/opiates fell by 29 percent from 1992 to 1993, juvenile arrests for marijuana rose by 123 percent. Marijuana use trends may be evidence of rising popularity of *blunts* (hollowed cigars refilled with marijuana cores and often laced with other drugs).

SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS:

DHSS: DADAMH	Department of Health and Social Services: Division of Alcoholism, Drug Abuse and Mental Health
DHSS: ME	Department of Health and Social Services: Medical Examiner
DOC	Department of Correction
DPI	Department of Public Instruction
DPS	Department of Public Safety
DSCYF: CMHS	Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families: Child Mental Health Services
MCD	Medical Center of Delaware
SAC	Statistical Analysis Center
SBI	Delaware State Police: State Bureau of Identification

SOURCE NOTES:

- Unless otherwise noted, data are reported by calendar year.

DRUG RELATED DEATHS:

- DRUG RELATED DEATHS are based on the Medical Examiner's records. They do not include drug or alcohol related traffic deaths.
- "Cocaine" includes all cases involving cocaine only, cocaine combined with other drugs, or cocaine/alcohol combinations.
- "Alcohol Combination" includes cases involving alcohol only or alcohol/drug combinations, except cocaine/alcohol.
- "Other Drug" includes cases involving other drugs or drug combinations, excluding "Cocaine" and "Alcohol Combination" above.

TRAFFIC DEATHS:

- Drug related and alcohol related traffic deaths are based on the Medical Examiner's results.

INCIDENCE OF ILLICIT DRUG SCREENS DURING PREGNANCY:

- Most pregnant women who register for prenatal care through the Outpatient Services Department (OPS) are screened on their initial OPS visit. OPS patients with an initial positive screen, a history of drug abuse and/or clinical indications of drug abuse are re-screened throughout pregnancy. Approximately 75 percent of OPS patients are screened at least once during their pregnancy. Only patients who are registered with OPS at the time of their delivery are included in these data. OPS patients comprise approximately 20 percent of the annual deliveries at MCD; extrapolation of OPS data to the entire MCD obstetric population is not valid.

POSITIVE ILLICIT DRUG SCREENS IN EMERGENCY ROOM:

- Selection of patients for emergency room drug testing is biased towards those patients with clinical indications of drug use and precludes direct extrapolation to the Emergency Department population as a whole. Only about 3 percent of the approximately 91,000 Emergency Department patients are tested for drugs in their urine.
- Heroin is not detected in urine. However, presence of confirmable concentrations of morphine in the urine of patients with a history of drug abuse and no record of in-hospital administration of opiates is highly suggestive of heroin use. Such cases are recorded as positive heroin screens.
- Some drug screens show use of more than one drug. If more than one drug is reported for a case, the results are reported for only one drug using this hierarchy: morphine, cocaine, PCP, amphetamines (which in these cases are most likely methamphetamine), and marijuana.

SELF REPORTED MONTHLY DRUG USE BY 11th GRADERS:

- As of 1989, DPI initiated an annual self report random sample survey of public school student's use of illicit drugs and related issues. The survey is called Foundations for Prevention: Student Perspectives on Drug and Alcohol Use, and is issued each fall for the previous school year's data. The table shows data by academic year; the September 1992 to June 1993 academic year is under 1993, etc.
- "Other" includes heroin, inhalants, look-alike drugs, hallucinogens, stimulants, depressants, and over-the-counter cold medicine used for kicks. Data in this group reflect cumulative percentages of students reporting use in the subgroups.

DUI ARRESTS:

- DUI arrests are from the Delaware State Police Annual Traffic Statistical Report. Statewide data were previously provided to DSP by the Division of Motor Vehicles. Resource constraints have precluded DMV collection of DUI arrest data for 1993.

DRUG ARRESTS and COCAINE/OPIATE ARRESTS:

- These data are from the State Bureau of Identification's Complaint File, but are calculated based on FBI definitions, which exclude some less serious Delaware drug statutes. Also, the FBI uses a hierarchical classification procedure where a drug arrest is counted only if a more serious crime is not committed in the same incident. Arrest numbers herein may therefore be lower than those found in other sources. Cocaine/Opiate Arrests, which are a subset of Drug Arrests, include arrests for cocaine, opium, and their derivatives.

MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES:

- A "Medical Examiner Case" represents an exhibit or set of exhibits submitted to the ME for analysis under a single complaint number. A single case or exhibit may include multiple substance types, therefore the cases were identified by the hierarchy shown in the table. Under this scheme, a case which includes heroin and some other drug would be listed as a heroin case; a case which included cocaine and some other drug besides heroin would be listed as a cocaine case, and so on.
- This series replaces the previously reported "SUBSTANCES ANALYZED BY MEDICAL EXAMINER" series. To cope with substance analysis workload, in 1992 the Medical Examiner's office implemented procedures whereby trafficking thresholds were used to determine the necessity of analyzing all substances seized in a given case. In cases where multiple exhibits of the same type of drug were received, this change could result in fewer substances analyzed than were submitted for analysis.
- "Heroin" includes other opium derivatives.
- "Other" includes amphetamine (other than methamphetamine), benzodiazepine, barbiturates, and other controlled substances.
- ME data from 1984 through 1988 reported only total cases and number of substances analyzed by drug type. "Cases by most serious drug" for that time frame were estimated using substance per case averages and hierarchical distributions from 1989 to 1991 data.

MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES (continued):

- Declines in overall case numbers in 1986 and 1988 coincide with reduced chemist staff in the Medical Examiner's office.
- Of particular significance in the 1984 to 1988 estimates is the increase in cocaine cases accompanied by a decrease in marijuana cases. These trends correlate well with arrest data from the same period. Also, 1987 was the first year in which crack cocaine and PCP analyses were reported in ME data.

DRUG OFFENDERS ADMITTED TO DOC:

- "Detention" includes those persons detained after arrest and prior to sentencing.
- "Jail" includes those persons sentenced to terms equal to or less than one year.
- "Prison" includes those persons whose sentence is greater than one year.

ADULT ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS:

- Government-funded treatment programs administered by the State; no private programs included.
- "Admissions" includes all persons entering a residential or non-residential program within a year. A person entering more than one program or entering one program more than once during the year is counted at each entry as an admission.
- Admissions numbers are for all individuals whose primary treatment need is for drug and/or alcohol problems.
- After 1987, juvenile treatment cases are reported under the heading below. Juvenile admissions under Adult Treatment Programs since 1988 are for detox.
- Admissions are reported by State fiscal year; 1993 covers July 1992 through June 1993, etc.

JUVENILE ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS:

- Government-funded treatment programs administered by the State; no private programs included.
- Data are reported by State fiscal year.