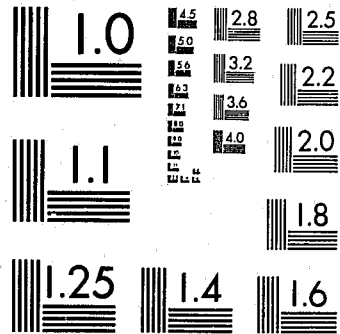National Criminal Justice Reference Service

ncjrs

This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.

1.0	4.5 5.0 5.4 6.3	2.8	2.5
		3.2	2.2
		3.6	
1.1	4.0	2.0
		1.8
1.25	1.4	1.6

MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963-A

Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504.

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U. S. Department of Justice.

National Institute of Justice
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20531

Date Filmed

3/12/81

APPENDIX
TO
DRUG USE AND CRIME
REPORT OF THE PANEL ON
DRUG USE AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

70658
—70676

Part 3
Data Analyses

CONTENTS OF THE APPENDIX

MF

70670

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TYPE OF DRUG USE AND ARREST CHARGE IN AN ARRESTED POPULATION

Duane C. McBride*

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between crime and drug use has been well documented. Researchers have consistently found high rates of drug use and crime in the same area (2, 3, 5), large proportions of drug users engaged in criminal activity (8, 11), and significant proportions of those engaged in criminal activity also using illicit drugs (1, 4, 7). In recent years, there has been public interest in the effect of drug use on criminal behavior and a fear that drug users account for a major proportion of particular types of crime.

This analysis is directed toward examinations of the extent and type of drug use in an arrested population, the types of crime engaged in by types of drug users, and the proportion of each type of crime accounted for by types of drug users.

METHODOLOGY

The data used in this analysis were collected in the Metropolitan Dade County (Florida) Jail from April of 1974 through March of 1975. All felony and major misdemeanor arrests in the county are processed through the jail. From April 1974 through August 1975, data were collected from all arrestees--over 1,000 interviews a month. Because this volume was larger than available data processing could handle, the population was sampled. Beginning in September of 1974, data were collected one 24-hour-day each week; the day of collection was rotated sequentially each week. Overall, usable data were obtained from 5,993 individuals. The refusal rate was about 10 percent.

In an attempt to examine the relationship between type of drug use and arrest charges, information was collected on drug use history and current arrest charges--more specifically, on drugs ever used regularly and on current use patterns. *Regular use* was defined as at least weekly use for a 6-month period. *Current use* was defined as using the substance within the last 2 weeks.

Arrest charges were divided into six categories: (1) serious crime against persons included homicide, manslaughter, forcible rape, and aggravated assault; (2) less serious crime against persons included assault and battery, statutory rape, and child molestation; (3) armed robbery; (4) property crime included breaking and entering, grand larceny, auto theft, arson, forgery, counterfeiting, passing worthless checks, buying, concealing, and receiving stolen property, and vandalism; (5) income-producing victimless crime included prostitution, commercial vice, and gambling; (6) other offenses included narcotic possession, offenses against the family, driving under the influence, disorderly conduct, vagrancy, loitering, sale of narcotics, petty larceny, and resisting arrest.*

An arrest charge index was developed by ranking the seriousness of these six categories. It was assumed that category 1 had the highest ranking (the most serious crimes) and that category 6 had the lowest. Within the index, an individual was assigned on the basis of the seriousness of the arrest charge.

Four drug use indices were developed. A total drug use index was developed to reflect the ever regular and current drug use of the sample. An index was also developed to rank ever regular and current drug use. For the total use index (ever regular and current), each drug the respondent reported using was categorized as narcotics, cocaine, amphetamines, tranquilizers and sedatives, hallucinogens, inhalants, or marihuana. Those who reported that they never had regularly (or currently) used illicit drugs were in an eighth category. In the total use index, individuals appear in as many categories of drugs as they report having used. The total *regular use index* includes those who reported that they had used each substance weekly for a 6-month period. The total *current use index* includes those who reported having used each substance within a 2-week period prior to the interview.

A major problem in analyzing drug use patterns has been the absence of a conventional accepted method of indexing the use of types of drugs. Frequently, *ad hoc* scales have been constructed. Researchers usually consider narcotics use to be more deviant than, for example, the use of marihuana (6, 9, 10).

For this analysis, an *ad hoc* index was constructed. Seven drug categories (previously mentioned) were ranked by the assumed degree of deviance that the use of each substance represented. The categories are (1) narcotics, (2) cocaine, (3) amphetamines, (4) tranquilizers and sedatives, (5) hallucinogens, (6) inhalants, and (7) marihuana. An eighth category was composed of those who reported that they had not ever regularly or currently used any illicit drugs.

_____

*For this analysis, those arrested for only possession of illicit drugs were removed; this resulted in a loss of 219 individuals, for a total of 5,774 respondents.

A ranked drug use index was constructed to reflect ever regular and current use. Individuals were placed in the drug category that reflected the most deviant drug use. While such indices are rough, they do enable fairly straightforward analysis. The four indices that will be related to the most serious charge index are as follows:

1. Total regular drug use index,
2. Ranked regular drug use index,
3. Total current drug use index,
4. Ranked current drug use index.

TOTAL REGULAR USE OF DRUGS AND CRIME

The data in Table 1 show the relationship between most serious charge of arrest and the ever regular use of each category of drugs. The proportions (P's) indicate that 57.8 percent reported that they had never used any illicit substance weekly for a 6-month period; almost 18 percent reported regular use of a narcotic. Marihuana was the drug most frequently reported (32.7%), followed by narcotics, then cocaine (which 10 percent had used regularly).

The column percentages (numbers not in parentheses) indicate a substantial difference between the arrest charges of those who have regularly used drugs and those who have not. Of those who reported that they had never regularly used any illicit drugs, 15.6 percent were arrested for serious crimes against persons; excepting inhalants, this is more than twice the proportion in each category of drug use. Those in the no-illicit-drug-use category were more likely than those who used drugs to be arrested for severe crimes against the person. Armed robbery and property crimes indicate an opposite relationship. Of those who reported no regular use of illicit drugs, 6 percent were arrested for nothing more serious than robbery and 31.2 percent were arrested for nothing more serious than property crimes. These two proportions are lower than for any category of drug use. Those who had regularly used illicit drugs were more likely to be arrested primarily for robbery or property crimes than those who did not ever regularly use illicit drugs.

The row percentages show the proportions of individuals in each category of the crime index who had ever regularly used each type of drug. For both serious and less serious crimes against the person, the majority of individuals in those two categories reported that they had never used illicit drugs (76.4% and 65.5% respectively). A majority of individuals who had been charged with nothing more serious than robbery (51.7%) reported that they had regularly used illicit drugs. In the armed robbery category, 27.8 percent had regularly used heroin and 40.6 percent had regularly used marihuana. (Remember the drug use categories are not mutually exclusive; in Table 1 a respondent appears in as many categories

TABLE 1. MOST SERIOUS CRIME COMMITTED INDEX BY TOTAL REGULAR DRUG USE EVER INDEX

Most Serious Crime	Percentage of Total Regular Drug Use Ever*								
	Narcot-ics	Cocaine	Amphet-amines	Tran-quilizers and Seda-tives	Hallu-cinogens	Inhalants	Mari-huana	No Illicit Drug Use	Total
	N=1021 P=17.7	N=576 P=10.0	N=230 P=4.0	N=571 P=9.9	N=198 P=3.4	N=65 P=1.1	N=1888 P=32.7	N=3339 P=57.8	N=5774
1. Serious crime against person, N=682	6.3 (9.4)	5.5 (0.2)	5.6 (1.9)	6.8 (5.7)	6.6 (1.9)	9.2 (0.9)	6.6 (18.3)	15.6 (76.4)	10.3
2. Less serious crime against person, N=142	1.8 (12.7)	1.4 (5.6)	2.2 (3.5)	2.6 (10.6)	2.5 (3.5)	1.5 (0.7)	2.0 (27.8)	2.8 (65.5)	2.3
3. Armed robbery, N=414	11.3 (27.8)	13.0 (18.1)	12.6 (7.0)	11.0 (15.2)	8.6 (4.1)	12.3 (1.9)	8.9 (40.6)	6.0 (48.3)	8.6
4. Property crime, N=1908	37.9 (20.3)	39.8 (12.0)	43.5 (5.2)	40.1 (12.0)	42.4 (4.4)	37.0 (1.3)	35.4 (35.0)	31.2 (54.6)	35.0
5. Income-produc-ing victimless crime, N=506	5.3 (10.7)	4.9 (5.5)	6.1 (2.8)	6.5 (7.3)	8.6 (3.4)	9.2 (1.2)	8.1 (30.2)	9.7 (64.0)	8.0
6. Other, N=2122	37.5 (18.0)	35.4 (9.6)	30.0 (3.3)	33.0 (8.9)	31.3 (2.9)	30.7 (0.9)	39.0 (34.7)	34.7 (54.6)	35.8

*N=number and P=proportion of respondents in each category; parentheses indicate row percentages, and numerals not in parentheses indicate column percentages.

412

as that individual reported using.) While a small majority of
those in the category of property crimes (54.6%) had not regularly
used illicit drugs, a significant proportion (20.3%) also reported
regular use of a narcotic. Overall, the data in Table 1 show
that regular illicit drug users are overrepresented in the cate-
gories of armed robbery and property crimes but underrepresented
in the categories of serious and less serious crimes against the
person. Given their proportion (17.7%) of the sample, those who
had regularly used narcotics are also overrepresented in the
categories of armed robbery and property crime and underrepresented
in all crimes against the person.

A RANKED REGULAR DRUG USE INDEX AND CRIME

One of the problems with the total drug use index in Table 1 is
that the categories are not mutually exclusive. In Table 2, the
data describe the relationship between the arrest charge index and
the ranked ever regular drug use index. Given the method of index
construction, the proportional distributions of narcotic users and
no-illicit-drug users were the same as in Table 1. The data in
Table 2 are primarily useful for eliminating the overlap between
categories of drug use and clarifying the relationship between
type of drug use and type of crime. Approximately half of those
who used narcotics and half of those who used cocaine (but not
narcotics) had engaged in armed robbery or property crimes. The
column data show that those who use expensive drugs such as nar-
cotics or cocaine are more likely to engage in income-producing
crimes such as armed robbery or property crimes. Narcotics users
also compose a larger proportion of the armed robbery (27.8%) and
property crime categories (20.3%) than any other category of drug
use. Those who have regularly used narcotics are more likely to
engage in income-producing crimes against persons and property
than nondrug users or those who have regularly used nonnarcotic
illicit drugs.

TOTAL CURRENT DRUG USE AND CRIME

Data in Tables 1 and 2 are based on whether or not respondents
ever regularly used drugs. To examine further the relationship
between drug use and arrest charge, data are presented on current
use of drugs. Data in Table 3 describe the relationship between
arrest charge and a total current use index. The relationship is
similar to the one described in Table 1. The major difference is
the proportions of illicit drug users in the sample: 42.2 percent
had regularly used illicit drugs and 52.9 percent were currently
using illicit drugs (10.7% more reported ever regularly using
drugs). A comparison of Tables 1 and 3 indicates that 114 more
individuals reported current use than reported ever regularly
using cocaine. Of the current marihuana users, 801 more individ-
uals reported currently using than reported ever regular use.
These differences could result from a number of respondents recent-
ly beginning to use cocaine or marihuana but not having used it
long enough to be defined as regular users.

TABLE 2. MOST SERIOUS CRIME COMMITTED INDEX BY MOST DEVIANT REGULAR DRUG USE INDEX

Most Serious Crime	Percentage of Most Deviant Regular Drug Use Ever*								
	Narcotics	Cocaine	Amphetamines	Tranquilizers and Sedatives	Hallucinogens	Inhalants	Marihuana	No Illicit Drug Use	Total
	N=1021 P=17.7	N=155 P=2.7	N=59 P=1.0	N=178 P=3.1	N=28 P=0.5	N=16 P=0.3	N=978 P=16.9	N=3339 P=57.8	N=5774
1. Serious crime against person, N=682	6.3 (9.4)	4.5 (1.0)	8.5 (0.7)	9.0 (2.3)	3.6 (0.1)	6.3 (0.1)	6.9 (9.9)	15.6 (76.4)	11.8
2. Less serious crime against person, N=142	1.8 (12.7)	2.6 (2.8)	1.7 (0.7)	3.9 (4.9)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	2.0 (13.9)	2.8 (65.5)	2.5
3. Armed robbery N=414	11.3 (27.8)	9.0 (3.4)	6.8 (1.0)	6.7 (2.9)	0.0 (0.0)	12.5 (0.5)	6.7 (16.0)	6.0 (48.3)	7.1
4. Property crime N=1908	37.9 (20.3)	41.3 (3.3)	39.0 (1.2)	33.7 (3.1)	28.6 (0.4)	31.2 (0.3)	32.4 (16.7)	31.2 (54.6)	33.1
5. Income-producing victimless crime, N=506	5.3 (10.5)	3.9 (1.2)	6.8 (0.8)	8.4 (2.9)	21.4 (1.2)	12.5 (0.4)	9.9 (19.1)	9.7 (63.8)	8.8
6. Other, N=2122	37.5 (18.0)	38.7 (2.8)	37.3 (1.0)	38.2 (3.2)	46.4 (0.6)	37.5 (0.3)	42.0 (19.4)	34.7 (54.6)	36.7

*N=number and P=proportion of respondents in each category; parentheses indicate row percentages, and numerals not in parentheses indicate column percentages.

TABLE 3. MOST SERIOUS CRIME COMMITTED INDEX BY TOTAL CURRENT DRUG USE INDEX

| Most Serious Crime | Percentage of Total Current Drug Use Ever* | | | | | | | | |
	Narcotics N=921 P=16.0	Cocaine N=690 P=12.0	Amphetamines N=192 P=3.3	Tranquilizers and Sedatives N=597 P=10.3	Hallucinogens N=163 P=2.8	Inhalants N=45 P=0.8	Marihuana N=2689 P=46.6	No Illicit Drug Use N=2718 P=47.1	Total N=5774
1. Serious crime against person, N=682	7.2 (9.7)	6.2 (6.3)	6.2 (1.8)	7.4 (6.5)	8.0 (1.9)	13.3 (0.9)	6.5 (25.7)	17.5 (69.8)	10.4
2. Less serious crime against person, N=142	1.6 (10.6)	2.5 (12.0)	2.1 (2.8)	2.7 (11.3)	4.3 (4.9)	0.0 (0.0)	1.8 (33.8)	3.2 (61.3)	2.4
3. Armed robbery N=414	11.8 (26.3)	12.3 (20.5)	10.0 (4.6)	8.7 (12.6)	9.8 (3.9)	13.3 (1.4)	7.9 (51.2)	6.4 (42.0)	8.4
4. Property crime, N=1908	38.6 (18.6)	35.8 (12.9)	46.3 (4.7)	38.9 (12.2)	42.9 (3.7)	35.6 (0.8)	35.2 (49.6)	30.8 (43.9)	34.8
5. Income producing victimless crime, N=506	4.9 (8.9)	5.6 (7.7)	7.8 (3.0)	7.4 (8.7)	5.5 (1.8)	8.9 (0.8)	8.7 (46.2)	9.3 (50.0)	8.0
6. Other, N=2122	35.9 (15.6)	37.5 (12.2)	27.6 (2.5)	35.0 (9.8)	29.4 (2.3)	28.9 (0.6)	39.9 (50.6)	32.8 (42.0)	35.9

*N=number and P=proportion of respondents in each category; parentheses indicate row percentages, and numerals not in parentheses indicate column percentages.

415

TABLE 4. MOST SERIOUS CRIME COMMITTED INDEX BY MOST DEVIANT CURRENT DRUG USE INDEX

Most Serious Crime	Percentage of Most Deviant Current Drug Use Ever*								
	Narcotics	Cocaine	Amphetamines	Tranquilizers and Sedatives	Hallucinogens	Inhalants	Marihuana	No Illicit Drug Use	Total
	N=921 P=16.0	N=261 P=4.5	N=74 P=1.3	N=185 P=3.2	N=19 P=0.3	N=13 P=0.2	N=1583 P=27.4	N=2718 P=47.1	N=5774
1. Serious crime against person, N=682	7.2 (9.7)	4.2 (1.6)	5.4 (0.6)	6.5 (1.8)	5.3 (0.1)	23.1 (0.4)	6.9 (16.0)	17.5 (69.8)	11.8
2. Less serious crime against person, N=142	1.6 (10.6)	2.7 (4.9)	4.0 (2.1)	3.2 (4.2)	5.3 (0.7)	0.0 (0.0)	1.4 (16.2)	3.2 (61.3)	2.5
3. Armed robbery N=414	11.8 (26.3)	6.5 (4.1)	6.8 (1.2)	4.9 (2.2)	10.5 (0.5)	0.0 (0.0)	6.1 (23.7)	6.4 (42.0)	7.2
4. Property crime, N=1908	38.5 (18.6)	33.7 (4.6)	41.9 (1.6)	35.1 (3.4)	36.8 (0.4)	46.2 (0.3)	32.8 (27.2)	30.8 (43.9)	33.0
5. Income-producing victimless crime, N=506	4.9 (8.9)	5.7 (2.9)	12.2 (1.7)	8.1 (2.9)	10.5 (0.4)	7.7 (0.2)	10.7 (33.1)	9.3 (50.0)	8.8
6. Other, N=2122	35.9 (15.6)	47.1 (5.8)	29.7 (1.0)	42.2 (3.7)	31.6 (0.3)	23.1 (0.1)	42.0 (31.4)	32.8 (42.0)	36.7

*N=number and P=proportion of respondents in each category; parentheses indicate row percentages, and numerals not in parentheses indicate column percentages.

416

The data in Table 3 show that in this arrested population the majority currently use illicit drugs and that a significant proportion currently uses expensive substances such as narcotics (16%) and/or cocaine (12%). The proportional distributions by rows and columns are similar to those in Table 1; they show that illicit drug users are less likely to be arrested for crimes against the person and more likely to be arrested for property crimes, especially armed robbery.

A RANKED CURRENT USE INDEX AND ARREST CHARGE

Data in Table 4, which relate the ranked current drug use index and the arrest charge, are similar to the data in Table 2. Almost 70 percent of the crimes against person were charged against nondrug users. Less than 50 percent of the individuals in the other categories of the arrest index did not currently use illicit drugs. About one-third of those in the armed robbery category and one-fifth of those in the property crime category used a narcotic or nothing more than cocaine; these figures indicate that these two types of drug users are overrepresented in the categories of armed robbery and property crimes.

SUMMARY

The data in the four tables are repetitiously consistent. Regardless of the indices used or whether ever regular or current use was analyzed, the relationships are consistent. Drug users, particularly those who use expensive drugs (narcotics and cocaine), are more likely to commit armed robbery and property crimes. Drug users compose the minority of those arrested for crimes against the person and the majority of those arrested for nothing more serious than armed robbery or property crimes; narcotics users are overrepresented in these two crime categories. There is a relationship between drug use and crime and type of drug use and type of crime. Those who use "hard" drugs account for more than their share of income-producing crimes against individuals and property.

REFERENCES

1. Anslinger, H.J., & Thompkins, W.F. *The Traffic in Narcotics*. New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1953.

2. Chein, I., Gerard, D.L., Lee, R.S., & Rosenfeld, E. *The Road to H*. New York: Basic Books, 1964.

3. Dai, B. *Opium Addiction in Chicago*. Shanghai: The Commercial Press, 1937.

4. Eckerman, W.C., Bates, J.D., Rachal, J.V., & Poole, W.K. *Drug use and arrest charges* (NTIS No. PB 251965). Washington, D.C.: Drug Enforcement Administration, 1971.

5. Faris, R. E., & Dunham, W. *Mental disorders in urban areas.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1939.

6. Feldman, H.W., Street status and drug users. *Transaction, Social Science and Modern Society*, 1973, *10*, 32-38.

7. Ford, A.B., Hauser, H. B., & Jackson, E. B., Jr. Use of drugs among persons admitted to a county jail. *Public Health Reports*, 1975, *90*, 504-508.

8. Inciardi, J.A., & Chambers, C.D. (Eds.). *Drugs and the Criminal Justice System.* Beverly Hills: Sage Publications, 1974.

9. Lu, K.H. The indexing and analysis of drug indulgence. *The International Journal of the Addictions*, 1974, *9*, 785-804.

10. O'Donnell, J.A., Voss, H.L., Clayton, R.R., Slatin, G.T., & Room, R.G.W. *Young Men and Drugs: A Nationwide Survey* (NIDA Monograph 5). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1976.

11. Stephens, R.C., & Ellis, R.D. Narcotic addicts and crime: An analysis of recent trends. *Criminology*, 1975, *12*(4), 474-488.

END