

Drug & Violent Crime Control Task Force Report, 2003-2004

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Drug & Violent Crime Control Task Forces

- Consist of federal, state, county, and/or local law enforcement and prosecutors.
- Officers and prosecutors work together as joint investigative teams across jurisdictional lines.
- In 2004, 16 task forces were funded under the Drug and Violent Crime Control Grant Program or Byrne Program.
- Task forces operate in 37 counties representing 83.3% of the population. WVSP BCI operates statewide.



Drug & Violent Crime Control Task Forces

Scope of the Report:

- Report does not account for all drug and violent crime arrests in the state.
- Task forces are specialized drug enforcement units to focus on the more serious crimes and offenders.
- Thus, the report findings may not strictly represent the distribution and nature of all drug and violent crime arrests in the state.



Data Collection

- WV Drug and Violent Crime Control Reporting Form developed by the CJSAC and distributed to task forces to complete.
- Task forces complete for each arrest made during a calendar year.
- Form gathers information on:
 - demographic characteristics of arrestees;
 - charges brought against the offenders; and
 - final disposition and sentence information
- Charge and disposition information is collected for up to ten offenses charged against an offender.



Drug Categories

- Task forces report specific drug involved with each offense charged against an arrestee.
- Specific drugs are grouped into 10 categories:
 - crack cocaine
 - marijuana
 - other opiates
 - stimulants
 - cocaine
 - heroin
 - depressants
 - hallucinogens, and other.



Definitions

- **Other opiates**: Oxycodone or OxyContin, Tylox, Percocet, Dilaudid, hydrocodone or Lortab, and Morphine.
 - Oxycodone (43.5%) or hydrocodone (32.4%)
- **Stimulants**: Adderall, Concerta or Ritalin, and methamphetamine.
 - Methamphetamine (98.3%)
- **Depressants**: Xanax, Valium, Klonopin, and barbituates.
- **Hallucinogens**: MDMA or ecstasy, LSD, Ketamine, and Psilocybin.
- **“Other:**” imitation substances and miscellaneous controlled substances.



Population

- Individuals can be arrested multiple times during a calendar year.
- Each arrestee may have multiple offenses charged against them for a given arrest.

Population, 2003-2004

- A total of 2,115 reported arrests
- 2,047 involved unique individuals
- Resulted in a total of 3,290 offenses
- 3,243 offenses for which a drug was known/reported



County and State Figures

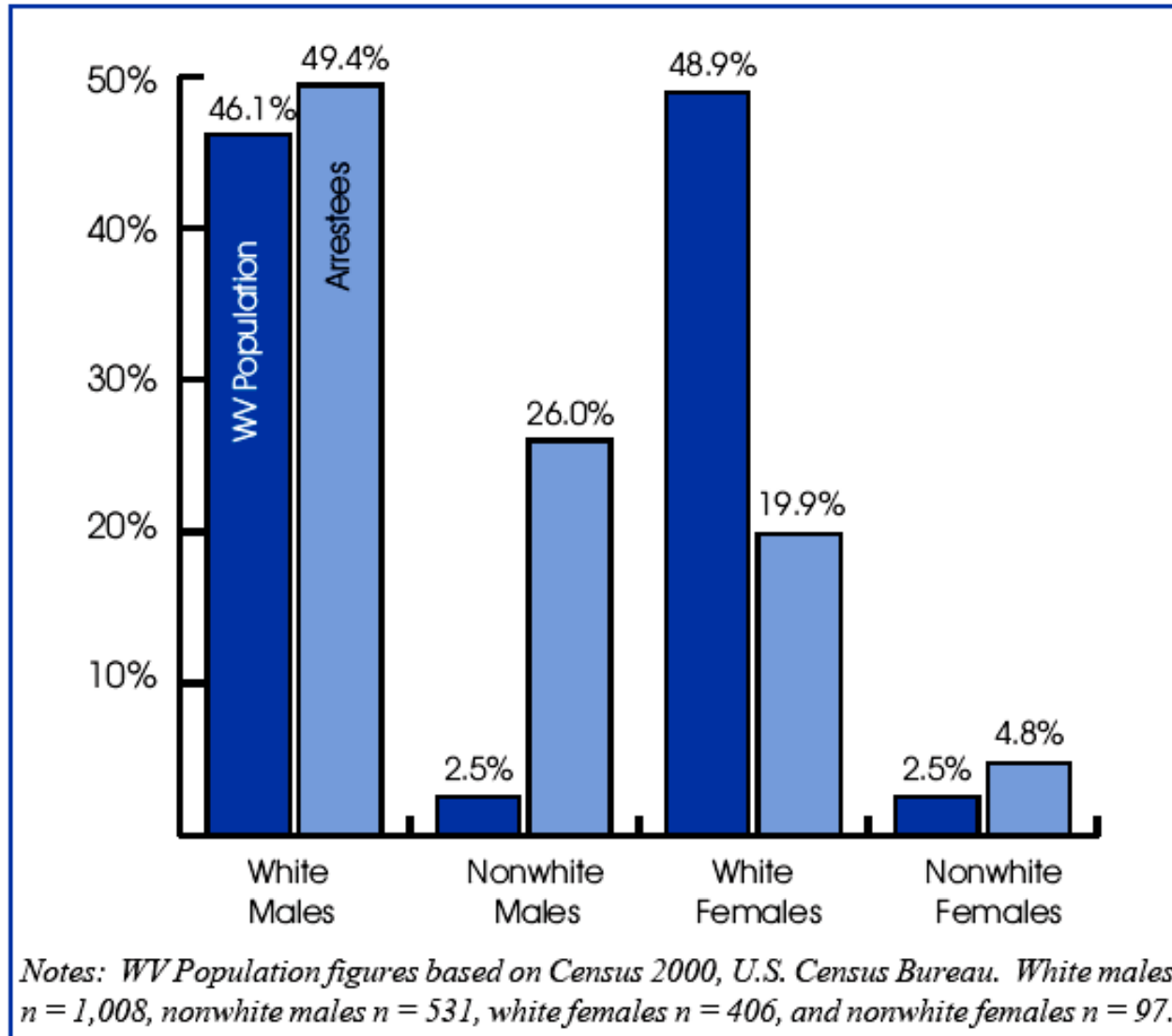
- WV residents accounted for 88.4% of arrestees in 2003-2004.
- The greatest number of arrests were reported for Kanawha (205), Mercer (83), Raleigh (73), and Ohio (72) counties in 2004.
- Statewide the arrest rate was 0.63 arrests per 1,000 residents in 2004, 0.72 for task force counties.
- Highest rates per 1,000 residents in 2004 by county: McDowell (2.43), Nicholas (1.79), Ohio (1.59), Mercer (1.34), and Greenbrier (1.32).



Demographic Characteristics of Arrestees

- Both white and nonwhite males as well as nonwhite females were overrepresented in relation to the WV population.
- Just over three-fourths of arrestees were male.
- Nonwhite males accounted for 26.0% of arrests, but only make up 2.5% of the WV population.
- Thus, nonwhite males are overrepresented in arrests at a rate 10 times their proportion in the population.

Gender and Race of Task Force Arrestees compared to WV Population, 2003-2004 (N = 2,042)





National Figures: Self-Reported Use by Race and Year

- These results are in contrast to self-report figures that show small discrepancies between white, black, and other racial categories in past-drug use.

Percentage of Self-Reported Use in Lifetime among Persons Aged 18 or Older

	2003		2004	
	White	Black	White	Black
Any Illicit Drug	51.1	46.8	51.0	45.7
Prescription-Type	23.5	12.9	23.4	11.9
Cocaine	17.5	12.8	17.3	11.7
Crack	3.5	5.5	3.4	5.9

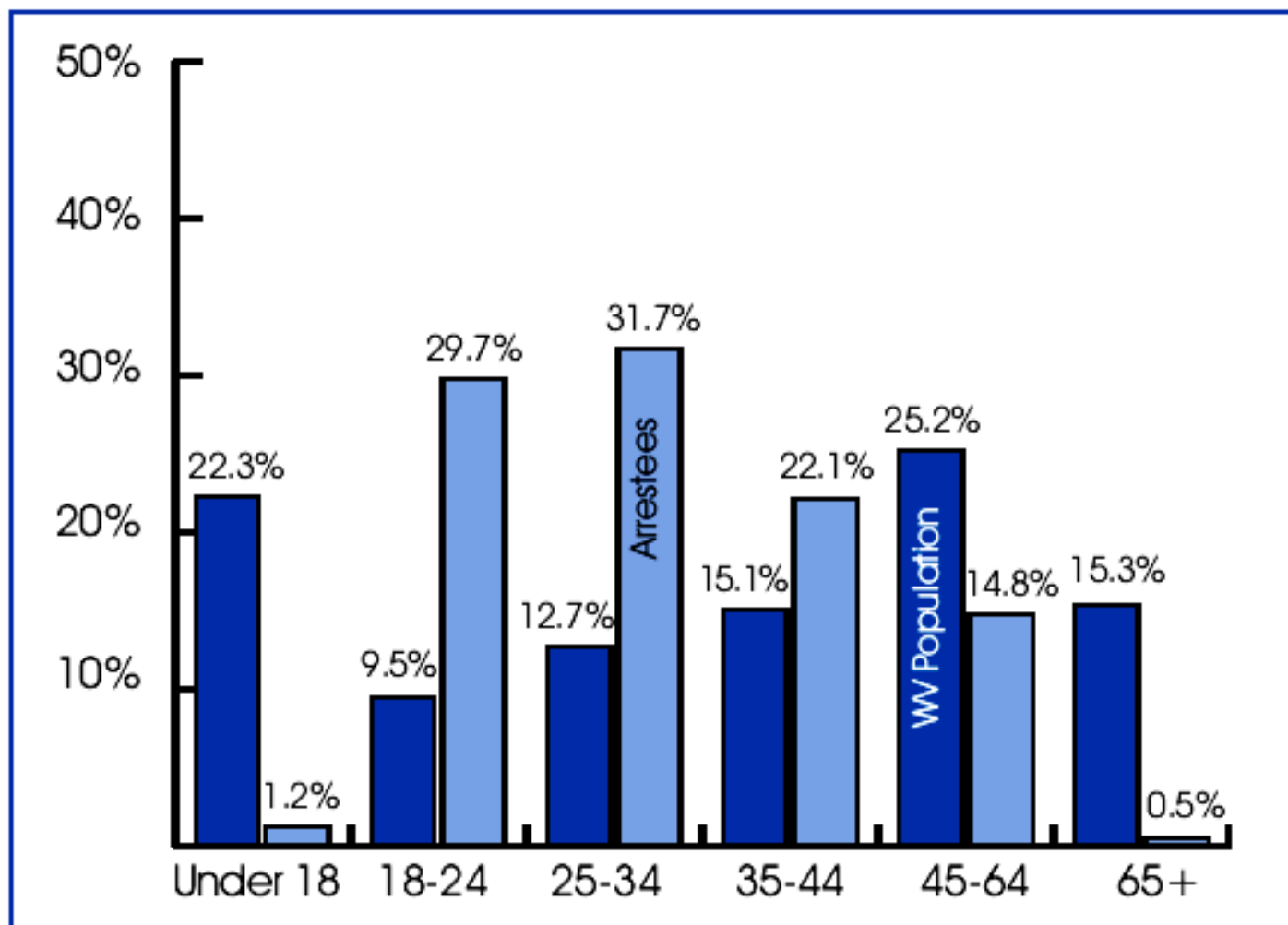
Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2003 and 2004.



Demographic Characteristics of Arrestees

- Females accounted for one-quarter (24.7%) of all arrestees.
 - White females were underrepresented, while nonwhite females were overrepresented.
 - Nonwhite females comprise 2.5% of the population and 4.8% of those arrested.
- Arrestees were most often between the ages 25 and 34.
- Only 1.2% of arrestees were juveniles.
- 18 to 24 year olds were most overrepresented in comparison to WV population, followed by 25-34 year olds.

Arrestee Age Group compared to WV population, 2003-2004 (N = 2,012)



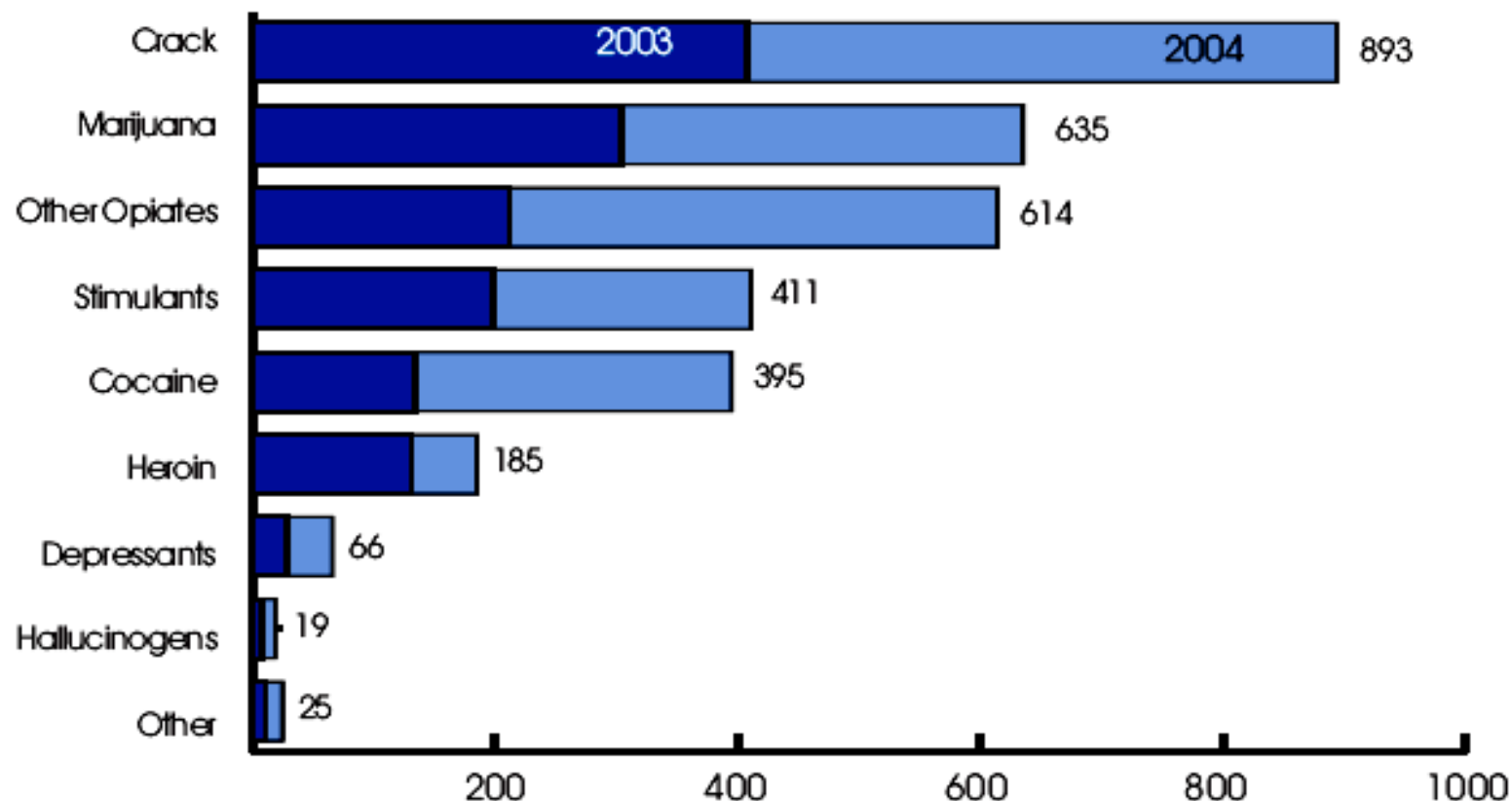


Offenses Charged and Drugs Involved

Offenses reported, 2003-2004:

- Crack cocaine, marijuana, and other opiates accounted for two-thirds of all reported drug offenses.
- Crack cocaine continued to be the most frequently reported drug with a total of 893 offenses.
- Second most frequently reported was marijuana with 635 offenses.
- 614 offenses involved “other opiates.”

Drug Involved for Reported Offenses, 2003-2004 (N = 3,243)



Note: The "Other" category includes imitation substances and other controlled substances not classified elsewhere.



Reported Drug Trends, 2000-2004

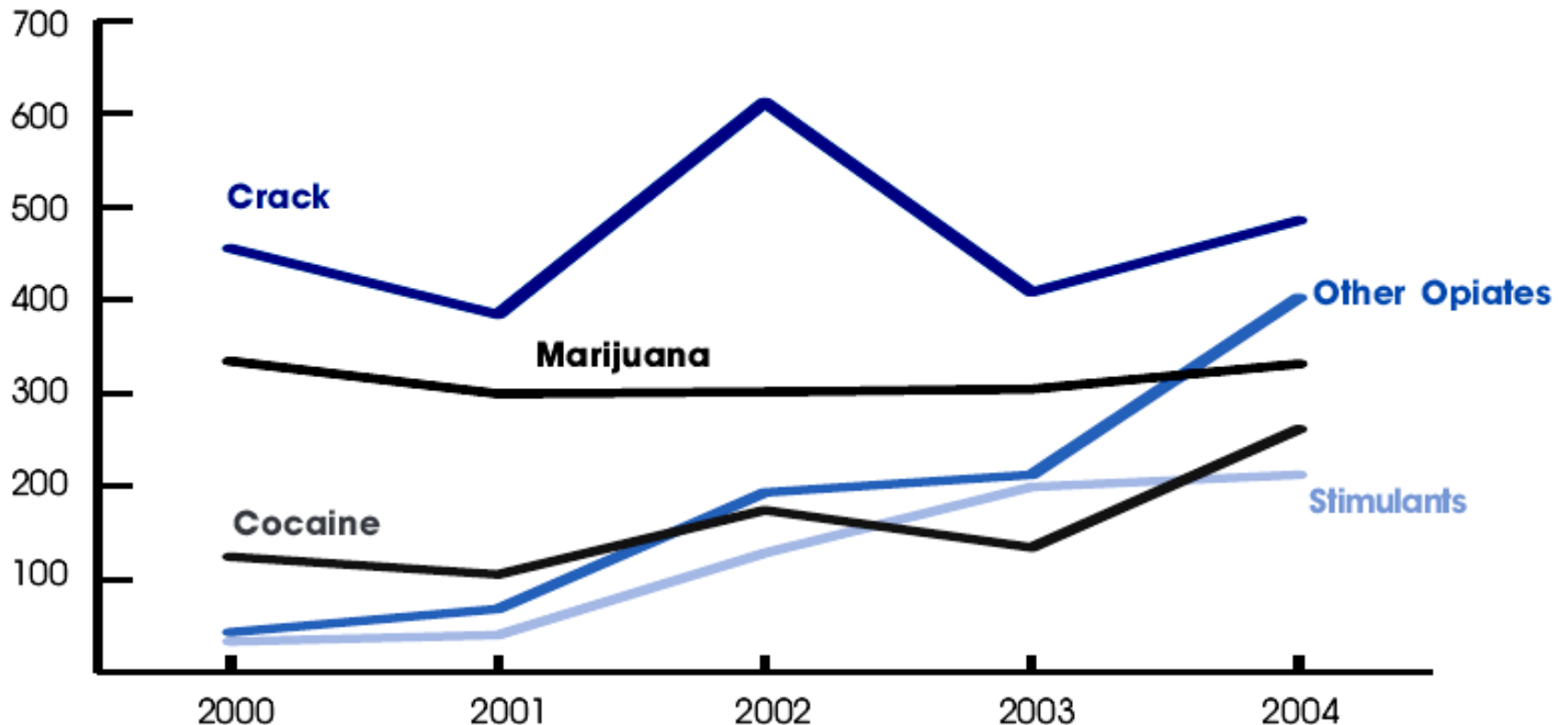
- Crack cocaine has consistently accounted for the greatest number of offenses since 2000.
- Offenses involving other opiates have steadily increased since 2000 to become the second most frequently reported drug in 2004.
- “Other opiates” accounted for 402 of the reported offenses in 2004, an 89.6% increase over the 212 offenses reported in 2003.
- “Other opiates” surpassed marijuana to be the second most reported drug in 2004.



Reported Drug Trends, 2000-2004

- Arrests involving stimulants (methamphetamine) have also increased since 2000.
- There were 33 reported offenses involving stimulants in 2000, compared to 199 in 2003 and 212 in 2004.
- In spite of this increase, only 12.7% of all offenses involved stimulants in 2004.

Drugs Reported by Task Forces, 2000-2004



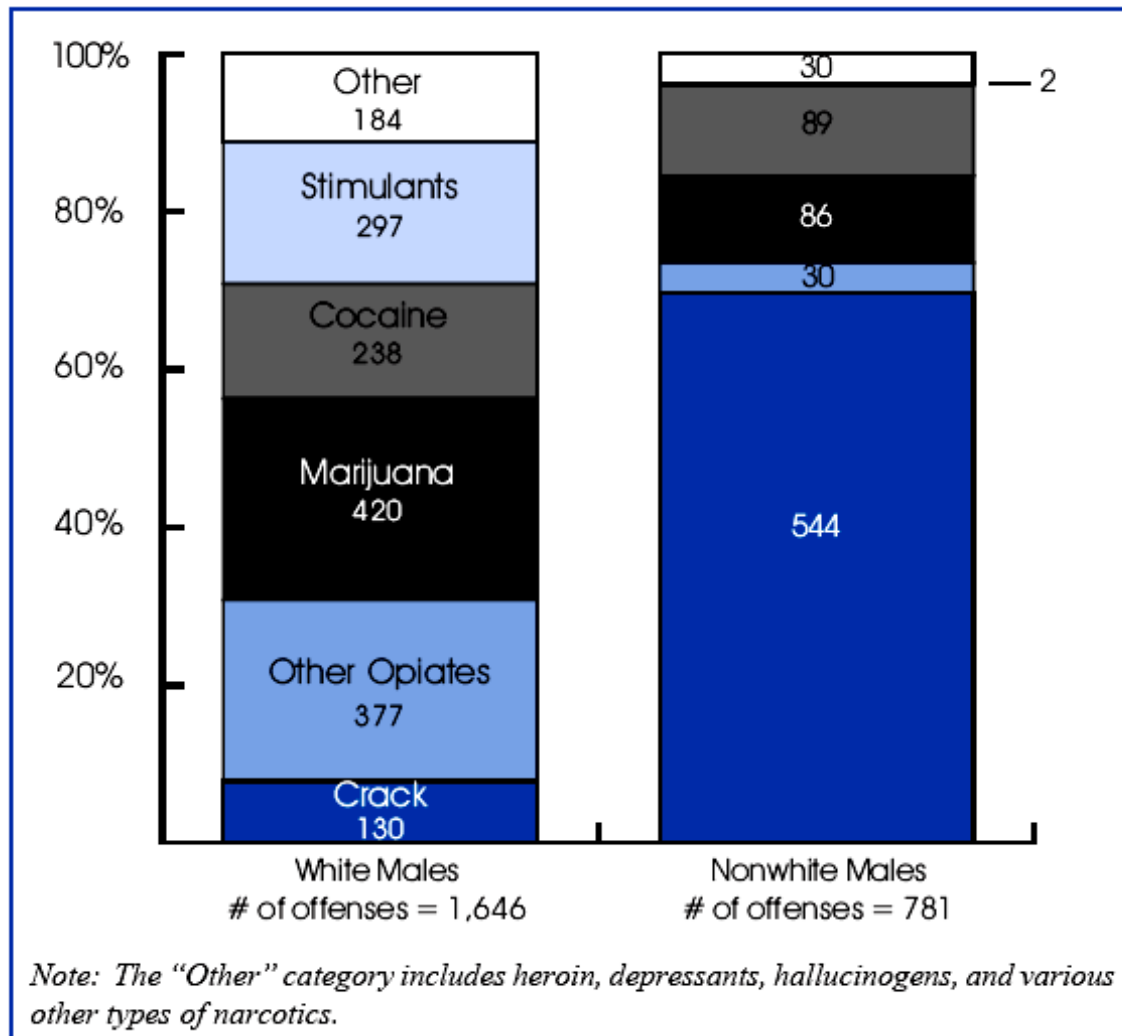
Note: Some drug offenses submitted by the BCI were omitted from analyses in 2000-2001 due to reporting discrepancies.



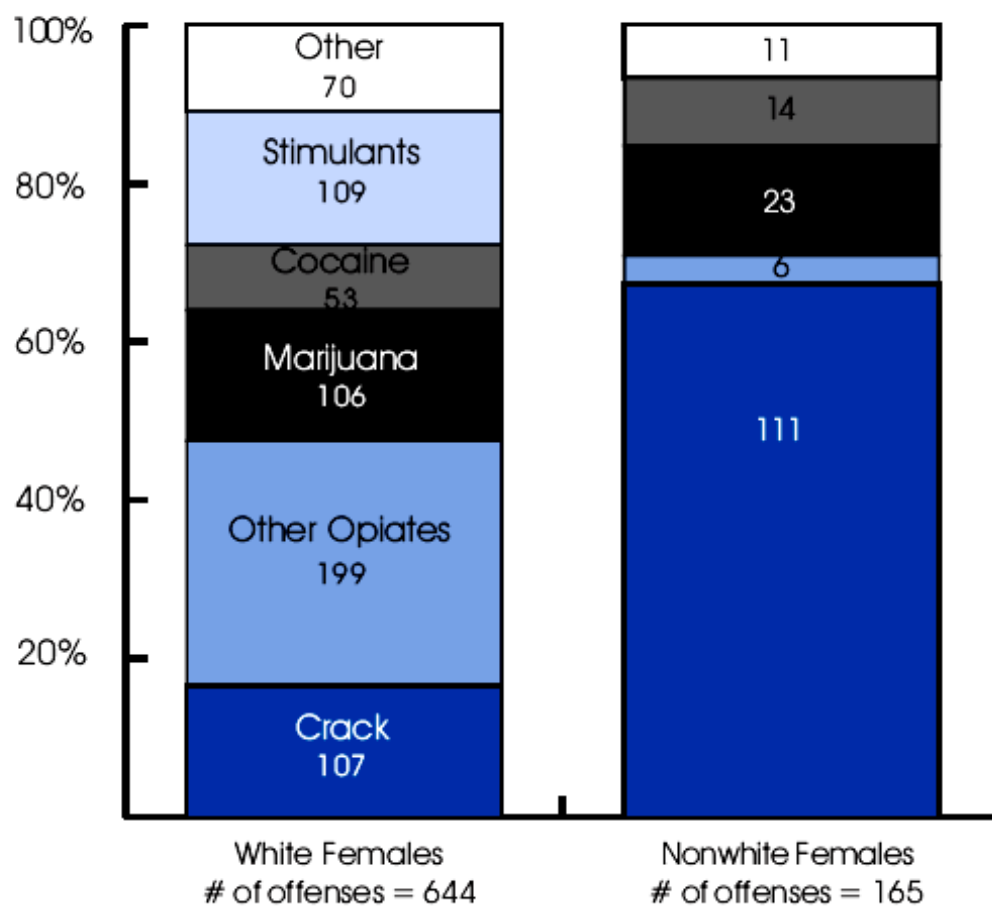
Drug Offenses by Gender & Race

- Nonwhite males and females tend to be overwhelmingly charged with offenses involving crack cocaine.
- Nearly 70.0% of all offenses against nonwhite males and females involved crack cocaine.
- Offenses involving stimulants and “other opiates” were almost exclusively charged against white males and females.

Offenses Charged Against Males by Drug Type and Race, 2003-2004



Offenses Charged Against Females by Drug Type and Race, 2003-2004

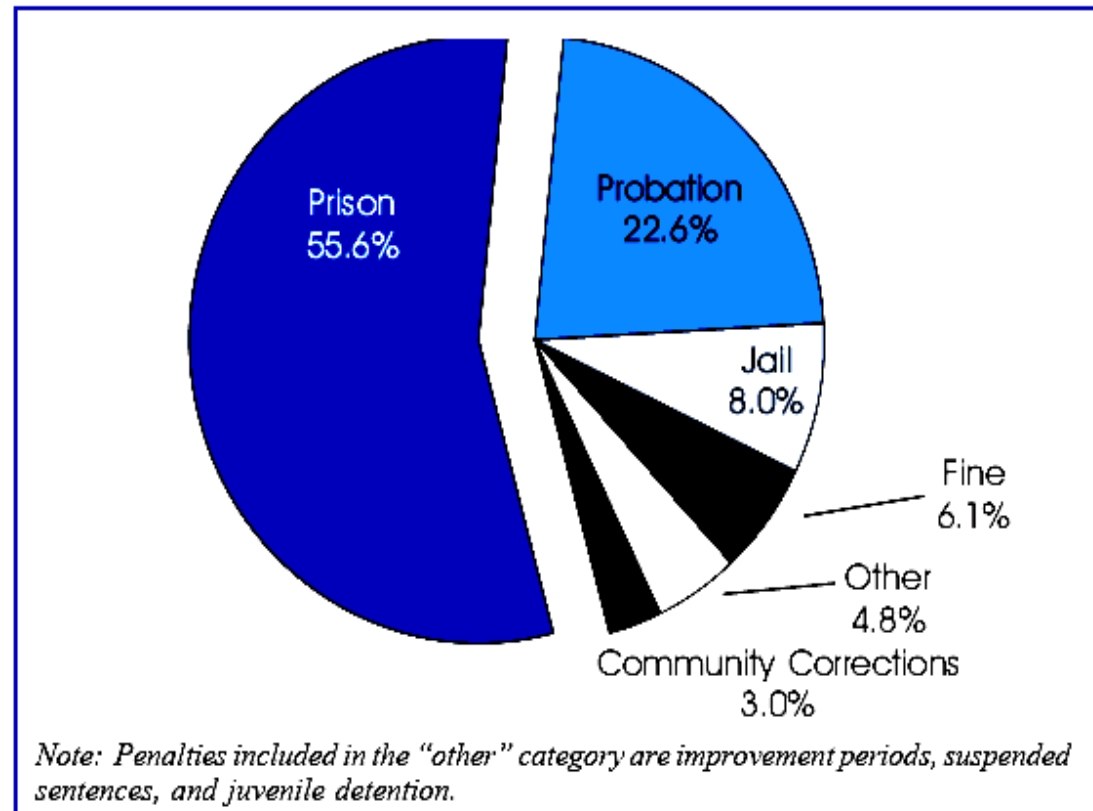


Note: The "Other" category includes heroin, depressants, hallucinogens, and various other types of narcotics.

Penalties Imposed, 2003-2004

(N = 841)

- Prison was the most frequently reported penalty at 55.6%
- 22.6% = probation
- 8.0% = jail
- 6.1% = fine
- 3.0% = community





Penalties by Type of Drug and Offense Charged, 2003-2004

- Prison was by far the most common penalty for all offense types involving crack cocaine, stimulants, and cocaine.
- Only 13.0% of distribution and 28.6% of possession offenses for crack cocaine were given a penalty other than prison.
- Two-thirds of distribution and possession offenses involving stimulants resulted in prison sentences.
- Over 70.0% of distribution and possession offenses involving cocaine resulted in prison.

Penalty by Type of Drug and Offense Charged, 2003-2004 (N = 827)

	Prison	Jail	Probation	Other
Crack				
Distribution (n = 131)	87.0%	3.1%	6.1%	3.8%
Possession (n = 63)	71.4%	9.5%	6.3%	12.7%
Other (n = 31)	80.6%	3.2%	6.5%	9.7%
Marijuana				
Distribution (n = 79)	34.2%	11.4%	38.0%	16.5%
Possession (n = 85)	17.6%	12.9%	47.1%	22.4%
Other (n = 48)	31.3%	12.5%	29.2%	27.1%
Other Opiates				
Distribution (n = 75)	37.3%	8.0%	45.3%	9.3%
Possession (n = 24)	25.0%	4.2%	25.0%	45.8%
Other (n = 28)	28.6%	7.1%	35.7%	28.6%
Stimulants				
Distribution (n = 15)	66.7%	13.3%	13.3%	6.7%
Possession (n = 15)	66.7%	6.7%	13.3%	13.3%
Other (n = 45)	55.6%	13.3%	15.6%	15.6%
Cocaine				
Distribution (n = 47)	74.5%	2.1%	12.8%	10.6%
Possession (n = 20)	70.0%	10.0%	5.0%	15.0%
Other (n = 26)	84.6%	0.0%	15.4%	0.0%
Other				
Distribution (n = 45)	68.9%	6.7%	17.8%	6.7%
Possession (n = 14)	28.6%	21.4%	35.7%	14.3%
Other (n = 36)	75.0%	5.6%	11.1%	8.3%

Notes: "Other" penalties include fines, community corrections, and other. "Other" drugs include heroin, depressants, hallucinogens, and other. "Other" offenses include conspiracy, cultivation, and other.