

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

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Drug and violent crime control task forces represent specialized drug enforcement units that combine both prosecutorial and investigative resources to target violent crime and drug abuse in WV. These multi-jurisdictional task forces bring together federal, state, county, and/or local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to enhance interagency coordination and facilitate the investigation of drug and violent crimes. Thus, officers and prosecutors from all levels of government work together as joint investigative teams across jurisdictional lines to target carefully selected and often the more serious forms of crime and offenders. This approach helps ensure aggressive

investigations resulting in maximum enforcement and use of resources.

In 2004, 16 multi-jurisdictional task forces received funding under the Drug and Violent Crime Control Grant Program (Byrne) in West Virginia. Each of these task forces covered jurisdictions ranging from one to five counties, excluding the WV State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) which operates statewide. As a result, these task forces were in operation in a total of 37 of the 55 WV counties in 2004. These 37 counties are estimated to account for approximately 83.3% of the population of residents in WV.

This report provides a statistical summary of arrests reported by these

Table 1 Number of Arrests by Task Force

Task Force	2003	2004
WVSP Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI)*	76	120
Central WV Drug Task Force	44	48
Eastern Panhandle Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	29	38
Greenbrier County Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	31	45
Hancock/Brooke/Weirton Drug Task Force	89	35
Harrison and Lewis County Drug Task Force	67	61
Huntington Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	58	51
Metro Drug Enforcement Network Team	189	256
Mon Valley Drug Task Force	43	37
Ohio Valley Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	57	74
Parkersburg Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force	42	32
Potomac Highlands Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	15	16
Southern Regional Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	65	153
Three Rivers Drug & Violent Crime Task Force**	---	29
Trilateral Drug Enforcement Network Team	79	94
US 119 (Logan) Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	65	77
Total	949	1,166

*BCI officers assigned full time to one of the other task forces are to report their arrests for that task force, not BCI.

**Three Rivers received funding beginning in July 2004.

State of West Virginia
Department of Military Affairs & Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice Services

Report Highlights

*Crack cocaine has consistently accounted for the greatest number of offenses reported by the task forces since 2000.

*Offenses involving "other opiates" have steadily increased since 2000 to become the second most frequently reported drug in 2004.

*While offenses involving stimulants or methamphetamine have been on the rise, this group still accounts for only about 12.0% of reported drug offenses.

* While nonwhite males accounted for only 2.5% of the WV population, they comprised 26.0% of all task force arrests in 2003 and 2004.

*Nearly 70.0% of offenses charged against nonwhites involved crack cocaine.

*Over 60.0% of arrestees were under the age of 35; however, only 1.2% were juveniles.

*Distribution was the most frequently reported type of offense overall, as well as specifically for crack, other opiates, and cocaine.

*In 2004, 28.9% of arrestees had a prior drug-related arrest while 9.6% reported a previous arrest for a violent offense.

*Mandatory drug treatment was ordered in 11.6% of all arrests resulting in a conviction in 2004.

*A total of 33 arrestees were ordered to complete a drug treatment program in 2004.



specialized multi-jurisdictional units in 2003 and 2004. Since drug and violent crime arrests are also made by other state, county, and local law enforcement officers not involved with the task forces, this report does not account for all drug and violent crime arrests in the state. Instead, this report focuses solely on those arrests reported by these 16 task forces which may not strictly represent the nature and distribution of *all* drug and violent crime arrests in the state for a given year.

This report begins with a description of the individuals arrested by task force units in 2003 and 2004. The demographic and legal characteristics of persons arrested including the county in which these task force arrests took place are summarized. This discussion is followed by an analysis of offenses charged and disposed of during this two-year period. Important trends in the distribution of

drugs involved in task force arrests between 2000 and 2004 are also highlighted. This report concludes with a brief description of the penalties imposed on individuals and for offenses reported in 2003 and 2004.

Characteristics of Arrestees

Just over three-fourths of those arrested in 2003 and 2004 were male. Both white and nonwhite males were overrepresented in relation to West Virginia's population (Graph 1). White males accounted for 49.4% of arrestees and 46.1% of the population. According to 2000 U.S. Census estimates, nonwhite males accounted for only 2.5% of the population in WV. However, nonwhite males comprised 26.0% of all task force arrestees in 2003 and 2004.

Females accounted for 24.7% of arrestees. White females were underrepresented in arrests, while

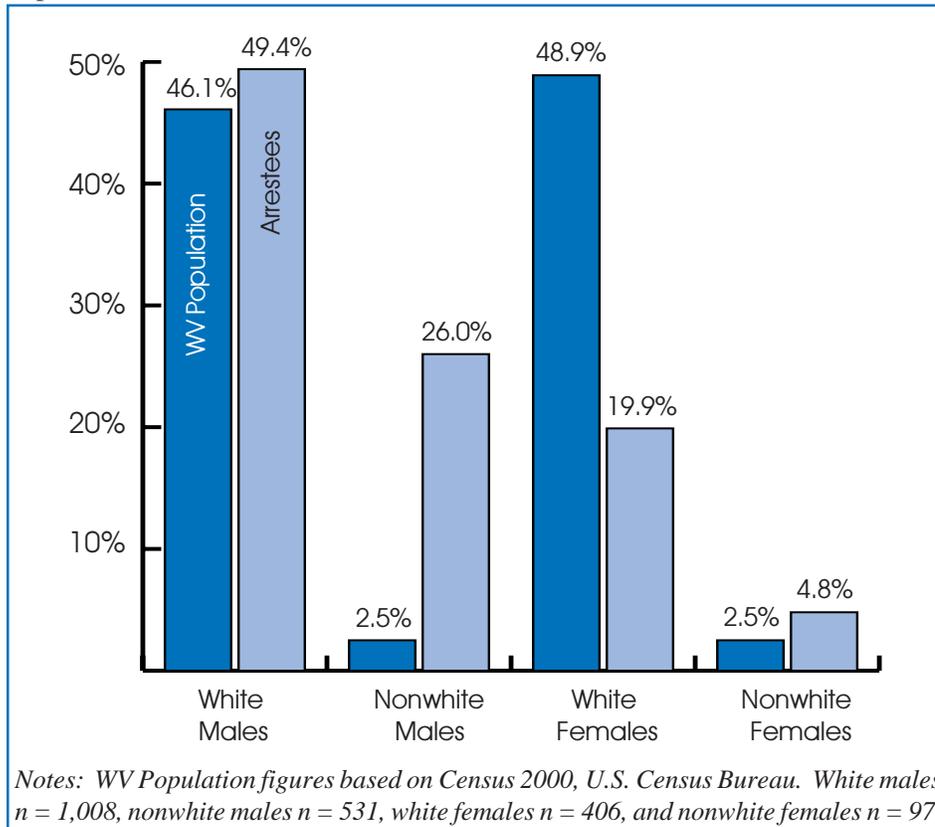
nonwhite females were overrepresented (Graph 1). While nearly 50.0% of the population is comprised of white females, this group accounted for only 19.9% arrestees. Conversely, nonwhite females make up approximately 2.5% of the WV population and 4.8% of task force arrestees.

Arrestees were most often between the ages of 25 and 34 (31.7%). As shown in Graph 2, only 12.7% of WV's population falls into this age group. Eighteen to twenty-four year olds accounted for the second largest group of arrestees (29.7%). This group was most overrepresented as only 9.5% of the population are 18 to 24 year olds. Also overrepresented in relation to the state population were 35 to 44 year olds. Only 1.2% of arrestees were juveniles. On average, offenders were 33 years of age at the time of their arrest. The youngest arrestee was 14, while the oldest was 77 years of age.

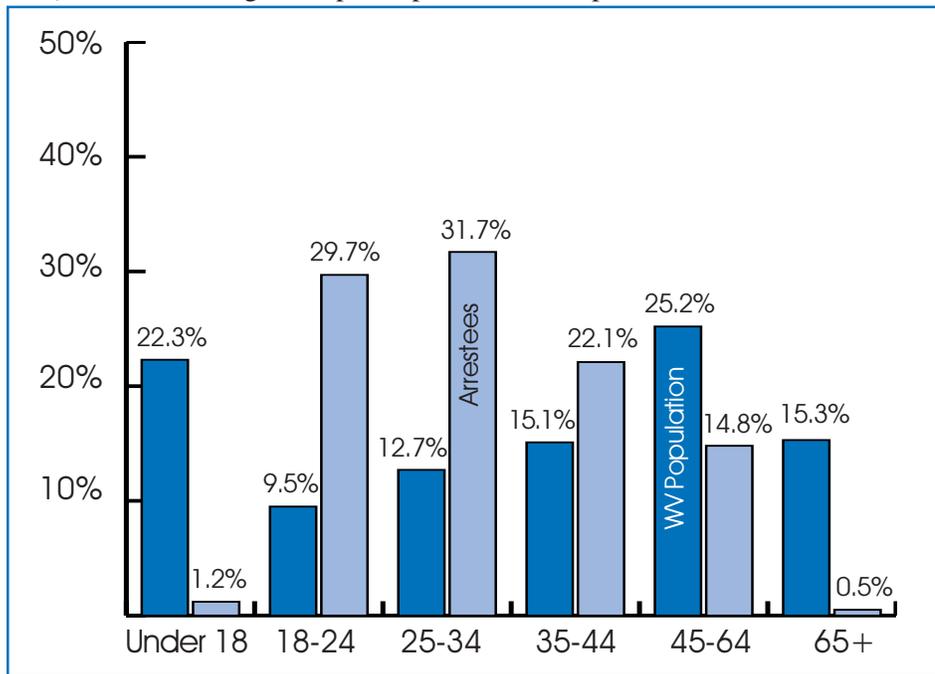
Task forces reported that 48.7% of those arrested in 2003 had been arrested in the past. Nearly 30.0% had previous convictions and 17.1% had prior drug-related convictions. A total of 80 (8.4%) offenders had one or more firearms in their possession at the time of their arrest in 2003.

In 2004, prior arrest and conviction information was reported for drug-related and violent crime separately. It was reported that 28.9% of those arrested in 2004 had prior drug-related arrests. Previous convictions for drug-related crimes were reported for 18.4% of arrestees. Prior violent crime arrests were reported for 9.6% of arrestees in 2004. Only 6.6% of arrestees had prior convictions for violent crimes, according to task force reports. In 2004, 83 (7.1%) offenders were reported to have one or more firearms in their possession at the time of arrest.

Graph 1 Race and Gender of Task Force Arrestees Compared to the WV Population, 2003-2004 (N = 2,042)



Graph 2 Arrestee Age Group Compared to WV Population, 2003-2004 (N = 2,012)



West Virginia residents accounted for 88.4% of arrestees in 2003-2004. The greatest number of out-of-state arrestees were from Ohio, Pennsylvania, or Michigan.

Table 2 illustrates the distribution of the 1,147 arrests by county for 2004. Arrest rates are also calculated based on 2004 population estimates. It is important to note that only the offender's home county was collected in prior years. Thus, caution should be taken when making county comparisons across time.

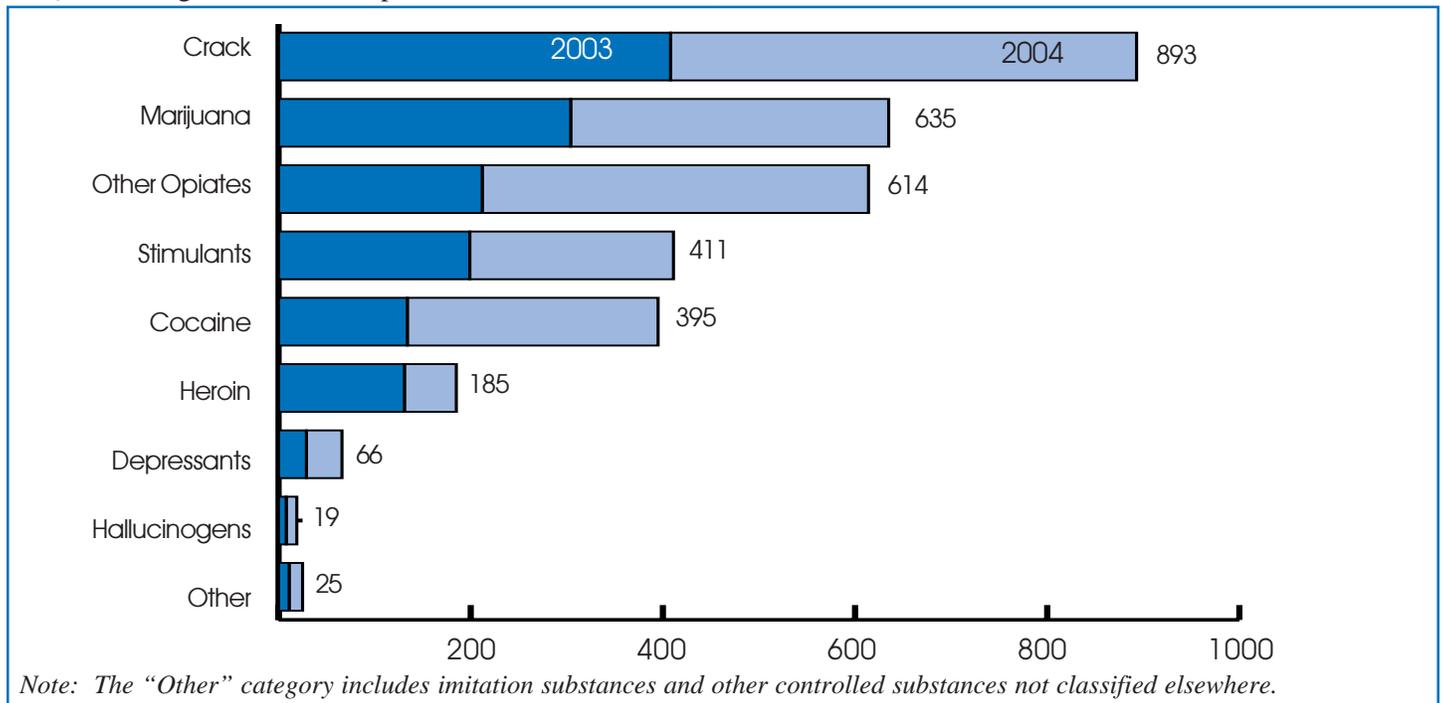
The greatest number of arrests were reported for Kanawha County (205). Over 50 arrests were reported for Mercer (83), Raleigh (73), Ohio (72), Harrison (60), McDowell (60), and Putnam (53) counties.

Table 2 County of Arrest, 2004

County	Number of Arrests	Estimated Population	Arrest Rate	County	Number of Arrests	Estimated Population	Arrest Rate
Barbour	0	15,476	0.00	Mineral	0	27,145	0.00
Berkeley	31	89,362	0.35	Mingo	6	27,389	0.22
Boone	28	25,721	1.09	Monongalia	37	83,918	0.44
Braxton	0	14,950	0.00	Monroe	0	13,568	0.00
Brooke	18	24,785	0.73	Morgan	0	15,810	0.00
Cabell	36	94,801	0.38	Nicholas	47	26,276	1.79
Calhoun	0	7,415	0.00	Ohio	72	45,410	1.59
Clay	0	10,424	0.00	Pendleton	8	7,897	1.01
Doddridge	3	7,418	0.40	Pleasants	0	7,441	0.00
Fayette	47	47,049	1.00	Pocahontas	1	8,995	0.11
Gilmer	8	6,982	1.15	Preston	0	29,856	0.00
Grant	1	11,537	0.09	Putnam	53	53,836	0.98
Greenbrier	46	34,886	1.32	Raleigh	73	79,175	0.92
Hampshire	2	21,542	0.09	Randolph	34	28,495	1.19
Hancock	16	31,507	0.51	Ritchie	0	10,486	0.00
Hardy	4	13,209	0.30	Roane	2	15,359	0.13
Harrison	60	68,303	0.88	Summers	1	13,809	0.07
Jackson	0	28,477	0.00	Taylor	0	16,202	0.00
Jefferson	8	47,663	0.17	Tucker	1	7,046	0.14
Kanawha	205	195,218	1.05	Tyler	0	9,365	0.00
Lewis	4	17,132	0.23	Upshur	2	23,996	0.08
Lincoln	10	22,564	0.44	Wayne	2	42,515	0.05
Logan	46	36,502	1.26	Webster	2	9,849	0.20
Marion	36	56,453	0.64	Wetzel	0	17,048	0.00
Marshall	10	34,722	0.29	Wirt	0	5,835	0.00
Mason	0	25,941	0.00	Wood	32	87,100	0.37
McDowell	60	24,726	2.43	Wyoming	12	24,698	0.49
Mercer	83	62,070	1.34	Task Force Counties	1,086	1,512,016	0.72
				Total WV	1,147	1,815,354	0.63

Notes: Counties shown in bold are covered by one of the 15 multi-jurisdictional task forces. County of arrest was missing for 19 arrestees. Population estimates for 2004 obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau.

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



McDowell County had the highest arrest rate at 2.43 arrests per 1,000 residents. Statewide the arrest rate was 0.63 arrests per 1,000 residents. Seventeen counties had an arrest rate greater than the statewide average. When only those 37 counties specifically

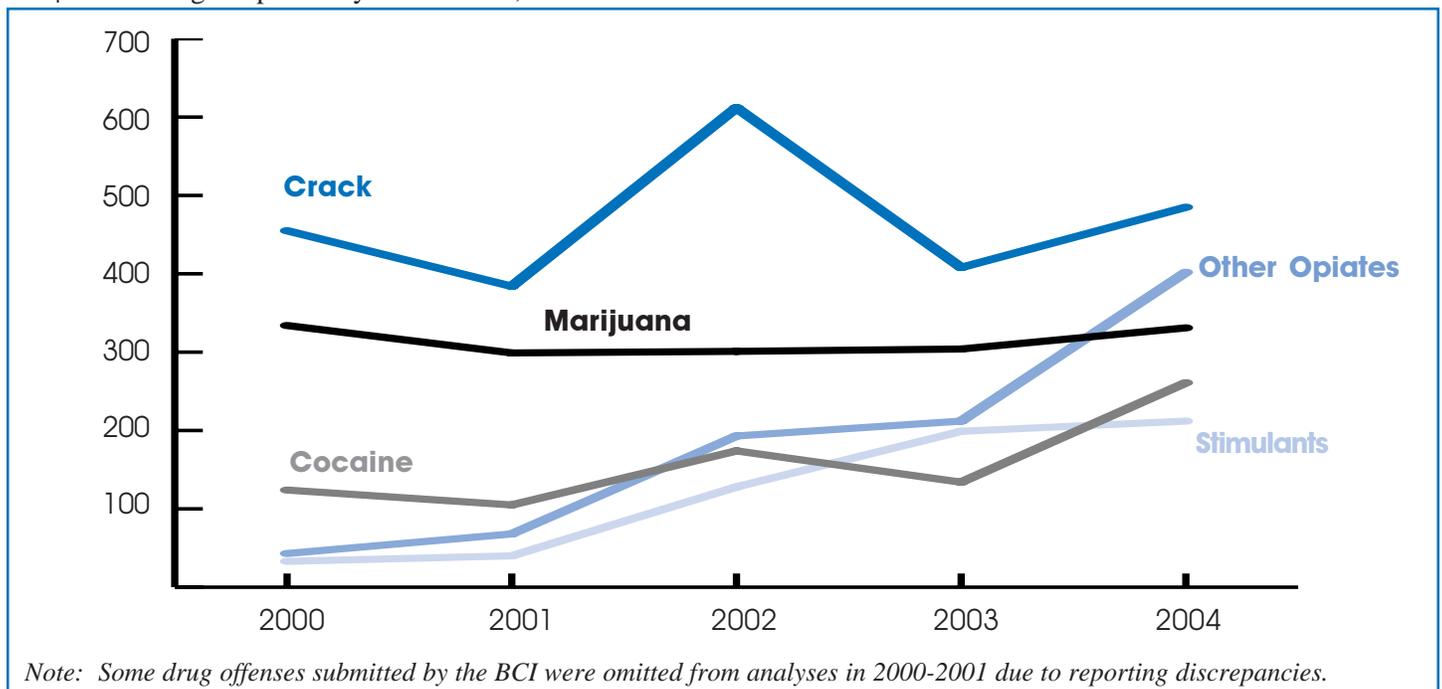
targeted by a multi-jurisdictional task force are included, the arrest rate increases to 0.72 per 1,000 residents.

Offenses Charged

A total of 3,290 offenses were charged against arrestees in 2003 and 2004. Only 36 or 1.9% of the offenses

reported in 2004 were for violent crimes. The majority of these were firearms violations, fugitive from justice, or witness retaliation. The remainder of this report focuses on the drug offenses brought against those arrested by the task forces in 2003 and 2004.

Graph 4 Drugs Reported by Task Forces, 2000-2004



Drugs Involved

In the 2,115 arrests reported in 2003 and 2004 a total of 3,243 offenses charged included the specific drug involved. These 3,243 drug charges are categorized in Graph 3.

Crack cocaine, marijuana, and other opiates accounted for two-thirds of all reported drug offenses in 2003-2004. Crack cocaine continued to be the most frequently reported drug with a total of 893 offenses. Marijuana was the second most frequently reported drug with 635 offenses during the two year period. A total of 614 offenses involved other opiates.

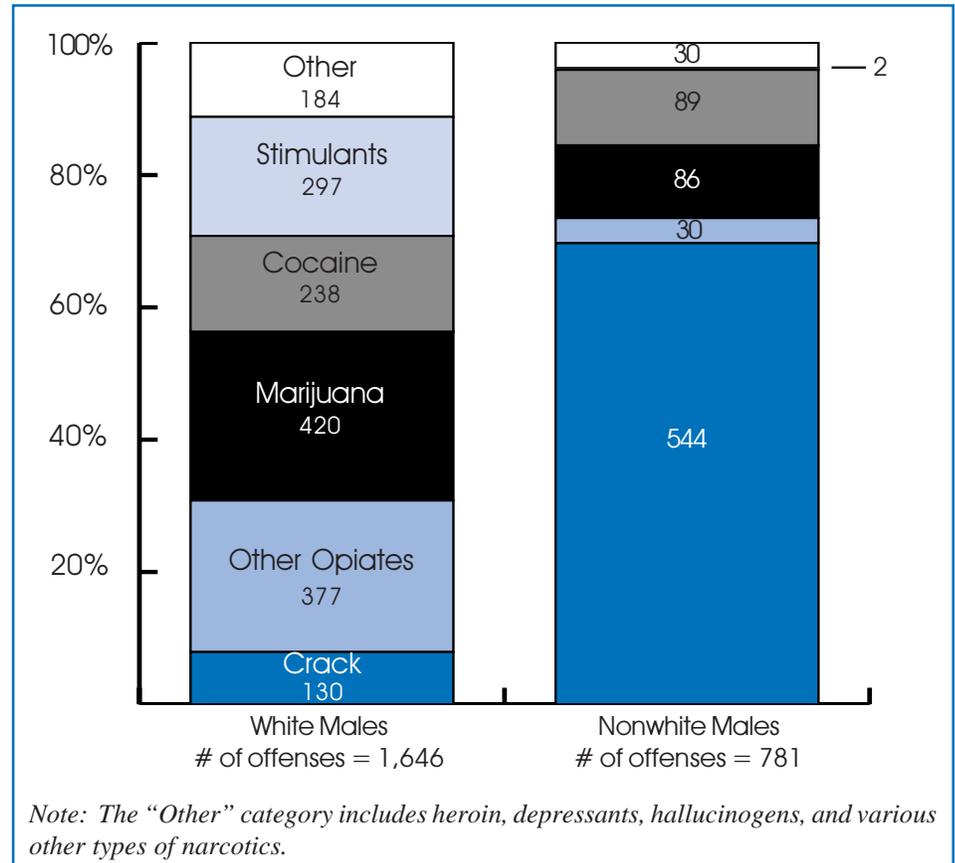
An average of 314 offenses involved marijuana annually since 2000. As Graph 4 illustrates, these offenses remained relatively stable over the five year period. On the other hand, considerable variation is shown for offenses involving crack cocaine. These offenses declined from 612 in 2002 to 408 in 2003 before increasing again to 485 in 2004. Despite these fluctuations, crack cocaine has consistently accounted for the largest proportion of offenses reported by task forces since 2000.

Other opiates surpassed marijuana in 2004 to be the second most reported drug in that year (Graph 4). Arrests involving this drug group increased during this five year period. Other opiates accounted for 402 of the reported offenses in 2004, an 89.6% increase over the 212 offenses reported in 2003.

Graph 4 depicts the trend in reported offenses involving the category stimulants since 2000. It is important to note that methamphetamine accounted for 404 or 98.3% of all arrests for stimulants in 2003 and 2004.

Arrests for offenses involving stimulants have also increased since

Graph 5 Offenses Charged Against Males by Drug Type and Race, 2003-2004



Graph 6 Offenses Charged Against Females by Drug Type and Race, 2003-2004

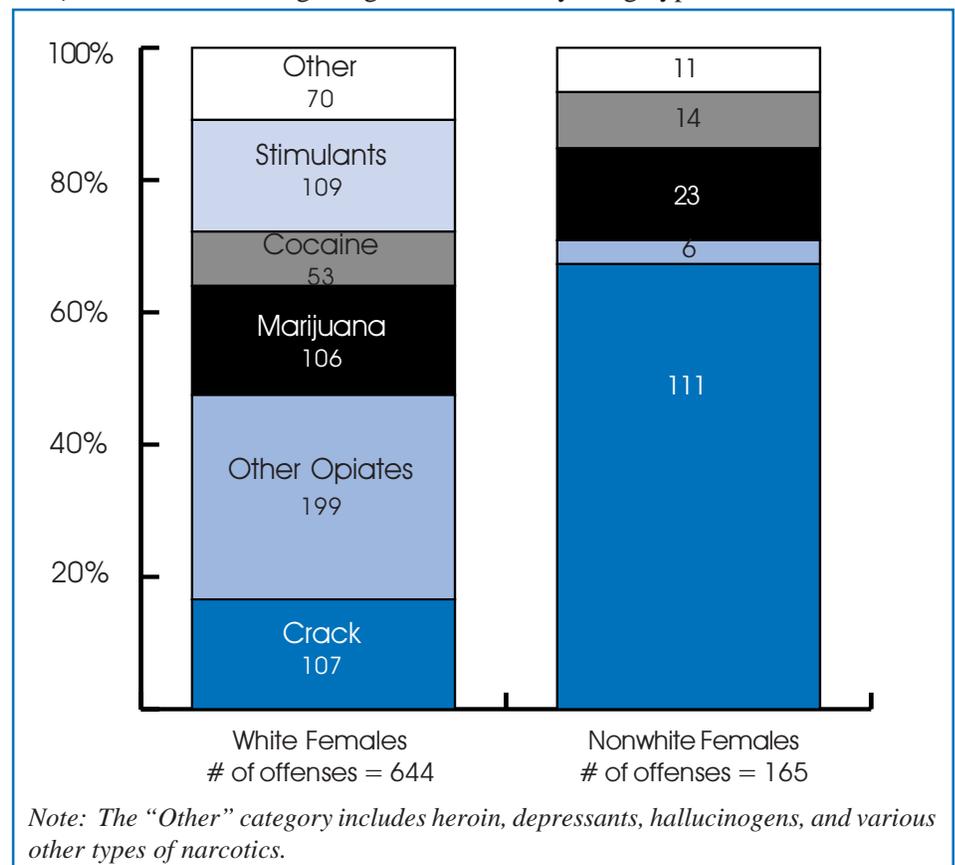


Table 3 Charge by Type of Drug, 2003-2004 (N = 3,219)

	Total	Distribution		Possession		Conspiracy		Cultivation/ Manufacture		Other	
Crack	887	380	42.8%	236	26.6%	189	21.3%	3	0.3%	79	8.9%
Marijuana	628	160	25.5%	299	47.6%	86	13.7%	61	9.7%	22	3.5%
Other Opiates	611	328	53.7%	138	22.6%	99	16.2%	0	0.0%	46	7.5%
Stimulants	408	63	15.4%	63	15.4%	70	17.2%	117	28.7%	95	23.3%
Cocaine	393	141	35.9%	107	27.2%	94	23.9%	0	0.0%	51	13.0%
Heroin	183	66	36.1%	29	15.8%	62	33.9%	0	0.0%	26	14.2%
Depressants	66	26	39.4%	24	36.4%	9	13.6%	0	0.0%	7	10.6%
Hallucinogens	18	5	27.8%	4	22.2%	5	27.8%	0	0.0%	4	22.2%
Other	25	11	44.0%	6	24.0%	2	8.0%	1	4.0%	5	20.0%
Total	3,219	1,180		906		616		182		335	

Note: "Other" offenses include prescription fraud, transporting across state lines, and aiding and abetting.

2000 (Graph 4). There were 199 offenses involving stimulants reported in 2003 and 212 in 2004. In 2000, only 33 reported offenses involved stimulants. Despite the increase in arrests for offenses involving stimulants, only 12.7% of all offenses involved stimulants during this period.

Offenses involving cocaine dropped to 134 in 2003 before increasing again in 2004 to exceed stimulants. Cocaine was involved in 261 of the reported offenses in 2004. Heroin, depressants, hallucinogens, and other types of narcotics were also reported to a lesser extent.

Gender, Race, and Drug

Graphs 5 and 6 illustrate the variation in type of drug involved by the gender and race of the arrestee. White males and females were charged with offenses involving a wider distribution of drug types. Nonwhite males and females, however, were overwhelmingly charged with offenses involving crack cocaine.

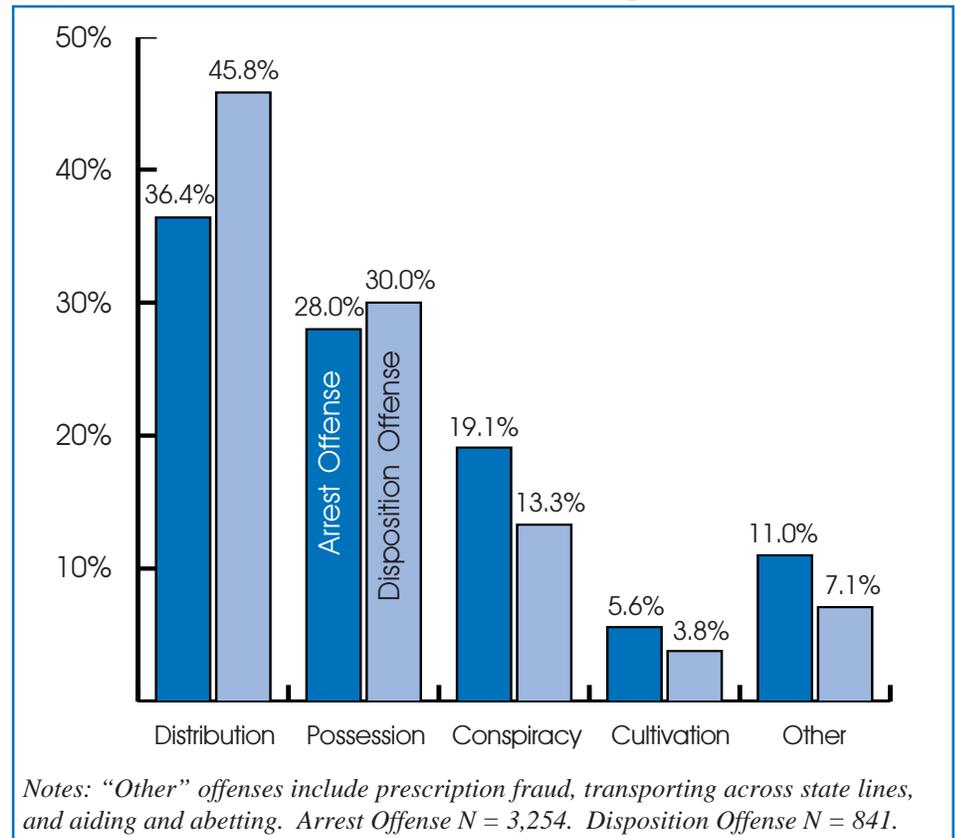
The greatest number of offenses committed by white males involved

marijuana (420 or 25.5%). Crack cocaine (130 or 7.9%) accounted for the least number of offenses against white males. Other opiates (199 or 30.9%) were most often the drug involved in offenses against white females.

Stimulants, crack, and marijuana each accounted for about 16.0% of offenses against white females.

Nonwhite males and females both were charged with more offenses involving crack cocaine than any other

Graph 7 Distribution of Offenses at Arrest and Disposition, 2003-2004



drug (544 and 111, respectively). Nearly 70.0% of all offenses against nonwhites involved crack cocaine.

Offenses involving stimulants or methamphetamine were almost exclusively charged against white males and females. Nonwhite males were charged with only 2 offenses involving stimulants, while none were charged against nonwhite females.

Charge by Type of Drug

Table 3 shows the distribution of offenses charged for each type of drug reported. The offense of distribution was the most frequently reported type of charge for offenses involving crack cocaine (42.8%), other opiates (53.7%), and cocaine (35.9%).

Offenses involving marijuana were more likely to be possession type charges (47.6%). Only about one-fourth of offenses involving marijuana were for distribution.

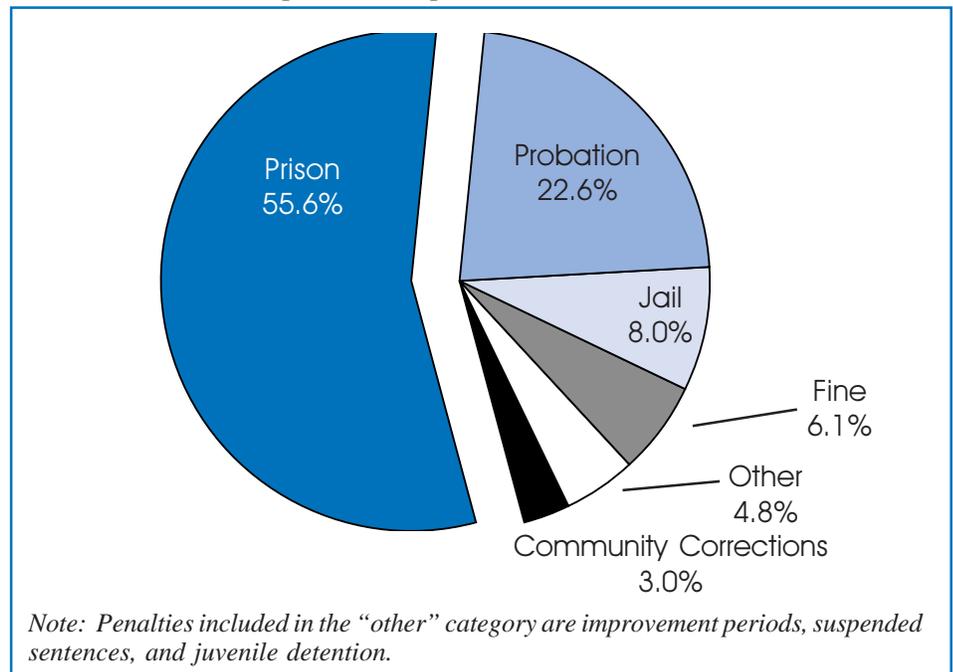
The greatest percentage of offenses involving stimulants were cultivation/manufacturing charges (28.7%). Operating a methamphetamine lab accounts for the majority of these charges.

Table 4 Disposition by Charge Type, 2003-2004

	Convicted	Not Convicted
Distribution (n = 506)	78.9%	21.1%
Possession (n = 330)	65.2%	34.8%
Other (n = 489)	45.8%	54.2%
Total (N = 1,325)	63.2%	36.8%

Note: "Other" includes conspiracy, cultivation, and other offense types.

Graph 8 Penalties Imposed for Reported Offenses, 2003-2004 (N = 841)



Dispositions

Graph 7 illustrates the distribution of reported offenses by type of charge at arrest and disposition. Disposition offenses are recorded only for those offenses resulting in a conviction. Distribution was the most frequently reported type of charge both at arrest (36.4%) and disposition (45.8%).

Possession accounted for 28.0% of all offenses charged at arrest and 30.0% of reported disposition offenses. While 5.6% of arrest offenses were for cultivation/manufacturing, only 3.8% of disposed offenses were for this type of charge.

Nearly half (48.0%) of all offenses charged were initiated by an indictment. Other offenses were charged by warrants (29.2%), on-site arrests (22.1%), juvenile petitions (0.4%), and subpoenas (0.2%).

At the time of arrest, the majority of charges filed were state charges (74.8%). Federal charges were filed for 23.9% of the arrests. Of those cases with a reported disposition, 60.7% were disposed at the state level. It was

reported that charges were disposed at the federal level for just over one-third (34.8%) of arrests.

The majority of offenses were charged at the felony level (92.5%). Only 7.5% of offenses were reported to be misdemeanors.

A disposition was reported for 40.7% of all offenses charged in 2003 and 2004. When both arrest and disposition dates were reported, the average length of time from arrest to disposition was 198 days for arrests made in 2003 and 141 days for 2004 arrests.

The conviction rate for those offenses disposed was 63.2% (Table 4). Distribution offenses had a slightly higher conviction rate at 78.9%. Just under two-thirds (65.2%) of possession offenses resulted in a conviction. Over half of conspiracy, cultivation, and other offenses did not result in a conviction.

Penalties

The type of penalty imposed was reported for 841 offenses in 2003 and 2004 (Graph 8). Prison was the most

Table 5 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.

frequently reported penalty (55.6%). Over 20.0% of offenses resulted in a penalty of probation. Jail (8.0%), fines (6.1%), and community corrections (3.0%) were also reported penalties.

In 2004, task forces were also asked to report whether the offender was ordered by the court to complete any type of drug treatment program. Of the 285 arrests in 2004 resulting in a conviction, 11.6% included mandatory drug treatment as part of the disposition. Only 33 arrestees were ordered to complete a drug treatment program in 2004.

Some variation is seen when penalties imposed are examined by type of drug and offense charged (Table 5).

Prison was by far the most common penalty for distribution, possession, and other types of offenses involving crack cocaine, stimulants, and cocaine.

Only 13.0% of distribution offenses involving crack cocaine were given a penalty other than prison. Likewise, only 28.6% of crack possession offenses resulted in 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.

Distribution charges involving marijuana were only slightly more likely to result in a penalty of probation

(38.0%) than prison (34.2%). Nearly half (47.1%) of possession charges involving marijuana resulted in probation.

Probation (45.3%) was imposed on those arrestees distributing other opiates more often than prison (37.3%). Other types of penalties were reported most frequently for possession of other opiates (45.8%) and more than half of these were fines.

Methodology

This report is based solely on arrest data submitted by the multi-jurisdictional task forces funded through the Drug and Violent Crime Control Grant Program. In 2000, 14 task forces were funded by the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) under this program. Two new task forces, Greenbrier County and Potomac Highlands, were added in July 2002 bringing the total number of task forces operating in the state to 16.

The addition of Greenbrier County and Potomac Highlands task forces added 5 counties to the area of the state targeted by task forces. Excluding the West Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) which operates statewide, 37 counties were covered by a multi-jurisdictional task force in 2004. These counties comprise 83.3% of the state population.

Data Collection

Offense and arrestee information is gathered and submitted to DCJS on all task force arrests in the state. A reporting form is submitted to DCJS by the task forces for each arrest made during a calendar year. The WV Drug and Violent Crime Control Reporting Form captures demographic characteristics of the arrestees, charges brought against the offenders, and final disposition and sentence information.

Definitions

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

Oxycodone or OxyContin, Tylox, Percocet, Dilaudid, hydrocodone or Lortab, and Morphine are examples of

the specific narcotics categorized as other opiates. In 2003-2004, three-fourths of the drugs included in the "other opiates" category were oxycodone (43.5%) or hydrocodone (32.4%).

The stimulants category is comprised predominately of methamphetamine. Methamphetamine accounted for 98.3% of all arrests for stimulants in 2003 and 2004. However, other stimulants such as Adderall and Concerta or methylphenidate were also reported.

Depressants include Xanax, Valium, Klonopin or clonazepam, temazepam, and barbiturates. MDMA or ecstasy, LSD, Ketamine, and Psilocybin are examples of reported hallucinogens. The "other" drug category is mainly composed of imitation substances and situations where the drug was simply indicated as a controlled substance.

Counts and Calculations

For each reported arrest, charge and disposition information is collected for up to ten offenses charged against the offender. All reported drug offenses are included in the discussion of offenses charged, drugs involved, offenses disposed, and penalties. Thus, these figures represent a count of offenses rather than arrests.

In previous reports, only drug-related offenses were included (for example, see Turley and Hutzel 2003). However, task forces began reporting violent crime offenses charged against arrestees in addition to drug offenses in 2004. Given the small number of violent crime offenses reported, however, this report continues to focus primarily on drug-related crimes.

Some individuals are arrested more than once during the calendar year and may have multiple offenses charged

against them for a given arrest. Of the 2,115 arrests reported for 2003-2004, 2,047 were determined to be unique individuals. Demographic and criminal history information provided in the first section of this report is based on the total number of unique individuals.

State population distributions for gender, race, and age are based on Census 2000 estimates obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau. County population estimates for 2004, also obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, were used to calculate county arrest rates.

Arrest rates were calculated by dividing the number of reported arrests by the county population and multiplying by 1,000. A statewide arrest rate is provided based on the total state population, as well as an arrest rate for only those 37 counties specifically targeted by a task force.

Data Sources

The WV Drug and Violent Crime Control Database, 2000-2004. Unpublished raw data.

Turley, E. and Hutzel, L. (2003, May). *2002 Narcotics Arrest Survey*. Charleston, WV: Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety. Available online at www.wvdcjs.com/statsanalysis.

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The Division of Criminal Justice Services is the designated state criminal justice planning agency. The Division is responsible for fostering public safety in West Virginia by providing planning, system coordination, grant administration, training and technical assistance, monitoring, research, statistical services and law enforcement training.

The Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center's mission is to generate statistical and analytical products concerning crime and the criminal justice system for the public and justice system professionals and policymakers, establishing a basis for sound policy and practical decisions for the criminal justice system in West Virginia.

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DCJS Administration

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