

2000-2001 Narcotics Arrest Survey

Erica Turley, *Research Analyst*
Laura Hutzel, *CJSAC Director*

West Virginia's 14 Drug and Violent Crime Control Task Forces continue to investigate unlawful drug activity and enforce federal and state drug laws.

In 2000 and 2001, the task forces made 1,720 drug-related arrests. 39.7% of the offenses involved crack cocaine, 30.0% involved marijuana, and 10.7% involved cocaine.

Offenses involving crack cocaine and cocaine were most often for distribution/sale. Offenses involving marijuana were most often for possession.

Of the offenses in which a disposition was reported, 68.6% resulted in a conviction. 82.2% of those charged with possession of marijuana, however, were convicted. 90% of all convictions were the result of a guilty plea.

According to the West Virginia State Police Incident-Based Reports, when law enforcement seized drugs or drug equipment in 2000, 74.3% or 3,003 seizures involved marijuana. Only 8.1% involved crack cocaine and 3.4% involved cocaine. 4.2%, or 170 seizures, involved other narcotics including codeine, hydrocodone, methadone, Demerol, Dilaudid, and OxyContin.

Task Force	2000	2001	No Date	Total
WVSP Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI)*	129	154	0	283
Central WV Drug Task Force	26	10	0	36
Eastern Panhandle Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	85	35	1	121
Hancock/Brooke/Weirton Drug Task Force	45	25	3	73
Harrison and Lewis County Drug Task Force	6	37	0	43
Huntington Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	61	33	20	114
US 119 (Logan) Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	30	40	0	70
Metro Drug Enforcement Network Team	129	120	1	250
Mon Valley Drug Task Force	38	89	29	156
Ohio Valley Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	95	169	0	264
Parkersburg Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force	41	**28	0	69
Putnam County Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	21	16	0	37
Southern Regional Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	6	29	2	37
TriDent	67	100	0	167
Total	779	885	56	1,720

*Arrests submitted by BCI are included only in the offender level statistics.

**Parkersburg's 28 arrests for 2001 were received after the deadline and are therefore not included in the statistics in this report.

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

J. Norbert Federspiel, *DCJS Director*
Michael Cutlip, *Deputy Director - Programs*
Edward Holsclaw, *Sr. Justice Programs Specialist*
Leslie Boggess, *Justice Programs Specialist*

1204 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25301
(304) 588-8814 phone
(304) 558-0391 fax
www.wvdcjs.com

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 & 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.

Funding for this project was provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Drug and Violent Crime Control Grant Program and administered by the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

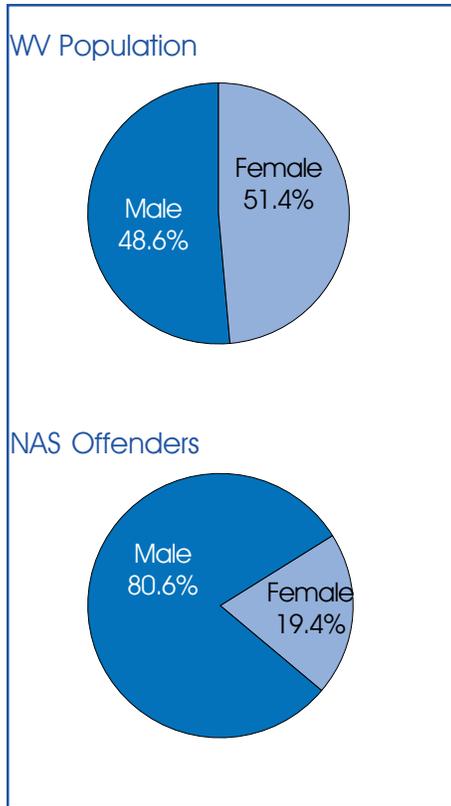
The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this report are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Justice or the State of West Virginia.

The fourteen funded Task Forces submitted Narcotics Arrest Surveys (NAS) to the CJSAC. Steve Thompson entered data for this report. All population figures were obtained from 2000 Census data at www.census.gov. WVSP Incident-Based Reporting data were provided by Lt. Gayle Midkiff.

This report and other reports are available on-line at www.wvdcjs.com.



Graph 1
Gender



Offenders

Task Forces submitted one NAS form for each arrest made during calendar years 2000 and 2001. Task Forces made 779 arrests in 2000 and 885 arrests in 2001. 56 arrests did not include the date of arrest. In the offender statistics, if the same offender was arrested more than once, his or her demographic information is duplicated.

Graph 1 shows the gender distribution of the 1,692 offenders compared to that of West Virginia's population. Although slightly less than half of the population is male, 80.6% of the offenders were male.

58.0% of the offenders were white. Although only 3.2% of the State's population is black, 41.2% of the offenders were black (Graph 2).

35.9% of the offenders were in the 18 to 24 year old age group. Only 9.5%

of the State's population falls into this age group. The number of offenders decreased with each successive age group. Graph 3 shows the distribution of offenders by age group compared to West Virginia's population.

On average, offenders were 31 years old. The most frequently reported age was 22. The oldest offender was 77. The youngest offender was 12. 3.8% of the offenders were juveniles.

The 13 county based Task Forces reported that 40.4% of the offenders had been arrested in the past. 22.9% of these offenders had a prior conviction and 15.8% had a previous conviction for a drug-related crime.

88.0% of the offenders were West Virginia residents. Ohio (5.7%) was the only other state represented by more than 2% of the offenders.

West Virginia county of residence was reported for 1,423 of the offenders. The number of offenders reported from each county and the percentage of the

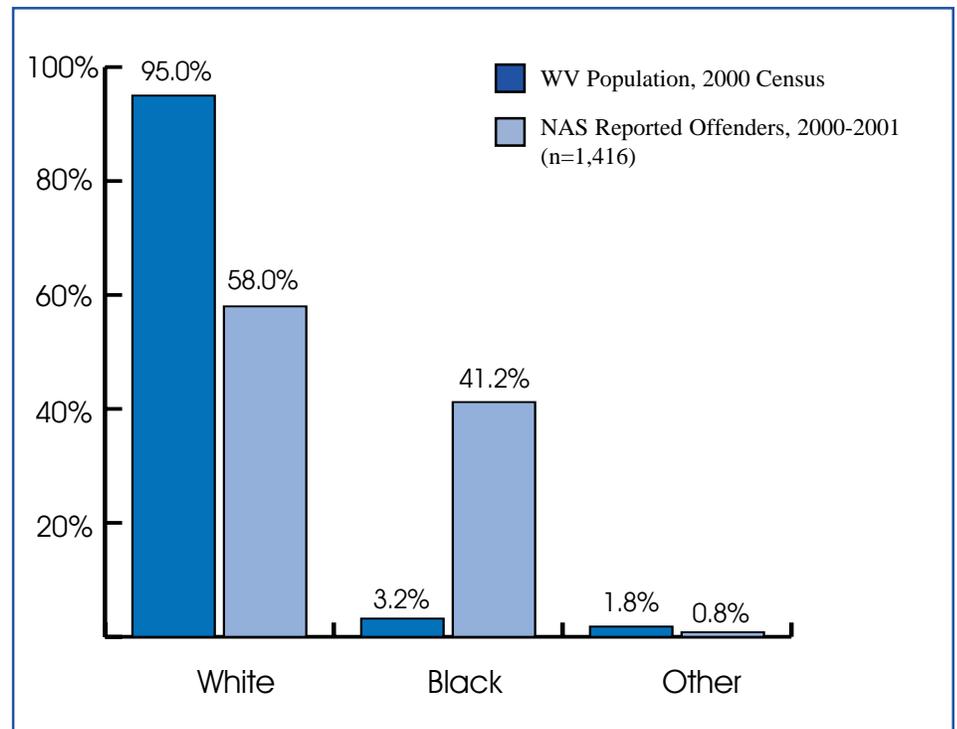
Race by Gender	WV Population	NAS Offenders
White Males	46.1%	44.4%
White Females	48.9%	13.6%
Black Males	1.6%	35.2%
Black Females	1.6%	5.9%
Other (Males & Females)	1.8%	0.8%

population they represent are shown in Table 1 with 2000 Census population data.

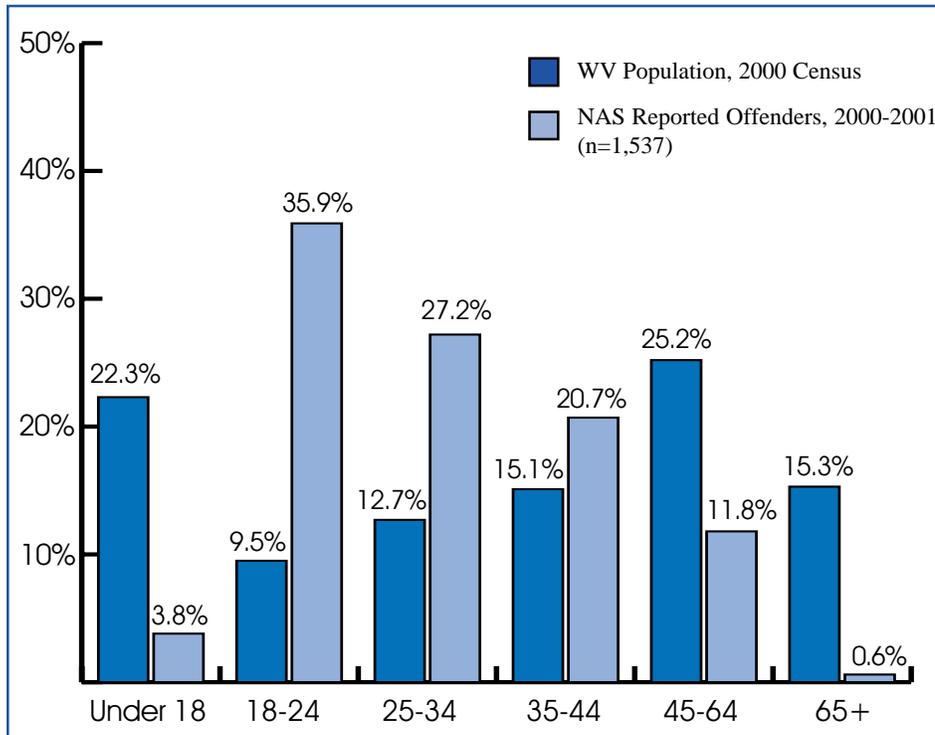
The largest number of offenders during 2000-2001 were from Kanawha County (237). However, Webster County had the largest percentage of offenders per capita (0.525%). Caution should be used when comparing the percents in Table 1 to those in the 1999 report which included offenders for only one calendar year.

Excluding the West Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), which operates statewide, 32 counties are covered by a Task Force. These counties comprise 77.3% of West Virginia's population.

Graph 2
Race



Graph 3 Age



Offenses

The total number of offenses charged against the offender was recorded on each NAS form. 71.2% of arrests involved only one offense. 14.3% of the arrests involved 2 offenses, 6.1% involved 3 offenses, and 8.4% involved 4 or more.

Detailed charge and disposition information was reported for up to 10 of the offenses per arrest. A total of 2,380 offenses were reported. However, 130 of these did not include the type of charge or the drug involved.

Due to differences in the reporting of offense data between the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the other 13 Task Forces, BCI data are not included in the remainder of this report.

Table 1 County of Residence

County	# NAS Offenders	Census Population	% Offenders/Population	County	# NAS Offenders	Census Population	% Offenders/Population
Webster	51	9,719	0.525%	Greenbrier	7	34,453	0.020%
Ohio	149	47,427	0.314%	Morgan	3	14,943	0.020%
Mineral	53	27,078	0.196%	Barbour	3	15,557	0.019%
Marion	102	56,598	0.180%	Randolph	5	28,262	0.018%
Jefferson	70	42,190	0.166%	Hampshire	3	20,203	0.015%
Raleigh	117	79,220	0.148%	Gilmer	1	7,160	0.014%
Summers	19	12,999	0.146%	Braxton	2	14,702	0.014%
Hancock	43	32,667	0.132%	Lincoln	2	22,108	0.009%
Nicholas	33	26,562	0.124%	Hardy	1	12,669	0.008%
Marshall	44	35,519	0.124%	Wyoming	2	25,708	0.008%
Kanawha	237	200,073	0.119%	Wayne	3	42,903	0.007%
Fayette	44	47,579	0.093%	Monroe	1	14,583	0.007%
Tyler	8	9,592	0.083%	Wetzel	1	17,693	0.006%
Logan	31	37,710	0.082%	Calhoun	0	7,582	0.000%
Berkeley	62	75,905	0.082%	Clay	0	10,330	0.000%
Taylor	13	16,089	0.081%	Grant	0	11,299	0.000%
Harrison	52	68,652	0.076%	Jackson	0	28,000	0.000%
Cabell	66	96,784	0.068%	Mason	0	25,957	0.000%
McDowell	18	27,329	0.066%	Pendleton	0	8,196	0.000%
Doddridge	4	7,403	0.054%	Pleasants	0	7,514	0.000%
Monongalia	44	81,866	0.054%	Pocahontas	0	9,131	0.000%
Brooke	13	25,447	0.051%	Preston	0	29,334	0.000%
Putnam	26	51,589	0.050%	Ritchie	0	10,343	0.000%
Mingo	14	28,253	0.050%	Roane	0	15,446	0.000%
Wood	36	87,986	0.041%	Tucker	0	7,321	0.000%
Mercer	25	62,980	0.040%	Upshur	0	23,404	0.000%
Lewis	6	16,919	0.036%	Wirt	0	5,873	0.000%
Boone	9	25,535	0.035%				
				Total WV	1,423	1,808,344	0.079%

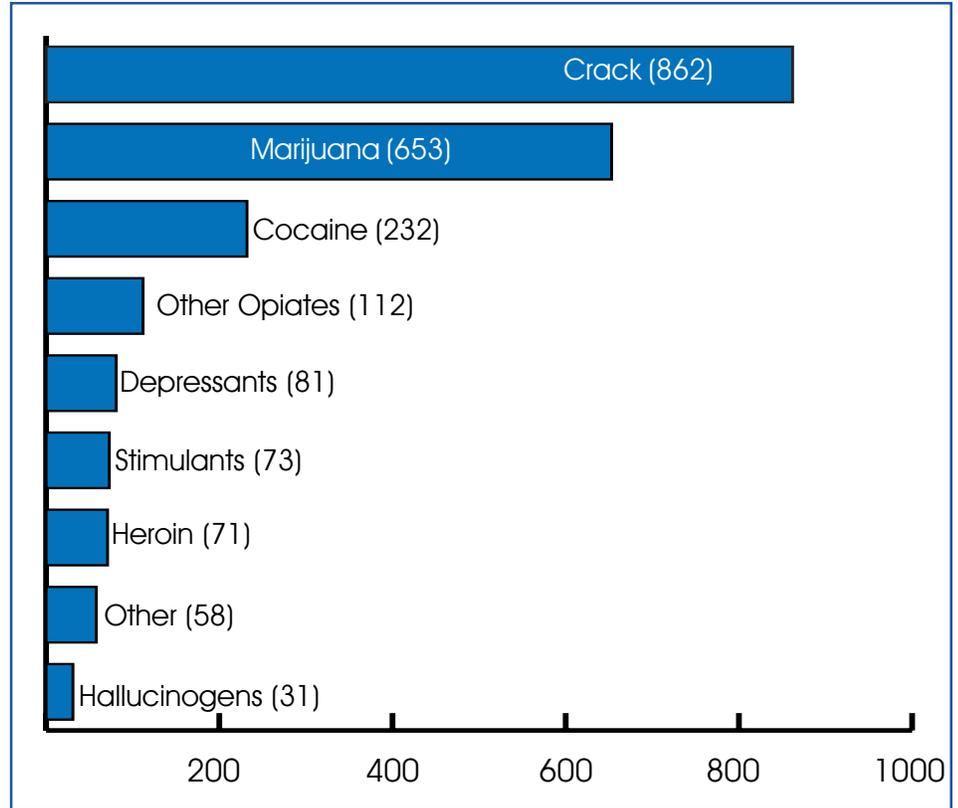
Drugs Involved

For each offense charged, Task Forces were asked to identify the type of drug involved. Drug information was reported for 2,173 of the offenses. 80.4% of the offenses involved crack cocaine, marijuana, or cocaine.

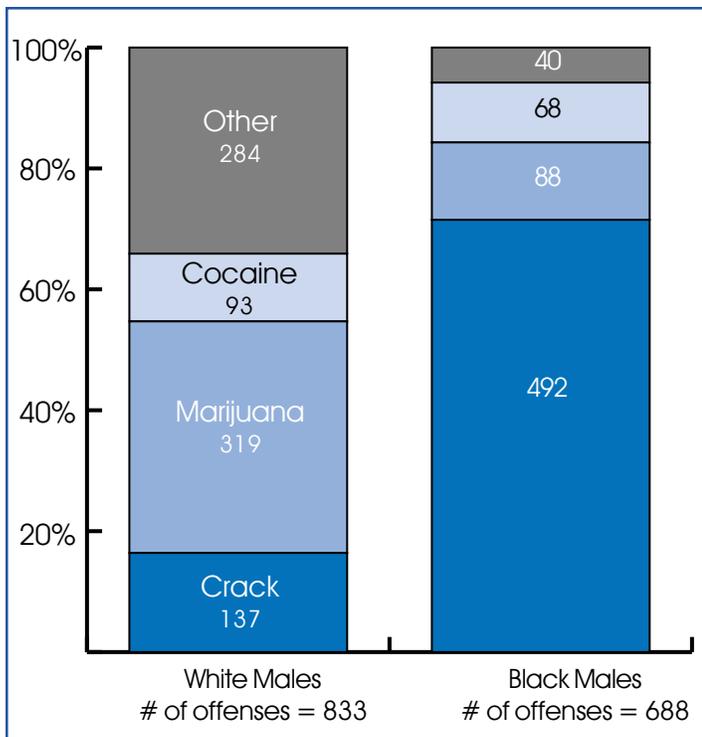
Crack cocaine was the most frequently reported drug with 862 offenses. 653 offenses involved marijuana and 232 involved cocaine.

Graph 4 shows the number of offenses involving each type of drug. Morphine, Tylox, Lortab, Dilaudid, and OxyContin are examples of drugs reported in the Other Opiates category. The Other category includes imitation or unknown substances and other controlled substances not classified elsewhere.

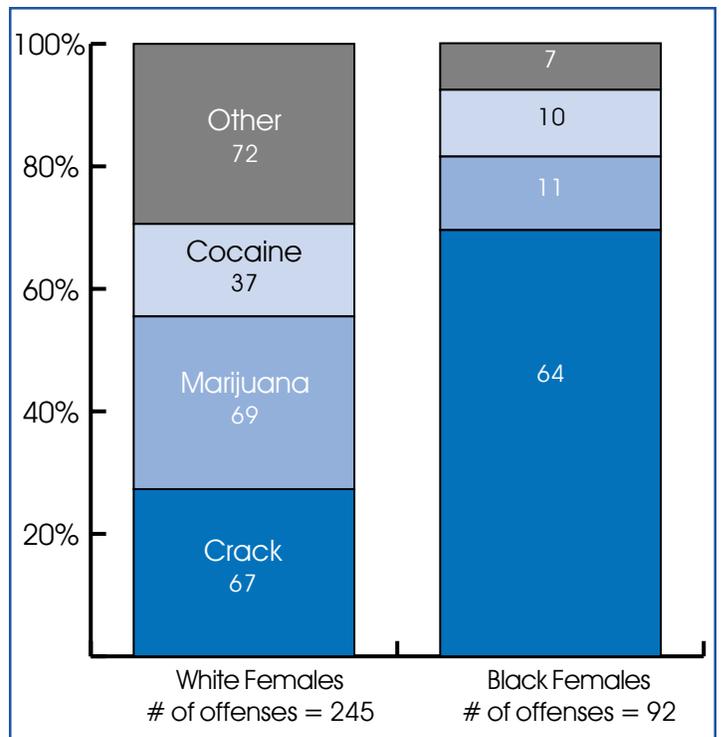
Graph 4 Drug Involved



Graph 5 Percentage of Offenses by Drug for Males

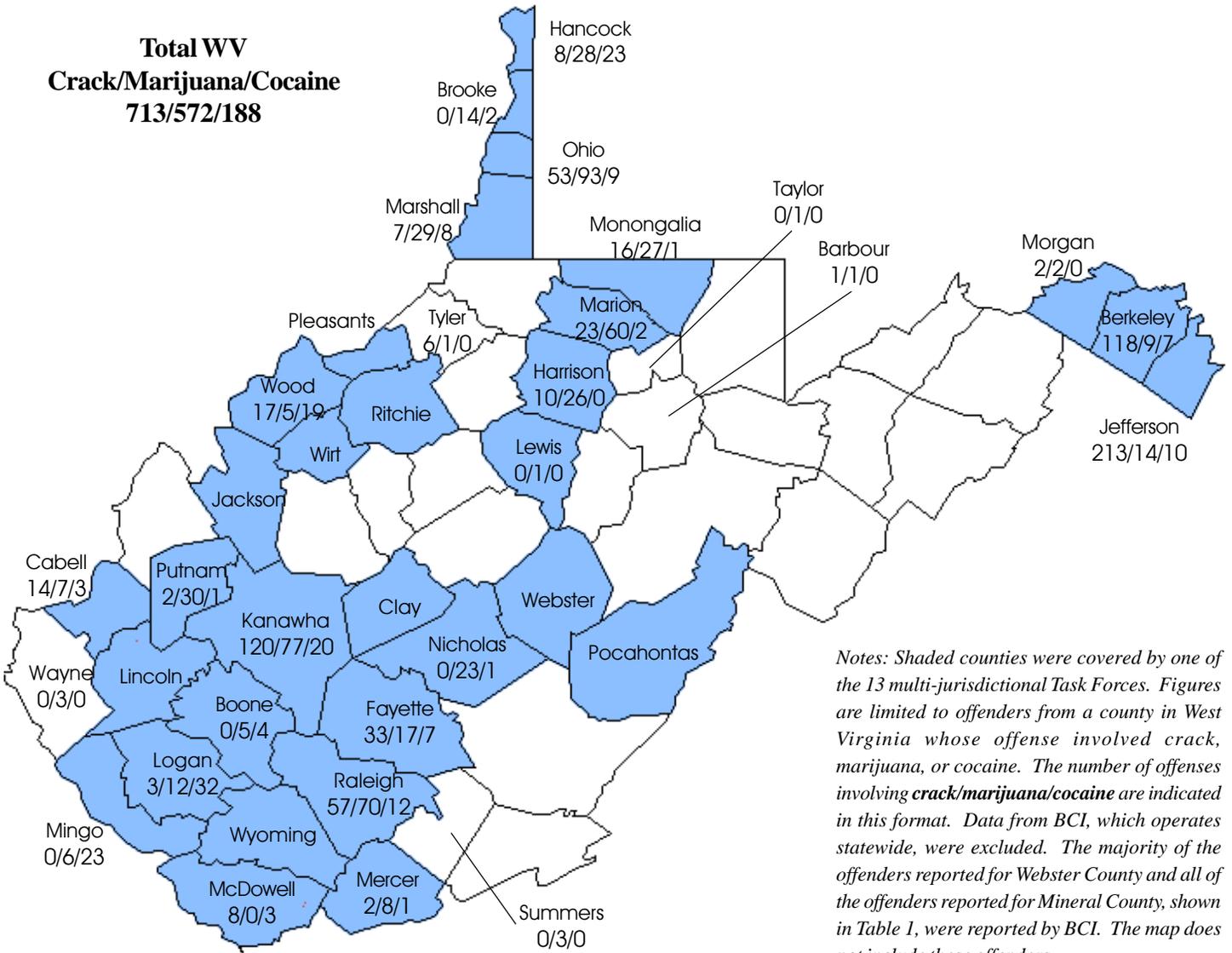


Graph 6 Percentage of Offenses by Drug for Females



Crack, Marijuana, and Cocaine Charges by Offenders' Home County

**Total WV
Crack/Marijuana/Cocaine
713/572/188**



*Notes: Shaded counties were covered by one of the 13 multi-jurisdictional Task Forces. Figures are limited to offenders from a county in West Virginia whose offense involved crack, marijuana, or cocaine. The number of offenses involving **crack/marijuana/cocaine** are indicated in this format. Data from BCI, which operates statewide, were excluded. The majority of the offenders reported for Webster County and all of the offenders reported for Mineral County, shown in Table 1, were reported by BCI. The map does not include these offenders.*

Gender, Race, and Drugs

Both black males and black females committed far more offenses involving crack cocaine (492 and 64, respectively) than any other drug.

White males committed more offenses involving marijuana (319). 72 offenses committed by white females involved a drug other than crack, marijuana, or cocaine (Graphs 5 and 6).

Drugs by County

The map above shows the crack cocaine, marijuana, and cocaine offenses by county when both the drug type and the county were reported.

There were a greater number of crack charges in Jefferson County (213) than in Kanawha County (120). A large number of crack charges were also from Berkeley County (118).

There were a greater number of marijuana charges in Ohio County (93) than in Kanawha County (77). Raleigh County (70) and Marion County (60) also had large numbers of marijuana charges.

Logan County (32), Mingo County (23), and Hancock County (23) each reported more cocaine charges than Kanawha County (20).

Drugs by Charge

57.4% of the charges involving marijuana were possession charges. Distribution/sale charges accounted for 25.2% of the marijuana offenses.

Offenses involving crack cocaine and cocaine were more often distribution/sale charges. 52.1% of offenses involving crack cocaine and 49.3% of offenses involving cocaine were distribution/sale charges.

41.2% of the offenses charged against adults involved crack (Table 2). Of these, over half were distribution/sale charges (409, 52.0%).

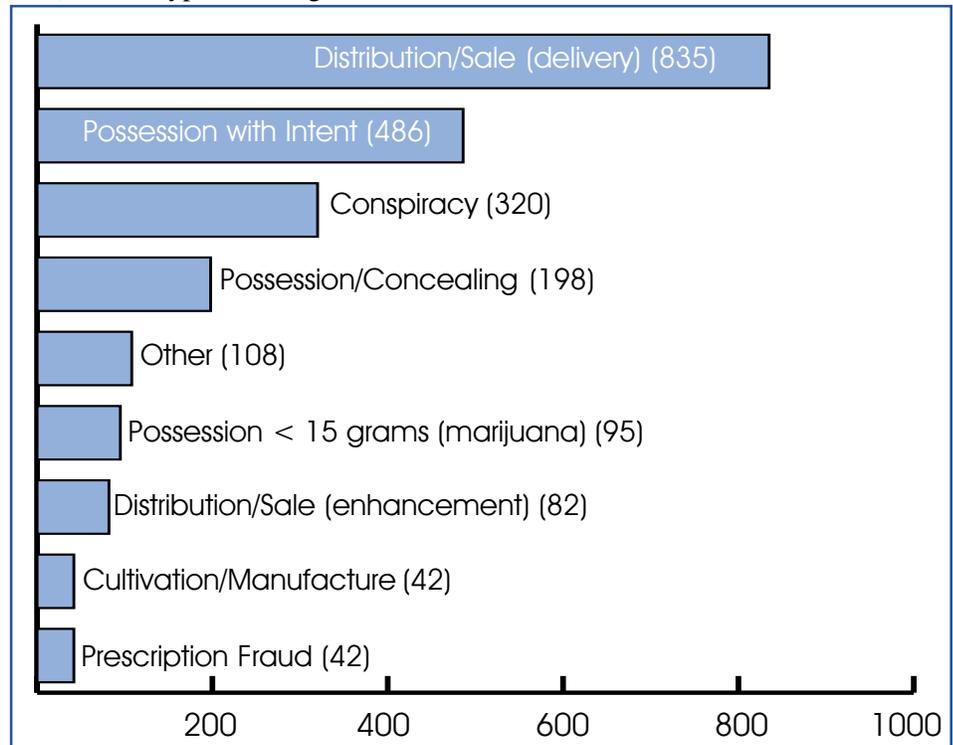
53.3% of the offenses charged against juveniles involved possession of marijuana (Table 3). Only 18 charges against juveniles involved crack.

Type of Charge

The type of charge was reported for 2,208 offenses. Of these offenses, the most frequently reported type of charge was distribution/sale (including delivery/dispensing) (37.8%). 22.0% of the offenses were for possession with intent (Graph 7).

Enhancements reported with charges of distribution/sale included

Graph 7 Type of Charge



'within 1,000 feet of school grounds' (71), 'while in possession of a firearm (41), and 'to a minor' (5). Of those charges where firearms were in the offender's possession, 53.7% involved crack cocaine.

Of the 992 offenses for which both arrest and disposition information was reported, 89.3% were disposed as the same offense as charged.

Level of Charge

The level of charge was reported for 1,858 offenses. 91.7% of the offenses were felonies, while 8.3% were misdemeanors.

Initially Charged By

The way in which the charge was initiated against the offender was reported for 1,857 offenses. Nearly half (48.8%) of the offenses were initiated by an indictment. Other offenses were initiated by on-site arrests (25.2%), arrest warrants (25.1%), juvenile petitions (0.6%), and subpoenas (0.2%).

Table 2

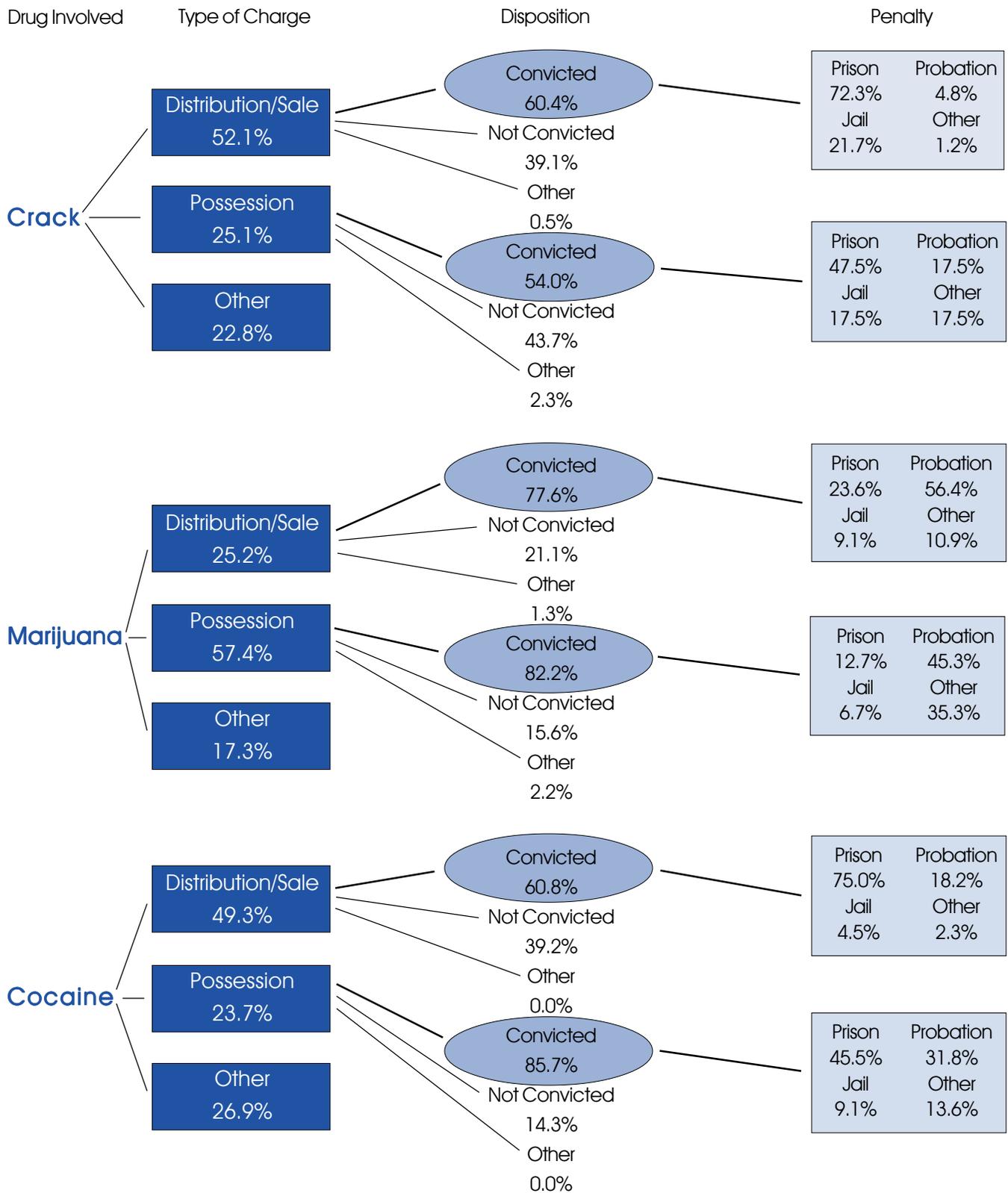
Offenses Charged to Adults

	Cultivation/ Manufacture	Distribution/ Sale	Possession	Conspiracy	Other	Total
Marijuana	29	149	310	55	12	555
Cocaine	0	95	46	34	9	184
Crack	2	409	192	155	28	786
Heroin	0	20	27	14	6	67
Stimulants	2	41	15	2	11	71
Depressants	0	27	28	1	12	68
Hallucinogens	1	11	14	1	0	27
Other Opiates	0	43	26	14	21	104
Other	0	9	5	16	15	45
Total	34	804	663	292	114	1,907

Table 3 Offenses Charged to Juveniles

	Cultivation/ Manufacture	Distribution/ Sale	Possession	Other	Total
Marijuana	2	2	32	0	36
Cocaine	0	0	2	0	2
Crack	0	8	8	2	18
Other	0	0	3	1	4
Total	2	10	45	3	60

Flow Chart: From Arrest to Penalties



Notes: Percentages are based on known data for each reported offense. Missing data was excluded at each level of the chart. Sample size decreased from arrest to penalty. Distribution/Sale charges include delivery and enhancements. Possession charges include with intent, less than 15 grams, and concealing. Other Charges include cultivation/manufacture, conspiracy, prescription fraud, and other. Dispositions of Not Convicted include acquittals, dismissals, and declined prosecution. Other penalties include juvenile detention, fines, improvement periods, community corrections, home confinement, and suspended sentences.

	Convicted	Not Convicted	Other	Total
Distribution/Sale	282	130	2	414
Possession	248	87	6	341
Other	168	87	7	262
Total	698	304	15	1,017

Disposition

Dispositions were reported for 1,017 of the offenses. The conviction rate for these offenses was 68.6%. 90% of the convictions were the result of a guilty plea. 28.4% (289) of the offenses were dismissed.

Penalties

The type of penalty imposed was reported for 707 offenses. Prison was the most frequently reported penalty (250) followed by probation (238).

Other penalties included jail (99), fines (51), improvement/supervisory period (26), home confinement (19), suspended sentences (10), community corrections (9), and juvenile detention (5).

Of the 245 offenses resulting in prison (with known drug), 42.0% involved crack cocaine. Of the 180 offenses resulting in probation (with known drug), 62.8% involved marijuana.

46.8% of all offenses resulting in prison were distribution/sale charges. 50.6% of the offenses resulting in probation (with known type of charge) were possession charges.

Flow Chart

The flow chart on Page 7 illustrates the charges, dispositions, and penalties for offenses involving crack cocaine, marijuana, and cocaine.

For offenses involving crack cocaine, over half (52.1%) involved

distribution/sale. Of these, 60.4% resulted in a conviction. When convictions were obtained for distribution/sale of crack cocaine, penalties were often prison (72.3%) or jail (21.7%). Only 6.0% resulted in another type of penalty.

For offenses involving marijuana, over half (57.4%) involved possession. Of these, 82.2% resulted in a conviction. When convictions were obtained for possession of marijuana, penalties of prison (12.7%) or jail (6.7%) were not common.

For offenses involving cocaine, almost half (49.3%) involved distribution/sale. Of these, 60.8% were convicted. When convictions were obtained for distribution/sale of cocaine, penalties were often prison (75.0%) or jail (4.5%). 18.2% of these convicted offenses resulted in probation sentences.

2000-2001 Narcotics Arrest Survey

7755-24
Criminal Justice Statistical
Analysis Center
1204 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25301

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Charleston, WV
Permit No. 271