

DCJS

Division of Criminal Justice Services

Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
 Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety
 State of West Virginia

1999 NARCOTICS ARREST SURVEY

APRIL 2001

The 13 multi-jurisdictional Task Forces, funded by the Drug and Violent Crime Control Grant Program, made 984 arrests for narcotics-related offenses during 1999.

In three-fourths of the arrests, charges were filed at the state level. The majority (38.0%) of the offenses charged involved marijuana. However, the majority of offenses by black offenders involved crack cocaine (65.3%). Distribution/sale (including delivery/dispensing) was the most frequent type of charge (44.1% of offenses). Most of the offenses were felonies (80%).

54% of marijuana charges were for possession. 85% of those charged with possession of marijuana were then convicted. Of those convicted, 78% received probation.

59% of cocaine/crack charges were for distribution/sale. 50% of those charged with distribution/sale of cocaine/crack were then convicted. Of those convicted, 68% were sentenced to prison.

This report differs from prior years in that only Task Forces were asked to complete the Narcotics Arrest Survey

(NAS) Forms. For each individual arrested on a given day in 1999, the Task Forces completed a NAS Form and submitted it to DCJS. Table 1 identifies each of the Task Forces, the counties they serve, and the number of arrests reported.

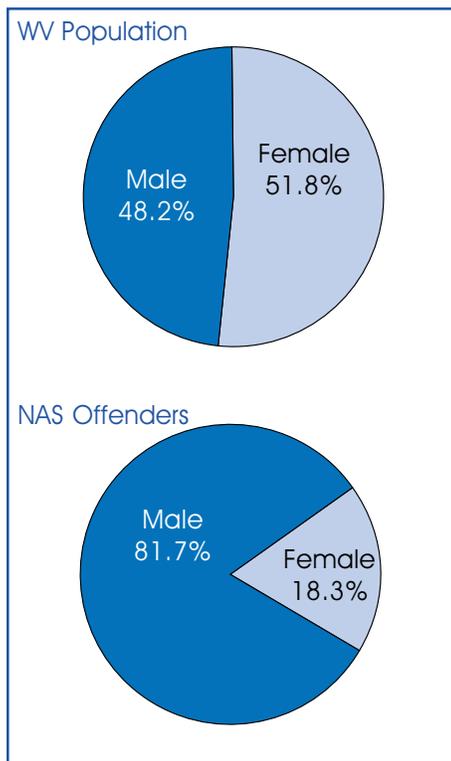
Statistics contained in this report are based only on the arrests reported by Task Forces. Population figures used in this report are July 1, 1999 estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

Table 1 Drug and Violent Crime Control Task Forces

Task Force	Counties Served	Number of Arrests
Hancock/Brooke/Weirton Drug Task Force	Hancock, Brooke	165
Raleigh Unified Drug Enforcement Network	Raleigh, Mercer, Wyoming	149
Ohio Valley Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	Ohio, Marshall	100
Bureau of Criminal Investigation *	Statewide	98
Mon Valley Drug Task Force	Monongalia, Marion	96
Metro Drug Enforcement Network Team	Kanawha	90
Harrison and Lewis County Drug Task Force	Harrison, Lewis	83
Huntington Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	Cabell, Wayne	48
Central WV Drug Task Force	Nicholas, Pocahontas, Clay	39
Eastern Panhandle Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	Berkeley, Jefferson	38
Parkersburg Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force	Wood, Jackson, Wirt, Ritchie, Pleasants	37
Putnam County Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	Putnam	24
Logan County Drug & Violent Crime Task Force	Logan, Boone, Lincoln	17
Total		984

**BCI reported a total of 143 arrests; however, 45 of those were also submitted by another task force. To avoid duplication, only the 98 unique arrests were used to calculate the statistics in this report.*

Graph 1
Gender Compared to
WV Population



The largest number of offenders were in the 18 to 24 year old age group (34.7%), but only 9.9% of West Virginia's population is in this age group. Graph 3 shows the distribution of offenders and West Virginia's population by age group.

The most frequently reported age was 19. The average age was 30.

Only 4.3% of offenders were charged as juveniles during 1999.

Task Force members reported that 35.0% of the offenders had been arrested in the past. 24.5% of offenders had a prior conviction and 17.0% had a previous conviction for a drug-related crime.

Of those offenders whose home state was known, 86.0% were from West Virginia. The only other states represented by more than 1% of offenders were Ohio (6.9%) and Pennsylvania (2.1%).

West Virginia county of residence was reported for 833 of the offenders. Table 2 shows the number of offenders and the percentage of the population they represent by county.

The largest number of offenders were from Kanawha County (94). Lewis County, however, had the highest percentage of offenders compared to its population (0.223%). The northern panhandle counties (Hancock, Ohio, and Brooke) had the next highest rates of offenders. All of these counties are served by a Task Force.

It should be noted, however, that not all counties have a multi-jurisdictional Task Force specifically targeting their area. Excluding the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, which operates statewide, 28 counties are covered by a Task Force. These 28 counties comprise about 72% of West Virginia's population.

Offenders

Because Task Forces submitted a NAS Form for each arrest made in 1999, the 984 offenders associated with the arrests are not necessarily unique. If the same person had multiple arrests during the year, he or she is counted for each arrest. Sufficient information was not available to remove duplicate offender data from the demographics.

During 1999, the majority of offenders were males (81.7%). Graph 1 shows the gender of NAS offenders compared to that of West Virginia's total population.

Nearly 70% of offenders whose race was reported were white (Graph 2). Although only 3.1% of West Virginia's total population is black, 30.0% of offenders were black.

Graph 2 Race Compared to WV Population

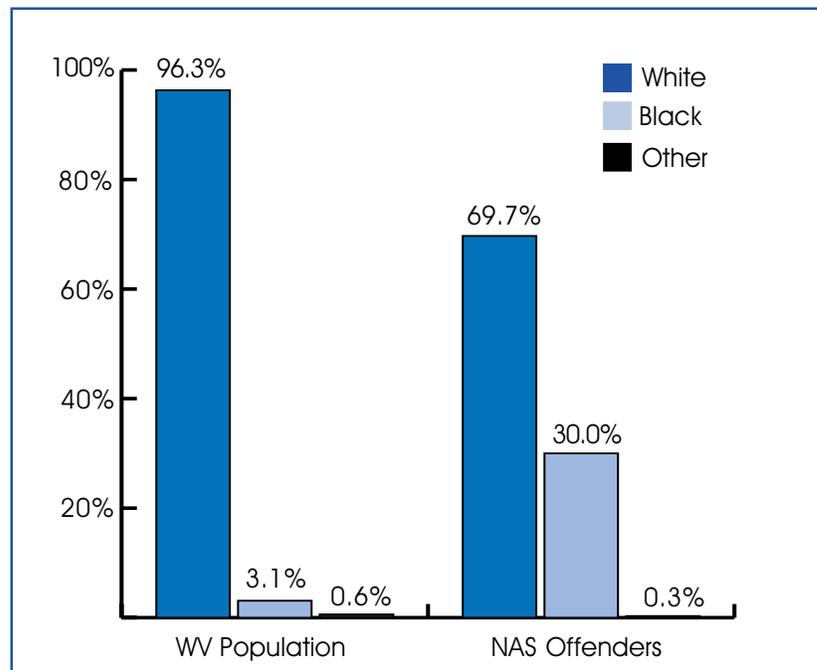
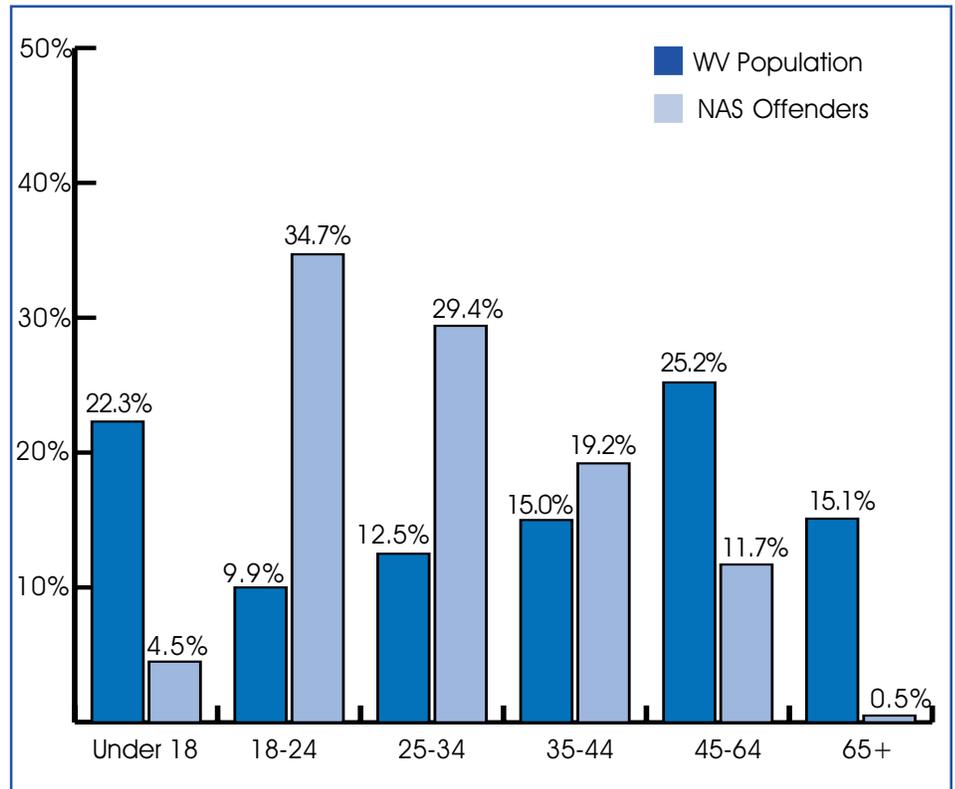


Table 2 County of Residence

County	Number of Offenders	% of County Population
Lewis	39	0.223%
Hancock	71	0.210%
Ohio	78	0.164%
Brooke	35	0.135%
Nicholas	33	0.120%
Raleigh	78	0.099%
Mercer	50	0.078%
Marion	43	0.077%
Monongalia	55	0.071%
Gilmer	5	0.070%
Wyoming	17	0.063%
Pendleton	4	0.050%
Berkeley	35	0.048%
Kanawha	94	0.047%
Wetzel	8	0.044%
Summers	6	0.043%
Tyler	4	0.041%
Harrison	27	0.038%
Logan	14	0.035%
Cabell	32	0.034%
Greenbrier	11	0.031%
Putnam	16	0.031%
Ritchie	3	0.029%
Wood	23	0.027%
Lincoln	5	0.022%
Morgan	3	0.022%
Jefferson	9	0.021%
Taylor	3	0.020%
Mason	5	0.019%
Barbour	3	0.019%
Upshur	4	0.017%
Hampshire	3	0.015%
Pleasants	1	0.013%
Jackson	3	0.011%
Randolph	3	0.011%
Fayette	4	0.009%
Mingo	2	0.006%
Boone	1	0.004%
McDowell	1	0.003%
Preston	1	0.003%
Wayne	1	0.002%
Braxton	0	0.000%
Calhoun	0	0.000%
Clay	0	0.000%
Doddridge	0	0.000%
Grant	0	0.000%
Hardy	0	0.000%
Marshall	0	0.000%
Mineral	0	0.000%
Monroe	0	0.000%
Pocahontas	0	0.000%
Roane	0	0.000%
Tucker	0	0.000%
Webster	0	0.000%
Wirt	0	0.000%

Total WV 833 0.046%

Graph 3 Age Compared to WV Population



Offenses

The total number of offenses charged against the offender was recorded for each NAS Form submitted. The number of offenses charged against an offender ranged from 1 to 21. Most NAS Forms (62.7%), however, indicated only one offense per offender.

Task Force members also provided detailed charge information for up to 10 of the offenses against each offender.

Drugs

Task Force members were asked to report the drug involved for each offense charged. The drug involved was reported for 1,649 of the reported offenses. 73% of these offenses involved marijuana, cocaine, or crack cocaine.

Marijuana was the most frequently reported drug, 626 offenses. 577 offenses involved cocaine, 410 of which were crack cocaine.

The remaining 27% of drugs were reported by classification, as shown in Graph 4. The Other category includes imitation or unknown substances, schedule drugs, and other controlled substances that were not classified elsewhere. Morphine, Tylox, Lortab, and OxyContin are examples of abused pharmaceuticals which fall into the Other Opiates category.

54% of offenses involving marijuana were possession charges. Distribution/sale charges accounted for 37% of offenses involving marijuana.

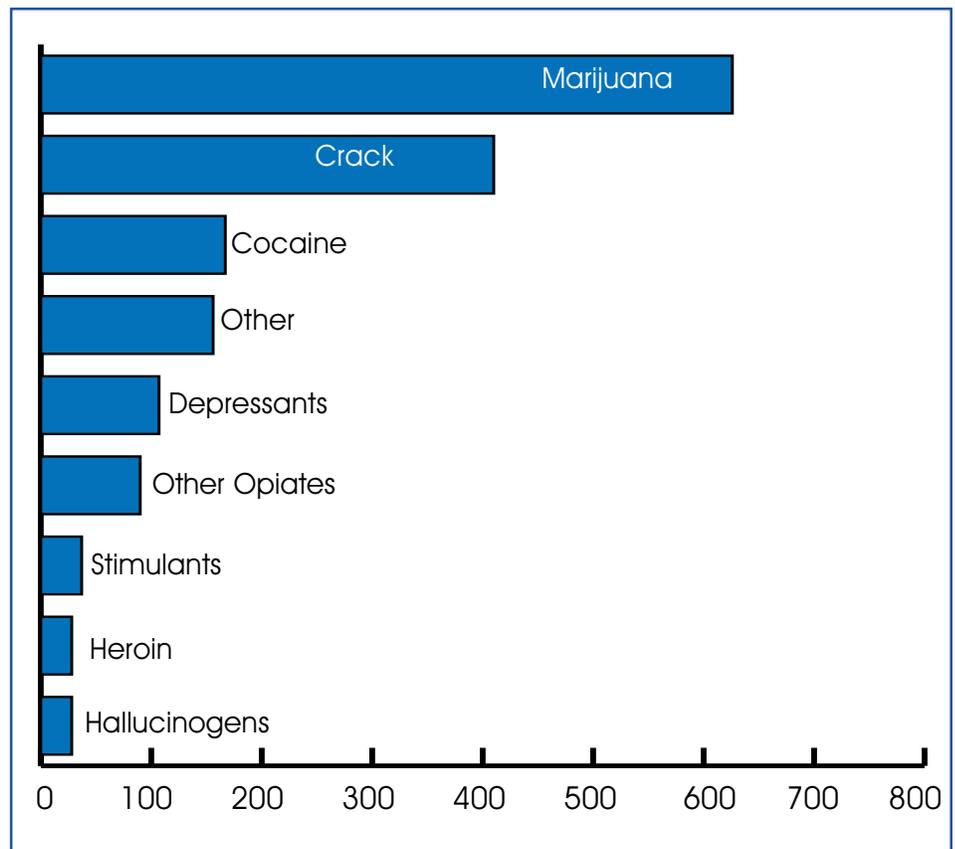
Offenses involving cocaine or crack were more often distribution/sale charges (59%). 19% of the offenses involving cocaine or crack were possession charges.

Marijuana was the most frequently reported drug involved in offenses committed by offenders of all age groups, except for those under the age of 18. 27 of the 61 offenses committed by this group involved crack cocaine.

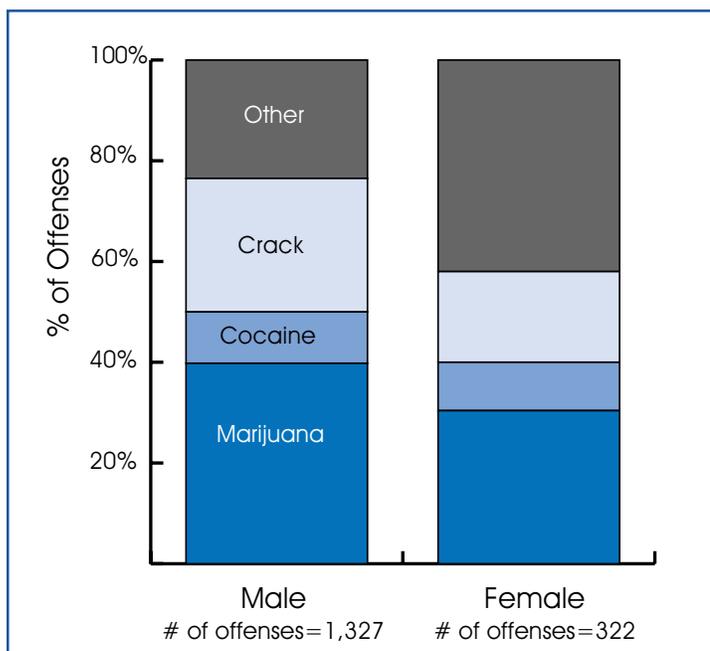
Female offenders committed fewer offenses involving marijuana, cocaine, and crack than male offenders (Graph 5). 42% of offenses committed by female offenders involved a drug other than those three.

Marijuana was most often the drug involved in offenses committed by white offenders (46.6%). Black offenders, however, committed far more offenses involving crack cocaine (65.3%) (Graph 6).

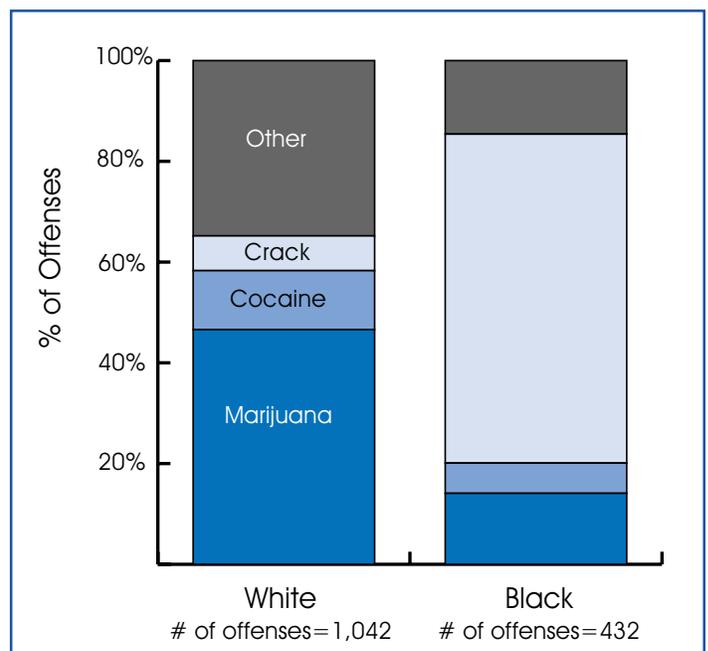
Graph 4
Drug Involved



Graph 5
Percentage of Offenses by Drug by Offender Gender



Graph 6
Percentage of Offenses by Drug by Offender Race



Type of Charge

The type of charge was reported for 1,651 offenses. Of these offenses, the type of charge was most frequently distribution/sale (including delivery/dispensing) (728).

Enhancements reported with charges of distribution/sale included 'within 1,000 feet of school grounds' (70), 'while in possession of a firearm' (24), and 'to a minor' (7).

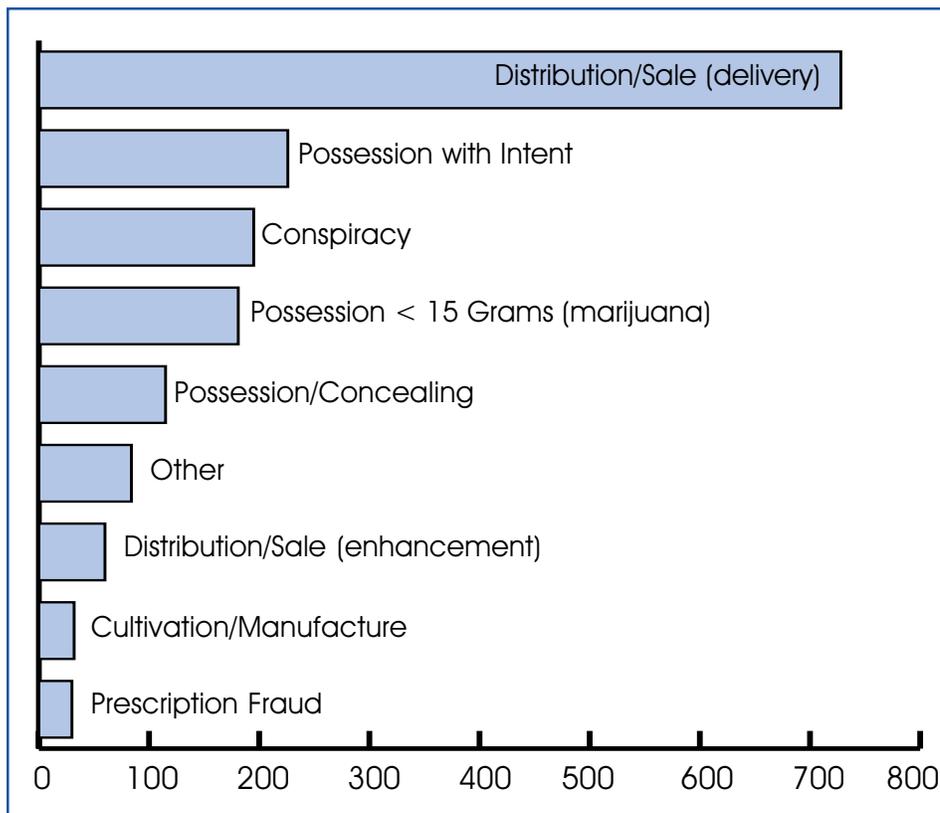
The possession charge most often reported was possession with intent (226). Graph 7 shows the distribution of offenses by type of charge.

Level of Charge

The level of charge was reported for 1,229 of the offenses. 80% of the offenses were felonies and 20% were misdemeanors.

Graph 7

Type of Charge



Initially Charged By

The method by which the charge was initiated against the offender was reported for 1,229 of the offenses. 35.8% of the offenses were initiated by an arrest warrant. Other offenses were initiated by indictments (30.7%), on-site arrests (30.3%), juvenile petitions (2.9%), and subpoenas (0.2%).

Disposition

Disposition was reported for 727 of the offenses. Of these, the conviction rate was 63.5%. 95% of the convictions were the result of a guilty plea.

199 (27.4%) of the offenses were dismissed.

Penalties

The type of penalty imposed was reported for 447 of the offenses. Probation was the most frequently

imposed penalty (42.7%). Offenders received prison sentences for 34.0% of the offenses.

Other penalties imposed included, jail (10.1%), an improvement/supervisory period (5.8%), fines (2.9%), juvenile detention facility (2.2%), home confinement (2.0%), and suspended sentence (0.2%).

The relationship between the penalty imposed and the type of charge was available for 445 of the offenses. Offenses resulting in probation were most often charges of possession (less than 15 grams, concealing, or with intent) (67.5%). 51.3% of offenses resulting in a prison sentence were distribution/sale charges.

Of the 191 offenses resulting in probation, 77.0% involved marijuana. Crack cocaine was involved in 47.4% of the 152 offenses resulting in a prison sentence.

Flow Chart

The chart on Page 6 illustrates the flow from type of charge to disposition to penalty for offenses involving marijuana and cocaine, including crack.

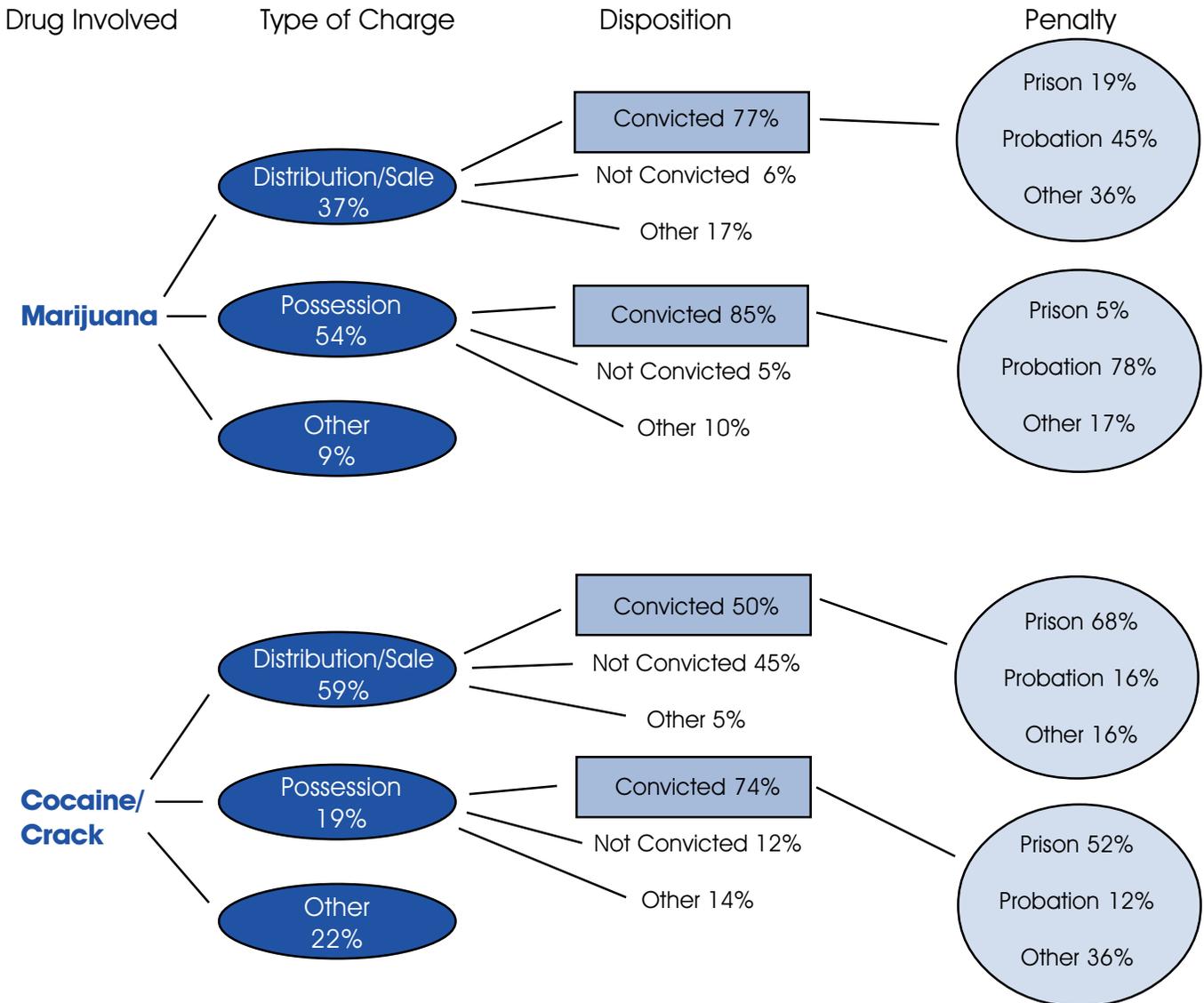
54% of marijuana charges were for possession. 85% of those charged with possession of marijuana were then convicted.

Only 5% of the offenders convicted of possession of marijuana were sentenced to prison.

59% of cocaine/crack charges were for distribution/sale. 50% of those charged with distribution/sale of cocaine/crack were then convicted.

68% of those convicted of distribution/sale of cocaine/crack were sentenced to prison.

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 flow 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 conspiracy, cultivation/manufacture, prescription fraud and other. Dispositions of Not Convicted include acquittals, dismissals, and declined prosecution. Other Penalties include jail, juvenile detention, fines, improvement periods, community corrections, home confinement, and suspended sentences.

Acknowledgments

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This report is available online at www.wvdcjs.com

Analyzed & Written By
Erica Turley, *Research Analyst*

J. Norbert Federspiel,
DCJS Director

Michael Cutlip,
Deputy Director-Programs

Laura Hutzel,
CJSAC Director

Edward Holsclaw,
Sr. Justice Programs Specialist

Steve Thompson, *Data Entry*

Contributions By
Leslie Boggess, *Justice Programs Specialist*
Herb Richardson, *Justice Programs Monitor*