



## **OHIO'S METHAMPHETAMINE AND HEROIN ARRESTEES**

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## OHIO'S METHAMPHETAMINE AND HEROIN ARRESTEES

Data from the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS) indicates a disturbing increase in methamphetamine and heroin violations. The OIBRS finding is supported by 2001-2003 Ohio Drug Task Force analysis that indicates a substantial increase in amphetamine/methamphetamine violations and a large number of heroin violations. Comparing Task Force reporting statewide for CY 2002 and CY 2003, the number of new investigations for all drugs increased by 42 percent; the number of arrests increased by 66 percent; and the amount of drugs seized approximately doubled for crack/cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines and increased 3 ½ times for marijuana.

OIBRS data were analyzed to gain a better understanding of the characteristics of Ohio citizens being arrested for these drug-related crimes<sup>1</sup>. The crimes investigated fall into two categories: drug possession (ORC section 2925.11) and drug trafficking (ORC section 2925.03 and 2925.05). Specifically, drug possession and trafficking arrests involving methamphetamine or heroin were examined.

While the methamphetamine and heroin arrests may be on the rise, they still make up a small proportion of all drug arrests. Arrests for cocaine (including crack and other cocoa derivatives) and for cannabis (including marijuana, hashish, and other cannabis derivatives) still make up the bulk of drug arrests. From 2002 to 2004, there were 11,241 cocaine possession or trafficking arrests and 22,380 cannabis possession or trafficking arrests. This report gives a snapshot of methamphetamine and heroin arrests only.

### OHIO DATA

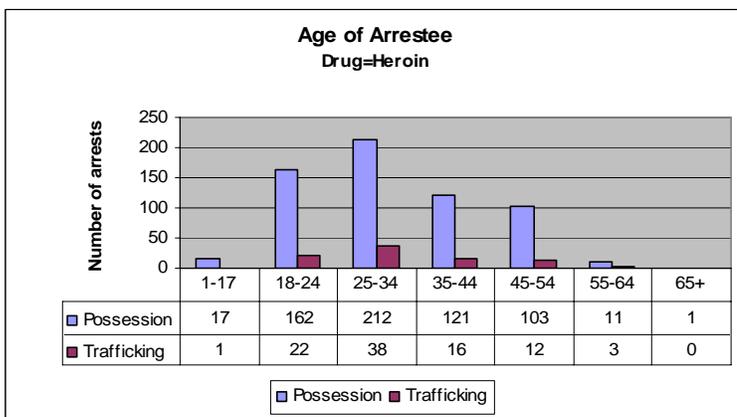
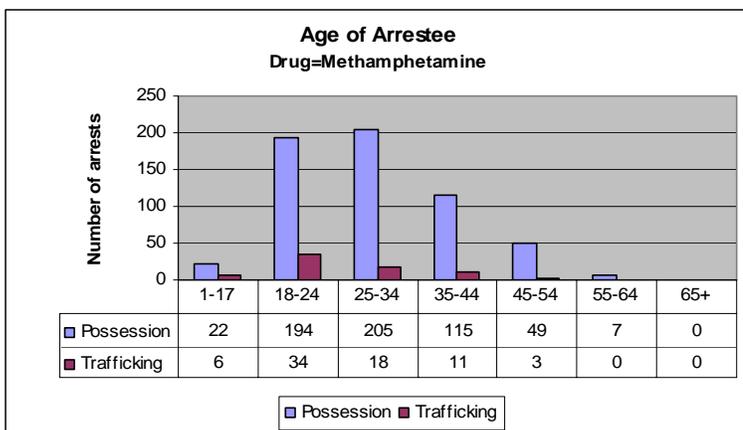
While the number of arrests is comparable for methamphetamine and heroin, analyses of the arrestee composition (single versus multiple arrestees; age, sex, race of arrestee; location of arrestee) do reveal interesting differences between the two for the crimes being studied: possession and trafficking. A discussion regarding the similarities and differences follows.

#### Number of arrests

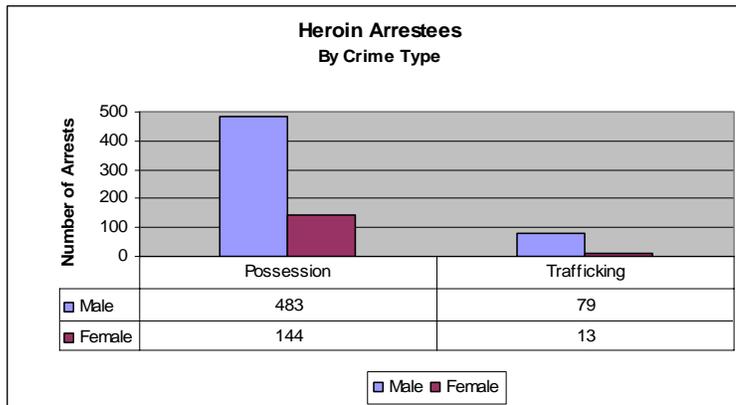
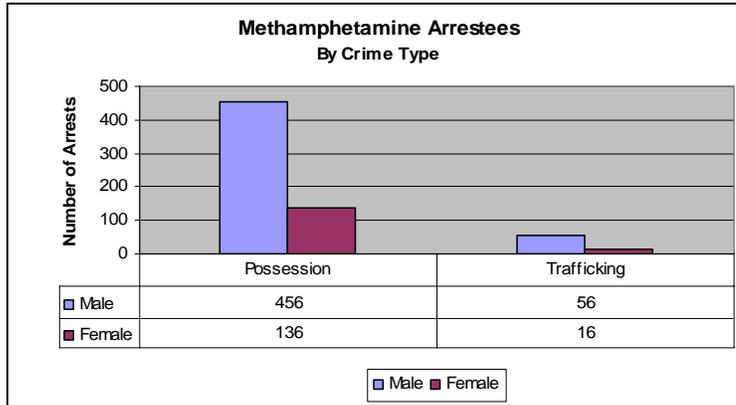
- From 2002 through 2004, there were 1,383 arrests for possession or trafficking of either methamphetamine or heroin.
  - Possession was the more frequent crime, making up 88.1 percent of the total of possession and trafficking arrests.
- Methamphetamine and heroin arrests were relatively similar in magnitude.
  - There were 719 (52.0 percent) heroin-related arrests and 664 (48.0 percent) methamphetamine arrests.
  - A slightly higher proportion of heroin arrests (12.8 percent) involved trafficking, as compared to methamphetamine (10.8 percent).
- The bulk of drug-related arrests (possession and trafficking) involved a single individual.
  - Only 21.9 percent of heroin possession arrestees and 24.0 percent of methamphetamine arrestees involved multiple arrestees.
  - The pattern differs between the two types of drugs in regards to trafficking. One hundred percent of heroin trafficking arrests involved a single person, whereas 70.8 percent of methamphetamine arrests involved a single person.

Arrestee characteristics

- In general, methamphetamine arrestees were slightly younger than their heroin counterparts.
  - The mean age of arrest for methamphetamine possession was 30 years, whereas the mean age of arrest for heroin possession was 33 years.
  - The mean age for trafficking arrestees was lower for both drug types, 26 years for methamphetamine trafficking and 32 years for heroin trafficking.
- A greater proportion of heroin arrestees than methamphetamine arrestees fell into the older age range (45+ age range).
  - More than 18 percent of those arrested for heroin possession fell in this age range, as compared to 9.4 percent of methamphetamine possession arrestees.
  - Trafficking results showed an even greater disparity between the two, with 16.3 percent of heroin traffickers falling in the 45+ year range as compared to 4.2 percent of methamphetamine traffickers.

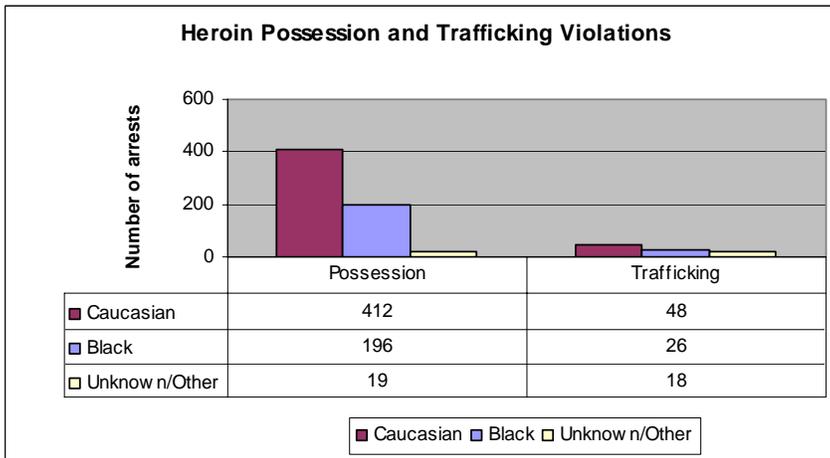
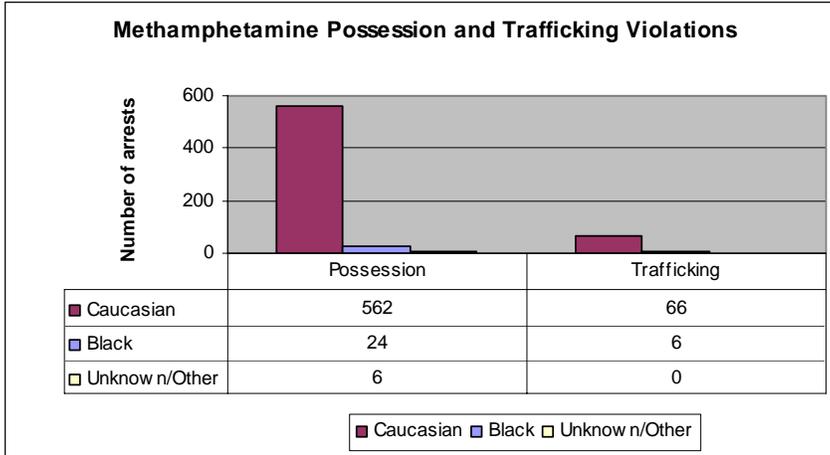


- Significantly more males than females were arrested for drug possession and trafficking.
  - Seventy-seven percent of drug possession arrestees were male, and 82.3 percent of drug trafficking arrestees were male.
- The percentage of females arrested for possession of heroin was identical to the percentage of females arrested for possession of methamphetamine, 23.0 percent. In contrast, the percentage of females arrested for trafficking differed depending on the drug. More than 22 percent of those arrested for methamphetamine trafficking were female, but only 14.1 percent of those arrested for heroin trafficking were female.



- The racial composition of drug possession arrestees differs depending on the drug type.
  - More than 31 percent of those arrested for heroin possession were Black, compared to 4.0 percent of Blacks arrested for methamphetamine possession.
  - Likewise, 65.7 percent of heroin possession arrestees were Caucasian, while 94.9 percent of methamphetamine possession arrestees were Caucasian.
- The racial composition of drug trafficking arrestees shows a pattern similar to that of the possession arrestees.

- Fifty-two percent of heroin trafficking arrestees were Caucasian and 28.3 percent were Black. Nearly 20 percent were of “unknown” race.
- Nearly 92 percent of methamphetamine traffickers were Caucasian, and 8.3 percent were Black.



- Caucasian males dominate the number of arrestees for methamphetamine violations.
  - Nearly three-fourths (73.0 percent) of methamphetamine possession arrestees and 70.8 percent of methamphetamine trafficking arrestees are Caucasian males.

The percentage of Caucasian male methamphetamine arrestees overall is much higher than Caucasian male heroin arrestees, 72.7 percent and 45.2 percent respectively.

Geographic location

- Of those jurisdictions who reported OIBRS drug crime to OCJS in 2004, the data revealed that the majority of arrests for heroin and methamphetamine possession and trafficking occurred in

metropolitan areas. However, in comparing methamphetamine to heroin arrests within the same reporting jurisdictions, different patterns were revealed<sup>1</sup>.

- Overall, a greater proportion of heroin arrests occurred in counties with more than 500,000 population. Out of all methamphetamine and heroin possession and trafficking arrests combined, 80.5 percent of heroin arrests occurred in major metropolitan counties, compared to 68.6 percent of all methamphetamine arrests.
- In contrast, 11.7 percent of methamphetamine arrests occurred in counties with a total population of under 100,000, as compared to only 3.5 percent of heroin arrests occurring in these small counties.



The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) began collecting Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS) data in the mid-1990s, was certified by the FBI in 1999, and upgraded the OIBRS repository in 2002. OIBRS, an Ohio specific crime data collection system that identifies 69 separate data elements, works in collaboration with the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System. OIBRS enables law enforcement to electronically submit crime statistics to OCJS in a consistent format. In turn, OCJS checks and electronically submits all of Ohio's OIBRS data to the FBI. OIBRS establishes consistent crime data; collects detailed offense information; identifies crime patterns and trends; increases agency automation; facilitates data sharing; allows all participating agencies in Ohio to view all crime statistics for Ohio and use the crime-mapping features. As of March 2005, there are more than 245 law enforcement agencies reporting their crime statistics to OIBRS.



OCJS is the lead justice planning and assistance agency for the state. Through its research, technology, grants administration and programmatic initiatives, OCJS serves agencies and communities committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio. OCJS administers more than \$30 million dollars in state and federal criminal justice funding every year, and also identifies justice issues; evaluates programs, and develops technology, training and products for criminal justice professionals and communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Data on geographical location of drug arrests are limited due to the voluntary nature of OIBRS reporting, and must be interpreted in perspective.