

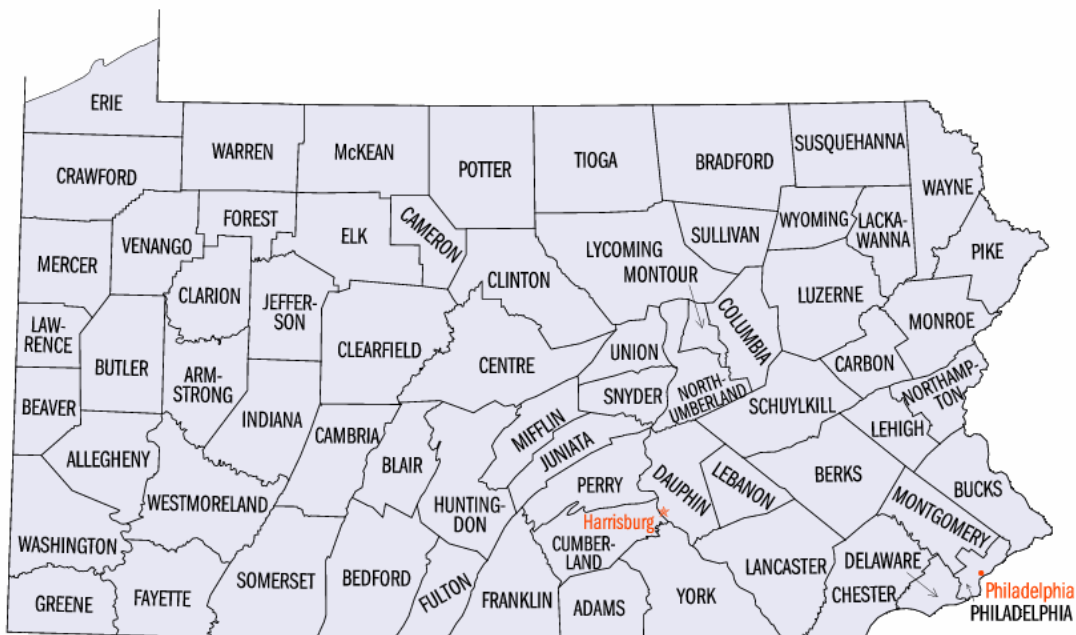
# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

June 2004



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population (2002 American Community Survey): 1,436,694
- Race/Ethnicity (2002 American Community Survey): 40.40% white; 44% black/African American; 0.24% American Indian/Alaska Native; 4.45% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.51% other race; 1.23% two or more races; 9.17% Hispanic/Latino
- Philadelphia is located in Philadelphia County.

### **Politics**

- Mayor: John F. Street<sup>2</sup>
- City Council (Districts): Frank DiCicco (1); Anna Verna (2); Jannie Blackwell (3); Michael Nutter (4); Darrell Clarke (5); Joan Krajewski (6); Richard Mariano (7); Donna Reed Miller (8); Marian Tasco (9); Brian O'Neill (10); David Cohen (at-large); W. Wilson Goode, Jr. (at-large); James Kenney (at-large); Jack Kelly (at-large); Blondell Brown (at-large); Frank Rizzo (at-large); Juan F. Ramos (at-large)<sup>3</sup>
- Police Commissioner: Sylvester Johnson<sup>4</sup>
- Sheriff, City and County of Philadelphia: John D. Green<sup>5</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>6</sup>  
Designated in 1995, the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA is responsible for Philadelphia County and Camden, New Jersey. Philadelphia remains a center of activity for the importation, wholesale distribution, and street level sales of illegal drugs on the East Coast.
- Operation Safe Streets<sup>7</sup>  
Developed in May 2002, the purpose of this Mayoral initiative is to build coalitions to end the violence, disorder and human tragedies associated with the sale of illegal drugs and drug addiction.
- Junior Posse<sup>8</sup>  
In October 1988, the Sheriff's Junior Posse Program was initiated to promote drug-free attitudes among school-aged youth. As part of the program, youths are taught the importance of resisting peer pressure to take part in illegal activities.
- Heads-Up Drug Prevention Program<sup>9</sup>  
Developed by the Philadelphia Police Department Narcotics Bureau, the Heroin Education and Dangerous Substance Understanding Program ("Heads-Up") attacks drug problems from a prevention standpoint. The program is geared towards children and families to teach them about the dangers of drugs.
- Philadelphia Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Network (PAAN)<sup>10</sup>  
PAAN impacts upon the drug and violence problems that plague Philadelphia neighborhoods by promoting community safety through direct services and by developing positive alternatives for youths.

## **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program<sup>11</sup>

From FY 1999 to FY 2003, only one community coalition in Philadelphia received funding through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program. In FY 1999, Woodrock, Inc., a coalition involving community youth, adults, professionals, and non-profit agencies in northern Philadelphia, was awarded \$99,792.
- Office of Weed and Seed<sup>12</sup>

Three areas in Philadelphia have been officially recognized and received Federal funding as Weed and Seed sites.
- FY 2003 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds awarded to agencies/organizations in Philadelphia:<sup>13</sup>
  - Center for Mental Health Services: \$2,351,191
  - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention: \$890,622
  - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment: \$2,944,112
- Philadelphia did not receive any funding through the FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant Program.<sup>14</sup>
- Philadelphia did not receive any funding in 2003 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Methamphetamine Grant.<sup>15</sup>
- FY 2003 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services funding received by Philadelphia recipients:<sup>16</sup>
  - Community Based (discretionary): 2 awards valued at \$450,000
  - Counter Terrorism (discretionary): 3 awards valued at \$3,785,775
  - Juvenile Justice:
    - discretionary: 3 awards valued at \$5,642,344
    - formula: 0 awards
  - Law Enforcement:
    - discretionary: 13 awards valued at \$6,643,423
    - formula: 2 awards valued at \$4,141,054
  - Substance Abuse:
    - discretionary: 2 awards valued at \$3,368,000
    - formula: 0 awards
  - Victims:
    - discretionary: 6 awards valued at \$1,619,955
    - formula: 0 awards
- Philadelphia did not receive any funding through the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Federally-Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant.<sup>17</sup>

## **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- From January through May 2004, there were 2,050 arrests in Philadelphia for the sale/manufacturing of opiates or cocaine.<sup>18</sup>

Number of Drug Arrests, Philadelphia, 2002-May 2004

	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan.-May 2004
<i>Sale/manufacturing</i>			
Opiates/cocaine	8,549	7,763	2,050
Marijuana	3,021	2,906	905
Synthetic	551	714	180
Other	209	249	70
<i>Possession</i>			
Opiates/cocaine	7,441	6,812	1,758
Marijuana	6,555	6,302	1,835
Synthetic	664	786	222
Other	698	614	153

- From January through May 2004, there were 939 arrests for robbery in Philadelphia.<sup>19</sup>

Number of Arrests, Select Offenses, Philadelphia, 2002-May 2004

Offense	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	January-May 2004
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	285	274	65
Forcible rape	643	638	186
Robbery	3,989	3,868	939
Aggravated assault	8,989	7,432	1,751
Burglary	3,024	3,098	656
Larceny-theft	13,675	12,627	3,290
Motor vehicle theft	3,468	3,488	655

- Data for 2003 indicate that 67% of Philadelphia adult male arrestees tested positive for at least one of the following drugs: cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, opiates, or PCP.<sup>20</sup>

Percent of Adult Male Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, Philadelphia, 2003

Drug Type	% Positive
Cocaine	30.3%
Marijuana	45.8
Methamphetamine	0.6
Opiate	11.5
Any of above drugs*	67.0
Multiple drugs*	28.0

\* Includes cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, opiates, and PCP.

- Approximately 16% of Philadelphia adult male arrestees reported using crack cocaine within the past month. Among the arrestees reporting past month crack cocaine use, they used the substance an average of 9.7 days within the month.<sup>21</sup>

## Past Drug Use Among Adult Male Arrestees, Philadelphia, 2003

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marij.	Meth.	Opiates
Past 7 days	14.6%	7.6%	41.7%	0.6%	7.1%
Past 30 days	16.4%	10.7%	46.6%	0.8%	7.5%
Past year	19.7%	14.8%	53.0%	1.4%	9.4%
Avg. # of days used in month	9.7	5.5	10.8	4.4	11.3

### Drugs

#### ➤ Cocaine

Cocaine remains the major drug of abuse in Philadelphia.<sup>22</sup> The predominant form of crack cocaine sold in Philadelphia is a rock that ranges in size from 6-9 millimeters and costs \$5. Powder cocaine is often found in \$10-\$20 bags.<sup>23</sup> The crack cocaine available in Philadelphia is approximately 80% pure and the powder cocaine is 60-80% pure.<sup>24</sup> Crack cocaine users tend to be male, black or white, and over 18 years old. Powder cocaine users tend to be between the ages of 18-30, black or white, and male. Both powder and crack cocaine users have a low socioeconomic status and live in the central city.<sup>25</sup>

#### ➤ Heroin

According to Philadelphia drug users in treatment in autumn 2002, the average heroin user injects the drug 5 times per day.<sup>26</sup> *Pulse Check* sources indicate that heroin is widely available in Philadelphia and ranges in purity from 40%-95%. The price for a gram of heroin ranges from \$75-\$300.<sup>27</sup> Heroin users tend to be 18-30 years old, male, and black or white. They also tend to be of low socioeconomic status and residing in the central city.<sup>28</sup>

#### ➤ Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine is considered “not very” to “somewhat” available in Philadelphia, where a gram costs \$100 and is usually less than 25% pure.<sup>29</sup> Adults over the age of 30 are the predominant methamphetamine users in Philadelphia.<sup>30</sup>

#### ➤ Marijuana

While most of the marijuana available in Philadelphia is not grown locally, the number of indoor hydroponic growing operations has increased. One ounce of commercial marijuana costs \$150-\$200. The blunt wrap, a new product introduced in Philadelphia in 2001, is a tobacco leaf that is moister, fresher, slower burning, and less messy than gutted cigars. A five-pack of blunt wraps sells for \$2 on the Internet and in stores, and one wrap sells for \$1 on street corners. Blunt wraps come in several flavors, including vanilla, chocolate, and honey.<sup>31</sup> Marijuana users tend to be between the ages of 18-30, black, of low socioeconomic status, and live in the central city.<sup>32</sup>

#### ➤ Club Drugs

MDMA is being used in combination with cough syrup in Philadelphia. In spring 2002, an ecstasy pill cost between \$15 and \$35 in Philadelphia, a vial of ketamine cost \$10-\$20, and a tab of LSD cost \$3-\$5.<sup>33</sup> In fall 2001, a vial (one dose) of GHB cost \$10-\$20, one Rohypnol pill cost \$10, and one dose of nitrous oxide cost \$5.<sup>34</sup> PCP has become easier to obtain in Philadelphia.<sup>35</sup>

#### ➤ Other Drugs

Use of oxycodone and other narcotic analgesics has increased in Philadelphia.<sup>36</sup> Alprazolam has overtaken diazepam as the most popular pill on the street in Philadelphia.<sup>37</sup> OxyContin abuse and diverted sales continue to emerge in the rave and nightclub scene in Philadelphia. OxyContin is in great demand by heroin users because it eliminates the need for needles and comes in a controlled measured amount, so users do not have to worry about adulterants.<sup>38</sup> One milligram of diverted OxyContin costs between \$0.50 to \$2.<sup>39</sup>

### Juveniles

- From January through May 2004, there were 212 juvenile arrests in Philadelphia for the sale/manufacturing of opiates or cocaine.<sup>40</sup>

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, Philadelphia, 2002-May 2004

	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	Jan.-May 2004
<i>Sale/manufacturing</i>			
Opiates/cocaine	1,013	944	212
Marijuana	541	553	176
Synthetic	68	111	20
Other	28	26	7
<i>Possession</i>			
Opiates/cocaine	264	310	65
Marijuana	1,615	1,564	442
Synthetic	83	73	20
Other	111	85	29

- From January through May 2004, there were 275 juvenile arrests for robbery in Philadelphia.<sup>41</sup>

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Select Offenses, Philadelphia, 2002-May 2004

Offense	Full Year 2002	Full Year 2003	January-May 2004
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	16	20	1
Forcible rape	102	104	30
Robbery	1,016	1,056	275
Aggravated assault	1,383	1,370	396
Burglary	704	789	136
Larceny-theft	3,407	3,169	731
Motor vehicle theft	1,142	1,384	221

- During 2003, 42.9% of high school students in Philadelphia reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetime.<sup>42</sup>

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Philadelphia, 2003

	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	40.4%	45.4%	42.9%
Past month marijuana use	17.7	30.4	23.9
Lifetime cocaine use	2.2	3.4	2.9
Past month cocaine use	0.5	1.1	0.8
Lifetime inhalant use	5.7	5.7	5.7
Past month inhalant use	1.6	1.2	1.4
Lifetime heroin use	0.4	2.4	1.4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	1.9	2.2	2.0
Lifetime illegal use of steroids	2.0	2.6	2.3
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	0.0	1.5	0.7
Lifetime ecstasy use	4.4	5.4	4.9
Tried marijuana before age 13	6.6	13.7	10.1

- Approximately 25% of Philadelphia high school seniors reported using marijuana within the past month.<sup>43</sup>

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Philadelphia, 2003

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	33.2%	43.7%	52.1%	50.8%
Past month marijuana use	21.2	24.8	25.1	25.2
Lifetime cocaine use	2.4	2.2	3.5	4.2
Past month cocaine use	0.9	0.4	0.8	1.0
Lifetime inhalant use	5.9	7.0	2.6	6.5
Past month inhalant use	2.1	1.4	0.7	0.7
Lifetime heroin use	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.1	2.5	1.2	1.7
Lifetime illegal use of steroids	2.1	1.7	2.9	2.9
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	0.4	0.9	0.7	1.1
Lifetime ecstasy use	2.2	5.1	5.6	9.1
Tried marijuana before age 13	12.4	8.5	7.9	10.0

**Enforcement**

- As of October 31, 2002, there were 7,850 full time law enforcement employees in Philadelphia (6,931 officers and 919 civilians).<sup>44</sup>

**Trafficking and Seizures**

- Philadelphia based Hispanic distribution organizations are the primary source for heroin sold to users throughout the area.<sup>45</sup>
- Drug trafficking organizations and criminal groups that operate in Pennsylvania are based in large cities such as Philadelphia.<sup>46</sup>
- Most wholesale level MDMA distribution in Pennsylvania occurs in Philadelphia.<sup>47</sup>

- Major interstate rail and highway systems, a major international airport, and key shipping terminals on the 100 miles of waterfront along the Delaware River facilitate drug trafficking into and through the Philadelphia region.<sup>48</sup>
- Multi-kilogram shipments of cocaine are trafficked through the Port of Philadelphia/Camden, the second largest seaport in the nation.<sup>49</sup>
- Major New York drug trafficking organizations use Philadelphia as a transshipment point for drugs, drug proceeds, and illegal guns.<sup>50</sup>

### **Courts**

- Drug Courts<sup>51</sup>  
As of November 7, 2003, there was one drug court in existence in Philadelphia. No additional drug courts were being planned.

### **Corrections**

- On June 30, 2002, there were 7,913 inmates in the Philadelphia prison system. For nearly half of the inmates (3,817 inmates or 48.24% of all inmates), the most serious offense committed was a drug offense.<sup>52</sup>
- Opportunities for Prevention and Treatment Interventions for Offenders Needing Support (OPTIONS)<sup>53</sup>  
The OPTIONS program provides addiction treatment services to inmates in intensive residential units (therapeutic communities) and in moderate outpatient units. An average of 818 inmates participated in OPTIONS each month during FY 2002.
- Forensic Intensive Recovery (FIR)<sup>54</sup>  
The FIR program is an early-parole and re-parole program designed to provide community-based drug and alcohol treatment as an alternative to incarceration. The goals of the FIR program are to reduce prison overcrowding, decrease recidivism, and enhance community safety. Evaluations have shown that FIR clients who complete at least six months of treatment are re-convicted at a rate of 44-66% less than non-participants are. During FY 2002, FIR removed 1,926 inmates from incarceration.
- In late FY 2002, the Philadelphia Prison System received licensure for a methadone detoxification program. The program will serve all inmates who were enrolled in a methadone program upon arrest.<sup>55</sup>
- During FY 2002, the Philadelphia Prison System Canine Drug Detection Unit conducted 910 searches. Drugs valued at \$1,145 were found and confiscated.<sup>56</sup>

### **Consequences of Use**

- During 2002, there were 27,753 drug-related emergency department (ED) episodes in Philadelphia that were reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN). Cocaine was mentioned 12,437 times in the ED episodes.<sup>57</sup>



Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, Philadelphia, 1998-2002

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combin.	8,565	8,815	8,331	9,228	9,921
Cocaine	13,048	12,434	10,497	11,358	12,437
Heroin	3,445	4,087	4,661	5,362	4,918
Marijuana	5,302	5,465	4,928	5,496	6,787
Amphetamines	361	444	489	400	329
Methamphetamine	48	47	67	60	50
MDMA (Ecstasy)	27	89	141	203	177
Ketamine	--	5	23	--	--
LSD	76	121	104	74	30
PCP	573	580	604	785	1,144
Miscell. hallucinogens	22	53	38	27	39
Rohypnol	0	0	0	0	0
GHB	--	53	79	90	31
Inhalants	16	21	23	41	34
Total ED drug episodes	24,923	24,397	23,428	25,790	27,753
Total ED drug mentions	45,582	45,559	44,375	48,220	52,035

- During 2002, there were 438 drug-related deaths in Philadelphia County reported to DAWN.<sup>58</sup>

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, Philadelphia County, 1998-2002

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alcohol-in-combination	137	144	194	169	165
Cocaine	276	293	310	284	249
Heroin/morphine	272	254	319	266	227
Marijuana	--	--	--	--	--
Amphetamines	4	9	3	10	8
Methamphetamine	4	5	3	5	8
Club drugs	--	6	5	13	5
Hallucinogens	24	22	25	30	32
Inhalants	--	--	--	--	1
Narcotic analgesics	221	271	348	277	282
Other analgesics	27	10	12	14	19
Benzodiazepines	95	58	72	94	94
Antidepressants	170	127	156	161	134
All other substances	212	208	234	229	294
Total drug deaths	467	455	528	492	438
Total drug mentions	1,442	1,407	1,681	1,552	1,518

**Treatment**

- During 2003, 5.9% of adult male arrestees in Philadelphia had received outpatient substance abuse treatment within the past year.<sup>59</sup>

Percent of Adult Male Arrestees in Drug and Alcohol Treatment, Philadelphia, 2003

Outpatient		Inpatient/Residential	
Ever	Past Year	Ever	Past Year
22.9%	5.9%	29.7%	7.7%

- The Philadelphia Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol Prevention Programs has developed specialized treatment programs to serve the following populations: dually-diagnosed (substance abuse and mental health problems), women and women with children, Latinos, adolescents, criminal justice clients, persons with AIDS, and homeless persons.<sup>60</sup>
- Approximately 83% of the Philadelphia cocaine treatment admissions in 2002 involved crack.<sup>61</sup>
- During 2001, there were 6,943 admissions to treatment in Philadelphia. More than 2,000 of those admitted were being treated for primary abuse of cocaine.<sup>62</sup>

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Philadelphia, 1995-2001\*

Primary Drug	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001*
Cocaine	5,258	4,263	2,492	1,942	1,992	2,225	2,086
Alcohol	4,072	3,468	1,648	1,477	1,943	1,826	1,676
Heroin	3,020	2,523	1,581	920	1,199	1,466	1,780
Other opiates	80	41	51	48	46	73	81
Marijuana	918	1,017	592	791	862	910	1,030
PCP	104	183	36	32	49	43	62
Other halluc.	26	22	14	9	9	7	4
Meth/amphet.	56	41	27	31	33	27	31
Benzodiaz.	41	41	26	32	46	37	38
Tranquilizers	14	22	11	6	4	8	2
Barbiturates	21	25	8	13	8	3	13
Other sed./hypn.	10	31	12	13	18	16	24
Inhalants	2	5	0	2	0	4	1
Over-the-counter	4	2	4	7	24	5	2
Other	169	148	53	17	1	60	113
Total	13,795	11,832	6,555	5,340	6,234	6,710	6,943

\* 2001 data are preliminary and subject to change

- In FY 2001, there were 9,857 admissions to state-supported drug and alcohol treatment facilities in Philadelphia County.<sup>63</sup>

Clients Receiving Treatment, by Primary Diagnosis, Philadelphia County, FY 2001

Primary Diagnosis	Clients
Drug abuse	7,121
Alcohol abuse	2,422
Other*	314
Total admissions	9,857

\* Includes family members receiving counseling.

- In FY 2001, there were 137 licensed drug/alcohol treatment facilities in Philadelphia County.<sup>64</sup>

Number of Treatment Facilities, Philadelphia County, FY 2001

Type of Service Provided	Number of Facilities
Inpatient non-hospital	47
Inpatient hospital	15
Partial hospital	3
Outpatient	99
All facilities	137

**Sources**

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- <sup>2</sup> Philadelphia Mayor's Office Web site: <http://www.phila.gov/mayor/>
- <sup>3</sup> Philadelphia City Council Web site: <http://www.phila.gov/citycouncil/index.html>
- <sup>4</sup> Philadelphia Police Department Web site, Executive Profiles section: [http://www.ppdonline.org/ppd\\_executives.htm](http://www.ppdonline.org/ppd_executives.htm)
- <sup>5</sup> City and County of Philadelphia Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.phillysheriff.com/>
- <sup>6</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, Philadelphia/Camden High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_phil.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_phil.html)
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- <sup>17</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development, FY 2001 Federally Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report: <http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>
- <sup>18</sup> Pennsylvania State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting System: <http://ucrreport.psp.state.pa.us/UCR/Reporting/RptMain.asp>
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>20</sup> National Institute of Justice, *Drug and Alcohol Use and Related Matters Among Arrestees, 2003*: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/adam/ADAM2003.pdf>
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>22</sup> Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse: Advance Report*, December 2002: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/PDF/CEWG/AdvReport1202.pdf>

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