



Working to Reform Marijuana Laws

The NORML Almanac of Marijuana Arrest Statistics

Rhode Island Marijuana Arrests

Marijuana Arrests 1995-2002 (Summary)

Marijuana Possession Arrests-2002 (Demographics)

Marijuana Sales Arrests-2002 (Demographics)

Marijuana Arrests by County 1998-2002

Introduction

The NORML Almanac of Marijuana Arrest Statistics provides detailed data on the distribution and composition of marijuana arrests to supplement the analysis and data contained in NORML's 2005 report "Crimes of Indiscretion: Marijuana Arrests in the United States."

The data used for these tables were produced by the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) program of the Department of Justice - Federal Bureau of Investigation. Local police agencies report data to state agencies, which compile and report it to the national program office. Some local agencies do not participate in the program, and neither do some states. Florida, Illinois, and Washington D.C. did not report data to the UCR program in 2002, though some Illinois data was obtained directly from the state for this report.

This report relies on two UCR data sets. UCR County-Level Detailed Arrest and Offense Data have been used to generate state and county level arrest totals and rates, generally for the years 1995 to 2002. County-level data are reported along with codes that indicate 9 categories of population sizes. Generally the largest arrest rates reported are for small jurisdictions with significant numbers of arrests of non-residents, such as in a popular vacation area.

The UCR Age, Sex, and Race file has been used along with US Census population data to produce arrest rates by demographic category for marijuana possession and sales arrests in 2002. The four categories used for race-based data in the UCR program are White, Black, Indian (Native American), and Asian. The race-based data are also subdivided by general age group: adult, juvenile, and all. Age/sex data are presented in two formats. The primary presentation

utilizes five year age categories for males, females, and both. Age/sex data are also presented using single year categories for age 15 to age 24 to highlight the impact of marijuana arrests on these specific age groups.

All arrest rates reported in these tables are per 100,000 population. Some arrests rates may vary due to differences in the data sets; for example the arrest rate for possession derived from the county level file may be 200 while the same arrest rate derived from the age, sex and race file may be 192. Data reported in these tables may also differ from reports from state criminal justice agencies; UCR files are frequently updated at the state level.

State sections include the following additional data: marijuana arrests as a percentage of drug arrests, marijuana arrests as a percentage of all arrests, the 2002 Census population, 2002 reporting coverage for demographic data, and the maximum state penalties for possession or sale of 1 ounce of marijuana. Marijuana arrests as a percentage of all drug arrests indicate the resources marijuana offenses take away from other drug control efforts. Marijuana arrests as a percentage of all arrests provide an index of the cost of marijuana enforcement in a state; the percentage of all arrests indicates a general percentage of overall criminal justice costs that can be attributed to marijuana. The maximum penalties indicate the potential severity of punishment for marijuana offenses; these data also help characterize the potential cost of state marijuana laws under conditions of maximum enforcement.

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Key to Almanac Tables

Marijuana Arrests 1995 – 2002

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: County-level Detailed Arrest and Offense Data. [Computer File]

All: Both adults and juveniles.

Adults: Age 18 and older.

Juvenile: Under age 18.

Arrests: Total marijuana arrests, possession and sales arrests combined.

Rate: The arrest rate per 100,000 for all marijuana offenses is calculated by dividing the number of arrests by the coverage population and multiplying the result by 100,000.

Pct of Drug Arrests: The percent of drug arrests represented by marijuana arrests. This figure is calculated by dividing the number of marijuana arrests by the number of all arrests for drug offenses.

Pct of All Arrests: The percentage of all arrests represented by marijuana arrests. This figure is calculated by dividing the number of marijuana arrests by the number of arrests for all criminal offenses.

Marijuana Sales/Possession Arrests – 2002

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: Arrests by Age, Sex, and Race. [Computer File]

Population: The total population estimated by the U.S. Census.

Coverage: The percentage of the total population represented by the coverage

population. This figure is calculated by dividing the coverage population by the census population for a region.

Poss. Max: The maximum penalty for possession of 1 ounce of marijuana.

Sales. Max: The maximum penalty for sales of one ounce of marijuana.

Arrest Rate: The arrest rate per 100,000 population, calculated by dividing the number of arrests by the population served by the arresting police agencies and multiplying the result by 100,000.

Adults: Individuals age 18 and older.

Juveniles: Individuals under the age of 18.

Rate: The demographic composition of coverage populations has been estimated using U.S. Census data and used to calculate arrest rates for marijuana offenses per 100,000 population for specific demographic groups.

Arrest Pct.: The percentage of arrests for the offense accounted for by the demographic group.

Pop. Pct.: The estimated percentage of the regional population accounted for by the demographic group.

Ratio: The ratio produced by dividing Arrest Pct by Pop. Pct. by the population percentage. A group that accounts for equal shares of marijuana possession arrests and the general population will have a ratio of 1.0.

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Marijuana Arrests by County 1998 – 2002

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: County-level Detailed Arrest and Offense Data. [Computer File]

Population Size: Nine categories are used to distinguish counties of similar population size. Special circumstances are more likely to disproportionately affect arrest rates in counties with smaller resident populations, such as high numbers of vacation visitors for beach and mountain resort areas.

Arrests: Total marijuana arrests, possession and sales arrests combined.

Arrest Rates: The arrest rate per 100,000 for all marijuana offenses is calculated by dividing the number of arrests by the coverage population and multiplying the result by 100,000.

Rank (Rates): Ranking among all the counties in the State, from highest (1) to lowest.

Population Size Codes

Size 1	Population	< 2,500		
Size 2	Population	2,500	to	9,999
Size 3	Population	10,000	to	24,999
Size 4	Population	25,000	to	49,999
Size 5	Population	50,000	to	99,999
Size 6	Population	100,000	to	249,999
Size 7	Population	250,000	to	499,999
Size 8	Population	500,000	to	999,999
Size 9	Population	1,000,000 +		

Notes on the Calculation of Age and Race-Specific Arrest Rates at the County, State, and National Level

1. County-level Totals and Arrest Rates.

Local agency data from the UCR Age, Sex, and Race file are combined to produce county-level totals and arrest rates for the overall population. While the agency-level file provides data on the number of blacks arrested by each agency, for example, it does not provide data on the local black population. However calculation of the arrest rate for blacks can take place at the county level through the use of Census Bureau data on county-level populations.

2. State, and National Level Totals and Arrest Rates.

County level data are combined to produce state, and national-level totals of coverage populations and arrests by offense, providing a basis for calculating the arrest rate for the overall coverage population.

3. Demographic-based Arrest Rates.

The coverage population for Blacks in each region, for example, can be estimated using Census data on the overall Black population of the region. If Blacks comprise 65% of the population of a county, for example, these tables are based on the premise that Blacks also comprise 65% of the coverage population reported in the UCR data for that county. The estimation of the Black population within the overall coverage population provides a basis for calculating the arrest rates for Blacks in the region.

4. Coverage Indicators.

A comparison of the coverage population of the reporting local agencies and the overall census population produces a coverage indicator indicating the extent the reported data represents a particular region and its diversity.

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Rhode Island Marijuana Arrests

		<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
All	Arrests	2,498	2,117	2,223	2,417	2,473	2,493	2,533	2,462
All	Rate	252.32	213.84	225.23	244.64	249.55	237.81	239.21	230.15
All	Pct. Of Drug Arrests	59.01%	53.49%	52.83%	53.57%	56.41%	57.58%	57.82%	57.94%
All	Pct. Of All Arrests	5.98%	5.02%	5.39%	5.53%	6.16%	6.98%	6.27%	5.68%
Adult	Arrests	1,961	1,672	1,647	1,881	1,888	1,902	1,973	1,890
Adult	Rate	198.08	168.89	166.87	190.38	190.51	181.43	186.32	176.68
Adult	Pct. Of Drug Arrests	46.33%	42.24%	39.14%	41.69%	43.07%	43.93%	45.04%	44.48%
Adult	Pct. Of All Arrests	4.70%	3.96%	3.99%	4.30%	4.70%	5.32%	4.89%	4.36%
Juvenile	Arrests	537	445	576	536	585	591	560	571
Juvenile	Rate	54.24	44.95	58.36	54.25	59.03	56.38	52.88	53.38
Juvenile	Pct. Of Drug Arrests	12.69%	11.24%	13.69%	11.88%	13.34%	13.65%	12.78%	13.44%
Juvenile	Pct. Of All Arrests	1.29%	1.06%	1.40%	1.23%	1.46%	1.65%	1.39%	1.32%

Rhode Island Marijuana Possession Arrests

		<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
All	Arrests	2,016	1,687	1,873	2,172	2,226	2,200	2,202	2,109
All	Rate	203.64	170.40	189.77	219.84	224.62	209.86	207.95	197.15
All	Pct. Of Drug Arrests	47.63%	42.62%	44.51%	48.14%	50.78%	50.81%	50.26%	49.64%
All	Pct. Of All Arrests	4.83%	4.00%	4.54%	4.97%	5.54%	6.16%	5.45%	4.87%
Adult	Arrests	1,560	1,321	1,362	1,682	1,698	1,680	1,691	1,596
Adult	Rate	157.58	133.43	137.99	170.24	171.34	160.26	159.69	149.20
Adult	Pct. Of Drug Arrests	36.85%	33.38%	32.37%	37.28%	38.73%	38.80%	38.60%	37.56%
Adult	Pct. Of All Arrests	3.74%	3.13%	3.30%	3.85%	4.23%	4.70%	4.19%	3.68%
Juvenile	Arrests	456	366	511	490	528	521	511	512
Juvenile	Rate	46.06	36.97	51.77	49.60	53.28	49.70	48.26	47.86
Juvenile	Pct. Of Drug Arrests	10.77%	9.25%	12.14%	10.86%	12.04%	12.03%	11.66%	12.05%
Juvenile	Pct. Of All Arrests	1.09%	0.87%	1.24%	1.12%	1.32%	1.46%	1.27%	1.18%

Rhode Island Marijuana Sales Arrests

		<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
All	Arrests	482	430	350	245	247	293	331	353
All	Rate	48.69	43.43	35.46	24.80	24.92	27.95	31.26	33.00
All	Pct. Of Drug Arrests	11.39%	10.86%	8.32%	5.43%	5.63%	6.77%	7.56%	8.31%
All	Pct. Of All Arrests	1.15%	1.02%	0.85%	0.56%	0.62%	0.82%	0.82%	0.81%
Adult	Arrests	401	351	285	199	190	222	282	294
Adult	Rate	40.51	35.45	28.88	20.14	19.17	21.18	26.63	27.48
Adult	Pct. Of Drug Arrests	9.47%	8.87%	6.77%	4.41%	4.33%	5.13%	6.44%	6.92%
Adult	Pct. Of All Arrests	0.96%	0.83%	0.69%	0.46%	0.47%	0.62%	0.70%	0.68%
Juvenile	Arrests	81	79	65	46	57	70	49	59
Juvenile	Rate	8.18	7.98	6.59	4.66	5.75	6.68	4.63	5.52
Juvenile	Pct. Of Drug Arrests	1.91%	2.00%	1.54%	1.02%	1.30%	1.62%	1.12%	1.39%
Juvenile	Pct. Of All Arrests	0.19%	0.19%	0.16%	0.11%	0.14%	0.20%	0.12%	0.14%

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Rhode Island Marijuana Possession Arrests - 2002

Population	1,069,725		Arrest Rate		Adults	White	Black	Indian	Asian	
Coverage	100.00%		2000	208.62	Rate	181.92	497.55	0.00	85.42	
Poss. Max.	12	months	2001	209.96	Arrest Pct.	62.55%	12.45%	0.00%	0.97%	
Sales Max.	360	months	2002	194.07	Pop. Pct.	70.55%	3.96%	0.38%	1.96%	
					Ratio	0.89	3.14	0.00	0.49	
All	White	Black	Indian	Asian	Juveniles	White	Black	Indian	Asian	
Rate	171.72	609.44	0.00	95.32	Rate	219.94	262.74	0.00	56.22	
Arrest Pct.	84.03%	15.01%	0.00%	1.16%	Arrest Pct.	21.48%	2.56%	0.00%	0.19%	
Pop. Pct.	89.47%	5.84%	0.57%	2.63%	Pop. Pct.	18.91%	1.89%	0.19%	0.67%	
Ratio	0.94	2.57	0.00	0.44	Ratio	1.14	1.35	0.00	0.28	
Total	Age 15-19	Age 20-24	Age 25-29	Age 30-34	Age 35-39	Age 40-44	Age 45-59	Age 50-54	Age 55-59	Age 60-64
Rate	1,325.88	640.79	278.51	168.16	127.22	88.22	53.81	19.75	6.96	2.37
Arrest Pct.	44.22%	26.54%	8.62%	6.07%	5.15%	3.76%	2.12%	0.67%	0.19%	0.05%
Pop. Pct.	6.47%	8.04%	6.01%	7.00%	7.86%	8.27%	7.64%	6.63%	5.37%	3.95%
Ratio	6.83	3.30	1.43	0.87	0.66	0.45	0.28	0.10	0.04	0.01
Male	Age 15-19	Age 20-24	Age 25-29	Age 30-34	Age 35-39	Age 40-44	Age 45-59	Age 50-54	Age 55-59	Age 60-64
Rate	2,296.88	1,132.84	504.13	307.79	224.11	145.92	95.64	40.39	10.77	5.02
Arrest Pct.	39.45%	23.22%	7.76%	5.39%	4.43%	3.03%	1.83%	0.67%	0.14%	0.05%
Pop. Pct.	3.33%	3.98%	2.99%	3.40%	3.84%	4.04%	3.71%	3.24%	2.60%	1.86%
Ratio	11.85	5.83	2.60	1.59	1.15	0.75	0.49	0.21	0.05	0.03
Female	Age 15-19	Age 20-24	Age 25-29	Age 30-34	Age 35-39	Age 40-44	Age 45-59	Age 50-54	Age 55-59	Age 60-64
Rate	294.82	158.84	55.67	36.33	34.84	33.16	14.27	0.00	3.38	0.00
Arrest Pct.	4.77%	3.32%	0.87%	0.67%	0.72%	0.72%	0.29%	0.00%	0.05%	0.00%
Pop. Pct.	3.14%	4.06%	3.02%	3.60%	4.03%	4.23%	3.93%	3.39%	2.77%	2.09%
Ratio	1.52	0.82	0.29	0.19	0.18	0.17	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.00
Total	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Age 18	Age 19	Age 20	Age 21	Age 22	Age 23	Age 24
Rate	697.62	1,063.27	1,497.97	1,841.94	1,504.08	1,001.10	804.60	570.34	438.01	365.87
Arrest Pct.	4.62%	6.84%	10.12%	12.43%	10.21%	7.90%	7.27%	5.06%	3.61%	2.70%
Pop. Pct.	1.29%	1.25%	1.31%	1.31%	1.32%	1.53%	1.75%	1.72%	1.60%	1.43%
Ratio	3.59	5.48	7.72	9.49	7.75	5.16	4.15	2.94	2.26	1.89
Male	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Age 18	Age 19	Age 20	Age 21	Age 22	Age 23	Age 24
Rate	1,197.86	1,744.77	2,593.98	3,170.43	2,738.39	1,683.13	1,376.25	1,099.26	826.45	625.41
Arrest Pct.	4.09%	5.83%	9.01%	11.03%	9.49%	6.65%	6.12%	4.82%	3.32%	2.31%
Pop. Pct.	0.66%	0.65%	0.67%	0.68%	0.67%	0.77%	0.86%	0.85%	0.78%	0.72%
Ratio	6.17	8.99	13.37	16.34	14.11	8.67	7.09	5.66	4.26	3.22
Female	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Age 18	Age 19	Age 20	Age 21	Age 22	Age 23	Age 24
Rate	165.04	327.10	337.74	427.48	217.36	317.73	251.60	53.69	68.38	104.84
Arrest Pct.	0.53%	1.01%	1.11%	1.40%	0.72%	1.25%	1.16%	0.24%	0.29%	0.39%
Pop. Pct.	0.62%	0.60%	0.64%	0.63%	0.65%	0.76%	0.89%	0.87%	0.82%	0.71%
Ratio	0.85	1.69	1.74	2.20	1.12	1.64	1.30	0.28	0.35	0.54

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Rhode Island Marijuana Sales Arrests - 2002

Population	1,069,725		Arrest Rate		Adults	White	Black	Indian	Asian	
Coverage	100.00%		2000	27.76	Rate	27.27	135.99	0.00	21.36	
Poss. Max.	12	months	2001	31.57	Arrest Pct.	61.82%	20.23%	0.00%	1.42%	
Sales Max.	360	months	2002	32.91	Pop. Pct.	70.55%	3.96%	0.38%	1.96%	
					Ratio	0.88	5.11	0.00	0.72	
All	White	Black	Indian	Asian	Juveniles	White	Black	Indian	Asian	
Rate	28.75	167.71	0.00	23.83	Rate	21.75	69.40	0.00	14.05	
Arrest Pct.	74.36%	24.22%	0.00%	1.71%	Arrest Pct.	12.54%	3.99%	0.00%	0.28%	
Pop. Pct.	89.47%	5.84%	0.57%	2.63%	Pop. Pct.	18.91%	1.89%	0.19%	0.67%	
Ratio	0.83	4.15	0.00	0.65	Ratio	0.66	2.11	0.00	0.42	
Total	Age 15-19	Age 20-24	Age 25-29	Age 30-34	Age 35-39	Age 40-44	Age 45-59	Age 50-54	Age 55-59	Age 60-64
Rate	158.87	132.58	65.35	38.70	24.97	11.31	13.45	4.23	1.74	0.00
Arrest Pct.	31.25%	32.39%	11.93%	8.24%	5.97%	2.84%	3.12%	0.85%	0.28%	0.00%
Pop. Pct.	6.47%	8.04%	6.01%	7.00%	7.86%	8.27%	7.64%	6.63%	5.37%	3.95%
Ratio	4.83	4.03	1.99	1.18	0.76	0.34	0.41	0.13	0.05	0.00
Male	Age 15-19	Age 20-24	Age 25-29	Age 30-34	Age 35-39	Age 40-44	Age 45-59	Age 50-54	Age 55-59	Age 60-64
Rate	272.04	249.13	112.73	76.95	36.54	13.90	17.62	5.77	3.59	0.00
Arrest Pct.	27.56%	30.11%	10.23%	7.95%	4.26%	1.70%	1.99%	0.57%	0.28%	0.00%
Pop. Pct.	3.33%	3.98%	2.99%	3.40%	3.84%	4.04%	3.71%	3.24%	2.60%	1.86%
Ratio	8.28	7.57	3.42	2.34	1.11	0.42	0.54	0.18	0.11	0.00
Female	Age 15-19	Age 20-24	Age 25-29	Age 30-34	Age 35-39	Age 40-44	Age 45-59	Age 50-54	Age 55-59	Age 60-64
Rate	38.71	18.42	18.56	2.59	13.94	8.84	9.51	2.76	0.00	0.00
Arrest Pct.	3.69%	2.27%	1.70%	0.28%	1.70%	1.14%	1.14%	0.28%	0.00%	0.00%
Pop. Pct.	3.14%	4.06%	3.02%	3.60%	4.03%	4.23%	3.93%	3.39%	2.77%	2.09%
Ratio	1.18	0.56	0.56	0.08	0.42	0.27	0.29	0.08	0.00	0.00
Total	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Age 18	Age 19	Age 20	Age 21	Age 22	Age 23	Age 24
Rate	36.33	164.73	149.80	242.74	198.65	177.02	117.23	124.93	122.64	124.13
Arrest Pct.	1.42%	6.25%	5.97%	9.66%	7.95%	8.24%	6.25%	6.53%	5.97%	5.40%
Pop. Pct.	1.29%	1.25%	1.31%	1.31%	1.32%	1.53%	1.75%	1.72%	1.60%	1.43%
Ratio	1.10	5.01	4.55	7.38	6.04	5.38	3.56	3.80	3.73	3.77
Male	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Age 18	Age 19	Age 20	Age 21	Age 22	Age 23	Age 24
Rate	70.46	273.97	263.56	401.50	347.51	329.31	238.40	230.85	227.57	221.50
Arrest Pct.	1.42%	5.40%	5.40%	8.24%	7.10%	7.67%	6.25%	5.97%	5.40%	4.83%
Pop. Pct.	0.66%	0.65%	0.67%	0.68%	0.67%	0.77%	0.86%	0.85%	0.78%	0.72%
Ratio	2.14	8.33	8.01	12.20	10.56	10.01	7.25	7.02	6.92	6.73
Female	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Age 18	Age 19	Age 20	Age 21	Age 22	Age 23	Age 24
Rate	0.00	46.73	29.37	73.70	43.47	24.44	0.00	21.48	22.79	26.21
Arrest Pct.	0.00%	0.85%	0.57%	1.42%	0.85%	0.57%	0.00%	0.57%	0.57%	0.57%
Pop. Pct.	0.62%	0.60%	0.64%	0.63%	0.65%	0.76%	0.89%	0.87%	0.82%	0.71%
Ratio	0.00	1.42	0.89	2.24	1.32	0.74	0.00	0.65	0.69	0.80

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Rhode Island

Marijuana Arrests by County

	Population Size	Arrests					Arrest Rates					Rank (Rates)
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>
Bristol	5	151	165	129	138	129	308.04	335.16	254.70	269.74	249.60	3
Kent	6	530	479	391	328	367	327.35	295.33	234.01	194.34	215.25	4
Newport	5	298	321	316	360	346	360.42	386.45	369.88	417.16	396.89	1
Providence	8	1,022	1,163	1,287	1,280	1,240	177.87	202.06	207.05	203.86	195.49	5
Washington	6	416	345	370	427	380	347.21	285.28	299.48	342.16	301.42	2
State Total		2,417	2,473	2,493	2,533	2,462	244.64	249.55	237.81	239.21	230.15	