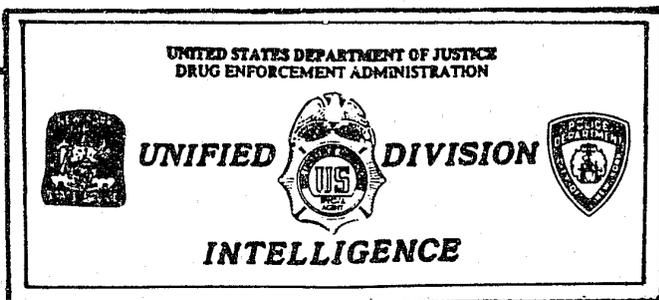


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New York Statewide  
Assessment  
of Drug  
Trafficking



and  
Availability

JUNE 1990

126914

**U.S. Department of Justice  
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## FOREWARD

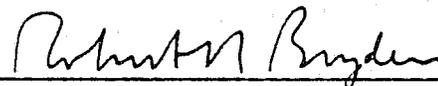
The New York Statewide Assessment of Drug Trafficking and Availability was prepared as a cooperative effort by the Unified Intelligence Division (UID) of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's New York Field Division, in conjunction with the New York State Police, numerous county and municipal law enforcement authorities, laboratory directors, substance abuse counselors and medical professionals.

One of the most difficult problems faced by drug law enforcement intelligence is to assess the nature and extent of drug trafficking and availability. Unlike more conventional (and legal) types of commerce, the clandestine nature of drug production, transportation, wholesaling, and retail distribution prevents any of these activities from being quantified precisely. This presents intractable problems in gathering accurate and complete data for analysis, making it difficult to use a scientific model to determine the current state of drug trafficking and availability. However, a scientific model is not necessary to accurately define the major drug trafficking trends and availability for a given area. Localized trafficking, trend, and availability information can be analyzed to provide a comprehensive assessment of overall trafficking and availability patterns. This assessment is the result of just such an analysis.

The assessment was begun by dividing New York State into five regions. The regions were chosen because each has somewhat unique demographic and geographic characteristics and they also are analogous to New York State Police troop areas of coverage. The assessments' Region One covers the Hudson Valley and consists of New York State Police Troops F and K; Region Two covers the Albany tri-city area and northern New York, consisting of New York State Police Troops B and G; Region Three covers northwestern New York and the "Southern Tier" area in central New York, which corresponds to the area covered by New York State Police Troops C and D; Region Four covers western New York, consisting of New York State Police Troops A and E; Region Five covers Long Island, consisting of New York State Police Troop L. New York City was not included in the assessment because of the extensive drug intelligence already available. The Unified Intelligence Division personnel, who include DEA Special Agents, DEA Intelligence Analysts, New York State Police Investigators and New York City Police Detectives, traveled to many areas of the state, including most major metropolitan areas. Meetings were held with state, county, and municipal officials for in-depth discussions of the trafficking/abuse situation in their respective areas. A questionnaire with detailed, open-ended questions was developed and sent to each Sheriff's Office and Police Department that UID personnel could not contact personally due to time and travel constraints. The information from the discussions and the responses from the questionnaire were used to prepare this assessment. The Statewide Assessment consists of a short statewide overview, overviews for each of the five regions and then an extensive appendix with county-by-county summaries grouped by region. Responses were received from officials in 47 of New York's 57 non-New York City counties.

The UID has worked to develop the most accurate and comprehensive assessment possible. However, because of the fluid nature of drug trends, the statements and judgements (especially drug prices) in this assessment are necessarily tentative and some may have changed since research was completed. The value of this assessment is not in individual statements on drug activity in a specific area, but instead in the identification of trends and patterns that become evident when many of these statements are analyzed for an overall picture of the drug traffic.

The UID appreciates the cooperation and input from the many New York law enforcement and other personnel who made this assessment possible. We welcome future exchange of drug intelligence information throughout the state. Questions, comments, and requests for further information regarding the assessment can be addressed to: Group Supervisor Horace Robbins, UID/71, Drug Enforcement Administration, 555 West 57 Street, New York, New York 10019; FTS 662-4970; commercial (212) 399-4970.



Robert A. Bryden  
Special Agent in Charge

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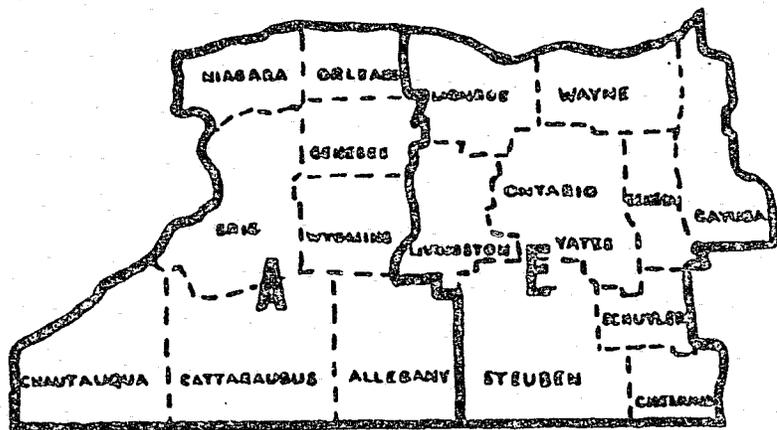
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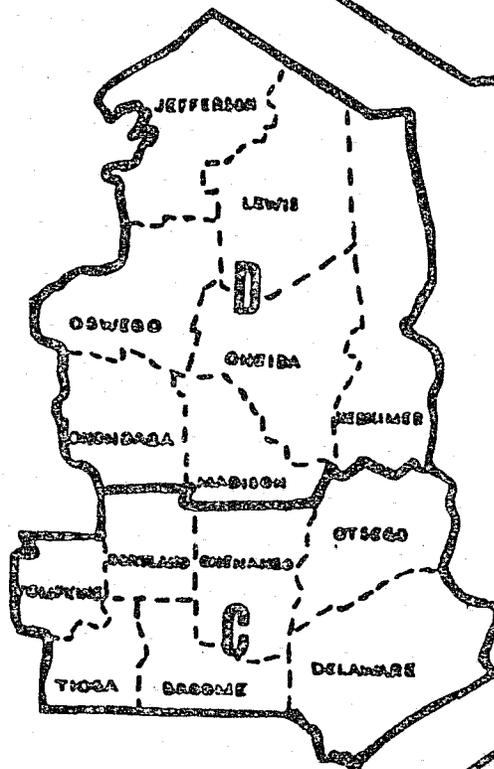
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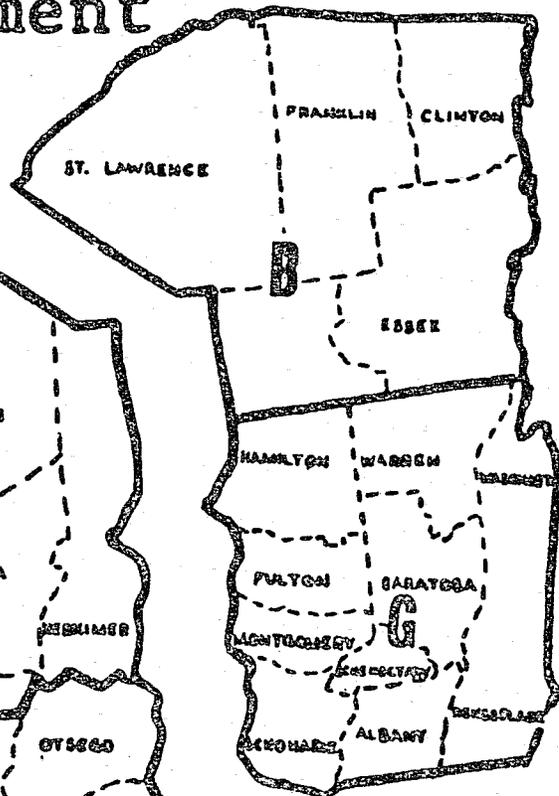
# New York Statewide Assessment of Drug Trafficking and Availability



Region Four



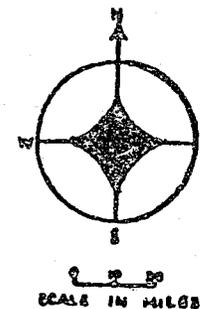
Region Three



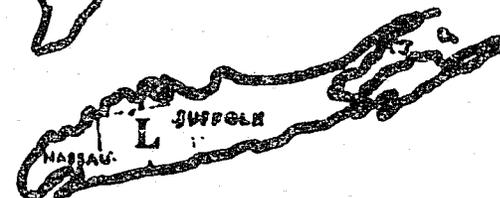
Region Two



Region One



Region Five



Letters A-L correspond to  
New York State Police Troop  
Boundaries

## STATEWIDE OVERVIEW

Analysis of the information gathered during the course of the assessment identified several statewide trends, two of which are intertwined and overshadow the others. The first, the widespread availability of cocaine throughout the state, is caused in great part because of the second significant trend, the increasing organization of the cocaine trade in upstate markets. Over the last few years, cocaine availability spread to all parts of New York State, including some of the most rural and isolated areas in which cocaine was never available previously. In addition, the price of cocaine fell throughout the state over the last few years. While cocaine is still more expensive in most rural areas than in the major metropolitan areas, the rural price dropped enough to appeal to significantly larger numbers of abusers. The price drop can be attributed to the second major trend, increased organization of the upstate cocaine market. Previously, almost all of the drug sellers outside metropolitan New York City were independent operators who, alone or in concert with a few friends, would obtain drugs at or around New York City, transport them to their home area and sell them locally for a profit. This system provided a natural limitation on upstate drug supply because the independent dealer could not usually afford to buy a large supply at any one time and the logistics of traveling back and forth to New York City prevented the trip from being made too often.

However, within the last three to four years, several organized trafficking

groups, many organized along ethnic lines, emerged in upstate cities and towns. Most of these groups are directly connected to cocaine sources in New York City and/or south Florida and are able to bring multi-kilograms upstate on a regular basis.

These organized, well armed groups have quickly dominated most trafficking activity in their respective cities and towns because they are tightly organized, can offer their cocaine for a lower price, and have intimidated many of the local independent traffickers with violence or threats of violence. While these organized groups generally limit their trafficking to the confines of the city/town they operate in, their efficient distribution of cocaine at a lower price spills over into the suburban and rural areas more rapidly, increasing availability everywhere.

There are other apparent trends not as notable as the cocaine spread/market organization. Heroin availability is generally limited to the inner city areas of major metropolitan areas; marijuana availability and prices vary widely throughout the state; LSD is experiencing a mini-boom in some suburban and rural areas upstate although available quantities are still not large; and methamphetamine availability is limited in most areas of the state.

### REGION ONE OVERVIEW

Region One corresponds to the Hudson Valley and includes the counties covered by New York State Police Troops F and K, specifically Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan, Columbia, and Greene counties. Some of the larger population centers include Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh and the suburban areas of lower Westchester County. The counties that comprise Region One are those geographically closest to the trafficking activity of New York City's drug market. Consequently, these counties are linked to the city's trafficking patterns, drug prices, and related trends. In all these counties, and particularly those closest to the city, the increase in cocaine trafficking and abuse and the spread of crack trafficking are significant developments that signal an escalation in overall drug activity and related crime throughout the region.

Over the past few years, the urbanization of the entire Hudson Valley region has continued at a steady pace. Major businesses relocating from the city and the construction of new housing developments and shopping centers are familiar sights to local residents. Some of the northern counties in this region still

contain substantial rural pockets but the area is not as rural as further upstate New York. Not surprisingly, the region's growth has been accompanied by an increase in drug trafficking and related activities. In addition, the drug of choice has shifted from marijuana to cocaine and local police report that trafficking organizations are showing increased organization and sophistication in their operations.

Cocaine is available throughout the region in a wide variety of amounts. Crack availability is spreading north from New York City up the Hudson Valley to communities such as Newburgh and Poughkeepsie as organized Jamaican gangs foster the spread of crack throughout the region. In several places they have taken over local street distribution operations, a development that marks a fundamental change in this area's trafficking patterns. Previously, cocaine trafficking was accomplished through a loosely associated group of independent traffickers who commuted back and forth from these counties to New York City. In addition, Dominicans, outlaw motorcycle gangs, and black violators are establishing themselves in the region.

The increase of crack trafficking is fueling increased violence as well as a proliferation of armed traffickers and ancillary crime. Local law enforcement officers report that the majority of the drugs in the region are brought in by automobile from New York City. Marijuana is also available throughout the region. Heroin is somewhat more limited in availability, especially as one

moves further from the city. LSD and methamphetamine are available on a limited basis and are not considered much of a problem.

Our reporting indicates that cocaine can be purchased in various quantities ranging from grams to kilograms. Grams sell for between \$75 to \$125 and ounces sell for \$550 up to \$1500, depending on the purity and the amount bought. Prices for kilogram quantities ranged from \$17,000 to \$27,000 throughout the region. Crack sells for between \$5 to \$25 per vial. Special jumbo sized vials cost anywhere from \$20 to \$50. Heroin is usually bought in the city and then transported to the region for resale. As a result, dime bags of heroin from the city are resold for between \$20 to \$25. Marijuana prices vary depending on the quality--much of the supply is home grown but low quality--and on the amount purchased. Ounces sell for \$40 to \$200 and pounds sell for \$950 to \$1500. LSD prices are \$2-\$5 per individual hit or \$130 for a sheet of 100 hits.

#### REGION TWO OVERVIEW

A survey of the counties in Region Two (northern New York State) reveals a widening problem of cocaine abuse, an increase in crack trafficking, and the emergence of organized criminal groups to control trafficking in the region.

The region corresponds to the area covered by State Police Troops B and G and includes the counties of St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Hamilton, Essex, Warren, Fulton, Saratoga, Washington, Schenectady, Montgomery, Schoharie, Albany, and Rensselaer. We received reporting from local police officials in 10 of the 14 counties as well as from the State Police troops. Cocaine is available throughout the region in various quantities. The majority of counties report that cocaine abuse and trafficking have been rising over the last two years and that it is the number one drug of abuse. While cocaine has become the drug of choice in the overall region, in some of the rural counties marijuana still rivals cocaine as the primary drug of abuse. These areas are also those in which homegrown marijuana is widespread. Marijuana is still very popular among youths and students. Heroin, LSD, and methamphetamine are available on a very limited basis throughout the region, and are generally more available in urban areas than in rural areas. Crack is following the wake of the cocaine spread but currently is still limited to the most heavily populated areas.

Drug prices in the region are approximately in line with similar regions of the state. Cocaine is available in amounts from quarter grams which sell for \$25 up to ounce quantities which sell for between \$800 to \$1800 per ounce. Crack sells for between \$15-\$25 per vial. Marijuana is sold primarily in ounce quantities for between \$75 to \$150 per ounce, depending on the quality. Marijuana can be purchased in pound quantities for between \$1100 to \$1800 per

pound. Heroin abuse is limited, but available information indicates that a quarter gram of heroin sells for between \$25 to \$40. LSD is sold in individual hits for \$3-\$5 or in sheets of 100 hits for \$100 to \$125 per sheet.

Organized trafficking groups operating in the region include Jamaicans, blacks, Cubans, Dominicans, and motorcycle gangs. The drugs are smuggled into the region from a variety of places including Florida, Texas, Connecticut, and primarily the New York City area. Overall in the region, drug related crime and violence are increasing slightly. In some of the more rural jurisdictions there is either little or no increase in crime and violence as a result of the drug trade. Conversely, the greatest increase occurred in the area surrounding Albany and the other more populated sections of the region. Our reporting also indicated that the widest variety and availability of drugs was in the Albany area. There have been unconfirmed reports of kilogram level dealers outside the Albany area as well. Local enforcement officials add that in some instances drugs have been traded for weapons.

#### REGION THREE OVERVIEW

This area encompasses central New York State and corresponds to State Police Troops C and D. It includes the counties of Oneida, Jefferson, Broome, Tioga, Delaware, Oswego, Cortland, Onandaga, Madison, Lewis, Herkimer, Tompkins,

Chenango, and Otsego. We received reporting from local police authorities in 10 of the 14 counties in this region and from the New York State Police troops. The majority of these counties are made up of rural areas and small communities. Significant population centers in this area include Syracuse, Utica, Rome, and Watertown.

Cocaine and marijuana are the most commonly abused drugs throughout these counties. According to the reporting, cocaine abuse is increasing while marijuana abuse remains relatively stable. Cocaine abuse, increasing rates of crime and violence, the organization of trafficking rings, and drug availability all tend to be directly proportional to the population of the city or town--the more populous the area the more significant its drug abuse related problems. Marijuana is trafficked primarily in rural areas and smaller towns. Other drugs such as LSD, methamphetamine, and heroin are available in some of these counties, but on a smaller scale than cocaine and marijuana. Crack is available in several towns within this region, according to local police officials.

The increased cocaine trafficking is producing increased sophistication in both the operations and organization of traffickers. In the larger towns, police report that trafficking gangs are beginning to emerge along ethnic lines. Local officials say that Dominican, Cuban, and Puerto Rican violators are engaged in drug trafficking.

Drug prices vary between urban and rural areas and fluctuate with the availability of drug supplies. Most of the cocaine sold in the region is sold in gram amounts which cost between \$80 and \$140 but generally averages around \$100. Ounce quantities are sold for between \$800 and \$1400 per ounce. Crack vials range in price from \$10 to \$50 per vial. Marijuana is sold mostly in ounce amounts for between \$40 and \$200 per ounce, depending on the quantity and quality of the marijuana. Marijuana is also sold in pound quantities for \$900 to \$2100 per pound. LSD prices are from two dollars to five dollars per individual hit and from \$175 to \$500 for a sheet of 100 hits. Heroin is sold for between \$20 to \$40 per "envelope." Methamphetamine, when available, sells for approximately \$100 to \$125 per gram.

#### REGION FOUR OVERVIEW

This region corresponds to the area covered by New York State Police Troops A and E. It includes the following 18 counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genessee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates. Western New York has urban, suburban and rural regions. It contains the state's second and third largest cities, Buffalo and Rochester, and some of the state's most rural agricultural areas. Western New York is linked directly to New York City via the New York State Thruway and State Route 17. These highways serve

as major thoroughfares into and within the region.

Western New York is mostly rural and the local drug problem historically reflected the rural norm of marijuana as the drug of choice with cocaine and small quantities of heroin available in the larger cities. However, over the last three years cocaine has rapidly become the drug of choice in many of the small cities and towns and is available to varying degrees in even the most rural areas of western New York.

Cocaine is available in quantities ranging from quarter grams almost everywhere to multi-kilograms in the cities. Price ranges for the region are: 1/4 gram-\$25; 1/2 gram-\$50; gram-\$60-\$160; eightball (1/8 ounce, approximately 3.5 grams)-\$225-\$350; ounce-\$800-\$2000 and kilogram-\$17,000-\$30,000. As expected, the lower prices are found in the metropolitan areas and the higher prices in the more rural areas. Depending on the area, prices have dropped in a range from gradually to dramatically. Purity in the region is high, ranging from 30%-90% with some user quantities (gram and less) at 60% and up. Inositol and mannitol are the two most frequently mentioned cocaine cuts although some of the others are lactose, baking soda/powder dextrose, procaine, lidocaine, sugar, alka-seltzer, and baby formula. The user quantities are packaged in tinfoil, folded magazine paper and small plastic bags. Larger quantities are usually packaged in plastic bags of appropriate size.

Cocaine enters western New York from New York City via air courier, motor vehicle, bus, train and commercial package service. It also enters Buffalo and Rochester from south Florida and Georgia via air courier, train and motor vehicle transport. Buffalo and Rochester serve as distribution points to the rest of the region, although parts of the region also receive some cocaine directly from New York City. One of the keys to the increase in cocaine availability in western New York is a fundamental change in cocaine trafficking in Buffalo and Rochester. These cities had small trafficking groups and many independent or semi-independent dealers but no major drug organizations headed by drug "kingpins." However, over the last two years, organized groups of drug sellers dealing primarily in cocaine have established themselves in Buffalo and Rochester.

In Buffalo, ethnic Cuban drug traffickers have become a major force in the Buffalo cocaine market. They are highly organized and they have structured and developed the cocaine market. Many of these Cubans were involved in cocaine trafficking in New York City and relocated to Buffalo when New York got too "hot" for them. They have wholesale drug connections in New York City, Atlanta and Miami and are able to bring multi-kilogram loads of cocaine into Buffalo. Unlike most other cities that have had their cocaine markets organized by criminal groups, Buffalo has not had a significant upsurge in drug-related violence.

The drug market in Rochester also was open and had many independent dealers who obtained drugs in relatively small quantities and then sold them on the street. About three years ago, Jamaican traffickers began to organize the sale of cocaine and marijuana through the use of heavily fortified residences known as "dope houses" or "smoke houses" from which the drugs are sold. The Jamaicans are organized into cells, each of which controls several dope houses. Some of the smoke houses, which usually sold marijuana, have now turned to cocaine sales. The Jamaicans are well organized and have direct multi-kilogram cocaine connections in New York City and Jamaica. They are also well armed and drug related violence and homicides have risen dramatically as the Jamaicans have organized the market. The organized groups of Buffalo and Rochester have excellent drug connections and are very efficient. This has led to an influx of cocaine which eventually gets distributed throughout western New York.

Crack is sporadically available overall with availability high in some areas and nonexistent in others. Crack availability does not follow a traditional urban-suburban-rural availability progression as its availability is limited in Buffalo and Rochester, yet it is a major drug problem in the city of Niagara Falls and can be found in parts of rural, agricultural Wayne County. Other rural counties report no crack availability. Most crack available in

the region is believed to come from New York City although migrant workers in the region bring or have crack mailed from the southern United States. Most of the crack sold in the region is not packaged in vials, but is sold in loose "rocks" or "chunks" packaged in small plastic baggies, tinfoil, etc. The price range for crack in vials is \$10-\$20 with most vials closer to \$20. The rocks or chunks sell for \$10-\$50 depending on size. There are probably more people in the region smoking cocaine than the limited crack availability on the street would indicate. Sodium bicarbonate (the most common crack conversion compound) is sometimes seized from cocaine users, and more users entering treatment claim smoking cocaine as their preferred method of ingestion than could be supported by local crack selling activity. These indicators point to "home conversion" of cocaine as a viable method of obtaining crack.

Marijuana is widely available throughout the region and remains a significant drug of abuse. Local marijuana cultivation, New York City and the southern/southwestern United States are the three sources for the region's marijuana. The major cities of the region have multi-hundred pound marijuana brokers with most jurisdictions reporting nickel and dime bag through multi-pound availability. Prices vary widely depending on the specific area. As expected, prices at the lower end of the range usually occur in the larger metropolitan areas, but this is not always true. The range for quarter ounces is \$20-\$60; half ounces, \$20-\$65; ounces \$50-\$400 (most in the \$100-\$200

range); and pounds \$450-\$1400 (most in the \$1000-\$1400 range). Street quantities are usually packaged in plastic baggies. Very little high quality marijuana or sinsemilla was reported available. Only one price report, \$200-\$250 per ounce, was reported for "high grade" marijuana. Hashish has limited availability in the area, with two price reports; one of \$10 per gram and one of \$20-\$30 per gram.

Heroin has never been a major drug of abuse in the region with most use limited to the inner city/economically deprived areas of Buffalo, Rochester and Niagara Falls. New York City is the source for almost all the heroin. It is usually purchased retail ("dime bags") in New York and brought to the region by couriers. The "dime bags" sell for \$10-\$50 depending on the area and whether they have been recut (split into two bags by the local dealer). The only significant quantities of Mexican black tar heroin in New York State have been encountered in Rochester with two multi-ounce seizures in the last three years.

Hallucinogens are not a major abuse problem in the region with LSD the only one widely available. LSD availability is reported to have increased in most areas of the region over the last few years but overall abuse levels are described as "minimal" and "not extensive." Almost all of the LSD is in blotter form with only two jurisdictions reporting pill-type LSD. The retail price is one to seven dollars per "hit" with most in the two to six dollar

range. Wholesale quantities sells for fifty cents to four dollars per hit and are usually sold in 100 hit "sheets." A common wholesale quantity is several sheets. One thousand hit quantities (10 sheets) are sometimes available and one jurisdiction reported a 15,000 hit purchase. Most of the LSD is reported to be mailed into the region. Mushrooms are sporadically available in parts of the region, usually by the gram. One area reports mushrooms are packaged in tinfoil and another reports source areas to be local growth and Arizona. The only reported PCP availability is in south Buffalo. It is not available throughout the rest of the region.

The only illegally manufactured stimulant reported available in the region is methamphetamine and almost all areas report limited availability and abuse. Only one jurisdiction reported prices- \$100 per gram; \$250 per eightball (1/8th ounce-about 3 1/2 grams); and \$800 per one-half ounce, which makes methamphetamine as or more expensive than cocaine. Very few areas reported illegally manufactured depressants available, although one jurisdiction reported "quaaludes" (believed to be counterfeit) were sometimes available for one dollar each or 50 for \$30. Illegally trafficked pharmaceuticals are available to varying degrees throughout the region. The primary market is heroin addicts who cannot or do not want to obtain heroin and use pharmaceuticals as a substitute. Buffalo had a serious problem several years ago but enforcement action has caused trafficking in pharmaceuticals to decrease significantly. Niagara County now reports the widest availability of

these drugs. Throughout the region the pharmaceuticals reported available are combinations of Doriden/Iylenol #4 and Darvon/Iylenol #4; Valium (one reported street price-50 cents each); Dilaudid (\$30-\$40 per 4mg. d.u.); Tussionex; and Talwin. Talwin was more popular before it was reformulated to block some of the effects. Canadian Talwin, which has a different formula, is reported to be more desirable than American Talwin, as reflected in the price of \$7-\$14 for the Canadian and \$2 for the American. Although they are not controlled substances, several areas report junior high and high school aged youths abusing caffeine pills or other "look-a-like" pills.

#### REGION FIVE OVERVIEW

Region Five is comprised of the Long Island counties of Nassau and Suffolk and is analogous to the area covered by State Police Troop L. The region's proximity to New York City shapes the area's drug trafficking activity. Large city based cocaine trafficking organizations are active on Long Island, occasionally using the area's lesser known airports as landing sites and the secluded suburban homes as drug stash houses. In addition to spillover from the city's trafficking activities, reporting from local law enforcement officers indicates that Long Island's indigenous drug business is increasing, particularly in regard to cocaine and crack. Marijuana, heroin and LSD are also available on the Island, but ordinarily abusers of these drugs will purchase them in the city and then return to the Island.

Drug purities are usually in the 60%-90% range for cocaine and in the 40% range for heroin. Prices are compatible with those in the city, although the amounts bought and sold are much more frequently in the gram to multi-ounce range. Local police in both jurisdictions report that drug related crime and violence are rising.

REGION ONE

WESTCHESTER COUNTY--Westchester is a predominantly upper middle class suburban county directly north of the Bronx. However, it has the extremes of depressed inner city areas and some of the most affluent communities in the nation. The larger cities in Westchester have drug trends that parallel those of New York City. As could be predicted, the degree of trafficking declines as the size of a jurisdiction declines. Trafficking trends in Westchester do not always reflect the level of drug abuse, because many abusers bypass the local market and drive into New York City to purchase their drugs. Cocaine had become available in the county during the initial cocaine boom in the mid 1980's and almost every law enforcement agency reports an explosion in crack trafficking and availability.

Cocaine is readily available in all areas of the county from small user quantities in the less populated area to multi-kilograms in the larger cities. Price ranges are \$10 per "blow" (user quantity-less than 1/4 gram); 1/2 gram-\$40-\$50; gram-\$50-\$100; ounce-\$550 to \$1500; kilogram-\$17,000-\$25,000. Purities range from 20%-25% to 85%-90% depending on area of sale. Cuts include inositol, lactose, talc, procaine, baking soda, baby powder, and mannite. Cocaine is packaged in tinfoil, magazine paper, glassine bags and glass vials (not the plastic crack vials) for user quantities and ziplock

plastic bags and manila envelopes for larger quantities. The smaller communities in the county generally have "open" markets with independent sellers but the larger cities have some loosely organized groups, often formed by ethnic affiliation, that control small defined areas such as housing projects or neighborhood blocks.

Crack, in a very short time, has become readily available, and crack use has risen dramatically. It is sold primarily in minority and economically deprived areas, which have suffered the brunt of associated effects such as crime and violence. However, customers are from all areas of the county and crack abuse crosses all racial and ethnic lines. Many crack abusers from the more affluent areas drive to the depressed areas to purchase crack (or other drugs) therefore perpetuating that market. Crack generally sells for \$5 to \$10 per vial. The lowest price reported was small vials at \$2 each or three for \$5. Various "jumbo" vials ranging in price from \$20-\$50 were also reported. Crack is usually sold in vials.

Some cities report that the available crack is manufactured locally whereas other towns report crack is brought up from New York City to be sold. Jamaicans and black traffickers control much of the crack selling in urban areas. Generally, the crack abusing population is younger than the cocaine hydrochloride abusers.

Marijuana is readily available throughout the county, although usually only in small amounts, i.e. nickel (\$5) and dime (\$10) bags. Only one jurisdiction reported otherwise, reporting individual joints available for one dollar each and pound quantities available for \$800-\$1100 each. Marijuana is almost always packaged in plastic baggies. Overall, the marijuana market appears to be static.

Heroin is available in some areas, and unavailable in others. Heroin sales and abuse are primarily found in minority and economically depressed areas. Almost all heroin available is purchased on the street in dime bag form in New York City and brought into Westchester. Some purchase heroin in the city strictly to resell it locally, others return with their heroin for personal use and the rest to sell to support their habit. The dime bags sell for \$10 to \$20, and retain all the characteristics of city heroin. Almost all are in glassine envelopes with brand names. Purity has been rising recently, reflecting New York purity increases. (New York City purity now averages 35%-45%).

Most areas report the heroin market to be stable or on the downswing, although one police department reported an increase in use by younger blacks who are snorting heroin. Drug abuse counselors also reported seeing some younger

first time heroin abusers. There are Westchester-based organizations that deal in ounce and kilogram quantities of heroin, but most of that is not destined for the Westchester market.

Hallucinogens are not a major problem in Westchester with only PCP, LSD and hallucinogenic mushrooms being reported available at all. PCP was the most frequently reported with the caveat that it was usually only encountered in black areas and not that frequently. The only price reported was from an urban area of lower Westchester, with one small clear bag (10mg.) of PCP selling for \$5. LSD is reported as "seldom encountered" or "rare" and only one jurisdiction reported a recent arrest, a 17 year old in eastern Westchester with 18 hits of blotter paper LSD stamped "Chill Pill." Two jurisdictions reported hearing of mushroom availability, usually among juveniles, but had no further details.

Trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine and other stimulants is rare, although a methamphetamine laboratory was seized in a townhouse in Mt. Pleasant in March 1987. Illegal depressants are also rare. There is little street traffic in illegally obtained pharmaceuticals although they are obtained via forged prescriptions. Valium appears to be the diverted drug of choice. Most of the arrestees are white, middle income violators.

Almost all drugs available in Westchester, especially cocaine and heroin, are from New York City, usually the Bronx, Washington Heights and Harlem. Most communities in Westchester have both independent and organized dealers. The independents usually travel to the city, purchase drugs from their city "connection" (sometimes a specific dealer, sometimes a specific area) and return to the county to resell. Some of the organized groups do this also, but other organized groups are closely connected to New York City drug organizations and receive wholesale quantities directly from the city organization for Westchester distribution. The City of Portchester has a Colombian population, some of whom have direct ties with Queens-based Colombian cocaine cartel associates. This results in large quantities of cocaine available in the Portchester area for further distribution. Traditional Organized Crime (IOC) is also involved in upper level distribution and financing in some parts of Westchester.

Drugs are generally brought into Westchester via car, including rental cars and taxis (to avoid seizure if caught), or the Metro-North commuter railroad which has three separate lines from New York City going through the county. Some New York City based crack organizations send young dealers up via Metro North to Westchester train stations where the dealers will sell for a short time (2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. is popular) and then return to the city with their proceeds. The communities on Long Island Sound report boats being used

to bring drugs in, probably user or just above user quantities.

Drugs are sold in all types of areas including streets, parks, places of business, bars/taverns, apartments and houses. Generally street dealing exists in housing projects and other economically deprived areas with less visible trafficking (bars, apartments, houses) taking place in other areas. Street dealers use beepers, radios and frequent movement of locations to frustrate law enforcement efforts.

All but the smallest jurisdictions report an increase in drug related violence and carrying/use of weapons, no doubt related to the explosion in crack trafficking and use. Some of the urban jurisdictions report significant increases in drug related homicides and shootings, usually resulting from disputes over "turf" or money. These dealers, especially Jamaican crack dealers, are armed with 9mm and .45 caliber semi-automatic handguns and sometimes automatic weapons. Most jurisdictions also report an increase in ancillary crime because of the drug trade. No drug related motorcycle gang activity was reported in the county.

ROCKLAND COUNTY- Rockland is a suburban county bordering Westchester County (across the Hudson River) on the east and New Jersey on the south and west. Cocaine trafficking and abuse has risen rapidly over the last three years but

crack trafficking and abuse has risen even more rapidly. Cocaine and crack are the most significant drug problems in Rockland.

Cocaine is available in quantities from user weights to multi-kilograms. Reported prices are \$80-\$100 per gram; \$180 per eight ball; \$325 per seven grams (quarter ounce) and \$1100-\$1350 per ounce. Purity is believed to be high. Cocaine cuts include lactose, lidocaine, baking soda and dextrose, along with inositol, which is sold in local headshops as well as the usual health food stores. The more sophisticated cocaine dealers package their cocaine in magazine paper. Most cocaine comes into Rockland from New York City, specifically the Bronx, Queens and upper Manhattan. Automobile is the usual mode of transportation. Other sources are south Florida (via mail/express package services) and New Jersey (via auto). Some Jamaican cocaine/crack trafficking groups send female couriers directly to Jamaica for cocaine.

Many of the cocaine dealers are independent although some dealing is organized, generally along ethnic lines with Dominican, Jamaican and black violators each dominant in different areas. There is some IOC involvement in the background, generally in financing. They are not overtly involved.

Cocaine sales take place on the street, in bars/taverns, in public areas, and

sophisticated dealers use houses. Only known and trusted customers are allowed to make purchases in a house. Drug buyers cross all ethnic, racial and economic lines. Drug trafficking activity is concentrated in the economically depressed areas, but people from all parts of Rockland drive to these areas to buy drugs.

Crack trafficking is similar to cocaine trafficking as described above. Most of the crack available in Rockland is converted locally. Crack sells for \$10 per vial or 12 for \$100. Jamaicans are starting to organize the crack market although many independent sellers remain.

Marijuana is available in user through pound quantities, but it is not a major enforcement problem. The only reported price was \$950 per pound (actually 15 ounces). Heroin is rarely available for purchase as addicts can drive or ride to New York City and purchase it cheaper. What heroin is available sells for \$10-\$20 per dime bag. Heroin use has fallen off over the last several years.

LSD, PCP and other hallucinogens were reported to be generally not available, as were methamphetamine and other stimulants, illegally produced depressants, and illegally trafficked pharmaceuticals.

Rockland has seen a dramatic increase in drug related violence and the carrying and use of weapons. Drug related homicides have risen sharply and automatic weapons are now being encountered, especially among Jamaicans. Authorities believe crime has risen in some areas because addicts want/need the money to purchase drugs.

PUTNAM COUNTY-Putnam is a suburban/rural county just north of Westchester County. Over the last three years, cocaine has become the primary drug problem in Putnam. There has been a large increase in cocaine availability and a drop in its price. Cocaine and its paraphernalia are reported to be found during the arrests of many young adults. Most arrests are for possession of 1/2 or one gram quantities. One-half gram sell for \$35 to \$50. Quantities up to kilograms are occasionally available from certain dealers. One price of \$17,000 per kilogram was reported. Cocaine is packaged in tinfoil and magazine paper. Plastic bags are used for larger amounts. Inositol was reported most frequently as a cut for cocaine. The cocaine market consists mostly of independent dealers who drive autos or ride the Metro North train to New York City to buy cocaine. A common scenario is for a local dealer to drive to the Bronx and purchase ounce quantities of cocaine that will be divided up and sold retail in Putnam. Although most cocaine dealers are independent, there is some organized distribution by groups of Colombian and Jamaican traffickers. Cocaine's role as the primary drug

problem is also highlighted by treatment admission statistics. From November 1, 1987 through October 31, 1988, 109 people were admitted to the Putnam County Substance Abuse Treatment Program. Cocaine was the primary substance of abuse in 54% of the admissions, marijuana 21%, heroin 17%, hallucinogens 3%, and other 5%. Admissions for the previous year were cocaine 46%, marijuana 27% and heroin 17%.

Crack is available and abused in Putnam but it has not become a major problem yet. It sells for \$15-\$20 per vial where available. Some Putnam crack abusers purchase crack in the nearby city of Peekskill in Westchester County. This offers the Putnam user more anonymity and lower prices.

Marijuana is available in user through multi-pound quantities, with a pound reportedly selling for \$1200. One police department reports finding marijuana while making arrests for other crimes.

Heroin is not popular in the area and is found only in small quantities. One town reports that there are a few local addicts but most are in programs. Those that are not go to New York City to purchase their heroin.

LSD is available "by the hit" which sell for \$2-\$4 each. No other hallucinogens were reported available although substance abuse counselors

report some clients stating "mushrooms" were available. This has not been confirmed.

Methamphetamine, other stimulants, and illegally manufactured depressants are not popular but are available if desired. There is little traffic in illegally diverted pharmaceuticals.

New York City is the source for most available drugs and they come into Putnam via auto, train (Metro-North) and sometimes boats. With the exception of the Colombians and Jamaicans in the cocaine market, Putnam's drug market is open with many independent sellers. Drugs are sold in public areas, streets, bars and residences. Many of the sales at bars actually take place in the parking lot.

There is no noticeable increase in drug related violence or use of weapons. There has been an increase in ancillary crime (assaults, robberies, burglaries) as a result of the drug trade. One outlaw motorcycle gang, The Charter Oaks, is reported to be involved with drugs.

ORANGE COUNTY- Orange is a suburban/rural county directly north of Rockland County. Orange is one of the New York State's fastest growing counties and two of New York State's major highways, the New York State Thruway and Route

17, pass through Orange. Cocaine has become the county's primary drug problem and crack is rapidly taking a foothold.

The City of Newburgh holds a central role in the county's drug picture, as it suffers the most from trafficking and abuse. Organized drug distribution gangs have begun operating there and have made drugs, especially cocaine and crack, widely available. Cocaine is available in Newburgh in gram, ounce and kilogram weights. Average prices are \$70-\$100 per gram, \$750-\$900 per ounce and \$16,000-\$20,000 per kilo, some of the lowest prices outside of New York City. Average purity is about 85%. Cocaine is cut with inositol, mannite and lactose and is packaged in tinfoil, magazine paper, newspaper and plastic bags. Most of the cocaine is brought in from New York City via auto, bus or rail, or from South Florida via auto.

The most dramatic rise in drug availability in Newburgh over the last three years is with crack. It is available not only in vials, but also loose in gram and ounce weights. (Ounce weights of loose crack are rarely encountered outside of major metropolitan areas.) The price of vials or "caps" of crack is \$10 per vial/cap with discounts for larger purchases, e.g. ten for \$50; 20 for \$100. There are some independent dealers, but the cocaine and crack markets have no doubt expanded through the efforts of organized ethnic criminal groups such as Jamaicans, Colombians, Cubans and Hispanics. These

organizations have direct connections to New York City and Florida for large amounts of cocaine. Most of the crack is believed to be converted locally. Crack is sold in all types of settings. Crack houses have become common and open street sales of crack have become very common. Jamaican violators operate storefronts where crack and marijuana are sold, usually behind closed doors.

Marijuana is available in Newburgh, usually sold in nickel (\$5) or dime (\$10) bags. Heroin use, which drastically decreased several years ago, has been on the increase again but not to the extent of cocaine or crack. Heroin is usually available in \$20 bags, which are probably dime bags from New York City that are transported via auto, bus or rail to Newburgh and sold at a profit. Authorities report very little traffic in hallucinogens, methamphetamine, stimulants, depressants (those depressants that are available sell for \$2 per tablet) or pharmaceuticals.

The increase in the number of dealers has led to an increase in gun possession and violent crimes. During 1987 there were 53 shooting incidents in Newburgh, a city with a population of about 26,000. Most of these shootings were drug related involving territory or payment disputes, ripoffs, etc. All crime categories, have increased along with the increase in the drug trade.

Cocaine availability/abuse is rapidly growing throughout the rest of the county and has become the primary law enforcement problem. Grams, eightballs and ounces are available with unconfirmed reports of kilogram availability. Reported prices are 1/4 gram-\$20-\$25; 1/2 gram-\$45-\$50; gram \$80-\$125; eightball \$225; ounce \$900. Purities vary widely depending on the dealer but it is believed to be generally high. Inositol, malt sugar, baking soda, vitamins and mannitol are all used as cocaine cuts. Cocaine is packaged in tinfoil, folded paper, magazine paper and plastic bags. Crack has spread outside Newburgh to some of the larger towns where up to thousand vial quantities are available. Crack can be found in most of the smaller towns, albeit in small quantities and higher prices, \$15-\$20 per vial/cap.

Marijuana is readily available throughout the county. Marijuana is cultivated locally as well as transported in. It is generally a drug for younger abusers (junior high and high school age) and is not usually found amongst "hard core" abusers for whom cocaine is the drug of choice. Marijuana prices vary widely with nickel and dime bags sold almost everywhere and ounces sold in some places. Ounce prices range from \$40 to \$125 depending on quality.

Heroin has limited availability and is found in "dime bag" quantities. These "dime bags" are believed to be brought up from New York City, either directly or via Newburgh. One jurisdiction reports heroin is also available folded in

magazine paper and another reports heroin with the brand name "hot shot".

LSD and other hallucinogens are sporadically available. LSD, where found, is usually abused by juveniles because of the low price, \$3 per hit or 2 for \$5. The LSD is in blotter acid form. One subject obtained LSD sheets from California via mail, and some samples were obtained at a local college. There have been unconfirmed reports of mescaline in the area, but this may be actually LSD. No PCP was reported.

Methamphetamine, other stimulants, depressants and pharmaceuticals are either not available or available on a very limited basis, and abuse is minimal. One jurisdiction reported Valium selling for \$1-\$2 per pill, another reported the majority of depressants used in the area were for suicide attempts, and one other reported only one "pill" case in which a local pharmacist was supplying what turned out to be look-a-like caffeine pills.

Drug source areas are Newburgh, New York City, northern New Jersey and Spring Valley (Rockland County). One area reported south Florida as a source. Most drugs are brought into the county via auto, with buses sometimes used. Outside of Newburgh, the drug market is open with mostly independent dealers and some transient independent dealers from New York City. Drugs are sold in all types of areas with smaller quantities sold on the streets and out of cars

and bars with larger quantities sold inside apartments and houses.

Reporting on increases in drug related violence and carrying of weapons was mixed. Generally the larger towns and/or those that report an increase in crack availability also report an increase in drug related violence and weapons carrying while smaller jurisdictions and those with little crack report no change. Almost all areas report increases in robbery, burglary, and assault, although few can show a direct link to local drug trafficking/abuse.

One area reports two active motorcycle gangs, the Pagans and the Guardians.

The Guardians reportedly have engaged in at least one large scale drug transaction.

DUTCHESS COUNTY-Dutchess is a suburban/rural county north of Putnam and east of Orange (across the Hudson River) anchored by the city of Poughkeepsie, population approximately 30,000. Poughkeepsie's drug problems are typical of those faced by the smaller cities in the Hudson Valley.

Cocaine is the fastest growing drug in the Poughkeepsie area and its use crosses all socio-economic lines. The most commonly sold weights are grams and half grams with eightballs very popular. Ounces, pounds and occasionally kilograms are available on the wholesale level. Average prices are gram \$100;

eightball \$250; ounce \$900-\$1200; pounds \$13,000; kilograms \$27,000. Purity is believed to be high. Inositol or "super inositol" is the most common cutting agent for cocaine and some powdered forms of vitamin B compounds are also used. Cocaine is commonly packaged in magazine paper by white dealers, tinfoil by black dealers and colored (red or green) thick aluminum foil by Jamaican dealers.

While most cocaine sales are hydrochloride powder (snorting cocaine), crack is available packaged in vials. The price varies widely with \$10 per vial the most common. Many cocaine users are buying the HCL powder and "cooking up" their own crack for personal use.

Marijuana is still popular but harder to obtain. The price has risen with an ounce selling for \$130 to \$175. Pounds are sometimes wholesaling for about \$2000. Hashish is reported available but not common, selling for about \$10 per gram. There appears to be a heavier use of hashish on local college campuses. A small number of abusers add "speed" or liquified cocaine to marijuana before smoking.

Heroin is available but it is not widely abused. It is usually sold for \$25 per bag.

LSD in blotter form and microdot is still available and there seems to be a recent resurgence in blotter acid. This has occurred mostly among pre-teens and teenagers but there has been some traffic in bars with clientele usually under 30 years old. A hit of blotter acid sells for \$3 to \$5 and a sheet of 100 hits sells for about \$130. The occasional use of Psilocybin in organic mushroom form has been encountered. No PCP was reported.

Methamphetamine, other stimulants, depressants, and illegally trafficked and abused pharmaceuticals are not widely sold in the area but are available.

Poughkeepsie has several drug source areas. New York City is the most common source, supplying up to kilogram quantities. Surrounding cities in the area such as Newburgh are also drug sources and some drugs have come directly from Canada or South America. The most commonly used means of transporting drugs into Poughkeepsie is via auto, but trains and buses are also utilized. The most common dealers are small retail level dealers who live locally. The suppliers to these dealers are usually single or small groups of drug dealers who also live in town. However, during 1988, organized Jamaican groups moved close to Poughkeepsie and have taken away a large piece of the drug retail business from the local street dealers. City residents will more often buy outside of the city and bring it back for use in the city. Drugs are sold on the streets, in public areas, apartments and houses with particularly heavy

bar related sales.

There has been a small increase in assaults. The carrying of weapons is definitely increasing. Most middle level and higher level dealers have both shotguns and handguns. Poughkeepsie is experiencing a dramatic increase in burglaries, larcenies, forgeries, and assaults committed by people with a cocaine addiction.

Two major outlaw motorcycle gangs, The Restless Few and The Pagans, are active in the area. Both are involved in drug use but there seems to be no indication of organized retail, drug sales.

The city of Beacon (population approximately 13,000) is located in the extreme southwest corner of Dutchess County, connected to Newburgh via Interstate 84 and the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. The drug problems faced by Beacon mirror those faced by similar sized smaller cities/towns in the Hudson Valley.

Cocaine is reported to account for approximately 40% of drug trafficking and abuse. Weights/prices vary from a \$20 "spoon" (probably 1/4 or 1/5 gram) to \$1200 for an ounce. High quality pounds are available but the price is not fixed. Crack accounts for about 45% of drug trafficking/abuse and increased dramatically in 1987-1988. Street sales are limited to small vials at a cost

of \$10 per vial. The crack is usually high quality. Marijuana accounts for approximately 5% of drug trafficking/abuse. The marijuana is reported to be of high quality and sells for about \$160 per ounce. Heroin accounts for about 10% of drug trafficking/abuse and has dropped off slightly due to enforcement action. The bags contain high quality heroin with very little powder in each bag and sell for \$20 each. There is little or no trafficking/abuse of LSD or other hallucinogens; methamphetamine or other stimulants; depressants; and illegally trafficked/abused pharmaceuticals.

Cocaine is available throughout Beacon and is brought in mostly from New York City. Crack is available in limited parts of the city and is brought in from Newburgh or New York City. Marijuana availability is limited, and the marijuana sold locally is brought in from New York City. Heroin is available in limited areas and is brought in from the Bronx or Manhattan. Almost all drugs available are brought in by cars or small vans.

The drug market is changing from an open one with many independent sellers to one becoming more organized along ethnic lines. Cocaine is primarily controlled by Colombians with other Hispanic groups conducting the actual retail sales. Crack was controlled by independent dealers but during 1988 there was a takeover by Jamaicans who filtered into Beacon from Newburgh. The Jamaicans use local black dealers to sell for them. Since the appearance of

the Jamaicans there has been little competition between local independents. Heroin sales are competitive between black and Hispanic dealers. Both groups will travel to the Bronx or Manhattan and pick up several bundles (ten dime bags) and upon their return charge double to cover their expenses and support their own habit.

Cocaine is primarily packaged in tinfoil for small (gram and less) sales with magazine paper and small zip-lock type plastic baggies also used. Plastic film cases remain a favorite. Larger amounts are packaged in larger zip-lock type baggies or are wrapped in brown paper bags or newspaper. Lactose is the popular cut. Crack is packaged in small vials. During 1988, some of the vials began to be individually sealed in blue colored plastic. Marijuana has been packaged in brown bags, plastic zip-lock type baggies of varying sizes and plastic film cases.

Heroin is packaged in glassine envelopes (dime bags). Ten bags are wrapped together with a rubber band around them and every ten bundles has one rubber band around it and the ten bundles are then wrapped in newspaper. This packaging, except for the newspaper, originates in New York City where the heroin is procured. Name brands are stamped in blue or red ink and include "LIBERTY," "POWER," "OBSESSION," "DELIRIOUS" (sic) and "BLUE THUNDER." Several of these are major "brands" selling in New York City. Local dealers sometimes

further cut the dime bag heroin with quinine. Drug sales take place on the street with bars the second most popular venue. Private social clubs, apartments, homes and small convenience stores are also favored.

There has been an increase in drug related violence. Handguns are more frequently displayed. Arrests for handgun possession and recovery of handguns have risen. There has been a noticeable increase in ancillary crime due to the drug trade. Burglaries have increased because of addicts stealing to obtain money for their habits or breaking into dealer's residences looking for drugs. These latter burglaries are seldom reported by the dealers but rather by a member of the household. Assaults have increased as rivals have attempted to deal from the same corner and have also taken place when a street dealer infuriates a customer by selling chunks of soap instead of crack. Robberies on the street have declined because dealers do not want the law enforcement attention in their area.

Poughkeepsie and Beacon, although comparatively small cities, are the two most urbanized areas in Dutchess. While little reporting is available concerning the rural areas, it can be assumed that drugs from Poughkeepsie and Beacon filter out to other parts of the county. A moderate to high availability of cocaine, marijuana, and possibly LSD can be assumed for rural areas with limited availability of crack and heroin. This would be consistent with

surrounding counties.

ULSTER COUNTY- Ulster is a predominantly rural county directly north of Orange County and west (across the Hudson) from Dutchess County. Ulster has a significant increase in population during the summer. The New York State Thruway passes through the eastern part of Ulster.

Cocaine has become the primary drug abuse problem in the county. Cocaine is available at the retail level in almost all areas and in up to ounce quantities in the larger towns. One half grams sell for \$50; grams for \$75-\$100; eightballs for \$225-\$300; and ounces for \$1100-\$1400. Cocaine is packaged in tinfoil, plastic bags and magazine paper. Purity is believed to be high. Lactose, quinine and mannitol have been used as cuts. Crack availability has risen dramatically in the city of Kingston (population about 25,000) primarily due to an influx of organized Jamaican drug dealers who have taken over the crack market. Crack is packaged in vials which sell for \$20 each. The Jamaican gangs are believed to have entered Kingston's market (and many upstate drug markets) because of the higher profit margin available; i.e. \$20 per vial as opposed to the \$5 or \$10 one would get in New York City. Crack sales in Ulster are generally limited to Kingston and the town of Ellenville, although users from other areas of the county probably travel to these towns to buy crack or convert their own from cocaine HCL.

Marijuana is available throughout the county but it is not a major problem. It is sold in individual joints, dime bags, half ounces, and ounces. Half ounce prices are \$40 and up and ounce prices are \$140-\$160 in some areas. There is believed to be local marijuana growing in the area. Heroin is not a major problem in most of the county. However, it is available in some towns and has been a gradually increasing problem in Kingston over the last several years. Dime bags sell for \$20-\$25 and are usually marked with brand names such as "AIRBORNE," "MICHELIN," and "WHITE MAGIC," some of which are also major brand names in New York City. Many of Ulster's heroin users in methadone programs also abuse cocaine intravenously.

LSD is available occasionally but in small amounts. It is not an open problem. Methamphetamine and other stimulants, illegally manufactured depressants, and illegally trafficked pharmaceuticals are not reported to be a problem and they are seldom encountered.

New York City, Poughkeepsie, and Newburgh are drug source cities for Ulster and, within the county, Kingston is a source for smaller nearby areas. Drugs are brought into Ulster primarily via auto and bus. Drugs sales in most of the county are conducted by independent dealers although Kingston, as

previously mentioned, has suffered an influx of very organized Jamaican dealers selling crack and cocaine. Three to five man groups of other dealers who are based in Brooklyn also travel to Kingston to sell drugs.

Drugs in the county are sold in all types of areas including on the street, in public areas, places of business, apartments and houses. Most areas report no noticeable increase in the carrying or use of weapons or drug related violence. However, Kingston has had a significant increase in both, brought about by the influx of organized Jamaican and other New York City based groups. Weapons, including automatic weapons, are now more prevalent and assaults and robberies relating to drug ripoffs have increased. No significant Outlaw Motorcycle Gang drug distribution was noted.

SULLIVAN COUNTY- Sullivan is a rural county bordering Ulster on the east and Pennsylvania on the southwest. Many of the major Catskill resorts are in Sullivan and the county is bisected by Route 17.

Cocaine and crack are the primary abuse problems in the county. Cocaine has been in the area for several years and some towns are reporting a slight decline in cocaine HCL trafficking over the last year. However this is countered by a rapid rise in crack availability. Cocaine is available in weights up to one kilogram. It sells for \$100-\$125 per gram and \$750-\$1500 per ounce. Depending on quantity it is packaged in paper folds, tinfoil, or

plastic baggies. Quality is reported to be good with procaine and lidocaine used as cuts. Crack is reported to be available in many areas with vials selling for \$10, \$20, and \$25. Availability is high considering the lack of major metropolitan areas in the county to serve as distribution centers.

Marijuana is available up to pound quantities with variances in price and quality. Heroin is available in dime bags with various brand names at \$25 per bag. Use is restricted to "old time" users although it is increasing. LSD and PCP are reported to be occasionally available. Methamphetamine and other stimulants, illegally manufactured depressants and illegally diverted pharmaceuticals have limited or no availability. Almost all drugs come into Sullivan via auto or bus, usually from New York City and Newburgh. Additional demand and/or supply is created in the summer by the large number of New York City residents who vacation in the county's many resorts. Drug sellers are usually local independent dealers and there is little organization in the market. Drugs are sold on the street, in places of business, apartments and houses. No motorcycle gang activity was reported. There has been an increase in drug related violence and crime including increases in the possession/carrying of handguns and rifles, and increases in assaults, robberies, and burglaries.

GREENE COUNTY- Greene is a rural county north of Ulster County and south of Albany County. The New York State Thruway passes through the entire eastern edge of Greene County.

Cocaine trafficking/abuse has been increasing steadily over the past three years and multiple ounce quantities are available. Prices range from \$100 per gram to \$1000-\$1600. Reported purity is 47% and up. Inositol is used as a cut. Small quantities are sold in sno-seal envelopes, magazine paper and sometimes in miniature baggies that seal. Larger quantities are sold in plastic bags. Crack has not become noticeable.

Marijuana is very common. It is most often sold as four gram bags for \$20. Ounces generally sell for \$180-\$200 and prices per pound run between \$1200-\$1500. Most marijuana available is grown locally. Heroin is not reported available and blotter acid and mescaline surface from time to time but nothing steady. Methamphetamine and other stimulants, illegally manufactured depressants, and illegally trafficked pharmaceuticals are rarely encountered.

Most available drugs, other than marijuana, come into the county from New York City via auto on the thruway. Some drugs are brought up via Amtrak, which stops in Hudson, N.Y., directly across the bridge from Greene County. Most of the drug sellers are independent dealers with ethnic Italian violators dealing

in the larger quantities. Recently there has been an increase in Hispanic dealers in the county. The less cautious dealers sell openly, mostly in bars or nightclubs and in parking lots outside the bars. The more discreet dealers are using their homes and employing techniques to avoid surveillance. There has not been an identifiable increase in drug related violence, carrying and/or use of weapons, and drug related ancillary crime. No outlaw motorcycle gang related drug activity was reported.

COLUMBIA COUNTY-- Columbia is a rural county bordering Dutchess on the south and Massachusetts on the east. Limited reporting was received from Columbia, most of it concerning the City of Hudson, the county's largest. Within Hudson, marijuana has been on the decline, cocaine and heroin use has steadily increased and crack use is rapidly increasing.

Cocaine has become a serious problem and is available in weights from \$10 "bags" through ounces. Purity varies and lactose, sheetrock, aspirin and quinine have been used as cuts. Cocaine is packaged in tinfoil, plastic bags, magazine paper, and plastic packets. Crack cocaine is a very serious problem. It is available in \$10 and larger vials. According to one report, authorities believe some dealers are mixing "super glue" with crack.

Marijuana is available although as previously stated, use appears to be declining. Heroin is reported as a serious problem with available quantities ranging from \$10 bags to ounce weights. Glassine bags are used for retail heroin packaging.

There are no serious problems with hallucinogens, although LSD is occasionally available in small quantities. Methamphetamine and other stimulants, illegally manufactured depressants, and illegally trafficked pharmaceuticals are also occasionally available in small quantities.

Most of the drugs available come up from New York City. Individuals travel there via auto, train and bus and return with drugs. Hudson's trafficking, for the most part, was conducted by independent sellers in an open market. However, during the summer of 1988, an organized group of Jamaicans moved into the city and began trafficking. Hudson's crack explosion can be directly attributed to the Jamaican influx. Drugs are sold in many venues including on the street, in bars and in apartments.

There has been an increase in assaults not involving weapons. There has been information that more dealers are carrying weapons but this has not been confirmed. There has been a significant increase in ancillary crime, believed to be at least partly fueled by the need to obtain money to buy drugs.

There is minimal motorcycle gang activity in Hudson although members of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club frequent the area and some associates reside in the city.

The rest of Columbia County probably has similar trafficking patterns to the rural parts of Greene or Ulster counties.

REGION IWO

ALBANY COUNTY-Albany County has urban, suburban, and rural areas. It is dominated by the City of Albany, the state capital. Cocaine, crack, marijuana, heroin, LSD, and methamphetamine are all trafficked and abused in Albany County. Local officials say that cocaine is the most widely abused and trafficked drug. The greater availability of a variety of drugs in the county than in the surrounding area stems from the larger population concentrated in the Albany metropolitan region.

Cocaine abusers come from all levels of social strata. Cocaine is available in amounts ranging from quarter grams up to kilo amounts. One gram sells for between \$70 to \$100. An eightball costs \$250 and ounces are sold for between \$800 and \$1000. Purity averages over 50%. Baking soda, inositol, lactose, quinine, mannitol, and dextrose are the cuts used for cocaine. Crack is confined to the heavily populated areas of the county and sells for \$15 to \$25 per vial. Even then, officials say most abusers produce their own crack from cocaine and that there is still not a lot of crack trafficking in the area. Marijuana is available in weights from small bags to multi-pound quantities. Local police report that much of the marijuana is home grown but that high quality sinsemilla is also available in small quantities. Ounces sell for between \$80 to \$120 and pounds sell for between \$1100 and \$1400.

Heroin abuse is on the rise within the county. Heroin is usually sold in small amounts such as 1/4 gram, which sells for \$25 to \$40. LSD is popular among younger age groups. It sells for from two to five dollars per hit individually or can be bought in sheets of 100 hits per sheet for \$125 per sheet. Methamphetamine in pill form is seen from time to time in schools but current prices are not available. Illegal pharmaceuticals obtained by means of forged prescriptions are also an occasional problem in the area. Local officials say that the most commonly abused drugs in these instances are Valium, Xanax, and Darvon.

Many of the dealers in the county make large buys from their sources of supply in New York City and Albany and then transport the drugs by private automobile back to the county. Local law enforcement officers report that smugglers are now beginning to use both private and commercial aircraft to transport drugs. Common packaging includes tinfoil, magazine paper, plastic bags, and small vials. The packaging does not have brand name markings with the exception of heroin packages, which are usually marked with a symbol. These markings have included "EXTERMINATOR," "BLUE THUNDER," and "AIRWAY EXPRESS."

Drug sales occur in public shopping areas, dealers private residences, motels, and at some street locations. Local officials say that trafficking of

cocaine, heroin, and LSD is growing in the county. They add that drug related violence and crime in the county are increasing slightly and that local police have noticed an increased number of weapons carried by drug dealers. In the city of Albany, police report a significant increase in violence, particularly in relation to Jamaican gangs linked to New York City. Some trafficking is linked to motorcycle gang activity in the county, particularly during annual rallies which take place in the county. Hispanic and black trafficking groups operate in the county. Cuban, Colombian, and Dominican traffickers are active in the city of Albany.

FULTON COUNTY-Fulton is a rural county in north central New York, about 45 miles northwest of Albany. Cocaine, marijuana, and LSD are the most commonly trafficked drugs in the County. Local police say that crack is almost non-existent in the area and that there is very little heroin abuse. Limited reporting from county officials indicates that drug trafficking has not led to an increase in crime or violence.

Cocaine is available in amounts ranging from grams to ounces. One commonly marketed weight is the eightball (one eighth of an ounce). At the ounce level cocaine purity is usually around 85%. Marijuana is available in ounce through "bale" quantities. Local police say that marijuana is one of the most widely abused drugs. It sells for \$100 per ounce and for \$1800 per pound. LSD is

available in blotter acid form at a cost of approximately two dollars per hit. It can be obtained in individual hits or in sheets of 100 hits per sheet. There is a small amount of methamphetamine trafficking and abuse in some areas of the county and authorities also report that Valium is sometimes trafficked illegally at a price of one dollar per pill.

Drugs are smuggled into the area from nearby metropolitan centers as well as from out of state. Larger dealers with more resources are able to travel to Florida to purchase drugs, particularly marijuana. New York City is the source for most of the cocaine brought into the county. Utica and Herkimer are also source cities, according to local police. Most illegal drugs are transported by private vehicle, although some marijuana is moved by aircraft. Many of the traffickers use the New York State Thruway as their main transportation route.

Local police report that drug transactions take place mainly in private residences of dealers and buyers and in bars. There are some sales on the street but this is on a limited basis and is usually prearranged between the buyer and the seller. Generally the deals that occur in homes involve larger amounts while those in bars and on the street involve much lesser quantities. Drugs are packaged in plastic bags (marijuana) and magazine paper (cocaine) without brand name markings. Procaine and milk sugar are often used to cut

the cocaine.

Three major clandestine cocaine laboratories run by Colombians have been uncovered in the county during the past three years. The laboratories were set up to provide cocaine to metropolitan centers. Despite the presence of these cocaine processing sites, most dealers in Fulton County are small time independent operators. Drug trafficking in the area contributes to a slight increase in the number of burglaries as abusers attempt to raise cash, according to local police. They add that the overall crime rate and level of violence has not increased as a result of the drug activity in the county.

FRANKLIN COUNTY-Franklin, a rural county, is one of New York's northernmost. It borders Quebec on the north and lies between Clinton and St. Lawrence counties. Cocaine trafficking, drug related crime, and drug related violence are increasing slightly, according to limited reporting from local law enforcement officials. Cocaine and marijuana are the primary drugs of abuse in the county. Cocaine is available in gram quantities for approximately \$75 to \$150 per gram. Marijuana is available in amounts up to multi-pound quantities. Smaller amounts are the most common, usually selling for \$75 to \$150 per ounce.

The source areas for drugs brought into Franklin County are Syracuse, NY,

Hogansburg, NY, and Houston, TX. Drugs are transported by automobile, and in some cases via the U.S. Mail and delivery services. Traffickers use plastic bags to package drugs and there are seldom brand names on the packages, based on seizure data and intelligence information. Most dealers are low level traffickers who operate independently.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY-Schenectady County has urban, suburban, and rural areas. It is located directly northwest of Albany County. Cocaine abuse and trafficking in Schenectady County is rising as marijuana abuse and trafficking in the county declines, according to local law enforcement officials. Those officials say that cocaine is the most widely available drug in the county, replacing marijuana as the number one substance of abuse. The cocaine trafficking increase is accompanied by a slight growth in drug related crime and violence.

Cocaine is available throughout the county in a range of quantities. The most commonly trafficked amount is an eightball, which sells for approximately \$180. An ounce sells for between \$1000 and \$1800. In contrast, marijuana availability seems to be dropping. It is available in small quantities and is a problem primarily among the younger high school and college crowd. Small bags of marijuana sell for \$40 and an ounce costs between \$120 and \$150. Pound quantities sell for \$600 and up, depending on the quality. Drugs are

usually sold in plastic bags, tinfoil, folded dollar bills and usually do not bear any brand names. Cocaine is cut with lactose, baby laxative, and vitamin B.

LSD is sold in blotter acid form for four dollars per hit. It is particularly popular with school aged youths. Crack is available on a very limited basis in the county and local police say that crack use is not widespread. Likewise, heroin abuse is limited in the area. Local police say some heroin abusers are turning to cocaine due to its wider availability.

Drugs are brought into the county from New York City, Albany, and Canada primarily by automobile. Drugs are marketed within the county at a variety of locations, including local bars, apartment buildings, and private residences. At some locations in the larger cities drugs are sold on the streets. Most dealers operate independently. Police report that some Hispanic dominated trafficking groups operate in the county but they do not control other traffickers.

Local authorities say that violent incidents connected with the drug trade have increased as have the number of dealers armed with bats, sticks, and knives. The number of shootings among dealers and users is also increasing. Moreover, local police say that burglaries, robberies, assaults, and family

violence have increased as the result of the drug trade.

SARATOGA COUNTY-Saratoga County lies north of the city of Albany in a mostly rural area. Cocaine, crack, marijuana, and LSD are all available in the county, based on limited reporting from local police. Cocaine is available both in gram and ounce amounts and prices vary depending on the quantity being purchased. An eightball sells for between \$275-\$325. The price drops for ounce quantities as the number of ounces bought increases. Marijuana is sold in small bags at a price of \$10-\$20 per bag. Most marijuana seized has been small amounts which were probably for personal use rather than resale, say local police. Crack is sold in small vials for \$20-\$25 per vial. Local authorities say that LSD is available primarily at rock concerts and is most popular with high school age kids. Heroin is available on a limited basis and local police are aware of a few known heroin users but report that no significant heroin trafficking occurs at present.

Dealers in the county reportedly purchase their drugs in the cities of Schenectady, Albany, and New York City. Police say that some local abusers will occasionally take their own trips to New York City to buy drugs independently of the local suppliers. Based on information from informants and intelligence sources, local police report that drugs are brought into the county via automobile, train, and bus. Cocaine is usually packaged in folded

magazine paper, and marijuana in plastic bags.

Cocaine and crack abuse in Saratoga County are increasing along with a slight increase in the number of assaults and instances of possession and use of weapons by drug suspects, police report. They add that Jamaican drug trafficking groups operate in the area as well as a number of independent dealers. Most drug sales usually take place in bars or motel rooms or at certain street corner locations.

SAINT LAWRENCE COUNTY-St. Lawrence is a large rural county in northern New York on the Ontario border. Cocaine is the most widely abused drug in the county and local police report that cocaine trafficking is increasing. They add that marijuana and LSD are also readily available.

Cocaine is available in both gram and multi-kilo amounts. Several multi-kilo seizures were made recently, police report. The purity varies widely and smaller amounts are much easier to obtain immediately. One gram sells for approximately \$100. Marijuana is available in almost unlimited quantities according to local authorities. It costs \$150 per ounce and is mostly homegrown in New York. LSD appears to be making a comeback among local college students. Crack is not available for resale but authorities report that some abusers are buying cocaine and then converting it to crack for their

own use. Heroin is available on a very limited basis.

A large percentage of the drugs abused in Saint Lawrence County come from out of state sources in Florida, California, Arizona, and Canada. Drugs are also brought into the area from New York City, Syracuse, and Rochester.

Traffickers transport their drugs by private vehicle, UPS, Federal Express, and by vessel when coming from or going to Canada. Drugs are packaged in the usual plastic bags, tinfoil, and in some cases plastic (PVC) pipe.

Most drug sales occur indoors in private homes, at taverns, or in cars, according to local law enforcement officers. They add that dealers are very cautious and sell only to people who are known to them. Most dealers know each other and communicate often but no one group or individual controls the trafficking.

According to local officials the trafficking and abuse of cocaine and LSD in the county is increasing. This increase is accompanied by a rise in assaults and burglaries in some parts of the county. Local police also report that in some instances they have evidence of drugs being traded for weapons.

WASHINGTON COUNTY-Washington is a rural county located between Saratoga County on the west and Vermont on the east. Cocaine, crack, and marijuana are the

most widely abused and trafficked drugs, according to limited reporting from local enforcement officers. They report that there is almost no trafficking of heroin, LSD, or methamphetamine in the area. Cocaine is available in gram and smaller quantities. One quarter of a gram sells for approximately \$30. There are reports of at least two crack houses operating in the region but no further information on price is available. Marijuana trafficking is at high levels, say local police officials. Most of the marijuana is homegrown in the rural areas of central and upstate New York.

Many of the drugs brought into the county come from either Troy, NY or Connecticut. Traffickers transport drugs by automobile to the region. One of the favorite routes is the New York State Thruway, which goes near but not through the county. Recent intelligence, however, indicates that State Highway 22 is now used as an alternate route for traffickers smuggling between Canada and New York City.

There are no known street sale locations in the county. Most dealers sell drugs from their private homes or apartments. The dealers in the county are usually small time independent operators who sell to a known circle of customers. Seized drugs have been packaged in magazine paper, plastic bags, or small bottles. Police report that there has been no increase in drug related violence or crime in the county.

ESSEX COUNTY--Essex is a rural county that lies completely within the boundaries of Adirondack State Park. It is approximately halfway between Albany and the Quebec border. It has several vacation/resort destinations, including Lake Placid. Essex County law enforcement officials report that cocaine abuse among county residents has risen sharply over the last five years. They add that marijuana abuse during the same period decreased. There is little other significant drug activity in the county, based on limited reporting from local police.

Cocaine is available in small amounts, from one to three grams. Authorities say that it is very unusual for anyone to possess over six ounces at any one time. Cocaine sells for between \$100 and \$150 per gram. The primary abusers are from either the upper class--doctors, lawyers, etc.--or from the lower class, economically depressed groups in the county.

Marijuana sells for \$60 per ounce and is available on demand. Some marijuana is brought in from New York City or Florida but the majority is locally grown. Police report that crack is trafficked in the area on a very limited scale. There is no evidence of heroin activity and LSD availability is very limited. There is some trafficking of illegal pharmaceuticals but most involve domestic thefts where youths are stealing the drugs from their parents.

New York City, Rochester, and Florida are the main sources for the county's drug dealers. Police report that the dealers are mostly small time operators who work independently. Drugs are transported by automobile and sold in private residences. Most of the drugs are packaged locally in plastic bags and magazine paper. Local police say that a slight increase in the burglary rate may be attributable to drug trafficking.

SCHOHARIE COUNTY-Schoharie is a rural county located directly west of Albany County. Cocaine, marijuana, and LSD are reported to be the most widely trafficked and abused drugs. There is no significant heroin or crack activity in the county, according to local police. Both cocaine trafficking and drug related crime, including burglary, assault, and larceny, are increasing within the county.

Cocaine is reportedly available in gram amounts which sell for between \$90 and \$110 per gram. The most common quantity is either 1/4 or 1/2 gram amounts. These sell for \$25 and \$50 respectively. Eightballs are also available. Cocaine purity is much lower than in many of the surrounding counties. Local police say that most cocaine purities are between 15% and 20%.

Marijuana is available in amounts ranging from ounces to multi-pounds and

buyers can purchase either the homegrown variety or the more exotic imported marijuana. One eighth of an ounce sells for approximately \$25 to \$35. Pounds sell for between \$500 and \$600. LSD is available in blotter acid form for five dollars per hit. Local police say that the availability increases in college towns. There is no evidence of crack or heroin abuse or trafficking in the region. Depressants are trafficked in very small amounts for a variety of prices, usually between 75 cents and one dollar per pill, depending on the drug.

Dealers in Schoharie County are supplied with drugs from sources in Albany, Schenectady, Troy, and Long Island. College students who live in the New York City metropolitan area will sometimes bring drugs, particularly LSD, with them when they return from college. Intelligence information indicates that drugs are sold mainly in bars and private residences, and occasionally, there is street trafficking in some locations. Police have identified approximately a dozen main dealers who operate independently. These distributors will only sell to people who are known to them. Law enforcement officers say that cocaine availability is increasing in the area. Abusers are attempting to get cash to obtain cocaine and other drugs, resulting in an increase in burglaries, assaults, and larcenies. Local police say that some of the drug trafficking can be traced to the activities of motorcycle gangs which hold an annual rally in the area.

RENSELAER COUNTY-Rensselaer County borders Albany and Schenectady counties on the west and Massachusetts and Vermont on the east. It has urban, suburban, and rural areas and is anchored by the City of Troy. Cocaine is the number one drug of abuse in Rensselaer County, according to local law enforcement officials. They add that crack, marijuana, and heroin are also available in the area. Cocaine is sold primarily in 1/4 gram and gram weights. Some dealers are able to supply ounce weight and authorities have heard reports about kilo weight shipments but these have not been substantiated. Cocaine costs \$90 to \$100 per gram. An eightball sells for \$250 to \$300.

Cocaine is sold around housing projects, from motel rooms and from dealers' private apartments. Cocaine is also available in bars, a frequent buying site for middle and upper class abusers who are unwilling to associate with dealers operating in the projects. Local officials say that black trafficking gangs control the distribution in the housing projects where they often recruit youths to sell drugs on the street. Crack is also available in the projects.

LSD is limited in availability. Hits are sold for \$3. Marijuana is available throughout the county and is abused by all ages. Heroin abuse is confined to a small population of local addicts. Local police say that drug related

arrests are down, although they are uncovering bigger cases. In addition, drug related deaths and illnesses are increasing. During the past year, there were three cocaine related deaths and reports that more people were getting ill from cocaine abuse. Cocaine ingestion by injection is growing, say local police officials.

REGION THREE

ONONDAGA COUNTY-Onondaga is located in central New York and is anchored by the city of Syracuse. It has urban, suburban, and rural areas. Drug trafficking, drug related crime, and drug related violence are all on the rise in Onondaga County, according to local law enforcement officers. Those officers say that cocaine accounts for the majority of the county's rising trafficking. There is also evidence that marijuana and LSD trafficking are contributing to the county's drug activity.

Cocaine abuse and trafficking are increasing and cocaine is now available throughout the county in amounts varying from 1/4 gram up to kilograms. Multi-ounce quantities can be purchased but most dealers prefer to move cocaine in lesser amounts. Kilogram amounts are available from selected larger scale dealers. Cocaine sells for between \$80 and \$100 per gram. Ounces can be purchased for \$850 up to \$1400. Purity ranges between 70% and 80%. Crack is available in only a few locations in the county and is not being sold on the street. There is evidence that crack is being produced by some individuals for only their use at the present time.

Much of the county's marijuana is grown locally. Police report that marijuana

appears to be making a comeback in popularity, particularly among college students. Marijuana is available in ounce, multi ounce, pound and multi-pound quantities. Ounces sell for approximately \$120 to \$165 per ounce. Marijuana in pound quantities sells for between \$1100 to \$1400. In multi-pound amounts the price per pound drops to around \$900 per pound.

LSD on blotter paper is brought into the county from New York City. LSD prices fluctuate depending on the supplier, according to local authorities. It is sold on blotter paper for between \$2 and \$5 per hit. Sheets of 100 hits are available for between \$175 and \$250 per sheet. Local police report that mushrooms and peyote are other popular hallucinogens among county drug abusers. There is no significant heroin activity in the area.

Methamphetamine is available in small amounts. On some occasions it has been seized during routine arrests for non drug-related violations. There is also minimal trafficking of depressants such as phenobarbital and Valium which are sold at between one and three dollars per pill. In addition, authorities report that Tylenol with codeine, Demerol, and Percodan are sometimes available as a result of prescription forgeries. These illegally trafficked pharmaceuticals are also sold for approximately one to three dollars per dose.

The main source for drugs in Onondaga County is the city of Syracuse. Cocaine

is bought on the southwest side of Syracuse and smuggled into the county. Local police report that dealers with ties to Traditional Organized Crime, eager to purchase larger amounts of cocaine than are available in Syracuse, will drive to Florida to make a buy then return to New York with the drugs. Some cocaine is also brought into the county from New York City. Cocaine is packaged in magazine paper when sold in small amounts. Larger amounts are packaged in plastic bags, the method used to package marijuana. The cocaine is usually cut with baking soda or inositol.

The most popular locations for selling drugs vary with the seasons. In the winter, bars are a favorite location, while in the summer, sales will likely occur outdoors in the street. Other regular locations include dealers private residences, public parks, parking lots, and hotels. Law enforcement officers estimate that almost half of all sales occur in public areas, almost half in private residences, and about 10% in businesses. Most dealers work independently with their own customers but police report that the dealers communicate with each other frequently. Police add that there appears to be some organization among the Hispanic traffickers.

Local authorities throughout the county say that drug related violence and crime is rising as a result of increased drug trafficking. Those officials say that almost all dealers are armed with weapons varying from knives to

handguns to rifles. Moreover, more and more of the county's homicide victims are either drug users or dealers. Shoplifting, robberies, and burglaries are growing as drug abusers look for ways to get cash. In some instances, drug dealers are accepting stolen property in exchange for drugs. Sometimes dealers will give users a specific item to steal--for example, one dealer told a customer he would accept eight bags of frozen shrimp as payment for one gram of cocaine. Street dealing is also increasing as more abusers turn to dealing to support their habit. Local police say two motorcycle clubs--the Nightstalkers and the Jammers--are involved at least in trafficking drugs for their own personal use.

ONEIDA COUNTY-Oneida County is located in central New York just to the east of Syracuse. The cities of Utica and Rome are the largest in the county, with populations of 80,000 and 45,000 respectively. Cocaine and marijuana are the most widely trafficked drugs in the county followed by LSD. Heroin abuse is not significant at the present time, according to local police.

Local officials say that cocaine abuse in Oneida county rose steadily over the last year. Most of the cocaine dealers can provide gram amounts up to the ounce level. There have been a few isolated incidents of dealers possessing one or two pounds during initial distribution periods. Usually however, for larger amounts of cocaine, the money is collected up front and the dealers

will travel outside the county to pick up the drug. The purity of street level cocaine is between 5% and 15%, with higher purities corresponding to larger quantities of cocaine. Grams sell for between \$70 to \$100 and an ounce costs from \$1500 to \$2000. Cocaine is normally cut with inositol, mannitol, lactose, and baking soda.

There are only a handful of documented cases of crack abuse in the county. Local police report that some abusers are attempting to produce crack from cocaine powder by experimenting with different cooking recipes. The Rome Police Department reports that crack sells for \$5 to \$10 per vial but that crack abuse in that area is rare.

Marijuana is available in varying quantities. The most common amount is a six to ten gram quantity which sells for approximately \$20. Prices range from \$60 to \$125 an ounce, depending on quality. In Rome, marijuana prices are rising due to a shortage, but small amounts are still available.

LSD abuse is not widespread. It sells for between \$2.50 and \$5.00 per hit. A few distributors sell LSD by the sheet (100 hits per sheet) for \$350-\$450 per sheet. Some individuals were recently discovered forging prescriptions on stolen pads in order to acquire pharmaceuticals either for personal abuse or for resale on the street. Local police officers say that there is no

significant heroin activity in the county.

Many of the drugs in Oneida County are brought in from Syracuse and New York City. Within the county, Utica and Rome are central distribution centers for drug traffickers. Drugs are moved primarily by automobile, bus, train, and the U.S. Mail. Most sales occur out of cars, private residences, and occasionally in bars. There are no organized trafficking groups in the county. Many small scale independent dealers account for the majority of the county's drug dealers.

Drugs are packaged in tinfoil and plastic bags and are generally unmarked. Some packages of cocaine seized were marked "1/4" or "1/2." The most popular method of ingestion for cocaine is intranasal ("snorting"). Smoking is the second most popular method. County officials report that there is some evidence of abusers injecting cocaine as well.

JEFFERSON COUNTY-Jefferson County in northern New York lies just east of Lake Ontario and includes the city of Watertown. Cocaine, marijuana, LSD, and methamphetamine are available in the county and the area serves as a transportation route for drugs moving across the border from Canada to New York City.

Cocaine is the most widely abused drug in the county and, according to local police officials, availability is increasing steadily. Those officials say that the most popular method of ingestion is changing from snorting to smoking or freebasing. Cocaine is trafficked mostly in gram amounts but sometimes is available in quantities from one to three ounces. Over the past three years, prices have dropped from \$150-\$180 per gram to \$100-\$140 per gram. Police attribute the falling prices to increased supply of cocaine in the area. There is currently no evidence of crack cocaine in the county.

Marijuana is generally available throughout the area, although there are periods when the supply temporarily dries up. Dealers sell \$25 and \$50 bags on a regular basis but ounce quantities generally must be ordered ahead of time. Police report that dealers ordinarily hold only an ounce or less at a time. Marijuana sells for between \$140 and \$180 per ounce.

No heroin sales or seizures have been documented to date in the area, however, local police suspect that heroin is transported through the county from Canada to New York City.

LSD abuse is increasing in the county, particularly among the growing military community associated with the expansion of Fort Drum, a major U.S. Army facility just outside Watertown. Local law enforcement officers report that

LSD is popular with some military personnel because it is perceived to be difficult to detect in urinalysis testing. LSD sold in blotter paper form costs approximately seven to eight dollars per hit. Sheets of LSD consisting of 100 hits sell for between \$300 and \$500 per sheet.

Methamphetamine is occasionally available and at least two cases of crystal methamphetamine trafficking have been documented within the past two years in Watertown.

A recent investigation into a ring altering prescriptions originated in Jefferson County and led into St. Lawrence County. The suspects were altering prescriptions to increase the number of pills they were receiving and then were selling the pills on the street.

The majority of drugs in Jefferson County come from the cities of Syracuse and Rochester. Most of the cocaine in the area is obtained from Syracuse with a few cases involving cocaine imported directly from Florida and New York City. Rochester is a source of much of the marijuana in the county. In addition, homegrown marijuana from the county is available in season. Automobiles are used extensively to transport drugs in the county. Local police officials also suspect that traffickers take advantage of the extensive waterways in the county to move drugs by vessel.

Many small independent dealers use private residences, places of business, and public areas to sell drugs. Like many of the rural areas of New York State, there is no evidence of organized trafficking groups in Jefferson County. Drugs are commonly packaged in plastic freezer bags and sandwich bags. Cocaine is traditionally packaged in magazine paper but in recent months police report that they are discovering more instances of cocaine in zip lock baggies. Cuts for cocaine range from powdered vitamin B to baking soda. Freebasing is the most popular form of cocaine ingestion followed by nasal and intravenous methods of ingestion. Local officials also report that cocaine is ingested by adding cocaine to a regular cigarette--a process known as "cooling."

County officials report that drug-related crimes are increasing as abusers attempt to support their drug habits. The increase includes check forgery, shoplifting, and embezzlement. Drug related violence is not increasing at the present time.

BROOME COUNTY-Broome County is in south central New York State, in the area referred to as the "Southern Tier." It borders Pennsylvania on the south, and a major thoroughfare, Interstate 81, enters the county from Pennsylvania. Cocaine and crack trafficking and abuse in Broome County are increasing,

according to local police officers. Those officials say there is an increase in drug related violence as well as an increase in drug related crimes such as assault, robbery, and burglary. The increase in cocaine activity marks a new trend for Broome County, long known as the area in the state where methamphetamine trafficking is most prevalent. The trend towards cocaine may be the result of increased enforcement efforts against the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, which was a major force in methamphetamine trafficking in the county. In addition, cocaine availability has increased to the point where it is now equal in price or less expensive than methamphetamine. This eliminates one of methamphetamine's primary reasons for its relative popularity, especially among poorer abusers.

Cocaine, crack, methamphetamine, marijuana, and LSD are all available in the county. Although very little heroin is seen in the area, it is available in small amounts and on a limited basis. According to available intelligence, one envelope sells for \$40. Cocaine is available in quantities ranging from 1/4 gram to one ounce and prices range from \$25 per 1/4 gram to between \$1000 and \$1200 per ounce. Crack cocaine is available in the Binghamton area for between \$20 and \$50 per vial. Marijuana is readily available throughout the county. Small bags sell for \$30, ounces for between \$150 and \$200 and pound quantities begin at \$800. LSD availability is increasing slightly. It is sold in square paper (blotter) form for \$4 to \$7 per hit. Methamphetamine is

widely available in Binghamton and the surrounding area. It sells for \$900-\$1000 per ounce.

Most of the county's drug traffic appears to be centered near Binghamton, the largest city in the county. Source areas for Broome County include New York City and Syracuse for cocaine and Philadelphia for methamphetamine.

Automobile is by far the most common type of transportation for drugs. Buses are also used and the U.S. Mail has been used to transport LSD. Most drug sales take place in the private homes and apartments of local dealers. In addition, there are street sale locations. Like surrounding counties, there is no central organization or group that controls the trafficking. Many independent sellers throughout the county buy and sell drugs packaged in plastic bags and magazine paper. There are no brand names. Cocaine recovered in Broome County is usually cut with inositol, mannitol, and baking soda. While the most popular method for cocaine ingestion is nasal, some cocaine abusers are beginning to inject cocaine intravenously. Methamphetamine users take the drug both nasally and intravenously.

TIOGA COUNTY-Tioga is a rural county located on the Pennsylvania border, just west of Broome County. Limited reporting was received on the drug situation in Tioga County. Marijuana, cocaine, LSD, and methamphetamine are all available within the county. Local police report that marijuana is the most

widely abused drug in the county. Local officials say that there has been no dramatic increase in drug related crime or violence.

Cocaine abusers get their supply from New York City in powder form. While nasal ingestion is most popular, increasing numbers of abusers in the county are turning to freebasing cocaine. Information from seizures in the region indicate that purity averages about 85%. Cocaine is available in quantities up to one ounce and sells for \$950 per ounce.

Marijuana--much of it homegrown within the county--is readily available.

Local police estimate that 30% of the marijuana in the county is imported from somewhere else. It is available in up to five pound quantities and sells for up to \$2100 per pound.

LSD sells for two dollars per hit wholesale and for between four dollars to six dollars retail. Recent dosage units were reported at 68 micrograms per hit. Methamphetamine is a moderate level problem in the county.

Methamphetamine sells for \$100 per gram.

The primary source of drugs for the county is New York City. Dealers transport drugs purchased in the city of Tioga County where they are sold from the dealers private residences. The drugs are usually repackaged in plastic

bags or magazine paper and thus do not have brand names.

DELAWARE COUNTY-Delaware is a rural county on the Pennsylvania border, just east of Broome County. Cocaine, crack, marijuana, heroin, LSD, and methamphetamine are all reported available. Police report that drug trafficking is contributing to a rising rate of drug related violence and crime throughout the county.

Cocaine is available in gram amounts up to two ounces and sells for \$90/gram. Crack is most prevalent in the towns of Hancock, Deposit, Walton and Sidney. It sells for between five to ten dollars per vial. Marijuana is homegrown in the county and sells for between \$40 to \$130 per ounce. Higher grade sinsemilla marijuana is imported to the county and mixed with the local crop. Heroin is not widely available in the area although some local residents are heroin addicts. LSD is sold in 500 microgram doses and is trafficked most heavily in the college towns. Methamphetamine is available at various locations on Route 17 and along Interstate 88. It sells for approximately one dollar per tablet when in that form.

Drugs are brought into Delaware County by automobile, bus, and plane from New York City, Binghamton, and Albany. Local officials report that most drugs are sold on college campuses, in bars, in private homes. Packaging materials

include foil, plastic bags, and magazine paper.

CHENANGO COUNTY-Chenango is a rural county directly north of Broome County. Cocaine and crack availability are increasing throughout Chenango County while marijuana and LSD remain available in most areas. Local officials report that despite the growth of cocaine and crack availability, drug related violence and crime remain relatively stable. Cocaine is sold in purities ranging between 75 and 90 percent. Prices are \$90 to \$110 per gram, the most commonly sold amount. Crack is usually sold in vials, paper, or foil.

Marijuana is grown in the region and then mixed with imported higher grade sinsemilla for sale. The prices fluctuate widely depending on the quality. According to law enforcement officers in Chenango County, marijuana is available in ounce quantities for between \$15 and \$200. In addition, those same officers report that hashish is occasionally available in the area for approximately seven to ten dollars per gram.

LSD is available on blotter sheets of 100 hits per sheets at a price of two or three dollars per hit. Some methamphetamine was recently seized by local police. A further investigation revealed that the methamphetamine was brought in from New Jersey, and was being sold for \$25 per gram. Look-a-like amphetamine pills are also being trafficked in the county for two to three

dollars per pill. There is no known heroin trafficking in the area.

Illegal drugs are brought into Chenango County from New York City, Long Island, and New Jersey. Most larger dealers have moved to Chenango County from downstate and have maintained contact with drug suppliers in New York City or in New Jersey. In addition, smaller dealers will travel to Binghamton or Utica to purchase drugs. In most instances the drugs are brought into the area by automobile or bus and then repackaged for local sale. The most common types of packaging, including tinfoil and plastic bags, are used throughout the county. No brand names have been discovered on the packaging. Dealers in the county operate out of their private residences, usually either houses or apartments, and drugs are also sold at some street locations.

OSWEGO COUNTY-Oswego has suburban and rural areas and is located just north of Syracuse. It also borders Lake Ontario on the northwest and Jefferson County on the north. Cocaine, marijuana, and LSD are the most prevalent drugs. Local police officials report no increase in cocaine abuse and a slight decrease in LSD and marijuana abuse. They add that drug related crime and violence has remained relatively stable.

Cocaine is most commonly available in gram to ounce quantities, and on rare occasions in pounds or kilograms. Seizures in the county reveal a wide range

of purities from 17% to 85%. Cocaine sells for between \$70 to \$100 per gram and for \$700-\$800 per ounce. Crack cocaine is currently available but not in substantial quantities.

Marijuana abuse appears to be declining slightly but it is still sometimes available in quantities of between 10 and 25 pounds. LSD abuse also appears to be on the decline and is mainly confined to college areas. Police say there is no evidence of heroin trafficking in the region and that there is little trafficking or abuse of methamphetamine, amphetamines, and pharmaceuticals.

Illegal drugs are available throughout the county according to local law enforcement officers. The city of Oswego and college communities are recognized as the county's main centers of trafficking activity. Drugs are transported via boat, auto, and aircraft and dealers sell drugs from apartments, private homes, and taverns. According to local police, most dealers are small independent traffickers who operate in an open market atmosphere; there are no organized groups controlling drug trafficking in the county.

Cocaine seizures by law enforcement personnel reveal that the cocaine is usually cut with vitamin B, baby laxative, mannite, and inositol. No brand

names are used on the drug packaging which usually consists of plastic bags. Authorities report that drug related violence and crime have remained relatively stable.

CORTLAND COUNTY-Cortland is a rural county in central New York, located approximately halfway between Binghamton and Syracuse. Law enforcement officials report that cocaine, crack, marijuana, LSD, methamphetamine and heroin are available in the area. Cocaine is the most widely abused and trafficked drug in the county and authorities say that the level of cocaine activity is increasing. It is available in amounts ranging from quarter grams to ounces. Quarter grams sell for \$25, half grams for \$50 and one gram sells for \$100. Ounce quantities of cocaine sell for between \$1200 to \$1400 depending on purity. Crack cocaine is also available but at present there is no specific information on prices.

Marijuana sells for \$10 per gram and for between \$140 to \$160 per ounce. Heroin is available sporadically and it sells for \$20 per bag. LSD and methamphetamine are also available. LSD is sold in the standard acid blotter sheets of 100 dosage units. The price is four to five dollars per hit. Methamphetamine sells for approximately \$120 per gram. Depressants in pill form and illegal diet pills are also trafficked in the county.

Most of the county's drug supply is imported from the cities of Syracuse, Ithaca, and Binghamton by automobile. Local authorities say that drugs are sold in the county on streets, from bars, private residences, along back roads, and sometimes at public gatherings like concerts and parties. The majority of the county's dealers are independent traffickers. At present there appear to be several ethnic groups involved in trafficking and competing with each other.

Drugs are packaged in plastic bags and magazine paper and are not marked with brand names. Cocaine is cut with salt, sugar, and mannitol. Intravenous ingestion of cocaine has been replaced by smoking as the most common method of administration.

Local police say drug related violence and crime is on the rise. They report an increase in the number of weapons seized from drug suspects, increased prostitution tied directly to the drug trade, and a growing number of drug related burglaries.

MADISON COUNTY-Madison County is located in central New York. It consists mainly of small towns and rural farmland. The northern part of the county includes the outskirts of Syracuse. Over the past four years drug availability in the county has increased, according to local law enforcement

officers. Cocaine, marijuana and LSD are available in the county and hashish recently appeared. The most popular form of cocaine is powder which is ingested nasally. Some reports indicate that a small number of users are freebasing cocaine at parties. Cocaine sells for \$100 per gram.

Most of the marijuana available is homegrown, but it is usually mixed with imported higher quality marijuana, according to seizure data. Marijuana users are reportedly experimenting with marijuana seeds by soaking them in Raid, Lysol, and ammonia for a so-called "freaky high." Marijuana is packaged in sandwich bags, clear plastic bags, and sometimes tinfoil.

Hashish appeared only recently, according to source information. The hashish is believed to come in from Lakeport and Bridgeport. Hashish is packaged in foil, magazine paper, and sometimes plastic. LSD is available in the county at prices of two to four dollars per hit. LSD comes on paper that is cut into 1/4 inch squares. The paper is both plain and covered with designs such as musical notes or smiley faces. No brand names are available but LSD is referred to as "hits," "trips," or "Sid."

The source areas for drugs entering Madison County are Syracuse, New Jersey, and New York City. Drugs are transported into and throughout the county primarily by car and van. Some reporting indicates that the U.S. Mail and

Federal Express are also used to move drugs, but this has not been verified.

There are no organized trafficking groups in the county. The dealers are small scale independent operators. Street sales occur most frequently in the parking lots of public businesses and on local back roads. Drug sales have occurred in local bars and taverns and occasionally cocaine and marijuana are sold at parties at dealer's houses and apartments.

Thus far, the increase in drug availability has not caused a corresponding rise in violence. Local authorities report that assault and harassment among dealers and customers occurs but there is no significant effort by traffickers to arm themselves. Furthermore, although the burglary rate has not increased overall, a greater percentage of these crimes are now drug related than in previous years.

REGION FOUR

ERIE COUNTY-Erie County is in western New York, bordering Niagara County on the north and Lake Erie on the west. It has urban, suburban, and rural areas and is dominated by Buffalo, New York's second largest city. Drug trafficking in Erie County is centered in and around Buffalo, with Buffalo serving as a source for the rest of the county. Cocaine is reported as the primary drug law enforcement problem and one that has grown significantly over the last two years. Cocaine is available in quantities ranging from one-quarter gram in less populated areas to multi-kilograms in Buffalo. User amounts of cocaine, quarter, half, and full grams, are available "on the street" in most jurisdictions for \$25, \$50 and \$65-\$125 respectively with purity at the 40%-60% range. Some of the larger jurisdictions also have eightballs (1/8th ounce, approximately 3.5 grams) averaging 60% purity available on the street for \$225-\$350. Cocaine is generally sold in small plastic bags although small quantities are sometimes put in folded magazine paper or tinfoil. The wholesale market for cocaine has changed significantly over the last two years. Cocaine trafficking was controlled by Italian violators organized in small cells of five or six people that would sell ounces of cocaine for \$2000-\$2400. Since early 1988, Cuban and black violators have entered the market. Italian violators are now reported to be selling 60%-80% pure ounces of cocaine for \$1700-\$1800 with Cuban violators selling 90% pure cocaine for

\$800-\$1100 per ounce. Some black violators will sell ounces of cocaine for \$1400-\$1800. Kilogram quantities of cocaine are available in Buffalo for \$17,000-\$25,000. Mannitol and inositol are the most commonly mentioned cuts for cocaine with lactose, baking soda and baby formula also mentioned. Intranasal ingestion is reported to be the most common method of abusing cocaine followed by smoking. Intravenous use was infrequently mentioned.

Crack cocaine is generally unavailable for sale in Erie County and most law enforcement agencies have not encountered it on the street. However, there is significant evidence that many people, from street addicts to middle class abusers, purchase cocaine HCL and then convert it to crack for smoking.

Marijuana is generally available in Erie County. It has always been a drug of abuse in the county. Its use in high schools is reported to be declining and its use on the street is reported to be rising. In some towns it is sold in "nickel" and "dime" bags and in others it is sold by weight in one-half ounce, ounce, quarter pound, and pound quantities. Reported prices are \$20 per one-half ounce, \$30-\$45 per "nickel" bag, \$50-\$80 per ounce and \$450-\$775 per pound. Other areas report marijuana sells for \$55-\$65 per one half ounce. "The best" sells for \$200-\$250 per ounce. Marijuana in the county is usually packaged in plastic baggies. Some is grown locally, some is imported from New York City and some, probably a smaller amount, comes directly from the

southern United States.

Heroin availability in the county is usually limited to black and Hispanic areas in the city of Buffalo. New York City is the source for most of the available heroin. The most common method of heroin trafficking is for Buffalo violators to drive or take a bus to New York City, buy a quantity (often about 100-200) of dime bags of heroin for \$10 each. The \$10 dime bags are then sold on the streets of Buffalo for \$20-\$30. Some dealers divide the New York City bags into two and sell each new bag for \$10-\$15. Occasionally, violators will buy quantities of heroin and bag it themselves. Heroin on the streets of Buffalo generally retains the New York glassine bag and brand name. Just as in New York, Buffalo heroin has had a dramatic increase in purity, from 3%-8% previously, up to the 40% range now.

Some, but not all, suburban Buffalo jurisdictions report significant increases in LSD availability and abuse, although the overall level of abuse is still not extensive. They report it is popular with junior/senior high school age youths. LSD is usually packaged in cellophane and is available only on blotter paper with a price range of \$1.00-\$5.00 per hit. A 100 hit sheet sells for about \$100-\$150 with the price negotiable. One jurisdiction had had seizures ranging from one to 90 hits. The city of Buffalo has limited LSD availability and it is encountered infrequently by law enforcement. LSD is

believed to be mailed into the county from California.

PCP has been steadily declining in popularity and is now encountered only in isolated instances. One police department reported several arrests for hallucinogenic mushrooms in 1988. The mushrooms were packaged in tinfoil.

Enforcement actions over the last three years have greatly reduced the street availability of pharmaceuticals and they are now infrequently encountered. Heroin addicts looking for a substitute now make up the primary market for pharmaceuticals. According to individual reports Talwin was a popular pharmaceutical of abuse until the formula was changed. Combinations of Doriden/Iylenol #4 and Darvon/Iylenol #4 are available in parts of Buffalo as a heroin substitute and the synthetic narcotic Dilaudid sells for \$30 per 4 mg. dosage unit when available. The Erie County Sheriff's Office had one report of Benadryl cough syrup mixed with unidentified "downers." The mixture is known as "soup." It reported to be packaged in vials and sold to heroin addicts. One substance abuse counselor tentatively identified "soup" as a mixture of Tussionex and Doriden.

Methamphetamine and amphetamine availability and use are extremely limited and not a problem. One suburban Buffalo town reports instances of glue sniffing. Within the city of Buffalo, smaller quantities of drugs such as cocaine grams,

eightballs and heroin dime bags are sold on the street and in businesses such as bars. Wholesale quantity transactions are split with about half occurring in public areas such as parking lots and the other half inside houses or apartments. Outside of Buffalo, transactions (usually lower level) are conducted in streets, automobiles, businesses, schools, public areas, and residences.

The structure of cocaine trafficking in Buffalo is changing with Cuban violators becoming a major force. These Cuban violators are highly mobile. Some are from New York City and relocated to Buffalo when New York got too "hot" for them. These Cubans have drug connections in New York City, Atlanta and Miami and are able to bring multi-kilogram loads of cocaine into Buffalo. There are no other major organized drug trafficking groups, although one cell of Jamaicans affiliated with Rochester-based Jamaicans are selling cocaine in Buffalo. Other Buffalo drug trafficking ranges from individuals to larger groups of drug sellers, but there are no major organizations headed by drug "kingpins." Outside of Buffalo, the drug market is open and unorganized with many independent sellers.

Most jurisdictions report no identifiable increases in drug related violence or the carrying/use of weapons. They also do not report an identifiable increase in ancillary crime related to drugs although most believe many of the

burglaries and larcenies occurring in the jurisdictions are committed by addicts seeking money to buy drugs.

There is little reported motorcycle gang activity in the area although the Tonawanda Police Department reports the Kingsmen motorcycle gang has a clubhouse in North Tonawanda and frequents several bars in the Tonawanda area. However, the IPD is not aware of any significant drug activity occurring at the clubhouse or bars.

Substance abuse counselors present a similar picture of drug use in Erie County. The primary drug of abuse has shifted from heroin to cocaine and the percentage of cocaine admissions for treatment has tripled over the last two years and heroin is now the second most popular drug for individuals seeking treatment. Many of the patients in methadone maintenance programs are using cocaine. Both urban and suburban use of cocaine is rising and outpatient treatment programs are reporting an increase in the number of middle class cocaine users. Some abusers reported PCP availability in south Buffalo. Most abusers in treatment in Erie County are polydrug abusers. The drug problem in Erie County has grown to the point that more abusers are seeking treatment and many programs have had to institute waiting lists.

MONROE COUNTY-Monroe is a county with urban, suburban and rural areas, located

in western New York on the southern shores of Lake Ontario. Drug trafficking in Monroe County is centered in the city of Rochester. Cocaine is overwhelmingly the primary problem for drug law enforcement and its availability and use have grown rapidly over the past three years. Kilogram weights of cocaine are now available in Rochester with prices ranging from \$25,000-\$30,000 per kilogram and ounce prices from \$800 to \$1,600. Eightballs, grams, half-grams, and quarter-grams are available in other towns in the county. Eightballs range from \$280-\$340 and grams from \$80-\$100. Quarter-grams sell for \$25. The Monroe County Public Safety Laboratory (MCPSL) reports overall quality of the cocaine they analyze is good with the median purity high. Larger quantities of cocaine are usually packaged in plastic bags with gram and smaller quantities occasionally packaged in tinfoil. Kilograms of cocaine arriving directly from New York City or Florida are sometimes packaged in brown paper and are heavily taped with duct or other wide tape. Cocaine enters Rochester via automobile, bus, AMIRAK and commercial air couriers along with occasional mail shipments from New York City and South Florida. Buffalo, even though it is close, is not generally a drug source for Rochester. Inositol and milk sugars are the most common "cuts" for cocaine.

There is extremely limited availability of crack cocaine in the county, with the available crack centered in Rochester and believed to originate in New

York City. Vial packaging is rarely encountered. The MCPSL also reports it rarely sees crack in vials. The weight of the crack in the vials that the MCPSL does encounter dropped in late 1988, from 100-150 milligrams to 50-60 milligrams. The MCPSL Director believes this is because of the state statute passed in late 1988 which makes possession of over 500 milligrams of crack a felony. Apparently, the violators did not realize the law did not become effective until 1989. However, crack abuse is far more widespread than its availability would suggest. Indicators such as sodium bicarbonate seizures and large increases in treatment admissions for people who report they smoke their cocaine point to a significant amount of home conversion of cocaine into crack.

Heroin is available in inner city sections of Rochester but is rarely encountered elsewhere in the county. Ounce quantities are available in Rochester and "dime bags" are available for \$10-\$20 in the city and \$40-\$50 when infrequently encountered outside Rochester. Many of the dime bags are brought up by courier from New York City and sold directly or recut and then sold. Most retain their New York City glassine packaging and brand name. Rochester is the only area in New York State where "black tar" heroin has been available, albeit sporadically. In 1986, Rochester authorities seized six ounces of black tar that originated in California. Another seizure (quantity unknown) was made in May 1988, and in July 1988, DEA/Rochester seized six

ounces of black tar heroin along with packaged "dime bags" of heroin and several ounces of cocaine.

Marijuana is widely available throughout the county. One hundred pound wholesale lots can be brokered in Rochester with pound and ounce quantities available "on the street" in many areas of the county. Pound prices range from \$1,000-\$1,600 with ounce prices from \$75-\$160. Small "nickel" and "dime" bags are available for sale to junior high and high school age populations. Most of the marijuana in the area is shipped from Jamaica, other Caribbean islands and Arizona.

LSD and other hallucinogens are minimally available, although some towns are reporting relative increases in LSD availability. LSD, when available, is in blotter paper form and sells for \$2-\$5 per dosage unit. One Rochester suburb reports sporadic availability of "psychedelic mushrooms." PCP is so rarely seen it is considered unavailable. Methamphetamine, amphetamine, illegally manufactured depressants, and illegally diverted pharmaceuticals all have limited availability and are not in great demand. The primary customers for these drugs are heroin addicts who cannot or do not want to obtain heroin.

The structure of the drug market in Rochester is changing as Jamaican traffickers have become established. The Jamaicans appeared about three years

ago and began to organize the sale of cocaine and marijuana through the use heavily fortified residences known as "dope houses" or "smoke houses" from which the drugs are sold. The Rochester market, like most upstate markets, had always been open and consisted of many independent sellers who obtained their drugs in relatively small quantities and then sold them on the street. The Jamaicans are well organized and have direct multi-kilogram cocaine connections in New York City and marijuana connections in New York City and Jamaica. The Jamaicans are organized into cells, each of which controls several dope houses. Some of the smoke houses, which usually sold marijuana, have now turned to cocaine sales. The advent of organized Jamaican traffickers has also brought a major increase in drug related violence and homicides. As in many parts of the United States, the Jamaicans are well armed, often with semi-automatic pistols and automatic weapons and are prone to using them. Also, during 1988, Rochester experienced a rash of arsons in which traffickers, probably Jamaicans, attempted to burn out competitors. These well connected, violent Jamaican organizations currently dominate the Rochester market and insure a steady supply of cocaine and marijuana. However, there continue to be many independent sellers. Drug sales locations in the county include houses, apartments, bars, public parks, parking lots, and businesses. The selling is seasonal with significant street trafficking in the summer which moves indoors during the winter months.

There is little Traditional Organized Crime involvement, limited to some old time TOC associates dabbling in wholesale shipments as facilitators, and some new generation TOC types becoming involved in cocaine trafficking. Outlaw motorcycle gangs do not play a major role in the county drug traffic although the Hells Angels and The Brotherhood are reported to be involved in cocaine distribution. Outside of Rochester, there have been no reported increases in drug related violence or sophisticated weapons. Few identifiable drug related ancillary crime increases were reported although authorities believe that a significant amount of burglaries and robberies that do occur are to obtain money to support drug habits.

Among abusers, there is a rise in intravenous cocaine abuse among those with a history of "speedball" abuse and an overall increase in speedball abuse. There also has been an increase in drug abusers chronic enough to require hospitalization for treatment. An increase in the trading of sex for cocaine has also been identified.

NIAGARA COUNTY-Niagara is located directly north of Erie County and borders Ontario on the west. Niagara has urban, suburban, and rural areas. Cocaine is the county's primary law enforcement problem with crack cocaine also a significant problem. Quantities up to multi-kilograms are available although multiple ounces are more common. One quarter gram, 1/2 gram, gram, 1/16 of an

ounce and eightballs are available. Grams and eightball quantities are available on the street. Prices range from 1/4 gram- \$25; 1/2 gram-\$50; gram-\$100-\$120; 1/16 oz.-\$150; eightball-\$300-\$325; ounce-\$900-\$2000. Purity is reported to be high at all levels. Cuts include inositol, mannitol, and baking soda. Small amounts are packaged in small 1" x 1" plastic ziplock bags and larger amounts in sandwich or larger ziplock bags. Cocaine sources are Buffalo, Rochester, New York City, and south Florida. Cocaine generally arrives by automobile or commercial bus. The City of Niagara Falls also has an AMTRAK terminal that is a conduit for couriers. Since fall 1987, crack cocaine has become a major drug of sale in inner city sections of Niagara Falls. It is sold in "pieces" or "chunks" which cost between \$15-\$40 and are packaged in tiny ziplock bags. There is an influx of black and Hispanic traffickers from New York City, Rochester, and Buffalo selling it along with local dealers. Purity is generally very high but varies depending on the availability of a crack "cut" known as "comeback" (probably lidocaine, procaine, or a similar "caine" product, all of which will survive the crack conversion process.) Wholesale quantities of chunks are now being brought up from the Bronx. Jamaican, Puerto Rican, black and a few Cuban traffickers are involved. The traffickers previously brought up cocaine HCL and did the crack conversion in the area. Now the dealers are bringing crack directly from New York City. Wholesale prices have dropped to as low as \$120 for 1/4 ounce. Juveniles from the Bronx reportedly earn \$500 for each ounce they sell. Almost

all Jamaican trafficked crack and cocaine in the county comes through Rochester.

Trafficking and abuse of marijuana is high. Weights up to multi-pounds are available and there are some 100 pound dealers in the area. Quality is reported to be high. Prices range from \$100-\$150 per ounce to \$1000-\$1400 per pound. There is usually an abundance of locally grown marijuana in season and the southwestern U.S. is also a marijuana source.

Heroin availability and use has decreased and now is only found in localized inner city areas being sold to "old time" addicts. Heroin is sold in dime bags, usually of New York City origin, for \$25 per bag. A noticeable increase in LSD trafficking and abuse has taken place over the last few years. The LSD is in blotter form and sells for two to six dollars per hit and is also available in sheets of 100 to 500 for one to two dollars per hit. Much of the available LSD comes from Rochester. Abuse is centered in high schools and amongst the young "rock music" crowd. PCP, methamphetamine, and other clandestinely manufactured stimulants and depressants are rarely encountered.

Niagara County has moderate to high street availability of pharmaceuticals including Valium, Canadian manufactured Talwin, Dilaudid, Librium and pills with codeine. Since the addition of an irritant to American manufactured

Talwin, Canadian Talwin has become popular in the area, with most smuggled across the two international bridges that connect the county with Canada. Recent arrests have not slowed this traffic. American Talwin pills sell for approximately two dollars each whereas Canadian Talwin pills sell for \$7-\$14. Valium sells for fifty cents-one dollar per d.u. and Dilaudid sells for \$30-\$40 per d.u. These pharmaceuticals are generally sought by intravenous (heroin) drug abusers.

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY-Cattaraugus is a rural county bordering Erie County on the north and Pennsylvania on the south. Law enforcement agencies report that even in this rural county the trafficking and abuse of cocaine is increasing greatly and it is becoming the drug of choice over marijuana, the historic drug of choice. Cocaine is usually sold in the county at the retail level in 1/4 gram, 1/2 gram and one gram quantities, although wholesale quantities up to 1/2 pound have been encountered. Reported prices are: 1/4 gram-\$25; 1/2 gram-\$50; gram-\$100-\$110; eightball-\$250-\$300; ounce-\$1200-\$2000; 1/4 pound-\$4500; 1/2 pound-\$8000. Purity has been reported ranging from 14% to 99% with 60% as an average. Cocaine is sold in plastic bags with some gram and lesser amounts sold in folded glossy magazine paper. Cuts include inositol, mannitol and baking soda. Cocaine usually enters the county via motor vehicle. Source areas include Buffalo, Jamestown (in neighboring Chautauqua County) and Alfred (in neighboring Allegany County.) Some dealers

reportedly will drive down to Florida to pick up cocaine and return to sell in the county. One law enforcement agency reports the intravenous use of cocaine appears to be increasing.

Small groups of crack dealers are driving to the New York City area, buying crack, returning to the county and selling it at a profit. Consequently, crack is available in vials with the price ranging between \$10-\$20, usually \$20. Marijuana traffic is reported to be not quite as heavy as usual. Prices range from \$5 bags through 1/4 ounce-\$20-\$30; 1/2 ounce-\$50-\$60; ounce-\$100-\$180; pound-\$1200. It is usually found packaged in small plastic baggies. Hashish is occasionally available at \$20-\$30 per gram. Heroin is generally not available and has only been encountered on transients.

LSD is becoming more popular and is available in blotter acid form. Prices and quantities available are: one hit-\$4-\$6; 50 hits-\$100-\$250; 100 hits \$200-\$430; 1000 hits-\$500-\$750. PCP is unavailable. Methamphetamine ("crank") is available in quantities from 1/4 gram to an ounce. Prices are similar to those for cocaine with one gram-\$100; eightball-\$250 and 1/2 ounce-\$800. Purity is unknown and the number of users is limited. There appears to be a sharp increase, especially among junior high students as to the use of caffeine tablets and other stimulants. Some young people (and some adults) are snorting and even using caffeine intravenously. There are few

depressant abusers and prices fluctuate depending on buyer, seller and drug. According to one report "Quaaludes" (probably counterfeit) sell for \$1.00 each or a bag of 50 for \$30. Others sell for one to six dollars per pill. Pharmaceuticals are not widely available and can be purchased in quantities of one to ten with price depending on the dealer. Dilaudid is reported available.

Drugs are sold in different types of locations in the county including streets, out of automobiles, in private residences, apartments and taverns. The drug market is unstructured with many independent sellers. No organized groups appear to be controlling the drug trade. There does not appear to be significant increase in violence related to the drug trade, although larger dealers are reported to be armed and ask undercover officers where they can obtain automatic weapons. The money involved in the drug trade has led to an identifiable increase in assaults.

Motorcycle gang activity in the area is reported to have picked up significantly in the last few years. Active gangs include the Coven, Kingsmen, Rare Breed, and Raiders. The gangs themselves are not principally involved in distributing drugs although certain members do sell drugs. Coven members were specifically reported.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY-Chautauqua is New York's westernmost county, located southwest of Erie County and bordering Lake Erie and Pennsylvania on the west and Pennsylvania on the south.

Law enforcement authorities unanimously report that cocaine availability and use has increased greatly across all economic levels and is replacing marijuana as the drug of choice. Cocaine is available from 1/4 gram to pound quantities. Gram prices range from \$80-\$130 and ounces from \$1000-\$1500, a sharp drop from the previous ounce price of \$2500. Purities range from 15% to 90% in retail quantities and the average is high. It is packaged in plastic bags and some retail quantities are packaged in folded magazine paper.

Lactose, vitamins, mannitol, dextrose, and procaine have been identified as cocaine cuts. Cocaine enters the county from New York City, sometimes directly and sometimes via Buffalo. Cocaine also enters from south Florida via Buffalo. Automobile and bus are the two most common methods of bringing cocaine into the county with some mailed and some via commercial air couriers from south Florida via Buffalo. Intravenous use of cocaine is becoming more popular although the vast majority of users snort it. Crack cocaine trafficking/abuse is minimal in the county.

Marijuana is widely available in single joint to pound amounts, and had historically been the drug of choice. Much of the available marijuana is

homegrown and exotic varieties are rarely available. Marijuana sells for \$2 per joint, \$30-\$35 per 1/4 ounce and \$160-\$200 per ounce.

Heroin is not encountered. LSD availability is sporadic. Some jurisdictions report limited or no LSD availability and others report that it is fairly common. Reported prices are \$4 per hit retail and \$2 per hit in wholesale quantities. LSD is often mailed into the county. PCP is not available. Some methamphetamine is available and one agency reports Canadian motorcycle gangs may be sending it into the area.

Availability of illegally trafficked pharmaceuticals varies depending upon the area. Valium is available via illegally sold prescriptions, and sets, a combination of Doriden and "#4's" (possibly Tylenol with codeine #4) are available, although less so since Doriden was placed in Schedule II. Sets usually originate in Buffalo or Erie, PA and are usually confined to the black community.

Drug markets in the county are generally open with numerous independent sellers although some organized groups finance larger transactions. The city of Dunkirk has a large group of Puerto Rican traffickers that dominate the local cocaine market. This group has good connections to large quantities of cocaine and can obtain it on short notice. Drugs are sold on the streets,

public areas, places of business and especially in private houses and apartments. There has been an increase in drug traffickers carrying weapons and threatening to use them. Authorities report increases in assaults, robberies, burglaries and car break-ins, possibly to obtain money for drugs. There is little motorcycle gang activity in the county.

WYOMING COUNTY- Wyoming is a rural county east of Erie County. Substance abuse counselors report marijuana to be the primary drug of abuse although there has been a significant upswing in cocaine abuse. The cocaine abusers report no problems obtaining cocaine in the county. Most cocaine abusers are employed and abuse in the workplace is reported. There is also "talk" of LSD being available, although no one is seeking treatment for LSD abuse. There is also abuse of pseudo-speed "look-a-likes."

GENESSEE COUNTY-Genessee is a rural county just north of Wyoming County and between Erie and Monroe counties. Cocaine has become widely available in the county and is now as easy to obtain as marijuana, the traditional drug of choice. It is most often available in 1/4 gram, 1/2 gram, gram and eightball quantities. Ounce quantities are available from larger dealers. Prices range from \$25 for 1/4 gram to \$250-\$300 for an eightball. Ounce prices range from \$1,600-\$2,200. Purities are similar to other rural counties with a recent ounce purchase tested at 60%. Smaller amounts of cocaine have been packaged

in small plastic baggies, magazine papers, newspaper, small envelopes and foil. Larger quantities are packaged in plastic baggies. Cocaine cuts include inositol, mannitol, lactose, procaine, and lidocaine. Cocaine generally enters the county via automobile. Buses and small aircraft have been used along with commercial parcel services and overnight delivery services. Cocaine source cities are Buffalo, Rochester and New York City. Crack cocaine has not yet been encountered by law enforcement agencies.

Marijuana is reported to be plentiful and available in quantities from individual joints up to a few pounds. The most commonly encountered street quantities are 1/4 ounce, 1/2 ounce and one ounce. Ounce prices range from \$50-\$120 depending on quality. Hashish is reported available from gram to ounce quantities with grams the usual weight. The street price is about \$10 per gram. Marijuana is packaged in plastic baggies and hashish, when available, is packaged in tinfoil. Heroin is not a problem in the county.

LSD is reported to be relatively common and making a comeback. It is usually in blotter form and the price varies from \$2 to \$5 per hit depending on the type and supply. One agency has had contact with pill type LSD. Law enforcement organizations reports no recent contact with PCP. Psilocybin mushrooms are reported available, although they are not as common as blotter acid. Mushrooms are sold by the gram with price varying depending on supply.

Authorities in the county report limited contact with methamphetamine, although it is occasionally available in crystal form. One police department reported a problem with Tussionex being diverted into the illicit market via falsified prescriptions. No other pharmaceuticals were mentioned as diversion problems.

The drug market in Genessee County consists almost exclusively of independent dealers and sellers with little organized drug trafficking activity. Two exceptions are the Road Agents and Kingsmen outlaw motorcycle clubs whose members are involved in drug distribution and use. Most drugs available in the county come from Buffalo and Rochester, and to a lesser extent, New York City. Most drugs are brought in by automobile although some have arrived by bus. Commercial package services are also utilized. Drug sales take place in all types of areas including, but not limited to, shopping malls, mall parking lots, bars, public parks and private residences.

Drug related violence in the county is not reported to be a major problem although the Road Agents and The Kingsmen are believed to be well armed. Some of the metropolitan areas in the county are reporting an increase in burglaries and larcenies, but this is not reported to be a significant trend county-wide.

STEUBEN COUNTY-Steuben is a rural county in southwest central New York on the Pennsylvania border. One of New York's major east-west thoroughfares, Route 17, bisects the county and the access it provides into and through the county has a significant impact on drug availability.

Marijuana is the most commonly encountered drug and is the most frequently abused, although cocaine availability is rising and it has become available throughout the county. Cocaine is becoming readily available in the larger towns, such as Corning and Hornell. One quarter gram to eight gram quantities are reported available with the prices \$25 for 1/4 gram to \$100 for a gram. Larger quantities are also encountered. In December 1987, one person was arrested and three and one half pounds of cocaine were seized in Hornell. User quantities of cocaine are usually packaged in magazine paper and tinfoil. Lidocaine, mannitol and sugar have been used as cocaine "cuts." Crack in vials has been occasionally encountered in the larger jurisdictions but it has yet to become a significant problem.

Marijuana is readily available in the county in quantities ranging from a \$5 bag to one pound and is easily obtained. The most commonly available quantity is the ounce which is reported to sell for \$300-\$400. Marijuana is grown in the county with some of the production sold on the local market. Marijuana

availability/abuse has remained stable over the last several years. One police department reports the scam of selling oregano as marijuana still occurs. Tea has also been used as a "cut" for marijuana.

LSD in blotter paper form is the only hallucinogen reported available at all. LSD is undergoing a slight resurgence in popularity, although availability/abuse are not widespread. Only one price report, \$14 per hit, was available. This price is far above the \$2-\$7 average reported for blotter LSD in western New York.

One jurisdiction reports availability of methamphetamine and unspecified depressants. Other areas report limited/sporadic availability of these drugs. All areas report limited/sporadic encounters with heroin and illegally trafficked pharmaceuticals.

Rochester and Elmira, NY are generally the source areas for drugs available in the county although some have been identified as coming directly from Florida. All reports indicate drugs enter the county almost exclusively by automobile.

Drugs are sold on the streets, in bars, in public areas, and apartments/houses in the more populated areas of the county. Most sales in the rural areas are in apartments/houses. Drug trafficking in the county is an open market with

many independent dealers. Some Cuban dealers from Florida and black dealers from New York City have occasionally sold drugs in Corning, although the vast majority of drug sellers in the county are local.

There has been no general increase in drug related violence or an identifiable increase in ancillary crime. One jurisdiction reports weapons are now more prevalent in areas where drug related arrests occur and larceny and burglary among known drug offenders has increased. One outlaw motorcycle club, the Snakes, is active outside the village of Bath. The extent of their drug activity, if any, is unknown.

ONTARIO COUNTY-Ontario is a rural county located southeast of Monroe County. Law enforcement authorities in the county report a definite increase in cocaine availability along with a continued high level of marijuana availability. Cocaine traffic is now reported as moderate with available quantities ranging from quarter grams to pounds. Reported prices are \$25 for one quarter gram; \$100-\$125 per gram; \$300-\$350 per eightball and \$1500 for a half ounce. The purity varies depending on dealer and source. Cuts include baking soda, powdered sugar, Alka-Seltzer, and mannitol. Cocaine is packaged in tinfoil, magazine paper, and occasionally glassine bags. Crack cocaine is available on a limited basis and is sold by pieces or "bundles" with a bundle selling for \$10-\$50. Crack in vials has not been encountered.

Marijuana is reported to be readily available with widely varying prices depending on quality (or perceived quality). "Homegrown" is reported to sell for \$35 per ounce and alleged "sinsemilla" (probably homegrown) for \$100 per ounce. Other marijuana is sold in \$10 and \$20 bags and \$40 for one quarter ounce with an ounces selling in some areas for about \$220 each. Marijuana is packaged in paper or plastic bags.

LSD in blotter form is reported to be sporadically available with wider availability when "Grateful Dead" concerts are in the area. Reported prices are from one to seven dollars per hit, although one dollar appears to be unusually low. No other hallucinogens (PCP, mushrooms, etc.) are reported available. Heroin, methamphetamine, and other stimulants and depressants are rarely encountered in the county's drug traffic.

The county is supplied by independent dealers who travel to Rochester and Syracuse to purchase drugs for distribution. Almost all drugs come into the county via auto, bus or mail. The market is open with many independent sellers who sell in public areas, places of business, residences, streets, parks and housing projects.

There is no reported increase in drug related violence or the carrying/use of

weapons. However, there has been an identifiable increase in larcenies (especially auto break-ins), burglaries and robberies believed to be related to the drug trade. No drug-related outlaw motorcycle gang activity was reported.

WAYNE COUNTY--Wayne is an agricultural county east of Monroe County and north of Ontario County. Wayne County has the largest migrant farm worker population in the state with approximately 150 licensed camps. There is little contact between the migrant community and the local population, probably because of language and cultural barriers. Cocaine is becoming a drug of choice in the county and marijuana is readily available. Cocaine was reported to cost \$350 for an eightball. Cocaine is cut with vitamin powder or mannitol. Crack is not common but is becoming more available. Substance abuse counselors are receiving more reports of crack use and associated medical problems (seizures, etc.) and since mid-1988 crack has been "sneaking" into the adolescent community. Some migrant workers are also selling it in the camps. Most of the crack is believed to be produced locally. However, the Monroe County Public Safety Laboratory (which does analysis for Wayne County) reported several exhibits of "potato stick" crack which is in long square chunks that look almost exactly like the OC brand of potato sticks. The

only other incidence of this "potato stick" crack outside Florida was from a group of migrant fruit pickers in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The crack available in the county, from both inside and outside the migrant camps, is packaged in tinfoil or small baggies. Vials are not used.

Marijuana is reported to be always available in the county. The price varies with the availability of locally grown marijuana. There is extensive marijuana abuse in the migrant camps.

There are some reports of an increase in LSD availability although overall use is minimal. No other hallucinogens are reported available. There is limited heroin availability, generally for use with cocaine in speedballs. Crystal form methamphetamine is reported to be abused but it is seldom available locally. Almost all drugs enter the county from Rochester and New York City, via auto with the exceptions usually entering the migrant work camps with the workers or via mail. Most drug sales are on the street or in private residences. Wayne County's drug market is basically open with independent sellers. Ethnic Puerto Rican traffickers control much of the cocaine trade and some migrant workers have stayed in the area to sell drugs.

Law enforcement authorities report a dramatic increase in intravenous cocaine use and substance abuse counselors report an increase in drug use by couples

along with an increase in females abusing drugs, and more drug sales to younger abusers. These younger abusers often pool their money and use the purchased drugs as a group.

Enforcement authorities report no increase in drug related violence, although there are rumors of weapons possession and threats. There has been an increase in burglaries which may be drug related. There are two local outlaw motorcycle gangs, the Lords and the Iron Horsemen, active in the county. The Lords are rumored to be involved in marijuana distribution.

SENECA COUNTY-Seneca is a relatively small, rural county south of Wayne County and east of Ontario County. Limited reporting was received with much of it from Seneca Falls, a town with approximately 7500 residents and representative of similar towns in central/western New York.

Law enforcement authorities report a marked increase in cocaine abuse. The average reported cost is \$125 per gram with the range from \$90 to \$160 per gram. Purity averages about 50% and it is usually packaged in plastic bags or vials. Most of the cocaine is driven in through Rochester with some being funneled through the town of Geneva. The cocaine market is open with many independent sellers. Cocaine is sold in public places such as around local taverns. Some sellers operate at a local factory and a few operate out of

their homes. Enforcement authorities have not encountered crack, although they are aware of its availability in neighboring Wayne County.

Marijuana is primarily a problem with younger people, generally those of high school age, and use appears to be decreasing slightly. The majority of the marijuana appears to be coming from the Ithaca area. Local distribution is through several private homes. Marijuana sells for about \$20 per "plastic bag." An increase in LSD use was just beginning in 1988. The LSD is the "camouflaged pill" type, sells for about \$4 per hit, and is believed to be coming in from Wayne County.

The only other reported substance abuse is a definite problem with high school students abusing "look-a-like" drugs, probably mail order caffeine pills. These pills sell for about twenty five cents each and seem to be coming from Pennsylvania. There is no reported increase in drug related violence, ancillary crime, or outlaw motorcycle gang activity.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY-Livingston County is a predominately rural county directly south of Monroe County. Law enforcement authorities report that cocaine trafficking and abuse are increasing in the county. Cocaine is readily available in quantities from multi-grams to multi-ounces with some pound quantities available. Prices average \$100 per gram and \$1800 per ounce.

Quality ranges from poor to almost pure. Mannite and baking powder are used as cuts and it is packaged in tinfoil, magazine paper and plastic baggies. There is very little crack available.

Marijuana is readily available in ounce to kilogram quantities. Most large (kilo) quantities are grown locally with prices ranging from \$50 per ounce and up.

LSD and hallucinogenic mushrooms are readily available. Quality is reported to be good. The LSD price runs from \$3 per hit to high discounts for quantity purchases. The largest seizure was a 15,000 hit purchase, although most LSD is sold in 100 hit or less quantities. LSD was on the decline but has been increasing over the past three years. Mushrooms are generally found among certain groups of college students. Some mushrooms come in from Arizona and others are grown locally. Prices vary according to availability.

Very little heroin is available and there are some limited quantities of methamphetamine in the area. There is very limited availability of depressants and illegally trafficked pharmaceuticals. The illegal pharmaceuticals are usually obtained by forging stolen prescription pads. Also reported is a considerable availability of caffeine pills and other "look-a-like" pills being sold as the actual drugs. Depressants and

stimulants appear to be on the decrease.

Most drugs enter the county via private vehicle or commercial package service. The market is open and dominated by independent dealers, although there are some small organized groups. Drugs are sold in private residences, businesses, schools, bars, and on the streets.

There is an increase in the amount of property crime to support drug habits and in domestic violence resulting from drug abuse.

CHEMUNG COUNTY—Chemung is a small county on the Pennsylvania border between western New York and the "Southern Tier" counties. Limited law enforcement reporting was received from the county, almost all of it concerning Elmira, Chemung's largest city.

There has been a definite increase in cocaine availability and use. Quarter gram to multi-ounce quantities are available. Prices are as follows: quarter gram-\$25; half-gram-\$50; gram-\$100-\$125; eightball-\$300-\$350; half-ounce-\$600-\$800; ounce-\$1400-\$1800. Purity ranges from 40%-80% with purity rising as quantity increases. Cocaine cuts include lidocaine and mannitol. Cocaine is packaged in tinfoil, small ziplock bags, small plastic vials and high gloss paper envelopes (one brand is Gem Packs, manufactured in

Hauppauge, NY) Crack cocaine is available and is sold in small bundles or vials for about \$25. Locally grown marijuana is available at approximately \$150 per ounce. Heroin is seldom in demand but it is available for about \$25 per quarter gram. During 1988, there was an increase in LSD trafficking and abuse. LSD sells for \$5 per hit for less than 50 hits and \$3 per hit for more than 50 hits. Up to 300 hits have been offered for sale. No significant availability was reported for PCP, methamphetamine, or other stimulants and depressants.

Drug source areas include Rochester, Syracuse, New York City, Miami, and unknown cities in Texas. Drugs enter via autos (both private and rental), U.S. Mail, commercial package services, and domestic commercial air. The drug market is generally open with independent dealers between 25 to 45 years old. LSD and marijuana sellers are usually under 21-22 years of age. There is one Jamaican controlled trafficking group. Drugs are sold in private residences, apartments, places of business, public areas, and streets.

Reports indicate a definite increase in the demand for firearms by traffickers, and also an increase in citizens desiring to or actually arming themselves, often illegally, in response to drug related violence. Law enforcement authorities in Elmira report 60%-70% of robberies, burglaries and larcenies are drug related and committed by users to support their addiction.

No outlaw motorcycle gangs are reported active in the area.

YATES COUNTY-Yates is a small, rural county in the Finger Lakes Region of New York. Limited reporting was received, all from substance abuse counselors. They report cocaine is now available in the county, primarily centered at the local college or brought in by residents who work in Rochester or Syracuse. Crack has not been encountered. Marijuana is available and locally grown marijuana, often from multi-generation seeds, is increasing. LSD is popular among junior and senior high school students and kids in all social groups use it. LSD is "almost a status drug." No intravenous drug use has been identified. Young abusers abuse the "look-a-like", "speed" or caffeine capsules both orally and intranasally. They are popular because they are easy to order from a magazine and kids believe they are safe. Counselors report substance abuse begins in about the sixth grade. They also report substance abuse associated with local counterspirituality or satanic groups.

REGION FIVE

NASSAU COUNTY-Nassau County is located in western/central Long Island. It borders New York City on the west and Suffolk County on the east. Nassau has urban, suburban, and rural areas. Local police officials report that abuse and trafficking of drugs, particularly cocaine and crack, is increasing throughout Nassau County, according to drug seizures and arrests. As cocaine abuse increases, it is being accompanied by a corresponding rise in ancillary crimes such as assaults, robberies, and burglaries as well as an increase in drug related violence and the use of weapons.

Cocaine is available on the street in from less than one gram amounts to multi-ounce amounts. Multi-kilogram quantities are sold at the wholesale level. The sources of supply are mainly the Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, and Corona sections of Queens. Investigations have revealed that Nassau County is used for safehouse locations by large scale New York City based trafficking operations. These trafficking rings are generally linked to Colombia's Cali cartel and have been known to move multi-thousand kilo amounts of cocaine by air and sea cargo shipments. Cocaine purity generally ranges from 60% to 70%

and costs approximately \$75-\$100 per gram. Crack is readily available from street level trafficking organizations. A vial of crack costs between \$10 and \$30. It is sold on street corners, most frequently in economically depressed areas.

Marijuana is also available, but not as widely available as cocaine and crack. Local police say there is a rising number of people who are growing marijuana for their own personal use. The marijuana that is available on the street is sold in \$5 and \$10 bags. Heroin comes into the county from New York City and is available in quantities from dime bags through multi-ounces. Heroin distribution appears to be on the increase over the last few months. LSD and other illegal hallucinogens and pharmaceuticals are available in scattered instances and are considered a secondary abuse problem.

Both large, highly organized trafficking rings and small independent dealers operate in Nassau County. Most of the smaller volume street sales operations are controlled by independent dealers. However, high volume street level activity in concentrated areas is controlled and organized by various groups. Local enforcement officials say that there is substantial Hispanic organized trafficking, including Colombian cartel activity. In addition, Jamaican

controlled trafficking groups, which generally are increasing in activity and violence, black organizations with ties to Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx, and Traditional Organized Crime groups all operate in the county as well.

SUFFOLK COUNTY-Suffolk is located on the central/eastern portion of Long Island and borders Nassau County on the west. Increased abuse and trafficking of cocaine is leading to an increase in drug related violence and ancillary crimes, according to Suffolk County law enforcement officials. Cocaine is the most widely abused and trafficked drug in Suffolk County, followed by marijuana. Local law enforcement officers say that cocaine abuse is increasing while marijuana abuse is remaining relatively stable. Suffolk is becoming a location for major cocaine operations. In December 1987, 1,800 pounds of cocaine were seized from Colombian traffickers in Suffolk. The crack situation here is very similar to the one in Nassau County. Crack is a major problem and is controlled by street level distributors. Crack is readily available, particularly in economically depressed areas. LSD is available on a limited basis in the area, based on the number of arrests and seizures by local police.

Cocaine is sold in one quarter gram amounts up to multi ounce amounts on the street. Cocaine prices are \$25 per quarter gram, and from \$1000 to \$1200 per ounce. Crack sells for between \$10 and \$25 per vial. Marijuana ranges in price from \$60 to \$120 per ounce, depending on the quality of the marijuana. Much of the marijuana available is grown locally, and local police report that arrests for illegally growing marijuana are on the rise.

Trafficking of heroin appears to be increasing. Smugglers capable of moving multi-kilograms are operating in the area, although these bulk loads are usually not destined for the county. Most heroin in the county is brought in from the New York City region. The heroin is usually prepackaged in small amounts for street distribution and sells for \$25 per bag. LSD and other hallucinogens account for only a handful of the narcotics related arrests made in the county. Methamphetamine, depressants, and illegally trafficked pharmaceuticals are occasionally available in the county.

Diversion and internal pilferage of pharmaceuticals from pharmacies has been a sporadic problem within the county. Dilaudid, Doriden, Percodan, and Tuinal are drugs of choice in these instances. Furthermore, physicians occasionally have diverted controlled substances for either resale for profit or for their own personal use.

New York City is the main source of narcotics for all the county's traffickers. Local police estimate that over 90% of all drugs brought to Suffolk County are transported by private automobile. The other drug trafficking methods include the mail, transportation by boat, and the Long Island Railroad. In addition, numerous small, private airfields can be used to smuggle drugs into the area. Many dealers make weekly trips into the city to replenish supplies, according to local police. Police say that the trafficking is controlled by several small independent dealers operating at the street level.