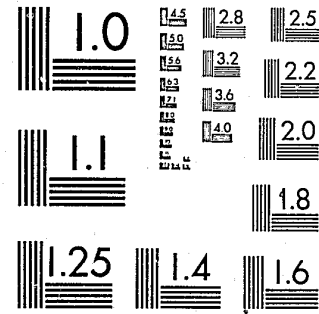


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# Research Report

DRUG DEFENDANTS IN MASSACHUSETTS: 1978-1980

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I. Introduction

Since 1974, the Research Department of the Office of the Commissioner of Probation has compiled statistics about the drug defendant population in Massachusetts. The purpose of this on-going research is to assess shifts in the volume of drug arraignments, age of defendants, class of drugs, and geographical region where arraignments occurred.

The data is drawn from court appearance records submitted to the Office of the Commissioner of Probation statewide during four weeks of the calendar year. All court appearance records which include a new drug offense are included in the study. The four sample weeks are spaced throughout the year, to control for seasonal variation in drug arrests.

Data in this report includes only those defendants who were arraigned for drug offenses in superior, district and juvenile courts in the Commonwealth. The data does not reflect those arraigned in federal courts, those admitted to treatment programs, or those admitted to hospital crisis centers.

While the 1980 study analyzed criminal/delinquency arraignments on drug charges, it does not purport to draw conclusions on the conviction rate for controlled substance violations. This study only addresses various questions regarding drug defendants, not adjudicated offenders.

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II. Methodology

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Massachusetts is unique in that the Office of the Commissioner of Probation (OCP) centrally maintains statewide files of criminal history information, dating back to 1924. The files include records of new charges, as well as the status of continued cases and dispositional information.

Only new charges, not continued or disposed cases, were counted in this study. Court appearance records had to list at least one drug offense (with or without other charges) to qualify.

A total of 1,089 juveniles and adults were charged with new drug crimes during the four sample weeks of 1980. All new drug arraignments were recorded during the following weeks in 1980: January 21-25, April 28-May 2, July 21-25 and October 20-24.

The 1980 sample total compares to 1,329 defendants being charged with new drug crimes during the four sample weeks in 1979. The 1979 data was drawn from court appearance records received by the OCP during the weeks of: January 24-28, April 23-27, July 23-27 and October 15-19.

In 1978, 1312 defendants were charged with drug offenses during the four sample weeks of: January 30-February 3, May 22-26, August 21-25, and November 13-17.

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III. Definitions

1. Regions: Massachusetts cities and towns are divided into seven (7) geographical areas as defined by the Department of Mental Health.

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Region I   | Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties                                      |
| Region II  | Primarily Worcester County   |
| Region III | Northern and northwestern Middlesex County and the Lowell area                           |
| Region IV  | Essex County plus the Malden-Medford-Everett areas in Middlesex County                   |
| Region V   | Most of Norfolk County plus the southernmost area in Middlesex County                    |
| Region VI  | Suffolk County plus Brookline  |
| Region VII | Southernmost Norfolk County plus the Brockton area and all of southeastern Massachusetts |

2. Drug Classes: The classes in this report are those in the schedule used by the courts and established by the Legislature according to criteria of potentiality for abuse, degree of currently accepted medical usage and probability of physical or psychological dependence with Class A, the most serious and Class E, the least serious.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Class A | Heroin, other named opiates and opiate derivatives                                   |
| Class B | Amphetamines, methamphetamine, cocaine, methadone, opium barbituates                 |
| Class C | Hallucinogens, including LSD, DMT, THC, Hashish, PCP                                 |
| Class D | Marijuana and certain barbitals  |
| Class E | Dilute mixtures of codeine, morphine or opium prescription drugs not named elsewhere |
| Other   | Miscellaneous categories of drug offenses. (no controlled substances)                |

IV. Three-Year Data Analysis

Volume

This analysis covers the volume of defendants and not the amount of controlled substance involved in each reported offense.

In prior years, there had been a steady, substantial increase in the number of defendants reported annually. In 1980, however this trend was reversed, with the volume decreasing twenty percent. (n=1,089 in 1980 compared to n=1,329 in 1979 and n=1,312 in 1978).

The drug offense rate, measuring the ratio of offenses to population, was computed on state population estimates from the Department of Public Health for 1978 and 1979, and based on the U.S. Census Bureau data for 1980:

| Year | Est. Annual Volume of Drug Defendants | Annual Population | = | Projected Drug Offense Rate p/100,000 pop. |
|------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| 1978 | 17,056*                               | 5,885,990         | = | 2.89                                       |
| 1979 | 17,277**                              | 5,911,598         | = | 2.92                                       |
| 1980 | 14,157***                             | 5,737,037         | = | 2.46                                       |

\*Based on 1,312 total defendants in 4 one-week samples  
 \*\*Based on 1,329 total defendants in 4 one-week samples  
 \*\*\*Based on 1,089 total defendants in 4 one-week samples

The proportion of drug offenses measured against the total of all criminal offenses reported to OCP files during 1979 and 1980 were computed as follows:

| Year | Est. Annual Drug Offenses Received by OCP Files | Total Criminal Offenses Received by OCP Files | = | Percentage Drug Offenses |
|------|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1979 | 17,277  | 191,423                                       | = | 9.03%                    |
| 1980 | 14,157  | 202,946                                       | = | 6.97%                    |

The 1978 volume was not compared. It would not reflect a comparable percentage as Minor Motor Vehicle Offenses were decriminalized on January 1, 1979, and were no longer reported to OCP files; only Major Motor Vehicle offenses are included in current criminal offense totals.

Age at Arraignment

The sample total of 1,089 defendants in 1980 reflected an 18 percent decrease over the 1979 sample of 1,329 defendants. The sample total of 1,312 defendants in 1978 compared to 1979 showed no marked change (up 1 percent).

TABLE I - AGE AT ARRAIGNMENT

| Age      | Percent Change |      |      |           |           |
|----------|----------------|------|------|-----------|-----------|
|          | 1978           | 1979 | 1980 | 1978-1979 | 1979-1980 |
| 14/Under | 33             | 30   | 17   | - 9.09%   | -43.33%   |
| 15-16    | 133            | 158  | 73   | +18.79%   | -53.80%   |
| 17-18    | 258            | 243  | 204  | - 5.81%   | -16.05%   |
| 19-21    | 303            | 347  | 271  | +14.52%   | -21.90%   |
| 22-25    | 274            | 236  | 238  | -13.87%   | + .85%    |
| 26/Over  | 308            | 314  | 286  | + 1.95%   | - 8.92%   |
| Unknown  | 3              | 1    | 0    | -66.66%   | - 1.00%   |
|          | 1312           | 1329 | 1089 | - 1.30%   | -18.05%   |

A significant decrease for 1980 was found in all age groups, especially among the juveniles and young adults. The juvenile age group (up to 17 years of age) was down 52 percent when 1979 (n=188) and 1980 (n=90) were compared. Young Adults (17 - 25 years of age) declined 14 percent, while the Adults (26+ years of age) decreased 8.9 percent.

In examining the distribution of drug defendants under 26 years of age, the data demonstrates significant downward shifts by young people. Juveniles 15 and 16 years of age decreased 54 percent over the 1979 sample (compared to an increase of 20 percent in 1979 over 1978). Seventeen and 18 year olds declined 16 percent, and defendants between 19 and 20 years of age decreased 22 percent. Defendants 22 to 25 years old showed little change increasing only 0.8 percent from 1979.

These decreases are reflected in the overall age distribution of 1978, 1979, and 1980 samples.

Table II .

| AGE      | 1978  | 1979  | 1980  |
|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| 14 under | 2.5%  | 2.2%  | 1.6%  |
| 15 - 16  | 10.1% | 11.9% | 6.7%  |
| 17 - 18  | 19.7% | 18.3% | 18.7% |
| 19 - 21  | 23.1% | 26.1% | 24.8% |
| 22 - 25  | 20.9% | 17.8% | 21.9% |
| 26 over  | 23.5% | 23.6% | 26.3% |
| Unknown  | .2%   | .1%   |       |

As in 1978 and 1979, the 1980 drug defendants continued to be clustered in the younger age groups, with 73.7 percent being under 26 years of age. However, when analyzing specific age groups, defendants 26+ years old accounted for the highest volume in the 1980 sample compared to 19-21 year olds in 1979.

Residence by Region

Comparison of the 1979 and 1980 samples indicate that all regions decreased with the exception of Region VI (Suffolk County and Brookline) which increased 9 percent. Major increases between 1978 and 1979 occurred in Region II (+29.0%) and Region V (+28.0%).

TABLE III - RESIDENCE BY REGION

| Region    | 1978            | 1979           | 1980             | Percent Change |           |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|
|           |                 |                |                  | 1978-1979      | 1979-1980 |
| I         | 163<br>(12.4%)  | 184<br>(13.8%) | 124<br>(11.4%)   | +12.88%        | -32.60%   |
| II        | 138<br>(10.5%)  | 178<br>(13.4%) | 138<br>(12.7%)   | +28.99%        | -22.47%   |
| III       | 167<br>(12.7%)  | 131<br>(9.9%)  | 116<br>(10.7%)   | -21.56%        | -11.45%   |
| IV        | 156<br>(11.9%)  | 159<br>(12.0%) | 147<br>(13.5%)   | + 1.92%        | - 7.54%   |
| V         | 160<br>(12.2%)  | 204<br>(15.3%) | 159<br>(14.6%)   | +27.50%        | -22.05%   |
| VI        | 239<br>(18.2%)  | 186<br>(14.0%) | 203<br>(18.6%)   | -22.18%        | + 9.14%   |
| VII       | 239<br>(18.2%)  | 265<br>(19.9%) | 164<br>(15.1%)   | +10.88%        | -38.11%   |
| Out/State | 50<br>(3.8%)    | 22<br>(1.7%)   | 38<br>(3.5%)     | -56.00%        | -72.72%   |
| TOTAL     | 1312<br>(99.9%) | 1329<br>(100%) | 1089<br>(100.1%) | - 1.30%        | -18.05%   |

Region VII declined 38 percent when compared to 1979, as it did between 1978 and 1979, followed by Region I (33 percent) and Regions II and V (both 22 percent). Out of State defendants decreased 56 percent between 1978 and 1979 and 73 percent when 1979 and 1980 were compared.

A word of caution should be given regarding the significance of these regional shifts. The data measures only new arraignments for drug offenses. It does not measure discretionary issues regarding police priorities. Some police departments place higher priority for drug offenders than do others, and the regional shifts may reflect these discretionary issues rather than actual increases or decreases in drug usage.

Substance by Class

The patterns of drug usage were analyzed in this section based on the class of drug used. Class D (marijuana) accounted for 56 percent of the cases in the 1980 sample, compared to 60.3 percent in 1979 and 58.9 percent in 1978. This indicates a decrease of 23.8 percent from 1979. These findings indicate that police are actively arresting persons for marijuana offenses.

TABLE IV - SUBSTANCE BY CLASS

| Class    | 1978           | 1979           | 1980           | Percent Change |           |
|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
|          |                |                |                | 1978-1979      | 1979-1980 |
| A        | 89<br>(6.8%)   | 56<br>(4.2%)   | 51<br>(4.7%)   | -37.08%        | - 8.93%   |
| B        | 82<br>(6.3%)   | 97<br>(7.3%)   | 100<br>(9.2%)  | +18.29%        | + 3.09%   |
| C        | 46<br>(3.5%)   | 48<br>(3.6%)   | 48<br>(4.4%)   | + 4.35%        | 0         |
| D        | 773<br>(58.9%) | 801<br>(60.3%) | 610<br>(56.0%) | + 3.62%        | -23.84%   |
| E        | 23<br>(1.8%)   | 28<br>(2.1%)   | 20<br>(1.8%)   | +21.74%        | -28.57%   |
| Multiple | 180<br>(13.7%) | 157<br>(11.8%) | 115<br>(10.6%) | -12.78%        | -26.75%   |
| Other    | 56<br>(4.3%)   | 50<br>(3.8%)   | 53<br>(4.9%)   | -10.71%        | + 6.00%   |
| Unknown  | 63<br>(4.8%)   | 92<br>(6.9%)   | 92<br>(8.4%)   | +46.03%        | 0         |
|          | 1312           | 1329           | 1089           |                |           |

Persons charged with multiple (two or more) classes of drug offenses ranked second in frequency, but dropped 26.7 percent over 1979. Multiple drugs decreased progressively from 13.7 percent of the 1978 sample, to 11.8 percent of the 1979 sample and to 10.6 percent of the 1980 sample.

Class B defendants represented 9.2 percent of the 1980 sample, including cocaine and amphetamines among other drugs. Class B represented 7.3 percent in 1979 and 6.3 percent in 1978. Class B defendants were up 3.1 percent over 1979. Class B has gradually increased from 1978 to 1980.

From 1979 to 1980 Class A (heroin) offenses declined 8.9 percent. While Class A defendants accounted for nearly 7 percent of the 1978 sample, they represented 4 percent of the defendants in 1979 and 4.7 percent in 1980.

Class E (codeine, morphine, opium, and prescription drugs) decreased by 28.6 percent although Class E defendants represented only 1.8 percent of the 1980 sample. The small number of Class E defendants (n=23 in 1978, n=28 in 1979, and n=20 in 1980) would tend to overstate the significance of the percent decrease.

The volume of "unknown" drug classes remained constant from 1979 (n=92) to 1980 (n=92). An increase of 47.62 percent between 1978 and 1979, however, indicates continued reluctance in some areas to charge a person with a drug offense until the drug sample has been chemically analyzed. In those cases, the person is charged with "possession of controlled substance", or "violation of controlled substance act", without having a specific drug class indicated.

CLASS BY REGION

Table V shows the distribution of drug classes by residential region of the drug defendants. A decrease of Class A (heroin) offenses was seen in every region except Region IV and Region VI. Region VI accounted for 55 percent of the Class A defendants in 1980 compared to 32 percent in 1979 and 55 percent in 1978.

TABLE V CLASSES BY REGIONS

| Class "A"  | Percent Change |      |      |         |         |
|------------|----------------|------|------|---------|---------|
|            | 1978           | 1979 | 1980 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 |
| Region I   | 15             | 15   | 7    | 0       | - 53    |
| Region II  | 7              | 10   | 5    | + 43    | - 50    |
| Region III | 4              | 8    | 4    | +100    | - 50    |
| Region IV  | 1              | 1    | 3    | 0       | +200    |
| Region V   | 6              | 2    | 2    | - 67    | 0       |
| Region VI  | 49             | 18   | 28   | - 63    | + 56    |
| Region VII | 6              | 2    | 1    | - 67    | - 50    |
| Out/State  | 1              | -    | 1    | -100    | -       |
|            | 89             | 56   | 51   | -37.07% | - 8.92% |

| Class "B"  | Percent Change |      |      |         |         |
|------------|----------------|------|------|---------|---------|
|            | 1978           | 1979 | 1980 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 |
| Region I   | 7              | 12   | 8    | + 71    | - 33    |
| Region II  | 2              | 7    | 13   | +250    | + 86    |
| Region III | 8              | 9    | 14   | + 13    | + 56    |
| Region IV  | 14             | 17   | 7    | + 21    | - 70    |
| Region V   | 8              | 8    | 8    | 0       | 0       |
| Region VI  | 23             | 23   | 32   | 0       | + 28    |
| Region VII | 15             | 18   | 12   | + 20    | - 33    |
| Out/State  | 5              | 3    | 6    | - 40    | +100    |
|            | 82             | 97   | 100  | +18.29% | +3.09%  |

| Class "C"  | Percent Change |      |      |         |         |
|------------|----------------|------|------|---------|---------|
|            | 1978           | 1979 | 1980 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 |
| Region I   | 3              | 4    | 8    | + 33    | +100    |
| Region II  | 1              | 4    | 6    | +300    | + 50    |
| Region III | 10             | 5    | 2    | - 50    | - 60    |
| Region IV  | 1              | 3    | 4    | + 20    | + 33    |
| Region V   | 4              | 7    | 4    | + 75    | - 43    |
| Region VI  | 16             | 16   | 15   | 0       | - 6     |
| Region VII | 9              | 6    | 8    | - 33    | + 33    |
| Out/State  | 2              | 3    | 1    | + 50    | - 67    |
|            | 46             | 48   | 48   | + 4.34% | 0       |

TABLE CLASSES BY REGIONS (cont'd.)

| Class "D"  | Percent Change |      |      |         |         |
|------------|----------------|------|------|---------|---------|
|            | 1978           | 1979 | 1980 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 |
| Region I   | 113            | 106  | 78   | - 6     | - 26    |
| Region II  | 104            | 120  | 91   | + 15    | - 24    |
| Region III | 101            | 76   | 61   | - 25    | - 20    |
| Region IV  | 100            | 93   | 93   | - 7     | 0       |
| Region V   | 85             | 140  | 97   | + 65    | - 31    |
| Region VI  | 94             | 76   | 73   | - 19    | - 4     |
| Region VII | 145            | 179  | 101  | - 19    | - 44    |
| Out/State  | 31             | 11   | 16   | - 65    | + 45    |
|            | 773            | 801  | 610  | + 3.62% | -23.85% |

| Class "E"  | Percent Change |      |      |         |         |
|------------|----------------|------|------|---------|---------|
|            | 1978           | 1979 | 1980 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 |
| Region I   | 1              | 4    | 1    | +400    | - 75    |
| Region II  | 1              | 1    | -    | 0       | -100    |
| Region III | 3              | 3    | 3    | 0       | 0       |
| Region IV  | 2              | 6    | 5    | +200    | - 17    |
| Region V   | 4              | 3    | 2    | - 25    | - 33    |
| Region VI  | 7              | 5    | 6    | - 29    | + 20    |
| Region VII | 5              | 4    | 2    | - 20    | - 50    |
| Out/State  | -              | 2    | 1    | -       | - 50    |
|            | 23             | 28   | 20   | +21.73% | -28.57% |

| Multiple   | Percent Change |      |      |         |         |
|------------|----------------|------|------|---------|---------|
|            | 1978           | 1979 | 1980 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 |
| Region I   | 13             | 34   | 10   | +164    | - 71    |
| Region II  | 19             | 24   | 12   | + 26    | - 50    |
| Region III | 19             | 5    | 5    | - 74    | 0       |
| Region IV  | 22             | 23   | 17   | + 54    | - 26    |
| Region V   | 24             | 17   | 19   | - 29    | + 12    |
| Region VI  | 34             | 15   | 20   | - 56    | + 33    |
| Region VII | 41             | 37   | 22   | - 10    | - 41    |
| Out/State  | 8              | 2    | 10   | - 75    | +400    |
|            | 180            | 157  | 115  | -12.77% | -26.75% |

| Other      | Percent Change |      |      |         |         |
|------------|----------------|------|------|---------|---------|
|            | 1978           | 1979 | 1980 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 |
| Region I   | 5              | 5    | 5    | 0       | 0       |
| Region II  | 3              | 9    | 2    | +200    | - 78    |
| Region III | 12             | 2    | 8    | - 83    | +300    |
| Region IV  | 8              | 5    | 7    | - 38    | + 40    |
| Region V   | 9              | 7    | 7    | - 22    | 0       |
| Region VI  | 10             | 14   | 15   | + 40    | + 7     |
| Region VII | 9              | 7    | 8    | - 22    | + 14    |
| Out/State  | -              | 1    | 1    | -       | 0       |
|            | 56             | 50   | 53   | -10.71% | + 6.0%  |

| Unknown    | Percent Change |      |      |         |         |
|------------|----------------|------|------|---------|---------|
|            | 1978           | 1979 | 1980 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 |
| Region I   | 6              | 4    | 7    | - 33    | + 75    |
| Region II  | 1              | 3    | 9    | +200    | +200    |
| Region III | 10             | 23   | 19   | +130    | - 17    |
| Region IV  | 8              | 11   | 11   | + 38    | 0       |
| Region V   | 20             | 20   | 20   | 0       | 0       |
| Region VI  | 6              | 19   | 14   | +217    | - 26    |
| Region VII | 9              | 11   | 10   | + 22    | - 9     |
| Out/State  | 3              | 1    | 2    | - 67    | +100    |
|            | 63             | 92   | 92   | +46.03% | 0       |

Increases in Class B (cocaine) were evenly distributed in Region II, Region III, and Region IV. Between 1978 and 1979, increases were found in Regions I, II, III, IV, and VII. Decreases were found in Region I, Region VI, and Region VII, while Region V remained constant. In 1979, however, only Out of State cases declined when compared to 1978.

Class D (marijuana) increased 3.62 percent from 1978 to 1979 but decreased 23.8 percent overall from 1979 to 1980. Region I (-6.19%), Region III (-24.75%), Region IV (-7.0%), Region VII (-19.15%), and Out of State defendants (-64.52%) showed a decrease of Class D offenses in 1979. In 1980, Region I (-26.41%), Region II (-24.16%), Region III (-19.7%), and Region VII (-43.5%) all reflected sizable decreases in the volume of persons charged with marijuana related offenses. Out of State defendants (+45.4%) showed an increased frequency of Class D offenses.

Class E (prescription drugs), which increased 21.74 percent from 1978 to 1979, decreased by 28.5 percent in 1980. However, because of the small overall frequency (n=23 in 1978, n=28 in 1979, and n=23 in 1980), analysis by regions would over-inflate the significance of increases or decreases. No clear patterns of regional shifts were evident.

Persons charged with multiple classes of drugs decreased 26.7 percent from 1979 (n=157) to 1980 (n=115) compared to a 12.22 percent decrease from 1978 to 1979. Sizable decreases were found in Region I (-70.6%), Region II (-50.0%), Region IV (-26.0%), and Region VII (-40.5%) between 1979 and 1980.

#### Simultaneous Offenses

The question often arises as to whether drug defendants commit crime to support their drug habits; and if so, are their crimes against people or property? The data in Table VI indicates that 58.9 percent of the defendants in the 1980 samples were charged with drug offenses only, with no additional criminal offenses. This compares to 61 percent in 1979 and 61 percent in 1978.

In the 1980 sample, 41.1 percent were charged with simultaneous criminal offenses in addition to the drug crimes, compared to 39.7 percent in 1979 and 38.9 percent in 1978. In 1980, 14.1 percent were charged with various public order crimes, 11.2 percent were charged with motor vehicle violations, 10 percent were charged with crimes against property, 5.8 percent with sex crimes, and 5.1 percent were charged with crimes against persons.

TABLE VI SIMULTANEOUS OFFENSES

| Offense              | 1978           | 1979           | 1980           | Percent Change |           |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
|                      |                |                |                | 1978-1979      | 1979-1980 |
| Drug Only            | 802<br>(61.1%) | 802<br>(60.3%) | 641<br>(58.9%) | 0              | - 20.07%  |
| Against Person       | 60<br>(4.6%)   | 54<br>(4.1%)   | 55<br>(5.1%)   | - 10.00%       | + 1.85%   |
| Against Property     | 145<br>(11.1%) | 150<br>(11.3%) | 109<br>(10.0%) | + 3.44%        | - 27.33%  |
| Sex                  | 3<br>(0.2%)    | 4<br>(0.3%)    | 8<br>(0.7%)    | + 33.33%       | +100.00%  |
| Motor Vehicle        | 147<br>(11.2%) | 138<br>(10.4%) | 122<br>(11.2%) | - 6.12%        | - 11.59%  |
| Against Public Order | 155<br>(11.8%) | 181<br>(13.6%) | 154<br>(14.1%) | + 16.77%       | - 14.91%  |
| TOTAL                | 1312           | 1329           | 1089           |                |           |

The motor vehicle violations were largely for "driving under the influence". Public Order offenses were either alcohol related (such as possession of open containers) or trespassing.

The incidence of persons charged with simultaneous offenses decreased 14.9 percent between 1980 and 1979 compared to 3.3 percent between 1978 and 1979.

#### Type of Controlled Substance Offenses

In the 1980 sample, 70.3 percent of the persons were charged with possession (or presence) compared to 69.45 percent in 1979 and 67.1 percent in 1978. When the two sample years 1978 and 1979 were compared, a reduction of 4.9 percent was found compared to a 17.0 percent reduction found between 1979 and 1980.

TABLE VII TYPE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OFFENSE

| Category of Offense                        | 1978           | 1979           | 1980           | Percent Change |           |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
|  |                |                |                | 1978-1979      | 1979-1980 |
| Possession or Presence                     | 880<br>(67.1%) | 923<br>(69.5%) | 766<br>(70.3%) | + 4.89%        | -17.00%   |
| Possession with Distr. or Intent to Distr. | 360<br>(27.4%) | 347<br>(26.1%) | 270<br>(24.8%) | - 3.61%        | -22.19%   |
| Other                                      | 72<br>(5.5%)   | 59<br>(4.4%)   | 53<br>(4.9%)   | -18.05%        | -10.16%   |
| TOTAL                                      | 1312           | 1329           | 1089           |                |           |

Those charged with distribution or intent to distribution dropped 3.6 percent from 1978 to 1979 and 22.2 percent from 1979 to 1980, accounting for 24.8 percent of the defendants in 1980 compared to 26.11 percent in 1979, and 27.4 percent in 1978.

#### Distributors by Drug Class

In the 1980 sample, 24.8 percent were charged with distribution or intent to distribute. The volume of persons charged as distributors decreased in each class but Class C which showed no change. Class A dropped 9.37 percent, Class B dropped 24.4 percent, Class E 83.3 percent. Class D decreased by 20.4 percent and multiple classes dropped 35.4 percent.

TABLE VIII DISTRIBUTE/INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE BY CLASS

| Class    | 1978           | 1979           | 1980           | Percent Change |           |
|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
|          |                |                |                | 1978-1979      | 1979-1980 |
| A        | 64<br>(17.8%)  | 32<br>(9.2%)   | 29<br>(10.76%) | -50.00%        | - 9.38%   |
| B        | 48<br>(13.3%)  | 45<br>(13.0%)  | 34<br>(12.6%)  | - 6.25%        | -24.44%   |
| C        | 25<br>(6.9%)   | 14<br>(4.0%)   | 13<br>(4.8%)   | -44.00%        | - 7.14%   |
| D        | 133<br>(36.9%) | 147<br>(42.4%) | 117<br>(43.3%) | +10.52%        | -20.41%   |
| E        | 6<br>(1.7%)    | 6<br>(1.7%)    | 1<br>(0.4%)    | 0              | -83.33    |
| Multiple | 63<br>(17.5%)  | 79<br>(22.8%)  | 51<br>(18.9%)  | +25.99%        | -35.44%   |
| Unknown  | 21<br>(5.8%)   | 24<br>(6.9%)   | 25<br>(9.3%)   | +14.28%        | + 4.16%   |
|          | 360            | 347            | 270            |                |           |

Class D distributors accounted for 43.3 percent of the drug distributors in the 1980 sample, compared to 42.36 percent in 1979 and 36.9 percent in 1978. Distributors selling multiple classes of drugs accounted for 18.9 percent of the 1980 sample compared to 22.7 percent in 1979 and 17.5 percent in 1978.

#### Summary

People 25 years of age and under comprise almost 3/4 (73.7 percent) of those charged with drug offenses in the 1980 sample of 1,089 cases and 76.3 percent in both 1979 (n=1,329 cases) and 1978 (n=1,312 cases). Juveniles (under 17 years of age) rose 13 percent when 1978 and 1979 samples were compared, but dropped 52 percent from 1979, representing 8.3 percent of the drug defendants in 1980 compared to 14.1 percent in 1979. Those in the 26+ years of age group, both in 1978 and 1980 arraignments, represented the highest volume while those 19-21 years of age represented the highest volume of arraignments in 1979.

Drug defendants appear to be evenly dispersed across the state though somewhat overrepresented in Regions VI and VII in 1978, in Regions V and VII in 1979, and in Region VI in 1980.

Class A (heroin) offenses have shown a steady reduction in frequency and the volume of Class A defendants dropped by 37.1 percent from 1978 to 1979 and 8.3 percent from 1979 to 1980. The volume of Class B (cocaine) has gradually increased since 1977, up 18.3 percent over 1978 and up 3.1 percent over 1979. The volume of Class D (marijuana) defendants increased 3.6 percent from 1978 to 1979 and decreased 23.8 percent from 1979 to 1980, but still accounted for the majority of drug arraignments (56 percent) in 1980.

Drawing off the total annual estimate 14,157 drug defendants in Massachusetts in 1980, an estimated 7,929 were for possession or distribution of marijuana compared to an estimated 10,413 in 1979 and 10,049 in 1978, indicating active police activity regarding Class D drugs.

Shifts in the volume of drug crimes may be a function of actual changes in drug usage or may be related to discretionary issues within local criminal justice agencies.

**END**