

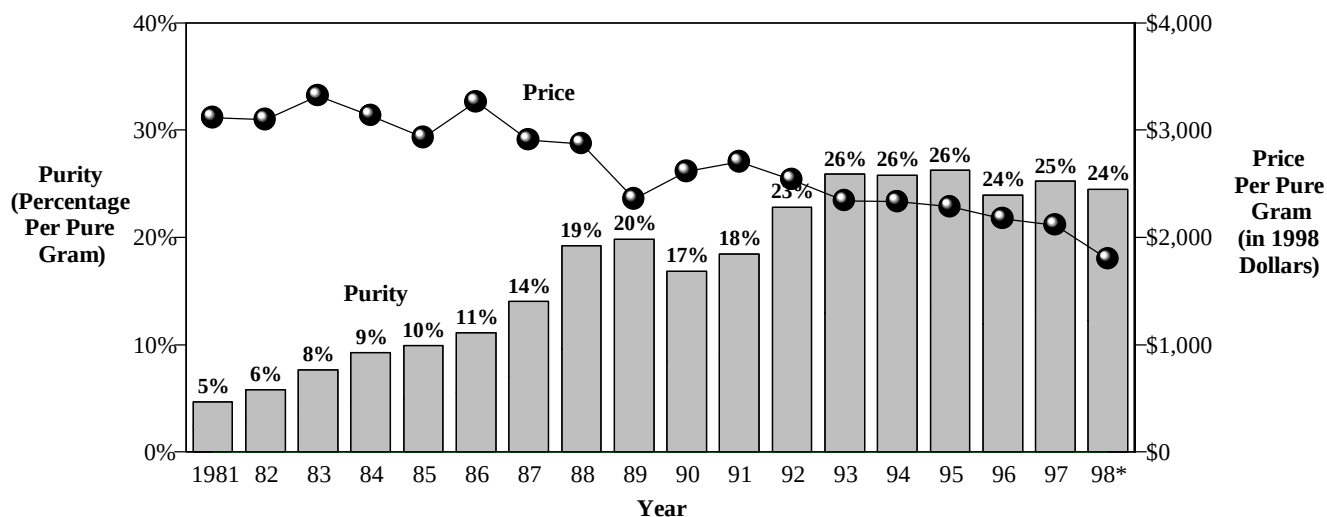
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Retail Heroin Purity Has Quintupled; Price Halved Since 1980s

The purity of heroin has increased dramatically since the early 1980s while the price has decreased, according to data from the *National Drug Control Policy: 2001 Annual Report*. The average purity of heroin sold in the U.S. at the retail level has increased from 5% in 1981 to 24% in 1998. At the same time, the average price per pure gram decreased from \$3,115 to \$1,799. According to the report, "Unprecedented retail purity and low prices in the United States indicate that heroin is readily accessible" (p. 18).

Average Heroin Purity and Price at the Retail Level (Purchases of 1 Gram or Less), 1981-1998



*1998 data are projected based on data collected through June 1998.

NOTE: Data are from the System To Retrieve Information From Drug Evidence (STRIDE), which compiles data on illegal substances purchased, seized, or acquired in DEA investigations.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), *The National Drug Control Strategy: 2001 Annual Report*, January 2001. Available online at www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/policy/ndcs01/strategy2001.pdf.