

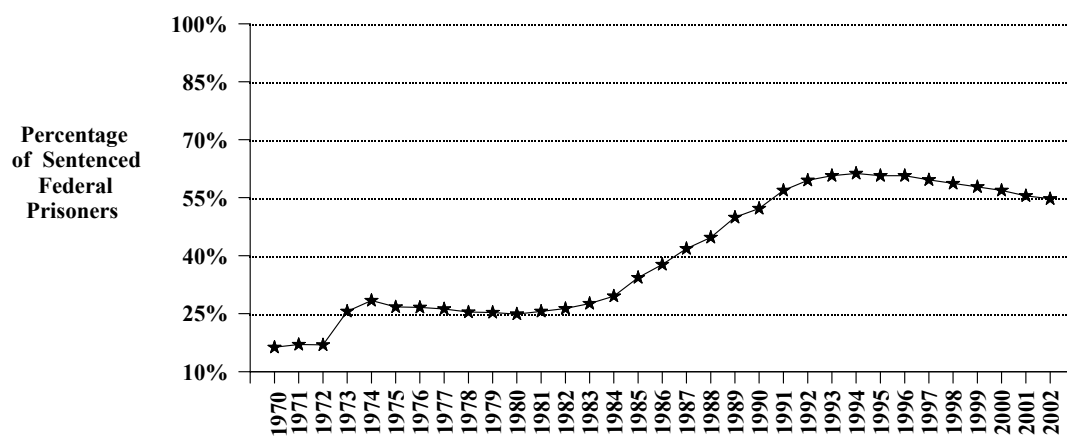
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Fifty-Five Percent of Sentenced Federal Prisoners Are Drug Offenders

Just over one-half (55%) of the 128,090 sentenced inmates in federal prisons in 2002 were convicted of drug trafficking, drug possession, or other drug offenses, according to statistics recently released from the the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). While the current proportion of sentenced prisoners who are drug offenders is twice as high as it was in the 1970's and early 1980's, it is slightly below the peak of 61% reached in 1994 (see figure). Offenses that currently account for the next highest rates of sentenced federal inmates are weapons, explosives, and arson offenses (11%), immigration (11%), and robbery (7%).

Percentage of Sentenced Federal Prisoners Who Are Drug Offenders, 1970-2002



NOTE: Data are for inmates in BOP facilities (i.e. do not include inmates in contract facilities).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, *Quick Facts*, March 2003. Available online at <http://www.bop.gov/fact0598.html>.

ERRATUM: Volume 12, Issue 17

CESAR FAX Volume 12, Issue 17 (4/28/03) compared the increase in energy resulting from the use of AMT and Foxy to similar effects of MDMA and GHB use. This is incorrect in that GHB does not result in an increase in energy; rather its effects include lethargy and respiratory depression. We apologize for the error and thank the alert readers who advised us of it. A revised copy of this issue is available on our website (www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax.asp).

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