

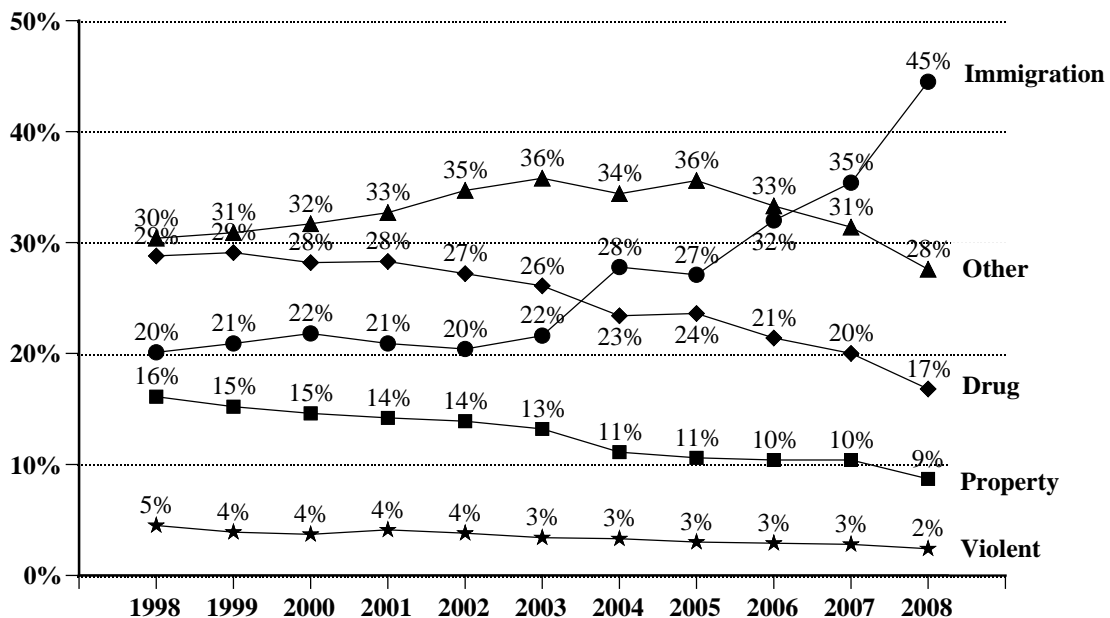
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Proportion of Federal Arrests for Drug, Property, and Violent Offenses Decrease; Immigration Offenses Increase

The proportion of federal arrests that are for drug offenses has decreased over the last decade, according to data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Slightly less than one-third (29%) of the federal arrests in 1998 were for drug offenses, compared to 17% in 2008. Similar decreases were seen for arrests for violent, property, and other* offenses (see figure below). The decline in the proportion of arrests for these offenses was driven in part by an increase in the number and proportion of arrests for immigration offenses, from 20% (20,942) in 1998 to 45% (78,037) in 2008. These trends likely reflect both changes in prevalence of the types of crimes being committed and enforcement practices.

Distribution of Federal Arrests by Offense Category, Federal Fiscal Years 1998 to 2008



NOTES: Federal fiscal years run from October 1 to September 30. In FFY 1998, there were a total of 104,119 federal arrests: 4,714 (5%) for violent offenses; 16,786 (16%) for property; 30,012 (29%) for drugs; 20,942 (20%) for immigration; and 31,665 (30%) for other offenses. In FFY 2008, there were a total of 175,556 federal arrests: 4,231 (3%) for violent offenses; 15,321 (9%) for property; 29,571 (17%) for drug; 78,037 (45%) for immigration; and 48,396 (28%) for other offenses.

**“Other offenses” include public-order offenses, weapon offenses, supervision violations, material witness, and records with missing/unknown data.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Federal Justice Statistics Resource Center (<http://fjsrc.urban.org>).