

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Arrest Rate for Drug Abuse Violations Decreases for Fourth Year in a Row; Still Remains Twice as High as Rates of Early 1980s

The arrest rate for drug abuse violations has decreased for four years in a row, according to data from the national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. In 2010, there were 530.8 arrests per 100,000 U.S. residents for drug abuse violations (i.e., selling, manufacturing, or possessing drugs), a 15% decrease from the peak of 632.9 arrests in 2006. Eighteen percent of drug abuse violation arrests in 2010 were for sales or manufacturing, while 82% were for possession. More than half of these drug abuse violation arrests were for marijuana violations. (See next week's issue of the *CESAR FAX* for trend data on the types of drugs that have comprised drug abuse violation arrests over the last 30 years). Despite the recent declines, the 2010 arrest rate for drug abuse violations was twice as high as rates in the early 1980s, and represented more than 1.6 million arrests in 2010.

Arrest Rate for U.S. Drug Abuse Violations, 1980 to 2010



NOTES: 1980 to 2009 rates are from the BJS Arrest Data Analysis Tool. The 2010 rate was calculated using the 2000-2010 intercensal population estimate of 308,745,538.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from Snyder, H. and Mulako-Wangota, J., *Bureau of Justice Statistics Arrest Data Analysis Tool*, online at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=datool&surl=/arrests/index.cfm> (accessed 11/3/11); and U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2010*, 2011 (available online at <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/persons-arrested>).