

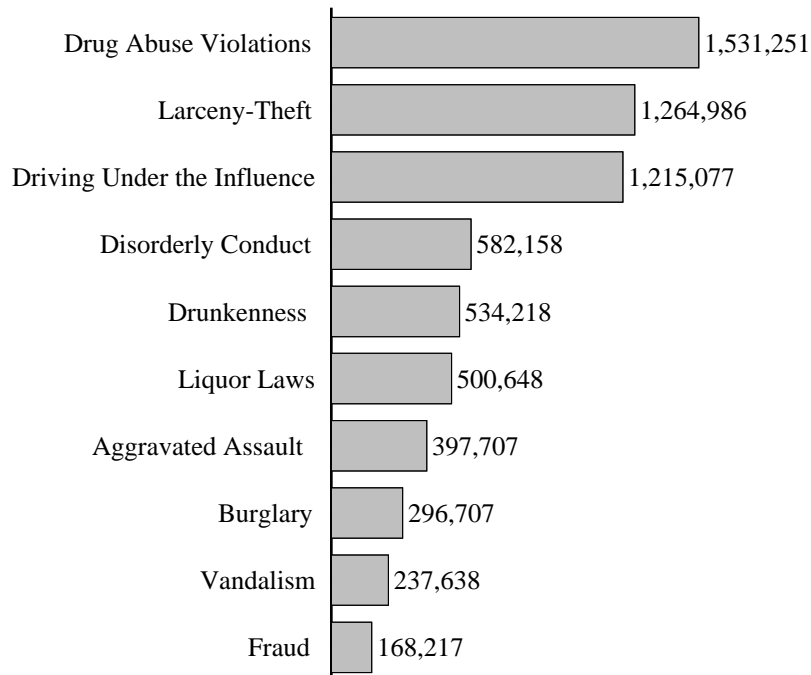
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Highest Number of Arrests in the U.S. Are for Drug Abuse Violations

There were an estimated 12,408,899 arrests in the United States in 2011, according to data from the national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The highest number of arrests were for drug abuse violations—selling, manufacturing, or possessing drugs, followed by larceny-theft and driving under the influence (see figure below). The majority (82%) of these arrests were for possession and one-half of these drug abuse violations involved marijuana (data not shown). A poll conducted in 2011 found that one-half of U.S. residents think that marijuana should be legalized (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 21, Issue 19) and initiatives to legalize marijuana for recreational use are on the ballot in the coming election in three states (Colorado, Washington, and Oregon).

**Estimated Number of Arrests in the United States, 2011
(Top Ten Offenses)**



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2011*, 2012 (available online at <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/persons-arrested/persons-arrested>).