

Baltimore City Accounts for Disproportionate Number of Maryland Drug Arrests

Over three-fourths of all 1997 Maryland arrests for selling, manufacturing, or possessing a controlled dangerous substance occurred in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties. Each of the other counties accounted for less than 3% of the total number of drug arrests statewide. Baltimore City accounted for the largest proportion of statewide arrests (45%), despite the fact that Baltimore City represents only 13% of Maryland's population. Socioeconomic characteristics of the city, the presence of open-air drug markets, and law enforcement practices are some factors that may influence Baltimore City's disproportionate number of drug arrests. Drug arrest data for each county are available on the DEWS website (www.cesar.umd.edu/DEWS.htm).

**Maryland Drug Arrests and Population by Jurisdiction, 1997
(Number and Percent of State Total)***

	Number of Drug Arrests	Percent of State Total	Population	Percent of State Total
Baltimore City	17,268	45%	657,256	13%
Prince George's	3,849	10%	770,633	15%
Baltimore	3,266	9%	720,662	14%
Anne Arundel	2,585	7%	470,028	9%
Montgomery	2,325	6%	826,766	16%
Other Counties	9,246	24%	1,648,944	32%
State Total	38,539	100%	5,094,289	100%

*Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCES: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) from the 1997 Maryland State Police Uniform Crime Report and 1997 population estimates from the Maryland Office of Planning, Planning Data Services.