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This project was supported by Grant No. 2014-BJ-CX-K011, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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Overview

Introduction

Statewide legislative efforts suggest that drug crime is a prominent issue for many Ohio citizens. Two out of three issues on the 2015 Ohio ballot were related to recreational marijuana legalization, and the recent signing of House Bill (HB) 523 has made Ohio the 28th state to legalize marijuana in some format. Several pieces of legislation have also targeted Ohio's ongoing opiate epidemic (e.g. HB 248, HB 4, HB 497), which has been the leading cause of accidental death in Ohio since 2007[1].

This report provides context for these issues by describing drug crimes reported to the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System between 2004 and 2014. It should be noted that this is only a statistical report; it does not attempt to understand why drug crime occurs, what factors cause a change in drug crime, or make recommendations about what should be done to combat drug crime. Instead, this report seeks to provide relevant data for individuals interested in better understanding drug crime in Ohio.

[1] Ohio Department of Health (2014). *Ohio's Prescription Drug Overdose Epidemic: Epidemiology, Contributing Factors, and Ongoing Prevention Efforts.* Retrieved on 4/29/2016.

Data

Data for this report are taken from the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS), which is a voluntary crime reporting program that enables law enforcement agencies in Ohio to submit crime data directly to the state and federal government. OIBRS stores detailed information on criminal incidents in six segments (administrative, offense, property, suspect, victim, and arrestee). Participation in OIBRS has grown over the years, increasing from 383 agencies covering 64.7% of the population in 2004 to 539 agencies covering approximately 72.7% of the Ohio population in 2014. Information reported by these agencies is used in the creation of this report.

It is critical to note that this report only contains information on drug crimes reported to OIBRS-participating law enforcement agencies. Most instances of drug crime are not reported to law enforcement, and other cases of drug crime are reported to law enforcement agencies that do not send data to OIBRS. Despite these limitations, it is important to understand the data that are reported to law enforcement because it serves as an important indicator of drug use in Ohio.

OIBRS Terminology

Each incident record in OIBRS can contain information about multiple offenses and arrestees:

- An **incident** is one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place.

- An **offense** is a single crime committed by one individual (the suspect or **arrestee**).

A single incident in OIBRS can have multiple offenses and/or arrestees. For example, one incident might include two people that committed three crimes each (e.g. drug possession, drug trafficking, driving under the influence). The total "count" for this incident would vary depending on whether incidents (1), arrestees (2), or offenses (3) are being measured.

Definition of Drug Crime

Crimes reported to OIBRS contain both state (Ohio Revised Code, ORC) and federal (Uniform Crime Report, UCR) reporting codes. This report will use both sets of reporting codes at different times to better describe drug crime in Ohio. UCR data are useful for broadly describing drug crime in a way that is comparable to data from other states, while ORC data provide more detailed information about drug crime in Ohio. ORC and UCR definitions are included below:

UCR

- Drug/Narcotic Offenses (UCR Code 35) – The violation of laws prohibiting the production, distribution, and/or use of certain controlled substances and the equipment or devices utilized in their preparation and/or use.
    - Drug/Narcotic Violations (35A) – The unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance.
    - Drug Equipment Violations (35B) – The unlawful manufacture, sale, purchase, possession, or transportation of equipment or devices utilized in preparing and/or using drugs or narcotics.

ORC

- Drug Offenses (Ohio Revised Code Chapter 2925)
    - Corrupting another with drugs (2925.02)
    - Trafficking, aggravated trafficking in drugs (2925.03)
    - Illegal manufacture of drugs – illegal cultivation of marijuana – methamphetamine offenses (2925.04)
    - Funding, aggravated funding of drug or marijuana trafficking (2925.06)
    - Possession of controlled substances (2925.11)
    - Possessing drug abuse instruments (2925.12)
    - Permitting drug abuse (2925.13)
    - Illegal use or possession of drug paraphernalia (2925.14)
    - Tampering with drugs (2925.24)
    - Abusing harmful intoxicants (2925.31)
    - Trafficking in harmful intoxicants – improperly dispensing or distributing nitrous oxide (2925.32)
    - Possessing nitrous oxide in motor vehicle (2925.33)
    - Illegal dispensing of drug samples (2925.36)
- Selling, purchasing, distributing, or delivering dangerous drugs (4729.51)

Disclaimers

- The data in this report should be interpreted with caution. Year-to-year changes can be caused by a variety of factors, and causal inferences should not be made from any of the information in this report. For example, a change in the rate of drug crime between two years could be due to an increase in drug crime, but it could also be due to increased OIBRS reporting or increased law enforcement activity.

- Though OIBRS data can be used to make inferences about drug crime in Ohio, it is not sufficient to provide a comprehensive understanding of this issue. Multiple sources of drug crime data should be examined in order to obtain a complete understanding of drug crime in Ohio.

- Because OIBRS is a voluntary reporting system, some Ohio law enforcement agencies do not report their data to OIBRS. For this reason, data are presented as rates and percentages instead of raw numbers. Percentages may not always sum to 100% due to rounding.

- The accuracy of these crime statistics is based on the information reported by participating law enforcement agencies. Information in this report may change over time based on updated or new data sent to OIBRS in future crime data submissions.

- The OIBRS database has limited information on prescription drugs. Please refer to the Ohio Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Reports on the Office of Criminal Justice Services website for more detailed reporting on prescription drug crimes.

Summary of Findings

The drug crime rate increased by 58.5% between 2004 and 2014. This was primarily driven by a 57.8% increase in the offense rate for drug possessions.

- Marijuana was involved in more incidents than all other drugs combined. The rate of marijuana-related incidents increased by 72.5% from 2004 to 2014.

- Cocaine was involved in the second most incidents between 2004-2010, while opiates were involved in the second most incidents between 2011-2014.
  - The incident rate for cocaine decreased by 48.6% between 2004 and 2014.
  - The incident rate for opiates increased by 600.9% between 2004 and 2014. This increase has primarily been driven by heroin, which increased by 124.5% between 2011-2014.

- The incident rate for stimulants (primarily methamphetamine) increased by over 300% from 2004 to 2014. However, the overall incident rate for stimulants was much lower than the rate for marijuana, opiates, and cocaine.

- Weapons were involved in only 3.9% of drug crimes.

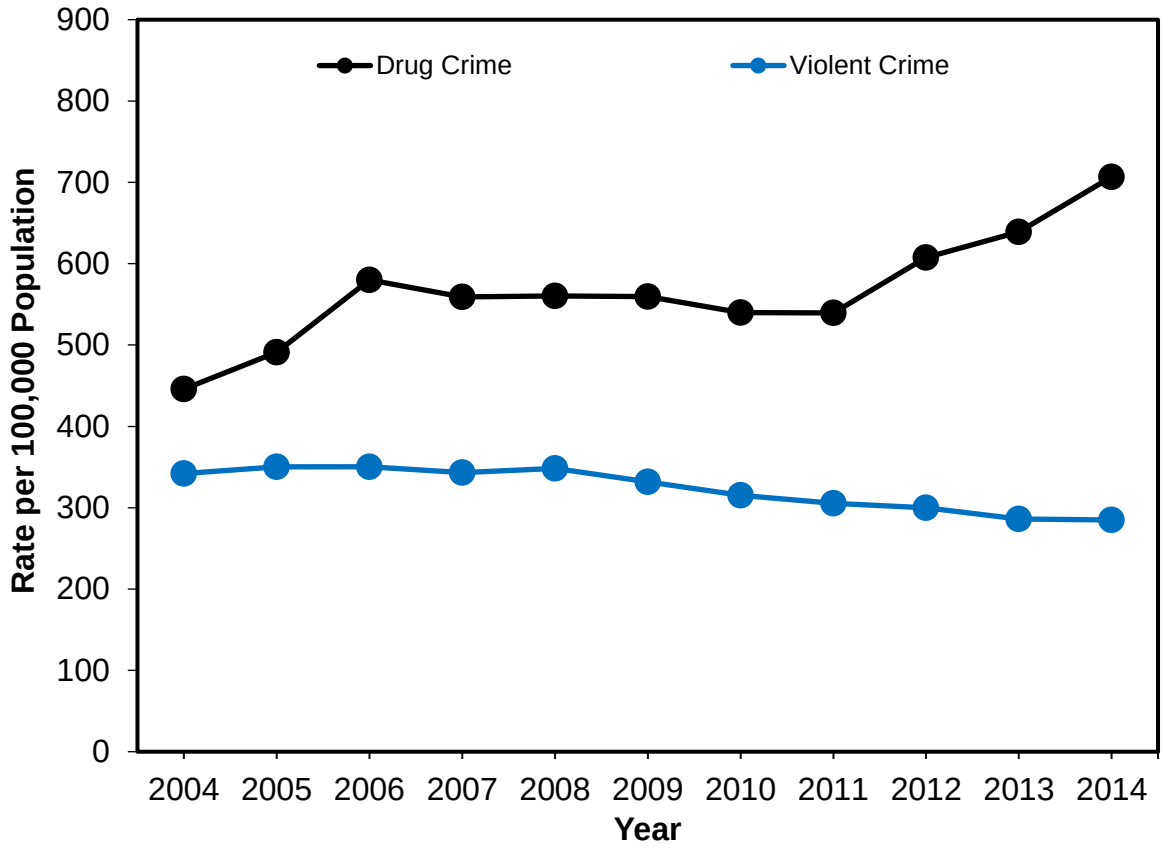
- Whites, males, and individuals between the ages of 20-34 accounted for the most drug crime arrests.

- Though the arrest rate for black males decreased by 7.6% between 2004 (2,249.5 per 100,000) and 2014 (2,079.1 per 100,000), it was still at least 3 times higher than the arrest rate for all other groups.

- Current forecasts indicate that the drug crime rate will increase by 19.7% between 2014 and 2017; this will largely be driven by increases in marijuana- and heroin-related incidents.

Drug Offenses

Figure 1: Rate of Drug Crime and Violent Crime in Ohio, 2004-2014

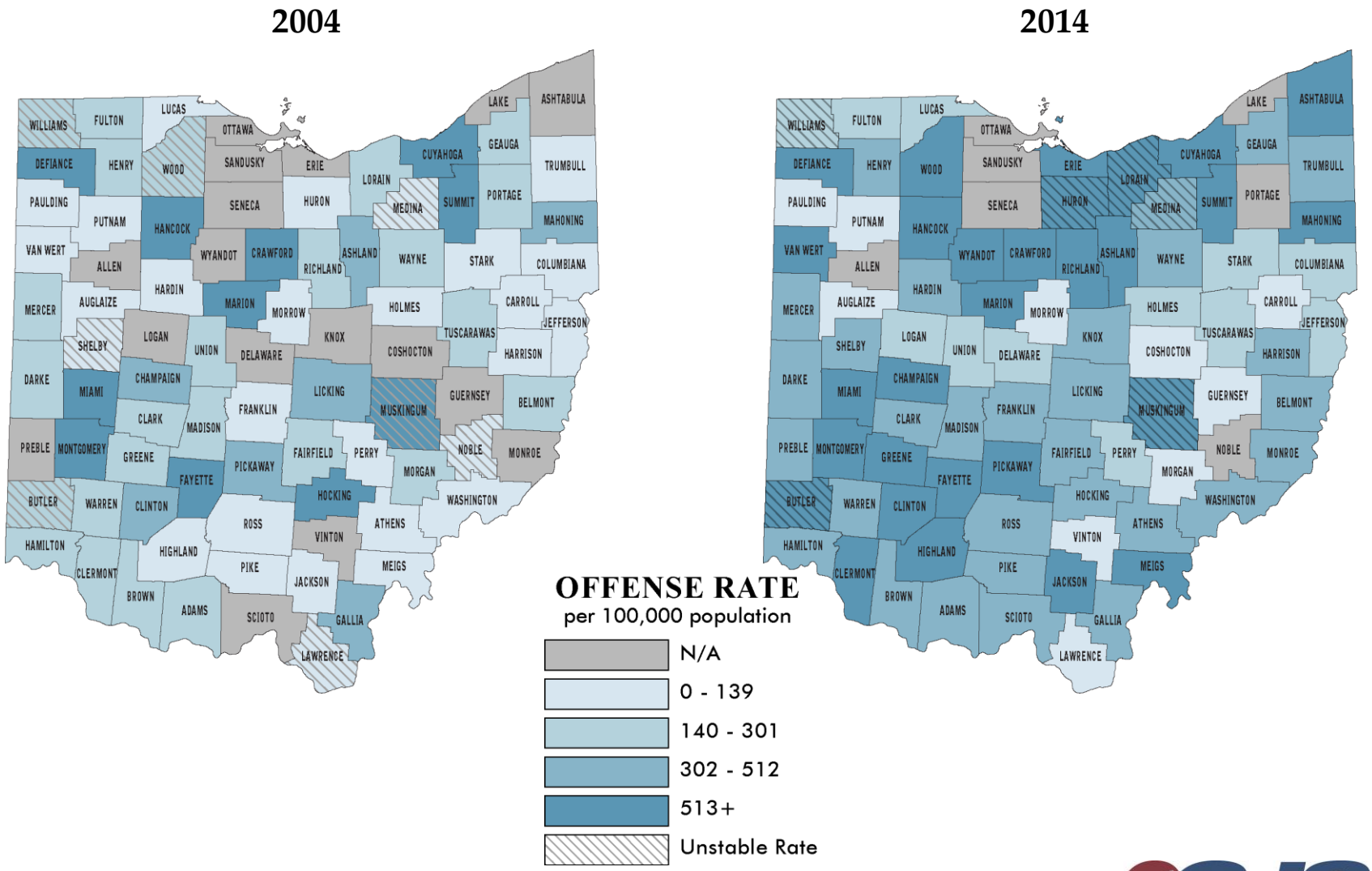


- Drug crimes reported to OIBRS increased by 58.5% between 2004 (445.8 offenses per 100,000 population) and 2014 (706.8 offenses per 100,000 population, Figure 1).

- The increase in drug crime does not appear to be driven by an overall increase in crime. For example, violent crimes decreased by 16.6% between 2004 (341.8 per 100,000) and 2014 (284.9 per 100,000).

- In general, the county-level maps of drug crime in this report (Figures 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 21) suggest that the increase in drug crime occurred statewide, and was not localized to any particular region.

Figure 2: Rate of Drug Crime in Ohio Counties, 2004 & 2014



Notes: To provide conservative, stable estimates, county-level rates are based on two year averages (2004 & 2005, 2013 & 2014) using the lower-bound estimate of the 95% confidence interval. Counties labeled "N/A" have population coverage <33% and/or a Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 50%. Counties labeled "Unstable" have population coverage of <50% and/or RSE > 30%. County level rates are presented as quantiles to enhance map readability (see Brewer & Pickle, 2002). Data source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. Map colors based on www.colorbrewer2.org.

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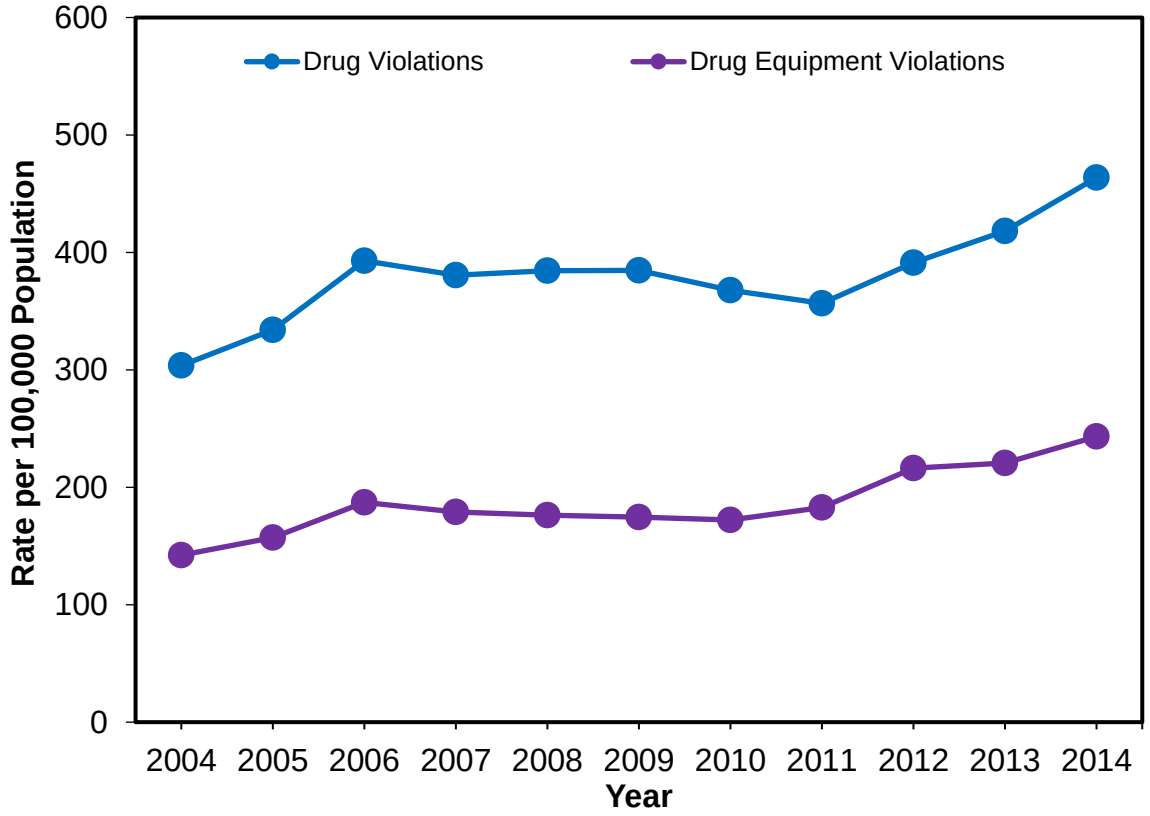
Figure 3: Rate of Drug Crime in Ohio by OIBRS Code, 2004-2014



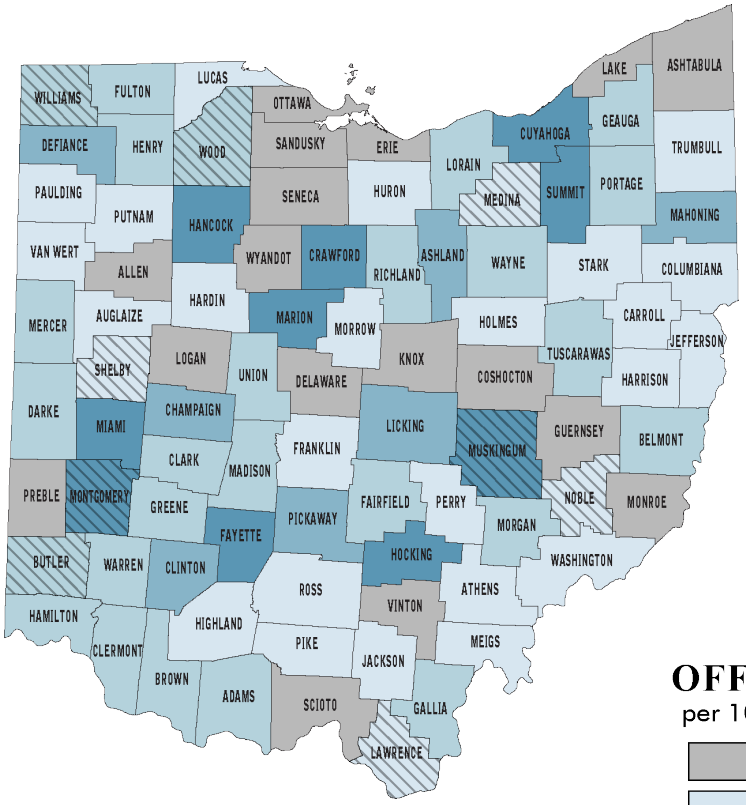
- Drug violations[2] increased by 52.7%, while drug equipment violations[3] increased by 71.0% (Figure 3).

[2] The unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, use, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance (OIBRS Code 35A).

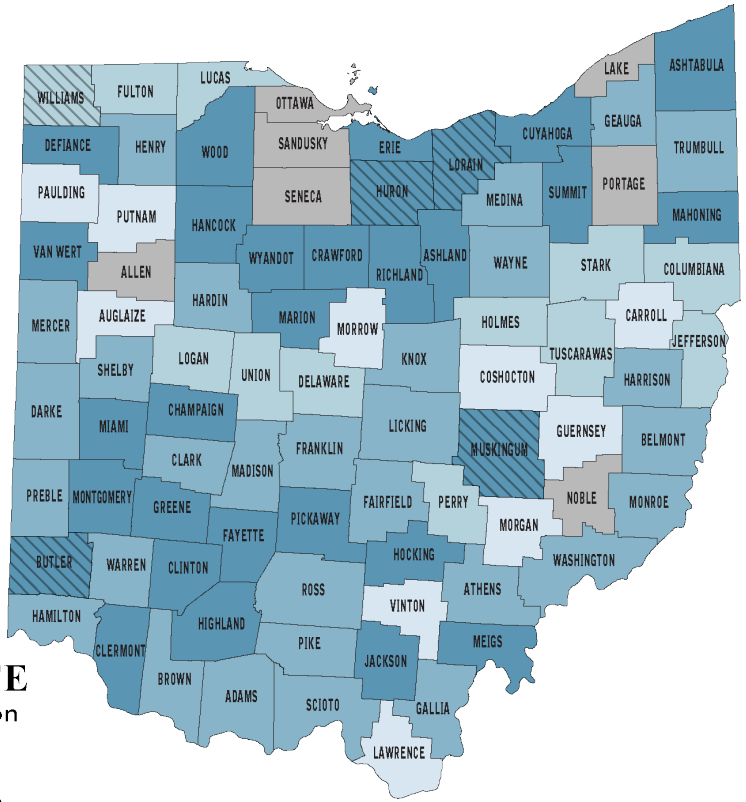
[3] The unlawful manufacture, sale, purchase, possession, or transportation of equipment or devices utilized in preparing and/or using drugs or narcotics (OIBRS Code 35B).

Figure 4: Rate of Drug Violations in Ohio Counties, 2004 & 2014

2004



2014



OFFENSE RATE
per 100,000 population

- N/A
- 0 - 139
- 140 - 301
- 302 - 512
- 513+
- Unstable Rate

Notes: To provide conservative, stable estimates, county-level rates are based on two year averages (2004 & 2005, 2013 & 2014) using the lower-bound estimate of the 95% confidence interval. Counties labeled "N/A" have population coverage <33% and/or a Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 50%. Counties labeled "Unstable" have population coverage of <50% and/or RSE > 30%. County level rates are presented as quantiles to enhance map readability (see Brewer & Pickle, 2002). Data source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. Map colors based on www.colorbrewer2.org.

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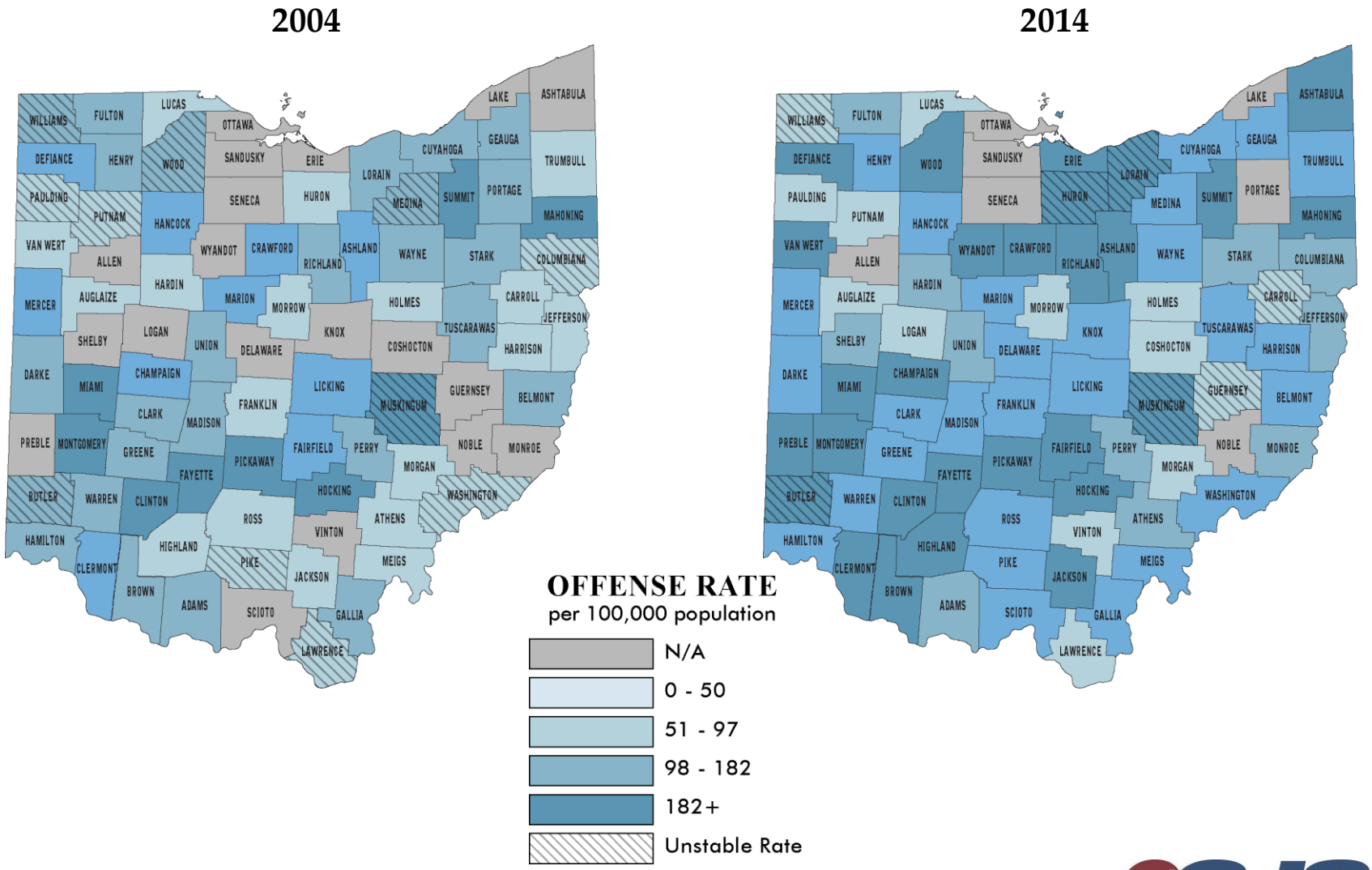
Figure 5: Rate of Drug Equipment Violations in Ohio Counties, 2004 & 2014



Notes: To provide conservative, stable estimates, county-level rates are based on two year averages (2004 & 2005, 2013 & 2014) using the lower-bound estimate of the 95% confidence interval. Counties labeled "N/A" have population coverage <33% and/or a Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 50%. Counties labeled "Unstable" have population coverage of <50% and/or RSE > 30%. County level rates are presented as quantiles to enhance map readability (see Brewer & Pickle, 2002). Data source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. Map colors based on www.colorbrewer2.org.

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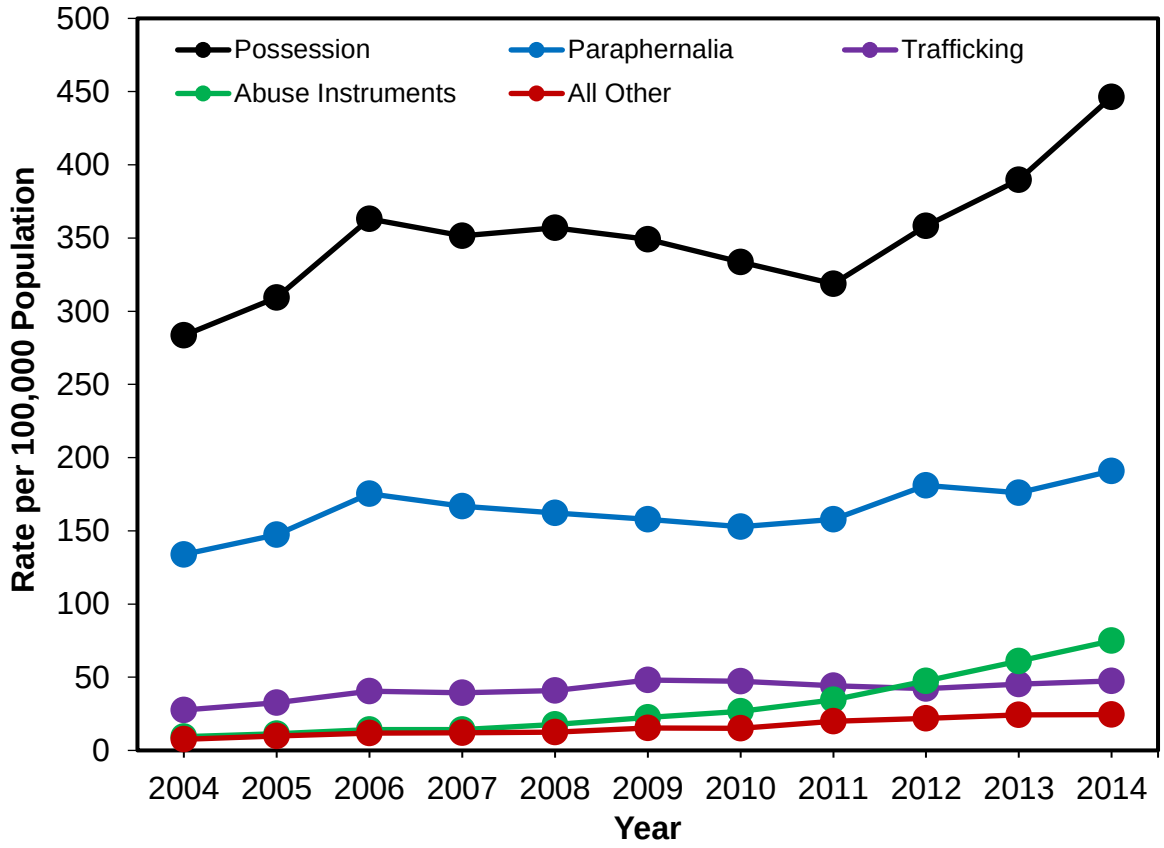
Figure 6: Rate of Drug Crime by Ohio Revised Code (ORC)[4], 2004-2014



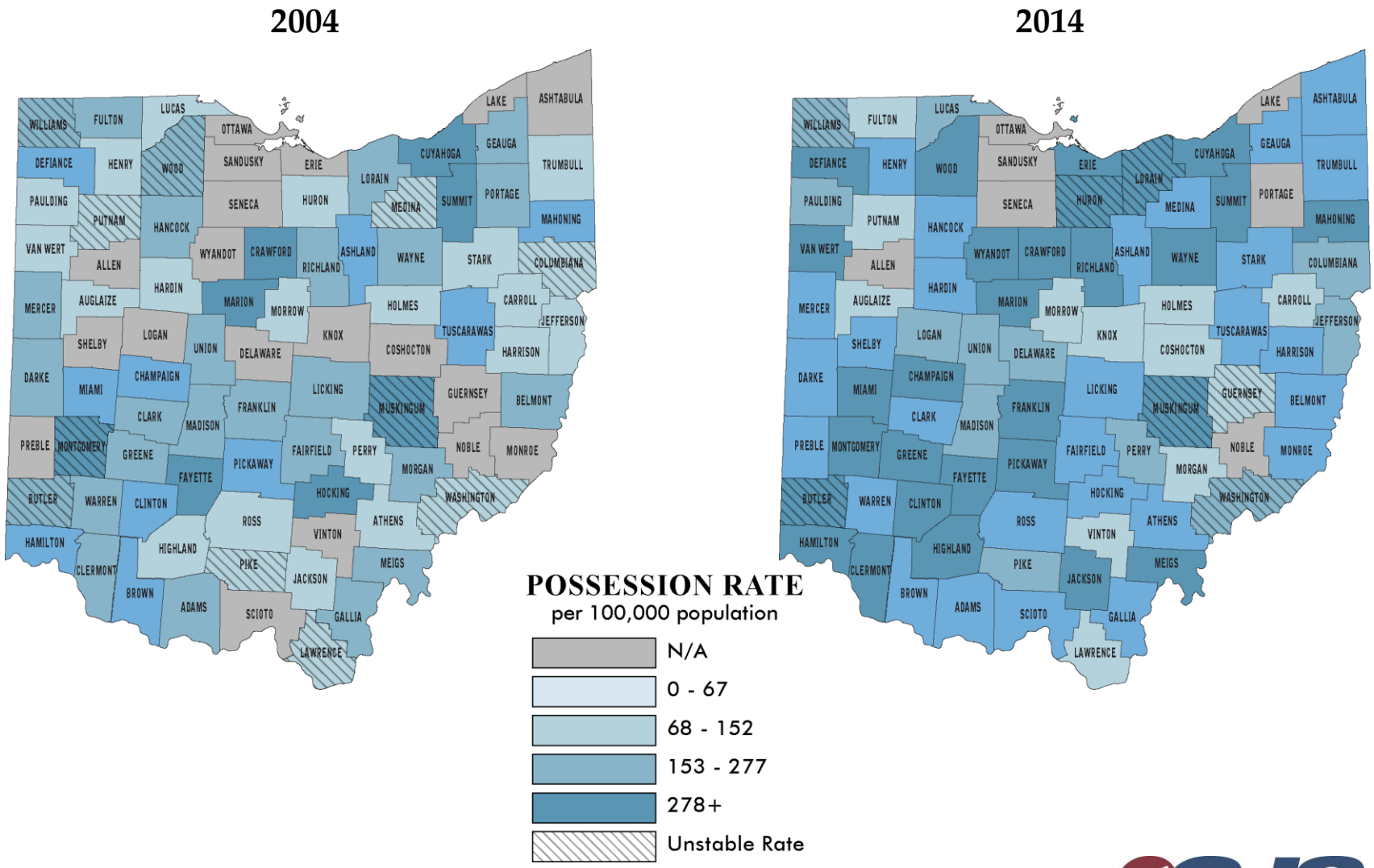
- Examining the drug crime rate for specific Ohio Revised Codes (ORC) provides more detail about specific types of drug crime (Figure 6). For example, ORC data indicate that drug possession[5] was the most common drug crime between 2004 and 2014; it also increased by 57.5% during that timeframe.

- Drug paraphernalia[6] offenses were the second most common drug crime; these offenses increased by 42.6%.

- The offense rate for drug abuse instruments[7] increased by nearly 700% between 2004-2014; however, this rate was much lower than the offense rate for possession and paraphernalia.

[4] Since multiple ORCs can be included in one NIBRS offense, the data in Figure 3 do not add up to the data in Figures 1 and 2.
[5] ORC 2925.11
[6] ORC 2925.14
[7] ORC 2925.12

Figure 7: Drug Possession Rate by County, 2004 & 2014



Notes: To provide conservative, stable estimates, county-level rates are based on two year averages (2004 & 2005, 2013 & 2014) using the lower-bound estimate of the 95% confidence interval. Counties labeled "N/A" have population coverage <33% and/or a Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 50%. Counties labeled "Unstable" have population coverage of <50% and/or RSE > 30%. County level rates are presented as quantiles to enhance map readability (see Brewer & Pickle, 2002). Data source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. Map colors based on www.colorbrewer2.org.

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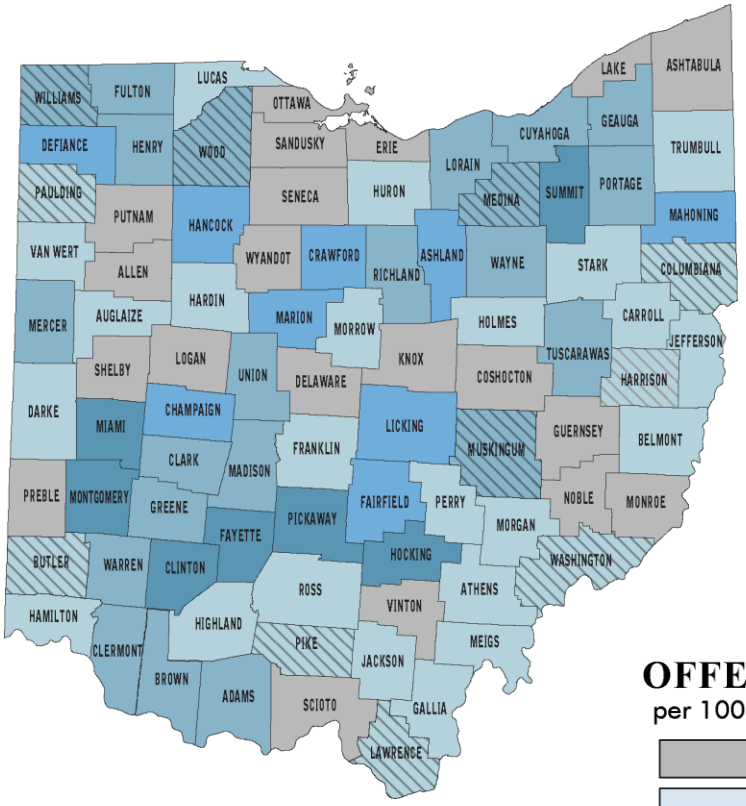
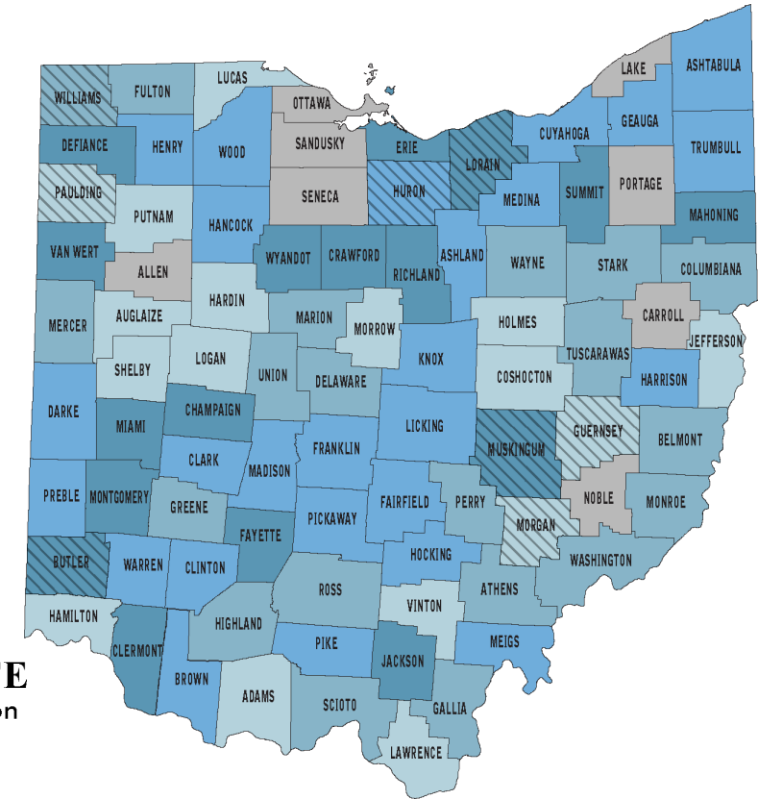
Figure 8: Drug Paraphernalia Rate by County, 2004 & 2014

2004



2014



OFFENSE RATE
per 100,000 population

- N/A
- 0 - 51
- 52 - 100
- 101 - 183
- 183+
- Unstable Rate

Notes: To provide conservative, stable estimates, county-level rates are based on two year averages (2004 & 2005, 2013 & 2014) using the lower-bound estimate of the 95% confidence interval. Counties labeled "N/A" have population coverage <33% and/or a Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 50%. Counties labeled "Unstable" have population coverage of <50% and/or RSE > 30%. County level rates are presented as quantiles to enhance map readability (see Brewer & Pickle, 2002). Data source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. Map colors based on www.colorbrewer2.org.

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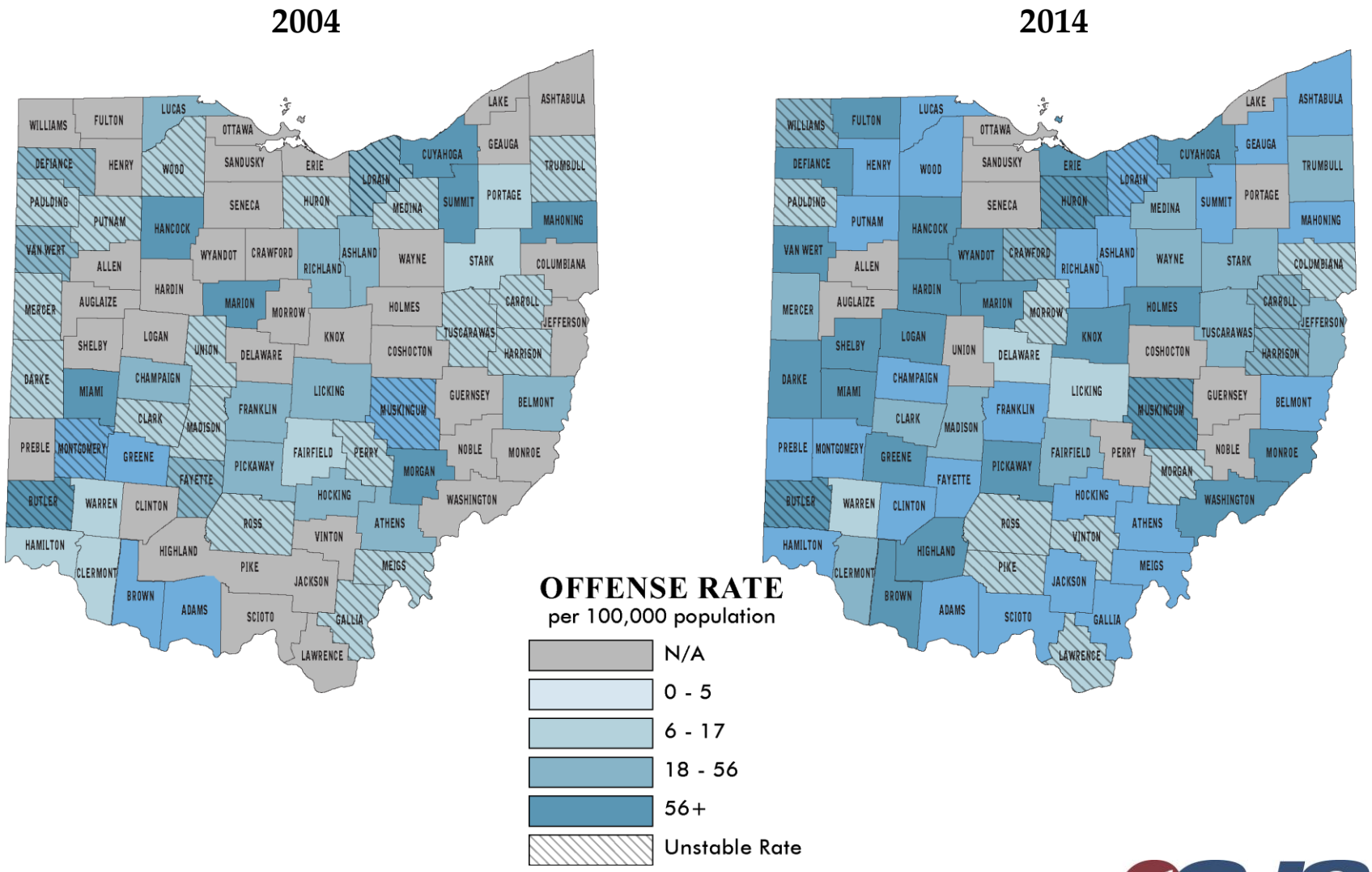
Figure 9: Drug Trafficking Rate by County, 2004 & 2014



Notes: To provide conservative, stable estimates, county-level rates are based on two year averages (2004 & 2005, 2013 & 2014) using the lower-bound estimate of the 95% confidence interval. Counties labeled "N/A" have population coverage <33% and/or a Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 50%. Counties labeled "Unstable" have population coverage of <50% and/or RSE > 30%. County level rates are presented as quantiles to enhance map readability (see Brewer & Pickle, 2002). Data source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. Map colors based on www.colorbrewer2.org.

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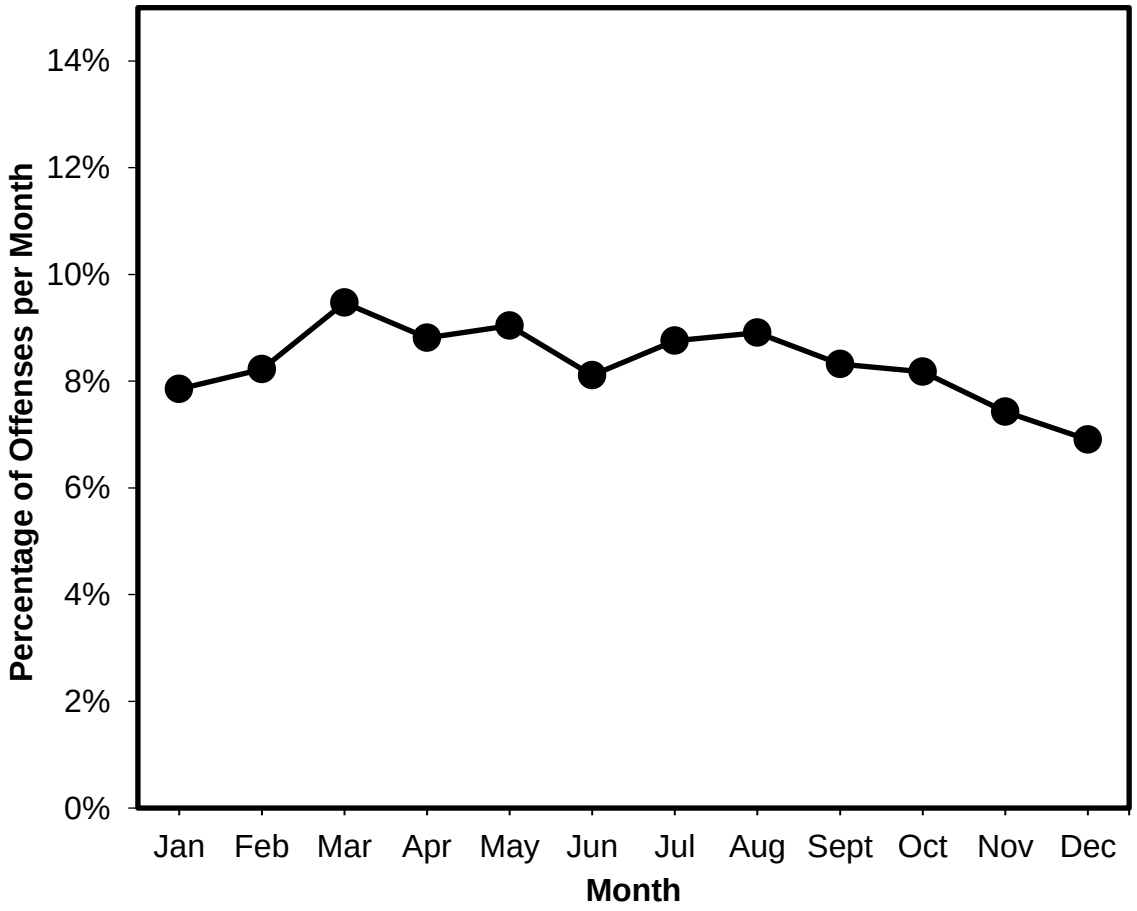
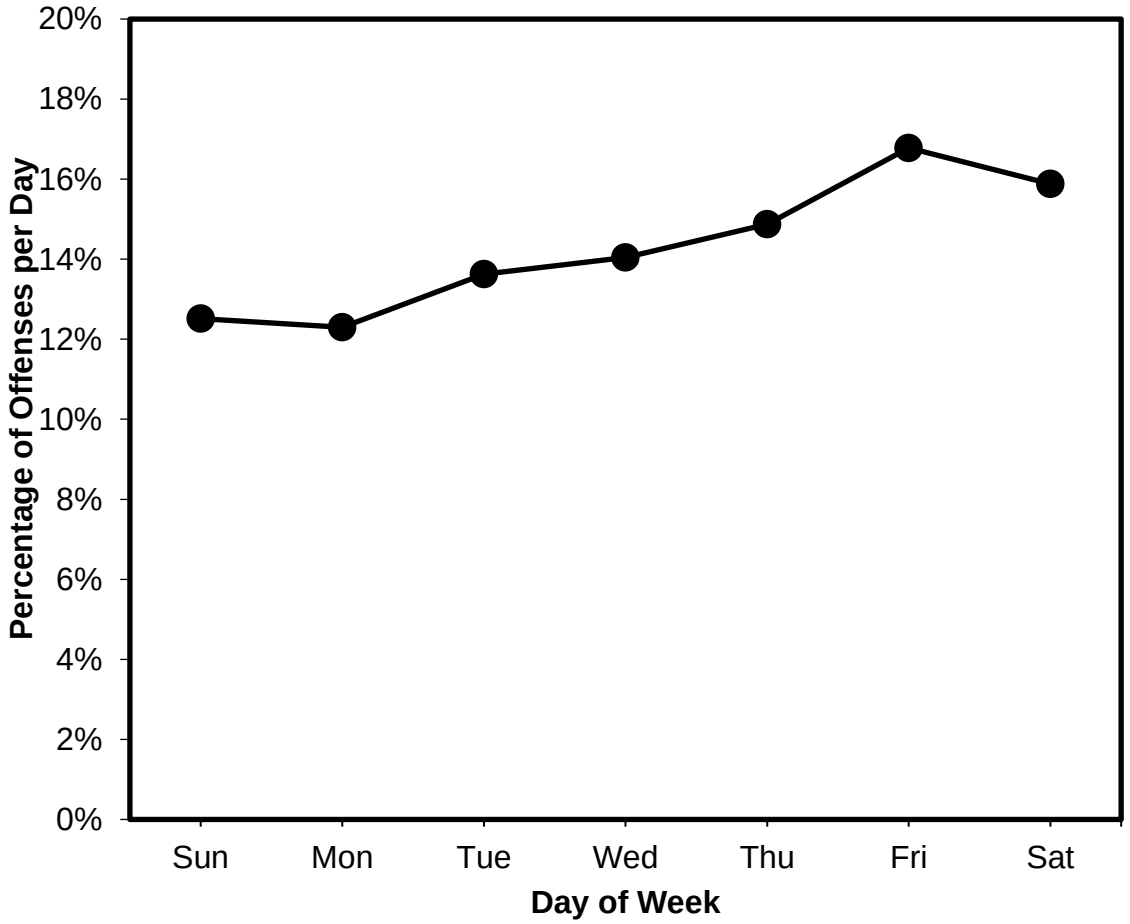
Figure 10: Percentage of Drug Crimes per Month, 2004-2014[8]



- Drug crime does not appear to follow a seasonal trend (Figure 10); there was only a 2.6% difference between the month that accounts for the most drug crime (March, 9.5%) and the month that accounts for the least drug crime (December, 6.9%).

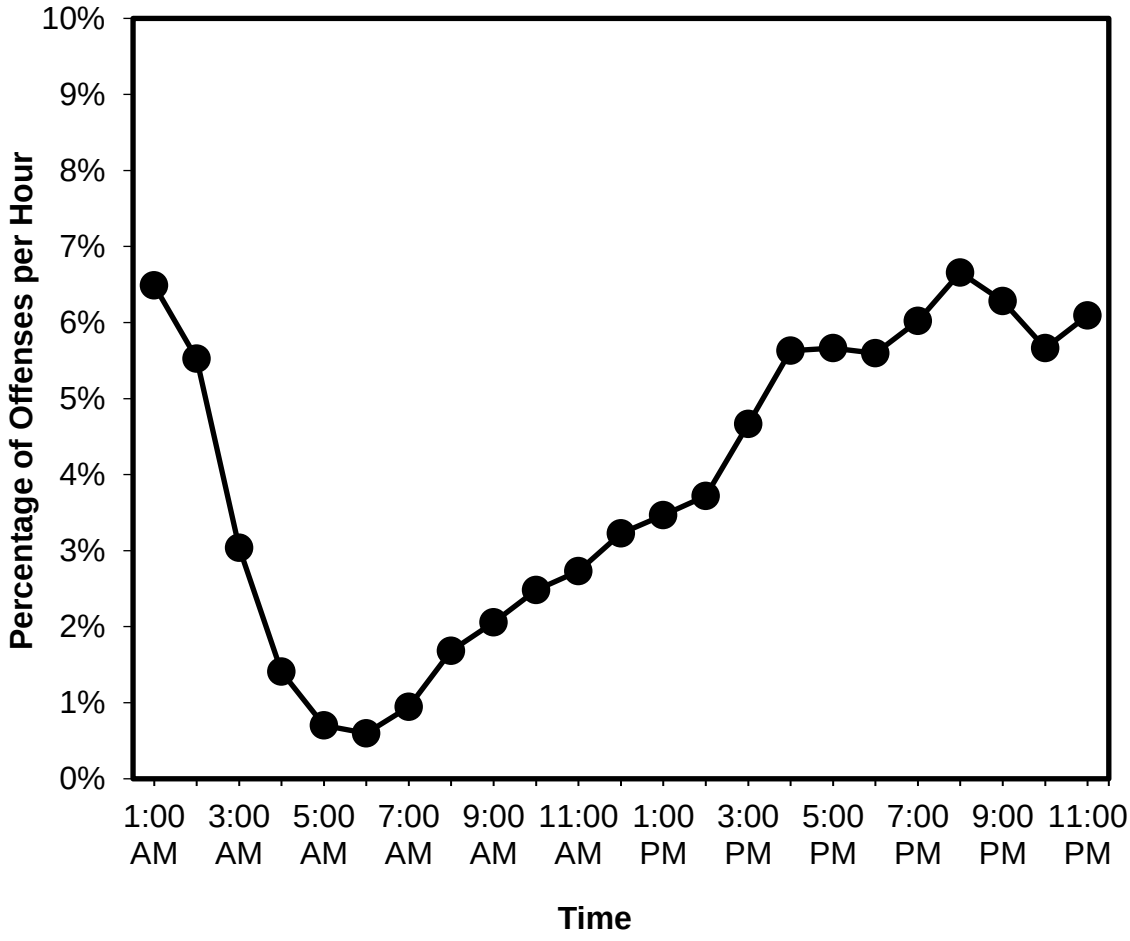
[8] Data in Figures 10-14 are presented in an aggregated format for the sake of simplicity. Trends in these data are largely stable from 2004-2014.

Figure 11: Percentage of Drug Crimes per Day, 2004-2014



- Drug crime is relatively stable over the course of a week (Figure 11); there is only a 4.5% difference between the day that accounts for the most drug crime (Friday, 16.8%) and the day that accounts for the least drug crime (Monday, 12.3%).

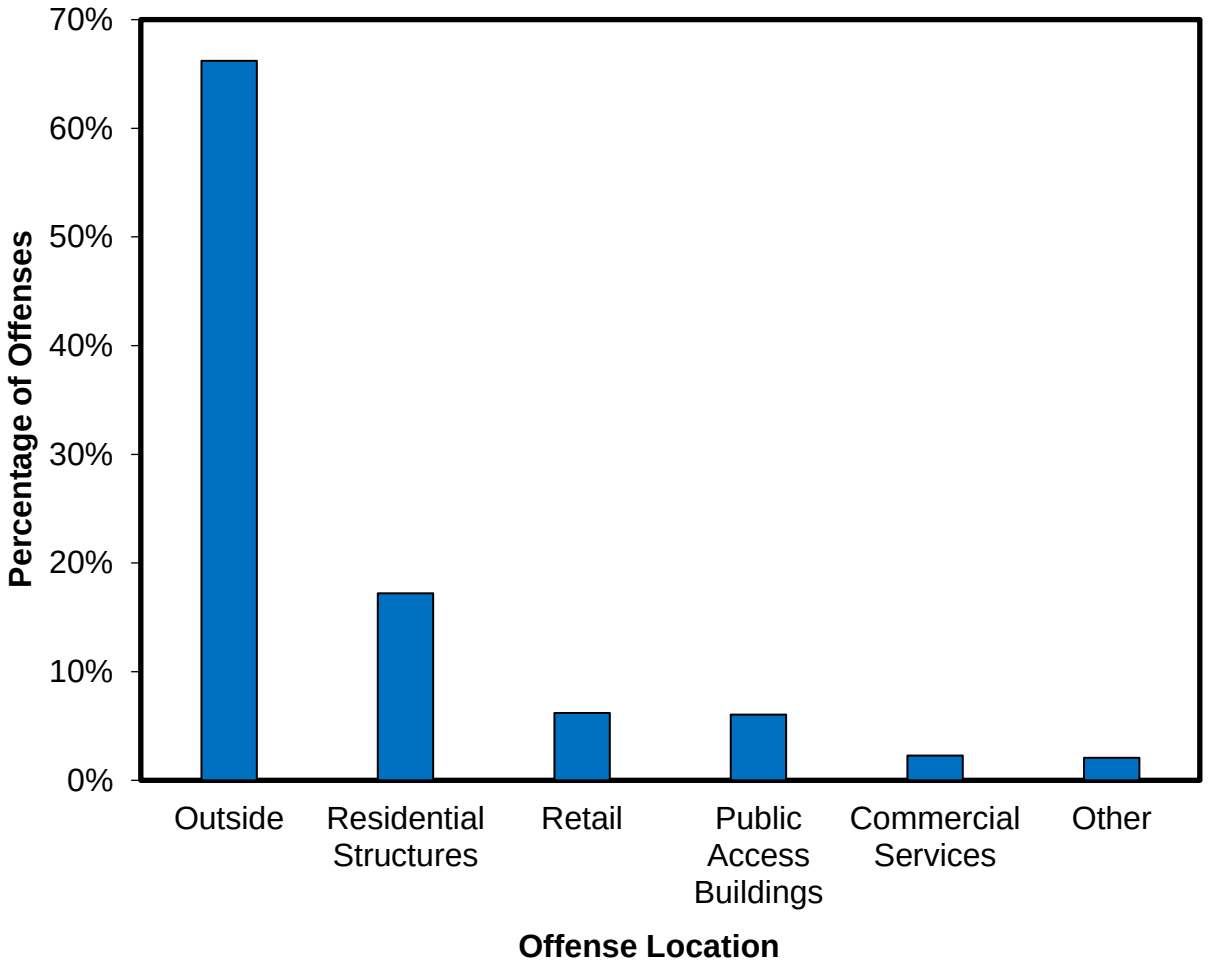
Figure 12: Percentage of Drug Crimes per Hour, 2004-2014



❖ The percentage of drug crimes per hour[9] increases gradually from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., then decreases sharply between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. (Figure 12).

[9] Refers to the hour when the crime first occurred.

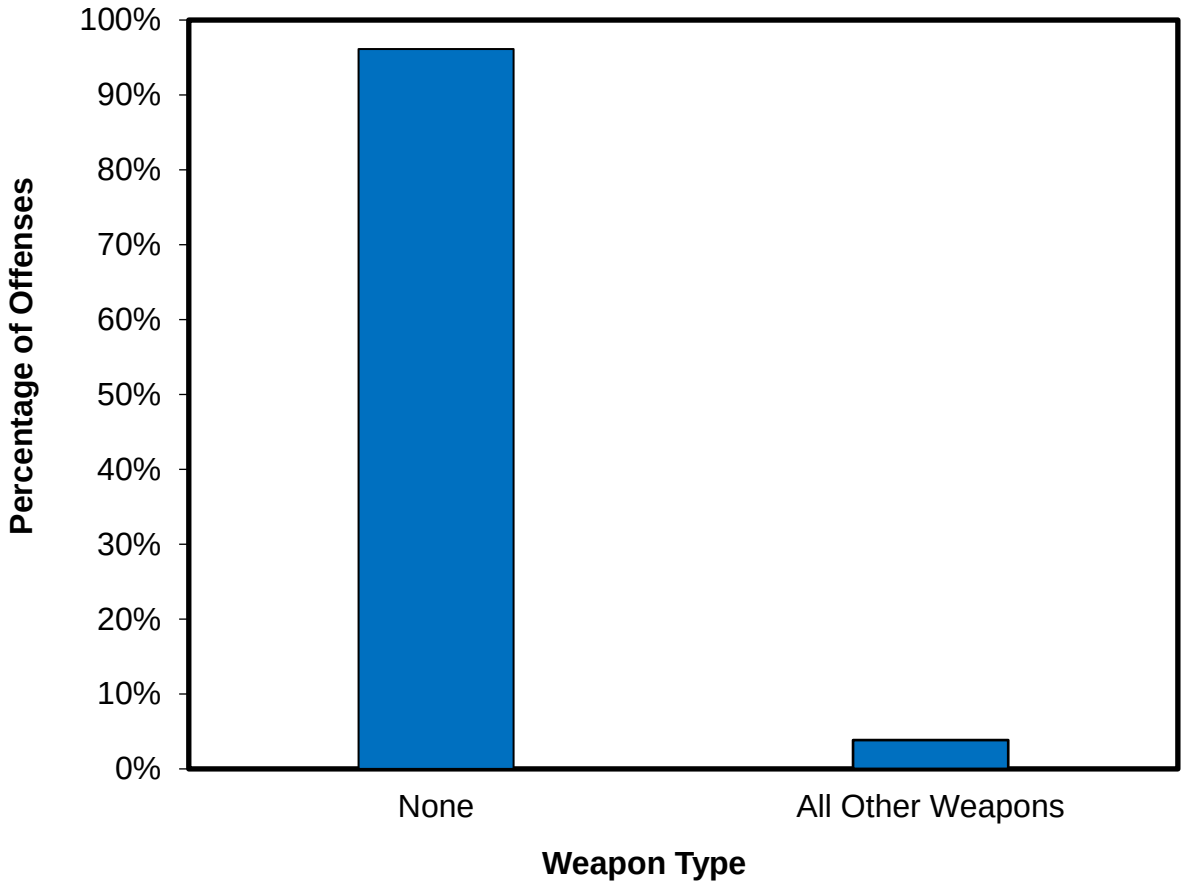
Figure 13: Location of Drug Crime in Ohio, 2004-2014



❖ Most drug crime occurred outside (66.2%, Figure 13) or in residential structures[10] (17.2%).

[10] Includes single family homes, multiple dwellings, residential facilities, garages/sheds, and other residential locations.

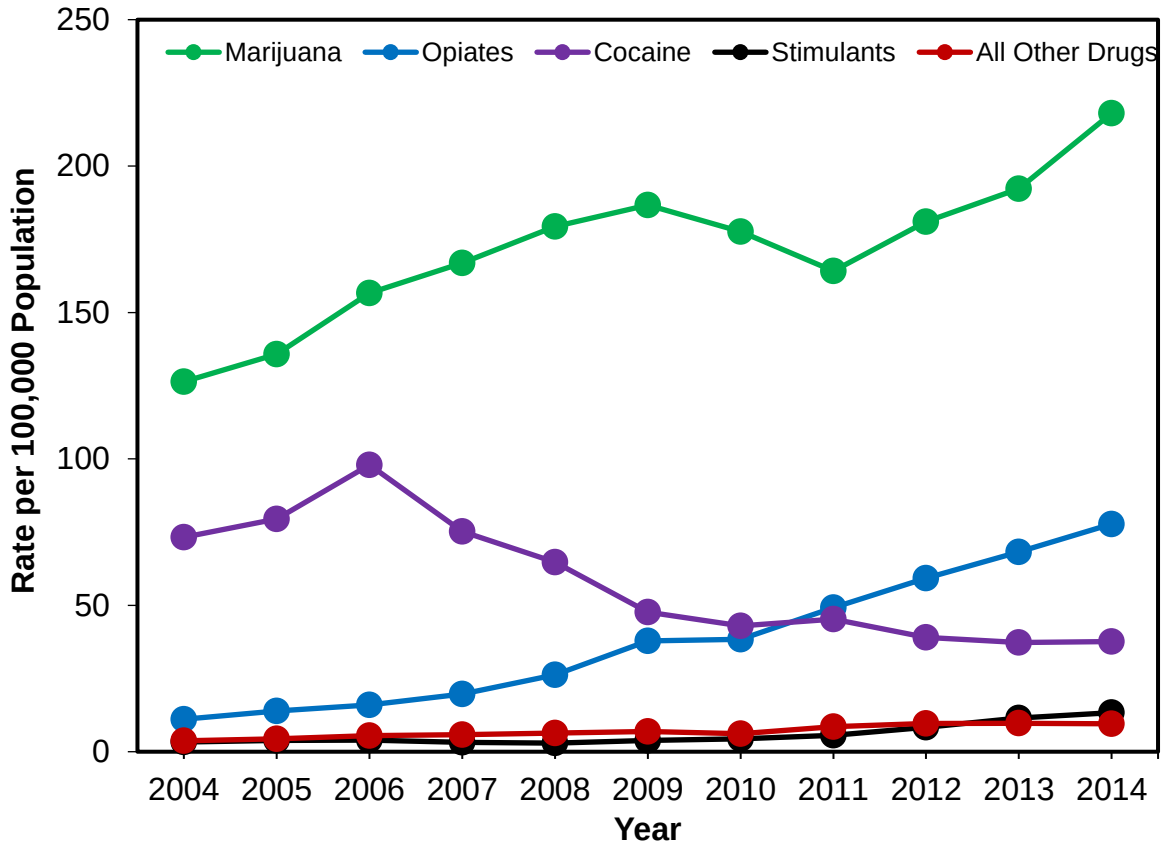
Figure 14: Weapons Used During Drug Crimes in Ohio, 2004-2014



❖ Weapons were involved in only 3.9% of drug crimes (Figure 14).

Drug Types

Figure 15: Incident[11] Rate by Drug Type, 2004-2014



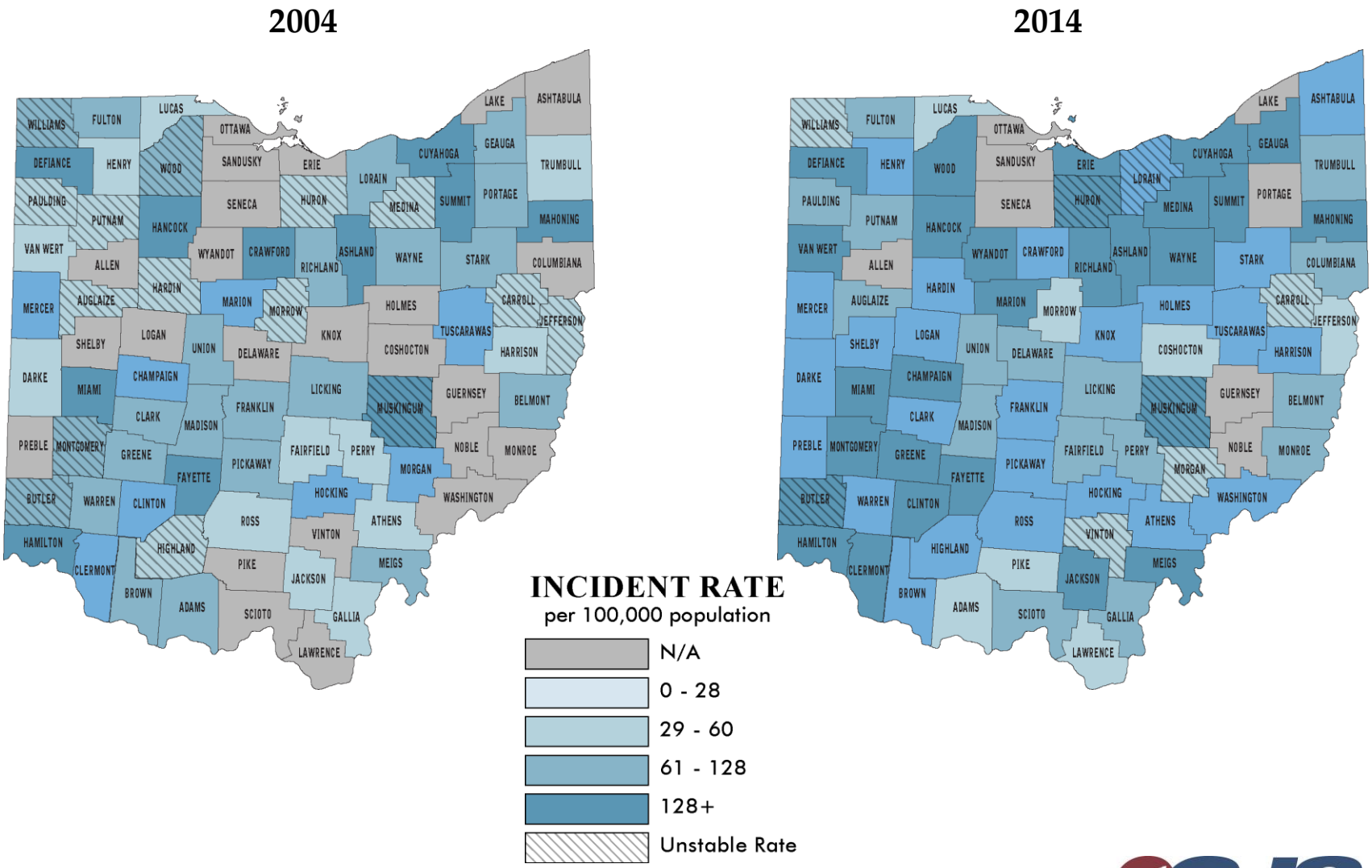
- The incident rate for marijuana[12] was higher than the incident rate for all other drug types (Figure 15). The rate of marijuana-related incidents increased by 72.5% from 2004 (126.4 incidents per 100,000 population) to 2014 (218.0 incidents per 100,000 population).

- Though the second highest incident rate was for cocaine[13] between 2004 and 2010, the rate of cocaine-related incidents actually decreased by 48.6% between 2004 (73.2 incidents per 100,000) and 2014 (37.6 incidents per 100,000).

- The largest increase in incident rate was for opiates[14], which increased by 600.9% between 2004 (11.1 incidents per 100,000) and 2014 (77.8 incidents per 100,000).

[11] All drug type data are based on incident rates. Drug types are not coded at the offense level in OIBRS, and therefore can only be calculated at the incident level.
[12] Includes marijuana, hashish, and other cannabis derivatives including Hash Oil and THC.
[13] Includes cocaine, crack, and all other cocoa derivatives.
[14] Includes heroin, morphine, codeine, opium, methadone, hydrocodone, Darvon, and other synthetic narcotics.

Figure 16: Marijuana Incident Rate by County, 2004 & 2014



Notes: To provide conservative, stable estimates, county-level rates are based on two year averages (2004 & 2005, 2013 & 2014) using the lower-bound estimate of the 95% confidence interval. Counties labeled "N/A" have population coverage <33% and/or a Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 50%. Counties labeled "Unstable" have population coverage of <50% and/or RSE > 30%. County level rates are presented as quantiles to enhance map readability (see Brewer & Pickle, 2002). Data source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. Map colors based on www.colorbrewer2.org.

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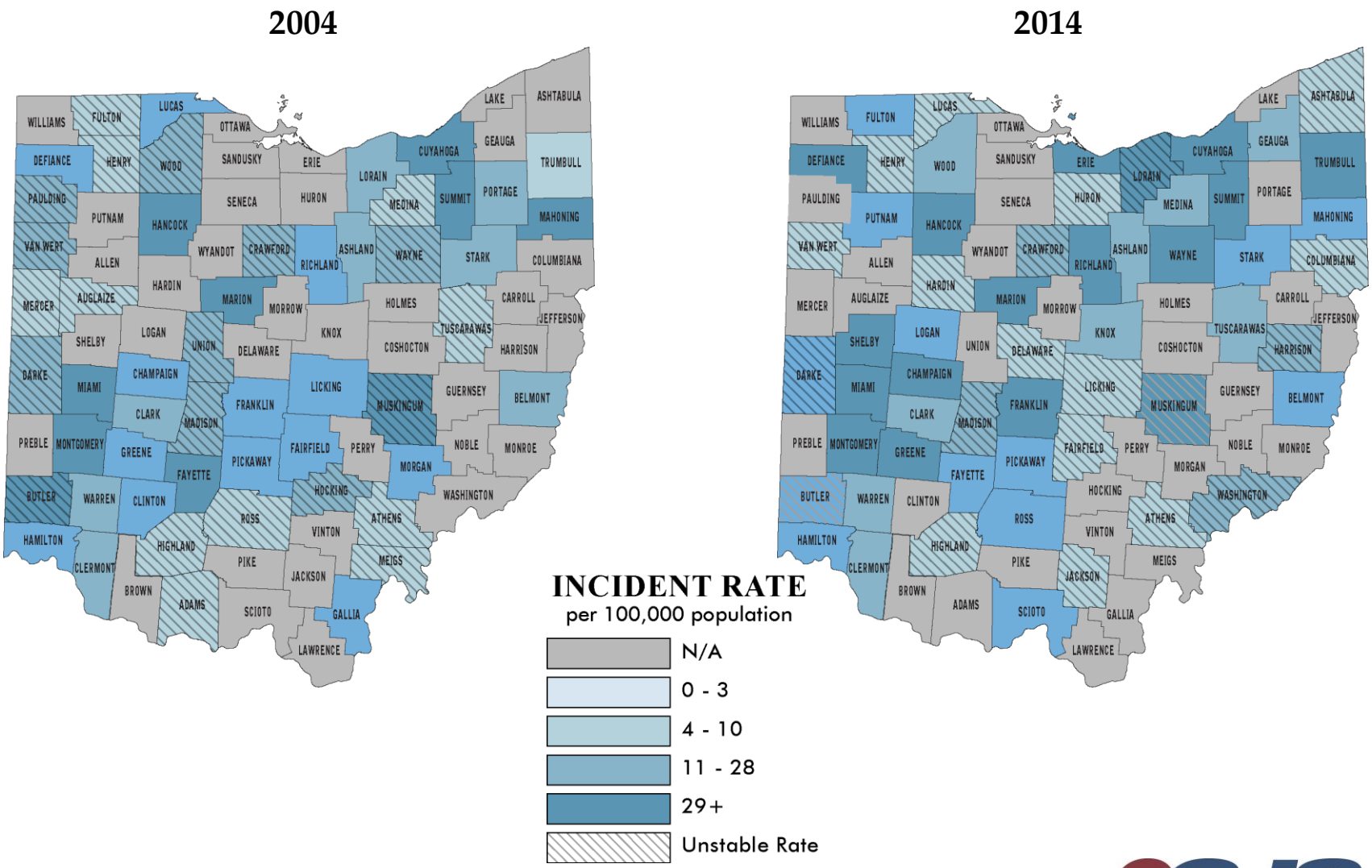
Figure 17: Cocaine Incident Rate by County, 2004 & 2014



Notes: To provide conservative, stable estimates, county-level rates are based on two year averages (2004 & 2005, 2013 & 2014) using the lower-bound estimate of the 95% confidence interval. Counties labeled "N/A" have population coverage <33% and/or a Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 50%. Counties labeled "Unstable" have population coverage of <50% and/or RSE > 30%. County level rates are presented as quantiles to enhance map readability (see Brewer & Pickle, 2002). Data source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. Map colors based on www.colorbrewer2.org.

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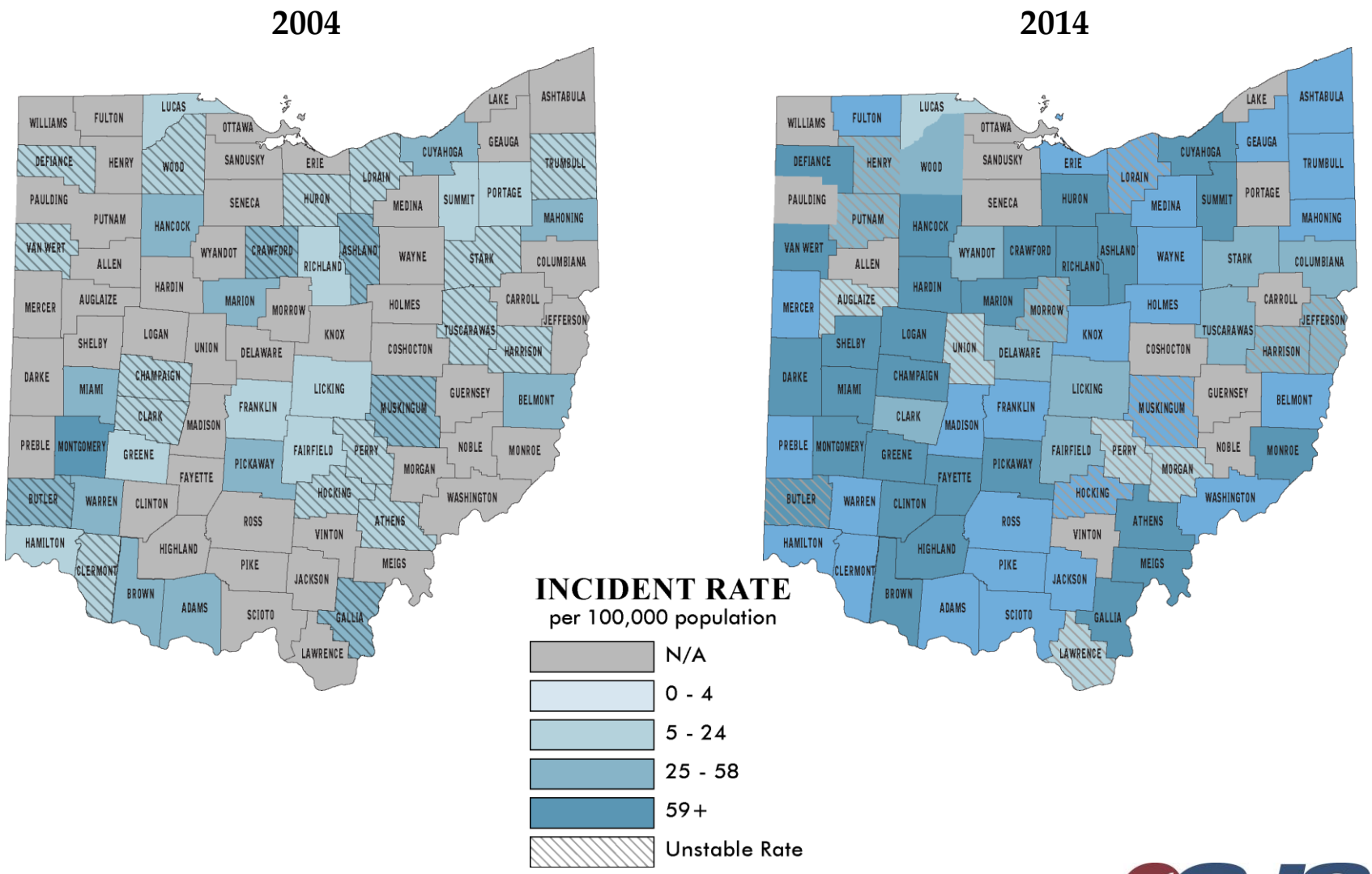
Figure 18: Opiate Incident Rate by County, 2004 & 2014



Notes: To provide conservative, stable estimates, county-level rates are based on two year averages (2004 & 2005, 2013 & 2014) using the lower-bound estimate of the 95% confidence interval. Counties labeled "N/A" have population coverage <33% and/or a Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 50%. Counties labeled "Unstable" have population coverage of <50% and/or RSE > 30%. County level rates are presented as quantiles to enhance map readability (see Brewer & Pickle, 2002). Data source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. Map colors based on www.colorbrewer2.org.

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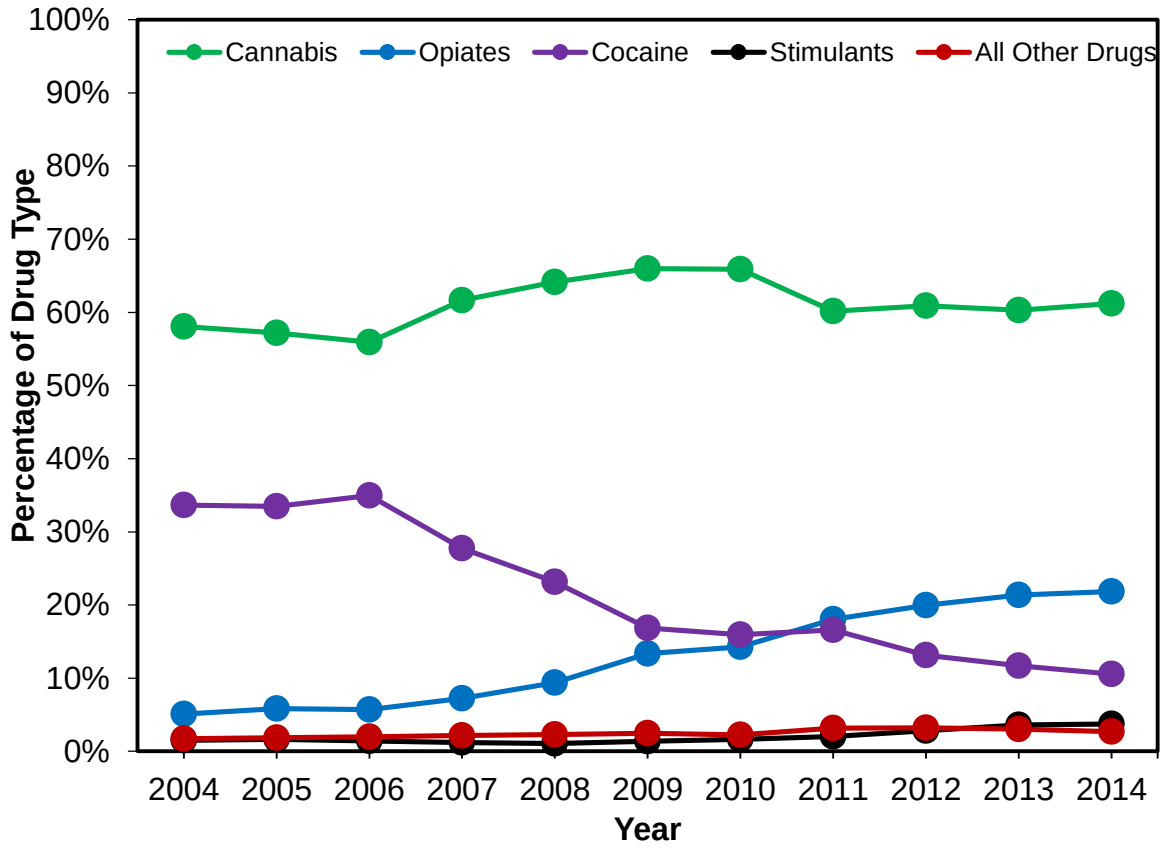
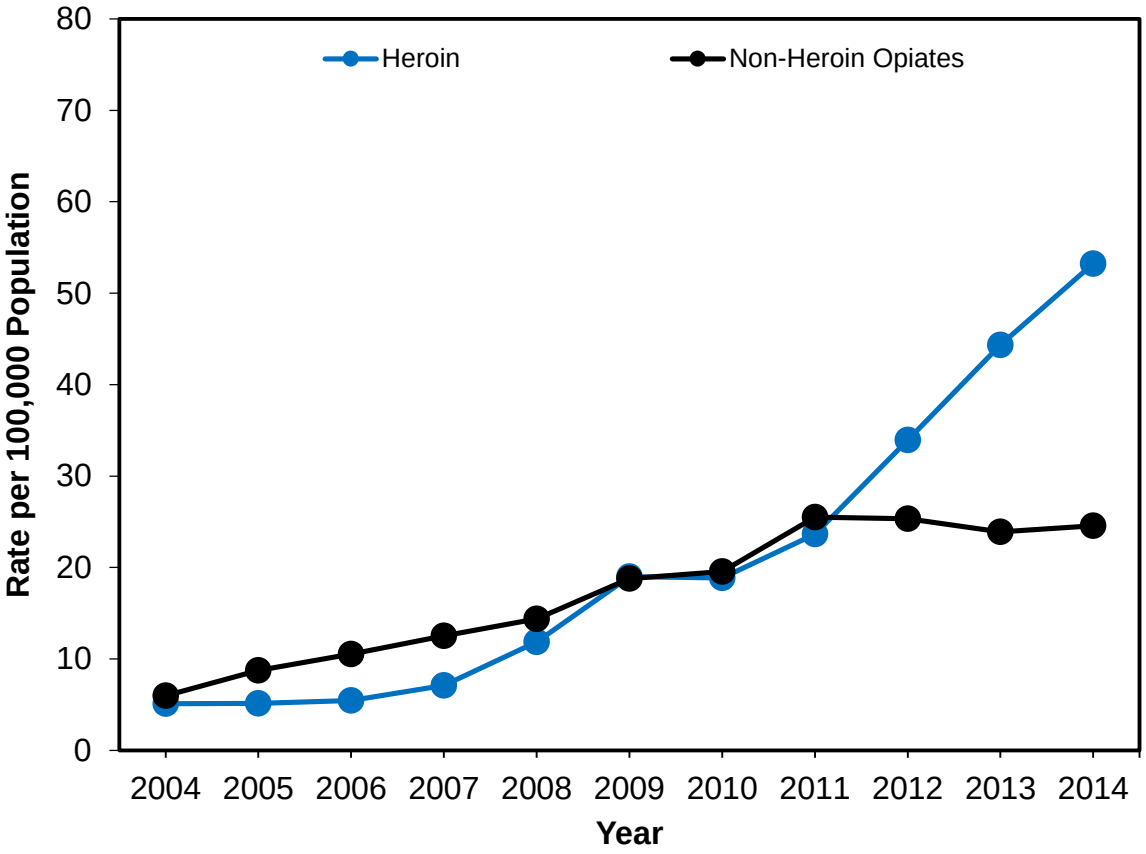
Figure 19: Percentage of Incidents Involving Drug Types by Year, 2004 - 2014



- Marijuana was involved in more incidents than all others drugs, accounting for 61.2% of incidents between 2004 and 2014 (Figure 19).

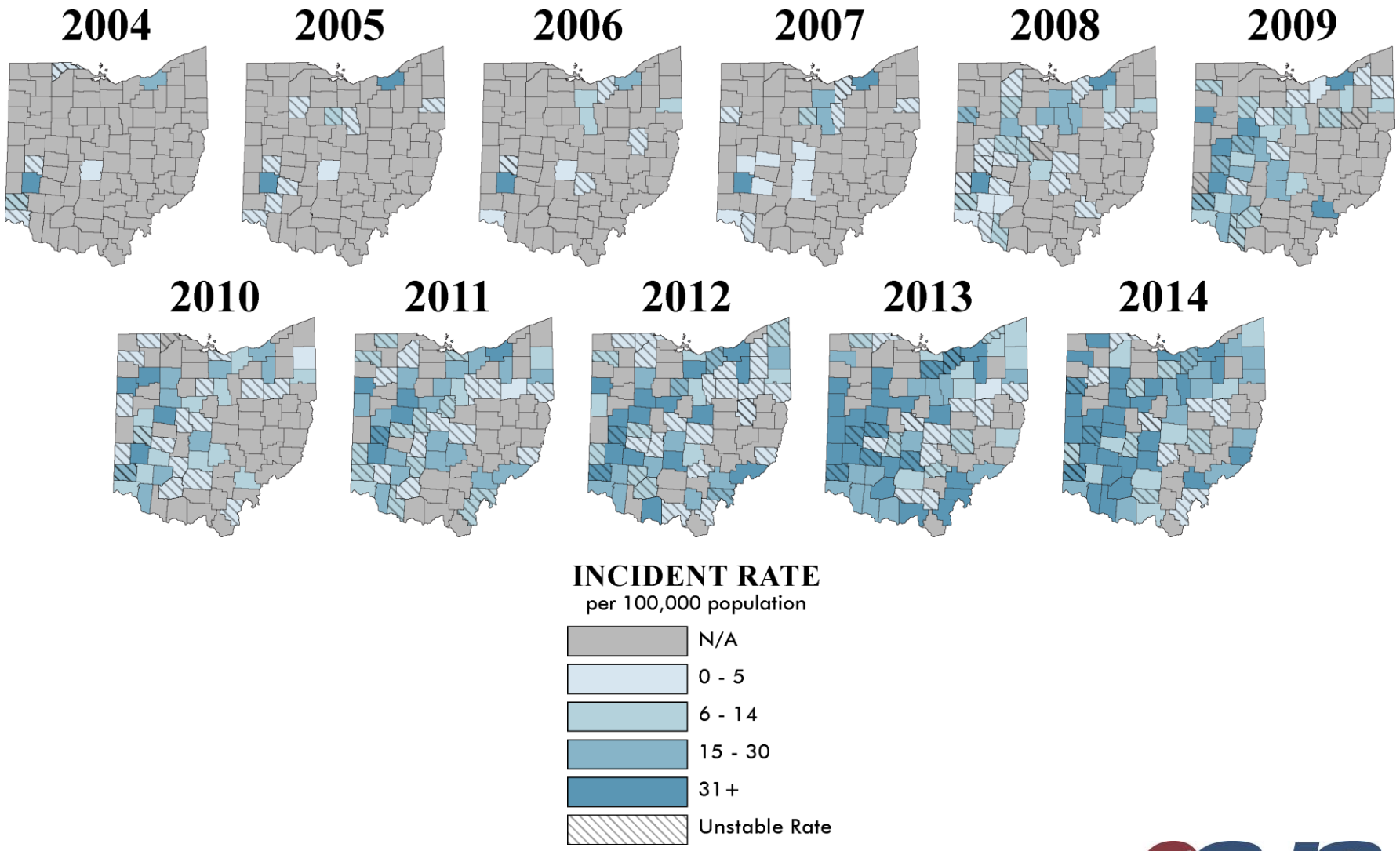
- The percentage of incidents involving cocaine decreased from 33.6% in 2004 to 10.6% in 2014. Conversely, the percentage of incidents involving opiates increased from 5.1% in 2004 to 21.8% in 2014.

Figure 20: Incident Rate of Heroin and Non-Heroin Opiate Crime, 2004-2014



❖ Though incidents involving both heroin and non-heroin opiates have increased substantially since 2004, increases since 2011 have primarily been driven by heroin (Figure 20). Heroin-related incidents increased by 124.5% since 2011, while non-heroin, opiate-related incidents decreased by 3.5%.

Figure 21: Heroin-Related Crime in Ohio, 2004-2014



Notes: To provide conservative, stable estimates, county-level rates are based on two year averages (2004 & 2005, 2013 & 2014) using the lower-bound estimate of the 95% confidence interval. Counties labeled "N/A" have population coverage <33% and/or a Relative Standard Error (RSE) > 50%. Counties labeled "Unstable" have population coverage of <50% and/or RSE > 30%. County level rates are presented as quantiles to enhance map readability (see Brewer & Pickle, 2002). Data source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System. Map colors based on www.colorbrewer2.org.

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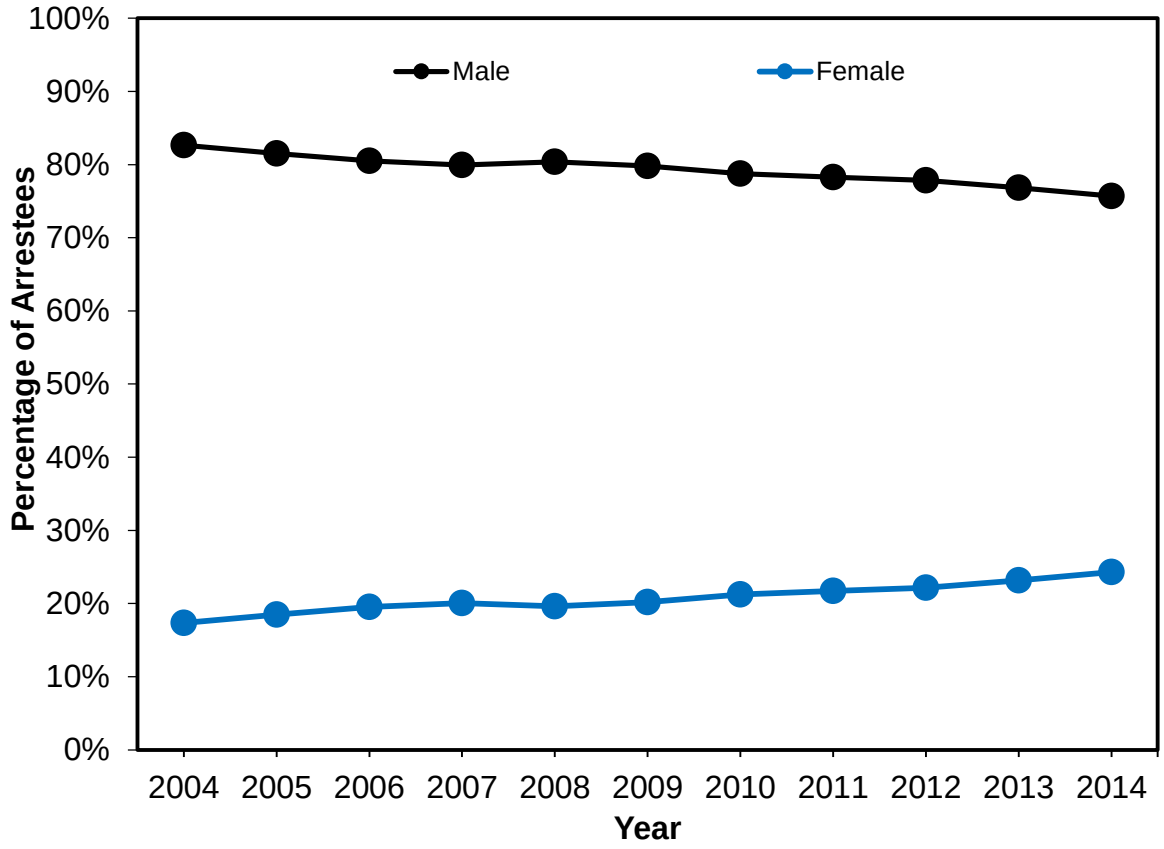
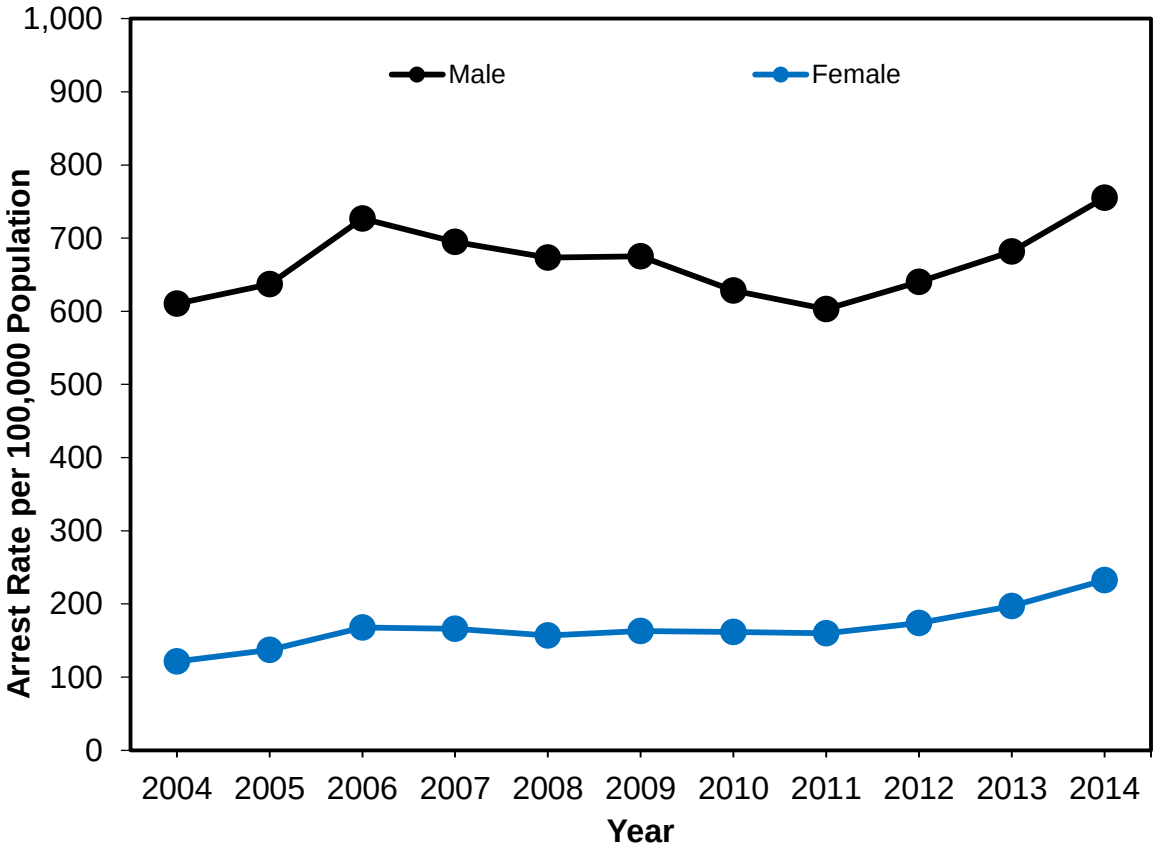
Arrestees

Figure 22: Percentage of Drug Crime Arrestees by Sex, 2004-2014



- Most arrestees for drug crimes were male, ranging from 82.7% of all arrestees in 2004 to 75.7% of arrestees in 2014 (Figure 22).

Figure 23: Drug Crime Arrest Rate by Sex, 2004-2014



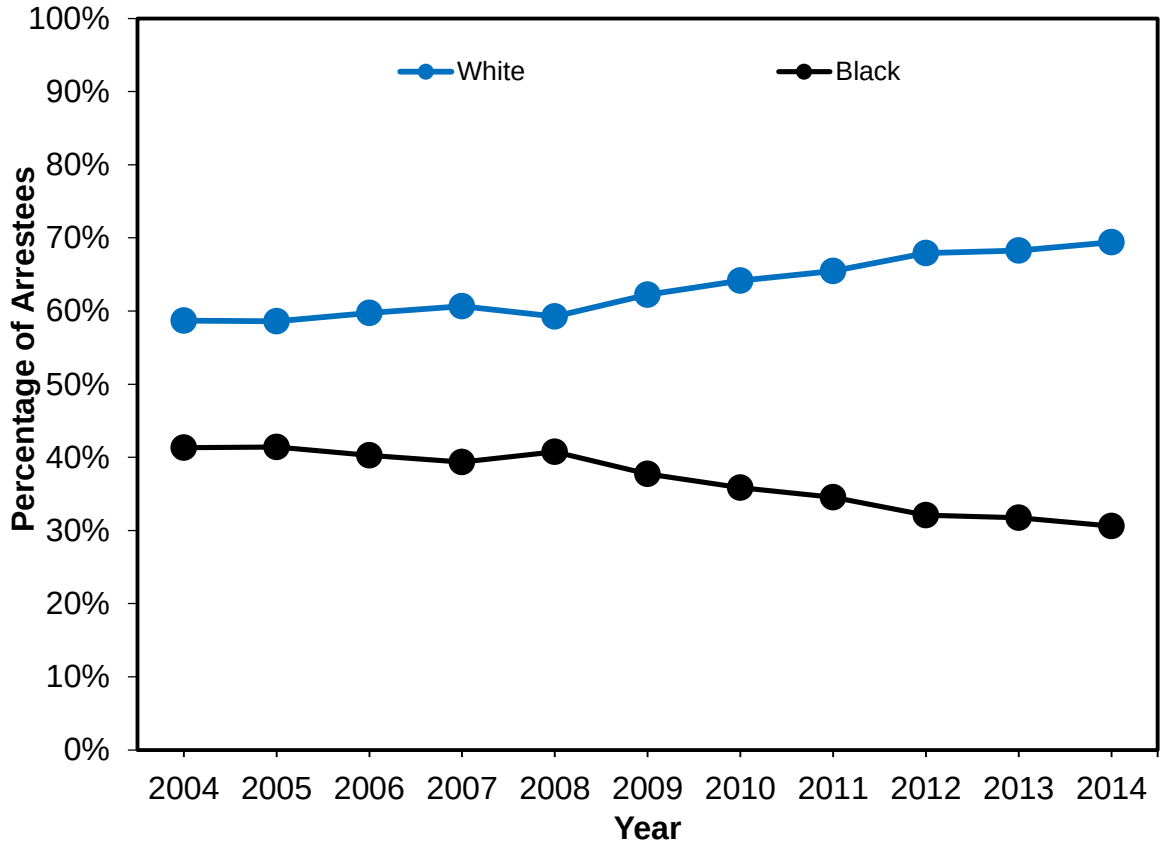
- The arrest rate[15] for males increased by 23.7% between 2004 (601.3 arrests per 100,000 population[16]) and 2014 (755.2 arrests per 100,000, Figure 23).

- The arrest rate for females increased by 91.3% between 2004 (121.5 arrests per 100,000) and 2014 (232.4 arrests per 100,000).

[15] Census data are used throughout this section to calculate demographic-specific rates. Since OIBRS data do not cover the entire population of Ohio, Census estimates are multiplied by the annual percentage of the Ohio population covered by OIBRS to adjust population denominators for rate calculations. This procedure does not account for the specific demographic characteristics of the population covered by OIBRS, as Census estimates are not available for the areas covered by Ohio law enforcement. For that reason, please use caution when interpreting these data. Further analyses are needed to accurately determine the drug crime rate among the segments of the population covered in this report.

[16] Population figures for 2004-2009 taken from: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division (2012). *Intercensal Estimates of the Resident Population by Five-Year Age Groups, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for States and the United States: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2010.* Retrieved on 4/29/2016. Population figures for 2010-2014 taken from: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division (2014). *Annual State Resident Population Estimates for 6 Race Groups (5 Race Alone Groups and Two or More Races) by Age, Sex, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014.* Retrieved 4/29/2016.

Figure 24: Percentage of Drug Crime Arrestees by Race[17], 2004-2014

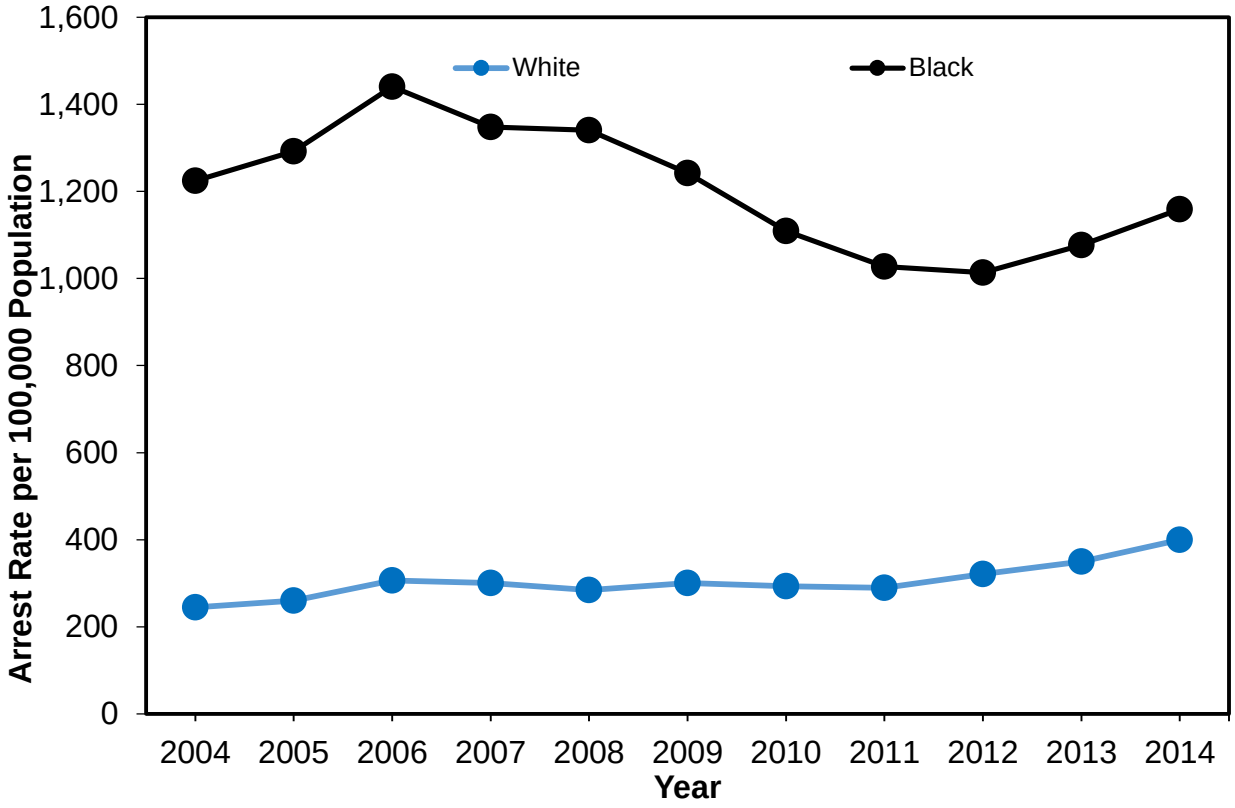


- White Ohioans accounted for more drug crime arrests than black Ohioans every year between 2004 and 2014 (Figure 24).

- The percentage of white arrestees increased from 58.7% in 2004 to 69.4% in 2014.

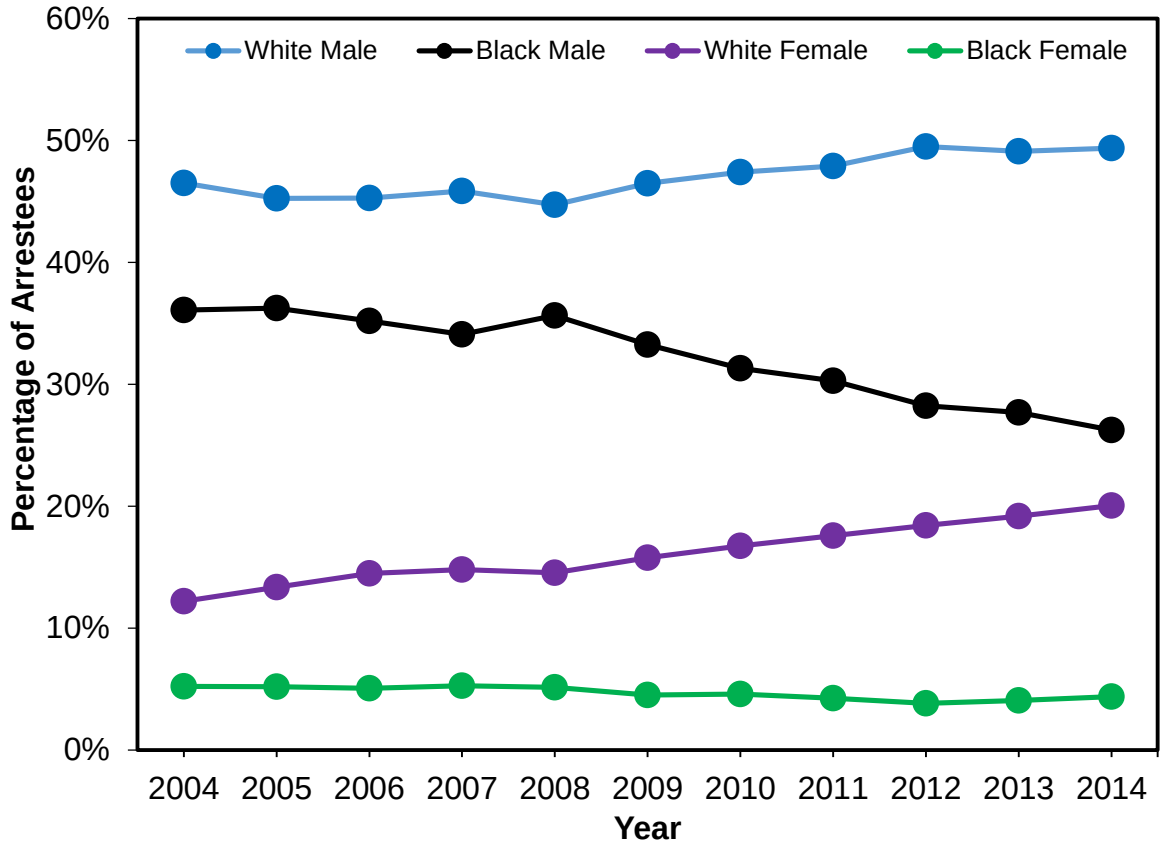
[17] Total arrestee counts for all other races in the OIBRS database were too low to generate reliable estimates.

Figure 25: Drug Crime Arrest Rate by Race, 2004-2014



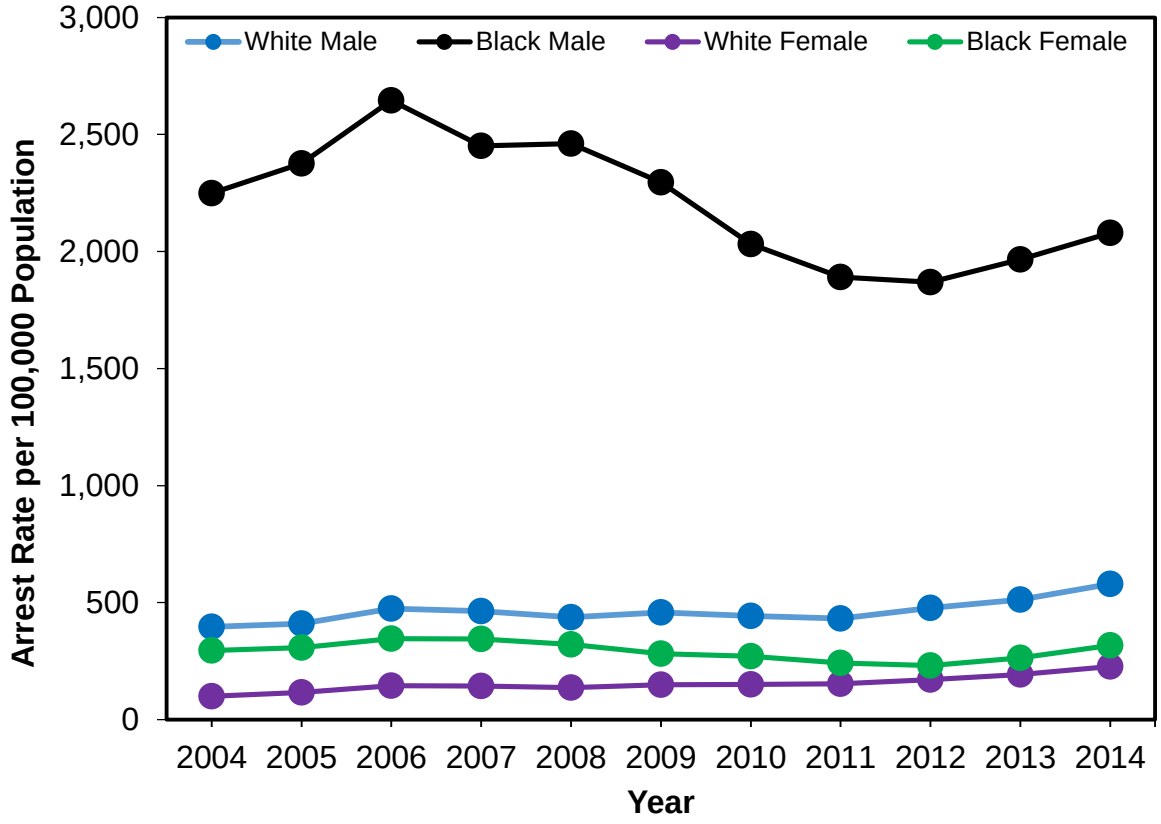
- Though the arrest rate for black Ohioans decreased by 5.3% from 2004 (1,224.5 per 100,000) to 2014 (1,159.3 per 100,000), it was still more than two times higher than the arrest rate for white Ohioans from 2004 (224.8 per 100,000) to 2014 (400.0 per 100,000, Figure 25).

Figure 26: Percentage of Drug Crime Arrests by Race and Sex, 2004-2014



- White males accounted for the greatest percentage of drug crime arrests between 2004 and 2014 (Figure 26).

Figure 27: Drug Crime Arrest Rate by Sex and Race, 2004-2014



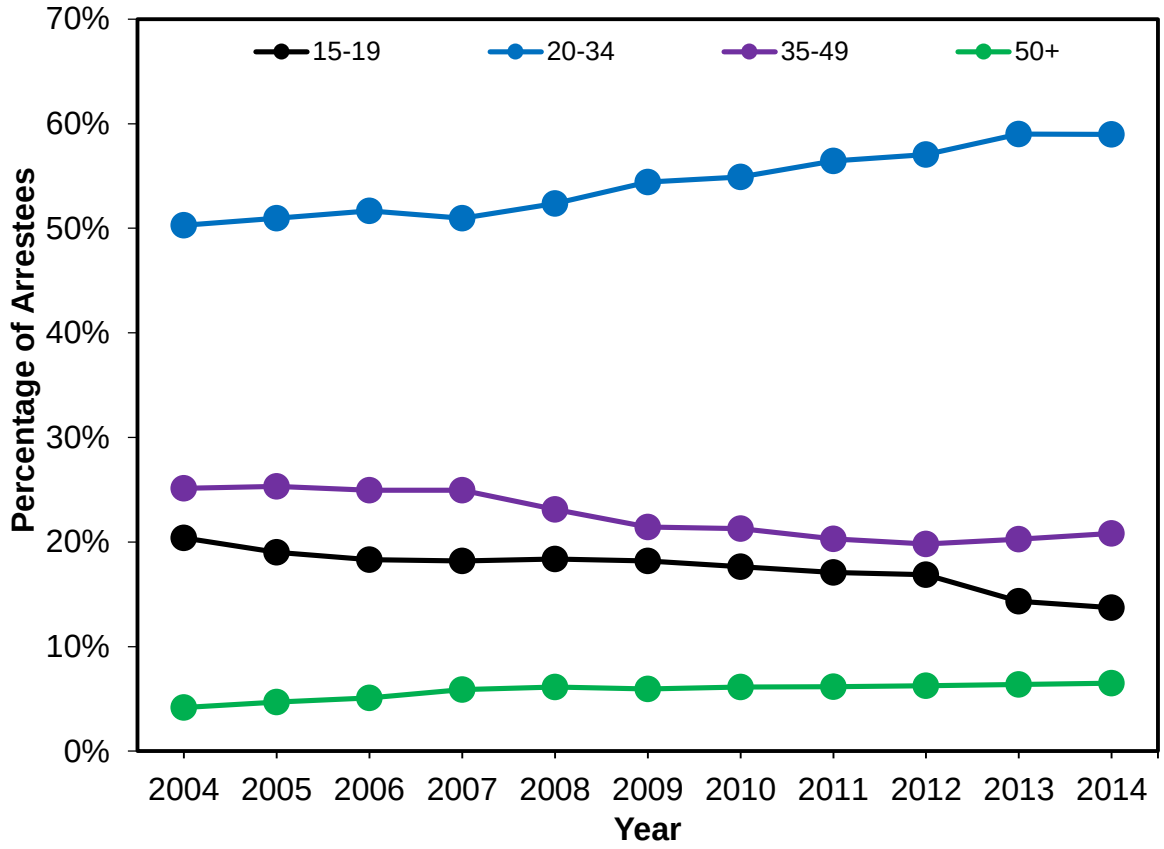
- Though the arrest rate for black males decreased by 7.6% between 2004 (2,249.5 per 100,000) and 2014 (2,079.1 per 100,000), it was it was at least 3 times higher than the arrest rate for all other groups (Figure 27).

- The arrest rate for white males increased by 45.9% between 2004 (396.8 per 100,000) and 2014 (579.1 per 100,000).

- The arrest rate for black females increased by 7.4% between 2004 (295.3 per 100,000) and 2014 (317.2 per 100,000).

- The arrest rate for white females increased by 128.2% between 2004 (99.5 per 100,000) and 2014 (227.0 per 100,000).

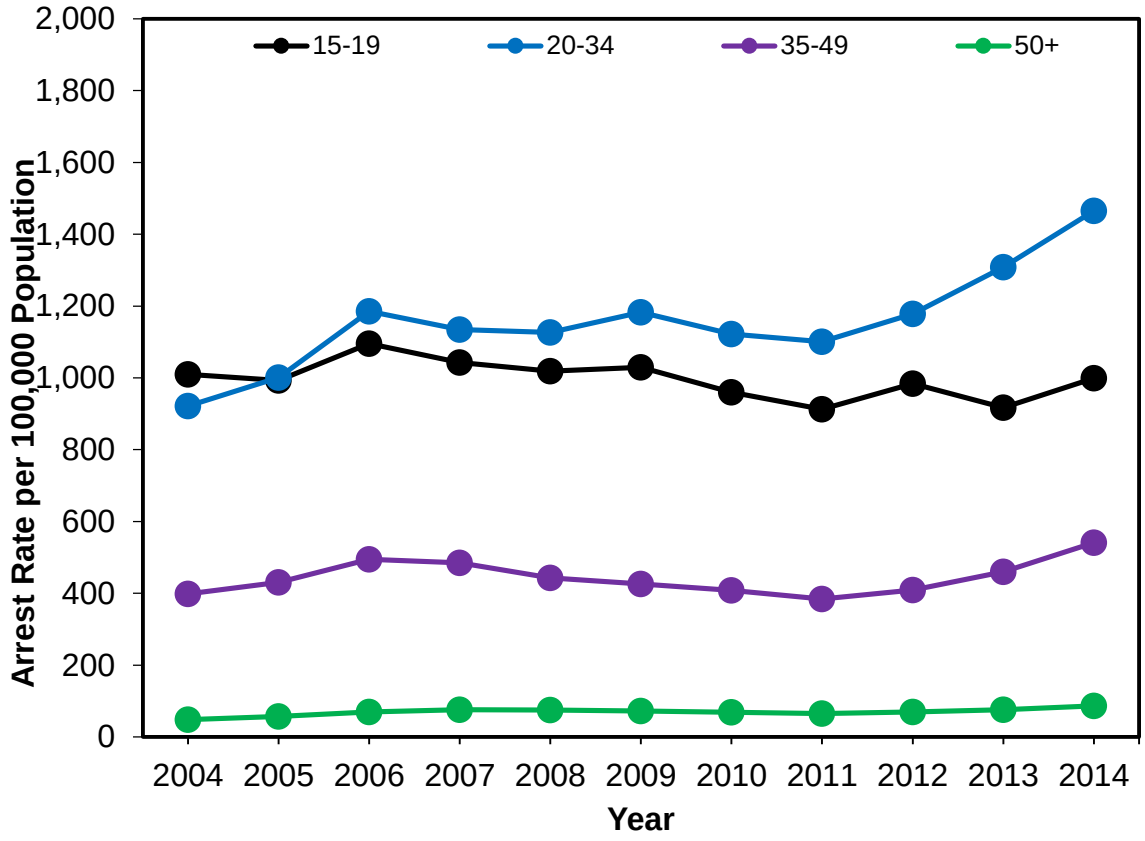
Figure 28: Percentage of Drug Crime Arrests by Age, 2004-2014[18]



- Individuals aged 20-34 accounted for more than half of all drug crime arrests; this total increased from 50.3% in 2004 to 59.0% in 2014 (Figure 28).

[18] Age ranges are based on available Census data. Individuals <15 years old excluded because they only account for 2.0% of all drug crime arrests, and including them would deflate the drug crime rate among individuals <19 years old (see Figure 29).

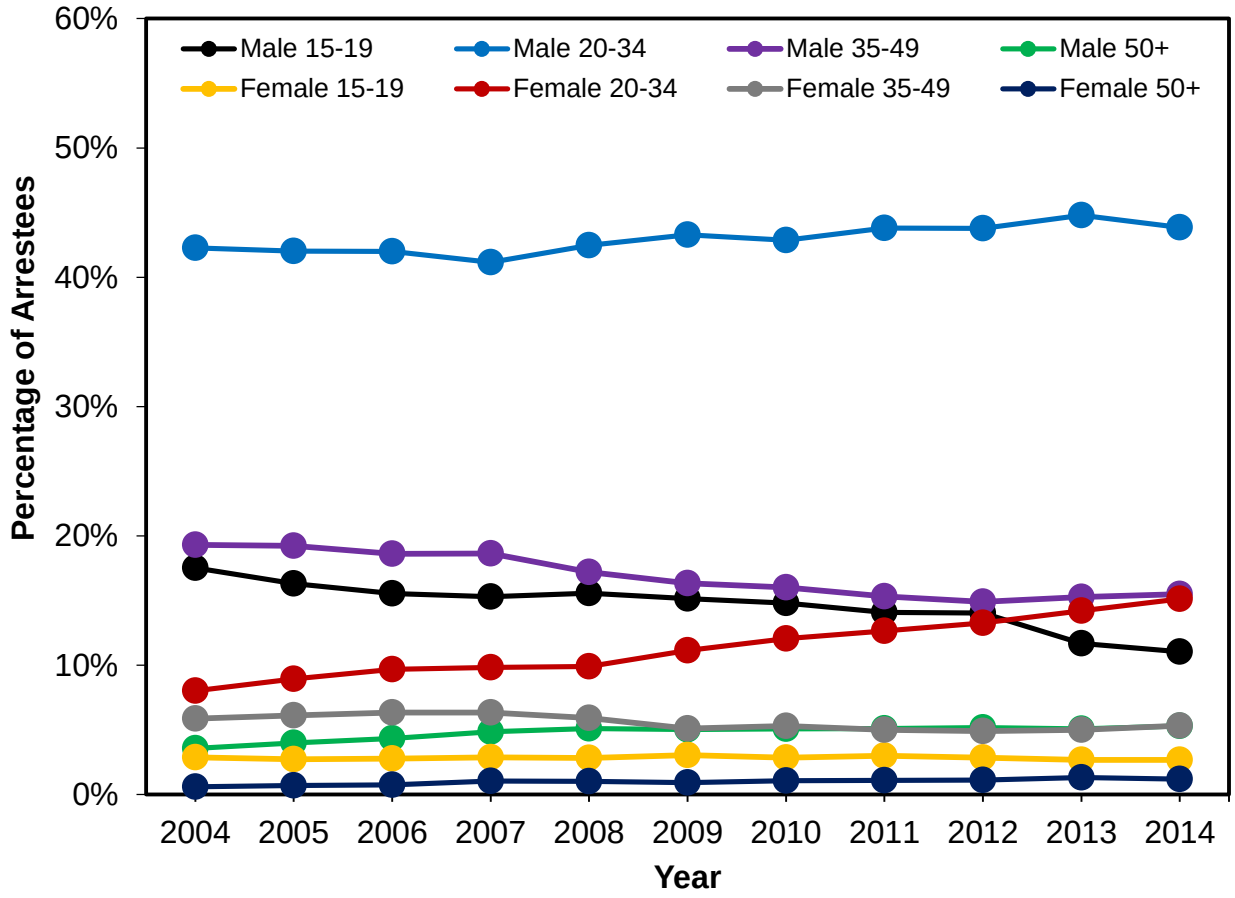
Figure 29: Drug Crime Arrest Rate by Age, 2004-2014



- The drug crime rate increased for individuals between the ages of 20-34 (58.9% increase), 35-49 (35.8% increase), and 50+ (77.7% increase, Figure 29) between 2004 and 2014.

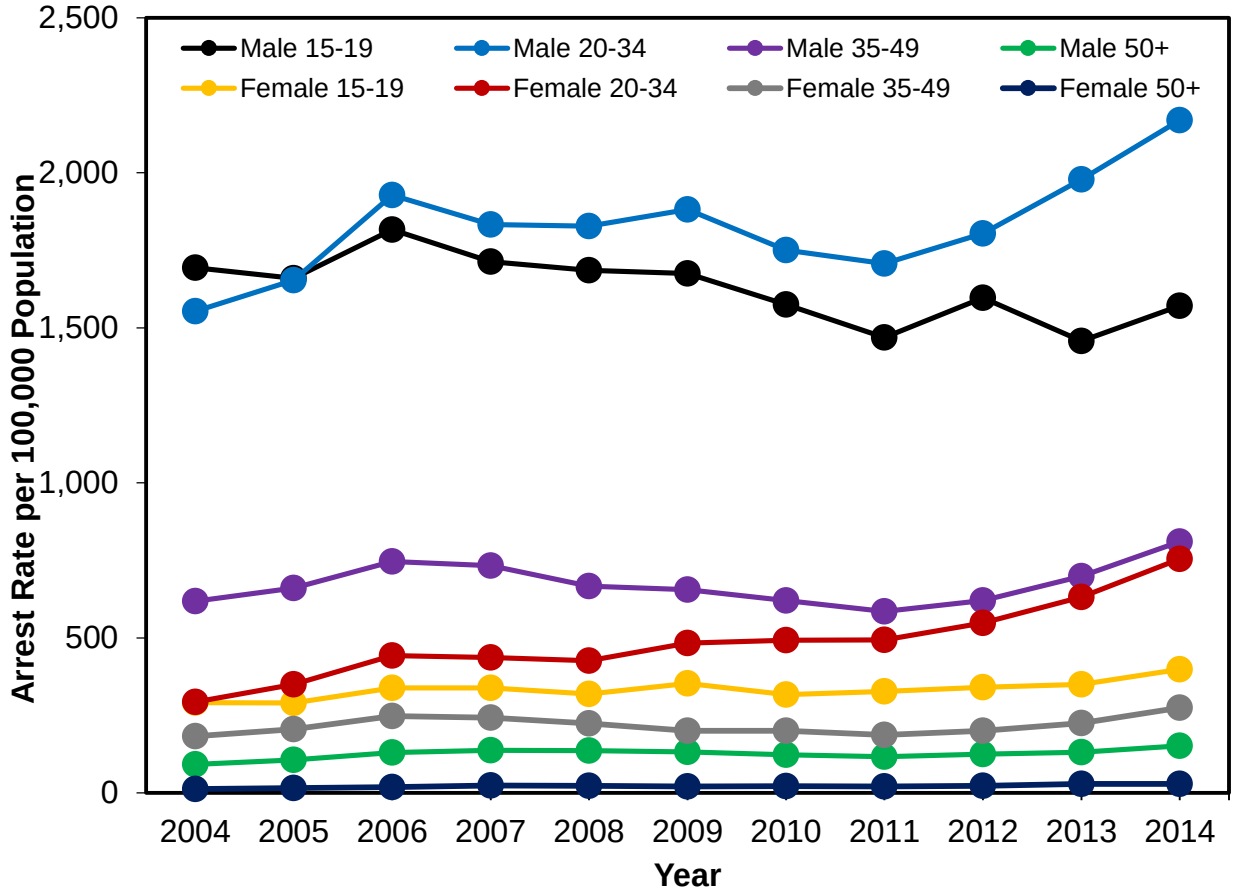
- The drug crime rate decreased slightly among 15-19 year olds (1.1% decrease) between 2004 and 2014.

Figure 30: Percentage of Drug Crime Arrests by Age and Sex, 2004-2014



- Males aged 20-34 accounted for more arrests than any other group (Figure 30).
- Females aged 20-34 experienced the greatest increase in the total number of drug crime arrests (7.1% increase).
- Males aged 15-19 had the largest decrease in the total number of drug crime arrests (6.5% decrease).

Figure 31: Drug Crime Arrest Rate by Age and Sex, 2004-2014

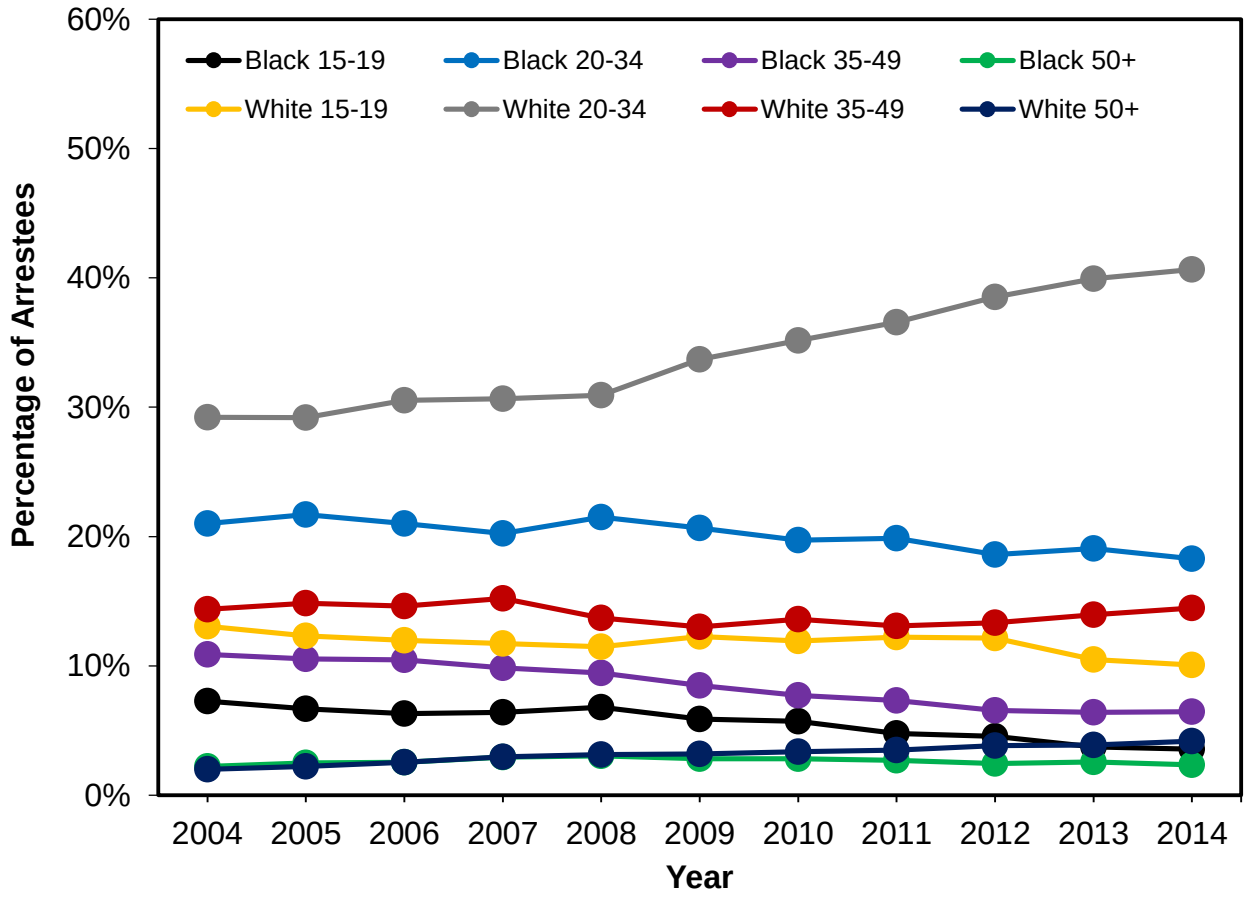


- With the exception of 2005, males between the ages of 20 and 34 had the highest arrest rate every year between 2004 (1,553.3 per 100,000) and 2014 (2,169.9 per 100,000, Figure 31).

- The largest increase in arrest rate was for females between the ages of 20 and 34. The arrest rate increased by 157.1% between 2004 (293.4 per 100,000) and 2014 (754.3 per 100,000).

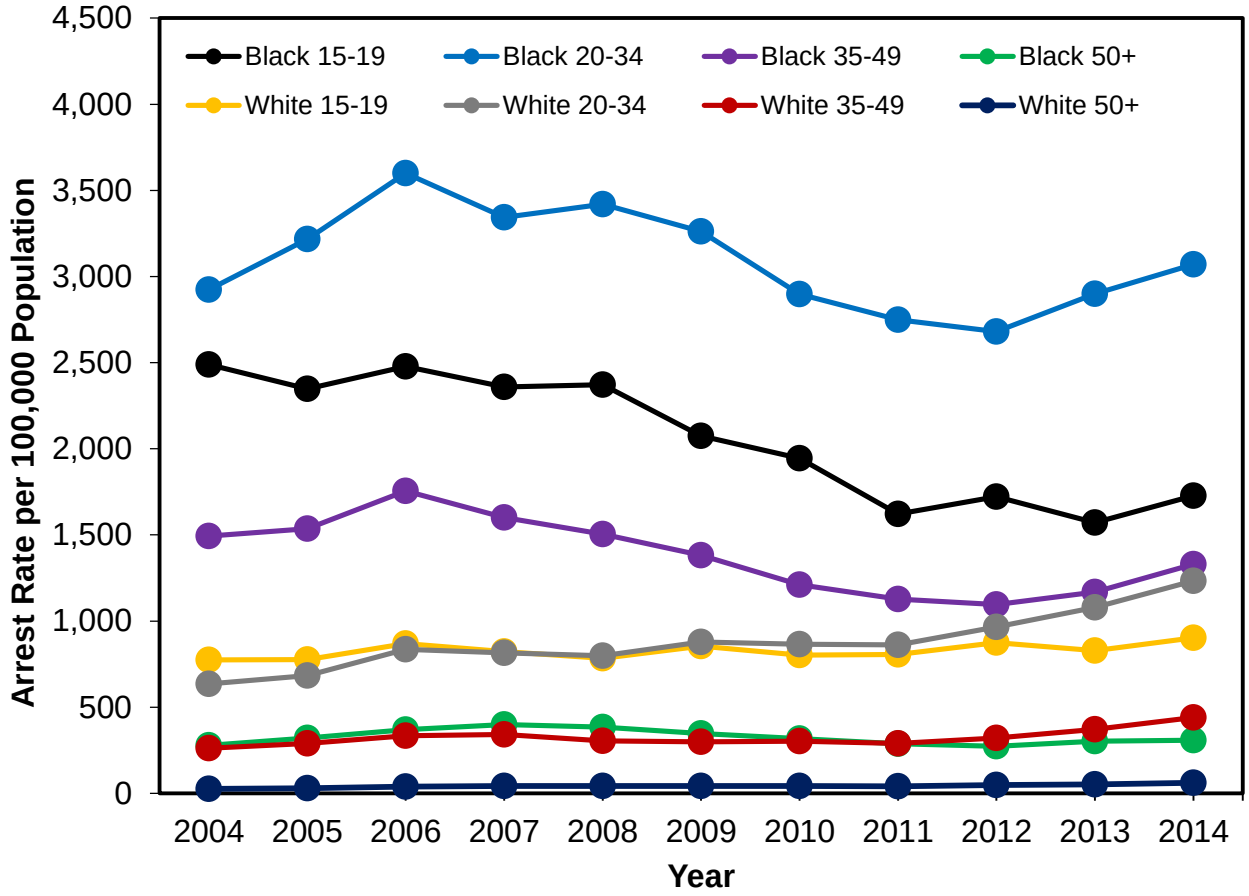
- The only group to show a decrease in arrest rate was for males between the ages of 15 and 19. The arrest rate decreased by 7.3% between 2004 (1,693.9 per 100,000) and 2014 (1,570.6 per 100,000). However, this group still had the second highest arrest rate out of any group.

Figure 32: Percentage of Drug Crime Arrests by Age and Race, 2004-2014



- White individuals between the ages of 20 and 34 accounted for a greater percentage of arrests than any other group. This group also experienced the greatest increase in drug crime arrests, ranging from 29.2% of all arrests in 2004 to 40.6% in 2014 (Figure 32).

Figure 33: Drug Crime Arrest Rate by Age and Race, 2004-2014



- The highest arrest rates for every year of this report were for black individuals between the ages of 20 and 34 (Figure 33). The arrest rate for this group increased by 5.0% between 2004 (2,923.4 per 100,000) and 2014 (3,070.5 per 100,000).

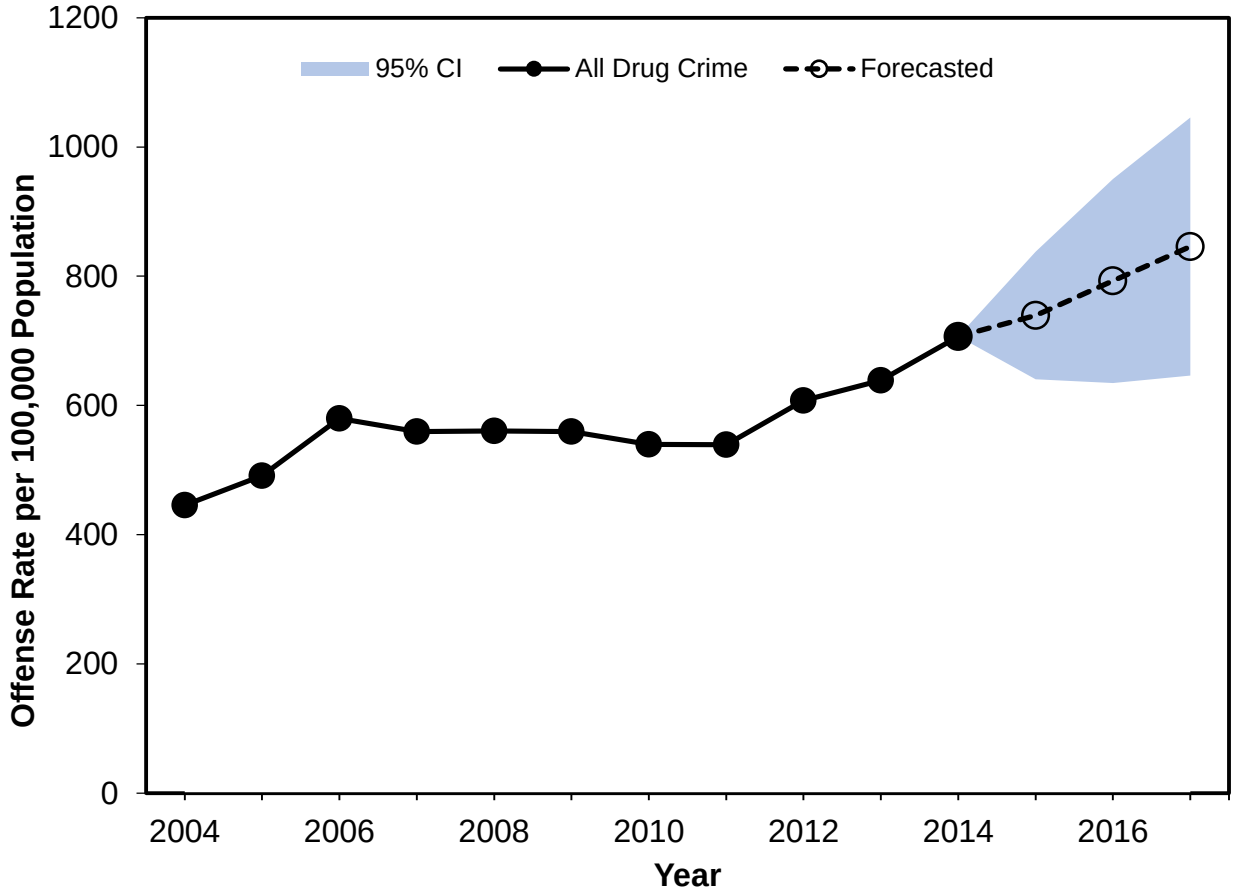
- The second highest arrest rate was for black individuals between the ages of 15 and 19, though the arrest rate for this group decreased by 30.6% between 2004 (2,489.8 per 100,000) and 2014 (1,727.2 per 100,000).

- The largest increase in arrest rate was for white individuals more than 50 years old (142.4% increase); however, the arrest rate for this group in 2014 (61.8 per 100,000) was still almost 50 times lower than the arrest rate for black individuals aged 20 through 34.

Forecasting

This section uses OIBRS data to forecast the drug crime rates that are expected to be reported to OIBRS through 2017; it is hoped that these forecasts will provide more information about some of the trends identified in this report. Though forecasting is a helpful tool for planning for the future, the results in this section should be interpreted with caution. Many different factors can significantly influence the forecasted drug crime rate, and it is impossible for any forecasting model to account for all of these factors. Despite this limitation, it is important to understand what will happen to drug crime rates if current reporting trends continue.

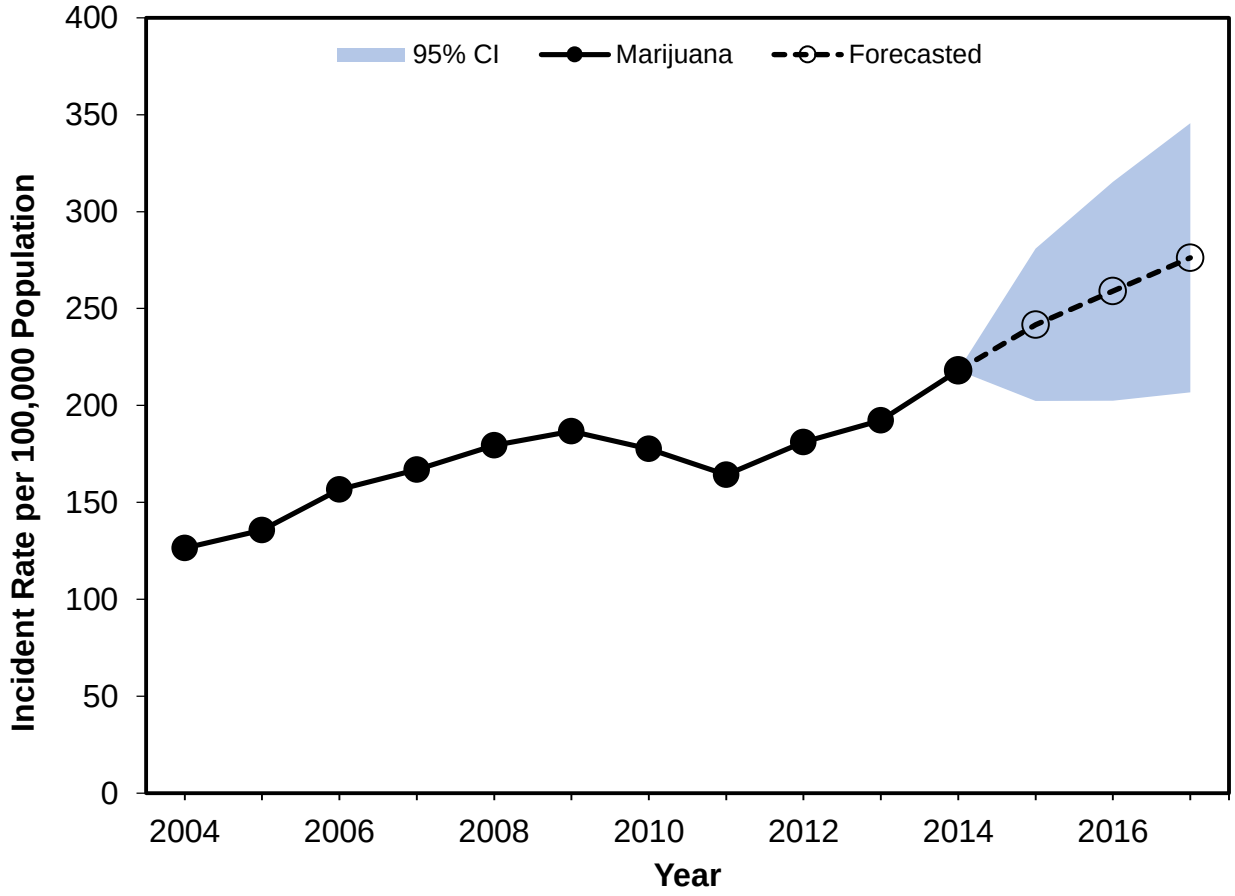
Figure 34: Forecast[19] of UCR Drug Crime Rate Through 2017



- The overall drug crime rate is forecasted to increase to a rate of 845.9 per 100,000 population in 2017. This represents a 19.7% increase from 2014 (Figure 34).

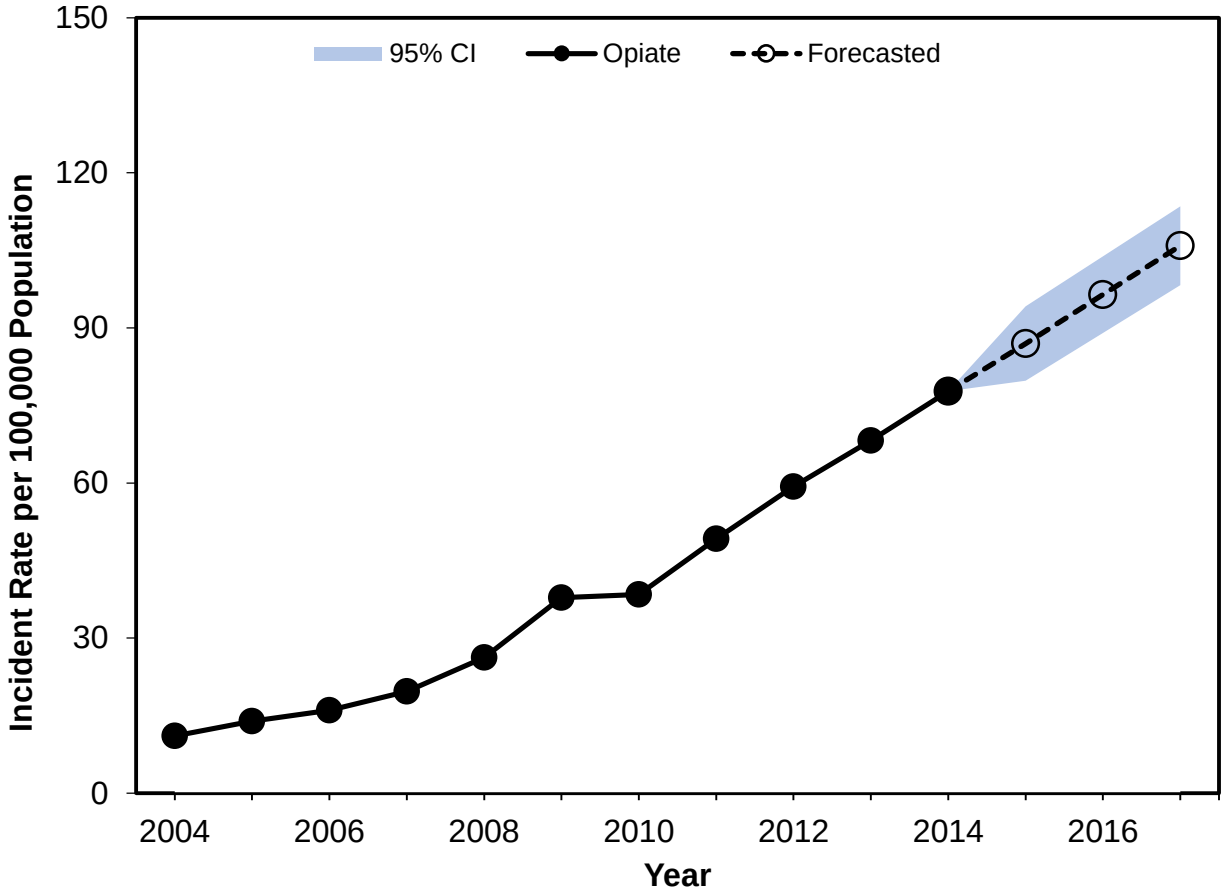
[19] The blue area surrounding the forecasted estimates represents a 95% confidence interval (CI), which is included to provide a measure of precision about the forecasted values. Readers unfamiliar with CIs can interpret them as "We are 95% confident that the true mean of the forecasted value for a particular year falls within the surrounding blue area."

Figure 35: Forecast of Marijuana Incident Rate Through 2017



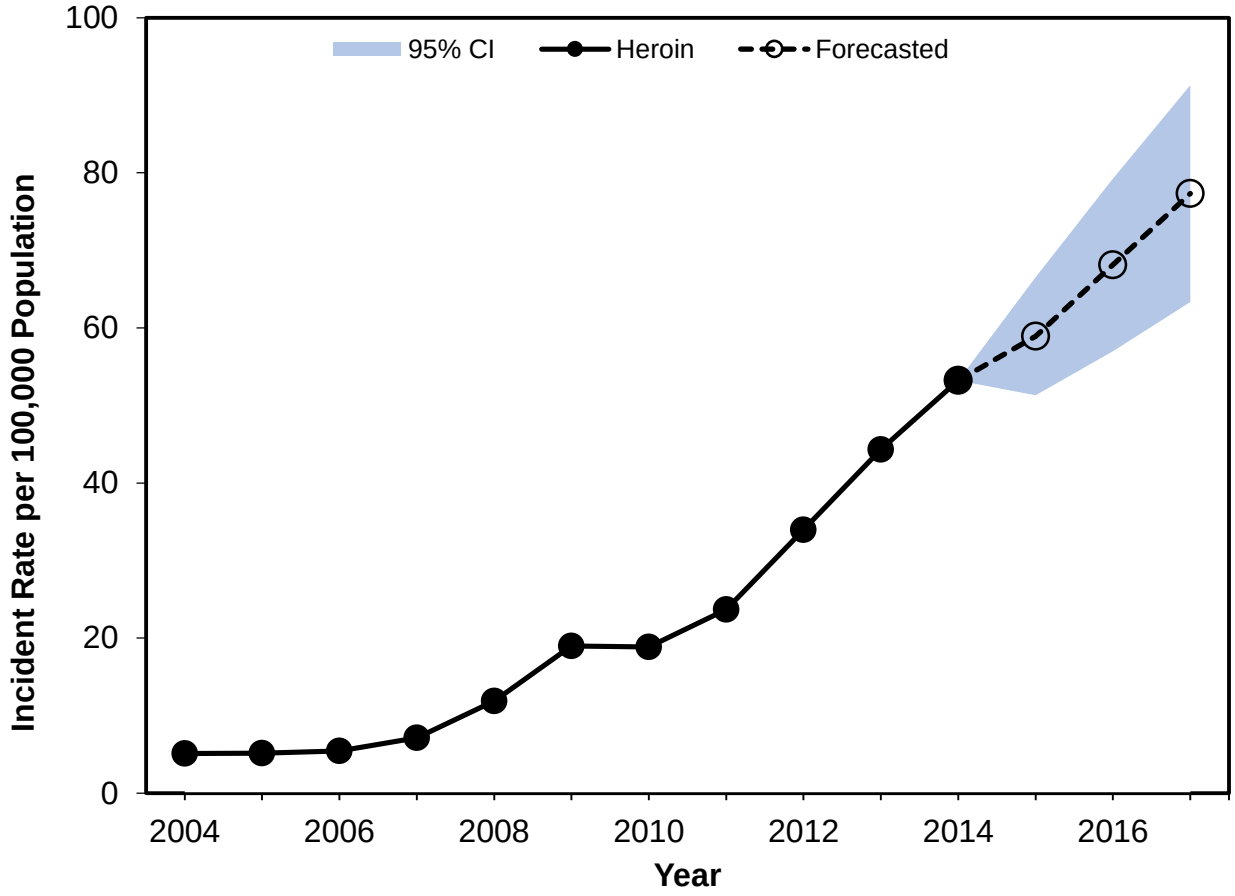
- The rate of marijuana-related incidents is forecasted to increase by 26.7% by 2017 (276.2 per 100,000, Figure 35).

Figure 36: Forecast of Opiate Incident Rate Through 2017



- The rate of opiate-related incidents is forecasted to increase by 36.2% by 2017 (105.9 per 100,000, Figure 36).

Figure 37: Forecast of Heroin Incident Rate Through 2017



❖ The rate of heroin-related incidents is forecasted to increase by 45.4% by 2017 (77.3 per 100,000 population, Figure 37).