

Lecture 15: Guns and Drugs

Part I: Guns and Crime

- Liberals and conservatives agree that guns are a major part of the crime problem.
- Liberals want to limit availability (“guns kill people”) and conservatives want to get tough on criminals who use guns (“people kill people”).
- Public opinion varies: One poll, 60% wanted stricter gun laws and in another poll, 30% thought that armed citizens are best crime defense.

Types of Guns

- Handguns (pistols) are the real problem, not rifles and shotguns.
- 96% of guns used in robberies are handguns.
- “Saturday night specials” are big problem because these are small, concealable, and cheap.



Gun Ownership

- Estimated 200 million firearms in circulation (70 million handguns).
- 1.5 to 2 million handguns added each year by production.
- 1994: 40% of households owned gun. (average of 4.5 guns per household).

Why are there guns in the US?

The second amendment to the Constitution (in the Bill of Rights)

“The Right to Bear Arms”

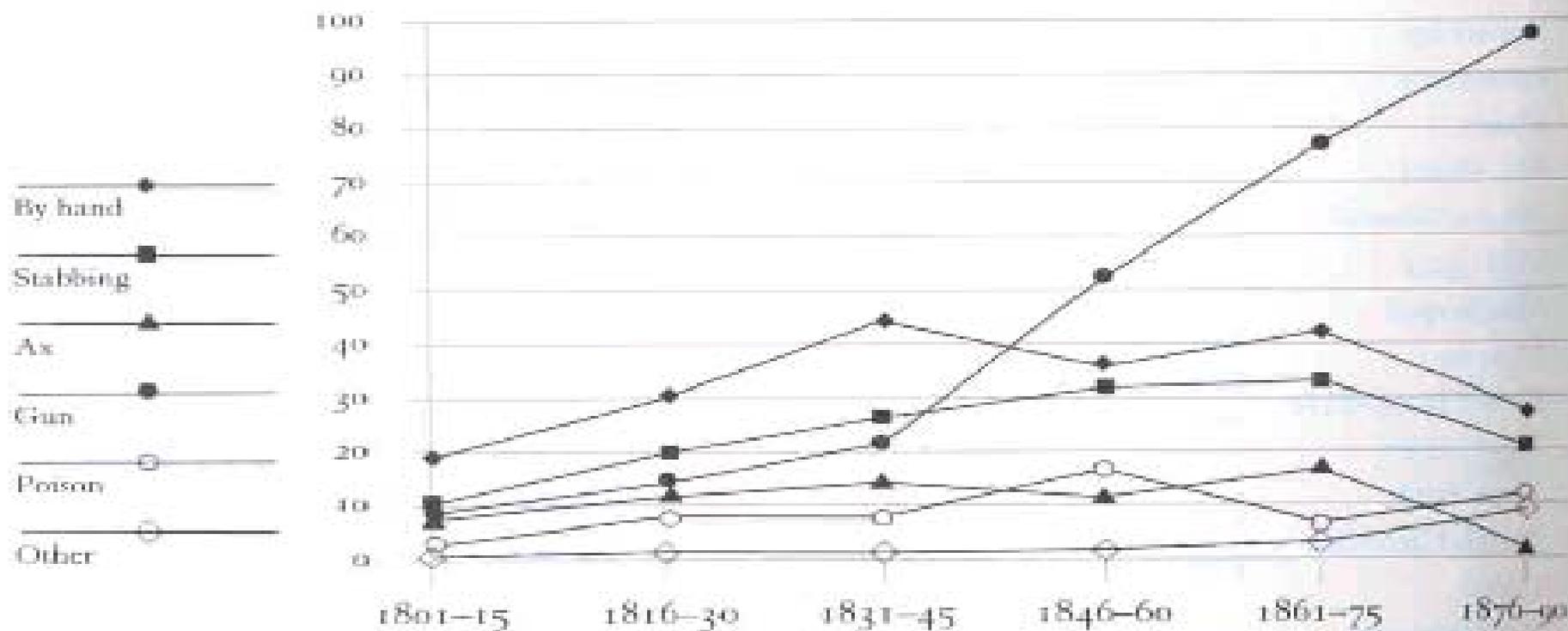
The NRA (National Rifle Association)

Many people use guns for hunting.

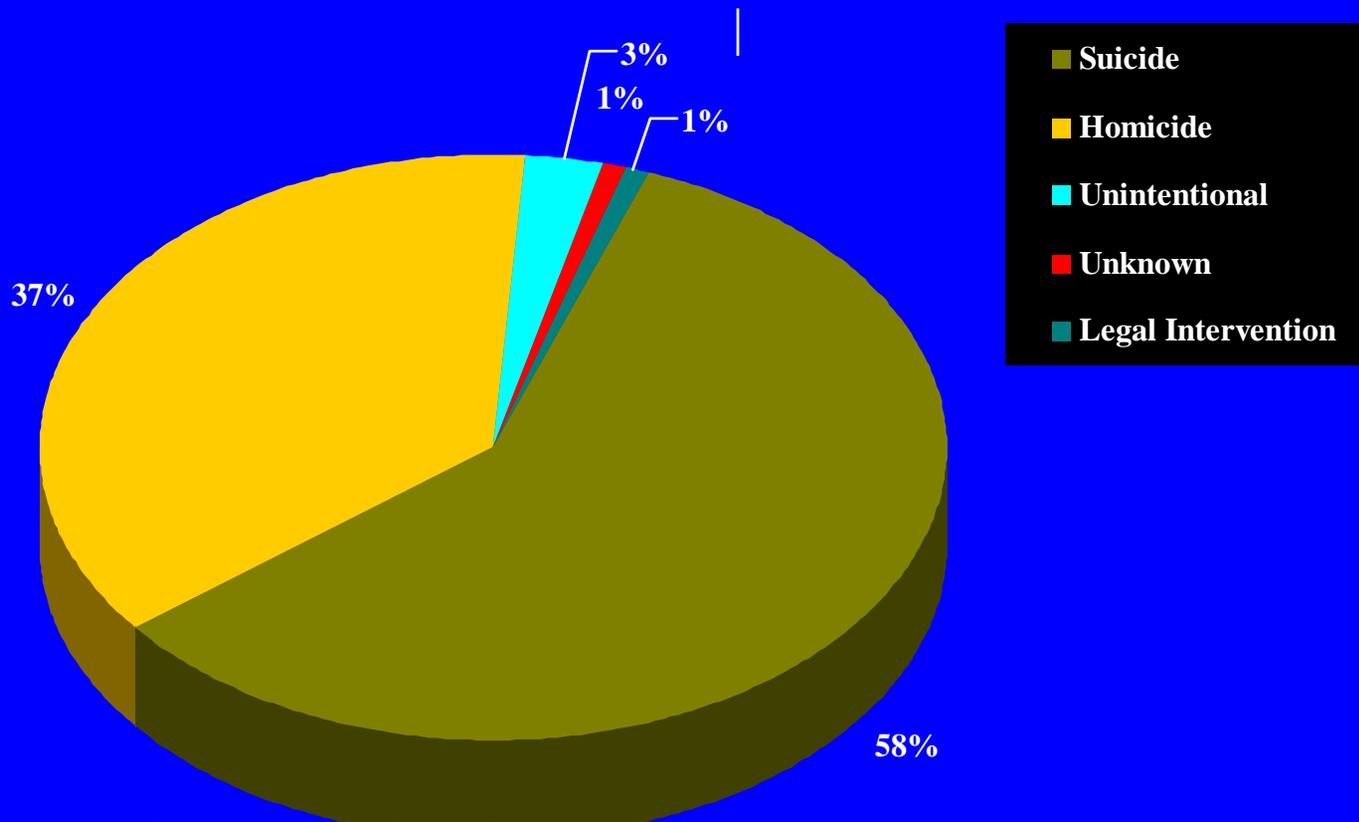
Large scale production of guns after Civil War

Nineteenth-Century Murder Methods

	BY HAND	STABBING	AX	GUN	POISON	OTHER	TOTAL
1801-15	17	9	8	10	3	1	48
1816-30	30	19	11	13	6	2	81
1831-45	45	25	14	21	7	2	114
1846-60	37	32	11	53	14	3	149
1861-75	43	33	14	76	7	4	177
1876-90	27	19	2	98	11	9	166
TOTALS	199	137	60	270	48	21	735



FIREARM RELATED DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES, 2000 (Total: 28,663)



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2002

Who owns guns?

Men vs. women (32/19%)

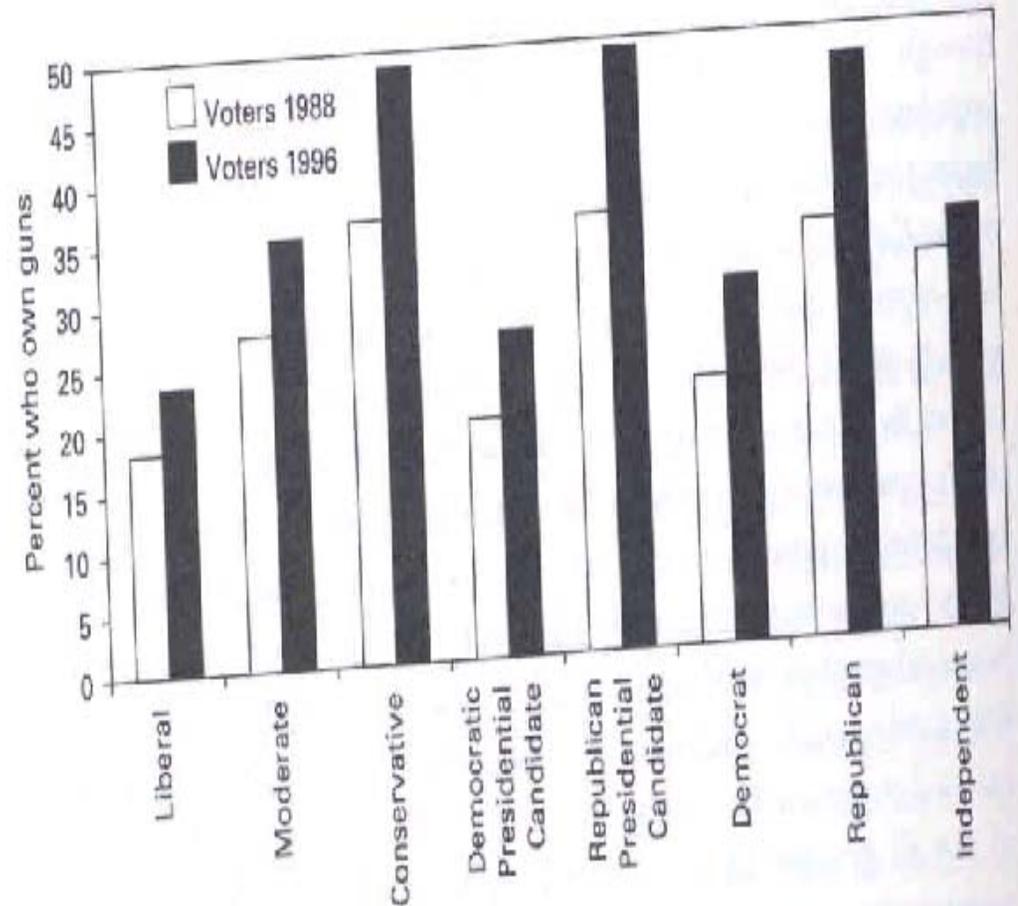
Whites vs. minor. (26/16%)

Southerners

Protestants

Higher-income families

Hunters



Categories of voters:
political views, candidate the respondent voted for, and respondent's party

Figure 3.2. Percent of different groups of voters who owned guns in 1988 and 1996

Conservatives more likely to own guns, but high percentage of liberals also own guns.

Handguns as Self-protection

- Both deviants and citizens carry guns for protection.
- An arms race: as more people carry guns, other feel that they also need to carry a gun.

Guns, Drug Markets, and Protection

- There is good evidence that guns (especially handguns) contributed to the rise of homicides during the crack cocaine epidemic.

What evidence is there for this hypothesis?

Three striking changes occurred in U.S. rates between 1985 and 1992:

- the homicide rates by youth 18 years and younger more than doubled (there was no growth in homicide rates by adults older than 24 years);
- the number of homicides that youth committed with guns more than doubled (there was no change in non-handgun homicides);
- the arrest rate for non-white juveniles on drug charges more than doubled (there was no growth in the rates of drug arrests for white juveniles).

Linked to Crack Cocaine?

- Al Blumstein says that crack cocaine appears to have been first introduced into the larger cities like New York and Los Angeles about 1985.
- Most important feature of crack was its **low cost**. Blumstein says that the low price allowed many low-income people to enter the drug market. However, low-income people could only buy crack one "hit" at a time. Both the increase in new buyers and the fact that these new buyers had to purchase more often, led to a greater number of sales transactions than with other drugs.

What was the effect of the increased number of drug transactions among low-income people?

- Drug distributors needed more drug sellers. They employed juveniles because they:
- were probably willing to work more cheaply than adults
- were less vulnerable to adult criminal system punishment,
- are more daring and willing to take risks that more mature adults would avoid,

Finally, many young African-American juveniles had otherwise dismal economic opportunities

Crack and Guns

Guns are a common instrument for dispute resolution in the illicit-drug industry. Once brought into communities for drug trade, it was not difficult for guns to be "diffused" among the youth population on an informal basis.

- Blumstein thinks that this diffusion of guns among neighborhood youth set in motion a kind of "arms race." Youth who might not otherwise have considered carrying a weapon now did so simply as a means of protection. Blumstein says that as the number of guns increases in a community, the incentive for any single youth to arm himself increases as well.

Guns + Teenagers = Homicide

- “In view of both the recklessness and bravado that is often characteristic of teenagers, and their low level of skill in settling disputes other than through the use of physical force, many of the fights that would otherwise have taken place and resulted in nothing more serious than a bloody nose can now turn into shootings as a result of the presence of guns.”

Figure 5

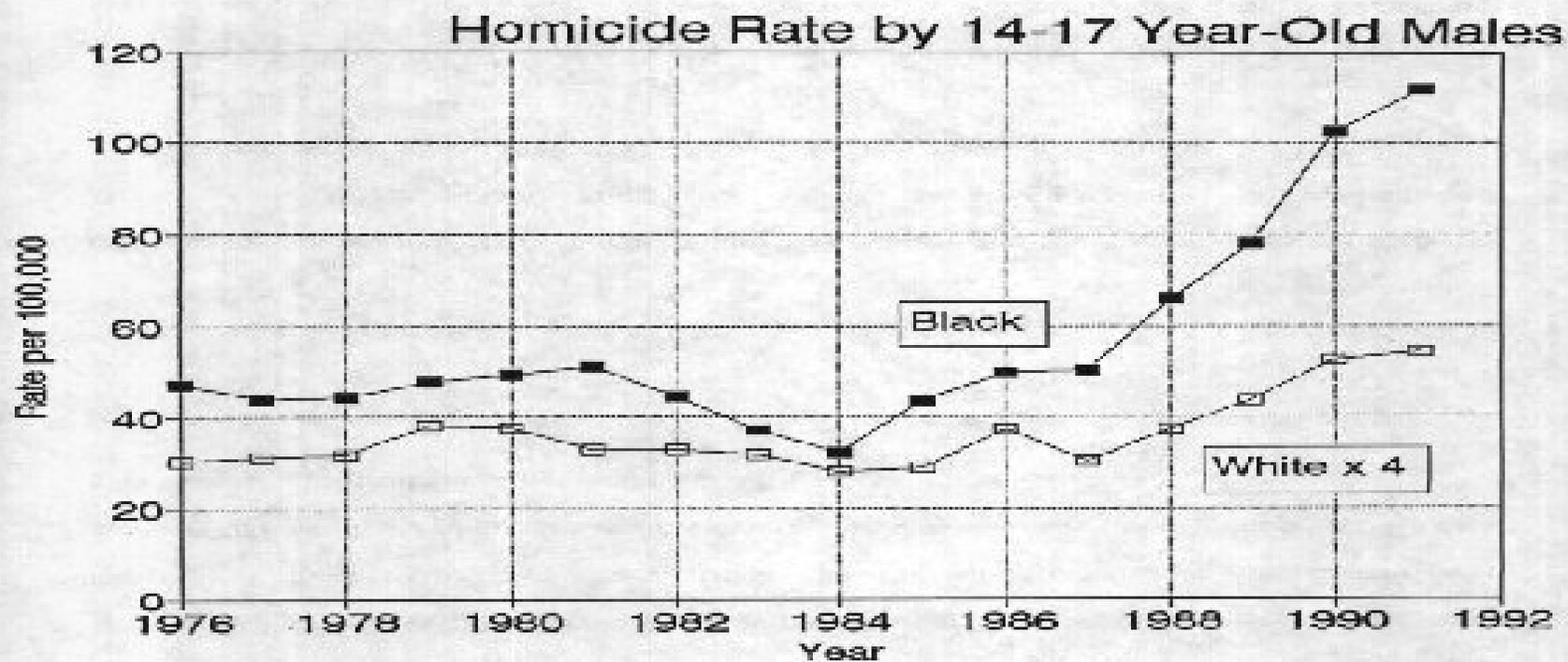


Figure 9

Drug Arrest Rate

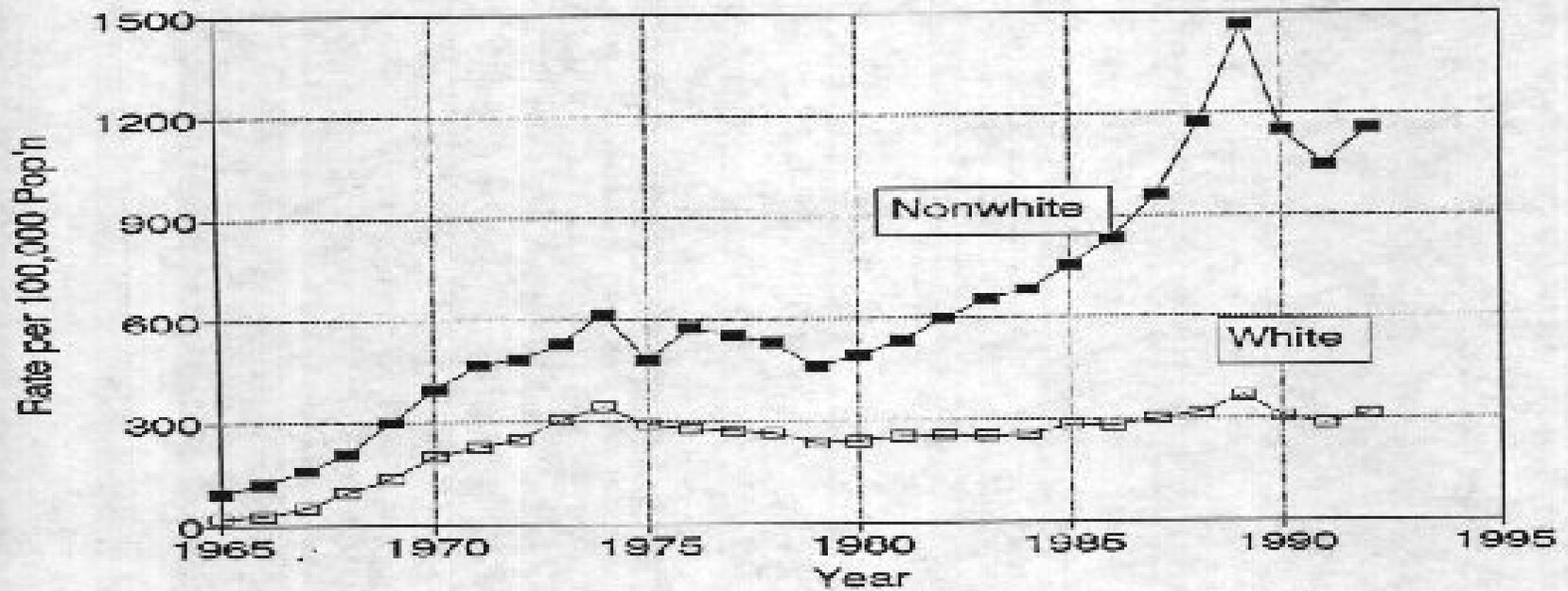


Figure 10

Drug Arrest Rate - Juveniles

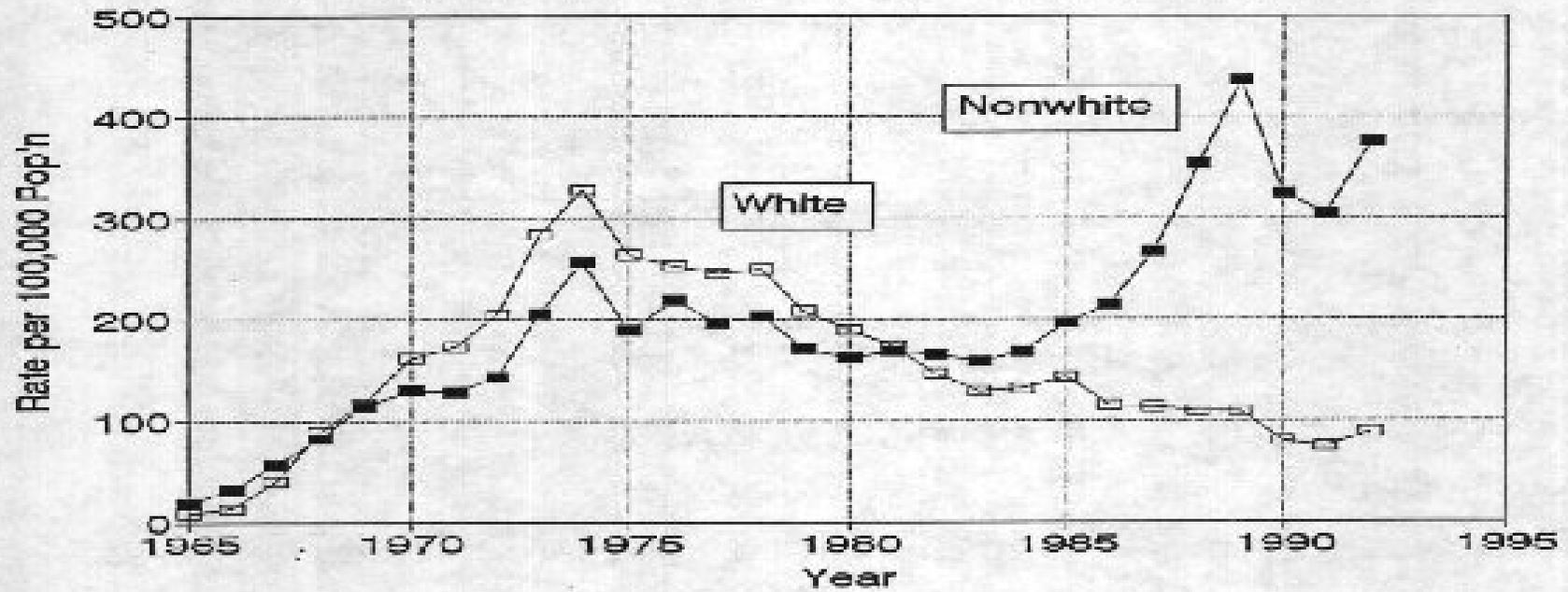
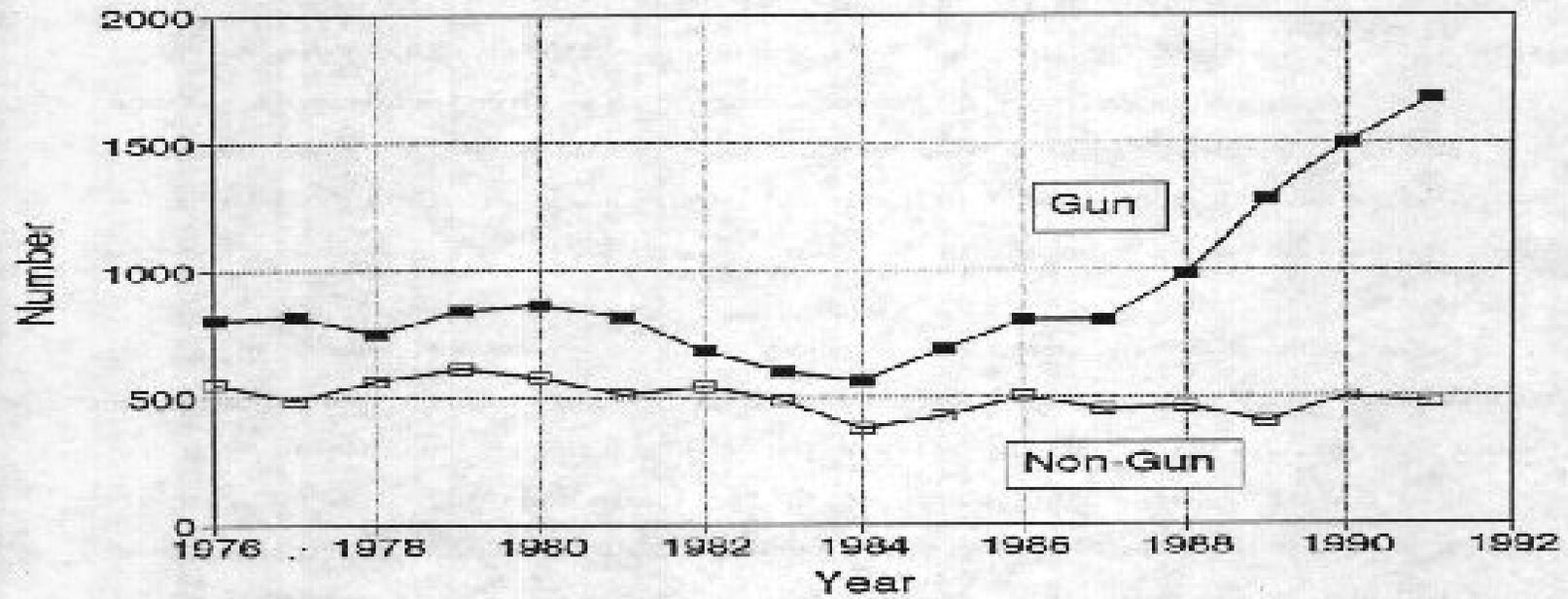
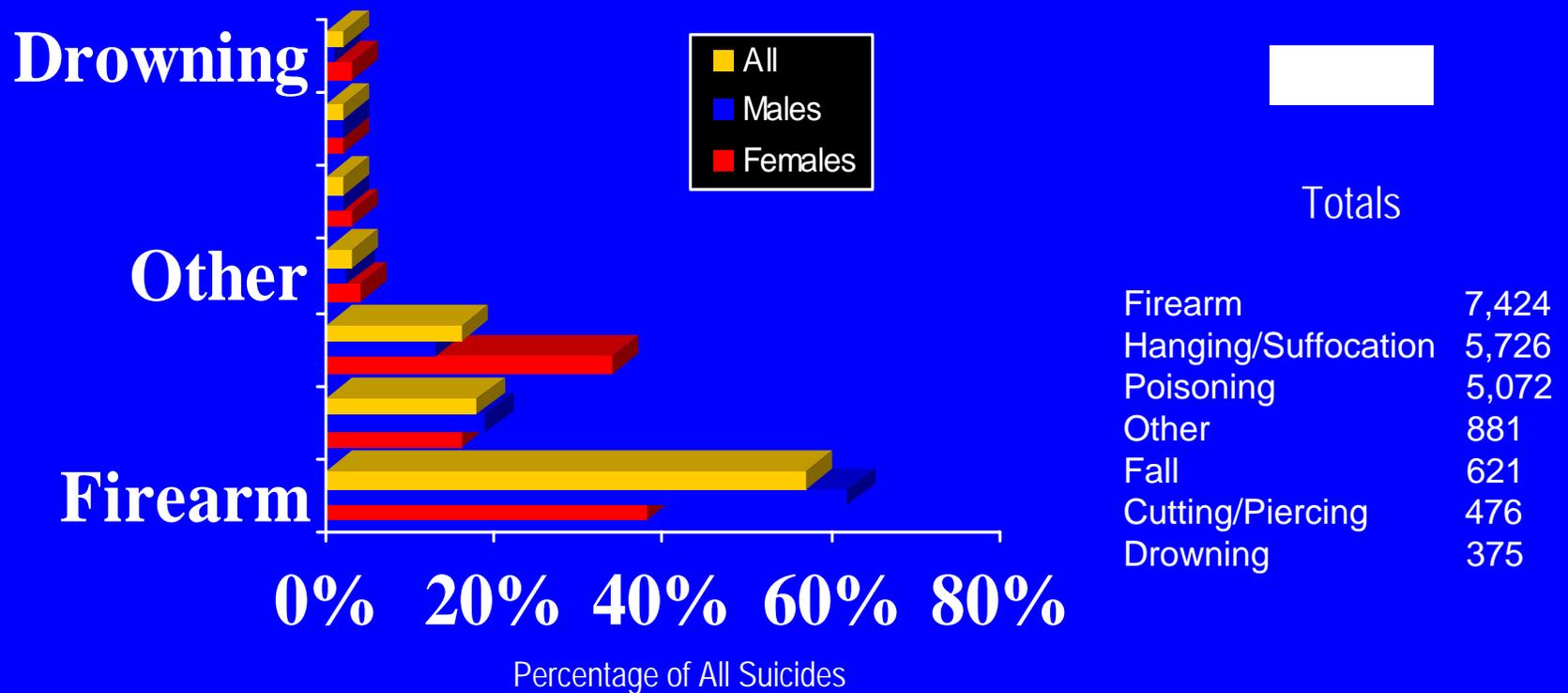


Figure 7

Number of Gun and Non-Gun Homicides
Juvenile Offenders (10-17)



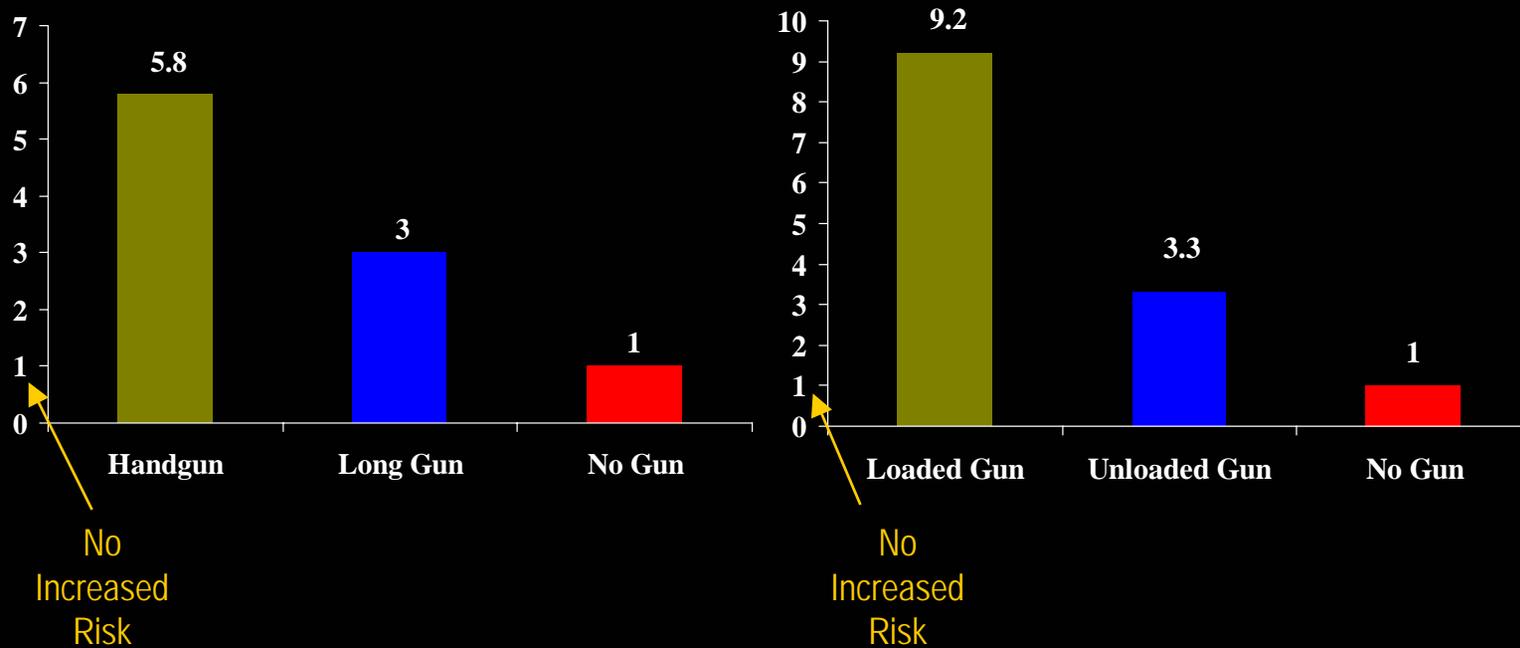
SUICIDE METHODS IN U.S. BY GENDER, 1998



Source: Romero, M and Wintemute, G. The Epidemiology of Firearm Suicide in the United States, *Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, 2002

SUICIDE RISK AND GUN OWNERSHIP

Odds Ratio



Source: Kellerman AL, Rivara FP, Somes G, et al., NEJM 1992

Michael Moore: Truth or Fiction?

- Bowling for Columbine (2002) Anti-Gun movie

– <http://www.bowlingforcolumbine.com/media/clips/index.php>

Current gun laws

- Federal: various taxes imposed
- Certain types of machineguns, shotguns and silencers must be registered
- Laws for manufacturers involved in interstate or foreign commerce
- Prohibition of transport of firearms in interstate commerce to felons or fugitives from justice

Federal

- Interstate transfer of stolen firearms or those with mutilated serial numbers is forbidden

State laws

- Vary considerably
- About 1/2 require a license to sell handguns
- Some require permit to purchase
- License to possess
- Waiting period between purchase and delivery

State laws

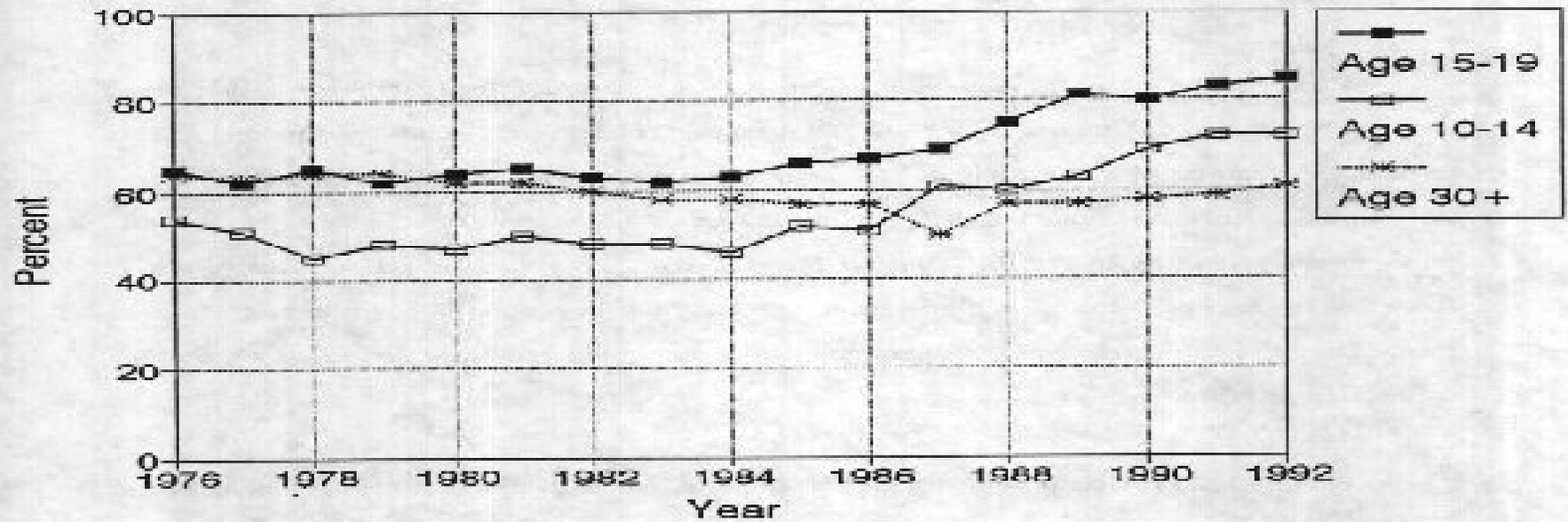
- License to carry
- Many prohibit carrying a concealed handgun
- Some require license to carry in a vehicle
- About 1/2 prohibit carrying a loaded gun in a vehicle
- A few require registration

Limitations

- Federal laws do not affect local purchase
- The variation in state laws makes it possible to circumvent state laws by going to another jurisdiction
- Mail order houses
- Large black market of guns
- Too small for police to track (not cars)

Figure 8

Percent Homicide Victims Killed by Guns
by Victim Age - U.S.



Policies to Control Guns and Results

- 1.) Ban possession (supply problem)
- 2.) Ban Bullets, especially “cop-killers”
(citizens make bullets, “cop-killer bullets rare)
- 3.) Buy Back guns (supply too big).
- 4.) Ban “Sat. Night Specials” (substitution)

Policies cont.

- Regulate sales by preventing “bad” people from buying guns. (black market)
- Waiting periods (black market)
- Restrictions to carry guns such as Bartley-Fox laws (may reduce violence)
- Get guns off street (may reduce violence).

More Guns, Less Crime?

- Assuming that citizens use guns to protect themselves from criminals, adding more guns (or letting people carry concealed guns) could reduce crime.

The effect of concealed-handgun law on violent crimes

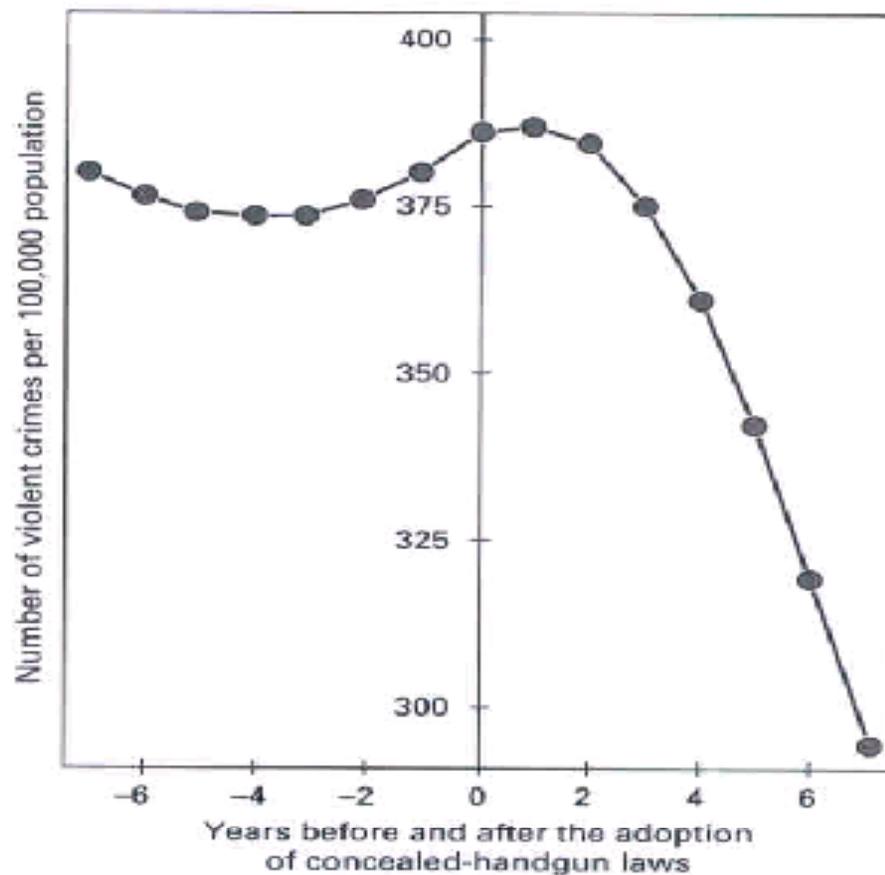


Figure 4.5. The effect of concealed-handgun laws on violent crimes

The effect of concealed-handgun law on murders.

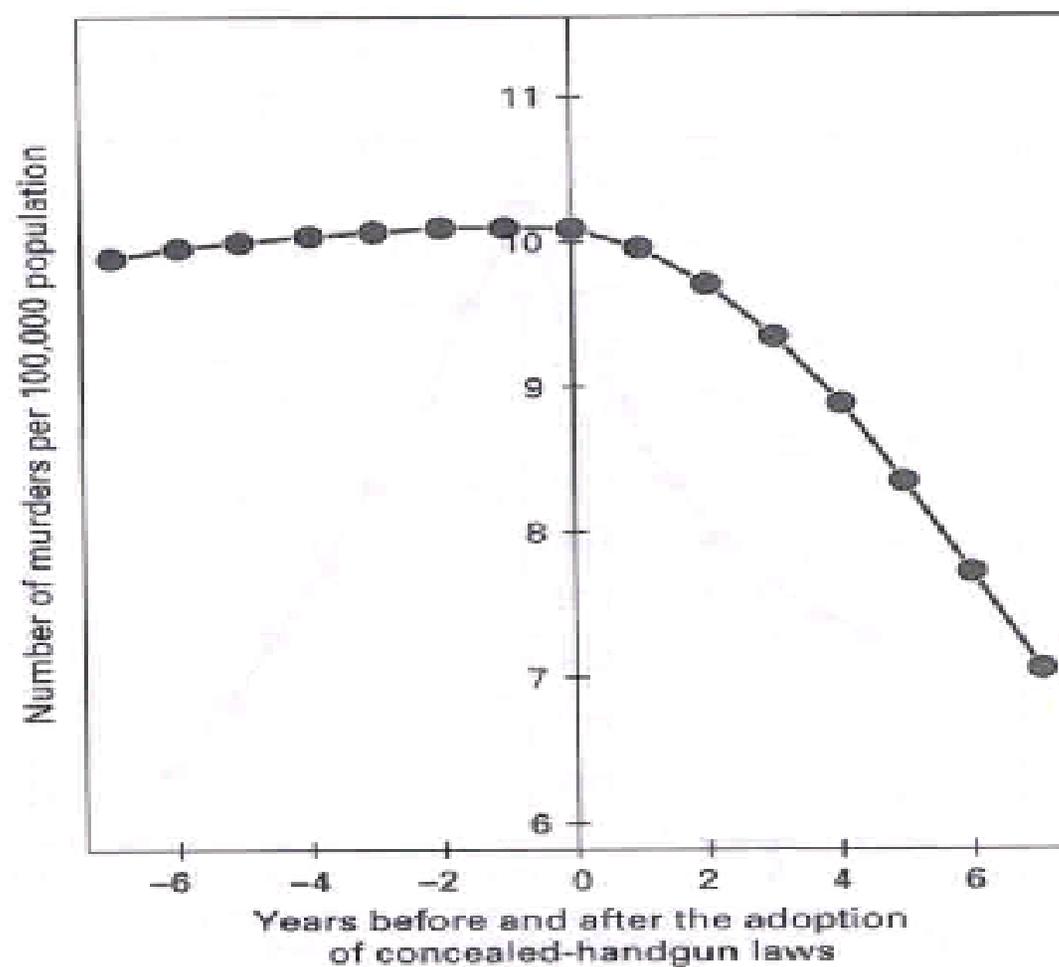


Figure 4.6. The effect of concealed-handgun laws on murders

The effect of concealed-handgun law on rape.

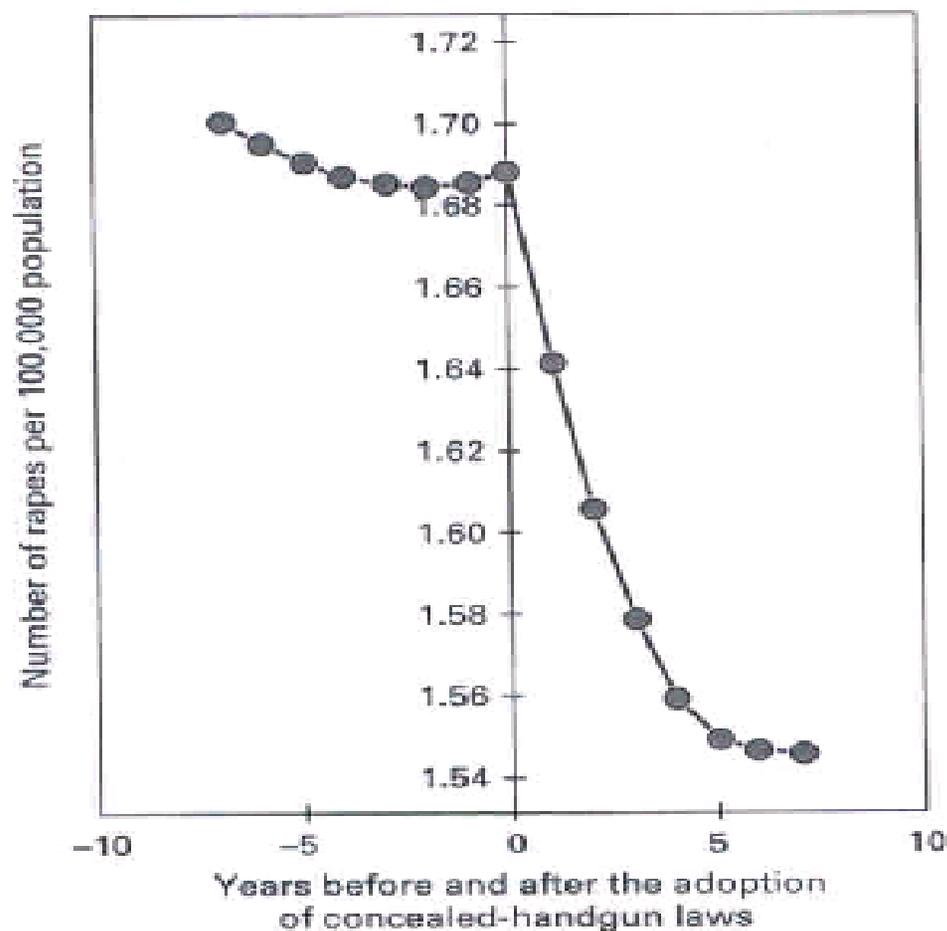


Figure 4.7. The effect of concealed-handgun laws on rapes

Drugs

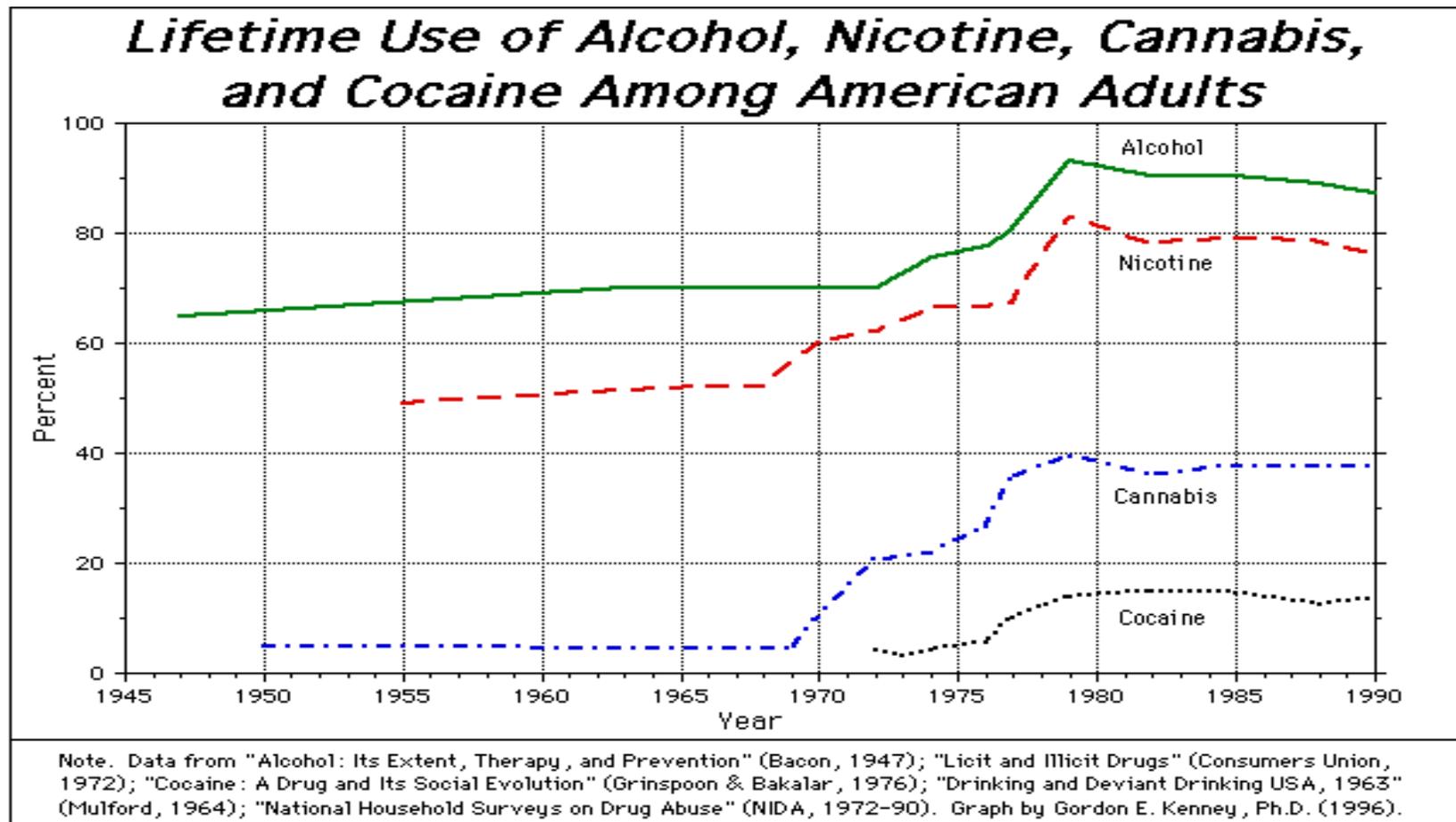
Part I: Drug Use Patterns and Trends.

Part II: Relationship Between Drugs and Crime.

Part III: Drug Policy Choices and Consequences.

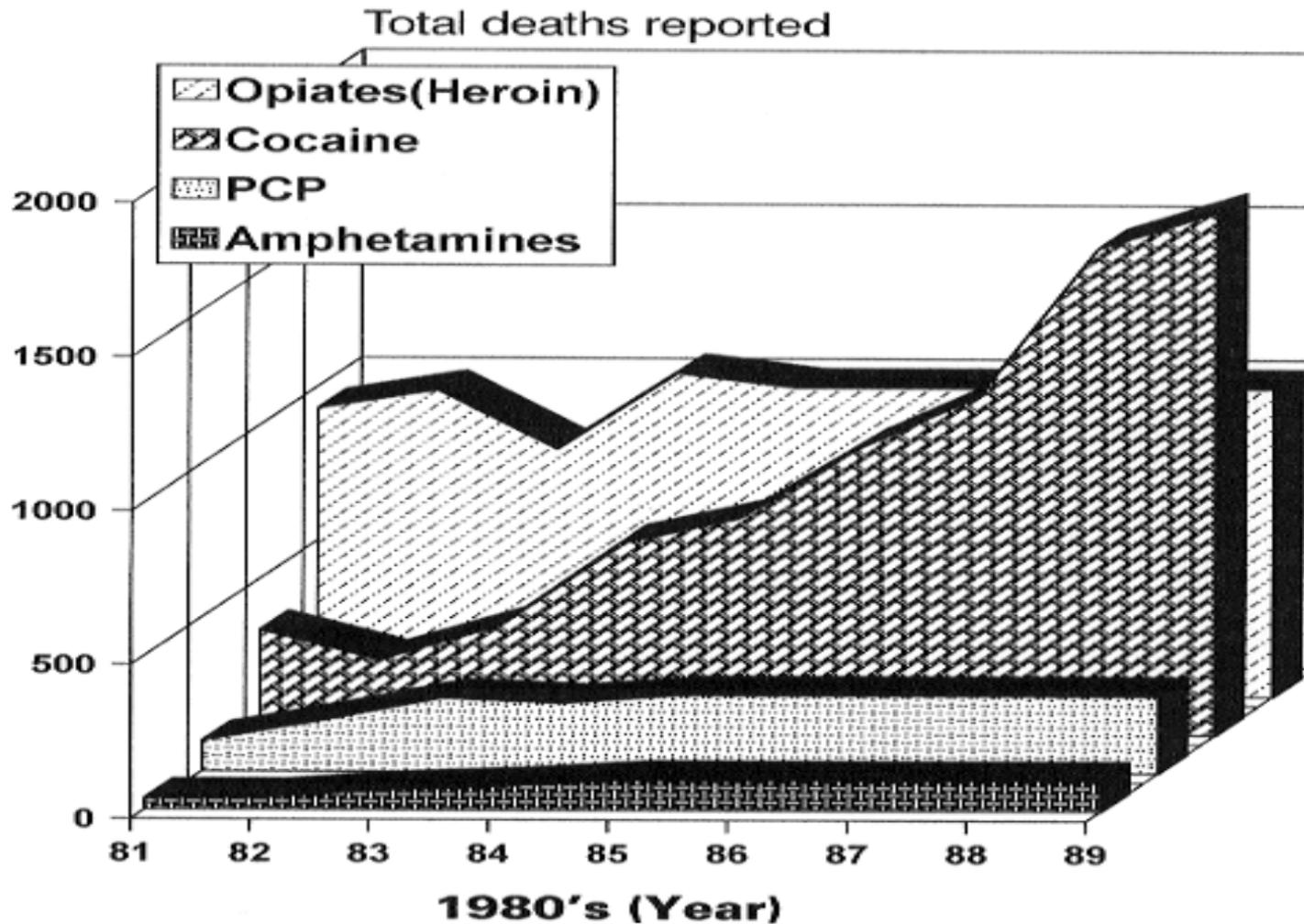


Part I: Drug Use Patterns and Trends



DRUG RELATED DEATHS

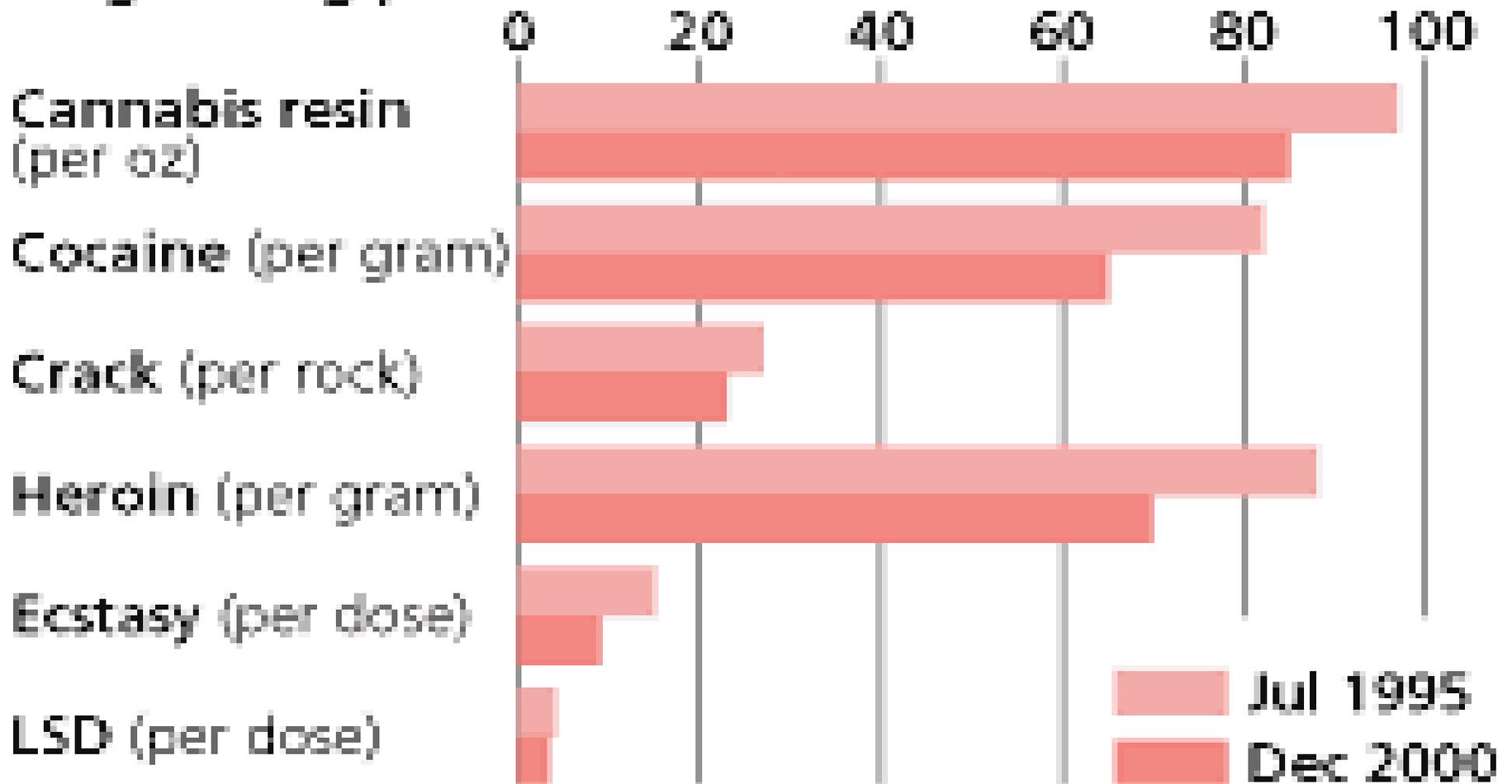
Number of Deaths Per Year Attributed to Illegal Drug Use



Data source: Narcotics Intelligence Nat. Narc. Intelligence Consumers Comm. & Pres. Comm., Am. Hab. 1986. Pp15-68.

Cheaper highs

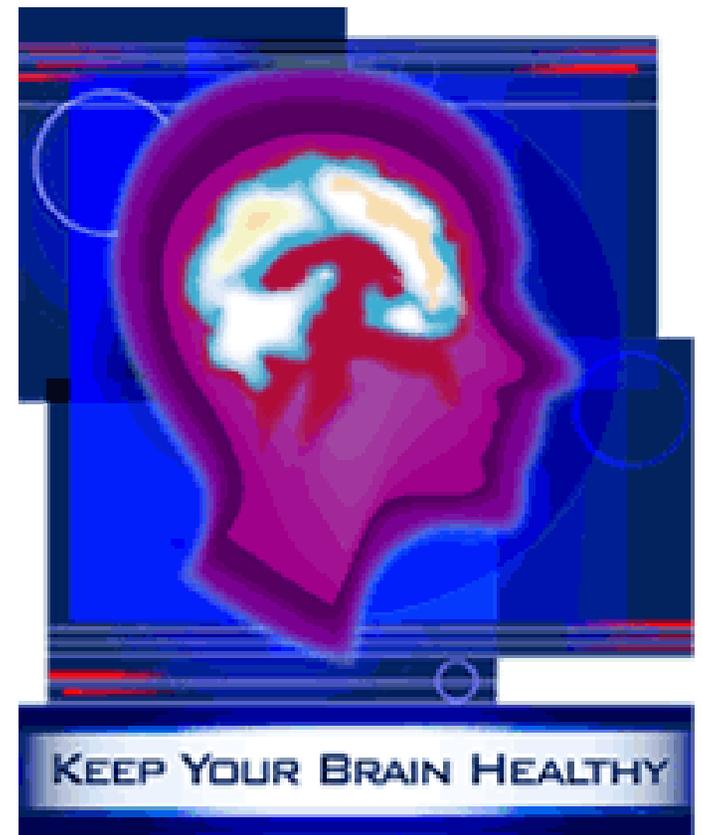
Illegal drugs, £



Source: National Criminal Intelligence Service

Crack and “Reefer” scares

- Many citizens believed first that “pot” leads to crazy behavior and crack use produces “crack babies”
- Little evidence that crack independent of poor nutrition and other substance abuse dramatically harms children.



Methamphetamine

- Methamphetamine use is now reaching epidemic status
- Meth is a very dangerous drug

Prevalence – U.S.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use & Health:

From 2002 to 2003, meth use by 12-13 yr. olds doubled in all categories (lifetime, past year, and past month).

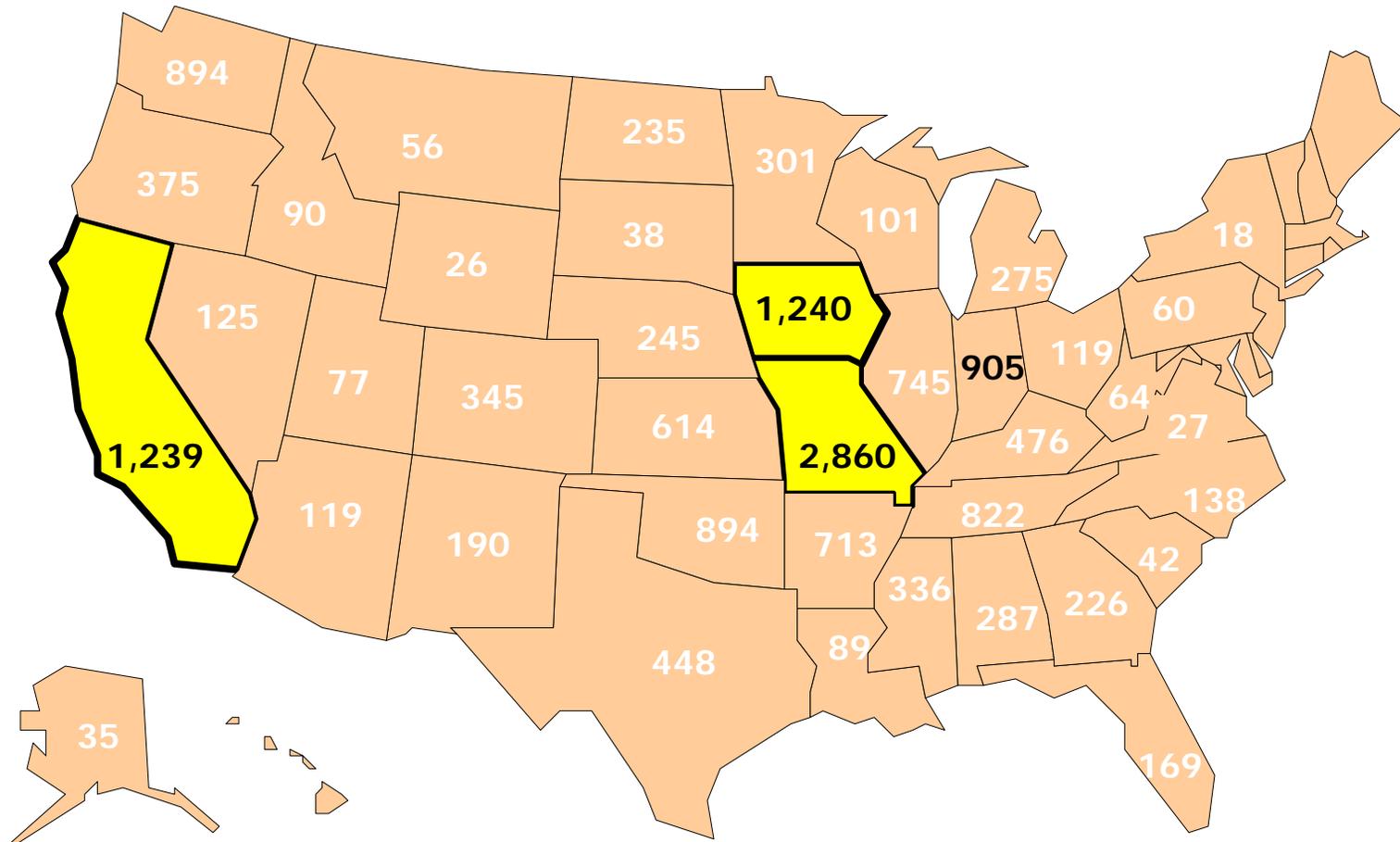
Past month use by females ages 12-17 increased.

In both 2002 and 2003 more females than males ages 12-17 were lifetime and past year users of meth.

About 2% of high school seniors reported monthly use.

Nationally Reported Seizures for 2003

Source: "Patterns and Trends in Methamphetamine Abuse in the Western United States and Mexico," Beth Finnerty, M.P.H., UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, APHA 132nd Annual Meeting & Exposition, November 10, 2004



Indiana Prevention Resource Center

Data provided by: **PREV-STAT™**
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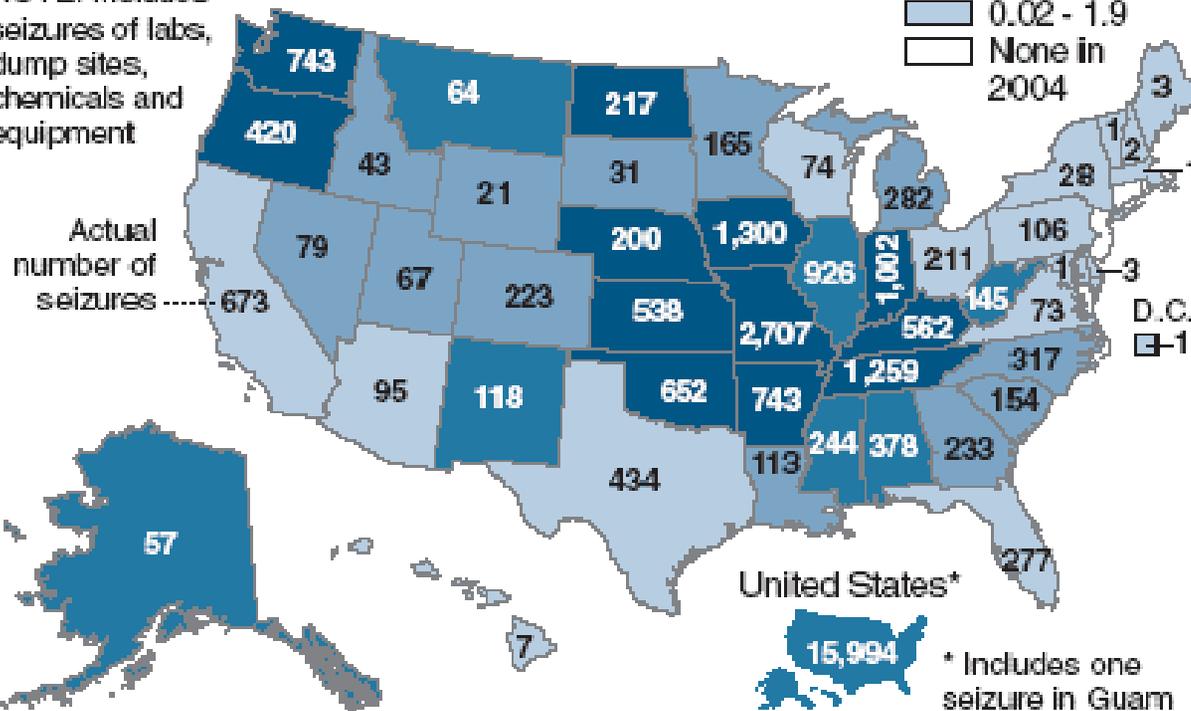
Nationally Reported Seizures for 2004

Law enforcement seizures of methamphetamine labs, by state

NOTE: Includes seizures of labs, dump sites, chemicals and equipment

Seizures per 100,000 population

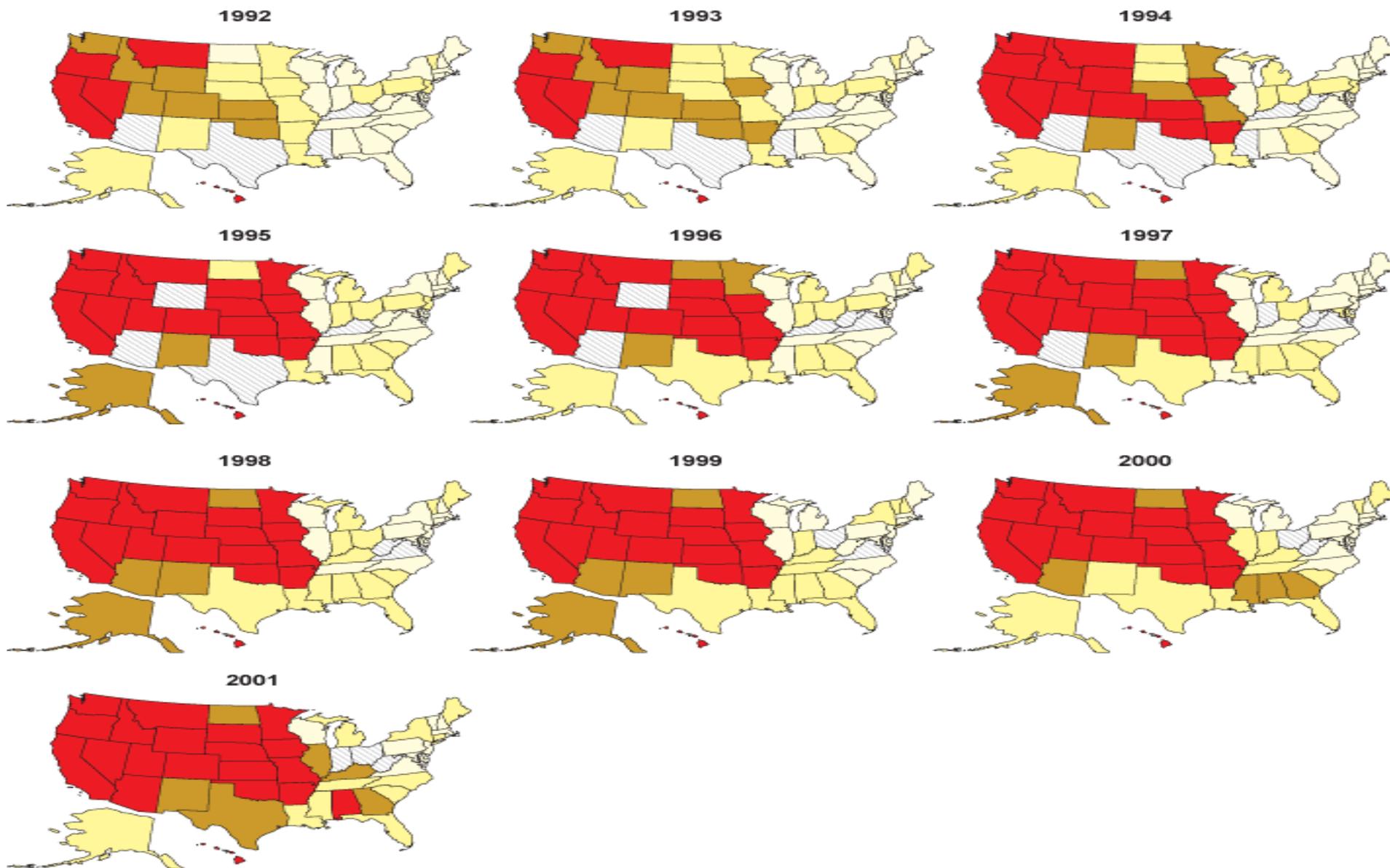
10.0 - 50.0
5.0 - 9.9
2.0 - 4.9
0.02 - 1.9
None in 2004



SOURCE: Drug Enforcement Agency

AP

Figure 7
Primary methamphetamine/amphetamine admission rates by State: TEDS 1992-2001
 (per 100,000 population aged 12 and over)



NOTES: See Chapter 2.

SOURCE: Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) – 5.31.03.

Incomplete data 



KEY YEAR: 1992

What is meth?



Street Names

Meth

Speed

Ice

Chalk

Crystal

Crank

Fire

Ice



Ice methamphetamine



Methamphetamine powder



Crystal methamphetamine

What does meth look like?

- Typically an odorless powder that dissolves quickly in water
- Another form of meth is clear chunky crystals referred to as crystal meth or ice
- May be in the form of small brightly colored tablets, referred to as YABA

How is meth used?

- * Injected
- * Snorted
- * Smoked
- * Orally



The Nose

Meth Causes...

- ~ Increased alertness
- ~ Decreased appetite
- ~ A distorted sense of well-being
- ~ Effects that can last 8 to 24 hours

Behavior Changes

- Psychotic behavior
- Paranoia
- Aggression
- Anxiety
- Fatigue
- Depression
- Delusions
- Mood Swings
- Confusion
- Insomnia
- Hallucinations

Health Changes

- Stroke
- Brain damage, similar to Alzheimer's disease
- Weight loss
- Death

Effects of Meth on Teeth

Your teeth on Meth



A 23 year old male's teeth and gums after 3+ years of **Meth** use.

Facts about your teeth on Meth

- Extremely **painful** teeth & gums
- Bad** taste from infection and nasty smell
- Infected** teeth cause an unhealthy body
- Lack** of sleep due to **painful** teeth
- Feel bad about yourself
- Unable** to eat or chew many solid foods
- Jawbone** loss
- Gum** disease
- Costs big bucks** to restore or replace teeth
- Rapid** decay of teeth
- Loss** of teeth



What's left from a **Meth** user after 3 years of **Meth** use.

Meth eats you

Meth is a powerfully addictive drug that "eats" your body from the inside out. For a **meth** user, by the time the teeth look like this,

brain cells have been "eaten" and permanently damaged.

As **meth** flows through the blood to the heart, muscles, bones and teeth, *it eats cells*

deposits toxins and poisons and destroys healthy tissues.

What happens after they pull the Meth eaten teeth?



So you think dentures are the solution?

When teeth are pulled, the jawbone will start to slowly shrink over the years. Dentures sit on the bone ridge. The **disadvantage** of getting a denture at a young age, like 23 years old, is by the time you're 60 your bone ridge will have shrunk beyond the point of wearing a denture functionally, thus leaving you a **denture cripple**.

What do you know about teeth and dentures?

Answer the following questions true or false

Your blood flows through your teeth.

When your blood needs calcium it first will take it from the jawbone.

Natural teeth chew with 150lbs of pressure.

Gum tissue for dentures can only support 5 to 25lbs of pressure.

With dentures you cannot bite or chew with your front teeth.

Dentures need to be replaced every 5 years.

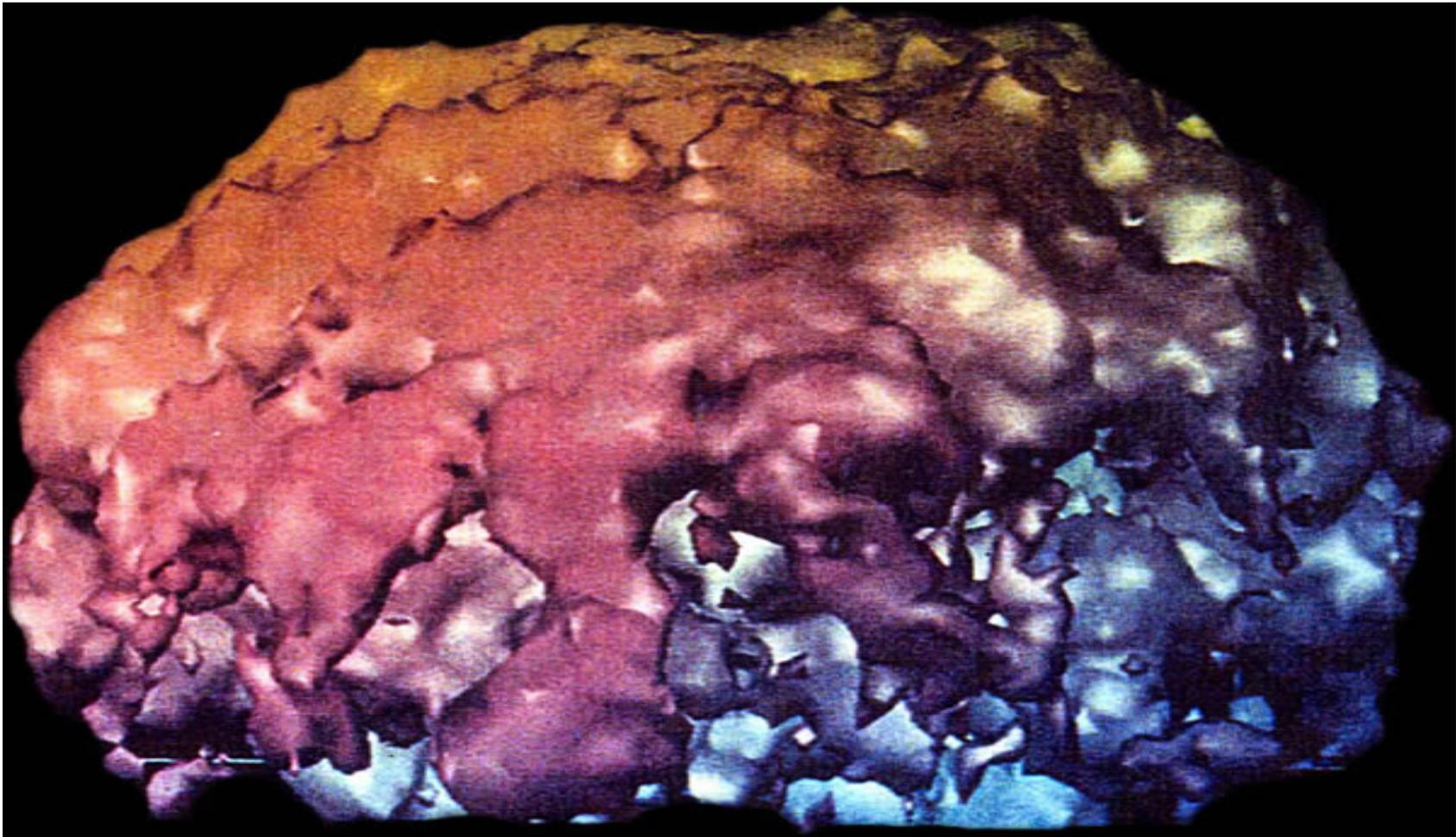
Dentures only function at 10% of the efficiency of your natural teeth.

If you have all your teeth pulled then you may instantly look at least 10 years older.

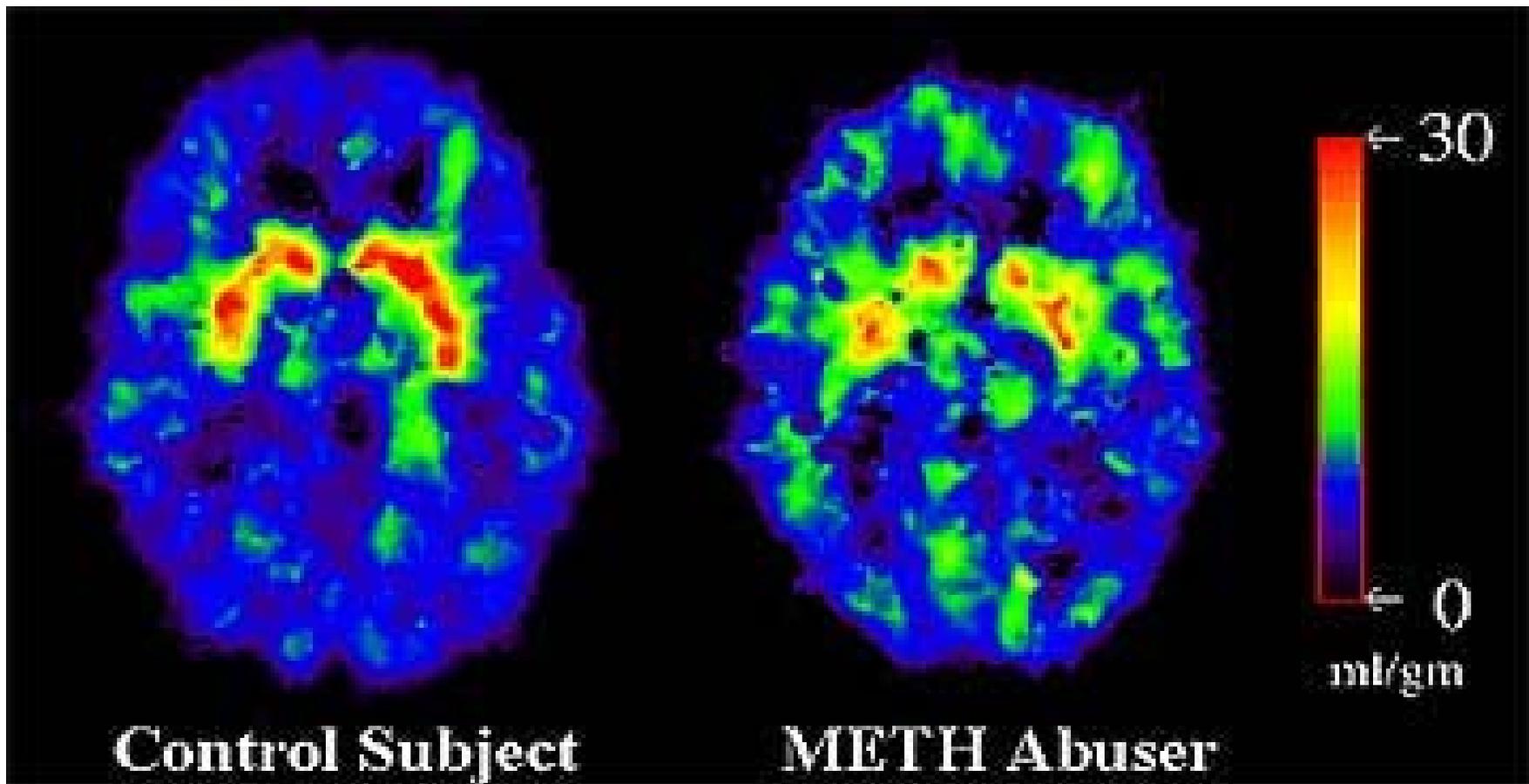
If you answered true to all the above you are 100% correct.

Effects of Meth on the Brain

Dead spots in brain tissue appear to be brown mush



Light colored spots on brain scan areas of dead tissue similar to the brain of an Alzheimer's patient is creating a "Swiss Cheese" brain incapable of normal function



Researchers have reported that the dopamine producing cells in the brain can be damaged after prolonged exposure of relatively low levels of methamphetamine.

**What are the
consequences
of meth use?**



10 Years of Meth Use



Effects of Meth (Before)



Source-Nebraska State Patrol

Effects of Meth (After)



Source-Nebraska State Patrol

Characteristics of a Meth User



Penny Wood - 1998



Penny Wood - 2002

**4 Years
of Use**

Ingredients in Meth

- * Over the counter drugs containing pseudoephedrine
- * Iodine
- * Anhydrous ammonia
- * Starter fluid or de-icer
- * Drain cleaner
- * Lithium batteries
- * Muriatic/Hydrochloric acid

Methamphetamine Lab



Source-Nebraska State Patrol

What are signs of a meth lab?

- Items to look for:
 - Large number of blister packs
 - Red or brown stained coffee filters
 - Cookware/jars
- Odor
 - Cat Urine
 - Ammonia
 - Ether
 - Acetone

Other signs of a meth lab

- Little or no traffic during the day
- Never putting out the trash
- Covered windows
- Smoking outside
- Unemployed but seems to have plenty of cash

Dismantling a Methamphetamine Lab



Source: Nebraska State Patrol

Impacts on Families

- Dangers of children being exposed to toxic fumes
- Increase in child abuse and neglect cases
- Increased risk for substance abuse among children in later life
- A rise in domestic disputes

Part II: Relationship Between Drugs and Crime

There is a *correlation* between drugs and crime (about 70% of male arrestees tested positive for some illegal drug).

But the causal relationship is variable and complex.

Three Types of Drug Offenders

- 1.) Drug-defined crimes (possession, sale)
- 2.) Drug-related crimes (violence and drug markets, robbery to buy drugs)
- 3.) Crimes associated with a drug-using lifestyle (individuals use drugs and commit crimes).

2.) Drugs and Violence

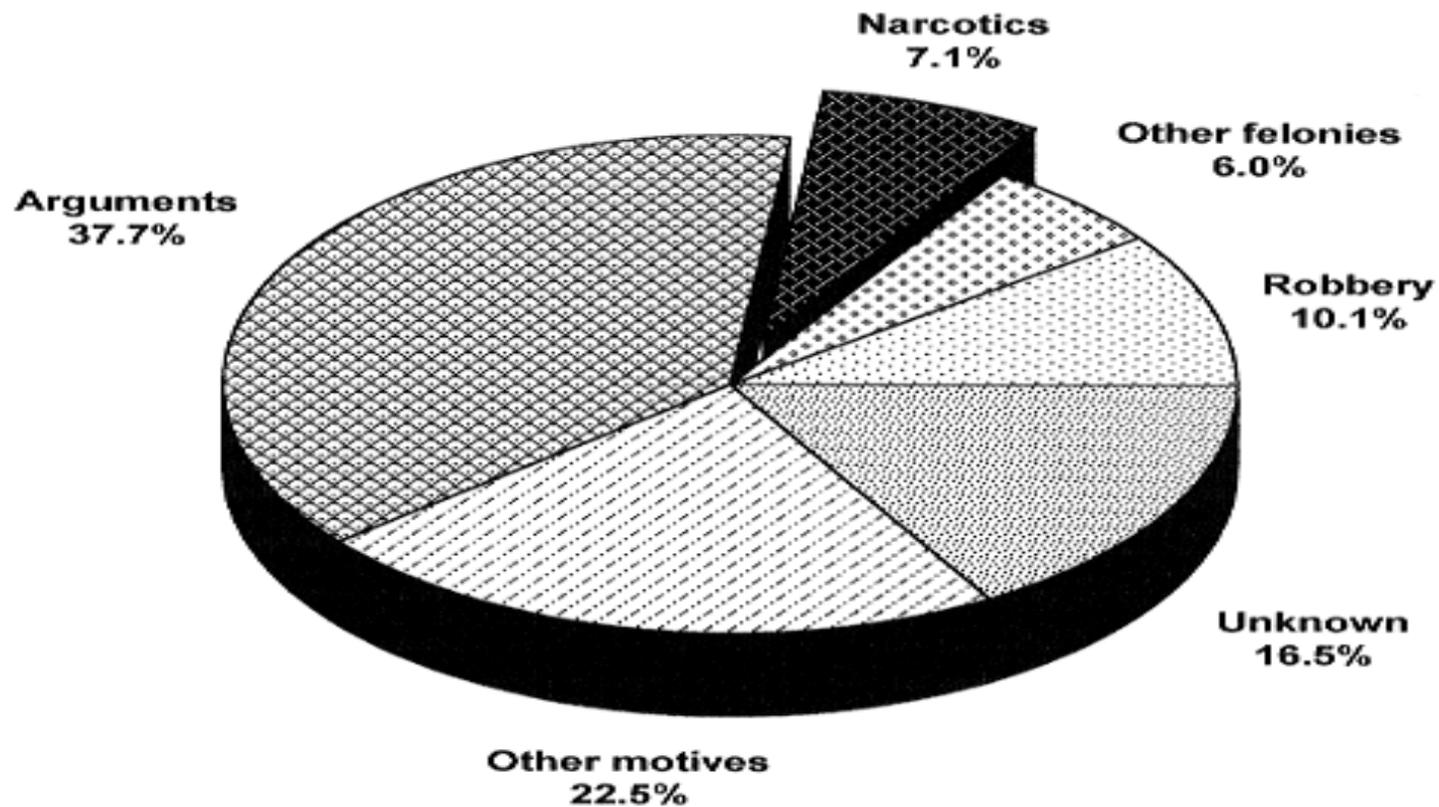
Self-help violence and drug markets

Drug-related homicides.

Year	Number of homicides	Percent drug related
1987	17,963	4.9 %
1988	17,971	5.6
1989	18,954	7.4
1990	20,273	6.7
1991	21,676	6.2
1992	22,716	5.7
1993	23,180	5.5
1994	22,084	5.6
1995	20,232	5.1
1996	16,967	5.0
1997	15,837	5.1
1998	14,276	4.8
1999	12,658	4.5
2000	12,943	4.4

HOMICIDE MOTIVES

Reasons for Murder in the United States

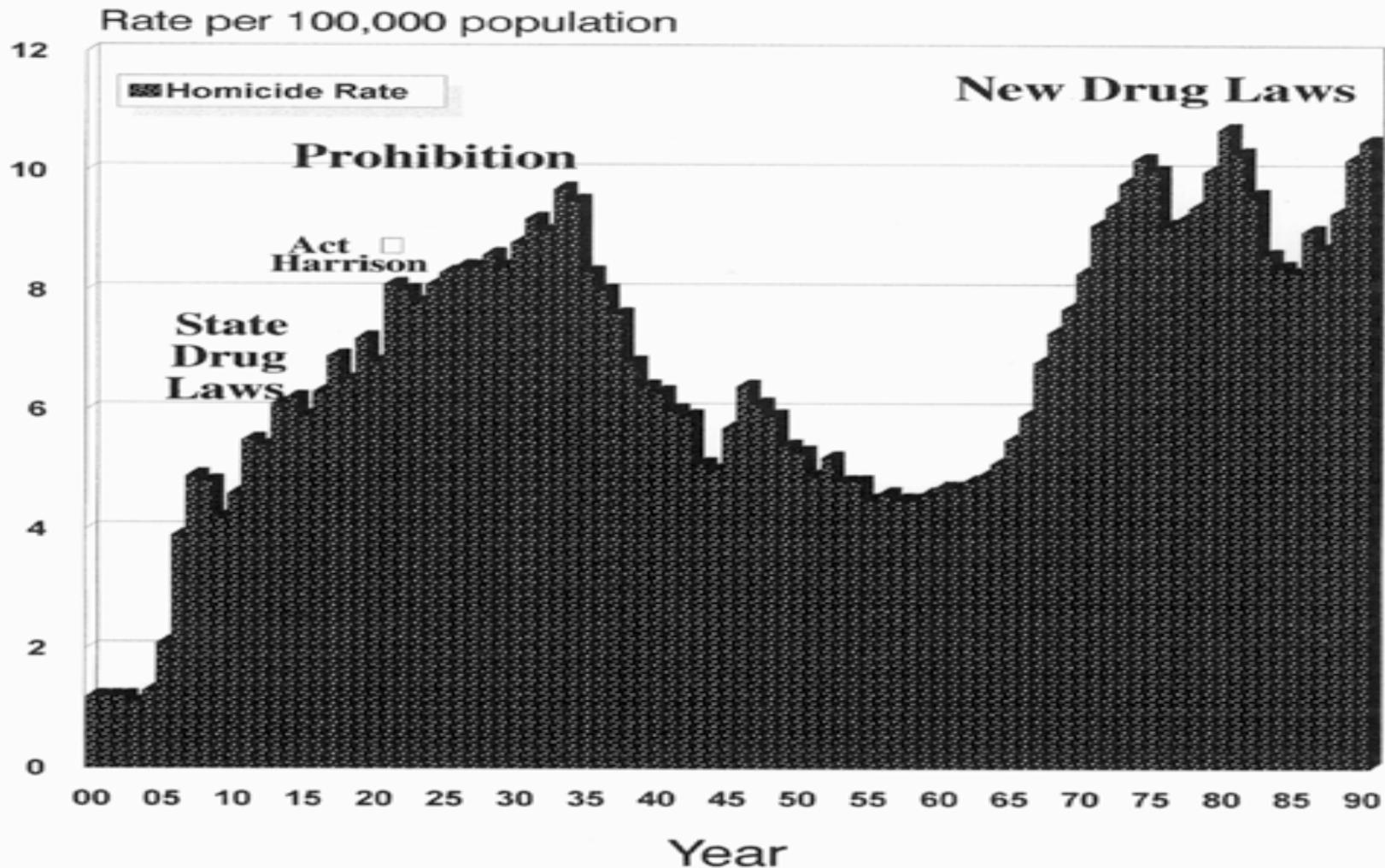


1990

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1992. Tab. 281. Based on police investigations.

HOMICIDE

Rates for homicides from 1900 to Present



Source: Historical Stat., Colonial Times to 1970, series h 971-986. Vital Stat. of the United States, annual.

Obtaining Drug Money Through Crime

Some crime does result from need for money to buy drugs. But less than 20%.

Percent of jail inmates who committed offense to get money for drugs

Offense	1996	1999
Total	15.8 %	13.3 %
Violent	8.8	11.5
Property	25.6	24.4
Drugs	23.5	14.0
Public-order	4.2	3.3

Source: BJS, *Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996*, NCJ 164620, April 1998 and *Drug Use, Testing, and Treatment in Jails*, NCJ 179999, May 2000.

3.) Crime and Drug Lifestyles

- There is little overlap between drug use and other criminal offenses.
- Individuals arrested for drug offenses usually do not commit violent and property offenses.

Table 3. Felony Probationers Who Were Arrested for a Felony Offense While on Probation

Most Serious Felony Conviction Offense	Percent of Probationers Arrested for:			
	Total	Violent Offense	Property Offense	Drug Offense
All Offenses	43.0%	8.5%	14.8%	14.1%
Violent Offenses	41.0	17.9	9.4	8.9
Property Offenses	43.4	7.4	23.7	7.3
Drug Offenses	48.9	7.4	10.3	26.7

Part III: Drug Policy Choices and Consequences

- Hawks: decrease supply and demand by using tough policies
- Owls: Focus on demand by preventing future users and treating users. Legalize drugs
- Doves: Define drugs as a public health problem. Reduced enforcement of laws (e.g., Holland).

The War on Drugs

Bush: “gravest domestic threat facing our nation today”

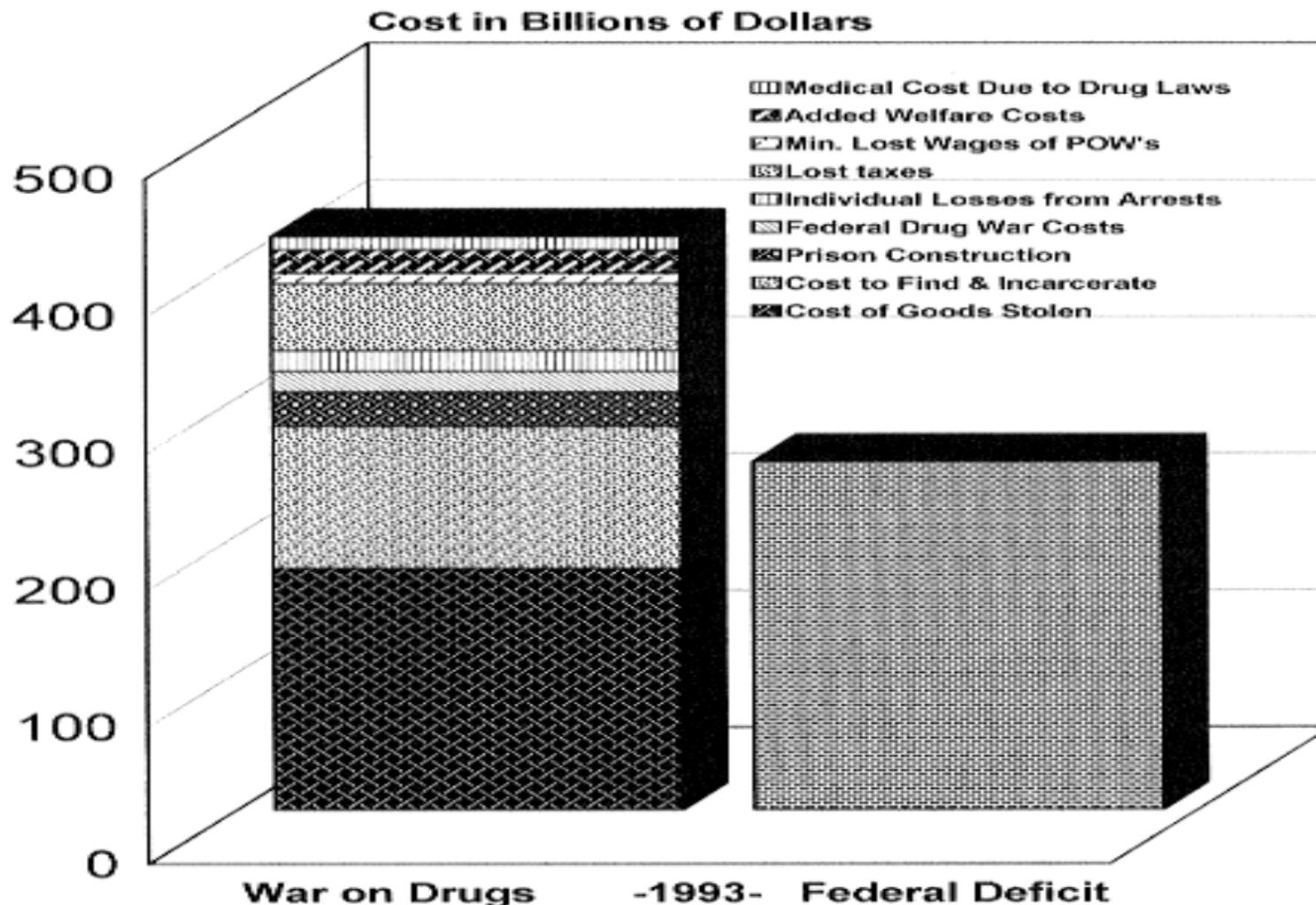
- 1.) intensive street-level enforcement
- 2.) joint fed., state, and local enforcement
- 3.) inter-country cooperation to eradicate supply
- 4.) tougher sentences
- 5.) attack on gateway drugs
- 6.) more antidrug public education

Table 1. Growth of Drug Enforcement in the United States, 1960-1992

Year	Drug Arrests per 100,000 Population	Average Annual Percentage Change
1960	26	
1965	34	6.2
1970	228	114.1
1980	256	2.5
1984	312	4.4
1989	538	14.5
1990	449	-16.5
1991	411	-8.5
1992	431	7.0

DRUG WAR COSTS

The Financial Costs of the War on Drugs
Dwarfs the Federal Annual Deficit



Source: Save Our Liberties, 187 Acalanes Dr., #14, Sunnyvale, CA. 94086-5520.
Note: Federal Deficit for 1993.

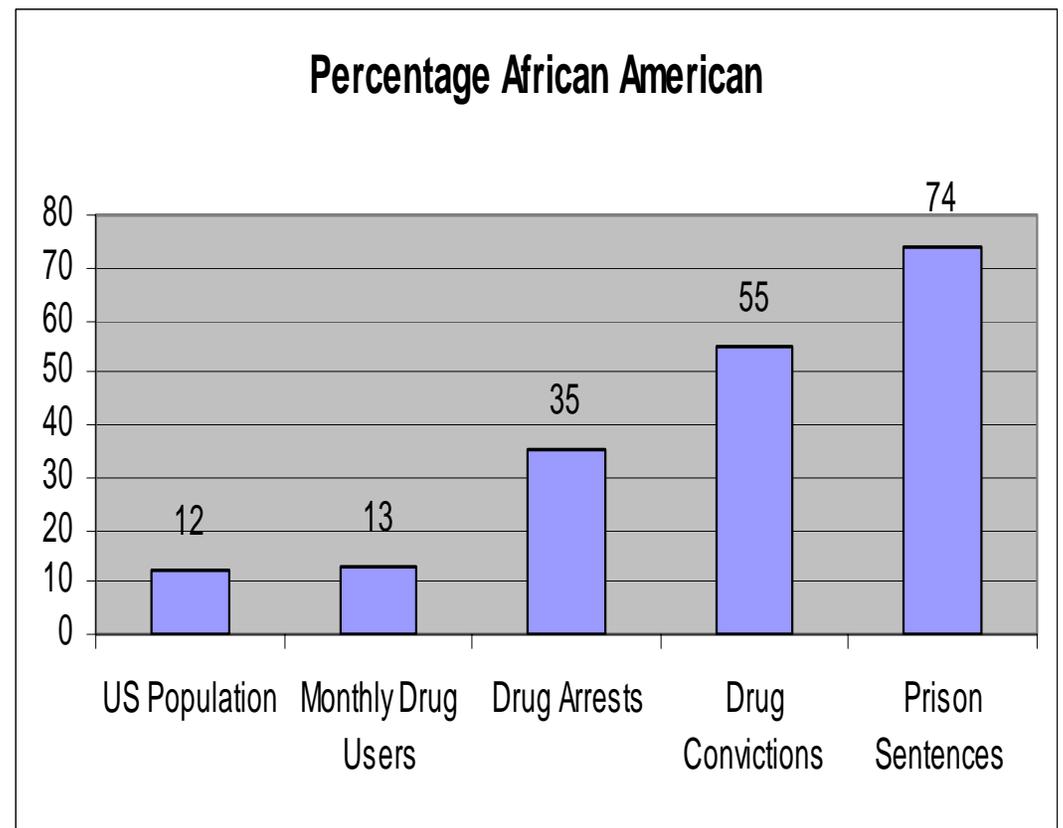
Racial Impact of Drug War

Discrimination in system.

Federal sentencing
guidelines:

Crack: (5 grams=mandatory
5 years

Powdered Cocaine (5 grams
= mandatory 1 year.



Police “Crackdowns” and Drugs

- Drug crackdowns used in major cities such as New York and LA
- Likely ineffective: 1.) likely only displaces drug markets to other areas 2.) deals evolve new strategies of protection

Interdiction and Eradication

Interdiction: Huge amounts of drugs seized, but only about 10-15%.

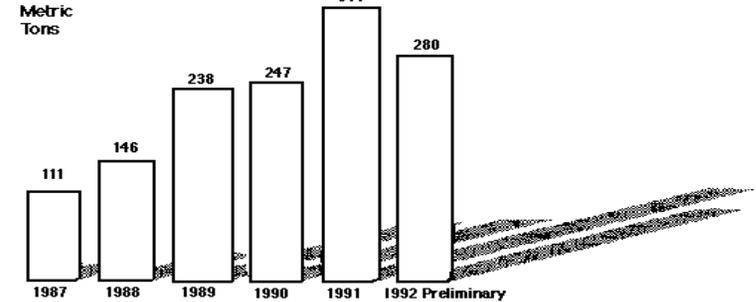
Eradication: ineffective, and costs of “collateral damage” are high.



U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
Congressional Affairs Section



Worldwide Cocaine Seizures



Data adjusted for systemic variances

Source: DEA, INSCR, Interpol



Chronicle / Julie Plasencia

Demand Reduction: Education

- Education influences people's behavior (example: decline of smoking in U.S.)
- More difficult to educate people that are more impulsive, or have less experience with formal education. Teenagers usually don't care.

Treatment

- In sum, treatment programs can work to get people off drugs and alcohol.
- However, the best predictor of success in a program is HOW MUCH a person really is ready to resolve their problems.

Legalize Drugs?

- Important questions about which drugs to legalize and who should be controlled the most.
- Can we learn from the Europeans? Holland is one of the most sophisticated and healthy societies in the world.