



Ohio's Heroin Arrestees

2010-2011

OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

April 1, 2012
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This project was supported by Award #2011-BJ-CX-K002, State Justice Statistics Program, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

OHIO'S HEROIN ARRESTEES

Data from numerous sources throughout Ohio have indicated a disturbing increase in heroin use. The Ohio Department of Health reports that heroin-involved deaths have increased from 16 percent in 2008 to 22 percent of all drug overdoses in 2010.¹ This is likely an undercount because not all death certificates identify the specific drug contributing to the overdose death. The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) reported in their Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network report that heroin availability is on the rise across all regions of Ohio, reaching what some have called “epidemic” levels.² Data from Ohio’s multijurisdictional drug task forces³ showed that task forces seized 35,546 grams and 1,139 unit doses of heroin in 2010.⁴

Another source of information that can be used to investigate the extent of the heroin problem in Ohio is the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System, or OIBRS. OIBRS is a voluntary crime reporting program in which Ohio law enforcement agencies can submit crime statistics directly to the state and federal government in an automated format. At the end of 2011, 558 agencies representing 75 percent of the Ohio population and 79 percent of Ohio crime were reporting OIBRS data. The use of OIBRS data allows for detailed information to be obtained on the nature of the offense, the victim, the suspect/arrestee, weapon use, and property involved.

OIBRS data are used in this report describing heroin arrests and arrestees. However, some limitations must be noted.

- Because reporting for Ohio is incomplete, caution should be used in interpreting the findings reported in this paper, as the data may reflect more the composition of OIBRS-reporting jurisdictions than the composition of the state as a whole.
- Because the number of agencies submitting OIBRS data increases yearly, no annual comparisons can be made with the data.
- Incidents are often reported that contain missing information. This is particularly relevant for this report. Officers enter the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) into OIBRS to identify the drug crimes for which individuals were arrested; however, not all officers reported the specific drug for which a person was arrested. Thus, analyses used in this report were limited to those arrests in which heroin was specifically mentioned.

Two crimes were analyzed: Possession of Drugs_heroin (ORC 2925.11C6) and Trafficking in Drugs_containing heroin (ORC 2925.03.C6). The following analyses were based on a total of 1,045 incidents of heroin trafficking and possession arrests involving 1,282 individuals covering the two-year period of Jan 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011.

¹ Ohio Department of Health, Center for Public Health Statistics and Informatics. *2010 Ohio Drug Overdose Data: General Findings*.

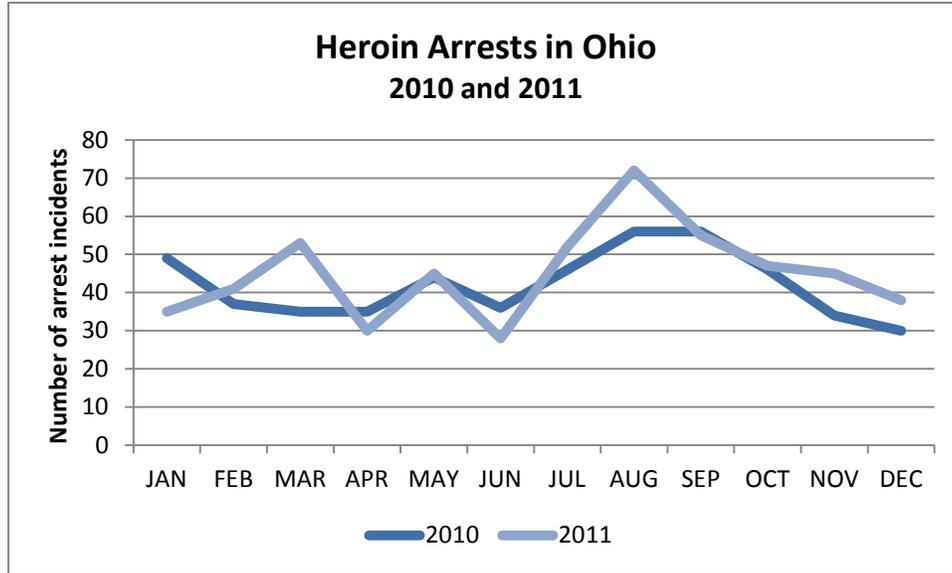
² Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network. *Surveillance of Drug Abuse Trends in the State of Ohio, June 2011-January 2012*.

³ The multijurisdictional drug task force data come from those task forces that are funded through the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) and are required to report their data to OCJS.

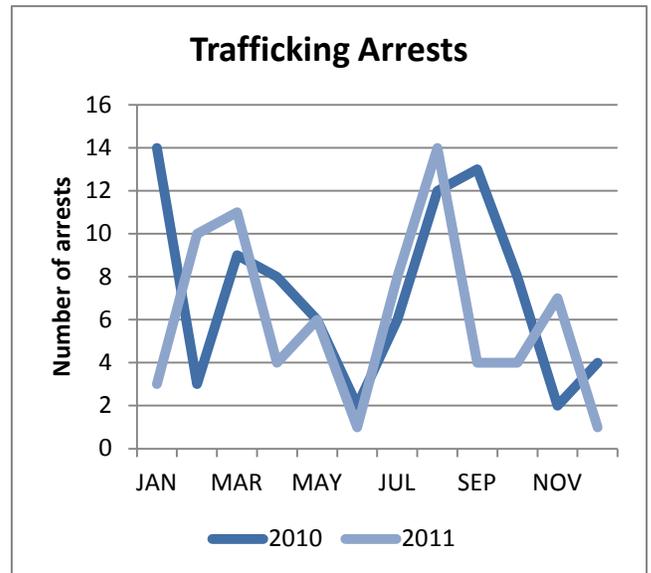
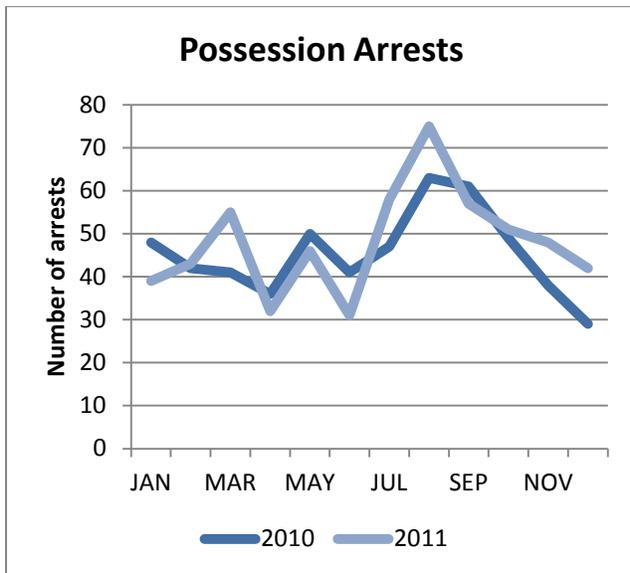
⁴ Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. *Ohio Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Annual Report 2010*.

Month of Arrest

Heroin arrests were greatest during the summer months for both 2010 and 2011. The three-month period of July-September saw one-third of all heroin arrests in 2011 and 31 percent of all heroin arrests in 2010.



Looking at possession and trafficking separately the same trends are seen, with arrests highest during the summer/early fall months of July-September in 2011 and August-October in 2010.

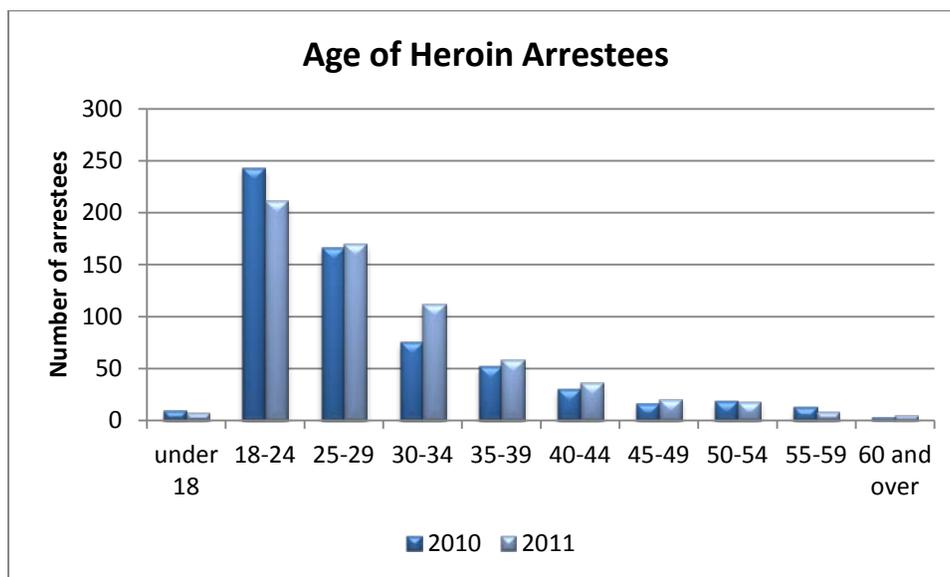


County of Arrest

Forty-four percent of heroin arrest incidents occurred in large counties, and 37 percent occurred in medium counties (100,000-500,000 population). In the smaller Ohio counties (under 100,000 population), four percent occurred in the 32 counties designated rural Appalachian and 15 percent occurred in rural non-Appalachian counties.

Demographics of Arrestees

Arrestee ages for heroin possession and trafficking peaked in the twenties and declined thereafter. In 2010, 67 percent of all arrestees were under age 30. Similarly, in 2011, 60 percent of arrestees were under age 30.



Data from 2010 and 2011 were combined, providing a larger sample of arrestees to analyze. The mean arrestee age was 29.2, and the median was 27.0. Broken down by sex, the mean age for female arrestees was 27.91 (median = 26.0), whereas the mean age for male arrestees was 29.6 (median = 27).

Gender and Age of Arrestees	
Gender	Mean Age (Median)
Male+Female	29.2 (27.0)
Female	27.9 (26.0)
Male	29.6 (27.0)

Broken down by crime type, the mean age for possession was 29.29 (median = 27), whereas the mean age for trafficking was slightly lower at 28.5 (median = 26.0).

Looking at the age data by race, 82 percent of heroin arrestees across all age groups were white and 18 percent were black. This percentage changes as a function of age. From youth through age 49, white arrestees made up nearly 84 percent of all arrestees while black arrestees made up sixteen percent of arrestees. However, from age 50 and over, 68 percent of arrestees were white and 32 percent were black.

Race and Age of Arrestees			
	Percent Across All Ages	Through Age 49	Age 50 and Older
Black	18%	16%	32%
White	82%	84%	68%

Nearly three-quarters of arrestees for heroin possession and 80 percent of arrestees for heroin trafficking were males.

Gender of Arrestee by Crime Type		
	Heroin Possession	Heroin Trafficking
Female	27%	19%
Male	73%	81%
Total	100%	100%

Looking at each gender separately, 91 percent of females arrested on heroin charges were arrested for possession, and the remaining nine percent were arrested for trafficking. For males, 86 percent of arrests on heroin charges were for possession and 14 percent were for trafficking.

Crime Type by Gender of Arrestee			
	Heroin Possession	Heroin Trafficking	Total
Female	91%	9%	100%
Male	86%	14%	100%