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# Drug-Related Police Crime: An Exploratory Study of Law Enforcement Officers Arrested for Drug-Related Offenses, 2005-2016

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this project is to explore the drug-related crimes that non-federal sworn law enforcement officers commit. The data are from the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database (2021). These data includes officers from across the United States that have been charged with one or more criminal offenses. The project describes the drug-related police crimes, the types of drugs, final adverse employment outcomes, criminal case dispositions, conviction details, and demographic information.

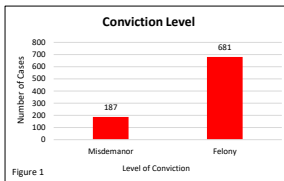
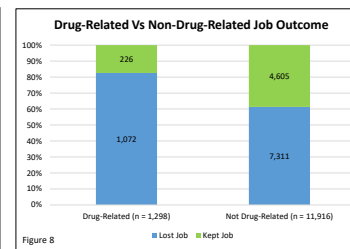
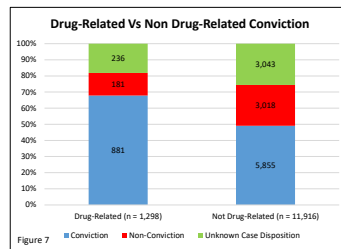
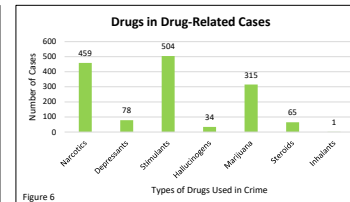
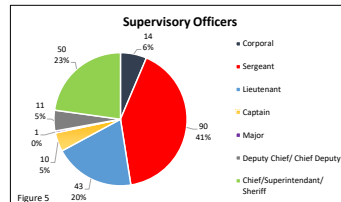
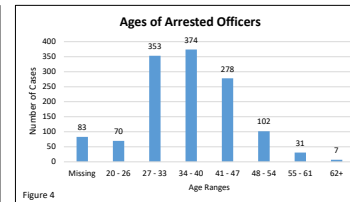
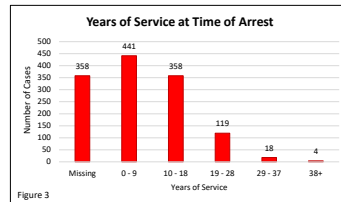
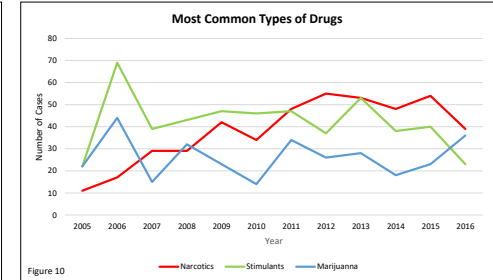
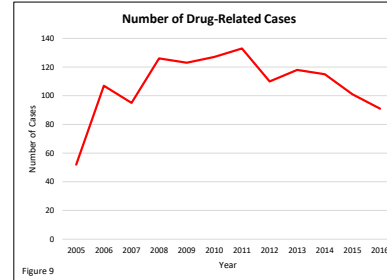
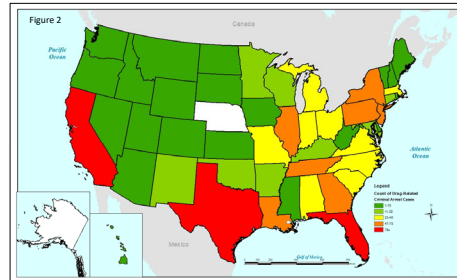
### METHOD

The data for this project were collected as part of a larger research study on police crime in the United States. The study is a quantitative content analysis of data compiled from news articles and court documents. Cases were identified using the Google News™ search engine and the Google Alerts™ email update service. The sample for this project includes 1,298 arrest cases of drug-related police crimes in the years 2005-2016. Any criminal arrest case which involved drugs was identified as drug-related police crime regardless of the criminal offense.

	Charged (n)	(%)	Total (n)
<b>Personal Use</b>			
White Non-Hispanic	302	49.4%	611
Black	23	14.0%	164
Hispanic	30	27.0%	111
Other	26	18.7%	139
Unknown	96	35.2%	273
<b>Total</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>36.7%</b>	<b>1,298</b>
<b>Selling/Dealing</b>			
White Non-Hispanic	188	30.8%	611
Black	95	57.9%	164
Hispanic	53	47.7%	111
Other	66	47.5%	139
Unknown	115	42.1%	273
<b>Total</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>39.8%</b>	<b>1,298</b>
<b>Shakedown</b>			
White Non-Hispanic	96	15.7%	611
Black	36	22.0%	164
Hispanic	30	27.0%	111
Other	39	28.1%	139
Unknown	53	19.4%	273
<b>Total</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>1,298</b>
<b>Facilitating Trade</b>			
White Non-Hispanic	72	11.8%	611
Black	65	39.6%	164
Hispanic	45	40.5%	111
Other	20	14.4%	139
Unknown	58	21.2%	273
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	<b>1,298</b>

	Charged (n)	(%)	Total (n)
<b>Narcotics</b>			
White Non-Hispanic	262	42.9%	611
Black	46	28.0%	164
Hispanic	22	19.8%	111
Other	26	18.7%	139
Unknown	103	37.7%	273
<b>Stimulants</b>			
White Non-Hispanic	196	32.1%	611
Black	82	50.0%	164
Hispanic	55	49.5%	111
Other	75	54.0%	139
Unknown	96	35.2%	273
<b>Marijuana</b>			
White Non-Hispanic	125	20.5%	611
Black	43	26.2%	164
Hispanic	36	32.4%	111
Other	49	35.3%	139
Unknown	62	22.7%	273
<b>Depressants</b>			
White Non-Hispanic	52	8.5%	611
Black	2	1.2%	164
Hispanic	2	1.8%	111
Other	15	10.8%	139
Unknown	7	2.6%	273

Department	n	(% of all cases)
New York PD	50	3.85
Chicago PD	38	2.93
Memphis PD	30	2.31
Philadelphia PD	23	1.77
Hidalgo Co. Sheriff	13	1.00
Miami-Dade PD	11	0.85
Houston PD	9	0.69
Los Angeles PD	9	0.69
Broward Co. Sheriff	8	0.62
Detroit PD	8	0.62
Henry Co. Sheriff	8	0.62
Indianapolis PD	8	0.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>16.56</b>



- ### RESULTS
- There were 611 cases identified involving White officers. Of those cases 302, or 49.4%, involved personal use. There were 164 cases identified involving Black officers. Of those cases 95, or 58% involved selling drugs (Table 1).
  - The most common drugs involved in drug-related arrests were narcotics and stimulants which made up 66% of all drug-related cases (Table 2) (Figure 6).
  - Over half (67.7%) of the 1,298 cases resulted in a conviction. Non-convictions made up 13.9% (Figure 1).
  - Cases where the offending officer had 0-9 years of service made up 34% of the 1,298 cases. The second largest group was officers with 10-18 years of experience which made up 28% of all cases (Figure 3).
  - Out of the 1,298 cases 1,005 (77.4%) involved officers who were 27-47 years old (Figure 4).
  - There were 219 cases involving supervisory officers identified. The largest group of supervisory officer cases were sergeants (41%). The second largest being Chiefs/Sheriffs (23%) (Figure 5).
  - Drug-related cases which had a known job loss account for 82% of the total 1,298 cases (Figure 8).
  - The number of drug-related police crime arrest has remained consistent in the years 2008-2016 (Figures 9 and 10).

- ### DISCUSSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
- This project analyzed cases where officers were arrested or indicted for a crime. Future research should examine substance abuse problems among law enforcement officers.
  - Officers with substance abuse problems should be encouraged to utilize employee assistance programs.
  - Future research should examine the relationship between drug-related police crime and profit-motivated police crime.
  - Law enforcement agencies should develop policies to mitigate drug-related police crime and corruption.