

Consequences of Illicit Drug Consumption

Illicit drug consumption leads to many health and societal effects including arrests, dependence, abuse and even death. Wisconsin rates of dependence, abuse and deaths due to drug use are similar to, or lower than, national averages. The rate of arrests for drug law violations is also lower in Wisconsin than nationally.

Mortality

Deaths due to drug use are a direct consequence of illicit drug use.

- In 2008, 482 Wisconsin residents died as a direct consequence of illicit drug use (Table 9). This number represented a decline from the previous two years; however, it remains much higher than in the first half of the decade.
- The age-adjusted mortality rate of drug-related deaths has increased in Wisconsin, from 4.0 deaths per 100,000 population in 2000 to 8.5 deaths per 100,000 in 2008 (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Age-adjusted rate of drug-related deaths per 100,000 population, Wisconsin and the United States, 2000-2008



Source: Wisconsin resident death certificates, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services; rates for the United States are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html>.

Table 9. Age-adjusted mortality rate and total number of drug-related deaths, Wisconsin and the United States, 2000-2008

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<i>United States</i>	Rate/100,000	5.7	6.2	7.6	8.3	8.7	9.5	10.8		
	Total number	16,113	17,813	21,797	24,230	25,670	28,214	32,639		
	Rate/100,000	4.0	4.1	5.2	6.2	6.7	7.9	9.4	9.3	8.5
<i>Wisconsin</i>	Total number	213	223	287	344	383	448	526	526	482

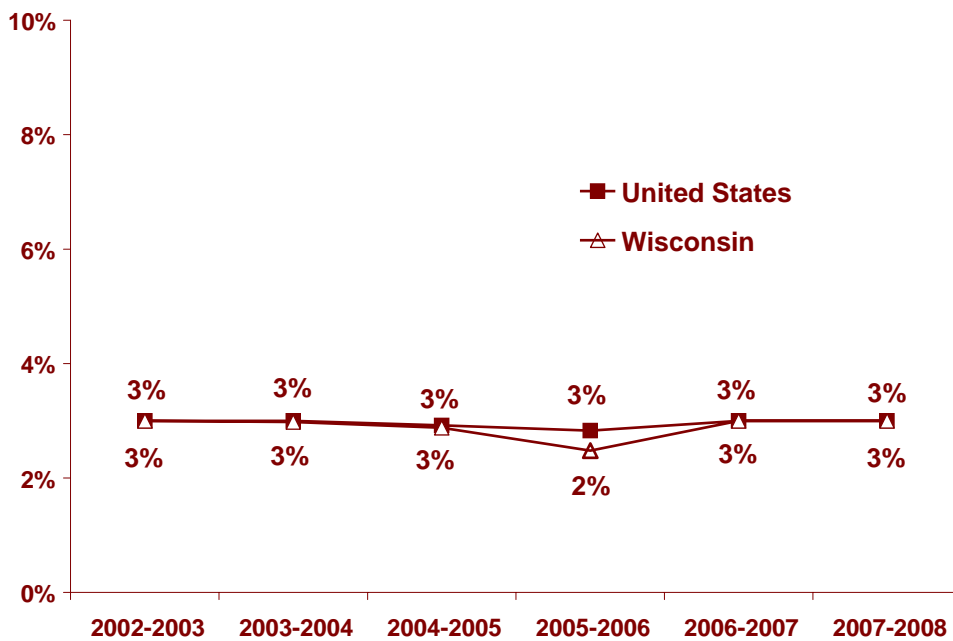
Source: Wisconsin resident death certificates, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services; United States death certificate data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html>.

Dependence or Abuse

Dependence and abuse are direct consequences of illicit drug use.

- For most years from 2002 through 2008, the rate of dependence on or abuse of illicit drugs was the same (3%) for Wisconsin and the United States (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Prevalence of drug dependence and abuse, age 12 and older, Wisconsin and the United States, 2002-2008



Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Hospitalizations

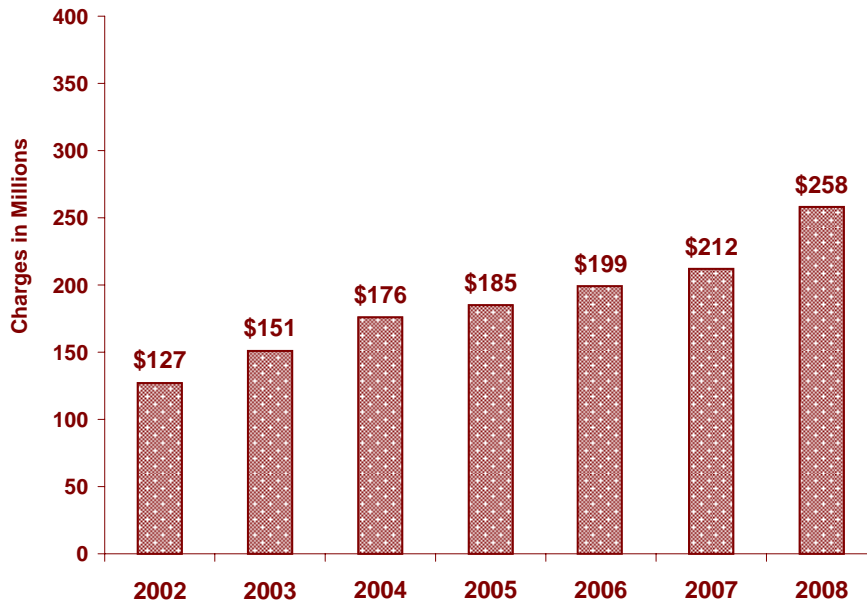
- There were 14,756 Wisconsin hospitalizations defined as drug-related in 2008, an increase of 34% since 2002 (Table 10). Drug-related hospitalizations include such diagnoses as drug psychoses, drug dependence, drug-related polyneuropathy, and accidental and purposeful poisoning by drugs.
- Charges for drug-related hospitalizations in Wisconsin totaled \$258 million in 2008, an increase of 103% from the \$127 million in 2002 (Figure 15). (These amounts are not adjusted for inflation.)
- In 2007-2008, the counties with the highest rates of drug-related hospitalizations (at least 25% above the state average) were Ashland, Bayfield, Lincoln, Menominee, Milwaukee, and Wood (Table 11).

Table 10. Number and rate of drug-related hospitalizations, 2002-2008

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Rate/100,000	201	217	243	246	247	251	260
Number	10,990	11,949	13,454	13,723	13,859	14,178	14,756

Source: Wisconsin hospital inpatient discharge database, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Figure 15. Hospital charges for drug-related hospitalizations, in millions, Wisconsin, 2002-2008



Source: Wisconsin inpatient hospital discharge database, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Note: Hospital charges are the total facility charges for the length of stay and are not the same as actual costs paid by any payer; also, they do not include physician or other ancillary charges (see Technical Notes).

Table 11. Drug-related hospitalizations, Wisconsin by county, 2006-2008

County	Number in 2008	Rate per 100,000 Population	
		2006-2007	2007-2008
Adams	39	220	200
Ashland	101	660	617
Barron	110	193	213
Bayfield	62	331	379
Brown	532	184	202
Buffalo	23	149	142
Burnett	32	166	168
Calumet	28	56	63
Chippewa	149	274	245
Clark	66	174	180
Columbia	169	251	275
Crawford	23	153	149
Dane	1,167	221	233
Dodge	142	159	169
Door	39	134	122
Douglas	15	45	31
Dunn	82	144	171
Eau Claire	304	319	314
Florence	5	117	98
Fond du Lac	195	237	218
Forest	25	354	259
Grant	46	127	109
Green	44	118	118
Green Lake	30	112	132
Iowa	43	179	170
Iron	18	396	309
Jackson	53	260	258
Jefferson	135	172	163
Juneau	83	241	264
Kenosha	461	278	277
Kewaunee	30	95	119
La Crosse	283	243	253
Lafayette	22	123	153
Langlade	63	288	287
Lincoln	103	271	341
Manitowoc	188	190	200
Marathon	338	211	238
Marinette	133	191	243

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Table 11. Drug-related hospitalizations, Wisconsin by county, 2006-2008 (continued)

County	Number in 2008	Rate per 100,000 Population	
		2006-2007	2007-2008
Marquette	44	252	281
Menominee	25	346	486
Milwaukee	3,917	425	426
Monroe	108	166	193
Oconto	72	133	152
Oneida	120	307	279
Outagamie	337	156	178
Ozaukee	229	240	251
Pepin	7	172	131
Pierce	69	171	164
Polk	101	243	248
Portage	186	229	245
Price	36	224	235
Racine	536	265	270
Richland	51	222	274
Rock	453	257	258
Rusk	33	205	216
St. Croix	91	103	103
Sauk	133	264	243
Sawyer	53	267	288
Shawano	87	151	201
Sheboygan	285	275	250
Taylor	38	131	186
Trempealeau	37	151	152
Vernon	44	146	142
Vilas	105	453	474
Walworth	157	204	179
Washburn	37	192	207
Washington	219	174	176
Waukesha	984	229	243
Waupaca	116	173	214
Waushara	40	173	193
Winnebago	353	175	197
Wood	272	336	336
Wisconsin	14,756	249	256

Source: Wisconsin hospital inpatient discharge database, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

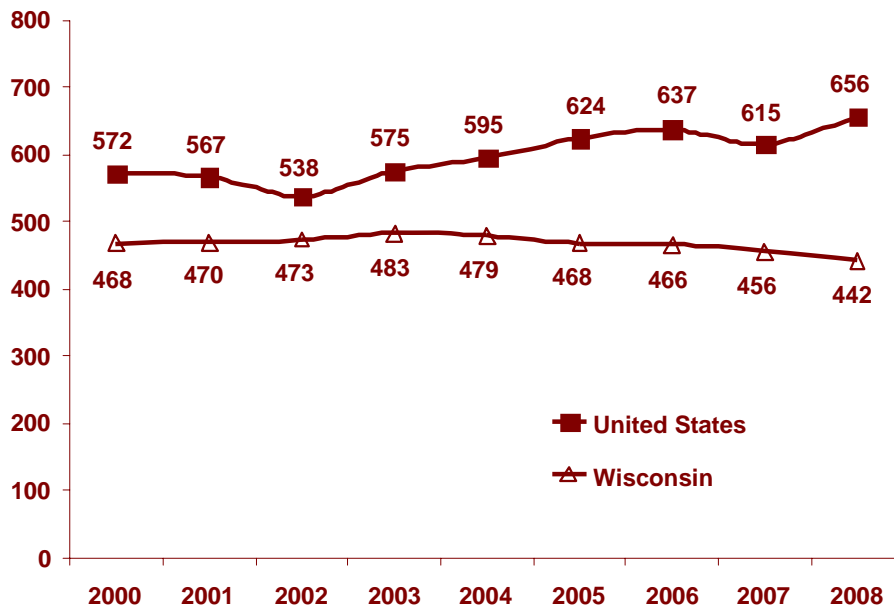
Note: Hospitalization numbers and rates are based on patient's county of residence.

Crime and Arrests

The Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance defines drug law violations as 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; they include the unlawful cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sales, purchase, use, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance.

- There were 25,314 arrests in Wisconsin for drug law violations in 2008, a number little changed since 2000 (24,853 arrests).
- From 2000 to 2008, the rate of drug law arrests was lower in Wisconsin than the national average (Figure 16).
- In contrast to the national pattern, Wisconsin's rate of drug law arrests began showing small annual decreases in 2004. In 2008, the rate of drug law arrests in Wisconsin was 442 per 100,000 population, the lowest rate since 1997 (not shown).

Figure 16. Rate of drug law arrests (adult and juvenile) per 100,000 population, Wisconsin and the United States, 2000-2008



Sources: *Crime and Arrests in Wisconsin*, Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance; and *Crime in the United States*, U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Justice Information Services Division.

Note: These two data sources provide rates per 100,000 population for reported index crimes (property offenses and violent offenses), plus numbers of arrests for index crimes and numbers of crimes/arrests for non-index crimes. Where rates were not directly obtained, rates per 100,000 population were calculated using the standard formula: $\text{rate} = \text{number} / \text{population} \times 100,000$.

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Table 12. Arrests for drug law violations per 100,000 population, Wisconsin by county, 2007 and 2008

County	Arrests per 100,000 population		County	Arrests per 100,000 population	
	2007	2008		2007	2008
Adams	229	444	Marinette	268	278
Ashland	329	427	Marquette	348	539
Barron	194	202	Menominee	2,080	1,575
Bayfield	235	144	Milwaukee	712	742
Brown	490	522	Monroe	645	692
Buffalo	505	573	Oconto	236	160
Burnett	289	209	Oneida	404	343
Calumet	40	54	Outagamie	481	380
Chippewa	334	273	Ozaukee	206	270
Clark	170	104	Pepin	158	183
Columbia	458	540	Pierce	279	259
Crawford	46	29	Polk	225	138
Dane	357	366	Portage	467	219
Dodge	328	314	Price	566	295
Door	255	249	Racine	484	426
Douglas	479	343	Richland	423	230
Dunn	382	428	Rock	631	584
Eau Claire	649	540	Rusk	274	249
Florence	176	215	St. Croix	240	247
Fond du Lac	230	254	Sauk	386	397
Forest	835	359	Sawyer	292	289
Grant	139	96	Shawano	728	516
Green	207	206	Sheboygan	452	511
Green Lake	453	226	Taylor	131	110
Iowa	271	402	Trempealeau	239	194
Iron	280	294	Vernon	150	266
Jackson	270	410	Vilas	448	304
Jefferson	495	363	Walworth	929	919
Juneau	92	123	Washburn	145	246
Kenosha	577	600	Washington	559	395
Kewaunee	214	236	Waukesha	349	307
La Crosse	401	561	Waupaca	296	272
Lafayette	247	226	Waushara	120	139
Langlade	628	464	Winnebago	448	437
Lincoln	231	454	Wood	445	544
Manitowoc	310	304			
Marathon	373	248	Wisconsin	456	442

Source: *Arrests in Wisconsin, 2007 and 2008*, Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.