

2020

Drug Report

Report date: 2/26/21

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Introduction

Legislation

Health and Safety Code Chapter 481. Texas Controlled Substances Act

Sec. 481.185. ARREST REPORTS. (a) Each law enforcement agency in this state shall file monthly with the director a report of all arrests made for drug offenses and quantities of controlled substances seized during the preceding month. The agency shall make the report on a form provided by the director and shall provide the information required by the form.

(b) The director shall publish an annual summary of all drug arrests and controlled substances seized in the state.

Data Collection

The Texas Department of Public Safety gathers drug seized data through the federal Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, with additional information related to the state-level data collection. The UCR program captures drug-related arrests and up to 3 drugs seized. The state-level collection gathers any additional drugs seized, precursor chemicals used in manufacturing of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and information on greenhouses and cultivated fields.

Drug Abuse Arrest

For UCR purposes, drug abuse encompasses all violations of narcotic drug laws. These are offenses such as unlawful possession, sale, use, growing and manufacturing of narcotic drugs.

In this report, these violations are summarized to include arrests for possession and sale/manufacturing of narcotic drugs.

As with all Part II non-index crimes, the Texas UCR program does not collect information on the number of reported crimes for this offense; however, the number of persons arrested is collected.

Analysis of Arrests

Volume

The reported total number of arrests for drug abuse in Texas for 2020 was 88,651. The grand total of all drug abuse violations decreased 30.9% in comparison with data collected in 2019.

Table 1.1 – Drugs Arrests from 2010 - 2020¹

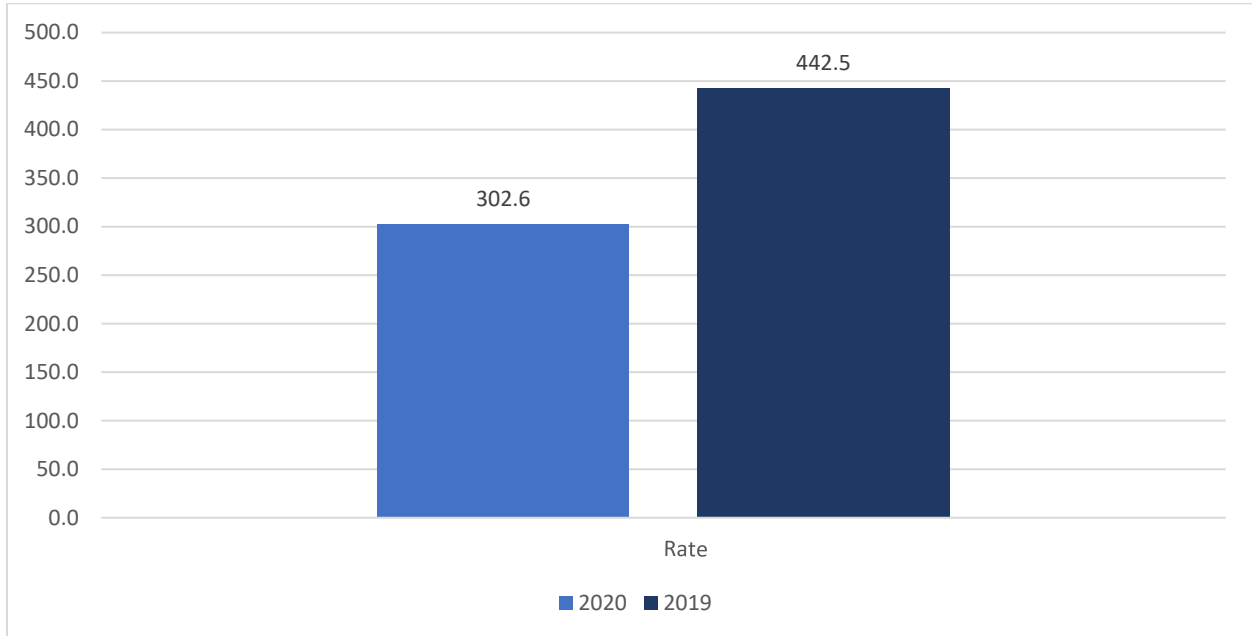
Drug Abuse Arrests 2010-2020						
Year	Sale	% Change	Possession	% Change	Total	% Change
2020	13,873	-30.5	74,778	-31.0	88,651	-30.9
2019	19,958	-12.1	108,337	-13.9	128,295	-13.6
2018	22,693	18.0	125,754	-1.8	148,447	0.8
2017	19,228	16.5	128,003	0.4	147,231	2.2
2016	16,500	-4.8	127,513	8.9	144,013	7.1
2015	17,327	3.0	117,092	-4.5	134,419	-3.6
2014	16,815	11.5	122,656	-0.7	139,471	0.7
2013	15,084	5.2	123,483	-1.0	138,567	-0.4
2012	14,342	3.3	124,766	5.3	139,108	5.1
2011	13,881	-5.1	118,432	-6.0	132,313	-5.9
2010	14,630	na	125,974	na	140,604	na

¹ All percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth.

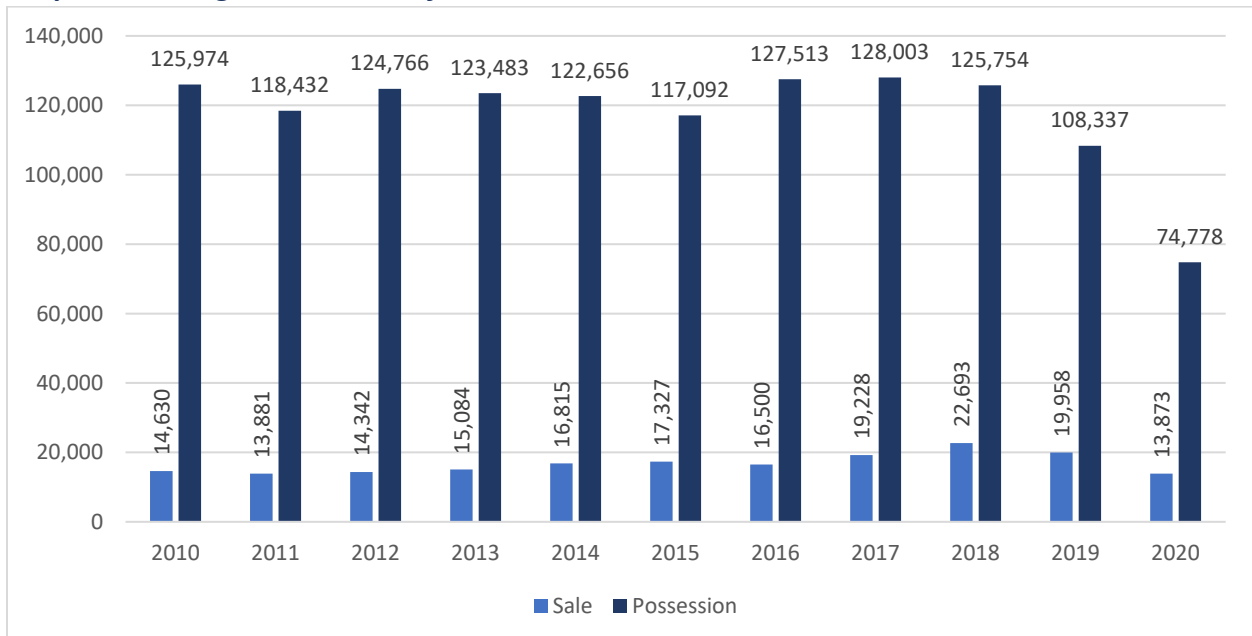
Rate

The 2020 drug abuse arrest rate for Texas was 302.6 arrests for every 100,000 persons. The change in the drug abuse arrest rate from 2019 was a decrease of 31.6%.

Graph 1.2 – Drug Abuse Arrest Rate and Year-to-Year Comparison¹

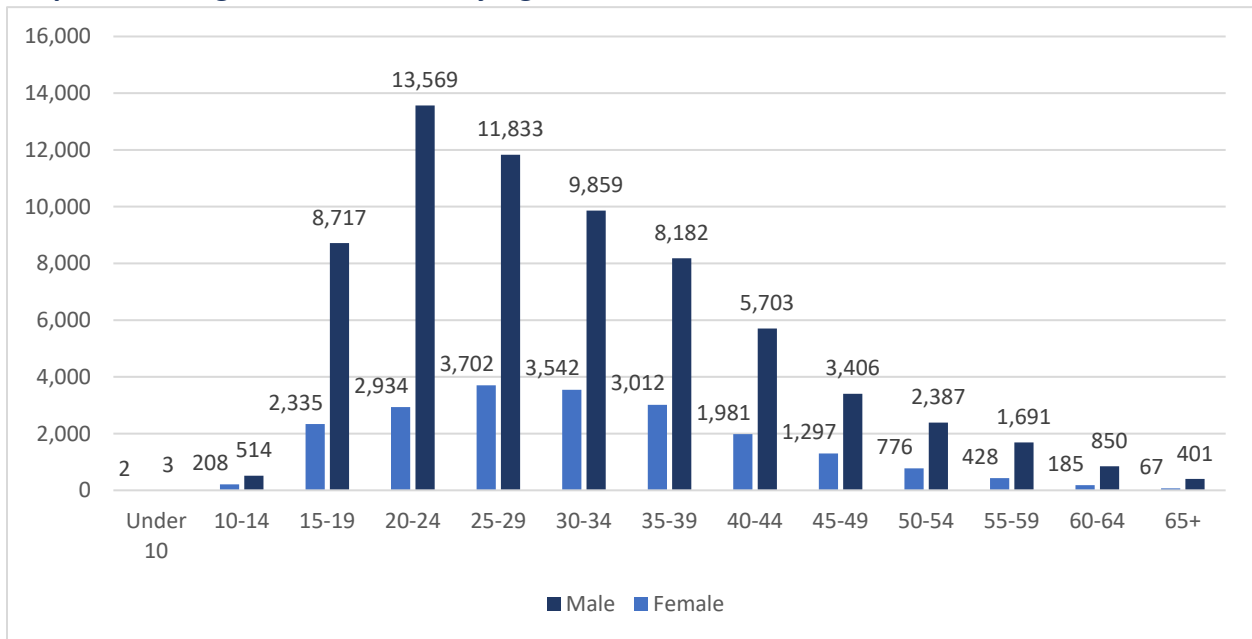


Graph 1.3 – Drug Abuse Arrests from 2010 - 2020



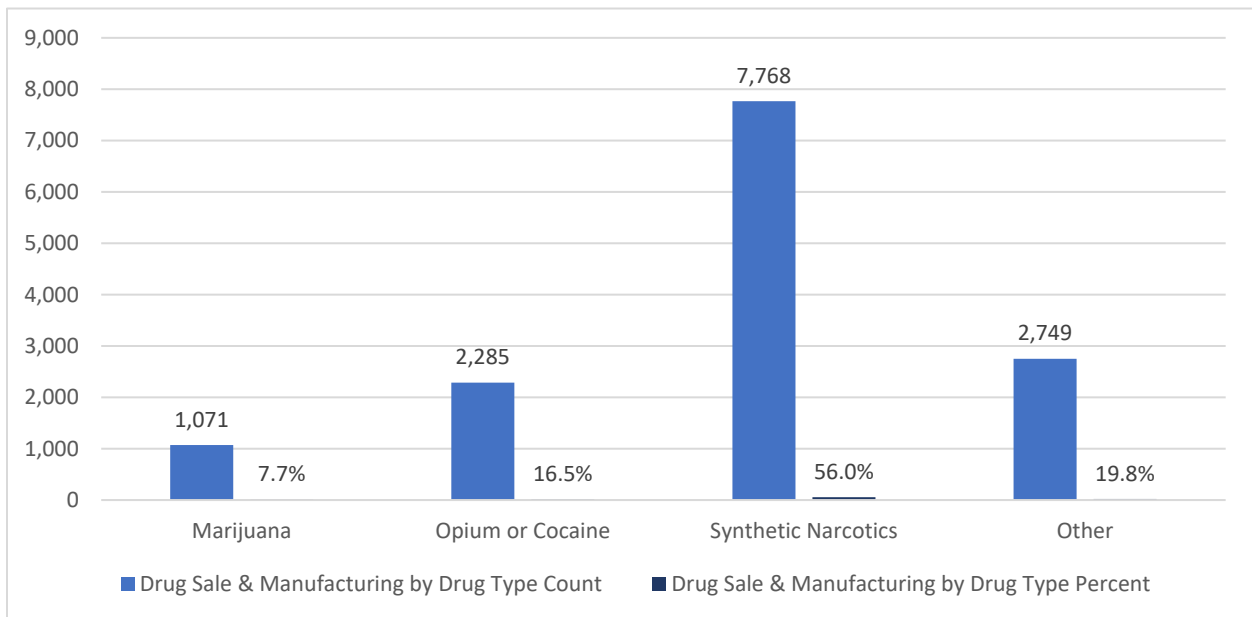
¹ All percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Graph 1.4 – Drug Abuse Arrestees by Age and Sex



Analysis of Sale and Manufacturing

Graph 1.5 – Drug Sale and Manufacturing by Type¹

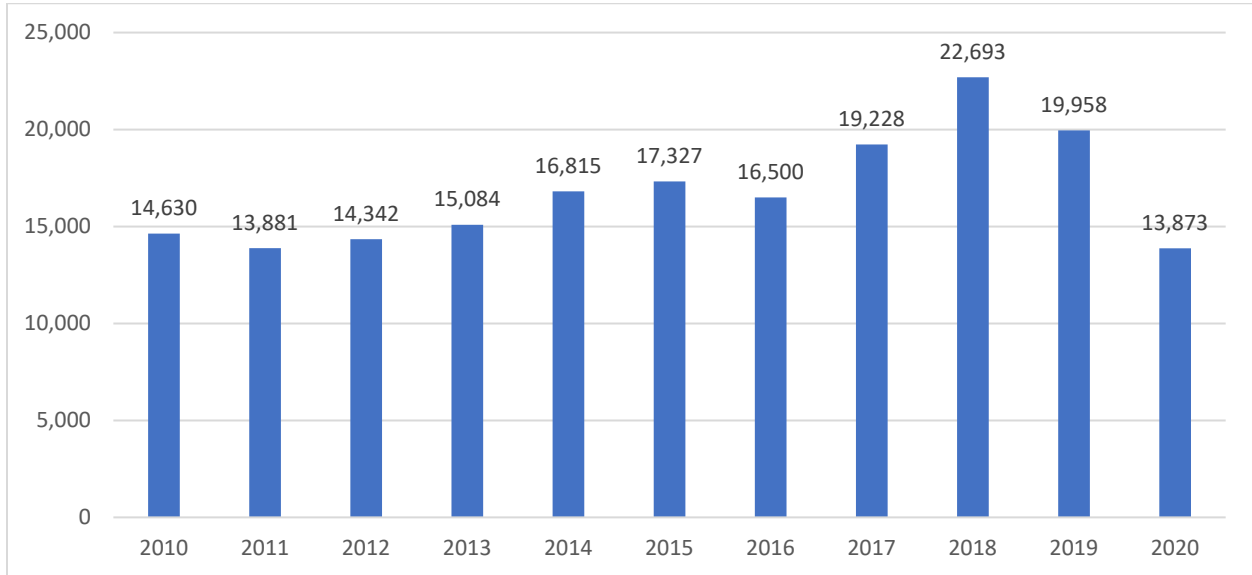


¹ All percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Sale

The number of arrests for illegal drug sale and manufacturing totaled 13,873, which was an 30.5% decrease from 2019.

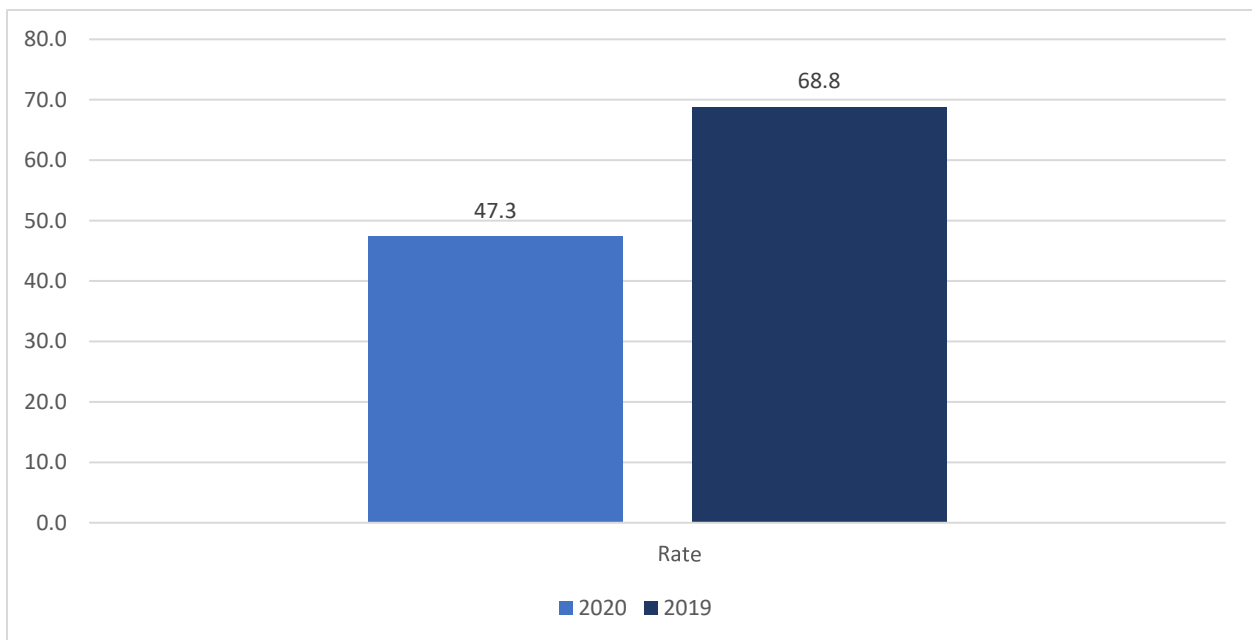
Graph 1.6 – Drug Sale and Manufacturing Arrests from 2010 - 2020



Manufacturing

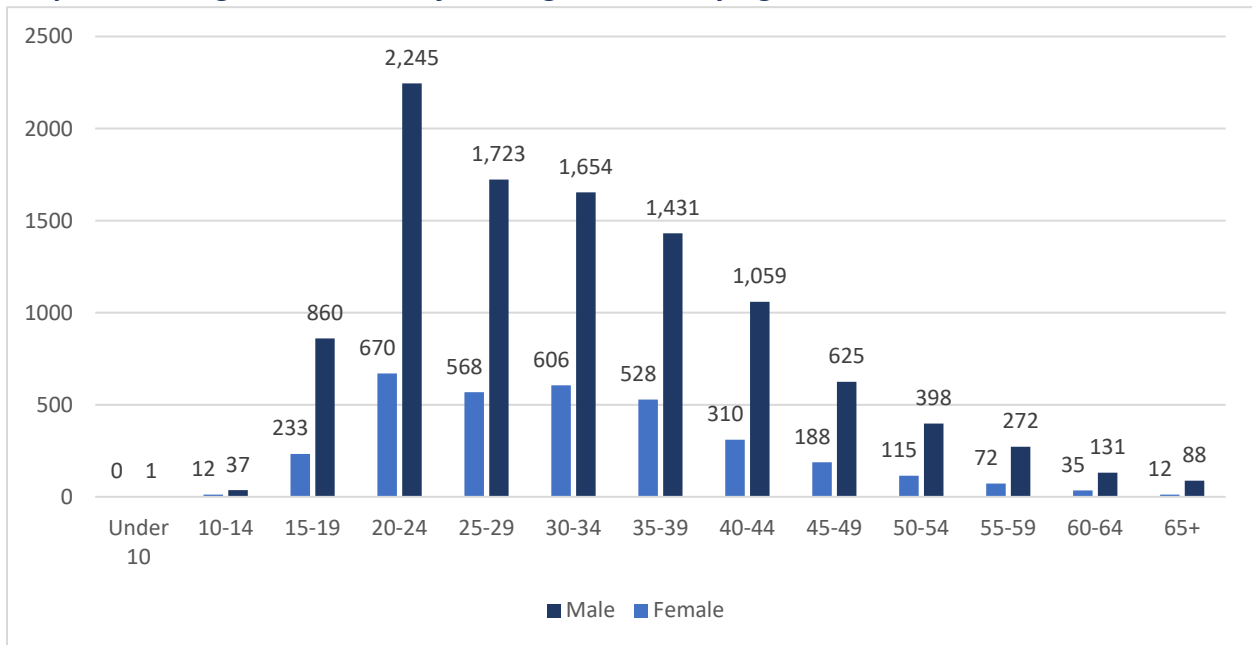
The rate of drug sale and manufacturing arrests was 47.3 arrests per 100,000 Texans. This represents a 31.2% decrease in the arrest rate when compared to 2019.

Graph 1.7 – Drug Sale and Manufacturing Arrest Rate¹



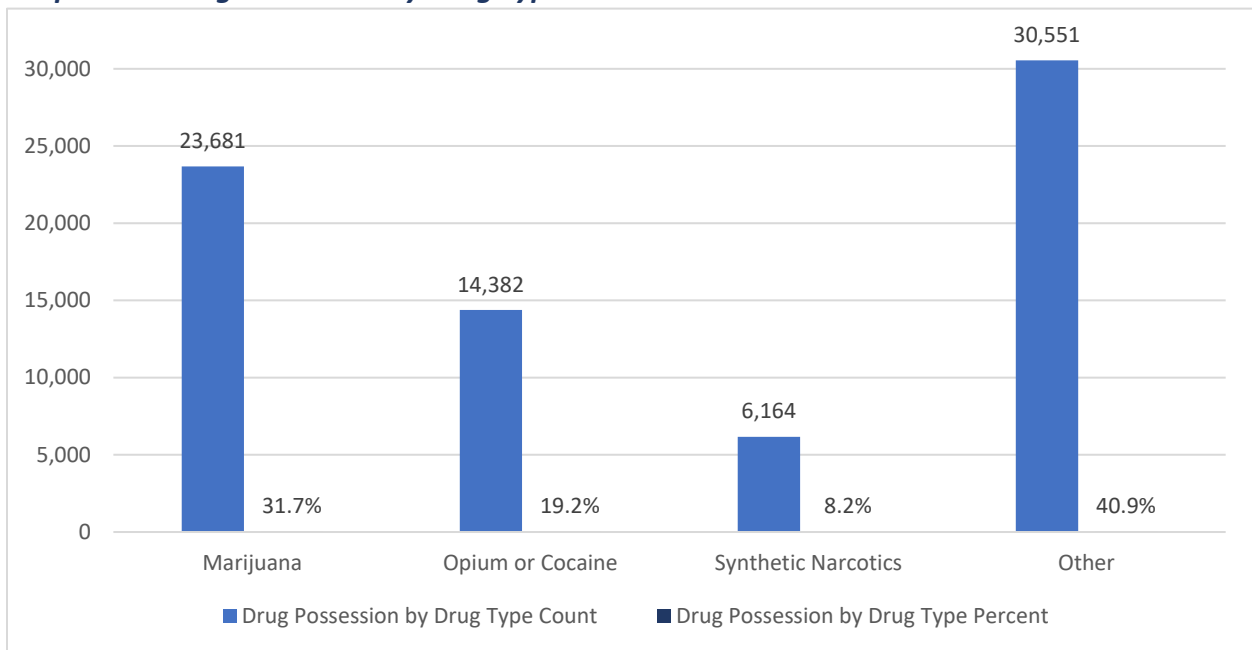
¹ All percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Graph 1.8 – Drug Sale and Manufacturing Arrestees by Age and Sex



Analysis of Possession

Graph 1.9 – Drug Possession by Drug Type¹

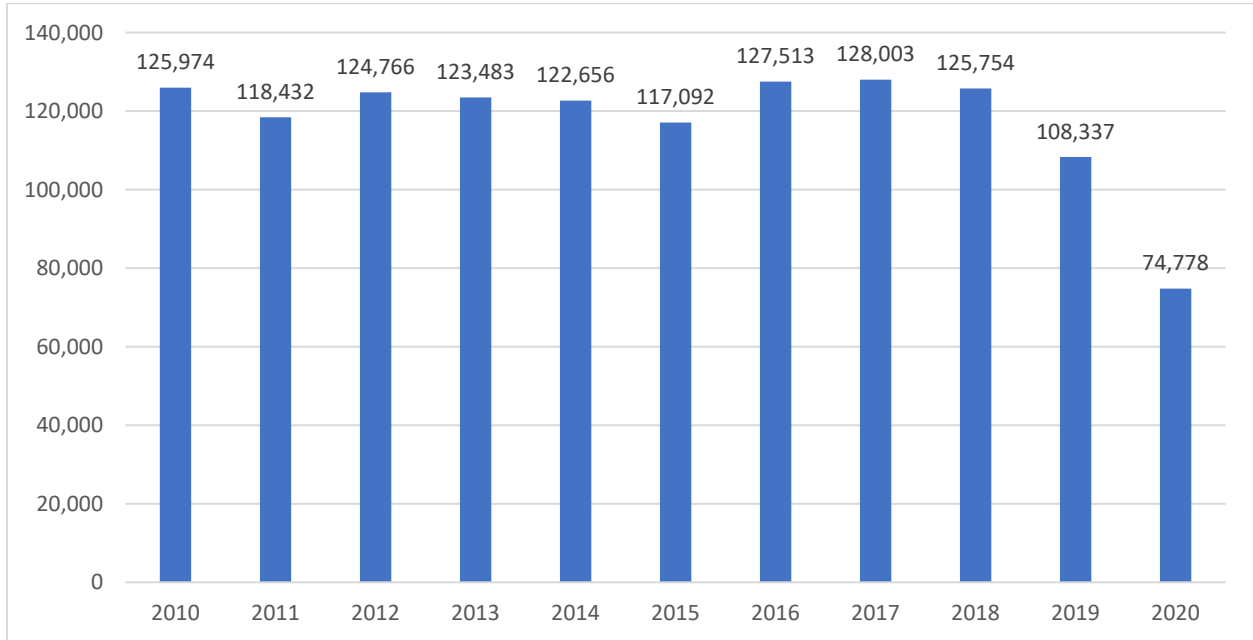


¹ All percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Volume

The number of arrests for drug possession in 2020 was 74,778. This represented a 31.0% decrease when compared to 2019.

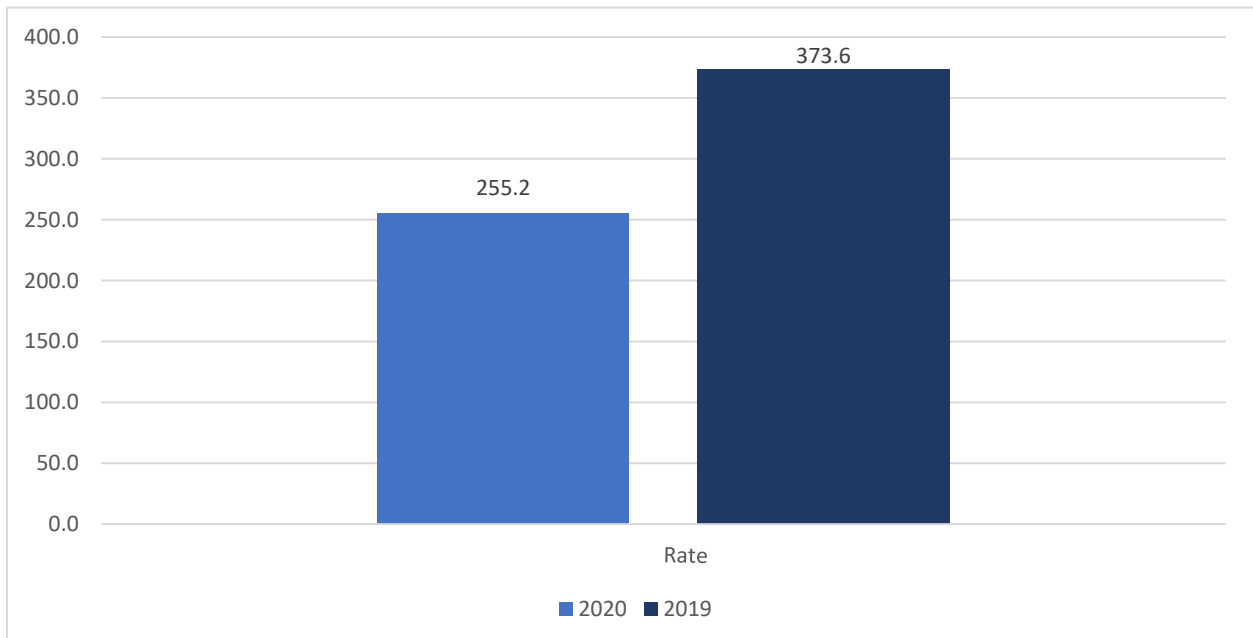
Graph 2.0 – Drug Possession Arrests from 2010 - 2020



Rate

The rate of drug possession arrests in Texas in 2020 was 255.2 arrests for every 100,000 persons. This represents a decrease of 31.7% from 2019.

Graph 2.1 – Drug Possession Rate and Year-to-Year Comparison



Drug Seizures

Drug seizure information is presented in compliance with Health & Safety Code, Sec. 481.185, and its requirement that “All law enforcement agencies in this state shall file monthly with the [DPS] Director a report of all arrests for drug offenses made and quantities of controlled substances seized by them during the preceding month.”

Quantities

The following chart displays the quantity of illegal drugs seized in Texas. All amounts are rounded. Dose units refer to one pill, tablet, capsule, or other single use quantity. The information presented here is based upon reports of drugs seized by Texas law enforcement agencies and does not include drugs seized in Texas by supplemental federal law enforcement agencies.

Table 2.2 – Drugs Seized by Type and Quantity¹

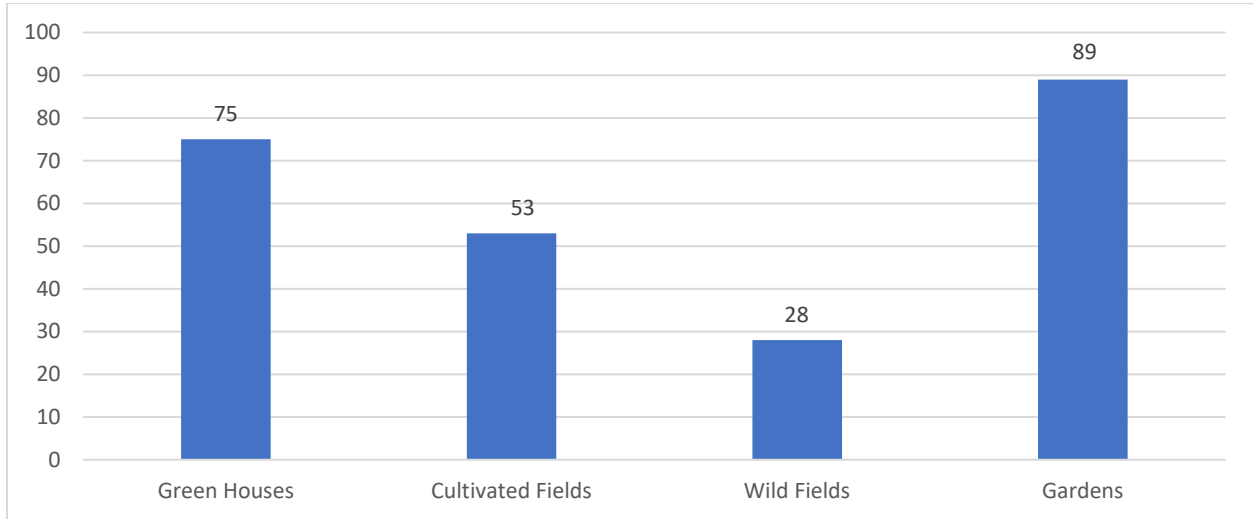
Type and Quantity of Drugs Seized							
Types		Quantities					
Class	Type	Pounds	Ounces	Grams	Liquid Ounces	Dose Units	Items
Cannabinoids	Marijuana	125,340	14				
	Marijuana Plants						5,334
	Hashish	0	0	0	20,887		
Opiates	Morphine	47	9	3	9	436	
	Heroin	1,565	11	18	3,867	911	
	Codeine	171	5	2	2,163	6,664	
	Gum Opium	156	8	0	0	0	
	Cocaine Solid	4,747	4	1			
	Cocaine Liquid				505,729		
Hallucinogens	LSD	280	7	28	505,729	144,397	
	PCP	1,420	13	6	72	273	
	Mushrooms	42	14	4		26	
	Peyote	1	7	4			
	Designer Drugs	4,881	11	20	5,529	44,860	
Precursor Chemicals		237	1	17	163		
Other Drugs	Barbituates				602	216,291	
	Amphetamines	6,055	9	13	14,514	16,009	
	Methamphetamines	15,515	13	11	4,668	15,641	
	Tranquilizers				12,110	45,148	
	Synthetic Drugs				94,660	349,881	
Clandestine Labs							342

¹ All quantities are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Marijuana Plants, Fields, and Gardens

Texas law enforcement officers seized a total of 5,334 individual marijuana plants from 75 green houses, 53 cultivated fields, 28 wild fields, and 89 gardens.

Graph 2.3 – Marijuana Fields and Gardens



Clandestine Labs

During 2020, approximately 342 clandestine labs were seized in Texas. Of these seized labs, 185 were used to produce Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), 118 produced Methamphetamines, 37 produced Crack Cocaine, and 2 labs produced Amphetamines.

Graph 2.4 – Clandestine Labs Seized

