

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

*serving Dallas, Collin, Rockwall Counties
and Greater Lewisville*



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2006 Community Needs Assessment Creating a Healthier Community

Substance Abuse

Substance Abuse – North Texas Overview

In general, though substance abuse continues to be a problem for a number of North Texans, there appears to be some progress, especially among elementary and middle school young people.


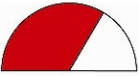

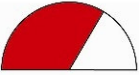

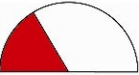

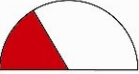
For the region, the rate of drug offense arrests has decreased by 12.4% from 2000 to 2004. This is a positive trend given that the overall population for this region has witnessed an increase of 8.2% during the same period.

During this time period, the number of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) arrests has increased by 14.1%. All counties have witnessed a slight increase in the number of arrests, with the exception of Rockwall County. The rate of DWI arrests per 100,000 persons has increased by 5.5% from 2000 to 2004.

Findings from the most recent Texas School Survey of Substance Abuse (in which a number of local schools participate) show that alcohol is the most common drug used among 4 through 12 grade students. Other findings include:

- Usage of tobacco amongst 4-6 grade students has decreased slightly from 2002 and is less than half of the rate in 1998. Since reaching its peak in 1990, tobacco usage has been on the decline.
- Tobacco usage amongst 7 through 12 grade students has decreased since 2002.
- Alcohol consumption amongst 4-6 grade students has increased slightly since 2002, but is still below the 2000 level
- Alcohol consumption amongst 7 through 12 grade students has decreased since 2002.
- Usage of inhalants amongst 4-6 grade students has increased slightly since 2002.
- Marijuana usage amongst 4-6 grade students has remained relatively flat after peaking in 1996 and has tapered off slowly since then.
- Illicit drug usage amongst 7 through 12 grade students has decreased since 2002.

Substance Abuse: Indicators and Trends

INDICATOR	SUMMARY	TREND	CONDITION
Rate of drug offense arrests	The rate of drug offense arrests declined in the UWMD four county area from 2000 to 2004.	 Worsening	 Concerned
Rate of DWI (driving while intoxicated) arrests	The rate of DWI arrests has increased by 5.54% from 2000 to 2004.	 Worsening	 Concerned
Number of Elementary school students using alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, and marijuana (Grades 4-6) in Texas	For grades 4-6, the use of tobacco has decreased, while the use of marijuana has remained flat. The use of alcohol and inhalants has increased.	 Improving	 Manageable
Number of middle & high school students using alcohol, tobacco, inhalants and marijuana (Grades 7-12) in Texas.	For grades 7-12, the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs has decreased.	 Improving	 Manageable

Substance Abuse: By County

Collin

- The rate of drug offense arrests has increased by 50.8%, while the population has increased by 27% from 2000 to 2004. This is of concern for Collin County because the arrests are increasing at roughly twice the rate of population growth.
- A growing concern is that the rate of DWI arrests has increased by 74.9%, which is roughly three times the rate of the population increase for the same period.

Dallas

- The rate of drug offense arrests has decreased by 20.9% from 2000 to 2004. This is a positive trend considering that the population of Dallas increased by 1.7% during the same period.
- The rate of DWI arrests increased by 3.5% from 2000 to 2004. The population in Dallas has increased by 1.7 % for the same period.

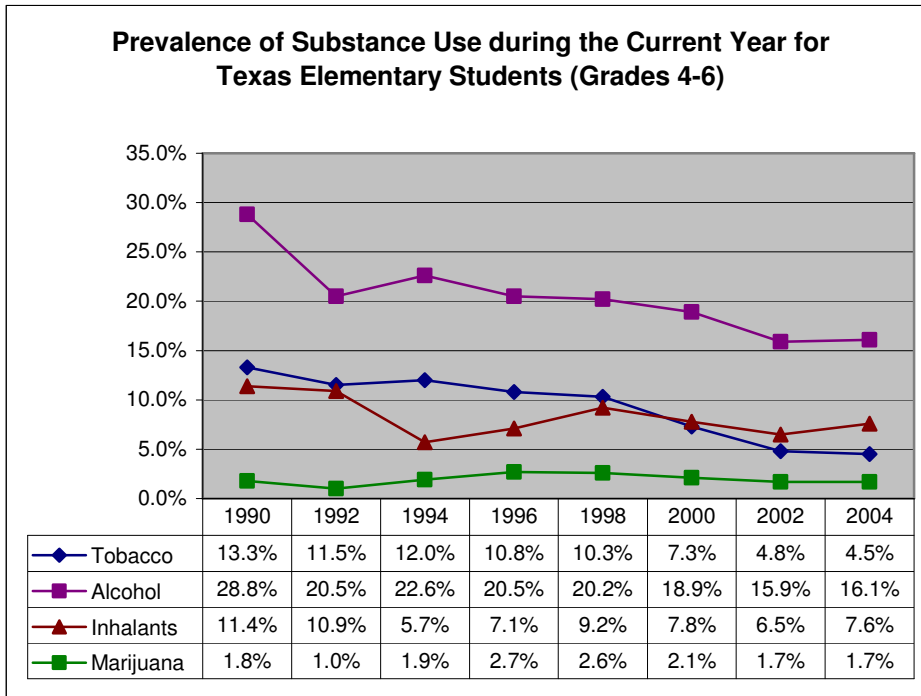
Denton

- The rate of drug offense arrests has increased in Denton County by 14.7% from 2000 to 2004; while the population has only increased by 20.4% during the same period.
- The population of Denton County has increased by 20.4% from 2000 to 2004. However, the rate of DWI arrests has decreased by only 3.1% per 100,000 residents for the same period.

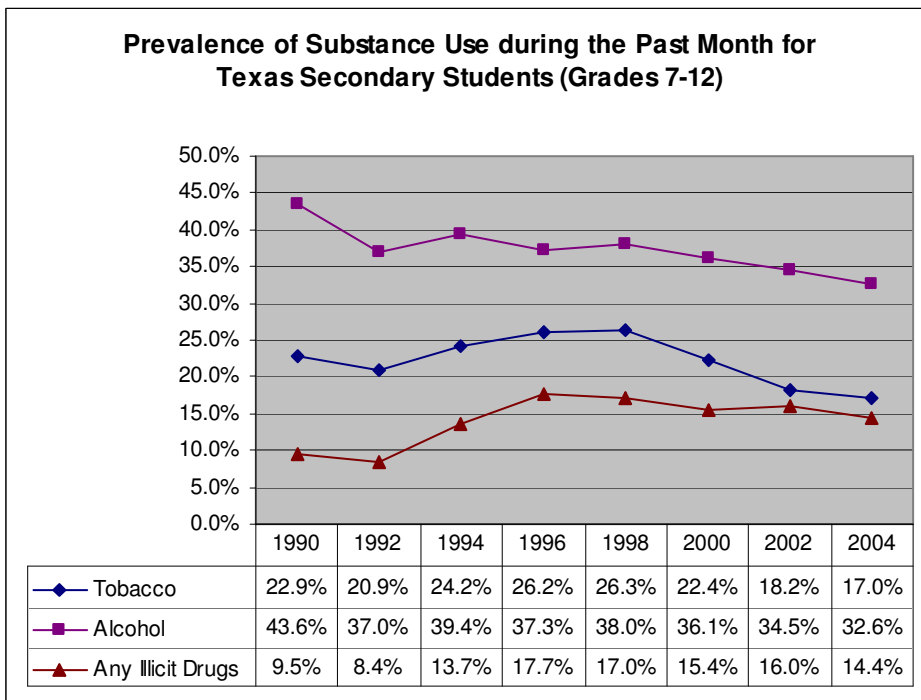
Rockwall

- The number of drug offense arrests in Rockwall County has decreased slightly over the last year. However, the rate of Drug Offense arrests has increased by 41.7% from 2000 to 2004. This is, by far, the highest in the area.
- Rockwall County has witnessed a 26.7% decrease in rate of DWI Arrests from 2000 to 2004.

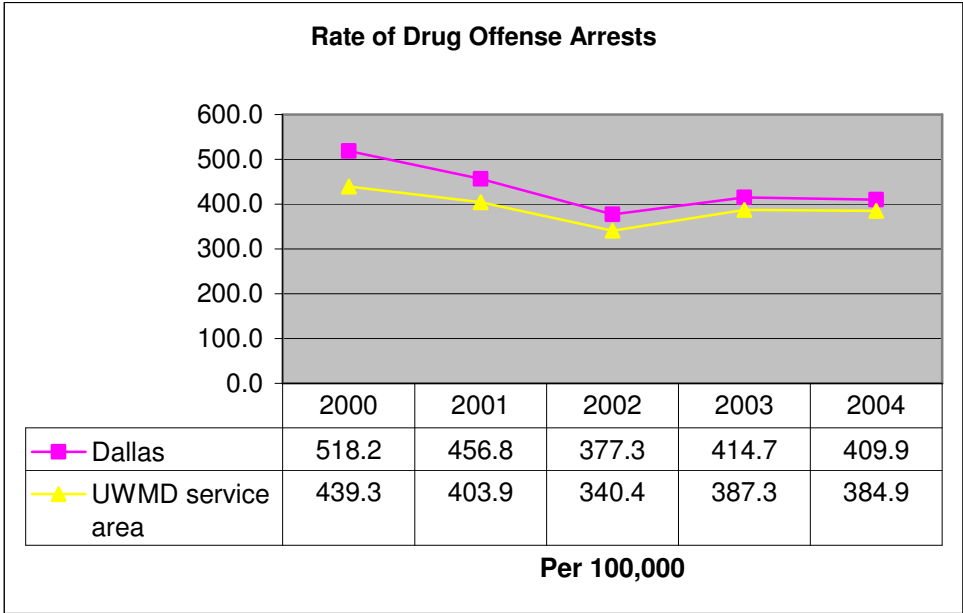
Substance Abuse: Supporting Data



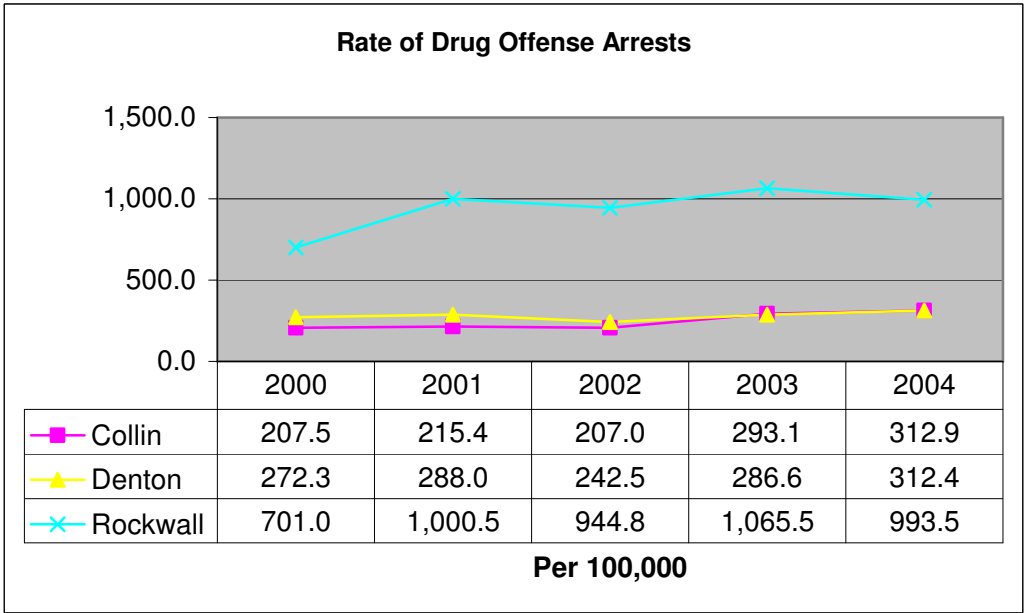
Source: Texas School Survey of Substance Abuse Among Students, 2004



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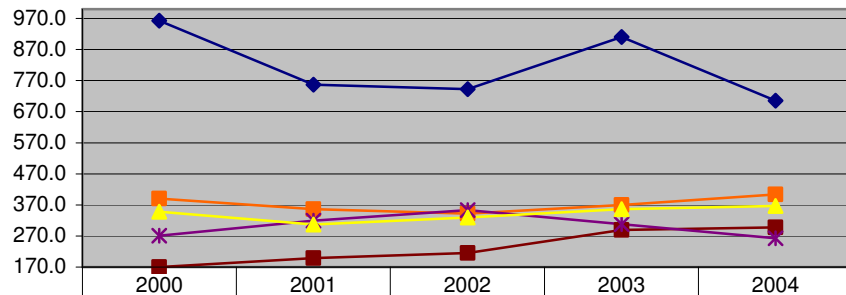


Source: Texas Department of State Health Services



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Rate of DWI Arrests per 100,000 persons



	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Collin	170.4	199.3	215.6	289.8	298.0
Dallas	390.0	356.3	342.2	369.7	403.6
Denton	271.4	319.0	353.6	308.3	263.1
Rockwall	963.3	756.7	742.8	909.9	705.7
Combined area	347.8	307.4	329.7	356.4	367.0

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services