

DRUG TRAFFICKING IN PUERTO RICO
BRIEFING DOCUMENTS

**Prepared by the Office of Federal Affairs
for the Government of Puerto Rico
La Fortaleza
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DRUG TRAFFICKING IN PUERTO RICO

The United States Customs, together with the Drug Enforcement Administration and other law enforcement agencies have concluded that Puerto Rico constitutes the center or transshipment point for illicit drug smuggling from South America and the Eastern Caribbean States into the US mainland.

It is, therefore, in the best interest of the United States of America to increase the allocation of federal resources to alleviate the critical drug related crisis prevailing locally and in the mainland. The Government of Puerto Rico is committed and determined to respond aggressively to the present situation, and therefore resources must be directed to dynamically increase drug interdiction, treatment and prevention.

Puerto Rico is the southernmost port of entry into the United States. It is also the Caribbean hub for air transportation and the third busiest seaport of the world. As such, contraband smuggled through US Customs locally will not be inspected again before entry into the continental United States. The federal and local resources have proven insufficient to substantially reduce the level of smuggling into PR, and transship to the US, thus worsening the already critical drug-related social deterioration at both local and national levels. Measures recently implemented at the federal level to curtail drug smuggling through the ports of Miami, Boston and New York have further increased smuggling through Puerto Rico; a situation which demands an immediate increase in technical and human vigilance for all our ports of entry. *Please refer to Appendix 1 for graphs on smuggling attempts.*

As a result of this trafficking, Puerto Rico has suffered from extensive drug abuse. Governor Rosselló's Program to restore the social fabric through drug eradication in the Island cannot succeed without an increase in drug interdiction. The seriousness of drug-related problems in Puerto Rico cannot be sufficiently underscored. In 1993, San Juan had the third highest per capita homicide rate among all US cities. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) 1992 Uniform Crime Reports show that the crime index total for Puerto Rico increased by 7.6%, the second highest increase in any of the fifty states. The Government continues to work diligently and maximize the use of resources available in order to move forward in our attempt to achieve social restructuring. *Please refer to Appendix 2A and 2B for crime-related data.*

Puerto Rico is the third busiest seaport of the World, and as such, poses an incredible challenge to the US Customs Service (USCS).

- As the hub of the Caribbean for air and maritime transportation, the movement of people and cargo throughout Puerto Rico reaches extensive proportions. The Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport (LMM) processes over 900,000 passengers each year. Although strict, the USCS efforts in Airport Passenger Interdiction and Seaport Passenger Interdiction is being evaded in increasing amounts due to the use of couriers to move contraband, and conspiracies to smuggle illicit drugs into Puerto Rico and the continental US.. For example, in April, 1992, 120 kilograms of cocaine concealed in luggage destined for John F. Kennedy Airport in New York were seized in three separate instances at LMM Airport.
- The Port of San Juan is visited by approximately 350 cruise ships annually, and processes over 500,000 passengers commonly arriving from Caribbean and South America nations. This activity creates ideal conditions for couriers to introduce narcotics into PR for further distribution in the US.
- San Juan is the largest of eleven commercial seaports throughout the Island. San Juan and Mayaguez, to the West, are Foreign Trade Zones, in which manipulation and alteration of cargo and manifest documentation is increasingly common.
- Approximately 2,500 full containers and 1,500 empty ones transit through San Juan alone each month. Ponce, to the South, reports another estimated 1,800 containers per month. USCS does not have with sufficient assets to monitor all the commercial ports of Puerto Rico, and can only inspect a small portion of the full amount of containers introduced into the Island.
- The continued sophistication of drug smuggling methods such as the use of stealth boats and air drops continues to pose a challenge impossible to meet with the current limited resources available.

Please refer to Appendixes 3A, 3B and 3C for related statistics.

HARD CORE DRUG USE IN PUERTO RICO

Cocaine

Even at 12 to 15 thousand dollar price for a kilo, cocaine continues to be the drug of pervasive use in Puerto Rico. Beside the direct damage of dependency, the spin-off effect attributed to cocaine and heroin addiction is reflected in increased criminal activity in the Island. Medium sized shipments of cocaine (10-50 Kgs.) are carried into Puerto Rico from Colombia via commercial air, usually intended for shipment to the US. Large amounts are smuggled via surface vessels and aircraft use, in addition to stealth boats. Smaller quantities are body-carried in by returning air and cruise- ship passengers or crew members, intended for distribution in the small local market. Crack cocaine is also extensively available.

Heroin

Heroin is in high demand amongst abusers in Puerto Rico. Commonly marketed heroin contains purity levels of over 60% and sells for .66 cents per milligram. This purity/ price statistic far exceeds national norms and is rivaled only by that of New York and Boston, where there is a high consumption rate and increasing heroin demand. All seventy eight Puerto Rico municipalities have reported availability of this drug.

Please refer to Appendixes 4 and 5 for related statistics.

JOINT MISSIONS

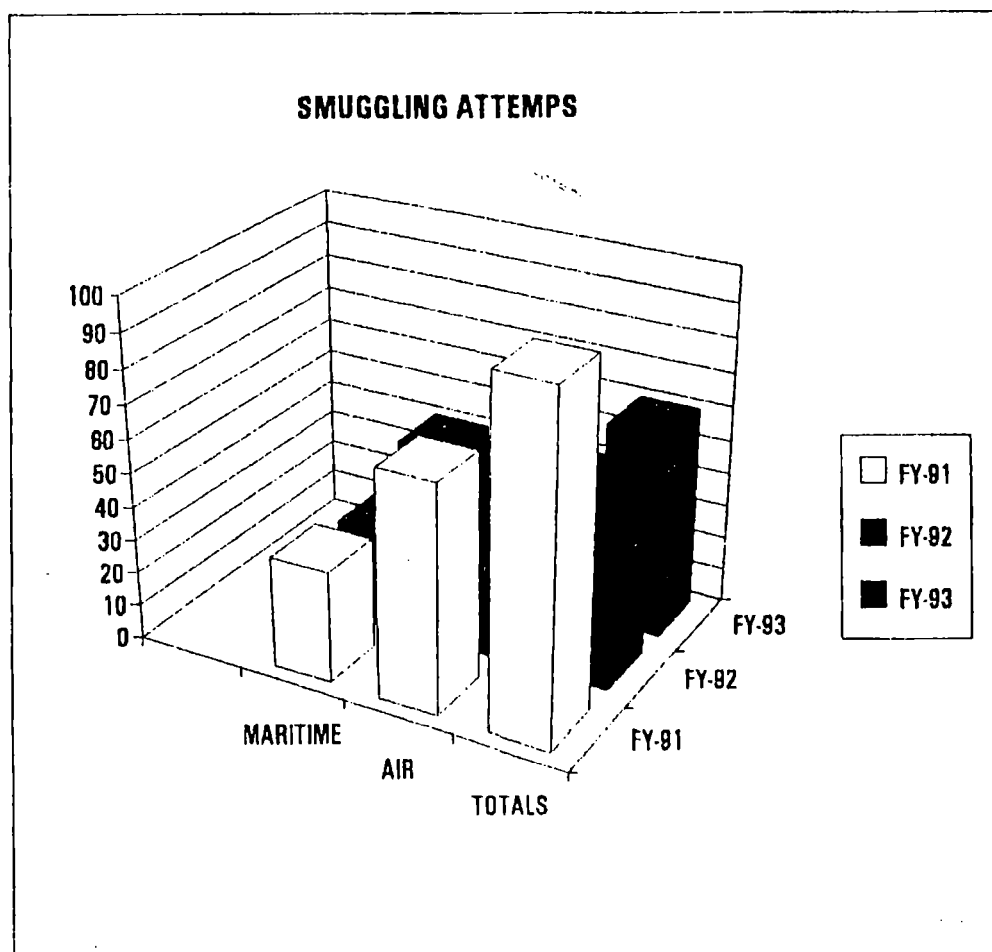
The Government of Puerto Rico is determined to respond aggressively to drug trafficking by committing all resources available to drug interdiction, prevention and treatment; as well as to curtail crime increase, which is directly associated with the drug crisis in the Island. *Please see Appendixes 6 and 7 for related statistics.*

An example of these initiatives is Operation Cordon and Search, which consists of a combined initiative between the Puerto Rico Police Department and the Puerto Rico National Guard. Thirty eight low income housing projects, which were determined points of high drug trafficking and criminality rate, were intervened with between June of 1993 and January of 1994. This initiative has been successfully implemented and has produced satisfactory results, evidenced by the immediate decrease in crime rates inside each project. The total cost of this initiative has been estimated at \$17, 393,791.00, with an average cost of \$460,000. per intervention. *Please refer to Appendix 8.*

Sources: Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Customs, Puerto Rico State Police Department, Mental Health and Drug Abuse Services Administration, Puerto Rico Office of Management and Budget, and the Puerto Rico National Guard

SMUGGLING ATTEMPTS

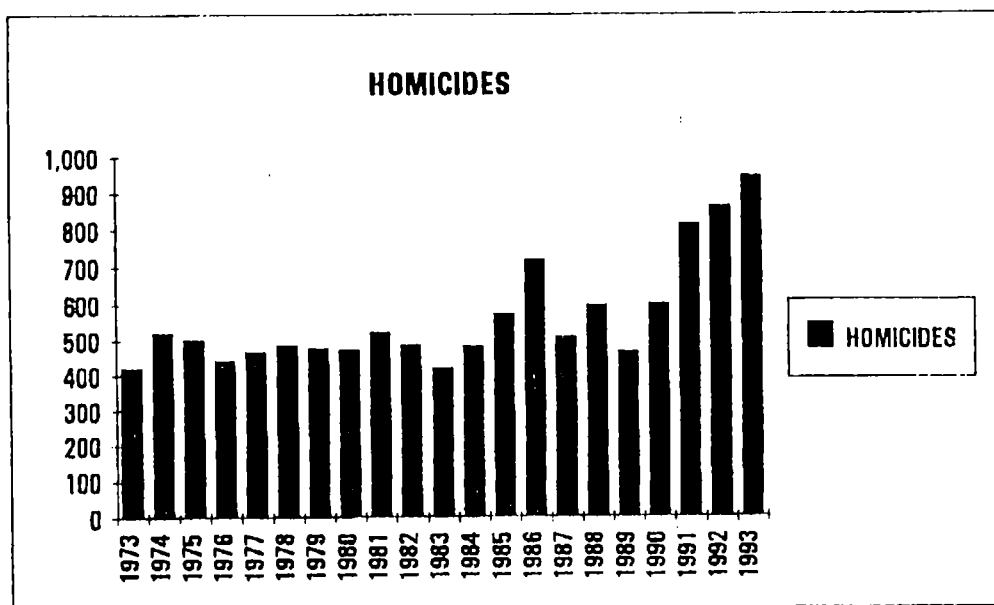
METHOD	FY-91	FY-92	FY-93
MARITIME	33	29	40
AIR	67	28	20
TOTALS	100	57	60



HOMICIDES IN PUERTO RICO FOR SELECTED YEARS
(CALENDAR YEAR)

YEAR	HOMICIDES
1973	421
1974	519
1975	499
1976	444
1977	487
1978	485
1979	476
1980	472
1981	522
1982	485
1983	421
1984	483
1985	572
1986	719
1987	508
1988	598
1989	487
1990	600
1991	817
1992	864
1993	948

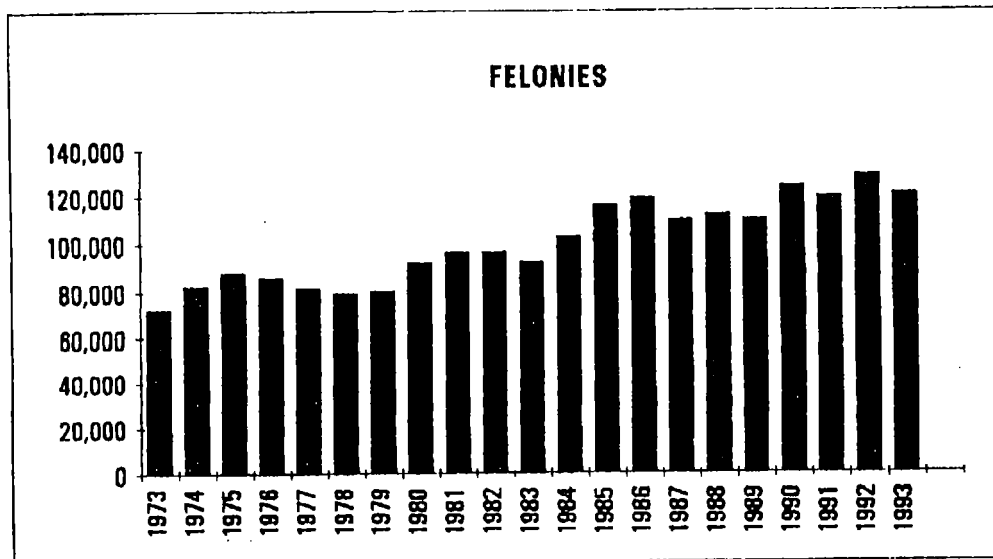
Source: Puerto Rico Police Department



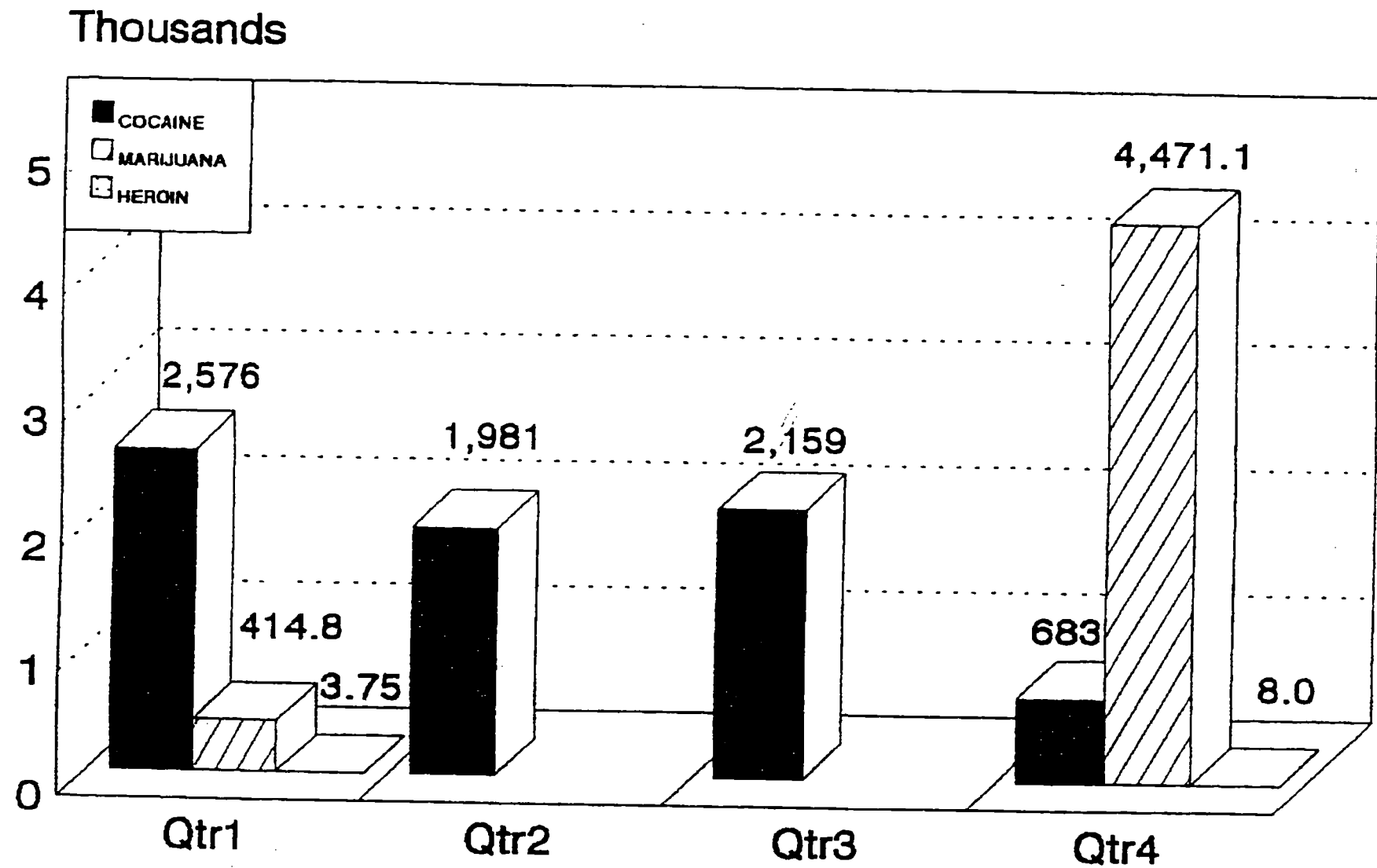
**FELONIES IN PUERTO RICO FOR SELECTED YEARS
(CALENDAR YEAR)**

YEAR	TOTAL
1973	72,363
1974	82,293
1975	88,095
1976	86,078
1977	81,544
1978	79,343
1979	80,181
1980	92,180
1981	98,640
1982	96,738
1983	92,252
1984	102,525
1985	118,432
1986	119,522
1987	110,018
1988	111,947
1989	110,027
1990	124,371
1991	119,731
1992	128,874
1993	121,029

Source: Puerto Rico Police Department

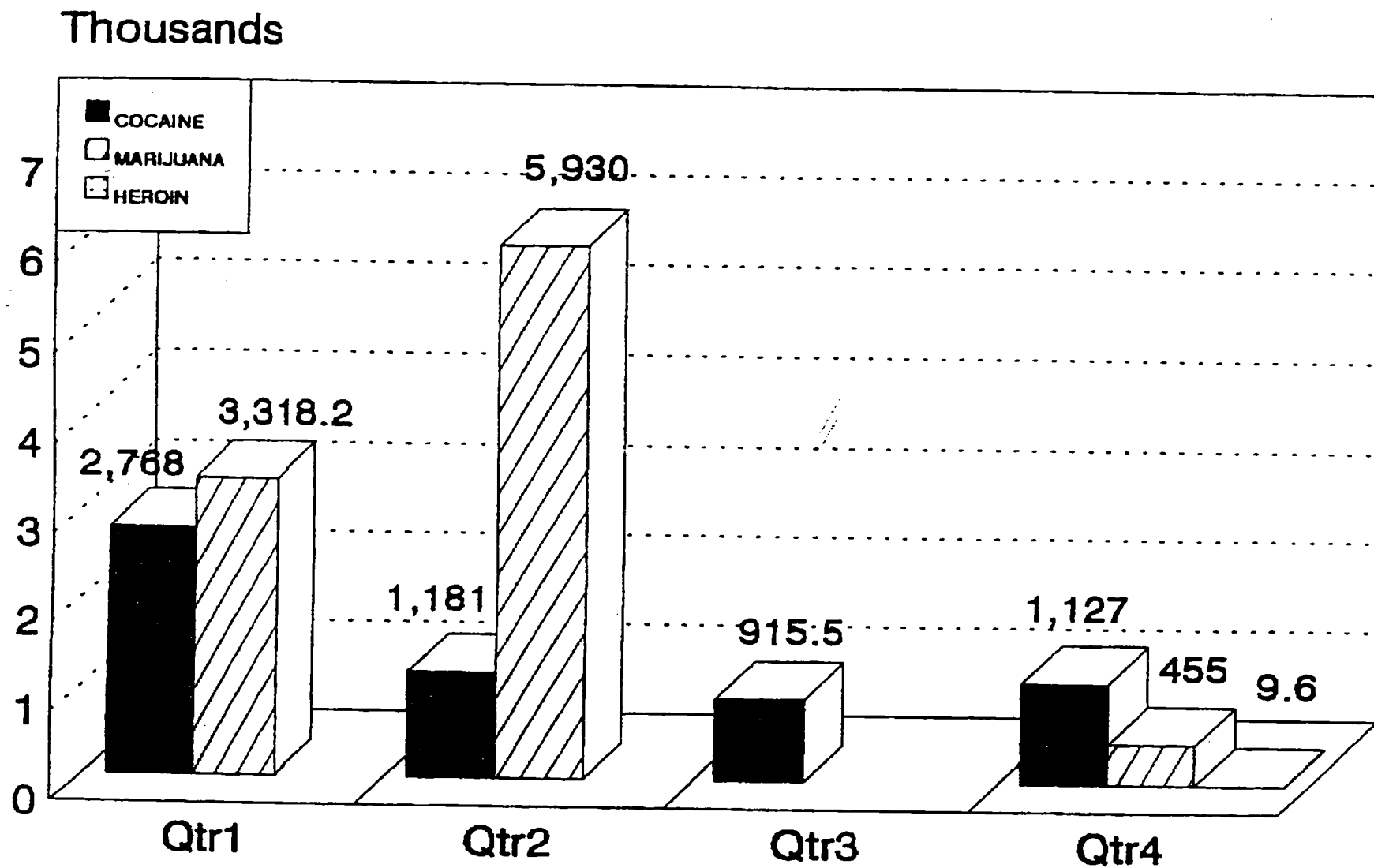


DRUG SEIZURES FY/91

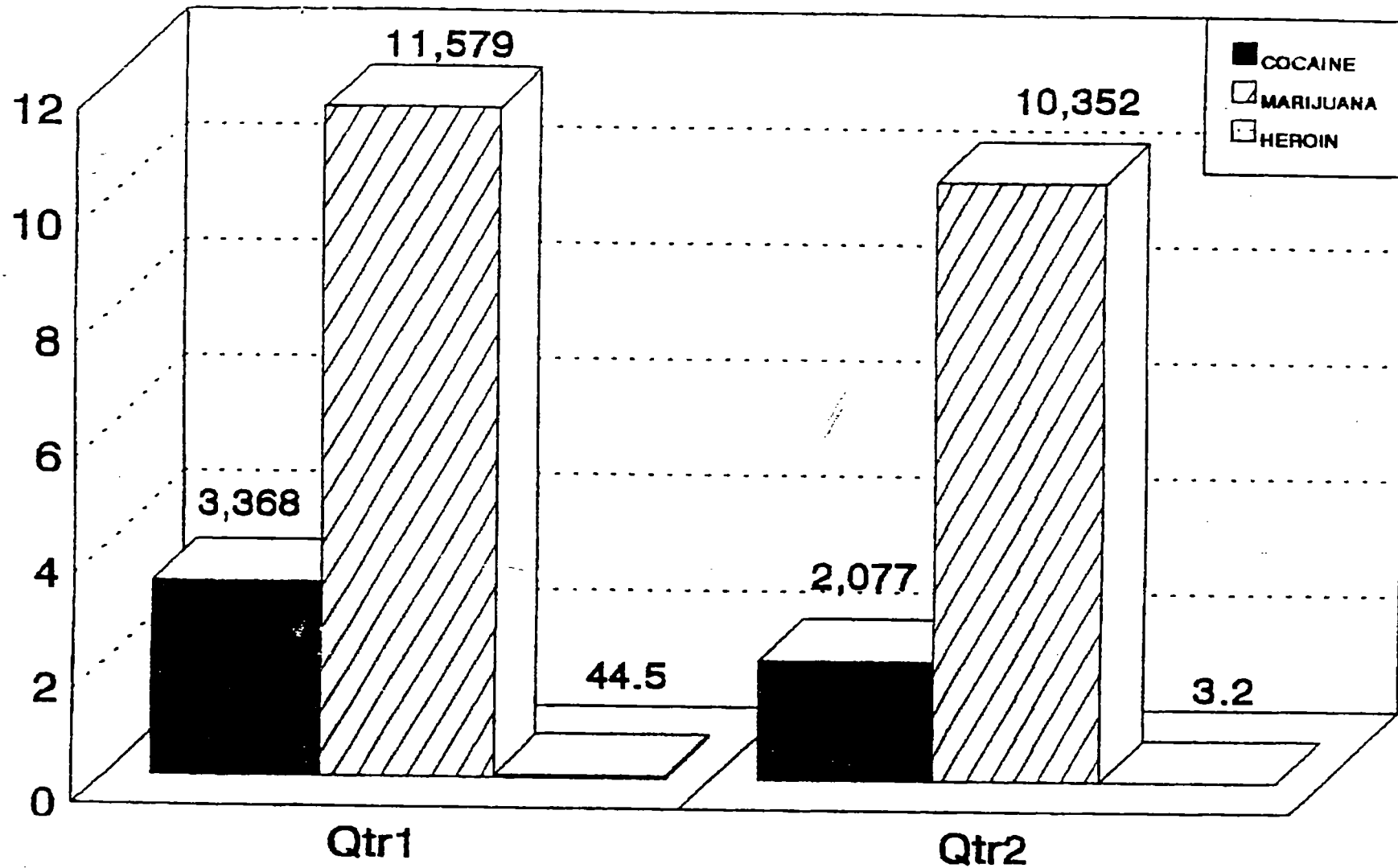


KILOGRAMS

DRUG SEIZURES FY/92



DRUG SEIZURES FY/93



GRAMS

DRUG SEIZED BY POUND

PUERTO RICO STATE POLICE DEPARTMENT
DRUGS, NARCOTICS & VICE CONTROL DIVISION

YEARS	HEROINE	COCAINE	MARIHUANA	MARIHUANA PLANTS	PILLS	CRACK CAPSULES
1986	24.03	1,835.81	428,498.07	---	1,588	---
1987	7.14	3,704.12	84,788.81	813	1,211	---
1988	8.88	1,047.71	46,890.89	2,013	1,071	---
1989	102.88	10,532.47	18,183.88	42	88	---
1990	17.21	4,450.90	1,278.83	438	25	10,863
1991	4.78	11,984.20	21,820.90	423	14	9,130
1992	147.77	4,945.47	20,366.99	413	24	25,182

The Puerto Rico State Police Department numbers reflect the amounts of illicit drugs seized through missions carried out by local forces, as well as through joint missions with the Federal government.

DRUG SEIZED BY POUND

(SEIZED DRUGS BY LOCAL AND FEDERAL AGENCIES)

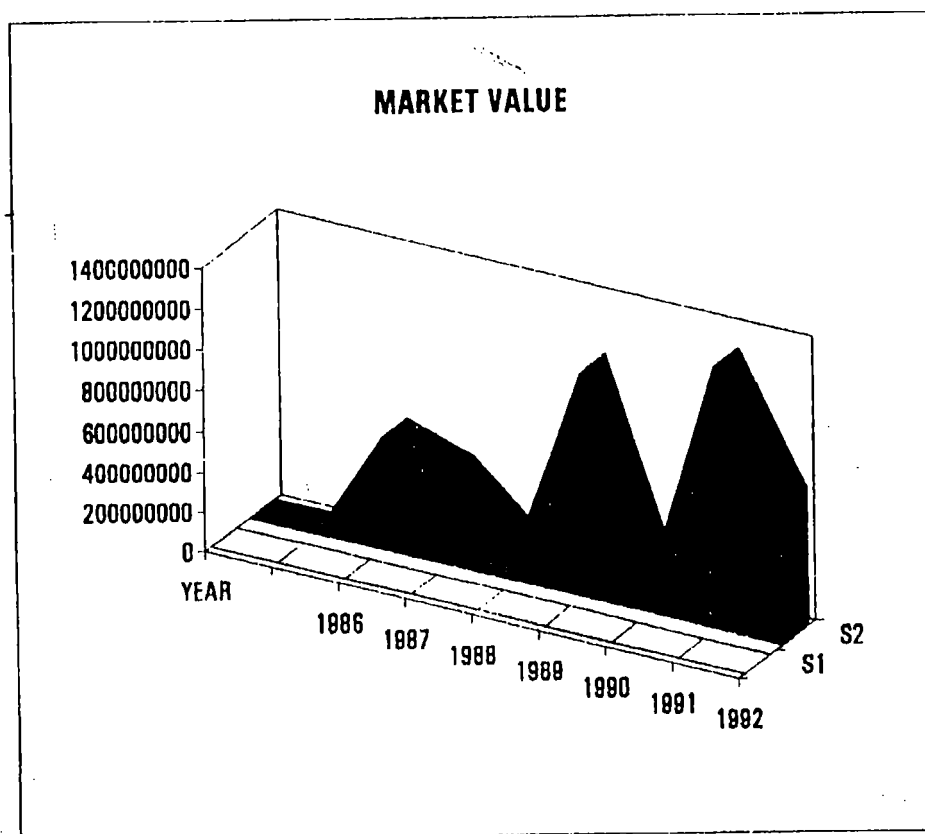
1992*	218.78	18,122.28	71,888.89	413	24	25,182
1993*	232.47	23,131.32	54,700.75	---	58	38,170

Numbers reflect the amounts of illicit drugs seized by federal forces, as well as through joint missions with the local security forces.

AVERAGE MARKET VALUE OF SEIZED DRUGS

(Seized Drugs by P.R. State Police Department)

YEAR	MARKET VALUE
1986	557,805,304.00
1987	451,785,933.88
1988	152,388,588.22
1989	1,102,310,870.78
1990	157,134,280.00
1991	1,285,707,196.00
1992	876,078,838.00



SELECTED LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES

(Millions of dollars)

	1992	%	1993	%	1994	%	Change 93/92	Change 94/93
PROTECTION & SAFETY	788.20		798.80		940.80		1.04	1.18
-Federal Funds	48.80	0.06	31.30	0.04	27.80	0.03	0.87	0.88
-State Funds	719.80	0.94	767.50	0.88	813.00	0.87	1.07	1.19
-Justice Administration	173.80		178.90		188.70		1.02	1.07
-Federal Funds	9.80	0.08	8.80	0.05	7.50	0.04	0.80	0.85
-State Funds	164.10	0.94	168.10	0.95	181.20	0.88	1.02	1.08
-Law and Order	305.40		328.80		404.20		1.07	1.24
-Federal Funds	11.30	0.04	12.30	0.04	17.40	0.04	1.08	1.41
-State Funds	294.10	0.96	314.30	0.98	386.80	0.88	1.07	1.23

P.R. Department of Justice

-Total Budget	80.00		81.80		88.30		1.03	1.13
-Law Enforcement	20.60	0.34	25.80	0.42	24.80	0.38	1.25	0.88

P.R. Police Department

-Total Budget	274.20		287.20		373.50		1.08	1.28
-Police Services	258.80	0.94	278.50	0.94	354.80	0.95	1.08	1.27
-Forces United in Rapid Action (FURA)	4.80	0.02	5.80	0.02	8.70	0.02	1.21	1.18

Source: P.R. Budget Office

RESOURCES USED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF MENTAL HEALTH & DRUG ABUSE SERVICES

STATE FUNDS	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
PREVENTION	1,588,891	1,803,178	1,588,158
DRUG TREATMENT	9,351,555	10,088,471	10,272,890
SUB-TOTAL	10,820,546	11,889,849	11,838,848
FEDERAL FUNDS			
PREVENTION	5,960,138	6,764,373	5,575,742
DRUG TREATMENT	7,677,899	10,051,841	9,147,815
SUB-TOTAL	13,638,037	16,816,014	14,723,367
TOTAL	24,558,583	28,515,863	26,562,205
TOTAL PER PROGRAM			
PREVENTION	7,529,129	8,387,551	7,141,800
DRUG TREATMENT	17,029,454	20,148,112	19,420,305

P.R. National Guard Forecast of expenditures for the Anticrime Plan from June 1993 to February 1994

Public Housing	Beginning Date	Termination Date	No. of Officers & Enlisted	Payroll until Jan 93	Other Expensive	Total Expenditure Jan 93	Total Expenditure June to Dec	Total Expenditure Jan 94	Estimate until June 94	Total Forecast & Expenditure
Villa España - San Juan	4-Jun-93	7-Oct-93	0	0	0	0	703,692	703,692	0	703,692
El Prado - San Juan	5-Jun-93	24-Nov-93	0	0	0	0	586,737	586,737	0	586,737
Vista Hermosa - San Juan	7-Jun-93	30-Dec-93	0	0	0	0	966,937	966,937	0	966,937
Barbosa - Bayamón	8-Jun-93	2-Sep-93	0	0	0	0	330,773	330,773	0	330,773
Sierra Linda - Bayamón	8-Jun-93	2-Sep-93	0	0	0	0	330,773	330,773	0	330,773
Brisas de Cayey - Cayey	11-Jun-93	3-Sep-93	0	0	0	0	536,929	536,929	0	536,929
Santa Elena - San Juan	15-Jun-93	17-Dec-93	0	0	0	0	299,933	299,933	0	299,933
Jardines de Sellés - San Juan	17-Jun-93	26-Nov-93	0	0	0	0	615,773	615,773	0	615,773
López Sicardó - San Juan	22-Jun-93	26-Jan-93	32	70,720	10,816	81,536	792,004	873,540	0	873,540
Los Mirtos - San Juan	28-Jun-93	11-Dec-93	0	0	0	0	539,612	539,612	0	539,612
Las Gladiolas - San Juan	30-Jun-93	7-Oct-93	0	0	0	0	694,975	694,975	0	694,975
Las Margaritas - San Juan	7-Jul-93	2-Feb-94	38	100,130	15,314	115,444	845,614	961,058	11,172	972,230
Turabo Height - Caguas	7-Jul-93	8-Jul-93	0	0	0	0	36,654	36,654	0	36,654
Jiménez García - Caguas	16-Jul-93	30-Dec-93	0	0	0	0	499,591	499,591	0	499,591
La Meseta - Arecibo	21-Jul-93	4-Nov-93	0	0	0	0	244,865	244,865	0	244,865
Jardines de Oriente - Humacao	30-Jul-93	3-Nov-93	0	0	0	0	215,081	215,081	0	215,081
Plazuela - Barceloneta	4-Aug-93	29-Nov-93	0	0	0	0	294,340	294,340	0	294,340
Monte Hatillo - San Juan	12-Jul-93	15-Jan-94	34	43,350	6,630	49,980	982,992	1,032,972	0	1,032,972
J. Montellano - Cayey	22-Jul-93	5-Jan-94	20	8,500	1,300	9,800	273,829	283,629	0	283,629
Quintana - San Juan	7-Sep-93	4-Nov-93	0	0	0	0	258,107	258,107	0	258,107
Dr. Pila - Ponce	10-Sep-93		61	160,735	24,583	185,318	594,257	779,575	538,935	1,318,510
Kennedy - Mayaguez	21-Sep-93	24-Jan-94	19	38,760	5,928	44,688	132,570	177,258	0	177,258
Carmen - Mayaguez	21-Sep-93	24-Jan-94	6	12,240	1,872	14,112	180,959	195,071	0	195,071
Candelaria - Mayaguez	21-Sep-93	24-Jan-94	30	61,200	9,360	70,560	388,652	459,212	0	459,212
San Martín - San Juan	6-Oct-93	2-Feb-94	56	147,560	22,568	170,128	257,343	427,471	10,976	438,447
Brisas de Cupey - San Juan	26-Oct-93	25-Jan-94	29	61,625	9,425	71,050	214,866	285,916	0	285,916
Jardines de Cupey - San Juan	26-Oct-93	25-Jan-94	26	55,250	8,450	63,700	189,229	252,929	0	252,929
Alturas de Cupey - San Juan	26-Oct-93	6-Feb-94	25	65,875	10,075	75,950	156,313	232,263	14,700	246,963
Jardines de Cataño - Cataño	23-Nov-93	15-Jan-94	31	39,525	6,045	45,570	80,362	125,932	0	125,932
Jardines de Country Club - S.J.	27-Dec-93		12	31,620	4,836	36,456	8,991	45,447	221,655	267,102
Villa Esperanza - San Juan	4-Jan-93		20	6,800	1,040	7,840		7,840	403,000	410,840
Jardines de Campo Rico - S. J.	13-Jan-93		24	26,520	4,056	30,576		30,576	404,908	435,484
Alejandro - Guaynabo	13-Jan-93		22	24,310	3,718	28,028		28,028	380,397	408,425
Jenny - Bayamón	19-Jan-93		25	40,375	6,175	46,550		46,550	303,800	350,350
San Fernando - Bayamón	19-Jan-93		7	11,305	1,729	13,034		13,034	85,064	98,098
Juana Matos - Cataño	21-Jan-93		58	103,530	15,834	119,364		119,364	528,612	647,976
El Cemi - Luquillo	26-Jan-93		11	27,131	3,578	30,709		30,709	146,459	177,168
Torres de Sabana - Carolina	28-Jan-93		32	0	0	0	0	0	380,800	380,800
Funds Available (Operations)									780,967	780,967
TOTAL			618	1,137,061	173,332	1,310,393	12,252,753	13,563,146	4,211,445	17,774,591

PUERTO RICO SHOULD BE DESIGNATED A HIDTA

Puerto Rico has become the principal point-of-entry for illegal drugs entering the eastern U.S.. Thousands of pounds of heroin and cocaine are entering East Coast urban centers annually via Puerto Rico. Despite massive local efforts, such trafficking is increasing, rather than declining. For this reason, additional federal resources are essential to stem trafficking and distribution. Designation of Puerto Rico as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area ("HIDTA"), or its equivalent, would provide the necessary federal/state resources to address this serious problem.

PUERTO RICO IS A LEADING TRANSSHIPMENT POINT FOR DRUGS ENTERING THE U.S.

- According to the U.S. Customs Service and Drug Enforcement Administration, Puerto Rico is now the major transshipment point for illicit drug smuggling from South America and the Eastern Caribbean into the U.S. mainland.
- San Juan Airport is now the largest U.S. port-of-entry for illegal drugs and weapons by air.
- Small aircraft can generally fly round trip from the north coast of Columbia to Puerto Rico without re-fueling. Consequently, Puerto Rico, because it is within the U.S., has become a point of preference for illegal land and airdrops.
- South American traffickers as well as Dominican illegal aliens can reach Puerto Rico by traveling across the narrow Mona Passage in wooden rafts. The DEA considers the Dominican drug traffickers a particular problem, especially in major urban areas like New York City, because of their willingness to use violence to influence other drug traffickers.
- If narcotics are introduced into Puerto Rico without detection, there is no further Customs inspection before the shipment reaches the mainland. Likewise, once illegal aliens enter Puerto Rico, they can fraudulently obtain documentation that enables them to act as couriers to the mainland as legal "Puerto Ricans."
- As of this date, Puerto Rico has been invaded by over 300,000 illegal aliens, mostly Dominican and Haitian, who are finding their way north at an increasing rate.

PUERTO RICO IS A MAJOR DRUG DISTRIBUTION CENTER

- The number of hardcore drug users in Puerto Rico has reached unprecedented levels; there are now thirteen times more addicts than there were just a decade ago.
- Deaths from drug abuse have increased tenfold over the last ten years.
- Puerto Rico has the third highest rate of reported AIDS cases in the U.S., behind only Washington D.C. and New York City.
- Drug related crime surpasses the worst rates of most other urban centers. In 1993, the crime rate in Puerto Rico was 50 percent higher than that of any U.S. state. One out of every two Puerto Rican families has now been affected by crime. San Juan closed out the year with the third highest per capita homicide rate of cities in the U.S.. Approximately 85 percent of the slayings are believed to be drug-related.

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE ALREADY ENDORSED THE DESIGNATION OF PUERTO RICO AS A HIDTA

- On January 26, 1994, FBI Director Freeh advocated the designation of Puerto Rico as a HIDTA and indicated that the FBI needed to strengthen its commitment to Puerto Rico.
- Earlier this month, Customs Commissioner Weise voiced his support for the designation of Puerto Rico as a HIDTA. He also agreed to work with Treasury officials and Lee Brown to secure additional federal resources for Puerto Rico.