



**OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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PRESS RELEASE

**Spending Report on Drug Control Activities
Released During Strategy Development Session**

Washington, D.C. – The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) today released a survey of State and local government spending on drug control activities. The report was released during the opening session of the two-day National Drug Control Strategy Development Session for representatives of Governors and Big-city Mayors. During this unprecedented session, more than 50 representatives will participate in work sessions that will help frame the annual National Drug Control Strategy. This is the first time representatives from the states and cities have participated so directly in the development of the national strategy.

This survey provides information about the extent of such spending for Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991, as well as offers details about its functional allocation. The survey found that State and local governments are more than equal partners in the drug effort, spending \$15.9 billion on drug control activities in Fiscal Year 1991. This was an increase of nearly 13 percent over the \$14.1 billion spent in Fiscal Year 1990. By comparison, for FY 1991 the total Federal budget for drug control activities was \$11.0 billion.

The survey covers all drug-related spending by States and general purpose local governments (counties, municipalities, and townships) during Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991. It encompasses expenditures for all types of drug control activities, including those in the general areas of criminal justice, education, and health/rehabilitation. Among the key findings:

- o The criminal justice system accounted for the largest portion of drug control spending during the two years studied (\$12.6 billion or 79 percent). The single largest component of criminal justice spending was for correctional services (\$6.8 billion).
- o Spending for health and hospitals (treatment) and education (prevention) accounted for the balance of drug control spending (\$3.3 billion or 21 percent).

The survey reports that nationally 1.5 percent of all State and local government spending was for drug control activities. By comparison, in FY 1991, the Federal government spent about one percent for drug control activities.

The survey also found that the governments in California, New York, and Florida spent the most on drug control during the survey period. In combination, they accounted for about 44 percent of all State and local spending on drug control in each of the survey years.

The Director of ONDCP, Dr. Lee Brown, commented, "This survey demonstrates the substantial costs drug use has imposed on State and local governments and makes clear the necessity of reducing drug use and the crime and violence associated with it. With the continued participation of State and local governments and our many other partners, I hope we can build on the successes of the past and achieve our national goal of reducing drug use and its horrible consequences."

The study was prepared for ONDCP by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Copies may be obtained by contacting the Drugs and Crime Clearinghouse (800-666-3332), or from the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

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State and Local Spending on Drug Control Activities

Report from the National Survey
of State & Local Governments

Office of National Drug Control Policy
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