



**COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND DRUGS**

# **Williamson County**

## **Drug Impact Index 2015**



## **Mission Statement**

LifeSteps' mission is to eliminate substance abuse through prevention, intervention, counseling, education and family services.

## **Vision Statement**

LifeSteps' vision is a drug-free Williamson County where individuals are resourceful and productive, families are healthy and nurturing, and communities are safe and supportive.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Julie Stevens, MPS, LCDCi, ACPS

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LifeSteps extends its thanks to the Tarrant County Challenge, Inc. for modeling best practice through its Tarrant County Drug Impact Index.

Laurie Born, Rolando Botello, Belinda Lewandowski, David MacEwan and James Mendez  
May 2015

## Letter from the Executive Director

Information! We all want it. Information enables us to understand past trends in drug use, to analyze current problems, and to create a plan for the future. Data helps us monitor attitudes and beliefs about substance use and related issues.

The *Monitoring the Future Survey*<sup>1</sup> tells us that from 2008 to 2014, there was a slight, but not significant, decline in the use of licit and illicit substances nationwide. Although there is a slight decline in the use of marijuana, there is an increase in favorable attitudes toward marijuana. The *perceived risk* of regular marijuana use has declined.

The *Monitoring the Future Survey* also reveals that cigarette smoking and underage drinking continue to decline, and are now at the lowest levels in the history of the survey. Use of e-cigarettes has, however, increased dramatically and e-cigarettes are now more prevalent than smoking tobacco. Research on the harm of using e-cigs has not caught up with the increased popularity. The glamorization of e-cigs disguises the willful ingestion of an addictive and highly toxic substance.<sup>2</sup>

While this national data informs our prevention strategies, we need to tailor our planning to address use patterns locally. Our motto at LifeSteps is “Local People Solve Local Problems Best.” Likewise, local data helps inform local planning best. The Drug Impact Index is a snapshot of substance abuse in our county in the hopes that this data will be useful in planning health promotion and prevention strategies.

I hope you find this information useful in your efforts to create a safe and healthy Williamson County.



Julie Stevens, MPS, ACPS, CI  
Executive Director, LifeSteps Council on Alcohol and Drugs

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<sup>1</sup> Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Miech, R. A., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2015). *Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use: 1975-2014: Overview, key findings on adolescent drug use*. Ann Arbor: Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan.

<sup>2</sup> Dean E. Schraufnagel, MD, Pediatric Allergy, Immunology, and Pulmonology, “Electronic Cigarettes: Vulnerability of Youth”

# Overview

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During his swearing-in ceremony as the new Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Michael Botticelli remarked, “Substance use should not be an inevitability in people’s lives...and letting people “hit bottom” means we have failed them countless times along the way – in their doctor’s office, at the pharmacy counter, and in our courts.”<sup>3</sup> The purpose of the Williamson County Drug Impact Index is to inform the citizens of Williamson County of the magnitude of the community’s substance abuse problem. Substance abuse includes the misuse of alcohol, legal and illegal drugs. The data comes from archives in national, state, and local reporting systems as well as established surveys.

The Index addresses local problems that can be addressed through local action with local resources. It is important to note that the findings in this Index reflect conservative numbers. The real magnitude of the problem is far greater.

Legislation passed in 2013<sup>4</sup> prohibits the issuance of Class C Misdemeanors to students younger than age 17. As a result, the number of juvenile arrests reported for drug related offenses has plummeted. Underage drinking and use of illicit drugs has not been curtailed, however, the official record of juvenile offenses related to alcohol and other drugs would appear to indicate a significant decline in underage drinking and marijuana use. Substance abuse issues are often reported at school because that is where students are identified as being under the influence, in possession, or selling. Relying on school discipline data as a measure of adolescent substance use, however, greatly underestimates the problem in our community. **Comparatively few students are disciplined for substance abuse, arguably because much of the behavior students self-report occurs off-campus and outside of school hours.** Although it does not seem reasonable for schools alone to be held accountable for substance abuse issues and solutions, the absenteeism and lack of mental alertness that result from substance abuse adversely affect learning, test scores, and, ultimately, graduation rates, for which schools alone are accountable.

Since most substance abuse doesn’t originate at school, the solutions will not be found by schools alone. LifeSteps Council on Alcohol and Drugs works with schools, law enforcement, the judicial system, the health district and other nonprofits to provide public education programs, offender education programs, and free presentations in Williamson County. As a community, we need to understand the scope of youth substance abuse in order to prevent the collateral damage that comes from ignoring the trends. The *Drug Impact Index* marks a significant step forward in promoting the community use of data for collective action. The intent of the *Index* is to begin a conversation with elected officials, school districts, parents and treatment providers about the pervasiveness of substance abuse in Williamson County. Let the conversation begin.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/speeches/botticelli-swearing-in>

<sup>4</sup> SB 393 and SB 1114 – 83rd Texas Legislature

**Data Sources**

- Texas A&M University School of Public Policy
- Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission
- Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- Texas Department of Public Safety – Uniform Crime Reports
- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Texas State Data Center Population Estimates Program
- U.S. Census Bureau – 2000-2010 County Characteristics Intercensal Population Estimates
- United States Drug Enforcement Administration
- Williamson County Juvenile Services

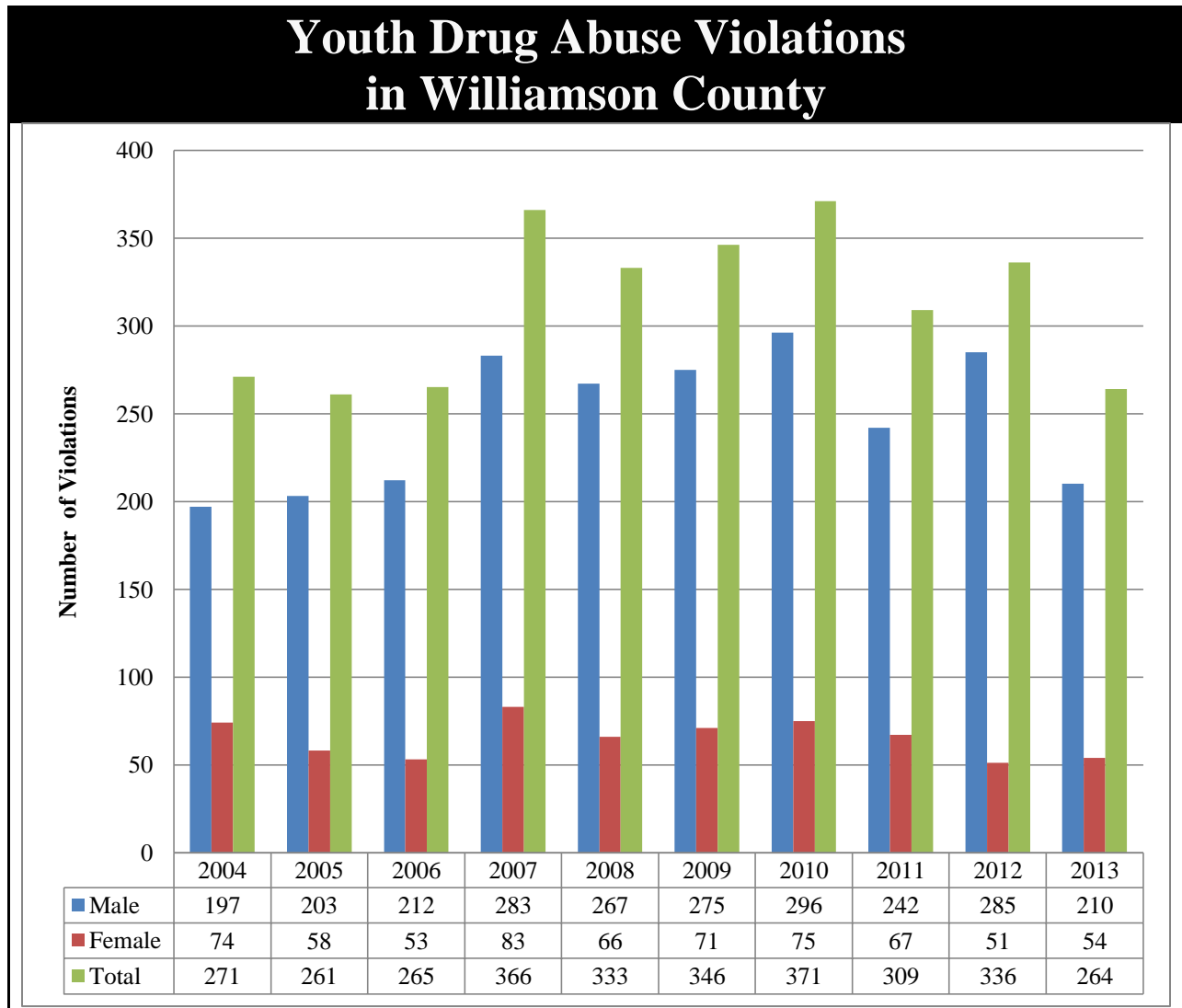
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# Indicator 1

This chart encompasses all arrests related to illicit substances such as: opium/cocaine, marijuana, synthetic narcotics, or “other”, often referring to prescription medications. This chart also includes arrests related to alcohol. It is important to consider the effect of population increases in most of Williamson County and the possible decrease in enforcement, which has been voiced by some as a topic of concern.



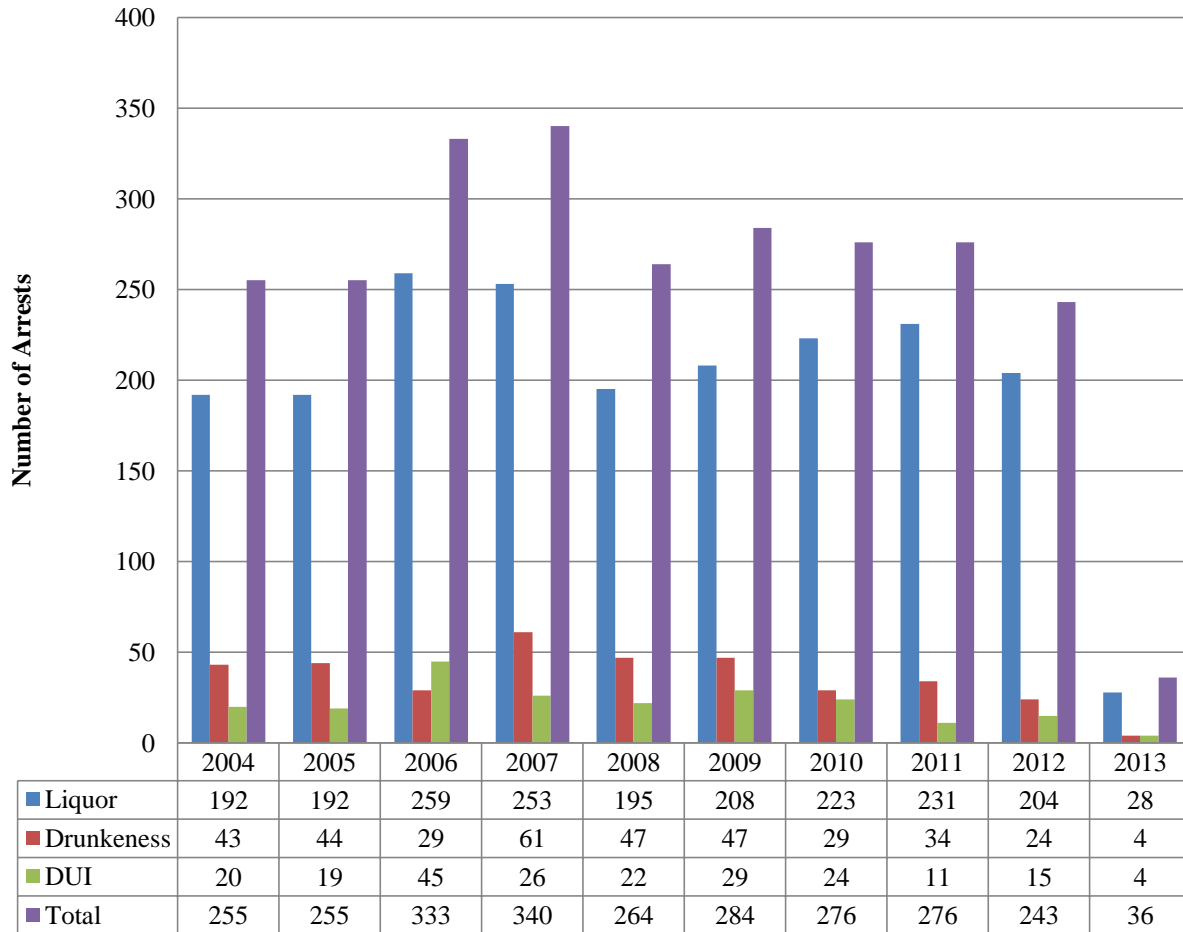
|                       | '04 | '05 | '06 | '07 | '08 | '09 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '13 | Avg. | SD  | Trend |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| <18 total rate/1,000* | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.6  | 0.3 | -0.03 |

\*Based on Texas State Data Center Populations Estimates Program

Note: The numbers reported here reflect arrests of individuals 17 years of age and younger.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting – Texas Department of Public Safety

## Youth Alcohol Related Arrests in Williamson County



|                       | '04 | '05 | '06 | '07 | '08 | '09 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '13 | Avg. | SD  | Trend |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| <18 total rate/1,000* | 2.5 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 0.3 | 2.2  | 0.7 | -0.18 |

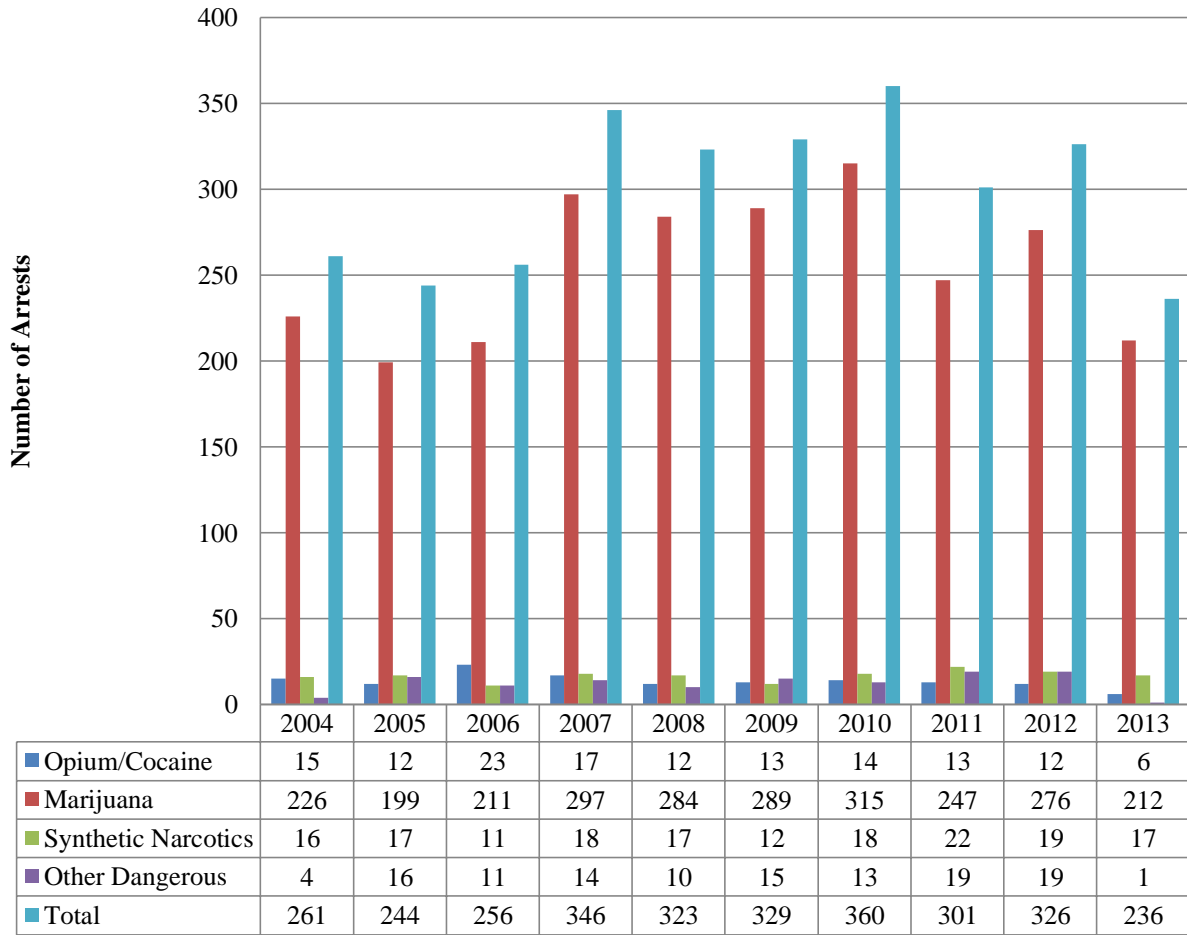
\*Based on Texas State Data Center Populations Estimates Program

Note: The numbers reported here reflect arrests of individuals 17 years of age and younger.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting – Texas Department of Public Safety



## Youth Arrests for Drug Possession In Williamson County



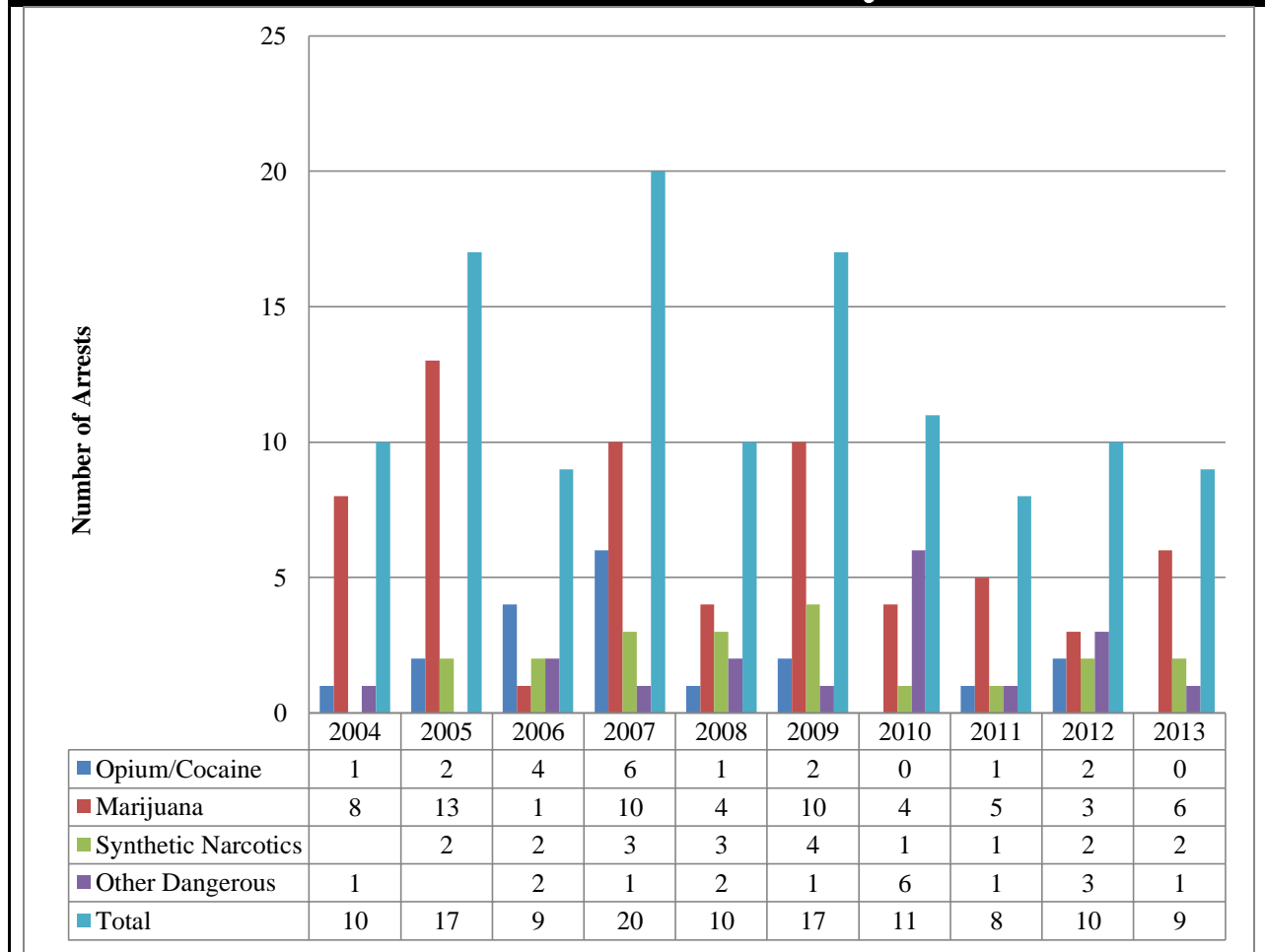
|                       | '04 | '05 | '06 | '07 | '08 | '09 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '13 | Avg. | SD  | Trend |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| <18 total rate/1,000* | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 1.8 | 2.5  | 0.3 | -0.03 |

\*Based on Texas State Data Center Populations Estimates Program

Notes: The numbers reported here reflect arrests of individuals 17 years of age and younger. The non-narcotics category includes prescription drugs, which are not opium derivative-based, inhalants, and all other illicit drugs which do not fall into categories of marijuana and opium/cocaine.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting – Texas Department of Public Safety

## Youth Arrests for Drug Sale/Manufacturing In Williamson County



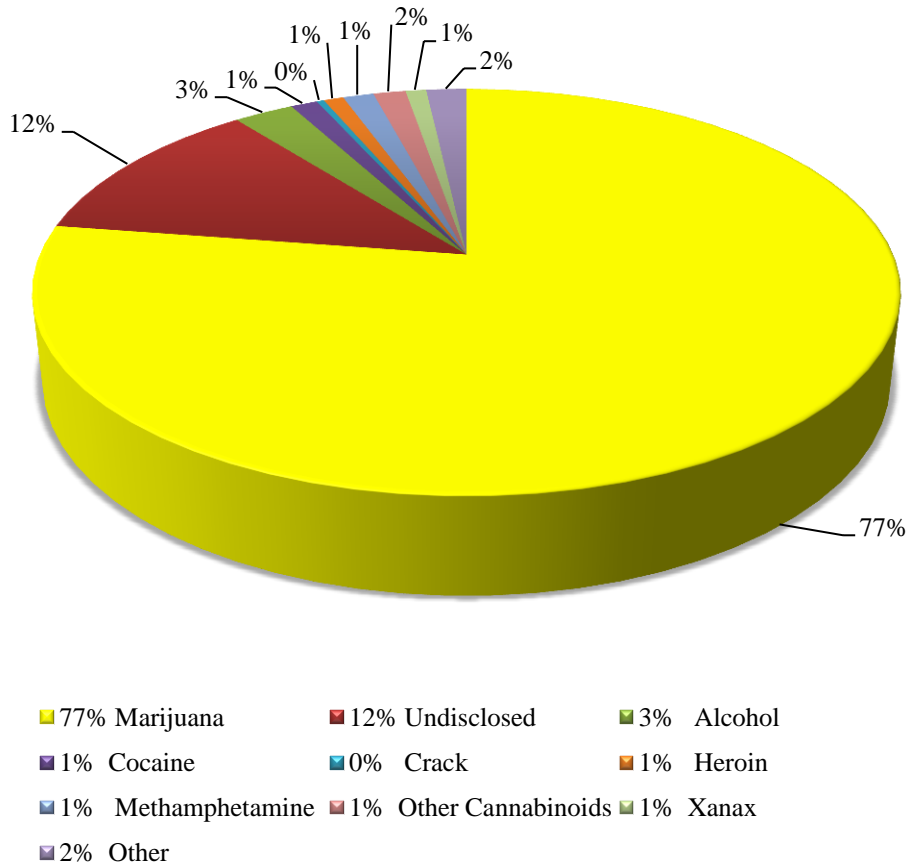
|                       | '04 | '05 | '06 | '07 | '08 | '09 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '13 | Avg. | SD  | Trend |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| <18 total rate/1,000* | .10 | .16 | .08 | .17 | .08 | .13 | .09 | .06 | .08 | .07 | .10  | 0.4 | -0.01 |

\*Based on Texas State Data Center Populations Estimates Program

Notes: The numbers reported here reflect arrests of individuals 17 years of age and younger. The non-narcotics category includes prescription drugs, which are not opium derivative-based, inhalants, and all other illicit drugs which do not fall into categories of marijuana and opium/cocaine.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting – Texas Department of Public Safety

### Primary Drug at Time of Youth Admission to DSHS Funded Facilities – 2012 (Texas)



Notes: The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is a state agency that administers both federal and state funds. These figures represent only the youth clients for whom the agencies seek reimbursement from DSHS. DSHS funded facilities primarily serve individuals without behavioral health insurance coverage.

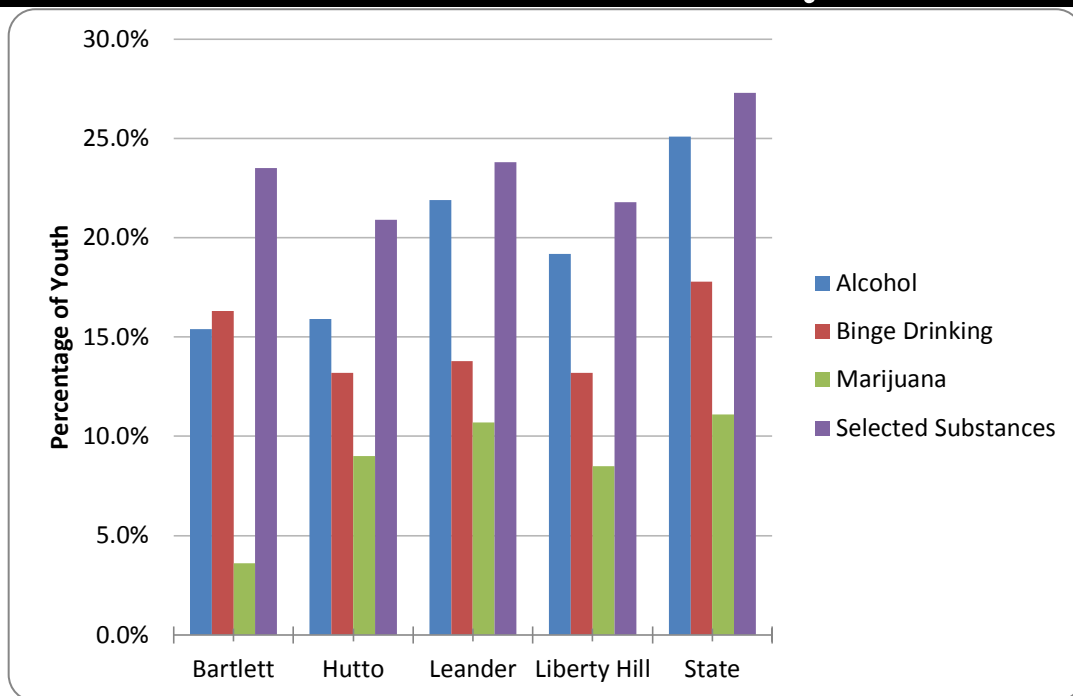
Source: Texas Department of State Health Services

## Indicator 6

The following table encompasses several parameters of substance abuse among youth. In a survey conducted by the Texas A&M School of Public Policy in 2012, students were asked several questions regarding their involvement with illicit substances. Represented in this table are the following:

- Percentage of Williamson County Youth Who Reported Using Alcohol in the Month Prior to the Survey
- Percentage of Williamson County Youth Who Reported Binge Drinking in the Month Prior to the Survey
- Percentage of Williamson County Youth Who Reported Using Marijuana in the Month Prior to the Survey
- Percentage of Youth Who Reported Ever Having Used Selected Substances in the Month Prior to the Survey

### Youth Who Reported Involvement with Illicit Substances in Williamson County and Texas in the Month Prior to the Survey



|                     | Bartlett | Hutto | Leander | Liberty Hill | State |
|---------------------|----------|-------|---------|--------------|-------|
| Alcohol             | 15.4%    | 15.9% | 21.9%   | 19.2%        | 25.1% |
| Binge Drinking      | 16.3%    | 13.2% | 13.8%   | 13.2%        | 17.8% |
| Marijuana           | 3.6%     | 9.0%  | 10.7%   | 8.5%         | 11.1% |
| Selected Substances | 23.5%    | 20.9% | 23.8%   | 21.8%        | 27.3% |

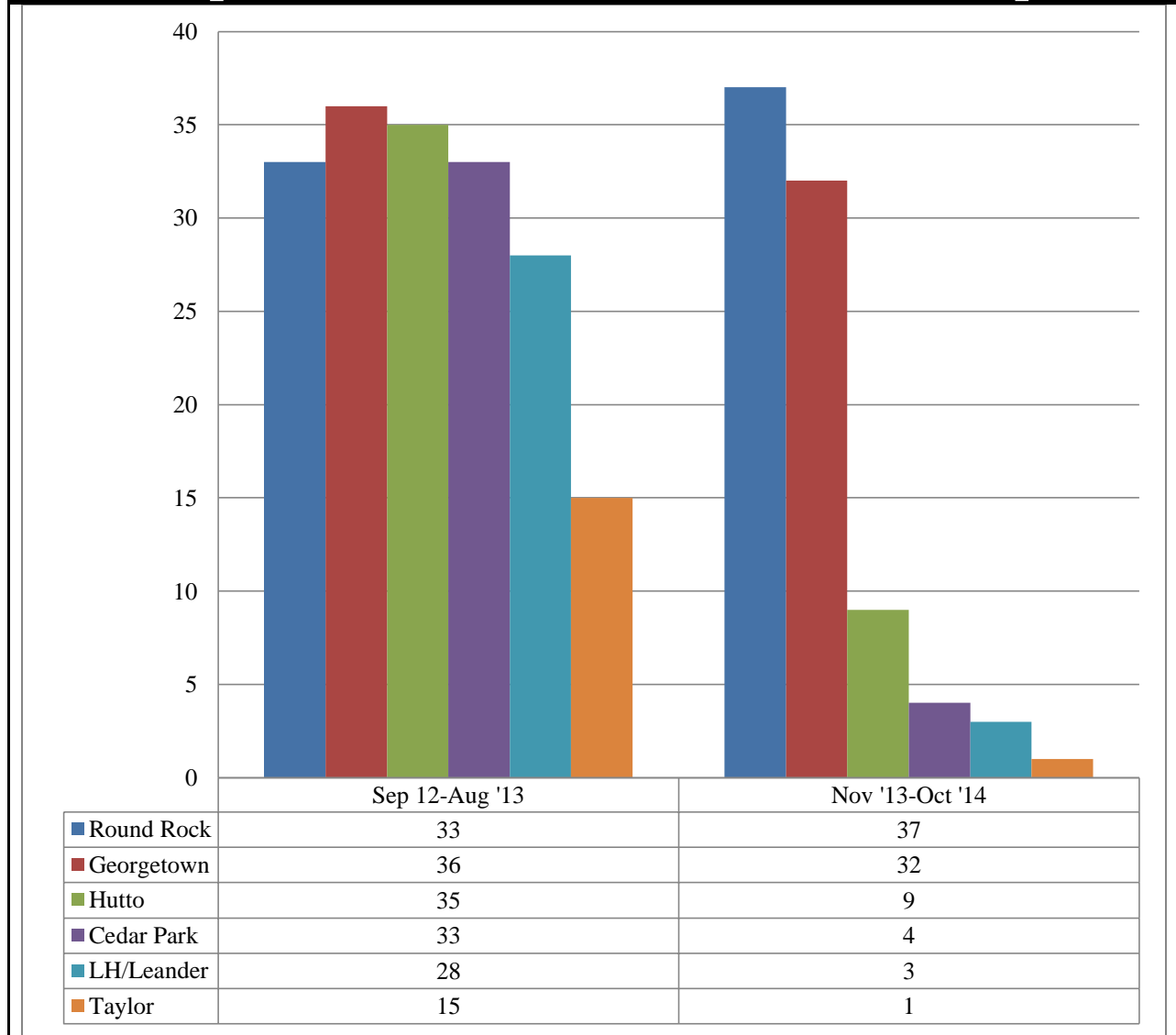
Notes: These numbers only represent the students who participated in the Texas A&M study. The data for Bartlett, Hutto, Leander, Liberty Hill and the state of Texas was collected in 2012.

Source: Texas A&M School of Public Policy - 2012

## Indicator 7

In Texas, underage possession of alcohol is also known as minor in possession, or MIP. This offense is governed by Section 106.05 of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code, which states that it is an offense for a person under 21 years of age to possess an alcoholic beverage, except for in very specific circumstances.

### LifeSteps: Minor in Possession Course Participants

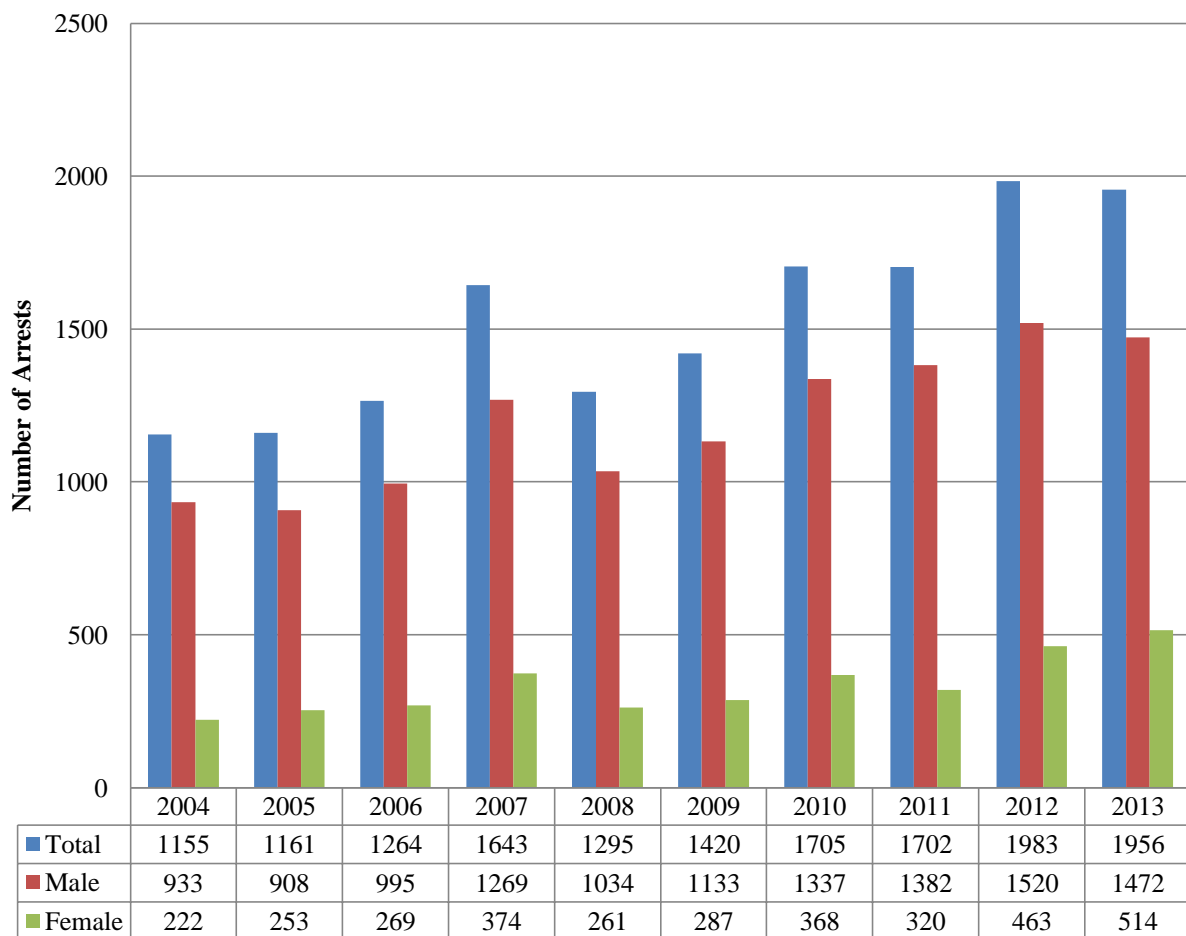


NOTE: Legislation passed in 2013 prohibits the issuance of Class C Misdemeanors to students younger than age 17. As a result, the number of juvenile arrests for MIP plummeted in many communities.

## Indicator 8

This chart encompasses all arrests related to illicit substances such as; opium/cocaine, marijuana, synthetic narcotics, or “other”, often referring to prescription medications. The number of arrests related to these substances is referenced in the next three tables. It is important to consider the rising of the population of Williamson County and the possible decrease in enforcement, which has been voiced by some as a topic of concern.

### Adult Arrests for Drug Abuse Violations in Williamson County



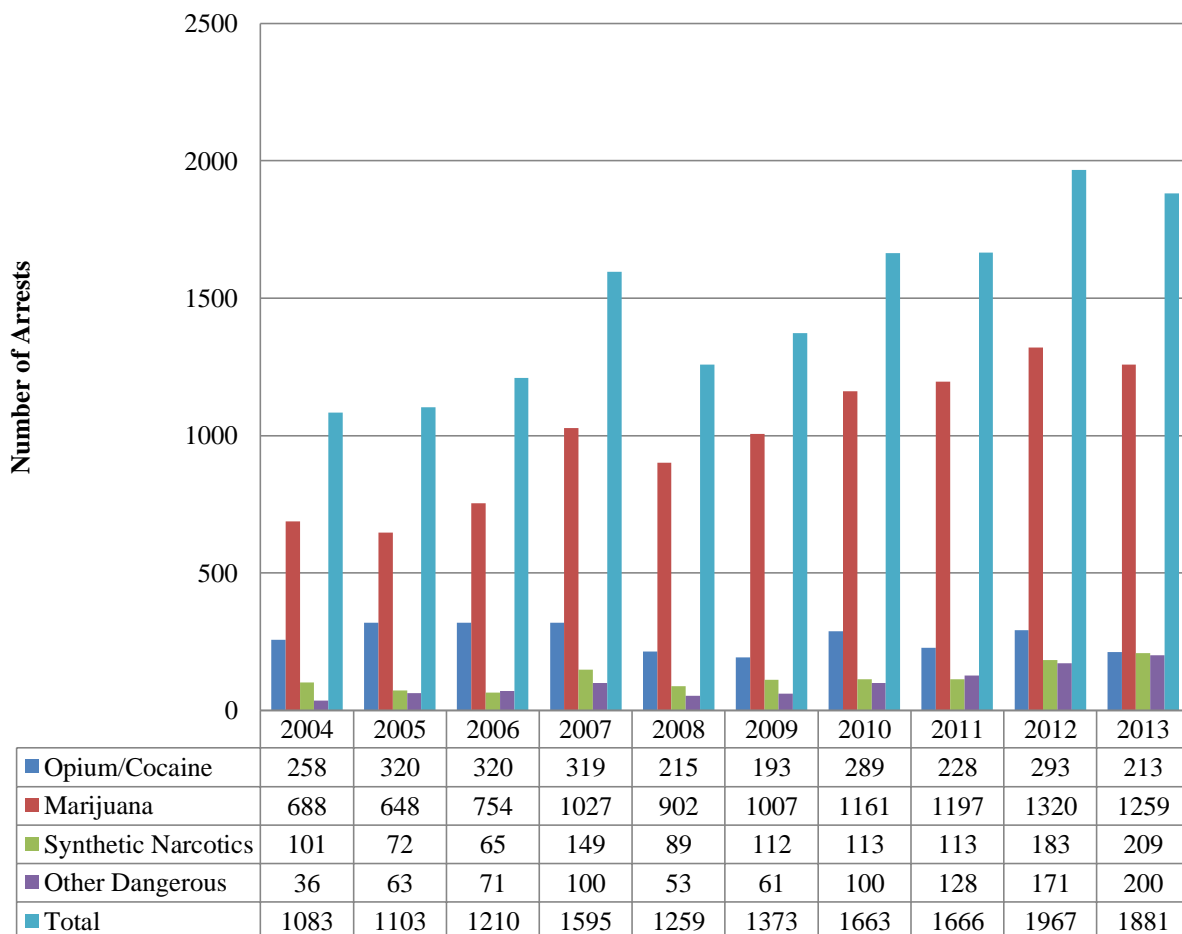
|                       | '04 | '05 | '06 | '07 | '08 | '09 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '13 | Avg. | SD  | Trend |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| 18+ total rate/1,000* | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 6.4 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 5.5  | 0.5 | 0.05  |

\*Based on Texas State Data Center Populations Estimates Program

Notes: The numbers reported here reflect the arrest of individuals 18 years of age and older. Synthetic narcotics are prescription drugs which contain opium derivatives. The non-narcotics category includes prescription drugs which are not opium derivative based.

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services

## Adult Arrests for Drug Possession in Williamson County



|                       | '04 | '05 | '06 | '07 | '08 | '09 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '13 | Avg. | SD  | Trend |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| 18+ total rate/1,000* | 5.0 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 6.2 | 4.6 | 4.9 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 6.1 | 5.4 | 5.3  | 0.5 | 0.07  |

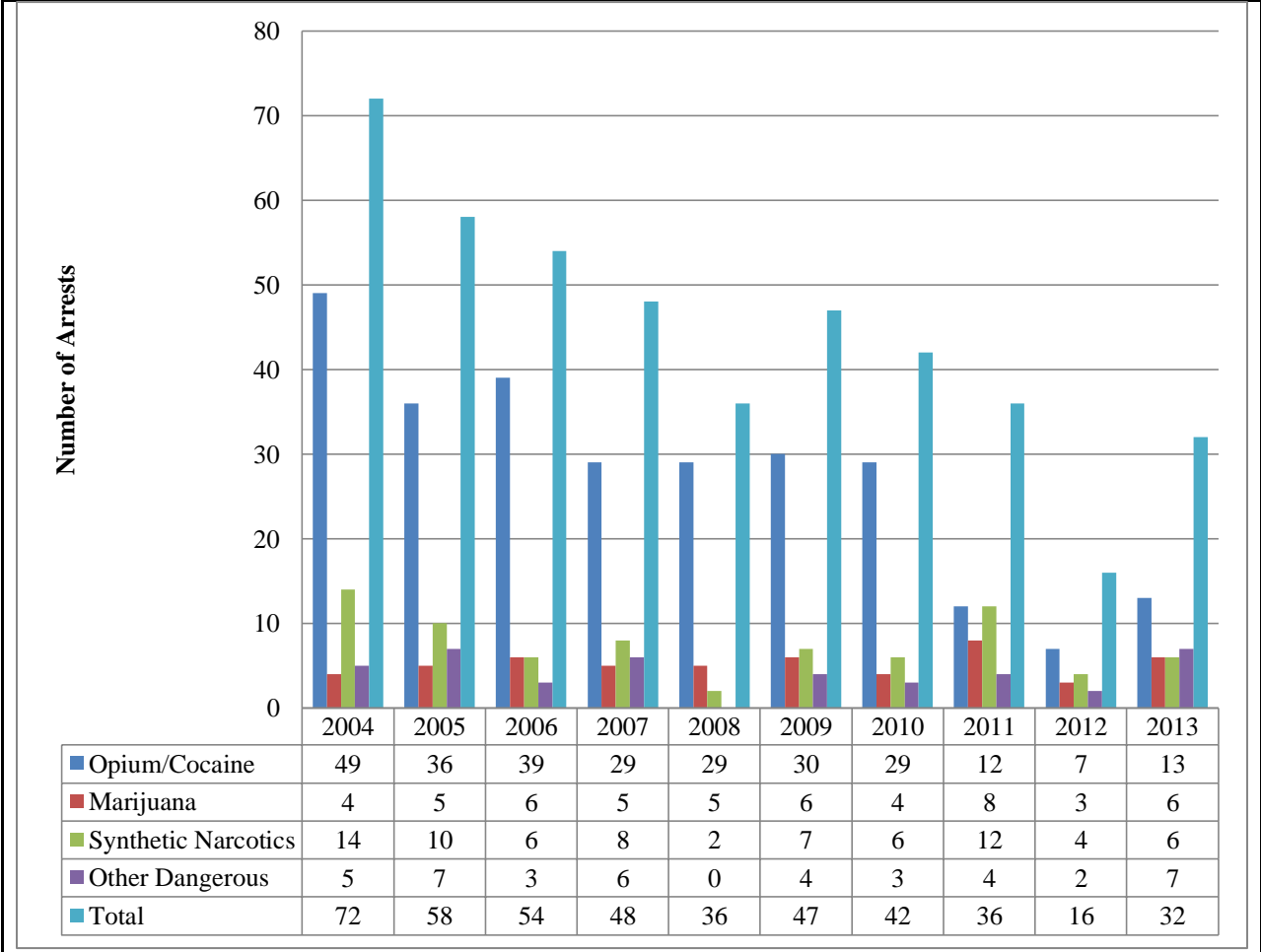
\*Based on Texas State Data Center Populations Estimates Program

Notes: The numbers reported here reflect arrests of individuals 18 years of age and older. Synthetic narcotics are prescription drugs which contain opium derivatives. The non-narcotics category includes prescription drugs which are not opium derivative based, inhalants, and all other illicit drugs which do not fall into the categories marijuana or opium/cocaine.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting - Texas Department of Public Safety

# Indicator 10

## Adult Arrests for Drug Sale/Manufacturing in Williamson County



|                       | '04 | '05 | '06 | '07 | '08 | '09 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '13 | Avg. | SD  | Trend |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| 18+ total rate/1,000* | .33 | .26 | .22 | .19 | .13 | .17 | .14 | .11 | .05 | .09 | .17  | 0.8 | -0.03 |

\*Based on Texas State Data Center Populations Estimates Program

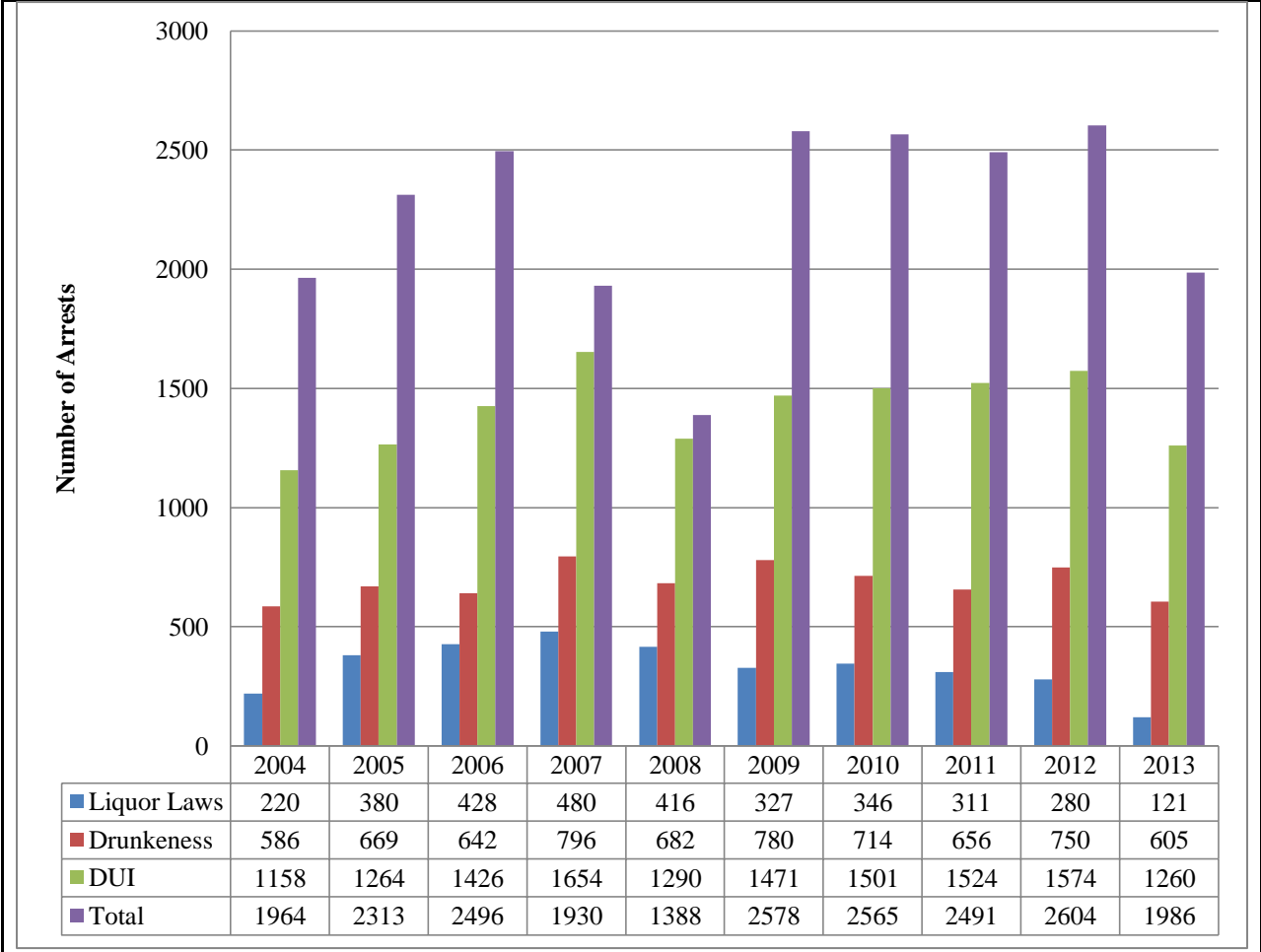
Notes: The numbers reported here reflect arrests of individuals 18 years of age and older. Synthetic narcotics are prescription drugs which contain opium derivatives. The non-narcotics category includes prescription drugs which are not opium derivative based, inhalants, and all other illicit drugs which do not fall into the categories marijuana or opium/cocaine.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting - Texas Department of Public Safety



# Indicator 11

## Adult Alcohol Related Arrests in Williamson County



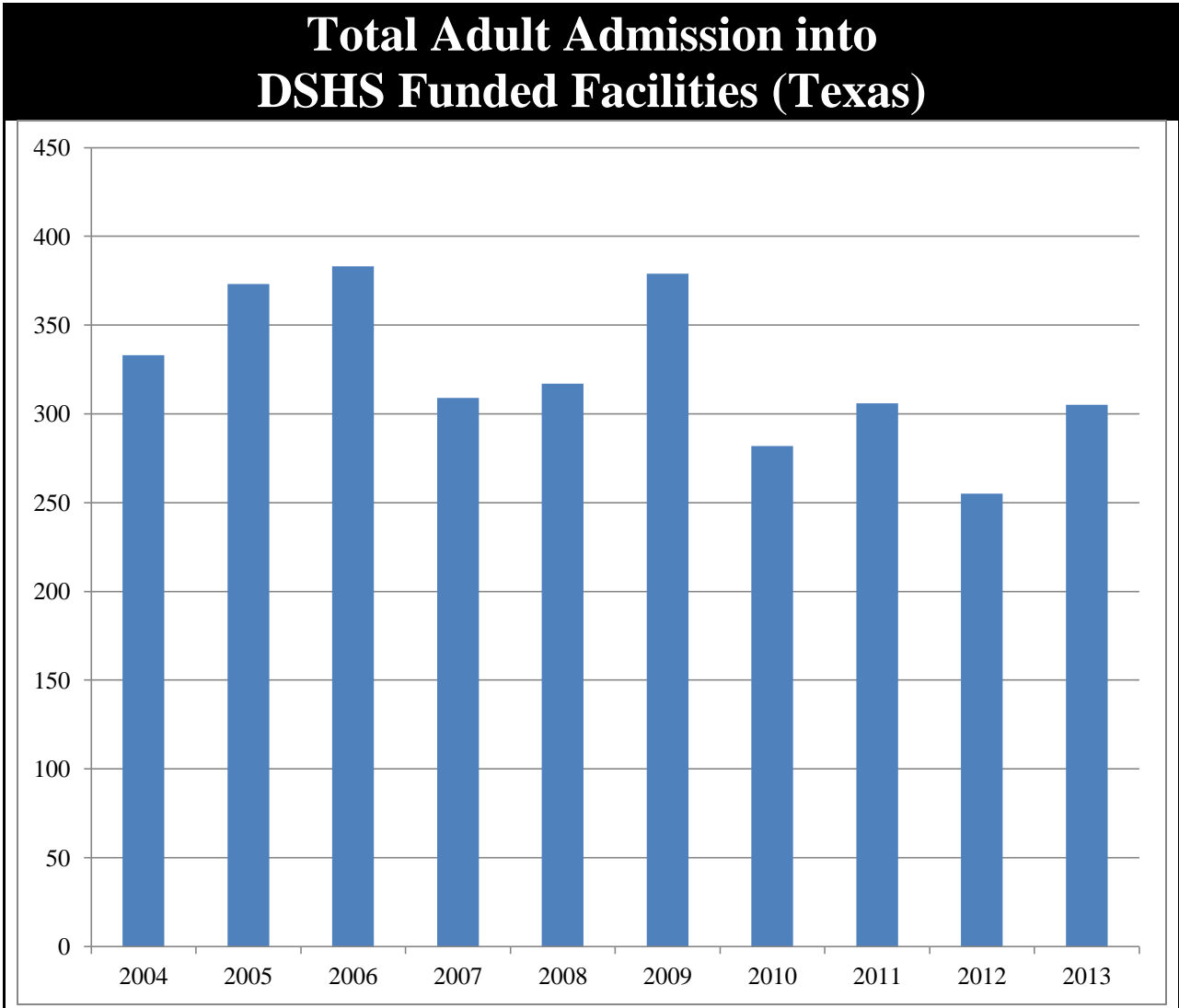
|                       | '04 | '05  | '06  | '07 | '08 | '09 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '13 | Avg. | SD  | Trend |
|-----------------------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| 18+ total rate/1,000* | 9.1 | 10.2 | 10.3 | 7.5 | 5.1 | 9.1 | 8.5 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 5.8 | 8.2  | 1.6 | -0.31 |

\*Based on Texas State Data Center Populations Estimates Program

Notes: The numbers reported here reflect arrests of individuals 18 years of age and older.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting - Texas Department of Public Safety

# Indicator 12



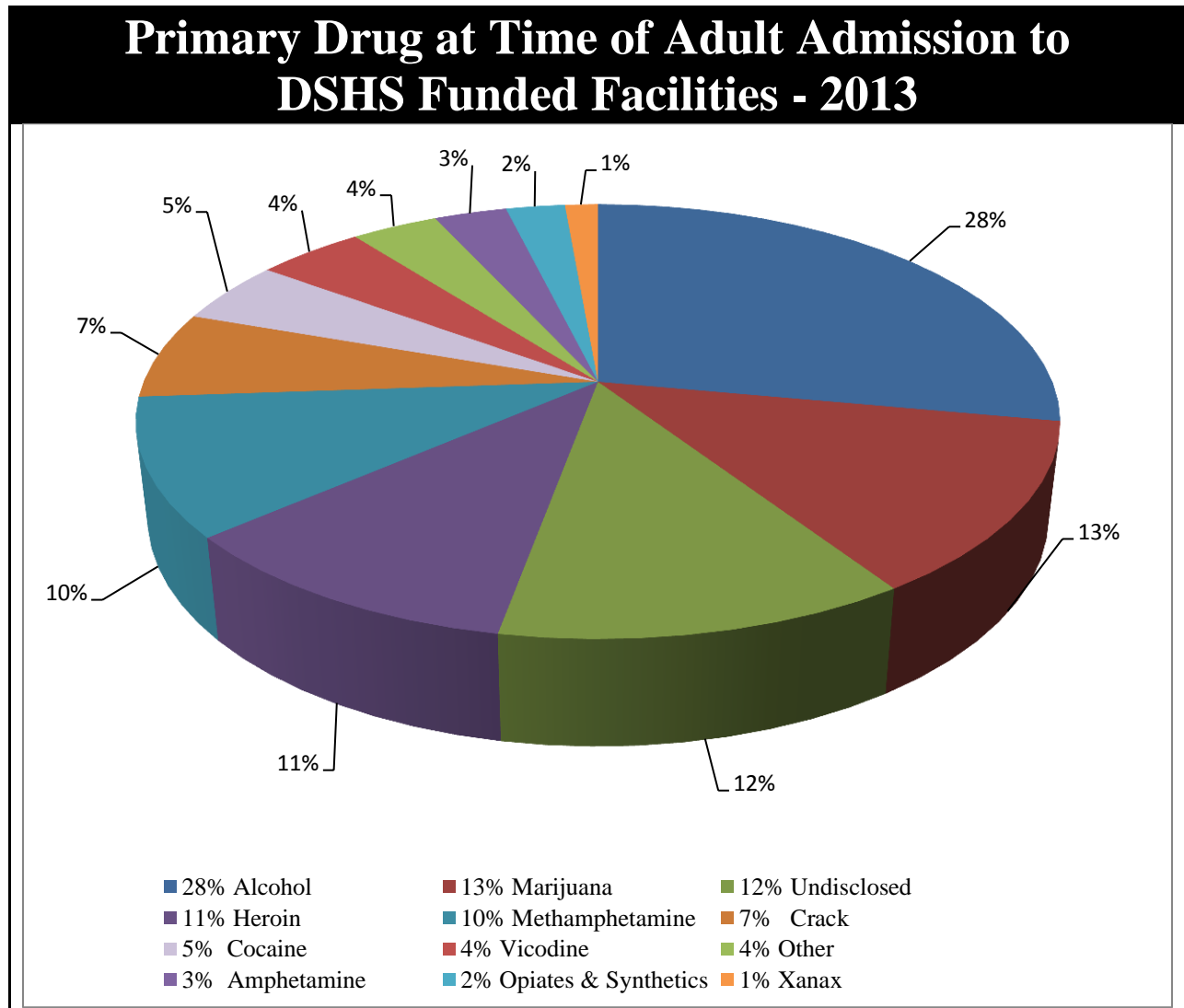
|                       | '04 | '05 | '06 | '07 | '08 | '09 | '10 | '11 | '12 | '13 | Avg. | SD  | Trend |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-------|
| 18+ total rate/1,000* | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 6.4 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 5.5  | 0.5 | 0.05  |

\*Based on Texas State Data Center Populations Estimates Program

Notes: The numbers reported here reflect arrests of individuals 18 years of age and older. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is a state agency that administers both federal and state funds. These figures represent only the adult client for whom the agencies seek reimbursement from DSHS. DSHS funded facilities primarily serve individuals without behavioral health insurance coverage.

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services

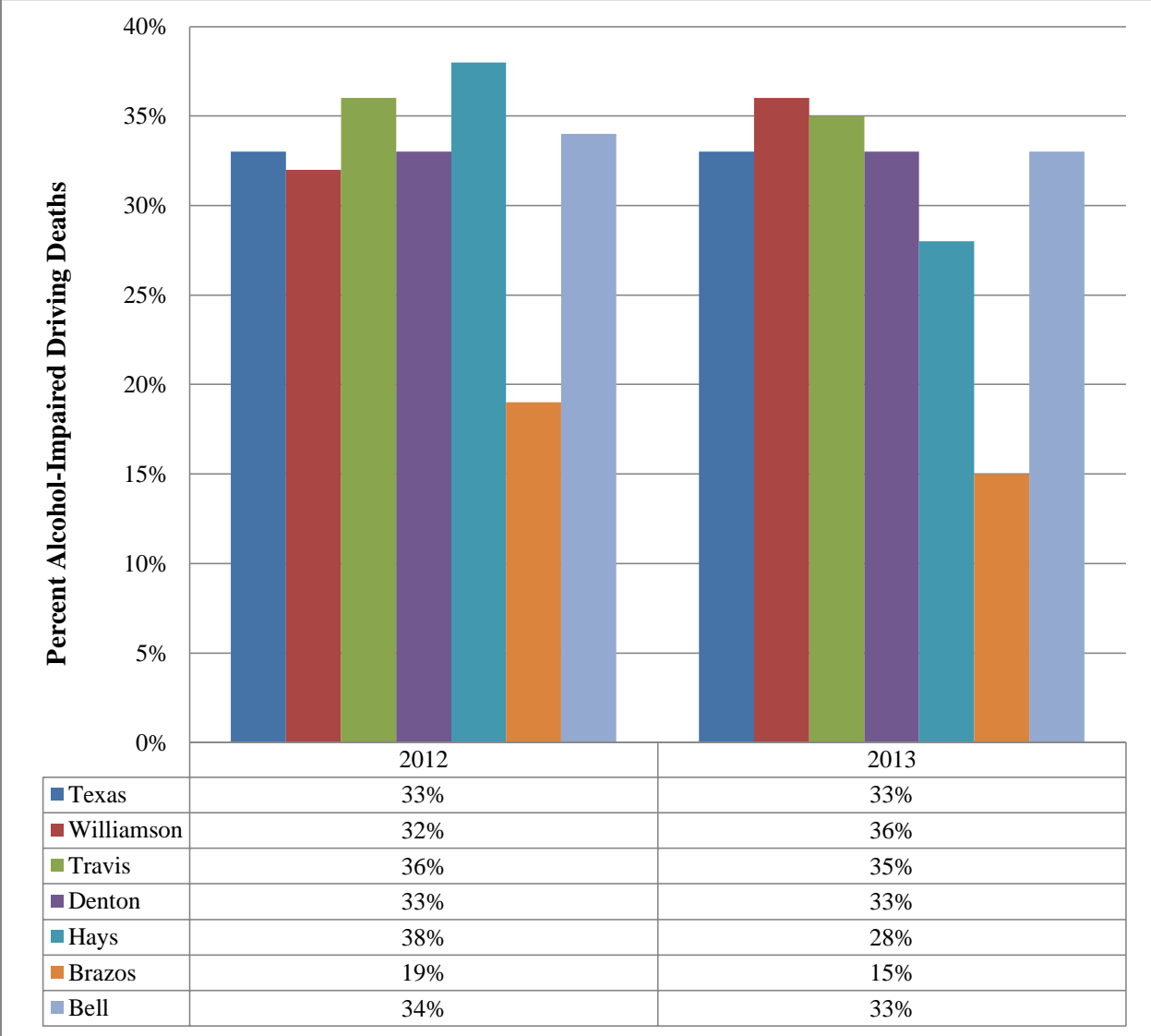
## Indicator 13



Notes: The numbers reported here reflect admission of individuals 18 years of age and older. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is a state agency that administers both federal and state funds. These figures represent only the adult client for whom the agencies seek reimbursement from DSHS. DSHS funded facilities primarily serve individuals without behavioral health insurance coverage.

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services

**Alcohol-impaired Driving Deaths**



Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps.org