



A Policy Research Partnership  
to Reduce Youth Substance Use



Supported by  
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

# ImpacTeen Illicit Drug Team Policy Research

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# **General Project Objectives of the Illicit Drug Team Involve Surveillance and Policy Research**

- Develop a conceptual framework of policy alternatives and key environmental variables from macro to mezzo and micro level to guide achieving the project objectives.
  - Develop a legislative tracking system that identifies variations in state drug laws and policies.
3. Examine differences in how states attempt to control drug use through law and policy.





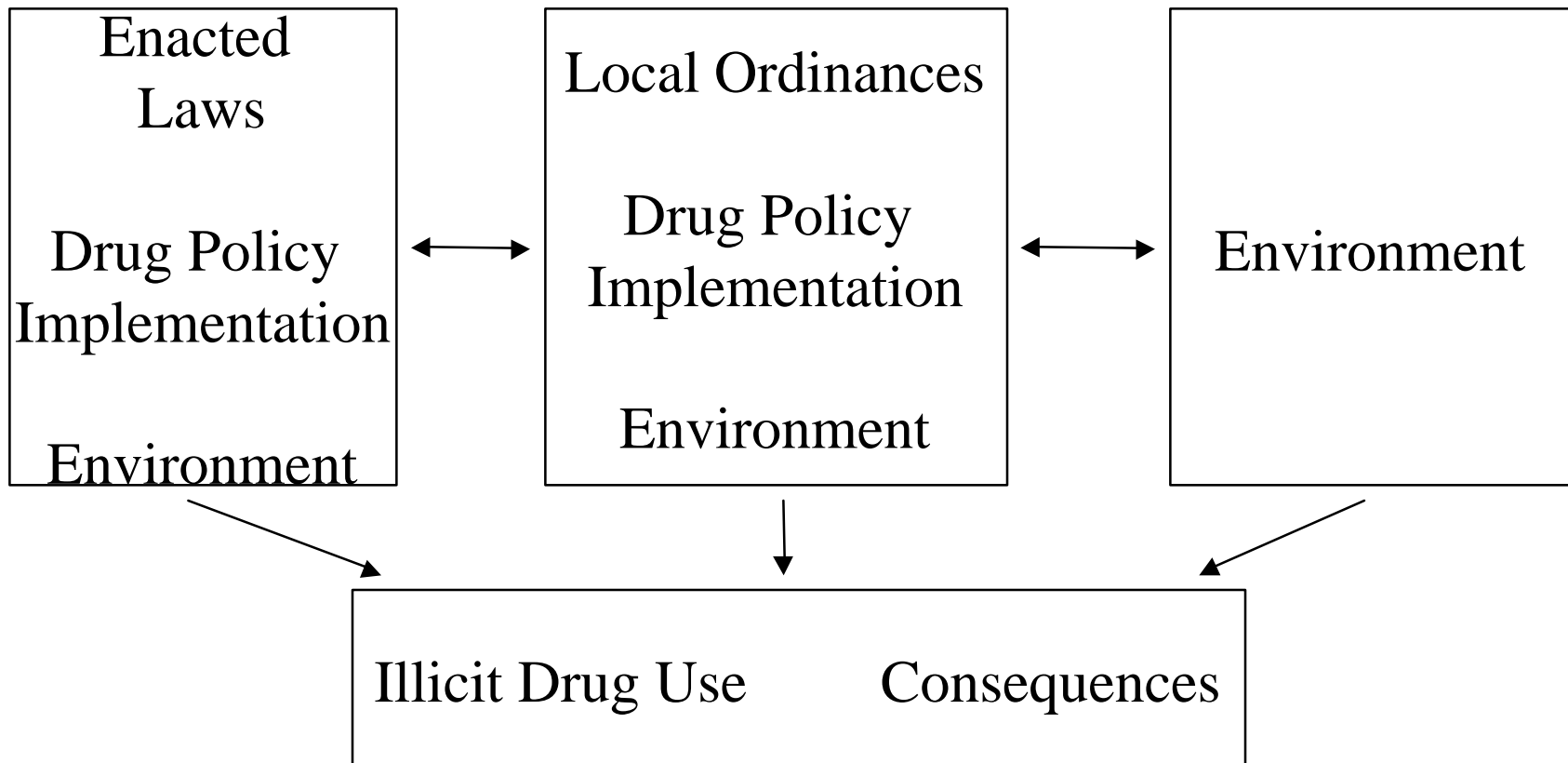
- Provide a common source of relevant state level legislative and environmental data.
  - Permit the examination of how differences in state law, policy and environment relate to perceptions about drugs and actual drug use.
6. Integrate state law and environment with local community ordinances, law enforcement, environment and youth perceptions and behavior.
  7. Permit the examination of how perceptions, drug use, and environment relate to the development of law.

# Conceptual Framework for Examining Youth Illicit Drug Use

Macro-Level (State)

Mezzo-Level (Community)

Micro-Level (Individual)



# **State Drug Schedules and Penalty Structures**



# *Chartbook*

## *Purpose*

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- Provide relatively current information (as of 1-1-00) to policy makers and researchers on specific state laws pertaining to drug scheduling and the penalties for sale and possession of select drugs.
- Demonstrate differences in state and federal approaches to drug policy by highlighting variation in state and federal scheduling of selected drugs and the recognition of medical marijuana – state policy matters.
- Document the variation in penalty provisions across states.



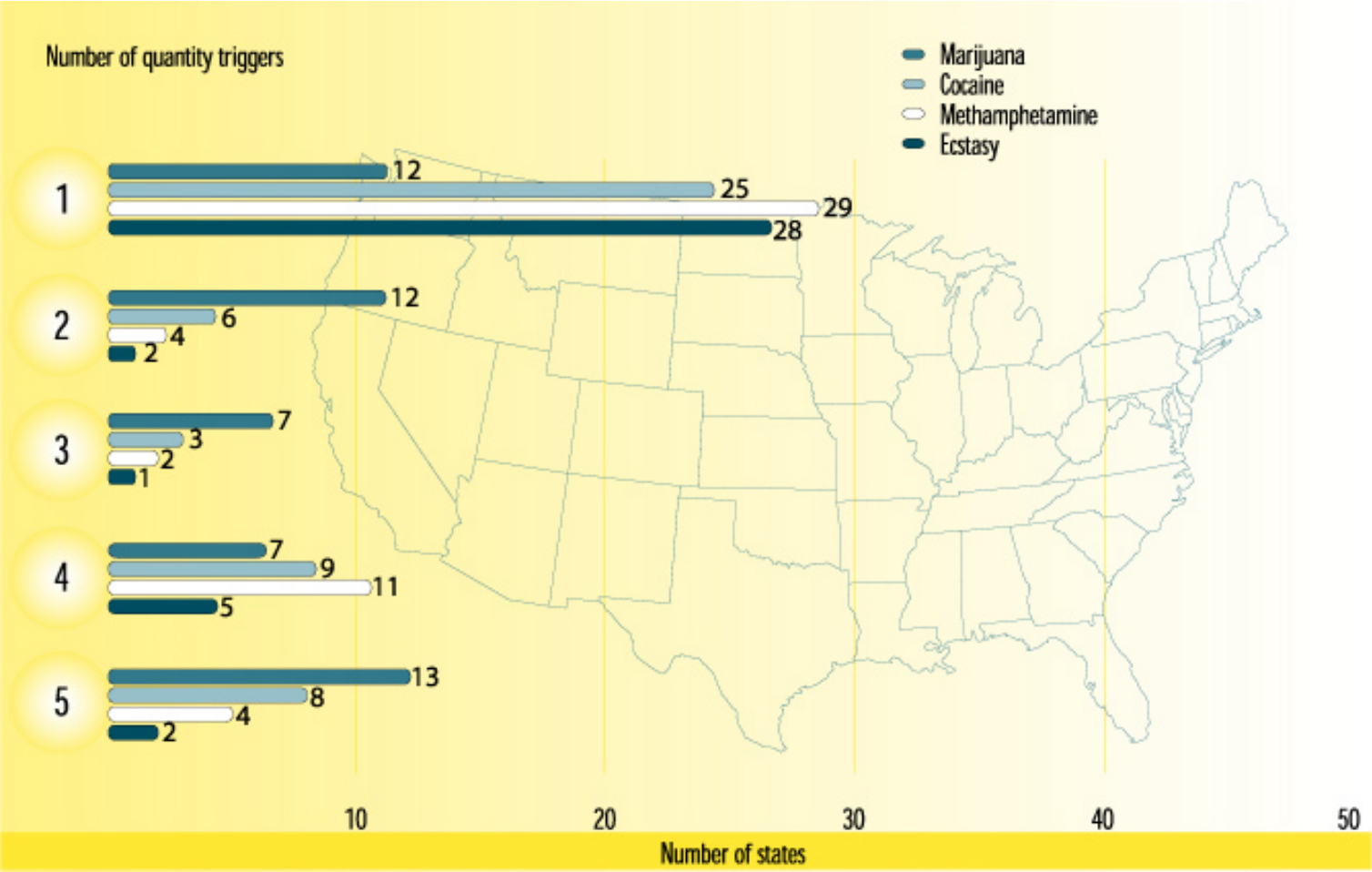
# *A First Step*

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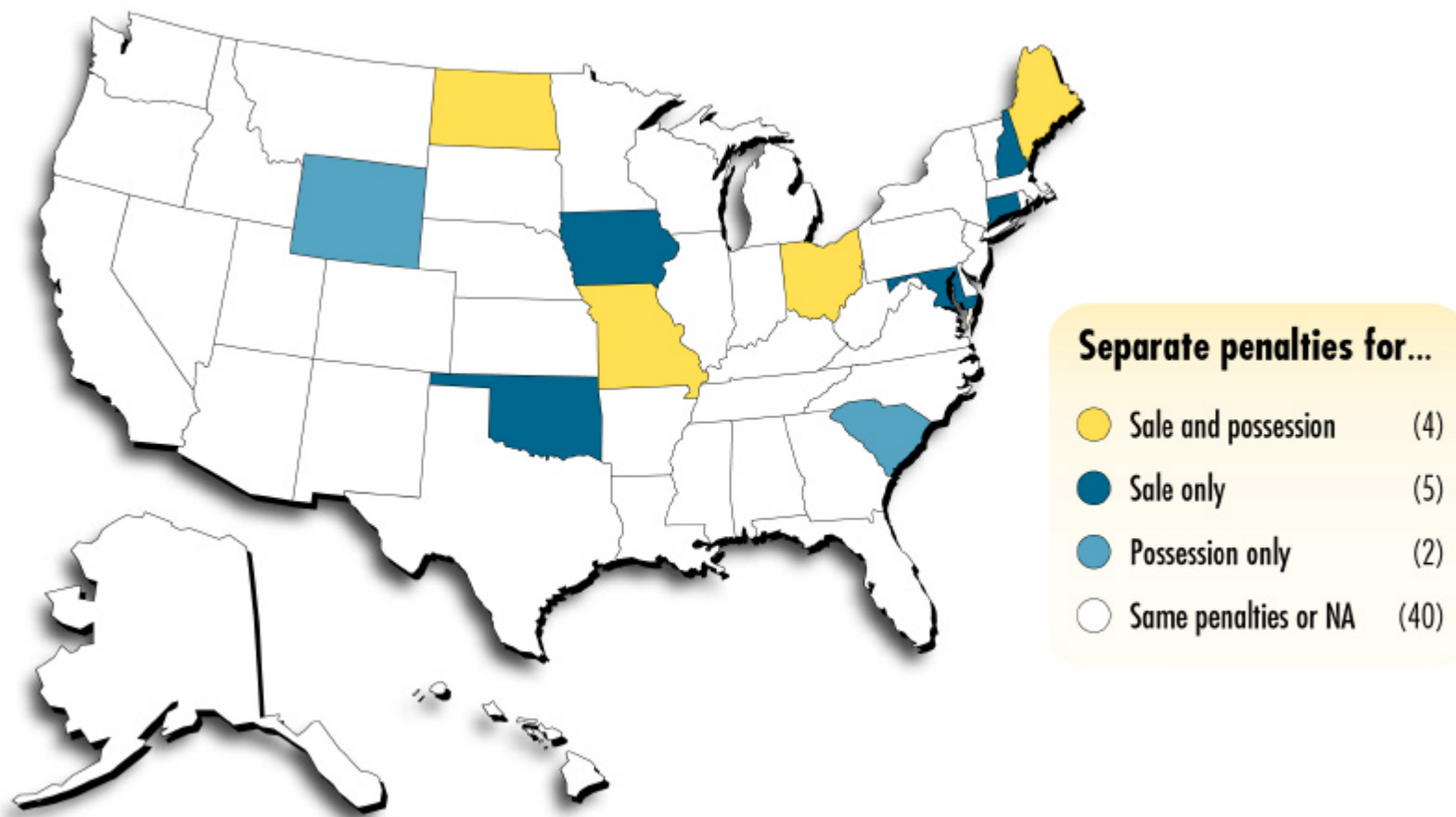
These data represent the necessary first step for a long-term research agenda.

The natural variation in drug policies across states combined with other environmental variables can be used to at least partially examine the impact of particular policy approaches on youth perceptions and behavior and on drug use consequences.

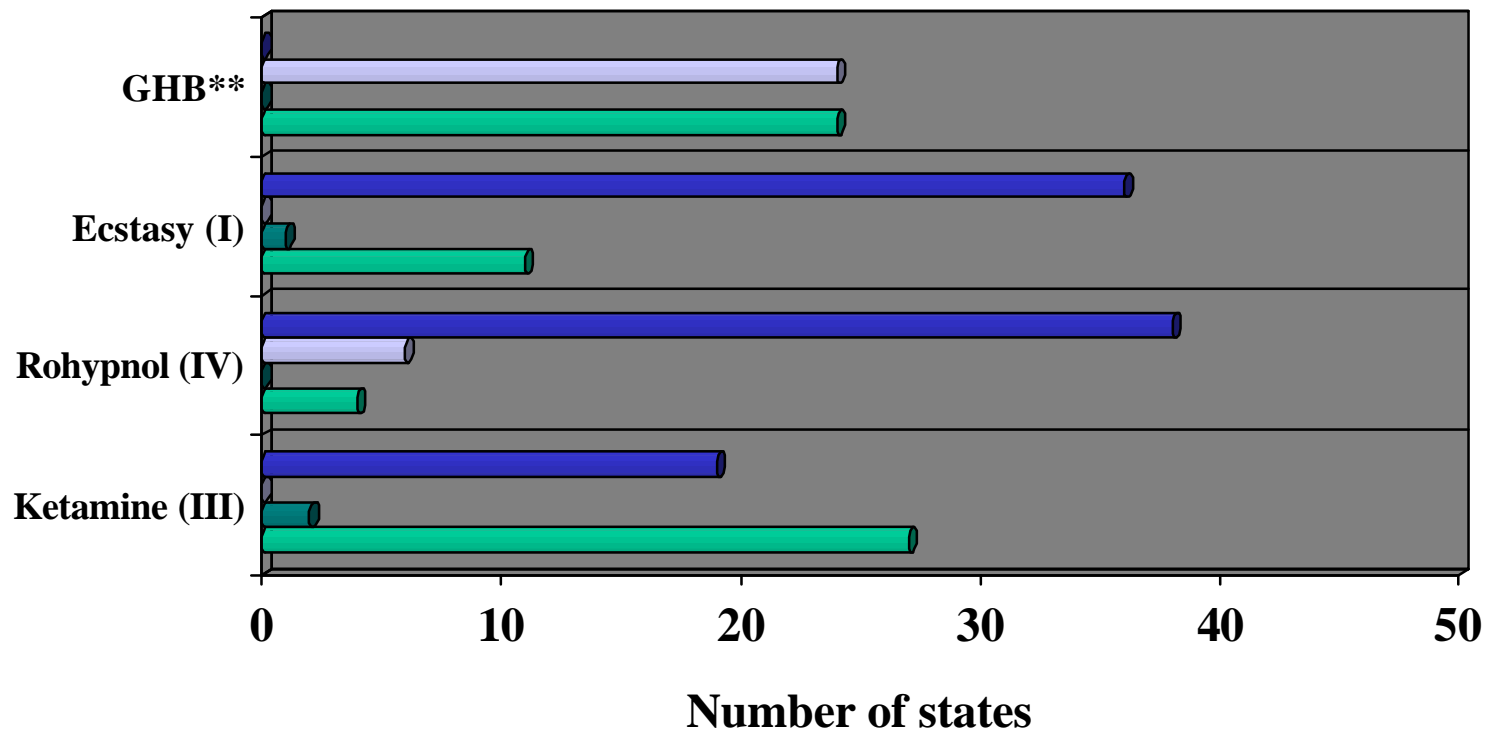
# Number of Quantity Triggers Specified for Possession Penalties



# States with Separate Penalties for Sale or Possession of Crack vs. Cocaine Powder



# A comparison of state\* and federal scheduling of club drugs



■ Not scheduled ■ Lower than CSA ■ Higher than CSA ■ Same as CSA

\*N=48; excludes Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont

\*\*GHB was not scheduled by the Federal Government until March 2000.

**States with higher maximum fines are significantly more likely to have higher maximum imprisonment periods for *possession of club drugs***

	Manuf.	Sale	Possession
Rohypnol	.325*	.278	.508***
GHB	.220	.264	.520**
Ketamine	-.074	-.033	.682***
Ecstasy	.131	.051	.184

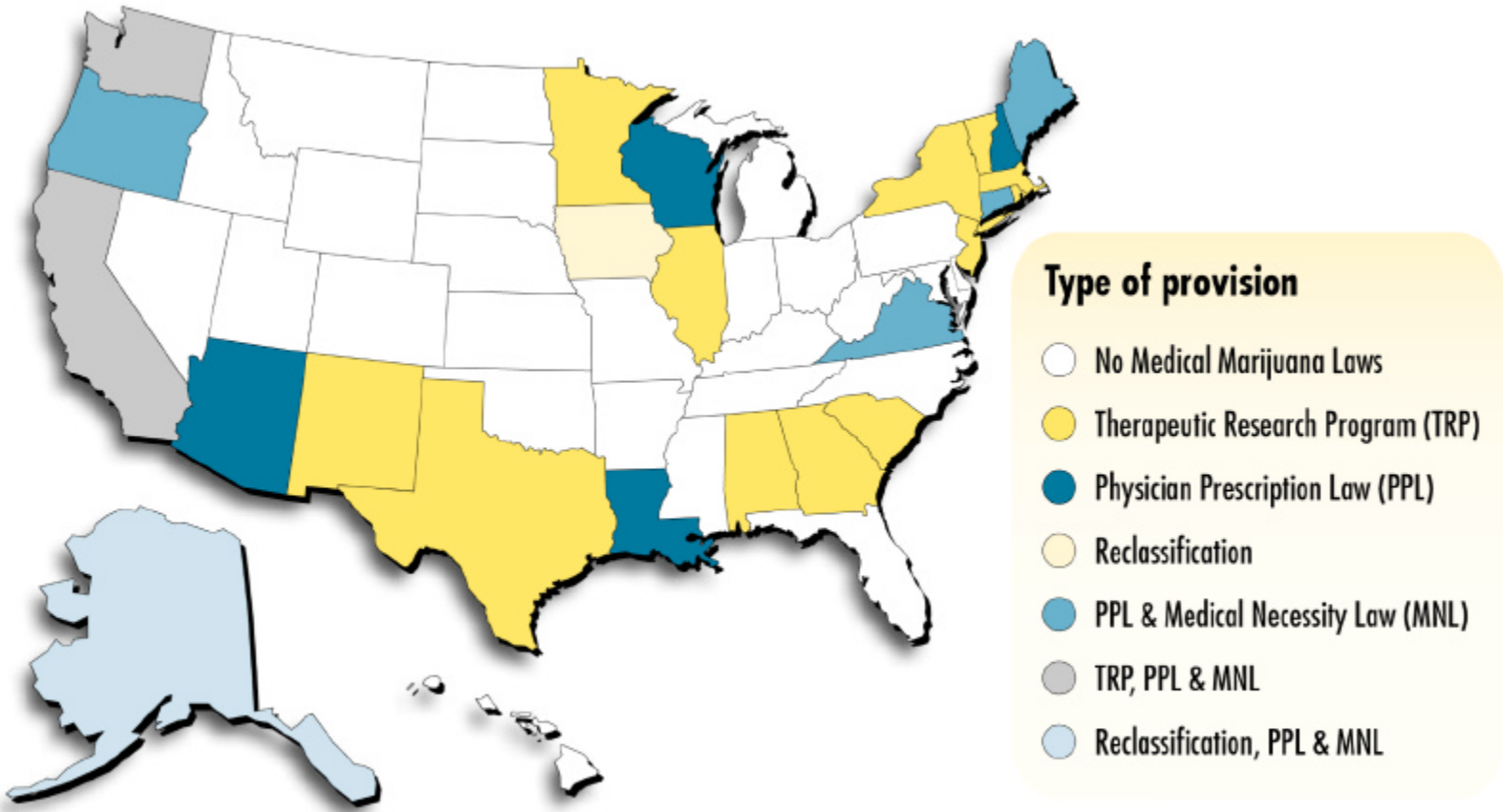
\*p<.01    \*\*p<.05    \*\*\*p<.001

# A Medical Approach to Drug Policy



# State Medical Marijuana Policies as of 1-01-00

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# **State Environmental Social Capital and State Level Drug Use**



# Kids Count Analysis #2



Matches hypothesis (i.e. more social capital, less drug use)

Contradicts hypothesis (i.e. more social capital, more drug use)

NHSDA

Kids Count Index

Binge Drinking all ages	.389**
Binge Drinking 12-17	.297*
Binge Drinking 18-25	.480**
Binge Drinking 26+	.360**
Cigarette Use 18-25	.296*
Cigarette Use 26+	-.363**
Marijuana 18-25	.365**
Any drug use 18-25	.308*

\* = .05; \*\* = .01

N = 51 states

# **Application of Law in the Local Practice of Prosecutors**



# Case Loads and Resources

**Disposition/Case Load Ratio (N=79):** Range: 0.0-1.0%

Mean: 26.0% (std=33.3%)

## **Resources**

	<b><u>N</u></b>	<b><u>%</u></b>
- Intensive probation/supervision	97	93.8
- Electronic monitoring	98	90.8
- Boot camps, state/private training schools, etc.	99	87.9
- Aftercare programming	92	85.9
- Victim/offender mediation	96	83.3
- Residential therapeutic communities	96	76.0
- Day/evening reporting programs	93	75.3
- Continuing care/half-way houses	97	67.0
- Non-corrections agency case management	96	60.4
- Juvenile drug courts	100	34.0
- Methadone maintenance	86	11.6

# Asset Forfeiture

- Use of asset forfeiture in juvenile drug offenses\* (N=101)
  - Sometimes + 13.9%
  - Usually/Always 6.9%
- Variation in use of asset forfeiture
  - No significance at <.05 level.
  - Trend indications: less use in the West and Midwest, as well as communities with large 12-17 year-old populations

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\*Non-specified drug offense

# Next Steps

Examine relationship between variance in state drug scheduling, penalties, medical marijuana policy, other drug policies (treatment availability, diversion etc) and:

1. State environmental variables (SES, drug prices, social capital etc.)
2. Local community observations, key informant interviews on social capital, treatment availability, law enforcement practices
3. Youth perceptions of harm and availability
4. Peer approval
5. Youth use
6. Outcomes of use – drug related arrests and health statistics

