

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

A Partner in Ohio's Law Enforcement Community



Quarterly Laboratory Drug Cases Report July – September 2014

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Overview



The purpose of the following report is to provide law enforcement with a brief snapshot of statewide and regional drug trends in Ohio, based on internal BCI statistics.

The data compiled in this report is based on reporting of drug case testing results by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation laboratories. The following statistics represent drug cases reported by BCI laboratories during the period of July 1 - September 30, 2014. Please note that the reporting period can include drug cases that were submitted during a previous quarter, but which were tested and reported in the aforementioned three month period.

Drug evidence is submitted by law enforcement agencies, and then tested by BCI's Drug Chemistry laboratory section. BCI accepts evidence submissions in the following facilities/locations: Athens, Bowling Green, Cambridge, London, Richfield, and Youngstown. The figures below indicate what location received the initial drug case submissions, in order to offer a regional perspective on drug trends. This is not necessarily where the drug case was eventually tested.

In the numbers provided, a substance is counted each time it was reported in a drug laboratory case, either by itself or in combination with another substance. For example, in a case where heroin and cocaine were reported as a mixture, it would count as one report of heroin and one report of cocaine.

This report should not be considered an all-inclusive account of illegal drug activity throughout Ohio.

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Spotlight on Marijuana

Marijuana is a Schedule I drug and the most common illegal drug obtained and used in the United States. It is produced from dried pieces and seeds of hemp plants called *Cannabis sativa*, which contains delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, aka, THC. Marijuana is also commonly referred to as weed, pot, grass, reefer, herb, and Mary Jane. The chemicals from this plant can also be used to create hashish or hash oil. Marijuana is typically smoked through the use of joints, bong, or blunts. It can also be added to various foods or teas. The high from smoking marijuana typically lasts 1 to 3 hours. Marijuana is an addictive drug that can cause a wide range of physical, mental, and emotional effects on a user as well as alter a person's memory and judgment. (<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>)

Marijuana is legal in Colorado and Washington for recreational purposes and legal in twenty-three states and the District of Columbia for medicinal purposes. Marijuana use is still illegal in Ohio.

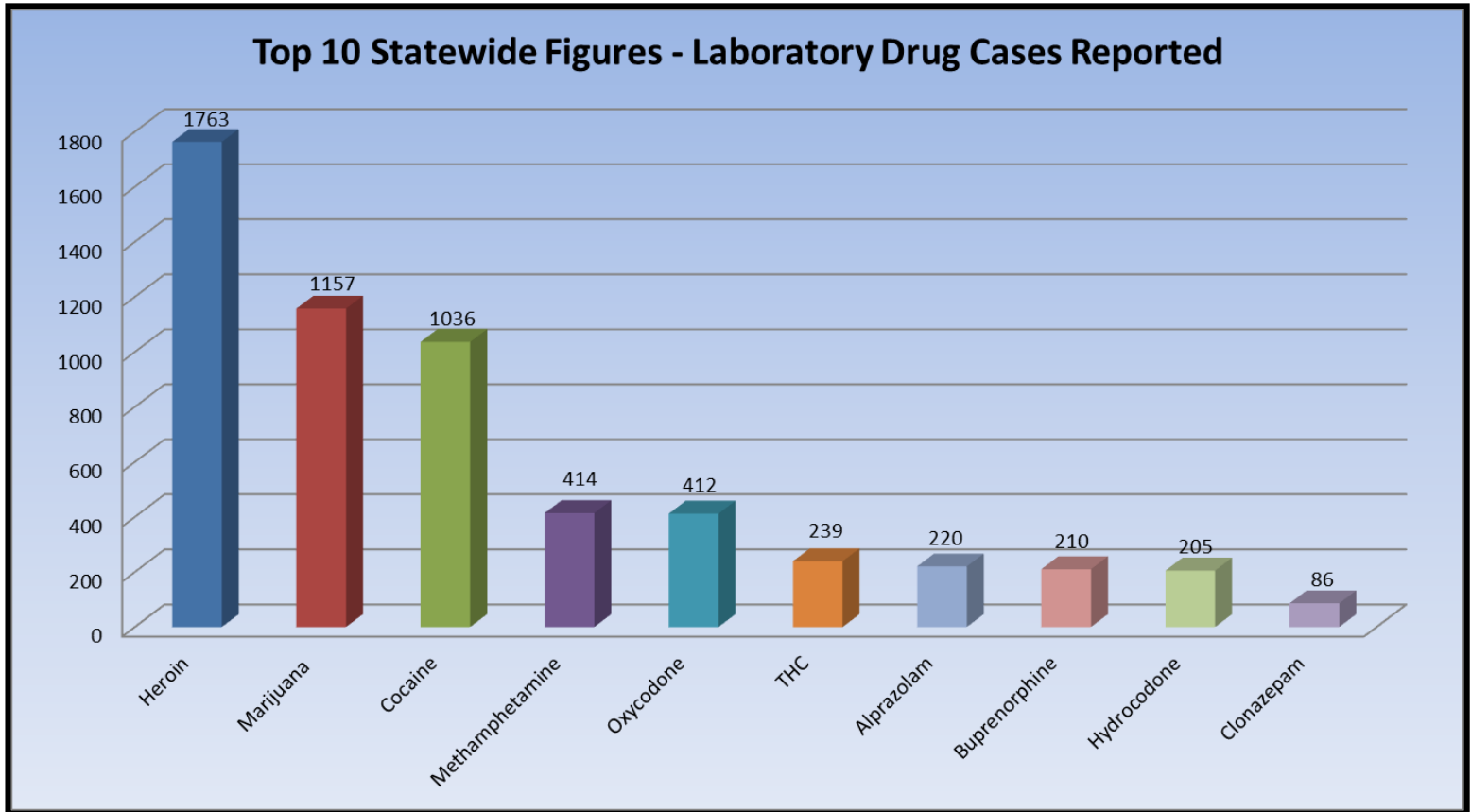
According to the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program Statistical Report, there was a total of 22,616 outdoor and indoor cultivated plants seized in Ohio in 2013. In June 2014, Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers made one of their largest marijuana seizures in history when they located 2,330 pounds of marijuana, valued at over eleven million dollars in Preble County. Troopers also recently arrested a man from Gallipolis, OH in September 2014 and seized over 650 pounds of marijuana from his vehicle, valued at almost three million dollars.

According to BCI lab statistics, there were 1,157 laboratory drug cases reported statewide from July through September of this year that contained marijuana, a 7% increase from the previous quarter. In September 2014, BCI assisted the MARMET/METRICH Drug Task Force and Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in confiscating 102 marijuana plants in a one day eradication operation. According to reports submitted to BCI, law enforcement agencies throughout Ohio have seized a total of 30,498 plants since January 2014.

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Statewide Figures

The following shows the top 10 laboratory drug cases reported statewide for the period July - September 2014.

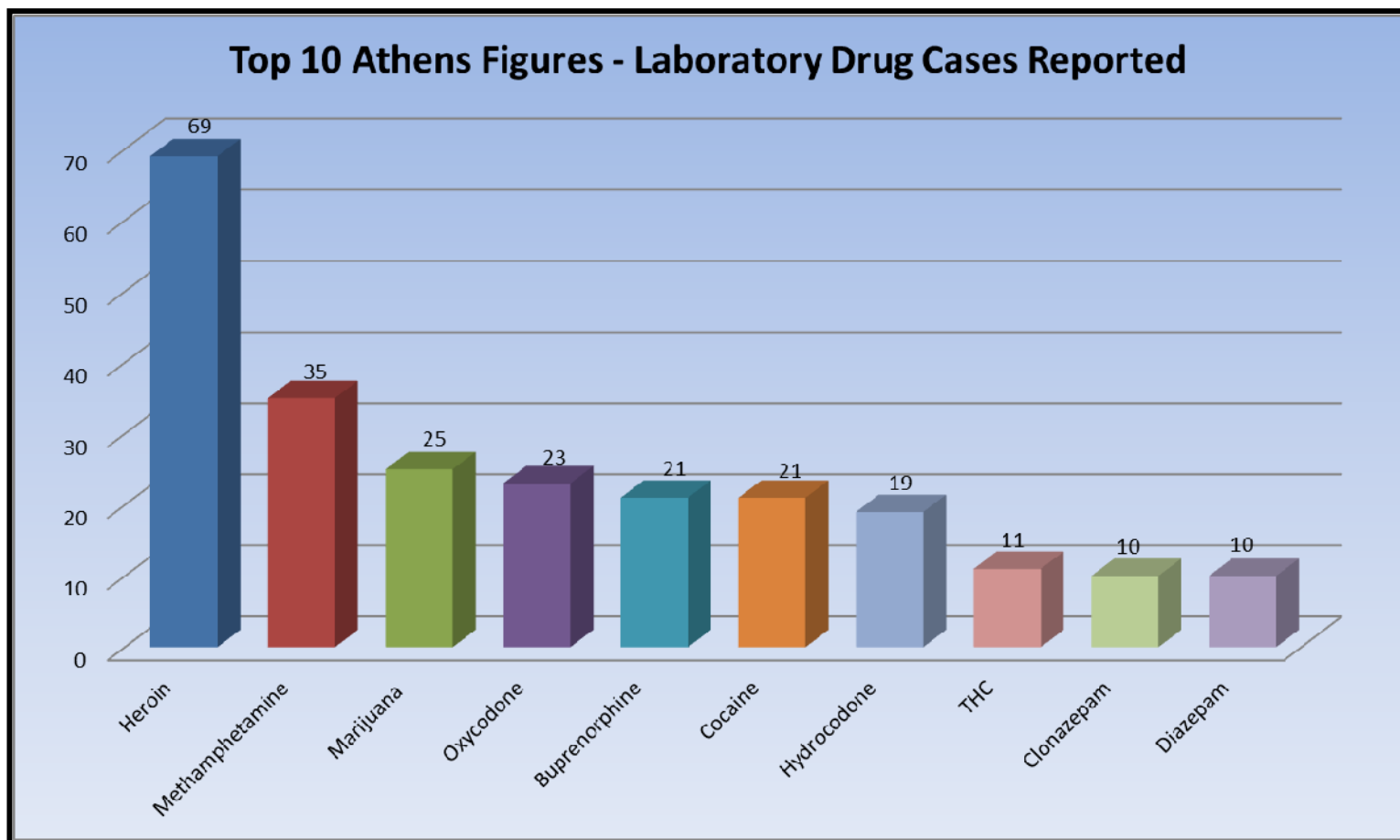


Heroin, marijuana, and cocaine are the top three reported drugs throughout the state. Reported cases of cocaine decreased 17% from the previous quarter, while other drugs maintained comparable levels.

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Athens Figures

The following shows the top 10 laboratory drug cases reported for BCI Athens for the period July - September 2014.

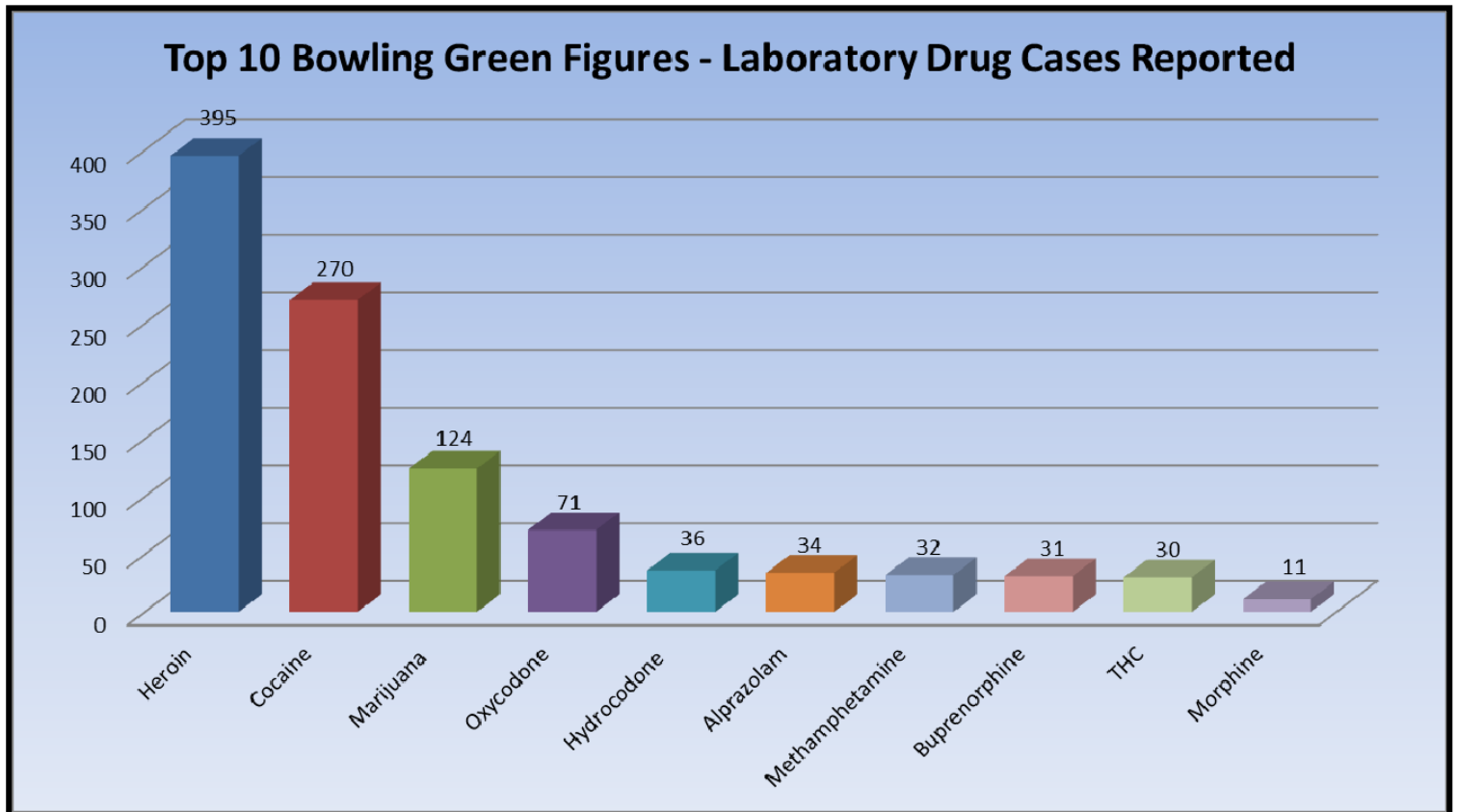


Heroin remains the top reported drug in Athens with a 23% increase since the previous quarter. Methamphetamine has risen over marijuana, oxycodone, and cocaine, with a 52% increase since the previous quarter.

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Bowling Green Figures

The following shows the top 10 laboratory drug cases reported for BCI Bowling Green for the period July - September 2014.

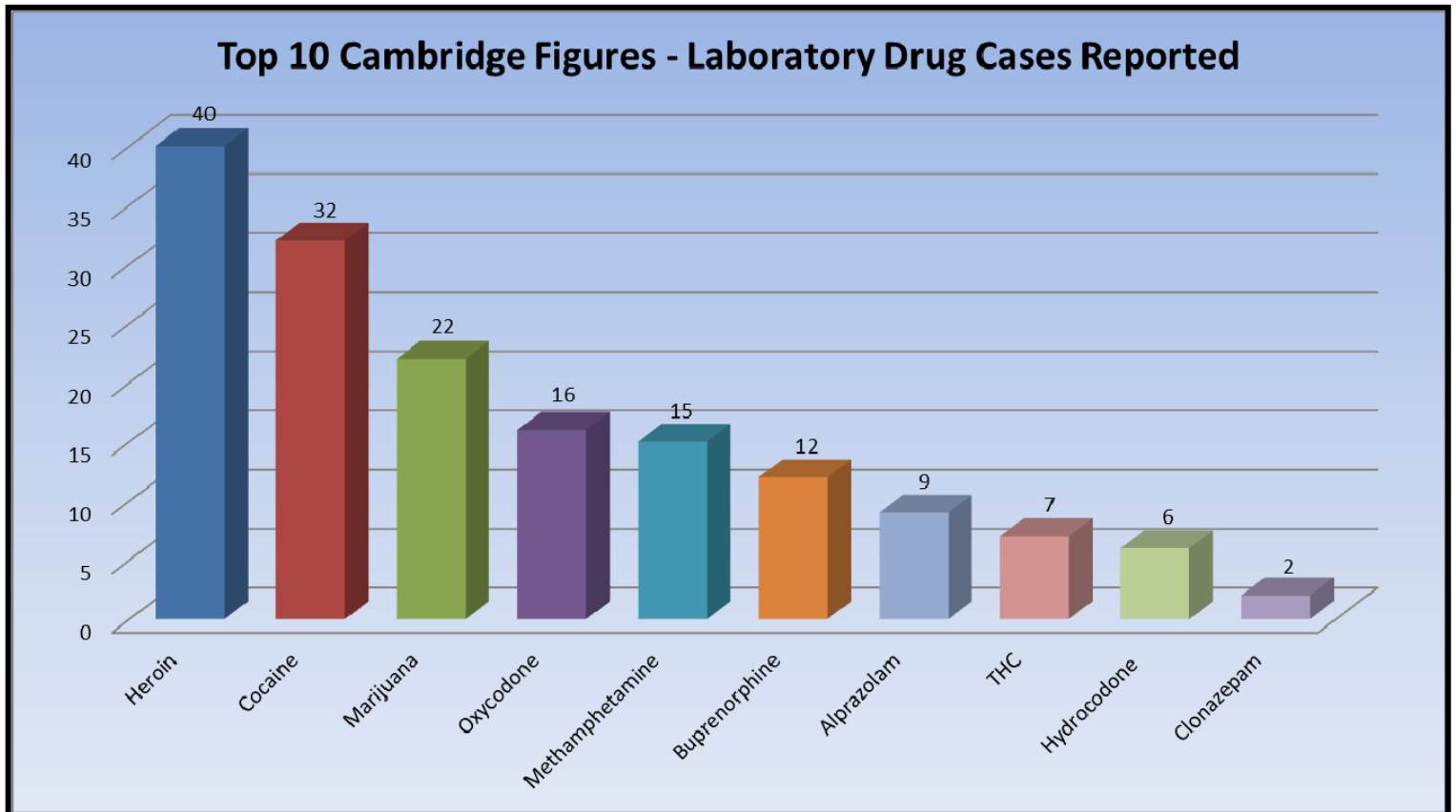


Once again, heroin remains the number one reported case for Bowling Green, despite seeing a 7% decrease from reported cases in the previous quarter. There has also been a 23% decrease in reported cocaine cases from the previous quarter.

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Cambridge Figures

The following shows the top 10 laboratory drug cases reported for BCI Cambridge for the period July - September 2014.

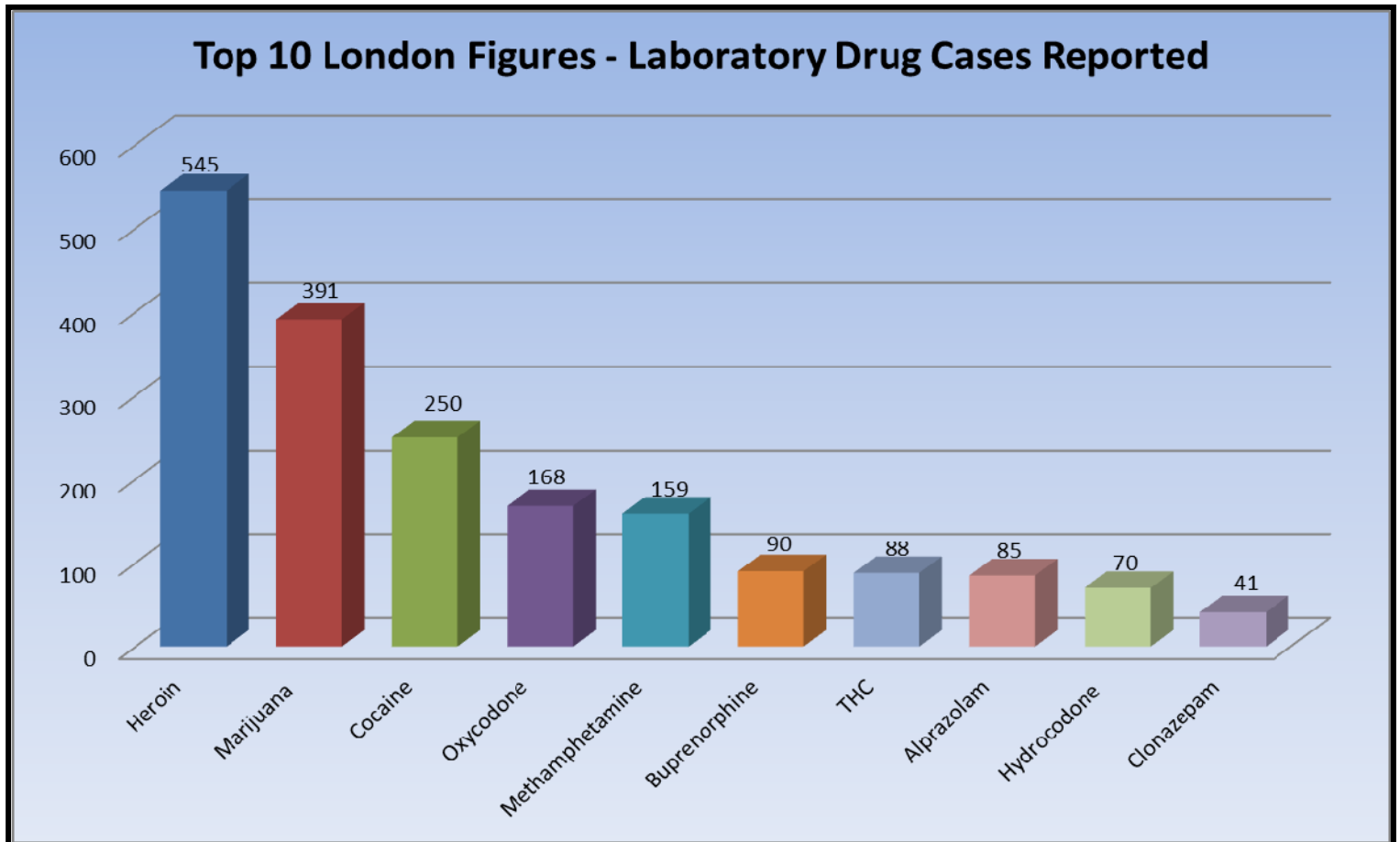


Heroin took the lead over cocaine for most reported cases this quarter in Cambridge, increasing by 21%, while cocaine cases decreased by 20%. The rest of the reported cases remained fairly similar.

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London Figures

The following shows the top 10 laboratory drug cases reported for BCI London for the period July - September 2014.

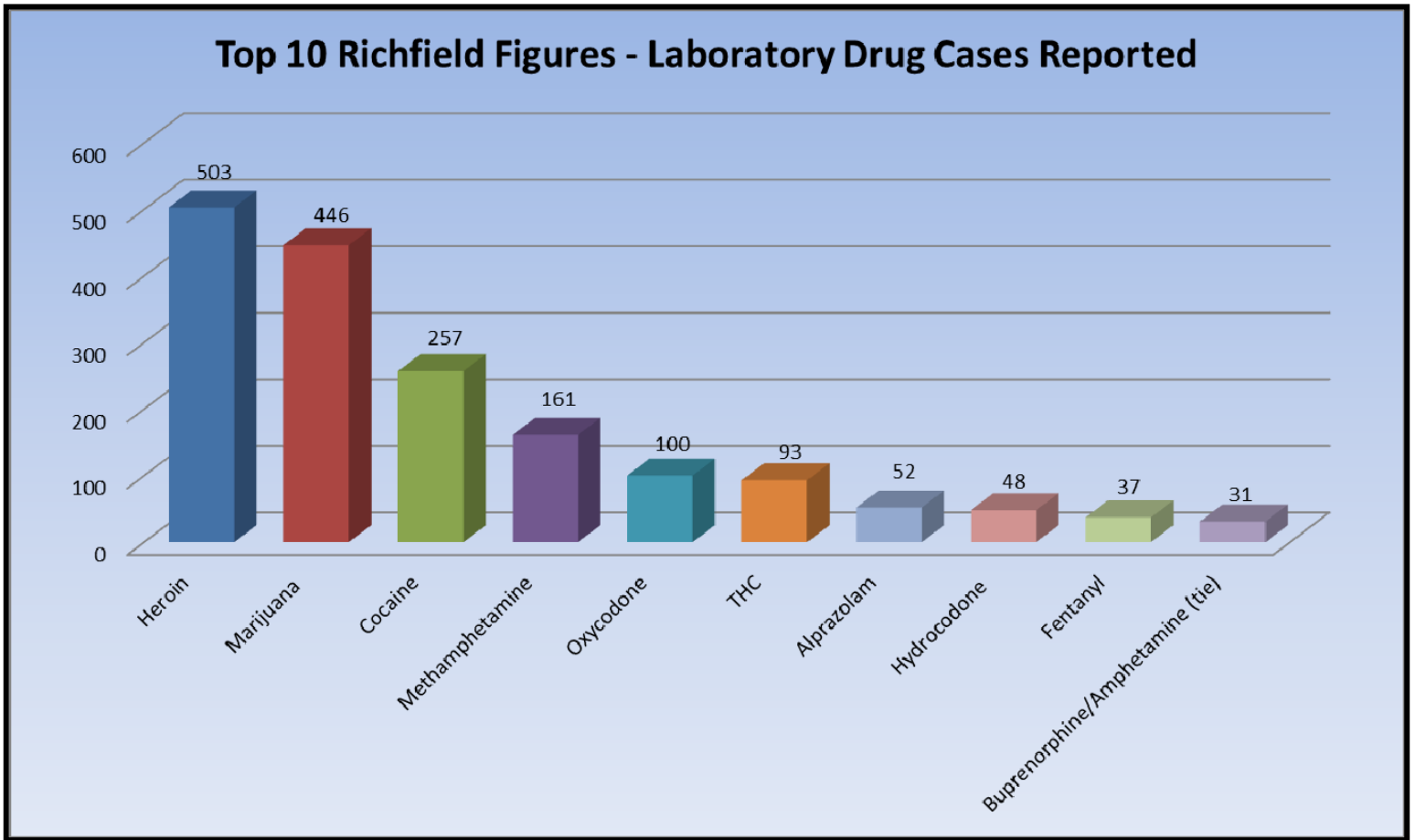


Heroin, marijuana, and cocaine remain the top three drug cases in London, similar to the rest of BCI's labs. Clonazepam cases have increased since the previous quarter and taken over Fentanyl's spot in the top 10.

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Richfield Figures

The following shows the top 10 laboratory drug cases reported for BCI Richfield for the period July - September 2014.

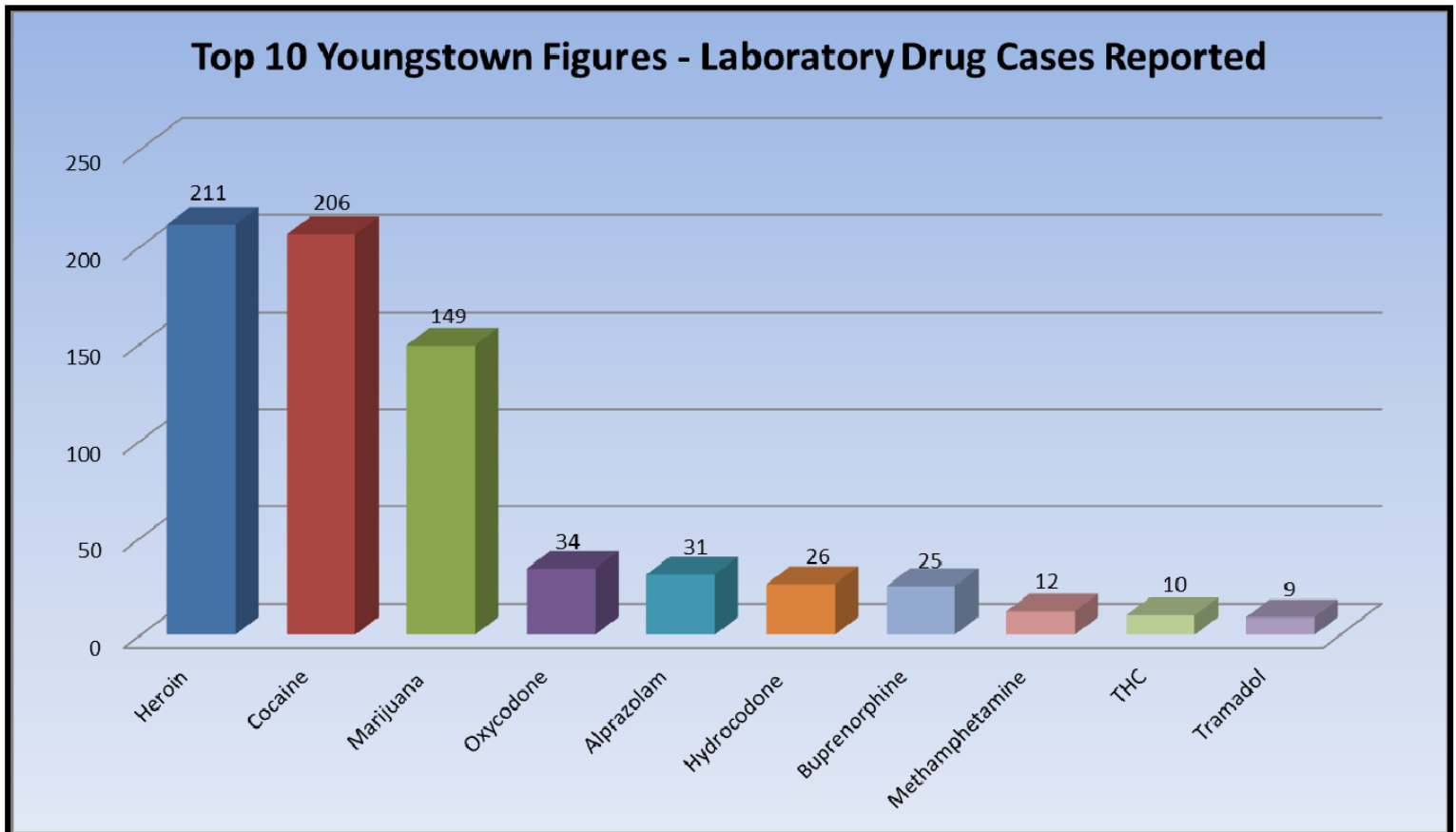


Heroin, marijuana, and cocaine continue to remain the top three reported drugs in Richfield. Heroin cases have increased 18% since the previous quarter, while cocaine has decreased 20%.

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Youngstown Figures

The following shows the top 10 laboratory drug cases reported for BCI Youngstown for the period July - September 2014.



The figures for Youngstown remain relatively similar to the previous quarter, as heroin, cocaine, and marijuana count for the majority of cases reported. Marijuana cases have increased 34%.

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About BCI CIU

The Criminal Intelligence Unit consists of Criminal Intelligence Analysts and a Criminal Intelligence Analyst Supervisor. Analysts are located in BCI London headquarters, as well as regional offices in Youngstown, Bowling Green and Richfield. The members receive and fulfill requests from BCI Agents, local, state, federal law enforcement agencies and task forces. Our mission is to predict and expose criminal activity in order to prevent, eliminate or neutralize the activity.

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This bulletin's purpose is to provide up to date and relevant intelligence to Law Enforcement agencies across Ohio. If you have information that you would like to share with other Ohio Law Enforcement agencies or if there is a topic that you would like researched and put into a bulletin, send it to BCI CIU at Intel@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov and it will be included in a future bulletin.

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