

Background:

In the District of Columbia, the laws related to the recreational use and possession of marijuana have changed at two milestones: the effective dates of the *Marijuana Possession Decriminalization Amendment Act of 2014* on July 17, 2014, and of Initiative 71 on February 26, 2015 (<https://mpdc.dc.gov/marijuana>).

Data:

This data includes arrests made by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). The data represents individuals arrested with a marijuana charge, regardless of whether there was a more serious secondary charge. If an arrestee was charged with multiple marijuana charges, the arrest is only counted once under the more serious charge type (Distribution > Possession with Intent to Distribute > Possession > Public Consumption).

MPD collects race and ethnicity data according to the United States Census Bureau standards (<https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html>). Hispanic, which was previously categorized under the Race field prior to August 2015, is now captured under Ethnicity. All records prior to August 2015 have been updated to “Unknown (Race), Hispanic (Ethnicity)”. Race and ethnicity data are based on officer observation, which may or may not be accurate.

MPD cannot release exact addresses to the general public unless proof of ownership or subpoena is submitted. The GeoX and GeoY values represent the block location (approximately 232 ft. radius) as of the date of the arrest. Due to the Department’s redistricting efforts in 2012 and 2017, data may not be comparable in some years.

Arrestee age is calculated based on the number of days between the self-reported or verified date of birth (DOB) of the arrestee and the date of the arrest; DOB data may not be accurate if self-reported or if the arrestee refused to provide it.

Due to the sensitive nature of juvenile data and to protect the arrestee’s confidentiality, any arrest records for defendants under the age of 18 have been coded as “Juvenile” for the following fields:

- Arrest Time
- CCN
- Age
- Offense Location Block GeoX/Y
- Defendant Race
- Defendant Ethnicity
- Defendant Sex
- Arrest Location Block Address
- Arrest Location Block GeoX/Y

This data may not match other marijuana data requests that may have included all law enforcement agencies in the District, or only the most serious charge. Figures are subject to change due to record sealing, expungements, and data quality audits.

Data Dictionary:

| Value display name | Description | Acceptable Value(s) |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Marijuana_Arrest Type | Marijuana charge type; if individual is arrested with multiple marijuana charges, only the most serious charge is displayed | Distribution; Possession with intent to distribute; Possession; Public consumption |
| Arrest Year | Arrest Report Year | YYYY |
| Arrest Date | Arrest Report Date | MM/DD/YYYY |
| Arrest Time | Arrest Report Time | HH:MM |
| CCN | Anonymized Criminal Complaint Number; multiple arrestees may be associated with the same CCN; same individual may carry different CCN if arrested on different dates | Number |
| Age | Calculated age of the arrestee (Arrest Report Date - DOB) | Number |
| Offense Location District | Police District of the offense location (i.e., where the crime occurred) | 1D - 7D or Unknown |
| Offense Location PSA | Police Service Area of the offense location (i.e., where the crime occurred) | 101 - 708 or Unknown (first digit represents the Police District; each District has different # of PSAs) |
| Offense Location Block GEOX | Block level GEOX (Maryland State Plane Coordinate) of the offense location - approximately 232 ft. radius | Six digit number (last two digits rounded by 100) |
| Offense Location Block GEOY | Block level GEOY (Maryland State Plane Coordinate) of the offense location - approximately 232 ft. radius | Six digit number (last two digits rounded by 100) |
| Defendant PSA | Police Service Area of the arrestee's home address | 101 - 708, Unknown, or Out of State (First digit represents the Police District; each District |

| Value display name | Description | Acceptable Value(s) |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| | | does not have the same # of PSAs) |
| Defendant District | Police District of the arrestee's home address | 1D - 7D, Unknown, or Out of State |
| Defendant Race | Arrestee's race; based on officer observation, which may or may not be accurate | Asian (A), Black (B), Unknown/Other (U), or White (W) |
| Defendant Ethnicity | Arrestee's ethnicity; based on officer observation, which may or may not be accurate | Hispanic (H), Not-Hispanic (N), or Unknown (U) |
| Defendant Sex | Arrestee's gender; based on officer observation, which may or may not be accurate | Male (M), Female (F), or Unknown (U) |
| Arrest Category | Category grouping for Charge Description (auto-generated from pre-existing category list) | One of 29 arrest categories or null value |
| Charge Description | DC Code Arrest Charge | One of 5,341 active or inactive arrest categories (v73118) |
| Arrest Location Block Address | Block address of the arrest location (i.e., where the arrest occurred) | Block level address; or out of state |
| Arrest Location Block GeoX | Block level GEOX (Maryland State Plane Coordinate) of the arrest location - approximately 232 ft. radius | Six digit number (last two digits rounded by 100) |
| Arrest Location Block GeoY | Block level GEOY (Maryland State Plane Coordinate) of the arrest location - approximately 232 ft. radius | Six digit number (last two digits rounded by 100) |