

# Conclusions

# Conclusions

- Portsmouth has a serious crime problem.
- It is a problem that has developed over many years.
- It is a problem that does not have an immediate fix, but requires a long-term solution.
- The Crime Index, released by the FBI in the Uniform Crime Index, places Portsmouth as having one of the highest crime rates in the United States.
- The 2004 Crime Index places Portsmouth as having the 1st highest Crime Index, per 100,000 inhabitants, in the State of Ohio, up from 14th highest in 1995.

# Conclusions

- The 2004 Crime Index places Chillicothe as having the 3rd highest Crime Index, per 100,000 inhabitants, in the State of Ohio, up from the 6<sup>th</sup> highest in 1995.
- The Portsmouth Crime Index in 1996 was 1882.
- The Portsmouth Crime Index in 2004 was 3171.
- During the period 1996 – 2004 Portsmouth and Chillicothe experienced a relatively steady increase in the Crime Index.
- The Portsmouth and Chillicothe Crime Index is related directly to drug use and drug trafficking.

# Conclusions

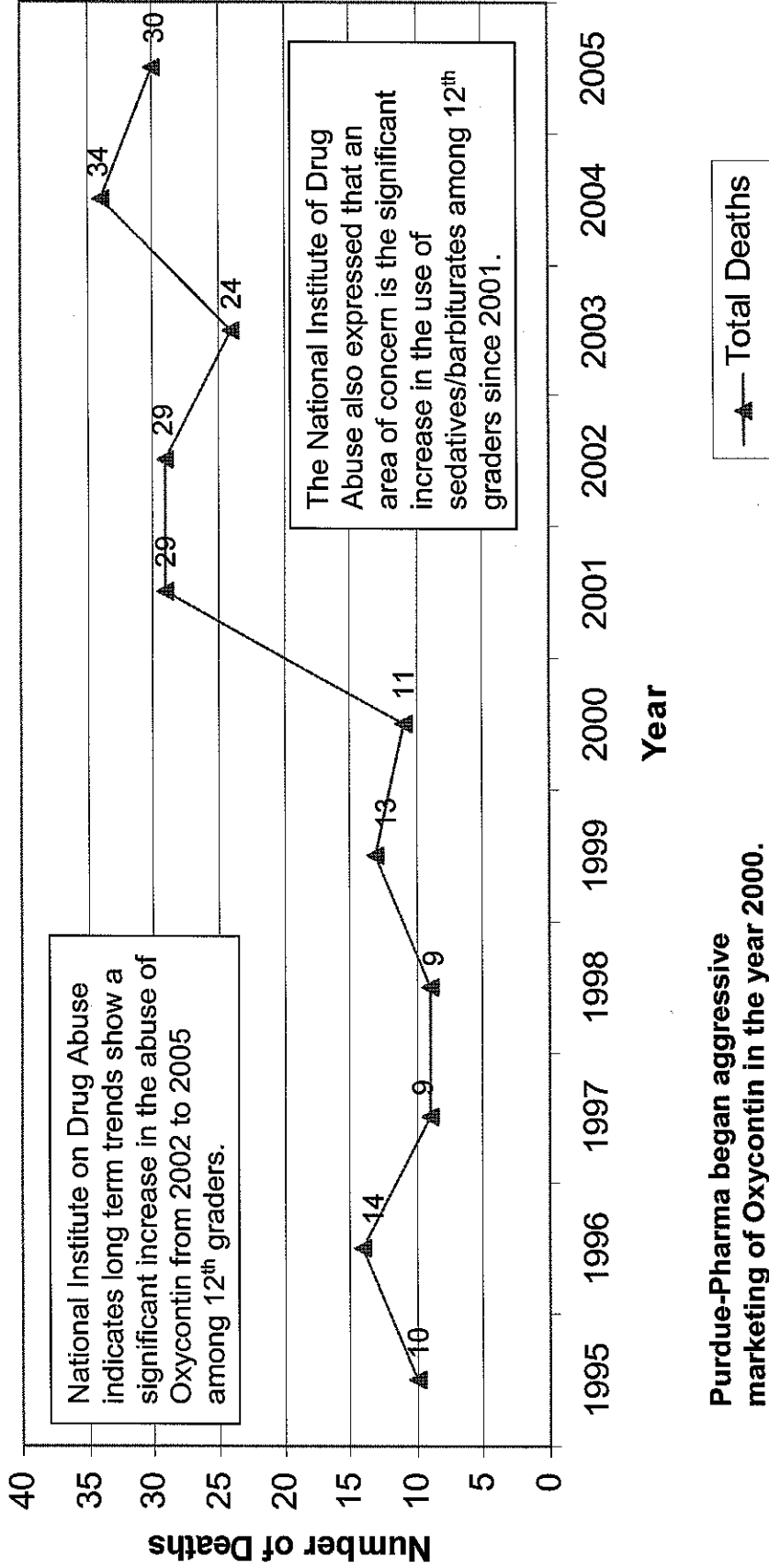
- It has been established that drug traffickers can make twice the money in Scioto County that they would normally make in the larger cities.
- As a result drug traffickers from Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Springfield, Dayton, Columbus, etc. find Portsmouth and Scioto County highly lucrative.

# Conclusions

- With the increased presence of “out-of-town” drug traffickers, we have experienced a significant increase in theft related crime, prostitution, violence, and gang activity.
- Drug users, once all revenues are expended, turn to theft to support their habits.
- Other drug users, commonly females, turn to prostitution to support their habits.
- Numerous drug overdoses have occurred in Scioto and adjacent counties in recent years, indicating an increase in drug abuse, especially prescription medications.

# Deaths Involving Drugs

## Deaths in Scioto County (Drugs involved)



# Conclusions

- Drug trafficking, especially crack cocaine trafficking, carries with it the significant aspect of increased violence. Portsmouth and Scioto County has experienced a significant increase in violence, including felonious assaults and murders related to the drug trade.
- The attractiveness of significantly increased profits has attracted the attention of gangs from the major cities. Law enforcement has identified both “Crips” and “Bloods” in Portsmouth.

# Conclusions

- The Portsmouth Police Department has less manpower than it had in 1974 and levels have remained relatively unchanged since 1982.
- From 1996 to 2004, while the Crime Index has increased almost 100%, the Portsmouth Police Department's Budget has only increased 32%. Virtually all the increased budget has gone to salary increases, which are still far below the national averages.

# Conclusions

- Salaries, that are among the lowest in the nation, make it more difficult to recruit and retain officers.
- Low wages, increased crime, and resulting increased workloads result in decreasing morale.