

DRUG USE AND ARRESTS IN CENTERTOWN

These two tables provide data by zip code for Centertown’s five largest ZIP code regions. The percentage of adults who report as recreational marijuana users was obtained from a questionnaire distributed during a summer music festival in the downtown district. The number of drug arrests includes all illegal drugs and comes from the Centertown Police Department’s records as does the data about residents with multiple arrests. The number of residents information and college graduate data comes from the 2010 Census Bureau data. Unemployment data came from end-of-year tables published in the Midland Gazette.

TABLE 1: USE AND ARREST STATISTICS 2011*

ZIP Code	Percentage of Adults Arrested for Drug-Related Crimes	Number of Adult Recreational Users	Number of Residents	Number of Adult Recreational Users per 1,000 Residents
49108	2.7	3620	20,707	174
49109	4.1	2130	36,201	58
49118	3.3	2850	29,954	95
49123	2.8	3100	22,231	139
49124	3.7	2270	31,960	71

* Number of residents data is 2010

TABLE 2: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

ZIP Code	Percentage of Residents Who Are Unemployed	Percentage of Residents Who Are College Graduates	Percentage of Residents With Multiple Arrests
49108	11.5	7	49
49109	8.9	21	25
49118	8.2	23	19
49123	9.8	16	47
49124	8.5	21	33

Students may or may not catch on that ZIP code data can be useful, but it can also be misleading. The fact that some of the data was obtained from a questionnaire at a summer music festival should be noticed. We also aren’t told who distributed it. Drug arrest data is for all illegal drugs and so may not have much relevance to the use of marijuana.

Students should note that the variances between groups is important: drug-arrests is for all illegal drugs, recreational users is for marijuana.

The demographic data might be useful, we’ll see what the students extract from it.