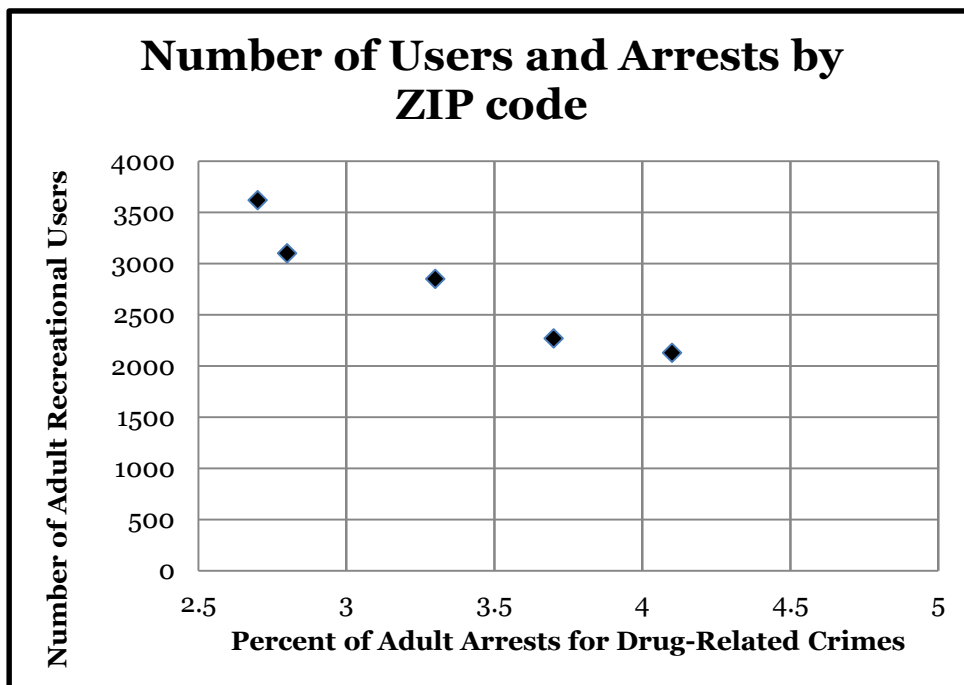


James Franklin's Chart

The data in this chart were derived from the same data as were used in the political science department report. Mr. Franklin was referring to this chart when he made the claim that crime rates drop in areas where marijuana use is decriminalized or made legal.



This is an intentionally misleading document that also says something about Franklin. (That is, this assignment is such that this page contains misinformation and students should pick up on how it reflects on Franklin.)

First, the claim that crime rates drop in areas where marijuana use is decriminalized or made legal will be one without much backing yet, as there aren't very many such places. Second, there are good reasons why crime rates might drop if all we're talking about are "pot busts," but that won't really say all that much.

The chart should leave the unobservant to conclude that if only the number of recreational users were large enough, there would be no more arrests. But, each data point is just a zip code, and we're looking at a misleading (and tiny) data set. Clever students should point out the weaknesses in this chart.