

A black and white photograph showing a man from behind, shirtless, standing in a makeshift tent structure made of plastic sheeting. He is holding a long pole that supports the tent's roof. The background is filled with dense foliage. In the foreground, there are some dark, indistinct objects, possibly furniture or equipment. The overall scene suggests a temporary or makeshift living arrangement in an outdoor setting.

Les contradictions (et complémentarités) entre la répression pénale  
et la santé: Une perspective ethnographique du ghetto américain

Philippe Bourgois  
Photos by Jeff Schonberg  
University of Pennsylvania

# Participant Observation Methods

- Organic relationships to observe taboo unhealthy behavior (drugs/sex/crime/violence) in natural environment and minimize distortion
- Iterative triangulation of self-reported and observed behaviors in their natural setting through the saturation sampling of a purposefully selected social network (small N!)
- Limit inherent subjectivity of all research relationships (including epistemic framing biases) through disciplined self-reflection of researchers and through theoretical literature review and scrutiny of all instruments (team and cross-methodological dialogue)

# Judging Accuracy and Objectivity

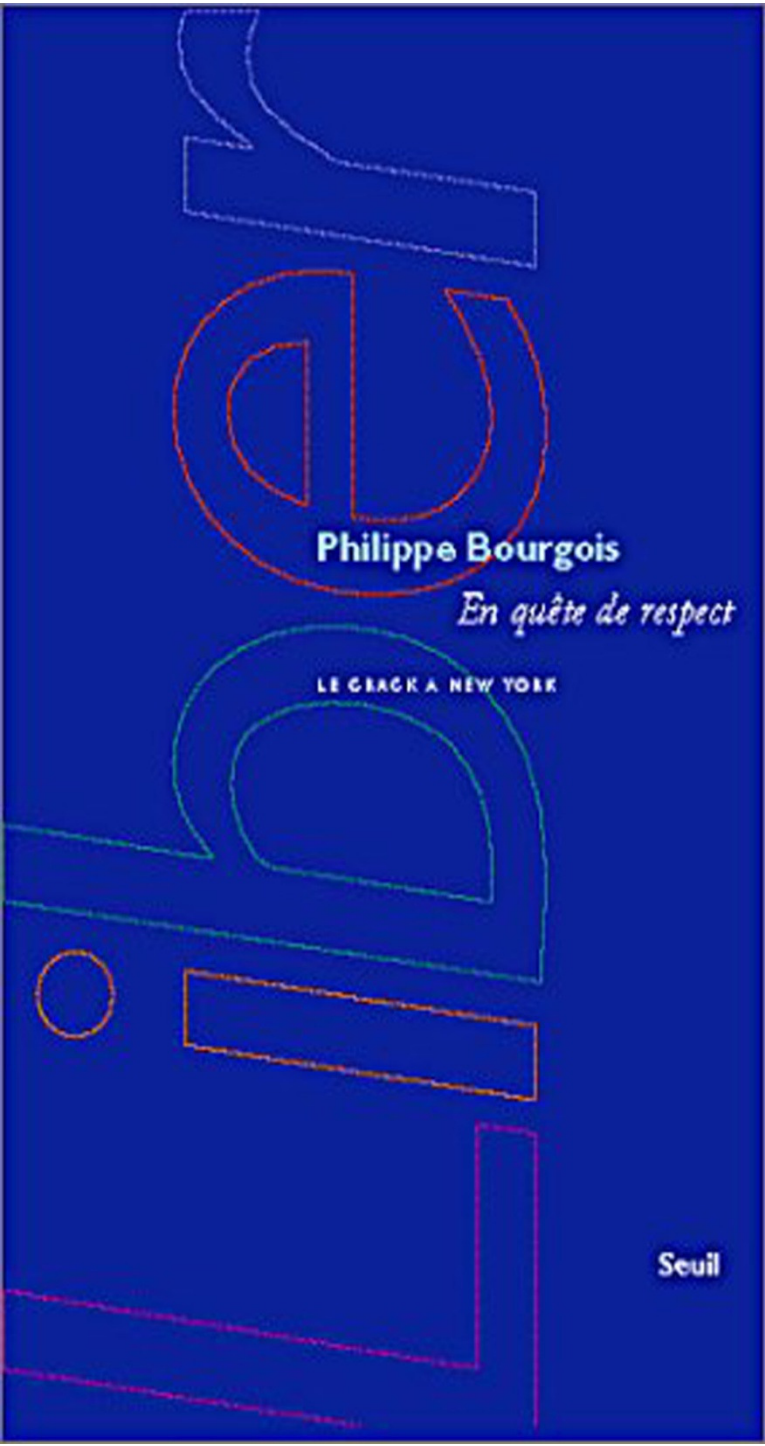
- Situate and contextualize sample
  - Epidemiological comparison
  - Strategically targeted follow-up interviews
  - (Reliability and generalizability)
- Explain logics for processes
- Rigor of mathematics and philosophy
  - Internally coherent equation
  - Parsimonious explanations (discrepancies)
  - Account for discrepancies

righteousdopefiend



PHILIPPE BOURGOIS | JEFF SCHONBERG

May 2009 Public Anthropology  
Series, University of California  
Press



**Philippe Bourgois**

*En quête de respect*

LE CRACK A NEW YORK

**Seuil**



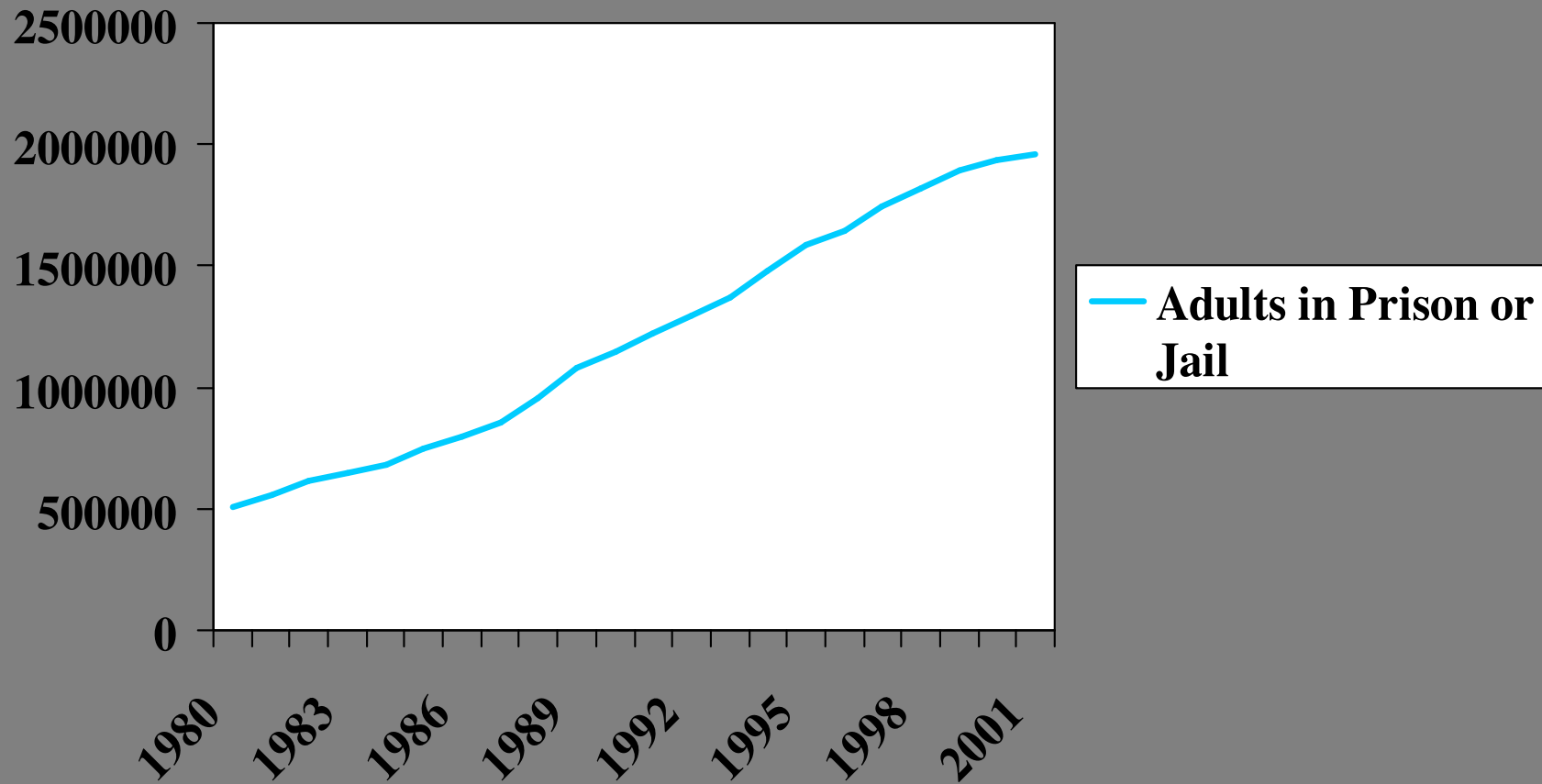


# Cultural Relativism:

## No culture good or bad, all have a logic

- Public Health application
  - Centrality of power in cultural/class interaction
  - Cultural competence = humility
  - Recognize logic of competing priorities  
contradicting healthy outcomes
  - Recognize structural forces shaping individual  
behavior

# U.S. Population in Prison 1980-2001



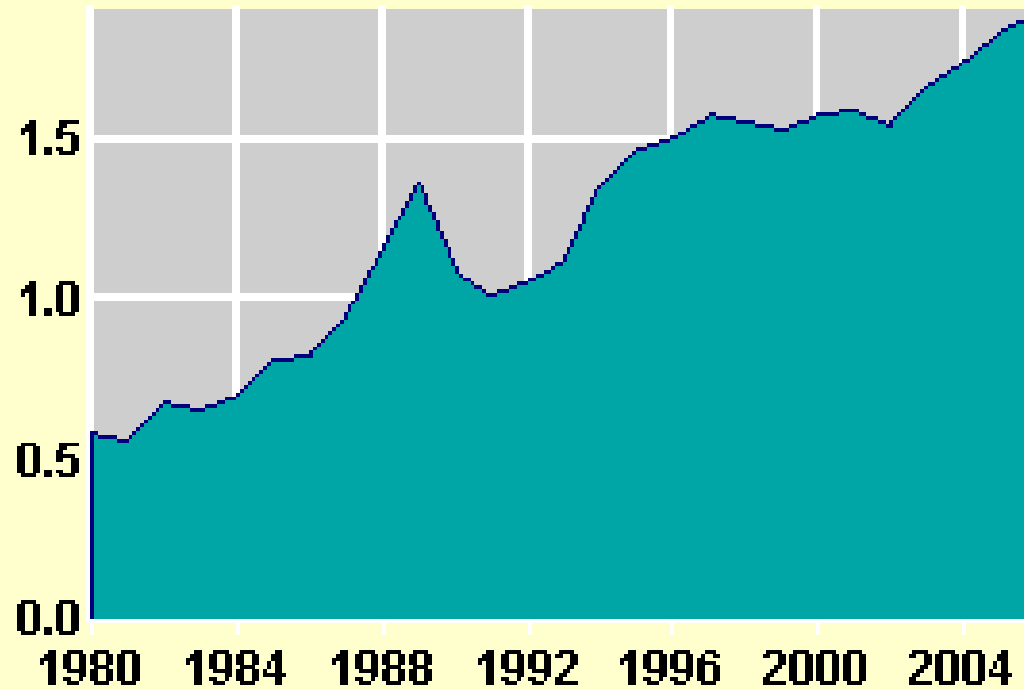
Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2002



# Adult Drug Arrests, 1980-2006

## Drug abuse violation arrests, 1980-2006

Millions

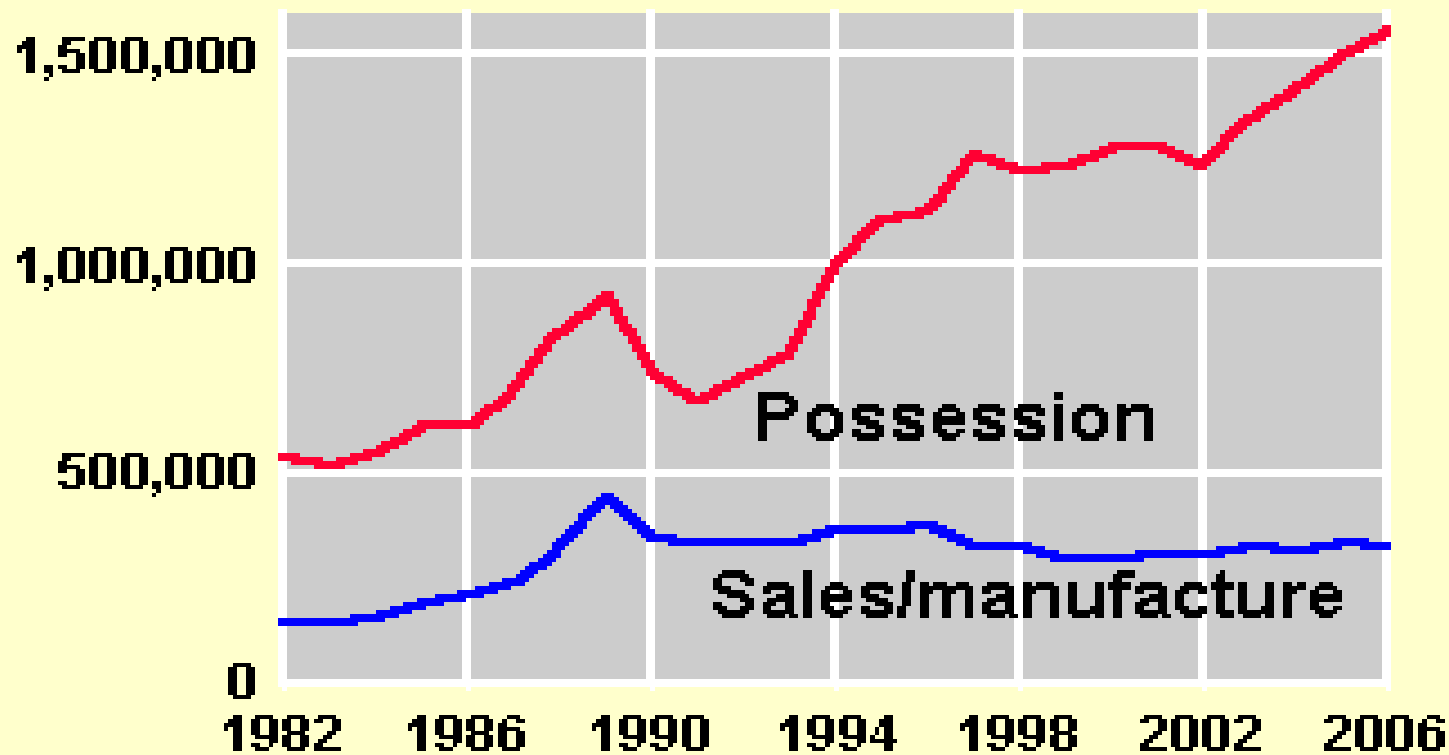


Bureau of Justice Statistics

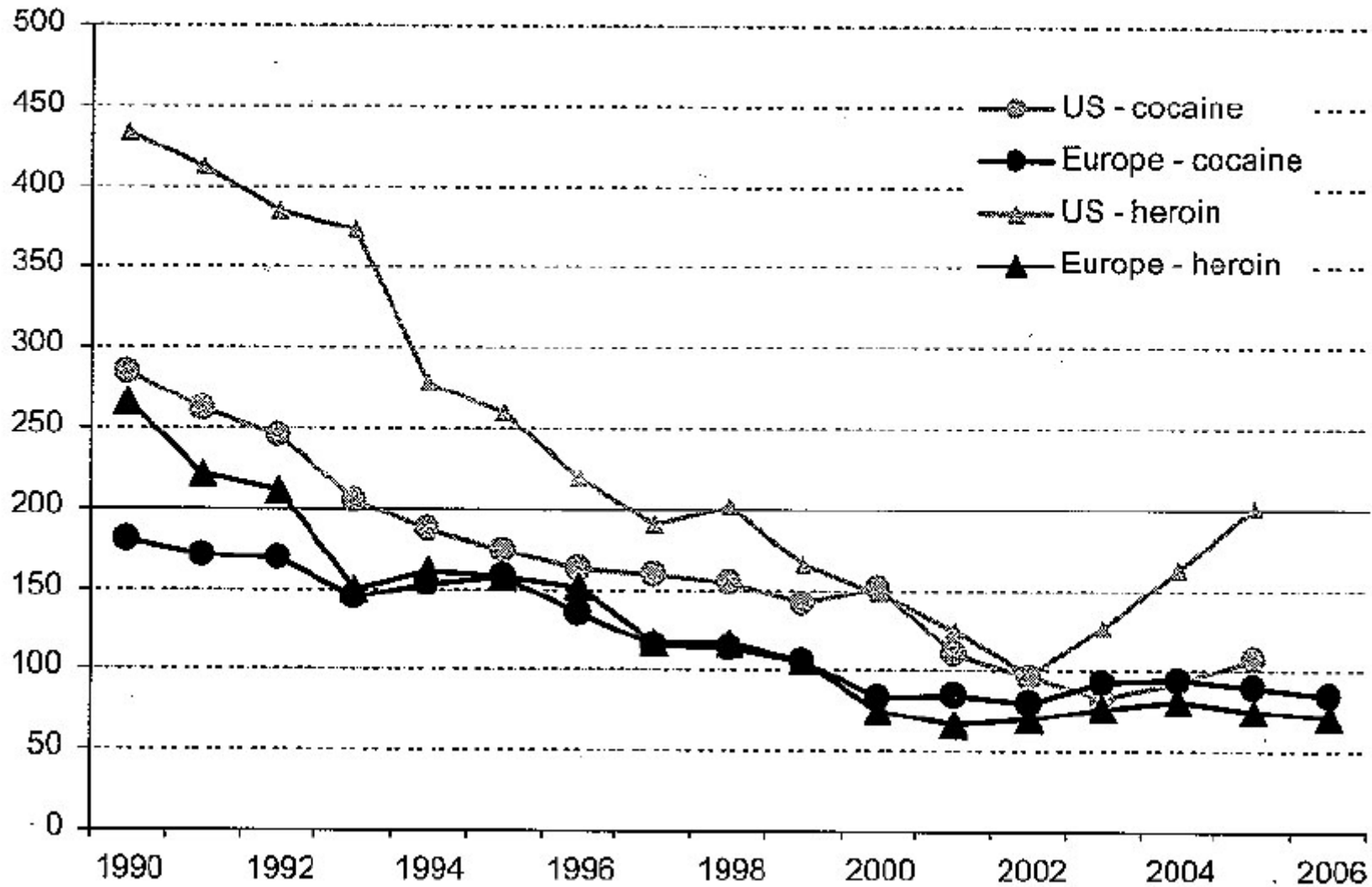
<<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/dcf/enforce.htm>>

# Simple Possession!

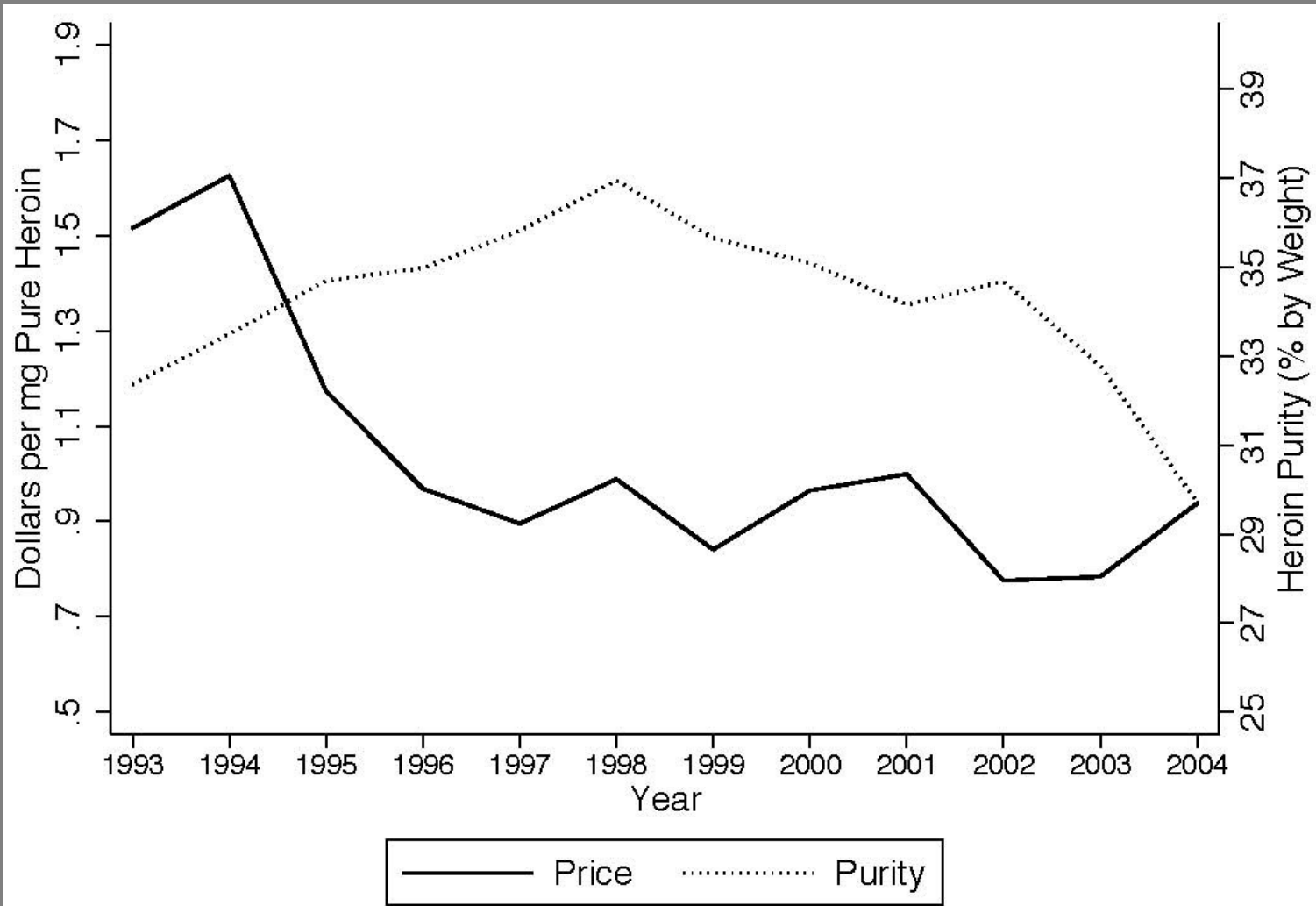
Number of arrests, by type of drug law violations, 1982-2006



## Cocaine and Heroin Retail Prices, 1990-2006 (in U.S. dollars per gram)



Cocaine and heroin retail prices, 1990–2006 (US dollar, per gram), *Source*. United Nations, World Drug Report 2007 Office on Drugs and Crime, New York (pp. 223, 228). *Note*. Prices are adjusted for inflation.



Source: Drug Enforcement Administration, Domestic Monitor Program

Dan Ciccarone 2009 IJDP



Les logiques culturelles pour la non-adhérence: Une perspective anthropologique sur les injecteurs d'héroïne et fumeurs de crack sans foyer aux Etats Unis

Philippe Bourgois  
Photos by Jeff Schonberg  
University of Pennsylvania