

A Weekly FAX From the Center for Substance Abuse Research

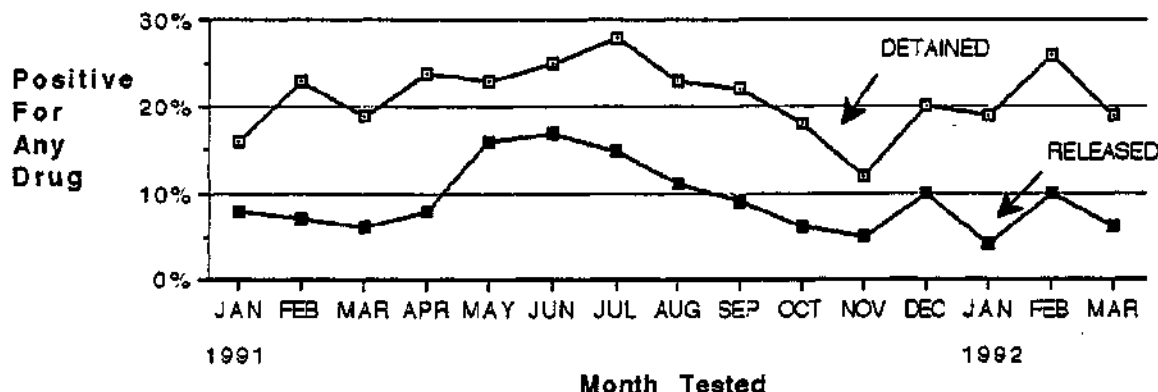
University of Maryland At College Park *

Test Results From Juvenile Detainees in Washington, D.C. Indicate Drug Use is Continuing in Serious Youth Offenders

About one quarter of the juveniles arrested and detained in the District of Columbia in the past year tested positive for a drug, primarily marijuana. Detained juveniles, youths typically charged with serious offenses or with no available parent or guardian to be released to, were about twice as likely to test positive than the minority of juveniles released to the community without detention. (A separate study of drug use in juvenile detainees in another city showed that drug positive juvenile detainees were at greater risk for rearrest and involvement in drug distribution activities; Dembo, see below). To learn whether high rates of recent drug use exist in juvenile detainees in Maryland, CESAR staff will initiate voluntary, anonymous (DUF-like) drug testing programs in selected Department of Juvenile Services facilities this summer.

Drug Test Results from Juvenile Offenders in Washington, D.C.**

(N = 668 released and 4,163 detained juveniles tested between January, 1991 and March, 1992)



** Drugs tested for by urinalysis are cocaine, marijuana, opiates, PCP

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from D.C. Pretrial Services Agency

Dembo, R., et al. 1990. Urine Testing of Detained Juveniles to Identify High-Risk Youth. *National Institute of Justice Research in Brief*, May 1990.

D.C. Pretrial Drug Test Results are Updated Monthly on the CESAR Board

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