

## ***SAMIS Data Uncovers Differences Between Heroin Snorters and Injectors Entering Maryland Drug Treatment Programs***

An earlier edition of the CESAR FAX (Issue 13) showed a trend towards snorting among persons seeking treatment for heroin. ADAA ran a special analysis of SAMIS data to further compare snorters with injectors. While snorters are younger at treatment entry, they began to use heroin at about the same age as injectors. Both snorters and injectors tend to also have a problem with cocaine. Problems with marijuana are more common among snorters. Almost all heroin snorters are black; only 8% of snorters are white. Most snorters and injectors come from Baltimore City and are unemployed at the time of treatment admission. Heroin snorters are much more likely to be treated in outpatient programs while injectors are more likely to receive methadone maintenance. The growing population of heroin snorters seeking treatment may require an expansion of outpatient drug programs.

### **HEROIN-RELATED ADMISSIONS TO MARYLAND ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAMS, BY PRIMARY ROUTE OF USE JULY, 1991 - FEBRUARY 1992**

	PRIMARY ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION	
	<u>SNORTING</u>	<u>INJECTION</u>
	(N = 2,424)	(N = 6,245)
Average Age at First Use:	21.1 years	20.5 years
Average Age at Admission:	27.5 years	34.9 years
Male:	67%	68%
Race:		
White:	8	33
Black:	91	66
Other:	≤1	≤1
	100%	100%
Also Has A Problem With:		
Cocaine:	64%	68%
Alcohol:	30%	38%
Marijuana:	30%	10%
Residence:		
Baltimore City:	80	65
Baltimore County:	11	13
Other:	9	22
	100%	100%
Unemployed:	65%	70%
Treatment Type:		
Outpatient:	51	26
Methadone Maintenance:	8	33
Other:	41	41
	100%	100%

SOURCE: Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, Substance Abuse Management Information System (SAMIS)

For further information about today's topic or to be placed on the distribution list, please call CESAR at 301-403-8329

\* CESAR FAX is supported by a grant from the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission.