

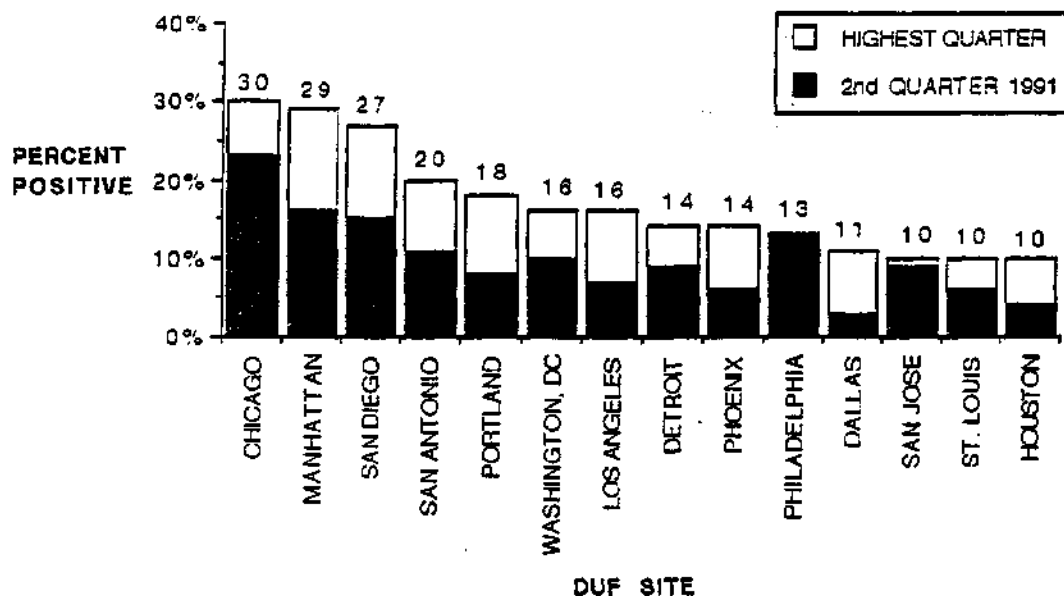
A Weekly FAX From the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland At College Park *

National DUF Data Show No Evidence of an Increase in Heroin Use in Booked Arrestees

In the past, arrestee urine test trends have provided advance warning of drug epidemics. Illegal drugs tend to be used first by persons committing other illegal behaviors. The heroin epidemic in the District of Columbia in the late 1970's and the cocaine epidemic in the 1980's showed up early in the drug test results from arrestees. Contrary to recent media reports of an imminent upswing in heroin use in the United States, the DUF results from the 14 cities where heroin use is most prevalent, show no signs of an increase in use. In twelve of the 14 cities, the percentage positive for opiates in the 2nd quarter, 1991 is considerably below the highest level reached in any quarter since the testing program began in 1987-88. While Philadelphia and San Jose appear to be at their highest levels, their results are at the same levels that were found in arrestees tested in these cities in 1990 and show no consistent increase.

**PERCENTAGE OF ADULT MALE BOOKED ARRESTEES TESTING POSITIVE FOR OPIATES
IN THE 2ND QUARTER, 1991 AND IN THE HIGHEST QUARTER SINCE TESTING BEGAN**



SOURCE: Drug Use Forecasting Program, National Institute of Justice.

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