

A Weekly FAX From the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland At College Park *

Prince George's County Pre-Trial Testing Program Tracks Decline in Arrestee Drug Use

Drug use in male and female arrestees tested by the Prince George's County Pre-Trial Release Unit continues at a level far below the peak reached in February 1989. It should be noted, however, that female arrestees continue to test positive at higher rates than male arrestees (about 60% of female arrestees in Prince George's County test positive, see CESAR FAX issue 1; February 17th). The sizable declines in drug use found in tested arrestees in Prince George's County and the District of Columbia contrast with the stable high rates found among arrestees tested in other cities as part of the national Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program. Jay Carver, Director of the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency, has suggested that one of the reasons that drug use has declined in arrestees in Washington, D.C. and Prince George's County may be that these jurisdictions use drug testing to identify, monitor, and refer to treatment arrestees who test positive.

PERCENTAGE OF BOOKED MALE AND FEMALE ARRESTEES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY TESTING POSITIVE FOR COCAINE, OPIATES, AND PCP

