

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

More Than Half of Adult Male Arrestees Test Positive for Illicit Drug Use

Between 52% and 80% of adult male arrestees in 34 cities across the U.S. tested positive for illicit drug use in 2000, according to data from the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program (ADAM). According to urinalysis results, marijuana and cocaine are the drugs most commonly used by adult male arrestees (by an average of 40% and 29% of arrestees), followed by methamphetamine (9%), opiates (8%), and PCP (1%). Arrestee drug use patterns vary greatly, however, by region. For example, while the average percentage of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine was 9%, between 22% and 29% of arrestees in California ADAM sites tested positive for this drug. Differences such as these suggest that “a one-size-fits-all approach to controlling drug use may not be the optimal one, and policies and strategies for enforcement and treatment are best tailored to specific user groups and locations” (p. 7, 2001b).

Percentage of Adult Male Arrestees Testing Positive for Any Drug (of NIDA-5*), by ADAM Site, 2000

ADAM Site	Males
Albany	65%
Albuquerque	65%
Anchorage	52%
Atlanta	70%
Birmingham	65%
Charlotte	68%
Cleveland	72%
Dallas	55%
Denver	64%
Des Moines	55%
Detroit	70%
Ft. Lauderdale	62%

ADAM Site	Males
Honolulu	63%
Houston	57%
Indianapolis	64%
Laredo	59%
Las Vegas	59%
Miami	63%
Minneapolis	67%
New Orleans	69%
New York	80%
Oklahoma City	71%
Omaha	63%

ADAM Site	Males
Philadelphia	72%
Phoenix	66%
Portland	64%
Sacramento	74%
Salt Lake City	54%
San Antonio	53%
San Diego	64%
San Jose	53%
Seattle	64%
Spokane	58%
Tucson	69%

*NIDA-5 drugs: marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, opiates, and PCP.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from the National Institute of Justice, Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program, *2000 Annualized Site Reports*, 2001a (available online at www.adam-nij.net/files/2000AnnualReports.pdf) and National Institute of Justice, *ADAM Preliminary 2000 Findings on Drug Use and Drug Markets—Adult Male Arrestees*, 2001b (available online at www.adam-nij.net/files/2000_Preliminary_Findings.pdf).