

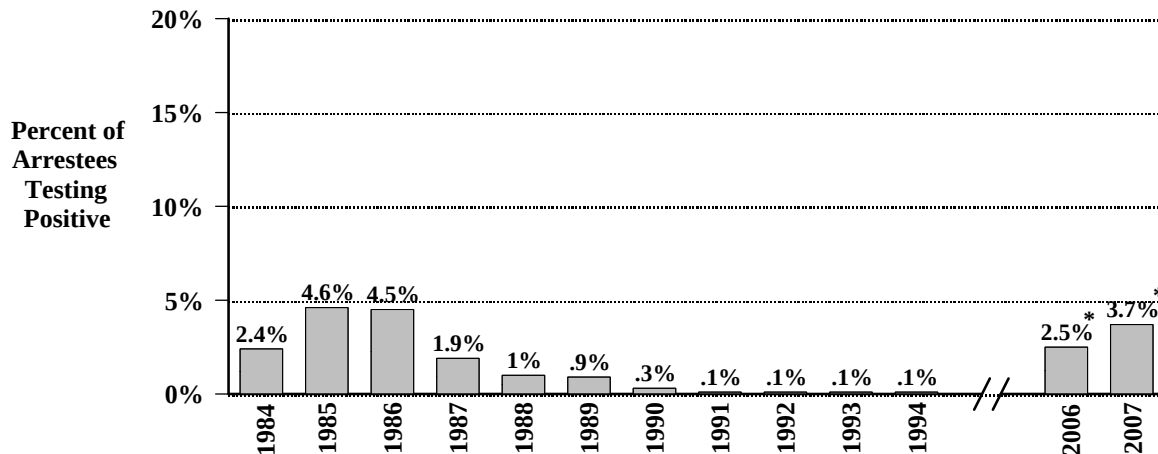
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Amphetamine Positive Rates Among D.C. Adult Arrestees Increasing; Approaching Rates Last Seen in the Mid-80s

The percentage of adult arrestees in the District of Columbia testing positive for amphetamines is increasing, according to data from the D. C. Pretrial Services Agency (DCPSA). In the mid-1980s, the percentage of arrestees testing positive for amphetamines peaked at around 4.5%, then decreased for a few years, finally leveling off at 0.1%. Confirmations for the positive rates in the late 80s and early 90s indicated that the specific amphetamines being identified were over-the-counter medications. The consistently low rate of amphetamine positives led the DCPSA to curtail amphetamine testing for more than 10 years (from 1995 to 2005). During this time, DCPSA periodically screened for amphetamines to monitor use in the arrestee population. The DCPSA resumed consistent amphetamine screening in early 2006, based on higher positive rates found in the 2006 periodic amphetamine screening. From April to December 2006, 2.5% of arrestees tested positive for amphetamines, and this rate increased to 3.7% during the first nine months of 2007. In contrast to the over-the-counter amphetamines found in earlier years, the amphetamine positives in 2006 were specifically identified as ecstasy (85%) and methamphetamine (15%). Preliminary analysis indicate a similar distribution of the 2007 amphetamine positives.

Percentage of Washington, D.C., Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Amphetamines, 1984 to 1994 and 2006 to 2007*



NOTE: Amphetamines comprise a very small percentage of the positive test results among D.C. adult arrestees, who are more likely to test positive for cocaine (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 16, Issue 10).

*Data for 2006 are from April to December; for 2007 from January to September.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from data from the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency (available online at <http://www.dcpsa.gov/foia/foiaERRpsa.htm>) and personal communication with Jerome Robinson, Director of Forensic Research, DCPSA, November 2007. For more information, contact Jerome Robinson at jerome.robinson@csosa.gov.

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