

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

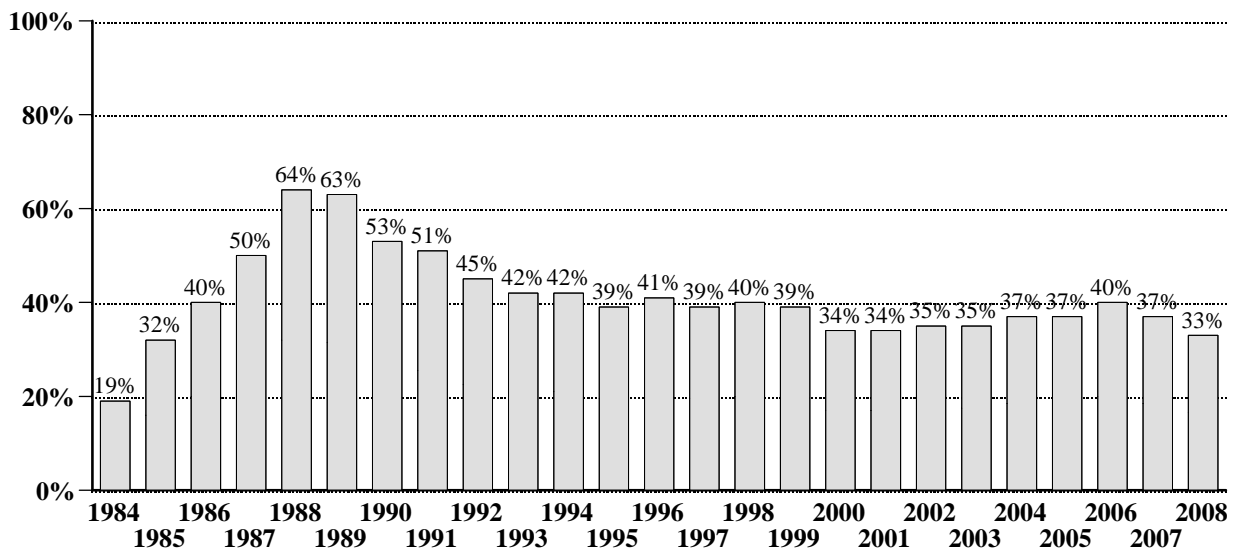
University of Maryland, College Park

Percentage of D.C. Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Cocaine Lowest Since 1985

While cocaine continues to be the drug that adult arrestees in the District of Columbia test positive for most often, the most recent positive rates are well below the levels seen in the late 1980s. According to the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency, 33% of adult arrestees tested positive for cocaine in 2008, nearly half the peak of 64% reached in 1988. In fact, the 2008 rate is the lowest seen in this population since 1985 (see figure below). Several reasons may have contributed to this decline in cocaine use over the past two decades, including an aging cohort of cocaine-using arrestees and an increased awareness of the negative effects of the drug.

Percentage of Washington, D.C. Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Cocaine, 1984 to 2008*

(N ranged from 10,990 in 1984 to 24,375 in 2008)



NOTE: The D.C. Pretrial Services Agency began drug testing arrestees in 1984.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency. Available online at <http://www.dcpsa.gov/foia/foiaERRpsa.htm>. For more information, contact Jerome Robinson, Director of Forensic Research at the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency at jerome.robinson@csosa.gov.

Establish a Community Services Locator in Your County or State

Since 2007, CESAR has operated the interactive Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) website (www.mdcsl.org), which allows users to quickly find detailed resource listings for a variety of Maryland community resources, including substance abuse treatment, housing services, and job readiness programs. If you are interested in establishing a community services locator in your county or state, CESAR can share lessons learned, provide consultant services, or manage the development of your program. Please send inquiries to mdcsl@cesar.umd.edu.