

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park*

1992 DUF Data Show That Cocaine Epidemic Continues Unabated Among Male And Female Arrestees

Annual data from the National Institute of Justice's Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program for 1992 show that the rate of cocaine positives in many cities remains at peak levels. The DUF program collects voluntary and anonymous interview information and urine specimens from new samples of booked arrestees, quarterly in 24 of the largest cities across the United States. The findings for the full year 1992, based on results from over 30,000 arrestees, show that in 14 cities, the percentage of adult males who tested positive for cocaine was within five percentage points of the peak level found since DUF began in 1987^a. Eleven of the 21 cities that tested adult females were close to their peak level. The consistent high levels of cocaine use detected in the arrestee population contrast greatly with the declining trends in use found in surveys of the household and school populations and underscore the continuing drug problem in large urban criminal populations.

Percentage of Booked Arrestees Testing Positive for Cocaine, By Gender, 1992

| DUF Site | Males % Positive | Females % Positive |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Philadelphia | 63 | 67 ^b |
| Manhattan | 62 | 72 ^b |
| Atlanta | 58 ^b | 58 |
| Chicago | 56 ^b | N/A |
| Miami | 56 | N/A |
| Cleveland | 53 ^b | 66 |
| Los Angeles | 52 | 58 |
| St. Louis | 50 ^b | 62 ^b |
| Birmingham | 49 ^b | 46 |
| New Orleans | 49 | 44 |
| Ft. Lauderdale | 46 ^b | 47 |
| San Diego | 45 ^b | 37 |
| Washington, D.C. | 44 | 64 |
| Kansas City | 41 ^b | 62 ^b |
| Dallas | 41 | 48 ^b |
| Houston | 41 | 44 |
| Denver | 38 ^b | 50 ^b |
| Detroit | 37 | 62 |
| Portland | 35 ^b | 54 ^b |
| San Antonio | 32 ^b | 25 ^b |
| San Jose | 28 ^b | 32 ^b |
| Phoenix | 26 | 49 ^b |
| Indianapolis | 23 ^b | 25 ^b |
| Omaha | 16 ^b | N/A |

a Some sites began after 1987. N/A = females not tested.

b Falls within 5% percentage points of highest recorded level of cocaine positives.

SOURCE: Drug Use Forecasting (DUF), National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

FALL 92 MD POLL RESULTS NOW AVAILABLE!

Responses to substance abuse questions included in a November 1992 telephone survey of Maryland residents.

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