

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

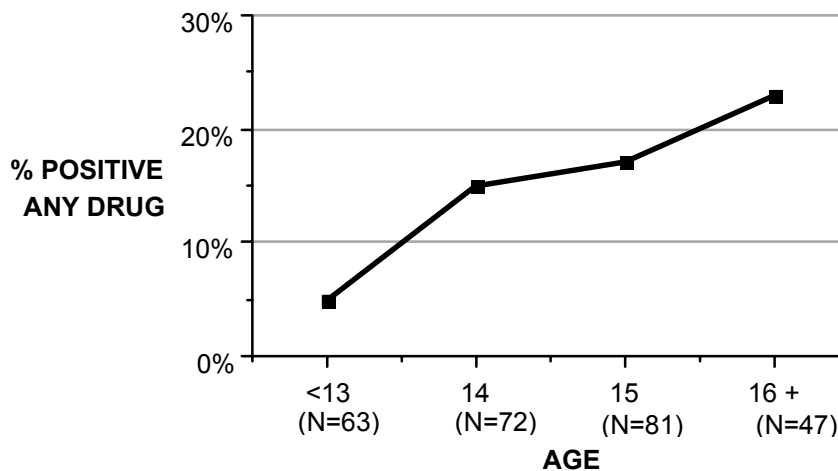
University of Maryland at College Park*

Pilot Study Reveals Considerable Drug Use Among Maryland Juvenile Detainees

With funding supplied from the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission, CESAR has conducted a pilot study of drug use in juvenile detainees admitted to Waxter Children's Center in Laurel, Maryland. Medical staff obtain voluntary and anonymous interview information and urine specimens from youth, soon after admission. Results indicate considerable drug and alcohol problems in youths. Seventeen percent of the males and 10% of the females tested positive for one or more of eleven drugs. As shown below, by age 16, over one fifth of the youth tested positive. Thirteen percent of the males and 5% of the females felt they were now dependent on alcohol. The fact that 80% of these youths were enrolled in school at the time of arrest suggests an increased role for school-based intervention and prevention programs to target services for high risk youth both before and after arrest. A full copy of the pilot study findings is available, upon request, from CESAR.

Percentage of Juvenile Detainees Who Tested Positive, By Age

(N = 263 Youths Interviewed and Tested Between September and December, 1992)



SOURCE: Gray, TA and Wish, ED. 1993. "Estimates of Drug Use in Juvenile Detainees in Maryland: A Summary Report of a Pilot Study Conducted at the Thomas J.S. Waxter Children's Center in Laurel, Maryland."

CESAR SPEAKER SERIES: VIDEOTAPES OF THE 1991-92 SEASON NOW AVAILABLE!

Videotapes of presentations by the following speakers are now available:

Dr. David Musto, Dr. Robert DuPont, Dr. Paul Goldstein, and Dr. Ethan Nadelman.

For more information, contact Alicia Hobbs at (301) 405-3609.

For more information about today's topic or to be placed on the distribution list, please call CESAR at 301-403-8329.

* CESAR FAX is supported by a grant from the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission.