

## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

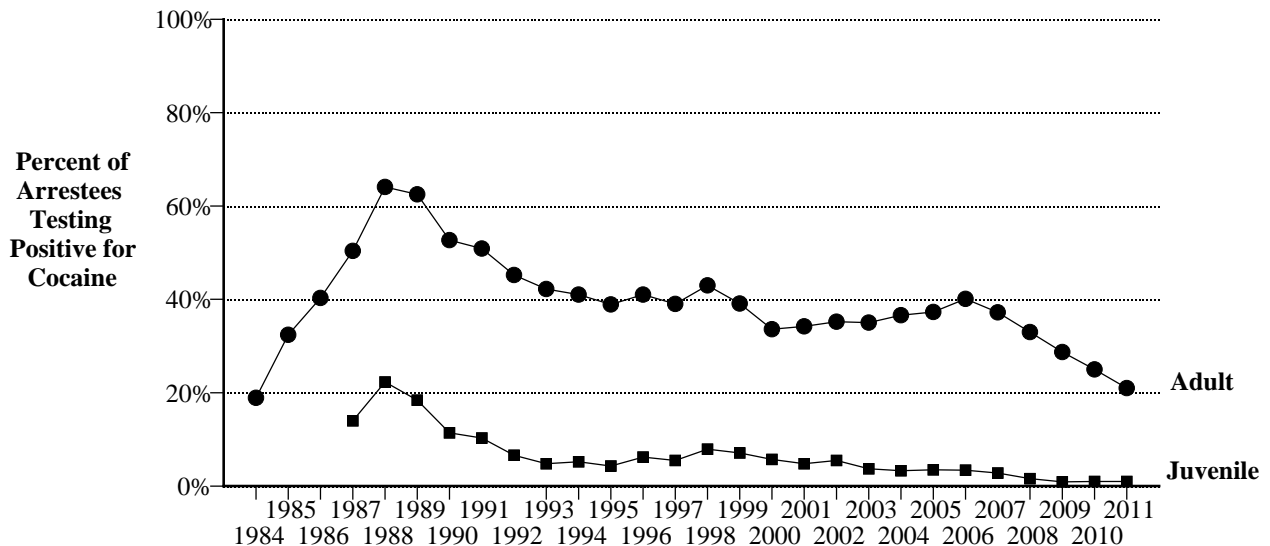
University of Maryland, College Park

### *Percentage of D.C. Arrestees Testing Positive for Cocaine Reaches Lowest Level in More Than 20 Years; Documents End of Cocaine Epidemic*

Cocaine use among D.C. arrestees continues to decline, according to data from the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency. The percentage of both adult and juvenile arrestees testing positive for cocaine peaked in 1988 in the midst of the cocaine epidemic, at 64% and 22%, respectively. Since then, cocaine positive rates among arrestees have declined significantly. In 2011, only 21% of adult arrestees tested positive for cocaine—the second lowest level since data collection began in 1984 when 19% of arrestees tested positive. While juvenile arrestees tested positive for cocaine at much lower rates than adults, similar decreases were also seen over the past 20 years. Approximately 1% of juvenile arrestees tested positive for cocaine each year from 2009 to 2011, the lowest levels recorded since juvenile testing began in 1987.

#### **Percentage of Washington, D.C., Adult and Juvenile Arrestees Testing Positive for Cocaine, 1984 to 2011**

(N ranged from 10,990 to 24,375 tests for adults and 1,896 to 4,449 for juveniles)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency. Available online at <http://www.dcpa.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](mailto:jerome.robinson@csosa.gov).