

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

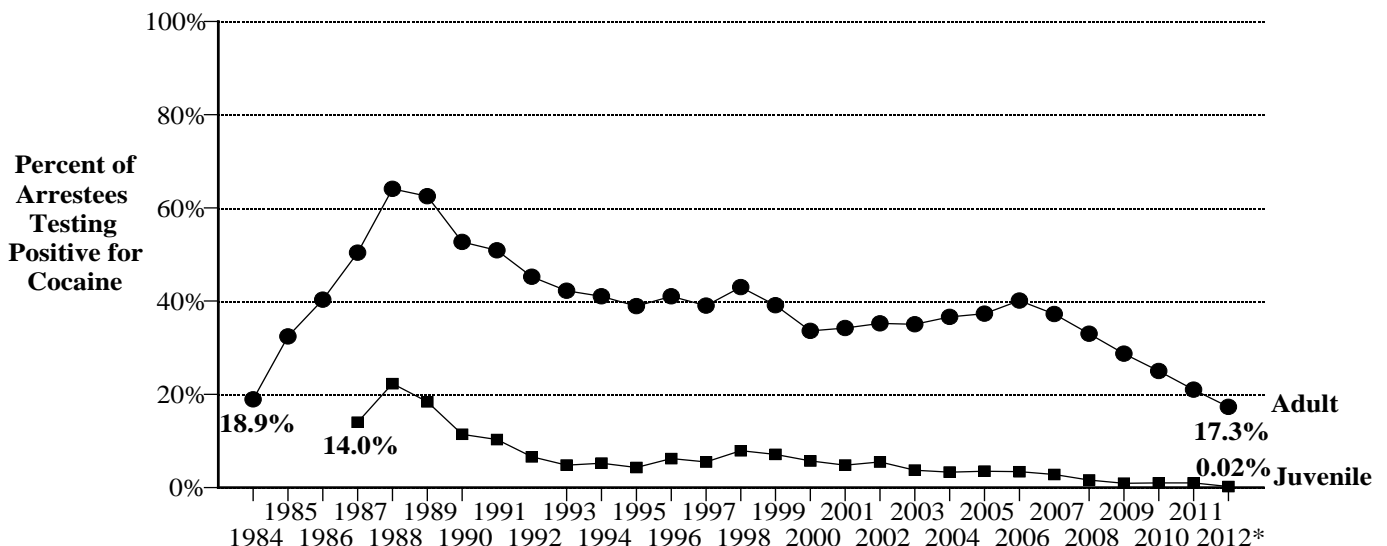
University of Maryland, College Park

### *Percentage of D.C. Arrestees Testing Positive for Cocaine Reaches Lowest Level Since Data Collection Began in 1980s*

Cocaine use among D.C. arrestees has reached the lowest level in the history of the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency drug testing program. When data collection began in the 1980s, 18.9% of adult arrestees and 14.0% of juvenile arrestees tested positive for cocaine. 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 dramatically. In the first eight months of 2012, 17.3% of adult and 0.02% of juvenile arrestees tested positive for cocaine—the lowest levels since testing began. As the use of specific drugs among arrestees is often a leading indicator of drug use trends in the general population, it is not surprising that other community indicators of cocaine use and related consequences have shown similar declines (see *CESAR FAX* Vol. 21, Iss. 30, Vol. 20, Iss. 36, and Vol. 19, Iss 46).

#### **Percentage of Washington, D.C., Adult and Juvenile Arrestees Testing Positive for Cocaine, 1984 to 2012\***

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



\*Data for 2012 are from the first eight months.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency. Available online at <http://www.dcpsa.gov/home/drug-stats.html>. For more information, contact Jerome Robinson, Director of Forensic Research at the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency Office of Forensic Toxicology Services, at [jerome.robinson@csosa.gov](mailto:jerome.robinson@csosa.gov).