

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

University of Maryland, College Park

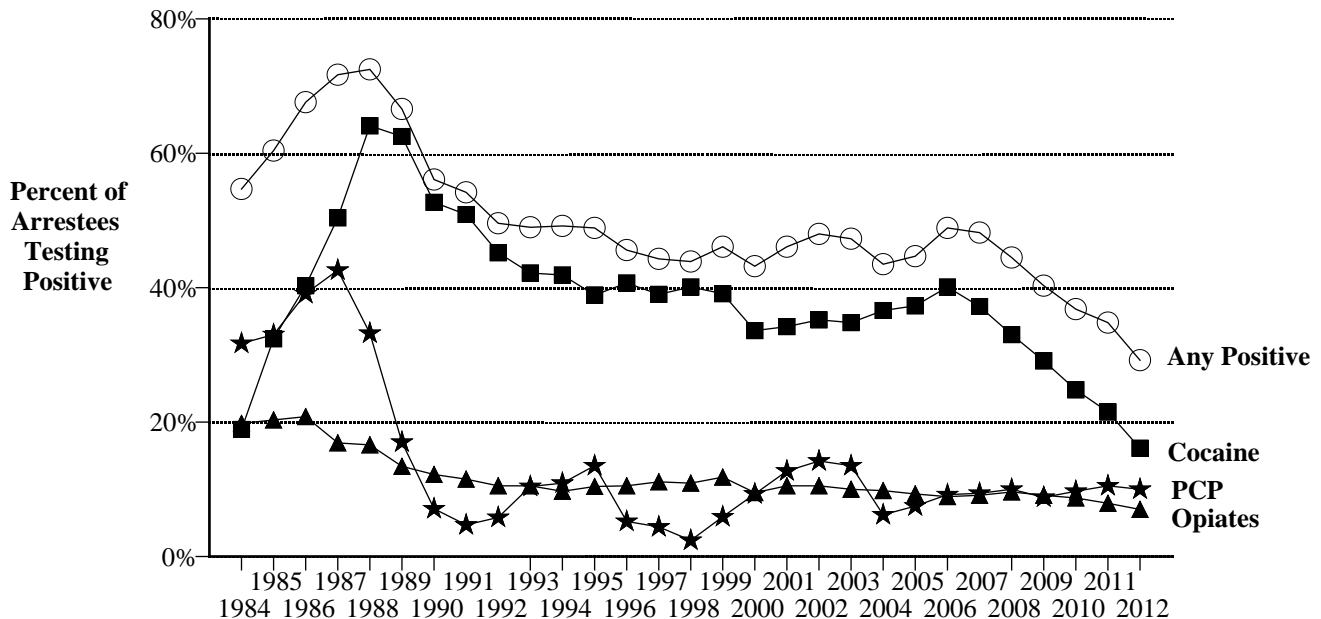
### *Percentage of D.C. Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Cocaine Declines to 16% in 2012; Cocaine Now Nearly as Rarely Detected as PCP*

The percentage of adult arrestees testing positive for cocaine reached a record low in 2012, according to data from the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency. The percentage of arrestees testing positive for cocaine decreased from 40% in 2006 to 16% in 2012—the lowest level since data collection began in the 1980s and far below the peak of 64% reached in 1988. In fact, cocaine is now nearly as rarely detected as PCP, for which 10% of arrestees tested positive in 2012. After remaining between 9% and 10% in recent years, the percentage of arrestees testing positive for opiates has decreased slightly, from 9% in 2010 to 7% in 2012.

*Editor's Note: These results do not necessarily mean that D.C. adult arrestees have stopped using drugs, only that they are not using the drugs for which they are being tested. For example, adult arrestees are not tested for marijuana but we know that approximately one-half of juvenile arrestees in D.C. test positive for marijuana (see CESAR FAX, Volume 22, Issue 6), suggesting that adult arrestees may also be using marijuana.*

#### Percentage of Washington, D.C., Adult Arrestees Testing Positive, by Drug, 1984 to 2012

(The annual number of specimens tested ranged from 10,990 in 1984 to 24,375 in 2008)



\*Data are not shown for amphetamines. The D.C. Pretrial Services Agency stopped reporting on amphetamines in 1995 and resumed reporting results for these drugs in August, 2006. The percentage of arrestees testing positive for amphetamines was 4% in 2007; 2% in 2008; and 1% in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency. Available online at <http://www.dcpa.gov/home/drug-stats.html>. 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).