

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

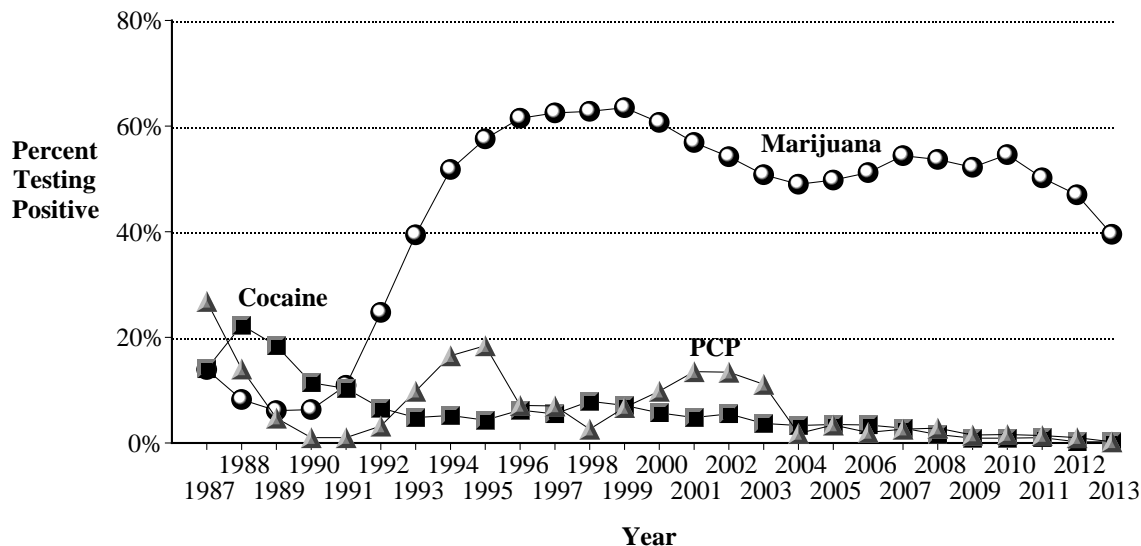
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### *While Declining, Marijuana Remains Drug Most Commonly Detected Among D.C. Juvenile Arrestees; 1% or Less Test Positive for Cocaine or PCP*

While marijuana remains the drug most commonly detected among Washington, D.C. juvenile arrestees, marijuana-positive rates have decreased for three years in a row. According to data from the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency, the percentage of juvenile arrestees testing positive for marijuana decreased from the most recent peak of 55% in 2010 to 39% in 2013. The percentage testing positive for cocaine has also been gradually decreasing since the late 1990s, and is now virtually nonexistent at 0.2%. PCP-positive rates, which have fluctuated greatly in the past, dropped to 0.2% in 2012 and 2013. It is possible that D.C. juvenile arrestees are using drugs other than the three (marijuana, PCP, and cocaine) for which they are currently being tested. For example, at least one study has found that synthetic cannabinoid users report using the drug to avoid positive drug tests and return to marijuana use when they are no longer being tested (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 22, Issue 27).

#### **Percentage of Washington, D.C., Juvenile Arrestees Testing Positive by Urinalysis for Cocaine, Marijuana, or PCP, 1987 to 2013**

(The annual number of specimens tested ranged from 1,632 in 2012 to 4,449 in 1988.)



NOTE: D.C. juvenile arrestees were also tested for amphetamines between August 2006 and December 2012. The percentage testing positive for amphetamines was 0.6% in 2006; 2.7% in 2007; 1.8% in 2008; 0.9% in 2009; 0.4% in 2010; 0.9% in 2011; and 0.6% in 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, D.C. Pretrial Services Agency, at [jerome.robinson@csosa.gov](mailto:jerome.robinson@csosa.gov).

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