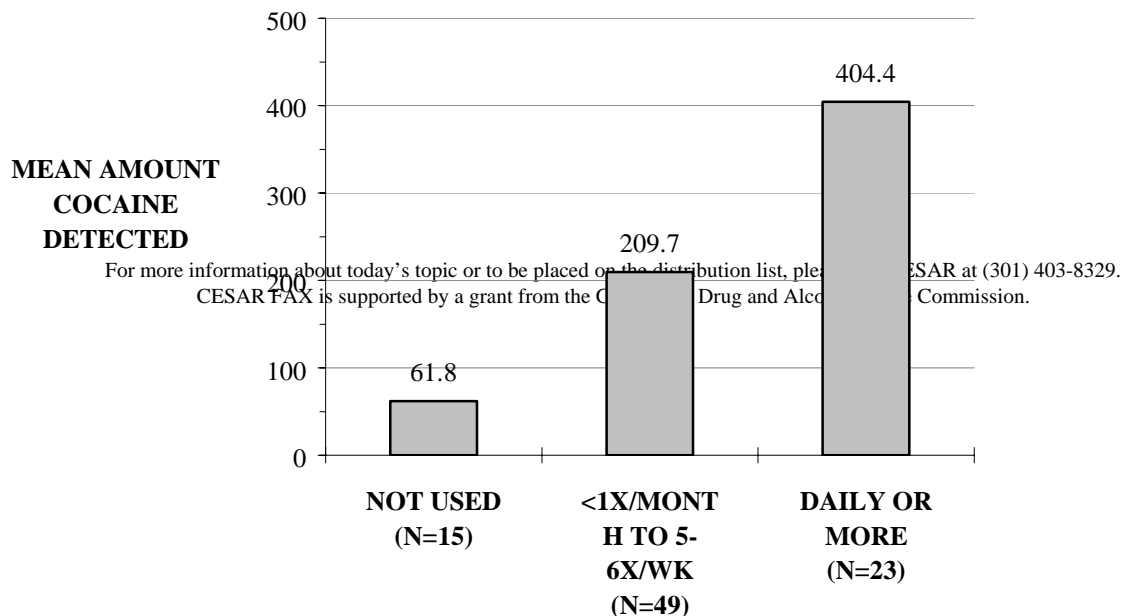## Hair Tests Detect Level of Recent Cocaine Use in Treatment Admissions

New findings have been released comparing self-reported recent drug use to the results of urine and hair tests in a sample of persons applying for drug treatment in the District of Columbia. Hair analysis, which has a longer window of detection, detected more cocaine users than did the other two techniques. In addition, the level of self-reported cocaine use in the prior 30 days was strongly related to the amount of cocaine metabolite found in the hair (see figure). Hair tests may offer a valuable method for classifying treatment admissions and others according to their level of recent drug use.

Relationship Between Self-Reported Frequency of Cocaine Use and Amount of Cocaine Detected in Hair
(N = 87 D.C. treatment admissions with hair tests positive for cocaine)

SOURCE: J.A. Hoffman, E.D. Wish, J.J. Koman III, S.J. Schneider, P.M. Flynn, and J.W. Luckey. Hair, Urine, and Self-Reported Drug Use Concordance at Treatment Admission. Paper presented at the October 1993 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Paper available from CESAR.

"Nature and Extent of the Maryland Drug Problem" Reprints Now Available

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