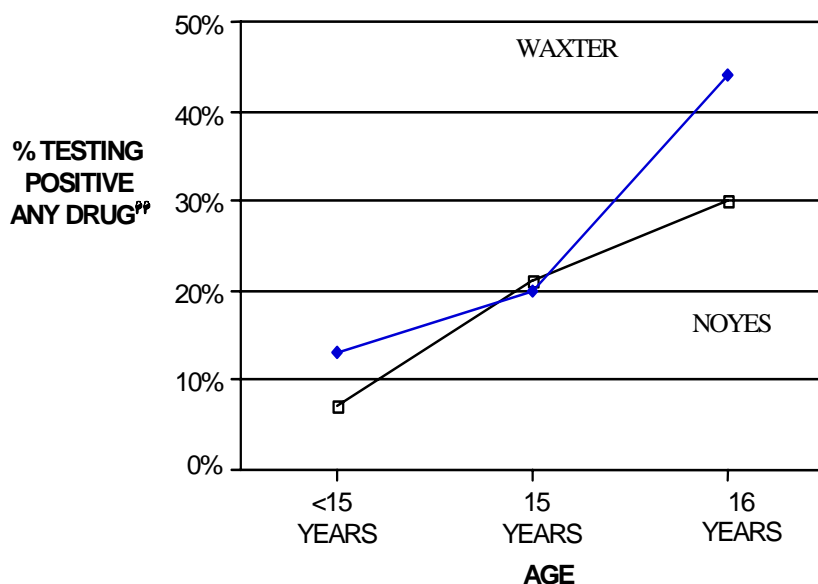


Study Shows That Drug Use Increases With Age Among Maryland Juvenile Detainees

CESAR, in conjunction with the Department of Juvenile Services and with funding from Governor Schaefer's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission, has conducted its second study of drug use among juvenile detainees in Maryland. The first study was conducted at the Thomas J.S. Waxter Children's Center in Laurel, Maryland in 1992 (see CESAR FAX Vol. II, Issue 4); the second study was conducted at the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center in Rockville in 1993. In both studies voluntary and anonymous interview and urine specimens were collected from youth within 48 hours of admission. Drug test results from the two studies show that older detainees are more likely to test positive for drug use. Seven percent of male detainees under age 15 at Noyes tested positive for drug use (13% among Waxter detainees) compared to 30% of male detainees 16 years or older (44% among Waxter detainees). These findings are consistent with national data from the Drug Use Forecasting program, which show that drug use increases with age among juvenile arrestees/detainees.

Percentage of Male Juvenile Detainees[†] Testing Positive for At Least One Drug, by Age and Detention Facility

(N = 175 male youths tested at Waxter in 1992 and 96 male youths tested at Noyes in 1993)



[†] The sample size for each age/detention facility category is greater than 13 for all except those 16 or older at Waxter (N = 9).

^{**} Drugs tested for by urinalysis are alcohol, marijuana (at 100 ng/ml), cocaine, opiates, PCP, amphetamines, methadone, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, propoxyphene, and methaqualone.

SOURCE: E.D. Wish, T.A. Gray, and H. Zimmeroff. 1994. "Estimates of Drug Use Among Male Juvenile Detainees in Maryland: A Summary Report of a Pilot Study Conducted at the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center in Rockville, Maryland." The report will be available in late May. Please send written requests to: CESAR, 4321 Hartwick Road, Suite 501, College Park, MD 20740.

For more information about today's topic or to be placed on the distribution list, please call CESAR at 301-403-8329.

* CESAR FAX is supported by a grant from the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission.

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