

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

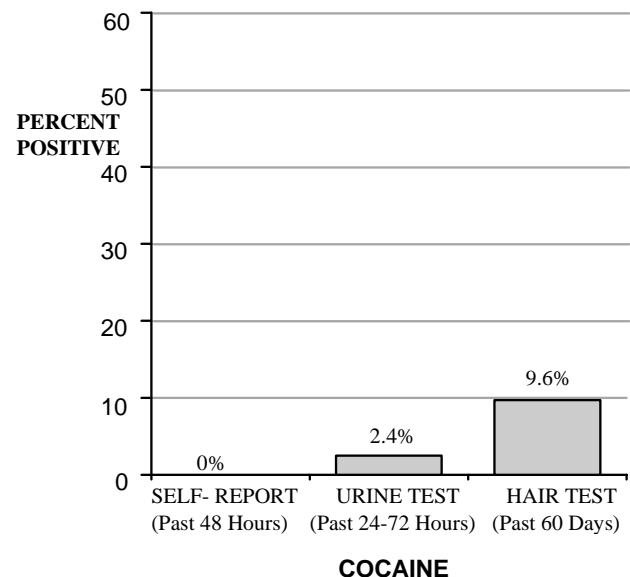
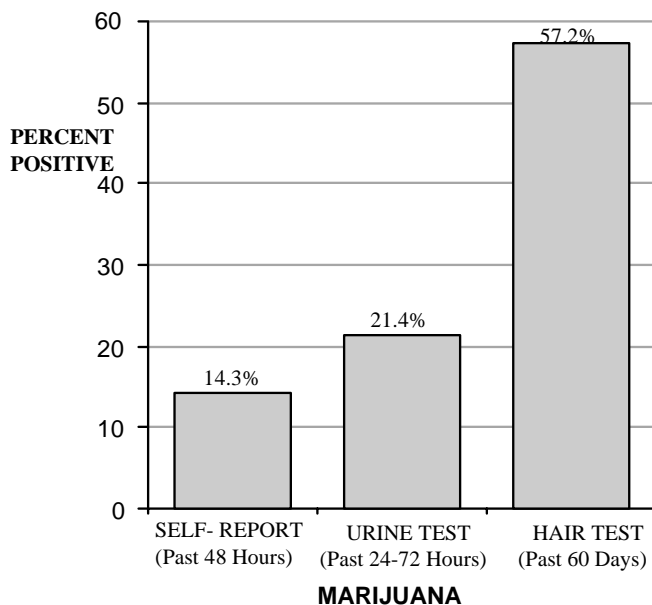
University of Maryland at College Park\*

***Hair Tests Detect More Marijuana and Cocaine Users Than Urine Tests or Self-Reports Among Juvenile Offenders in Pinellas County, Florida***

Data from a pilot study to compare drug use detection methods among juvenile offenders involved in the Pinellas County, Florida, criminal justice system show that hair tests detected higher levels of drug use than urinalysis or self-reports. Of offenders tested by the three methods, 57% were positive for marijuana by hair test compared to 21% by urinalysis and 14% by self-report. Approximately 10% were positive for cocaine by hair test compared to 2% by urinalysis and 0% by self-report. Because a hair test can detect drug use over a longer period (in this study 60 days by hair test versus 24-72 hours by urinalysis), it is likely to detect occasional or episodic drug users whereas urinalysis can only detect "recent" users. These findings are similar to those found in Cleveland's juvenile Drug Use Forecasting program (see CESAR FAX, Vol. III, Issue 16).

**Estimates of Recent Marijuana and Cocaine Use Among Juvenile Detainees in Pinellas County, Florida, by Self-Report, Urinalysis, and Hair Analysis, 1993**

(N = 42 juvenile offenders tested by 3 methods)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from R.A. Newel, T. Mieczkowski, G. Allison, and L. MacDonald. "Prevalence of Illegal Drug Use Among Pinellas County Criminal Justice Involved Juveniles: A Pilot Study." For more information about the study, contact Richard Newel at (813) 570-5080 or Tom Mieczkowski at (813) 893-9585.

**MARYLAND HOTLINE REPORT NOW AVAILABLE FROM CESAR !**

"The Maryland Automated Hotline Reporting System(MAHRs): Background and Early Findings" by Eliot Levine, Michael Wagner, and Eric Wish is now available.  
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