

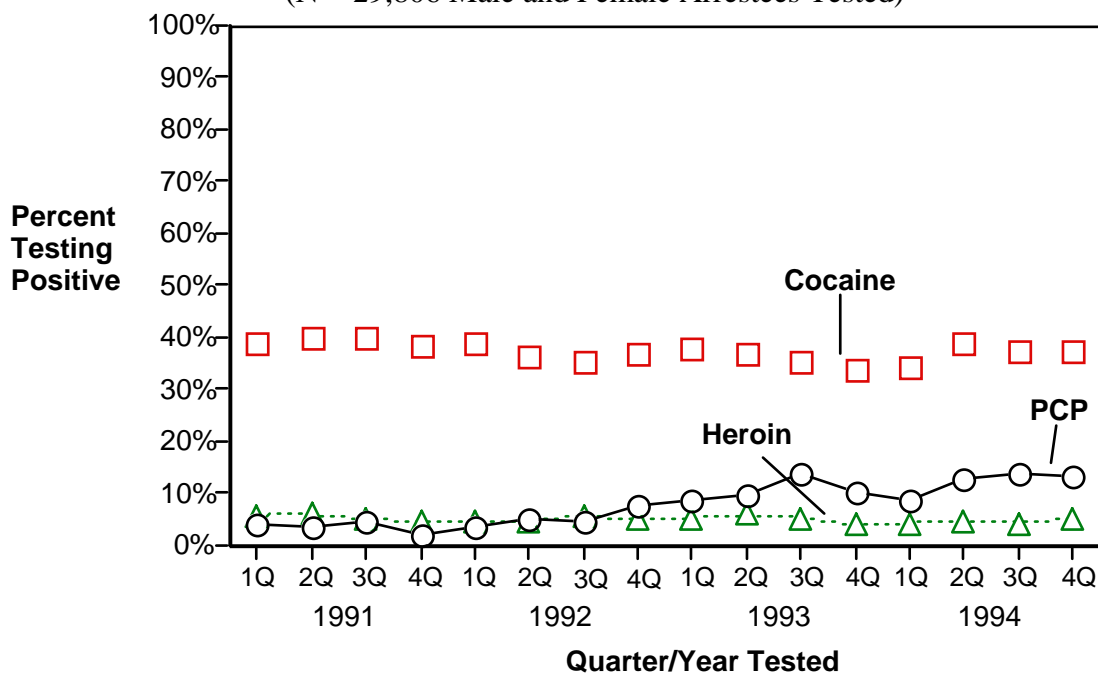
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

### *Prince George's County Stops Pre-Trial Drug Testing of Booked Arrestees: County and State Losing an Important Drug Trend Indicator*

The Prince George's County Pre-Trial Release Unit has been collecting data on drug use by arrestees since the early 1980s. Arrestees who are in jail awaiting their bond hearing are asked to voluntarily submit urine specimens for testing. The results are used by the court system to help determine conditions of release for those arrestees placed under the supervision of the Pre-Trial Release Unit. CESAR has regularly used these data as indicators of arrestee drug use in Prince George's County (see figure below). Recently, CESAR was informed that as of January 1995, urinalysis testing of booked arrestees was discontinued due to a lack of funding. This indicator will be missed by many of us who have the difficult job of tracking drug epidemics in Maryland.

#### **Percentage of Booked Arrestees in Prince George's County Who Tested Positive for Cocaine, PCP, and/or Heroin, First Quarter 1991 to Fourth Quarter 1994** (N = 29,806 Male and Female Arrestees Tested)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Prince George's County Pre-Trial Release Unit.

#### **ORDER YOUR COPY OF CESAR'S GEOCODING REPORT TODAY!**

Copies of the report, "Location of Drug-Using Arrestees and Treatment Centers in Washington, D.C.: A Geocoding Demonstration" are still available. A copy with black and white maps is available at no charge. A copy with color maps is available for \$15.00.

Please contact CESAR for more information.

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

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