

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park *

New Report on Drug Abuse in Washington, D.C. Now Available

The newly released report makes use of a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods to analyze drug abuse trends in Washington, D.C. Statistical data and information from in-depth interviews with drug users and treatment providers were synthesized to obtain a comprehensive picture of the patterns and problems of drug use in the nation's capital. Among the findings were:

- Drug use has become much more dangerous for drug users due to the emergence of younger, less experienced drug dealers, higher purity drugs, drug-related violence, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- There appears to be emerging a new cohort of drug users--young, upper middle class adults. Interviews reveal that heroin may be the new "glamour" drug for this population.
- PCP use has been rising over the past few years, according to both statistical indicators and interviews with drug users.
- Accessibility of drug treatment is a major issue with drug users. When drug users are psychologically ready for drug treatment, waiting lists often make treatment inaccessible. However, when treatment is forced on drug users, through the court system for example, users often are not psychologically ready to accept it.

To obtain a copy of this report, please contact CESAR at 301-403-8329. The report may also be viewed or downloaded from CESAR's electronic bulletin board. Call the CESAR BOARD at 301-403-8343 or 1-800-84-CESAR (toll-free for Maryland callers only) and enter the "Products" conference to view the "DC Report."

SOURCE: C. Mundell. Drug Abuse in Washington, D.C.: Insights from Quantitative and Qualitative Research. Center for Substance Abuse Research and KOBA Associates, Inc., 1994. Available from CESAR.

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