

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park *

Increasing Number of DUF Sites Report Marijuana as Most Prevalent Drug Used by Adult Male Arrestees

The National Institute of Justice's Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) Program has typically found that cocaine is the most prevalent drug used by adult male arrestees in the largest cities across the United States. However, recently released 1993 DUF data show that the primacy of marijuana use among adult male arrestees may be on the rise. In 1992, the percentage of male arrestees testing positive for marijuana surpassed that for cocaine in only two DUF sites. In 1993, the percentage of arrestees testing positive for marijuana equalled or surpassed that for cocaine in seven DUF sites. Marijuana use among juvenile male arrestees has risen dramatically over the past few years. It appears that this epidemic may now be surfacing among adult male arrestees.

Percentage of Adult Male Booked Arrestees Testing Positive for Cocaine or Marijuana, by DUF Site, 1993

DUF Site	% Positive Cocaine	% Positive Marijuana
Atlanta	59*	26*
Birmingham	51*	28*
Chicago	53	40*
Cleveland	48	23*
Dallas	44*	28
Denver	41*	36*
Detroit	34	37*
Ft. Lauderdale	43	30
Houston	41	24
Indianapolis	32*	42*
Los Angeles	48	23
Manhattan	66*	21
Miami	61*	26
New Orleans	48	25*
Omaha	19*	42*
Philadelphia	56	32*
Phoenix	30*	31*
Portland	33	30*
St. Louis	50	28*
San Antonio	31	32*
San Diego	37	40*
San Jose	23	27*
Washington, D.C.	37	26*

*% positive is an increase over 1992.

NOTE: The percentages do not total 100% because more than one drug may be present in a specimen. The drugs tested for are cocaine, opiates, marijuana, PCP, methadone, benzodiazepines, methaqualone, propoxyphene, barbiturates, and amphetamines.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the "1993 Annual Report on Adult Arrestees: Drugs and Crime in America's Cities", Drug Use Forecasting (DUF), National Institute of Justice (NIJ). To receive a copy of this report, please contact NCJRS at 800-851-3420 or 301-251-5500.

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