

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

***1995 DUF Annual Report Includes Findings About
Role of Drugs in the Commission of Crimes***

Since 1987 the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program has been collecting data on drug use among arrestees through anonymous self-report and urinalysis. In the second quarter of 1995, the DUF interview instrument was revised to collect additional information about the role of drugs in the commission of crimes, history of prior arrest, and drug-related emergency room admissions. "The expansion of the DUF interview to include a broader range of questions reflects NIJ's belief that DUF offers criminal justice researchers a rare opportunity to examine a number of important drug- and crime-related issues within the context of an arrestee interview" (p. 9). Among the findings from these new questions for the last two quarters of 1995:

- Approximately one-third of both male and female arrestees indicated that they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the alleged offense. The substance most frequently mentioned was alcohol, followed by cocaine.
- Forty percent of the male and 34% of the female arrestees reported that they had been arrested at least once during the 12 months prior to the interview (excluding current arrest). Approximately 15% of male and female arrestees had two or more arrests in the past 12 months.
- In the 12 months prior to the interview, 8% of the male and 13% of the female arrestees indicated that they had sought care at an emergency room for a drug-related problem.

Each of these new questions was included in the interview on a tentative basis. After a full year of data have been collected, NIJ will evaluate the usefulness of each question. Future NIJ reports will present complete analyses of these data. To obtain a copy of the 1995 DUF Annual Report, please contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) at 800-851-3420 or 301-251-5500.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the "1995 Annual Report on Adult and Juvenile Arrestees," Drug Use Forecasting (DUF), National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

CDC TO OFFER \$17 MILLION IN FY97 HIV PREVENTION GRANTS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is expected to offer \$17 million in HIV prevention grants to community-based organizations that serve minority and high-risk populations. To obtain an application kit, call 404-332-4561 and refer to announcement number 704. Applications will be due October 15, 1996. For other information about the CDC Community-based HIV Prevention Projects, contact Gary West of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention at 404-639-0902.

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