

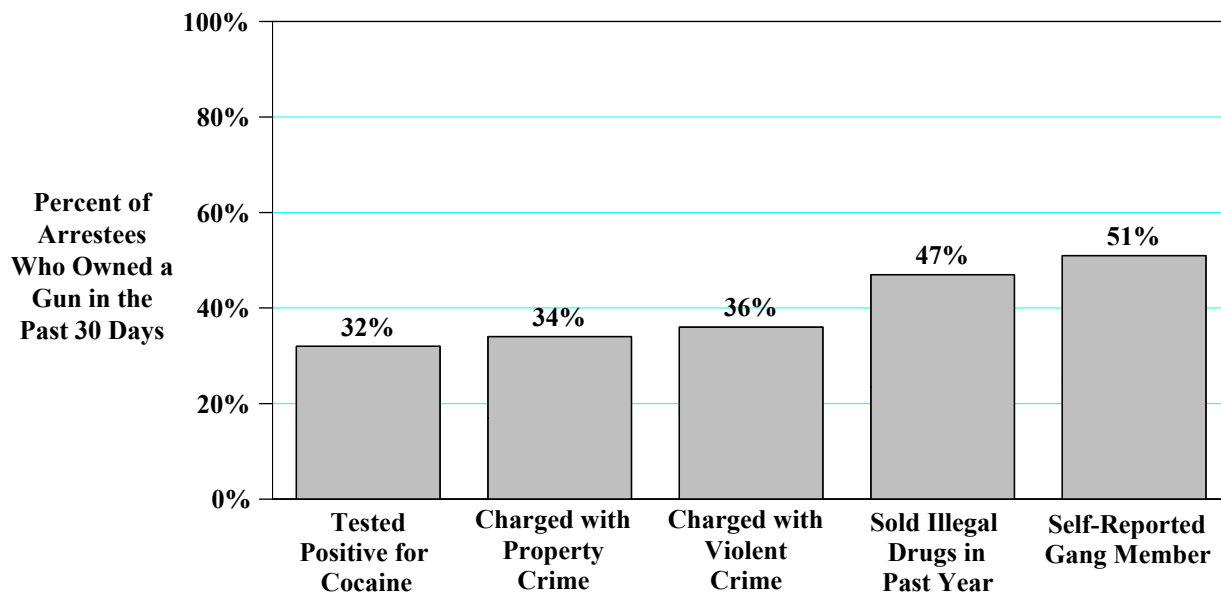
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

### *Arrestees Who Report Gang Membership and Drug Dealing Most Likely to Own Guns*

Gang membership and drug sales are most associated with gun ownership among arrestees, according to a study of the possession, access, and use of firearms among arrestees. Data were collected from interviews with arrestees in 11 National Institute of Justice Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) sites during the first 6 months of 1995. Overall, 35% of the arrestees interviewed reported that they had owned a gun in the past month. Those who tested positive by urinalysis for cocaine or were charged with a violent crime reported gun ownership rates similar to that of the entire sample. However, arrestees who reported that they had sold illegal drugs in the past year or were members of a gang were substantially more likely to report owning a gun (47% and 51%, respectively).

**Percentage of Arrestees Reporting Gun Ownership in the Past 30 Days, by Selected Risk Factor\***



\*Data were collected from 11 DUF sites: Atlanta, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, Phoenix, St. Louis, San Diego, and Washington, D.C. N=4,670 adult males, 1,871 adult females, 1,337 juvenile males, and 177 juvenile females. The n's for individual categories vary due to missing responses.

NOTE: The findings above may be partially accounted for by arrestees' willingness to report deviant behaviors. Arrestees who report selling drugs or being a gang member may be more likely to admit to owning a gun.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Scott H. Decker, Susan Pennell, and Ami Caldwell, *Arrestees and Guns: Monitoring the Illegal Firearms Market, Final Report*, May 1996. A copy of the report may be ordered from NCJRS at 800-851-3420 or 301-519-5500.

CESAR FAX is supported by a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.

CESAR FAX may be copied without permission. Please cite CESAR as the source.

•• 301-403-8329 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• CESAR@cesar.umd.edu (e-mail) ••