

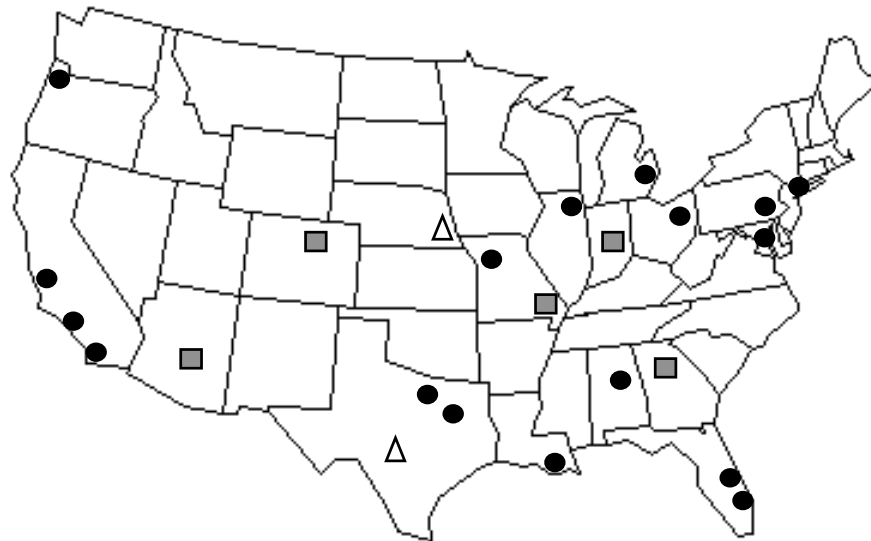
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Analyses of DUF Data Suggest That the Crack/Cocaine Epidemic is Declining in the U.S.

Crack/cocaine use is declining among U.S. arrestees, according to a report released last Wednesday by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). An analyses of data from NIJ's Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program indicate that crack/cocaine use appears to be on the decline among the majority of the 24 DUF sites nationwide. Ten DUF sites experienced a substantial decline in the overall rate of crack/cocaine use detected by urinalysis between 1987 and 1996. Another seven sites reported substantial declines in crack/cocaine use among young adults aged 18-20, "which suggested declines in the overall rate were forthcoming" (p. 11). The remaining sites have either reached a plateau (five sites) or have not experienced a crack/cocaine epidemic (two sites). The report also examines the phases of the crack/cocaine epidemic, suggesting that "changes in use by youths indicate important transitions in a drug's popularity" (p. 1).

Status of Crack/Cocaine Epidemic Among Arrestees at 24 Drug Use Forecasting Sites, 1996



- **Decline** (Birmingham, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Ft. Lauderdale, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Manhattan, Miami, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Portland, San Diego, San Jose, and Washington, D.C.)
- **Plateau** (Atlanta, Denver, Indianapolis, Phoenix, and St. Louis)
- △ **No Epidemic** (Omaha and San Antonio)

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Andrew Golub and Bruce Johnson, *Crack's Decline: Some Surprises Across U.S. Cities*, National Institute of Justice Research in Brief, July 1997. For more information, contact Andrew Golub at 914-478-2278. To receive a copy of the report, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) at 1-800-851-3420 or 301-519-5500. A full copy of the report is also available via the NCJRS website (www.ncjrs.org).

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