

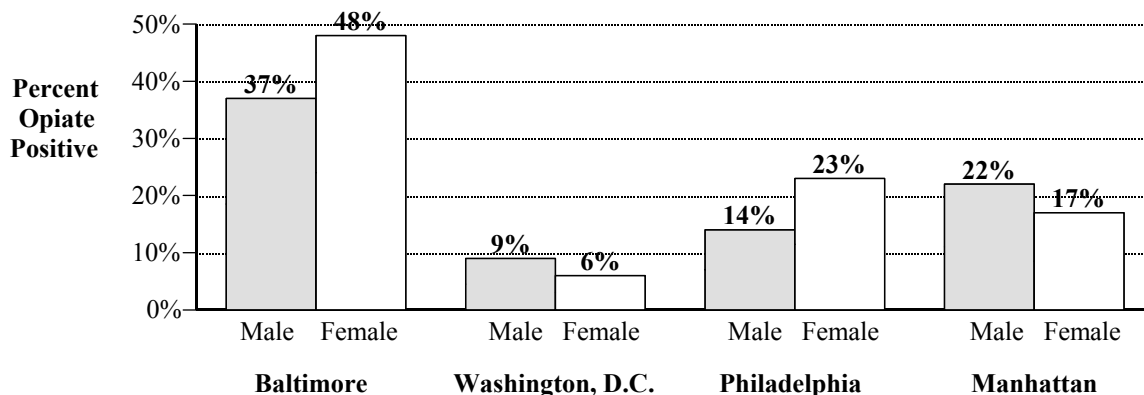
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Heroin Rates Among Baltimore City Arrestees Highest in Country; Female Arrestees at Particularly High Risk for HIV

As part of Maryland's drug treatment needs assessment study, CESAR collected urine specimens from representative samples of male and female adults arrested in Baltimore City in 1995. Perhaps the most surprising finding was that the rate of opiate (heroin) positives among Baltimore City arrestees was higher than that found in any other U.S. city since the national Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program began testing arrestees in 1987. Thirty-seven percent of male and 48% of female arrestees in Baltimore City tested positive by urinalysis for opiates, compared to 6% to 23% of arrestees in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Manhattan. The high rate of heroin use among female Baltimore City arrestees is particularly alarming since 36% of female arrestees reported injecting drugs. This practice, coupled with their high number of reported sexual partners, places female arrestees in Baltimore City at considerable risk for HIV and other infectious diseases. For more information about the study, contact Dr. Eric Wish or Tom Gray at 301-403-8329.

Percentage of Arrestees Testing Positive by Urinalysis for Opiates*



*Baltimore data are for January-August 1995. Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Manhattan data are from the first-quarter 1995 DUF results.

SOURCE: Thomas Gray and Eric Wish, "Substance Abuse Need for Treatment Among Arrestees (SANTA) in Maryland," May 1998. Funded by the Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA) under contract from the federal Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT).

Baltimore SANTA Report Now Available from CESAR

To request a complimentary copy of the report, "Substance Abuse Need for Treatment among Arrestees (SANTA) in Maryland," contact CESAR by phone (301-403-8329), fax (301-403-8342), or e-mail (cesar@cesar.umd.edu).