

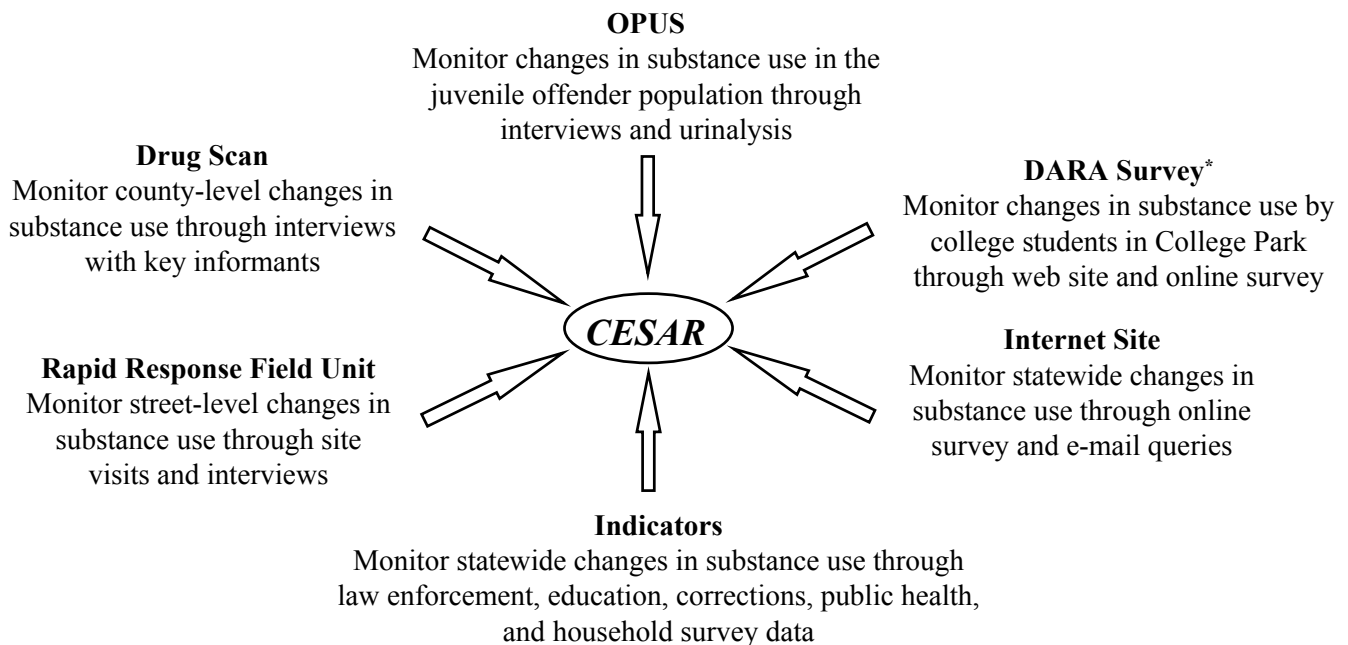
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Maryland Launches Drug Early Warning System (DEWS)

In response to a perceived local heroin outbreak, the Governor's Cabinet Council on Criminal and Juvenile Justice asked CESAR to establish a real-time system to detect and report on changes in local drug use. The Maryland Drug Early Warning System (DEWS) consists of six components to monitor drug use in the community: the Offender Population Urine Screening (OPUS) Project, the Drug and Alcohol Referral and Assessment (DARA) Survey*, a statewide Drug Scan, a Rapid Response Field Unit, a set of statistical substance abuse indicators, and an internet site (www.cesar.umd.edu/dews.htm). It is anticipated that all components of DEWS will be fully operational by the fall of 1998. The extraordinary support of the Governor's Office ensures that DEWS will have a receptive audience ready to act on its findings.

Maryland Drug Early Warning System (DEWS)



A fax highlighting the progress and findings of DEWS will be issued periodically to CESAR FAX recipients in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. If you live outside of these areas and wish to be placed on the distribution list for future DEWS faxes, please send an e-mail to dews@cesar.umd.edu. For more information about DEWS, contact Dr. Eric Wish at 301-403-8329.

*The DARA program of the University of Maryland is not in any way affiliated with the D.A.R.E. programs.

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