

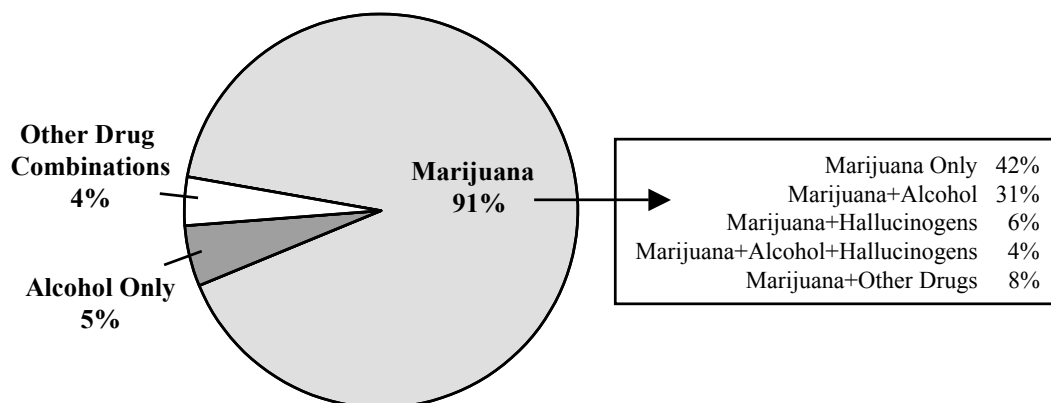
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Forty Percent of Juvenile Detainees in Maryland Need Treatment-- Primarily for Marijuana Abuse/Dependence

Forty percent of male and female juvenile detainees in Maryland--an estimated 2,364 youth--were diagnosed as needing alcohol or other drug treatment in 1996. Ninety-one percent of these juveniles needed treatment for marijuana abuse/dependence (based on DSM-III-R criteria), either alone (42%) or in combination with alcohol or other drugs. The only other substantial need for treatment (excluding marijuana) was for alcohol alone (5%); all other drug combinations (such as hallucinogens only, cocaine only, alcohol+hallucinogens) accounted for less than 1% each of the total number of detainees estimated to be in need of treatment. According to the authors, these findings suggest that "the juvenile justice system is in a unique position to identify persons in need of treatment and direct them to support services capable of addressing their treatment need or mandating treatment for them as wards of the juvenile justice system" (p. 55).

**Type of Treatment Need Among Maryland Juvenile
Detainees in Need of Treatment, 1996**
(Estimated N=2,364)



NOTE: Estimates are based on 649 cases weighted to be representative of all admissions to the Department of Juvenile Justice detention facilities. Data are based on self-reports which previous research has shown to underestimate deviant behavior such as drug use.

SOURCE: Thomas A. Gray and Eric D. Wish, "Substance Abuse Need for Treatment among Arrestees (SANTA) in Maryland: Youth in the Juvenile Justice System," September 1998. Prepared for the Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration under contract from the federal Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. For more information, contact Tom Gray of CESAR at 301-403-8329.

Juvenile SANTA Report Now Available from CESAR

Complimentary copies of the report, "Substance Abuse Need for Treatment among Arrestees (SANTA) in Maryland: Youth in the Juvenile Justice System" are now available. Contact CESAR at 301-403-8329 (phone), 301-403-8342 (fax), or cesar@cesar.umd.edu (e-mail).