

***Eighty-Three Percent of Maryland Juvenile Detainees Report They Can Obtain a Gun--
Almost One-Fifth Have Shot at Someone in the Past Year***

CESAR staff interviewed a representative sample of 649 youth detained in a Department of Juvenile Justice facility in 1996 about their exposure to guns. The gun sub-study was part of a statewide study of drug treatment needs among juvenile detainees in Maryland. The youth reported considerable access to guns--44% said they could obtain a gun within one day, primarily by buying it illegally. About one-fifth had threatened (22%) or shot at someone (17%) in the past year. These youth are typical of youth arrested throughout the country. A similar interview of juvenile arrestees in nine cities in 1995 (Decker and Pennell, 1996) found that the percentage of arrested juvenile males who said that it was easy to get a gun illegally ranged from 35% in Washington, D.C. to 71% in Los Angeles; the cross-site average was 59%.

Maryland Juvenile Detainees' Gun-Related Behavior and Experience, 1996
(n=649)

Md. Detainees Who Reported They:	Percent
Could obtain a gun if needed	83%
Could obtain a gun in one day	54%
Carried a gun in the past year	42%
Were threatened with a gun in the past year	33%
Were shot at in the past year	28%
Threatened someone with a gun in the past year	22%
Shot at someone in the past year	17%

SOURCE: Center for Substance Abuse Research, Unpublished data from the Maryland Juvenile Substance Abuse Need for Treatment Among Arrestees (SANTA) study, 1996. For more information, contact Tom Gray of CESAR at 301-403-8329.

Notice of NEDTAC Website Closing

The National Evaluation Data and Technical Assistance Center (NEDTAC) website closed on May 15, 1999 because the contract ended. Many of their products are now available at the National Evaluation Data Services website (neds.calib.com). Questions or comments can be sent to neds@calib.com.