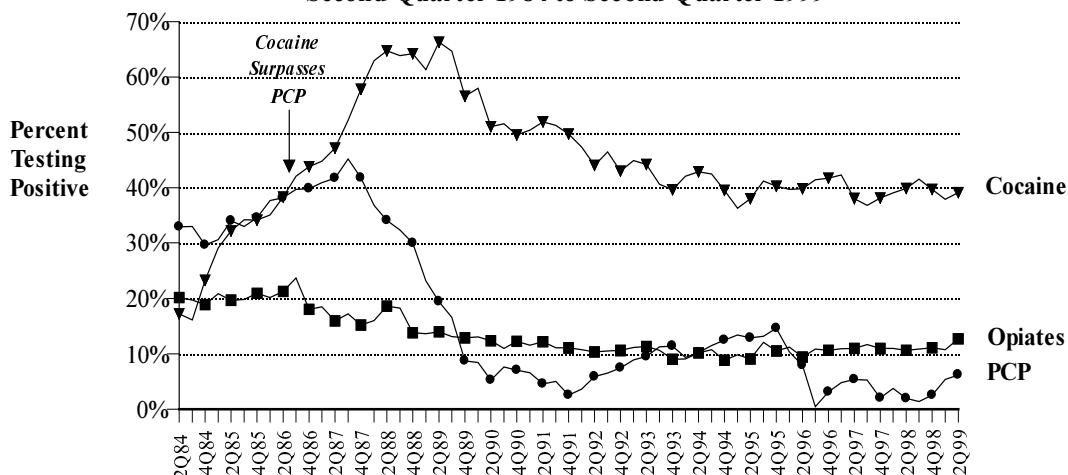


Drug Test Results Among D.C. Adult Arrestees Have Shifted Dramatically Over the Past 15 Years

Urinalysis results from adult arrestees in the District of Columbia have changed dramatically since the mid-1980s. However, in recent years, the pattern of test results has remained fairly stable. Fifteen years ago, PCP was the most frequently detected drug among arrestees tested by the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency. At that time, approximately 32% of arrestees tested positive for PCP, 20% for opiates, and 19% for cocaine. However, a dramatic shift occurred beginning in 1985 with the introduction of crack cocaine, and cocaine positives soared while PCP positives declined sharply. Approximately two-thirds of all arrestees tested positive for cocaine in 1989, the highest point since data collection began. By the mid-1990s, the percentage of arrestees testing positive for cocaine had declined to about 40%, although it continues to be the most frequently detected drug. During the second quarter of 1999, the percentage of arrestees testing positive for cocaine (39%), opiates (13%) and PCP (6%) continued the stable pattern existing for several years.

Percentage of Washington, D.C. Adult Arrestees Testing Positive by Urinalysis for Cocaine, Opiates, and PCP, Second Quarter 1984 to Second Quarter 1999



SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from data from the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency. For more information on D.C. pretrial drug testing, contact Susan Shaffer, Director of the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency, at 202-727-2911.

CESAR Seeking a Project Director and Research Interviewers

Experience working with criminal justice populations a plus. Applicants should fax (301-403-8342) or e-mail (cesar@cesar.umd.edu) a cover letter and resume to the attention of the Director of Personnel.

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