

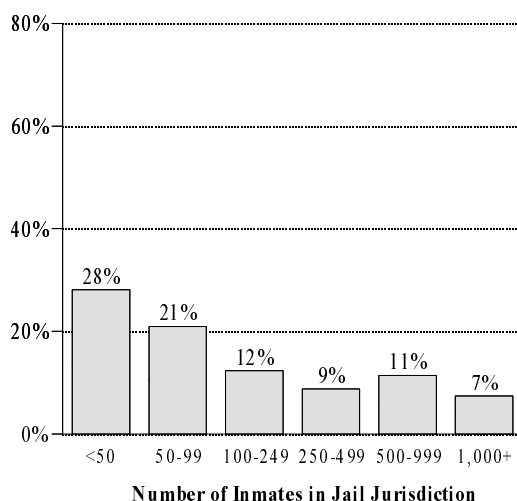
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

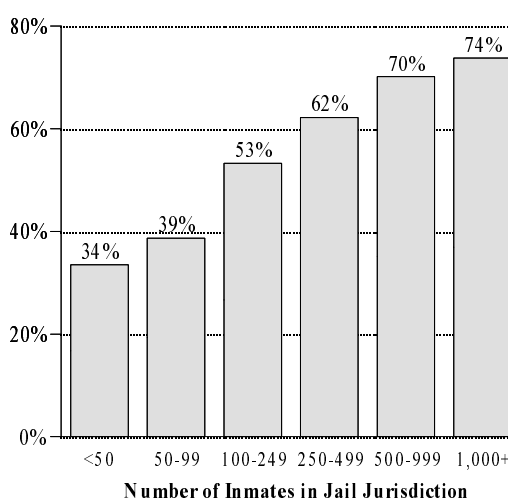
***Smaller Jails Have Higher Rates of Inmate Drug Use
But Are Less Likely to Have a Treatment Program***

The Bureau of Justice Statistics' 1998 survey of jails found that inmates in smaller jail jurisdictions had higher rates of positive drug tests than inmates in larger jurisdictions. The percentage of urine samples testing positive for at least one drug ranged from 28 percent in the smallest jail jurisdictions to 7 percent in the largest jail jurisdictions. At the same time, smaller jail jurisdictions were less likely to have treatment programs. Just over one-third of the smaller jail jurisdictions had a substance abuse treatment program, compared to 53 percent to 74 percent of jurisdictions with 100 or more inmates.

**While Inmates in Smaller Jail Jurisdictions
Were More Likely to Test Positive . . .**



**Smaller Jail Jurisdictions Were Less
Likely to Have a Treatment Program**



NOTES: Data was obtained from a mailed survey of jail administrators in a representative sample of 820 (out of 2,890) jail jurisdictions. A jail jurisdiction is a county or municipal government that administers one or more local jails. The size of the jail jurisdiction is based on the average daily inmate population between July 1, 1997 and June 30, 1998.

SOURCE: Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Drug Use, Testing, and Treatment in Jails," *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report*, May 2000. Available online at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/duttj.htm>.

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