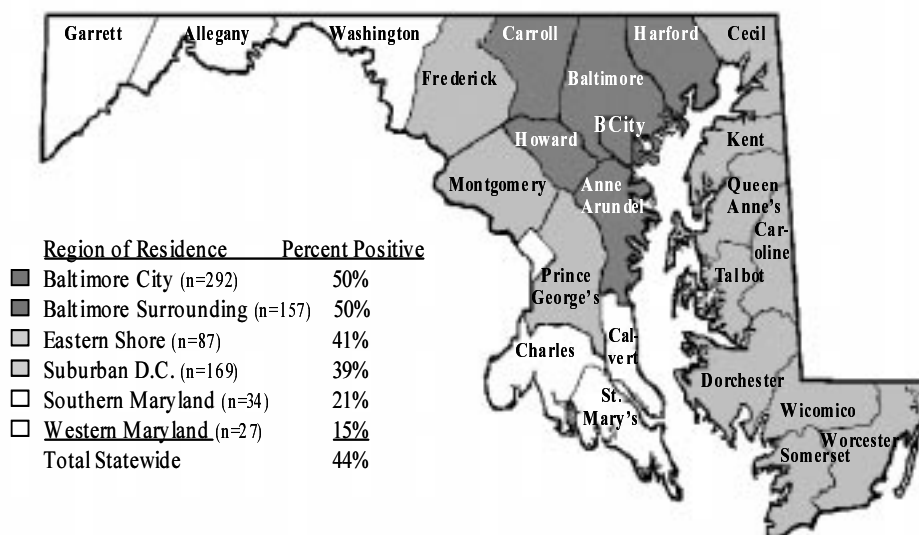


## One-Half of Juvenile Detainees Residing in Baltimore City and Surrounding Counties Test Positive for Illicit Drugs (Mainly Marijuana); Southern and Western Maryland Have Lowest Positive Rates

Since 1999, the juvenile Offender Population Urine Screening (OPUS) program has been obtaining urine specimens from male and female youths newly admitted to the Department of Juvenile Justice's five detention facilities. The most recent results from the OPUS detention study show that overall 44% of youths tested positive for at least one illicit drug. However, the prevalence rates varied greatly across the state, from 50% among youths residing in Baltimore City and surrounding counties to less than 25% among youths residing in Southern and Western Maryland. Marijuana was the most frequently detected drug, regardless of a youth's county of residence. Forty-two percent of the youths statewide tested positive for marijuana, compared to 1% each for cocaine, opiates, and amphetamines.

### Percent of Maryland Juvenile Detainees Testing Positive for Any Drug, by Region of Residence

(Based on 766 urine specimens collected from the five Department of Juvenile Justice detention facilities between January and May 2000)



NOTES: Urine specimens were analyzed for 10 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, PCP, and propoxyphene. Specimens were collected from Carter, Cheltenham, Hickey, Noyes, and Waxter detention facilities. Data for 35 juvenile detainees were omitted because they lived outside of Maryland (n=33) or residence data were missing (n=2).

SOURCE: Maryland Drug Early Warning System (DEWS), Center for Substance Abuse Research, "Juvenile Offender Population Urine Screening Program (OPUS) Detention Study, Winter/Spring 2000," August 2000. For more information, contact Erin Artigiani of CESAR at 301-403-8329.