

## **Anne Arundel County OPUS Intake Report Now Available:**

### ***LSD Reported to Be Increasingly Popular***

Between November and December 2000, 50 youths processed in the Anne Arundel County Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Office were interviewed and tested by urinalysis for illicit drug use. Twenty-four percent of the youths tested positive for at least one drug, primarily marijuana. Following are highlights of the report.

- As in other counties, ecstasy was reported as a popular drug that is thought by the youths to be cut with other drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, or speed. Brand names of ecstasy included Egyptians, Tutus, Batmans, Diamonds, Tweety Birds, and X-Pills.
- Eighteen percent of Anne Arundel county youths tested positive for marijuana. Many youths reported that marijuana should not really be considered a drug because “it comes from the earth” (p. 7).
- Several youths reported that LSD and ecstasy were both increasingly popular. According to one 16-year-old male, “Paper is the most common [form of LSD]. Liquid’s the best--you can put it onto sugar cubes, gum, or Altoids” (p. 7).
- Youths report that prescription pills, such as Percocet, Hydrocodeine, Ritalin, and Valium are taken with beer to enhance the effects.

A full copy of the Anne Arundel County OPUS report is available on the DEWS website at [www.cesar.umd.edu/dews.htm](http://www.cesar.umd.edu/dews.htm).

NOTE: These drug use patterns may not be typical of the general youth population in this county. However, prior research indicates that drug use by juvenile offenders may provide advance warning of epidemics in the general population.

SOURCE: Maryland Drug Early Warning System (DEWS), Offender Population Urinalysis Screening program (OPUS), Center for Substance Abuse Research. For more information, contact Erin Artigiani of CESAR at 301-403-8329.

### **OPUS: Intake Study**

The Offender Population Urinalysis Screening (OPUS) program was established to monitor drug use among Maryland’s juvenile offenders through voluntary and anonymous interviewing and drug testing of youths at Maryland’s Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) intake and detention facilities. OPUS began collecting data from juveniles processed by DJJ intake site staff in May 1999.