

---

## **Worcester County OPUS Report Now Available: *Marijuana and Ecstasy Reported to Be Most Popular Drugs***

As part of the Offender Population Urine Screening (OPUS) program, 51 youths processed in the Worcester County Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Intake Office were interviewed and tested by urinalysis for illicit drug use between July 2000 and June 2001. Following are highlights about the three most frequently discussed drugs—marijuana, ecstasy, and cocaine.

- More than one-third (36%) of the male youth offenders and 17% of the females tested positive for at least one drug, primarily marijuana.
- A variety of **marijuana** types were reported by youth offenders in Worcester County, including *Schwag* (least expensive, least potent) and *Kind Bud* (most expensive, most potent). Many youths reported that marijuana was being bought and sold in school and that some youths smoke marijuana before school and during lunch.
- **Ecstasy** was reported to be an increasingly popular drug. Respondents reported that the drug could be found on the streets, on the boardwalk, and in certain stores in Ocean City. Ecstasy was reported to be used at dance clubs, house parties, and occasionally at school.
- The use of both powder and crack **cocaine** appears to be limited among Worcester County youth offenders, although some youths believed these drugs could be easily obtained.

A full copy of the Worcester County OPUS report, which includes information on LSD and prescription drug use, is available on the DEWS website at [www.cesar.umd.edu/dews.htm](http://www.cesar.umd.edu/dews.htm).

NOTE: OPUS was established to monitor drug use among Maryland's juvenile offenders through voluntary and anonymous interviewing and drug testing 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. OPUS drug use patterns may not be typical of those 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 Jill Choyka of CESAR at 301-403-8329.

---

### **Do You Want to Receive a Parents/Caregivers Publication?**

DEWS is creating a new publication directed toward parents and caregivers about youth substance abuse and its prevention and treatment. If you are interested in receiving such a publication, or if you have ideas or suggestions for topics, please contact DEWS by email at [DEWS@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:DEWS@cesar.umd.edu), fax at 301-403-8342, or phone at 877-234-DEWS.