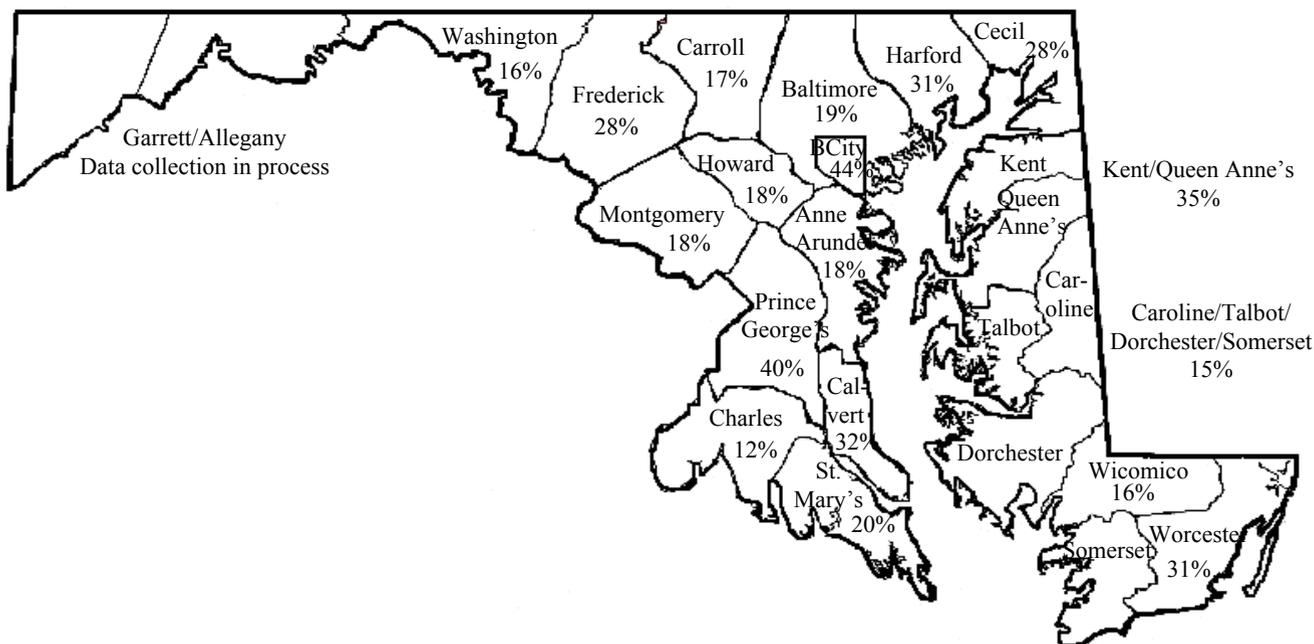


Juvenile OPUS Program Finds Marijuana Positives Vary Across State

Marijuana is the most frequently detected drug among juvenile offenders in Maryland, according to findings from the Juvenile Offender Population Urinalysis Screening Program (OPUS). Since 1999 interviews and urine specimens have been collected from more than 1,000 youths assessed in Department of Juvenile Justice county intake offices and nearly 2,000 youths newly admitted to DJJ's five detention facilities. While approximately 40% of youths admitted to detention facilities tested positive for marijuana, results varied considerably for youths assessed in county intake offices. Between 12% and 44% of youth offenders processed at county intake offices tested positive for marijuana (see figure below). The 2001 annual OPUS report, detention center reports, and individual county intake reports are available online (www.cesar.umd.edu/webroot/dews/opus.asp) or by calling CESAR at 301-403-8329.

Percentage of Male and Female Juveniles Assessed at County Intake Offices Testing Positive for Marijuana, July 1999-December 2001



NOTES: Certain counties have been grouped together because of small sample sizes. Intake sample sizes are of approximately 50 youths (except for Baltimore County, which had 147 youths). These test results should be used only to give an indication of what drugs are being used by youth offenders in each county.

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