

## **Allegany and Garrett County OPUS Report Now Available:**

### ***Like Other Counties, Marijuana and Ecstasy Reported to Be Most Popular Drugs***

As part of the Offender Population Urine Screening (OPUS) program, 35 youths processed in the Allegany and Garrett County\* Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Intake Offices were interviewed and 29 of these youths were tested by urinalysis for illicit drug use between March and May 2002. Following are highlights about the two most frequently discussed drugs—marijuana and ecstasy.

- More than one-fourth (29%) of the youths tested positive for at least one drug, primarily marijuana. Male youth offenders were slightly more likely than females to test positive (33% vs. 20%).
- **Marijuana** was reported to be the most popular and the most commonly used drug among juveniles in Allegany and Garrett Counties. Youths reported that the difference in the types of marijuana are based on the taste, the potency, the effect, and the price. Some of the names for marijuana reported by youths in these counties included Hydro, Jamaican Red Hair, and Northern Lights.
- While **Ecstasy** is considered to be a relatively new drug in the area, youths reported that it is gaining in popularity. The majority of the those interviewed were unsure of ecstasy's composition. Youths reported slang terms used in other Maryland counties, such as "candy-flipping" (mixing ecstasy with acid) and "hippie-flipping" (mixing ecstasy and psychedelic mushrooms).

A full copy of the Allegany and Garrett County OPUS report, which also includes information on LSD, cocaine, prescription drugs, and other drug trends, is available on the DEWS website at [www.dewsonline.org](http://www.dewsonline.org).

\*Allegany County and Garrett County have been clustered into one report because they have fewer monthly intakes than other Maryland counties.

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 Erin Artigiani of CESAR at [erin@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:erin@cesar.umd.edu).