

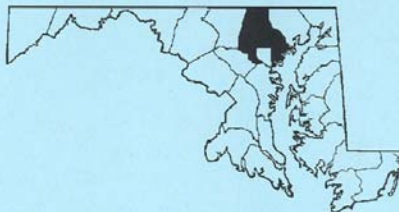
Drug Early Warning System

Working Together to Identify Emerging Drug Trends in Maryland

Juvenile Offender Population Urinalysis Screening Program (OPUS)

Intake Study

Findings from Baltimore County



February 2000 - Revised

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Juvenile OPUS is a component of the DEWS Program. Juvenile OPUS and other findings are disseminated in DEWS Faxes. The DEWS Fax is published monthly. To receive DEWS Faxes, please contact CESAR: 301-403-8329, 1-877-234-DEWS (toll-free), 301-403-8342 (fax), dews@cesar.umd.edu, www.cesar.umd.edu/dews.htm.

Supported by the Cabinet Council on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Chair, and the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.

Juvenile Offender Population Urinalysis Screening (OPUS)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Juvenile OPUS is one component of Maryland's Drug Early Warning System (DEWS), an initiative of the Cabinet Council on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Chair. DEWS is supported by a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.

The Juvenile OPUS Study was implemented by the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) in June 1998 as a urinalysis monitoring program for juveniles processed by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). The project goals are to monitor changes in drug use and to identify emerging drugs of abuse among the juvenile offender population.

The Juvenile OPUS Project takes place in two venues: Intake and Detention. The Intake Study obtains interviews and urine specimens from youths being assessed in DJJ county offices. Twice a year the Detention Study obtains urine specimens only from youths newly admitted to DJJ's five detention facilities.

This report presents results from the Intake Study conducted in Baltimore County between August and October 1999.

OPUS is designed to provide insight into emerging drug trends among the juvenile offender population. It should be noted that OPUS drug use patterns might not be typical of the general youth population. However, prior research has indicated that offender urinalysis results may provide advance warning of drug epidemics in the general population.

METHODS

- Interviewers requested informed consent from youths (intake referrals and probationers) and their parents.
- After obtaining informed consent from youths, interviewers administered a 10-15 minute, semi-structured interview. The interview provided the youths an opportunity to talk about drug trends among their peers and in their community. Youths were not asked about their own drug use.
- A voluntary and anonymous urine specimen was also collected and sent to a laboratory to be analyzed for 10 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), and propoxyphene. The amphetamine-positive tests were confirmed for amphetamines, methamphetamines, and phenylpropanolamine.
- A candy bar was offered to respondents as an incentive for participation.

FINDINGS

Response Rates

- Of the 191 youths approached, 96% agreed to be interviewed.
- 83% (106 males, 44 females) of the interviewed juveniles provided a urine specimen.¹

Urine Test Results

- Males were more likely to test positive for any drug than females, 29% vs. 7% (Table 1).
- Of the three females who tested positive for any drug, all were positive for marijuana only.
- Six youths tested positive for amphetamines. One youth who tested positive was a 14-year-old male charged with theft who stated he was taking the prescription medication Adderall. The second and third youths were a 14-year-old male and a 17-year-old male, both of whom were charged with tobacco possession. Another youth who tested positive was a 16-year-old male charged with marijuana possession who stated he was taking the prescription medication Adderall. One youth was a 16-year-old male charged with second degree assault who stated he was taking the prescription medications Prozac, Adderall, and Allegra. The last youth was a 16-year-old male charged with trespassing who was taking the prescription medication Dexadrine.
- One youth tested positive for opiates. The youth who tested positive was an 18-year-old male charged with marijuana possession.
- One youth tested positive for cocaine. The youth who tested positive was a 14-year-old male charged with weapons who was taking the prescription medication Ritalin.
- Two youths tested positive for both opiates and cocaine. One youth who tested positive was a 14-year-old male charged with stolen vehicle; the other was a 17-year-old male charged with drug possession.
- Drug use increased with age: about one-third of youths 16 or older tested positive for a drug (Figure 1).

¹Gender information was missing for one youth.

Table 1
Urine Test Results, by Gender²

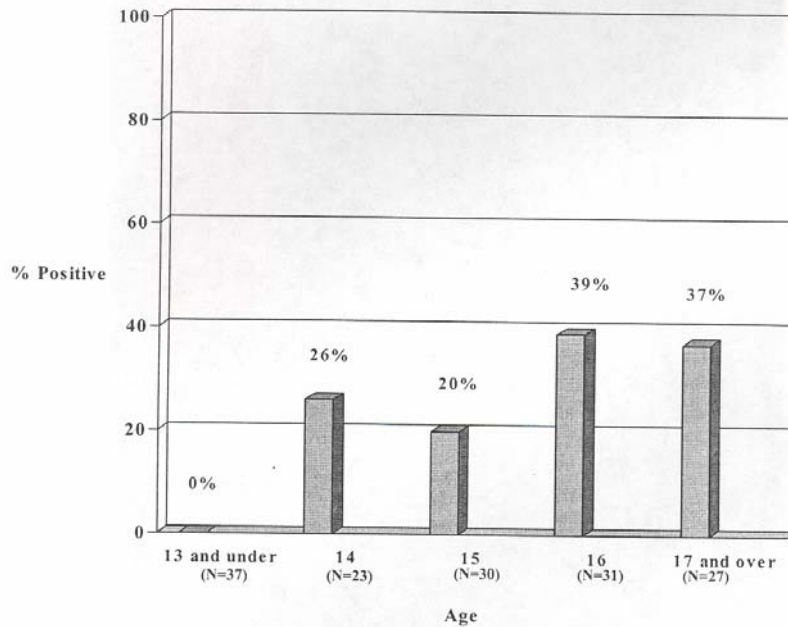
	Males (N=106)		Females (N=44)		Total (N=147)	
	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Positive For:</u>						
Marijuana	25	24%	3	7%	28	19%
Cocaine	3	3%	0	0%	3	2%
Opiates	3	3%	0	0%	3	2%
Amphetamines	6	6%	0	0%	6	4%
Any Drug (Of 10)	31	29%	3	7%	34	23%

Note: Urine specimens were analyzed for 10 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, PCP, and propoxyphene. The amphetamine-positive tests were confirmed for amphetamines, methamphetamines, and phenylpropanolamine.

Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland, College Park, Juvenile OPUS Intake Study Report, February 2000 - Revised.

²Three urine specimen results were missing due to insufficient quantity and gender information was missing for one youth.

Figure 1
% Positive for Any Drug, by Age³
Baltimore County Intake Study, August 1999-October 1999



Note: Urine specimens were analyzed for 10 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazapenes, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, PCP, and propoxyphene. The amphetamine-positive tests were confirmed for amphetamines, methamphetamines, and phenylpropanolamine.

Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland, College Park, Juvenile OPUS Intake Study Report, February 2000-Revised.

³Three urine specimen results were missing due to insufficient quantity.

What Baltimore County Youths Are Saying about Emerging Drugs

Heroin

One of the driving forces behind the creation of DEWS was a series of heroin overdoses among youths in Carroll County and the resulting concern about a potential heroin outbreak in the area (*DEWS Fax*, Volume 1, Issue 8). According to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Carroll County had nine heroin deaths between 1996 and June 1999. Baltimore County reported 94 heroin-related deaths for the same period, Anne Arundel had 41, Harford had 16, and Howard had 12.

- Brand and street names mentioned by youths included *Dope* and *Don King*. It was also mentioned that heroin is now available in capsules and baggies.
- "Everyone I know is using. Heroin is a big problem. It's a lot in my area. I'm a dope fiend and all my friends are, too. It's always been here—getting better dope now, though." (18-year-old female)
- "Heroin - it's pretty popular. Ten dollars a pill, twist off, and sniff the powder. Sometimes people say it's mixed with cocaine. In September 1998, I started noticing it getting popular." (18-year-old female)
- "Heroin is becoming more popular in the area. Twelve-year-old kids trying to snort it. Things are getting bad just in the last couple of months, especially heroin." (17-year-old male)
- "There are 2 kinds of heroin: *raw*—only do a match-head's worth—and *scramble*—in a capsule." (16-year-old female)
- "Think it's the thing to do, don't realize you're falling into addiction." (17-year-old male)
- "You'll find needle cases around school." (12-year-old female)
- "Heroin—not thought of well. Older people who have tried it scared younger people away from using. It's dangerous if you use it. It'll kill you." (17-year-old male)

Marijuana

- Many youths noted that marijuana is often laced with other substances, such as embalming fluid, Raid, opium, PCP (the mixture is called *Boat* or *Love Boat*), chocolate, and ammonia. *Chronic* was reported as marijuana laced with cocaine.
- "Some dealers are 'stringin' it [*Jamaican Red Hair* marijuana] and instead of being high for an hour, it makes you high for the whole day." (15-year-old female)
- *Hydro* or *Hydroponic* marijuana is grown underwater. Like *Jamaican Red Hair*, it was reported to be more potent than "regular" marijuana.
- *Greens* is described as darker green marijuana that "comes in film canisters for \$50—may be a little stringier than pot—you can smoke it, makes you dizzy and off guard." (16-year-old male)

Ecstasy/MDMA

Traditionally thought of as a "rave" drug, ecstasy is emerging in other circles. Slang and brand names mentioned by youths include *E*, *X*, *Playboys*, *Playboy Bunnies*, *007s*, *Mitsubishis*, *Mercedes*, *Blue Nike*, *Swans*, *Supermans*, *Green Triangles*, *Tom and Jerries*, *Jerry Garcias*, *Care Bears*, *Bermuda Triangles*, *Triple Stacks* (reported to be the best), *Triple Crowns*, *Triple Rolexes*, *Pink Panthers*, *69s* (reported to be the cheapest), *Aeon Fluxes*, *Red Devils* (also reported as cheap and light red in color), *Arrowheads*, *White Diamonds*, *Cats in the Hats*, *Stars*, *Orange Bandits*, and *Diana Rosses*. One 15-year-old female reported that drinking water and using pacifiers are popular with ecstasy users because side effects include dehydration and teeth grinding.

- "Ecstasy is \$25 a pill—used regularly—middle of school, after school. It makes them [users] happy and jumpy." (14-year-old female)
- "Plugging is using an ecstasy pill as a suppository to create a harder roll." (14-year-old male)
- "Liquid ecstasy—put it in eye-droppers." (13-year-old male)
- "Ecstasy's new around here. April or May was when it was still hard to get. You had to go to clubs to get it. Now, it's available on the street." (16-year-old male)
- "X—there was some at the prom, since it's considered the sex drug." (17-year-old male)
- "X—everyone has it. Everyone wants it. Thirteen-year-olds are carrying it around." (16-year-old male)
- "Some have more speed or heroin. Some are supposed to give a better body high. Certain kinds are more speedy and dopey. More rich kids [use ecstasy]." (16-year-old female)
- "Ocean City, ecstasy is big...using pacifiers, using it on the boardwalk." (16-year-old female)
- "Put it in girls' drinks to make them want to have sex." (16-year-old male)

LSD/Acid

Acid is also increasing in popularity, according to many youths interviewed. Youths reported liquid acid, gel tabs, blotter paper, and sugar cubes. Brand and street names mentioned included *Timothy Leary*, *Watercolors*, *Purple Gel Tabs*, *Aeon Flux* (green on one side and white on the other), *25s* (described as more visual), and *100s*. One 16-year-old male reported smoking acid. Candy-flipping was defined as using LSD and ecstasy together.

Cocaine and Crack

- "Using ready-rock, put ashes in pot bowl and put it on top. They say it's an upper, makes them be real fast." (16-year-old female)
- "*Dosure*, a mix of weed and crack. It's been out for 2 or 3 years." (12-year-old male)
- "People are lacing weed with crack and other stuff. Some people lace with stuff and don't tell. It doesn't necessarily cost more." (14-year-old male)

- “Crack use from 13 years old and up—all times of day, on street and in houses, hard rock, sometimes white depending on who cooked it...little white girls using it, 14-years-old.” (13-year-old female)

Methamphetamine

Many youths have heard of crystal meth, but have not seen it. Youths mentioned *Blue Devils*, *Black Beauties*, *Pink Elephants*.

Prescription drugs

- “Ritalin—a lot of kids use it—some middle, mostly high school—they put it in their beer and then it fizzes up and they drink it.” (13-year-old female)
- “Klonopins make you uncoordinated if you eat enough. You won’t remember when you wake up. One pill [costs] \$1-\$5. Take two to ten.” (15-year-old male)

Inhalants

- “Hiagra—in a bottle or something and you sniff it; heard about it a couple [of] weeks ago.” (13-year-old male)
- One youth reported a practice called “huffin.” Users combine inhalants including “toutline” (eats through metal), dust off, spray paint, and glue adhesives on some toilet paper, place the toilet paper in a bag and “huff and puff” into the bag to get high. (17-year-old male)
- “Household products put together—clear liquid, drink it. People make it at home using windex, pine sol, and other stuff.” (14-year-old female)
- “I play paint ball—people be sniffing the paint to get high—lasts at least an hour. They open a ball of paint, squeeze paint outta it onto finger and sniff it.” (14-year-old male)

New drugs mentioned by youth

- *Liquid opium*: “It’s not that easy to get. Only 2 people around where I live sell opium. You soak the blunt with it. A lot of people are using weed and opium together. Most people I hang out with do.” (15-year-old male)
- *Red Rock Crystals*: “Bags of red rocks, sprinkle it over marijuana, heat it up, it gets all gooey.” (16-year-old male)
- *One*: “...A new drug called one—it’s a needle or something...seen someone selling it once to junkies.”
- *Buttercake*: “I heard of it last month. Don’t know what it is.” (16-year-old female)
- *Red Devil* (or *Red Elephant*): “Something different, a mix of meth and something.” (16-year-old male)
- *Red*: “It’s a stronger and more hallucinogenic version of crystal meth...it’s like adding acid to crystal...heard about it one month ago.” (16-year-old male)
- *No Worries*: “It’s a depressant, a pill, don’t know much about it.” (16-year-old female)
- *Absynthe*: “alcohol mixed with wheat germ” (14-year-old male)
- *Candy sticks*: parsley flakes or cigarettes soaked in formaldehyde. (17-year-old male)
- New drugs mentioned without description included *Red Rock Opium*, *Purple Meanies*, and nitrons/nitrous oxide.