

Drug Early Warning System



Working Together to Identify Emerging Drug Trends in Maryland

Juvenile Offender Population Urinalysis Screening Program (OPUS)

Detention Study

September-November 2001

**Report prepared
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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.

ABSTRACT

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.

Four hundred and eighty-three youths processed in one of five Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) detention facilities provided a urine specimen. Forty-four percent of the youths tested positive for at least one drug, primarily marijuana (41%). Cocaine was detected in 3% of all juveniles, while opiates and amphetamines were detected in 1% of all juveniles (Table 3).

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

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

This report presents results from the Detention Study conducted between September and November 2001. A final table compares the urinalysis test results collected for the OPUS Detention Study in the last five data collection periods.

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METHODS

- Nurses obtained voluntary and anonymous urine specimens from youths detained in Maryland's five DJJ detention facilities (Carter, Cheltenham, Hickey, Noyes, and Waxter).
- Only youths who had been admitted to the facility during the past 72 hours and who were not being transferred from another secure facility were included.
- After obtaining informed consent, the nurses obtained a voluntary and anonymous urine specimen. The specimen was sent to a laboratory and analyzed for 10 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), propoxyphene, and MDMA. MDMA has been substituted for methaqualone in the any drug (of 10) category, as no positives for methaqualone were ever detected.
- A candy bar was offered to respondents as an incentive for participation.

FINDINGS

Response Rates and Characteristics of Tested Juveniles

- 93% of the 519 youths approached provided a voluntary and anonymous urine specimen (Table 1).
- The majority of the tested juveniles were male (87%) (Table 2).
- 77% of the tested youths were 15 or older; 29% were 17 or older (Table 2).
- 34% of the tested youths were charged with a violent offense, 25% were charged with a property offense, and 19% were charged with a drug-related offense (Table 2).
- 73% of the tested youths resided in a metropolitan area: Baltimore City (30%), the Baltimore metro area (24%), or the DC metro area (19%) (Table 2).

Table 1
Response Rates, by Detention Facility

Facility	Number of youths approached	Percentage of youths who provided a specimen
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Carter	90	92
Cheltenham	282	93
Hickey	51	92
Noyes	52	96
Waxter	44	91
Total	519	93

Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland, College Park,
Juvenile OPUS Detention Study Report, March 2002.

Table 2
Demographic Characteristics of Tested Respondents¹
(N=483)

Characteristic	%
<u>Gender</u>	
Male	87
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	
Black	66
White	29
Hispanic	3
Other	2
<u>Age</u>	
13 or younger	8
14	15
15	23
16	25
17 or older	29
	} 77%
<u>Offense*</u>	
Violent	34
Property	25
Drug-related	19
Other	22
<u>Region of Residence**</u>	
Baltimore City	30
Baltimore Metro Area	24
D.C. Metro Area	19
Eastern Shore	18
Southern Maryland	5
Western Maryland	2
D.C. and out of state	2

*Property offenses include arson, breaking and entering, burglary, destruction of property, larceny/theft, stolen property, stolen vehicle, and trespassing. Violent offenses include assault, attempted murder, carjacking, homicide, manslaughter, robbery, sexual assault/rape, sex offense, and weapons. Drug-related offenses include drug, tobacco, and alcohol possession and sale, and DUI/DWI. Other offenses include unauthorized use of vehicles, truancy, and public peace.

**Baltimore metro area includes Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties. D.C. metro area includes Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties. Eastern Shore includes Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. Western Maryland includes Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties. Southern Maryland includes Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties.

Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland, College Park, Juvenile OPUS Detention Study Report, March 2002.

¹ Gender and age information was missing for five juveniles, race information was missing for two juveniles, offense information was missing for 24 juveniles, and region of residence information was missing for eight juveniles.

FINDINGS

Urinalysis Test Results

- 44% of the youths (46% of males, 30% of females) tested positive for at least one drug, primarily marijuana (Table 3).
- 43% of males and 28% of females tested positive for marijuana (Table 3).
- Amphetamines were detected in 1% of all juveniles (Table 3). Of the five juveniles who tested positive for amphetamines, four were male and three were under the age of 16. Three were charged with a violent offense, one was charged with a property offense, and one was charged with an 'other' offense. Two were from Southern Maryland, two were from Baltimore City, and one was from the Baltimore metro area. One was positive for more than one drug.
- Cocaine was detected in 3% of all juveniles (Table 3). Of the thirteen juveniles who tested positive for cocaine, all were male and seven were under the age of 16. Five were charged with a drug-related offense, four were charged with a property offense, three were charged with a violent offense, and one was charged with an 'other' offense. Seven were from Baltimore City, three from the Baltimore metro area, two from the Eastern Shore, and one from Southern Maryland. Twelve were positive for more than one drug.
- Opiates were detected in 1% of all juveniles (Table 3). Of the six juveniles who tested positive for opiates, five were male and four were over the age of 16. Two were charged with a drug-related offense, two were charged with a property offense, one with a violent offense, and one with an 'other' offense. Three were from Baltimore City, two from the Eastern Shore, and one from the Baltimore metro area. Four were positive for more than one drug.

Table 3
Urinalysis Test Results, by Gender

	Males (N=414)		Females (N=64)		Total (N=478)	
	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>f</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Positive For:</u>						
Marijuana	178	43	18	28	196	41
Cocaine	13	3	0	0	13	3
Opiates	5	1	1	2	6	1
Amphetamines	4	1	1	2	5	1
Any Drug (of 10)	188	46	19	30	207	44

Note: Urine specimens were analyzed for 10 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, PCP, propoxyphene, and MDMA.

Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland, College Park, Juvenile OPUS Detention Study Report, March 2002.

FINDINGS

Correlates of Testing Positive for Drugs

- Youths residing in Baltimore City were most likely to test positive for marijuana (52%), or for any drug (of 10) (55%) (Table 4).
- The percentage of youths who tested positive for any drug increased with age. More than half (53%) of the youths 17 and older tested positive for any drug (of 10), while 4% of youths 17 and older tested positive for amphetamines, cocaine, or opiates (Figure 1).
- Youths charged with drug-related offenses were most likely to test positive for any drug; 62% tested positive for any drug (of 10), and 60% were positive for marijuana (Table 5).

Table 4
Urinalysis Test Results, by Region of Residence*
(N=463 juvenile detainees)

	Baltimore City (N=144)	Baltimore Metro Area (N=112)	D.C. Metro Area (N=93)	Eastern Shore (N=84)	Western Maryland (N=8)	Southern Maryland (N=22)	Total (N=463)
<u>Positive for:</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Marijuana	52	45	34	31	0	27	41
Cocaine	4	4	0	2	0	5	3
Opiates	1	3	0	2	0	0	1
Amphetamines	1	0	0	1	0	9	1
Any Drug (of 10)	55	48	34	33	0	36	43

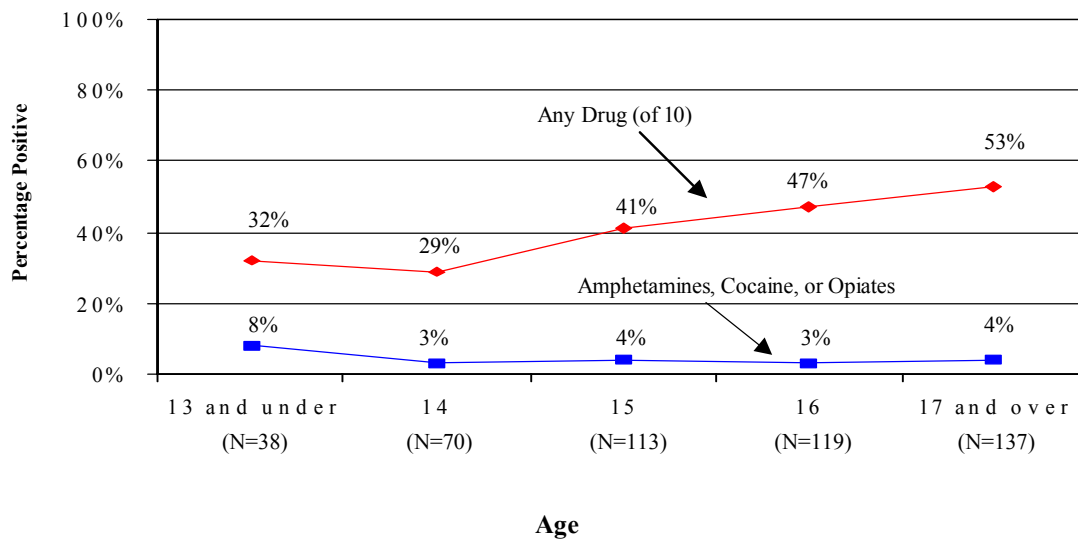
Note: Urine specimens were analyzed for 10 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, PCP, propoxyphene, and MDMA.

*Baltimore metro area includes Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties. D.C. metro area includes Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties. Eastern Shore includes Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. Western Maryland includes Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties. Southern Maryland includes Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties.

Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland, College Park, Juvenile OPUS Detention Study Report, March 2002.

Figure 1
Percentage Positive for Any Drug (of 10), or Positive For
Amphetamines, Cocaine, or Opiates, by Age

(N= 476 Juvenile Detainees)



Note: Urine specimens were analyzed for 10 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, PCP, propoxyphene, and MDMA.

Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland, College Park. Juvenile OPUS Detention Study Report, March 2002.

Table 5
Percentage Positive for Marijuana and Any Drug, by Offense*

	Drug-Related (N=88)	Property (N=116)	Violent (N=154)	Other (N=101)	Total (N=459)
<u>Positive For:</u>					
Marijuana	60%	37%	36%	37%	41%
Any Drug (of 10)	62%	38%	41%	39%	44%

Note: Urine specimens were analyzed for 10 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, PCP, propoxyphene, and MDMA.

*Property offenses include arson, breaking and entering, burglary, destruction of property, larceny/theft, stolen property, stolen vehicle, and trespassing. Violent offenses include assault, attempted murder, carjacking, homicide, manslaughter, robbery, sexual assault/rape, sex offense, and weapons. Drug-related offenses include drug, tobacco, and alcohol possession and sale, and DUI/DWI. Other offenses include unauthorized use of vehicles, truancy, and public peace.

Table 6
Percentage Positive for Marijuana or Any Drug, by Facility

	Carter (N=83)	Cheltenham (N=263)	Hickey (N=47)	Noyes (N=50)	Waxter (N=40)	Total (N=483)
<u>Positive For:</u>						
Marijuana	30%	50%	51%	10%	30%	41%
Any Drug (of 10)	31%	53%	51%	10%	33%	43%

Note: Urine specimens were analyzed for 10 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, PCP, propoxyphene, and MDMA.

Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland, College Park, Juvenile OPUS Detention Study Report, March 2002.

OPUS DETENTION STUDY RESULTS OVER FIVE TIME PERIODS

This section presents comparisons of the urinalysis results across five data collection periods of the Detention Study. Prior OPUS reports may be accessed at www.cesar.umd.edu, or by contacting CESAR directly (301-403-8329).

- Results from the five data collection periods showed few differences (Table 7).
- In all time periods, youths were most likely to test positive for marijuana (Table 7).
- Marijuana-positive urinalysis results ranged from 39% to 43% over the five data collection periods (Table 7).

Table 7
Urinalysis Test Results Over Five Data Collection Periods

	February-May 1999 (N=545)	January-May 2000 (N=802)	September- November 2000 (N=555)	March-June 2001 (N=409)	September- November 2001 (N=483)
<u>Positive For:</u>					
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Marijuana	39	42	43	41	41
Cocaine	2	1	3	3	3
Opiates	2	1	2	2	1
Amphetamines	1	1	4	4	1
PCP	*	*	2	2	1
Benzodiazepines	1	*	1	1	*
Propoxyphene	0	0	*	1	*
MDMA	0	0	*	2	0
Any Drug (of 10)	42%	43%	48%	46%	43%

Note: Urine specimens were analyzed for 10 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, opiates, PCP, propoxyphene, and MDMA.

*Occurred in zero or less than one percent. Barbiturate and methadone positives occurred in zero percent or less than one percent across all data collection periods.

Source: Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland, College Park, Juvenile OPUS Detention Study Report, March 2002.