DEWS Drug Early Warning System

Working Together to Identify & Respond to Emerging Drug Trends in Maryland

Juvenile Offender Population Urinalysis Screening Program (OPUS)
Annual Report, September 2003

"[Shrooms] are more popular; kids are getting introduced to it and know about it more than a couple years ago."
(16-year-old male, Baltimore County)

"People use drugs anytime. At school there is definitely a drug presence because there are so many people there who want to use or buy drugs."
(16-year-old male, Calvert County)

"[PCP is] like water (in a vial) and you take a cigarette and dip it in (the vial), and then suck it up in it [the cigarette], and then smoke it."
(15-year-old male, Prince George's County)

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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 bi-monthly. To receive DEWS Faxes, please contact CESAR: 301- 405-9770, 301-403-8342 (fax), dews@cesar.umd.edu, www.dewsonline.org.

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2003 OPUS ANNUAL REPORT

Juvenile Offender Population Urinalysis Screening (OPUS)

I. INTRODUCTION

Juvenile OPUS is one component of Maryland's Drug Early Warning System (DEWS), which is supported by a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and 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 Services (DJS). 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 the DJS county offices. Once a year the Detention Study obtains urine specimens only from youths newly admitted to the DJS's five detention facilities (Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center, Charles H. Hickey Jr. School, Cheltenham Youth Facility, J. DeWeese Carter Youth Facility, and Thomas J. Waxter Children's Facility).

Over a five-year period, the OPUS Intake Study has collected interviews and urine specimens from more than 1,100 youths across Maryland. This report presents the major findings from September 2002 to May 2003 for 9 counties and Baltimore City.

Over a five-year period, the OPUS Detention Study has collected urine specimens from more than 3,400 youths across Maryland. This report presents the major findings from January 1999 to June 2003 for the five participating detention facilities.

Prior research has indicated that offender urinalysis results provide advance warning of drug epidemics in the general population. 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 the general youth population.

OPUS INTAKE STUDY

II. OPUS INTAKE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS

- Juveniles throughout Maryland reported that marijuana was the most popular and most accessible drug in their neighborhoods and communities.

- These reports of marijuana's popularity were verified by urinalyses, which showed that juveniles were more likely to test positive for marijuana than any other drug, across the 9 Maryland counties and Baltimore City.

- Youths indicated that ecstasy remains a popular drug of abuse among juveniles in Maryland.

- Many youth reported that dipping tobacco or marijuana cigarettes in PCP is more popular than in the past. "Dipper" was a term used for a cigarette dipped in liquid PCP.

III. INTAKE STUDY METHODS

- Interviewers requested informed consent from youths (intake referrals and probationers) and their parents at the Department of Juvenile Services intake facilities in 9 Maryland counties and Baltimore City.

- Interviewers administered a 10-15 minute, semi-structured interview. The interview provided youths with the opportunity to talk about drug use by their peers in their schools, neighborhoods, and communities. Youths were not asked about their own drug use.

- Given the past drug test results it was decided to reduce the number of sample members to approximately 15 persons per site. The urine test results were used to identify the types of drugs being used rather than to provide robust estimates of the prevalence of these substances.

- A voluntary and anonymous urine specimen was collected and sent to a laboratory[1] to be screened for 11 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD)[2], marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), and propoxyphene. The amphetamine-positive urine specimens were confirmed for amphetamines, methamphetamines, and MDMA by GC/MS (Gas Chromatography/ Mass Spectrometry). The LSD-positive urine specimens were confirmed by HPLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatography).

- A candy bar was offered to respondents as an incentive for participation.

[1] American Medical Laboratories, Chantilly, VA
[2] Beginning September 2002, urine specimens were tested for LSD.

IV. INTAKE STUDY FINDINGS

- This report discusses the data collected from 9 Maryland counties and Baltimore City visited between September 2002 and May 2003.

- Findings for each county are presented in alphabetical order. Comparisons across intake sites are presented in Table 1, which compares the number of juveniles who tested positive for specific drugs.

- The Intake Study Findings and a *Snapshot* of each county and Baltimore City are available through CESAR's website at www.dewsonline.org, or by contacting CESAR directly (301-405-9770).

Baltimore City Intake Study Findings
September, 2002

The OPUS intake project took place in Baltimore City for 9 days between September 3, 2002, and September 28, 2002. Fifteen parents and youths were approached to participate in the project. Of the 15 parents approached, 14 (93%) agreed to allow their child to participate. Of the 14 juveniles approached, all agreed to the interview, and 13 (93%) agreed to provide a urine specimen. Of the interviewed juveniles, all were male, 13 were African American, and 1 was Caucasian. Their ages spanned from 12 to 17. Five of the 13 juveniles who provided a urine sample tested positive for marijuana. Two of the 5 who tested positive for marijuana also tested positive for LSD

Demographic Characteristics of Interviewed Respondents

Characteristics	Persons Interviewed (n=14)
Gender	
Male	14
Race/ Ethnicity	
African American	13
Caucasian	1
Age	
Mean Age	14.3
(range from 12 to 17)	
Primary Offense	
Drug-related	2
Other	12
Tested Respondents (n=13)	
Positive for Any Drug	5
Positive for Marijuana	5
Positive for LSD	2

County Highlights

- Although 2 of the 5 also tested positive for LSD, no juveniles interviewed mentioned use or availability of LSD in their neighborhood or community. Because marijuana can be laced surreptiously with LSD, the possibility exists that these youths did not know they were consuming LSD.
- Youths reported that marijuana is readily available to anyone who wants it and that because it is so widely used it poses the biggest problem.
- Ecstasy was seldom mentioned by youths. A 15-year-old youth stated that ecstasy is a problem. When asked if there is a way to address the problem, the youth responded, “I don’t think there is a solution; it’s just what people want to do. If they knew what was in ecstasy they wouldn’t take it, but all they know about it is that it makes them feel good.”
- While Baltimore City has been found to have high rates of heroin use, the majority of youths believe that use of heroin occurs primarily among persons 25 years of age and older.

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park. Findings from Baltimore City, September 2002.

Baltimore County Intake Study Findings
January-February, 2003

The OPUS intake project took place in Baltimore County for 15 days between January 21, 2003, and February 27, 2003. Forty-nine parents and youths were approached to participate in the project. Of the 49 parents approached, 48 (98%) agreed to allow their child to participate. Of the 48 juveniles approached, all agreed to the interview. Of the 37 juveniles eligible[3], 32 (86%) provided a urine specimen. Of the interviewed juveniles, 35 were male, 26 were African American, and 22 were Caucasian. Their ages spanned from 12 to 18 years old. Of the 32 juveniles who provided a urine specimen, 9 tested positive for marijuana, and 1 youth, who reported they were taking prescription medications, tested positive for amphetamines.

Demographic Characteristics of Interviewed Respondents

Characteristics	Persons Interviewed (n=48)
Gender	
Male	35
Race/ Ethnicity	
African American	26
Caucasian	22
Age	
Mean Age	14.8
(range from 12 to 18)	
Primary Offense	
Drug-related	5
Other	43
Tested Respondents (n=32)	
Positive for Any Drug	10
Positive for Marijuana	9
Positive for Amphetamines	1

County Highlights

- Marijuana was the most frequently mentioned substance in terms of popularity, availability, and accessibility. One 16-year-old stated, "Dirt weed is put in brownies or on spaghetti. People won't take the time to waste an expensive product on spaghetti."
- Youths reported that users might put acid in their eye because it brings about "a different feeling" and the effects occur "instantly." One 16-year-old stated, "How it works is you put one [hit] in your eye, one in your mouth, and one in your hand…it gets you higher."
- Interviewed youths reported that PCP was a white powder, a liquid, or a pill that can be mixed with weed. One 15-year-old reported, "Wet is weed dipped in PCP…it's kind of new out there."
- Youths in Baltimore County reported that psychedelic mushrooms ('shrooms) are available only during certain seasons, from either dealers or from cow fields (in Maryland and Pennsylvania) where they are picked. A 16-year-old stated, "[Shrooms] are more popular; kids are getting introduced to it and know about it more than a couple years ago."

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park. Findings from Baltimore County, January-February, 2003.

[3] Due to a water main break that prevented the flushing of toilets, eleven youth could not be asked to provide a specimen.

Calvert County Intake Study Findings
October, 2002

The OPUS intake project took place in Calvert County for 7 days between October 15, 2002, and October 29, 2002. Nineteen parents and youths were approached to participate in the project. Of the 19 parents approached, 15 (79%) agreed to allow their child to participate. Of the 15 juveniles approached, all agreed to the interview, and 13 (87%) agreed to provide a urine specimen. Of the interviewed juveniles, 10 were male, 12 were Caucasian, and 3 were African American. Their ages spanned from 12 to 17. Of the 13 juveniles who provided a urine sample, one tested positive for marijuana.

Demographic Characteristics of Interviewed Respondents

Characteristics	Persons Interviewed (n=15)
Gender	
Male	10
Race/ Ethnicity	
Caucasian	12
African American	3
Age	
Mean Age (range from 12 to 17)	15.5
Primary Offense	
Drug-related	2
Other	13
Tested Respondents (n=13)	
Positive for Any Drug	1
Positive for Marijuana	1

County Highlights

- Nearly all of the interviewed youths in Calvert County made mention of marijuana as being available and popular. One 17-year-old, who was asked at what age marijuana use begins stated, "Depends who you hang with—if you are friends with someone older you will start using at a younger age."
- A few youths reported that dipping marijuana or cigarettes in PCP may be more popular than in the past. Several youths also stated that marijuana posed a problem in neighborhoods and communities. One 14-year-old, who was asked whether there were problems, stated, "Definitely, with pot, because that's mostly what people do and what people talk about."
- Interviewed youths reported that alcohol is available and popular. Youths reported that juveniles obtain alcoholic beverages from older friends. Beer and hard liquor, including rum and vodka, were mentioned as beverages of choice among juveniles. But, as one 16-year-old stated, "Any and all types are popular."
- When asked if youths could buy or use drugs at school a 16-year-old stated, "People use drugs anytime. At school there is definitely a drug presence because there are so many people there who want to use or buy drugs."

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park. Findings from Calvert County, October 2002.

Charles County Intake Study Findings
March-April, 2003

The OPUS intake project took place in Charles County for 10 days between March 31, 2003, and April 15, 2003. Forty-four parents and youths were approached to participate in the project. Of the 44 parents approached, 41 (93%) agreed to allow their child to participate. Of the 41 juveniles approached, all agreed to the interview, and 35 (85%) agreed to provide a urine specimen. Of the interviewed juveniles, 29 were male, 21 were African American, 19 were Caucasian, and 1 was Asian. Their ages spanned from 12 to 18. Of the 35 juveniles who provided a urine specimen, 5 tested positive for marijuana, and 1 youth, who reported they were taking prescribed Ritalin, tested positive for amphetamines.

Demographic Characteristics of Interviewed Respondents

Characteristics	Persons Interviewed (n=41)
Gender	
Male	29
Race/ Ethnicity	
African American	21
Caucasian	19
Other	1
Age	
Mean Age (range from 12 to 18)	14.7
Primary Offense	
Drug-related	3
Other	38
Tested Respondents (n=35)	
Positive for Any Drug	6
Positive for Marijuana	5
Positive for Amphetamines	1

County Highlights

- Youths reported that "dippers" can refer to both tobacco cigarettes and marijuana joints or blunts. One 17-year-old reported that dipper "…is embalming fluid cut with a bunch of things mixed together. Straight embalming fluid will kill you. Straight embalming fluid is really expensive…if it comes from D.C. it's cut already, but not if it's from the boy who works at the funeral parlor."
- 'Shrooms were frequently reported as both popular and available. Youths reported that 'shrooms can be obtained from dealers, can be picked from cow dung, or can be grown by individuals.
- Interviewed youths reported that ecstasy is available in liquid and pill form, and that users either swallow pills or crush them up before snorting them. One 15-year-old reported that users "snort it, shoot it, swallow it, or even stick it up their butt."
- A 15-year-old stated, "One thing to watch for …is Coricidin and Robitussin. With Coricidin they start off with 8 pills, and [with] Robitussin you drink the whole bottle. They're more addictive than most drugs—can get high for free. They call it [Coricidin] 'Triple C's'—cough, cold, and congestion. When burnt on weed you're just stupid and when on Coricidin you're slow to do stuff—more slow and lazy."

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park. Findings from Charles County, March-April, 2003.

Frederick County Intake Study Findings
April-May, 2003

The OPUS intake project took place in Frederick County for 9 days between April 22, 2003, and May 2, 2003. Twenty parents and youths were approached to participate in the project. Of the 20 parents approached, all agreed to allow their child to participate. Of the 20 juveniles approached, all agreed to the interview, and 16 (80%) agreed to provide a urine specimen. Of the interviewed juveniles, 14 were male, 19 were Caucasian, and 1 was Hispanic. Their ages spanned from 12 to 18. Of the 16 juveniles who provided a urine specimen, 4 tested positive for marijuana.

Demographic Characteristics of Interviewed Respondents

Characteristics	Persons Interviewed (n=20)
Gender	
Male	14
Race/ Ethnicity	
Caucasian	19
Hispanic	1
Age	
Mean Age (range from 12 to 18)	16.1
Primary Offense	
Drug-related	8
Other	12
Tested Respondents (n=16)	
Positive for Any Drug	4
Positive for Marijuana	4

County Highlights

- Alcohol was reported to be popular among Frederick County youths. One 17-year-old reported that youths drink "anything they can get their hands on." Other youths reported, "Everyone drinks a different kind," and it "depends on the person…there's not one type that's popular."
- Youths reported that marijuana, in addition to being smoked, could be cooked with brownies, cake, or cupcakes and eaten.
- Interviewed youths reported that PCP is available in Frederick County. One 17-year-old stated, "In the past month it's become more popular." Youths reported that it is available as a liquid, or in a form that "looks like parsley." Youths reported that PCP is sprinkled on marijuana and smoked, or (in the liquid form) it is smoked on cigarettes.
- Frederick County youths reported that ecstasy is available in pill form. Different youths had different ideas about the availability of this drug. One 17-year-old stated, "It hasn't been around in so long," while another 17-year-old stated, "It's getting pretty big."
- Several youths reported that crack cocaine is easily accessible. Although one 15-year-old reported having "never seen any young kids" use crack, other interviewees reported that crack or powder cocaine use might begin in high school.

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park. Findings from Frederick County, April-May, 2003.

Harford County Intake Study Findings
October-November, 2002

The OPUS intake project took place in Harford County for 8 days between October 30, 2002, and November 15, 2002. Twenty-eight parents and youths were approached to participate in the project. Of the 28 parents approached, 25 (89%) agreed to allow their child to participate. Of the 25 juveniles approached, 24 (96%) agreed to the interview, and 22 (92%) agreed to provide a urine specimen. Of the interviewed juveniles, 16 were male, 20 were Caucasian, 3 were African American, and 1 was Hispanic. Their ages spanned from 13 to 18 years old. Of the 22 juveniles who provided a urine specimen, 4 tested positive for marijuana, 1 youth tested positive for opiate metabolites, and 1 youth, who reported they were taking prescribed stimulant medications, tested positive for amphetamines.

Demographic Characteristics of Interviewed Respondents

Characteristics	Persons Interviewed (n=24)
Gender	
Male	16
Race/ Ethnicity	
Caucasian	20
African American	3
Hispanic	1
Age	
Mean Age (range from 13 to 18)	14.9
Primary Offense	
Drug-related	3
Other	21
Tested Respondents (n=22)	
Positive for Any Drug	6
Positive for Marijuana	4
Positive for Opiates	1
Positive for Amphetamines	1

County Highlights

- Youths reported that marijuana is the most popular and most easily obtained drug in Harford County and that all types of people use marijuana. One 15-year-old stated that the decreasing availability of marijuana has lead to an increase in powder cocaine use, which, in turn, has lead to an increase in heroin use.
- Most juveniles interviewed in Harford County were aware of heroin use by their peers. Many youths claimed that heroin was especially popular in the more affluent areas of Harford County, particularly Fallston, because according to one 16-year-old, "This area has a lot of money to spend on it." One 15-year-old stated, "The big time heroin heads are the jocks and rich white kids, not the freaky ravers and punks—they're anti-drug." A couple juveniles indicated that if heroin were not available users would try to obtain OxyContin or Percocet as a replacement.
- Youths reported that ecstasy was considered a "love drug" and a "happy pill," and that users are difficult to put into a specific social group. One 16-year-old stated, "It could be anybody. I know straight-A kids who take it and broke people who take it." A 17-year-old stated, "Youngest I've heard about using it was 12, and it just goes up past that."

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park. Findings from Harford County, October-November, 2002.

Howard County Intake Study Findings
November-December, 2002

The OPUS intake project took place in Howard County for 7 days between November 18, 2002 and December 4, 2002. Eighteen parents and youths were approached to participate in the project. Of the 18 parents approached, all agreed to allow their child to participate. Of the 18 juveniles approached, all agreed to the interview, and 15 (83%) agreed to provide a urine specimen. Of the interviewed juveniles, 10 were male, 12 were Caucasian, 5 were African American, and 1 was multi-ethnic. Their ages spanned from 13 to 18 years old. Of the fifteen juveniles who provided a urine specimen, 1 tested positive for marijuana and two youths, who reported they were taking prescription medications, tested positive for amphetamines.

Demographic Characteristics of Interviewed Respondents

Characteristics	Persons Interviewed (n=18)
Gender	
Male	10
Race/ Ethnicity	
Caucasian	12
African American	5
Other	1
Age	
Mean Age (range from 13 to 18)	15.7
Primary Offense	
Drug-related	2
Other	16
Tested Respondents (n=15)	
Positive for Any Drug	3
Positive for Marijuana	1
Positive for Amphetamines	2

County Highlights

- Howard County youths reported that marijuana is the most popular and most easily obtained drug in the county. Youths reported that marijuana could be mixed with opium, heroin, LSD, PCP (a mixture known as "Boat"), cocaine (a mixture known as "Chronic"), and embalming fluid (marijuana dipped in embalming fluid is called a "Dipper").
- Most youths reported that experimentation with ecstasy begins around age 15 or 16. A couple of youths reported that females were more likely to use this drug. A 16-year-old stated, "Ravers or a person in the club scene uses ecstasy more often, and while it mainly stays there, it has become more of an everyday thing."
- Howard County youths were familiar with psychedelic mushrooms (known as 'shrooms). A couple of youths reported that users eat 'shrooms and smoke marijuana at the same time. However, a 16-year-old stated, that other drugs and 'shrooms are a "bad combination."
- One 15-year-old reported, "People use Ritalin, but Adderall is better; that's what they tell me." This youth reported that these pills cost "one dollar for friends, and five dollars for just anybody." Another youth reported that youth use Adderall at school to "be on point" (to do well).

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park. Findings from Howard County, November-December, 2002.

Montgomery County Intake Study Findings
December, 2002-January, 2003

The OPUS intake project took place in Montgomery County for 12 days between December 10, 2002, and January 15, 2003. Twenty-six parents and youths were approached to participate in the project. Of the 26 parents approached, 24 (92%) agreed to allow their child to participate. Of the 24 juveniles approached, 23 (96%) agreed to the interview, and 21 (91%) agreed to provide a urine specimen. Of the interviewed juveniles, 19 were male, 10 were Hispanic, 9 were Caucasian, and 4 were African American. Their ages spanned from 13 to 18. Of the 21 juveniles who provided a urine specimen, 7 tested positive for marijuana.

Demographic Characteristics of Interviewed Respondents

Characteristics	Persons Interviewed (n=23)
Gender	
Male	19
Race/ Ethnicity	
Hispanic	10
Caucasian	9
African American	4
Age	
Mean Age (range from 13 to 18)	15.9
Primary Offense	
Drug-related	3
Other	20
Tested Respondents (n=21)	
Positive for Any Drug	7
Positive for Marijuana	7

County Highlights

- Youths reported that marijuana is the most popular and most easily obtained drug in Montgomery County. Many youths reported that marijuana joints or cigarettes were used as "dippers" (because they were dipped in vials of embalming fluid or PCP before being smoked).
- It was reported that ecstasy is taken by swallowing the pill, using it as a suppository (reportedly because it gets into the system more quickly), or by crushing the pill and putting it in a drink. One 15-year-old reported that users will "parachute e-pills—they swallow a tissue containing the drug, and the drug will explode in their stomach."
- Percocet and OxyContin (or "oxy") were mentioned by interviewees in Montgomery County as popular prescription drugs illicitly used by youths. One 17-year-old reported that OxyContin has become more popular and is considered a "cleaner form of heroin."
- Juveniles reported that users are swallowing and snorting OxyContin as well as burning it on foil and using a straw to inhale the smoke. It was reported that users drink alcohol and smoke marijuana while on OxyContin. One 17-year-old reported that it was popular to sniff crystal meth while on this drug.

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park. Findings from Montgomery County, December 2002-January 2003.

Prince George's County Intake Study Findings
March, 2003

The OPUS intake project took place in Prince George's County for 7 days between March 5, 2003, and March 26, 2003. Sixteen parents and youths were approached to participate in the project. Of the 16 parents approached, all agreed to allow their child to participate. Of the 16 juveniles approached, all agreed to the interview, and 14 (88%) agreed to provide a urine specimen. Of the interviewed juveniles, 12 were male, 14 were African American, and 2 were Hispanic. Their ages spanned from 12 to 18. Of the 14 juveniles who provided a urine specimen, 3 tested positive for marijuana.

Demographic Characteristics of Interviewed Respondents

Characteristics	Persons Interviewed (n=16)
Gender	
Male	12
Race/ Ethnicity	
African American	14
Hispanic	2
Age	
Mean Age (range from 12 to 18)	15.4
Primary Offense	
Drug-related	2
Other	14
Tested Respondents (n=14)	
Positive for Any Drug	3
Positive for Marijuana	3

County Highlights

- Youths reported marijuana to be the most popular, accessible, and available drug in Prince George's County.
- Some youths reported that experimentation with alcohol might begin as young as age 11 or 12, while others reported that experimentation begins at age 14 or 15. Interviewed youth reported that minors obtain alcohol from older friends, from connections, when they hang around older people, or by purchasing alcohol themselves, sometimes even without a fake I.D.
- Several youth reported on the popularity of PCP. Although youths were only able to identify the liquid form of PCP it was reported to be available in several forms. One 15-year-old stated, "It's like water (in a vial) and you take a cigarette and dip it in (the vial), and then suck it up in it [the cigarette], and then smoke it." Several youth reported that this wet cigarette, having been dipped in PCP, is called a "dipper."
- When youth were asked whether their neighborhood or community had a drug problem they expressed mixed opinions. One 18-year-old stated, "Not marijuana as a problem, but it can get out of hand—the violence—that's probably it." Other youths reported that marijuana was a problem drug. One 17-year-old stated, "Yeah, with weed, everybody uses it, [including] old people," and a 13-year-old stated, "Yeah, in the community, when kids come to school and [their] eyes are red."

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park. Findings from Prince George's County, March 2003.

St. Mary's County Intake Study Findings
October, 2002

The OPUS intake project took place in St. Mary's County for 8 days between October 1, 2002, and October 16, 2002. Fifteen parents and youths were approached to participate in the project. Of the 15 parents approached, all agreed to allow their child to participate. Of the 15 juveniles approached, 14 (93%) agreed to the interview and to provide a urine specimen. Of the interviewed juveniles, 12 were male, 9 were Caucasian, 4 were African American, and 1 was multi-ethnic. Their ages spanned from 13 to 17. Of the 14 youths who provided a urine specimen, 1 tested positive for marijuana, and 1 youth, who reported they were taking prescription muscle relaxers, tested positive for opiates.

Demographic Characteristics of Interviewed Respondents

Characteristics	Persons Interviewed (n=14)
Gender	
Male	12
Race/ Ethnicity	
White	9
African American	4
Other	1
Age	
Mean Age	14.7
(range from 13 to 17)	
Primary Offense	
Drug-related	1
Other	13
Tested Respondents (n=14)	
Positive for Any Drug	2
Positive for Marijuana	1
Positive for Opiates	1

County Highlights

- Youths reported that marijuana is popular and available to those who want it, and that users might mix marijuana with other drugs, including PCP, mushrooms, or powder cocaine. Interviewees estimated that youths begin experimenting with marijuana between ages 10 and 16.
- Youths in St. Mary's County did not know much about ecstasy and its use, although many juveniles reported that it was available. Youths reported that users often drink alcohol while using ecstasy, and that most users simply swallow the pills, although some "parachute" them by crushing up an ecstasy pill, putting the powder in a tissue, and swallowing the tissue.
- In response to why youths use drugs, one 14-year-old stated, "First out of curiosity and then because of how it makes you feel...happy." Other juveniles reported that people use drugs because they want to escape reality, because they do not care about themselves, because of their friends, or to appear cool.
- When youth were asked how to reach out to people with drug problems, one 16-year-old said that an effective deterrent would be to take kids to the local prison and show them what prison life is like. A 14-year-old respondent simply felt that it "depends on what they want—if someone doesn't want help, they can't be helped."

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park. Findings from St. Mary's County, October 2002.

Table 1. Number of Tested Juveniles that were Positive, by Site
(Males and females combined)

	Positive For:				
Site, in Alphabetical Order:	**Marijuana**	**LSD**	**Opiates**	**Amphetamines**	**Any Drug (of 11)**
Baltimore City (n=13)[4]	5	2	-	-	5
Baltimore County (n=32)	9	-	-	1	10
Calvert County (n=13)	1	-	-	-	1
Charles County (n=35)	5	-	-	1	6
Frederick County (n=16)	4	-	-	-	4
Harford County (n=22)	4	-	1	1	6
Howard County (n=15)	1	-	-	2	3
Montgomery County (n=21)	7	-	-	-	7
P.G. County (n=14)	3	-	-	-	3
St. Mary's County (n=14)	1	-	1	-	2

Note: Urine specimens were analyzed for 11 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, LSD, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, PCP, and propoxyphene. The amphetamine-positive urine specimens were confirmed for amphetamines, methamphetamines, and MDMA by GC/MS. The LSD-positive urine specimens were confirmed by HPLC.

The full Intake Study Findings reported in this table are available through CESAR's website at www.dewsonline.org, or by contacting CESAR directly (301-405-9770).

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park, Juvenile OPUS Annual Report, September 2003.

[4] The two youths who tested positive for LSD also tested positive for marijuana, though no juveniles interviewed reported on LSD. Because marijuana can be laced surreptiously with LSD, the possibility exists that these youths did not know they were consuming LSD.

OPUS DETENTION STUDY

V. DETENTION STUDY METHODS

- Nurses or substance abuse counselors obtained voluntary and anonymous urine specimens from youths detained in Maryland's five[5] detention facilities (Carter, Cheltenham, Hickey, Noyes, and Waxter).

- Only youths who had been admitted to the facility during the last 72 hours and who were not being transferred from another secure facility were included.

- The urine specimens were sent to a laboratory[6] to be screened for 11 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD)[7], marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), and propoxyphene. The amphetamine-positive urine specimens were confirmed for amphetamines, methamphetamines, and MDMA by GC/MS (Gas Chromatography/ Mass Spectrometry). The LSD-positive urine specimens were confirmed by HPLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatography).

- A candy bar was offered to respondents as an incentive for participation.

[5] In the data collection period for September-November, 2000 only four detention facilities participated in this study—Carter, Cheltenham, Noyes, and Waxter.
[6] American Medical Laboratories, Chantilly, VA
[7] Beginning September, 2002, urine specimens were tested for LSD.

VI. DETENTION STUDY FINDINGS

OPUS Detention Study Results Over Seven Data Collection Periods

This section presents comparisons of the urinalysis results of Detention Studies across seven data collection periods. Full OPUS reports may be accessed at www.dewsonline.org, or by contacting CESAR directly (301-405-9770).

- The percentage of youths that provided urine specimens from all facilities in the most recent data collection (March-June, 2003) ranged from 71% to 100% (data not shown).

- In the most recent data collection (March-June, 2003), urine specimens were collected from 290 juveniles. Across the seven data collection periods, 3,481 juveniles have provided a urine specimen (Table 2).

- In all time periods, youths were most likely to test positive for marijuana. Marijuana-positive urinalysis results ranged from 37% to 45% across the seven data collection periods (Table 2).

- Urinalysis test results show little ecstasy use. Two juveniles (less than one percent) tested positive for MDMA in the March-June, 2003 Detention Study (Table 2).

- Across all reporting periods, the percentage of youths who tested positive for marijuana increased with age. By age 16, almost one-half of youths tested positive for marijuana (Figure 1).

Table 2. Urinalysis Test Results Over Seven Data Collection Periods

	February -May, 1999 (n=545)	January-May, 2000 (n=802)	September-November, 2000[8] (n=555)	March-June, 2001 (n=409)	September-November, 2001 (n=483)	March-June, 2002 (n=426)	March-June, 2003 (n=290)
Positive For:							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Marijuana	39	42	43	41	41	45	37
Cocaine	2	1	3	3	3	5	2
Opiates	2	1	2	2	1	2	**
Amphetamines	1	1	4	4	1	1	1
PCP	**	**	2	2	1	2	2
Benzodiazepines	1	**	1	1	**	**	**
Propoxyphene	**	**	**	1	**	**	**
MDMA	**	**	**	2	**	**	**
Any Drug (of 11)	42%	43%	48%	46%	43%	47%	41%

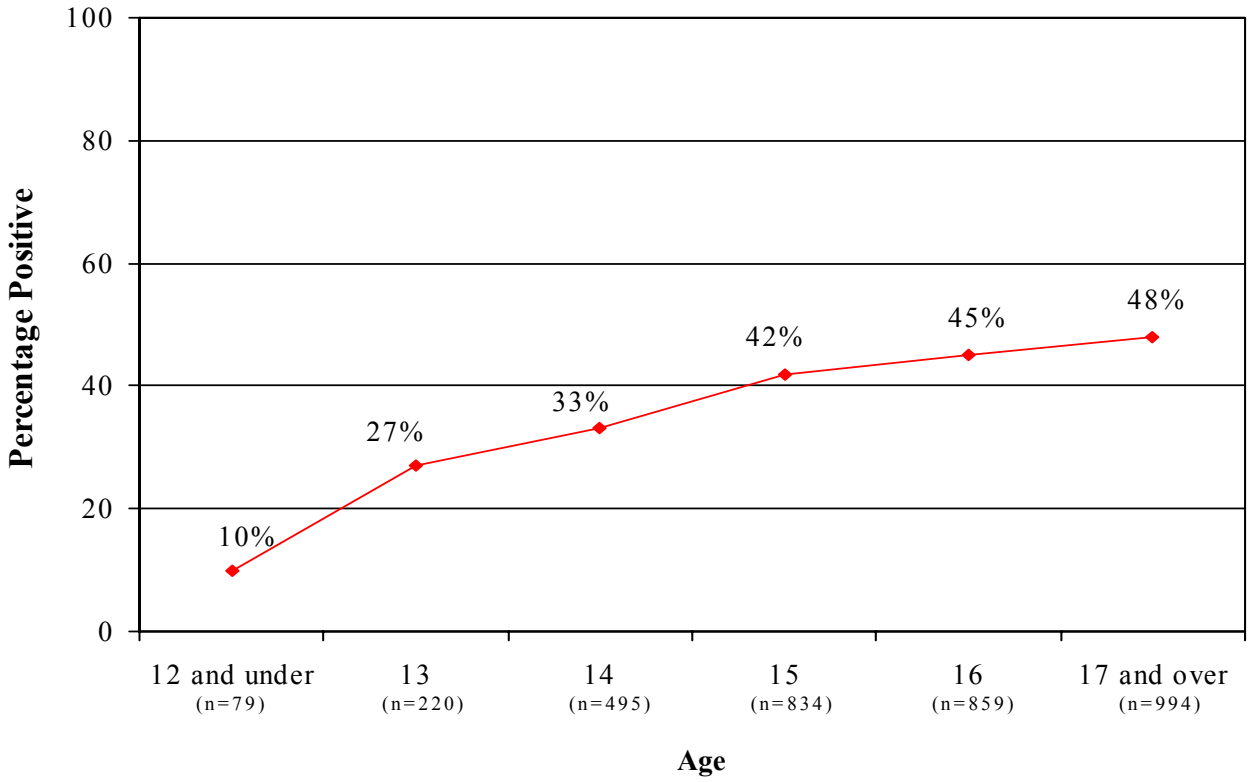
Note: Urine specimens were analyzed for 11 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, LSD, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, PCP, and propoxyphene.

**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 and have been omitted from the table.

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park, Juvenile OPUS Annual Report, September 2003.

[8] In the data collection period for September-November, 2000 only four detention facilities participated in this study—Carter, Cheltenham, Noyes, and Waxter.

Figure 1. Percentage Testing Positive for Marijuana, by Age[9]
(n=3,481 Male and Female Juvenile Detainees, 1999-2003)



Note: Urine specimens were analyzed for 11 drugs: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, LSD, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, PCP, and propoxyphene. The amphetamine-positive urine specimens were confirmed for amphetamines, methamphetamines, and MDMA by GC/MS. The LSD-positive urine specimens were confirmed by HPLC.

Source: CESAR, University of Maryland, College Park, Juvenile OPUS Annual Report, September 2003.

[9] Across the 7 data collection periods, age information for 29 juveniles was missing.