

Youth and Drugs in Washington, D.C.

Highlights and Trends

APRA Youth Substance Abuse Forum

June 13, 2007



DCEOW Principal Investigator: Erin Artigiani, M.A

DCEOW Project Director: Cindy Voss, M.A.

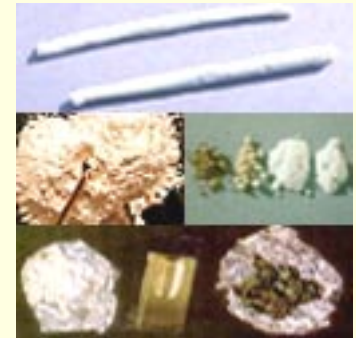
Research Associate: Maribeth Rezey, B.A.

APRA/CESAR collaboration supported by SEOW funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), June 2007. Points of view or opinions within this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of CSAP.

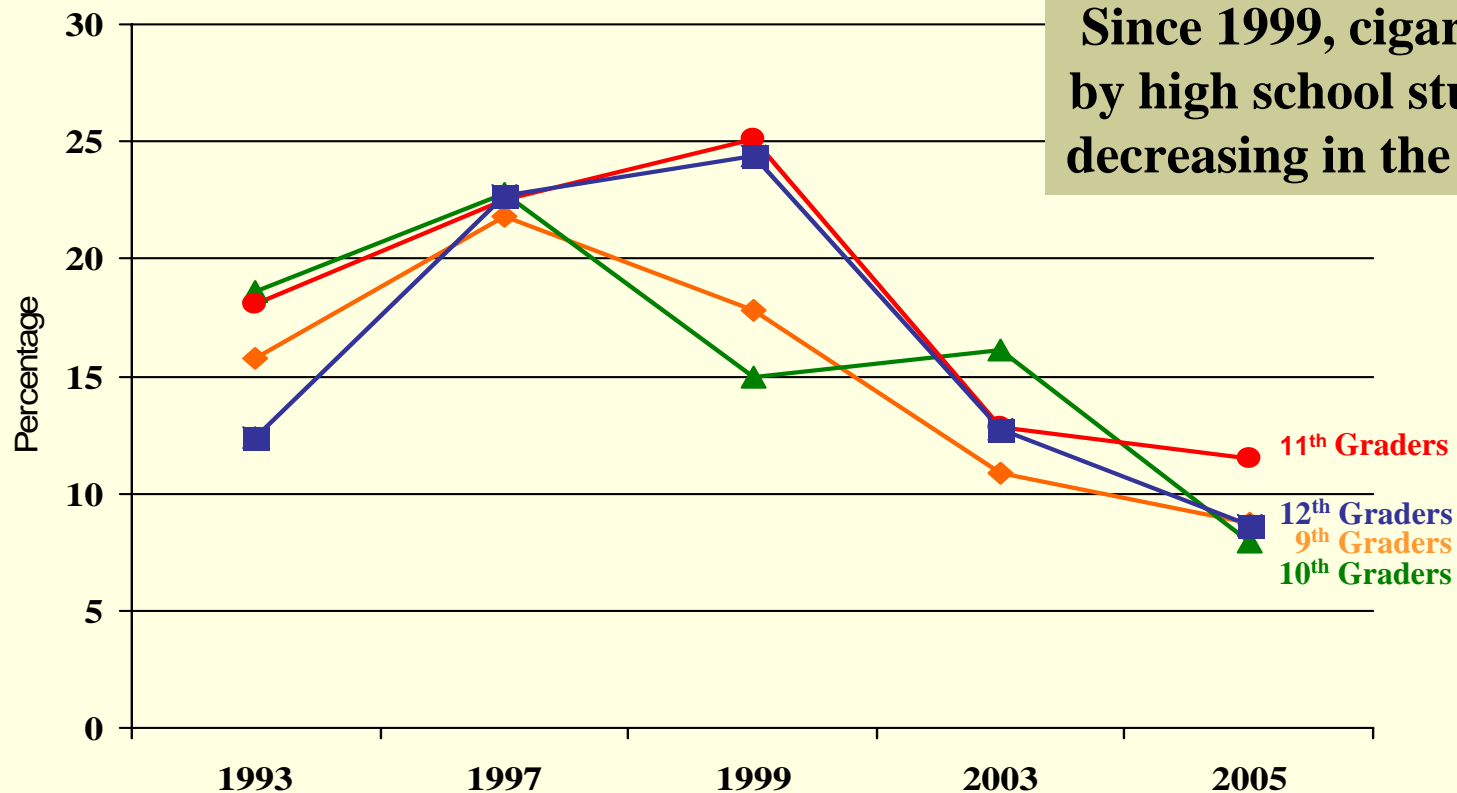
Overview of Washington, D.C., 2006

Estimated Population = 581,530

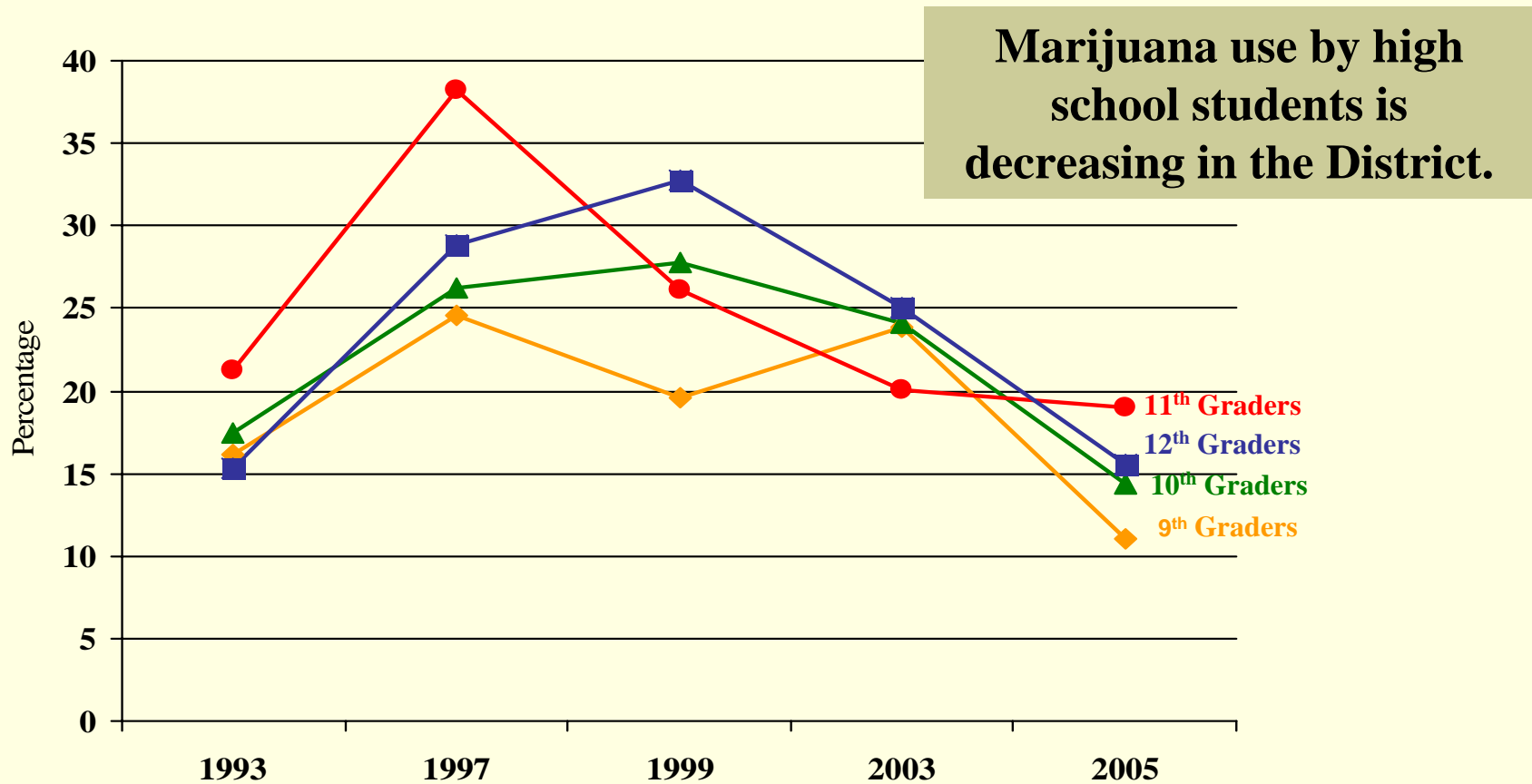
- 1 in 5 D.C. residents are under 18 years of age
- The population is 55% black; 32% is white; and 13% are of other races
- The District has estimated that approximately 12% of the population has a substance abuse problem
- Substance abuse costs the District \$1.2 billion per year
- In FY 2005, the District spent approximately \$360 million to address the substance abuse problem



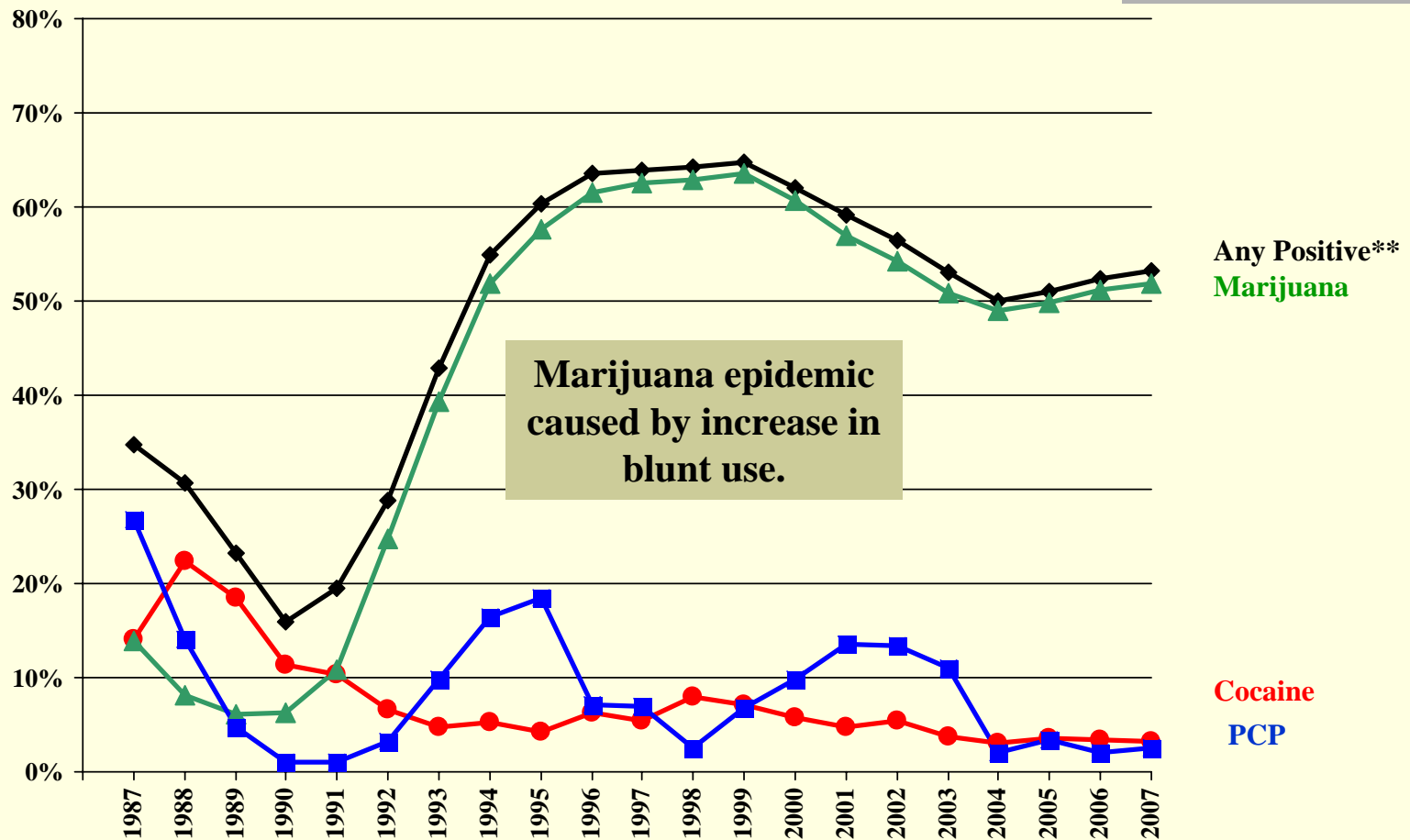
Past Month Cigarette Use by High School Students in the District



Past Month Marijuana Use by High School Students in the District



Juvenile Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs in the District, 1987–2007*

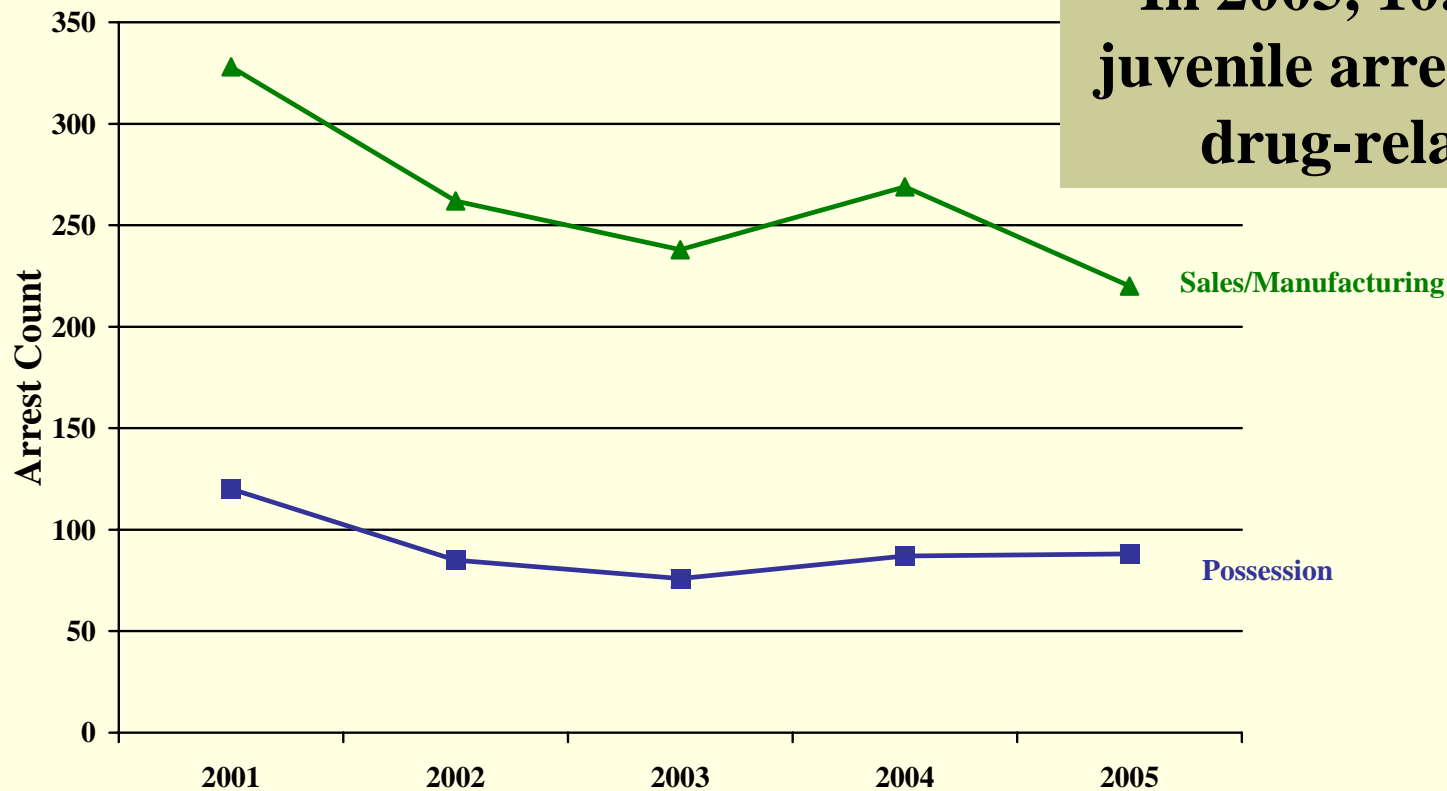


*2007 includes January–April

**Any positive includes opiates from 1987 through mid 1994 (<1%)

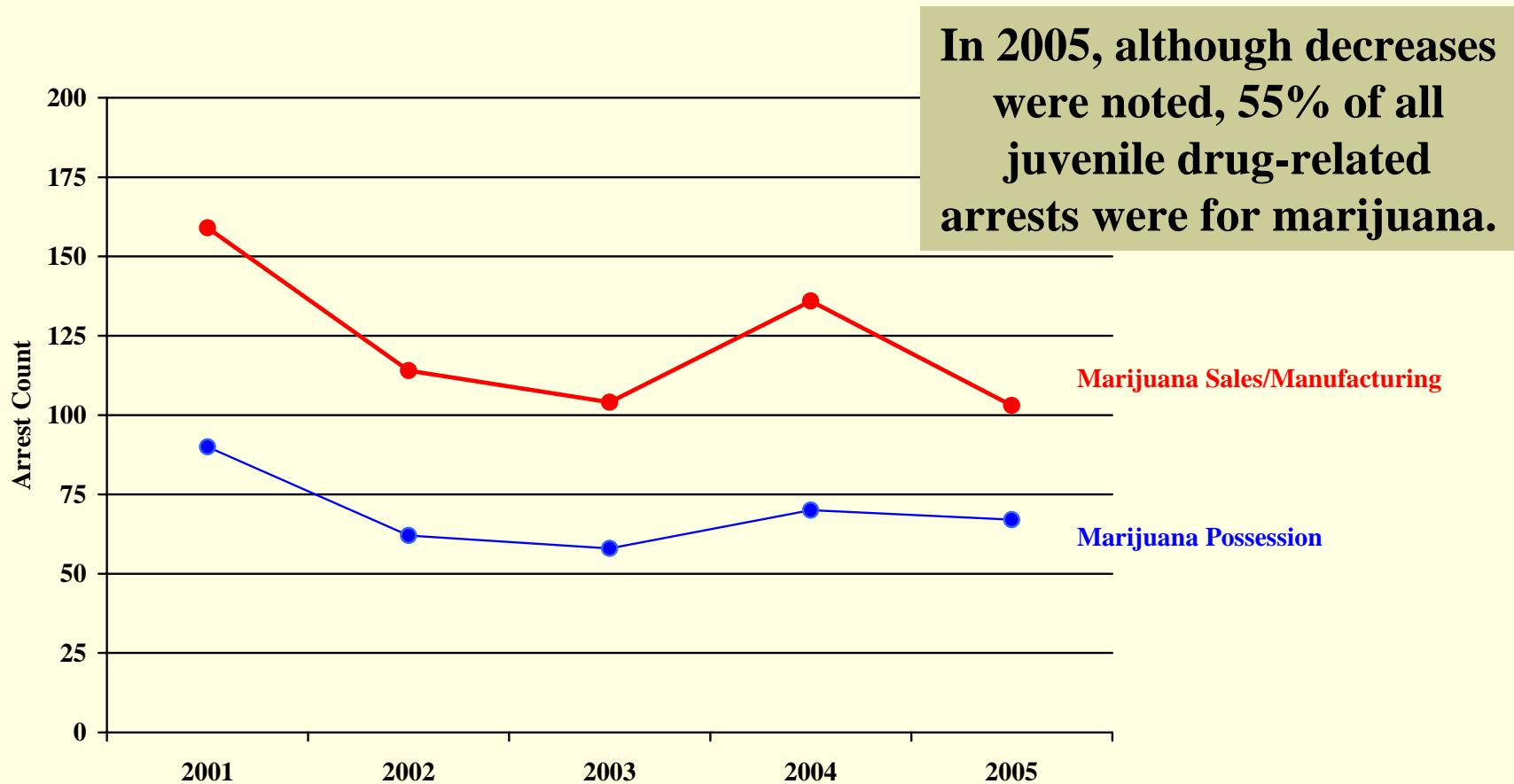
SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data provided by the DC Pretrial Services Agency.

Drug-Related Arrests of Juveniles in the District

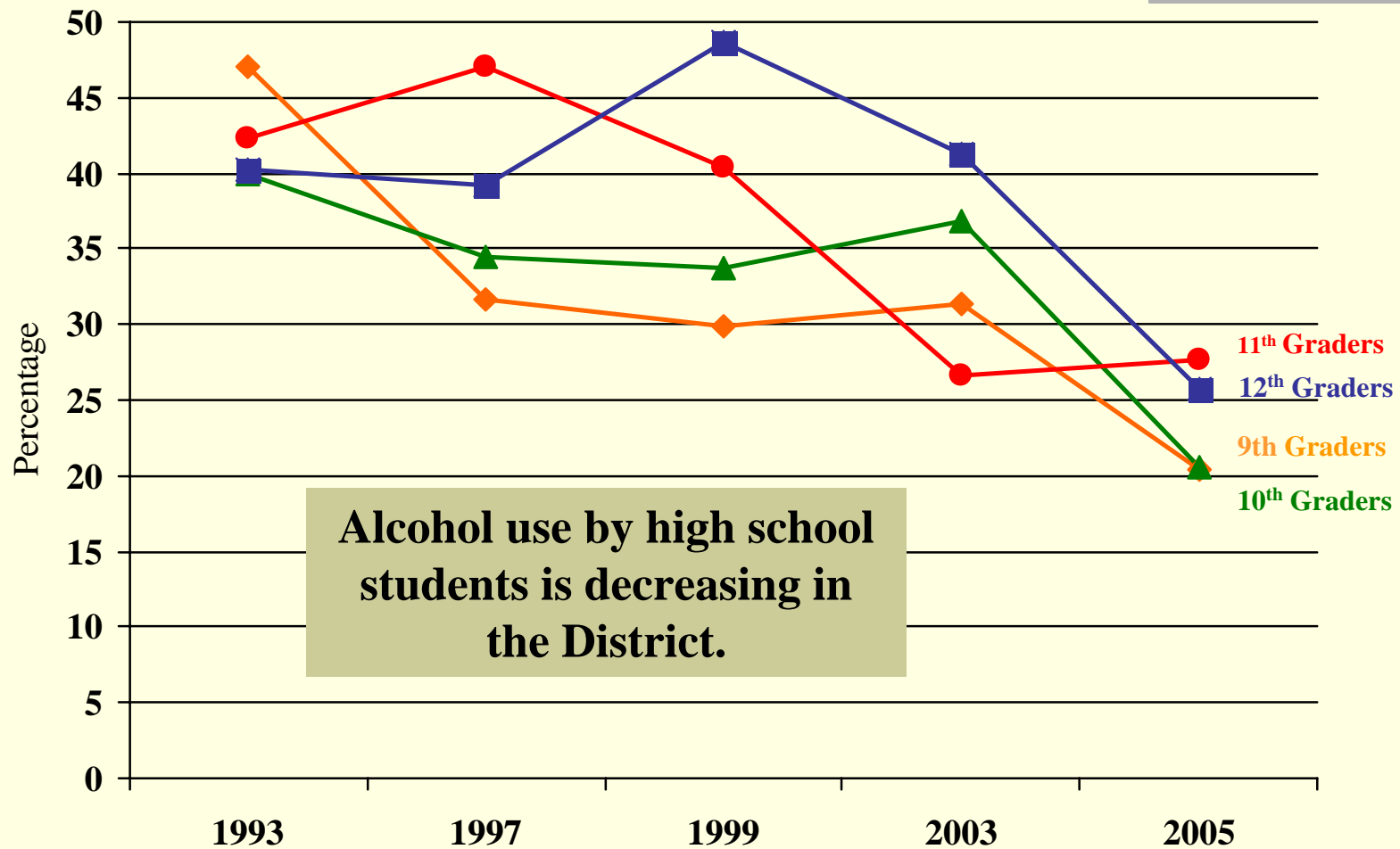


In 2005, 10.5% of juvenile arrests were drug-related.

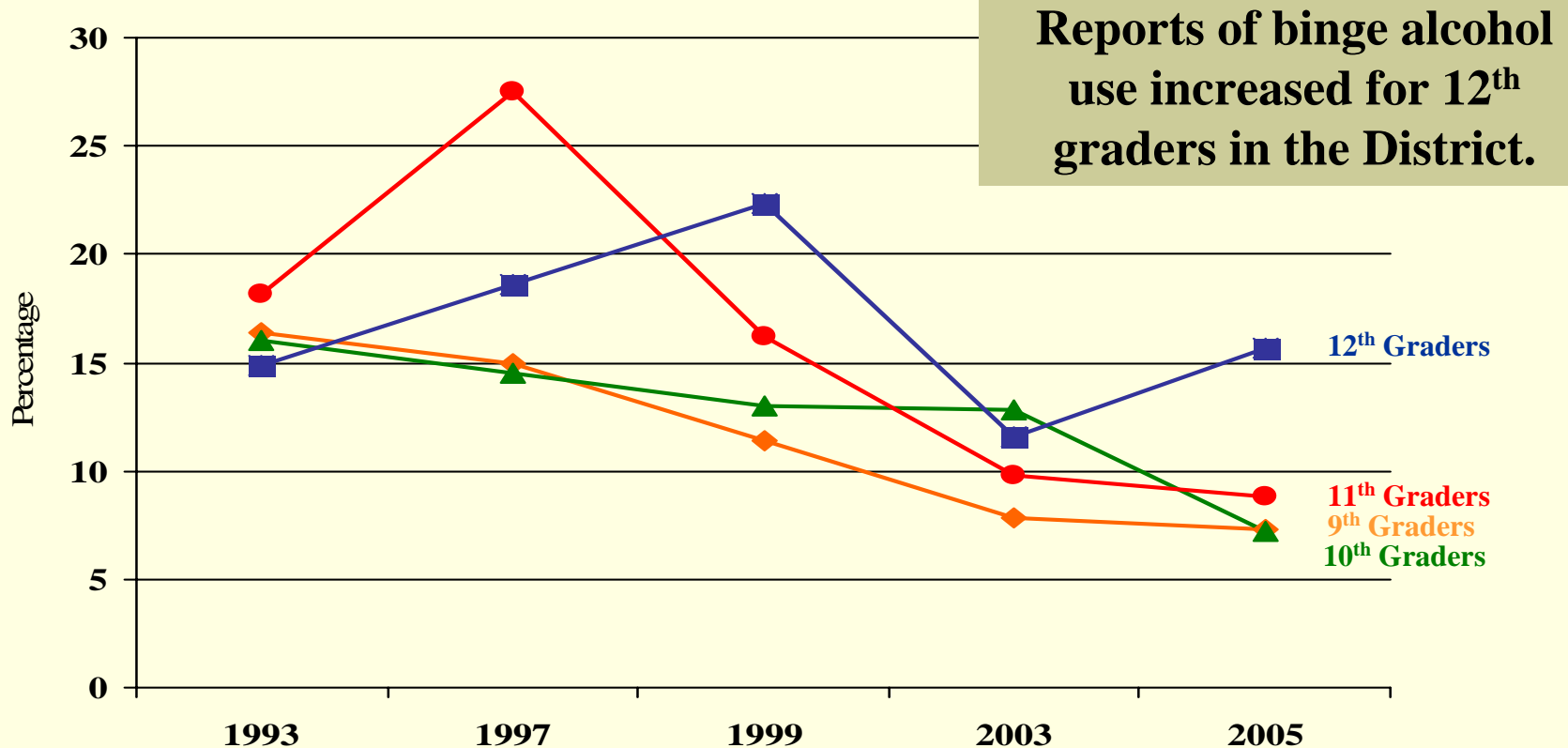
Marijuana-Related Arrests of Juveniles in the District



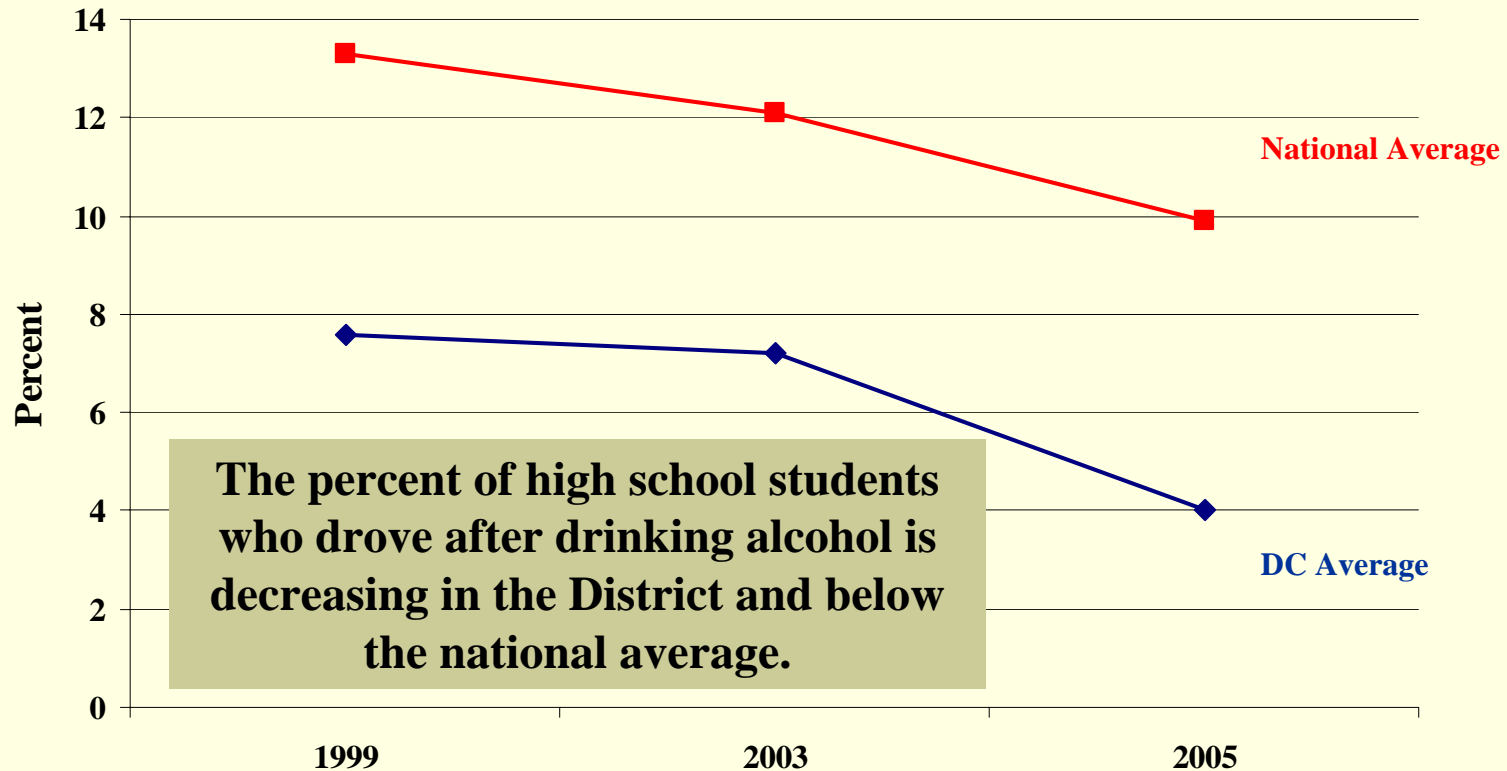
Past Month Alcohol Use by High School Students in the District



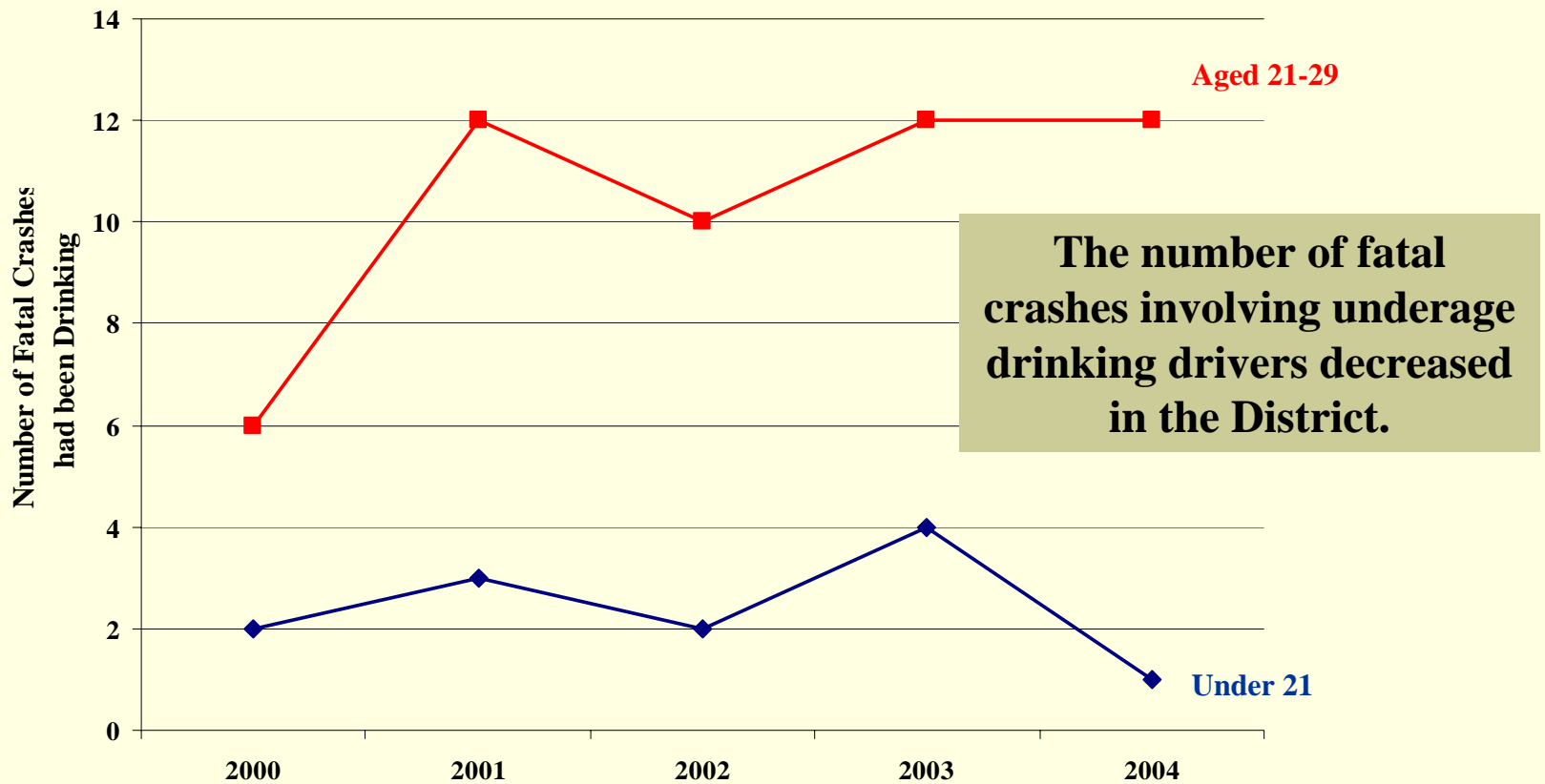
Past Month Binge Alcohol Use by High School Students in the District



High School Students in the District Who Drove a Vehicle After Drinking Alcohol



Youth Drivers who had been Drinking and Involved in Fatal Crashes in the District



Washington/Baltimore HIDTA Regional Drug Scan Methods

- Conducted in October 2006 – January 2007
- Semi-structured, qualitative interviews with substance abuse professionals in public health, education, and criminal justice
- Topics of discussion
 - New and emerging drugs
 - Availability of drugs
 - Crime trends



Washington/Baltimore HIDTA Regional Drug Scan Results

- Crack cocaine, heroin, PCP, and marijuana were rated as the greatest threats in DC
- Current concerns
 - PCP is of concern due to unstable usage pattern
 - Marijuana laced with other drugs
 - Increased drug-related gang activity in Hispanic population
- Emerging drugs
 - Methamphetamine
 - Pharmaceuticals

Summary of Youth Drug Trends in the District

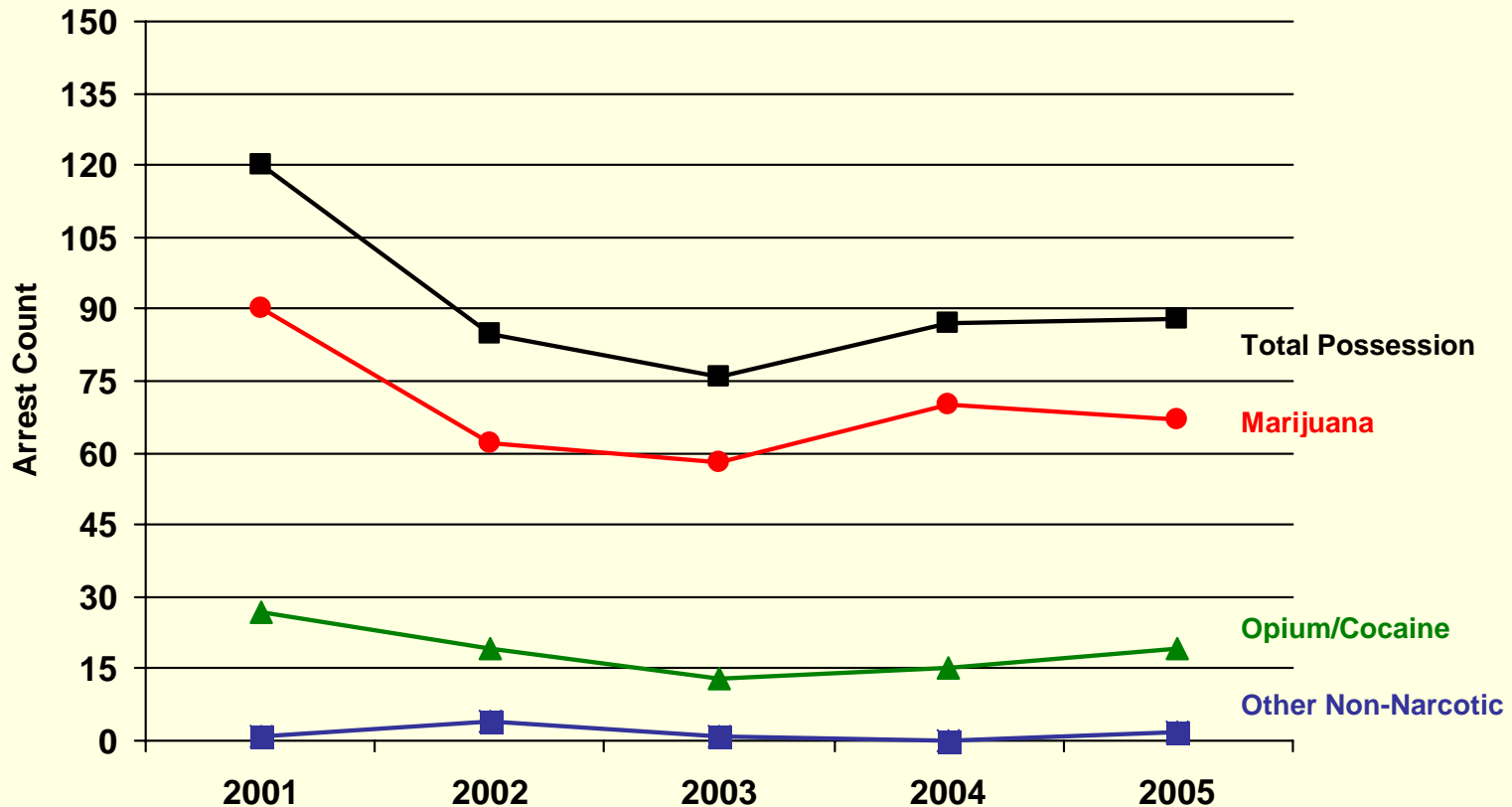
- Cigarette, marijuana, and alcohol use among high school students in the District has declined between 2003 and 2005
- Drug-related arrests for youth have decreased between 2004 and 2005
- Fatal crashes involving drivers who had been drinking has remained somewhat stable over the past 5 years for youth under 21 years old
- Use of methamphetamines and pharmaceuticals should be monitored within the District



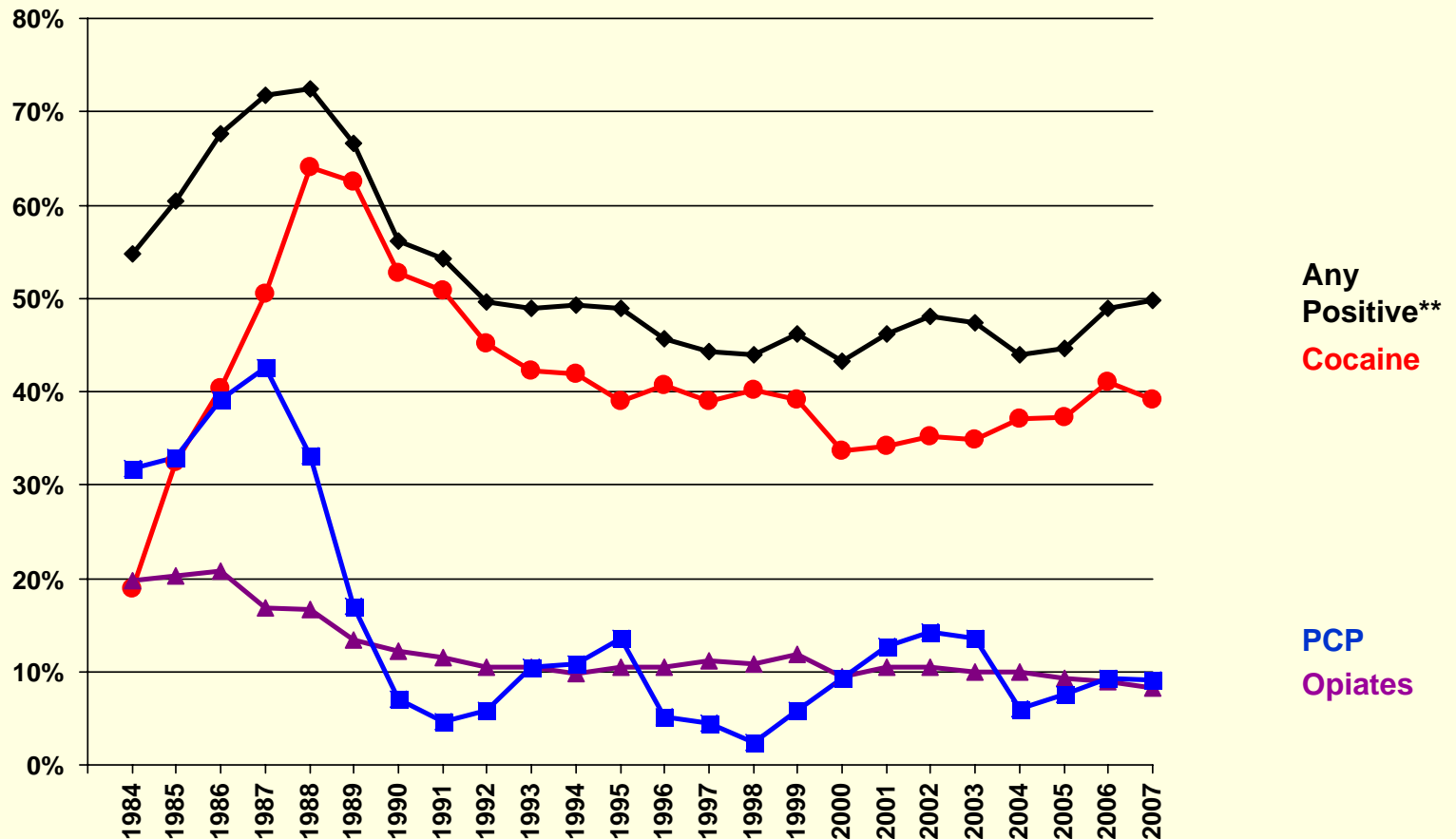


END of Presentation

Total Drug-Related Possession Arrests of Juveniles in the District



Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs in the District: 1984–2007*



*2007 includes January–April

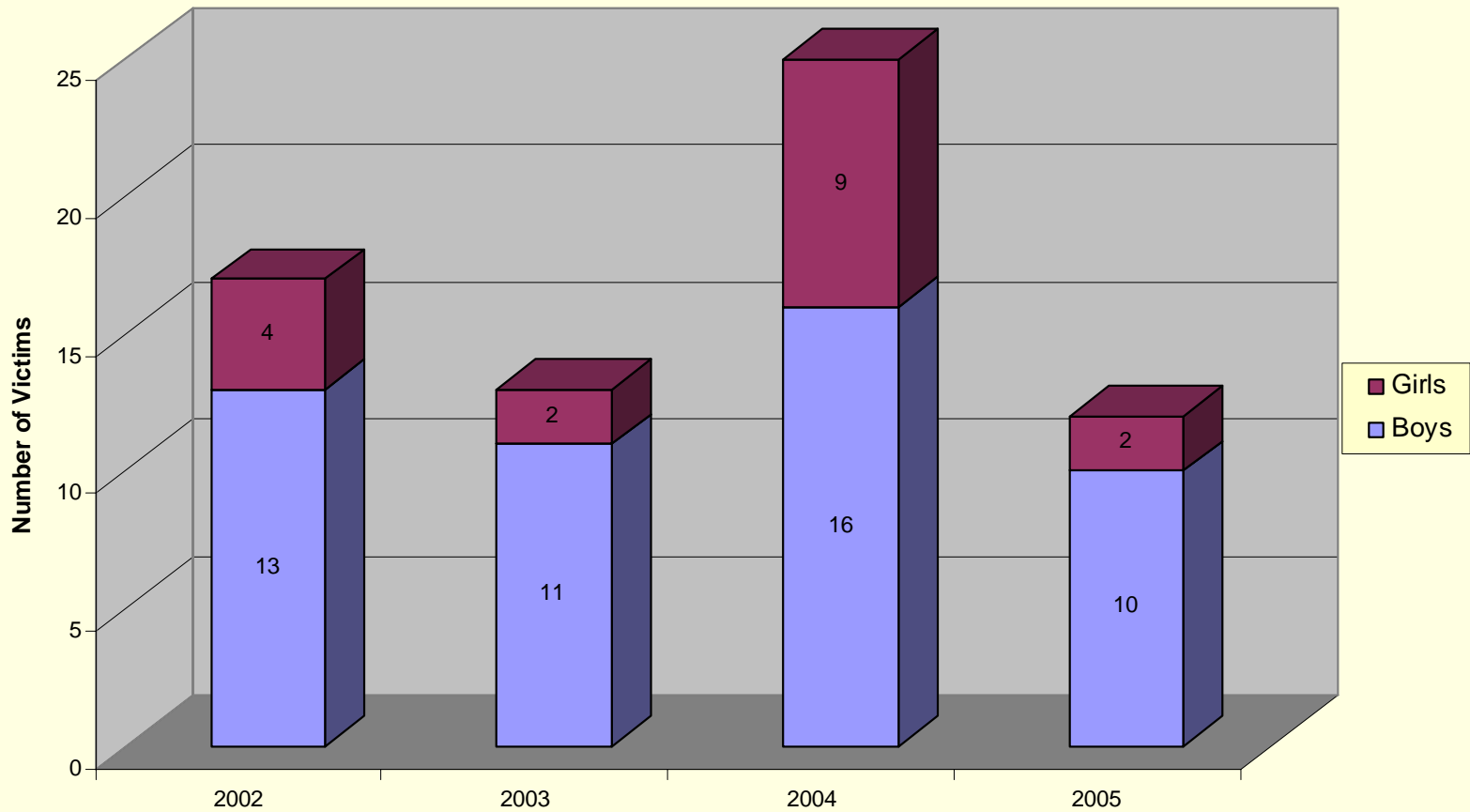
**Any positive includes opiates from 1987 through mid 1994 (<1%)

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data provided by the DC Pretrial Services Agency.

Youth Homicides in the District, 2001–2005

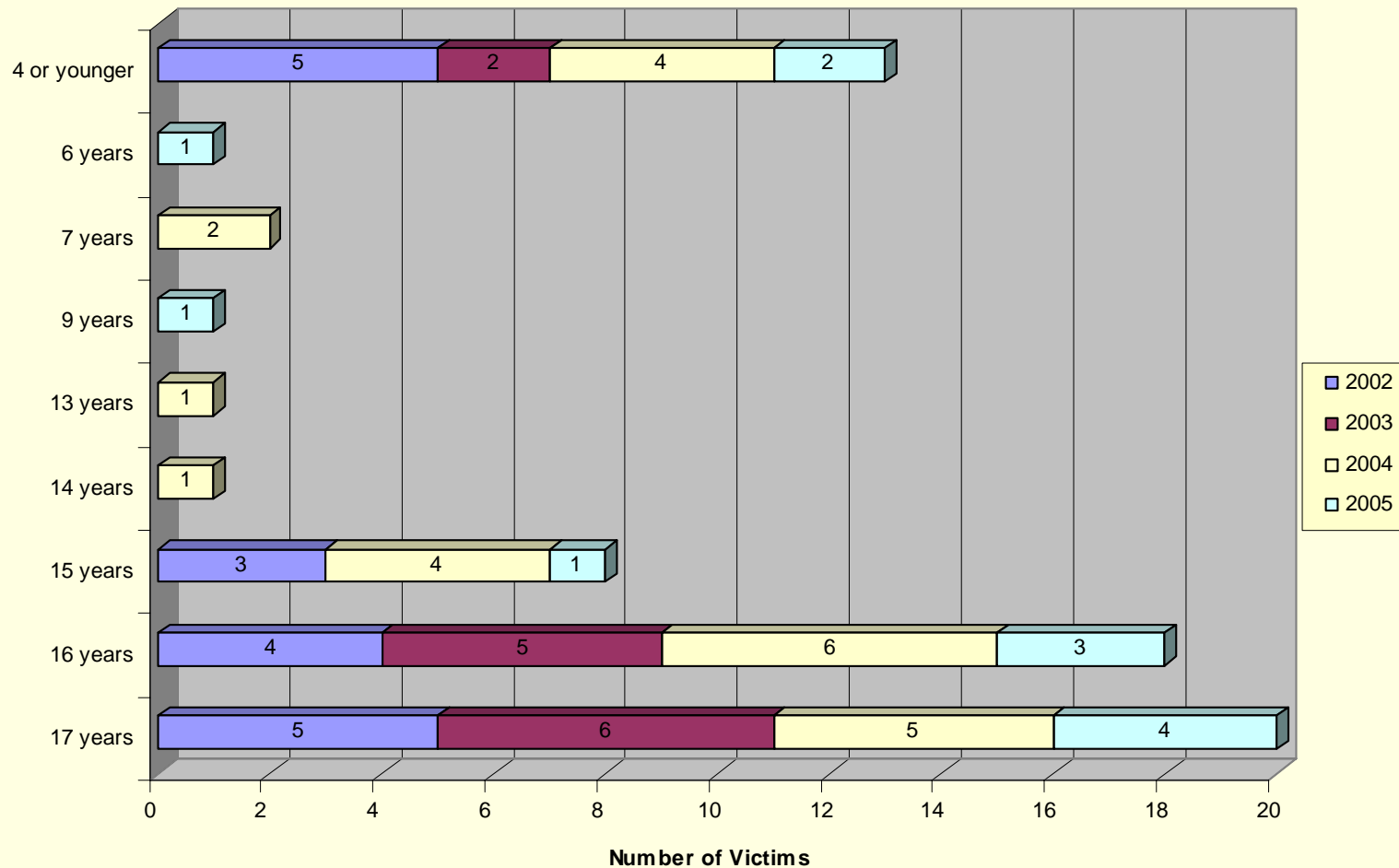
- Majority of victims were boys
- Majority were killed with guns (76%)
- Motives included retaliation (19%), drugs (17%), or child abuse (17%)
- Juvenile homicides peaked between the hours of 9 pm and 12 am

Juvenile Homicide Victims in the District



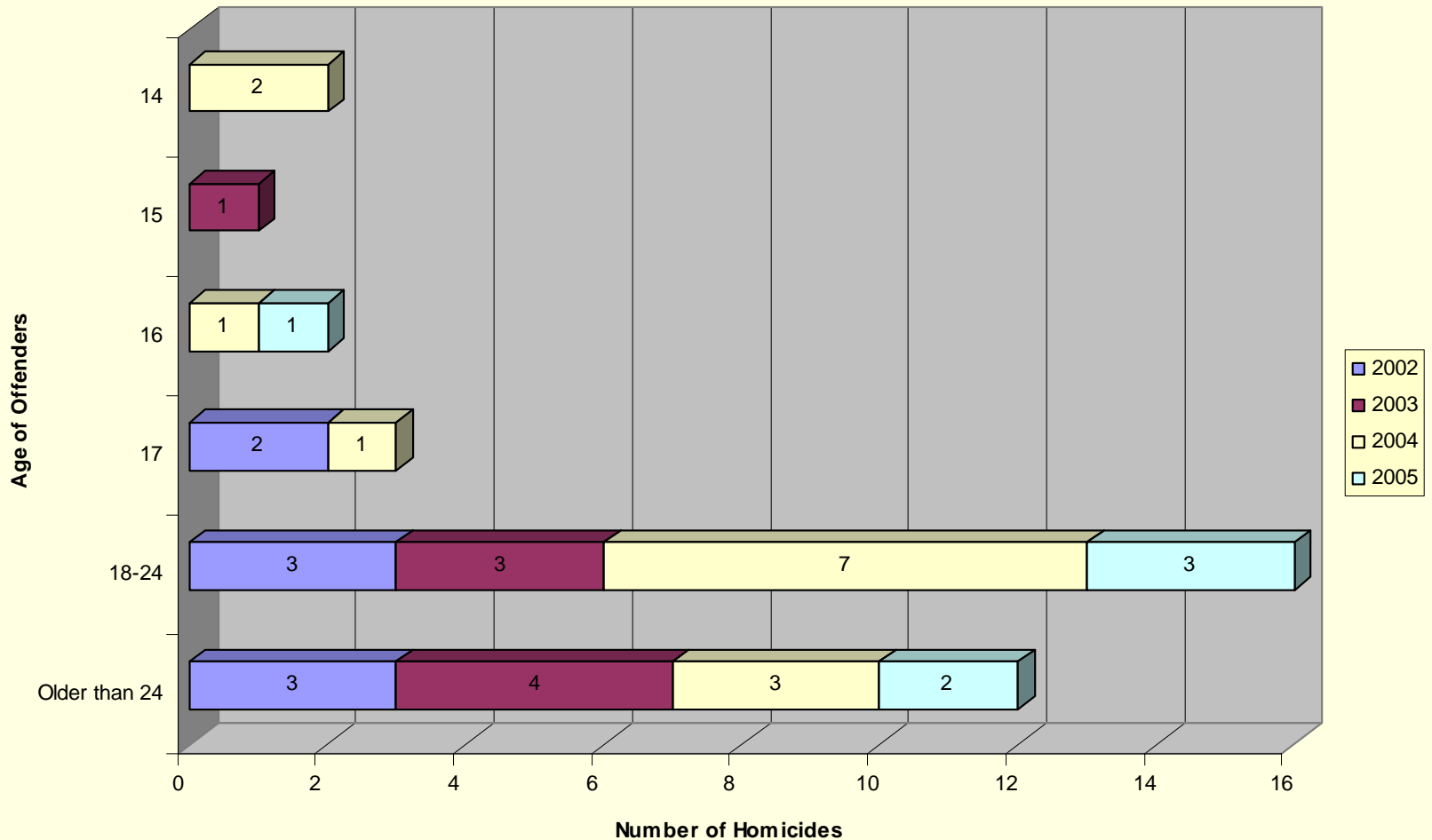
SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from "A Report on Juvenile and Adult Homicide in the District of Columbia, 2001–2005" by the DC Metropolitan Police Department.

Age of Juvenile Homicide Victims in the District



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from "A Report on Juvenile and Adult Homicide in the District of Columbia, 2001–2005" by the DC Metropolitan Police Department.

Age of Known Offenders in Juvenile Homicides in the District



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from "A Report on Juvenile and Adult Homicide in the District of Columbia, 2001–2005" by the DC Metropolitan Police Department.

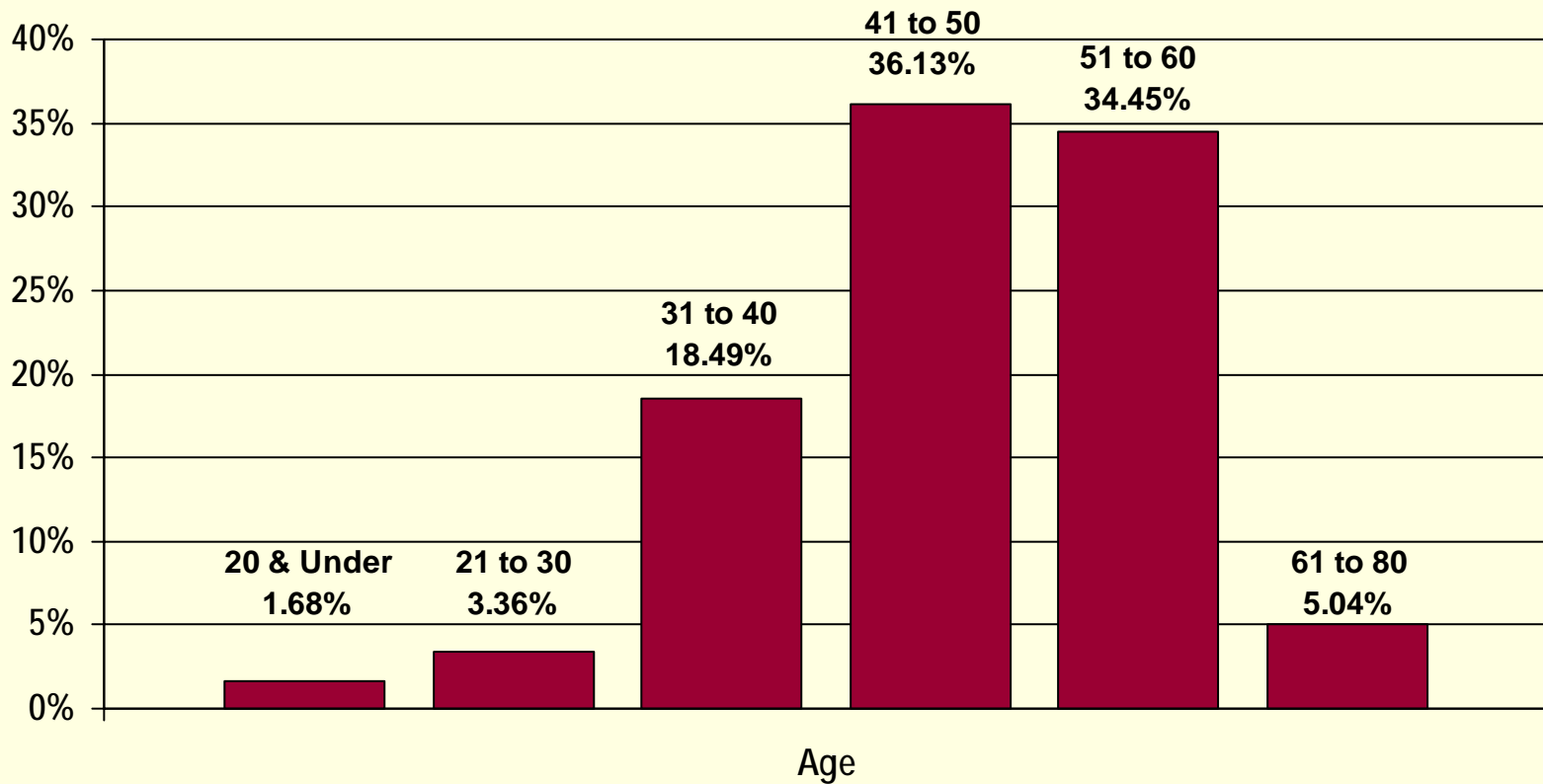
Youth and Alcohol in the District, 2002–2005 Averages

- An estimated 25,000 males and 27,000 females aged 12 to 25 reported drinking alcohol in the past month



- An estimated 18,000 males and 14,000 females aged 12 to 25 reported binge alcohol use (5 or more drinks on the same occasion) in the past month

Accidental Drug Overdose Deaths in the District, 2005

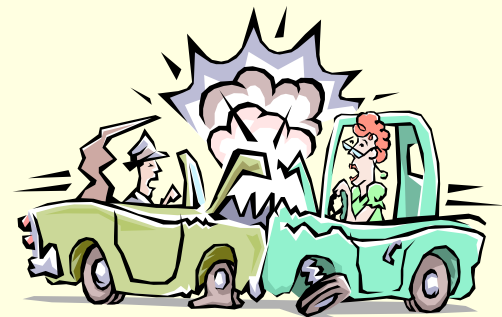


NOTE: N=119.

SOURCE: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Washington, D.C. 2005 Annual Report.

Youth Drinking and Driving in the District

- The majority (45.8%) of drinking drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2004 (n=41) were young adults aged 21 to 29.
- In 2005, nearly 25% of high school students reported riding in a car in the past month with someone who had been drinking
- In 2005, 4% of high school students reported driving under the influence of alcohol in the past 30 days



Health Consequences of Substance Use for Youth in the District, 2004

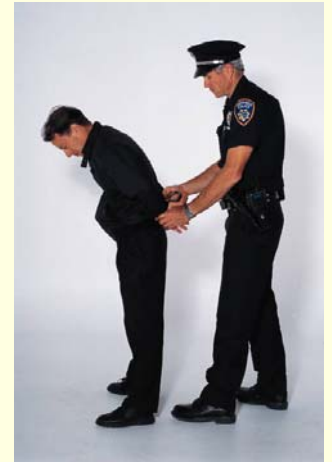
- 1.7% of all AIDS cases in DC were < 20 years old when diagnosed (n=270)
- There have been 0 acute hepatitis B cases reported in DC for individuals < 20 years old
- There have been 8 chronic hepatitis C cases reported in DC for individuals < 20 years old



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from "HIV in the District of Columbia: A surveillance Update", "District of Columbia Department of Health Acute Hepatitis A & B Demographics 2000–2004", and the "District of Columbia Department of Health Chronic Hepatitis C Demographics 2000–2004" provided by the DC Department of Health..

Consequences of Substance Use for Youths in the District

- Criminal arrest
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Death by overdose
- Health problems



Drug-Related Arrests in the District, 2005 Data

- 51,570 Total arrests occurred
 - 2,925 juvenile arrests (≤ 18 years)



- 8,050 Drug-related arrests (possession and sales/manufacturing)
 - 308 juvenile arrests

