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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

Research Brief

Michael J. Russell, Acting Director

FOURTH QUARTER 1992

DUE

DRUG USE FORECASTING

QUARTERLY REPORT

Drug Use Forecasting—Fourth Quarter 1992 Results

Findings from adult booked arrestees

During the fourth quarter of 1992, 23 of the 24 DUF sites collected data from male booked arrestees, and 20 of the sites collected data from female booked arrestees

(arrestees in Manhattan were not interviewed during the fourth quarter).

The percent of male booked arrestees testing positive for any of the 10 drugs tested ranged from 48 percent in Omaha

to 79 percent in Philadelphia. In the majority of sites, cocaine remained the prevalent drug. Exceptions were Indianapolis and Omaha, where marijuana use was higher than cocaine use, and San Antonio and San Jose, where marijuana use

Drug Use by Male Booked Arrestees

Site	% Positive Any Drug*						Range of % Positive				% Positive					
	0	20	40	60	80	100	Low	Date	High	Date	2+ Drugs	Cocaine	Marijuana	Amphetamines	Opiates	PCP
Atlanta	64						62	1/91	73	1/92	13	56	17	**	2	0
Birmingham	55						55	12/92	75	7/88	14	42	19	**	3	0
Chicago	72						64	2/92	85	7/88	34	63	19	**	24	4
Cleveland	65						49	5/90	70	8/89	17	53	19	0	5	4
Dallas	56						50	11/90	72	6/88	18	37	26	2	3	4
Denver	59						35	8/90	68	2/92	17	45	26	1	**	0
Detroit	57						45	9/90	69	10/88	16	35	29	0	7	**
Ft. Lauderdale	62						56	8/90	71	3/88	16	44	30	0	**	0
Houston	67						50	8/92	71	4/90	16	45	20	**	4	**
Indianapolis	58						33	9/90	62	9/89	17	26	37	0	4	0
Kansas City	67						39	9/90	64	5/89	24	45	35	**	1	11
Los Angeles	67						56	10/90	77	4/88	27	52	22	6	13	5
Miami	62						62	12/92	75	8/88	21	52	27	0	2	0
New Orleans	56						54	1/91	76	4/89	16	45	14	0	4	4
Omaha	48						22	8/90	57	7/88	14	17	41	1	2	0
Philadelphia	79						70	8/91	84	4/89	36	64	24	**	13	3
Phoenix	52						28	10/91	67	4/90	14	31	21	8	3	**
Portland	63						54	1/89	76	8/88	24	39	26	10	12	0
St. Louis	66						42	7/90	69	4/89	20	55	20	0	6	2
San Antonio	58						43	9/90	63	3/90	25	28	33	1	16	0
San Diego	74						66	6/87	85	1/89	37	41	33	25	14	2
San Jose	52						46	2/92	65	8/89	20	27	26	11	6	2
Washington, D.C.	64						53	5/90	72	2/89	19	46	21	0	11	6

Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

Note: Positive by urinalysis, October through December 1992

* Drugs tested for include cocaine, opiates, PCP, marijuana, amphetamines, methadone, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and propoxyphene.

** Less than 1%

Drug Use Forecasting

and cocaine use were about the same.

For female arrestees, the percentage of drug positives ranged from 31 percent in San Antonio to 80 percent in Portland. In all sites except Indianapolis and San Antonio, cocaine was the prevalent drug among females. In Indianapolis, female arrestees were as likely to

test positive for marijuana (26 percent) as cocaine (27 percent). In San Antonio, female arrestees were also as likely to test positive for marijuana (12 percent) as cocaine (14 percent).

Juvenile arrestees/detainees

The percent of juvenile male arrestees/

detainees testing positive for drugs ranged from 12 percent in St. Louis to 47 percent in Washington, D.C. (data from Portland were not included because of an insufficient sample size). For juveniles, marijuana was the prevalent drug in all sites except Cleveland and St. Louis, where cocaine use and marijuana use were about the same.

Drug Use by Female Booked Arrestees

Site	% Positive Any Drug*					Range of % Positive				% Positive						
	0	20	40	60	80	100	Low	Date	High	Date	2+ Drugs	Cocaine	Marijuana	Amphetamines	Opiates	PCP
Atlanta	70						56	1/92	73	10/91	14	62	10	0	3	0
Birmingham	64						43	11/89	77	4/89	16	39	17	5	2	0
Cleveland	76						65	7/92	88	2/90	12	70	8	0	4	0
Dallas	70						42	9/89	71	6/88	26	55	24	4	11	**
Denver	63						48	8/91	69	8/92	17	53	17	4	5	0
Detroit	72						66	9/91	85	3/88	18	60	12	**	11	0
Ft. Lauderdale	55						54	11/90	79	3/90	17	43	17	1	4	0
Houston	44						44	10/92	68	4/90	15	35	14	0	2	0
Indianapolis	52						26	11/90	57	3/91	22	27	26	1	6	0
Kansas City	73						55	11/91	83	8/89	21	60	22	2	0	3
Los Angeles	72						67	7/92	80	7/89	26	59	12	10	14	4
New Orleans	46						44	7/91	65	1/90	9	36	5	1	6	0
Philadelphia	74						69	11/90	90	8/89	28	66	10	**	13	4
Phoenix	58						47	10/90	78	3/89	26	33	19	16	11	0
Portland	80						51	5/90	82	8/88	30	63	11	11	30	0
St. Louis	71						38	7/91	75	4/89	18	66	9	0	7	2
San Antonio	31						31	12/92	56	2/91	11	14	12	0	6	0
San Diego	70						70	11/92	87	12/87	35	31	22	31	17	2
San Jose	58						45	8/91	67	8/92	19	32	17	16	8	4
Washington, D.C.	67						58	11/90	88	6/89	29	62	9	0	23	1

Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

Note: Positive by urinalysis, October through December 1992

* Drugs tested for include cocaine, opiates, PCP, marijuana, amphetamines, methadone, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and propoxyphene.

** Less than 1%

Drug Use Forecasting Methodology

DUF data are collected in booking facilities throughout the United States. For approximately 14 consecutive evenings each quarter, trained local staff obtain voluntary and anonymous urine specimens and interviews from a new sample of booked arrestees.¹ In each site, approximately 225 males are sampled. In some sites, female arrestees and juvenile arrestees/detainees are also sampled. Response rates are consistently high, with more than 90 percent of the arrestees approached agreeing to be interviewed. Approximately 80 percent of those interviewed provide urine specimens.

To obtain samples with sufficient distribution of arrest charges, DUF interviewers, where possible, limit the number of male booked arrestees who are charged with the sale or possession of drugs. Because such persons are likely to be using drugs at arrest and are undersampled, DUF statistics frequently are minimum estimates of drug use in the male arrestee population. With the exception of Omaha, males charged with

driving offenses generally are excluded from the sample due to DUF's emphasis on more serious crimes. (In Omaha, all male arrestees brought to the booking facility are included in the DUF sample to obtain a sample of sufficient size.) Because they are fewer in number, all adult female arrestees and all juvenile arrestees/detainees brought to the booking center or detention facility during the data collection period are included in the DUF sample, regardless of charge.

Twelve of the DUF sites collect data from male juvenile arrestees/detainees. In each of the juvenile facilities, with the exception of Birmingham, Denver, and Indianapolis, only those youngsters who are detained by the criminal justice system are available for interviewing. Arrestees who are released to their parents or released for other reasons are not included in the DUF juvenile sample. In Birmingham, Denver, and Indianapolis, however, all juvenile arrestees are available for interviewing. For juveniles in each of the sites, excluding Washington, D.C. and

St. Louis, the catchment area encompasses the county. In Washington, D.C., youngsters arrested and detained in the District of Columbia are included in the sample, and in St. Louis only male juveniles arrested and detained in the city of St. Louis are included.

All urine specimens are sent to a central laboratory for analysis. The specimens are analyzed by EMIT™ for 10 drugs: cocaine, opiates, marijuana, PCP, methadone, benzodiazepines, methaqualone, propoxyphene, barbiturates, and amphetamines. All positive results for amphetamines are confirmed by gas chromatography to eliminate positives that may be caused by over-the-counter drugs. For most drugs, the urine test can detect use in the previous 2 to 3 days. Exceptions are marijuana and PCP, which sometimes can be detected several weeks after use.

¹The DUF sample is based on arrestees brought into the booking facility. Arrestees released before booking are not part of the DUF sample.

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Drug Use by Juvenile Male Arrestees/Detainees

Site	% Positive Any Drug*	Sample Size (N)	% Positive					
			2+ Drugs	Cocaine	Marijuana	Amphetamines	Opiates	PCP
Birmingham	24	104	2	4	20	0	0	0
Cleveland	20	80	6	8	11	0	1	5
Denver	43	106	11	16	39	0	0	0
Indianapolis	15	105	2	4	12	0	1	0
Los Angeles	26	110	6	11	16	3	0	**
Phoenix	26	117	7	8	23	**	0	0
St. Louis	12	100	1	6	7	0	0	0
San Antonio	28	78	6	9	20	0	4	0
San Diego	37	93	11	6	28	15	0	0
San Jose	23	92	3	5	18	1	2	0
Washington, D.C.	47	94	8	10	40	0	0	5

Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

Note: Positive by urinalysis, October through December 1992

* Drugs tested for include cocaine, opiates, PCP, marijuana, amphetamines, methadone, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and propoxyphene.

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