

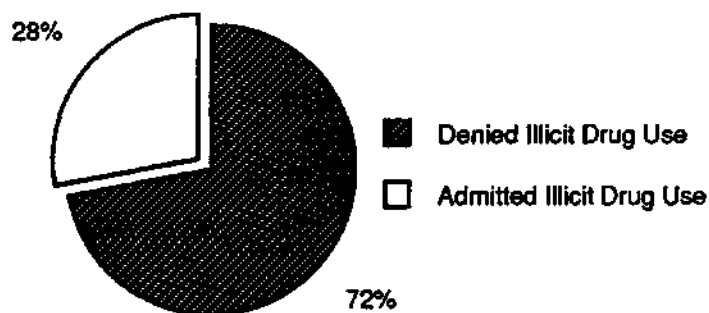
A Weekly FAX From the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland At College Park *

New Study Shows Medical Patients Unlikely to Report Recent Illicit Drug Use

Only 28% of patients who tested positive for cocaine had admitted their recent drug use in a clinical interview administered by medical staff. The patients were seeking treatment for primarily respiratory, rheumatologic, and dermatologic conditions at a hospital clinic in Atlanta, Georgia. Health care providers need to be aware of the potential unreliability of patient self reports of illicit drug use, even when persons are presenting themselves for treatment. The authors also suggest that interview surveys of illicit drug use may seriously underestimate the use of illicit drugs.

**Self Report of Illicit Drug Use in Last 3 Days
by Patients Testing Positive for Cocaine****



** N = 415 for total study. 160 patients tested positive for cocaine.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from McNagny, Sally E., and Ruth M. Parker. 1992. High Prevalence of Recent Cocaine Use and the Unreliability of Patient Self-report in an Inner-city Walk-in Clinic. *The Journal of the American Medical Association* 267:1106-1108.

The CESAR BOARD, an electronic bulletin board for substance abuse information can be accessed with a computer and a modem by calling 301-403-8343 or 1-800-842-3727 (in Maryland)

******* CESAR SPEAKER SERIES*******

Dr. Paul J. Goldstein will be lecturing on "The Relationships Between Drugs and Violence"
Stamp Union Room 2111, University of Maryland at College Park
March 25, 1992 at three o'clock p.m. Open to the public.

For further information about today's topic or to be placed on the distribution list, please call CESAR at 301-403-8329

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