

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

***Marijuana Most Commonly Detected Drug Among Male Arrestees
Tested by ADAM II in Ten U.S. Sites***

Marijuana continues to be the most commonly detected drug among U.S. male arrestees, according to data from the recently released 2011 Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring II (ADAM II) report. ADAM II monitors arrestee drug use through self-report and urinalysis from a probability sample of arrestees at booking facilities in ten sites across the nation. In 2011, the percentage of arrestees testing positive for marijuana ranged from 36% to 56%, making it the third year in a row that marijuana has been the most commonly detected drug among this population. While cocaine was the second most commonly detected drug in eight of the ten sites (with positives ranging from 10% to 33%), cocaine positives have declined among arrestees in all sites over the last ten years. Methamphetamine was the second most commonly detected drug in two sites, Sacramento (43%) and Portland (23%). While not nationally representative, this data is important because the arrestee population is often missing from traditional general population substance abuse surveys and treatment provider data*. In addition, illicit drug use epidemics historically appear first among the arrestee population.

Estimated Percentage of U.S. Adult Male Arrestees Testing Positive by Urinalysis for Illicit Drugs, 2011
(N=4,412 specimens)

ADAM II Site	Any Drug**	Marijuana	Cocaine	Opiates	Methamphetamine
Atlanta	64%	36%	33%	7%	<1%
Charlotte	67%	53%	19%	2%	<1%
Chicago	81%	55%	25%	19%	1%
Denver	69%	44%	25%	10%	6%
Indianapolis	67%	48%	20%	10%	2%
Minneapolis	70%	51%	21%	8%	3%
New York	73%	49%	25%	8%	<1%
Portland	73%	49%	15%	14%	23%
Sacramento	81%	56%	10%	10%	43%
Washington, D.C.	68%	45%	18%	11%	<1%
Range	64%-81%	36%-56%	10%-33%	2%-19%	0.1%-43%

*More than three-fourths (78%) of ADAM II arrestees have never sought treatment for drug or alcohol abuse.

**Urinalysis specimens are tested for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, barbiturates, PCP, amphetamine (including methamphetamine), methadone, oxycodone, propoxyphene, and benzodiazepines.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Office of National Drug Control Policy, *ADAM II 2011 Annual Report*, 2012. Available online at http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/email-files/adam_ii_2011_annual_rpt_web_version_corrected.pdf.

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