

A Publication from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

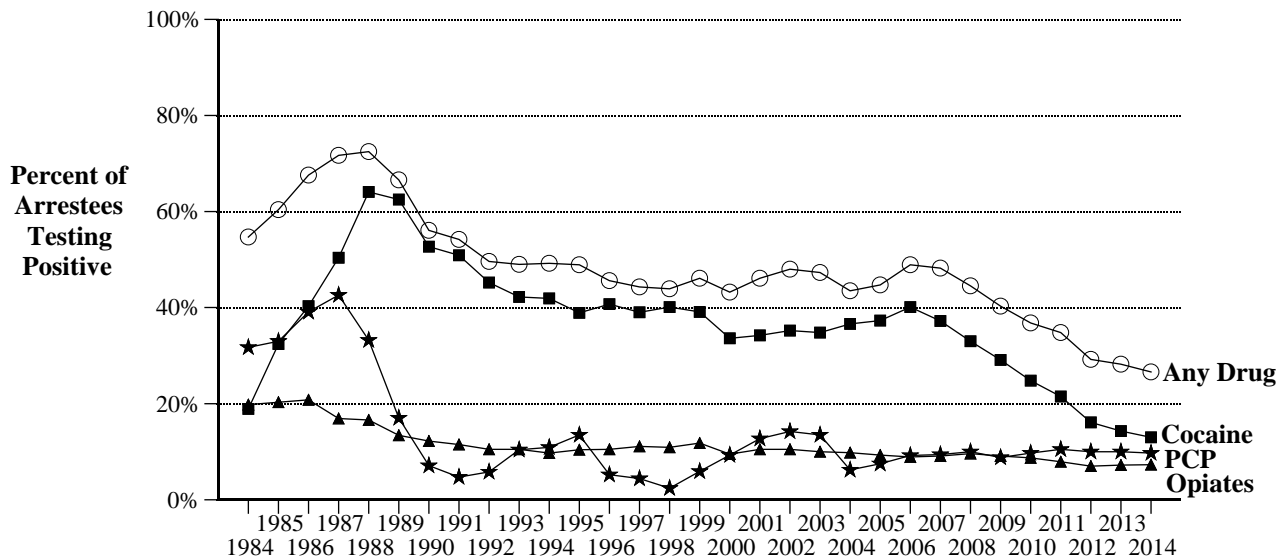
University of Maryland, College Park

Percentage of Washington, DC Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Any Drug Declines to 27%; Cocaine Positives at 13%—Lowest on Record

The percentage of adult arrestees testing positive for any drug* decreased from 49% in 2006 to 27% in 2014, according to data from the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA). This change was driven by a decrease in the percentage of arrestees testing positive for cocaine, from 40% in 2006 to 13% in 2014—an all-time low since data collection was initiated in 1984. PCP and opiate positives have been relatively stable over the past few years, at 10% and 7%, respectively. It should be noted that these results do not necessarily mean that D.C. adult arrestees have stopped using drugs, only that they are not using the drugs for which they are being tested. For example, a 2013 study conducted by CESAR found synthetic cannabinoids present in the urines of young male arrestees under supervision by the PSA (see *Community Drug Early Warning System: The CDEWS Pilot Project* at <http://go.umd.edu/CDEWS2013>).

Percentage of Washington, DC Adult Arrestees Testing Positive, by Drug, 1984-2014

(The number of specimens tested ranged from 10,990 in 1984 to 24,375 in 2008; 18,663 specimens were tested in 2014.)



*PSA currently tests arrestees for cocaine, PCP, opiates, and amphetamines. Data are not shown for amphetamines. The PSA stopped reporting on amphetamines in 1995 and resumed reporting results for these drugs in August, 2006. The percentage of arrestees testing positive for amphetamines was 4% in 2007; 2% in 2008; and 1% in 2009-2014.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia. Available online at http://www.psa.gov/?q=data/drug_testing_data. For more information, contact Jerome Robinson, Director, Office of Forensic Research, at jerome.robinson@psa.gov.

New CDEWS Study Released; Synthetic Cannabinoids Found in Adults and Juveniles

The second Community Drug Early Warning System (CDEWS) study, released last month, found synthetic cannabinoids in both adults and juveniles in Washington, DC, Denver, and Tampa. The report is available online at https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/ondcp/policy-and-research/finalreport_4_8_15v3.pdf

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