Heroin Use at Six-Year High Among Chicago Male Arrestees

According to the latest Chicago DUF report, the percentage of male arrestees in Chicago testing positive by urinalysis for opiate use has reached the highest level since the program began in 1987. From the fourth quarter of 1987 to the third quarter of 1993, the percentage of male arrestees testing positive for opiate use ranged from 12% to 30%. During the fourth quarter of 1993, 39% of male arrestees in Chicago tested positive for opiate use. Chicago is one of the DUF sites that has traditionally found high rates of opiate positives. Perhaps this recent increase in opiate positives in Chicago is a first indication of the long heralded heroin epidemic in offenders.

Percentage of Male Arrestees Testing Positive for Opiate Use in Chicago, 1987-1993

*Data was not available for first and third quarters of 1989.

SOURCE: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) from the Chicago TASC DUF Project Report, February, 1994. Treatment Alternatives for Special Clients, Inc. (TASC) administers the National Institute of Justice's Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program in Chicago. For further information please contact Daphne Bailie at TASC (312) 787-0208, ext. 211.

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