Drug Use Down Among D.C. Adult Arrestees, 1987 to 1997

Recently released data from the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency show that the percentage of adult arrestees testing positive for drugs has declined markedly over the past decade. In 1987, nearly three-fourths (72%) of all adult arrestees in the District tested positive for at least one of the three drugs included in the urinalysis (cocaine, opiates, and PCP). By 1997 this figure had dropped to 44%, reflecting a reduction in cocaine, opiate, and PCP use (see figure below). For more information, contact Susan Shaffer, Director of the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency, at 202-727-2911.

Percentage of Washington, D.C. Adult Arrestees Testing Positive by Urinalysis for Any Drug, Cocaine, Opiates, and PCP, 1987-1997

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency.

Washington, D.C. Pretrial Drug Test Data Available at CESAR’s Web Site

D.C. pretrial drug test data for both adult and juvenile arrestees are available at CESAR’s world wide web site. Go to www.cesar.umd.edu, select CESAR BOARD, then Criminal Justice.