Calvert County DEWS County Snapshot Released:
Alcohol and Marijuana Persistent Problems in County

The recently released *DEWS County Snapshot: Substance Abuse Trends in Calvert County* provides an overview of current substance abuse trends by combining the results of interviews with Drug Scan contacts and juvenile offenders participating in the OPUS study with quantitative county indicators such as treatment admissions. The combination of the very recent DEWS interview results with the more extensive, but typically older, quantitative indicator data provides a rare opportunity to detect emerging drug trends. Following are some of the findings from this report.

- **Alcohol** use problems are high in the county. Alcohol is reportedly easy to obtain and popular among juveniles; nearly 60% of Calvert county 12th graders used alcohol in the past month. The majority (85%) of all adult and juvenile treatment admissions mentioned alcohol as a substance of abuse in FY 2002.

- **Marijuana** continues to be popular among youths. It is the substance most frequently cited as a problem by juveniles entering treatment (86%) and one Drug Scan contact describes it as "the number one illegal drug problem" in the county (p. 3). OPUS juveniles reported that marijuana is often laced with other drugs such as heroin, LSD, PCP, and cocaine.

- A perceived increase in the use of **oxycodone** was reported by Drug Scan professionals as well as OPUS juveniles. One Drug Scan contact described it as "the Valium of the new millennium" (p. 2). OPUS youths reported that pills are obtained "through friends, 'doctor shopping,' or even by printing prescriptions with a computer" (p. 1).

- Approximately one-fourth of Calvert county high school seniors reported having tried **LSD** at least once and 9% of seniors reported using the drug in the past month in 2001, compared to 4% of all Maryland seniors and 2% of 12th graders nationwide.

A copy of the Calvert County *DEWS County Snapshot*, as well as other *DEWS County Snapshot* reports and county drug data, is available online (www.dewsonline.org) or by calling CESAR at 301-403-8329.