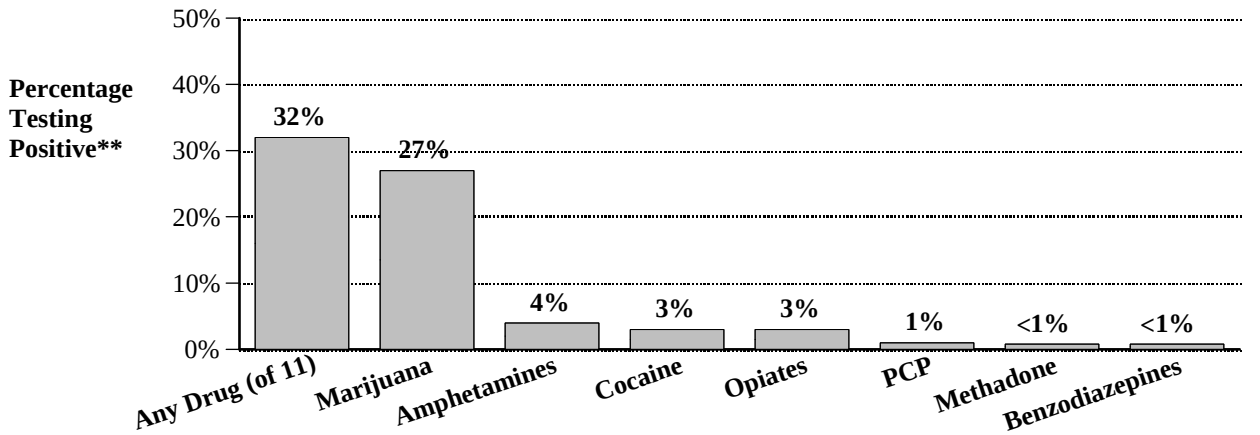
DEWS Drug Early Warning System
Working Together to Identify & Respond to Emerging Drug Trends in Maryland
Volume 6, Issue 5
October 2004

2004 Juvenile OPUS Report Now Available:
Nearly One-Third of Detained Youths Test Positive for at Least One Drug

As part of the Offender Population Urine Screening (OPUS) program, 197 youths newly admitted to five Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) detention facilities* between February and May 2004 were tested by urinalysis for illicit drug use. Overall, nearly one-third (32%) of youths tested positive for at least one illicit drug, primarily marijuana. Amphetamines were detected in 4% of juveniles, although none of the amphetamine-positive urines tested positive for methamphetamine or ecstasy. Three percent or less of youths tested positive for cocaine, opiates, PCP, methadone, or benzodiazepines. A copy of the full report, *Juvenile Offender Population Urinalysis Screening Program (OPUS) Detention Study, February-May 2004*, is available online at http://www.dewsonline.org/dews/opus/spring2004.pdf.

Percentage of Youths Newly Admitted to DJS Detention Facilities*
Testing Positive by Urinalysis, By Drug, February to May 2004



*The five detention facilities participating were Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center, Charles H. Hickey Fr. School, Cheltenham Youth Facility, J. DeWeese Carter Youth Facility, and Thomas J. Waxter Children's Facility.

**Percent positive for each drug, except amphetamines, is based on 196 specimens because one specimen was excluded due to an insufficient quantity of urine for testing. Percent positive for amphetamines is based on 193 specimens because three unconfirmed amphetamine-positive specimens.

NOTE: OPUS drug use patterns may not be typical of those of the general youth population in Maryland. However, prior research indicates that juvenile offender urinalysis results may provide advance warning of drug epidemics in the general population.

SOURCE: Maryland Drug Early Warning System (DEWS), Offender Population Urinalysis Screening (OPUS), Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR). For more information, contact Dr. Eric D. Wish at ewish@cesar.umd.edu.

This project was supported by BYRN 2004-1206, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice through the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the program offices and bureaus. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of USDOJ.