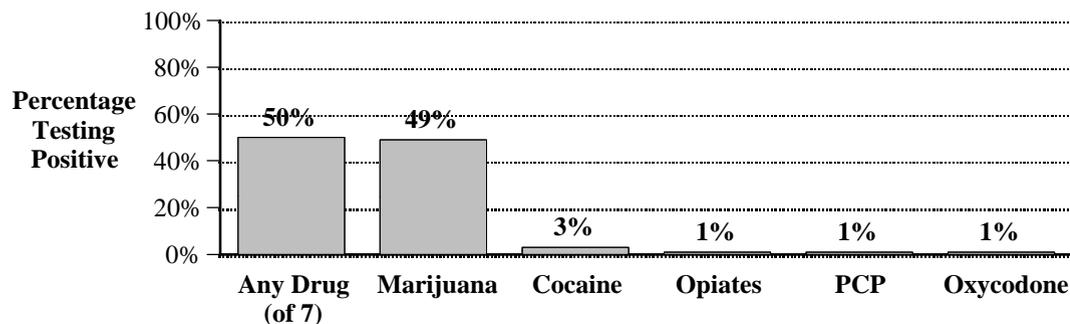


2005 Juvenile OPUS Report Now Available: *Marijuana Is Drug Detected Most Often Among Detained Youth*

As part of the Offender Population Urine Screening (OPUS) program, 363 youths newly admitted to 8 Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) detention facilities* between February and June 2005 were tested by urinalysis for illicit drug use. Overall, one-half of youths tested positive for at least one illicit drug, primarily marijuana (49%). Cocaine was detected in 3% of all juveniles tested while opiates and PCP were detected in 1%. For the first time since the inception of OPUS, youths were tested for oxycodone—1% tested positive for this drug. Less than 1% of youths tested positive for MDMA/MDA and no youths tested positive for amphetamines, including methamphetamine (data not shown). Three-quarters of youths detained for a drug-related offense tested positive for at least one drug, compared to 51% of those detained for a property offense and 36% of those detained for a personal offense (data not shown).** A copy of the full report, *Juvenile Offender Population Urinalysis Screening Program (OPUS) Detention Study, February-June 2005*, is available online at <http://www.cesar.umd.edu>.

**Percentage of Youths Newly Admitted to DJS Detention Facilities*
Testing Positive by Urinalysis, February to May 2005**
(N=363)



*The eight detention facilities participating were Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center, Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center, Charles H. Hickey Jr. School, Cheltenham Youth Facility, J. DeWeese Carter Youth Facility, Lower Eastern Shore Children's Center, Thomas J. Waxter Children's Facility, and Western Maryland Children's Center.

**Drug-related offenses include drug, tobacco, and alcohol possession and sale, DUI/DWI, drug manufacturing, drug paraphernalia, and under the influence. Property offenses include arson, burglary, breaking and entering, larceny/theft, stolen property, stolen vehicle, fraud, and threat to property. Personal offenses include murder, assault, robbery, domestic assault, sexual assault/rape, sex offenses, kidnapping, threat to person, and reckless endangerment.

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.