

Maryland Drug Early Warning System Ending; DEWS Publications Available on CESAR's Website

The Maryland Drug Early Warning System (DEWS) began in 1998 at the request of the Governor's office. DEWS was designed to provide the State with advance warning of emerging drug problems. For example, in 2000, the DEWS program detected emerging ecstasy use by youths in Maryland and enabled policymakers to draft effective responses. To head off the problem, Maryland launched a comprehensive ecstasy action plan, including the first state-produced ecstasy public service announcement. CESAR staff also used DEWS information to work with state agencies to win millions of dollars in research grants. DEWS funding from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) ended on June 30, 2006. This is the final issue of the *DEWS Fax*. The faxes and reports from other DEWS projects (described below) will remain available on the CESAR website (www.cesar.umd.edu).

- **Substance Abuse Indicators project (1998 to 2006):** Uses public health, criminal justice, education, and survey data from state and federal agencies to monitor changes in state and county drug trends and identify new and emerging drugs in Maryland. Data available statewide and by county at http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/drugs_md.asp.
- **DEWS Investigates (2004 to 2006):** In-depth, data-driven analysis of current substance abuse trends, such as oxycodone and other opiate abuse and methadone-related deaths in Maryland. Copies are available in a searchable archive at <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/pubs/pubs.asp>.
- **DEWS Fax (1998 to 2006):** One-page publication highlighting current DEWS findings. Available in a searchable archive at <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/dewsfax.asp>.
- **Juvenile Offender Population Urinalysis Screening (OPUS) (1998 to 2005):** A project that monitored drug use among Maryland's juvenile offenders through voluntary and anonymous interviewing and drug testing at Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) intake and detention facilities. Reports available online at <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/pubs/pubs.asp>.
- **Student Drug Research Survey (SDR) (2005 to 2006):** Regular surveys of undergraduate college students that ask about their perceptions of drug availability and use by their peers. Online at <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/pubs/pubs.asp>.
- **Drug Scan (1998 to 2001):** Annual interviews with Maryland drug abuse professionals working in such areas as education, treatment, prevention, criminal justice, and emergency medicine about emerging drug trends in the populations with which they work. Reports available online at <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/pubs/pubs.asp>.

DEWS staff want to thank you, our readers and state and local partners, for your support and willingness to share your data and expertise. We look forward to finding new ways to collaborate in the future. For more information or to discuss potential collaborative projects, please contact CESAR at cesar@cesar.umd.edu.