Current Cocaine-Positive Rates Among Male Arrestees Remain Dramatically Lower Than Historic Peaks

Cocaine use among arrestees has decreased significantly over the past decade, according to an analysis of data from the national Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program (formerly the Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program).* At their peak, cocaine-positive rates among arrestees ranged from 26% in Omaha to 74% in Philadelphia and New York. Currently, all but one of the 22 original DUF/ADAM sites are below their peak levels (Phoenix’s rate of cocaine positives has remained constant). Between 12% and 49% of arrestees at the original sites now test positive for cocaine. Cocaine use among arrestees has been waning since at least 1996 (see CESAR FAX, Volume 6, Issue 31).

Percentage of Adult Male Arrestees Testing Positive for Cocaine by DUF/ADAM Site, Peak Rates vs. Current Rates, 1987-2000*

*Only those ADAM sites that have been collecting data since at least 1990 were included in this analysis. The most current data for Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. are for 1999.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) and Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ).