

**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

**University of Maryland, College Park**

***Marijuana Most Commonly Detected Drug Among Male Arrestees  
Tested by ADAM II in Five U.S. Sites***

The Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring II (ADAM II) program monitors arrestee drug use through interviews and urinalysis from a sample of arrestees at booking facilities in five U.S. sites. Marijuana continues to be the most commonly detected drug among U.S. male arrestees; the percentage of arrestees testing positive for marijuana ranged from 37% to 58% across the five sites in 2012. While cocaine was the second most commonly detected drug in four of the five sites, cocaine positives have declined significantly among arrestees in all sites over the last ten years. Opiate positives (primarily for heroin) have increased since 2000 in Denver and Sacramento but declined significantly in New York and Chicago over the same period. While not nationally representative, this type of data is important because the arrestee population is often not well represented in other drug monitoring systems or surveys. In addition, ADAM II data highlight regional variations in drug use. For example, methamphetamine was the second most commonly detected drug in Sacramento with 40% testing positive, compared to 13% in Denver and less than one percent in the three other sites. Unfortunately, the ADAM II program is scheduled to end this year.

**Percentage of U.S. Adult Male Arrestees Testing Positive by Urinalysis for Illicit Drugs  
in Five ADAM II Sites, 2012**

(N=1,736 specimens)

| ADAM II Site | Any Drug*      | Marijuana      | Cocaine       | Opiates**     | Methamphetamine |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Atlanta      | 62%            | 37%            | <b>32%</b>    | 5%            | <1%             |
| Chicago      | <b>86%</b>     | <b>58%</b>     | 19%           | <b>15%</b>    | <1%             |
| Denver       | 72%            | 44%            | 28%           | 9%            | 13%             |
| New York     | 76%            | 52%            | 25%           | 10%           | 0%              |
| Sacramento   | 80%            | 54%            | 9%            | 8%            | <b>40%</b>      |
| <b>Range</b> | <b>62%-86%</b> | <b>37%-58%</b> | <b>9%-32%</b> | <b>5%-15%</b> | <b>0%-40%</b>   |

\*Urinalysis specimens are tested for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, barbiturates, PCP, amphetamine (including methamphetamine), methadone, oxycodone, propoxyphene, and benzodiazepines.

\*\*According to the authors, “little of the opiate positive numbers among ADAM II arrestees appears to be directly attributable to a rise in the use of prescription opiates tested for in ADAM II” (p. xvi). The percentage of arrestees testing positive for oxycodone has not increased significantly at any site since oxycodone was added to the test profile in 2007 (between 0% and 1.9% tested positive in 2012).

NOTE: Data are from 1,736 urine specimens collected from a probability-based sample of adult male booked arrestees within 48 hours of their arrests over 21 consecutive days between April 1 and July 15, 2012. The weighted samples represent 14,155 persons arrested and booked in the five ADAM counties during the data collection period.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Office of National Drug Control Policy, *ADAM II 2012 Annual Report*, 2013. Available online at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/ondcp/policy-and-research/adam\\_ii\\_2012\\_annual\\_rpt\\_final\\_final.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/ondcp/policy-and-research/adam_ii_2012_annual_rpt_final_final.pdf)