

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.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Office of National Drug Control Policy, ADAM II 2012 Annual Report, 2013.