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2008 ADAM II REPORT

Overview

The Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM II) program is a data collection program sponsored by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and conducted under contract by Abt Associates Inc. It is designed to gather information on drug use and related issues from adult male booked arrestees in 10 counties across the country. At this time, ADAM II is the only Federal drug survey that collects a biological specimen as an objective measure of drug use in addition to interview data.

ADAM II, under ONDCP's auspices, is a continuation of the ADAM research program funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) from 2000-2003. In 2003, NIJ terminated the ADAM program, primarily due to reduced appropriations for discretionary research programs. Until then, ADAM had been the primary source of drug data on a segment of the U.S. population involved with the criminal justice system. Data on drug use, drug markets, treatment utilization, and criminal offenses were collected among booked arrestees in jails within 48 hours of their booking in 35 locations around the country. In 2006, ONDCP revived the program to assess whether the use of methamphetamine among the criminal-justice-involved population had spread to the eastern portion of the United States. The 2007 ADAM II annual report is the first in the new series, and 2008 is the second and most recent report.

Due to budget constraints, ADAM II was implemented in fewer sites than ADAM. Ten prior ADAM sites were selected, mostly in the eastern United States. The sites included the following counties and cities: Fulton County and City of Atlanta; Mecklenburg County (Charlotte, NC); Cook County (Chicago, IL); Denver County (Denver, CO); Marion County (Indianapolis, IN); Hennepin County (Minneapolis, MN); Borough of Manhattan (New York, NY); Multnomah County (Portland, OR); Sacramento County (Sacramento, CA); and Washington, DC (District of Columbia). In order for the ADAM II data to be comparable with those from the earlier ADAM, the same methodology was applied to collecting the new data.

ADAM II data come from two sources: a 20-25 minute face-to-face interview and urinalysis of a test sample for the presence of ten different drugs. The interview covers basic demographics, drug use history, current use, recent participation in buying and selling drugs, lifetime drug treatment and mental health treatment, and, for those with any illegal drug use in the prior 12 months detailed information on arrests, treatment, housing, and drug and alcohol use for the last year. Participation in both the interview and urine test is voluntary and confidential.

In 2008, 4,592 interviews were conducted with booked arrestees from all 10 sites. Of these interview respondents, 3,924 provided a urine specimen. Data were collected over two quarters in 2008 and then statistically annualized to represent the entire year.



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Drug-Related Findings

- Drug use among the arrestee population is much higher than in the general U.S. population. The majority of booked arrestees in each site tested positive for at least one illicit drug; from 49 percent (Washington DC) to 87 percent (Chicago) at the time of arrest. These levels of use are statistically unchanged from 2007, except for three sites – Atlanta, Portland, and Washington, DC – that have statistically significant decreases in 2008.
- Many arrestees test positive for more than one substance: 15 percent (Atlanta) to 40 percent (Chicago) of arrestees test positive for multiple substances.
- The most common substances present, in descending order, are marijuana, cocaine, opiates and methamphetamine. There is, however, regional variation in some sites for methamphetamine, which is more common in the two Western sites.

Marijuana

- Marijuana is the most commonly detected drug in urine in all sites except Atlanta. The percentage of arrestees testing positive for marijuana range from just under a third of arrestees in Atlanta and Washington, DC to about half in Charlotte—these rates are statistically unchanged from 2007.
- While there have been fluctuations in sites from year to year, these trends have also been remarkably stable since ADAM data collection began in 2000.
- Arrestees who are using marijuana use it frequently: in 7 of the sites, marijuana users used on average every other day in the prior 30 days.
- In half the sites the marijuana is as likely to be acquired indoors as in an open air or public setting. In Indianapolis, Charlotte and Portland the market appears to be less public.
- The proportion of arrestees who report a failed marijuana buy (they had the money but could not get the drug) did not change significantly across any site from 2007 to 2008. However, reported availability of marijuana differs across the 10 markets. In Denver only 25 percent of arrestees acquiring marijuana report a failed buy in the last month; while in New York, Atlanta, Indianapolis, and Washington DC over 40 percent report a failed buy. The most common reason cited across all sites is that the drug was not available from the source.

Cocaine – Crack and Powder

- Cocaine is the second most commonly detected substance among arrestees, except in Atlanta, where it is the most common. The proportion testing positive ranges from a low of 17 percent in Sacramento to 44 percent in Chicago.
- The prevalence of cocaine positives is stable in most of the ADAM II sites. There is a statistically significant decline in cocaine positive tests from 2007 to 2008 in Indianapolis and Washington, DC.
- Because urinalysis cannot differentiate cocaine as crack from powder form, ADAM II uses self-report information about each form of the drug to determine differences in use and market activity below.

Crack

- The proportion of arrestees who report that they used crack in the prior 30 days declined significantly in Portland and Charlotte from 2007 to 2008 and remained



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statistically unchanged in all other sites over the same period. Crack use is highest in Atlanta and Chicago (23%) and lowest in New York (7%).

- The average number of days using crack in the prior 30 days varies from 6 days (Washington DC) to 20 days (Atlanta).
- The crack cocaine market is the second most active drug market (behind marijuana) in all but three sites.
- Crack remains primarily a cash market. Across all sites, over 75 percent of arrestees who obtained crack in the prior 30 days did so via a cash transaction; in 5 of the 10 sites over 90 percent of these are cash transactions.
- Crack is often exchanged in an open air or more public market; in 9 of 10 sites at least 40 percent of crack purchases are made in outdoor settings and in 5 sites that proportion is even higher (over 60% outdoor sales).
- Arrestees describe a retail market with users making frequent small purchases. The number of crack purchases made in the prior 30 days ranges from 8 (Washington DC) to 18 (Atlanta).
- Crack availability has not changed significantly since 2007. In 7 of the 10 sites, 30-63 percent of arrestees who report trying to buy crack in the prior 30 days fail to do so, most commonly due to lack of availability. The exception is Portland where 23 percent of those who report a failed buy attribute it to police activity

Cocaine Powder

- Although the popularity of cocaine powder varies considerably by site, the use of cocaine powder reported by arrestees remains stable or declines in all 10 sites, with significant reductions in two sites (Indianapolis and Denver). It is reported most commonly as used in the prior 30 days in Charlotte and Denver (both 10%) and least commonly in Chicago and Indianapolis (both 3%).
 - Cocaine in powder form is often injected. Arrestees who report using cocaine powder in the prior 30 days are asked if they injected at the most recent use. In Atlanta 59 percent of cocaine users injected at last use, in New York 27 percent and in Portland 18 percent.
 - Availability as measured by failed attempts to buy varies considerably across the sites. The highest percentage of failed buys occurs in New York (63%) and the fewest in Sacramento (15%). Significantly more arrestees in New York in 2008 also attribute the failed buy to lack of available product than was true in 2007 (7% versus 42%). By contrast in Denver 65 percent of failed buys in 2007 were attributed to lack of product availability whereas in 2008 only 23 percent cite that reason.
 - The proportion of arrestees who report acquiring powder cocaine in the prior 30 days is either stable or decreasing in all sites in 2008; in four of the sites (Charlotte, Denver, Indianapolis, Portland) the declines are statistically significant.
- The drop in the number of arrestees testing positive for cocaine appears to be driven more by reductions in powder use than cocaine in crack form.



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Heroin

- Urine test positives for opiates ranged from 1 percent in Charlotte to 29 percent in Chicago. Chicago posted a significant increase in 2008 from 20 percent in 2007, whereas Portland had a significant decline from 12 percent in 2007 to 8 percent in 2008.
- Self-report data on recent use show a consistently high frequency of use among arrestees who use heroin. In 7 of the 10 sites arrestees who admit heroin use report that they use it 15 or more days out of month; in Chicago, heroin users are reporting almost daily use.
- Heroin is also the drug most commonly reported to be injected. Virtually all of those admitting heroin use in Charlotte report injection at the last use and over 60 percent of heroin users injected in 3 of the other 10 sites. In Chicago where 29 percent of arrestees test positive for opiates and 27 percent admit use in the prior year, only 25 percent report they injected it at last use.
- Heroin appears to be a more open-air market in these areas with over half or more of those reporting purchases in 5 of the 10 sites saying the last purchase was made outdoors.
- Heroin appears to be relatively more available in Chicago, Charlotte, Indianapolis, and Portland where roughly one-quarter or fewer of those who bought heroin reported a failed buy. By contrast, in New York 53 percent of those obtaining heroin report a failed buy and 46 percent of them attribute it to lack of available product.

Methamphetamine

- Methamphetamine remains primarily a regional phenomenon. The 2008 results continue to suggest that meth use remains low – less than 1 percent testing positive – in the eastern United States, with slightly higher rates in Indianapolis, Minneapolis, and Washington DC. However, in Sacramento and Portland 35 and 15 percent of arrestees respectively test positive.
- Washington, DC and Portland showed a significant decrease in positive tests from 2007 to 2008.
- The practice of injecting methamphetamine is most common in Portland (32% injected at last use), but less common elsewhere.
- Methamphetamine market participation is notable only in the two western sites. In Sacramento the proportion of arrestees involved in acquiring methamphetamine in the prior 30 days remains high (26%) unchanged from 2007, but in Portland reported acquisition is significantly lower (13%) than 2007 levels.
- There is a similar proportion of acquisitions made between cash and non-cash for methamphetamine in both sites. In both sites most transactions are made indoors or in non-public places, and the proportion of arrestees reporting failed buys remains stable at between 40 and 50 percent.

Other Drugs

- Arrestees are asked about other drugs (besides those discussed above) they have used and are tested for a panel of nine drugs. Phencyclidine (PCP) is detected in this population in 4 of the 10 sites but is rare— only in Chicago is PCP detected in more than 1 percent if arrestees. Oxycodone is detected in 7 of the 10 sites, and methadone is detected in 9 of 10 sites.



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Crime-Related Aspects

- Overall, the population of adult male arrestees studied in the 10 sites are not first-time arrestees. More than half of arrestees in all sites, and over 80 percent in eight of the sites, have at least one prior arrest.
- Of those reporting drug use in the past year, more than one in ten arrestees were arrested 2 or more times during the same period in eight sites.
- In five sites, about one in four had a violent crime among the charges on the current booking. Four more sites had 15 to 20 percent of their arrestees with a violent crime charge.
- In all sites, a minimum of one in five arrestees had a drug crime among the charges on the current arrest, with larger percentages in Sacramento and Washington, DC (37% and 43%, respectively), and Chicago with the highest percentage with a drug charge (60%).

Policy Research Applications

- ADAM II offers a unique advantage over many traditional surveys of drug use through its collection and testing of a urine sample from respondents to verify answers about recent drug use. Arrestees are asked about their prior 12-month and prior 30-, 7- and 3- day use of marijuana, cocaine, crack, heroin, methamphetamine and other drugs they may specify. The following findings underscore the value of the urine test confirmation of self-reported data for accurate estimation of use:
 - There is a high degree of agreement between self-reported recent drug use and urine test results for each drug when all arrestees, both users and non-users, are examined. Over 80 percent of all arrestees report truthfully regarding recent use of marijuana and cocaine, over 95 percent responded truthfully about heroin and for methamphetamine.
 - When only those arrestees who are actually using illegal drugs, based on testing positive, are examined, veracity varies by drug. Cocaine (45% match) and heroin (48%) users are less likely to admit recent use than methamphetamine (55%) and marijuana users (82%).
- ADAM II provides invaluable information on illicit drug markets through questions relating to drug market conditions for each major drug. ONDCP relies upon these data for tracking emerging drug problems and as input to other research projects, including estimation of the number of heavy drug users and the amount of drugs they consumed as part of the *What America's Users Spend on Illicit Drugs* study series. None of this information had been updated since the program was shut down in 2003 until ADAM II.

Caveat: Although ADAM II findings are limited to 10 locations across the country, the findings for 2008 compared to 2007 and earlier ADAM results are informative in understanding drug use patterns in a high-risk population involved with the criminal justice system.