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Cocaine Positive Rates Among D.C. Adult Arrestees Return to Levels Last Seen in Late 1990s

Cocaine continues to be the drug that adult arrestees in the District of Columbia test positive for most often, and positive rates have been gradually increasing in recent years. According to data from the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency, the percentage of arrestees testing positive for cocaine has returned to levels last seen in the late 1990s, increasing from a recent low of 34% in 2000 to 40% in 2006. Despite these slight increases, cocaine-positive rates remain far below the peak of 64% reached in 1988. After a period of decline from 2002 to 2004, PCP-positive rates increased slightly from 6% in 2004 to 9% in 2006. The percentage of adult arrestees testing positive for opiates has remained relatively constant at around 10% since 1990. These data, as well as those for juvenile arrestees, are available online at the D.C. Pretrial Services website (<http://www.dcpsa.gov/foia/foiaERRpsa.htm>).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency. For more information, contact Jerome Robinson, Director of Forensic Research at the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency at jerome.robinson@csosa.gov.