



Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program in Cook County

### The Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Study (ADAM) in Cook County Fourth Quarter 1998 Results

This is the second in a series of quarterly reports jointly produced by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) and Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC). The intent of these reports is to inform individuals working in the criminal justice, policy, and drug-treatment fields as to the latest ADAM results in Cook County and, on occasion, report on significant national and international trends and issues based on ADAM data. This report presents fourth quarter findings for arrestees tested at the Chicago and Markham bond courts and examines trends in heroin use between 1990 and 1998 among Chicago arrestees.

#### Chicago Results

Fourth Quarter urinalysis results for 273 adult males and 39 adult female arrestees from Chicago are shown in Figure 1. The principal findings are:

- Overall drug use among Chicago arrestees remains significant with 72% of the men and 79% of the women testing positive for any drug use.

- The rate of cocaine use among Chicago male arrestees dropped almost 10% from the previous quarter (August 1998). If this drop is sustained across several quarters, it would represent a significant decline in cocaine use. Female arrestees, however, continued to test positive for cocaine use at a high rate, 64%.

- The rate of opiate use (primarily heroin) for both men and women

was just over 20%, fairly consistent with test results from recent quarters.

- Amphetamine and methamphetamine use remains non-existent among Chicago arrestees.

#### Suburban Cook Results—Markham

Figure 2 presents the results for 82 adult male and 14 female arrestees tested at the Markham bond court.

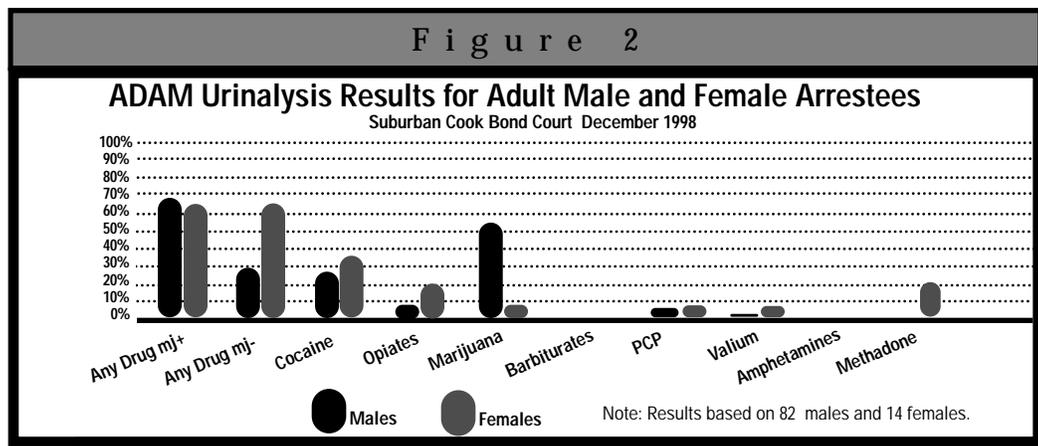
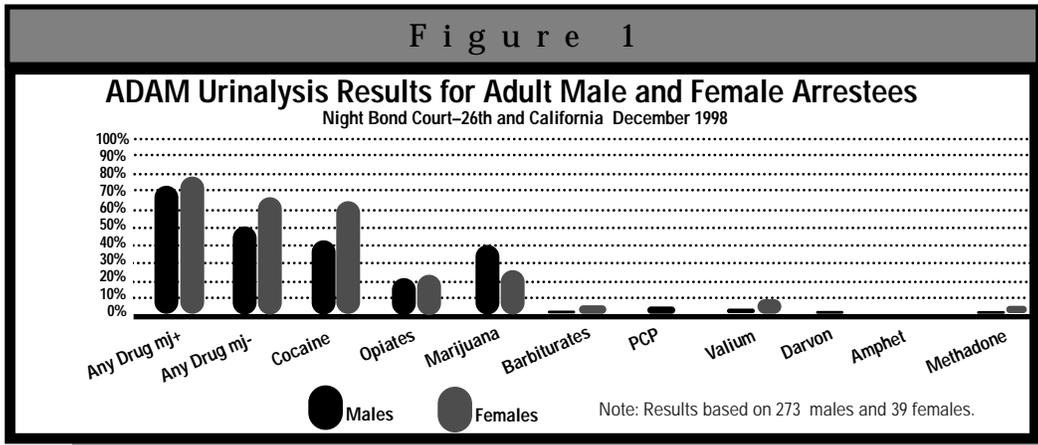
This publication is the second in a series of quarterly reports that are jointly produced by the **Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC)**, which has collected Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) / Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) data since the inception of the project in 1987. Written by Dr. James Swartz of TASC, the intent of these briefs is to inform individuals working in the criminal justice, policy, and drug treatment fields as to the latest ADAM results in Chicago and, on occasion, report on significant national trends.

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is a state agency dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice in Illinois. The basic functions of the Authority are criminal justice research, federal and state grants administration and information systems development and support.

TASC is a not-for-profit Illinois agency that specializes in social service delivery and technology. TASC provides direct services, designs model programs and builds collaborative networks between public organizations and community-based human service providers. TASC also conducts research, provides training, and offers management and professional consultation for social service providers and systems.

For more information, or for copies of this or other publications, contact the Authority at (312) 793-8550.

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There has been a lot of media attention devoted to a resurgence in heroin use over the past 5 years. Accounts from news media and official sources have documented an increase in the availability of heroin over that time period. The reports have been especially alarming because the heroin being distributed today is much purer than heroin distributed in the 1970s, the previous last heroin epidemic in the United States. The increased purity and relatively low price of the heroin being currently marketed means that many users do not have to inject the drug to attain a satisfactory high. This is significant because it is commonly held that the necessity of injecting heroin in the past has prevented

The results for the female arrestees should be interpreted cautiously because of the small number sampled. Principal findings for Markham are:

- About two-thirds of the arrestees (67% of the men and 64% of the women) tested at Markham had been using at least one illegal drug near the time of arrest. This is an overall rate of illegal drug use about 10% below the rate for Chicago adult arrestees.

- The data suggest the pattern of drug use in suburban Cook is different from the pattern in Chicago. Compared to their Chicago counterparts, suburban male arrestees at Markham tend to use cocaine

and opiates much less and marijuana more. Female arrestees in Markham use cocaine less but have a comparable rate of opiate use to the Chicago female arrestees. Suburban arrestees are also more likely to test positive for PCP.

- There is no indication of amphetamine or methamphetamine use among suburban Cook County arrestees.

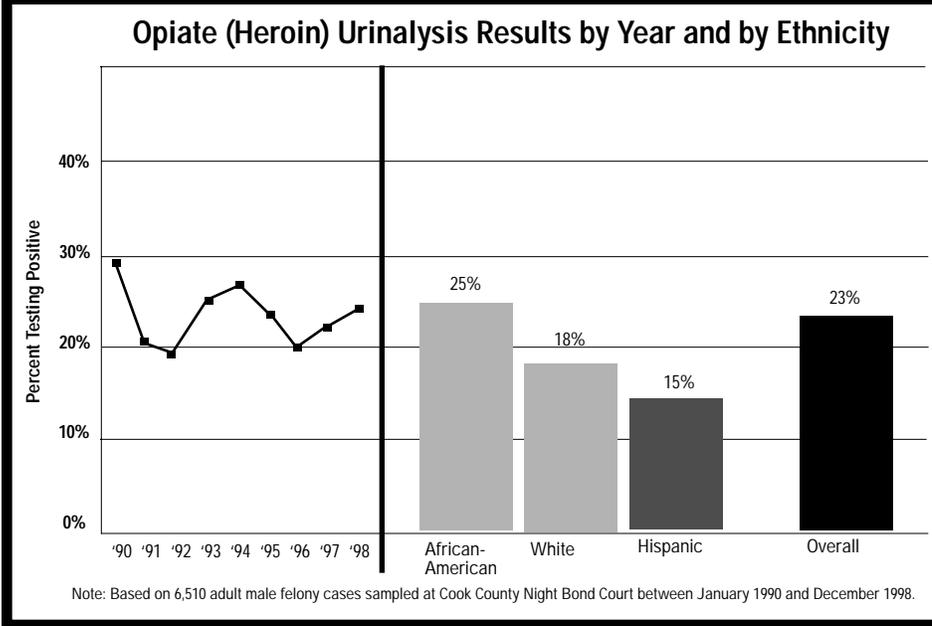
ed many people from ever trying it. With purer heroin, it is feared that many more people will try the drug and subsequently become addicted and ultimately end up as injection users.

According to national ADAM data collected since 1990, Chicago arrestees have consistently had one of the highest rates of heroin

### **Opiate Use in Chicago**

*“While African-American male felony arrestees have the highest rates of heroin use in Chicago, the high rates of use have been found primarily among older African-American arrestees. Rates of opiate use among younger African-American male felony arrestees in Chicago have been consistently dropping since 1994. Younger white male felony arrestees, however, have had recent increases in use over the past two years.”*

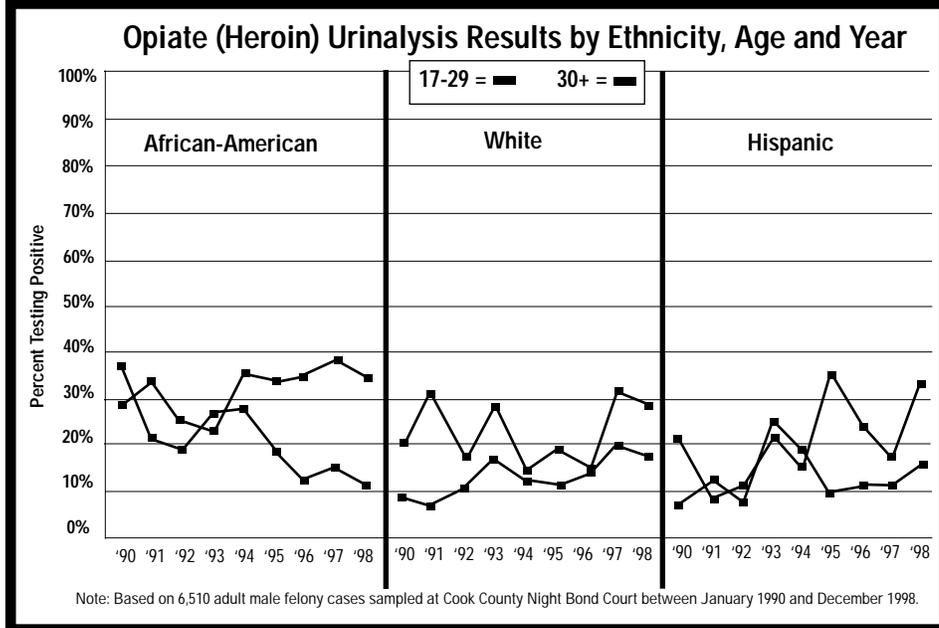
Figure 3



rates of use.

ADAM data reveal a number of interesting patterns with respect to heroin use among adult male felony arrestees in Chicago. Figure 3 shows the rates of positive opiate test results (heroin can not be distinguished from other opiates such as morphine or codeine with the ADAM urinalysis procedures) by collection year and ethnic group. ADAM trend data indicate that the percent testing positive for opiate use has fluctuated between 20% and 30% over the past 9 years. Peaks in opiate use occurred in 1990 and again in 1994. In 1998, heroin use among felony arrestees in Chicago approached 25% (the figure of 18.3% quoted in the annual report includes misdemeanants who test positive at a lower rate).

Figure 4



use in the country. In the 1998 annual report just released by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Chicago arrestees had the second highest rate of opiate use (18.3%) for the year, behind only Philadelphia (18.4%), among the 35 American cities participating in

the ADAM study. Chicago is a major transshipment point for heroin coming in from Asia through US coastal cities and from the growing export markets in South America and Mexico. The ready availability of heroin in Chicago certainly contributes to the high

While the average rate of positive opiate tests between 1990 and 1998 has been 23%, there is some variation by ethnic group (Figure 3). African-Americans have had the highest rates of opiate use (25%) on average, followed by whites (18%) and Hispanics (15%). Figure 4, which shows the results of comparing young (17-29 years old) and older arrestees (30 years of age and older) within each ethnic group and reveals additional variation, particularly among African-Americans. Although African-Americans have the highest rate of opiate use, it is primarily attributable to opiate use by older African-American arrestees. Since 1994, the rate of opiate use by younger African-American arrestees has dropped dramatically from about 26% to 11% while

the rate of use for older African-American arrestees has remained at about 34-35% over that same time period. In contrast, older white arrestees in Chicago have had slowly decreasing rates of use while younger white male felony arrestees have had large increases over the past two years (tempered some by the relatively low numbers of white arrestees in the Chicago ADAM sample.) Among Hispanics, despite a recent increase among younger arrestees, heroin use over the past year was much higher for older arrestees.

Finally, regardless of ethnic group, age, or study year, the Chicago ADAM results have consistently

indicated that 75% of all arrestees testing positive for opiates also test positive for cocaine. Only a minority of opiate users test positive for opiates alone and not cocaine. The same pattern holds true nationally. The 1998 NIJ annual report on opiate use among arrestees indicates that about 69% of arrestees testing positive for opiates also test positive for cocaine. These results indicate that, among arrestees at least, most heroin users also use cocaine; possibly because heroin moderates the effects of cocaine or because cocaine augments the effects of heroin.

## Further Information

Additional information about ADAM and national and international ADAM findings can be obtained from a number of sources. The national ADAM website is at <http://www.adam-nij.net/adam/index.htm>. Past copies of the ADAM quarterly reports for Cook County can be viewed or downloaded online at either the ICJIA website at: <http://www.icjia.state.il.us> or the TASC research department website at <http://www.tasc-il.ORG/Preview/ris.html>, which also includes more detailed descriptions of the study protocol, trend information, and other analyses based on ADAM data. Raw data for research purposes may be obtained, with permission from NIJ, from the Inter-university Consortium for Psychological and Sociological Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan by calling 800-999-0960 or accessing their web site at

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/index.html>

Specific questions pertaining to the Cook County ADAM study can be e-mailed to Dr. James Swartz at:

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Dr. Swartz encourages inquiries from other investigators interested in using ADAM as a research platform for investigating issues related to drug use among arrestees.

### ADAM Cook County

Beginning August 1998, Cook County began collecting data on arrestees under a revised collection system implemented nationally by the National Institute of Justice and called ADAM. Like its predecessor DUF, the ADAM study calls for the collection of self-reported information on drug use and urine samples from recent arrestees. The urine samples are tested for the presence of 10 drugs: marijuana, cocaine, opiates (i.e., heroin, morphine, and other opiate derivatives), PCP, amphetamines, barbiturates, methadone, Darvon, Valium, and methaqualone. By the end of 1999, ADAM data will be collected from a total of approximately 1,000 randomly sampled adult male and female arrestees at the bond court at 26th and California, at the five suburban Cook County bond courts (Bridgeview, Markham, Maywood, Rolling Meadows, and Skokie) and in Dupage County.

ADAM is implemented and supported by the National Institute of Justice. Points of view contained in this report do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or ICJIA.