



The Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) Study in Chicago

This report is the first in a quarterly series of publications that are produced by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) and Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC). TASC has collected DUF (Drug Use Forecasting)/ADAM data since the inception of the project in 1987. 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 Chicago and, on occasion, report on significant national trends and issues. Quarterly results, trend data, and information on special project findings related to the ADAM study in Chicago will be reported each collection quarter. In this first report, we provide a description of the changes in scope and data collection procedures between the DUF study and ADAM study, and present findings from the third quarter of 1998 when these changes were first implemented in Chicago.

ADAM: An Expanded Monitoring System for Arrestees

Beginning August 1998, Chicago began collecting data on arrestees under a revised collection system implemented nationally by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and titled ADAM. Like its predecessor DUF, the ADAM study calls

for the collection of self-reported information and urine samples from recent arrestees. As with DUF, the urine samples are tested for the presence of 10 drugs: marijuana, cocaine, opiates (i.e., heroin, morphine, and other opiate derivatives), PCP, amphetamines, barbit

urates, methadone, Darvon, Valium, and methaqualone.

Despite these similarities, the transition from DUF to ADAM brings with it a number of important changes aside from the different acronyms. DUF was implemented

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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.

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in 23 United States cities, where data on approximately 225 adult male arrestees were collected each quarter. At 21 of these sites, not including Chicago, data were also collected on adult females.

Only 11 sites collected DUF data on juveniles. ADAM will greatly expand the number of data collection sites nationally as well as introduce arrestee monitoring in several international locations. The current plans for ADAM include collection of data at 75 sites by the year 2001. Presently, ADAM data are collected at 35 sites. ADAM data will also be collected in Australia, Chile, and Scotland making it one of the few studies to collect international drug use data on a specific population using standardized protocols. A number of other important changes in ADAM directly affect how arrestees are sampled at each site. The goal of these changes is to insure that ADAM data are based on more representative samples of arrestees than was the case with DUF.

In Chicago, because there is no central booking facility for arrestees per se, bookings are handled at the 25 police district offices. DUF data were collected each quarter from arrestees waiting for a bond hearing at the Night Bond Court. The Night Bond Court was the only logistically feasible site where a sample of arrestees approximating the population of arrestees from across the whole city could be obtained. Despite the relatively good representation of the Chicago arrestee population, the DUF samples were

not randomly selected and several procedural rules restricted the number of misdemeanor arrestees and arrestees charged with drug-related offenses in the sample. The Chicago DUF protocol restricted collection of data to this single site within Cook County, leaving arrestees in suburban Cook unsampled. ADAM removes all of these sampling restrictions.

When fully implemented in Chicago and Cook County, ADAM data will be collected at the Night Bond Court as it was under DUF, but from a larger sample of arrestees that will be comprised of approximately 375 adult males and 125 adult females each quarter. ADAM data from approximately 75 adult males and 25 adult females will also be collected quarterly at the five suburban Cook bond courts in Bridgeview, Markham, Maywood, Rolling Meadows, and Skokie. Finally, ADAM data will also be collected in DuPage County as part of the Chicago-area information reported back to NIJ. Because of the logistics of implementing such large changes, the suburban sites are being phased in over the next year. When the data for this report were collected in August 1998, only Markham had been added as a data collection point and the number of Chicago cases had not been expanded to 500. Presently (first quarter 1999), the Chicago ADAM program includes Markham, Bridgeview, and DuPage County. We expect to have regular data collection at all the remaining sites by the end of 1999.

In addition to expanding the number of sites and subjects in Chicago, the ADAM protocol also requires the implementation of a more formal sampling procedure. Under ADAM there are no restrictions on the number of misdemeanants that can be included in a sample. This change has already had an impact on Chicago's quarterly results, an issue we discuss more fully below. ADAM also enforces more standardized data collection procedures to better insure inter-site comparability of data and a random sampling plan to increase the representativeness of the sample. In spite of these changes, the ADAM sample is still not representative of all Chicago arrestees. This is because the majority of misdemeanants bond out at the police district offices and hence are never available to participate in ADAM. Their levels of drug use may likely be different from the levels seen in offenders sampled for ADAM. Similarly, there may be differences between arrestees attending Day Bond Court hearings and those attending Night Bond Court that could further bias the Chicago ADAM sample. We continue to work closely with representatives from NIJ, who administer ADAM and are primarily responsible for issues relating to the scientific integrity of the data, and Abt Associates, NIJ's subcontractor for local coordinating councils, to improve sampling plans in Chicago.

Third Quarter Chicago ADAM Results

Even with the above noted limitations, DUF has been a rich source

of information on drug use among arrestees in Chicago. Over the 11 years of operation, DUF data documented high rates of cocaine use, the rise of heroin (opiate) use in 1992-1993, the rise in marijuana use in 1994-1995, and the failure of amphetamine use to spread to the Chicago area from western and other midwestern states. We expect ADAM to continue to provide valuable information on drug use among Chicago arrestees as well as providing new information on arrestees in suburban Cook and DuPage counties.

Because of the addition of suburban samples to the ADAM study in Chicago, we present the data for the third quarter 1998 in two separate figures: one for adult male and female arrestees in Chicago

(Figure 1) and the second for adult male and female arrestees in Markham (Figure 2). The Markham ADAM data should be interpreted with some caution, however, given the small sample sizes. A year's worth of data from each suburban site will be needed before the estimates are reasonably accurate.

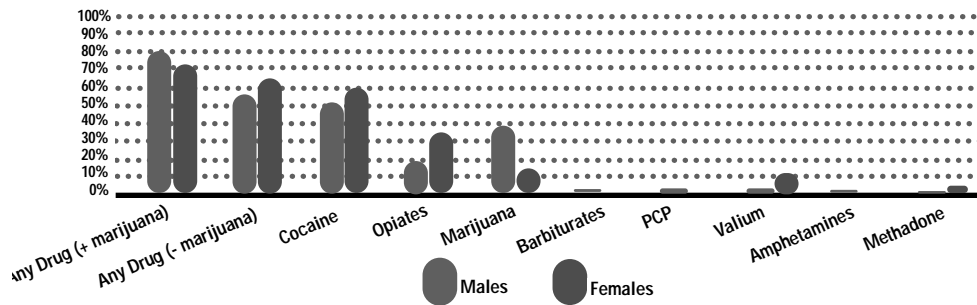
Figure 1 shows that drug use among arrestees in Chicago continues to be very elevated, with 79% of all male arrestees and 74% of all female arrestees testing positive for any drug including marijuana. As has been the pattern in several other large epidemiological studies carried out with criminal offender populations in Illinois, female offenders tend to use cocaine and opiates at higher rates

than men while men show a much stronger preference for marijuana compared to women. The rates of most other drugs tested remain negligible, including amphetamines, with the exception that 11% of the female offenders tested positive for Valium.

The data for Markham show a relatively similar pattern of elevated drug use among arrestees and roughly the same differences between men and women, albeit at lower levels of use than with Chicago arrestees. Overall, 67% of male arrestees in Markham tested positive for any drug including marijuana compared to 50% of female arrestees. Again, more women than men tested positive for cocaine and opiates with men favoring marijuana. None of the arrestees in Markham tested positive for any other drug.

Figure 1

Chicago Arrestees-August 1998

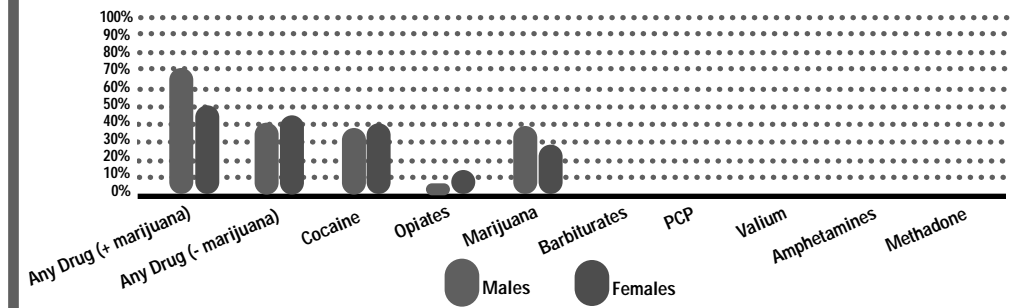


Sampling Effects on ADAM-DUF Trends

As mentioned, changes in the DUF-ADAM protocol, especially the inclusion of a larger proportion of misdemeanants in the sample, could affect the analyses of trend data. Since 1996, the proportion of misdemeanants in the Chicago DUF-ADAM sample has

Figure 2

Suburban Cook County Arrestees-August 1998



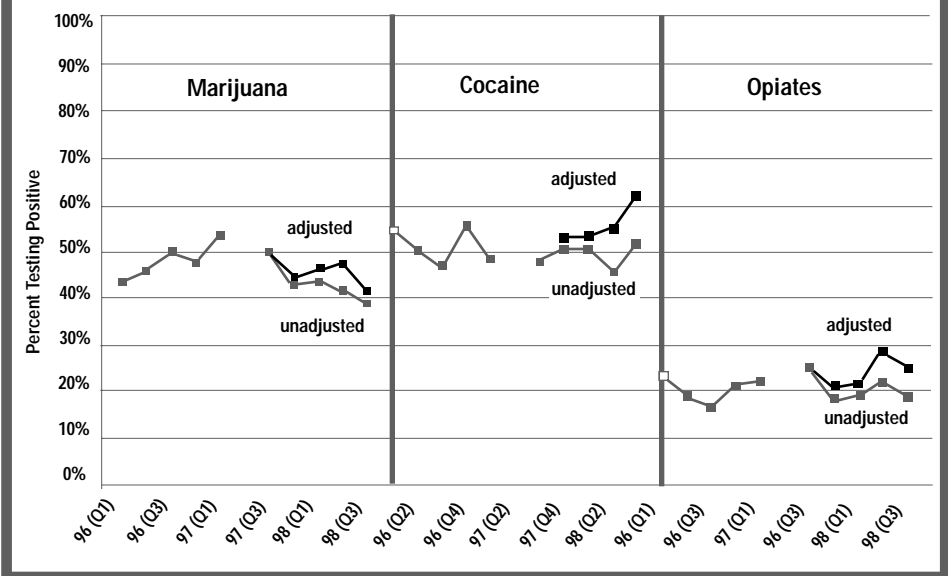
increased from 1.5% to 8.5% in 1997, to almost 50% in 1998. Since misdemeanants tend to have lower rates of drug use for cocaine and heroin, the impact of having more misdemeanants in the Chicago data could be to lower the estimated rates of drug use. From the perspective of a trend analysis, this could make it appear as if drug use were decreasing among arrestees when actually the change was simply due to a change in the composition of the sample. To determine whether this was the

equivalent to the proportions in the 1996 sample.

The results of this analysis for the three most commonly used drugs, marijuana, cocaine, and opiates, are shown in Figure 3. It can be seen that the change in sampling comparatively lowered the estimates for all 3 drugs, especially for cocaine and opiates. For example, for cocaine, the rate of use, adjusting for charge classification, is about 61% in the third quarter of 1998 compared to an unadjusted

Figure 3

Sampling Effects on Trends



case, we reanalyzed the DUF-ADAM data collected between 1996 and 1998 on adult males (the only group for whom data prior to 1998 were collected) adjusting the data to make the proportion of misdemeanants for 1997 and 1998 equivalent to the proportion in 1996. The 1997 and 1998 data were weighted so that when the analyses were run on the weighted data, the proportions of felons (98.5%) and misdemeanants (1.5%) were

estimate of 51%. Similarly, the rate of opiate use in the adjusted data (25%) is about 5 percentage points higher than in the unadjusted data. Because of the differences in the adjusted and unadjusted data, great caution must be used when interpreting trends in drug use over the next few years using Chicago ADAM data. Our intent will be to present both the adjusted and unadjusted information whenever conducting trend analyses.

Further Information

Additional information on the ADAM study can be obtained from a number of sources. On the Internet, Abt maintains an ADAM web page at <http://www.adam-nij.net/adam/index.htm> Raw data for research purposes may be obtained 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> Finally, local ADAM data may be obtained from Dr. James Swartz by sending an email inquiry to: jswartz@tasc-il.org or through accessing the web sites developed by ICJIA <http://www.icjia.state.il.us> or TASC <http://www.tasc-il.org>

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