



The Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Study (ADAM) in Cook and DuPage County Second and Third Quarter 1999 Results

This is the fourth 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 and DuPage counties and, on occasion, report on significant national and international trends and issues based on ADAM data. This report presents combined second and third quarter 1999 findings for arrestees tested at the Chicago, Markham, Bridgeview, and DuPage County bond courts and examines the relationship between drug use and illegal income. We are presenting the combined data from two quarters so that we may begin to present more timely ADAM results in these reports. Also, the two quarters yielded fairly similar patterns of results so that combining them did not result in the loss of much information.

Table 1 presents the urinalysis results for arrestees interviewed and tested in Cook and DuPage counties between May-June and September-October 1999. In total, 1,142 males and 238 females (1,380 cases) were interviewed and agreed to provide urine samples for testing. This represents 65% of all subjects approached for an interview with the recruitment rates slightly lower at the suburban sites and lower for women

than men across the sites.

Summary of second and third quarter findings

The overall pattern of result for these quarters suggest a fair degree of stability in drug use rates for Chicago, suburban Cook, and DuPage County arrestees. Chicago arrestees, both male and female have much higher rates of use for cocaine, opiates, and poly-drug use than their suburban

counterparts – approximately 20% to 30% higher. As in past reports, opiate use in particular, is much more common among male and female arrestees in Chicago compared to suburban arrestees. The exception to this pattern is that the rates of marijuana use are more comparable between Chicago and the suburban sites. As in past reports, the rates of use of drugs other than marijuana, cocaine, and opiates were relatively infrequent.

This publication is the fourth 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 the Chicago area 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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Cook and DuPage County ADAM Results-Second and Third Quarter 1999

Site	Chicago		Markham, Bridgeport		DuPage County	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
	(n=711)	(n=147)	(n=285)	(n=58)	(n=146)	(n=33)
% positive for:						
Marijuana	46%	27%	40%	25%	38%	15%
Cocaine	47	71	27	39	24	27
Opiates	29	36	8	11	9	9
PCP	4	5	2	2	1	0
Valium	1	4	*	2	2	0
Darvon	0	0	0	0	*	0
Methadone	3	6	*	2	2	0
Barbiturates	*	*	1	0	1	0
Amphetamines	0	*	1	6	*	0
Methaqualone	0	0	0	0	0	0
Any drug positive	82	84	54	67	56	39
Any drug positive other than marijuana	56	78	31	40	30	31
Two or more drugs positive	38	48	16	19	19	11

* = < 1% positive

Amphetamine use remains low to non-existent with the exception of suburban Cook where 6% of the females tested positive. This is the highest rate of amphetamine use at any Chicago-area collection location since the collection of ADAM data, and bears watching over the next few quarters to determine if it is a meaningful trend.

Chicago Results

Drug use among Chicago arrestees remains at a very high level with over 80% of both men and women

testing positive for any drug.

- Cocaine use among men was at 47%, reflecting a continued slight downward trend in cocaine use over the last year. In previous years, Chicago male arrestees have tested positive for cocaine use at a rate between 50% to 60%. However, the rate of cocaine use among Chicago female arrestees shows no such moderating, and remains extremely high with a positive rate of 71%.

- The rate of opiate use (primarily heroin) for men was approximately 30%, reflecting a large increase

in heroin use from previous quarters when the rates have hovered at about 20%. The 30% range is close to the highest rate of heroin use for Chicago males since ADAM data have been collected in Chicago and is another trend that bears watching. Female arrestees also tested positive for opiates at a relatively high rate, 36%, suggesting a general increase in the availability and use of heroin by Chicago arrestees between May and September of 1999.

- Marijuana use by men continues close to the highest recorded rates

at 46%, but was substantially lower for women. Only 27% of the women were found to be using marijuana near the time of their arrests. This pattern of Chicago males testing positive at much higher rates for marijuana than Chicago females is consistent with past findings (as is the reverse pattern of women testing positive for cocaine at higher rates than the men.)

- Amphetamine use remains almost non-existent among Chicago arrestees.
- About 40% of Chicago male and female arrestees tested positive for more than one drug.

Suburban Cook County

The use of most drugs by suburban arrestees, marijuana use excepted, remains substantially lower in suburban Cook than in Chicago, though the rate of use of any drug (31% of the males and 40% of the females) is still substantial.

- As in Chicago, suburban female arrestees had higher rates of cocaine use while males had the highest rates of marijuana use.
- Opiate use remains substantially lower for suburban male and female arrestees, about one-third as prevalent for both groups compared to the rates among Chicago arrestees.
- As discussed in the summary above, 6% of suburban Cook female arrestees tested positive for amphetamines, a notable increase from prior quarters.

DuPage County

Among the three DuPage County locations where ADAM data are being collected, the rates of illegal drug use among DuPage arrestees

was the lowest. Still, 56% of the male arrestees and 39% of the females in DuPage tested positive for any drug.

- Marijuana remains the most frequently used drug among DuPage County arrestees, and the pattern between males and females was the same as in Chicago and suburban Cook; males tested positive for marijuana at rates much higher than females.
- Cocaine use was at 24% for men, reflecting a significant increase from the first quarter in 1999, while women were at 27% positive, the same level of use as in previous quarters.
- The usage rates of any other drug, including opiates, was below 10% for these two quarters, relatively consistent with past results.

Illegal Drug Use and Income

It is generally recognized that the relationship between drugs and crime is complex and multifaceted. Drug use per se does not necessarily lead to crime nor is criminal involvement necessarily attributable to drug use. Many people who use illegal drugs do not commit crimes (other than possessing and using illegal drugs) while many criminals do not use illegal drugs. Thus, drug use is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for being criminally involved. However, among people who are criminally involved, drug use, especially heavy drug use, tends to be a crime intensifier. That is, when a person who is prone towards a criminal lifestyle uses illegal drugs and uses them at a high rate (i.e., they abuse or are dependent on drugs), the rate of

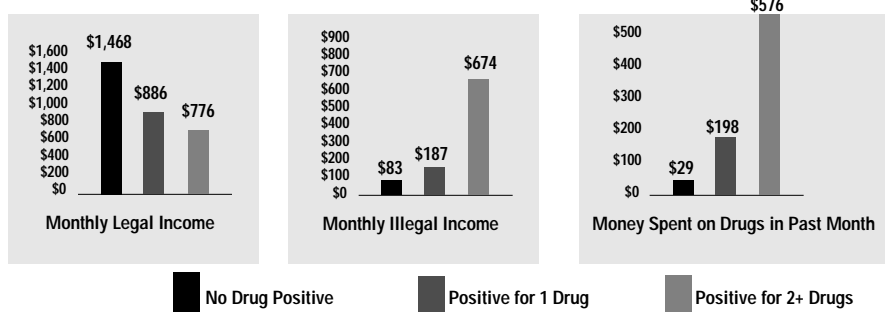
their criminal behavior increases significantly, in some cases exponentially.

There are several reasons for this. First, illegal drug use can inhibit an individual from maintaining steady employment. Individuals dependent on illegal drugs tend not to be able to hold down a job and hence must get income from other sources. Second, illegal drug use at high rates is very expensive, requiring a constant, significant, and immediate income stream. Lacking legal means of income, criminally prone individuals must substantially increase their rates of criminal activity in order to feed their addictions. One finding in the research literature supporting this view is that arrests of addicted criminals tend to occur when their illegal drug use, and consequently criminal activities, are at their highest levels. This is because committing multiple crimes that are often of an unplanned and impulsive nature greatly increases the chances of arrest. The high rates of crime and corresponding high arrest rates among such intensely drug-involved individuals are partially why the criminal justice system has come to be a repository for many of this country's most severe addicts.

To examine this relationship using the Chicago, suburban Cook, and DuPage County ADAM data, we looked at the levels of reported legal and illegal income by the number of drugs an individual tested positive for. Our hypothesis was that those individuals who tested positive for two or more drugs (i.e., those arrestees who

Figure 1

Monthly Income Levels and Money Spent on Drugs by Urinalysis Results



Source: Chicago, Suburban Cook and DuPage County ADAM data collected on 1,387 adult male and female arrestees, second and third quarter 1999.

were most drug-involved) would report the highest amount of illegal income and the lowest amount of legal income. Conversely, arrestees who did not test positive for any illegal drug use would have the highest self-reported amount of legal income and the lowest illegal income. Arrestees who tested positive for only one illegal drug were hypothesized to be intermediate on legal and illegal income.

The results of the analysis are presented in Figure 1 and strongly support these hypotheses. Those who tested positive for two or more illegal drugs reported an average illegal income of \$674 compared to only \$83 per month for those who did not test positive for drugs. Subjects who tested positive for two or more drugs also reported the largest amount of money spent on drugs per month (\$576) and the lowest amount of legal income (\$776). Subjects who did not test positive had the reverse pattern of results, report-

ing the highest monthly legal income (\$1,466) and the lowest amount of money spent on drugs per month (\$29). Subjects who tested positive for only one drug were intermediate on all three measures.

All of these results were statistically significant, suggesting that the differences among the three groups are reliable. Other tests comparing the gender and age of subjects did not find any significant differences, indicating that the level of drug use is a much more important factor in determining legal and illegal income levels and expenditures on drugs than age and gender. These results then, though limited somewhat by the validity of the ADAM self-report data (where we expect underreporting of illegal activities because the data are collected in a jail setting), provide fairly strong support for the economic link between heavy drug use and criminal involvement.

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: jswartz@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.

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