

# HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## News Release



Media Contact:  
Lisa Kiava  
(612) 919-5918

### Federal study: 70% of men test positive for drugs at booking in Hennepin County Jail

**January 27, 2011 (MINNEAPOLIS)** - 70.7% of all adult men booked into the Hennepin County jail tested positive for illegal drug use, according to a federal study conducted in 2010. This number has risen compared to 2009 when approximately 60% of arrestees tested positive for drug use prior to arrest.

According to the data, the most commonly detected drug at the time of arrest is marijuana, followed by cocaine, opiates, oxycodone, and methamphetamine. 52% of the total adult male inmate population in the jail tested positive for marijuana. The use of every illegal drug among arrestees increased from 2009.

Among arrestees entering the Hennepin County jail, more than 70% arrested for a violent crime tested positive for drug use.

The Hennepin County jail is one of ten sites nationwide where an annual federal study measures drug use among arrestees within 48 hours prior to their arrest. People who have been arrested have volunteered to be interviewed for the study and the information they provide is verified with drug testing. The Hennepin County jail books arrestees from all 36 law enforcement agencies in the county. The study, Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program (ADAM II), is conducted by Abt Associates for the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

If an arrestee tests positive for drugs such as cocaine, meth or heroin, it indicates the arrestee has used the drug within a few days prior to arrest because those drugs remain detectable in the body for 3-4 days. Marijuana can be detected in the body for about a month after use.

Drug use among the arrestee population is much higher than in the general population. The percentage of booked arrestees testing positive for at least one drug increased in all the county jails nationwide where the study is conducted.

Information about drug use trends among arrestees in the Hennepin County jail can be helpful for Sheriff’s Office personnel who manage the inmate population. Most inmates who are booked into the jail have used drugs in recent days or weeks – and some may still be under the influence of an illegal substance when they enter the facility. Those inmates may have behavior issues and they may require additional supervision from deputies or inmates may go into drug withdrawal and require medical attention.

The Hennepin County jail is required to provide medically-necessary treatment to inmates. Treating the medical issues related to drug use is the most frequent type of urgent medical care that the jail nursing staff provides to arrestees. Though arrestees have taken the illegal drugs prior to their arrest, the after-effects of the drugs may prompt medical problems many days later when they are in jail. Withdrawal symptoms may include dehydration or seizure. Most inmates who suffer withdrawal symptoms had been using heroin prior to their arrest.

**Total Testing Positive**

Any drug	70.7
Cocaine	19.5
Marijuana	52
Opiates	8.1
Oxycodone	.07
Meth	3.7
Multiple drugs	18.3

**Percent Positive for Drugs by Offense Category**

	Violent %	Property %	Drug Possession %	Other %	Unknown %
Any drug	70.7	75.3	92.8	67.9	55.4

For more information, please contact PIO Lisa Kiava at 612-919-5918 or [lisa.kiava@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:lisa.kiava@co.hennepin.mn.us)

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