

# HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## News Release



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### More than 60% of inmates booked into jail test positive for drug use

**June 28, 2010 (MINNEAPOLIS)** - 60.8% of all arrestees booked into the Hennepin County jail tested positive for drug use, according to a federal study. Nearly 14% have tested positive for more than one drug.

According to the data, the most commonly detected drug at the time of arrest is marijuana, followed by cocaine, opiates, oxycodone, and methamphetamine. 46.1% of the total adult male inmate population in the jail tested positive for marijuana. Among arrestees ages 18-21, 79.2% tested positive for marijuana use.

The Hennepin County jail is one of ten sites nationwide where an annual federal study measures drug use among arrestees within 48 hours of arrest. The latest statistics represent drug use from July-October of 2009. 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.

Among arrestees entering the Hennepin County jail, more than half of those arrested for a violent crime (56.2%), tested positive for drug use. Among those arrested for a violent crime, 49.1% tested positive for marijuana 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 ranged from 56% in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (which includes Charlotte) to 82% in Cook County, Illinois (which includes Chicago.)

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 that need to be addressed or they 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.

Earlier this year, the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office and issued an alert to citizens to be aware of the increase of heroin use in the metro area. The number of heroin overdoses has increased in recent years in the metro. In addition, the number of heroin users among arrestees has been on the rise. Family and friends of known users are urged to get their loved ones into a treatment program. Heroin is especially addictive and potentially deadly.

Total Testing Positive

Any Drug	60.8
Cocaine	17
Marijuana	46.1
Opiates	6.9
Oxycodone	2.2
Meth	2.0
Multiple Drug	13.8

Percent Positive for Drugs by Offense Category

	Violent %	Property %	Drug Possession %	Other %	Unknown %
Any drug	56.2	73.0	65.8	62.6	45.9
Cocaine	10.3	22.8	28.8	17.8	19.5
Marijuana	49.1	58.5	21.4	46.9	26.4
Opiates	8.9	3.6	13.8	8.1	0.0
Oxycodone	7.1	1.6	7.5	3.3	0.0
Meth	0.0	3.3	14.3	0.7	0.0
Multiple Drug	16.4	16.7	23.2	12.0	0.0

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