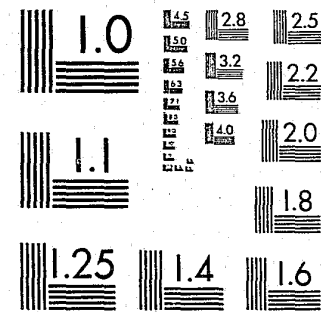


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National Institute of Justice
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10/30/86

Urine Testing of Arrestees: Findings from Manhattan

June 5, 1986

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JUN 20 1986
ACQUISITIONS

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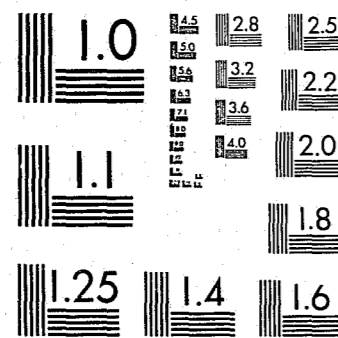
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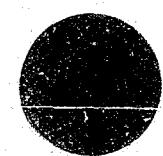
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Summary

This paper presents early findings from a research project in New York City funded by the National Institute of Justice. The project has two purposes: (1) to examine the workability of a program to obtain urine specimens from arrestees being processed in a large metropolitan area; and (2) to study whether drug use by an arrestee is related to pretrial abscondence and/or rearrest.

In 1984 and 1985, research staff approached 6,406 male arrestees and 227 female arrestees charged with a variety of offenses and asked each to participate in a confidential research interview and to provide a urine specimen for analysis. Over 90% of the persons approached agreed to be interviewed, and over 80% of these provided a urine specimen. Additional information regarding each sample member's case processing, prior record, and subsequent contacts with the criminal justice system was obtained from criminal justice sources and merged with the urine test and interview information. All information was obtained for research purposes only and is accessible only to research staff.

The findings indicate that **thin layer chromatography (TLC), a popular method for screening for many illicit drugs in criminal justice and treatment settings, was less effective for identifying recent drug use than the more sensitive enzyme multiplied immune urine tests (Emit).** Estimates of drug use based on TLC were one-half to two-thirds lower than the estimates from the Emit tests (see exhibit 1).

The results demonstrate that **accurate detection of drug use by self-report is infeasible in an arrestee population.** Even in a confidential, research interview arrestees were likely to deny recent drug use; 28 percent of male arrestees reported using a drug in the past 24 to 48 hours, while 56 percent had a positive urine test (see exhibit 2).

The hard drugs (opiates, methadone, and cocaine) were found mainly in arrestees over age 20 and declined after age 35. Cocaine was the drug most frequently detected in arrestees at all ages. PCP was primarily found in arrestees below age 25 (see exhibit 3). **Although persons charged with the possession or sale of a drug were most likely to have a positive urine test, many of the persons charged with the other offenses were also drug users (see exhibit 4).** Relying solely on drug charges to estimate drug use would seriously underestimate drug use among offenders.

Summary (continued)

Analyses of pretrial rearrests have not been completed. However, this paper does include findings on rearrests that occurred in the 11 to 17 month period after the index arrest. Not only were arrestees with a positive urine test more likely to have multiple rearrests, but those who had more than one drug in their urine had the greatest number of rearrests (see exhibit 5). At all age levels, drug users had a greater number of rearrests than nonusers.

Both the urine test results and the interview information indicated that female arrestees were more likely to be abusing drugs than were male arrestees (see exhibit 6). Sixty-nine percent of female arrestees had a positive urine test result; 62 percent were positive for cocaine.

The findings indicate that urine testing in a large urban booking facility has useful applicability. Practitioners wishing to accurately identify drug-using offenders should consider using the more sensitive urine tests and should not rely on voluntary self-reports and/or arrest charges. Urine tests may be a helpful tool for identifying the more criminally active offenders in need of intervention, as well as persons at lower risk for rearrest.

Background

Sample

- 6,406 male arrestees processed in Manhattan Central Booking between April and October 1984; priority given to males charged with nondrug felony offenses;
- 227 female arrestees processed in Manhattan Central Booking between November 1984 and May 1985; priority given to females charged with nonprostitution offenses;
- 95 percent of eligible persons agreed to interview; 84 percent of interviewees provided a urine specimen for analysis.

Method

- Each arrestee was approached in Central Booking before s/he was sent to court for arraignment;
- The interviewer requested voluntary participation in the confidential research;
- At the end of the 5-minute interview about past drug use, each respondent was asked to provide a urine specimen for analysis;
- Urine specimens were analyzed by thin layer chromatography (TLC) and by Emit tests;
- Arrest and case information was obtained from criminal justice records.

Exhibit 1
Drugs Detected in Urine Specimens
from Male Arrestees, by Type of Test

<u>Drug Detected</u>	<u>Percentage Positive by Each Test</u>	
	<u>TLC</u>	<u>Emit</u>
Cocaine	14%	42%
Opiates ^a	9%	21%
PCP	NA ^b	12%
Methadone	4%	8%

^aThe Emit test detects any opiate; in this population the most frequent opiate found is morphine, the metabolite of heroin.

^bNot tested by TLC.

- Estimates of recent drug use by thin layer chromatography (TLC) were consistently lower than estimates based on the more sensitive Emit tests.
- Cocaine was the drug most frequently detected.
- 56 percent were found positive by Emit for cocaine and/or opiates and/or PCP and/or methadone.
- 23 percent were found positive by Emit for two or more drugs.

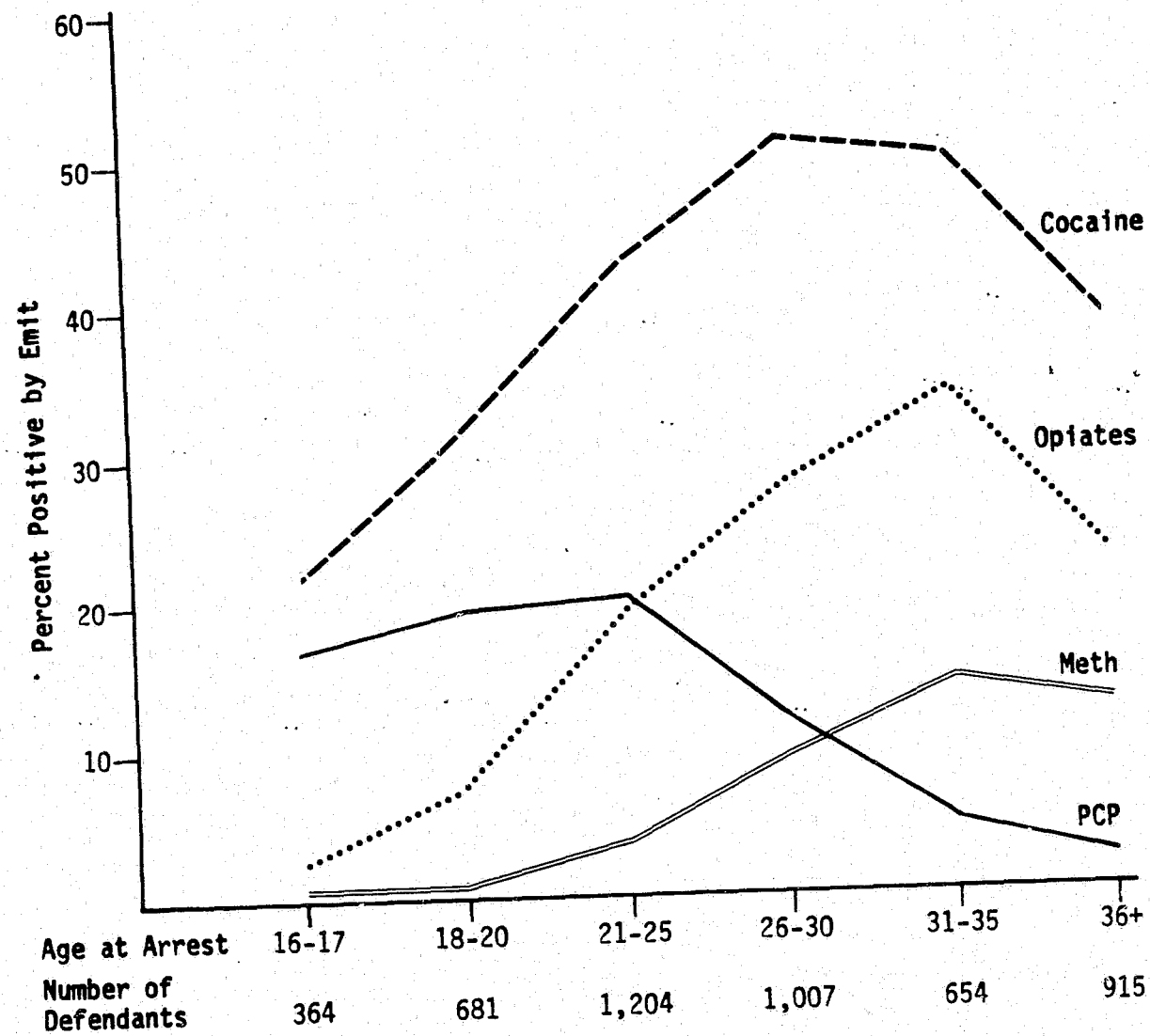
Exhibit 2
Percentage of Male Arrestees Who Self-Reported Drug Use,
Compared With Percentage Positive by Emit

	<u>Reported Using Drug 24-48 Hrs. Before Arrest</u>	<u>Positive by Emit at Arrest</u>
	(N=4,847)	(N=4,847)
Cocaine	20%	42%
Opiates	14%	21%
Methadone	6%	8%
PCP	3%	12%
Any of the above drugs	28%	56%
2 or more of the above drugs	11%	23%

- Even in a confidential research interview, arrestees underreported the recent use of drugs.

Exhibit 3

Male Arrestees With a Positive Urine Test, by Age



- Detection of all drugs except PCP increased with age and peaked in the mid-30's.
- PCP was concentrated among arrestees under age 25.

Exhibit 4

Arrestees Found Positive, by Type of Charge

Arrest Charge	N	Percent Positive ^a
Possession of drugs	615	76%
Sale of drugs	355	71%
Poss. stolen property	474	61%
Forgery	94	60%
Burglary	348	59%
Murder/manslaughter	64	56%
Larceny	667	56%
Robbery	676	54%
Weapons	157	53%
Stolen credit cards	56	52%
Criminal mischief	66	48%
Gambling	147	45%
Sexual assault	79	41%
Public disorder	108	37%
Assault	506	37%
Fare beating	98	37%
Fraud	54	30%
Other offenses	269	45%
Total	4,833	56%

^a Positive by Emit for opiates, cocaine, PCP, or methadone.

- Many of the arrestees charged with nondrug offenses were detected by urinalysis to have recently used a drug.
- The charges most associated with having a positive test result were drug offenses, possession of stolen property, forgery, and burglary.

Exhibit 5

Percentage of Male Arrestees Who Were Rearrested, by Test Result

Number of Rearrests ^a	Urine Test Result		
	Negative (N=2,101)	Positive for 1 Drug (N=1,573)	Positive for 2 or more drugs (N=1,088)
0	62	50	39
1	18	21	21
2 or more	20	29	40
	100%	100%	100%
	38%	50%	61%

^a Measures all rearrests in an 11-17 month period after the index arrest.

- Persons positive had more rearrests than persons found negative.
- Persons positive for two or more drugs had the greatest number of rearrests.

Exhibit 6

Drug Use: Arrested Males Compared With Arrested Females

I. Information from self-reports

	Males (N=5,750)	Females (N=192)
Have you ever used any of the following drugs?		
Marijuana	66%	81%
Cocaine	40%	71%
Heroin/Opiates	27%	40%
Illicit Methadone	12%	22%
PCP	11%	20%
Have you ever been dependent on any of the following drugs?		
Cocaine	11%	21%
Heroin/Opiates	20%	32%
Do you need treatment now?		
Yes	20%	24%

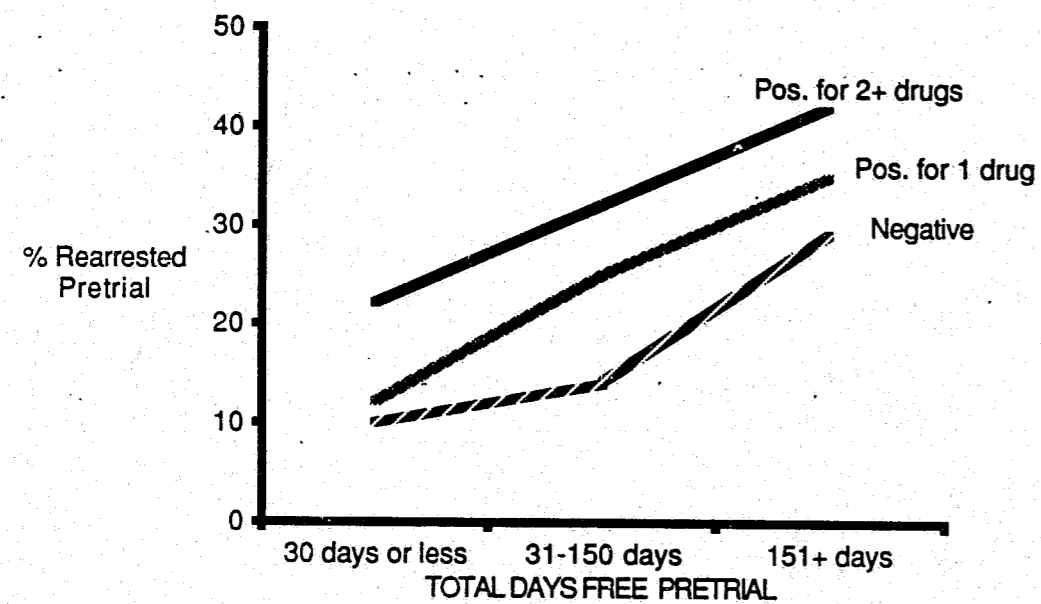
II. Information from urine tests

	Males (N=4,847)	Females (N=149)
Positive for:		
Cocaine	42%	62%
Opiates	21%	28%
PCP	13%	3%
Methadone	8%	12%
Positive for any drug	56%	69%

- Both self-reports and urine tests indicated a greater prevalence of drug abuse among female arrestees than among male arrestees.

Additional Findings From the New York Study

PERCENTAGE OF MALE ARRESTEES IN MANHATTAN WITH AT
LEAST ONE PRETRIAL REARREST, BY URINE TEST RESULT
AND TOTAL DAYS FREE PRETRIAL
(N= 2,205 arrestees*)



*Excludes persons without a urine test, persons who were remanded for the duration of their case, or those who were disposed immediately at arraignment. Total days free pretrial is the number of days that the arrestee was at liberty during the time between arraignment and case disposition. Urine tests count the number of drugs detected of four: opiates, cocaine, PCP or methadone.

END