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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

Research in Action

Charles B. DeWitt, Director

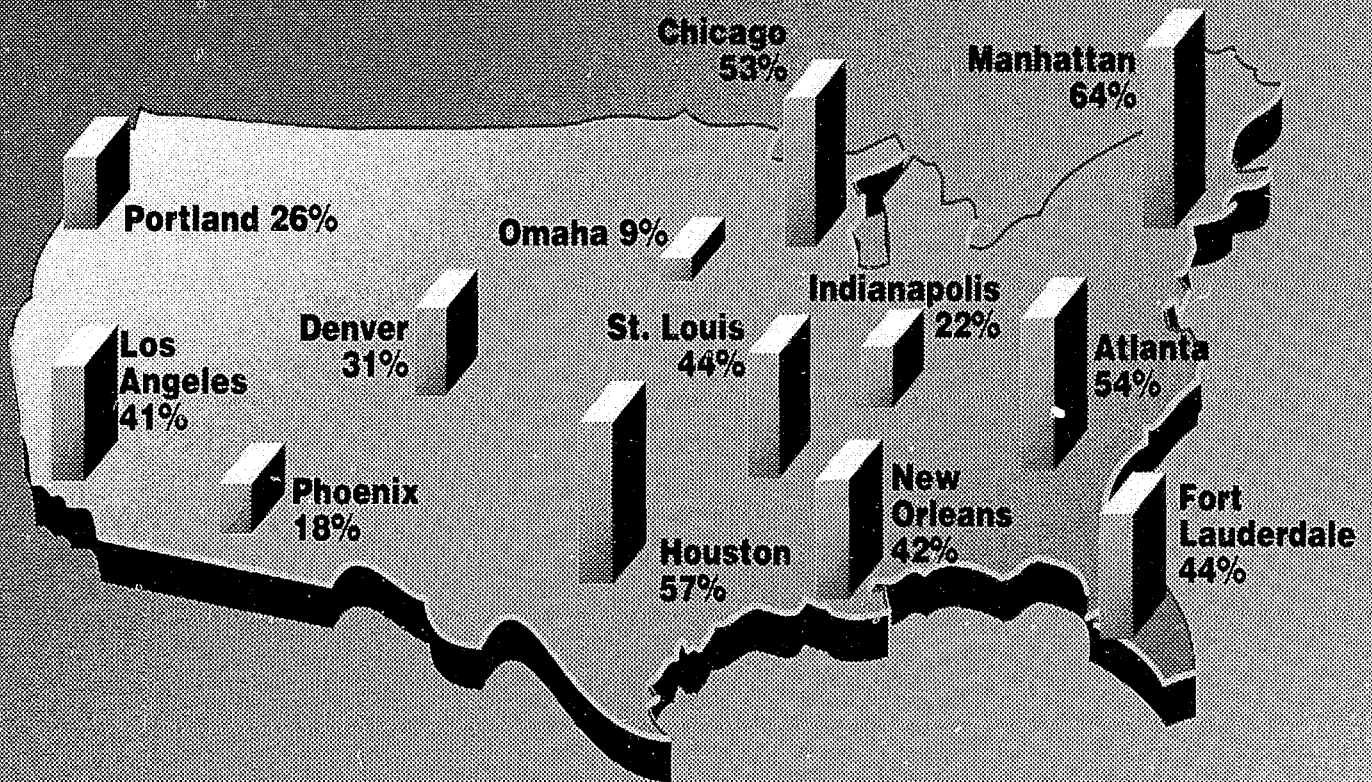
November 1991

DUF

FIGURE 1
1991-1991
ACQUISITIONS
Drug Use Forecasting

First Quarter 1991

Highlights of Cocaine Use Male Booked Arrestees*



*Positive by urinalysis. January through March 1991

Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) Research Update

The Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) Program, begun by the National Institute of Justice in 1987, is designed to provide each of 24 cities with estimates of drug use among booked arrestees and information for detecting changes in drug use trends. The DUF program provides the first objective measure of recent drug use in this segment of the population. The program is cofunded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

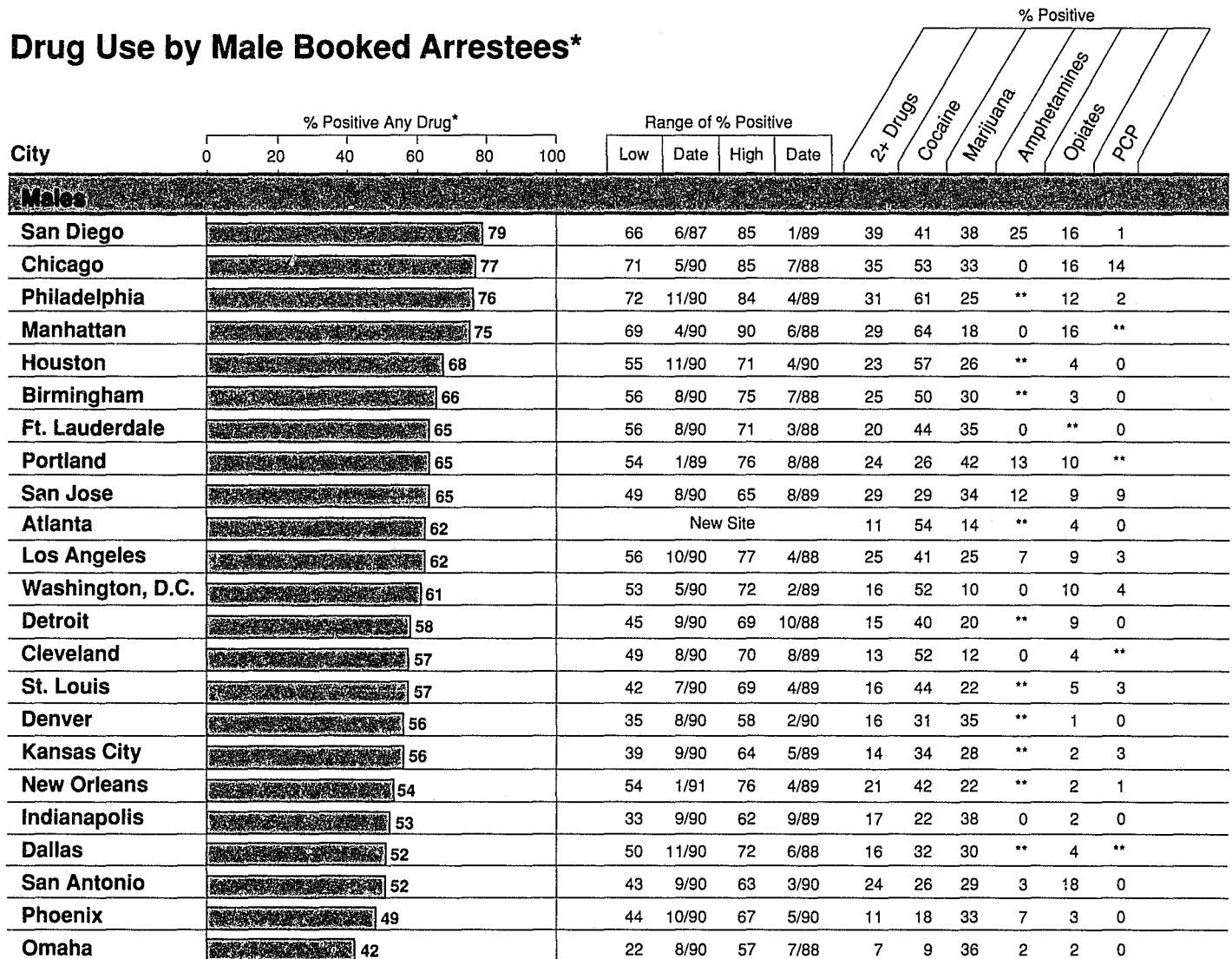
First Quarter 1991 Results Findings from adult booked arrestees

During the first quarter (January through March) of 1991, 23 DUF sites collected data from male booked arrestees, and 21 of those sites also collected data from female booked arrestees. (Note: Omaha and Chicago do not collect data from female arrestees, and Miami did not collect data.

Miami will collect data for the DUF program during the second quarter of 1991.)

The percentage of male booked arrestees testing positive for a drug ranged from 42 percent in Omaha to 79 percent in San Diego. New Orleans recorded the lowest percent positives for female booked arrestees (47 percent), and Cleveland the highest (86 percent). Males in New Orleans

Drug Use by Male Booked Arrestees*



Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

* Positive by urinalysis, January through March 1991. Drugs tested for include cocaine, opiates, PCP, marijuana, amphetamines, methadone, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and propoxyphene

** Less than 1%

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, establishes the policies and priorities, and manages and coordinates the activities of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

Drug Use Forecasting (continued)

recorded their lowest percent positive since the initiation of data collection, 54 percent. Overall drug use among females in Indianapolis and San Antonio reached their highest percentage since data collection began in those sites, 57 percent and 56 percent, respectively.

Juvenile arrestees/detainees

The percentage of juvenile male arrestees/detainees testing positive for drugs at the time of arrest ranged from 9 percent in St. Louis to 38 percent in Los Angeles. Multiple drug use was highest in San Diego, 8 percent. Increases in marijuana use were

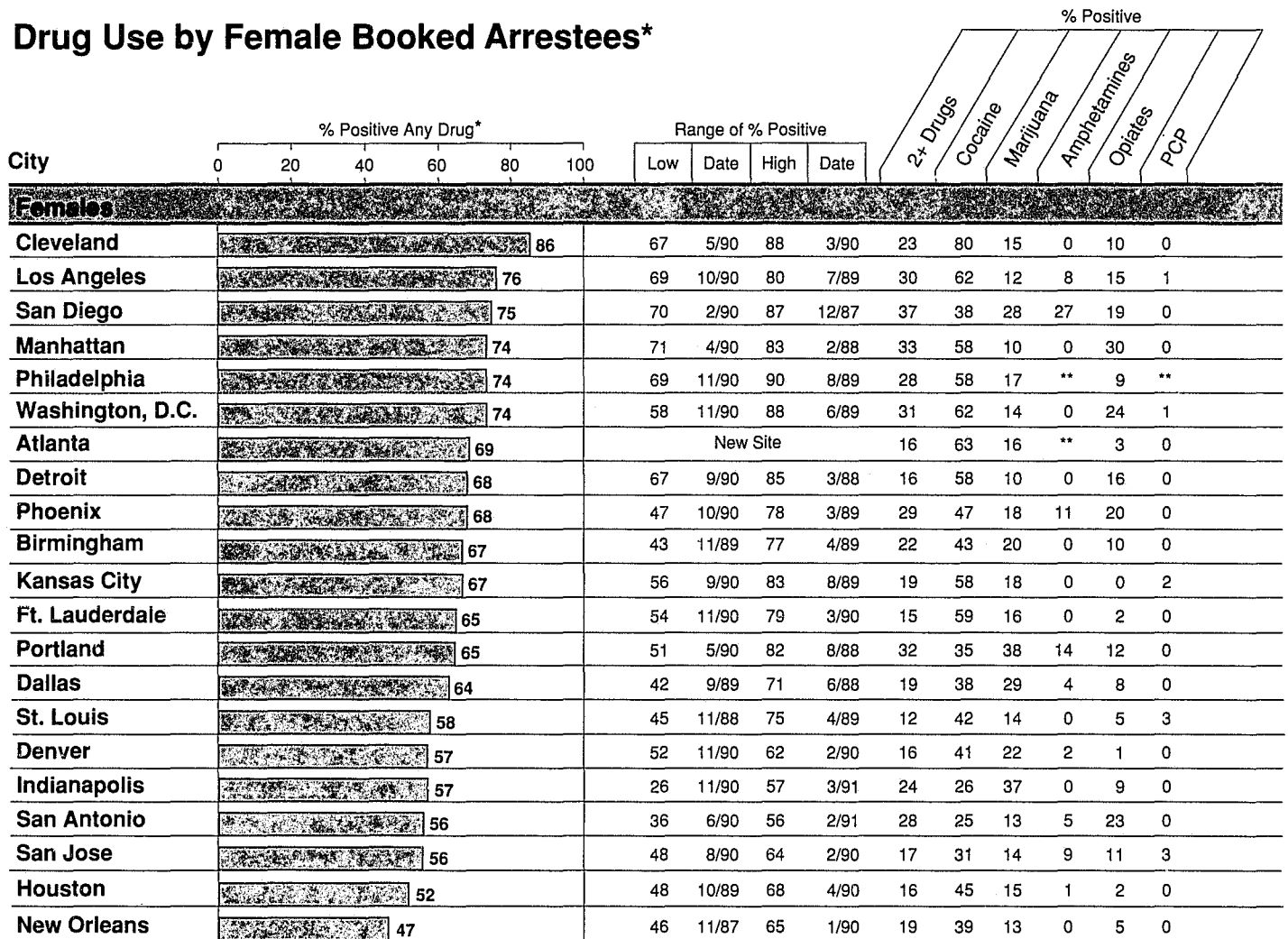
detected among juveniles in many DUF sites.

Amphetamine use in San Diego

Amphetamine use among arrestees in the DUF sample has been highest in West Coast cities, particularly San Diego. The back cover shows trends in amphetamine use among male, female, and juvenile male arrestees in San Diego. Among male arrestees, amphetamine use was highest in 1988 (39 percent), but by the last quarter of 1990 had declined to 25 percent and remained at that figure for the first quarter of 1991. Amphetamine use among females

also was highest in 1988 (45 percent). While use over time fluctuated more sharply among females than among males, the overall trend has been a decline, with 27 percent of females testing positive for amphetamines in the first quarter of 1991. Use of amphetamines among juvenile detainees in San Diego also peaked in the third quarter of 1988, but since has shown a slow decline. Tracking amphetamine use among booked arrestees provides insight into geographical differences in drug use. It also provides an objective baseline for detecting any potential emergence of "ice," a smokeable form of methamphetamine.

Drug Use by Female Booked Arrestees*



Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

* Positive by urinalysis, January through March 1991. Drugs tested for include cocaine, opiates, PCP, marijuana, amphetamines, methadone, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and propoxyphene

** Less than 1%

Drug Use Forecasting (continued)

Drug Use Forecasting Methodology

DUF data are collected in booking facilities throughout the United States. For approximately 14 consecutive evenings each quarter, trained local staff obtain voluntary and anonymous urine specimens and interviews from a new sample of booked arrestees.¹ In each site, approximately 225 males are sampled. In some sites, female arrestees and juvenile arrestees/detainees are also sampled. Response rates are consistently high, with more than 90 percent of the arrestees approached agreeing to be interviewed. Approximately 80 percent of those interviewed provide urine specimens.

To obtain samples with a sufficient distribution of arrest charges, DUF interviewers, where possible, limit the number of male booked arrestees who are charged with the sale or possession of drugs. Because such persons are likely to be using drugs at arrest and are undersampled, DUF statistics frequently are minimum estimates of drug use in the male arrestee population. Males

charged with driving offenses generally are excluded from the samples due to DUF's emphasis on more serious crimes. In Omaha, however, all male arrestees brought to the booking facility are included in the DUF sample to obtain a sample of sufficient size. Because they are fewer in number, all female arrestees brought to the booking facilities and all juvenile arrestees/detainees brought to the detention centers during the data collection period are included in the DUF samples, regardless of charge.

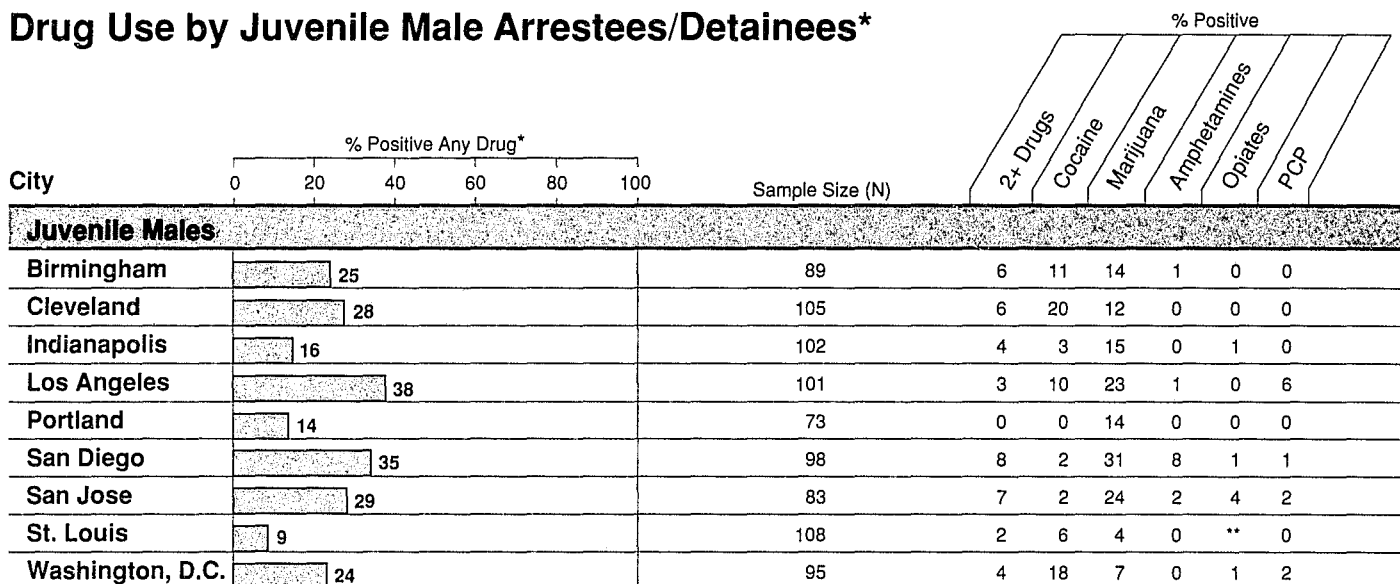
Ten of the DUF sites collect data from male juvenile arrestees/detainees. In each of the juvenile facilities, with the exception of Indianapolis and Birmingham, only those youngsters who are detained by the criminal justice system are available for interviewing. Arrestees who are released to their parents or released for other reasons are not included in the DUF juvenile sample. In Indianapolis and Birmingham, however, all juvenile arrestees are available for interviewing. For juveniles in each of the sites, excluding Washington, D.C. and St. Louis, the catchment area

encompasses the county. In Washington, D.C., youngsters arrested and detained in the District of Columbia are included in the sample, and in St. Louis only male juveniles arrested and detained in the city of St. Louis are included.

All urine specimens are sent to a central laboratory for analysis. The specimens are analyzed by EMIT™ for 10 drugs: cocaine, opiates, marijuana, PCP, methadone, benzodiazepines, methaqualone, propoxyphene, barbiturates, and amphetamines. All positive results for amphetamines are confirmed by gas chromatography to eliminate positives that may be caused by over-the-counter drugs. For most drugs, the urine test can detect use in the previous 2 to 3 days. Exceptions are marijuana and PCP, which can sometimes be detected several weeks after use.

The DUF sample is based on arrestees brought into the booking facility. Arrestees released before booking are not part of the DUF sample.

Drug Use by Juvenile Male Arrestees/Detainees*

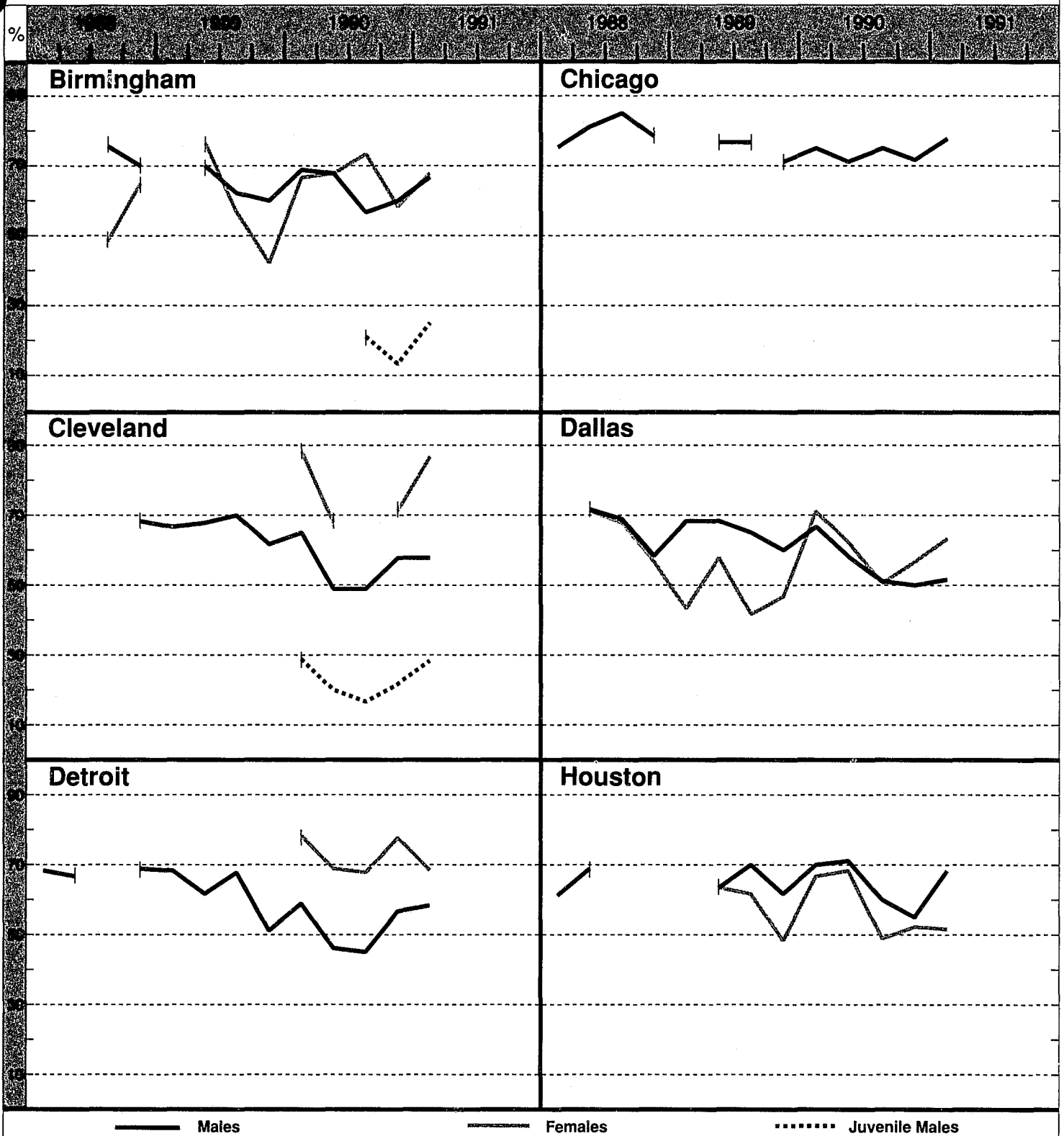


Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

* Positive by urinalysis, January through March 1991. Drugs tested for include cocaine, opiates, PCP, marijuana, amphetamines, methadone, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and propoxyphene

** Less than 1%

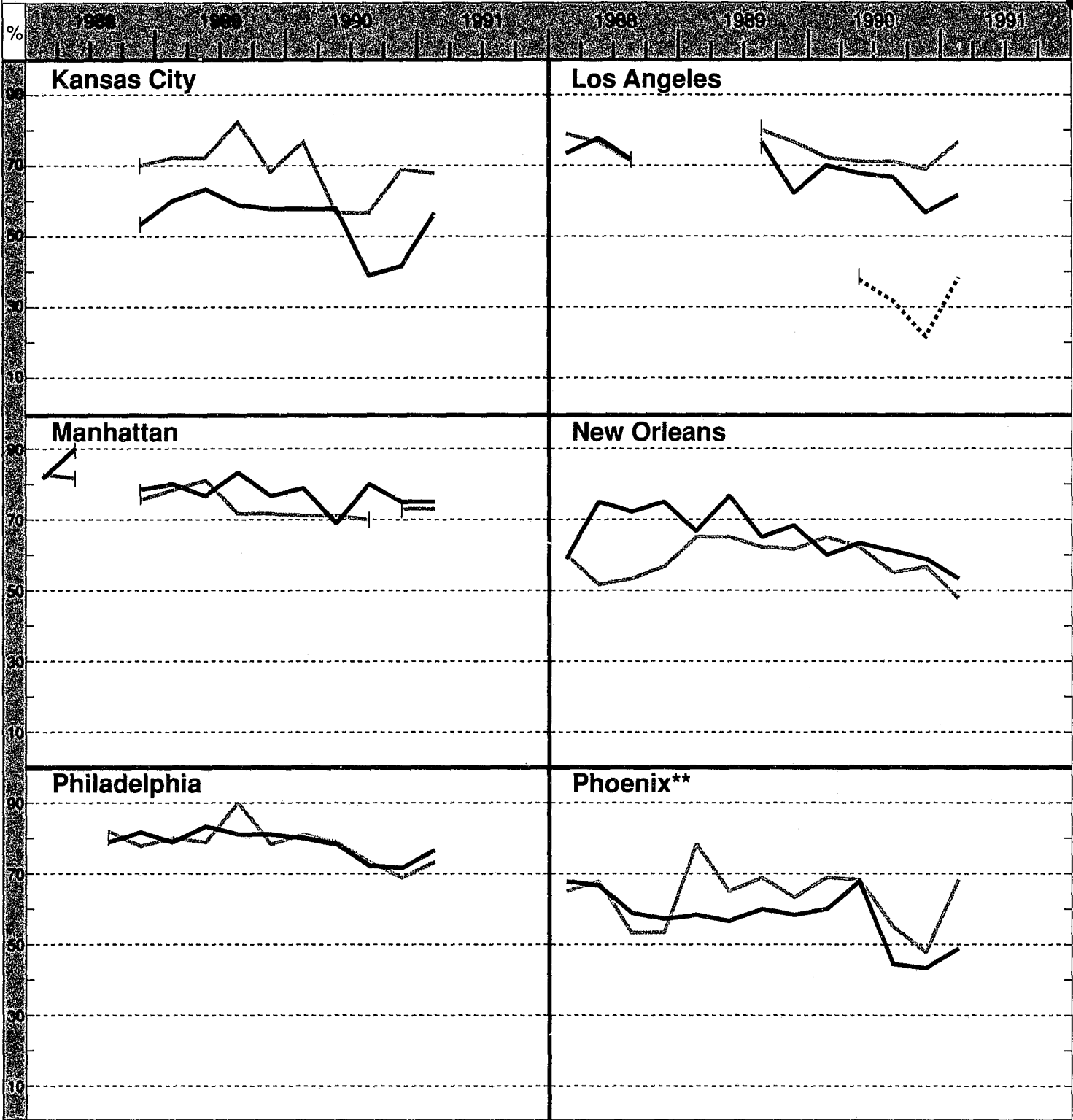
Drug Use Trends Among Arrestees*



Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

* Positive by urinalysis. Drugs tested for include cocaine, opiates, PCP, marijuana, amphetamines, methadone, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and propoxyphene

Drug Use Trends Among Arrestees* (continued)

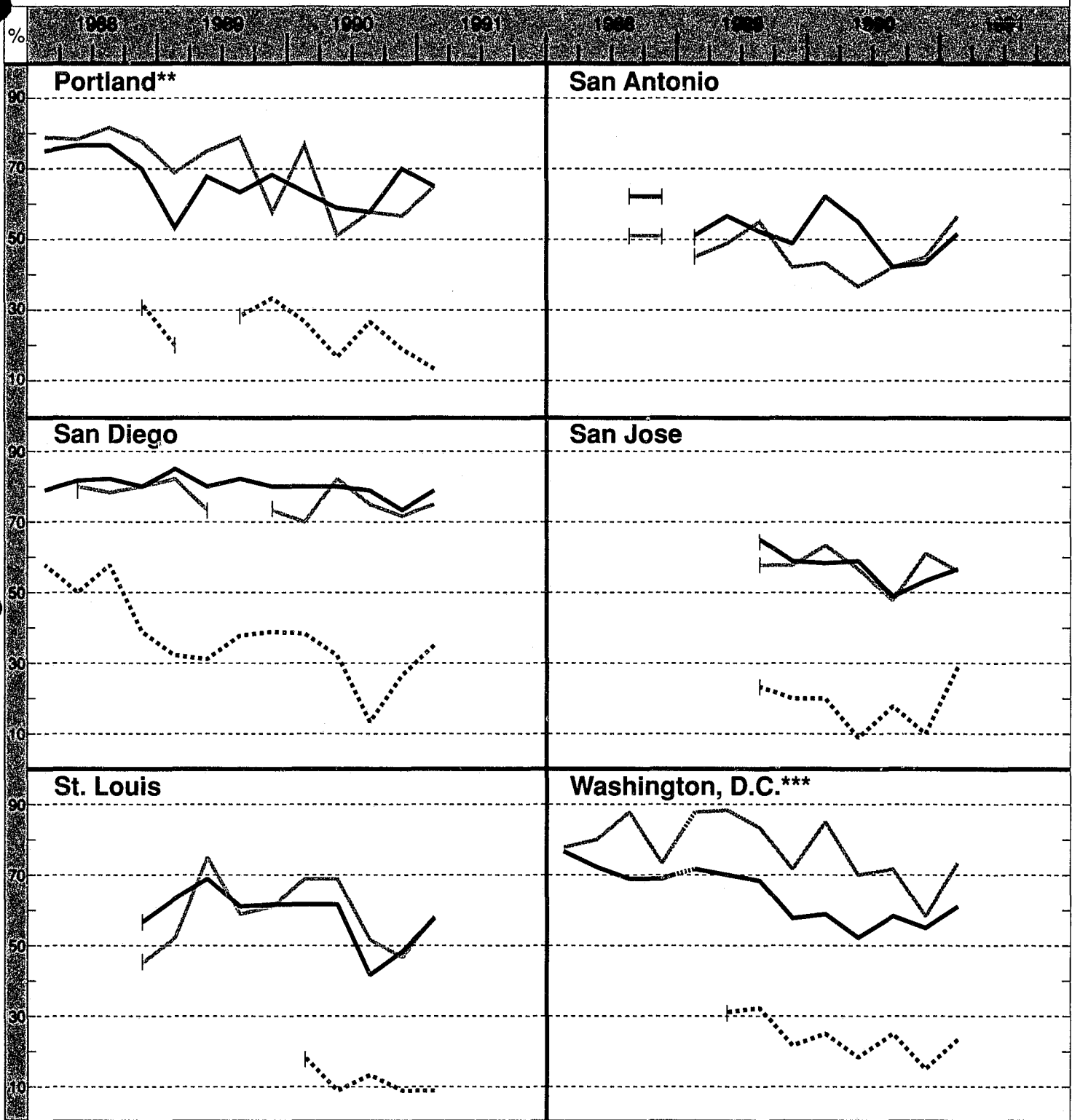


— Males - - - Females Juvenile Males

Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

* Positive by urinalysis. Drugs tested for include cocaine, opiates, PCP, marijuana, amphetamines, methadone, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and propoxyphene
 ** Prior to 1991, site did not test for all ten drugs (listed above)

Drug Use Trends Among Arrestees* (continued)



— Males - - - Females Juvenile Males

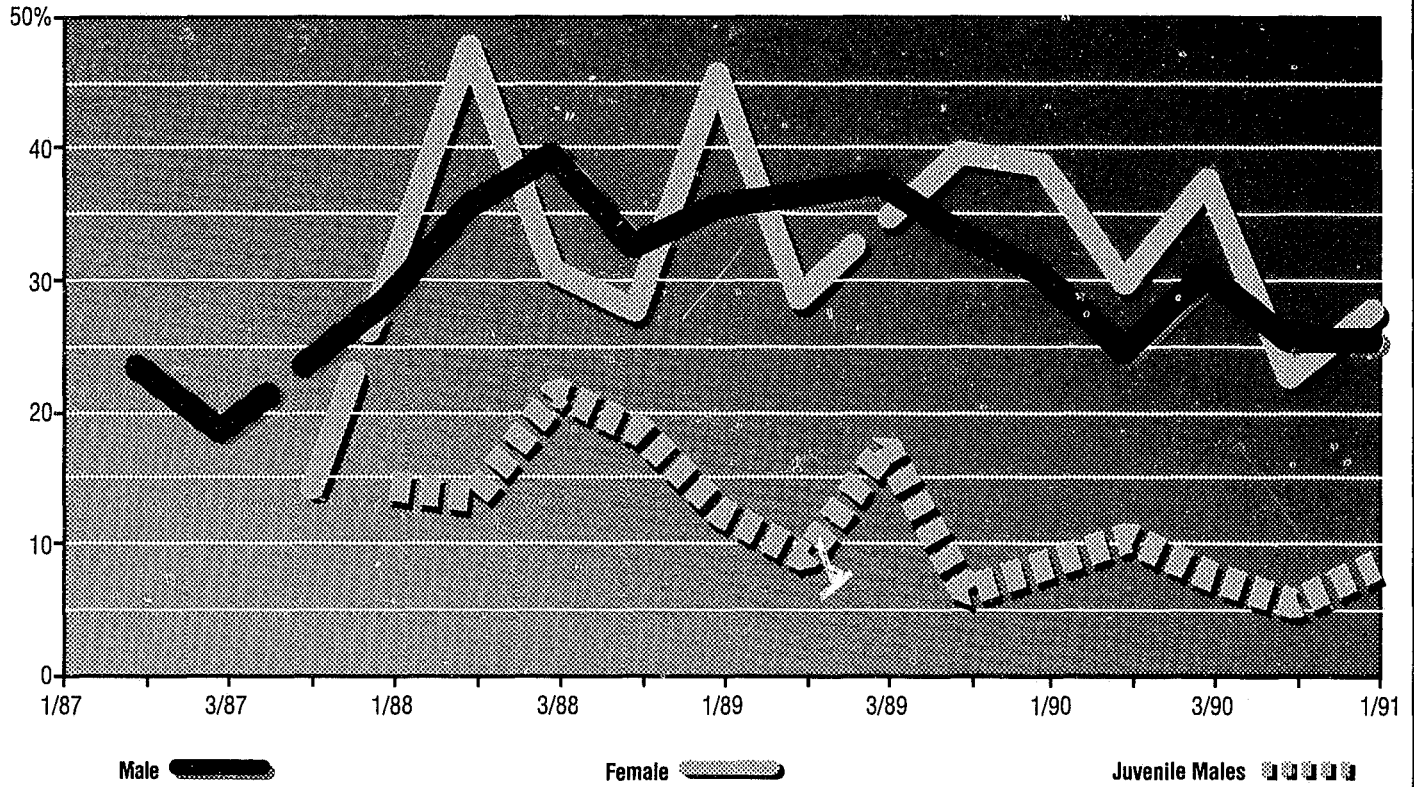
Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

* Positive by urinalysis. Drugs tested for include cocaine, opiates, PCP, marijuana, amphetamines, methadone, methaqualone, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and propoxyphene

** Prior to 1991, site did not test for all ten drugs (listed above)

*** 1988 Washington, D.C. data based on arrestees tested by D.C. Pretrial Services Agency. Drugs tested for the agency include cocaine, opiates, PCP, amphetamines, and methadone. Data collected after 1988 are from the DUJ program

Amphetamine Use Among Arrestees in San Diego*



Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

* Positive by urinalysis. Quarterly results, 1987 through 1991. Gaps on graph represent periods when data were not collected

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