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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

Research in Brief

Charles B. DeWitt, Director

Third Quarter 1991

NCJRS

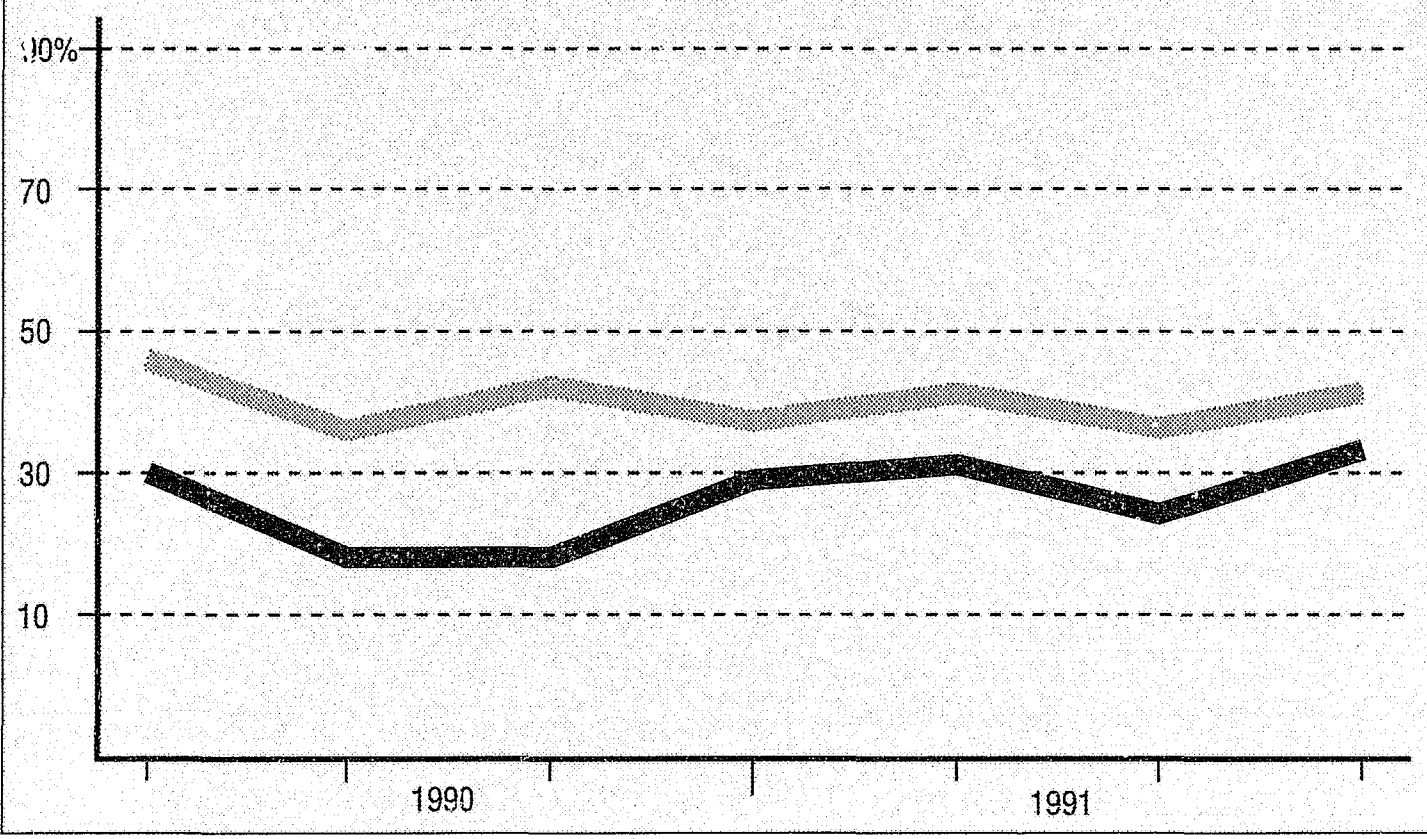
DUF

NOV 31 1992

ACQUISITIONS

Drug Use Forecasting

Trends in Cocaine Use Among Booked Arrestees in Denver



■ Males ● Females

Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

Note: Positive by urinalysis, quarterly results, 1990 through 1991 (see page 4 for discussion and pages 5 through 7 for cocaine trends in other sites)

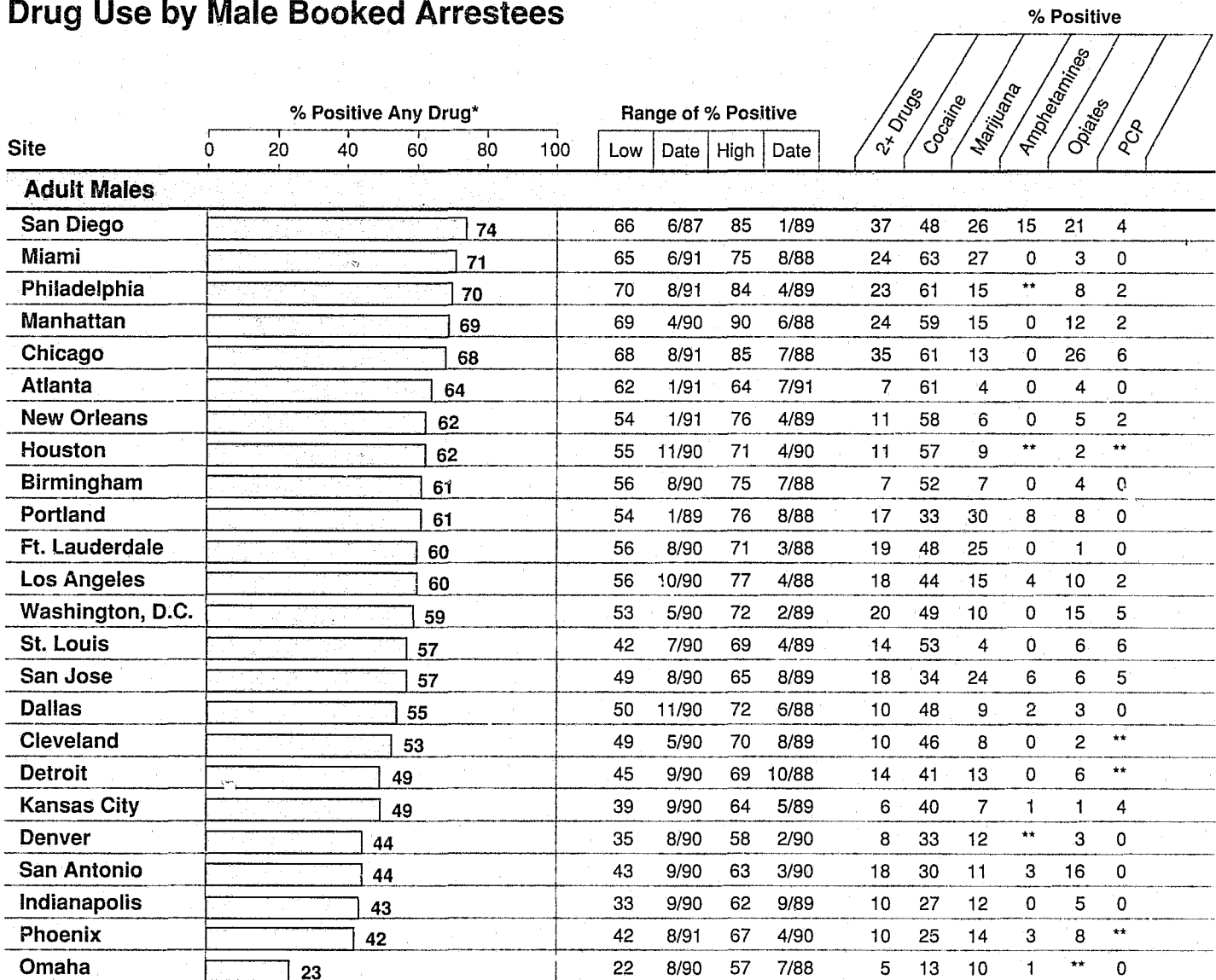
Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) Research Update

The National Institute of Justice Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) Program is designed to measure recent drug use among booked arrestees as well as trends in drug use among this segment of the population. The DUF procedures include obtaining an anonymous, voluntary interview and urine

sample from booked arrestees (see back cover). Currently, the program collects data from male booked arrestees in 24 sites across the United States. In 21 of those sites, data from female booked arrestees are also collected, and in 11 sites male juvenile data are obtained. The DUF

program is cofunded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Due to site differences in arrest and booking practices, comparisons of drug use across sites are not encouraged.

Drug Use by Male Booked Arrestees



Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

Note: Positive by urinalysis, July through September 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.

Research Update

Third Quarter 1991 Results

Findings from adult booked arrestees

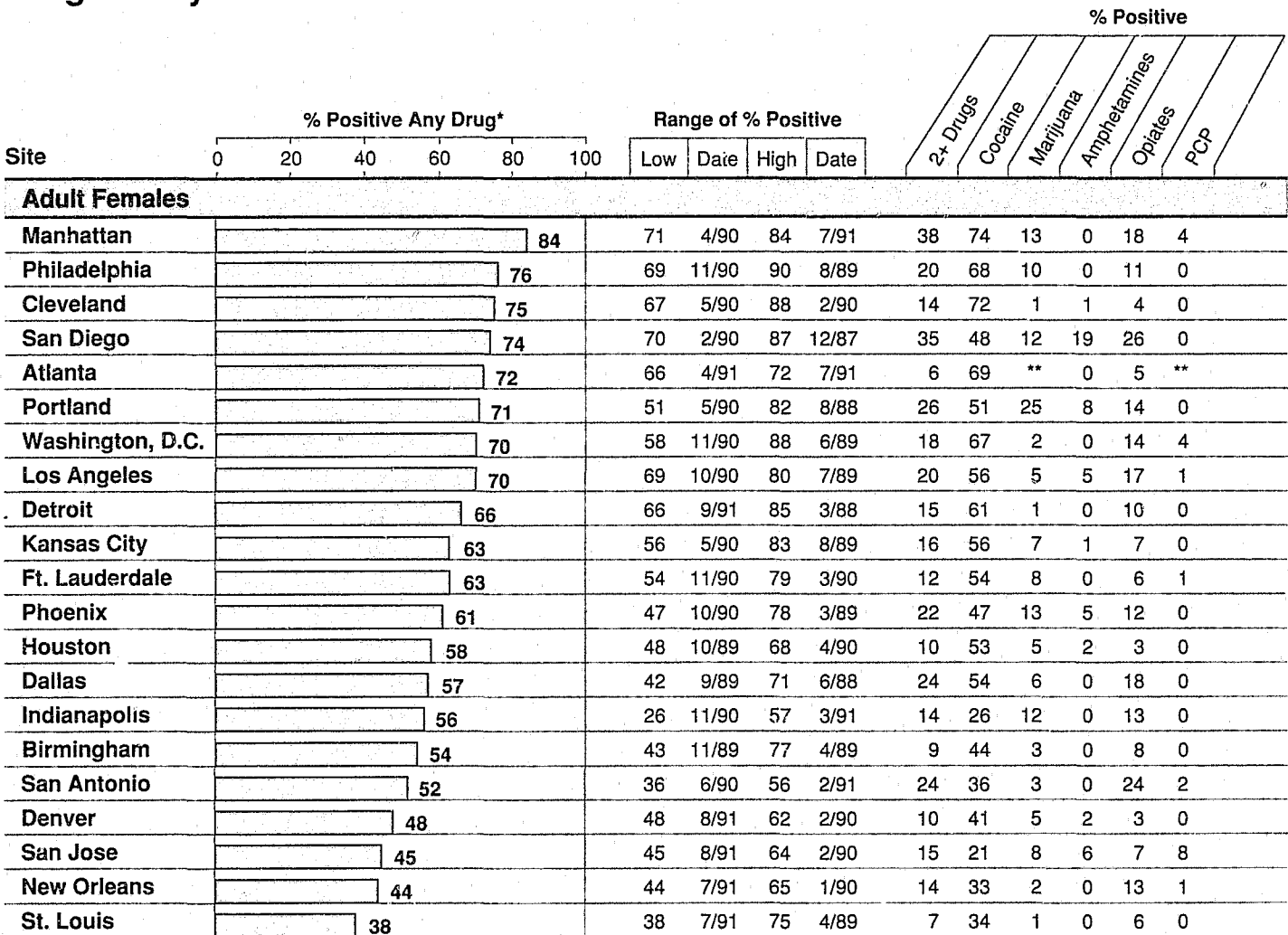
During the third quarter of 1991, all 24 DUF sites collected data from male booked arrestees, and 21 of the sites collected data from female booked arrestees.

The percentage of male booked arrestees testing positive for any of the 10 drugs tested ranged from 23 percent in Omaha to 74 percent in San Diego. In the majority of sites, cocaine remained the most prevalent

drug. Exceptions were Portland and Omaha where marijuana use and cocaine use were about the same. For female arrestees, the percentage of drug positives ranged from 38 percent in St. Louis to 84 percent in Manhattan. In all sites, cocaine was the most prevalent drug among females. Marijuana use in the majority of DUF sites continued to remain at low levels (see *Drug Use Forecasting First Quarter 1991* for a discussion of marijuana use among arrestees).

Several sites recorded their lowest overall percent positive since data were first collected in their sites. Chicago, Philadelphia, and Phoenix recorded their lowest overall percent positive for male arrestees during the third quarter of 1991. (Manhattan males matched their April 1990 lowest percent positive for overall drug use.) This decrease can be explained by the downward trend in marijuana use. Female arrestees in Denver, Detroit, New Orleans, St. Louis, and San Jose recorded

Drug Use by Female Booked Arrestees



Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

Note: Positive by urinalysis, July through September 1991

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

** Less than 1%

Research Update

their lowest overall percent positive. This decrease can also be explained by a decline in marijuana use. Manhattan, however, recorded the highest overall percent positive for female arrestees since the first data collection in 1987. A high percent positive for cocaine explains this increase (see Manhattan, page 6). (Atlanta also recorded its highest overall percent positive for male and female arrestees. However, because the difference between the highest and lowest percent positive for any drug is less than 7 percent, a significant increase is not indicated.)

Juvenile arrestees/detainees

The percentage of juvenile male arrestees/detainees testing positive for drugs ranged from 4 percent in Indianapolis to 33 percent in Los Angeles (data from Kansas City and San Antonio are not included because of insufficient sample sizes). Juveniles in San Diego had the highest percent of multiple drug use—12 percent. As with adults, in the majority of DUF sites marijuana use among juveniles remained at low levels or

decreased slightly during the third quarter of 1991.

Trends in Drug Use Among Arrestees

The front cover and pages 5, 6, and 7 show trends in cocaine use for arrestees in 19 DUF sites. The graphs contain the percent positive for cocaine as measured by urinalysis.

In the majority of DUF sites, cocaine is the prevalent drug. By following trends in cocaine use, it is apparent that the percent positive for cocaine among arrestees is fairly stable over time. In some sites, such as Birmingham, Chicago, and San Antonio, male cocaine use fluctuated only slightly since 1988. In Manhattan and Philadelphia, where cocaine use remains high, a slight decrease in cocaine use among male arrestees can be seen in late 1990 and during 1991. However, cocaine use among female arrestees in Manhattan increased to 74 percent in the third quarter of 1991.

Female arrestees in Philadelphia showed no decrease in cocaine use. However, the percent positive for cocaine in Manhattan and Philadelphia still remains over 59 percent. In most sites, cocaine use among female booked arrestees is as high as cocaine use among male booked arrestees. For example, in Washington, D.C. female arrestees are more likely than males to test positive for cocaine. The decline in cocaine use in the District of Columbia is more apparent for males than for females. In other sites, such as Kansas City and Portland, cocaine use decreased toward the end of 1990 only to show an increase during 1991.

Juvenile cocaine use is much lower in each of the sites where such data are available. Cocaine use among juveniles also shows little fluctuation over time.

Continued monitoring of drug use over time alerts us to any changes in drug use patterns. In the fourth quarter 1991 DUF publication, trends in marijuana use will be presented.

Drug Use by Juvenile Male Arrestees/Detainees

Site	% Positive Any Drug*	Sample Size (N)	% Positive					
			2+ Drugs	Cocaine	Marijuana	Amphetamines	Opiates	PCP
Juvenile Males								
Birmingham	14	118	0	7	4	2	0	0
Cleveland	20	78	3	14	5	0	3	0
Indianapolis	4	107	2	4	**	0	0	0
Los Angeles	33	150	6	15	19	**	0	5
Portland	10	63	0	3	6	0	0	0
St. Louis	14	84	0	12	0	0	2	0
San Diego	32	68	12	10	25	7	2	3
San Jose	19	93	3	6	13	2	0	1
Washington, D.C.	30	96	4	17	13	0	1	4

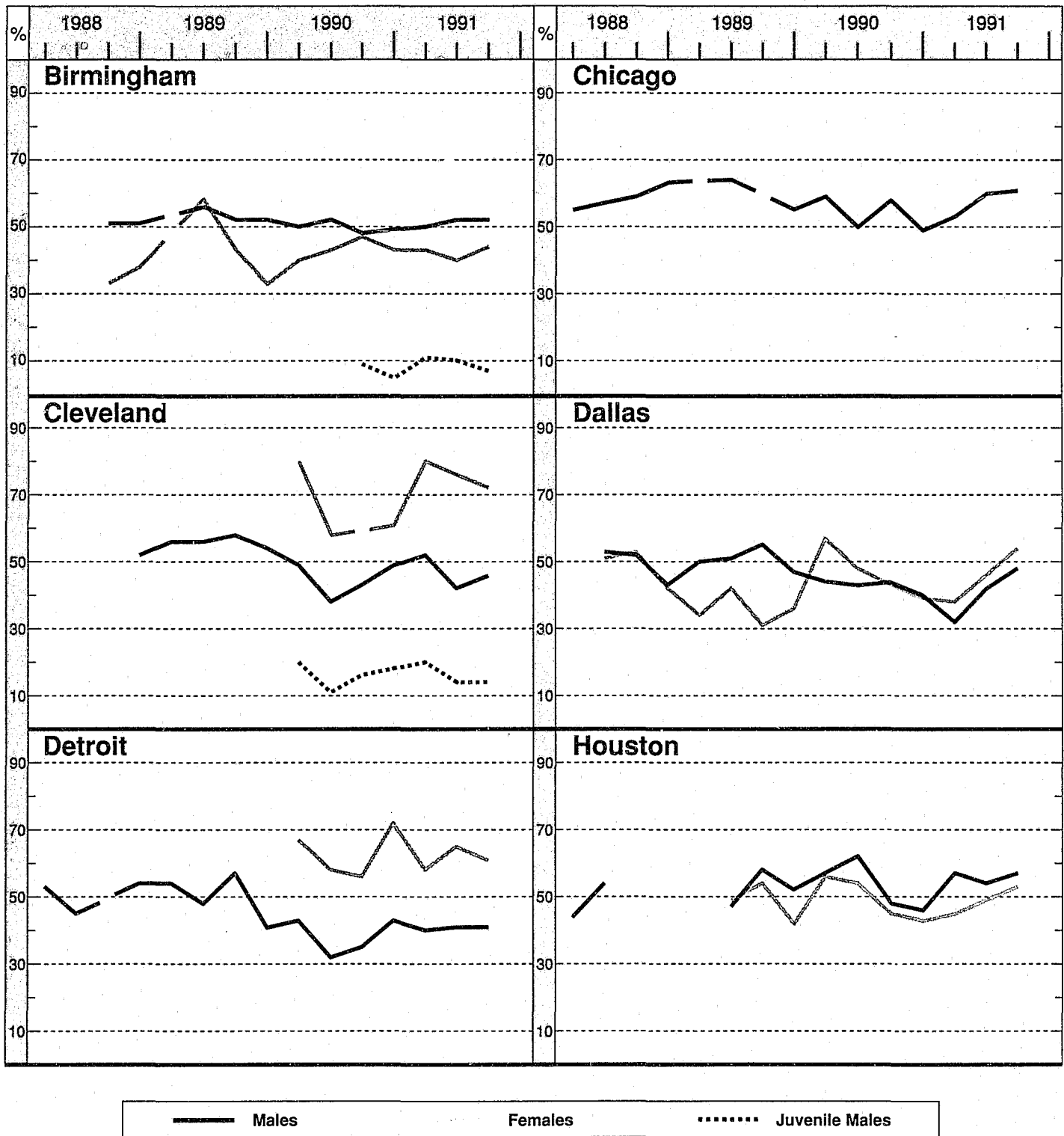
Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

Note: Positive by urinalysis, July through September 1991

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

** Less than 1%

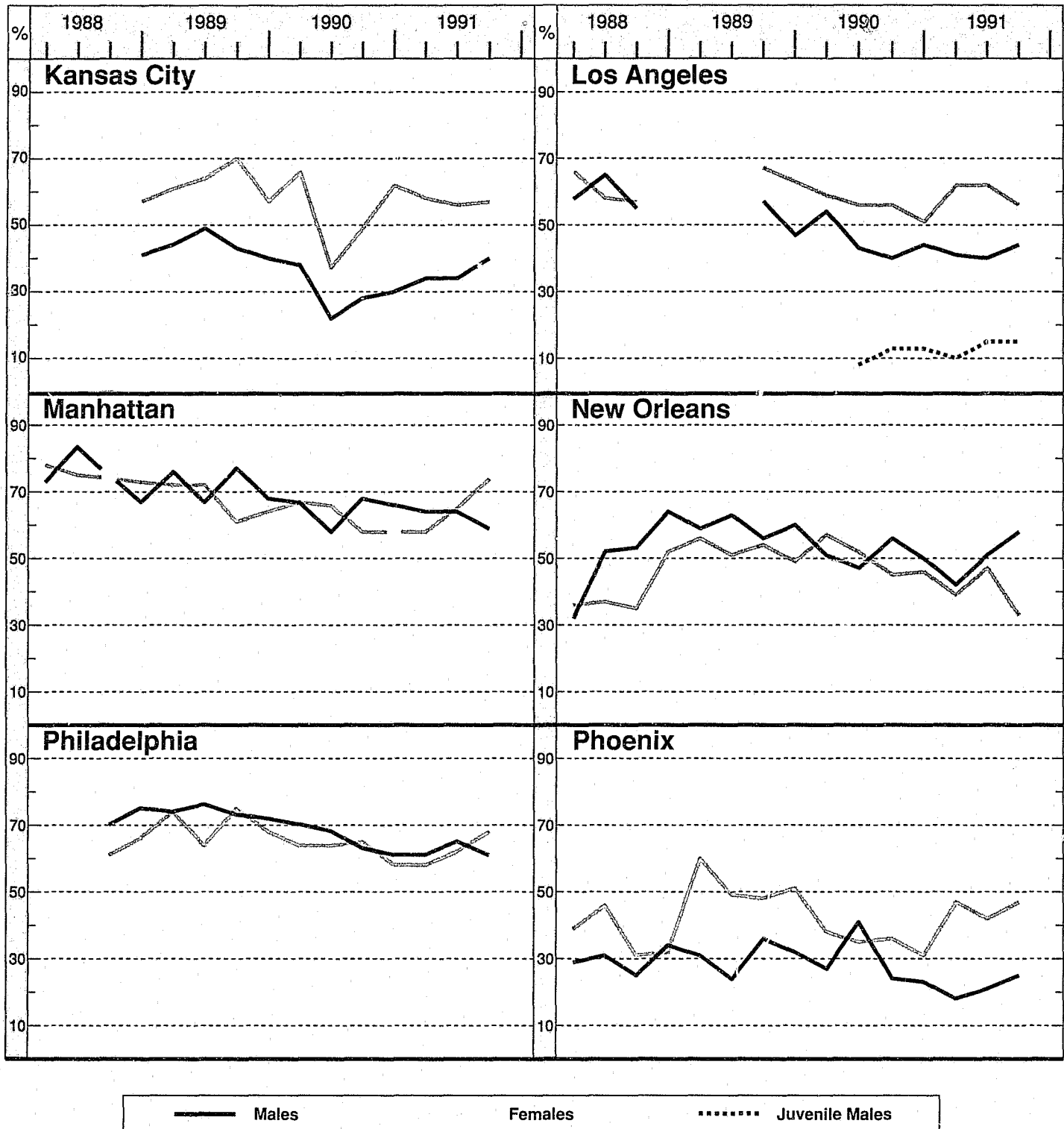
Trends in Cocaine Use Among Booked Arrestees



Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

Note: Positive by urinalysis. Gaps on the graph represent periods when data were not collected

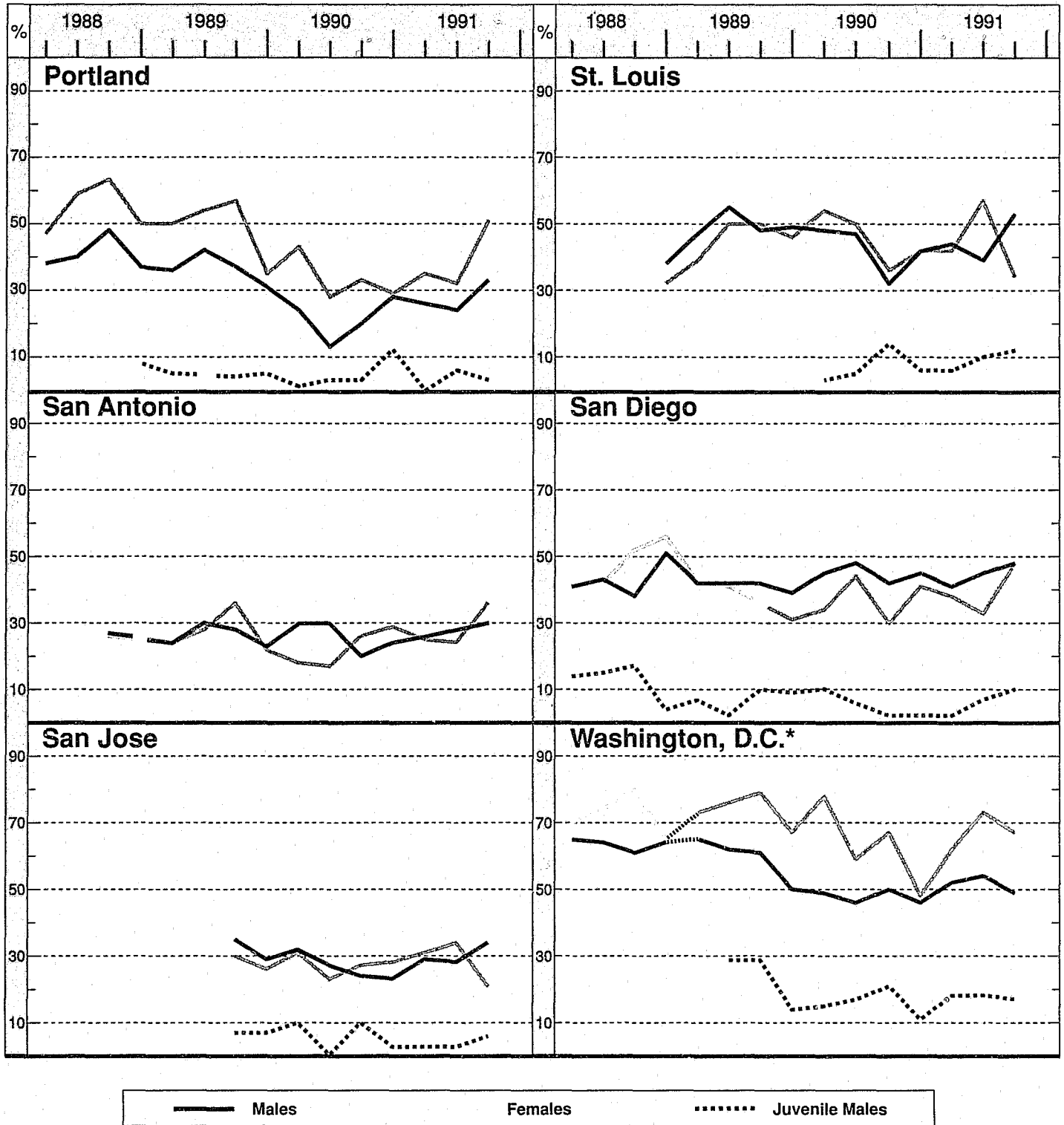
Trends in Cocaine Use Among Booked Arrestees



Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

Note: Positive by urinalysis. Gaps on the graph represent periods when data were not collected

Trends in Cocaine Use Among Booked Arrestees



Source: National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program

Note: Positive by urinalysis. Gaps on the graph represent periods when data were not collected

* 1988 Washington, D.C. data based on arrestees tested by D.C. Pretrial Services Agency. Data collected after 1988 are from the DUF program

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 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. With the exception of Omaha, males charged with

driving offenses generally are excluded from the sample due to DUF's emphasis on more serious crimes. (In Omaha, 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 adult female arrestees and all juvenile arrestees/detainees brought to the booking center or detention facility during the data collection period are included in the DUF sample, regardless of charge.

Eleven 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.

¹The DUF sample is based on arrestees brought into the booking facility. Arrestees released before booking are not part of the DUF sample.

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