



Gender Differences in Drug Use:

During third quarter data collection 91 percent (n=147) of adult female arrestees and 88 percent (n=456) of adult male arrestees interviewed provided a urine sample for analysis. Overall, a higher percentage of male arrestees tested positive for three of the five drugs tested, specifically, alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine. Methamphetamine and opiate use was higher among female respondents. Males tested positive for alcohol more than 12 percent of the time, which was more than double the slightly above 5 percent of females, and represented the only significant difference is use.

Males tested positive for marijuana at 39 percent, while females were less than 31 percent, although this was not a significant difference. Female respondents tested positive for methamphetamines at more than 34 percent, while male respondents tested positive less than 28 percent of the time. Female arrestees were also nearly twice as likely to test positive for opiates compared to male arrestees, at 8 percent and 4 percent respectively. However, neither of these differences in percentages was a significant difference.

Comparing these third quarter findings with first quarter's, we see largely similar results. First quarter found that males tested positive at higher percentages than females for four of the five drugs, with females showing a higher percent positive for methamphetamines. Overall, the percent testing positive for methamphetamines are lower, while we see increases in the percent of arrestees testing positive for cocaine and opiates. Comparing percentages of first quarter to those of third quarter, we see male arrestees went from 7 percent to about 4 percent in opiate use, while females went from 6 percent to more than 8 percent. We also see marked declines in the percentage of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamines, males declining from 45 to 28 percent, and females from 50 to 34 percent.



