Citizenship Status and Drug Use:

Approximately 14 percent (n=84) of the total sample of adult arrestees (n=602) reported they were currently not United States citizens. Overall, drug and alcohol use is similar among citizens and non-citizens, although a higher percentage of United States citizens tested positive for all five drug types. Alcohol and cocaine use is most similar for citizens and non-citizens with about 11 percent of United States citizens and 8 percent of non-citizens testing positive for alcohol, and almost 22 percent of United States Citizens and 17 percent of non-citizens testing positive for cocaine. Although not significantly higher, nearly 31 percent of US citizens tested positive for methamphetamine, compared to less than 21 percent of non-citizens.

The most significant differences in drug use between citizens and non-citizens are seen in marijuana and opiate use. In both cases, a higher percentage of United States citizens tested positive than non-citizens. For example, 40 percent of United States citizens tested positive for marijuana, more than double the less than 20 percent of non-citizens who tested positive. In addition, approximately 6 percent of United States citizens tested positive for opiates while no non-citizens tested positive for the drug.