Citizenship Status and Drug Use:

Approximately 11 percent (n=176) of the total sample of adult arrestees (n=1,604) reported they were currently not United States citizens. While alcohol use was similar among U.S. citizens and non-citizens, drug use patterns were significantly different. A significantly higher percentage of citizens tested positive for marijuana, opiates, and methamphetamine, and a significantly higher percentage of non-citizens tested positive for cocaine use. Remarkable differences can be seen in methamphetamine and marijuana use, where the percentage of U.S. citizens testing positive (38.4 and 40.1 percent, respectively) were nearly double the percentages of non-citizens who tested positive for the same drugs (18.2 and 20.5 percent). Alcohol was not significant, with about 13 percent of citizens and 10 percent of non-citizens testing positive. Cocaine use was the only drug where non-citizens tested positive at higher rates, with more than 26 percent of non-citizens testing positive compared to less than 20 percent of citizens, which was a statistically significant difference.

Methamphetamine and marijuana use showed approximately double the percentage of citizens testing positive as non-citizens, but the most striking difference was in opiate use. Although opiates were the least common drug found to have tested positive, the percentage of U.S. citizens who tested positive was nearly six times that of non-citizens, more than 6 percent compared to about 1