Arresting Agency and Differences in Drug Use:

During 2008 data collection interviews were conducted with respondents who were arrested by more than 26 different agencies and booked into different facilities in Maricopa County. The Phoenix (PPD), Glendale (GPD), and Mesa (MPD) Police Departments and the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) had the largest percentages of arrestees in the sample. Agencies represented in the “other” category were predominately other local police agencies, although almost 9 percent of the total sample (n=2,089) were arrested by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (n=86), and Maricopa County Adult Probation officers (n=98).

The percent of arrestees testing positive for marijuana, opiates, and methamphetamine is similar across all four predominant law enforcement agencies and the remainder of combined agencies. The graph illustrates a number of differences between agencies and drug types, but overall, cocaine was the only illicit drug where there was a significant difference in the percent of arrestees testing positive. Phoenix arrestees tested positive for cocaine 28.8 percent of the time, compared to about 17 percent for GPD and Other agencies, just 14 percent for GPD, and about 10 percent for MCSO arrestees.

Of particular interest are the high percentages among Glendale arrestees who tested positive for drug use, specifically, Glendale arrestees had the highest rates for marijuana and methamphetamine, and second highest for cocaine. This is slightly different than AARIN findings from 2007, where Glendale arrestees had the lowest rates of testing positive for marijuana and cocaine.