Citizenship Status and Drug Use:

Approximately 16 percent (n=334) of the total sample of adult arrestees (n=2,105) 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 marijuana and opiate use, where the percentage of U.S. citizens testing positive (37.2 and 7.0 percent, respectively) were more than double (marijuana) and triple (opiates) the percentages of non-citizens who tested positive for the same drugs (15.3 and 2.4 percent). Alcohol was not significant, with about 11 percent of citizens and 14 percent of non-citizens testing positive. Cocaine use was the only drug where non-citizens tested positive at higher rates, with 26 percent of non-citizens testing positive compared to less than 19 percent of citizens, which was a statistically significant difference.

Heroin and marijuana use showed more than double the percentage of citizens testing positive as non-citizens, but the most striking difference was in methamphetamine use. The percentage of U.S. citizens who tested positive was more than triple that of non-citizens, at 25.8 percent of citizens compared to 7.8 percent of non-citizens.