Differences in Drug Use by Arresting Agency

During first quarter 2008 interviews were conducted with respondents arrested by 21 different agencies in Maricopa County. Phoenix Police Department, Glendale Police Department, Mesa Police Department, and the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) had the largest percentages of recently booked arrestees included in our sample. Agencies represented in the “other” category were predominately other local police agencies, but also included Arizona Department of Public Safety (n=19) and Maricopa County Adult Probation officers (n=38). The above exhibit illustrates that there were few differences between agencies in terms of the types of drugs their arrestees tested positive for with the exception of cocaine. Notably, 32% of Phoenix arrestees tested positive for cocaine, compared to 12.5% of those arrested by MCSO, 19.3% of those arrested by Glendale PD, 17.8% of those arrested by Mesa PD, and 19.9% of those arrested by other agencies.