Differences in Drug Use by Arresting Agency

During second quarter 2008 interviews were conducted with respondents arrested by 24 different agencies in Maricopa County. The Phoenix Police Department, the Glendale Police Department, the Mesa Police Department, and the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) had the largest proportions 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=34) and Maricopa County Adult Probation officers (n=27). The above exhibit illustrates that there were significant differences between agencies by the percent of arrestees who tested positive for alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine. Notably, almost 37% of Phoenix arrestees tested positive for cocaine, compared to 24.3% of Glendale arrestees – the next highest rate. Conversely, MCSO (54.2%) and Glendale (45.7%) had more arrestees who tested positive for marijuana than Mesa (26%), Phoenix (32%), and other agencies (37.7%).