Differences in Drug Use by Arresting Agency

During third quarter 2008 interviews were conducted with respondents arrested by 22 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=32) and Maricopa County Adult Probation officers (n=23). The above exhibit illustrates that there were minimal differences between agencies by the percent of arrestees who tested positive for alcohol, marijuana, opiates, and methamphetamine. Notably, 26.7% of Phoenix arrestees tested positive for cocaine, compared to 17.9% of “Other” agencies’ arrestees, and 16.8% of Mesa arrestees.