AARIN Symposium
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Drug Market Acquisition Behaviors among Arrestees in Maricopa County
Drug Market Acquisition Behaviors

- **Social Networks**
  - Exchange of illegal goods requires opportunity and access; this is influenced by personal networks (Griffin & Rodriguez, 2009);
  - Examples of gender, age, group affiliation;
Drug Market Acquisition Behaviors (cont.)

- **Risk Management Behaviors**
  - Modify uncertainty and risk associated with involvement in illegal activities (Eck, 1995);
  - Social networks act as screening mechanism; buyer knows who seller is, or knows someone who knows a seller and can vouch for that person;
  - Routine activities -- Transactions made in familiar area using routine activities of everyday life where people naturally congregate;
Drug Market Acquisition Behaviors (cont.)

- **Unique dynamics of different drug markets**
  - Drug markets can differ considerably from one another including how users buy and consume drugs (Curtis & Wendel, 2000; Riley, 1997);
  - Example: Crack transactions more frequent, utilized more extensive networks of dealers; marijuana sales characterized by acquaintance relationships;
Drug Market Addendum

- If acquired with cash:
  - Cash and anything else (trade other drugs, property, steal drug, trade sex, other);
  - Buy directly or someone purchased it for you?
  - Purchase from regular source?
  - Purchase in/outside neighborhood?
  - Type of place (store, residence, hotel, on street, outdoor area)
  - How easy/difficult to get drug?
  - If tried to buy drug but could not, why?
Drug Market Addendum (cont.)

- If acquired drug without paying cash
  - How (make/grow; on credit; fronted to sell; trade other drugs, property, sex; gift/shared)
  - Acquire in/outside neighborhood?
  - How many times on that same day?
  - How many different people?
Preliminary Findings:
Drug Market
Addendum
Acquisition in Past 30 Days

- Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Crack
- Heroin

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Last Cash Drug Acquisition

- Buy Directly
  - Marijuana
  - Cocaine
  - Crack
  - Heroin

- Inside Neighborhood
  - Marijuana
  - Cocaine
  - Crack
  - Heroin

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Last Cash Drug Acquisition by Source

- Regular Source
- Occasional Source
- New Source

Bar chart showing the last cash drug acquisition by source for Marijuana, Cocaine, Crack, and Heroin.
Last Cash Drug Acquisition by Location

- **Marijuana**
- **Cocaine**
- **Crack**
- **Heroin**

**Locations:**
- **Private Residence**
- **Public Building**
- **Street**
Availability of Drug

- Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Crack
- Heroin

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Significant Findings by Gender

- Few significant differences in drug market acquisition behaviors by gender;
- Men more likely to acquire marijuana and powdered cocaine;
- Women more likely to acquire crack cocaine;
- Men more likely to directly purchase heroin;
- Men more likely to purchase marijuana on the street;
Conclusions

- Value of continued examination of drug market data:
  - Inform street level law enforcement approaches to disrupt street drug market activity;
  - Assist in understanding of drug use acquisition behaviors for public policy and prevention programs;
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