

NATIONAL DRUG COURT INSTITUTE



DRUG COURT PRACTITIONER FACT SHEET

Karen Freeman-Wilson, Executive Director

October 1999

Vol. I, No. 3

National Institute of Justice Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program

The Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program, under the auspices of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), provides program planning and policy information on drug use and other characteristics of arrestees in U.S. cities through quarterly interviews of adult and juvenile arrestees in holding facilities. Using interviews and drug testing, ADAM provides a powerful platform for communities to assess the dimensions of their particular local substance abuse problems; evaluate, in a low-cost manner, programs and interventions that serve or target the criminally active populations; and plan policy responses appropriate for that population.

At each ADAM site, a representative sample of arrestees is interviewed by trained interviewers and asked to submit urine specimens. In most sites, more than 80 percent of the individuals approached agreed to the interview. Data collection takes place quarterly at each site, with collection periods for any single population (male, female, or juvenile) generally lasting 1–2 consecutive weeks in a quarter. Data collections for the different populations do not necessarily run concurrently.

Supplemental interviews can be added to assist with planning on a wide range of other topics concerning arrestees. These specialized questionnaires (called addenda) offer valuable insights into arrestees' attitudes about specific topics that policymakers want to address, including the reported use and acquisition of firearms; the production, acquisition, and use of specific drugs (e.g., methamphetamine, heroin,

marijuana, powder cocaine, and crack cocaine); gang behavior and participation; the prevalence of domestic violence; and HIV testing patterns, access-to-care issues, and risk reduction practices.

In addition, each site conducts outreach data collection directed at special populations (e.g., suburban, rural, Native American, or juvenile populations) within a state. The objective is to focus on a different population each year, gathering information about arrested populations not ordinarily captured during the regular ADAM data collection process. This outreach moves data collection into areas where information on substance abuse is lacking and where a critical policy need for such information exists.

The ADAM system in 1999 includes 35 municipalities across the U.S. and one affiliated site (i.e., Albany, NY). ADAM is eventually expected to operate in 75 large U.S. cities. At full projected size, interviews will be administered to more than 75,000 adult males, 30,000 adult females, and 45,000 juveniles annually.

By virtue of its operation in 75 large urban locations, ADAM will provide an unparalleled portrait of drug use in an at-risk population. By virtue of the outreach program, ADAM will provide portraits of the leading and trailing edges of drug problems in an arrestee population. By the use of probability sampling methods, ADAM will provide a strong basis from which to analyze

and evaluate local substance abuse, policing, and criminal justice issues and practices.

The ADAM program promises to provide local policymakers with a powerful tool that allows them to measure the impact of substance abuse on the community, evaluate programs and their effects, and plan and develop local substance abuse and crime control policies. In this way, ADAM data are useful in helping drug court

professionals better understand their community and the substance abusing population, as well as in identifying the needs of the drug court clients.

For more information about the ADAM program, ADAM research endeavors, and ongoing special projects, we encourage you to visit the ADAM web site located at www.adam-nij.net. For more information on NIJ and other programs, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij.

Publisher

C. West Huddleston, III, Director
National Drug Court Institute
4900 Seminary Road, Suite 320
Alexandria, VA 22311
p. (703) 575-9400
f. (703) 575-9402
Web site. www.ndci.org