

5 Facts from the Adult Substance Abuse Monitoring Report You May Want to Know

The Applied Research Division of SANDAG conducts annual interviews with juvenile and adult arrestees within 48 hours of their booking into a local detention facility through a program called SAM (Substance Abuse Monitoring). As part of these interviews, questions are asked regarding drug use history and other risk-taking behavior and because a confidential and anonymous urine sample is provided, an objective measure of drug use trends over time is available. This CJ Flash highlights 5 quick facts from the full adult bulletin with data through 2018, which is available [here](#).

Fact 1

Almost 4 in 5 adult females and around 3 in 4 adult males test for at least one drug when they were booked into a local detention facility. The five drugs that are tested for include marijuana, cocaine/crack, opiates, methamphetamine (meth), and PCP.

79% of adult females positive for at least one drug (highest rate in 19 years)

76% of adult males positive for at least one drug (second highest rate in 19 years)

Fact 2

Meth remained the drug of choice for adult arrestees in 2018, with 62% of adult females and 55% of adult males positive. More adult arrestees test positive for meth than for marijuana (35% of females and 48% of males).



Females were 62% positive in 2018

- New 19-year high
- Up 4% from 2017
- 29% in 2000



Males were 55% positive in 2018

- Same rate as 2016 and 2017
- 19-year high
- 28% in 2000

Fact 3

Almost 2 in every 3 (63%) individuals who were positive for marijuana at the time of booking were also positive for something else. Over half of those who obtained marijuana in the past year did so multiple ways (recreational/medical dispensary, recreational delivery, on the street/from a dealer).

55% obtained marijuana multiple ways in the last year

62% used recreational dispensaries and **62%** bought on the street in the last year

35% of those who had a preferred method said they preferred recreational dispensaries and **32%** said the street

Those who preferred recreational dispensaries said it was "convenient" and those who preferred the street said it was "easy"

Fact 4

Just under half (45%) of the adults interviewed said they had ever abused prescription drugs.

While only 6% of the arrestees overall had ever abused fentanyl, it was the prescription drug most likely to be abused in the past 30 days (23% of those who had ever abused it).



Fact 5

Around 1 in 4 (26%) reported they had ever carried a gun. One in four (25%) of these individuals said they had legally obtained the gun from a store, with the others saying they stole it, found it, or bought or got it from a friend, family member, or on the street. Some arrestees were more likely to report having ever carried a gun than others.

