

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA)

2002 Annual Report on
Drug Use Among Police Detainees

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA)

2002 Annual Report on
Drug Use Among Police Detainees

Toni Makkai and Kiah McGregor



**Australian Institute of Criminology
Research and Public Policy Series
No. 47**

© Australian Institute of Criminology 2003

ISBN 0 642 24288 7

ISSN 1326-6004

Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cwlth), no part of this publication may in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, microcopying, photocopying, recording or otherwise), be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted without prior written permission. Inquiries should be addressed to the publisher.

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia:

AIC project number 0015

Ethics approval number PO40

Published by the Australian Institute of Criminology
GPO Box 2944
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6260 9221
Fax: (02) 9260 9201
Email: aicpress@aic.gov.au
<http://www.aic.gov.au>

Edited and typeset by Sarah Christensen, Australian Institute of Criminology

Printed by National Capital Printing, Canberra

From the Director of the AIC

DUMA provides police, policy-makers, criminal justice practitioners and other professionals with systematic empirical data on illicit drug use among people detained by the police and brought to a police station for charging. DUMA currently has questionnaire data from over 9,000 people detained by police—the largest and most significant data source on drugs and crime in the country.

2002 was the first year of the second phase of data collection. Funding for the second phase was provided by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the South Australian Attorney-General's Department. This funding enabled the continued monitoring of the four existing sites as well as the establishment of three new sites. The new sites are the Brisbane City watchhouse in Queensland, the Adelaide City watchhouse and the Elizabeth Police Station cells in South Australia.

The ongoing success of DUMA is a reflection of the strong commitment by the participating police services to improve their monitoring and understanding of illicit drugs and crime. DUMA could not work without the strong in-kind support of police at the sites, and this is gratefully acknowledged.

Over the course of 2002, 88 percent of detainees who were approached voluntarily agreed to complete an interview (3,634 detainees in total). Around 79 percent (2,878 detainees) also agreed to provide a urine specimen. Since its inception DUMA has collected questionnaire data from 9,074 detainees, and urine specimens from 6,846 detainees.

DUMA has continued to track the changes in drug use among this key group. During 2002 there were signs that heroin had become more readily available, but it had not returned to the levels seen previous to the recent shortage. It is also pleasing to see that despite an upturn in cocaine use during 2001, this seems to have abated in 2002. Of more concern is the increasing use of amphetamine-type substances.

The addition of the new sites has shown that drug use patterns at the Sydney sites are different from the other participating jurisdictions and highlights the need for collections to be dispersed across jurisdictions. A significant gap in DUMA is the lack of a regional/rural centre, where the patterns of drug use are likely to be very different again.

The AIC has released a number of publications using DUMA data that are available on the Internet at <http://www.aic.gov.au/research/duma.html>.

Adam Graycar
Director
Australian Institute of Criminology

Acknowledgments

DUMA is funded under a two-year grant from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the South Australian Attorney-General's Department. The data used here were collected for the Australian Institute of Criminology by the Sallenger Centre at Edith Cowan University, Marg Hauritz Pty Ltd, Forsythe Consultants Pty Ltd and Walsh and Associates Pty Ltd, with the assistance of the New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia Police. Police at the local sites provide generous "in-kind" assistance to the project.

Large research projects require a dedicated and skilled workforce. Both police and researchers at the local sites provide the AIC with invaluable comment and feedback in an ongoing process. The AIC thanks them for their contribution to the continued improvement of the research program. A range of AIC research staff contribute to the success of the project and their significant contribution is acknowledged. The United States National Institute of Justice has generously supplied details and "in-kind" assistance in the setting up the program via the International Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (I-ADAM) program.

Those many detainees who have answered questionnaires and supplied urine specimens, often in difficult personal circumstances, are acknowledged and thanked.

Finally, we would like to thank those people who read earlier drafts and provided comments. Neither the collectors nor the police services bear any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here. Any errors remain our own.

Disclaimer

This research paper does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the Commonwealth Government.

Contents

From the Director of the AIC	5
Acknowledgments	6
What is DUMA?	8
DUMA Program: 2002 Summary	9
Demographic Data	11
Drug Use Among Adult Detainees	14
Trends in Recent Drug Use, 1999–2002	17
Illicit Drug Use and Self-Reported Criminal Activity	19
Self-Reported Alcohol Use	22
Juvenile Data	24
Methodology	26
Data Usage	32
2002 DUMA Findings	37
Adelaide	38
Bankstown	47
Brisbane	60
East Perth	69
Elizabeth	78
Parramatta	87
Southport	100
References	109

What is DUMA?

In a nutshell, the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) project collects information from police detainees in seven sites (police stations or watchhouses) across Australia on a quarterly basis. There are two parts to the information collected: a questionnaire, which is conducted with a trained interviewer, and a urine sample which is tested for six different classes of drugs. Information collected from the questionnaire includes basic demographic data, drug use history, drug market information, treatment history and information on prior contact with the criminal justice system. Both the information supplied by the detainee in the questionnaire and the urine sample are completely voluntary and confidential and neither can be linked back to the respondent. More detailed information on the DUMA project is provided in Makkai (1999).

DUMA has been an ongoing quarterly collection on drug use in Australia since 1999. The advantage of a quarterly collection is that information can be fed back to the sites and stakeholders in a very timely manner (usually four to six weeks), to assist in the development of strategic responses to local drug issues. DUMA is the only ongoing drug monitoring program that allows self-reported information on recent drug use to be cross-validated with urinalysis testing.