

TENNESSEE'S ADULT SANTA ARRESTEE STUDY

Overview

- Because the characteristics of adult and juvenile arrestees are so different, Tennessee conducted separate SANTA studies of adult and juvenile arrestees.
- The SANTA study was a sample survey of arrestees in selected metropolitan and rural law enforcement facilities in Tennessee.

Survey Instruments:

- The requisite AOD data were tapped via a subjective dimension, self-reporting, and an objective dimension, saliva testing and urinalysis. These objective measures were used to validate the self-report AOD data.
- The self-reported AOD data were solicited from the subjects through a structured interview, using the AutoSANTA computer program. AutoSANTA is a modified interview schedule deriving from methodology and instrumentation developed and used in the national Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program, which has been conducted by the National Institute of Justice in a number of cities since 1987.
- The SANTA system includes a brief interview and collection of a urine sample to test for drug use as in the DUF system, along with questions relevant to making DSM-III-R substance abuse and dependence diagnosis and an ethanol assay added to the urinalysis. The Tennessee study also added an ethanol saliva test conducted on-site.
- The key issue is the quantification of need for treatment for substance abuse in the population of recent arrestees in Tennessee.
- Objective comprehensive drug data were obtained from subjects' urine specimens using EMIT (enzyme multiplied immunoassay technology) testing and microLINE screening. Drugs that were screened by PharmChem via urinalysis were amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates, phenacylidine (PCP), propoxyphene, and alcohol. Alcohol was screened for using the saliva alcohol test, Q.E.D. 350. MicroLINE screening and Q.E.D. are onsite drug tests which yield almost instantaneous results.
- For validation purposes, all specimens that were screened positive for alcohol and amphetamine use through EMIT testing were also tested using GC/MS (gas chromatography/mass spectrometry).