

# County's inmates used drugs more often than other jails

By LANE WALLACE

STAFF WRITER

**SANTA CRUZ** — Jail inmates in Santa Cruz used drugs more often than inmates in five other more densely-populated counties in California, a study has shown.

The study, conducted by University of California researchers for the National Institute of Justice, shows a higher percentage of Santa Cruz inmates using marijuana, cocaine and injectable drugs than inmates in Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

"This confirms what we've been thinking" and learned from other studies, said Bill Manov, head of the county's drug and alcohol treatment program.

"If there's anybody out there that thinks drugs are just an inner-city problem, this study says it ain't so," Manov said.

The study involved interviews and urine tests — all voluntary — with 70 inmates in Santa Cruz, 13 of them women. The number of inmates surveyed in the other counties averaged 166.

In Santa Cruz, 55 percent of the inmates admitted using marijuana in the last 30 days; the average of the other counties was 39 percent.

The percentage of Santa Cruz inmates who had ever used cocaine was 79 percent, well ahead of "sec-

The drugs they used		
Survey of drug use by inmates		
Category	Santa Cruz	Other 5 counties
Marijuana — in last month	55%	39%
Cocaine use — ever	79%	54%
Amphetamines — ever	60	50
Heroin — ever	40	23
Injection drugs	35	24
Ever treated for drug abuse	44	26

*Source: Drug Use Forecasting survey, conducted by UCLA Drug Abuse Research Center. Interviews with jail inmates in Santa Cruz, orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Contra Costa and Alameda counties.*

ond place" Contra Costa at 64 percent.

Santa Cruz inmates were less inclined to use the more-potent crack cocaine. Santa Cruz showed 47 percent had ever used it; Contra Costa had 48 percent and Alameda 57 percent.

Sixty percent of Santa Cruz inmates said they had ever used amphetamines — just behind Contra Costa at 62 percent and just ahead of Riverside and San Bernardino. But when it came to using amphetamine within the last 30 days, only 17 percent in Santa Cruz said yes — about half as many as in Riverside, Contra Costa and San Bernardino.

While Santa Cruz inmates were

more likely to use drugs, they were also more likely to have undergone drug treatment. Some 44 percent of Santa Cruz inmates said they had undergone treatment; Contra Costa was next at 28 percent.

"I don't know what to make of it," Manov said of the figures on treatment. "It may mean we have more treatment programs here." The definition of treatment could vary from a few days to an 18-month live-in program, he said.

The survey results could help the county in future applications for grants, Manov said.

Survey participants were guaranteed that their answers and urine-test results would not be turned over to prosecutors.