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Trevor Bennett and Katy Holloway
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DRUG-CRIME CONNECTIONS

Drug-Crime Connections challenges the assumption that there is a widespread association between drug use and crime. Instead, it argues that there are many highly specific connections. Trevor Bennett and Katy Holloway draw together in a single volume a wide range of findings from a study of nearly 5,000 arrestees interviewed as part of the New English and Welsh Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (NEW-ADAM) program. It provides an in-depth study of the nature of drug-crime connections, as well as an investigation into drug use generally among criminals and the kinds of crimes that they commit. They also explore topics that previously have fallen outside the drug-crime debate, such as gender and drugs, ethnicity and drugs, gangs, guns, drug markets, and treatment needs. The book aims to provide both an up-to-date review of the literature and a concise summary of a major study on the connection between drug use and crime.

Dr. Trevor Bennett is professor of criminology and director of the Centre for Criminology at the University of Glamorgan. He has published widely in the area of drug use and crime, most recently as coauthor of *Understanding Drugs, Alcohol and Crime* (2005) with Katy Holloway and as a contributor to *Substance Use and Misuse*, the *British Journal of Criminology*, and the *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*.

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Preface

In July 1999, after two developmental stages, the UK government established a program of arrestee monitoring, similar to the ADAM program in the United States, titled the New English and Welsh Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (NEW-ADAM) program. The program was designed primarily to collect urine specimens and to conduct personal interviews with recently arrested offenders to understand better the nature of the drug-crime connection. The surveys also provided information on related issues, such as use of weapons and guns in crime, gang membership, and drug markets.

The main aim of this book is to bring together the results of the NEW-ADAM program in a single volume. Some of the findings of the program have already been published in government reports and in articles in peer-reviewed journals. However, other findings have not been published. This book provides an opportunity to combine both published and unpublished material from the NEW-ADAM program in a single source.

The main research issue covered by the book is to investigate the nature of the association between drug use and crime. It is widely believed that there is a connection. Nevertheless, the findings of research on the topic are mixed. There have been many studies that have shown that there is a connection. However, there have been others that have shown that there is none. There have been some studies that have shown that drug use is associated with more crime and others that drug use is associated with less crime.

The title of the book refers to the title of one of the earliest and most influential volumes on the topic by Inciardi (1981) called *The*

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PREFACE

Drugs-Crime Connection. Although the editor did not argue that there was only one drug-crime connection in the book, the title could be interpreted to mean that there is. The current book is called *Drug-Crime Connections* to make the link with one of the earliest books in the field and to emphasize the possibility of multiple connections. As a result, it seeks to investigate both themes and variations in these connections to discover not only whether drugs and crime are linked but also the ways in which they are linked.

Trevor Bennett and Katy Holloway
June 2007

Acknowledgments

We are indebted to the many authors who have generated the knowledge base on drug misuse and crime from which the study builds. We are also indebted to the many people who have worked on the project who have affected our thinking in various ways. These include the staff at the Home Office who worked with us at various stages of the NEW-ADAM program. Special thanks are due to Malcolm Ramsay, who worked closely with us in designing and implementing the program. We are also grateful to the Home Office for funding research. We are particularly indebted to the large number of researchers (more than 30 in total) who have worked with us on the project at various times. In particular, we thank Stuart Lockhart who worked on the project from the very beginning as a researcher and toward the end as Deputy Director of the program. We also thank the staff at the Institute of Criminology and the Forensic Science Service who helped in various ways in developing the research. We acknowledge the cooperation of the 13 forces that took part in the research and the many thousands of arrestees who agreed to be interviewed. Finally, we thank the many other people who have given us ideas, influenced our thinking, or assisted in the implementation of the program.