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## Substance Dependence, Abuse, and Treatment of Jail Inmates, 2002

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In 2002 more than two-thirds of jail inmates were found to be dependent on or to abuse alcohol or drugs, based on data from the Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 2002. Two in five inmates were dependent on alcohol or drugs, while nearly 1 in 4 abused alcohol or drugs, but were not dependent on them. Estimates of substance dependence or abuse were based on criteria specified in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, fourth edition (*DSM-IV*).

Jail inmates who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse (70%) were more likely than other inmates (46%) to have a criminal record. They were nearly twice as likely as other inmates to have been homeless in the year before their offense (16% compared to 9%) or to have grown up with a parent or guardian who abused alcohol or drugs (37% compared to 17%).

Nearly two-thirds of jail inmates who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse had participated in substance abuse treatment or other alcohol or drug programs in the past. More than half of the inmates who had used alcohol or drugs at the time of their offense had ever received treatment or participated in other substance abuse programs while under correctional supervision.

### Highlights

**In 2002, 68% of jail inmates reported symptoms in the year before their admission to jail that met substance dependence or abuse criteria**

	Percent of jail inmates		
	Alcohol	Drugs	Alcohol or drugs
Any dependence or abuse	47%	53%	68%
Dependence	23	36	45
Abuse only	24	18	23
No dependence or abuse	53	47	32

- 52% of female jail inmates were found to be dependent on alcohol or drugs, compared to 44% of male inmates.

**3 in 4 convicted property or drug offenders met substance dependence or abuse criteria, compared to 2 in 3 violent or public-order offenders**

Offense	Percent of convicted inmates	
	Use at offense	Dependence or abuse
All inmates	50%	71%
Violent	47	67
Property	47	73
Drug	52	73
Public-order*	37	66

- Half of all convicted jail inmates were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of offense.

- In 2002, 16% of convicted jail inmates said they committed their offense to get money for drugs, compared to 15% in 1996.

- Inmates who met substance dependence/abuse criteria were twice as likely as other inmates to have three or more prior probation or incarceration sentences.

\*Excludes DWI/DUI.

Prior sentences*	Percent of jail inmates	
	Dependence or abuse	Other inmates
Total	100%	100%
0	20	41
1	16	20
2	17	16
3 or more	47	22

\*To probation or incarceration.

**63% of inmates who met substance dependence or abuse criteria had participated in substance abuse treatment or other programs in the past**

	Percent of jail inmates	
	Regular <sup>a</sup> substance use	Dependence or abuse
Participated in substance treatment or other programs		
Ever any treatment/program	58%	63%
Treatment	40	44
Other programs	42	46
Under correctional supervision	43%	47%
Treatment	27	30
Other programs	32	36
After admission to jail <sup>b</sup>	17%	19%
Treatment	6	7
Other programs	14	16

- 47% of jail inmates who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse had participated in substance abuse treatment or other programs while under correctional supervision.

- About a fifth of convicted jail inmates who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse had participated in substance abuse treatment or other programs after their admission to jail.

<sup>a</sup>Used once a week for at least a month.

<sup>b</sup>Convicted inmates only.

## 68% of jail inmates met substance dependence or abuse criteria

More than two-thirds of jail inmates were dependent on or abused alcohol or drugs, based on symptoms for diagnosing substance dependence or abuse in the DSM-IV (table 1). In collaboration with the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) included a series of questions associated with the DSM-IV criteria for measuring dependence or abuse in the 2002 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails. The questions addressed problems or symptoms related to alcohol or drug use in the 12 months prior to the inmates' admission to jail.

The questions about substance abuse were grouped into four categories and those on dependence into seven

categories, in accordance with the DSM-IV. For a diagnosis of dependence jail inmates had to report at least 3 of 7 dependence symptoms. A diagnosis of abuse required offenders to have at least 1 of 4 abuse symptoms. Because a diagnosis of substance dependence preempts a diagnosis of abuse, inmates who met the criteria for both dependence and abuse (44%) or dependence only (1.0%) were classified as dependent.

### Prevalence of substance dependence or abuse symptoms among jail inmates, 2002

Abuse symptoms	Percent of jail inmates		
	Alcohol	Drugs	Alcohol or drugs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Failure to fulfill major role obligations</b> <i>Lose job; job/school problems, such as missing too much work/school, being demoted at work, dropping out of school; not taking care of children</i></li> </ul>	15.9%	26.7%	33.1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Continued use in hazardous situations</b> <i>Get in situations that increased chances of getting hurt, like driving, swimming, using machinery or walking in unsafe area</i></li> </ul>	30.0	29.7	43.0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Alcohol/drug-related legal problems</b> <i>Arrested or held by police due to drinking or drug use</i></li> </ul>	20.9	25.0	37.7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Recurrent social or interpersonal problems</b> <i>Arguments/problems with spouse, intimate, family or friends or get into physical fights</i></li> </ul>	39.8	43.3	57.8
<b>Dependence symptoms</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Tolerance</b> <i>Usual drinks/drugs had less effect; or drank more or used more drugs to get the wanted effect</i></li> </ul>	21.0%	33.4%	42.1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Withdrawal</b> <i>Bad aftereffects from cutting down or stopping alcohol/drugs, such as shaking, feeling nervous, anxious, sick to stomach; or taking a drink/drugs to get over any bad aftereffects</i></li> </ul>	19.5	27.8	36.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Compulsive use</b> <i>More alcohol/drug use or using for longer periods than intended</i></li> </ul>	23.6	30.9	42.7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Impaired control</b> <i>More than once wanted to cut down/tried to cut down but couldn't</i></li> </ul>	20.1	34.8	44.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Time spent obtaining, using, recovering</b> <i>Spent a lot of time using alcohol/drugs or getting over the bad aftereffects</i></li> </ul>	18.4	30.5	39.0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Neglect of activities</b> <i>Gave up on activities of interest/importance, like work, school, hobbies, or associating with family and friends</i></li> </ul>	13.2	25.7	30.8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Continued use despite problems</b> <i>Continued to drink/use drugs even though it was causing emotional or psychological problems.</i></li> </ul>	22.3	35.6	44.8

Note: See *References* for sources on measuring prevalence of substance dependence or abuse using the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, fourth edition (DSM-IV).

The Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 2002, included a series of questions to form a measure of the prevalence of substance dependence or abuse as defined in the DSM-IV. These estimates are not comparable to findings reported from previous jail inmate surveys.

Abuse symptoms included repeated use of alcohol or drugs in hazardous situations or recurrent occupational, educational, legal or social problems related to alcohol or drug use. The most common abuse criteria reported by jail inmates were recurrent social problems because of alcohol (40%), drugs (43%), and the combination of alcohol or drugs (58%).

The dependence criteria covered a range of symptoms, including behavioral, cognitive, and physiological problems. The criteria most often cited by inmates were impaired control (44%) and continued use despite problems (45%).

Overall, a third of jail inmates reported no abuse symptoms. Sixteen percent had one abuse symptom, while 17% cited all four abuse symptoms. Forty-six percent of jail inmates reported three or more symptoms of substance dependence, including 18% who reported all seven symptoms. About 38% reported no dependence symptoms.

Abuse symptoms		Dependence symptoms	
Number of positive responses	Alcohol or drugs	Number of positive responses	Alcohol or drugs
0	32.7%	0	37.7%
1	15.6	1-2	16.3
2	16.5	3-4	12.4
3	17.9	5-6	16.0
4	17.3	7	17.6

Jail inmates classified as abusers met at least one of the abuse criteria (23%) without dependence.

By specific type of substance, 53% of jail inmates were dependent on or abused drugs, compared to 47% for alcohol. About 36% of jail inmates were found to be dependent on drugs, and 18% abused drugs. Twenty-three percent of jail inmates were dependent on alcohol, and nearly 24% abused alcohol. An estimated 32% of inmates did not meet the criteria for substance dependence or abuse.

### Over half of all female jail inmates reported substance dependence

There was little difference in the overall prevalence of substance dependence or abuse between men (68%) and women (69%) in local jails (table 2). When substance dependence or abuse was estimated separately, female jail

### Fewer than 1 in 10 persons in the general population met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse

- In 2002, 9% of the U.S. resident population age 12 or older (or 22 million persons) were found to be dependent on or to abuse alcohol or drugs, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002.
- Unlike men and women in local jails who had nearly the same rate of substance dependence/abuse (around 69%), in the general population the rate for men (13%) was twice that for women (6%).

Substance	Prevalence of substance dependence or abuse in the U.S. resident population	
	Number (in millions)	Percent
Alcohol or drugs	22.0	9.4%
Alcohol	18.1	7.7
Drugs	7.1	3.0
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	14.5	12.8%
Female	7.4	6.1

Note: Substance dependence or abuse was measured as defined in the DSM-IV. Based on U.S. resident population age 12 or older. Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Table 1. Prevalence of substance dependence or abuse among jail inmates, 2002**

Diagnosis	Estimated number of inmates <sup>a</sup>	Percent of jail inmates		
		Alcohol	Drugs	Alcohol or drugs
Any dependence or abuse	415,242	46.6%	53.5%	68.0%
Dependence and abuse	269,632	22.2	34.4	44.2
Dependence only	6,081	0.6	1.4	1.0
Abuse only	139,530	23.8	17.7	22.9
No dependence or abuse <sup>b</sup>	195,054	53.4	46.5	32.0

Note: See *References* for sources on measuring dependence or abuse based on the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, fourth edition (DSM-IV).

<sup>a</sup>Excludes 20,945 inmates for whom data were unknown.

<sup>b</sup>Includes inmates who did not use alcohol or drugs.

inmates had higher rates of substance dependence than male inmates. Nearly 52% of female inmates were found to be dependent on alcohol or drugs, compared to 44% of male inmates. Men (24%) had higher rates of substance abuse (without dependence) than women (17%).

### White and middle age inmates had relatively higher rates of substance dependence or abuse

Substance dependence or abuse among jail inmates varied by racial or ethnic groups. White inmates had significantly higher levels of substance dependence or abuse (78%), relative to black inmates (64%) and Hispanic inmates (59%). A larger proportion of white inmates (55%) than blacks (40%) or Hispanics (36%) also were dependent on alcohol or drugs.

A similar rate of substance abuse (without dependence) existed among racial or ethnic categories. Around a quarter of black (24%) and Hispanic (23%) inmates were found to abuse alcohol or drugs, compared to 22% of white inmates.

White females comprised a slightly higher proportion of women who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse than their representation in the overall female jail population. White females were 43% of women in jail, but 48% of women who were dependent on or abused alcohol or drugs. Similarly, white males represented 35% of men in jail, but about 40% of men who met the conditions for substance dependence or abuse.

The rate of substance dependence or abuse varied significantly by age of inmates. Jail inmates between ages 25 and 44 had the highest rate of substance dependence or abuse (7 in 10 inmates). Those age 55 or older had the lowest rate (nearly 5 in 10 inmates).

When the rate of dependence was estimated separately from abuse only, inmates age 55 or older reported the same levels of dependence (23%) or

**Table 2. Substance dependence or abuse among jail inmates, by selected characteristics, 2002**

Characteristic	Percent of jail inmates		
	All	Depen- dence	Abuse only
<b>All jail inmates</b>	68.0%	45.2%	22.9%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	67.9%	44.3%	23.6%
Female	69.2	51.8	17.4
<b>Race/Hispanic origin<sup>a</sup></b>			
White <sup>b</sup>	77.7%	55.4%	22.3%
Black <sup>b</sup>	64.1	40.4	23.7
Hispanic	58.7	35.7	23.0
Other <sup>c</sup>	66.0	45.4	20.7
<b>Age</b>			
24 or younger	66.1%	40.3%	25.8%
25-34	70.5	48.1	22.4
35-44	71.4	50.4	21.0
45-54	61.9	41.7	20.3
55 or older	46.2	23.1	23.1
<b>Most serious offense</b>			
Violent	63.1%	40.8%	22.3%
Property	71.7	50.6	21.1
Drug	72.1	49.6	22.4
Public-order	67.0	41.3	25.7

<sup>a</sup>Excludes inmates who did not specify a race.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin.

<sup>c</sup>Includes Asians, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and inmates who specified more than one race.

**Table 3. Family background of jail inmates, by substance dependence or abuse, 2002**

Characteristic	Percent of jail inmates	
	Dependence or abuse	Other inmates
<b>Homeless in past year</b>	16.5%	9.1%
<b>Employed in month before admission to jail</b>	71.1%	72.5%
<b>Ever physically or sexually abused</b>	21.1%	12.5%
Physically abused	17.6	9.8
Sexually abused	9.0	5.2
<b>While growing up —</b>		
Ever received public assistance*	40.8%	33.2%
Ever lived in foster home, agency or institution	13.9	6.6
Lived most of the time with —		
Both parents	42.1%	48.5%
One parent	46.4	40.3
Someone else	11.5	11.1
Parents or guardians ever abused —	36.8%	17.4%
Alcohol	23.6	11.8
Drugs	2.3	1.7
Both alcohol and drugs	10.9	3.9
Neither	63.2	82.6
<b>Family member ever incarcerated —</b>	50.3%	37.9%
Mother	8.0	5.6
Father	20.7	13.9
Brother	33.9	26.6
Sister	10.6	5.7
Spouse	2.1	1.4
Number of jail inmates	415,242	195,054

\*Public assistance includes public housing, AFDC, food stamps, Medicaid, WIC, and other welfare programs.

abuse only (23%). All other age groups had higher levels of substance dependence. Half of jail inmates ages 35-44 were dependent on alcohol or drugs, while a fifth abused alcohol or drugs.

**Substance dependence or abuse more prevalent among drug or property offenders**

Overall, jail inmates whose most serious charge was a drug or property offense were more likely to have met the substance dependence or abuse criteria than other offenders. More than 70% of drug or property offenders were dependent on or had abused a substance, compared to over 60% of violent and public-order offenders. An estimated half of drug or property offenders were dependent on alcohol or drugs; over a fifth reported an abuse (without dependence) criterion.

**Half of inmates who met criteria of dependence or abuse had a family member who had served time**

Jail inmates who met the conditions for substance dependence or abuse (16%) were more likely to have been homeless in the year before their admission to jail than other inmates (9%) (table 3). They were twice as likely as other inmates to have lived in a foster home, agency, or institution. An estimated 14% said they had lived in a foster home, agency, or institution, compared to 7% of other inmates.

Over a fifth of jail inmates who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse said they had been physically or sexually abused in the past. An eighth of other jail inmates reported past physical or sexual abuse.

**Table 4. Criminal history of jail inmates, by substance dependence or abuse, 2002**

Characteristic	Percent of jail inmates	
	Dependence or abuse	Other inmates
<b>Criminal justice status at arrest</b>		
None	42.5%	56.3%
Any status*	57.5	43.7
On parole	13.7	9.7
On probation	36.3	27.8
On bail/bond	7.8	5.9
<b>Criminal history</b>		
No previous sentence	30.5%	54.0%
Prior sentence	69.5	46.0
Violent recidivists	32.0	21.0
Drug recidivists only	3.3	2.8
Other recidivists	34.2	22.2
<b>Number of prior probation/incarceration sentences</b>		
0	19.8%	41.4%
1	16.2	20.2
2	17.1	16.3
3-5	25.5	14.6
6-10	13.7	5.2
11 or more	7.7	2.2

\*Percentages add to more than total because inmates may have had more than one status.

Substance dependent or abusing jail inmates were twice as likely as other jail inmates to have had a parent or guardian who abused drugs or alcohol. About 2 in 5 jail inmates who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse said a parent or guardian had abused alcohol, drugs, or both while they were growing up. Among other inmates, about 1 in 6 said a parent or guardian abused alcohol, drugs, or both.

Inmates who were dependent on or abused alcohol or drugs (50%) were more likely than other inmates (38%) to have had a family member who had been incarcerated. Twenty-one percent had a father who had been incarcerated in the past, compared to 14% of other inmates. A third of inmates who met the conditions for substance dependence or abuse had a brother who had served time in prison or jail, compared to over a fourth of other jail inmates.

## Prior criminal record linked to substance dependence or abuse

Jail inmates who were dependent on or abused alcohol or drugs were more likely to have had a prior criminal record than other inmates. Fifty-seven percent of the substance dependent or abusing inmates were on some criminal justice status at the time of their arrest, including 36% who were on probation (table 4). About 44% of other jail inmates were on a criminal justice status at arrest.

An estimated 8 in 10 jail inmates who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse had a prior sentence to probation or incarceration, compared to about 6 in 10 other jail inmates. The substance dependent or abusing inmates (47%) were also twice as likely as other inmates (22%) to have had three or more prior probation or incarceration sentences.

## Alcohol use at offense declined between 1996 and 2002

In 2002, 40% of all jail inmates said they had participated in binge drinking in the past, unchanged from 1996. Binge drinking is defined as having consumed a fifth of liquor in a single day, or the equivalent of 20 drinks, 3 bottles of wine, or 3 six-packs of beer.

Alcohol use	Percent of jail inmates	
	2002	1996
Ever use	85.4%	87.9%
Regular use <sup>a</sup>	66.0	66.3
Binge drinking <sup>b</sup>	39.9	40.3
At time of offense <sup>c</sup>	33.4	40.5

<sup>a</sup>Drank alcohol at least once a week for a month, or drank daily or at least once a week during the year before the offense.

<sup>b</sup>Binge drinking means having consumed a fifth of liquor in a single day, or the equivalent of 20 drinks, 3 bottles of wine, or 3 six-packs of beer.

<sup>c</sup>Convicted inmates only.

The proportion of convicted inmates who had been drinking at the time of the offense declined to 33% in 2002, from 41% in 1996.

**Table 5. Prior drug use of jail inmates, by type of drug, 2002 and 1996**

Type of drug	Percent of jail inmates who used drugs							
	All inmates				Convicted inmates <sup>a</sup>			
	Ever		Regularly <sup>b</sup>		In the month before the offense		At the time of the offense	
	2002	1996	2002	1996	2002	1996	2002	1996
Any drug	82.2%	82.4%	68.7%	64.2%	54.6%	54.0%	28.8%	34.9%
Marijuana or hashish	75.7%	78.2%	58.5%	54.9	37.5%	36.0%	13.6%	18.0%
Cocaine or crack	48.1	50.4	30.9	31.0	20.7	22.8	10.6	14.3
Heroin/opiates	20.7	23.9	12.0	11.8	7.8	7.9	4.1	5.1
Depressants <sup>c</sup>	21.6	29.9	10.7	10.4	6.1	5.3	2.4	2.2
Stimulants <sup>d</sup>	27.8	33.6	17.1	16.5	11.4	9.6	5.2	5.6
Hallucinogens <sup>e</sup>	32.4	32.2	13.4	10.5	5.9	4.2	1.6	1.4
Inhalants	12.7	16.8	4.2	4.8	1.0	0.9	0.2	0.3

<sup>a</sup>Includes all inmates with a current conviction or with a prior conviction, but no new conviction for the current charge.

<sup>b</sup>Used drugs at least once a week for at least a month.

<sup>c</sup>Depressants include barbiturates, tranquilizers, and quaaludes.

<sup>d</sup>Stimulants include amphetamines and methamphetamines.

<sup>e</sup>Hallucinogens include LSD, Ecstasy, and PCP.

## Regular drug use rose between 1996 and 2002; use at offense declined

While the overall percentage of jail inmates who reported having ever used drugs remained stable (82%) between 1996 and 2002, regular drug use rose to 69% in 2002 from 64% in 1996 (table 5). Regular use was defined as drug use at least once a week for at least a month. Among convicted jail inmates, drug use at the time of the offense dropped to 29% from 35% during that period. In each year, over half of convicted jail inmates said they had used drugs in the month before their offense.

There was little change in the types of drugs used between 1996 and 2002. Marijuana and cocaine/crack cocaine were the most common drugs inmates said they used regularly, in the month before the offense, or at the time of the offense. About 59% of all jail inmates said they used marijuana regularly, up from 55% in 1996. In each year, the fraction of inmates who said they regularly used cocaine/crack (31%), heroin/other opiates (12%), depressants (10%), and stimulants (17%) was relatively unchanged.

Nearly 14% of convicted jail inmates had used marijuana at the time of the offense in 2002, a slight decrease from 18% in 1996. Eleven percent had used cocaine/crack in 2002, down from 14% in 1996.

## Women and white inmates more likely to have used drugs at offense

Among convicted jail inmates, there were significant differences in the type of substances used at the time of the offense and in the substances they were dependent on or abused. About 29% of convicted inmates said they had used drugs at the time of the offense, compared to 33% who reported using alcohol (table 6). More than half of convicted jail inmates were dependent on or abused drugs, while just under half were dependent on or abused alcohol.

Convicted women offenders were more likely to have been under the influence of drugs (34%) than alcohol (22%) at the time of the offense. Over a third of convicted men said they had used alcohol at the time of the offense, compared to over a fourth who had used drugs.

Both male and female jail inmates were more likely to have met the conditions for dependence or abuse of drugs than alcohol. However, women were significantly more likely to have met the criteria for dependence or abuse of drugs (61%) than alcohol (39%). By contrast, men were only slightly more likely to have met the criteria for dependence or abuse of drugs (54%) than alcohol (50%).

Among convicted inmates considered by race or ethnic origin, white inmates had the highest rate of having used either drugs or alcohol at the time of their most serious offense. About 39% of white inmates had used alcohol at the time of the offense, followed by 30% of Hispanic and 29% of black inmates. A third of white inmates and a fourth of black and Hispanic inmates were under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense.

White inmates also had the highest prevalence of dependence or abuse regardless of the substance. About 59% of whites, 43% of blacks, and 42% of Hispanic inmates were dependent on or abused alcohol. The rate of dependence or abuse for drugs was 62% for whites, 54% for blacks, and 45% for Hispanic inmates.

**Younger inmates had higher rates of dependence or abuse of drugs; middle-age inmates, of alcohol**

Older offenders were most likely to have used alcohol at the time of the offense. Forty percent of inmates age 35 or older had used alcohol at the time of the offense, compared to 33% of inmates ages 25-34 and 24% of inmates age 24 or younger. Nearly a third of offenders age 34 or younger had used drugs at the time of their offense. Only a small portion (6%) of inmates age 55 or older had used drugs when they committed their offense.

Fifty-two percent of convicted inmates ages 25-34 and 35-44 were found to be dependent on or to abuse alcohol, the largest percentage among all age categories. Inmates age 55 or older had the lowest rate of alcohol dependence or abuse (38%), followed by inmates ages 45-54, at 44%, and inmates age 24 or younger, at 46%.

Jail inmates age 24 or younger had the highest rate of drug dependence or abuse. About 61% were dependent on or abused drugs, compared to about 56% of jail inmates ages 25-44. Similar to alcohol dependence or abuse, the lowest rate of drug dependence or abuse (16%) occurred among inmates age 55 or older.

**Over half of inmates convicted of robbery, burglary, or drug offenses were under the influence at offense**

Overall, 50% of convicted jail inmates reported being under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the offense (table 7). Inmates convicted of robbery (56%), weapons violations

**Table 6. Prior alcohol or drug use and dependence or abuse among convicted jail inmates, by selected characteristics, 2002**

Characteristic	Estimated number of inmates	Percent of convicted jail inmates —			
		Using at the time of offense		Meeting dependence or abuse criteria	
		Alcohol	Drugs	Alcohol	Drugs
<b>All inmates</b>	444,534	33.4%	28.8%	49.0%	55.3%
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	391,809	34.9%	28.0%	50.3%	54.4%
Female	52,725	22.2	34.4	39.2	61.3
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>					
White <sup>a</sup>	168,613	38.5%	33.2%	58.6%	62.2%
Black <sup>a</sup>	172,186	29.3	27.3	42.7	53.9
Hispanic	80,157	30.1	23.8	41.8	45.0
Other <sup>b</sup>	22,308	36.9	24.1	52.6	50.2
<b>Age</b>					
24 or younger	129,726	24.2%	31.5%	45.5%	60.7%
25-34	142,174	33.3	31.0	51.6	56.5
35-44	118,680	40.1	28.5	52.3	55.6
45-54	45,445	40.9	19.3	44.2	41.8
55 or older	8,509	40.5	5.5	38.5	16.4

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin

<sup>b</sup>Includes Asians, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and inmates who specified more than one race.

**Table 7. Prior alcohol or drug use at time of offense among convicted jail inmates, by type of offense, 2002**

Most serious offense	Estimated number of inmates	Used at time of offense		
		Alcohol	Drugs	Alcohol or drugs
<b>Total<sup>a</sup></b>	440,570	33.3%	28.8%	49.7%
<b>Violent offenses</b>	96,359	37.6	21.8%	47.2%
Homicide	5,967	41.6	20.0	47.4
Sexual assault <sup>b</sup>	13,252	37.2	13.5	42.2
Robbery	18,826	37.6	39.9	55.8
Assault	50,226	39.7	18.2	47.5
<b>Property offenses</b>	112,895	28.5%	32.5%	46.8%
Burglary	29,767	32.6	40.8	55.1
Larceny/theft	33,691	29.0	32.0	47.3
Motor vehicle theft	9,414	35.4	39.8	54.5
Fraud	22,817	21.5	27.9	38.6
<b>Drug offenses</b>	112,447	22.4%	43.2%	51.7%
Possession	48,823	19.9	45.9	51.4
Trafficking	56,574	24.8	40.7	51.8
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	83,193	26.2%	19.5%	37.0%
Weapons	9,218	35.3	36.8	55.7
Other public-order <sup>c</sup>	73,975	25.1	17.4	34.6

<sup>a</sup>Includes offenses not shown.

<sup>b</sup>Includes rape and other sexual assault.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes DWI/DUI.

(56%), burglary (55%), or motor vehicle theft (55%) were more likely than inmates convicted of other types of offenses to have used a substance at the time of the offense. The least likely of all offenders to have used alcohol or drugs at offense were those convicted of public-order offenses (37%) or fraud (39%).

Violent offenders were more likely to have used alcohol at the time of the offense (38%) than inmates who committed property (29%), drug (22%), or public-order offenses (26%). However, violent offenders were less likely than other offenders to have used drugs at the time of the offense. About a fifth of violent offenders, a third of property, and two-fifths of drug offenders had used drugs at the time of the offense. Less than a fifth of public-order offenders used drugs at offense.

### 16% of convicted jail inmates committed the offense to get money for drugs

In 2002, 16% of convicted jail inmates said they committed their offense to get money for drugs, a slight increase from 15% in 1996. Around a quarter of property and drug offenders said they committed their offense to get money for drugs, compared to under a tenth of violent and public-order offenders.

Most serious offense	Percent of convicted inmates who committed offense to get money for drugs	
	2002	1996 <sup>a</sup>
Total <sup>b</sup>	16.4%	15.1%
Violent	8.0	8.2
Property	26.9	24.5
Drug	24.8	22.8
Public-order	5.2	3.4

<sup>a</sup>Percentages have been revised from those previously published.

<sup>b</sup>Includes offenses not shown.

Between 1996 and 2002, the proportion of drug, property, and public-order offenders who said they committed their offense to get money for drugs increased by two percentage points, while that of violent offenders was relatively unchanged.

**Table 8. Substance dependence or abuse among convicted jail inmates, by type of substance and offense, 2002**

Most serious offense	Estimated number of inmates	Percent dependent or abusing —		
		Alcohol	Drugs	Alcohol or drugs
<b>Total<sup>a</sup></b>	440,570	48.9%	55.3%	70.9%
<b>Violent offenses</b>	96,359	52.0%	47.9%	66.9%
Homicide	5,967	46.1	30.4	56.2
Sexual assault <sup>b</sup>	13,252	37.2	32.6	49.6
Robbery	18,826	52.6	63.9	74.2
Assault	50,226	57.8	50.5	71.8
<b>Property offenses</b>	112,895	48.4%	61.8%	72.8%
Burglary	29,767	54.1	74.0	84.7
Larceny/theft	33,691	49.3	59.1	71.1
Motor vehicle theft	9,414	46.5	60.9	70.3
Fraud	22,817	42.6	53.2	63.1
<b>Drug offenses</b>	112,447	40.1%	66.6%	73.0%
Possession	48,823	40.5	71.2	75.3
Trafficking	56,574	40.1	61.4	70.0
<b>Public-order offenses</b>	83,193	45.8%	48.2%	65.6%
Weapons	9,218	47.6	60.8	78.8
Other public-order	73,975	45.6	46.7	64.0
<b>DWI/DUI</b>	35,676	78.1%	36.2%	81.5%

<sup>a</sup>Includes offenses not shown.

<sup>b</sup>Includes rape and other sexual assault.

### Three-quarters of inmates in jail for drug or property offenses met dependence or abuse criteria

Seven in ten convicted jail inmates were found to be dependent on or to abuse alcohol or drugs, a slightly larger proportion than the 6 in 10 of the entire jail population (table 8). Overall, substance dependence or abuse was more prevalent among convicted drug and property offenders. Nearly three-quarters of inmates in jail for drug or property offenses met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse, compared to two-thirds of jail inmates who committed violent or public-order offenses.

Jail inmates convicted of burglary had the highest rate of substance dependence or abuse (85%), followed by DWI/DUI (81%), weapons violations (79%), and drug possession (75%). The lowest rate of substance dependence or abuse was among inmates convicted of sexual assault (50%).

Convicted violent offenders were the most likely to be dependent on or abusing alcohol (52%), followed by property (48%), and public-order (46%)

offenders. Drug offenders (40%) were least likely to be dependent on or to abuse alcohol.

By specific offenses, DWI/DUI offenders were the most likely to have met the criteria for alcohol dependence or abuse (78%), followed by inmates convicted of assault (58%), burglary (54%), and robbery (53%). Jail inmates who committed sexual assault (37%) were the least likely of the different types of offenders to be dependent on or to abuse alcohol.

The highest percentage of drug dependence or abuse occurred among drug offenders, with 67% meeting the conditions for dependence or abuse. Property offenders were next with 62% having met the conditions.

Specifically, jail inmates convicted of burglary (74%), drug possession (71%), and robbery (64%) had the highest rates of drug dependence or abuse. Offenders convicted of homicide (30%) and sexual assault (33%) were least likely to be dependent on or to abuse drugs.

## 6 in 10 substance dependent or abusing inmates had participated in substance treatment or programs

Sixty-three percent of jail inmates who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse said they had participated in substance treatment or other alcohol or drug programs in the past.

Substance dependence or abuse	Percent of jail inmates who had ever participated in substance abuse treatment or other programs
Alcohol or drugs	62.6%
Alcohol	64.8
Drugs	64.0

The most common activity among dependent or abusing inmates was participation in alcohol or drug programs which included self-help programs (such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous), peer counseling, or education or awareness programs. Forty-six percent of dependent or abusing inmates had participated in these programs, compared to 44% who had received treatment (table 9). Substance treatment included time spent in a residential facility or a detoxification unit, professional counseling, or use of a maintenance drug.

### Participation in substance treatment or programs linked to dependence

Jail inmates who were dependent on alcohol or drugs had the highest rate of participation in substance treatment or other alcohol or drug programs. Over two-thirds of dependent inmates said they had participated in treatment or programs in the past, compared to over half of inmates who abused drugs or alcohol.

**Table 9. Substance use treatment or programs among jail inmates who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse, 2002**

Type of treatment or programs	Percent of inmates meeting criteria for substance —		
	Dependence	Abuse only	Dependence or abuse
<b>Ever in treatment or programs</b>	67.9%	52.2%	62.6%
Treatment <sup>a</sup>	50.3%	30.6%	43.7%
Other substance abuse programs <sup>b</sup>	49.2	38.6	45.6
<b>Participated while under correctional supervision<sup>c</sup></b>	52.8%	36.6%	47.4%
Treatment <sup>a</sup>	34.9%	19.2%	29.6%
In prison/jail	19.8	11.1	16.9
On probation/parole	26.6	14.2	22.4
Other programs <sup>b</sup>	39.5%	28.3%	35.7%
In prison/jail	27.4	16.7	23.8
On probation/parole	28.9	19.9	25.8
Estimated number of inmates	275,712	139,530	415,242

Note: Detail adds to more than total because inmates may have participated in more than one type of substance abuse treatment or other program.

<sup>a</sup>Treatment is defined as substance care received under the supervision of a trained professional, including treatment in a special residential facility, professional counseling, detoxification unit, or use of a maintenance drug.

<sup>b</sup>Other programs included self-help and education/awareness programs.

<sup>c</sup>Includes inmates who had participated in treatment or other programs after admission.

Dependent inmates (53%) were more likely to have participated in treatment or programs while under correctional supervision than inmates who abused alcohol or drugs (37%). Over a third of dependent inmates had received treatment while incarcerated or on probation or parole. Nearly a fifth of inmates who abused alcohol or drugs had received treatment. Forty percent of dependent and 28% of abusing inmates reported they had participated in other alcohol or drug programs while under correctional supervision.

Regardless of a diagnosis of dependence or abuse, inmates were more likely to have received treatment or participated in program while on probation or parole rather than in prison or jail. Over 1 in 4 dependent inmates had received treatment while in the community, and 1 in 5 had treatment while incarcerated.

### Participation in treatment or other programs while under correctional supervision rose between 1996 and 2002

The largest increase in substance treatment or other programs occurred among inmates who said they had used alcohol or drugs at the time of offense — up from 43% in 1996 to 52% in 2002 (table 10). Among inmates who had been using alcohol or drugs in the month before the offense, the proportion who reported ever having participated in treatment or programs while under correctional supervision rose from 39% in 1996 to 47% in 2002.

Participation in treatment or other programs after admission to jail also increased among all prior alcohol or drug users. In 2002, 20% of convicted inmates who were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the offense had participated in treatment/programs after entering jail, up from 17% in 1996. In each year, participation in self-help programs (13%) was the most common activity, followed by education programs (over 5%).



The rate of participation in treatment or programs since entering jail for convicted inmates who used alcohol or drugs in the month before the offense rose to 17% in 2002, up from 14% in 1996. Treatment specifically rose from 4% to 6% between 1996 to 2002, and participation in other programs grew from 13% to 14%, respectively.

**1 in 6 inmates using alcohol at the time of the offense participated in treatment/programs after admission**

In 2002 an estimated 17% of jail inmates who ever participated in binge drinking and inmates who met the criteria for alcohol dependence or abuse had received treatment or participated in other programs after admission to jail (table 11). Around 16% of inmates using alcohol at the time of the offense had participated in treatment or programs after admission.

The level of participation in specific types of substance abuse treatment or programs varied little among inmates who were dependent on or abused alcohol, who had used alcohol at the time of the offense, or who reported ever having a binge drinking experience. Three percent of inmates in each category had received treatment in a special facility after admission. Between 2% and 3% had also received professional counseling and 1% had been in a detoxification unit.

Twelve percent of inmates who reported binge drinking had participated in self-help or peer counseling, followed by 11% of inmates who met the criteria for alcohol dependence or abuse, and 10% of inmates who were using alcohol at the time of the offense. Around 5% of each group had participated in alcohol abuse education or awareness programs.

**1 in 5 inmates who used drugs at time of the offense participated in treatment or programs after admission**

A fifth of convicted jail inmates who reported drug use at the time of their offense had participated in treatment or programs after admission to jail, a larger proportion than any other group

of drug users (table 12). About 14% of convicted inmates who reported past drug use ever, 17% of those who used drugs in the month before the offense, and 18% of inmates who met the conditions for drug dependence or abuse had received treatment or participated in other programs after entering jail.

**Table 10. Substance treatment or programs under correctional supervision among convicted jail inmates who used alcohol or drugs, 2002 and 1996**

Type of treatment or programs	Percent of convicted inmates reporting prior substance use —					
	Ever regularly		In the month before the offense		At the time of the offense	
	2002	1996	2002	1996	2002	1996
<b>Ever under correctional supervision</b>	47.3%	38.8%	46.9%	39.0%	52.1%	43.0%
<b>Participated after admission</b>	17.3%	14.4%	16.9%	14.4%	19.9%	17.0%
Treatment	6.2%	4.2%	6.0%	4.2%	7.5%	5.3%
Residential facility or unit	3.4	2.2	3.3	2.4	4.0	2.9
Counseling by a professional	2.5	1.6	2.4	1.6	3.1	1.9
Detoxification unit	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.2
Other programs	13.9%	12.8%	13.6%	12.8%	15.7%	15.1%
Self-help group or peer counseling	11.2	10.8	10.9	10.8	12.8	12.8
Education	5.5	4.6	5.4	4.6	6.2	5.4
Estimated number of inmates	375,730	296,580	297,636	277,787	216,014	190,103

Note: Detail adds to more than total because inmates may have participated in more than one type of substance abuse treatment or other program.

**Table 11. Alcohol treatment or programs following admission of convicted inmates who used alcohol or met alcohol dependence or abuse criteria, 2002**

Type of alcohol treatment or programs after admission	Convicted inmates	Prior alcohol use —		Alcohol dependence or abuse
		Ever binge drinking*	Using alcohol at offense	
<b>Any alcohol treatment or program</b>	10.9%	17.4%	16.4%	16.8%
<b>Treatment</b>	3.6%	5.9%	5.9%	5.6%
Residential facility or unit	2.0	2.9	2.8	3.0
Professional counseling	1.4	2.7	2.6	2.4
Detoxification unit	0.5	1.1	1.0	0.9
<b>Other programs</b>	9.0%	14.1%	12.7%	13.6%
Self-help group or peer counseling	7.2	11.7	10.2	11.1
Education	3.8	5.4	5.3	5.6
Estimated number of inmates	439,473	181,728	144,596	212,535

\*Binge drinking is defined as having consumed as much as a fifth of liquor in a single day, equivalent to 20 drinks, 3 bottles of wine, or as many as 3 six-packs of beer.

Self-help or peer group counseling and placement in a residential unit or special facility were the most common types of activities. More than 11% of convicted inmates who had used drugs in the month before the offense, at the time of the offense, or met the drug dependence or abuse criteria had participated in self-help or peer group counseling programs.

Around 9% of convicted inmates who used drugs at the time of the offense had received treatment in a special unit or residential facility since entering jail. Nearly 7% of inmates who reported drug use in the month before the offense and those dependent on or abusing drugs had treatment in a special unit or facility.

### Substance dependent or abusing women, whites more likely to participate in treatment or programs

Female inmates (68%) who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse were more likely than male inmates (64%) to have ever received any type of substance treatment or program (table 13). This pattern continued across all types of treatment or programs. Fifty-three percent of women who met substance dependence or abuse criteria had received some type of treatment, compared to 44% of men.

**Table 12. Drug treatment or programs after admission among convicted jail inmates who used drugs or met drug dependence or abuse criteria, 2002**

Type of drug treatment or programs after admission	Prior drug use —			Drug dependence or abuse
	Ever in the past	In the month before offense	At the time of offense	
<b>Any drug treatment or program</b>	13.8%	17.5%	21.0%	17.9%
<b>Treatment</b>	5.1%	6.5%	8.4%	6.9%
Residential facility or unit	2.9	3.6	5.1	3.9
Professional counseling	2.0	2.6	3.2	2.9
Detoxification unit	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.6
Maintenance drug	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>Other programs</b>	10.9%	13.8%	16.2%	14.0%
Self-help group or peer counseling	8.2	10.6	13.0	11.0
Education	4.8	5.8	6.7	6.0
Estimated number of inmates	370,348	236,517	124,717	239,485

**Table 13. Substance treatment or programs ever or under correctional supervision among convicted jail inmates who met substance dependence or abuse criteria, by gender and race, 2002**

Type of treatment or programs	Percent of substance dependent or abusing inmates —				
	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic
<b>Ever in treatment or program</b>	63.9%	68.1%	72.5%	57.9%	58.0%
Treatment	44.4	53.1	55.5	38.9	34.8
Other programs	47.0	51.0	54.7	40.8	44.1
<b>Participated while under correctional supervision</b>	50.5%	56.0%	57.9%	44.6%	48.1%
Treatment	31.8	38.8	39.9	27.3	27.0
Other programs	38.2	42.6	45.5	31.9	36.9
After admission					
Treatment	6.7	9.1	9.2	5.0	5.2
Other programs	14.5	22.5	18.2	13.2	12.6
Ever while in prison or jail					
Treatment	17.7	20.6	22.9	15.7	12.1
Other programs	24.5	30.4	29.7	22.0	21.0
Ever while on probation or parole					
Treatment	24.6	31.0	32.3	19.6	21.1
Other programs	28.5	31.4	36.6	21.2	26.6
Estimated number of inmates	267,646	36,873	130,294	110,710	47,004

### 8 in 10 convicted jail inmates were involved with drugs/alcohol in 2002

• In the comparable data for 1996 and 2002, three-quarters of convicted jail inmates were involved with drugs or alcohol. When substance dependence or abuse and positive drug test results were included in 2002, 85% of convicted jail inmates were found to be drug/alcohol-involved.

	Percent of convicted jail inmates involved with drugs/alcohol	
	2002	1996
Any current drug offense	31.0%	27.8%
Any current DWI/DUI	9.7	10.7
Alcohol/drug use at offense	49.7	58.8
Ever commit crime to get money for drugs	16.4	15.1
Drug use in month before offense	54.6	54.0
Daily use of alcohol in year before admission	34.4	36.7
<b>Drug/alcohol-involved</b>	<b>77.8%</b>	<b>77.3%</b>
Positive drug test at arrest or after admission*	29.0	/
Abused drugs or alcohol	22.9	/
Dependent on drugs or alcohol	45.2	/
<b>Drug/alcohol-involved</b>	<b>84.7%</b>	<b>--</b>

Note: Percentages add to more than 100% because inmates may have had more than one type of involvement.  
/Not reported.  
--Not calculated.  
\*Based on inmates tested for drugs only.

White jail inmates (72%) who were found to be dependent on or to abuse alcohol or drugs had the highest rate of participation in treatment or other programs, followed by 58% of both blacks and Hispanics.

Four in ten white inmates who met the conditions for dependence or abuse had received treatment under correctional supervision, compared to fewer than 3 in 10 black and Hispanic inmates. White inmates (23%) were also nearly twice as likely as Hispanic inmates (12%) to have received treatment in prison or jail.

Forty-five percent of white inmates who met the criteria for substance dependence or abuse had participated in other alcohol or drug programs while under correctional supervision, compared to 37% of Hispanics and 32% of black inmates who met the criteria. White inmates also had the highest level of participation in other programs since entering jail — whites (18%), blacks (13%), and Hispanics (13%).

## Methodology

The findings in this report are based on information in the Survey of Inmates in Local Jails (SILJ), conducted from January through April, 2002. SILJ was a stratified two-stage sample survey

in which jails were selected at the first stage and inmates to be interviewed at the second stage. The jails were selected from a universe of 3,365 jails and grouped into 6 strata based on the size of the male, female, and juvenile (both male and female) populations. Each jail within a stratum had an equal probability of selection.

Overall, 465 jails were selected, and interviews were held in 417 jails; 39 jails refused or were excluded for administrative reasons; and 9 were closed or had no inmates.

In the second sampling stage, interviewers from the Census Bureau visited each selected facility and systematically selected a sample of male and female inmates. A total of 6,982 inmates were interviewed, using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). A total of 768 inmates refused to participate, for a second stage nonresponse of 9.9%.

Based on the completed interviews, estimates for the entire jail population were developed using weighting factors derived from the original probability of selection in the sample. These factors were adjusted for variable rates of nonresponse across strata and inmate characteristics. Further adjustments were made to control the survey

estimates to counts of jail inmates obtained from the 1999 Census of Jails and the 2001 Annual Survey of Jails.

The accuracy of the jail inmates survey depends on sampling and measurement errors. Sampling errors occur by chance because a sample rather than a complete enumeration of the population was conducted. Measurement error can be attributed to many sources, such as nonresponse, recall difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions among inmates, and data processing errors.

The sampling error, as measured by an estimated standard error, varies by the size of the estimate and the size of the base population. Estimates of the standard errors for selected characteristics have been calculated for the 2002 Survey. Standard error tables are available on the BJS website <[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/sdatji02.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/sdatji02.htm)>.

These standard errors may be used to construct confidence intervals around percentages. For example, the 95% confidence interval around the percentage of inmates in 2002 who were dependent on or abused alcohol or drugs is approximately 68% plus or minus 1.96 times .72% (or 66.6% to 69.4%).

In this report, the definition of a convicted jail inmate differs from other previously published reports. Trend comparisons between data in this report and reports based on data from previous jail inmate surveys (or the *Annual Survey of Jails*) are affected by the revised definition of convicted and unconvicted inmates. Other revisions to the questionnaire will also affect comparisons across surveys.

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The 2002 SILJ is the first BJS survey to measure the prevalence of substance dependence or abuse in the correctional population based on the DSM-IV. These estimates are not comparable to findings reported from previous jail inmate surveys.

Other national surveys that used the DSM-IV to measure substance abuse and dependence in the general population include the National Epidemiological Survey of Alcohol and Related Conditions, 2002, (NESARC), sponsored by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002, (NSDUH), SAMSHA.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Lawrence A. Greenfeld is director.

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