125445

DIVISION OF PROGRAM PLANNING, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

IDENTIFIED SUBSTANCE ABUSERS
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report provides information on inmates under custody on February 24, 1990 who have been identified as substance abusers. The information on substance abuse reflects self-reported drug use six months prior to incarceration and scores of 9 or above on the Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST).

Based on available self-report data on drug use and MAST scores, 73 percent (37,913) of the total inmate population of 51,737 may be identified as substance abusers. Seventy-four percent of 49,191 male inmates can be identified as substance abusers. Additionally 63 percent (1,601) of 2,546 female inmates can be identified as substance abusers.

It should be noted that the above percentage of identified substance abusers in the inmate population must be considered a conservative estimate of the extent of substance abuse. The numbers include both inmates who report no drug use and have MAST scores under 9 (7,388) and inmates with missing data on substance use (6,436). If these missing data cases are excluded, it may be calculated that 84 percent (37,913) of the 45,301 inmates for whom data is available may be classified as substance abusers.

The tables present data on drug and alcohol abuse, type of drug use, crime of commitment, region of commitment, minimum sentence, maximum sentence, second felony status, current age, educational level and ethnic status.

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SECTION I
IDENTIFIED SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

The following table presents the breakdown of reported substance abuse for those persons held under custody as of February 24, 1990. Overall, 73 percent of inmates under custody are identified substance abusers. Of the 49,191 male inmates under custody, 74 percent (36,312) report using drugs or are classified as alcoholic based on a score of 9 or more on the Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST). Of the 2,546 females under custody 63 percent (1,601) report using drugs or are classified as alcoholic based on a score of 9 or more on the Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST).

TABLE 1

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Drug Abuse	26,658	55%	1,108	44%	27,766	54%
Drug and Alcohol	7,582	15%	316	12%	7,898	15%
Alcohol	2,072	4%	177	7%	2,249	4%
Identified Substance Abuser	36,312	74%	1,601	63%	37,913	73%
No Substance Abuse	6,688	13%	700	27%	7,388	14%
Missing Data	6,191	13%	245	10%	6,436	13%
Not Identified Substance Abuser	12,879	26%	945	37%	13,824	27%
TOTAL	49,191	100%	2,546	100%	51,737	100%

PERCENT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSERS IN INMATE POPULATION

Table 2 presents the percentage of identified substance abusers in the inmate population (excluding cases missing data) For inmates for which substance abuse data is available, 84 percent can be identified as substance abusers. For males, 84 percent are identified substance abusers. For females, 70 percent are identified substance abusers.

TABLE 2

INMATES WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE DATA	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Substance Abuse Indicated	36,312	84%	1,601	70%	37,913	84%
No Substance Abuse Indicated	6,688	16%	700	30%	7,388	16%
TOTAL	43,000	100%	2,301	100%	45,301	100%

DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL ABUSE

Table 3 displays the breakdown of substance use reported by identified substance abusers. Of the identified male substance abusers, 73 percent report drug abuse only, 21 percent abuse both drugs and alcohol and 6 percent are identified as alcoholic according to the MAST (but report no drug use). Of the identified female substance abusers, 69 percent report drug abuse only, 20 percent abuse both drugs and alcohol, and 11 percent are identified as alcoholic according to the MAST.

TABLE 3

| | MALES | | FEMALES | |
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Drug Abuser	26,658	73%	1,108	69%
Drugs and Alcohol	7,582	21%	316	20%
Alcoholic	2,072	6%	177	11%
TOTAL	36,312	100%	1,601	100%

TYPE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Table 4 presents substance use for inmates identified as drug and/or alcohol abusers. Fifty percent of male inmates reporting substance abuse reported using cocaine or crack, 13 percent reported heroin use, 14 percent other drugs or narcotics 17 percent marijuana, and 6 percent were indicated alcoholics with no drug use. Of the female offenders, 50 percent reporting substance abuse reported using cocaine or crack, 30 percent reported heroin use, 4 percent reported other drugs or narcotics, 5 percent reported marijuana, and 11 percent were identified as alcoholic with no drug use.

TABLE 4

| | MALES | | FEMALES | |
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Cocaine/Crack	18,184	50%	806	50%
Heroin	4,567	13%	477	30%
Other Drugs (exc. marijuana)	5,203	14%	63	4%
Marijuana Only	6,286	17%	78	5%
Alcohol Only	2,072	6%	177	11%
TOTAL	36,312	100%	1,601	100%

SECTION II
COMMITMENT INFORMATION

CRIME OF COMMITMENT

The most common commitment offenses for identified substance abusers are drug offenses. Thirty-three percent of the identified male substance abusers were committed for the sale or possession of drugs. Robbery is the second most common offense (23%) followed by homicide (13%) and burglary (12%). Drug offenses are also the most common commitment offenses for female substance abusers. Sixty percent were committed for drug offenses, followed by robbery (12%) and homicide (9%).

TABLE 5

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Homicide	4,744	13%	151	9%
Rape	1,070	3%	5	*
Robbery	8,505	23%	191	12%
Assault	922	3%	47	3%
Burglary	4,536	12%	83	5%
Arson	122	*	11	1%
Sex Offenses	778	2%	4	*
Weapons Offenses	1,019	3%	19	1%
Kidnapping	122	*	4	*
Other Coercive	225	1%	7	1%
Drug Offenses	12,138	33%	960	60%
Grand Larceny	644	2%	38	2%
Forgery	181	1%	40	3%
Stolen Property	652	2%	20	1%
DWI	179	*	2	*
Other Felonies	225	1%	9	1%
Youthful Offender	241	1%	10	1%
TOTAL	36,303	100%	1,601	100%

Missing Cases = 9
* = Less than 0.5%

REGION OF COMMITMENT

Region of the state is broken into four categories. Inmates from the New York City region are persons committed from Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond counties. The Suburban New York region includes Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester and Rockland counties. Upstate urban reflects commitments from upstate counties that include a population center of 50,000 or more. The eight counties included in this category are Albany, Broom, Erie, Monroe, Oneida, Onondaga, Rensselaer and Schenectady. Upstate rural contains the remaining upstate counties.

The majority of identified substance abusers are from the New York City area. Seventy-three percent of males and 75 percent of females are from New York City. Twelve percent of males and 11 percent of females are from Suburban New York. Eight percent of both the male and female cases are from Upstate Urban areas while 7 percent of males and 6 percent of females are from other Upstate areas.

TABLE 6

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
New York City	26,387	73%	1,201	75%
Suburban New York	4,386	12%	168	11%
Upstate Urban	3,080	8%	136	8%
Upstate Other	2,459	7%	96	6%
TOTAL	36,312	100%	1,601	100%

SECOND FELONY STATUS

The second felony offender law requires that persons, who have been convicted of a felony offense and who have a prior felony conviction, serve a mandatory state prison sentence. The following table provides second felony offender status for identified substance abusers.

Fifty-one percent of the identified male substance abusers were committed as second felony offenders, while 47 percent were committed as first felony offenders. Only two percent of male substance abusers were sentenced as persistent felons. For females, 46 percent of identified female substance abusers were committed as second felony offenders, while 54 percent were committed as first felony offenders.

TABLE 7

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
First Felony Offender	17,117	47%	856	54%
Second Felony Offender	18,541	51%	738	46%
Persistent Felony Offender	654	2%	7	*
TOTAL	36,312	100%	1,601	100%

* = Less than 0.5%

MINIMUM SENTENCE

Seventy-three percent of identified male substance abusers have a minimum sentence less than six years (72 months). The median minimum sentence is three years (36 months).

For females, the percentage serving less than six years is much higher (92%). The median minimum sentence for females is two years (24 months).

TABLE 8

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
12 to 17 months	3,247	9%	295	18%
18 to 23 months	4,218	12%	292	18%
24 to 35 months	8,760	24%	523	33%
36 to 47 months	4,916	13%	188	12%
48 to 71 months	5,428	15%	168	11%
72 to 119 months	4,924	14%	82	5%
120 to 179 months	1,508	4%	4	0%
180 to 239 months	1,285	4%	30	2%
240+ months	2,008	5%	19	1%
TOTAL	36,294	100%	1,601	100%

Missing Cases = 18

MAXIMUM SENTENCE

Fifty-four percent of identified male substance abusers have a maximum sentence of less than eight years (96 months). Twenty-seven percent have a maximum sentence of 15 years or more or a maximum sentence of life.

Seventy-six percent of females have a maximum sentence less than eight years or less. Only 13 percent have a maximum sentence of 15 years or more or a maximum sentence of life.

TABLE 9

| | MALES | | FEMALES | |
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
36 Months	5,443	15%	448	28%
37-53 Months	4,919	14%	342	21%
54-71 Months	3,555	10%	202	13%
72-95 Months	5,477	15%	220	14%
96-107 Months	1,349	4%	27	2%
108-143 Months	3,208	9%	109	7%
144-179 Months	2,346	6%	39	2%
180-239 Months	2,431	6%	53	3%
240+ Months	2,744	8%	41	3%
Life Maximum	4,839	13%	120	7%
TOTAL	36,311	100%	1,601	100%

Missing Cases = 1

SECTION III
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The following tables present demographic information for inmates who have been identified as substance abusers. The average age of all identified substance abusers is 30.5 years.

Thirty percent of the male inmates are between 25 and 29 years old, while 22 percent are between 30 and 34 years old. Eighteen percent of the men fall between 21 and 24 years of age.

Similarly for females, 32 percent are between 25 and 29 years old, while 25 percent are between 30 and 34 years old. Seventeen percent are between 21 and 24 years of age.

TABLE 10

AGE (As of 2/24/90)	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
16-18 Years	399	1%	6	*
19-20 Years	1,388	4%	39	3%
21-24 Years	6,305	18%	263	17%
25-29 Years	10,814	30%	505	32%
30-34 Years	8,076	22%	396	25%
35-39 Years	4,760	13%	244	15%
40-44 Years	2,576	7%	87	5%
45-49 Years	1,146	3%	42	2%
50-54 Years	490	1%	13	1%
55-59 Years	217	1%	4	*
60-64 Years	96	*	2	*
65+ Years	44	*	0	*
TOTAL	36,311	100%	1,601	100%

Median Age = 29
Average Age = 30.5 years
Missing Cases = 1
* = Less than 0.5%

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AT RECEPTION

Thirty-four percent of identified male substance abusers report having a high school education or above. Thirty-six percent have less than a 10th grade education and 20 percent have an 8th grade education or less. For females, 32 percent report having a high school education or above. Thirty-five percent have less than a 10th grade education, and 18 percent have an 8th grade education or less.

TABLE 11

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
6th Grade or Less	1,876	5%	60	4%
7th Grade	1,382	4%	58	4%
8th Grade	3,736	11%	153	10%
9th Grade	5,894	16%	262	17%
10th Grade	6,254	18%	330	21%
11th Grade	4,281	12%	189	12%
12 Grade/GED	9,752	27%	418	27%
Some College or Tech	2,546	7%	82	5%
TOTAL	35,721	100%	1,552	100%

Missing Cases = 640

ETHNIC STATUS

Forty-eight percent of identified male substance abusers are Black. Thirty-five percent are Hispanic and 17 percent are White. For females, 45 percent are Black, 40 percent are Hispanic and 14 percent are White.

TABLE 12

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
White	6,198	17%	229	14%
Black	17,427	48%	727	45%
Hispanic	12,418	35%	634	40%
Other	228	*	11	1%
TOTAL	36,271	100%	1,601	100%

Missing Cases = 41
* = Less than 0.5%

CONCLUSION

As demonstrated by this report, the majority of incarcerated offenders in New York State are identified substance abusers. Of the offenders for which the Department has substance abuse data, 84 percent report using drugs or have a MAST score of 9 or greater. The most commonly reported drug used was cocaine/crack, with 50 percent of both males and females reporting usage. Marijuana was the second most frequently reported drug for males, however for females, heroin was the second most frequently reported drug.

The crime of commitment for identified substance abusers also reflects drug involvement, especially with women. Sixty percent of the females identified as substance abusers were committed for drug offenses. In contrast, only 33 percent of males were committed for drugs. However, in the case of both males and females, the most frequent commitment category was drug offenses.

Demographic information reveals the majority of substance abusers are from the New York City region, are Black or Hispanic, and average 30.5 years of age.

Educational level varies with approximately 30 percent reporting a high school education or above. However, 35 percent reported less than a 10th grade education.