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Harriman Office Campus
Albany, New York 12226

IDENTIFIED SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

MARCH 1994

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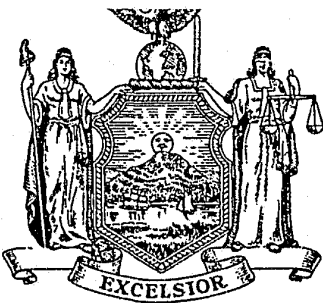
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Mario M. Cuomo
Governor



Thomas A. Coughlin III
Commissioner

IDENTIFIED SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

MARCH 1994

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report provides information on inmates under custody on March 14, 1994 who have been identified as substance abusers. The information on substance abuse reflects self-reported drug use during the six month period 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, 66 percent (42,347) of the total inmate population of 64,623 may be identified as substance abusers. Sixty-six percent (40,086) of 61,127 male inmates can be identified as substance abusers. Additionally 65 percent (2,261) of 3,496 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 (12,818) and inmates with missing data on substance use (9,458). If these missing data cases are excluded, it may be calculated that 77 percent (42,347) of the 55,165 inmates for whom data is available would 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 March 14, 1994. Overall, 66 percent of inmates under custody are identified substance abusers. Of the 61,127 male inmates under custody, 66 percent (40,086) 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 3,496 females under custody, 65 percent (2,261) 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	29,053	48%	1,332	38%	30,385	47%
Drug & Alcohol	7,728	13%	636	18%	8,364	13%
Alcohol	3,305	5%	293	8%	3,598	6%
Identified Substance Abuser	40,086	66%	2,261	65%	42,347	66%
No Substance Abuse	11,821	19%	997	29%	12,818	20%
Missing Data	9,220	15%	238	7%	9,458	15%
Substance Abuse Not Identified	21,041	34%	1,235	35%	22,276	34%
TOTAL	61,127	100%	3,496	100%	64,623	100%

May not add to 100% because of rounding.

**PERCENT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSERS IN INMATE POPULATION
EXCLUDING MISSING DATA**

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, 77 percent can be identified as substance abusers. For males, 77 percent are identified substance abusers. For females, 70 percent are identified substance abusers.

In 1993, a staffing problem at Ulster Reception Center resulted in a substantial number of male new commitments not receiving a MAST score. While this situation has now been resolved, it has resulted in decreases in the number of inmates identified with both "alcohol" and "drug and alcohol" abuse problems in this year's survey.

A large number of male inmates (8,364) reported no drug use and were without MAST data in this year's survey. As a result, the "missing data" category in this report includes cases who are missing data on either alcohol only (8,364) or both drug and alcohol abuse (856).

Only a limited percentage of new commitments are identified as alcoholic through the MAST test with no self-reported drug use. As such, the reader is cautioned that the exclusion of all cases without MAST scores from the base may lead to an over-estimate of the percentage of the overall population with substance abuse problems in this year's report. This possible over-estimate should be rectified in the report for next year or the year after, as MAST tests become available on a greater percentage of the surveyed inmates.

TABLE 2

INMATES WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE DATA	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Substance Abuse Indicated	40,086	77%	2,261	70%	42,347	77%
No Substance Abuse Indicated	11,821	23%	997	30%	12,818	23%
TOTAL	51,907	100%	3,258	100%	55,165	100%

May not add to 100% because of rounding.

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, 19 percent abuse both drugs and alcohol and 8 percent are identified as alcoholic according to the MAST (but report no drug use). Of the identified female substance abusers, 59 percent report drug abuse only, 28 percent abuse both drugs and alcohol, and 13 percent are identified as alcoholic according to the MAST.

TABLE 3

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Drug Abuser	29,053	73%	1,332	59%
Drug & Alcohol	7,728	19%	636	28%
Alcoholic	3,305	8%	293	13%
TOTAL	40,086	100%	2,261	100%

May not add to 100% because of rounding.

TYPE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Information on the type of reported substance use is based on self-report drug use within the six months prior to incarceration. Data is collected on up to three types of reported substances used. The following information is based on the first substance reported, with the exception of marijuana. If marijuana is the first reported substance of use and another drug such as cocaine is reported second, marijuana is overridden to reflect the cocaine use.

Since only one substance is reported in the following tables, it is important to remember that many of those reporting substance use indicate multiple drug use. For example, an individual who reports heroin, cocaine, and marijuana use would be counted for purposes of this report as a heroin user.

In addition, this research follows the Department's standard protocol of considering MAST scores of nine or more as being indicative of alcoholism.

This stringent criterion was initially suggested by the Fellowship Society. More recently, a 1988 report of the Vera Institute of Justice supports the use of this criterion. This Vera study found that MAST scores of nine or more were highly related to other measures of alcohol abuse.

Moreover, the manual for the MAST indicates that a score of seven or more is "strongly suggestive" of a pattern of behavior reflective of "alcoholism." The Director of the Department's Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Program (ASAT) thus emphasizes the Department's continued use of a MAST score of nine as the criterion for alcohol abuse in its research series exceeds this cutoff point of seven. As such, the Department's use of this more rigorous criterion may be seen to generate conservative statistics on the extent of alcohol abuse among commitments.

Based on this information, Table 4 presents substance use for inmates identified as drug and/or alcohol abusers. Forty-four percent of male inmates reporting substance abuse report using cocaine or crack, 16 percent report heroin use, 8 percent other drugs or narcotics, 24 percent marijuana or hashish, and 8 percent are identified as alcoholic with no drug use.

For female offenders, 57 percent of the target population report using cocaine or crack 24 percent reported heroin use, 3 percent report other drugs or narcotics, 3 percent report marijuana or hashish, and 13 percent are identified as alcoholic with no drug use.

TABLE 4

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Cocaine/Crack	17,744	44%	1,290	57%
Heroin	6,216	16%	540	24%
Other Drugs (exc. marijuana)	3,344	8%	71	3%
Marijuana Only	9,477	24%	67	3%
Alcohol Only	3,305	8%	293	13%
TOTAL	40,086	100%	2,261	100%

May not add to 100% because of rounding.

Comparing reported use between males and females, more women report using cocaine or crack and heroin. Men had a higher percentage reporting marijuana and "other" types of drug use such as amphetamines or barbiturates.

SECTION II

**COMMITMENT INFORMATION
CRIME OF COMMITMENT**

The most common commitment offenses for identified substance abusers are drug offenses. Thirty-six percent of the identified male substance abusers were committed for the sale or possession of drugs. Robbery is the second most common offense for males (21%) followed by homicide (14%) and burglary (10%).

Drug offenses are overwhelmingly the most common commitment offenses for female substance abusers. Seventy percent of the women are committed for drug offenses, followed by robbery (8%) and homicide (7%).

TABLE 5

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Homicide	5,673	14%	161	7%
Rape	1,116	3%	7	*
Robbery	8,591	21%	182	8%
Assault	1,179	3%	48	2%
Burglary	4,071	10%	95	4%
Arson	117	*	3	*
Sex Offenses	978	2%	3	*
Weapons Offenses	1,306	3%	8	*
Kidnapping	156	*	3	*
Other Coercive	272	1%	17	1%
Drug Offenses	14,412	36%	1,592	70%
Grand Larceny	701	2%	47	2%
Forgery	211	1%	40	2%
Stolen Property	483	1%	27	1%
DWI	382	1%	4	*
Other Felonies	166	*	12	1%
Youthful Offender	268	1%	12	1%
TOTAL	40,082	100%	2,261	100%

Missing Cases = 4

* = less than 0.5%

May not add to 100% because of rounding.

REGION OF COMMITMENT

New York State is divided into four regions. Inmates from the New York City region are people 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, Broome, Erie, Monroe, Oneida, Onondaga, Rensselaer and Schenectady. The other Upstate category contains the remaining upstate counties.

The majority of identified substance abusers are from the New York City area. Sixty-nine percent of males and 75 percent of females are from New York City. Twelve percent of males and 10 percent of females are from Suburban New York. Ten percent of male and 9 percent of female cases are from Upstate Urban areas, while 8 percent of males and 6 percent of females are from all other Upstate areas.

TABLE 6

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
New York City	27,717	69%	1,685	75%
Suburban New York	4,973	12%	234	10%
Upstate Urban	4,128	10%	210	9%
Upstate Other	3,229	8%	128	6%
TOTAL	40,047	100%	2,257	100%

Missing cases = 43
May not add to 100% because of rounding.

SECOND FELONY STATUS

The second felony offender law requires that people 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-nine percent of the identified male substance abusers were sentenced as second felony offenders, while 38 percent were sentenced as first felony offenders. Three percent of male substance abusers were sentenced as persistent felons.

For females, 64 percent of identified female substance abusers were sentenced as second felony offenders, while 36 percent were sentenced as first felony offenders. One percent of the female population were sentenced as a predicate felony offender.

TABLE 7

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
First Felony Offender	15,318	38%	806	36%
Second Felony Offender	23,761	59%	1,443	64%
Persistent Felony Offender	1,007	3%	12	1%
TOTAL	40,086	100%	2,261	100%

May not add to 100% because of rounding.

MINIMUM SENTENCE

Fifty-six percent of identified male substance abusers have a minimum sentence less than four years. Seventy-two percent of the male population is serving a minimum sentence of less than six years.

For the identified female substance abusing population, the minimum terms of imprisonment tend to be somewhat shorter. Sixty-four percent of the women have minimum sentences less than three years, and 81 percent have minimum terms under four years.

TABLE 8

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
12 to 17 months	2,631	7%	312	14%
18 to 23 months	3,728	9%	369	16%
24 to 35 months	9,448	24%	777	34%
36 to 47 months	6,228	16%	378	17%
48 to 71 months	6,366	16%	239	11%
72 to 119 months	5,646	14%	106	5%
120 to 179 months	1,992	5%	10	*
180 to 239 months	1,503	4%	35	2%
240+ months	2,537	6%	35	2%
TOTAL	40,079	100%	2,261	100%

Missing Cases = 7

* = Less than 0.5%

May not add to 100% because of rounding.

MAXIMUM SENTENCE

Fifty-one percent of identified male substance abusers have a maximum sentence of less than eight years. Twenty-nine percent of the men have a maximum sentence of 15 years or greater, including 14 percent with life maximums.

Fifty-nine percent of the women have a maximum sentence less than six years. Eleven percent of the women have a maximum sentence of 15 years or greater, including 6 percent serving life maximum terms.

TABLE 9

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
36 Months	4,499	11%	535	24%
37-53 Months	5,085	13%	474	21%
54-71 Months	3,991	10%	320	14%
72-95 Months	6,823	17%	439	19%
96-107 Months	1,466	4%	35	2%
108-143 Months	4,020	10%	168	7%
144-179 Months	2,465	6%	42	2%
180+ Months	6,104	15%	110	5%
Life Maximum	5,632	14%	138	6%
TOTAL	40,085	100%	2,261	100%

Missing Cases = 1
May not add to 100% because of rounding.

SECTION III

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

CURRENT AGE

The following table presents demographic information for inmates who have been identified as substance abusers.

Forty-three percent of the male population are 29 years of age or less. Twenty-four percent of the male inmates are between 30 and 34 years old, while 24 percent are between 25 and 29 years old.

For females, 38% are 29 years old or less. Twenty-eight percent are between 30 and 34 years of age, while 27 percent are between 25 and 29 years old. A small proportion of the men (16%) and women (14%) identified as substance abusers are 40 years old or more.

The average age of all identified substance abusers is 31.8 years. The average age of males is 31.8 years. For females, the average age is 32.3 years.

TABLE 10

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
16-18 Years	804	2%	17	1%
19-20 Years	1,706	4%	20	1%
21-24 Years	5,313	13%	206	9%
25-29 Years	9,579	24%	610	27%
30-34 Years	9,520	24%	624	28%
35-39 Years	6,463	16%	460	20%
40-44 Years	3,667	9%	224	10%
45-49 Years	1,736	4%	64	3%
50-54 Years	772	2%	26	1%
55-59 Years	336	1%	8	*
60-64 Years	130	*	1	*
65+ Years	60	*	1	*
TOTAL	40,086	100%	2,261	100%

Average Age = 31.8 years

* = Less than 0.5%

May not add to 100% because of rounding.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AT RECEPTION

The following information on education is based on educational achievement reported at reception to the Department.

Forty-four percent of identified male substance abusers report having a high school education or above. Thirty-one percent have less than a 10th grade education and 16 percent have an 8th grade education or less.

For females a somewhat smaller proportion (36%) report having a high school education or above. Thirty-two percent have less than a 10th grade education, and 16 percent have an 8th grade education or less.

TABLE 11

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
6th Grade or Less	1,616	4%	98	4%
7th Grade	1,176	3%	71	3%
8th Grade	3,355	9%	190	9%
9th Grade	5,766	15%	364	16%
10th Grade	6,246	16%	406	18%
11th Grade	4,074	10%	315	14%
12th Grade/GED	13,958	36%	571	26%
Some College or Tech	3,108	8%	212	10%
TOTAL	39,299	100%	2,227	100%

Missing Cases = 821

May not add to 100% because of rounding.

ETHNIC STATUS

Forty-eight percent of identified male substance abusers are Black. Thirty-four percent are Hispanic and 17 percent are White. For females, 53 percent are Black, 36 percent Hispanic, and 11 percent White.

TABLE 12

	MALES		FEMALES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
White	6,652	17%	253	11%
Black	19,372	48%	1,186	53%
Hispanic	13,702	34%	808	36%
Other	360	1%	14	1%
TOTAL	40,086	100%	2,261	100%

May not add to 100% because of rounding.

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, 77 percent report using drugs or have a MAST score of 9 or greater. The most commonly reported drug used was cocaine/crack, with 44 percent of males and 57 percent of the females reporting usage. Marijuana was the second most frequently reported drug for males. For females, however, heroin was the second most frequently reported drug.

The crime of commitment for identified substance abusers also reflects drug involvement, especially with women. Seventy percent of the females identified as substance abusers were committed for drug offenses. In contrast, 36 percent of the males were committed for drug offenses. For both males and females, the single most frequent crime of commitment category was for drug offenses.

For both the male and female identified substance abusers, the majority had a prior felony conviction. Sixty-two percent of the males and 65 percent of the females were sentenced as predicate felony offenders.

Demographic information reveals the majority of substance abusers were from the New York City region, are Black or Hispanic, and average 31.8 years of age.

Educational level varies with approximately 44 percent of males and 36 percent of females reporting a high school education or above. However, 16 percent of both males and females reported less than a 9th grade education.

Prepared by:

Joanne E. Ruppel
Program Research Specialist II
PROGRAM PLANNING, RESEARCH & EVALUATION