

More than half (58%) of state prisoners and about two-thirds (63%) of sentenced jail inmates met the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV) criteria for drug dependence or abuse during 2007-09. In comparison, approximately 5% of the total general population age 18 or older met the DSM-IV criteria for drug dependence or abuse during this period, according to the 2007-09 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).

Drug use and drug abuse estimates

About 8 in 10 state prisoners (81%) and sentenced jail inmates (84%) had ever used any drug in their lifetime. In comparison, about 7 in 10 prisoners (72%) and jail inmates (75%) regularly used any drug prior to incarceration. Overall, both prisoners (63%) and jail inmates (64%) regularly used marijuana/hashish more than any other drug prior to incarceration. This was followed by cocaine/crack (24% of prisoners and 38% of jail inmates). Fewer prisoners (42%) and jail inmates (37%) said they used drugs at the time of their offense.

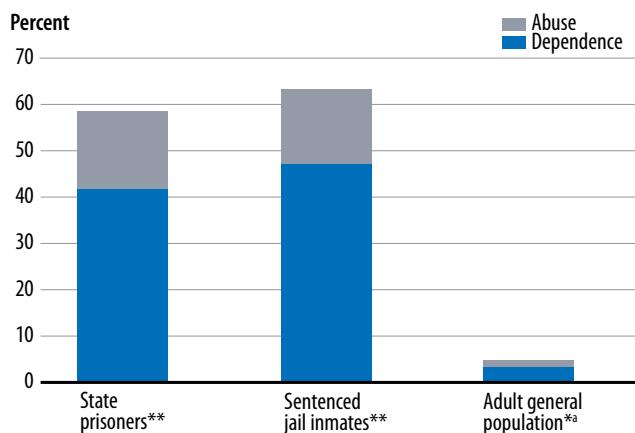
About half (54%) of state prisoners and fewer than two-thirds (61%) of sentenced jail inmates incarcerated for violent offenses met the criteria for drug dependence or abuse. This was lower than the percentage of those incarcerated for property offenses (68% of prisoners and 72% of jail inmates) or drug offenses (67% and 74%). Among prisoners who met the criteria for drug dependence or abuse, there was no difference in the percentage of those incarcerated for violent offenses (54%), DWI/DUI offenses (55%), or other public order offenses (55%).

Prisoner and jail inmate demographics

Approximately 7 in 10 females in state prison (69%) or jail (72%) met the DSM-IV criteria for drug dependence or abuse, compared to about 6 in 10 males in prison (57%) or jail (62%). About two-thirds of prisoners (64%) and sentenced jail inmates (62%) ages 18 to 24 met the criteria for dependence or abuse. In comparison, 26% of prisoners and 40% of jail inmates age 55 or older met the DSM-IV criteria.

Non-Hispanic white state prisoners (62%) and sentenced jail inmates (72%) were more likely to have met the DSM-IV criteria for drug dependence or abuse than Hispanic prisoners (58%) and jail inmates (55%) and non-Hispanic black prisoners (55%) and jail inmates (57%).

Inmates and adult general population who met the criteria for drug dependence or abuse, 2007-2009



*Comparison group.

**Difference with the comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aGeneral population estimates have been standardized to the state prisoner population by sex, race, Hispanic origin, and age.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Surveys, 2007 and 2008-09; and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2007-2009.

Black state prisoners (28%) were less likely to have regularly used cocaine/crack than whites (42%) and Hispanics (31%). Hispanic jail inmates (29%) were less likely to have regularly used cocaine/crack than whites (47%) and blacks (31%). Black prisoners and jail inmates were least likely to report regular use of methamphetamine or heroin/opiates.

Drug treatment prevalence

About a quarter of state prisoners (28%) and sentenced jail inmates (22%) who met the criteria for drug dependence or abuse participated in a drug treatment program since admission to their current facility. The percentage of prisoners and jail inmates who participated in a drug treatment program did not differ by the amount of time since arrival to their current facility or the amount of time until their release. In comparison, 11% of adults in the general population who met the DSM-IV criteria received or participated in a drug treatment program in the 12 months prior to their NSDUH interview.

The full report (*Drug Use, Dependence, and Abuse Among State Prisoners and Jail Inmates, 2007-2009*, NCJ 250546), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.

