



Methamphetamine and Other Drug Use and Mental Health:

The present analysis examines the relationship between current drug use, with particular emphasis on methamphetamine use, and mental health treatment. Our findings indicate that drug users in general are substantially more likely to have problems related to mental health than other arrestees. Although users of other drugs consistently report mental health problems at higher percentages than methamphetamine users.

Approximately 35 percent of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine use had been diagnosed with a disorder compared to about 38 percent of arrestees testing positive for another drug, and less than 28 percent of arrestees who did not test positive for drug use. Responses to whether the arrestee had received treatment were similar, with about 36 percent of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine use reporting they had received mental health treatment, compared to 38 percent of those testing positive for another drug, and 26 percent who did not test positive for drug use.

Greater differences were observed for hospitalizations and prescribed medications for mental health issues. Less than 27 percent of arrestees who did not test positive for any drug reported being prescribed medication, and 29 percent had been hospitalized, compared to 33 percent prescribed medication and 29 percent hospitalized among methamphetamine users, and 40 and 43 percent respectively for arrestees who tested positive for other drugs.

