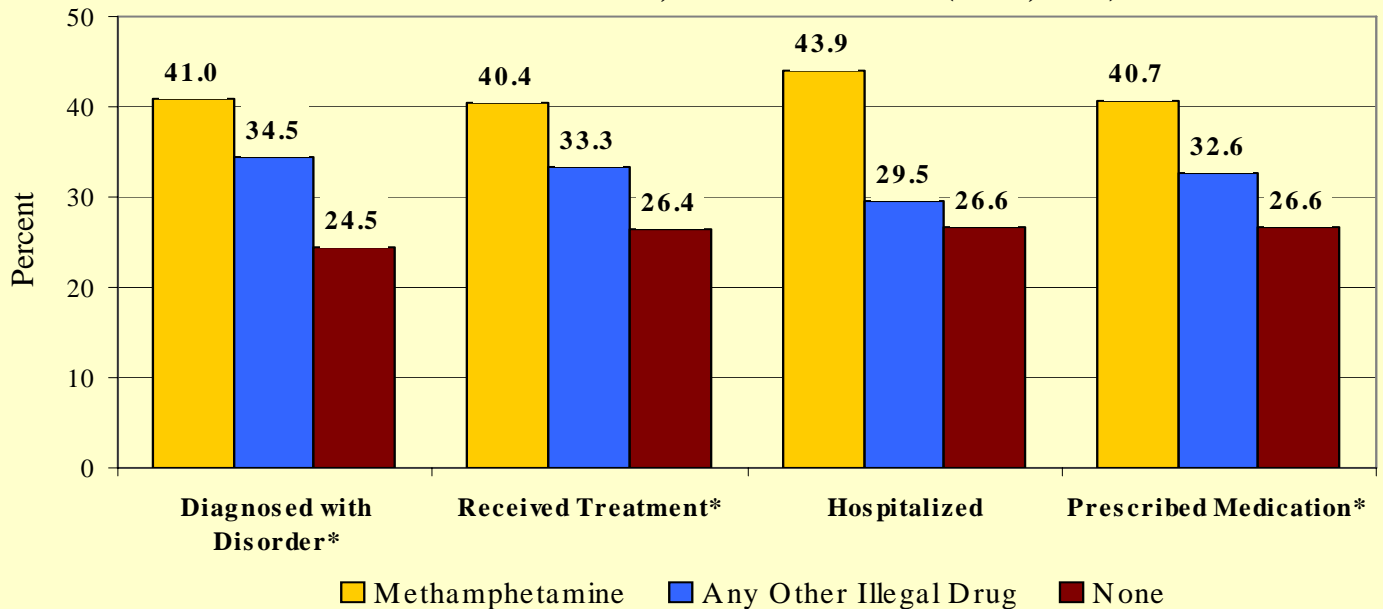


Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Drug Use by Mental Health Issues, AARIN 2007 (n=1,598)



* Indicates significance at $p < .05$

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. From our sample, methamphetamine users in particular consistently report mental health problems at the highest rate.

Approximately 41 percent of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine use had been diagnosed with a disorder compared to about 35 percent of arrestees testing positive for another drug, and less than 25 percent of arrestees who did not test positive for drug use. Responses to whether the arrestee had received treatment were similar, with about 40 percent of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine use reporting they had received mental health treatment, compared to 33 percent of those testing positive for another drug, and 26 percent who did not test positive for drug use. The findings for both diagnoses and treatment were significant.

Arrestees who tested positive for other drugs or no drugs reported similar mental health hospitalizations, 29.5 and 26.6 percent respectively, compared to 44 percent of meth users. Nearly 44 percent of arrestees who tested positive for meth reported having been hospitalized for a mental health problem, compared to just 29.5 percent of other drug users and 26.6 percent of non-users. We also found a significant difference when looking at drug use results and reports of having been prescribed medication for mental health issues. Nearly 41 percent of arrestees who tested positive for meth reported having been prescribed medication for a mental health problem, compared to about 33 percent of other drug users and less than 27 percent of arrestees who did not test positive for any drug.