AARIN

Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network

Annual Juvenile Report 2008

April 2009

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April 2009

Suggested Citation:
Griffin, Marie L. (2009). *Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network Annual Juvenile Report 2009.* Phoenix, AZ: Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety, Arizona State University.

Acknowledgements

The author thanks Peter Ozanne and Amy Rex for their establishment of the AARIN project. We also thank Amy Rex and Maricopa County Manager David Smith for their hard work and continued support, without which the project would not be possible. We also thank Sheriff Arpaio of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Chief Conrad of the Glendale Police Department, Chief Gascón of the Mesa Police Department, Chief Carol Boone of the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation and all of the officers who made the day-to-day data collection possible.

This project was funded by Maricopa County. Opinions contained herein are those of the author and do not represent the position of either Maricopa County or Arizona State University.

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Executive Summary

The Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network (AARIN) is a research project funded by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors for the purpose of collecting and presenting data on drug use and drug-related activities among arrestees in Maricopa County, Arizona. AARIN provides both practitioners and researchers with evidence-based information about patterns of alcohol and drug use and other related behaviors among populations at risk for criminal activity. The AARIN project, originating in January 2007, is modeled after the National Institute of Justice's Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program.

AARIN data collection occurs quarterly at two juvenile and three adult booking facilities in Maricopa County, Arizona. This report addresses data collected from the 2008 juvenile arrestee sample, which took place at intake facilities located at the Durango Juvenile Detention Center and the Southeast Facility (SEF). During data collection periods, professionally trained interviewers request recently booked arrestees to participate in voluntary and anonymous in-depth survey interviews. Interview questions focus on a variety of issues, including socio-demographic characteristics, criminal history, patterns of drug use, drug dependency, drug acquisition, gang affiliation, ownership of firearms, victimization, mental health, and treatment experiences. Following each interview, researchers request that the interviewee provide a urine sample to confirm drug and/or alcohol use.

The 2008 AARIN Annual Juvenile Report presents descriptive information about juvenile arrestees' drug and alcohol use and related behaviors. The data come from those juvenile arrestees who both completed the survey instrument and provided a valid urine specimen for testing (N=409).

Key Findings

For more than one-third (36.7%) of the juveniles in the sample, the most serious offense at referral was a violent offense. Among the others, 34.5% had been referred for other miscellaneous offenses including status offenses, probation violation, and disorderly conduct; 20.2% had been referred for a property offense and 8.6% had been referred for a drug offense.

More than half of the juveniles in the sample (60.4%) reported at least one prior detention. Nearly 14% indicated being a current member of a gang. Thirty-two percent reported having been diagnosed during their lifetime with a mental illness.

Reported lifetime use of alcohol and drugs among juvenile arrestees in the sample ranged from a low of 3.9% for opiates to a high of 87.3% for alcohol:

- Alcohol – 87.3%
- Marijuana – 85.1%
- Powder Cocaine – 35.9%
- Methamphetamine – 15.9%
- Ecstasy – 14.4%
- Inhalants – 9.8%
- Crack Cocaine – 7.3%
- Opiates – 3.9%

Positive urinalysis results among juvenile arrestees occurred at rates from 2.2% for opiates to 48.2% for marijuana:

- Marijuana – 48.2%
- Crack/Powder Cocaine – 7.8%
- Methamphetamine – 4.2%
- Alcohol – 3.7%
- Opiates – 2.2%

Approximately 25% of the juveniles in the sample reported having possessed a handgun during their lifetime; 7.6% reported having possessed a handgun during the past 30 days. More than 64% of juveniles who self-identified as current gang members reported having possessed a handgun during their lifetime. More than a quarter of the juveniles (26.4%) reported having been threatened with a gun during the past 12 months.

Data Collection

Sampling Plan and AARIN Sites

AARIN researchers use a systematic sampling plan to ensure that data collected accurately represent drug use among the arrestee population in Maricopa County. The sampling plan provides for data collection at five intake facilities. Three are for adults: the Central Intake located at Maricopa County's 4th Avenue Jail, the Mesa Police Department, and the Glendale Police Department. The remaining two are for juveniles: the Durango Juvenile Detention Center and the Southeast Facility (SEF).

Exhibit 1: Sample of Juvenile Detainees by Detention Center

		Total
Durango Detention Center		76.0%
	n=	311
Southeast Facility (SEF)		24.0%
	n=	98
Total		409

Data collection at all five intake facilities is scheduled quarterly. Data collection periods differ slightly among the facilities, depending on target quotas and the number of arrestees processed at each one. At the Mesa and Glendale Police departments, data are collected during a continuous one-week period. At the 4th Avenue Jail and the juvenile detention facilities, data are collected throughout a continuous two-week period, during an 8-hour period each day.

Arrestees are selected based on booking time. At the juvenile intake facilities, juveniles in custody who were arrested during the prior 24 hours are asked to participate. Arrestees who have been in custody for more than 48 hours are not eligible for participation in the AARIN study.

This study examined juveniles who were arrested and booked at either the Durango Detention Center or the Southeast Complex. Only those who agreed to be interviewed and who provided a urine sample were included in the current analysis. Of the juveniles asked to participate, 94.5% agreed to be interviewed; 91.5% of those provided a urine sample.

During 2008, 409 juvenile arrestees participated in the AARIN study. Of this group, 76% were being held at the Durango Detention Center and 24% were being held at the Southeast Complex. (See Exhibit 1.)

Survey Instrument

The AARIN data collection instrument was developed using previously constructed ADAM and Drug Use Forecasting survey instruments. Maricopa County officials provided additional guidance regarding the nature and content of the survey instrument.

The data collection instrument includes a variety of alcohol- and drug-use questions and questions about other behaviors of interest. Interview questions elicit demographic and background information including age, sex, race/ethnicity, citizenship status, education, living arrangements, patterns of alcohol and drug use (i.e., lifetime use, past 12 months, past 30 days, age at first use), type of drug used, drug dependency, and drug treatment.

In addition to specific questions regarding the nature and extent of drug and alcohol use, the data collection instrument includes questions about arrestees' criminal history, possession of firearms (i.e., lifetime, past 12 months, past 30 days, type of firearm), and method of acquisition of firearms. Data regarding arrestees' gang affiliation, victimization history, and mental health status also are collected.

Urinalysis testing

Upon completing an interview, each arrestee is requested to provide a urine specimen. Specimens are sent to a laboratory to be tested for alcohol and four illicit drugs (cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and opiates), using the enzyme-multiplied immunoassay technique (EMIT). Prior research has found this technique to be accurate, producing few false-positive results (Reardon, 1993). False positives occur approximately 2.1% of the time when testing for the presence of marijuana and approximately 2.5% of the time when testing for cocaine (Visher, 1991). In an effort to minimize production of false positives, all urine specimens initially testing positive for the presence of an illicit drug are confirmed using Gas Chromatography with Mass Spectrum detection (GC/MS). This industry standard has been established as legally defensible evidence. The EMIT testing and GC/MS confirmation procedures are well-established, and they are particularly valid for the four illicit drugs in this study, yielding reliable results for up to 72 hours following the time of use.

When screening for alcohol, however, these procedures are significantly limited, allowing only 12 to 24 hours for alcohol detection and confirmation at the same level of reliability. Although an alternative alcohol screening test would extend the reliability window to 72 hours, this was found to be cost-prohibitive given the constraints of the study.

Socio-demographic and Legal Characteristics of Juvenile Detainees

Data for the current analyses come from 409 juvenile arrestees who participated in the 2008 AARIN study by completing the survey and providing a valid urine sample. Exhibit 2 (below) presents their socio-demographic and criminal history information.

The majority of juveniles in the 2008 sample were male (83.1%); boys had a mean age of 15.7 years, with more than 80% being 15 years or older. Girls comprised approximately 17% of the sample, with a mean age of 15 years. Boys and girls differed little on many of the sample characteristics.

Almost 46% of all juveniles in the sample reported their race/ethnicity as Hispanic (47.1% of boys and 39.1% of girls). Less than a third reported their race/ethnicity as White (26.5% of boys and 29% of girls); nearly 13% of boys and 16% of girls reported being Black. Fewer than 3% overall reported being Native American.

The majority of both boys and girls reported being U.S. citizens (88.8% and 95.7%, respectively). Overall, few (8.3%) reported being in the U.S. illegally. More than half indicated that they currently were attending school. At the time of their interviews, the majority of both boys and girls were residing in a house or mobile home; about one-quarter reported living in an apartment, condominium, or hotel (23.5% of boys and 29% of girls). Few juveniles reported residing in jail or prison or in treatment facilities. Approximately 2% reported having lived on the street during the prior 30 days.

With respect to the most serious offense at arrest, sex was not particularly significant. The rate for a violent offense for boys was 36.5%, compared with 37.7% for girls. Similar percentages of boys and of girls were arrested for property offenses (21.1% vs. 15.9%) and for drug offenses (8.9% vs. 7.2%). The remainder of each group had been referred for other miscellaneous offenses including status offenses, probation violation, and disorderly conduct. Approximately 60% of the juveniles reported at least one prior arrest during the previous 12 months, and detention at some time during their lives (61.8% for boys and 53.6% for girls). (See Exhibit 2.)

Patterns of Drug Use

The AARIN project provides critical information regarding patterns of drug use among this population. Juvenile arrestees are asked a series of questions about their use of alcohol, marijuana, methamphetamines, crack cocaine, powder cocaine, opiates, inhalants, and ecstasy. For each drug type, they are asked about their patterns of use (i.e., lifetime, past 12 months, past 30 days, past 3 days, and age at first use).

In addition, the AARIN project has the ability to confirm drug use through drug-testing by urinalysis. As noted previously, urine specimens collected from the juvenile detainees are tested for alcohol and four illicit drugs (cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and opiates) using the enzyme-multiplied immunoassay technique (EMIT). Exhibit 3 presents self-reported and confirmed drug for the juveniles in the sample.

Exhibit 2: Characteristics of the AARIN Juvenile Detainee Sample

	Sex		
	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Sex			
Boys			83.1
Girls			16.9
Age Category*			
12 years or younger	3.3	7.2	4.0
13 – 14 years	11.6	27.5	14.3
15 - 16 years	51.5	44.9	50.4
17 or older	33.6	20.3	31.4
Mean Age	15.7	15.0	15.6
Race/Ethnicity			
White	26.5	29.0	26.9
Black	12.9	15.9	13.4
Hispanic	47.1	39.1	45.7
Native American	2.4	4.3	2.7
Other	11.2	11.6	11.2
Citizenship Status			
Illegal Alien	9.4	2.9	8.3
Legal Alien	1.8	1.4	1.7
US Citizen	88.8	95.7	89.7
Attending School			
Yes	58.8	66.7	60.1
Type of Residence (past 30 days)			
Private apartment/condo/hotel	23.5	29.0	24.4
House or mobile home	69.1	59.4	67.5
Public housing	0.0	0.0	0.0
Emergency or short-term shelter	0.3	0.0	0.2
Jail or prison	0.9	0.0	0.7
Half-way or honors facility	1.2	4.3	1.7
Drug or alcohol treatment facility	1.5	1.4	1.5
No fixed residence or on the street	2.4	2.9	2.4
Other	1.2	2.9	1.5

* *t* test or Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

Alcohol

A large majority of the juveniles self-reported alcohol use. Use within their lifetime was reported at a slightly higher rate for boys than for girls (88.8% for boys vs. 79.7% for girls). Approximately 69% of the boys reported us-

ing alcohol over the past 12 months compared with 58% of the girls. Half of the juveniles reported using alcohol during the past month, and slightly fewer than one quarter reported using alcohol during the three days prior to the interview. The mean age at first use was approximately 13 years for both boys and girls. Only 3.7% of the sample tested positive for alcohol at time of arrest.

Exhibit 2 (cont.): Characteristics of the AARIN Juvenile Detainee Sample

	Sex		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Most Serious Offense at Referral by Type			
Violent	36.5	37.7	36.7
Drug	8.9	7.2	8.6
Property	21.1	15.9	20.2
Other	33.5	39.1	34.5
Prior Arrests (past 12 months)			
Yes	60.1	56.5	59.5
Mean	1.3	1.3	1.3
Prior Detention (lifetime)*			
Yes	61.8	53.6	60.4
No	38.2	46.4	39.6

* *t* test or Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

Marijuana

About 85% of the juvenile arrestees reported lifetime use of marijuana. Slightly fewer than 70% reported using marijuana sometime during the past 12 months, and just over half reported use during the month prior to the interview. Nearly 38% of the sample reported using marijuana during the past 3 days. The mean reported age at first use was 12.3 years. Urinalysis confirmed recent use among boys at a significantly higher rate (51.5%) than among girls (31.9%).

Methamphetamine

Nearly 16% of the juveniles reported having used methamphetamines during their lifetime, with an average reported age at first use of 14 years. Boys and girls reported use at similar rates in the past 12 months, with 9.1% of boys and 10.1% of girls claiming to have used methamphetamine during the last year. At the time of arrest, 4.2% of the juveniles' urine samples tested positive for methamphetamines.

Exhibit 3: Drug Use Results for Boy and Girl Arrestees

	Sex		
	Boys	Girls	Total
n=	340	69	366
	%	%	%
Alcohol			
Lifetime	88.8	79.7	87.3
Past 12 months	69.1	58.0	67.2
Past 30 days	52.9	42.0	51.1
Past 3 days	23.2	27.5	24.0
Positive UA	3.8	2.9	3.7
Age of First Use (mean)	12.9	12.7	12.6
Marijuana			
Lifetime	86.5	78.3	85.1
Past 12 months	69.7	69.6	69.7
Past 30 days	56.2	49.3	55.0
Past 3 days	39.4	30.4	37.9
Positive UA*	51.5	31.9	48.2
Age of First Use (mean)	12.2	12.9	12.3
Methamphetamine			
Lifetime	15.9	15.9	15.9
Past 12 months	9.1	10.1	9.3
Past 30 days	5.3	4.3	5.1
Past 3 days	4.4	1.4	3.9
Positive UA	4.7	1.4	4.2
Age of First Use (mean)	13.9	14.3	14.0
Crack Cocaine			
Lifetime	6.8	10.1	7.3
Past 12 months	2.4	2.9	2.4
Past 30 days	1.2	0.0	1.0
Past 3 days	0.6	0.0	0.5
Positive UA	8.2	5.8	7.8
Age of First Use (mean)	14.3	14.3	14.3
Powder Cocaine			
Lifetime	37.9	26.1	35.9
Past 12 months	20.3	18.8	20.0
Past 30 days	8.5	13.0	9.3
Past 3 days	4.4	7.2	4.9
Positive UA	8.2	5.8	7.8

Crack Cocaine and Powder Cocaine

Self-reported data provided by the juvenile detainees allowed us to assess their use of crack and powder cocaine separately. Urinalysis testing, on the other hand, is unable to distinguish between crack cocaine and powder cocaine use; therefore, the urinalysis findings noted in Exhibit 3 are the same for both crack and powder cocaine.

Fewer than 8% of the juvenile arrestees reported lifetime use of crack cocaine. Girls reported higher lifetime use than boys (10.1% vs. 6.8%). The average age at first use (14.3 years) was the same for both groups, and both groups reported similar rates of use during the past year, past 30 days, and past 3 days. Approximately 8% of the juveniles tested positive for crack/powder cocaine. A greater percentage of juvenile arrestees reported use of powder cocaine (35.9%) than of crack cocaine (7.3%) during their lifetime. Boys were more likely to report lifetime use of powder cocaine than were girls (37.9% vs. 26.1%). Twenty percent of the juveniles reported using powder cocaine in the past year, and almost 10% reported use in the past 30 days. On average, juveniles were 14.4 years old when they first used powder cocaine.

Opiates

Opiate use among juvenile arrestees was relatively limited. Less than 4% of the sample reported lifetime use, and less than 3% reported use in the past year. Age at first use was slightly higher for opiates (15.3 years) compared with that for most other drugs. Few juveniles (2.2%) tested positive for opiates at time of arrest.

Inhalants

Fewer than 10% of the juvenile arrestees reported having ever used inhalants (10% of boys and 8.7% of girls), and fewer than 5% reported their use during the past year. The average age of first use was 13.7 years old.

Ecstasy

Almost 15% of the juveniles reported use of ecstasy within their lifetime. Approximately 11% reported using ecstasy during the past 12 months; however, only 1.5% reported its use during the past 3 days. As with opiates, the average age at first use was 15.3 years old.

Current Offense Type and Drug Test Results

The AARIN study provides data that can be used to analyze drug use patterns by type of offense at referral. Using the most serious offense resulting in the current arrest, each juvenile arrestee was placed within one of four offense categories: violent, property, drug, or other (e.g., status offense, disorderly conduct, or non-DUI driving-related offense). At the time of arrest, 36.7% of the juveniles in the sample were categorized as violent offenders, 8.6% as drug offenders, 20.2% as property offenders, and 34.5% as "other" offenders (Exhibit 2).

Drug use patterns confirmed by testing are presented for each offender type (Exhibit 4).

Violent Offenders

Although few violent offenders tested positive for alcohol (3.4%), methamphetamines (4.7%), cocaine (5.4%), or opiates (none), 43% did test positive for marijuana. Looking closely at that result, clear sex differences emerged. Boys arrested for violent offenses had higher rates of drug use, particularly for marijuana. Among the juveniles arrested for a violent offense, 48% of boys tested positive for marijuana compared with 19.2% of girls.

Drug Offenders

Much like juvenile violent offenders, few juvenile drug offenders tested positive for use of alcohol, methamphetamine, or opiates. More than two-thirds did test positive for marijuana use, however; 66.7% of male juvenile drug offenders and 80% of female juvenile drug offenders tested positive for the drug. Approximately 14% of juvenile drug offenders tested positive for cocaine use.

Exhibit 4: Positive UA Results by Sex and Type of Offense

	Sex		
	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Violent Offenders (*n*= 149)			
Alcohol	4.1	0.0	3.4
Marijuana*	48.0	19.2	43.0
Methamphetamine	5.7	0.0	4.7
Cocaine	6.5	0.0	5.4
Opiates	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drug Offenders (*n*= 35)			
Alcohol	3.3	0.0	2.9
Marijuana	66.7	80.0	68.6
Methamphetamine	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cocaine	13.3	20.0	14.3
Opiates	6.7	0.0	5.7
Property Offenders (*n*= 82)			
Alcohol*	2.8	18.2	4.9
Marijuana	53.5	36.4	51.2
Methamphetamine	4.2	0.0	3.7
Cocaine	9.9	9.1	9.8
Opiates	2.8	0.0	2.4
Other Offenders (*n*= 140)			
Alcohol	4.4	0.0	3.6
Marijuana	49.6	33.3	46.4
Methamphetamine	5.3	3.7	5.0
Cocaine	7.1	7.4	7.1
Opiates	3.5	3.7	3.6

* Chi-square significant at $p \leq .05$.

Property Offenders

More than half (51.2%) of juvenile property offenders tested positive for marijuana use. Similar to other offender types, few property offenders tested positive for use of alcohol, methamphetamine, cocaine, or opiates. Differences by sex existed for use of alcohol, methamphetamine, and opiates; however, boys and girls tested positive at similar rates for cocaine use (9.9% and 9.1%, respectively).

Drug Use Patterns, Dependency, and Treatment

The AARIN project collects drug use, dependency, and treatment information from juvenile arrestees in order to support a better understanding of treatment needs and to help identify gaps in substance addiction treatments. Respondents are asked to indicate any current or past dependency on alcohol and specific drugs, current or past treatment, and current need for alcohol or drug treatment. Such information, even though not verified by official agency records, provides insight into the juveniles' perceptions of their dependencies and treatment needs, by drug type. This is valuable information for making drug policy decisions and for allocating often-scarce treatment resources.

The following section presents the 2008 findings regarding self-reported drug dependency and drug treatment needs among juvenile arrestees who reported prior drug use. (See Exhibit 5)

Drug Dependency and Current Substance Abuse Treatment

As shown in Exhibit 5, the highest rate of dependency (28.3%) was claimed by juvenile arrestees who self-reported methamphetamine use in the 12 months prior to arrest, followed by the rate of dependency (23.2%) claimed by juveniles reporting marijuana use during that period. For prior-year users of other drugs, dependency rates were lower: 10% for crack cocaine users, 8.3% for opiate users, and 5% for alcohol users.

Few of the juvenile arrestees reported receiving current drug treatment, with the highest rate (12%) being among those reporting prior-year opiate use. (All members of this group were males; no females reported opiate dependency or treatment.) Among the groups with members of both genders, sex made little difference in rate of current treatment: for alcohol, 1.7% of boys and 1.8% of girls reported receiving current treatment; for marijuana, the current treatment rates for boys and girls were 3.1% and 3.7%, respectively; and for methamphetamine use, the rates were 1.9% and none, respectively.

Prior Substance Abuse Treatment

As with current treatment rates, the highest rate of prior treatment (25%) was claimed by those reporting opiate use (an all-male group). About 15% of those reporting methamphetamine and marijuana use had received prior treatment. The lowest rate of prior treatment (5%) was claimed by alcohol users; about twice as many girls as boys reported receiving prior alcohol treatment.

Need for Substance Abuse Treatment

The highest rates of perceived need for treatment occurred among opiate users (31.3%, all males) and methamphetamine users (20%); a slightly lower rate of need was reported among marijuana users (15.2%). The lowest rates of perceived need for treatment were reported by users of powder cocaine (7.5%), alcohol (6.2%), and crack cocaine (3.3%). An interesting sex difference emerged when a significantly higher percentage of girls (22.2%) than boys (5.4%) reporting use of powder cocaine indicated a need for treatment for that drug.

Exhibit 5: Dependency and Substance Abuse Treatment by Sex

	Sex		
	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Dependent			
Alcohol	4.3	8.5	5.0
Marijuana	21.1	33.3	23.2
Crack	6.7	20.0	10.0
Powder cocaine	1.8	13.3	3.2
Opiates	8.3	0.0	8.3
Methamphetamine	24.4	50.0	28.3
Currently Receiving Treatment			
Alcohol	1.7	1.8	1.7
Marijuana	3.1	3.7	3.2
Crack	4.3	0.0	3.3
Powder cocaine	3.1	5.6	3.4
Opiates	13.3	0.0	12.5
Methamphetamine	1.9	0.0	1.5
Prior Treatment			
Alcohol	4.3	9.1	5.0
Marijuana	16.0	13.0	15.5
Crack	13.0	14.3	13.3
Powder cocaine	8.5	22.2	10.2
Opiates	26.7	0.0	25.0
Methamphetamine	13.0	27.3	15.4
Need Treatment			
Alcohol	6.0	7.3	6.2
Marijuana	14.3	20.4	15.2
Crack	4.3	0.0	3.3
Powder cocaine*	5.4	22.2	7.5
Opiates	33.3	0.0	31.3
Methamphetamine	20.4	18.2	20.0

* Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

Firearm Possession Patterns

In order to explore the relationship between juvenile arrestees' possession of firearms and their drug use, a series of questions were asked regarding the possession of various types of firearms including handguns and pistols, rifles and shotguns, and semi- and fully-automatic weapons. Those who self-reported possession of a firearm were asked to describe how they acquired it. Exhibit 6 shows the findings related to the juveniles' histories of firearm ownership, as well as the relationship between firearms possession and drug use.

More than a quarter of the juvenile arrestees reported having possessed a handgun at some time during their lives. Fewer reported having possessed a rifle or shotgun (16.1%), a semi-automatic weapon (8.8%), or a fully automatic weapon (6.1%). Asked whether they had possessed a firearm during the past year, the juveniles reported much lower possession rates; the rates dropped further still when asked about the past month.

Exhibit 6: Firearm Ownership/Possession, Method of Acquisition, and Drug Use

	Handgun/pistol	Rifle/shotgun	Semi-automatic	Fully automatic
	%	%	%	%
Lifetime	25.2	16.1	8.8	6.1
Past 12 months	15.4	9.0	5.4	3.4
Past 30 days	7.6	3.7	2.0	1.7
Acquisition Method				
Bought it	47.1	46.9	51.4	56.5
Traded something for it	4.9	3.1	2.9	4.3
Borrowed it	14.7	20.3	28.6	21.7
Gift	15.7	23.4	5.7	17.4
Stole it	9.8	3.1	5.7	0.0
Other	7.8	3.1	5.7	0.0
Positive UA Results				
Alcohol	5.8	7.6	5.6	12.0
Marijuana	60.2	59.1	69.4	68.0
Cocaine	11.7	13.6	16.7	12.0
Opiates	3.9	1.5	2.8	5.6
Methamphetamine	7.8	10.6	13.9	12.0

Note: Values for acquisition method reflect most recent possession/ownership of a firearm for each type.

For example, 15.4% reported possessing a handgun or pistol during the prior year; that percentage dropped to 7.6% for possession of a handgun or pistol during the past month. Similar decreases in possession by time period were found across types of weapons.

Acquisition Method

For all categories of weapons, the majority of juveniles who reported possessing firearms claimed to have purchased them. This was the case for about 47% of those who had possessed a handgun/pistol or a rifle/shotgun, 51.4% of those who had possessed a semi-automatic firearm, and 56.5% of those who had possessed a fully automatic firearm. Among those who reported having possessed a handgun, rifle, or fully automatic weapon, the next most common acquisition methods were borrowing and receiving it as a gift. Among juveniles having possessed a fully automatic firearm, nearly 22% indicated having borrowed the weapon; 17.4% reported having received it as a gift. Far fewer juvenile arrestees reported theft as their acquisition method; 9.8% of those who had possessed a handgun or pistol and 3.1% of those who had possessed a rifle or shotgun reported having stolen those weapons, 5.7% reported having stolen a semi-automatic weapon, and no one reported having stolen a fully automatic weapon.

Firearms Possession and Drug Use

Juvenile arrestees in the 2008 sample who reported possessing firearms at some time in their lives, regardless of weapon type, tested positive most frequently for marijuana by a wide margin; from 59% to 69% of the group (depending on firearm type) tested positive for the drug.

The next highest rates of positive tests were for cocaine, ranging from about 12% of those who had possessed handguns or pistols and fully automatic firearms to 16.7% of those who had possessed semi-automatic firearms.

Testing positive for methamphetamines were 13.9% of those who had possessed semi-automatic weapons, 12% of those who had possessed fully automatic weapons, 10.6% of those who had possessed rifles or shotguns, and 7.8% of those who had possessed shotguns or pistols.

Positive tests for opiates occurred least frequently (>6%) among those who had possessed any kind of weapon.

Gang Affiliation Patterns

The AARIN project asks several questions of its juvenile participants about their involvement in gang activity. The resulting data provide new insight into the relationship between gang affiliation and behaviors and experiences such as criminality, drug use, and victimization. Exhibit 7 presents the self-reported characteristics of gang and non-gang members among the juveniles in the sample.

As shown in Exhibit 7, more than half (64%) of the juveniles interviewed reported never having been a gang member. Of those remaining, 6.1% reported being former gang members, 13.7% reported being current gang members, and 16.2% reported being associates of gang members. Not surprisingly, of those who reported being former or current gang members, the vast majority were boys (88% and 89.3%, respectively). No significant differences in mean age (15.2-15.8 years) were found by gang affiliation type.

In all categories of gang affiliation, self-identified Hispanic juveniles accounted for about half of the ethnic mix, from a low of 41% for non-gang members to a high of 55.4% for current gang members. Of others reporting current gang membership, 17.9% identified themselves as "Other;" 14.3% self-identified as Black, 8.9% as White, and 3.6% as Native American.

Regardless of gang affiliation, the vast majority of juveniles in the sample reported being U.S. citizens; they accounted for almost 91% of non-gang members, 88% of former gang members, 82% of current gang members, and 94% of gang associates. Self-reported illegal aliens accounted for 7.7% of non-gang members, 12% of former gang members, 14.3% of current gang members, and 4.5% of gang associates.

Approximately 64% of the juvenile non-gang members and former gang members reported that they were attending school, compared with 44.6% of current gang members. The data showed few differences in living situations by gang affiliation; between 92% and 94% of juveniles in every category other than former gang members reported living in a private home, apartment, or hotel during the past month. Among former gang members, 84% lived in these residences; the other 16% were equally distributed among halfway or honors facilities, drug or alcohol treatment facilities, jails or prisons, and "other" (not street) fixed residences. None of the juveniles, regardless of gang affiliation, reported living in public housing during the past month.

Exhibit 7 shows the distribution of the most serious offense that accounted for the participants' current referral to the juvenile facility, by gang affiliation. The rate of referral for violent offenses was highest for current gang members (40%), followed by non-gang members (37.5%), former gang members (32%), and gang associates (31.8%). Referral rates for "other" offenses were similar: 36.4% for current gang members, 34.7% for non-gang members, 33.3% for associates, and 32% for former gang members. Referral rates for property crimes ranged from a low of 14.5% (current gang members) to a high of 22.4% (non-gang members). Drug offenses accounted for the lowest rate of referrals (5.4% to 18.2%) for all groups, with the exception of gang associates, for whom property offenses were the least common reason for referral.

Former and current gang members reported similar rates of prior referral during the past year (76% and 73.2%, respectively); fewer associates (60.6%) and non-gang members (54%) indicated a prior referral in the past year. Eighty percent of former and current gang members reported a prior detention at some time during their lives. Slightly more than half of the juveniles who were unaffiliated with a gang reported a prior detention during their lifetime.

Current gang members were more likely than any other group to have possessed a handgun, rifle, semi-automatic, or fully-automatic weapon at some time. Slightly more than 64% of current gang members reported having owned a handgun, compared with 40% of former gang members, 33.3% of associates, and 13% of non-gang members. Significantly fewer non-gang members reported having possessed a firearm of any type compared with the other groups.

Gang Membership and Victimization

The AARIN survey instrument gathers data regarding victimization. Compared with former gang members, current gang members, and associates, non-gang members less frequently reported having been threatened with a gun or attacked during the 12 months immediately prior to arrest. Approximately 17% of non-gang members reported having been threatened with a gun during the past year; more than 60% of current gang members, 40% of former gang members, and 29% of associates reported having been threatened with a gun. Compared with the others, fewer non-gang members (25%) reported having been assaulted without a weapon during the past year; 52% of former gang members and 46% of current gang members reported this type of victimization.

Gang Membership and Alcohol and Drug Use

More than three-quarters of the juveniles in the sample reported having used alcohol during their lifetime, regardless of gang affiliation. Nearly all self-reported current and former gang members reported having used alcohol during this period; 92.4% of associates and 82.4% of non-gang members reported this. Current gang members were most likely (41%) to report alcohol use in the three days immediately prior to arrest; 28.8% of associates and about 20% of non-gang and former gang members indicated they had used alcohol during the past 3 days.

All former gang members reported using marijuana in their lifetime, while 98.2% of current gang members, 93.9% of associates, and 78.5% of non-gang members reported this. The average age of first use of marijuana across the four groups was approximately 12 years. More juvenile arrestees tested positive for marijuana than for any other drug; approximately half of them, regardless of gang affiliation, tested positive for the drug. Current gang members had the highest percentage of positive urinalysis tests for marijuana (57%), while former gang members had the lowest percentage of positive test (44%).

Approximately half of current gang members and associates reported lifetime use of powder cocaine, while 40% of former gang members and 28.7% of non-gang members reported having used powder cocaine during their lifetime. These numbers dropped notably for use during the 30 days immediately preceding arrest, with non-gang members reporting the lowest rate of use (5.7%) and current gang members reporting the highest rate of use (16.1%). The average age of first use for powder cocaine (14 years) was fairly consistent across all types of gang affiliation.

Exhibit 7: Characteristics of Gang and Non-gang Members

	%
Non-Gang Members	64.0
Former Gang Members	6.1
Current Gang Members	13.7
Associates of Gang Members	16.2

	Non-Gang Members	Former Gang Members	Current Gang Members	Associates of Gang Members
	%	%	%	%
Sex*				
Boys	83.1	88.0	89.3	75.8
Girls	16.9	12.0	10.7	24.2
Age Category				
12 years or younger	5.8	0.0	0.0	1.5
13 – 14 years	12.5	24.0	21.4	12.1
15 - 16 years	48.6	60.0	48.2	56.1
17 or older	33.1	16.0	30.4	30.3
Mean	15.6	15.2	15.6	15.8
Race/Ethnicity				
White*	33.0	28.0	8.9	18.2
Black	14.2	12.0	14.3	10.6
Hispanic*	41.0	48.0	55.4	54.5
Native American	2.3	0.0	3.6	4.5
Other	9.6	12.0	17.9	12.1
Citizenship Status*				
US Citizen	90.8	88.0	82.1	93.9
Legal Alien	1.5	0.0	3.6	1.5
Illegal Alien	7.7	12.0	14.3	4.5
Attending School*				
Yes	63.6	64.0	44.6	59.1
Type of Residence (past 30 days)				
Private apartment/condo/hotel	24.5	28.0	23.2	24.2
House or mobile home	67.4	56.0	69.6	69.7
Public housing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Emergency or short-term shelter	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Half-way or honors facility	1.5	4.0	0.0	3.0
Drug or alcohol treatment facility	1.1	4.0	3.6	0.0
No fixed residence or on the street	2.7	0.0	1.8	3.0
Jail or Prison	0.8	4.0	0.0	0.0
Other	1.5	4.0	1.8	0.0

* *t* test or Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

Exhibit 7 (cont.): Characteristics of Gang and Non-gang Members

	Non-Gang Members	Former Gang Members	Current Gang Members	Associates of Gang Members
	%	%	%	%
Most Serious Offense at Referral				
Violent	37.5	32.0	40.0	31.8
Property	22.4	20.0	14.5	16.7
Drug	5.4	16.0	9.1	18.2
Other	34.7	32.0	36.4	33.3
Prior Referral (past 12 months)				
Yes	54.0	76.0	73.2	63.6
Mean	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.4
Prior Detention (lifetime)				
Yes	54.0	80.0	80.4	60.6
Firearm Owned/Possessed (ever)				
Handgun/Pistol *	13.0	40.0	64.3	33.3
Rifle/Shotgun *	9.6	16.0	35.7	25.8
Semi-Automatic Weapon *	4.2	16.0	17.9	16.7
Fully Automatic Weapon *	9.6	16.0	35.7	25.8
Victimization (past 12 months)				
Threatened with a gun *	17.2	40.0	60.7	28.8
Assaulted or attacked without a weapon *	24.9	52.0	46.4	37.9

* *t* test or Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

Exhibit 7 (cont.): Characteristics of Gang and Non-gang Members

	Non-Gang Members	Former Gang Members	Current Gang Members	Associates of Gang Members
	%	%	%	%
Alcohol				
Lifetime*	82.4	100.0	98.2	92.4
Past 12 months	59.8	84.0	83.9	75.8
Past 30 days	44.4	56.0	60.6	67.9
Past 3 days*	19.2	20.0	41.1	28.8
Positive UA*	3.8	0.0	8.9	0.0
Age at First Use*	12.9	12.2	11.5	12.2
Marijuana				
Lifetime*	78.5	100.0	98.2	93.9
Past 12 months*	62.8	72.0	85.7	81.8
Past 30 days*	50.6	48.0	69.6	62.1
Past 3 days	34.1	32.0	53.6	40.9
Positive UA	46.4	44.0	57.1	48.5
Age at First Use*	12.3	11.7	11.2	12.4
Crack				
Lifetime	5.4	12.0	10.7	9.1
Past 12 months	1.1	4.0	3.6	6.1
Past 30 days	0.4	0.0	3.6	1.5
Past 3 days	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0
Positive UA	6.9	16.0	8.9	7.6
Age at First Use	14.3	12.0	14.7	15.0
Powder Cocaine				
Lifetime*	28.7	40.0	51.8	48.5
Past 12 months	14.9	20.0	30.4	30.3
Past 30 days	5.7	12.0	16.1	15.2
Past 3 days	3.4	8.0	8.9	6.1
Positive UA	6.9	16.0	8.9	7.6
Age at First Use	14.4	14.1	14.0	14.5
Opiates				
Lifetime	3.4	0.0	8.9	3.0
Past 12 months	1.9	0.0	5.4	3.0
Past 30 days	0.8	0.0	1.8	0.0
Past 3 days	0.8	0.0	1.8	0.0
Positive UA*	1.5	12.0	0.0	3.0
Age at First Use	15.3	0.0	15.4	16.0
Methamphetamine				
Lifetime*	12.3	28.0	25.0	18.2
Past 12 months*	4.6	20.0	17.9	16.7
Past 30 days*	3.4	8.0	12.5	4.5
Past 3 days*	3.1	4.0	8.9	3.0
Positive UA	3.8	8.0	5.4	3.0
Age at First Use	13.9	13.4	13.4	14.1

The rates of lifetime use of crack cocaine and methamphetamines were higher among former gang members than among non-gang members, current gang members, or affiliates. In addition, confirmed recent use of crack, methamphetamine, and opiates was higher among former gang members than among the other groups.

Victimization and Drug Use

To explore the relationship between criminal involvement, drug use, and victimization, juvenile arrestees were asked a series of questions about their experience with various forms of victimization. Exhibit 8 (below) shows victimization rates for boys and girls, in the year and month prior to arrest. Exhibit 9 presents their victimization rates by confirmed recent drug use (UA test results).

Exhibit 8: Victimization Rates Among Respondents

	Sex		
	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Threatened with a Gun			
Past 12 months	27.4	21.7	26.4
Past 30 days	10.0	5.8	9.3
Shot at			
Past 12 months*	25.6	8.7	22.7
Past 30 days	5.9	2.9	5.4
Shot			
Past 12 months	2.4	0.0	2.0
Past 30 days	0.0	0.0	0.0
Threatened with a Weapon			
Past 12 months	27.1	20.3	25.9
Past 30 days	7.4	10.1	7.8
Injured with a Weapon			
Past 12 months	10.6	5.8	9.8
Past 30 days	2.9	1.4	2.7
Assaulted/Attacked			
Past 12 months	32.6	27.5	31.8
Past 30 days	15.9	10.1	14.9
Robbed			
Past 12 months	11.2	7.2	10.5
Past 30 days	3.2	1.4	2.9

Threatened with a Gun

Overall, fewer girls than boys reported being victimized; assaults and attacks accounted for the highest rate (27.5%) of past-year female victimizations. About a quarter of boys (27.4%) and girls (21.7%) in the sample reported having been threatened with a gun

during the past year. About 10% of the juveniles reported having been threatened with a gun in the past 30 days; nearly twice as many boys as girls reported this. (See Exhibit 8.)

Of the juveniles who reported being threatened with a gun in the past year, more than half (63%) tested positive for marijuana; 15.2% tested positive for cocaine, 12% tested positive for methamphetamines, and 1.1% tested positive for alcohol and for opiates. The juveniles who had been threatened with a gun were more likely than those who had not to test positive for marijuana, methamphetamines, and cocaine; they were slightly less likely to test positive for alcohol and opiates. (See Exhibit 9.)

Shot at

About 23% of the juveniles in the sample reported having been shot at during the prior year, compared with 5.4% who reported having been shot at during the prior month. Far more boys (25.6%) than girls (8.7%) reported having been shot at during the past year; twice as many boys (5.9% vs. 2.9%) reported having been shot at during the past 30 days. (See Exhibit 8.)

Of those who reported being shot at during the past year, nearly 68% tested positive for marijuana and 18% tested positive for cocaine and methamphetamines; only 1.3% tested positive for alcohol and for opiates. Juve-

Exhibit 9: Victimization Rates by Positive UA Results

	Sex		
	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Threatened with a Gun			
Past 12 months	27.4	21.7	26.4
Past 30 days	10.0	5.8	9.3
Shot at			
Past 12 months*	25.6	8.7	22.7
Past 30 days	5.9	2.9	5.4
Shot			
Past 12 months	2.4	0.0	2.0
Past 30 days	0.0	0.0	0.0
Threatened with a Weapon			
Past 12 months	27.1	20.3	25.9
Past 30 days	7.4	10.1	7.8
Injured with a Weapon			
Past 12 months	10.6	5.8	9.8
Past 30 days	2.9	1.4	2.7
Assaulted/Attacked			
Past 12 months	32.6	27.5	31.8
Past 30 days	15.9	10.1	14.9
Robbed			
Past 12 months	11.2	7.2	10.5
Past 30 days	3.2	1.4	2.9

niles who reported having been shot at during the past year were more likely than those who had not to test positive for marijuana, methamphetamines, and cocaine; there was little difference between the groups in the rate of positive test results for alcohol and opiates. (See Exhibit 9.)

Shot

Two percent of the juveniles in the sample (all boys) reported having been shot during the past 12 months; none reported having been shot during the prior month (Exhibit 8). The differences in positive drug test results were negligible for the two groups (those who had been shot and those who had not), across all substances.

Exhibit 9 (cont.): Victimization Rates by Positive UA Results

	Injured w/ weapon – not a gun (past 12 months)	
	No	Yes
Alcohol	1.6	0.0
Marijuana	53.9	63.8
Methamphetamine	8.8	14.9
Cocaine	10.7	14.9
Opiates	1.9	2.1
	Assaulted/attacked w/o weapon (past 12 months)	
	No	Yes
Alcohol	1.4	1.3
Marijuana	52.6	59.3
Methamphetamine	7.0	13.3
Cocaine	9.3	14.0
Opiates	1.9	2.0
	Robbed (past 12 months)	
	No	Yes
Alcohol	1.6	0.0
Marijuana	54.7	57.6
Methamphetamine*	7.5	20.3
Cocaine	10.4	15.3
Opiates	2.0	1.7

* Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

Threatened with a Weapon Other Than a Gun

Slightly more than a quarter of the juveniles in the sample reported having been threatened by a weapon other than a gun during the past year; more boys than girls reported this experience (27.1% vs. 20.3%). In contrast, more girls (10.1%) than boys (7.4%) reported having been threatened with a weapon other than a gun in the past month. (See Exhibit 8.)

The rate of positive UA tests for methamphetamines among juveniles reporting such threats in the past year was about

twice that for those not reporting these threats (14.1% vs. 7.9%). Positive tests for marijuana occurred more often for those who reported being threatened than for those who did not (61.6% vs. 52.8%). There were only slight differences in positive test rates between the two groups for alcohol and other drugs. (See Exhibit 9.)

Injured with a Weapon Other Than a Gun

Almost 10% of the juveniles in the sample reported having been injured with a weapon other than a gun during the past year, with nearly 3% reporting the experience occurring during the past month (Exhibit 8). Few significant differences in the rate of positive drug tests occurred between the two groups (Exhibit 9). Those who had been injured tested positive at higher rates than those who had not for marijuana (63.8% vs. 53.9%), cocaine (14.9% vs. 10.7%), and methamphetamines (14.9% vs. 8.8%).

Assaulted or Attacked Without a Weapon

Nearly a third of the juveniles in the sample reported having been assaulted or attacked without a weapon in the year prior to arrest – 32.6% of boys and 27.5% of girls. Nearly 15% reported having been assaulted in this way during the past 30 days (Exhibit 8). There were marginal differences in the rate of positive drug tests for most substances between the two groups (Exhibit 9). Those who had been assaulted tested positive at higher rates than those who had not for marijuana (59.3% vs. 52.6%), cocaine (14% vs. 9.3%), and methamphetamines (13.3% vs. 7%).

Robbed

About 11% of the juveniles in the sample reported having been robbed during the past year, with 3% having been robbed in the past 30 days (Exhibit 8). Greater differences between self-reported victims and non-victims with respect to the rate of positive drug tests occurred within this category of victimization than within any other (Exhibit 9). Those who had been robbed in the past year tested positive at notably higher rates than those who had not for recent use of methamphetamines (20.3% vs. 7.5%) and cocaine (15.3% vs. 10.4%), and at slightly higher rates for marijuana (57.6% vs. 54.7%). (Differences were negligible for alcohol and opiates.)

Mental Health Status and Drug Use

The ARRIN project collects information that provides added insight into the mental heath status of juvenile arrestees. Juveniles in the sample are asked several questions about their experiences with mental health diagnosis and treatment. Granted, self-reported data are less complete than data collected from official agency records, but they do shed new light on the intersection of mental illness, drug use, and criminal behavior. This new information is of value both to criminal justice practitioners and to social service agencies. Exhibits 10 through 14, below, provide summary information for those in the 2008 AARIN juvenile sample, nearly one-third of whom reported mental health diagnoses and/or treatment.

Exhibit 10: Characteristics of AARIN Juvenile Sample Diagnosed with a Mental Illness

	Diagnosed (ever) No	Diagnosed (ever) Yes
	%	%
Sex		
Boys	86.7	75.2
Girls	13.3	24.8
Age Category		
12 years or younger	3.2	4.7
13 – 14 years	14.1	15.0
15 - 16 years	50.5	50.4
17 years or older	32.1	29.9
Mean	15.6	15.5
Race/Ethnicity*		
White	22.2	36.4
Black	15.1	10.1
Hispanic	51.3	34.1
Native American	1.8	4.7
Other	9.7	14.7
Citizenship Status*		
US Citizen	87.1	96.1
Legal Alien	2.2	0.8
Illegal Alien	10.8	3.1
Attending School		
Yes	60.9	58.1
Type of Residence (past 30 days)		
Private apartment/condo/hotel	28.3	16.3
House or mobile home	68.1	65.9
Jail or Prison	0.4	1.6
Emergency or short-term shelter	0.4	0.0
Half-way or honors facility	0.7	3.9
Drug or alcohol treatment facility	0.4	3.9
No fixed residence or on the street	1.4	4.7
Other	0.4	3.9

* *t* test or Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

Characteristics of Sample and Diagnosis of a Mental Illness

Reflecting the overall sample's distribution by sex, 75.2% of those who had been diagnosed with a mental illness at some time in their lives were male. Comparing those who had been diagnosed at some time with those who had not, differences in sex, age, education, living situations, most serious offense at arrest, and prior arrests in the past year were insignificant. Among juveniles in

the sample who had been diagnosed with a mental illness at some time in their lives, Whites (36.4%) and Hispanics (34.1%) were represented most frequently, as were U.S. citizens (96.1%); 62.8% reported a prior detention (lifetime). Among those who had not been diagnosed, Whites (22.2%) and Hispanics (51.3%) again were most frequently represented, as were U.S. citizens (87.1%); 56.2% reported a prior detention (lifetime). (See Exhibit 10.)

Exhibit 10 (cont): Characteristics of AARIN Juvenile Sample Diagnosed with a Mental Illness

		Diagnosed (past 12 months) No	Yes
		%	%
Most Serious Referral at Arrest			
	Violent	36.3	37.8
	Drug	9.4	7.1
	Property	23.0	14.2
	Other	31.3	40.9
Prior Arrest (past 12 months)			
	Yes	58.1	62.8
	Mean	1.3	1.4
Prior Detention (lifetime)*			
	Yes	56.2	62.8

* *t* test or Chi-square significant at p < .05.

Drug Use and Diagnosed Mental Illness

Within the 2008 sample, 31.6% of the juveniles reported having been diagnosed with a mental illness at some time during their lives by a counselor, social worker, or doctor. That percentage dropped significantly for juveniles reporting a diagnosis within the prior year (13.9%), and just over 3% reported having been diagnosed within the prior 30 days.

Juveniles who had been diagnosed with a mental illness in the past year were slightly less likely than those not diagnosed to test positive for recent drug use; the

Exhibit 11: Mental Illness Diagnosis and Drug Use

	%
Diagnosed with Mental Illness	
Lifetime	31.6
Past 12 months	13.9
Past 30 days	3.4

	Diagnosed with Mental Illness (past 12 months) No	Yes
Positive UA Results	%	%
Alcohol	3.6	3.9
Marijuana*	52.0	40.3
Methamphetamine	3.6	5.4
Cocaine	8.6	6.2
Opiates	2.5	1.6

* Chi-square significant at p < .05.

exceptions were for alcohol and methamphetamine. A significant difference was found for juveniles testing positive for marijuana – a group that included 40.3% of those who had been diagnosed with a mental illness within the prior year and 52% of those who had not been diagnosed within that period. (See Exhibit 11.)

Drug Use and Prior Treatment for a Mental Illness

Approximately 28% of the juveniles in the sample reported having been treated by a counselor, social worker, or doctor for a mental health problem at some time in their lives. Slightly more than 10% reported receiving treatment during the past year, with 5.6% reporting receiving treatment during the past 30 days.

Fewer than 10% of those treated for a mental illness in the year prior to arrest tested positive for recent use of alcohol or any specific drug other than marijuana. About half of the sample tested positive for marijuana – 50.2% of those who had not been treated for a mental illness within the prior year and 43% of those who had. Confirmed recent use of methamphetamines and for cocaine was slightly higher for those who had received mental illness treatment during the past year than for those who had not. (See Exhibit 12.)

Exhibit 12: Prior Treatment for Mental Illness and Drug Use

Treated for Mental Illness		%
	Lifetime	27.9
	Past 12 months	10.3
	Past 30 days	5.6

		Treated for Mental Illness	
		No	Yes
Positive UA Results		%	%
	Alcohol	4.4	1.8
	Marijuana	50.2	43.0
	Methamphetamine	3.7	5.3
	Cocaine	7.5	8.8
	Opiates	2.7	0.9

* Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

Drug Use and Prior Medication for a Mental Illness

Twenty-seven percent of the juveniles in the sample reported having been medicated at some time in their lives for a mental health, emotional, or psychiatric problem; 8.8% reported receiving the medication during the past year, with 6.6% having received medication during the past month. Juveniles who reported receiving medication for a mental illness in the past year were notably less likely to have tested positive for marijuana use than those who had not (37.3% vs. 52.2%). Few differences between the two groups emerged in positive test results for alcohol and for drugs other than marijuana. (See Exhibit 13.)

Drug Use and Prior Hospitalization for a Mental Illness

Almost 10% of the juveniles in the sample reported having been hospitalized for a mental illness at some point in their lives. Only 3.2% reported hospitalization during the past year, with 1.5% reporting hospitalization during the past month. No more than 5% of those hospitalized for a mental illness in the past year tested positive for recent use of alcohol or for any drug other than marijuana. Those who reported no hospitalization for a mental illness in the past year tested positive for marijuana at a notably higher rate (50.1%) than those who had been hospitalized (30%). (See Exhibit 14.)

Exhibit 13: Medicated for Mental Illness and Drug Use

Medicated for Mental Illness	%
Lifetime	26.9
Past 12 months	8.8
Past 30 days	6.6

	Medicated for Mental Illness (past 12 months)	
	No	Yes
Positive UA Results	%	%
Alcohol	4.0	2.7
Marijuana	52.2	37.3
Methamphetamine	3.7	5.5
Cocaine	8.0	7.3
Opiates	2.3	1.8

* Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

Exhibit 14: Hospitalized for Mental Illness and Drug Use

Hospitalized for Mental Illness	%
Lifetime	9.8
Past 12 months	3.2
Past 30 days	1.5

	Hospitalized for Mental Illness (past 12 months)	
	No	Yes
Positive UA Results	%	%
Alcohol	4.1	0.0
Marijuana	50.1	30.0
Methamphetamine	4.1	5.0
Cocaine	8.1	5.0
Opiates	2.4	0.0

* Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

Sample Characteristics by Citizenship Status

The AARIN interview instrument captures citizenship status along with other socio-demographic variables for juvenile arrestees in the sample. This data supports more accurate estimation of drug abuse and criminal activity for a population that is often difficult to track in the criminal justice system.

Exhibit 15 (below) shows the representation of illegal aliens among the sample juvenile arrestee population, and it presents a comparison of sample members by citizenship status (U.S. citizens and legal and illegal aliens) across multiple socio-demographic, drug use, criminal history, firearms possession, and victimization variables.

- Nearly all (90%) of the juvenile arrestees in the 2008 sample were U.S. citizens; 1.7% were legal aliens and 8.3% were illegal aliens.
- Juveniles who were legal aliens tended to be arrested at a younger age (mean age 14.3 years) than their U.S. citizen and illegal alien counterparts (mean age 15.6 and 15.5 years, respectively).
- The proportion of male arrestees was similar for U.S. citizens and legal aliens (82% and 85.7%, respectively); boys comprised 94% of arrestees who were illegal aliens.
- Not surprisingly, juvenile arrestees who were U.S. citizens were significantly more likely than legal (14.3%) or illegal aliens (none) to be White; the most-often-reported ethnicity for all three groups was Hispanic (U.S. citizens, 41.1%; legal aliens, 71.4%; and illegal aliens, 88.2%).
- Respondents reported living in similar residence types, regardless of citizenship status: all legal and illegal aliens and 91% of U.S. citizens reported living in a house, mobile home, apartment, or condominium during the 30 days prior to arrest.

Drug and Alcohol Use

As a group, juveniles who were U.S. citizens tested positive for every substance included in the study; other than for alcohol and cocaine, the highest rates of confirmed recent drug use occurred in this group. Legal aliens had no positive UA tests for alcohol or for any drug other than

marijuana, for which they posted the lowest rate of positive tests (14.3%). Illegal aliens had the second highest rate (38.2%) of positive UA tests for marijuana; around 10% tested positive for alcohol and for cocaine; none tested positive for methamphetamines or opiates.

Referral/Detention and Offense History

Compared with the juveniles in the sample who were U.S. citizens and illegal aliens, a larger proportion of those who were legal aliens had been referred (on the occasion when they became study participants) for a violent offense. With respect to their histories, U.S. citizens were more likely than legal or illegal aliens to report a prior detention; almost two-thirds (62.9%) of the juveniles identified as U.S. citizens indicated that they had had a prior detention at some time in their lives, compared with 28.6% of legal aliens and 41.2% of illegal aliens. U.S. citizens reported the highest rate (61.3%) of prior referrals during the past year.

Firearms Possession (Lifetime)

Exhibit 15 includes information about self-reported possession of firearms by the juvenile arrestees in the sample. Just more than a quarter of those who were U.S. citizens (25.3%) and of those who were illegal aliens (29.4%) and none of those who were legal aliens reported having owned a handgun at some point in their lives. Only 14.3% of the juveniles identified as legal aliens reported having possessed any firearms, and they reported owning only rifles or shotguns.

Victimization (Year Prior to Arrest)

With respect to victimization in the year prior to arrest, nearly a third of all juvenile arrestees in the sample, regardless of citizenship status, reported having been assaulted or attacked without a weapon. The highest rate of having been threatened with a weapon other than a gun was reported by those who were legal aliens - nearly half (42.9%) reported this experience. More than 14% of juvenile illegal aliens reported having been threatened with a gun in the year prior to arrest; in contrast, about a quarter of U.S. citizens (25.9%) and more than a third (35.3%) of illegal aliens reported this experience.

Exhibit 15: Characteristics of AARIN Juvenile Sample by Citizenship Status

Citizenship Status		%
	US Citizen	90.0
	Legal Alien	1.7
	Illegal Alien	8.3

		Citizenship Status		
		Illegal Alien	US Citizen	Legal Alien
Positive UA Results				
	Alcohol	8.8	3.3	0.0
	Marijuana	38.2	49.9	14.3
	Methamphetamine	0.0	4.6	0.0
	Cocaine	11.8	7.6	0.0
	Opiates	0.0	2.5	0.0
Age Category				
	12 years or younger	3.0	4.1	0.0
	13 – 14 years	18.2	13.2	57.1
	15 - 16 years	42.4	51.4	28.6
	17 years or older	36.4	31.3	14.3
	Mean	15.5	15.6	14.9
Sex				
	Boys	94.1	82.0	85.7
	Girls	5.9	18.0	14.3
Race/Ethnicity*				
	White	0.0	29.7	14.3
	Black	8.8	14.2	0.0
	Hispanic	88.2	41.1	71.4
	Native American	0.0	3.0	0.0
	Other	2.9	12.0	14.3
Attending School				
	Yes	61.8	59.1	100.0
Type of Residence (past 30 days)				
	Private apartment/condo/hotel	29.4	24.0	28.6
	House or mobile home	70.6	67.0	71.4
	Emergency or short-term shelter	0.0	0.3	0.0
	Half-way or honors facility	0.0	1.9	0.0
	Drug or alcohol treatment facility	0.0	1.6	0.0
	No fixed residence or on the street	0.0	2.7	0.0
	Other	0.0	1.6	0.0

* *t* test or Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

Exhibit 15 (cont): Characteristics of AARIN Juvenile Sample by Citizenship Status

	Citizenship Status		
	Illegal Alien	US Citizen	Legal Alien
Most Severe Offense at Referral			
Violent	38.2	6.0	57.1
Drug	11.8	8.5	0.0
Property	23.5	20.1	14.3
Other	26.5	35.4	28.6
Prior Referral (past 12 months)			
Yes	47.1	61.3	42.9
Mean	1.0	1.4	1.0
Prior Detention (lifetime)			
Yes	41.2	62.9	28.6
Firearm Owned/Possessed (ever)			
Handgun/Pistol	29.4	25.3	0.0
Rifle/Shotgun	17.6	16.1	14.3
Semi-Automatic Weapon	14.7	8.4	0.0
Fully Automatic Weapon	8.8	6.0	0.0
Victimization (past 12 months)			
Threatened with a gun	35.3	25.9	14.3
Shot at	29.4	22.6	0.0
Shot	2.9	1.9	0.0
Threatened with a weapon (not a gun)*	32.4	24.8	42.9
Injured with a weapon (not a gun) *	9.3	14.3	14.7
Assaulted or attacked without a weapon	32.4	31.9	28.6
Robbed	14.7	9.8	28.6

* *t* test or Chi-square significant at $p < .05$.

About the Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety

Arizona State University, in order to deepen its commitment to the communities of Arizona and to society as a whole, has set a new standard for research universities, as modeled by the New American University. Accordingly, ASU is measured not by whom we exclude, but by whom we include.

The University is pursuing research that considers the public good, and is assuming a greater responsibility to our communities for their economic, social, and cultural vitality. Social embeddedness – university-wide, interactive, and mutually supportive partnerships with Arizona communities – is at the core of our development as a New American University.

Toward the goal of social embeddedness, in response to the growing need of our communities to improve the public's safety and well-being, in July 2005 ASU established the Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety. The Center's mission is to generate, share, and apply quality research and knowledge to create "best practice" standards.

Specifically, the center evaluates policies and programs; analyzes and evaluates patterns and causes of violence; develops strategies and programs; develops a clearinghouse of research reports and "best practice" models; educates, trains, and provides technical assistance; and facilitates the development and construction of databases.

For more information about the Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety, please contact us using the information provided below.

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