Methamphetamine Use and Drug Treatment

The present analysis examines the relationship between current drug use, with particular emphasis on methamphetamine use, and prior drug treatment history and perceived need for drug treatment. Our findings indicate that methamphetamine users are substantially more likely to have had drug treatment, and feel that they currently need treatment, when compared to other arrestees. For example, nearly 40 percent of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine use indicated that they are currently receiving drug treatment compared to 26.3 percent of arrestees testing positive for another drug, and 33.3 percent of arrestees who did not test positive for drug use. About 83 percent of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine use and 81 percent of arrestees testing positive for another drug reported receiving drug treatment in the past year, whereas only 60 percent of arrestees who did not test positive for drug use reported receiving treatment in the past year. Of particular interest was the finding that over 90 percent of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine use reporting “needing treatment” compared to about 75 percent of arrestees who tested positive for another drug, and about 56 percent of those who did not test positive for drug use.