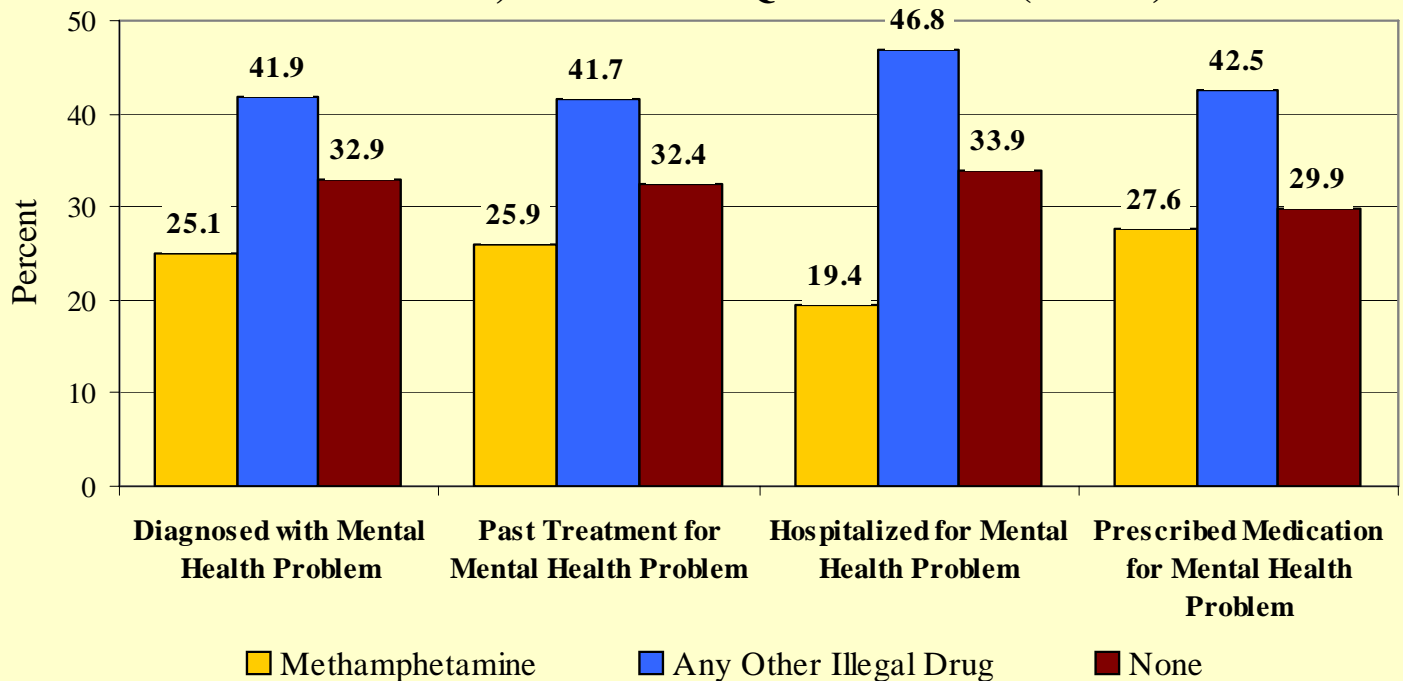


Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Meth by Mental Health Issues, AARIN 1st Quarter 2008 (n=598)



* Indicates significance at $p < .05$

Methamphetamine and Other Drug Use and Mental Health:

The present analysis examines the relationship between current drug use (cocaine, marijuana, meth, and opiates), with particular emphasis on methamphetamine use, and mental health treatment. The findings indicate that drug users in general are more likely to have mental health problems than other arrestees. Arrestees from the AARIN sample who tested positive for methamphetamine consistently reported mental health problems at lower rates than other drug users.

Approximately 25% of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine had been diagnosed with a mental health disorder compared to about 42% of arrestees testing positive for another drug, and almost 33% of arrestees who tested negative for drug use. A similar trend was observed between drug use and past treatment for a mental health problem. About 26 percent of arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine reported they had received mental health treatment, compared to 42% of those testing positive for another drug, and 32% of those who tested negative for drug use. Nearly 28% of arrestees who tested positive for meth reported having been prescribed medication for a mental health problem, compared to 42.5% of other drug users and 29.9% of those who tested negative. About 19% of meth users reported being hospitalized for mental health problems, compared to 46.8% of other drug users and 33.9% of non-users. It should be noted that while the above patterns of difference appear to be substantial, the analyses indicated that the differences were not significant.