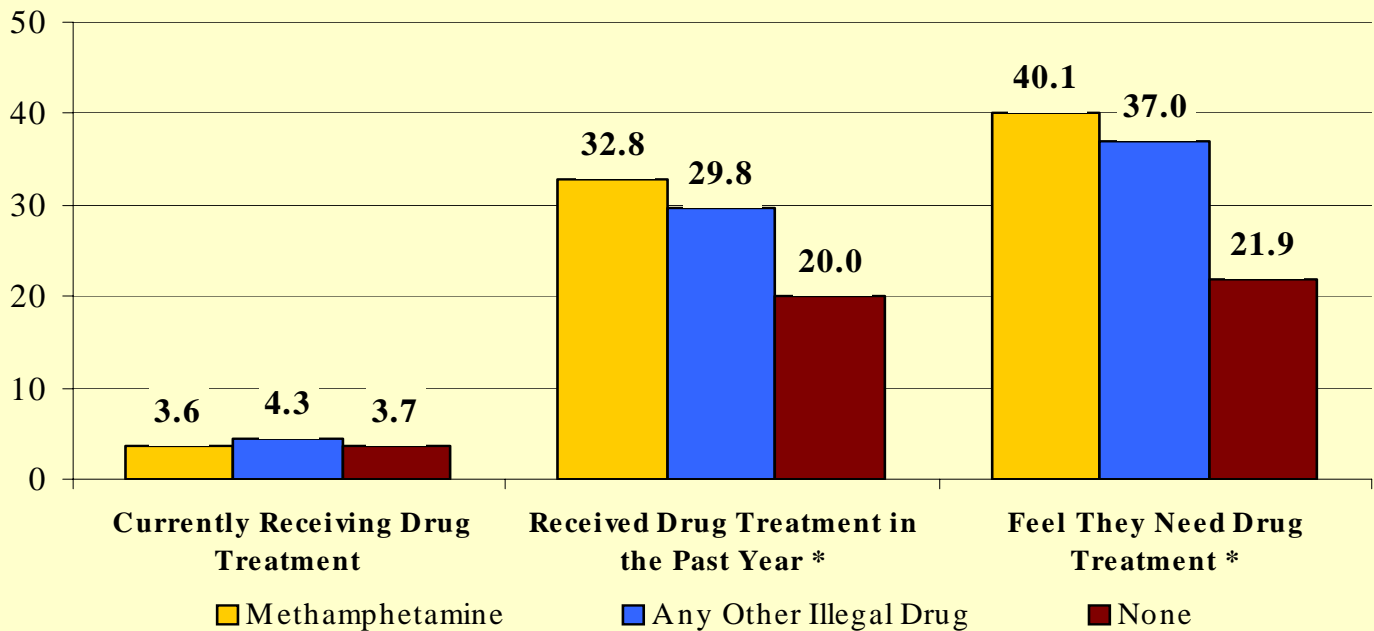


Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Meth by Drug Treatment History and Need, 1st Quarter 2008 (n=587)



* Indicates significance at $p < .05$

Methamphetamine and Other Drug Use and Treatment:

The present analysis examines the relationship between current drug use and drug treatment history and need. Specifically, we compared the arrestees testing positive for methamphetamine, other illegal drugs (marijuana, cocaine, or opiates), and those who tested negative for drug use, to their responses about whether they were currently receiving substance abuse treatment, had received treatment in the past, or whether they felt they needed or could use treatment for substance abuse. We found significant differences in reported past treatment and the perceived need for treatment. Arrestees who tested positive for methamphetamine were more likely to report they had received treatment in the past year, and were more likely to report they needed treatment than those who tested positive for any other illegal drug. Specifically, 33% of those who tested positive for meth reported past substance use treatment compared to about 30% of other drug users, and 20% of those who tested negative for drug use. More than 40% of meth users reported they needed treatment for substance abuse, compared to 37% of those who tested positive for another drug, and 21.9% of those who tested negative for drug use. It is important to note the difference in the rates of those arrestees reporting a need for treatment, and those currently receiving substance abuse treatment – at nearly a 10 to 1 ratio, it suggests a potentially significant gap in substance abuse treatment services.