More than half (58%) of state prisoners and about two-thirds (63%) of sentenced jail inmates met the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV) criteria for drug dependence or abuse during 2007-09. In comparison, approximately 5% of the total general population age 18 or older met the DSM-IV criteria for drug dependence or abuse during this period, according to the 2007-09 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).

Drug use and drug abuse estimates

About 8 in 10 state prisoners (81%) and sentenced jail inmates (84%) had ever used any drug in their lifetime. In comparison, about 7 in 10 prisoners (72%) and jail inmates (75%) regularly used any drug prior to incarceration. Overall, both prisoners (63%) and jail inmates (64%) regularly used marijuana/hashish more than any other drug prior to incarceration. This was followed by cocaine/crack (24% of prisoners and 38% of jail inmates). Fewer prisoners (42%) and jail inmates (37%) said they used drugs at the time of their offense.

About half (54%) of state prisoners and fewer than two-thirds (61%) of sentenced jail inmates incarcerated for violent offenses met the criteria for drug dependence or abuse. This was lower than the percentage of those incarcerated for property offenses (68% of prisoners and 72% of jail inmates) or drug offenses (67% and 74%). Among prisoners who met the criteria for drug dependence or abuse, there was no difference in the percentage of those incarcerated for violent offenses (54%), DWI/DUI offenses (55%), or other public order offenses (55%).

Prisoner and jail inmate demographics

Approximately 7 in 10 females in state prison (69%) or jail (72%) met the DSM-IV criteria for drug dependence or abuse, compared to about 6 in 10 males in prison (57%) or jail (62%). About two-thirds of prisoners (64%) and sentenced jail inmates (62%) ages 18 to 24 met the criteria for dependence or abuse. In comparison, 26% of prisoners and 40% of jail inmates age 55 or older met the DSM-IV criteria.

Non-Hispanic white state prisoners (62%) and sentenced jail inmates (72%) were more likely to have met the DSM-IV criteria for drug dependence or abuse than Hispanic prisoners (58%) and jail inmates (55%) and non-Hispanic black prisoners (55%) and jail inmates (57%).

Inmates and adult general population who met the criteria for drug dependence or abuse, 2007–2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>State prisoners**</th>
<th>Sentenced jail inmates**</th>
<th>Adult general population**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*Comparison group.
**Difference with the comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Drug treatment prevalence

About a quarter of state prisoners (28%) and sentenced jail inmates (22%) who met the criteria for drug dependence or abuse participated in a drug treatment program since admission to their current facility. The percentage of prisoners and jail inmates who participated in a drug treatment program did not differ by the amount of time since arrival to their current facility or the amount of time until their release. In comparison, 11% of adults in the general population who met the DSM-IV criteria received or participated in a drug treatment program in the 12 months prior to their NSDUH interview.

The full report (Drug Use, Dependence, and Abuse Among State Prisoners and Jail Inmates, 2007–2009, NCJ 250546), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.