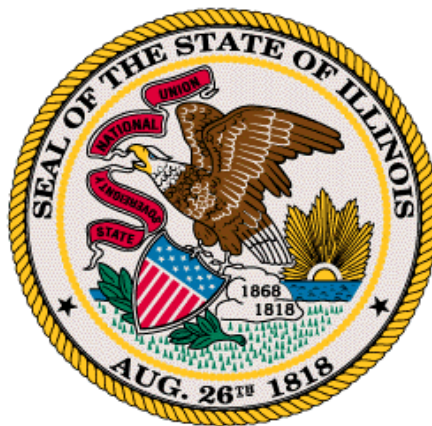

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois: Prevalence and Treatment Need, 2000



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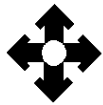
U.S. Center for
Substance Abuse
Treatment



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Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois: Prevalence and Treatment Need, 2000

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Contents

	Page
List of Tables.....	iv
List of Figures.....	vi
Acknowledgements.....	vii
Executive Summary.....	ix
I. Introduction.....	1
II. Results.....	2
A. Demographic Characteristics.....	2
B. Overall Prevalence of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use.....	3
C. Need for Alcohol and Drug Treatment.....	4
III. Prevalence of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) Use by Demographic Background.....	13
A. Alcohol.....	13
B. Tobacco.....	16
C. Inhalants.....	17
D. Marijuana.....	18
E. Cocaine/Crack.....	19
F. Stimulants.....	20
G. Depressants.....	22
H. Psychedelics.....	23
I. Heroin/Opiates.....	24
J. Any Illicit Drugs.....	25
K. Onset of Substance Abuse.....	26
IV. Discussion.....	27
V. References.....	28
VI. Technical Appendix.....	30

Tables

Table 1.	Demographics of Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois	2
Table 2.	Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month ATOD Prevalence Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois and Texas.....	4
Table 3.	Percentage of Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois Meeting MINI (DSM) Criteria for Substance Dependence/Abuse.....	5
Table 4.	Percentage of Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois Who Experienced Substance-Related MINI (DSM) Symptoms.....	7
Table 5.	Percentage of Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois Who Meet MINI (DSM) Criteria for Substance Dependence/Abuse and Reported Ever Receiving Treatment by Demographic Characteristics	8
Table 6.	Self-Reported Drug-Related Delinquent Behavior: Youth Without Substance Use Problem vs. Substance Dependent or Abuser	9
Table 7.	Percent Substance Abusers Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Selected Correlates.....	10
Table 8.	Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Alcohol Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics	14
Table 9.	Percentage of Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois Who Drank Heavily During the 30 Days Prior to Admittance	15
Table 10.	Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Tobacco Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics	16
Table 11.	Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Inhalant Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics	17
Table 12.	Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Marijuana Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics	18

Table 13. Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Cocaine or Crack Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics 19

Table 14. Lifetime Prevalence of Stimulant Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics 21

Table 15. Lifetime Prevalence of Depressant Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics22

Table 16. Lifetime Prevalence of Use of Psychedelics Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics23

Table 17. Lifetime Prevalence of Heroin Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics24

Table 18. Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Any Illicit Drug Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics25

Table 19. Average Age of Onset of Substance Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois.....26

Figures

Figure 1.	Percentage of Youth Entering Correctional Facilities in Illinois in Need of Substance Abuse Treatment.....	ix
Figure 2.	Prevalence of Substance Use Among Youth Entering Correctional Facilities in Illinois.....	x

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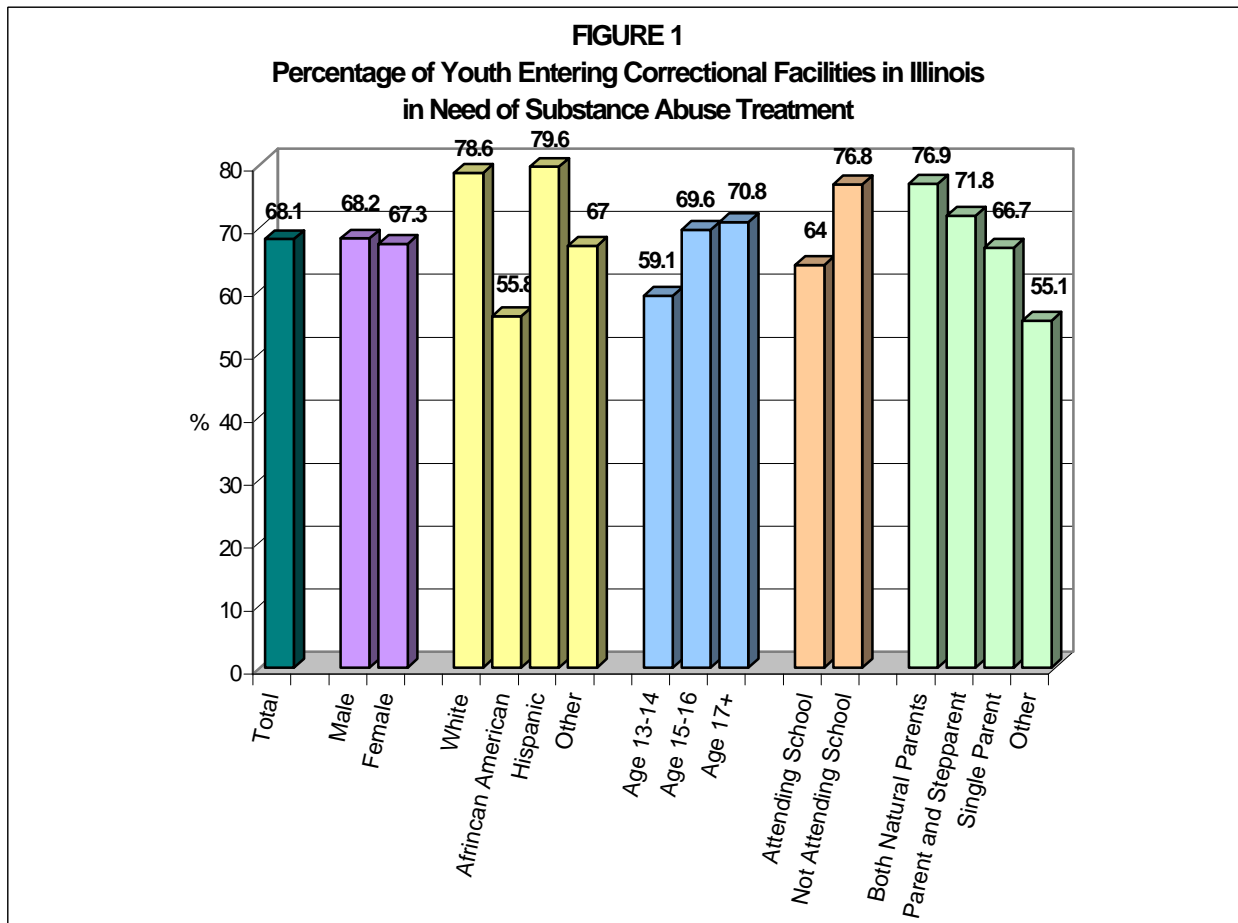
Finally, we extend a special thank you to each of the youth who responded so candidly to our interview.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A sample of 401 youth newly admitted to juvenile correctional facilities in Illinois were interviewed using a standardized assessment instrument. Basic findings are summarized below.

Need for Alcohol or Drug Abuse Treatment

To estimate the need for alcohol and drug treatment services, the diagnostic criteria for substance abuse and dependence from the MINI (Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview) were used. Basic results are presented in **Figure 1**.

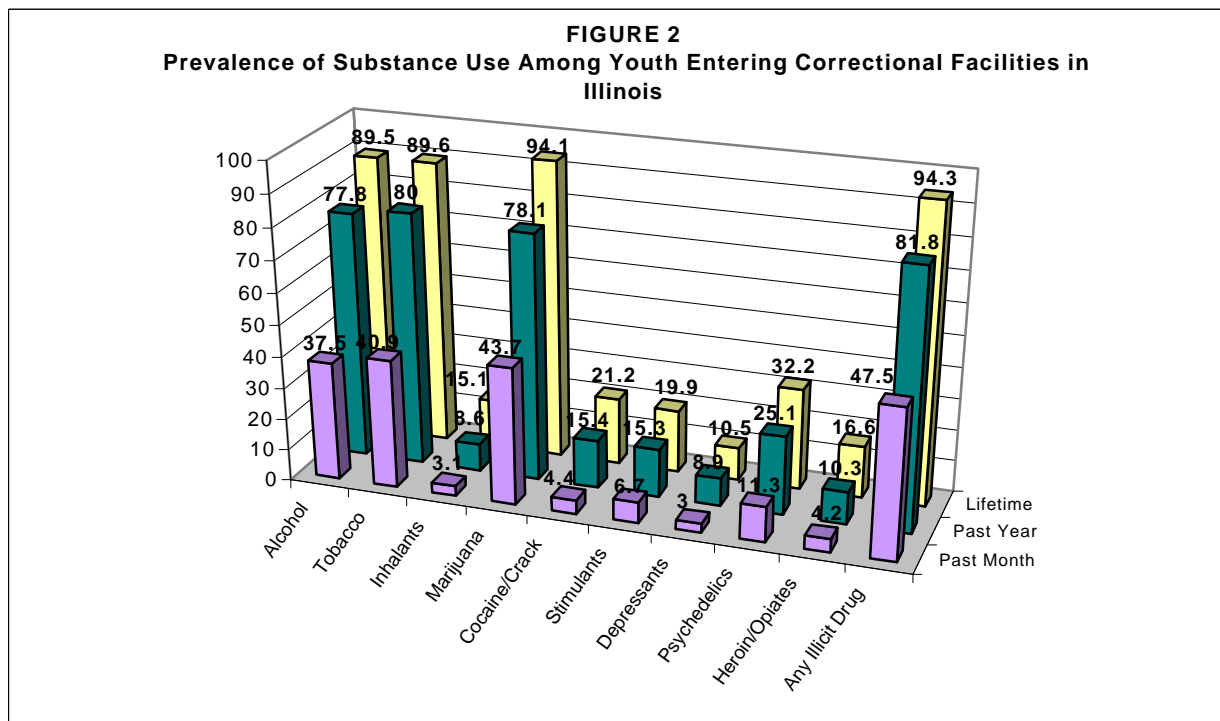


- Of the total sample of youth recently committed to Illinois juvenile correctional centers, 68 percent were found to be in need of treatment for alcohol or drug abuse/dependence.
- More than 36 percent of these youth were diagnosed as having *both* alcohol and drug problems.
- Males were more likely than females to be diagnosed as having a problem exclusively with drug use. However, a greater number of females were found to be in need of treatment for both alcohol and drug problems.
- Compared with adolescents of other races/ethnicities, Hispanic and white youth were more likely to be in need of treatment for both alcohol and drug problems.

- Overall, 39 percent of those juveniles who had used alcohol or other drugs indicated that they had been treated at least once.
- Of those youth who were diagnosed as having a substance abuse problem, only 48 percent had ever received treatment.

Prevalence of Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Prevalence rates of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use also were estimated for adolescents' lifetimes, the past year, and the past month. **Figure 2** summarizes these findings.



- Approximately 90 percent of youth entering juvenile correctional facilities reported lifetime use of alcohol and cigarettes. About 15 percent had used inhalants.
- Respondents consumed an average of eight drinks per day during the 30 days before entering the correctional facilities. Of the total sample, over 23 percent of juveniles were heavy drinkers.
- Ninety-four percent of the youth interviewed reported having used at least one illicit drug in their lifetimes. The drug most likely to have ever been tried was marijuana (94.1%), followed by psychedelics (32.2%). Almost half of all juveniles entering correctional custody in Illinois reported having used illicit drugs during the month immediately prior to incarceration.
- Use of some illicit drugs (i.e., cocaine, stimulants, and depressants) was more prevalent among females than males.
- African American youth were less likely than youth of other races/ethnicities to report using inhalants, other illicit drugs including cocaine or crack, stimulants, depressants, psychedelics, and heroin or opiates.

I. Introduction

Substance abuse is a major health problem among adolescents in the United States (MacKay et al., 2000; Sigda & Martin, 1996). According to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 4.3 million persons age 12–17 were current alcohol consumers in 1998 and 4.2 million were cigarette smokers (Office of Applied Studies, 1999). In addition, 2.3 million youth were currently using illicit drugs.

Youth with behavioral problems are at elevated risk for alcohol and/or other drug abuse (Elliott et al., 1985; VanKammen et al., 1991; Wish & Johnson, 1986). It has, for example, been documented that many adolescents entering the criminal justice system have substance abuse problems (Dembo, 1996; National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1995; Sigda & Martin, 1996). Many have also been victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and/or sexual exploitation (Dembo et al., 1992; Inciardi et al., 1991; Kilpatrick et al., 2000; Mouzakis, 1981).

The impact of these traumatic experiences poses significant obstacles to the successful treatment of adolescents in juvenile correctional custody. Ironically, recent research suggests that most secure facilities that house juveniles in the U.S. do not provide on-site substance abuse treatment services to residents (Office of Applied Studies, 2000b).

Little is currently known regarding the substance use patterns of adolescents incarcerated in the juvenile division of the Illinois Department of Corrections, of which there were approximately 2,200 in residence as of June 30, 1999 (Illinois Department of Corrections, 1999a). The purpose of this report is to address this shortfall by presenting information from a survey of youth age 13–18 newly admitted to juvenile correctional facilities in Illinois. Patterns of substance use prevalence, abuse, and dependence and treatment experiences are explored and summarized.

II. Results

This section includes the following results: demographic characteristics of the sample; general prevalence of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use; and estimated treatment needs. Demographic differences of ATOD prevalence and treatment need measures were tested statistically based on weighted data. (See the Technical Appendix for a description of the survey methodology). Test results are presented in tables where indicated.

A. Demographic Characteristics

Demographic characteristics of the sample of youth entering juvenile correctional facilities in Illinois are presented in **Table 1**. Of the 401 juveniles interviewed, 326 were males and 75 were females. Because females were

over-sampled, the sample was adjusted for differential probabilities of selection by gender. The majority of the respondents were 15 to 16 years old (64.8%). Forty-five percent of respondents identified themselves as African American and 44 percent as white. In terms of education at the time of entrance to the facilities, about 68 percent of juveniles reported attending school. Thirty-two percent reported not attending school or having dropped out of school at the time of facility admittance. With regard to family structure, 47 percent of the youth resided with a single parent, and of those 187 youth, 86 percent were living with their mothers. Twenty-four percent of the sample resided in households headed by a biological parent and a stepparent.

Table 1
Demographics of Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois

	Unweighted		Weighted	
	N	%	N	%
Total	401	100.0	401	100.0
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	326	81.3	349	87.1
Female	75	18.7	52	12.9
<u>Age</u>				
13–14	72	18.0	71	17.7
15–16	256	63.8	260	64.8
17 or older	73	18.2	70	17.5
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>				
White	179	44.6	177	44.0
African American	177	44.1	181	45.2
Hispanic	26	6.5	27	6.8
Other	19	4.7	16	4.0
<u>Educational Status</u>				
Attending School	270	67.3	272	67.8
Dropped Out/Not Attending	131	32.7	129	32.2
<u>Family Structure</u>				
Both Natural Parents	66	16.5	65	16.2
Parent and Stepparent	98	24.4	96	23.9
Single Parent	185	46.1	187	46.8
Other	52	13.0	53	13.1

B. Overall Prevalence of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use

Prevalence rates were defined as the percentage of people who report any use of a given substance during a specified time period, e.g., lifetime, past year, or past month. **Lifetime prevalence**, for example, refers to the percentage of people that have used a substance at least once in their lifetimes. Likewise, **past year** prevalence measures the percentage who have used a substance at any point in the last 12 months, and **past month** prevalence refers to the percentage of respondents who reported using a given substance within the 30 days prior to entering secure correctional custody.

As indicated in **Table 2**, approximately 90 percent of interviewed youth reported lifetime use of alcohol and cigarettes. About 15 percent claimed they had used inhalants such as volatile solvents, anesthetics, and nitrites by “huffing” or sniffing.

Ninety-four percent of the youth reported having used at least one illicit drug in their lifetimes. The drug most likely to have ever been tried was marijuana (94.1%), followed by psychedelics (32.2%), such as LSD, Ecstasy, Psilocybin Mushrooms, MDA, Eve, etc. A little less than 20 percent of the respondents also indicated they had used stimulants like methamphetamines, Ritalin, etc.

Seventy-eight percent of the sample said they used alcohol in the 12 months prior to incarceration, and about 80 percent reported past year use of cigarettes. Less than nine percent of the respondents admitted to using any inhalants in the year before entering the facilities.

Of the total sample, about 82 percent reported having used at least one illicit drug during the 12 months prior to being locked up.

Again, the most commonly used drugs were marijuana (78.1%) and psychedelics (25.1%). More than 15 percent of the respondents also reported past-year use of cocaine or crack, and stimulants were used by 15.3 percent of the sample.

Over 37 percent of youth consumed alcohol and about 41 percent smoked cigarettes in the month prior to their admittance. More than 3 percent also had abused inhalants recently.

Approximately 48 percent of the sample reported using one or more illicit drugs recently, with marijuana being the most popular choice (43.7%). More than 11 percent of the respondents reported the recent use of psychedelics.

As presented in **Table 2**, compared to the rates for youth entering Texas Youth Commission (TYC) facilities in 1994 (Fredlund et al., 1995), lifetime prevalence rates for illicit drugs were higher for Illinois youth. Texas youth, however, were more likely than their Illinois peers to have used inhalants, cocaine, crack, depressants, and heroin in their lifetimes. The differences between these two groups were even greater in more recent use of these drugs. Fourteen percent of Texas juveniles, for example, reported using cocaine in the month prior to being admitted to TYC; the corresponding figure for Illinois youth was 3.9 percent. The overall past month prevalence of illicit drugs among Illinois youth was 47.5 percent—about 15 percent lower than the prevalence estimated among the Texas youth.

Table 2
Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month ATOD Prevalence Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois and Texas

	Lifetime		Past Year		Past Month	
	Illinois	Texas*	Illinois	Texas*	Illinois	Texas*
Licit Substances						
Alcohol	89.5	89	77.8	79	37.5	52
Tobacco	89.6	83	80.0	70	40.9	39
Inhalants	15.1	33	8.6	23	3.1	11
Illicit Substances						
Marijuana	94.1	88	78.1	80	43.7	57
Cocaine/Crack [†]	21.2		15.4		4.4	
<i>Cocaine</i>	17.7	36	13.5	30	3.9	14
<i>Crack</i>	7.1	13	4.6	11	1.1	5
Stimulants	19.9	17	15.3	13	6.7	4
Depressants	10.5	22	8.9	17	3.0	7
Psychedelics	32.2	30	25.1	26	11.3	11
Heroin/Opiates [†]	16.6		10.3		4.2	
<i>Heroin</i>	3.8	8	2.7	6	0.9	2
<i>Opiates</i>	14.3	9	8.9	7	3.3	3
Any Illicit Drug	94.3	89	81.8	83	47.5	62

*From Fredlund et al., 1995.

[†]Fredlund et al. did not report a combined rate for use of these substances.

C. Need for Alcohol and Drug Treatment

Estimating Treatment Need

Treatment need was estimated based on diagnosis criteria for substance abuse and dependence from the *Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview*, or MINI (Sheehan et al., 2000). The MINI, constructed based on *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (American Psychiatric Association, 1987), is an abbreviated psychiatric interview schedule that includes a diagnostic inventory of alcohol abuse and dependence. For this study, the MINI criteria were applied to diagnose alcohol or drug abuse and dependence. During the interview, respondents were asked if they experienced any problems/symptoms associated with the use of each substance during the 12 months prior to entering correctional custody. The MINI symptoms

that detect **substance dependence** include:

- Increased tolerance to alcohol/other drugs.
- Experience of withdrawal symptoms.
- Alcohol/drugs taken in larger amounts or for a longer period than intended.
- Unsuccessful efforts to control drinking/drug use.
- Spending a lot of time getting or using alcohol/drugs or recovering from alcohol/drug use.
- Continuing use of alcohol/drugs despite knowledge of psychological or physical problems caused by the use of substance.

The symptoms indicative of **substance abuse** are:

- Alcohol/drug use frequently interferes with fulfilling important obligations (e.g., missing work because of a hangover).
- Substance use places one in physically hazardous situations (e.g., driving a car or boat while under the influence).
- Presence of problems with police, family, and friends because of substance use.
- Continuing use of alcohol/drugs despite knowledge of these problems.

Respondents experiencing three or more dependence symptoms and one or more abuse symptoms were diagnosed as problem users and defined as being in need of treatment.

Need for Treatment

As presented in **Table 3**, 68 percent of youth in Illinois correctional facilities were found to be in need of treatment. Less than 5 percent had alcohol problems exclusively, and 27 percent had drug problems only. More than 36 percent of the youth interviewed were diagnosed as having both alcohol and drug problems.

Table 3
Percentage of Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois Meeting MINI (DSM) Criteria for Substance Dependence/Abuse

	Alcohol or Drug Problem	Alcohol Problem Only	Drug Problem Only	Alcohol & Drug Problem
Total	68.1	4.5	27.2	36.4
Gender			*	+
Male	68.2	4.6	28.9	34.7
Female	67.3	3.8	15.4	48.1
Age		+		
13–14	59.1	1.4	23.9	33.8
15–16	69.6	6.2	28.8	34.6
17 or older	70.8	1.4	24.3	45.1
Race/Ethnicity	***			***
White	78.6	4.5	24.4	49.7
African American	55.8	4.4	29.3	22.1
Hispanic	79.6	3.7	25.9	50.0
Other	67.0	6.3	31.3	29.4
Educational Status	*			**
Attending School	64.0	4.4	28.3	31.3
Dropped Out/Not Attending	76.8	4.7	24.8	47.3
Family Structure	+			*
Both Natural Parents	76.9	4.6	30.8	41.5
Parent and Stepparent	71.8	3.1	22.9	45.8
Single Parent	66.7	5.9	26.2	34.6
Other	55.1	1.9	34.0	19.2

+ p<0.1; * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001 (Chi-Square Test).

As shown in **Table 3**, male and female youth were equally likely to be diagnosed as having alcohol- or drug-related problems. Males were, however, more likely than females to be diagnosed as having a problem with drug use, while a greater number of female inmates were found to be in need of treatment for both alcohol and drug problems simultaneously.

There was a marginal age difference between respondents needing treatment for alcohol only: a higher percentage of youth in the middle age category (age 15–16) were in need of alcohol abuse treatment than were younger (13–14) and older (17 or older) youth. With regard to race, Hispanic and white youth were more likely to be in need of treatment for alcohol or drug problems as well as both alcohol and drug problems simultaneously.

Of those juveniles who were attending school before entering the facilities, 64 percent were found to be in need of treatment, compared to 76.7 percent of those who had dropped out of school or had not been attending school. Further, non-attenders were more likely to be in need of treatment for both alcohol and drug problems.

Family structure made a marginal difference in treatment needs among the youth of our interest. Youth living with both natural parents were more likely than others to be in need of alcohol or drug treatment. When both alcohol and drug problems were concerned, youth residing with a biological parent and a stepparent were most likely to need treatment.

Specific Problems Associated with Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Table 4 presents the percentage of respondents who experienced each of the eleven MINI symptoms determining substance dependence and abuse. Overall, 76.4 percent of the sample reported having experienced at least one symptom during the year before entering the facilities.

The most frequently mentioned **dependence** symptom was using alcohol or drugs in larger amounts than intended (50.6%). This symptom was reported by 68.5 percent of those who were diagnosed as being in need of treatment and by 12.5 percent of those without such a diagnosis. The most frequently reported substance **abuse** symptom was experiencing problems with other people (i.e., police, family, or friends) because of alcohol or drug use, which was noted by about 51 percent of the total sample and 74.7 percent of those diagnosed as substance abusers.

Of the total sample, 40.2 percent of youth were found to be substance dependent, and 66.7 percent were diagnosed as substance abusers. About 28 percent of the sample were found to be substance abusers but were not diagnosed as being substance dependent. Thirty-nine percent were diagnosed as being both substance dependent and substance abusers.

Table 4
Percentage of Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois
Who Experienced Substance-Related MINI (DSM) Symptoms

MINI (DSM) Symptoms	Without Diagnosis	With Diagnosis	Total Sample
<u>Alcohol/Drug Dependence</u>			
• Increased Tolerance: Needed increasing amount of the substance to achieve desired effects.	2.3	54.2	37.7
• Withdrawal Symptoms: Experienced withdrawal symptoms.	0.0	20.1	13.7
• Loss of Control: Took larger amount than intended.	12.5	68.5	50.6
• Inability to Cut Down: Tried to cut down or stop but failed.	13.3	49.5	37.9
• Increased Time Devoted to Substance Use: Spent much time getting, taking, or recovering.	6.3	59.7	42.6
• Reduced Social Activities: Gave up important social, economic, or recreational activities because of substance use.	2.3	39.6	27.7
• Continued Use Despite Health Problem: Continued use after psychological or physical problem caused by the use of substance.	2.3	39.6	27.7
<u>Alcohol/Drug Abuse</u>			
• Under Influence While Fulfilling Obligations: Intoxicated or high when expected to fulfill obligations.	N/A	61.2	41.6
• Increased Physical Risk: Put self at physical risk (e.g., by driving a car, riding a motorbike while intoxicated).	N/A	64.5	43.9
• Problem with Others: Experienced problem with police, family, friends because of substance use.	N/A	74.7	50.9
• Continued Use Despite Problems with Other People: Continued use after experiencing problem with other people caused by the use of substance.	N/A	67.4	45.9

Lifetime Treatment Experience

Respondents who had used any substance in their lifetimes were asked if they had ever been treated for alcohol or drug problems prior to incarceration. Overall, 39 percent of respondents reporting lifetime substance use indicated that they had been treated at least once. Of those who met MINI substance dependence/abuse criteria, only 48 percent reported having ever been treated.

As presented in **Table 5**, older youth were significantly more likely to have experienced treatment than were younger ones. Whites and Hispanics were more likely than others to have lifetime treatment experience, but as with other demographic factors, the racial/ethnic differences were not statistically significant.

Table 5
Percentage of Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois Who Meet MINI (DSM) Criteria for Substance Dependence/Abuse and Reported Ever Receiving Treatment by Demographic Characteristics

Category	Total	Percent
		48.0
Gender		
Male		48.3
Female		45.7
Age		
13–14		33.3
15–16		47.0
17 or older		64.0
Race/Ethnicity		
White		54.0
African American		39.6
Hispanic		50.0
Other		45.5
Educational Status		
Attending School		47.1
Dropped Out/Not Attending		49.0
Family Structure		
Both Natural Parents		44.0
Parent and Stepparent		53.6
Single Parent		47.2
Other		41.4

* p<0.05 (Chi-Square Test).

Drug-Related Delinquent Behavior and Problem Substance Use

A series of questions was asked about drug-related delinquent behaviors committed in the past. As listed in **Table 6**, the most frequently mentioned delinquent behavior was selling drugs to make a profit, with almost 57 percent of the total sample reporting committing such an act. Among the youth with drug problems either by abusing or being dependent on one or more substances, 63 percent reported having ever sold drugs for profit. More than 55 percent

of the sample reported having sold drugs to get drugs for their own use, and this was mentioned by 32.6 percent of youth with alcohol or drug problems. As expected, juveniles with substance dependence or abuse problems were substantially more likely than those without such problems to commit the drug-related delinquent behaviors listed, with the exception of having sex with someone to get drugs for their own use.

Table 6
Self-Reported Drug-Related Delinquent Behavior:
Youth Without Substance Use Problem vs. Substance Dependent or Abuser

	Non-Dependent or Non-Abuser	Dependent or Abuser	Total Sample
<i>Have you ever...</i>			
• Committed a property crime to buy drugs for your own use?	0.0	14.7	10.0
• Committed armed robbery to get money for drugs for your own use?	0.0	7.3	5.0
• Sold drugs to make a profit?	43.8	63.0	56.9
• Sold drugs to get drugs for your own use?	10.9	32.6	25.7
• Stolen drugs for your own use?	2.3	26.4	18.7
• Used or threatened to use violence to protect a drug operation?	5.5	28.6	21.2
• Used or threatened to use violence because you were high, not in control?	3.1	33.3	23.7
• Needed alcohol or drugs to do a crime or to remove the fear of danger?	1.6	27.1	19.0
• Had sex with someone to get drugs for your own use?	2.3	3.3	3.0

Correlates with Substance Abuse/Dependence

This section presents some additional factors that may also be associated with substance abuse. Selected correlates include childhood victimization, parental substance use, displacement from

home, sexual risk behaviors, gang affiliation, criminal activity, mental health status, and reported cruelty toward pets. Findings are presented in **Table 7**.

Table 7
Percent Substance Abusers Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Selected Correlates

Correlates	% Substance Abuser/ Dependent	Correlates	% Substance Abuser/ Dependent
Total N=401		68.1	
Childhood Victimization		Gang Affiliation	
Mental or Sexual Abuse		Ever Been a Gang Member	*
Yes (n=23)	78.3	Yes (178)	74.7
No (378)	67.5	No (223)	62.8
Economic Deprivation	*	Current Gang Member	*
Yes (79)	79.7	Yes (119)	77.3
No (322)	65.2	No (282)	64.2
Improper Care		Criminal Activity	
Yes (124)	70.7	Crimes Against Property	***
No (277)	66.9	Yes (323)	74.3
Problem with DCFS		No (78)	42.3
Yes (134)	70.9	Person Crimes	***
No (276)	66.7	Yes (247)	79.8
Parents' Substance Use		No (154)	49.4
Alcohol Use	**	Drug-Related Crimes	***
Yes (265)	73.6	Yes (263)	78.3
No (136)	57.4	No (138)	48.6
Drug Use	*	Mental Health Status	
Yes (84)	83.3	General Mental Health	**
No (317)	64.0	Severe Problems (45)	80.4
Displacement from Home		Moderate Problems(122)	77.0
Lived Outside Home	**	Slight Problems (234)	60.9
Yes (280)	72.8	Animal Abuse	
No (121)	57.4	Ever Thought of Hurting Pets	**
Sexual Behavior		Yes (90)	81.1
Multiple Sex Partners	***	No (311)	64.3
No Sex (124)	50.8	Ever Hurt Pets	+
One Partner (168)	74.6	Yes (66)	76.9
Multiple Partners (108)	77.8	No (335)	66.4

+ p<0.1; * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p <0.001 (Chi-square Test; non-directional).

A significant difference was found between those who claimed to have ever experienced economic difficulties (i.e., no place to live, not enough food to eat, inadequate clothes) and those who did not. About 80 percent of those with the experience of economic deprivation reported substance abuse problems, while 65 percent of those who did not experience economic deprivation did so. Three other measures of childhood victimization—improper care (i.e., having been ever left alone, having been ever not taken care of when sick or hurt), problems with DCFS (i.e., juvenile’s parents ever been investigated or siblings ever removed by DCFS), and mental or sexual abuse—were not found to be significantly correlated with substance abuse.

Juveniles who have parents or parent figures using alcohol or drugs were also more likely to abuse one or more substances. Seventy-four percent of those with parents who used alcohol were found to have substance abuse problems, compared to 57.4 percent of those with nondrinking parents. More than 83 percent of juveniles with drug-using parents and 64 percent of those with non-drug-using parents were diagnosed as being substance dependents or abusers.

Juveniles were also asked if they had ever experienced displacement from their homes for more than 30 days, in places like a foster home, a relative’s home, a friend’s home, a shelter, on the street, or in a residential placement. Approximately 73 percent of the youth with such experiences were also classified as having a substance abuse/dependence condition, compared to 57.4 percent of those who had never left home for more than 30 days.

Risky sexual behavior, measured by having sex with single or multiple partners in the 30 days before entering a correctional facility, was also found to be associated with alcohol or drug abuse. Juveniles who did not report having sex during that 30-day period were substantially less likely to have abused alcohol or drugs (50.8%), compared to those with multiple partners (77.8%) or a single partner (74.6%).

Youth who claimed to have ever been a gang member or to being a current gang member were more likely to be substance abusers. Further, three types of criminal activities—property crimes, person crimes, or drug-related crimes (as mentioned in the previous section)—were all associated with substance dependence/abuse among these juveniles. There was an approximate 30 percentage point difference between those who had and had not committed each type of offense in reported rates of substance abuse/dependency.

The general mental health status of youth was measured by 19 Likert items (with 4 response categories of “never” to “frequently”) asking about current experiences indicative of mental health problems including depression, life-threatening symptoms, and hallucinations (Fredlund et al., 1995).¹ Juveniles having seven or more symptoms were considered to have “severe problems,” those with three to six symptoms “moderate problems,” and those with one to three symptoms, “slight problems” with mental health. Eighty percent of those who had severe mental health problems were diagnosed as substance dependents or abusers, compared to 61 percent of those respondents who were considered to have only slight mental health problems.

Finally, respondents were asked whether they have ever thought of hurting pets and whether they actually ever hurt pets. Animal torture is believed to be associated with other delinquent behaviors among adolescents and later antisocial behaviors (Ascione, 1993). Ninety out of 401 respondents reported that they had ever thought of hurting animals. Of those, 66 reported having actually hurt pets. Those having ever thought about hurting animals were more likely to report symptoms of substance abuse or dependence than were those who did not.

¹ Each item was scored 1 if the respondent frequently experienced the symptom. Any mention of experiencing serious symptoms such as “suicidal ideation” or “suicide attempt” was scored 1. Hallucinations were scored if the respondent reported experiencing them “sometimes” or “frequently.”

III. Prevalence of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use by Demographic Background

In this section, prevalence rates of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use are presented. In order to study demographic differences in prevalence rates, the lifetime, past year, and past month use of ATOD are cross-tabulated by gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, and family structure.

A. Alcohol

Table 8 presents prevalence rates for lifetime, last year, and last month use of alcohol. Approximately 90 percent of the sample reported having consumed alcohol at some point in their lifetimes. Unlike what we observe among the general population in which males drink substantially more than females, gender differences were not found among the youth entering correctional facilities in Illinois. Alcohol was more likely to have been consumed by older than younger youth and less likely by African American youth than youth of other racial groups. Adolescents who were attending school at the time of entrance to the facilities were also less

likely to have used alcohol. In addition, persons living with two parents—biological or otherwise—were more likely than those residing with a single parent or other adults to have ever used alcohol.

About 78 percent of the sample drank alcoholic beverages during the 12 months before entering the facilities. Alcohol was more likely to be consumed by older youth, Hispanics, and those who were not attending school at the time of entry. Youth living with both biological parents were also more likely to have used alcohol in the past year.

About 37 percent of the youth reported having consumed one or more drinks during the 30 days before admittance. Recent alcohol use was more common among whites than members of other racial/ethnic groups. As with lifetime and past year use, those not attending school and those who were living with both biological parents were more likely to have consumed alcohol recently.

Table 8
Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Alcohol Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics

Category		Lifetime Use	Past Year Use	Past Month Use
	Total	89.5	77.8	37.4
<u>Gender</u>				
	Male	90.3	77.4	35.8
	Female	84.6	80.8	48.1
<u>Age</u>				
	13–14	80.3	64.8	32.4
	15–16	91.2	80.0	37.8
	17 or older	91.5	82.9	41.4
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>				
	White	95.5	88.1	50.3
	African American	82.3	65.2	23.6
	Hispanic	100.0	96.3	44.4
	Other	87.5	70.6	37.5
<u>Educational Status</u>				
	Attending School	86.0	72.7	34.6
	Dropped Out/Not Attending	96.9	88.5	43.4
<u>Family Structure</u>				
	Both Natural Parents	92.3	83.1	46.2
	Parent and Stepparent	92.7	80.2	41.1
	Single Parent	89.9	79.3	36.2
	Other	78.8	61.5	24.5

+ p<0.1; * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001 (Chi-Square Test).

Heavy Drinking

Youth entering the correctional facilities also were asked about the average number of drinks consumed per day on those days when they drank during the 30 days prior to their incarceration. **Respondents consumed an average of eight drinks per day.** In this report, an average of five or more drinks for males and four or more drinks for females are considered “heavy drinking.” Of the total sample, over 23 percent of respondents were heavy drinkers. As presented in **Table 9**, male and female juveniles were equally likely to have used alcohol heavily before being locked up. In addition, no significant age differences were found in the pattern of heavy alcohol consumption. African Americans and school attenders were less likely to be heavy drinkers, and youth who were living with their biological parents were more likely to drink alcohol heavily.

Table 9
Percentage of Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois Who Drank Heavily During the 30 Days Prior to Admittance

Category	Total	Percent
		23.2
Gender		
Male		22.3
Female		28.8
Age		
13–14		23.9
15–16		22.8
17 or older		23.9
Race/Ethnicity		
White		38.4
African American		7.2
Hispanic		29.6
Other		29.4
Educational Status		
Attending School		19.5
Dropped Out/Not Attending		31.8
Family Structure		
		+
Both Natural Parents		33.8
Parent and Stepparent		25.3
Single Parent		20.9
Other		15.1

+ p<0.1; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001
 (Chi-Square Test).

B. Tobacco

Lifetime prevalence of tobacco use (cigarette smoking) was 89.6 percent. There was a marginally significant gender difference, with females being more likely to have ever smoked. Whites and those who were not attending school just before correctional admittance were also more likely to report lifetime use of tobacco.

The overall past year prevalence of cigarette use was about 80 percent. Tobacco consumption patterns were not very different

by gender or age. As with the lifetime use, tobacco was more likely to be consumed by whites and those who were not attending school before entering the facilities.

More than 40 percent of the youth entering Illinois juvenile correctional facilities claimed to have smoked cigarettes in the 30 days before being incarcerated. Males and youth who were not attending school were more likely than females and school attenders to have smoked recently.

Table 10
Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Tobacco Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics

Category	Lifetime Use	Past Year Use	Past Month Use
Total	89.6	79.9	40.9
<u>Gender</u>	+		+
Male	88.6	80.3	42.7
Female	96.2	76.9	28.8
<u>Age</u>			
13–14	87.3	81.7	32.4
15–16	89.6	79.5	41.9
17 or older	91.5	81.4	45.7
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	***	***	
White	97.2	90.3	46.0
African American	81.2	70.2	37.0
Hispanic	92.6	85.2	44.4
Other	93.8	70.6	25.0
<u>Educational Status</u>	+	**	+
Attending School	87.5	76.5	38.0
Dropped Out/Not Attending	93.8	87.6	46.9
<u>Family Structure</u>			
Both Natural Parents	92.3	86.2	40.0
Parent and Stepparent	90.6	81.1	38.9
Single Parent	91.0	79.8	42.8
Other	80.8	71.7	38.5

+ p<0.1; * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001 (Chi-Square Test).

C. Inhalants

As shown in **Table 11**, lifetime, past year, and past month prevalence rates of inhalant use were 15 percent, 8.7 percent, and 3.2 percent, respectively. Neither significant gender nor age differences were found across the three measures of

prevalence. However, African Americans were significantly less likely to use inhalants compared to other racial/ethnic groups, and juveniles who lived with single parents were less likely than others to have used inhalants.

Table 11
Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Inhalant Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics

Category		Lifetime Use	Past Year Use	Past Month Use
	Total	15.0	8.7	3.2
<u>Gender</u>				
	Male	14.3	8.3	2.9
	Female	19.6	11.5	5.8
<u>Age</u>				
	13–14	15.5	9.9	5.6
	15–16	15.4	8.1	1.9
	17 or older	12.9	10.0	5.7
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>				
	White	29.0	14.7	4.5
	African American	1.1	1.1	1.1
	Hispanic	18.5	14.8	7.4
	Other	18.8	18.8	6.3
<u>Educational Status</u>				
	Attending School	13.6	8.5	2.6
	Dropped Out/Not Attending	18.6	8.5	3.9
<u>Family Structure</u>				
	Both Natural Parents	24.6	6.2	1.5
	Parent and Stepparent	21.9	16.7	6.3
	Single Parent	9.6	4.3	1.1
	Other	13.2	11.3	7.5

+ p<0.1; * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001 (Chi-Square Test).

D. Marijuana

Ninety-four percent of the sample reported ever using marijuana. Males were more likely to have used marijuana than females: lifetime prevalence for males was just under 95 percent—about 6 percentage points greater than the rate for females. Age also was significantly associated with lifetime marijuana use. Respondents 15 or 16 years of age were more likely than others to report having used this substance at least once in their lifetimes. Further, marijuana was more likely to be consumed by juveniles from households headed by a single parent.

Approximately 78 percent of the youth interviewed indicated they had used marijuana during the 12 months before

entering the facilities. Significant gender and age difference were found: males and youth age 15–16 were more likely to report past year use of marijuana. Compared to school attenders, those who were not attending school at the time of admittance also were more likely to indicate past year use of marijuana.

The overall past month prevalence of marijuana was 43.6 percent. The difference between male and female use was not significant. As with lifetime and past year use, marijuana was more likely to be used by those age 15 or 16, and age was the only factor associated with recent marijuana use.

Table 12
Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Marijuana Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics

Category		Lifetime Use	Past Year Use	Past Month Use
	Total	94.0	78.1	43.6
Gender				
		+	*	
	Male	94.8	79.7	43.8
	Female	88.5	67.3	42.3
Age				
		*	+	*
	13–14	88.7	77.5	33.8
	15–16	96.5	80.8	48.8
	17 or older	91.4	68.6	34.3
Race/Ethnicity				
	White	94.9	81.3	45.5
	African American	92.8	74.0	40.9
	Hispanic	100.0	92.6	55.6
	Other	93.8	64.7	37.5
Educational Status				
			*	
	Attending School	92.3	77.6	43.2
	Dropped Out/Not Attending	97.7	79.1	45.0
Family Structure				
		*		
	Both Natural Parents	93.8	83.1	44.6
	Parent and Stepparent	90.6	75.0	47.9
	Single Parent	96.8	80.9	43.1
	Other	90.6	67.9	36.5

+ p<0.1; * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001 (Chi-Square Test).

E. Cocaine/Crack

Lifetime prevalence of powder cocaine and/or crack cocaine use among respondents was 21.4 percent. Interestingly, females were much more likely to indicate lifetime use: about 33 percent of females and 20 percent of males claimed to have ever used cocaine or crack. Significant racial/ethnic differences were also found: half of Hispanic youth, 36.4 percent of white youth, and 31.3 percent of members of “other” racial categories reported lifetime use of cocaine/crack, but only about one percent of African American juveniles indicated they had ever used cocaine or crack. Compared to youth who were not attending school, school attenders were less likely to have used this type of drug.

As shown in **Table 13**, past year prevalence of cocaine/crack use was 15.5

percent. As with lifetime prevalence, cocaine/crack was more likely to be used by females, Hispanics, and by those who had dropped out of or had not been attending school. Again, the percentage of African Americans reporting past-year use was markedly lower than the percentage of youth of any other racial/ethnic group reporting cocaine/crack use.

Under 5 percent of youth reported past month use of cocaine or crack. Gender differences were not significant, although differences by race and ethnicity remained significant: Hispanics were most likely and African Americans were least likely to have used cocaine and/or crack in the month preceding their admittance.

Table 13
Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Cocaine or Crack Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics

Category		Lifetime Use	Past Year Use	Past Month Use
	Total	21.4	15.5	4.5
Gender		*	**	
Male		19.7	13.5	4.3
Female		32.7	28.8	5.8
Age				
13–14		14.1	8.5	2.8
15–16		23.1	17.8	5.0
17 or older		22.5	14.1	4.3
Race/Ethnicity		***	***	**
White		36.4	26.0	6.3
African American		1.1	.6	.6
Hispanic		50.0	44.4	14.8
Other		31.3	12.5	12.5
Educational Status		**	*	
Attending School		16.5	12.9	4.4
Dropped Out/Not Attending		31.0	20.9	3.9
Family Structure				
Both Natural Parents		23.1	15.4	1.5
Parent and Stepparent		26.3	20.0	8.3
Single Parent		19.3	13.8	3.7
Other		15.4	11.5	3.8

+ p<0.1; * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001 (Chi-Square Test).

F. Stimulants

As presented in **Table 14**, 20 percent of respondents claimed to have ever used stimulants. A marginal gender difference was found, with females being more likely than males to report lifetime use of stimulants. Stimulants were also more likely to be used by whites and those who were not attending school. Compared with those who were living with two parents (biological or otherwise) prior to entering correctional custody, persons residing with a single parent or other adults were less likely to report lifetime use of this type of drug.

Approximately 15 percent of the juveniles interviewed admitted to using stimulants during the 12 months before entering the facilities. Females were again more likely than males to report past year use of stimulants, and whites were substantially more likely than youth of other

racial/ethnic groups to have used stimulants. Less than one percent of African Americans, for example, reported past 12-month use of this type of drug, whereas more than 32 percent of whites reported stimulant use. As with the lifetime prevalence, past year use of stimulants was found to differ by family structure. Those living with a single parent or other adults were less likely to have used stimulants.

Past 30-day prevalence of stimulants was 6.7 percent. This category of drug was less likely to have been used recently by African Americans and Hispanics. Contrary to the findings regarding lifetime and past year use of stimulants, those who were attending school showed a higher prevalence rate than those who were not attending school in their recent use of stimulants.

Table 14
Lifetime Prevalence of Stimulant Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois, by Demographic Characteristics

Category		Lifetime Use	Past Year Use	Past Month Use
	Total	20.0	15.2	6.7
<u>Gender</u>		+	*	
	Male	18.6	13.8	6.0
	Female	28.8	25.0	11.5
<u>Age</u>				
	13–14	21.1	16.9	9.9
	15–16	18.9	13.8	5.0
	17 or older	22.5	18.6	10.0
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>		***	***	***
	White	39.8	32.4	13.6
	African American	1.7	.5	.5
	Hispanic	11.1	3.7	
	Other	23.5	12.5	12.5
<u>Educational Status</u>		+		*
	Attending School	17.3	14.0	8.5
	Dropped Out/Not Attending	25.6	17.8	3.1
<u>Family Structure</u>		**	**	
	Both Natural Parents	29.2	21.5	4.6
	Parent and Stepparent	28.1	25.0	10.4
	Single Parent	14.4	10.1	5.3
	Other	13.2	9.4	7.7

+ p<0.1; * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001 (Chi-Square Test).

G. Depressants

Table 15 presents lifetime, past year, and past month prevalence estimates of use of depressants. Among the youth interviewed, just over 10 percent reported using depressants at least once in their lifetimes. Females were again found to be more likely than their male peers to have used this type of substance, and whites were much more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to report lifetime depressant use.

Overall past 12-month prevalence rates of depressants was 8.5 percent. Yet again, females showed a higher prevalence rate compared to males, but the difference was

not significant. As with lifetime use, depressants were less likely to be consumed by Hispanics and African Americans, with 3.7 percent of Hispanic and no African American youth reporting past-year depressant use.

Three percent of the sample reported past 30-day use of depressants. A little less than 7 percent of the whites reported recent use of depressants, whereas youth of all other ethnic backgrounds did not consume depressants at all. In addition, those adolescents living with a biological parent and a stepparent were more likely to have recently used this type of drug.

Table 15
Lifetime Prevalence of Depressant Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois, by Demographic Characteristics

Category		Lifetime Use	Past Year Use	Past Month Use
	Total	10.5	8.9	3.0
Gender		+		
	Male	9.5	8.3	3.2
	Female	17.3	13.5	2.0
Age				
	13–14	8.5	7.0	2.8
	15–16	10.8	8.9	2.7
	17 or older	12.9	11.4	4.3
Race/Ethnicity		***	***	**
	White	20.9	18.6	6.8
	African American	1.1	0.0	0.0
	Hispanic	7.4	3.7	0.0
	Other	12.5	12.5	0.0
Educational Status				
	Attending School	9.6	7.7	3.3
	Dropped Out/Not Attending	12.4	10.9	2.3
Family Structure				*
	Both Natural Parents	12.3	12.3	1.5
	Parent and Stepparent	15.6	12.5	7.4
	Single Parent	7.5	6.9	1.1
	Other	9.4	5.7	1.9

+ p<0.1; * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001 (Chi-Square Test).

H. Psychedelics

Prevalence estimates of psychedelics use among juveniles entering correctional centers are presented in **Table 16**. Lifetime, past year, and past month prevalence rates were 32 percent, 25 percent, and 11 percent, respectively. In all three measures, African American youth showed the lowest rates of psychedelics use. Those who had not been

attending school were more likely to report lifetime and past year use of this type of drug, but the differences between the two groups were more significant for lifetime prevalence. Also, youth living with two parents were more likely than those living with a single parent or other adults to have used psychedelics.

Table 16
Lifetime Prevalence of Use of Psychedelics Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics

Category	Lifetime Use	Past Year Use	Past Month Use
Total	32.2	25.1	11.4
Gender			
Male	31.2	24.0	11.1
Female	38.5	32.7	13.5
Age			
13–14	25.4	19.7	9.9
15–16	31.7	24.2	11.5
17 or older	41.4	34.3	11.4
Race/Ethnicity	***	***	***
White	54.2	41.8	19.3
African American	7.2	6.1	2.7
Hispanic	50.0	40.7	18.5
Other	43.8	29.4	6.3
Educational Status	**	+	
Attending School	27.9	22.4	10.7
Dropped Out/Not Attending	41.5	30.8	12.4
Family Structure	**	**	+
Both Natural Parents	47.7	38.5	10.9
Parent and Stepparent	40.0	32.3	18.9
Single Parent	26.1	18.6	8.0
Other	21.2	18.9	9.4

+ p<0.1; * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001 (Chi-Square Test).

I. Heroin/Opiates

As indicated in **Table 17**, approximately 17 percent of the sample reported lifetime use of heroin and/or other opiates. Of all demographic factors examined, only race/ethnicity was associated with lifetime heroin use. African Americans and Hispanics, compared to whites and other racial/ethnic groups, were much less likely to have used heroin and/or other opiates.

A little over 10 percent of the respondents indicated they had used heroin or opiates in the 12 months before entering the facilities. This type of drug was more likely to be consumed by older youth, whites, and those living with two parents. Previous 30-day prevalence was 4.2 percent, and African Americans were least likely to have used heroin and/or other opiates in the month prior to incarceration.

Table 17
Lifetime Prevalence of Heroin Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics

Category	Lifetime Use	Past Year Use	Past Month Use
Total	16.7	10.2	4.2
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	16.9	10.3	4.0
Female	15.4	9.6	5.8
<u>Age</u>		+	
13–14	11.3	4.2	4.2
15–16	15.8	10.4	3.8
17 or older	24.3	15.7	5.7
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	***	***	**
White	31.1	21.0	7.9
African American	2.8	.5	.5
Hispanic	7.4	3.7	3.7
Other	29.4	12.5	6.3
<u>Educational Status</u>			
Attending School	15.9	10.3	4.0
Dropped Out/Not Attending	17.8	10.8	4.7
<u>Family Structure</u>		*	
Both Natural Parents	20.0	16.9	1.5
Parent and Stepparent	20.8	15.6	7.3
Single Parent	16.0	6.9	3.7
Other	7.5	5.7	3.8

+ $p < 0.1$; * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$ (Chi-Square Test).

J. Any Illicit Drugs

Table 18 presents the lifetime, past year, and past month prevalence of any illicit drug use, including marijuana, cocaine, crack, stimulants, depressants, psychedelics, heroin, and opiates. Overall lifetime prevalence of illicit drug use was about 94 percent. No demographic differences in the lifetime use of illicit drugs were found, except that those attending school before entering the facilities were less likely to have ever used any one or more illicit drugs.

More than 81 percent of the respondents reported having used one or more illicit drugs during the 12 months before

admission to the correctional facilities. Hispanics were found to be more likely than were other groups of race/ethnicity to have used illicit drugs in this timeframe. Juveniles who were living with both biological parents were most likely to have consumed illicit drugs.

A little less than half of the sample (47.3%) reported using at least one illicit drug during the 30 days before entering the facilities, and Hispanics and whites were more likely to indicate recent use of illicit drugs.

Table 18
Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month Prevalence of Any Illicit Drug Use Among Youth Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois by Demographic Characteristics

Category		Lifetime Use	Past Year Use	Past Month Use
	Total	94.3	81.8	47.6
<u>Gender</u>				
	Male	94.8	82.8	47.3
	Female	90.4	75.0	50.0
<u>Age</u>				
	13–14	88.7	80.3	40.8
	15–16	96.5	83.4	51.0
	17 or older	91.5	77.1	41.4
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>				
	White	95.5	87.0	53.4
	African American	92.8	75.7	41.4
	Hispanic	100.0	96.3	55.6
	Other	93.8	64.7	37.5
<u>Educational Status</u>				
	Attending School	92.6	80.9	46.3
	Dropped Out/Not Attending	97.7	83.7	50.0
<u>Family Structure</u>				
	Both Natural Parents	93.8	89.2	49.2
	Parent and Stepparent	91.6	79.2	54.2
	Single Parent	96.8	83.5	45.5
	Other	90.6	71.7	39.6

+ p<0.1; * p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001 (Chi-Square Test).

K. Onset of ATOD Use

As presented in **Table 19**, the average age of onset of substance use ranges from 11.2 (tobacco use) to 14.7 (crack use). This range of ages is very similar to the average age of onset of ATOD use reported among the national sample of adolescents of the same age group (Office of Applied Studies, 2000a).

The gender difference in the onset of initial drug use was not found to be significant with any type of substance listed here. However, it is interesting to note that there is a general (albeit non-significant) trend toward female juveniles initiating substance use at younger ages than their male counterparts.

Table 19
Average Age of Onset of Substance Use Among Youth
Entering Juvenile Correctional Facilities in Illinois

	Total Sample		Male		Female	
	Average Age	(S.D.)	Average Age	(S.D.)	Average Age	(S.D.)
<u>Licit Substances</u>						
Alcohol	12.58	(2.34)	12.62	(2.34)	12.31	(2.33)
Tobacco	11.23	(2.69)	11.29	(2.69)	10.83	(2.73)
Inhalants	13.08	(2.11)	13.11	(2.10)	12.93	(2.29)
<u>Illicit Substances</u>						
Marijuana	12.21	(2.08)	12.24	(2.01)	12.00	(2.55)
Cocaine	14.11	(1.86)	14.27	(1.78)	13.37	(2.09)
Crack	14.70	(1.47)	14.70	(1.42)	14.70	(1.75)
Stimulants	13.42	(1.72)	13.51	(1.60)	13.00	(2.22)
Depressants	13.97	(2.10)	14.06	(2.05)	13.62	(2.37)
Heroin	14.03	(2.87)	14.45	(2.90)	12.60	(2.66)
Opiates	14.15	(1.80)	14.20	(1.71)	13.57	(2.87)
Psychedelics	13.79	(1.77)	13.90	(1.60)	13.17	(2.47)

IV. Discussion

Almost half of all youth entering the juvenile corrections system in Illinois report having used illicit drugs during the month immediately prior to incarceration. Over 80 percent report past year use of and almost 95 percent report lifetime experience with illicit drugs. Across each of these timeframes, illicit drug use among incarcerated juveniles was more than twice that of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students in Illinois (see Illinois Department of Human Services, 1999). These findings are consistent with the recent research literature in suggesting the co-occurrence of substance abuse and conduct problems (Dembo, 1996; National Institute on Drug Abuse, 1995; Sigda & Martin, 1996).

The present study also found that two-thirds of the juveniles entering Illinois correctional facilities had treatment needs for alcohol and/or other drug abuse or dependence at the time of entry into the juvenile correctional system. A third had treatment needs for both types of substances. At the time of admittance, each youth is screened for possible substance abuse problems, and an appropriate service plan is developed (Illinois Department of Corrections, 1999b). This report underscores the importance of making the treatment needs of these youth a priority for their successful rehabilitation. It also underscores the need for developing and testing appropriate interventions that might eliminate the barriers that often prevent high-risk youth (and their families) from receiving the services necessary to avoid these negative outcomes.

Several limitations of this research must be considered. First, all information presented in this report is based upon self-reports obtained during survey interviews. Survey reports are known to underestimate substance use behaviors (Fendrich et al., 1999; Harrison & Hughes, 1997), and it is thus likely that the prevalence rates reported here are lower-bound approximations of these behaviors. For some adolescents, that they were in custody at the time of their interviews also may have been a disincentive to candid reporting of illicit activities.

In addition, the considerable number of statistical comparisons presented in this report makes it likely that the analysis has capitalized on chance associations. That is, some of the differences reported as being “statistically significant” may in fact be a consequence of chance associations rather than true group differences. Readers wishing to avoid this possibility might want to consider accepting as reliable only those differences identified as $p < 0.001$ in the statistical tables.

These limitations notwithstanding, this study provides important information regarding the substance use and abuse patterns of this high-risk population. It is our hope that these findings will prove useful to planners and policy analysts concerned with improving services to these youth and their families.

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VI. Technical Appendix

The purpose of this appendix is to provide a detailed discussion of the methodology used in this study, including the sample design, field procedures, and analysis methods.

This was a study of juveniles incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). We interviewed 401 youth, age 13–18. Interviewing began on May 12, 2000, and was completed on August 11, 2000.

Sampling Plan

The purpose of the study was to characterize the nature and extent of illegal substance use and its consequences among serious juvenile offenders in the state of Illinois.

The study focused specifically on youth entering IDOC for the first time. This period is an opportunity to provide youth with appropriate psychological, emotional, and social intervention that might help them to avoid delinquent behaviors in the future. Intensive intervention of this kind might not be as possible during the time the youth is in his or her neighborhood environment, or “on the street.”

Becoming incarcerated is a significant life event. For many of the youth, this was the first time spent away from their neighborhood environment and the first time they had been required to adhere to a regular schedule of meals, sleep, and exercise. Thus, youth at reception in general are in an acceptable mental and physical condition to be interviewed.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire for this study included modules on substance abuse, family background, educational background,

history of illegal activity, and past history of physical and sexual abuse. The questionnaire was based on an instrument previously administered to 1,030 youth incarcerated in Texas Youth Commission facilities. The Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) Questionnaire Review Committee reviewed draft and final versions of the questionnaire used. The committee is composed of SRL staff members appointed by the Director to ensure that all questionnaires administered by SRL follow ethical practices and basic principles of questionnaire construction. The questionnaire and procedures were reviewed and approved by the University of Illinois at Chicago Institutional Review Board (H-99-390).

Data Collection

Since this study encompassed interviews with minors, special consideration for ethical practices were followed. Permission to conduct interviews with individual youth at IDOC facilities was granted in October.

The interview began by asking for the juvenile’s assent to participate in the study. This included providing information regarding the purpose and sponsor of the study, the voluntary nature of participation, the confidential nature of all responses, and persons and organizations to contact with any questions or concerns.

Each respondent was allocated \$10.00 for participating in the study. One facility requested that the funds be provided in bulk to fund recreational activities rather than be given to the respondents directly. The other facility arranged to have the amount transferred directly into the individual respondent’s commissary account.

Interviewing Procedures

Prior to field work, all interviewers received training on general interviewing techniques. The session covered the following topics: (a) interviewer roles and responsibilities, (b) importance of maintaining strict confidentiality, and (c) general principles of survey administration. The interviews were conducted using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) techniques.

Each interviewer received detailed study-specific training regarding the goals of the survey and the procedures to be followed. These training sessions covered (a) a project overview, (b) study-specific interviewing procedures, (c) a detailed introduction and discussion of questionnaire contents, and (d) practice administering the questionnaire.

A training session was also conducted at the St. Charles facility by the reception social work supervisor. This session covered facility policy and procedures, personal safety, and procedures for interviewers to follow if youth became emotionally distressed or physically agitated.

Interviewers were instructed to administer the survey in private offices that had been reserved for conducting the study. Interviews were conducted in private; however, IDOC regulations required that staff remain in close proximity for security reasons.

Interviews were conducted in English only. (Earlier discussions with staff at the St. Charles facility suggested that a very small percentage of youth speak only Spanish.) Interviews averaged 90 minutes in length. In most cases, interviews were conducted with minors (i.e., those under 18).

Facilities

Interviews were conducted at two facilities. The facilities differed considerably, and the survey procedures were different for each.

The Illinois Youth Center in St. Charles houses a long-term male population as well as being the central intake unit for each adjudicated male youth in the state of Illinois. The Illinois Youth Center in Warrenville serves as the central intake unit for female minors in the state as well as being the only medium-security correctional facility for female minors in Illinois.

Due to space and schedule limitations, interviewing at St. Charles was conducted only on weekday evenings. Youth entering reception at St. Charles typically remain there between 3 days and 2 weeks. They are housed in one of three “cottages” depending on the type of offense committed, age, and security risk.

During the reception period, the physical and psychosocial needs of each youth are assessed. Inmates are then sent to one of the long-term juvenile correctional facilities around the state or returned to their home county for treatment or other services. The placement determination is made according to the level of severity of the offense committed as well as the individual needs of the youth as determined by the social work staff at the facility.

Six interviewers were assigned to conduct interviews at the boys’ facility. Youth were generally invited to be interviewed at least 24 hours after they had arrived at the facility from their county of origin. Each interviewer conducted one to two interviews an evening in private offices.

The total population of incarcerated minor females is markedly small in comparison to the males. All adjudicated minor females in the state of Illinois are sent to Warrenville, where they are assessed and either housed at the facility or returned to their own county for treatment or special services.

Two interviewers were assigned to conduct interviews at the Warrenville facility. Interviewing was conducted during the day in

private rooms. Because the number of new intakes was much smaller at the girls' facility than at the boys,' girls from the regular population were included in the study as well as girls that entered the IDOC facility for the first time during the data collection period.

Response Rates and Weights

A total of 412 juveniles were approached to participate in the survey. Five refused to participate, two were not available for interviewing, and four were duplicates. Therefore, the number of completed interviews was 401. The response rate is the ratio of completed interviews to eligible sample (eligible $408=412 - 4$ duplicates). In this study, the response rate was 98 percent (401/408).

Because the males and females were sampled separately, the number of completed interviews with each was not proportionate to their percentage of the total population of youth entering IDOC for the first time. In addition, the interviewing periods for males and females differed, so each individual's chance of selection differed between males

and females. To adjust for these two factors, post-stratification weights were applied.

The interviewing occurred between May 12, 2000, and August 11, 2000. However, so few girls entered the system in that time period that interviews were attempted with those who had entered before the interviewing period began. The interviewers attempted interviews based on the girls' date of entry into the system, beginning with those who entered just prior to the interviewing period and working backward. The date of entry for the girl who had been in the system longest was July 1999.

For purposes of weighting, we considered the total population for both boys and girls to be those who had entered the system between July 22, 1999, and August 11, 2000. The weight is simply the ratio of the population percent to the sample percent. Because girls accounted for a higher percent of the sample than of the total population, they need to be weighted by a factor of less than one. The opposite holds for boys.