

State of New York
Department of Correctional Services

Building Number 2
Harriman Office Campus
Albany, New York 12226

IDENTIFIED SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

2006



Eliot Spitzer
Governor



Brian Fischer
Commissioner

IDENTIFIED SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Identified Substance Abusers Report** provides a snapshot of the under custody population of the New York State (NYS) Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) on December 31, 2006. The report focuses on inmates who were identified as substance abusers, presenting data on drug and alcohol abuse and on selected demographic and legal history variables. Characteristics of identified substance abusers are compared to those of inmates classified as non-users. Finally, trends in the rates of identified substance abusers at the end of each year between 1998 and 2006 are discussed. Some of the main findings are presented below.

- Seventy-two percent (72%) of inmates under DOCS custody on December 31, 2006 had an identified substance abuse need. This included 71% of the male inmates (N=42,998) and 84% of the female inmates (N=2,390) (refer to Table 2, p.3).
- When inmates with missing data were excluded, the proportion of substance abusers increased to 76%: 75% of the males and 88% of the females (refer to Table 3, p.4).
- Fifty percent (50%) of identified substance abusers either had completed or were currently participating in a substance abuse treatment program.
- Among identified substance abusers for whom self-report or assessment data was available, 30% reported marijuana as the most serious drug used. Cocaine and alcohol were each reported as the most serious substance used by 22% of identified substance abusers. Drug use patterns varied by gender; for example, 26% of females reported using crack, compared with 8% of males, whereas cocaine use was reported by 16% of females and 22% of males (refer to Table 5, p.5). Marijuana was reported as the most serious substance used by 31% of males identified as substance abusers and 17% of females.
- Identified substance abusers were committed for crimes involving drugs more often than for crimes in any other category. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of identified substance abusers (27% of males and 38% of females) were committed for the sale or possession of drugs (refer to Table 6, p.6).
- Just over half (51%) of the inmates identified as substance abusers were committed from New York City (refer to Table 7, p.7).
- Educational attainment was slightly lower for identified substance abusers than for non-substance abusers, with 47% - compared with 51% - reporting having completed high school (refer to Table 14, p.15).
- Overall, sentences for inmates identified as substance abusers tended to be shorter than those for non-substance abusers, who were more often committed to DOCS facilities for violent felony offenses. Minimum and maximum sentences for identified substance abusers averaged 7.8 and 11 years, respectively, compared with 10.6 and 13.1 years for non-users (refer to Table 14, p.15).

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SECTION I: IDENTIFYING SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

Defining Drug and Alcohol Abuse

The New York State Department of Correctional Services uses multiple information sources to identify inmates who abuse drugs and/or alcohol, in order to provide appropriate programs and treatment services to its under custody population.

At reception, counselors classify inmates and make initial program assignments on the basis of interviews and formal assessments. Inmates are asked if they have used drugs; those who respond in the affirmative are then asked to specify the types of drugs they used during the six months preceding their incarceration. Such self-report measures tend to generate relatively low estimates of drug abuse among the offender population. Existing records such as pre-sentence reports and criminal histories also contribute information relevant to classification.

The Department also makes use of two standardized instruments, the Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST) and the Simple Screening Instrument for Outreach for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SSI), to assess inmates' substance abuse treatment needs at reception. The MAST uses 25 differentially weighted questions to establish the existence and degree of an alcohol problem, and the SSI screens high-risk individuals for substance abuse disorders.

Although the MAST manual categorizes scores of five to eight as *suggestive* of alcohol problems, the Department considers scores of five and above indicative of alcohol abuse in order to minimize the number of "false negatives" (failing to identify a potential abuser). Since 2002, a modified SSI consisting of sixteen questions concerning both alcohol and drug use has been administered to all inmates admitted to DOCS. A score of four or greater identifies an inmate as having a moderate to high risk of being a substance abuser.

In 2003 the Department began incorporating data from two automated sources in this report series. The first is the Inmate Payroll System (KIPY), which identifies inmates who are actively participating in a substance abuse treatment program, and the second is the Guidance System (KGNC), which identifies inmates who have a need for substance abuse treatment based on interviews and assessments conducted by facility program counselors.

Analyzing this combination of self-report data, assessment results and automated data generates the most complete, currently available estimate of the number of substance abusers in the inmate population.

Identification of Substance Abusers Using Self-Report and MAST

Table 1 below presents the distribution of substance abusers in the DOCS under custody population on December 31, 2006. This estimate was produced using self-reported drug use information and MAST results, the only measures in use prior to 2002. As can be seen, use of these two measures results in just 61% of the population being identified as substance abusers. Exclusive reliance on these two measures resulted in the appearance of a decline in the proportion of substance abusers in the custody population between 1998 and 2002 (see Table 15 on page 17).

Table 1 indicates that the 61% of inmates with substance abuse problems included 28% that reported using only illicit drugs in the six months prior to incarceration, 13% that scored five or higher on the MAST and 20% who scored similarly on the MAST and reported drug use as well.

Additionally, Table 1 shows that 39% of all under custody inmates were categorized “*Substance Abuse Not Identified*”. This group was composed of 19,772 inmates (31%) who reported no drug use and scored below five on the MAST and 4,642 (7%) who had missing data.

TABLE 1: Substance Abuse Prevalence by Gender Using Combined MAST and Self-Report Measures Collected at DOCS Reception

SUBSTANCE ABUSE STATUS (Source)	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Drug Abuse Only (Self Report)	16,835	28%	641	22%	17,476	28%
Alcohol Abuse Only (MAST)	7,987	13%	508	18%	8,495	13%
Drug & Alcohol Abuse (Both)	11,862	20%	1,057	37%	12,919	20%
Identified Substance Abuser	36,684	61%	2,206	77%	38,890	61%
No Substance Abuse	19,342	32%	430	15%	19,772	31%
Missing Data	4,419	7%	223	8%	4,642	7%
Substance Abuse Not Identified	23,761	39%	653	23%	24,414	39%
TOTAL	60,445	100%	2,859	100%	63,304	100%

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

Substance Abuse Prevalence in Under Custody Population

As stated earlier, the proportion of inmates identified as substance abusers appeared to decrease between 1998 and 2002 (see Table 15 on page 17). Beginning in 2003, the Department of Correctional Services made use of additional data sources in an effort to determine whether inmates with substance abuse treatment needs were being undercounted.

Table 2 shows the prevalence of identified substance abusers in the under custody population as measured by all five identification and measurement tools currently in use for this report (self-report data, MAST, SSI, KIPY and KGNC). Using these measures, 72% of inmates under custody on December 31, 2006 were identified as substance abusers. This estimate included 71% of male and 84% of female inmates. The remaining 28% of inmates not identified as substance abusers included 23% who reported no substance abuse and 5% who had incomplete or missing data.

TABLE 2: Substance Abuse Prevalence by Gender Using Combined Self Report And MAST Supplemented By SSI, KIPY and KGNC Data

SUBSTANCE ABUSE STATUS (Source)	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Drug Abuse Only (Self Report)	16,835	28%	641	22%	17,476	28%
Alcohol Abuse Only (MAST)	7,987	13%	508	18%	8,495	13%
Drug & Alcohol Abuse (Both)	11,862	20%	1,057	37%	12,919	20%
Drugs or Alcohol (SSI)	1,293	2%	54	2%	1,347	2%
KGNC and/or KIPY	5,021	8%	130	5%	5,151	8%
Identified Substance Abuser	42,998	71%	2,390	84%	45,388	72%
<i>No Substance Abuse</i>	14,165	23%	313	11%	14,478	23%
<i>Missing Data</i>	3,282	5%	156	5%	3,438	5%
Substance Abuse Not Identified	17,447	29%	469	16%	17,916	28%
TOTAL	60,445	100%	2,859	100%	63,304	100%

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

Percent of Substance Abusers in Inmate Population Excluding Missing Data

Table 3 illustrates the prevalence of identified substance abusers when the 3,438 cases with missing or incomplete data are excluded from the base population. Considering only those inmates for whom all substance abuse data was available, 76% were identified as substance abusers. This included 75% of the males and 88% of the females.

Of the 45,388 identified substance abusers under custody on December 31, 2006, 50% had either completed or were currently participating in a substance abuse treatment program.

TABLE 3: Substance Abuse Prevalence in Inmate Population by Gender Excluding Missing Data

INMATES WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE DATA	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Substance Abuse Indicated	42,998	75%	2,390	88%	45,388	76%
No Substance Abuse Indicated	14,165	25%	313	12%	14,478	24%
TOTAL	57,163	100%	2,703	100%	59,866	100%

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse

Table 4 indicates that 39% of the identified substance abusers reported using only drugs. Twenty-eight percent (28%) reported using both drugs and alcohol and 19% were identified as having problems with alcohol only. Fourteen percent (14%) were classified as substance abusers on the basis of SSI scores or KIPY or KGNC status, which do not provide information on the specific substances used. Male substance abusers were most likely to be identified for abuse of illicit drugs only, while female substance abusers were more likely than males to abuse the combination of drugs and alcohol.

TABLE 4: Category of Substance Abuse by Gender

SUBSTANCE ABUSE STATUS (Source)	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Drug Abuse Only (Self Report)	16,835	39%	641	27%	17,476	39%
Alcohol Abuse Only (MAST)	7,987	19%	508	21%	8,495	19%
Drug & Alcohol Abuse (Both)	11,862	28%	1,057	44%	12,919	28%
Drugs or Alcohol (SSI)	1,293	3%	54	2%	1,347	3%
KGNC and/or KIPY	5,021	12%	130	5%	5,151	11%
TOTAL	42,998	100%	2,390	100%	45,388	100%

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

Types of Substances Used

During the intake process at the Department’s reception centers, inmates who report drug use are asked to identify the drugs they used during the six months prior to incarceration. The Department has developed a ranking system modeled on a drug severity schedule used in the federal system. Reception staff records inmates’ reported drug of choice (if only one drug is named) or, if use of multiple drugs is reported, up to three drugs. The Department’s severity ranking does not reflect frequency or duration of use.

The table below incorporates self-report data from Reception screening and MAST results. An inmate who has reported poly-substance use is classified, for reporting purposes, according to the single most serious drug identified. For example, an inmate who gets a score of five or more on the MAST and also reports using marijuana and heroin would be shown below in the “Heroin” category. The “Alcohol Only” category represents inmates whose self-reporting reveals no illicit drug use but whose MAST scores are indicative of alcohol abuse.

Table 5 presents the 38,890 inmates identified in Table 1 as substance abusers according to the specific substances they reported using. Of the 45,388 inmates identified as substance abusers for purposes of this report, 6,498 (14%) were included on the basis of SSI scores or KIPY or KGNC data (see Table 2). Those groups are excluded from this analysis because while these measures are indicators of substance abuse problems, they provide no information on the specific types of drugs used.

There are gender differences in the types of drug use reported by substance abusers. Males reported the use of marijuana more often than they reported use of any other substance (31%). Twenty-two percent (22%) of males reported using cocaine, compared with 8% who reported using crack. This trend is reversed among females, for whom crack was the most frequently reported substance (26%); fewer females (16%) reported using cocaine. Alcohol was the primary substance used by a noteworthy proportion of both male and female inmates with self-report or assessment data, accounting for 22% of substance use overall.

TABLE 5: Specific Type of Substance Use by Gender

MOST SERIOUS SUBSTANCE USED	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Marijuana	11,350	31%	376	17%	11,726	30%
Cocaine	8,091	22%	356	16%	8,447	22%
Alcohol Only	7,987	22%	508	23%	8,495	22%
Heroin	3,837	10%	324	15%	4,161	11%
Crack	3,102	8%	584	26%	3,686	9%
Other Drugs	2,317	6%	58	3%	2,375	6%
TOTAL	36,684	100%	2,206	100%	38,890	100%

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

SECTION II: COMMITMENT INFORMATION

Crime of Commitment

Table 6 indicates that identified substance abusers were most often committed for drug offenses. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of the identified male substance abusers and 38% of the females were committed for the sale or possession of drugs. Homicide and robbery accounted for the second and third greatest proportion of commitments among substance abusers overall (17% and 16%, respectively).

TABLE 6: Commitment Crime of Substance Abusers by Gender

COMMITMENT CRIME	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Homicide	7,462	17%	326	14%	7,788	17%
Rape	1,204	3%	5	*	1,209	3%
Robbery	7,180	17%	254	11%	7,434	16%
Assault	2,340	5%	187	8%	2,527	6%
Burglary	4,550	11%	164	7%	4,714	10%
Arson	117	*	18	1%	135	*
Sex Offenses	1,969	5%	22	1%	1,991	4%
Weapons Offenses	1,731	4%	24	1%	1,755	4%
Kidnapping	223	1%	11	*	234	1%
Other Coercive	382	1%	25	1%	407	1%
Drug Offenses	11,435	27%	908	38%	12,343	27%
Grand Larceny	829	2%	126	5%	955	2%
Forgery	414	1%	119	5%	533	1%
Stolen Property	403	1%	32	1%	435	1%
DWI	930	2%	57	2%	987	2%
Other Felonies	957	2%	75	3%	1,032	2%
Youthful Offender	704	2%	33	1%	737	2%
Juvenile Offender	168	*	4	*	172	*
TOTAL	42,998	100%	2,390	100%	45,388	100%

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

* Less than one-half of one percent

Region of Commitment

For the purposes of this report, New York State has been divided into four regions. The New York City region includes commitments from Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond counties. Suburban New York includes Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland and Westchester counties. The Upstate Urban region reflects commitments from upstate counties that contain a population center of 50,000 or more: Albany, Broome, Erie, Monroe, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Rensselaer and Schenectady. The Upstate Other category includes the remaining upstate counties.

More than half (51%) of identified substance abusers were committed from New York City. As shown in Table 7 below, 51% of male commitments and 46% of female commitments were from New York City. Commitments from Upstate Urban regions accounted for the next largest proportion of identified substance abusers (22%).

TABLE 7: Region of Commitment of Substance Abusers by Gender

REGION OF COMMITMENT	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
New York City	22,005	51%	1,105	46%	23,110	51%
Suburban New York	4,781	11%	244	10%	5,025	11%
Upstate Urban	9,452	22%	548	23%	10,000	22%
Upstate Other	6,760	16%	493	21%	7,253	16%
TOTAL	42,998	100%	2,390	100%	45,388	100%

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

Second Felony Status

Among the identified substance abusers under custody on December 31, 2006, 50% of the males and 42% of the females were sentenced as second or persistent felony offenders.

TABLE 8: Felony Offender Status of Substance Abusers by Gender

FELONY OFFENDER STATUS	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>First Felony Offender</i>	21,644	50%	1,384	58%	23,028	51%
<i>Second Felony/ Persistent Offender</i>	21,354	50%	1,006	42%	22,360	49%
TOTAL	42,998	100%	2,390	100%	45,388	100%

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

Minimum Sentence

The majority of sentences in New York are indeterminate. Yet, since 1995, various legislative initiatives have mandated determinate sentencing for violent felons, and the Drug Law Reform Act of 2004 extended the availability of determinate sentencing to inmates convicted of nonviolent drug offenses. Overall, 44% of inmates under custody convicted of drug crimes have determinate sentences. For this subgroup of substance abusers, 40% have determinate sentences. For determinate sentences, the minimums included in the table below have been calculated as 6/7 of the sentence imposed by the judge – the time at which an inmate would be eligible for release if all good time credits were applied.

Table 9 shows that male substance abusers had longer minimum sentences than their female counterparts. Over half (56%) of the identified male substance abusers were serving minimum sentences of four years or more, while 37% of female substance abusers had minimum sentences of four years or more. The average minimum sentence among males was eight years and the average minimum sentence for female substance abusers was just under five years.

TABLE 9: Minimum Sentence of Substance Abusers by Gender

MINIMUM SENTENCE	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>< 12 months</i>	239	1%	46	2%	285	1%
<i>12 to 17 months</i>	3,240	8%	329	14%	3,569	8%
<i>18 to 23 months</i>	3,435	8%	299	13%	3,734	8%
<i>24 to 35 months</i>	6,430	15%	476	20%	6,906	15%
<i>36 to 47 months</i>	5,445	13%	356	15%	5,801	13%
<i>48 to 71 months</i>	6,314	15%	368	15%	6,682	15%
<i>72 to 119 months</i>	6,955	16%	240	10%	7,195	16%
<i>120 to 179 months</i>	3,551	8%	91	4%	3,642	8%
<i>180 to 239 months</i>	2,503	6%	78	3%	2,581	6%
<i>240+ months</i>	4,795	11%	105	4%	4,900	11%
<i>Life without Parole</i>	91	*	2	*	93	*
TOTAL	42,998	100%	2,390	100%	45,388	100%
Average **	8.0 years		4.8 years		7.9 years	

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

* Less than one-half of one percent.

** Life Without Parole was considered to be equal to 45 years when computing the average minimum sentence.

Maximum Sentence

As Table 10 shows, more than half (55%) of identified substance abusers overall had a maximum sentence of less than eight years. Maximum sentence lengths were longer for males than for females. Among males identified as substance abusers, 46% had maximum sentences of eight years or greater, compared with 30% of females. Thirty percent (30%) of males were serving maximum sentences of at least fifteen years, including 17% with life maximums. In comparison, 14% of females were serving maximum sentences of at least fifteen years, including 7% with life maximum sentences.

The average maximum sentences among identified substance abusers were 11.2 years for males and 7.6 years for females.

TABLE 10: Maximum Sentence of Substance Abusers by Gender

MAXIMUM SENTENCE	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>12 to 35 months</i>	2,967	7%	325	14%	3,292	7%
<i>36 months</i>	4,842	11%	396	17%	5,238	12%
<i>37 to 53 months</i>	5,692	13%	390	16%	6,082	13%
<i>54 to 71 months</i>	3,651	8%	206	9%	3,857	8%
<i>72 to 95 months</i>	5,923	14%	367	15%	6,290	14%
<i>96 to 107 months</i>	1,345	3%	58	2%	1,403	3%
<i>108 to 143 months</i>	3,930	9%	241	10%	4,171	9%
<i>144 to 179 months</i>	1,803	4%	60	3%	1,863	4%
<i>180+ months</i>	5,633	13%	166	7%	5,799	13%
<i>Life Maximum</i>	7,121	17%	179	7%	7,300	16%
<i>Life, No Parole</i>	91	*	2	*	93	*
TOTAL	42,998	100%	2,390	100%	45,388	100%
Average **	11.2 years		7.6 years		11.0 years	

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

* Less than one-half of one percent.

** Life Maximum was considered to be equal to 25 years and Life Without Parole equal to 45 years when computing the average maximum sentence.

SECTION III: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Current Age

Table 11 below presents the ages of identified substance abusers on December 31, 2006.

At that time, 5% of substance abusers were under 21 years of age. Using a five-year-increment age breakdown, the proportion of males between 25 and 29 years old (17 %) was slightly greater than in any other group. The greatest proportion of females in any one group were between 40 and 44 years old (20%).

The average age of male substance abusers was 36.2 years; females were, on average, 36.9 years old.

TABLE 11: Current Age of Substance Abusers by Gender

CURRENT AGE	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
16-18 Years	524	1%	26	1%	550	1%
19-20 Years	1,531	4%	70	3%	1,601	4%
21-24 Years	5,094	12%	219	9%	5,313	12%
25-29 Years	7,341	17%	339	14%	7,680	17%
30-34 Years	6,132	14%	350	15%	6,482	14%
35-39 Years	6,551	15%	422	18%	6,973	15%
40-44 Years	6,593	15%	481	20%	7,074	16%
45-49 Years	4,767	11%	283	12%	5,050	11%
50-54 Years	2,470	6%	122	5%	2,592	6%
55-59 Years	1,176	3%	53	2%	1,229	3%
60-64 Years	513	1%	16	1%	529	1%
65+ Years	306	1%	9	*	315	1%
TOTAL	42,998	100%	2,390	100%	45,388	100%
Average	36.2 years		36.9 years		36.3 years	

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

** Less than one-half of one percent.*

Educational Level at Reception

Information on education level is based on educational attainment reported to the Department at reception and is presented in Table 12. Inmates with education data missing (15,549 males and 139 females) were not included when calculating average education levels or percentages of inmates at various education levels.

On average, at reception male substance abusers reported that they stopped attending school at tenth grade. Their average education attainment level was grade 10.7. Forty-seven percent (47%) reported having a high school education (or its equivalent) or more, while 12% said they had no education beyond the 8th grade.

Reported educational attainment was similar among female substance abusers, whose average educational level was grade eleven. Half (50%) said they had a high school education or more, and 10% reported no education beyond the 8th grade.

TABLE 12: Educational Level of Substance Abusers by Gender

EDUCATION LEVEL	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
6 th Grade or Less	863	3%	52	2%	915	3%
7 th Grade	571	2%	52	2%	623	2%
8 th Grade	1,861	7%	134	6%	1,995	7%
9 th Grade	3,678	13%	248	11%	3,926	13%
10 th Grade	4,327	16%	361	16%	4,688	16%
11 th Grade	3,198	12%	296	13%	3,494	12%
12 th Grade/GED	11,014	40%	846	38%	11,860	40%
Some College or Technical School	1,937	7%	262	12%	2,199	7%
SUB TOTAL	27,449	100%	2,251	100%	29,700	100%
<i>Missing Data</i>	15,549		139		15,688	
OVERALL TOTAL	42,998		2,390		45,388	
Average	Grade 10.7		Grade 11.0		Grade 10.7	

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

Ethnic Status

Table 13 indicates that half (50%) of the identified male substance abusers were African-American, 27% were Hispanic and 21% were White. Among females, 47% were African-American, 23% were Hispanic and 29% were White.

TABLE 13: Ethnic Status of Substance Abusers by Gender

RACE/ETHNICITY	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
African-American	21,373	50%	1,116	47%	22,489	50%
Hispanic	11,818	27%	546	23%	12,364	27%
White	9,128	21%	694	29%	9,822	22%
Other/Unknown	679	2%	34	1%	713	2%
TOTAL	42,998	100%	2,390	100%	45,388	100%

May not add to 100% due to rounding.

**SECTION IV: A COMPARISON OF CHARACTERISTICS AMONG IDENTIFIED
SUBSTANCE ABUSERS AND NON-USERS**

Table 14 on the following page compares various characteristics of identified substance abusers with those of non-abusers. Significant differences between the two groups are highlighted below.

In comparison with male offenders who were not classified as substance abusers, males identified as substance abusers were:

- more often committed to DOCS facilities for drug crimes; less often for violent felonies
- less often committed from New York City
- given shorter sentences
- more often Hispanic or White
- less often African-American

Compared to female offenders who were not classified as substance abusers, females identified as substance abusers were:

- more often committed to DOCS facilities for drug crimes; less often for violent felonies
- more often second felony offenders
- given shorter sentences
- younger, on average
- more often Hispanic
- less often White

TABLE 14**A Comparison of Characteristics Among Identified Substance Abusers and Non-Users
By Gender for Inmates Under Custody on December 31, 2006.**

Missing data (N=3,438) not included.

CHARACTERISTICS	NON-USER	USER	NON-USER	USER	NON-USER	USER
	TOTAL (N=14,478)	TOTAL (N=45,388)	MALE (N=14,165)	MALE (N=42,998)	FEMALE (N=313)	FEMALE (N=2,390)
<i>Percent Less Than 30 Years Old</i>	35%	33%	35%	34%	28%	27%
<i>Percent Drug Offenders</i>	9%	27%	9%	27%	7%	38%
<i>Percent Violent Felony Offenders</i>	72%	51%	72%	52%	58%	34%
<i>Percent Second / Persistent Felony Offenders</i>	48%	49%	47%	50%	23%	42%
<i>Percent White Inmates</i>	16%	22%	16%	21%	35%	29%
<i>Percent Black Inmates</i>	58%	50%	58%	50%	47%	47%
<i>Percent Hispanic Inmates</i>	24%	27%	25%	28%	16%	23%
<i>Percent New York City Commitments</i>	62%	51%	62%	51%	46%	46%
<i>Percent 12th Grade Plus</i>	51%	47%	50%	47%	68%	49%
<i>Average Aggregate Minimum Sentence</i>	10.6 years	7.8 years	10.7 years	8.0 years	8.5 years	4.8 years
<i>Average Aggregate Maximum Sentence</i>	13.1 years	11.0 years	13.1 years	11.2 years	11.5 years	7.6 years
<i>Average Age</i>	35.7 years	36.3 years	35.7 years	36.3 years	38.6 years	36.9 years
<i>Average Educational Level</i>	grade 11.0	grade 10.7	grade 11.0	grade 10.7	grade 11.8	grade 11.0

SECTION V: TRENDS IN IDENTIFIED SUBSTANCE ABUSERS, 1998 – 2006

Table 15, on the next page, provides a nine-year perspective on the proportion of substance abusers in the DOCS under custody population at the end of each calendar year between 1998 and 2006.

The overall proportion of inmates identified as substance abusers showed a decline between the years 1998 and 2002. As the Department enhanced its substance abuse assessment methods, incorporating the SSI at reception (2002) and data from KIPY and KGNC (2003), its ability to identify substance abusers improved. Subsequently, the proportion of identified substance abusers in the population increased, more accurately reflecting the substance using patterns of the under custody population. For males, the proportion of substance abusers in DOCS custody at the end of 2003 was nine percentage points higher than that reported at the end of 2002 and has remained relatively stable since.

The trend observed among the males was not replicated in the female offender population, in which the proportion of substance abusers fluctuated between 1998 and 2002. However, with the introduction of KIPY and KGNC, the proportion of substance abusers among females at the end of 2003 (85%) increased four percentage points over the percent reported in 2002. Resembling the trend among males, the proportion of female substance abusers has remained stable over the last two years.

TABLE 15**Substance Abuse Prevalence for All Inmates Undercustody on December 31 (1998-2006)**

	Identified User		No Identified Use		Missing Data		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1998	47,754	68%	16,743	24%	5,507	8%	70,004	100%
1999	47,981	67%	18,122	25%	5,363	8%	71,466	100%
2000	46,008	66%	18,707	27%	5,438	8%	70,153	100%
2001	43,404	64%	18,824	28%	5,166	8%	67,394	100%
2002	43,250	65%	18,496	28%	4,999	7%	66,745	100%
2003	47,884	73%	13,734	21%	3,579	5%	65,197	100%
2004	46,382	73%	14,076	22%	3,241	5%	63,699	100%
2005	45,136	72%	14,406	23%	3,190	5%	62,732	100%
2006	45,388	72%	14,478	23%	3,438	5%	63,304	100%

Substance Abuse Prevalence for Male Inmates Undercustody on December 31 (1998-2006)

	Identified User		No Identified Use		Missing Data		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1998	44,927	68%	16,241	24%	5,331	8%	66,499	100%
1999	45,082	66%	17,701	26%	5,175	8%	67,958	100%
2000	43,319	65%	18,297	27%	5,258	8%	66,874	100%
2001	40,858	64%	18,395	29%	5,008	8%	64,261	100%
2002	40,834	64%	18,071	28%	4,844	8%	63,749	100%
2003	45,398	73%	13,429	22%	3,457	6%	62,284	100%
2004	44,054	72%	13,735	23%	3,121	5%	60,910	100%
2005	42,847	71%	14,060	23%	3,023	5%	59,930	100%
2006	42,998	71%	14,165	23%	3,282	5%	60,445	100%

Substance Abuse Prevalence for Female Inmates Undercustody on December 31 (1998-2006)

	Identified User		No Identified Use		Missing Data		TOTAL	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1998	2,827	81%	502	14%	176	5%	3,505	100%
1999	2,899	83%	421	12%	188	5%	3,508	100%
2000	2,689	82%	410	13%	180	5%	3,279	100%
2001	2,546	81%	429	14%	158	5%	3,133	100%
2002	2,416	81%	425	14%	155	5%	2,996	100%
2003	2,486	85%	305	10%	122	4%	2,913	100%
2004	2,328	83%	341	12%	120	4%	2,789	100%
2005	2,289	82%	346	12%	167	6%	2,802	100%
2006	2,390	84%	313	11%	156	5%	2,859	100%

SECTION VI: CONCLUSION

This report describes the prevalence of identified substance abusers in the under custody population as measured by five identification and measurement tools (self-report data, MAST, SSI, KIPY and KGNC). Using these measures, 72 percent of the December 31, 2006 under custody population fell into the "*Identified Substance Abuser*" group which included 71 percent of the males and 82 percent of the females.

- When the 3,438 cases with missing or incomplete data were excluded from the base population in 2006, 76 percent of the inmates were identified as substance abusers (75 percent of the males and 88 percent of the females). Fifty percent (50%) of identified substance abusers had either completed or were currently participating in a substance abuse treatment program.
- Females most often reported using crack (26%) or alcohol (23%) while marijuana, cocaine and alcohol were the most serious substances reported by males (31%, 22% and 22%, respectively).
- Identified substance abusers were most often committed for drug offenses (27%), and the proportion of drug offenders is greater among females than males (38 percent, compared with 27 percent). Homicide (17%) and robbery (16%) were the next most common commitment offenses.
- Inmates not identified as substance abusers were committed to DOCS facilities for violent felony offenses (72%) more often than were substance abusers (51%).
- For both males and females, those classified as substance abusers were given shorter sentences than the non-substance abusers.
- Higher proportions of substance abusers than non-substance abusers were either White or Hispanic.
- Substance abusers tended to have less education and fewer had gone beyond the twelfth grade than inmates not identified as substance abusers.
- The proportion of identified substance abusers in the population showed a decline between the years 1998 and 2002. With the introduction of data from the SSI (2002) and from the KIPY and KGNC systems (2003), the proportion of substance abusers identified increased overall and in the male population. Among females, the proportion of substance abusers fluctuated between 81 percent and 83 percent before 2003, when it increased to 85%. The proportion of under custody inmates identified as substance abusers has remained relatively constant over the past three years.

Prepared by:

**Lorraine Hogan, Research Specialist II
Program Planning, Research & Evaluation
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