

## Intravenous Drug Use Among the San Diego County Arrestee Population

Injection drug use (IDU) is one of the most common means of transmission for a number of preventable life-threatening diseases, including the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis C (HCV). In 2002, approximately 19.5 million people across the U.S. were current users of some type of illicit drug (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health). Of these, approximately 1.5 million were injection drug users, many of whom have multiple needs including medical, housing, mental health, and socio-economic.

In 2003, SANDAG received funding from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to conduct secondary analysis of Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) data by comparing study participants who reported injecting drugs in the past year to those who did not. Understanding the needs of this high risk population is an important step in addressing them and stopping the cycle of recidivism. Between January 2000 and August 2003, 3,580 interviews with arrestees were conducted at three local detention facilities and, of these, 13 percent (or 464 individuals) reported injecting drugs in the past year, 60 percent had used drugs, but did not inject, and 27 percent reported not using any drugs.

Supporting past research and as the following table shows, injection drug users (IDUs) differed from the rest of the arrestee population in a number of ways, including demographic characteristics, drug use history, drug treatment history, and criminal history. For example, IDUs were less likely to be able to meet their basic needs, had more extensive drug use histories, were more likely to recidivate, and more of them had previously received drug treatment.

### HOW INTRAVENOUS DRUGS USERS DIFFER FROM OTHER SAN DIEGO ARRESTEES

<b>In Terms of Their Demographic Characteristics</b>			
	<i>No Drug Use</i>	<i>Injecting Drug Use</i>	<i>Non-Injecting Drug Use</i>
Employed	68%	40%	54%
Has Health Insurance	52%	27%	36%
Homeless	8%	24%	12%
<b>In Terms of Their Drug Use History</b>			
Ever Used Marijuana	38%	94%	93%
Ever Used Methamphetamine	15%	92%	67%
Ever Used Powder Cocaine	15%	78%	45%
Ever Used Crack	10%	63%	37%
Ever Used Heroin	4%	73%	14%
<b>In Terms of Their Criminal History</b>			
Previously arrested	59%	95%	82%
<b>In Terms of Their Drug Treatment History</b>			
Previously received in-patient treatment	10%	40%	22%
Previously received out-patient treatment	10%	25%	13%

To access the full report, "Intravenous Drug Use Among the San Diego County Arrestee Population" please visit our Web site: [www.sandag.org/cj](http://www.sandag.org/cj).