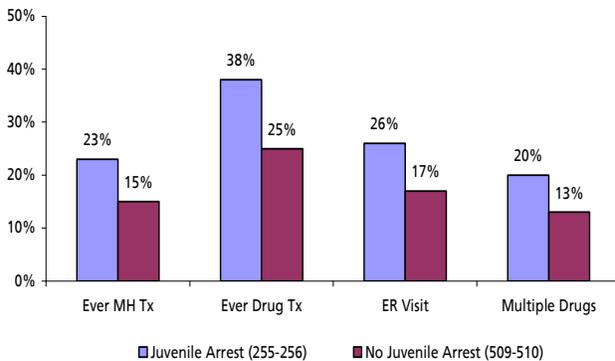


## ONE IN THREE ADULT ARRESTEES ALSO ARRESTED AS A JUVENILE

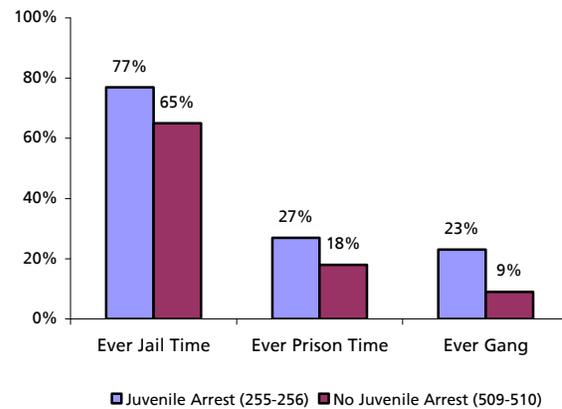
Recent data from SANDAG’s Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) program illuminates the slippery slope between juvenile delinquency and future adult criminal behavior. Interviews with adults booked into local detention facilities show that 33 percent reported having ever been arrested as a juvenile (not shown). In addition, these arrestees had more serious histories of drug use, mental health issues, and criminal behavior than arrestees who did not have this juvenile justice system contact. As Figure 1 shows, individuals arrested as a juvenile were more likely to have ever received mental health and/or drug treatment, visited an emergency room because of their drug use, and tested positive for multiple drugs at arrest. They also started using gateway drugs, such as alcohol and marijuana, at an earlier age (15.9 and 13.5, respectively) compared to those individuals that had never been arrested as a juvenile (17.94 and 15.49, respectively) (not shown). Additionally, adults arrested as juveniles have had lengthier involvements with the criminal justice system, were more likely to report gang involvement, and had previously served time in jail and/or prison (Figure 2).

**Figure 1**  
**INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED AS JUVENILES HAVE MORE MENTAL HEALTH AND DRUG ABUSE ISSUES**



SOURCE: SANDAG; Substance Abuse Monitoring Program, 2009.

**Figure 2**  
**ARRESTEES WITH JUVENILE RECORDS HAVE ENGAGED IN MORE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**



SOURCE: SANDAG; Substance Abuse Monitoring Program, 2009.

These data not only illustrate the link between juvenile delinquency and later involvement in the adult system, but highlight the greater level of need (e.g., drug and mental health problems) by arrestees with juvenile records. While the economic downturn has not had a noticeable impact on crime rates to date, it may eventually, as juvenile and adult prevention and rehabilitation programs are significantly reduced.

To learn more about the characteristics of recent arrestees into local detention facilities and current crime rates, visit [www.sandag.org/cj](http://www.sandag.org/cj) to view the series of SAM bulletins and the 2009 Mid-Year Crime Bulletin.