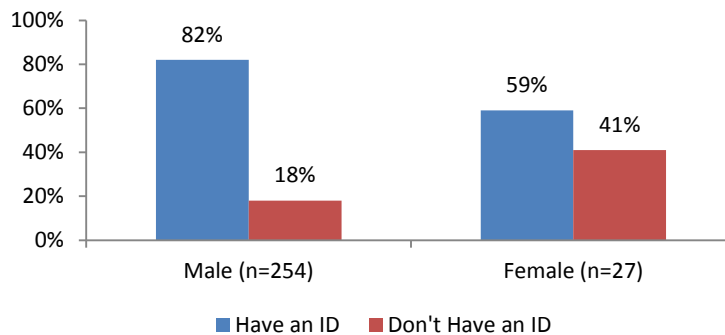


## Reentry and Personal Identification: Why It Matters and the Scope of the Issue Among San Diego County Arrestees

The issue of reentry has received increased focus over the past several years as stakeholders have sought ways to support ex-offenders reintegrating into society and stop the revolving door of incarceration. While the need for substance abuse and mental health treatment, employment and housing assistance may come immediately to mind as key components of the reentry process, a more basic need that may go unmet for ex-offenders is having a valid identification (ID) card when returning to the community. Without a valid ID card, individuals may find it challenging, if not impossible, to obtain a place to live, employment, health care, and other necessities for successful reentry.

In 2014, as the discussion regarding this issue was gaining momentum locally, SANDAG added two questions to its Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) questionnaire that is used to interview arrestees in local jails. While these data should be considered preliminary<sup>1</sup> and not necessarily generalizable to other reentry populations, a summary is provided here to further the discussion regarding what the scope of ex-offenders lacking personal identification may be in San Diego County. As Figure 1 shows, analyses of these preliminary data revealed that males were significantly more likely to report having a valid ID (82%), compared to females (59%). When further queried regarding why they did *not* have a valid ID, males were most likely to report they had lost it (49%), with the other most common response being it was stolen (18%). For females, more than one in three (36%) reported it had been stolen, only around a quarter (27%) said they had lost it, and 18 percent said it had expired and they had not renewed it. Other reasons given by both genders included not being eligible for one, they could not afford it, and they did not want to be identified (Table 1).

**FIGURE 1: PERCENT OF ARRESTEES BY GENDER WHO REPORT THEY HAVE A VALID ID**



**TABLE 1: REASONS GIVEN FOR NOT HAVING A VALID ID**

	Males	Females
Lost it	49%	27%
Stolen	18%	36%
Not eligible for one	9%	9%
Taken by law enforcement	9%	0%
Just never got one	7%	0%
Can't afford it	7%	9%
Expired and not renewed	4%	18%
Don't want to be identified	2%	9%
Lost it when had DUI	0%	9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>11</b>

**SOURCE: SANDAG, 2014; NOTE: Percentages based on multiple responses.**

<sup>1</sup> Calendar year 2013 SAM data are currently being analyzed; and complete 2014 SAM data, including further analyses of data related to the identification issue, will be available in 2015.