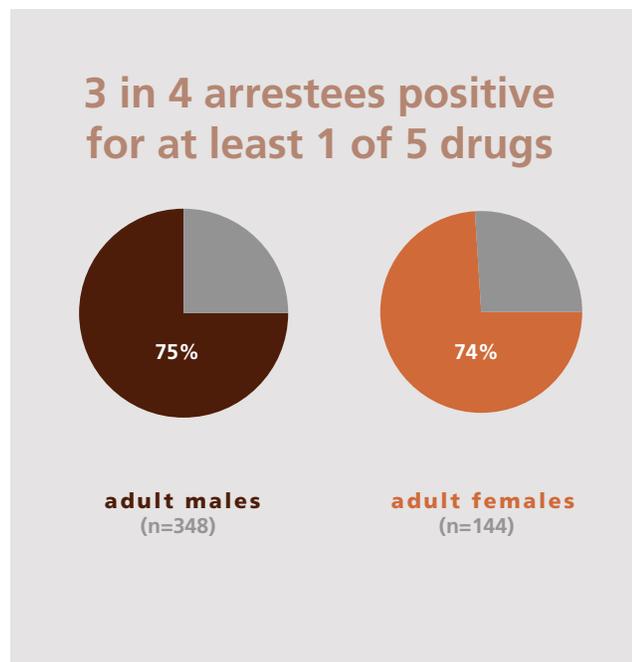


## Drug Use in the Adult Arrestee Population: Highlights from 2016

Since 2004 when federal funding for the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program<sup>1</sup> was discontinued, San Diego has been the only site to continue conducting interviews on an ongoing basis with adult and juvenile male and female arrestees regarding their drug use histories under the Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) program. While most historical studies of drug use trends have relied on self-report information, it is possible that drug use can be underreported by those being interviewed or surveyed. Thus, SAM (and ADAM previously) were unique in that an objective measure of drug use also is collected (i.e., urinalysis), allowing for more reliable tracking of drug use trends among an at-risk population over time. While the CJ Bulletin 2016 Adult Arrestee Drug Use in the San Diego Region provides an overview of all the data collected from this effort, this CJ Flash highlights five key findings related specifically to drug use trends to help inform local prevention, treatment, and intervention efforts.

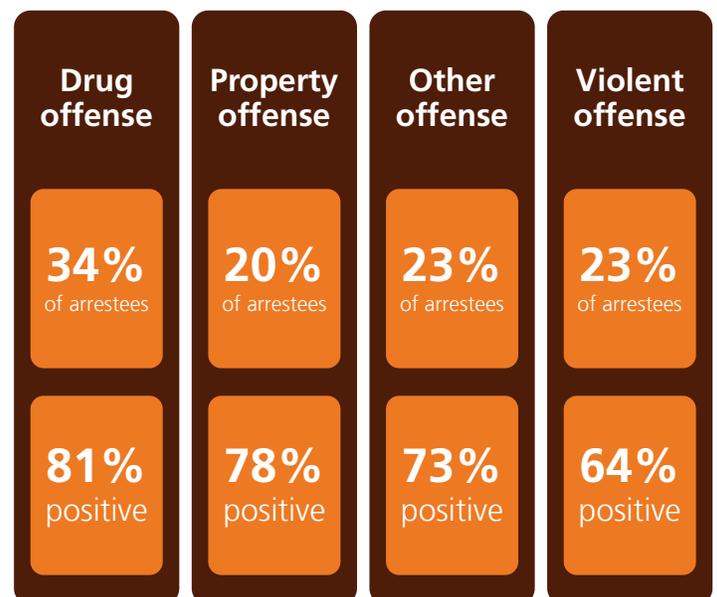
### Highlight 1

**Most arrestees tested positive for at least one drug (marijuana, meth, cocaine/crack, opiates, PCP) in 2016**



### Highlight 2

**The 492 adult arrestees interviewed in 2016 were *not* just arrested for drug-related offenses, and regardless of why they were arrested, the majority (2/3 or more) tested positive for at least one drug**



<sup>1</sup> ADAM was a program funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) between 1998 and 2003, which built off an earlier effort entitled Drug Use Forecasting that also was managed by NIJ between 1987 and 1997. More information about these federal projects, which led to the local SAM program, is available at <https://www.nij.gov/topics/drugs/markets/adam/pages/welcome.aspx>.

## Highlight 3

### Meth remains the most common used drug by those with justice system contact in San Diego County

Meth use at <b>17-year</b> high for adults in 2016	<b>79%</b> of those who ever tried meth had used in the past year
<b>55%</b> of males and <b>58%</b> of females in 2016 positive for meth	Of those positive for multiple drugs, <b>91%</b> positive for meth and something else

## Highlight 4

### Marijuana was second to meth in terms of positive drug test rates among adult arrestees

<b>44%</b>	males positive for marijuana
<b>36%</b>	females positive for marijuana
<b>68%</b>	of those positive for marijuana also positive for another drug
<b>95%</b>	say it is "very easy" or "easy" to obtain marijuana
<b>1 in 4</b>	arrestees report having a medical marijuana card

## Highlight 5

### Prescription opiate abuse remains an issue regionally and is related to changing heroin user profile

- Around one in three (30%) arrestees who have tried heroin abused prescription drugs first
- When asked why they switched to heroin, the most common answers were it was cheaper and easier to get
- Arrestees under 25 most likely to test positive for opiates - it used to be those 40 and older
- Adult females more likely to test positive for opiates (15%) in 2016, compared to males (9%)

## Takeaway

Many individuals with justice system contact, regardless of the reason for the contact, have underlying substance abuse needs they may need help with.

Meth use is at record highs and is a highly addictive substance. The need for coordinated and collaborative efforts is more important than ever.

While opiate use is less prevalent in San Diego than other parts of the country, prescription drug abuse has led to younger individuals getting addicted and switching to heroin because it is easier and less costly to obtain. Ongoing education and other efforts are essential.