



CRIMINAL JUSTICE BULLETIN

2017 Juvenile Arrestee Drug Use in the San Diego Region

JULY 2018

Research findings from the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse

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March 9, 2018

Highlights

Marijuana remains drug of choice

Marijuana remained the drug of choice for youths at Juvenile Hall, with **45 percent positive** at the time of the SAM interview and **56 percent** reporting it was the **first substance they ever tried** (compared to 25% for alcohol). Fourteen percent (**14%**) of youths thought that marijuana could be harmful to users (compared to 36% for alcohol).

Meth easily available

About **one in ten** (11%) youths were **positive for meth**, but half (50%) of those who had ever tried it (40% of those interviewed) said they had used it in the past 30 days. Ninety percent (90%) said it was "**VERY EASY**" or "**EASY**" to obtain.

Prescription drugs still easy to obtain

One in every two (**50%**) youths interviewed reported having **abused prescription or over-the-counter drugs**. However, none of the youths who tried heroin reported they switched to this street drug after first using prescription opiates. Seventy percent (**70%**) said it was "**VERY EASY**" or "**EASY**" to obtain them.

Risk factors persist

Other risk factors reported by these youths included **history of truancy (83%)**, **a parent with justice system contact (48%)**, **parental abuse of alcohol and/or other drugs (39%)**, their family having contact with **Child Protective Services (32%)**, **not living with a parent (23%)**, and **suicidal thoughts (19%)**.

Around one in three (**31%**) reported they had ever brought a **weapon to school** and **25 percent** said they had **ever obtained a gun**.

Background

When the juvenile component of the nationally-funded ADAM (Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring) program was discontinued in 2003 (one year before the entire program ended), local funding was secured, which enabled this important data collection effort to continue in the region as the San Diego County Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) program. SAM (and ADAM when it was in existence) is unique in that while most data tracking drug-use trends over time rely solely on self-report, SAM includes an objective measure of recent drug use over time with the analysis of a voluntary urine sample that is confidential and anonymous.

In 2017, San Diego County SAM was supported by the San Diego-Imperial High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) and the County of San Diego. Their support, as well as funding from SANDAG member agencies through the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse and the cooperation of the San Diego County Probation Department, is gratefully acknowledged.

This CJ Bulletin, [2017 Juvenile Arrestee Drug Use in the San Diego Region](#), is the first in a four-part series presenting SAM data collected (from both juveniles and adults) in the 2017 calendar year. As part of this study, a total of 110 youths were interviewed at Juvenile Hall during two separate months (March and September) in 2017. Ninety-six percent (96%), or 106 of these youths, provided a urine sample for drug testing purposes (79 males and 27 females). This research bulletin includes the results of urinalysis trends over time, as well as information pertaining to lifetime and recent self-reported drug use, perceived risk and availability of different drugs, and characteristics of the youths that were interviewed and how these factors may be related to drug use.

In addition, all of the data (percentages and raw numbers) captured through the juvenile interviews and urinalyses for the past five years (2013-2017) are available online at sandag.org/cj. For questions regarding the project methodology or data set, please contact the SANDAG Criminal Justice Research Division at (619) 699-1900.

What information is collected through these interviews?

Self-reported history of illicit drug use (page 5)

Urinalysis result trends over time (page 9)

Perceptions of how harmful drugs are and how easy they are to get (page 10)

Illicit use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs (page 12)

Previous drug treatment and perception of current need for treatment (page 14)

Risk factors including home environment, mental health, and school attendance (page 15)

Criminal and other risky behavior (page 15)

How many youths interviewed at Juvenile Hall had ever tried illicit substances?

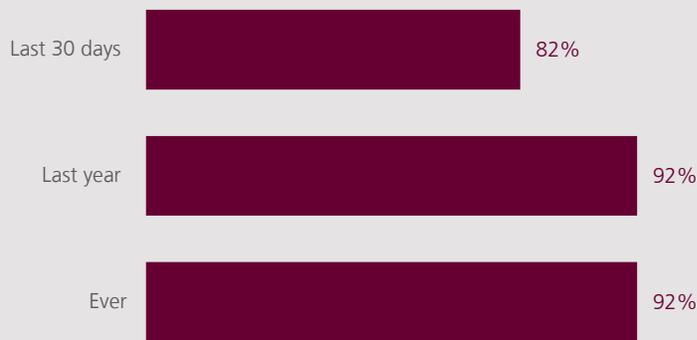
In 2017, almost all (92%) of the youths interviewed reported ever trying an illicit substance, which includes alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, crack, powder cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine (meth), and ecstasy (Figure 1).

The majority of these youths also reported recent use of at least one of these substances – 92 percent in the last year and 82 percent in the last 30 days (Figure 1).

Of the 98 youths who reported ever trying one of these substances, the average (mean) number tried was 3.9 (range 1 to 8), with the females that were interviewed reporting they tried significantly more than the males (4.4 versus 3.7).

Figure 1

Almost all juveniles interviewed reported previous substance use



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

How could declining arrest rates possibly affect the data reported here?

Over the past several years, juvenile arrest rates have declined across the State and San Diego County. These lower rates, coupled with a renewed emphasis on finding alternatives to juvenile detention (between 2013 and 2016 the number of bookings into Juvenile Hall decreased by 37%, from 4,829 in 2013 to 3,043 in 2016), may have an effect on the data presented here. The sample of offenders interviewed may have lengthier histories and a greater number of issues, compared to those youths interviewed in earlier years.

Takeaway

Almost all youths interviewed at Juvenile Hall reported prior experimentation with illicit substances, most had used one of these substances in the last 30 days, and the average number tried was 3.9.

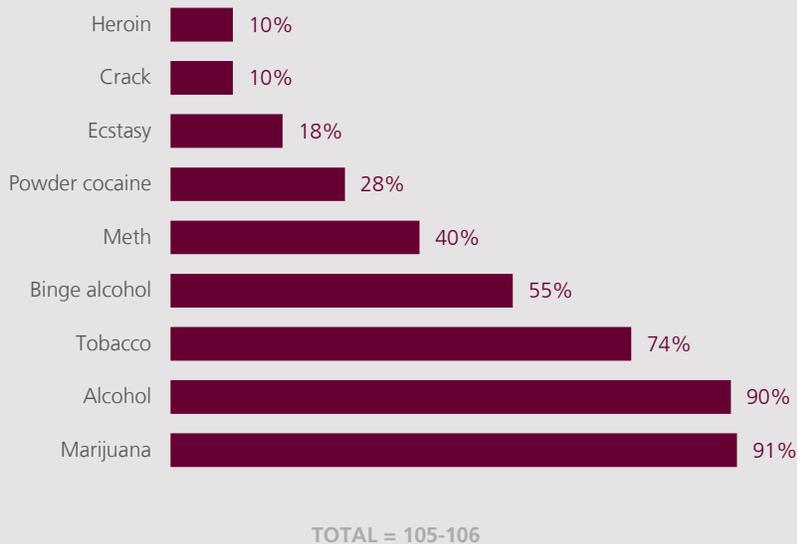
What is the pattern of initiating substance use among youths interviewed?

Marijuana (91%) and alcohol (90%) were the most frequently tried substances, followed by tobacco (74%). Over half (55%) of the youths also reported binge drinking alcohol (defined as five or more drinks on one occasion) (Figure 2).

In addition to the substances shown in Figure 2, 26 percent of the youths reported having ever tried LSD, 25 percent spice (a mix of herbs and synthetic chemicals sometimes referred to as synthetic marijuana), 24 percent hallucinogens such as mushrooms, 10 percent inhalants, 7 percent PCP, 1 percent Ketamine, and 1 percent GHB.

Figure 2

Marijuana and alcohol among substances most often tried by youths



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

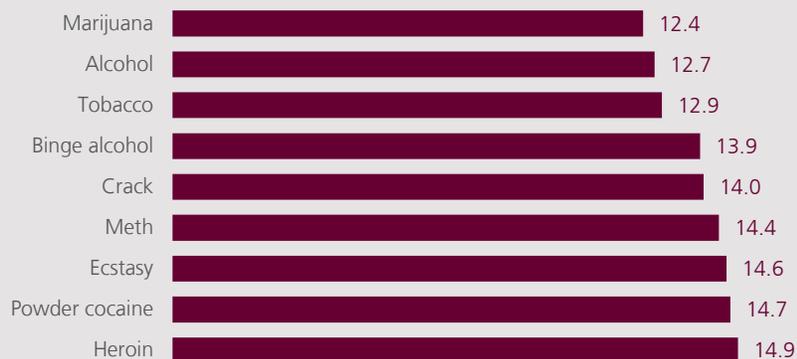
Girls in Juvenile Hall more likely to report having ever tried different drugs

Additional analyses of this self-report data revealed that females were significantly more likely to report they had ever tried meth (59% versus 33% of the males) and heroin (22% versus 6% of the males). While it is possible this could reflect a greater willingness to self-disclose, it also could reflect gender differences among youth in terms of drug use, which is consistent with females being more likely to self-harm and the greater frequency of other risk factors noted later in this bulletin, including family contact with Child Protective Services and running away from home.

For many of these youths, marijuana use started first, around the age of 12.4, followed by alcohol at 12.7, and tobacco at 12.9, on average. Binge alcohol use, on average, appeared to start about one year after initial alcohol use (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Marijuana, alcohol, and, tobacco use start around or before age of 13, on average



TOTAL = 10-95

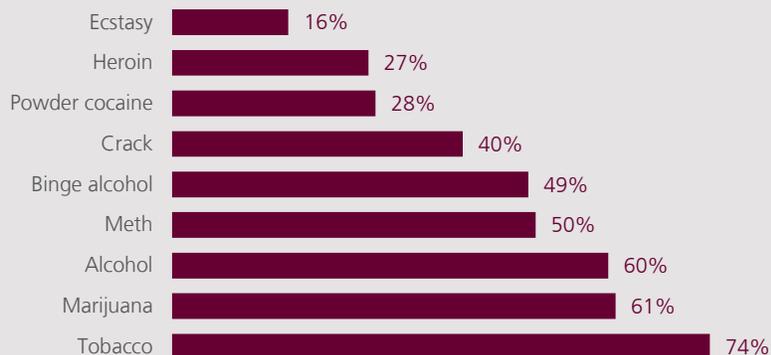
NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

In terms of recent use, those who had ever tried tobacco were most likely (74%) to report past 30 days use, followed by those who had ever tried marijuana (61%) and alcohol (60%). Half (50%) of youth who ever tried meth reported also using it in the past 30 days (Figure 4).

Figure 4

More than half of youths who had ever tried tobacco, alcohol, or marijuana also reported use in the past 30 days



TOTAL = 10-96

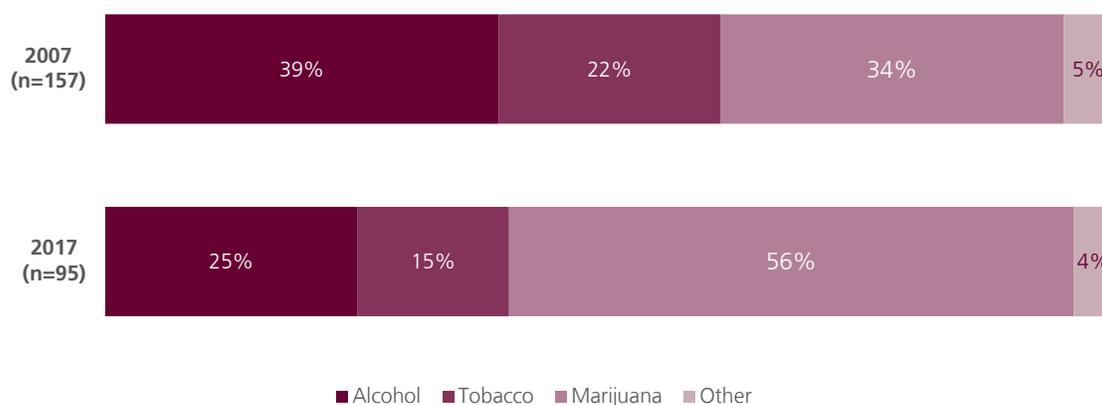
NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

In 2007, when the question was first asked, slightly more youths reported that alcohol was the first substance they had ever tried (39%), followed by marijuana (34%). Ten years later, this pattern was quite different, with over half (56%) reporting marijuana was the first substance they had ever tried, with only one in four (25%) reporting alcohol was the first substance they had tried (Figure 5).

Almost three-fourths (73%) of the youths interviewed reported they had tried all three “gateway” drugs – alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana – not just one or two.

Figure 5
Marijuana first substance used by most youths in 2017



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

Takeaway

The majority of youths interviewed at Juvenile Hall who had tried any illicit substance were most likely to have tried each of the “gateway” drugs and to report first use occurred around the age of 12. Marijuana was the most common first substance used in 2017.

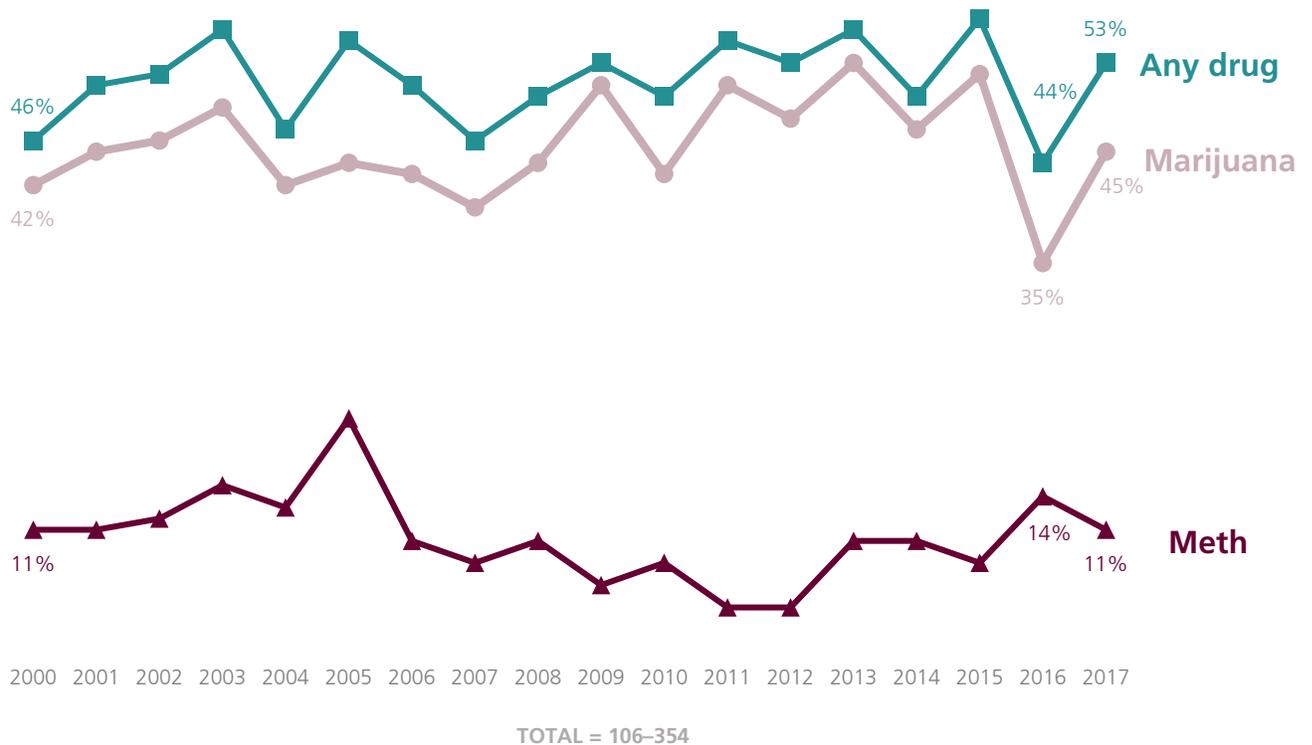
How many youths interviewed at Juvenile Hall tested positive for an illicit substance?

Just over half (53%) of juveniles interviewed in 2017 tested positive for an illicit substance – marijuana, meth, cocaine/crack, PCP, and/or opiates – an increase from the 44 percent in 2016, but still lower than the 18-year high of 57 percent in 2015 (Figure 6).

The most commonly used substance juveniles test positive for every year is marijuana, 45 percent positive in 2017. This was an increase from the unexpected drop to 35 percent in 2016, but not near the 18-year high of 53 percent in 2013 (Figure 6).

Meth is the second most commonly used illicit drug by juveniles, with 11 percent positive in 2017, down from 14 percent in 2016 (Figure 6).

Figure 6
Just over half of juveniles positive for at least one drug in 2017



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included. In 2013 and 2014, any drug did not include testing for PCP.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

Five percent of the youths tested positive for cocaine/crack (up from 1% in 2016) and three percent for opiates (the same as in 2016). No one tested positive for PCP in 2017.

In 2017, 10 percent tested positive for multiple illicit drugs, up slightly from 8 percent in 2016. Of the 11 youths positive for multiple substances, 5 were positive for marijuana and meth, 2 for marijuana and cocaine/crack, 1 for cocaine/crack and opiates, 1 for marijuana and opiates, 1 for meth and opiates, and 1 for marijuana, meth, and cocaine/crack.

Takeaway

Just over half of youth were positive for any substance in 2017, with the percent positive for marijuana back up after a drop the previous year. One in ten youth were positive for multiple substances.

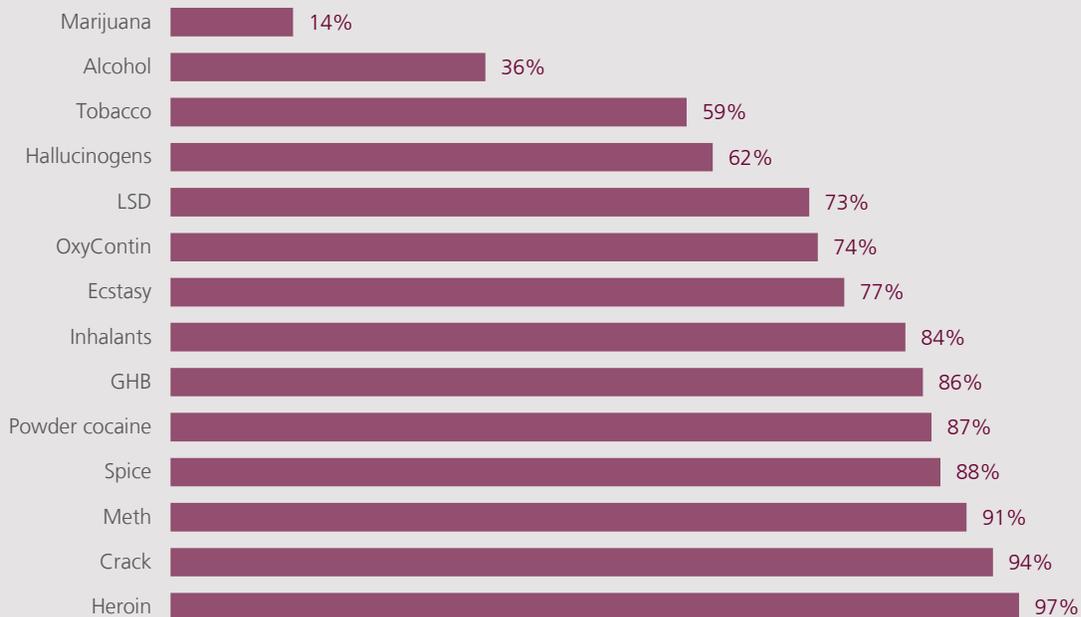
How bad do youths think drugs are for them and how easy do they think they are to get?

When asked how bad they thought different drugs were for them (on a four-point scale), more than nine out of ten said that heroin, crack, and meth were “**EXTREMELY BAD**” or “**VERY BAD**” (Figure 7).

Marijuana was considered to be the least harmful of all the drugs, with only 14 percent of youths reporting that using it would be “**EXTREMELY BAD**” or “**VERY BAD**” for the user (Figure 7).

Figure 7

One in seven youths feel that marijuana would be harmful to users



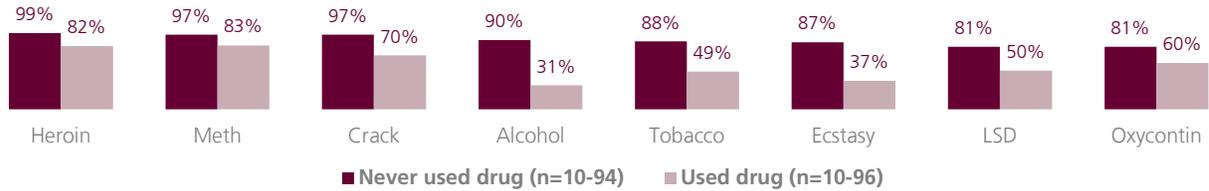
TOTAL = 85-106

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

Figure 8

Drug users perceive substances as less harmful than those who never used*



*Significant at $p < 0.05$

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

Perception of harm differed significantly by whether a youth had previously used the drug for eight of the drugs. That is, those who had ever tried a drug were less likely to perceive it was harmful, compared to those who had not. Youths who had ever tried alcohol, ecstasy, and tobacco were least likely to report they were harmful (Figure 8).

According to the youths, meth (90%), marijuana (89%), tobacco (87%), and alcohol (79%) were most likely to be described as “**VERY EASY**” or “**EASY**” to obtain. Powder cocaine (50%) and heroin (57%) users were least likely to say the drug was easy to obtain in 2017 (Figure 9).

Just under half (46%) of the youths who had tried spice said they used it as an alternative for marijuana and about two in five (38%) said they used it to avoid testing positive on a drug test.

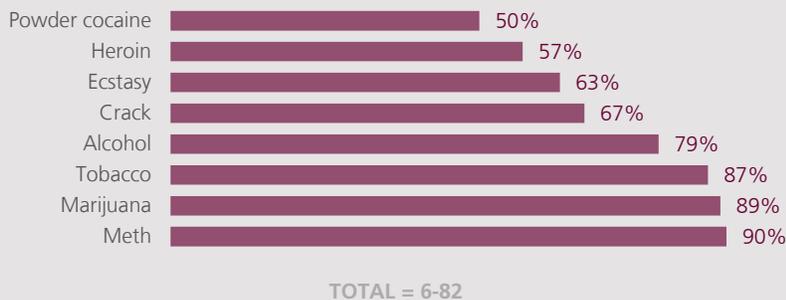
When youths who had ever used alcohol were asked how they most recently obtained it, the most common responses included they took it from a store (23%), they bought it from a store (16%), someone else bought it from a store for them (15%), someone under 21 gave it to them (15%), someone 21 or older gave it to them (14%), or they took it from home (11%).

Takeaway

Youths who have used alcohol, ecstasy, and tobacco are least likely to report these substances are harmful. More than four in five meth and heroin users report it is harmful even though they have used it.

Figure 9

Around nine in ten youths report marijuana, tobacco, and alcohol are “VERY EASY” or “EASY” to obtain



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

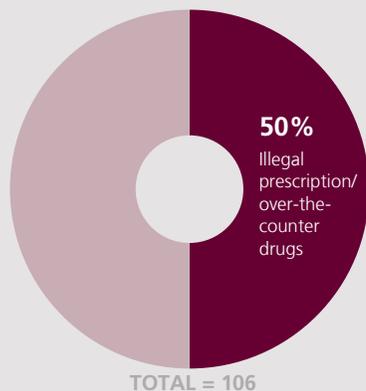
SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

How many youths are using prescription drugs illegally?

Half (50%) of the youths interviewed reported ever using prescription (47%) and/or over-the-counter medication (31%) illegally (Figure 10).

Figure 10

Half of the juveniles interviewed have illegally used prescription or over-the-counter drugs



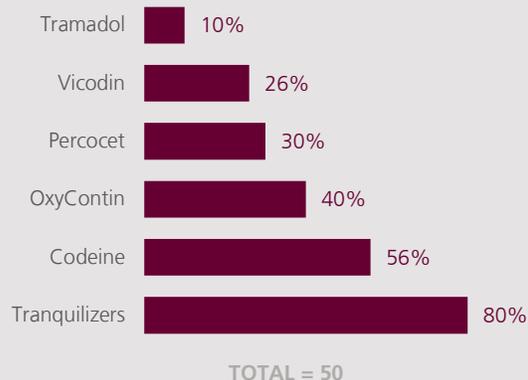
SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

The most commonly abused prescription drug type was tranquilizers (e.g., Xanax, Valium, Rohypnol/Roachas) (80%), followed by codeine (56%), OxyContin (40%), Percocet (30%), Vicodin (26%), and tramadol (10%). Other prescription drugs abused by less than ten percent of the sample (and not shown in Figure 11) included amphetamines (8%), methadone (8%), morphine (6%), Demerol (4%), anti-depressants (4%), Soma (2%), barbiturates (2%), Dilaudid (2%), Suboxone (2%), and fentanyl (2%).

In terms of over-the-counter drugs, 73 percent described abusing liquid cold medicines and 64 percent described abusing Coricidin.

Figure 11

Codeine and other painkillers among most abused prescription drugs by youths



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

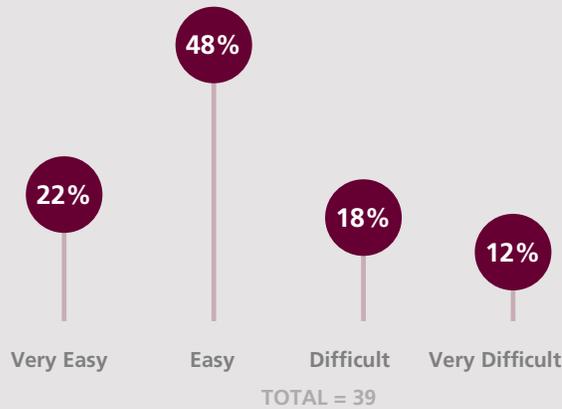
SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

Of those who reported ever using a specific prescription drug illegally shown in Figure 11, recent use was highest for tranquilizers (33% use in the past 30 days), codeine (21%), Percocet (20%), and OxyContin (10%); none of the youths who reported trying Vicodin illegally reported use in the past 30 days.

Seven in ten (70%) youths who had abused prescription drugs said they were **"VERY EASY"** or **"EASY"** to obtain; the other third (30%) said they were **"DIFFICULT"** or **"VERY DIFFICULT"** to get (Figure 12). Compared to 2016, more youth reported it was **"VERY EASY"** to obtain them (10% versus 22% in 2017).

Figure 12

More than two thirds of youths obtaining prescription drugs illegally said it was "VERY EASY" or "EASY" to do



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

When asked how they got the prescription drugs, the most common response was that another person gave it to them (77%), with the other person most often a friend (78%) or acquaintance (28%). In addition, 56 percent said they bought it, 29 percent took it from someone (most often a family member), and 8 percent stole it from a pharmacy.

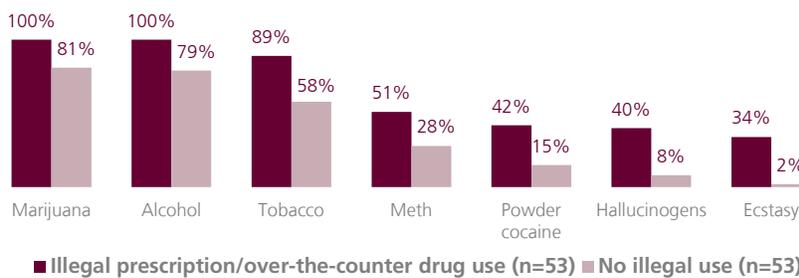
For the first time since the series of questions were added, none of the eleven youths who reported ever using heroin said that they were hooked on prescription opiates before moving on to heroin. Those youths who reported abusing prescription or over-the-counter medication were significantly more likely to have tried the gateway drugs, as well as other substances, including meth, powder cocaine, mushrooms, and ecstasy (Figure 13).

Takeaway

Just under half of the youth interviewed say prescription drugs are "VERY EASY" or "EASY" to obtain. Those who had abused prescription drugs were also more likely to have abused street drugs. Tranquilizers and codeine remained the most frequently abused prescription drugs.

Figure 13

Youths who abuse prescription and over-the-counter drugs more likely to use other illicit drugs



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

How many of these youths have received drug treatment or feel they could use treatment now?

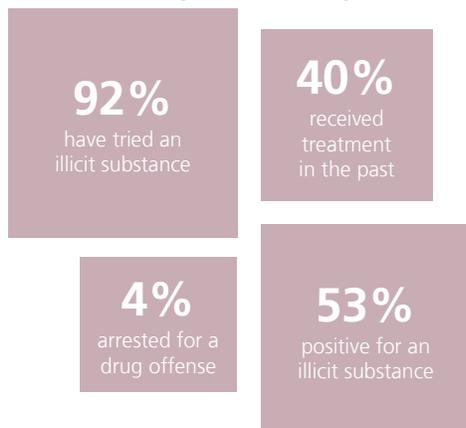
Two in five (40%) youths reported they had previously received drug treatment.

Of those youths who had received treatment in the past, 37 percent had been in treatment once, 29 percent twice, and 34 percent three or more times; the most recent treatment experience was more likely to be court-ordered (76%) than voluntary (24%); it was outpatient for 50 percent, inpatient for 33 percent, Narcotics Anonymous/Alcoholics Anonymous groups for 10 percent; and in-custody for 7 percent; and 43 percent reported that they had successfully completed it.

When asked what they received treatment for, 64 percent said marijuana, 55 percent alcohol, 45 percent meth, and 7 percent each for cocaine/crack, heroin, and some other substance or combination of substances. When asked if they wanted treatment now (for a drug they had previously used), 27 percent said yes for heroin, 17 percent for meth, 10 percent for crack, 8 percent tobacco, 7 percent for powder cocaine, 6 percent for alcohol, and 3 percent for marijuana.

Figure 14

Few youths arrested for drug offenses; however, many have history of use



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

Takeaway

Despite the fact that many of these youths had early drug use histories, only two in five had previously received treatment, with about three-quarters of it court-ordered. Few of those interviewed reported needing treatment for current substance use.

What other needs and risk factors do we know about these youths?

Home environment

- Prior to arrest, 89 percent of the youths interviewed reported living in a stable residence, but 8 percent said they lived in some type of group setting and 4 percent said they were homeless.
- When asked who they lived with, 66 percent said their mother, 34 percent their father, and 23 percent said they did not live with a parent at all.
- Three in four (74%) reported that they lived with at least one sibling.
- Just under one-third (32%) said that their immediate family had some type of previous Child Welfare Services involvement.
- Thirteen percent (13%) had been in foster care at some time in their life.
- Six percent (6%) said they were already a parent themselves, 7 percent of the girls said they did not know if they were pregnant, and 8 percent of the boys said their girlfriend was pregnant or could be.
- Forty-eight percent (48%) of the youths reported a sibling and 48 percent said a parent had been previously arrested and booked into a detention facility.
- When asked whether they knew if their parents had abused alcohol or used other drugs, 39 percent said they had (13% alcohol, 9% other drugs, and 17% both). When asked what drugs their parents used, the most common responses included marijuana (71%), meth (58%), cocaine/crack (33%), and heroin (33%).
- Just over half (51%) of the youths reported they had previously run away from home.
- While only 6 percent of the youths reported that they had ever used illicit drugs with their parents, 39 percent reported that they had used drugs at home previously, with 50 percent of these 40 youths acknowledging a parent or caregiver was at home when this substance use occurred and 55 percent that the caregiver was aware of this use.

Mental health

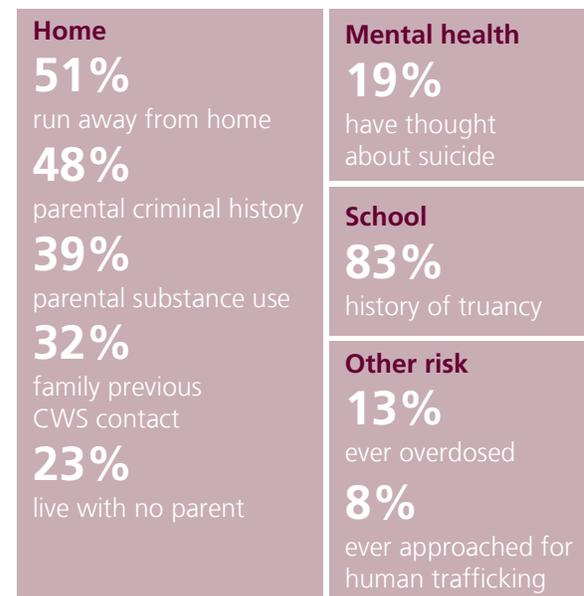
- Nineteen percent (19%) of the youths (10% of the males and 44% of the females) reported they had previously thought about killing themselves and 13 of these 20 individuals (65%) had previously made a suicide attempt.
- Thirty-five percent (35%) reported they had been diagnosed with attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

School/work

- Eighty-three percent (83%) of the youths reported they had previously skipped school or been truant and 19 percent were not currently enrolled in school because of an expulsion, suspension, or dropping out on their own.
- The median number of days truant in the previous month was 3.0 (range 1 to 20).
- Thirty-seven percent (37%) had been referred to the School Attendance Review Board.
- Forty-three percent (43%) had an Individualized Education Program.
- Eight percent (8%) of youths reported they had a job, with five of the eight describing it as part-time, one as full-time, and two as odd jobs.

Figure 15

Many youths interviewed have common risk factors to be addressed



What is the criminal and other risky behavior history of these youths?

- Almost three-quarters (74%) of the youths reported they had been arrested previously, 71 percent had been previously detained at a juvenile facility, and 68 percent had been under probation supervision before (94% of whom still were).
- The median number of prior arrests was 3.0 (range 1 to 30).
- Fifty-one percent (51%) of the youths reported ever participating in some type of diversion or alternative sanction program.
- When asked what type of crime they were first arrested for, 46 percent said a property crime, 32 percent violent, 20 percent drugs, 11 percent status, and 4 percent weapons.
- When asked if they were aware of curfew laws, almost all (93%) of the youths reported that they were and around half (48%) said that they had actually been stopped by law enforcement in the past for violating curfew.
- Despite the fact that few (4%) youths were arrested for a drug-related offense as the highest charge on the current arrest, 36 percent reported that they had some previous involvement in drug distribution – either selling drugs (19%), serving as a middleman (2%), or both (15%). When asked what drug(s) were involved, 95 percent of the 38 youths said marijuana, 32 percent meth, 16 percent powder cocaine, 16 percent crack, 13 percent heroin, 11 percent OxyContin, 8 percent ecstasy, and 5 percent LSD; 55 percent said some other drug or combination. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of those ever involved said they had been involved in the past 30 days.
- Twenty percent (20%) reported that they had previously committed a crime to get money to buy drugs.
- Overall, 42 percent of the youths interviewed said they were in a gang or have hung out with one. When asked their current status, 43 percent are currently a member, 41 percent said they currently hang out (but were never a member), 11 percent used to hang out, and 5 percent used to be a member. On average, these individuals said they started hanging out with the gang when they were 11.3 (range 2 to 15) years old.
- When the seven youths who said they used to hang out with or be a member of a gang but don't now were asked what made them stop association, four said that they wanted to get out of the justice system, two said they were tired of the lifestyle, one that it was too dangerous, and one moved.
- Twelve percent (12%) of those interviewed said they had ever participated in a gang prevention program. Of these 13 youths, 38 percent reported no gang affiliations (5) and 62 percent did (8). Of the 61 with no gang affiliation to date, 95 percent said they would not in the future.
- Ten percent (10%) reported they had ever used social media to commit or plan a crime, including distributing drugs or stolen property, targeting individuals for violence, and committing robbery.
- Eight percent (8%) (8 females) reported that they had been approached for human trafficking. When these eight youths were asked where the solicitation happened, four said on the street, one at a hotel, one at the mall, one online, and one at a place where prostitution occurs.
- Three percent (3%) (3 females) reported ever engaging in prostitution. When asked the age they started, one said 13, one 14, and one 15. When asked if they had participated in prostitution in the past 30 days, two of the three youths responded affirmatively – one of these wanted to stop and one did not. Four youths also reported engaging in pimping – 3 males and 1 female (who also participated in prostitution).

- Thirty-one percent (31%) of youths reported they had brought a weapon to school, most often a knife. When asked why they had the weapon, 44 percent said for protection, 41 percent for another reason (including they forgot they had it or it was for someone else), 13 percent for status, and 3 percent to threaten someone.
- One in four (25%) of those surveyed reported they had ever gotten a gun. When asked where they got it from, the most common responses were a friend (46%), bought off the street (46%), and they found it (13%). When asked how easy it was to get a gun, 32 percent said **"VERY EASY"** and 52 percent said **"EASY."**
- Ten percent (10%) of youths reported they had crossed the U.S./Mexico border to obtain alcohol and/or other drugs. The mean age of first crossing was 14.2 (range 13 to 17) for alcohol and 15.2 (range 13 to 17) for other drugs. In addition, one in ten (10%) reported they had previously been approached to transport drugs across the border.
- When the youths were asked if they had participated in any types of specific risky behaviors related to substance use in the past 12 months, around one-third or more reported they had engaged in a number of these behaviors, with the most common being getting in trouble with parents, not remembering what happened, getting sick, and riding in a car with a driver who had used alcohol/drugs (Table 1).
- Thirty-two percent (32%) of 34 youths reported they **"ALWAYS"** use a condom when engaging in sexual activities, 18 percent said **"MOST OF THE TIME,"** 18 percent **"SOME OF THE TIME,"** and 32 percent said **"NEVER."**
- Thirteen percent (13%) of the youths reported they previously had a drug overdose (12% of boys and 19% of girls). When asked what drug(s) they had overdosed on, responses included meth, Xanax, heroin, skittles (cough suppressants with dextromethorphan), Tylenol, methadone, marijuana, hydrocodone, and spice. None of the youths had ever been administered naloxone.

Figure 16

Most youths had prior justice system contact



NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

Table 1

Many juvenile arrestees participate in risky behaviors associated with alcohol and other drug use

Get in trouble with parents for using alcohol/drugs	50%
Not remember what happened while drinking	43%
Get sick from alcohol/drugs	41%
Ride in a car with a driver who has used alcohol/drugs	40%
Go to school drunk/high	38%
Get in physical fight after using alcohol/drugs	37%
Participate in sex acts after using alcohol/drugs	33%
Feel bad about something done when drunk/high	30%
Pass out after using alcohol/drugs	26%
Miss school because of alcohol/drugs	25%
Drive a car after drinking/using drugs	17%
Have alcohol-/drug-related health problems	8%
Total	101-105

NOTE: Cases with missing information not included.

SOURCE: SANDAG SAM Program, 2017

Takeaway

The youths interviewed here reported a history of justice system contact, as well as gang involvement, a history of drug distribution, and carrying weapons. In addition, around one-third or more reported risk behaviors associated with drug use, including going to school drunk or high and not remembering what happened while drinking or using drugs.

Summary

As the data here describes, youths booked into Juvenile Hall continue to face a number of risk factors that require communities and systems of care to work together. Some of the risks described here include both gateway and other drug use at relatively early ages; poly drug use; negative peer groups, including gang involvement; challenging home environments with individuals who also use drugs and have had contact with the justice system; and truancy. These data offer program and policy leaders support for continued prevention and targeted intervention services at a time when resources are limited. Specific areas of prevention and intervention focus could include ensuring treatment availability that is family-based; education for parents regarding the importance of prevention including strategies for effectively interacting with their children about this topic; coordination with educational units to address truancy, as well as facilitating prevention messages; and continued support of pro-social activities.