

*This fact sheet describes the patterns of treatment need and utilization among youth entering the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). The findings of this and similar analyses can assist in developing substance abuse treatment services at correctional facilities that serve juveniles. More than one-third (36%) of the youth surveyed were found to be in need of treatment for both alcohol and drugs. A higher proportion of youth who dropped out of school and/or did not grow up in a two-parent household were identified as needing treatment. Of the youth determined to be in need of treatment services, less than half received any type of treatment. A higher proportion of older youth (17 and older) than younger youth (13 to 16) reported having utilized alcohol and/or drug treatment services.*

### **Background**

This fact sheet presents an analysis of 401 youth entering the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). The analysis includes youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who were entering IDOC for the first time. This analysis, based on survey data collected through face-to-face interviews with juveniles entering IDOC between May 2000 and August 2000, describes the treatment need and utilization patterns of the IDOC juvenile population. All of the interviews were completed at the two Illinois facilities that provide intake services to juveniles. The goal of the original survey was to characterize the nature and extent of substance use and its consequences among serious juvenile offenders in Illinois.

This fact sheet is part of series examining the juvenile population entering the Illinois Department of Corrections. Fact Sheet 151 provides an overview of the demographic, personal and environmental characteristics of the youth entering IDOC. A subsequent fact sheet will present an analysis of the relationship between multiple variables (e.g., parental substance use, initiation of substance use, race/ethnicity) and treatment need and utilization.

### **Defining Treatment Need**

Although a large proportion of adolescents entering the juvenile justice system have substance abuse problems, relatively little is known about the treatment needs of incarcerated youth in the United States. In this analysis, treatment need was defined using the MINI International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI). The MINI is an abbreviated psychiatric interview schedule that is based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III). Respondents were classified as being in need of treatment if they reported experiencing one or more symptoms of substance abuse or three or more symptoms of substance dependence during the twelve months prior to entering corrections custody.

<b>Symptoms of Substance Abuse</b>	
■	Alcohol or other drug use frequently interferes with fulfilling important obligations
■	Substance use places oneself in physically hazardous situations
■	Substance use causes problems with police, family, and friends
■	Alcohol or other drugs continue to be used despite knowledge of these problems.
<b>Symptoms of Substance Dependence</b>	
■	Increased tolerance to alcohol and other drugs
■	Withdrawal symptoms
■	Alcohol or other drugs taken in larger amounts or for longer a period than intended
■	Unsuccessful efforts to control drinking or other drug use
■	Spending a lot of time getting or using alcohol or other drugs or recovering from alcohol or other drug use
■	Spending less time working, enjoying hobbies, or being with others because of drinking or drug use
■	Continuing use of alcohol or other drugs despite knowledge of psychological or physical problems caused by their use.

### **Patterns of Treatment Need**

Overall, more than two-thirds (68%; n=273) of the 401 youth entering the IDOC were found to be in need of treatment for either alcohol or drug use or both.

- More than one-third (36%) of the youth were found to be in need of treatment for both alcohol and other drug use.
- About one-fourth (27%) were found to be in need of treatment for drug use only.
- A smaller proportion (5%) were found to be in need of treatment for alcohol use only.

There were no gender differences in treatment need. A higher proportion of 15-16 year olds and those 17 and older reported needing treatment than youth between 13-14 years of age. There were also differences in treatment need based on race/ethnicity and educational status. Although still more than half, a smaller proportion of black youth were identified as needing alcohol or drug use treatment compared to youth in other racial/ethnic groups. A higher proportion of youth who dropped out of school or were not attending school were identified as needing treatment than those who attended school. In addition, a higher proportion of youth who did not grow up in a two-parent household were identified as needing treatment than youth who grew up in a two-parent household.

# Patterns of Treatment Need and Utilization Among Youth Entering the Illinois Juvenile Corrections System

Alcohol and/or Drug Use Treatment Need Among Youth Entering the Illinois Department of Corrections (n = 401)	
	Treatment Need
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	68%
Female	67%
<b>Age</b>	
13-14	59%
15-16	70%
17 or older	71%
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	
White	79%
Black	56%
Hispanic	82%
Other	69%
<b>Educational status</b>	
Attending school	64%
Dropped out/not attending school	77%
<b>Two-parent household</b>	
Yes	66%
No	72%

## Patterns of Treatment Utilization

Juveniles who reported ever having been in treatment to stop alcohol or drug use were classified as having lifetime treatment utilization experience. Of the 273 youth determined to be in need of treatment, less than half (48%) reported having received some form of substance abuse treatment.

- More than one-third (35%) reported having received formal treatment including residential or inpatient treatment, weekly outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient or day treatment and detoxification.
- About two in ten (18%) reported having participated in self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous.

Some youth participated in both formal treatment and self-help services.

There were no differences in treatment utilization by gender, racial/ethnic groups, or by educational status. Older youth (age 17 and older), however, were more likely to have participated in

both formal treatment and self-help services than younger respondents (age 13-16 years).

## Summary

Of the 401 youth interviewed as they entered the Illinois Department of Corrections, more than two-thirds (68%; n=273) were found to be in need of treatment for either alcohol or drug use or both. Of the 273 youth determined to be in need of treatment, less than half (48%) reported receiving some form of substance abuse treatment. Given that less than half of juveniles who needed treatment received it, the criminal justice treatment system may want to collaborate with other treatment efforts so that needed treatment is provided for these youth.

## Acknowledgments

This fact sheet was produced by Caliber Associates under the National Evaluation Data Services (NEDS) contract to CSAT/OESAS. Caliber Associates is the prime contractor for the NEDS contract (Contract No. 270-00-7078) in partnership with The Lewin Group, the National Opinion Research Center (NORC), DeltaMetrics, National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI), National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), and UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP). The period of performance for the NEDS contract is October 2000 - September 2003.

This fact sheet was adapted from a NEDS technical report by Timothy P. Johnson, Young Ik Cho, Michael Fendrich, Ingrid Graf, and Lisa Kelly-Wilson of the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Lillian Pickup of the Illinois Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, entitled *Substance Abuse Treatment Need and Treatment Utilization Among Youth Entering the Illinois Juvenile Corrections System (2002)*. For more information, see the NEDS analytic summary of this report. Both the technical report and analytic summary are available on the NEDS Web site (see below).

**Technical Writer:** Tia Coleman

**Fact Sheet Series Editor and Point of Contact:**

Kathy Karageorge

**We welcome feedback, comments, and suggestions. For more information, please contact us at (703) 385-3200, or visit the NEDS Web site at <http://neds.calib.com>. The NEDS Web site may also be accessed through the SAMHSA Web site at <http://www.samhsa.gov/CSAT> (Click on Resources).**