

**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

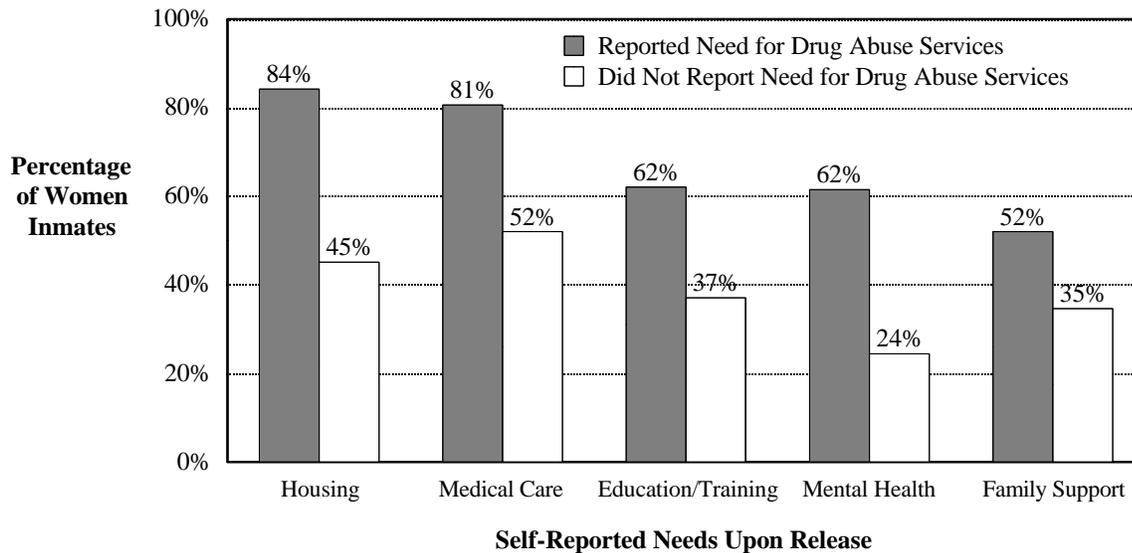
**University of Maryland, College Park**

## *Drug-Abusing Women in Jail Need More Than Just Drug Treatment*

Drug-abusing women\* are more likely than non-drug abusing women to report the need for other services such as housing, mental health counseling, and medical care upon release from jail, according to a recent study recently published in the *American Journal of Public Health*. For example, eighty-four percent of women reporting a need for drug abuse services also indicated a need for housing upon release, while only 45% of those not in need of drug abuse services reported a need for housing. The authors of the study conclude that providing “drug abuse treatment referrals to women in jail may not break the continual cycle of drug use and incarceration if other needs cannot be addressed” (p. 798).

### **Percentage of Jailed Women Reporting Need for Services Upon Release, by Reported Need for Drug Abuse Services**

(n=165)



\*Drug-abusing women are defined as those who reported a need for drug abuse services.

NOTE: Data were collected from interviews with 165 women incarcerated in a large, urban county jail in Ohio during May 1999.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Alemagno S.A., “Women in Jail: Is Substance Abuse Treatment Enough?” *American Journal of Public Health*, 91(5):798-800, 2001. For more information, contact Dr. Alemagno at salemagno@aol.com.

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