

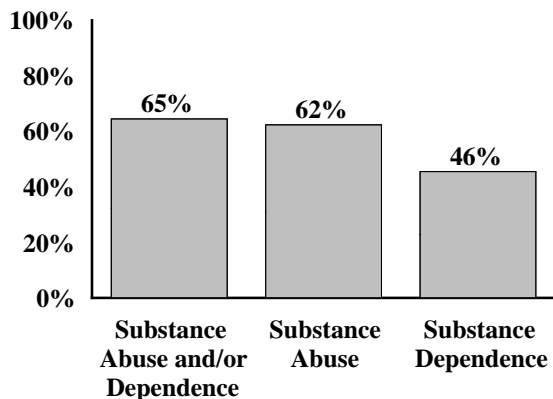
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

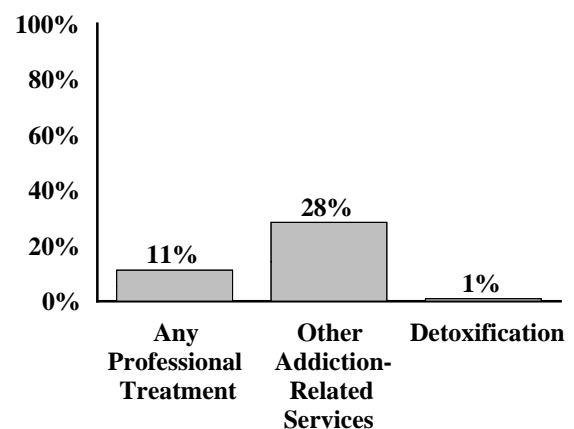
Few U.S. Inmates with Substance Use Disorders Receive Treatment While Incarcerated

Only 11% of U.S. inmates with a substance use disorder receive professional treatment while incarcerated, according to a recent report from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of federal, state, and local inmates ages 12 and older were diagnosed with a substance use disorder (substance abuse and/or dependence) in 2006. Of these inmates, only 11% had received any type of professional treatment while they were incarcerated, including treatment in a residential facility or unit (7%), professional counseling (5%), or pharmacological therapy (0.2%). Inmates were most likely to have received supplemental addiction-related services, such as mutual support and peer counseling (23%) or education (14%). The CASA report estimates that “if all inmates who needed treatment and aftercare received such services, the nation would break even in a year if just over 10 percent remained substance and crime free and employed. Thereafter, for each inmate who remained sober, employed and crime free the nation would reap an economic benefit of \$90,953 per year” (CASA Press Release, p. 1).

**While Nearly Two-Thirds of
U.S. Inmates in 2006 Had a
Substance Use Disorder (SUD) . . .**



**. . . Only 11% of Those with a
SUD Received Professional
Treatment While Incarcerated**



NOTES: Data were calculated by CASA from the 2004 *Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities* data file; the 2004 *Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities* data file; the 2002 *Survey of Inmates in Local Jails* data file; and the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics Report, *Prisoners in 2006*. Prevalence rates for 2006 were imputed based on the weighted datasets and the 2006 prison and jail population estimates.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA), *Behind Bars II: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population, 2010*; and CASA, “New CASA Report Finds: 65 Percent of All U.S. Inmates Meet Medical Criteria for Substance Abuse Addiction, Only 11 Percent Receive Any Treatment,” *CASA Press Release*, February 26, 2010. Available online at <http://www.casacolumbia.org>.