

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

Study Finds Cocaine and Alcohol Use Among Domestic Violence Participants

A survey team consisting of medical personnel and researchers interviewed assailants, victims, and family members at the scene of police calls for domestic assault in Memphis, Tennessee. According to self-reports of substance use from assailants and victims, as well as reports of substance use seen by family members, nearly all of the assailants (94%) and 43% of the victims had used alcohol and/or other drugs in the six hours prior to the assault. The substance most commonly used by both the assailants and the victims was a combination of cocaine and alcohol. In addition, on-site urinalysis drug testing showed that two-thirds of the assailants who denied recent drug use tested positive for cocaine. According to the author, "less than 15% of assailants with a long history of drug abuse (greater than 6 months) had ever received treatment or counseling". For more information contact Dr. Daniel Brookoff by phone (901-726-8255) or e-mail (brookofd@mhsgate.meth-mem.org).

Substance Used by Assailants and Victims Prior to Domestic Assault (As Reported by Participants and/or Family Members) (n=136)

Substance	Percent of Assailants Using Substance Prior to Assault	Percent of Victims Using Substance Prior to Assault
Cocaine and alcohol	47%	8%
Cocaine, marijuana and alcohol	20%	7%
Alcohol alone	17%	14%
Marijuana and alcohol	8%	6%
Other drugs/combinations	2%	8%
Any alcohol or other drug use	94%	43%

SOURCE: Daniel Brookoff, "Drug Use and Domestic Violence," National Institute of Justice Research In Progress Seminar Series, 1996. See below for ordering information.

DRUG USE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE

A videotape of Dr. Daniel Brookoff's NIJ presentation, "Drug Use and Domestic Violence," is now available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) at 800-851-3420 or 301-251-5500. The order number for this video is NCJ163056.

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