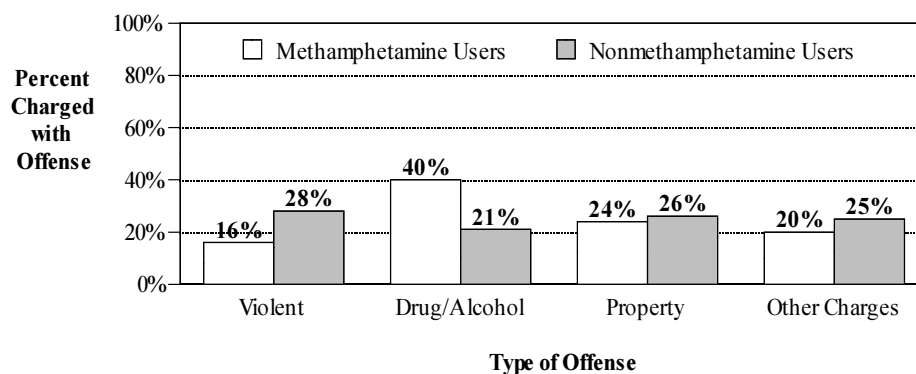


Arrestees Who Use Methamphetamine Less Likely Than Non-Meth Users to Be Arrested for a Violent Offense

Methamphetamine users were significantly less likely than non-users to be arrested for a violent offense, according to recent data from five western Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program sites.* Overall, 16% of the adult arrestees who reported using meth within the 30 days prior to the interview had been charged with violent crimes---compared to nearly twice as many non-methamphetamine users (28%). According to the authors, this finding appears to differ with medical literature and popular press reports about the connection between methamphetamine and violent behavior. A similar finding 15 years ago showed that D.C. arrestees who used PCP were less likely to be arrested for violent crimes (Wish, 1986).

Percentage of Adult Arrestees Charged with Violent, Drug/Alcohol, Property, and Other Offenses, by Reported Methamphetamine Use, 1996-97
(n=929 arrestees in Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland, San Diego, and San Jose ADAM Sites)



*A methamphetamine addendum was added to the interviews conducted in five western ADAM sites that appeared to have increasing rates of meth use--Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland, San Diego, and San Jose.

NOTES: Methamphetamine use was measured by self-report. Non-methamphetamine users may have used one or more other drugs.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from data from National Institute of Justice (NIJ), "Meth Matters: Report on Methamphetamine Users in Five Western Cities" NIJ Research Report, 1999. A copy is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs.htm.
Eric D. Wish, "PCP and Crime: Just Another Illicit Drug?." In Doris H. Clouet (Ed.), *Phencyclidine: An Update*, NIDA Research Monograph 64, 1986.