

DRUG RELATED CRIME



The Statistics and path to recovery

CRIME SCENE · DO NOT CROSS · CRIME SCENE · DO NOT CROSS

By Dr Michael Olla



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KEY FINDINGS

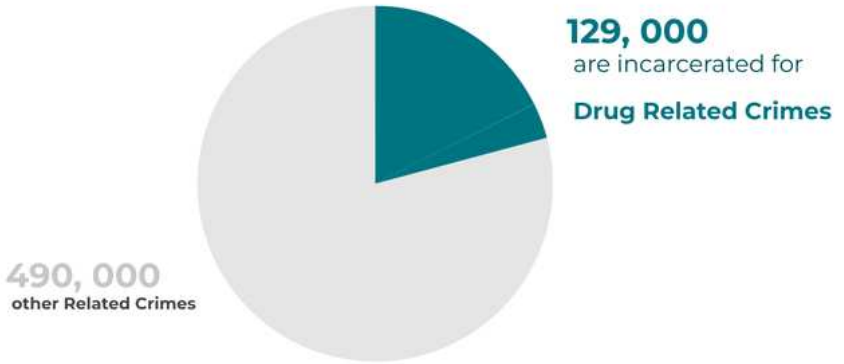
- Out of 619,000 people behind bars, 129,000 are incarcerated for drug-related crimes. About 109,000 of these individuals don't have any convictions, while the other 20,000 are already convicted. Possession has been the number one cause of these incarcerations—61,000 are still unconvicted and 11,000 are convicted.
- In 2019, drug possession had the highest number of arrests with a total of 1.35 million. Compared to other crimes, this is significantly higher. The sale and manufacture of drugs only had 210,000 arrests, while violent crimes only had 500,000 arrests.
- About 56.1% of drivers involved in serious injury and fatal crashes tested positive for at least one drug in Q4 2020. According to the CDC, 25% of impaired drivers test positive for marijuana, 9% for opioids, 10% for stimulants, and 8% for sedatives.
- The Coastal/Interior region has the highest number of drug seizure events this fiscal year with a total of 31,952 seizures. The U.S. Border Patrol and Office of Field Operations have seized an estimated total weight of 461K lbs of drugs and a total of 44,336 drug seizure events in all borders.
- About 75% of people who begin rehabilitation for substance use disorder reported engaging in violent crimes. It's reported that about 71.8% of sexual assault offenders who are under the influence use physical force against their victims.



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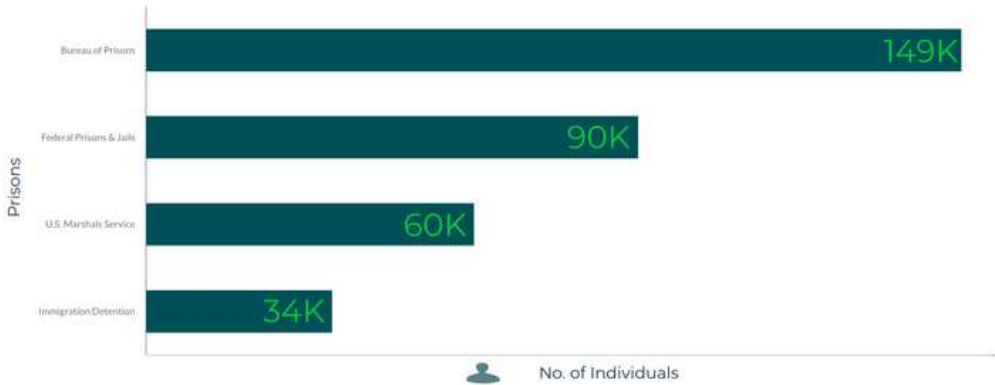
DRUG RELATED ARRESTS

Out of 619,000 people behind bars...



Source: Prisonpolicy.org

No. of Locked up Individuals for Drug Related Cases



Source: Prisonpolicy.org



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DRUG RELATED ARRESTS

1 out of 5

Incarcerated Individuals is Locked up for a Drug Offense

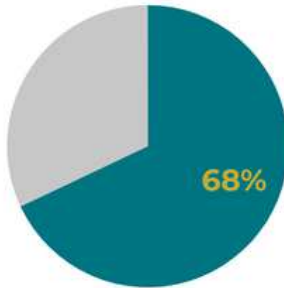


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Source: Prisonpolicy.org

An estimated **68%** of drug offenders are rearrested within three years of release from prison

■ Re-arrested (68%) ■ Not re-arrested (32%)



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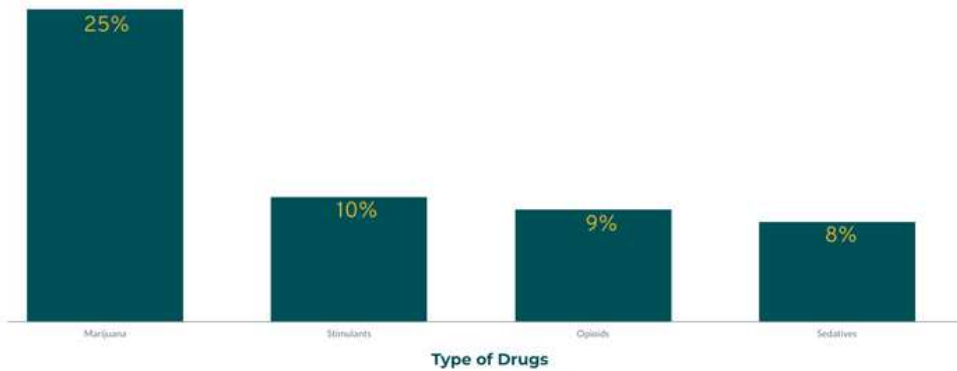
Source: Ncbi.nlm.nih.gov



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DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)

% of Impaired Drivers who Tested Positive to Drugs

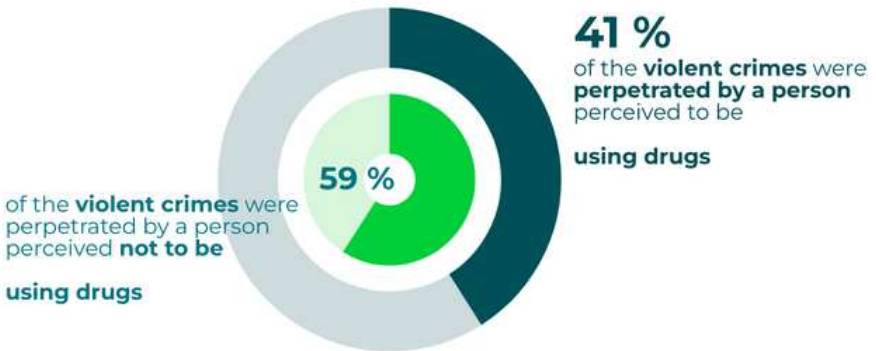


DRUG-INDUCED SEXUAL AND VIOLENT CRIMES

About **56% of women** and **44% of men** **unknowingly consumed spiked food or drinks**



Violent Crimes Against College Students



HOW EVIDENCE-BASED AND HOLISTIC TREATMENT PROGRAMS CAN REDUCE DRUG-RELATED CRIMES

The issue of drug-related crimes is a complex and multifaceted problem that requires a comprehensive approach for effective mitigation. Traditional punitive measures have proven to be insufficient in addressing the root causes of drug dependency and its subsequent criminal activities. This article delves into how evidence-based and holistic treatment programs can serve as a viable solution to reduce drug-related crimes.

The Context of Drug-Related Crimes

Understanding the context of drug-related crimes is crucial. These crimes often stem from a cycle of addiction, poverty, and lack of access to quality healthcare and education. The criminal justice system has been more reactive than proactive, focusing on punishment rather than prevention and rehabilitation.

What Are Evidence-Based Treatment Programs?

Evidence-based treatment programs are grounded in scientific research and empirical evidence. They employ methods that have been rigorously tested and proven to be effective in treating drug addiction. Examples include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), and Motivational Interviewing.

Why They Work

Scientifically Proven: These methods are backed by extensive research.

Tailored Treatment: Programs can be customized to suit individual needs.

Multi-disciplinary Approach: They often involve healthcare professionals from various fields.

What Are Holistic Treatment Programs?

Holistic treatment programs take into account the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of an individual. They often incorporate alternative therapies like acupuncture, yoga, and mindfulness meditation along with traditional treatments.



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THE SYNERGY OF EVIDENCE-BASED AND HOLISTIC APPROACHES

Combining both evidence-based and holistic treatments can offer a comprehensive treatment plan that addresses both the medical and emotional aspects of drug addiction. This multi-pronged approach is more likely to result in long-term recovery, thereby reducing the likelihood of drug-related crimes.

Case Studies

- Sancho, Marta et al. “Mindfulness-Based Interventions for the Treatment of Substance and Behavioral Addictions: A Systematic Review.” *Frontiers in psychiatry* vol. 9 95. 29 Mar. 2018 stated: The revised literature gives support to the effectiveness of the MBIs (Mindfulness Based Interventions or holistic interventions). These treatments are adequate to reduce dependence, craving, and other addiction-related symptoms as well as to improve mood state and emotion dysregulation. There are certain interventions that presented better results in the treatment of addiction such as MBRP, MTS, or MORE. Nevertheless, the best effectiveness may be the combination of the MBIs with TAU or another active treatment.

Conclusion

Reducing drug-related crimes cannot be achieved through punitive measures alone. Evidence-based and holistic treatment programs offer a more effective and humane solution. By addressing the root causes of drug addiction, these programs not only rehabilitate the individual but also contribute to a safer and more harmonious society.



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THANK YOU

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SOURCES:

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