



Organization of  
American States

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission **CICAD**



## Regional Workshop on Drug Information Networks (DINs)



# RESULTS OF THE DRUG ABUSE MONITORING SURVEY WITHIN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES IN BERMUDA

Antigua & Barbuda  
2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2012

*Dr. Kyla Raynor*

Senior Research Officer/Policy Analyst  
Department for National Drug Control  
Government of Bermuda

# PURPOSE

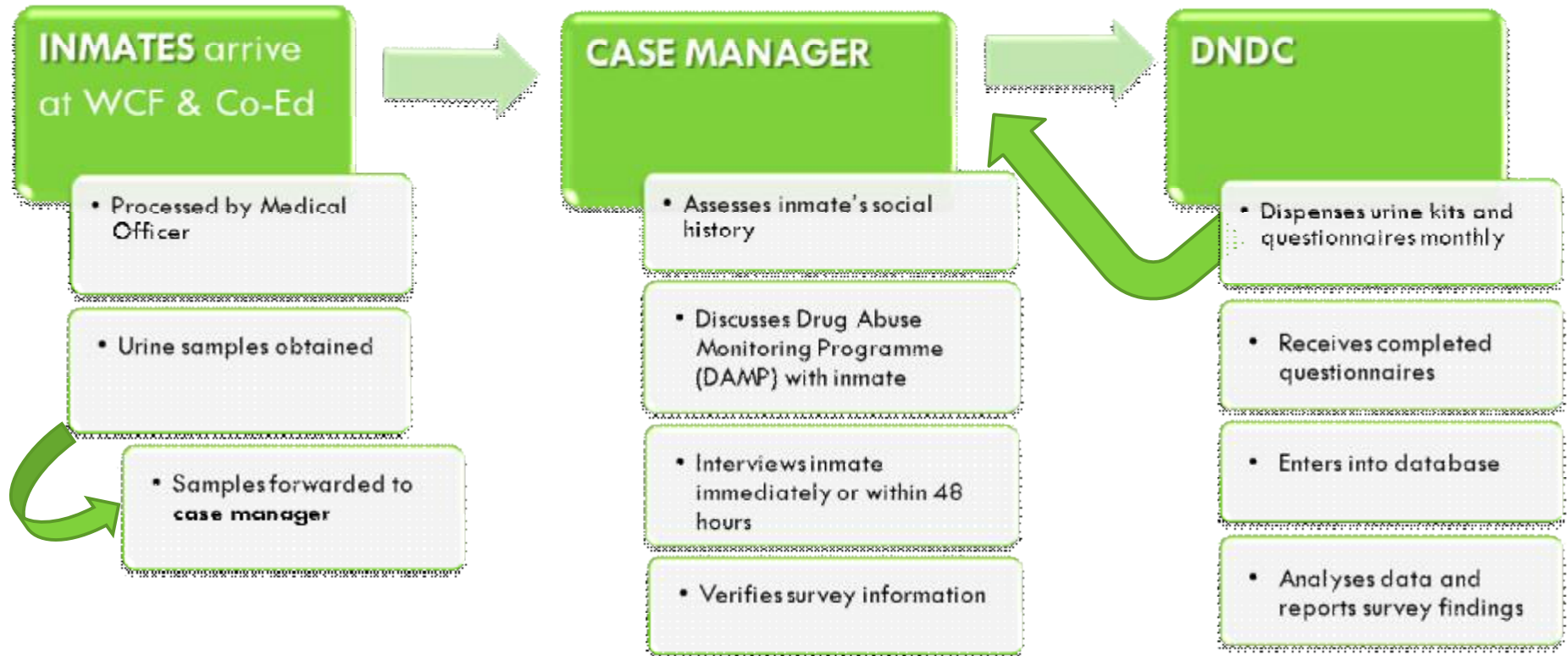
2

- .. Surveillance of drug use and crimes among the inmate population (high risk).
- .. Classification of levels of severity of substance abuse problems among reception inmates (none, low, intermediate, substantial, severe).
- .. Needs analysis of mandatory substance abuse treatment - identify inmates needing drug treatment while incarcerated (Right Living House).
- .. Trend analysis of drug consumption and criminality over time

# PROCESS

3

## DATA COLLECTION (April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012)



# RESPONDENTS

4

- .. Census of all new inmates in two facilities:
  - ✧ Westgate Correctional Facility
  - ✧ Co-Ed Facility
- .. Voluntary

| Survey Year | Number of Inmates (Respondents) | Respondents           |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2004/2005   | 257                             | Men only              |
| 2006/2007   | 178                             | Men only              |
| 2011/2012   | 293                             | Men, Women, Juveniles |

# QUESTIONNAIRE

5

- Drug Abuse Monitoring Programme:
  - ✘ DAST-28 (Drug Abuse Screening Test) plus additional items related to drug use history and crime
  - ✘ Entire questionnaire takes ≈ 30 mins. – 2½ hours to complete
- Topics include:
  - ✘ Demographics
  - ✘ Self Reported Drug Use
  - ✘ Drug Screening
  - ✘ Drug Treatment & Perceptions of Need for Treatment
    - Perceptions of current offences' relationship to drugs and/or alcohol
  - ✘ Criminal History and Outcomes (current and past offences – violent, property, drug, public order, other offences; fine, probation, prison)
  - ✘ Personal Health & Abuse History (HIV, physically or sexually abused)
  - ✘ Drug Market
    - Purchase and distribution of illegal drugs in past year and 30 days
    - Self-report of other drugs on the streets
  - ✘ DAST

*Drug Abuse Monitoring Survey*  
*In collaboration with the Department of Corrections*

DAST (Drug Abuse Screening Test) 20/10/10 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

| Question   | Response (Please circle) |    |
|--|--------------------------|----|
|  | Yes                      | No |
| 1 Have you used drugs other than those required for medical purposes?                              |                          |    |
| 2 Have you abused (prescription) drugs?  |                          |    |
| 3 Do you abuse more than one drug at a time?   |                          |    |
| 4 Do you get through the week without using drugs (other than those required for medical reasons)? |                          |    |
| 5 Are you always able to stop using drugs when you want to?  |                          |    |
| 6 Do you try to limit your drug use to certain situations?   |                          |    |
| 7 Have you had "blackouts" or "slips" as a result of drug use?                                     |                          |    |
| 8 Do you ever feel bad about your drug use?  |                          |    |
| 9 Do you ever think of yourself as a addict?   |                          |    |
| 10 Do your friends or family ever suggest about you in relation to drug use?                       |                          |    |
| 11 Do you ever have any trouble or problems because of your drug use?                              |                          |    |
| 12 Has any family member ever sought help for problems related to your drug use?                   |                          |    |
| 13 Have you ever had trouble with your job because of your drug use?                               |                          |    |
| 14 Have you ever had any trouble with your family or friends because of your drug use?             |                          |    |
| 15 Have you ever been arrested because of your drug use?   |                          |    |
| 16 Have you ever been arrested because of sexual behavior while under the influence of drugs?      |                          |    |
| 17 Have you ever been arrested for driving while under the influence of drugs?                     |                          |    |
| 18 Have you ever been arrested because of illegal behavior while under the influence of drugs?     |                          |    |
| 19 Have you ever experienced withdrawal symptoms as a result of drug use?                          |                          |    |
| 20 Have you ever had medical problems as a result of your drug use?                                |                          |    |
| 21 Have you ever been arrested because of your drug use?   |                          |    |
| 22 Have you ever been arrested because of your drug use?   |                          |    |
| 23 Have you ever been arrested because of your drug use?   |                          |    |
| 24 Have you ever been arrested because of your drug use?   |                          |    |
| 25 Have you ever been arrested because of your drug use?   |                          |    |
| 26 Have you ever been arrested because of your drug use?   |                          |    |
| 27 Have you ever been arrested because of your drug use?   |                          |    |
| 28 Have you ever been arrested because of your drug use?   |                          |    |
| 29 Have you ever been arrested because of your drug use?   |                          |    |
| 30 Have you ever been arrested because of your drug use?   |                          |    |

# HOW THE DAST WORKS

6

- .. Dichotomous response category (Yes/No)
- .. A score of "1" is given for each YES response, except for items 4, 5, and 7, for which a NO response is given a score of "1"
- .. Cutoff scores of 6 through 11 are considered to be optimal for screening for substance use disorders
  - ✎ Using a cutoff score of 6 has been found to provide excellent sensitivity for identifying substance use disorders as well as satisfactory specificity (i.e., identification of persons who do not have substance use disorders).
  - ✎ Using a cutoff score of <11 somewhat reduces the sensitivity for identifying persons with substance use disorders, but more accurately identifies persons who do not have a substance use disorder.
  - ✎ Over 12 is definitely a substance abuse problem
    - In a heterogeneous psychiatric patient population, most items have been shown to correlate at least moderately well with the total scale scores.
  - ✎ The items that correlate poorly with the total scale scores appear to be items 4, 7, 16, 20, and 22
- .. Although DAST-28 was utilised, DAST-20 was used in the analysis and will be used going forward. (none = 0; low = 1 – 5; intermediate = 6 – 10; substantial = 11 – 15; severe = 16 – 20)

# PROFILE OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

7

- .. Of all inmates within the Department of Corrections, 293 persons responded to the survey.
- .. 93.2% male offenders; 82.3% were "*Black*", 72.4% were single; 60.1% with dependents; 46.8% raised by single parents; 39.2% with at most a high school education; 27.6% with part-time or odd jobs; and 54.3% being 35 years or younger.
- .. Of the 293 persons, 18 (6.1%) were repeat offenders of at most two times each.
- .. Overall, 99% ( $n = 290$ ) of the respondents have reported use of at least one drug in their lifetime, and 1 in 5 (19.5%) were poly drug users.

# DRUG CONSUMPTION

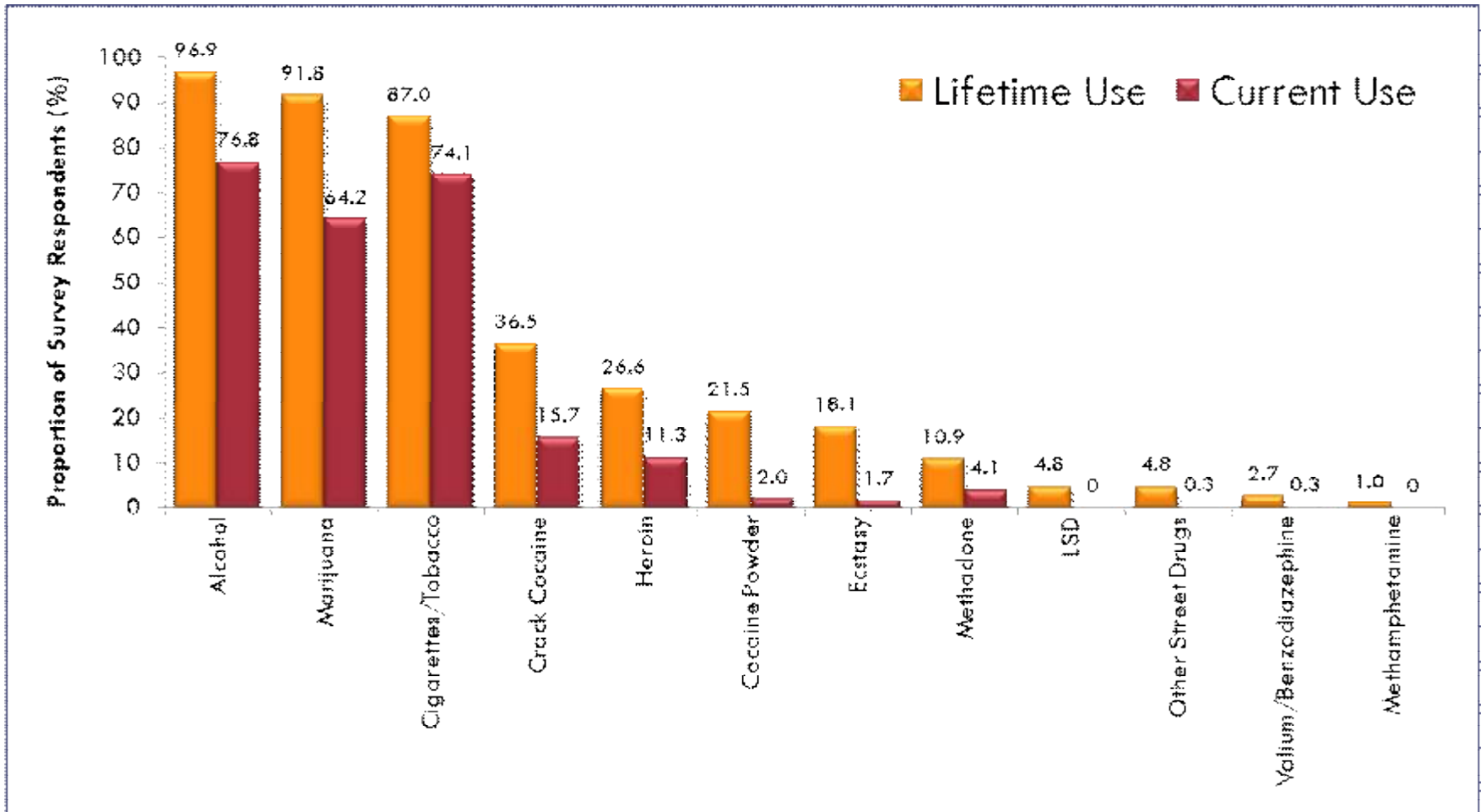
8

- Highest lifetime consumption was observed for alcohol (96.9%), marijuana (91.8%), cigarettes/tobacco (87%), crack cocaine (36.5%), and heroin (26.6%).
- Respondents indicated the highest consumption for alcohol (76.8%), cigarettes/tobacco (74.1%), and marijuana (64.2%) in the 30-days prior to the survey.
- Age of initiation of drug use ranges from a low of 14.9 years for alcohol to a high of 31.6 years for methadone.
- Marijuana and cigarette/tobacco use began around 15.1 years and the use of heroin and cocaine began after 20 years, on average.



# LIFETIME AND CURRENT PREVALENCE

9



# RAPID DRUG SCREEN RESULTS

10

| Rapid Drug Panel                             | % Positive |
|--|------------|
| THC  | 50.2       |
| Opiates                                      | 11.3       |
| Cocaine                                      | 15.4       |
| Methadone                                    | 1.7        |
| Ecstasy                                      | 1.7        |
| *16.4% of respondents refused drug screening |            |

# RAPID DRUG SCREENS VS. SELF REPORT

11

Comparison of Self-Reported Current Users of Substances and Positive Urine Tests

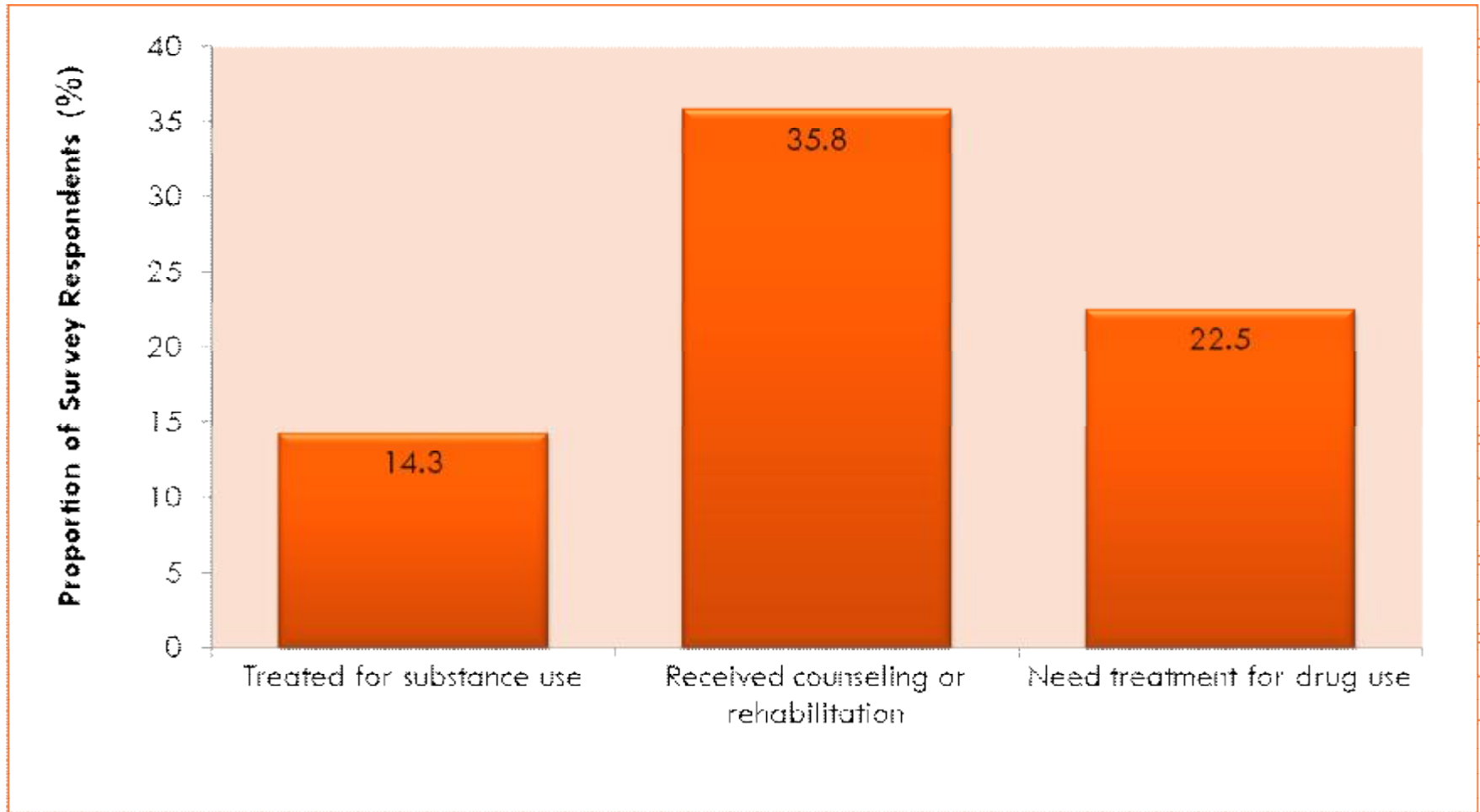
(n = 293)

| SUBSTANCE      | SELF-REPORTED CURRENT USE |      | POSITIVE URINE TEST |      | CURRENT USE AND POSITIVE URINE TEST |      |
|----------------|---------------------------|------|---------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|
|                | n                         | %    | n                   | %    | n                                   | %    |
| Marijuana/THC  | 188                       | 64.2 | 147                 | 50.2 | 132                                 | 45.1 |
| Heroin/Opiates | 33                        | 11.3 | 33                  | 11.3 | 21                                  | 7.2  |
| Crack Cocaine  | 46                        | 15.7 | 45                  | 15.4 | 29                                  | 9.9  |
| Cocaine Powder | 6                         | 2.0  |                     |      | 1                                   | 0.3  |
| Ecstasy        | 5                         | 1.7  | 5                   | 1.7  | 3                                   | 1.0  |
| Methadone      | 12                        | 4.1  | 5                   | 1.7  | 2                                   | 0.7  |

- Overestimation apparent in self-reported use of marijuana/THC; 188 inmates said they had used marijuana in the past 30 days, however urine results suggest fewer, n=147.
- Underestimation evident in self-reported use of cocaine powder; 6 inmates indicated use however drug screening results indicate 45 were actually positive for cocaine.

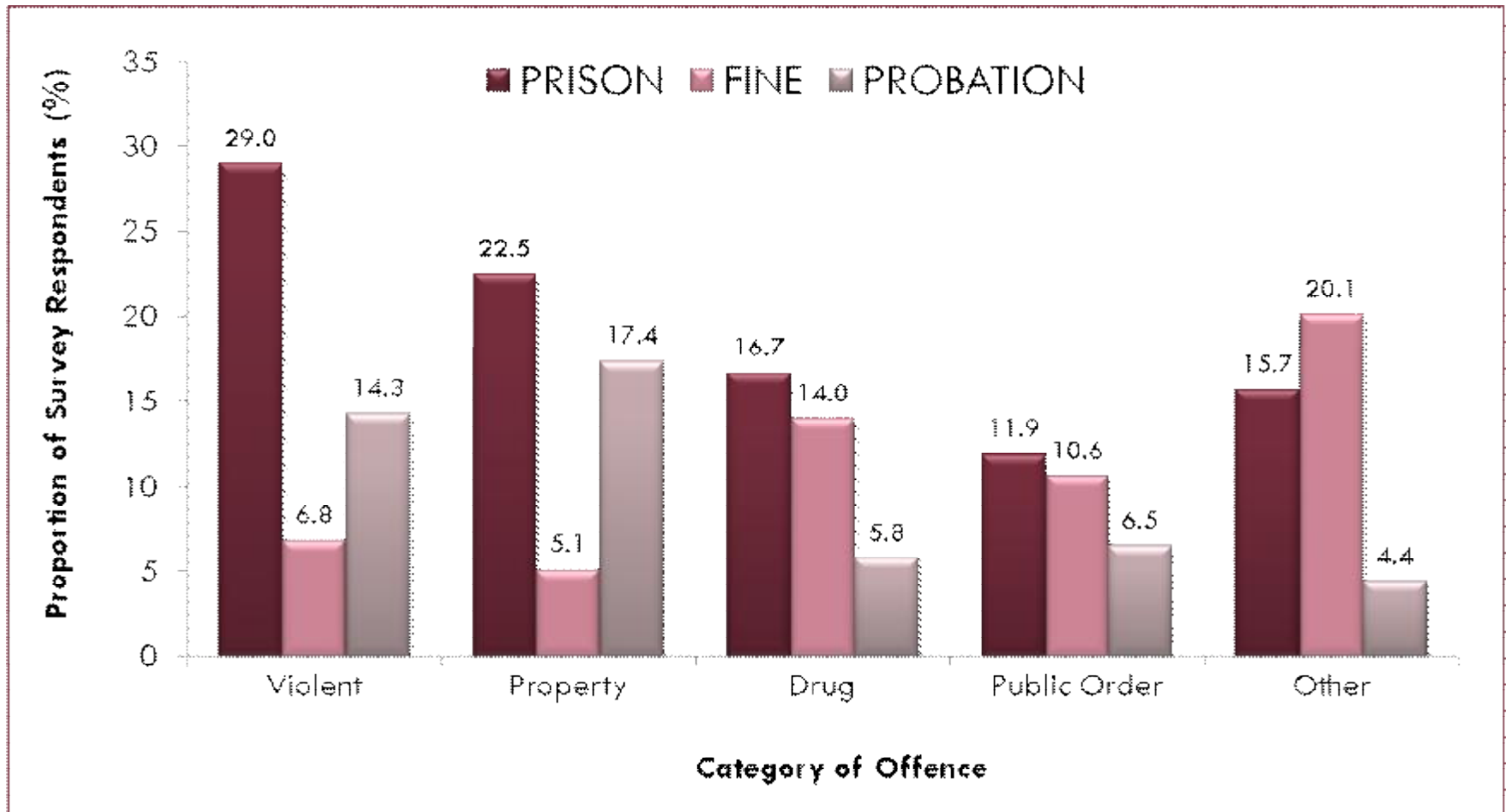
# DRUG TREATMENT

12



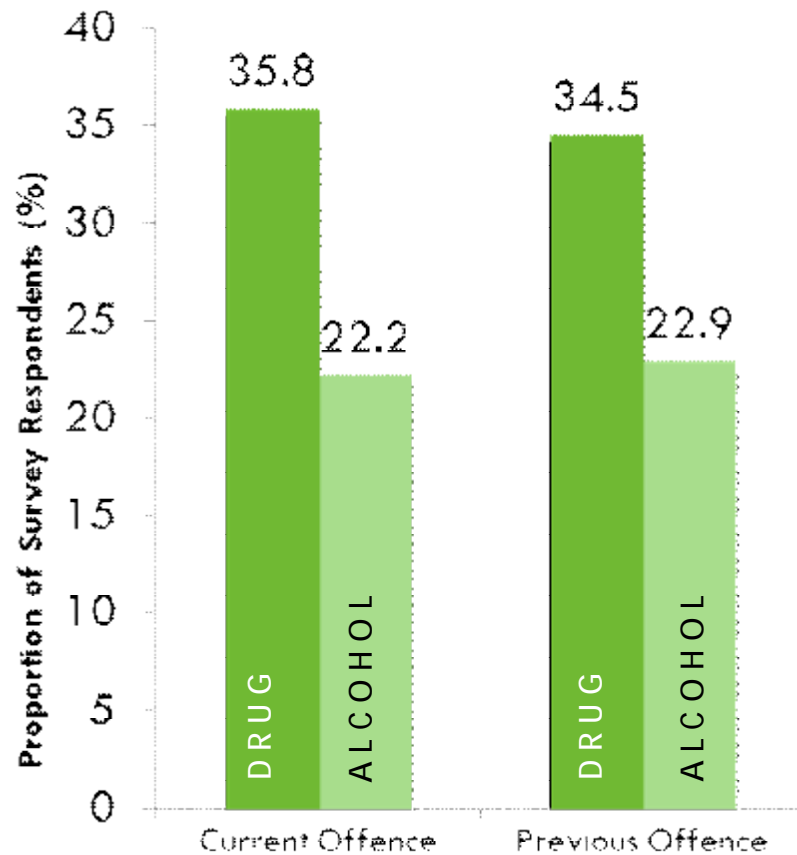
# CRIMINALITY

13

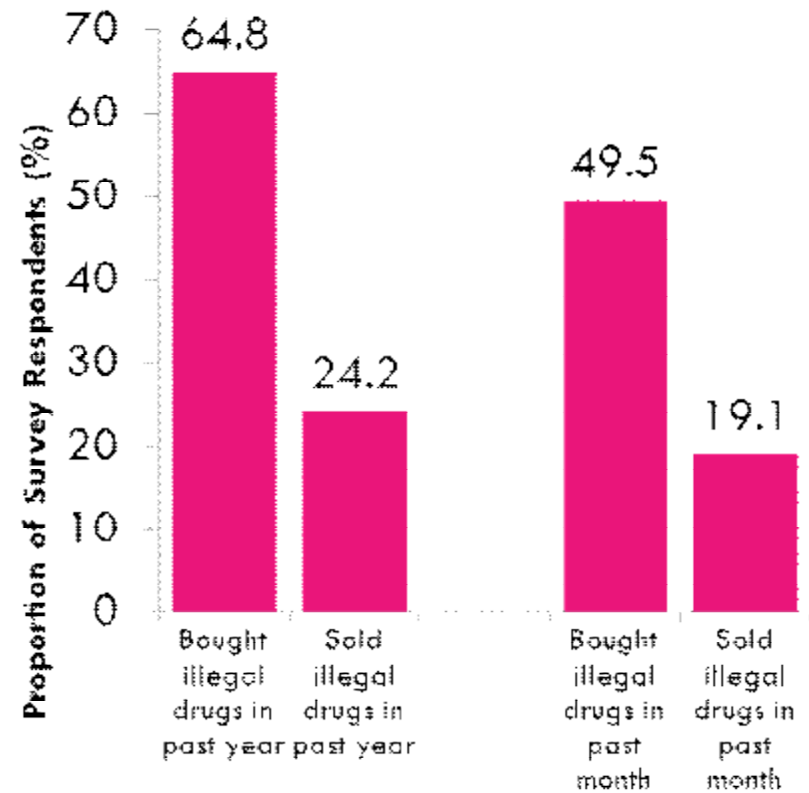


# DRUG CONNECTION WITH OFFENCE

14



## DRUG MARKET CONNECTION



# SELF-REPORTED HISTORY OF ABUSE

15

| TYPE OF ABUSE  | %    | n  |
|----------------|------|----|
| Physical Abuse | 16.4 | 48 |
| Sexual Abuse   | 5.8  | 17 |
| Neglect        | 15.0 | 44 |
| Abandonment    | 15.4 | 44 |

# DAST RESULTS

16

|                               | Level of Severity   | % Respondents |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
|                               | None (0)            | 5.5           |
|                               | Low (1-5)           | 50.9          |
| Substance abuse or dependence | Intermediate (6-10) | 21.8          |
|                               | Substantial (11-15) | 16.4          |
|                               | Severe (16-20)      | 5.5           |

- Overall, 43.7% of reception offenders were classified as having “*intermediate to severe*” drug abuse problems at the time of their current arrests and incarceration.
- About 84.6% reported that they could not get through the week without using drugs.
- More than half (53.6%) of all offenders indicated their spouse/parents complained about their involvement with drugs.



# QUESTIONS?

*Thank You*

*Dr. Kyla Raynor*

Senior Research Officer/Policy Analyst  
Department for National Drug Control

[www.dndc.gov.bm](http://www.dndc.gov.bm)

Government of Bermuda



*“Attempts to deter drug use through punishment fail because they do not address the complex causes of drug abuse, which begins within the context of family problems and peer deviant behavior.”*

United States National Institute of