

# Criminal Justice & Behavioral Health in New York

Presented by:  
The Coalition for Behavioral Health

## **BHECON efforts in New York are made possible by a generous grant from the New York Community Trust.**

The Behavioral Health + Economics Network, known as BHECON (pronounced “beacon”) unites diverse stakeholders in a series of forums to examine and advance policy reforms to strengthen states’ behavioral health delivery systems.

Led by the National Council for Behavioral Health with our state partners, BHECON participants include individuals and organizations recognized for their commitment to improving lives of people living with serious mental illness and incorporates representatives from the behavioral health, criminal justice, and public safety sectors, along with individuals working in the greater medical field.

BHECON has partnered with academic research institutions to provide data and analysis specific to the topics presented at the forums and has curated national data in support of this effort.



The Coalition is the umbrella advocacy organization of behavioral health agencies in the five boroughs of New York City and surrounding counties. The Coalition's mission is to advocate for, inform, and provide training and technical assistance for these agencies so that they may provide the best possible services with sufficient funding in a favorable regulatory environment. Taken together, these 140 community based organizations serve more than 450,000 adults and children and deliver the entire continuum of behavioral health care.



**Moderator:**

Christy Parque, MSW  
President & CEO  
The Coalition for Behavioral  
Health

**Presenter:**

John Volpe, LCSW  
Special Advisor on Criminal Justice  
NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Division of Mental Hygiene



**Presenter:**

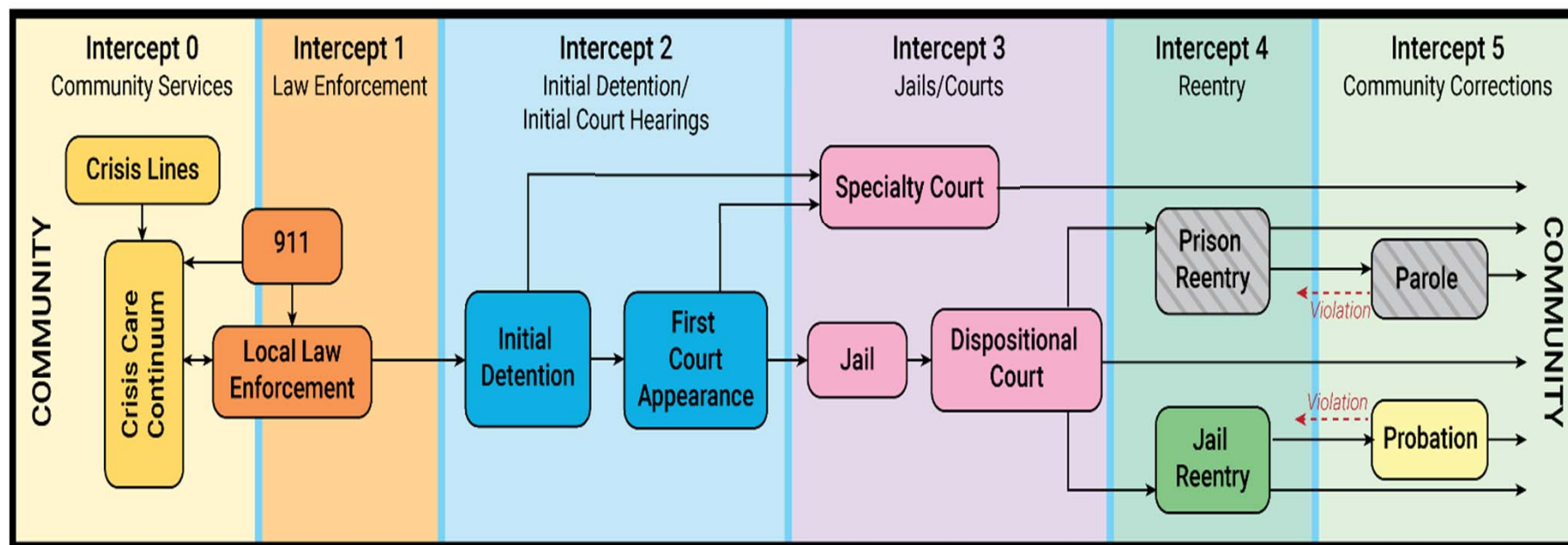
Ann-Marie Louison  
Chief Strategic Initiatives Officer  
CASES



# Agenda

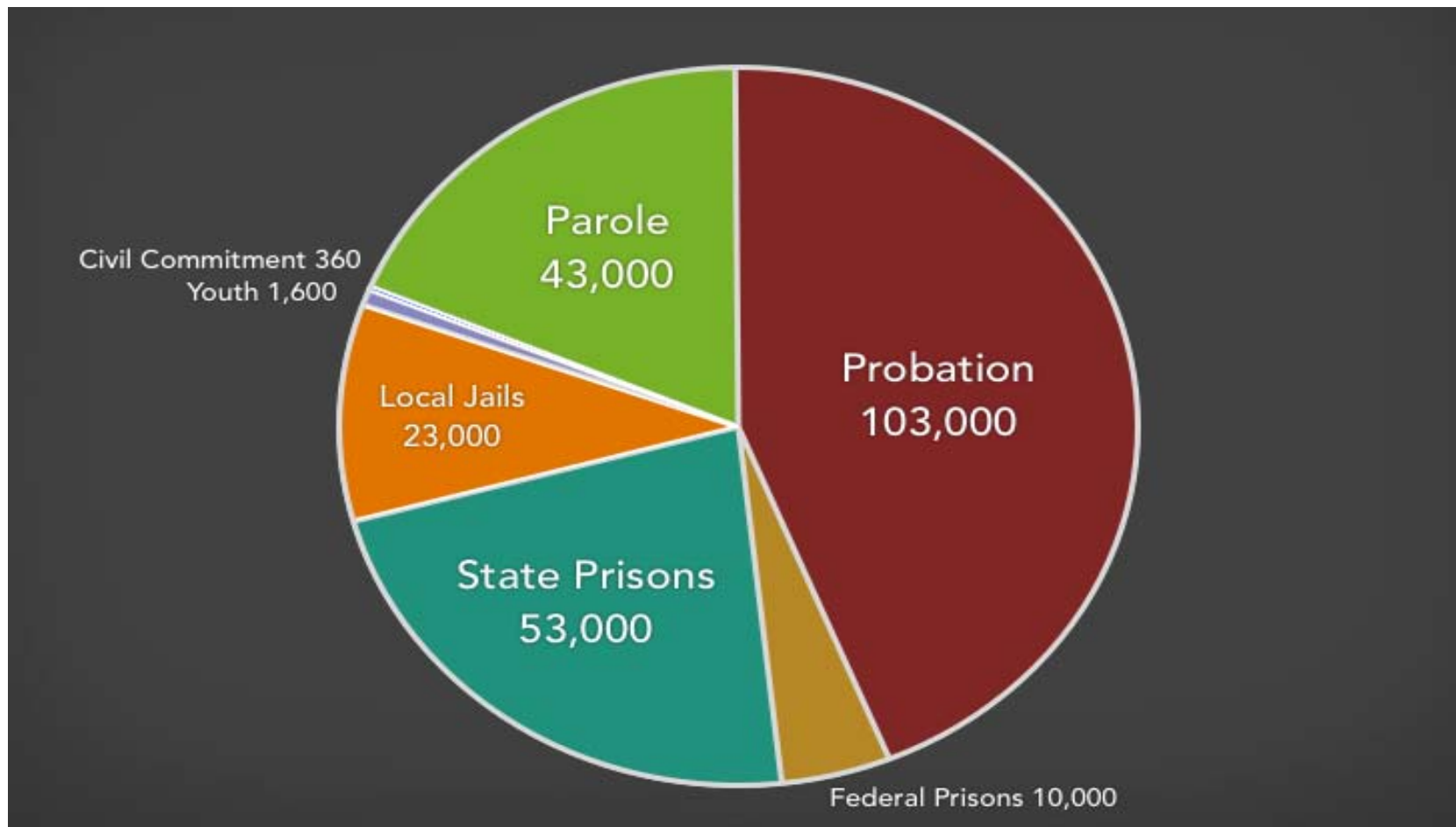
- Introductions
- The Criminal Justice-Involved Population
- Medicaid and Criminal Justice Considerations
- Perspectives from a Community Provider
- Q&A

# Pathways through Criminal Justice System



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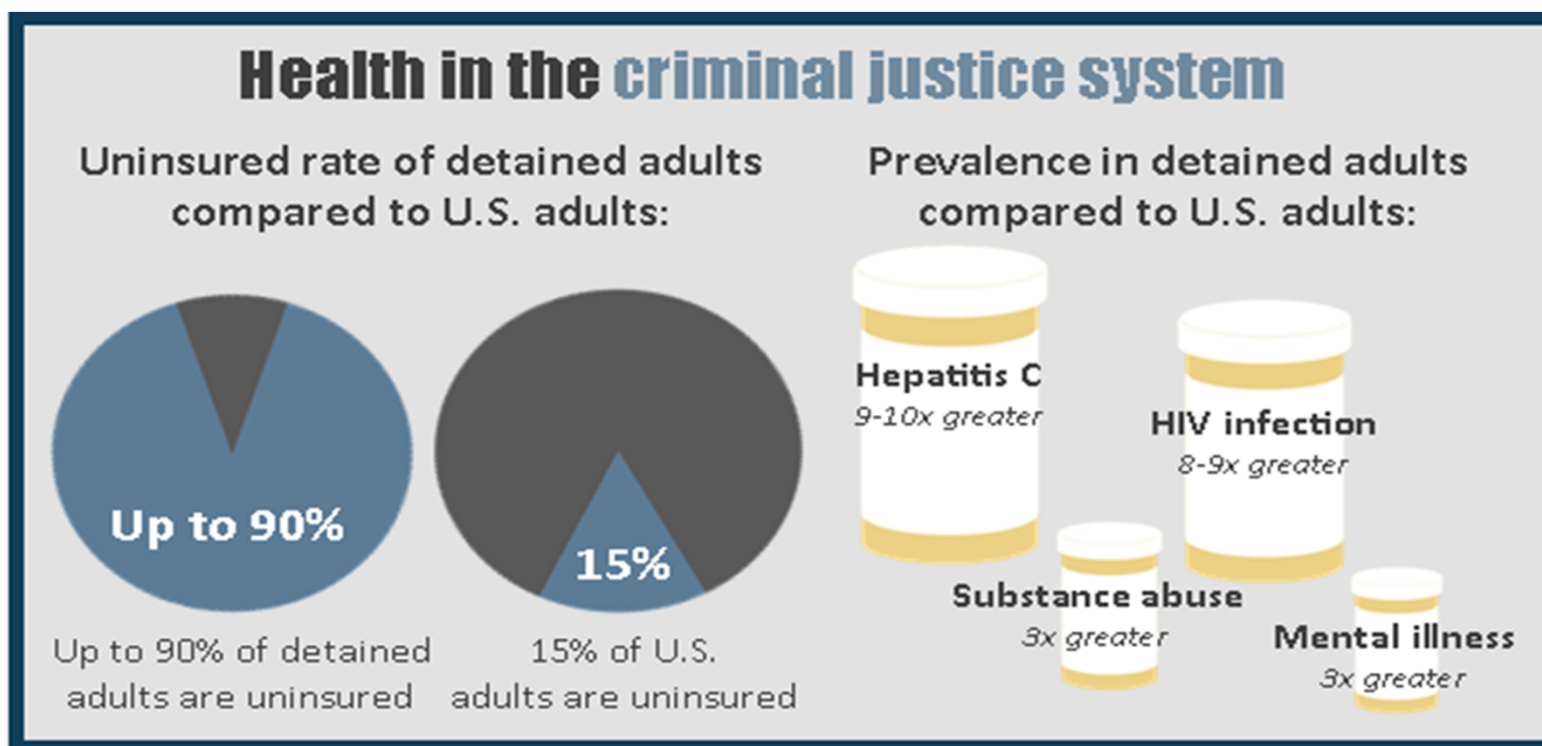
# New York State Criminal Justice Population: 233,960 people



Prison Policy Initiative see  
<http://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/50statepie.html>



# Chronic Health Conditions in the Criminal Justice System



Source: Colorado Center for Law and Policy

<http://cclponline.org/our-issues/health-care-for-criminal-justice-populations/>

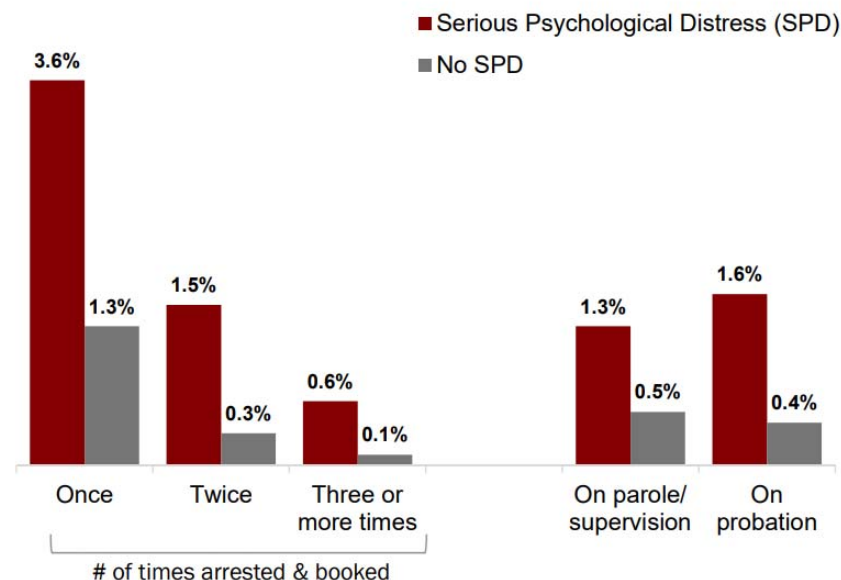


# Disproportionate Arrests of Individuals with Serious Mental Illness in the U.S.

In the United States, an individual who has had serious psychological distress in the past year is three times more likely to be arrested or on parole or probation.

In 2012, jails and prisons housed 10 times the number of individuals living with mental illness than did state hospitals.

## Contact with criminal justice system



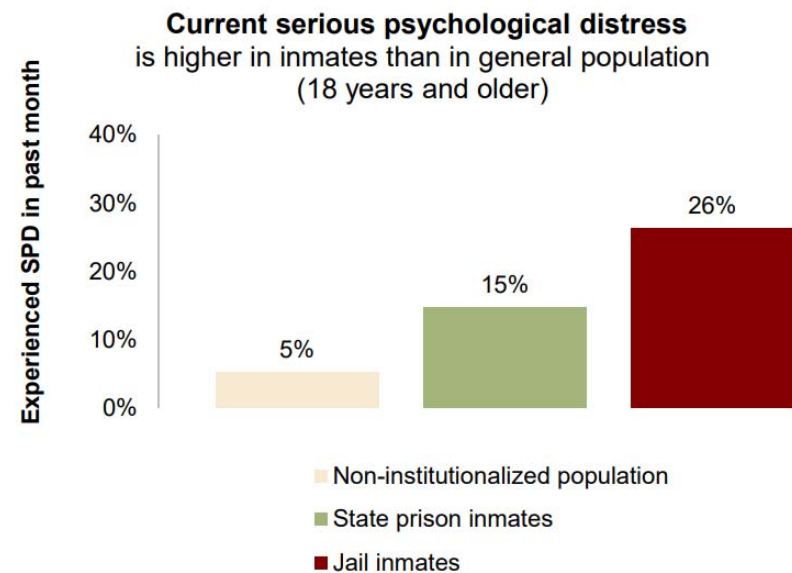
Source: National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) 2015  
Survey does not include current institutionalized population

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# Inmates are More Likely to Have Experienced Serious Psychological Distress

A large percentage of the U.S. adult prison and jail inmate population currently experiences serious psychological distress compared to the non-institutionalized population.

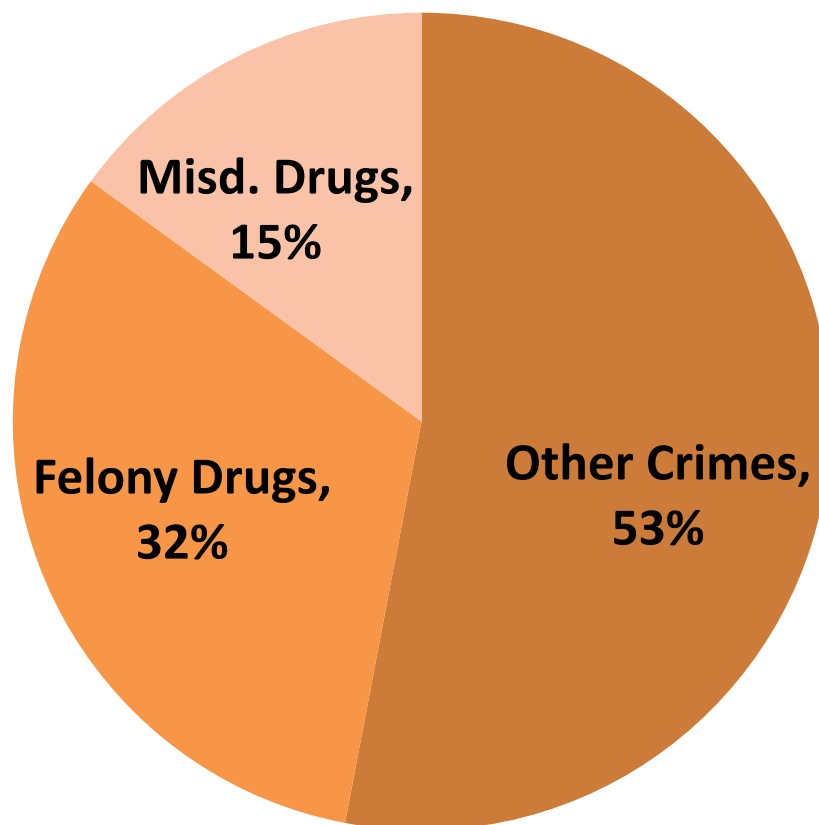
Mental health issues are observed at higher rates in local jails than in prisons.



Source: National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) 2015  
Bureau of Justice report: Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2011-12,  
based on data from the National Inmate Survey

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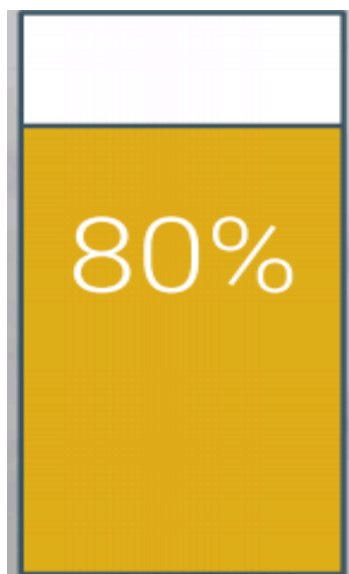
# NYS Arrests and Substance Use



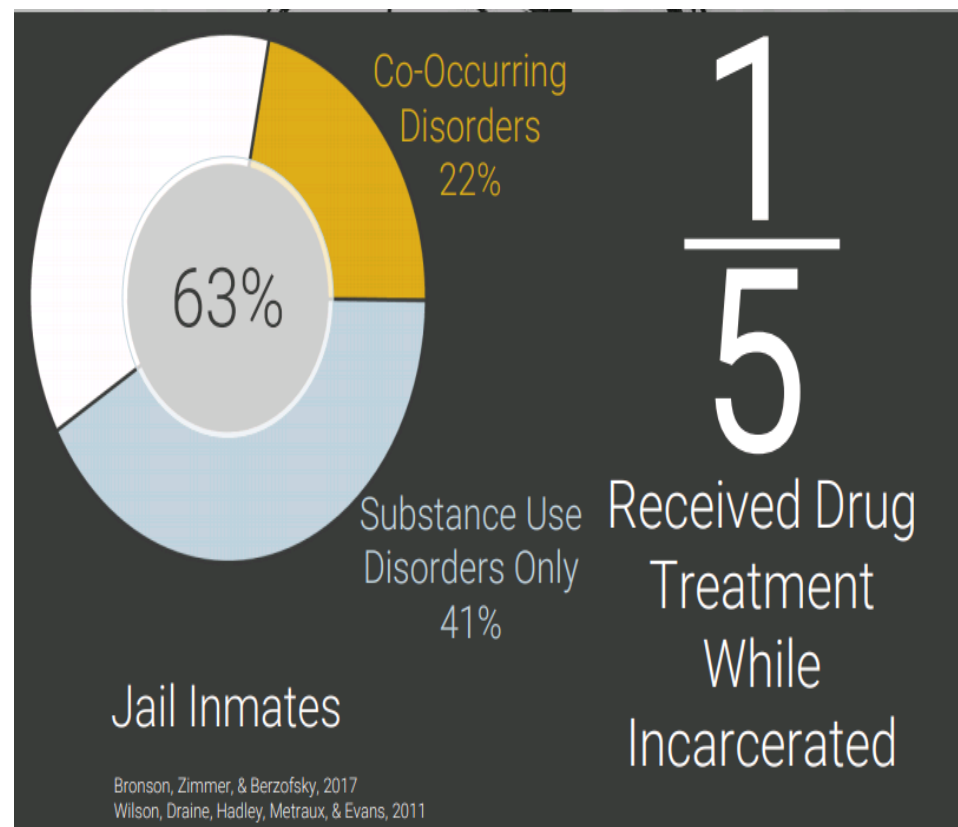
<http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/arrests/nys.pdf>

[www.bhecon.org](http://www.bhecon.org)

# Jails and Substance Use Disorders



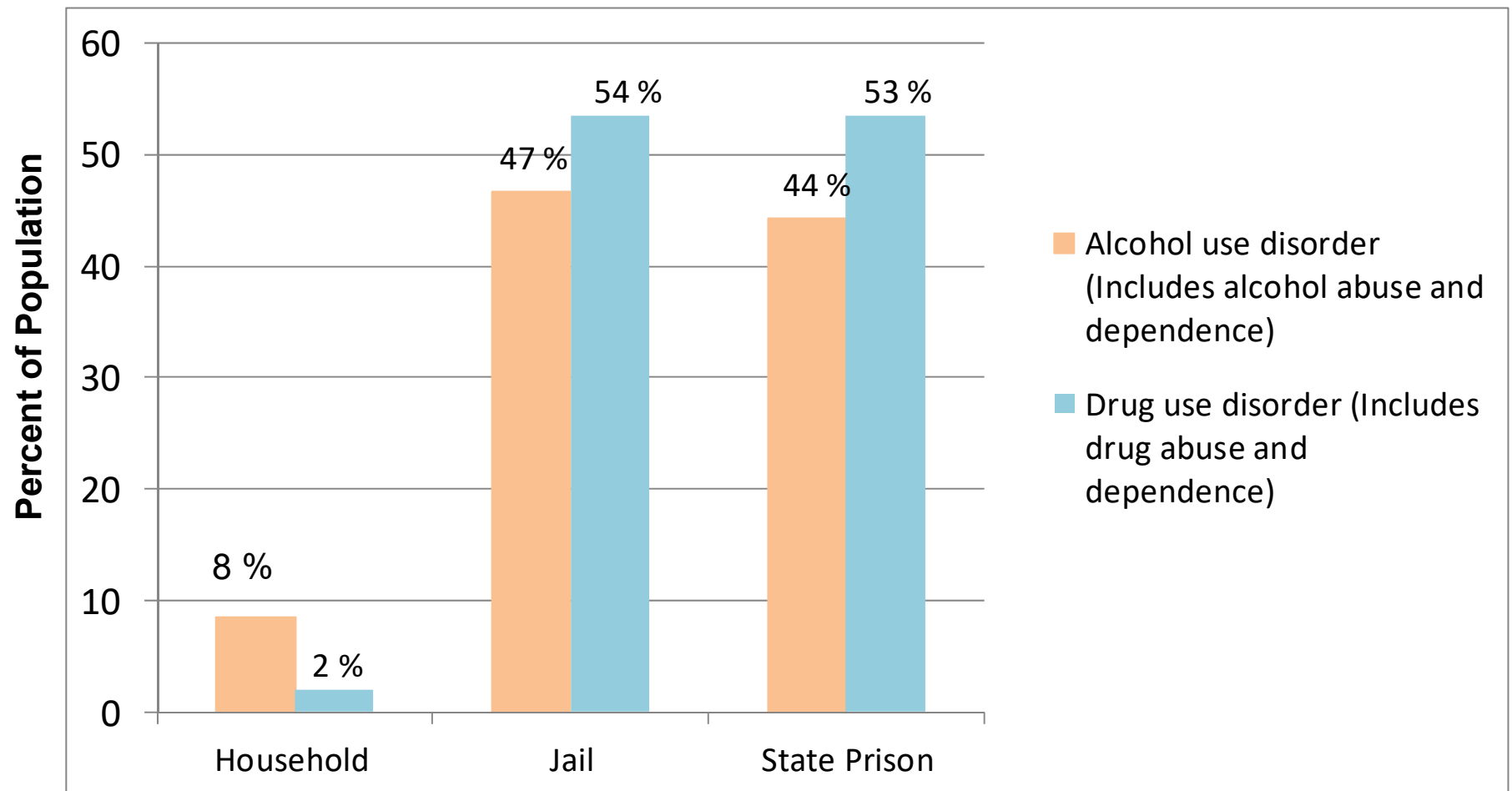
Drug Testing of Arrestees



Arrestee Drug Monitoring , 2013

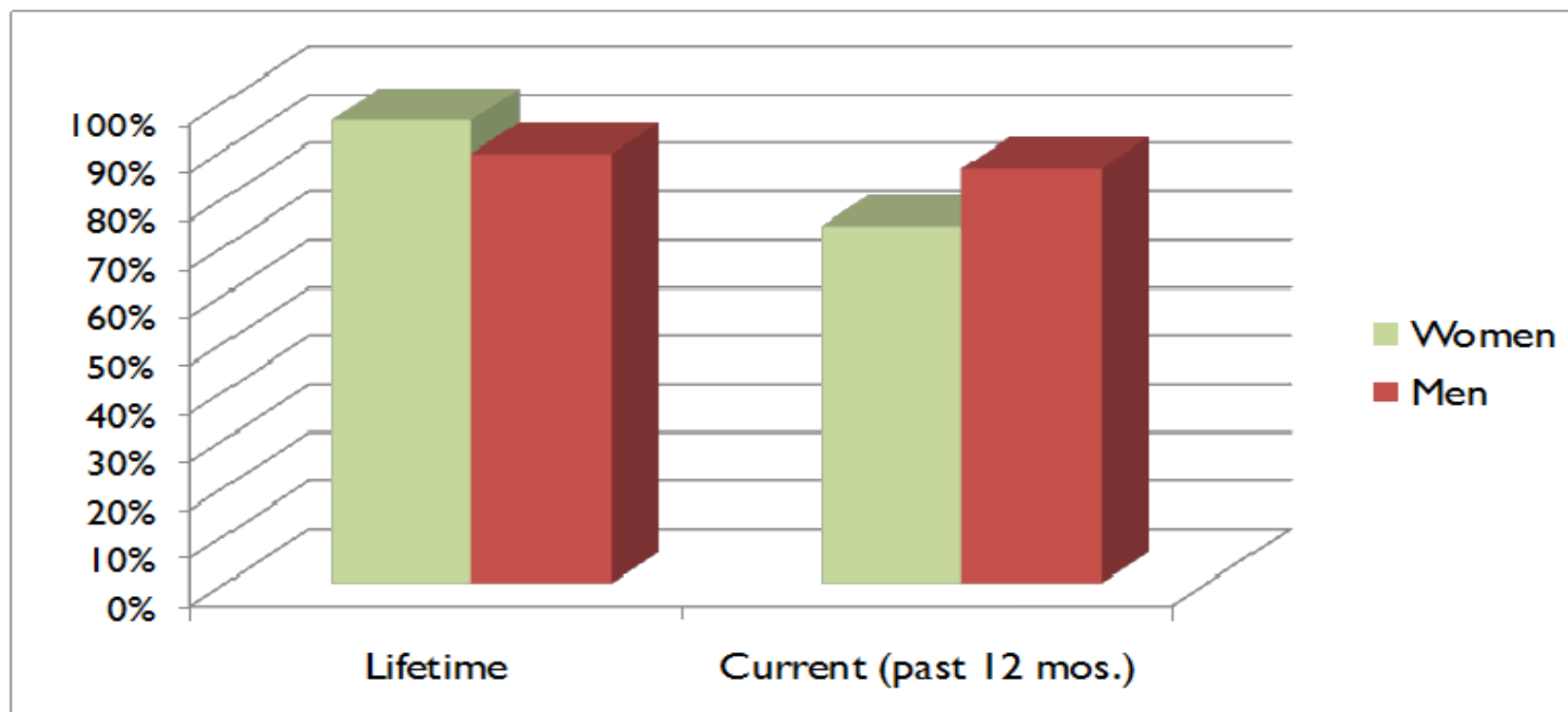
[www.bhecon.org](http://www.bhecon.org)

# Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders in Jails and Prisons



Source: Abrams & Teplin (2010)

# Trauma Exposure



Differences between genders is minimal Trauma is not past, but Ongoing

Source: Steadman, Lifetime experience of trauma among participants in the cross-site evaluation of the TCE for Jail Diversion Programs initiative, 2009.

Estimated number of  
**New York state prison inmates** in 2015,  
previously diagnosed with serious mental illness :

**8,934**

Estimate of overall annual costs in 2015:

**\$558,303,460**

*Overall annual costs based on 2015 average of all state prison inmates in New York  
Source: Annual Survey of State Government Finances 2015  
Survey of Inmates in State/Federal Correctional facilities, BJS, 2004  
New York State, Commission of Correction - Inmate Population Statistics 2015*

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# Access to Health Care

- Medicaid provides access to health care and is an important solution to improve the health of persons involved in the criminal justice system
- Lack of access in the community upon release from jail and prison leads to:
  - Increased morbidity and mortality
  - Overreliance on costly emergency room services
  - Avoidable hospitalization
  - High rates of recidivism for people transitioning from incarceration back to the community

(Source: Merall et al, 2010, The National GAINS Center, 2011)

# CJ Population Service Needs

- Medication assisted treatment
- Harm reduction services
- Outpatient addiction treatment, focused on evidence-based practices
- Residential treatment for those at highest risk of relapse
- Transitional and supportive housing
- Vocational rehab and employment services
- Care management for those with complex needs
- Outpatient mental health treatment, focused on evidence-based practices
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)

# Key Considerations for the CJ Population

- Effective Medicaid Enrollment in criminal justice settings pre-arrest community-based, corrections, and community supervision (probation/parole) settings
- Enrollment in correctional settings at Intake and Discharge Planning (Pre-Release Enrollment Program) to promote continuity of care upon release



# Pre-Booking & Post-Booking Diversion

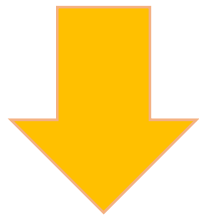
- Law Enforcement Diversion
- Court-based diversion programs & Treatment Courts



Availability of Medicaid-financed, community-based

- Mental health
- Substance use
- Rehabilitative and habilitative services
- Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management

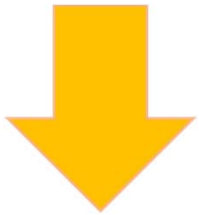
# Diversion Works



Drug and Alcohol Use



Fewer arrests



Fewer jail days

# Benefit-Cost Studies & Treatment Courts

## Per Program Participant Estimates as of May 2017

Program Name	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Chance benefits will exceed costs
Mental Health Courts	\$17,171	\$4,980	\$12,191	(\$3,106)	\$14,065	\$5.53	95%
Drug Courts	\$13,926	\$4,888	\$9,038	(\$4,924)	\$9,002	\$2.83	100%

Source: Washington State Institute Public Policy, 2017

# Q & A Discussion



# Resources

- <https://www.samhsa.gov/gains-center>
- <https://csgjusticecenter.org/>
- <https://www.vera.org/>
- <https://www.themarshallproject.org/>
- <http://www.drugpolicy.org/>

# Contact Information

➤ **NY BHECON chartbook and fact sheets are available at:**  
<https://www.bhecon.org/new-york/>

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CASES

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