



Her Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison Service Survey Report

2023

An assessment of substance use levels and associated health risk behaviours within the prison population of the Cayman Islands

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Introduction

The National Drug Council presents the report for the eighth cycle of the HM Cayman Islands Prison Service Survey (HMCIPSS). This survey assists the HM Cayman Islands Prison Service (HMCIPS) in better understanding several indicators among offenders at both the Northward and Fairbanks prison facilities. These indicators include (1) drug consumption patterns; (2) illegal activities, criminal history, and criminal offending; (3) the relationship between drugs and crime; (4) offender's perception of drug use and use in prison; (5) changes in consumption patterns; and (6) gang involvement.

The problems related to the supply, trafficking, and consumption of illicit drugs transcend international borders. The consequences of these problems impact society without discriminating against age, gender, educational level, or religion. However, prison populations are representative of a large proportion of the consequences that the supply, trafficking, and consumption of illicit drugs can have on society.

While the problem of drug use within prison is complex, it has been observed that the prevalence of illicit drug use and substance use disorders (SUDs) disproportionately impact those who are incarcerated when compared to individuals in the general population.^{1 2 3} Persons incarcerated with SUDs are more likely to experience a range of mental health and social challenges prior to incarceration including lower levels of educational attainment, lower rates of employment, and housing challenges when compared to inmates with no SUDs.³ As a result, without services or treatment to assist with SUDs while incarcerated, persons with SUDs are more likely to re-offend and be re-incarcerated as a result of underlying mental health issues and socio-demographic challenges.¹⁻³ Persons with untreated SUDs are more at risk for a range of adverse health outcomes not only during incarceration but also upon their release. Such

¹ Doyle MF, Shakeshaft A, Guthrie J, Snijder M, Butler T. A systematic review of evaluations of prison-based alcohol and other drug use behavioural treatment for men. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. 2019;43(2):120–30. doi:10.1111/1753-6405.12884

² Kinner S, Carpentier C, Montanari L. The Global Epidemiology of Drug Use in Prison. In: *Drug use in prisoners: Epidemiology, implications, and policy responses*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2018. p. 17–8.

³ Bukten A, Lund IO, Kinner SA, Rognli EB, Havnes IA, Muller AE, et al. Factors associated with drug use in prison – results from the Norwegian Offender Mental Health and Addiction (norma) study. *Health & Justice*. 2020;8(1). doi:10.1186/s40352-020-00112-8

outcomes may include heightened suicide risk, self-harm, and death from overdosing or other accidents.^{2,3}

The role of drug use in prison also carries significant safety concerns for the inmates and staff within the establishment. In addition to higher observations of violent outbursts among inmates with a history of drug offences and use, the use of drugs while incarcerated is also connected to a range of health risks including cardiac arrest, neurological impacts, self-harm, suicidal ideation, and even death.⁴ The presence of drugs within the prison has also been observed as a point of initiation for some persons who have not previously used a substance, thereby contributing to a greater prevalence of addiction among this population.⁴

Understanding the scope of drug use among the prison population is imperative not only for informing the services and treatments offered to inmates with addiction and substance misuse challenges, but also as an important public health measure in reducing the burden of untreated addiction and SUDs. Ensuring that appropriate prevention and treatment measures are in place for prison populations can serve to reduce the likelihood of re-incarceration for crimes relating to drugs and simultaneously reduces the public health burden from the misuse of alcohol and other drugs once an inmate is released back into society.

⁴ Wakeling H, Lynch K. Exploring Substance Use in Prisons: A case study approach in five closed male English prisons. Ministry of Justice Analytical Series; 2020 [cited 2023 May 29] p. 1–7. Available from: https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/33284/1/HMPPS_Exploring-substance-use-prisons.pdf

Aim & Objectives

The support and cooperation of the HM Cayman Islands Prison Service is fundamental to achieving the objectives of this research. This partnership is required for the organisation of participants, prison staff, and NDC volunteers who conduct the survey using one on one interviews.

Aim: To determine the magnitude and characteristics of the consumption of psychoactive substances amongst the prison population in the Cayman Islands.

Objectives:

1. To understand the nature and extent of drug problems amongst offenders.
2. To provide evidence for informing effective responses in the development and strengthening of prevention programmes and policies targeted to the needs of offenders.
3. To examine and monitor trends in the prevalence and frequency of substance use.

Methodology

SURVEY DESIGN & PROCEDURES

The HMCIPSS serves to assist the HM Cayman Islands Prison Service in getting a clearer picture of several indicators such as illegal activities, criminal history, criminal offending, drug consumption patterns, the relationship between drugs and crime, offenders' perception of their drug use and drug use in prison, changes in consumption patterns, and gang involvement. The survey is conducted at three prison facilities including (1) Northward, (2) Fairbanks, and the (3) Enhanced Reintegration Unit (ERU).

The survey is anonymous and is conducted using fully structured interviews, whereby survey volunteers read the survey questions out loud to inmates and record their answers. The 2023 HMCIPSS was the first cycle to be conducted online using the platform *Survey Monkey*. While the interview method remained, survey volunteers now record inmates' answers electronically using laptops as opposed to the previous paper-based method.

SAMPLE PARTICIPATION AND CHARACTERISTICS

The 2023 HMCIPSS employed a census of the prison population, consisting of a total of 241 offenders at the time of the survey in July of 2023 (207 Northward, 24 Fairbanks, and 10 ERU). The survey yielded a participation rate of 81%, with a total of 195 inmates having participated from across all three facilities.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Survey questions are consistent with those of the Inter-American Drug Use Data System (SIDUC) of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD) Survey of Adult Prisoners.

The survey instrument consists of a pre-coded questionnaire to assess the following areas:

1. Demographics
2. Illegal Activities, Criminal History, and Criminal Offending
3. Drug Consumption Patterns
4. Relationship Between Drugs and Crime
5. Offender's Perception of their Drug Use and Drug Use in Prison

6. Changes in Consumption Patterns
7. Gang Involvement

The data from the survey was collected online using *Survey Monkey*®. The raw data was downloaded from *Survey Monkey*® as an SPSS® file and then uploaded into SPSS® where it was cleaned for statistical analysis to begin. Data analysis consisted of both univariate and bi-variate analysis.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

Interviews were conducted between July 4th – 5th, 2023 at HMCIPS Northward, and on July 7th, 2023, at HMCIPS Fairbanks. The Enhanced Rehabilitation Unit (ERU) was surveyed on June 28th, 2023.

Informational posters about the survey were distributed to all prison facilities to advertise the survey and provide basic information and details. Approximately two weeks prior to the survey, NDC staff conducted an informational session for all inmates to explain the reasons for the survey and how beneficial it would be overall.

Volunteers from the community and various stakeholder organisation all agreed to assist NDC staff with conducting the survey interviews. To standardize survey administration, volunteers attended a 1.5-hour training and informational session to provide an overview of the survey process and the new technology that was used to complete the online survey. This training addressed procedures and guidelines for conducting the survey and emphasized its highly controlled nature.

Survey dates and times were coordinated with each prison service to ensure availability of offenders, prison staff, and volunteers. The prison staff determined the physical spaces that would be used for the interviews. Interviews were conducted individually in an environment that preserved the confidentiality of responses, but that still allowed for general surveillance from prison staff. Respondents' answers for the survey are anonymous and confidential to encourage honest and open responses.

ANALYSING MULTIPLE RESPONSES

Multiple response sets use multiple variables to record responses to questions where the respondent can give more than one answer. There are 6 multiple responses sets in this report as represented by the following question numbers – Q2, Q46, Q51, Q74, Q75, and Q76.

Results are presented in tables with column headings labelled frequency and percent of cases. The column labelled “frequency” presents the number and percentage of respondents who agreed with the statement compared with the total number of times that respondents agreed with a statement. The column labelled “percent of cases” displays the percentage with respect to the total number of valid cases.

Summary Findings

CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

1. Most offenders (66.7%) reported having previously been involved in a crime that led to an arrest.
2. Just under half of all offenders (48.2%) reported having previously been sentenced to probation.
3. 47.7% of all offenders reported having previously been sentenced to prison.
4. More than half of all offenders (52.8%) reported having been fined.
5. 12.3% of offenders are serving a court order that is related to an earlier offence.
6. The most prevalent category for previous convictions were violent related offences (22.6%), followed by drug offences (17.9%), public order offences (15.9%), and lastly property offences (15.4%).
7. The most prevalent category for current convictions was violent related offences (37.9%), followed by drug-related offences (26.7%), public order offences (25.1%), and lastly property offences (15.4%).
8. About half of the respondents surveyed are repeat offenders (49.7%) and half are first-time offenders (50.3%).
9. Repeat offenders most commonly reported a lack of employment (23.5%) as their main reason for re-offending followed by drugs (19.6%).
10. Most offenders (90.8%) reported that they will be able to refrain from criminal activity after release from prison. This was reported by an equal proportion of first-time (50.3%) and repeat offenders (49.7%).

DRUG USE

11. Alcohol had the highest lifetime prevalence of use among offenders in this survey (96.4%).
12. Past-year use consisted mainly of tobacco (70.3%), marijuana (37.4%), and alcohol (29.2%).
13. Current use (past 30 days) consisted mainly of tobacco (67.2%) and marijuana (26.2%).

14. The lifetime prevalence of substances tended to be higher among repeat offenders when compared to first-time offenders. The notable exception was alcohol which had a similar proportion of lifetime prevalence for both repeat and first-time offenders (96.9% repeat offender vs 95.9% first-time offender).
15. Lifetime prevalence for substances tended to be higher among offenders who were unemployed at the time of arrest when compared to those who were employed at the time of arrest. The notable exception was the lifetime prevalence for alcohol and marijuana which had similar proportions of lifetime use across employment status. Other notable differences included the lifetime use of crack cocaine (28.9% repeat offenders vs 3.1% first-time offenders), and cocaine powder (22.7% repeat offender vs 11.2% first-time offender).

DRUG AND CRIME RELATIONSHIP

16. Just under half of all respondents reported that the crime they committed had some type of relationship to drugs (47.7%).
17. 35.4% of offenders indicated that they were under the influence of a substance at the time they committed the crime for which they are currently incarcerated. A further 11.8% indicated that they would have still committed the current crime if they were not under the influence of a substance.
18. 9.7% of offenders intentionally consumed a substance to boost their courage to commit the crime.
19. 14.4% of offenders indicated that they had committed the current crime to get drugs for their own personal use.
20. More than one quarter of offenders (27.2%) reported that the crime they committed was linked to the production, selling and/or trafficking of drugs.
21. 12.8% of offenders reported that the crime committed was linked to activities that maintain the drug market.
22. A little more than one quarter of offenders (26.7%) reported that the crime they committed was linked to activities that went against drug laws.

IMPORTANCE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DRUGS AND CRIME

23. More than one third of offenders reported that the relationship between drugs and crime is “very important” (37.4%), while 22.6% of offenders reported that the relationship between drugs and crime is “important”, but a notably high proportion of offenders also reported that there is “no importance” in the relationship between drugs and crime (15.9%).
24. More than half of all offenders believe that there are drugs available in the prison (56.4%).
25. Approximately half of all offenders reported that they have used drugs while in prison (49.7%).
26. Of offenders who have used drugs while in prison, an additional 13 offenders indicated that they started using a new substance after imprisonment that they had never used before. Of these 13 offenders, marijuana was the most commonly substance that was newly used, however, offenders also indicated trying cracking cocaine, cocaine powder, alcohol, tobacco, and non-prescription drugs for the first time following their imprisonment.
27. The most common factors reported for returning or starting substance use while in prison was missing family and friends (8.2%).
28. 20.5% of offenders indicated that they have an uncontrollable urge to keep using substances. This was reported by more repeat offenders (28.0%) when compared to first-time offenders (13.7%).
29. 42.1% of offenders reported that they can stop using drugs for a certain period without making great effort or feeling badly. When asked to indicate for what length of time they can go without using a substance most offenders reported 3 years or longer (11.3%) followed closely by 1 to 6 months (10.3%).

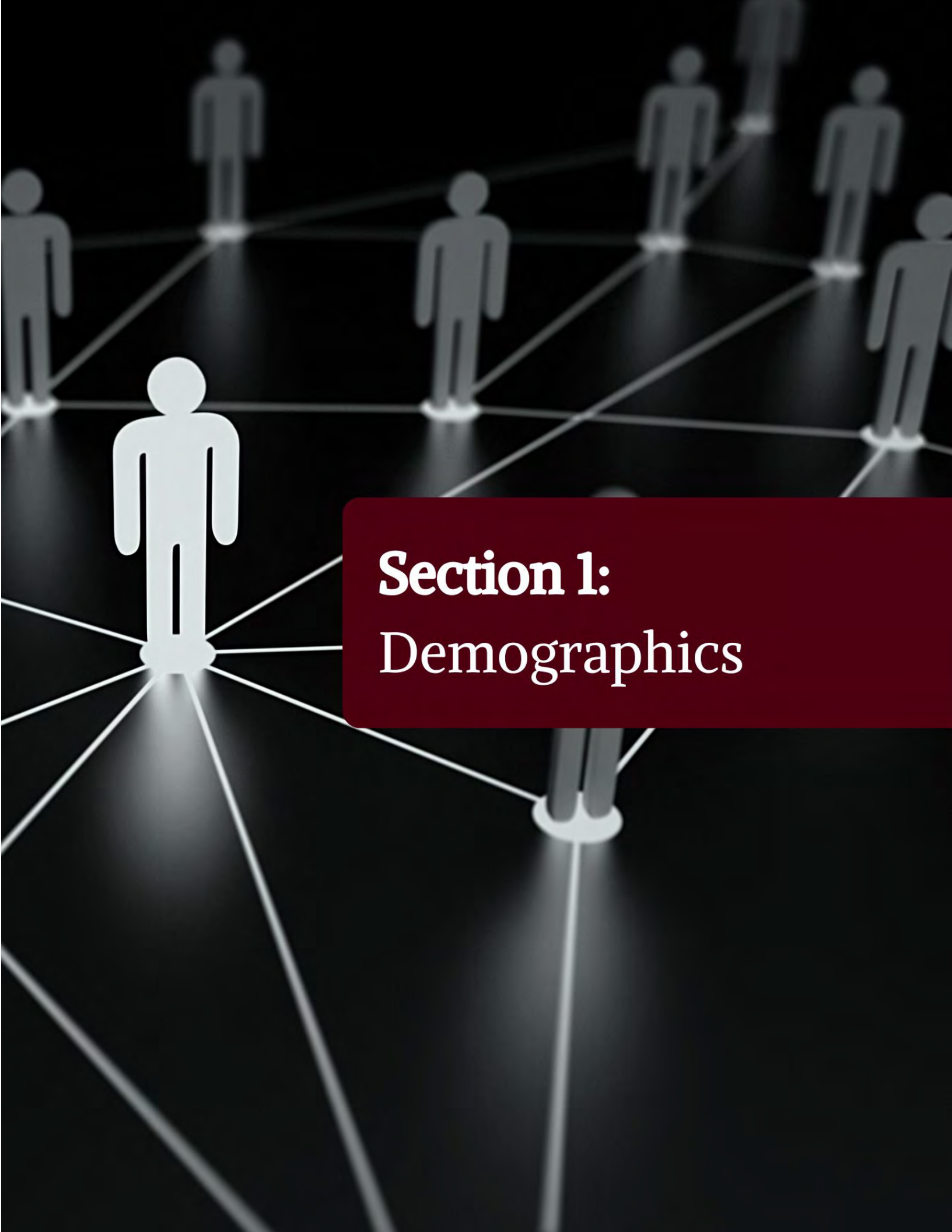
IMPLICATIONS OF DRUG USE

30. A notably high proportion of offenders (94.4%) reported that they are aware of the physical and mental damage that drug use can cause. This was equally as high among first-time (95.1%) and repeat offenders (93.5%).
31. A small proportion of offenders reported that they have received treatment for their drug use (7.2%).
32. A small proportion of offenders reported that they have been hospitalized for drug use or drug-related mental complications (5.6%).
33. 5.6% of offenders indicated that they are currently receiving treatment for the types of drugs they currently use.

GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY

34. 22.6% of offenders reported that they are aware of gangs in prison either now or in the past.
35. Since imprisonment, 7.2% of offenders have been approached to be a member of a prison-based gang, and 8.2% have been approached to be a member of a gang outside of prison.
36. More repeat offenders were approached to be a member of a prison-based gang (9.3%) when compared to first-time offenders (5.1%).
37. More repeat offenders (10.3%) reported being approached to join a gang outside of prison when compared to first-time offenders (6.1%).
38. 20.0% of offenders reported that they are aware of gang related activity that supports the drug trade.
39. A small proportion of offenders indicated that they have been or are currently involved in a gang (9.2%), however, these were all male offenders. 5.6% were involved in a gang immediately before imprisonment and were all male.
40. Gang activity started between the ages of 10-24 years old, with a mean age of initiation being 14.7 years old.

41. 5.1% of offenders reported that drug use was part of their gang-related activity. 4.1% of offenders reported that the trafficking of drugs was involved in their gang activities.
42. A small proportion of offenders indicated that they intend to return to gang activities upon their release (1.5%).



Section 1:
Demographics

Section 1: Demographics

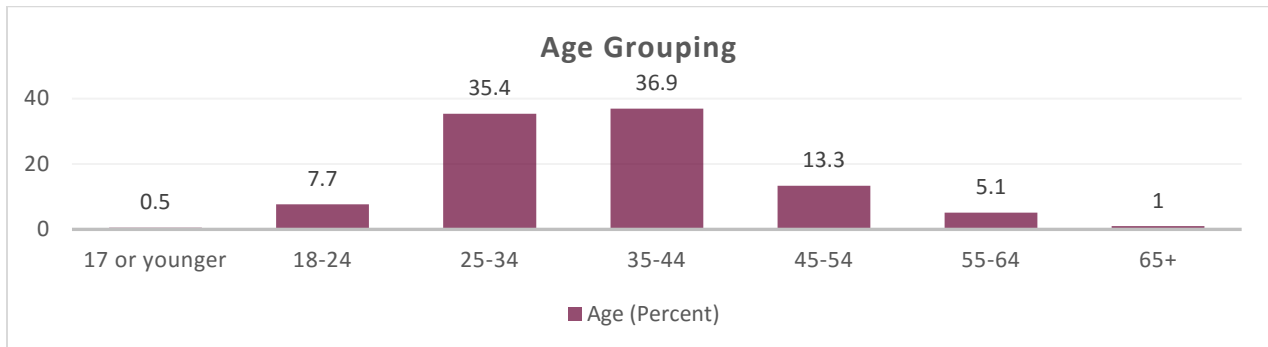
TABLE 1: DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE STUDY POPULATION

<i>Demographic Characteristics of the Study Population</i>			
Age	Frequency (%)	District (Location of Residence)	Frequency (%)
17 or younger	1 (0.5)	West Bay	51 (26.2)
18-24	15 (7.7)	George Town	76 (39.0)
25-34	69 (35.4)	Bodden Town	33 (16.9)
35-44	72 (36.9)	North Side	5 (2.6)
45-54	26 (13.3)	East End	8 (4.1)
55-64	10 (5.1)	Cayman Brac	6 (3.1)
65+	2 (1.0)	Other/Arrested at seaport/airport	16 (8.2)
Sex		Prison Status	
Male	170 (87.2)	Remanded	37 (19.0)
Female	24 (12.3)	Sentenced	157 (80.5)
Prefer not to say	1 (0.5)	Missing	1 (0.5)
Marital Status		Housing	
Single	108 (55.4)	Rented	82 (42.1)
Married	41 (21.0)	Parent/Family-owned home	53 (27.2)
Separated	14 (7.2)	Own Home	51 (26.2)
Divorced	20 (10.3)	Half-way House	1 (0.5)
Widowed	1 (0.5)	Government Housing	3 (1.5)
Living Together (Common Law)	10 (5.1)	Homeless or No Fixed Home	5 (2.6)
Missing	1 (0.5)	Treatment Programme/Hospital	-
Education Level		Adequate Housing Prior To Incarceration	
Never attended school	1 (0.5)	Yes	174 (89.2)
Completed Primary School	11 (5.6)	No	21 (10.8)
Completed Middle School	27 (13.8)		
Completed High School	112 (57.4)	Employment (Pre-incarceration)	
Completed College	28 (14.4)	Employed	160 (82.1)
Completed University	15 (7.7)	Unemployed	35 (17.9)
Completed Post-Graduate	1 (0.5)		
Family Member in Prison Now		Family Member in Prison Previously	
Yes	72 (36.9)	Yes	92 (47.2)
No	123 (63.1)	No	103 (52.8)
Dependents		Citizenship	
Yes	138 (70.8)	Caymanian/Resident	150 (76.9)
No	56 (28.7)	Other	45 (23.1)

AGE

The ages of offenders ranged from 17 years to 65+ years. As seen in Figure 1, most offenders in this study population are between the age range of 25-44 years old. The age grouping with the most inmates is 35-44 years old, accounting for 37% of the study population. This is closely followed by those ages 25-34 years old which account for 35% of the study population.

FIGURE 1: DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE STUDY POPULATION



SEX & AGE GROUP

Most offenders in this population are male (87.2), with only 12.3% of offenders identifying as female, and one person preferring not to state their sex (0.5%).

Of male offenders, the majority fell into the age grouping of 35-44 years old (37.1%), followed by 35.3% in the 25–34-year age grouping. Of female offenders, most persons fell into the age grouping of 25-34 years old (37.5%), followed by 33.3% in the age grouping of 35-44 years old.

TABLE 2: AGE & SEX DISTRIBUTION

<i>Distribution of Age and Sex</i>			
Age (years)	Overall	Male (%)	Female (%)
17 or younger	1 (0.5)	1 (0.6)	-
18-24	15 (7.7)	14 (8.2)	1 (4.2)
25-34	69 (35.4)	60 (35.3)	9 (37.5)
35-44	72 (36.9)	63 (37.1)	8 (33.3)
45-54	26 (13.3)	23 (13.5)	3 (12.5)
55-64	10 (5.1)	8 (4.7)	2 (8.3)
65+	2 (1.0)	1 (0.6)	1 (4.2)

STATUS OF PRISONERS

As seen in Table 3, 80.5% of the prison population were convicted prisoners, with 19.0% on remand. Of male offenders, 80.6% are convicted and 18.8% on remand. Similarly, most female offenders were also convicted (79.2%), with only 5 (20.8%) on remand.

TABLE 3: STATUS OF OFFENDERS & SEX

<i>Distribution of Offender Status by Sex</i>			
Status	Overall (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Remanded	37 (19.0)	32 (18.8)	5 (20.8)
Convicted	157 (80.5)	137 (80.6)	19 (79.2)

AGE GROUP AND PRISON STATUS

More than 6 in 10 offenders (64.9%) on remand were between the ages of 17-34 years old, and more than half of all offenders between the ages of 25-34 years old. A much smaller proportion of remanded offenders were older than 34 years, with 16.2% between the ages of 35-44, 8.1% between the ages of 45-54, and 10.8% between the ages of 55-64 years. There were no offenders on remand in the age group of 65+ years old.

In contrast, 38.2% of convicted offenders are between the ages of 18-34 years old. Most convicted offenders are between the ages of 35-44 years old (42.0%). Only a small proportion of convicted offenders are between the ages of 45-54 (14.6%), 55-64 (3.8%), and 65+ (1.3%).

TABLE 4: AGE GROUP & PRISON STATUS

<i>Distribution of Age & Prison Status</i>		
Age Grouping	Remanded (%)	Convicted (%)
17 or younger	1 (2.7)	-
18-24	4 (10.8)	10 (6.4)
25-34	19 (51.4)	50 (31.8)
35-44	6 (16.2)	66 (42.0)
45-54	3 (8.1)	23 (14.6)
55-64	4 (10.8)	6 (3.8)
65+	-	2 (1.3)

NATIONALITY

Most offenders in prison reported as being citizens or residents of the Cayman Islands (76.9%). A reported 23.1% of offenders reported that they are not a citizen or resident of the Cayman Islands. Of female offenders, 62.5% were Caymanian or residents, with only 9 reporting to be of a different nationality. In comparison, 78.8% of male offenders were Caymanian or residents and 21.2% were of other nationalities.

TABLE 5: NATIONALITY OF INMATES

<i>Distribution of Nationality</i>			
Nationality	Overall (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Caymanian/Resident	150 (76.9)	134 (78.8)	15 (62.5)
Non-Caymanian/Resident	45 (23.1)	36 (21.2)	9 (37.5)

OFFENDERS RESIDENCE PRE-INCARCERATION

Most offenders, both male and female, resided in the district of George Town prior to incarceration (39.0%). This was followed by the district of West Bay (26.2%), Bodden Town (16.9%), East End (4.1%), Cayman Brac (3.1%), and lastly North Side (2.6%). A reported 8.2% of offenders were arrested at the seaport/airport. With respect to male offenders, west bay (27.1%) was the second most common location of residence prior to incarceration, followed by Bodden Town (16.5%). In comparison, the second most common location of residence prior to incarceration was Bodden Town (20.8%) followed by West Bay (16.7%).

TABLE 6: DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE PRE-INCARCERATION

<i>Distribution of Residence Pre-Incarceration</i>			
District	Overall (%)	Male	Female
West Bay	26.2	46 (27.1)	4 (16.7)
George Town	39.0	70 (41.2)	6 (25.0)
Bodden Town	16.9	28 (16.5)	5 (20.8)
North Side	2.6	4 (2.4)	1 (4.2)
East End	4.1	7 (4.1)	1 (4.2)
Cayman Brac	3.1	5 (2.9)	1 (4.2)
Other (Arrested at Seaport/Airport)	8.2	10 (5.9)	6 (25.0)

UNION STATUS

Most offenders reported their marital status as single (55.4%). 21.0% were married, 10.3% divorced, and 7.2% reported as being separated. 5.1% of inmates reported being in a common law relationship.

TABLE 7: MARITAL STATUS OF OFFENDERS

<i>Distribution of Marital Status</i>			
Marital Status	Overall (%)	Male	Female
Single	55.4	94 (55.3)	13 (54.2)
Married	21.0	36 (21.2)	5 (20.8)
Separated	7.2	11 (6.5)	3 (12.5)
Divorced	10.3	18 (10.6)	2 (8.3)
Widow/Widower	0.5	1 (0.6)	-
Living Together (Common Law)	5.1	9 (5.3)	1 (4.2)

EDUCATION

All offenders reported having received some type of schooling, except for one inmate who reports having never attended school. A small proportion of offenders reported primary school (5.6%) and middle school (13.8%) as their highest level of education attained. A greater proportion of repeat offenders reported primary (6.2%) and middle school (18.6%) as their highest level of education. However, more than half of the current population reported that high school is their highest level of education attained (57.4%). Another 14.4% of inmates have also completed college, and this was reported by more first-time offenders (17.3%) than repeat offenders (11.3%). Another 7.7% completed university, however, this was reported by only first-time offenders, and one inmate reported having completed a post-graduate degree.

TABLE 8: HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

<i>Distribution of Education Level Pre-Incarceration</i>			
Education Level	Overall (%)	First-time Offender	Repeat Offender
Never attended school	1 (0.5)	-	1 (1.0)
Completed Primary School	11 (5.6)	5 (5.1)	6 (6.2)
Completed Middle School	27 (13.8)	9 (9.2)	18 (18.6)

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Completed High School	112 (57.4)	52 (53.1)	60 (61.9)
Completed College	28 (14.4)	17 (17.3)	11 (11.3)
Completed University	15 (7.7)	15 (15.3)	-
Completed Post-Graduate	1 (0.5)	-	1 (1.0)

PRE-INCARCERATION EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Most offenders or 82.1% (160/195) reported that they were employed prior to their incarceration. Only 35/195 (17.9%) offenders reported that they were not working prior to incarceration. The proportion of offenders reporting employment prior to incarceration was similar across genders.

TABLE 9: EMPLOYMENT STATUS PRE-INCARCERATION

<i>Distribution of Employment Status Pre-incarceration</i>			
Employment Status	Overall (%)	Male	Female
Yes	82.1	82.4	83.3
No	17.9	17.6	16.7

DEPENDENTS

Offenders were asked to report whether they had any dependents. About 7 in 10 offenders (70.8%) responded yes to having one or more children. In comparison, 28.7% of inmates indicated that they do not have any dependents.

TABLE 10: INMATES WITH CHILDREN

<i>Percentage of Inmates with Children (%)</i>			
Do you have children?	Overall (%)	Remanded	Sentenced
Yes	70.8	67.6	72.0
No	28.7	29.7	28.0

LOCATION OF ARREST

Just over half of all offenders reported having been arrested in the community (54.9%), followed by 29.7% who were arrested at home. Additionally, 7.2% of offenders were arrested at the airport and 6.2% at sea. The least commonly reported place of arrest was at the seaport (2.1%).

TABLE 11: LOCATION OF ARREST

<i>Distribution of Arrest Location</i>			
Location of Arrest	Overall (%)	Male	Female
At home	29.7	52 (30.6)	5 (20.8)
At sea	6.2	13 (7.6)	1 (4.2)
At the airport	7.2	5 (2.9)	7 (29.2)
At the seaport	2.1	4 (2.4)	1 (4.2)
In the community	54.9	96 (56.5)	11 (45.8)

TYPE OF HOUSING PRE-INCARCERATION

Offenders were asked to report the type of housing they were living in prior to incarceration. Overall, most offenders reported that they were renting their housing accommodations prior to incarceration (42.1%). Of these, a greater proportion were first-time offenders (50.0%) when compared to repeat offenders (34.0%). In contrast, 27.2% of offenders reported they were living with their parents or family, and this was reported by more repeat offenders (35.1%). Another 26.2% of offenders reported living in their own houses, with this being reported by more first-time offenders (29.6%) than repeat offenders (22.7%). A small proportion of inmates reported living in a half-way house (0.5%), or government housing (1.5%), and 2.6% of offenders reported that they did not have fixed housing prior to incarceration. Homelessness or not fixed housing was reported by more repeat offenders (4.1%) than first-time offenders (1.0%).

TABLE 12: HOUSING OF OFFENDERS PRE-INCARCERATION

<i>Distribution of Housing Type Pre-Incarceration (%)</i>			
Type of Housing	Overall (%)	First-time Offender	Repeat Offender
Rented a private home/apartment	42.1	49 (50.0)	33 (34.0)
Parents/family-owned house	27.2	19 (19.4)	34 (35.1)
Own house	26.2	29 (29.6)	22 (22.7)
Half-way house	0.5	-	1 (1.0)
Government Housing	1.5	-	3 (3.1)
Homeless or not fixed housing	2.6	1 (1.0)	4 (4.1)

FAMILY MEMBERS OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS

Offenders were asked whether they had any close family members who are currently serving a prison sentence or who previously served a prison sentence. Most offenders reported that they do not have any close family members who are currently in prison (63.1%) or who have previously served a prison sentence (52.8%). However, of offenders who responded “yes”, there was a greater proportion of inmates who had a family member that previously served a prison sentence (47.2%) when compared to those with a family member that is currently serving (36.9%).

TABLE 13: FAMILY HISTORY WITH INCARCERATION

<i>Proportion of Offenders with Family Members Who Are Incarcerated (%)</i>		
Prison Status of Family Members	Yes	No
Do you have any close family members currently serving a sentence in prison?	36.9	63.1
Do you have any close family members who have previously served a sentence in prison?	47.2	52.8



Section 2:
Illegal Activities, Criminal
History, and Criminal Offending

Section 2: Illegal Activities, Criminal History, Criminal Offending

TABLE 14: HISTORY OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

<i>Distribution of Offender's History of Criminal Activity</i>		
Criminal Activity	Frequency (N)	Percent
Been arrested	130	66.7
Sentenced to probation	94	48.2
Sentenced to prison	93	47.7
Been fined	103	52.8
Serving a court order related to an earlier offence	24	12.3

ARRESTED

Most offenders, or 66.7% reported that they have previously been arrested. The mean age of first arrest was 18.6 years old, with a median age of 17 years old. 75% of all offenders were first arrested by the age of 20 years old.

SENTENCED TO PROBATION

Just under half of all offenders (48.2%) have been previously sentenced to probation. The mean age at which an offender is first sentenced to probation is 22.6 years old, with a median age of 19 years old. 75% of all first probation sentences occurred by the age of 25 years old.

SENTENCED TO PRISON

47.7% of offenders indicated that they have been previously sentenced to prison before their current incarceration period. The mean age of first being sentenced to prison was 22 years old, with a median age of 20 years old. 75% of first prison sentences occurred by the age of 24 years old.

FINED

Most offenders (52.8%) reported that they have been fined at least once in their lifetime. This was reported by 55.9% of male offenders and 29.2% of female offenders.

PREVIOUS OR CURRENT COURT ORDER

Most offenders (87.7%) reported that they are not currently serving a court order that is related to a previous offence.

SPENT TIME AT THE BONAVENTURE BOYS/FRANCIS BODDEN GIRLS HOME

Most offenders (86.7%) reported that they have not spent time at the Bonaventure Boy’s Home or the Francis Bodden Girls Home. Overall, a reported 13.3% of offenders have spent time at the boys/girls home and this was reported by more males (14.1%) than females (4.2%).

TABLE 15: OFFENDERS WHO HAVE SPENT TIME AT THE BONAVENTURE BOYS/FRANCIS BODDEN GIRLS HOME

<i>Distribution of Offenders Who Have Spent Time at the Bonaventure Boys/Francis Bodden Girls Home</i>				
Have ever spent time at the Bonaventure boys home/Francis Bodden girls home?	Frequency (Number)	Percent	Males	Females
Yes	26	13.3	24 (14.1)	1 (4.2)
No	169	86.7	146 (85.9)	23 (95.8)

CRIMINAL OFFENDING

Respondents were asked to report both their previous criminal offences as well as the offence for which they are currently incarcerated. The list of criminal offences can be organized into the four main categories as follows: (1) violence-related offences, (2) property offences, (3) drug-related offences, and (4) public order offences.

PREVIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENDING (MULTIPLE RESPONSE CATEGORY)

Of all previous offences, violence-related offences were the most common category for **previous convictions** among this survey population, with a total of 61 offences reported (See table 16). Within this category, assault offences were the highest with 22/61 cases reported, followed by robbery (13/61) and other sexual offences (9/61). Assault offences accounted for 50.0% of all violence-related offences that were reported for previous convictions.

TABLE 16: PREVIOUS VIOLENCE OFFENCES

<i>Distribution of Previous Violence-Related Offences</i>				
Type of Violence Offence	Overall (%)	Percent of Cases		
		Overall (%)	Remanded (N)	Convicted (N)
Assault	22 (36.1)	50.0	6	16
Carnal Knowledge	2 (3.3)	4.5	1	1
Manslaughter	3 (4.9)	6.8	1	2
Murder	5 (8.2)	11.4	1	4
Rape	3 (4.9)	6.8	-	3
Other Sexual Offences	9 (14.8)	20.5	3	6
Other Violent Offences	4 (6.6)	9.1	-	4
Robbery	13 (21.3)	29.5	2	11
Total	61	44	14	47

Drug-related offences were the second most common category for previous convictions, with a total of 58 offences reported. Among drug offences, possession was the most reported with a total of 27/58 accounts, followed by possession with intent to supply (17/58) and lastly trafficking/importation (9/58). Possession offences account for 46.6% of all drug-related offences that were reported for previous convictions.

TABLE 17: PREVIOUS DRUG-RELATED OFFENCES

<i>Distribution of Previous Drug-Related Offences</i>				
Type of Drug-Related Offence	Overall (%)	Percent of Cases		
		Overall (%)	Remanded (N)	Convicted (N)
Possession	27 (8.6)	46.6	5	22
Possession with intent to supply	17 (46.6)	29.3	1	16
Trafficking/ Importation	9 (29.3)	15.5	2	7
Other	5 (15.5)	8.6	1	4
Total	58	35	9	49

Public order offences were the third most common category for previous convictions, with a total of 42 offences reported. Within this category, weapons were the most common offence reported with a total of 22/42 accounts, followed by the violation of parole/probation (11/42). Weapon offences accounted for 71.0% of all public order offences reported for previous convictions.

TABLE 18: PREVIOUS PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES

<i>Distribution of Previous Public Order Offences</i>				
Type of Public Order Offence	Overall (%)	Percent of Cases		
		Overall (%)	Remanded (N)	Convicted (N)
Immigration violations	-	-	-	-
Obstruction of Justice	1 (2.4)	3.2	-	1
Weapons	22 (52.4)	71.0	4	18
Driving while intoxicated	6 (14.3)	19.4	2	4
Drunkenness/Moral	2 (4.8)	6.5	1	1
Violation of parole/ Probation	11 (26.2)	35.5	3	8
Other public order offence	-	-	-	-
Total	42	31	10	32

Property offences were the least common category of previous convictions reported out of all four categories. There was a total of 40 offences reported, with burglary accounting for just over half of all property offences (21/40), followed by larceny/theft (9/40). Burglary offences accounted for 70.0% of all property offences reported for previous convictions.

TABLE 19: PREVIOUS PROPERTY OFFENCES

<i>Distribution of Previous Property Offences</i>				
Type of Property Offence	Overall (%)	Percent of Cases		
		Overall (%)	Remanded (N)	Convicted (N)
Burglary	21 (52.5)	70.0	-	21
Fraud	-	-	-	-
Larceny/theft	9 (22.5)	30.0	2	7
Motor vehicle theft	3 (7.5)	10.0	1	2
Stolen property	3 (10.0)	13.3	-	3
Other property	4 (7.5)	10.0	1	3
Total	40	30	3	34

CURRENT CRIMINAL OFFENDING (MULTIPLE RESPONSE CATEGORY)

Violence-related offences were the most common category for **current convictions** among this survey population with a total of 79 offences reported. Within this category, assault offences were the highest with 21/79 cases reported, followed by murder (14/79) and robbery (14/79). Assault offences accounted for 28.4% of all violence-related offences, while murder and robbery each accounted for 18.9% of all violence-related offences.

TABLE 20: CURRENT VIOLENT-RELATED OFFENCES

<i>Distribution of Current Violence-Related Offences</i>					
Type of Violence Offence	Overall (%)	Percent of Cases			
		Overall (%)	Remanded (N)	Convicted (N)	Missing
Assault	21 (26.6)	28.4	4	17	-
Carnal Knowledge	1 (1.3)	1.4	-	1	-
Manslaughter	6 (7.6)	8.1	-	5	1
Murder	14 (17.7)	18.9	4	10	-
Rape	12 (15.2)	16.2	2	10	-
Other Sexual Offences	4 (5.1)	5.4	2	2	-
Other Violent Offences	7 (8.9)	9.5	1	6	-
Robbery	14 (17.7)	18.9	3	11	-
Total (Number)	79	74	16	62	1

Drug-related offences were the second most common category for previous convictions, with a total of 68 offences reported. Among drug offences, possession was the most reported with a total of 28/68 accounts, followed by possession with intent to supply (22/68). Possession offences account for 53.8% of all drug-related offences that were reported for current convictions, and possession with intent to supply accounted for 42.3% of all cases.

TABLE 21: CURRENT DRUG-RELATED OFFENCES

<i>Distribution of Current Drug-Related Offences</i>				
Type of Drug-Related Offence	Overall (%)	Percent of Cases		
		Overall (%)	Remanded (N)	Convicted (N)
Possession	28 (41.2)	53.8	5	23
Possession with intent to supply	22 (32.4)	42.3	1	21
Trafficking/ Importation	12 (17.6)	23.1	-	12
Other	6 (8.8)	11.5	-	6
Total	68	52	6	62

Public order offences were the third most common category for previous convictions, with a total of 52 offences reported. Within this category, weapons were the most common offence reported with a total of 42/52 accounts. Weapon offences accounted for 80.8% of all public order offences among those who are currently convicted.

TABLE 22: CURRENT PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES

<i>Distribution of Current Public Order Offences</i>				
Type of Public Order Offence	Overall (%)	Percent of Cases		
		Overall (%)	Remanded (N)	Convicted (N)
Immigration violations	2 (3.8)	4.1	-	2
Obstruction of Justice	-	-	-	-
Weapons	42 (80.8)	85.7	12	30
Driving while intoxicated	1 (1.9)	2.0	-	1
Drunkenness/Moral	1 (1.9)	2.0	-	1
Violation of parole/ Probation	5 (9.6)	10.2	1	4
Other public order offence	1 (1.9)	2.0	-	1
Total	52	49	13	39

Property offences were the least common category of previous convictions reported out of all four categories. There was a total of 37 offences reported, with burglary being the most

common offence with 19/37 cases. Burglary offences accounted for 63.3% of all property offences reported among those who are currently convicted.

TABLE 23: CURRENT PROPERTY OFFENCES

<i>Distribution of Current Property Offences</i>				
Type of Offence	Overall (%)	Percent of Cases		
		Overall (%)	Remanded (N)	Convicted (N)
Burglary	19 (51.4)	63.3	2	17
Fraud	2 (5.4)	6.7	-	2
Larceny/theft	10 (27.0)	33.3	3	7
Motor vehicle theft	2 (5.4)	6.7	-	2
Stolen property	2 (5.4)	6.7	-	2
Other property	2 (5.4)	6.7	1	1
Total (Number)	37	30	6	31

PREVIOUS AND CURRENT CRIMINAL OFFENDING

Table 24 shows the distribution of any previous and current offending both overall and by sex. The most prevalent **previous offence category** overall was violence related offences (22.6%), followed by drug offences (17.9%), public order offences (15.9%), and lastly property offences (15.4%). Previous convictions among male offenders showed the same pattern – violence-related offences (25.9%), drug offences (20.0%), public order offences (17.1%), and property offences (15.9%). However, female offenders were more likely to have been previously convicted for property offences (12.5%), followed equally by drug (4.2%) and public offences (4.2%).

The most prevalent offence for **current convictions** was also violence related offences (37.9%), followed by drug offences (26.7%), public order offences (25.1%), and lastly property offences (15.4%). The most reported category for current convictions among male offenders was violence-related offences (39.4%), followed by public order offences (27.1%), drug offences (26.5%), and lastly property offences (16.5%). Female offenders were equally as likely to have reported violence-related offences (29.2%) and drug offences (29.2%) for current convictions, followed equally by property (8.3%) and public order offences (8.3%).

TABLE 24: PREVIOUS AND CURRENT CRIMINAL OFFENDING BY SEX

<i>Distribution of Previous and Current Offences by Sex</i>						
Category of Offence	Any Previous	Male	Female	Any Current	Male	Female
Violence Offences	44 (22.6)	44 (25.9)	-	74 (37.9)	67 (39.4)	7 (29.2)
Drug Offences	35 (17.9)	34 (20.0)	1 (4.2)	52 (26.7)	45 (26.5)	7 (29.2)
Property Offences	30 (15.4)	27 (15.9)	3 (12.5)	30 (15.4)	28 (16.5)	2 (8.3)
Public Order Offences	31 (15.9)	29 (17.1)	1 (4.2)	49 (25.1)	46 (27.1)	2 (8.3)

CRIMINAL OFFENDING

There was about an equal proportion of first-time offenders (50.3%) when compared to repeat offenders (49.7%). Of first-time offenders, the majority have also been convicted (82.7%). A similar pattern was observed for repeat offenders, with 78.4% having been convicted. There was no significant difference between being a convicted or remanded offender with respect to whether they were first-time or repeat offenders ($p > 0.05$).

TABLE 25: TYPE OF OFFENDER

<i>Distribution of Repeat and First-time Offenders</i>			
Type of Offender	Overall (N=195)	Remanded	Convicted
First-time Offender	98 (50.3)	16 (16.3)	81 (82.7)
Repeat Offender	97 (49.7)	21 (21.6)	76 (78.4)

FREQUENCY OF IMPRISONMENT

Of first-time offenders, a greater proportion were males (80.6%) when compared to females (19.4%). With respect to repeat offences, 20.5% of inmates indicated that they have been imprisoned 2-3 times, 16.4% for 4-6 times, and 4.6% for 7-10 times. This was reported by more male offenders for each category when compared to female offenders.

Interestingly, a similar proportion of male (8.2%) and female (8.3%) offenders indicated having been to prison more than 10 times.

TABLE 26: FREQUENCY OF IMPRISONMENT IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

<i>Distribution of Imprisonment in the Cayman Islands</i>			
Number of Times in Prison	Frequency	Males (%)	Females (%)
This is my first time	98 (50.3)	79 (46.5)	19 (79.2)
2-3 times	40 (20.5)	38 (22.4)	2 (8.3)
4-6 times	32 (16.4)	30 (17.6)	1 (4.2)
7-10 times	9 (4.6)	9 (5.3)	-
More than 10 times	16 (8.2)	14 (8.2)	2 (8.3)

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO RE-OFFENDING (MULTIPLE RESPONSE CATEGORY)

Table 27 below outlines the factors indicated by repeat offenders that contribute to their re-offending. The most common factors reported were the lack of employment (28.1%) followed by drugs (23.4%). These two factors remain the top two most identified reasons for re-offending among both remanded and convicted offenders. A smaller proportion of offenders indicated that alcohol, relationship problems, and lack of support were factors contributing to re-offending. The least commonly reported factor was accommodation as reported by 7.0% of repeat offenders.

TABLE 27: FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO RE-OFFENDING

<i>Distribution of Factors Contributing to Re-offending</i>				
Factors Contributing to Re-offending	Frequency (%)	Percent of Cases (%)	Remanded	Convicted
Drugs	30 (19.6)	31.6	6	24
Alcohol	19 (12.8)	20.0	5	14
Accommodation	9 (5.9)	9.5	3	6
Lack of Employment	36 (23.5)	37.9	8	28
Relationship Problems	17 (11.1)	17.9	6	11
Lack of Support	17 (11.1)	17.9	6	11
Other	25 (16.3)	26.3	7	18
Total	153	95	41	112

PERCEPTION OF ABILITY TO REFRAIN FROM RE-OFFENDING

Overall, most participants (90.8%) perceive that they will be able to refrain from criminal activity after their release from prison. Only 5.1% of participants reported that they do not believe they will be able to refrain from criminal activity after release, with this being reported by an equal proportion of both offenders on remand and those who are convicted.

A greater proportion of repeat offenders (4.1%) reported that they do not know if they will be able to refrain from criminal activity when compared to first-time offenders (1.0%).

TABLE 28: PERCEPTION OF ABILITY TO REFRAIN FROM RE-OFFENDING BY PRISON STATUS

<i>Distribution of Inmates Perception on Their Ability to Refrain from Re-offending</i>			
Do you feel that you will be able to refrain from criminal activity after your release?	Frequency (%)	First-time Offender	Repeat Offender
Yes	177 (90.8)	89 (50.3)	88 (49.7)
No	10 (5.1)	5 (50.0)	5 (50.0)
I do not know	5 (2.6)	1 (20.0)	4 (80.0)



Section 3:
Drug Consumption Patterns

Section 3: Drug Consumption Patterns

The most prevalent drug indicated by offenders regarding lifetime use was alcohol, with approximately 96% of all offenders having consumed alcohol in their lifetime. This was followed by tobacco/cigarettes (81.5%), and marijuana (80.5%). With regards to other illicit drugs, cocaine powder (16.9%) was the second most prevalent illicit substance used by offenders in their lifetime, followed by crack cocaine (15.9%). 41.5% of offenders report having used an e-cigarette at least once in their lifetime and only a small proportion reported having used a seasoned spliff (5.6%).

Approximately 15% of all offenders also answered “yes” to the use of other substances that are categorized as “other drug use” in Table 29 below. Other substances used by offenders included heroin, methamphetamine, fentanyl, psilocybin (magic mushrooms), lean, LSD, MDMA, and a range of non-prescribed medications including painkillers.

TABLE 29: OVERALL PREVALENCE OF DRUG CONSUMPTION

<i>Lifetime, Past-year, and Current Prevalence for Various Substances (%)</i>			
Substances	Lifetime	Past Year	Current
Tobacco/cigarettes	81.5	70.3	67.2
E-cigarettes	41.5	11.8	3.1
Alcohol	96.4	29.2	4.1
Marijuana	80.5	37.4	26.2
Crack Cocaine	15.9	5.6	1.0
Cocaine Powder	16.9	5.6	0.5
Seasoned Spliff	5.6	0.5	0.5
Other Drug Use	14.9	3.6	1.0

With regards to past year use, tobacco/cigarettes (70.3%) had the highest reported prevalence followed by past year marijuana use (37.4%), and past year alcohol use (29.2%). In contrast, the prevalence of current use indicated mostly tobacco/cigarettes (67.2%), and marijuana (26.2%).

DRUG CONSUMPTION – OVERALL LIFETIME, PAST YEAR, AND CURRENT PREVALENCE

Table 30 below demonstrates the prevalence of offender’s self-reported substance use for both legal and illicit substances during their lifetime and cross-tabulated by age, type of offending, prison status, and employment status pre-incarceration.

TABLE 30: SELF-REPORTED DRUG USE (LIFETIME PREVALENCE) BY AGE, PRISON STATUS, AND EMPLOYMENT

<i>Lifetime Prevalence for Various Substances by Age, Prison Status, and Employment</i>							
	Cigarettes	E-cigarettes	Alcohol	Marijuana	Crack Cocaine	Cocaine	Seasoned Spliff
Overall	159 (81.5)	81 (41.5)	188 (96.4)	157 (80.5)	31 (15.9)	33 (16.9)	11 (5.6)
Age Group							
17 or younger	1 (100.0)	1 (100.0)	1 (100.0)	1 (100.0)	1 (100.0)	1 (100.0)	1 (100.0)
18-24	15 (100.0)	12 (80.0)	15 (100.0)	13 (86.7)	15 (100.0)	1 (6.7)	1 (6.7)
25-34	61 (88.4)	39 (56.5)	68 (98.6)	58 (84.1)	8 (11.6)	8 (11.6)	2 (2.9)
35-44	59 (81.9)	25 (34.7)	69 (95.8)	58 (80.6)	11 (15.3)	13 (18.1)	4 (5.6)
45-54	16 (61.5)	4 (15.4)	24 (92.3)	21 (80.8)	8 (30.8)	8 (30.8)	3 (11.5)
55-64	6 (60.0)	-	9 (90.0)	5 (50.0)	4 (40.0)	2 (20.0)	1 (10.0)
65+	1 (50.0)	-	2 (100.0)	1 (50.0)	2 (100.0)	1 (50.0)	-
Type of Offending							
First Time	69 (70.4)	38 (38.8)	94 (95.9)	67 (68.4)	3 (3.1)	11 (11.2)	4 (4.1)
Repeat	90 (92.8)	43 (44.3)	94 (96.9)	90 (92.8)	28 (28.9)	22 (22.7)	7 (7.2)
Status							
On remand	31 (83.8)	14 (37.8)	36 (97.3)	27 (73.0)	6 (16.2)	5 (13.5)	1 (2.7)
Convicted	127 (80.9)	66 (42.0)	151 (96.2)	129 (82.2)	25 (15.9)	28 (17.8)	10 (6.4)
Employed							
Yes	128 (80.0)	65 (40.6)	154 (96.3)	128 (80.0)	20 (12.5)	24 (15.0)	9 (5.6)
No	31 (88.6)	16 (45.7)	34 (97.1)	29 (82.9)	11 (31.4)	9 (25.7)	2 (5.7)

AGE AND LIFETIME DRUG USE

Of offenders who reported having used a substance at least once in their lifetime, the lifetime prevalence of substance use was proportionally high across all age groups. Tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana had the highest reported lifetime use across all age cohorts. The lifetime use of

cigarettes and marijuana decreased slightly as age increased, however, alcohol use was reported by most inmates in each age cohort.

For illegal drugs, marijuana had the highest reported lifetime prevalence amongst those between the ages of 25-54 years old and decreased slightly for the age cohorts of 55-64 and 65+ years. The proportion of lifetime prevalence for crack cocaine increased as age increased, and the prevalence of cocaine powder and seasoned spliffs was highest for those in the age cohort of 45-54 years old.

FIRST-TIME, REPEAT OFFENDING, AND LIFETIME DRUG USE

Overall, the proportion of lifetime prevalence tended to be higher among repeat offenders when compared to first-time offenders. This was especially true with respect to cigarette (92.8%) and marijuana (92.8%) use where more than 90% of repeat offenders have used these substances in their lifetime. The notable exception was alcohol where the lifetime prevalence was similar between both first-time offenders and repeat offenders (95.9% first-time offenders vs 96.9% of repeat offenders).

STATUS (ON REMAND VS CONVICTED) AND LIFETIME DRUG USE

Lifetime prevalence for alcohol was proportionally higher among those on remand than convicted offenders (97.3% on remand vs 96.2% convicted offenders). For tobacco, 83.8% of offenders on remand reported lifetime use compared to 80.9% of convicted offenders. A greater proportion of convicted offenders reported lifetime use of e-cigarettes when compared to those on remand (42.0% of convicted offenders vs 37.8% of those on remand). However, there was no statistical significance found with respect to lifetime prevalence of licit substances between offenders on remand and those who have been convicted ($p>0.05$).

LIFETIME PREVALENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

With regards to lifetime prevalence and employment, offenders who were unemployed on arrest had a higher proportion of lifetime use when compared to those who were employed. Among all offenders, lifetime prevalence was highest for alcohol, cigarettes, and marijuana in comparison to other substances. However, a greater proportion of those who were unemployed reported a greater lifetime prevalence of crack cocaine when compared to those who were

employed (31.4% unemployed on arrest vs 12.5% employed on arrest). Similarly, a greater proportion of those who were unemployed on arrest also reported a greater lifetime prevalence of cocaine powder (25.7%) compared to those who were employed (15.0%). Interestingly, an equal proportion of offenders who were employed and unemployed on arrest reported a lifetime prevalence of use for seasoned spliffs.

REPORTED AGE OF FIRST USE – INITIATION RATES

In this report, the age of first use is based on offenders reported lifetime prevalence. Lifetime prevalence refers to the use of a substance at least once in your lifetime.

Marijuana had the lowest mean age of first use at 15 years old, with 75% of first-time marijuana use having occurred by 17 years old. In comparison, the second lowest mean age of first use was found for both alcohol and cigarettes at 16 years old. 75% of first-time cigarette and alcohol use occurred by 18 years old. The median age for marijuana was 14 years old, which was two years earlier than the median age for alcohol (16 years), and one year earlier than cigarettes (15 years).

E-cigarettes had the highest mean age of first use at 26 years old, with 75% of first-time e-cigarette use having occurred by 33 years old. This was followed by a mean age of 25.5 years old for seasoned spliffs, 23 years old for cocaine powder, and 22 years old for crack cocaine.

TABLE 31: REPORTED AGE OF FIRST USE FOR VARIOUS SUBSTANCES

<i>Reported Age of First Use for Various Substances</i>							
	N	Mean	Median	75th Percentile	Min.	Max.	Standard Deviation
Cigarettes	155	16.01	15.00	18.00	5.00	39.00	5.47
E-cigarettes	81	26.13	26.00	33.00	12.00	43.00	8.09
Alcohol	187	15.93	16.00	18.00	5.00	45.00	4.71
Marijuana	157	15.10	14.00	17.00	4.00	36.00	5.13
Crack Cocaine	30	22.10	21.00	25.25	12.00	37.00	6.36
Cocaine Powder	32	23.06	23.00	26.00	12.00	38.00	5.81
Seasoned Spliff	11	25.54	26.00	30.00	16.00	43.00	7.50

Age of initiation at the seventy-fifth percentile serves to illustrate that 75% of all first use had already taken place by that age. From Table 31 above, one can infer that:

- 75% of all cigarette use had taken place by 18 years old.
- 75% of all e-cigarette use had taken place by 33 years old.
- 75% of all alcohol use had taken place by 18 years old.
- 75% of all marijuana use had taken place by 17 years old.
- 75% of all crack cocaine use had taken place by 25 years old.
- 75% of all cocaine powder use had taken place by 26 years old.
- 75% of all seasoned spliff use had taken place by 30 years old.



Section 4:
Relationship Between Drugs
& Crime

Section 4: Relationship Between Drugs and Crime

In response to the relationship between drugs and crime, just over half of all convicted offenders (47.7%) responded “yes” to the crime they committed as having some kind of relationship with drugs. This was reported by an equal proportion of first-time (48.0%) and repeat offenders (47.4%).

27.2% of offenders indicated that the crime they committed was related in some way to the production, selling and/or trafficking of drugs, and 26.7% indicated that the crime went against drug laws. A smaller proportion of offenders (12.8%) indicated that the crime they committed was linked to activities that maintain the drug market.

TABLE 32: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DRUGS AND CRIME

<i>Relationship Between Drugs & Crime and ‘Yes’ Responses</i>			
	Overall	First-time Offender	Repeat Offender
Did the crime you commit have some kind of relationship with drugs?	93 (47.7)	47 (48.0)	46 (47.4)
When you committed the crime for which you are currently imprisoned were you under the influence of a drug or intoxicated?	69 (35.4)	24 (24.5)	45 (46.4)
Do you think you would have committed the crime if you were not under the influence of a drug or intoxicated?	23 (11.8)	7 (7.1)	16 (16.5)
Did you commit the crime for which you are currently imprisoned in order to get drugs for your own personal use?	28 (14.4)	5 (5.1)	23 (23.7)
Did you willfully/intentionally consume a substance in order to boost your courage to commit the crime for which you are currently in prison?	19 (9.7)	5 (5.1)	14 (14.4)
Was the crime for which you are currently imprisoned linked to the production, selling and/or trafficking of drugs?	53 (27.2)	29 (29.6)	24 (24.7)
Was the crime for which you were currently arrested linked to activities to maintain the drug market?	25 (12.8)	7 (7.1)	18 (18.6)
Was the crime for which you are currently imprisoned linked to activities that went against drug laws?	52 (26.7)	29 (29.6)	23 (23.7)

In relationship to being under the influence of a substance, 35.4% of offenders responded “yes” to having been under the influence or a drug or intoxicated at the time in which they committed

the crime. This was indicated by a greater proportion of repeat offenders (46.4%) when compared to first-time offenders (24.5%). 11.8% of offenders also indicated that they would not have committed the crime if they were not under the influence of drugs or intoxicated. Additionally, a small proportion of offenders (14.4%) indicated that they had committed the crime in order to get drugs for their own personal use, however, this was reported by more repeat offenders (23.7%) compared to first-time offenders (5.1%). A small proportion of offenders (9.7%) also reported that they intentionally consumed a substance to boost their courage to commit the crime for which they are imprisoned. This was reported by more repeat offenders (14.4%) when compared to first-time offenders (5.1%).

OFFENCE CATEGORY AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DRUGS AND CRIME

Table 33 below demonstrates the relationship between offence categories and the relationship between drugs and crime. According to Table 33, as many as 47 and as little as 1 offender in all offence categories said “yes” to their crime having some kind of relationship with drugs in accordance with the eight various options listed below.

TABLE 33: PREVIOUS OFFENCES & RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DRUGS AND CRIME

<i>Relationship Between Drugs & Crime and ‘Yes’ Responses By Previous Offences</i>				
	Violence	Property	Drug Related	Public Order
Did the crime you commit have some kind of relationship with drugs?	17 (38.6)	16 (53.3)	25 (71.4)	14 (45.2)
When you committed the crime for which you are currently imprisoned were you under the influence of a drug or intoxicated?	21 (47.7)	16 (53.3)	16 (45.7)	14 (45.2)
Do you think you would have committed the crime if you were not under the influence of a drug or intoxicated?	8 (18.2)	5 (16.7)	6 (17.1)	4 (12.9)
Did you commit the crime for which you are currently imprisoned in order to get drugs for your own personal use?	5 (11.4)	16 (53.3)	9 (25.7)	6 (19.4)
Did you willfully/intentionally consume a substance in order to boost your courage to commit the crime for which you are currently in prison?	1 (2.3)	8 (26.7)	6 (17.1)	1 (3.2)
Was the crime for which you are currently imprisoned linked to the production, selling and/or trafficking of drugs?	6 (13.6)	4 (13.3)	16 (45.7)	6 (19.4)
Was the crime for which you were previously arrested linked to activities to maintain the drug market?	5 (11.4)	7 (23.3)	11 (31.4)	5 (16.1)
Was the crime for which you are currently imprisoned linked to activities that went against drug laws?	5 (11.4)	5 (16.7)	16 (45.7)	5 (16.1)

TABLE 34: CURRENT OFFENCES & RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DRUGS AND CRIME

<i>Relationship Between Drugs & Crime and 'Yes' Responses By Current Offences</i>				
	Violence	Property	Drug Related	Public Order
Did the crime you commit have some kind of relationship with drugs?	25 (33.8)	16 (53.3)	47 (90.4)	16 (32.7)
When you committed the crime for which you are currently imprisoned were you under the influence of a drug or intoxicated?	28 (37.8)	18 (60.0)	16 (30.8)	16 (32.7)
Do you think you would have committed the crime if you were not under the influence of a drug or intoxicated?	10 (13.5)	6 (20.0)	9 (17.3)	6 (12.2)
Did you commit the crime for which you are currently imprisoned in order to get drugs for your own personal use?	3 (4.1)	16 (53.3)	11 (21.2)	5 (10.2)
Did you willfully/intentionally consume a substance in order to boost your courage to commit the crime for which you are currently in prison?	3 (4.1)	8 (26.7)	8 (15.4)	3 (6.1)
Was the crime for which you are currently imprisoned linked to the production, selling and/or trafficking of drugs?	5 (6.8)	5 (16.7)	38 (73.1)	9 (18.4)
Was the crime for which you were previously arrested linked to activities to maintain the drug market?	2 (2.7)	7 (23.3)	14 (26.9)	7 (14.3)
Was the crime for which you are currently imprisoned linked to activities that went against drug laws?	4 (5.4)	6 (20.0)	39 (75.0)	8 (16.3)

IMPORTANCE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DRUGS AND CRIME

Table 35 below shows the distribution of responses concerning the relationship between drugs and crime by type of offender. Most offenders report that the relationship between drugs and crime is “very important” (37.4%), followed by “important” (22.6%). However, a notable proportion of offenders reported that the relationship between drugs and crime is “of no importance” (15.9%), with a greater amount of repeat offenders (18.3%) perceiving this when compared to first-time offenders (13.7%).

TABLE 35: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DRUGS AND CRIME

<i>Perceived Importance of the Relationship Between Drugs & Crime</i>			
Importance Level	Overall	First-time Offender	Repeat Offender
Very Important	73 (37.4)	40 (39.2)	33 (35.5)
Important	44 (22.6)	24 (23.5)	20 (21.5)
Somewhat Important	28 (14.4)	15 (14.7)	13 (14.0)
Of little importance	8 (4.1)	5 (4.9)	3 (3.2)
Of no importance	31 (15.9)	14 (13.7)	17 (18.3)
Did not response/preferred not to say	11 (5.6)	4 (3.9)	7 (7.5)

A dark, high-contrast photograph of a prison cell. The walls are made of dark bricks. In the upper right corner, there is a window with vertical bars, through which some light is visible. The floor is made of light-colored square tiles. In the lower left, there is a small, dark, cylindrical object, possibly a toilet or a trash can. The overall atmosphere is somber and confined.

Section 5:
Offender's Perception of Their
Drug Use & Use in Prison

Section 5: Offender’s Perception of Their Drug Use and Use in Prison

REASONS FOR NO DRUG USE

Offenders were asked to indicate whether they have used any substance, including alcohol or tobacco, in the past 12 months or past 30 days. 129 (66.2%) inmates responded “yes” to having used a substance at least once during the past 12 months or past 30 days while 66 (33.8%) responded “no”. A greater proportion of male offenders (68.2%) when compared to female offenders (54.2%) reported having used a substance while in prison during the past 12 months or past 30 days.

TABLE 36: FREQUENCY OF PAST YEAR OR PAST 30-DAY DRUG USE

<i>Distribution of Offenders Who Used Substances in the Past Year or Past 30 days</i>			
Have you used a substance in the past 12 months or past 30 days?	Overall (%)	Males	Females
Yes	129 (66.2)	116 (68.2)	13 (54.2)
No	66 (33.8)	54 (31.8)	11 (45.8)

Offenders who reported that they have not used a substance during the past 12 months or 30 days were asked to indicate their reasons for not using substances. The most reported reason for not using was personal choice (84.8%) followed by “other reasons” (15.2%) and lastly the substance not being available in prison (6.1%).

TABLE 37: REASONS FOR NOT USING A SUBSTANCE DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS OR PAST 30 DAYS

(MULTIPLE RESPONSE CATEGORY)

<i>Inmates’ Reasons For Not Using a Substance in the Past 12 Months or Past 30 Days</i>		
Reasons for not using drugs	Overall (N)	Percent of Cases (%)
Personal Choice	56	84.8
Substance not available in prison	4	6.1
Could not afford it	-	-
Other	10	15.2
Total	70	66

DRUGS IN PRISON

More than half of all offenders (56.4%) indicated that they believe there are drugs available in the prison. This was indicated by mostly male offenders (64.1%), with only 1 female offender

indicating this. Repeat offenders (64.5%) were more likely to report that drugs are available in the prison when compared to first-time offenders (49.0%).

TABLE 38: OFFENDERS PERCEPTION OF DRUG AVAILABILITY IN PRISON

<i>Perception of Drug Availability in Prison by Gender and Offender Type</i>	
Do you believe that drugs are available in the prison?	Overall
Yes	110 (56.4)
No	84 (43.1)
Don't know/ Prefer not to answer	-
Gender	
Male	109 (64.1)
Female	1 (4.2)
Offender Type	
Repeat Offender	60 (64.5)
First-time Offender	50 (49.0)

MEASURES TO REDUCE DRUG USE IN PRISON

Offenders who responded “yes” to drugs being available in prison were also asked to indicate the various ways in which they believe drug availability in prison could be reduced. The options provided included: (1) more searches for staff and visitors; (2) utilizing dogs to do searches; (3) increasing prosecution or discipline; and (4) alcohol and drug treatment.

There was a total of 102 responses to this question, with the main strategy identified as providing alcohol and drug treatment/programmes (67.6% of cases). This was followed by an increase in searches for staff and visitors (43.1%), utilizing dogs for searches (32.4%), and lastly increasing prosecution and discipline (24.5%).

TABLE 39: MEASURES TO REDUCE THE AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS IN PRISON (MULTIPLE RESPONSE CATEGORY)

<i>Measures to Reduce Drugs in Prison</i>		
Measures to reduce drugs in prison	Frequency (%)	Percent of Cases
More searches	44 (25.7)	43.1
Utilize Dogs	33 (19.3)	32.4
Increase prosecution/discipline	25 (14.6)	24.5
Alcohol & Drug Treatment/Programmes	69 (40.4)	67.6
Total	171	102



Section 6:
Changes in Consumption
Patterns

Section 6: Changes in Consumption Patterns

DRUG CONSUMPTION WHILE IN PRISON

A similar proportion of offenders reported that they have used (49.7%) drugs while in prison when compared to those reporting that they have not used drugs while in prison (49.2%). Of persons who have used drugs while in prison, most are repeat offenders (66.7%) while 34.3% are first-time offenders.

Repeat offenders were significantly more likely to indicate having used drugs while in prison when compared to first-time offenders (66.7% repeat offenders versus 34.3% first-time offenders, p-value of less than 0.05 (P<0.05)).

With respect to prison status, convicted offenders (51.0%) were more likely to report using drugs while in prison when compared to those on remand (43.2%).

TABLE 40: DRUG CONSUMPTION WHILE IN PRISON

<i>Drug Consumption While in Prison by Prison Status & Offender Type</i>		
Type of Offender	Have you used drugs while in prison?	
	No	Yes
Overall	96 (49.2)	97 (49.7)
Remanded	21 (56.8)	16 (43.2)
Convicted	75 (47.8)	80 (51.0)
First- time offender	65 (63.7)	35 (34.3)
Repeat offender	31 (33.3)	62 (66.7)

IMPACT OF PRISON ON TYPE OF SUBSTANCE USED (MULTIPLE RESPONSE CATEGORY)

Of those who indicated they have used drugs while in prison (N=97), an additional 13 offenders indicated that they started to use a new substance after imprisonment that they never used before. Of these, a quarter of offenders reported the first-time use of marijuana after incarceration (25.0%), followed by 6.3% reported the use of cocaine and crack cocaine, 12.5% reporting the use of alcohol and tobacco, and 18.8% reporting the use of non-prescription drugs.

TABLE 41: NEW SUBSTANCES USED BY OFFENDERS AFTER IMPRISONMENT

<i>Distribution of New Substances Used by Offenders After Imprisonment</i>		
Substance	Overall (%)	Percent of Cases (%)
Marijuana	4 (25.0)	30.8%
Cocaine	1 (6.3)	7.7%
Crack Cocaine	1 (6.3)	7.7%
Alcohol	2 (12.5%)	15.4%
Tobacco	2 (12.5%)	15.4%
Non-prescription Drugs	3 (18.8%)	23.1%
Other	3 (18.8%)	23.1%

Of the 3 offenders who reported the use of “other” substances while in prison, these substances included MDMA, Ecstasy, and Acid.

TABLE 42: REASONS OFFENDERS RETURNED OR STARTED DRUG USE WHILE INCARCERATED

<i>Distribution of Reasons for Returning or Starting Drug Use While in Prison</i>			
Reasons	Overall	First-time Offender (%)	Repeat Offender (%)
Anxiety about your case	6 (3.1)	1 (1.0)	5 (5.4)
Fear about the crime you committed	2 (1.0)	-	2 (2.2)
Missing your family or friends	16 (8.2)	10 (9.8)	6 (6.5)
Persuasion from others	2 (1.0)	1 (1.0)	1 (1.1)
Boredom	4 (2.1)	-	4 (4.3)

Offenders were also asked to indicate whether imprisonment caused them to start or get back into using drugs. Of all offenders, 30 (15.4%) responded “yes” to starting or returning to drug use following imprisonment.

Table 42 above outlines the reasons indicated by offenders for starting or returning to drug use. The most common reason indicated for starting or returning to drug use while in prison was missing family or friends (8.2%), followed by anxiety about their case (3.1%), boredom (2.1%), and lastly fear about the crime committed (1.0%) and persuasion from others (1.0%).

FURTHER IMPACT OF DRUG USE

Of offenders who reported using drugs, 20.5% indicated that they have an uncontrollable urge to continue using. Repeat offenders were more likely to report this when compared to first-time offenders (28.0% of repeat offenders versus 13.7% of first-time offenders).

A reported 42.1% of offenders reported they believe they could stop using drugs for a period without making a great effort or without feeling badly. In comparison, 7.2% of offenders reported that they do not believe they could stop using drugs for a period without great effort or feeling badly. A greater proportion of repeat offenders (55.9%) when compared to first-time offenders (29.4%) perceived that they can stop using drugs for a period without making a great effort or without feeling badly.

Of offenders who perceived that they could stop using drugs for a period (N=82), most persons or 11.3% reported that they could go 3 years or more without using. This was followed by 10.3% (20/40) of offenders who reported 1-6 months as being the longest they could go without using. Only 6.7% reported that they could stop using substances for less than one month.

TABLE 43: IMPACT OF DRUG USE ON OFFENDERS

<i>Distribution of the Impacts of Drug Use on Offenders</i>					
	Overall	First-time Offender	Repeat Offender	Remand	Convicted
Uncontrollable urge to keep using	40 (20.5)	14 (13.7)	26 (28.0)	6 (16.2)	33 (21.0)
Able to stop using drugs for a period of time	82 (42.1)	30 (29.4)	52 (55.9)	15 (40.5)	66 (42.0)
Aware of physical and mental damage	184 (94.4)	97 (95.1)	87 (93.5)	34 (91.9)	149 (94.9)

TABLE 44: PERCEIVED LENGTH OF TIME WITHOUT USING DRUGS

<i>Distribution of the Perceived Length of Time Offenders Report They Can Go Without Using Drugs</i>			
	Overall (%)	First-time Offender	Repeat Offender
Less than one month	13 (6.7)	5 (4.9)	8 (8.6)
1 to 6 months	20 (10.3)	8 (7.8)	12 (12.9)
7 months to 1 year	15 (7.7)	6 (5.9)	9 (9.7)
1 to 2 years	12 (6.2)	5 (4.9)	7 (7.5)
3 years or more	22 (11.3)	6 (5.9)	16 (17.2)

IMPLICATIONS OF DRUG USE

A notably high proportion of offenders reported that they are aware of the mental and physical damage that can be caused by drug use (94.4%). This was reported by a similar proportion among both repeat offenders (93.5%) and first-time offenders (95.1%). Similarly, an equal

proportion of offenders on remand (91.9%) reported an awareness of the damage caused by drug use when compared to convicted offenders (94.9%).

PREVIOUS TREATMENT

Offenders were asked to indicate whether they have ever received treatment for their drug use. A reported 7.2% of offenders responded “yes” to having ever received treatment for their drug use. Repeat offenders (14.0%) were more likely to have received treatment for their drug use when compared to first-time offenders (1.0%).

Approximately 5.6% of offenders also indicated that they have been hospitalized for drug use or drug-related mental health complications. This was reported by more repeat offenders (8.6%) when compared to first-time offenders (2.9%). Similarly, approximately 5.6% of offenders reported that they are currently receiving treatment for the drugs they are currently using, with this being reported by more repeat offenders (9.7%) than first-time offenders (2.0%).

TABLE 45: IMPACT OF DRUG USE ON OFFENDERS

<i>Distribution of the Impact of drug use on offenders</i>					
	Overall	First-time Offender	Repeat Offender	Remand	Convicted
Have you ever received treatment for your drug use?	14 (7.2)	1 (1.0)	13 (14.0)	3 (8.1)	11 (7.0)
Have you ever been hospitalized for drug use, or any drug related mental complications?	11 (5.6)	3 (2.9)	8 (8.6)	1 (2.7)	10 (6.4)
Do you currently receive treatment for the types of drug currently used?	11 (5.6)	2 (2.0)	9 (9.7)	1 (2.7)	10 (6.4)



Section 7:
Gang Involvement

Section 7: Gang Involvement

HISTORY OF GANG INVOLVEMENT

Of all offenders surveyed, 9.2% also indicated that they have previously been or are currently involved in a gang. Most of these respondents were repeat offenders (10.3%) who were also convicted. Respondents who answered “yes” to belonging to a gang were also asked to report the age at which they first joined a gang. Initiation into gang activities occurred between the ages of 10-24 years old, with a mean age of initiation being 14.7 years. Only male offenders answered “yes” to having been part of a gang.

5.6% of inmates reported that they were a member of a gang immediately prior to imprisonment. This was reported by more repeat offenders (7.2%) when compared to first-time offenders (4.1%). Only male offenders answered “yes” to belonging to a gang immediately prior to imprisonment.

TABLE 46: HISTORY OF GANG INVOLVEMENT

<i>Offenders History of Gang Involvement</i>					
	Overall	First-time Offender	Repeat Offender	Remand	Convicted
Are you in or have you ever been in a gang?	18 (9.2)	8 (8.2)	10 (10.3)	2 (5.4)	16 (10.2)
Were you a member of a gang immediately before your imprisonment?	11 (5.6)	4 (4.1)	7 (7.2)	1 (2.7)	10 (6.4)
Was the crime related in any way to your involvement/membership of the gang?	2 (1.0)	-	2 (2.1)	-	2 (1.3)
Were you ever imprisoned in the past for gang related activities	5 (2.6)	2 (2.0)	3 (3.1)	-	5 (3.2)
Was drug-use a part of your gang activities before imprisonment?	10 (5.1)	4 (4.1)	6 (6.2)	-	10 (6.4)
Was trafficking of drugs a part of your gang activities before imprisonment?	8 (4.1)	4 (4.1)	4 (4.1)	-	8 (5.1)

Of inmates who have been part of a gang, 5.1% reported that drug use was part of their gang-related activities, and 4.1% reported that the trafficking of drugs was also involved in their gang activities. The trafficking of drugs was reported by equal proportions of first-time and repeat offenders (4.1%).

TABLE 47: INTENTION TO RETURN TO GANG ACTIVITY

<i>Offenders Perception of Returning to Gang Activity</i>				
	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not Likely	Did not respond/Does not know
Upon release, how likely are you to readily get back into gang activities?	3 (1.5)	2 (1.0)	12 (6.2)	1 (0.5)

Of offenders who report belonging to a gang either now or in the past, most also reported that they are not likely to get back into gang-related activities upon release (6.2%).

TABLE 48: PERCEPTION OF GANGS IN PRISON & GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY

<i>Offenders Perception of Gangs in Prison & Gang-related Activity</i>					
	Overall	First-time Offender	Repeat Offender	Remand	Convicted
Are you aware of any gangs in prison either now or in the past?	44 (22.6)	15 (15.3)	29 (29.9)	9 (24.3)	35 (22.3)
Since imprisonment, have you been approached to be a member of a prison-based gang?	14 (7.2)	5 (5.1)	9 (9.3)	3 (8.1)	11 (7.0)
Have you been approached to be a member of a gang outside of prison?	16 (8.2)	6 (6.1)	10 (10.3)	3 (8.1)	13 (8.3)
Are you aware of any gang-related activities which support the drug trade?	39 (20.0)	15 (15.3)	24 (24.7)	10 (27.0)	28 (17.8)

Inmates were asked to report on their perception of gang activity within the prison. Of all offenders, 22.6% indicated that they have an awareness of gangs in prison either currently or at some time in the past. Of these, most were repeat offenders (29.9%) and were also convicted (22.3%).

Since imprisonment, 7.2% of offenders have been approached to become a member of a **prison-based gang**. Most offenders that report being approached are repeat offenders (9.3%) with approximately 5.1% of first-time offenders being approached to join a prison-based gang.

In contrast, slightly more offenders have been approached to become a member of a **gang outside of prison** (8.2%). This was also reported by more repeat offenders (10.3%) when compared to first-time offenders (6.1%).

20.0% of all offenders reported being aware of gang-related activity that supports the drug trade, with this being reported by more repeat offenders (24.7%) than first-time offenders (15.3%).

A black and white photograph of a prison hallway. A person is walking away from the camera towards a large window at the end of the hallway. The hallway has barred cells on the right side. The floor is made of large, dark tiles. The walls are light-colored and show signs of wear and peeling paint. A single light fixture is visible on the ceiling. A red rectangular overlay is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the image, containing the word "Recommendations" in white text.

Recommendations

Discussion & Recommendations

The relationship between drugs and crime remains an important factor to consider both in relation to the crimes committed as well as the availability, supply, and use of substances among offenders during their incarceration.

The results demonstrated a notably high availability and use of various substances within the prison, with more than half of all offenders (56.4%) reporting that there are drugs available within the prison, and almost half (49.7%) of the population reporting having used drugs during their incarceration. There was a high prevalence of lifetime use reported for licit substances such as alcohol, cigarettes, and e-cigarettes, however, offenders within this population also reported a notable proportion of lifetime use for illicit substances including marijuana, crack cocaine, and cocaine powder. While the prevalence of use for other illicit substances such as heroin, MDMA, fentanyl, and non-prescribed pills was much lower in comparison to other substances, it is important to monitor whether the use of these substances increases over future survey cycles.

With respect to the current prevalence of use, cigarettes (67.2%) and marijuana (26.2%) continue to be the most used substances reported by all offenders. This suggests that these substances are the most readily available to offenders within the prison when compared to all other substances. However, given that there is a low prevalence of current use still reported for other substances such as cocaine, alcohol, and e-cigarettes, access to other substances, while likely difficult, remains possible within the prison.

Marijuana had the lowest mean age of first use at 15 years old, suggesting that marijuana is likely the first substance that respondents in this population try, even prior to alcohol and cigarettes which had a mean age of first use of 16 years old. Given that marijuana is also the second most common substance that is currently used among offenders, there may be a subsection of this population with marijuana use disorders which should not be ignored. Treatment relating to marijuana use may need to be considered, particularly in relation to those with a comorbidity of mental health issues.

As shown over the years of the survey, there has continuously been a significant relationship reported between drugs and crime. The results from this survey also highlight that there is an observed relationship between substance use and repeat offending. Not only do repeat offenders report a higher lifetime prevalence for all substances (except alcohol) when compared to first-time offenders, but a greater proportion of repeat offenders also report the use of substances during incarceration and are more likely to report having received medical treatment or attention for their substance use. Similarly, drugs are reported as the second most common factor related to the reasons why inmates have re-offended. Being under the influence of a drug while committing the crime as well as having committed the crime in order to obtain drugs for personal use are more likely to be reported by repeat offenders suggesting that substance use disorders may be of greater concern among repeat offenders.

The correlation observed between substance use and repeat offending highlights an important area for policy and programming development. Policy should recognize that substance use disorders and poor mental health are underlying issues involved in reoffending and should advocate for greater human services that support and offer treatment for these health issues. While drug education opportunities are important, the offenders in this study reported high levels of awareness around the physical and mental harms of drug use, suggesting a need for programming that focuses on building better coping strategies to reduce substance use such as stress management and emotional regulation.

In relation to gang activity outside of prison, a small proportion (9.2%) of inmates reported having belonged to a gang. While the average age of initiation into gang activity occurred at the age of 14.7 years old, most offenders do not report an intention to return to gang activity following their release from prison (6.2%). However, the results suggest that a high correlation between drugs and gang membership exists for this population. More than half of all persons who responded “yes” to being involved in a gang at some point also reported that drug use (10/18) was connected to their gang membership and 44% (8/18) reported that the trafficking of drugs was connected to their gang membership.

In relation to gangs within prison, just under one quarter of all offenders reported that they are aware of gangs within prison either now or in the past. The results suggest that repeat offenders have both a greater awareness of gangs within prison and are also more likely to be approached to join a gang both within and outside of the prison compared to first time offenders. Prison staff should be aware of this relationship between repeat offenders and gang activity.

Based on the results of the survey, the following recommendations seek to address the issue of the relationship between drugs and crime as follows:

1. There is a high level of drug use involved among repeat offenders suggesting that a great proportion of the crimes committed among the prison population is connected not only to drugs but likely substance use disorders. Rehabilitation efforts should prioritise and address the role and challenge of substance use and treatment among repeat offenders to assist with the reduction of recidivism rates.
2. There is a need to provide alternatives to substance use as a coping mechanism for dealing with various mental health challenges and the stress caused by incarceration among offenders. Alternatives may include greater access to counselling/therapy, or mindfulness and meditative classes.
3. The high level of marijuana use among offenders is concerning and should be closely monitored. The high prevalence of current use may suggest that there is a need for marijuana-focused substance use treatment. High levels of use also raise a concern surrounding the exacerbation of underlying mental health issues that marijuana use can cause. This is particularly true for offenders whose mental health issues (especially those predisposed to schizophrenia or similar disorders) have gone unaddressed or untreated because of limited mental health services.