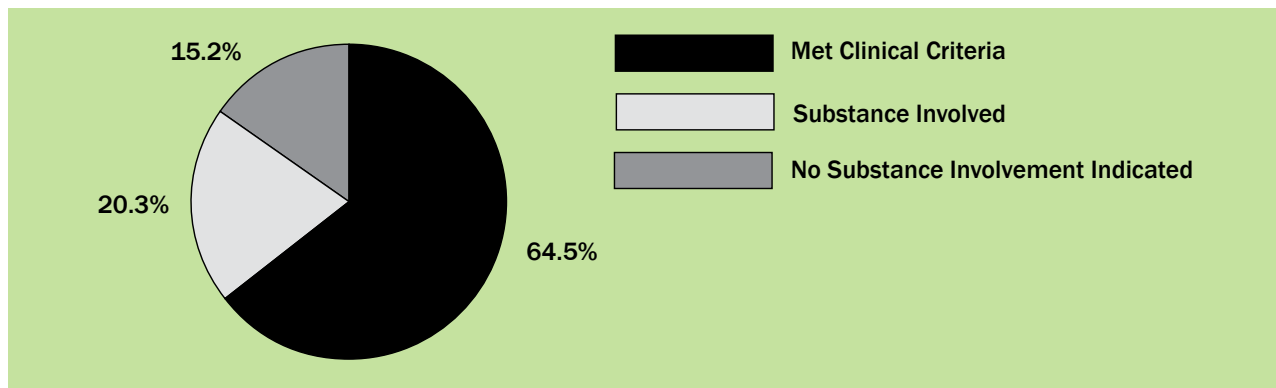




## Problem Substance Use Driving Incarceration; More Than 4 in 5 Adults Behind Bars Substance Involved

Substance abuse and addiction is a driving factor in the increased numbers of people incarcerated in federal and state prisons and local jails, according to a report by Columbia University's National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse. The estimated number of adults behind bars grew 32.8% between 1996 and 2006 (from 1,700,661 to 2,258,983), and the estimated number with substance involvement grew even more, by 43.2% (from 1,337,099 to 1,914,964). In 2006, 84.8% of incarcerated adults (1,914,964 of 2,258,983) were substance involved. This includes 64.5% (1,456,851) who met clinical criteria<sup>1</sup> for substance or alcohol abuse or dependence and 20.3% (458,113) who were considered substance involved for other causes.<sup>2</sup> Of people incarcerated in 2006, 42.8% (967,046) were under the influence of alcohol or other drugs when they committed their crime.

### Estimated Percentage of Incarcerated Adults With Selected Types of Substance Involvement, 2006



#### Source:

National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. (2010). *Behind Bars II: Substance abuse and America's prison population*. New York: Columbia University.

#### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Clinical criteria are defined in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV)*.

<sup>2</sup> Did not meet clinical criteria, but exhibited one or more of the following characteristics: history of regular illicit drug use, history of alcohol treatment, incarcerated on a drug or alcohol law violation, committed offense(s) under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, or committed offense(s) to get money for drugs.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at [www.centerforhealthandjustice.org](http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org).

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