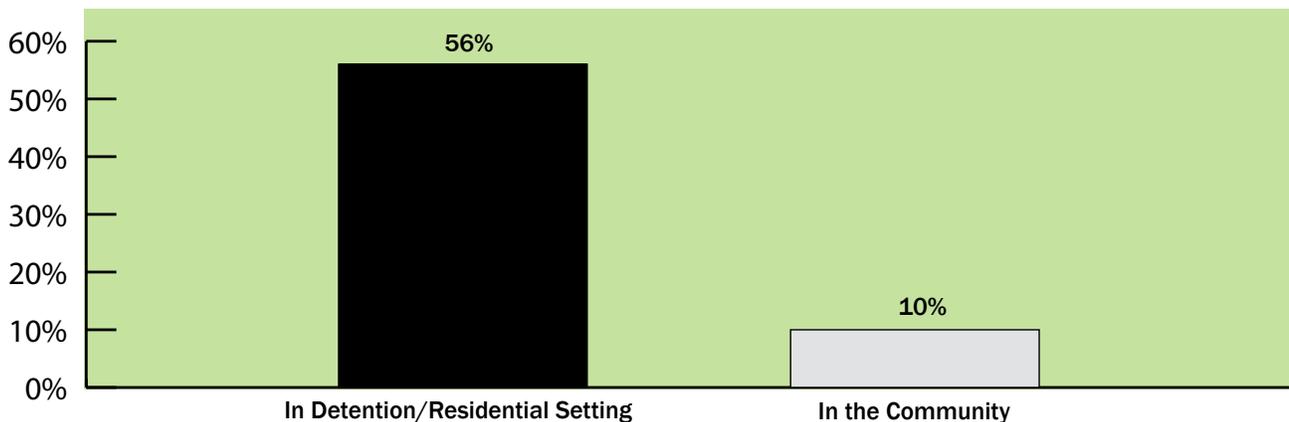




Youth with Serious Offenses and Substance Use Disorders Lack Community Treatment

In an analysis of data from the Pathways to Desistance study, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) found that many youth detained for serious offenses¹ need substance use treatment in the community following release, and few receive such services. In the study, 37% of male and 35% of female youth with serious offenses met clinical criteria² for substance abuse or dependence, making this population three to four times more likely to meet such criteria than their peers in the community as a whole. More than half (56%) of the youth with serious offenses received substance use treatment while detained,³ and only 10% received it once released. Authors explain that best practices for community treatment, such as sustained treatment and family participation, are lacking for those adolescents who are at greatest risk. Increased access to and application of best practices in community treatment can decrease the likelihood of substance use as a risk factor for serious offenses.

Percentage of Youth with Serious Offenses Receiving Substance Abuse Treatment, 2010



Source:

Mulvey, E.P., Schubert, C.A., and Chassin, L. (2010). Substance use and delinquent behavior among serious adolescent offenders. *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. Washington, D.C.: OJJDP.

Notes:

¹ Almost exclusively felony offenses, including violent crimes, property offenses, or drug offenses.

² As defined in the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV)*.

³ Regardless of their substance use status. Those with diagnosable substance use problems were four times likelier to receive substance use treatment than those with no such problems (44% vs. 11%), suggesting an appropriate targeting of services. Even so, many youth with serious offenses and substance use disorders did not receive treatment, and some who did not demonstrate a clear need for them did.

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