



County Risk Sharing Authority

a service program of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio

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Risk Management Implications of Drug/Alcohol Addiction

Drug and alcohol addiction has a tremendous impact on jail populations in the State of Ohio. It is estimated that nearly 80% of those incarcerated have some sort of link to drugs and or alcohol that has contributed to landing them in our county jails. A national study estimates that over the past decade drugs have killed more than twice as many Americans as homicide.

In recent years we have seen an increase in jail populations that can be attributed to drug abuse and addiction. More and more of those being detained and or incarcerated are suffering from some sort of addiction. There is a definitive increase in both overdose from opiates and opiate withdrawal in our county and regional jails. The increase in “addicted” inmate populations has a direct impact on how we manage and care for individuals that are in our care, custody and control.

CoRSA members have experienced a definite uptick in jail medical claims in the last 5 years. These cannot be solely attributed to opiates, but most claims do have a correlation to drug abuse. 2010 saw 13 jail medical claims resulting in \$433,000 in monies spent for defense and settlement. That number has trended consistently upward with 2014 producing 10 jail medical claims resulting in \$1,185,000 paid out in defense and settlement.

Counties have also been required to increase funding to the jail systems in order to identify and accommodate the growing addicted jail populations in the following ways:

- 1) Provide full time or access to full time medical professionals to assess those entering our jails and properly identify dependency issues
- 2) Provide additional training to all staff in the identification opiate abuse indicators
- 3) Increase staffing levels due to increased jail populations
- 4) Increase cost of liability insurance as a result of claims related to drug overdose and withdrawal
- 5) Increase in cost for prescription meds distributed in jails that are a direct result of opiate abuse or indirect result (i.e. psychotropic drugs, withdrawal medications)
- 6) Increase in training cost and hours associated with training
- 7) Increase in litigation as a result of suicide, overdose and overcrowding
- 8) Increase in medical costs due to increased populations
- 9) Increased transportation cost as a result of increased population
- 10) Increase in payroll as more corrections officers are needed

"The United States leads the world in the number of people incarcerated in federal and state correctional facilities. There are currently more than 2 million people in American prisons or jails. Approximately one-quarter of those people held in U.S. prisons or jails have been convicted of a drug offense. The United States incarcerates more people for drug offenses than any other country. With an estimated 6.8 million Americans

struggling with drug abuse or dependence, the growth of the prison population continues to be driven largely by incarceration for drug offenses." - See more at: http://www.drugwarfacts.org/cms/Prisons_and_Drugs#sthash.yuRVQNbr.dpuf

• Number of persons under control of the US corrections system for drug offenses [†]							
System	1980	1990	2000	2007	2008	2009	% Chg 1990-2009
TOTAL - Drugs		964,469	--	1,833,856	1,891,467	1,725,387	+78.9%
<i>Probation</i>	--	640,856	918,290	1,159,154	1,238,566	1,093,031	+70.6%
<i>Parole</i>	--	144,543	n/a	305,656	306,423	294,951	+104.1%
<i>Federal Prison</i>	4,900	30,470	74,276	95,446	95,079	95,205	+212.5%
<i>State prison</i>	19,000	148,600	251,100	273,600	251,400	242,200	+63.0%
% Share of Total Persons*	--	24.5%	--	35.8%	28.6%	26.4%	--

• All of the above numbers represent estimates, not exact counts. The source reports from the Bureau of Justice Statistics for various years have been periodically revised. The methodologies used to collect these data may also be modified over time, rendering the percent change values approximations.

• † The conviction on a drug offense means that possession or sales of an illegal drug was the person's most serious offense, even if he or she were convicted of multiple offenses.

• This analysis omits counts for drug offenders in local jails, even though these facilities housed an estimated 767,434 inmates in 2009. The Bureau of Justice Statistics, from which the above numbers were drawn, consistently fails to report the offenses that predicate incarceration in these facilities.

• The above numbers concerning probation and parole have been computed from the percentages that describe the "characteristics of adults" on probation or parole.

- * "% Share of total persons" computes the percentage share of the sum of all probationers, parolees and state and federal prisoners represented by those whose most serious offense involved a drug conviction.

Source:

Gilliard, Darrell K. and Beck, Allan J., "Prisoners in 1994," Bureau of Justice Statistics, (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, August 1995), NCJ 151654, p. 11 & 10.

<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p04.pdf>

Guerino, Paul; Harrison, Paige M.; and Sabol, William J., "Prisoners in 2010," Bureau of Justice Statistics, (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, December 2011), NCJ 236096, p. 28 & 30.

<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p10.pdf>

Glaze, Lauren E., and Bonczar, Thomas P., "Probation and Parole in the United States, 2010," Bureau of Justice Statistics, (Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, November 2011), NCJ 236019, pp. 33 & 43.

<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus10.pdf>

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Other reports from which the above data can be referenced:

Total Correctional Population: <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=11>

State and Federal Prisoners: <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=13>

State and Federal Prisoners, 1925-2001: <http://www.census.gov/statab/hist/HS-24.pdf>

Community Corrections (Probation and Parole): <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=15>

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics: http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/tost_6.html