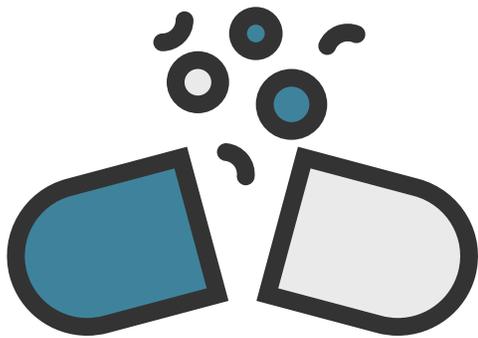


Drug Misuse

Research suggests that there is a high rate of drug misuse amongst people on probation. Often this is also combined with misuse of alcohol and/or mental illness

A study of the prevalence of non-prescription opioid use amongst a sample of 406 women on probation or parole in the USA found that those using non-prescription opioids were more likely to:

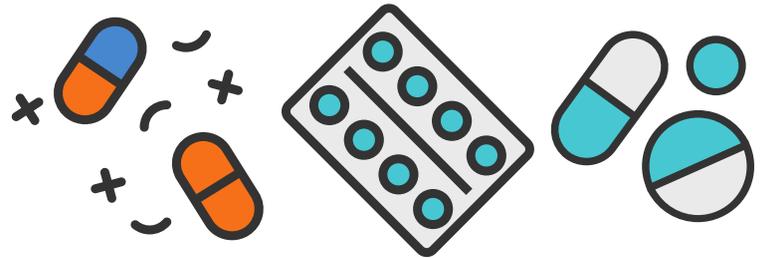
- Report poor health than non-users
- Have experienced physical violence from an intimate or non-intimate partner
- Meet diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder
- Be experiencing bodily pain, and
- Have higher levels of psychiatric distress than those that were not using these drugs (Hall et al., 2016)



In a study of a stratified random sample of 173 offenders on probation in Lincolnshire (UK), 12.1% of the sample scored 11+ on the DAST screening tool — indicating either a ‘substantial’ or ‘severe’ level of drug abuse (Brooker et al., 2012)

Findings from the Probation Service's Drugs and Alcohol Survey 2011, completed by Probation Officers in Ireland showed that:

- 27% of cases had misused only drugs, and
- 42% had misused both drugs and alcohol
- The most commonly misused drug was cannabis
- 25.9% of cases had misused opiates in the past
- 33.8% had misused stimulants in the past (Martyn, 2012)



There are also high rates of poly substance misuse amongst people on probation:

42%

Findings from the Probation Service's Drugs and Alcohol Survey 2011 completed by Probation Officers in Ireland showed that 42% had misused both drugs and alcohol, and 20% had misused only alcohol (Martyn, 2012)

35%

A study of Approved Premises residents in the UK found that 35% had a history of both alcohol and drug misuse (Geelan et al., 2000)

In the Lincolnshire study, 72% of those with a current mental illness also had a substance misuse problem (Brooker et al., 2011)

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