

7. Illicit drug markets are a breeding ground for criminal violence as dealers compete for turf and try to protect themselves from “rip-offs” by street criminals, other dealers, and addicts.
- The correlation between substance abuse and criminal behavior is reflected among persons who are arrested and incarcerated. The National Institute of Justice's Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program consistently finds that most arrestees nationally were using one or more drugs before arrest. Between 48% and 82% of male arrestees tested positive for one or more drugs in 1996 and rates for female arrestees were generally only slightly lower. Detected drug use among arrestees was a strong predictor of prior arrests.
  - Ten states besides Tennessee have conducted SANTA or similar studies of arrestees and have uniformly found high rates of substance use, abuse, and dependence in their sample populations.

#### The Prevalence of Substance Abuser/Dependence among Those in Jail and Prison

- Several states have conducted substance abuse treatment needs assessments among state prisoners. The prevalence of lifetime histories of alcohol or drug use disorders among inmates that was found in the individual studies ranged from 57% to 80%, six to eight times the prevalence in the general population.
- According to the 1990 Census, 21,335 Tennesseans were incarcerated. A high proportion of this group needed some form of substance abuse treatment but very few had actually received it. This important treatment gap itself justified the need for the SANTA study.
- According to results from the Tennessee Alcohol and Other Drug Needs Assessment (TAODNA) Survey of adults ages 18 and over living in households in 1993:<sup>1</sup>
  - 6% (or about 238,600) of adults had been arrested for DUI at some time in their lives; 3.4% (or 135,200) had been arrested for other alcohol-related offenses such as public drunkenness and liquor law violations; and
  - 1.4% (or 55,700 adults) had been arrested for some other drug-related offense, such as selling or possession of an illegal drug.

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<sup>1</sup>This survey was conducted by the Community Health Research Group (CHRG) at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville and was sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Health, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services.