

The Health Status of Adult and Juvenile Arrestees, Tennessee, 1996-1997

- Adult arrestees were 25% more likely than juvenile arrestees to report fair or poor physical health in the last 12 months, and the former were 77% more likely to report disability or functional impairment.
 - Yet similar proportions of juvenile and adult arrestees reported fair or poor psychological health, often or always feeling depressed or ever attempting suicide.
 - Juvenile and adult arrestees were similar in the percentage reporting ever being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS (2%) or tuberculosis (4%). Substantially higher percentages of adult arrestees reported ever being diagnosed with hepatitis (29% more than juvenile arrestees), sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) (93% more than juveniles), injuries requiring medical care (33% more than their juvenile counterparts), and other major health problems (reporting 28% more than juvenile arrestees reported).
 - Rates of utilization of medical care services in the past 12 months were very similar for juvenile and adult arrestees, including percentages utilizing physicians' services, making emergency department visits, and being admitted to hospitals. However, 25% more juvenile arrestees had ever received mental health or psychiatric treatment than was the case among adult arrestees.
 - Nearly 3 times more adult arrestees had no health insurance than juvenile arrestees (36% of adults and 13% of juveniles lacked health insurance). Adult arrestees were 41% more likely to report ever having trouble getting medical care compared to juvenile arrestees (16% of the former versus 12% of the latter).
 - Juvenile arrestees were substantially more prone to violence than adult arrestees. Compared to adult arrestees, juvenile arrestees in the 12 months prior to the survey were:
 - 91% more likely to have gotten into a physical fight (63% versus 33%);
 - 5 times more likely to have gotten into a gang fight (32.5% versus 6.5%);
 - 69% more likely to have carried a weapon (38% versus 22.5%); and
 - 65% more likely to have been injured in a fight (28% versus 17%).
- However, both adult and juvenile arrestees were about equally likely to report having been physically assaulted or abused in the past 12 months (24% of adult arrestees and 23% of juvenile arrestees).
- Fifteen percent of juvenile and adult female arrestees were pregnant when arrested. Pregnant females represented 3% of adults and 5% of juveniles in the arrestee study.