

**Substance Use and Delinquency
Among Youths Entering
Texas Youth Commission Facilities:
2000–2001**

By

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Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	ix
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Purpose and Background	1
Methods	3
Limitations	4
Background and Characteristics of TYC Youths	6
Comparison to the 1994 TYC Sample	8
Chapter 2: Prevalence of Substance Use	13
Licit Substances	13
Illicit Substances	17
Comparisons of TYC Youths to Other Populations	27
Chapter 3: Treatment Needs and Options	31
Estimating Substance Abuse and Dependence	32
Previous Chemical Dependency Treatment Experience	35
Motivation for Treatment	37
Unmet Need for Treatment	38
Chapter 4: Criminal Behavior	41
Prevalence of Criminal Activities	41
Linking the Use of Substances to Crime	47
Early Experiences in Crime	48
Parental Knowledge of and Reaction to Youth Delinquency	49
Illegal Income	50
Uses of Income	50
Feelings About Being in TYC	50
Gang Membership, Delinquent Activities, and Substance Use	51
Chapter 5: Other Problems and Issues Among Youths	57
Family Background and Childhood Neglect and Abuse	57
Family Dynamics	59
Parental Substance Use	61
Peer Relations	62

Education and Schooling	63
HIV Risk and Risk for Pregnancy	65
Children of TYC Youths	67
Mental Health	67
Self Esteem	71
Gambling	71
Chapter 6: Conclusions	75
Changes Since 1994	76

Appendices

Appendix A: Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use	79
Appendix B: Prevalence and Recency of Crime	87
Appendix C: Questions Used to Create Family Dynamics Indices	95

List of Figures

Figure 2.1—Lifetime, Past Year and Past Month Use of Alcohol and Illicit Drug: TYC Youths 2000–2001	13
Figure 2.2—Ways of Using Uppers Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Uppers	21
Figure 2.3—Ways of Using Opiates Other Than Heroin Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Them	25
Figure 3.1—Past-Year Alcohol Dependence and Abuse Among TYC Youths	33
Figure 3.2—Past-Year Drug Dependence and Abuse Among TYC Youths	33
Figure 3.3 – Kind of Treatment Received by TYC Boys and Girls Who Had Ever Received Treatment	36
Figure 3.4 – TYC Youths’ Interest in Treatment, by Substance Dependence Status . .	38
Figure 4.1 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Drove While Intoxicated, by Age	44
Figure 4.2 – Reasons for Not Using the Drugs They Sold	45
Figure 4.3 – Proportion of Young People in Their Neighborhood Who Belong to a Gang, as Perceived by TYC Youths	51
Figure 4.4 – Weapons Possessed by Gang, as Reported by TYC Offenders Who Belonged to Gangs with Weapons	55
Figure 5.1 – Consistent Use of Birth Control Among Sexually Active TYC Youths, by Substance Use Problems	66
Figure 5.2 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Had Mental Health Problems, by Substance Use Problems	70
Figure 6.1 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Drug-Related Crime in the Past Year: 1994 and 2000-2001	77

List of Tables

Table 1.1—Demographic Characteristics of TYC Youths at Admission, by Gender . .	7
Table 1.2—Demographic Characteristics of Weighted 2000-2001 Sample of TYC Youths Compared to TYC Population in 2000	8
Table 1.3—Previous Experiences with the Criminal Justice System, by Gender	8

Table 2.1—Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use Among Entering TYC Youths	14
Table 2.2—Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Drank Alcohol in the Past Year, by Demographic Category	15
Table 2.3 – Percentage Using Specific Inhalants Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Inhalants	16
Table 2.4 – Percentage of Lifetime Users Reporting How Much They Usually Inhale	17
Table 2.5 – Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used an Illicit Drug in Their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category	17
Table 2.6 – Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Marijuana in Their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category	19
Table 2.7 – Ways of Using Powder Cocaine Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Powder Cocaine	19
Table 2.8 – Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Powder Cocaine in Their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category	19
Table 2.9 — Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Crack Cocaine in Their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category	20
Table 2.10 – Percentage Using Specific Uppers Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Uppers	20
Table 2.11 — Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Uppers in Their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category	21
Table 2.12 — Percentage Using Specific Downers Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Downers	22
Table 2.13 — Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Downers in Their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category	23
Table 2.14 – Kinds of Heroin Used and Preferred Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Heroin	23
Table 2.15 – Ways of Using Heroin Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Heroin	23
Table 2.16 — Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Heroin in Their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category	24
Table 2.17 — Percentage Using Specific Opiates Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Opiates Other than Heroin	24
Table 2.18 — Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Opiates Other than Heroin in Their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category	25
Table 2.19 — Percentage Using Specific Psychedelics Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Psychedelics	26
Table 2.20 — Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Psychedelics in Their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category	26
Table 2.21 – Past-Year Substance Use Among TYC Youths (2000-2001) and Youths in Texas Public Secondary Schools (2000), by Gender	27
Table 2.22 – Past-Year Substance Use Among TYC Youths (2000-2001) and TDCJ-Institutional Division Inmates (1998), by Gender	28

Table 2.23 – Past-Year Substance Use Among TYC Youths in 1994 and 2000-2001	28
Table 3.1 – Diagnostic Criteria to Assess Substance Abuse and Dependence from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Third Edition, Revised	32
Table 3.2 – Percentage of TYC Youths Reporting Substance Use Problems, by Gender and Age	33
Table 3.3 – Percentage of TYC Youths Reporting Substance Use Problems, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity	34
Table 3.4 – Percentage of TYC Youths (2000-2001) and Institutional Division Adult Offenders (1998) Reporting Substance Use Problems, by Gender ..	34
Table 3.5 – Percentage of TYC Youths (2000-2001) and Adults Living in Households (2000) Reporting Substance Use Problems, by Gender	35
Table 3.6 – Percentage of TYC Youths Reporting Substance Use Problems in 1994 and 2000-2001	35
Table 3.7 – Percentage of TYC Youths Reporting Which Drugs Caused Them the Most Problems Among Those with Drug-Related Problems, by Gender	36
Table 3.8 – Treatment Experience Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Participated in Treatment Before Their Current Incarceration, by Gender	37
Table 3.9 – Percentage of TYC Youths with Substance Problems Who Were Interested in Treatment, And Percentage Who Would Be Willing to Extend Their Stay in TYC in Order to Receive Treatment, by Demographic Category	37
Table 3.10 – Gender, Age, and Racial/Ethnic Distribution of TYC Youths Released in Fiscal Year 1998 Who Participated in the TYC Chemical Dependency Treatment Program, as Compared to Treatment Need Among TYC Youths Sampled in 2000-2001	39
Table 4.1 – Past-Year Prevalence of the 12 Most Common Crimes Committed by TYC Youths, by Gender	41
Table 4.2 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Property Crime in the Past Year, by Gender.	42
Table 4.3 — Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Property Crime in the Past Year, by Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity	42
Table 4.4 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Violent Crime in the Past Year, by Gender	43
Table 4.5 — Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Violent Crime in the Past Year, by Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity	43
Table 4.6 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Sold Any Drugs in the Past Year, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity	44
Table 4.7 – Personal Drug Use Among TYC Youths Who Have Sold Drugs	45
Table 4.8 – Responses of TYC Drug-Selling Youths to Statements About Drug Use and Selling	46
Table 4.9 – Mode of Paying for Drugs That TYC Youths Sold, by Drug Sold	46
Table 4.10 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Drug-Related Crime in the Past Year, by Type of Crime and Gender	47

Table 4.11 – Sources Used to Pay for Drugs Among TYC Youths Who Ever Used Drugs	48
Table 4.12 – Previous Experiences with the Criminal Justice System	49
Table 4.13 – Most Common Reasons for First Incarceration and Present Incarceration	49
Table 4.14 – Reasons for Joining a Gang, Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Been in a Gang	52
Table 4.15 – Most Important Reason for Joining a Gang, Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Been in a Gang	52
Table 4.16 – Initiation Activities Among Current and Former Gang Members Who Went Through an Initiation	52
Table 4.17 – Frequency of Gang Involvement Among Current and Former Gang Members	53
Table 4.18 – Most Frequent Gang Activities Reported by Current and Former Gang Members	53
Table 4.19 – Drugs Sold by Their Gangs, as Reported by TYC Gang Members	53
Table 4.20 – Sources of Income for Gangs, as Reported by TYC Current or Former Gang Members	54
Table 5.1 – Living Situations Among TYC Youths	57
Table 5.2 – Percentage of TYC Youths Whose Family Members Have Served Time in Jail or Prison	58
Table 5.3 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Have Run Away from Home, by Number of Times and Gender	58
Table 5.4 – Reasons for Running Away, Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Run Away from Home, by Gender	59
Table 5.5 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Have Suffered Neglect, Poverty, or Abuse, by Gender	59
Table 5.6 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Have Suffered Neglect, Poverty, or Abuse, by Substance Use Problems	60
Table 5.7 – Relationship with Parents or Caregivers, by Gender and Substance Use Problems	60
Table 5.8 – Family Dynamics, by Gender and Substance Use Problems	60
Table 5.9 – Parental Substance Use, as Reported by TYC Youths With and Without Substance Use Problems	61
Table 5.10 – Characteristics of Friends of TYC Youths, by Substance Use Problems	62
Table 5.11 – School Attendance Before Entering TYC	63
Table 5.12 – Reasons for Dropping Out of School, Among TYC Youths Who Had Done So	63
Table 5.13 – Reasons for Frequently Missing Classes During the Last Year Among TYC Youths Who Were in School, by Substance Use Problems	64
Table 5.14 – Percentage of TYC Youths Expressing Negative Attitudes About School, by Substance Use Problems	65
Table 5.15 – Percentage of Sexually Active TYC Youths Who Use Protection During Sex	65
Table 5.16 – Percentage of TYC Youths at Risk for HIV, by Gender, Age, Race/Ethnicity and Substance Use Problems	67

Table 5.17 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Were Parents, by Demographic Characteristics and Substance Use Problems	68
Table 5.18 – Self-Reported Assessment of Mental or Emotional Health by TYC Boys and Girls	69
Table 5.19 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Needed and Had Ever Received Mental Health Services, by Gender	69
Table 5.20 – Percentage of TYC Youths Who Reported Frequently Experiencing Mental Health Symptoms, by Gender	70
Table 5.21 – Past-Year Gambling, Weekly Gambling, and Gambling Problems Among TYC Youths, by Gender, Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Substance Use Problems	72

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a study of substance use among youths entering Texas Youth Commission (TYC) facilities in 2000-2001. The youths sent to TYC are Texas' most serious or chronically delinquent offenders. This study focuses on their behaviors before they began their present TYC commitment. It addresses the following questions:

- What are the backgrounds and current characteristics of youths in the TYC?
- What are their patterns of substance use and misuse?
- How is their substance use and misuse related to crime?

Where appropriate, the study discusses the similarities and differences between girls and boys. In addition, this report compares the substance use of TYC youths interviewed in 2000-2001 to TYC youths interviewed in 1994.

Data and Methods

Using a simple random sample, data were collected from 1,026 youths newly admitted to the TYC intake facility at Marlin, Texas. Face-to-face interviews were conducted by research staff not affiliated with TYC. The survey instrument covered prevalence of licit and illicit substance use, criminal history, past substance abuse treatment experiences and current motivation for treatment, family and peer relations, gang involvement and gang activities, physical and mental health, gambling behaviors, experiences in school, and demographics. Table 1.1 presents the demographic characteristics of the weighted sample.

Prevalence of Substance Use

- Appendix A shows past-month, past-year (not past-month), and lifetime prevalence of substance use by gender, age group, and race/ethnicity.
- In this study, measures based on past-month use may be underestimates, because many youths lived in some kind of restricted environment (probation, detention) immediately before entering TYC.

Licit Substances

Tobacco

- Eighty-one percent of youths smoked cigarettes during the year before entering TYC, and 26 percent smoked during the month before incarceration.
- Eight percent of youths used smokeless tobacco during the past year.

Alcohol

- Seventy-eight percent of youths drank alcohol in the past year and 21 percent drank in the past month.
- Thirteen percent of all TYC offenders were binge drinkers, defined here as youths who drank five or more drinks on two or more occasions in the past month.
- Eight percent met the criterion for heavy alcohol use, defined as five or more drinks on five or more occasions in the past month.

Inhalants

- Sixteen percent of youths used inhalants in the past year and 2 percent used inhalants in the past month.

Illicit Substances

- Ninety-one percent of TYC offenders had ever used an illicit drug, 84 percent used an illicit drug in the past year, and 29 percent used an illicit drug in the past month.
- For most of the illicit drugs, the average age at first use was 14, the exception being marijuana, which offenders first tried at the average age of 12.
- Hispanic youths (89 percent) were more likely than Anglos (80 percent) or African Americans (82 percent) to have used an illicit drug in the past year.
- Marijuana was the most prevalent drug used in the past year (80 percent), followed by powder cocaine (40 percent), downers (31 percent), psychedelics (30 percent) and opiates other than heroin (26 percent).

**The Misuse of
Substances and
Treatment Needs**

*Substance Abuse
and Dependence*

- Sixty-eight percent of TYC youths abused or were dependent on alcohol or drugs during the year before entering TYC. There was no significant association by gender.
- Youths 16 to 18 years old (73 percent) were more likely than younger youths (62 percent) to have substance use problems.
- Hispanics (74 percent) and Anglos (69 percent) were more likely than African Americans (60 percent) to report substance use problems.

*Drugs that Caused
the Most Problems*

- Marijuana was the drug most often cited by youths as the drug that had caused them the most problems. About 15 percent of youths reported that powder cocaine had caused them the most problems.

*Previous Treatment
Experience*

- Thirty-five percent of the youths who had ever used alcohol or drugs had participated in some kind of substance abuse treatment or self-help group before entering TYC.

*Motivation for
Treatment*

- To participate in the TYC's substance abuse program, offenders must demonstrate motivation to change and readiness for treatment.
- Seventy-seven percent of youths with substance use problems said that they were interested in participating in a treatment program at the present time. They represented 52 percent of all TYC offenders.
- Thirty-four percent of youths reported that they would be interested in treatment even if it meant staying an extra three months in a TYC facility. They represented 23 percent of all youths.

Crime and Drugs

*Prevalence of
Criminal Activities*

- Appendix B shows the past-month, past-year (not past month), and lifetime prevalence of committing various kinds of crimes, by age category, gender, and race/ethnicity.
- Seventy-eight percent of youths reported committing any property crime, and 72 percent reported committing any violent crime during the year before incarceration.
- Thirty-six percent of youths aged 16 and older drove while intoxicated in the past year, and 29 percent of youths younger than 16 had done so (probably without a driver's license).
- Eleven percent of girls and 15 percent of boys reported that they were currently in prison for transporting, selling, manufacturing, or possessing drugs, driving drunk, or failing a drug test. During the year before incarceration, 50 percent of offenders sold drugs.
- Fifty-eight percent of youths reported that drugs were somehow involved in crimes they had committed in the past year.
- Among the 60 percent of youths who said they were current or former gang members, 69 percent reported that their most frequent gang activity was getting high; 8 percent said it was selling or running drugs, and 4 percent said it was committing other crimes.

**Other Problems
and Needs
Among TYC
Youths**

- In-facility and follow-up treatment programs should comprehensively address the many social, psychological, and health-related problems associated with the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

*Family Background
and Neglect or
Abuse*

- Nine percent of TYC youths lived in foster care for a month or more.
- Over half of all youths had a parent or guardian who had served time in a local jail, and 29 percent had a parent or guardian who had served time in a state or federal prison.
- Youths with substance use problems were more likely than others to have a parent or guardian, sibling, or close relative who had been incarcerated.
- About 30 percent of youths reported experiences of poverty or neglect while they were growing up, and 33 percent reported some kind of abuse. Girls were more likely than boys to have suffered neglect or poverty, and physical, mental or sexual abuse.
- Offenders with substance use problems were more likely than other offenders to have suffered most forms of neglect or poverty, beatings, or mental or emotional abuse.

*Parental
Substance Use*

- Sixteen percent of TYC youths had seen their father or father figure use drugs several times a week or more, and 33 percent had seen him high on drugs several or many times.
- Thirteen percent of youths had seen their mothers use drugs several times a week or more and 16 percent had seen their mothers high several times or more often.
- Youths whose parents used drugs were more likely to themselves have substance use problems.

*Education and
Schooling*

- Thirty-one percent of youths were not attending school when they entered the TYC. Twenty percent had dropped out of school, and 11 percent were not attending for other reasons.

*HIV Risk and
Risk for Pregnancy*

- Fifty-six percent of the 91 percent of youths who were sexually active were at risk for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, because they reported that they did not consistently use a condom.
- Forty-eight percent of sexually active youths were at risk for a pregnancy because they did not always use either a condom or some other type of birth control.
- Among sexually active youths, those with substance use problems (59 percent) were more likely than other youths (49 percent) to report inconsistent use of condoms.
- Fifty-three percent of all youths were at risk for HIV infection. Fifty-one percent were at risk due to inconsistent condom use, and 6 percent were at risk due to injection drug use.

*Children of
TYC Youth*

- Fourteen percent of youths were parents.
- Boys with substance use problems were more likely than other boys to be parents, but there was no significant association among girls between having a substance problem and being a parent.

Mental Health

- Fifty percent of youths said that a mental health problem had significantly interfered with their lives at some point.
- Girls (72 percent) were more likely than boys (61 percent) to have had a mental health problem that significantly interfered with their life or for which they had taken medication or been hospitalized.
- Offenders who were dependent on substances were more likely than those who were not dependent to have had mental health problems. Abuse of substances without dependence was not associated with higher rates of mental health problems.

Gambling

- Sixty percent of youths reported gambling in the past year, with boys more likely than girls to report past-year gambling.
- Almost 12 percent of youths reported signs of problem gambling.

**Purpose and
Background**

Introduction

One of the strongest predictors of recidivism among adult prison inmates is a history of youthful involvement in crime. Only a small proportion of the youths arrested in Texas are sent to Texas Youth Commission facilities, but those youths already have extensive criminal histories or they have perpetrated a serious delinquent act, such as arson, sexual assault, or murder. They are at particularly high risk of future criminal involvement as adults.

A majority of youths committed to TYC have problems related to chemical dependency, educational deficiencies, poverty, and gang involvement. In addition, they often come from families having problems with substance abuse and the criminal justice system. These factors all complicate the challenge of rehabilitating these adolescents.

This report presents the findings of a study of substance use and related behaviors of youths who entered TYC in 2000 and 2001. The study focuses on their characteristics and behaviors before entering TYC facilities. The report addresses the following questions:

- What are the backgrounds and current characteristics of youths in the TYC?
- What are their patterns of substance use and misuse?
- How is their substance use and misuse related to crime?

Where appropriate, the study discusses the similarities and differences between girls and boys. In addition, this report compares the substance use of TYC youths interviewed in 2000–2001 to TYC youths interviewed in 1994.

Substance Use Among Youths Entering the Texas Youth Commission Facilities, 2000–2001 is part of an on-going series of studies on criminal justice populations in Texas conducted by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, in conjunction with the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University.¹ The purpose of these studies is to examine patterns of

substance use before incarceration, the need for treatment, and the relationship between drugs and crime among adult prisoners, delinquent youths, and adult probationers. The studies also allow for assessment of substance use among these high-risk groups in Texas over time.

The Texas Youth Commission is the state juvenile corrections agency that provides custody, care, rehabilitation, and reestablishment for Texas' most violent or chronically delinquent youth offenders. TYC operates 15 secure institutions and nine residential halfway house programs and contracts with more than 40 private or local government providers for specific services. After an initial period of orientation and assessment, youths are assigned to secure correctional facilities. About 75 percent of TYC offenders in residential programs reside in a TYC-operated secure correctional facility, 5 percent in TYC-operated halfway houses, and 20 in facilities run by contract providers, which may be either secure or non-secure. After completing their residential minimum length of stay and program requirements, youths may be released to parole. Youths on parole are supervised by a parole officer and may receive other services, such as specialized aftercare treatment.^{2,3}

Offenders committed to TYC must have committed a delinquent offense on or after their tenth birthday but before their seventeenth birthday; they can stay in a TYC facility until they reach 21. Ninety percent of the children committed to TYC have committed one or more felony-level offenses.⁴

In over 90 percent of the cases, youths are assigned a minimum length of stay by agency policy based on the severity and chronicity of the crimes they have committed. Offenders must progress in the rehabilitation and education programs to earn parole, even if that means residing in the residential program past their minimum length of stay. Less than 10 percent of the youths are committed to TYC under the Determinate Sentencing law, which provides for sentences up to 40 years for the most serious crimes. Under the Determinate Sentencing law, a young offender could begin a sentence at TYC and, depending on the youth's behavior, could later be transferred to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's adult prison system.

Other than youths committed for a Determinate Sentence, offenders committed to TYC for murder, capital murder, or sexual or aggravated assault must serve a minimum of 24 months in a residential program. Youths who have committed other serious violent crimes, who are firearms offenders, controlled substance dealers, or chronic serious offenders must serve a minimum of 12 months in such settings. Other youths must serve a minimum of nine months before release to parole.⁵ In fiscal year 2000, the average length of stay in a secure TYC facility was 19 months.⁶

In 2000, commitments to TYC represented 2.4 percent of all juvenile dispositions.⁷ New commitments to TYC increased by 11 percent from 1997 to 1998, reflecting the policy of more severe punishments for juvenile offenders,⁸ but have since declined by 25 percent from 1998 to 2001, primarily because of a reduction in juvenile crime, a change in the law setting criteria for commitment of non-felony offenders, and expanded funding to juvenile probation.

Methods

This section summarizes the study's sampling design and survey instrument and explains some of its limitations. Readers wanting additional information may refer to a separate technical report available through TCADA.⁹

The Sample

The present study is based on data collected in face-to-face interviews with 1,026 youths who entered the TYC intake facility at Marlin, Texas between February 2000 and February 2001. Youths were chosen randomly from a list of all entering offenders and asked to participate in the study. Those who refused to participate were replaced by another name on the list. The response rate was 98 percent.¹⁰

Although only about 13 percent of entering offenders are female, girls were oversampled in this study to increase the accuracy of estimates for that small group. Estimates using the combined sample were then weighted to reflect the actual gender distribution of TYC admissions. Population estimates were based on the total number of offenders admitted during the interview period.

Questionnaire and Interview

The 1994 TYC survey instrument served as the foundation for the survey used in 2000-2001.¹¹ It covered prevalence of licit and illicit substance use, criminal history, past substance abuse treatment experiences and current motivation for treatment, family and peer relations, gang involvement and gang activities, physical and mental health, gambling behaviors, experiences in school, and demographics.¹²

Interviews were conducted by teachers from the public school system who were not affiliated with TYC and were trained for this study. They were well-grounded in the intended meaning of the questions and trained to rephrase queries in as simple language as necessary to clearly communicate with respondents. They were instructed to be alert for inconsistencies and to obtain clarification from respondents whenever responses appeared discrepant. They also were taught techniques for developing rapport with and maintaining the interest of the TYC youths during the lengthy interviews.

All interviews, averaging 45 minutes to complete, were conducted face to face in private administrative offices inside the facilities.¹³ While interviews were being conducted, office doors were left ajar, but guards remained in the hallways and out of earshot. This afforded interviewers and respondents a confidential interview. Emphasis was placed on the

accuracy and consistency of the information collected and as much time as necessary was allowed to complete each interview. At the end of the interview, interviewers rated the respondents on cooperation, comprehension, and truthfulness. Information from youths rated low on comprehension or truthfulness was excluded from analysis.

Unlike in the previous TYC studies, this project utilized Computer Assisted Personal Interview software on the laptop computers used by interviewers. This increases the accuracy of responses as it ensures that the appropriate question order and skips are followed.

Confidentiality

All youths signed a statement of informed consent, in which they were promised confidentiality and told that they could refuse to answer any question or could terminate the interview at any time without jeopardizing their status at TYC. They were assured that none of the information they provided would be associated with their name or shared with anyone at TYC. Interviewers also signed a document saying that all information they received from the respondents would be completely confidential. PPRI also obtained a certificate of confidentiality from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to reduce the risk of information later being subpoenaed.

Limitations

Sampling Error

Because this was a simple random sample of youths entering prison during the interview period, there was unlikely to be any sampling error in terms of representing the population of youth admissions during that period. However, there may have been some chance variation between the characteristics of the entire TYC population admitted during the course of this study and the admission sample used here. The differences between the survey sample and the population of admissions, however, are assumed to be random. Consequently, standard errors of estimates were calculated using conventional statistical methods. These values were used to compute the statistical significance of any differences found between subgroups, such as boys and girls, younger and older youths, or Anglo, African American and Hispanic youths.

Sampling error is usually computed under the assumption that the sample is drawn from a population of 10,000 or more persons. In this study, the 1,026 youths interviewed represented 55 percent of the total 1,853 youths committed to TYC in 2000-2001 (or 51 percent of boys admitted and 84 percent of girls admitted). The normal method of computing standard error fails to take into account that more than half of those who entered TYC facilities were sampled, and thus underestimates the statistical precision of this research design. To adjust for the large percentage of the population sampled, a finite population correction factor was used in analysis.¹⁴ For this study, the maximum 95 percent confidence interval (margin of error) for the sample as a whole is +/- 2.0 percent (2.4 percent for estimates relating to boys only and 2.8 percent for estimates relating to girls only).

*Self-Reported
Information*

The findings presented in this report can be generalized to the population of youths committed to TYC, but not to local juvenile justice populations in Texas because TYC youths generally have longer histories with juvenile justice authorities. However, it is possible that the associations between family background, gang involvement, drug use, and delinquency described in this report also may underlie juvenile justice problems in the local community.

Studies that compare the reliability and validity of different methods of assessing drug use offer conflicting findings,¹⁵ and methodologies such as hair assay, urinalysis, and surveys each have specific strengths and weaknesses. Based on research establishing the utility of self-reported information to estimate the prevalence of substance use and risky behavior among non-incarcerated youths¹⁶ and among young people involved in the criminal justice system,¹⁷ the self-report survey methodology was considered to be the best for the purposes of this study.

A potential source of bias in any survey, however, is the understatement or overstatement of actual behavior. It is generally assumed that, out of concern for privacy or social desirability or for fear of repercussion, people tend to underreport behavior perceived as sensitive or deviant. It is possible also that some offenders may have exaggerated the extent of their problematic family life, difficulties in school, substance use, or delinquent activities. Some subgroups may be less likely than others to report particular drug use behaviors. However, if there are systematic errors related to the truthfulness of respondents, a tendency toward underreporting is expected on the basis of previous studies. For example, a 1994 study which compared self-report data with urinalysis of juvenile arrestees in 11 cities found that recent use of illicit substances other than marijuana were greatly underreported, especially by African American youths. In other words, reports of lifetime illicit drug use were more accurate than reports of current use.¹⁸ These potential biases should be kept in mind when interpreting the data.

The validity of self-report data ultimately depends on the truthfulness, recall, and comprehension of the respondents. This survey was carefully designed and administered to minimize these potential sources of error, and offenders perceived by the interviewers to be dishonest or confused by the questions were excluded from the analysis. Nevertheless, some over- or underreporting may have occurred. Because it is likely that over- and underreporting remain constant over time among specific populations, prevalence rates that derive from self-report data are likely to be unbiased when comparing trends across time.

Two other issues are important to keep in mind when reading this report. First, while the report provides information on a number of youth characteristics such as age group and race/ethnicity, it is important to recognize that these factors can be interrelated and that substance use and

Background and Characteristics of TYC Youths

Demographic Characteristics

criminal behavior patterns are likely to be influenced by several demographic or social factors simultaneously. For instance, criminal behavior may be simultaneously affected by a youth's substance use, employment status, and a history of physical abuse, as well as other factors not examined in this study.

Second, it should be emphasized that none of the findings in this report can determine causal relationships. A study such as this cannot determine whether, for example, substance abuse causes certain behaviors or certain behaviors cause substance abuse. The particular value of this study is in describing the characteristics and behaviors of youths entering TYC and highlighting patterns and associations found.

Table 1.1 presents some demographic characteristics for the weighted sample. Girls made up about 13 percent and boys made up 87 percent of TYC admissions. The average age of girls and boys was 15.5 years. Hispanics made up the largest proportion of boys while girls were more likely to be Anglo. Very few of the youths had ever been married. About 40 percent worked full or part time. About 57 percent of youths reported that they qualified for the free lunch program at their school and 34 percent said that their family received some kind of public assistance. Table 1.2 shows that the weighted sample from 2000-2001 was representative of the TYC population in 2000 as reported in the TYC commitment profile.¹⁹

About 68 percent of the youths spoke primarily English in their households, 20 percent spoke both English and Spanish, and 10 percent spoke primarily Spanish.

Religion

Boys were more likely than girls to say that they were Catholic, although this was related to the larger proportion of Hispanics among boys in the sample; within ethnic group, there was little difference between boys and girls. About 70 percent of both boys and girls reported that religion had a very important role in their life.

Prior Experience with Criminal Justice System

Not surprisingly, most youths reported that they had previously been involved with the criminal justice system (Table 1.3). There were no differences between boys and girls in their history of having ever been arrested, placed in jail, juvenile detention or on probation, or in the mean age at which these events had first happened.

Table 1.1. Demographic Characteristics of TYC Youths at Admission, by Gender: 2000-2001

	All Youths		Girls		Boys	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Total	1026	100.0%	200	13.1%	826	86.9%
Age						
13 years or younger	49	4.6%	13	6.5%	36	4.4%
14 years	139	13.6%	27	13.5%	112	13.6%
15 years	275	26.3%	66	33.0%	209	25.3%
16 years	390	38.2%	70	35.0%	320	38.7%
17 years	163	16.2%	24	12.0%	139	16.8%
18 years	10	1.1%	0	-	10	1.2%
Race/Ethnicity						
Anglo	251	23.5%	74	37.0%	177	21.4%
African American	301	29.6%	51	25.5%	250	30.3%
Hispanic	421	41.8%	64	32.0%	357	43.2%
Other	53	5.1%	11	5.5%	42	5.1%
Educational Status						
Dropped out	196	18.8%	45	22.5%	151	18.3%
Not attending for other reasons	120	11.6%	25	12.5%	95	11.5%
Attending alternative school	227	21.9%	49	24.5%	178	21.6%
Attending regular school	473	46.6%	81	40.5%	392	47.5%
Graduated high school	10	1.1%	00	0.0%	10	1.2%
Marital Status						
Never married	1005	98.0%	195	97.5%	810	98.1%
Married	17	1.6%	5	2.5%	12	1.5%
Divorced or separated	4	-	0	-	4	-
Have Children						
Have Children	142	14.1%	22	11.0%	120	14.5%
Employment Status						
Not working	630	61.2%	127	63.5%	503	60.9%
Working part-time	287	28.1%	53	26.5%	234	28.3%
Working full-time	108	10.6%	19	9.5%	89	10.8%
Don't know/refused	1	-	1	0.5%	0	-
Family Received Public Assistance						
Family Received Public Assistance	349	33.5%	79	40.1%	262	32.5%
Qualified for Free Lunch at School	576	56.5%	104	52.0%	472	57.1%

- Less than .5 percent

Percentages are weighted, sample sizes are unweighted.

Table 1.2. Demographic Characteristics of Weighted 2000-2001 Sample of TYC Youths Compared to TYC Population in 2000

	2000-2001 Sample	2000 Population*
Gender		
Male	87%	91%
Female	13%	9%
Age		
12 years or younger	1%	1%
13 years	4%	5%
14 years	14%	14%
15 years	26%	26%
16 years	38%	40%
17 years	16%	14%
18 years	1%	-
Race/Ethnicity		
Anglo	24%	25%
African American	30%	34%
Hispanic	42%	40%
Other	5%	1%

* TYC Commitment Profile, available: <http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/research/profile3.html>

Table 1.3. Previous Experiences with the Criminal Justice System Among TYC Youths, by Gender: 2000-2001

	Percentage	Mean Age
Arrested by police	97.2%	13.0
Put in jail or juvenile detention	96.4%	13.5
Placed on juvenile probation	88.2%	13.8
Found guilty in court or by a judge	89.2%	13.4
Previously sent to TYC	1.8%	14.3
Placed on juvenile parole or mandatory supervision	1.0%	14.4

Comparison to the 1994 TYC sample

As compared to youths who were surveyed in the 1994 TCADA study, TYC youths interviewed in 2000-2001 were more likely to be female (13 percent as compared to 9 percent) and older (55 percent aged 16 and older, as compared to 49 percent). The 2000-2001 sample also had a larger proportion of Anglo youths (24 percent as compared to 16 percent) and a smaller proportion of African American youths (30 percent as compared to 39 percent) than the 1994 sample, although the proportion of Hispanic youths (42 and 41 percent) was similar. About the same proportion of youths in 1994 (58 percent) and 2000-2001 (56 percent) qualified for reduced-price or free school lunches.

Endnotes

- ¹ D. Farabee, *Substance Use Among Male Offenders Entering the Texas Department of Criminal Justice–Institutional Division: 1993*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1994; D. Farabee, *Substance Use Among Female Offenders Entering the Texas Department of Criminal Justice–Institutional Division: 1994*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1995; E. Fredlund, R.T. Spence, J.C. Maxwell, and J.A. Kavinsky, *Substance Use Among Texas Department of Corrections Offenders, 1988*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1990; E. Fredlund et al., *Substance Use and Delinquency Among Youth Commission Reception Facilities in 1989, First Report*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1990; E. Fredlund, D. Farabee, L.A. Blair, and L. Wallisch, *Substance Use and Delinquency Among Youths Entering Texas Youth Commission Facilities: 1994*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1995; J. Maxwell and L. Wallisch, *Substance Abuse and Crime Among Probationers in Three Texas Counties: 1994–1995*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1998; L. Wallisch, *Substance Use and Delinquency Among Youth Entering Texas Youth Commission Reception Facilities in 1989, Second Report: Substance Use and Crime*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1992; L. Kerber, *Substance Use Among Male Offenders, Texas Department of Criminal Justice–Institutional Division: 1998*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 2000; L. Kerber and R. Harris, *Substance Use Among Female Offenders, Texas Department of Criminal Justice–Institutional Division: 1998*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 2001; L. Kerber, *Substance Use Among Male Offenders in Texas Department of Criminal Justice–State Jail Division, 1998*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 2001; L. Kerber, *Substance Use Among Female Offenders in Texas Department of Criminal Justice–State Jail Division, 1998*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 2001; L. Kerber, J.C. Maxwell, and L.S. Wallisch, *Substance Use Among Offenders Entering the Texas Department of Criminal Justice–Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facilities, 1998–2000*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 2001.
- ² “Juvenile Corrections System in Texas.” 2001. Online. Texas Youth Commission. Available: <http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/about/overview.html>. May 2001.
- ³ “How Offenders Move Through TYC.” 2001. Online. Texas Youth Commission. Available: http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/about/how_movethru.html. May 2001.
- ⁴ “Juvenile Corrections System in Texas.” 2001. Online. Texas Youth Commission. Available: <http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/about/overview.html>. May 2001.
- ⁵ T. Wheeler-Cox, N. Arrigona, and L. Reichers. 1999. *An Overview of the Texas Youth Commission’s Specialized Programs*, Austin, TX: Criminal Justice Policy Council.
- ⁶ “Juvenile Corrections System in Texas.” 2001. Online. Texas Youth Commission. Available: <http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/about/overview.html>. May 2001.
- ⁷ “State Juvenile Probation Activity in Texas.” 2001. Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.
- ⁸ A. Martinez. 2000. *An Overview of Texas Juvenile Justice Population Trends and Dynamics: An Update*, Austin, TX: Criminal Justice Policy Council.

- ⁹ B. Crouch, J. Dyer, and A. Novoa, *Methodology Used in the 2000–2001 Survey of Texas Youth Commission Inmates*, College Station, TX: Public Policy Research Institute, Texas A&M University, 2001.
- ¹⁰ Of the 1,102 children asked to participate in the study, 1,082 completed the interviews. Two youths refused, and three others stopped the interview after starting. Eleven youths did not participate due to security issues, and four youths were unable to participate because they did not speak English. The sample for analysis was further reduced by excluding 56 respondents perceived by the interviewers as dishonest or confused by the survey questions.
- ¹¹ E. Fredlund, D. Farabee, L. Blair, L. Wallisch, *Substance Use and Delinquency Among Youths Entering Texas Youth Commission Facilities: 1994*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1995.
- ¹² A copy of the survey instrument is available on request from TCADA.
- ¹³ The 1993-1994 surveys had been conducted in the visitation center of intake facilities where glass partitions separated the interviewer and respondent (B. Crouch, J. Dyer, L. Dell, and K. McDonald, *Methodology Used in the 1998 Survey of Texas Prison Offenders: Male and Female Institutional Division*, College Station, TX: Public Policy Research Institute, Texas A&M University, 1999).
- ¹⁴ For populations greater than 10,000 or for populations where less than 5 percent of the population is sampled, the formula to compute standard error is $\text{SQRT}(pq/n-1)$, where p = the proportion reporting a characteristic; $q = 1-p$; and n = number sampled. For finite populations the formula is $\text{SQRT}((1-f)*pq/(n-1))$, where f = the proportion of the population sampled.
- ¹⁵ Z. Amsel et al., "Reliability and Validity of Self-Reported Illegal Activities and Drug Use Collected from Narcotic Addicts," *International Journal of the Addictions* 11 (1976): 325-336; J.D. Baer, W.A. Baumgartner, V.A. Hill, and W.H. Bland, "Hair Analysis for the Detection of Drug Use in Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Populations," *Federal Probation* (March, 1991): 3-10; R.N. Bale, "The Validity and Reliability of Self-Reported Data from Heroin Addicts: Mailed Questionnaires Compared with Face-to-Face Interviews," *International Journal of the Addictions* 14 (1979): 993-1000; W.A. Baumgartner, V.A. Hill, and W.H. Bland, "Hair Analysis for Drug Abuse," *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 35, no. 6 (1989):1433-1453; T.E. Feucht, R.C. Stephens, and M.L. Walker, "Drug Use Among Juvenile Arrestees: A Comparison of Self-Report, Urinalysis, and Hair Assay," *The Journal of Drug Issues* 24, no.1 (1994): 99-116; D.D. Simpson and S.B. Sells, *Opioid Addiction and Treatment: A 12-Year Follow-Up*, Malabar, FL: Krieger, 1999.
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Chapter One: Introduction

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- ¹⁸ M. Frenrich and Y. Xu, "The Validity of Drug Use Reports from Juvenile Arrestees," *The International Journal of the Addictions* 29, no. 8, (1994): 971-985.
- ¹⁹ "TYC Commitment Profile." 2001. Online. Texas Youth Commission. Available: www.tyc.state.tx.us/research/profile3.html. May 2001.

Prevalence of Substance Use

Appendix A shows past-month, past-year (not past-month), and lifetime prevalence of cigarettes, alcohol and drug use by gender, age group, and race/ethnicity. As Figure 2.1 shows, youths committed to TYC were very likely to be substance users. Some 84 percent of TYC youths had used illegal drugs during their last year before incarceration. Table 2.1 shows the prevalence and recency of substance use for the TYC sample.

Licit Substances

The term *licit substances* refers to tobacco, inhalants, and alcohol, products generally available through retail outlets without a prescription. It should be remembered that Texas law prohibits the possession and consumption of alcohol by those under 21 and restricts the sale of tobacco and some products used as inhalants (e.g. spray paint) to minors.

Tobacco

Ninety-two percent of youths had ever smoked a cigarette beginning, on average, at age 11. For comparison, about 51 percent of Texas youths in public secondary schools had ever smoked. TYC youths who had ever smoked daily (63 percent of youths) first began doing so at age 13, on average.

Figure 2.1. Lifetime, Past Year and Past Month Use of Alcohol or Illicit Drugs: TYC Youths 2000-2001

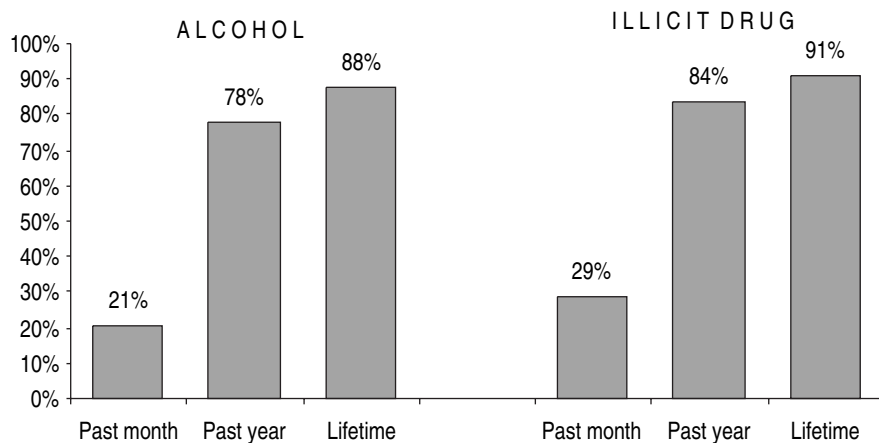


Table 2.1. Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use Among Entering TYC Youths: 2000-2001

	Lifetime	Past Year	Past Month
Licit Substances			
Alcohol	88.1%	78.3%	20.5%
Cigarettes	91.5%	80.5%	25.4%
Inhalants	30.5%	16.3%	2.2%
Illicit Substances			
Any illicit drug	91.2%	83.9%	28.7%
Marijuana	89.8%	79.9%	24.1%
Powder cocaine	48.2%	40.5%	8.6%
Downers	37.3%	31.2%	8.0%
Psychedelics	37.0%	29.8%	6.5%
Opiates*	29.5%	25.5%	6.3%
Uppers	22.6%	17.7%	4.8%
Crack cocaine	17.8%	14.1%	2.4%
Heroin	9.4%	7.1%	1.5%

*excluding heroin

Eighty-one percent of youths had smoked during the year before incarceration but only 25 percent said they had smoked during the month before entering TYC. Past-month and past-year smokers smoked an average of 15 cigarettes a day, almost a pack. Girls (33 percent) were more likely than boys (24 percent) to have smoked cigarettes in the past month. Younger youths (aged 11-15) were just as likely as older youths to be smokers. Anglos (32 percent) were more likely than Hispanics (27 percent) or African Americans (18 percent) to have smoked cigarettes in the past month.

Thirteen percent of youths had ever used smokeless tobacco and 8 percent said they had used it during the past year. Boys (14 percent) were twice as likely as girls (7 percent) to have ever used smokeless tobacco, and Anglos (20 percent) were much more likely than African Americans (3 percent) or Hispanics (4 percent) to have used it.

Twenty-one percent of youths said they had smoked a bidi, a small hand-rolled tobacco cigarette from India. Nine percent smoked a bidi during the month before entering the TYC. Even among youths who said they had never smoked a cigarette in their lives, about 6 percent had tried a bidi.

Alcohol

In most populations studied, alcohol is the most prevalent substance used. However, TYC youths were just as likely to be current users of marijuana as of alcohol. Eighty-eight percent of TYC offenders had ever drunk alcohol (compared to 71 percent of Texas secondary school youths). The average age at which they had taken their first drink (excluding childhood sips from an adult's drink) was 12 years old.

Seventy-eight percent of youths drank alcohol in the past year and 21 percent drank in the past month. (Past-month use may be lower than typical because many youths may have been in some kind of detention before being sent to TYC.)¹ Girls were slightly more likely than boys to have drunk alcohol in the past year, and older teens were more likely than younger teens to have done so. Hispanics were the most likely, and African Americans the least likely, to have drunk in the past year (see Table 2.2).

Seventeen percent of youths had drunk more than 10 drinks in the past year and at least one drink during the month before incarceration. These youths were considered current drinkers and were asked further questions about their drinking habits. For the majority of these youths (53 percent), their usual drink was beer, while 27 percent reported usually drinking straight liquor. Thirty-five percent said they usually drank at a friend's house, 20 percent usually drank at parties, and 20 percent usually drank at their own home.

Many youths showed patterns of heavy alcohol consumption. Current drinkers reported drinking an average of nine drinks on the days that they drank alcohol. Seventy-four percent of current drinkers, or 13 percent of all TYC offenders, were *binge drinkers*, defined here as youths who drank five or more drinks on two or more occasions in the past month. Forty-six percent of current drinkers, or 8 percent of all TYC youths, met the criterion for *heavy alcohol use*, defined as five or more drinks on five or more occasions in the past month. (Again, the prevalence of binge drinking and heavy drinking is probably underreported for the sample, as it is based on the percentage who reported having drunk alcohol during the past 30 days.) Among current drinkers, there were no gender, age or racial/ethnic differences in binge drinking or heavy drinking. Thirty-five percent of current drinkers, or 6 percent of all TYC offenders, reported that at some time during their life, they thought they might have had a drinking problem.

Table 2.2. Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Drank Alcohol in the Past Year, by Demographic Category: 2000-2001

All Youths	78.3%
Girls	77.9%*
Boys	81.0%
Age 11 - 15	71.6%*
Age 16 - 18	83.6%
Anglos	79.0% ¹
African Americans	67.9%
Hispanics	86.6%

*Differences between categories are significant at $p \leq .05$.

¹Differences are significant at $p \leq .05$ for all differences between ethnic groups.

Inhalants

The term *inhalants* refers to a wide variety of volatile substances (e.g. gasoline, glue, and paint, anesthetics, nitrates, gases, and aerosols) that people sniff, inhale, or huff (inhale through the mouth) to attain states of euphoria, intoxication, or sexual arousal. Inhalants are not in themselves illegal because most products have legitimate uses in homes and businesses. However, these substances can be fatal after a single use and can cause irreversible damage to the nervous system after prolonged use or in high concentrations.²

Thirty-one percent of TYC youths had ever used inhalants, beginning at an average age of 13. (In contrast, 19 percent of Texas school youths had ever used inhalants). The most frequently used inhalants were, by far, spray paint and gasoline (Table 2.3), and youths who had gone on to use more than one kind of inhalant had usually started with spray paint or gasoline. About 36 percent of inhalant users had tried inhalants only once or twice, while 38 percent had used them more than 10 times in their lives. About 37 percent of lifetime users reported that they usually inhaled enough to stagger or pass out (Table 2.4).

Sixteen percent of youths had used inhalants in the past year, and 2 percent had used them in the past month. Past-month users (N=21) reported using inhalants on an average of 10 days. Girls were more likely than boys to say that they had ever tried inhalants, but boys and girls were equally likely to have used them in the past year. Youths aged 11-15 were more likely to be past-year inhalant users than older youths. African Americans were less likely than Anglos or Hispanics to have ever used inhalants or to have used them in the past year. Hispanics were slightly more likely than Anglos to be past-year inhalant users.

Table 2.3. Percentage Using Specific Inhalants Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Inhalants: 2000-2001

Spray paint	61.1%
Gasoline	41.1%
Freon	17.4%
Octane/octane booster	13.8%
Lacquer or paint thinner, Tally, toluene	12.9%
Cleaning fluid or degreaser	12.2%
Aerosol sprays such as Pam or hair spray	10.8%
Airplane glue	6.8%
Correction fluid	6.2%
Air freshener	4.9%
Poppers such as Whippets, Rush, Locker Room	3.6%
Nitrous oxide	2.9%
Lighter fluid	1.8%
Scotch Guard or fabric protector	1.2%
Belt dressing	1.0%
Shoeshine	0.6%

Illicit Substances

The term *illicit drug use* refers to the use of marijuana or hashish, crack or powder cocaine, psychedelics, and heroin and the non-medical use of uppers, downers, and opiates other than heroin. Youths entering TYC were very likely to have used illegal substances: 91 percent had ever used an illicit drug, 84 percent used one in the past year, and 29 percent in the past month.³ Use among TYC offenders was substantially higher than that among high school students statewide, where 34 percent had ever used an illicit drug.

Among TYC youths, there was no significant difference by gender for lifetime or past-year (see Table 2.5), with girls and boys equally likely to have used drugs. Youths aged 11 to 15 were somewhat less likely than those aged 16 to 18 to have used illicit drugs in their lifetime or more recently. Hispanic youths were the most likely to have ever used illicit drugs or to have used them in the past year. For most of the illicit drugs, the average age at first use was 14, the exception being marijuana, which offenders first tried at the average age of 12.

Table 2.4. Percentage of Lifetime Users Reporting How Much They Usually Inhale: TYC, 2000-2001

Enough to feel a little high	19.0%
Enough to get high	40.7%
Enough to stagger or drop things	17.9%
Enough to feel like passing out	19.5%
Some other amount	2.2%

Table 2.5. Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used an Illicit Drug in their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category: 2000-2001

	Past Year	Ever
All Youths	83.9%	91.2%
Girls	86.0%	92.0%
Boys	83.5%	91.0%
Age 11 - 15	79.8%*	87.0%*
Age 16 - 18	87.1%	94.5%
Anglos	79.9% ¹	86.9% ¹
African Americans	81.8%	89.8%
Hispanics	89.0%	95.5%

*Differences between categories are significant at $p \leq .05$.

¹Differences are significant at $p \leq .05$ between Hispanics and Anglos and between Hispanics and African Americans.

Marijuana and Hashish

Almost 90 percent of TYC youths had ever used marijuana (or hashish). Forty-four percent of lifetime users had smoked marijuana more than 200 times and another 28 percent had smoked between 50 and 199 times.

Eighty percent of youths had used marijuana in the past year, and 24 percent used it in the past month, making marijuana the most commonly used illicit drug among TYC offenders. Past-month users of marijuana reported smoking an average of 22 days during that month, and 56 percent smoked marijuana daily.

Boys and girls were equally likely to have used marijuana, but older youths were more likely than younger youths to have used it. Hispanics were the most likely and Anglos the least likely to report having used marijuana (Table 2.6).

Thirty-six percent of offenders who had ever used marijuana had smoked “fry,” a marijuana joint or cigar dipped in embalming fluid or formaldehyde that can contain PCP.⁴ Forty-six percent had ever used marijuana dipped in codeine cough syrup, a preparation known as a “candy blunt.” Forty-one percent had ever smoked a “primo,” which is a marijuana joint mixed with crack or powder cocaine.

Powder Cocaine

Forty-eight percent of youths had ever used powder cocaine. Thirty-six percent of lifetime users had used powder cocaine 50 or more times. Table 2.7 shows that almost 91 percent of cocaine users preferred to sniff or snort it, although some had tried other methods, such as injecting or swallowing it.

Forty percent of youths had used powder cocaine in the past year, and almost 9 percent had used it in the past month. Youths who had used powder cocaine in the month before incarceration had used it on an average of 12 days during that period, and 21 percent had used it on a daily basis. Use of powder cocaine did not significantly vary by gender, but older youths were more likely than younger youths to use it. Hispanic youths were the most likely to have ever used powder cocaine and to be recent users, while African American youths were the least likely to have used it (Table 2.8).

Crack Cocaine

Eighteen percent of TYC offenders had ever used crack, a highly addictive form of cocaine that is smoked. Almost 21 percent of lifetime users reported using crack cocaine 50 or more times during their lifetime.

Fourteen percent of youths had used crack cocaine in the past year, and 2 percent had used it during the month before entering TYC. Past-month users of crack reported using it an average of 16 days during that month, and 35 percent of past-month users reported using crack every day. Ninety-three percent of lifetime users preferred smoking it, while almost 2 percent preferred injecting it.

Table 2.6. Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Marijuana in their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category: 2000-2001

	Past Year	Ever
All Youths	79.8%	89.7%
Girls	80.5%	89.5%
Boys	79.8%	89.8%
Age 11 - 15	75.5%*	85.3%*
Age 16 - 18	83.4%	93.4%
Anglos	74.8% ¹	84.5% ¹
African Americans	80.2%	88.5%
Hispanics	84.2%	94.8%

*Differences between categories are significant at $p \leq .05$.

¹Differences are significant at $p \leq .05$ for all comparisons between ethnic groups.

Table 2.7. Ways of Using Powder Cocaine Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Powder Cocaine: 2000-2001

	Ever Done?	Preferred Way?
Sniff/snort	96.7%	90.5%
Swallow or drink	18.8%	1.3%
Inject intravenously	8.2%	3.6%
Skin pop	0.5%	4.3%

Table 2.8. Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Powder Cocaine in their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category: 2000-2001

	Past Year	Ever
All Youths	40.4%	48.2%
Girls	43.0%	51.0%
Boys	40.1%	47.8%
Age 11 - 15	36.2%*	45.1%*
Age 16 - 18	43.9%	50.8%
Anglos	39.0% ¹	50.7% ¹
African Americans	14.7%	19.0%
Hispanics	60.1%	68.9%

*Differences between categories are significant at $p \leq .05$.

¹Differences are significant at $p \leq .05$ for all comparisons between ethnic groups.

Girls reported using crack significantly more often than boys, and older youths had used it more than younger youths. Hispanic youths were the most likely, and African American youths the least likely, to have used crack (Table 2.9).

Uppers

The term *uppers* refers to the non-medical use of stimulants such as amphetamines and methamphetamines. Almost 23 percent of TYC youths reported having ever used uppers. Among lifetime users, 25 percent of youths had used uppers 50 or more times during their lifetime. Table 2.10 shows that methamphetamines were the most commonly used uppers. The most common way of using uppers was by ingesting them orally (72 percent of users), yet more than half of all users also had sniffed or snorted uppers, and one-quarter had smoked them (Figure 2.2).

Table 2.9. Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Crack Cocaine in their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category: 2000-2001

	Past Year	Ever
All Youths	14.1%	17.8%
Girls	20.0%*	25.0%*
Boys	13.2%	16.7%
Age 11 - 15	12.0%*	14.3%*
Age 16 - 18	15.8%	20.6%
Anglos	15.9% ¹	20.5% ¹
African Americans	3.2%	3.5%
Hispanics	20.4%	26.0%

*Differences between categories are significant at $p \leq .05$.

¹Differences are significant at $p \leq .05$ for all comparisons between ethnic groups.

Table 2.10. Percentage Using Specific Uppers Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Uppers: 2000-2001

Ritalin	43.1%
Ephedrine	8.0%
Diet pills	7.2%
Dexedrine	6.9%
No Doz, Vivarine, Caffedrine	6.5%
Benzedrine	4.4%
Cylert	3.8%
Voranyl	3.4%
Mazanor	2.8%
Tenuate	2.8%
Biphetamine	2.7%
Pep pills	2.5%
Methadrine	2.1%
Othe methamphetamines	58.8%
Other amphetamines	5.0%

Figure 2.2 Ways of Using Uppers Among TYC Youth Who Had Ever Used Uppers

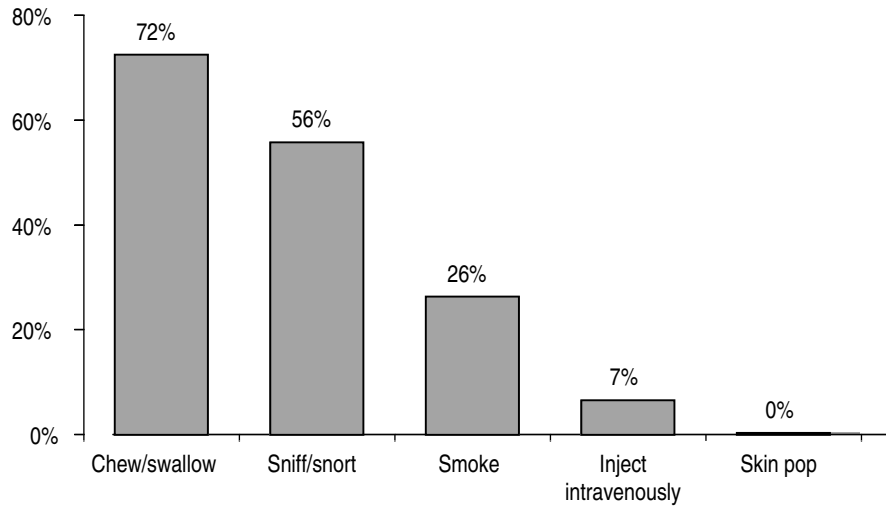


Table 2.11. Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Uppers in their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category: 2000-2001

	Past Year	Ever
All Youths	17.7%	22.6%
Girls	24.5%*	31.5%*
Boys	16.7%	21.3%
Age 11 - 15	15.6%*	20.3%*
Age 16 - 18	19.5%	24.5%
Anglos	30.8% ¹	41.8% ¹
African Americans	5.2%	7.1%
Hispanics	17.1%	21.3%

*Differences between categories are significant at $p \leq .05$.

¹Differences are significant at $p \leq .05$ for all comparisons between ethnic groups.

Almost 18 percent of youths had used uppers in the past year, and 5 percent had used them during the month before incarceration. Past-month users reported using uppers on an average of 12 days during that month, and 19 percent reported daily use. Girls were more likely than boys to have used uppers in their lifetime or in the past year, but there was no gender difference in past-month use. Older youths were more likely to report having used uppers. Anglo youths were the most likely, and African American youths the least likely, to report having used uppers (Table 2.11).

Downers

The term *downers* refers to the non-medical use of prescription drugs that are central nervous system depressants such as barbiturates or sedatives. About 37 percent of youths reported ever using downers. Twenty-nine percent of lifetime users reported using downers 50 or more times. The vast majority of lifetime users (97 percent) took downers orally, but almost 19 percent said they had sniffed or snorted them. Xanax and Valium were the most commonly used downers (Table 2.12). Twenty-two percent of youths who had ever used downers had used Rohypnol, and 14 percent had used it during the past year, with Hispanic youths more likely than average (19 percent) to have used it. Some 12 percent of TYC youths had used GHB or GBL, and 6 percent had taken Ketamine, other drugs often abused as “club drugs.”

Thirty-one percent of youths had used any downers in the past year, and 8 percent had used them in the past month. Past-month users of downers reported using them on an average of 10 days during that month and 15 percent reported using them every day. Girls reported using downers more than boys, but the difference was only significant for past-year use (Table 2.13). Older youths used downers more than younger youths. African American youths were much less likely than others to report using downers.

Heroin

Nine percent of youths had ever used heroin. Eighteen percent of lifetime users reported using heroin 50 or more times and another 21 percent had used it 11 to 49 times. Black Tar and Mexican Brown were the preferred types (Table 2.14).⁵ Sniffing was the preferred method of ingesting heroin (53 percent of users), while injecting was preferred by 27 percent and 17 percent preferred smoking it (“chasing the dragon”) (Table 2.15).

Table 2.12. Percentage Using Specific Downers Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Downers: 2000-2001

Xanax	67.8%
Valium	52.6%
Rohypnol	22.4%
GHB	11.6%
Ketamine	6.0%
Nexus	3.5%
Ativan	3.2%
Meprobamate	2.8%
Buspar	2.4%
Serax	2.1%
Placidyl	2.0%
Phenobarbitals	1.9%
Other benzodiazepines	7.2%

Table 2.13. Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Downers in their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category: 2000-2001

	Past Year	Ever
All Youths	31.1%	37.2%
Girls	35.0%*	39.5%
Boys	30.6%	36.9%
Age 11 - 15	24.7%*	30.4%*
Age 16 - 18	36.5%	42.8%
Anglos	38.1% ²	44.6% ¹
African Americans	24.6%	28.7%
Hispanics	32.8%	40.6%

*Differences between categories are significant at $p \leq .05$.

¹Differences between African Americans and Anglos and African Americans and Hispanics are significant at $p \leq .05$.

²Differences are significant at $\leq .05$ for comparisons between all ethnic groups.

Table 2.14. Kinds of Heroin Used and Preferred Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Heroin: 2000-2001

	Ever Done?	Preferred Kind?
Mexican Brown	62.6%	34.6%
Black Tar	51.4%	38.8%
Asian	7.5%	1.1%
Colombian	12.2%	2.2%
White or Other	33.6%	3.0%

Table 2.15 Ways of Using Heroin Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Heroin: 2000-2001

	Ever Done?	Preferred Way?
Sniff/snort	78.9%	52.8%
Swallow or drink	13.3%	0.7%
Inject intravenously	36.4%	26.8%
Skin pop	3.2%	0.0%
Smoke, chase dragon	27.4%	16.7%

Other Opiates

Seven percent of youths reported using heroin in the past year, and about 2 percent reported using it in the past month. Past-month users of heroin (N=16) reported using heroin an average of 18 days during that month, and 36 percent reported using heroin daily. Girls, older offenders, and Hispanic youths were the most likely to have used heroin (Table 2.16).

Opiates other than heroin include Percodan, Demerol, codeine, morphine, and Fentanyl. Thirty percent of youths reported ever using opiates other than heroin for non-medical purposes. Among lifetime users,

Table 2.16. Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Heroin in their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category: 2000-2001

	Past Year	Ever
All Youths	7.1%	9.3%
Girls	10.0%*	12.0%*
Boys	6.7%	9.0%
Age 11 - 15	4.8%*	6.4%*
Age 16 - 18	9.0%	11.7%
Anglos	4.3% ¹	7.4% ¹
African Americans	1.8%	2.8%
Hispanics	12.5%	15.2%

*Differences between categories are significant at $p \leq .05$.

¹Differences are significant at $p \leq .05$ for all comparisons between ethnic groups.

Table 2.17. Percentage Using Specific Opiates Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Opiates Other than Heroin: 2000-2001

Codeine tablets	82.0%
Codeine cough syrup	36.1%
Morphine	13.8%
Demerol	8.0%
Methadone	6.5%
Talwin, Talwin NX	2.8%
Percodan	2.7%
Talacen	2.1%
Dolene	2.0%
SK-65	1.6%
Dilaudid	1.3%
Darvon, Darvocet	1.1%
Wygesix	1.0%
Levo-Dromoran	1.0%
Stadol	0.8%
Propoxyphene	0.7%
Opium	0.7%

26 percent had used them 50 times or more during their lifetime and an additional 25 percent had used them between 11 and 49 times. Table 2.17 shows that codeine was the most commonly used opiate among lifetime users. Swallowing was by far the most common way of using opiates (91 percent), while about 26 percent of users had smoked them, and 10 percent had sniffed or snorted them (Figure 2.3).

Twenty-six percent of youths had used opiates other than heroin in the past year, and 6 percent had used them in the past month. Past-month users had used those opiates on an average of 12 days during the month before incarceration, and 22 percent reported daily use. There was no significant difference between boys and girls in opiates use, but older youths were more likely than younger to have used opiates. Hispanics were less likely than others to have tried opiates or to have used them in the year before coming to TYC (Table 2.18).

Figure 2.3. Ways of Using Opiates Other Than Heroin Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Them

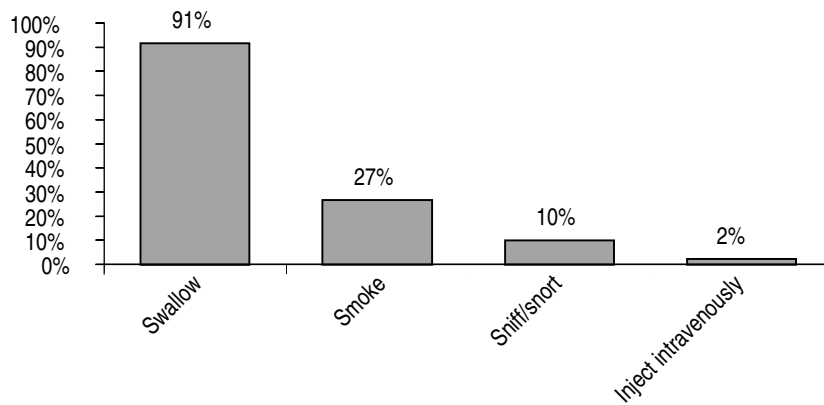


Table 2.18. Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Opiates Other than Heroin in their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category: 2000-2001

	Past Year	Ever
All Youths	25.5%	29.4%
Girls	23.0%	27.5%
Boys	25.9%	29.8%
Age 11 - 15	22.5%*	25.6%*
Age 16 - 18	28.1%	32.6%
Anglos	29.4% ¹	34.0% ¹
African Americans	31.6%	33.5%
Hispanics	18.9%	24.1%

*Differences between categories are significant at $p \leq .05$.

¹Differences between Hispanics and Anglos and Hispanics and African Americans are significant at $p \leq .05$.

Psychedelics

The term *psychedelics* refers to the use of hallucinogens such as LSD, Ecstasy, psilocybin mushrooms, mescaline, and PCP (phencyclidine). Thirty-seven percent of youths had ever used psychedelics. Among lifetime users, 20 percent had used them 50 or more times during their lifetime and another 22 percent had used them from 11 to 49 times. LSD was by far the most commonly used psychedelic (Table 2.19).

About 32 percent of TYC youths had used Ecstasy or MDMA in their lifetime, and 10 percent had used it in the past year. Use of Ecstasy, known as a “club drug,” has been increasing somewhat among youths in the general population. However, only 4.5 percent lifetime use was reported among Texas secondary school students in 2000.⁶ Among TYC youths, past-year Ecstasy use was almost twice as high among girls (17 percent) as among boys (9 percent). It was predominantly used by Anglo youths (21 percent) as compared to African American (4 percent) or Hispanic (6 percent) youths. Almost 9 percent of all TYC youths had used PCP or angel dust in their lifetime, and 6 percent had used it in the past year.

Table 2.19. Percentage Using Specific Psychedelics Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Used Psychedelics: 2000-2001

LSD	85.2%
Psilocybin mushrooms	42.9%
Ecstasy	32.0%
PCP	23.8%
Peyote	9.2%
Mescaline	2.9%
Eve	0.6%

Table 2.20. Percentage of Entering TYC Youths Who Used Psychedelics in their Lifetime and in the Past Year, by Demographic Category: 2000-2001

	Past Year	Ever
All Youths	29.8%	37.0%
Girls	35.0%*	41.5%*
Boys	29.0%	36.3%
Age 11 - 15	28.6%	34.2%*
Age 16 - 18	30.8%	39.2%
Anglos	43.2% ¹	54.5% ¹
African Americans	12.7%	15.5%
Hispanics	33.7%	41.3%

*Differences between categories are significant at $p \leq .05$.

¹All differences are significant at $p \leq .05$ for comparisons between ethnic groups.

Thirty percent of youths had used any psychedelic in the past year, and about 7 percent had used one during the month before incarceration. Past-month users had used psychedelics on an average of nine days during the month before incarceration, and 10 percent reported daily use. Girls were more likely than boys to have used psychedelics in the past year. Older youths were more likely than younger youths to have ever tried psychedelics, but there was no significant age difference in past-year use. Anglos were the most likely, and African Americans the least likely, to have used psychedelics in the past or more recently (Table 2.20).

Comparisons of TYC Youths to Other Populations

Table 2.21 shows past-year substance use of entering TYC youths as compared to same-age youths attending public schools in Texas in 2000. TYC youths were substantially more likely than in-school youths to have used all substances.

Table 2.22 compares past-year substance use between TYC youths and adult inmates in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division in 1998. TYC youths were more likely to report use of several substances, notably marijuana, opiates other than heroin, psychedelics, inhalants, and (for girls only) uppers and downers.

Table 2.23 compares past-year substance use of TYC youths interviewed in the present survey with that of TYC youths interviewed in the 1994 TCADA survey. While cigarette smoking went up over the period, past-year alcohol use and overall past-year illicit drug use were almost identical in the two samples. However, there were some changes in the use of specific drugs. Most dramatically, the use of opiates other than heroin (for instance, pain-killers and cough syrups) increased more than

Table 2.21. Past-Year Substance Use Among TYC Youths (2000-2001) and Youths in Texas Public Secondary Schools (2000), by Gender

	Males			Females		
	TYC Youths	In-School Youths	Ratio (TYC/School)	TYC Youths	In-School Youths	Ratio (TYC/School)
Cigarettes	79.9%	33.7%	2.4	84.5%	28.0%	3.0
Alcohol	77.9%	51.0%	1.5	81.0%	49.7%	1.6
Any illicit drug	83.5%	25.1%	3.3	86.0%	19.4%	4.4
Marijuana	79.8%	23.5%	3.4	80.5%	17.5%	4.6
Powder cocaine	40.1%	5.5%	7.3	43.0%	4.2%	10.2
Crack cocaine	13.2%	1.4%	9.4	20.0%	1.1%	18.2
Uppers	16.7%	4.1%	4.1	24.5%	4.2%	5.8
Downers	30.6%	4.1%	7.5	35.0%	3.5%	10.0
Rohypnol	5.0%	2.8%	1.8	6.5%	2.4%	2.7
Heroin	6.7%	0.8%	8.4	10.0%	0.8%	12.5
Psychedelics	29.0%	4.1%	7.1	35.0%	2.4%	14.6
Ecstasy	9.1%	3.3%	2.8	16.5%	2.5%	6.6
Inhalants	16.0%	10.3%	1.6	18.5%	9.4%	2.0

Table 2.22. Past-Year Substance Use Among TYC Youths (2000-2001) and TDCJ-Institutional Division Inmates (1998), by Gender

	Females		Ratio (TYC/ID)	Males		Ratio (TYC/ID)
	ID	TYC		ID	TYC	
Cigarettes	77.2%	84.5%	1.1	70.6%	79.9%	1.1
Alcohol	65.4%	81.0%	1.2	71.9%	77.9%	1.1
Any illicit drug	62.4%	86.0%	1.4	56.6%	83.5%	1.5
Marijuana	32.4%	80.5%	2.5	36.4%	79.8%	2.2
Powder cocaine	22.0%	43.0%	2.0	24.2%	40.1%	1.7
Crack cocaine	30.3%	20.0%	0.7	18.3%	13.2%	0.7
Uppers	14.3%	24.5%	1.7	12.7%	16.7%	1.3
Downers	11.1%	35.0%	3.2	14.2%	30.6%	2.2
Heroin	9.8%	10.0%	1.0	6.7%	6.7%	1.0
Opiates other than heroin	7.0%	23.0%	3.3	8.2%	25.9%	3.2
Psychedelics	4.5%	35.0%	7.8	8.8%	29.0%	3.3
Inhalants	0.8%	18.5%	23.1	2.6%	16.0%	6.2

Table 2.23. Past-Year Substance Use Among TYC Youths in 1994 and 2000-2001

			Ratio
	1994	2000-2001	2000/1994
Cigarettes	69.5%	80.5%	1.16
Alcohol	78.7%	78.2%	0.99
Any illicit drug	83.2%	83.8%	1.01
Marijuana	79.7%	79.8%	1.00
Powder cocaine	29.6%	40.4%	1.36
Crack cocaine	11.0%	14.1%	1.28
Uppers	13.4%	17.7%	1.32
Downers	17.0%	31.1%	1.83
Heroin	6.4%	7.1%	1.11
Opiates other than heroin	7.0%	25.5%	3.64
Psychedelics	25.9%	29.8%	1.15
Inhalants	23.5%	16.3%	0.69

threefold. This increase has noted among non-institutionalized adult populations as well.⁷ The use of powder cocaine and the use of downers also increased notably between the two surveys.

Endnotes

¹ Past-month use of alcohol is probably seriously underreported in this survey. The questions about past-month use asked respondents to report their use during the 30 days preceding entry into TYC. However, as many as 70 percent of youth were on some kind of probation before entering TYC (see “TYC Commitment Profile,” available: www.tyc.state.tx.us/research/profile4.html), and others may have been in some kind of detention which might have restricted their use of substances. Youth who had been on probation may also have been more reluctant

to disclose recent substance use to interviewers. In the 1994 TYC survey, when respondents were asked to report their substance use during the 30 days “before being locked up”, past-month alcohol use was at 52 percent. Since lifetime and past-year alcohol use were very similar between 1994 and the present survey, it might be reasonable to assume that past-month use might be around 50 percent in 2000-2001 as well.

² Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, *Understanding Inhalant Users: An Overview for Parents, Educators, and Clinicians*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1997.

³ Past-month illicit drug use is probably underreported for the reasons described in Endnote 1 above.

⁴ W.N. Elwood, “Fry”: *A Study of Adolescents’ Use of Embalming Fluid with Marijuana and Tobacco*, Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1998.

⁵ The term ‘China White’ can have two meanings in Texas. Some Texans use ‘China White’ to refer to powdered white heroin from Southeast Asia, while others use it to refer to Fentanyl, a synthetic form of heroin. Because Fentanyl and China White were addressed separately in the survey, the use of Fentanyl is reported separately under “other opiates.”

⁶ L. Liu and J.C. Maxwell, *Texas School Survey of Substance Use Among Students: Grades 7-12, 2000*. Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 2001.

⁷ L. Wallisch, *2000 Texas Survey of Substance Use Among Adults*. Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 2001.

Treatment Needs and Options

Several studies have demonstrated that successful drug abuse treatment reduces criminal behavior as well as relapse to addiction. A study done in 2000 showed that over the last five years, TYC's substance abuse programs have reduced subsequent serious criminal behavior among those who complete the program. The non-secure Chemical Dependency Treatment Program (CDTP) of TYC reduced the likelihood of rearrest for a violent offense within one year by 43 percent and for a felony offense by 21 percent. The secure CDTP reduced the likelihood of incarceration for a felony offense within three years by 11 percent.¹

To participate in treatment through the CDTP, youths must demonstrate need for substance abuse treatment as determined by a psychological review, medical history, and a high score on the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory. Testing and assessment at the intake facility also includes an evaluation of the offense and criminal history, an interview with a caseworker, and an evaluation of the child's family situation.² TYC also determines the risk potential of youths and their readiness for substance abuse treatment by taking into consideration the number of prior felony referrals, convictions, prior placements, the frequency and duration of substance abuse behaviors, motivation to change, and cognitive and general functioning. TYC gives priority to offenders who have committed capital crimes, regardless of other risk factors. Lastly, youths must have a sufficient length of stay to complete the program, and they must have completed Phase 1 of the TYC's mandatory resocialization program.

Within the treatment program, which takes six to eight months to complete, youths receive chemical dependency education, group therapy, and individual therapy. Caseworkers develop treatment plans to address the specific needs of individuals in the program. Offenders who receive specialized substance abuse treatment are given priority to receive aftercare services. Not all youths who participate in treatment, however, receive aftercare, or specialized parole, due to a lack of providers in some regions.³

Table 3.1. Diagnostic Criteria to Assess Substance Abuse and Dependence from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Third Edition, Revised

-
- (1) Substance often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than the person intended
 - (2) Persistent desire or one or more unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control substance use
 - (3) A great deal of time spent in activities necessary to get the substance, take the substance or recover from its effects
 - (4) Frequent intoxication or withdrawal symptoms when expected to fulfill major role obligations at work, home, or school, or in physically hazardous situations
 - (5) Important social, occupational or recreational activities given up because of substance use
 - (6) Continued substance use despite knowledge of having a persistent recurrent social, psychological, or physical problem caused or exacerbated by the use of the substance
 - (7) Marked tolerance
 - (8) Characteristic withdrawal symptoms
 - (9) Substance often used to reduce withdrawal symptoms
-

Estimating Substance Abuse and Dependence

Alcohol Abuse and Dependence Among TYC Youths

The criteria used in this report to assess substance abuse and dependence are the same as those used in TCADA's previous TYC studies and in other studies of substance dependence and abuse in free-world and criminal justice populations. They are appropriate for assessing the overall prevalence of treatment need within this population, although they do not take into account the background factors used to determine the appropriateness of treatment at this time for any particular TYC youth.

To measure substance abuse and dependence, this study used questions from the Diagnostic Interview Schedule,⁴ which assesses the presence of the nine diagnostic criteria outlined in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, Third Edition, Revised (DSM-III-R)*.⁵ The *DSM-III-R* generally defines substance dependence as continued use despite negative cognitive, behavioral, or physiological symptoms or consequences. Table 3.1 shows the nine diagnostic criteria for psychoactive substance dependence. Substance dependence is the presence of three or more of these symptoms, and individuals who are dependent make up the population considered to need treatment. A second category, substance abuse, includes users who do not meet the criteria for dependence but who do report experiencing one or two of the nine symptoms.⁶ Substance abusers are considered to need intervention services to improve the quality of their lives and prevent progression to substance dependence. In many of the analyses presented in this chapter, abuse and dependence are combined to form one variable, which is referred to as "substance use problems." Questions about substance-related problems refer to symptoms experienced during the past 12 months.

As shown in Figure 3.1, 12.4 percent of TYC youths indicated three or more DSM-III-R alcohol-related symptoms and thus were classified as alcohol dependent. An additional 3 percent of the youths were classified as alcohol abusers because they identified one or two of the DSM symptoms. It is likely that this is an underestimate of the true extent of alcohol problems.⁷

Drug Abuse and Dependence Among TYC Youths

Girls and boys were equally likely to have alcohol problems (abuse or dependence). Older and younger teens were equally likely to abuse alcohol but older youths were more likely to be dependent (Table 3.2). African American youths were the least likely to report any alcohol problems, while Hispanics were the most likely to do so (Table 3.3).

Figure 3.2 shows that 55.4 percent of TYC youths were classified as dependent on drugs and an additional 11 percent were classified as drug abusers. Overall, girls and boys were equally likely to have any drug-related problems, but girls were less likely to abuse drugs and more likely to be drug dependent than boys (Table 3.2). As with alcohol, younger and older youths were equally likely to be abusers, but older teens were more likely to be drug dependent. Anglos were less likely than African Americans or Hispanics to be drug abusers, but African Americans were less likely than others to be dependent on drugs (Table 3.3).

When considered together, 68 percent of TYC youths abused or were dependent on alcohol or drugs during the year before incarceration.

Figure 3.1. Past-Year Alcohol Dependence and Abuse Among TYC Youths: 2000-2001

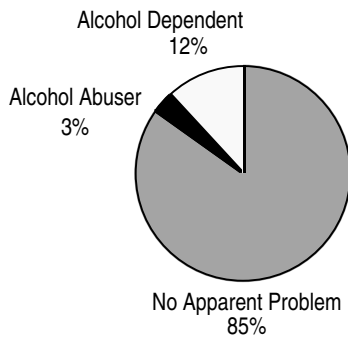


Figure 3.2. Past-Year Drug Dependence and Abuse Among TYC Youths: 2000-2001

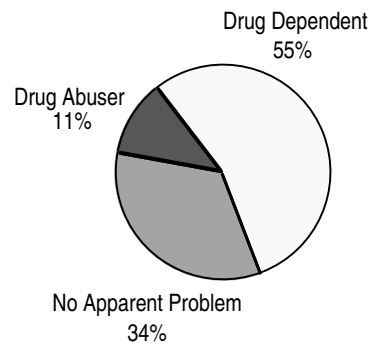


Table 3.2. Percentage of TYC Youths Reporting Substance Use Problems, By Gender and Age: 2000-2001

	All Youths			Total	Girls		Total	Boys	
	Total	11-15	16-18		11-15	16-18		Total	11-15
Alcohol Abuse	3.0%	3.4%	2.8%	3.0%	1.9%	4.3%	3.0%	3.6%	2.6%
Alcohol Dependence	12.4%	10.7%	13.8%	14.5%	12.3%	17.0%	12.1%	10.4%	13.4%
Illicit Drug Abuse	11.0%	10.3%	11.6%	7.0%	6.6%	7.5%	11.6%	10.9%	12.2%
Illicit Drug Dependence	55.4%	50.5%	59.3%	59.0%	58.5%	59.6%	54.8%	49.0%	59.3%
Any Substance Abuse	11.2%	9.9%	12.2%	6.5%	5.7%	7.5%	11.9%	10.6%	12.8%
Any Substance Dependence	56.8%	52.1%	60.6%	60.0%	59.4%	60.6%	56.3%	50.7%	60.6%

Table 3.3. Percentage of TYC Youths Reporting Substance Use Problems, By Gender and Race/Ethnicity: 2000-2001

	All Youths			Girls			Boys		
	Anglo	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	African American	Hispanic
Alcohol Abuse	2.8%	0.7%	4.8%	5.3%	0.0%	3.1%	2.2%	0.8%	5.0%
Alcohol Dependence	13.5%	5.0%	17.2%	14.7%	3.9%	21.5%	13.2%	5.2%	16.8%
Illicit Drug Abuse	6.3%	13.3%	12.3%	9.3%	7.8%	4.6%	5.5%	13.9%	13.1%
Illicit Drug Dependence	61.8%	45.9%	59.5%	73.3%	37.3%	61.5%	58.8%	47.0%	59.2%
Any Substance Abuse	6.4%	12.9%	12.8%	8.0%	7.8%	4.6%	6.0%	13.6%	13.7%
Any Substance Dependence	62.7%	47.3%	61.2%	76.0%	37.3%	61.5%	59.3%	48.6%	61.2%

Table 3.4. Percentage of TYC Youths (2000-2001) and Institutional Division Adult Offenders (1998) Reporting Substance Use Problems, by Gender: Texas

	Females			Males		
	TYC	ID	Ratio (TYC/ID)	TYC	ID	Ratio (TYC/ID)
Alcohol Abuse	3.0%	10.5%	0.29	3.0%	17.4%	0.17
Alcohol Dependence	14.5%	20.2%	0.72	12.1%	28.4%	0.43
Illicit Drug Abuse	7.0%	9.8%	0.71	11.6%	11.8%	0.98
Illicit Drug Dependence	59.0%	42.2%	1.40	54.8%	35.2%	1.56
Any Substance Abuse	6.5%	11.8%	0.55	11.9%	17.0%	0.70
Any Substance Dependence	60.0%	48.0%	1.25	56.3%	46.5%	1.21

Comparison with Other Populations in Texas

For perspective, it is helpful to compare the rates of dependence and abuse to those found in other populations and to rates of problems among previous cohorts of TYC youths.

Table 3.4 shows the percentage of TYC youths and the percentage of adult prison inmates, by gender, who abused or were dependent on substances. TYC youths were less likely than older inmates to have had problems with alcohol but were about one-and-a-half times more likely than them to have problems of drug dependence. As compared to adults in the general population (Table 3.5), TYC youths were more likely to be dependent on alcohol or drugs or to abuse drugs. It was not possible to compare TYC youths directly to non-incarcerated school-age youths in Texas, because drug and alcohol problems were measured differently in the Texas School Survey.

Table 3.6 compares substance problems between TYC youths surveyed in 1994 and those interviewed for the present survey. Rates of drug dependence have stayed about the same since 1994. Rates of drug abuse appear to have declined somewhat. While rates of alcohol abuse and dependence

Table 3.5. Percentage of TYC Youths (2000-2001) and Adults Living in Households (2000) Reporting Substance Use Problems, by Gender: Texas

	Females			Males		
	TYC	Adults	Ratio (TYC/Adults)	TYC	Adults	Ratio (TYC/Adults)
Alcohol Abuse	3.0%	6.9%	0.43	3.0%	14.5%	0.21
Alcohol Dependence	14.5%	2.7%	5.37	12.1%	7.6%	1.59
Illicit Drug Abuse	7.0%	1.8%	3.89	11.6%	3.2%	3.63
Illicit Drug Dependence	59.0%	1.7%	34.71	54.8%	3.8%	14.43
Any Substance Abuse	6.5%	7.2%	0.90	11.9%	14.8%	0.80
Any Substance Dependence	60.0%	3.8%	15.79	56.3%	9.6%	5.86

Table 3.6. Percentage of TYC Youths Reporting Substance Use Problems in 1994 and 2000-2001

	1994	2000-2001
Alcohol Abuse	12%	3.4%
Alcohol Dependence	34%	11.9%
Illicit Drug Abuse	17%	11.3%
Illicit Drug Dependence	53%	55.5%
Any Substance Abuse	15%	11.5%
Any Substance Dependence	59%	56.8%

appear to have declined substantially, this is probably due to the under-reporting of past-month alcohol use described in Chapters 2 and 3.

Drugs that Caused the Most Problems

Marijuana was the drug most often identified by youths as the drug that had caused them the most problems, but was more often cited by boys than by girls (58 percent of boys and 48 percent of girls who had had any drug-related problems). About 15 percent of boys and 20 percent of girls attributed their problems to powder cocaine (Table 3.7). Girls with drug problems were also more likely than boys to attribute their problems to crack cocaine or to heroin.

Previous Chemical Dependency Treatment Experience

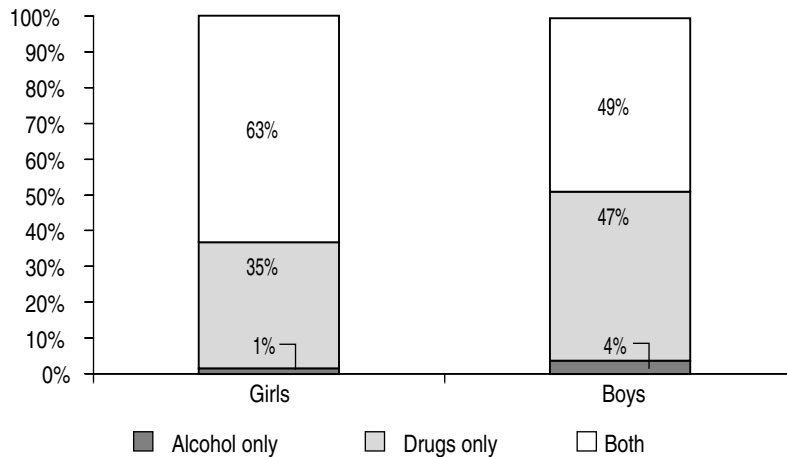
This study found that 35 percent of the youths who had ever used alcohol or drugs had participated in some kind of substance abuse treatment or self-help group before entering TYC. Youths who were dependent on substances during the year before incarceration were more likely (46 percent) than youths who abused substances or who had no current substance problems (19 percent each) to have participated in treatment in the past. Girls and boys were equally likely to have been in treatment.

Table 3.7. Percentage of TYC Youths Reporting Which Drugs Caused Them the Most Problems Among Those With Drug-Related Problems, by Gender: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
Marijuana	56.5%	48.0%	57.8%*
Inhalants	4.0%	2.4%	4.3%
Powder cocaine	15.3%	20.0%	14.5%*
Crack cocaine	4.0%	7.2%	3.5%*
Uppers	2.4%	4.0%	2.1%
Downers	4.1%	3.2%	4.3%
Heroin	2.2%	6.4%	1.6%*
Other opiates	2.8%	0.8%	3.1%*
Psychedelics	5.5%	4.8%	5.6%
Other	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%

*Difference between boys and girls is significant at $p \leq .05$.

Figure 3.3. Kind of Treatment Received by TYC Boys and Girls Who Had Ever Received Treatment



Half of the youths who had participated in treatment had had treatment for both alcohol and drug abuse (Figure 3.3), with girls more likely than boys to have been treated for both kinds of substances. Youths, on average, identified two different kinds of programs in which they had participated. Participation by program type is presented in Table 3.8. TYC youths who had participated in treatment were most likely to have had residential or inpatient treatment (62 percent), followed by weekly outpatient treatment (39 percent). Substantial percentages had participated in self-help groups, such as Narcotics Anonymous (35 percent) or Alcoholics Anonymous (27 percent). Girls who had been in treatment were more likely than boys to have participated in residential programs, but there was no significant gender difference in the other kinds of treatment.

Twenty-six percent of the total TYC sample was currently substance dependent and had been in treatment previously, but an additional 31 percent were substance dependent and had never received treatment.

Table 3.8. Treatment Experience Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Participated in Treatment Before Their Current Incarceration, by Gender: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
Residential (inpatient)	62.4%	79.4%	59.8%*
Regular outpatient (weekly)	39.2%	32.4%	40.2%
Narcotics Anonymous	34.6%	38.2%	34.1%
Alcoholics Anonymous	26.7%	35.3%	25.4%
Intensive outpatient (daily)	18.6%	22.1%	18.1%
Detoxification	6.8%	8.8%	6.5%
Other	9.7%	4.4%	10.5%

Totals do not sum to 100 percent because respondents could list more than one modality.

*Difference between boys and girls is significant at $p \leq .05$.

Table 3.9. Percentage of TYC Youths with Substance Problems Who Were Interested in Treatment, and Percentage Who Would be Willing to Extend their Stay in TYC in Order to Receive Treatment, by Demographic Group: 2000-2001

	Want Treatment	Want Treatment and Willing to Stay
All Youth	77.0%	34.4%
Girls	73.7%	27.1%*
Boys	77.4%	35.5%
Age 11 - 15	76.0%	30.5%*
Age 16 - 18	77.6%	37.1%
Anglo	78.6%	37.5% ¹
African American	78.3%	40.6%
Hispanic	75.6%	29.3%

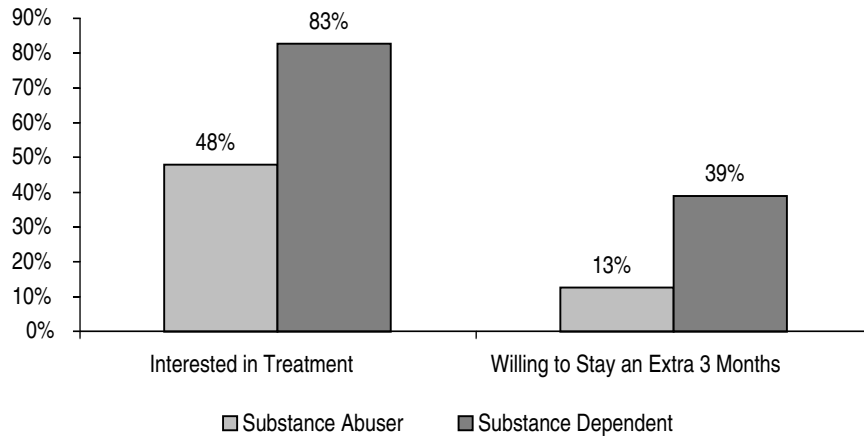
*Difference is significant at $p \leq .05$.

¹Difference between Hispanics and Anglos and Hispanics and African Americans is significant at $p \leq .05$.

Motivation for Treatment

To participate in the TYC's substance abuse program, offenders must demonstrate motivation to change and readiness for treatment. Seventy-seven percent of youths with substance use problems said that they were interested in participating in a treatment program (Table 3.9). They represented 52 percent of all TYC offenders. Thirty-four percent of youths reported that they would be interested in treatment even if it meant staying an extra three months in a TYC facility. They represented 23 percent of all youths. Among youths who had substance problems, there was no significant difference by gender, age group or race/ethnicity in whether or not they were motivated for treatment; however, boys and older youths were more likely than girls and younger youths to say they would agree to

Figure 3.4. TYC Youths' Interest in Treatment, by Substance Dependence Status: 2000-2001



stay in TYC for an extra three months to participate in treatment, and Hispanics expressed less willingness to stay for the extra time than Anglos or African Americans. Figure 3.4 shows interest in treatment among substance abusers and youths who are substance dependent.

Almost all offenders with substance use problems who were interested in treatment at this time expressed their motivation to change in other ways also. Almost all (96 percent) agreed with the statement, “I made a mistake that I will not do again,” and 86 percent rated their chances for staying out of trouble when released from TYC as good to excellent.⁸

Unmet Need for Treatment

Within the TYC, there is a substantial unmet need for substance abuse treatment due to resource limitations. For example, in 1998, 80 percent of youths were judged by TYC to need substance abuse education or treatment, yet only 38 percent of them received any treatment through the TYC.⁹ The CDTP served only 313 youths due to limited funding.¹⁰ Girls made up only 1 percent of the youths who received substance abuse treatment.¹¹ Table 3.10 shows the demographic characteristics of the youths served by CDTP in 1998, as well as the characteristics of youths identified in the present survey as dependent on substances and thus a priority population for receiving services. As compared to 1998, there may now be a higher proportion of girls, younger teens, and Anglo youths who would need services.

The present study has found that almost 57 percent of current TYC youths were dependent on substances and fit standard definitions of populations appropriate for treatment. There is also a high potential need for intervention among many of the non-dependent youths. Given their age and degree of substance involvement, many of those teens who abused substances or who had no apparent problem are at high risk of becoming dependent and in need of treatment in the near future.

Table 3.10. Gender, Age, and Racial/Ethnic Distribution of TYC Youths Released in Fiscal Year 1998 Who Participated in the TYC Chemical Dependency Treatment Program, as Compared to Treatment Need Among TYC Youths Sampled in 2000-2001

	Pre-1998 Sample of TYC Youths Who Participated in CDTP*	Current TYC Sample: Percent Reporting Substance Dependence and Motivation
Gender		
Female	1.1%	12.8%
Male	98.9%	87.2%
Age group		
10 to 12	0.2%	0.0%
13 to 14	12.0%	14.7%
15 to 16	64.2%	67.9%
17 and over	23.6%	17.5%
Race/Ethnicity		
Anglo	19.3%	26.1%
African American	34.2%	25.9%
Hispanic	46.5%	44.7%

* Figures obtained from Wheeler-Cox et al. (1999)

Overall, 80 percent of the youths who were not substance dependent had used one or more illegal drugs in their lifetime, and 64 percent had done so within the past year. Twenty-three percent had used crack or powder cocaine. Twenty-six percent were classified as alcohol or drug abusers. All at-risk teens should therefore be considered for appropriate intervention to address their substance use and prevent it from escalating.

Endnotes

- ¹ "2000 Review of Agency Treatment Effectiveness." 2001. Online. Texas Youth Commission. Available: <http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/research/TxmtEffect/index.html>. May 2001.
- ² T. Wheeler-Cox, N. Arrigona, and L. Reichers. 1999. *An Overview of the Texas Youth Commission's Specialized Programs*, Austin, TX: Criminal Justice Policy Council.
- ³ See Endnote 2.
- ⁴ L. Robbins, L. Cotter, and T. Babor, *Diagnostic Interview Schedule-Substance Abuse Module*, St. Louis, Mo.: Washington University School of Medicine, School of Psychiatry, 1990.

- ⁵ American Psychiatric Association, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Third Edition, Revised*, Washington DC: American Psychiatric Association, 1987. In May of 1994, the *DSM-III-R* was updated and released as the *DSM-IV* (American Psychiatric Association, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition*, Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association, 1994.). With regard to psychoactive substance use disorders, the *DSM-IV* included several changes such as two fewer diagnostic criteria for dependence and two new criteria for abuse. However, to be consistent with other TCADA prevalence studies, estimates of substance dependence in this study were derived according to the *DSM-III-R* definition. Using the *DSM-IV* definition of dependence would have resulted in a lower estimate of dependence among girls—3.6 percentage points lower for alcohol dependence and 1.5 percentage points lower for drug dependence. For boys, the estimate using the *DSM-IV* would have been 4.5 percentage points lower for alcohol dependence and 3.2 percentage points lower for drug dependence.
- ⁶ This definition of abuse differs from the *DSM-III-R* definition. The *DSM-III-R* definition of abuse is a maladaptive pattern of use such as continued use despite adverse consequences and/or regular use in physically hazardous situations. It also stipulates that symptoms must have occurred over a long period.
- ⁷ Because alcohol use was almost universal, individuals were only asked about past-year alcohol-related problems if they had had at least 10 drinks in the past year and at least one drink in the past 30 days. Because the latter measure is considerably underreported in this survey (see Endnote 1 in Chapter 2), the measures of alcohol abuse and dependence are very likely also unrealistically low.
- ⁸ Note that among youth with substance problems who were not motivated for treatment at this time, these percentages were not significantly different.
- ⁹ T. Wheeler-Cox, N. Arrigona, and L. Reichers. 1999. *An Overview of the Texas Youth Commission's Specialized Programs*, Austin, Tex.: Criminal Justice Policy Council. Some 1,469 youths were considered to need substance abuse treatment.
- ¹⁰ T. Wheeler-Cox, N. Arrigona, and L. Reichers. 1999. *An Overview of the Texas Youth Commission's Specialized Programs*, Austin, TX: Criminal Justice Policy Council.
- ¹¹ In 1999, the CDTP added 16 beds to serve girls with substance abuse problems.

Criminal Behavior

Prevalence of Criminal Activities

Youths sent to TYC are Texas' most serious or chronically delinquent offenders. According to TYC statistics, 33 percent of new arrivals to TYC in 2000 had committed violent offenses, an increase from 29 percent in 1999.¹

In the present study, youths were asked to report all crimes they had committed, regardless of whether or not they had been caught or arrested for them. Appendix B shows the past-month, past-year (not past month), and lifetime prevalence of committing various kinds of crimes by age category, gender, and race/ethnicity. Table 4.1 lists the 12 most common crimes committed in the past year by boys and girls entering TYC. Assault without a weapon was the crime most frequently reported, and significantly more so by girls, than by boys.

Table 4.1. Past-Year Prevalence of the 12 Most Common Crimes Committed by TYC Youths, by Gender: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
Assault without weapon	57.0%	62.5%	55.6%*
Burglary	46.9%	33.5%	50.2%*
Shoplifting	44.0%	58.0%	40.7%*
Sale of drugs other than crack	42.9%	39.5%	43.6%*
Carrying gun on person	38.6%	28.5%	41.0%*
Property damage	37.3%	42.0%	36.2%*
Car theft	34.9%	40.0%	33.7%*
Sale of crack cocaine	32.7%	31.5%	32.8%
Buying stolen goods	31.3%	19.0%	34.1%*
Graffiti	30.1%	29.5%	30.3%
Gambling	29.0%	17.0%	31.9%*
Violence at school	25.5%	25.0%	25.6%

* Difference between girls and boys is significant at $p \leq .05$.

Property Crime

Seventy-eight percent of youths reported committing a property crime in the past year (Table 4.2). Overall, there was no significant difference between the percentage of boys and girls who had committed a property crime; however, there were differences in the specific crimes they tended to commit. Boys were more likely to have committed burglary, buying stolen goods, or auto parts theft, while girls were more likely to have shoplifted, stolen cars, snatched purses, stole from their employer, and committed forgery or fraud. Younger teens were slightly more likely than older teens to have committed property crime, particularly among girls. There was no significant association with race/ethnicity (Table 4.3).

Violent Crime

Seventy-two percent of youths reported committing a violent crime during the year before incarceration (Table 4.4). Again, while there was no difference in the overall prevalence of violent crime between boys and girls, girls were more likely to have committed several of the specific crimes asked about, including assault, serious injury or murder, while boys were more likely than girls to have committed sexual assault. Younger boys

Table 4.2. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Property Crime in the Past Year, by Gender: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
Any Property Crime	78.0%	80.0%	77.7%
Burglary	46.9%	33.5%	50.2%*
Shoplifting	44.0%	58.0%	40.7%*
Vandalism (property damage, graffiti)	42.5%	42.5%	42.5%
Car theft	34.9%	40.0%	33.7%*
Buying stolen goods	31.3%	19.0%	34.1%*
Auto parts theft	18.9%	13.0%	20.3%*
Pick pocketing or purse snatching	10.2%	13.0%	9.6%*
Forgery or fraud	9.8%	21.0%	7.0%*
Stealing from an employer	8.9%	16.0%	7.1%*

* Difference between girls and boys is significant at $p \leq .05$.

Table 4.3. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Property Crime in the Past Year, by Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
All Youths	78.0%	80.0%	77.7%
Age 11-15	80.5%	84.0%	79.8%
Age 16-18	76.1%	75.5%	76.1%
Anglos	77.6%	80.0%	76.9%
African Americans	77.4%	78.4%	77.3%
Hispanics	79.5%	83.1%	79.1%

Table 4.4. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Violent Crime in the Past Year, by Gender: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
Any Violent Crime	71.7%	74.0%	71.3%*
Assault without a weapon	57.0%	62.5%	55.6%*
Assault with a weapon	24.0%	26.5%	23.6%
Threatening someone with a weapon	27.9%	35.5%	26.8%*
Robbery	26.0%	23.5%	26.4%
Serious injury or murder	19.0%	24.5%	17.6%*
Sexual assault	7.5%	4.5%	8.2%*

* Difference between girls and boys is significant at $p \leq .05$.

Table 4.5. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Violent Crime in the Past Year, by Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
Total	71.7%	74.0%	71.3%
Age 11-15	74.8%	74.5%	74.8%
Age 16-18	69.2%	73.4%	68.7%
Anglos	68.8%	73.3%	67.6%
African Americans	74.6%	78.4%	74.1%
Hispanics	70.6%	72.3%	70.4%

were slightly more likely than older boys to have committed a violent crime. African American youths were slightly more likely than Anglo youths to have committed a violent crime in the past year (Table 4.5).

Driving While Intoxicated

Thirty-six percent of youths aged 16 and older drove while intoxicated in the past year (Figure 4.1). Boys and girls were equally likely to have driven intoxicated. Hispanics (43 percent) and Anglos (39 percent) were more likely than African Americans (26 percent) to have driven while intoxicated during the year before incarceration.

Ten percent of youths aged 16 and older had driven while intoxicated during the month before incarceration. These offenders reported that they had driven intoxicated, on average, five times during that month. A substantial number of them also claimed to have driven drunk every time they drove or too many times to count.

Almost as high percentages of youths aged 11 to 15 reported having driven while intoxicated: 29 percent during the last year and 9 percent during the last month. These percentages are all the more alarming because these youths were most probably also driving without a license.

Figure 4.1. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Drove While Intoxicated, by Age

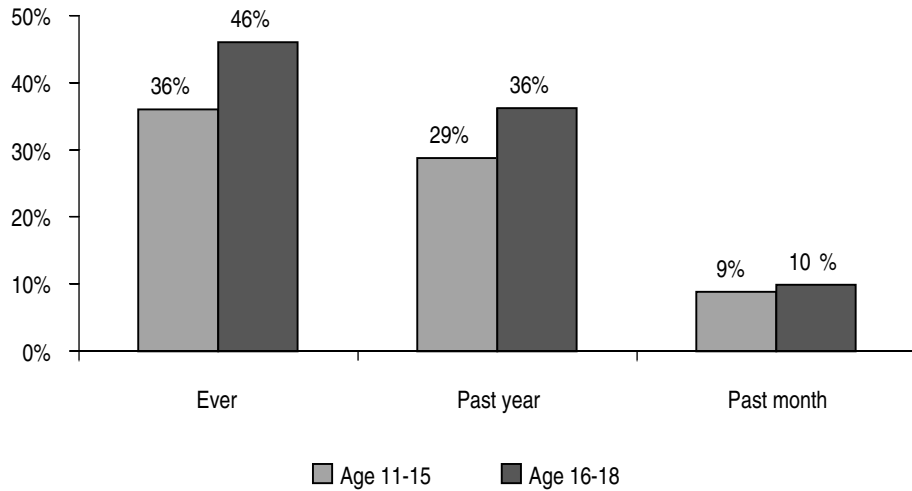


Table 4.6. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Sold Any Drugs in the Past Year, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys	Anglos	African Americans	Hispanics
Sold any drug in lifetime	59.1%	54.5%	59.8%	52.5%	69.6%	55.6%
Sold crack cocaine	38.5%	37.0%	38.7%	26.3%	56.8%	33.6%
Sold drugs other than crack	32.1%	47.5%	52.8%	49.3%	55.2%	51.6%
Sold any drug in past year	50.4%	46.5%	51.0%	42.3%	62.8%	46.6%
Sold crack cocaine	32.6%	31.5%	32.8%	21.0%	50.7%	27.6%
Sold drugs other than crack	43.1%	39.5%	43.6%	39.6%	47.6%	41.9%

*Transporting,
Selling, or
Possessing Drugs*

Eleven percent of girls and 15 percent of boys reported that they were currently in prison for a drug-related crime, such as transporting, selling, manufacturing, or possessing drugs, driving drunk, or failing a drug test. About 59 percent of TYC offenders had ever sold drugs, and 50 percent of offenders had done so in the year before incarceration (Table 4.6). Boys and girls were equally likely to have sold crack, but boys were more likely than girls to have sold other drugs as well. African Americans youth were more likely than others to have sold crack or other drugs.

Table 4.7 shows that there was a small subset of drug sellers who never or hardly ever used those drugs themselves (18 percent). This was particularly true among African American youths, where 27 percent of those who sold drugs said they did not use them. In contrast, only 15 percent of Hispanic youths and 8 percent of Anglo youths who sold drugs said they did not use them. The most common reason given for not using the drugs they sold was because of their bad effects (55 percent). Other reasons reported were to keep one's profit, to stay out of trouble, and because drugs did not do anything for them (Figure 4.2). It should be noted that most of the drug sellers who claimed they never used the drugs they sold were substance users who just did not use the type(s) of drugs they sold.

Table 4.7. Personal Drug Use Among TYC Youths Who Have Sold Drugs: 2000-2001

	Total	Anglos	African Americans	Hispanics
Sell drugs but never use them	12.9%	3.8%	23.9%	8.8%
Sell drugs but hardly ever use them	5.3%	3.8%	4.0%	5.8%
Sell drugs and sometimes use them	27.0%	18.9%	31.3%	28.3%
Sell drugs and frequently use them	53.7%	73.5%	39.3%	50.2%

Figure 4.2. Reasons for Not Using The Drugs They Sold

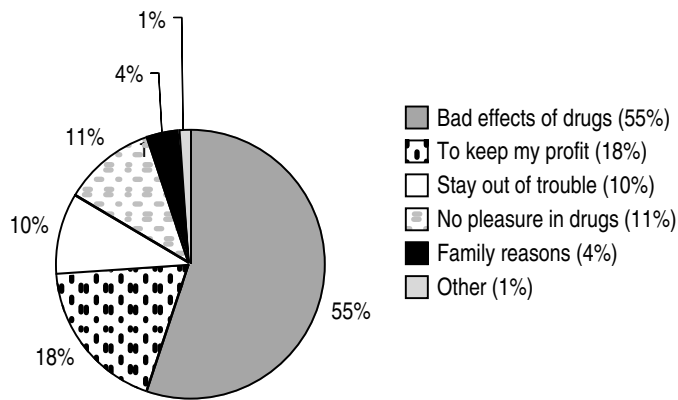


Table 4.8 shows the responses to a variety of statements and attitudes about drug use and drug selling from youths who sold drugs. Most drug sellers (81 percent) agreed that “more than anything else, I want to make a lot of money so I can have the finer things in life.” About 70 percent agreed with statements describing the adverse consequences of drug use (using drugs makes you weak and vulnerable to getting caught or being taken advantage of), while 40 percent felt that “if you’re careful about how you use drugs, you won’t get hooked.” Between 30 and 40 percent felt that drug selling is just a job, like anything else, is done by the most intelligent people, and represents a good way to get ahead.

About 71 percent of drug dealers agreed with the statement, “The people who supply the drugs I sell don’t care if their dealers or distributors use drugs.” About 38 percent said that the people who supplied them with drugs had warned them not to use the merchandise, and 14 percent said that the suppliers would punish dealers who used drugs or got hooked; the punishments included beatings and cutting off their supply of drugs. Warnings to not use the drugs they sold were reported less often by Anglo youths (23 percent) than by African Americans (46 percent) or Hispanics (39 percent).

Table 4.8. Responses of TYC Drug-Selling Youths to Statements About Drug Use and Selling: 2000-2001

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
People on the street take advantage of people who use drugs	49%	26%	10%	15%
The people who supply the drugs I sell don't care if their dealers or distributors use drugs	45%	26%	8%	20%
Dealers who use drugs are more likely to get caught	48%	24%	12%	16%
You've got to be ruthless to get ahead on the street	32%	26%	15%	27%
If you're careful about how you use drugs, you won't get hooked	23%	17%	12%	47%
Dealing drugs is a job, just like anything else	19%	19%	14%	47%
More than anything else, I want to make a lot of money so I can have the finer things in life	57%	24%	6%	14%
Using drugs makes you weak	42%	25%	12%	21%
The best way to get ahead where I live is to sell drugs	20%	17%	15%	48%
The most intelligent people in my neighborhood sell drugs	16%	12%	14%	58%

Table 4.9. Mode of Paying for Drugs That TYC Youths Sold, by Drug Sold: 2000-2001

	Total	Marijuana	Cocaine or Crack	Heroin	Psychedelics
Always had to pay "up front"	33.8%	33.5%	36.7%	26.6%	16.7%
Usually paid up front but sometimes later	6.3%	6.4%	6.3%	0.0%	16.7%
Half and half	10.6%	9.4%	11.7%	0.0%	11.1%
Usually paid after but sometimes up front	6.4%	6.0%	6.9%	20.3%	0.0%
Always paid after I sold it	31.1%	32.2%	29.0%	53.2%	44.4%
Don't know/Refused to answer	11.6%	12.5%	9.5%	0.0%	11.1%

The drugs most frequently sold by TYC youths were cocaine or crack (46 percent of drug sellers) and marijuana (45 percent). As shown in Table 4.9, drug sellers were equally likely to pay for their drugs before ("up front") or after they sold them. There was some indication that those who sold marijuana or cocaine/crack were more likely to have to pay for their drugs in advance than those who sold heroin or psychedelics, but the number of sellers of these latter two drugs was too small to be able to discern a statistically significant difference. For all drugs combined, Anglo youths were somewhat less likely to have to pay up front than African Americans or Hispanics.

Linking the Use of Substances to Crime

Fifty-eight percent of youths reported that drugs were somehow involved in crimes they had committed in the past year. One conceptual framework² suggests that there are three principal models that can help explain the link between drugs and crime. The economic-compulsive model suggests that some drug users resort to criminal behavior to support their drug habit. The pharmacological model posits that some drug users engage in irrational or violent behavior as a result of the psychological or physiological effects of a drug. Finally, the systemic model holds that a large share of drug-related crime is related to drug trafficking and sales.

Table 4.10 shows the percentage of respondents who said they committed various drug-related crimes that can be classified according to these three categories. About 39 percent of TYC youths had committed crimes during the past year that could fall under the category of economically motivated – that is, to support their own drug habit. Girls were more likely than boys to have stolen drugs or to have exchanged sex for drugs, while boys were more likely than girls to have committed a property crime to get money for drugs. About 29 percent said they had committed crimes because they were under the influence of drugs, with girls being significantly more likely than boys to say this. About 44 percent of youths, girls and boys equally, had committed crimes related to drug trafficking.

Table 4.10. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Drug-Related Crime in the Past Year, by Type of Crime and Gender: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
Any of These Drug-Related Crimes in Past Year	58.3%	61.0%	57.9%
Economic-Compulsive			
Committed Property Crime to Get Money for Drugs	19.8%	16.0%	20.3%*
Threatened Someone with Weapon to Get Money for Drug	6.3%	6.5%	6.3%
Sold Drugs to Support Your Own Drug Habit	25.6%	26.5%	25.4%
Stole Drugs for Your Own Use	15.1%	19.0%	14.5%*
Had Sex with Somebody to Get Drugs or Money for Drugs	2.2%	6.5%	1.6%*
Any of the Above	38.7%	37.5%	38.9%
Pharmacological			
Used or Threatened Violence Because You Were on Drugs and Didn't Know What You Were Doing	22.8%	30.5%	21.7%*
Used Alcohol or Drugs to Commit a Crime, Remove Fear of Danger	15.0%	15.5%	14.9%
Any of the Above	28.6%	35.5%	27.6%*
Systemic			
Sold Drugs Not for Personal Use but for Profit	42.4%	42.5%	42.4%
Used or Threatened Violence to Protect a Drug Operation	15.0%	13.0%	15.2%
Any of the Above	44.1%	44.0%	44.1%

*Difference between boys and girls is significant at $p \leq .05$.

Table 4.11. Sources Used to Pay for Drugs Among TYC Youths Who Ever Used Drugs: 2000-2001

Given drugs for free	79.2%
Sold or traded drugs to buy drugs	50.7%
Borrowed money or got money from friends or relatives	48.5%
Stole drugs or stole something to pay for them	37.2%
Spent income from a legal job	23.2%
Traded or sold sex for drugs or money to buy drugs	2.6%
Sold or bartered possessions for drugs	1.2%

Table 4.11 shows that the majority of respondents who had ever used drugs obtained their drugs for free. Many obtained their drugs with money from friends or relatives, and a smaller proportion bought them with money from a legal job. Yet substantial percentages of youths engaged in criminal behavior to obtain drugs for their personal use. About half of drug users sold or traded drugs to support their own drug use habits, and 37 percent stole drugs or stole something to pay for them.

Almost 6 percent of youths who had ever used drugs reported buying drugs by mail or through the Internet. About 4 percent said they had bought downers over the Internet, and about 1 percent said they had bought marijuana.

Thirty-two percent of drug-users reported cooking or manufacturing their own drugs, primarily inhalants (18 percent), followed by marijuana (9 percent) and downers (6 percent).

Eighty-one percent of TYC respondents said they were able to recall the time when they first started getting into trouble regularly with their parents or guardians for doing what they wanted to do and not following orders. They recalled being about 12.1 years old at that time, on average. About 34 percent of these youths said that these problems with their family were related to the fact that they were using alcohol or drugs at that time.

Seventy-one percent of youths recalled a time when they started getting into trouble regularly with teachers or school officials, at about 11.7 years old. For 35 percent of the youths, these problems were related to their substance use.

Youths said they first broke the law and knew they could get into serious trouble at about age 12.5. The most common early delinquent behavior was burglary, robbery or theft (for 51 percent). For about 10 percent, their first forays into crime involved selling or transporting drugs, and for 5 percent, they involved possession of a controlled substance. Youths mentioned a wide variety of other delinquent acts or crimes that they committed during their early criminal careers, ranging from criminal mischief to manslaughter and murder. About 26 percent of youths said that breaking the law at that time was related to their alcohol or drug use.

Early Experiences in Crime

Table 4.12. Previous Experiences with the Criminal Justice System: TYC Youth 2000-2001

	Avg number of times	Avg age first time
Arrested by police	6.8	13.0
Placed on juvenile probation	2.0	13.4
Placed in jail or juvenile detention	5.0	13.5
Found guilty by a judge	3.2	13.8

Table 4.13. Most Common Reasons for First Incarceration and Present Incarceration, Among Current TYC Offenders: 2000-2001

	First Time	Current Time
Burglary, robbery, theft	40.0%	36.7%
Assault	14.9%	15.7%
Drug-related (not sales)*	13.0%	11.5%
Rape	5.5%	7.2%
Motor vehicle theft	4.3%	8.2%
Drug sales/transport	2.0%	3.4%
Violation of probation or parole	1.2%	13.6%

*Includes DWI, possession, underage drinking, public intoxication, beer runs and paraphernalia.

Table 4.12 shows some experiences youths already had with the criminal justice system before entering TYC at this time. On average, including the time that led to their present incarceration, youths had been arrested by the police almost seven times. They had been previously put in jail or juvenile detention other than TYC an average of five times. They had been found guilty by a judge on three occasions, on average, and had been placed on juvenile probation twice. Seventeen youths had been in TYC before this time. These experiences had first occurred at between 13 and 14 years old, on average. The most common crime that led to these encounters with the law was burglary/robbery/theft (40 percent), followed at a distance by assault (15 percent). Thirteen percent of the youths were first arrested for drug-related crimes (possession or use but not sales), and 2 percent for sale or transportation of drugs (Table 4.13).

Parental Knowledge of and Reaction to Youth Delinquency

Some 36 percent of youths said that their parents or guardians have known about their illegal activities most or all of the time, and 23 percent said that their parents sometimes knew about them. Only 19 percent said that their parents were not aware of these activities. Seventy-eight percent of the youths said that their parents were extremely unhappy about their actions, while 5 percent felt that their parents didn't care at all or had given up on them. More than half of the youths reported that their parents' reaction was to lecture them, take away privileges, or ground them, while a quarter of them said that their parents administered physical punishment.

Illegal Income

Respondents were asked which one of the illegal activities they engaged in had brought them the most money in the past year. Thirty-seven percent of youths said that they did not make any illegal income in the past year. Forty percent said that drug selling, trafficking or transporting was their most lucrative activity, and 21 percent said they made the most money through burglary, robbery or theft. The amount of money respondents reported making per week during the last year from illegal activities ranged from \$1 to \$40,000, with the average amount being about \$988.³ Boys reported substantially higher illegal income (\$1,038) than girls (\$658). Youths who sold drugs reported much higher illegal incomes (\$1,559) than those who did not sell drugs (\$164). Independently of whether or not they sold drugs, youths who had alcohol- or drug-related problems reported higher illegal incomes than youths who did not have such problems. Presumably, these youths needed to obtain large amounts of money to cover their drug habits.

Uses of Income

Regardless of their source of income, youths claimed to use their money to help their family pay for necessary things, such as food and rent. About 27 percent of all youths said they did this on a regular basis (at least monthly), and the percentage was slightly higher among youths who received any illegal income (35 percent). Youths said that they spent a lot of money during their last year buying things for their family or giving them money (70 percent), buying necessities for themselves, such as food and clothing that they needed (73 percent), and buying expensive things for themselves to look good (69 percent). About 58 percent said they spent a lot of money buying alcohol and/or drugs for themselves.

Feelings About Being in TYC

Youths tended to acknowledge their own responsibility for ending up in TYC. Ninety-five percent agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “The reason I’m in TYC is because I made a mistake that I will not do again.” Smaller numbers said they had been in the wrong place at the wrong time (54 percent) or that they were set up by police, gang members, or people who were out to get them (15 percent). About 49 percent agreed with the statement, “I just can’t seem to stay out of trouble.” Girls were more likely (54 percent) than boys (36 percent) to feel that they couldn’t stay out of trouble. Yet 61 percent of TYC youths felt that their chances of staying out of trouble after leaving TYC were excellent, and a further 26 percent felt they were good (response choices were “excellent,” “good,” “fair,” and “poor”). Girls and boys were about equally optimistic about their chances, but those who had substance problems were somewhat less optimistic (58 percent saying “excellent”) than those without such problems (68 percent).

Gang Membership, Delinquent Activities, and Substance Use

Studies have shown that gang membership is often associated with delinquency and substance use, even among youths who had not previously engaged in such behavior.^{4,5}

This section describes gang affiliation and behavior among the TYC offenders and relationships between gang membership, criminality, and substance use. Gangs and gang-related violence had touched the lives of most TYC youths. Seventy-seven percent of youths reported that gangs were present in the neighborhoods in which they grew up. Thirty-four percent said that most or all of the young people in their neighborhoods belonged to a gang (Figure 4.3). Thirty-two percent had dated a gang member. Fifty percent reported that a close friend had been seriously injured as a result of gang violence, and 41 percent said that a close friend had been killed because of gang violence.

Despite the risks, 43 percent of TYC youths said they had wanted to join a gang at some point. Thirty-nine percent of youths said that they had at one time belonged to gang, while 21 percent currently belonged to a gang.^{vi} Boys were only slightly more likely than girls to have ever been in a gang, but girls were equally as likely as boys to currently be in a gang.

Current and former gang members gave various reasons for wanting to be in a gang. Companionship, feeling wanted or accepted, and the desire for protection were cited by half or more as very important reasons for joining a gang (Table 4.14). Twenty-seven percent said that a very important reason for gang membership was to obtain drugs, and for 4 percent, it was the most important reason (Table 4.15).

Most current and former gang members (80 percent) had participated in some kind of initiation before joining. Almost all said that violence was a part of the initiation, and substantial percentages had to commit crimes as part of their initiation (Table 4.16).

Figure 4.3. Proportion of Young People in Their Neighborhood Who Belong to a Gang, as Perceived by TYC Youths

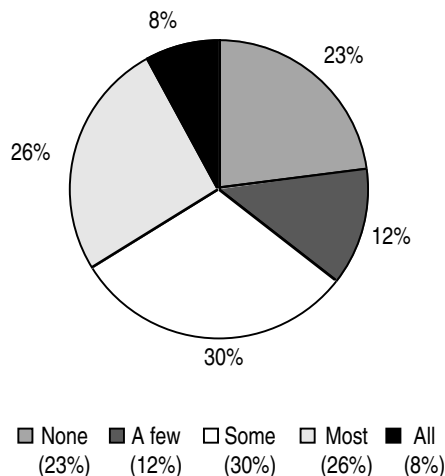


Table 4.14. Reasons for Joining a Gang, Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Been in a Gang: 2000-2001

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Companionship	63%	25%	11%
Feeling wanted, accepted	54%	26%	19%
Protection	50%	25%	24%
Family members are in gang	34%	19%	45%
Status, prestige	32%	26%	41%
To obtain money	32%	27%	41%
To obtain drugs	27%	31%	41%
Self-esteem	24%	35%	40%
Coercion to join	12%	18%	69%

Table 4.15. Most Important Reason for Joining a Gang, Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Been in a Gang: 2000-2001

Fit in, feel wanted or loved	20.2%
Family members are in gangs	18.0%
Protection, security	13.1%
Friends, boyfriend are in gangs	9.0%
Respect, power, leadership	8.8%
Make money, provide for family	7.8%
Drugs	4.0%
Like trouble, fighting, gang life	3.2%
Peer pressure	2.1%

Table 4.16. Initiation Activities Among Current and Former Gang Members Who Went Through an Initiation: TYC Youths, 2000-2001

Participated in a fight, was victim of beating, or forced to inflict violence on self	92.3%
Committed a violent crime	27.5%
Committed a property crime	13.2%
Committed a sexual act	2.7%
Received a tattoo	0.2%

Almost 70 percent of former or current gang members said that they spent every day or nearly every day with their gang and an additional 20 percent met with them a few times a week (Table 4.17).

Sixty-nine percent of current or former gang members reported that their gang's most frequent activity was getting high on substances; 8 percent said it was selling or running drugs; and 4 percent said it was committing other crimes (Table 4.18). Some 85 percent of gang members said that their gangs at least sometimes sold or ran drugs to get money. Most of them said that their gangs sold or delivered cocaine (87 percent) or marijuana (82 percent), while 31 percent said that their gangs dealt in psychedelics, and 14 percent sold or delivered heroin (Table 4.19).

Table 4.17. Frequency of Gang Involvement Among Current and Former Gang Members: TYC Youths, 2000-2001

Every day or almost every day	68.9%
A few times a week	20.2%
Once a week	7.3%
One to three times a month	2.2%
Less than a month	0.8%

Table 4.18. Most Frequent Gang Activities Reported by Current and Former Gang Members: TYC Youths, 2000-2001

Get drunk or high	68.6%
Sell or run drugs	8.3%
Hang out*	8.2%
Commit other crimes	3.8%
Play sports	2.7%
Other	7.0%

* "Hang out" includes planning confrontations, making tapes, meeting women, riding around, etc.

Table 4.19. Drugs Sold by Their Gangs, as Reported by TYC Gang Members: 2000-2001

Crack or powder cocaine	86.5%
Marijuana	82.3%
Psychedelics	31.1%
Heroin	13.6%
Uppers	8.4%
Downers	5.0%
Opiates other than heroin	4.5%
Inhalants	0.6%

Based on gang members whose gangs sold or ran drugs (85 percent of all gang members).

Table 4.20. Sources of Income for Gangs, as Reported by TYC Current or Former Gang Members: 2000-2001

Selling or transporting drugs	85.3%
Selling or transporting guns	63.2%
Car or auto parts theft	58.7%
Burglary	50.1%
Use of threats or scare tactics in exchange for money	41.5%
Fraud or forgery	0.8%
Prostitution or procuring	0.6%
Selling stolen property	0.6%

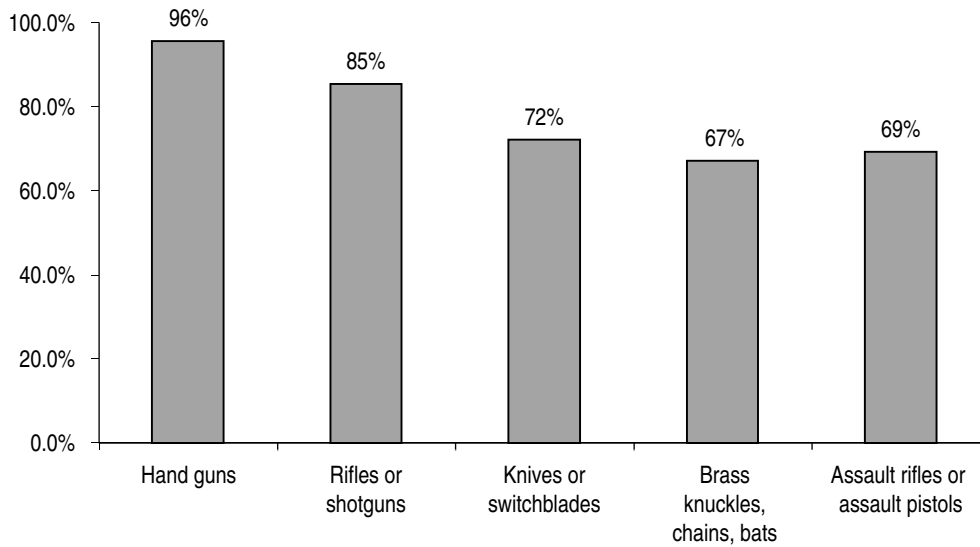
Table 4.20 shows different ways that the gangs to which TYC offenders belonged obtained money. Some 85 percent of all current and former gang members reported that their gang sold or transported drugs to obtain money.

Ninety-three percent of gang members reported that their gang had weapons. Handguns, followed by rifles or shotguns, were the most common weapons possessed (Figure 4.4).

Forty-three percent of former or current gang members said they had participated in a drive-by shooting, and more than half of them had done so more than once. Forty-five percent of those who had participated in a drive-by shooting said that someone had been hurt in the shooting.

Many former gang members reported that it had been difficult to leave their gang. Twenty-three percent said that leaving was very difficult; 16 percent said it was somewhat difficult, and 56 percent said it was easy to leave. Twenty-two percent said that they or people close to them had suffered negative consequences as a result of leaving. Five percent of former gang members said that a family member or someone close to them had been killed because they left their gang, and 16 percent said that they themselves had been beaten or shot when they left. Yet being out of the gang was sometimes safer than being in. When asked to state why they had left their gang, 27 percent said it was to escape danger.

Figure 4.4. Weapons Possessed by Gang, as Reported by TYC Offenders Who Belonged to Gangs with Weapons



Endnotes

- ¹ "Who are TYC Offenders?" 2001. Online. Texas Youth Commission. Available: http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/research/youth_stats.html. May 2001.
- ² P.J. Goldstein, "The Drugs/Violence Nexus: A Tripartite Conceptual Framework," *Journal of Drug Issues*, 15 (1985): 493-506.
- ³ This average is for all youth and includes those who said they made no illegal income, but excludes one youth who reported a weekly income of \$78,000.
- ⁴ L. Zhang, J.W. Welte, and W.F. Wiczorek, "Youth Gangs, Drug Use, and Delinquency," *Journal of Criminal Justice* 27, no. 2, (1999): 101-109.
- ⁵ R.L. Dukes, R.O. Martinez, and J.A. Stein, "Precursors and Consequences of Membership in Youth Gangs," *Youth and Society* 29, no. 2, (1997): 139-165.
- ⁶ A previous study conducted among TYC youth in 1998 had found that 41 percent had a history of gang involvement. T. Wheeler-Cox, N. Arrigona, and L. Reichers. 1999. *An Overview of the Texas Youth Commission's Specialized Programs*, Austin, TX: Criminal Justice Policy Council.

Other Problems and Issues Among Youths

Youths involved in the criminal justice system often come from troubled backgrounds involving educational deficiencies, poverty, family problems and psychological dysfunction. Many of these factors are related to substance use, either as cause or consequence; in any case, they can complicate the challenge of rehabilitating these adolescents, and need to be addressed.

Family Background and Childhood Neglect and Abuse

During the year before incarceration, most youths (70 percent) primarily lived in the home of their parent or parents (Table 5.1). Eleven percent lived in a relative's home, and 7 percent primarily lived in a friend's home. Nine percent of TYC youths had lived in foster care for a month or more at some time in their lives. Though the majority of these youths (61 percent) had been in foster care one time, 13 percent had been in foster care twice, and 19 percent had been in foster care three to eight times. Youths who had been in foster care spent an average of 20 months there.

Table 5.1. Living Situations Among TYC Youths: 2000-2001

	Ever, For a Month or More*	Primary Situation During Year Before Entering TYC
Parent's home	97.4%	70.1%
Relative's home	50.4%	11.3%
Friend's home	34.6%	7.5%
Other residential placement**	30.5%	5.1%
Street, no regular place	9.3%	1.3%
Foster care	9.2%	0.5%
Shelter or rooming house	8.4%	0.3%
Jail, boot camp, other detention	4.6%	0.3%
Respondent's own home	3.6%	2.6%

*Total does not add to 100 percent because respondents could indicate more than one lifetime living situation.

**Includes substance abuse treatment or rehab.

More than half of all youths had a parent or guardian who had served time in a local jail (Table 5.2), and 29 percent had a parent or guardian who had served time in a state or federal prison. Youths who had substance use problems (abuse or dependence) were more likely than others to have a parent or guardian, sibling, or close relative who had been incarcerated.

Girls (74 percent) were almost twice as likely as boys (43 percent) to have run away at least once as a child (Table 5.3). Thirty-five percent of all TYC girls had run away four or more times in their lifetime. Table 5.4 shows the reasons youths gave for running away during childhood. Girls were more likely to have run away because of physical or other abuse, as well as to be with their friends.

Table 5.5 shows that close to one-third of TYC youths had suffered from poverty, neglect, or abuse as they were growing up. Girls were more likely than boys to have suffered from poverty and neglect and from most forms of abuse; however, boys were more likely to report having been beaten. Offenders with substance use problems were more likely than other offenders to have suffered most forms of neglect or poverty, beatings, or mental or emotional abuse (Table 5.6). However, they were no more or less likely than those without substance problems to report having suffered sexual abuse.

Table 5.2. Percentage of TYC Youths Whose Family Members Have Served Time in Jail or Prison: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Substance Use Problems	
		No	Yes
Parent or guardian ever in local jail	52.6%	41.3%	57.9%
Parent or guardian ever in prison	29.2%	21.6%	32.9%
Brother or sister ever in prison	26.1%	18.5%	29.8%
Aunt, uncle, cousin, or grandparent ever in prison	47.0%	34.7%	52.8%

Table 5.3. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Have Run Away from Home, by Number of Times and Gender: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
Never	53.2%	25.5%	57.4%
Once	11.2%	12.5%	11.0%
Twice	10.4%	12.0%	10.2%
Three times	6.8%	7.5%	6.6%
Four times or more	15.5%	35.0%	12.6%

Percentages do not total 100 percent because some respondents did not supply information.

Table 5.4. Reasons for Running Away, Among TYC Youths Who Had Ever Run Away from Home, by Gender: 2000-2001

	Girls	Boys
Just unhappy	48.3%	40.6%
To be with friends	47.6%	25.3%
In trouble at school	4.0%	5.7%
Pregnancy/ girlfriend's pregnancy	5.4%	2.8%
In trouble with the law	10.1%	13.4%
Parents separated	1.3%	0.8%
Family violence	5.4%	5.1%
Physical abuse	11.4%	4.8%
Sexual abuse	5.4%	0.3%
Verbal abuse	6.7%	2.0%
Emotional abuse	6.7%	3.1%
Kicked out	10.1%	8.2%
Fights with parents	45.0%	45.4%
Own substance use	2.0%	2.6%
Parent's substance use	0.7%	1.1%
Other	18.1%	24.4%

Totals do not sum to 100 percent because respondents could name more than one reason.

Table 5.5. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Have Suffered Neglect, Poverty, or Abuse, by Gender: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
Neglect or Poverty	30.4%	46.0%	28.1%*
Felt unloved	18.5%	36.0%	15.9%*
Left alone as child	10.3%	19.0%	9.0%*
Not enough to eat	9.0%	11.5%	8.6%*
Homeless	7.0%	11.0%	6.4%*
Inadequate clothing	7.1%	7.0%	7.1%
No care when sick or hurt	5.5%	11.5%	4.6%*
Abuse	33.3%	62.5%	28.9%*
Beatings	21.6%	7.0%	19.5%*
Mental/emotional abuse	20.8%	45.0%	17.2%*
Sexual abuse/rape	13.6%	44.5%	9.0%*

*Differences between boys and girls are significant at $p \leq .05$.

Family Dynamics

Most youths reported that their relationship with their mother, father, and/or caregiver was usually a close one (Table 5.7). Girls reported less close relationships with their parents than boys, but there was no significant difference between youths who had a substance problem and those who did not.

Table 5.6. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Have Suffered Neglect, Poverty, or Abuse, by Substance Use Problems: 2000-2001

	Substance Use Problems	
	No	Yes
Neglect or Poverty	23.0%	34.0%*
Felt unloved	13.9%	20.7%*
Left alone as child	7.1%	11.8%*
Not enough to eat	6.7%	10.1%*
Homeless	4.2%	8.3%*
Inadequate clothing	4.0%	8.6%*
No care when sick or hurt	5.3%	5.6%
Abuse	28.6%	35.6%*
Beatings	18.0%	23.3%*
Mental/emotional abuse	15.9%	23.2%*
Sexual abuse/rape	15.4%	12.8%

*Differences between offenders with and without substance use problems are significant at $p \leq .05$.

Table 5.7 Relationship with Parents or Caregivers, by Gender and Substance Use Problems: 2000-2001

	Total	Gender		Substance Use Problems	
		Girls	Boys	No	Yes
Usually close with mother	73.5%	54.2%	76.4%	71.5%	73.5%
Usually close with father	50.1%	43.0%	51.1%	49.8%	50.1%
Usually close with other caregiver	80.4%	71.6%	81.7%	81.7%	80.4%

Response choices were "usually close", "sometimes close", "usually distant", "usually hostile", and "unpredictable extremes".

Table 5.8. Family Dynamics, by Gender and Substance Use Problems: 2000-2001

	Total	Gender		Substance Use Problems	
		Girls	Boys	No	Yes
Consistent rules	70.8%	62.8%	72.0%	78.4%	67.2%
Enjoyment of family	72.2%	59.8%	74.1%	80.5%	68.3%
Household members fight	19.7%	36.2%	17.2%	11.2%	23.7%
Parents care about child	75.4%	58.3%	77.9%	83.3%	71.6%

For definitions of scale items, see Appendix C

Table 5.8 shows four indicators of family dynamics for boys and girls, and for youths with and without substance problems. The indicators are composite indices based on several questions (listed in Appendix C), and represent the following factors: consistent family expectancies, enjoyment of family, domestic fighting, and parental caring. Table 5.8 shows that girls, as compared to boys, and youth with substance problems, as compared to

**Parental
Substance
Use**

those with no problems, lived in households that had less consistent rules and more overt fighting, they perceived their parents as less caring, and they enjoyed their family interactions less.

About 28 percent of youth said that their father or father figure drank alcohol on a daily basis, and 20 percent said that they had seen him drunk many times or nearly every day. About 7 percent of youth said that their mother or mother figure drank daily and almost all of these youth said that she was drunk many times or nearly daily. Youths who had seen their fathers frequently drunk were more likely to themselves have a substance problem, but there was no relationship between mother's drunkenness and youth's own substance problems.

Some youths obtained alcohol from their parents, either by the parents giving or buying them alcohol (for 13 percent of youths this occurred several times or more often), or by taking it from their parents without their knowledge (21 percent of youth did this several times or more). Youths who had substance problems were more likely to have been given alcohol by their parents (16 percent as compared to 5 percent of youth who did not have problems) or to have taken alcohol from their parents without their knowledge (27 percent as compared to 9 percent).

Sixteen percent of TYC youths had seen their father or father figure use drugs several times a week or more, and 33 percent had seen him high on drugs several or many times. Thirteen percent of youths had seen their mothers use drugs several times a week or mores and 16 percent had seen their mothers high several times or more often. Youths whose parents used drugs were more likely to themselves have substance use problems (Table 5.9). Eighty-eight percent of the youths whose parents had taken drugs said the parents had used marijuana, 54 percent had used powder cocaine, 45 percent had used crack cocaine, 20 percent had used amphetamines, and 14 percent had used heroin.

About half (49 percent) of the parents who had used drugs had let their child use drugs with them, 35 percent had bought or given their

Table 5.9 Parental Substance Use, As Reported by TYC Youths With and Without Substance Use Problems: 2000–2001

	Total	Substance Use Problems	
		No	Yes
Father drank daily	27.8%	21.0%	30.4%*
Father became drunk very often or daily	20.3%	13.3%	23.0%*
Mother drank daily	8.9%	5.4%	10.2%*
Mother became drunk very often or daily	6.7%	5.7%	7.1%
Father took drugs several times a week or more	16.5%	9.4%	19.1%*
Father became high several times or more	33.1%	21.4%	37.5%*
Mother took drugs several times a week or more	13.0%	8.9%	14.5%*
Mother became high several times or more	15.7%	14.0%	16.4%

*Difference between youths who had substance use problems and those who did not is significant at $p \leq .05$.

Peer Relations

child drugs, and 22 percent of the kids had taken drugs from their parents without their knowledge. Parents sharing their drugs and youths taking drugs from their parents were both much more commonly reported by youths who had substance problems.

About 76 percent of TYC boys and girls said that they had at least one close friend during the six months before coming to TYC, and on average they had about four close friends. Respondents were asked whether “most,” “some,” or “none” of their close friends engaged in a variety of behaviors that are listed in Table 5.10. About half of all TYC youths said that most of their close friends smoked marijuana (51 percent) or drank alcohol (45 percent), 10 percent said most of their friends used cocaine or crack, and 17 percent said that most used some other kind of drug. About 28 percent said that most of their close friends had sold drugs. Table 5.10 also shows that TYC youth who had substance-related problems were much more likely than those who did not to have close friends who participated in these drug-related and other deviant behaviors. Yet, on the positive side, 61 percent of those with substance problems and 77 percent of those without such problems said that most of their friends felt close to their parents.

Table 5.10. Characteristics of Friends of TYC Youths, by Substance Use Problems: 2000-2001

Most* of my close friends:	Total	Respondent has Substance Use Problems	
		No	Yes
Smoke cigarettes	50.3%	33.7%	58.1%
Drink alcohol	45.3%	27.4%	53.8%
Smoke marijuana	50.9%	26.1%	62.5%
Use inhalants	4.0%	0.3%	5.7%
Use cocaine or crack	10.1%	1.7%	14.1%
Use some other type of drug	17.0%	3.4%	23.4%
Sell some type of drug	28.5%	12.8%	35.9%
Commit crimes to buy drugs	8.1%	0.4%	11.6%
Have stolen a motor vehicle	15.2%	10.2%	17.5%
Have carried a hidden weapon	25.2%	9.8%	32.5%
Have stolen something worth more than \$100	27.5%	13.6%	34.1%
Have used a weapon or threat of force to rob someone	11.6%	4.2%	15.1%
Have damaged or destroyed property	18.7%	11.8%	22.0%
Have been in a gang fight	28.7%	15.2%	35.1%
Have been picked up by the police	36.1%	23.3%	42.2%
Have participated in a drive-by shooting	10.6%	6.0%	12.8%
Carry weapons to school	9.6%	3.1%	12.6%
Belong to a gang	26.4%	14.4%	32.1%
Feel close to their parents	65.9%	77.0%	60.6%
Care about making good grades	40.2%	60.1%	30.8%
Wish they could drop out of school	18.5%	9.3%	22.8%

*Response choices were "most", "some" or "none"

Table 5.11. School Attendance Before Entering TYC: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Substance Use Problems	
		No	Yes
Attending school	69.1%	80.2%	63.8%*
Not attending school	30.9%	19.8%	36.2%*
Dropped out	19.6%	10.0%	24.1%*
Locked up	2.4%	1.7%	2.7%
Didn't want to study	1.7%	1.6%	1.8%
Received GED	1.0%	1.3%	0.9%
Expelled	1.0%	0.7%	1.2%
Other reasons	2.8%	2.4%	3.1%

*Difference between youth with substance use problems and those without is significant at $p \leq .05$.

Table 5.12. Reasons for Dropping Out of School, Among TYC Youths Who Had Done So: 2000-2001

Dislike of school, dissatisfaction with academics	44.3%
Legal troubles or crime	17.3%
Use of drugs or alcohol	11.7%
Work or desire to make money	11.2%
Failure in school	8.3%
Family or personal problems or ran away	7.6%
Involvement with gang or wrong crowd	5.2%
Attacks, assaults, verbal abuse, or did not feel safe	4.1%
Expulsion	2.0%
GED	1.4%
Engagement, marriage, other relationship	1.1%
Care of child	0.5%

* Total does not sum to 100 because some respondents reported more than one reason

Education and Schooling

Many TYC youths have not adapted well to school. Although most youths (89 percent) strongly agreed that their parents wanted them in school, 31 percent of youths were not attending school when they entered TYC (Table 5.11). Twenty percent had dropped out of school, and 11 percent were not attending for other reasons.

Forty-four percent of youths who had dropped out of school said they did so because they were dissatisfied with school (Table 5.12). Seventeen percent said they dropped out due to legal problems or crime, and 12 percent said dropping out was due to their use of drugs or alcohol. About half of the youths who had dropped out did so during the ninth grade. Youths reported having received average grades of between B and C while they were still attending school.

Ninety-six percent of youths who had dropped out said that they wanted to continue their education. Among these offenders, 53 percent wanted to attend GED classes, and 33 percent wanted to continue in a regular school.

Table 5.13. Reasons for Frequently Missing Classes During the Last Year Among TYC Youths Who Were in School, by Substance Use Problems: 2000-2001

	Total	Substance Use Problems	
		No	Yes
Cutting	37.2%	18.4%	46.0%*
Arrested, crime, legal problems	27.9%	18.0%	32.5%*
Being suspended	23.9%	14.1%	28.5%*
Personal or emotional problems	7.8%	6.3%	8.4%
Illness	6.5%	7.5%	6.0%
Having to work	4.2%	3.4%	4.5%
Having to take care of children	3.5%	2.8%	3.9%
Drug-related reason	0.9%	0.2%	1.2%*

*Difference between those with substance problems and those without is significant at $p \leq .05$.

Among the 69 percent of youths who were attending school when they entered TYC, 65 percent were attending regular school, 27 percent were attending an alternative school, and 5 percent were attending GED classes. Some 43 percent had taken remedial classes in language arts, math, or some other subject at some time.

Among youths who were attending school before entering TYC, only 65 percent said they had been attending classes regularly when they were last in school. Those with substance use problems were less likely (59 percent) than other youths (76 percent) to have been attending classes regularly. Among those youths who were still attending school when they came to TYC, 41 percent were not enrolled in their expected grade level. However, youths who had been in school reported receiving average grades of between A and B.

Table 5.13 shows reasons youths gave for missing classes while they were in school among both those who had dropped out and those who were still attending classes before coming to TYC. The most common reason was just cutting class, followed by missing for legal- or crime-related reasons and being expelled. Youths with substance problems were more likely to have missed classes for most of these reasons than youths who had no substance problems.

Table 5.14 shows the percentage of TYC youths who had negative experiences or attitudes regarding school. On the whole, fewer than half of the respondents endorsed any of the negative attitudes or experiences asked about, except for feeling restless in school (64 percent) and feeling that students would be taken advantage of if they were perceived as weak (53 percent). Students who had problems with alcohol or drugs were more likely than others to report having most of the negative attitudes and experiences. They were twice as likely to feel that education was useless, that their teachers did not care about them, that other kids looked down on them, that schools did not want kids like them, and that it was necessary to carry a weapon to school to defend themselves.

Table 5.14. Percentage of TYC Youths Expressing Negative Attitudes About School, by Substance Use Problems: 2000-2001

	Total	Substance Use Problems	
		No	Yes
Education won't do me any good	5.3%	3.3%	6.2%*
My teachers don't care about me ¹	18.4%	12.0%	23.4%*
Kids in school look down on me	28.4%	32.1%	67.9%*
In my school, you need a weapon to defend yourself	12.7%	7.2%	15.2%*
It's OK to cheat on school tests	18.0%	10.7%	21.4%*
They don't want people like me in school	33.4%	22.6%	38.4%*
The kids in my school take advantage of you if you are weak	53.0%	47.2%	55.7%*
I have trouble reading	29.7%	30.7%	29.2%
I have trouble doing math	43.1%	34.9%	46.9%*
I get restless in school	64.1%	50.3%	70.6%*
My parents don't care about whether I stay in school ¹	3.9%	3.1%	5.1%

Note: The percentages are youth who strongly agree or somewhat agree with these attitudes.

¹For these two questions, the percentages represent respondents who disagreed with the questions which were phrased in a positive way, i.e. "my teachers care...", "my parents care...".

*Differences between youth with substance problems and those without such problems are significant at $p \leq .05$.

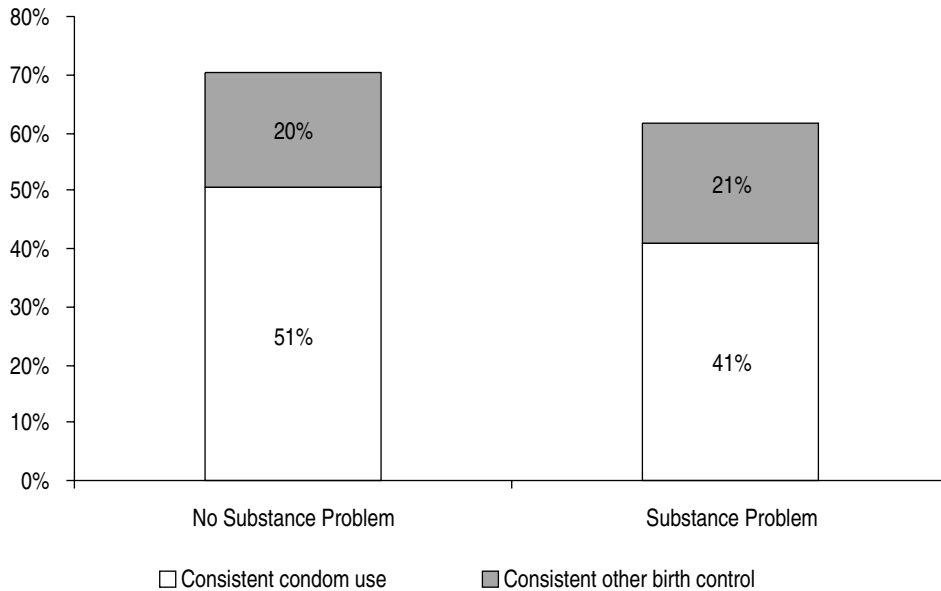
Table 5.15. Percentage of Sexually Active TYC Youths Who Use Protection During Sex: 2000-2001

Condom	
Always	43.6%
Sometimes	36.8%
Rarely or never	19.4%
Other birth control	
Always	11.6%
Sometimes	16.0%
Rarely or never	63.7%
Inconsistent use of any protection	47.8%

HIV Risk and Risk for Pregnancy

Ninety-one percent of offenders had had sexual intercourse, with boys and girls equally likely to have done so. Most youths who were sexually active (86 percent) had had two or more partners. Fifty-six percent of sexually active youths were at risk for sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, because they reported that they did not always use a condom (Table 5.15). Forty-eight percent of offenders were at risk for becoming pregnant or causing a pregnancy for their female partners because they did not always use either a condom or some other type of birth control when having sex. While girls and boys were equally likely to report that they or their partners used some form of birth control other than condoms, girls were less likely to report that a condom was used, and therefore their sexual encounters had a higher risk of resulting in a pregnancy.

Figure 5.1. Consistent Use of Birth Control Among Sexually Active TYC Youths, by Substance Use Problems



Among sexually active youths, those with substance use problems (41 percent) were less likely than other youths (51 percent) to report consistent use of condoms, thereby increasing their risk of disease. Yet, if they did not use condoms, youths with substance problems were more likely to report using another kind of birth control, so that the overall risk of pregnancy was similar for substance misusers and others (Figure 5.1).

Twenty-seven percent of sexually active youths said they had been drinking alcohol and 42 percent said they had been using drugs when they last had sexual intercourse. There was no significant difference between boys and girls in this regard.

Youths were considered to be at risk of HIV if they had unprotected sex or if they had ever injected drugs. Among all youths, 53 percent were at risk for HIV. Fifty-one percent were at risk due to inconsistent condom use, and 6 percent were at risk due to injection drug use (8 percent were at risk due to both factors) (Table 5.16). Girls were more likely than boys to be at risk for HIV. Though older youths were slightly more likely to be at risk, about half of all offenders aged 11 to 15 were at risk for HIV because of their drug use or risky sexual behavior. Hispanics and Anglos were more likely than African Americans to be at risk for HIV. Offenders with drug or alcohol use problems were more likely than other offenders to be at risk.

Table 5.16. Percentage of TYC Youths at Risk for HIV, by Gender, Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Substance Use Problems: 2000-2001

	Inconsistent Condom Use	Injection Drug Use	At Risk for HIV ¹
Total	51.2%	5.7%	52.5%
Gender			
Girls	60.5%	11.5%	62.5%
Boys	49.8%	4.8%	51.0%
Age Group			
11 to 15	47.4%	4.6%	48.1%
16 to 18	54.2%	6.6%	56.0%
Race/Ethnicity			
Anglo	51.6%	9.2%	54.1%
African American	43.1%	2.0%	43.8%
Hispanic	56.7%	6.4%	57.8%
Substance Use Problems			
No	41.9%	1.1%	42.2%
Yes	55.6%	7.9%	57.3%

¹At risk for HIV means either inconsistent condom use or injection drug use.

Children of TYC Youths

Fourteen percent of youths were parents themselves (Table 5.17). Boys were slightly more likely (15 percent) than girls (11 percent) to be a parent. While older teens were more likely than younger teens to have had a child, almost 10 percent of offenders aged 11 to 15 had had a child. African Americans were the most likely, and Anglos the least likely, to have had a child. Sixty-four percent of currently married youths, compared to 13 percent of those who had never been married, had a child. Boys who had substance use problems were more likely to be parents than were boys who did not have substance use problems, whereas among girls, there was no significant association between having substance problems and having a child.

Among offenders who had a child, 14 percent had more than one child. Ninety-one percent of girls and 52 percent of boys who had a child reported that they were living with that child when they entered TYC. All of the girls and 82 percent of the boys said that they were financially responsible for their child. Some 23 percent of the boys and 5 percent of the girls said that they had a child whom they rarely or never saw.

Mental Health

A study conducted in 1998 reported that more than 30 percent of TYC youths needed substance mental or emotional health services.¹ TYC operates a specialized program for emotionally disturbed children with a capacity in fiscal year 1998 of 341 youths. A juvenile's need for specialized substance abuse treatment is determined during the testing and assessment process at the intake facility in Marlin. This process includes an evaluation of the offense type and prior criminal history, a caseworker

Table 5.17. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Were Parents, by Demographic Characteristics and Substance Use Problems: 2000-2001

Total	14.1%
Gender	
Female	11.0%
Male	14.5%
Age	
11 to 15	9.8%
16 to 18	17.5%
Race/Ethnicity	
Anglo	9.1%
African American	18.7%
Hispanic	14.0%
Marital Status	
Married	63.7%
Divorced or separated	25.0%
Never married	13.2%
Substance Abuse Problems	
No	10.7%
Yes	15.6%

interview, an evaluation of the youth’s family situation, and an evaluation by a psychologist. Youths diagnosed with mental illness also may be examined by a psychiatrist.

Special criteria for entering the Emotionally Disturbed Offender Treatment Program (EDTP) include a demonstrated level of emotional disturbance that interferes with a youth’s ability to progress in the regular TYC program and a qualifying diagnosis based on psychological and psychiatric evaluation. Youths undergo a 30-day evaluation period to confirm their need for emotional or mental health treatment, after which they may begin treatment.

The EDTP takes nine months to complete. The program focuses on behavior management and symptoms of emotional disturbance. In addition to the EDTP, the TYC facility in Corsicana operates a stabilization unit that serves offenders with major psychiatric disorders and who are too dangerous to themselves or others to be maintained in a regular facility.

In the present survey, girls (41 percent) were more likely than boys (24 percent) to describe their mental or emotional health as fair or poor (Table 5.18). Though the majority of youths did describe their mental or emotional health in positive terms, 50 percent of youths said that a mental health problem had significantly interfered with their lives at some point, 35 percent had taken medication for a psychological problem, and 13 percent had been hospitalized for such a problem (Table 5.19). Girls (72 percent) were more likely than boys (61 percent) to have had a mental health problem that interfered with their lives or for which they had

Table 5.18. Self-Reported Assessment of Mental or Emotional Health by TYC Boys and Girls: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
Excellent	38.7%	24.5%	40.8%
Good	34.5%	34.0%	34.6%
Fair	19.7%	30.0%	18.2%
Poor	6.2%	11.0%	5.5%

Table 5.19. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Needed and Had Ever Received Mental Health Services, by Gender: 2000-2001

	All Youths	Girls	Boys
Mental health problems seriously interfered with life	49.5%	61.3%	47.8%
Seen a mental health professional due to MH problem	43.6%	53.5%	42.1%
Taken medication for MH problem	35.4%	51.0%	33.0%
Hospitalized for MH problem	13.4%	27.0%	11.4%

taken medication or been hospitalized. An additional 6 percent of TYC youths had visited a health professional (doctor, nurse, psychologist, therapist) for an emotional or psychological problem they had had.

Respondents also were asked about specific psychological symptoms that could indicate a mental health problem, such as symptoms of depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. While the questions asked do not permit any formal diagnoses to be made, they do give an indication of the range and extent of problems TYC youths are experiencing. Table 5.20 shows the percentage of girls and boys who reported frequently experiencing each of the symptoms asked about. (The response choices for each item were “never,” “rarely,” “sometimes,” and “frequently”). The depression measure was based on a seven-item version of the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression (CES-D) scale.²

As Table 5.20 shows, girls were more likely than boys to report having each specific mental health problem except hallucinations (where boys were more likely) and the inability to recall specific bad periods from their childhood (where there was no significant difference between boys and girls). Twenty-one percent of the girls (6 percent of the boys) said they had attempted suicide, and an additional 13 percent of the girls (5 percent of the boys) had had serious thoughts of suicide but never attempted it.

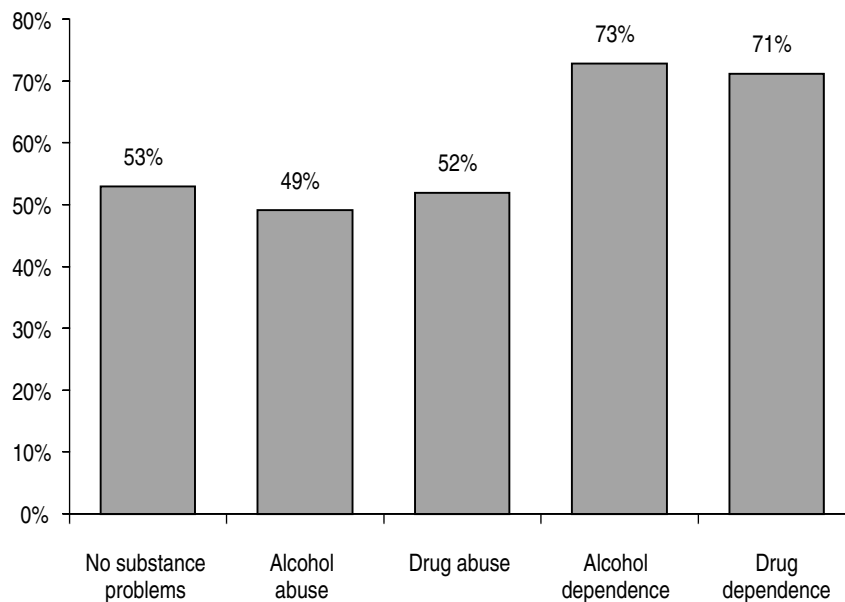
Figure 5.2 shows the relationship between substance abuse problems and mental health problems. TYC offenders who were dependent on alcohol or drugs were more likely than other offenders to have a mental health problem that interfered with their lives or for which they took medication or were hospitalized. Youths who abused substances but were not dependent on them did not have higher rates of mental health problems than youths who did not have substance-related problems.

Table 5.20. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Reported Frequently* Experiencing Mental Health Symptoms, by Gender: 2000-2001

	Girls	Boys
General Mental Health Problems		
Anxious, very stressed	33.5%	17.2%
Could not avoid bad thoughts	34.0%	20.0%
Didn't much care what happened to me	20.0%	15.7%
Suspicious, distrustful of people	30.0%	19.5%
Frequent nightmares	20.5%	10.7%
Frequent arguments or fights	35.5%	24.8%
Can't remember bad periods of childhood	12.2%	10.0%
Hallucinations	6.0%	8.6%
Depressed	45.5%	20.7%
Suicide		
Serious thoughts of suicide	30.5%	10.4%
Suicide attempt	21.0%	6.3%

*Response choices were "never", "rarely", "sometimes", and "frequently". For suicide thoughts or attempts, percentages represent those who said "sometimes" or "frequently". For others, responses represent those who said "frequently".

Figure 5.2. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Had Mental Health Problems, by Substance Use Problems



Self Esteem

Respondents were asked whether they believed that other people thought of them as a “no good” or “worthless” person. They were also asked whether they felt that way about themselves. Some 28 percent of boys and 34 percent of girls felt that other people regarded them in a poor light, while 18 percent of boys and 36 percent of girls felt this way about themselves, at least sometimes (only 2 percent of boys and 7 percent of girls felt this way “often”). Anglo youths were more likely than others to feel that other people considered them worthless, and Anglos and Hispanics were more likely than African American youths to feel this way about themselves.

Gambling

TYC youths were asked whether they had bet for money in the past 12 months on any of the following activities: Texas Lottery, bingo, horse or greyhound racing, cards/dice/board games played with family or friends, cards/dice/videopoker/slot machines played at an arcade, card parlor or casino, games of skill that they played, or any kind of activity through a bookie. The most popular gambling activity was betting with friends and family (51 percent of youths), followed by playing and betting on games of skill, such as bowling, pool, or video games (37 percent) and playing games at a casino or arcade (25 percent). Sixteen percent of youths had played the Texas Lottery, 12 percent had gambled on bingo, 5 percent had bet on horse/dog racing and 4 percent had bet through a bookie. In total, almost 60 percent of offenders had gambled on some activity in the past year.

Youths also were asked whether they had bet weekly or more often on any activity, and about 30 percent of TYC youths had done so. Boys (32 percent) were more likely than girls (19 percent) to have gambled weekly in the past year, but younger offenders were as likely as those aged 16 and over to be weekly gamblers (Table 5.21). African American youths were the most likely to be weekly gamblers in the past year. Offenders with substance use problems were almost twice as likely as other offenders to be weekly gamblers.

The median amount spent per year on gambling among those who reported any gambling in the past year was between \$250 and \$300 for girls and boys alike. Those with substance use problems reported spending a higher median amount (\$400) than those without such problems (\$200). The average age at which past-year gamblers had made their first bet with money was about 13 for both boys and girls.

Different activities had different appeal. Among youths who had gambled in the past year, girls were more likely than boys to have bet on bingo, while boys were more likely than girls to have bet on games of skill. Older youths were more likely than younger youths to have played the lottery, but there was little age difference in other activities. Hispanics were more likely than others to have played bingo. African Americans were the most likely to have bet with family or friends, but were the least likely to have played the lottery or to have bet on racing or games of skill.

Table 5.21. Past-Year Gambling, Weekly Gambling, and Gambling Problems Among TYC Youths, by Gender, Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Substance Use Problems: 2000-2001

	Gambled in Past Year	Gambled Weekly	Had a Gambling Problem
Total	59.6%	30.3%	11.5%
Gender			
Girls	46.5%	19.0%	8.0%
Boys	61.6%	32.0%	12.0%
Age			
11 to 15	53.2%	28.7%	11.3%
16 to 18	64.8%	31.6%	11.6%
Race/Ethnicity			
Anglo	55.0%	25.1%	6.5%
African American	66.4%	38.8%	16.3%
Hispanic	57.3%	25.4%	9.8%
Substance Abuse Problems			
No	41.8%	19.1%	6.4%
Yes	68.1%	35.6%	13.9%

Table 5.21 also shows the prevalence of gambling-related problems among TYC youths. Youths were asked six questions about gambling experiences that could indicate problem gambling, and those who had experienced three or more were considered to be problem gamblers.³ Overall, 11.5 percent of youths had three or more of the six problems asked about. Among those who had gambled during the past year, African American youths were the most likely, and Anglo youths the least likely, to report having gambling problems. Boys were more likely than girls to have problems, but older and younger teens were equally likely to have them. As has been found in numerous other studies, having a gambling problem was significantly associated with having a substance use problem.

Endnotes

- ¹ T. Wheeler-Cox, N. Arrigona, and L. Reichers. 1999. *An Overview of the Texas Youth Commission's Specialized Programs*, Austin, TX: Criminal Justice Policy Council.
- ² The seven items included: 1) I did not feel like eating; my appetite was poor; 2) I had trouble keeping my mind on what I was doing; 3) I felt depressed; 4) I felt everything I did was an effort; 5) My sleep was restless; 6) I felt sad; and 7) I lost interest in doing the things I usually enjoyed. (N. Breslau, "Depressive Symptoms, Major Depression, and Generalized Anxiety: A Comparison of Self-Reports on CES-D and Results from Diagnostic Interviews," *Psychiatric Research* 15 (1985): 219-229). The responses to the seven items were summed, producing an index ranging from 7 to 28. Although there is no established threshold score for this shortened scale, scores of 21 and above were considered to represent depression.
- ³ Five of the six questions were drawn from the South Oaks Gambling Screen (for more information, see L. Wallisch, *Gambling in Texas* (Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1993). The questions were: During the past year 1. How often did you go back another day to try to win back money you bet? 2. Did you ever spend either more time or more money gambling than you intended? 3. Did you ever feel guilty about the way you gambled or about what happened when you gambled? 4. Did you ever feel that you would like to stop gambling but didn't think that you could? 5. Did you ever borrow from someone and not pay them back as a result of your gambling? 6. Did your gambling ever interfere with your school, your work, or your personal relationships with family or friends?

Conclusions

This study was undertaken to provide an assessment of the substance abuse treatment needs of youths as they enter TYC. These young people are different in profound ways from their counterparts in the general population. Most have been involved with the juvenile justice system since an early age. Generally speaking, they have grown up in troubled family circumstances, often living with a single parent and experiencing poverty and neglect. A large proportion have dropped out of school. A majority have close relatives who also have served time in jail or prison, and many grew up with parents or caretakers who used and abused alcohol or drugs.

Delinquency has manifested itself relatively early in these offenders' lives, with legal involvement occurring, on average, at about 12 years of age. These youths have subsequently come into contact with law enforcement authorities on average seven times before their current admission to TYC. Such high rates of recidivism suggest that effective intervention should begin early in their delinquency careers.

The findings presented here also confirm that drugs have played a large part in the lives and criminal careers of these young offenders. Ninety-one percent reported lifetime illicit drug use, and 84 percent reported having used illicit drugs during the year before incarceration. Fifty-seven percent of TYC youths met the criterion for substance dependence. These rates in many cases exceed those of the adult Texas inmate population. Beyond their personal drug use, 50 percent of youths had some involvement in the drug trade, often placing them in contact with older, more criminally-involved individuals. Fifty-eight percent of youths reported that drugs were somehow involved in crimes they had committed in the past year.

The need for treatment among TYC adolescents is clear, especially in light of the number of studies that have shown the link between criminal activity and addiction. While this study cannot show a cause-and-effect relationship between drugs and crime, it is evident that substance use can complicate these youths' rehabilitation. Cost-benefit analyses have shown

that the economic costs of crime related to alcohol and drug abuse far exceeds the cost of treatment.¹

Although young women constitute a small percentage of TYC commitments, they require programs and treatment focusing on their many problems. They tend to use crack, uppers, downers, heroin, and psychedelics at higher rates than TYC boys and they are more likely to have children in their care. They are more likely to report having experienced poverty, neglect and abuse when growing up, and are more likely to have run away from home one or more times. They are also at higher risk of HIV than boys because they report more injection drug use and risky sexual behaviors.

In addition, a high percentage of youths released from TYC will return to social networks in which drug use and criminality are prevalent. The positive impact of in-prison treatment for these youths must be maintained through the provision of extended aftercare and support.²

Lastly, this study confirms the generational cycles of substance abuse and criminal behavior. Fifty-seven percent of these youths had parents who had been in jail or prison. Forty-four percent had parents who abused drugs or alcohol.³ The cycle needs to be broken by intervening with these children as early as possible.

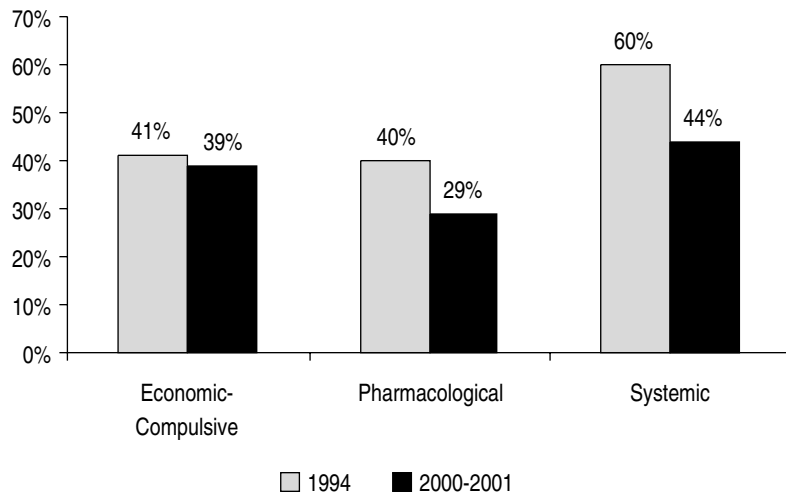
Changes Since 1994

The present study reveals only relatively small changes among TYC youths since the previous TCADA study in 1994. Demographically, the sample of TYC youths in 2000-2001 was slightly older and had a higher representation of girls than was found in the TYC survey carried out in 1994. While the proportion of offenders who were Hispanic remained stable, the proportion of Anglos increased and the proportion who were African American decreased. Economically, the samples appeared similar, as about the same proportion of youths in 1994 and 2000-2001 qualified for reduced-price or free school lunches.

A somewhat higher percentage of youths in 2000-2001 (11.5 percent) than in 1994 (6.5 percent) said they were currently incarcerated for possession of drugs. However, similar percentages (3.4 percent currently and 3.9 percent in 1994) said that the offense that had led to their current TYC commitment was drug sales.

In terms of drug use, the picture was mixed. Lifetime use of most substances except alcohol was higher in 2000-2001 than in 1994, especially for opiates other than heroin and for downers. Past-year use of most substances except alcohol and marijuana (which remained stable) and inhalants (which decreased) also was higher in 2000-2001 than in 1994. As was true for lifetime use, past-year use of opiates and downers especially was higher as compared to previously. These increases in the use of downers and opiates are consistent with increases observed in the general population of adults over the past several years.⁴

Figure 6.1. Percentage of TYC Youths Who Committed a Drug-Related Crime in the Past Year: 1994 and 2000-2001



The percentage of youths who were dependent on drugs has stayed substantially the same, at 53 percent in 1994 and 55 percent in 2000-2001. Yet the rate of drug abuse declined, from 17 percent to 11 percent. (The apparent decline in the percentage of youths who had *alcohol*-related problems was probably due to changes in the wording of the question, and so will not be stressed here.) Interestingly, the proportion of youths who had ever participated in chemical dependency treatment increased from 24 percent in 1994 to 35 percent in 2000-2001.

Some factors related to the drugs/crime nexus have changed between the 1994 survey and the present one. With reference to the three models linking drugs and crime, the percentage of TYC youths who had engaged in crimes related to the need to support their own drug habit (economic-compulsive model) remained the same between 1994 and 2000-2001. However, the percentage whose crimes were related to the pharmacological effect of drugs declined, as did the percentage whose crimes were related to drug sales (see Figure 6.1).

The percentage of youths who had ever sold drugs declined slightly, from 64 percent in 1994 to 59 percent in 2000-2001. As in 1994, drug sellers in the present TYC population were more likely to be African American, currently or formerly gang-affiliated, and dependent on substances.

In 2000-2001, as in 1994, the percentage of TYC youths who had evidence of a mental health problem was high, and this was particularly true for individuals who also were dependent on substances. As was true previously, girls reported more psychological dysfunction than boys. Although the mental health measures used in this study were not diagnostic in the clinical sense, they provide a general overview of these adolescents' mental health, which can be helpful in planning treatment programs for them. If left untreated, many of these youths' mental health problems could escalate, perhaps increasing their risk of substance problems and more deviant behavior.

As in 1994, the risk of acquiring HIV infection remains high among these youths. Although injecting drug users comprise only about 6 percent of this sample, their relatively small number should not diminish the urgency in eliminating this high-risk behavior, or in preventing its initiation among the others. Of even greater concern, however, is the high proportion of these youths who are currently engaging in unprotected sex, often with multiple partners. Although male to male sex continues to be the most common route of HIV transmission among adults, adolescents with AIDS are most likely to have acquired it through heterosexual contact.⁵ Issues to be considered in developing prevention materials targeted for these teens include their lower reading levels and the fact that risk-taking adolescents tend to perceive themselves as unlikely to get AIDS or other sexually-transmitted diseases.

In conclusion, this study documents the fact that patterns of substance abuse and crime, accompanied by other high-risk or problem behaviors, are still disturbing among these juvenile offenders. Ongoing treatment programs exist in TYC to address these behaviors and have shown success in reducing recidivism. Expansion of programs for girls and of aftercare availability for all youths should be goals for the future. Community-based programs targeting high-risk young children before the age of 12, and gang and violence prevention programs, also should be considered to reach children before they become candidates for TYC.

Endnotes

- ¹ L.Y. Liu, *Economic Costs of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Texas: 1997 Update*. Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1998.
- ² See J. Wellisch, M.L. Prendergast, and M.D. Anglin, "Drug Abusing Girls Youths: Results of a National Survey," *National Institute of Justice: Research in Brief* (October 1994):6.
- ³ This is based on the percentage of youth who lived with a parent or a parent-figure in the home.
- ⁴ L.S. Wallisch, *2000 Texas Survey of Substance Use Among Adults*. Austin, TX: Texas Commission on Alcohol & Drug Abuse, 2001.
- ⁵ L. Morris, C.W. Warren, and S.O. Aral, "Measuring Adolescent Sexual Behaviors and Related Health Outcomes," *Public Health Reports*, 108 (supplement 1), 1993): 31-36.

Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use

Appendix A1. Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use Among Youths Entering TYC, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER USED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR (not past month)	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER USED
Cigarettes	91.5%	25.4%	55.1%	11.0%	8.5%
Age 11-15	90.8%	25.0%	53.9%	11.9%	9.2%
Age 16-18	92.1%	25.6%	56.1%	10.3%	7.9%
Alcohol	88.1%	20.5%	57.8%	9.8%	11.9%
Age 11-15	84.0%	19.3%	52.3%	12.5%	16.0%
Age 16-18	91.3%	21.5%	62.2%	7.7%	8.7%
Marijuana	89.8%	24.1%	55.8%	9.9%	10.2%
Age 11-15	85.3%	21.4%	54.1%	9.8%	14.7%
Age 16-18	93.4%	26.3%	57.1%	10.0%	6.6%
Inhalants	30.5%	2.2%	14.1%	14.2%	69.5%
Age 11-15	31.2%	2.5%	16.7%	12.0%	68.8%
Age 16-18	30.0%	2.0%	12.0%	15.9%	70.0%
Cocaine	48.2%	8.6%	31.9%	7.8%	51.8%
Age 11-15	45.1%	6.9%	29.3%	8.9%	54.9%
Age 16-18	50.8%	9.9%	34.0%	6.9%	49.2%
Crack	17.8%	2.4%	11.7%	3.7%	82.2%
Age 11-15	14.3%	2.2%	9.8%	2.4%	85.7%
Age 16-18	20.6%	2.6%	13.2%	4.8%	79.4%
Cocaine or Crack	50.4%	9.4%	33.3%	7.7%	49.6%
Age 11-15	47.6%	7.6%	31.0%	9.0%	52.4%
Age 16-18	52.6%	10.8%	35.2%	6.6%	47.4%
Uppers	22.6%	4.8%	13.0%	4.9%	77.4%
Age 11-15	20.3%	3.8%	11.8%	4.8%	79.7%
Age 16-18	24.5%	5.6%	13.9%	5.0%	75.5%
Downers	37.3%	8.0%	23.2%	6.1%	62.7%
Age 11-15	30.4%	5.4%	19.3%	5.8%	69.6%
Age 16-18	42.8%	10.1%	26.4%	6.3%	57.2%
Heroin	9.4%	1.5%	5.6%	2.3%	90.6%
Age 11-15	6.4%	0.8%	4.0%	1.7%	93.6%
Age 16-18	11.7%	2.1%	6.9%	2.7%	88.3%
Other Opiates	29.5%	6.3%	19.2%	4.0%	70.5%
Age 11-15	25.6%	5.6%	16.9%	3.2%	74.4%
Age 16-18	32.6%	7.0%	21.1%	4.6%	67.4%
Psychedelics	37.0%	6.5%	23.3%	7.2%	63.0%
Age 11-15	34.2%	5.6%	23.0%	5.6%	65.8%
Age 16-18	39.2%	7.2%	23.6%	8.4%	60.8%
Any Illicit Drugs	91.2%	28.7%	55.2%	7.3%	8.8%
Age 11-15	87.0%	25.6%	54.1%	7.3%	13.0%
Age 16-18	94.5%	31.1%	56.0%	7.3%	5.5%

* Month before incarceration

Appendix A2. Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use Among Boys Entering TYC, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER USED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR (not past month)	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER USED
Cigarettes	91.3%	24.2%	55.7%	11.4%	8.7%
Age 11-15	90.5%	23.5%	54.6%	12.3%	9.5%
Age 16-18	91.9%	24.7%	56.5%	10.7%	8.1%
Alcohol	87.8%	20.0%	57.9%	9.9%	12.2%
Age 11-15	83.2%	18.5%	51.8%	12.9%	16.8%
Age 16-18	91.3%	21.1%	62.5%	7.7%	8.7%
Marijuana	89.8%	24.2%	55.6%	10.0%	10.2%
Age 11-15	85.2%	21.3%	53.8%	10.1%	14.8%
Age 16-18	93.4%	26.4%	56.9%	10.0%	6.6%
Inhalants	29.7%	2.2%	13.8%	13.7%	70.3%
Age 11-15	29.4%	2.2%	16.2%	10.9%	70.6%
Age 16-18	29.9%	2.1%	11.9%	15.8%	70.1%
Cocaine	47.8%	8.6%	31.5%	7.7%	52.2%
Age 11-15	44.0%	7.0%	28.6%	8.4%	56.0%
Age 16-18	50.7%	9.8%	33.7%	7.2%	49.3%
Crack	16.7%	2.1%	11.1%	3.5%	83.3%
Age 11-15	13.2%	1.7%	9.5%	2.0%	86.8%
Age 16-18	19.4%	2.3%	12.4%	4.7%	80.6%
Cocaine or Crack	50.0%	9.1%	33.3%	7.6%	50.0%
Age 11-15	46.5%	7.3%	30.8%	8.4%	53.5%
Age 16-18	52.7%	10.4%	35.2%	7.0%	47.3%
Uppers	21.3%	4.7%	12.0%	4.6%	78.7%
Age 11-15	18.5%	3.9%	10.6%	3.9%	81.5%
Age 16-18	23.5%	5.3%	13.0%	5.1%	76.5%
Downers	36.9%	7.7%	22.9%	6.3%	63.1%
Age 11-15	29.4%	5.3%	18.5%	5.6%	70.6%
Age 16-18	42.6%	9.6%	26.2%	6.8%	57.4%
Heroin	9.0%	1.5%	5.2%	2.3%	91.0%
Age 11-15	5.9%	0.6%	3.6%	1.7%	94.1%
Age 16-18	11.3%	2.1%	6.4%	2.8%	88.7%
Other Opiates	29.8%	6.5%	19.4%	3.9%	70.2%
Age 11-15	26.3%	5.9%	17.4%	3.1%	73.7%
Age 16-18	32.4%	7.0%	20.9%	4.5%	67.6%
Psychedelics	36.3%	6.4%	22.6%	7.3%	63.7%
Age 11-15	34.5%	5.6%	22.7%	6.2%	65.5%
Age 16-18	37.7%	7.0%	22.6%	8.1%	62.3%
Any Illicit Drugs	91.0%	28.7%	54.8%	7.5%	9.0%
Age 11-15	86.6%	25.5%	53.5%	7.6%	13.4%
Age 16-18	94.5%	31.1%	55.9%	7.5%	5.5%

* Month before incarceration

Appendix A3. Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use Among Girls Entering TYC, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER USED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER USED
	(not past month)				
Cigarettes	93.0%	33.0%	51.5%	8.5%	7.0%
Age 11-15	92.5%	33.0%	50.0%	9.4%	7.5%
Age 16-18	93.6%	33.0%	53.2%	7.4%	6.4%
Alcohol	90.0%	24.0%	57.0%	9.0%	10.0%
Age 11-15	88.7%	23.6%	54.7%	10.4%	11.3%
Age 16-18	91.5%	24.5%	59.6%	7.4%	8.5%
Marijuana	89.5%	23.5%	57.0%	9.0%	10.5%
Age 11-15	85.8%	21.7%	55.7%	8.5%	14.2%
Age 16-18	93.6%	25.5%	58.5%	9.6%	6.4%
Inhalants	36.0%	2.5%	16.0%	17.5%	64.0%
Age 11-15	40.6%	3.8%	18.9%	17.9%	59.4%
Age 16-18	30.9%	1.1%	12.8%	17.0%	69.1%
Cocaine	51.0%	8.5%	34.5%	8.0%	49.0%
Age 11-15	50.9%	6.6%	33.0%	11.3%	49.1%
Age 16-18	51.1%	10.6%	36.2%	4.3%	48.9%
Crack	25.0%	4.5%	15.5%	5.0%	75.0%
Age 11-15	20.8%	4.7%	11.3%	4.7%	79.2%
Age 16-18	29.8%	4.3%	20.2%	5.3%	70.2%
Cocaine or Crack	53.0%	11.5%	33.5%	8.0%	47.0%
Age 11-15	53.8%	9.4%	32.1%	12.3%	46.2%
Age 16-18	52.1%	13.8%	35.1%	3.2%	47.9%
Uppers	31.5%	5.0%	19.5%	7.0%	68.5%
Age 11-15	30.2%	2.8%	17.9%	9.4%	69.8%
Age 16-18	33.0%	7.4%	21.3%	4.3%	67.0%
Downers	39.5%	9.5%	25.5%	4.5%	60.5%
Age 11-15	35.8%	5.7%	23.6%	6.6%	64.2%
Age 16-18	43.6%	13.8%	27.7%	2.1%	56.4%
Heroin	12.0%	2.0%	8.0%	2.0%	88.0%
Age 11-15	9.4%	1.9%	5.7%	1.9%	90.6%
Age 16-18	14.9%	2.1%	10.6%	2.1%	85.1%
Other Opiates	27.5%	5.0%	18.0%	4.5%	72.5%
Age 11-15	21.7%	3.8%	14.2%	3.8%	78.3%
Age 16-18	34.0%	6.4%	22.3%	5.3%	66.0%
Psychedelics	41.5%	7.0%	28.0%	6.5%	58.5%
Age 11-15	33.0%	5.7%	24.5%	2.8%	67.0%
Age 16-18	51.1%	8.5%	31.9%	10.6%	48.9%
Any Illicit Drugs	92.0%	28.5%	57.5%	6.0%	8.0%
Age 11-15	89.6%	26.4%	57.5%	5.7%	10.4%
Age 16-18	94.7%	30.9%	57.4%	6.4%	5.3%

* Month before incarceration

Appendix A: Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use

Appendix A4. Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use Among Anglo Youths Entering TYC, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER USED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR (not past month)	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER USED
Cigarettes	94.9%	31.6%	53.8%	9.6%	5.1%
Age 11-15	92.6%	33.0%	49.5%	10.1%	7.4%
Age 16-18	97.0%	30.3%	57.6%	9.1%	3.0%
Alcohol	90.4%	21.2%	57.8%	11.4%	9.6%
Age 11-15	81.6%	17.6%	46.8%	17.2%	18.4%
Age 16-18	98.3%	24.4%	67.7%	6.3%	1.7%
Marijuana	84.5%	23.5%	51.3%	9.7%	15.5%
Age 11-15	75.4%	22.2%	41.6%	11.6%	24.6%
Age 16-18	92.6%	24.6%	60.0%	8.0%	7.4%
Inhalants	39.4%	3.8%	15.4%	20.3%	60.6%
Age 11-15	33.2%	5.2%	13.4%	14.6%	66.8%
Age 16-18	44.9%	2.5%	17.2%	25.3%	55.1%
Cocaine	50.7%	7.2%	31.8%	11.7%	49.3%
Age 11-15	45.5%	7.3%	25.7%	12.5%	54.5%
Age 16-18	55.3%	7.0%	37.3%	11.0%	44.7%
Crack	20.5%	2.9%	13.0%	4.5%	79.5%
Age 11-15	17.1%	3.2%	10.7%	3.2%	82.9%
Age 16-18	23.4%	2.7%	15.1%	5.7%	76.6%
Cocaine or Crack	55.4%	8.7%	35.1%	11.7%	44.6%
Age 11-15	51.9%	9.0%	29.8%	13.1%	48.1%
Age 16-18	58.6%	8.4%	39.8%	10.4%	41.4%
Uppers	41.8%	9.3%	21.5%	10.9%	58.2%
Age 11-15	31.4%	9.5%	11.6%	10.3%	68.6%
Age 16-18	51.0%	9.2%	30.4%	11.5%	49.0%
Downers	44.6%	11.5%	26.6%	6.5%	55.4%
Age 11-15	33.5%	10.1%	15.8%	7.6%	66.5%
Age 16-18	54.5%	12.7%	36.4%	5.5%	45.5%
Heroin	7.4%	0.5%	3.8%	3.1%	92.6%
Age 11-15	4.5%	0.0%	2.7%	1.9%	95.5%
Age 16-18	9.9%	1.0%	4.7%	4.1%	90.1%
Other Opiates	34.0%	7.3%	22.1%	4.6%	66.0%
Age 11-15	24.3%	7.1%	13.3%	3.9%	75.7%
Age 16-18	42.6%	7.5%	29.9%	5.2%	57.4%
Psychedelics	54.5%	10.9%	32.3%	11.3%	45.5%
Age 11-15	40.0%	10.4%	21.5%	8.0%	60.0%
Age 16-18	67.4%	11.4%	41.8%	14.2%	32.6%
Any Illicit Drugs	86.9%	29.7%	50.3%	7.0%	13.1%
Age 11-15	77.9%	31.1%	39.4%	7.4%	22.1%
Age 16-18	95.0%	28.4%	60.0%	6.6%	5.0%

* Month before incarceration

Appendix A5. Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use Among African American Youths Entering TYC, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER USED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR (not past month)	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER USED
Cigarettes	86.0%	18.4%	54.8%	12.8%	14.0%
Age 11-15	85.1%	13.5%	55.7%	15.9%	14.9%
Age 16-18	86.6%	21.6%	54.2%	10.8%	13.4%
Alcohol	77.8%	11.6%	56.3%	9.9%	22.2%
Age 11-15	73.5%	11.7%	46.6%	15.3%	26.5%
Age 16-18	80.6%	11.5%	62.7%	6.4%	19.4%
Marijuana	88.5%	20.7%	59.5%	8.3%	11.5%
Age 11-15	85.1%	14.4%	60.7%	10.0%	14.9%
Age 16-18	90.7%	24.9%	58.7%	7.1%	9.3%
Inhalants	8.1%	0.4%	2.8%	4.9%	91.9%
Age 11-15	11.3%	0.9%	3.6%	6.8%	88.7%
Age 16-18	6.0%	0.0%	2.3%	3.7%	94.0%
Cocaine	19.0%	2.1%	12.6%	4.3%	81.0%
Age 11-15	14.1%	0.9%	9.1%	4.1%	85.9%
Age 16-18	22.2%	2.9%	14.8%	4.5%	77.8%
Crack	3.5%	0.2%	3.0%	0.2%	96.5%
Age 11-15	0.9%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	99.1%
Age 16-18	5.2%	0.4%	4.5%	0.4%	94.8%
Cocaine or Crack	20.3%	2.3%	14.0%	4.0%	79.7%
Age 11-15	15.0%	0.9%	10.0%	4.1%	85.0%
Age 16-18	23.7%	3.3%	16.6%	3.9%	76.3%
Uppers	7.1%	1.3%	3.9%	1.9%	92.9%
Age 11-15	8.7%	0.6%	4.3%	3.8%	91.3%
Age 16-18	6.0%	1.8%	3.7%	0.6%	94.0%
Downers	28.7%	4.4%	20.2%	4.1%	71.3%
Age 11-15	24.4%	3.8%	17.9%	2.7%	75.6%
Age 16-18	31.5%	4.8%	21.6%	5.1%	68.5%
Heroin	2.8%	0.7%	1.1%	1.1%	97.2%
Age 11-15	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	99.1%
Age 16-18	4.1%	1.2%	1.8%	1.2%	95.9%
Other Opiates	33.5%	6.1%	25.5%	2.0%	66.5%
Age 11-15	31.3%	7.3%	24.0%	0.0%	68.7%
Age 16-18	35.0%	5.3%	26.4%	3.3%	65.0%
Psychedelics	15.5%	1.8%	10.9%	2.8%	84.5%
Age 11-15	17.2%	1.8%	11.8%	3.6%	82.8%
Age 16-18	14.4%	1.8%	10.3%	2.3%	85.6%
Any Illicit Drugs	89.8%	22.9%	58.9%	8.0%	10.2%
Age 11-15	87.1%	16.1%	61.6%	9.4%	12.9%
Age 16-18	91.6%	27.4%	57.1%	7.1%	8.4%

* Month before incarceration

Appendix A6. Prevalence and Recency of Substance Use Among Hispanic Youths Entering TYC, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER USED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR (not past month)	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER USED
Cigarettes	93.4%	26.8%	56.1%	10.4%	6.6%
Age 11-15	93.9%	28.9%	55.5%	9.5%	6.1%
Age 16-18	92.9%	25.1%	56.7%	11.1%	7.1%
Alcohol	94.7%	27.1%	59.5%	8.2%	5.3%
Age 11-15	93.5%	25.8%	60.5%	7.2%	6.5%
Age 16-18	95.7%	28.1%	58.6%	8.9%	4.3%
Marijuana	94.8%	27.3%	56.9%	10.6%	5.2%
Age 11-15	92.8%	26.0%	58.2%	8.7%	7.2%
Age 16-18	96.5%	28.4%	55.9%	12.2%	3.5%
Inhalants	41.9%	2.4%	21.4%	18.1%	58.1%
Age 11-15	42.1%	2.1%	26.4%	13.6%	57.9%
Age 16-18	41.7%	2.6%	17.2%	21.9%	58.3%
Cocaine	68.9%	14.4%	45.7%	8.8%	31.1%
Age 11-15	64.7%	10.6%	43.5%	10.6%	35.3%
Age 16-18	72.4%	17.5%	47.7%	7.3%	27.6%
Crack	26.0%	3.7%	16.7%	5.6%	74.0%
Age 11-15	20.5%	3.1%	13.8%	3.6%	79.5%
Age 16-18	30.6%	4.2%	19.2%	7.3%	69.4%
Cocaine or Crack	69.4%	15.1%	46.0%	8.3%	30.6%
Age 11-15	65.8%	11.2%	44.0%	10.6%	34.2%
Age 16-18	72.4%	18.5%	47.7%	6.3%	27.6%
Uppers	21.3%	4.3%	12.8%	4.1%	78.7%
Age 11-15	19.2%	2.7%	13.8%	2.7%	80.8%
Age 16-18	23.1%	5.7%	12.0%	5.4%	76.9%
Downers	40.6%	8.6%	24.2%	7.8%	59.4%
Age 11-15	32.7%	3.6%	22.0%	7.2%	67.3%
Age 16-18	47.3%	12.8%	26.2%	8.4%	52.7%
Heroin	15.2%	2.8%	9.7%	2.6%	84.8%
Age 11-15	10.8%	1.8%	7.2%	1.8%	89.2%
Age 16-18	18.9%	3.7%	11.8%	3.4%	81.1%
Other Opiates	24.1%	6.3%	12.6%	5.1%	75.9%
Age 11-15	22.6%	4.2%	13.4%	5.0%	77.4%
Age 16-18	25.4%	8.2%	12.0%	5.2%	74.6%
Psychedelics	41.3%	7.6%	26.1%	7.7%	58.7%
Age 11-15	42.4%	5.4%	30.8%	6.1%	57.6%
Age 16-18	40.4%	9.4%	22.0%	9.1%	59.6%
Any Illicit Drugs	95.5%	32.6%	56.3%	6.5%	4.5%
Age 11-15	93.7%	29.3%	58.9%	5.6%	6.3%
Age 16-18	96.9%	35.5%	54.2%	7.3%	3.1%

* Month before incarceration

Prevalence and Recency of Crime

Appendix B1. Prevalence and Recency of Crime Among TYC Youths, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER COMMITTED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR (not past month)	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER COMMITTED
Burglary	68.0%	9.5%	37.4%	21.1%	32.0%
Age 11-15	70.2%	9.9%	39.5%	20.7%	29.8%
Age 16-18	66.2%	9.1%	35.8%	21.4%	33.8%
Car Theft	48.5%	6.4%	28.5%	13.6%	51.5%
Age 11-15	48.2%	7.8%	28.3%	12.1%	51.8%
Age 16-18	48.8%	5.3%	28.6%	14.8%	51.2%
Auto Parts Theft	26.0%	4.3%	14.6%	7.1%	74.0%
Age 11-15	25.5%	5.0%	13.6%	6.9%	74.5%
Age 16-18	26.5%	3.7%	15.5%	7.3%	73.5%
Shoplifting	72.1%	9.2%	34.8%	28.1%	27.9%
Age 11-15	75.8%	11.2%	36.9%	27.6%	24.2%
Age 16-18	69.1%	7.6%	33.0%	28.4%	30.9%
Forgery or Fraud	13.9%	1.5%	8.3%	4.2%	86.1%
Age 11-15	13.2%	1.1%	7.1%	5.0%	86.8%
Age 16-18	14.6%	1.8%	9.2%	3.6%	85.4%
Pick Pocket/Purse Snatching	17.3%	1.7%	8.5%	7.1%	82.7%
Age 11-15	19.0%	2.2%	9.9%	6.9%	81.0%
Age 16-18	16.0%	1.4%	7.3%	7.3%	84.0%
Buying Stolen Goods	40.2%	6.2%	25.1%	9.0%	59.8%
Age 11-15	35.0%	5.2%	22.0%	7.8%	65.0%
Age 16-18	44.4%	6.9%	27.5%	9.9%	55.6%
Robbery without Weapon	29.3%	3.1%	16.7%	9.5%	70.7%
Age 11-15	29.2%	1.9%	18.6%	8.6%	70.8%
Age 16-18	29.5%	4.1%	15.3%	10.1%	70.5%
Robbery with Gun	18.5%	2.2%	11.3%	5.0%	81.5%
Age 11-15	17.5%	1.9%	11.9%	3.7%	82.5%
Age 16-18	19.4%	2.5%	10.9%	6.0%	80.6%
Robbery with Knife	7.1%	0.6%	3.2%	3.3%	92.9%
Age 11-15	7.4%	0.6%	3.7%	3.0%	92.6%
Age 16-18	6.9%	0.5%	2.8%	3.6%	93.1%
Gambling	34.1%	7.6%	21.4%	5.2%	65.9%
Age 11-15	31.7%	6.7%	20.1%	5.0%	68.3%
Age 16-18	36.1%	8.3%	22.4%	5.3%	63.9%
Drug Sales -- Crack Cocaine	38.4%	10.8%	21.9%	5.8%	61.6%
Age 11-15	34.6%	8.7%	21.0%	5.0%	65.4%
Age 16-18	41.4%	12.4%	22.6%	6.4%	58.6%
Drug Sales -- Other Drugs	51.8%	12.6%	30.3%	8.9%	48.2%
Age 11-15	47.0%	9.7%	27.5%	9.7%	53.0%
Age 16-18	55.6%	14.9%	32.5%	8.2%	44.4%
Assault without Weapon	74.4%	14.1%	42.9%	17.4%	25.6%
Age 11-15	74.1%	15.3%	42.5%	16.2%	25.9%
Age 16-18	74.6%	13.1%	43.2%	18.3%	25.4%

Appendix B2. Prevalence and Recency of Crime Among Male TYC Youths, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER COMMITTED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR (not past month)	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER COMMITTED
Burglary	71.9%	9.6%	40.6%	21.7%	28.1%
Age 11-15	73.4%	9.8%	42.9%	20.7%	26.6%
Age 16-18	70.7%	9.4%	38.9%	22.4%	29.3%
Car Theft	48.2%	6.2%	27.5%	14.5%	51.8%
Age 11-15	47.1%	7.3%	26.9%	12.9%	52.9%
Age 16-18	49.1%	5.3%	28.0%	15.8%	50.9%
Auto Parts Theft	28.7%	4.2%	16.1%	8.4%	71.3%
Age 11-15	28.6%	5.3%	15.4%	7.8%	71.4%
Age 16-18	28.8%	3.4%	16.6%	8.7%	71.2%
Shoplifting	70.6%	8.0%	32.7%	29.9%	29.4%
Age 11-15	73.7%	9.8%	35.0%	28.9%	26.3%
Age 16-18	68.2%	6.6%	30.9%	30.7%	31.8%
Forgery or Fraud	11.0%	0.8%	6.2%	4.0%	89.0%
Age 11-15	10.4%	0.8%	4.8%	4.8%	89.6%
Age 16-18	11.5%	0.9%	7.2%	3.4%	88.5%
Pick Pocket/Purse Snatching	17.1%	1.2%	8.4%	7.5%	82.9%
Age 11-15	18.2%	1.4%	10.1%	6.7%	81.8%
Age 16-18	16.2%	1.1%	7.0%	8.1%	83.8%
Buying Stolen Goods	43.2%	6.5%	27.6%	9.1%	56.8%
Age 11-15	39.2%	5.3%	26.1%	7.8%	60.8%
Age 16-18	46.3%	7.5%	28.8%	10.0%	53.7%
Robbery without Weapon	30.6%	2.9%	17.7%	10.0%	69.4%
Age 11-15	31.4%	2.0%	19.6%	9.8%	68.6%
Age 16-18	30.1%	3.6%	16.2%	10.2%	69.9%
Robbery with Gun	19.2%	2.2%	11.5%	5.5%	80.8%
Age 11-15	17.1%	2.0%	11.8%	3.4%	82.9%
Age 16-18	20.7%	2.4%	11.3%	7.1%	79.3%
Robbery with Knife	6.9%	0.5%	3.0%	3.4%	93.1%
Age 11-15	7.3%	0.3%	3.9%	3.1%	92.7%
Age 16-18	6.6%	0.6%	2.3%	3.6%	93.4%
Gambling	37.8%	8.5%	23.4%	5.9%	62.2%
Age 11-15	36.1%	8.1%	22.1%	5.9%	63.9%
Age 16-18	39.0%	8.7%	24.3%	6.0%	61.0%
Drug Sales -- Crack Cocaine	38.7%	10.9%	21.9%	5.8%	61.3%
Age 11-15	34.8%	8.7%	21.3%	4.8%	65.2%
Age 16-18	41.6%	12.6%	22.4%	6.6%	58.4%
Drug Sales -- Other Drugs	52.7%	12.8%	30.8%	9.1%	47.3%
Age 11-15	47.5%	10.4%	27.5%	9.6%	52.5%
Age 16-18	56.7%	14.7%	33.3%	8.7%	43.3%
Assault without Weapon	73.5%	12.3%	43.3%	17.8%	26.5%
Age 11-15	73.4%	12.6%	44.0%	16.8%	26.6%
Age 16-18	73.6%	12.2%	42.9%	18.6%	26.4%

Appendix B3. Prevalence and Recency of Crime Among Female TYC Youths, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER COMMITTED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR (not past month)	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER COMMITTED
Burglary	52.0%	9.0%	24.5%	18.5%	48.0%
Age 11-15	59.4%	10.4%	28.3%	20.8%	40.6%
Age 16-18	43.6%	7.4%	20.2%	16.0%	56.4%
Car Theft	49.5%	7.5%	32.5%	9.5%	50.5%
Age 11-15	51.9%	9.4%	33.0%	9.4%	48.1%
Age 16-18	46.8%	5.3%	31.9%	9.6%	53.2%
Auto Parts Theft	15.0%	4.5%	8.5%	2.0%	85.0%
Age 11-15	15.1%	3.8%	7.5%	3.8%	84.9%
Age 16-18	14.9%	5.3%	9.6%	0.0%	85.1%
Shoplifting	78.5%	14.5%	43.5%	20.5%	21.5%
Age 11-15	83.0%	16.0%	43.4%	23.6%	17.0%
Age 16-18	73.4%	12.8%	43.6%	17.0%	26.6%
Forgery or Fraud	26.0%	4.0%	17.0%	5.0%	74.0%
Age 11-15	22.6%	1.9%	15.1%	5.7%	77.4%
Age 16-18	29.8%	6.4%	19.1%	4.3%	70.2%
Pick Pocket/Purse Snatching	18.5%	4.0%	9.0%	5.5%	81.5%
Age 11-15	21.7%	4.7%	9.4%	7.5%	78.3%
Age 16-18	14.9%	3.2%	8.5%	3.2%	85.1%
Buying Stolen Goods	27.5%	4.5%	14.5%	8.5%	72.5%
Age 11-15	20.8%	4.7%	8.5%	7.5%	79.2%
Age 16-18	35.1%	4.3%	21.3%	9.6%	64.9%
Robbery without Weapon	24.0%	4.0%	13.0%	7.0%	76.0%
Age 11-15	21.7%	1.9%	15.1%	4.7%	78.3%
Age 16-18	26.6%	6.4%	10.6%	9.6%	73.4%
Robbery with Gun	16.0%	2.5%	10.5%	3.0%	84.0%
Age 11-15	18.9%	1.9%	12.3%	4.7%	81.1%
Age 16-18	12.8%	3.2%	8.5%	1.1%	87.2%
Robbery with Knife	8.0%	1.0%	4.0%	3.0%	92.0%
Age 11-15	7.5%	1.9%	2.8%	2.8%	92.5%
Age 16-18	8.5%	0.0%	5.3%	3.2%	91.5%
Gambling	19.0%	4.0%	13.0%	2.0%	81.0%
Age 11-15	17.0%	1.9%	13.2%	1.9%	83.0%
Age 16-18	21.3%	6.4%	12.8%	2.1%	78.7%
Drug Sales -- Crack Cocaine	37.0%	10.0%	21.5%	5.5%	63.0%
Age 11-15	34.0%	8.5%	19.8%	5.7%	66.0%
Age 16-18	40.4%	11.7%	23.4%	5.3%	59.6%
Drug Sales -- Other Drugs	47.5%	11.5%	28.0%	8.0%	52.5%
Age 11-15	45.3%	7.5%	27.4%	10.4%	54.7%
Age 16-18	50.0%	16.0%	28.7%	5.3%	50.0%
Assault without Weapon	78.0%	21.5%	41.0%	15.5%	22.0%
Age 11-15	76.4%	24.5%	37.7%	14.2%	23.6%
Age 16-18	79.8%	18.1%	44.7%	17.0%	20.2%

Appendix B4. Prevalence and Recency of Crime Among Anglo TYC Youths, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER COMMITTED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR (not past month)	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER COMMITTED
Burglary	66.9%	11.3%	36.6%	19.1%	33.1%
Age 11-15	67.8%	12.4%	37.2%	18.2%	32.2%
Age 16-18	66.2%	10.3%	36.0%	19.9%	33.8%
Car Theft	41.2%	5.1%	24.5%	11.7%	58.8%
Age 11-15	35.5%	6.6%	20.7%	8.3%	64.5%
Age 16-18	46.3%	3.7%	27.9%	14.7%	53.7%
Auto Parts Theft	22.2%	3.5%	11.3%	7.4%	77.8%
Age 11-15	19.8%	3.3%	9.9%	6.6%	80.2%
Age 16-18	24.3%	3.7%	12.5%	8.1%	75.7%
Shoplifting	81.7%	12.1%	42.0%	27.6%	18.3%
Age 11-15	81.0%	13.2%	40.5%	27.3%	19.0%
Age 16-18	82.4%	11.0%	43.4%	27.9%	17.6%
Forgery or Fraud	22.2%	2.3%	12.4%	7.4%	77.8%
Age 11-15	15.7%	0.8%	9.9%	5.0%	84.3%
Age 16-18	27.9%	3.7%	14.7%	9.6%	72.1%
Pick Pocket/Purse Snatching	18.7%	0.4%	10.9%	7.4%	81.3%
Age 11-15	21.5%	0.8%	12.4%	8.3%	78.5%
Age 16-18	16.2%	0.0%	9.6%	6.6%	83.8%
Buying Stolen Goods	33.1%	4.7%	20.2%	8.2%	66.9%
Age 11-15	23.1%	3.3%	15.7%	4.1%	76.9%
Age 16-18	41.9%	5.9%	24.3%	11.8%	58.1%
Robbery without Weapon	26.8%	2.7%	14.4%	9.7%	73.2%
Age 11-15	26.4%	0.8%	18.2%	7.4%	73.6%
Age 16-18	27.2%	4.4%	11.0%	11.8%	72.8%
Robbery with Gun	14.4%	2.7%	8.6%	3.1%	85.6%
Age 11-15	14.0%	3.3%	9.9%	0.8%	86.0%
Age 16-18	14.7%	2.2%	7.4%	5.1%	85.3%
Robbery with Knife	5.8%	0.0%	3.5%	2.3%	94.2%
Age 11-15	4.1%	0.0%	3.3%	0.8%	95.9%
Age 16-18	7.4%	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%	92.6%
Gambling	23.7%	4.7%	14.4%	4.7%	76.3%
Age 11-15	22.3%	5.8%	13.2%	3.3%	77.7%
Age 16-18	25.0%	3.7%	15.4%	5.9%	75.0%
Drug Sales -- Crack Cocaine	26.9%	7.4%	14.4%	5.1%	73.1%
Age 11-15	23.3%	7.5%	12.5%	3.3%	76.7%
Age 16-18	30.1%	7.4%	16.2%	6.6%	69.9%
Drug Sales -- Other Drugs	49.2%	13.7%	26.2%	9.4%	50.8%
Age 11-15	41.7%	11.7%	21.7%	8.3%	58.3%
Age 16-18	55.9%	15.4%	30.1%	10.3%	44.1%
Assault without Weapon	74.7%	10.1%	42.4%	22.2%	25.3%
Age 11-15	71.1%	12.4%	42.1%	16.5%	28.9%
Age 16-18	77.9%	8.1%	42.6%	27.2%	22.1%

Appendix B5. Prevalence and Recency of Crime Among African American TYC Youths, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER COMMITTED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR (not past month)	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER COMMITTED
Burglary	60.2%	5.3%	35.0%	19.8%	39.8%
Age 11-15	67.2%	4.1%	41.0%	22.1%	32.8%
Age 16-18	55.6%	6.1%	31.1%	18.3%	44.4%
Car Theft	40.0%	4.3%	24.4%	11.3%	60.0%
Age 11-15	45.9%	4.9%	29.5%	11.5%	54.1%
Age 16-18	36.1%	3.9%	21.1%	11.1%	63.9%
Auto Parts Theft	17.5%	2.0%	9.9%	5.6%	82.5%
Age 11-15	20.5%	3.3%	10.7%	6.6%	79.5%
Age 16-18	15.6%	1.1%	9.4%	5.0%	84.4%
Shoplifting	70.1%	7.2%	31.7%	31.1%	29.9%
Age 11-15	77.9%	10.7%	36.9%	30.3%	22.1%
Age 16-18	65.0%	5.0%	28.3%	31.7%	35.0%
Forgery or Fraud	8.3%	1.0%	5.0%	2.3%	91.7%
Age 11-15	9.8%	0.8%	4.1%	4.9%	90.2%
Age 16-18	7.2%	1.1%	5.6%	0.6%	92.8%
Pick Pocket/Purse Snatching	13.9%	0.7%	6.3%	6.9%	86.1%
Age 11-15	17.2%	0.0%	9.0%	8.2%	82.8%
Age 16-18	11.7%	1.1%	4.4%	6.1%	88.3%
Buying Stolen Goods	42.1%	4.6%	29.8%	7.6%	57.9%
Age 11-15	39.3%	4.9%	27.9%	6.6%	60.7%
Age 16-18	43.9%	4.4%	31.1%	8.3%	56.1%
Robbery without Weapon	27.5%	1.7%	17.8%	7.9%	72.5%
Age 11-15	28.7%	0.0%	20.5%	8.2%	71.3%
Age 16-18	26.7%	2.8%	16.1%	7.8%	73.3%
Robbery with Gun	23.6%	1.7%	15.9%	6.0%	76.4%
Age 11-15	22.1%	1.6%	17.2%	3.3%	77.9%
Age 16-18	24.6%	1.7%	15.1%	7.8%	75.4%
Robbery with Knife	4.6%	0.0%	3.0%	1.7%	95.4%
Age 11-15	6.6%	0.0%	4.9%	1.6%	93.4%
Age 16-18	3.3%	0.0%	1.7%	1.7%	96.7%
Gambling	47.0%	11.6%	29.5%	5.9%	53.0%
Age 11-15	49.2%	11.5%	30.3%	7.4%	50.8%
Age 16-18	45.6%	11.7%	28.9%	5.0%	54.4%
Drug Sales -- Crack Cocaine	56.3%	17.6%	32.5%	6.3%	43.7%
Age 11-15	53.3%	12.3%	32.0%	9.0%	46.7%
Age 16-18	58.3%	21.1%	32.8%	4.4%	41.7%
Drug Sales -- Other Drugs	54.3%	11.3%	35.5%	7.6%	45.7%
Age 11-15	52.5%	8.2%	32.8%	11.5%	47.5%
Age 16-18	55.6%	13.3%	37.2%	5.0%	44.4%
Assault without Weapon	77.8%	15.9%	44.7%	17.2%	22.2%
Age 11-15	77.9%	18.9%	42.6%	16.4%	22.1%
Age 16-18	77.8%	13.9%	46.1%	17.8%	22.2%

Appendix B6. Prevalence and Recency of Crime Among Hispanic TYC Youths, by Age: 2000-2001

	EVER COMMITTED	PAST MONTH*	PAST YEAR (not past month)	NOT PAST YEAR	NEVER COMMITTED
Burglary	74.9%	11.6%	40.3%	23.0%	25.1%
Age 11-15	74.9%	13.1%	40.7%	21.1%	25.1%
Age 16-18	74.9%	10.3%	39.9%	24.7%	25.1%
Car Theft	59.5%	9.2%	34.1%	16.2%	40.5%
Age 11-15	58.3%	10.6%	34.2%	13.6%	41.7%
Age 16-18	60.5%	8.1%	34.1%	18.4%	39.5%
Auto Parts Theft	35.5%	6.6%	20.6%	8.3%	64.5%
Age 11-15	33.7%	7.5%	19.1%	7.0%	66.3%
Age 16-18	37.1%	5.8%	21.9%	9.4%	62.9%
Shoplifting	67.1%	8.2%	32.6%	26.2%	32.9%
Age 11-15	70.9%	10.1%	34.7%	26.1%	29.1%
Age 16-18	63.8%	6.7%	30.8%	26.3%	36.2%
Forgery or Fraud	12.5%	1.4%	7.8%	3.3%	87.5%
Age 11-15	12.6%	1.5%	7.0%	4.0%	87.4%
Age 16-18	12.5%	1.3%	8.5%	2.7%	87.5%
Pick Pocket/Purse Snatching	19.6%	3.5%	9.2%	6.9%	80.4%
Age 11-15	19.1%	4.5%	9.5%	5.0%	80.9%
Age 16-18	20.1%	2.7%	8.9%	8.5%	79.9%
Buying Stolen Goods	44.5%	8.1%	25.8%	10.6%	55.5%
Age 11-15	40.7%	6.5%	23.1%	11.1%	59.3%
Age 16-18	47.8%	9.4%	28.1%	10.3%	52.2%
Robbery without Weapon	32.6%	4.5%	17.5%	10.7%	67.4%
Age 11-15	31.7%	4.0%	17.6%	10.1%	68.3%
Age 16-18	33.5%	4.9%	17.4%	11.2%	66.5%
Robbery with Gun	18.0%	2.6%	9.4%	5.9%	82.0%
Age 11-15	18.1%	1.5%	10.6%	6.0%	81.9%
Age 16-18	17.9%	3.6%	8.5%	5.8%	82.1%
Robbery with Knife	10.2%	1.4%	3.3%	5.4%	89.8%
Age 11-15	10.6%	1.5%	3.5%	5.5%	89.4%
Age 16-18	9.8%	1.3%	3.1%	5.4%	90.2%
Gambling	31.3%	6.9%	19.9%	4.5%	68.7%
Age 11-15	27.6%	5.0%	18.6%	4.0%	72.4%
Age 16-18	34.4%	8.5%	21.0%	4.9%	65.6%
Drug Sales -- Crack Cocaine	33.4%	8.1%	19.6%	5.7%	66.6%
Age 11-15	30.2%	7.0%	19.6%	3.5%	69.8%
Age 16-18	36.2%	8.9%	19.6%	7.6%	63.8%
Drug Sales -- Other Drugs	51.6%	12.3%	29.8%	9.5%	48.4%
Age 11-15	47.7%	9.5%	28.6%	9.5%	52.3%
Age 16-18	54.9%	14.7%	30.8%	9.4%	45.1%
Assault without Weapon	72.3%	15.1%	42.5%	14.6%	27.7%
Age 11-15	73.9%	15.6%	42.7%	15.6%	26.1%
Age 16-18	71.0%	14.7%	42.4%	13.8%	29.0%

Questions Used to Create Family Dynamics Indices

Consistent Family Expectancies

- There was a set time (curfew) when my family expected me to be home.
- I had to call my family when I was going to be late.
- There were clear rules against alcohol and drug use in my family.
- I didn't know what the rules for behavior were in my house because my family kept changing them (coding reversed).
- My family sometimes punished me for doing something and other times didn't punish me for doing the same thing (coding reversed).
- The adults in my family often disagreed about what punishment I should get (coding reversed).
- When I went out, my family insisted on knowing where I was going and whom I'd be with.

Enjoyment of Family

- I really enjoyed spending time with my family.
- I liked to share my thoughts and feelings with my family.
- When I had a personal problem, I went to my family for help.
- I did a lot of fun things with my family.

Domestic Fighting

- The adults in my family lost their tempers a lot.
- People in my family hit each other when they got mad.
- Members of my family fight with each other a lot.

Parental Caring

- Someone was usually at home when I got home from school.
- The adults in my family noticed when I was doing a good job and congratulated me for it.
- I look up to my parent(s)/parent figure(s) and want to be like them when I grow older.

All questions were answered by respondents using the following categories: “strongly agree,” “somewhat agree,” “somewhat disagree,” “strongly disagree.” Coding was reversed where appropriate.