



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

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An Overview of the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Current Mental Health Data and Activities

presentation for the

**NACHBDD
2017 Legislative and Policy Conference
February 27, 2017**



BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

BJS Reports with Mental Health Data

1. Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates (2006)
2. Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2011-12 (May 2013)
3. Use of Restrictive Housing in U.S. Prisons and Jails, 2011-12 (Oct. 2015)
4. Veterans in Prison and Jail, 2011-12 (Nov. 2015)
5. Disabilities among Prison and Jail Inmates, 2011-12 (Dec. 2015)
6. Indicators of a Mental Health Problem Reported by Prison and Jail Inmates, 2011-12
7. Trends in Drug Use, Substance Dependence and Abuse Among State Prisoners and Jail Inmates

Data Source: National Inmate Survey (NIS-3)

- NIS-3 was conducted in 2011-12 .
- BJS' most recent survey of prison and jail inmates.
- Vehicle to collect sexual victimization data, as mandated under PREA.
- Self-report data using ACASI.
- Nationally representative sample of inmates in the U.S.
 - 41,822 adult inmates in 233 state and federal prisons
 - 58,745 adult inmates in 358 jails.

BJS Mental Health Indicators

- “Current”
 - Serious psychological distress (SPD) in the past 30-days, as measured by a score of 13+ on the K6.
- “History”
 - “Has a mental health professional ever told you that you have a mental disorder?”
- Treatment for a mental health problem– ever, since admission, current
 - Prescription medication, counseling/therapy, overnight stay in hospital*

Table 1. Prevalence of SPD among adults in prison, jail, and the U.S. general population, 2011-12

DEMOGRAPHICS	U.S. GENERAL POPULATION*	PRISONERS	JAIL INMATES
Total	3.0%	14.7%**	26.3%**
Sex			
Male	2.8%	14.3%**	25.5%**
Female	3.7	20.8**	32.2**
Race & Ethnicity			
White	2.9%	17.5%**	30.8%**
Black	2.6	13.0**	22.4**
Hispanic	3.6	11.6**	23.1**

* Comparison group

** Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level

Sources: BJS, National Inmate Survey, 2011-12; CDC, National Health Interview Survey, 2012

Table 2. Serious psychological distress and current mental health treatment reported by males in jail, 2011-12

MENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS	VETERANS*	NON-VETERANS (STDZ)	NON-VETERANS (UNSTDZ)
Serious psychological distress (SPD)	28.5%	26.4%	25.3%
Currently treated for a MH problem	25.6%	19.4%**	14.9%**
Taking prescription medication	22.1	17.0**	12.8**
Receiving counseling/therapy	11.3	8.5**	6.5**

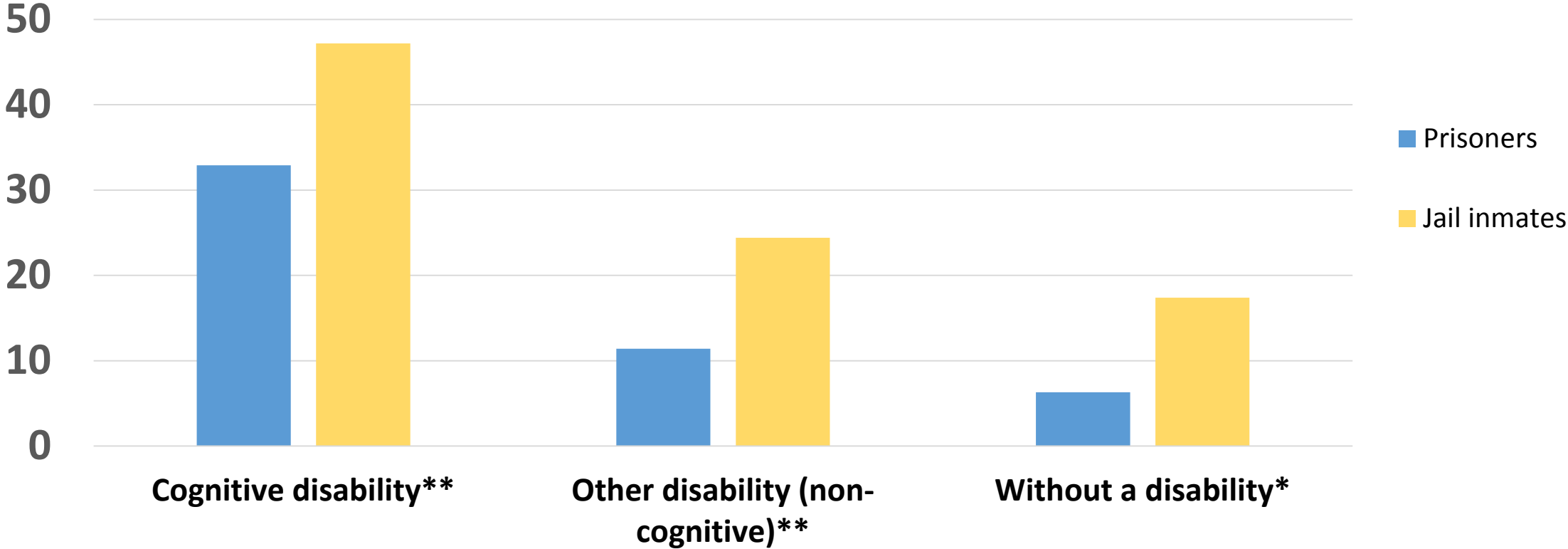
* Comparison group

** Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level

Data Sources: BJS, National Inmate Survey, 2011-12

Figure 1. Indicator of past 30-day SPD among prison and jail inmates by disability type

Percent



* Comparison group.

** Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2011–12.



Other BJS Activities

- Development of a predictive model of mental illness and jail populations
 - Phase 1: Explore potential sources of variances in the prevalence of measures of mental illness among different jails that cannot be explained by differences in prevalence of mental illness in the respective communities.
 - Phase 2: Develop and test a simulation model that can predict the prevalence of mental illness among persons held in these same jails.
- Federal partner meetings
- Two forthcoming reports
- Increased presence at public health conference



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Thank you!

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