

## Correlates of incarceration among people who primarily smoke methamphetamine

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**Introduction and aims:** People who use drugs are at risk of incarceration and subsequent recidivism. This study examines the correlates of incarceration among a community-recruited cohort of people who use methamphetamine.

**Design and Methods:** Cross-sectional analysis of the 'VMAX' cohort study. Logistic regression analyses examined associations between history of incarceration and socio-demographics, mental health, methamphetamine use and alcohol use.

**Results:** Of the 750 participants, 232 (30.9%) reported a history of incarceration. History of incarceration was associated with older age (30-39 years; adjusted odds ratio [aOR] = 4.7, 95% confidence interval [CI] = 2.6, 9.1. Age  $\geq$ 40 years; aOR = 8.5, 95% CI = 4.4, 16.9), being male (aOR = 3.3, 95% CI = 2.0, 5.6), not having completed year 11 or higher (aOR = 1.9, 95% CI = 1.2, 3.0), being unemployed (aOR = 2.3, 95% CI = 1.2, 4.3), homelessness (aOR = 1.8, 95% CI = 1.1, 2.9),  $\geq$  weekly methamphetamine use (aOR = 2.6, 95% CI = 1.2, 5.9), harmful alcohol use (aOR = 1.7, 95% CI = 1.1, 2.8), moderate-to-severe anxiety (aOR = 1.9, 95% CI = 1.1, 3.5), and history of juvenile detention (aOR = 4.9, 95% CI = 2.5, 10.3).

**Conclusions:** Social factors (housing, education, and employment), frequency of methamphetamine use, and poor mental health are associated with incarceration. Integrated health and social models of care are needed to prevent incarceration in this population.

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