

Factors Associated With Adult Incarceration Among People With Opioid Use Disorder in New South Wales, Australia

Christel Macdonald¹, Chrianna Bharat^{1,2}, Louisa Degenhardt¹, Matthew Hickman^{1,3}, Jack Stone³, Rachel Sutherland¹, Mary Harrod⁴, Jason Grebely⁵, Thomas Santo Jr¹

¹National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney, Sydney, Australia, ²School of Population and Global Health, University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia, ³Population Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK, ⁴NSW Users and AIDS Association, Sydney, Australia, ⁵The Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Presenter's email: c.m.macdonald@unsw.edu.au

Introduction: *The risk of incarceration is elevated among people with opioid use disorder. Understanding what factors may increase the risk of incarceration within this population can inform prevention and intervention strategies. This presentation will discuss a cross-sectional survey of individuals with OUD that explored associations with time to first incarceration and repeated incarceration.*

Methods: *297 adults with OUD living in New South Wales, Australia were surveyed between 2023 and 2024. Participants completed a structured interview, covering socio-demographics and questions about their substance use, adverse childhood experiences and criminal justice contact. A discrete-time event analysis was used to examine associations with first adult incarceration. Additionally, two regression models were conducted to examine predictors of repeated incarceration.*

Key Findings: *58% of the sample had been incarcerated. The adjusted odds of first-time incarceration were highest in any given year for those reporting injecting drug use (aOR: 3.65(1.12 – 11.91), followed by childhood exposure to substance use in the household (aOR: 2.07(1.36 – 3.16) and being male (aOR: 1.86(1.27 – 2.71). Achieving at least 10 years of secondary education reduced the odds of incarceration (aOR: 0.62(0.41, 0.94).*

Discussions and Conclusions: *Injecting drug use, limited schooling, and being exposed to substance use in the household during childhood were associated with increased risk of incarceration.*

Implications on communities and practice: *Treatment and prevention efforts for people with OUD need to consider the broader social and developmental factors impacting this population. Although systemic change is complex, this study adds to an evidence base towards more holistic approaches to reducing incarceration risk.*

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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