

Substance Abuse Service Prevalence and Access in the Juvenile Justice System

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October 2007



Research Partners

CJDATS Collaborative Research Centers

- National Institute on Drug Abuse
- George Mason University
- University of Maryland
- Lifespan Hospital/Brown University
- NDRI, Inc., Center for the Integration of Research to Practice & Center for TC Research
- University of Delaware
- Connecticut Department of MH & Addiction Services
- University of Kentucky
- University of California, Los Angeles
- Texas Christian University
- University of Miami

National Stakeholders

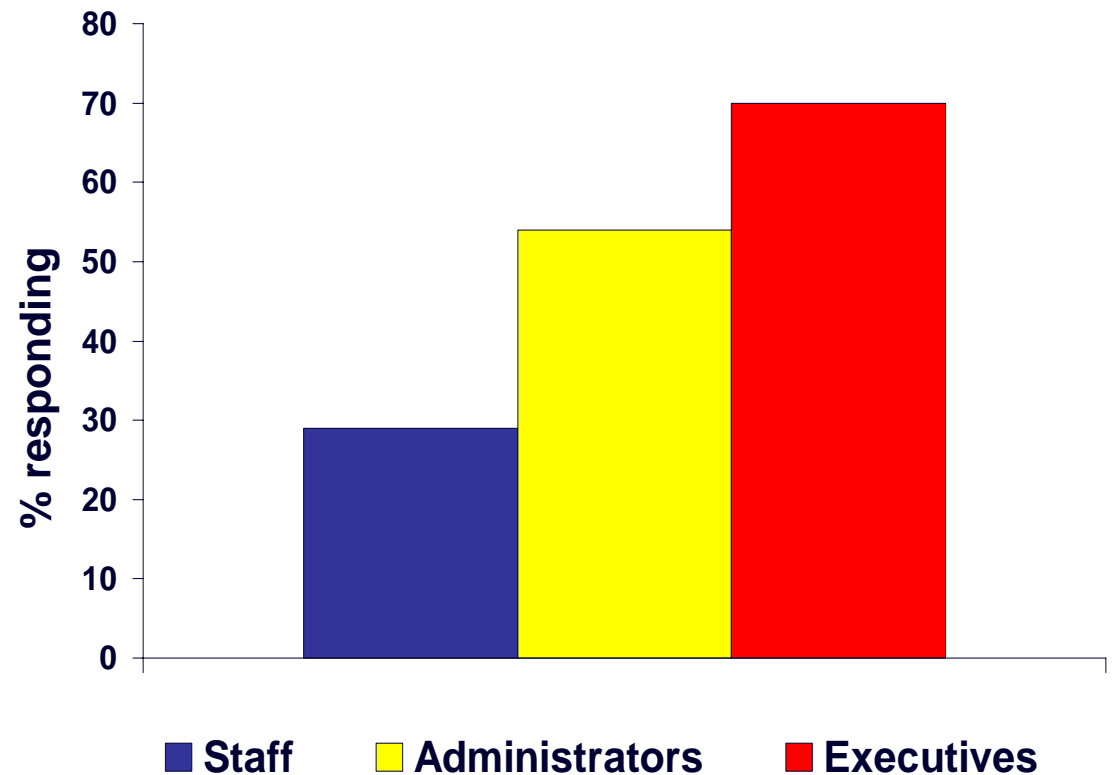
- American Correctional Association
- American Probation and Parole Association
- American Jail Association
- Correctional Justice Research and Statistics Association
- Council of Juvenile Corrections Administrators
- National Criminal Justice Association
- National Drug Court Professional Association
- Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities

Topics Explored by the NCJTP Survey

- **What is the prevalence of health, substance abuse treatment, and other correctional services nationally?**
 - prevalence = percentage of facilities providing service
- **How accessible are these substance abuse treatment services for offenders?**
 - access = percentage of average daily population (ADP) of youth under custody attending service on any given day
- **Do correctional substance abuse treatment programs reflect current research about effective practices?**
- **What organizational and individual-level factors impact the use of evidence-based practices?**

Sample and Survey Information

- Nationally representative sample of 72 counties, 150 prisons; national census of agency executives
- Survey administered via mail
- Multi-level samples: state agency executives, facility administrators, facility staff
- Analyses found there were no differences in response rates by geographical region, size of jurisdiction/facility, or type of organization

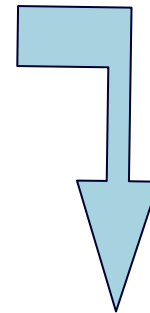


Response Rates

Juvenile Offender Population Estimates

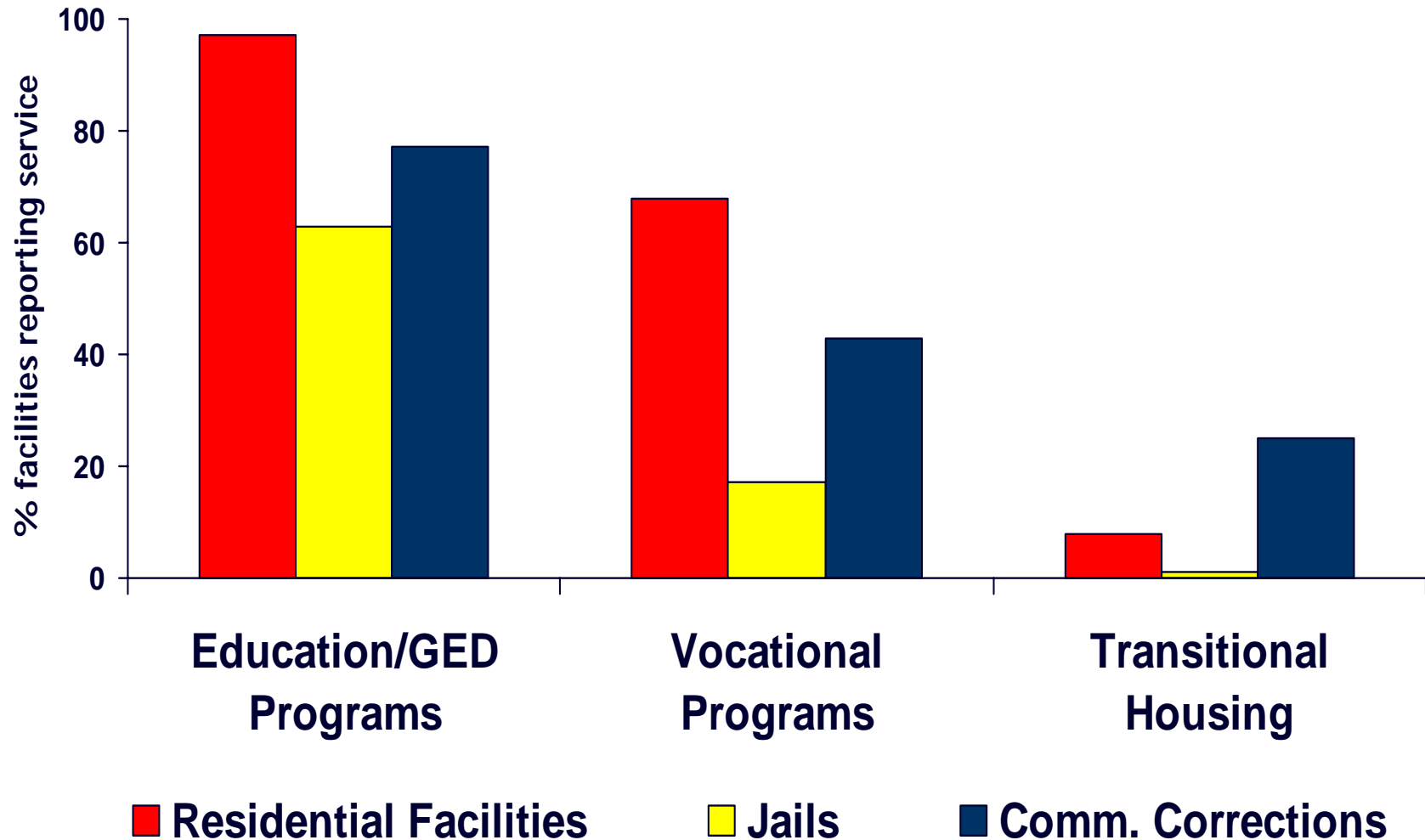
NCJTP Survey Estimate

Institutions	57,355
Jails/Detention Centers	48,405
Probation, Parole/Aftercare	640,752
Other Supervision	20,620

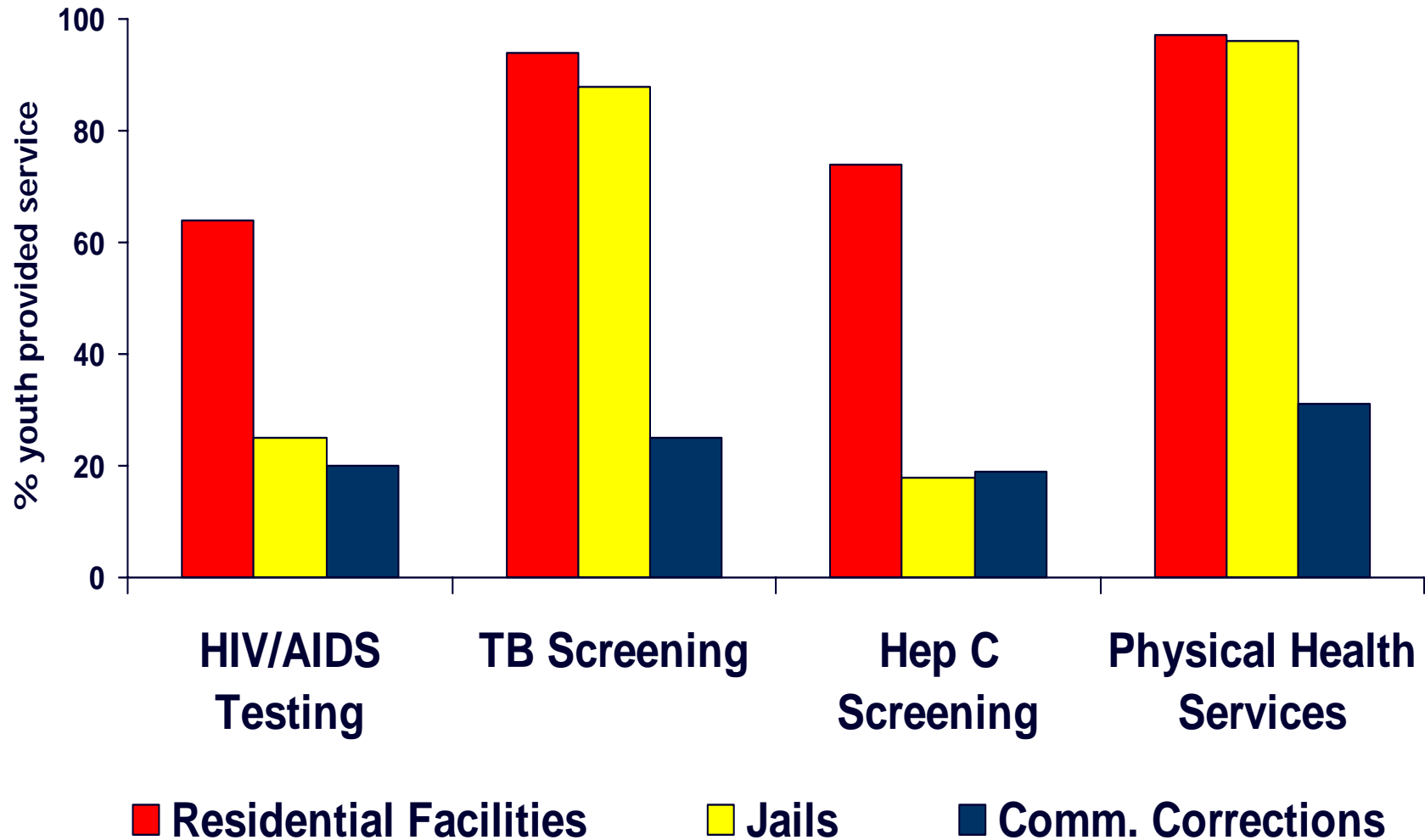


The NCJTP survey provides the first estimate of juveniles on formal supervision in the community; this figure is likely an underestimate as it does not include informal supervision or diversion programs operated by non-correctional agencies.

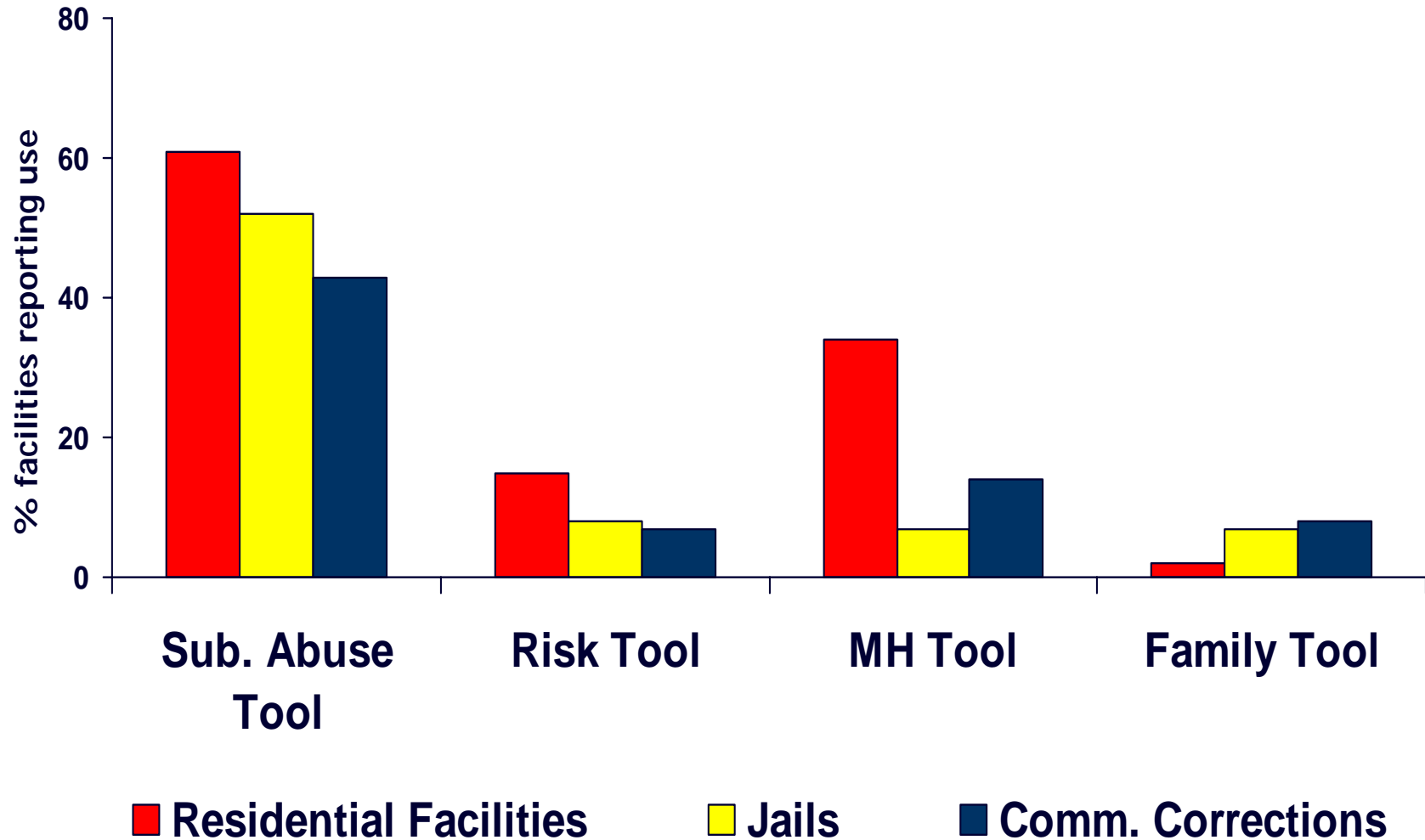
Prevalence of Basic Services



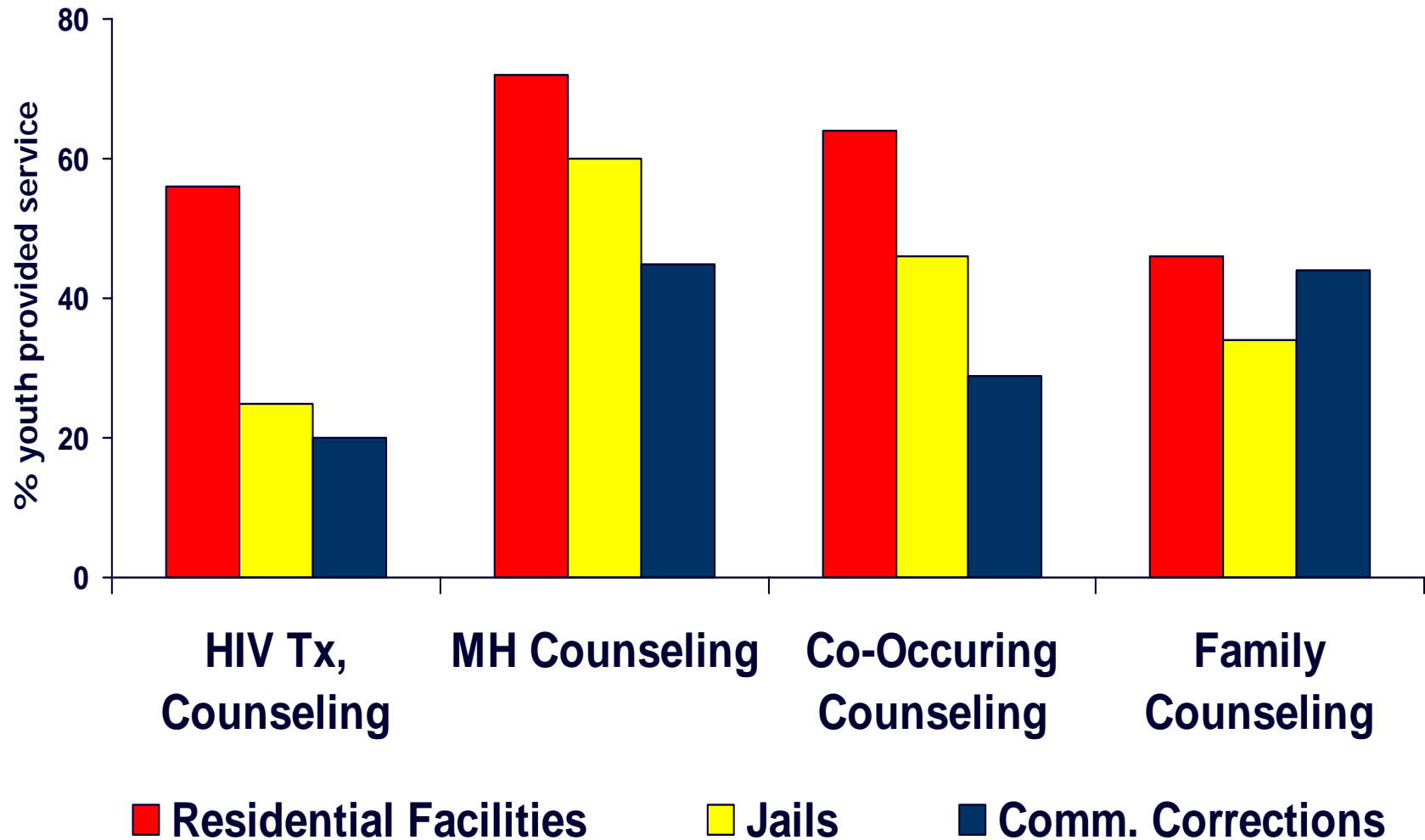
Provision of Health Screening & Services



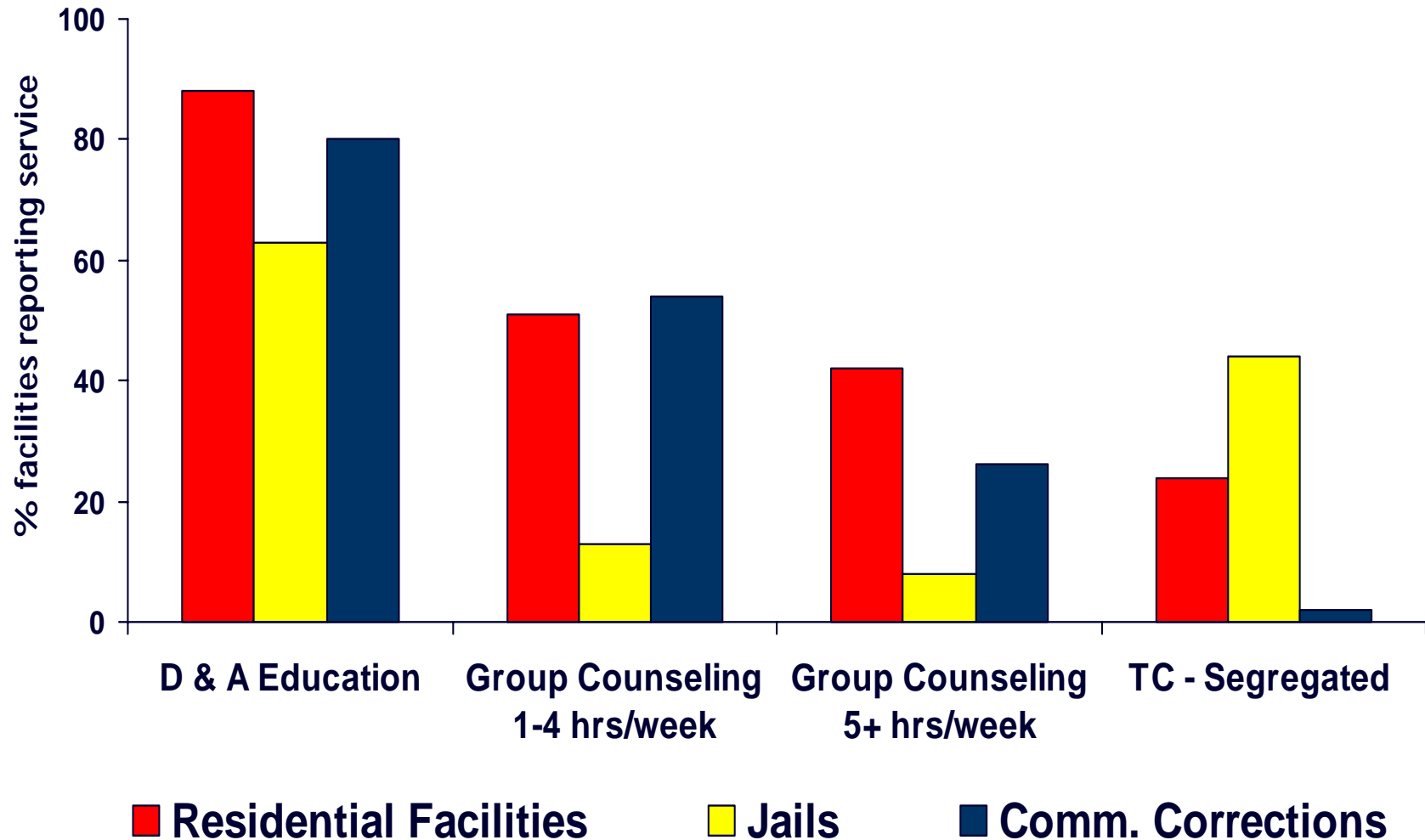
Use of Standardized Screening Tools



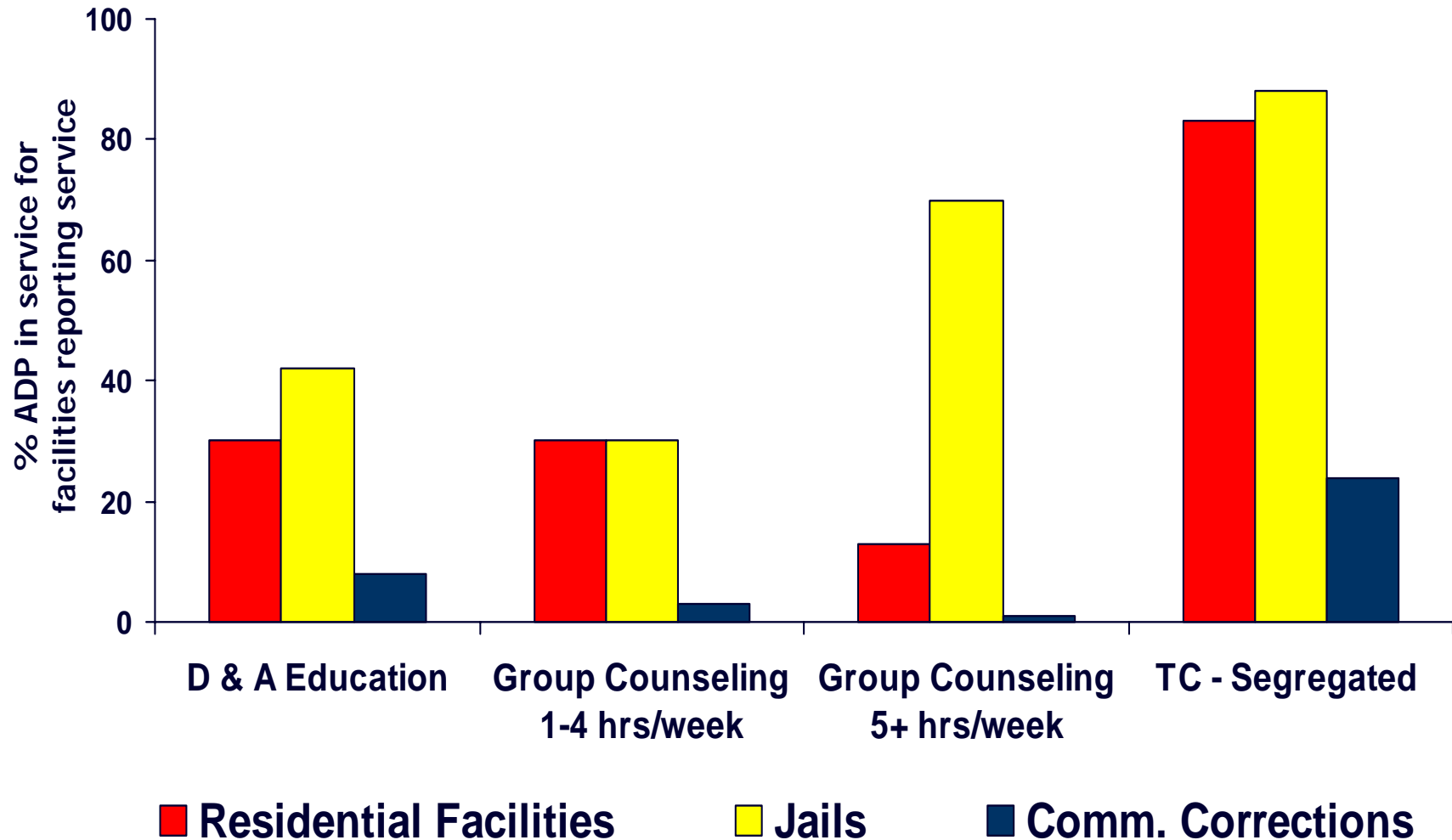
Provision of Counseling Services



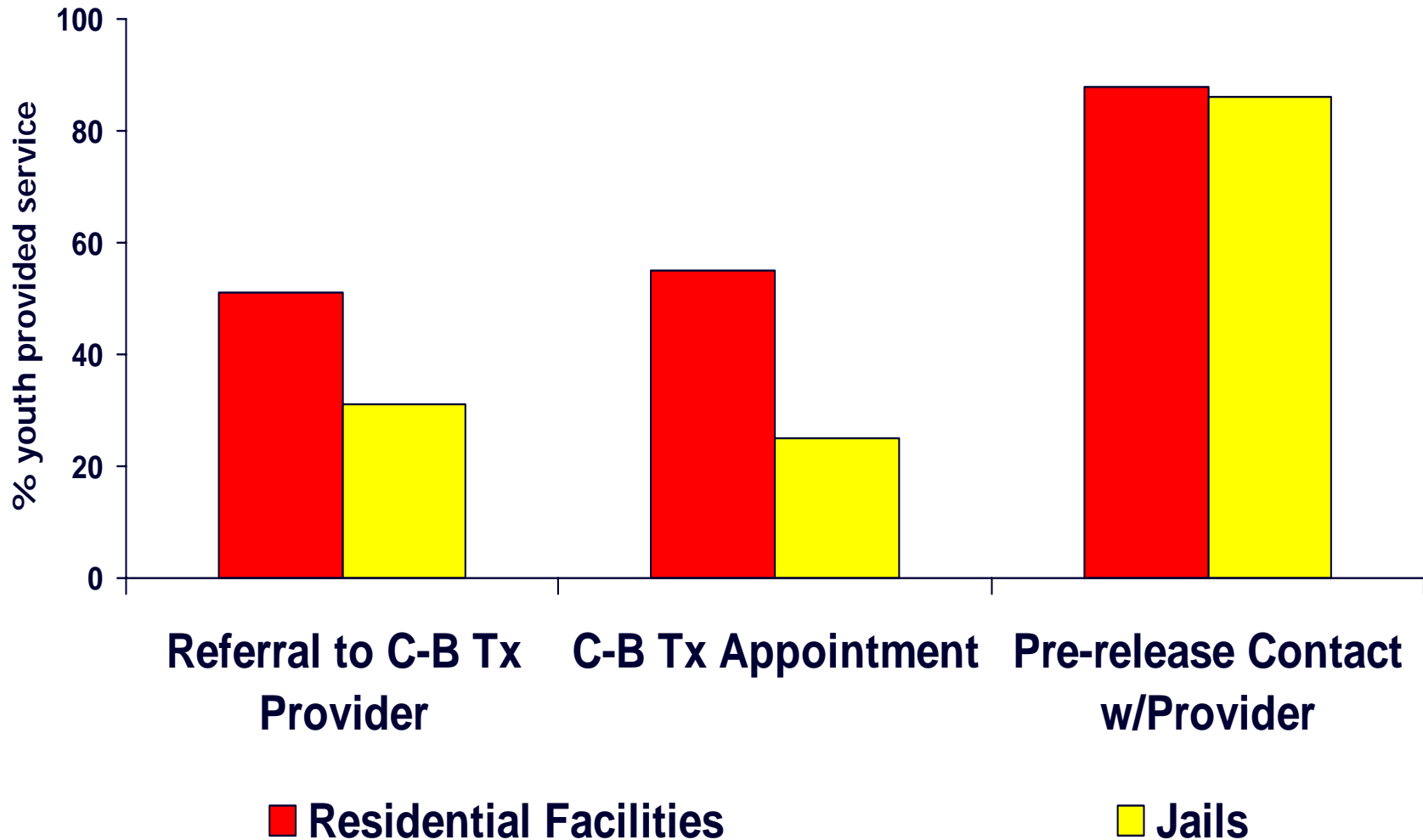
Prevalence of Substance Abuse Services



Access to Substance Abuse Services



SA Treatment Reentry Services



General Service Provision

- **Education and basic health services are the most prevalent services provided**
 - **Notably, however, 37.3% of juvenile jails have no educational services**
- **Educational, vocational, and housing services are least prevalent in juvenile jails & local detention centers**
- **Health screening and services are provided at very low rates in community corrections facilities**
- **Despite their importance for delinquent youth, family assessment and counseling are provided at very low rates**

Substance Abuse Service Provision

- **Most common services provided are drug & alcohol education and low intensity outpatient group counseling (<5 hrs/week)**
- **Treatment access as measured by the number of slots available on any given day is very low**
- **Treatment prevalence is especially low in jails**
- **Treatment access is especially low in community corrections facilities**

Some Conclusions & Implications

Survey Limitations:

- Data on programs/services self-reported by administrators (not confirmable)
- May be subject to over-reporting due to perceived social desirability of answers

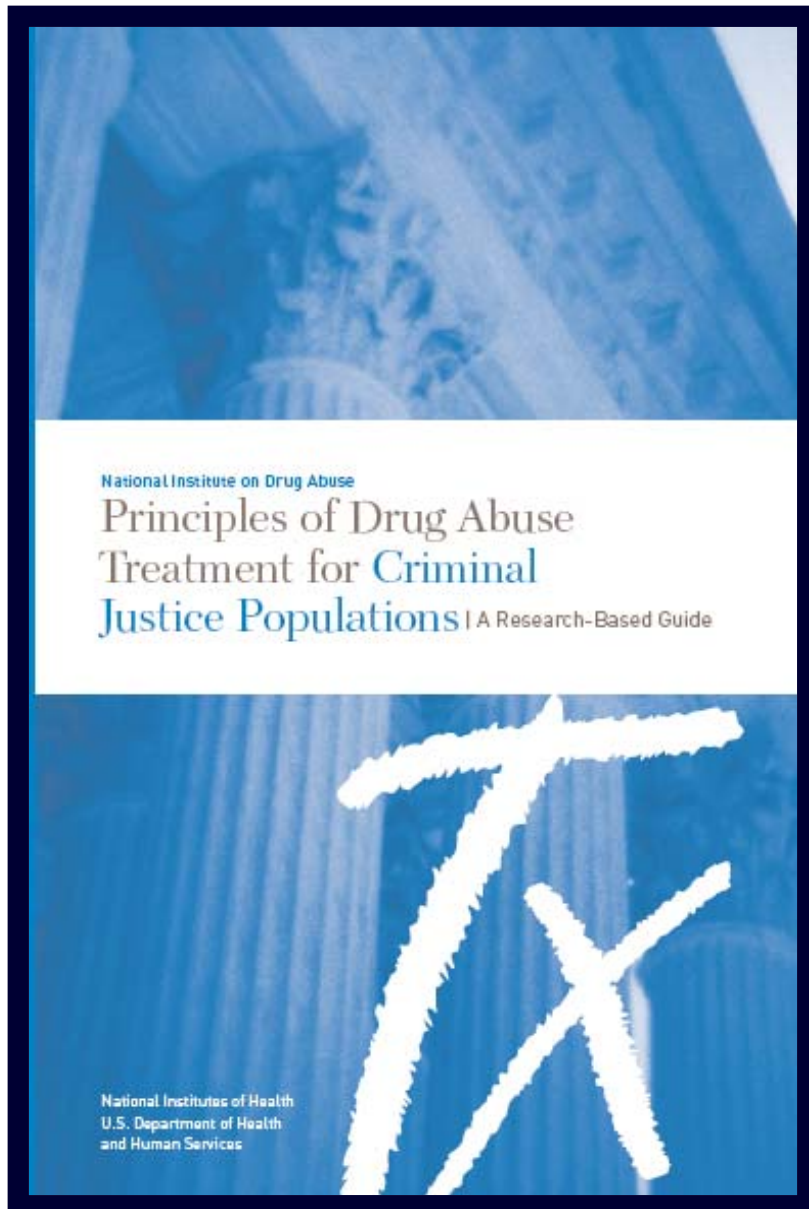
Conclusions:

- Access rates are too low to obtain desired reductions in recidivism sought by policymakers investing in treatment
- The lowest rates of SA treatment and other service access are found where the great majority (~85%) of delinquent youth are found – on probation or parole/aftercare in the community

Implications:

- Agencies must shift investments from inexpensive services that are easy to deliver (D & A education) to more intensive, effective services
- Priority must be given to building capacity in community-based settings

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**Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment
Special NCJTP Issue, April 2007,
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- Taxman, F. S., Young, D. W., & Fletcher, B (editors). The National Criminal Justice Treatment Practices Survey: An overview of the special edition. (pps 221-223)**
- Taxman, F. S., Young, D. W., Wiersema, B., Rhodes, A., & Mitchell, S. National criminal justice treatment practices survey: Methods and procedures. (pps 225-238)**
- Taxman, F. S., Perdoni, M., & Harrison, L. D. Drug treatment services for adult offenders: The state of the state. (pps 239-254)**
- Young, D. W., Dembo, R., & Henderson, C. E. A national survey of substance abuse treatment for juvenile offenders. (pps 255-266)**