

Incarcerations among 884 street- and low threshold service recruited illegal substance users

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Lisbon 24.10.2019

Background & Aims

- Incarceration rates are high among street-populations of illegal substance users
- In a sample of 884 illegal opioid and/or central stimulant users we examine
 - How many were incarcerated during a five-year follow-up, and why?
 - We also simulate changes in incarcerations after hypothetical drug policy changes

Methods

- 884 illegal opioids and/or central stimulant users were recruited Sept-Nov 2013
- Recruited from street and low threshold services e.g injecting room, needle-exchange programmes, cafes, housing facilities
- Administrative incarceration data
 - 1.Sept 2013-20.12.2018

Results

	Not incarcerated 100% (n=489)	Incarcerated 100% (n=395)
Male	71.2% (348)	79.2% (313)**
Age at inclusion, mean (SD)	43.0 (10.8)	39.8 (9.2)***
Homeless/shelter user	21.7% (106)	36.7% (145)***
Theft as an income source	6.7% (33)	16.2% (64)***
Dealing as an income source	21.9% (107)	35.7% (141)***
In OST	40.9% (200)	39.7% (157)

Debut age

	Not incarcerated 100% (n=489)	Incarcerated 100% (n=395)
Intoxicated by alcohol, mean (SD)	13.0 (3.3)	13.0 (2.8)
Used cannabis, mean (SD)	15.4 (4.43)	14.6 (4.2)**
Injected, mean (SD)	20.6(7.2)	20.1 (6.8)

Injected past 4 weeks

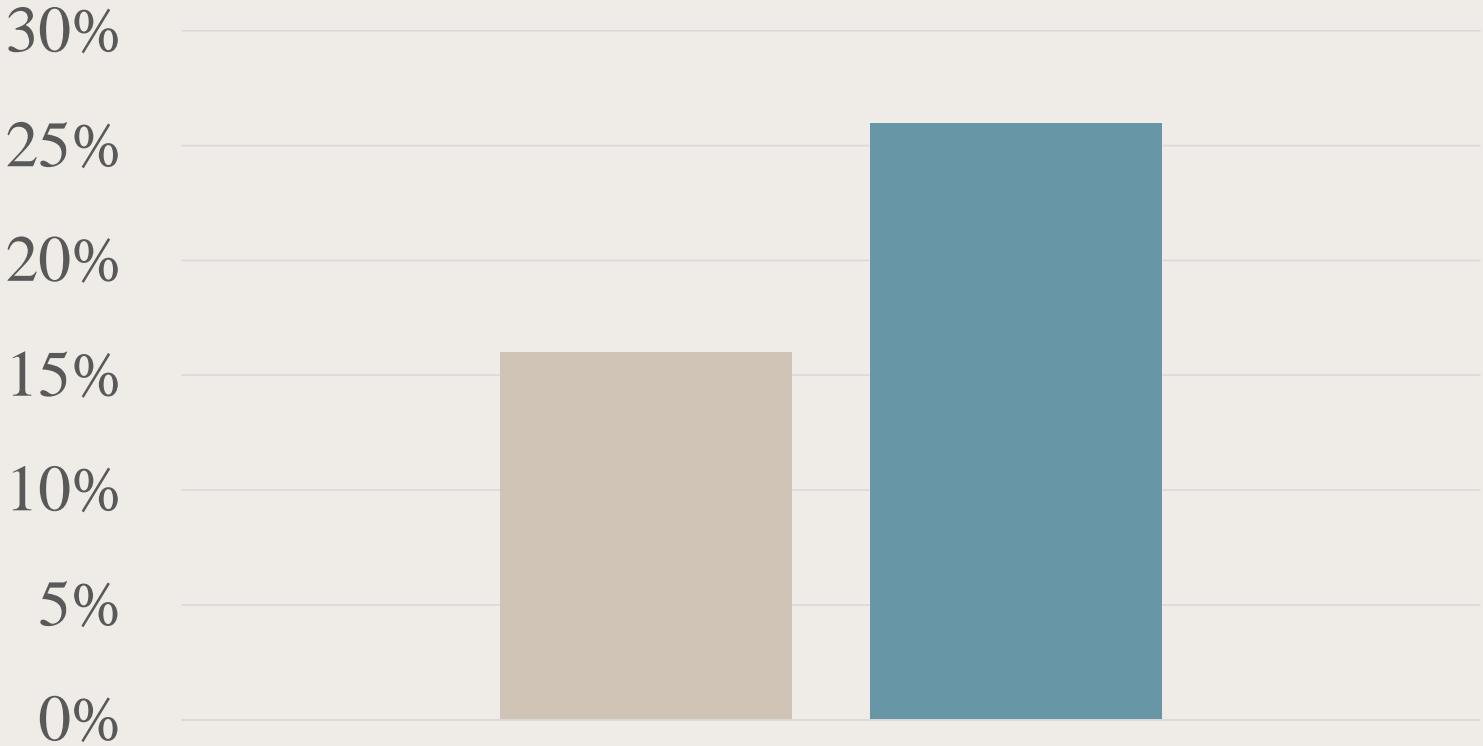
	Not incarcerated 100% (n=489)	Incarcerated 100% (n=395)
Any substance	73.6% (360)	86.8% (343)***
Heroin	34.8% (170)	48.9% (193)***
Amphetamine	51.5% (252)	71.1% (281)***
Amphetamine	51.5% (252)	71.1% (281)***
Cocaine	1.8% (9)	9.4% (37)***
Prescription medication	21.3% (104)	30.1% (119)**

Used, but not injected past 4 weeks

	Not incarcerated 100% (n=489)	Incarcerated 100% (n=395)
Cocaine	7.4% (36)	12.9% (51)**
Cannabis (≥ 4 days)	30.1% (147)	38.2% (151)*

Non-fatal overdose in the past year

■ Not incarcerated (n=489) ■ Incarcerated (n=395)



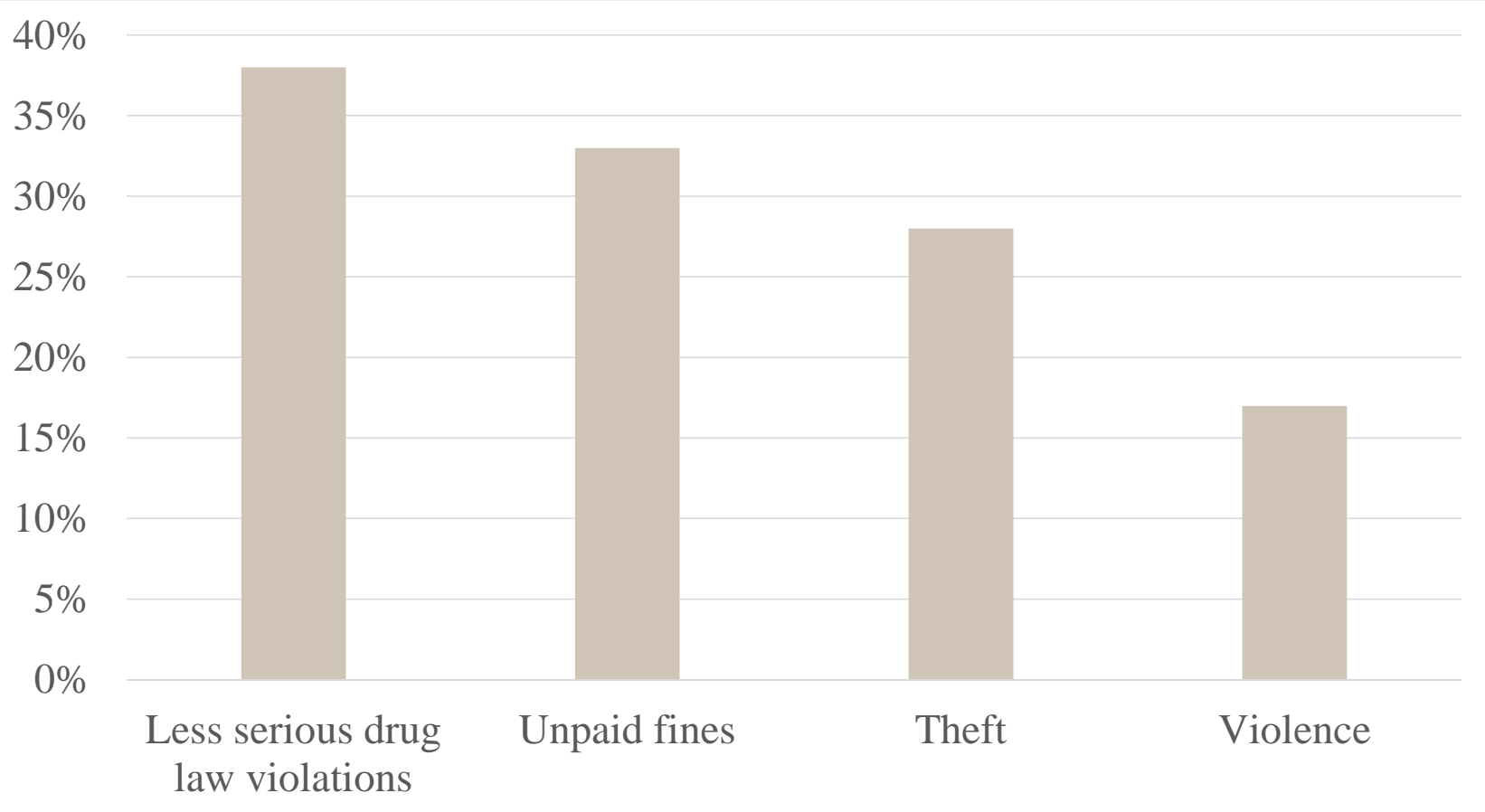
Frequency of incarceration

	Total
Mean no of	n=395
Episodes prior to follow-up	3.9 (3.5)
Episodes during follow-up	1.7 (0.9)
Days for each episode	65.2 (78.4)

Frequency of incarceration

	Total	Females	Males
Mean no of	n=395	n=82	n=313
Episodes prior to follow-up	3.9 (3.5)	2.6 (2.4)	4.2 (3.6)***
Episodes during follow-up	1.7 (0.9)	1.5 (0.9)	1.7 (0.9)*
Days for each episode	65.2 (78.4)	56.9 (64.0)	67.4 (81.7)

Most common offence types



Incidence rate

- Crude incidence rate (CIR) was 12.04 per 100 person-years (95% CI 10.92-13.30) for the total sample
- Females CIR= 9.08 per 100 py (95% CI 7.31-11.27)
- Males CIR=13.18 per 100 py (95% CI 11.80-14.72).
- Men were 45% more likely to be incarcerated (IRR=1.45 95% CI 1.14; 1.87)

	Univariate HR (95% CI)	Multivariable AHR (95% CI)
Males	1.42 [1.11,1.81]**	1.29 [0.99,1.67]
Age, mean (SD)	0.98 [0.97,0.99]***	0.98 [0.97,0.99]**
Homeless/shelter use	1.77 [1.45,2.18]***	1.37 [1.07,1.74]*
Theft	2.06 [1.58,2.69]***	1.73 [1.28,2.36]***
Dealing	1.64 [1.33,2.01]***	1.29 [1.02,1.62]*
In OST	0.94 [0.77,1.15]	0.90 [0.71,1.14]
<i>Debut age</i>		
Injected, mean (SD)	0.99 [0.98,1.01]	1.02 [1.00,1.04]
Intoxicated by alcohol, mean (SD)	1.00 [0.97,1.03]	1.04 [1.00,1.08]
Used cannabis, mean (SD)	0.96 [0.94,0.99]**	0.95 [0.91,0.99]*
<i>Injected past four weeks</i>		
Any substance	1.99 [1.48,2.66]***	-
Heroin	1.55 [1.27,1.89]***	0.97 [0.74,1.26]
Amphetamine	1.95 [1.56,2.42]***	1.69 [1.31,2.18]***
Cocaine	2.80 [1.99,3.93]***	1.50 [0.99,2.28]
Prescription medication	1.42 [1.15,1.77]**	0.88 [0.67,1.15]
<i>Not injected past four weeks</i>		
Cocaine	1.53 [1.14,2.06]**	1.08 [0.77,1.50]
Frequent cannabis	1.34 [1.09,1.64]**	1.26 [1.01,1.58]*
Previous incarcerations	2.50 [1.92,3.25]***	2.68 [2.00,3.60]***

Two scenarios

- A. No sanctions for use and possession for smaller quantities of psychoactive substances and no incarceration for unpaid fines
- B. Same as A, but no sanctions for production and sales for smaller quantities of psychoactive substances

	n=	Scenario A
Income-generating	192	192
Drug law violations (§231)	174	87
Unpaid fines	133	0
Violence	82	82
Other	74	74
Act of Medicinal	3	0
Serious drug law violations	4	4
Total no episodes	662	439
Reduction episodes	0	-34% (223)

	n=	Scenario A	Scenario B
Income-generating	192	192	192
Drug law violations (§231)	174	87	0
Unpaid fines	133	0	0
Violence	82	82	82
Other	74	74	74
Act of Medicinal	3	0	0
Serious drug law violations	4	4	4
Total no episodes	662	439	352
Reduction episodes	0	-34% (223)	-47% (310)

Conclusion

- 45% of the sample were incarcerated during follow-up
- Crude incidence rate was 12.04 per 100 person-years
- Males 45% more likely to be incarcerated
- In the scenarios
 - 1/3 of incarceration episodes are likely to be removed with scenario A
 - Nearly half of the incarceration episodes are likely to be removed in scenario B