Correlates of incarceration among people who primarily smoke methamphetamine

ANNA McLEAN1, BERNADETTE WARD1, REBECCA KIPPEN1, MICHAEL LEACH1, PAUL DIETZE2

1 School of Rural Health, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
2 Behaviours and Health Risks Program, Burnet Institute, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Presenter’s email: amcl0007@student.monash.edu

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 ≥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), > 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.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: The VMAX study was established with a grant from the Colonial Foundation and is now funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC, 1148170). PD is supported by an NHMRC Senior Research Fellowship. PD has received investigator-driven funding from Gilead Sciences and Indivior for work unrelated to this study.