

# Prevalence of Co-Occurring Disorders and Engagement in Behavioral Health Treatment among Justice-Involved Adolescents

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# Background on Co-Occurring Disorders (CODs)

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- Among clients in both mental health and substance abuse treatment settings, CODs are the rule, not the exception
- Persons with CODs:
  - Have poorer outcomes
  - Face greater difficulties related to treatment engagement and retention
  - Are more likely to be involved in the criminal justice system
- High rates of CODs among justice-involved individuals highlight the justice system as an opportunity for treatment engagement

# Adolescents with CODs in the Criminal Justice System

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- In 2016, juveniles represented close to 8% of all arrestees
- Several studies examining adolescents in the criminal justice system estimate about a third to have CODs
- Gap in literature using large-scale data

# Key Questions

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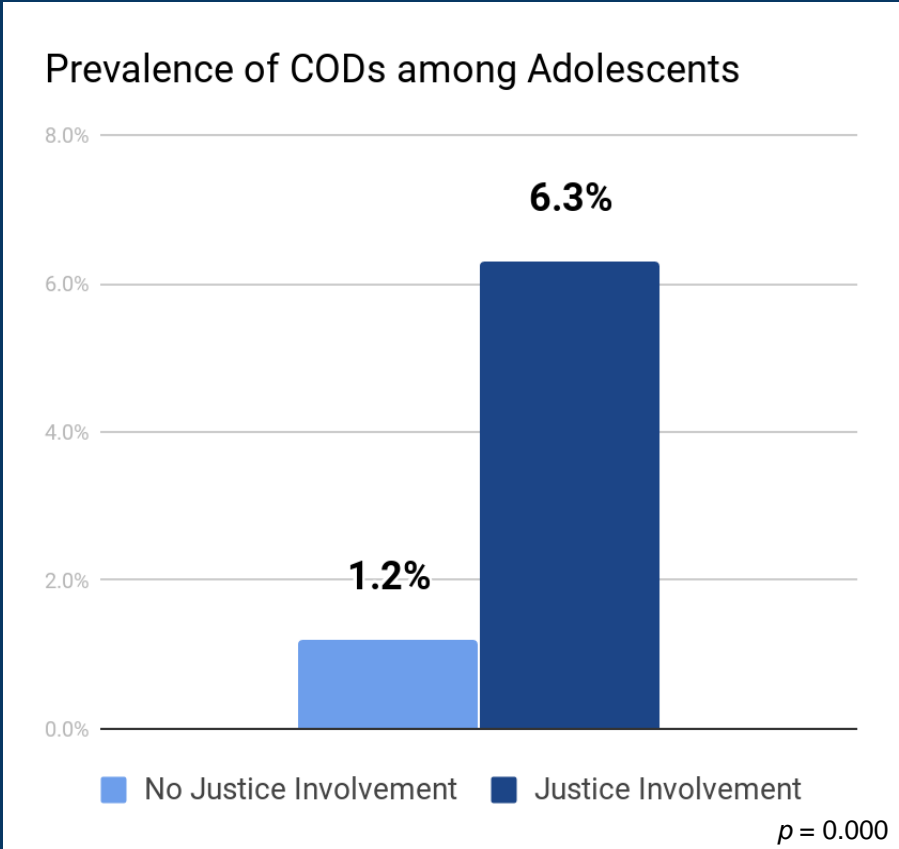
- How do justice-involved adolescents who have CODs differ from non-justice-involved adolescents who have CODs?
- For adolescents with CODs, how does being involved in the justice system affect one's chances of receiving treatment?
  - Mental health treatment
  - Substance abuse treatment

# Method

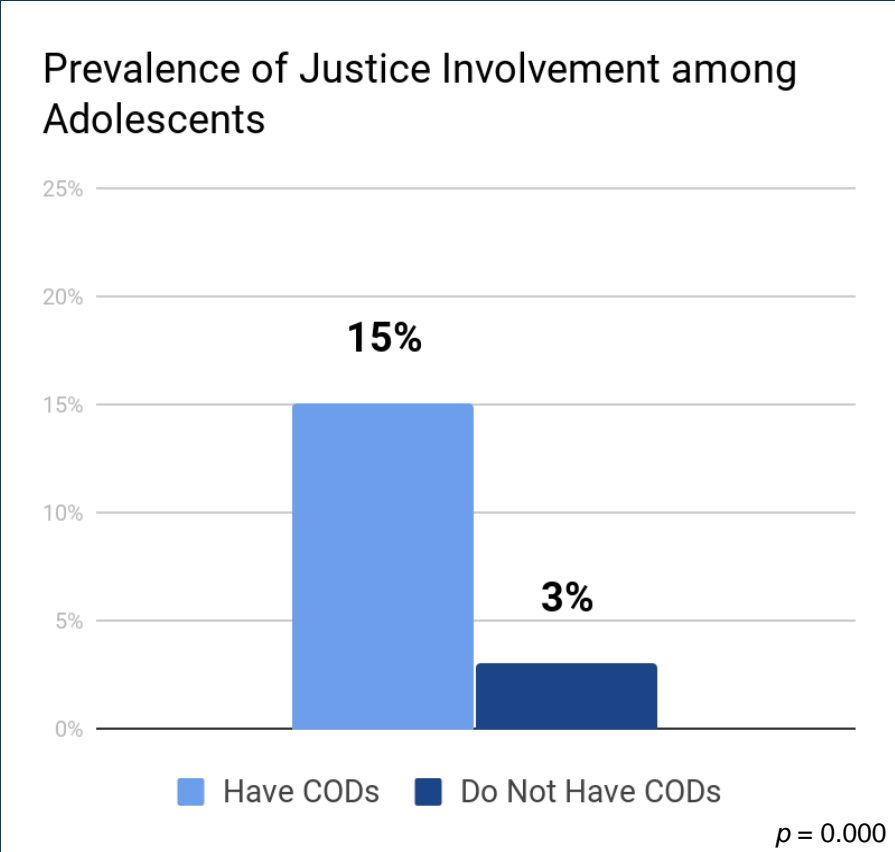
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- Sample:
  - 41,579 non-institutionalized adolescents aged 12 or older
  - Surveyed by 2015-2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)
- Measures:
  - Substance use disorder
  - Major depressive episode
  - Mental health treatment
  - Substance abuse treatment
  - Justice involvement
- Analyses:
  - Conducted using Stata v. 15
  - Two-way tabulations
  - Weighted Chi-Square analyses
  - Logistic regressions
  - Weighted for population

# Results

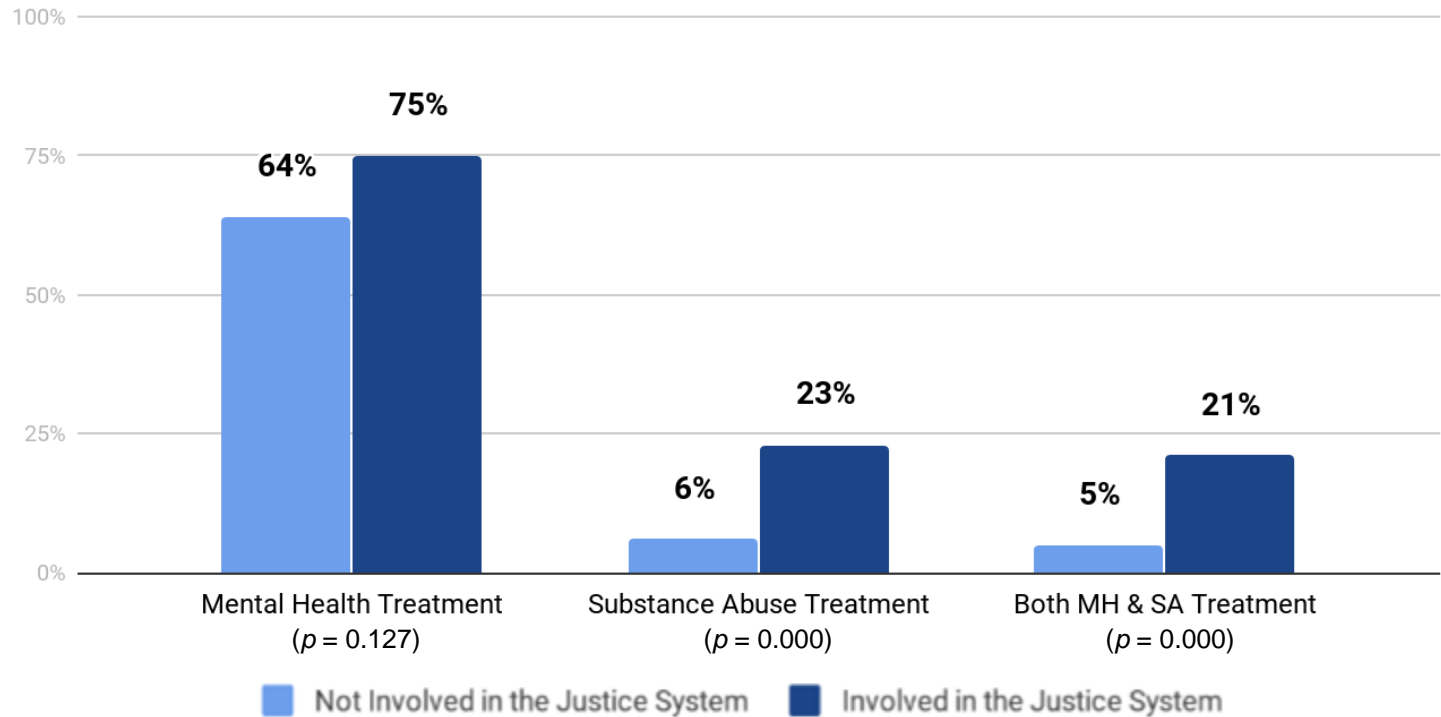


# Results



# Results

Rates of Treatment Receipt among Adolescents with CODs

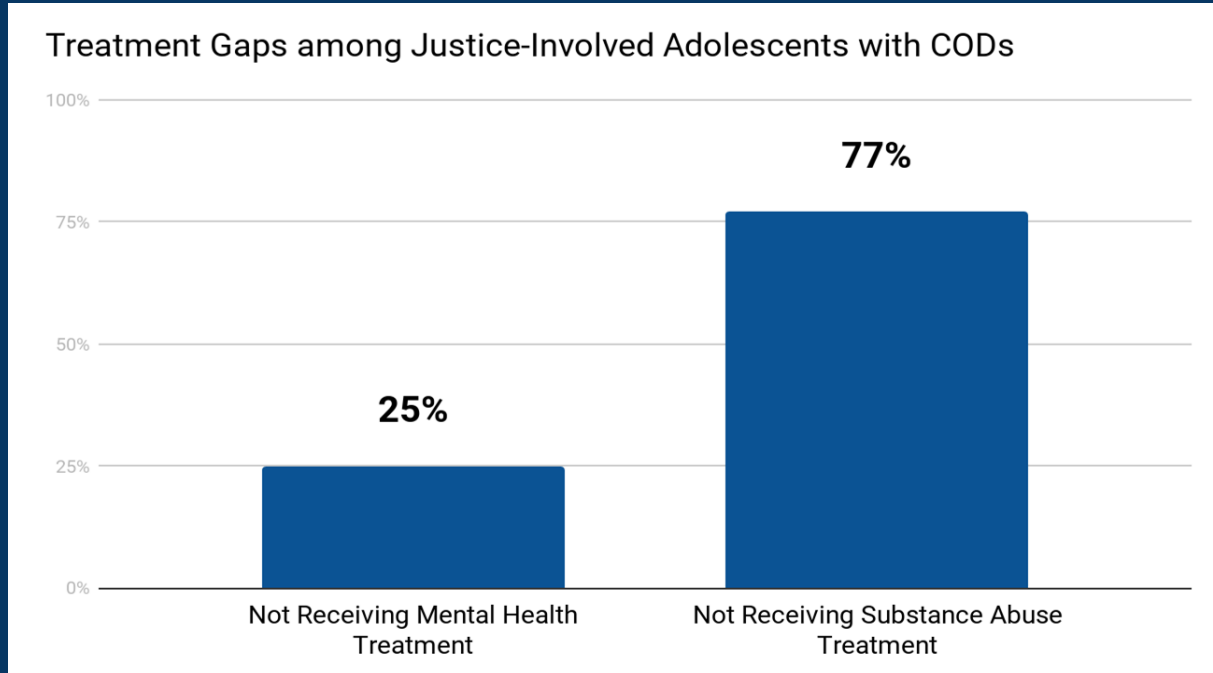




# Conclusions

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- Treatment needs for adolescents with CODs are great, even within the justice system
- Substance abuse treatment should be prioritized



# Limitations & Ideas for Future Study

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## *Limitations:*

- Sample of adolescents with CODs limited to those with past-year substance use disorder and past-year major depression
- Sample limited to non-institutionalized individuals

## *Ideas for Future Study:*

- The NSDUH should assess mental health in adolescents as comprehensively as it does adults

## *Policy Implications:*

- Federal mandates should guarantee the availability of substance abuse treatment to those in criminal justice facilities that need it

# Acknowledgements

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Thank you!