

### Youth Pathways Project: Histories of Maltreatment and Substance Use Patterns among Street-Involved Youth



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### ● ● ● *Issues for Street Youth*



Many street youth experience multiple problems as a product of both their past and present life circumstances...



Histories of maltreatment and substance use are particularly prominent in the lives of street involved youth.

### ● ● ● *Objectives*

- Examine the relationship between maltreatment histories and current substance use patterns
- Distinguish between types of maltreatment experienced (i.e. physical vs. sexual) and substance use patterns (i.e. duration, amount, dependence and types of substances)
- Explore gender differences in maltreatment histories and substance use patterns

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● ● ● | **Data**

- ⌚ Youth Pathways Project (YPP)
- ⌚ Short follow-up longitudinal design
- ⌚ Data collection took place over one year
- ⌚ 150 Street-involved youth were recruited from downtown agencies
  - 75 Men
  - 75 Women

● ● ● | **Methods**

- ⌚ Basic descriptive statistics
- ⌚ Cross-tabulations
- ⌚ Chi-Square test of independence

● ● ● | **Measures**

- ⌚ Gender
- ⌚ CAS Involvement
- ⌚ Forms of Maltreatment
  - | Caregiver harm
  - | Sexual Touching
  - | Severe Sexual Force and/or Intercourse
  - | Physical Abuse (kick, bite, punch)
  - | Severe Physical Abuse (choke, burn, attack)
- ⌚ Substance Use
  - | Duration (last 30 days and last 12 months)
  - | Amount (# of drugs used)
  - | Dependence
  - | Type

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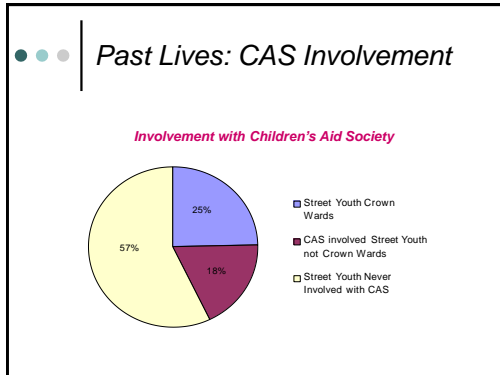
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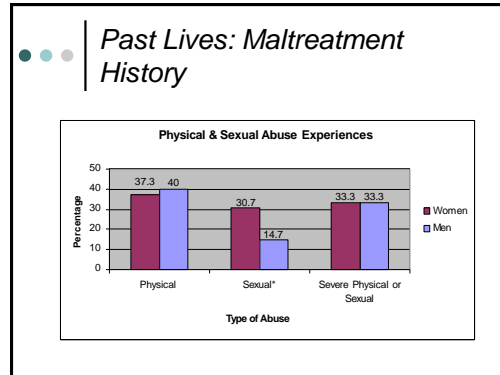
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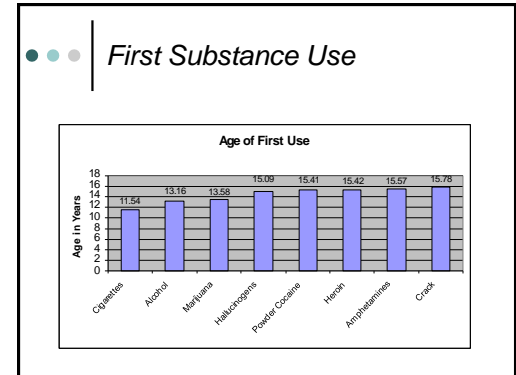
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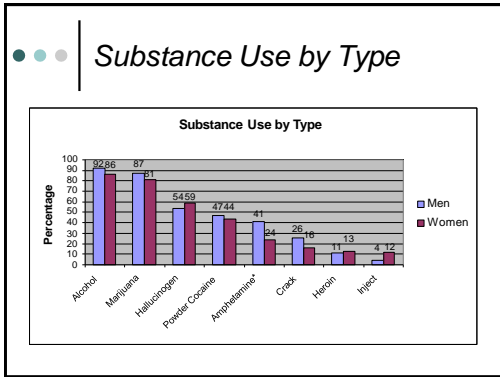
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### Maltreatment & Duration of Substance Use

- Number of drugs used in past 12m (0-2 drugs vs. 3+ drugs)
  - ALL measures of abuse were significantly related to # of drugs used for the young women (p<0.01)
  - Not significantly related to ANY measure of abuse for the young men (p<0.05)
- Number of drugs used in past 30d (0-2 drugs vs. 3+ drugs)
  - Physical abuse was significant for the young women (p<0.05)
  - Not significantly related to ANY measure of abuse for the young men (p<0.05)

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### Maltreatment & Substance Use Dependence

- Number of drugs felt dependent on (0-2 drugs vs. 3+ drugs)
  - ALL measures of abuse were significant for the young women (p<0.01)
  - Not significantly related to ANY measure of abuse for the young men (p<0.05)
- Number of drugs felt dependent on *excluding alcohol and cannabis* (None vs. 1 or More)
  - Not significantly related to ANY measure of abuse for both the young men and women (p<0.05)

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### Maltreatment & Substance Use Type: Hallucinogens

- Hallucinogen use in the past 12m (Yes vs. No)
  - ALL measures of abuse for the young women EXCEPT physical abuse (kick, bite, punch) were significant for the young women ( $p < 0.05$ )
  - Sexual abuse in the form of touching was significant for the young men ( $p < 0.05$ )
- Hallucinogen use in the past 30d (Yes vs. No)
  - Not significantly related to ANY measure of abuse for the young women ( $p < 0.05$ )
  - For the young men, sexual abuse in the form of touching was significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) and some indication of an association with sexual force/intercourse ( $p = 0.065$ )

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### Maltreatment & Substance Use Type: Amphetamines

- Amphetamine use in the past 12m (Yes vs. No)
  - Not significantly related to ANY measure of abuse for the young women ( $p < 0.05$ )
  - BOTH forms of sexual abuse were significant for the young men ( $p < 0.05$ )
- Amphetamine use in the past 30d (Yes vs. No)
  - Not significantly related to ANY measure of abuse for the young women ( $p < 0.05$ )
  - Again, BOTH forms of sexual abuse were significant for the young men ( $p < 0.01$ )

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### Maltreatment & Substance Use Type: Injection Use

- Injection drug use in the past 12m (Yes vs. No)
  - Sexual abuse in the form of touching was significantly related to IDU in the past 12m for the young women ( $p < 0.05$ )
  - Physical abuse (choke, burn, attack) was significantly associated with IDU in the past 12m for the young men ( $p < 0.01$ )

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● ● ● | **Conclusions**

- Findings from the YPP suggest the following:
  - | Life-course patterns of substance use & histories of maltreatment
  - | Poly-drug use
  - | Drug type & abuse experience type
  - | Gender differences

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● ● ● | **Future Directions**

- Only a small percentage of these young people have received some form of substance use treatment (19% of the men and 13% of the women)
- What the youth had to say:
  - | *"You know, you just want the help now. You want it now, now, now. And they were like, oh well, try to stay sober for a month and a half before you come in. It's just like, if I could do that, I wouldn't be trying to get in, you know. But, you know, I guess there's... there's a lot of people trying to get help, right?"*
  - | *"Well, counselling is very, very hard to get into for youth and the thing is, like, I think that kids should be educated about counselling because they see it as very negative."*
- Harm reduction based programs

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**Thank you!**  
**Questions or Comments?**

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