



Australian Government
Australian Institute of Criminology

Women, drug use and crime: findings from the DUMA study

Kerryn Adams

Australian Institute of Criminology

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Presentation overview

- What is DUMA?
- Socio-demographic characteristics by gender
- Drug use patterns by gender
- Involvement in the criminal justice system
- Indigenous women detainees
- Drug/alcohol treatment
- Summary and policy implications



Acknowledgements/Disclaimer

- The DUMA program is funded by the Australian Government
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- Neither the collectors, the police services bear any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here



Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA)

- Running since 1999
- Data collections are conducted quarterly
- Two main parts – an interviewer administered questionnaire and a urine sample
- Both are strictly voluntary and confidential
- Total records to date (1999-2007): almost 29,000 questionnaires and almost 23,000 urine samples provided



Location of DUMA sites





Introduction

- Few in-depth, large scale studies examining the relationship between drug use and criminal activity among women in Australia
- Most studies focus on males or aggregate findings across gender
- Need to examine separately as literature suggests gender differences in trajectories leading to drug use and offending behaviour



Data - Overview

- Self-report information from questionnaires
- Data from quarter 2 2002 – Q4 2006
- Excludes results from Footscray and Darwin
- Adults only
- 17,858 detainees provided information over this time period
 - 2,813 (15.7%) female
 - 15,045 (84.2%) male



Socio-demographic characteristics by gender (percent)

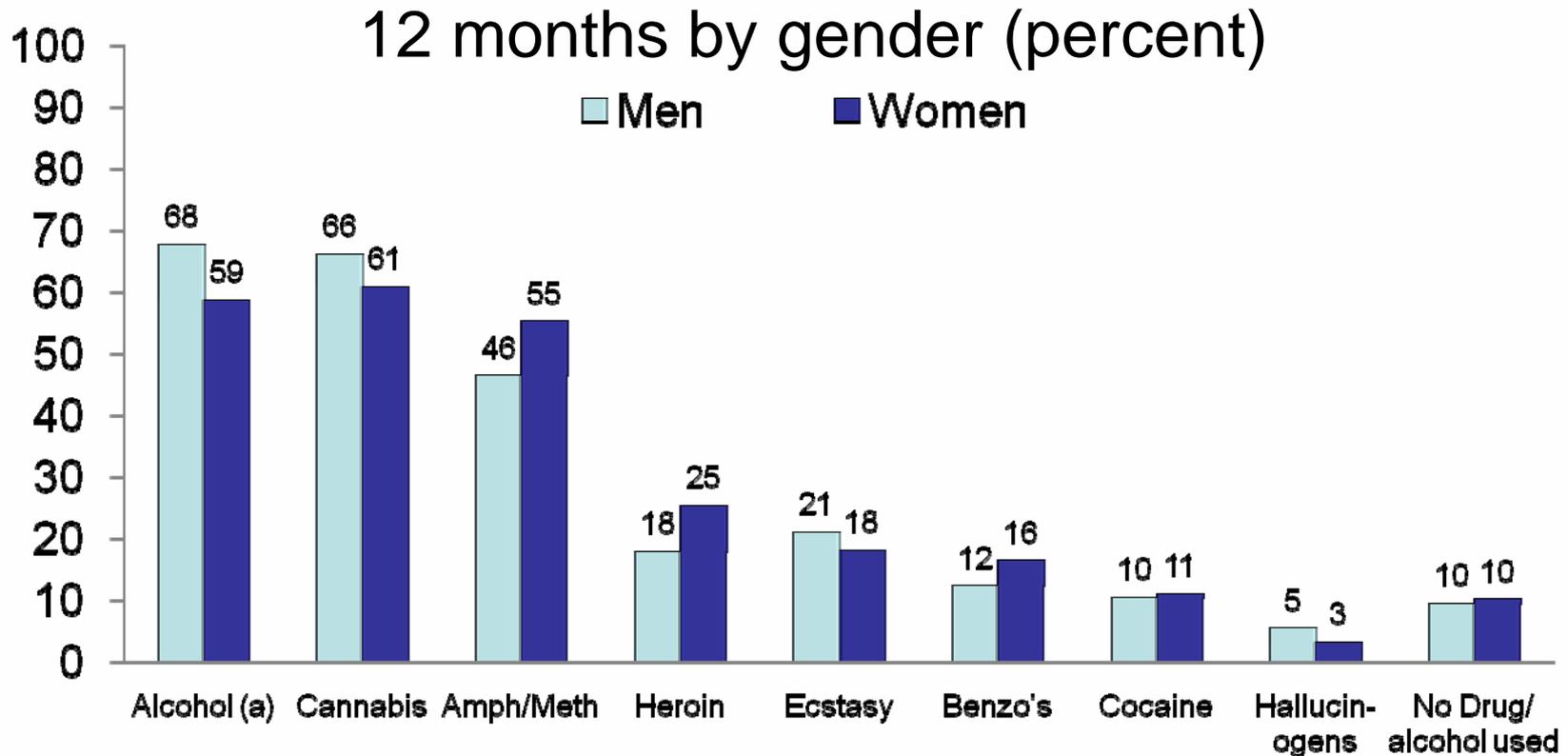
	Women	Men	Combined
Mean age (years)	30.1	30.2	30.2
Completed Yr10 or less*	46.9	49.1	48.8
Single*	52.3	57.2	56.4
Dependent children at home*	46.5	30.0	32.6
Income from welfare**	84.6	61.2	64.9
Employment			
Working full-time*	8.6	29.5	26.3
Working part-time	9.5	11.9	11.6
Not in workforce*	57.1	27.5	32.1

*p<0.05; **p<0.001

Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



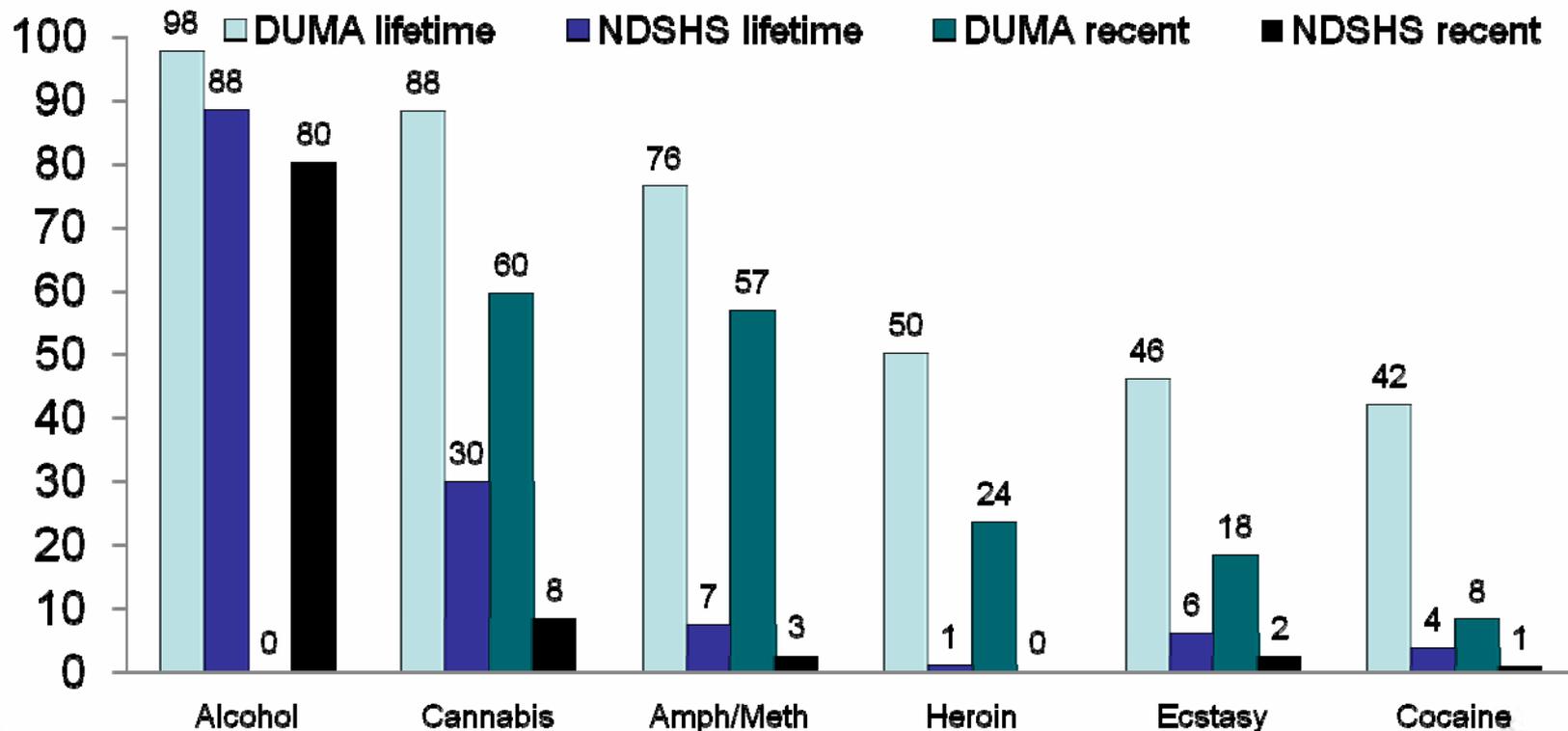
Self-reported alcohol and/or illicit drug use in the past 12 months by gender (percent)



(a) 3 or more drinks in a single day for women and 5 or more drinks in a single day for men
Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



Comparison of DUMA 2004 and NDSHS 2004 women: lifetime and recent AOD use (percent)



(a) 3 or more drinks in a single day for women and 5 or more drinks in a single day for men
Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



AOD dependency & intravenous use in past 12 months by gender (percent)

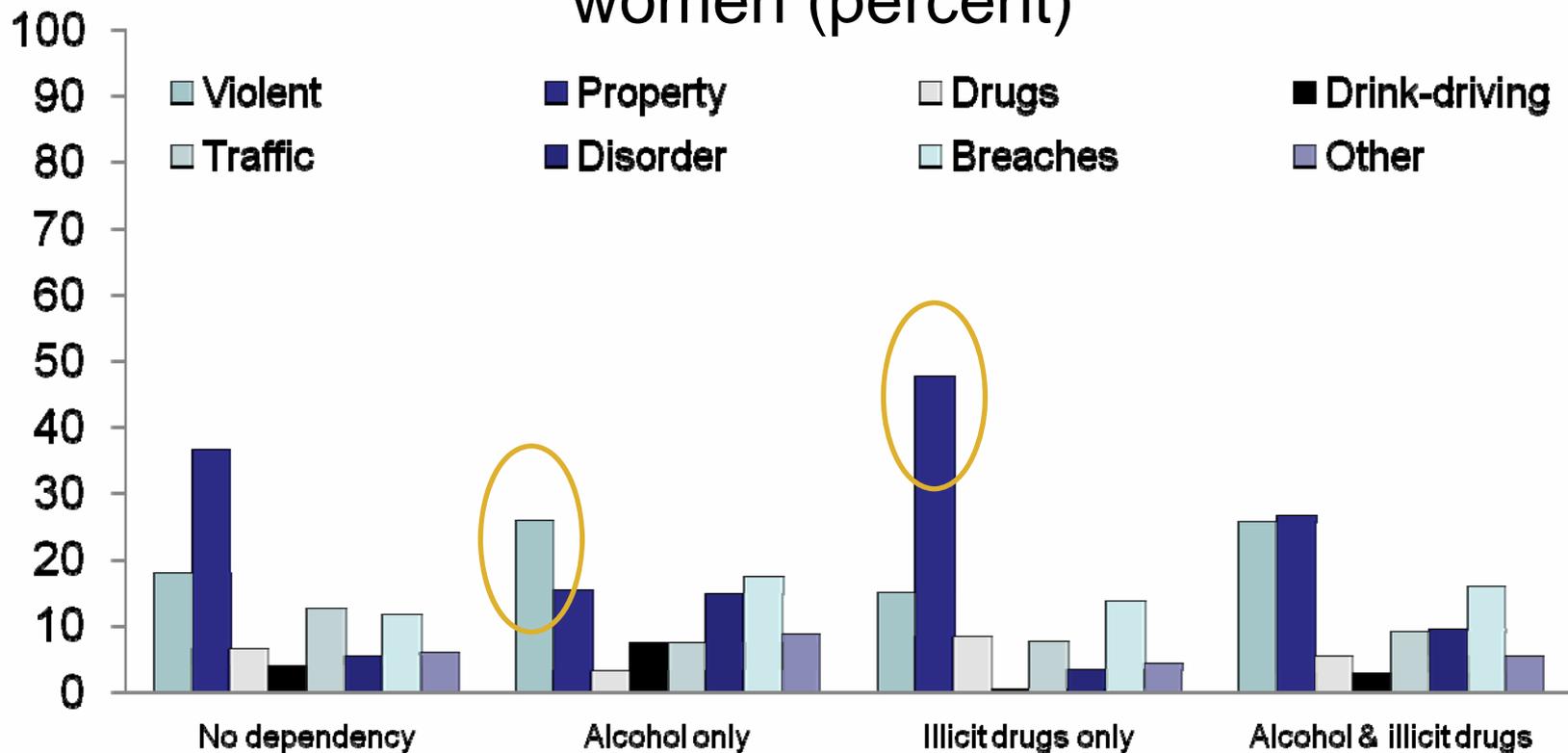
	Women	Men	Combined
No dependence**	37.9	40.5	40.1
Dependence on alcohol only**	9.1	12.1	11.7
Dependence on illicit drugs only**	40.5	30.8	32.3
Dependence on alcohol & illicit drugs**	12.5	16.6	16.0
Injected heroin**	23.8	15.5	16.8
Injected amphetamine/ methamphetamine**	45.5	32.7	34.7
Injected morphine or other opiates**	10.1	7.2	7.7

**p<0.001

Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



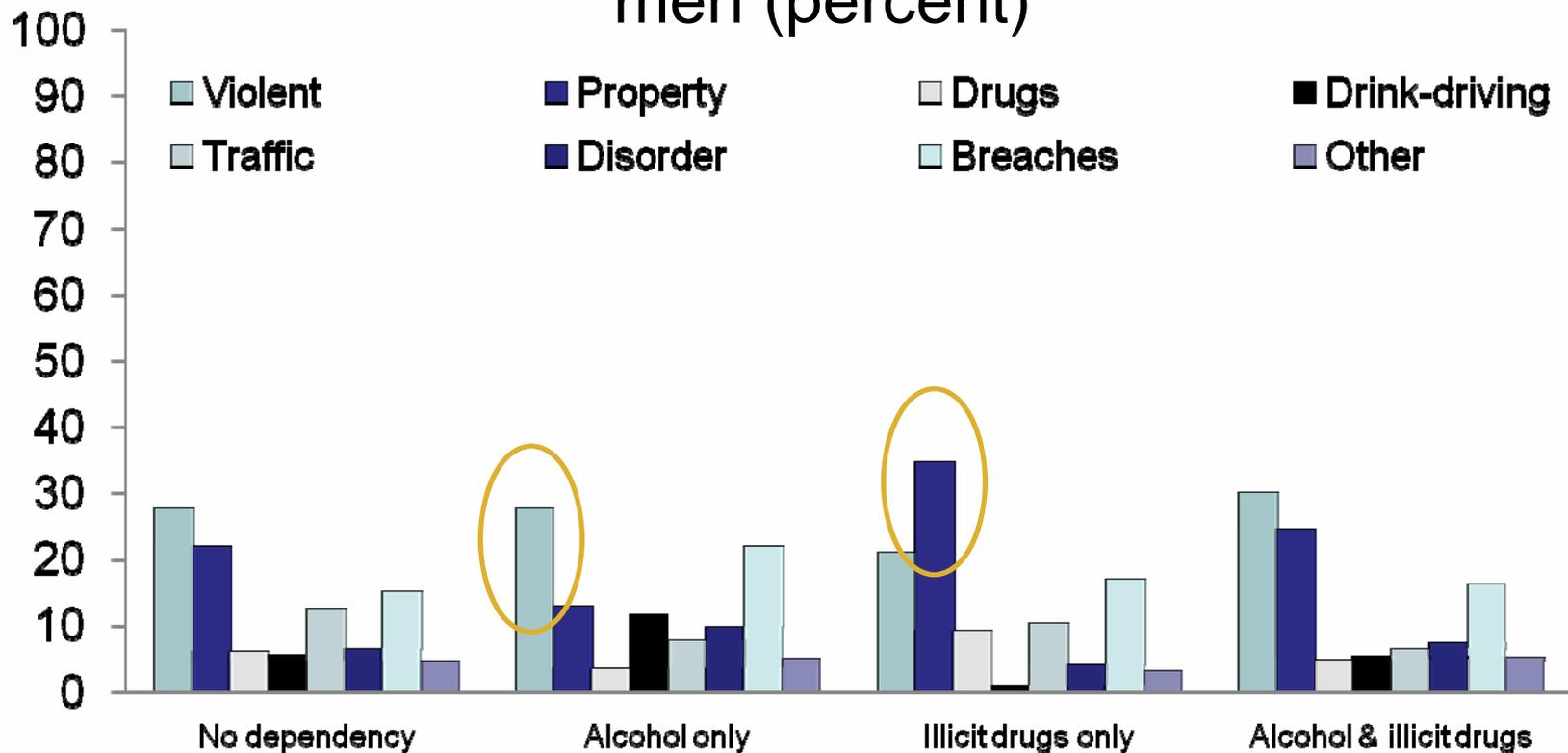
Current Most Serious Offence by AOD dependency: women (percent)



Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



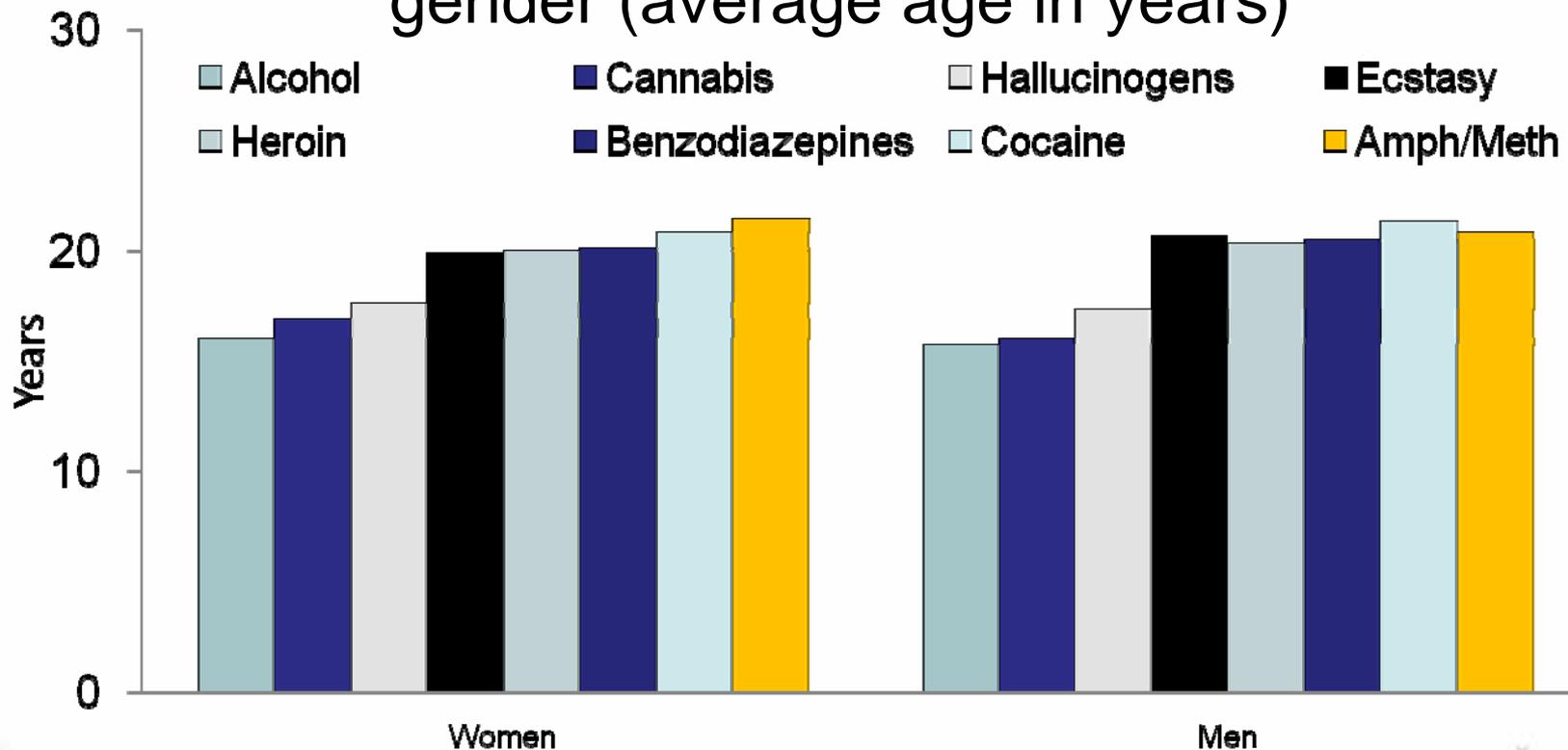
Current Most Serious Offence by AOD dependency: men (percent)



Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



Temporal sequencing of regular drug use and crime by gender (average age in years)



Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



Drug/alcohol treatment by gender (percent)

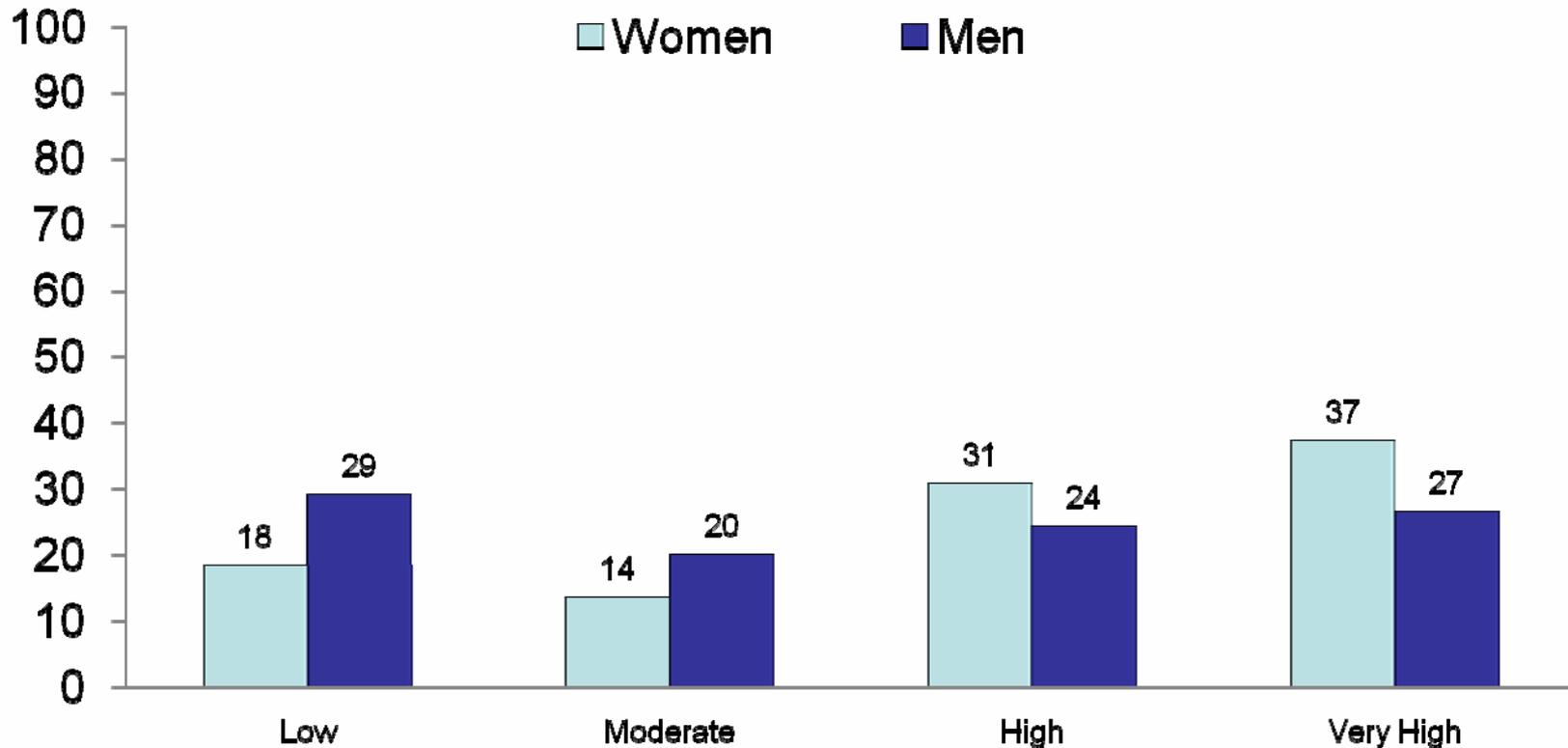
	Women	Men	Combined
Ever been in a treatment program**	43.7	36.5	37.6
Currently in a treatment program**	41.2	27.6	30.0
<i>Type of current treatment program entered</i>			
Methadone maintenance**	61.2	39.5	45.0
Outpatient / counselling*	19.3	24.5	23.2
Buprenorphine**	13.4	21.4	19.3
Rehab / therapeutic community**	5.5	10.4	9.2
Support group (AA, NA, church, etc)**	4.7	9.4	8.2
Detox*	1.9	4.9	4.2

*p<0.05; **p<0.001

Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



Level of psychological distress by gender (percent)



Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



Indigenous women in the DUMA sample

- Well established in the literature that Indigenous Australians are over-represented in the criminal justice system
- Overall, 2,453 detainees (14%) identified as Indigenous
 - 22.3% of women in DUMA sample
 - 12.9% of men in DUMA sample
- Of the 2,813 women in the DUMA sample
 - 592 identified as Indigenous
 - 2,068 identified as non-Indigenous
 - 153 women were excluded as their Indigenous status was missing



Socio-demographic characteristics by Indigenous status: women (percent)

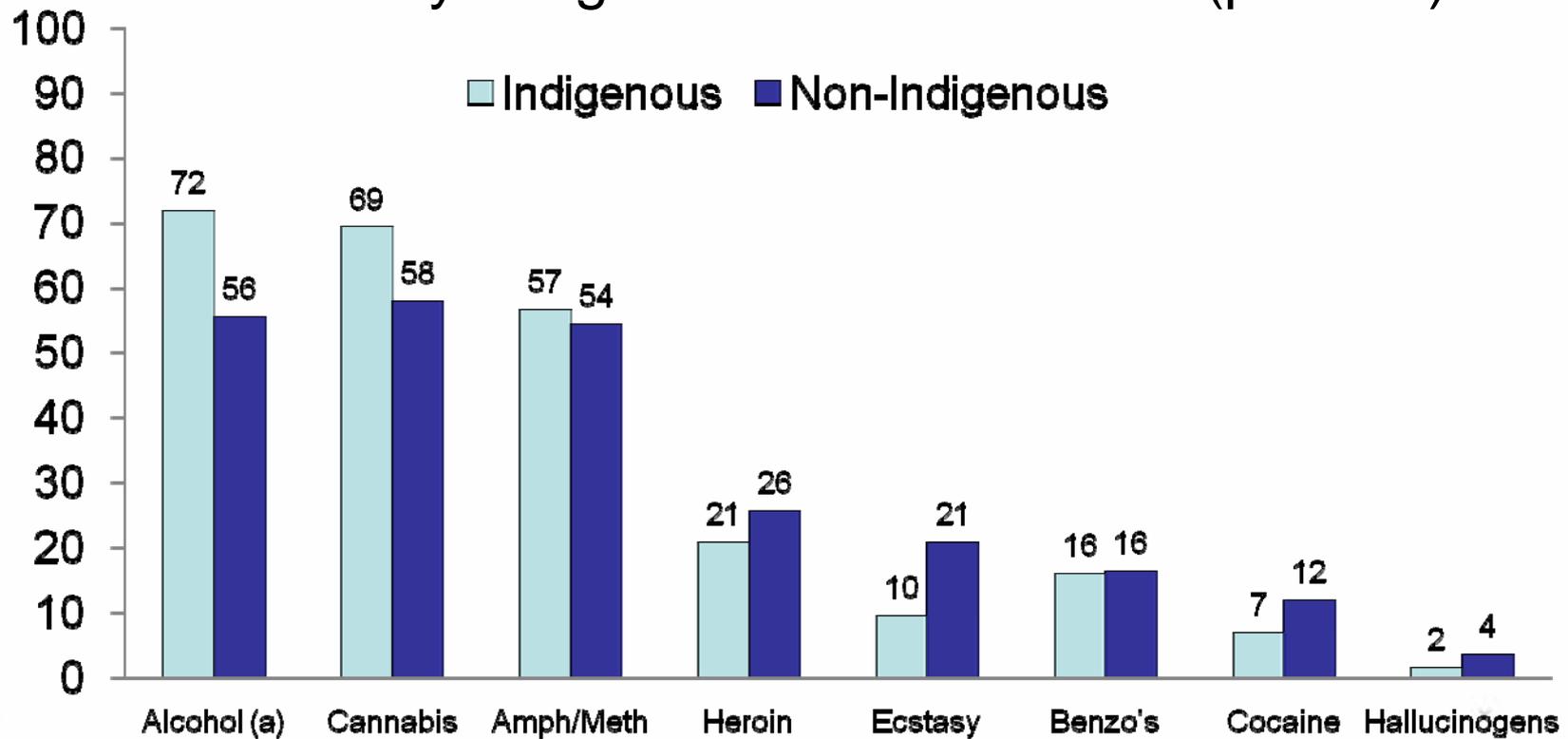
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Combined
Mean age (years)**	28.7	30.4	30.1
Completed Yr10 or less**	57.8	42.9	46.2
Single*	56.1	51.3	52.3
Dependent children at home**	49.7	46.2	47.0
Employment**			
Working full-time	2.5	10.3	8.6
Working part-time	3.2	11.5	9.6
Full-time homemaker	30.2	25.0	26.1

*p<0.01; **p<0.001

Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



Self-reported use of alcohol and/or illicit drugs in the past 12 months by Indigenous status: women (percent)



Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



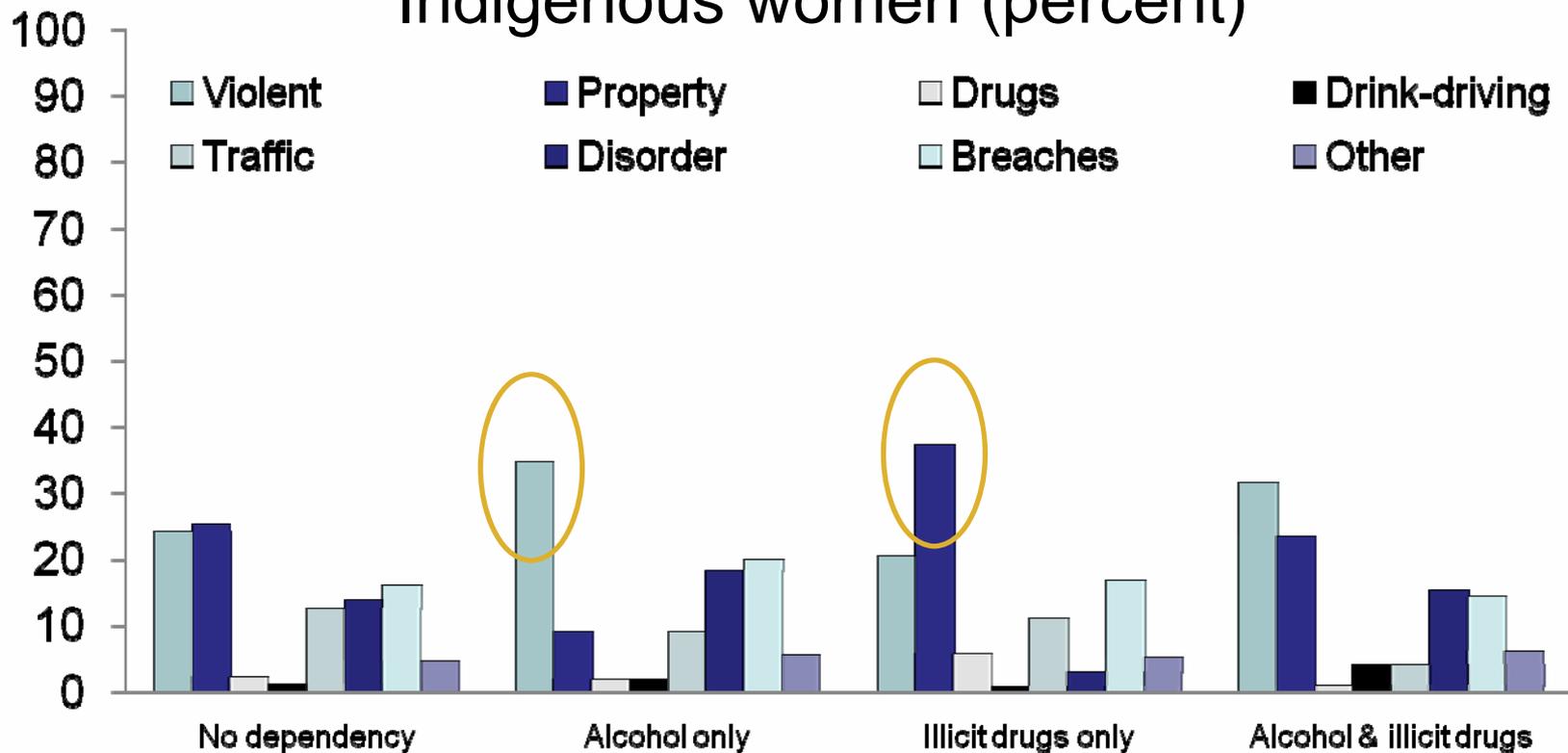
AOD dependency & arrest/imprisonment in past 12 months by Indigenous status: women (percent)

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Combined
No dependence	23.5	40.0	36.2
Dependence on alcohol only	14.5	8.0	9.5
Dependence on illicit drugs only	36.2	42.9	41.4
Dependence on alcohol & illicit drugs	25.9	9.1	12.9
<i>Involvement in the criminal justice system</i>			
Arrested in the past 12 months	66.7	51.6	54.9
In prison in the past 12 months	26.1	12.9	16.0

Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



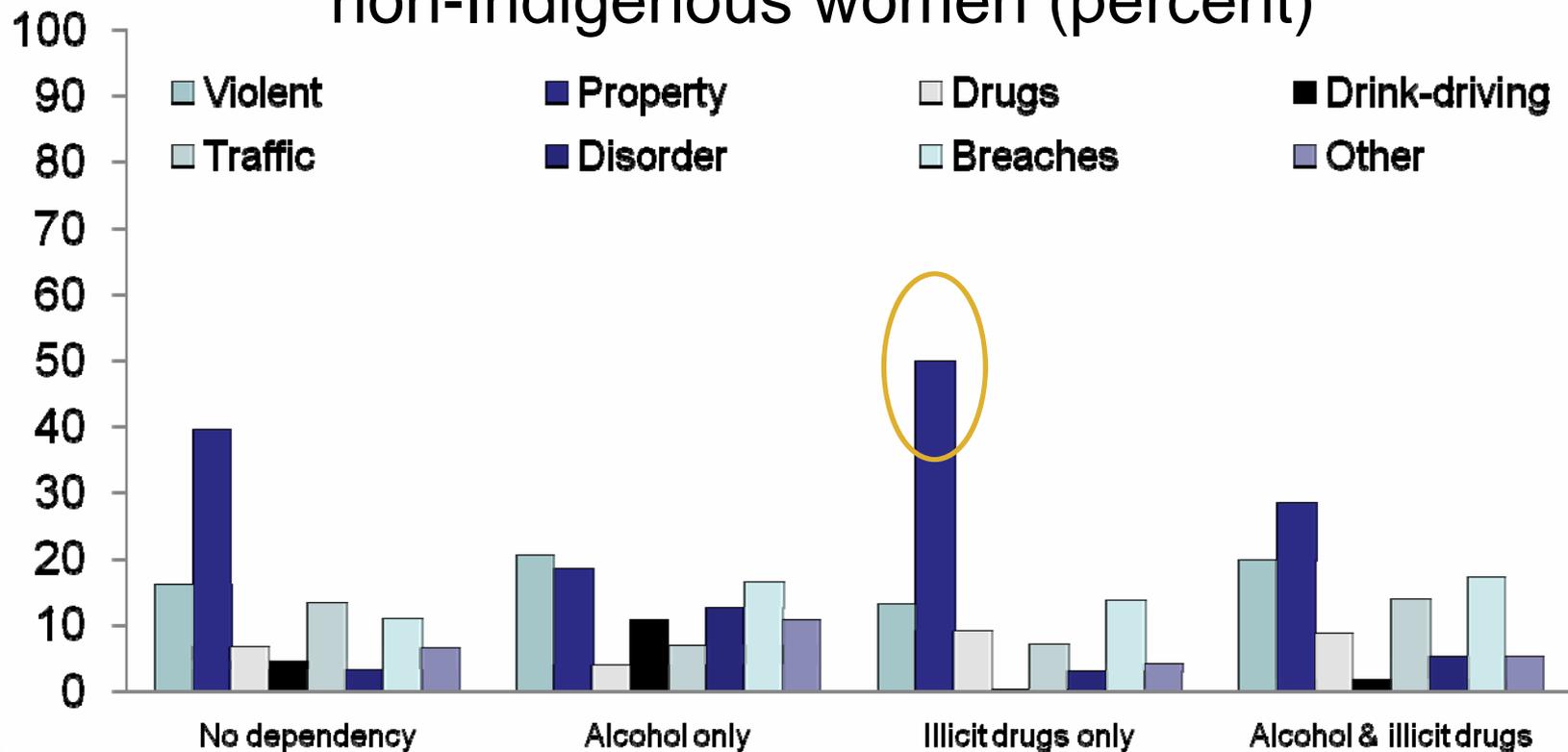
Current Most Serious Offence by AOD dependency: Indigenous women (percent)



Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



Current Most Serious Offence by AOD dependency: non-Indigenous women (percent)



Source: AIC, DUMA Collection, Quarter 2 2002 – Quarter 4 2006 [Computer file]



Summary

- Gender differences in types drugs used
 - Women: more likely to use heroin, amphetamine/methylamphetamine, benzodiazepines
- Differences in offending by gender
 - Women – property MSO; men – violent MSO
 - Influence of AOD dependency on offending
- Women detainees experienced higher levels of psychological distress than male detainees
- Different profile of offending and drug use for Indigenous women detainees
 - More likely to use alcohol and/or cannabis
 - More likely to have a violent MSO than non-Indigenous women



Policy Implications

- Tailor prevention efforts to look at how/when women become involved in crime
 - More likely to be linked with illicit drug use
- Differing issues for law enforcement in managing women offenders
- Treatment efforts need to take into account many different factors
 - Poly drug use
 - Mental health issues
 - Impact of dependent children for treatment access



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