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A cohort comparison of young adult police detainees in DUMA

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What is DUMA?

- Drug Use Monitoring Australia program (DUMA)
- Ongoing national monitoring program operating since 1999
- Data collected from police detainees at watch houses
- Interviews conducted quarterly at nine sites across Australia



Cohort Study

- Comparison of sample differences between two cohorts of 18-25 year old detainees
- Age group of key interest to policy makers focused on reducing harms associated with:
 - young offending
 - drug related crime



Sample

- Two separate cohorts of 18-25 year olds in the DUMA sample:
 - Those surveyed in 2000 who were born in the years 1975-1982
 - Those surveyed in 2009 who were born in the years 1984-1991
- Data is from DUMA's four historical sites (1999-2009) – Bankstown and Parramatta (NSW), Southport (QLD) and East Perth (WA)



Breakdown of analysis

Stage 1: **Analysis of demographic differences**

(Indigenous status, level of education and employment status)

Stage 2: **Differences in drug use behaviours**

(drug/alcohol use and initiation into drug use)

Stage 3: **Offending profiles**

(what offences are young offenders being detained for)



Analysis of demographic differences

Indigenous status:

- Indigenous males represented 10% of the sample in 2000 compared to 20% in 2009
- Indigenous females represented 25% of the sample in 2000 compared to 37% in 2009



Analysis of demographic differences

Level of education:

- Male detainees from the 2009 cohort (22%) were twice as likely to complete year 11 and 12 than male detainees from the 2000 cohort (11%).
- Indigenous detainees from the 2009 cohort were three times as likely as Indigenous detainees from the 2000 cohort to complete year 11 or 12 (2000 – 6%; 2009 – 18%).
- The number of detainees participating in TAFE programs declined from 24% (2000 cohort) to 13% (2009 cohort).



Analysis of demographic differences

Employment status*:

- The percent of detainees employed full-time increased from 20% (2001 cohort) to 33% (2009 cohort).
- The percent of unemployed detainees fell over time, from 55% (2001 cohort) to 48% (2009 cohort).
- The percent of Indigenous detainees engaged in full-time employment quadrupled from 4% (2001 cohort) to 16% (2009 cohort).

* These figures are a comparison between the 2001 and 2009 cohorts, due to changes made to the DUMA survey after 2000.



Employment status

	2001 cohort		2009 cohort	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Employed full time	6%	21%	13%	37%
Employed part time	6%	12%	4%	14%
Unemployed	71%	57%	79%	42%
Full time homemaker	8%	1%	1%	1%

Source: AIC DUMA 2001, 2009 [computer file]

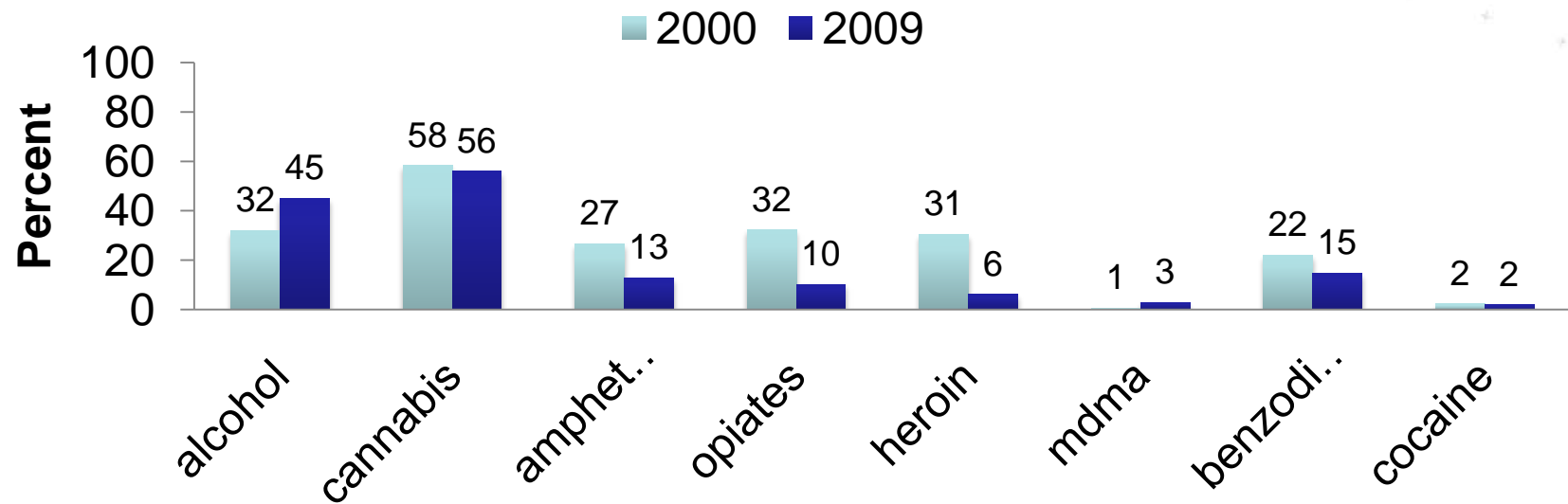


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Differences in drug use behaviours

Drug use:

The proportion of detainees who used illicit substances, by type (%)



Source: AIC DUMA 2000, 2001, 2009 [computer file]



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Differences in drug use behaviours

Alcohol use*:

- The proportion of detainees reporting recent alcohol use (within the 48 hours prior to arrest) increased from 32% in the 2001 cohort to 45% in the 2009 cohort.
- There was a greater discrepancy for female detainees (20% - 2001 cohort ;38% - 2009 cohort) than males.

* These figures are a comparison between the 2001 and 2009 cohorts, due to changes made to the DUMA survey after 2000.



Differences in drug use behaviours

Ages of initiation:

	2000 cohort	2009 cohort	
	Mean age	Mean age	
Cannabis	14	14	same
Amphetamines	17	17	same
Heroin	17	18	older
Cocaine	18	18	same
Ecstasy	18	17	younger

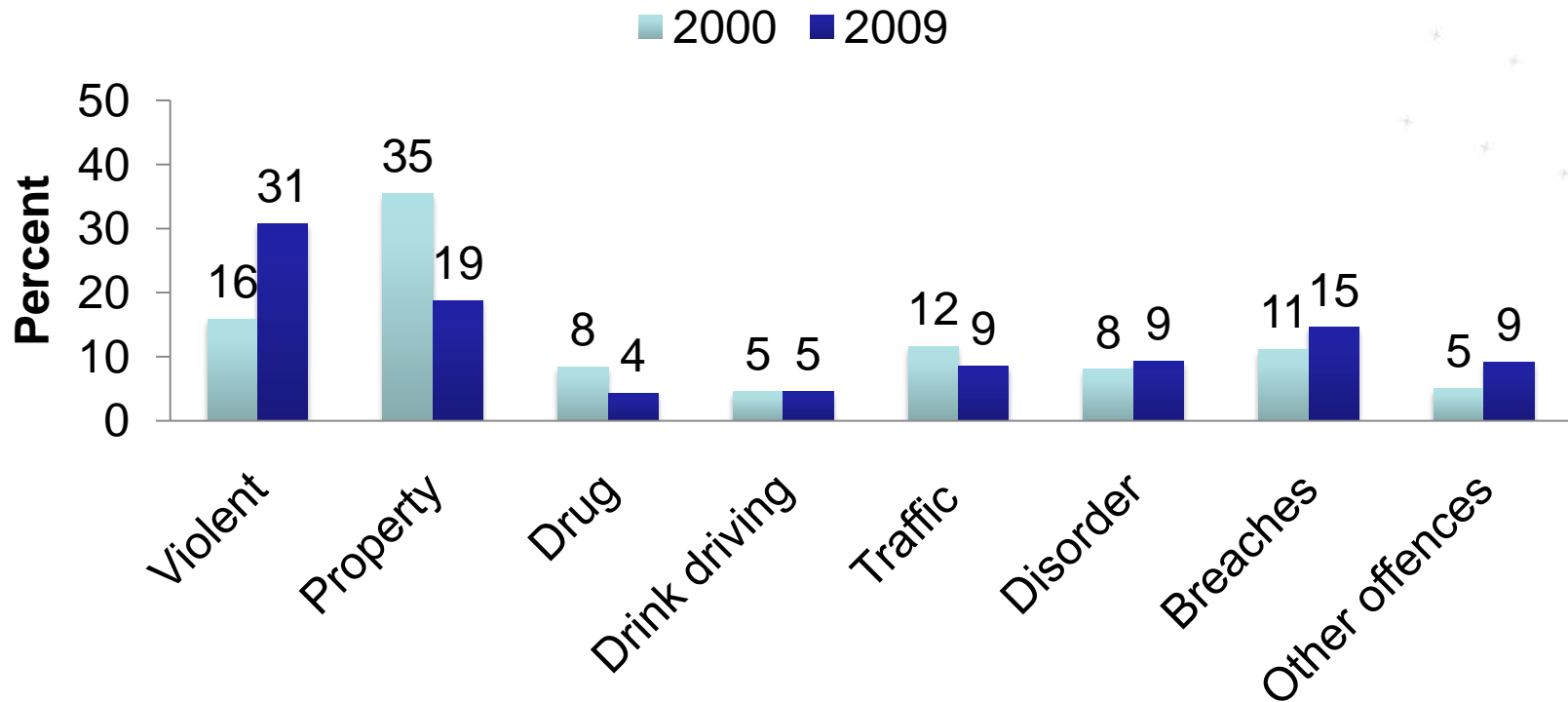
Source: AIC DUMA 2000, 2009 [computer file]



Offending profiles

Most serious offence categories:

The distribution of offending behaviour, by offence type (%)



Source: AIC DUMA 2000, 2009 [computer file]



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What do the findings tell us?

- Economic and market changes in the DUMA sites are likely to affect the socioeconomic variables.
- Although an improvement in employment status among the young DUMA sample, still extremely low when compared to the general population.
- Literature suggests that unemployment and crime are related – why are we not seeing the buffer affect of employment in this case?





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