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## **HANDOUT 8-1A**

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### ***THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIME AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL***

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Read the National Statistics section of this handout. Then answer the questions you'll find at the end of the handout. Be prepared to present your answers, and prepare flipcharts to help with your presentation.

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#### **NATIONAL STATISTICS**

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- 70 percent (that's 7 out of every 10) of incarcerated offenders have a history of substance abuse.
- As many as 90 percent (that's 9 out of every 10) of offenders incarcerated for robbery, burglary or assault, committed the offense while under the influence of an intoxicant.
- More than 1/3 of 5,000 inmates (that's 1,665 offenders out of a group of 5,000) reported that they were in a prison for a crime intended to obtain money to purchase drugs.
- Studies in California, Illinois, and Missouri have shown that criminal activity of adult offenders is reduced after substance abuse treatment.
- 61 percent (that's about 6 out of every 10) of offenders with a history of substance abuse violated the terms of their parole. Only 29 percent (that's just less than 3 out of every 10) of parolees with no history of substance abuse violated the terms of their parole.



The Relationship Between Substance Abuse and Crime at the National Level *(continued)*

**QUESTIONS**

- 1.** Do you think there a relationship between substance abuse and crime, on a national level? If yes, what statistics contributed to your opinion on this question?

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- 2.** Do you think dealing with substance abuse issues would have an impact on the national crime rate? If yes, what statistics contributed to your opinion on this question?

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- 3.** Do you think dealing with substance abuse issues would have an impact on how many offenders remain in the community, instead of returning to incarceration? If yes, what statistics contributed to your opinion on this question?

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## **HANDOUT 8-1B**

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### ***THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CRIME FOR THE STATE OF MAINE***

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Read the Statistics for the State of Maine section of this handout. Then answer the questions you'll find at the end of the handout. Be prepared to present your answers, and prepare flipcharts to help with your presentation.

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#### **STATISTICS FOR THE STATE OF MAINE**

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- Approximately 90 percent (that's 9 out of every 10) of the adolescents committed to the Maine Youth Center were involved with alcohol and other drugs.
- 60-70 percent (that's almost 7 out of every 10) of the adolescents committed to the Youth Center have substance abuse issues severe enough to require treatment.
- About 47 percent (that's almost half) of adult probationers were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of their offences.
- Maine drivers with a blood alcohol content of just less than twice the legal limit are 200 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than the average non-drinking driver.



The Relationship Between Substance Abuse and Crime for the State of Maine (continued)

**QUESTIONS**

- 1.** Do you think there is a relationship between substance abuse and crime in this state? If yes, what statistics contributed to your opinion on this question?

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- 2.** Do you think the relationship between substance abuse and crime is a short-term or long-term problem? What statistics contributed to your opinion on this question?

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- 3.** Do you think helping young people deal with their substance abuse problems would have an impact on how many of them serve time in juvenile facilities? If yes, what statistics contributed to your opinion on this question.

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## **HANDOUT 8-1c**

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### ***FACILITATORS' REFERENCE***

#### **NATIONAL STATISTICS**

Survey data of incarcerated offenders indicate that at least 70 percent have a history of substance abuse (U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1983a, 1983b).

As many as 90 percent of those incarcerated for robbery, burglary or assault committed the offense under the influence of an intoxicant (U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1987, 1988).

Studies in California, Illinois, and Missouri have shown that criminal activity of adult offenders is reduced after substance abuse treatment (The Largest Hidden Tax: Substance Abuse in Maine – II).

In a national survey of 5,000 jail inmates, more than 1/3 of the inmates surveyed reported that they were in a prison for a crime intended to obtain money to purchase drugs (U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1991).

61percent of offenders known to have a history of substance abuse violated the terms of their parole versus only 29 percent of parolees with no known history of substance abuse (U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1992)

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#### **STATISTICS FOR THE STATE OF MAINE**

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Based on eight years of statistics about the adolescents committed to the Maine Youth Center, approximately 90 percent are involved with alcohol and other drugs, and 60-70 percent have substance abuse issues requiring treatment (The Largest Hidden Tax: Substance Abuse in Maine – II).



Facilitators' Reference (continued)

A special report on adult probationers, prepared by the Bureau of Justice Assistance in 1995, revealed that an estimated 47 percent were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of their offenses. The chart below shows the type of offenses, and the type of substances used.

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Other Drugs</b>	<b>Alcohol and Drugs</b>
Sexual Assault	31.8%	10.9%	33.0%
Assault	45.5%	9.3%	47.5%
Burglary	38.5%	23.3%	49.4%
Larceny/Theft	16.3%	9.6%	20.8%
Fraud	9.7%	8.2%	13.3%
Drug Possession	14.4%	26.6%	33.5%
Trafficking	16.2%	36.6%	42.2%

60.2 percent of patients who received treatment at agencies receiving funds from the Office of Substance Abuse reported being involved in the legal system (i.e., probation, awaiting trial, incarcerated, driving under the influence. 67.5 percent had been arrested at least once during the 12 months prior to admission. (DMHRMRSAS Office of Substance Abuse Highlighted Descriptions of Substance Use/Abuse Treatment Clients).

Maine drivers with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 or more are 200 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than the average non-drinking driver (Task Force on Substance Abuse)

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## HANDOUT 8-2A

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### ANTONY

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Read the case study below, and then as a group, answer this question: *What was the relationship between crime and substance abuse for Antony?* Be ready to provide details to support your answer.

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#### CASE STUDY

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**A**ntony was only 17 when he became involved in running drugs. It started small — his older brother asked him to deliver a package for him. Antony suspected there were drugs in the package and enjoyed the sense of both fear and importance he felt as he made the drop.

As months went on, he was asked to do more, and one day he realized that he wasn't being asked any longer. He was being told — and the unspoken message that came across loud and clear was that he would be very sorry if he tried to say no. It was starting to become obvious to him that his brother was working with some major drug dealers.

Antony became more and more frightened and angry as he realized that he was working for big-time organized crime and had no way out. He had trouble sleeping, so he started taking downers. Then he had trouble waking up and was afraid he wouldn't be alert when he'd need to be, so he took uppers. And when his brother and "the guys" stopped by, he just kept drinking to keep up with them, so they wouldn't think he had any doubts about them or himself. By the time he was 19, Antony knew he couldn't think straight any more and was totally dependent on a range of drugs.

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## ■ HANDOUT 8-2B

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### STEVE

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Read the case study below, and then as a group, answer this question: *What was the relationship between crime and substance abuse for Steve?* Be ready to provide details to support your answer.

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#### CASE STUDY

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Steve was Mr. Likeable — a funny, good-looking, good-natured guy who everyone liked to have around. And he was one hell of a party animal. He was a hard drinker, but was one of those people who never really appeared to be drunk — he just got a little louder, and even funnier.

Steve did occasional odd jobs, but spent most of his time drinking and playing pool and poker with the tourists who kept big vacation homes he sometimes took care of. The more he drank, the less he won. And he kept on drinking, and he kept on losing, and because of the people he played with, sometimes he lost big. But Steve was a Great Guy — he always made good on his debts within a few days. Because they all came from wealthy families, his drinking partners never really wondered where the money came from.

The guys Steve grew up with noticed that he seemed kind of strung-out when they ran into him. But they were as shocked as his clients and drinking buddies, when they heard that he'd been busted for robbing summer cottages and fencing the expensive goods in Boston.

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## HANDOUT 8-2c

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### CURTIS

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Read the case study below, and then as a group, answer this question: *What was the relationship between crime and substance abuse for Curtis?* Be ready to provide details to support your answer.

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#### CASE STUDY

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Curtis's father was a military man, and as far as Curt and his sisters were concerned, he tried to run the family like his own personal army. As a younger teenager, Curt had tried to do everything he could to win his father's approval, but nothing seemed to be good enough for his father, and nothing he did stopped his father from the occasional beatings he gave Curt to "keep him in line." When Curtis was 14, he turned on his father just once and told him to never hit him again.

And he didn't. Instead, his father turned his attention to Curtis' younger sisters, who he'd never really bothered much before. Curtis tried to stop him, but his mother stepped in and told him that anything he did would just make the situation worse for all of them.

Curtis was so angry, so much of the time. He was 19 now, and it felt like he'd been angry his whole life. Sometimes, he went out into the bush and drank himself unconscious. Other times, he destroyed things. He didn't know why — but breaking into a house and destroying stuff just seemed to soothe the constant anger he felt. And he justified it to himself by saying that he wasn't really a criminal — after all, he didn't steal anything. That didn't hold much weight with either the police, nor his family, when he was arrested for B&E and malicious mischief.

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## **HANDOUT 8-3**

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### ***COMMON THINKING ERRORS***

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THINKING ERRORS**

Errors in thinking are thought habits or automatic thoughts that can lead to criminal behavior. They are the sort of thoughts required by people with a history of criminal conduct, to continue to live a criminal life. They distort reality, and they are often made more pronounced by substance abuse.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF COMMON THINKING ERRORS**

<b>Thinking Error</b>	<b>Description</b>
Power thrust	Putting someone down so you can be in control.
Victim stance	Blaming others for what's happening to you.
Pride and superiority	You feel superior to others and know it all; you feel the world owes you a living.
Lack of empathy and concern for others	Not thinking how your actions affect others, or the emotional or physical pain you cause them.
Irresponsible commitment	You want what you want right now and will spend little time getting it. You don't follow through with commitments or complete the task, particularly if it doesn't give you immediate reward.
Put off doing what should be done	You say "tomorrow I'll quit," but tomorrow never comes.
Rejecting obligations	"I don't have to do that." You may have enough money to get drunk but you delay paying your rent.
Black and white thinking	One is either successful or a failure, pretty or ugly. You see your view as the only view, and there are no shades of gray.
Catastrophizing	You make mountains out of molehills. You blow things up out of proportion, treating something common as a disaster.
Feeling singled out	You feel that what happens to you is unique, you've been picked on.
Anti-social thinking	You spend a long time thinking about criminal things and are busy planning doing unlawful things.
Lying or exaggerating the truth	You may lie so often that it becomes automatic; you exaggerate the truth to look big or important.

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**WORKSHEET 8-4**

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***CRIME AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN MY LIFE***

- 1.** Have you ever committed a crime to either directly obtain alcohol or drugs, or else to get money so you could obtain them?

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- 2.** Have you ever committed a crime while under the influence of alcohol or drugs?

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- 3A.** If the answer to question 2 above is "Yes":

- Did you use alcohol/other drugs to help yourself work up the courage to engage in criminal behavior?

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- If using didn't help you work up the courage to engage in criminal behavior, what impact DID being high have on your criminal behavior?

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- 3B.** If the answer to question 2 above is "No"

- Did you ever have a "close call" where you almost committed a crime while under the influence?

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- Did you ever think you wouldn't have gotten into trouble if you weren't using?

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4. Have you ever committed crimes that had nothing to do with either being high or obtaining alcohol or drugs?

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5. Are any of the thinking errors listed in the chart below familiar to you, because you often think that way yourself? Check off the ones that apply to you, then in the description column, write brief examples of a situation in which you did that kind of thinking.

Applies to me?	Thinking Error	Description
	Power thrust	Putting someone down so you can be in control.
	Victim stance	Blaming others for what's happening to you.
	Pride and superiority	You feel superior to others and know it all; you feel the world owes you a living.
	Lack of empathy and concern for others	Not thinking how your actions affect others, or the emotional or physical pain you cause them.
	Irresponsible commitment	You want what you want right now and will spend little time getting it. You don't follow through with commitments or complete the task, particularly if it doesn't give you immediate reward.



Crime and Substance Abuse in my Life (continued)

Applies to me?	Thinking Error	Description
	Put off doing what should be done	You say "tomorrow I'll quit" but tomorrow never comes.
	Rejecting obligations	"I don't have to do that." You may have enough money to get drunk but you delay paying your rent.
	Black and white thinking	One is either successful or a failure, pretty or ugly. You see your view as the only view, and there are no shades of gray.
	Catastrophizing	You make mountains out of molehills. You blow things up out of proportion, treating something common as a disaster.
	Feeling singled out	You feel that what happens to you is unique, you've been picked on.
	Anti-social thinking	You spend a long time thinking about criminal things and are busy planning doing unlawful things.
	Lying or exaggerating the truth	You may lie so often that it becomes automatic; you exaggerate the truth to look big or important.



Crime and Substance Abuse in my Life (continued)

- 6.** What's the bottom line for you? What relationship do you think there has been between substance abuse and crime in your life?

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- 7.** What impact does this have on how you feel about your substance use and your substance abuse goals?

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