

Everything is Scattered... The Intersection of Substance Use Disorders and Incarcerations in the District

This report, written for ODCA by the Council for Court Excellence, is a first-ever analysis of substance use disorder (SUD) services and incarceration data from D.C. agencies. It highlights the District's successes and challenges in addressing the treatment needs of people who are involved in the criminal justice system. The report includes recommendations for policy and practice change, with the goal of better health and reduced incarceration for D.C. residents.

ODCA recommends that the District:

- 1** Make D.C.'s pre-arrest diversion pathways more robust to keep people with SUDs out of jail.
- 2** Develop jail entry procedures to identify more people with SUDs.
- 3** Expand SUD treatment in the D.C. Jail.
- 4** Ensure more people get quickly connected to community-based treatment when leaving the jail.
- 5** Legally share information about SUD clients between agencies.
- 6** Set public benchmarks for improved outcomes for this client population and hold the relevant agencies accountable.
- 7** Continue to improve communications with clients, providers, and the public.

11%



Residents of D.C. who have a SUD.

25



Individuals in 3.5 years who had SUD care before, during, and after their incarceration.

95%



Incarceration episodes we analyzed that involved a Black person, compared to the 46% of District residents who are Black.

40%



Percentage of the records we evaluated that indicated that an incarcerated individual had a SUD.

