

---

# The Financial Burden of Substance Abuse in West Virginia:

Division of Corrections



**PROVIDED BY:**

The West Virginia

**PARTNERSHIP**  
to Promote Community Well-Being

---

---

*Report Content Produced By:*

**The West Virginia**

**PARTNERSHIP**  
**to Promote Community Well-Being**

*West Virginia's Governor-Appointed Substance Abuse  
Prevention & Intervention Planning Body*

<http://www.prevnet.org>



**Staff to the WV Partnership &  
Support for WV's Community-Level Substance Abuse  
Prevention Efforts**

**Analyst:** Yetty Shobo

**Advisors:** Dr. Wayne Coombs Dr. Andy Whisman

**Report Funding**

**Federal Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Block Grant Funds  
Administered by the WV Division of Criminal Justice Services.**

**Report Design**

**Chris Tome [www.3dvfxdesign.com](http://www.3dvfxdesign.com)**

---

## INTRODUCTION

The economic impact of drugs and alcohol to any society is astronomical. In West Virginia, not only is this cost high, it has increased significantly. This is the second in a series of several reports that will attempt to estimate the cost of drugs and alcohol to the West Virginia criminal justice system, which includes the Regional Jail Authority, Division of Corrections, Parole Board, Prosecuting Attorneys Institute, Public Defender Program, Law Enforcement, the judicial system, and Division of Juvenile Services. This report will estimate the percentage of Division of Corrections (DOC) inmates who committed drug-involved and alcohol-involved crimes from fiscal year (FY) 2005 to fiscal year 2008. It will also estimate the costs of drug and alcohol crimes to DOC from FY 2005 to FY 2008, as well as the sources of these funds.

## Cost of Drug- and Alcohol-involved Crimes in the Division of Corrections

The West Virginia Division of Corrections (DOC) is the state agency which houses convicted felons. DOC facilities include the Central Office, 12 Correctional Facilities, 4 Work Release Centers, 16 Parole Offices, 1 Training Academy and 1 Prison Industries main office (WV Division of Corrections, 2008). As of March 2008, DOC had a total of 1,832 employees, 6,075 inmates, and 2,486 parolees (WV Division of Corrections, 2008). However, the average inmate population in the DOC facilities in FY 2008 was 5,908 (WV Division of Corrections, 2008); this was a 275% increase from the 1,575 inmates in 1990 (WV Division of Corrections, 2005). Of the inmates in 2008, 9.80% were in DOC facilities for crimes directly involving drugs whereas 3.36% were there for crimes directly involving alcohol; the estimates for 2005 were 7.92% and 3.36%, respectively.

Apart from these, other crimes are indirectly associated with drugs and alcohol. Using the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails and the 1995 Survey of Adults on Probation, Miller, Levy, Cohen, and Cox (2006) estimated the percentage of other crimes that are indirectly drug- and alcohol-involved. They defined a crime as being indirectly drug-involved if an inmate reported being under the influence of drugs or if the inmate committed the crime to pay for drugs. The percentages of homicide, assault, rape, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, child sexual abuse, and child physical abuse/neglect which were attributed to drugs by Miller et al. (2006) are reported in Table 1. Further, they defined a crime as being indirectly alcohol-involved if an inmate reported consuming at least one drink of alcohol shortly before an offense was committed. The percentages of homicide, assault, rape, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, child sexual abuse, and child physical abuse/neglect which were attributed to alcohol by Miller et al. (2006) are reported in Table 2. For example, 18.22% of DOC inmates committed homicide in FY 2005 and Miller et al. (2006) would argue that 25% of these homicides were indirectly due to drugs.

Miller et al.'s (2006) attribution percentages were multiplied by the percentage of inmates in DOC facilities who had committed the crimes classified as indirectly drug- and alcohol-involved and the results were divided by 100. The results provided the percentages of DOC inmates that committed indirect drug- and alcohol-involved crimes. For example, the percentage of inmates that committed homicides that were indirectly attributable to drugs in 2005 is  $(25 * 18.22) / 100 = 4.56\%$ . These estimates were added to the 7.92% and 3.36% direct drug- and alcohol-involved crimes, respectively, in 2005. The results suggested that approximately 24.30% of crimes committed by DOC inmates in 2005 were either directly or indirectly related to drugs (Table 1) and approximately 26.44% of crimes were either directly or indirectly related to alcohol (Table 2).

**Table 1: Percent of Crimes Directly and Indirectly Attributable to Drugs from FY 2005 to FY 2008 in the Division of Corrections**

CATEGORY	Miller et al.'s %Attributable	2005		2006		2007		2008	
		Total <sup>1</sup>	Due to drugs <sup>2</sup>	Total <sup>1</sup>	Due to drugs <sup>2</sup>	Total <sup>1</sup>	Due to drugs <sup>2</sup>	Total <sup>1</sup>	Due to drugs <sup>2</sup>
Homicide	25.00	18.22	4.56	17.31	4.33	14.20	3.55	13.80	3.45
Assault	13.00	5.48	0.71	5.80	0.75	5.10	0.66	4.70	0.61
Rape	18.00	8.68	1.56	9.63	1.73	6.90	1.24	6.90	1.24
Robbery	39.00	8.94	3.49	9.61	3.75	9.70	3.78	9.00	3.51
Burglary	36.00	13.71	4.94	12.68	4.56	9.20	3.31	11.50	4.14
Larceny-Theft	23.00	3.59	0.83	3.25	0.75	5.70	1.31	5.80	1.33
Motor Vehicle Theft	23.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Abuse in the First and Second Degree	4.00	6.77	0.27	6.61	0.26	6.50	0.26	6.80	0.27
Child Physical Abuse/Neglect	3.00	0.73	0.02	1.05	0.03	1.50	0.05	1.70	0.05
Indirect Drug involved	0.00	0.00	16.38	0.00	16.20	0.00	14.16	0.00	14.60
Direct Drug Offenses	100.00	7.92	7.92	9.99	9.99	11.00	11.00	9.80	9.80
<b>Overall Drug Offenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>24.30</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>25.16</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>24.40</b>

Tables 1 and 2 also provide trends in the percentage of crimes directly and indirectly attributable to drugs and alcohol for the Division of Corrections. The percentage of drug-involved crimes declined slightly between FY 2006 and FY 2008. For alcohol-involved crimes, the decline was from FY 2005 to FY 2008. Most of the decline was due to reduction in the percentage of rape crimes (see Table 1); a slight increase occurred between 2007 and 2008.

**Table 2: Percent of Crimes Directly and Indirectly Attributable to Alcohol from FY 2005 to FY 2008 in the Division of Corrections**

CATEGORY	Miller et al.'s %Attributable	2005		2006		2007		2008	
		Total <sup>3</sup>	Due to Alcohol <sup>4</sup>	Total	Due to Alcohol	Total	Due to Alcohol	Total	Due to Alcohol
Homicide	42.00	18.22	7.65	17.31	7.27	14.20	5.96	13.80	5.80
Assault	41.00	5.48	2.25	5.80	2.38	5.10	2.09	4.70	1.93
Rape	39.00	8.68	3.39	9.63	3.76	6.90	2.69	6.90	2.69
Robbery	33.00	8.94	2.95	9.61	3.17	9.70	3.20	9.00	2.97
Burglary	36.00	13.71	4.94	12.68	4.56	9.20	3.31	11.50	4.14
Larceny-Theft	19.00	3.59	0.68	3.25	0.62	5.70	1.08	5.80	1.10
Motor Vehicle Theft	26.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Abuse in the First and Second Degree	17.00	6.77	1.15	6.61	1.12	6.50	1.11	6.80	1.16
Child Physical Abuse/Neglect	9.00	0.73	0.07	1.05	0.09	1.50	0.14	1.70	0.15
Indirect Alcohol involved	0.00	0.00	23.08	0.00	23.02	0.00	19.58	0.00	19.94
Direct Alcohol Offenses	0.00	3.36	3.36	2.67	2.67	3.20	3.20	3.36	3.36
<b>Overall Alcohol Offenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26.44</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>25.69</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>22.78</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>23.30</b>

<sup>1</sup> These are the percentages of inmates who committed each crime as reported by DOC

<sup>2</sup> These are percentages of inmates whose crimes are indirectly due to drugs using Miller et al.'s (2006) fractions

<sup>3</sup> These are the percentages of inmates who committed each crime as reported by DOC

<sup>4</sup> These are percentages of inmates whose crimes are indirectly due to alcohol using Miller et al.'s (2006) fractions

However, in spite of declines in the percentages of crimes that were drug- and alcohol-involved, the cost of drugs and alcohol to DOC continued to increase. Table 3 shows that over \$37 million of DOC's budget was consumed by drug-involved crimes in FY 2008; this was a 27.97% increase from the approximately \$30 million of FY 2005. Table 3 also shows that over \$35 million of the agency's budget was consumed by alcohol-involved crimes in FY 2008 which was a 12.21% increase from the approximately \$32 million of FY 2005. In total, about half of DOC's budget goes towards drug- and alcohol-involved crimes.

**Table 3: Estimates of Drugs and Alcohol Cost to the Division of Corrections from FY 2005 to FY 2008**

YEAR	Total Budget <sup>5</sup>	% Crime due to drugs	Estimated cost of drugs crimes <sup>6</sup>	% Crime due to alcohol	Estimated cost of alcohol crimes <sup>6</sup>	Total cost of drugs and alcohol
2005	\$121,291,197	24.30	\$29,461,632	26.44	\$32,057,263	\$61,518,895
2006	\$131,534,444	26.19	\$34,462,024	25.69	\$33,804,352	\$68,266,376
2007	\$146,257,663	25.16	\$36,827,680	22.78	\$33,317,496	\$70,145,176
2008	\$154,384,801	24.40	\$37,700,768	23.30	\$35,971,659	\$73,672,427

West Virginia Budget Office provided data on the different sources of funds for DOC's total budget. This same distribution was applied to the cost estimates in Table 4. From Table 4, one can conclude that the state of West Virginia bears most of the cost of drugs and alcohol. Ninety-three percent of the cost of drugs- and alcohol-involved crimes comes from the general revenue whereas less than 1% comes from federal funds.

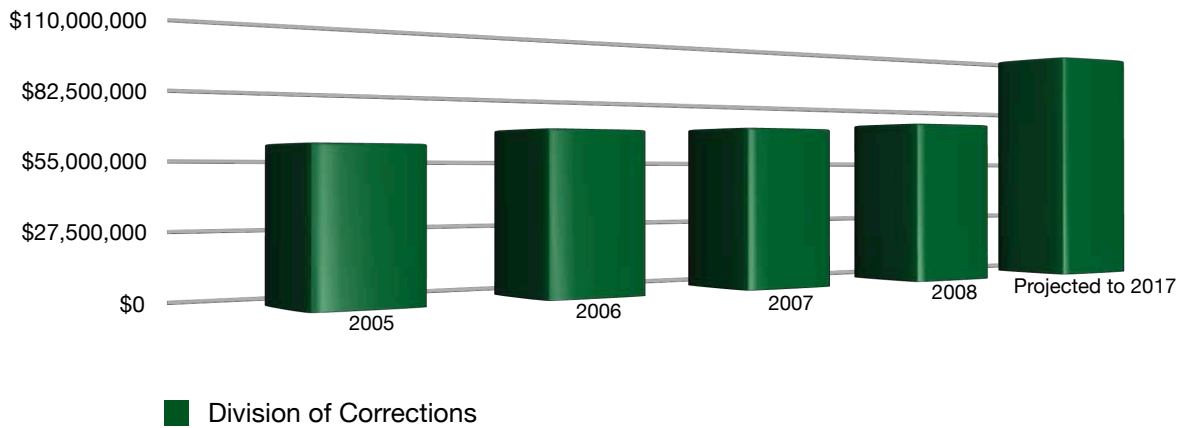
**Table 4: Cost of Drugs and Alcohol to the Division of Corrections by Source of Fund**

SOURCE	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Drugs Cost by Source</b>				
General Fund	\$26,767,130	\$31,956,169	\$34,141,131	\$34,971,068
Federal Fund	\$157,885	\$170,300	\$163,670	\$158,730
Appropriated Special Fund	\$69,741	\$100,409	\$182,360	\$177,875
Unappropriated special Fund	\$2,466,876	\$2,235,147	\$2,340,518	\$2,393,096
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,461,632</b>	<b>\$34,462,025</b>	<b>\$36,827,679</b>	<b>\$37,700,769</b>
<b>Alcohol Cost by Source</b>				
General fund	\$29,125,370	\$31,346,319	\$30,887,012	\$33,367,153
Federal fund	\$171,795	\$167,050	\$148,070	\$151,450
Appropriated Special Fund	\$75,885	\$98,492	\$164,979	\$169,717
Unappropriated special fund	\$2,684,213	\$2,192,491	\$2,117,435	\$2,283,339
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,057,263</b>	<b>\$33,804,352</b>	<b>\$33,317,496</b>	<b>\$35,971,656</b>

<sup>5</sup> Budget figures were provided by the West Virginia Budget Office

<sup>6</sup> Rounded up to nearest dollar

### Total Cost of Drugs and Alcohol Use: Division Of Corrections



## References

Miller, T. R., Levy, D. T., Cohen, M. A., & Cox, K. L. C. (2006). Costs of alcohol and drug-involved crime. *Prevention Science*, 7, 333-342.

WV Division of Corrections. (2008). Missions Statement. Retrieved December 7, 2008, from <http://www.wvdoc.com/wvdoc/>

WV Division of Corrections. (2005). FY 2004-2005 annual report: Corrections in West Virginia. Retrieved December 7, 2008, from <http://www.wvdoc.com/wvdoc/Portals/0/documents/2005-Annual-Report.pdf>

WV Division of Corrections. (2008). FY 2007-2008 annual report: Corrections in West Virginia. Retrieved December 7, 2008, from <http://www.wvdoc.com/wvdoc/Portals/0/documents/2008-Annual-Report.pdf>