

# NMSAC **FAST FACTS**

## Substance Test Results among New Mexico Probationers and Parolees

August 2018

The New Mexico Statistical Analysis Center (NMSAC) examined the urinalysis (UA) substance test results for state-supervised New Mexico probationers and parolees under the supervision of the New Mexico Corrections Department. We highlight some of the findings here.

Between 2004 and 2016, the New Mexico Corrections Department administered **689,767** urinalyses tests, **14%** of which were positive for one or more substances.

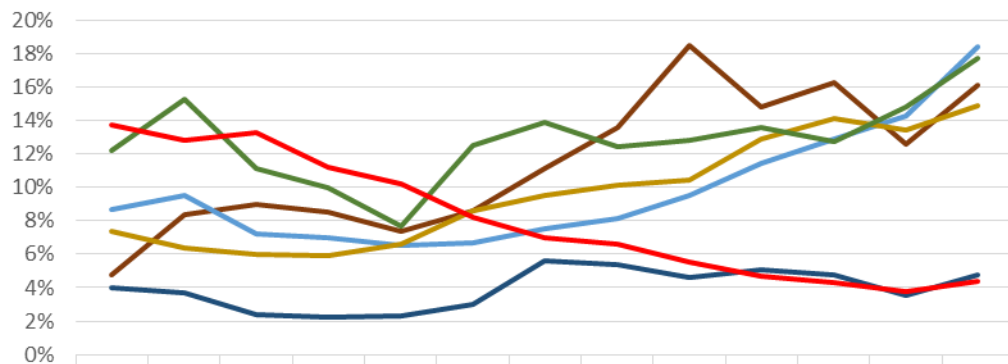
Most people were tested more than once. Of the **67,565** probationers and parolees tested, **51%** tested positive for one or more substances.

**53%** of females tested positive at least once compared to **50%** of males.

Native Americans tested positive at lower rates (**36%**) than the overall average (**51%**).

Those who tested positive were younger (**34 years old** on average) than those who tested negative (**35 years old** on average).

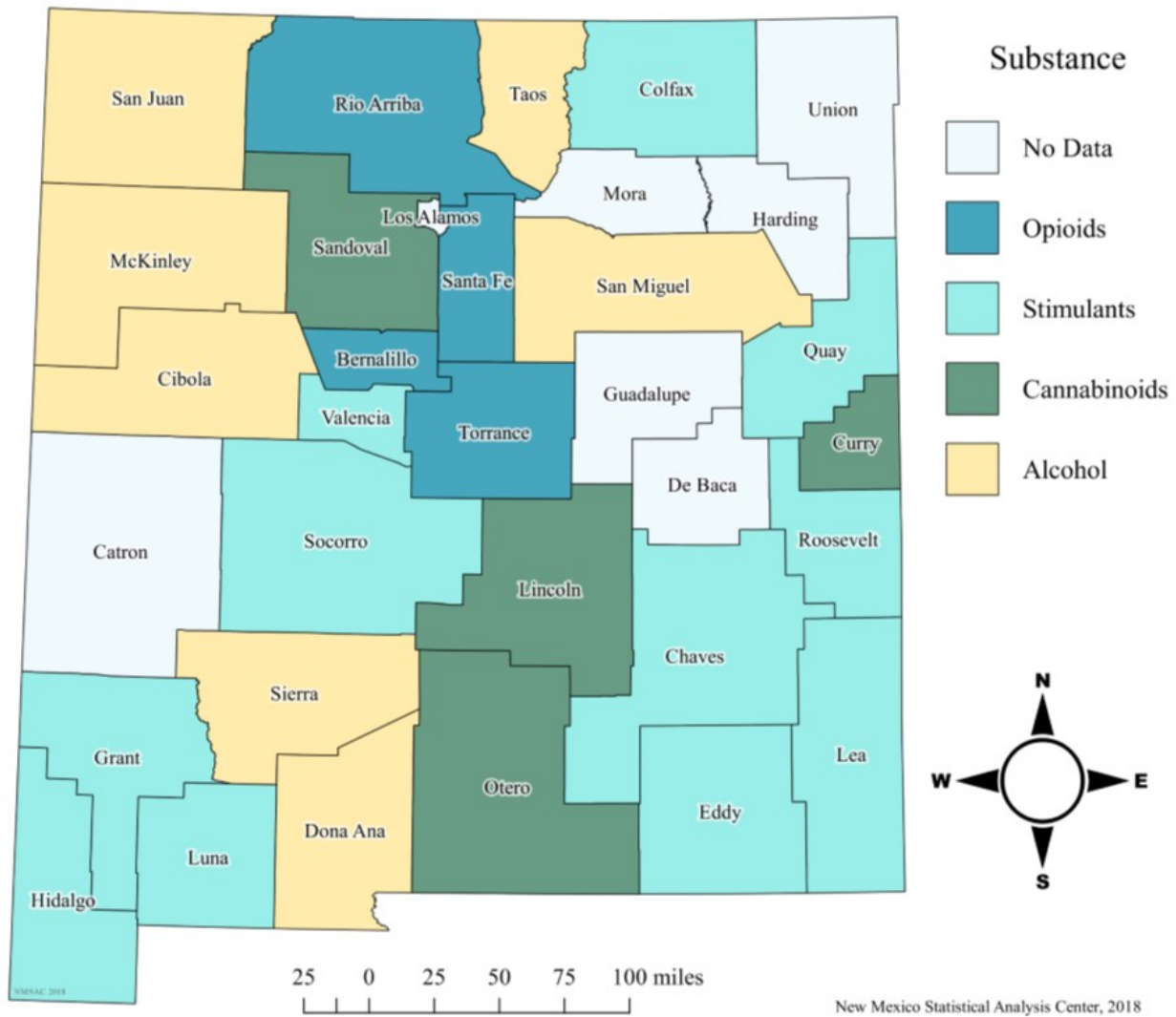
Positive UA results by substance type, 2004-2016



	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Alcohol	5%	8%	9%	9%	7%	9%	11%	14%	19%	15%	16%	13%	16%
Stimulants	9%	10%	7%	7%	7%	7%	8%	8%	10%	11%	13%	14%	18%
Opioids	7%	6%	6%	6%	7%	9%	10%	10%	10%	13%	14%	13%	15%
Depressants	4%	4%	2%	2%	2%	3%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%
Cannabis	12%	15%	11%	10%	8%	13%	14%	12%	13%	14%	13%	15%	18%
Crack/Cocaine	14%	13%	13%	11%	10%	8%	7%	7%	6%	5%	4%	4%	4%

Over time, positive UA results increased for most substances, except for crack/cocaine. Especially notable are the increases for alcohol, stimulants, and opioids. Rates of opioid use began to surpass stimulants beginning in 2008. By 2016, the proportion of UAs positive for stimulants exceeded those positive for opioids. Over time, there was a substantial decrease in positive tests for crack/cocaine.

# Most prevalent substance by county, 2004-2016



Substance use tests are recorded by the county of the probation/parole office ordering the UA. Between 2004 and 2016, opioid use was most prevalent among probationers and parolees in the band of counties running from Rio Arriba in the north to Torrance in the center of the state, where most of the state’s population resides. While this includes only four counties, it is notable that 42% of New Mexico’s population resides in these counties. In terms of geographic distribution, stimulant usage was more widespread than any other substance. This is particularly true in counties in the southern half of New Mexico. Cannabinoid use was most prevalent in four counties (Curry, Lincoln, Otero, and Sandoval). Alcohol use was the leading substance detected in the remaining counties. In these counties, cannabinoids were the most prevalent illicit substance. There were two exceptions. In Sierra County, stimulants were the most prevalent illicit substance, and in Taos County, crack/cocaine was most prevalent among probationers and parolees.

**More information is available in the full-length version of this report. The full report can be obtained by contacting:**

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