

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

October 2009

National Survey on Drug Use and Health

The Office of Applied Statistics (OAS) posts data on its Web site from the annual National Survey on Drug Use & Health (NSDUH). The NSDUH survey is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the “primary source of information on the prevalence, patterns, and consequences of drug and alcohol use and abuse in the general U.S. civilian non institutionalized population, age 12 and older.” Survey questions cover (1) illicit drug use; (2) alcohol use; (3) tobacco use; (4) trends in initiation of substance use; (5) youth prevention-related measures; (6) substance dependence, abuse, and treatment; and (7) prevalence and treatment of mental-health problems. Examples of data collected are the number of youth who used nonmedical pain relievers and illicit drugs in the past year and the number of youth or adults who needed substance-abuse treatment but were unable to receive services in a specialty facility.

Available on the OAS Web site are detailed tables that present estimates from the NSDUH, from 1994 to 2008. State-level data are also available from 1999 on. Nevada data, based on the 2006-2007 NSDUHs, are shown on the following page of this newsletter.

Also available is the 300-page downloadable report in which the most recent survey findings are presented. The report, titled *Results from the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*, can be accessed at: <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k8nsduh/2k8Results.pdf>, or a hardcopy can be requested from SAMHSA's Health Information Network at (1-877-726-4727).

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Selected Drug Use, Perceptions of Great Risk, Average Annual Marijuana Initiates, Past Year Substance Dependence or Abuse, Needing but Not Receiving Treatment, Serious Psychological Distress, and Having at Least One Major Depressive Episode in Nevada, by Age Group: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2006-2007 NSDUHs

Measure	12+	12-17	18-25	26+	18+
ILLICIT DRUGS					
Past month illicit drug use ¹	186	21	46	119	164
Past year marijuana use	210	29	61	120	181
Past month marijuana use	125	15	34	76	110
Past month use of illicit drugs other than marijuana ¹	85	11	23	52	75
Past year cocaine use	49	4	16	28	45
Past year nonmedical pain reliever use	127	17	39	71	110
Perception of great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	763	71	64	627	691
Average annual number of marijuana initiates ²	17	9	6	1	7
ALCOHOL					
Past month alcohol use	1,071	31	146	894	1,040
Past month binge alcohol use ³	499	21	95	384	479
Perception of great risk of drinking five or more drinks once or twice a week	882	82	86	714	800
Past month alcohol use (persons aged 12 to 20)	79	-	-	-	-
Past month binge alcohol use (persons aged 12 to 20) ³	55	-	-	-	-
TOBACCO PRODUCTS					
Past month tobacco product use ⁵	612	25	100	487	587
Past month cigarette use	555	21	90	444	533
Perception of great risk of smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day	1,490	147	173	1,170	1,343
PAST YEAR DEPENDENCE, ABUSE, AND TREATMENT⁶					
Illicit drug dependence ¹	38	5	14	19	33
Illicit drug dependence or abuse ¹	56	10	19	27	46
Alcohol dependence	73	4	18	50	68
Alcohol dependence or abuse	169	13	43	113	156
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse ¹	194	19	52	123	175
Needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use ^{1,7}	51	9	17	25	42
Needing but not receiving treatment for alcohol use ⁸	163	13	40	109	150
SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS⁹					
	-	-	47	175	222
HAVING AT LEAST ONE MAJOR DEPRESSIVE EPISODE¹⁰					
	-	17	26	143	169

Source: Office of Applied Statistics, U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, 2007 Nevada Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health, available at: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k7State/Nevada.htm>, as of 10/14/09.

Footnotes

“— Not available. NOTE: Estimates are based on a survey-weighted hierarchical Bayes estimation approach.

¹ Illicit Drugs include marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically. Illicit Drugs Other Than Marijuana include cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically. These estimates are based on data from original questions, excluding those on the use of over-the-counter drugs or new methamphetamine items that were added in 2005 and 2006. See Section B.4.6 in Appendix B of the *Results from the 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*.

² *Average annual rate* = $100 * \{ [X_1 \div (0.5 * X_1 + X_2)] \div 2 \}$, where X_1 is the number of marijuana initiates in past 24 months and X_2 is the number of persons who never used marijuana. Both of the computation components, X_1 and X_2 , are based on a survey-weighted hierarchical Bayes estimation approach. Note that the age group is based on a respondent's age at the time of the interview, not his or her age at first use.

³ Binge Alcohol Use is defined as drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion (i.e., at the same time or within a couple of hours of each other) on at least 1 day in the past 30 days.

⁴ Underage drinking is defined for persons aged 12 to 20; therefore, the “Total” estimate reflects that age group and not persons 12 or older.

⁵ Tobacco Products include cigarettes, smokeless tobacco (i.e., chewing tobacco or snuff), cigars, or pipe tobacco.

⁶ Dependence or abuse is based on definitions found in the 4th edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV)*.

⁷ Needing But Not Receiving Treatment refers to respondents classified as needing treatment for illicit drugs, but not receiving treatment for an illicit drug problem at a specialty facility (i.e., drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities [inpatient or outpatient], hospitals [inpatient only], and mental health centers).

⁸ Needing But Not Receiving Treatment refers to respondents classified as needing treatment for alcohol, but not receiving treatment for an alcohol problem at a specialty facility (i.e., drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities [inpatient or outpatient], hospitals [inpatient only], and mental health centers).

⁹ Serious psychological distress (SPD) is defined as having a score of 13 or higher on the K6 scale. Because of questionnaire changes, these estimates are not comparable with estimates from the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 State reports, the 2002-2004 substate report, and the 2004 and earlier national results reports. For details, see [Section A.9](#) in [Appendix A](#) of the report on State estimates of substance use from the 2006-2007 NSDUHs. Data for SPD are not defined for 12 to 17 year olds; therefore, there is no 12 or older estimate.

¹⁰ Major depressive episode (MDE) is defined as in the 4th edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV)*, which specifies a period of at least 2 weeks when a person experienced a depressed mood or loss of interest or pleasure in daily activities and had a majority of specified depression symptoms. Due to minor wording differences in the questions in the adult and adolescent MDE modules, data from youths aged 12 to 17 were not combined with data from persons aged 18 or older to get an overall estimate (i.e., for those aged 12 or older). Therefore, there is no 12 or older estimate. Source: SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2006 and 2007.”

Source: Office of Applied Statistics, U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, 2007 Nevada Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health, available at: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k7State/Nevada.htm>, as of 10/14/09.

Survey methodology can be accessed at: <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k8MRB/2k8Q.pdf>.