



## NEGATIVE OUTCOMES

# Illegal Drug Use (Youth)

### INDICATOR

Percent of 12 to 17 year olds who used any illegal drug within the past month.

<b>Numerator</b>	Number of adolescents who used of any of nine categories of drugs within the past month
<b>Denominator</b>	Adolescents aged 12 to 17 years old

### DESCRIPTION

This metric includes marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, and inhalants, along with the non-medical usage of prescription pharmaceuticals. This metric includes any prescription drug, and provided Oxycontin, Percocet, Vicodin, codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax as examples in the question.

### IMPORTANCE

Substance use and mental health issues are often co-occurring as youth who have mental health issues may self-medicate with alcohol and drugs. Between 60% and 90% of youth with substance use issues also have a diagnosable mental health issue (Hawkins, 2009). Youth who use illegal substances are more likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system. Negative consequences of youth substance use can also include truancy, delinquent behavior, poorer academic outcomes, and ongoing substance abuse and financial instability in adulthood (Cerdá, 2016).

### LIMITATIONS

- Updated state-specific data was not available for 2014/2015.
- Asking about illicit drug use is a sensitive subject, and particularly in interviewer-based surveys such as the National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), may lead to under reporting.
- The NSDUH does not include homeless populations, non-civilians, or those in institutions such as jails or hospitals.

### ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

#### Wisconsin Analyses

Drug Type	% Youth Who Used in Past Month
Data not available.	

#### National Analyses (2015)

Drug Type	% Youth Who Used in Past Month
Marijuana	7.0%
Cocaine	0.2%
Hallucinogens	0.5%
Inhalants	0.7%
Psychotherapeutics, inc. pain medication, stimulants	2.0%

#### YEAR:

2014/2015

WI	US	Best	Worst
Not Available	8.8%	Not Available	Not Available

#### PAST YEAR:

2013/2014

WI	US	Best	Worst
9.3%	9.2%	6.3% IA	14.6% CO

### SOURCE

Cerdá, Magdalena, et al. (2016). Persistent Cannabis Dependence and Alcohol Dependence Represent Risks for Midlife Economic and Social Problems: A Longitudinal Cohort Study." *Clinical Psychological Science*.  
Hawkins, Elizabeth H. (2009). A tale of two systems: Co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders treatment for adolescents. *Annual review of psychology*, 60, 197-227.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2015). 2014-2015 NSDUH State Prevalence Estimates [Data table]. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/samhsa-data-outcomes-quality/major-data-collections/state-reports-NSDUH-2015> and <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-FFR1-2015/NSDUH-FFR1-2015/NSDUH-FFR1-2015.htm#appa>.