

Marijuana and Nonmedical Use of Psychotherapeutics Have Highest Rates of Past Year Abuse or Dependence Among U.S. Residents



An estimated 7.1 million persons aged 12 or older met the criteria for past year illicit drug abuse or dependence in 2010, according to data from the most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).

Of these, 63.0%—more than 4.4 million—were classified with marijuana or hashish abuse or dependence, 33.5% met the criteria for abuse or dependence on psychotherapeutics used nonmedically (primarily pain relievers), and 14.1% abused or were dependent on cocaine.

These findings parallel those of national treatment admissions, which show that the majority of illicit drug admissions are for marijuana and that admissions for marijuana and opiates other than heroin (i.e., prescription pain relievers) have been increasing in recent years.

[Click here](#) to learn what you should know about the most widely used illicit drug in America.