

Summary of Drug Use Surveys

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Introduction:

This compilation of recent drug surveys is categorized by specific drugs. Following each statistic are initials in brackets citing the specific source of the information.

This project was undertaken to help sort out trends from the numerous surveys conducted on youth and adult usage of various substances. Differing research methodologies, target populations and other factors contribute to results which at times seem contradictory and provide less than clear indicators. Referring to the survey reports cited in the bibliography is recommended for further information and clarification.

Key:

CASA-Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse 2000

MTF 00-Monitoring the Future 2000

MTF 99-Monitoring the Future 1999

NHS-National Household Survey 1999

OYRBS-Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey 1999

PATS-Partnership for Drug Free America, Partnership Attitude Tracking Survey 2000

PHTPS-Phoenix House Treatment Program Survey 2000

PPAAUS- Primary Prevention Awareness Attitude and Usage Survey 2000 (Franklin County)

PRIDE-Parents Resource Institute Drug Education Survey 2000

RWJ-Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 1998

RWJ99-Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 1999

Summary of Drug Use Surveys

Alcohol

- Regular use of alcohol at all time low since the initial survey in 1988 [PPAAUS]
- Alcohol use declined in every grade from 1997 to 2000 [PPAAUS]
- 18% of students reported drinking alcohol at least once a month [PPAAUS]
- Teen drinking rate fell to lowest level in 12 years [PRIDE]
- Alcohol use fell 6% from 1998-1999 school year [PRIDE]
- Percentage of students who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days in their lifetime [OYRBS]
 - An increase from 77% in 1997 to 85% in 1999
 - Increase in tenth graders who had one drink in their lives 78% in 1993 and 86% in 1999
- 30% of students that had their first drink of alcohol, more than just a few sips, prior to age 13 [OYRBS]
- Percentage of students who had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours in the past 30 days [OYRBS]
 - Increase from 30% in 1993 to 37% in 1999
- Percentage of students who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days [OYRBS]
 - Significant increase from 46% in 1997 to 56% in 1999
- In a 1999 study conducted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: [RWJ99]
 - 23% of college students are classified as frequent binge drinkers [RWJ99]
 - Of these 23%, 57% report driving after drinking [RWJ99]
- According to a 1998 opinion poll of college-aged students: [RWJ]
 - 69% do not want drinking age lowered [RWJ]
 - 62% favor keg registration [RWJ]
 - 70% favor 21 as the age to serve/sell alcohol [RWJ]
 - 79% favor increasing the excise tax to \$.05 cents per drink [RWJ]
 - 65% want rules to be strongly enforced [RWJ]
 - 52% want advertising by local outlets banned [RWJ]
- Rates of current alcohol, binge alcohol and heavy alcohol use remained unchanged from 1998-1999 for all ages 12+ which is a continuing trend through the 90s [NHS]
- In 1999, 52% of persons aged 12 and older report current alcohol use, 19% are 12-17 year olds [NHS]
- 7.8% of people reported past month binge drinking [NHS]
- In 1999, 8.2 million were dependant on alcohol [NHS]
- In 1999, 1.5 million were dependant on both alcohol and drugs [NHS]
- In 1999, 2.3 million people received treatment for alcohol [NHS]
- 4 out of 5 students have consumed alcohol by the end of high school. [MTF99]
- 62% of 12th graders and 25% of eighth graders report having been drunk at least once [MTF99]
- Binge drinking reached its peak at the same time that illicit drug use did in 1979. Use has been level or even down slightly over the past year or so in all three grades [MTF99]
- Daily use of alcohol among 8th graders decreased from 1.0% to .08% from 1999 to 2000 [MTF00]
- In 2000, 30% of 12th graders, 26.2% of 10th graders and 14.1% of 8th graders reported binge drinking at least once in the two weeks prior to the survey [MTF00]

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Alcohol Policies Alcohol Policies in the United States: Highlights from the 50 States]

National Facts

- Most states have a licensure system where the state government indirectly controls the sale and distribution of alcohol
- Eighteen states directly control at least some portion of the wholesale and or retail outlets
- Over the past 22 years ¼ of the states require the registration of kegs
- Twenty-one states have server/seller training policies
- Every state has either a 0 or very low Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) for underage drinkers/drivers

Ohio

- Control state-Wholesale and retail sale for off premises consumption of spirits is under the state control
- There is no required statewide server/seller training

- DUI Offense Penalties
 - Fine for first offense is \$200-\$1000
 - Jail sentence is 3-180 days
 - License suspension is 90 days
- Blood Alcohol Content (BAC)
 - General-.10
 - Youth-.02
- Taxes
 - Beer
 - \$5.58 /barrel and 1.69¢ /drink
 - Spirits
 - \$3.38 /gallon and 3.96 ¢/drink
 - Wine
 - \$.32/ gallon and 1.25 ¢/drink

Amphetamines

- Use peaked in 8th and 10th grade by 1996 and began to gradually decline. No evidence of a decline in 12th graders, yet the annual prevalence rate has been unchanged for three years [MTF99]

Barbiturates

- Consistent decline from 1975-1992 from 10.7 to 2.8% but resurged in 1999 reaching 5.8% among 12th graders [MTF99]

Inhalants

- No significant difference in use since 1997 [OYRBS]
 - 17% reported use in 1999
- 6% of students reported use prior to age 13 in 1999 [OYRBS]
- 4% of students reported using within the past 30 days [OYRBS]
- Inhalant use climbed from 11% in 1999 to 13% in 2000 [PATS]

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Cocaine

- Usage in Franklin County is below the national average [PPAAUS]
- An increase in the number of students who have used in their lifetime [OYRBS]
 - 3.6% in 1993 to 7.8% in 1999
- In 1999, 1.2% of high school students have used prior to age 13 with no significant increase from 1997 or 1993 [OYRBS]
- Significant decrease in usage for Caucasian students 1.8% in 1997 to .6% in 1999 [OYRBS]
- An increase in those who used in past 30 days [OYRBS]
 - 1.6% in 1993, 3.4% in 1999
- In 1998 there were 3.3 million cocaine addicts [CASA]
- Use of cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens and inhalants remained stable [NHS]
- Percentage of youths age 12-17 reporting great risk of harm in using cocaine once a month decreased since 1998-54.3-49.8% [NHS]
- Cocaine/Crack-use has declined to 6.2% among 12th graders, from 12.6% in 1986 [MTF99]
- Overall past year use of cocaine declined from 6.2% to 5.5% [MTF00]

Crack

- Increase in the number of students who have used one or more times in their lives [OYRBS]
 - Increase since 1993 1.5% vs. 4% in 1999
- Crack use declined in 1999 for 8th graders, had been rising slowly but steadily throughout the 90s [MTF99]
- Crack use leveled among 10th graders [MTF99]
- Overall past year crack use declined from 2.7% to 2.2% [MTF00]
- Past year crack use among 8th graders decreased from a ten year high of 2.1% in 1998 to 1.8% in 1999 and 2000 [MTF00]

Ecstasy

- Tenth graders are more likely to use every drug except ecstasy and marijuana in rural areas than urban centers [CASA]
- Teen use of ecstasy went from 7% in 1999 to 10% in 2000, this has doubled since 1995 [PATS]
- More teens are experimenting with ecstasy than heroin [PATS]
- Lifetime use of ecstasy is at the same level as powder cocaine, crack and LSD [PATS]
- Use rose from 1996 [MTF99]
- Increased use of ecstasy in all three grades (8, 10, 12) [MTF00]

Heroin

- 2.5% of students used heroin one or more times in their lives [OYRBS]
- In 1998 there were 980,000 heroin addicts [CASA]
- Use rose substantially from 1993 to 1996 and has been stable ever since [MTF99]
- There were 149,000 new heroin users in 1998 [NHS]
- A large proportion of these are young and are smoking, sniffing or snorting heroin
- Among 12th graders, heroin use in the past year has increased from 1.1% in 1999 to 1.5% in 2000 [MTF00]

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Steroids

- 4% of students took pills or shots without a doctor's prescription one or more times in their lives [OYRBS]
 - This is not statistically different from 1993 or 1997
- Increases in use of steroids among sophomores [MTF00]

Tranquilizers

- Fell out of popularity after the '70's and '80's. They had a bit of a comeback in the 1990s with use more than doubling among 12th graders with reports of use at 5.8% [MTF99]

Marijuana

- Marijuana usage is down in comparison to 1997 survey [PPAAUS]
- 12% of those surveyed reported marijuana usage on a regular basis [PPAAUS]
- More students report using marijuana one or more times in their lifetime [OYRBS]
 - 30% in 1993 to 47% in 1999
 - No significant change from 1997-1999
- An increase in students who have tried marijuana prior to age 13 [OYRBS]
 - 6% in 1993 to 10% in 1999
- An increase in the percentage of students who used marijuana in the past 30 days [OYRBS]
 - 16% in 1993 to 26% in 1999
- In 2000, 40% of teenagers reported trying marijuana at least once. This is down from 44% in 1997 [PATS]
- Lifetime use of marijuana declined 10% since 1997 [PATS]
- Past year use fell from 36% to 33% since 1997 [PATS]
- Past month use fell from 24% to 22% since 1997 [PATS]
- Marijuana use declined 9.4% in 1997, 8.3% in 1998 and 7% in 1999 [NHS]
- No significant changes in the percent of youths who report great risk of using marijuana [NHS]
- Increasing trend for marijuana usage since 1997 for 18-25 year olds-12.8% in 1997, 13.8% in 1998 and 16.4% in 1999 [NHS]
- Smoking marijuana once or twice a week-percentages were 57.1% in 96, 54% in 97, 54.4% in 98 and 52.6% in 99 [NHS]
- The rates of marijuana initiation among youth is at the highest level since its peak in the '70s [NHS]
- Estimated 2.3 million people used marijuana for the first time in 1998 which is about 6,400 new users in a day and more than 2/3 of them were under age 18 [NHS]
- Of those dependant on drugs, 65% were addicted to marijuana [NHS]
- Among those who tried marijuana at 14 or younger, 8.9% were dependant on illegal drugs and only 1.7% of those who tried marijuana after age 18 were currently addicted to drugs [NHS]
- Marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug [MTF99]
- Resurgence of use in the '90's with a peak in 1996 with a small decline that ended in 1999 [MTF99]
- Marijuana use in lifetime, past year and past month usage remained statistically unchanged from 1999 [MTF00]
 - 15.6% for 8th graders
 - 32.2% for 10th graders
 - 36.5% for 12th graders

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Methamphetamine

- 10% of Ohio students reported use in 1999 [OYRBS]
- 8% of teens used methamphetamine in past year and 5% in past month which is up from 7% and 3% respectively [PATS]
- Increases in MDMA use for older teens [MTF99]
- Crystal methamphetamine use had a significant decline among 12th graders-3% in 1998 and 1.9% in 1999 [MTF99]
- Questions concerning these drug were only asked of 12th graders in previous years. Questions about these drugs were asked specifically for the first time in 1999 for 8th, 10th and 12th graders. Because of these facts, a trend is not specifically discussed. They can only offer numbers from 1999. 4.5% of 8th graders, 7.3% for 10th graders and 8.2% of 12th graders [MTF99]

Tobacco

- After increases in cigarette use in 1994 and 1997, use dropped to levels lower than those in 1991 [PPAAUS]
- Cigarette usage fell to lowest level in 8 years [PRIDE]
- Cigarette smoking rate fell 15.6%, the highest rate of decrease in 13 years of the survey [PRIDE]
- 73% of students reported trying cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs [OYRBS]
 - No significant change from 1993 or 1997
- 28% of students who smoked a whole cigarette prior to age 13 [OYRBS]
 - No significant change from 1993 or 1997
- Percentage of students who smoked a cigarette within the past 30 days [OYRBS]
 - Significant increase- 30% in 1993 to 40% in 1999
- Students who smoked regularly (at least one cigarette on 20 of the past 30 days) [OYRBS]
 - 22% of high school students in 1999, there was no report of the findings for 1993 or 1997
- Percentage of students who ever tried to quit smoking [OYRBS]
 - 37% of students tried to quit smoking
 - There was no significant difference since 1997 and the question was not asked in the same way in 1993.
- 30% of students smoked regularly (one or more cigarettes every day for the past 30 days) [OYRBS]
 - There was not a significant change since 1993 and the question was not asked in 1997
- Percentage of students who smoked 2 or more cigarettes per day on the days that they smoked [OYRBS]
 - Increase from 21% in 1993 to 30% in 1999
- Rate of current cigarette use in the population was similar in 1999 to the rates from 1994-1998 at 29.7% [NHS]
- 1.6 million people used cigarettes daily in 1998 about half of which were under the age of 18 [NHS]
- Nearly 2/3 of students tried cigarettes by 12th grade and over a third are current smokers [MTF99]
- Smoking- Peaked in usage since for 8th and 10th graders and a peak for 12th graders in 1997. There was a decline in 1999 for 8th, 10th and 12th graders [MTF99]
- Cigarette use among teens dropped significantly with past month use [MTF00]

Summary of Drug Use Surveys

General illicit drug use

- From 1997 to 2000, use of designer drugs increased in grades 8-12 [PPAAUS]
- Illicit drug use in grades 6-12 registered strongest single year improvement [PRIDE]
- Other types of illegal drugs such as LSD, PCP, ecstasy, mushrooms [OYRBS]
 - Percentage of students who used one or more times during their lives [OYRBS]
 - 16% reported usage in 1999
 - Question was not asked in 1993 or 1997
- Smoking, drinking and drug use are higher in rural America than in urban centers [CASA]
- Eighth graders in rural America are 104% more likely to use amphetamines including methamphetamine, 50% likelier to use cocaine, 83% more likely to use crack cocaine, 34% more likely to use marijuana, 29% likelier to drink alcohol and 70% more likely to have been drunk than eighth graders in urban centers [CASA]
- Twelfth graders are more likely to use cocaine, crack, amphetamines, inhalants and use smokeless tobacco in rural America [CASA]
- Adult drug use is the same across all living areas [CASA]
- 21% decrease in drug use from 1997 to 1999 [CASA]
- Drug use among those aged 12-17 is the same 1996 to 1999, 9% for both years [CASA]
- In 1998, 57% of addicts who needed treatment did not get it [CASA]
- 1 in 5 people in the Phoenix House Treatment Programs used drugs with their parents and 59% of those did so prior to age 18 [PHTPS]
 - 76% used marijuana [PHTPS]
 - 19% used crack cocaine [PHTPS]
 - 16% used powder cocaine [PHTPS]
 - 6% used heroin [PHTPS]
 - Candidates for drug treatment are 19 times more likely to have been introduced to drugs by a family member [PHTPS]
- The above finding were the same for whites, blacks, Hispanics and there was little difference between rural and urban areas [PHTPS]
- Powder cocaine, crack, heroin and LSD use has remained stable, but down significantly since 1997 [PATS]
- Since 1998 drug use decreased from 51% to 48% [PATS]
- Youth drug use has declined since 1997 [NHS]
- 9% of youth aged 12-17 reported current illegal drug use as opposed to 11.4% in 1997 [NHS]
- Young adults aged 18-25 had an increase in current drug use 14.7% in 1997 to 18.8% in 1999 [NHS]
- Adults aged 26 and above did not have a significant change in drug use [NHS]
- There is a downward trend over the past three years for illicit drug use for 12-17 year olds-11.4% in 1997, 9.9% in 1998 and 9.0% in 1999 [NHS]
- Use of cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens and inhalants remained stable [NHS]
- No significant change in the rate of past month illicit drug use in any age group 12-17, 18-25, 26-34, 35+ [NHS]
- 1.6 million people used prescription type pain relievers non-medically for the first time in 1998-an increase since the 80s which had 500,000 new initiates per year [NHS]
- 3.6 million Americans were dependant on illegal drugs [NHS]
- Among past year users: [NHS]
 - 35% were addicted to heroin
 - 12% to marijuana
 - 21% to cocaine

Summary of Drug Use Surveys

General illicit drug use continued

- Illicit drug dependence is: [NHS]
 - .5% at age 12
 - 6.8% at age 18
 - 3.3% at ages 12-17
 - 4.7% at ages 18-25
 - .9% at 26+
- 1.6 million people received drug treatment [NHS]
- Among youth age 12-17-1.3% received substance abuse treatment [NHS]
- 2% of age 18-25 year olds received substance abuse treatment [NHS]
- 14.8 million Americans report current use of illicit drugs [NHS]
- 10.9% of youths age 12-17 reported current use of illicit drugs, marijuana is the major illicit drug at 7.7% [NHS]
- Overall illicit drug use remained stable [MTF99]
- Over half (55%) of youth have used an illicit drug by the time they finish high school, more than a third have done so by the 8th grade if inhalant use is included [MTF99]
- Nearly a third have tried some drug other than marijuana by graduation [MTF99]
- LSD-Remained at less than 10% for last 25 years with peak usage in 1996 [MTF99]
- Rohypnol-Divide in use for 8th, 10th and 12th grades in 1999 [MTF99]
- Drug use among 8, 10 and 12th graders remained relatively unchanged [MTF00]
- Past year use of any illicit drug has decreased from 22.1% in 1997 to 19.5% in 2000 [MTF00]
- Among tenth graders 38.5% in 1997 and 36.4% in 2000 [MTF00]
- 12th graders past year use remained stable [MTF00]
- Use of several specific drugs including PCP, narcotics other than heroin, methamphetamine, crystal methamphetamine, barbiturates, tranquilizers and rohypnol remained stable for all teenagers in all categories from 1999 to 2000 [MTF00]
- Over the past three years several illicit drugs including inhalants, LSD and Rohypnol have shown declining trends in all three grades [MTF00]

Summary of Drug Use Surveys

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