

Youth Perceptions of Substance Use/Misuse

Key Findings

In 2005, over three-fourths (77%) of youth thought there was a great risk in harming themselves if they smoked one or more packs of cigarettes per day. 96% of youth reported their parents would strongly disapprove of them using methamphetamines once a month or more. Over half (54%) of youth reported none of their friends had used marijuana in the past 30 days.

Perceived Risk of Drug Use

- ◆ Over three-fourths (77%) of youth thought there was a great risk in harming themselves if they smoked one or more packs of cigarettes per day, but only 28% thought it was a great risk to smoke 3-5 cigarettes per week.
- ◆ Just under half (45%) of youth thought there was a great risk in smoking marijuana once or twice a week, but only 24% thought it was a great risk to smoke marijuana once per month.
- ◆ One-third (33%) of youth thought there was a great risk in having 5 or more drinks of alcohol once or twice a week, and only 16% thought there was a great risk to have 5 or more drinks once or twice a month.
- ◆ Almost half (47%) of youth thought there was a great risk to use pain medications once or twice a week, and only 24% thought there was a great risk to use pain medications once or twice in their lifetime.
- ◆ Two-thirds (66%) of youth thought there was a great risk to use methamphetamines once or twice a week, but only 29% thought there was a great risk to use methamphetamines once or twice in their lifetime.
- ◆ Over two-thirds (67%) of youth thought there was a great risk to use other drugs like cocaine or heroin once or twice a week, but only 28% thought there was a great risk to use other drugs once or twice in a lifetime.
- ◆ For more information, see table on page 2 of this section.

Degree of Disapproval of Use by Adults

- ◆ 86% of youth reported their parents (or guardians) would strongly disapprove of them smoking 3-5 cigarettes per week and 94% would strongly disapprove of smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day.
- ◆ 75% of youth reported their parents would strongly disapprove of them trying marijuana once or twice in their lifetime and 91% would strongly disapprove of using marijuana once a month or more.
- ◆ 81% of youth reported their parents would strongly disapprove of them using pain medications once or twice in their lifetime and 91% would strongly disapprove of using pain medications once a month or more.
- ◆ 90% of youth reported their parents would strongly disapprove of them using methamphetamines once or twice in their lifetime and 96% would strongly disapprove of using methamphetamines once a month or more.
- ◆ 88% of youth reported their parents would strongly disapprove of them using other drugs like cocaine or heroin once or twice in their lifetime and 95% would strongly disapprove of them using other drugs once a month or more.
- ◆ For more information, see table on page 3 of this section.

Perception of Disapproval of Use by Peers

- ◆ When asked how many of their closest friends have used tobacco during the past 30 days, 41% of youth reported none of them. 54% reported none of their friends had used marijuana, 37% had not been drunk, and 33% had not had any alcoholic drinks in the past 30 days.
- ◆ 90% of youth reported that none of their friends had used methamphetamines during the past 30 days, 84% had not used other drugs such as cocaine or heroin, and 80% of their friends had not used pain medications.
- ◆ When asked who would approve of them smoking, 75% of youth reported no one would approve. 56% stated no one would approve of them drinking alcohol, and 77% would not approve of them using marijuana.
- ◆ 95% of youth reported that no one would approve of them using methamphetamines, 94% would not approve of them using other drugs, and 88% would not approve of them using pain medications.
- ◆ For more information, see table on page 4 of this section.

U.S. Youth Perceptions of Risk

SAMHSA's 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

- ❖ Among youth ages 12-17, 7.3% of those who perceived great risk from having 4 or 5 drinks of an alcoholic beverage nearly every day reported binge drinking. This compares to binge drinking reported by 17.3% of youth who saw moderate, slight, or no risk from having 4 or 5 alcoholic beverages nearly every day.
- ❖ Marijuana use in the past month was reported by 1.4% of youth who saw great risk in smoking marijuana once a month contrasting with 11.0% of youths who saw moderate, slight, or no risk.

(Source: NSDUH Report, 2004. SAMHSA Office of Applied Studies)

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Perceived Risk of Drug Use

How much do you think people risk harming themselves if they:	No Risk	Slight Risk	Moderate Risk	Great Risk
Smoke 3-5 cigarettes per week	6%	28%	38%	28%
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	3%	5%	15%	77%
Smoke marijuana once a month	15%	34%	27%	24%
Smoke marijuana once or twice a week	8%	16%	31%	45%
Have 5 or more drinks of alcohol once or twice a month	18%	39%	27%	16%
Have 5 or more drinks of alcohol once or twice a week	9%	20%	38%	33%
Use pain medications once or twice in their lifetime	21%	34%	21%	24%
Use pain medications once or twice a week	5%	16%	32%	47%
Use methamphetamines once or twice in their lifetime	10%	30%	31%	29%
Use methamphetamines once or twice a week	3%	7%	24%	66%
Use other drugs like cocaine or heroin once to twice in their lifetime	10%	32%	30%	28%
Use other drugs like cocaine or heroin once or twice a week	3%	7%	23%	67%

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Degree of Disapproval of Use by Adults

How do you think your parent(s) or guardian(s) would feel about you:	Would Approve	Would Not Care	Disapprove Some	Strongly Disapprove
Smoking 3-5 cigarettes per week	1%	2%	11%	86%
Smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day	1%	1%	4%	94%
Drinking beer, wine, or hard liquor nearly every day	1%	3%	11%	85%
Trying marijuana once or twice in your lifetime	1%	5%	19%	75%
Using marijuana once a month or more	1%	2%	6%	91%
Using pain medications once or twice in your lifetime	2%	4%	13%	81%
Using pain medications once a month or more	1%	1%	7%	91%
Use methamphetamines once or twice in your lifetime	1%	1%	8%	90%
Use methamphetamines once a month or more	2%	0%	2%	96%
Using other drugs like cocaine or heroin once to twice in your lifetime	1%	1%	10%	88%
Use other drugs like cocaine or heroin once a month or more	1%	1%	3%	95%

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Perception of Disapproval of Use by Peers

How many of your closest friends do you think have:	None of Them	A Few of Them	Most of Them	All of Them
Used tobacco during the past 30 days	41%	43%	12%	4%
Used marijuana during the past 30 days	54%	33%	10%	3%
Been drunk during the past 30 days	37%	38%	20%	5%
Had some kind of alcoholic drink during the past 30 days	33%	35%	24%	8%
Used methamphetamines during the past 30 days	90%	9%	1%	0%
Used other drugs such as cocaine or heroin during the past 30 days	84%	13%	2%	1%
Used pain medication during the past 30 days	80%	15%	4%	1%

Who would approve of you:	No One	My Closest Friends	My Teachers	My Brother/Sister
Smoking	75%	19%	1%	8%
Drinking alcohol	56%	36%	3%	15%
Using marijuana	77%	19%	1%	7%
Using methamphetamines	95%	3%	1%	1%
Using other drugs	94%	4%	1%	1%
Using pain medications	88%	8%	1%	2%

Percentages may not equal 100% as students could choose more than one answer