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# NIDA Capsules



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## ACQUISITIONS OVERVIEW OF THE 1991 NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY ON DRUG ABUSE

The 1991 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse is the eleventh in a series that began in 1971 under the auspices of the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse and has been sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse since 1974.

The survey covers the population age 12 and older living in households in the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii). The results are based on personal interviews combined with self-administered questionnaires from 32,594 respondents, randomly selected from the household population. This is the largest sample ever used in this survey and includes an oversampling of Blacks, Hispanics, and young people enabling us to make reliable estimates about the levels of drug use among these populations. In addition, there is an oversampling of the populations of six metropolitan areas--Washington, D.C. Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Miami, and New York City. For the first time, persons living in college dormitories and homeless shelters and civilians on military institutions are included. The survey did not include transient populations such as the homeless not in shelters.

The expansion of the target population of the survey in 1991 to include group quarters such as college dormitories has had a minimal effect on overall rates of drug use for all ages. However, due to the large population of college dormitory residents (over 2 million) now covered in the survey and the significantly different rates of drug use in this population which had not been sampled before, the measurement of some changes in drug use among 18-25 year olds between 1990 and 1991 are affected. In particular, the rates of any illicit drug use, marijuana use, and alcohol use for this age group are 0.5 percent to 1.5 percent higher as a result of including the dormitory residents, while cocaine use estimates are slightly lower as a result of the addition of the college dormitories.

Three major age groups are covered in this survey: youth age 12 to 17; young adults age 18 to 25; and older adults age 26 and over. The survey data provide the basis for prevalence estimates and other statistics which contribute to an understanding of the extent of drug use in the United States in 1991.

As with any sample survey, the results of this survey are estimates of the values that would be obtained if the data were collected from all members of the population from which the sample was drawn. The following tables show the trends in prevalence of drug use, based on the surveys from 1972 through 1991.

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Lifetime Prevalence of Drug Use: 1972 - 1991

Youth Age 12-17

	1972	1974	1976	1977	1979	1982	1985	1988	1990	1991
Any Illicit Use	-	-	-	-	34.3	27.6	29.5	24.7	22.7	20.1
Marijuana	14.0	23.0	22.4	28.0	30.9	26.7	23.6	17.4	14.8	13.0
Hallucinogens	4.8	6.0	5.1	4.6	7.1	5.2	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.4
Cocaine	1.5	3.6	3.4	4.0	5.4	6.5	4.9	3.4	2.6	2.4
Heroin	0.6	1.0	0.5	1.1	0.5	*	*	0.6	0.7	0.3
Nonmedical use of										
Stimulants	4.0	5.0	4.4	5.2	3.4	6.7	5.6	4.2	4.5	3.0
Sedatives	3.0	5.0	2.8	3.1	3.2	5.8	4.1	2.4	3.3	2.4
Tranquilizers	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.8	4.1	4.9	4.8	2.0	2.7	2.1
Analgesics	-	-	-	-	3.2	4.2	5.8	4.2	6.5	4.4
Alcohol	-	54.0	53.6	52.6	70.3	65.2	55.5	50.2	48.2	46.4
Cigarettes	-	52.0	45.5	47.3	54.1	49.5	45.2	42.3	40.2	37.9

Young Adults Age 18-25

	1972	1974	1976	1977	1979	1982	1985	1988	1990	1991
Any Illicit Use	-	-	-	-	69.9	65.3	64.3	58.9	55.8	54.7
Marijuana	47.9	52.7	52.9	59.9	68.2	64.1	60.3	56.4	52.2	50.5
Hallucinogens	-	16.6	17.3	19.8	25.1	21.1	11.3	13.8	12.0	13.2
Cocaine	9.1	12.7	13.4	19.1	27.5	28.3	25.2	19.7	19.4	17.9
Heroin	4.6	4.5	3.9	3.6	3.5	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.6	0.8
Nonmedical use of										
Stimulants	12.0	17.0	16.6	21.2	18.2	18.0	17.1	11.3	9.0	9.4
Sedatives	10.0	15.0	11.9	18.4	17.0	18.7	11.0	5.5	4.0	4.0
Tranquilizers	7.0	10.0	9.1	13.4	15.8	15.1	12.0	7.8	5.9	7.5
Analgesics	-	-	-	-	11.8	12.1	11.3	9.4	8.1	10.2
Alcohol	-	81.6	83.6	84.2	95.3	94.6	92.6	90.3	88.2	90.2
Cigarettes	-	68.8	70.1	67.6	82.8	76.9	75.6	75.0	70.5	71.2

Adults Age 26 and Older

	1972	1974	1976	1977	1979	1982	1985	1988	1990	1991
Any Illicit Use	-	-	-	-	23.0	24.7	31.5	33.7	35.3	36.1
Marijuana	7.4	9.9	12.9	15.3	19.6	23.0	27.2	30.7	31.8	32.9
Hallucinogens	-	1.3	1.6	2.6	4.5	6.4	6.2	6.6	7.4	8.0
Cocaine	1.6	0.9	1.6	2.6	4.3	8.5	9.5	9.9	10.9	11.8
Heroin	*	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.7
Nonmedical use of										
Stimulants	3.0	3.0	5.6	4.7	5.8	6.2	7.9	6.6	6.9	7.1
Sedatives	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.5	4.8	5.2	3.3	3.7	4.5
Tranquilizers	5.0	2.0	2.7	2.6	3.1	3.6	7.2	4.6	4.2	5.7
Analgesics	-	-	-	-	2.7	3.2	5.6	4.5	5.1	5.5
Alcohol	-	73.2	74.7	77.3	91.5	88.2	89.4	88.6	86.8	88.7
Cigarettes	-	65.4	64.5	67.0	83.0	78.7	80.5	79.6	78.0	77.6

- Estimate Not Available

\* Low precision - no estimate shown

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**Annual Drug Use: 1972 -- 1991**

**Youth Age 12-17**

	1972	1974	1976	1977	1979	1982	1985	1988	1990	1991
Any Illicit Use	-	-	-	-	26.0	22.0	23.7	16.8	15.9	14.8
Marijuana	-	18.5	18.4	22.3	24.1	20.6	19.7	12.6	11.3	10.1
Hallucinogens	3.6	4.3	2.8	3.1	4.7	3.6	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.1
Cocaine	1.5	2.7	2.3	2.6	4.2	4.1	4.0	2.9	2.2	1.5
Heroin	*	*	*	0.6	*	*	*	0.4	0.6	0.2
Nonmedical use of										
Stimulants	-	3.0	2.2	3.7	2.9	5.6	4.3	2.8	3.0	1.9
Sedatives	-	2.0	1.2	2.0	2.2	3.7	2.9	1.7	2.2	1.3
Tranquilizers	-	2.0	1.8	2.9	2.7	3.3	3.4	1.6	1.5	1.3
Analgesics	-	-	-	-	2.2	3.7	3.8	3.0	4.8	3.3
Alcohol	-	51.0	49.3	47.5	53.6	52.4	51.7	44.6	41.0	40.3
Cigarettes	-	-	-	-	13.3+	24.8	25.8	22.8	22.2	20.1

**Young Adults Age 18-25**

	1972	1974	1976	1977	1979	1982	1985	1988	1990	1991
Any Illicit Use	-	-	-	-	49.4	43.4	42.6	32.0	28.7	29.2
Marijuana	-	34.2	35.0	38.7	46.9	40.4	36.9	27.9	24.6	24.6
Hallucinogens	-	6.1	6.0	6.4	9.9	6.9	4.0	5.6	3.9	4.8
Cocaine	-	8.1	7.0	10.2	19.6	18.8	16.3	12.1	7.5	7.7
Heroin	-	0.8	0.6	1.2	0.8	*	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.3
Nonmedical use of										
Stimulants	-	8.0	8.8	10.4	10.1	10.8	9.9	6.4	3.4	3.4
Sedatives	-	4.2	5.7	8.2	7.3	8.7	5.0	3.3	2.0	1.9
Tranquilizers	-	4.6	6.2	7.8	7.1	5.9	6.4	4.6	2.4	2.6
Analgesics	-	-	-	-	5.2	4.4	6.6	5.5	4.1	5.3
Alcohol	-	77.1	77.9	79.8	86.6	87.1	87.2	81.7	80.2	82.8
Cigarettes	-	-	-	-	46.7+	47.2	44.3	44.7	39.7	41.2

**Adults Age 26 and Older**

	1972	1974	1976	1977	1979	1982	1985	1988	1990	1991
Any Illicit Use	-	-	-	-	10.0	11.8	13.3	10.2	10.0	9.6
Marijuana	-	3.8	5.4	6.4	9.0	10.6	9.5	6.9	7.3	6.8
Hallucinogens	-	*	*	*	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.6
Cocaine	-	*	0.6	0.9	2.0	3.8	4.2	2.7	2.4	2.5
Heroin	-	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	0.1	0.4
Nonmedical use of										
Stimulants	-	*	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.7	2.6	1.7	1.0	1.1
Sedatives	-	*	0.6	*	0.8	1.4	2.0	1.2	0.8	0.9
Tranquilizers	-	*	1.2	1.1	0.9	11.1	2.8	1.8	1.0	1.6
Analgesics	-	-	-	-	0.5	1.0	2.9	2.1	1.9	1.9
Alcohol	-	62.7	64.2	65.8	72.4	72.0	73.6	68.6	66.6	69.1
Cigarettes	-	-	-	-	39.7+	38.2	36.0	33.7	31.9	32.0

- Estimate Not Available

\* Low precision - no estimate shown

+ Includes only persons who ever smoked at least 5 packs.

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Current (Past Month) Drug Use: 1972 - 1991

Youth Age 12-17

	1972	1974	1976	1977	1979	1982	1985	1988	1990	1991
Any Illicit Use	-	-	-	-	17.6	12.7	14.9	9.2	8.1	6.8
Marijuana	7.0	12.0	12.3	16.6	16.7	11.5	12.0	6.4	5.2	4.3
Hallucinogens	1.4	1.3	0.9	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.8
Cocaine	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.1	0.6	0.4
Heroin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.1	*	0.1
Nonmedical use of										
Stimulants	-	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.2	2.6	1.6	1.2	1.0	0.5
Sedatives	-	1.0	*	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.5
Tranquilizers	-	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.3
Analgesics	-	-	-	-	0.6	0.7	1.6	0.9	1.4	1.1
Alcohol	-	34.0	32.4	31.2	37.2	30.2	31.0	25.2	24.5	20.3
Cigarettes	-	25.0	23.4	22.3	12.1+	14.7	15.3	11.8	11.6	10.8

Young Adults Age 18-25

	1972	1974	1976	1977	1979	1982	1985	1988	1990	1991
Any Illicit Use	-	-	-	-	37.1	30.4	25.7	17.8	14.9	15.4
Marijuana	27.8	25.2	25.0	27.4	35.4	27.4	21.8	15.5	12.7	13.0
Hallucinogens	-	2.5	1.1	2.0	4.4	1.7	1.9	1.9	0.8	1.2
Cocaine	-	3.1	2.0	3.7	9.3	6.8	7.6	4.5	2.2	2.0
Heroin	-	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.1	0.1
Nonmedical use of										
Stimulants	-	3.7	4.7	2.5	3.5	4.7	3.7	2.4	1.2	0.8
Sedatives	-	1.6	2.3	2.8	2.8	2.6	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.6
Tranquilizers	-	1.2	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.0	0.5	0.6
Analgesics	-	-	-	-	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.5
Alcohol	-	69.3	69.0	70.0	75.9	70.9	71.4	65.3	63.3	63.6
Cigarettes	-	48.8	49.4	47.3	42.6+	39.5	36.8	35.2	31.5	32.2

Adults Age 26 and Older

	1972	1974	1976	1977	1979	1982	1985	1988	1990	1991
Any Illicit Use	-	-	-	-	6.5	7.5	8.5	4.9	4.6	4.5
Marijuana	2.5	2.0	3.5	3.3	6.0	6.6	6.1	3.9	3.6	3.3
Hallucinogens	-	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.1
Cocaine	-	*	*	*	0.9	1.2	2.0	0.9	0.6	0.8
Heroin	-	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonmedical use of										
Stimulants	-	*	*	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.2
Sedatives	-	*	0.5	*	*	*	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.3
Tranquilizers	-	*	*	*	*	*	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.4
Analgesics	-	-	-	-	*	*	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.5
Alcohol	-	54.5	56.0	54.9	61.3	59.8	60.6	54.8	52.3	52.5
Cigarettes	-	39.1	38.4	38.7	36.9+	34.6	32.8	29.8	27.7	28.2

- Estimate Not Available

\* Low precision - no estimate shown

+ Includes only persons who ever smoked at least 5 packs.