

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

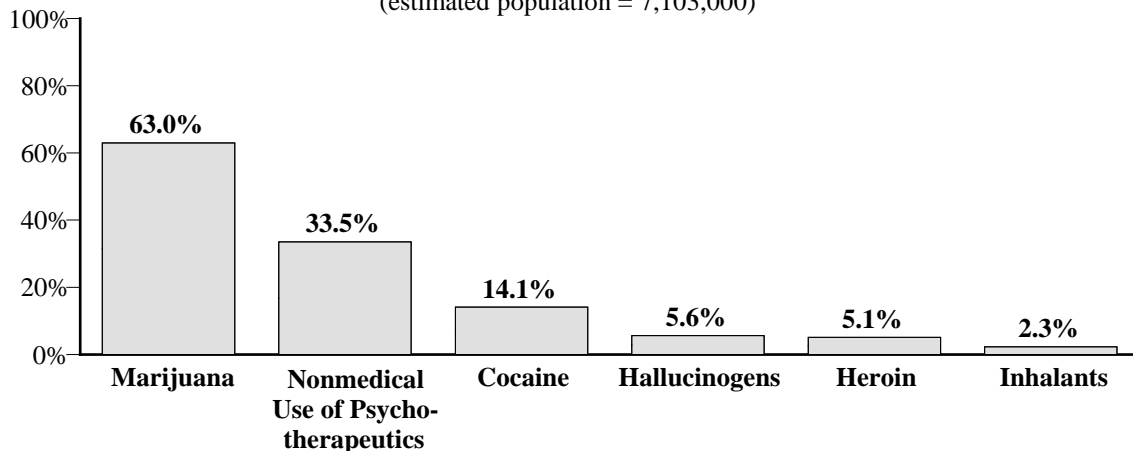
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Marijuana and Nonmedical Use of Psychotherapeutics Have Highest Rates of Past Year Abuse or Dependence Among U.S. Residents

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 (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 21, Issue 30).

Specific Substance of Abuse or Dependence Among U.S. Household Residents Classified with Past Year Illicit Abuse or Dependence, 2010*

(estimated population = 7,103,000)



*Percentages do not sum to 100 because a person could meet the criteria for abuse or dependence for more than one substance.

NOTES: Nonmedical use of psychotherapeutics is defined as use of one or more prescription-type psychotherapeutics (pain relievers, sedatives, stimulants, and tranquilizers) without a prescription belonging to the respondent or use that occurred simply for the experience or feeling the drug caused.

Abuse of illicit drugs was defined as meeting one or more of the four criteria for abuse included in the 4th edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV) and if the definition for dependence was not met for that substance.

Dependence on illicit drugs was defined as meeting three out of seven dependence criteria (for substances that included questions to measure a withdrawal criterion) or three out of six dependence criteria (for substances that did not include withdrawal questions; i.e., marijuana, hallucinogens, inhalants) for that substance, based on DSM-IV criteria. Additional criteria for marijuana abuse or dependence included the use of these substances on 6 or more days in the past 12 months.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), *Results from the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables*, 2011. Available online at <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10ResultsTables/NSDUHTables2010R/PDF/Cover.pdf>.