

Table 3.69

Estimated prevalence of drug and alcohol use during the past year

By type of drug, United States, selected years 1985-96

(Percent reporting use during past year)

Type of drug	1985 (N=8,021)	1988 (N=8,814)	1990 (N=9,259)	1991 (N=32,594)	1992 (N=28,832)	1993 (N=26,489)	1994 (N=17,809)	1995 (N=17,747)	1996 (N=18,269)
Any illicit drug ^a	16.3%	12.4%	11.7%	11.1%	9.7%	10.3%	10.8%	10.7%	10.8%
Marijuana and hashish	13.6	9.8	9.4	8.9	7.9	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.6
Cocaine	5.1	3.6	2.7	2.6	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.9
Crack	NA	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6
Inhalants	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1
Hallucinogens	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.7
Heroin	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Nonmedical use of any psychotherapeutic ^b	6.2	4.6	3.4	3.6	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.1
Stimulants	2.9	1.9	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9
Sedatives	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Tranquilizers	3.2	2.1	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1
Analgesics	3.6	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.1
Any illicit drug other than marijuana ^c	9.7	7.5	6.0	6.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.4
Alcohol	72.9	68.1	66.0	68.1	64.7	66.5	66.9	65.4	64.9

Note: These data are from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Households were randomly sampled from all households in the United States and interviews conducted throughout the year. In 1996, the sample consisted of 18,269 persons. The 1996 survey is the 16th in a series of surveys measuring the prevalence of drug and alcohol use among the American household population age 12 and older.

Beginning in 1994, the NHSDA began using an improved questionnaire and estimation procedure. Because this new methodology produces estimates that are not directly comparable to previous estimates, the 1985-93 NHSDA estimates presented above and in table 3.70 were adjusted to account for the new methodology that was begun in 1994. For survey methodology and a detailed description of the adjustment procedures, see Appendix 8.

^aIncludes use at least once of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP and LSD), heroin, or any prescription-type psychotherapeutic used nonmedically.

^bIncludes nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

^cIncludes use at least once of any of these listed drugs, regardless of marijuana use; marijuana users who also have used any of the other listed drugs are included.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (1997). *Preliminary Results from the 1996 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse* [Online]. Available: <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/nhsda/pe1996/artab009.htm> [Aug. 12, 1997]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.