Suicide is a leading cause of death among illicit drug users.\textsuperscript{1,2} According to the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 3.9 percent of adults (9.0 million adults) aged 18 or older had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year. This percentage was higher among adults who used illicit drugs in the past year (9.4 percent). The percentage of adults who had serious thoughts of suicide varied by type of illicit drug used. For example, in the past year, 9.6 percent of marijuana users and 20.9 percent of sedative users (nonmedical use) had suicidal thoughts.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides suicide prevention resources for those in substance use treatment (http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA09-4381/TIP50.pdf). The 2012 NSDUH mental health report and accompanying detailed tables have more information on suicide and illicit drug use (http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k12MH_FindingsandDetTables/Index.aspx).


Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2012. NSDUH is an annual survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The survey collects data by administering questionnaires to a representative sample of the population through face-to-face interviews at their places of residence.