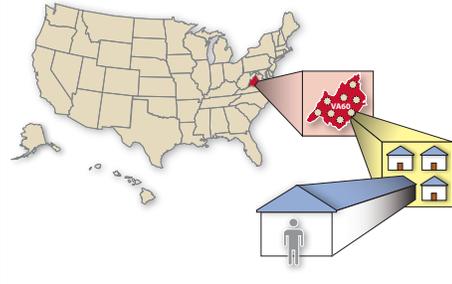


The NSDUH Report

Data Spotlight

January 16, 2014

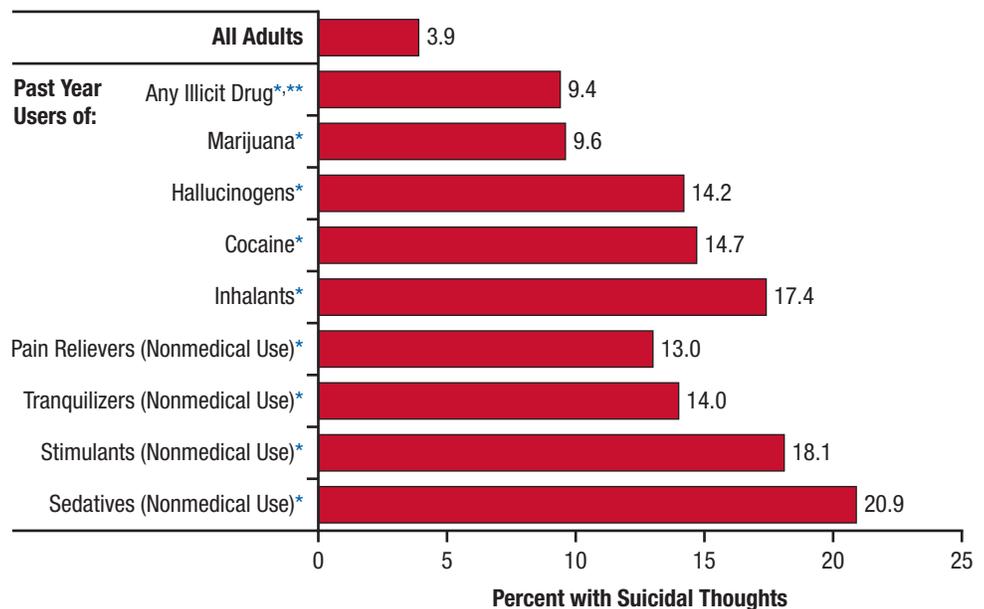


1 in 11 Past Year Illicit Drug Users Had Serious Thoughts of Suicide

Suicide is a leading cause of death among illicit drug users.^{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).

Serious Thoughts of Suicide in the Past Year among Adults Aged 18 or Older, by Past Year Use of Selected Illicit Drugs: 2012



1. Wilcox, H. C., Conner, K. R., & Caine, E. D. (2004). Association of alcohol and drug use disorders and completed suicide: An empirical review of cohort studies. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 76(Suppl. 1), S11-S19.

2. Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. (2008). *Substance abuse and suicide prevention: Evidence and implications—A white paper* (HHS Pub. No. SMA-08-4352). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

* Difference between past year drug users and all adults is statistically significant at the .05 level.

** Illicit drugs are defined as marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens, heroin, or prescription-type drugs used nonmedically.

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.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. The **Data Spotlight** may be copied without permission. Citation of the source is appreciated. Find this report and those on similar topics online at <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/>.

