

States In Brief



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues At-A-Glance

A Short Report from the Office of Applied Studies



Prevalence of Illicit Substance¹ and Alcohol Use and Abuse

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) generates state-level estimates for 23 measures of substance use and mental health problems for four age groups: the entire state population over age 12 (12+); individuals age 12 to 17; individuals age 18 to 25; and, individuals age 26 and older (26+). Since state estimates of substance use and abuse were first generated using the combined 2002–2003 NSDUHs and continuing until the most recent state estimates based on the combined 2005–2006 surveys, Rhode Island has ranked among the 10 States with the *highest*² rates on the following measures (Table 1).

Table 1: Rhode Island is among the states with the highest rates of the following:

Measure	Age Groups
Past Month Illicit Drug Use	12+, 18-25
Past Month Marijuana Use	All Age Groups
Past Year Marijuana Use	All Age Groups
Least Perception of Risk Associated with Smoking Marijuana Once a Month	All Age Groups
Past Month Use of an Illicit Drug Other Than Marijuana	12+, 18-25
Past Year Cocaine Use	12+, 18-25, 26+
Past Year Nonmedical Use of Pain Relievers	18-25
Past Month Alcohol Use	All Age Groups
Past Month Binge Alcohol Use	12+, 18-25, 26+

This is one in a series of brief state-based reports intended to give the reader a quick overview of substance abuse and mental health issues within a single state. The data derive principally from national surveys conducted by the Office of Applied Studies, a component of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Sources for all data used in this report appear at the end.

