

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

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, West Virginia has ranked among the ten states with the *highest*² rates on the following measures (Table 1).

Table 1: West Virginia is among those States with the highest rates of the following:

Measure	Age Groups
Past Year Cocaine Use	12-17
Past Year Nonmedical Use of Pain Relievers	18-25
Past Month Tobacco Use	All Age Groups
Past Month Cigarette Use	All Age Groups

At the same time, West Virginia has also ranked among those 10 states with the *lowest* rates on the following measures (Table 2).

Table 2: West Virginia is among those States with the lowest rates of the following:

Measure	Age Groups
Least Perception of Risk Associated with Smoking One or Two Packs of Cigarettes a Day	12+, 18-25, 26+
Greatest Perception of Risk Associated with Having Five or More Drinks of an Alcoholic Beverage Once or Twice a Week	All Age Groups
Past Year Dependence on or Abuse Use Alcohol	12+, 26+
Past Year Alcohol Abuse	12+, 18-25, 26+
Past Year Dependence On or Abuse Of Illicit Drugs or Alcohol	12+, 26+



