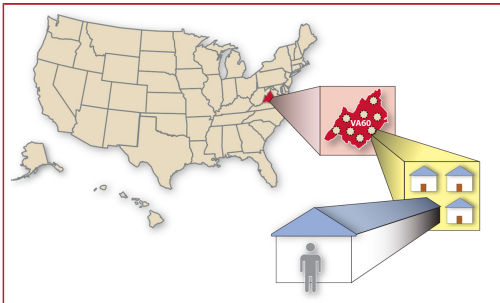


# The CBHSQ Report

Spotlight

November 10, 2016



## VETERANS LESS LIKELY THAN NON-VETERANS TO USE MARIJUANA AND MISUSE PRESCRIPTION PAIN RELIEVERS

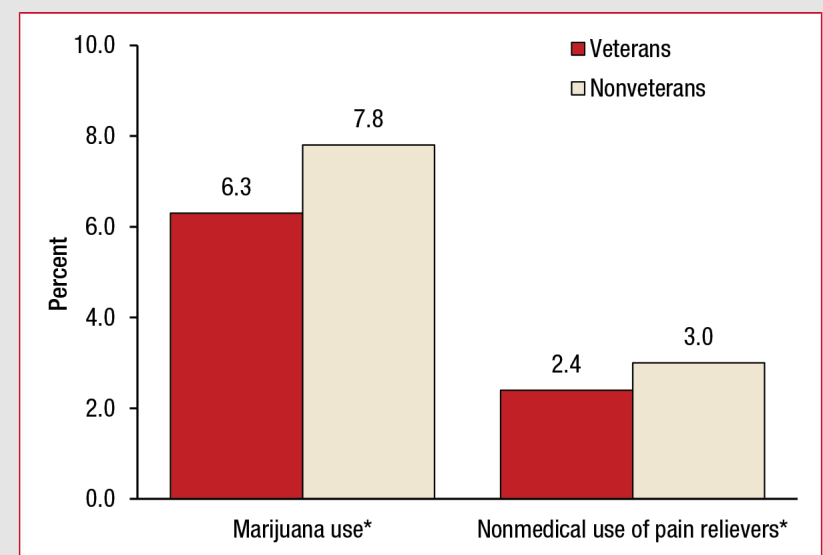
Every year thousands of troops leave active duty service and become military veterans within their communities. The hardships associated with military service may put veterans at an elevated risk for substance use.<sup>1</sup> However, according to combined 2002 to 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, veterans are less likely than non-veterans<sup>2</sup> to have used marijuana or to have misused prescription pain relievers in the past year (Figure 1). For example, about 1 in 16 veterans (6.3 percent) used marijuana in the past year compared to 1 in 13 non-veterans (7.8 percent). For more information on veteran substance use see "Prevalence of Past Year Substance Use and Mental Illness by Veteran Status in a Nationally Representative Sample" at:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DR-VeteranTrends-2016/NSDUH-DR-VeteranTrends-2016.pdf>

The mission of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is to reduce the impact of substance use and mental illness on veterans, their families, and communities. To help our nation's veterans, substance use prevention and treatment service providers who work with veterans can access SAMHSA information and resources at:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/veterans-military-families>

Past Year Marijuana Use and Nonmedical Pain Reliever Use by Veteran Status: 2002 to 2012



\* Differences significant at the .01 level

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

1. Bray, R. M., Fairbank, J. A., & Marsden, M. E. (1999). Stress and substance use among military women and men. *The American journal of drug and alcohol abuse*, 25(2), 239-256.
2. The average annual past year prevalence of these measures was calculated for veterans and compared with estimates for non-veterans that had been standardized to match the age group, gender, and race/ethnicity distributions of veterans since veterans differ from non-veterans on these demographic characteristics; and these demographic characteristics are associated with different substance use patterns.

Source: National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2002 to 2011 (revised March 2012), and 2011 to 2012. The 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/>.