

Key to Selected Variables

The following key lists selected demographic, geographic, and socioeconomic and health characteristic variables along with substance use and mental health variables used throughout the *Results from the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables*. This key also provides the specific categories displayed for each variable in the tables. Definitions for many of the measures listed in the key are available in [Appendix A](#). The label assigned to each variable listed in the key maps directly to the labels used in the table of contents but may differ slightly from those used in the detailed tables. For example, in the detailed tables, age category variables are typically referred to as “age group” or “detailed age categories”; however, in this key and the table of contents, more detailed labels (e.g., adult age categories, youth age categories, college age categories) are provided for the various age breakdowns. This key can be used in conjunction with the Table of Contents and other tools described in the [Reference Tools](#) section to help navigate the detailed tables.

Demographic Characteristics

Standard Age Categories: 12 or Older, 12-17, 18 or Older, 18-25, 26 or Older

Adult Age Categories: 18 or Older, 18-25, 26 or Older, 26 to 49, 50 or Older

Youth Age Categories: 12-17, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17

Detailed Age Categories: 12 or Older, 12-20, 21 or Older, 12-17, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18 or Older, 18-25, 18-20, 21-25, 26 or Older, 26-49, 26-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50 or Older, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65 or Older

Adult Detailed Age Categories: 18 or Older, 18-25, 18-20, 21-25, 26 or Older, 26-49, 26-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50 or Older, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65 or Older

Substance Use Initiation Age Categories: 12 or Older, 12-25, 12-17, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18 or Older, 18-25, 18-20, 21-25, 26 or Older

Age at Initiation Categories: Prior to Age 18, Prior to Age 21, at Age 21 or Older

Underage/Legal Drinking Age Categories: 12-20, 21 or Older

Underage Age Categories: 12-20, 12-14, 15-17, 18-20

Pregnancy Age Categories: 15-44, 15-17, 18-25, 26-44

College Age Categories: 18-22, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

Driving Age Categories: 16 or Older, 16-25, 16-20, 21-25, 26 or Older

Probation/Parole Age Categories: 18 or Older, 18-49, 18-25, 26-34, 35-49

Gender: Male, Female

Gender/Youth Age Categories: Male 12-17, Female 12-17

Gender/Adult Age Categories: Male 18 or Older, Male 18-49, Female 18 or Older, Female 18-49

Hispanic Origin and Race: Not Hispanic or Latino; Not Hispanic or Latino, White; Not Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American; Not Hispanic or Latino, AIAN (American Indian or Alaska Native); Not Hispanic or Latino, NHOPI (Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander); Not Hispanic or Latino, Asian; Not Hispanic or Latino, Two or More Races; Hispanic or Latino

Gender/Race/Hispanic Origin: Male White, Not Hispanic; Female White, Not Hispanic; Male Black, Not Hispanic; Female Black, Not Hispanic; Male Hispanic; Female Hispanic

Education Level: Less Than High School, High School Graduate, Some College or Associate's Degree, College Graduate (Note: This variable is defined for adults aged 18 or older.)

College Enrollment Status: Full-Time College Students, Other People (including not enrolled in school, enrolled in college part time, enrolled in other grades full or part time, or enrolled with no other information available)

Employment Status: Full-Time, Part-Time, Unemployed, Other (including students, people keeping house or caring for children full time, retired or disabled people, or other people not in the labor force) (Note: This variable is defined for adults aged 18 or older.)

Family Income: Less Than \$20,000, \$20,000-\$49,999, \$50,000-\$74,999, \$75,000 or More

Geographic Characteristics

Region: Northeast, Midwest, South, West

County Type: Large Metro; Small Metro; Nonmetro (including urbanized counties, less urbanized counties, or completely rural counties)

Socioeconomic and Health Characteristics

Poverty Level: Three Categories for Poverty Level Defined Relative to the Poverty Threshold: Less Than 100 Percent, 100 to 199 Percent, 200 Percent or More

Health Insurance: Private Health Insurance, Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Other (including Medicare, military-related health care, or any other type of health insurance), No Coverage

Overall Health: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair/Poor

Pregnancy Status: Pregnant, Not Pregnant

Trimester: First, Second, Third

Probation Status: On Probation, Not on Probation

Parole/Supervised Release Status: On Parole/Supervised Release, Not on Parole/Supervised Release

Substance Use Measures

Prescription Psychotherapeutics: Psychotherapeutics, Pain Relievers, Stimulants, Tranquilizers or Sedatives, Tranquilizers, Sedatives, Benzodiazepines

Illicit Drug Use/Misuse: Use of Illicit Drugs, Marijuana, Cocaine, Crack, Heroin, Hallucinogens, LSD, PCP, Ecstasy, Inhalants, Methamphetamine, Illicit Drugs Other Than Marijuana; Misuse of [Prescription Psychotherapeutics](#), Opioids, Central Nervous System Stimulants

Selected Illicit Drug Use/Misuse: All [Illicit Drug Use/Misuse](#) Excluding Use of Heroin, LSD, PCP, Ecstasy; Misuse of Prescription Psychotherapeutics

Tobacco Product Use: Use of Tobacco Products, Cigarettes, Smokeless Tobacco (i.e., Snuff, Dip, Chewing Tobacco, or “Snus”), Cigars, Pipe Tobacco; Daily Cigarette Use

Selected Tobacco Product Use: All [Tobacco Product Use](#) Excluding Use of Pipe Tobacco; Daily Cigarette Use

Selected Tobacco Product Use and Nicotine Vaping: Use of Tobacco Products or Nicotine Vaping; [Selected Tobacco Product Use](#); Nicotine Vaping

Alcohol Use: Use of Alcohol; Binge Alcohol Use, Heavy Alcohol Use

Risk: Perceived Risk Associated with Use of Cigarettes, Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin, LSD, Alcohol

Availability: Perceived Availability of Marijuana, Cocaine, Crack, Heroin, LSD; Approached by Someone Selling Drugs

Drugs Used with Alcohol: Marijuana, Cocaine (including Crack), Heroin, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Methamphetamine

Use of General Substances: Illicit Drugs, Tobacco Products, or Alcohol; Illicit Drugs or Alcohol; Tobacco Products or Alcohol

Other Substance Use: GHB, Nonprescription Cough or Cold Medicine, Kratom, Synthetic Marijuana (fake weed, K2, spice), Synthetic Stimulants (“bath salts,” flakka)

Days Used Specific Substances: Past Year Use of Marijuana, Cocaine, Crack, Heroin, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Methamphetamine, Alcohol; Past Month Use of Marijuana, Cocaine, Crack, Heroin, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Methamphetamine, Cigarettes, Smokeless Tobacco, Cigars, Alcohol, Binge Alcohol; Past Month Misuse of Prescription Pain Relievers, Prescription Stimulants, Prescription Tranquilizers, Prescription Sedatives

Daily or Almost Daily Use of Specific Substances: Daily or Almost Daily Use in Past Year of Marijuana, Cocaine, Crack, Heroin, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Methamphetamine, Alcohol; Daily or Almost Daily Use in Past Month of Marijuana, Cocaine, Crack, Heroin, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Methamphetamine, Smokeless Tobacco, Cigars, Alcohol, Binge Alcohol; Daily or Almost Daily Misuse in Past Month of Prescription Pain Relievers, Prescription Stimulants, Prescription Tranquilizers, Prescription Sedatives; Daily Use in Past Month of Cigarettes; Smoked One or More Packs of Cigarettes per Day in Past Month

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) for Specific Substances: Use of Illicit Drugs, Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Methamphetamine, Illicit Drugs Other Than Marijuana; Misuse of Prescription Psychotherapeutics, Prescription Pain Relievers, Prescription Stimulants, Prescription Tranquilizers or Sedatives, Prescription Tranquilizers, Prescription Sedatives, Prescription Benzodiazepines, Opioids, Central Nervous System Stimulants; Use of Alcohol, Illicit Drugs and Alcohol, Illicit Drugs or Alcohol, Illicit Drugs Only, Alcohol Only

SUD Status for Specific Substances: All [SUD for Specific Substances](#), No SUD

SUD Status for Selected Substances: No SUD, Illicit Drug Use Disorder, Marijuana Use Disorder, Opioid Use Disorder, Alcohol Use Disorder, Both Illicit Drug and Alcohol Use Disorder, Illicit Drug or Alcohol Use Disorder

SUD Status: Illicit Drug Use Disorder, Alcohol Use Disorder, Both Illicit Drug and Alcohol Use Disorder, SUD, No SUD

Substances for Last or Current Treatment: Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin, Hallucinogens, Inhalants, Methamphetamine, Pain Relievers, Tranquilizers, Stimulants, Sedatives, Alcohol

Substance Use Treatment at Specialty Facility Status: Received Treatment at Specialty Facility, Did Not Receive Treatment at Specialty Facility

Locations: Hospital – Inpatient, Rehabilitation Facility – Inpatient, Rehabilitation Facility – Outpatient, Mental Health Center – Outpatient, Emergency Room, Private Doctor’s Office, Self-Help Group, Prison/Jail

Sources of Payment: Private Health Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Public Assistance Other Than Medicaid, Own Savings or Earnings, Family Members, Courts, Military-Related Health Care, Employer

Mental Health Measures

Mental Illness: Any Mental Illness, Serious Mental Illness, Any Mental Illness Excluding Serious Mental Illness

Levels of Mental Illness: [Mental Illness](#) Plus No Mental Illness

Selected Levels of Mental Illness: Any Mental Illness, Serious Mental Illness

Serious Psychological Distress (SPD) Status: SPD, No SPD

Major Depressive Episode (MDE) Status: MDE, No MDE

MDE and MDE with Severe Impairment Status: [MDE Status](#) Plus MDE with Severe Impairment

Types of Mental Health Services: Inpatient, Outpatient, Prescription Medication

Mental Health Service Status: Received Mental Health Services, Did Not Receive Mental Health Services

Mental Health Service (Including Virtual Services) Status: Received Mental Health Services (Including Virtual Services), Did Not Receive Mental Health Services (Including Virtual Services)

Locations of Outpatient Mental Health Services: Outpatient Mental Health Clinic or Center; Office of Private Therapist, Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Social Worker, or Counselor – Not Part of a Clinic; Doctor’s Office – Not Part of a Clinic; Outpatient Medical Clinic; Partial Day Hospital or Day Treatment Program; School or University Setting/Clinic/Center; Some Other Place

Sources of Payment for Outpatient Mental Health Services: Self or Family Member Living in Household, Family Member Not Living in Household, Private Health Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Rehabilitation Program, Employer, VA or Other Military Program, Other Public Source, Other Private Source, Free Treatment

Mental Health Service Setting: Settings for Youth: Specialty, Outpatient, Inpatient or Residential; Nonspecialty, Education, General Medicine, Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare

Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior: Had Serious Thoughts of Suicide, Made Any Suicide Plans, Attempted Suicide

Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior Status: [Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior](#) Plus No Serious Thoughts of Suicide, Did Not Make Any Suicide Plans, Did Not Attempt Suicide

Treatment for Suicide Attempt: Received Medical Attention, Stayed Overnight or Longer in a Hospital