

Public health surveillance can be defined as the ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of data about health-related events in order to reduce morbidity and mortality and improve the public's health. Below are selected examples of national surveillance systems and surveys in the United States related to substance use consumption and its consequences.

- **America's Poison Centers**

<https://poisoncenters.org/>

America's Poison Center works with the nation's 55 poison centers to track poisonings and their sources, including household products, food and beverages, chemicals in the workplace and home, environmental toxins, drugs and medicine, and animal and insect bites and stings.

- **Researched Abuse, Diversion and Addiction-related Surveillance (RADARS®) System**

<http://www.radars.org/>

RADARS is a prescription drug abuse, misuse, and diversion surveillance system that collects timely product- and location-specific data. The system measures rates of abuse, misuse, and diversion throughout the United States, contributing to the understanding of trends and aiding the development of effective interventions. For example, these data assist pharmaceutical companies in fulfilling their regulatory obligations, such as risk evaluation and mitigation strategies.

- **Street RX**

<https://streetrx.com>

StreetRx.com gathers user-submitted information on street prices of diverted prescription drugs and illicit drugs. Visitors can anonymously view, post, and rate submissions in a format that offers price transparency to an otherwise opaque black market while providing a novel data set for public health surveillance.

- **Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>

The YRBSS is a national survey system designed to monitor six categories of health-related behaviors—including alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use—that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability among youth and adults. The YRBSS is a school-based survey that is administered biennially to students attending 9th through 12th grade in public, charter, and alternative schools. Some states, territories, tribal governments, and local school districts can choose to administer a middle school survey of students in 6th through 8th grade.

- **Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>

The BRFSS is a random-digit dial telephone survey that collects state-based data about adult residents regarding their health-related risk behaviors (including substance consumption), chronic health conditions, and use of preventative services. Annually, the BRFSS completes more than 400,000 interviews. These local- and state-level behavioral risk data are used to target and build health promotion activities.

- **Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Systems (PRAMS)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/prams/index.htm>

The PRAMS is an ongoing, population-based surveillance system of maternal behaviors, attitudes, and experiences that occur before, during, and shortly after pregnancy, including the use of substances while pregnant. The sample of women who have had a recent live birth are randomly selected from state birth records. The goal of PRAMS is to reduce infant morbidity and mortality by influencing programs and policies aimed at reducing health problems among mothers and infants.

- **Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER)**

<https://wonder.cdc.gov/>

WONDER is an easy-to-use online system that makes the information resources of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention available to the public. Data sets about mortality (includes drug/alcohol induced causes), cancer incidence, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, natality, census data, and many other topics are available for query.

- **National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)**

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/nsduh-national-survey-drug-use-and-health>

The NSDUH provides nationally representative data on alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use; mental health issues; and utilization of health-related treatment services among the noninstitutionalized population aged 12 or older in the United States. These data are used to support prevention and treatment programs, monitor substance use trends, estimate treatment needs, and inform public health policy.

- **Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS)**

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/data-we-collect/teds-treatment-episode-data-set>

The TEDS system compiles client-level data for substance use treatment admissions and discharges from state agency data systems. These data include demographic and drug history information for individuals who undergo substance use treatment.

- **Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP)**

<https://www.odmap.org:4443/>

ODMAP provides real-time suspected overdose data across jurisdictions to support efforts to mobilize an immediate response to a sudden increase, or spike, in overdose events. ODMAP links to a mapping tool which tracks overdoses to stimulate real-time response. It is managed by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. ODMAP is only available to government (federal, state, local, or tribal) agencies. To use the system, each agency must sign a participation agreement designed to protect data. Once approved, data can be uploaded in near real-time.



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