



# Children's Health Update

## Teens Less Likely To Drink Or Smoke

### ILLICIT DRUG USE IN THE UNITED STATES

AGES 12 AND OLDER

27.0 MILLION

PEOPLE  
OR



1 IN 10 AMERICANS  
USED ILLICIT SUBSTANCE



THIS PERCENTAGE IN 2014 WAS  
**HIGHER** THAN THOSE IN EVERY YEAR  
FROM **2002 THROUGH 2013.**

USAGE IN 2014



4.3 MILLION  
NONMEDICAL PAIN  
RELIEVER USERS



22.2 MILLION  
MARIJUANA USERS

ABOUT

435,000

AMERICANS AGED 12 AND OLDER WERE  
CURRENT HEROIN USERS IN 2014.

 SAMHSA

SOURCE:

Data, except as otherwise noted: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (2015). Behavioral Health Trends in the United States: Results from the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/>.



(NAPSA)—Good news for parents and, indeed, anyone who cares about kids in America: Fewer adolescents aged 12 to 17 are smoking or using alcohol than at any time since 2002, according to the latest National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The annual report, which is based on a scientific survey of about 67,500 people aged 12 and older, reveals a number of encouraging trends about the behavioral health of adolescents and older teens.

#### The Problem

It also points to some troubling results, however, particularly regarding adult drug use.

The use of illicit drugs by Americans aged 12 or older was 10.2 percent in 2014, up nearly a full percentage point from 2013. The increase was largely driven by an increase in adult marijuana use.

“Although progress has been made in some areas, especially among young people, there are many challenges we need to meet in addressing the behavioral health issues facing our nation,” said Acting SAMHSA Administrator Kana Enomoto.

#### A Solution

She continued, “Fortunately, there is effective action being taken by the administration and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services...evidence-based approaches for treating mental and substance use disorders provide hope and recovery for people with behavioral health needs.”

#### Learn More

The NSDUH survey is the primary source of information about substance abuse and mental health issues in the United States. The complete findings are at <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-FRR1-2014/NSDUH-FRR1-2014.pdf>.