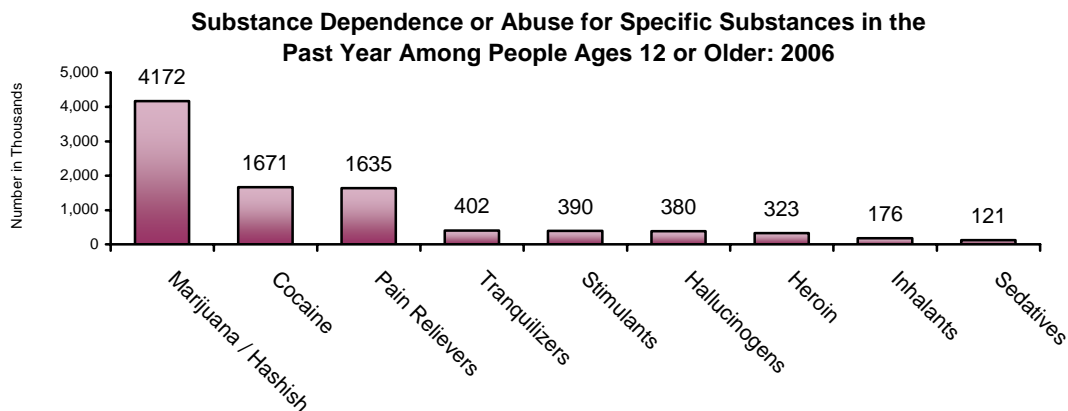




Drug Use, Abuse, and Dependence

Prevalence and Severity of Drug Use Across the Nation, 2006¹

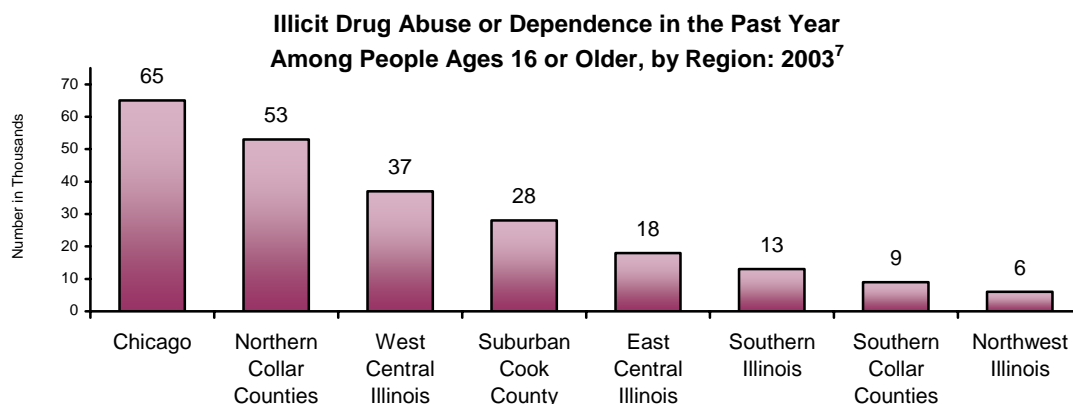
- **Current Use** – An estimated 20.4 million Americans – 8.3% of the total population – were current drug users, according to national survey results. This rate was similar to that in 2005 (8.1%) and has remained stable since 2002 (8.3%).
 - **Specific drugs** – Marijuana was the most commonly used drug (6.0% of the total population), followed by non-medical use of prescription psychotherapeutics (2.8%), cocaine (1.0%), hallucinogens (0.4%), methamphetamine (0.3%), and heroin (0.14%).
 - **Race/Ethnicity** – The rate of current drug use was 13.7% among American Indians/Alaska Natives, 9.8% for African Americans, 8.9% for people reporting two or more races, 8.5% for Whites, 7.5% for Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders, 6.9% for Hispanics, and 3.6% for Asians.
 - **Age** – The rate of current drug use increased between ages 12 to 17 (from 3.9% at ages 12-13, to 9.1% at ages 14-15, to 16.0% at ages 16-17). The highest rate was among people ages 18-20 (22.2%). The rate was 18.3% among those ages 21-25 and declined with increasing age among adults ages 26 or older.
- **Abuse or Dependence** – An estimated 2.9% of Americans were classified with dependence on or abuse of drugs. An estimated 3.8 million Americans were classified with dependence on or abuse of illicit drugs *but not* on alcohol in the past year, and 3.2 million were classified with dependence on or abuse of *both* alcohol and illicit drugs.



- **Criminal justice population** – The rate of substance abuse or dependence (including alcohol and/or drugs) among people who were on parole or supervised release from jail during the past year (36.9%) is significantly higher than those who were not on parole or supervised release (9.1%). The rate of abuse or dependence was also significantly higher among adults who were on probation during the past year (39.7%) compared to adults who were not on probation (8.7%).

Prevalence and Severity of Drug Use in Illinois

- Current Use – Recent estimates (2003-2006) of current drug use range from 4.3% to 7.4% of Illinoisans.²
 - Specific drugs – In 2003, marijuana was the most commonly used drug (3.3% of the total population), followed by non-medical use of psychotherapeutics (1.4%), cocaine (0.3%), methamphetamines (0.1%), and club drugs (0.1%).³
 - Race/Ethnicity – The rate of current drug in 2003 use was highest among people reporting their race as “other” (6.6%). Rates of current illicit drug use were 4.6% for African Americans, 4.4% for Whites, and 2.5% for Hispanics.⁴
 - Age – In 2005 and 2006, the highest rate of current drug use was among adults aged 18-25 (18.5%), decreased among youth aged 12–17 (10.0%), and was lowest among adults aged 26 or older (5.0%).⁵
- Abuse or Dependence – In 2005 and 2006, an estimated 2.8% of Illinoisans experienced drug abuse or dependence in the past year.⁶



¹ Unless otherwise specified, includes ages 12 and older. Current use is defined as use in the past month. Classification of dependence on or abuse of substances is based on criteria specified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition (DSM-IV). Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA]. (2007). *Results from the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings* (Office of Applied Studies, NSDUH Series H-32, DHHS Publication No. SMA 07-4293). Rockville, MD.

² Current use is defined as use in the past month. Classification of dependence on or abuse of substances is based on criteria specified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition (DSM-IV). SAMHSA survey includes ages 12 and older; Cho et al survey includes ages 16 and older. SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies. (2008). *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2005-2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*. OAS Series #H-33, DHHS Publication No. (SMA) 08-4311, Rockville, MD; Johnson, T. P. and Cho, Y. I. (2004). Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use in Illinois: Prevalence and Treatment Needs, 2003. (“Illinois Household Survey”), Survey Research Laboratory, College of Urban Planning & Public Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago. Office of Gov. Blagojevich, IDHS/DASA.

³ Johnson, T. P. and Cho, Y. I. (2004).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ SAMHSA. (2008).

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Johnson, T. P. and Cho, Y. I. (2004).