



National Substance Abuse Survey Finds Significant Risks for Girls

Results from the latest National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)¹ demonstrate that while adolescent² girls make up only a third of substance abuse treatment admissions³ (31%), they are more likely than adolescent boys to report alcohol (23% vs. 16%) or stimulants (12% vs. 4%) as their primary substance of abuse. Girls admitted to substance abuse treatment services were also more likely than boys to have a co-occurring mental health disorder (23% vs. 18%). Additionally, girls entered substance abuse treatment earlier than boys in every substance category.

Adolescent Admissions, by Age at Admission, Selected Primary Substance of Abuse, and Gender: 2005

Primary Substance of Abuse	Gender	Age at Admission		
		12-13	14-15	16-17
		Percent*		
Alcohol	Female	7	37	56
	Male	4	26	70
Cocaine	Female	2	27	71
	Male	2	20	78
Inhalants	Female	29	43	28
	Male	21	48	31
Marijuana	Female	6	41	53
	Male	4	35	61
Opiates	Female	1	20	79
	Male	2	15	83
Stimulants	Female	3	30	67
	Male	2	22	76

* Each row adds up to 100%

Source: Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration. (2007). Adolescent Treatment Admissions by Gender: 2005. The DASIS Report, May 24, 2007. Retrieved June 20, 2007, from <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k7/youthTX/youthTX.pdf>.

¹ NSDUH is conducted annually by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, a division of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The most recent survey was conducted in 2005.

² Aged 12-17.

³ Admissions are counted, not individuals. Individuals may be admitted more than one time per year.

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