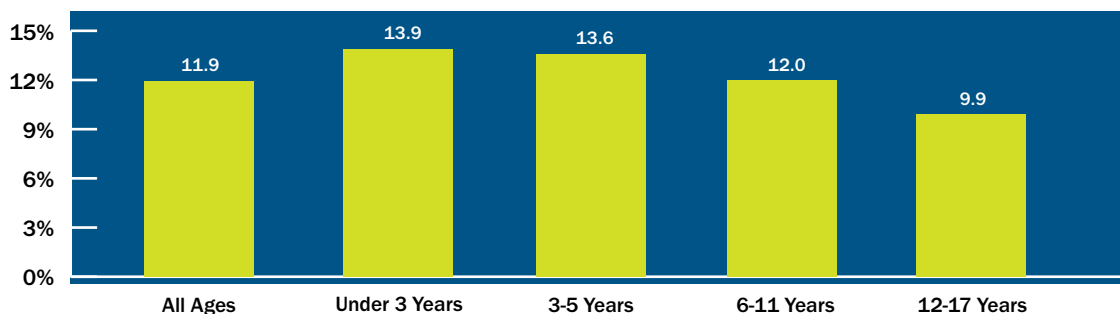




Almost One in Eight Children Lived With a Parent Abusing or Dependent on Drugs or Alcohol in the Past Year: 2002 – 2007

More than 8.3 million children (11.9%, or almost one in eight) lived with at least one parent who was dependent on or abused alcohol or an illicit drug in the past year,¹ according to National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) results collected between 2002 and 2007.² Included in this group are almost 7.3 million children (10.3%) whose parent was dependent on or abused alcohol, and approximately 2.1 million (3.0%) whose parent was dependent on or abused an illicit drug.³ Younger children were more likely than older children to reside with an alcohol- or drug-abusing or dependent parent: 13.9% of children younger than 3 years old, 13.6% of children 3 to 5 years old, 12.0% of children 6 to 11 years old, and 9.9% of children 12 to 17 years old. Researchers note that these data highlight the potential breadth of supportive service needs for the whole family, from substance abuse treatment for adults to prevention services for children.

Percentage of Children Living With a Parent Who Abused or Was Dependent on Alcohol or an Illicit Drug in the Past Year, by Child's Age: 2002 to 2007



Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (April 16, 2009). *The NSDUH Report: Children Living with Substance-Dependent or Substance-Abusing Parents: 2002 to 2007*. Rockville, MD.

Notes:

¹ Includes biological, step-, adoptive, and foster children under age 18. Children not living with one or more parents (approximately 4.0% of all children) were excluded from this analysis. Substance abuse and dependence were defined using criteria from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV)*.

² Data obtained from a representative sample of the population (87,656 parents aged 18 or older) and collected through questionnaires administered via face-to-face interviews. The survey is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

³ Some children lived with parents abusing or dependent on both alcohol and illicit drugs.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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