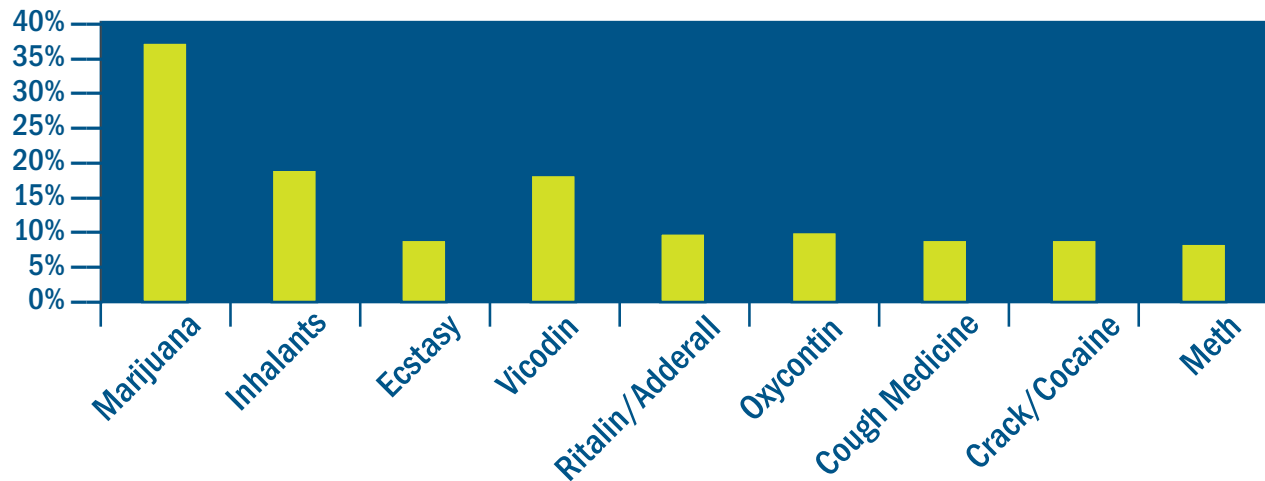




## Teens are Abusing Prescription Medication and Over-the-Counter Medications to Get High

The 2004 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS) indicates that a significant number of youth (7th through 12th grades) are using prescription painkillers and over-the-counter (OTC) medications to get high. According to the self-report data, nearly one-fifth of teens (18%) reported non-medical use of Vicodin,<sup>®</sup> 10% reported use of OxyContin,<sup>®</sup> 10% reported use of Ritalin<sup>®</sup> or Adderall,<sup>®</sup> and 9% reported use of OTC cough medicines. In comparison, 37% reported use of marijuana, 19% reported use of inhalants, 9% reported use of crack/cocaine, and 8% reported use of methamphetamines. Additionally, thirty-seven percent of teens say they have close friends who have used prescription painkillers for non-medical purposes and 29% say the same about prescription stimulants.

**Percentage of Reported Drug Use Among  
7th Through 12th Grade Students: 2004 PATS Survey**



Source: Adapted by TASC from The Partnership Attitude Tracking Study: Teens 2004: The PATS Report. April 21, 2005. New York, NY: The Partnership for a Drug-Free America. Available online at [http://www.drugfree.org/Files/Full\\_Report\\_PATS\\_TEENS\\_7th-12th\\_grades\\_2004](http://www.drugfree.org/Files/Full_Report_PATS_TEENS_7th-12th_grades_2004).

Prepared by TASC, Inc. TASC is an independent, statewide, nonprofit agency that provides case management for clients who are mandated or referred to substance abuse treatment by public systems (e.g. corrections, criminal justice, child welfare, welfare to work). TASC serves approximately 30,000 clients in Illinois each year. For more information visit [www.tasc.org](http://www.tasc.org).

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