

MENTAL AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS: FAST FACTS

Each September during the **National Recovery Month (Recovery Month)** observance, the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**, within the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**, releases the **National Survey on Drug Use and Health**. The survey is a prime source of information on the prevalence and impact of mental and/or substance use disorders across the country, as well as how many people seek treatment each year. The facts below from the survey and other relevant reports shed light on mental and/or substance use disorders and illustrate that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people recover from these conditions.

Mental Health Problems...

- In 2010, 20 percent of all adults aged 18 or older in this country had any mental illness in the past year¹ – similar to 19.9 percent of adults in 2009.²
- In 2010, an estimated 1.9 million youth aged 12 to 17 (8.0 percent) had a major depressive episode (MDE) in the past year. The condition kept them from completing chores, school, or work, and impacted their social lives and relationships with family.³
- Mental health problems such as depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia are the leading cause of disability in the United States, and account for 25 percent of years lost to disability and premature mortality.⁴
- One estimate puts the total economic costs of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders among youth in the United States at approximately \$247 billion.⁵

Substance Use Disorders...

- In 2010, an estimated 22.6 million people aged 12 or older, or 8.9 percent of the population aged 12 or older, said they had used illicit drugs in the past month – an increase from 8.0 in 2008, a change largely attributed to a rise in marijuana use, from 14.4 million Americans in 2007 to 17.4 million Americans in 2010.⁶
- Nearly a quarter of Americans aged 12 or older (23.1 percent) said they participated in binge drinking, defined as having five or more drinks on the same occasion (i.e., at the same time or within a couple hours of each other) on at least one day in the past 30 days prior to the survey interview in 2010.⁷ Among young adults aged 18 to 25, the rate of binge drinking was 40.6 percent in 2010.⁸
- There were an estimated 10.0 million underage drinkers in 2010 – people ages 12 to 20 who drank alcohol illegally.⁹

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People Affected...

▪ *Veterans and Military Personnel:*

- Approximately 18.5 percent of service members returning from Iraq or Afghanistan have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression, and 19.5 percent report experiencing a traumatic brain injury (TBI) during deployment.¹⁰
- Mental and/or substance use disorders caused more hospitalizations among U.S. troops in 2009 than any other cause.¹¹
- More than 1,100 members of the armed forces died by suicide from 2005 to 2009 – an average of 1 suicide by a member of the armed forces occurred every 36 hours.¹²

▪ *Individuals in the Justice System:*

- Seventy-two percent of inmates meet the criteria for a co-occurring disorder (having both a mental and substance use disorder).¹³
- In 2010, more than one quarter (27.0 percent) of the 1.5 million adults on parole or supervised release from prison were current illicit drug users, with 20.6 percent reporting current use of marijuana and 9.8 percent reporting current nonmedical use of psychotherapeutic drugs.¹⁴

▪ *Families and Friends:*

- Youths aged 12 to 17 who perceived strong parental disapproval for trying marijuana or hashish once or twice were much less likely to have used marijuana in the past month than those who did not (4.4 percent vs. 32.8 percent, respectively).¹⁵
- In 2010, 90.3 percent of youths aged 12 to 17 “strongly” or “somewhat” disapproved of their peers smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day.¹⁶

▪ *The Recovery Community:*

- There are more than 20 million people in recovery from substance use disorders.¹⁷
- One-third of individuals with severe mental health problems who receive community mental health services after lengthy stays in a State hospital achieve full recovery, both in psychiatric status and in social function. Another third improve significantly in both areas, even without full recovery.¹⁸

Resources

Prevention Works...Treatment is Effective...People Recover... It's Worth It!

- In 2010, youths aged 12 to 17 whose parents were always or sometimes monitoring behaviors, such as helping with homework, were less likely to have used illicit drugs within the past month than those whose parents seldom or never engaged in such behaviors (8.4 percent versus 17.1 percent, respectively).¹⁹
- Two-thirds of Americans believe that treatment and support can help people with mental illnesses lead normal lives.²⁰
- Approximately 80 percent of patients with depressive disorders improve significantly with treatment and recovery support services.²¹
- A majority of Americans (80 percent) have positive feelings about prevention and recovery from substance use disorders.²² Approximately 75 percent of people in the United States believe that recovery is possible from dependence on substances including alcohol, prescription drugs, and marijuana.²³
- In 2010, 31.3 million people aged 18 or older received mental services in the past year,²⁴ and 2.6 million people received specialty treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol use problem.²⁵
- Half of all adults over age 18 know someone in recovery from an addiction to alcohol, illicit drugs, or prescription drugs.²⁶

Resources

Sources

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