



# Illicit Drugs Facts & Stats

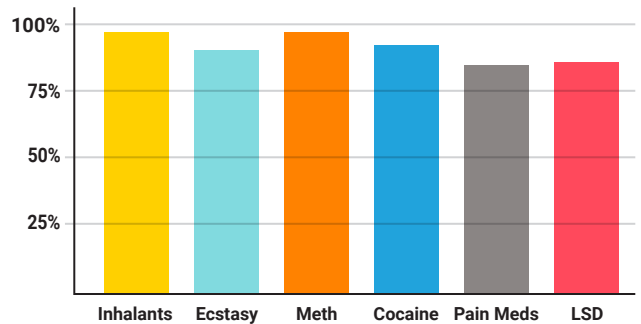
**Heroin:** A derivative of opium in a white, gray or black powder that is injected, snorted or smoked. Causes extremely painful withdrawal symptoms, such as aches and pains, diarrhea and vomiting. Known as the 2nd most addictive drug, it can cause structural changes in the brain almost immediately, resulting in addiction, coma or death. Those who misuse prescription pain killers are 19 times more likely to begin using heroin.

**Methamphetamine:** A highly addictive stimulant that causes a false sense of happiness and confidence followed by a severe crash and breakdown of the body, including memory loss, aggressiveness, psychosis, heart and brain damage. Those who become addicted have a 93% relapse rate.

**Ecstasy (MDMA):** A synthetic combination of a stimulant and a hallucinogen that amplifies sensations and causes extreme dehydration, liver failure, and depression.

**Hallucinogens:** Drugs that cause visual and auditory sensations that seem real but are not. Known as psychedelics and historically used in religious ceremonies but can cause users to feel out of control, disconnected from their body and environment, paranoia, panic and psychosis.

## 12th Grade Youth Who Have Never Tried 'Street Drugs'



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Division of Adolescent and School Health. (2017). Youth risk behavior Survey, Youth Online, Middle and High School.

## Drug Use Signs & Symptoms

- Pupils larger or smaller than normal; red eyes
- Cold sweats, sweaty palms, hands trembling
- Deterioration in hygiene, unexplained breakouts or acne, unusual odors
- Runny nose, hacking cough
- Changing friends or dropping old friends
- Depression, apathy, unstable mood, sullen or unusually elated or aggressive
- Changes in eating or sleeping patterns
- Loss of interest in or dropping out of activities or hobbies previously enjoyed
- Loss of motivation
- Academic performance decreases

## Myth: Pain Meds are Always Safe Because a Doctor Prescribes Them.



# #3

Prescription pain relievers are the 3rd most commonly abused substance by teens.

# 9%

Over 9% of 11th and 12th graders admit to abusing pain medication.

## Why Do They Start?

The social pressure to try drugs can be great. Using substances to escape emotional pain might work well, at first. Why do you think young people try drugs?

To fit in? Curiosity? To rebel? To escape?