

The NHSDA Report

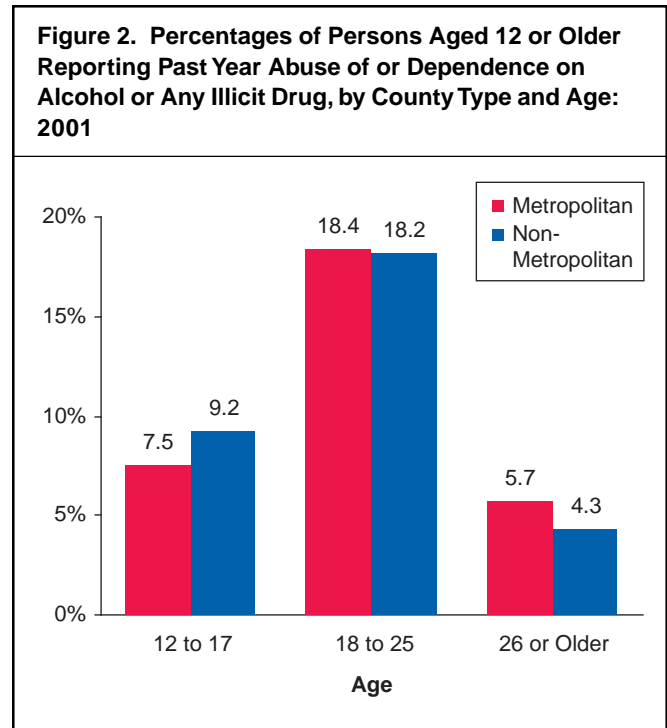
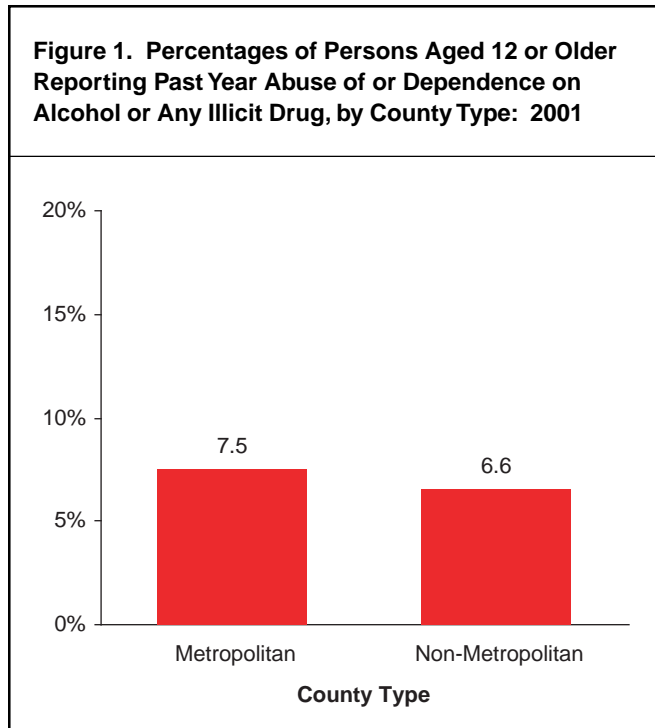
January 3, 2003

Substance Abuse or Dependence in Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Areas

In Brief

- In 2001, persons aged 12 or older who lived in metropolitan areas were more likely than those in non-metropolitan areas to abuse or be dependent on alcohol or illicit drugs during the past year
- Youths aged 12 to 17 living in non-metropolitan areas were more likely than youths in metropolitan areas to abuse or be dependent on alcohol or illicit drugs during the past year
- Rates of past year abuse or dependence were similar among males in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas

The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) asks persons aged 12 or older to report on their symptoms of abuse of or dependence on alcohol or illicit drugs. Illicit drugs include marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens, heroin, or prescription-type drugs used nonmedically. In the NHSDA, abuse and dependence are defined using criteria specified in the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV), which includes such symptoms as physical danger, trouble with the law due to substance use, increased tolerance, and interference with everyday life during the past year (Table 1).¹ Responses were analyzed by the type of county in which the respondents lived at the time of the interview. Metropolitan areas include counties that are inside Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) defined by the Office of Management and Budget,² while non-metropolitan areas include counties that are outside MSAs.



Prevalence of Abuse or Dependence

The 2001 NHSDA revealed that almost 17 million Americans aged 12 or older (7 percent) abused or were dependent on alcohol or illicit drugs during the year before the survey. Persons who lived in metropolitan areas were more likely than those in non-metropolitan areas to abuse or be dependent on alcohol or illicit drugs during the past year (Figure 1).

Age Differences

Among youths aged 12 to 17, those living in non-metropolitan areas were more likely than youths in metropolitan areas to abuse or be dependent on alcohol or illicit drugs during the past year (Figure 2). Among young adults aged 18 to 25, rates of past year abuse or dependence were similar among those in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Among adults

aged 26 or older, the rate of past year abuse or dependence was higher among those in metropolitan areas than non-metropolitan areas.

Gender and Racial/Ethnic Differences

Among females aged 12 or older, those living in metropolitan areas were more likely than females in non-metropolitan areas to abuse or be dependent on alcohol or an illicit drug during the past year (Figure 3). However, rates of past year abuse or dependence were similar among males in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Among whites, those living in metropolitan areas were more likely than persons in non-metropolitan areas to abuse or be dependent on alcohol or illicit drugs (Table 2). Rates of past year substance dependence or abuse were similar by urbanicity for American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians, blacks, or Hispanics.

End Notes

1. American Psychiatric Association. (1994). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
2. Office of Management and Budget. (1995, June 30). *Revised Statistical Definitions of Metropolitan Areas (MAs) and Guidance on Uses of MA Definitions*. Retrieved December 4, 2002, from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/95-04.html>

Figure and Table Notes

Note: Abuse or dependence is based on the definition found in the 4th ed. of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV).

Note: Any Illicit Drug refers to marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type drugs used nonmedically.

Source (Table 1): American Psychiatric Association. (1994). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Source (Table 2 and all figures): SAMHSA 2001 NHSDA.

Figure 3. Percentages of Persons Aged 12 or Older Reporting Past Year Abuse of or Dependence on Alcohol or Any Illicit Drug, by County Type and Gender: 2001

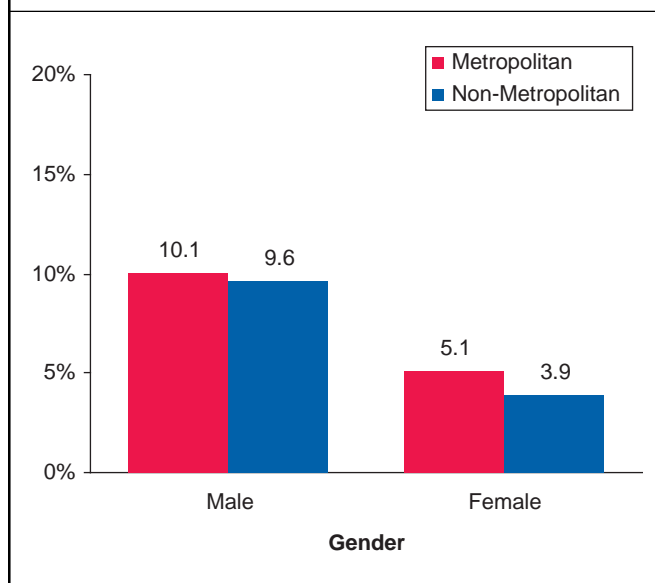


Table 1. DSM-IV Diagnosis of Substance Abuse or Dependence.

A person is defined with abuse of a substance if he or she is not dependent on that substance and reports one or more of the following symptoms in the past year.

1. Recurrent use resulting in failure to fulfill major obligations at work, school, or home
2. Recurrent substance use in situations in which it is physically hazardous (e.g., driving an automobile)
3. Recurrent substance-related legal problems
4. Continued use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems

A person is defined as being dependent on a substance if he or she reports three or more of the following symptoms in the past year.

1. Tolerance—discovering less effect with same amount (needing more to become intoxicated)
2. Withdrawal (characteristic withdrawal associated with type of drug)
3. Using more or for longer periods than intended
4. Desire to or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control substance use
5. Considerable time spent in obtaining or using the substance or recovering from its effects
6. Important social, work, or recreational activities given up or reduced because of use
7. Continued use despite knowledge of problems caused by or aggravated by use

The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) is an annual survey sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The 2001 data are based on information obtained from 69,000 persons aged 12 or older. The survey collects data by administering questionnaires to a representative sample of the population through face-to-face interviews at their place of residence.

The *NHSDA Report* is prepared by the Office of Applied Studies (OAS), SAMHSA, and by RTI in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Information and data for this issue are based on the following publications and statistics:

Office of Applied Studies. (2002). *Results from the 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Volume 1. Summary of national findings* (DHHS Publication No. SMA 02-3758, NHSDA Series H-17). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Epstein, J.F. (2002). *Substance dependence, abuse, and treatment: Findings from the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse* (NHSDA Series: A-16, DHHS Publication No. SMA 02-3642). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies.

Also available online: www.DrugAbuseStatistics.samhsa.gov.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
Office of Applied Studies
www.samhsa.gov

Table 2. Percentages of Persons Aged 12 or Older Reporting Past Year Abuse of or Dependence on Alcohol or Any Illicit Drug, by County Type and Race/Ethnicity: 2001

Race/Ethnicity	%	SE
<i>American Indian/Alaska Native</i>		
Metropolitan	13.0	3.72
Non-Metropolitan	14.8	3.28
<i>White</i>		
Metropolitan	7.9	0.21
Non-Metropolitan	6.5	0.31
<i>Hispanic</i>		
Metropolitan	7.8	0.53
Non-Metropolitan	8.1	1.55
<i>Black</i>		
Metropolitan	6.3	0.43
Non-Metropolitan	5.5	1.09
<i>Asian</i>		
Metropolitan	3.7	0.48
Non-Metropolitan	2.4	1.29

SE = Standard error