



SCREENING FOR ILLICIT DRUG USE: CLINICAL SUMMARY OF U.S. PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION

Population	Adolescents, Adults, and Pregnant Women Not Previously Identified as Users of Illicit Drugs
Recommendation	No Recommendation Grade I: (Insufficient Evidence)

Screening Tests	<p style="text-align: center;">Toxicologic tests of blood or urine can provide objective evidence of drug use, but do not distinguish occasional users from impaired drug users.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Valid and reliable standardized questionnaires are available to screen adolescents and adults for drug use or misuse. There is insufficient evidence to evaluate the clinical utility of these instruments when widely applied in primary care settings.</p>
Conclusions Regarding Net Benefit	The USPSTF concludes that for adolescents, adults, and pregnant women, the evidence is insufficient to determine the benefits and harms of screening for illicit drug use.
Suggestions for Practice	Clinicians should be alert to the signs and symptoms of illicit drug use in patients.
Treatment	More evidence is needed on the effectiveness of primary care office-based treatments for illicit drug use/dependence.
Other Relevant Recommendations from the USPSTF	The USPSTF recommendation for screening and counseling interventions to reduce alcohol misuse by adults and pregnant women can be found at http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspdrin.htm

For a summary of the evidence systematically reviewed in making these recommendations, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents please go to <http://www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov>.