

### ILLICIT DRUG USE

Illicit drug use is associated with serious health and social consequences, including addiction and drug-induced death, impaired cognitive functioning, kidney and liver damage, infections—including HIV and hepatitis—decreased productivity, and family disintegration.<sup>11,12</sup> Federally illicit drugs include marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, and non-medical use of prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs, such as pain relievers, stimulants, and sedatives.<sup>11</sup> Poisoning deaths, most of which are drug-related, are rising with abuse of prescription pain relievers and have

surpassed motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of fatal injury in the United States.<sup>13</sup>

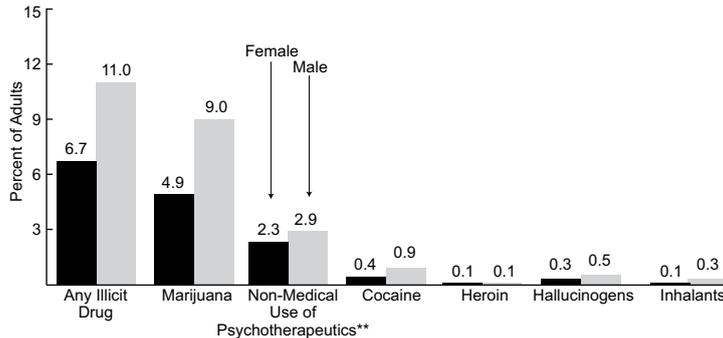
In 2009–2011, 6.7 percent of women aged 18 years and older reported using an illicit drug within the past month, compared to 11.0 percent of adult men. The most commonly used drugs among both women and men were marijuana (4.9 and 9.0 percent, respectively) and non-medical use of psychotherapeutic drugs (2.3 and 2.9 percent, respectively). Fewer than 1 percent of women and men reported using cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, or inhalants.

Illicit drug use varied greatly by age and race and ethnicity. Among women, for example,

17.2 percent of those aged 18–25 years reported using an illicit drug in the past month compared to less than 5 percent of women aged 50 years and older (data not shown). Non-Hispanic Asian women and Hispanic women were less likely than women of all other racial and ethnic groups to report using illicit drugs in the past month (2.2 and 4.7 percent, respectively). Illicit drug use was more common among non-Hispanic women of multiple race (9.1 percent) and non-Hispanic White women (7.5 percent) than among non-Hispanic Black women (6.7 percent); no other racial and ethnic differences were significant.

#### Past-Month Use of Illicit Drugs\* Among Adults Aged 18 and Older, by Drug Type and Sex, 2009–2011

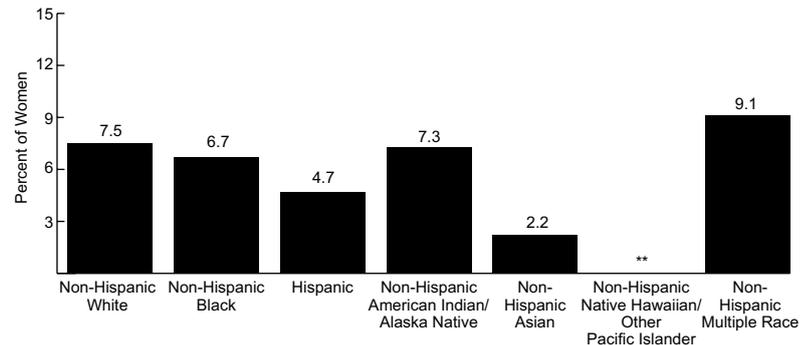
Source II.3: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health



\*Includes marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, and any prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs used for non-medical purposes; all estimates are age-adjusted. \*\*Includes prescription-type pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives, but not over-the-counter drugs.

#### Past-Month Use of Any Illicit Drug\* Among Women Aged 18 and Older, by Race/Ethnicity, 2009–2011

Source II.3: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health



\*Includes marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, and any prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs used for non-medical purposes; all estimates are age-adjusted. \*\*Estimate does not meet the standards of reliability or precision.