

# American Drug Testing

*Drug-Free Workplace Programs*

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## DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE ADVISOR

AN ONGOING SERIES TO PROTECT YOUR COMPANY BY HELPING TO KEEP DRUGS OUT OF YOUR WORK-

### National Survey: Rise in Illicit Drug use, 2008-2010

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) obtains information on nine categories of illicit drug use: use of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, and inhalants, as well as the nonmedical use of prescription-type pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives. The four categories of prescription-type drugs (pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives) cover numerous medications that currently are or have been available by prescription. They also include drugs within these groupings that originally were prescription medications but currently may be manufactured and distributed illegally, such as methamphetamine, which

is included under stimulants. Respondents are asked to report only

*“...an estimated 22.6 million Americans aged 12 or older were current (past month) illicit drug users...”*

“nonmedical” use of

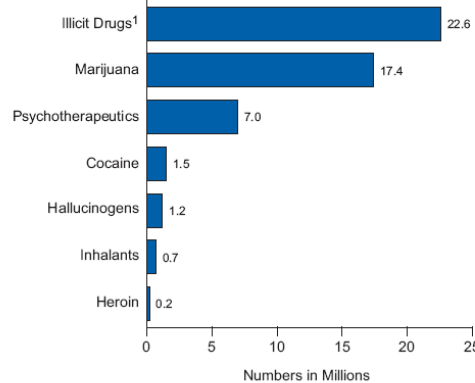
NSDUH reports combine the four prescription-type drug groups into a category referred to as “psychotherapeutics.”

• In 2010, an estimated 22.6 million Americans aged 12 or older were current (past month) illicit drug users, meaning they had used an illicit drug during the month prior to the survey interview. This estimate represents 8.9 percent of the

rates in 2002 through 2008.

• In 2010, marijuana was the most commonly used illicit drug, with 17.4 million current users. It was used by 76.8 percent of current illicit drug users and was the only drug used by 60.1 percent of them. Also in 2010, 9.0 million persons aged 12 or older were current users of illicit drugs other than marijuana (or 39.9 percent of illicit drug users aged 12 or older). Current use of other drugs but not marijuana was reported by 23.2 percent of illicit drug users, and 16.7 percent used both marijuana and other drugs. *Source: NSDUH*  
For additional information, see the “client area” at [www.AmericanDrugTesting.net](http://www.AmericanDrugTesting.net) or call 843-747-4111.

Figure 2.1 Past Month Illicit Drug Use among Persons Aged 12 or Older: 2010



<sup>1</sup> Illicit Drugs include marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically.

these drugs, defined as use without a prescription of the individual's own or simply for the experience or feeling the drugs caused. Use of over-the-counter drugs and legitimate use of prescription drugs are not included.

population aged 12 or older.

• The overall rate of current illicit drug use among persons aged 12 or older in 2010 (8.9 percent) was similar to the rate in 2009 (8.7 percent), but it was higher than the



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