Youths who used stimulants nonmedically in the past year are significantly more likely than those who did not report nonmedical stimulant use to engage in delinquent behaviors, according to a recent report from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). More than two-thirds (70%) of youths ages 12 to 17 who had used stimulants nonmedically in the past year also said that they used marijuana and more than half (57%) reported nonmedical pain reliever use, compared to 12% and 6%, respectively, of youths who did not report nonmedical stimulant use. Similar results were found for other illicit drugs, including hallucinogens, and tranquilizers. Youths who reported nonmedical stimulant use were also more likely to engage in other delinquent behaviors, such as physical violence, selling drugs, and stealing (see figure below).

Percentage of U.S. Youths Ages 12 to 17 Reporting Past Year Illicit Drug Use and Other Delinquent Behaviors, by Past Year Nonmedical Stimulant Use, 2005 and 2006 Combined

*Nonmedical use is defined as the use of prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs not prescribed for the respondent or used only for the experience or feeling they caused.