

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

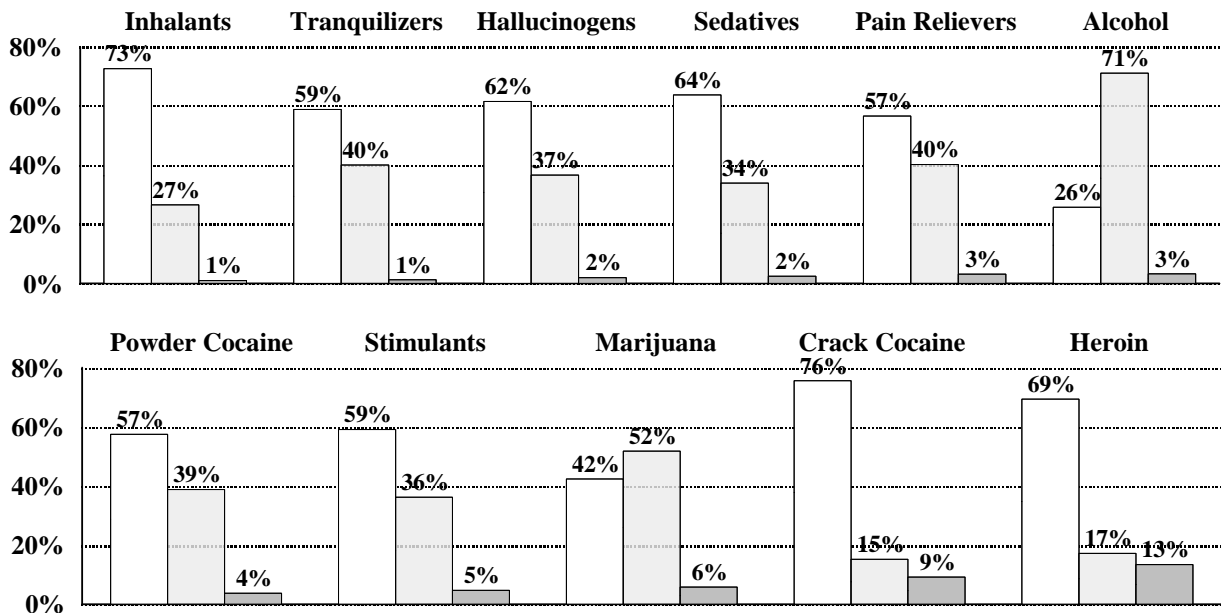
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Alcohol & Marijuana Have Highest Rates of Continued Use in the Year After Initiation; Heroin & Crack Cocaine Have Highest Rates of Dependence

Substance use trajectories in the year after initiation vary greatly by substance, according to a recent analysis of data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. For most drugs, more than half of initiates did not continue to use the drug in the year after their first use. In fact, alcohol and marijuana were the only substances for which the majority of initiates continued to use the substance one year after initiating use (see figure below). The highest rates of dependence in the year after initiation were for heroin (13%) and crack cocaine (9%), followed by marijuana (6%). All other substances had year-after-initiation dependence rate of 5% or less. Interestingly, the drugs with the highest dependence rates (heroin and crack cocaine) also had some of the highest rates of nonuse in the year after initiation, indicating that while very few go on to continue using these drugs in the year after initiation, those that do have a greater chance of developing dependence.

Substance Use Status One Year After Initiation of Substance, 2004 to 2006

□ No Use □ Use/Not Dependent ■ Dependent



NOTES: Data are from persons aged 12 or older responding to the 2004 to 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health who reported initiation of a substance 13 to 24 months prior to the interview. Pain reliever, sedative, tranquilizer, and stimulant use refers to nonmedical use of prescription-type drugs not prescribed for the respondent or used only for the experience or feeling they caused. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, "Substance Use and Dependence Following Initiation of Alcohol or Illicit Drug Use," *The NSDUH Report*, March 27, 2008. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k8/newUseDepend/newUseDepend.cfm>.

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