



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLEARINGHOUSE

## 2018 Juvenile Arrestee Drug Use in the San Diego Region

JULY 2019  
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Research findings from the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse

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As of July 5, 2019

## Highlights

### Recent drug use at 19-year high

Almost 3 in every 5 youth (58%) interviewed in 2018 tested positive for at least one substance, the highest rate since 2000. In addition, over two-thirds (68%) of the youth reported having tried all three “gateway” drugs (alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana) and the mean age of first use was around 12.

### Marijuana use up and perceived risk down

Marijuana remained the drug of choice for youth interviewed, with 55 percent positive at the time of the SAM interview, also a 19-year high. Only 11 percent of youth thought marijuana could be harmful to someone who used it, compared to 33 percent for alcohol and 60 percent for tobacco.

### Prescription drugs being abused by about 3 in 5

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of youth interviewed reported having abused prescription or over-the-counter drugs. Of those who reported ever abusing prescription drugs, 86 percent reported abusing some type of painkiller (most often codeine or Percocet) and 83 percent tranquilizers.

### Spice use down considerably

Efforts to address the spike in spice use around 2016 appear to have been effective, with the percent of juveniles who reported ever trying it down to 14 percent in 2018, from a high of 48 percent in 2015. Fewer youth were also reporting they used it as an alternative to marijuana or to avoid a positive drug test.

### Detained youth continue to have numerous risk factors

Additional data from these interviews show the risk factors many of these youth with justice system contact face, including truancy (82%), parental contact with the justice system (60%), a history of running away from home (54%), previous family contact with Child Protective Services (34%), living with no parent (17%), and thoughts about committing suicide (17%).

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## Background

When the juvenile component of the nationally-funded ADAM (Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring) program was discontinued in 2003 (one year before the entire program ended), local funding was secured, which enabled this important data collection effort to continue in the region as the San Diego County Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) program. SAM (and ADAM when it was in existence) is unique in that while most data tracking drug-use trends over time rely solely on self-report, SAM includes an objective measure of recent drug use over time with the analysis of a voluntary urine sample that is confidential and anonymous.

In 2018, San Diego County SAM was supported by the San Diego-Imperial High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) and the County of San Diego. Their support, as well as funding from SANDAG member agencies through the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse and the cooperation of the San Diego County Probation Department, is gratefully acknowledged.

This CJ Bulletin, [2018 Juvenile Arrestee Drug Use in the San Diego Region](#), is the first in a five-part series presenting SAM data collected (from both juveniles and adults) in the 2018 calendar year. As part of this study, a total of 109 youth was interviewed at Juvenile Hall during two separate months (March and September) in 2018. Ninety-six percent (96%), or 105 of these youth, provided a urine sample for drug testing purposes (81 males and 24 females). This research bulletin includes the results of urinalysis trends over time, as well as information pertaining to lifetime and recent self-reported drug use, perceived risk and availability of different drugs, and characteristics of the youth interviewed and how these factors may be related to drug use.

In addition, all of the data (percentages and raw numbers) captured through the juvenile interviews and urinalyses for the past five years (2014–2018) are available online at [sandag.org/cj](http://sandag.org/cj). For questions regarding the project methodology or data set, please contact the SANDAG Criminal Justice Research Division at (619) 699-1900.

## *What information is collected through these interviews?*

Self-reported history of illicit drug use (page 5)

Urinalysis result trends over time (page 9)

Perceptions of how harmful drugs are and how easy they are to get (page 10)

Illicit use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs (page 12)

Previous drug treatment and perception of current need for treatment (page 14)

Risk factors including home environment, mental health, and school attendance (page 15)

Criminal and other risky behavior (page 16)

## How many youth interviewed at Juvenile Hall had ever tried illicit substances?

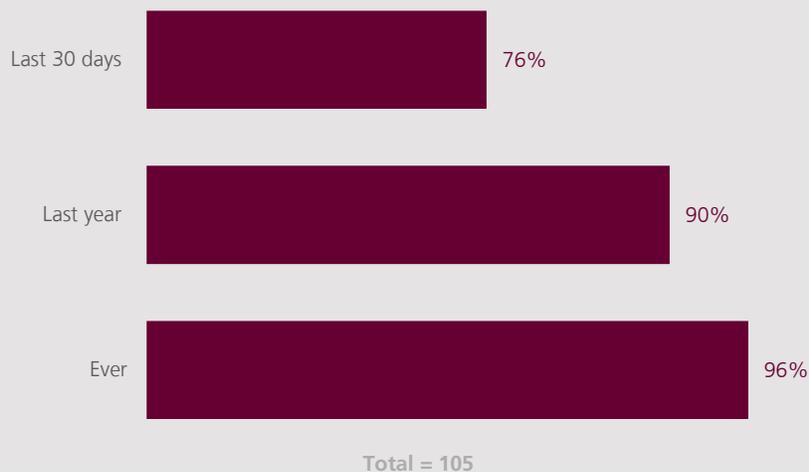
In 2018, almost all (96%) of the youth interviewed reported ever trying an illicit substance, which includes alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, crack, powder cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine (meth), and ecstasy (Figure 1).

The majority of youth also reported recent use of at least one of these substances – 90 percent in the last year and 76 percent in the last 30 days (Figure 1).

Of the 101 youth who reported ever trying one of these substances, the average (mean) number tried was 3.3 (range 1 to 8).

Figure 1

### Almost all juveniles interviewed reported previous substance use



Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

### ***How could declining arrest rates possibly affect the data reported here?***

*Over the past several years, juvenile arrest rates have declined across the State and San Diego County. These lower rates, coupled with a renewed emphasis on finding alternatives to juvenile detention, may have an effect on the data presented here. The sample of offenders interviewed may have lengthier histories and a greater number of issues, compared to those youth interviewed in earlier years.*

## Takeaway

Almost all youth interviewed at Juvenile Hall reported prior experimentation with illicit substances, over three-fourths had used substances in the past 30 days, and the average number ever tried was 3.3.

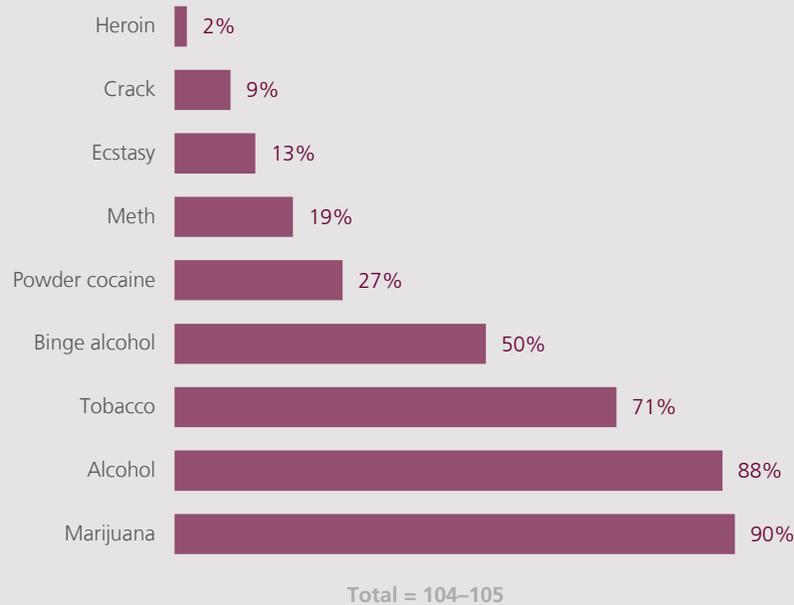
## What is the pattern of initiating substance use among youth interviewed?

Marijuana (90%) and alcohol (88%) were the most frequently tried substances, followed by tobacco (71%). Half (50%) of the youth also reported binge drinking alcohol (defined as 5 or more drinks on one occasion for males and 4 for females) (Figure 2).

In addition to the substances shown in Figure 2, 21 percent of the youth reported having ever tried LSD, 19 percent hallucinogens such as mushrooms, 14 percent spice (a mix of herbs and synthetic chemicals sometimes referred to as synthetic marijuana), 13 percent inhalants, 4 percent PCP, 2 percent GHB, and 1 percent Ketamine.

Figure 2

### Marijuana and alcohol among substances most often tried by youth

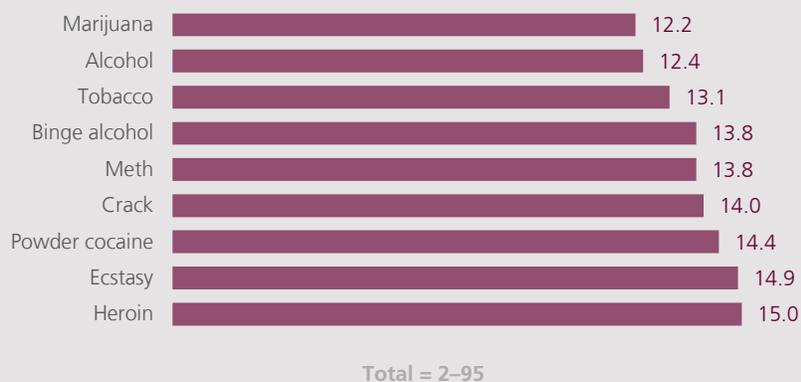


Note: Cases with missing information not included.

Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

For many of these youth, marijuana use started first, around the age of 12.2, followed by alcohol at 12.4, and tobacco at 13.1, on average. Binge alcohol use, on average, appeared to start less than one year after initial alcohol use (Figure 3).

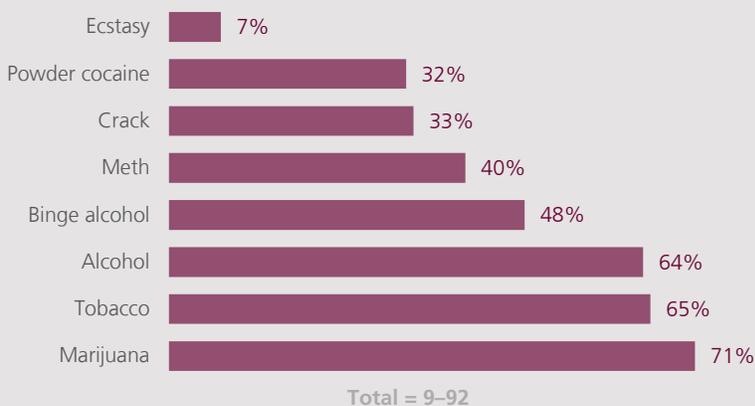
**Figure 3**  
**Marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco use starts around or before age of 13, on average**



Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
 Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

In terms of recent use, those who had ever tried marijuana were most likely to report having used it in the past 30 days (71%) followed by tobacco (65%), and alcohol (64%) (Figure 4).

**Figure 4**  
**Around two-thirds or more of youth who had ever tried tobacco, alcohol, or marijuana also reported use in the past 30 days**



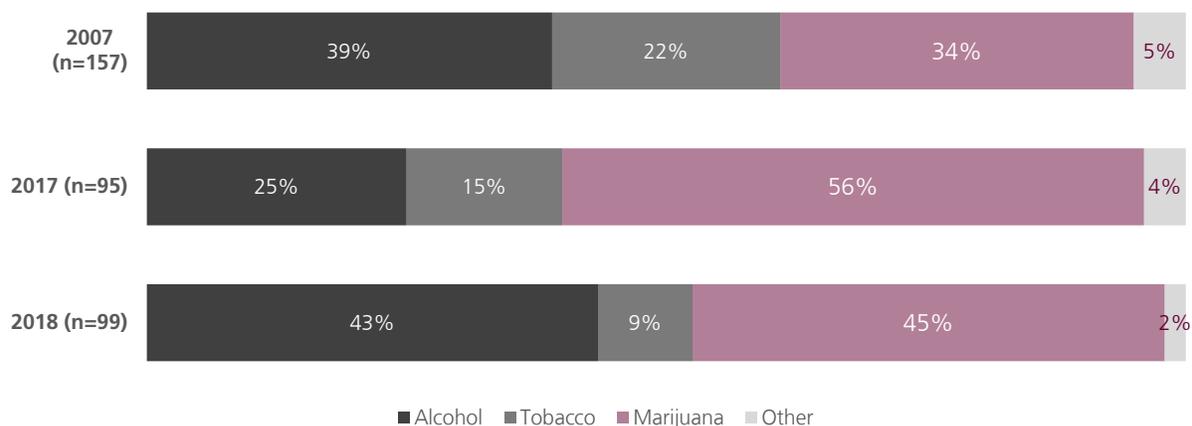
Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
 Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

While roughly equal percentages of youth reported having ever tried alcohol and marijuana, those who had tried marijuana were more likely to have used it in the past 30 days and to also use it more frequently (16.1 days on average), compared to alcohol (7.5 days on average).

In 2007, when the question was first asked, slightly more youth reported that alcohol was the first substance they had ever tried (39%), followed by marijuana (34%). For the past several years, there was a flip, with more youth reporting marijuana was the first substance they had ever tried, reaching a high of 56 percent in 2017 and 2015. In 2018, this trend shifted back, with almost equal percentages reporting the first substance used was alcohol (43%) or marijuana (45%) (Figure 5).

More than two-thirds (68%) of the youth interviewed reported they had tried all three “gateway” drugs – alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana – not just one (10%) or two (18%).

Figure 5  
**Marijuana and alcohol first substances used by most youth in 2018**



Note: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.  
 Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

### Takeaway

The majority of youth interviewed at Juvenile Hall who had tried any illicit substance were most likely to have tried each of the “gateway” drugs and to report first use occurred around the ages of 12 to 13. While more youth were again reporting alcohol was the first substance they had ever tried, compared to the prior year, a greater proportion of youth had used marijuana in the past 30 days.

## How many youth interviewed at Juvenile Hall tested positive for an illicit substance?

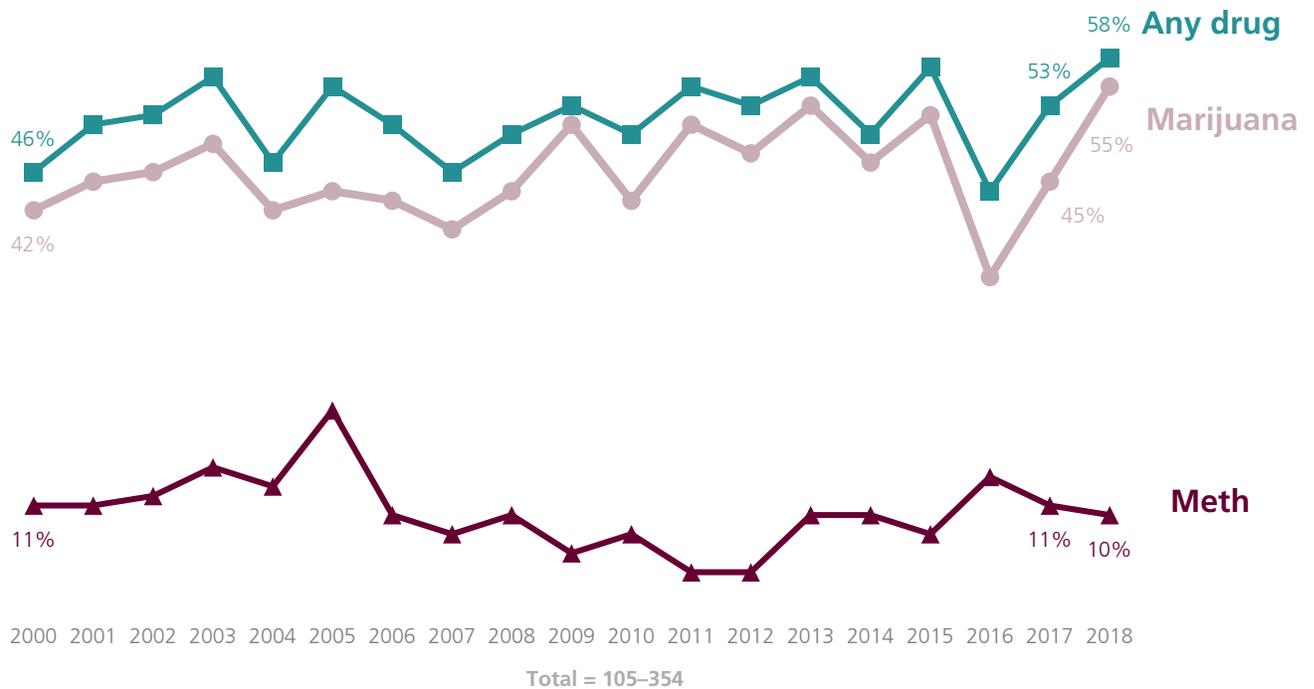
Fifty-eight percent (58%) of juveniles interviewed in 2018 tested positive for an illicit substance – marijuana, meth, cocaine/crack, PCP, and/or opiates – an increase from the 53 percent in 2017, and a new 19-year high (Figure 6).

The most commonly used substance juveniles test positive for every year is marijuana, with 55 percent positive in 2018. This was an increase from 45 percent in 2017, and also a 19-year high (Figure 6).

Meth is the second most commonly used illicit drug by juveniles, with 10 percent positive in 2018, down slightly from 11 percent in 2017 (Figure 6).

*When youth were asked who was their main source for information about drugs, 30 percent said friends, 22 percent the internet, and 17 percent school. Only 2 percent said parents.*

Figure 6  
Almost 3 in 5 juveniles positive for at least one drug in 2018



Note: Cases with missing information not included. In 2013 and 2014, any drug did not include testing for PCP.  
Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

One percent (1%) of the youth tested positive for cocaine/crack (down from 5% in 2017) and none for opiates (down from 3% in 2017). No one tested positive for PCP in 2018, the same as 2017.

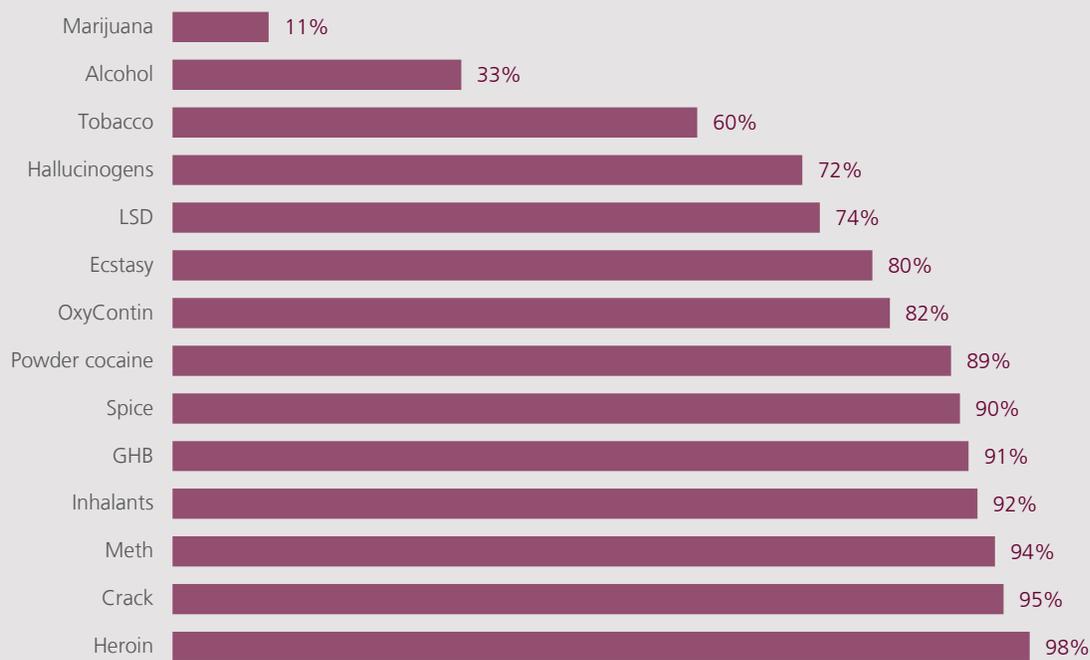
In 2018, 8 percent tested positive for multiple illicit drugs, down slightly from 10 percent in 2017. Of the 8 youth positive for multiple substances, 7 tested positive for marijuana and meth and 1 for marijuana and cocaine.

**Takeaway**  
 With almost 3 in 5 youth positive for a substance in 2018, a new 19-year high was reached, with the 55 percent for marijuana, also a 19-year high. None of the youth tested positive for opiates in 2018.

### How bad do youth think drugs are for them and how easy do they think they are to get?

When asked how bad they thought different drugs were for them (on a four-point scale), more than nine out of ten said that heroin, crack, meth, inhalants, GHB, were **“EXTREMELY BAD”** or **“VERY BAD”** (Figure 7). Marijuana was considered to be the least harmful of all the drugs, with only 11 percent of youth reporting that using it would be **“EXTREMELY BAD”** or **“VERY BAD”** for the user (Figure 7).

Figure 7  
**Around 1 in 10 youth feel that marijuana would be harmful to users**

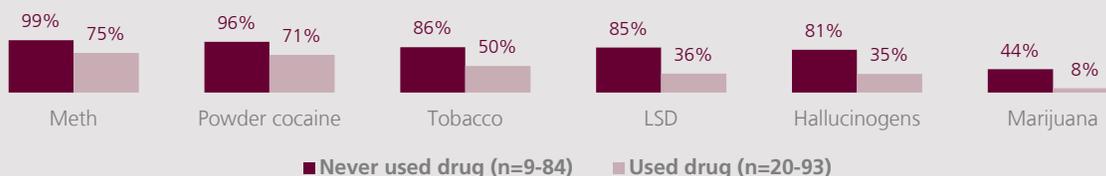


Total = 89-104

Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
 Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

Perception of harm also differed significantly by whether a youth had previously used the drug. That is, those who had ever tried a drug were less likely to perceive it was harmful, compared to those who had not. For marijuana, 44 percent of those who had not used the drug thought it was harmful, compared to 8 percent of those who did (Figure 8).

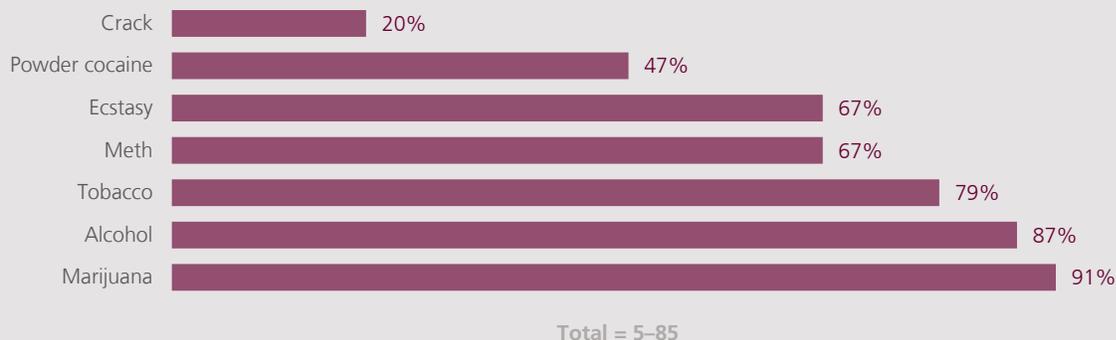
**Figure 8**  
**Drug users perceive substances as less harmful than those who never used\***



\*Significant at  $p < 0.05$   
 Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
 Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

According to the youth, marijuana (91%), alcohol (87%), and tobacco (79%) were most likely to be described as “**VERY EASY**” or “**EASY**” to obtain. Crack (20%) users were least likely to say the drug was easy to obtain in 2018 (Figure 9).

**Figure 9**  
**Around nine in ten youth report marijuana and alcohol are “VERY EASY” or “EASY” to obtain**



Note: Cases with missing information not included. No youth obtained heroin in 2018.  
 Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

Efforts to limit the availability of spice and educate youth about the dangers of spice use appear to have been effective. In 2018, only 29 percent of those who reported ever trying it said they used it as an alternative for marijuana, compared to 46 percent in 2017. In addition, none of these youth in 2018 said they had used it to avoid a positive drug test, compared to 38 percent in 2017. When youth who had ever used alcohol were asked how they most recently obtained it, the most common responses included someone else bought it from a store for them (22%), they bought it from a store (17%), someone over 21 gave it to them (17%), they took it from a store (16%), someone younger than 21 gave it to them (14%), or they took it from home (9%).

### Takeaway

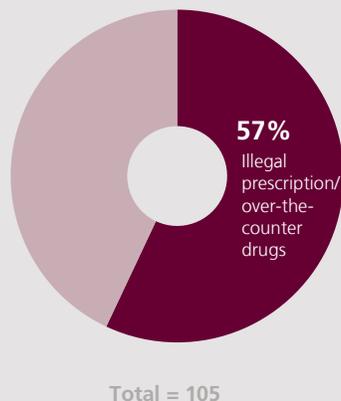
Youth who have used marijuana, hallucinogens, and LSD are least likely to report these substances are harmful. Half or more of meth, powder cocaine, and tobacco users report it is harmful even though they have used it.

## How many youth are using prescription drugs illegally?

Almost 3 in 5 (57%) youth interviewed reported ever using prescription (56%) and/or over-the-counter medication (23%) illegally (Figure 10).

Figure 10

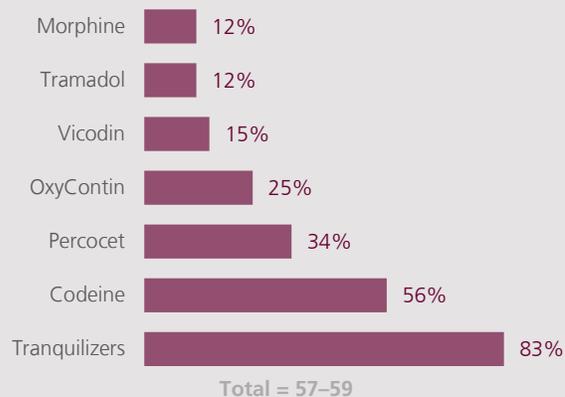
**Almost 3 in 5 juveniles interviewed have illegally used prescription or over-the-counter drugs**



Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

Figure 11

**Tranquilizers, codeine and other painkillers among most abused prescription drugs by youth**



Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

The most commonly abused prescription drug type was tranquilizers (e.g., Xanax, Valium, Rohypnol/Roachas) (83%), followed by codeine (56%), Percocet (34%), OxyContin (25%), Vicodin (15%), tramadol (12%), and morphine (12%). Other prescription drugs abused by less than 10 percent of the sample (and not shown in Figure 11) included anti-depressants (8%), amphetamines (7%), fentanyl (5%), Demerol (3%), Soma (3%), methadone (2%), barbiturates (2%), and Special K (2%). The percent of youth combined who reported ever using one of the prescription painkillers<sup>1</sup> ever was 86 percent.

In terms of over-the-counter drugs, 79 percent described abusing liquid cold medicines and 58 percent described abusing Coricidin.

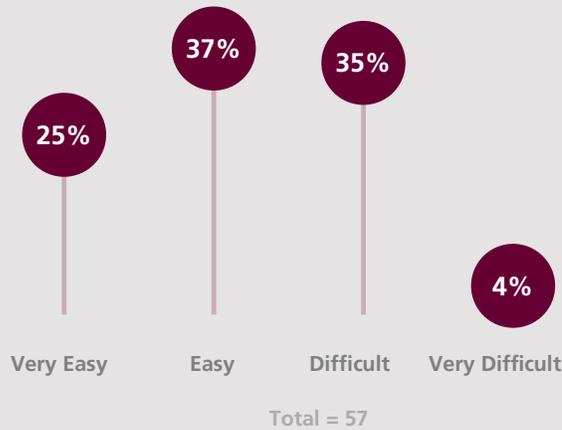
Of those who reported ever using a specific prescription drug illegally shown in Figure 11, recent use was highest for tranquilizers (26% use in the past 30 days), followed by codeine (17%), Percocet (13%), OxyContin (10%) and Vicodin (7%); none of the youth who reported using tramadol or morphine illegally reported use in the past 30 days.

Around 3 in 5 (61%) youth who had abused prescription drugs said they were **“VERY EASY”** or **“EASY”** to obtain; the 39 percent said they were **“DIFFICULT”** or **“VERY DIFFICULT”** to get (Figure 12).

<sup>1</sup> Prescription painkillers include methadone, Suboxone, dilaudid, Percocet, Vicodin, Demerol, fentanyl, morphine, OxyContin, tramadol, and Darvon.

Figure 12

**Around three-fifths of youth obtaining prescription drugs illegally said it was “VERY EASY” or “EASY” to do**



Note: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.  
Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

When asked how they got the prescription drugs, the most common response was that another person gave it to them (79%), with the other person most often a friend (79%) or acquaintance (65%). In addition, 61 percent said they bought it, 36 percent took it from someone (most often a family member 55% or stranger 45%), and 9 percent stole it from a pharmacy.

For the second time since the series of questions were added, none of the youth who reported ever using heroin said they were hooked on prescription opiates before moving on to heroin.

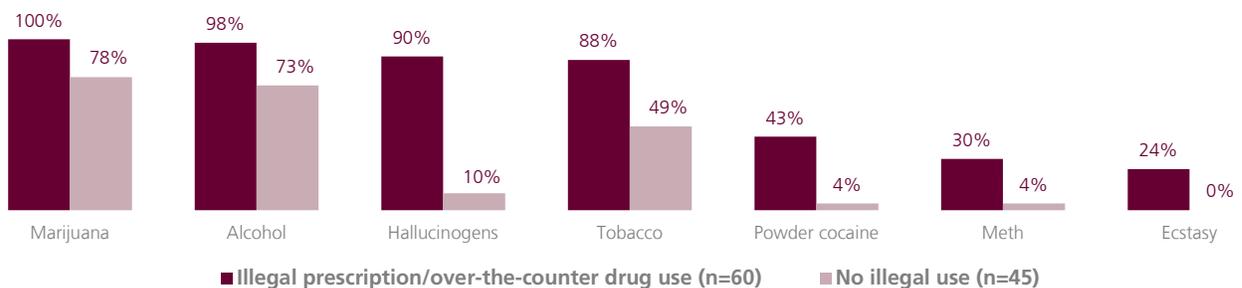
Those youth who reported abusing prescription or over-the-counter medication were significantly more likely to have tried the gateway drugs, as well as other substances, including powder cocaine, meth, hallucinogens, and ecstasy (Figure 13).

**Takeaway**

Three-fifths of the youth interviewed say prescription drugs are “**VERY EASY**” or “**EASY**” to obtain. Those who had abused prescription drugs were also more likely to have abused street drugs. Tranquilizers and codeine remained the most frequently abused prescription drugs.

Figure 13

**Youth who abuse prescription and over-the-counter drugs more likely to use other illicit drugs**



Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

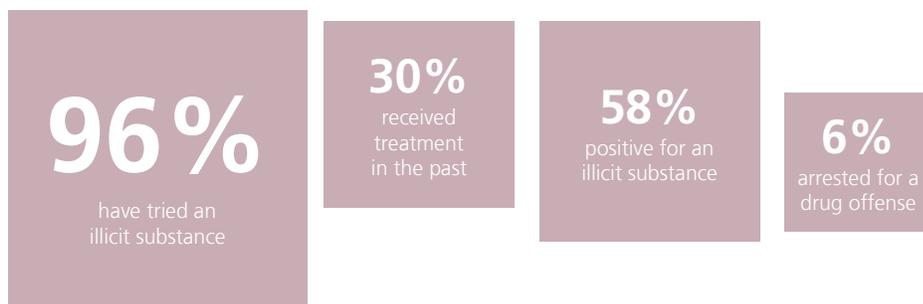
## How many of these youth have received drug treatment or feel they could use treatment now?

Fewer than 1 in 3 (30%) youth reported they had previously received drug treatment. Of those youth who had received treatment in the past, 68 percent had been in treatment once, 16 percent twice, and 16 percent three or more times. The most recent treatment experience was more likely to be court-ordered (67%) than voluntary (33%) and it was inpatient for 37 percent, outpatient for 33 percent, Narcotics Anonymous/Alcoholics Anonymous groups for 23 percent, and in-custody for 7 percent; 72 percent reported that they had successfully completed it. When asked what they had ever received treatment for, 84 percent said marijuana, 52 percent alcohol, 23 percent meth, 16 percent some other substance or combination of substances, and 10 percent cocaine/crack.

When asked if they wanted treatment now (for a drug they had ever used), 1 in 10 or fewer said yes, with 10 percent of those who had used meth responding affirmatively, followed by 8 percent for alcohol, 6 percent for marijuana, 3 percent for tobacco, and 2 percent for ecstasy.

Figure 14

### Few youth arrested for drug offenses; however, many have history of use



Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

### Takeaway

Despite the fact that many of these youth had early drug use histories, only 1 in 3 had previously received treatment, with about two-thirds of it court-ordered. Few of those interviewed felt they needed treatment for current substance use.

## What other needs and risk factors do we know about these youth?

### Home environment

- Prior to arrest, 83 percent of the youth interviewed reported living in a stable residence, but 15 percent said they lived in some type of group setting and 1 percent said they were homeless.
- When asked who they lived with, 74 percent said their mother, 48 percent their father, and 17 percent said they did not live with a parent at all.
- Just under three-quarters (72%) reported that they lived with at least one sibling.
- Just over one-third (34%) said their immediate family had some type of previous Child Protective Services involvement.
- Thirteen percent (13%) had been in foster care at some time in their life.
- Four percent (4%) said they were already a parent themselves, 13 percent of the girls said they were pregnant, or they did not know if they were, and 11 percent of the boys said their girlfriend was pregnant or could be.
- Forty percent (40%) of the youth reported a sibling and 60 percent said a parent had been previously arrested and booked into a detention facility.
- When asked whether they knew if their parents had abused alcohol or used other drugs, 36 percent said they had (8% alcohol, 8% other drugs, and 19% both). When asked what drugs their parents used, the most common responses included marijuana (88%), meth (75%), cocaine/crack (42%), and heroin (29%).
- Just over half (54%) of the youth reported they had previously run away from home.
- While only 6 percent of the youth reported that they had ever used illicit drugs with their parents, 53 percent reported that they had used drugs at home previously, with 70 percent of these 54 youth acknowledging a parent or caregiver was at home when this substance use occurred and 33 percent that the caregiver was aware of this use.

### Mental health

- Seventeen percent (17%) of the youth reported they had previously thought about killing themselves and 12 of these 18 individuals (67%) had previously made a suicide attempt.

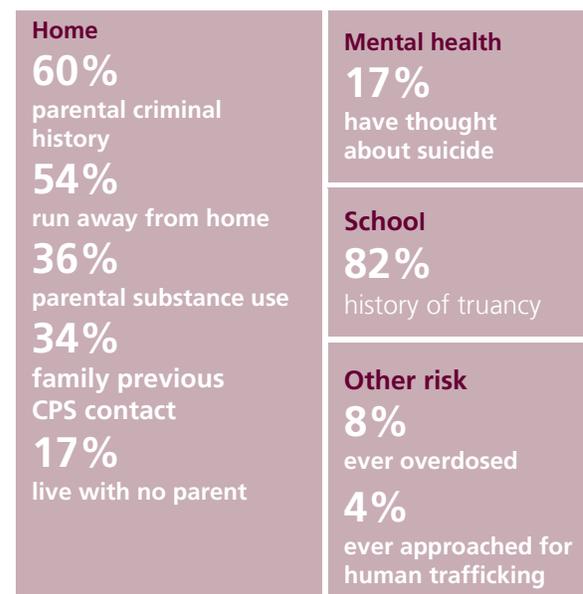
- In a new series of questions added in 2018, almost half (46%) of the youth surveyed said they had seen a counselor or other professional for emotional, behavior, or mental issues and around one-third each said they had been told by a professional they had a diagnosed issue (31%) and they were prescribed a medication for it (30%).
- In another new question, just over half (53%) said they ever felt like their mental, emotional, or psychological health got in the way of doing activities or accomplishing goals and about 1 in 3 (30%) said they had felt this way in the past 30 days.

### School/work

- Eighty-two percent (82%) of the youth reported they had previously skipped school or been truant and 15 percent were not currently enrolled in school because of an expulsion, suspension, or dropping out on their own.
- The median number of days truant in the previous month was 2.0 (range 1 to 20).
- Thirty-three percent (33%) had been referred to the School Attendance Review Board.
- Thirty-seven percent (37%) had an Individualized Education Program.
- Sixteen percent (16%) of the youth reported they had a job, with 14 of the 17 describing it as part-time, 2 as full-time, and 1 as odd jobs.

Figure 15

### Many youth interviewed have common risk factors to be addressed



Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

## What is the criminal and other risky behavior history of these youth?

- Almost two-thirds (64%) of the youth reported they had been arrested previously, 54 percent had been previously detained at a juvenile facility, and 63 percent had been under probation supervision before (94% of whom still were).
- The median number of prior arrests was 3.0 (range 1 to 18).
- Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the youth reported ever participating in some type of diversion or alternative sanction program.
- When asked what type of crime they were first arrested for, 39 percent said a property crime, 39 percent violent, 12 percent drugs, 12 percent status, and 6 percent weapons.
- When asked if they were aware of curfew laws, almost all (92%) of the youth reported that they were and around one-third (37%) said that they had actually been stopped by law enforcement in the past for violating curfew.
- Despite the fact that few (6%) youth were arrested for a drug-related offense as the highest charge on the current arrest, 38 percent reported they had some previous involvement in drug distribution – either selling drugs (20%), serving as a middleman (7%), or both (11%). When asked what drug(s) were involved, 87 percent of the 39 youth said marijuana, 28 percent meth, 18 percent powder cocaine, 13 percent heroin, 10 percent crack, 10 percent ecstasy, 5 percent OxyContin, and 5 percent LSD; 45 percent said some other drug or combination. Twenty-five percent (25%) of those ever involved said they had been involved in the past 30 days.
- Eleven percent (11%) reported they had previously committed a crime to get money to buy drugs.
- Overall, 41 percent of the youth interviewed said they were in a gang or have hung out with one. When asked their current status, 31 percent said they currently hang out (but were never a member), 29 percent are currently a member, 24 percent used to hang out, 14 percent used to be a member, and 2 percent used to be a member and now hang out. On average, these individuals said they started hanging out with the gang when they were 11.3 (range 1 to 16) years old.
- When the youth who said they used to hang out with or be a member of a gang but do not now were asked what made them stop association, 5 said that they wanted to get out of the justice system, 5 said they were tired of the lifestyle, 5 that it was too dangerous, 4 said there was an intervention by family/friends, and 2 moved.
- Ten percent (10%) of those interviewed said they had ever participated in a gang prevention program. Of these 11 youth, 2 reported no gang affiliation and 9 did.
- Of the youth with no gang affiliation to date, 97 percent said they would not in the future.
- Thirteen percent (13%) reported they had ever used social media to commit or plan a crime, including distributing drugs or stolen property, targeting individuals for violence, and committing robbery.
- Four percent (4%) (2 males and 2 females) reported they had been approached for human trafficking. When these four youth were asked where the solicitation happened, 2 said school, 2 online, 1 at a park, and 1 at a hair salon.
- One of the youth (a male) reported ever engaging in prostitution (starting at the age of 14), although he had not in the past 30 days. Seven youth (all males) also reported engaging in pimping.
- One in four (25%) youth reported they had brought a weapon to school, most often a knife. When asked why they had the weapon, 86 percent for another reason (including they forgot they had it or it was for someone else), 64 percent said for protection, 16 percent for status, 12 percent to threaten someone, and 8 percent retaliation.
- One in four (25%) of those surveyed reported they had ever gotten a gun. When asked where they got it from, the most common responses were a friend (58%), bought off the street (27%), they found it (12%), and they stole it (12%). When asked how easy it was to get a gun, 42 percent said **“VERY EASY”** and 42 percent said **“EASY.”**

Figure 16

### Most youth had prior justice system contact



Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

- Sixteen percent (16%) of youth reported they had crossed the U.S./Mexico border to obtain alcohol and/or other drugs. The mean age of first crossing was 14.2 (range 10 to 16) for alcohol and 15.1 (range 13 to 17) for other drugs. In addition, around one in ten (11%) reported they had previously been approached to transport drugs across the border.
- When the youth were asked if they had participated in any types of specific risky behaviors related to substance use in the past 12 months, around one-third or more reported they had engaged in a number of these behaviors, with the most common being getting in trouble with parents, going to school high/drunk, and getting sick from alcohol/drugs (Table 1).
- Twenty-seven percent (27%) of 33 youth reported they “**ALWAYS**” use a condom when engaging in sexual activities, 15 percent said “**MOST OF THE TIME**,” 33 percent “**SOME OF THE TIME**,” and 24 percent said “**NEVER**.”
- Eight percent (8%) of the youth reported they previously had a drug overdose (all 8 were males). When asked what drug(s) they had overdosed on, responses included meth, Xanax, and other prescription drugs. One of the 4 said they had been administered naloxone.

Table 1

### Many juvenile arrestees participate in risky behaviors associated with alcohol and other drug use

Get in trouble with parents for using alcohol/drugs	50%
Go to school high/drunk	43%
Get sick from alcohol/drugs	42%
Ride in a car with a driver who has used alcohol/drugs	39%
Not remember what happened while drinking	35%
Participate in sex acts after using alcohol/drugs	34%
Get in physical fight after using alcohol/drugs	32%
Miss school because of alcohol/drugs	30%
Feel bad about something done when drunk/high	24%
Pass out after using alcohol/drugs	21%
Drive a car after drinking/using drugs	15%
Have alcohol-/drug-related health problems	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101-105</b>

Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2018

### Takeaway

Many of the youth interviewed here reported a history of justice system contact, as well as gang involvement, a history of drug distribution, and carrying weapons. In addition, around one-third or more reported risky behaviors associated with drug use, including going to school drunk or high and not remembering what happened while drinking or using drugs.

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## Summary

As the data here describes, youth booked into Juvenile Hall continue to face a number of risk factors that require communities and systems of care to work together. Some of the risks described here include both gateway and other drug use at relatively early ages; polydrug use; negative peer groups, including gang involvement; challenging home environments with individuals who also use drugs and have had contact with the justice system; and truancy. These data offer program and policy leaders support for continued prevention and targeted intervention services at a time when resources are limited. Specific areas of prevention and intervention focus could include ensuring treatment availability that is family-based; education for parents regarding the importance of prevention including strategies for effectively interacting with their children about this topic; coordination with educational units to address truancy, as well as facilitating prevention messages; and continued support of pro-social activities.