



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLEARINGHOUSE

## 2019 Juvenile Arrestee Drug Use in the San Diego Region

AUGUST 2020  
Cynthia Burke, Ph.D.

Research findings from the Criminal Justice Clearinghouse

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## Highlights

### Recent drug use at 20-year high

Just over 3 in 5 (62%) youth interviewed in 2019 tested positive for at least one substance, the highest rate since 2000. In addition, almost three-fourths (74%) of the youth reported having tried all three gateway drugs (alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana) and the mean age of first use was around 13.

### Marijuana use up and perceived risk down

Marijuana remained the drug of choice for youth interviewed, with 57% positive at the time of the Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) interview, also a 20-year high. Only 10% of youth who had used marijuana thought marijuana could be harmful to someone who used it.

### Prescription drug abuse down

Forty-two percent (42%) of youth interviewed reported having abused prescription or over-the-counter drugs, down from 57% in 2018. Of those who reported ever abusing prescription drugs, 81% reported abusing tranquilizers and 79% some type of painkiller (most often codeine or Percocet).

### Majority of youth have vaped

Additional questions were added to the interview in 2019 regarding vaping. Just over three-fourths (76%) of the youth interviewed reported ever vaping, most commonly vaping flavored nicotine (90%) or marijuana/THC (73%). Around half (49%) reported vaping at school and 59% thought that vaping was not harmful.

### 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%), a history of running away from home (51%), parental contact with the justice system (45%), previous family contact with Child Protective Services (36%), and thoughts about committing suicide (18%).

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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 2019, 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, 2019 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 2019 calendar year. As part of this study, 109 youth were interviewed at Juvenile Hall during two separate months (March and September) in 2019. Ninety-four percent (94%), or 102 of these youth, provided a urine sample for drug testing purposes (74 males and 28 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, 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 (2015–2019) 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?

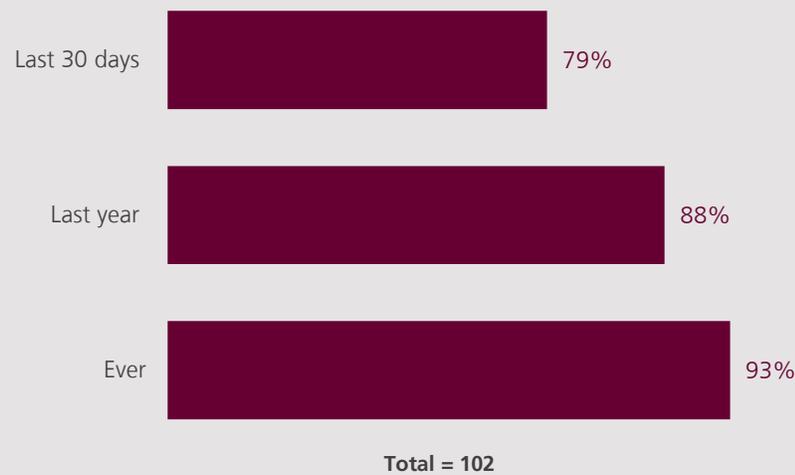
In 2019, almost all (93%) of the youth interviewed reported ever trying an illicit substance, which includes alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, crack, powder cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine (meth), and ecstasy (Figure 1).

The majority of youth also reported recent use of at least one of these substances – 88% in the last year and 79% in the last 30 days (Figure 1).

Of the youth who reported ever trying one of these substances, the average (mean) number tried was 3.6 (range 1 to 8).

Figure 1

### Almost all juveniles interviewed reported previous substance use



Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

### 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 3.6.

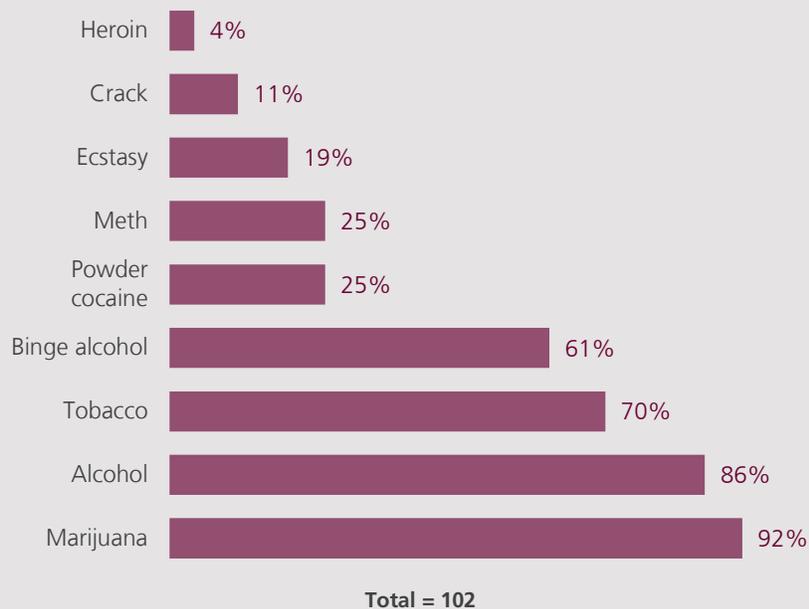
## What is the pattern of initiating substance use among youth interviewed?

Marijuana (92%) and alcohol (86%) were the most frequently tried substances, followed by tobacco (70%). Sixty-one percent (61%) 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, 19% of the youth reported having ever tried LSD, 16% spice (a mix of herbs and synthetic chemicals sometimes returned to as synthetic marijuana), 13% hallucinogens such as mushrooms, 8% inhalants, 6% PCP, 3% GHB, and 2% Ketamine.

Figure 2

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

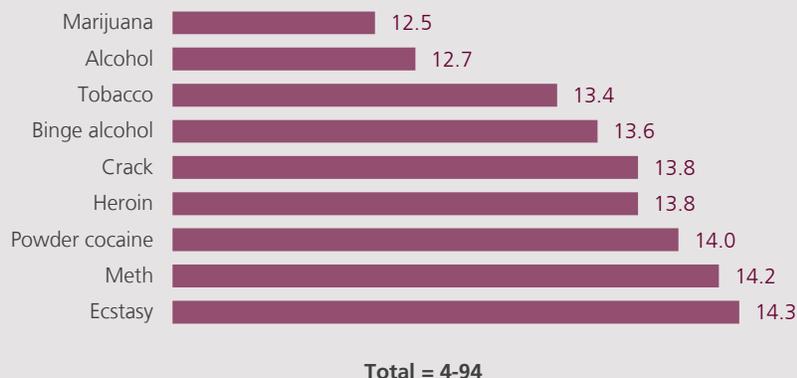


Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

For many of these youth, marijuana use started first, around the age of 12.5, followed by alcohol at 12.7, and tobacco at 13.4, on average. Binge alcohol use, on average, appeared to start around one year after initial alcohol use (Figure 3).

Figure 3

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

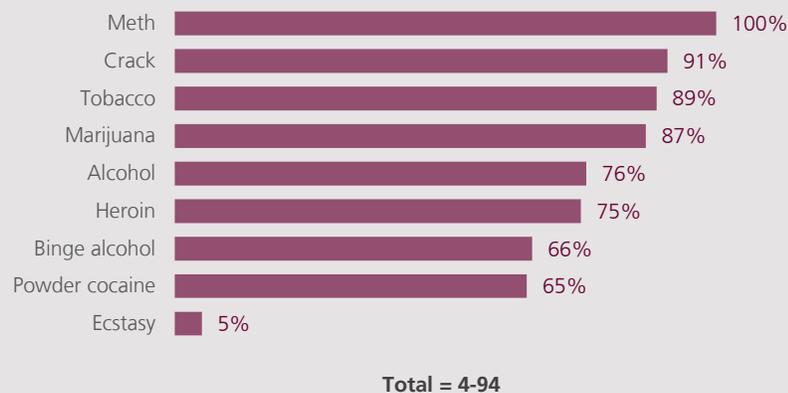


Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

In terms of recent use for the gateway drugs, those who had ever tried tobacco were most likely to report having used it in the past 30 days (89%) followed by marijuana (87%), and alcohol (76%) (Figure 4). In addition, all (100%) of those who had tried meth and 91% of those who had ever tried crack reported using it in the past 30 days.

Figure 4

**Around three-fourths or more of youth who had ever tried tobacco, alcohol, or marijuana also reported use in the past 30 days**



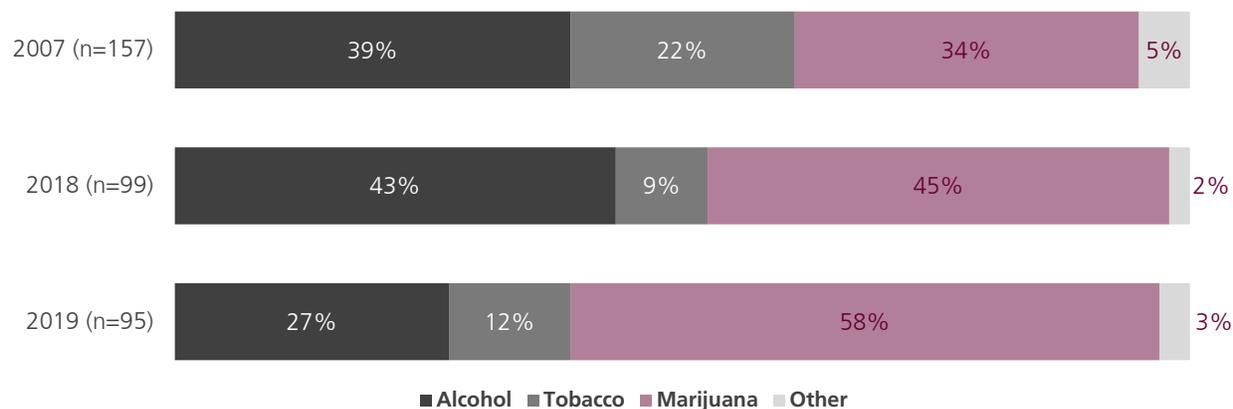
Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

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 (14.7 days on average), compared to alcohol (6.7 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%), compared to marijuana (34%). In 2019, almost three in every five (58%) youth who had tried any substances reported that marijuana was the first, followed by 27% reporting it was alcohol (Figure 5). Almost three-fourths (74%) of the youth interviewed reported they had tried all three gateway drugs – alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana – not just one (7%) or two (19%).

Figure 5

### Marijuana and alcohol first substances used by most youth in 2019



Note: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.  
Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

In a new series of questions added in 2019, youth were asked about their history and perception of vaping.

- Just over three-quarters (76%) of the youth said they had ever vaped, with no differences between males and females.
- Almost three-fifths (59%) of those who had ever vaped reported vaping in the past 30 days. Of those who vaped in the past 30 days, the mean number of days vaped was 12.8 (range 1 to 30).
- When asked what substances they had vaped, the most common responses were flavored nicotine (90%) and marijuana/THC (73%). In addition, 26% reported vaping non-flavored nicotine.
- Just under half (49%) reported vaping at school.
- Two-thirds (65%) said they preferred vaping to smoking cigarettes. When asked why they preferred vaping, the most common responses were they liked the flavor they got with vaping and that it was safer.
- When asked how bad they thought vaping was, 59% did not perceive any harm. In addition, 35% said they thought vaping was less harmful than smoking cigarettes.



### 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. Marijuana was the most commonly first used substance for the majority of youth and youth who used it in the past month use it more frequently than any other substance.

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

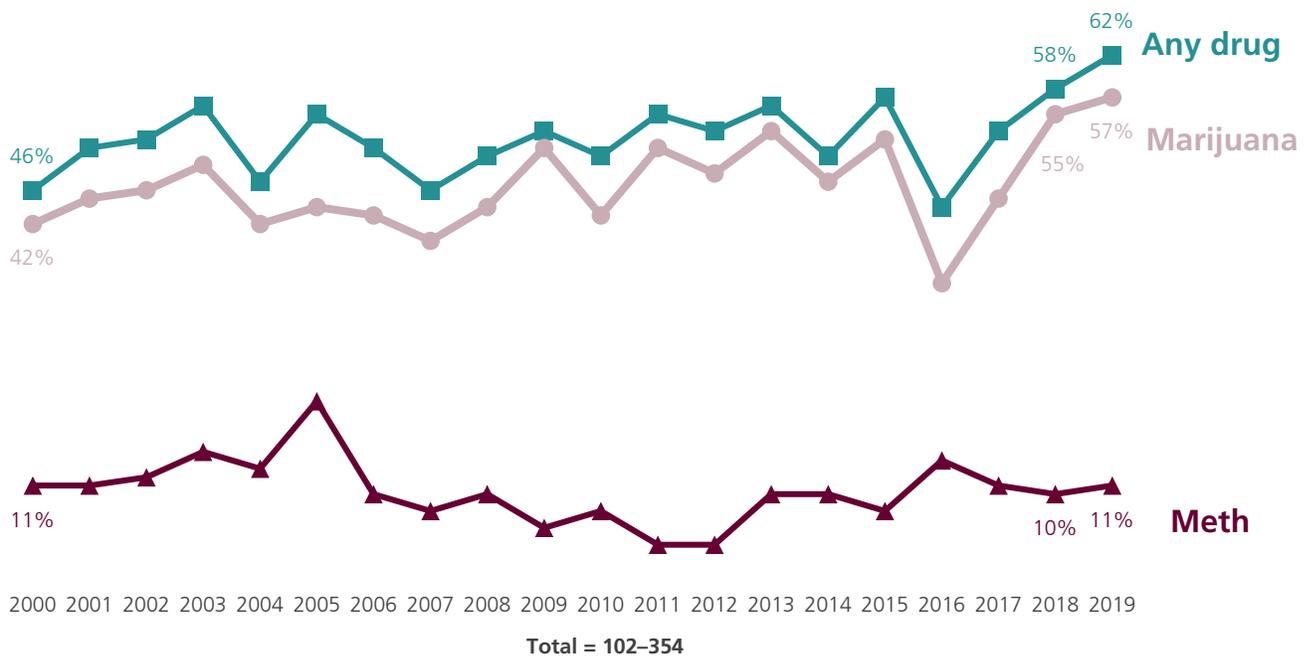
Sixty-two percent (62%) of juveniles interviewed in 2019 tested positive for an illicit substance – marijuana, meth, cocaine/crack, PCP, and/or opiates – an increase from the 58% in 2018, and a new 20-year high (Figure 6).

The most common substance juveniles test positive for every year is marijuana, with 57% positive in 2019. This was an increase from 55% in 2018, and also a 20-year high (Figure 6).

Meth is the second most commonly used illicit drug by juveniles, with 11% positive in 2019, up slightly from 10% in 2018 (Figure 6).

*When youth were asked who was their main source for information about drugs, 26% said friends; 20% television, movies, or the internet; 20% school; and 10% parents.*

Figure 6  
Around 3 in 5 juveniles positive for at least one drug in 2019



Note: Cases with missing information not included. In 2013 and 2014, any drug did not include testing for PCP.  
Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

Five percent (5%) of the youth tested positive for cocaine/crack (up from 1% in 2018) and none for opiates or PCP (the same as in 2018). In 2019, 11% tested positive for multiple illicit drugs, up slightly from 8% in 2018. Of the 11 youth positive for multiple substances, 7 tested positive for marijuana and meth, and 4 for marijuana and cocaine.

### Takeaway

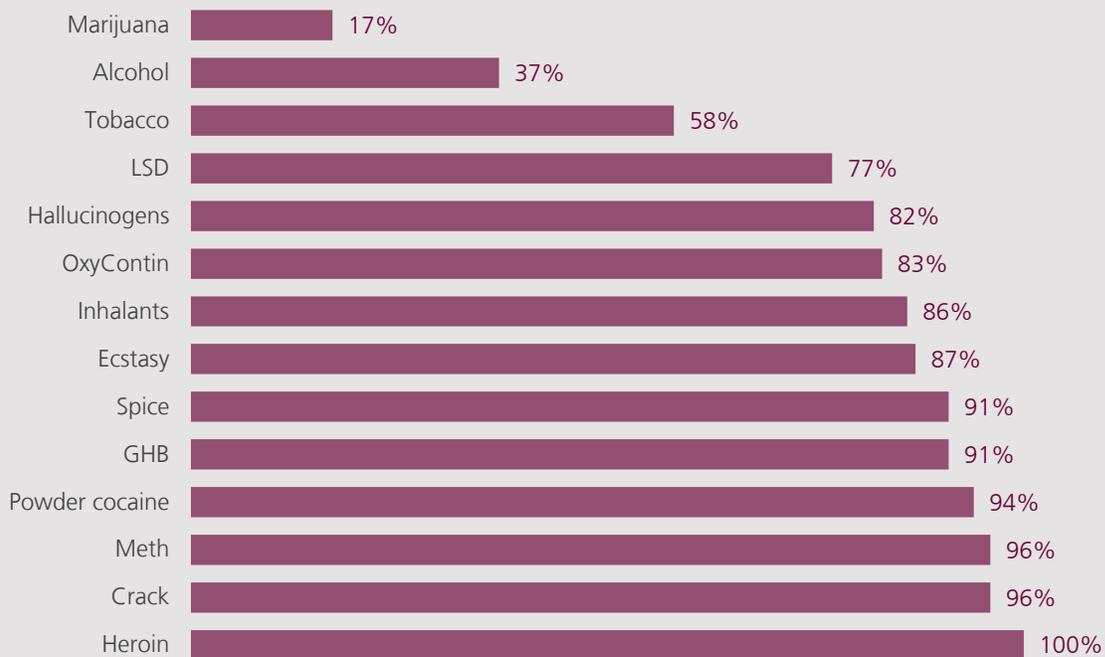
With around 3 in 5 youth positive for a substance in 2019, a new 20-year high was reached. The 57% of youth positive for marijuana was also a 20-year high. None of the youth tested positive for opiates in 2019.

### 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, powder cocaine, GHB, and spice, were “**EXTREMELY BAD**” or “**VERY BAD**” (Figure 7). Marijuana was considered to be the least harmful of all the drugs, with only 17% of youth reporting that using it would be “**EXTREMELY BAD**” or “**VERY BAD**” for the user (Figure 7).

Figure 7

#### Around 1 in 6 youth feel that marijuana would be harmful to users

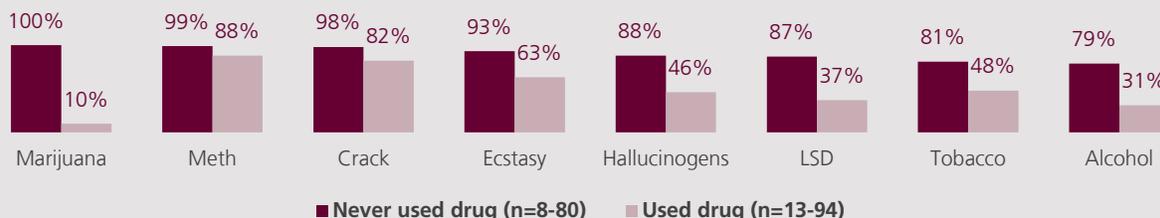


Total = 96-102

Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

Perception of harm also differed significantly by whether a youth had previously used the drug. Those who had ever tried a drug were less likely to perceive it was harmful, compared to those who had not. For marijuana, 100% of those who had not used the drug thought it was harmful, compared to 10% of those who had (Figure 8).

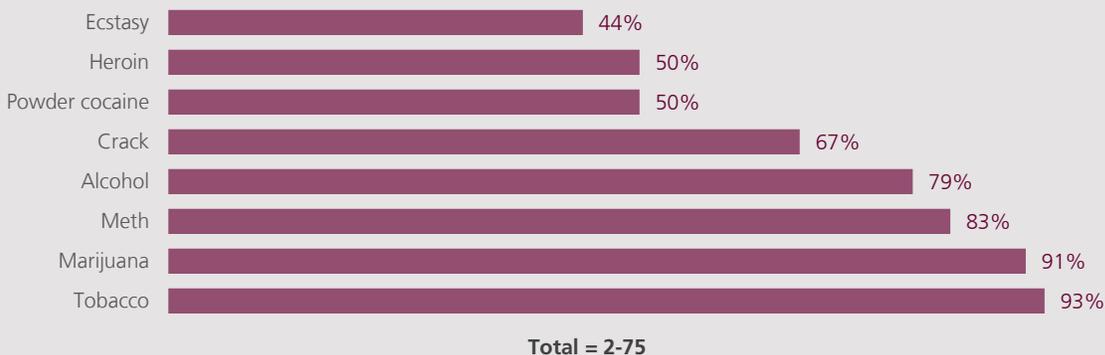
Figure 8  
**Drug users perceive substances as less harmful than those who never used\***



\*Significant at  $p < 0.05$   
 Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
 Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

According to the youth, tobacco (93%) and marijuana (91%) were most likely to be described as “**VERY EASY**” or “**EASY**” to obtain (Figure 9).

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



Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
 Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

Efforts to limit the availability of spice and educate youth about the dangers of spice use appear to have been effective. In 2019, only 13% of those who reported ever trying it said they used it as an alternative for marijuana, compared to 46% in 2017 and 29% in 2018.

When youth who had ever used alcohol were asked how they most recently obtained it, the most common responses included someone over 21 gave it to them (26%), someone else bought it from a store for them (18%), they bought it from a store (15%), someone younger than 21 gave it to them (14%), they took it from a store (9%), they took it from their own home (7%), or they took it from someone else’s home (7%).

### Takeaway

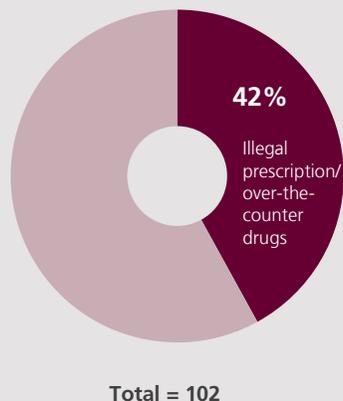
Youth who have used marijuana, alcohol, LSD, and tobacco are less likely to report these substances are harmful. More than half of meth, ecstasy, and crack users report it is harmful even though they have used it.

## How many youth are using prescription drugs illegally?

Around 2 in 5 (42%) youth interviewed reported ever using prescription (41%) and/or over-the-counter medication (19%) illegally (Figure 10).

Figure 10

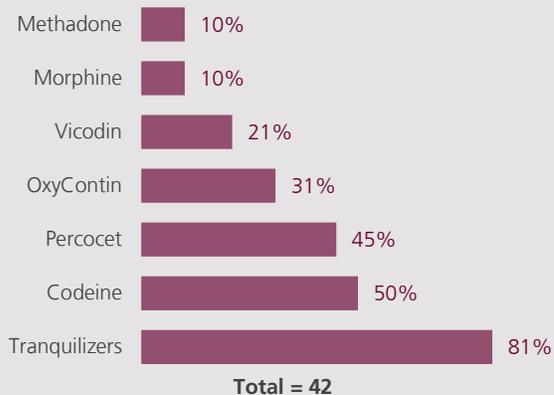
**Around 2 in 5 juveniles interviewed have illegally used prescription or over-the-counter drugs**



Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

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, 2019

The most commonly abused prescription drug type was tranquilizers (e.g., Xanax, Valium, Rohypnol/Roachas) (81%), followed by codeine (50%), Percocet (45%), OxyContin (31%), Vicodin (21%), morphine (10%), and methadone (10%) (Figure 11). Other prescription drugs abused by less than 10% of the sample (and not shown in Figure 11) included amphetamines (7%), tramadol (5%), barbiturates (5%), ketamine (5%), Demerol (5%), fentanyl (2%), Soma (2%), and suboxone (2%). The percent of youth combined who reported ever abusing one of the prescription painkillers<sup>1</sup> was 79%.

In terms of over-the-counter drugs, 89% described abusing Coricidin and 68% described abusing liquid cold medicines.

Of those who reported ever using a specific prescription drug illegally shown in Figure 11, recent use was highest for tranquilizers (26% used in the past 30 days), followed by OxyContin (15%), codeine (5%), and Percocet (5%).

Half (50%) of the youth who had abused prescription drugs said they were **“VERY EASY”** or **“EASY”** to obtain (Figure 12).

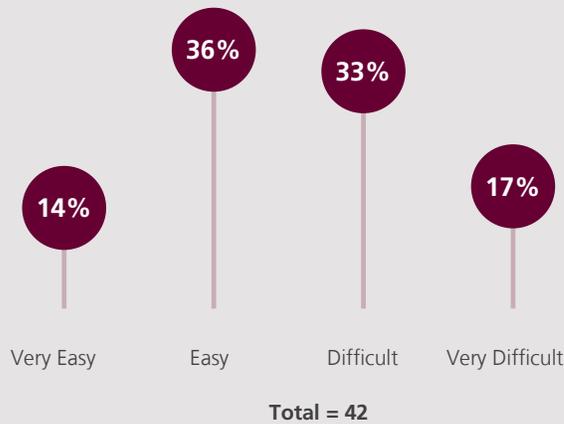
In another new question in 2019, youth were asked if they had ever used Kratom, a leaf from a tropical tree that contains compounds that can have psychotropic effects and is not currently illegal. One of the youth (1%) responded affirmatively, but had not used it in the past 30 days.



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

Figure 12

**Half of youth obtaining prescription drugs illegally said it was "VERY EASY" or "EASY" to get**



Note: Cases with missing information not included. Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.  
 Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

When asked how they got the prescription drugs, the most common response was that another person gave it to them (69%), with the other person most often a friend (83%) or acquaintance (28%). In addition, 67% said they bought it, 29% took it from someone (most often a friend, 50%, acquaintance, 42%, or a stranger, 33%), and 7% stole it from a pharmacy.

For the third 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.

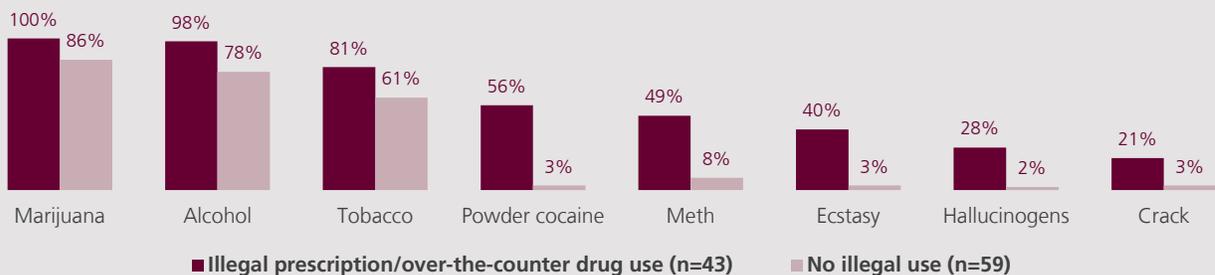
Those youth who reported abusing prescription or over-the-counter medication were significantly more likely to have tried the gateway drugs, as well as other substances, including powder cocaine, meth, ecstasy, hallucinogens, and crack (Figure 13).

**Takeaway**

Half 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, 2019

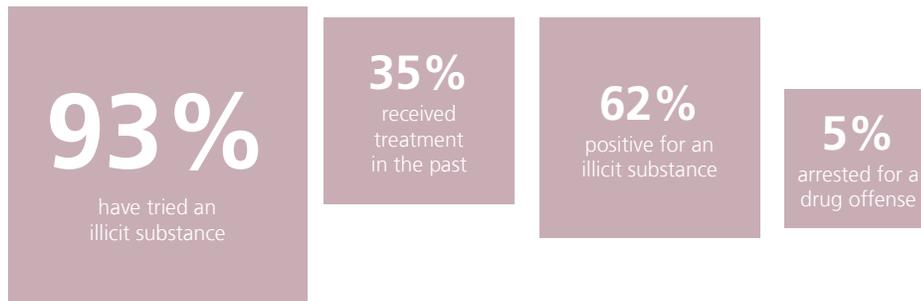
## How many of these youth have received drug treatment or feel they could use treatment now?

Around 1 in 3 (35%) youth reported they had previously received drug treatment. Of those youth who had received treatment in the past, 56% had been in treatment once, 22% twice, and 22% three or more times. The most recent treatment experience was more likely to be court-ordered (74%) than voluntary (26%), and it was inpatient for 37%, outpatient for 46%, Narcotics Anonymous/Alcoholics Anonymous groups for 14%, and in-custody for 3%; 51% reported that they had successfully completed it. When asked what they had ever received treatment for, 72% said marijuana, 53% alcohol, 22% meth, 19% some other substance or combination of substances, 6% cocaine/crack, and 3% heroin.

When asked if they wanted treatment now (for a drug they had ever used), only 13% said they did. Of these youth, 6 said they needed it for marijuana, 4 each for meth and alcohol, 2 for tobacco, and 1 for heroin.

Figure 14

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



Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

### Takeaway

Despite the fact that many of these youth had early drug use histories, only around 1 in 3 had previously received treatment, with about three-fourths 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, 81% of the youth interviewed reported living in a stable residence, but 17% said they lived in some type of group setting and 2% said they were homeless.
- When asked who they lived with, 82% said their mother, 38% their father, and 11% said they did not live with a parent at all.
- Just over three-quarters (76%) reported that they lived with at least one sibling.
- Just over one-third (36%) said their immediate family had some type of previous Child Protective Services involvement.
- One-quarter (24%) had been in foster care at some time in their life.
- Three percent (3%) said they were already a parent themselves, 7% of the girls said they were pregnant, or they did not know if they were, and 12% of the boys said their girlfriend was pregnant or could be.
- Forty-three percent (43%) of the youth reported a sibling and 45% 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, not including marijuana, 34% said they did. In addition, 27% said they were aware of parental marijuana use.
- Just over half (51%) of the youth reported they had previously run away from home, including 82% of the females and 39% of the males.
- While only 4% of the youth reported that they had ever used illicit drugs with their parents, 39% reported that they had used drugs at home previously, with 62% of these youth acknowledging a parent or caregiver was at home when this substance use occurred. Just under half (45%) said the caregiver was aware of this use.

### Mental health

- Eighteen percent (18%) of the youth reported they had previously thought about killing themselves and 13 of these 18 individuals (72%) had previously made a suicide attempt.

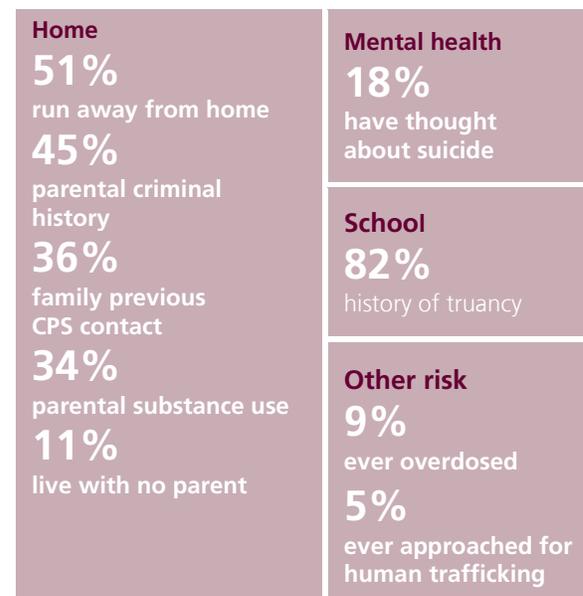
- Forty-one percent (41%) of the youth surveyed (61% of females and 34% of males) said they had seen a counselor or other professional for emotional, behavior, or mental health issues and around one-third each said they had been told by a professional they had a diagnosed issue (31%) and were prescribed a medication for it (33%).
- Twenty-six percent (26%) said they ever felt like their mental, emotional, or psychological health got in the way of doing activities or accomplishing goals (53% of females and 19% of males) and about 67% 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 19% 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 3.0 (range 1 to 20).
- Twenty-one percent (21%) had been referred to the School Attendance Review Board.
- Twenty-five percent (25%) had an Individualized Education Program.

Figure 15

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



Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

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

- Almost three-quarters (74%) of the youth reported they had been arrested previously, 68% had been previously detained at a juvenile facility, and 78% had been under probation supervision before (92% of whom still were).
- The median number of prior arrests was 3.0 (range 1 to 30).
- Fifty-one percent (51%) 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, 57% said a violent crime, 36% property, 9% weapons, 8% drugs, 4% status, and 1% other.
- When asked if they were aware of curfew laws, almost all (91%) of the youth reported that they were and over one-third (39%) said that they had been stopped by law enforcement in the past for violating curfew.
- Despite the fact that few (5%) youth were arrested for a drug-related offense as the highest charge on the current arrest, 36% reported they had some previous involvement in drug distribution – either selling drugs (18%), serving as a middleman (7%), or both (12%). When asked what drug(s) were involved, 80% of the 35 youth said marijuana, 36% meth, 21% powder cocaine, 15% heroin, 11% crack, 3% ecstasy, 3% OxyContin, and 3% LSD; 37% said some other drug or combination. Twenty-four percent (24%) of those ever involved said they had been involved in the past 30 days.
- Fifteen percent (15%) reported they had previously committed a crime to get money to buy drugs.
- Overall, 34% of the youth interviewed said they were in a gang or have hung out with one. When asked their current status, 38% said they are currently a member, 35% they currently hang out (but were never a member), 15% used to be a member, and 12% used to hang out. On average, these individuals said they started hanging out with the gang when they were 11.7 (range 7 to 15) 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, four said that they had moved, three they were tired of the lifestyle, and one each they wanted to get out of the justice system, it was too dangerous, and there was an intervention by family/friends.
- Seven percent (7%) of those interviewed said they had ever participated in a gang prevention program. Of these seven youth, three reported no gang affiliation and four did.
- Five percent (5%) (5 females) reported they had been approached for human trafficking. When these youth were asked where the solicitation happened, two said on the internet, and one each at a shopping mall, a recreation center, or on the street.
- Four percent (4%) (1 female and 3 males) reported ever engaging in prostitution (starting at the age of 15); two of these males said they had done so in the past 30 days, one of whom wanted to stop and one who said he did not. None of the youth reported engaging in pimping.
- Around one in four (24%) youth reported they had brought a weapon to school, most often a knife. When asked why they had the weapon, 58% said for protection, 29% for another reason (which often included they forgot they were carrying it), 13% for status, and 4% each to threaten someone and retaliation.
- One in five (21%) of those surveyed reported they had ever gotten a gun. When asked where they got it from, the most common responses were a friend (53%), bought off the street (47%), they stole it (16%), and they found it (11%). When asked how easy it was to get a gun, 30% said **“VERY EASY”** and 60% said **“EASY.”**

Figure 16

### Most youth had prior justice system contact



Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
 Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

- Six percent (6%) 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 15.3 (range 14 to 17) for alcohol and 14.5 (range 14 to 15) for other drugs. In addition, 8% reported they had previously been approached to transport drugs across the border.
- When the youth were asked if they had participated in any types 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, riding in a car with a driver who had used alcohol/drugs, and going to school high/drunken (Table 1).
- Thirty-five percent (35%) of 31 youth reported they **“ALWAYS”** use a condom when engaging in sexual activities, 13% said **“MOST OF THE TIME,”** 23% **“SOME OF THE TIME,”** and 29% said **“NEVER.”**
- Nine percent (9%) of the youth reported they previously had a drug overdose (seven males and two females). When asked what drug(s) they had overdosed on, responses included meth, Xanax, and other prescription drugs.

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	49%
Ride in a car with a driver who has used alcohol/drugs	39%
Go to school high/drunken	38%
Get in physical fight after using alcohol/drugs	35%
Get sick from alcohol/drugs	33%
Not remember what happened while drinking	32%
Participate in sex acts after using alcohol/drugs	30%
Feel bad about something done when drunk/high	29%
Drive a car after drinking/using drugs	23%
Miss school because of alcohol/drugs	22%
Pass out after using alcohol/drugs	19%
Have alcohol-/drug-related health problems	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101-102</b>

Note: Cases with missing information not included.  
 Source: SANDAG SAM Program, 2019

### 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.