

# Interpreting Drug Abuse Statistics

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Drug abuse statistics reveal the scope of the epidemic, but taking a closer look reveals what these statistics really mean for society.

## ***10.2% of Adults Abuse Illicit Drugs Monthly***

Individuals over the age of 12 have a one in 10 chance of abusing illicit drugs on a monthly basis.

## ***Over 20 Million Americans Have a Substance Abuse Disorder***

For far too long, society viewed drug abuse and addiction as a fringe disorder. When you look at the numbers, however, one thing becomes clear: drug abuse is an epidemic.

## ***There Are Nearly 300 Million Annual Opioid Prescriptions in the USA***

Although there are many different types of drug addiction, opioid use is driving the epidemic. The over-prescription of opioid painkillers is an undeniable problem in the United States.

## ***Drug Addiction Costs \$600 Billion Annually***

The true cost of drug use is more than just street value. The cost to society is far greater, and adding it all up reaches hundreds of billions of dollars each and every year.

## ***100 People Die Each Day From Drug Overdoses***

Every single day, these individuals experience the worst case scenario of drug abuse.

Statistics aren't just numbers.  
Each represents a life and a struggle to find happiness.

#### SOURCES:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/drug-use-illegal.htm>

<http://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/advocacy/opioid-addiction-disease-facts-figures.pdf>