



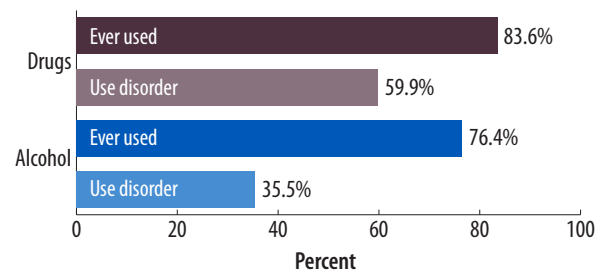
## National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–2018

# Drug and Alcohol Use Reported by Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2008–2018 – Statistical Tables

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An estimated 84% of youth in juvenile facilities reported ever using drugs and 76% reported ever using alcohol, according to data collected in 2008–09, 2012, and 2018 (figure 1). More than half (60%) of youth in juvenile facilities met the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition* (DSM-5) criteria for substance use disorder and more than a third (36%) met the criteria for alcohol use disorder in the 12 months before entering custody. (See *Measurement of substance and alcohol use disorder*.)

**FIGURE 1**  
Prior drug and alcohol use and use disorder among youth in juvenile facilities, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018



Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. See tables 1 and 10 for estimates and additional notes. See appendix tables 2 and 11 for standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

### Highlights

- More youth in juvenile facilities reported never using drugs or alcohol in their lifetime in 2018 (15%) than in 2008–09 (9%).

In data aggregated across surveys conducted in 2008–09, 2012, and 2018—

- An estimated 81% of youth reported ever using marijuana.
- For 9 of the 13 types of drugs examined by the survey, female youth were more likely than male youth to report having ever used them.
- About 60% of youth met the criteria for substance use disorder (SUD) and 36% for alcohol use disorder from 2008 to 2018.
- About 9 in 10 (89%) American Indian or Alaska Native youth in juvenile facilities met the criteria for SUD, and more than 6 in 10 (63%) met the criteria for severe SUD.

This report describes patterns of drug and alcohol use among youth in juvenile facilities before they entered custody. Findings are from an alternative questionnaire given to 10% of youth in the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC): 1,027 youth from the NSYC-1 in 2008–09, 937 youth from the NSYC-2 in 2012, and 652 youth from the NSYC-3 in 2018. Analyses in the report are generally based on data aggregated across the three surveys. Tables 1 and 10 also include data on drug and alcohol use compared across the surveys. (See *Methodology*.)

The NSYC is part of BJS's National Prison Rape Statistics Program, which collects data on sexual victimization as required by the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA; P.L. 108–79).

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## Section 1: Drug and alcohol use

### Key findings

- A smaller percentage of youth in 2018 reported ever using any drug (81%) or alcohol (68%) in their lifetime than youth in 2008–09 (85% any drug and 83% alcohol) (**table 1**).
- From 2008 to 2018, female youth (83%) were more likely than male youth (76%) to report ever drinking alcohol (**table 2**).
- Youth who entered their juvenile facility at age 15 or younger were less likely to report ever using drugs or alcohol than youth admitted at an older age.
- Black youth (66%) were less likely to report ever drinking alcohol than white youth (83%) (**table 3**).
- A larger percentage of heterosexual youth (85%) reported ever using drugs than youth who identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or some other sexual orientation (77%) (**table 4**).
- Youth who reported having been sexually victimized before entering their current facility (82%) were more likely to report ever drinking alcohol than youth who did not indicate prior sexual victimization (76%) (**table 5**).
- More than 90% of youth sentenced for a property (91%) or drug (96%) offense reported ever using either drugs or alcohol in their lifetime (**table 6**).
- Youth sentenced for a person offense were less likely to report ever using drugs, alcohol, or both than youth sentenced for a property or drug offense.<sup>1</sup>
- Youth held in juvenile facilities in the South (69%) were less likely to report ever drinking alcohol than youth held in the Midwest (78%), Northeast (82%), or West (84%) (**table 7**).
- Among youth in juvenile facilities, 25% reported ever using cocaine, 16% methamphetamine, and 9% heroin (**table 8**).
- About 4 in 10 youth reported ever using hallucinogens (40%) or opiates without a prescription (42%).
- In 2018, about 29% of youth reported ever using synthetic drugs and 39% reported ever taking cough syrup to get high.
- From 2008 to 2018, about half of female youth reported ever using hallucinogens (49%) or ever using opiates (53%) or antianxiety drugs or tranquilizers (47%) without a prescription.
- For every type of drug in the survey except marijuana and cough syrup, black youth were less likely than white youth to report ever using it (**table 9**).
- Less than 5% of black youth reported ever using heroin (2%), methamphetamine (3%), or inhalants (3%).
- White youth were less likely to report ever using methamphetamine (25%) than Hispanic youth (31%) and less likely to report ever using inhalants (28%) than American Indian or Alaska Native youth (50%).

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<sup>1</sup>Person offenses (e.g., murder, rape, assault) are those whose victims are individuals.

**TABLE 1**  
**Youth drug and alcohol use, by survey year, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Total <sup>a</sup>	2008–09*	2012	2018
Any drug	83.6%	85.4%	82.6%	81.3% †
Alcohol	76.4	83.0	72.5 †	68.3 †
Both drugs and alcohol	70.5	76.1	66.0 †	65.0 †
Drugs or alcohol	88.1	91.1	86.1 †	85.0 †
None	11.9	8.9	13.9 †	15.0 †

Note: Percentages are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 2**  
**Youth drug and alcohol use, by sex and age admitted to juvenile facility, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Sex		Age admitted to facility			
	Male*	Female	15 or younger*	16	17	18 or older
Any drug	83.1%	86.9%	78.1%	89.1% †	84.5% †	83.8% †
Alcohol	75.5	83.4 †	71.7	76.8	79.7 †	79.0 †
Both drugs and alcohol	69.4	79.2 †	63.8	74.2 †	73.6 †	71.8 †
Drugs or alcohol	87.8	90.5	83.7	90.9 †	89.9 †	89.3
None	12.2	9.5	16.3	9.1 †	10.1 †	10.7

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 3 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 3**  
**Youth drug and alcohol use, by race or Hispanic origin, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	White <sup>a</sup> *	Black <sup>a</sup>	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>a</sup>	Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	Two or more races <sup>a</sup>
Any drug	83.9%	81.5%	86.3%	92.4%	84.0%	88.7%
Alcohol	83.1	65.8 †	86.4	87.8	85.7	84.9
Both drugs and alcohol	77.4	60.2 †	79.1	84.9	77.6	81.8
Drugs or alcohol	88.1	86.1	91.6	94.7	91.2	91.1
None	11.9	13.9	8.4	5.3	8.8	8.9

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 4 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 4****Youth drug and alcohol use, by sexual orientation and gender identity, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Sexual orientation		Gender identity	
	Heterosexual*	Gay/lesbian/bisexual/ something else	Cisgender*	Transgender/ something else
Any drug	84.9%	76.6% †	83.7%	72.1%
Alcohol	76.7	75.8	76.1	85.0
Both drugs and alcohol	71.4	66.5	70.4	67.5
Drugs or alcohol	89.0	84.5 †	88.1	88.7
None	11.0	15.5 †	11.9	11.3

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 5 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 5****Youth drug and alcohol use, by prior experience of sexual victimization, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Experienced any prior sexual victimization*	Did not experience any prior sexual victimization
Any drug	83.6%	83.7%
Alcohol	81.9	75.5 †
Both drugs and alcohol	75.0	69.7
Drugs or alcohol	89.4	88.0
None	10.6	12.0

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 6****Youth drug and alcohol use, by most serious sentencing offense and length of stay in juvenile facility, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Most serious sentencing offense				Length of stay		
	Person offense <sup>a</sup> *	Property offense <sup>b</sup>	Drug offense <sup>c</sup>	Other offense <sup>d</sup>	Less than 6 months*	6–11 months	1 year or more
Any drug	79.4%	88.8% †	95.9% †	85.4% †	85.3%	83.3%	79.3% †
Alcohol	73.6	79.7 †	84.5 †	77.8	75.8	78.4	75.0
Both drugs and alcohol	65.7	76.6 †	83.8 †	72.7 †	70.7	72.0	67.6
Drugs or alcohol	86.0	90.8 †	96.2 †	88.6	89.3	88.7	83.8 †
None	14.0	9.2 †	3.8 †	11.4	10.7	11.3	16.2 †

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Person offenses (e.g., murder, rape, assault) are those whose victims are individuals.

<sup>b</sup>Property offenses include burglary, fraud or forgery, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and other unspecified property crimes.

<sup>c</sup>Drug offenses include possession, trafficking, offenses involving drug paraphernalia, and other unspecified drug crimes.

<sup>d</sup>Includes probation or parole violations, public order offenses, status offenses, and other offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 7****Youth drug and alcohol use, by agency operating juvenile facility and U.S. Census region, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Operating agency		U.S. Census region			
	State*	Nonstate	South*	Northeast	Midwest	West
Any drug	83.3%	84.9%	81.2%	84.2%	84.6%	86.1% †
Alcohol	76.9	73.3	69.0	81.8 †	77.8 †	83.9 †
Both drugs and alcohol	70.4	70.2	63.3	74.6 †	72.7 †	77.5 †
Drugs or alcohol	88.3	87.5	85.4	90.8	88.5	90.8 †
None	11.7	12.5	14.6	9.2	11.5	9.2 †

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 8****Youth drug use, by type of drug, sex, and age admitted to juvenile facility, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Type of drug	Total	Sex		Age admitted to facility			
		Male*	Female	15 or younger*	16	17	18 or older
<b>Drugs</b>							
Marijuana <sup>a</sup>	81.2%	80.6%	85.9%	76.0%	87.3% †	81.3% †	81.4%
Cocaine <sup>b</sup>	25.0	23.7	38.8 †	20.6	26.9 †	25.9	29.8 †
Heroin	8.7	7.9	17.1 †	6.6	7.1	10.8 †	11.8 †
Hallucinogens <sup>c</sup>	39.7	39.1	48.7 †	34.6	41.0	40.1	48.0 †
Methamphetamine <sup>d</sup>	16.0	15.2	25.8 †	11.4	16.1 †	16.8 †	24.9 †
Inhalants <sup>e</sup>	15.3	14.4	23.9 †	15.1	16.7	13.8	16.5
Synthetic drugs <sup>f,g</sup>	29.4	28.5	37.8	30.4	29.5	24.3	36.9
<b>Medications<sup>h</sup></b>							
Opiates <sup>i</sup>	41.5%	40.4%	53.1%	36.6%	45.3% †	45.1% †	38.1%
Antianxiety drugs/ tranquilizers <sup>j</sup>	31.0	29.3	46.9 †	25.5	35.4 †	33.2 †	30.6
Stimulants <sup>k</sup>	22.9	21.5	34.6 †	21.0	22.1	24.6	24.7
Sedatives <sup>l</sup>	14.5	13.6	24.9 †	12.9	16.0	16.7	11.0
Cough syrup <sup>g</sup>	39.3	39.1	40.9	43.8	42.6	27.8 †	47.1
<b>Other drugs</b>	23.6%	23.1%	31.4% †	23.7%	24.9%	24.9%	18.5%

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Includes hashish, blunts, or other forms of THC (pot, herb, reefer, or weed).

<sup>b</sup>Includes crack, smoked or free base cocaine, or other forms of cocaine.

<sup>c</sup>Includes PCP, Ecstasy, MDMA, acid, LSD, ketamine, Special K, or mushrooms.

<sup>d</sup>Includes ice, crank, or crystal.

<sup>e</sup>Includes aerosols, glue, or paint thinner.

<sup>f</sup>Includes synthetic marijuana, K2, Spice, fake weed, King Kong, Yucatan Fire, Skunk, or bath salts.

<sup>g</sup>Measured only in 2018.

<sup>h</sup>Includes only nonmedical use of these medications.

<sup>i</sup>Includes OxyContin, Percocet, or codeine.

<sup>j</sup>Includes Ativan, Valium, or Xanax.

<sup>k</sup>Includes speed, uppers, amphetamines, Ritalin, or Dexedrine.

<sup>l</sup>Includes GHB, Rohypnol, or roofies.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.



**TABLE 9****Youth drug use, by type of drug and race or Hispanic origin, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Type of drug	White <sup>a*</sup>	Black <sup>a</sup>	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>a</sup>	Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	Two or more races <sup>a</sup>
<b>Drugs</b>						
Marijuana <sup>b</sup>	80.4%	79.6%	84.3%	92.4%	84.0%	87.9%
Cocaine <sup>c</sup>	36.9	7.0 †	40.7	37.4	36.0	37.2
Heroin	15.2	1.7 †	11.3	16.8	10.9	16.6
Hallucinogens <sup>d</sup>	49.9	29.9 †	40.4 †	50.8	68.4	43.3
Methamphetamine <sup>e</sup>	24.5	2.6 †	30.7 †	33.9	25.6	11.1 †
Inhalants <sup>f</sup>	28.4	2.7 †	17.8 †	49.5 †	6.5 †	18.4
Synthetic drugs <sup>g,h</sup>	32.1	20.3 †	41.0	56.7	78.6	48.4
<b>Medications<sup>i</sup></b>						
Opiates <sup>j</sup>	56.5%	27.7% †	43.5% †	53.3%	20.0% †	59.7%
Antianxiety drugs/tranquilizers <sup>k</sup>	46.8	17.3 †	29.7 †	46.0	10.0 †	41.1
Stimulants <sup>l</sup>	39.6	8.0 †	23.2 †	43.3	11.9 †	31.4
Sedatives <sup>m</sup>	23.9	5.5 †	17.3 †	18.3	5.1 †	24.6
Cough syrup <sup>h</sup>	39.5	33.3	49.7	60.4	56.0	52.4
<b>Other drugs</b>	37.3%	12.8% †	23.2% †	37.6%	3.6% †	32.2%

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 10 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

<sup>b</sup>Includes hashish, blunts, or other forms of THC (pot, herb, reefer, or weed).

<sup>c</sup>Includes crack, smoked or free base cocaine, or other forms of cocaine.

<sup>d</sup>Includes PCP, Ecstasy, MDMA, acid, LSD, ketamine, Special K, or mushrooms.

<sup>e</sup>Includes ice, crank, or crystal.

<sup>f</sup>Includes aerosols, glue, or paint thinner.

<sup>g</sup>Includes synthetic marijuana, K2, Spice, fake weed, King Kong, Yucatan Fire, Skunk, or bath salts.

<sup>h</sup>Measured only in 2018.

<sup>i</sup>Includes only nonmedical use of these medications.

<sup>j</sup>Includes OxyContin, Percocet, or codeine.

<sup>k</sup>Includes Ativan, Valium, or Xanax.

<sup>l</sup>Includes speed, uppers, amphetamines, Ritalin, or Dexedrine.

<sup>m</sup>Includes GHB, Rohypnol, or roofies.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.



## Section 2: Substance and alcohol use disorder

### Key findings

- From 2008 to 2018, about 60% of youth in juvenile facilities met the criteria for substance use disorder (SUD), about half of whom (32% of youth in facilities) had enough symptoms for severe SUD (**table 10**).
- A larger percentage of youth met the criteria for either SUD or alcohol use disorder (AUD) in 2008–09 (65%) than in 2012 (59%) or 2018 (58%).
- From 2008 to 2018, female youth were more likely to have met the criteria for SUD (72%) or AUD (48%) than male youth (59% SUD and 34% AUD) (**table 11**).
- Youth who entered their facility at age 15 or younger were less likely to have met the criteria for either SUD or AUD (55%) than youth admitted at an older age.
- Black youth were less likely than white youth to have met the criteria for AUD, regardless of severity level (**table 12**).
- Cisgender youth (60%) were more likely than transgender youth (41%) to have met the criteria for SUD, but they were about equally likely to have met the criteria for AUD (**table 13**).
- Close to half (45%) of youth who indicated they had been sexually victimized prior to entering their current facility met the criteria for both SUD and AUD (**table 14**).
- Youth sentenced for a person offense were less likely to meet the criteria for either SUD or AUD than youth sentenced for any other type of offense (**table 15**).
- About 8 in 10 (79%) youth sentenced for a drug offense met the criteria for either SUD or AUD.

### Measurement of substance and alcohol use disorder

To the extent possible, measures of substance use disorder (SUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD) were created using the three National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC) surveys by matching the NSYC survey items to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition* (DSM-5). The DSM-5 combines the two *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition* abuse and dependence criteria under the new rubrics of SUD and AUD.

To diagnose SUD or AUD, the DSM-5 requires that a person meet at least 2 of 11 criteria within a 12-month period for a specific substance. A diagnosis of SUD should be drug-specific (e.g., cocaine use disorder or heroin use disorder) and not generally made based on drug use as a whole in the past year. However, NSYC data do not permit an analysis of SUD criteria by individual drug type. As such, SUD data presented in this report are not drug-specific. Data presented in this report are based on youth's self-reports and were not validated or confirmed by a trained clinician or clinical interview.

Appendix table 1 shows how the NSYC items were used to develop measures based on the DSM-5 criteria for classifying individuals as having SUD or AUD. The analysis used only the common questions across all three surveys to create the measures. While some questions in 2018 were worded slightly differently in prior years, they remained substantially similar for analysis. Those questions covered 10 of the 11 DSM-5 criteria. Questions relating to the DSM-5 criterion for “craving” were excluded because only the 2018 survey asked them. Had survey responses on all 11 DSM-5 criteria been examined, estimates of SUD and AUD would have been higher: five more youth would have met the criteria for SUD (1,548 instead of 1,543) and four more for AUD (823 instead of 819) if the questions on “craving” were included.

The DSM-5 defines the severity of SUD or AUD based on how many of the 11 criteria are met. Severity was measured the same way in this report:

- Severe disorder: 6 or more symptoms
- Moderate disorder: 4–5 symptoms
- Mild disorder: 2–3 symptoms
- No disorder: fewer than 2 symptoms.

**TABLE 10**  
**Youth substance or alcohol use disorder, by survey year, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	Total <sup>a</sup>	2008–09*	2012	2018
<b>Drugs</b>				
Met criteria for SUD	59.9%	61.7%	59.5%	56.9%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	31.8	30.4	35.5	29.4
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	13.0	15.1	12.5	9.5 †
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	15.1	16.1	11.6 †	18.0
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	23.5	23.6	22.8	24.2
No drug use	16.6	14.7	17.7	18.9 †
<b>Alcohol</b>				
Met criteria for AUD	35.5%	40.5%	35.7%	26.0% †
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	12.6	12.5	15.0	10.1
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	8.8	10.9	6.9 †	7.3 †
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	14.1	17.1	13.8	8.7 †
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	40.5	42.4	36.4	41.9
No alcohol use	23.9	17.1	27.9 †	32.0 †
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>				
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	31.9%	34.4%	33.2%	25.5% †
<b>Drugs or alcohol<sup>b</sup></b>				
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	61.6%	65.0%	58.9% †	58.1% †
<b>None<sup>b</sup></b>				
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	38.4%	35.0%	41.1% †	41.9% †

Note: Percentages are based on nonmissing records. Substance use disorder (SUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD) are based on criteria from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition*. See *Measurement of substance and alcohol use disorder*. See appendix table 11 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes youth whose responses were sufficient to determine whether they met the criteria for either SUD or AUD but were insufficient to determine the other disorder.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 11****Youth substance or alcohol use disorder, by sex and age admitted to juvenile facility, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	Sex		Age admitted to facility			
	Male*	Female	15 or younger*	16	17	18 or older
<b>Drugs</b>						
Met criteria for SUD	58.8%	71.6% †	55.7%	63.9% †	59.5%	63.2% †
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	30.5	45.8 †	28.7	33.9	32.1	34.4
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	12.6	16.1	10.4	14.7	14.2	13.5
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	15.8	9.8 †	16.6	15.3	13.2	15.3
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	24.1	15.3 †	22.2	25.2	24.9	20.5
No drug use	17.1	13.1	22.2	10.9 †	15.6 †	16.4 †
<b>Alcohol</b>						
Met criteria for AUD	34.3%	47.6% †	31.6%	41.1% †	36.2%	32.7%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	12.0	19.2 †	11.0	13.4	13.5	12.8
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	9.0	8.1	7.3	11.5	9.3	6.4
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	13.4	20.3	13.2	16.2	13.4	13.6
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	40.8	35.7	39.8	35.3	43.4	46.0
No alcohol use	24.8	16.7 †	28.6	23.6	20.4 †	21.3 †
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>						
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	30.8%	43.0% †	29.2%	37.4% †	31.5%	28.4%
<b>Drugs or alcohol<sup>a</sup></b>						
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	60.4%	75.1% †	55.3%	66.1% †	62.4% †	65.4% †
<b>None<sup>a</sup></b>						
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	39.6%	24.9% †	44.7%	33.9% †	37.6% †	34.6% †

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. Diagnoses of substance use disorder (SUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD) are based on criteria from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition*. See *Measurement of substance and alcohol use disorder*. See appendix table 12 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes youth whose responses were sufficient to determine whether they met the criteria for either SUD or AUD but were insufficient to determine the other.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 12****Youth substance or alcohol use disorder, by race or Hispanic origin, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	White <sup>a*</sup>	Black <sup>a</sup>	Hispanic	American Indian/Alaska Native <sup>a</sup>	Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>	Two or more races <sup>a</sup>
<b>Drugs</b>						
Met criteria for SUD	66.6%	51.3% †	64.8%	88.7% †	69.2%	63.5%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	41.8	20.1 †	36.9	63.0 †	28.0	41.8
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	12.1	12.1	14.9	18.6	36.2	11.7
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	12.7	19.0 †	13.0	7.1	5.0	10.0
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	17.3	29.9 †	21.3	3.7 †	14.4	25.1
No drug use	16.1	18.8	13.9	7.6	16.3	11.4
<b>Alcohol</b>						
Met criteria for AUD	46.2%	22.1% †	43.0%	54.1%	52.7%	43.2%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	18.2	5.9 †	16.0	35.1 †	7.1	7.4
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	11.3	5.8 †	10.1	10.4	18.5	4.5
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	16.7	10.4 †	16.9	8.6	27.1	31.3
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	36.7	43.3 †	43.3	33.7	33.0	41.3
No alcohol use	17.2	34.6 †	13.7	12.2	14.3	15.5
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>						
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	42.4%	19.8% †	37.0%	52.3%	40.3%	39.9%
<b>Drugs or alcohol<sup>b</sup></b>						
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	67.7%	51.9% †	68.9%	89.6% †	78.8%	69.3%
<b>None<sup>b</sup></b>						
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	32.3%	48.1% †	31.1%	10.4% †	21.2%	30.7%

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. Diagnoses of substance use disorder (SUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD) are based on criteria from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition*. See *Measurement of substance and alcohol use disorder*. See appendix table 13 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

<sup>b</sup>Excludes youth whose responses were sufficient to determine whether they met the criteria for either SUD or AUD but were insufficient to determine the other.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 13****Youth substance or alcohol use disorder, by sexual orientation and gender identity, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	Sexual orientation		Gender identity	
	Heterosexual*	Gay/lesbian/bisexual/ something else	Cisgender*	Transgender/ something else
<b>Drugs</b>				
Met criteria for SUD	60.3%	59.3%	60.3%	41.2% †
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	31.5	35.3	32.0	26.4
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	13.0	13.6	13.0	8.5
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	15.7	10.4 †	15.3	6.4
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	24.5	17.2 †	23.3	29.3
No drug use	15.2	23.4 †	16.4	29.4
<b>Alcohol</b>				
Met criteria for AUD	35.3%	37.6%	35.6%	34.2%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	12.0	16.7	12.7	14.5
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	8.6	10.2	8.9	10.4
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	14.7	10.7	14.1	9.3
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	41.1	38.1	40.2	49.9
No alcohol use	23.6	24.3	24.2	15.9
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>				
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	31.6%	33.5%	32.1%	18.9%
<b>Drugs or alcohol<sup>a</sup></b>				
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	62.0%	61.2%	61.9%	54.8%
<b>None<sup>a</sup></b>				
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	38.0%	38.8%	38.1%	45.2%

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. Diagnoses of substance use disorder (SUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD) are based on criteria from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition*. See *Measurement of substance and alcohol use disorder*. See appendix table 14 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes youth whose responses were sufficient to determine whether they met the criteria for either SUD or AUD but were insufficient to determine the other.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 14****Youth substance or alcohol use disorder, by prior experience of sexual victimization, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	Experienced any prior sexual victimization*	Did not experience any prior sexual victimization
<b>Drugs</b>		
Met criteria for SUD	67.9%	58.6% †
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	44.3	29.8 †
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	12.6	13.1
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	11.1	15.8
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	15.7	24.8 †
No drug use	16.4	16.5
<b>Alcohol</b>		
Met criteria for AUD	49.0%	33.3% †
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	21.0	11.2 †
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	9.6	8.7
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	18.4	13.4
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	32.6	41.9 †
No alcohol use	18.3	24.8 †
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>		
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	45.3%	29.6% †
<b>Drugs or alcohol<sup>a</sup></b>		
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	70.0%	60.2% †
<b>None<sup>a</sup></b>		
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	30.0%	39.8% †

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. Diagnoses of substance use disorder (SUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD) are based on criteria from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition*. See *Measurement of substance and alcohol use disorder*. See appendix table 15 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes youth whose responses were sufficient to determine whether they met the criteria for either SUD or AUD but were insufficient to determine the other.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**TABLE 15****Youth substance or alcohol use disorder, by most serious sentencing offense and length of stay in juvenile facility, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	Most serious sentencing offense				Length of stay		
	Person offense <sup>a*</sup>	Property offense <sup>b</sup>	Drug offense <sup>c</sup>	Other offense <sup>d</sup>	Less than 6 months*	6–11 months	1 year or more
<b>Drugs</b>							
Met criteria for SUD	54.3%	64.8% †	78.8% †	66.3% †	58.5%	63.4%	59.6%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	25.9	35.3 †	51.8 †	41.3 †	32.4	32.9	28.8
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	13.0	12.9	16.7	10.6	11.9	14.2	14.8
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	15.5	16.6	10.2	14.3	14.2	16.2	16.1
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	24.8	23.9	17.2	19.1	26.7	19.8 †	19.5 †
No drug use	20.9	11.4 †	4.1 †	14.6 †	14.9	16.8	20.9 †
<b>Alcohol</b>							
Met criteria for AUD	32.0%	40.7% †	49.2% †	35.2%	34.5%	36.0%	37.9%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	9.5	16.6 †	21.2 †	14.4 †	12.8	12.3	12.4
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	7.8	9.6	7.1	11.2	7.6	11.5 †	9.0
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	14.7	14.5	20.9	9.6 †	14.1	12.2	16.5
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	41.4	38.7	35.3	42.0	41.1	42.2	36.7
No alcohol use	26.6	20.5 †	15.5 †	22.7	24.4	21.8	25.4
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>							
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	27.7%	37.8% †	47.5% †	32.4%	30.1%	34.2%	33.8%
<b>Drugs or alcohol<sup>e</sup></b>							
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	56.8%	65.8% †	78.8% †	66.8% †	60.6%	63.2%	62.3%
<b>None<sup>e</sup></b>							
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	43.2%	34.2% †	21.2% †	33.2% †	39.4%	36.8%	37.7%

Note: Data were aggregated across survey years for youth in juvenile facilities who received the alternative questionnaire. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. Diagnoses of substance use disorder (SUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD) are based on criteria from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition*. See *Measurement of substance and alcohol use disorder*. See appendix table 16 for standard errors.

\*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Person offenses (e.g., murder, rape, assault) are those whose victims are individuals.

<sup>b</sup>Property offenses include burglary, fraud or forgery, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and other unspecified property crimes.

<sup>c</sup>Drug offenses include possession, trafficking, offenses involving drug paraphernalia, and other unspecified drug crimes.

<sup>d</sup>Includes probation or parole violations, public order offenses, status offenses, and other offenses.

<sup>e</sup>Excludes youth whose responses were sufficient to determine whether they met the criteria for either SUD or AUD but were insufficient to determine the other.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.



## Methodology

Estimates produced for this report are based on responses to the National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09 (NSYC-1), the National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2012 (NSYC-2), and the National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2018 (NSYC-3). The NSYC-1 was conducted from June 2008 to April 2009 in 166 state-owned or -operated juvenile facilities and 29 locally or privately operated facilities that held adjudicated youth under state contract. The NSYC-2 was conducted in 273 state-owned or -operated facilities and 53 locally or privately operated facilities from February to September 2012. The NSYC-3 was conducted in 217 state-owned or -operated facilities and 110 locally or privately operated facilities from March to December 2018. Westat, Inc., under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), collected the data for all three surveys.

The NSYC administered two questionnaires to youth: (1) the main survey about sexual victimization in the juvenile facility and (2) an alternative survey (NSYC-A) that included questions about drug and alcohol use prior to entering custody. Youth were randomly assigned one of the questionnaires so that, at the time of the interview, the content of the survey remained unknown to facility staff and the survey interviewers.

A total of 10,513 youth participated in the NSYC-1, 9,932 in the NSYC-2, and 6,910 in the NSYC-3, each receiving either the sexual victimization survey or the randomly assigned NSYC-A. A total of 2,743 youth completed the NSYC-A across the three iterations of NSYC. This constituted about 10% of respondents each year.

The other 90% of youth received the main NSYC questionnaire containing sexual assault questions. Youth who finished those questions quickly were also asked questions from the alternative questionnaire (including some drug and alcohol questions) to lengthen the interview time and prevent anyone from inferring which questionnaire a youth received or how they answered. Responses from youth who received the main NSYC questionnaire are excluded from this report.

BJS conducted a data quality review of the completed NSYC-A questionnaires and identified 127 that lacked sufficient information or had extreme or inconsistent responses. Excluding these 127, a total of 2,616 youth provided usable data on drug and alcohol use.

The interviews, which averaged 30 minutes, used computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) and audio computer-assisted self-interviewing (ACASI) data collection methods. In both the main and alternative surveys, interviewers conducted a personal interview using CAPI to obtain background information and the interview date. For the remainder of the interview, youth interacted with a computer-administered questionnaire using a touchscreen and synchronized audio instructions delivered via headphones. Respondents completed the ACASI portion of the interview in private, with the interviewer either leaving the room or moving away from the computer. ACASI administration helped to elicit more candid responses on sensitive subjects and behaviors, eliminated literacy issues, and protected respondents' privacy. While underreporting of behaviors may exist, the relative extent of it is unknown.

Additional information on the methodology for selecting samples of facilities and youth can be found in *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2008–09* (NCJ 228416, BJS, January 2010), *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2012* (NCJ 241708, BJS, June 2013), and *Sexual Victimization Reported by Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2018* (NCJ 253042, BJS, December 2019).

### Weighting

For each of the three NSYC-A surveys, a single set of weights was created. In creating this weight, adjustments to the base weights were performed independently for NSYC-A respondents. The three sets of final weights were then combined for analysis.

#### Creation of the NSYC-A youth weights

The first step of developing the national-level estimates for youth was to create the facility-level base weight. This weight was the reciprocal of the facility's probability of selection:

$$w_i^{base} = \frac{1}{p_i}.$$

This base weight was then adjusted for facility nonresponse by defining facility-level nonresponse adjustment cells. (The nonresponse adjustment was done differently for each NSYC. For the NSYC-1, cells based on whether the facility was selected with certainty were used. For the NSYC-2, state or groups of adjacent states

were used, and for the NSYC-3, the U.S. Census region was used.) An adjustment factor, defined as the inverse of the weighted response rate, was computed for each cell. The facility-level nonresponse adjustment factor was defined as—

$$FA_h = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_h} w_i^{base}}{\sum_{i=1}^{m_h} w_i^{base}}$$

where the sum of base weights in the numerator extended over the  $n_h$  sampled facilities in adjustment cell  $h$ , while the sum of base weights in the denominator extended over the  $m_h$  responding facilities in adjustment cell  $h$ . The nonresponse-adjusted weight  $w_i^{NR}$  for facility  $i$  was then computed as—

$$w_i^{NR} = FA_h \times w_i^{base}.$$

The nonresponse-adjusted facility weight was adjusted further by accounting for a youth's probability of being selected for the NSYC-A interview. The youth-level NSYC-A base weight for the  $j^{th}$  sampled youth in facility  $i$  was—

$$w_{ij}^{base} = \frac{w_i^{NR}}{p_j}.$$

Next, a youth-level nonresponse adjustment was performed. The variables used to create the nonresponse adjustment cells were based on each youth's region, offense code, sex, race, ethnicity, and age and on the number of days the youth had been in the facility. The adjustment factor for each youth was computed as the sum of the weights of all NSYC-A youth in their adjustment cell, divided by the sum of weights for all responding youth in the adjustment cell. Within adjustment cell  $k$ , the nonresponse adjustment factor was defined as—

$$YA_k = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n_k} w_{ij}^{base}}{\sum_{j=1}^{m_k} w_{ij}^{base}}$$

where the sum of base weights in the numerator extended over the  $n_k$  sampled youth in adjustment cell  $k$ , while the sum of base weights in the denominator extended over the  $m_k$  responding youth in adjustment cell  $k$ . The nonresponse-adjusted weight  $w_{ij}^{NR}$  for the  $j^{th}$  responding youth in adjustment cell  $k$  in facility  $i$  was then computed as—

$$w_{ij}^{NR} = YA_k \times w_{ij}^{base}.$$

After computing the youth nonresponse-adjusted weight, the weights were examined for variability. Youth with large weights had their weights trimmed and capped at

a maximum value. (This value was 100 in the NSYC-1 and 75 in the NSYC-2 and NSYC-3.) The difference between the weighted counts before and after trimming was redistributed to the youth whose weights were not trimmed. The resulting trimmed weight is denoted by  $w_{ij}^{trim}$ .

The last stage of weighting was to calibrate the trimmed weights to estimates of the population. This is commonly done to reduce potential bias and variance in estimates. The calibration method used for the NSYC-A weights was raking, an iterative procedure where the weights are benchmarked to multiple sets (or dimensions) of marginal control totals in a sequential order until the sums of the raked weights converge to the marginal control totals for all the dimensions. The source of the control totals was the corresponding NSYC sexual assault interview data. The variables used to form the youth-level youth nonresponse adjustment cells were the dimensions used for the control totals.

The final raked NSYC-A weight  $w_{ij}^{raked}$  can be expressed as—

$$w_{ij}^{raked} = w_{ij}^{trim} \times \prod_{d=1}^D RF_{dl}$$

where  $RF_{dl}$  is the raking factor for dimension  $d$  and level  $l$  that respondent  $ij$  is in. For example, if the fourth dimension ( $d = 4$ ) is sex with two levels ( $l = 1$  for male and  $l = 2$  for female), then the raking factor for this dimension is  $RF_{4l}$  for male youth. The raking factors were derived so the following relationship held for every raking dimension  $d$  and level  $l$ :

$$CNT_{dl} = \sum_{ij} \partial_{dlij} \times w_{ij}^{raked}$$

where  $CNT_{dl}$  was the control total,  $\partial_{dlij} = 1$  if NSYC-A respondent  $j$  in facility  $i$  was in level  $l$  of dimension  $d$ , and  $\partial_{dlij} = 0$  otherwise.

### Variance estimation

To account for the complexity of NSYC's sampling and weighting methodology, the variance of the estimates was calculated using jackknife replication, sometimes referred to as the JK<sub>n</sub> method. In this method, subsamples, called replicates, are taken from the full sample. An estimate of the variance of the full sample is generated by computing the variability of the replicate estimates. Replicate weights were created for each youth to produce the replicate estimates of variance. Each replicate weight is computed using the same estimation steps as the corresponding full sample weight but using only the subsample of cases comprising each replicate.

A total of 294 replicates were formed using this replication process. These replicates corresponded to the national-level replicates created for the main NSYC survey. The first 94 replicates corresponded to the replicates created for the NYSC-1, the next 100 corresponded to the replicates created for the NSYC-2, and the final 100 corresponded to the replicates created for the NSYC-3.

### Testing statistical significance

Estimates produced in statistical studies are subject to error. Because this study was based on a sample rather than a complete enumeration, estimates in this report are subject to sampling error. Error may also be introduced through missing or unclear data records.

One measure of the error associated with an estimate is the standard error. Standard errors for selected measures of drug and alcohol use and use disorder are presented in appendix tables 2 through 16. In general, an estimate with a smaller standard error provides a higher quality approximation of the true value than an estimate with a larger standard error. Standard errors can be used to construct confidence intervals around the survey estimates (e.g., numbers, percentages, and rates) and to test for significant differences between estimates.

For example, the 95% confidence interval around the percentage of male youth who reported ever using drugs was approximately  $83.1\% \pm 1.96 \times 0.91\%$  (or 81.3% to 84.9%). Based on similarly conducted samples, 95% of the intervals would be expected to contain the true (but unknown) percentage.

BJS conducted tests to determine whether differences in estimated percentages in this report were statistically significant once sampling error was considered. The primary test procedure was the Student's t-statistic, which tests the difference between two sample estimates. All differences discussed in this report are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level, unless noted otherwise. Caution is required when comparing estimates not explicitly discussed in this report.

### Analysis and reporting

Analyses in this report are generally based on data aggregated across all three alternative surveys and focus on specific details of the overall patterns of drug and alcohol use among youth before they entered custody. Questions in the drug and alcohol sections of the surveys were used to develop measures based on *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition* criteria for classifying individuals as having substance use disorder or alcohol use disorder. (See *Measurement of substance and alcohol use disorder*.) Tables 1 through 15 provide estimates by selected youth characteristics and drug and alcohol use patterns, as well as tests for significant differences between the three surveys or youth characteristics.

**APPENDIX TABLE 1**

**DSM-5 criteria and NSYC-A questions to determine substance and alcohol use disorder in youth in juvenile facilities**

DSM-5 criteria	NSYC-A questions	
	Drugs	Alcohol
Within a 12-month period—	During the 12 months before you were taken into custody—	
The substance is often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended.	Did you often use a drug in larger amounts or for longer than you meant to?	Did you often drink more or for a lot longer than you meant to?
There is a persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control the substance use.	Did you more than once try by yourself to cut down on your drug use or stop using drugs but found you couldn't do it?	Did you more than once try by yourself to cut down on your drinking or to stop drinking alcohol but found you couldn't do it?
A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain the substance, use the substance, or recover from its effects.	Did you spend a lot of time getting drugs, using them or getting over bad after-effects of using?	Did you spend a lot of time getting alcohol, drinking, or getting over bad after-effects of drinking?
Craving, or a strong desire or urge to use the substance.	/	/
Recurrent substance use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home.	Did you have school or job trouble because of your drug use—like missing too much school or work, getting lower grades or not doing your work well, or being suspended, expelled, or dropping out of school?	Did you have trouble with school or with a job because of your drinking—like missing too much school or work, getting lower grades or not doing your work well, or being suspended, expelled, or dropping out of school?
Continued substance use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the substance.	Did you continue to use drugs even though it was causing problems with family or friends?	Did you continue to drink even though it was causing problems with family or friends?
Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of the substance use.	Did you give up activities that you were interested in or that were important to you so you could use drugs—like school, work, hobbies, or being with family and friends?	Did you give up activities that you were interested in or were important to you so you could drink—like school, work, hobbies, or being with family and friends?
Recurrent substance use in situations in which it is physically hazardous.	Were you, more than once, high or under the influence of drugs in situations where you could get hurt, for example, riding a bicycle, driving, playing sports, operating a machine or anything else?	Were you, more than once, drunk in situations where you could get hurt, for example, riding a bicycle, driving, playing sports, operating a machine or anything else?
Substance use is continued despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by the substance.	Did you continue to use drugs even though it was causing emotional or psychological problems or adding to another health problem?	Did you continue to drink even though it was causing emotional or psychological problems or adding other health problems?
Tolerance, as defined by a need for markedly increased amounts of the substance to achieve intoxication or desired effect.	Did you have to use more drugs or greater quantities of the drugs to get the effect you wanted?	Did you have to drink more alcohol to get the effect you wanted?
Withdrawal, as manifested by the characteristic withdrawal syndrome for the substance.	Did you find that you had some bad after-effects of using drugs after cutting down on your drug use or stopping your drug use—like shaking, sweating, feeling nervous or anxious, feeling sick to your stomach or restless, having trouble sleeping, having fits or seizures, or seeing, feeling, or hearing things that weren't really there?	Did you find that you had some other bad after-effects of drinking after cutting down on your drinking or stopping drinking, such as feeling restless, sweating, having trouble sleeping, having fits or seizures, or seeing, feeling or hearing things that weren't really there?

Note: DSM-5 denotes *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition*. NSYC-A denotes National Survey of Youth in Custody Alternative Questionnaire.

/Not reported.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 2****Standard errors for table 1: Youth drug and alcohol use, by survey year, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Total	2008–09	2012	2018
Any drug	0.86%	1.21%	1.70%	1.61%
Alcohol	1.02	1.42	1.96	1.95
Both drugs and alcohol	1.09	1.57	2.18	1.88
Drugs or alcohol	0.77	1.12	1.46	1.53
None	0.77	1.12	1.46	1.53

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 3****Standard errors for table 2: Youth drug and alcohol use, by sex and age admitted to juvenile facility, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Sex		Age admitted to facility			
	Male	Female	15 or younger	16	17	18 or older
Any drug	0.91%	2.56%	1.82%	1.17%	1.55%	2.13%
Alcohol	1.09	3.06	1.93	1.96	1.62	2.79
Both drugs and alcohol	1.18	3.70	2.02	1.95	1.94	2.80
Drugs or alcohol	0.82	2.12	1.68	1.21	1.28	2.21
None	0.82	2.12	1.68	1.21	1.28	2.21

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Standard errors for table 3: Youth drug and alcohol use, by race or Hispanic origin, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	Two or more races
Any drug	1.50%	1.26%	2.03%	4.21%	9.02%	4.82%
Alcohol	1.49	1.76	2.10	5.75	7.86	6.57
Both drugs and alcohol	1.76	1.74	2.66	6.17	10.96	6.98
Drugs or alcohol	1.38	1.21	1.60	3.97	6.16	4.52
None	1.38	1.21	1.60	3.97	6.16	4.52

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5****Standard errors for table 4: Youth drug and alcohol use, by sexual orientation and gender identity, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Sexual orientation		Gender identity	
	Heterosexual	Gay/lesbian/bisexual/ something else	Cisgender	Transgender/ something else
Any drug	0.86%	2.58%	0.86%	8.15%
Alcohol	1.05	2.67	1.03	7.86
Both drugs and alcohol	1.12	3.05	1.10	9.24
Drugs or alcohol	0.79	2.30	0.79	6.53
None	0.79	2.30	0.79	6.53

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 6****Standard errors for table 5: Youth drug and alcohol use, by prior experience of sexual victimization, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Experienced any prior sexual victimization	Did not experience any prior sexual victimization
Any drug	2.05%	0.97%
Alcohol	2.36	1.16
Both drugs and alcohol	2.55	1.26
Drugs or alcohol	2.01	0.89
None	2.01	0.89

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 7****Standard errors for table 6: Youth drug and alcohol use, by most serious sentencing offense and length of stay in juvenile facility, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Most serious sentencing offense				Length of stay		
	Person offense	Property offense	Drug offense	Other offense	Less than 6 months	6–11 months	1 year or more
Any drug	1.23%	1.41%	1.98%	1.84%	1.10%	1.63%	2.14%
Alcohol	1.37	1.80	3.60	2.45	1.37	1.80	2.27
Both drugs and alcohol	1.46	1.92	3.65	2.70	1.47	2.16	2.54
Drugs or alcohol	1.11	1.35	2.14	1.83	1.01	1.30	2.01
None	1.11	1.35	2.14	1.83	1.01	1.30	2.01

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 8****Standard errors for table 7: Youth drug and alcohol use, by agency operating juvenile facility and U.S. Census region, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Ever used—	Operating agency		U.S. Census region			
	State	Nonstate	South	Northeast	Midwest	West
Any drug	0.91%	2.26%	1.37%	3.10%	1.64%	1.34%
Alcohol	1.09	2.89	1.78	3.04	1.87	1.84
Both drugs and alcohol	1.20	2.99	1.94	3.51	2.12	1.92
Drugs or alcohol	0.82	2.19	1.34	2.49	1.43	1.27
None	0.82	2.19	1.34	2.49	1.43	1.27

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.



**APPENDIX TABLE 9****Standard errors for table 8: Youth drug use, by type of drug, sex, and age admitted to juvenile facility, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Type of drug	Total	Sex		Age admitted to facility			
		Male	Female	15 or younger	16	17	18 or older
<b>Drugs</b>							
Marijuana	0.90%	0.95%	2.62%	1.86%	1.29%	1.64%	2.20%
Cocaine	1.02	1.05	4.70	1.97	1.96	2.10	3.10
Heroin	0.69	0.67	3.18	0.97	1.11	1.67	1.80
Hallucinogens	1.14	1.21	3.97	2.35	2.22	2.02	3.11
Methamphetamine	0.89	0.92	4.43	1.33	1.67	1.82	2.52
Inhalants	0.67	0.72	2.86	1.42	1.49	1.60	2.05
Synthetic drugs	1.85	1.86	7.25	3.61	3.70	3.23	5.01
<b>Medications</b>							
Opiates	1.27%	1.32%	6.49%	2.17%	2.24%	2.32%	3.50%
Antianxiety drugs/ tranquilizers	1.31	1.24	7.00	2.00	2.32	2.37	2.70
Stimulants	0.93	0.96	3.04	1.41	1.81	2.42	2.38
Sedatives	0.83	0.84	3.20	1.23	1.54	2.08	1.65
Cough syrup	1.75	1.94	5.63	3.72	4.32	3.45	4.81
<b>Other drugs</b>	<b>0.94%</b>	<b>0.96%</b>	<b>3.82%</b>	<b>1.88%</b>	<b>1.95%</b>	<b>1.84%</b>	<b>2.27%</b>

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 10****Standard errors for table 9: Youth drug use, by type of drug and race or Hispanic origin, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

Type of drug	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	Two or more races
<b>Drugs</b>						
Marijuana	1.66%	1.30%	2.07%	4.21%	9.02%	4.91%
Cocaine	1.90	0.92	3.16	7.33	15.72	10.87
Heroin	1.38	0.39	1.83	5.50	4.84	11.08
Hallucinogens	1.82	1.66	3.44	7.69	11.89	10.60
Methamphetamine	1.83	0.52	2.69	7.16	16.33	4.56
Inhalants	1.70	0.57	2.35	8.19	3.04	5.76
Synthetic drugs	3.02	2.44	4.68	17.07	24.65	14.88
<b>Medications</b>						
Opiates	2.02%	1.67%	3.33%	7.43%	7.71%	10.58%
Antianxiety drugs/tranquilizers	2.32	1.49	3.16	7.99	4.82	10.32
Stimulants	1.94	0.94	2.05	7.92	5.10	10.46
Sedatives	1.65	0.80	2.09	5.71	3.17	11.03
Cough syrup	3.16	2.86	4.59	22.15	28.16	14.19
<b>Other drugs</b>	<b>1.90%</b>	<b>1.22%</b>	<b>2.42%</b>	<b>8.05%</b>	<b>2.02%</b>	<b>8.40%</b>

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.



**APPENDIX TABLE 11****Standard errors for table 10: Youth substance or alcohol use disorder, by survey year, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	Total	2008–09	2012	2018
<b>Drugs</b>				
Met criteria for SUD	1.12%	1.87%	1.81%	1.97%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	1.18	2.12	1.59	1.84
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	0.86	1.58	1.15	1.25
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	0.85	1.41	1.20	1.74
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	1.02	1.73	1.51	1.82
No drug use	0.86	1.21	1.70	1.62
<b>Alcohol</b>				
Met criteria for AUD	1.14%	1.93%	1.86%	1.85%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	0.83	1.42	1.49	1.05
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	0.75	1.32	1.16	1.08
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	0.98	1.71	1.61	1.25
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	1.31	2.20	2.19	2.07
No alcohol use	1.02	1.44	1.97	1.97
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>				
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	1.12%	1.85%	1.92%	1.85%
<b>Drugs or alcohol</b>				
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	1.23%	2.02%	2.19%	1.98%
<b>None</b>				
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	1.23%	2.02%	2.19%	1.98%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 12****Standard errors for table 11: Youth substance or alcohol use disorder, by sex and age admitted to juvenile facility, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	Sex		Age admitted to facility			
	Male	Female	15 or younger	16	17	18 or older
<b>Drugs</b>						
Met criteria for SUD	1.16%	3.77%	2.17%	2.14%	2.23%	2.93%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	1.16	3.61	2.23	2.21	2.48	2.53
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	0.87	3.51	1.37	1.95	1.48	2.73
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	0.93	1.69	1.64	1.51	1.27	2.28
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	1.08	2.38	1.80	2.01	1.96	2.21
No drug use	0.91	2.57	1.82	1.18	1.56	2.14
<b>Alcohol</b>						
Met criteria for AUD	1.10%	5.87%	2.30%	2.24%	2.19%	2.79%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	0.86	3.48	1.24	1.63	1.74	2.02
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	0.80	2.03	1.24	1.67	1.36	1.49
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	0.81	7.42	1.70	1.96	1.61	2.16
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	1.34	5.08	2.59	2.53	2.51	3.38
No alcohol use	1.10	3.09	1.94	2.02	1.64	2.81
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>						
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	1.05%	5.57%	2.14%	2.25%	2.28%	2.90%
<b>Drugs or alcohol</b>						
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	1.29%	4.00%	2.51%	2.29%	2.19%	2.96%
<b>None</b>						
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	1.29%	4.00%	2.51%	2.29%	2.19%	2.96%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 13**

**Standard errors for table 12: Youth substance or alcohol use disorder, by race or Hispanic origin, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Two or more races
<b>Drugs</b>						
Met criteria for SUD	1.84%	1.72%	2.76%	4.78%	13.12%	9.63%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	1.90	1.44	2.98	7.33	11.14	10.46
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	1.36	1.31	2.28	5.81	16.75	4.74
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	1.13	1.55	1.65	2.60	3.91	5.47
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	1.51	1.62	2.42	2.28	11.16	8.84
No drug use	1.50	1.27	2.05	4.21	9.27	4.87
<b>Alcohol</b>						
Met criteria for AUD	1.98%	1.50%	3.30%	7.93%	16.29%	11.70%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	1.66	0.95	2.49	8.89	4.60	6.13
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	1.36	0.96	1.89	4.45	12.11	3.23
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	2.01	1.01	2.49	3.86	17.00	11.75
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	2.04	1.92	3.66	7.37	14.79	10.49
No alcohol use	1.51	1.76	2.11	5.75	7.86	6.73
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>						
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	1.91%	1.49%	3.11%	7.88%	16.97%	11.87%
<b>Drugs or alcohol</b>						
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	2.03%	1.93%	3.31%	4.75%	10.64%	9.99%
<b>None</b>						
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	2.03%	1.93%	3.31%	4.75%	10.64%	9.99%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 14****Standard errors for table 13: Youth substance or alcohol use disorder, by sexual orientation and gender identity, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	Sexual orientation		Gender identity	
	Heterosexual	Gay/lesbian/bisexual/ something else	Cisgender	Transgender/ something else
<b>Drugs</b>				
Met criteria for SUD	1.24%	2.86%	1.13%	7.99%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	1.32	3.20	1.14	6.83
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	0.92	2.86	0.88	4.06
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	0.93	1.61	0.87	3.46
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	1.15	2.14	1.03	8.15
No drug use	0.86	2.58	0.86	8.39
<b>Alcohol</b>				
Met criteria for AUD	1.20%	3.55%	1.17%	8.43%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	0.86	2.81	0.85	6.11
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	0.81	2.07	0.76	4.18
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	0.98	2.59	1.00	4.16
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	1.43	3.43	1.32	10.60
No alcohol use	1.07	2.68	1.04	8.28
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>				
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	1.20%	3.30%	1.15%	6.35%
<b>Drugs or alcohol</b>				
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	1.33%	3.22%	1.26%	9.01%
<b>None</b>				
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	1.33%	3.22%	1.26%	9.01%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 15****Standard errors for table 14: Youth who met criteria for a substance or alcohol use disorder, by prior experience of sexual victimization, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	Experienced any prior sexual victimization	Did not experience any prior sexual victimization
<b>Drugs</b>		
Met criteria for SUD	2.83%	1.24%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	3.14	1.19
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	2.21	0.96
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	2.05	1.01
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	2.27	1.16
No drug use	2.05	0.98
<b>Alcohol</b>		
Met criteria for AUD	4.28%	1.10%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	2.84	0.82
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	1.71	0.83
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	5.04	0.80
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	3.58	1.37
No alcohol use	2.38	1.18
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>		
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	4.33%	1.09%
<b>Drugs or alcohol</b>		
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	3.04%	1.32%
<b>None</b>		
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	3.04%	1.32%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 16**

**Standard errors for table 15: Youth substance or alcohol use disorder, by most serious sentencing offense and length of stay in juvenile facility, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018**

SUD/AUD status	Most serious sentencing offense				Length of stay		
	Person offense	Property offense	Drug offense	Other offense	Less than 6 months	6–11 months	1 year or more
<b>Drugs</b>							
Met criteria for SUD	1.62%	2.28%	4.05%	2.65%	1.58%	2.16%	2.38%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	1.48	2.27	5.10	3.14	1.41	2.42	2.58
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	1.17	1.77	3.90	1.83	1.12	1.81	2.10
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	1.20	1.52	3.25	2.14	1.09	2.25	1.81
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	1.60	2.13	3.48	2.32	1.57	1.76	1.91
No drug use	1.22	1.43	1.98	1.84	1.11	1.64	2.16
<b>Alcohol</b>							
Met criteria for AUD	1.47%	2.30%	5.71%	2.93%	1.55%	2.43%	2.85%
Severe disorder (6 or more symptoms)	0.91	1.97	4.71	2.12	1.07	1.99	1.62
Moderate disorder (4–5 symptoms)	0.96	1.66	3.11	2.19	0.77	1.86	1.85
Mild disorder (2–3 symptoms)	1.13	1.89	5.73	1.91	1.34	1.56	2.71
No disorder (fewer than 2 symptoms)	1.72	2.43	5.45	3.29	1.84	2.63	2.93
No alcohol use	1.38	1.82	3.60	2.54	1.39	1.83	2.29
<b>Both drugs and alcohol</b>							
Met criteria for both SUD and AUD	1.47%	2.27%	5.78%	2.81%	1.59%	2.47%	2.83%
<b>Drugs or alcohol</b>							
Met criteria for SUD or AUD	1.75%	2.48%	4.20%	2.93%	1.69%	2.40%	2.59%
<b>None</b>							
No SUD or AUD or did not use drugs or alcohol at all	1.75%	2.48%	4.20%	2.93%	1.69%	2.40%	2.59%

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008–09, 2012, and 2018.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Alexis R. Piquero, PhD, is the director.

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