

Data Brief 334. Prescription Drug Use in the United States, 2015–2016

Data table for Figure 1. Use of one or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days, by age (years) and sex: United States, 2015–2016

Sex	All ages	0–11	12–19	20–59	60 and over
	Percent (standard error)				
Total	45.8 (0.8)	18.0 (1.1)	27.0 (2.2)	46.7 (1.3)	85.0 (1.2)
Male	41.5 (1.1)	22.0 (1.4)	26.9 (2.2)	37.5 (1.8)	85.1 (1.8)
Female	50.0 (0.9)	13.7 (1.2)	27.2 (3.1)	55.5 (1.3)	85.0 (1.2)

NOTES: Estimates for all ages are age adjusted by the direct method to the 2000 projected U.S. population using age groups 0–11, 12–19, 20–59, and 60 and over. Crude estimates are 48.1% for total, 43.0% for male, and 53.1% for female.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2015–2016.

Data table for Figure 2. Use of one or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days, by age and race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2015–2016

Age group (years)	Non-Hispanic white	Non-Hispanic black	Non-Hispanic Asian	Hispanic
	Percent (standard error)			
All ages	50.0 (0.9)	44.7 (1.1)	33.4 (1.4)	37.1 (1.1)
0–11	18.4 (1.5)	19.0 (1.8)	10.1 (2.5)	18.1 (1.8)
12–19	34.8 (3.0)	22.1 (2.3)	12.7 (3.0)	16.3 (1.3)
20–59	52.4 (1.4)	45.3 (1.7)	30.2 (2.6)	33.6 (1.4)
60 and over	85.3 (1.7)	85.3 (2.0)	82.4 (4.0)	83.3 (1.9)

NOTE: Estimates for all ages were age adjusted by the direct method to the 2000 projected U.S. population using age groups 0–11, 12–19, 20–59, and 60 and over.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2015–2016.

Data table for Figure 3. Use of the most commonly used prescription drug types in the past 30 days, by age group: United States, 2015–2016

Age group (years) and drug type	Percent (standard error)
0–11	
Penicillins (infections)	2.7 (0.3)
CNS stimulants (attention deficit disorder)	3.5 (0.6)
Bronchodilators (asthma)	4.3 (0.5)
12–19	
Oral contraceptives (birth control, regulate menstruation)	3.7 (0.9)
Bronchodilators (asthma)	3.7 (0.7)
CNS stimulants (attention deficit disorder)	6.2 (1.2)
20–59	
Lipid-lowering drugs (high cholesterol)	7.5 (0.6)
Analgesics (pain relief)	8.3 (0.8)
Antidepressants	11.4 (1.2)
60 and over	
Antidiabetic drugs	22.6 (1.4)
Beta-blockers (high blood pressure, heart disease)	24.8 (1.2)
Lipid-lowering drugs (high cholesterol)	46.3 (1.4)

NOTES: The primary indication for use of the drug type is in parentheses. Other drug types may also be used for the same indications as those shown. CNS is central nervous system. Oral contraceptives were used by 7.5% of girls aged 12–19.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2015–2016.

Data table for Figure 4. Trends in use of one or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days, by age (years): United States, 2007–2016

Survey period	All ages	0–11	12–19	20–59	60 and over
Percent (standard error)					
2007–2008	48.3 (0.9)	22.4 (1.3)	29.9 (2.4)	48.3 (1.4)	88.4 (0.8)
2009–2010	47.3 (1.2)	23.2 (1.6)	24.7 (1.8)	47.8 (1.8)	86.6 (0.8)
2011–2012	48.0 (1.1)	20.4 (1.0)	29.2 (2.3)	48.7 (1.6)	87.3 (1.3)
2013–2014	46.6 (0.6)	18.0 (1.4)	22.5 (2.3)	48.5 (1.0)	87.1 (1.2)
2015–2016	45.8 (0.8)	18.0 (1.1)	27.0 (2.2)	46.7 (1.3)	85.0 (1.2)

NOTE: Estimates for all ages are age adjusted by the direct method to the 2000 projected U.S. population using age groups 0–11, 12–19, 20–59, and 60 and over.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, 2007–2016.