

Understanding what motivates youth to experiment with illegal substances and prescription drugs requires a comprehensive look at the physical, emotional and social environment in which an adolescent lives. Illegal drug use and prescription drug abuse can lead to unhealthy behaviors and negative consequences. Drug abuse may contribute to depression and suicide, unintended pregnancy, school failure, violent behavior, delinquency and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection.²⁰

- According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Drug Abuse Warning Network, marijuana is the most frequently reported drug in emergency department visits related to drug abuse in youth aged 12 to 19.²¹
- Students aged 12 to 17 with positive school experiences were less likely to have used alcohol or illicit drugs in the past year than students without these positive school experiences.²²
- According to the 2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the percentages of youth engaging in delinquent behaviors rose with increasing frequency of marijuana use.²²

HP 2010 Objectives:

- 26-10a: Increase proportion of adolescents not using alcohol or any illicit drugs during the past 30 days to 89 percent.
- 26-10b: Reduce the proportion of adolescents who report use of marijuana during the past 30 days to no more than 0.7 percent.