

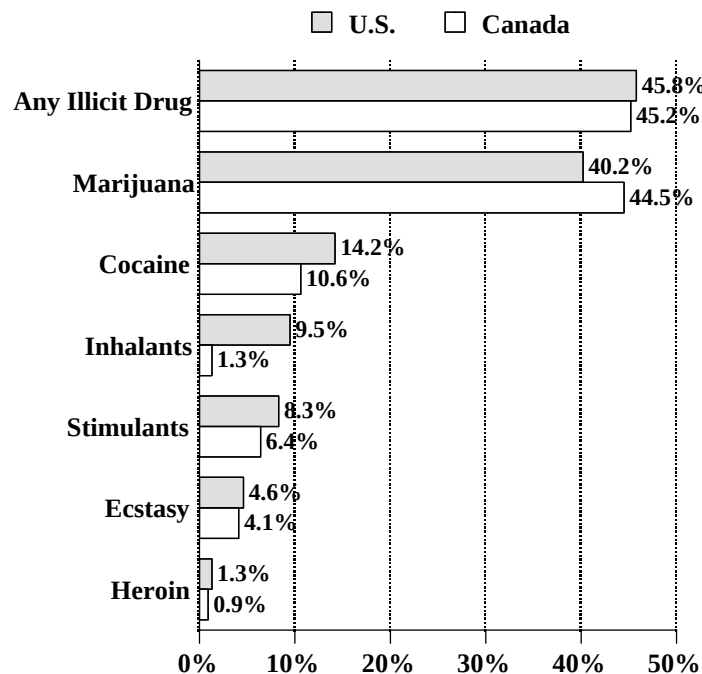
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

U.S. Residents More Likely Than Canadians to Use Inhalants, Cocaine, and Stimulants; Slightly Less Likely to Use Marijuana

While the rates of overall drug use among Americans and Canadians are the same, there are differences in the types of drugs used, according to the results of household surveys conducted in the two countries in 2004.* Overall, around 45% of U.S. and Canadian residents reported ever using an illicit drug. However, U.S. residents were seven times more likely to have ever used inhalants (9.5% vs. 1.3%) and were slightly more likely to report cocaine and stimulant use.** On the other hand, Americans were slightly less likely to have ever used marijuana (40.2% vs. 44.5%).

Percentage of U.S. and Canadian Residents Reporting Lifetime Use of Illicit Drugs, 2004



*The Canadian survey was a telephone survey of household residents ages 15 and older conducted between December 2003 and April 2004. The U.S. survey was a face-to-face survey of household residents ages 12 and older conducted between January and December 2004.

**The differences in the use of inhalants and stimulants may be partially due to a difference in the wording of the survey questions. In addition to general questions about stimulant and inhalant use, the U.S. survey also included questions about the use of specific stimulants and inhalants, which may have elicited more positive responses.

SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Overview of Findings from the 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, 2005 (available online at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh.htm#NSDUHinfo>); and Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, *Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS): Prevalence of Use and Related Harms, Detailed Report*, 2005 (available online at <http://www.ccsa.ca/NR/rdonlyres/6806130B-C314-4C96-95CC-075D14CD83DE/0/ccsa0040282005.pdf>).

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