Overview and Limitations of National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) Data

NSDUH is an ongoing survey of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States aged 12 years or older that is planned and managed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration’s (SAMHSA) Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ). Data is collected from individuals residing in households, noninstitutionalized group quarters (e.g., shelters, rooming houses, dormitories) and civilians living on military bases. In 2012–2014, NSDUH collected data from 204,048 respondents aged 12 years or older; this sample was designed to obtain representative samples from the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The substate estimates are derived from a hierarchical Bayes model-based small area estimation procedure in which 2012–2014 NSDUH data at the substate level are combined with local area county and census block group/tract-level data from the area to provide more precise estimates of substance use and mental health outcomes. [See 2012–2014 NSDUH Methods Report for more information about the methodology used to generate substate estimates]. Comparable estimates derived from the small area estimation procedure were also produced for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. We present these estimates for Maine and Texas. Because these data are based on 3 consecutive years of data, they are not directly comparable with the annually published state estimates that are based on only 2 consecutive years of NSDUH data.

Substate regions were defined by officials from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia and were typically based on the treatment planning regions specified by the states in their applications for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) administered by SAMHSA. There has been extensive variation in the size and use of substate regions across states. In some states, the substate regions have been used more for administrative purposes than for planning purposes. The goal of the project was to provide substate-level estimates showing the geographic distribution of substance use prevalence for regions that states would find useful for planning and reporting purposes. The final substate region boundaries were based on the state's recommendations, assuming that the NSDUH sample sizes were large enough to provide estimates with adequate precision. Most states defined regions in terms of counties but some defined them in terms of census tracts. Estimates for 384 substate regions were generated using the 2012–2014 NSDUH data.

Substate regions used for each SCS are defined in the Notes sections of the Sentinel Community Site (SCS) Data tables (Tables 2a and 2b). The NSDUH substate regions do not mirror the NDEWS Sentinel Community Site (SCS) catchment areas for three sites (Atlanta Metro, Chicago Metro, and Southeastern Florida (Miami Area))—for these 3 sites, we include the NSDUH regions that most closely reflect the respective NDEWS SCS catchment area:

- Atlanta Metro SCS estimates are based on estimates for Georgia NSDUH Region 3, which comprises a subset of the 29 NDEWS Atlanta Metro SCS counties (i.e., Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale counties).
- Chicago Metro and Southeastern Florida (Miami Area) data are not aggregated to match the NDEWS catchment area—two regions represent the Chicago Metro SCS area and three regions represent the Southeastern Florida (Miami-Area) SCS; thus, a total of 15 NSDUH substate regions are presented for the 12 NDEWS SCSs.
  - The two NSDUH regions that represent the NDEWS Chicago Metro SCS are: 1) Cook County and 2) Illinois NSDUH Region II, which comprises Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, Will, and Winnebago counties. Please note NSDUH Region II includes counties that are not part of the Chicago Metro NDEWS SCS.
  - The three NSDUH regions that represent the NDEWS Southeastern Florida (Miami area) are: 1) Broward County; 2) Miami-Dade & Monroe counties; 3) Palm Beach County. Note that the Southeastern Florida NDEWS SCS does not include Monroe County.
**Notes about Data Terms**

**Estimated percentages** are based on a survey-weighted hierarchical Bayes estimation approach, and the 95% prediction (credible) intervals are generated by Markov Carlo techniques.

**95% Confidence Interval (CI)** provides a measure of the accuracy of the estimate. It defines the range within which the true value can be expected to fall 95% of the time.

**Estimated #** is the estimated number of persons aged 12 years or older who used the specified drug or have a substance use disorder; the estimated number of persons using/with substance use disorder was calculated by multiplying the prevalence rate and the population estimate from Table C1 of the NSDUH report. The population estimate is the simple average of the 2012, 2013, and 2014 population counts for persons aged 12 years or older.

**Binge Alcohol** is defined as drinking five or more drinks on the same occasion on at least 1 day in the past 30 days.

**Use of Illicit Drug Other Than Marijuana** is defined as any illicit drug other than marijuana and includes cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or any prescription-type psychotherapeutic used nonmedically.

**Substance Use Disorder in Past Year:** Persons are classified as having a substance use disorder in the past 12 months based on responses to questions that meet the criteria specified in the 4th edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV).

**Sources**

**Data Sources**: Adapted by the NDEWS Coordinating Center from data provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Substate Estimates of Substance Use and Mental Disorders from the 2012–2014 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Results and Detailed Tables. Rockville, MD. 2014. Available at: [http://www.samhsa.gov/data/population-data-nsduh/reports?tab=38](http://www.samhsa.gov/data/population-data-nsduh/reports?tab=38); Accessed on [8/5/2016].