

Other Drug Consumption

The use of illicit drugs other than alcohol remains a problem in Wisconsin. As a whole, consumption patterns of illicit drugs in Wisconsin mirrored national trends with few exceptions.

One notable trend was in the use of marijuana. In 1997, the Wisconsin prevalence of both lifetime and current use of marijuana was lower than the national average. Over the next four years, however, these measures rose until they were nearly identical to the national averages. Since 2001, lifetime and current use of marijuana in the United States and Wisconsin have both decreased at similar rates.

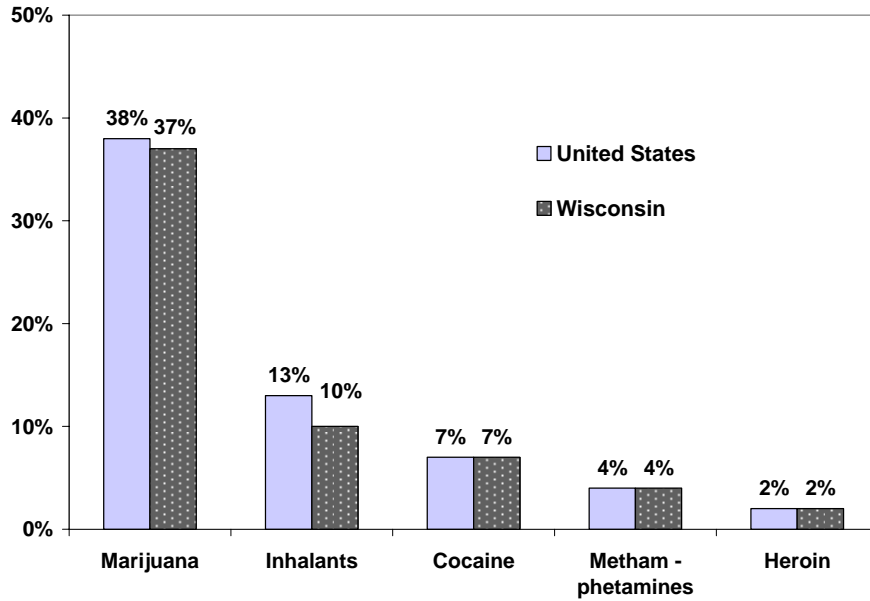
Non-medical use of prescription pain relievers is highest among young adults ages 18-25.

Table 27. The prevalence and state rank of illicit drug use among Wisconsin residents ages 12 and older, 2002-2004

	<i>Lifetime</i>		<i>Past Year</i>		<i>Past Month</i>	
	Prevalence	Rank	Prevalence	Rank	Prevalence	Rank
Any illicit drugs	49%	20	14%	25	8%	27
Marijuana and hashish	43%	21	10%	26	6%	30
Illicit drugs other than marijuana	29%	28	8%	30	4%	18
Non-medical use of psychotropics	18%	40	6%	37	2%	37
Non-medical use of pain relievers	12%	34	4%	33	2%	32
Cocaine	14%	29	3%	9	1%	8
Hallucinogens	14%	26	2%	21	1%	10
Tranquilizers	6%	44	2%	31	1%	38
OxyContin	2%	12	1%	2	1%	1
Stimulants	8%	31	1%	42	0%	47
Crack	3%	31	1%	11	0%	8
Ecstasy	3%	39	1%	29	0%	6
Inhalants	10%	27	1%	32	0%	25
LSD	10%	25	0%	21	0%	22
Methamphetamine	4%	34	0%	35	0%	40
Heroin	1%	47	0%	22		*
Sedatives	3%	45	0%	46	0%	42
PCP	2%	42	0%	40	0%	6

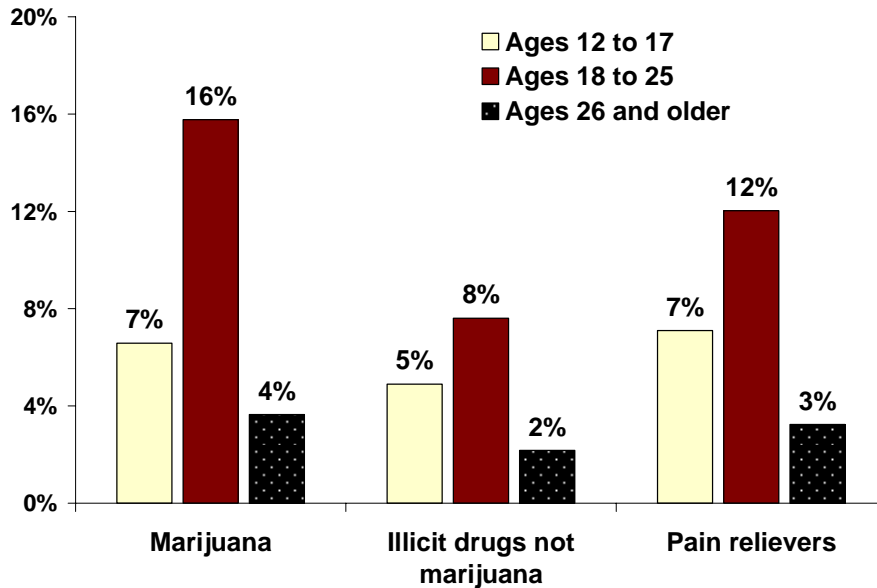
Data source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Figure 37. Lifetime use of illicit drugs among high school students, Wisconsin and the United States, 2007



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Figure 38. Use of marijuana, illicit drugs other than marijuana, and pain relievers for non-medical purposes by age group, Wisconsin, 2005-2006



Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

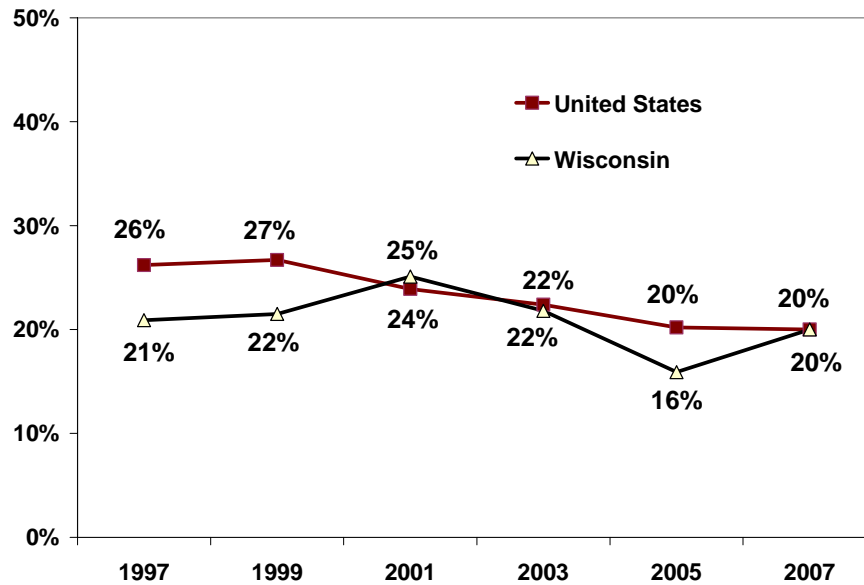
Note: Use of marijuana and use of illicit drugs other than marijuana are use in the past month; use of pain relievers is use in the past year.

Marijuana

Marijuana arrests accounted for 66.5% of all drug arrests in Wisconsin in 2006. Marijuana use can lead to decreased lung function, and impaired memory among youth.

- Between 1997 and 2007 the prevalence of current marijuana use among Wisconsin high school students showed little persistent change: it was 21% in 1997 and 20% in 2007 (Figure 39).

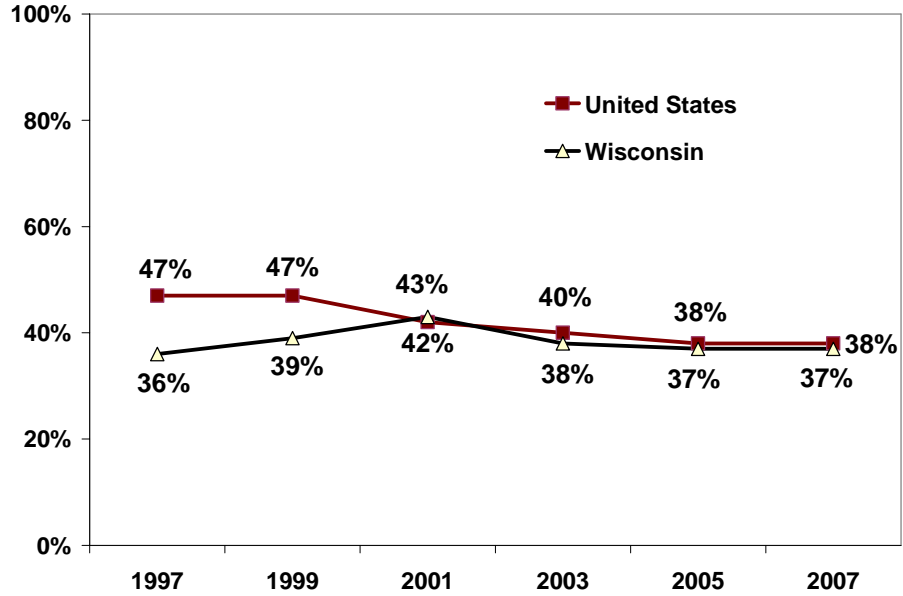
Figure 39. Current marijuana use among high school students, Wisconsin and the United States, 1997-2007



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Experimentation with marijuana among Wisconsin high school students rose between 1997 (36%) and 2001 (43%), but has decreased since then (Figure 40).
- In 2007, 37% of Wisconsin high school students had tried marijuana at least once.

Figure 40. Lifetime marijuana use among high school students, Wisconsin and the United States, 1997-2007



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Among Wisconsin high school students, reported marijuana use was highest for African American students (Table 28). During 2005-2007, 32% of African American high school students reported current marijuana use. In addition, a higher proportion of African American students reported having tried marijuana before age 13 (23%, Table 29) than the average for all Wisconsin high school students (8% in 2007, not shown).
- In Wisconsin, the prevalence of current marijuana use was lower among young adults ages 18 to 25 (16% in 2005-2006; Figure 38, page 65) than among high school students (20% in 2007; Figure 39, page 66). The prevalence for adults ages 26 and older was 4% during 2005-2006 (Figure 38).

Table 28. Current marijuana use among high school students by race/ethnicity, Wisconsin, 1999-2007

<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	<i>2003-2005</i>	<i>2005-2007</i>
White—not Hispanic	18%	16%
Black—not Hispanic	31%	32%
Hispanic	22%	24%
Asian or Pacific Islander	16%	10%
American Indian	27%	26%
Multiracial	20%	24%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

** Too few cases in sample to provide a reliable estimate.

Table 29. Initiation of marijuana use before age 13, high school students by race/ethnicity, Wisconsin, 1999-2007

<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	<i>2003-2005</i>	<i>2005-2007</i>
White—not Hispanic	6%	10%
Black—not Hispanic	20%	23%
Hispanic	13%	16%
Asian or Pacific Islander	10%	6%
American Indian	19%	**
Multiracial	13%	14%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

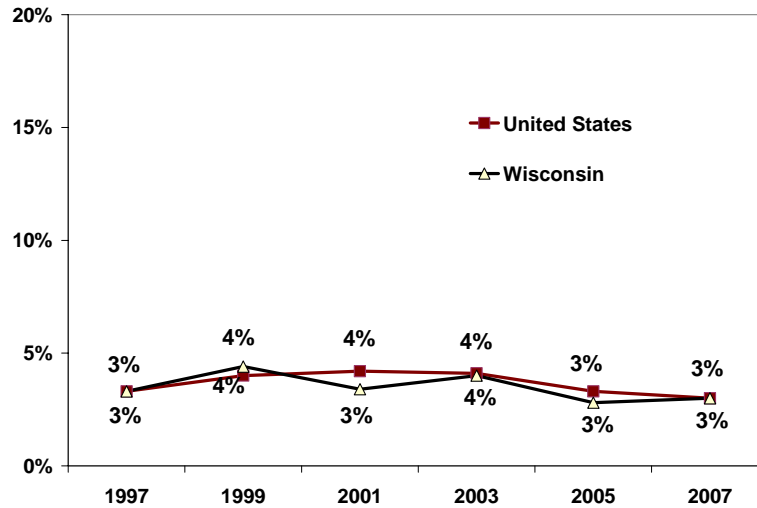
** Too few cases in sample to provide a reliable estimate.

Cocaine

Cocaine users face the possibilities of arrest, dependence, injury and even death. Compared with non-users, cocaine users are more likely to experience a hemorrhagic stroke (sudden bleeding in the brain), at a significantly earlier age, and experience poorer outcome after treatment. Cocaine continues to be the most frequently mentioned illicit substance reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) by hospital emergency departments nationwide.

- The prevalence of current cocaine use among Wisconsin adults and high school students has remained at approximately 3% since 1997 (Figure 41 and Table 27).
- Nevertheless, pockets of higher use are evident. Multiracial high school students reported a higher prevalence of current cocaine use than the Wisconsin average (Table 30). Young adults ages 18-24 have a higher rate than other age groups of using illicit drugs such as cocaine (Figure 38, page 65).

Figure 41. Current cocaine use among high school students, Wisconsin and the United States, 1997-2007



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Table 30. Current cocaine use among high school students by race/ethnicity, Wisconsin, 1999-2007

Race/Ethnicity	1999-2001	2001-2003	2003-2005	2005-2007
White—not Hispanic	3%	3%	3%	3%
African American—not Hispanic	2%	5%	6%	3%
Hispanic	6%	7%	6%	3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	9%	7%	3%	4%
American Indian	**	**	**	**
Multiracial	7%	3%	7%	7%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

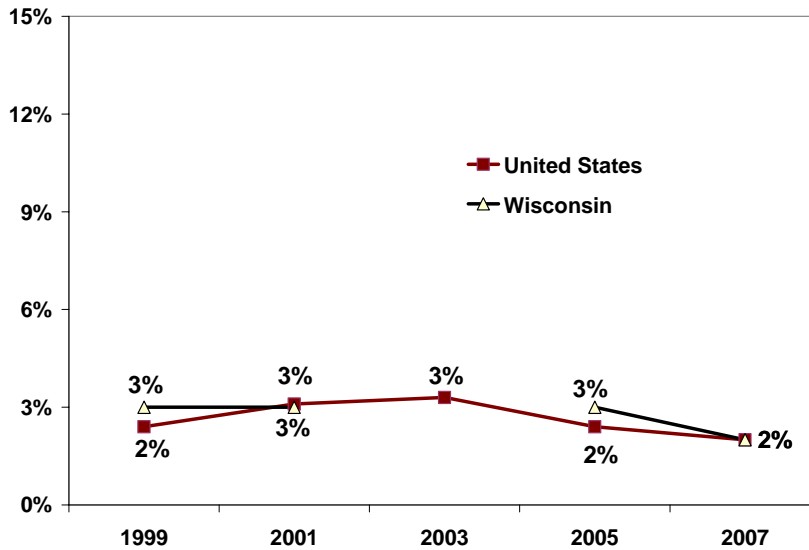
** Too few cases in sample to produce a reliable estimate.

Heroin

One of the most significant risks a heroin user faces is dependence on the drug. Users who inject heroin also risk contracting HIV, hepatitis C, and other infectious diseases. Most new hepatitis C infections in the United States each year are among injection drug users.

- The prevalence of lifetime heroin use among high school students in Wisconsin remained steady at 3% between 1999-2005, and was 2% in 2007 (Figure 42). During 2005-2007, the prevalence of lifetime heroin use was highest among multiracial students (9%), followed by Asian students (6%) (Table 31).
- The 2002-2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that 1% of Wisconsin residents ages 12 and older had used heroin during their lifetime (Table 27, page 64).

Figure 42. Lifetime heroin use among high school students, Wisconsin and the United States, 1999-2007



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Note: Data not available for Wisconsin in 2003.)

Table 31. Lifetime heroin use among high school students by race/ethnicity, Wisconsin, 2001-2007

Race/Ethnicity	2001-2005	2005-2007
White—not Hispanic	2%	2%
Black—not Hispanic	4%	3%
Hispanic	5%	4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	10%	6%
American Indian	**	**
Multiracial	9%	9%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Note: Question on heroin use was not asked in 2003.)

** Too few cases to produce a reliable estimate.

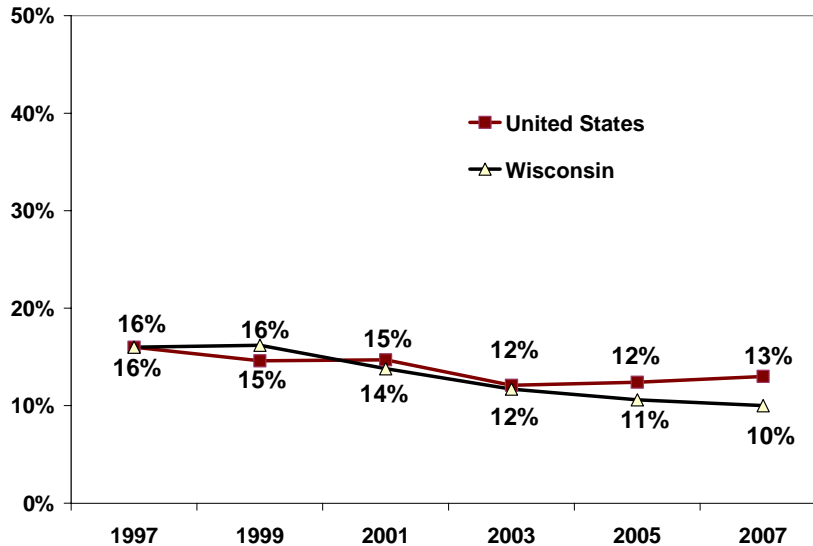
Inhalants

Prolonged sniffing of the highly concentrated chemicals in solvents or aerosol sprays can induce irregular and rapid heart rhythms and lead to heart failure and death within minutes of a session of prolonged sniffing. This syndrome, known as "sudden sniffing death," can result from a single session of inhalant use. Chronic exposure to inhalants can produce significant, sometimes irreversible, damage to the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys.

In addition to the toxic dangers of inhalants, recent research has shown that toluene, a solvent in many inhalants, promotes euphoria in the brain in the same way that cocaine, amphetamine/methamphetamine, PCP, and nicotine promote euphoria. This finding emphasizes the addictive nature of inhalants.³

- The prevalence of lifetime inhalants use among high school students has been dropping since 1997. In 2007, 10% of Wisconsin high school students reported having used inhalants to get high at some point in their lifetime (Figure 43).
- During 2002-2004, 10% of Wisconsin residents ages 12 and older reported having used inhalants to get high at some point in their lifetime (Table 27, page 64).

Figure 43. Lifetime inhalants use among high school students, Wisconsin and the United States, 1997-2007



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

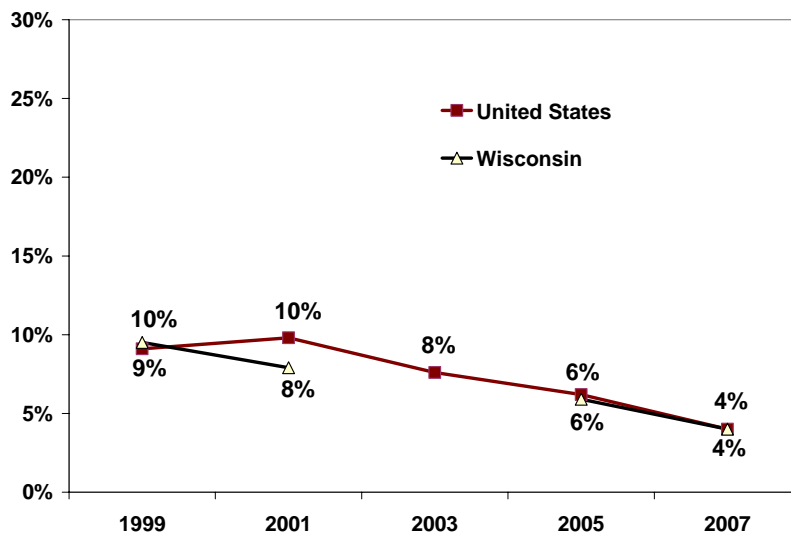
³ U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, 2005.

Methamphetamines

As well as being highly addictive, methamphetamine use can lead to neurological damage and psychotic behaviors.

- Lifetime methamphetamine use among Wisconsin high school students decreased between 1999 and 2007, following a national trend. The prevalence of lifetime methamphetamine use among Wisconsin high school students was 10% in 1999 and 4% in 2007 (Figure 44).
- Among high school students, African American students reported the lowest prevalence of lifetime methamphetamine use (3% in 2005-2007, Table 32), while Asian students reported the highest (10%).
- In the 2002-2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 4% of Wisconsin residents age 12 and older reported lifetime methamphetamine use (Table 27, page 64).

Figure 44. Lifetime methamphetamine use among high school students, Wisconsin and the United States, 1999-2007



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Table 32. Lifetime methamphetamine use among high school students by race/ethnicity, Wisconsin, 2001-2007

Race/Ethnicity	2001-2005	2005-2007
White—not Hispanic	6%	5%
Black—not Hispanic	3%	3%
Hispanic	7%	6%
Asian or Pacific Islander	13%	10%
American Indian	**	**
Multiracial	15%	8%

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Note: Question on methamphetamine use was not asked in 2003.)

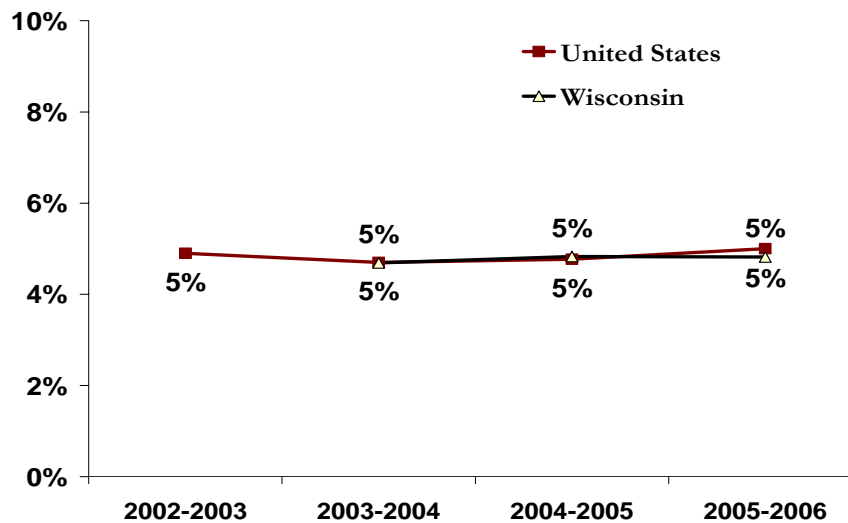
** Too few cases to produce a reliable estimate.

Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs

Findings from a recent survey report indicated that lifetime non-medical use of prescription stimulants among college students in the United States was approximately 7%, and past-year use was an estimated 4%. The study also found that non-medical prescription drug use was associated with use of alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana and other illicit drugs.⁴

- During 2005-2006, 5% of Wisconsin residents ages 12 and older reported using pain relievers for non-medicinal purposes (Figure 45). This percentage has not changed since 2003-2004, and is the same prevalence reported nationally. The prevalence of use was highest among young adults ages 18 to 25 (12%, Figure 38).
- Other than marijuana, pain relievers and psychotropics were the most commonly reported drugs consumed for non-medical reasons. During 2002-2004, 18% of Wisconsin residents age 12 and older reported non-medical use of psychotropics and 12% reported non-medical use of pain relievers at some point in their lifetime (Table 27, page 64). During the same time period, 6% reported using psychotropics and 4% reported using pain relievers for non-medical reasons in the past year (Table 27).
- In 2007, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 23% of Wisconsin high school students had used prescription pain relievers for non-medical purposes at some point in their lives, and 16% had used other prescription drugs non-medically at some point (data not shown). No comparable data for earlier years or the United States were available.

Figure 45. Use of prescription pain relievers for non-medical purposes in the past year, age 12 and older, Wisconsin and the United States, 2002-2006



Source: National Survey of Drug Use and Health, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

⁴ McCabe SE, J Knight, C Teter and H Wechsler. 2005. Non-medical use of prescription stimulants among U.S. college students: prevalence and correlates from a national survey. *Addiction*, Vol. 100 (1), 96-106.