

Drug Survey Descriptive Statistics

INTRODUCTION

The Ohio State Student Survey on the Non-medical Use of Prescription and Non-prescription Medications was designed to assess the non-medical use of prescription and non-prescription medications among Ohio State students at the Columbus campus. This online survey collected information on the extent to which students take prescription and non-prescription drugs for non-medical purposes, methods used to obtain them, reasons for using these drugs, and consequences of their use. The main purpose of this survey is to better inform the policy and practices of the Office of Student Life at Ohio State. The College of Pharmacy, in partnership with the Office of Student Life Research and Assessment, Student Wellness Center, and Counseling & Consultation Services, is developing educational initiatives relating to medication safety and the consequences of misusing prescription and non-prescription drugs. The goal of the survey is to better inform these efforts and allow administrators to have a better understanding of student behavior as it pertains to the misuse of these medications.

The survey was administered in the fall quarter of 2008. Undergraduate, professional, and graduate students at Ohio State's Columbus campus who are at least 18 years old constitute the study population. A randomly selected sample of 5,000 students was provided by the Office of the University Registrar. The students in this sample were invited to complete the anonymous online survey. Invitations for students to participate and three follow-up reminders were delivered through campus e-mail. A total of 1,054 valid responses were collected, for a response rate of 21.1%. This report describes student responses to the survey questions. The self-reported demographic information of the sample is as follows:

Demographics	Count	Percent	Demographics	Count	Percent
<u>Class Rank</u>			<u>Gender</u>		
Freshman	195	19.7	Female	631	63.7
Sophomore	162	16.3	Male	357	36.1
Junior	150	15.1	Self-define	2	.2
Senior	218	22.0	<u>Living Situation</u>		
Graduate	179	18.0	On campus	247	25.3
Professional	73	7.4	Off campus	730	74.7
Other	15	1.5	<u>Sexual Orientation</u>		
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>			Straight/heterosexual	942	95.2
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3	.3	Gay/lesbian	23	2.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	72	7.3	Bisexual	22	2.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	31	3.1	Self-define	3	.3
Hispanic	23	2.3	<u>Social Fraternity or Sorority</u>		
White (non-Hispanic)	831	84.3	Yes	53	5.4
Other	26	2.6	No	935	94.6
<u>Marital Status</u>			<u>Intramural Sports</u>		
Single	862	87.1	Yes	200	20.2
Married	110	11.1	No	789	79.8
Separated	4	.4			
Divorced	11	1.1			
Widowed	3	.3			

NON-MEDICAL USE OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Use

How often do **you** generally use the following types of prescription medications **that were not prescribed for you** and how often do you believe that **other students at OSU** generally use the following types of medications **that were not prescribed for them**?

Prescription pain medications (e.g., OxyContin, Vicodin, Percodan, Dilaudid, Codeine, Darvocet)

	Self		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Never	871	84.8	87	8.8
At least once per year	94	9.2	350	35.4
At least once per quarter	24	2.3	278	28.1
At least once per month	19	1.9	145	14.7
At least once per week	4	.4	74	7.5
At least once per day	7	.7	12	1.2
I'd rather not say	8	.8	43	4.3
Total	1,027	100.0	989	100.0

Prescription sedatives, sleeping medications or tranquilizers (e.g., Valium, Xanax, Librium, Ativan, Mebaral, Ambien)

	Self		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Never	919	90.6	105	10.7
At least once per year	52	5.1	316	32.2
At least once per quarter	15	1.5	276	28.1
At least once per month	15	1.5	159	16.2
At least once per week	8	.8	72	7.3
At least once per day	1	.1	13	1.3
I'd rather not say	4	.4	41	4.2
Total	1,014	100.0	982	100.0

Prescription stimulants (e.g., Ritalin, Adderall, Dexedrine, Concerta)

	Self		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Never	911	90.3	78	8.0
At least once per year	44	4.4	224	22.8
At least once per quarter	22	2.2	294	30.0
At least once per month	18	1.8	187	19.1
At least once per week	8	.8	129	13.1
At least once per day	3	.3	29	3.0
I'd rather not say	3	.3	40	4.1
Total	1,009	100.0	981	100.0

When did you **first start** using the following types of prescription medications that were not prescribed for you?

	Prescription pain medications		Prescription sedatives		Prescription stimulants	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
College	57	36.3	45	41.3	58	50.0
High School (grades 9-12)	72	45.9	32	29.4	29	25.0
Middle School (grades 6-8)	5	3.2	6	5.5	4	3.4
Elementary School (grades K-5)	2	1.3	2	1.8	1	.9
Never	18	11.5	21	19.3	23	19.8
I'd rather not say	3	1.9	3	2.8	1	.9
Total	157	100.0	109	100.0	116	100.0

In your lifetime, how many times would you estimate that you have used the following types of prescription medications that were not prescribed for you?

	Prescription pain medications		Prescription sedatives		Prescription stimulants	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Never	12	7.6	21	19.3	21	18.1
40 or more times	23	14.6	12	11.0	21	18.1
20-39 times	19	12.0	11	10.1	12	10.3
10-19 times	21	13.3	10	9.2	15	12.9
6-9 times	18	11.4	12	11.0	17	14.7
3-5 times	31	19.6	18	16.5	12	10.3
1-2 times	32	20.3	22	20.2	17	14.7
I'd rather not say	2	1.3	3	2.8	1	.9
Total	158	100.0	109	100.0	116	100.0

In the past twelve months, how many times would you estimate that you have used the following types of prescription medications that were not prescribed for you?

	Prescription pain medications		Prescription sedatives		Prescription stimulants	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Never	33	20.9	43	39.4	37	31.9
40 or more times	8	5.1	5	4.6	9	7.8
20-39 times	4	2.5	5	4.6	9	7.8
10-19 times	18	11.4	3	2.8	12	10.3
6-9 times	10	6.3	7	6.4	8	6.9
3-5 times	19	12.0	10	9.2	16	13.8
1-2 times	63	39.9	33	30.3	24	20.7
I'd rather not say	3	1.9	3	2.8	1	.9
Total	158	100.0	109	100.0	116	100.0

In the past 30 days, how many times would you estimate that you have used the following types of prescription medications that were not prescribed for you?

	Prescription pain medications		Prescription sedatives		Prescription stimulants	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Never	114	72.2	78	71.6	76	66.1
40 or more times	1	.6	1	.9	2	1.7
20-39 times	1	.6	0	0.0	1	.9
10-19 times	2	1.3	1	.9	1	.9
6-9 times	3	1.9	6	5.5	6	5.2
3-5 times	8	5.1	3	2.8	7	6.1
1-2 times	27	17.1	18	16.5	21	18.3
I'd rather not say	2	1.3	2	1.8	1	.9
Total	158	100.0	109	100.0	115	100.0

Access

How **easy is it to obtain** the following types of prescription medications that were not prescribed for you?

	Prescription pain medications		Prescription sedatives		Prescription stimulants	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
I don't know	502	49.7	517	51.2	478	47.4
Very difficult	32	3.2	36	3.6	41	4.1
Somewhat difficult	131	13.0	143	14.2	96	9.5
Somewhat easy	243	24.0	220	21.8	213	21.1
Very easy	102	10.1	92	9.1	180	17.8
I'd rather not say	1	.1	2	.2	1	.1
Total	1,011	100.0	1,010	100.0	1,009	100.0

Where do **you** typically obtain the following types of prescription medications that were not prescribed for you?

	Prescription pain medications		Prescription sedatives		Prescription stimulants	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
I'd rather not say	7	4.5	8	7.5	5	4.4
From a friend	60	38.7	40	37.4	62	54.4
From a peer who is not a friend	14	9.0	7	6.5	12	10.5
From a relative	38	24.5	19	17.8	6	5.3
From a pharmacy	5	3.2	6	5.6	2	1.8
From a drug dealer	4	2.6	3	2.8	1	.9
By travelling abroad	1	.6	0	0	0	0
Through the Internet	1	.6	0	0	0	0
I do not use these types of drugs without a prescription	25	16.1	24	22.4	26	22.8
Total	155	100.0	107	100.0	114	100.0

Reasons

Which of the following are/were reasons for **your** use of following types of prescription medications that were not prescribed for you (Check all that apply)? Why do you believe that **other students at OSU** generally use following types of prescription medications **that were not prescribed for them** (Check all that apply)?

Prescription pain medications (e.g., OxyContin, Vicodin, Percodan, Dilaudid, Codeine, Darvocet)				
	Self		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
To relieve pain	99	65.6	556	54.9
To get to sleep	41	27.2	420	41.5
To relieve anxiety	47	31.1	579	57.2
To get high	56	37.1	759	75.0
To counter the effects of other drugs	6	4.0	96	9.5
Because of an addiction	10	6.6	440	43.5
To see what it was like	39	25.8	609	60.2
To feel better	57	37.8	526	52.0
To escape from reality	27	17.9	517	51.1
Because of a personal/emotional problem	21	13.9	491	48.5
Because they are felt to be safer than street drugs	11	7.3	308	30.4
Because they are not felt to be as addictive as street drugs	4	2.7	213	21.0
Other	16	10.6	49	4.8
I'd rather not say	5	3.3	14	1.4
Total Respondents	151		1,012	

Note. Because respondents can choose multiple response options for these questions, percentages displayed refer to the percents of respondents choosing the corresponding response option and do not add up to 100%.

Prescription sedatives, sleeping medications or tranquilizers (e.g., Valium, Xanax, Librium, Ativan, Mebaral, Ambien)

	Self		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
To get to sleep	62	62.0	810	81.0
To relieve anxiety	50	50.0	712	71.2
To get high	28	28.0	473	47.3
To counter the effects of other drugs	11	11.0	123	12.3
Because of an addiction	1	1.0	362	36.2
To see what it was like	18	18.0	445	44.5
To feel better	22	22.0	482	48.2
To escape from reality	14	14.0	458	45.8
Because of a personal/emotional problem	17	17.0	452	45.2
Because they are felt to be safer than street drugs	2	2.0	196	19.6
Because they are not felt to be as addictive as street drugs	2	2.0	155	15.5
Other (please specify)	10	10.0	25	2.5
I'd rather not say	6	6.0	16	1.6
Total Respondents	100		1,000	

Note. Because respondents can choose multiple response options for these questions, percentages displayed refer to the percents of respondents choosing the corresponding response option and do not add up to 100%.

Prescription stimulants (e.g., Ritalin, Adderall, Dexedrine, Concerta)

	Self		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
To improve concentration	75	70.1	747	75.2
To increase alertness	66	61.7	746	75.0
To do better in school	68	63.6	715	71.9
To get high	27	25.2	499	50.2
To counter the effects of other drugs	5	4.7	98	9.8
To help lose weight	18	16.8	443	44.5
Because of an addiction	6	5.6	339	34.1
To see what it was like	33	30.8	435	43.7
To feel better	19	17.8	300	30.2
To escape from reality	7	6.5	236	23.7
Because of a personal/emotional problem	8	7.5	291	29.2
Because they are felt to be safer than street drugs	5	4.7	204	20.5
Because they are not felt to be as addictive as street drugs	4	3.7	150	15.1
Other (please specify)	10	9.4	29	2.9
I'd rather not say	6	5.6	21	2.1
Total Respondents	107		995	

Note. Because respondents can choose multiple response options for these questions, percentages displayed refer to the percents of respondents choosing the corresponding response option and do not add up to 100%.

Consequences

Please indicate whether **you** have ever experienced the following effects from your use of prescription pain medications, prescription sedatives/sleeping medications/tranquilizers, or prescription stimulants **without a prescription**.

	Yes n (%)	No n (%)	I'd rather not say n (%)
Have you ever not been able to stop using these types of medications when you wanted to?	46 (20.3%)	174 (76.7%)	7 (3.1%)
Have you ever felt bad or guilty about using these types of medications?	56 (24.6%)	165 (72.4%)	7 (3.1%)
Have family members ever expressed their concern about your use of these types of medications?	24 (10.6%)	196 (86.3%)	7 (3.1%)
Have you ever stayed away from your family because of your use of these types of medications?	18 (7.9%)	204 (89.5%)	6 (2.6%)
Have friends ever expressed concern about your use of these types of medications?	37 (16.3%)	183 (80.6%)	7 (3.1%)
Have you ever stayed away from your friends because of your use of these types of medications?	16 (7.0%)	206 (90.7%)	5 (2.2%)
Have you ever engaged in criminal activity in order to obtain these types of medications?	8 (3.5%)	213 (93.8%)	6 (2.6%)
Have you ever experienced memory loss as a result of your use of these types of medications?	24 (10.5%)	198 (86.8%)	6 (2.6%)
Have you ever missed class because of your use of these types of medications?	16 (7.1%)	203 (90.2%)	6 (2.7%)
Have you ever felt that your use of these types of medications has had a negative impact on your grades?	16 (7.0%)	206 (90.4%)	6 (2.6%)
Have you ever felt that your use of these types of medications has had a positive impact on your grades?	81 (35.7%)	141 (62.1%)	5 (2.2%)
Have you ever experienced problems at work because of your use of these types of medications?	6 (2.6%)	216 (94.7%)	6 (2.6%)
Have you ever felt that your relationships with other people were negatively affected by your use of these types of medications?	23 (10.3%)	194 (86.6%)	7 (3.1%)
Have you ever felt that your relationships with other people were positively affected by your use of these types of medications?	42 (18.8%)	175 (78.1%)	7 (3.1%)
Have you ever done things that you wish you hadn't as a result of taking these types of medications?	26 (11.6%)	193 (85.8%)	6 (2.7%)
Have you ever harmed another person when you were using these types of medications?	5 (2.2%)	214 (95.1%)	6 (2.7%)
Have you ever been harmed by another person when you were using these types of medications?	6 (2.7%)	212 (94.2%)	7 (3.1%)
Have you ever experienced withdrawal symptoms (felt sick) when you stopped taking these types of medications?	25 (11.2%)	191 (85.7%)	7 (3.1%)
Have you ever experienced medical problems because of your use of these types of medications?	13 (5.8%)	204 (91.5%)	6 (2.7%)
Have you ever experienced emotional/psychological problems because of your use of these types of medications?	22 (9.9%)	193 (86.9%)	7 (3.2%)
Have you ever had to undergo medical treatment because of your use of these types of medications?	7 (3.1%)	211 (94.6%)	5 (2.2%)
Have you ever had to undergo psychological treatment/counseling because of your use of these types of medications?	9 (4.0%)	208 (93.3%)	6 (2.7%)
Have you ever experienced legal problems as a result of your use of these types of medications?	4 (1.8%)	214 (96.0%)	5 (2.2%)
Have you ever been depressed as a result of your use of these types of medications?	23 (10.3%)	194 (87.0%)	6 (2.7%)
Have you ever experienced suicidal thoughts as a result of your use of these types of medications?	9 (4.0%)	209 (93.7%)	5 (2.2%)

Note. Percentages refer to within row proportions.

NON-MEDICAL USE OF NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Use

How often do **you** generally use the following types of over-the-counter (non-prescription) medications **for non-medical purposes** (i.e., to get high or for the feeling they cause) and how often do you believe that **other students at OSU** generally use the following types of over-the-counter (non-prescription) medications **for non-medical purposes** (i.e., to get high or for the feeling they cause)?

Non-prescription cough medicines (e.g., Robitussin, Coricidin)

	Self		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Never	837	84.0	132	13.7
At least once per year	104	10.4	321	33.3
At least once per quarter	34	3.4	256	26.6
At least once per month	16	1.6	153	15.9
At least once per week	1	.1	48	5.0
At least once per day	1	.1	8	.8
I'd rather not say	3	.3	45	4.7
Total	996	100.0	963	100.0

Non-prescription sleep aids (e.g., Unisom, Sominex)

	Self		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Never	925	92.9	132	13.7
At least once per year	31	3.1	281	29.2
At least once per quarter	16	1.6	271	28.2
At least once per month	15	1.5	154	16.0
At least once per week	5	.5	63	6.5
At least once per day	2	.2	0	0.0
I'd rather not say	2	.2	50	1.1
Total	996	100.0	962	100.0

Non-prescription stimulants (e.g., NoDoz, Vivarin)

	Self		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Never	926	93.5	104	10.8
At least once per year	31	3.1	274	28.6
At least once per quarter	18	1.8	278	29.0
At least once per month	5	.5	167	17.4
At least once per week	6	.6	70	7.3
At least once per day	2	.2	15	1.6
I'd rather not say	2	.2	51	5.3
Total	990	100.0	959	100.0