

2018

COLLEGE PRESCRIPTION DRUG STUDY

KEY FINDINGS: FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS INTO SORORITY AND FRATERNITY LIFE

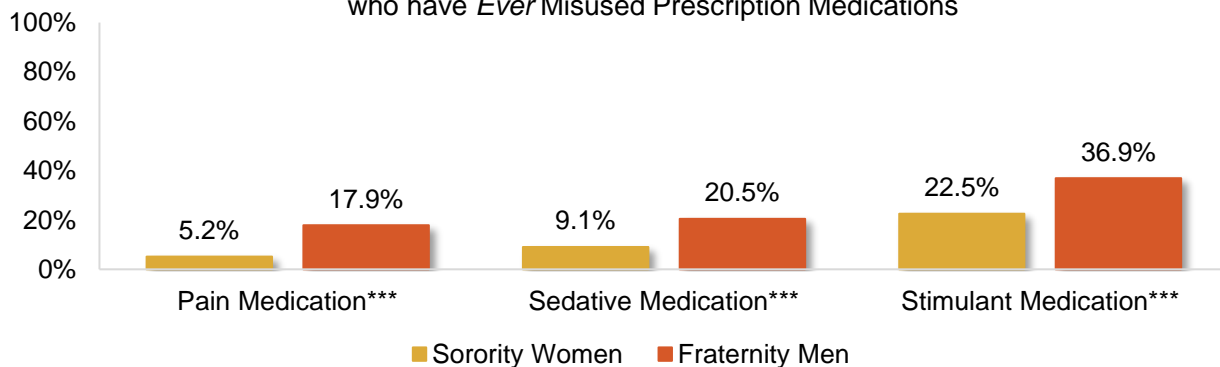
INTRODUCTION

This report uses data from the 2018 administration of the College Prescription Drug Study (CPDS) to examine non-medical prescription drug use among college students. The CPDS surveyed students at 26 public and private, two- and four-year U.S. colleges and universities; 19,539 students completed the survey overall and 12,021 undergraduates completed the survey and responded to the Sorority and Fraternity Life (SFL) question. Of this sample, 2,237 (18.6%) undergraduate students responded that they were a member of either a fraternity or a sorority. Since this report focuses specifically on sorority women and fraternity men, an additional 17 undergraduate students who identified as another gender or more than one gender were excluded from these analyses. Students were not required to answer every question on the survey. This report summarizes differences between sorority women and fraternity men, as well as differences between sorority women and undergraduate women not affiliated with a sorority and fraternity men and undergraduate men not affiliated with a fraternity.

KEY FINDINGS

- Significantly more fraternity men (**44.9%**) had *ever* used at least one prescription medication (e.g., pain, sedative and/or stimulant medication) for non-medical reasons compared to sorority women (**26.8%**), as shown in Table 1.
- Significantly more undergraduate women not affiliated with a sorority (**81.1%**) had *never* used any prescription medication (e.g., pain, sedative and/or stimulant medication) for non-medical reasons compared to sorority women (**73.2%**), as shown in Table 2.
- Similarly, significantly more undergraduate men not affiliated with a fraternity (**75.3%**) had *never* used any prescription medication (e.g., pain, sedative and/or stimulant medication) for non-medical reasons compared to fraternity men (**55.1%**), as shown in Table 3.
- Among fraternity men who reported *ever* using pain, sedative and/or stimulant medication(s) non-medically, **58.0%** reported they had done so in combination with alcohol, as shown in Table 3.
- Fraternity men were significantly more likely to have misused pain medications, sedatives or stimulants compared to sorority women, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Percentage of Sorority Women vs. Fraternity Men who have *Ever* Misused Prescription Medications



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Table 1.	Sorority Women	Fraternity Men	Statistical Significance
Have you ever used a pain, sedative and/or stimulant medication for non-medical reasons (e.g., it was not prescribed for you, you only used it for the experience or feeling it caused or you used it in a way other than the prescriber intended or ordered)?	(n = 1,557)	(n = 659)	
Have <i>ever</i> used at least one of the medications	26.8%	44.9%	***
Have <i>never</i> used any of the medications	73.2%	55.1%	
Do you use pain, sedative and/or stimulant medication(s) while drinking alcohol? ¹	(n = 274)	(n = 193)	
Have <i>ever</i> used with alcohol	49.3%	58.0%	
Have <i>never</i> used with alcohol	50.7%	42.0%	

Table 2.	Non-Sorority Women	Sorority Women	Statistical Significance
Have you ever used a pain, sedative and/or stimulant medication for non-medical reasons (e.g., it was not prescribed for you, you only used it for the experience or feeling it caused or you used it in a way other than the prescriber intended or ordered)?	(n = 6,163)	(n = 1,557)	
Have <i>ever</i> used at least one of the medications	18.9%	26.8%	***
Have <i>never</i> used any of the medications	81.1%	73.2%	
Do you use pain, sedative and/or stimulant medication(s) while drinking alcohol? ¹	(n = 799)	(n = 274)	
Have <i>ever</i> used with alcohol	35.5%	49.3%	***
Have <i>never</i> used with alcohol	64.5%	50.7%	

Table 3.	Non-Fraternity Men	Fraternity Men	Statistical Significance
Have you ever used a pain, sedative and/or stimulant medication for non-medical reasons (e.g., it was not prescribed for you, you only used it for the experience or feeling it caused or you used it in a way other than the prescriber intended or ordered)?	(n = 3,400)	(n = 659)	
Have <i>ever</i> used at least one of the medications	24.7%	44.9%	***
Have <i>never</i> used any of the medications	75.3%	55.1%	
Do you use pain, sedative and/or stimulant medication(s) while drinking alcohol? ¹	(n = 595)	(n = 193)	
Have <i>ever</i> used with alcohol	45.0%	58.0%	**
Have <i>never</i> used with alcohol	55.0%	42.0%	

¹Students only saw these questions if they reported *ever* using one of the prescription medications non-medically. Results should be interpreted as, "Among fraternity men who reported ever using pain, sedative and/or stimulant medication(s) non-medically, 58.0% reported they had done so in combination with alcohol."

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$