Description: The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) is an annual SAMHSA household survey that collects information on substance use and mental health issues among Americans ages 12 and over. It is representative at both the national and state levels and for some metropolitan areas. Formerly titled the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, the survey strives to accomplish the following:

1. Provide accurate data on the level and patterns of licit and illicit drug use
2. Track trends in the use of alcohol, tobacco, and various types of drugs
3. Assess the consequences of drug use and abuse
4. Identify groups with a high risk for drug abuse

Sponsoring institution: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Data:

- Use and abuse of illicit drugs, alcohol, and prescription drugs
- Mental health symptoms and treatment use
- Suicidal thoughts, plans, attempts, and medical care (Note: Previous to 2008, data on suicide attempts were available only on those screening positive on a depression screening item.)

Variables:

- Self-report of serious suicidal thoughts, plans, attempts, and attempts needing medical attention or hospitalization for the previous 12 months

Source of data:

- Data are collected through in-person household interviews conducted for SAMHSA by the Research Triangle Institute.

Strengths:

- Representative at both the national and state levels
- Covers both youth and adults
- Collects important data on mental health problems, very detailed substance use information, and treatment status

Limitations:

- Before 2008, questions about suicide attempts were asked only if the person answering the survey reported symptoms of depression.
- As with other surveys, self-reported information cannot be corroborated.
- There is no data on certain populations, such as institutionalized persons, people who are homeless, and American Indian/Alaskan Natives, nor items to identify sexual orientation.

Access:

- For reports compiling the data, go to [http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH.aspx).
- To view a CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report that summarizes NSDUH data (2008-2009), go to [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6013a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6013a1.htm).
- For more information about the survey, go to [https://nsduhweb.rti.org/](https://nsduhweb.rti.org/).
- Researchers can query the data online at [http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/series/64](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/series/64).