

Jail inmates reported differences in their own attitudes and what they perceived their friends and close family members thought about illicit drugs

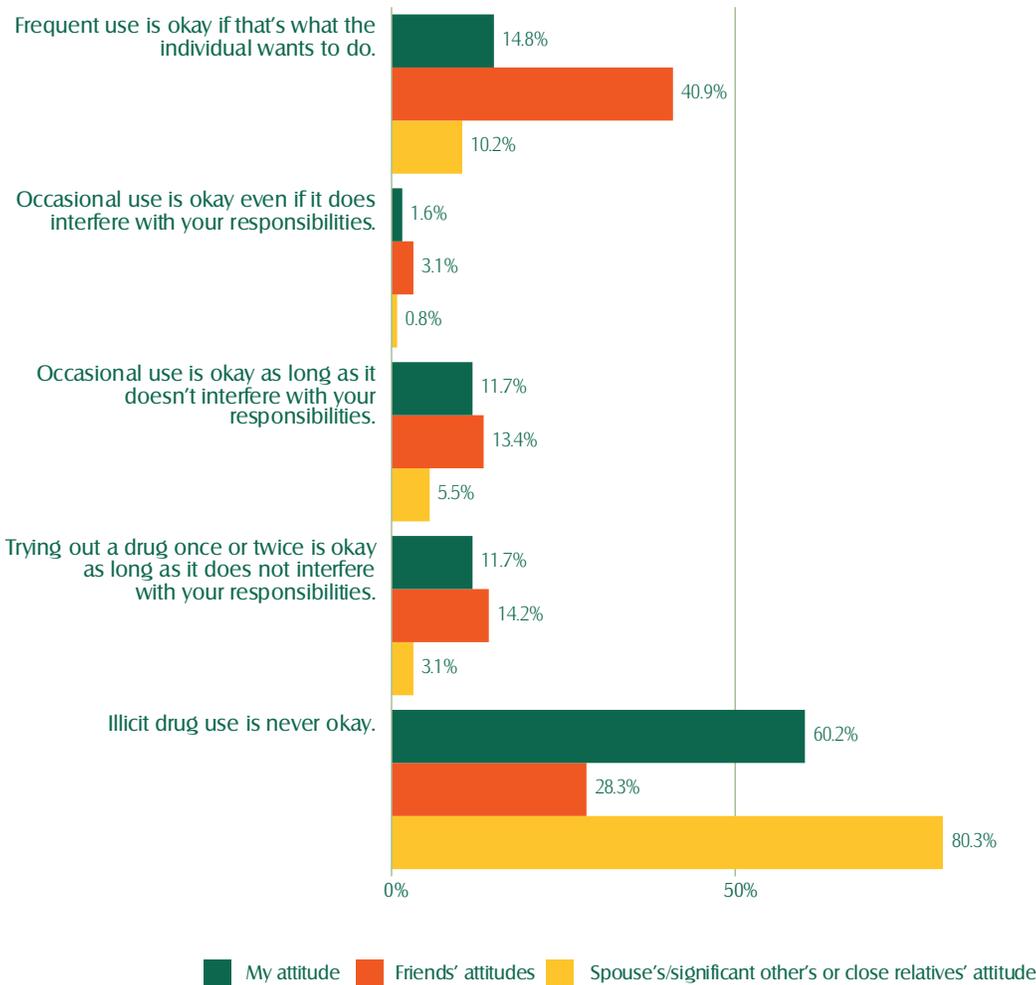
Inmates' attitudes about illicit drugs were about the same as they perceived their friends' attitudes were for trying out a drug once or twice (inmates 11.7%, friends 14.2%) and even occasional use (inmates 13.3%, friends 16.5%).

Inmates considered friends more permissive of illicit drug use. They differed sharply on the attitude that using using illicit drugs is never okay (inmates 60.2%, friends 38.3%) and on the attitude that frequent use was okay (inmates 14.8%, friends 40.9%).

Percentage of Fairfield County jail inmates reporting their attitudes and their perception of the attitudes of friends and family about illicit drug use

Results from the
Jail Survey
in Fairfield County

About 60% of jail inmates said that marijuana use is never acceptable.



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Inmates perceived the attitudes of close family members were less permissive toward illicit drug use

About 80% of inmates reported that they perceived that family members thought illicit drug use was never okay, more than both the inmates' own attitudes (60.2%) and more than twice what they perceived their friends' attitudes to be (28.3%). Inmates' own attitudes (60.2%) were closer to those of close family members than what their friends thought on use never being okay. About 1 in 10 inmates, however, reported that they perceived their close family members thought frequent use was okay.

How were these data gathered?

These data come from face-to-face interviews with Fairfield County jail inmates conducted in 2014 and the first half of 2015. These jail inmates scored greater than 4 on the Simple Screening Instrument, indicating moderate to high risk for alcohol or drug abuse.¹

Why are attitudes about substance misuse important?

The attitudes and behaviors of close friends, significant others, and family members influence the attitudes and behaviors of an individual. Tacit approval of alcohol or drug abuse increases the risk that an individual will engage in these activities.

How can we address this community issue?

Providing pro-social activities and peer recovery supports for individuals with substance use disorders is essential. Investing in evidence-based prevention effort in schools, in communities, and within the family environment is also a cost-effective approach to mitigating risk factors that may exist.

For more information, contact

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108 West Main Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130
740-654-0829 (p)
740-654-7621 (f)

Mental health crisis hotline:

740-687-8255 (24 hr.)

For more information about alcohol, drug, and mental health community indicators, please visit our interactive website where you can create your own data queries about Fairfield County:

BHIndicators.FairfieldADAMH.org

Notes on the data and sources

Cover graphic: Data from surveys of the jail population.

Source: The jail population are Fairfield County jail inmates in 2014–2015 who indicated in a prior answer that they believed they needed substance abuse treatment ($n = 77$). Face-to-face interviews were conducted by clinicians employed by the Recovery Center with the written consent of the inmate to participate in data collection. Privacy restrictions approved by the National Center for State Courts' Institutional Review Board were followed.

¹The Simple Screening Instrument is a questionnaire used across the country in many different settings as an effective way to identify potential substance abuse disorders.

For more information, including interactive data visualizations by gender, location, and age, as well as comparisons to Ohio as a whole, visit the Fairfield County ADAMH Board interactive website at <http://BHIndicators.FairfieldADAMH.org>.