



# Butler County Drug & Alcohol Program

## Fact Sheet: Women & Drugs

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- **Girls and young women use substances for reasons different than boys and young men (National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse - CASA).**
- **Girls/young women are more vulnerable to abuse and addiction: they get hooked faster and suffer the consequences sooner than boys and young men (CASA-2005).**
- **Girls experiencing early puberty are likelier to engage in substance use (CASA).**
- **31.5% of the nationwide admissions to D&A treatment during 2004 were women.**
- **Girls are more likely to be offered drugs by a female acquaintance, a young female relative or a boyfriend, whereas boys are more likely to be offered drugs by a male acquaintance, a young male relative, a parent or stranger.**
- **Approximately 41.6% of females ages 12 or older reported using an illicit drug at some point in their lives (2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health - NSDUH).**
- **Girls are less likely to be asked to show proof of age when buying cigarettes (NSDUH).**
- **Girls making the transition from high school to college show the largest increases in smoking, drinking and drug use (NSDUH).**
- **Among teens who move frequently from one home or neighborhood to another, girls are at greater risk than boys to use substances (NSDUH).**
- **Approximately 12.1% of females ages 12 and older reported past year use of an illicit drug and 6.1% reported past month use of an illicit drug (2005 NSDUH).**
- **High school girls who smoke or drink are more than twice as likely to have considered or attempted suicide as girls who have never smoked (37.7 percent vs. 14.4 percent) or drunk (27.4 percent vs. 11.3 percent). Those who use marijuana are likelier to have considered or attempted suicide than those who have never used marijuana (34.5 percent vs. 19.5 percent) (NSDUH).**
- **Among pregnant women aged 15 to 44 years, 3.9% reported using illicit drugs in the past month (combined 2004 and 2005 NSDUH data); compared to 9.9% of women aged 15 to 44 who were not pregnant.**
- **Approximately 35.9% of female high school students surveyed nationwide in 2005 used marijuana during their lifetime. This is down from 7.6% in 2003 and 38.4% in 2001 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – CDC).**  

Approximately 60.2% of State and 42.8% of Federal female prisoners surveyed in 2004 met drug dependence or abuse criteria.
- **Approximately 59.3% of State and 47.6% of Federal female prisoners surveyed in 2004 indicated that they used drugs in the month before their offense (Bureau of Justice Statistics).**
- **A National Vital Statistics Report found that 21,683 persons died of drug-induced causes in 2001. Of those drug-induced deaths, 7,439 (34%) were females (dependent and nondependent use of drugs - legal and illegal use - and poisoning from medically prescribed and other drugs).**

- There were 1,997,993 drug related emergency department (ED) episodes in 2004. The rates of ED visits involving cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and stimulants did not differ significantly between males and females (Drug Abuse Warning Network - DAWN).
- 565,354 females were admitted to treatment facilities in the U. S. in 2004, representing 31.5% of total treatment admissions. More than half of the treatment admissions for sedatives in 2004 involved women (Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS)).
- A SAMHSA report on females admitted to treatment with a dual diagnosis of a substance abuse problem and a psychiatric disorder found that almost half (46 %) had alcohol as a primary substance of abuse.
- On September 30, 2003, there were 10,493 female offenders in Federal prison and 8.0% of the Federal prisoners serving time for drug offenses were women (DEA).
- During 2004, approximately 31.5% of incarcerated females were sentenced for drug offenses compared to only 20.7% of males.
- About half of women offenders confined in State prisons had been using alcohol, drugs, or both at the time of the offense for which they had been incarcerated (Bureau of Justice Statistics - BJS).
- About 6 in 10 women in State prison described themselves as using drugs in the month before the offense and 5 in 10 described themselves as a daily user of drugs (BJS).
- Nearly 1 in 3 women serving time in State prisons said they had committed the offense which brought them to prison in order to obtain money to support their need for drugs (BJS).
- Drug offenses are among the most common offenses committed by female gang members (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - OJJDP).