

# Drug Misuse in America 2022

Health Trends® 2022  
report now available



## A decade lost to the drug crisis

Ten years ago, drug overdoses claimed nearly 42,000 lives annually in the United States. By the end of 2021, that number rose to nearly 108,000—and the drug misuse epidemic shows no signs of abating.

That's just 1 of the startling findings presented in **Drug Misuse in America 2022: A Decade Lost to the Drug Crisis**, a Quest Diagnostics Health Trends® annual report that examines more than 20 million clinical drug tests over 10 years.



### Additional key findings over the past 10 years include:

- **Nearly half (49%)** of people tested showed evidence of drug misuse in 2021
- **52% of drug tests showed evidence of drug mixing**—a 58% increase from 2012 (33%)
  - These data are concerning given other data suggesting an increase in the mixing of synthetic fentanyl with other drugs, often without the user's knowledge.<sup>1</sup>
- **5-fold increase in use of amphetamines**, with 9.2% of patients testing positive, compared to only 1.8% in 2012
- **Younger people ages 18-34** were more likely to show signs of misuse
- **Females were more likely to use pain-and-anxiety prescription medications**, while males had higher rates of illicit drugs



The report reveals a dual threat—**prescription and illicit drugs misuse**—that places patients of all ages and all sexes at risk. The report's authors suggest a national conversation and commitment to policies that address underlying dynamics fueling the epidemic, and an urgency to identify drug misuse at the earliest stages, are needed to help save lives.



**Download the complete 2022 Health Trends report**



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#### Reference

1. Fentanyl DrugFacts. National Institute on Drug Abuse. National Institutes of Health. Published June 2021. Accessed November 29, 2022. <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/fentanyl>.

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