

3 Takeaways from SAMHSA's Annual Report for SUD Treatment Pros

By Ashleigh Hollowell | July 27, 2026

[Overdose deaths are down](#) and the overall prevalence of substance use disorders decreased by 3.8 million in the last year alone, with alcohol use disorder driving much of those gains. Since 2021, AUD prevalence decreased from 29.7 million to 25.7 million in 2025.

Yet, even with improvements in overdose deaths and SUD prevalence, treatment access, medication-assisted treatment (MAT) utilization and co-occurring disorder care have not benefited from the same progress. That's according to new data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) 2025 National Survey on Drug Use and Health [report](#).

While the treatment gap for U.S. adults over the age of 18 who have SUDs but did not receive treatment saw faint improvement year-over-year from [95.6% in 2024](#) who did not receive treatment to 94.5% in 2025, the gap widened among youth. Adolescents between the ages 18-25 continue to be the least likely to access SUD care. In 2025, only 9.6% of adolescents and young adults in that range who needed treatment received it; a decline of 1.7% from 2024.

To further illustrate the need, among the 47.2 million individuals who are at least age 12 or older and needed SUD treatment in 2025, 84% did not receive treatment.

Even with modest improvements in alcohol use disorder, the No. 1 SUD diagnosis in the U.S., only around 2.6% of individuals with AUD received medication-based treatment. That number is up from 0.5% of people in 2024. For individuals with opioid use disorders, only 15.7% received MOUD in the last year, down from 17% in 2024.

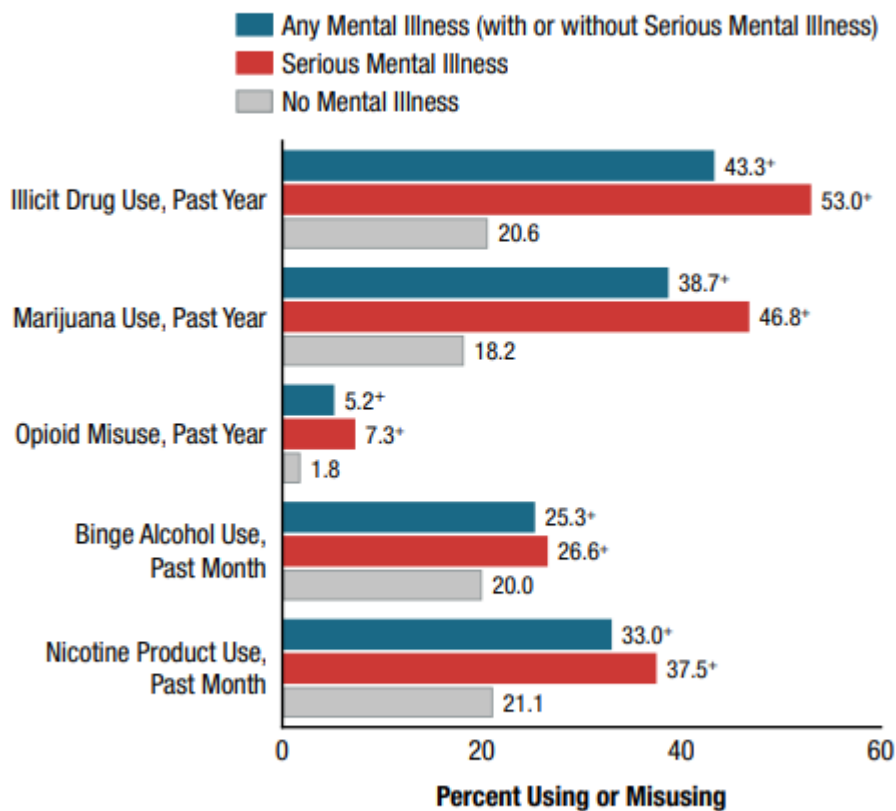
Even modest gains in the number of individuals receiving AUD medication and a decrease in MOUD uptake in the past year signal that this is an area of SUD treatment with untapped potential. The [recent reintroduction](#) of the bipartisan [Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act 2.0](#) (MOTAA 2.0), aims to reduce barriers to access and [revise prescribing strategies](#) to improve utilization of medications for opioid use disorder. However, that effort has received mixed industry views. The Advocates for Opioid Addiction Treatment (AOAT), the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD), and the National Association for Behavioral Healthcare (NABH) recently [sent a letter](#) to all U.S. senators urging them to reject the legislation.

As the combination of co-occurring SUD and mental health or serious mental illness issues also grows among patient populations, integrated treatment options are lagging behind. Many services still treat mental health and SUD as separate issues, while 18.5 million adults have co-occurring SUD and mental health issues and 7.8 million have co-occurring SUD and SMI conditions.

Even across those numbers, among the 18.5 million adults who had an SUD and a mental illness in 2025, 42.6% report they did not receive any SUD or mental health services at all. Only 12.7% received

SUD and mental health care. That number actually worsened from 2024, climbing 1.4% year-over-year from 41.2%.

Figure 69. Past Year or Past Month Substance Use: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older; by Level of Mental Illness, 2025



* Difference between this estimate and the estimate for adults without mental illness is statistically significant at the .05 level.

[SAMHSA's 2025 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) Past Year or Month of Substance Use: Adults 18 and Older by level of mental illness from SAMHSA's 2025 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

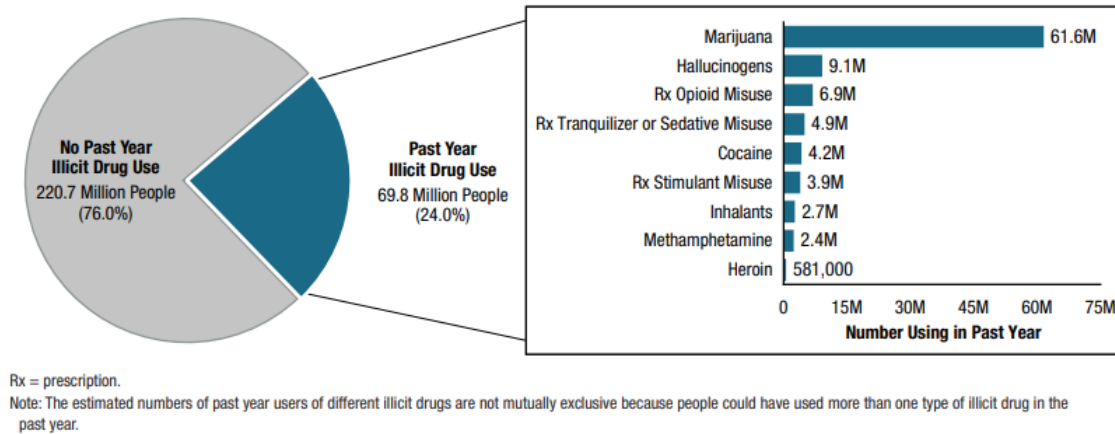
Among the 7.8 million who had an SUD and SMI condition, 28.7% received no treatment at all 16.4% received both SUD and mental health care in 2025. In 2024, 29.9% received no treatment at all and 19.2% received both SUD and mental health treatment.

The introduction of [collaborative care management \(CoCM\) codes](#) back in 2018, was designed to make treatment and reimbursement of co-occurring disorders more streamlined, but provider adoption of the codes continues to lag.

Even on the recovery front, numbers are a bit more grim for SUD this year than before. The 2025 numbers reveal that fewer individuals who have ever had an SUD consider themselves recovered or in recovery. In 2024, 74.3% considered themselves of this status, but in SAMHSA's latest report, that fell to 73% – or 22.3 million.

This signals that the case for investing in [post-recovery and alumni resources](#) could become a stronger priority for provider organizations going forward.

Figure 15. Past Year Illicit Drug Use: Among People Aged 12 or Older; 2025



[SAMHSA's 2025 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) Past year illicit drug use by drug type among people 12 and older from SAMHSA's 2025 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Outside of prevalence, need and treatment data, SAMHSA's report also found that among individuals over the age of 12 who used any illicit drugs in the last year, the rate increased to 24% or 69.8 million people in 2025. Marijuana, hallucinogens and prescription opioid misuse dominated the top three substances that were used most commonly in the past year.