

(A Technical Summary of Selected Public Health Indicators)

Health | Behaviors

2009 Update

This indicator is 1 of 44 Spokane Counts indicators found at www.srhd.org/SpokaneCounts

Illicit Drug Use (adult)

Adult drug use is defined as individuals 18 years of age or older who used any illicit drug in the last 30 days. Consequences of drug use may include unintentional injuries, crime, domestic violence, and illness. Additionally, drug use affects workplace productivity and stresses family members.¹

An estimated 6% of Spokane County adults used illicit drugs in the last 30 days. There was no change in adult drug use from 2003 to 2007. Spokane County had a slightly higher proportion of adult drug users in 2007 compared to Washington State, but statistical significance could not be tested due to the data source.²

Indicator: Illicit Drug Use (adult)

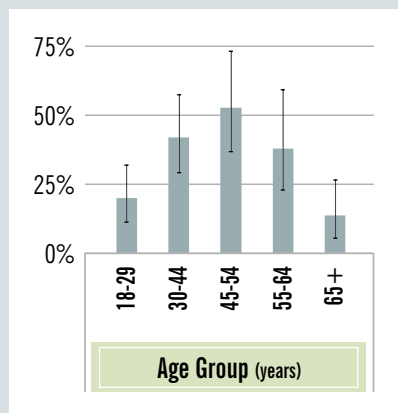
Percent

(95% Confidence Interval)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Total	Spokane County	6.1%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
	Washington State	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%
Income	≤200% FPL*	6.1%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
	>200% FPL	4.6%	4.6%	4.6%	4.6%	4.6%

* FPL=Federal Poverty Level, NOTE: National data not available.
Source: Department of Social and Health Services

Drug-Induced Deaths by Age Group Spokane County, 2007



Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics

The most extreme outcome of illicit drug use is the death of the drug user. Drug-induced deaths, as defined by the Washington State Department of Health, account for a small proportion of all deaths. Still, there were 116 drug-induced deaths among Spokane County residents in 2007, a rate of 25.7 per 100,000. Spokane County had a significantly higher rate of drug-induced deaths than did Washington State (15.3 per 100,000). Adults 45-54 years of age had the highest rate of drug-induced deaths in Spokane County in 2007.³

Another possible outcome of drug use is being arrested. Over 26,000 adults statewide were arrested for drug abuse in 2008. County level figures were not available.⁴

1. Office of National Drug Control Policy. *America's Drug Use Profile; Consequences of Illegal Drug Use*. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/ondcppubs/publications/policy/99ndcs/ii-b.html>. Accessed 08/27/07.
2. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Research and Data Division. *2003 County Profile of Substance Use and Need for Treatment Services*. 2006 Updates and Forecasts. http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/rda/research/4/52_forcast.shtm. Accessed 05/08/07.

3. **Death Certificate Data:** Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 1990-2007; **Population Estimates:** Population Estimates for Public Health Assessment, Washington State Department of Health, Vista Partnership, and Krupski Consulting. November 2006.
4. Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. *Crime in Washington 2008 Annual Report*. Available at <http://www.waspc.org>.