

**Opioid Misuse** Opioids are a group of chemically similar drugs that include heroin and prescription opioids, such as hydrocodone (e.g., Vicodin®), oxycodone (e.g., OxyContin®), and morphine. In this report, opioid misuse includes the misuse of prescription

pain relievers or the use of heroin. Prescription pain relievers could include some nonopioids because respondents could occasionally specify the misuse of other prescription pain relievers that are not opioids. In this report, opioid misuse does not include use of illegally made fentanyl (IMF). For additional information on estimates of opioid misuse that do include use of IMF, see Section 1 of the 2023 Detailed Tables.<sup>19</sup> Among people aged 12 or older in 2023, 3.1 percent (or 8.9 million people) misused opioids in the past year (Figure 23 and Table A.5B). Similar to the misuse of prescription pain relievers in the past year, the percentage.

of people who misused opioids in the past year was higher among adults aged 26 or older (3.3 percent or 7.5 million people) than among young adults aged 18 to 25 (2.5 percent or 846,000 people) or adolescents aged 12 to 17 (2.2 percent or 574,000 people). The vast majority of the 8.9 million people aged 12 or older in 2023 who misused opioids in the past year misused prescription pain relievers (Figure 23 and Table A.10AB), but they did not use heroin. Specifically, 8.6 million people misused prescription pain relievers in the past year, of whom 8.2 million people did not use heroin. An estimated 336,000 people misused prescription pain relievers and used heroin in the past year. By Race/Ethnicity Among people aged 12 or older in 2023, opioid misuse in the past year did not differ significantly among racial or ethnic groups. Percentages ranged from 1.7 percent among Asian people to 5.9 percent among American Indian or Alaska Native people (Table B.12B)

**Central Nervous System Stimulant Misuse** Central nervous system (CNS) stimulants are a group of drugs that include cocaine, methamphetamine, and prescription stimulants. These drugs act in similar ways to stimulate the brain. They produce stimulant effects, such as increased alertness, wakefulness, or energy. They also can produce physical side effects of rapid or irregular heartbeat or

increased blood pressure and body temperature.<sup>39,40,41</sup> In this report, CNS stimulant misuse includes the use of cocaine or methamphetamine or the misuse of prescription stimulants. Among people aged 12 or older in 2023, 3.4 percent (or 9.7 million people)

misused CNS stimulants in the past year (Figure 24 and Table A.5B). The percentage was highest among young adults aged 18 to 25 (5.6 percent or 1.9 million people), followed by adults aged 26 or older (3.3 percent or 7.5 million people), then by adolescents aged 12 to 17 (1.1 percent or 285,000 people). Of the 9.7 million people aged 12 or older in 2023 who misused CNS stimulants in the past year, most (7.9 million people) misused only one type of CNS stimulant, including 3.5 million people who used cocaine only, 2.8 million who misused prescription stimulants only, and 1.7 million people who used methamphetamine only (Figure 24 and Table A.11AB).<sup>42</sup> An estimated 182,000 people used or misused all three CNS stimulants in the past year (1.9 percent of people who misused CNS stimulants). By Race/Ethnicity The percentage of people aged 12 or older in 2023 who misused CNS stimulants in the past year was lower among Asian people (1.4 percent) than among people in most other racial or ethnic groups (Table B.12B). The percentage of people who misused CNS stimulants in the past year could not be calculated with sufficient precision for Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander people.

**Fentanyl Misuse, Including Illegally Made Fentanyl (IMF)** Fentanyl misuse, particularly the use of IMF, has been of growing interest because of IMF's involvement in increases in fatal overdoses involving opioids.<sup>43,44,45</sup> Fentanyl is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine. Therefore, the risks for overdose or other adverse effects are substantially increased when people use fentanyl, especially among people whose bodies are not accustomed to the effects of opioids. IMF is sometimes present in products that are sold as heroin or in counterfeit prescription drugs. However, people who use IMF are often not aware they are doing so.<sup>46,47,48,49</sup> The physical appearance or taste of a product or the purchase of drugs from a known source are not reliable indicators of whether they contain IMF. A drug product's physical effects can be a better but not completely reliable indicator of whether the product contains IMF, especially if people have had substantial experience using opioids such as heroin. As IMF becomes increasingly present in the drug supply, people who regularly use drugs are becoming more aware of its presence and have shown interest in using fentanyl test strips to test their drugs for fentanyl.<sup>50,51</sup> Among people aged 12 or older in 2023, 0.3 percent (or 828,000 people) misused fentanyl in the past year, including 0.2 percent of adolescents aged 12 to 17, 0.3 percent of young adults aged 18 to 25, and 0.3 percent of adults aged 26 or older (Table A.12B). Corresponding estimated numbers of people who misused fentanyl in the past year

were 50,000 adolescents aged 12 to 17, 110,000 young adults aged 18 to 25, and 668,000 adults aged 26 or older. Among people in 2023 who misused any prescription pain reliever

in the past year, only 7.4 percent misused fentanyl. Among people who used fentanyl for any reason in the past year, 28.6 percent misused it and 71.4 percent did not.<sup>24</sup> IMF Use Because people who used IMF may have been unaware that they used it, caution must be taken in interpreting estimates of IMF use; these estimates are almost certainly an underestimate of true IMF use. Among people aged 12 or older in 2023, 0.2 percent (or 627,000 people) used IMF in the past year, including 0.1 percent of adolescents aged 12 to 17, 0.2 percent of young adults aged 18 to 25, and 0.2 percent of adults aged 26 or older (Table A.12B). Corresponding estimated numbers of people who used IMF in the past year were 36,000 adolescents aged 12 to 17, 78,000 young adults aged 18 to 25, and 513,000 adults aged 26 or older