

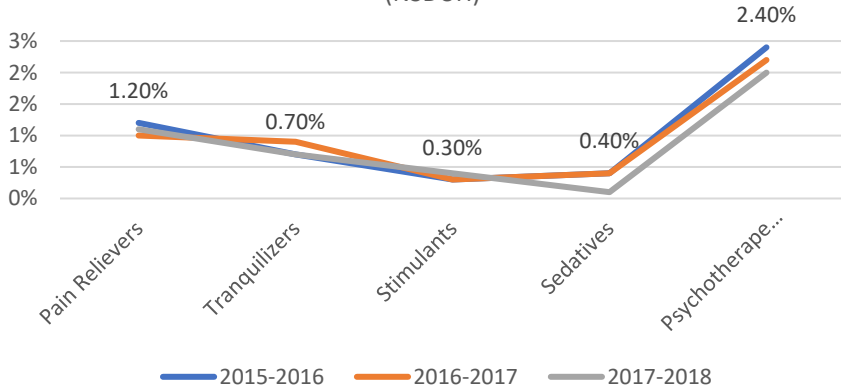


Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Prescription Drug Misuse & Abuse in GA

Prescription drugs (pain relievers, tranquilizers, sedatives, stimulants, and psychotherapeutics) are the least frequently misused drugs in Georgia compared to alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and opioids. It is important to maintain a low level of misuse to prevent escalation into using other drugs, such as heroin and fentanyl. The third figure on this page shows past year use of different types of prescription drugs, which includes use of these drugs with a prescription from a prescriber (doctor, dentist, physician's assistant, etc.).

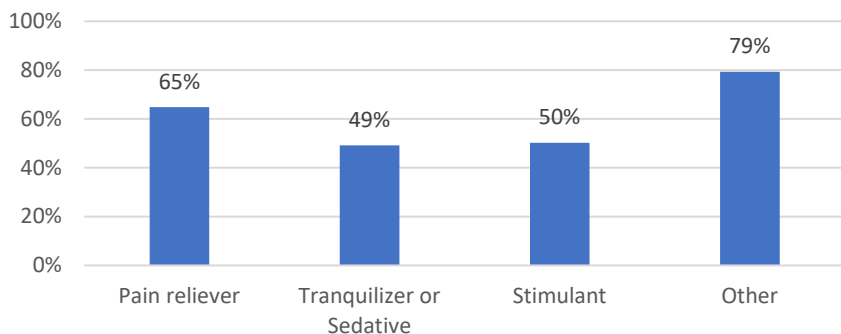
Rx Drug Past Month Misuse by Rx Drug Type (NSDUH)



Use in Georgia

- Past month misuse of prescription drugs has stayed relatively the same since 2015.
- Psychotherapeutics, which includes medications used to treat depression and anxiety, is the most misused at around 2.4%.
- Pain relievers are misused at around 1.2% each month.

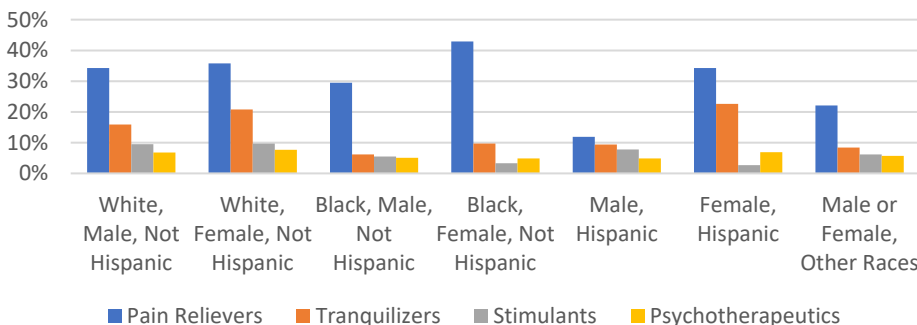
Use by Rx Drug Type among Students who Misused Rx Drugs (GSHS, 2019)



Youth Use

- In 2019, among students who reported misusing prescription drugs, most indicated that they were misusing a drug other than pain relievers, tranquilizers/sedatives, and stimulants.
- Tranquilizers/sedatives and stimulants had similar levels of past month misuse at around 50%.
- Pain relievers were misused by 65% of students who misuse Rx drugs.

Past Year Rx Drug Use by Demographic and Drug Type Georgia, 2017-2018 (NSDUH)



Use by Demographics

- Past year pain reliever use is highest among Black, non-Hispanic females (42.9%).
- Past year tranquilizer use is highest among Hispanic females (22.6%).
- Past year stimulant use is lowest among Black, non-Hispanic females and Hispanic females.