

Substance Abuse Patterns for Different Age Groups in Tennessee and the United States

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Services

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Overview

- **Purpose**
 - To compare the patterns of substance of abuse for different age groups in Tennessee and the United States
- **Who**
 - Youth (ages 12-17)
 - Young adults (ages 18-24)
 - Adults (ages 25+)
- **Measures of substance abuse**
 - Admissions to substance abuse treatment programs
 - The primary substance of abuse named at admission to treatment
- **Time period**
 - 2002-2011

Data source:

Treatment Episode Data Set – Admissions (TEDS-A)

- Maintained by the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- Contains data on 1.9 million substance abuse treatment admissions annually.
- Reflects treatment admissions funded by state alcohol and/or drug agencies, including federal Substance Abuse Treatment Block Grant funds.
- Includes 13,000 substance abuse treatment admissions from Tennessee reported to the TEDS-A system through quarterly reports generated from the Tennessee substance abuse services administrative data system: TN-WITS.

Data notes and limitations

- TEDS-A:
 - Does not reflect the total national demand for substance abuse treatment.
 - Is a significant proportion of all admissions to substance abuse treatment.
 - Reflects differences in state systems of licensure, certification, accreditation, and disbursement of public funds.
- Charts reflect the **primary substance of abuse** at admission to substance abuse treatment.
- Data represent the **percent of substance abuse treatment admissions** for each age group by primary substance of abuse at admission.

Drug categories included in this study:

- **Alcohol**
- **Cocaine/crack**
- **Marijuana:** Includes THC and any other cannabis sativa preparations
- **Heroin**
- **Prescription opioids:** hydrocodone (Vicodin), oxycodone (OxyContin), hydromorphone (Dilaudid), propoxyphene (Darvon), meperidine (Demerol), codeine, tramadol (Ultram), pentazocine (Talwin), other opiates or synthetics, and any other drug with morphine-like effects
- **Other drugs:** LSD, non-prescription methadone, other hallucinogens, aerosols, PCP or PCP combination, solvents, ketamine (Special K), diphenhydramine, nitrites, other drugs, other over-the-counter drugs, other inhalants, unknown drugs, methamphetamine, speed, methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, Ecstasy), methylphenidate (Ritalin), other amphetamines, other stimulants, clonazepam (Klonopin, Rivotril), alprazolam (Xanax), diazepam (Valium), lorazepam (Ativan), other barbiturate sedatives, other tranquilizers, ethchlorvynol (Placidyl), chlordiazepoxide (Librium), secobarbital/amobarbital (Tuinal), phenobarbital, clorazepate (Tranxene), triazolam (Halcion), or flunitrazepam (Rohypnol) other non-barbiturate sedatives, other sedatives, or other benzodiazepines

Tennessee and United States, 2002-2011

PATTERNS OF YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Over the past 10 years, both the growth in youth opioid abuse and the decline in alcohol abuse in Tennessee have outpaced the United States.

Chart 1. Substance abuse treatment admissions among youth, ages 12-17, by primary substance of abuse: Tennessee and the United States, 2002-2011 (Data source: TEDS-A)

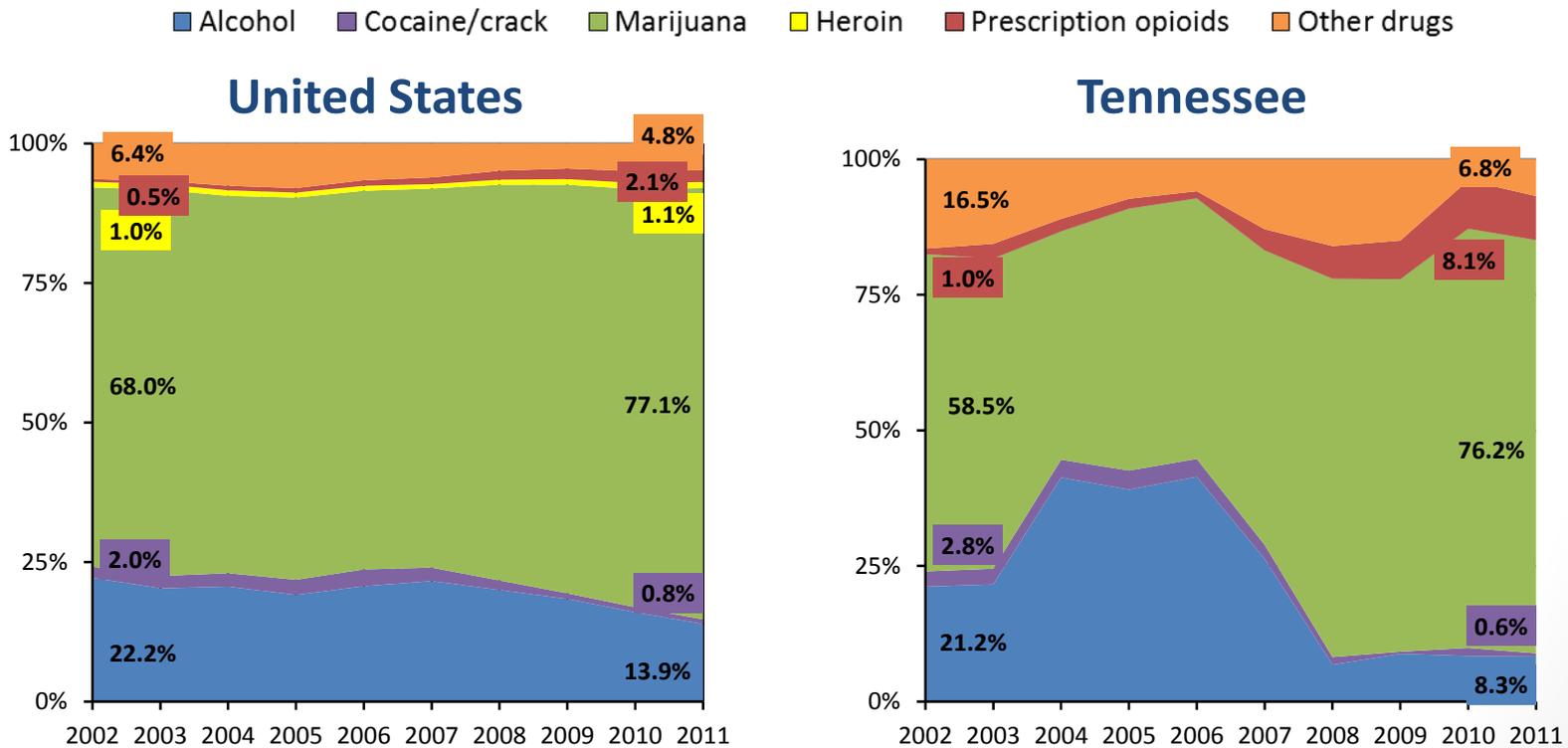


Chart 2.

- Top substances of abuse for youth, ages 12-17: Tennessee and the United States, 2011



Substance	U.S. 2011	TN 2011	TN Rank
Marijuana	77.1%	76.2%	1
Alcohol	13.9%	8.3%	2
Prescription opioids	2.1%	8.1%	3
Other drugs	4.8%	6.8%	4
Cocaine/crack	0.8%	0.6%	5
Heroin	1.1%	0.0%	6
Total	100%	100%	-

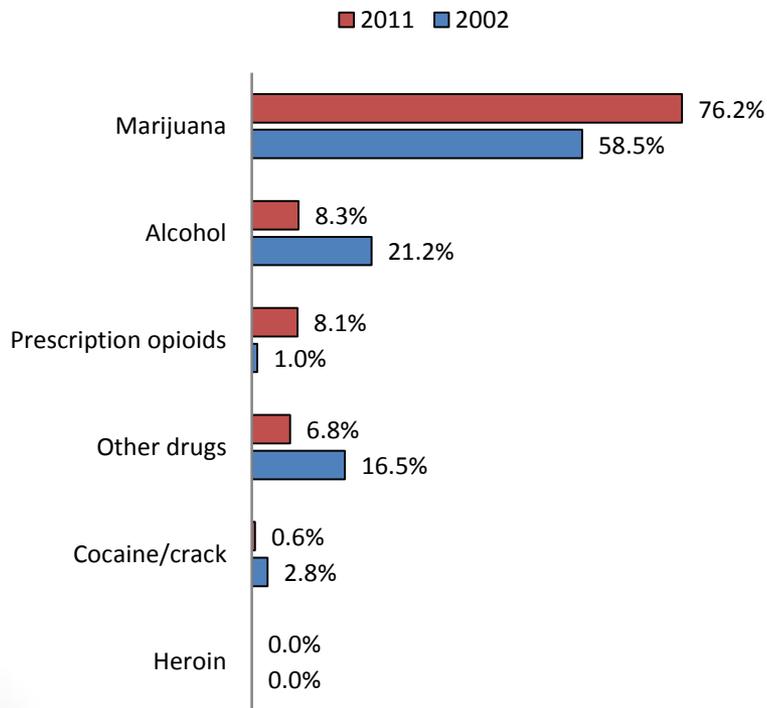
Tennessee and United States: Substance abuse treatment admissions for youth in 2011

- Tennessee’s percentage of **youth prescription opioid admissions (8.1%)** was 4x times the United States rate (2.1%).
- Tennessee’s percentage of **youth alcohol admissions** was almost 50% lower than the national rate.
- Tennessee’s percentage of youth treatment admissions (76.2%) for **marijuana abuse** was **slightly lower** than the United States (77.1%) in 2011.

Changes in Tennessee substance abuse treatment admissions for youth from 2002 to 2011

Chart 3.

Percent of Tennessee treatment admissions for youth, ages 12-17, for primary substances of abuse, 2002 and 2011



From 2002-2011, for youth:

- **Marijuana abuse increased 30.3%.**
- **Alcohol abuse decreased 60.8%.**
- **Prescription opioids were among the top three substances of abuse in 2011.**
- **Heroin abuse was minimal among children admitted to treatment.**

Tennessee and United States, 2002-2011

PATTERNS OF YOUNG ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

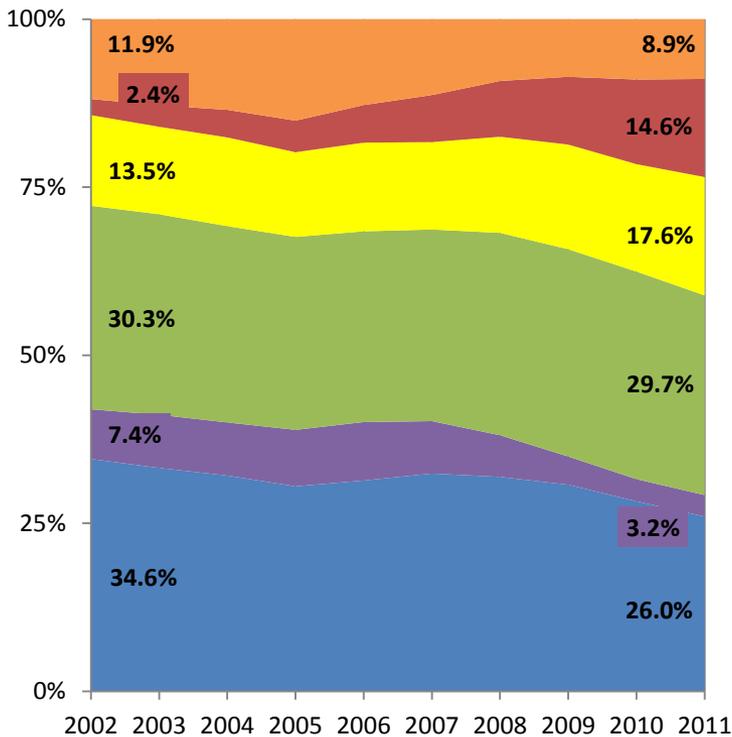
The percent of young adult treatment admissions for **prescription opioid abuse in Tennessee was almost 3x greater than the United States in 2011.**

Chart 4. Substance abuse treatment admissions among young adults, ages 18-24, by primary substance of abuse: Tennessee and the United States from 2002 to 2011

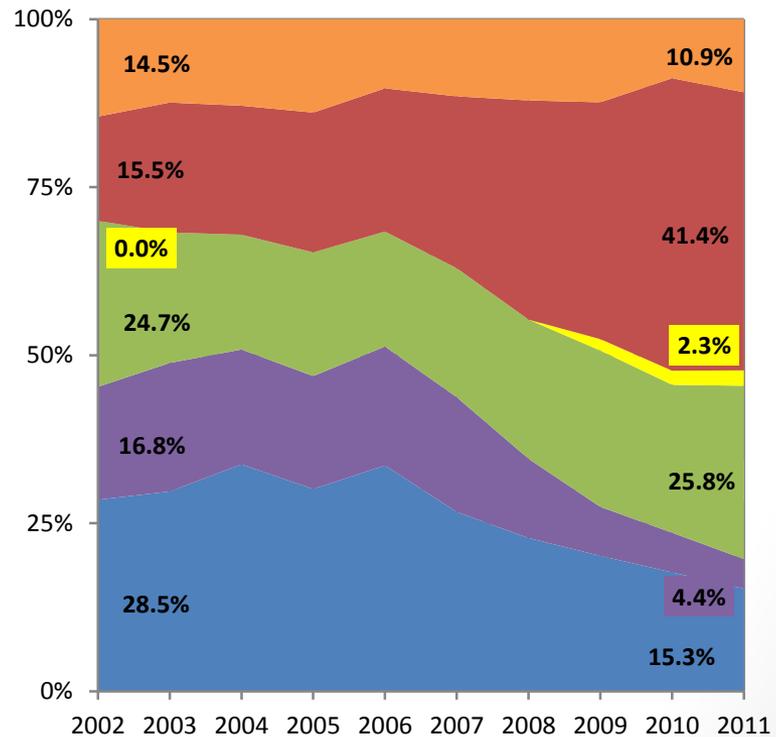
(Data source: TEDS-A)

Alcohol Cocaine/crack Marijuana Heroin Prescription opioids Other drugs

United States



Tennessee



*NOTE: Tennessee began disaggregating heroin admissions from prescription opioids in July 2009.

Chart 5. Top substances of abuse for young adults, ages 18-24: Tennessee and the United States, 2011



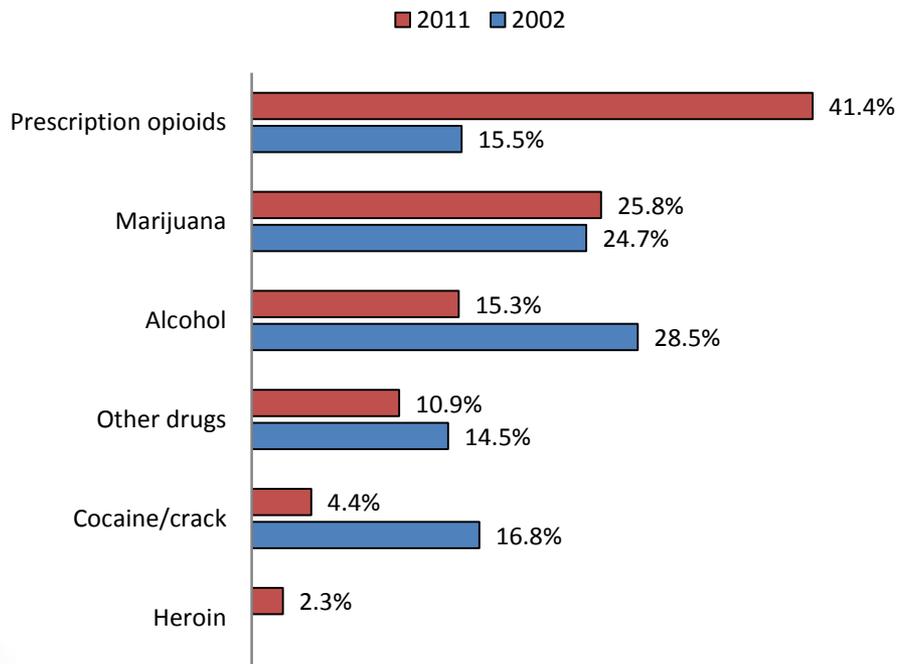
Substance use among young adults in Tennessee and the United States

- The percent of **Tennessee young adult prescription opioid admissions** was almost **3x higher** than the United States.
- The percent of Tennessee young adult alcohol abuse admissions was **40% lower** than the United States.
- While heroin ranked #3 among substances of abuse in the United States, heroin ranked #6 in Tennessee.

Substance	U.S. 2011	TN 2011	TN Rank
Prescription opioids	14.6%	41.4%	1
Marijuana	29.7%	25.8%	2
Alcohol	26.0%	15.3%	3
Other drugs	8.9%	10.9%	4
Cocaine/crack	3.2%	4.4%	5
Heroin	17.6%	2.3%	6
Total	100%	100%	-

Changes in Tennessee substance abuse treatment admissions for young adults from 2002 to 2011

Chart 6.
Percent of Tennessee treatment admissions for young adults, ages 18-24, by primary substance of abuse, 2002 and 2011



From 2002-2011, for young adults:

- **Opioid abuse increased 167%.**
- **Alcohol abuse decreased almost 50%.**
- The identification of **cocaine/crack and “other drugs” as primary substances of abuse decreased** by 73.8%, and 24.8%, respectively.
- **Marijuana abuse showed little change** as a primary substance of abuse from 2002 (24.7%) to 2011 (25.8%).

Tennessee and United States, 2002-2011

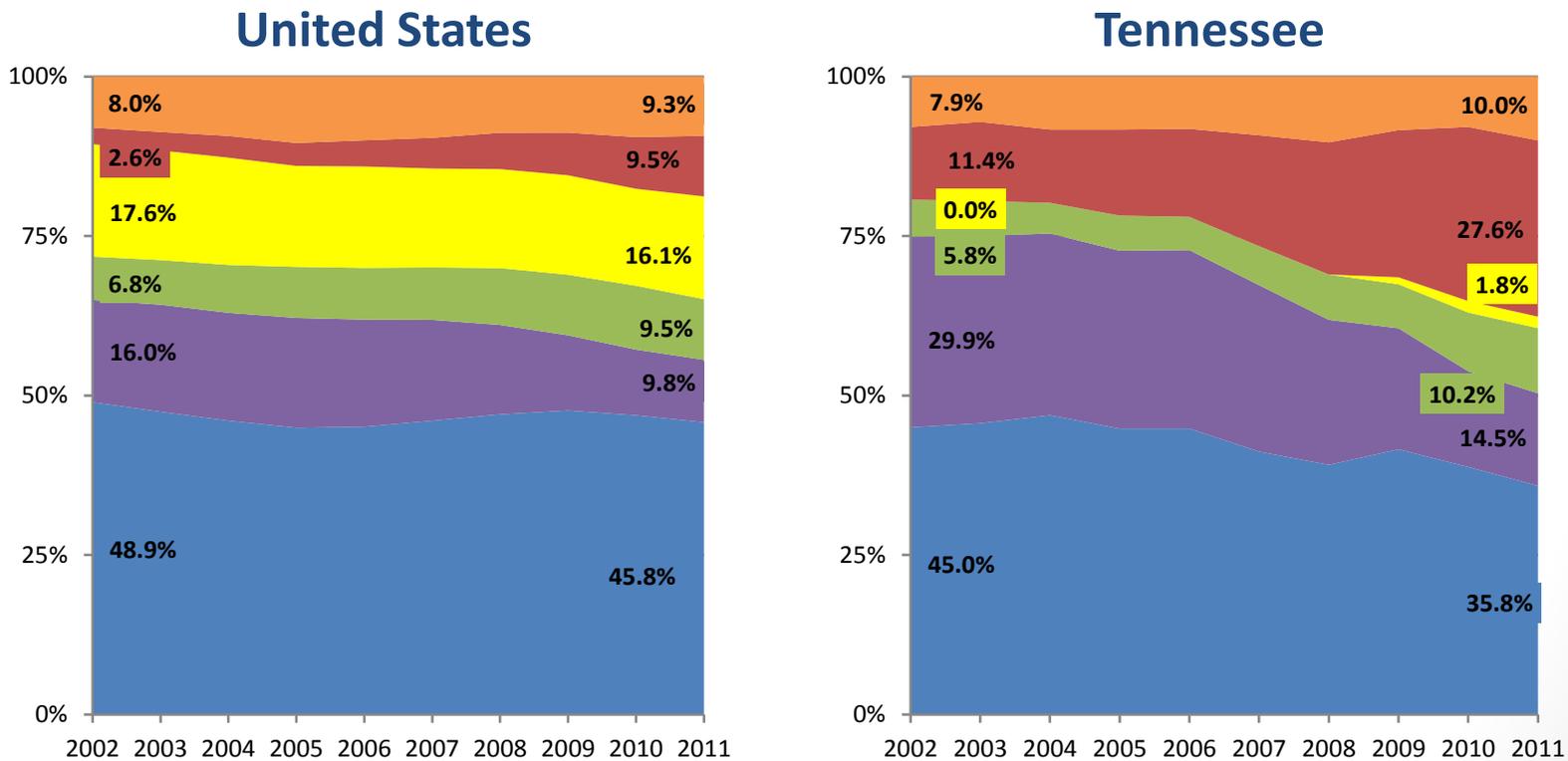
PATTERNS OF ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Alcohol continues to be the top substance of abuse for Tennessee adults, but opioids ranked #2 in 2011, topping cocaine/crack.

Chart 7. Substance abuse treatment admissions among adults, ages 25+, by primary substance of abuse: Tennessee and the United States from 2002-2011

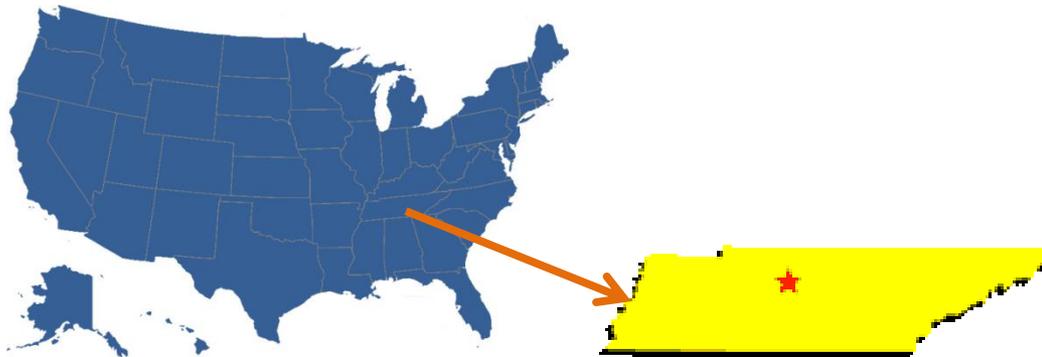
(Data source: TEDS-A)

Alcohol Cocaine/crack Marijuana Heroin Prescription opioids Other drugs



*NOTE: Tennessee began disaggregating heroin admissions from prescription opioids in July 2009.

Chart 8. Top substances of abuse for adults (ages 25+): Tennessee and the United States, 2011



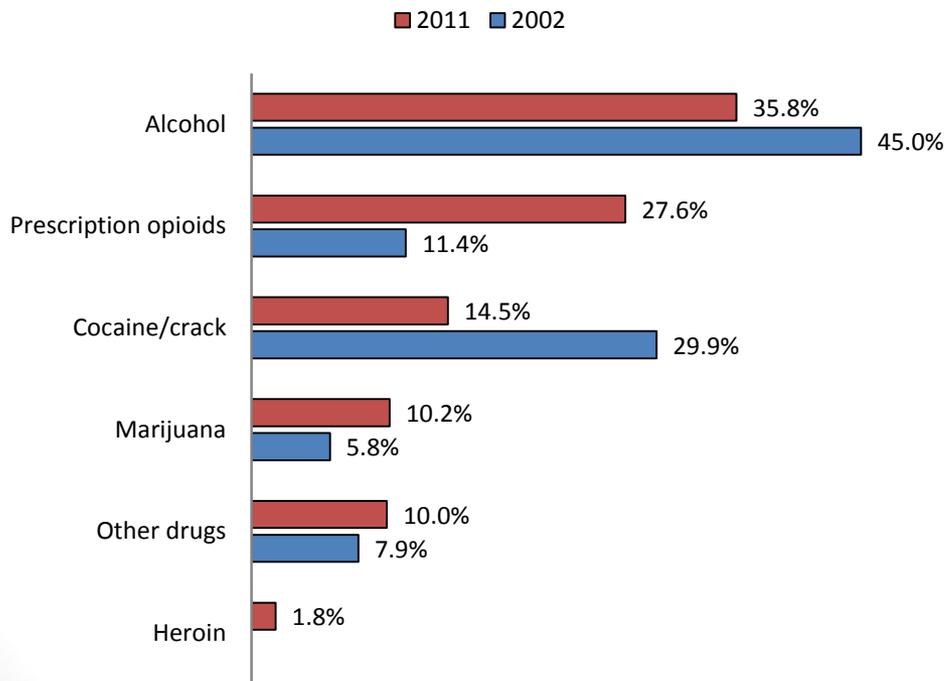
Substance	U.S. 2011	TN 2011	TN Rank
Alcohol	45.8%	35.8%	1
Prescription opioids	9.5%	27.6%	2
Cocaine/crack	9.8%	14.5%	3
Marijuana	9.5%	10.2%	4
Other drugs	9.3%	10.0%	5
Heroin	16.1%	1.8%	6
Total	100%	100%	-

Substance use among adults in Tennessee and the United States, 2011

- Adult admissions for prescription opioid abuse in Tennessee were **3x higher** than the United States in 2011.
- The percent of treatment admissions for alcohol abuse **decreased more in Tennessee from 2002 to 2011** (20.4% decrease) than the United States (6.3% decrease).
- The national percent of heroin admissions is **9x higher** than the Tennessee percent.
- Tennessee cocaine/crack admissions are 60% higher than the United States.

Changes in Tennessee substance abuse treatment admissions for adults from 2002 to 2011

Chart 9. Percent of Tennessee treatment admissions for adults, ages 25+, by primary substance of abuse, 2002 and 2011



From 2002-2011, for adults:

- **Opioid abuse more than doubled.**
- **Marijuana abuse increased 76%**, but accounted for only 10.2% of total adult admissions in 2011.
- **Cocaine/crack abuse decreased 51.5%**, but represented 14.5% of all adult admissions.
- While over a third (35.8%) of adult treatment admissions were for alcohol abuse, this represented a **20% decrease from 2002 to 2011.**

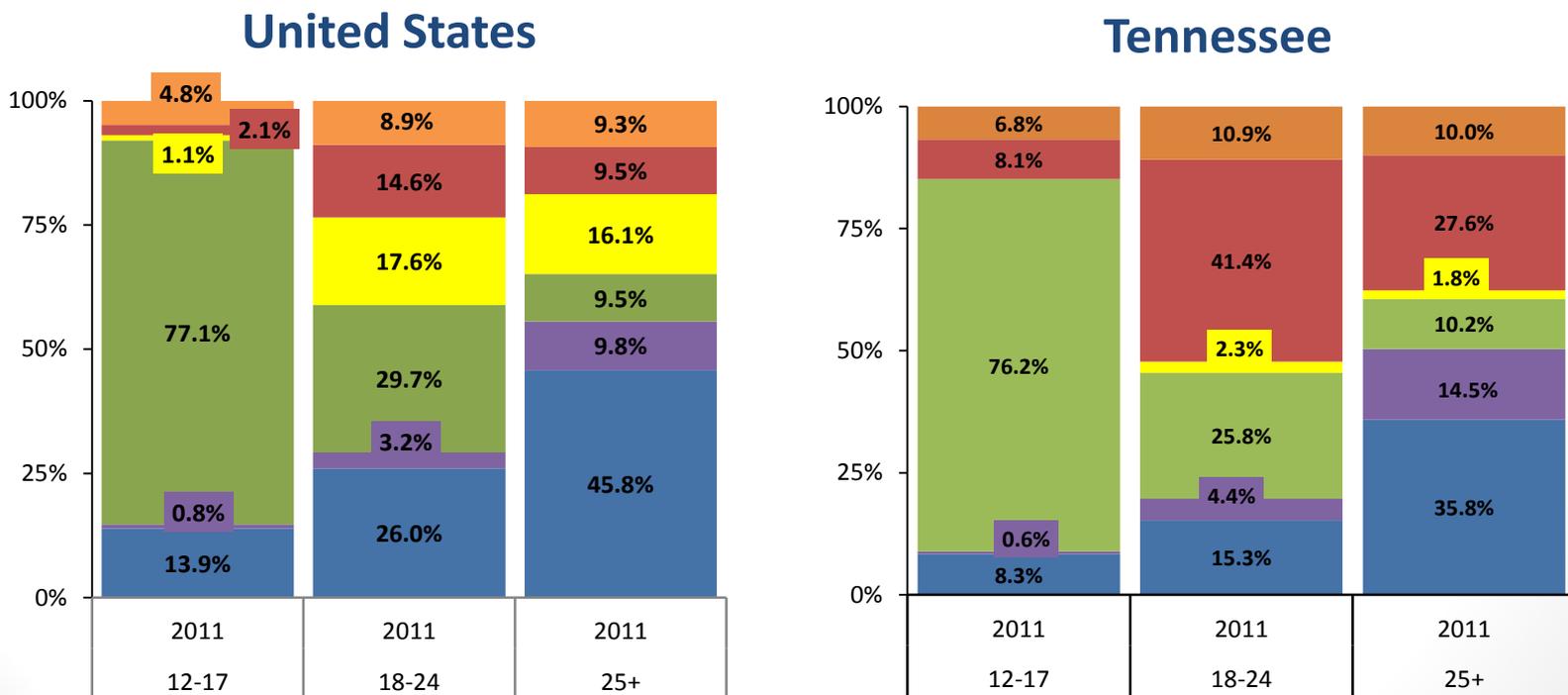
Tennessee and United States, 2002-2011

PATTERNS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE ACROSS AGE GROUPS

Tennessee had a higher percentage of prescription opioid admissions than the United States for each age group; but a lower percentage of heroin abuse for all age groups.

Chart 10. Treatment admissions for youth (ages 12-17), young adults (ages 18-24), and adults (ages 25+) by primary substance of abuse: Tennessee and the United States, 2011
(Data source: TEDS-A)

■ Alcohol ■ Cocaine/crack ■ Marijuana ■ Heroin ■ Prescription opioids ■ Other drugs



Cross age trends in Tennessee and the United States

- **Prescription opioid abuse is greatest for young adults**, and is greater in Tennessee than the United States.
- **Heroin abuse was lower** for all age groups in Tennessee than the United States.
- The **abuse of alcohol and cocaine/crack increases** with age in both Tennessee and the United States.
- The **abuse of marijuana in Tennessee and the United States** decreases with age.