This fact sheet summarizes characteristics of 1,968 adolescents (ages 11-21) as they enter substance abuse treatment from three large samples in Kentucky.

**GENDER**
- 67% male
- 33% female

**RACE**
- 78% White/Caucasian
- 9% Black/African American

**AGE**
- 15.8 average age (range 11 to 21)

**PRIMARY CAREGIVER**
- 66% Biological parent
- 26% Other family member

**REFERRAL SOURCE**
- 46% Court system
- 18% Department for Community Based Services

**HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION COMPLETED**
- 68% 9th to 11th grade
- 27% Less than 9th grade

**STATEWIDE SAMPLE**
- 93% (110 of 120 counties) are represented in the client residence map suggesting this analysis provides a statewide picture of adolescent substance use.
- Over half of clients (54%) resided in a county that was classified as a metropolitan community and 1 in 10 resided in a very rural county.

### Substance Use History

**PAST-12-MONTH SUBSTANCE USE**

- **Alcohol**
  - 62% of clients reported alcohol use
  - Average age client had first drink (other than a few sips): 13.1

- **Tobacco**
  - 67% of clients reported smoking tobacco
  - Average age client began smoking tobacco: 12.9

- **Illegal Drug Use**
  - 88% of clients reported illegal drug use
  - Average age client first began using drugs: 12.9

- **Most commonly used illegal drugs**
  - Marijuana: 86%
  - CNS depressants: 19%
  - Opioids: 22%
  - Stimulants/cocaine: 18%
  - Synthetic drugs: 20%
  - Hallucinogens and inhalants: 16%
Because of the significant gender differences, results for behavioral health problems at treatment intake are presented separately for male and female clients.

### Number of Adverse Childhood Experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of ACEs</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - 3</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - 6</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 10</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The Association of Adverse Childhood Experiences with Substance Use

1. The number of adverse childhood experiences clients reported was significantly different by severity of substance use disorder, even after controlling for gender.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance Use</th>
<th>No SUD</th>
<th>Moderate SUD</th>
<th>Severe SUD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of months individuals reported using opioids/opiates</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of months individuals reported using CNS depressants</td>
<td>(r = .138, p &lt; .001)</td>
<td>(r = .144, p &lt; .001)</td>
<td>(r = .148, p &lt; .001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of months individuals reported using stimulants/cocaine</td>
<td>(r = .148, p &lt; .001)</td>
<td>(r = .148, p &lt; .001)</td>
<td>(r = .148, p &lt; .001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking tobacco</td>
<td>(r = .157, p &lt; .001)</td>
<td>(r = .157, p &lt; .001)</td>
<td>(r = .157, p &lt; .001)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mental Health Problems

Because of the significant gender differences, results are presented separately for male and female clients.

- **Attention Problems**
  - Male: 39%
  - Female: 28%

- **Internalizing Problems**
  - Male: 58%
  - Female: 29%

- **Externalizing Problems**
  - Male: 19%
  - Female: 18%

- **Disordered Eating**
  - Male: 39%
  - Female: 19%

- **Suicide Ideation/Attempts**
  - Male: 39%
  - Female: 16%

*There was no significant difference between genders on externalizing problems*

### The Association of Adverse Childhood Experiences with Mental Health Problems

Clients with more adverse childhood experiences had more:

- Attention problem symptoms (r = .354, p < .001)
- Internalizing symptoms (r = .449, p < .001)
- Externalizing symptoms (r = .282, p < .001)

### Juvenile Justice System Involvement

Because of the significant gender differences, results are presented separately for male and female clients.

- **Under Supervision by the Juvenile Justice System**
  - Male: 42%
  - Female: 60%

- **Arrested in the 12 Months Before Treatment**
  - Male: 24%
  - Female: 36%

- **Incarcerated in the 12 Months Before Treatment**
  - Male: 20%
  - Female: 25%