



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Factors Associated with Non-Medical Use of Stimulants Among College Students</b>
<b>Authors:</b>	Lavery SA, Le Lait MC, Severtson SG, West NA, Dart RC
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**Abstract:**

**Background:** Stimulant prescriptions (Rxs) filled by US pharmacies have risen dramatically in the past 2 decades. The National Institute on Drug Abuse states stimulants are one of the most commonly abused drugs, along with tobacco, alcohol, and opioids. Studies suggest that stimulant abuse in young adults has become widespread throughout the US. Factors associated with non-medical (NM) stimulant use among college students are described.

**Methods:** The RADARS® System College Survey Program collects data from approximately 6000 college students annually throughout the US during the spring, summer, and fall semesters. College Survey is an online survey inquiring about NM use of Rx drugs, defined as use of a Rx drug without a doctor's Rx or for any reason other than what was recommended by *their* prescribing doctor during the last 3 months. NM stimulant use was first modeled using univariate logistic regression to determine the unadjusted associations with year quarter, gender, age, race, college length, college type (public or private), college size (<10,000, ≥10,000), college housing (on or off campus), Greek (fraternity/sorority), illicit drug use, and non-stimulant, NM Rx drug use. All statistically significant predictors were included simultaneously in a multivariate model. Backward selection was used to remove non-significant predictors from the model. Adjusted odds ratios (OR) were estimated for each significant predictor.

**Results:** Applying multivariable adjustment to data collected 2009Q1-2013Q4, several factors were associated with NM stimulant use (Table 1), including self-identification of male gender, white race, attendance at a 4 year college, living on-campus, Greek membership, endorsement of illicit drugs, and non-stimulant, NM Rx drug use. Year quarter, age, college type, and college size were not significantly associated with self-reported NM stimulant use.

**Conclusion:** Several factors associated with NM stimulant use among college students were identified, most striking is the finding that students who endorse illicit drugs are 3 times more likely to report NM Rx stimulant use and students who endorse non-stimulant, NM use of Rx drugs are almost 5 times more likely to report NM Rx stimulant use. Knowledge of these risk factors can advise targeted prevention efforts.