AASM Sleep Prioritization Survey

Sleep Aid Use

Survey Methodology

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine commissioned an online survey of 2,005 adults in the U.S. The overall margin of error fell within +/- 2 percentage points with a confidence interval of 95 percent. Fieldwork took place between March 24-29, 2023. Atomik Research is an independent market research agency.



Question

Which of the following do you use occasionally or on a regular basis to help you fall asleep or stay asleep?

Results

• Nearly a third (29%) of people use melatonin occasionally or on a regular basis.

Overall Results

| Total | 2,005 |
|--|-----------|
| Prescription sleeping pills | 371 (19%) |
| Other prescription medications (e.g., for depression or anxiety) | 336 (17%) |
| Melatonin | 578 (29%) |
| Other over-the-counter sleep aids (e.g., Tylenol PM, ZzzQuil | 433 (22%) |
| Other over-the-counter medications (i.e., cold or allergy medications) | 327 (16%) |
| Herbal supplements or teas | 406 (20%) |
| Alcohol | 372 (19%) |
| Marijuana | 497 (25%) |
| CBD (cannabidiol) | 305 (15%) |
| Other | 43 (2%) |
| I don't use anything to help me sleep | 510 (25%) |

Melatonin (29%) and marijuana (25%) are used by more than a quarter of Americans occasionally or on a regular basis to help fall asleep or stay asleep.

Results by Gender

| | Male | Female |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Total | 997 | 997 |
| Prescription sleeping pills | 231 (23%) | 137 (14%) |
| Other prescription medications | 195 (20%) | 140 (14%) |
| Melatonin | 285 (29%) | 288 (29%) |
| Other over-the-counter sleep aids | 240 (24%) | 193 (19%) |
| Other over-the-counter medications | 203 (20%) | 122 (12%) |
| Herbal supplements or teas | 258 (26%) | 148 (15%) |
| Alcohol | 255 (26%) | 116 (12%) |
| Marijuana | 289 (29%) | 206 (21%) |
| CBD | 183 (18%) | 119 (12%) |
| Other | 19 (2%) | 23 (2%) |
| I don't use anything to help me sleep | 217 (22%) | 291 (29%) |

Men (29%) are slightly more likely to use Marijuana to help them fall asleep or stay asleep than women (21%).



Results by Age Group

| Results by Age Group | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
| Total | 313 | 456 | 541 | 367 | 176 | 152 |
| Prescription | 32 (10%) | 86 (19%) | 138 (26%) | 80 (22%) | 26 (15%) | 9 (6%) |
| sleeping pills | | | | | | |
| Other | 37 (12%) | 81 (18%) | 125 (23%) | 65 (18%) | 18 (10%) | 10 (7%) |
| prescription | | | | | | |
| medications | | | | | | |
| Melatonin | 93 (30%) | 138 (30%) | 160 (30%) | 110 (30%) | 41 (23%) | 36 (24%) |
| Other over-the- | 59 (19%) | 111 (24%) | 130 (24%) | 88 (24%) | 21 (12%) | 24 (16%) |
| counter sleep | | | | | | |
| aids | | | | | | |
| Other over-the- | 39 (12%) | 84 (18%) | 105 (19%) | 62 (17%) | 23 (13%) | 14 (9%) |
| counter | | | | | | |
| medications | | | | | | |
| Herbal | 41 (13%) | 109 (24%) | 144 (27%) | 77 (21%) | 24 (14%) | 11 (7%) |
| supplements or | | | | | | |
| teas | | | | | | |
| Alcohol | 29 (9%) | 103 (23%) | 148 (27%) | 60 (16%) | 26 (15%) | 6 (4%) |
| Marijuana | 77 (25%) | 150 (33%) | 160 (30%) | 80 (22%) | 23 (13%) | 7 (5%) |
| CBD | 40 (13%) | 80 (18%) | 86 (16%) | 74 (20%) | 13 (7%) | 12 (8%) |
| Other | 7 (2%) | 7 (2%) | 15 (3%) | 8 (2%) | 3 (2%) | 3 (2%) |
| I don't use | 95 (30%) | 91 (20%) | 94 (17%) | 88 (24%) | 64 (36%) | 78 (51%) |
| anything to help | | | | | | |
| me sleep | | | | | | |

Ove half (51%) of those over 65 say they don't use anything to help them sleep.

Results by Generation

| Nesults by Genera | Gen Z | Millennial | Gen X | Baby | Silent |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | (18-26) | (27-42) | (43-58) | Boomer (59-76) | Generation (77+) |
| Total | 388 | 845 | 526 | 230 | 16 |
| Prescription | 45 (12%) | 202 (24%) | 105 (20%) | 18 (8%) | 1 (6%) |
| sleeping pills | | | | | |
| Other | 49 (13%) | 181 (21%) | 87 (17%) | 18 (8%) | 1 (6%) |
| prescription | | | | | |
| medications | | | | | |
| Melatonin | 122 (31%) | 246 (29%) | 152 (29%) | 53 (23%) | 5 (31%) |
| Other over-the- | 76 (20%) | 206 (24%) | 115 (22%) | 34 (15%) | 2 (13%) |
| counter sleep | | | | | |
| aids | | | | | |
| Other over-the- | 56 (14%) | 165 (20%) | 82 (16%) | 24 (10%) | 0 (0%) |
| counter | | | | | |
| medications | | | | | |
| Herbal | 62 (16%) | 225 (27%) | 97 (18%) | 20 (9%) | 2 (13%) |
| supplements or | | | | | |
| teas | | | | | |
| Alcohol | 43 (11%) | 223 (26%) | 84 (16%) | 22 (10%) | 0 (0%) |
| Marijuana | 101 (26%) | 260 (31%) | 117 (22%) | 18 (8%) | 1 (6%) |
| CBD | 57 (15%) | 143 (17%) | 88 (17%) | 15 (7%) | 2 (13%) |
| Other | 8 (2%) | 18 (2%) | 12 (2%) | 5 (2%) | 0 (0%) |
| I don't use | 108 (28%) | 154 (18%) | 129 (25%) | 110 (48%) | 9 (56%) |
| anything to help | | | | , , | , , , |
| me sleep | | | | | |

Across all generations, the use of marijuana as a sleep aid is highest among Millennials (31%) and Gen X (22%), while the Silent Generation (6%) and Baby Boomers (8%) report the lowest use.



Results by Region

| Results by Region | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|
| | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| Total | 385 | 481 | 701 | 438 |
| Prescription | 67 (17%) | 72 (15%) | 128 | 104 (24%) |
| sleeping pills | | | (18%) | |
| Other prescription | 67 (17%) | 71 (15%) | 110 | 88 (20%) |
| medications | | | (16%) | |
| Melatonin | 102 (26%) | 146 | 201 | 129 (29%) |
| | | (30%) | (29%) | |
| Other over-the- | 66 (17%) | 83 (17%) | 158 | 126 (29%) |
| counter sleep aids | | | (23%) | |
| Other over-the- | 59 (15%) | 81 (17%) | 110 | 77 (18%) |
| counter | | | (16%) | |
| medications | | | | |
| Herbal | 85 (22%) | 77 (16%) | 121 | 123 (28%) |
| supplements or | | | (17%) | |
| teas | | | | |
| Alcohol | 69 (18%) | 84 (17%) | 118 | 101 (23%) |
| | | | (17%) | |
| Marijuana | 97 (25%) | 116 | 150 | 134 (31%) |
| | | (24%) | (21%) | |
| CBD | 47 (12%) | 58 (12%) | 104 | 96 (22%) |
| | | | (15%) | |
| Other | 8 (2%) | 13 (3%) | 15 (2%) | 7 (2%) |
| I don't use anything | 111 (29%) | 111 | 185 | 103 (24%) |
| to help me sleep | | (23%) | (26%) | |

More people in the West use over-the-counter sleep aids (29%) compared to other regions.

About the American Academy of Sleep Medicine

Established in 1975, the AASM advances sleep care and enhances sleep health to improve lives. The AASM has a combined membership of 12,000 accredited sleep centers and individuals, including physicians, scientists and other health care professionals who care for patients with sleep disorders. As the leader in the sleep field, the AASM sets standards and promotes excellence in sleep medicine health care, education and research (aasm.org).