The United States of Numb: Current Drug Trends in Adolescents 2016

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Drug use changes brain chemistry, especially in adolescents (whose brains are still developing until the age of 25)

- Most commonly used = alcohol and marijuana
- Synthetic use has increased
- Biggest increase in use = Rx drugs
- IV drug use has increased
Addiction is a pediatrically-acquired disease.

90% of addicted Americans begin use before age 18.
Addiction Risk Factors

- Two main questions: Does the adolescent smoke? & Is there a family history of addiction?
- Age of first use (younger, higher risk)
- Learning disabilities, behavioral problems, psychological disorders
- Trauma (abuse, divorce, bullying)
- Stress (feelings of inadequacy & insecurity…little life experience to help them cope, turn to destructive behaviors)
- Quality of parenting (parents who use…or sanction use… have kids who use)
- Genetic history = 4x more likely to become addicts
Signs and Symptoms

- Changes in grades
- Tardiness or absences from school
- Lying/blaming others
- Unusual need to access $$
- Changes in friends
- Denial when concerns are expressed regarding use
- Unusual sleeping patterns
- Personality or physical changes
- Stomach problems

Using kids now look like any other kid, making use more difficult to detect!
Adolescent Drug Trends

The great escape…….
Alcohol
Alcohol

- Lock your liquor cabinets!
- Binge drinking is very common
- Often combined with Rx drugs—leads to higher rate of OD
- Teens will drink anything with alcohol content...hand sanitizer
- Urine=6-24hrs, Hair=up to 90 days, Blood=12-24hrs
Alcohol Trends

- Smoking alcohol
  - Method: Vapor is inhaled and goes straight to the brain and blood stream
  - Attraction: immediate effect, no calories, no smell, no sickness, and pass a breathalyzer

- Vodka soaked tampons

- Palcohol (can be snorted)
Marijuana

- Much more potent than 20 years ago
- 420 = universal smoke time
- Gas pump emoji = I’ve got weed or I need weed
- Cost per ounce can be $250 or more for high-quality
- Many kids deal or serve as middle man to support their use
- Urine = 30 days with more heavy users, Hair = up to 90 days, Blood = up to 2 weeks with heavy use
- Slang: skunk weed, cookie, moonshine haze, sour diesel
Marijuana Waxes, Oils, and Edibles
Marijuana Waxes, Oils, and Edibles

- Wax looks like butter or honey. It is also called budder.
- Process is heating the wax and inhaling the vapors for a much more intense high—called *Dabbing*.
- Shatter is breakable, bendable, and amber colored. Looks like peanut brittle.
- All have much less odor than traditional marijuana.
- Causes a much more intense high—hallucinations.
- Honey bee extractor + Butane = the most popular way of extracting the oil (Explosion).
Marijuana Transdermal Patches
Marijuana Transdermal Patches

- Sustained release that lasts 8-12 hours
- Delivery method is similar to nicotine patch
- Cannabis is delivered straight to the bloodstream
- No odor
- Patches cost around $18
Synthetic Marijuana
“Fake Marijuana” = Poison
- Causes agitation, hallucinations, vomiting, paranoia, tremors, seizures, stroke, kidney damage, acute psychosis, brain damage, death
- Drug test is $40 - Does not detect all formulations
- Over 400 brand names
- Not in the 5 panel drug screen .... kids know this
- ER’s are being bombarded with this
Synthetic Cocaine
Synthetic Cocaine

- Commonly called Bath Salts
- Can be injected, snorted, or ingested
- Small foil packages are left behind after usage
- Users may become paranoid, aggressive, or experience hallucinations
- Slang: Scarface, White Bull, Ivory Wave
Synthetic Opiates
Synthetic Opiates

- VivaZen, Pegasus liquid, K Chill....sold in **convenient stores**
- Sold as liquid or capsules
- Currently not illegal
- Made from leaves of tree grown in southeast Asia (Mitragyna Speciosa)
- VivaZen was $5.99 per bottle is now around $11.99 in our area
- Kratom $30 for 30 pills
Synthetic Vaping
All synthetics are now available as vaping cartridges
There is no odor to detect use
Many e-liquids do not list active ingredients, hiding the facts about the dangers of use
Slang: Cloud 9, Hookah Relax, Bizaro, Darth Vapor, Crown
Dextromethorphan
Dextromethorphan

- Cough medicine that contains DXM
- Causes hallucinations, sense of dissociation
- Often shop lifted
- Taken in large doses to get high
- Slang: Triple C’s, Skittles, Orange Crush, Robo-Trippin, Robofizzing, Rojo, Dexing
- 2 styrofoam cups stacked = dex and syrup
- Purple drank = sprite and cough syrup
Ecstasy/Molly
Ecstasy/Molly

- Rave party drug (highlighter parties)
- Acts as stimulant and hallucinogen
- Depletes serotonin levels in the brain for up to 2 weeks
- Often use pacifiers and mouth guards to keep teeth from grinding
- Urine= 24hrs, Hair=up to 90 days, Blood=24 hrs
Tesla
Tesla

- Super potent for MDMA (Ecstasy)
- Many reports of being MDMA mixed with opiates or others
- Pill glows in the dark under a black light
- From Europe
- After effects can last 2-3 days after use
Heroin

- Mexican Brown Powder 98.6% Pure
- Can be injected, smoked, inhaled
- Highly addictive, derived from morphine
- IV has become normalized
- High risk of OD and death
- Slang: Aunt Hazel, Dirt, Salt

Urine=3-4 days, Hair= up to 90 days, Blood=1-2 days
Why the epidemic?
Overprescribing of opiates
Cost is $15 for 100mg (same high as $100-$120 worth of opiates)
Jefferson County Campaign: Know Dope
Narcan (Naloxone)= Opiate Antagonist
Deterra=safe chemical inactivation system
Prescription Medications: Lock them up!

- Pain Relievers
- Stimulants
- Tranquilizers
Pain Relievers

- Loratab, Hydrocone, Methadone, Oxycontin, Fentanyl, Dilaudid, Lorcet, Norco
- Single large dose can cause severe respiratory depression and death
- Cost $15-50 per pill on streets (pharmacy 0.75)
- Slang: Mud, Nose Drops, Aunti Emma, PK’s
- Urine=2-4 days, Hair=up to 90 days, Blood=1-3 days
Stimulants/Amphetamines

- Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta
- "Study Drug"
- Increases alertness, attention, and energy
- Increases blood pressure and heartrate
- Cost $3-6 per pill
- Slang=The A Train, Bennies
Tranquilizers

- Tranquilizers = Benzodiazepines
- Klonopin, Xanax, Valium, Ativan
- Produces a calming and drowsy effect
- Withdrawal can cause seizure or death
- Cost $1-5 per mg
- Slang: Tranx, Bars, Valley Girls
- Urine = with chronic use 4-6 weeks, Hair = up to 90 days, Blood = 6 to 48 hrs
Other Drugs

- Cocaine/Crack
- Inhalants (Axe Body Spray)
- LSD and Blotter Acid
- GHB (Roffies)
Bradford Health Services

- We are here to help!
- Emergency Consultation Services: Available 24/7 on-site at no cost
  - In-office consultations offered as well 24/7 at no cost

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Our consultation services are available to the community at no charge. If we are unable to help the patient through a Bradford program, we will do our best to connect them to the appropriate community resources.