

# Regional Advisory Board (RAB) of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions

July 2020 Newsletter

## **Did You Know?**

**People often try to hide their drug use through code words or slang.** Get a full list of terms in the DEA report, "Slang Terms and Code Words: A Reference for Law Enforcement Personnel" at

<https://www.campusdrugprevention.gov/sites/default/files/SlangTermsandCodeWords.pdf#page=13>

**What is the prevalence and risk of cannabis use disorders among people who use cannabis?** A landmark study from Australia updates the risk of marijuana users having a cannabis use disorder (CUD) from 1 in 11 (9 percent) to 1 in 5 (22 percent). The lower figure is from a study conducted in the early 1990s before any states had legalized the drug for any use and before more potent forms of marijuana had been developed. Moreover, the risk of developing cannabis dependence increases to 1 in 3 (33 percent) among people who use the drug weekly or more frequently. (The Marijuana Report, 6/10/20)

**Trust for America's Health (TFAH), a not-for-profit, found that close to 152,000 Americans died from alcohol, drugs or suicide in 2018.** The data show a reduction in deaths due to prescription opioid overdose, but an increase in deaths involving synthetic opioids, which includes fentanyl. Death rates for all opioids decreased by 2 percent, but the death rate for synthetic opioids increased by 10 percent. Additionally, heroin overdose deaths were lower, but deaths involving cocaine and other psychostimulants – such as methamphetamine, ecstasy, amphetamine and prescription stimulants – were higher. The report also showed that for the first time since 1999, there has not been a significant increase in drug, alcohol and suicide death rates. (Indiana State Department of Health, 6/23/20)

**One in 10 U.S. adults used one or more prescription pain medications in the past 30 days,** according to HealthDay. The study found between 2015 and 2018, 5.7% of U.S. adults used one or more prescription opioids, and 5% of adults used non-opioid prescription pain medications. During that period, use of prescription opioid painkillers leveled off, while prescriptions for non-opioid pain medications increased, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found. "Physicians should look first at non-opioid drugs to manage pain and then if non-opioid medications don't work, think about opioids," said CDC researcher Dr. Qiuping Gu. The findings indicate that pain management is becoming safer, according to Dr. Ajay Wasan, president of the American Academy of Pain Medicine. "It is becoming less reliant on opioids, and physicians are prescribing much more responsibly," he said. (drugfree.org, 6/25/20)

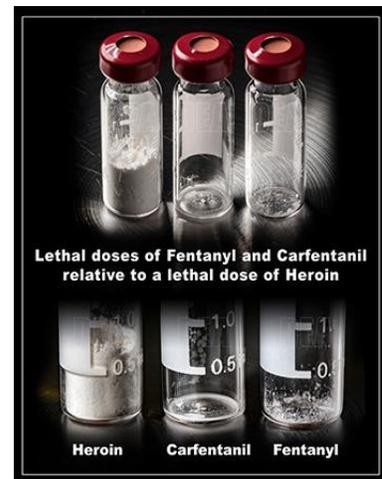
## What's Trending in 2020

- Alcohol; cannabis; psychostimulants; vaping; opioids; and energy drinks are the most prevalent
- Marijuana use among high school seniors is currently the highest since 1979-1981.
- Over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription drugs are responsible for a growing number of overdoses
- OTC products are increasingly becoming the launching pad toward more dangerous and abusable substances
- "Mixing" substances such as alcohol and energy drinks has become a dangerous trendsetter (PharmaTherapist Newsletter, 6/30/20)

**Braeburn Seeks Final Approval on Injectable Buprenorphine.** The pharmaceutical company, Braeburn, has moved for final approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for their new drug Brixadi. This drug is an injectable form of buprenorphine that can be adjusted to provide enough of a dose for a weekly or monthly injection. Brixadi had been tentatively approved by the FDA in December 2018 in order to treat moderate to severe opioid use disorder. This final approval from the FDA would allow this drug to be marketed to the public in December 2020. In previous studies, Brixadi has been found to be as safe as naloxone and effective in decreasing opioid withdrawal and cravings. Braeburn reported that they expect the FDA to approve Brixadi by Dec. 1, 2020. (Indiana State Department of Health, 6/16/20)

**Carfentanil is a dangerous factor in the nation's opioid crisis.** This drug was behind rashes of deadly overdoses in Maryland, New Hampshire and other states. But how much do you know about it? Here are five quick facts:

- Carfentanil, a synthetic opioid, is a white powdery substance that looks like it could be cocaine or heroin. Drug dealers mix it with heroin to presumably make the heroin stronger.
- It is **10,000 times** more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl.
- The drug is also used to **tranquilize elephants** and other large mammals.
- This drug is so powerful it poses a significant threat to first responders and law enforcement personnel who touch it by accident. In addition, people can overdose on carfentanil quickly. Multiple doses of the anti-overdose drug Narcan may not be effective.
- Users exposed to carfentanil can experience dizziness, clammy skin, shallow breathing, heart failure and more. (Justthinktwice.com, 6/17/20)



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