

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

October 2020 Newsletter

Awareness Campaign

October is National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month. One in 30 youth ages 12-17 has misused over-the-counter (OTC) cough medicine for its dextromethorphan (DXM) ingredient, and one in five young adults has misused a prescription drug. (cadca.org, 9/30/20)

Did you know?

Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2019 Results

The CDC released its 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. It finds that:

- Of those students who used marijuana in the past month, 23.5 percent used it from 10 to 39 times and 18 percent used it 40 or more times. Twenty or more times a month signifies addiction.
- Vaping skyrocketed from 13.2 percent in 2017 to 32.7 percent in 2019.
- Nearly 11 percent of youth e-cigarette users reported using at least 20 days a month, a strong sign of addiction. (The Marijuana Report, 8/26/20)

Nonfatal Drug and Polydrug Overdoses Treated in Emergency Departments

The study included data from 29 states between 2018-2019, including other states in the Midwest. Researchers found that in 2019, opioids were involved in 40 percent of all suspected nonfatal drug overdoses. Additionally, the report says that opioids also had substantial co-involvement in cocaine, amphetamine and benzodiazepine overdoses. The rates of suspected nonfatal overdoses involving co-involving opioids and amphetamines increased 37.3 percent from 2018 to 2019 and in 2019, 23.6 percent, 17.1 percent, and 18.7 percent of suspected nonfatal overdoses involving cocaine, amphetamine and benzodiazepines, respectively. (Indiana State Department of Health, 9/8/2020)

Characteristics of Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Opioids and Stimulants - 24 States and the District of Columbia (January-June 2019)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) analyzed data on drug overdose deaths that occurred between January – June 2019 from 24 states (including Indiana) and the District of Columbia. The data came from the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System. The study found that approximately 80% of overdose deaths involved one or more opioid, and illicitly manufactured fentanyls (IMFs) were involved in three of four opioid-involved overdose deaths. Additionally, IMFs, heroin, cocaine, or methamphetamine (alone or in combination) were involved in 83.8 percent of overdose deaths. Interestingly, they discovered that more than three in five (62.7 percent) overdose deaths had documentation of at least one potential opportunity for overdose prevention intervention. This highlights the importance of identifying

opportunities to intervene before an overdose death and implementing evidence-based prevention policies, programs, and practices in efforts to save lives. (Indiana State Department of Health, 9/15/2020)

The decline in opioid-related overdose deaths in 2018 was likely due to a decrease in the availability of the drug carfentanil after China changed its drug manufacturing regulations, according to a new study. Researchers cross-referenced drug overdose data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with information from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration about the types of drugs seized and submitted to state crime labs. They found a drop in overdose deaths in Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania from 2017 to 2018 coincided with a drop in seizures of the opioid carfentanil by law enforcement in the same period. The decline in overdose deaths in these states accounted for almost all of the total national decline in 2018. China added carfentanil to its list of controlled substances in 2017, and the U.S. supply eventually dried up at the same time the U.S. overdose deaths declined in 2018. (Partnership to End Addiction, 9/17/20)

Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Marijuana use among those age 12 and older has nearly doubled in the US since 2002. In 2002, 25.8 million people used the drug in the past year. That rose to 48.2 million Americans in 2019. Every day in 2019, 2,400 people ages 26 and older began using marijuana. So did 3,400 young adults ages 18-25. Most worrisome is that every day, 3,700 more adolescents began marijuana use in 2019. Some 236,000 people with a past-year substance use disorder felt they needed treatment and made an effort to obtain it. But some 577,000 felt they needed treatment but did not make an effort to get it. A whopping *18.1 million* people who had a substance abuse disorder (96 percent) felt they did not need treatment. (The Marijuana Report, 9/16/20)

The legalization of marijuana in Colorado: The impact

The Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area annual report was released. Here are a few highlights of this comprehensive report. Since recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013, compared to the national average, past month use:

- among those 12 and older is 76% higher
- among those 18 and older is 73% higher
- among those ages 18-25 is 50% higher
- among those ages 12-17 is 43% higher

Traffic deaths in which drivers tested positive for marijuana increased 135% while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 24%.

Two-thirds (67%) of local jurisdictions in Colorado have banned medical and recreational marijuana businesses. (The Marijuana Report, 9/30/20)

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