

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

August 2021 Newsletter

Did you know?

Marijuana use could be linked to increased risk of suicidal thoughts, plan, and attempt among young adults, according to researchers who analyzed data from the National Surveys on Drug Use and Health between 2008-2019. Researchers looked at data from 281,650 adults between ages 18 and 35. They found that among people without depression, about 3% of non-marijuana users had suicidal thoughts. In comparison, the percentage for daily marijuana users was 9%, and 14% for people who had a substance use disorder. "While we cannot establish that cannabis use caused the increased suicidality we observed in this study, these associations warrant further research, especially given the great burden of suicide on young adults," NIDA Director Nora Volkow, M.D., said. (*National Institutes of Health, 6/22/21*)

54% of pregnancies that result in a live birth in the United States involve some exposure to alcohol, HealthDay reports. Researchers at Yale University used a computer simulation model of U.S. women of reproductive age. They calculated that 12% of developing fetuses are exposed to five or more drinks in a week at least once during the pregnancy, and 3% are exposed to nine or more drinks in a week. They estimated that 80% of pregnancies that were unknowingly exposed to alcohol were unintended. "When we consider alcohol-exposed pregnancies, much of the focus is on women who are aware of their pregnancies but may continue to drink," lead researcher Reza Yaesoubi said. "But what we found in this study is that among pregnancies that are exposed to alcohol, in fact, more than half are exposed while the pregnancy is still unrecognized." Alcohol use during pregnancy is associated with a range of adverse outcomes. (*drugfree.org, 7/8/21*)

Pregnant e-cigarette users more likely to give birth to low-birthweight infants. A team of researchers from UCLA and other institutions finds that women who use e-cigarettes during pregnancy are 33 percent more likely to have low-birthweight babies. Defined as those weighing less than 5.5 pounds, low-birthweight babies often require specialized care and have early-life complications as well as long-lasting health issues. (*The Marijuana Report, 7/14/21*)

More than 93,000 people in the United States died from a drug overdose in 2020, an increase of almost 30% from the previous year, The Washington Post reports. Opioid-related overdose deaths reached 69,710 last year, up from 50,963 in 2019, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Many of those deaths involved fentanyl. According to Nora Volkow, head of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 70% of cocaine overdose deaths and 50% of methamphetamine overdose

deaths also involved fentanyl. In many cases, people are not aware that the substances they use are laced with fentanyl. She noted that most of the deaths involve multiple substances. (drugfree.org, 7/15/21)

The proportion of cases of schizophrenia associated with cannabis use disorder has increased three- to four-fold during the past two decades.

Researchers in Denmark found 2% of schizophrenia diagnoses in that country were linked with cannabis use disorder. By 2000, the rate had risen to 4%. Since 2010, the figure rose to 8%, CNN reports. "I think it is highly important to use both our study and other studies to highlight and emphasize that cannabis use is not harmless," said study co-author Carsten Hjorthøj. "There is, unfortunately, evidence to suggest that cannabis is increasingly seen as a somewhat harmless substance. This is unfortunate, since we see links with schizophrenia, poorer cognitive function, substance use disorders, etc." Tyler J. VanderWeele of the Harvard School of Public Health, said that the study's estimates may be low because cannabis use disorder is underdiagnosed. "Cannabis use disorder is not responsible for most schizophrenia cases, but it is responsible for a non-negligible and increasing proportion. (drugfree.org, 7/29/21)

Resource and Other Information



Indiana Pregnancy Promise Program
Promoting Recovery from Opioid use:
Maternal Infant Support and Engagement



To be eligible, participants must meet the following criteria:

- Pregnant or within 90 days of the end of pregnancy
- Identify as having current or previous opioid use
- Be eligible for or receive Medicaid health coverage



Indiana Family & Social Services Administration

www.PregnancyPromise.in.gov
Toll-Free 888-467-2717 | 317-234-5336
PregnancyPromise@fssa.in.gov



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