

THE FACTS

About Drug Abuse

2nd Quarter 2010

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Study Shows Reverse in Decade Long Decline In Teen Drug Abuse



"After a decade of consistent declines in teen drug abuse, a new national study released today by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America® and MetLife Foundation points to marked upswings in use of drugs that teens are likely to encounter at parties and in other social situations.

Underlying these increases are negative shifts in teen attitudes, particularly a growing belief in the benefits and acceptability of drug use and drinking. The percentage of teens agreeing that "being high feels good" increased significantly from 45 percent in 2008 to 51 percent in 2009, while those saying that "friends usually get high at parties" increased from 69 percent to 75 percent over the same time period.

KEY STUDY FINDINGS

► **The study found a significant drop in the number of teens agreeing strongly that they "don't want to hang around drug users" – from 35 percent in 2008 to 30 percent in 2009**

► **Past year Ecstasy use shows a 67 percent increase.**

► **Past year marijuana use shows a 19 percent increase.**

According to the 2009 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, sponsored by MetLife Foundation, past year Ecstasy use shows a 67 percent increase (from 6 percent in 2008 to 10 percent in 2009) and past year marijuana use shows a 19 percent increase (from 32 percent in 2008 to 38 percent in 2009).

The study also found a significant drop in the number of teens agreeing strongly that they "don't want to hang around drug users" – from 35 percent in 2008 to 30 percent in 2009."

For More Info About the Study: http://www.drugfree.org/Portal/DrugIssue/Research/Teen_Study_2009/National_Study

Notes from Dr. George Elder

Dear Colleagues,

All you have to do is read the articles in this newsletter to confirm what you already know: illegal drugs from marijuana to cocaine to prescription meds and newly created blends and concoctions are threatening our children everyday. This doesn't just happen in inner city schools in rough neighborhoods. Prestigious public and private schools in the most elite areas of town are well represented on the lists of victims. There are no socioeconomic or educational lines that this menace will not cross. This does not have to continue. It can be stopped. I believe that we educators are not only perfectly positioned to protect our students, but we are the only ones who can.

America's police men and women, governmental agencies and many other organizations are valiantly engaged in this fight, but we educators are the ones who enjoy the power, influence and control that our students depend on and often respect. We have the opportunity and we have the most powerful deterrent there is: virtual certainty of detection, made possible through the science pioneered and patented by Psychemedics. We have the responsibility to use every means at our disposal to save our children. It is a sobering thought to go back forty years in our memory to the days when drug use was rare. If we continue to passively attack this problem for the next forty years I shudder to think what world our kids will inherit.

The good news is that more and more educational leaders are joining the fight. We can give our kids a good start and a better world, one school at a time. I am as close as your phone and would be delighted to come to your school at no cost to you to discuss this life saving science.



Dr. George Elder,
 Vice President, Schools & Colleges
 Former Headmaster

DRUG STATISTICS

Every day, 2,500 teens use a prescription drug to get high for the first time.

1 in 5 crash victims under the age of 18 tested positive for marijuana .

*Statistics from www.drugfree.org

The New Trend: Kids 'Purpling' To Get High

A new trend that kids are using to get high is called "purpling." Kids are mixing prescription cough syrup (containing codeine) with Sprite and a candy such as jolly ranchers.

It is called "purpling" because of the color of the liquid once it's mixed. It is also referred to as "purple drank," "lean," or "sizzurp."

Experts believe the drug first gained popularity as a recreational drug in the hip-hop community and has often been mentioned in rap songs.

Kids as young as 11 years old are mixing the cough syrup cocktails and it doesn't take much to overdose. Too much can slow breathing and an overdose can be fatal. There is a perception among kids that it is safe because it's medicine. Users get the cough syrup from their parents' medicine cabinets, or fake cough to get prescriptions.

The drink causes respiratory problems and can have dangerous drug reactions with the body. The rapper DJ Screw's death was presumed to be caused by the drink.

"Purple Drank" Description: Prescription cough syrup mixed with Sprite and candy

Street Names: Lean, Sizzurp, Purple, Sip-Sip

Additional Info: Popular with the hip-hop crowd and often mentioned in rap music

Side Effects: Slow breathing and respiratory problems, overdose, distorted vision and coordination, sedation



THE ANTI RED BULL?

"Drank" is the anti-energy drink sold at convenience stores and experts say it is made to resemble the illegal homemade cough syrup concoctions know as "purple drank." With the motto "Slow Your Roll," Drank bills itself as an "extreme relaxation beverage." Drank could appeal to youths who will want to try the "real stuff."

At a mental health conference in February 2010, Dr. Ronald Peters, Jr., of the University of Texas Health Science Center said of "Drank": "They're taking the name, and they're trying to market it to young people." He described the beverage as "the worst thing I've ever seen on the street since the making of candy cigarettes."



ASTOUNDING FACTS

There is 50-70% more cancer causing material in marijuana smoke than in cigarette smoke.

Although it's constantly promoted as "all natural," marijuana smoke contains more than 400 chemicals.

Psychemedics tests include the most commonly abused prescription pain killers; Codeine, Oxycodone (OxyContin), Hydrocodone (Vicodin) and Hydromorphone (Dilaudid).

Drugs in the News

Teacher Arrested for Heroin

"A Brodhead Spanish teacher remains suspended after her arrest on suspicion of possessing heroin, oxycodone and hydrocodone in a case that shows how the local heroin problem impacts all walks of life, officials said."

"Teachers are great people. Great people get caught up in problems," Rock County Sheriff's Sgt. Craig Strouse said. Educated people with good jobs, nice families and careers can get caught up in heroin, Strouse said. "This used to be an inner-city problem," he said. "I think a lot of it has to do with prescription medication."

<http://gazettextra.com/news/2010/apr/21/brodhead-teacher-faces-heroin-charge/>

16 Students Arrested

"In a scene reminiscent of the old TV show 21 Jump Street, police on Friday arrested 16 students accused of delivering drugs on Brazoria County's Columbia High School campus after an undercover officer posing as a student named "Victor" allegedly bought the goods from them."

"Those arrested ranged from freshmen to seniors, spanning ages from 16 to 19, and included two girls. "What we're doing is eliminating the activity," said Superintendent Carol Bertholf. "There's not a high school in the nation that doesn't have an issue with drugs."

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6962267.html>

The Quiet Epidemic

"More and more teenagers are turning away from street drugs and using prescription drugs to get high. This has contributed to a high street value for pain pills, and some otherwise law-abiding citizens are selling their pills for a tremendous profit."

According to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, prescription drugs are second to marijuana as the drug of choice for today's teens. More than 40 percent of high school seniors reported that painkillers are "fairly" or "very" easy to get.

http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-prescription-drug-abuse-20100421_0,6657110.story

Long-Time Marijuana Use Linked to Psychosis in Young Adults

“Young adults who used marijuana as teens were more likely than those who didn’t to develop schizophrenia and psychotic symptoms including hallucinations and delusions, an Australian study found.

Those who used the drug for six or more years were twice as likely to develop a psychosis such as schizophrenia or to have delusional disorders than those who never used marijuana, according to research released online by the Archives of General Psychiatry. They were also four times as likely to score high on a list of psychotic-like experiences. The findings build on previous research and shows that marijuana use isn’t as harmless as some people think.

About 18 percent of those in the study said they used marijuana for three or fewer years, 16 percent said they used it for four to five years and 14 percent used it for six or more years. Those in the study were interviewed at the ages of 14 and 21.

About 2.4 million American adults have schizophrenia, according to the National Institutes of Health. It is associated with delusions, hallucinations and disordered thinking and it is unclear what causes the disease.”

Full Article: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-02-26/long-time-marijuana-use-linked-to-psychosis-in-young-adults.html>

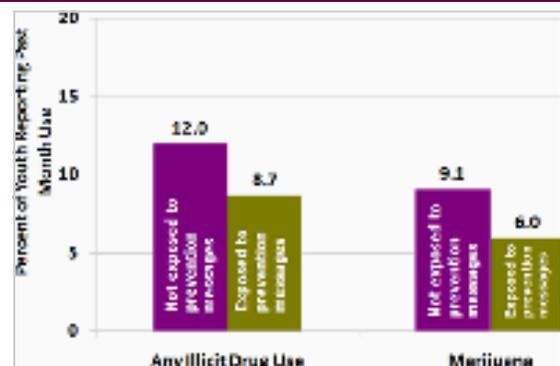
Recent Data Shows Other Hair Labs May Have a Hard Time Detecting Marijuana

Marijuana remains the most abused drug in the US. A recent SAMHSA report shows that 76% of drug users self report they use marijuana. Without the proper test methods and technology, marijuana poses some unique challenges and is difficult to hair drug test. Psychemedics spent many years of research not only in developing our ability to extract drugs by liquefying the hair, but also in solving the extraction, sample preparation and detection issues related to marijuana analysis. Subsequently, Psychemedics patented methods by which marijuana can reliably be extracted and detected.

One of the major advantages of using a hair test is that because of the longer window of detection, drug users should be detected at a much higher rate than urinalysis. Recent paired data (hair and urine samples collected from the same donor on the same day) released by another hair testing lab showed that the positive rate for marijuana in their urine and hair tests were identical. Even with the much shorter detection window of urinalysis, their hair test only detected the same percentage of marijuana users. Other labs cannot use our patented process to deal with the marijuana challenges, which may account for the continued difficulty other labs have in detecting marijuana use. While other lab’s hair tests may find no additional marijuana users than urinalysis tests, Psychemedics’ hair test typically detects 4 to 7 more times the number of marijuana users than urinalysis. Overall, Psychemedics detects 5 to 18 times the number of drug users for all drug categories tested, when compared to urinalysis in paired data. With a Psychemedics hair test you can be confident in not only superior detection of marijuana, but superior detection of drug abuse.

Promising indicators from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) show that youth who’ve seen or heard prevention messages were significantly less likely to have used any illicit drug or marijuana in the past month than youth who had not been exposed to such messages.

Source: NSDUH, SAMHSA



*Superior Detection
of Drug Abuse*

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About Psychemedics:

Psychemedics was established in 1987 to provide testing for drugs of abuse using hair analysis, and has been successfully operating for over 20 years. Thousands of corporations currently rely on Psychemedics' patented hair analysis technology for their pre-employment and employee drug screening. Psychemedics is headquartered in Boston and has offices in Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Our Laboratory is located in Culver City, CA. Psychemedics is a publicly-held corporation listed on NASDAQ under the ticker symbol PMD.