

Overview on Prevalence and Recent Trends in Adolescent Substance Use and Abuse



Nicholas C. Peiper, PhD, MPH^a, Ty A. Ridenour, PhD, MPE^a,
Bridget Hochwalt, BA^b, Tamera Coyne-Beasley, MD, MPH^{b,*}

KEYWORDS

• Adolescent • Substance use • Epidemiology

KEY POINTS

- Several large national surveillance surveys have documented significant trends in adolescent substance use over the past 25 years.
- The prevalence of cigarette smoking has significantly decreased, but electronic cigarette and hookah use have emerged as common forms of nicotine and tobacco use among adolescents.
- From 1991 to 2015, the prevalence of lifetime, 12-month, and 30-day use of marijuana all increased among adolescents.
- Between 2002 and 2014, male and female adolescents aged 12 to 17 years had similar 12-month prevalence rates of substance use disorders as well as slightly decreasing trends that were nearly identical.
- Compared with any other age group, the highest 12-month prevalence of substance use disorder occurs in 18 to 25 year olds; they had the steepest decline in prevalence between 2002 and 2014.

Disclosure Statement: The authors have no commercial or financial conflicts of interest associated with this article.

The project described was supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (grant award number R42 DA02212) and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, National Institutes of Health (grant award number UL1TR001111). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of National Institute on Drug Abuse or the National Institutes of Health.

^a RTI International, Behavioral and Urban Health Program, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194, USA; ^b Department of Pediatrics, Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, University of North Carolina, CB # 7225, 231 MacNider, Chapel Hill, NC 27599, USA

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: tamera_coyne-beasley@med.unc.edu

Child Adolesc Psychiatric Clin N Am 25 (2016) 349–365

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chc.2016.03.005>

childpsych.theclinics.com

1056-4993/16/\$ – see front matter © 2016 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Substance use (SU) and SU disorder (SUD) exact monumental tolls on individuals, health care systems, and societies. SU consequences cost the United States more than \$600 billion annually (eg, due to SUD treatment, crime, medical and psychiatric disorders, and sexually transmitted infection).¹ Globally, the 4th, 5th, and 15th leading contributors to disease burden are smoking, alcoholism, and illegal drug use, respectively.² They additionally contribute to the propensity for other illnesses, both physical and mental. To illustrate, smoking leads to the first, second, fifth, and seventh leading causes of disease burden (eg, cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).²

Understanding the epidemiology of SU and SUD requires evidence from adolescents. Virtually all individuals who consume an addictive substance initiate some form of SU before adulthood. Moreover, except for recent increases in misuse of prescription opiate medications among the elderly, SUD almost invariably onsets before 25 years of age.^{3,4} Moreover, earlier onset of SU contributes to the risk for SUD.^{5,6} For space efficiency, herein the term *substance* refers to any substance with addictive potential and *drug* refers to any illicit substance (including marijuana and inhalants).

PREVALENCE OF ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE USE

In the United States, the National Institutes of Health, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have devoted substantial resources to ongoing surveillance of adolescent SU and its consequences for several decades.⁷ In particular, data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), Monitoring the Future (MTF) study, and Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) all show that SU, as well as accepting attitudes and beliefs toward use, increases throughout middle and high school.^{7,8} This increase is especially notable with regard to the approximate doubling of 30-day alcohol, cigarette, and marijuana use prevalence that occurs between grade 8 and 10 ([Table 1](#)).⁹

ALCOHOL USE

Alcohol is the substance most frequently used by adolescents.¹⁰ As part of a downward trend since the 1990s, the lifetime, annual, and 30-day measures of alcohol use were at historic lows in the 2015 MTF. Data from the 1991 to 2015 MTF highlight these trends ([Fig. 1](#))¹¹:

- In 2015, 10% of 8th graders, 22% of 10th graders, and 35% of 12th graders reported 30-day alcohol use for an overall rate of 22%.
- One-fourth of students (26%) have consumed any alcohol by 8th grade, 47% by 10th grade, and 64% by 12th grade.
- For binge drinking (ie, 5 or more drinks in a row at one occasion), the 2-week prevalence rate of 22% among students peaked in 1997 and then decreased to 11% in 2015.
- The rate of 30-day alcohol intoxication reached a high of 21% in 1997 and progressively declined to 11% in 2015.

TOBACCO USE

Like alcohol, trends in cigarette smoking and smokeless tobacco on the MTF have also significantly decreased over the past 25 years^{11,12}:

- In 2015, the 30-day prevalence of cigarette smoking was 3.6% for 8th graders, 6.3% for 10th graders, and 11.4% for 12th graders.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/4150371>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/4150371>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)