

## Consider the Facts: Statics

### Our Schools

- 80% of High Schoolers, 44% of Middle Schoolers see Drugs Used, Kept, Sold, Classmates Drunk, High on school grounds. (Source: *National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XII: Teens and Parents 12th annual back to school survey conducted by CASA at Columbia University*)

### Overdose

- There are approximately 28,000 annual fatal unintentional drug poisonings in the United States. (Source: *Center for Disease Control*.)
- Drug overdose deaths are second only to car crashes for unintentional injury deaths. (Source: CDC, 2008) Deaths are largely due to misuse and abuse of prescription drugs. Majority of deaths more than one drug is found. (Source: *Leonard J. Paulozzi, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Epidemiologist National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*)
- 1.5 million Hospital Emergency Room Visits are attributed to drug misuse or overdose. (Source: *Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), 2006 National ED Estimates*)

### Prescription Drugs

- Every day 2,500 teens in the United States try prescription drugs to get high for the first time. (Source: *Partnership for a Drug Free America*)
- 60% of teens who have abused prescription painkillers did so before age 15. (Source: *Partnership for a Drug Free America*)
- 45% of those who use prior to the age of 15 will later develop an addiction. (Source: *Misuse of Prescription Drugs. national Surveys on Drug Use and Health, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2006*)
- More than 29 percent of teens in treatment are dependent on tranquilizers, sedatives, amphetamines, and other stimulants (all types of prescription drugs). (Source: *SAMHSA: substance Abuse Treatment Admissions by primary substance of abuse according to sex, age group, race, and ethnicity: Treatment Episode Data set 2004*)
- 12 to 17 year olds abuse prescription drugs more than they abuse ecstasy, crack/cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine combined. (Source: *Partnership for a Drug Free America*)
- There are as many new abusers age 12 to 17 of prescription drugs as there are of marijuana (Source: *Partnership for a Drug Free America*)
- Nearly half (49%) of all college students either binge drink, use illicit drugs or misuse prescription drugs. (Source: *Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University*)

### Alcohol

- Forty-five percent of those who begin drinking alcohol before the age of 14 become alcohol dependent at some time in their lives, compared with 10% of

those who wait at least until age 21. (Source: *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*)

- Depending on the type of medication, mixing with alcohol can cause: increased risk for overdose, fainting, changes in blood pressure, difficulty breathing, liver damage, stomach bleeding, blood clots, strokes, heart attacks, increased risk of seizures, death. (Source: *NIAAA. Harmful Interactions Mixing Alcohol with Medicines, 2007*)
- Combining alcohol with anti-depressant and anti-anxiety medications can cause: increased risk of overdose, increased feelings of depression or hopelessness, and suicide in adolescents. (Source: *NIAA. Harmful Interactions: Mixing Alcohol with Medicines, 2007*)
- Teens who drink with their parents at home are more likely to drink elsewhere, drink more often and score higher on a measure of “problem drinking” two years later. (Source: *Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, 2010*)

## Marijuana

- More teens are in treatment with a primary diagnosis of marijuana dependence than for all other illicit drugs combined. (Source: *Treatment Episodes Data Set (TEDS) 1992-2002, SAMHSA, 2004*)
- Teens age 12 to 17 who regularly smoke marijuana were shown to be three times more likely than non-users to have suicidal thoughts. (Source: *Greenblatt, J. Adolescent self-reported behaviors and their association with marijuana use, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 1998*)

## Tobacco

- Smoking can kill you. Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. More than 440,000 Americans die from tobacco-related causes each year, most of whom began using tobacco before the age of 18. (Source: *NIDA Info Facts: Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products, 2008*)
- Smoking puts your friends and family at risk. Each year approximately 3,000 non-smokers die of lung cancer from second-hand smoke. (Source: *NIDA. Research Report Series – Tobacco Addiction, 2006*)

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