

Raising Drug-Free Kids: Advice by Age

Facts About Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Use

- A child who reaches age 21 without smoking, using illegal drugs or abusing alcohol is virtually certain never to do so.
- Children and teens who begin drinking before age 15 are four times likelier to become alcohol dependent than those who do not drink before age 21.
- On average, teenagers who use alcohol, tobacco and marijuana begin using them between 12 and 14 years of age, with some of the highest risk kids starting to use even earlier.
- Kids are particularly vulnerable to substance use during transitions from elementary to middle school, middle to high school, and from high school to college.
- The number of Americans who abuse controlled prescription drugs nearly doubled from 7.8 million to 15.1 million during 1992 to 2003, and abuse among teens more than tripled in that time.
- One-third of teens and nearly half of 17-years olds attend house parties where parents are present and teens are drinking, smoking marijuana or using cocaine, Ecstasy or prescription drugs.
- Forty-nine percent (3.8 million) of full-time college students binge drink and/or abuse prescription and illegal drugs.
- Teens who have infrequent family dinners are more than twice as likely to say that they expect to try drugs in the future.
- Teens who have seen their parent(s) drunk are more than twice as likely to get drunk in a typical month, and three times likelier to use marijuana and smoke cigarettes.

Source: <http://casafamilyday.org/familyday/tools-you-can-use/did-you-know/>