

Inter-LACES

Los Angeles County Evaluation System: An Outcomes Reporting Program

May 2013

Nationwide

One in five young adults has used illicit drugs in the past month: 18.5% marijuana, 5.9% psychotropics, 2% hallucinogens, and 1.5% cocaine (SAMHSA, 2012).

Statewide

One quarter (24%) of young adults report using illicit drugs in the past month. One in five (21.5%) report using marijuana; 7.8% used drugs other than marijuana.

In Los Angeles County

Admission data among young adults indicate services were sought for treatment of addiction to meth (28%), marijuana (27%), heroin (20%), alcohol (13.8%) and cocaine (5.1%) (LACES, 2013).

Substance Use Disorders Among Young Adults

Substance use disorders among young adults (aged 18 to 25) may cause a disruption in educational and vocational paths and a hindrance to overall social development.

The period of development between adolescence and adulthood has been described as a transitional period with a high degree of self-focused exploration. This time period may be tumultuous for some youth and it can be exacerbated by substance use (Arnett, 2000). Substance use disorders among young adults (aged 18 to 25) increases risk for under- and unemployment, early school drop-out, contacts with the criminal justice system, early and unplanned pregnancy, homelessness, psychological difficulties, aggressive behaviors and HIV (Davis et al., 1997; Clark et al., 2000). The majority (~95%) of individuals diagnosed with substance use disorders initiated use before the age of 21, and about half started before age 15 (Dennis et al., 2002). Among 12th graders alone, close to half (48.2%) have used illicit drugs at some point in their lives (22% in the past month) (Johnston et al., 2007). Nationwide, past month illicit drug use was reported by 21.5%



SUD and Youth Adult

Substance use disorders among young adults (aged 18 to 25) increase the risk for under- and unemployment, early school drop-out, contacts with the criminal justice system, early and unplanned pregnancy, homelessness, psychological difficulties, aggressive behaviors and HIV (Clark et al., 2000).

Young adults have ongoing needs for clinical services and significant needs for support services that facilitate independent living (access to housing, employment, education, training on basic living skills [e.g., cooking, banking]), social support, and informed decision making (Manteuffel et al., 2008).

with 18.5% reporting use of marijuana, 5.9% psychotropics, 2% hallucinogens, and 1.5% cocaine. Overall, the rate of illicit drug use among young adults increased between 2008 and 2010. However, this increase is largely due to an increase in marijuana use (which increased from 16.5% in 2008 to 18.5% in 2010) (SAMHSA, 2012). Compared to adults, young adults are more likely to report binge drinking (40.6%) and smoking cigarettes (40.8%). In California, 24% of young adults have used illicit drugs in the past month; with 21.5% reporting use of marijuana; 7.8% drugs other than marijuana. Additionally, over half (59.3%) have used alcohol in the past month. According to SAMHSA (2012), one in five youth (20.9%) in California met the criteria for substance use disorder, compared to 21.3% nationwide. Additionally, young adults nationwide represent 18.5% of all admissions to publically funded substance use disorder treatment programs (SAMHSA, 2012). In Los Angeles County, young adults represent 22% of all adult admissions. Although marijuana, alcohol, and prescription drugs serve as persistent problems among youth populations (Johnston et al., 2006), methamphetamine has particularly been problematic for youth in western parts of the U.S. (Rawson et al., 2007). Young adult admissions in Los

Angeles County treatment centers indicate that services were sought for treatment for addiction to methamphetamine (28%), marijuana (27%), heroin (20%), alcohol (13.8%) and cocaine (5.1%) (LACES, 2013). When examining meth-related youth admissions, youth 18-24 represent the highest proportion of such admissions (Iritani et al., 2007). California treatment statistics from publicly funded programs indicate that methamphetamine admissions for youth under 25 have been substantial over the past few years, especially in Los Angeles County. The unique service needs of young adults extend beyond those of children and younger adolescents and differ from those of adults. Young adults have ongoing needs for clinical services and significant needs for support services that facilitate independent living (access to housing, employment, education, training on basic living skills [e.g., cooking, banking]), social support, and informed decision making (Manteuffel et al, 2008).

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References available upon request.