



Action Update

June 14, 2010

A Day in the Life of American Adolescents

On an average day, 508,000 adolescents aged 12-17 in the United States drink alcohol; 641,000 use illicit drugs; and more than 1 million smoke cigarettes. *A Day in the Life of American Adolescents: Substance Use Facts Update*, a recent report sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration shares that on any given day during 2008, 563,000 adolescents used marijuana, nearly 37,000 used inhalants, 24,000 used hallucinogens, 16,000 used cocaine and 2,800 used heroin. Other findings in the report include the following:

On an average day in 2008:

- Approximately 7,500 adolescents drank alcohol for the first time;
- Approximately 4,360 adolescents used an illicit drug for the first time;
- Around 3,900 adolescents smoked cigarettes for the first time;
- Nearly 3,700 adolescents used marijuana for the first time; and
- Approximately 2,500 adolescents abused pain relievers for the first time.

The study showed that in 2008, there were about a quarter of a million drug-related emergency hospital visits among adolescents of which 170,000 visits involved the use of illicit drugs, alcohol or intentional misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals. On an average day in 2008:

- 151 visits involved alcohol;
- 129 involved marijuana; and
- 86 involved prescription or nonprescription pain relievers.

The full report is available at:

<http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/185/185TypicalDay.htm>

Action: Share the facts. Talk to an adolescent, a parent, a friend or a family member about the dangers of drug use.

www.OF-1-MIND.org

To remove your name from our mailing list or for questions or comments, please email ehenrich@oacbha.org