



Crime Research Center - CCU
Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse

E-Newsletter

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2021 International Juvenile Substance Abuse Prevention and Counseling Seminar

Greetings, distinguished guests,

With the support of Department of Student Affairs and Special Education, Ministry of Education, CCU Education Center of Substance Abuse Prevention and Taiwan Society of Substance Abuse Prevention is going to host “2021 International Juvenile Substance Abuse Prevention and Counseling Seminar” at Auditorium of National Chung Cheng University on 10 November 2021 (Wednesday), in response to the development of juvenile substance abuse problems.

We are honored to have scholars and experts from Taiwan, as well as Australia, Germany, USA, and Japan, to participate in this seminar for panel sessions. We are also inviting magistrates of central ministries, scholars, and experts of academic communities, and also representatives of drug abuse prevention centers of counties/cities, supervisors and instructors of off-campus student counseling offices, and counselors and security staff of schools of counties/cities from all over the country who dedicated their careers into substance problems and prevention to join us at this seminar. We are hoping that, by listening to new research studies and practical suggestions regarding juvenile substance abuse topics, we will be able to improve current juvenile substance abuse problems and impart such information to government sectors as a reference to implement current responding policies, and furthermore, explore the topics of juvenile substance abuse in multiple aspects and reduce the harm it brings.

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UNODC Reports

UNODC World Drug Report 2021: pandemic effects ramp up drug risks, as youth underestimate cannabis dangers

➤ Editorial Office

VIENNA, 24 June 2021 – Around 275 million people used drugs worldwide in the last year, while over 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders, according to the 2021 World Drug Report, released today by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Report further noted that in the last 24 years cannabis potency had increased by as much as four times in parts of the world, even as the percentage of adolescents who perceived the drug as harmful fell by as much as 40 per cent, despite evidence that cannabis use is associated with a variety of health and other harms, especially among regular long-term users.

"Lower perception of drug use risks has been linked to higher rates of drug use, and the findings of UNODC's 2021 World Drug Report highlight the need to close the gap between perception and reality to educate young people and safeguard public health," said UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly.

"The theme of this year's International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is "Share facts on drugs. Save lives", emphasizing the importance of strengthening the evidence base and raising public awareness, so that the international community, governments, civil society, families and youth can make informed decisions, better target efforts to prevent and treat drug use, and tackle world drug challenges."

According to the Report, the percentage of Δ9-THC – the main psychoactive component in cannabis - has risen from around six per cent to more than 11 per cent in Europe between 2002-2019, and around four per cent to 16 per cent in the United States between 1995-2019, while the percentage of adolescents



that perceived cannabis as harmful declined by 40 per cent in the United States and by 25 per cent in Europe.



Moreover, most countries have reported a rise in the use of cannabis during the pandemic. In surveys of health professionals across 77 countries, 42 per cent asserted that cannabis use had increased. A rise in the non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs has also been observed in the same period.

Drug Use Rising, but Science-Based Treatment More Available

Between 2010-2019 the number of people using drugs increased by 22 per cent, owing in part to global population growth. Based on demographic changes alone, current projections suggest an 11 per cent rise in the number of people who use drugs globally by 2030 -- and a marked increase of 40 per cent in Africa, due to its rapidly growing and young population.

According to the latest global estimates, about 5.5 per cent of the population aged between 15 and 64 years have used drugs at least once in the past year, while 36.3 million people, or 13 per cent of the total number of persons who use drugs, suffer from drug use disorders.

Globally, over 11 million people are estimated to inject drugs, half of whom are living with Hepatitis C. Opioids continue to account for the largest burden of disease attributed to drug use.

The two pharmaceutical opioids most commonly used to treat people with opioid use disorders, methadone and buprenorphine, have become increasingly accessible over the past two decades. The amount available for medical use has increased six-fold since 1999, from 557 million daily doses to 3,317 million by 2019, indicating that science-based pharmacological treatment is more available now than in the past.



The Dark Web

Drug markets on the dark web only emerged a decade ago but major ones are now worth at least US\$ 315 million in annual sales. Although this is just a fraction of overall drug sales, the trend is upwards with a fourfold increase between 2011 to mid-2017 and mid-2017 to 2020.

Rapid technological innovation, combined with the agility and adaptability of those using new platforms to sell drugs and other substances, is likely to usher in a globalized market where all drugs are more available and accessible everywhere. This, in turn, could trigger accelerated changes in patterns of drug use and entail public health implications, according to the Report.

The Drug Market Rebounds and Shifts

The new report shows that drug markets have swiftly resumed operations after the initial disruption at the onset of the pandemic; a burst that has triggered or accelerated certain pre-existing trafficking dynamics across the global drug market. Among these are: increasingly larger shipments of illicit drugs, a rise in the frequency of overland and water-way routes used for trafficking, greater use of private planes for the purpose of drug trafficking, and an upsurge in the use of contactless methods to deliver drugs to end-consumers.

The resilience of drug markets during the pandemic has demonstrated once again traffickers' ability to adapt quickly to changed environments and circumstances.

The Report also noted that cocaine supply chains to Europe are diversifying, pushing prices down and quality up and thereby threatening Europe with a further expansion of the cocaine market. This is likely to widen the potential harm caused by the drug in the region.

The number of new psychoactive substances (NPS) emerging on the global market fell from 163 in 2013 to 71 in 2019. This reflects trends in North America, Europe and Asia. The findings suggest national and international control systems have succeeded in limiting the spread of NPS in high income countries, where NPS first emerged a decade ago.

Drug Risks, New Developments Spurred by Pandemic

COVID-19 has triggered innovation and adaptation in drug prevention and treatment services



through more flexible models of service delivery. Many countries have introduced or expanded telemedicine services due to the pandemic, which for drug users means that healthcare workers can now offer counselling or initial assessments over the telephone and use electronic systems to prescribe controlled substances.

While the impact of COVID-19 on drug challenges is not yet fully known, the analysis suggests that the pandemic has brought increasing economic hardship that is likely to make illicit drug cultivation more appealing to fragile rural communities. The social impact of the pandemic – driving a rise in inequality, poverty, and mental health conditions particularly among already vulnerable populations – represent factors that could push more people into drug use.

Reference: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Drug Report 2021

This paper is from : United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2021/June/unodc-world-drug-report-2021_-pandemic-effects-ramp-up-drug-risks--as-youth-underestimate-cannabis-dangers.html



NIDA Reports

A dolescent marijuana, alcohol use held steady during COVID-19 pandemic

➤ Publications

Methamphetamine overdose deaths surged in an eight-year period in the United States, according to Adolescent marijuana use and binge drinking did not significantly change during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite record decreases in the substances' perceived availability, according to a survey of 12th graders in the United States. The study's findings, which appeared online on June 24, 2021, in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, challenge the idea that reducing adolescent use of drugs can be achieved solely by limiting their supply. The work was led by researchers at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health.

In contrast to consistent rates of marijuana and alcohol use, nicotine vaping in high school seniors declined during the pandemic, along with declines in perceived availability of vaping devices at this time. The legal purchase age is 21 for nicotine products and alcohol in all states, and for cannabis in states that have legalized nonmedical cannabis use.

"Last year brought dramatic changes to adolescents' lives, as many teens remained home with parents and other family members full time," said NIDA Director Nora D. Volkow, M.D. "It is striking that despite this monumental shift and teens' perceived decreases in availability of marijuana and alcohol, usage rates held steady for these substances. This indicates that teens were able to obtain them despite barriers caused by the pandemic and despite not being of age to legally purchase them."

The data for the study came from the annual Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey of substance use behaviors and related attitudes among adolescents in the United States. In a typical year, MTF surveys thousands of middle and high school students at more than a hundred schools across the country in the spring. MTF has been watching substance use trends for 46 years.



To assess the impact of the pandemic, the investigators issued a survey between mid-July and mid-August 2020, which 12th graders could complete outside of school. This summer survey followed up on investigators' standard MTF spring survey, which gathered responses between mid-February and mid-March 2020 before stopping prematurely due to school closures caused by COVID-19. Of the 3,770 12th graders who responded in the spring, 582 submitted a follow-up survey in the summer. All data and statistical analyses used in the study were weighted to be nationally representative.

Analysis of the responses revealed that students perceived a sharp decrease in availability of marijuana and alcohol in the months after the onset of the pandemic. For marijuana, the fraction of students who reported “fairly” or “very” easy access dropped by 17 percentage points, from 76% in the spring before the pandemic to 59% during the pandemic, and for alcohol it dropped by 24 percentage points, from 86% to 62%. These were the largest year-to-year decreases in perceived availability of marijuana and alcohol ever recorded since the survey began in 1975. Prior to 2020, the largest recorded decreases were only two percentage points for marijuana, and one percentage point for alcohol. Between the spring and summer of 2020, there was also a sharp decrease in respondents who said they could “fairly” or “very” easily obtain a vaping device, going from 73% before the pandemic to 63% during the pandemic.

Despite the reported declines in marijuana and alcohol availability, the levels of use of these substances did not change significantly. Before the pandemic, 23% of students said they had used marijuana in the past 30 days, compared to 20% during the pandemic. For alcohol, 17% reported binge drinking in the past two weeks pre-pandemic, compared to 13% during the pandemic. However, there was a moderate and significant decrease in nicotine vaping – before the pandemic, 24% of respondents said they had vaped nicotine in the past 30 days, compared to 17% during the pandemic.

The study authors cite the wide availability of alcohol and marijuana, even during the pandemic, as a factor in the continued use of these substances. While pandemic-related restrictions limited social interactions, and even with record-breaking decreases in perceived availability among participants, most students said they still had access to marijuana and alcohol. In addition, the authors suggest that when the



substances became less available, the students may have intensified their efforts to obtain them.

While a dip in the perceived supply of vaping devices may have contributed to the decline in nicotine vaping that occurred during the pandemic, there may have been other factors as well. The federal minimum age for tobacco product purchases, including vaping devices and liquids, rose from 18 to 21 years and went into effect in early 2020. News reports on vaping-induced lung injuries may have also had a chilling effect on usage.

“These findings suggest that reducing adolescent substance use through attempts to restrict supply alone would be a difficult undertaking,” said Richard A. Miech, Ph.D., lead author of the paper and team lead of the Monitoring the Future study at the University of Michigan. “The best strategy is likely to be one that combines approaches to limit the supply of these substances with efforts to decrease demand, through educational and public health campaigns.”

Monitoring the Future continues to survey respondents as they progress through adulthood, providing the researchers with the opportunity to explore the impact of the pandemic and the social changes it brought about on future substance use trends.

Reference: Miech R, et al. Adolescent Drug Use Before and During U.S. National COVID-19 Social Distancing Policies(link is external). *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. DOI: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2021.108822 (2021).

This paper is from : National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2021/06/adolescent-marijuana-alcohol-use-held-steady-during-covid-19-pandemic>



Taiwan Research News

A Correlational Study of the Relationship Between Dropouts, Current Students and Juvenile Drug Offenders

Pi-Tsui Yeh

The present study adopts secondary data analysis to analyze official data. The study participants in this study are 1,175 teens caught committing drug crimes in 2011. Five hundred and thirty offenders (45.1%) have student identity. The remaining 645 offenders (54.9%) do not have student identity. The quantitative analysis is conducted with variables, including dropout experience, age of onset, number of crimes committed, and crime types of these juvenile drug offenders. The study indicates that: (1) among 1,175 juvenile drug offenders, 38% accounts for more than 70% of crime. Few dropouts occupy a large number of dropouts. Controlling core offenders and dropouts could reduce the occurrence of large crimes and dropouts; (2) Among these participants, the variable “whether the offender has student identity or not” is a significant difference in the number of crime and recidivism experiences. Juvenile drug offenders who choose not to continue higher education have a higher number of crimes and higher recidivism experience than a juvenile who receives “Chun-Hui (Youth-Support) Project” counseling. That shows controlling and counseling mechanisms of schools are important protectors for juvenile drug offenders. It is also effective in lower the recidivism number of juvenile drug offenders. (3) The dropout rate for juvenile drug offenders is higher than the average dropout rate for national students. The age of onset for the juvenile drug offenders with dropout experience is earlier and more crimes committed. It is obvious that “no dropout experience” and “with student identity” have better inhibiting effects. It is better to block adverse effects from the external environment, reduce the seduction of drugs, and lower the number of crimes committed if the juvenile drug offenders are willing to return to school. At last, the study provides suggestions based on the analyses for practical authorities to develop crime prevention strategies.

Keywords: a correlational study, dropout experiences, juvenile drug offenders.



The Research on the Difficulties and Countermeasures of Drug Detection for Senior High Schools

Tzu-Hsin Lin

Given that the age of New Psychoactive Substances(NPS) has decreased in recent years, the proportion of teenagers using and dealing drugs have also increased. At the same time, drug dealers have also utilized teenagers to smuggle drugs into schools, making them a loophole in our battle against drugs.

Therefore, investigators who study and strike down drug crimes are the main bodies of this research. The purpose of this research was to propose improvement on their current internal status, the problems they are facing, and opinions on the strategies they are currently taking.

This research adopts in-depth interview, in which interviews were taken with 5 first-line personnel in service, including Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Brigade Police Officer, and the prosecutors of District Prosecutors Office, whom were selected with purposive selecting method.

This research discovered that: (1) The main ways how drugs dealing in and around schools are social media, games, Drop-out students and delivery platform. (2)The difficulties investigators are facing include project time pressure, rising difficulty on investigating NPS, technological application of criminal operation methods, and the insufficient legal knowledge of juveniles.

Finally, this research provides several practical strategies to investigators : enhance investigation capacity, establish functional dropout tracking system, improve the police capacity exclusive for practicing school narcotic operations, and revise the juvenile investigation performance system.

Keywords: School narcotics, senior high school students, NPS, Anti-drug



The influence of stress on emotional regulation and cognitive impulsivity in amphetamine users

Yu-Hua Liu, Chiao-Yun Chen

This study used the delayed discounting task and emotional stop signal task to explore the cognitive impulsivity control of drug abusers' (amphetamines users) emotion regulation as well as decision-making to better understand any differences in drug addiction. Manipulation of whether there is a stressful situation was used to understand the behavior of drug abusers in different situations and the differences they showed from ordinary people's behavior, allowing comparison of any changes in cognitive impulsivity in decision-making. From the results of the low and high reward conditions used in a delayed discounting task, data suggest that the impulsivity (indicated by the K value calculated from task performance) of the experimental group in the stress condition was significantly higher than that of the control group. However, there was no significant difference between the experimental group and the control group in the no stress condition. It was also found that the impulsivity rate of the experimental (drug abuser) group in a stressful situation (as indicated by the rate of choosing an immediate rather than a delayed reward) was as high as 80.5%, compared with the rate in a stress-free situation (64.2%). The behavioral results for an emotional stop signal task found that in the emotionally negative condition, the go reaction time of the experimental group was significantly higher than that of the control group, whereas there was no significant difference between the two groups in the neutral situation. In addition, the correct rate of go responses in the experimental group was significantly lower than in the control group. This study also found that the experimental group's go response error rate increased in the negative emotional condition and the reaction time was longer. This seems to indicate that this negative context affects the behavioral excitatory system of amphetamine abusers, rather than affecting the behavioral inhibition system. It is hoped that, based on the data from this study, we can further design research related to stress and its effects on the behavioral stimulation system as an indicator to predict whether drug abusers will re-use drugs after receiving treatment.



Taiwan Events News

“When Famous Paintings Meet Drugs” Exhibition

The charity exhibition “When Famous Paintings Meet Drugs” sponsored by Anti-Drug Program of Substance Prevention Foundation of Ministry of Justice, adapts famous painting with an educational and entertaining approach, to send messages to adolescents about the danger and traps of drugs. The exhibition allows adolescents to acquire basic knowledge of substance abuse prevention, as well as corresponds to the efforts of anti-drug educational campaigns of Ministry of Education,

“When Famous Paintings Meet Drugs” exhibition adapts twenty-four well-know paintings worldwide, providing each painting with a storyline of drugs respectively. For example, in the adapted version of Mona Lisa of the Italian painter of renaissance, Da Vinci, the adapted Mona Lisa looks ill and bony with smaller pupils and diseased skin, which are the result of heroin addition, comparing to the elegant and plump lady in the original painting. The audience can therefore learn the harms that heroin use may bring. Another adapted painting originally from Pandora of the British painter, Rossetti, shows that Pandora opens the Box of Drugs that contains drugs, and develops symptoms of sores all over her face and enlarged pupils, suggesting that curiosity is usually the first step that leads to drug addition. Furthermore, Gril with a Pearl Earring is probably the most famous painting of the few ones handed down by Vermeer. The adapted painting exhibited changes the pearl earring into an LSD earring, reminding the audience of the danger of LSD related psychedelic drugs. In addition to paintings, the exhibition also plays two animated films shot with materials of adapted paintings. The first one is called “The Scream of Drug Induced Brain,” adapted from The Scream of Edvard Munch. The other one uses Family Portrait of Drick van Santvoort for the adaption, portraits the tragedy of a family’s aftermath of drug use.

According to 2018 National Substance Use Survey by Food and Drug Administration, there are approximately 258,000 people in Taiwan involved in illicit substance use. On the other hand, the data



from correction facilities of Ministry of Justice suggests that one of every two inmates is sentenced for drug related crime. The evidence shows that we are currently facing a severe situation of substance abuse in Taiwan. Modern museums are no longer a place simply for collection, research, exhibition, and education. They need to also connect with the society for social care service and respond to environmental issues. Thus, this exhibition adapts paintings of well-known artists in the world, with the approach that drug significantly changes its users' appearances and figures, as a comparison to original paintings, for the audience to realize the horrifying truth of drug addiction. They, too, can understand the mechanism of drug addiction, and the harm of traps that drugs may bring, to avoid falling into the blackhole themselves.

Moreover, to embrace the age of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.), the exhibition introduces its machine-learning artistic-image-generating model. After 500 million operations, the creation of “Joy Begets Sorrow” graph mashes up nine images of new drugs and a skull image symbolizing death, to represent the imagery of how extreme joy eventually begets sorrow in recreational drug use scenarios. There is also a display of three-dimensional photo frame named “Drug Use One Time, Rehab Costs One Decade, Depravity Shadows One Life,” to raise the awareness of illusions. Audience may perceive a better insight of what it costs to overlook the use of drugs. “If you missed an exhibition of science of humanities, you merely lost an opportunity of learning the knowledge of science of humanities; however, if you missed the exhibition of ‘When Famous Paintings Meet Drugs,’ you are very likely to be depriving the ‘antibody’ that protects you from using drugs in the future,” says Chung-Hsin Yang, Ph.D., the curator. The charity exhibition “When Famous Paintings Meet Drugs” opens now until 31 October 2021 at the corridor display area of Human Cultures Hall, on the second floor of National Museum of Natural Science. Children are welcome to the exhibition accompanied by schoolteachers or parents. Let’s pump up the antibody of drug prevention and scream out loud “NO!” to drugs.



Latest Conferences Information

➤ Editorial Office

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
ISAM Annual Global Addictions Conference	International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM)	September 28-October 1 2021	Valletta, Malta Contact: isam.mdorozio@gmail.com
NAADAC 2021 Annual Conference	National Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC)	October 28- 30 2021	Virtual Meeting Contact: naadac@naadac.org
NIDA Mini Convention	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	November 12 2021	Chicago, IL Contact: nida_ip@iqsolutions.com
CCSA Issues of Substance Conference	Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA)	November 23-25 2021	Virtual Meeting Contact: ios@goldenplanners.ca
2021 International Conference	Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research (AASAR)	December 11-14 2021	University of Macau, Taipa, Macao, China Contact: aasar2021@aasar.asia