

SUBSTANCE ABUSE – FACTS

- Adolescents who are involved in substance abuse have a higher rate of delinquency and early sexual activities. Substance abuse is delinquency, especially if it involves acquiring illegal drugs.
- Illegal drugs include: Marijuana
Illegal Stimulants (Cocaine, Crack, Methamphetamines)
Hallucinogens (such as LSD, Mushrooms, Peyote)
Opiate/Opioids (Heroin, Oxycotin, Codeine, etc)
Designer drugs (Ecstasy, Ketamine, GHB)
- “Legal” drugs include: Alcohol
Nicotine
Stimulants
Sedatives
Over-the-counter medications such as sleep aides, weight reduction aids, cold medicines
Inhalants such as glue, paint thinner, aerosols

RISK FACTORS FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

- No single factor, but early conduct problems are associated with substance use.
- Children and adolescents might think drugs and alcohol will facilitate social interactions which studies show tends to result in drinking more and lead to more social interactions when teens.
- Children and adolescents facing greater negative life events and perceived stress are more likely to use drugs and alcohol.
- Children and adolescents with alcoholic or antisocial parents are more likely to engage in heavy alcohol use than are their peers.
- Substance users are missing adaptive-active coping mechanisms, such as seeking information, considering alternatives, taking direct action. Instead, they utilize avoidant coping skills, such as distraction, social withdrawal, wishful thinking.