DRUG USE TRENDS

Research has shown age of first use is linked to future addiction. Youth who use alcohol at or before age 14 are over 4 times more likely to become addicted to alcohol, compared to those who wait until age 21. Marijuana users who start at that same age are 6 times more likely to develop an addiction.\(^2\) Compared to national data, Missouri youth tend to start using substances at a slightly earlier age.\(^3\)

By the time they graduate high school, 2 out of 3 kids will have tried alcohol, and 1 in 2 will have used marijuana. While the trend for alcohol and cigarette use has been dropping over the last decade, marijuana use has remained relatively constant. During the 1990s through the mid-2000s, marijuana use by high school students had dropped; unfortunately the trend is increasing again.

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For help or information, call NCADA at 314.962.3456 or visit ncada-stl.org