DRUG TRENDS
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

DIANA BYRNES, C-SAPA
CENTER FOR URBAN TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH
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RECENT DRUG TRENDS

1. Pill mills close and heroin use spikes
2. Inner cities experience an uptick in PCP use
3. Marijuana/THC applications
1. HEROIN
PILL MILLS LEAD TO HEROIN USE

- Federal arrests for illegal use of Rx drugs skyrocketed more than 900% between 2001 and 2007

- Closing of the “pill mills” in 2011-2012 cut off the supply of easily accessible synthetic opioids

- As a result, a single 80 mg Oxycontin pill runs between $60-$100 on the street

- Heroin costs about $9 per dose

- 81% of first-time heroin users had previously abused Rx drugs

Vermont Dept. of Health reports that heroin overdose deaths more than doubled in 2013

(The image at right is from Rolling Stone Magazine, April 2014)
Heroin Video Here (NBC News)

2. PCP
UP-TICK IN PCP USE

• PCP is a stimulant, depressant and a hallucinogen

• It is most commonly sold as “wet”, which is a cigarette or joint laced with liquid PCP, called a “dipper”

• 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health showed 90,000 past year initiate uses of PCP; up from 48,000 in 2011.

• PCP is sold on the street using basketball player’s names to equate to quantity:
  • Example: Kobe Bryant, #24 for the Lakers = 24 oz.
UP-TICK IN PCP USE

• In 2012, the LAPD busted the largest PCP lab ever discovered on US soil (they found enough for 10 million doses)

• In August of 2013, Rolling Stone magazine reported that NFL player Aaron Hernandez was a heavy user of PCP before being charged with murder

PCP video here
3. MARIJUANA
Marijuana edibles video

MARIJUANA - THE EDIBLES
MARIJUANA “WAX”

- Wax is the “latest cannabis craze” (as reported by Los Angeles local news reports)
- Butane is used to extract the “wax” from the marijuana plant’s excess leaves and stems after harvesting the marijuana buds
- Wax is 80% pure THC

Marijuana Wax video
MARIJUANA- NEW “TOOLS”

Glass pipe “pen” used for smoking wax

MARIJUANA- NEW “TOOLS”

• The popular “vape” pen
• Easily disguises marijuana use
• No “burning rope” odor
MORE VAPORIZERS

4. POWDERED ALCOHOL
POWDERED ALCOHOL

Powdered Alcohol Video here
DECEPTION DEVICES
EMPLOYER DRUG TESTING PROGRAMS
BEATING AND CHEATING
EMPLOYER DRUG TESTING

• An entire cottage industry has been developed for the sole purpose of “beating” a drug test.

• Many adulterants and substitutions are detected by the lab’s specimen validity testing. However, it continues to be a “cat and mouse game” between the labs and the cheaters.

• Here are some examples of items being used to attempt to beat a drug test:
CLOSING COMMENTARY

As state initiatives on marijuana expand, public opinion is likely to shift further toward the belief that marijuana is a benign substance.

As a younger generation enters our workforce, we are likely to see an increase in prohibited substance use/abuse due to the cultural shift in attitudes regarding marijuana use.