Substance Abuse

- Teenage brain is still developing and specially vulnerable to substance use. The earlier substance use starts, the bigger is the risk of it leading to substance use disorder. [UNDOC, 2014, http://bit.ly/1sILm15]

Tobacco

- One out of two young people who start and continue to smoke will be killed by tobacco-related illness. [WHO, 2016, http://goo.gl/91jDz3]

- An estimated 150 million young people use tobacco. [WHO, Fact Sheet on Adolescent health, 2015, http://goo.gl/5De1zV]


- The vast majority of tobacco users worldwide began when they were adolescents. [WHO, 2011, http://bit.ly/1Gr7bUG]

- Approximately half of young tobacco users will die prematurely as a result of tobacco use. [WHO, 2011, http://bit.ly/1Gr7bUG]

Alcohol

- Harmful drinking among young people is an increasing concern in many countries. Alcohol use starts at a young age: 14% of adolescent girls and 18% of boys aged 13–15 years in low- and middle-income countries are reported to use alcohol. [WHO, Fact Sheet on Adolescent health, 2015, http://goo.gl/5De1zV]

- Worldwide, 5% of all deaths of young people between the ages of 15 and 29 are attributable to alcohol use. [WHO, 2016, http://goo.gl/91jDz3]

- Alcohol use starts at a young age: 14% of adolescent girls and 18% of boys aged 13–15 years in low- and middle-income countries are reported to use alcohol. [WHO, 2011, http://bit.ly/1Gr7bUG]
Alcohol abuse is a primary cause of injuries (including those due to road traffic accidents), violence (especially domestic violence) and premature deaths. [WHO, 2011, http://bit.ly/1Gr7bUG]

Drugs

- In Central and Eastern Europe an estimated 1 out of every 4 people who inject drugs is under 20 years of age. [WHO, HIV and young people who inject drugs, p.7, http://goo.gl/fqfNbC]


- At least half of adolescents never experiment with drugs, and only some 20% of them report past month-use of cannabis. [UNDOC, 2014, http://bit.ly/1slLm15]


- Cannabis use can compromise school performance, especially in math. Heavy regular marijuana use during teenage years can lead to an IQ drop of up to 8 points. [UNDOC, 2012, http://bit.ly/1Cu01Nj]