



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>]
- **Globally, one in every 10 girls aged 13-15 years and one in every 5 boys aged 13-15 years use tobacco.** [WHO, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1SLtkEI>]
- **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>]
- **Initiation of drug use occurs typically during late teenage and early adulthood.** [UNDOC, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1sILm15>]
- **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/1sILm15>]
- **Cannabis remains the most common illicit substance used among young people.** [UNDOC, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1sILm15>]
- **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>]