TACTS AND FIGURES FROM THE ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE, AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION TO THE ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE, AND THE ALCOHOL, DRUG ABUSE, DRUG

ESTIMATED COSTS TO U.S. SOCIETY IN 1983
OF ALCOHOL ABUSE, DRUG ABUSE, AND MENTAL ILLNESS
(In millions)

Core Costs	Alcohol Abuse	Drug Abuse	Mental Illness	Total
Direct				
Treatment and Support	\$14,685	\$ 2,049	\$33,445	\$50,359
Indirect				
Mortality Reduced Productivity Lost Employment	18,151 65,582 5,323	2,486 33,346 405	9,036 4,048 24,044	29,673 102,976 29,772
Related Costs				
Direct Motor Vehicle Crashes Crime Social Welfare Other	2,667 2,607 49 3,673	(1) 6,565 3 677	966 259 831	2,667 10,139 311 5,181
Indirect Victims of Crime Crime Careers Incarceration Motor Vehicle Crash (time loss)	192 0 2,979 583	945 10,846 2,425 (1)	146	1,137 10,846 5,549 583
Total(2)	\$116,674	\$59,747	\$72,775	\$249,196

Source: "Economic Costs to Society of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Mental Illness," study for the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration by Research Triangle Institute, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1984

For Further Information: Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, (301) 443-3783

Footnotes on reverse.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Costs are hypothesized to occur in this category, but sufficient data are not available to develop a reliable estimate.
- (2) Total costs to society for the three ADM disorders are not comparable, since completeness of data available for each cost category varies significantly, e.g. the estimate of reduced productivity is relatively complete for alcohol abuse, only partially complete for drug abuse, and incomplete for mental illness.

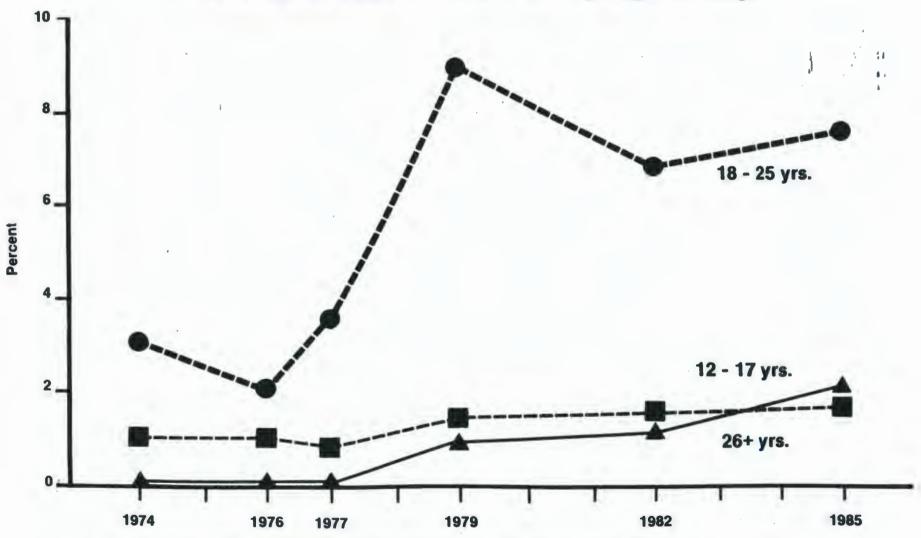
Recent Trends and Findings

- The 1985 Household Survey shows that there were approximately 113 million current users of alcohol. 18 million users of marijuana and almost 6 million cocaine users. (Refer to Chart #1) Although the numbers are high, the abuse of most drugs either leveled off in 1985, or was decreasing as compared to 1982, year of last survey.
- o New calculations based on the 1985 Household Survey show the lollowing positive increases in the average age at first use of "gateway" drugs: (Refer to Chart #2)

	1982	1985
cigarettes	10.9	11.4
alcohol	12.3	12.8
marijuana	13.4	13.5

- o Although the trends are encouraging, findings show that serious problems continue to exist: 36.8 million Americans (19%) of the household population age 12 years and older) reported having tried marijuana, cocaine, or other illicit drugs at least once in the <u>past year</u>, and 23 million (12%) reported having tried illicit drugs at least once during the <u>month prior</u> to being surveyed. These statistics are conservative estimates due to the fact that the surveys used do not include prisons and other institutions, or the homeless population.
- o Among American women. 18-34 years of age, almost one-third (30%) used an illicit drug at least once in the past year, and nearly one-fifth (18%) used an illicit drug at least once in the past month. Expanded prevention efforts with this population are required.
- o Among employed Americans, 20-40 years of age, nearly one out of six (16%) reported using marijuana at least once in the past month; and one out of every 20 (5%) reported using cocaine.

Cocaine
Trends in Past Month Use By Age Group



In 1974, 1976 and 1977 the estimates were less than .5% for the 26+ yrs. age group. Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1985.

The following information we (from 1986 High School Senie

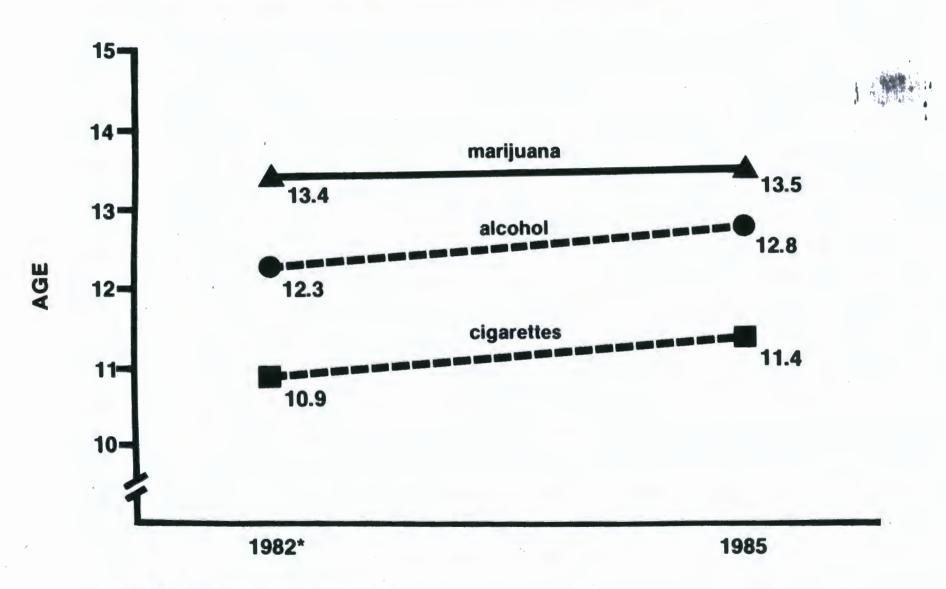
- o High school seniors' confrom 1985 (6.7%) to 196 use of cocaine have each 0.4% and 0.4 to 0.2% rethe nature of this drug incur problems in doing
- o Cocaine use remained at group despite the cumul regarding its addictive
- o This year's results cor the use of "crack." In that this form of cocar country.
- o The deaths of Len Bias survey was completed--: noted in the next survε

Attitude Changes

NIDA's National Survey of Ba Use revealed the following:

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Average Age of First Use of Cigarettes, Alcohol, and Marijuana



*First Year Data Available

Source: National Household Survey

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COCAINE ABUSE

Cocaine is one of the most powerfully addictive of the drugs of abuse. Most clinicians estimate that approximately 10 percent of the people who begin to use the drug "recreationally" will go on to serious, heavy use. An individual cannot predict or control the extent to which he or she will use the drug.

DANGERS OF COCAINE ABUSE

Some regular users of cocaine report feelings of restlessness, irritability, and anxiety. High doses of cocaine and/or chronic use can trigger paranoia. When some individuals stop using cocaine after extended periods they may become depressed. This may lead to further cocaine use to alleviate depression.

Occasional cocaine use may produce nasal congestion and a runny nose. A possible consequence of chronic cocaine snorting is ulceration of the mucous membrane of the nose. Heavy cocaine use can sufficiently damage the nasal septum to cause it to collapse.

Cocaine used at high doses or chronically can have toxic effects. Cocaine overdose deaths are a result of physiological seizures followed by respiratory arrest and coma, or sometimes by cardiac arrest.

In summary, cocaine is an extremely dangerous drug. Occasional use can lead to heavy, uncontrollable use of the drug.

METHODS OF USE

Cocaine is usually sniffed or "snorted" at doses of 10-40 mg and absorbed through the mucous membranes in the nose. It can also be injected, or after chemical conversion to a purified form known as "freebase," it can be smoked. Of particular concern are recent reports that smoking of cocaine paste is becoming more common among users. Originally noted in a somewhat different form by investigators in South America, this practice, as observed with the refined drug in the United States, increases the pharmacological effect of the drug. Unfortunately, it appears that compulsive cocaine use may develop even more rapidly if the substance is smoked rather than ingested intranasally. Cocaine use ranges from episodic or occasional use to repeated or compulsive use, with a variety of patterns between these extremes.

METHODS OF ACTION

Cocaine is a very strong central nervous system stimulant. Specific physical effects include constricted peripheral blood vessels, dilated pupils, and increased temperature, heart rate and blood pressure. Cocaine's immediate euphoric effects, which include hyperstimulation, reduced fatigue, and mental clarity, last approximately 30 to 60 minutes.

(More)

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Revised January 1986

Cocaine is a tightly controlled drug with legitimate medical uses. Its properties as a topical anesthetic and a vasoconstrictor make cocaine the drug of choice for certain types of surgery involving the nose, throat, larynx, and lower respiratory passages.

EXTENT OF COCAINE USE

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) estimates that between 20 and 24 million Americans have tried cocaine at least once in their lives; between 11 and 13 million have used cocaine during the last year; and between 3 and 5 million have used cocaine during the last month. Since 1972, the rate of increase for cocaine use across all age groups has been noticeably larger than the rate of increase for marijuana use.

National Household Survey

The National Household Survey, conducted by NIDA in 1982, found that since the early 1970's the rate of increase for cocaine use across all age groups has been noticeably larger than the rate for marijuana. Older adults (age 26 and over) show the most significant increase in lifetime cocaine use in 1982: 9 percent have tried the drug at least once, a significant increase from the 4 percent rate in 1979. Young adults (age 18-25) show the highest percent of lifetime cocaine use: 28 percent have tried the drug at least once in their lifetime, the same rate as shown in the 1979 survey.

Current use (use in the past month) among young adults has declined from 9 percent in 1979 to 7 percent in 1982. Of those young adults who have ever tried cocaine, 7.4 percent have used it once or twice compared to approximately 2.5 percent of the older adults. Over 12 percent of the young adults and 3 percent of the older adults had used cocaine 11 or more times during their lifetime.

High School Survey

A survey of 16,300 high school seniors, conducted in 1985 for NIDA by the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, found that the use of cocaine by high school seniors, which was fairly steady for the prior two years, showed an increase in 1985. The percentage of seniors who have ever used cocaine rose from 16.2 percent in 1983 to 17.3 percent in 1985, and the percentage of those who were currently using cocaine went from 4.9 percent in 1983 to 6.7 percent in 1985. These are the highest rates observed so far in this study.

Emergency Room and Medical Examiner Mentions

NIDA's Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) collects data on drug abuse morbidity and mortality through reports from selected hospital emergency rooms and medical examiners in 26 major metropolitan areas. In 1984, with 10,996 mentions from DAWN emergency rooms, cocaine ranked third on the list of drugs most frequently mentioned. Among cocaine emergency room episodes: 67 percent were male; 37 percent were white and 43 percent were black; and 52 percent were 20-to 29-year olds.

In 1984, medical examiners in the DAWN system reported 604 deaths involving cocaine alone or in combination with other drugs, including 181 deaths in which cocaine was used alone. The drug ranked third on the list of substances most frequently mentioned by medical examiners. Among cocaine related deaths: 77 percent were male; 57 percent were white and 33 percent were black; and the majority of cases were 20- to 39-year olds.

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COCAINE. THE BIG LIE.

To counter increasing cocaine use among older teenagers and young adults, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) launched a multi-media Cocaine Abuse Prevention Campaign, COCAINE. THE BIG LIE., in March, 1986. This public service campaign, developed by Needham Harper Worldwide, under the auspices of The Advertising Council, Inc., focuses on the addictive qualities of cocaine, its potential for producing severe health consequences and the need to seek treatment. As part of this campaign, an 800-toll-free telephone number, 1-800-662-HELP, operational after April 5, 1986, will direct users to treatment facilities in their local community.

From 1982 reports, NIDA estimates that between 20 and 24 million Americans have tried cocaine at least once in their lives; between 11 and 13 million used cocaine during the last year; and between 3 and 5 million used cocaine during the last month. Young adults, age 18 to 25, showed the highest percent of lifetime cocaine use: 28 percent have tried the drug at least once in their lifetime. NIDA has targeted its campaign to young adults, age 18 to 35, the age group showing greatest use of cocaine.

NIDA's latest study of drug use among high school seniors has found that seniors in the Class of 1985 are using cocaine at an unprecedented level. Seventeen percent have tried cocaine, 13% have used the drug in the last year, and 7% in the past month. Cocaine use is up in 1985 among rirtually all of the subgroups of seniors examined: among males and females, college bound and non-college bound, those in rural and urban areas, and all regions of the country except the South.

Cocaine is one of the most powerfully addictive of the drugs of abuse. In laboratory studies, animals given free access to cocaine will inject it to the point of death, selecting cocaine in preference to food and water. Clinicians estimate that approximately 10% of the people who use the drug "recreationally" will go on to serious, heavy use and an individual cannot predict or control the extent to which he or she will use the drug.

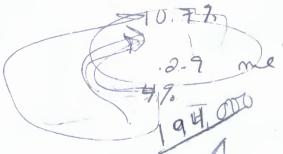
Cocaine exerts its effect by acting directly on the reward or pleasure centers of the brain. This brain action produces an intense desire to experience the effects of cocaine again and accounts for the development of compulsive use beyond the control of the user.

NIDA's multimedia prevention campaign includes radio and television public service announcements (PSA's) and print ads. It features real people from all walks of life who have been addicted to cocaine. They describe the seductive and addictive qualities of the drug and the devastating effect it has had on their own health, career and relationships.

Also included in the campaign, and currently available from NIDA, is a new publication, <u>COCAINE ADDICTION</u>: IT COSTS TOO MUCH. It has already been distributed to numerous organizations across the country. A Spanish translation of the publication will be available soon. For copies of this publication write to: COCAINE, P.O. Box 2305, Rockville, MD 20850.

For further information on NIDA's cocaine prevention campaign, please call the Communications Services Branch, NIDA on (301) 443-1124.

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ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE AMONG ADOLESCENTS

- o Approximately 6.2 million young people age 12-17 have used marijuana at some time during their lives; 2.7 million have used marijuana in the last month; 4.8 million have used marijuana in the past year. (1)
- o Nearly two-thirds (61%) of all American high school seniors use an illicit drug at least once before they finish high school; 40% have used drugs in addition to marijuana. (2)
- o Cocaine has been tried by at least 17% of seniors in the Class of 1985--the highest rate observed so far in the National High School Senior Survey. (2)
- o Approximately 80% of 1985 seniors acknowledged the harmful effects of using cocaine regularly (an increase of 10% since 1979); but only about 34% saw much risk in experimenting with it. (2)
- One out of every 20 high school seniors (4.9%) smokes marijuana on a daily basis. (2)
- o Approximately 30% of high school seniors have smoked cigarettes during the last month, a substantial proportion of whom are daily smokers. (2)
- o About one in 20 seniors (5.0%) drinks alcohol daily.
- o Approximately 92% of all high school seniors have used alcohol; 66% used alcohol in the last month, and 86% used it in the past year. (2)
- o Nearly half (45%) of boys and more than 1/4 (28%) of girls in the 1985 senior class report heavy party drinking (five or more drinks in a row) on at least one occasion in the two weeks prior to the 1985 survey. (2)
- Motor vehicle accidents involving alcohol are the leading cause of death for young Americans aged 15 to 19, accounting for 45% of fatalities in this age group. (3)
- o Although 16-24 year-olds comprise only 20% of licensed drivers in the U.S. and account for less than 20% of total vehicle miles traveled, they are involved in 42% of all fatal alcohol-related crashes. Close to 8,000 people between 15 and 24 were killed in alcohol-related traffic accidents in 1984, and an additional 220,000 were injured. (4)

No. 1, April 1986

Sources:

- (1) National Household Survey of Drug Abuse, 1982, Population Projections, for the National Institute on Drug Abuse
- (2) National High School Senior Survey, 1985, for the National Institute on Drug Abuse
- (3) <u>Vital Statistics in the U.S., 1980</u>, Vol. II, Mortality, Part A, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1985.
- (4) Fatal Accident Reporting System, Department of Transportation, 1984.

For further information:

National Institute on Drug Abuse, (301)443-6780
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism,
(301)443-3860
Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration,
(301) 443-3783

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