Adolescent Brain Development: Understanding the Impact of Substance Use

A Congressional Briefing Sponsored by
The Friends of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
And
The Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse

In cooperation with
The Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus

Monday, October 20, 2014
12:00 – 1:30 PM
(lunch will be available)

Capitol Visitors Center, Congressional Meeting Room South, Room 217

Scientific advances have shown that adolescent exposure to alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other substances may interfere with brain development, with potentially harmful long-term consequences. In the past two decades, we have learned that the brain continues to develop into a person’s twenties, making the widespread use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other substances among young people of serious concern. A robust portfolio of research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) focuses on the development of the adolescent brain – its vulnerability, plasticity and resiliency in the context of substance use. The goal of this work is to further our understanding of the impact of substance use and addiction on the developing adolescent brain to improve prevention and treatment strategies. As the nation continues to debate aspects of and approaches to alcohol and other substance use policy, more and more policymakers, physicians, parents, and teens are asking for definitive answers to decades-old questions about the risks and long-term effects of adolescent alcohol and substance use on health and well-being. The proposed Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study of 10,000 adolescents will recruit participants prior to the initiation of any substance use and follow them over 10 years, enabling us to definitively answer these pressing questions.

Speakers

George F. Koob, Ph.D., Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/NIH, will provide an overview of developmental research on alcohol use.

Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse/NIH, will provide an overview of developmental research on illicit substance use.

Sandra A. Brown, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor, Department of Psychology and Psychiatry and Vice Chancellor for Research, University of California, San Diego will discuss adolescent treatment and outcomes from the National Consortium on Alcohol and Neurodevelopment in Adolescence study.

Sponsoring Organizations


Positive RSVPs only to Will Starck at (202) 336-6182 or wstarck@apa.org