

Facts Sheet on Drugs

“Six percent of the U.S. population abuse illegal drugs.
Ten percent of the U.S. population are addicted to prescription drugs.”

- Charles Sell, *Helping Troubled Families: A Guide for Pastors, Counselors, and Supporters* (Baker Books, 2002)

“Statistics indicate that a person who does not begin to use illicit drugs as a teenager is less likely to ever use illicit drugs....Our government spends \$195 million in anti-drug messages”

“About 13.6 million Americans overall used illicit drugs”

“Marijuana remains the most used illegal drug, with 60 percent of all drug users using marijuana only and another 21 percent reporting the use of marijuana and another illicit drug.”

“Drug use among young people 12 to 17 was higher among those using cigarettes and alcohol than those abstaining from those substances”

- *Baptist Press*, 8-26-99

“A 2000 survey of drug use found that more than 2 million kids and teens in the USA reported sniffing glue or other dangerous inhalants to get high at least once in their life...That 2 million figure – about 9% of the 23 million Americans ages 12 to 17 – may underestimate the problem....chemicals in the vapors can trigger an irregular heartbeat that can kill suddenly, and without warning....The chemicals in these products offer a short-term buzz, but they also can cause brain damage, memory lapses, and other problems can lead to academic difficulties...The number of Americans ages 12 and older who have used inhalants at some point during their life-time has declined from 17 million in 1999 to 16.7 million in 2000. Yet those statistics don’t offer any comfort to experts who say that the number of first-time users of inhalants keeps going up”

- *USA Today*, March 14, 2002

“Next to alcohol, more young people use marijuana than any other drug. In 1995, more than 30 percent of high school seniors said that they had smoked marijuana in the past year....Marijuana is especially dangerous if it is used regularly for an extended period of time....Physically, it can damage the heart and lungs, effect athletic ability, reduce resistance to disease and interfere with normal sexual development... those who smoke marijuana at least 1000 times, 3/4 or more try cocaine, 1/3 try heroin.

- Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, February 1997

“According to SAMHSA’s National Survey of Drug Use and Health, today, an estimated 7.7 million persons aged 12 or older need treatment for an illicit drug problem; 18.6 million need treatment for an alcohol problem.”

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, February 26-27, 2003 report