

Drug Use - Gang Resource

LEARN THE WARNING SIGNS!

Few things are more destructive to a teen and their family than then drug use. Drugs can lead to violence, other criminal activity, and their effects or influence can even be deadly.

Because of this, the earlier that parents can intervene the better. Unfortunately, in most cases teens are using drugs for several months or even years before parents become aware of it. Even more tragic, when parents do finally become aware of drug use, they often underestimate the extent of their child's involvement.

If you are suspicious that your child may be using drugs, then you need to know what to look for. There are clear warning signs that he or she might be using illegal drugs which you should not ignore.

Teenagers (and especially children) seldom grasp the concepts or dangers of addiction. Most view themselves as invulnerable. For some teens, the stress of adolescence and pressure from their peers is overwhelming, and drugs become an enticing escape from their real world.

These are 34 signs of drug abuse provided by HelpForTeens.net:

- Neglected appearance or hygiene
- Poor self-image
- Grades dropping
- Violent outbursts at home
- Frequent use of Eye Wash
- Unexplained weight drop
- Drug Paraphernalia
- Slurred speech
- Frequent Curfew violations: (11pm-6am for minors under 15) (1am-6am for minors under 18)
- Running away
- Skin abrasions
- Hostility towards family members
- Chemical breath
- Glassy eyes
- Red eyes
- Valuables Missing
- Possessing unexplained valuables
- Stealing/borrowing money
- Change in friends
- Depression
- Withdrawal
- Apathy
- Reckless Behavior
- No Concern about future
- Defiles Family Values
- Disrespectful to parents
- Lying/Deception
- Sneaky behavior
- Disregards Consequences

- Loss of Interest in healthy Activities
- Verbally abusive
- Manipulative/Self-Centered
- Lack of Motivation
- Truancy

LEARN MORE ABOUT DEALING WITH DRUG ABUSE:

- D.A.R.E. - www.dare.com
- National Institute on Drug Abuse – www.drugabuse.gov
- NIDA for Teens: The Science Behind Drug Abuse - <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/>
- NIDA en Español - www.drugabuse.gov/es/en-espanol

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