

We Need You, But We Won't Say It: Importance of Addiction Professionals to Focus on Adolescent Population

Dr. Carmela Y Drake, LPC-S, NCC, CAADP, ACGC-III

Objectives

1. To learn the prevalence of youth addictions, nationally and locally.
2. To be aware of the current state of practitioners and workforce needs in the field of addiction
3. To understand the importance of partnerships with academia to increase exposure and increase recruitment of beginning professionals into the field of addiction



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Monitoring the Future

Given annually to 8th, 10th, and 12th graders

Self-report

Results released the same year of collection

Collected Feb-June, 2023

Demographics

- N=22,318
- 13% African-American
- 1% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 3% Asian
- 25% Hispanic
- 1% Middle Eastern
- 41% White
- 16% more than one of the preceding categories

Demographics

- 47% Female
- 48% Male
- 1% as other
- 4% prefer not to answer

- 2023 Illicit Drug Use
 - 10.% of 8th graders
 - 19.8 of 10th graders
 - 31.2% of 12th graders
- **2010-2021**
 - **Rise in overdose deaths among teens**

Remained Stable....

- Alcohol use
- Nicotine vaping
- Cannabis
- Illicit drug use other than marijuana

Decreased.....

- Use of narcotics other than heroin (Vicodin, OxyCotin, Percocet, etc)

Abstention.....

- Increased for 12th graders, remained stable for 8th and 10th graders

Delta-8-THC Measures

- 11.4% of 12th graders reporting use
- 8th and 10th graders will be included in 2024

A map of the United States with the state of Alabama highlighted in red. The rest of the map is in a light yellow color with black outlines for state boundaries. The text is centered over the map.

Teenagers in Alabama are 16.10% less likely to have used drugs in the last month than the average American Teen

Specifically.....

- 26,000 (6.99%) of 12 to 17 year olds report using drugs in the last month
 - 84.62% using marijuana
 - 9.68% of all teens report using marijuana
 - .27% using cocaine
 - .27% using methamphetamines
 - Up to .13% used heroin (data is limited)
 - 4.03% misuse pain relievers
 - 8.33% used alcohol

2010-2021

Rise in overdose deaths among teens

- Among ages 14-18 years overdose deaths increased 94% from 2019 to 2020 and 20% from 2020 to 2021
- UCLA Health report that an average of 22 adolescents 14-18 years of age died in the US each week in 2022 from drug overdoses

“Fentanyl has rapidly become a leading cause of death in American teens”, Dr. Scott Hadland

Educating adolescents about the dangers of illicit manufactured fentanyl (IMFs) and counterfeit pills, working with Public Safety to reduce availability of illicit drugs, **ensuring access to evidence-based substance use and mental health treatment services.**

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6,822 Areas Designated MH Professional Shortage Areas

- 470 million citizens
- Need 8,504 professionals to remove designation
 - 30k:1, 20K:1 in high risk areas
- 4,134 rural (39 million...need 2, 284)
- 2,193 non –rural (57 million, need 3, 032)
- 511 partially rural (73 million, need 3,156)
- 14 categorized as unknown (504K, need 49)

Region 4

- **Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee**

Alabama

- **88 designated area**
- **Affecting 5,744,290 citizens**
- **277 practitioners needed**



Alabama Addiction Professionals

- 113, 267 considered addiction/behavioral therapist

2021

- 2.26 million treated for alcohol use disorder and 48K were between the aged of 12-17 years of age (nationally)

Workforce Development

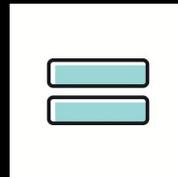
Refers to the recruitment, retention, and continuing growth of qualified professionals in the field of addictions treatment.

Addiction Science



Social Services

Addiction Science



Social Science

Who is Being Served

18-25 years (21.3%)

12-17 years (8%)

26+ (7.2%)

$\frac{3}{4}$ of the addiction professionals is 40+ years of age

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Ensuring access to evidence-based substance
use and mental health treatment services

Recruitment Priorities

- Expanding recruitment of healthcare professionals in addiction medicine
- **Improving student recruitment with educational institutions with focus on under-represented groups**
- Employing marketing strategies to attract workers to addiction treatment field
- Continuing efforts to reduce the stigma associated with working in addictions treatment

Target Audiences in Addiction Treatment Recruitment

Need to increase African-American and Latino clinicians between the
ages of 21-25 and 35-50.

Create Pipeline Programs

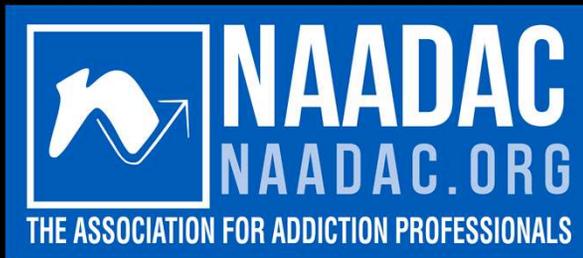
At the core of pipeline programs is the desire to help students thrive. These programs provide students with the resources and support they need to succeed, including *academic support, mentorship, internships, and other opportunities* to gain hands-on experience in their field of study (Howard, 2023)

Benefits

- Increase workplace diversity
- Increase pool of qualified workers

Academic Support

- **Minority Fellowship Program**
 - The program will administer up to 40 master's degree-level counseling fellowships of \$15,000 for addictions counseling students, plus the travel expenses to participate in other program-related training



Scholarship and Loan Forgiveness Programs

- NHSC Scholarship Program
- NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Forgiveness Program
 - The NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program (NHSC SUD Workforce LRP) is open through **May 9, 7:30 p.m. ET.**



Mentorship and Internship Programs

- Identify the universities and colleges that offer counseling programs
 - **Alabama State University**
 - Rehabilitation Services, Addiction Studies
 - Rehabilitation Counseling
 - Clinical Mental Health
- Provide a number of designated spots for internship opportunities that allow for a diverse group of recruitment from supported employments specialists, case managers, and therapists in substance use treatment.

Workforce Recruitment

NEEDS

To Be Intentional

References

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Contact

- Carmela Y Drake, PhD, LPC-S, NCC, CAADP, ACGC-III
- cdrake@alasu.edu
- 334.229.8841