Past 30 Day Use of Marijuana among Delaware Teenagers and Young Adults (2013-2015): Diverging Trends

Numerous factors from adolescent life context, such as peer pressure and portrayal of marijuana in the media, are widely studied for their association with adolescent marijuana use. Public health prevention efforts often focus more on adolescent marijuana use than that of adults. However, the latest data on Delaware substance use shows that while teen marijuana use continues to decline in an era where various states have begun to legalize “pot,” young adult use is rising. The rate of people aged 18 to 25 who reported smoking marijuana during the past 30 days has risen from 19.9% in 2013 to 22.6% in 2015. During the same time frame, teen past month marijuana use dropped from 9.3% to 7.1%. More than 1 in every 5 young adults reported getting high during the previous month, three times the rate among Delaware teens. Continuing efforts to decrease the risk factors for adolescent marijuana use may yield expected effect, but corresponding prevention messages and education initiatives should be tailored for young adults as well.