

Marijuana Use Disorders: Dependence and Treatment Research

A Congressional Briefing

Sponsored by

The FRIENDS OF NIDA

In conjunction with

The Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Noon - 2:00 pm

Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-338

(Box lunches will be available)

Beginning in the mid-1990's the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)'s Monitoring the Future study showed a consistent decline in marijuana use among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. In the past few years this trend has stalled, and in 2010 increases in past year, past month, and daily use were reported among 8th graders as were increases in daily use for both 10th and 12th graders. Perceived risk of regular marijuana use has also declined among 10th and 12th graders suggesting future trends in use may continue upward, signaling the need for greater attention from the prevention community. Long-term marijuana use can lead to addiction; people use the drug compulsively even though it interferes with family, school, work, and recreational activities. Of the estimated 7.1 million Americans classified with dependence on or abuse of illicit drugs in 2009, 4.3 million were dependent on or abused marijuana. Behavioral interventions focused on marijuana use and addiction have shown similar efficacy as treatments used for other drugs of abuse. Although no medications are currently available, recent discoveries about the function of the cannabinoid system offer promise for the development of medications to ease withdrawal, block the intoxicating effects of marijuana, and prevent relapse.

Speakers

Nora D. Volkow, MD (Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse) will provide an overview of NIDA's current and planned portfolio on marijuana research.

Alan J. Budney, PhD (Professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences' Center for Addiction Research) will discuss marijuana use disorder topics including treatment of dependence and withdrawal.

Sponsoring Organizations

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry - American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry - American Academy of Pediatrics - American Psychiatric Association - American Psychological Association - American Society of Addiction Medicine - American Sociological Association - College on Problems of Drug Dependence -

Consortium of Social Science Associations - Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences - National Association of Community Health Centers - National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors - Society for Prevention Research - State Associations of Addiction Services - NAADAC - The Association for Addiction Professionals

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