

Social Media's Impact on Teen Drug Use

- 1) Teen drug use produces signs such as loss of interest in friends and activities that used to be enjoyed, aggression, sleeping more, withdrawn, decreased cash flow, health concerns, poor hygiene, and appearance, etc.¹
- 2) “More than one-third of students reported they have never heard of fentanyl (37.8%) and 2% reported that they have used fentanyl in their lifetime. 26% of students reported they have seen or heard advertisements warning of the dangers of fentanyl, and 17.1% reported they talked to a parent or guardian about the dangers of fentanyl. Among the surveyed youth who have heard of fentanyl, 70.3% reported that they think people who use fentanyl are at “great risk” of harming themselves and 10.2% reported that it would be easy or very easy to get fentanyl.”²
- 3) Social media may be utilized to sell, promote, and glamorize drug use but is also a platform to be educated on facts, seek help and resources to make good decisions.
- 4) Studies show that there could be an increase to drug use when teens see others using drugs and perceive they are more popular and are having more fun both in-person and online.³
- 5) Research indicates that a great number of teens are online so marketers may want to utilize this platform to sell to teens. It is illegal to buy or sell illegal substances: **13-3406. Possession, use, administration, acquisition, sale, manufacture, or transportation of prescription-only drugs; misbranded drugs; classification; definition and 3-3408. Possession, use, administration, acquisition, sale, manufacture, or transportation of narcotic drugs.** Minors could be charged with a felony drug possession; ordered drug counseling, probation or diversion program, community service; academics may suffer, loss of privileges at home such as use of car, internet and social life, loss of jobs, scholarships, extracurricular activities or position in school sports and clubs, may affect ability to graduate with class in ceremony or driver's license.

¹ <https://drugfree.org/article/signs-of-drug-use-in-teens/>

² https://www.azcjc.gov/Portals/0/Documents/pubs/AYSReports/2022/AYS_2022%20State_Report_FINAL_09072022.pdf

³ <https://www.addictioncenter.com/community/social-media-teen-drug-use/>