The Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study

Substance Use: Findings from Age 22

The FFCWS is a longitudinal birth cohort study that has been following approximately 5,000 young adults and their families since they were born about 22 years ago. The study oversampled births to unmarried parents resulting in an oversample of disadvantaged families who are often underrepresented in large, national datasets. We have collected data on these young adults and their parents at 7 time periods: when the child was born and when they were ages 1, 3, 5, 9, 15, and 22.

In this brief, we present weighted findings from the FFCWS Year 22 national sample which includes 2,157 young adults (YAs) and 1,978 primary caregivers (PCGs). Focusing on the topic of substance use, this brief includes finding from both the YA and PCG surveys. Year 22 items about substance use are outlined in Box 1.

Box 1. Substance Use Items in FFCWS Y22 Data

In both YA and PCG surveys:
- Marijuana Use
- Tobacco Use
- Alcohol Use
- Other Drug Use
- Substance Use Treatment

In YA survey only:
- Vaping Use

Substance Use

- Tobacco used in past 30 days
- Alcohol used in past 12 months
- Marijuana used in past 12 months
- Ever tried other drugs

Vaping

- 41% of YAs have ever vaped
- In the last 12 months, 26% of YAs have vaped nicotine, 22% have vaped marijuana, and 11% have vaped flavoring only.

Substance Use Treatment

- 2.5% of YAs and 2.5% of PCGs reported ever receiving treatment for alcohol or drugs.

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