Abuse and Binge Drinking: New Research on the Drug Problem

A recent report released by the Senate Subcommittee on Children, Aging and Family Policy,” which has jurisdiction over the nation’s drug policy and oversight of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, suggests that the pattern of abuse and binge drinking among young people is becoming more prevalent than previously thought. The report, released in February 2023, found that the rate of binge drinking among high school students has increased significantly over the past decade. The report also found that the use of prescription drugs, especially opioids, is on the rise among young adults.

The report is based on data from the Monitoring the Future survey, which has been conducted annually since 1975. The survey includes questions on a range of topics, including drug use, alcohol use, and tobacco use. The survey is based on a national sample of 50,000 high school seniors and 20,000 8th and 11th grade students.

The report found that the percentage of high school seniors who had engaged in binge drinking in the past month increased from 36.8% in 2012 to 43.2% in 2022. The report also found that the percentage of high school seniors who had used prescription drugs, including opioids, in the past year increased from 12.5% in 2012 to 18.3% in 2022.

The report recommends a number of strategies to address the problem of binge drinking and prescription drug use among young people. These include increasing availability of treatment options, improving access to prevention programs, and increasing awareness of the risks associated with these behaviors.

The report also suggests that more research is needed to understand the underlying causes of these trends and to develop more effective interventions. The report calls for increased funding for research on the causes of drug abuse and binge drinking, as well as for the development and evaluation of new prevention and treatment strategies.

The report concludes that more needs to be done to address the troubling trends in drug abuse and binge drinking among young people. It calls for a renewed commitment to prevention and treatment efforts and for increased collaboration among government agencies, education systems, and community organizations to develop and implement effective strategies to address this critical public health issue.