

# Juvenile justice



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There are four groups of juvenile substance abusers the first one is the experimental substance user. This group tends to use drugs only rarely simply to test the effects on themselves. Unfortunately, some in this group may end up enjoying the various affects and this can lead into the next group which is the social or recreational user. This group tends to use illegal substances in conjunction with social activities and within peer groups. The third grouping of juvenile substance users is the group that spends an inordinate amount of time obtaining drugs or alcohol however, is still able to function within society. According to a report from the National Institute of Justice, " Research indicates that a relatively small group of serious juvenile offenders who are also serious drug users account for a disproportionate amount of all serious crimes committed by juveniles." (Vanderwaal, et al. 1) This report shows that serious juvenile drug abusers are at a subsequently higher risk for the eventual commission of serious crimes. The fourth group of juvenile alcohol and drug users is the hard core user who is unable to function within society, and may present a much higher threat to society and themselves as a direct result. While the fourth group is extreme and may seem to be more severe type it would likely be the third group that would present the largest threat to society and the user themselves. The third grouping spends time and money that they may need to steal to obtain the drugs and is still able to function to a degree within society. By virtue of ability to function and extreme desire for the substances of choice this user would likely represent the greatest threat. Reference page: Vanderwaal, et al.,. " Breaking the Juvenile drug-crime cycle, a guide for practitioners and policymakers." National Institute of Justice (2001): 1. Web. 23 Apr 2011. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/186156.pdf>  
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