

# Why Families Support the Merger of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

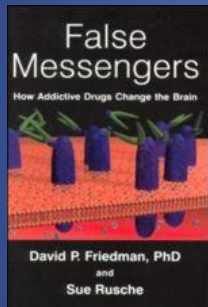


Sue Rusche  
President and CEO, National Families in Action  
Atlanta, Georgia

# National Families in Action's Programs



Addiction Studies Program



False Messengers



Original Parent Movement

Parent Corps Pilot Program

National Parents Corps Act of 2009



# Addiction Studies Program

with Wake Forest University School of Medicine

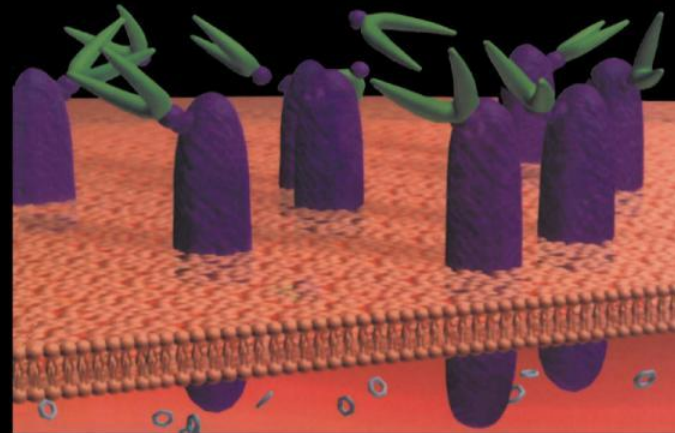
- Journalists Program
  - Provide a basic understanding of the science that underlies drug abuse and addiction
    - Print, broadcast, & electronic journalists
- States Program
  - Help states strengthen their drug policies based on evidence-based programs
    - State legislators and executive branch leaders

# False Messengers

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## False Messengers

How Addictive Drugs Change the Brain

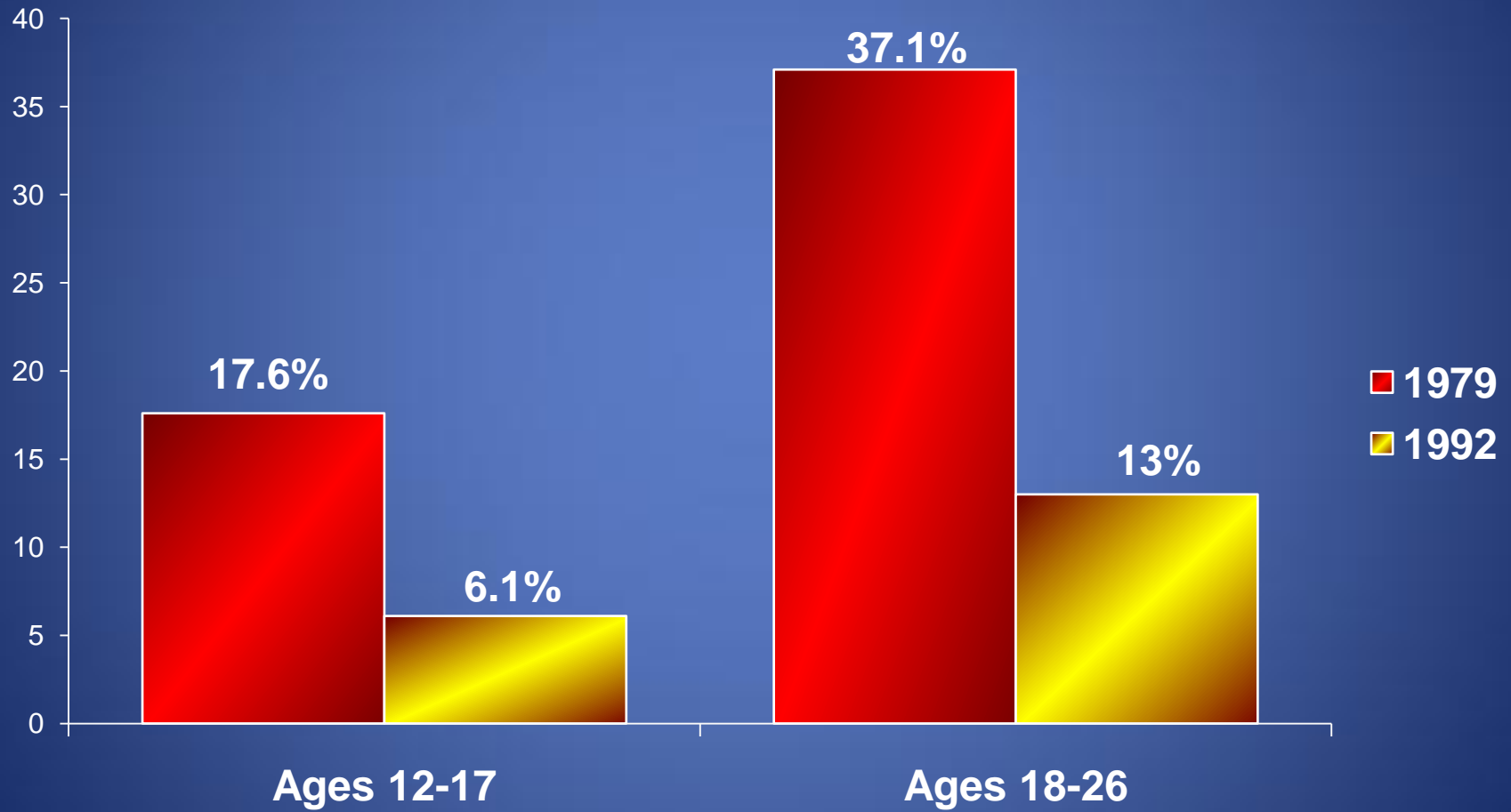


David P. Friedman, PhD  
and  
Sue Rusche

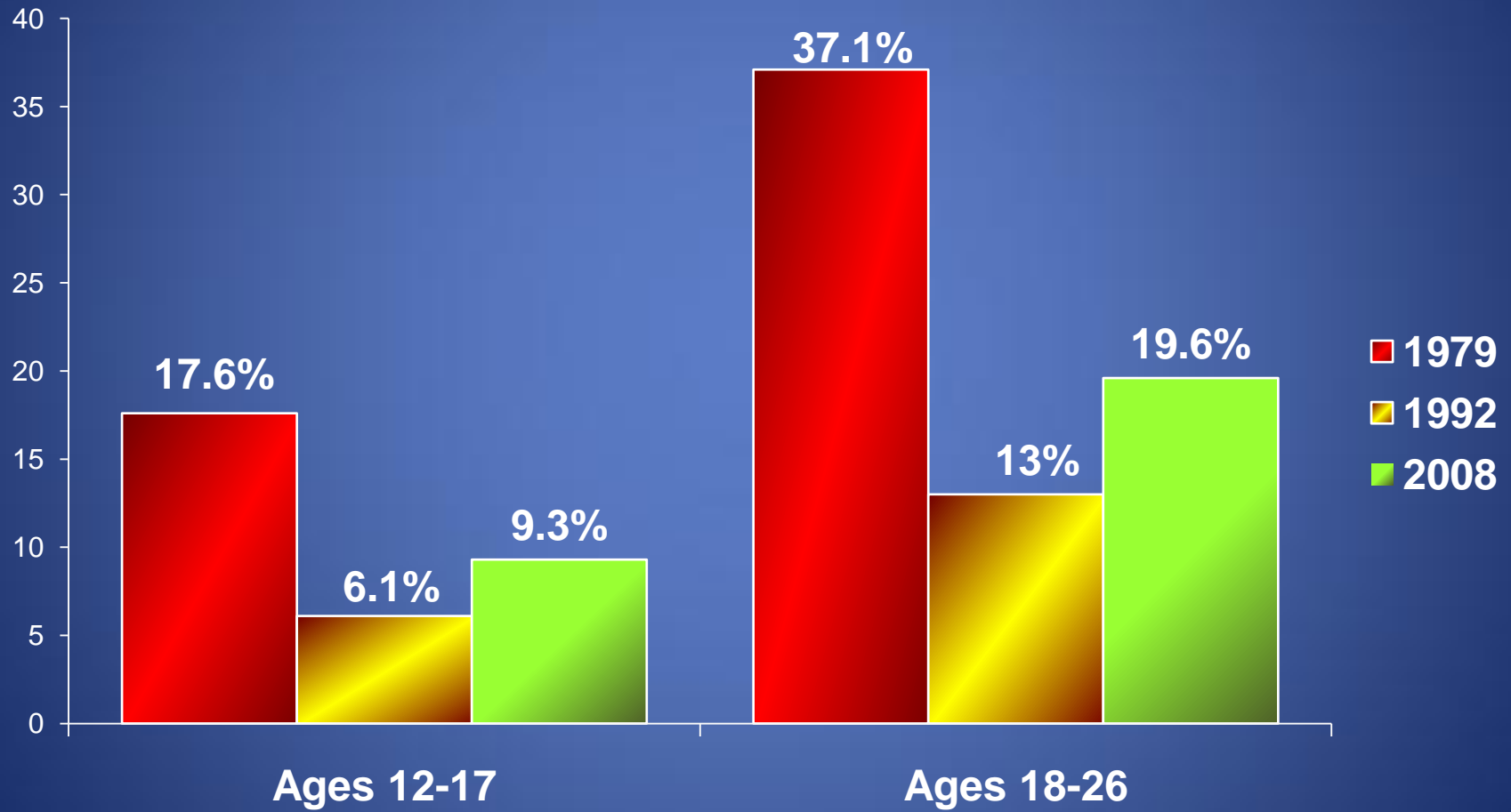
Also available as a printed book  
see title verso for ISBN details

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# Past month drug use, 1979-1992



# Past month drug use, 1979-2008





## Parent Corps Pilot Program

# Created Parent Corps

To institutionalize original parent movement

Modeled after Peace Corps (Peace Corps for parents)

\$4.2 million grant 3-year pilot program (2003-2006)



19 middle schools  
or high schools  
in nine states:

California  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
Georgia  
Illinois  
Kansas  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Wisconsin

First Annual Parent Corps Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, June 2005

## Parent Corps model

One salaried Parent Leader per school

- Works with other parents in his/her child's school

Nonprofit partners

- Recruit Parent Corps schools, Parent Leaders

National Families in Action

- Hires & trains Parent Leaders
- Manages & supervises Parent Leaders day-to-day



## What do Parent Leaders do?

Recruit and educate parents

Disseminate information

Assess and address parents' concerns

Host meetings, trainings, workshops

Mobilize parents

- To make homes, school, and surrounding community healthy and safe for adolescents
- Reduce commercial pressures that exploit teens

## Parent Corps Pilot Program

# Recruiting parents



Ana Gonzalez, Osborne Parent Leader, recruits parents into the Parent Corps as part of Osborne High School Parent Corps activities.

## Parent Corps Pilot Program

# Educating, training, and mobilizing parents

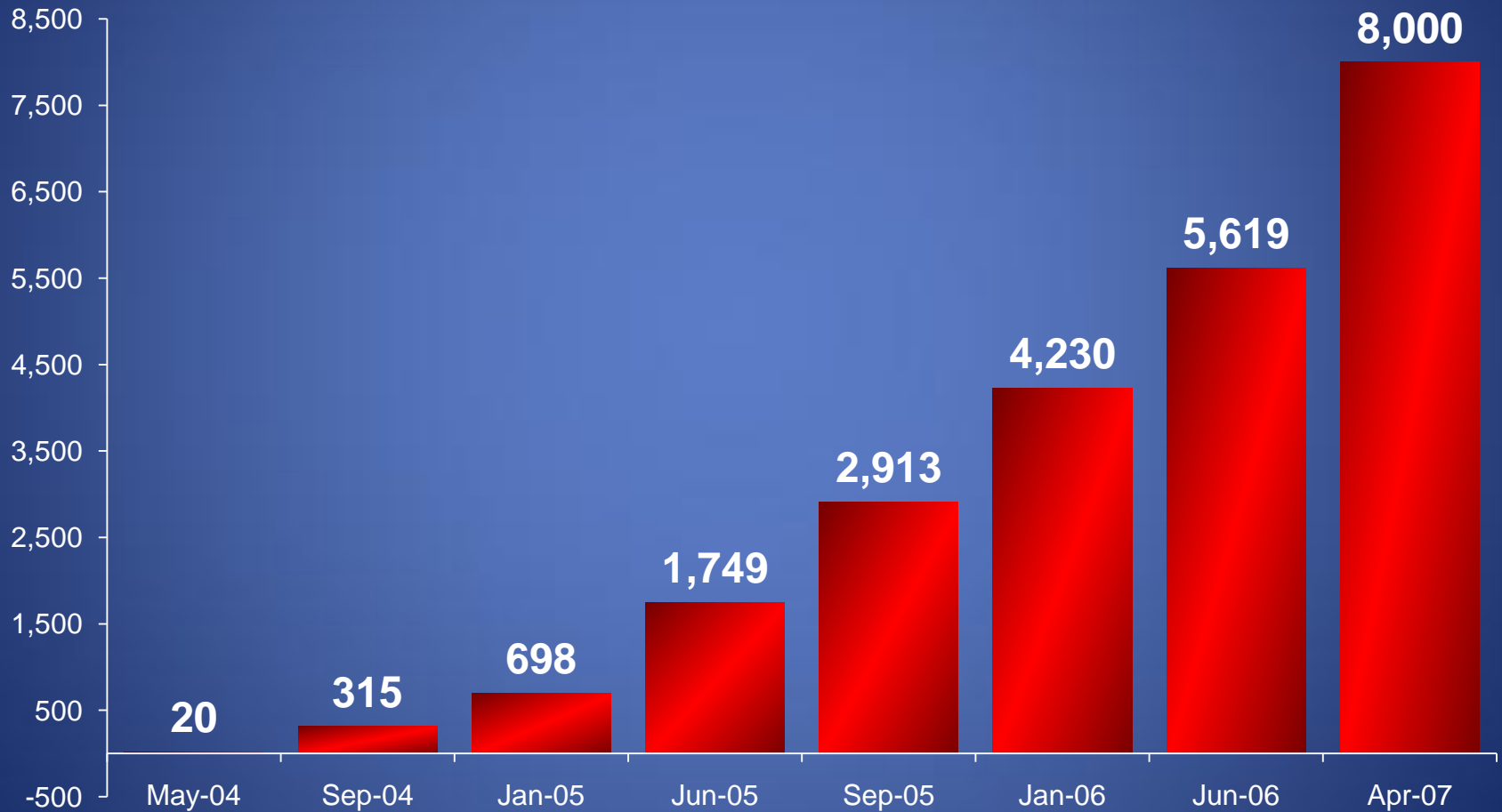


Sharing Best Practices at the First Annual Parent Corps Conference, Atlanta Georgia, June 2005

## Parent Corps Pilot Program Results

# Parent Corps parent membership

(19 schools in 9 states)





## Parent Corps Pilot Program Unanticipated Results

# Parent Corps school principals

- Positive communications from parents doubled
- Student attendance increased
- Grades increased
- Discipline problems decreased
- Drop-out rates decreased



Six Parent Corps school principals address Second Annual Parent Corps Conference in Washington D.C., June 2006.

## Parent Corps Pilot Program Results

# The Parent Corps builds

a delivery system that reaches into the heart of the family to protect adolescents from harm.



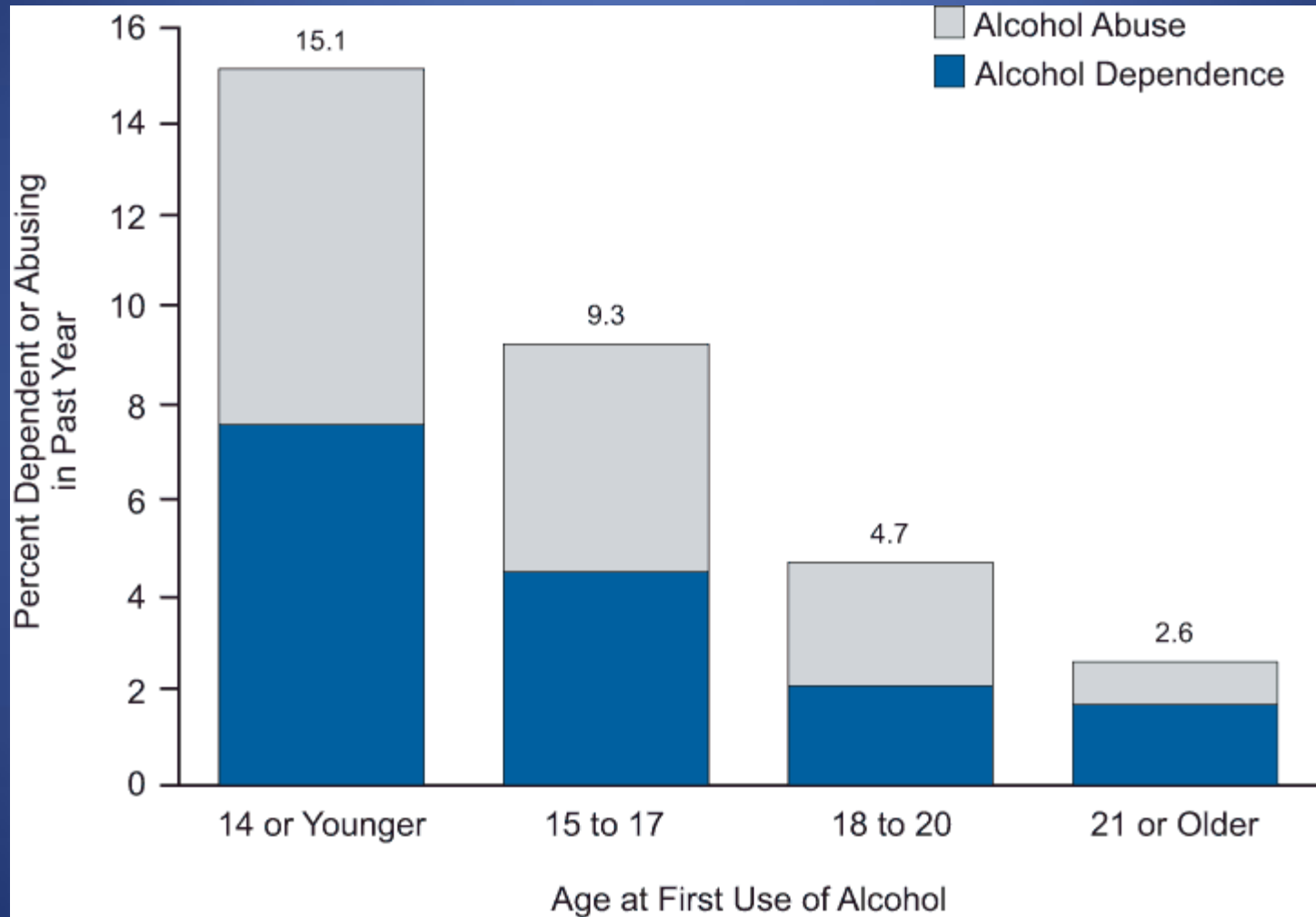
Dinner workshop for parents at Suzanne Middle School Parent Corps and Walnut High School Parent Corps, Walnut, California.



# The National Parents Corps Act of 2009

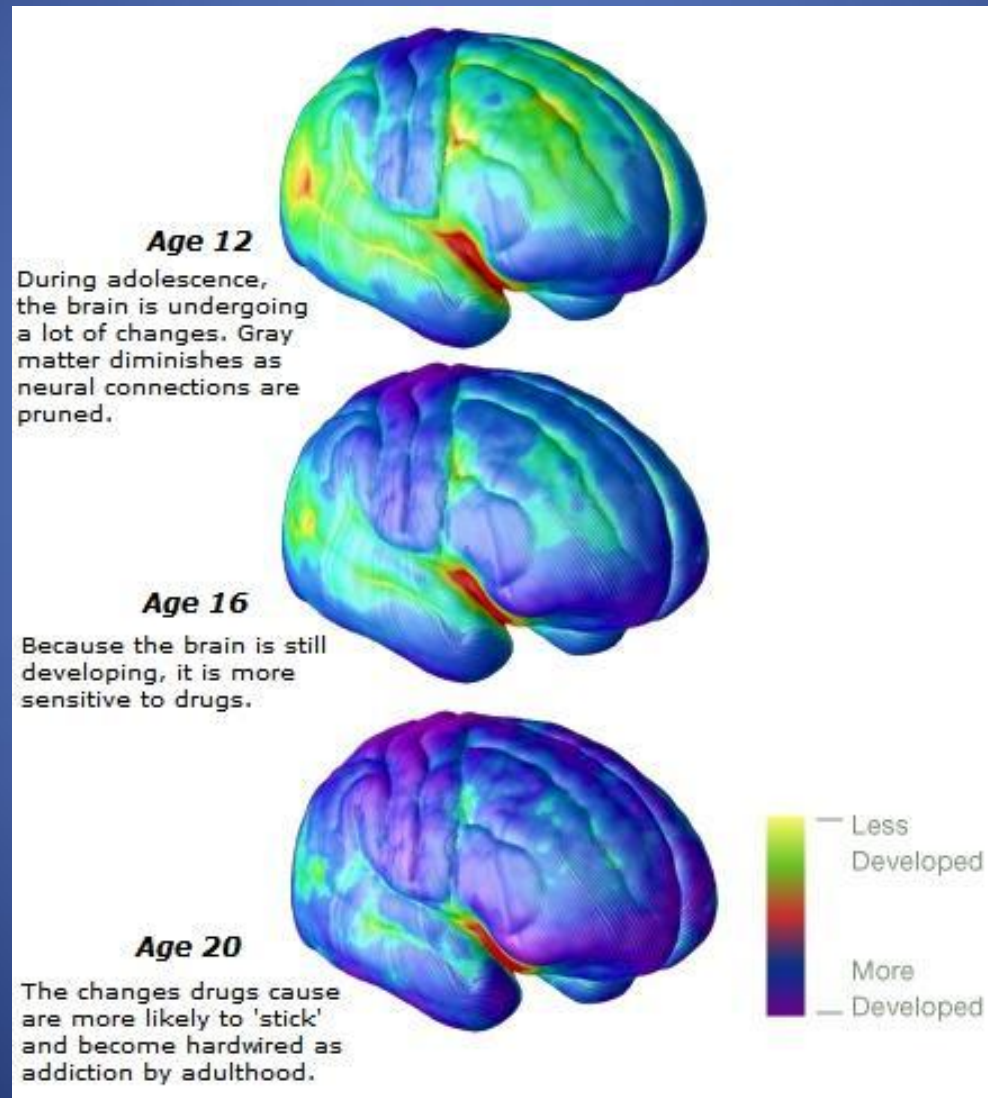
- Sponsored by Congressman John Lewis
- H.R. 3075 will establish a national Parent Corps program for all states, based on results of Parent Corps pilot program
- For more information or to ask your Congress person to cosponsor H.R. 3075, contact: Jamila Thompson, 202-225-3801 or [Jamila.thompson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jamila.thompson@mail.house.gov)

# Addiction begins in childhood. The earlier adolescents start, the more likely they will develop addiction.



Alcohol dependence or abuse in the past year among adults aged 21 or older, by age at first use of alcohol  
2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

# Their developing brains make them more vulnerable to making poor decisions and, possibly, to developing addiction.



**Once adolescents initiate use,  
they don't use just drugs OR just alcohol . . .**

## **NIDA Portfolio**

**Marijuana**

**Cocaine**

**Other Illicit Drugs**

**Prescription Drugs**

**Nicotine**

**Inhalants**

## **NIAAA Portfolio**

**Wine**

**Liquor**

**Beer**

**They  
use  
everything!**



# There are many good reasons to merge NIDA and NIAAA.

- We think the most important reason is to end the artificial barrier between alcohol and other addictive drugs.
  - Journalists report on both alcohol and other drug problems
  - States cope with both alcohol and other drug problems
  - Families struggle with both alcohol and other drug problems
- It makes sense for a single institute to reflect what is going on in the real world. . .





**for the sake of all our children.**