

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Event registration opens today for National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week®
Observance to be held January 22-27, 2019, with new resources for parents and educators*

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) announced today that event registration is open for the next [National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week®](#) (NDAFW), to be held on Jan. 22-27, 2019. NDAFW is an annual, week-long series of educational events that link teens with scientific experts to **SHATTER THE MYTHS®** about substance use and addiction. NIDA and NIAAA are both part of the National Institutes of Health.



Dr. Volkow talks about NDAFW

Since its inception in 2010, NDAFW has continued to grow, with more than 2,100 NDAFW events held throughout all 50 states and in 35 countries last year. NDAFW events can be held by a variety of organizations, including schools, community groups, sports clubs, and hospitals, and/or promoted through a variety of vehicles, such as blogs or social media. Activities can focus on general drug use or on specific trends of concern in individual communities.

“Disseminating understandable science-based facts on substance use truly matters to the future health of communities in America and around the world, so we work to make it as easy as possible to hold events and promotional activities,” said NIDA Director Nora D. Volkow, M.D. “Teens -- wherever they live -- can only make smart choices when they are aware of the potential consequences of those choices.”

“Through this ongoing partnership with our NIDA colleagues we strive to stay connected with young people by sharing vital information about the harmful effects of alcohol use by teens,” said NIAAA Director George F. Koob, Ph.D. “For example, all teens should know that the brain is still developing into the mid-20’s, making the adolescent brain particularly vulnerable to alcohol-related harm that can last into adulthood.”

NIDA has produced a wide variety of resources for organizers of NDAFW events and promotional activities, including new resources for parents and educators:

- An [online guide](#), which gives event organizers everything needed to [plan](#) and host a NDAFW event or activity.
- Online resources for parents and educators that offer classroom activities for NDAFW and other year-round lessons on drugs and alcohol, including an easy-to-use [Lesson Plan](#)

[and Activity Finder](#). New this year is an interactive [infographic](#) for help with safe disposal of unused prescription medicines.

- [Free booklets](#) with science-based facts about drugs and alcohol available to event planners who register online. Resources include one of NIDA's most in-demand teen publications, Drugs: SHATTER THE MYTHS, which now has an [animated version](#). Also new this year is an [Opioids: Facts for Teens booklet](#).
- Drug or audience-specific [toolkits](#) for event planners to use in their respective communities. New this year will be a toolkit on drugged driving for event organizers interested in addressing the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. All toolkits will be updated in December as new data become available.
- [New activity ideas for events](#), including the [GRAMMY Foundation® and MusiCares® Teens! Make Music Contest](#). Additionally, NIDA will have a [featured resources](#) section updated weekly with suggestions for activities.
- Instructions on [how to promote your event](#), including a “Tools for Success” presentation, sample press and social media outreach materials, and new tips and resources for online events (available later in the year).
- An easy-to-use [registration page](#) for events, distribution of materials and/or promotion of NDAFW through social media. No matter the size of the effort, registration is encouraged.

NIDA and NIAAA will also launch the newest National Drug & Alcohol IQ Challenge, a 12-question, multiple choice quiz that takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Available in both English and Spanish, it can be projected on large screens at events, or used with mobile devices. More than 32,000 people took the IQ Challenge last year. The 2019 IQ challenge will be posted in January to the following link: <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/quiz/national-drug-alcohol-facts-week/take-iq-challenge>

During the observance week, National Drugs & Alcohol Chat Day will be held on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST, where more than 50 NIH scientists and science writers will answer anonymous questions from teens in schools around the country. Registration for Chat Day will open later this year, on a first come, first served basis. In previous years, more than 50 schools participated with more than 10,000 questions submitted. Further details on the annual chat can be found at: <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/national-drug-alcohol-facts-week/chat-with-scientists>.

NDAFW is supported by many [partners](#), including federal agencies, such as: the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy; the Office of Safe and Healthy Students in the U.S. Department of Education; the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; and the Drug Enforcement Administration in the U.S. Department of Justice.

To receive an e-newsletter about NDAFW planning, organizations can e-mail NIDA at drugfacts@nida.nih.gov.

To join the conversation on social media, follow @NIDAnews and @NIAAAnews and look for the hashtag #NDAFW. Details about a NDAFW twitter chat will be shared later this year. To see press highlights and previous articles about NDAFW, go to: <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/national-drug-alcohol-facts-week/view-events-and-highlights/2018/highlights>.

For all information related to NDAFW, go to: <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/national-drug-alcohol-facts-week>.

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About the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA): The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDA supports most of the world's research on the health aspects of drug use and addiction. The Institute carries out a large variety of programs to inform policy, improve practice, and advance addiction science. Fact sheets on the health effects of drugs and information on NIDA research and other activities can be found at www.drugabuse.gov, which is now compatible with your smartphone, iPad or tablet. To order publications in English or Spanish, call NIDA's DrugPubs research dissemination center at 1-877-NIDA-NIH or 240-645-0228 (TDD) or email requests to drugpubs@nida.nih.gov. Online ordering is available at drugpubs.drugabuse.gov. NIDA's media guide can be found at www.drugabuse.gov/publications/media-guide/dear-journalist, and its easy-to-read website can be found at www.easyread.drugabuse.gov. You can follow NIDA on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About the National Institutes of Health (NIH): NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.

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