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## Adolescent Substance Use Disorders: From Acute Adolescent Substance Use Disorders: From Acute Treatment to Recovery Management

**William L. White, M.A., Michael L. Dennis, Ph.D., and Mark D. Godley, Ph.D.**

### Abstract

A surge in adolescent alcohol and illicit drug use during the 1990s triggered renewed calls for evidence-based intervention programs and sparked an unprecedented federal investment in treatment-related adolescent research. This article discusses some of the major findings of this research (particularly the just-completed Cannabis Youth Treatment study) with particular reference to their implications for the design of community-based services for substance-involved youth and families. For adolescent substance use disorders characterized by high severity and chronicity, co-morbidity, and low family and social network support, the authors call for supplementing traditional, acute models of brief intervention with more time-sustained, ecologically-focused models of recovery management.