

USC INSTITUTE FOR ADDICTION SCIENCE SPEAKER SERIES



“The Great Decline in Adolescent Smoking: Consequences for Illegal Drug Use”

RICHARD MIECH, Ph.D.

**Research Professor, Institute for Social Research
University of Michigan**

Friday, 02.15.19 | 1:30-3:00 pm | SSB 117

Soto Street Building– 2001 N. Soto Street – Health Sciences Campus

Richard Miech, Ph.D., is the Principal Investigator of the Monitoring the Future Survey, a nationally-representative survey that annually surveys about 45,000 adolescents in ~400 schools throughout the U.S. He is a Research Professor at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. He received his Ph.D. degree in Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a MPH degree from Johns Hopkins University. His work focuses on trends in substance use, with an emphasis on disentangling how these trends vary by age, historical period, and birth cohort membership. Other research interests include the rapid growth of vaping in recent years and its long-term consequences.

Dr. Miech's presentation focuses on the “great decline” in adolescent cigarette smoking, which has led to a fourfold decline in the past two decades. This decline would be expected to carry with it a decrease in levels of adolescent use of illegal drugs, including marijuana, binge drinking, opioids, amphetamines, and tranquilizers. In this paper he considers the degree to which the decline in smoking has brought about declines in use of these other drugs, and projects what adolescent use of these drugs would look like today if the great decline in adolescent cigarette smoking had not taken place.