

Coordinator's Report

Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

August 2009

SPOTLIGHT

Prescription Drug Abuse: A National Wakeup Call

It is becoming increasingly apparent that Michael Jackson's prescription drug addiction was the cause of his death. The sad reality is that his prescription drug addiction has a long and intense history. Perhaps the rest of us can recognize and utilize Jackson's story as the national wakeup call that it is.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), "prescription drugs account for the second most commonly abused category of drugs, behind marijuana and ahead of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and other drugs."

A 2006 National Survey on Drug Use disclosed that up to 7 million people aged 12 or older had used prescription medications for non-medical purposes in the month prior to the survey.

Adult prescription drug abuse usually stems from over-use and addiction to prescription drugs originally prescribed for a medical condition. Serious abusers often exhibit the following symptoms and behaviors: asking others for their left-over medications; taking family members' prescriptions; using multiple physicians and pharmacies, and unconcerned with a diagnosis or keeping up with treatment in addition to the medication (e.g., missing appointments for x-rays or lab tests).

Teen prescription abuse tends to have a different face. The majority of teens misuse prescription drugs in order to get high. Teens who are misusing drugs may exhibit the following symptoms and behaviors: lying, making excuses, breaking curfew, becoming verbally or physically abusive toward others, mood swings, stealing and changes in friends.



RESOURCES AND NEWS

CHECK IT OUT!

Jackson County Meth Map Updated -
<http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/MethGIS/viewer.htm>

HANOVER-HORTON SCHOOL BOARD ADDS "LIFE OF AN ATHLETE" PROGRAM

The Issue: Hanover-Horton School Board members are concerned with the number of student-athletes who use alcohol and drugs.

What happened Monday: The board added a program to the district's curriculum called "The Life of an Athlete." The program discourages underage drinking and the use of tobacco and drugs. The board also approved an athletic handbook with a change from previous years. Beginning this fall, any student who is caught with alcohol or drugs must receive treatment and will continue to sit out one-third of the season.

Next step: For a student to participate in any sport, a parent must attend a "The Life of an Athlete" presentation. Information in the program will be integrated into the district's health and weight-training classes.

What it will cost: There is no cost to the district for the program.

CURRENT COALITION ACTIVITIES

Most Teens Don't Campaign
School Toolkit
Synar
Website

UPCOMING COALITION ACTIVITIES

Aug 17..... Most Teens Don't Meeting, 11:30-3, ISD
Aug 27..... Mid-South Providers Meeting, 9-1, Lansing
Sep 7..... **United Way closed for Labor Day**
Sep 9..... JCSAPC 1-2:30, UW
 Fun Fact Finders Committee, 2:45- 4, UW
Sep 14-15.... Substance Abuse Conference, Detroit
Sep 24..... ATOD Committee, 11-12:14, U@