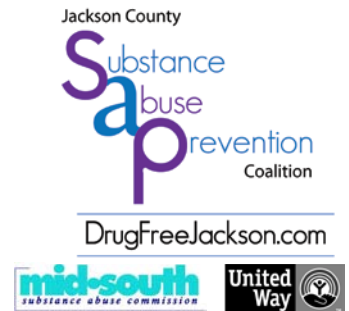


PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September is National Campus Safety Awareness Month

Prevention education is one of our primary objectives at the Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. As the summer season comes to an end, most of us are looking forward to fall football games and our children returning to school or starting their freshman year at college. The freshman year is the most difficult period of time where our children are adjusting to campus life. Some will adjust well and some will struggle to fit in as they make the transition to young adulthood. In addition, many returning college students see having parties in their new apartment or house, including serving and/or drinking alcohol, as a rite of passage. To help students with the transition, September has been designated "National Campus Safety Awareness Month."

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) provides a snapshot of annual high risk College Drinking Consequences.

- **Death:** 1,000 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes (Hingson et al, 2005).
- **Injury:** 599,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are unintentionally injured under the influence of alcohol (Hingson et al, 2005).
- **Assault:** More than 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking (Hingson et al, 2005).
- **Unsafe sex:** 400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape (Hingson et al, 2005).
- **Academic Problems:** About 25 percent of students report academic consequences of their drinking including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall (Engs et al, 1996, Presley et al, 1996a, 1999b, Wechsler et al, 2002).
- **Health Problems/Suicide Attempts:** More than 150,000 students develop an alcohol-related health problem (Hingson et al, 2002) and between 1.2 million students (or 1.5 percent of students) indicated that they tried to commit suicide within the past year due to drinking and drug use (Presley et al, 1998).
- **Drunk Driving:** 2.1 million students between the ages of 18 and 24 drove under the influence of alcohol last year (Hingson et al, 2002).
- **Alcohol Abuse and Dependence:** 31 percent of college students met criteria for a diagnosis of alcohol abuse and 6 percent for a diagnosis of alcohol dependence in the past 12 months, according to a questionnaire-based self-reports about their drinking (Knight et al, 2002).

We hope that by continuing to provide educational information to the community, the Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition will be instrumental in helping reduce some of the high risk behaviors associated with alcohol and drugs. We also hope this education will assist students and parents find information on alternatives to drugs and alcohol.