



Study Finds School Pressure Contributes to Teen Drug Use

According to the 2007 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study of 6,511 teens, released by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, the number one reason teens see for using drugs is to deal with the pressures and stress of school. In this study, 73 percent of teens reported that school stress is the primary reason for drug use, indicating that teens' perceptions of motivating factors for using drugs are dramatically different than past research has indicated. An accompanying 2007 Partnership study of parents' attitudes about teen drug use, released in June, showed that parents severely underestimate the impact of stress on their teens' decision to use drugs. Only 7 percent of parents believe that teens might use drugs to cope with stress. **Check out the full article at:** <http://www.cadca.org/CoalitionsOnline/article.asp?id=1946>



For more information on HCTC, Youth Development and for the latest on upcoming HCTC Meetings and Activities **Go To:** <http://www.gvhp.org/Home/OurProjects/HealthyCommunities/tabid/102/Default.aspx>

Access to Prescription Drugs Easier for Teens

A survey of 12-to-17-year-olds conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) revealed that teens are finding it increasingly easy to obtain prescription drugs, and "problem parents" may be contributing to their teens' drug use, the [Washington Post](#) reported August 14.

When asked "Which is easiest for someone your age to buy: cigarettes, beer, marijuana, or prescription drugs such as OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin or Ritalin, without a prescription?" 19 percent responded that it was easier to find prescription drugs, compared to 13 percent one year ago. Marijuana remains an easy-access drug for teens, with 43 percent of seventeen-year-olds claiming the drug could be purchased within an hour. **Read the article at:** <http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2008/access-to-prescription-drugs.html>



FOCUS ON ALCOHOL AND THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Many college-aged young people perceive collegiate drinking as one of the "rites of passage" into adulthood. In fact, the heaviest drinking population in the United States is young, white males enrolled in college. Alcohol companies frequently target college students with marketing efforts such as campus newspaper advertising, sports event promotions, and even scholarship funds. Bars near campuses also promote heavy drinking through pricing specials. Alcohol-free campus policies can push drinking problems into surrounding communities, exacerbating age-old tensions between the town and the student community. With about half of college students not yet of legal drinking age, and the other half legally entitled to purchase and consume alcohol, administrations can find alcohol control policies difficult to implement or enforce.

Facts

- ☑ A survey of students at 119 colleges found that 44% of students are binge drinkers (have 5 or more drinks per occasion) (Weshler, H et.al. 2000)
- ☑ As many as 360,000 of the Nation's 12 million undergraduates will eventually die from alcohol-related problems, many of which began in college. This is more than the number who will get Master's degrees and PhD's combined (Eigen, 1991)
- ☑ Alcohol on college campuses is a factor in 40% of all academic problems and 28% of all drop-outs (Anderson, D 1994)

What to Do:

- ☑ Work with local colleges to limit student access to alcohol, examine school and community traditions that may fuel binge drinking and support the efforts of local law enforcement
- ☑ Create late night social and recreational options for underage college students in the community
- ☑ Support a ban on alcohol sales, advertising, and promotion at local college sporting events. Ask local merchants to eliminate cheap drink promotions for college students.

For help with any of these ideas contact Rachel Pena at 748-5146