



Does Bullying Run in the Family?

A recent review of research on bullying behavior has found a connection between children's home life and bullying. In her review of studies from England, Germany, Norway, Japan, South Africa, and the United States, researcher Elizabeth Sweeney found that children raised by two demanding authoritarian parents are the most likely to exhibit bullying behavior. Conversely, children raised by nurturing and responsive parents are less likely to bully, and children from middle-class families are less likely to bully than those who come from high- or low-income families. "Children who experience hostility, abuse, physical discipline, and other aggressive behaviors by their parents are more likely to model that behavior in their peer relationships," she says. "Children learn from their parents how to behave and interact with others."

To read the full article go to: <http://www.uc.edu/news/NR.asp?id=8699>



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>

Psychotropic Drugs Prescribed More Often to U.S. Youth

Doctors in the U.S. are more likely to prescribe stimulants, antidepressants and other psychotropic drugs to youth than doctors in the Netherlands and Germany. Researchers examined administrative claims data for the year 2000 on insured children and teens in the Netherlands, Germany and the U.S. and found that use of psychotropic medications in the U.S. was 2.27 times higher than in the Netherlands and 3.33 times higher than in Germany. Prevalence of prescription psychotropic drug use was 6.66 percent among American youths, compared to 2.9 and 2 percent, respectively, among Dutch and German youths. To read the full article go to: <http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/psychotropic-drugs-prescribed.html>



FOCUS ON LINKING WITH OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Coordinate your organization's prevention efforts with other groups to reach specific sub-populations. When communities look at the issues and problems that threaten their well-being, they may not fully recognize the part that underage drinking may play in those problems. For example, agencies and coalitions addressing youth violence may not know that alcohol is a key factor in homicides, physical or sexual assaults, and manslaughters. Or, groups dealing with teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV/AIDS may not recognize the extent to which the disinhibitory effects of alcohol contribute to these problems. From litter to homicide, all communities face issues where alcohol plays a role. Being aware of how alcohol contributes to these problems, combining resources with existing organizations, and creating coalitions to fight them effectively is the prevention challenge for our times.

Facts

- Alcohol is a key factor in 33% of suicides, 50% of homicides, 62% of assaults, 68% of manslaughters, 50% of head injuries, and 41% of traffic fatalities. It also plays a large role in domestic abuse and injury, child abuse and neglect, and workplace injuries.
- Some types of youth-perpetrated homicide declined when States raised the minimum drinking age. Additionally, beer consumption rates are often used to predict youth homicide rates
- For youth, a higher drinking age is associated with fewer deaths due to suicide, pedestrian injuries, and other unintentional injuries (Jones, N. E., 1992)

What To Do:

- Get involved in National Red Ribbon Week (Last Week in October)—this can involve implementing activities such as Safe Homes/Safe Parties, educating parents on emotional, social and physical development during adolescence and the effects underage drinking on development, providing parents with quizzes and skills about media and advertising, social norms and parent peer groups
- Put together a family and youth health fair: invite county agencies and organizations to provide information on local resources and educational activities and information

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