Current Trends in YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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Literal Drug Video
(click to view video)
Prescription Drug Abuse
Why Youth Are at Risk for Prescription Drug Abuse

• Young people take risks
• Young people experiment with alcohol and drugs
• Four in ten teens believe getting high on prescription medication is not dangerous because they are prescribed by doctors
Prescription Drug Abuse

- Prescription drugs are just as dangerous as illicit drugs especially pain relievers such as Perco, and OxyContin
- The chemical composition of these man-made opioids mimic that of heroin
- Like heroin, man-made opioids are highly addictive
- Physical dependence to opioids develops quickly
- Repeated use of Percocet, Vicodin, and OxyContin often leads to heroin addiction
The most commonly abused prescription drugs are:

- Pain medications
- Sleeping pills
- Anti-anxiety medications
- Stimulants (used to treat ADHD)
70% of teens who abuse prescription drugs say they get them from a friend or relative.
A Mother’s Story
(click to view video)
What parents can do to prevent Prescription Drug Abuse

• Lock up prescription drugs and alcohol in your home
• Keep control of the medicine bottle, and supervise your children when they take medications
• Monitor the number of pills or level of medicine in the bottle
• Dispose of unwanted medications
• Talk to your kids about alcohol and prescription drug abuse
• Share this information with Grandparents and other caretakers
MOLLY
MOLLY

- Molly is glamorized in the media and music industry.

- Molly most commonly associated as a party/club drug is composed of the powder or crystal form of the chemical used in Ecstasy.

- Molly has been responsible for 15 recent overdoses including one death in the Boston/ South Shore area.
Immediate Effects of MOLLY

One capsule of Molly can last for 3 to 6 hours. Immediate negative effects may include:

- anxiety, agitation
- Sweating
- Sleeplessness
- Dehydration due to internal overheating
- chills
- muscle tension
- dizziness, faintness
- Nausea
- blurred vision
- increased heart rate and blood pressure

One capsule of Molly can last for 3 to 6 hours.
Long Term Effects of MOLLY

Long term negative effects of Molly include:

- Feelings of sadness
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Memory difficulties

These effects can last for several days to a week or longer in those who use Molly regularly.
Current Trends in
YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE

K2-SPICE
K2-SPICE

• A mixture of herbs, spices, plant material typically sprayed with a synthetic compound similar to THC, the psychoactive drug found in marijuana
• Smoked in joints or pipes
• Sold at gas stations, smoke shops, convenient stores, and on the Internet
Vomiting
Lack of pain response
Increased agitation
Pale skin
Seizures and spastic body movements
Vomiting
Increased heart rate, blood pressure and palpitations
Hallucinations, delusions and paranoia
Bath Salts
BATH SALTS

A synthetic stimulant in the form of a white or brown crystalline powder that contains one or more chemicals that are similar to amphetamines and ecstasy.

Typically swallowed, inhaled, or injected with the worst dangers being associated with snorting or needle injection

Sold in gas stations, head shops and on the Internet
BATH SALTS  Reported reactions include:

- Rapid heartbeat
- High blood pressure
- Chest pains, agitation
- Hallucinations
- Extreme paranoia
- Aggressive behaviors
- Delusions
- In some cases, death
MARIJUANA

- Most commonly used illegal drug
- 1 in 6 become dependent
- More teens enter treatment for marijuana abuse than for all other illicit drugs combined
- Long-term use causes IQ decrease and impaired brain development
- Doubles risk of depression and triples risk of suicidal thoughts/behavior
- Early use increases likelihood of addiction to marijuana and/or other substances later in life
- 2nd leading reason for drug treatment admissions for people over 12 years old
TODAY’S MARIJUANA

• 5x’s stronger than the 1970’s
• Has 400+ chemicals (many are cancer causing)
• THC, the psycho-active substance in marijuana, stays in the brain for 7 years
• One joint = 5 cigarettes’ worth of lung damage
Major studies by researchers at Columbia University and elsewhere have found that states with “medical” marijuana had marijuana abuse/dependence rates almost twice as high than states without such laws.

Since decriminalization passed in 2008, Massachusetts has seen a rise in youth marijuana use and now has a 30% higher than that of the nation.

Medical marijuana decreases the perception of harm and increases use in youth.

80% of medical marijuana users in Colorado and California are between 17 and 35 years old with no history of chronic illness, but with history of substance abuse.
Opioid Overdose is the leading cause of injury deaths across the country

- Nasal Narcan is saving lives by reversing opioid overdoses
- Nasal Narcan kits are available for friends and relatives of individuals with an opioid addiction
- Kits are available here tonight for those interested

Weymouth Firefighters have been using Nasal Narcan since March 2013

- 13 lives saved in first 30 days
- Approximately 35 lives saved to date
Obtaining Nasal Narcan

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Norfolk District Attorney’s Office
DIVERSION PROGRAM

To Norfolk District Attorney, Michael W. Morrissey

Defendant’s Name: ___________________ Docket #: ___________________

Date: ___________________ Continued Assignment Date: ___________________

Subject Responsible for Diversion Program

1. The Norfolk Police Department has obtained a complaint against me for the crime(s) of ___________________.

2. I am requesting that my assignment be suspended contingent upon my acceptance into the Norfolk District Attorney Diversion Program. My successful completion of this program will allow me to avoid assignment. I understand that successful completion requires the following:

   A. That I acknowledge responsibility for my behavior in this offense.
   B. That I will be truthful and cooperative with the Diversion Program.
   C. Participation in the program is a condition of probation.
   D. That I will not commit another offense.
   E. That I will make restitution for any property damage, and I agree to pay a fine of ___________________ in the form of a money order.
   F. That I will successfully complete the 3rd District Diversion Program course.
   G. That I will provide a $500.00 money order made out to Care Treatment Centers towards this program.
   H. That I will successfully complete the 3rd District Diversion Program.

   I. That I will participate in any community service projects as determined and necessary.

   J. That I will participate in the Diversion Program as directed.

3. I understand that any information I provide during my participation in the Diversion Program cannot be used against me as an admission or evidence of guilt for this offense.

4. I understand that if I fail to comply with the above conditions I may be expelled from the program and assigned. If successfully completed program, I need not appear on court as my continued assignment date.

5. I understand that by accepting into the Diversion Program, I willingly and knowingly suspend my rights to be brought before a Magistrate of District Court to have a speedy trial, to confront my accusers, to assert any defenses, or to have a jury or non-determined in court. These rights may be restored to me at anytime upon my voluntary withdrawal or termination from the Diversion Program.

6. I am voluntarily participating in the Diversion Program, and in consideration for the opportunity to participate in the Diversion Program, I expressly agree and understand that I hereby waive, release, indemnify and hold harmless the Norfolk District Attorney’s Office, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Department of Public Safety, and all its agents and employees, from and against any and all liability, action, cause of action, claim, loss, cost, expense or judgment, including but not limited to attorney fees and court costs, and all known and unknown personal injuries, property damage or other ground on account of or in any way arising out of, directly or indirectly, from my participation in the Diversion Program.

   Client: ___________________
   Parent/Guardian: ___________________
   Date: ___________________
   Coordinator: ___________________
   Assistant District Attorney: ___________________

MICHAEL W. MORRISSEY
NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Making Choices • Saving Lives
www.norfolkda.com
WWW.NORFOLKDA.COM
Parents have more influence over their child than friends, music, TV, the Internet and celebrities.

Kids who learn a lot about the risks of drugs and alcohol from their parents are up to 50% less likely to use than those who do not.
What Parents Can Do

- Accept that every child, including your own, is at risk for substance abuse
- Be actively involved with your child
- Eat meals together whenever possible
- Role model healthy behavior
- Be honest
Help your teens stay safe and Make healthy choices by:

• Talking and listening regularly
• Setting limits
• Creating clear rules together
  Youth who are part of making rules are more likely to follow them
• Giving every rule a consequence
• Choosing consequences that are relevant and easily enforced
• Catching them being good and rewarding them for honoring family rules
• Making it clear that you do not want him or her drinking or using drugs