

Methamphetamine Focus Attracts New Record-High Attendance to Annual Conference

A new record-high attendance packed the Ocean Place Resort and Conference Center for NJPN's 6th Annual Prevention Conference, which focused on the growing methamphetamine problem that's sweeping across the country.

A total of 700 people from various fields attended the one-day event, co-sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Human Services - Division of Addiction Services, the Drug Enforcement Administration, New Jersey State Police, New Jersey National Guard, Saint Barnabas Health Care System, Partnership For A Drug-Free New Jersey, Addiction Treatment Providers, and the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Thomas Freese, the Director of Training for UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP), detailed the harmful effects of methamphetamine use, provided statistics on current abuse trends across the country and highlighted possible treatment options.

Geographically, methamphetamine poses more of a problem in the midwest and west coast than in New Jersey. According to Dr. Freese, in the parts of the country with an established methamphetamine

problem, he has seen an increase in the number of people seeking treatment and testing positive for methamphetamine use since 1992.



Keynote speaker, Dr. Thomas Freese provides the 700 attendees with the latest methamphetamine data

Freese told the audience New Jersey may be facing a methamphetamine problem in the coming years.

“The indication is that it's moving in this direction and we'll likely see an increase in the future,” he said.

Following the keynote presentation, the attendees crowded the workshop sessions offered, covering such topics as childhood drinking, teen eating disorders, pharm parties and gangs, along with other subjects.

“We're very proud of this conference and the one aspect I enjoy most of all is not just the large crowd, but rather, the diversity of the crowd,” said NJPN President Diane Litterer.

SEE CONFERENCE, PAGE 6

Conference Photos

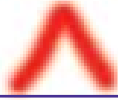
6th ANNUAL

Look back at this year's conference!

See Pages 2 & 3

PICTURES

~~Actions~~ Speak Louder



During the busy morning, the 700 attendees network in the registration area before the start of the conference

Keynote speaker, Dr. Tom Freese, presents the latest research, trends and information on methamphetamine



Fran Miceli of the Department of Human Services/Division of Addiction Services, announces the “Start Talking Before They Start Drinking” initiative



Than Words



Dr. Charles Cunningham (*left*), receives the Anthony D. Cammarato Memorial Award from DEA Acting Special Agent In Charge, Brian Donga (*right*)

Steve Liga educates his workshop audience about the dangers associated with teen eating disorders



Kevin Orsino, Partnership For A Drug-Free NJ "Shouts Down Drugs" 2005 contest winner, helps close the conference with his anti-drug message rap



Prevention pieces

Upcoming events in your community...

STATEWIDE

2007 NJPN Annual Prevention Conference

Mark your calendars now! The New Jersey Prevention Network will hold its 7th Annual Prevention Conference on Friday, March 2, 2007. The day-long conference will be held at the Ocean Place Resort & Conference Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information concerning workshops, keynote speaker and other additional details will be released in the coming months.

SOMERSET COUNTY

ADHD: Symptoms in Youth

The Somerset Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependency, Inc. and The Somerset County Office of Youth Services will present a spring workshop entitled, "ADHD: Symptoms in Youth." The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., on Friday, June 2, 2006, at the Somerset County Office of Youth Services, in Somerville, NJ.

The workshop will feature a presentation from Gregg Benson, an expert in ADHD and pioneer in the field of addictions and mental and behavioral health. For more information, please contact Becky Csabi at 908-722-4900.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Meth: It's Here

The Southwest Council will be hosting its conference, "Meth: It's Here," on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. This full day event will be presented by John K. Kriger, President of Kriger Consulting. It will address basic information on methamphetamine as well as specific information for first responders.

The conference will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Select in Bridgeport, NJ. For more information, please contact Mary Lodge at 856-794-1011, ext. 18 or Bob Logan at 856-307-9950, ext. 18.

Teen Abuse of Prescription Drugs Continues

31% of Teens Believe There's "Nothing Wrong" With Abusing Prescription Drugs "Once In A While"

While teen smoking and drinking have declined slightly across the country, a recent Partnership For A Drug-Free America study indicates a consistent trend of prescription drug abuse by teens.

For the third straight year, the study reported that about 1 in 5 teens (4.5 millions teens) has tried prescription drug painkillers such as Vicodin or OxyContin to get high.

At the same time, teen smoking declined to 22 percent from 23 percent the previous year and from 42 percent in 1998. And, the number of teens drinking in the past 30 days declined from 33 percent to 31 percent.

Abuse of prescription and over-the-counter medications has become so prevalent that many teens view it as normal behavior. The study highlights many misperceptions teens have regarding abuse.

Forty percent (9.4 million) say they think prescription medicines are "much safer" than illegal drugs, while 29 percent believe prescription pain relievers are non-addictive.

"It's not surprising to me that our kids think prescription and over-the-counter drugs are safe," said Jim Brittain, Assistant Director of the New Jersey Prevention Network.

"People have similar ideas about alcohol being safe because it's legal and easy to get. Medications are easy to get too, especially by young people who just take them from their parents and grandparents."

While many parents have become proactive in talking to their kids about illegal drug abuse and its negative consequences, many parents remain unaware about

the prevalence of prescription drug abuse. For example, three out of five parents report discussing marijuana "a lot" with their children, but only one third of parents report discussing the risks of using prescription medicines or non-prescription cold or cough medicine to get high.

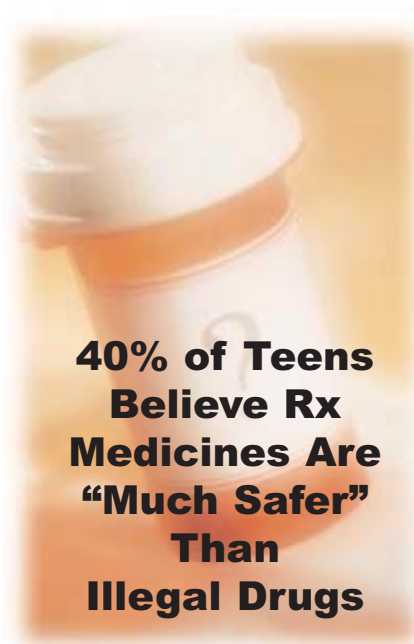
More than half of teens say prescription pain relievers are "available everywhere" with 62 percent (14.6 million) admitting to abusing the prescribed medicines in their parents' medicine cabinets.

"We have probably one of the most drug-experienced generations of parents in history, but this is a kind of behavior that didn't exist 10 or 20 years ago," said Steve Pasierb, Partnership For A Drug-Free America president.

"So, for most parents, prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse is not on their radar screens. So even people in our field, let alone average parents at home just trying to raise a healthy family, this is a key issue."

The Internet also serves as a resource for obtaining medications. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse recently released a study gauging the Internet's impact on prescription drug abuse. The Center found 141 web sites selling prescription drugs that do not require a legitimate prescription by a physician.

"The truth is, not much is known about what these medications do inside the bodies of kids - and because kids often mix drugs, sometimes without even knowing what they're using, they add another level of risk," said Brittain.



40% of Teens Believe Rx Medicines Are "Much Safer" Than Illegal Drugs

CONFERENCE, FROM PAGE 1

“When we held our first annual conference in Atlantic City, we attracted primarily law enforcement officials. We had about 150 people at the conference. This year, we had over 700 people in attendance, not only from law enforcement, but from the prevention field, treatment field and education,” said Litterer.

One of the guests honored at this year’s conference was Dr. Charles Cunningham, who received this

year’s Anthony D. Cammarato Memorial Award. The award recognizes one person each year for his or her excellence in prevention.

Dr. Cunningham serves as the Principal of The Titusville Academy. In addition to his 15 years experience in the field of education, he has actively served as a leader and positive role model to young people throughout his community.

NJ Communities Address Serious Youth Alcohol Problem

The prevention conference also marked the launch of the “Start Talking Before They Start Drinking” campaign, an aggressive initiative established by the federal government to curb and ultimately prevent underage drinking.

The campaign involves a series of town hall meetings, encouraging parents, educators and community members to discuss the serious issue of underage drinking and develop strategies to combat it.

Coinciding with the nearly 1,200 meetings taking place nationwide, the first town hall meetings were held on Tuesday, March 28th in each of New Jersey’s 21 counties.

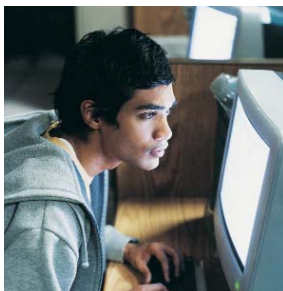
At these individual meetings, funded by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Addiction Services, panelists shared their knowledge, concerns and experiences regarding youth and alcohol.

According to a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) study, one out of every two 8th graders has tried alcohol. And, the same study indicates that children who begin drinking alcohol before the age of 15 are five times more likely than those who start after age 21 to develop alcohol problems.

“I was excited about the large crowds we saw at the meetings because it shows that people are finally taking notice and I think we’ve succeeded in getting the attendees to start thinking about their own feelings towards underage drinking,” said Fran Miceli, the Governor’s Representative Lead for the State of New Jersey team. “Hopefully, they’ll pass the message on to others.”



ONLINE RESOURCES

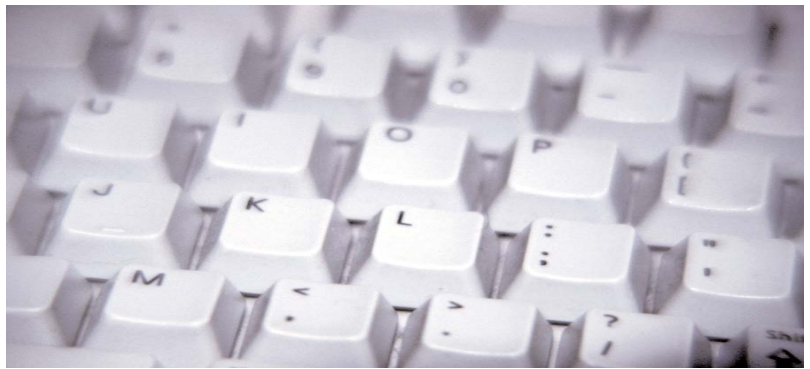


stoptalkingnj.org
or
stopalcoholabuse.gov

Following this initial town hall meeting, the municipalities in each county will hold a series of additional town hall meetings. And, over the course of the next few months, each county will form a coalition of key community members that will continually examine the issue of underage drinking and aim to prevent it.

Want to learn more about the
New Jersey
Prevention Network or our
member agencies?

Visit us online at
www.njpn.org



Member Agencies

Atlantic Prevention Resources

609-272-0101

Leg. Districts 1, 2, 3, 9

**The Center for Alcohol and
Drug Resources - Bergen County**

201-488-8680

Leg. Districts 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40

**Prevention Plus of Burlington
County**

609-261-0001

Leg. Districts 7, 8, 9, 30

**Camden County Council on
Alcoholism & Drug Abuse**

856-427-6553

Leg. Districts 4, 5, 6, 7

**Cape Assist - Cape May Council
on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse**

609-522-5960

Leg. District 1

Essex Prevention Resources

973-571-2324

Leg. 21, 27, 28, 29, 34, 36, 40

**The Southwest Council -
Gloucester, Salem and
Cumberland Counties**

856-794-1011

Leg. Districts 1, 3, 4, 5

**Partners in Prevention
Hudson County Inc.**

201-653-6776

Leg. Districts 31, 32, 33

Hunterdon Prevention Resources

908-782-3909

Leg. Districts 23, 24

**Mercer Council on Alcoholism &
Drug Addiction (MCADA)**

609-396-5874

Leg. Districts 12, 14, 15, 30

**NCADD of Middlesex
County, Inc.**

732-254-3344

Leg. Districts 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22

**Prevention First -
Monmouth County**

732-663-1800

Leg. 10, 11, 12, 13, 30

Morris County Prevention is Key

973-625-1998

Leg. Districts 16, 21, 24, 25, 26

**Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Council of Ocean (ADACO)**

732-367-5515

Leg. Districts 9, 10, 30

**Passaic County Council on
Alcoholism & Drug Abuse
Prevention**

973-473-3366

Leg. Districts 26, 34, 35, 36, 40

**Somerset Council on Alcoholism &
Drug Dependency**

908-722-4900

Leg. Districts 16, 17, 21, 22

**Center for Prevention and
Counseling - Sussex County**

973-383-4787

Leg. District 24

Prevention Links - Union County

732-381-4100

Leg. Districts 20, 21, 22, 29

**Community Prevention
Resources - Warren County**

908-835-1800

Leg. District 23

NJPN *Connections* is written for network member agencies, legislators and friends of the network. If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, please call us at 732-367-0611.

Connections

NJPN Prevention Conference

save the date
march 2, 2007



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