



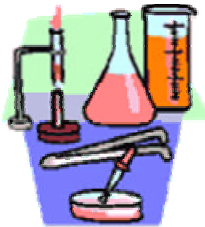
April 2004

## Kids and Meth Labs

A growing number of children are suffering the toxic effects of fumes emitted from home-based methamphetamine labs. In North Carolina, a teacher noticed two sisters came to school everyday with headaches, colds and coughs. Police discovered the young girls slept right next to a space where their mother and her boyfriend cooked methamphetamine.

Authorities say the health risks faced by the children are just as dangerous as those who actually use the drug. Poisonous chemicals released in the meth-cooking process can spread throughout an entire home or building.

Nebraska officials have developed guidelines for police, social workers, and doctors to follow when dealing with children found during meth-lab raids. Gov. Mike Johanns states that the first step to take when a meth-lab discovery involves children is clearly to remove them from the situation. Last year, Nebraska passed a law that allows children to be taken into custody for up to 48 hours to determine whether they've been exposed to methamphetamine or chemicals used in the drug's manufacture.



Forms have been developed that will make it easier for police to identify which chemicals the child may have been exposed to and help them and social workers gather medical history information on children. Other forms will guide physicians as to what to examine for in meth-exposed children and assist foster parents.

(Source: jointogether.org; 2-25-04)

## Green Hornet Warning



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers not to purchase or consume a liquid product called Green Hornet. It is being promoted as an herbal version of Ecstasy. The product comes in 4 and 16 ounce bottles, and is promoted on the Internet and sold in stores.

Four teenagers recently experienced adverse effects after consuming Green Hornet. The teens, rushed to an emergency room, experienced seizures, excessive heart rates, severe body rashes and high blood pressure. The FDA is investigating whether Green Hornet alone or in combination with other substances caused the severe reactions.

The FDA considers this product to be an unapproved drug since it contains undeclared active ingredients diphenhydramine and dextromethorphan, both found in over-the-counter cough/cold products. Any product containing undeclared active drug ingredients violates the law.

FDA Commissioner Mark B. McClellan states, "Our advice about the so-called 'safe' alternatives to street drugs remains the same: They are not safe. Do not buy them, and do not use them".

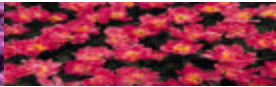
(Source: www.fda.gov; 2-25-04)

### *Training Opportunities*

**SCIP Intervention Team Training** will be held July 20-23, 2004 in Lincoln. This training is for new teams and replacement team members. SCIP Teams function best when the members have been trained!

**"Transitions"**, support group facilitator training, will be held in Lincoln July 29 and 30. This training assists school staff to facilitate support groups, anything from friendship groups to reintegration groups, all levels.

Registration materials for both of these trainings are included with this mailing.



## Working Teens More Likely to Drink

U. S. teenagers who work more than 10 hours a week are more likely to drink heavily than those who work less, or not at all, perhaps because of increased income.



Work offers income to afford alcohol and may place teens with older adolescents and adults who drink and make the practice appear more socially acceptable.

About 24% of teens who work more than 10 hours a week said they engaged in

heavy drinking in the past year. Less than 10% of non-working teens or those who work fewer hours said the same.

(Source: Arizona Daily Star: 1-8-04)

## Hair Testing

More large companies are switching from urine tests to hair samples to check employees for drug use. Last year, Kraft Foods of Illinois switched to hair testing, along with the Boston Police Department. The federal government is also considering a revision of their procedures to include hair testing.

The increase in the number of businesses that sell products to help people beat urine tests may be behind the switch to hair testing.

According to America Management Association, 67% of U.S. companies conduct drug tests. Of them, 20% test hair and urine; 30% test saliva and the rest test urine only.

Critics of hair testing say it raises privacy and legal concerns. Among the critics is the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana (NORML), who says hair testing on African-Americans and pregnant women could create a false positive result. Another individual company that helps people beat drug tests says hair testing brings up privacy issues because of "things other than drugs that can be deduced from hair testing such as genetic or health information."

(Source: jointogether.org; 12-17-03)

## Alcohol Awareness Month

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. This year, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) will sponsor a campaign to raise public awareness about underage drinking and other alcohol-related problems.

"Save A Life...End Underage Drinking" is the theme for the 2004 Alcohol Awareness Month.

Alcohol is a drug that can affect judgment, coordination, and long-term health. Early use of alcohol by teenagers may contribute significantly to dependence on alcohol and other drugs, with 40% of children who begin using alcohol before the age of 13 becoming alcoholics at some point in their lives. Alcohol is the number one drug of choice among America's youth and is a factor in the four leading causes of death among persons ages 10-24.

(Source: jointogether.org; 2-17-4)

**WE'VE GOT A NEW NAME!**

The Lincoln Medical Education Foundation has changed it's name to **Lincoln Medical Education Partnership**. The change officially took place March 1, 2004. We chose to incorporate the word "partnership" to reflect the importance of the community collaborations we have formed and continue to create. You will be receiving new business cards from the SCIP Coordinators, Chris and Sara, and our stationery will have a new look soon! Our new Web site will be [www.lmep.com](http://www.lmep.com) and all of our email addresses will end in @lmep.com—but don't worry! If you continue to use the lmef.org email addresses and Web address, we'll simply link you to our new domain.