

FACTS ABOUT STUDENT DRINKING



Cornhusker Place in Lincoln is licensed by the State of Nebraska as a substance abuse treatment center. It provides alcohol and drug detoxification services for Lincoln/Lancaster County and 15 other counties in Region V. Cornhusker Place also allows parents to bring in their child to be tested for being under the influence of alcohol and drugs. This is confidential and performed at a very low cost. The drug test will detect the presence of methamphetamines, crack/cocaine, opiates and marijuana.

Civil Protective Custody (CPC) at Cornhusker Place provides emergency involuntary services to men and women as young as 14. Student drinking activity in Lincoln has emphasized the need to educate the community about underage drinking. Early intervention can save lives. The following information reflects the number of student admissions into Civil Protective Custody from July 2006 through February 2007.

- 637 student admissions (16.2%) of 3,941 total CPC admissions
- Youngest was age 14 (1 with BAC of .172); 14 individuals were age 16
- 46.2% (294) were under the age of 21
- 19.9% (127) were age 21 (remaining students were over the age of 21)
- 28.4% (181) were female
- 71.6% (456) were male
- 79.6% (507) were students from local colleges and universities
- 7.1% (45) were students from local high schools
- 13.3% (85) were students from all other schools

Cornhusker Place reminds us, "You can overdose on alcohol just as easily as you can with any other drug. Cornhusker Place offers 24-hour, medically supervised detoxification services. Please call 402-477-3951 with questions or concerns."

(Source: Cornhusker Place NEWSLETTER, Spring 2007)

SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY PROVISION

The Nebraska Unicameral passed LB573 into law on May 30, 2007. This establishes a social host liability and also strengthens the existing keg registration statute.

This new provision of the law takes effect January 1, 2008. The social host provision states that people who are killed, injured, or who have sustained property damage as a result of actions by an intoxicated minor can sue the person or business who provided the alcohol or the social host who allowed the minor to consume the alcohol in his or her home or on his or her property.

Nebraska is one of the last states to adopt the alcohol social host liability law regarding minors. The keg registration portion of LB573 adds a provision that a person in possession of a keg with a registration tag that has been removed or altered is guilty of a Class III misdemeanor. Until now, it has been difficult for law enforcement to track rental of kegs because knowledgeable criminals have simply removed or defaced the tags at underage drinking events. The provision of the law took place August 29, 2007, which was 90 days after Governor Heineman signed the bill into law.

This information would be good to pass along to parents and community groups from the SCIP Team at your school!

Student Survey: Drugs Are A School Problem



A new survey completed at Columbia University indicates that 61% of U.S. high-school students say that drugs are a problem in the schools. This is a dramatic increase from 44% in 2002. In middle-school 31% of students cited drugs as a school problem, up from 19% in 2002.

Students who consider themselves popular were more likely to report alcohol, tobacco or other drug use.

About 6 in 10 parents whose kids attend a school with a perceived drug problem said that the goal of creating a drug-free school is not realistic.

(Source: www.jointogether.org, 8-16-07)

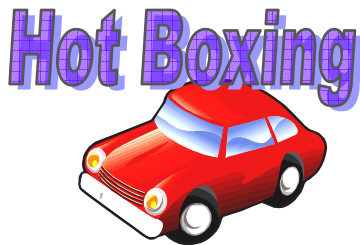
Parent-Teen Discussions: Alarming Trend

A survey conducted by A Partnership for a Drug-Free America (PDFA) finds that fewer parent-teen discussions about the dangers of alcohol and other drugs are taking place. The study indicated that parental awareness of problems like prescription-drug abuse is growing, but that hasn't translated into more family sit-down talks to discuss drug issues. The number of parents who held four or more discussions between 2005-2006 declined 12%.

About half of parents say they have frequent discussions about alcohol and other drugs or have in-depth conversations about the use of substances like heroin, cocaine, and crack while only about one-third said they spoke to their children about prescription-drug or over-the-counter drug abuse. "These survey results reveal a critical need to better support, educate, empower and truly help parents feel more prepared and comfortable discussing the current drug issues this generation of kids is facing," according to the CEO and president of the PDFA.



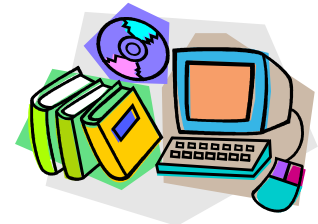
(Source: www.jointogether.org, 8-16-07)



"Hot boxing" is a new term. Research from PRIDE-Omaha indicates several definitions, but the acceptable meaning for the area appears to be connected to marijuana use. Hot boxing means getting into a car, rolling up the windows, smoking marijuana, and getting high. The concentration and longevity of the smoke in an enclosed area increases the high.

(Source: PRIDE-Omaha, Inc., Spring 2007)

RESOURCES



School districts and community organizations across the state now have access to a new resource for educating high school students on the important issues surrounding mental illness.

A Bump in the Road is a play written and produced by the Play Production Class of Papillion-LaVista South High School. In a series of vignettes and visual effects, topics such as teen suicide, depression, anorexia, post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, and bi-polar disorder are realistically depicted with a focus on understanding, treatment and recovery. It emphasizes that mental illness affects everyday people, stresses that mental illness is not a personal or moral weakness, and provides hope that with appropriate treatment, those suffering from mental illnesses may lead productive lives. The presentation educates students as well as parents, teachers, coaches, administrators and the community at large.

A video preview of the performance, along with additional resource materials is available at www.projectrelate.org. You may also contact Mary Beth Wahlmeier at 402-891-6964 or by email at mwahlmeier@thekimfoundation.org.

(Source: The Kim Foundation, April 2007)

The Coalition for the Advancement of Children's Mental Health (CACMH) has unveiled an information paper focused on early childhood mental illness. The paper helps define early childhood mental health along with identifying challenges for parents, providing facts for professionals, and citing opportunities available to meet community needs.

You can download a copy of the Children's Mental Health Informational Paper at www.thekimfoundation.org and navigate through the buttons.

(Source: The Kim Foundation, April 2007)