

The Coalition Newsletter

July 2013

Our mission is to prevent and reduce youth substance use § abuse in the Pequannock Twp. Community through collaboration, education and community-wide change.

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Medications & Driving

Have you ever wondered how the prescriptions or over-thecounter medications you take may affect your driving?

Medications have both intended and unintended effects on your body, and these effects change based on the other medications that you're taking and the foods that you eat. Not only does that affect how you feel, many of these effects can also impact your ability to safely drive. Roadwise Rx is a new and convenient tool designed by AAA that empowers drivers to learn more about medications and how they may affect your driving. Any information that is entered into this tool is completely confidential and cannot be viewed by any other party.

www.roadwiserx.com

What are Possible Signs of a Drug Overdose?

- Shortness of breath
- "Pinpricked" pupils
- Dizziness/Lethargy
- Making no sense when talking
- Nodding out & unresponsive

Don't Run. Call 911.



35% of Teens Think Stimulant Abuse is Major Problem

A new survey of young people ages 10 to 18 finds 35 percent think prescription stimulant abuse is a big problem with their peers, and 15 percent said they had used stimulants at some point. One-tenth of kids said they had diverted medications in some way.

The survey found 7.5 percent said they had used stimulants such as Adderall or Ritalin in the last month; 3.9 percent said they took the drugs for nonmedical reasons. The findings were reported at the recent annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, by Linda B. Cottler, PhD., MPH, Chair of the Department of Epidemiology in the College of Public Health and Health Professions and College of Medicine at the University of Florida.

www.drugfree.org

What Can We Do to Prevent Rx Drug Abuse?

<u>Parents</u>—Get involved in your child's day-to-day activities and discuss the risks of using illicit and prescription drugs. By being involved early and consistently, you can help prevent problems before they occur.18 Parents should also securely store prescription drugs and dispose of unused supplies.

<u>Educators</u>— Improve the learning environment by addressing students' aggressive behaviors and poor concentration, which are risks associated with the eventual onset of drug abuse and related problems.

If you are concerned that you or someone you know may be abusing or addicted to Rx or illicit drugs, help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year through SAMHSA's National Helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or 1-800-487-4889.

New Jersey's Overdose Prevention Act

The Overdose Prevention Act was signed into law on May 2, 2013. This law was written to SAVE LIVES by removing the fear of arrest when calling 911 seeking medical attention for yourself or someone else who is experiencing a drug overdose.

The Caller and/or Overdose Victim Will NOT Be Arrested, Charged, Prosecuted or Convicted For:



- 1. Obtaining, Possessing, Using, Being under the influence of, or Failing to make lawful disposition of, a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS);
- 2. Inhaling the fumes of or possessing any toxic chemical;
- 3. Using, Obtaining, Attempting to Obtain, or Possessing any prescription legend drug or stramonium preparation;
- 4. Acquiring or Obtaining Possession of a CDS by fraud:
- 5. Unlawfully Possessing a CDS that was law-fully prescribed or dispensed;
- 6. Possession with Intent to use drug paraphernalia or possessing a hypodermic syringe, needle or any other instrument adapted for the use of a CDS.

The Caller and/or Overdose Victim Will NOT Be Subject To Revocation of Parole or Probation.

NO EVIDENCE FOR AN ARREST, CHARGE, PROSECUTION, CONVICTION, OR REVOCATION CAN BE OBTAINED AS A RESULT OF SEEKING MEDICAL ATTENTION.