

ATTENTION PARENTS

8/00

More than ever before parents need facts regarding the exposure to addictive drugs faced by their children. The following data is provided by the staff of ASAP, the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program:

- ✓ By the time Arizona students graduate high school, on average approximately 75% will have used alcohol, 50% will have used marijuana, 25% will have used inhalants, and 18% will have used hallucinogens. The most common age of first use is middle school.
- ✓ Studies show that the single most important factor in protecting children from drug abuse is PARENTS. Schools and peers, while powerful influences, play a lesser role than parents.
- ✓ Teenagers who drink or use drugs are much more likely to be sexually active, starting sexual intercourse as early as middle school and with a greater likelihood of multiple partners and use of unprotected sex.
- ✓ The notion that a little introduction to alcohol is harmless is not supported by the research. Teens who start drinking before the age of 15 are 4 times more likely to become alcohol-dependent than those individuals who began drinking at the legal drinking age of 21.
- ✓ As the use of marijuana among our young people has steadily increased for many years, the perceived risks of this marijuana use have at the very same time decreased. This is inconsistent with the fact the marijuana grown now can actually be several times more potent than that typically available in the 1960s.
- ✓ Inhalant use is actually higher among 8th-graders than 10th or 12th-graders.
- ✓ The proliferation of methamphetamine and meth labs that produce it in Arizona is widely reported and well known. Less well-known is the emergence of additional “club drugs”, some of which can be odorless, colorless, and tasteless. “Club drugs” include GHB, also known as “G” or “Liquid Ecstasy”, Ketamine, also known as “K” or “Special K,” and Rohypnol, also known as “Roofies” or the “date-rape drug.”
- ✓ Tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana do indeed serve as “gateway” chemicals that make the use of other addictive substances more likely. Examples:
 - ✓ Teens age 12-17 who smoke cigarettes are 12 times more likely to use illicit drugs and 23 times more likely to drink heavily
 - ✓ Teens who use marijuana before age 15 are 7 times more likely to use harder drugs
 - ✓ An individual who smokes marijuana is 17 times more likely to use cocaine than an individual who has never smoked marijuana
- ✓ The number one killer of teens is alcohol-related car crashes.
- ✓ Children spend far more time watching TV than they spend time actually interacting with their parents. Average amount of time each day spent watching TV for children age 8 to 18 is 3 hours and 16 minutes.

To refer a teen for treatment or for more information call the ASAP Intake Coordinator at (602) 953-2727