



More US Adults Using Illegal Drugs

A new report from SAMHSA shows that the number of US adults using illegal drugs has increased. According to the new survey, 22.6 million adults (8.9% of the population) use illegal drugs. The trend seems to be driven, at least in part, by an increase in the number of adults using marijuana. In 2007, 14.4 million adults reported using marijuana. The number jumped to 17.4 million in 2010. Young adults ages 18-25 have shown the greatest increase in illicit drug use, from 19.6% in 2008 to 21.5% in 2010. Peter J. Delany, director of SAMHSA's Office of Applied Studies, says "These are the people who are going to college, starting in the workforce and starting families...This is a whole group of people we haven't focused on. We have to intervene much earlier, before they get into trouble."

While the overall numbers are troubling, there were encouraging results in some categories. The number of people using meth dropped by almost half between 2006 and 2010. Cocaine use decreased, from 2.4 million users in 2006 to 1.5 million users in 2010. There was also a decrease in teen drinking and tobacco use. Read more at <http://health.usnews.com/health-news/managing-your-healthcare/articles/2011/09/08/more-us-adults-using-illegal-drugs-report>.

News & Updates

Welcome to October! The beginning of this month means that Red Ribbon Week is quickly approaching. October 31 also marks the beginning of NIDA's National Drug Facts Week. Check out the [Drug Facts Week](#) website for more information. There are lots of ways to participate in both events!

Here at the PRIDE office one of our recent projects has been working on some of the logistical aspects of conference: fine-tuning the schedule, deciding what rooms to use for what events, etc. While this will be our second conference at the SeaGate Centre, we want to take what we learned about the space last time to make things flow even better in 2012.

From the Training Team

HELLO PRIDE PEOPLE! With Red Ribbon Week fast approaching, a lot of you are getting ready for performances and community service opportunities. This is a great time to spread PRIDE's message within your community and also have some great bonding time with the team. Use these performances and opportunities as a time to use new material that you may have learned through trainings or from last conference to keep your shows new and exciting for the audience. Another thing to do with these performances is add new messages through different skits and choreodramas. If your show is packed full of sad pieces about relationship abuse, why not try adding some upbeat and happy skits about living the drug-free lifestyle. Also use this time to get more members active through different skits or choreodramas by rotating through members and roles in the skits. Have one person do a role at one performance and then another member at the next performance. This gives more team members the opportunity to be more active in the show and can also help in holding onto those members your afraid are on the verge of leaving the team. By giving them a responsibility, they feel more involved and connected to the group and less likely to leave the team.

-Christopher Sills

Last Chance for Contest Entries

There are just four more days to enter the MusiCares and Grammy Foundation's Teen Substance Abuse Awareness through Music Contest. Open to US teens ages 14-18, the contest is a part of NIDA's National Drug Facts Week. Visit <http://drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov/contest.php> for more information.