

Navajo County Drug Project

Navajo County Coalition Against Drug Abuse



A Coalition of Concerned Navajo County Residents Joined Together to:

- EDUCATE the Community on the substance abuse crisis
- REHABILITATE those who have fallen into the addiction
- ENFORCE laws pertaining to the spread of substance abuse in our communities

Press Release

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NAVAJO COUNTY DRUG PROJECT CALLS FOR INCREASED PREVENTION INVESTMENT IN RESPONSE TO “2009 MONITORING THE FUTURE SURVEY”

Marijuana Use Increasing; Prescription Drug Abuse Continues Upward Trend

Washington, D.C. – The 2009 Monitoring the Future Survey, released Monday Dec. 14 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the University of Michigan, showed that while there were slight decreases in the use of cocaine and methamphetamine among youth, marijuana and prescription drug abuse showed no signs of slowing down. In fact, marijuana use among adolescents increased gradually over the past two years after years of declining use; and past year rates of Vicodin and OxyContin abuse increased during the last five years among 10th graders and remained unchanged among 8th and 12th graders.

Several drugs showed signs of increasing with attitudes softening for drugs such as marijuana, ecstasy, inhalants and LSD. For example, the percentage of 8th graders who view occasional marijuana use as potentially harmful dropped to 44 percent, compared to 48 percent last year. In addition, the perception of “great risk” associated with marijuana use declined among 8th and 10th graders.

“The 2009 Monitoring the Future survey is a wake-up call to all of us. It shows that our teens still don’t understand the dangers of abusing prescription drugs, such as Vicodin and OxyContin; and they don’t realize the harm that marijuana use can cause,” said Navajo County Drug Project Coordinator Debe Campbell. “Beliefs and attitudes about these drugs are going in the wrong direction. The decreases of perception of harm around marijuana and inhalants are especially concerning, as that often leads to an increase in use.

“The Navajo County Drug Project plays a critical role in addressing drug abuse in the White Mountains and in implementing strategies to change attitudes and availability. But we need to increase our investment in substance abuse prevention to make a dent in these problems. More young people need to get the message that these drugs are harmful if we are to reverse these trends, but our coalition can’t do it alone. We need the help of everyone in the community.”

More information on the 2009 Monitoring the Future Survey is available at www.monitoringthefuture.org

The Navajo County Drug Project strives to develop a diverse community representation, coordinate a sustained effort in educating and preventing the substance abuse through a plan for change in local social norms through prevention, treatment and vigorous

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Mission Statement:

To develop a diverse community representation, coordinate a sustained effort in educating and preventing the substance abuse through a plan for change in local social norms through prevention, treatment and vigorous enforcement of existing laws.

enforcement of existing laws. More information is available at www.navajocountydrugproject.com